

Preliminary Results from the Multi-Site Adult Drug Court Evaluation



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Project Overview

MADCE is a five-year longitudinal study, funded by the National Institute of Justice

UI, RTI, & CCI are studying the effects of drug courts on drug use and re-offending

- Solicitation – 10/2002
- Phase I – planning (9/2003)
- Phase II – data collection, analysis, & reporting (1/2005-9/2008)



Key Research Questions

- Do drug courts reduce offender drug problems, criminal behavior, and other problems associated with drug abuse?
- What changes in offender attitudes and opinions result from exposure to drug courts?
- Do offender attitudes and opinions affect compliance with program requirements, drug use, and crime?
- What characteristics of court intervention, especially drug court programs, help achieve desired outcomes?

Conceptual Framework

Drug Court Context

Community Setting

- Demographics
- Urbanicity
- Drug arrest rate
- Poverty / economics

Drug Laws

- Mandatory sentences
- Drug law severity

Court Characteristics

- Court size
- Court resources

Target Population Severity

Drug Use

- Addiction severity
- Drugs of abuse
- Drug use history

Criminality

- Felony / misdemeanor charge
- Recidivism risk — prior arrests / convictions
- Opportunity to offend (street days)

Other Risk Factors

- Health problems
- Mental health problems
- Employment problems
- Housing instability
- Family conflict
- Family support
- Close ties to drug users
- Close ties to lawbreakers

Demographics

- Age, gender, race
- Marital status, children
- Education, income

Drug Court Practices

Use of Legal Pressure

- Severity of consequences for failure

Individual Court Experiences

- Drug Court participation
- Drug testing requirements, practices
- Sanctions rules, practices
- Supervision requirements/practices
- Prosecution involvement
- Interactions with judge and supervising officers
- Court appearances

Drug Court Practices

- Leverage
- Program intensity
- Predictability
- Rehabilitation focus
- Timeliness of intervention
- Admission requirements
- Completion requirements

Drug Treatment

- Treatment history
- Days of treatment by type
- Treatment requirements
- Support services by type – offered and used

Offender Perceptions

Perceived Legal Pressure

- Severity and likelihood of termination and alternative sentence

Motivations

- Readiness to change stage

Understanding of Rules

- Received expected sanctions & rewards
- Understood expected behavior

Perceived Risk of Sanctions & Rewards

- General deterrence
- Certainty/severity of sanctions
- Certainty & value of rewards

Perceptions of Court Fairness

- Procedural justice
- Distributive justice
- Personal involvement of judge & supervising officer

In Program Behavior

Compliance with Drug Intervention

- Likelihood of entry
- # and type of drug test violations
- % treatment days attended
- Treatment duration & retention
- Treatment graduation & termination

Compliance with Supervision

- Court FTAs – % of scheduled
- Case management FTAs – % of scheduled
- Violations of supervision requirements
- Drug Court graduation

Post-Program Outcomes

Reduced Drug Use

- Any, type, and frequency of self-reported use post-program
- Results of saliva test

Reduced Recidivism

- Any, type, and frequency of self-reported offending post-program
- Any, type, and number of arrests / convictions post program
- Decrease in post-intervention incarceration

