

# EVALUATION BOOTCAMP:

PREPARING YOUR TREATMENT COURT  
FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL  
EVALUATION



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# OVERVIEW

- 1 *BENEFITS OF EVALUATION AND MONITORING*
- 2 *WHAT IS MONITORING AND EVALUATION*
- 3 *WHAT DATA DO WE NEED TO COLLECT?*
- 4 *WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE DATA ONCE WE HAVE IT?*
- 5 *QUESTIONS*



*How does the suggestion that you collect data and evaluate your program (on top of everything else you do) make you feel?*

# STANDARD X: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

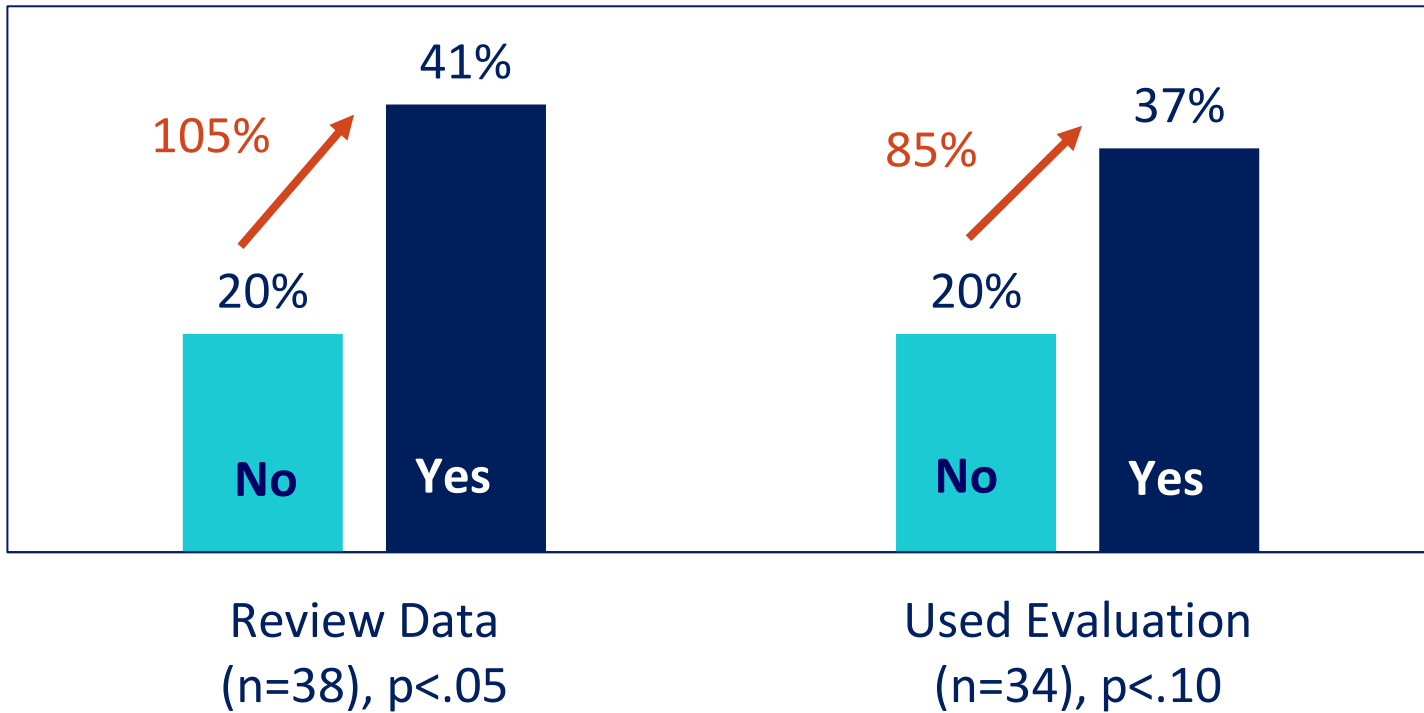
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<https://www.nadcp.org/standards/adult-drug-court-best-practice-standards/>

- In-program outcomes
- Criminal recidivism
- Independent evaluation
- Historically disadvantaged groups
- Electronic database
- Timely and reliable data entry
- Intent-to-treat analyses
- Comparison groups
- Time at risk

# WHY DO WE CARE?

## REDUCTIONS IN RECIDIVISM

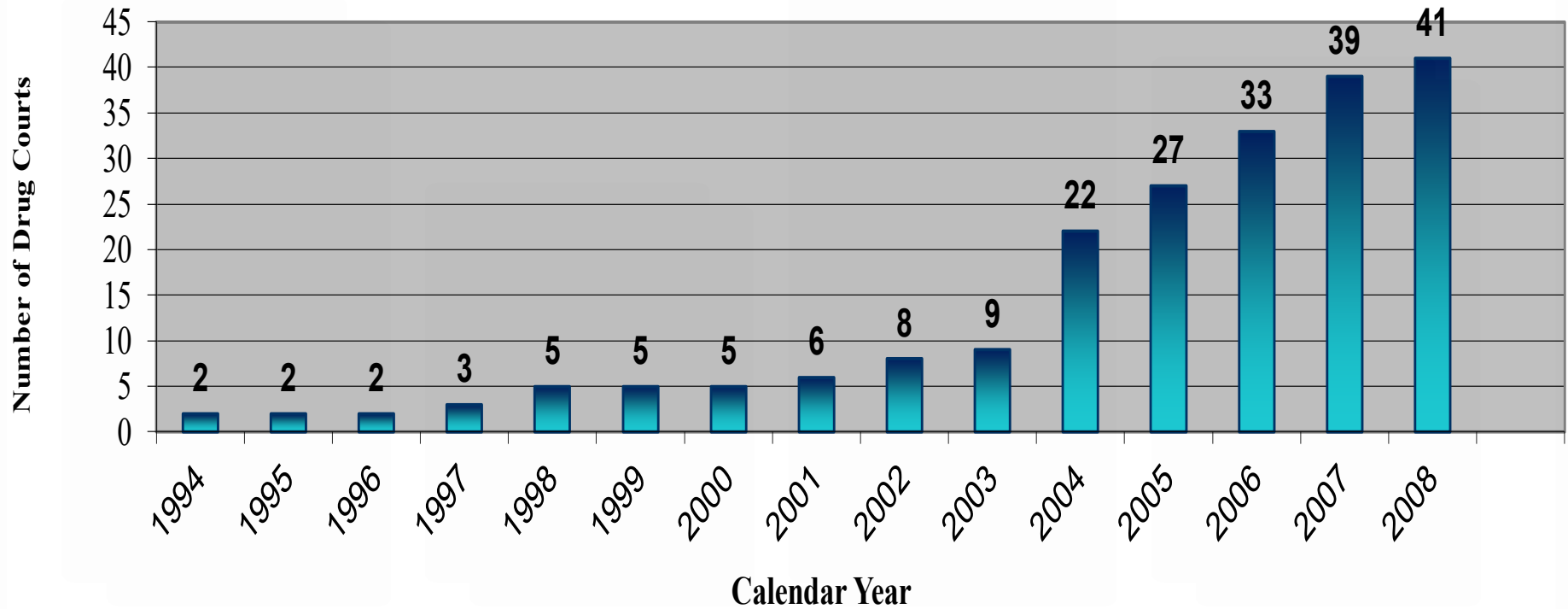


Carey, Finigan, & Pukstas (2008);  
Carey, Mackin, & Finigan (2012)

