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DRUG COURTS WHAT DOES THE EVIDENCE SAY?

Developed by:
National Drug Court Institute

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DISCLOSURE

Disclosure

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- Points of views or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



SUD AND CRIME

- US: >.75M violent crimes/year under the influence
- Internationally, 48% of homicides under the influence of alcohol
- SUD: property or drug related offenses > violent offenses
- Violent crimes: alcohol > any illegal drug
- DWI: 1.4M/year in the US (Vs. 114 M admit to DWI)



Aoun et al; 2019; PRAINIC

(National Crime Victimization Survey, BJS, 2008)

Kuhns, J. B., Exum, M. L., Clodfelter, T. A., & Bottia, M. C. (2014). The prevalence of alcohol-involved homicide offending: A meta-analytic review. *Homicide Studies*, 18, 251–270.

Zador PL, Krawchuk SA, Voas RB. Alcohol-related relative risk of driver fatalities and driver involvement in fatal crashes in relation to driver age and gender: an update using 1996 data. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol* 2000; 61:387-95.

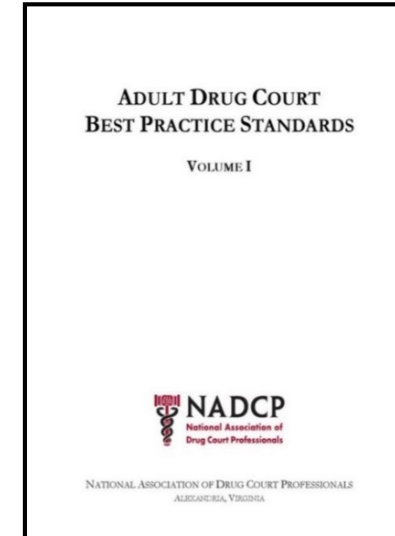
OVERREPRESENTATION OF SUD IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

- 2/3 of inmates have SUD
- Parolees/probationers 3x more likely to have SUD
- 40% were under the influence at the time of the offense
- 1/3 committed the offense to obtain money for drugs
- 60% of all arrestees with + UDS at arrest



Defining Documents

- Define what an excellent drug court is (the “ceiling”)
- Rooted in evidence of effectiveness
- Research based 2 Volume look at building effectiveness of treatment courts



- Define what a drug court is (the “floor”)
- Not necessarily the only effective model

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED IN THE PAST 25+ YEARS?

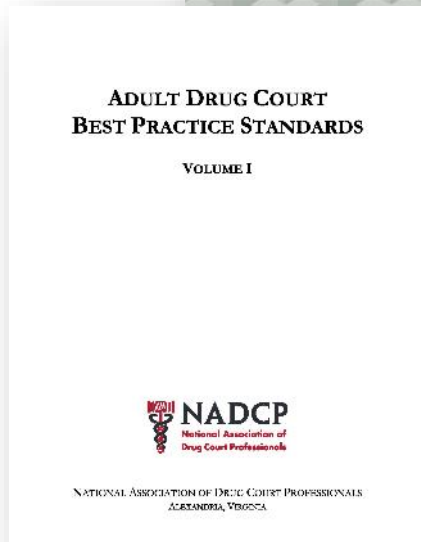
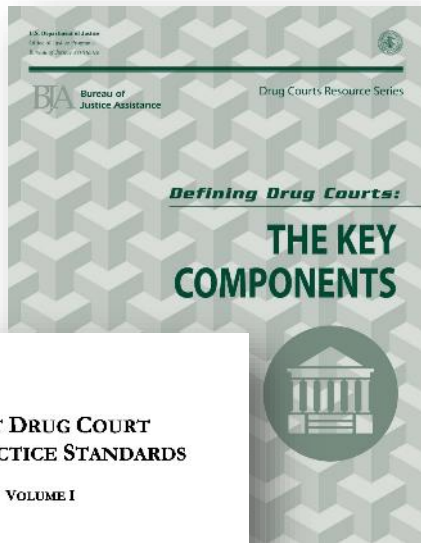
*A GENERAL COMPARISON
Nearly entirely consistent (thus far . . .)*