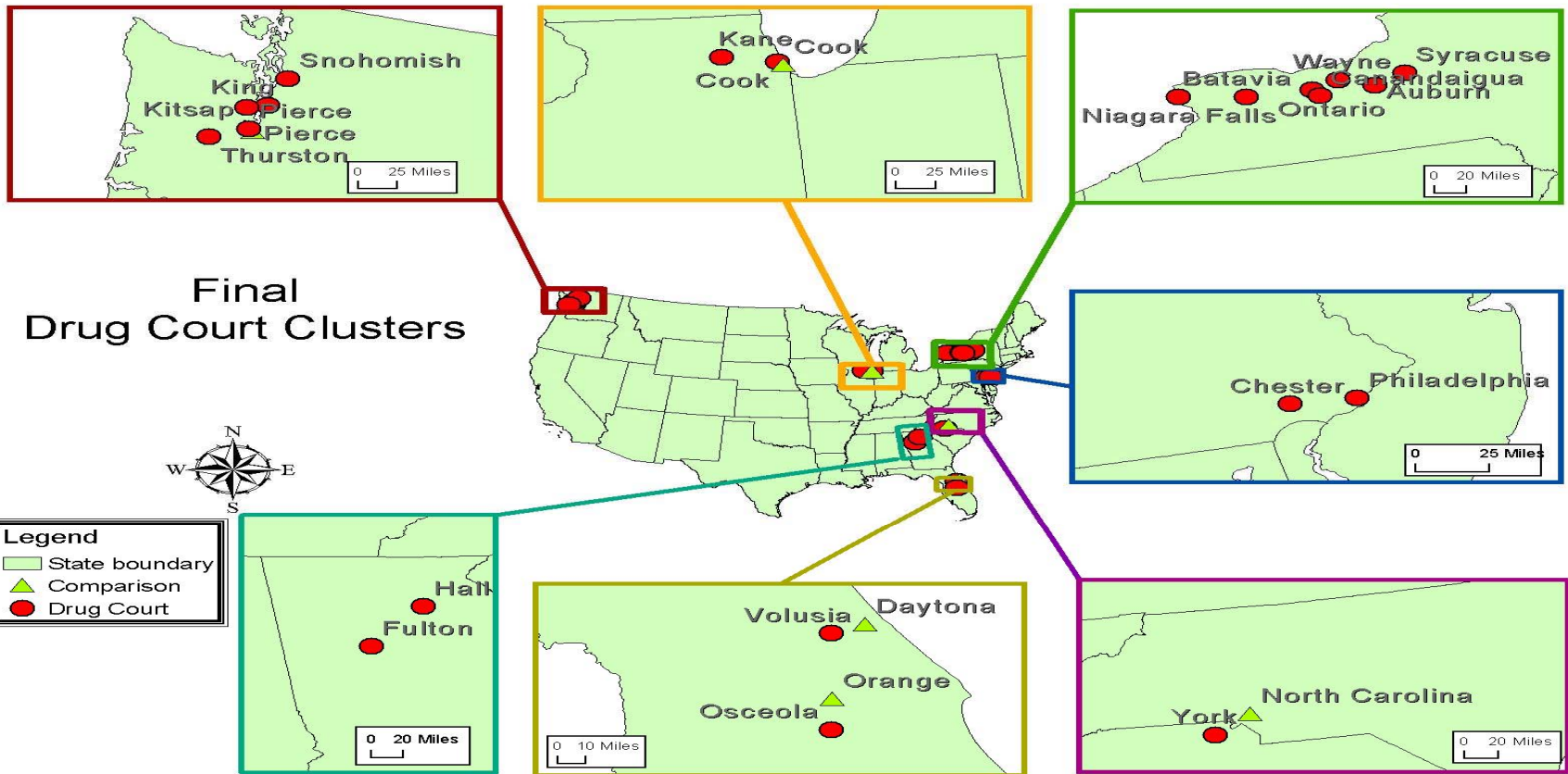
Improved Functioning

- Reduction in health and mental health problems
- Increase in likelihood and days of employment
- Gains in economic self-sufficiency
- Reductions in family problems

