



**NDCI**  
NATIONAL DRUG  
COURT INSTITUTE

# Ten Key Components of Treatment Courts

Developed by:  
National Drug Court Institute

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# THE PROBLEM

*More than 80% of crime is  
drug or alcohol fueled*



**WHAT IF WE *JUST* PUT THEM IN PRISON**

**Half are rearrested within the first year**

**Two-thirds are rearrested within three years**



# 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



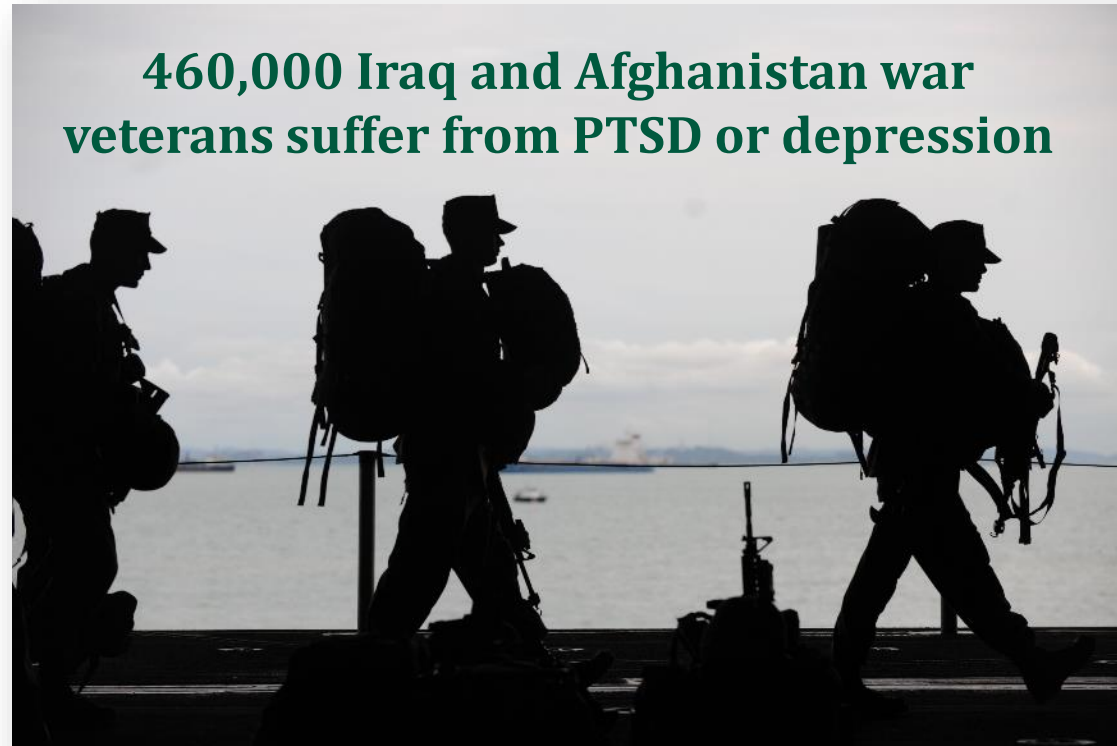
Three-fourths of persons referred to treatment never enter or leave prematurely





# THE PROBLEM

*Approximately 50% of offenders  
have a mental health issues*



# THE PROBLEM

*About one-third of traffic fatalities were alcohol-impaired crashes*



69% of those fatalities include a driver registering a blood alcohol level of 0.15 or higher



One in three traffic fatalities includes the presence of a drug



# THE PROBLEM

Cost to society is more than \$820 billion

	Health Care	Overall
Tobacco	\$168 billion	\$300 billion
Alcohol	\$27 billion	\$249 billion
Illicit drugs	\$11 billion	\$193 billion
Prescription Opioids	\$26 billion	\$78.5 billion

Estimated cost of alcohol-impaired driving  
is \$44 billion





# COURTS AS PROBLEM SOLVERS

*“We need to punish the offenders we are afraid of and treat the ones we are mad at”*



“Effective trial courts are responsive to emergent public issues such as drug abuse. . . . A trial court that moves deliberately in response to emergent issues is a stabilizing force in society and acts consistently with its role of maintaining the rule of law.”