Key Components

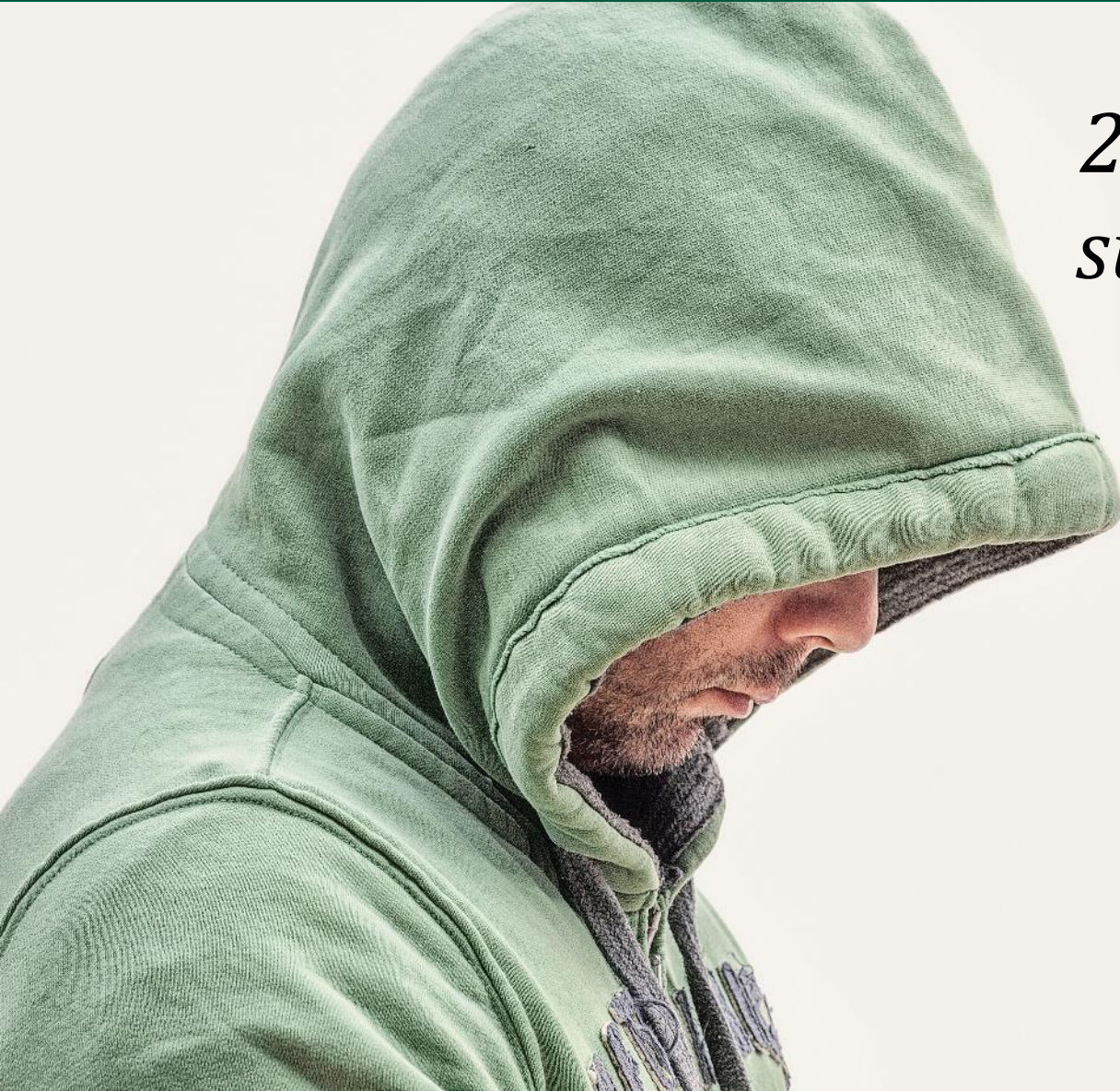
- ✓ State of knowledge as of 1997
- ✓ Derived from professional experience
- ✓ Measurable performance benchmarks
- ✓ Emphasis on distinguishing characteristics
- ✓ Envisioned 10 of them
- ✓ Never intended as the final word

