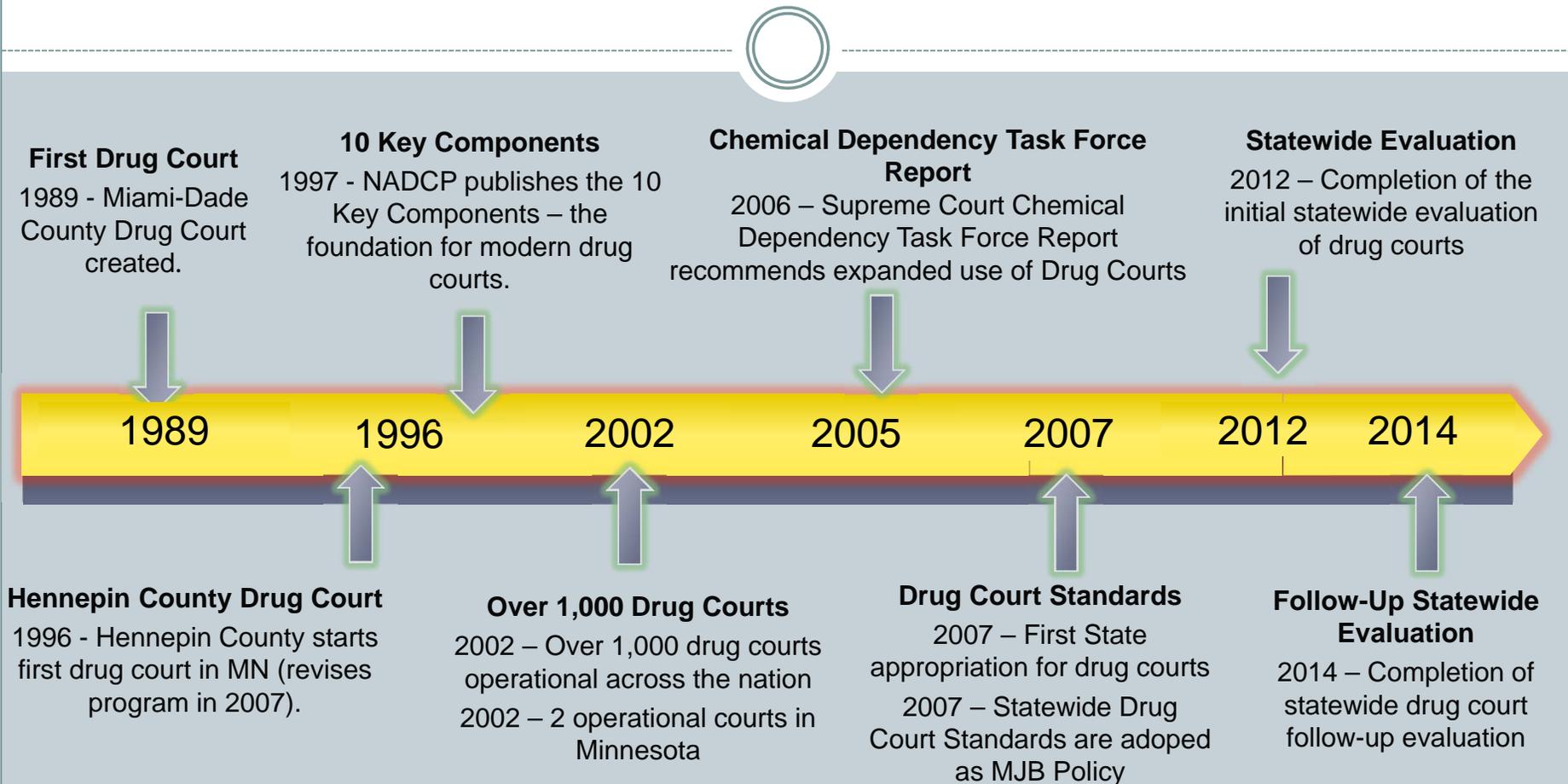




Statewide Drug Court Evaluation: Benefits, Challenges, and the Future

**MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH
STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
MAY 28, 2015**

Background and History



Benefits of Statewide Evaluation



- Collective picture of the successes and benefits of drug court
- Provides information on statewide practices and fidelity to drug court standards
- Evaluates smaller courts which may not have resources for evaluation
- Adds to the body of research validating drug courts and the value of following evidence-based practices
- Informs funding decisions

