


What is Working?

- *Looked at 101 drug courts around the nation (detailed process studies/10 KC)*
- *69 included recidivism and cost evaluations*
- *In total, this study included 32,719 individuals (16,317 drug court participants and 16,402 comparison group members).*



What is Working?

- *What are the best drug courts doing?*

Found over 50 practices that were related to significantly lower recidivism or lower costs or both



What is Working?

Drug Court Top 10

- *Top 10 Best Practices for Reducing Recidivism*
- *Top 10 Best Practices for Reducing Cost (Increasing Cost Savings)*

Drug Court Top 10
Recidivism

10. The results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations

10. Drug Courts that used program evaluations to make modifications in drug court operations had 85% greater reductions in recidivism

The results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations

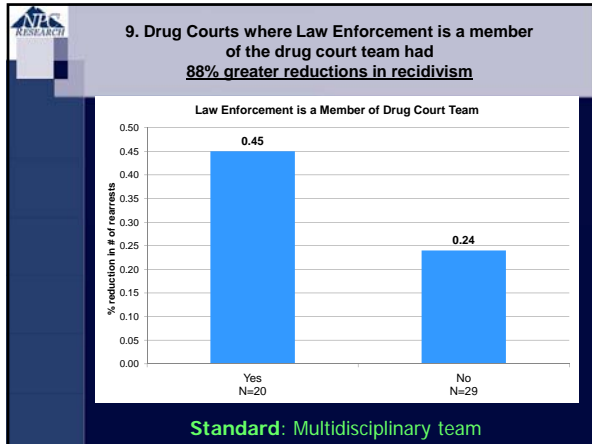
Response	N	% reductions in # of rearrests
Yes	21	0.37
No	13	0.20

Standard: Data and Evaluation

Drug Court Top 10
Recidivism

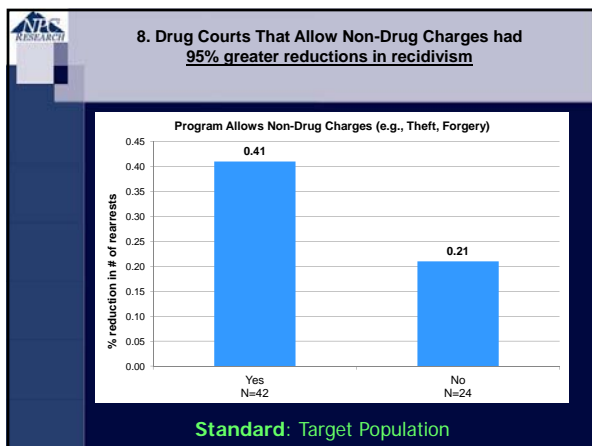
10. The results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations

9. Law Enforcement is a member of the drug court team



Drug Court Top 10 *Recidivism*

8. Drug Courts that allow Non-Drug Charges had 95% greater reductions in recidivism



Drug Court Top 10
Recidivism

10. *The results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations*
9. *Law Enforcement is a member of the drug court team*
8. *Drug Court allows non-drug charges*
7. *A representative from treatment attends court sessions*

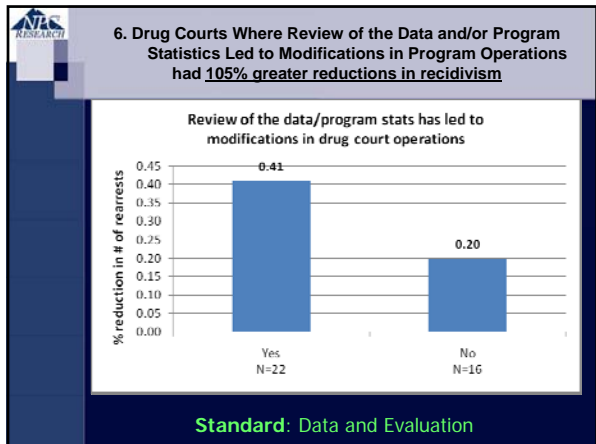
7. Drug Courts Where a Treatment Representative Attends Court Hearings had 100% greater reductions in recidivism

