

# Juvenile Drug Courts: Show me the money!

National Association of Drug Court Professionals  
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*Informing policy,  
improving programs*

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# Do juvenile drug courts save money?

## Results from five studies



# Typical Characteristics

- Fast/expedited entry into drug and alcohol treatment
- Intense supervision (court and treatment; frequent drug testing)
- Collaboration between treatment, the court, prosecution and defense council
- Use the principals of behavior modification such as rewards and punishment (including jail as a sanction)

# Outcome and Cost Evaluations:

- JDC studies: one in Oregon, four in Maryland
  - Clackamas, N = 53
  - Harford, N = 102
  - St. Mary's, N = 80
  - Baltimore County, N = 156
  - Anne Arundel, N = 154
- Participant demographics
  - Majority white (68-90%),
  - Program ave. age at arrest = 14-17
  - Marijuana primary drug of choice

# Juvenile Drug Court Outcomes

Re-arrests

Substance use

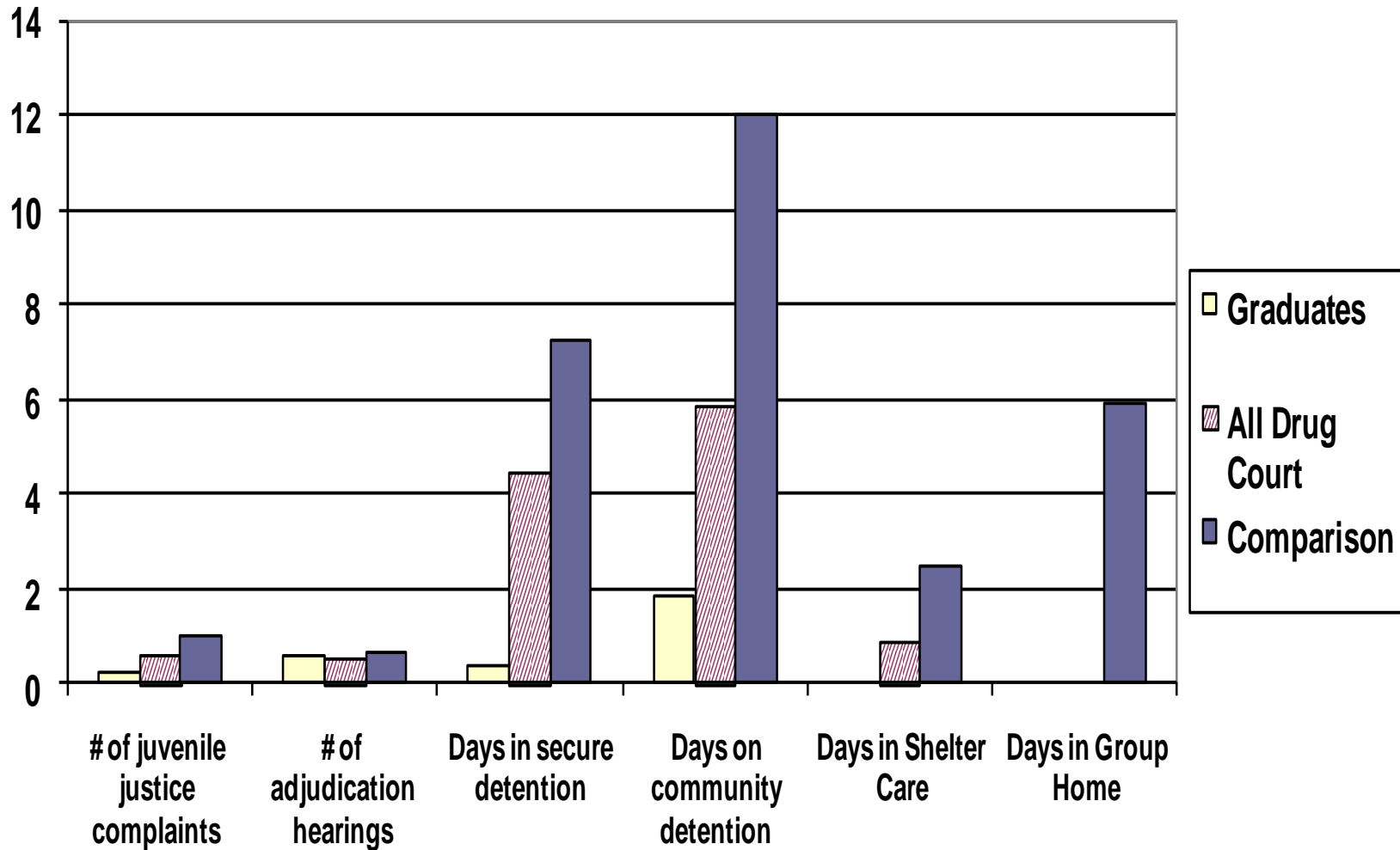
Detention/jail

Costs & benefits

# Harford: JJ Recidivism (2 yr)

	Graduates (n=37)	Discharges (n=38)	Drug Court Sample (n=75)	Comparison Group (n=82)
Ave # Juvenile Re-arrests	<b>.2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.6</b>	<b>1</b>
Ave # Adjudication Hearings	<b>.5</b>	<b>.5</b>	<b>.5</b>	<b>.6</b>
Ave # Days Juvenile Probation*	<b>0</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>131</b>

# Harford: JJ Recidivism (2 yr)



# Harford: Adult CJ Recidivism (2 yr)

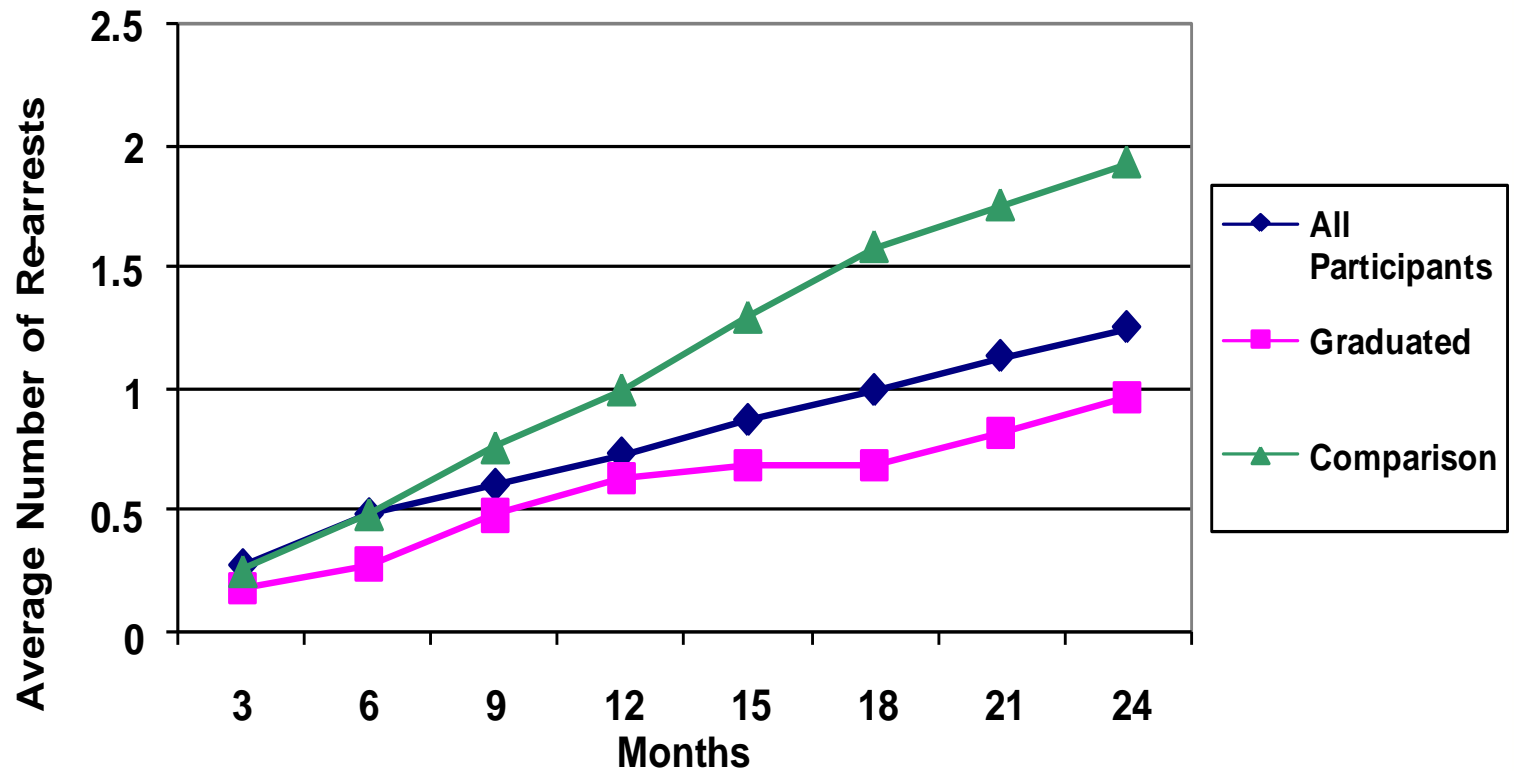
	<b>Graduates (n=37)</b>	<b>Discharges (n=38)</b>	<b>Drug Court Sample (n=75)</b>	<b>Comparison Group (n=82)</b>
<b>Ave # arrests</b>	<b>.1</b>	<b>.3</b>	<b>.2</b>	<b>.2</b>
<b>Ave # days in jail</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Ave #days in prison</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Ave # days parole/ probation</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>65</b>