Evaluation of Statewide Drug Court Goals



- Goal 1: Enhance public safety
 - Recidivism
- Goal 2: Ensure participant accountability
 - Community functioning
 - Treatment engagement during drug court
- Goal 3: Reduce costs to society
 - Incarceration days and costs

Evaluation Methodology



- Statewide comparison group
 - Propensity score matching
- At-risk recidivism analysis
 - Conviction
 - Charge
- Descriptive statistics
 - Community measures
 - Incarceration rates
 - Incarceration cost
- Linear and logistic regression
- Supplemental analyses
 - Frequency
 - Annualized recidivism

Data Collection Sources



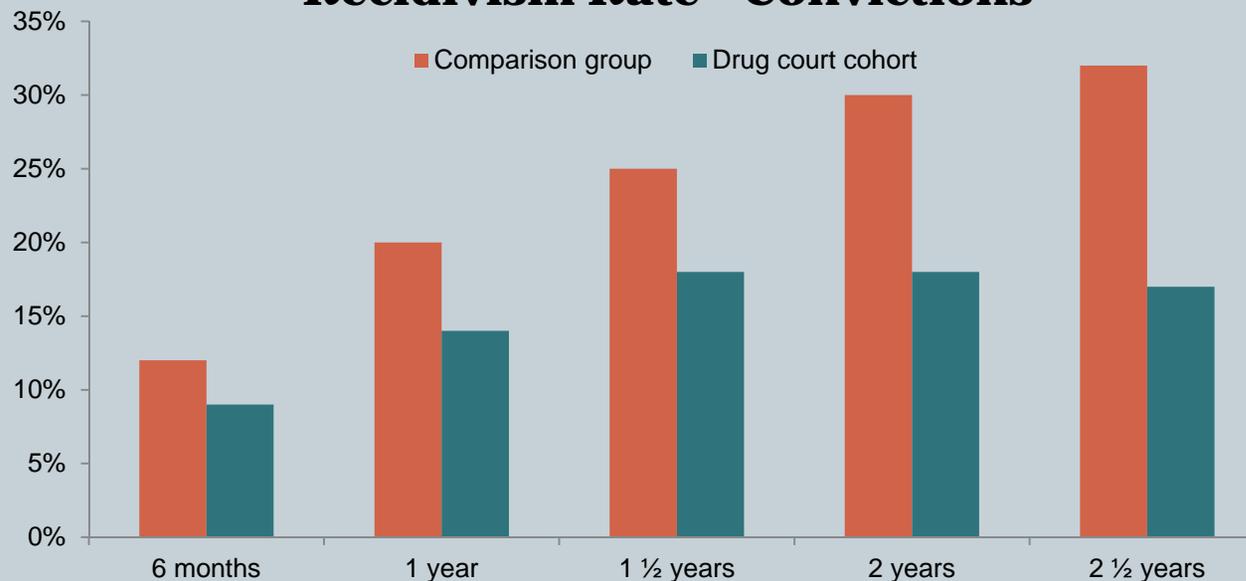
<u>Data Sources</u>	<u>Nature of Data</u>	<u>Organization Source</u>
DAANES	Treatment admission/discharge information	Department of Human Services
DOC Treatment	Treatment information for participants in prison	Department of Corrections
DOC Prison	Prison admissions and discharges	Department of Corrections
DOC LSI-R™	Risk assessment results for Comparison Group	Department of Corrections
Probation/DOC Files	Chemical health assessments, PSI's, criminal history, personal demographics, etc.	Department of Corrections/County Probation Offices
MNCIS/MNJAD	New charges and convictions (recidivism); primary offense characteristics	Judicial Branch
MSGC Worksheet Extract	Criminal history worksheets and results	Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission
Offender Drug Court Tracking Sheet	Drug court participant data	Judicial Branch
Statewide Supervision System	Jail admissions and discharges	Department of Corrections
RANT	Risk/Need assessment results	Judicial Branch - Hennepin County
Drug Court Policies	Policy & Procedure Manuals	Judicial Branch - Drug Courts
Policies & Practices Survey	Survey of drug court practices	Judicial Branch
Drug Court Team Member Survey	Survey of drug court team members	Judicial Branch

Evaluation Results: Enhance Public Safety



- Two and a half years after the start date, the drug court cohort's conviction recidivism was statistically significantly lower than the comparison group.
 - Drug court cohort – 17%
 - Comparison group – 32%