Bureau of Justice Assistance's Trial Court Performance Standards, 1997

# COURTS AS PROBLEM SOLVERS

*Miami, 1989*





# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED IN THE PAST 25+ YEARS?

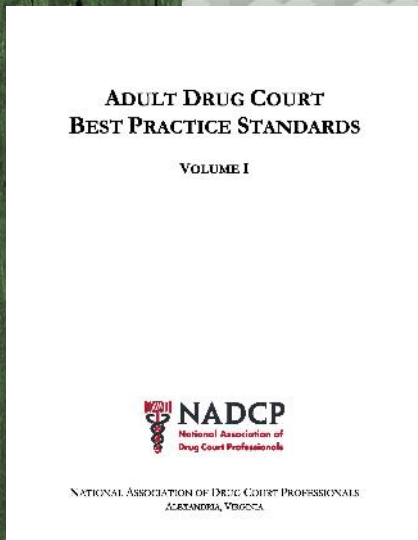
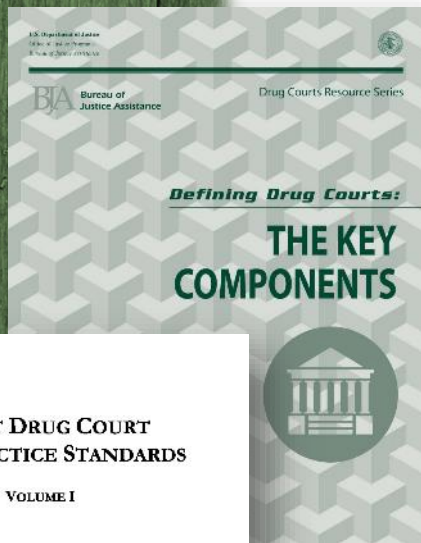
***A GENERAL COMPARISON***  
***Nearly entirely consistent (thus far . . . )***

## **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 STANDARDS OPERATIONALIZE THE KEY COMPONENTS



*How can you incorporate best practices into your treatment court procedures?*



# KEY COMPONENT #1:

# Justice and Treatment Integration

## STANDARDS

- ✓ 2: Equity and inclusion
- ✓ 3: Roles and responsibility of the judge
- ✓ 4: Incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments
- ✓ 5: Substance use disorder treatment
- ✓ 8: Multidisciplinary team
- ✓ 9: Census and caseload

## TAKE AWAY

- ✓ Promote recovery through a coordinated response by utilizing a team approach.
- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Documentation





# KEY COMPONENT #2: Nonadversarial Approach

## STANDARDS

- ✓ 2: Equity and inclusion
- ✓ 3: Roles and responsibility of the judge
- ✓ 4: Incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments
- ✓ 8: Multidisciplinary team

## TAKE AWAY

- ✓ Prosecution
- ✓ Defense attorney



# KEY COMPONENT #3:

## Early Identification

### STANDARDS

- ✓ 1: Target population
- ✓ 2: Equity and inclusion

### TAKE AWAY

- ✓ High risk and high need
- ✓ Access for all



# KEY COMPONENT #4: Continuum of Services

## STANDARDS

- ✓ 2: Equity and inclusion
- ✓ 4: Incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments
- ✓ 5: Substance use disorder treatment
- ✓ 8: Complementary treatment and social services
- ✓ 9: Census and caseload

## TAKE AWAY

- ✓ Case management
- ✓ Clinical case management
- ✓ Mental health
- ✓ Trauma
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Medical and dental