Best Practice Standards

- ✓ State of knowledge as of 2013 and 2015
- ✓ Derived from an empirical threshold of ~50% to 100% improvement in outcomes; research in Commentaries
- ✓ Quantitative benchmarks
- ✓ All contributing elements
- ✓ Envisioned far more than 10



THE PROBLEM

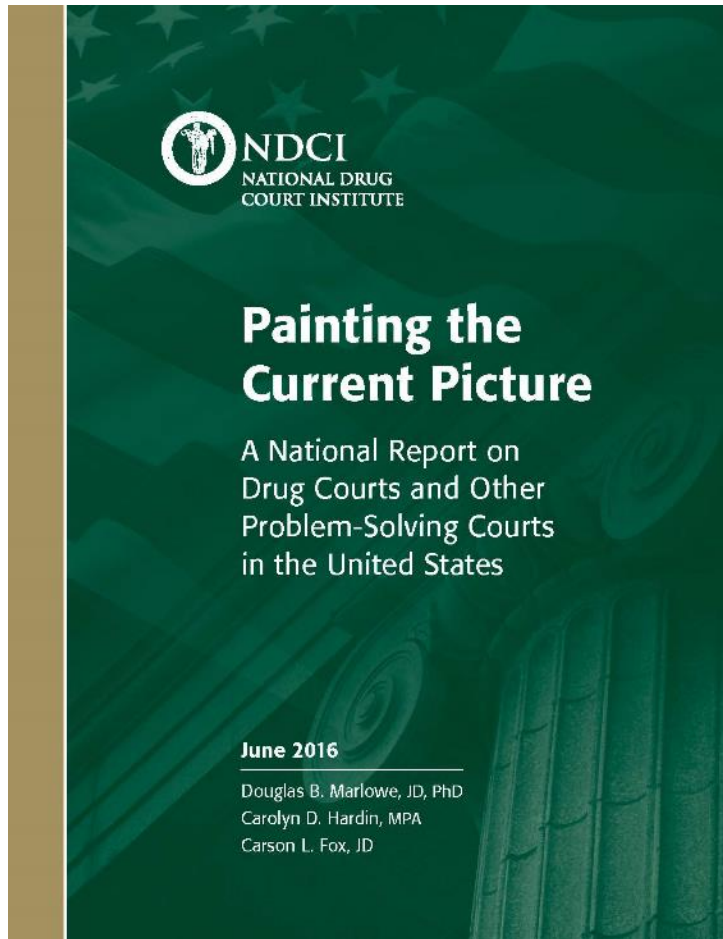


23.5 million people are in need of substance use disorder treatment

345,000 Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans have a substance use disorder

50% of offenders have a moderate to severe substance use disorder

Three-fourths of persons referred to treatment never enter or leave prematurely



National Report Card:

How did we do?

A Review of the Scientific Literature

www.ndci.org



BE INFORMED

THE NATIONAL FACTS



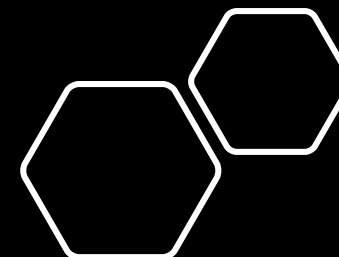
DRUG COURTS ARE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Drug courts are the *single most successful* criminal justice intervention for seriously addicted offenders. Proven to *save lives, save money, and reduce crime*, these courts:

- ✓ Treat substance use disorders
- ✓ Treat mental health needs
- ✓ Deliver services for lifelong recovery
- ✓ Secure education, employment, and housing
- ✓ Produce tax-paying, productive citizens
- ✓ Break the cycle of addiction in families
- ✓ Reduce re-arrests and re-incarcerations
- ✓ Reduce substance use and overdose
- ✓ Reduce emergency room admissions
- ✓ Reduce foster care placements

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Section 110101 (2009)
National Drug Court Research Center (NADCR) (2011) (2011)
National Institute of Justice (NIJ) (2011) (2011)
United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report to Congressional Committees (2011) Adult Drug Courts: Studies Offer Overlooked Findings, but DOJ Could Enhance Program Performance Measure Scores (2011) (2011)

Learn More: allrise.org





NADCP

National Association of
Drug Court Professionals



DRUG COURTS
ARE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM



IMPAIRED DRIVING EPIDEMIC

There is a disturbing upward trend in the number of annual impaired-driving-related fatalities due to repeat driving while intoxicated (DWI) offenders and drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .15 or higher. However, the criminal justice system's traditional response of incarceration and other punishment does not deter these offenders because it does not address the root cause of the problem: *addiction*.

