

## Drug Courts: A National Phenomenon

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National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

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## What Have We Learned?



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## Drugs Drive 80% of Crime In America



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### Drug Use is Involved in ....

- More than 50% of violent crimes
- 60-80% of child abuse and neglect cases
- 50-70% of theft and property crimes
- 75% of drug dealing

Belenko and Paugh, 1998; National Institute of Justice, 1999.

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### Courts as Problem-Solver

“Effective trial courts are responsive to emergent public issues such as drug abuse...A trial court that moves deliberately in response to emergent issues is a stabilizing force in society and acts consistently with its role of maintaining the rule of law”

Bureau of Justice Assistance's Trial Court Performance Standards, 1997

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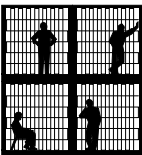
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### What if we JUST Put Them in PRISON?

#### Criminal Recidivism in 3 Years

- 68% arrested for new crime
- 47% convicted of new crime
- 25% incarcerated for new crime
- 50% re-incarcerated for violations



#### Relapse to Substance Abuse in 3 Years

- 95% relapse

(TRI, 2002)

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### What if we JUST refer them to TREATMENT?

#### Attrition

- 50% to 67% don't show for intake
- 40% to 80% drop out in 3 months
- 90% drop out in 12 months



#### Outcomes

- 40% to 60% of clients abstinent at 1 year

(TRI, 2003)

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### The Promise of Drug Court

Intervene early in the addict's "career" of abuse.

More substance abusers will **enter treatment sooner and stay longer.**

Highest level of **accountability** and **monitoring.**

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### Drug Courts: A National Phenomenon

1989-2009

(Painting the Current Picture - Dec 31, 2009)

2,453 Drug Courts

- 1,317 Adult Drug Courts
- 476 Juvenile Drug Courts
- 322 Family Treatment Courts
  - 172 DWI Courts
- 83 Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts
  - 30 Federal Drug Courts
  - 29 Reentry Drug Courts
- 19 Veterans Treatment Court
  - 5 Campus Drug Courts

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### 1,161 Problem Solving Courts

- 325 Truancy Courts
- 288 Mental Health Courts
- 206 Domestic Violence Courts
- 46 Child Support Courts
- 25 Community Courts
- 26 Reentry Courts
- 8 Prostitution Courts
- 6 Parole Violation Courts
- 6 Gun Courts
- 25 Homeless
- 200 Other




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### The Promise of Drug Courts

The scientific community has put drug courts under its microscope and concluded that drug courts work better than jail or prison, better than probation, and better than treatment alone.

"The scientific evidence is overwhelming that adult drug courts reduce crime, reduce substance abuse, improve family relationships, and increase earning potential."

Marlowe, 2010

"Drug Court Practices Impact Recidivism and Costs"

Carey, S. M., Finigan, M. W., & Mackin, J. R. (May 29, 2008). [www.ipcresearch.com](http://www.ipcresearch.com)

"GAO reviewed 23 evaluations of adult drug courts that confirmed that drug courts significantly reduce crime."

S. Government Accountability Office. (2006). [No. GAO-06-219]. Washington, DC: Author.

"To put it bluntly, we know that drug courts outperform virtually all other strategies that have been attempted for drug-involved offenders."

Marlowe, DeMatteo, Festinger (2003)

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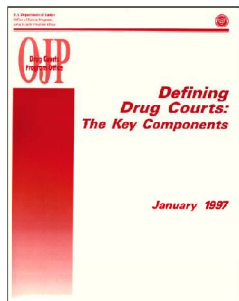
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### Defining Drug Courts: The Ten Key Components

- What are the Ten Key Components of Drug Court?




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### Drug Court Key Component # 1

Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.



What team members should attend the drug court staffing/meetings?

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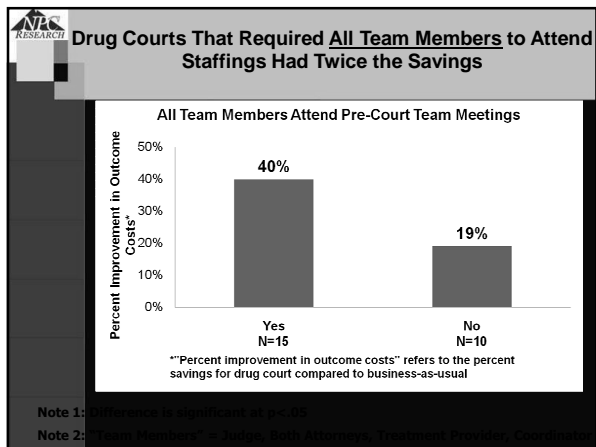
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### Drug Court Key Component # 2

Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.



