

*Tribal Healing to Wellness Court
Enhancement Training*

September 2013

Evidence Based Practices HWC Feud

Tribal Law and Policy Institute

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Rules

- ▣ Two people at a time – playing for your table
- ▣ I'll read a question that's on the screen
- ▣ Yell your name to buzz in to answer
- ▣ First person to 'buzz' in will have an opportunity to give an answer.
- ▣ If right, you'll receive an 'incentive'
- ▣ If wrong – the other person will have an opportunity to answer to win the 'incentive'
- ▣ Each table will have opportunity to answer more than one question and must send up a different person.
- ▣ At the end, the two tables with the most 'incentives' will compete in a speed round for a bigger 'incentive.'

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The Questions

- First set of questions deal with best practices related to recidivism.
- Recidivism - the average number of rearrests over two years from program entry.
- Reduction in recidivism - the percent decrease in average number of rearrests for the drug court participants when compared with the comparison group.
- To be a best practice, data had to be available in at least forty programs with at least ten programs engaged in that practice and at least ten programs did not engage in that practice.

The Questions

- Second set of questions deal with best practices related to costs.
- Outcome costs - costs incurred because of a criminal recidivism for both the Drug Court participants and comparison group members in the two years after Drug Court entry.
- Recidivism-related costs include rearrests, new court cases, probation and parole time served, and incarceration in jail and prison.
- For this study, reductions in outcome costs (or increases in cost savings) were calculated as the percent difference in outcome costs between the Drug Court group and the comparison group.
- The higher the percentage, the bigger the costs savings for Drug Court participants over the comparison group.

The Questions

- The Speed Round questions are true and false questions based on drug court research.

Question #1

- ▣ Participants had greater reductions in recidivism when they were expected to have how many days clean before graduation? (Answer within +/-10 days)
 - 90 days clean before graduation had greater reductions in recidivism
 - Take away: The longer participants remain abstinent from drugs and alcohol, the more likely they will continue to remain abstinent in the future

Question #2

- ▣ Participants have a greater reduction in recidivism when the Judge spends an average of how many minutes with the participant during court hearings?
 - 3 minutes or greater per participant
 - Take away: A crucial aspect of Drug Court is interaction with the judge
 - 7 minutes triples positive outcome

Question #3

- ▣ Drug courts had greater reductions in recidivism when they communicated with the court or team
 - (a) at staffings only
 - (b) through written reports once a month
 - (c) or with email?
 - Email.
 - Take away: Good and immediate communication is critical, especially to provide immediate sanctions and rewards

Question #4

- ▣ Drug courts had greater reductions in recidivism when a person from which role attended staffings?
 - Treatment!
 - Take away: Input from treatment at staff meetings is critical to greater success.

Question #5

- ▣ Drug courts had lower rates of recidivism when they did what with internal review data and program statistics?
 - Used the data to make modifications in program operations.
 - Take Away: Collect data and use it to gain insights on team performance, guide improvements, to make practical program changes, and reveal areas where training is needed.

Question #6

- ▣ Drug Courts had greater reductions in recidivism when which team member attended court hearings?
 - Treatment!
 - Take away: Treatment provider is critical, even at court hearings.
 - Demonstrates to participants that team works together to make decisions
 - Demonstrates in court that program is intended to be therapeutic
 - Also makes it more difficult for participants to tell different stories to treatment and Drug Court

Question #7

- ▣ Which drug courts had greater reductions in recidivism? Drug courts that allowed only drug charges or drug courts that included non-drug charges?
 - Non-drug charges
 - Take away: Illustrates greater impact Drug Courts can have on public safety when participants with more serious offenses are given the benefit of intense supervision and treatment.

Question #8

- ▣ What team member can be the eyes and ears of the team and their inclusion on the team results in a greater reduction in recidivism?
 - Law enforcement
 - Take away: Law enforcement has frequent contact with participants on the street and in home settings and can provide good insight on what is happening in the participants' lives.
 - It also creates a two-way process of information between drug court and law enforcement.

Question #9

- ▣ Drug Courts that had what kind of evaluations and used them to make modifications had greater reductions in recidivism?
 - Evaluations conducted by independent evaluators
 - Take away: Invest the \$ and time to work with an outside, independent evaluator and to incorporate their findings

Question #10

- Focusing now on best practices that increase cost savings
- The number one best practice: What should you do with data and program statistics?
 - Use it to make modifications in program operations.
 - Take away: Using your data to improve your HWC will reduce recidivism AND increase cost savings

Question #11

- The #2 Best Practice in Cost Savings: Similar to reducing recidivism – What type of evaluations should be used and what should you do with the data?
 - Evaluations by independent evaluators and use them to make modifications

Question #12

- The #3 Best Practice in Cost Savings: How quickly should sanctions be imposed?
 - Immediately after noncompliant behavior – next available court hearing or administer sanction before next hearing
 - Take away: If wait until scheduled court appearance, participant outcomes do not improve.

