

MINNESOTA STATEWIDE DRUG COURT EVALUATION RESULTS

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013

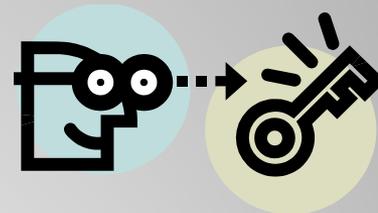
2013 MINNESOTA DRUG & MENTAL HEALTH COURT CONFERENCE

Plenary Outline

- Why is evaluation important?
- Evaluation Purpose & Scope
- Evaluation Results
- Potential Areas for Improvement
- Follow-Up Efforts

Why is evaluation important?

- Review of data/program statistics leading to modifications in drug court operations
 - 105% greater reductions in recidivism
 - 131% greater cost savings
- Independent evaluations conducted leading to modifications in drug court operations
 - 85% greater reductions in recidivism
 - 100% greater cost savings



Why is evaluation important?

- Impact of reviewing your court's data
 - Discover patterns you may otherwise not see
 - Compare to court/demographic data
 - Are there populations that in your court/community that are not getting into your drug court?
 - Provokes discussion about your court and the way it operates
- Impact of reviewing statewide data
 - Understand how compare to the state total & other courts
 - See patterns for subgroups of participants (e.g. drug, heroin users)
 - Foster healthy competition and sharing across courts

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Statewide Evaluation Purpose

- Do drug courts in Minnesota work?
 - Statewide standards, but significant local discretion

- The evaluation measured:

- Drug court participant achievements
- Compliance with the standards
- Outcomes - incarceration time served by participants
- Outcomes - recidivism rates (charges and convictions)



Statewide Evaluation Background

- Evaluation Based on Standards
 - Drug Court Standards Effective (July 2007)
 - Judicial Branch Policy 511.1
- Goals of Drug Courts
 - Enhancing Public Safety
 - Reduced recidivism
 - Ensuring Participant Accountability
 - Increased social engagement
 - Reducing Costs to Society
 - Less incarceration (jail & prison)



Minnesota Judicial Branch Policy

Policy Source: Minnesota Judicial Council
Policy Number: 511.1
Category: Statewide Court Programs
Title: Drug Court Standards
Effective Date: July 20, 2007
Revision Date(s): January 16, 2009
Supersedes:

Minnesota Offender Drug Court Standards

FOR ALL JUVENILE, HYBRID¹, DWI, AND ADULT DRUG COURTS

PURPOSE

Drug courts promote recovery through a coordinated response to participants who are dependent on alcohol and other drugs (AOD). A team approach is required, including the collaboration of judges, drug court coordinators, prosecutors, defense counsel, probation authorities, law enforcement, treatment providers, and evaluators. Drug courts employ a multi-phase treatment process. The goal of drug courts is to engage individuals in treatment long enough to experience the benefits of treatment in order to end the cycle of recidivism and successfully intervene on the addiction.