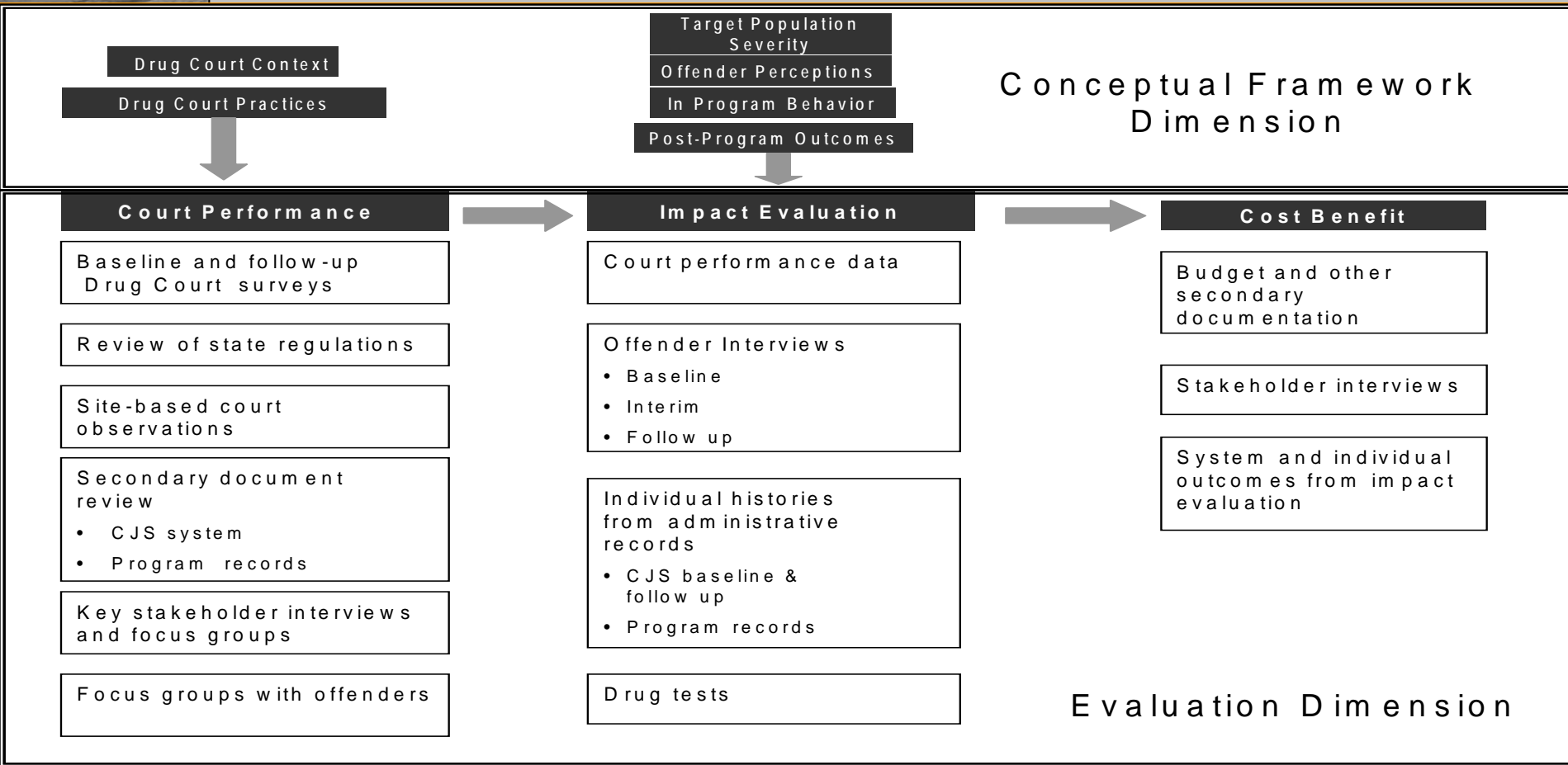
Post-Program Use of Services

- Type and amount of drug treatment/aftercare
- Type and amount of other support services

Treatment and Comparison Sites



Data Collection Strategy





Offender Interview

Administration Procedures

- Interviews cover: demographics; AODA & criminal histories; monitoring/accountability; perceptions of risks, rewards, consequences; health & mental health; treatment & other services
- CAPI administration at **baseline**, **6 months** post-entry, and **18 months** post-entry; some paper/pencil in institutional settings
- Interview length is approximately 1.5- 2 hours
- Conducted in private settings, independent of the court, probation, and treatment providers
- Oral fluids are collected for drug testing at final interview
- Interview incentives
 - \$35 for B, \$40 for 6-mo, \$50 for 18-mo, \$15 for oral fluids
 - Bonus: \$25 for completing 3 waves, \$5 for calling ahead



Instrument Content

■ Offender Background Characteristics

- **Demographics:** age, gender, race, marital status, children, education, income
- **Drug Use:** addiction severity, drugs of abuse, drug use history, and treatment history
- **Criminality:** instant offense, prior arrests/ convictions, opportunity to offend [street days]
- **Other Risk Factors:** physical health, mental health, employment problems, housing instability, family conflict, family support, close ties to drug users/lawbreakers



Instrument Content (cont'd)

■ Offender Perceptions

- **Perceived Legal Pressure:** severity and likelihood of termination and alternative sentence
- **Motivations:** readiness to change, stage
- **Understanding of Rules:** received expected sanctions and rewards, understood expected behavior
- **Perceived Risk of Sanctions and Rewards:** general deterrence, certainty/severity of sanctions, certainty/value of rewards
- **Perceptions of Court Fairness:** procedural/ distributive justice, personal involvement of judge and supervising officer



