

The Impact on Drug Use and Other Psychosocial Outcomes: Results from NIJ's Multi-Site Adult Drug Court Evaluation, Part 1



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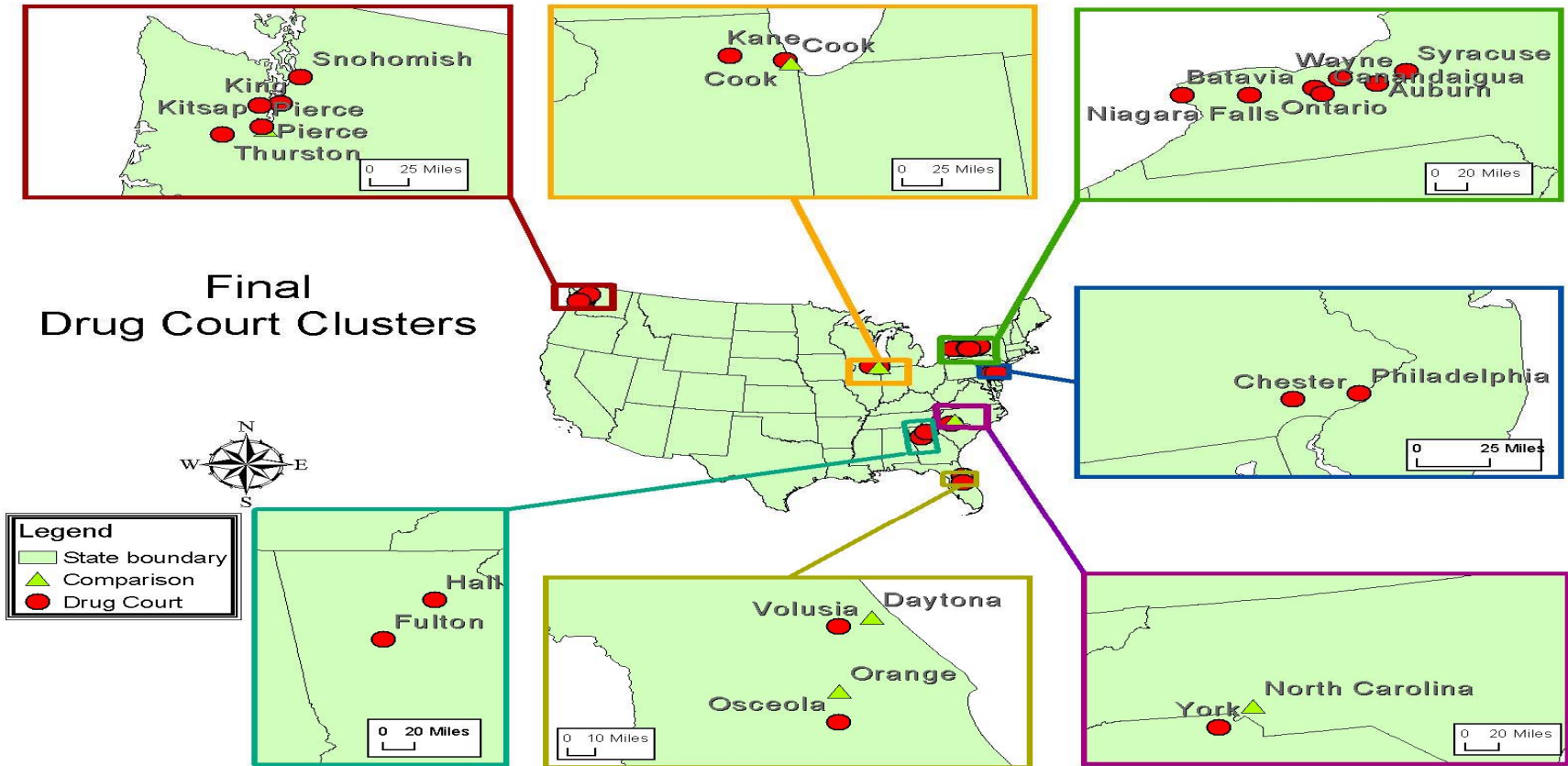
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About the Study

- **Research Partnership:** The Urban Institute, Center for Court Innovation, & Research Triangle Institute, with funding from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ)
- **Drug Court vs. Comparison Sites:**
 - Drug Court: 23 sites in 7 geographic clusters (n = 1156)
 - Comparison: 6 sites in 4 geographic clusters (n = 625)
- **Repeated Measures:** baseline and multiple follow-ups:
 - Interviews at baseline, 6 months, 18 months
 - Oral fluids drug test at 18 months
 - Official recidivism records up to 24 months

Drug Court and Comparison Sites



Nature of the Intervention: Drug Court vs. Comparison Sites

Interventions Received in Six Months After Baseline

	Drug Court (n = 1,009)	Comparison (n = 524)
Percent of offenders with any treatment	83%***	36%
Average days in treatment	59***	23
Percent with any judicial status hearings	93%***	14%
Average number of status hearings	10.3***	1.2
Percent with supervision officer contact	96%**	71%
Average number of contacts	17.2***	6.4
Percent with any drug test	95%***	61%
Average number of drug tests	30.9***	4.3
Percent receiving any judicial sanction	50%***	15%
Percent receiving praise from the judge	76%***	10%

+p<.10, * p<.05, ** p<.01, ***p<.001.