Recidivism Rate - Convictions

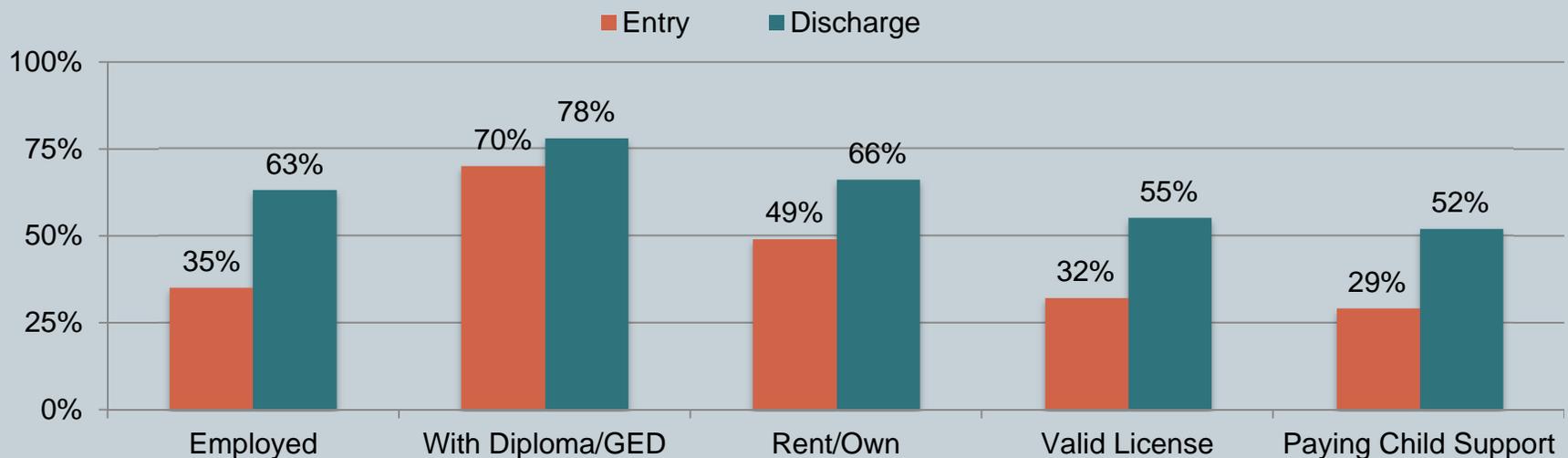


Evaluation Results: Ensure Participant Accountability



- Non-metro participants were more likely to have a valid license at exit
- Three in four homeless participants had other housing at discharge (facility, apartment, etc.)
- All completers had at least 90 days of sobriety
 - 77% of completers had over one year of sobriety

Status for Drug Court Participants – Entry/Exit



Evaluation Results: Reduce Costs to Society

- Drug court cohort was incarcerated, on average, 55 fewer days than the comparison group
- Lower average incarceration costs after 2 ½ years

Drug court cohort costs



Comparison group costs

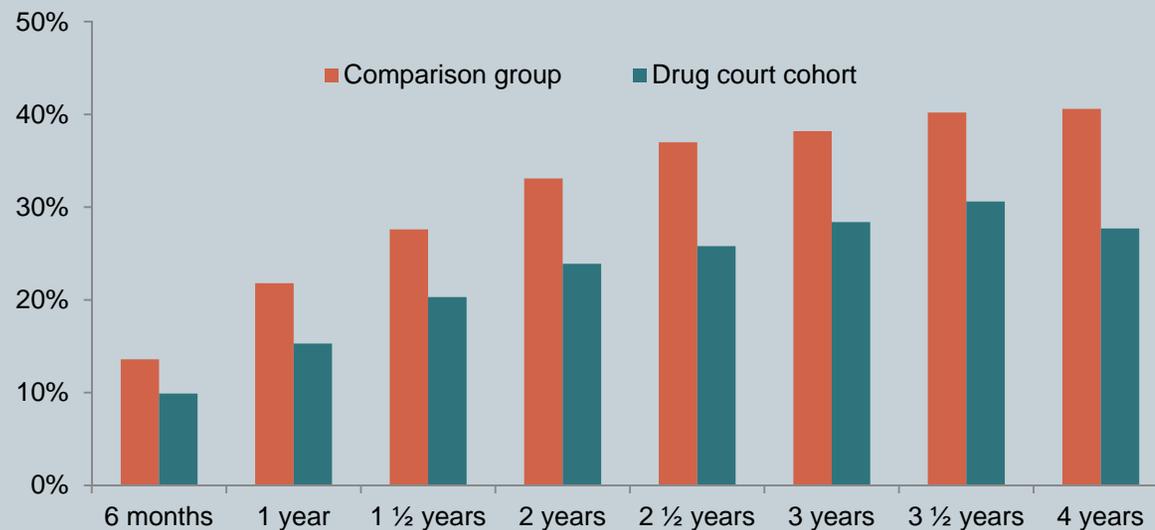


Evaluation Results: Follow-Up



- Follow-up data suggest the drug court effect continues through four years
 - Drug court cohort – 28%
 - Comparison group – 41%