Response	N	% reduction in # of arrests
Yes	57	38%
No	10	19%

Standard: Multidisciplinary Team

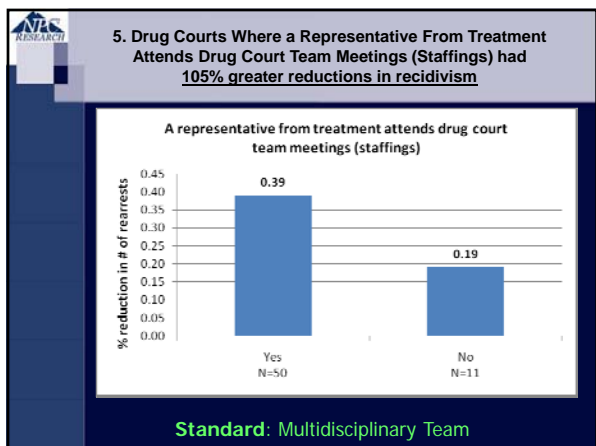
Drug Court Top 10
Recidivism

10. *The results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations*
9. *Law Enforcement is a member of the drug court team*
8. *Drug Court allows non-drug charges*
7. *A representative from treatment attends court sessions*
6. *Review of the data/program stats has led to modifications in drug court operations*



**Drug Court Top 10
*Recidivism***

5. *A representative from treatment attends drug court team meetings (staffings)*



Drug Court Top 10
Recidivism

5. *A representative from treatment attends drug court team meetings (staffings)*
4. *Treatment communicates with court via email*

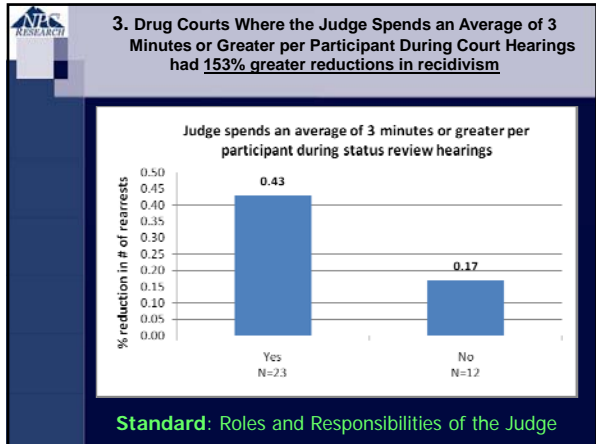
4. Drug Courts Where Treatment Communicates with the Court via Email had 119% greater reductions in recidivism

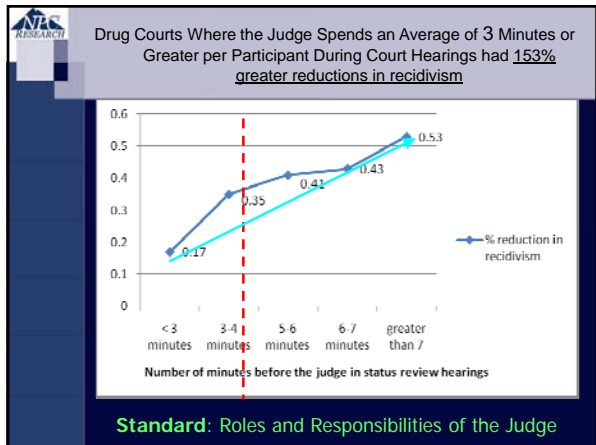
Response	N	% reduction in # of rearrests
Yes	31	0.46
No	14	0.21

Standard: Multidisciplinary Team

Drug Court Top 10
Recidivism

5. *A representative from treatment attends drug court team meetings (staffings)*
4. *Treatment communicates with court via email*
3. *Judge spends an average of 3 minutes or greater per participant during status review hearings*





- Drug Court Top 10
*Recidivism***
5. *A representative from treatment attends drug court team meetings (staffings)*
 4. *Treatment communicates with court via email*
 3. *Judge spends an average of 3 minutes or greater per participant during status review hearings*
 2. *Participants are expected to have greater than 90 days clean (negative drug tests) before graduation*

2. Drug Courts Where Participants are expected to have greater than 90 days clean (negative drug tests) before graduation Had 164% greater reductions in recidivism