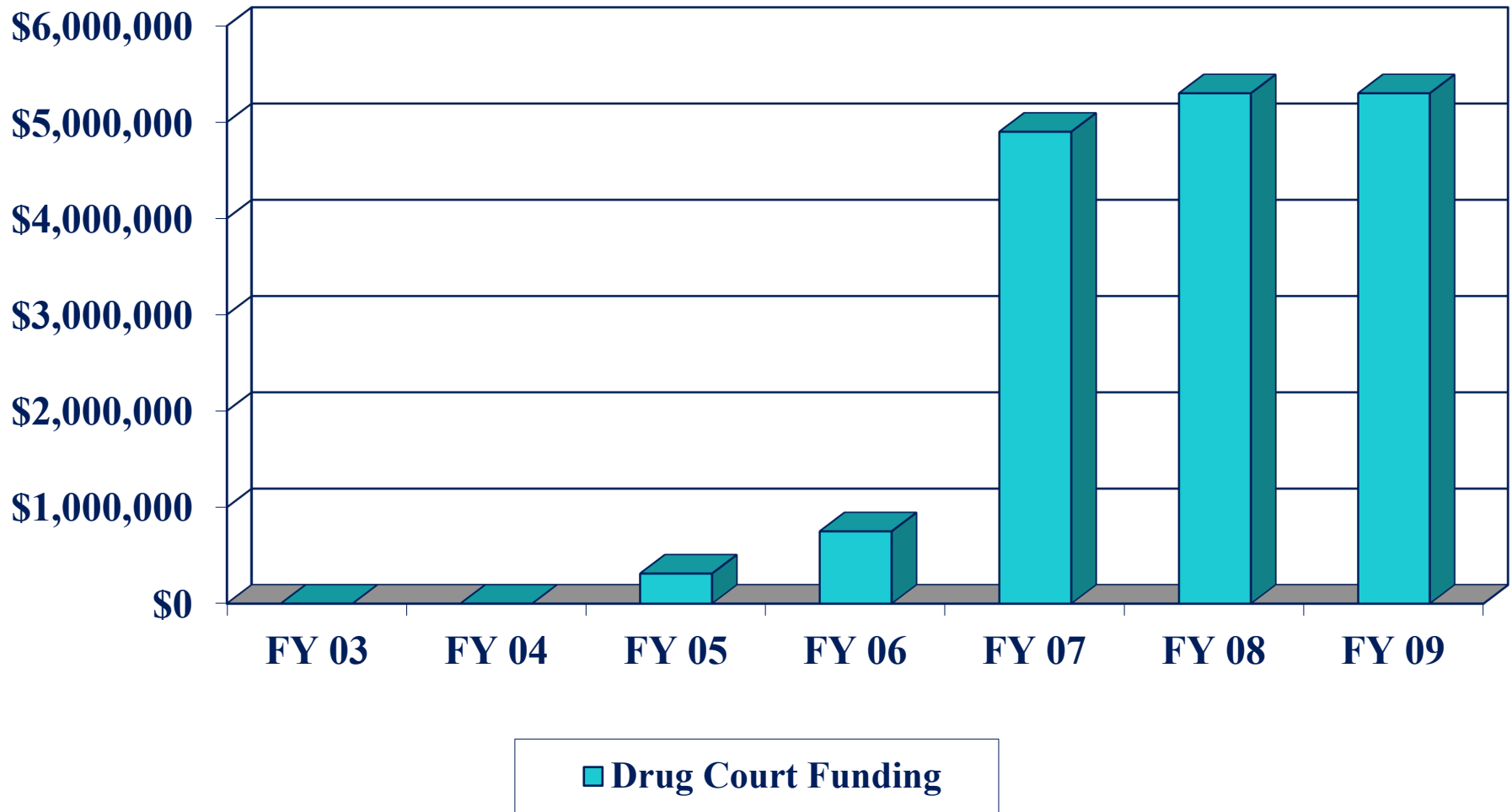


# HISTORY OF DRUG COURTS IN MARYLAND

## Operational Drug Court Programs in Maryland



# HISTORY OF DRUG COURT FUNDING IN MARYLAND







## *Poll* - WHAT DATA SYSTEM DO YOU HAVE TO TRACK YOUR PARTICIPANTS?

- a) Statewide web-based system
- b) Individual court online system
- c) Access or other non-web-based database (resides on your individual computer)
- d) Spreadsheet(s) (Excel) on a computer
- e) Paper records



# WHY DO WE COLLECT DATA?

Three Main Reasons



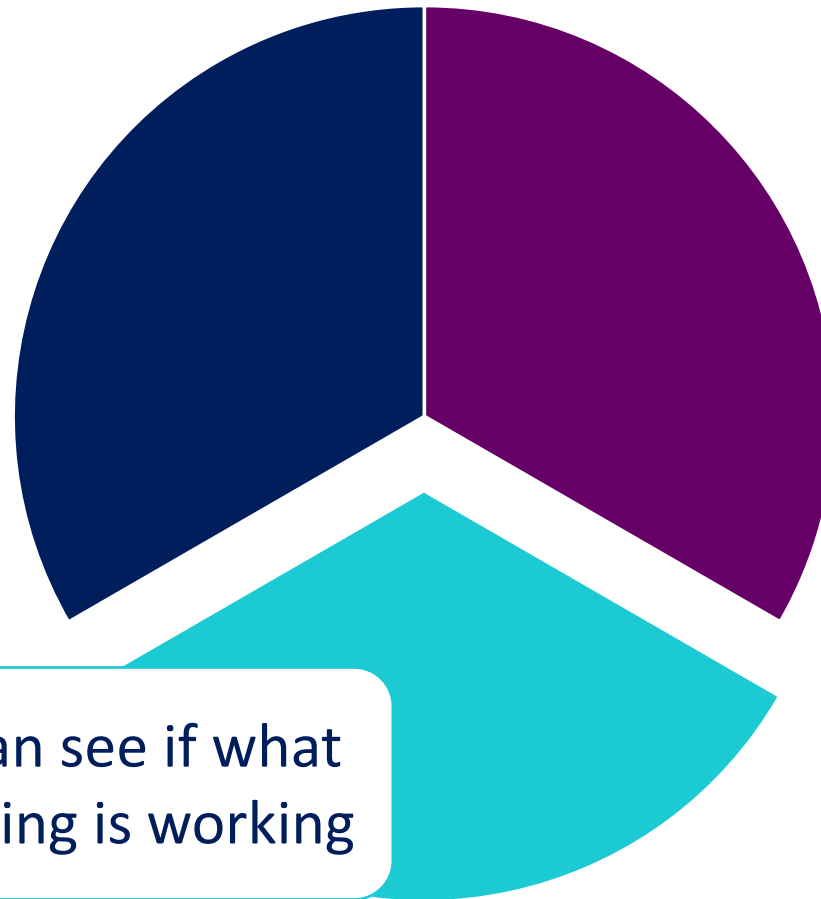
# WHY DO WE COLLECT DATA?

