




Standard 11: Evaluation of Treatment Courts

See section 11 of binder

Learning Objectives

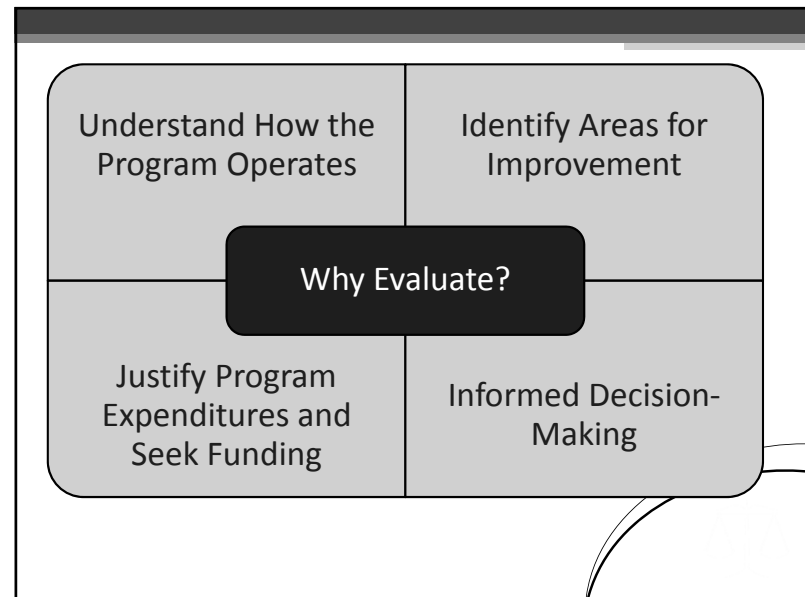
As a result of this session, you should be able to:

- Appreciate the role and importance of evaluation for your treatment court
- Distinguish process, outcome, and impact evaluations
- Understand the fundamentals of a cost-benefit analysis
- Discuss data elements that are important for the evaluation of treatment courts
- Discuss the evaluation process and implementation of recommendations

Standard 11

“A treatment court shall engage in ongoing data collection and evaluation to assess whether the treatment court is adhering to the Ten Key Components, evidence-based practices, and specific program goals and objectives.”

Wisconsin Treatment Court Standards (2014), Standard 11

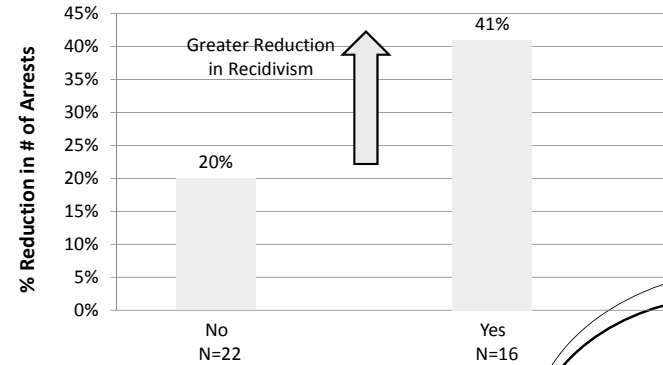


Why are we really doing this?

- Increase Public Safety
- Hold Offenders Accountable
- Improve Social Functioning and Wellbeing of Participants and Families
- Reduce costs

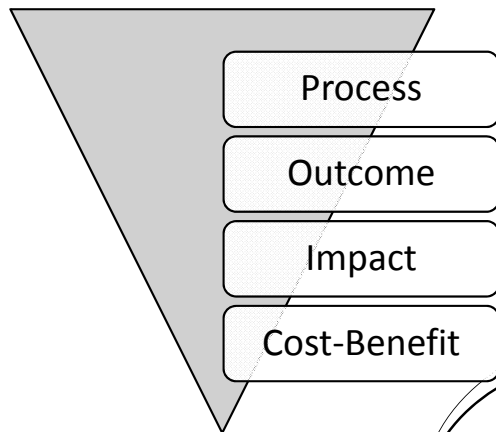
Reduction in Recidivism Connected to Using Data*

Did the Review of Data or Program Statistics Lead to Modifications in Drug Court Operations?