Offender Background - #1

Baseline Sample Characteristics (N = 1,781)

Age	33.8
Male	69%
Race/Ethnicity	
White	54%
Black/African-American	34%
HS degree/GED or higher	59%
Currently employed	36%
Average # criminal acts: six months pre-baseline	21.2
Mental Health	
Depression (multi-item instrument)	39%
Anti-social personality (multi-item instrument)	43%
Narcissistic personality (multi-item instrument)	50%

Offender Background - #2

Baseline Drug Use (N = 1,781)

Primary drug of choice	
Alcohol	14%
Marijuana/hashish	22%
Powder cocaine	10%
Crack	26%
Heroin	5%
Hallucinogens	0%
Amphetamines	9%
Prescription drugs	4%
Methadone	0%
Multiple Drugs	2%
Age of first drug use	13.53
Ever used by drug:	
Alcohol	98%
Marijuana	94%
Powder cocaine	40%
Crack	37%
Heroin	30%
Hallucinogens	57%
Amphetamines	5%
Prescription drugs	35%
Methadone	12%
Drug use (six months pre-baseline)	84%
Days of drug use/mth (six months pre-baseline)	13.2



Low Stress Methodology Review

- **Attrition:** Follow-Up Contact Rates at 18 Months:
 - Drug Court: 82% (follow-up N = 951)
 - Comparison Offenders: 84% (follow-up N = 523)