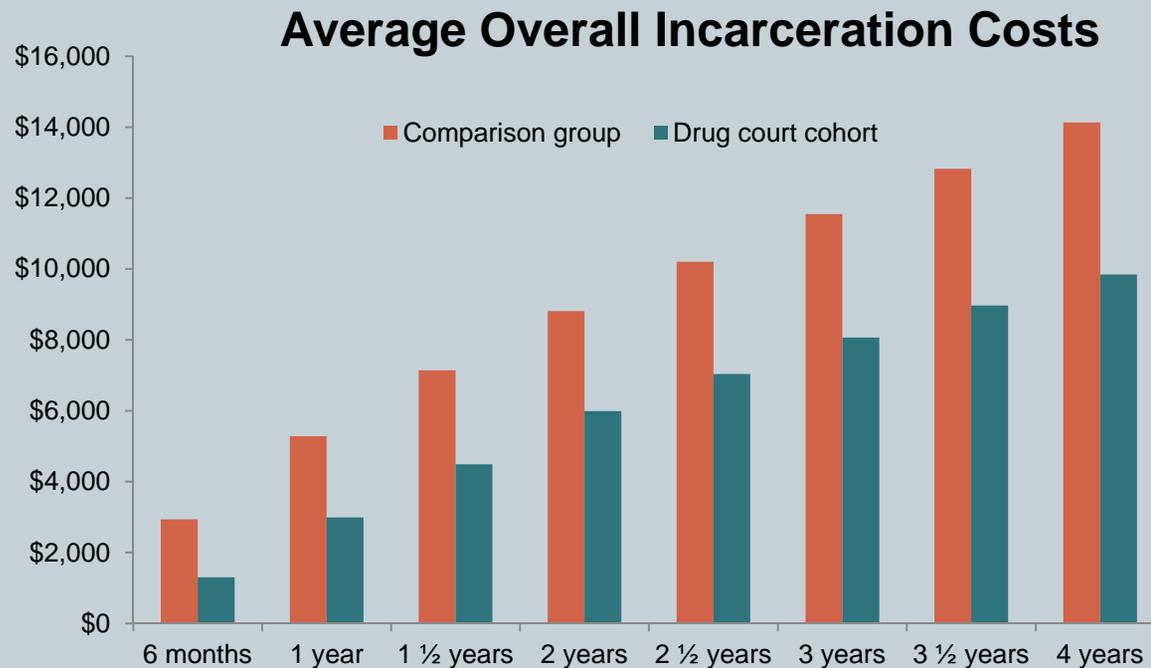
Recidivism Rate - Convictions



Evaluation Results: Follow-Up

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- Drug court cohort was incarcerated, on average, 74 fewer days than the comparison group
 - Incarceration costs are, on average, \$4,288 lower



Challenges to Statewide Evaluation



- Data collection
 - Multiple sources
 - Data sharing agreements
- Time/resources
- Limited ability for process evaluation

Where We Are Today

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- Statewide evaluations concluded
- Drug courts collect data independently on a variety of data management systems
- Tracking sheet data collected statewide
 - Provides descriptive data, but incomplete for holistic evaluation
- Drug courts continue to expand

Where We Are Headed



- Improved data collection processes
 - Tracking sheet data collection is limited, time-consuming, and error prone.
 - Benefits drug courts with more frequent, up-to-date reporting
- Shift from evaluations to performance measures
 - More timely assessments of a drug court's performance

Report Links



- Publications and Reports
 - <http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=519>
- Minnesota Statewide Adult Drug Court Evaluation
 - http://www.mncourts.gov/Documents/0/Public/Drug_Court/2012%20Statewide%20Evaluation/MN_Statewide_Drug_Court_Evaluation_Report_-_Final_Public.pdf
- Minnesota Statewide Adult Drug Court Evaluation – Follow-Up
 - http://www.mncourts.gov/Documents/0/Public/Drug_Court/2014_MN_Statewide_Drug_Court_Follow-Up_FINAL_20150220.pdf