# Harford: Overview of Outcome Findings

- HCJDC participants had 36% fewer juvenile and adult arrests
- HCJDC participants had 59% fewer days on juvenile and adult probation/parole
- HCJDC participants had more days in residential treatment

# Clackamas: JJ Recidivism

Average Number of Re-Arrests Over 24 months



# Clackamas: 24-month recidivism rate

- 2 years from drug court entry
  - Graduates 29%
  - All Participants 44%
  - Comparison 82%

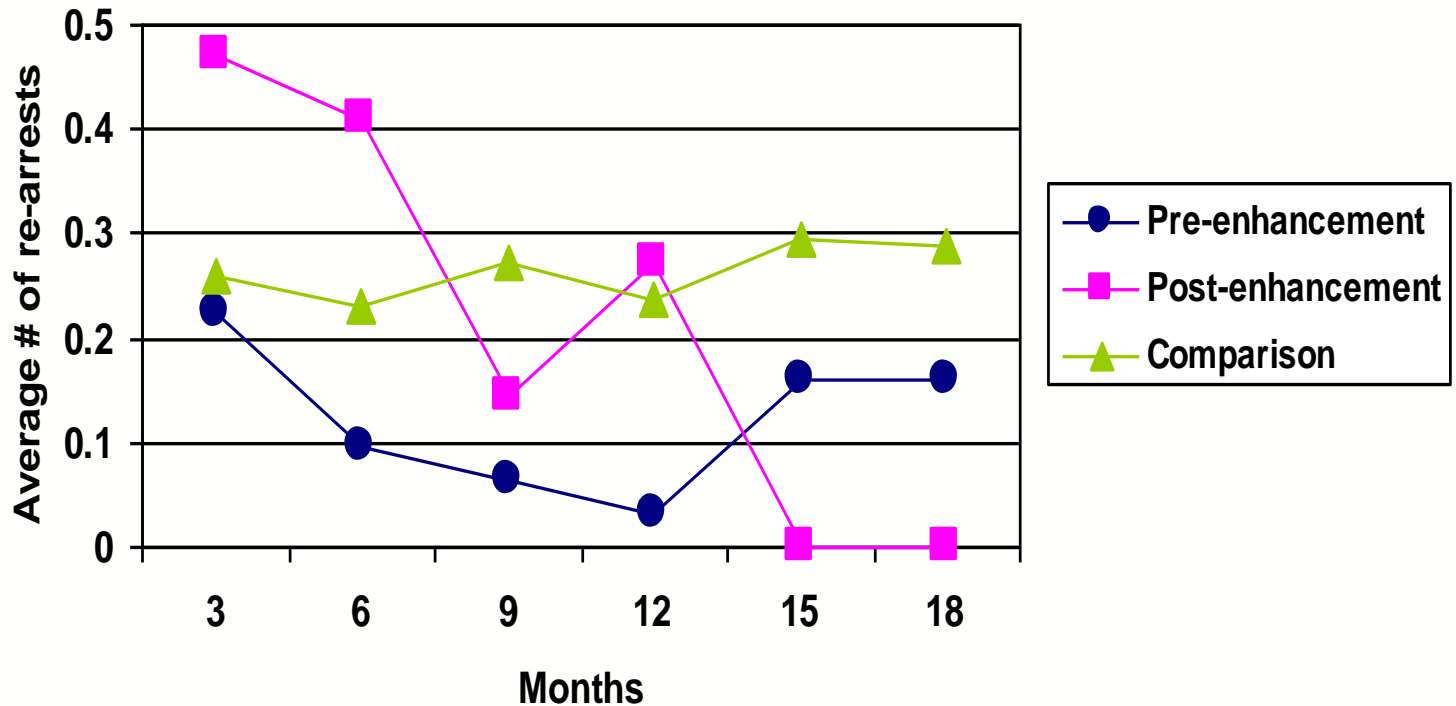
**46% reduction in new arrests**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> year after drug court entry (1 year post-program)
  - Graduates 14%
  - All Participants 29%
  - Comparison 50%