- **Baseline Drug Court vs. Comparison Group Differences:** Significant differences on 37 of 61 baseline characteristics (spanning demographics, community ties, mental and physical health, drug use history, treatment history, and criminal history)
- **Statistical Adjustment:** All results are statistically adjusted to compensate for differences at baseline (“propensity score adjustments” and “super weighting”)



Core Research Questions

1. Do drug courts work? (Do they reduce drug use, criminal behavior, and other associated problems?)
2. Do drug courts influence offender attitudes and perceptions, and do those changes make drug courts more effective?
3. Which policies and practices make drug courts more or less effective in achieving their desired outcomes?
4. Do drug courts generate cost savings for the criminal justice system or other public institutions?



Part 1. Do Drug Courts Work?

- A. Criminal Behavior
- B. Incarceration
- C. Drug Use
- D. Socioeconomic Status (education, employment, income)
- E. Mental Health
- F. Family Support
- G. Homelessness
- H. Program Retention Rates



Part 2. Do Drug Courts Work?

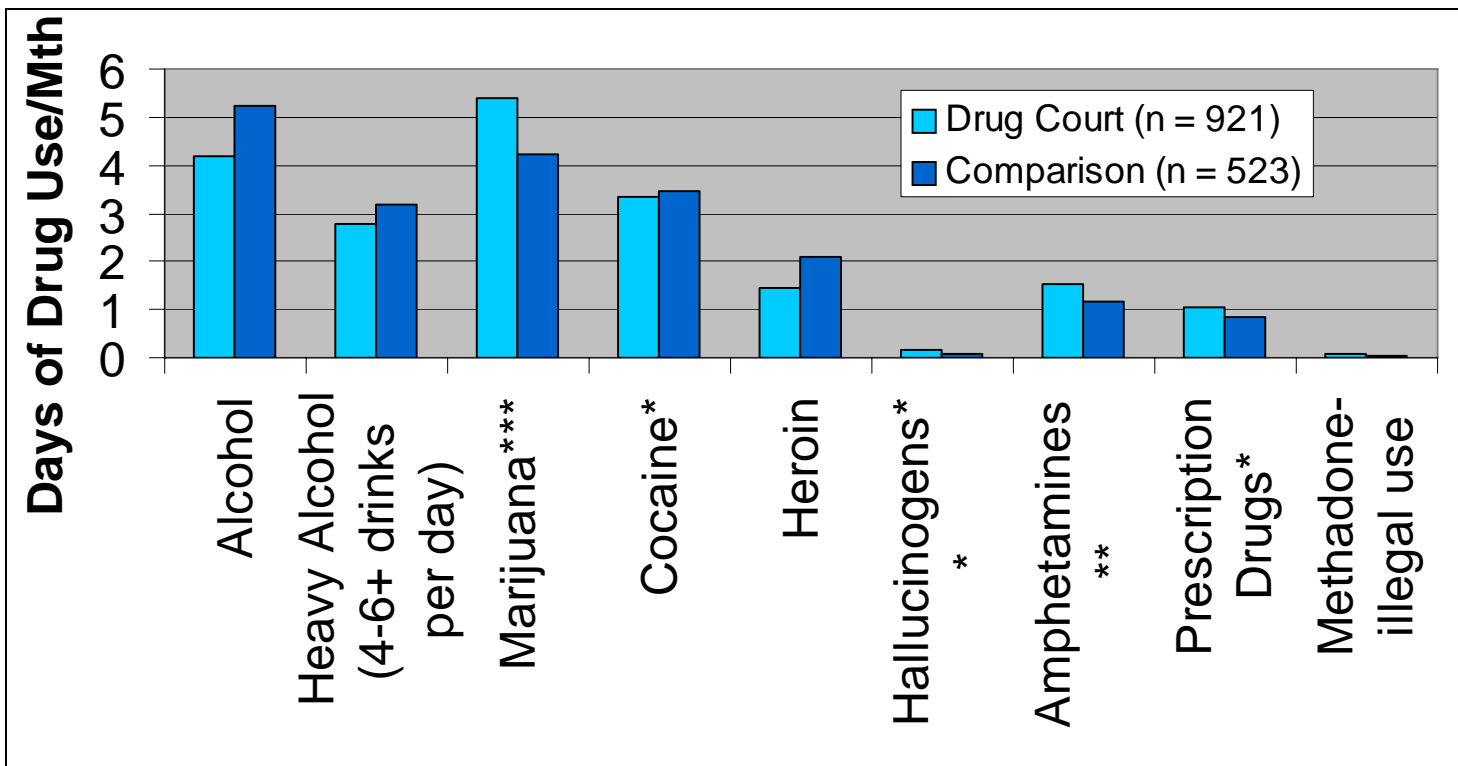
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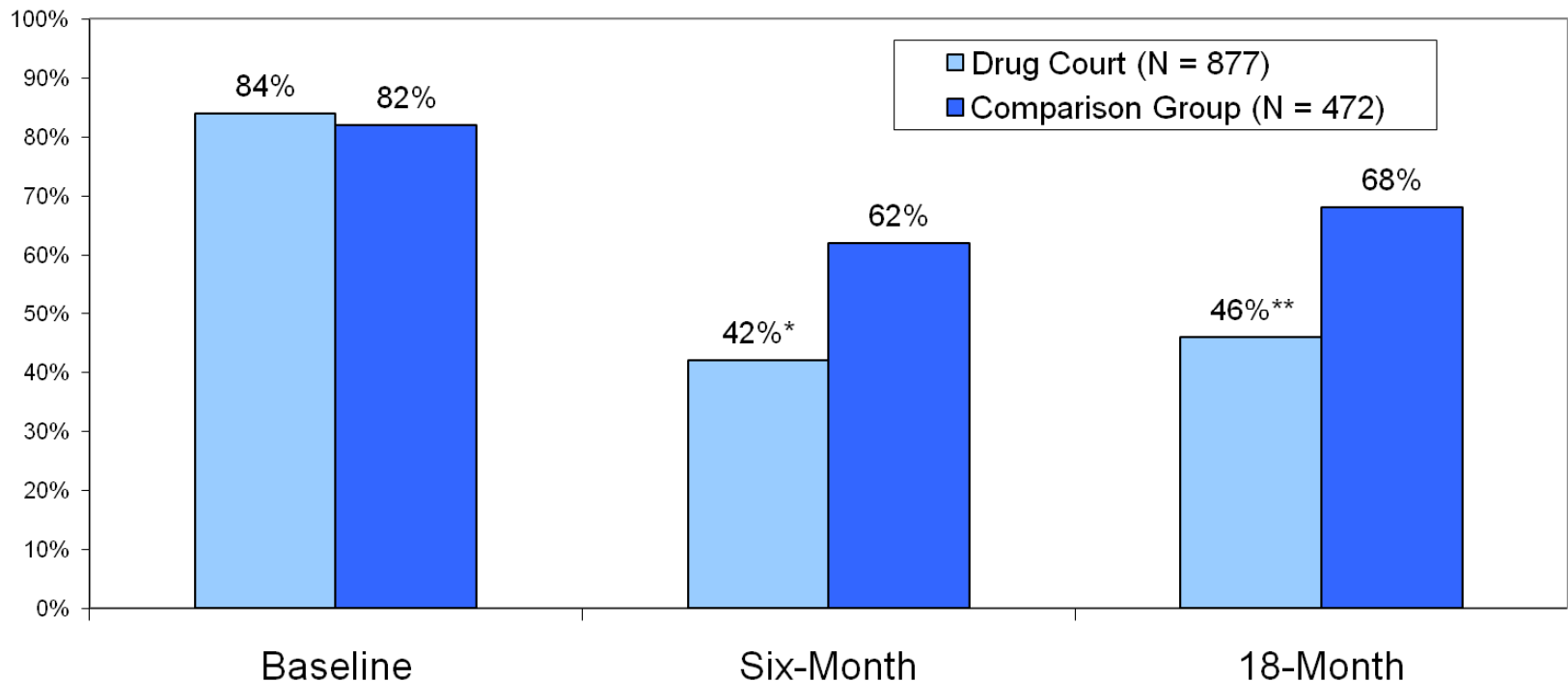
Drug Use: Literature to Date