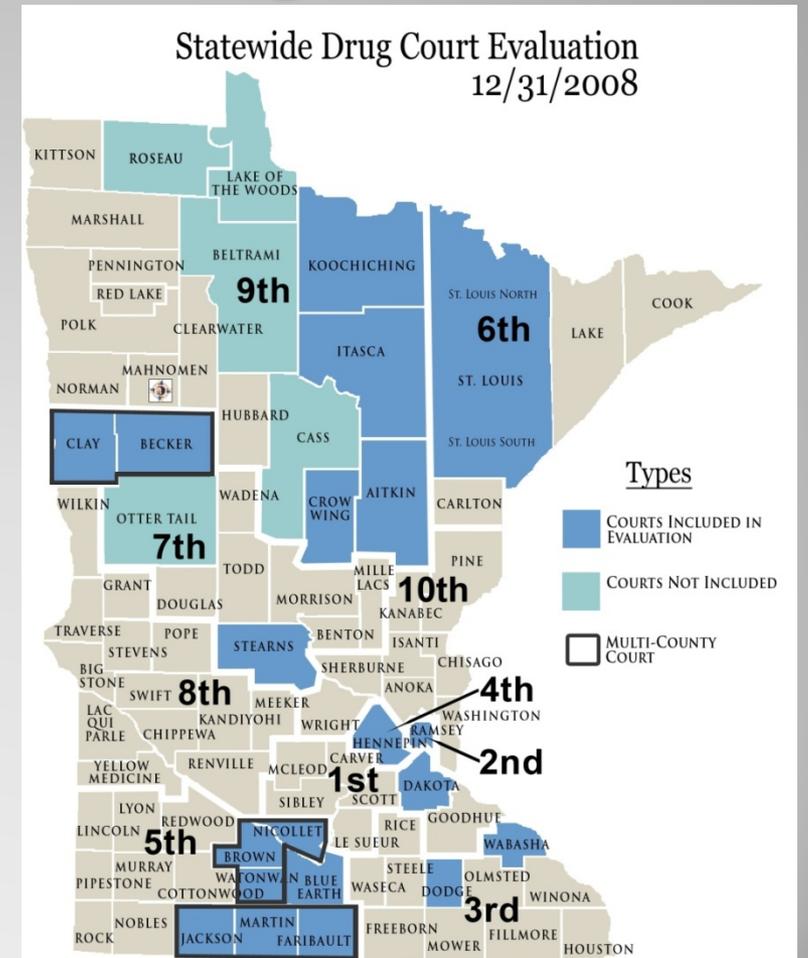
The Judicial Council, comprised of the leadership of the Minnesota Judicial Branch, has convened the multi-disciplinary, cross-branch Drug Court Initiative Advisory Committee (DCI) to oversee implementation and funding distribution for drug courts in Minnesota. The goal of the Drug Court Initiative is to improve outcomes for alcohol and other drug addicted individuals in the courts through justice system collaboration, thereby:

1. Enhancing public safety
2. Ensuring participant accountability; and
3. Reducing costs to society

Successful drug court initiatives will also improve the quality of life for addicted offenders, their families, and communities through recovery and lead to greater system collaboration and ongoing analysis to ensure effective and fair case outcomes.

Statewide Evaluation Background

- Adult Non-DWI Participants
 - From Drug & Hybrid courts
 - 80% of all drug court participants in MN in 2008
- Statewide Approach
 - Aggregating all participants in MN's drug courts
 - Participants entering drug court July 2007- December 2008
 - 16 courts, 535 participants



Statewide Evaluation Background

- Statewide Comparison Group
 - Propensity Score Matching Process – Similar on...
 - Chemical health status (e.g. dependent)
 - Criminal history
 - Key demographics
 - Original offense (e.g. felony drug)
 - Contemporaneous
 - Random selection from all counties in MN
 - Active court case in 2007-2008

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Drug courts in Minnesota work!

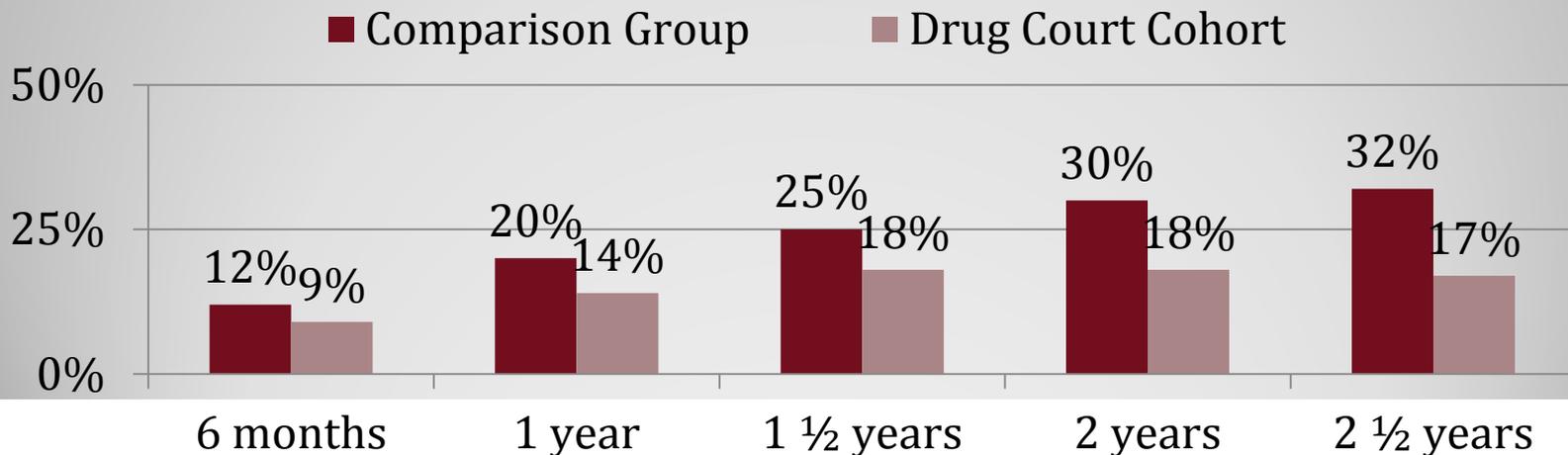
- ☑ Reduced recidivism
- ☑ Fewer total days of incarceration
- ☑ Fewer days served in prison
- ☑ Improving social engagement
- ☑ General fidelity to the Standards