# KEY COMPONENT #5:

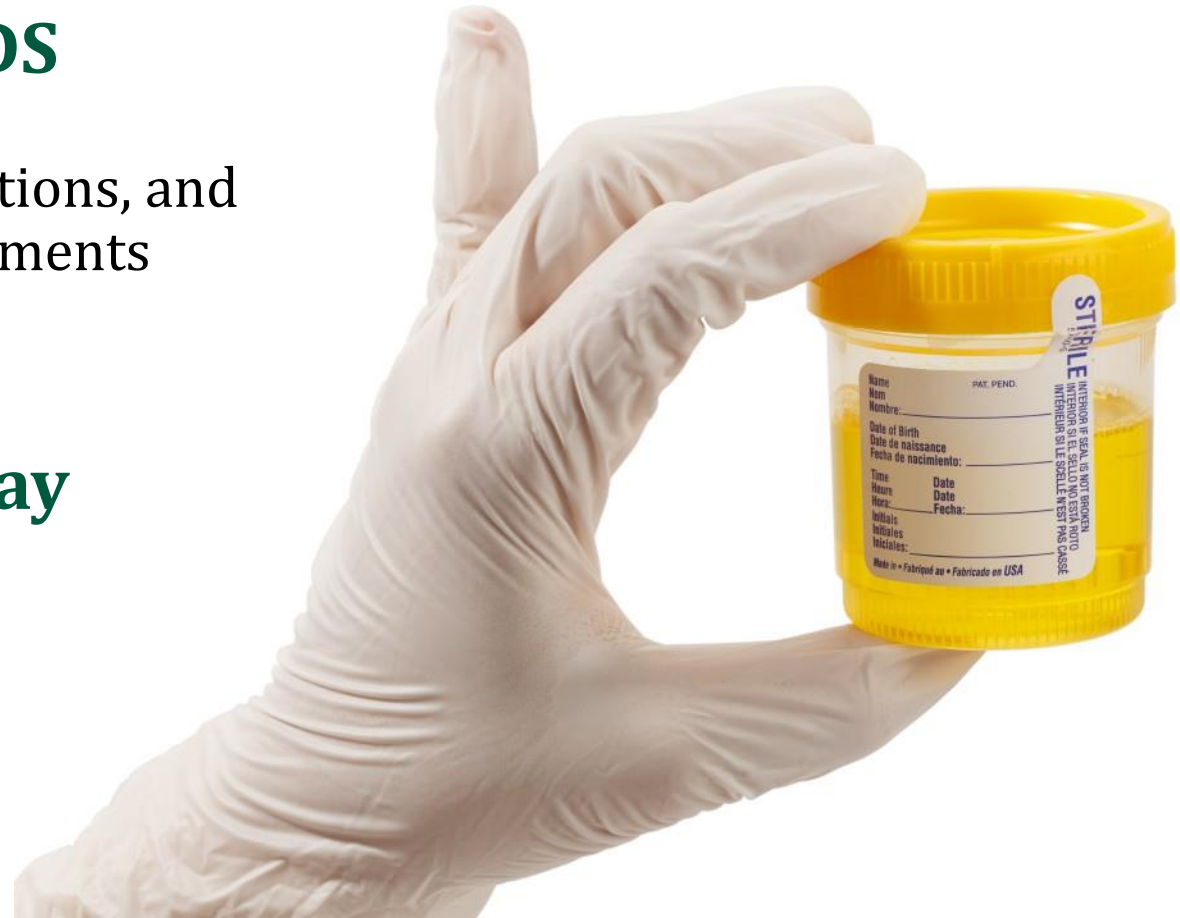
## Drug Testing

### STANDARDS

- ✓ 4: Incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments
- ✓ 7: Drug testing

### Take Away

- ✓ Random
- ✓ Observed
- ✓ Twice per week



# KEY COMPONENT #5:

## Drug Testing

make twenty (Glendale) 68% 4:08 PM



Need male who can pass a urine analysis at tasc. Must be able to use my ID. Text with picture. Pays 20\$ will negotiate



# KEY COMPONENT #5:

## Drug Testing

You Have a New Text Message	
From:	XXXXXXXX
To:	XXXXXXXX
Received:	Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 12:44 PM
Message:	What's up Reechy, off work already due to weather. I also dropped second ua for the week so i can drink today, shit we are already drinking just got 18 pack





# KEY COMPONENT #6: Coordinated Strategy

## STANDARDS

- ✓ 2: Equity and inclusion
- ✓ 4: Incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments

## Take Away

- ✓ All team members participate
- ✓ Shared decision making



# KEY COMPONENT #7:

## Judicial Supervision

### STANDARDS

- ✓ 3: Role and responsibility of the judge
- ✓ 4: Incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments
- ✓ 8: Multidisciplinary team