Response	N	% reduction in # of rearrests
Yes	57	0.37
No	9	0.14

Standard: Incentives, Sanctions and Therapeutic Responses

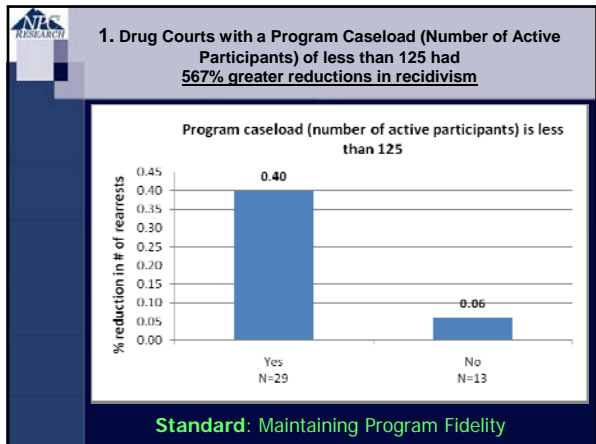
2. Drug Courts Where Participants are expected to have greater than 90 days clean (negative drug tests) before graduation Had 164% greater reductions in recidivism

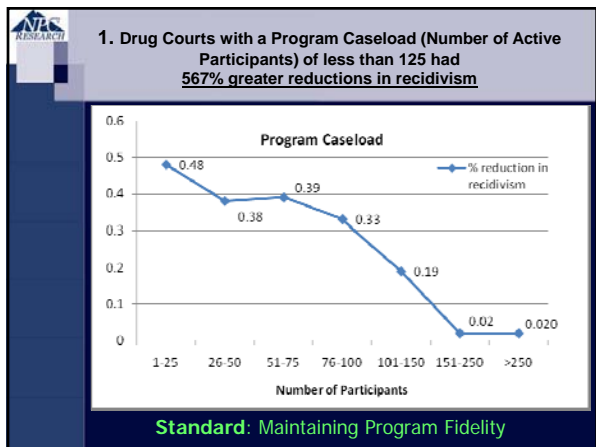
Days Clean	N	Reduction in Recidivism
0-90 days clean	15	25%
91-180 days clean	39	35%
181-365 days clean	10	45%

Standard: Incentives, Sanctions and Therapeutic Responses

**Drug Court Top 10
*Recidivism***

1. **Program caseload (number of active participants) is less than 125**
2. **Participants are expected to have greater than 90 days clean (negative drug tests) before graduation**
3. **Judge spends an average of 3 minutes or greater per participant during status review hearings**
4. **Treatment communicates with court via email**
5. **A representative from treatment attends drug court team meetings (staffings)**





- 1. Drug Courts with a Program Caseload (Number of Active Participants) of less than 125 had 567% greater reductions in recidivism**
- In larger drug courts:**
- The Judge spent less time per participant in court (nearly half the time)
 - Tx and LE were less likely to attend staffings
(All team members were less likely to attend staffings)
 - Tx and LE were less likely to attend court hearings
 - Tx was less likely to communicate with the court through email
 - Greater number of Tx agencies (8 vs 3)
 - Drug tests were less frequent
 - Team members were less likely to be trained
- *All findings above were statistically significant ($p < .05$)

Why Standards??

- Put null findings in context (10-18%)
- Disown harmful programs (6-9%)
- Prevent regression to old habits (model drift)
- Protect “brand name” from incursions
- Define standard of care for ourselves
 - Limit appellate review to conformance with standards rather than creating standards
 - Congressional committees, agencies, etc.



Why Standards? (cont.)

- Reduce legal & constitutional errors
 - Procedural due process requires standards, rational basis, and notice of rights being waived
- Reduce disparate impacts (violations of Equal Protection)
- Provide support for needed services and expenditures
- Demonstrate maturity of our profession