**42% reduction in new arrests**

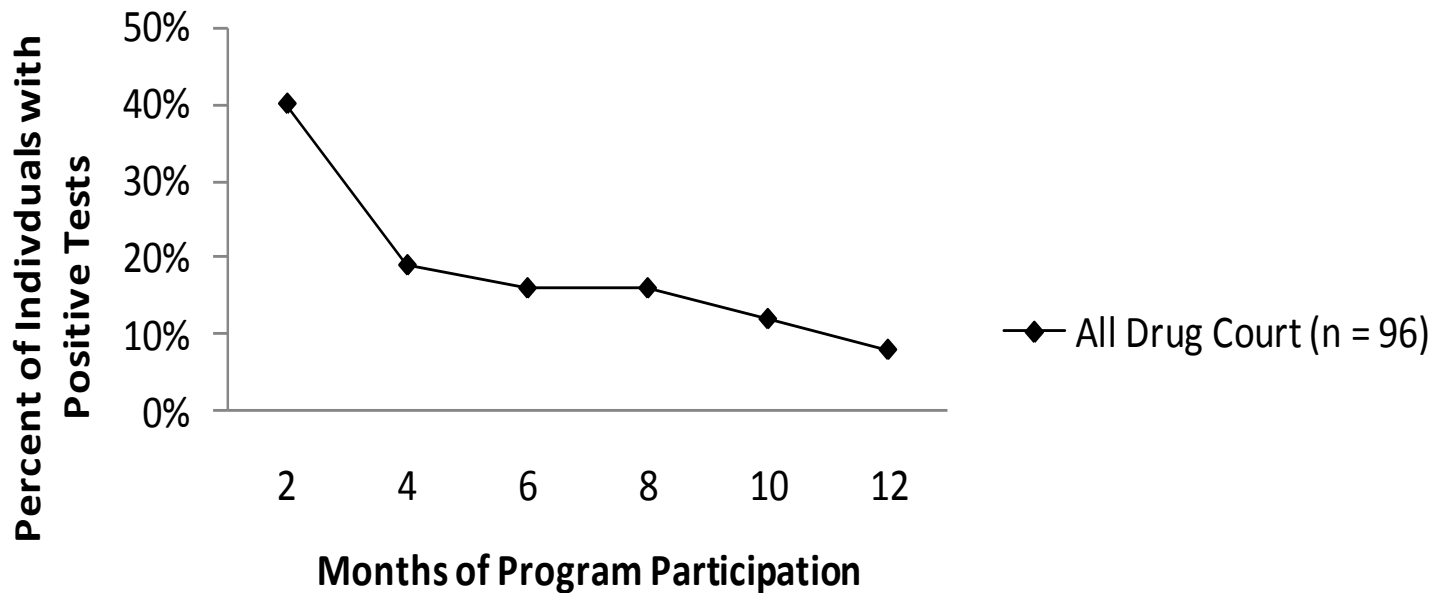
# Clackamas

Mean Number of Re-Referrals and Arrests in 3-Month Increments (non-cumulative)