### Take Away

- ✓ Someone in authority cares



# KEY COMPONENT #8:

## Monitoring and Evaluation

### STANDARDS

- ✓ 2: Equity and inclusion
- ✓ 9: Census and caseload
- ✓ 10: Monitoring and evaluation

### TAKE AWAY

- ✓ 65% less savings when not using electronic databases
- ✓ 131% greater cost saving by programs that review data and statistics to modify program (internal)
- ✓ 100% cost savings when a program conducts an evaluation and modifies the program (external)





# KEY COMPONENT #9: Interdisciplinary Education

## STANDARDS

- ✓ 2: Equity and inclusion
- ✓ 3: Roles and responsibility of the judge
- ✓ 5: Substance use disorder treatment
- ✓ 8: Multidisciplinary team

## TAKE AWAY

- ✓ Ongoing training
- ✓ Cross-training



# KEY COMPONENT #10: Forging Partnerships

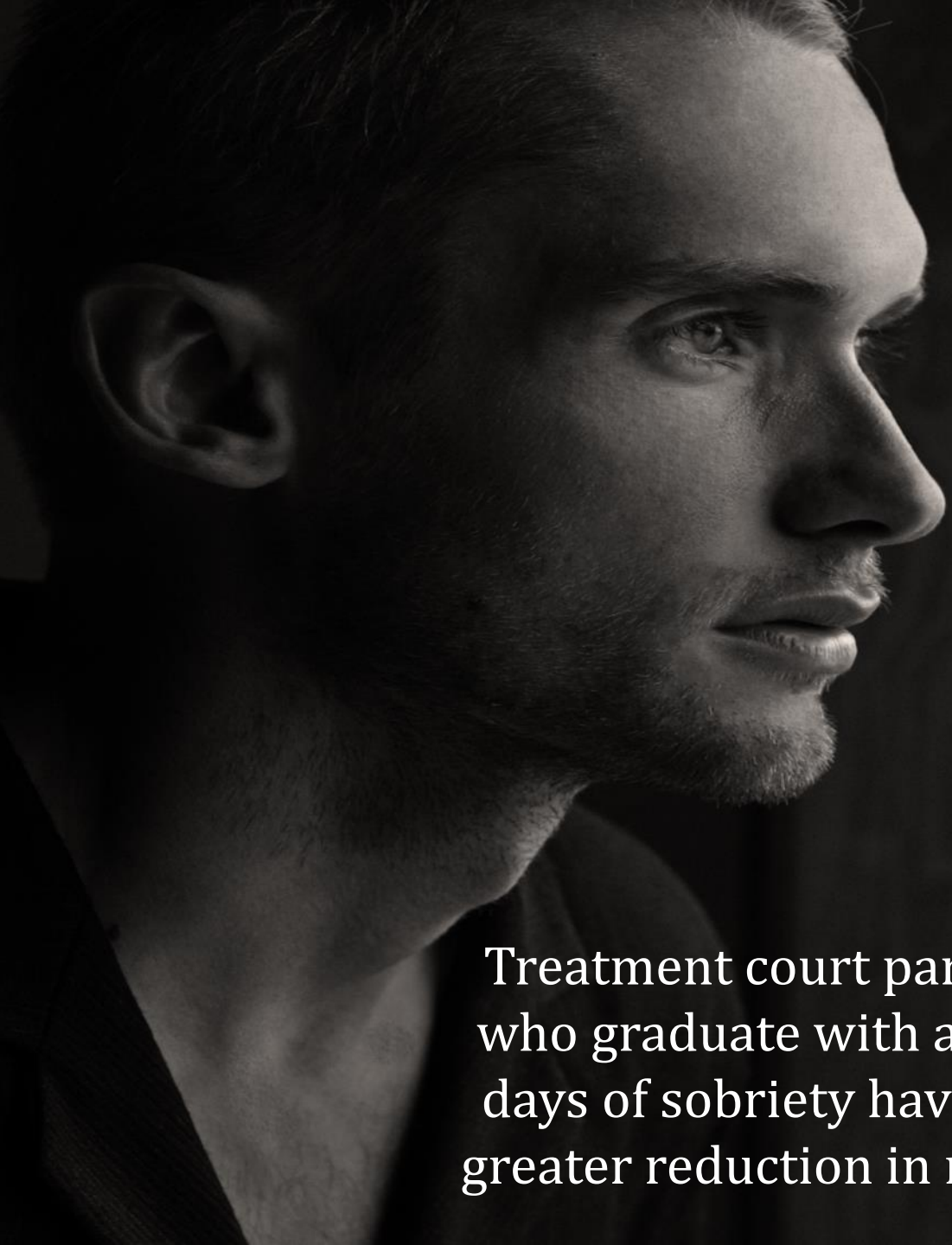
## STANDARDS

- ✓ 2: Equity and inclusion
- ✓ 5: Substance use disorder treatment
- ✓ 6: Complementary treatment and social services
- ✓ Multidisciplinary team

## TAKE AWAY

- ✓ Community mapping





# RECOVERY

## *Treatment and Sobriety*

Every 4 minutes someone is sent  
to treatment instead of prison  
through treatment courts

Treatment court participants  
are 37% less likely to test  
positive for illicit substances

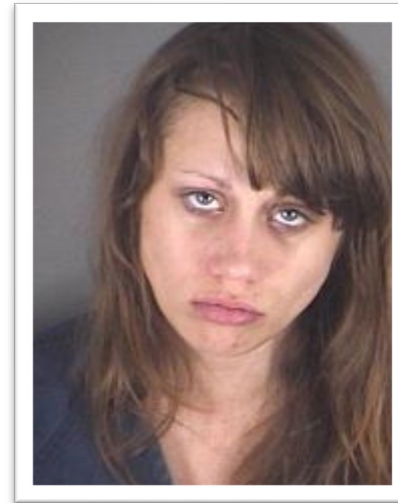
Treatment court participants  
who graduate with at least 90  
days of sobriety have a 164%  
greater reduction in recidivism



# RECOVERY

## *Success*

In 2014, at least 25,049  
participants graduated from U.S.  
treatment courts



The average graduation rate is  
59% (50% to 70% range)



# RESULTS

## *Program Completion Is Key*

**“...Completing a drug court program  
reduces the likelihood of further  
involvement in the criminal justice system.”**