- **Drug court participation reduces recidivism rates** (Finigan, 1998; Goldkamp and Weiland 1993; Gottfredson and Exum 2002; Harrell and Roman 2002; Jameson and Peterson 1995; Peters and Murrin 2000; Wilson et al. 2006).
- **BUT extremely few prior studies that focus on substance use:**
 - Brooklyn and Baltimore: Participants less likely to use drugs one year after entry (*Brooklyn:* Harrell et al. 2001; *Baltimore:* Gottfredson et al. 2003)
 - Maricopa Co., Arizona, and Washington, D.C.: Participants less likely to use “serious” drugs (heroin or cocaine); no positive effect on marijuana use (*Maricopa:* Deschenes et al. 1995; *D.C.:* Harrell et al. 1998)
 - Chester County (PA): Participants had significant lower rates of positive drug tests when participants were actively in the program & comparison were supervised by probation (Brewster 2001)

Baseline Drug Use: Days of Use Per Month

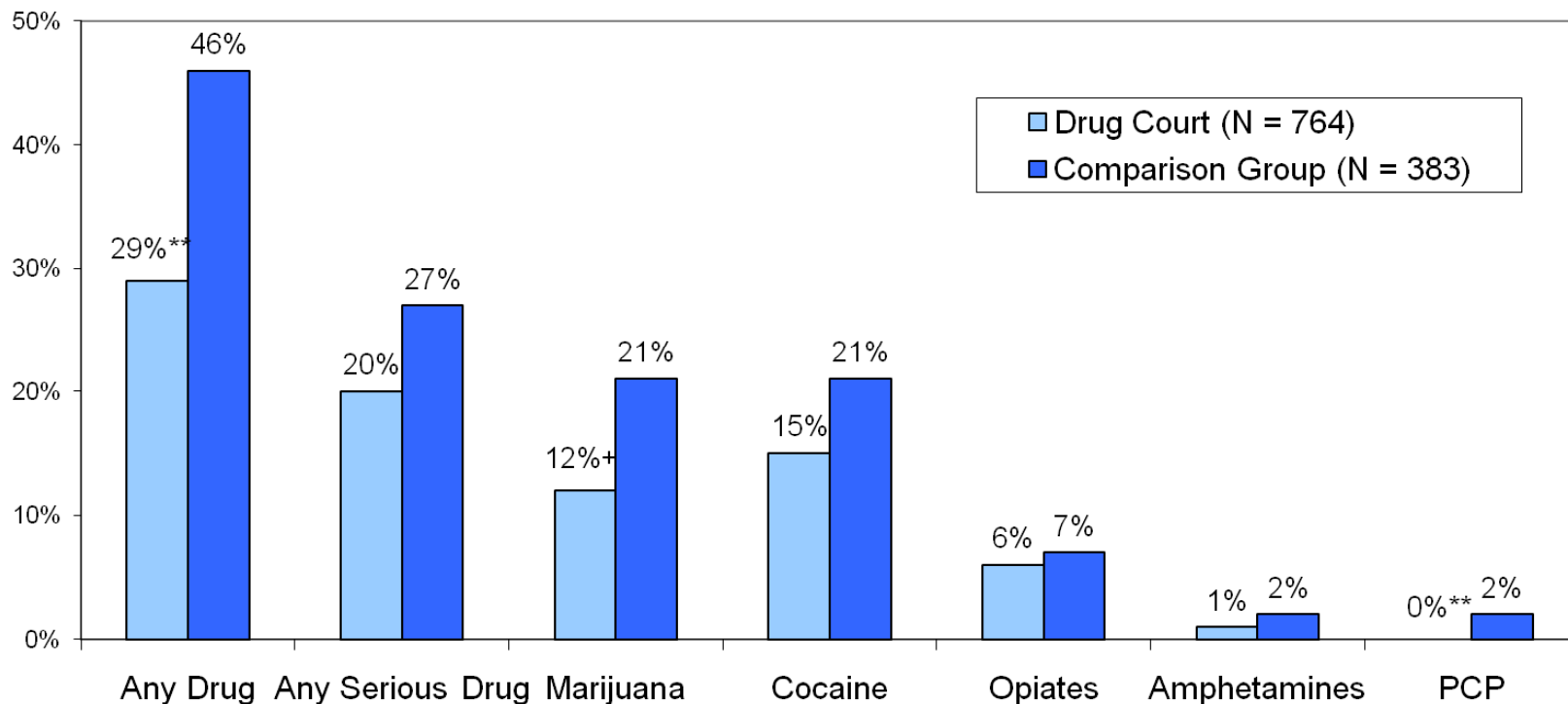


The Trajectory of Recovery: Percent Used Drugs in Previous Six Months



+ p < .10, * p < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001.

MADCE Results: Drug Test Results at 18 Months



+ p < .10, * p < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001.



Predictors of Drug Use at 18 Months

- Female or black defendants
- Not homeless at baseline
- Primary drug of cocaine at baseline
- Drug use at baseline
- Depression or Antisocial Personality Disorder
- Lack of drug court participation



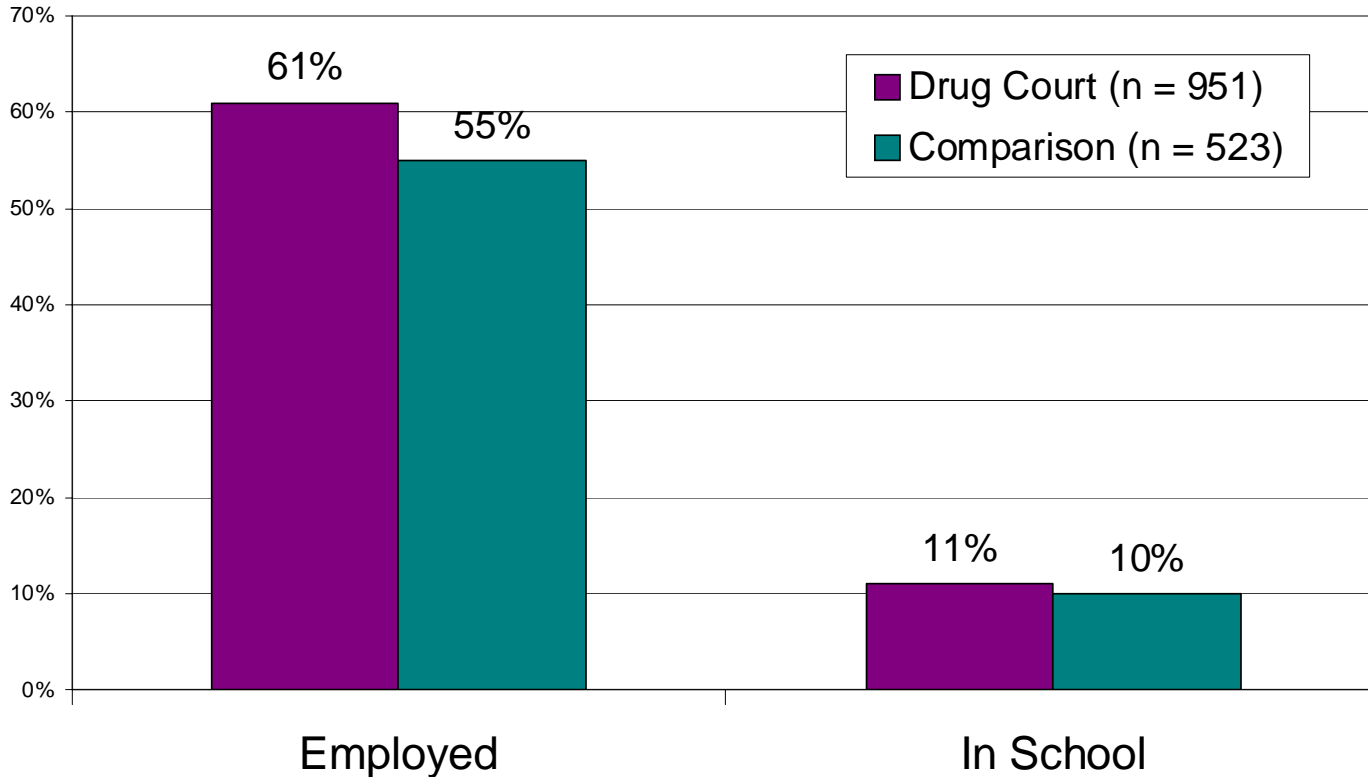
For Whom Drug Courts Work: Predicting Future Drug Use

(Drug use=Average # Days of Drug Use/Month in the year preceding 18 month)

- More serious drug users responded better to the drug court model
 - Offenders who used drugs more before the baseline benefitted more from the intervention
 - Conversely, offenders whose primary drug was marijuana benefitted less
- Offenders who had co-occurring (depression & narcissism) disorders at baseline benefited less