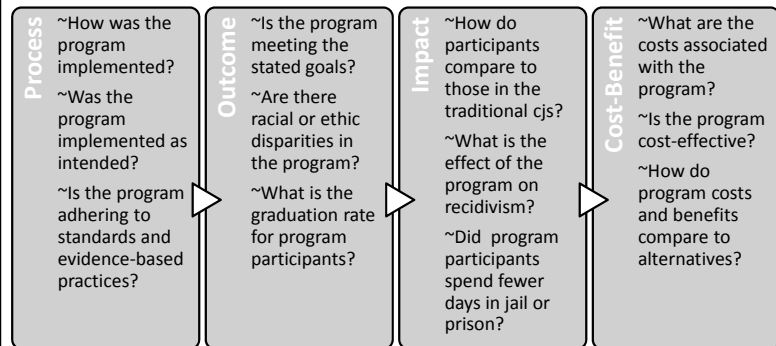


*Carey, S. M., Mackin, J. R., & Finigan, M. W. (2012). "WHAT WORKS? THE TEN KEY COMPONENTS OF DRUG COURT: RESEARCH-BASED BEST PRACTICES." *BEST PRACTICES IN DRUG COURTS*, V 8, no 1

Types of Evaluations



Different Types of Evaluations Answer Different Questions



Process Evaluation

A study that documents a program's actual caseflow, service delivery and resources in relation to its planned target population, policies and procedures over time.*

*National Institute of Justice, <http://www.nij.gov/topics/courts/drug-courts/pages/measures-evaluation.aspx>

Process Evaluation

- Review of program implementation, operations, and fidelity to standards and best practices
- Methods include:
 - conducting focus groups, interviewing program staff, reviewing policy and procedure manuals, and observations
- Courts should perform a process evaluation every three to five years
- It must be based on reliable and valid scientific principles

La Crosse OWI Court Evaluation*

CPC-DC Offender Assessment - Sample

Strengths

- Adhered to established, written criteria and policy for admission
- Used validated assessment instrument to assess risk of recidivism and range of criminogenic needs

Areas that Need Improvement

- Use validated, standardized, and objective instrument to assess substance abuse
- Target moderate- and high-risk offenders and place low-risk offenders in a low intensity program

*Myer, Andrew J. and Matthew D. Makarios. "Process and Outcome Evaluation of the La Crosse County OWI Court." February, 2014.

Process Evaluation Criteria

- 10 Key Components
- NADCP Drug Court Standards
- WATCP Standards
- Program Goals and Objectives
- Other evidence-based instruments (E.g., Correctional Program Checklist – Drug Courts (CPC-DC))

Outcome Evaluation

An outcome evaluation measures the program's influence on graduation, criminal recidivism and relapse among cohorts of participants.*

*National Institute of Justice, <http://www.nij.gov/topics/courts/drug-courts/pages/measures-evaluation.aspx>

Outcome Evaluation

- Intent-to-Treat Analysis
- Evaluation measures should reflect goals and objectives of your program
 - What is happening as a result of the program?
 - Is it meeting the stated goals and objectives?
- Must be based on reliable and valid scientific principles
- Data collection is key!

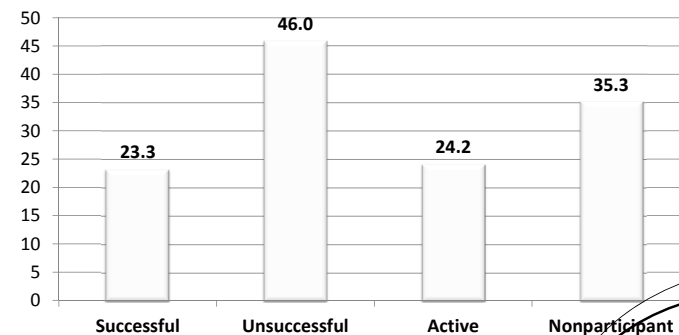
Outcome Evaluation

The National Standard recommends the following measures (at a minimum):

- Retention
- Sobriety
 - the number of negative drug/alcohol screens divided by the total number of tests
- Recidivism
 - In-program and post-program
- Units of Service- tx and probation sessions plus Court hearings
- Length of Stay

La Crosse OWI Court Evaluation*

Percent Recidivate on New Charge up to 36 Months Post Intake by Program Status



*Myer, Andrew J. and Matthew D. Makarios. "Process and Outcome Evaluation of the La Crosse County OWI Court." February, 2014.

Interactive Question

True or False: The evaluators for the La Crosse OWI Court found that those who graduated from the program were 22.7 percent less likely to recidivate within 36 months of program intake than those who were terminated from the program. Therefore, the program reduces recidivism by 22.7 percent.

- A. True
- B. False

Impact Evaluation

A study to gauge the effect of the intervention on the target population, if information is available on comparable defendants or offenders outside the program.*

*National Institute of Justice, <http://www.nij.gov/topics/courts/drug-courts/pages/measures-evaluation.aspx>

Impact Evaluation

- This is where a comparison group comes in...
 - Different ways to address a comparison group
 - Experimental and quasi-experimental
- What would have happened if participants had not attended Tx court?
 - Counterfactual
- Must be based on reliable and valid scientific principles (sound familiar?)