**- Fluellen & Trone, 2000**



# RESULTS

## Reduction in Recidivism

In 2005, the GAO reviewed 23 evaluations of adult treatment courts and confirmed that treatment courts significantly reduce crime.

Citation	Institution(s)	No. Drug Courts	Arrests Reduced
Mitchell et al. (2012)	U.S.F., G.M.U. & Penn. State	92	12%
Rempel et al. (2012)	Urban Institute, CCI & RTI	23	13%
Wilson et al. (2006)	Campbell Collaborative	55	14%
Latimer et al. (2006)	Canada Dept. of Justice	66	9%
Shaffer (2010)	University of Nevada	76	9%
Lowenkamp et al. (2005)	University of Cincinnati	22	8%
Aos et al. (2006)	Washington State Inst. for Public Policy	57	8%





# RESULTS

## Long-Term Reduction in Recidivism

An evaluation of the Multnomah County (Portland, Oregon) Drug Court found that crime was reduced by 30% over 5 years, and effects on crime were still detectable an astounding 14 years from the time of arrest.




# RESULTS


## Cost-Effectiveness



**NY:**  
**\$254 million saved**



**WA: Saved \$6,779 per  
treatment court client**



**CA: \$43 million saved  
\$6,744 to \$12,218  
savings per treatment  
court client**



**OR: \$10 savings for  
every \$1 spent;  
\$11,000 saving per  
treatment court client**



**TX: \$9.43 savings  
for every \$1 spent**



# RESULTS

## Growth Among Other Models

In the past

**5**  
*years*

DWI courts have grown  
by 52%

Tribal wellness courts  
have grown by 55%

Veterans treatment  
courts have grown by  
1,300%





# RESULTS

## Accountability

### ADULT DRUG COURT BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS

VOLUME I



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRUG COURT PROFESSIONALS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

### ADULT DRUG COURT BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS

VOLUME II

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRUG COURT PROFESSIONALS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