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# WHY DO WE COLLECT DATA?

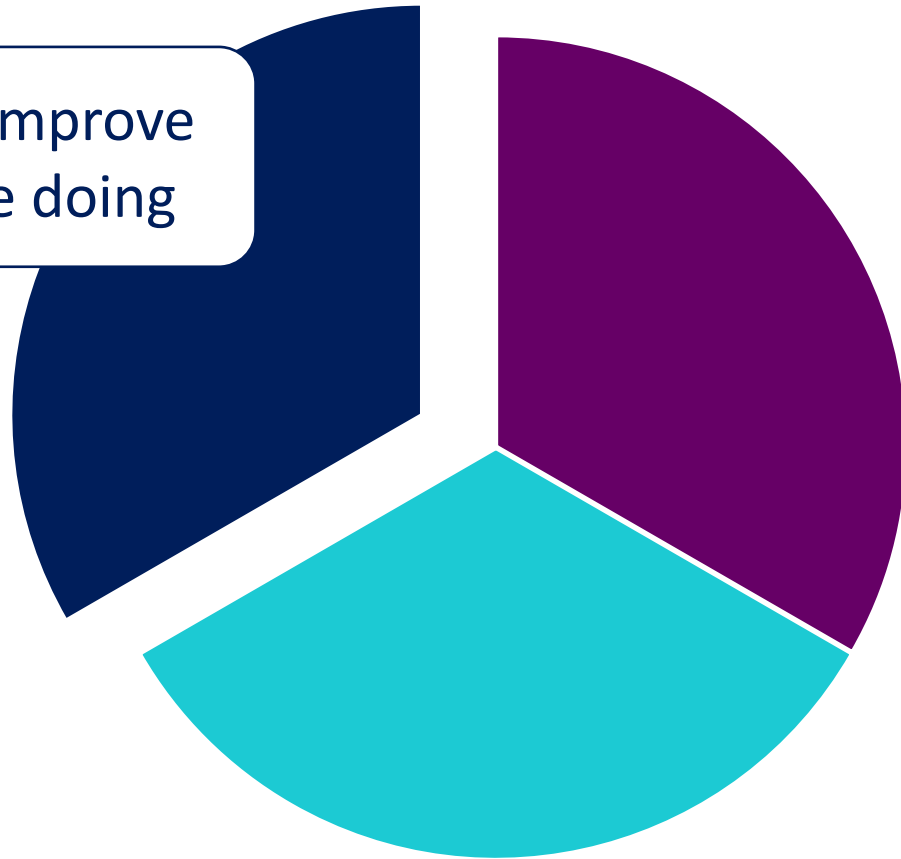
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# WHY DO WE COLLECT DATA?

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So we can improve  
what we're doing



# GOOD NEWS!

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The data you need to track participant progress is the same data you need to find out if what you are doing is working and the same data you need to find out how to improve your performance

**And it's all data you need to be ready for outside evaluation!**



# WHAT DO WE COLLECT?

What you are doing  
(and any changes)

What participants are doing



# FIRST: TRACK WHAT YOU'RE DOING

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- Write up your policies and procedures in a manual and keep it up to date.
- Track major policy and practice changes (Write them down)
  - **Key data:** Include dates for when you made those changes
    - The dates allow you to know which participants experienced those new practices and policies based on their program entry date
    - Look at outcomes for participants before those changes were made and after, and see which group did better





# *Poll*

## TRACK WHAT **YOU'RE** DOING

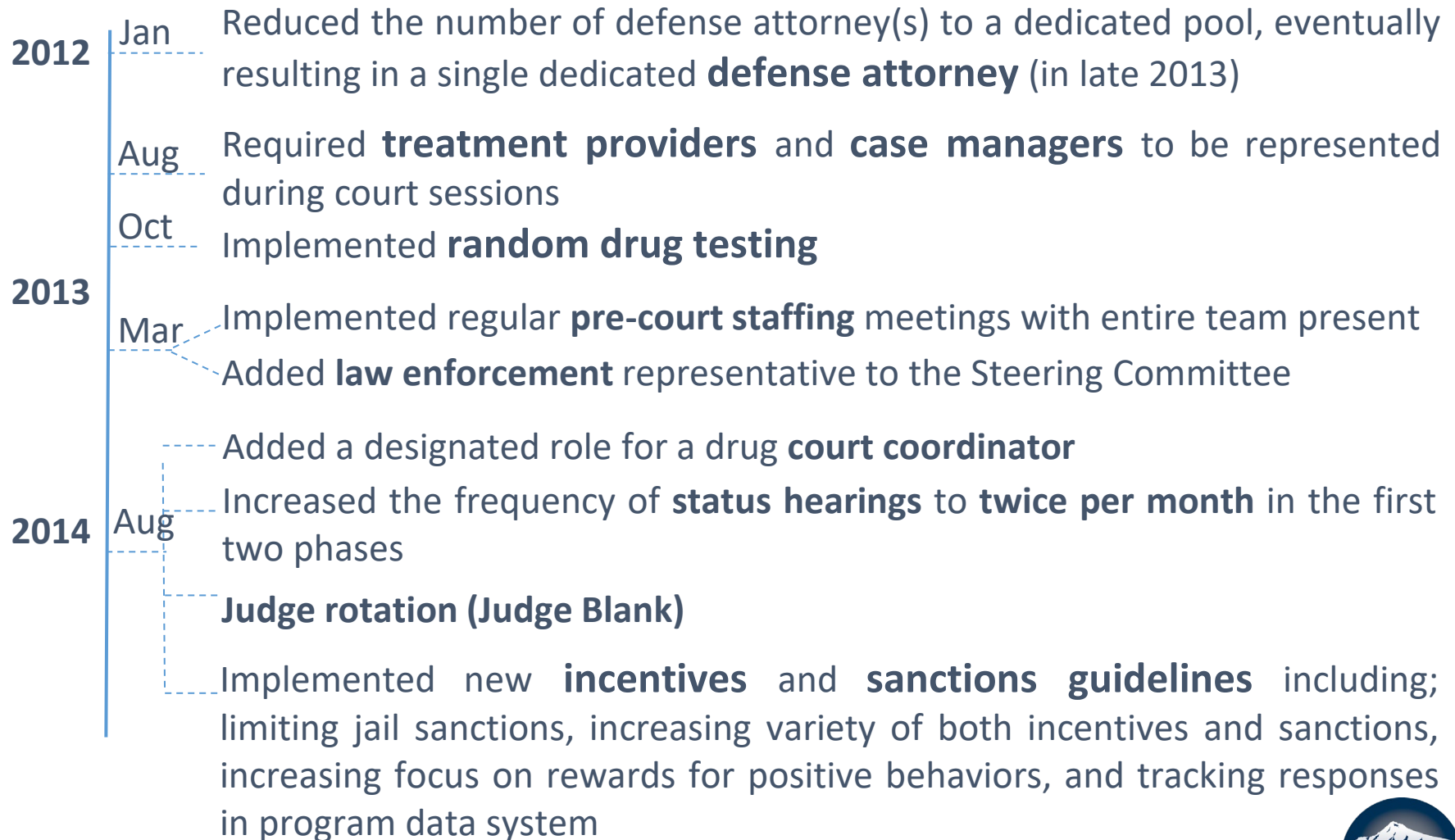
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*What changes have occurred, or have you made, in the last year or two?*