Does allowing non-drug charges (e.g. violence) threaten public safety?

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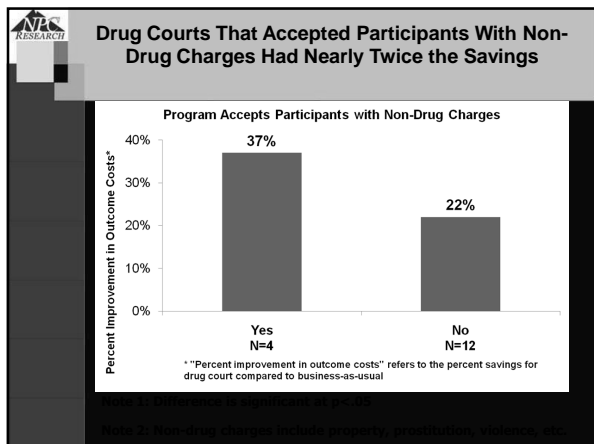
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### Drug Court Key Component # 3



Eligible participants are identified and placed in the program as soon as possible.

Is it important to get participants into the program quickly? What does quickly REALLY MEAN?

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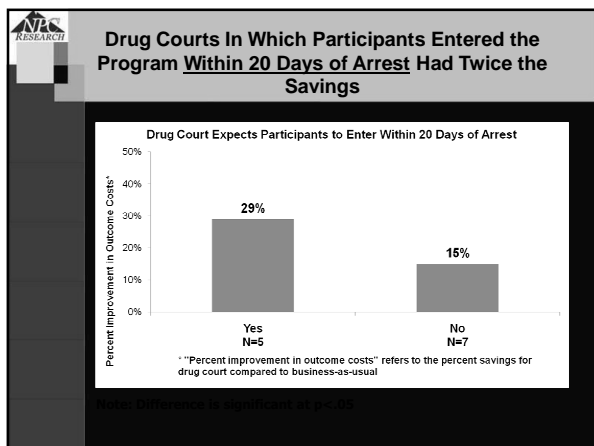
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### Drug Court Key Component # 4

- Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.



Is it better to have a single treatment agency or to have multiple treatment options?  
How important is relapse prevention?

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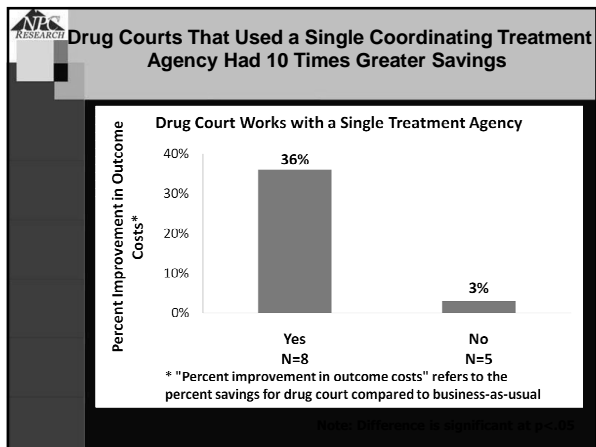
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### Drug Court Key Component # 5

- Abstinence is monitored by frequent drug and alcohol testing.



How frequently should participants be tested?  
How well do drug courts really reduce drug use?  
How important is it for drug test results to be available quickly?  
What does quickly REALLY MEAN?

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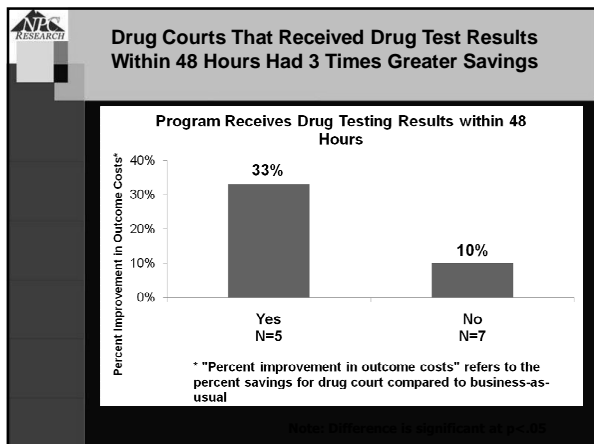
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### Drug Court Key Component # 6

A coordinated strategy governs responses to participant's compliance.