MADCE Results: Socioeconomic Status #1

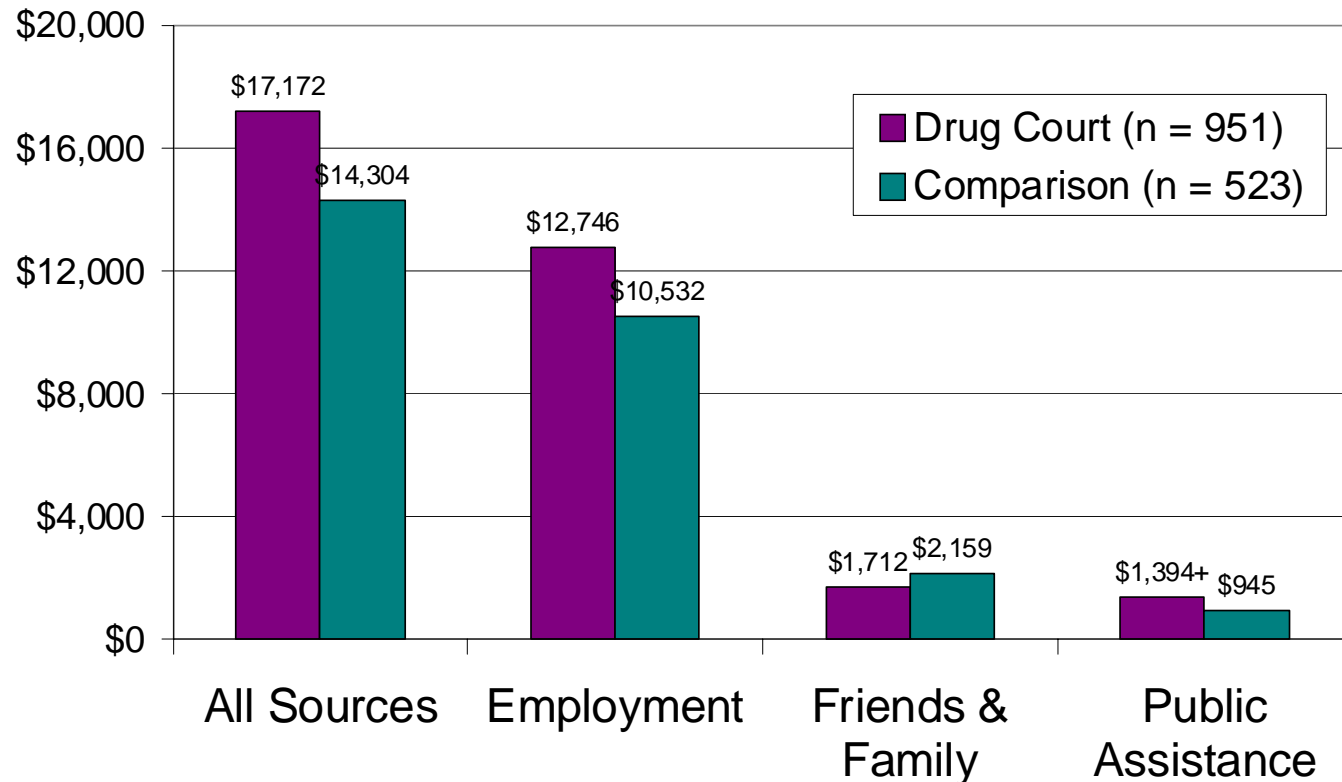
Employment and School Status at 18 Months