Instrument Content (cont'd)

■ In-Program Behavior

- **Treatment Receipt**: intensity of various modalities
- **Supervision Intensity**: supervision status, court hearings, requirements for contacts, actual contacts, supervision conditions, drug tests
- **Case Management**: contacts
- **Non-Compliance**: violations of conditions, violations detected, + drug tests
- **Sanctions and Rewards** received
- **Program Status**: terminations (and drop-outs), graduations



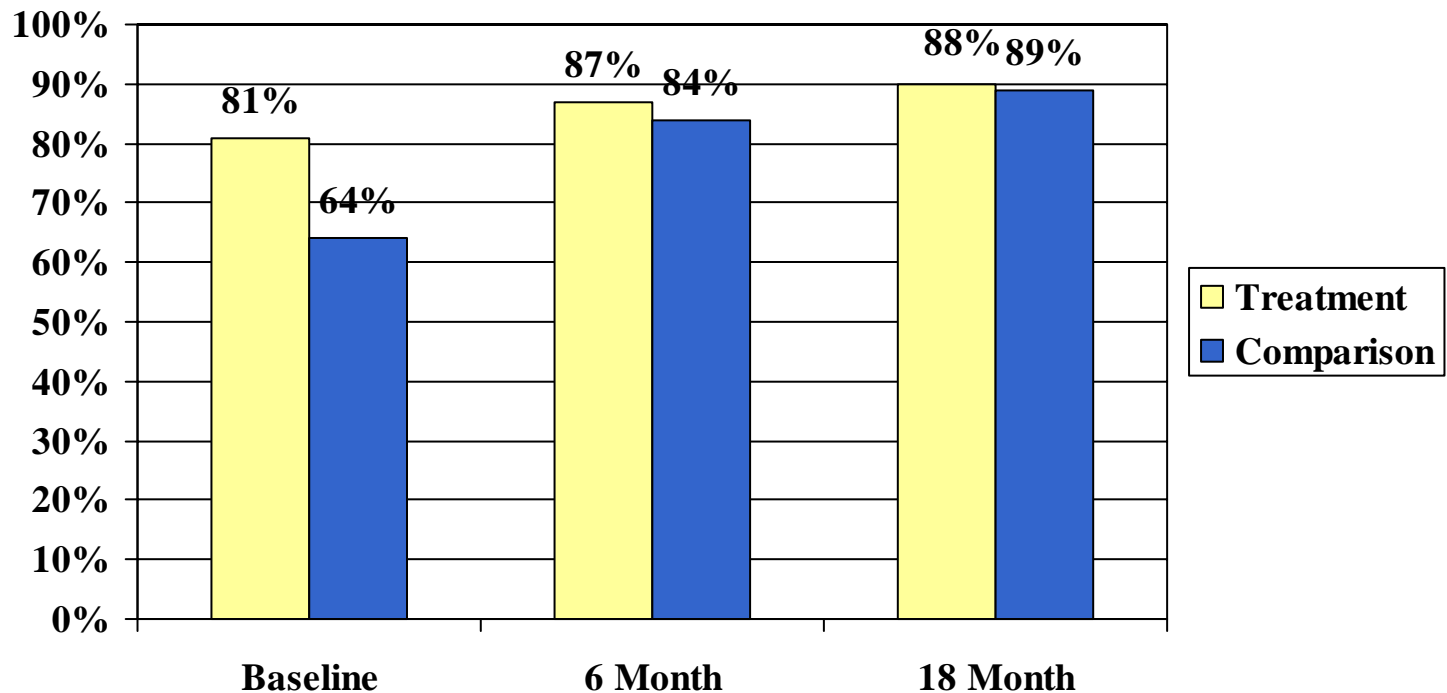
Instrument Content (cont'd)

■ Post-Program Outcomes

- **Drug Use:** any, type and frequency of self-reported use
- **Recidivism:** any, type, and frequency of offending; convictions; incarcerations
- **Functioning:** physical/mental health, employment, economic self-sufficiency, family problems
- **Services:** drug treatment/aftercare, support services

Data Collection Status: N= 1,791 Completed Baselines (1,161 Drug Crt. & 630 Compar.)