- a) New Judge
- b) New team member (non-judge)
- c) Moved to virtual court hearings
- d) Moved to virtual staffings
- e) Changed responses to participant behavior (e.g., new incentives or sanctions)
- f) Change in participant requirements



# SAMPLE TIMELINE OF CHANGES IN POLICY AND PRACTICE



# LOOK AT YOUR PROGRAM OPERATIONS. **ARE YOU FOLLOWING BEST PRACTICES?**

- Review the best practice standards and compare what you're doing to the standards
- Take a best practice assessment - NDCI offers an online self-assessment for free (the "BeST")

<https://www.ndci.org/best-assessment/>



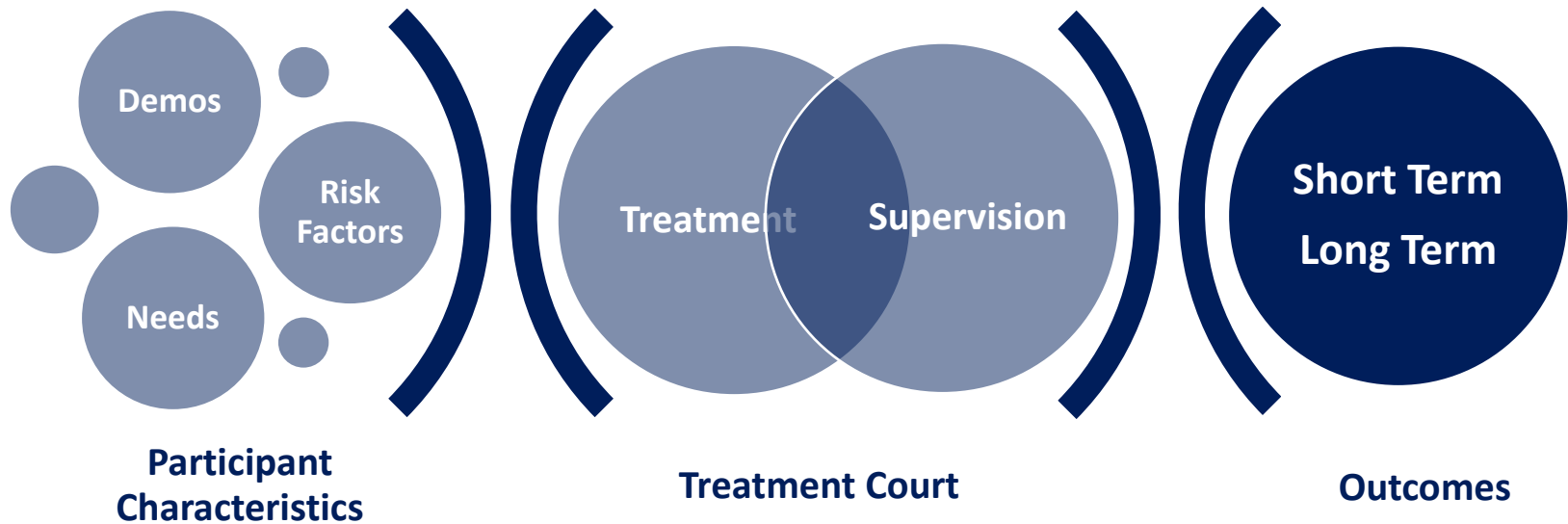
# NEXT: COLLECT WHAT YOUR PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

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- Information about the activities you require of participants (many of these are what YOU are doing)
- Participant **attendance** at those activities



# Data Collection and Program Flow



# TYPICAL ACTIVITIES TO TRACK

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Identifiers (Activities must be connected to people)

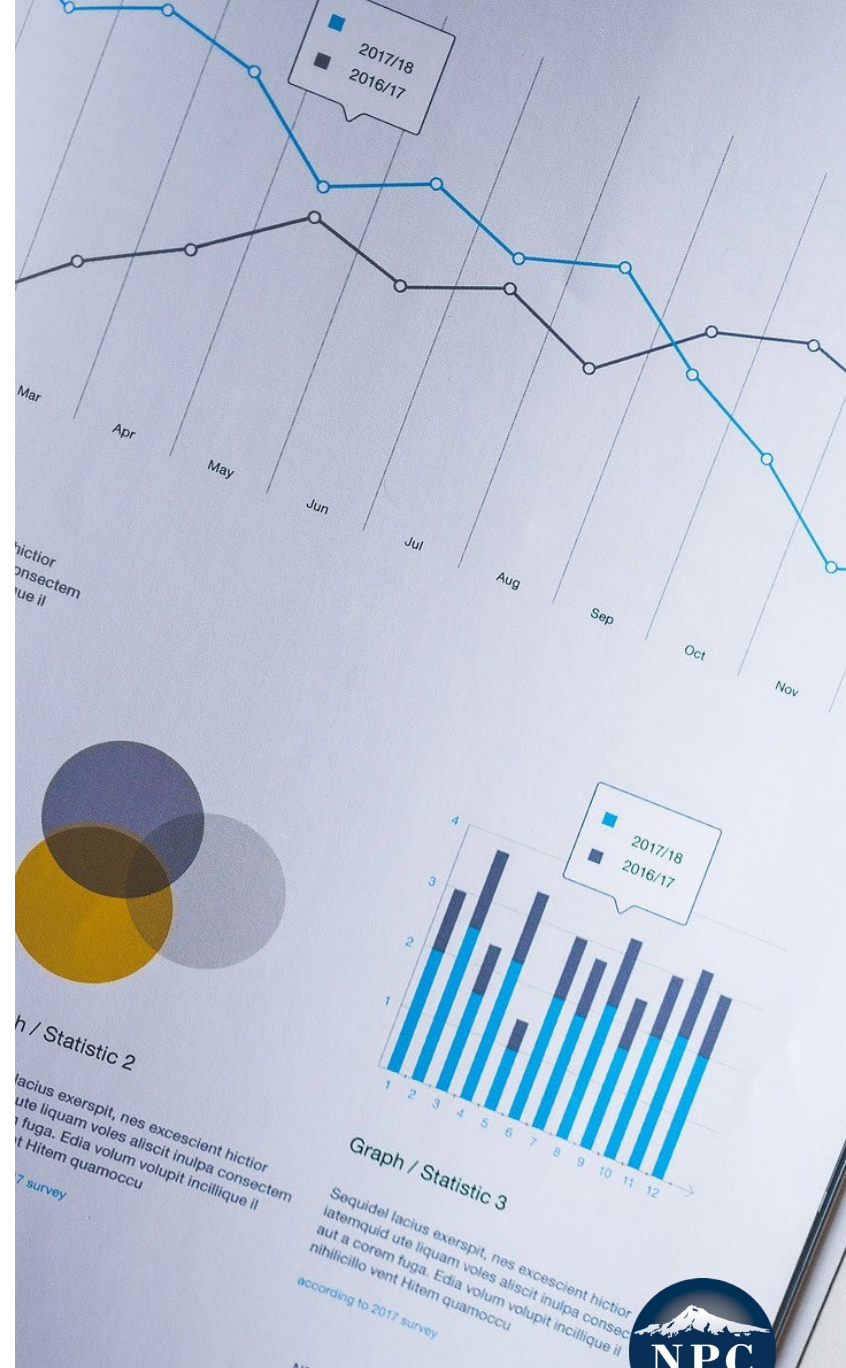
- Court Hearings
- Drug Tests
- Incentives
- Sanctions
- Treatment
- Case management
- Supervision
- Peer Support
- What else do you do?