+ p < .10 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001

MADCE Results: Socioeconomic Status #2

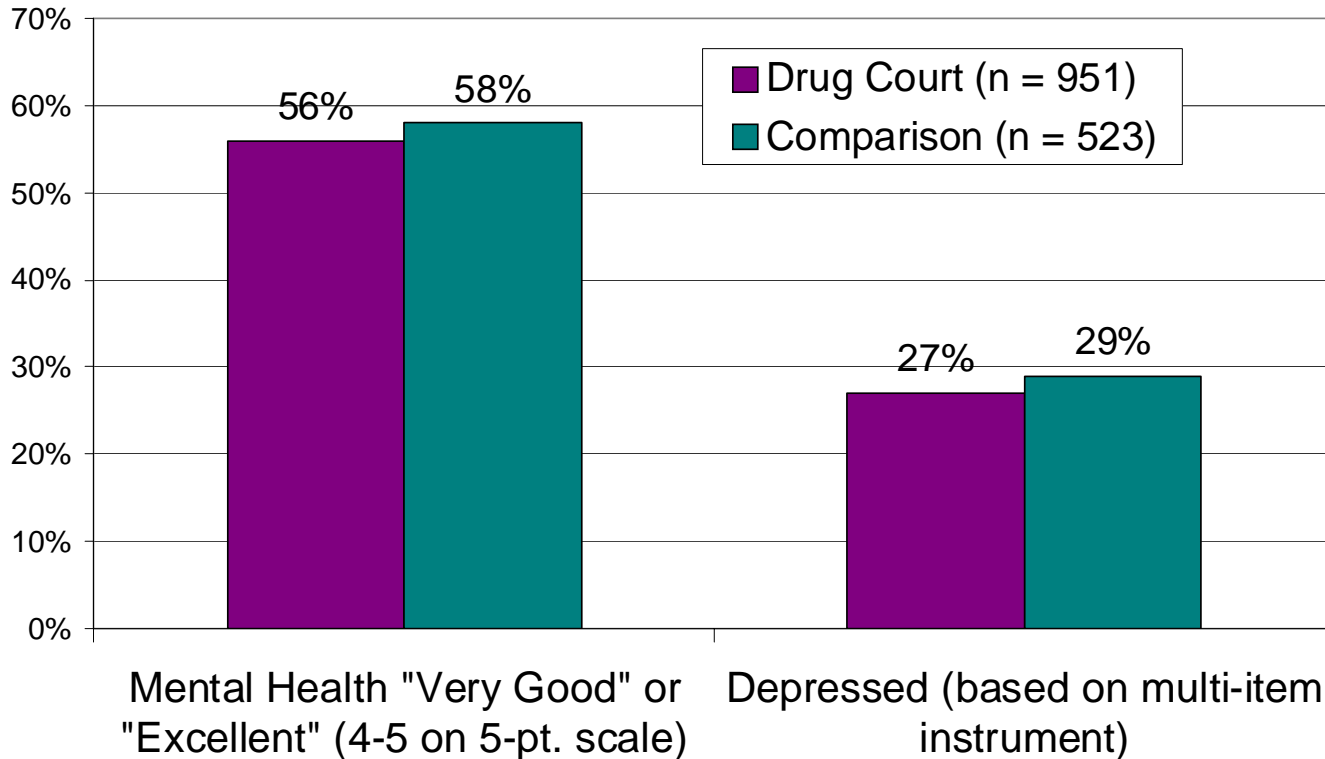
Annual Income at 18 Months



+ p < .10 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001

MADCE Results: Mental Health

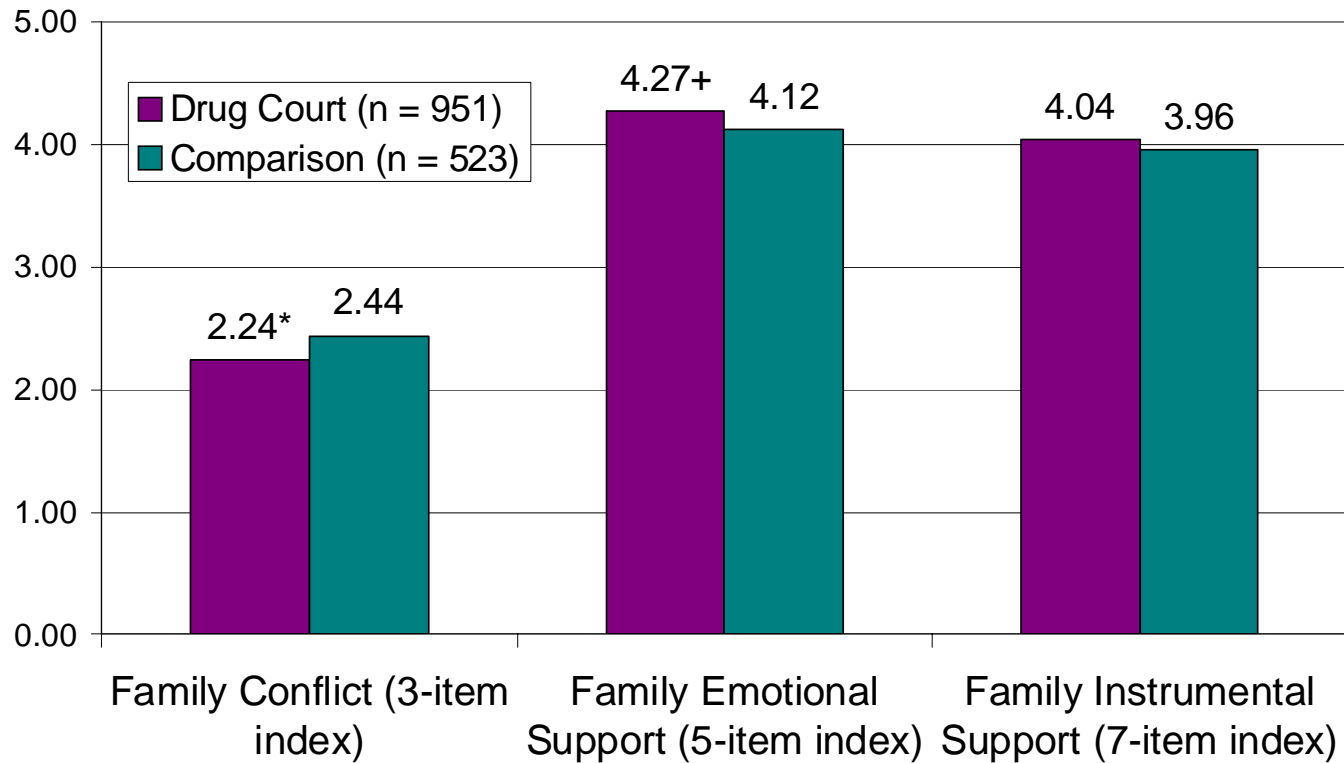
Mental Health at 18 Months



+ p < .10 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001

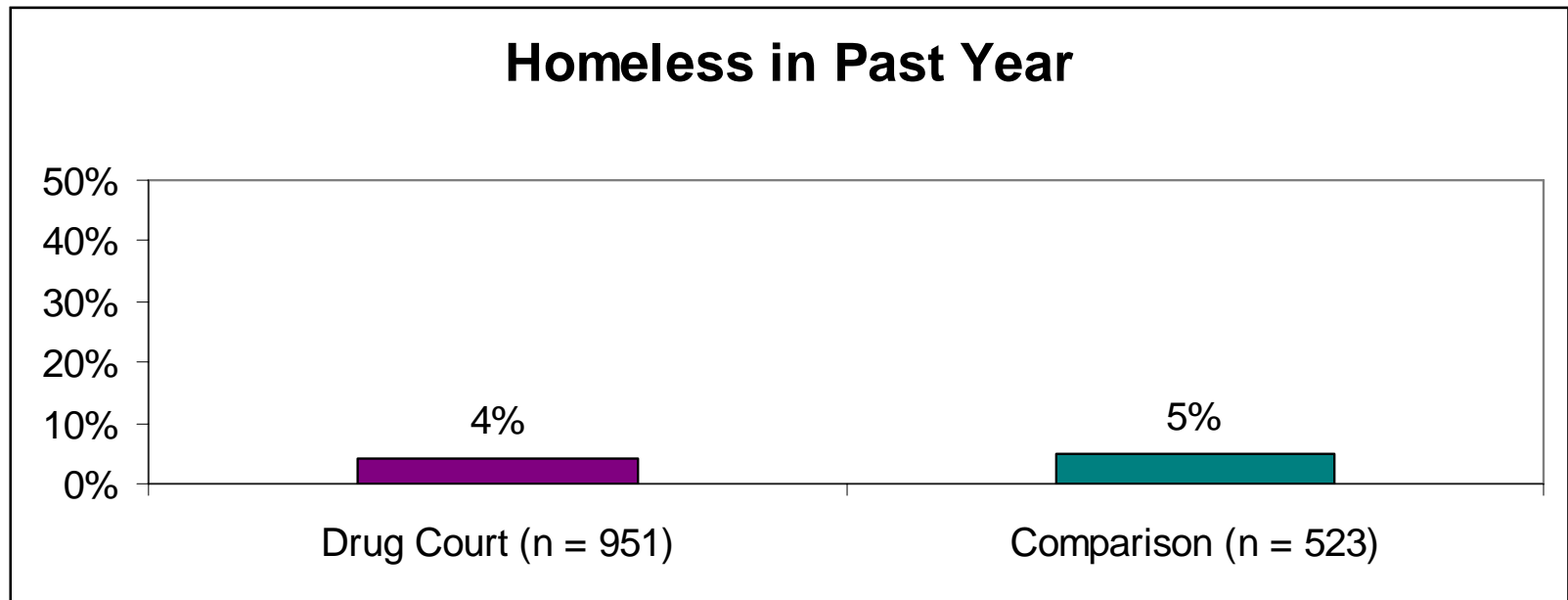
MADCE Results: Family Support


Family Relationships at 18 Months (1-5 Scales)



+ p < .10 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001

MADCE Results: Homelessness





Predictors of Positive Psychosocial Outcomes at 18 Months

- Female defendants
- High school degree or GED
- Homeless defendants
- Less depressed defendants
- *Drug court participation reduced criminal activity and drug use but weakly influenced psychosocial outcomes.*



MADCE Results: 18 Month Outcomes Summary

- **Drug Use:** significant reduction in likelihood and frequency of drug use
- **Socioeconomic Status:** possible modest effect (NS)