Standards

BASED ON THE RESEARCH

✓ Research Quality

1. Matched-comparison
2. Research in Drug Court or Related Setting



Volume I

I. Target Population

II. Historically Disadvantaged Groups

III. Roles & Responsibilities of the Judge

IV. Incentives, Sanctions, & Therapeutic Adjustments

V. Substance Abuse Treatment

Target Population

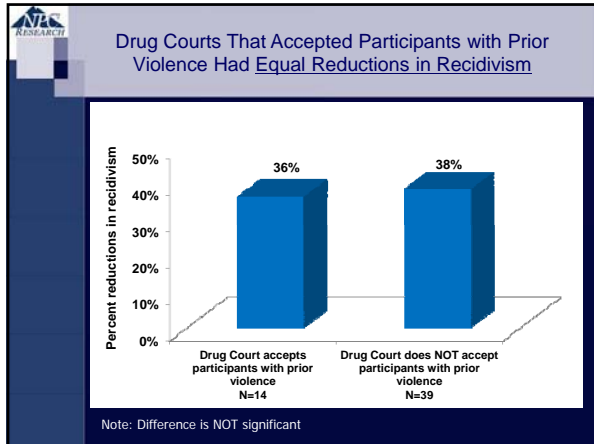
- Eligibility & exclusion criteria are based on empirical evidence
- Assessment process is evidence-based
 - A. Objective eligibility criteria
 - B. High-risk & high-need participants
 - C. Validated eligibility assessments
 - D. Criminal history disqualifications
 - “Barring legal prohibitions . . .”
 - E. Clinical disqualifications
 - “If adequate treatment is available...”

Drug Courts That Accepted Participants With Non-Drug Charges had 98% Greater Reductions in Recidivism

Drug Court Type	Sample Size (N)	Percent Reductions in Recidivism
Drug court accepts non-drug charges	42	41%
Drug court does NOT accept non-drug charges	24	21%

Note 1: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Note 2: Non-drug charges include property, prostitution, forgery, etc.



Hx Disadvantaged Groups

- Equivalent opportunities to participate and succeed in Drug Court
 - A. Equivalent access (intent & impact)
 - B. Equivalent retention
 - C. Equivalent treatment
 - D. Equivalent incentives & sanctions
 - E. Equivalent legal dispositions
 - F. Team training (remedial measures)

NADCP
National Association of Drug Court Professionals

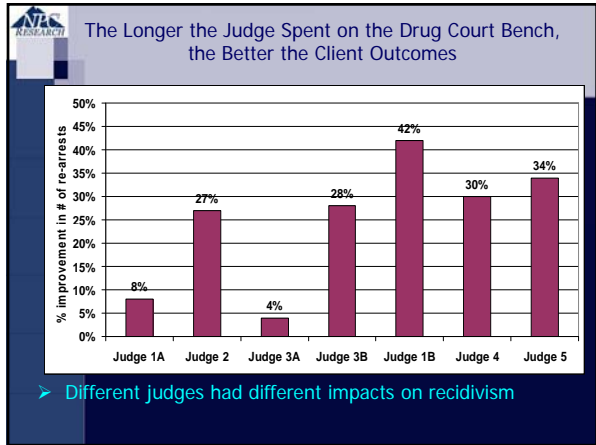
Hx Disadvantaged Groups

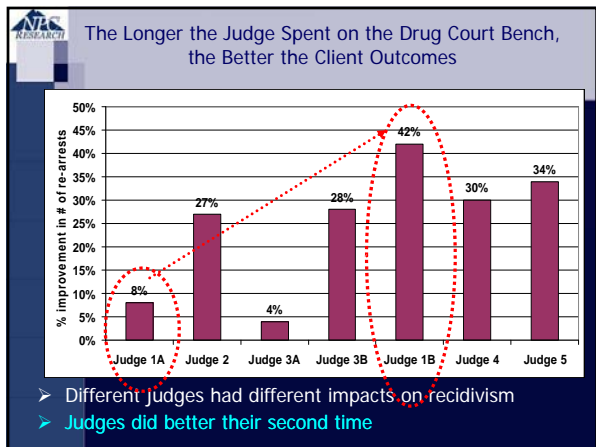
	Graduated	Terminated	Stat Test
Variable	Mean	Mean	Sig?
Gender (Percent Male)	50%	80%	Yes
Age	43.5	35.3	Yes
Ethnicity (Percent White)	80%	40%	Yes
Percent Married	22%	15%	No
Years of Education	12.8	13.3	No
Prior Number of Felonies	1	2.4	Yes
% with Prior MH Tx	11%	20%	Yes
Number of Sanctions	3.33	9.70	Yes