# SPECIFIC DATA ELEMENTS TO COLLECT

Individual Level  
(for each participant)





# WHO ARE YOUR PARTICIPANTS?

## Collect Identifiers and Demographics

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- Name and other identifiers:
  - SSN
  - Drivers license number
  - Court case numbers
- Demographics
  - DOB
  - Race
  - Gender

### Why collect this data?

- To link with other administrative data
- To assess equity and disparities

# WHO ARE YOUR PARTICIPANTS?

## Collect Assessments and Characteristics

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- Referral Information
- Risk and Need Assessments  
(dates and results)
- Trauma Assessments
- Health and Pain  
Assessments
- Other characteristics at entry
  - Family/Children
  - Employment status
  - Income
  - Housing status
  - Child custody/visitation
  - Marital status
  - Other social indicators

### Why collect this data?

- Use to justify grant funding to support improvements
- Understand needs for support as well as participant strengths and “recovery capital” (Match services to needs. Assessment leads to action.)



# SOCIAL INDICATORS OVER TIME

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## Sample indicators

- Employment status
- Income
- Housing status
- Child custody/visitation
- Marital status
- Other social indicators

## Collected at multiple timepoints:

- At program entry
- During program
- At program exit

## *Why collect this?*

- Simple way to measure whether participant outcomes have improved over the course of your program

## *Why collect this?*

### Measure

- Attendance patterns in individuals.
- Does consistent attendance, or number of appearances per month, relate to graduation status or recidivism?
- Does attendance vary based on presiding judge?

## COURT HEARINGS

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### *Necessary Information:*

- Dates of Hearings
- Virtual/In-Person
- Attendance
- Other Descriptors:
  - Judge presiding
  - Phase promotion
  - Incentives/Sanctions

# DRUG TESTS

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## *Necessary Information:*

- Dates of EACH Drug Test
- Drug Test Type:
  - UA, EtG, PBT, oral swab, bracelet, patch, hair, blood, ignition interlock, etc.
- Observation Method
- Substances Tested
- Results of Drug Tests:
  - Negative
  - Positive (including refused, diluted, or no-show)

## *Why collect this?*

### Measure

- % of positive drug tests
- # or % of missed drug tests
- common drugs used
- Whether outcomes (grad status, recidivism) are related to frequency of drug testing and type of drug testing

## *Why collect this?*

- Track what you have used before for each participant and whether it was effective
- Measure whether certain incentives or sanctions (or the number of incentives) are related to higher grad rates or lower recidivism

# INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS

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## *Necessary Information:*

- Behavior
  - 100% attendance, Missed UA
- Dates of Responses
- Response
  - Gift card, Writing assignment
- Response Type
  - Incentive, Sanction, Therapeutic, Supervision Adjustment
- Duration (if applicable)
  - Jail Days (Entry/Exit Dates or # of Days), Community Service Hours







## *Poll*

# INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS

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*What types of incentives are the most well received by participants in your court?*

- a) Verbal Praise
- b) Gift Cards
- c) Raffle entries
- d) Certificates
- e) Passes to leave court early
- f) Being called first at the court review
- g) Fishbowl
- h) A Team



# TREATMENT

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## *Necessary Information:*

- Dates of Treatment Sessions  
(or Episode Start & End Dates)
- Virtual/In-Person
- Duration of Treatment
  - Could be days for inpatient/residential
  - Could be hours for outpatient appointments
- Type or modality
- Completion/Discharge Status
- Agency Providing Treatment



## *Why collect this?*

### Measure

- whether they are getting the treatment that matches their assessment results or documented in their case plan
- whether treatment frequency or type of treatment is related to higher graduation rates

## TREATMENT

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### *Treatment Modalities:*

- Inpatient/Residential
- Detox
- Transitional
- Individual Outpatient
- Group Outpatient
- Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT)
- Assessment, Case Management Activities

# PROGRAM STATUS

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## *Necessary Information:*

- Entry Date
- Phase Start Dates  
(for each phase)
- Exit Date
- Status at Exit
  - Graduated
  - Unsuccessful (revoked, discharged, etc.)
  - Transferred

## *Why collect this?*

### Measure

- length of stay
- Length of time in each phase
- Graduation rates
- Whether participants drop out more frequently in a particular phase



*Why collect this?*

Measure

- recidivism

# RECIDIVISM

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*New Arrests and Charges:*

- Dates of arrest, case filings, or convictions
- Charge type/description
- Felony/Misdemeanor



## *Why collect this?*

### Measure

- Whether services received match the plan
- Whether specific services are related better outcomes
- Whether participants do better in a virtual environment or in person

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

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Peer support activities,  
case management,  
supervision

### *Necessary Information:*

- Dates of activity
- Type of activity
- Attendance
- Virtual/In-Person





## *Poll*

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

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*What types of peer support do you have available for your participants?*

- a) Community recovery meetings (e.g., NA, Smart Recovery)
- b) Peer mentor/Peer support specialist
- c) Sober group activities in the community (e.g., bowling, fishing)
- d) Alumni group
- e) Other activities



**SO, WHAT DO  
WE DO WITH  
THIS DATA?**

**HOW DO WE USE  
OUR DATA TO FIND  
OUT IF WHAT WE'RE  
DOING IS WORKING?**

**HOW DO WE USE  
OUR DATA TO  
IMPROVE?**

**Participant & Program  
Performance Measures**





# SHORT-TERM PROGRESS INDICATORS (WEEKS) - *EXAMPLES*

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*For program performance or individual participant progress :*

## **Program Progress**

- What is the average length of time from eligible incident to referral? From referral to entry? From entry to exit?
- What is the average number of case management and treatment appointments attended by each participant?
  - Do the numbers match program expectations?
- What percentage of participants missed case manager (CM) appointments this month? (or other specified time period)
- What percentage of participants missed treatment this week?
  - Are these number different for different CM's or tx providers?