- **Mental Health:** no effect
- **Family Ties:** significant reduction in family conflict; possible modest increase in emotional support ($p < .10$)
- **Homelessness:** no effect
- **Criminal Activity & Incarceration:** Attend MADCE Session #2 next to find out!



Switching Gears: Drug Court Retention

- Importance of drug court retention rates:
 - Measures program's success in sustaining participation
 - Important interim predictor of positive long-term outcomes, such as reduced recidivism and **drug use** (e.g., see Anglin, Brecht, and Maddahian 1989; DeLeon 1988; Taxman 1998)

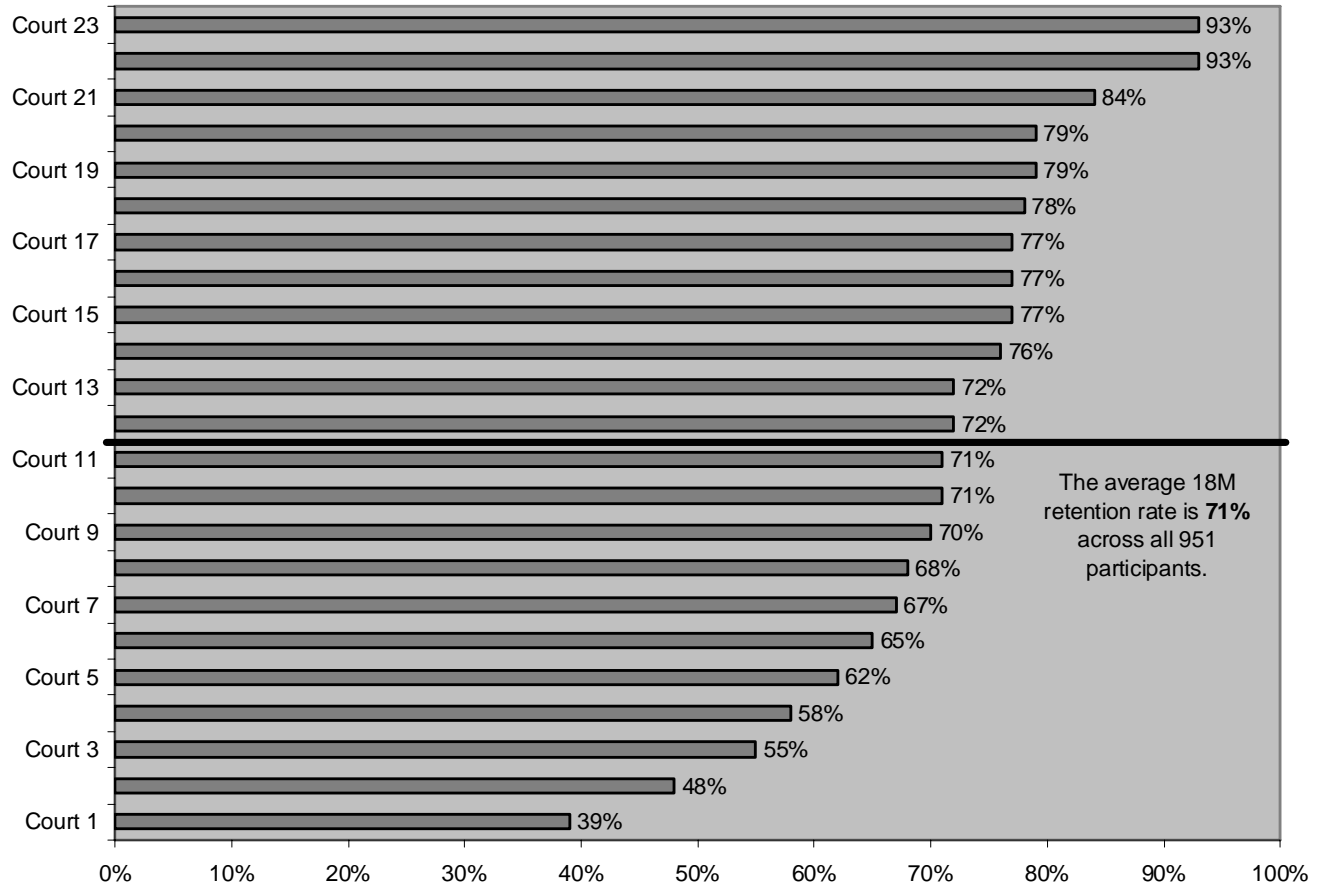


More Retention

- Most commonly cited national one-year retention rate = 60% (Belenko 1998)
 - More recent studies have found higher rates (Rempel et al. 2003)
- All agree that drug courts are significantly more effective at retaining participants than voluntary treatment options (Condelli and DeLeon 1993; Simpson, Joe, and Brown 1997; Lewis and Ross 1994)
- *So what is a reasonable and accurate national estimate?*