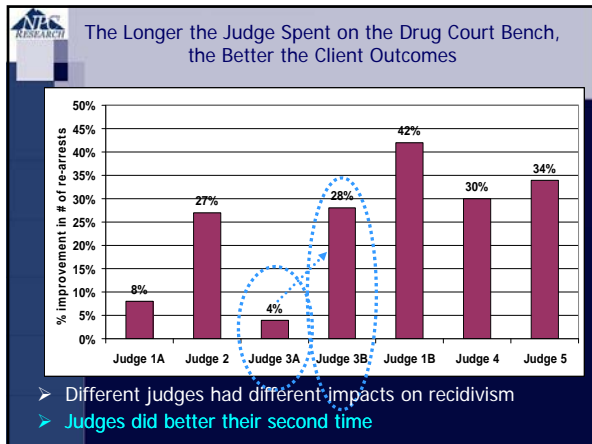
Roles of the Judge

- Contemporary knowledge; active engagement; professional demeanor; leader among equals
 - A. Professional training
 - B. Length of term
 - C. Consistent docket
 - D. Pre-court staff meetings
 - E. Frequency of status hearings
 - F. Length of court interactions
 - G. Judicial demeanor
 - H. Judicial decision-making

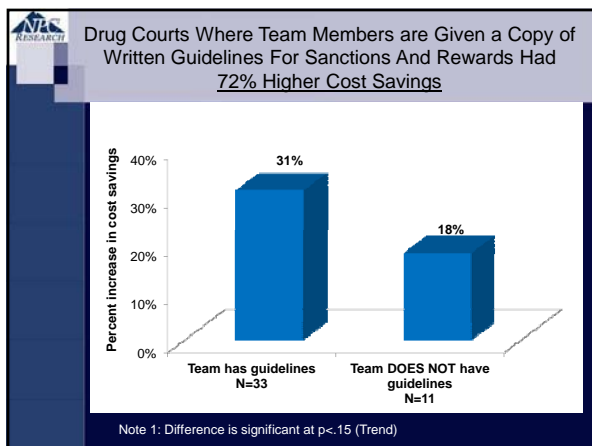


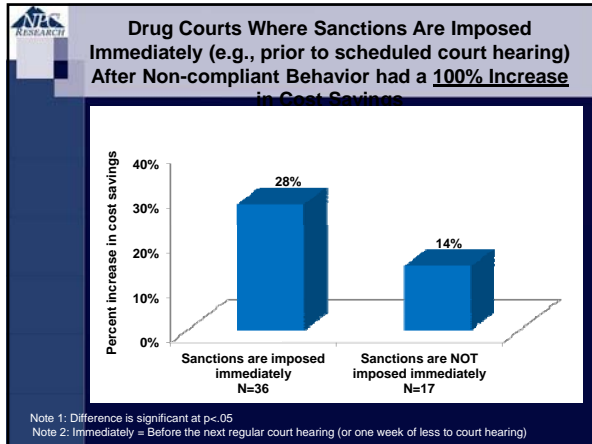


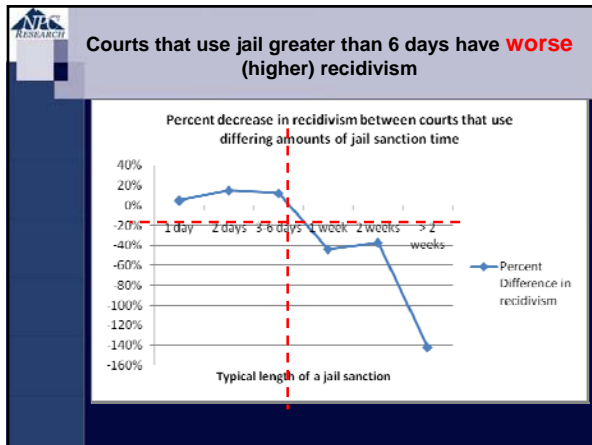


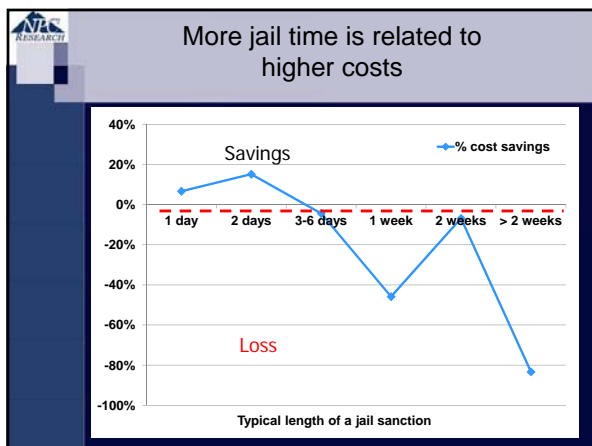


- NPC**
- ## Incentives & Sanctions
- Predictable, consistent, fair, and evidence-based
 - Advance notice
 - Opportunity to be heard
 - Equivalent consequences
 - Professional demeanor
 - Progressive sanctions
 - Licit substances
 - Therapeutic adjustments
 - Incentivizing productivity
- NADCP**
National Association of Drug Court Professionals