Reduced Recidivism

- Reduction in re-conviction rate: **47%**
 - National average – 18%
- Also reductions in new charges: **37%**

Recidivism Rate - Convictions



What is related to **reduced recidivism**?

- MN Evaluation –
Participant
Characteristics

- Older Age
- Facing presumptive commit to commissioner of corrections (Prison)
- Fewer prior misdemeanors/gross misdemeanors
- Fewer total days in jail within 18 months of drug court entry

- National Research –
Program
Characteristics

- Program caseload is less than 125 = **567%**
- Greater than 90 days clean before graduation = **164%**
- Judge spends average of 3 minutes or more = **153%**

Fewer Days of Total Incarceration

- Fewer average days incarcerated – **55 fewer days**
 - Also fewer (half of comparison group) average days in prison – **69 fewer days**
- Reduced Total Incarceration Costs Over 2 ½ years = **\$3,189 per participant**

Drug Court
Cohort Costs



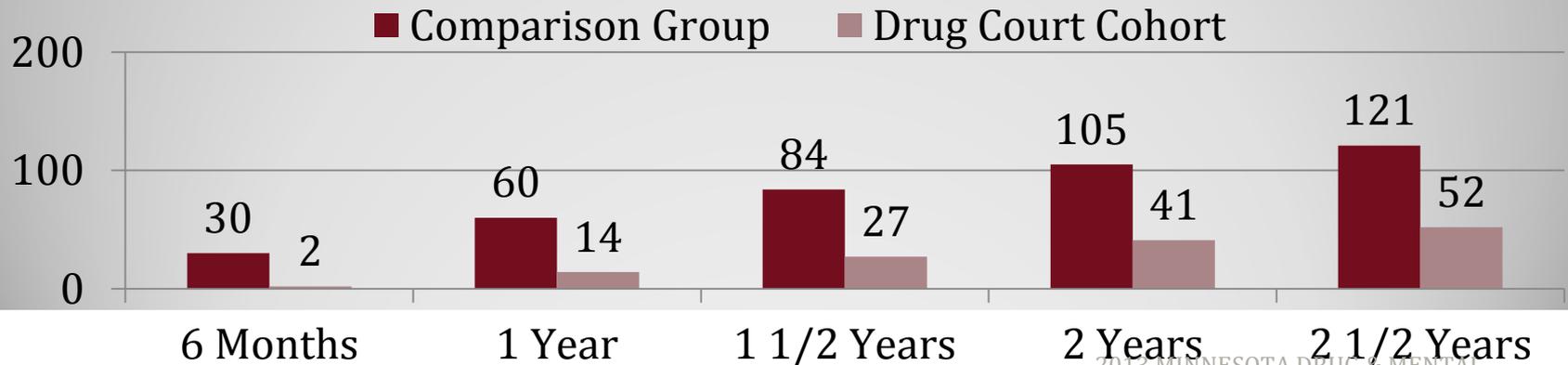
Comparison
Group Costs



Fewer Days in Prison

- Generally, lower prison incarceration rates
 - (38% CG; 30% Cohort)
- Half as many days served in prison by drug court participants
- Factors related to more prison days
 - Not receiving drug court
 - Chemically dependent
 - Younger age
 - Male
 - Non-white
 - More prior misd./gross misd.
 - More prior felonies
 - Not receiving treatment