Response Rates by Interview Wave and Group





Preliminary Baseline and Six-Month Results

1. Describe the characteristics of drug court participants
2. Report six-month participant retention rates
3. Compare six-month outcomes between drug court participants and comparison offenders
4. Introduce findings suggesting *why* drug courts may produce positive outcomes

1. Demographics and Social Ties (Drug Court Participants)

| N | Participants 1156 |
|---|----------------------|
| I. DEMOGRAPHICS | |
| Age (average) | 32.97 |
| Male | 68% |
| Race/Ethnicity | |
| White | 57% |
| Black/African-American | 29% |
| Hispanic / Latino | 7% |
| Other (incl. multiracial) | 7% |
| II. SOCIAL TIES | |
| Currently Married | 11% |
| Currently Employed | 39% |
| Ever Been Homeless | 50% |
| Family, friends, or relatives involved with criminal justice system and/or had problems with drugs or alcohol | 88% |

Drug Use and Prior Treatment (Drug Court Participants)

| N | Participants 1156 |
|---|----------------------|
| III. DRUG USE | |
| Years of Drug Use (average) | 19 |
| Days of Drug Use/month (average for most used drug) | 13.32 |
| Primary Drug of Choice | |
| Alcohol | 13% |
| Marijuana/hashish | 24% |
| Cocaine | 32% |
| Heroin | 7% |
| Amphetamines (incl. methamphetamine) | 11% |
| Other or Not Using Drugs | 14% |
| Used Two or More Drugs During Past Six Months? | 63% |
| IV. DRUG TREATMENT | |
| Any Drug/Alcohol Treatment During Past Six Months | 35% |



Criminal Activity and Mental Health (Drug Crt. Participants)

| N | Participants 1156 |
|--|----------------------|
| V. CRIMINAL ACTIVITY - six months pre-enrollment | |
| Any Criminal Activity | 75% |
| Any Drug Activity (incl. possession, sales, other drug activity) | 70% |
| Drove while Intoxicated | 35% |
| Number of Criminal Acts (average) | 22.73 |
| VI. TRAUMA AND MENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS | |
| Any History of Abuse (physical, harassment, or sexual) | 40% |
| Mental Health Self-Rated "very good" or "excellent" | 48% |
| Depressed (based on multi-item scale) | 39% |
| Anti-Social Personality Disorder (based on multi-item scale) | 43% |
| Anti-Social Personality Disorder PLUS Narcissism | 26% |



2. Drug Court Retention Rates: Six-Month Results

- Average (across all 23 drug court sites) = **91%**
- Range (lowest and highest site) = **74% to 100%**
- *Conclusion:* Drug court retention rates appear substantially higher than “treatment as usual”
- Caveat: based on offender self-report



3. Six-Month Outcomes: Drug Court vs. Comparison Cases

- Criminal Activity
- Drug Use
- Socioeconomic status (engagement in education or employment; annual income)
- Mental Health
- Family Conflict
- Homelessness



Quick Methodology Review

- The 6-Month Sample:
 - Participants: N = 1009 from 23 sites (87% of baseline sample)
 - Comparison Offenders: N = 524 from 6 sites (84% of baseline sample)
- Initial Sample Characteristics: Significant differences on multiple baseline characteristics (demographics, SES indicators, prior drug use, prior criminal history, mental health, etc.)
- Statistical Adjustment:
 - In Brief: All results are adjusted to compensate for initial differences
 - Caveat: Results are preliminary, because statistical adjustments will be refined and improved over the next year