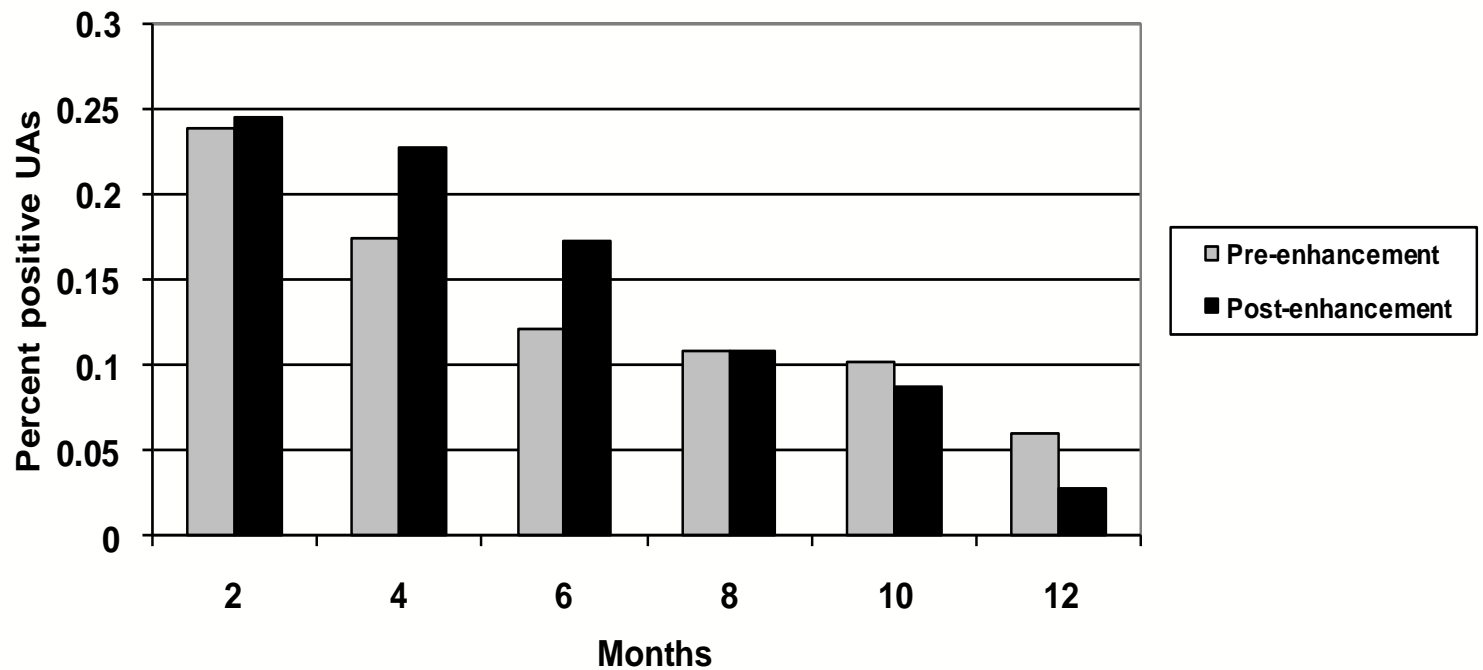
# Baltimore County

## Percent of JDC participants with a Positive UA Test Over Time



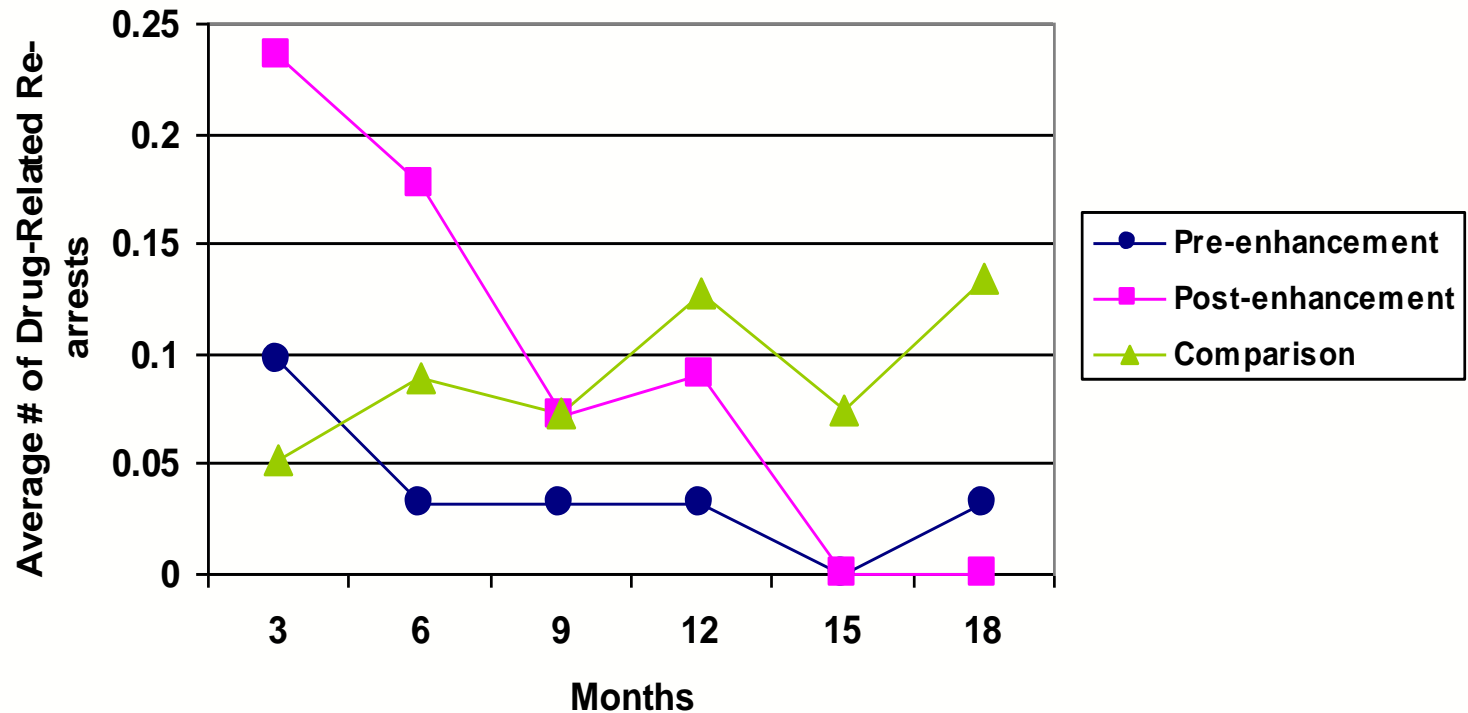
# Clackamas

## Substance Use: Percent of Positive UAs in 2 Month Increments



# Clackamas

## Mean Number of Drug Related Re-Arrests in 3-Month Blocks



# Cost Findings

- What is the cost to the taxpayer for a juvenile drug court?
- What are the cost savings of juvenile drug courts?

## Harford: Average Program Costs per Participant (Total Program Cost \$11,689/\$41 per day)

Transaction	Unit Costs	Ave #	Ave Cost
Drug Court Appearances	\$249.96	12.19	\$3,047
Case Management	\$11.56	283 Days	\$3,271
Individual D&A Treatment Sessions	\$62.83	9.68	\$608
Group D&A Treatment Sessions	\$42.01	33.63	\$1,413
Drug Tests (UAs)	\$36.85	55	\$2,027