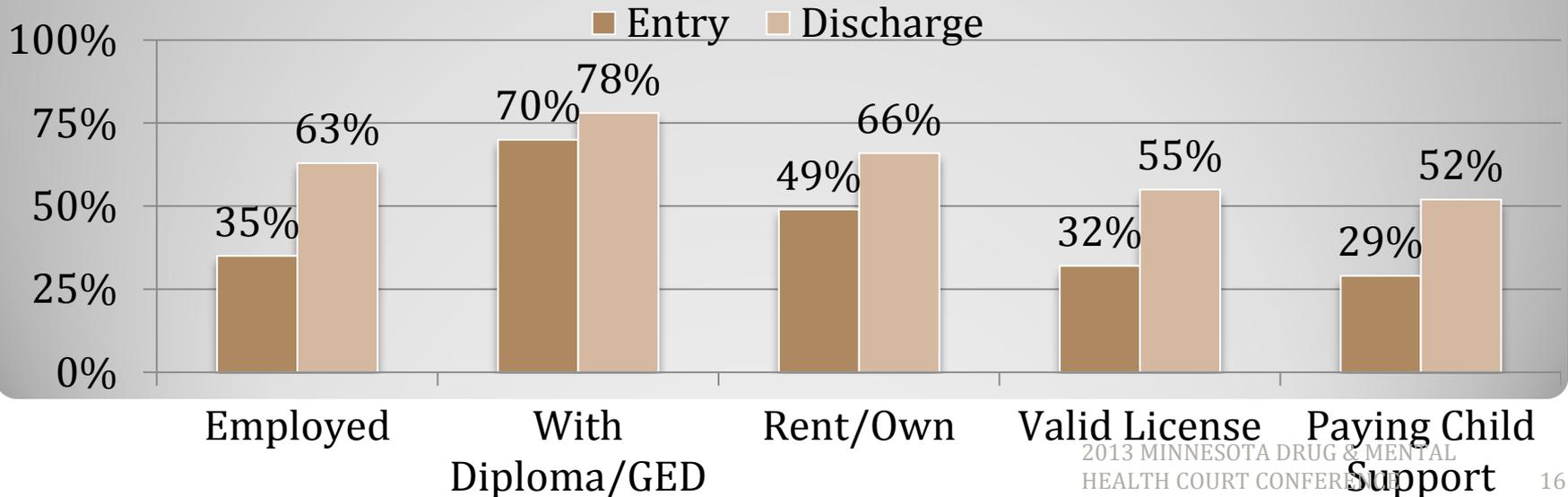
Days in Prison by Participant Group



Improving Social Engagement

- Non-metro participants more likely to have a valid license at exit
- Three in four homeless participants had other housing at discharge (facility, apartment, etc.)
- All completers have at least 90 days sobriety
 - 77% completers over 1 year of sobriety

Status for Drug Court Participants – Entry/Exit



Improving Social Engagement - Treatment

- Drug Court participants receive twice as many episodes of Treatment
 - 94% receive treatment during drug court
 - 80% complete at least one treatment episode
 - More likely to complete at least one treatment episode
- Primary Substance Problem at Treatment Admission
 - 26% Marijuana, 19% Meth, 19% Alcohol, 16% Heroin, 17% Cocaine/Crack
 - Highest completion rates for Meth (76%), Cocaine powder (68%)



General fidelity to Standards

- Participants are high need
 - 98% Chemically Dependent
- Including proper stakeholders
 - Law enforcement
 - Treatment provider
 - Prosecutor and defense counsel
 - Judge stays on team 2+ years
- Most courts (69%) allow non-drug offenders
- Most (81%) have written rules for sanctions & incentives



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Potential Areas for Improvement - JAIL

- Use of jail
 - Too much jail increases recidivism
 - National research and MN Evaluation results
 - Costs are not insignificant
 - National results
 - Drug courts with 6+ day sanctions saw 45% less cost savings
 - MN evaluation results
 - Jail costs higher for drug court than comparison group
 - Sanctions may not be applied equally among participants
 - MN evaluation results
 - Being male, young, and non-white are associated with more jail days



Potential Areas for Improvement – Screening/Referral Process

- Taking high risk individuals
 - Half of drug court participants have 0 Criminal History Score
 - MN evaluation results
 - Higher drug degree offense (e.g. 1st Degree Contr. Subst.) linked to reduced recidivism
- Using Risk Assessments before acceptance
 - 77% assessed with LSI-R™ are moderate or high risk