MADCE Results: A National Retention Rate

18-Month Retention Rates at 23 Adult Drug Courts



Why Do Individuals Leave the Drug Court?

23 Drug Courts, 18 Months after Baseline

Total Participants	951
Currently in Drug Court	28%
Why no longer in drug court?	(N=674)
Graduated	59%
Involuntary Failure ¹	26%
Voluntary Failure	15%
If voluntary failure, why ²	(N=89)
too many restrictions on lifestyle	22%
not satisfied with services received	12%
drug court conflicted with work/child care responsibilities	9%
drug court involved too much work	6%
did not think drug court fair	5%
drug court too hard or expensive to get to	3%
did not think needed services being offered through drug court	3%
drug court costs too much	2%
did not get along with people running drug court	1%
other reason	36%
What was the sentence for failure?	(N=270)
jail/prison	74%
probation	14%
something else	5%
nothing yet	7%

¹ Involuntary failure includes "kicked out" and "put in jail" as reasons for exiting the drug court.

² Respondents were only asked this question if voluntary failure (i.e., they dropped out of the drug court themselves.)



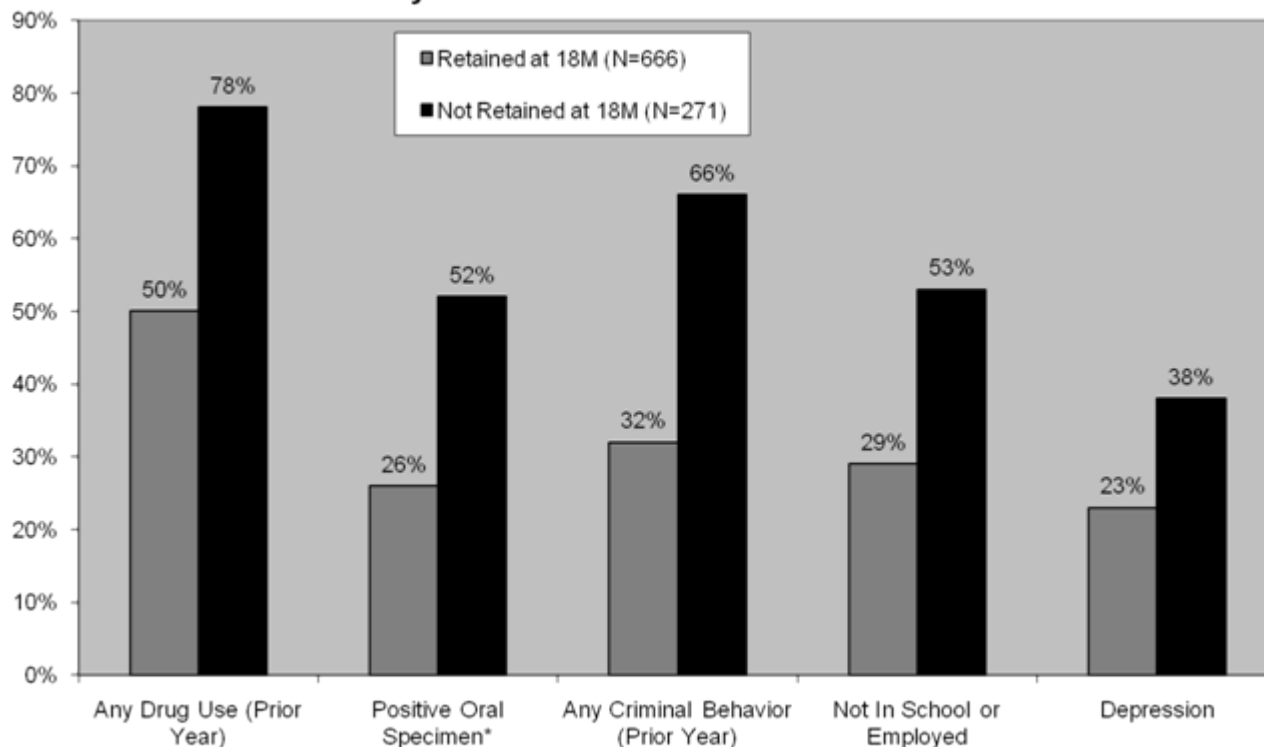
Predictors of 18-Month Retention

- Older age
- Employed or in school at baseline
- Have a primary drug of choice that is not marijuana
- Have less criminal activity in the months before baseline
- Suffer less from depression at baseline
- Have a less narcissistic personality

MADCE Results:

Drug Court Retention As Indicator of Positive Long-Term Outcomes

Simple 18-Month Outcomes
by Retention Status at 18 Months



Note: Respondents were required to consent to provide an oral specimen at the 18-month interview. There were 752 drug court participants who consented: 590 who were retained and 162 who were not retained at 18 months.





MADCE Results:

In Summary and Looking Forward

- Drug Court Participation reduces drug use, less obvious positive impacts on socioeconomic status and family support; no effect on mental health or homelessness
- Drug Court Retention is an important indicator of long-term positive outcomes, including reduced drug use, recidivism, and depression, and more employment and school involvement
- MADCE Results Part #2 coming up next – drug court impact on criminal behavior and participant attitudes