La Crosse OWI Court Evaluation*

Comparison of New Charges All OWI Court Completers Across Groups by Risk Level

Variable	Comparison Group		Treatment Group	
	n	%	n	%
Low Risk Participants+				
No, New Charge	91	67.9	97	71.9
Yes, New Charge	43	32.1	38	28.1
Moderate Risk Participants+				
No, New Charge	188	62.3	207	67.0
Yes, New Charge	114	37.7	102	33.0
High Risk Participants~				
No, New Charge	12	57.1	8	36.4
Yes, New Charge	9	42.9	14	63.6

+ p>.05
~ Cell value too small for interpretation

*Myer, Andrew J. and Matthew D. Makarios. "Process and Outcome Evaluation of the La Crosse County OWI Court." February, 2014.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

An analysis that calculates the net benefits of a program (total benefits minus total costs) and is used to indicate the impact the program has on public resources and expenditures and whether the investment yields savings over the status quo.*

*National Institute of Justice, <http://www.nij.gov/topics/courts/drug-courts/pages/measures-evaluation.aspx>

Cost-Benefit Analysis

- Cost-efficiency analysis that compares *estimated* bottom line to the returns available from alternatives
- Requires an impact evaluation
- Informs stakeholder resource allocation decisions
- Considers *marginal*, not *average* costs
- Pew Results First Initiative

Minnesota DWI Court Evaluation* Cost Savings for DWI Court Participants over Two Years from Program Entry

	DWI Court #1	DWI Court #2	DWI Court #3	DWI Court #4	DWI Court #6
Cost Savings per DWI Court Participant	\$2,647	\$8,946	\$3,076	(\$2,407)	\$11,386

*NPC Research. Courts, Minnesota DWI. "Minnesota DWI Courts: A Summary of Evaluation Findings in Nine DWI Court Programs." (2014).

Evaluation Constraints*

- Political nature of program
 - Encourage staff to view evaluation as an opportunity
- Available resources
 - Make evaluation part of your budget
- Data
 - Electronic database, monitor staff performance
- Measurement techniques
 - Use standardized instruments and scales
- Identification of suitable comparison groups
 - Match participants to others based on relevant characteristics

*Latessa, Edward J. EVALUATING CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS. Resource Materials 88. 2012.

Implementing Evaluation Results

- Have intended services been provided?
- Have services been provided as intended?
- What services are not being provided that should be added?
- Did you reach the target population?
- What problems were encountered in implementation, operation, and performance?
- How can these be resolved?
- Is the program operating with fidelity?

Partnering to Complete Evaluation

- Outside, independent, trained evaluator
- Partner with other courts that are similar to you in type, size, and model
- Partner with a local university
- Review published evaluations
- Valid and reliable data collection is critical
 - may reduce costs and enhance evaluation quality

Data Collection

- Electronic Database
- Data collection should be:
 - Valid and Reliable
 - Timely (recorded within 48 hours)
 - Consistent
- Track NCSC performance measure data and National Standard data
 - Minimum standard

Data Collection – Potential Pitfalls

- Fail to identify limitations and validity concerns
 - Self reporting
 - Program changes
 - Inconsistent collection
- Lack of definition or documentation for collection process
- Overlook the details
 - Key event dates
 - Items needed for evaluation or performance measurement

Data Collection Elements

Important data elements for all types of evaluations

- Demographics (age, sex, race/ethnicity)
- Risk-Need score
- Reason not admitted (if applicable)
- Drugs of choice
- Education and employment at admission and discharge
- Criminal events (arrests, charges, etc.)
- Court status hearings
- Treatment and other auxiliary services (dates, type, quantity)
- Drug testing (dates, results)
- Incentives/sanctions (dates, precipitating event, type)
- Discharge type and reason
- Dates (referred, admitted, discharged, etc.)