Potential Areas for Improvement – Cost Effective Practices & Following Standards

- Treatment Representatives at Hearings
 - Only half (56%) of courts in 2010 reported reps at hearings
- All core members at staffing
 - Judge, Coordinator, Prosecutor, Defense Counsel, Case Manager, Law Enforcement, CD Expert, Tribal rep (if applicable)
 - Differs by drug court model (e.g. DWI, MH court, FDTC)

Potential Areas for Improvement – Cost Effective Practices & Following Standards

- Judges spend at least 3 minutes with each person
 - Minimum of three minutes for each hearing and each participant
- Implement changes based on evaluation data
 - Only 44% of courts in 2010 reported modifications based on data
 - 75% had conducted an evaluation
 - All courts received participant data reports from Tracking Sheet
 - Significant benefits to revising court policies and practices based on evaluation and data review
 - (100-131% greater cost savings)



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Supporting Drug Court Initiative

- DCI needs
 - [Supporting 2013 Workplan](#)
- Legislative requests & presentations

- Presenting to Stakeholders
 - [Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission](#)
 - [2013 Minnesota Drug & Mental Health Court Conference](#)
 - [2013 NADCP Conference in Washington D.C.](#)
 - [2013 National Association of Sentencing Commissions Conference](#)

Individual/District Drug Court Results

- Reports Completed
 - Brown-Nicollet-Watonwan
 - Duluth
 - Presentation & Discussion of Results in March 2013
 - Hennepin
 - Presentation & Discussion of Results in April 2013
 - 6th District
 - Presentation & Discussion of Results in March 2013
 - Stearns


MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Statewide Drug Court Evaluation
 HENNEPIN COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT RESULTS

Minnesota Judicial Branch

Vision
The general public and those who use the court system will refer to it as accessible, fair, consistent, responsive, free of discrimination, independent, and well managed.

Mission
To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.

Minnesota Judicial Branch
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Purpose of Analysis
 The Statewide Drug Court Evaluation was completed in June 2012. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine whether adult and adult hybrid drug courts in Minnesota - as a whole - were meeting the stated goals: Enhancing Public Safety, Ensuring Participant Accountability, and Reducing Costs to Society. A derivative goal was to provide information to individual drug courts, where possible. This report includes those individual results on a subset of the Key Measures in the Statewide Evaluation.

Background and Methodology
 The Hennepin County Adult Drug Court participants are 40% of the drug court participants in the Statewide Evaluation. From July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008 215 participants entered Hennepin County's Adult Drug Court and are included in this analysis.

To create a suitable comparison group for this subset of the Statewide Evaluation population, the same propensity score matching process used for the population was employed. The propensity scores of the two groups were sub-classified into quartiles, and then proportionate random selections of scores were selected from quartiles of similar scores for inclusion in the final comparison group. A comparison group was deemed the best comparison group if the drug court and comparison participants were similar on the same key criteria employed in the Statewide Evaluation. The best comparison group for Hennepin drug court participants came from the population of all comparison group participants, rather than only selecting comparison group participants from Hennepin County.

For more details on the propensity score matching process and key criteria, see the Statewide Drug Court Evaluation Report (link below).

For key demographics of the two groups, see the table to the right.

Demographics of Hennepin Drug Court Participants & Comparison Participants			Comparison	Drug Court
Gender	Female	Count	42	62
		%	30%	29%
Chemical Dependency Status	Chemically Dependent	Count	141	215
		%	100%	100%
	Other Races	Count	10	16
		%	7%	7%
Race / Ethnicity	Black or African American	Count	77	120
		%	55%	56%
	White	Count	54	79
		%	38%	37%
Initial Offense	Felony Drug	Count	113	157
		%	80%	73%
	Felony Property	Count	24	50
		%	17%	23%
	Other Offenses	Count	4	8
		%	3%	4%
Age at Entry/Disposition	18-24	Count	24	35
		%	17%	16%
	25-34	Count	56	74
		%	40%	34%
	35+	Count	61	106
		%	43%	49%
Criminal History Score	Average CH Score	Avg.	3	3

March 2013 1

Questions or Further Information

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