# SHORT-TERM PROGRESS INDICATORS (WEEKS) - EXAMPLES

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*For program performance or individual participant progress :*

## **Individual participant progress** – specify time periods

- How many treatment sessions were attended each week? Does this match the number they should be attending based on assigned level of care?
- What is the average number of treatment, CM or peer support meetings that have been missed?
- What is the percent of positive drug tests? What is the percent of negative drug tests? Has that decreased or increased from month to month?



# MID-LONG TERM PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (MONTHS - YEARS) - EXAMPLES

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## *Mostly program performance:*

### **During the program and/or at entry and exit:**

- What percent of participants have safe and sober housing?
- What percent of participants are employed or in school?
- What is your participant graduation/commencement rate?
- What percent of participants drop out/are terminated in each phase? (Is there a phase when the most participants tend to drop out?)
- Do average risk and need scores decrease over time?
- What percent of participants are engaged with a peer mentor? Are those participants more likely to graduate?



# MID-LONG TERM PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (MONTHS - YEARS)-EXAMPLES

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## **During and after program exit:**

### ***Criminal Justice Data***

- What percent of participants get rearrested during the program? In the first year after exit?

### ***Participant follow up surveys***

- What percent of participants report staying sober
- What percent of participants continue to engage in community support after exit

Note: It would be nice to look at health and family outcomes, but it is difficult to access that data



# *Poll*

## FOLLOW-UP

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*What outreach and/or ongoing support do you provide after program exit?*

- a) Participants can continue to access treatment services after exit
- b) We perform follow-up interviews or surveys *after* exit
- c) Sober community activities (e.g., bowling, fishing)
- d) Alumni group
- e) Ongoing one on one peer support or peer mentor
- f) Peer support groups







**HOW DO WE  
CALCULATE THE  
ANSWERS TO  
THESE  
QUESTIONS  
FROM THE DATA?**



# STRATEGIES FOR DATA ANALYSIS

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- If you have a case management system, it may calculate the numbers for you - or
  - Ask your IT department or the database vendors to create automated reports with those indicators
  - If not, see if you can download the data into a spreadsheet
- If you don't have a database, you can use a spreadsheet, like Excel and calculate some basic statistics
  - Simple calculations (e.g., averages, sums)
  - Pivot Tables and Pivot Charts
  - Graphs
  - Dashboards (advanced)

# DASHBOARDS

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- Visual representation of program progress can help you more easily understand your progress
- Generally, will update every time you add new data so you can stay up to speed on your programs trends

This is something that can be done in Excel if there is data you are collecting outside of your MIS (or for programs that don't have a MIS).



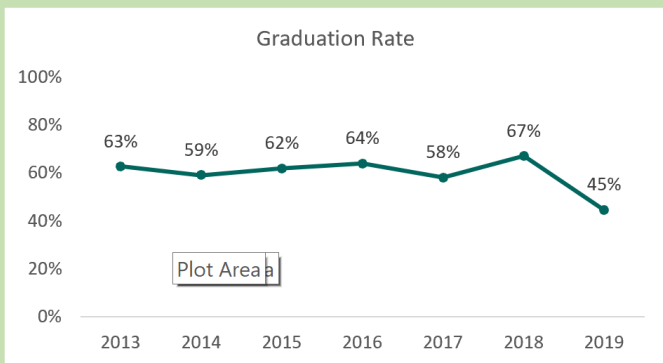
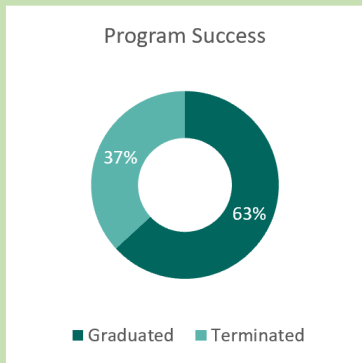
# DASHBOARD EXAMPLE – Graduation

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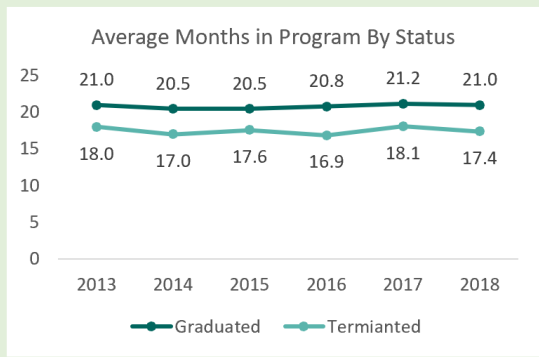
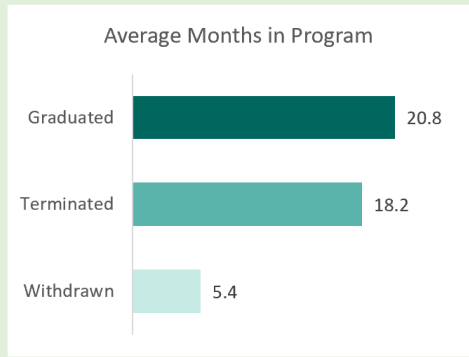
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O

## Program Status and Graduation Rate

Status	N
Active	32
Graduated	95
Terminated	87
Withdrawn	76
Total	290



## Average Time in Program

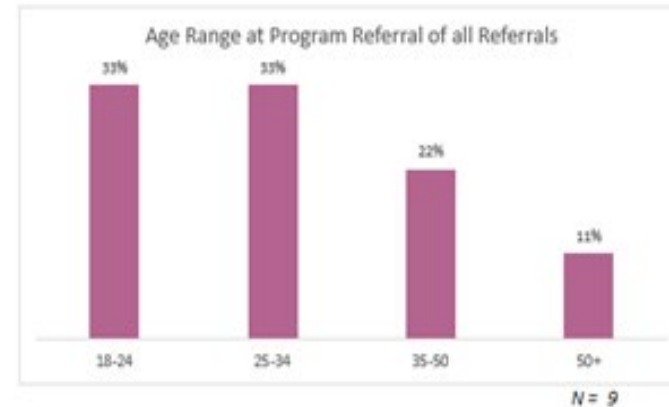
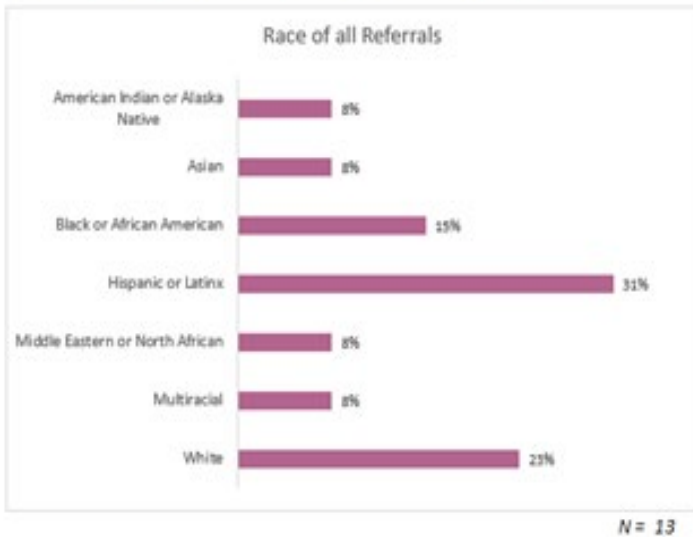