Substance Abuse Treatment

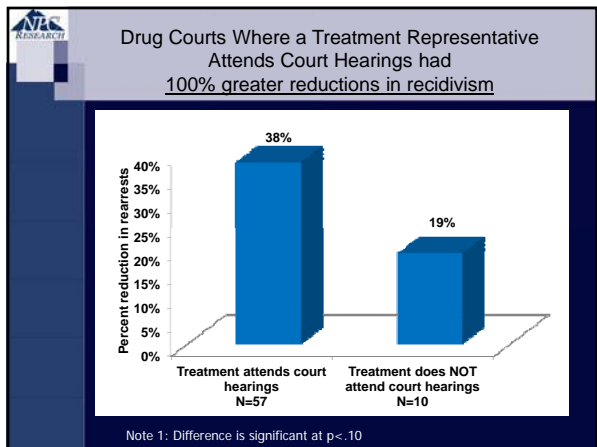
- Based on treatment needs and evidence-based
 - A. Continuum of care
 - "if adequate care is unavailable . . ."
 - B. In-custody treatment
 - C. Team representation
 - D. Treatment dosage and duration
 - E. Treatment modalities
 - F. Evidence-based treatments
 - G. Medications

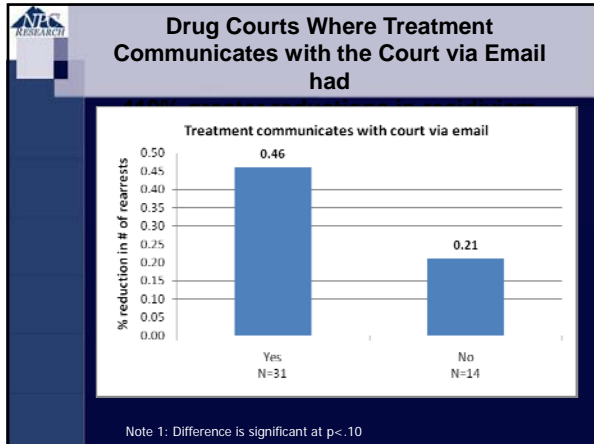
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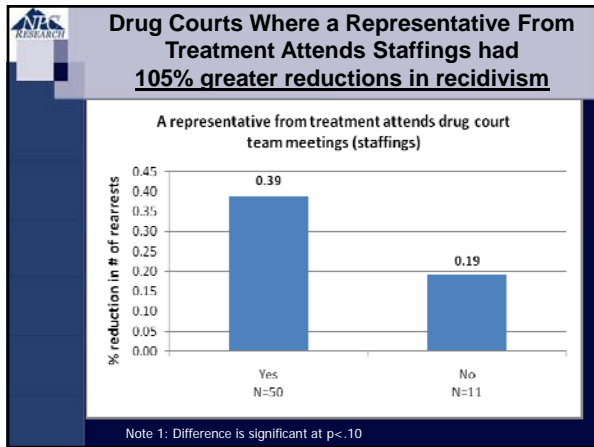
Substance Abuse Tx (cont.)

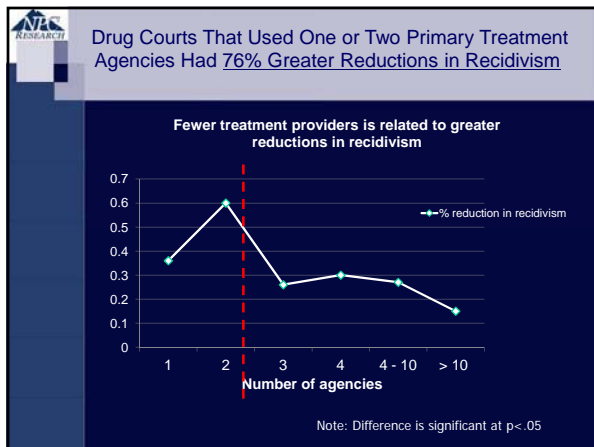
- Based on treatment needs and evidence-based
 - ...
 - H. Provider training and credentials
 - I. Peer support groups
 - J. Continuing care


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Questions?




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