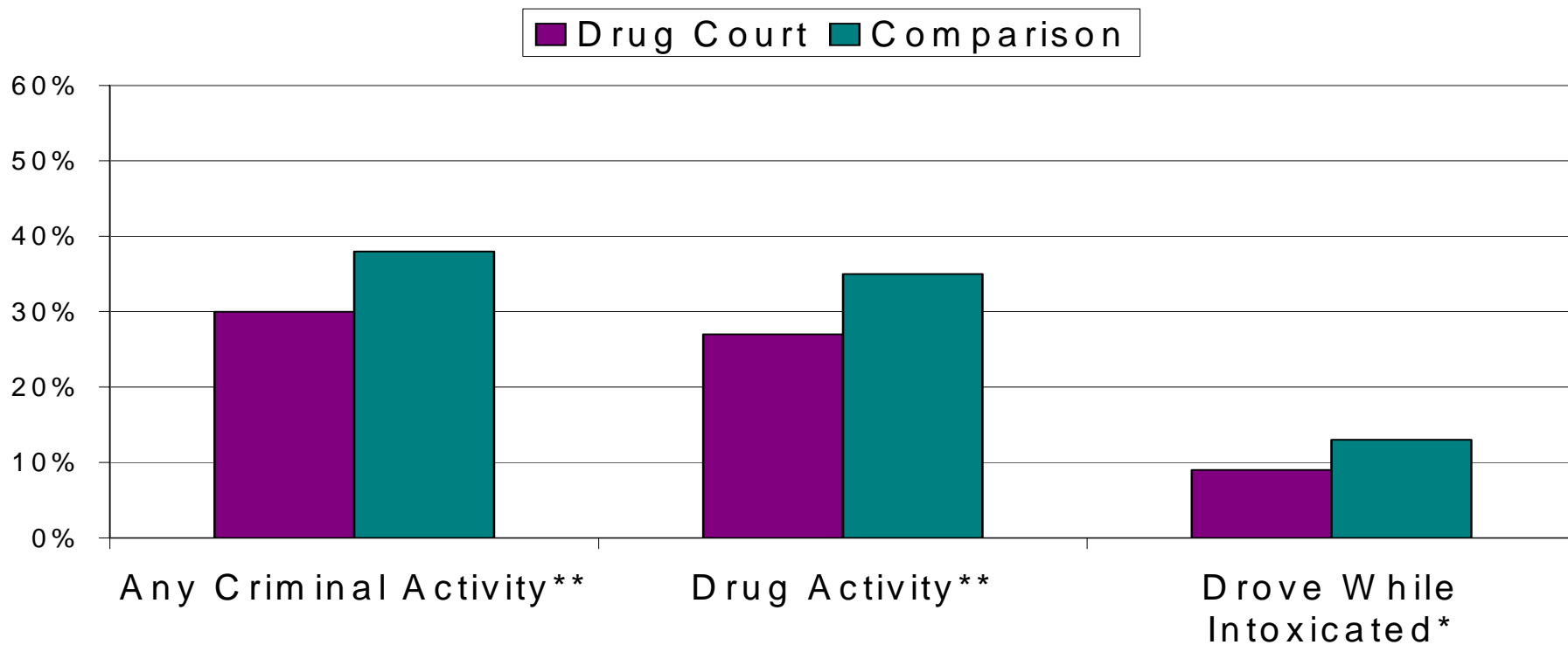


Propensity Score Adjustment Strategy

- Development of a Propensity Model:
 - Propensity scores assigned to each case based on a logistic regression predicting drug court participation status (comparison = 0, participant = 1)
 - Diagnostics performed to ensure reduction of significant differences between participant and comparison offender baseline characteristics
- Choosing a Propensity Score Adjustment:
 - Propensity score matching
 - Propensity score stratification (into quintiles)
 - **Propensity score as covariate**
 - Propensity score weighting