Time in Pr	Mean	Min	Max
Withdrawn	5.4	4	7.6
Terminated	18.2	7	21
Graduated	20.8	18	29

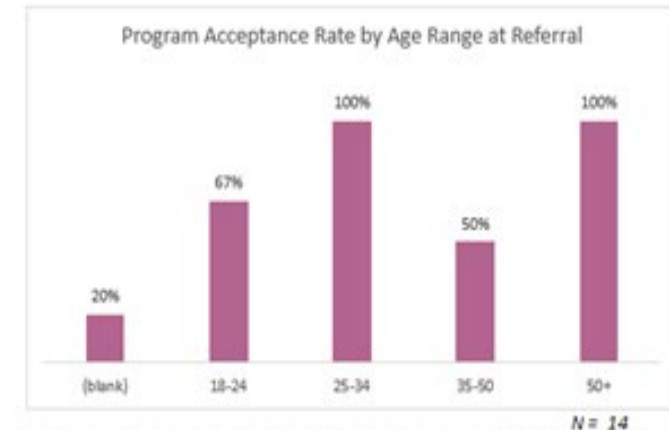
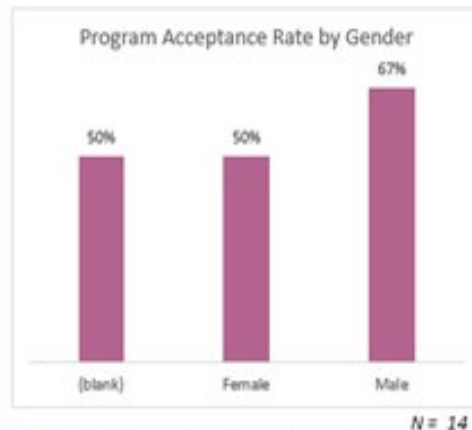


# DASHBOARD EXAMPLE – EQUITY

## Demographics of all Participants and Referrals



## Program Acceptance Rate by Race, Gender, Age



# USING EXCEL

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Participant Name</b>	<b>DOB</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Referral Date</b>	<b>Start Date</b>
2	Charlene Zil	1/1/1980	F	5/13/2010	5/18/2010
3	Shannon Carey	2/2/1980	F	9/8/2011	9/13/2011
4	Juliette Mackin	3/3/1980	F	12/14/2013	12/19/2013
5	Chad Rodi	4/4/1980	M	4/9/2014	4/14/2014
6					
7					

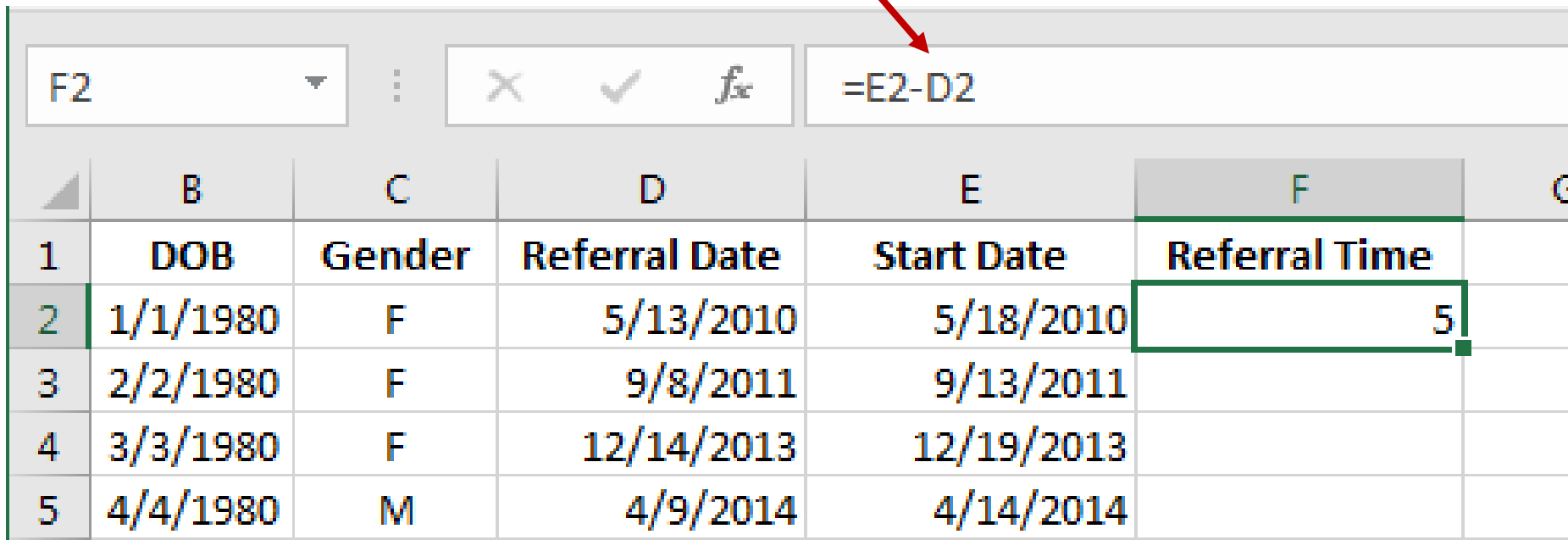
Navigation: < > **Participant List** | Drug Tests | Drop Down Lists | (+)

# ANALYSIS TRICKS

Use the formula bar to calculate ages, referral time, and length in program

Example - Calculate days from referral to entry:

**=[Start Date]-[Referral Date]**



	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>DOB</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Referral Date</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Referral Time</b>
2	1/1/1980	F	5/13/2010	5/18/2010	5
3	2/2/1980	F	9/8/2011	9/13/2011	
4	3/3/1980	F	12/14/2013	12/19/2013	
5	4/4/1980	M	4/9/2014	4/14/2014	