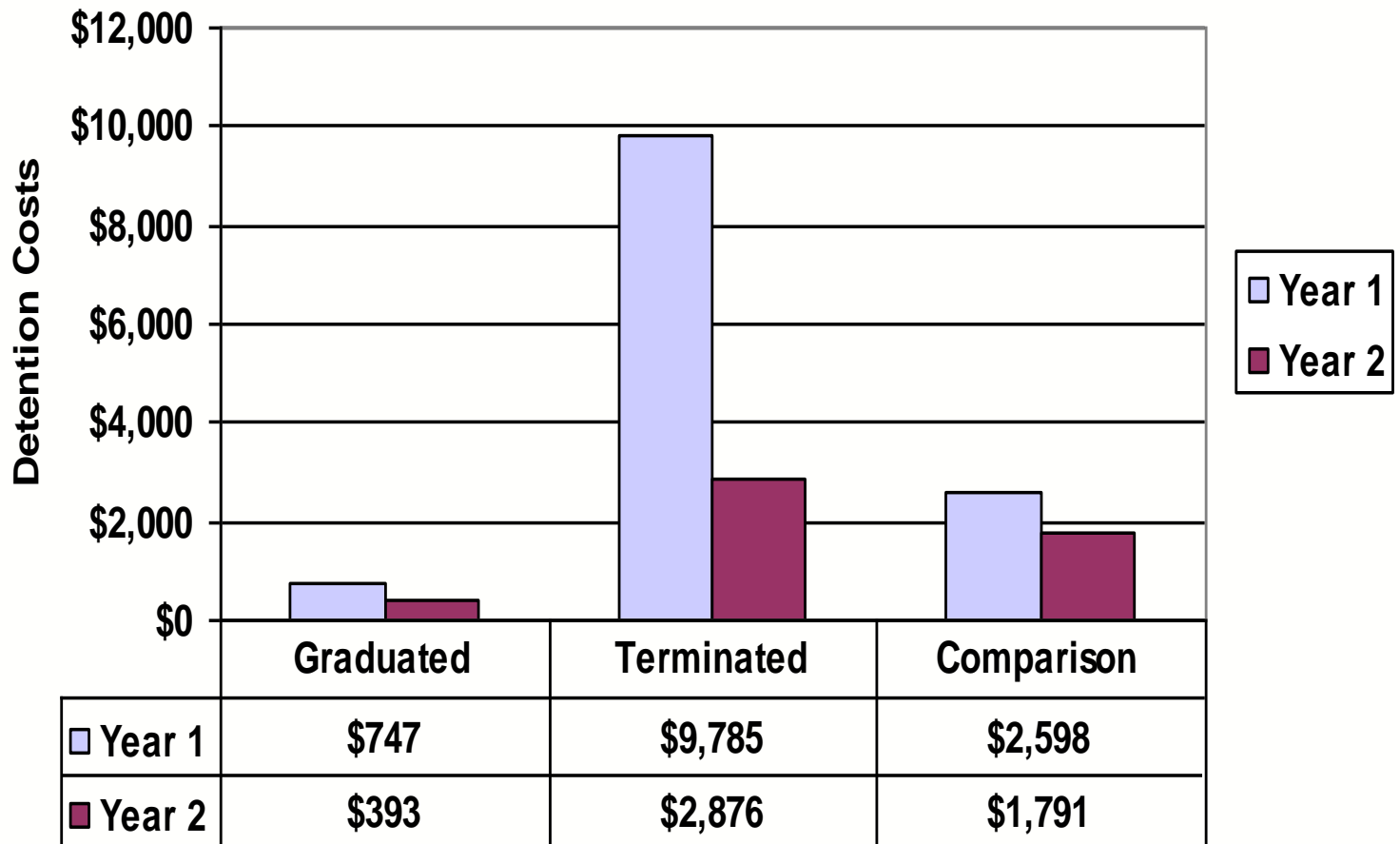
# Clackamas: Program Transactions

Transaction	Transaction Unit Cost	Avg. # of Program Transactions	Avg. Cost per Participant
DC Appearances	\$373.83	29.55	\$11,047
Case Management	\$29.78	356.82 Days	\$10,626
Individual Treatment Sessions	\$52.48	8.35	\$438
Group Treatment Sessions	\$16.33	37.88	\$619
Family Therapy Sessions	\$19.99	9.12	\$182
Parent Support Group	\$9.54	26.41	\$252
Parent Education Classes	\$9.33	4.47	\$42
Drug Tests (UAs)	\$6.00	70.96	\$426
Drug Patches	\$20.00	1.19	\$24
<b>Total Drug Court</b>			<b>\$23,656</b>

# Program cost comparison

Program	Cost per participant	Cost per day (per participant)
Harford	\$11,689	\$41
Clackamas	\$23,656	\$64
Anne Arundel	\$27,234	\$86
Baltimore County	\$56,631	\$139
St. Mary's	\$33,768	\$99