Results: Criminal Activity

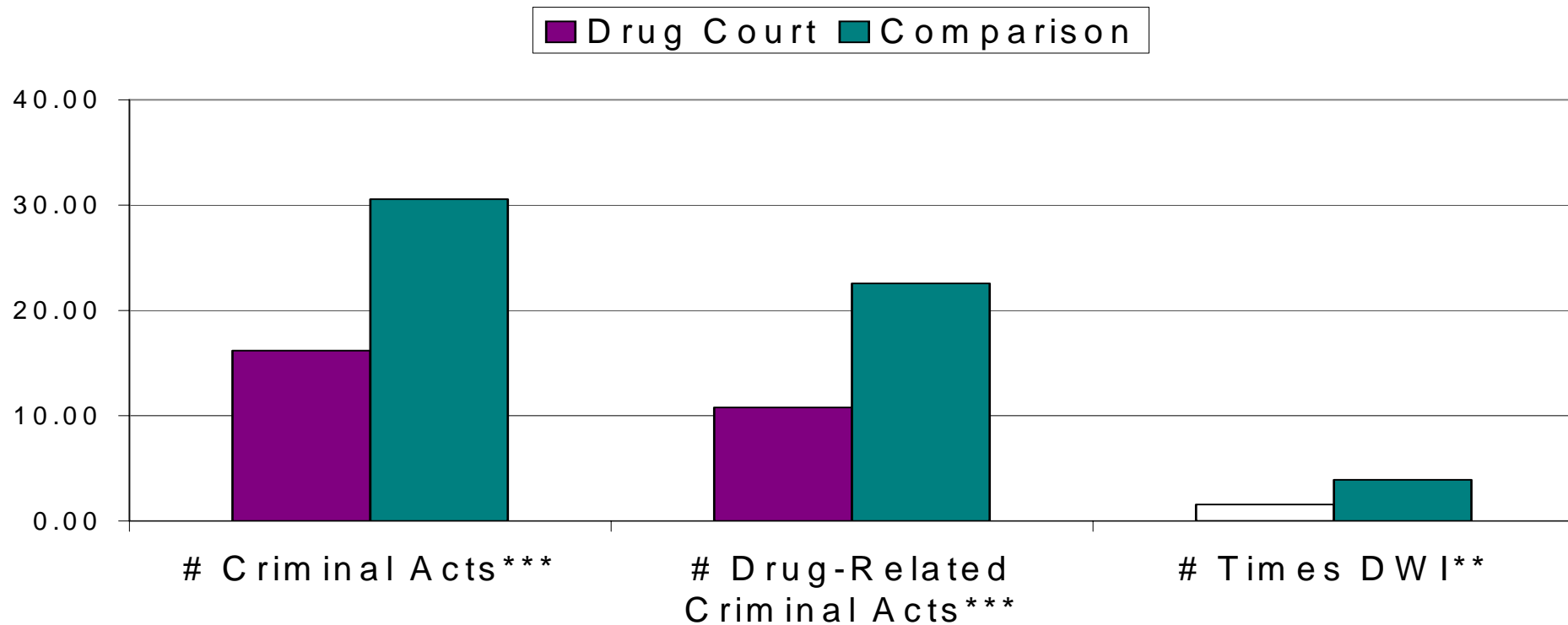
Percent with Self-Reported Criminal Activity Since Baseline



+ p < .10 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001

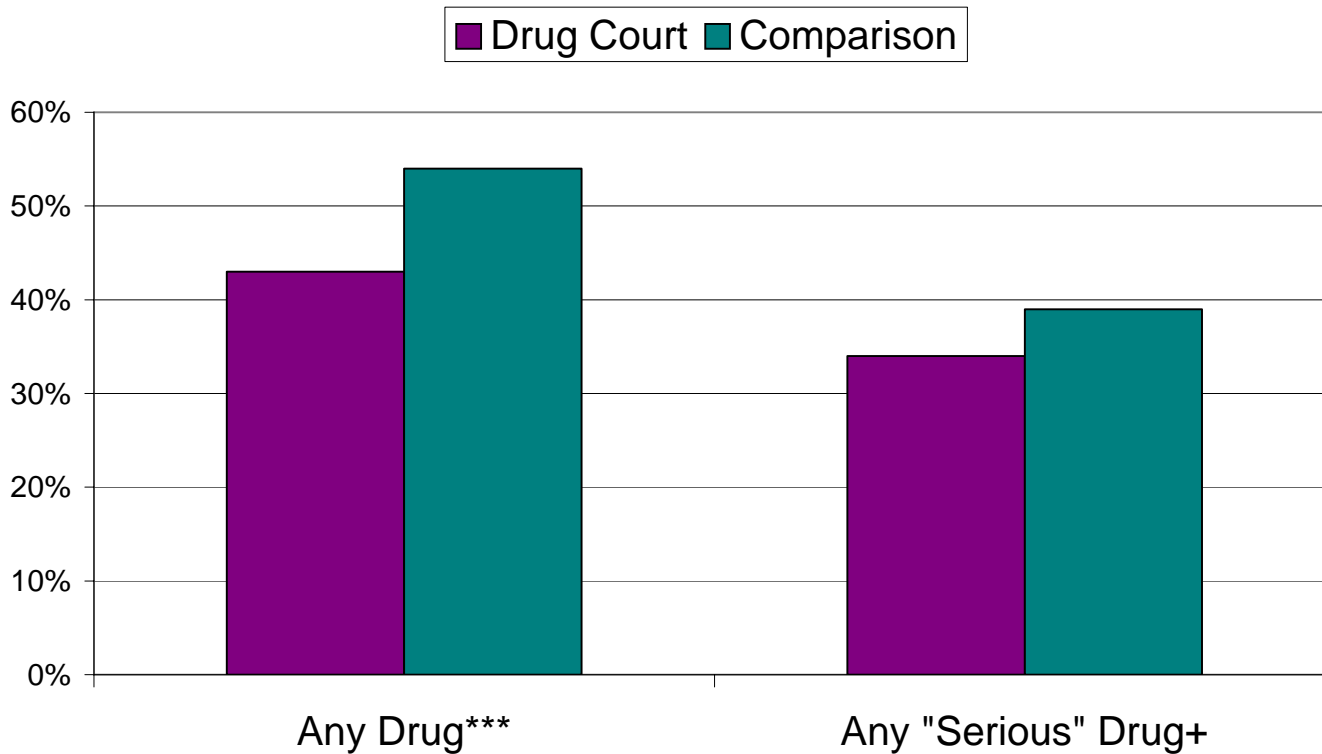
Results: Criminal Activity (cont'd)