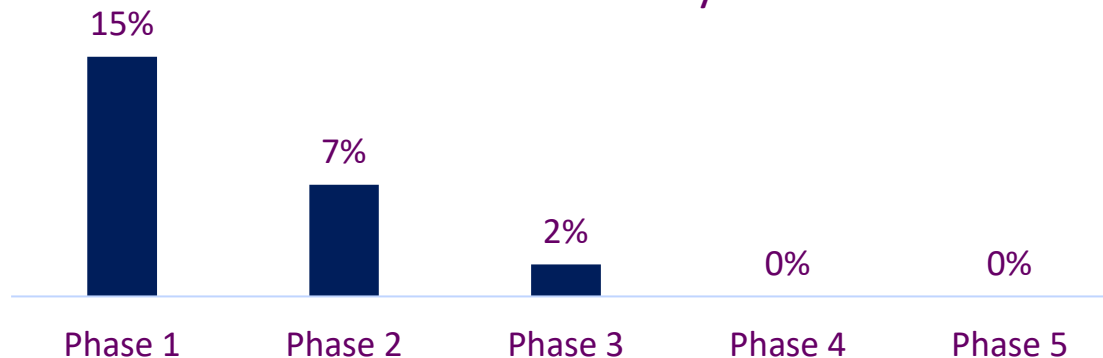


# HOW TO EXAMINE THE INDIVIDUAL PROGRESS INDICATORS OVER TIME

## Employment

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Court ID	Participant Name	DOB	Gender	Start Date	Employment at Entry	Employment at Phase 2	Employment at Phase 3	Employment at Exit
2	ATC001	Charlene Zil	1/1/1980	F	5/13/2018	Unemployed	Unemployed	Full time	Full time
3	ATC002	Juliette Mackin	3/3/1980	F	8/24/2019	Part time	Part time	Part time	Full time
4	ATC003	Shannon Carey	2/2/1980	F	9/26/2019	Unemployed	Part time	Full time	Full time
5	ATC004	Chad Rodi	4/4/1980	M	1/15/2020	Unemployed	Unemployed	Unemployed	Unemployed

Percent of Positive Drug Screens:  
Shannon Carey



# *Poll*

## Calculations

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*Do you currently use your own data to calculate any of the following??*

- a) Graduation rates
- b) Retention rates
- c) Attendance rates at treatment meetings
- d) Rates of Missed Drug Tests
- e) Recidivism rates



# CALCULATING IN-PROGRAM PROGRESS INDICATORS OVER TIME

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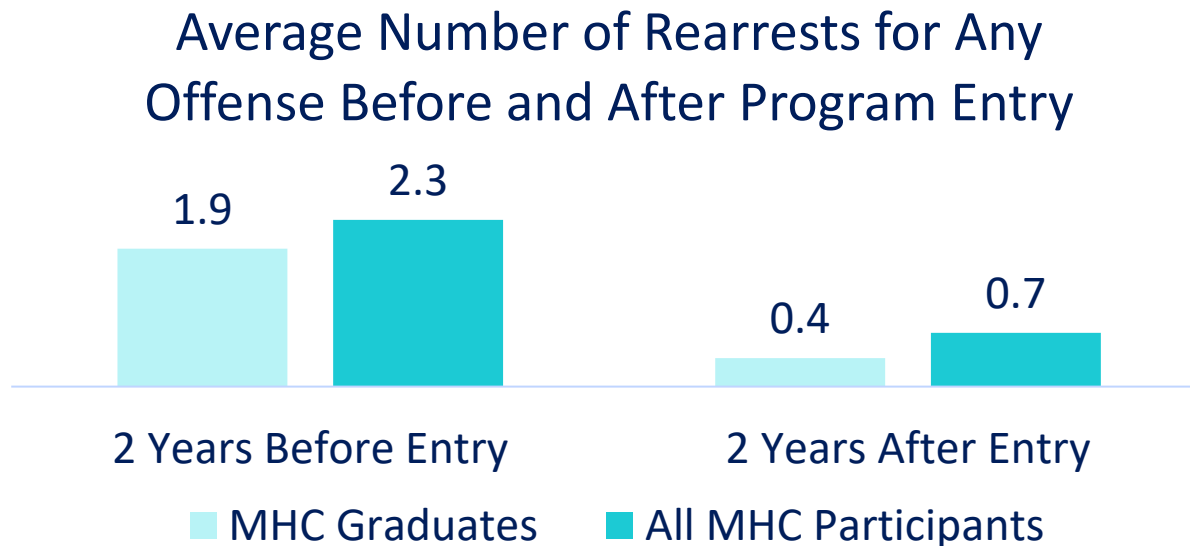
- Calculate the attendance rates (percent of events attended)
- Calculate the average number of events attended/missed during a specific time period (e.g., Phase 1, or Jan – June 2021)
- Compare the rates before and after policy changes

## Outpatient Treatment Attendance Rate



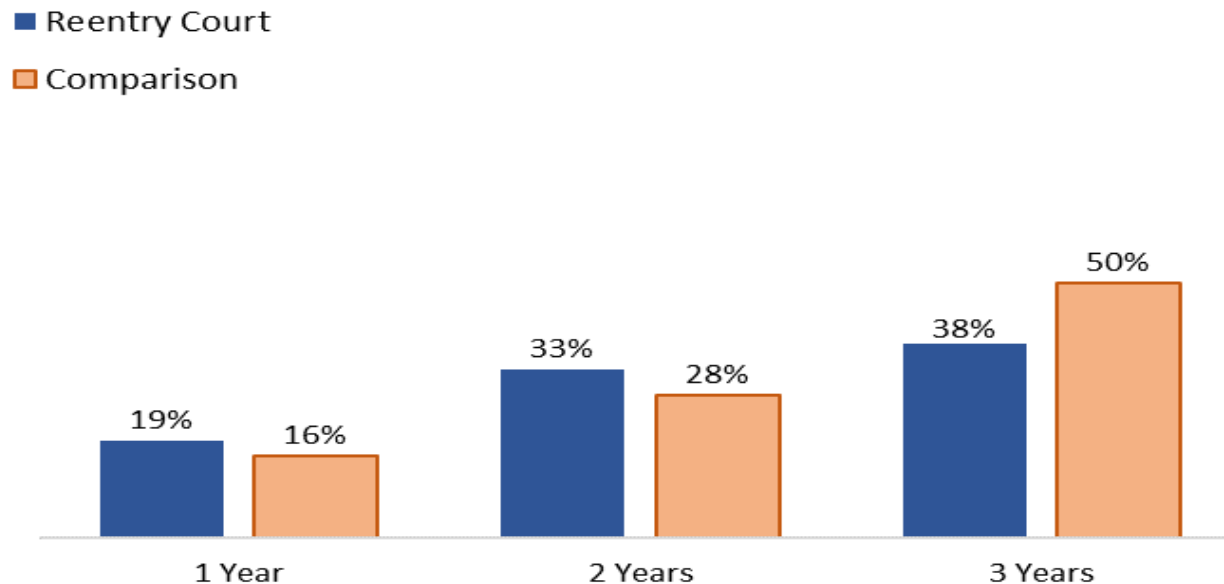
# CALCULATING OUTCOMES/IMPACT

- Calculate average number of rearrests per person, or recidivism rates (number of participants arrested out of the total number of participants)
- Look at recidivism rates in participants over time (e.g., before and after program entry)



# CALCULATING PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS OR IMPACT

- Compare recidivism rates over time to similar individuals who do not participate in the program (a comparison group)
  - \*Need someone with some research expertise (internal or external evaluator)



# Resources & Funding

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- Local funding
  - County grants
  - State grants
  - Legislature
- Federal funding
  - BJA
  - SAMHSA
  - OJJDP
  - NHTSA





# QUESTIONS?

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**THANK YOU**

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