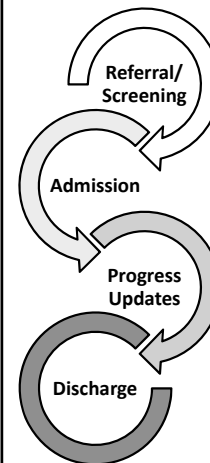
How Evaluation Differs from Performance Measurement

- PM: Establishment of research-based indicators to measure program activity (Heck, 2006)
- Real-time intermediary measures of performance
- “PM Not concerned with questions of attribution”- Fred Cheesman
- “Dashboard” – Dr. Fred Cheesman
- PM utility increases with time

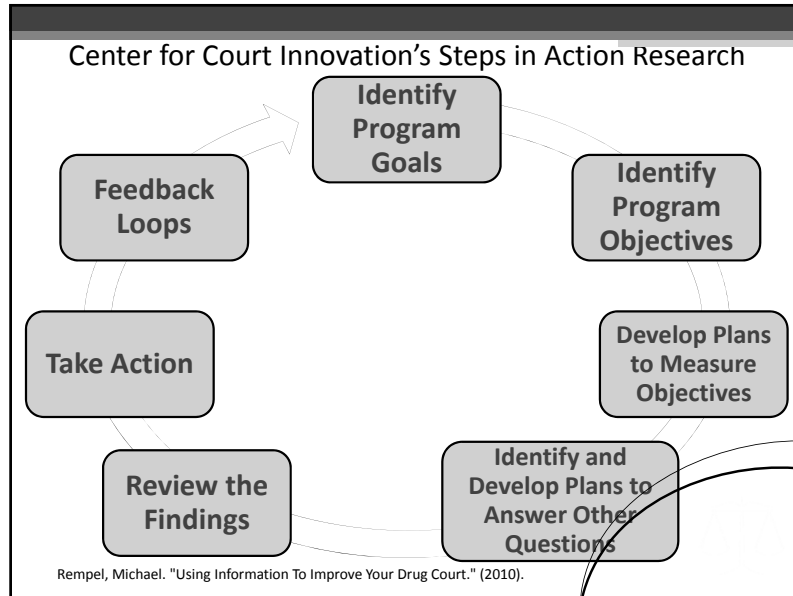


- Comprehensive Outcome, Research, and Evaluation (CORE) Reporting System
- Security and confidentiality of data
- Web-based
- No cost to use. Available to ALL treatment courts
- Can submit data to CORE through existing case management/data collection system
- Coming soon!

Data Collection Points



- Referral/Screening
 - Arrest date, Eligibility, Demographics
- Admission
 - Criminal background, Employment, education, AODA, mental health
- Progress Updates
 - AODA testing, phase advancement, incentives, sanctions, services
- Discharge
 - Type, employment, education, services, AODA



Breakout Session 8

- Planning for evaluation
 - When will you conduct an evaluation?
 - What type will you conduct?
 - Who will carry out the evaluation?

- Community outreach
 - Review your current outreach efforts
 - Consider community mapping
 - Plan marketing/grant efforts

Resources

- <https://www.bja.gov/evaluation/types-research.htm>
- WI TX Court Standards: http://www.watcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/WATCP_Standards_April-2014.pdf
- Heck, Cary. (2006). Local Drug Court Research: Navigating Performance Measures and Process Evaluations. Washington, DC: National Drug Court Institute. <http://www.ndci.org/sites/default/files/ndci/Mono6.LocalResearch.pdf>
- Carey, S. M., Lucas, L. M., Waller, M. S., Lambarth, C. H., Linhares, R., Weller, J. M., & Finigan, M. W. (2009). *Vermont Drug Courts: Rutland County Adult Drug Court Process, Outcome, and Cost Evaluation Final Report*. NPC Research, Portland, OR. http://npcresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/VT_Drug_Court_Eval_Rutland_01092.pdf
- Marion County Family Drug Treatment Court Process Evaluation Site Visit Report Portland, OR: NPC Research December 2014. <http://npcresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/MCFDTC-Site-Visit-Report-December-2014-final.pdf>
- (Urban Institute) Rossman, Shelli B., Michael Rempel, John K. Roman, Janine M. Zweig, Christine H. Lindquist, Mia Green, P. Mitchell Downey, Jennifer Yahner, Avinash Singh Bhati, and Donald J. Farole Jr. 2011e. *The Multi-site Adult Drug Court Evaluation: The Impact of Drug Courts*. Final Report: Vol. 4. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/237112.pdf>
- University of Nebraska. Public Policy Center. *Evaluation of Nebraska's Problem-solving Courts*. University of Nebraska, Public Policy Center, 2012. <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/supremecourt.ne.gov/files/reports/courts/drug-court-report-final-report.pdf>
- Branch, Minnesota Judicial. "Minnesota Statewide Adult Drug Court Evaluation." (2012). http://www.mncourts.gov/mncourtsgov/media/assets/documents/reports/MN_Statewide_Drug_Court_Evaluation_Report_Final_Public.pdf
- *Cost-Benefit Analysis: A Guide for Drug Courts and Other Criminal Justice Programs*, by Downey, M.P., and J. Roman, National Institute of Justice, Research in Brief, June 2014. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/246769.pdf>