Question #13

- The #4 Best Practice in Cost Savings: The attendance at team meetings of what role increased cost savings?
 - Defense attorney
 - Protects rights of participant – to rapidly address legal issues, settle violations, move case back into treatment and case plans.

Question #14

- ▣ The #5 Best Practice in Cost Savings: Drug courts that required participants to have a job or be in school to graduate increased their cost savings, true or false?
 - True

Question #15

- ▣ The #6 Best Practice in Cost Savings: Similar to reducing recidivism, drug courts that had this role attending court hearings also increased cost savings. Who is it?
 - A treatment representative.

Question #16

- The #7 Best Practice in Cost Savings: Drug courts had increased savings when team members were given guidelines to help them impose what?
 - Sanctions

Question #17

- The #8 Best Practice in Cost Savings: True or False. Drug courts had increased savings when drug test results were available within 78 hrs.
 - False. It is 48 hours or less.

Question #18

- The #9 Best Practice in Cost Savings: True or False. Increased savings occur when drug tests were collected at least 2 times per week in the first phase.
 - True. Drug tests collected at least 2 times per week in first phase result in an increase of cost savings.

Question #19

- The #10 Best Practice in Cost Savings: True or False. Increased savings occur when law enforcement representative did NOT attend court sessions.
 - False. Cost savings increase when a law enforcement representative attended court sessions

Question #20

- ❑ Question based on NADCP's Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards
- ❑ True or false: Removing subjective eligibility restrictions and applying evidence-based selection criteria to determine who enters drug court increases the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of Drug Courts.
- ❑ True!
- ❑ The team should not apply subjective criteria or personal impressions to determine participants suitability for the program.

Speed Round Rules

- ❑ 2 tables with highest number of 'incentives' will select one person to compete. Or if there is a tie – tables with equal # of incentives.
- ❑ It can be a person who has answered a previous question.
- ❑ One (or more) of the contestants will step out of the room while the first contestant answers 10 true or false questions in 90 seconds. We'll record the answers.
- ❑ 2nd contestant will come back and answer the same questions.
- ❑ Person with most correct answers will win for their table.

Speed Round

- Answer true or false.
- 90 seconds on the clock.

Speed Round Questions

1. More effective Drug Courts maintained one point of entry into the program, either pre-plea or post-plea
2. More effective teams had a written schedule of sanctions they shared with participants and staff AND had no discretion to overrule the sanctions.
3. The most effect Drug Courts provided clinical case management once a month.

Speed Round Questions

4. Drug courts reduced substance abuse and crime through participants perceptions and attitudes toward the judge.
5. At least 9 months of outpatient treatment is required to reduce substance abuse and recidivism.
6. Delay in entering treatment does not affect retention and treatment success.

Speed Round Questions

7. Outpatient treatment was more effective than residential treatment for drug-involved probationers.
8. Aftercare services among drug-involved offenders do not significantly reduce substance use and re-arrest
9. Drug courts that focus on high-risk/high-need offenders reduce crime approximately twice as much as those serving less serious offenders.

Speed Round Questions

10. Suitability for drug court based on the team's subjective impressions of offender's motivation for change or readiness for treatment increases graduation rates.

Speed Round Questions

1. More effective Drug Courts maintained one point of entry into the program, either pre-plea or post-plea
 - True
2. More effective teams had written schedule of sanctions they shared with participants and staff AND had no discretion to overrule the sanctions.
 - False – Written AND had discretion
3. The most effect Drug Courts provided clinical case management once a month.
 - False – at least once a week.

Speed Round Questions

4. Drug courts reduced substance abuse and crime through participants perceptions and attitudes toward the judge.
 - True. Better outcomes were achieved by participants who rated the judge as knowledgeable about their cases and who reported that the judge knew them by name, encouraged them to succeed, emphasized the importance of drug and alcohol treatment, was not intimidating or unapproachable, gave them a chance to tell their side of the story, and treated them fairly with respect.

Speed Round Questions

5. At least 9 months of outpatient treatment is required to reduce substance abuse and recidivism.
 - False. 3 months. And outcomes may diminish for outpatient treatment episodes lasting more than 12 months. Drug courts of 12-18 months are most effective.

Speed Round Questions

6. Delay in entering treatment does not affect retention and treatment success.
 - False. Delay in entering treatment is one of the largest barriers to retention and treatment success.
 - Pre-intake and pre-assessment – drop rates are high during both of these periods
 - Rates of attrition increase with the length of wait for treatment.

Speed Round Questions

7. Outpatient treatment was more effective than residential treatment for drug-involved probationers.
 - True.
8. Aftercare services among drug-involved offenders do not significantly reduce substance use and re-arrest
 - False.

Speed Round Questions

9. Drug courts that focus on high-risk/high-need offenders reduce crime approximately twice as much as those serving less serious offenders.
 - True
10. Suitability for drug court based on team's subjective impressions of offender's motivation for change or readiness for treatment increases graduation rates.
 - False. Has no impact and have potential to exclude individuals. Subjective suitability determinations should be avoided.