Do your guidelines on team response to client behavior really need to be in writing?

How important is jail as a sanction?

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### Drug Court Staffing / Pre-Case Conferencing

- **What**
  - The purpose of staffing is to present a coordinated response to offender behavior.
- **Who**
  - Judge
  - Coordinator
  - Prosecutor
  - Defense Counsel
  - Treatment
  - Probation
  - Law Enforcement
- **When**
  - Anytime prior to seeing the participant
    - Eligibility
    - Arraignment
    - Progress Report
    - Probation Revocation / Termination
    - Regression / Advancement
    - Return on Warrant
    - Pre-Graduation/Graduation
- **Why**
  - Shared Decision Making, Docket Control, Informed Approach, Empowerment of Team

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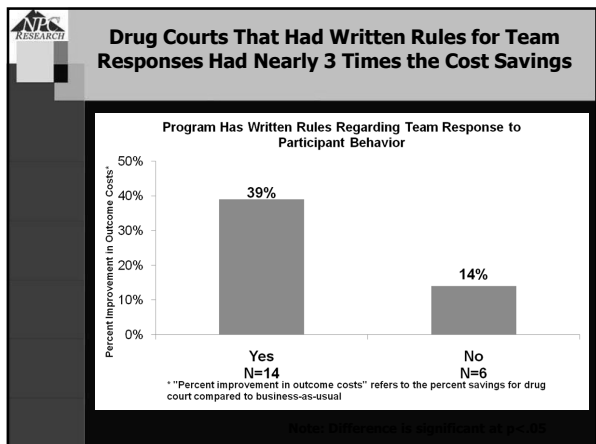
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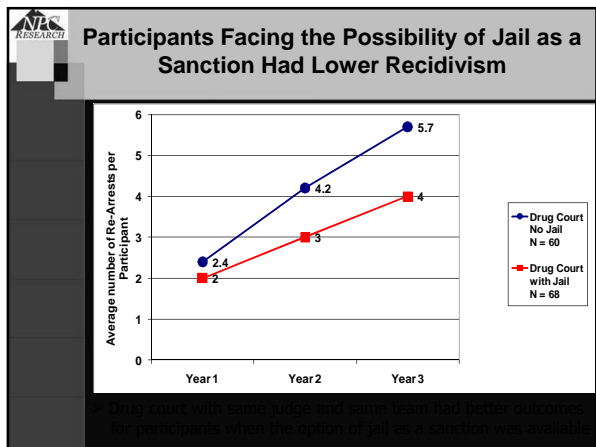
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**Drug Court Key Component # 7**

Ongoing judicial interaction with each participant is essential.



Does it matter how long the judge spends interacting with each participant in court?  
 How long should the judge stay on the drug court bench?  
 Is longevity better or is it better to rotate regularly?

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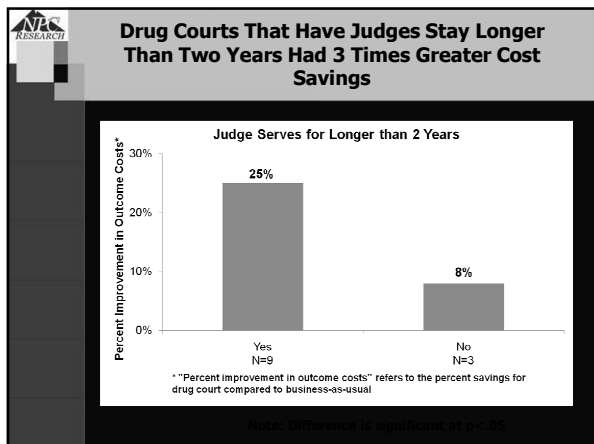
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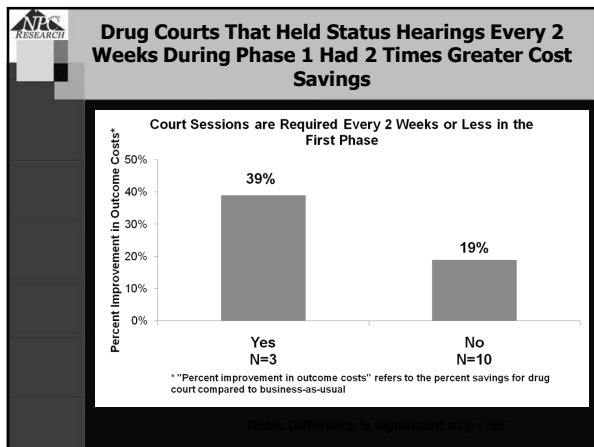
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**Drug Court Key Component # 8**