# Clackamas Detention Costs Averaged per Youth



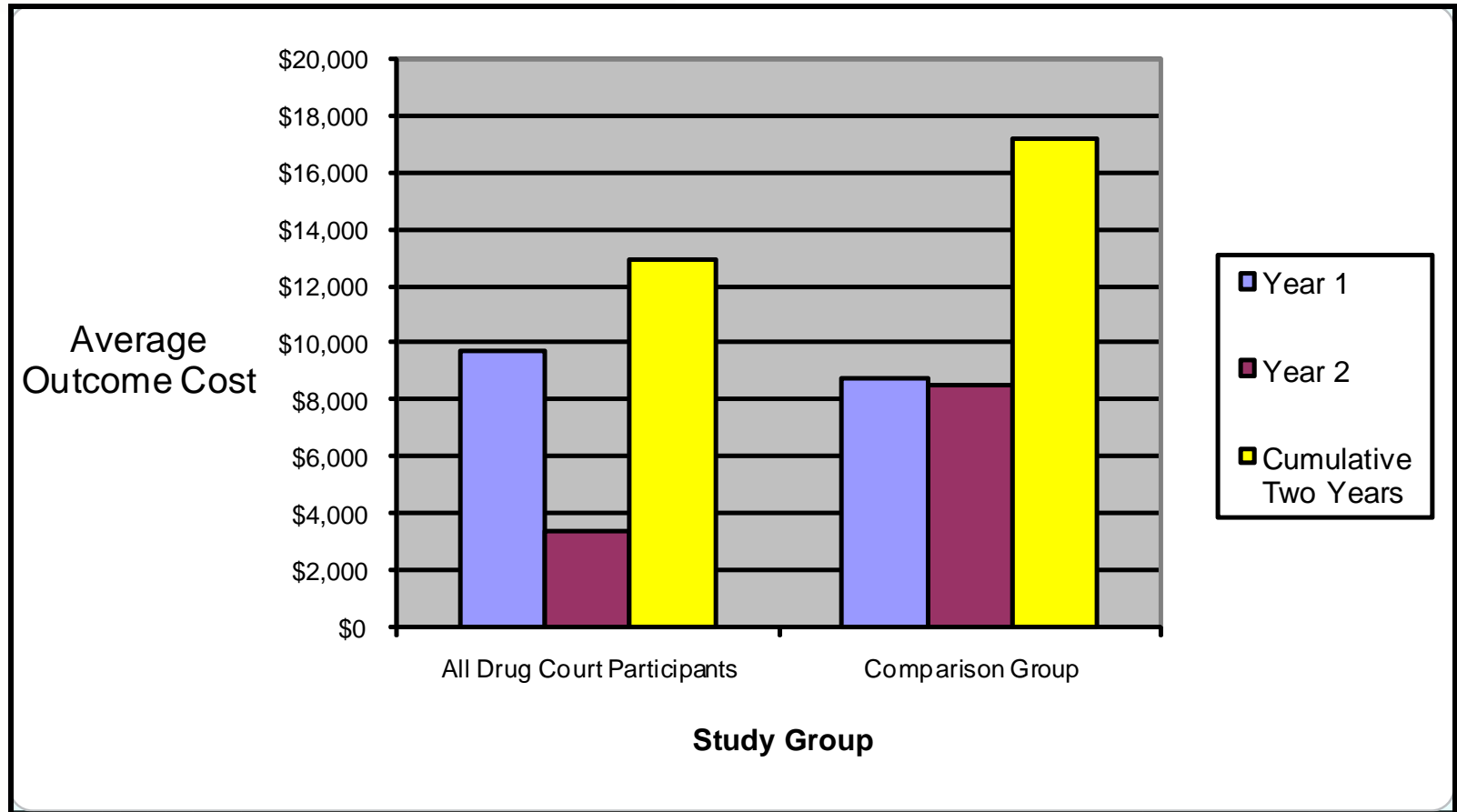
# Harford: Options for High-Risk Youth

Placement Options	Cost Per Day
Harford Juvenile Drug Court Program	\$41
Detention	\$296
Residential Treatment	\$220
Emergency Shelter Care	\$275
Community Detention	\$24

# Clackamas Program/Placement Costs per Day

<b>Placement Options</b>	<b>Cost Per Day</b>
<b>CCJDC Program</b>	<b>\$66</b>
<b>Residential Treatment</b>	<b>\$134</b>
<b>Shelter Care</b>	<b>\$115</b>
<b>Short-term Detention</b>	<b>\$187</b>
<b>Long-term Detention</b>	<b>\$171</b>
<b>Adult Jail</b>	<b>\$97</b>

# Harford: Year 1, Year 2 and Cumulative Outcome Costs



# Harford: Overview of Cost Findings

- HCJDC participant outcomes cost **60% less** per juvenile than the comparison group.
- The average cost of CJ system outcomes for HCJDC participants in the year following program involvement was **\$5,072 less** than the comparison group.

# Harford: Overview of Cost Findings

Compared to non-drug court youth:

- 72% in outcome costs savings for Maryland Division of Corrections
- 44% in outcome cost savings for Harford County Sheriff's Office
- 24% in outcome cost savings for Maryland Division of Probation and Parole

## Per participant recidivism costs over 2 years in juvenile drug courts

- Clackamas County Oregon Juvenile Drug Court
  - All Drug Court minus Comparison = \$961 savings
  - Graduates minus Comparison = \$10,958 savings
- Harford County Maryland Juvenile Drug Court
  - All Drug Court minus Comparison = \$5,702 savings
  - Graduates minus Comparison = \$7,508 savings

# Investments and Savings Vary by Agency

- Baltimore County, MD:
  - Out of the total invested:
    - 86% of the program cost was paid by Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) (placements, detention, case management)
    - 7% Treatment,
    - 3% Court
  - Of the total outcome savings 85% went to DJS

# Investments and Savings Vary by Agency

- Clackamas County, OR