DWI court participants are **19 times less likely to reoffend**.⁷ DWI courts are *changing the criminal justice system's approach* to impaired driving:

- ✓ Provide intense supervision
- ✓ Provide individualized, long-term treatment
- ✓ Change participants' thinking and behavior
- ✓ Demand accountability
- ✓ Save taxpayers' money
- ✓ Improve public safety

¹ National Center for Statistics and Analysis (2015). *Alcohol-impaired driving: 2014 data* (Traffic Safety Facts, DOT HS 812 231). Washington, D.C.: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
² National Center for Statistics and Analysis (October 2019). *2018 Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes: Overview* (Traffic Safety Facts, DOT HS 812 826). Washington, D.C.: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
³ Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) (2009). *New Data Shows Disturbing Number of Repeat Drunk Drivers on America's Roadways*.
⁴ Mitchell, O., Wilson, D.B., Eggers, A. & MacKenzie, D.L. (2012). *Assessing the effectiveness of drug courts on recidivism: A meta-analytic review of traditional and nontraditional drug courts* (Journal of Criminal Justice, 40(1)).
⁵ American University School of Public Affairs Justice Programs Office (2019).
⁶ Carey, S., Harrison, F., Johnson, A. & DiL. C. (2014). *Minnesota DWI Courts: A summary of evaluation findings in nine drug court programs*. Portland: NPC Research.
⁷ Carey, S., Puller, B. & Klesick, K. (2000). *Michigan DUI Courts Outcome Evaluation: Final Report*. Portland: NPC Research.

BE INFORMED

THE NATIONAL FACTS



**JUSTICE
FOR VETS**

15,000
currently served
by veterans
treatment
courts¹

5,700
volunteer
veteran mentors
in VTCs¹

407
VTCs in the
U.S.¹

460,000
Iraq/Afghanistan
veterans suffer
from PTSD or
depression²

345,000
Iraq/Afghanistan
veterans have a
substance use
disorder²

181,500
incarcerated
veterans in
the U.S.³

BENEFITS THEY'VE EARNED

SUPPORT THEY DESERVE

The majority of our veterans return home strengthened by their military service, but many struggle with trauma, mental illness (such as PTSD) and substance use disorders. These issues can be exacerbated by the loss of structure and camaraderie found in the military. Veterans treatment courts (VTCs) provide treatment, accountability and mentoring, and they help connect justice-involved veterans with the benefits they've earned. VTCs save the lives, families and futures of our veterans while also saving taxpayer dollars.

A study published by the *Community Mental Health Journal* found that **veterans who participate in veterans treatment courts experience significant improvement in:**

- ✓ Depression
- ✓ PTSD
- ✓ Substance use
- ✓ Mental and emotional health
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Relationships and social connection
- ✓ Overall functioning and well-being

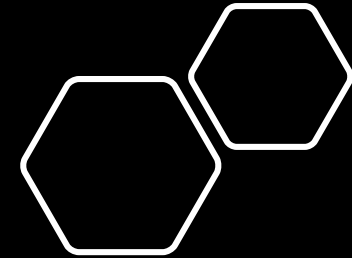
¹ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (2014)

² Tanielian, T. & Jay, L. (2008). *Secrets of War: Psychological and Cognitive Impacts, Their Consequences, and Services to Aid Recovery*. Washington, DC: RAND Corp. for Military Health Policy and Research.

³ Berghel, M., Brennan, J., & Brennan, M. (2012). *Substance Use in Prison and Jail, 2002-02*. US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Available at: <http://www.bjs.gov/index.php?eql=191002.pdf>

⁴ American University, School of Public Affairs, Justice Program (2012).

Learn More: justiceforvets.org



The Perceived Challenges

Drug Legalization

Diversion Programs

Criminal Justice Reform

Bail Reform



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THANK YOU

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NDCI
DIVISION DIRECTOR

vprice@ndci.org