**Monitoring and Evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and effectiveness.**

Does it matter whether data are kept in paper files or in a database?  
Does keeping program stats make a difference?  
Do you really need an evaluation? What do you get out of it?

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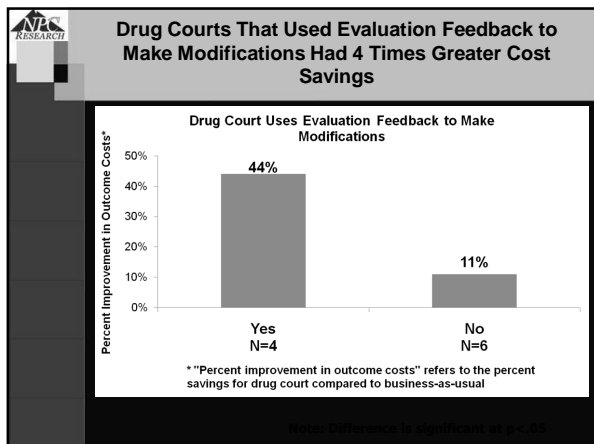
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### Drug Court Key Component # 9

Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.



Can your team save money by training on-the-job or by selecting only certain team members for formal training?

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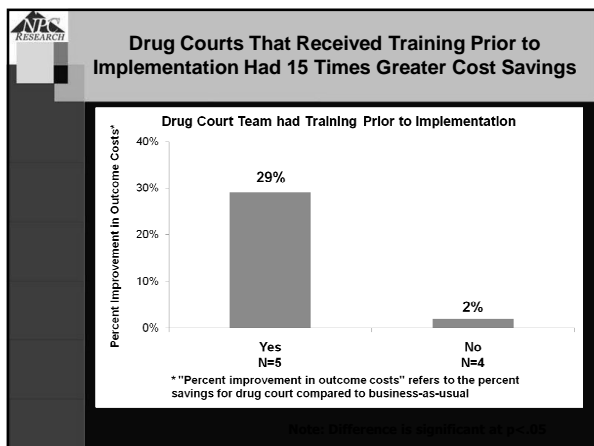
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### Drug Court Key Component # 10

Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies and community-based organizations generates support and increases effectiveness.



How important are partnerships in the community for your drug court?

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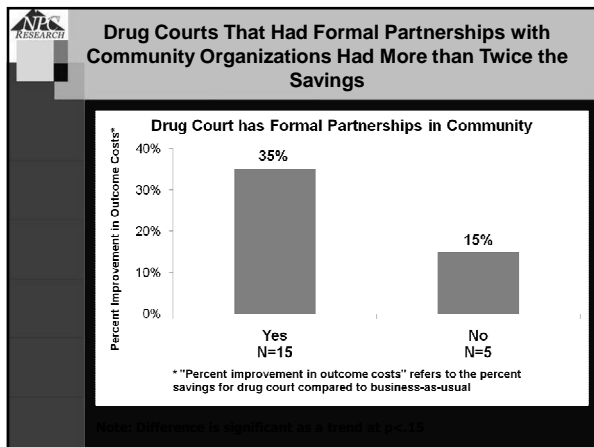
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### The Bottom Line.....

- Success in Drug Court depends on Applying ALL of The Ten Key Components as a Framework

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**Resources**

- National Drug Court Institute
  - [www.ndci.org](http://www.ndci.org)
  
- National Drug Court Resource Center
  - [www.ndcrc.org](http://www.ndcrc.org)
- Monetary/Non-Monetary
  - Federal/State/Local
- Training and Technical Assistance
  - Planning
  - Implementation
  - Enhancement

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