  - Out of the total invested:
    - 54% of the program cost was paid by the Juvenile Department (placements, detention, case management),
    - 27% Treatment,
    - 6% Court,
    - 5% DA,
    - 4% Oregon Youth Authority (OYA)
  - Of the total outcome savings 78% went to OYA

- St. Mary's County:
  - Each of these agencies experienced a 37% cost savings:
    - Circuit Court
    - State's Attorney
    - Office of the Public Defender

# Juvenile Drug Court Promising Practices

# Clackamas Enhancements

- Addition of Community Resource Liaison position
  - Find and create new community resources including community service opportunities
  - Work to link youth to community resources
- Family Therapist almost at full-time
  - Already required family therapy
  - More home visits
  - Required parenting class instituted

# Clackamas: Relationships/connections with community agencies

## Community Resource Liaison:

- Added a Family Representative
- Oregon Youth Authority
- Developed connections with residential treatment programs
- Trained community guides
- Strong relationships with local agencies and community leaders

# Clackamas: Program Response

## Community Liaison: (Paradigm Shift)

- Arranges for (reserves) community service slots each week and brings to team at client progress meetings
- Increased the variety of community service options
  - Youth can choose a service that is meaningful to them
  - Youth that don't do well together can be sent to different service options
- Attends end of court session to sign kids up

# Data Needed for Outcome/Impact/Cost Studies

# Review of learning objectives

- The costs and benefits of running a juvenile drug court program
- How to measure juvenile drug court participant outcomes
- Best practices in juvenile drug courts

QUESTIONS?

Thank you!!

Handouts: [www.npcresearch.com](http://www.npcresearch.com)

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