Number of Self-Reported Criminal Acts Since Baseline



Results: Drug Use

Percent Used Drugs Since Baseline

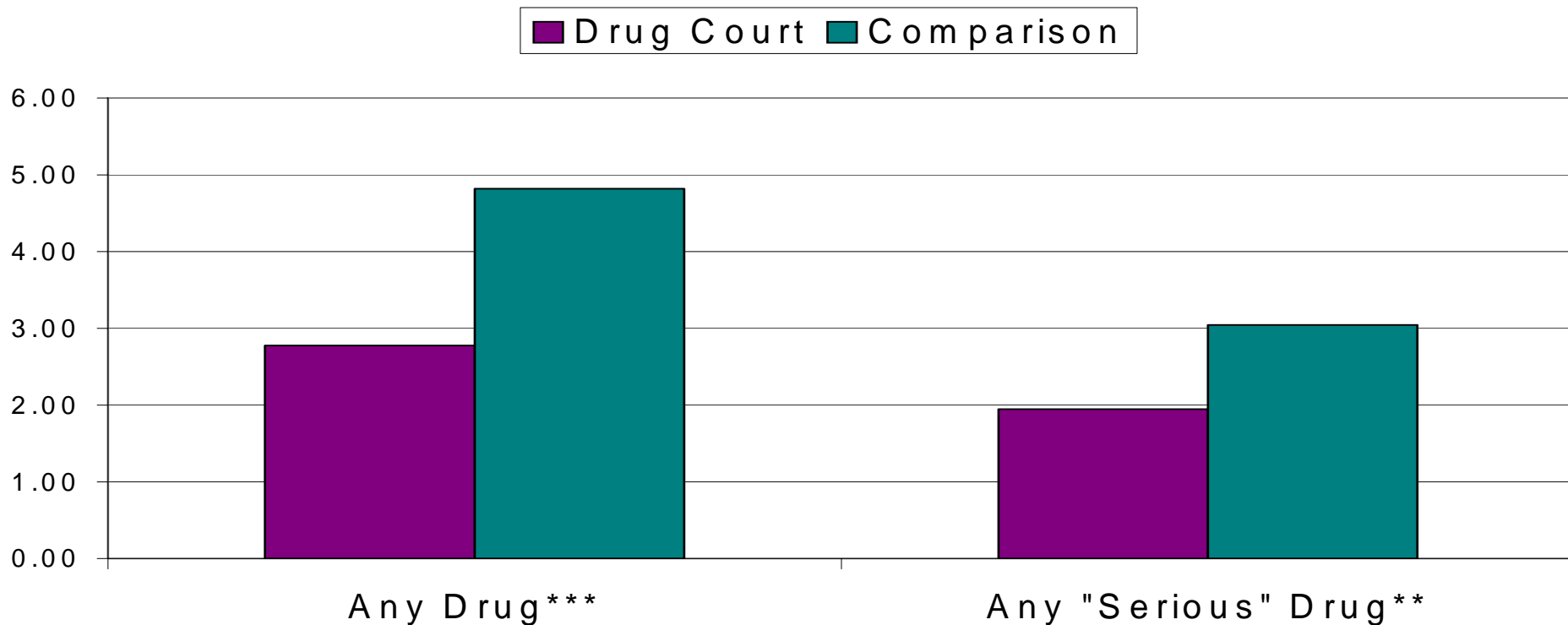


+ p < .10 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001

Note: "Serious" drugs include all except marijuana and non-heavy use of alcohol (less than 4-6 drinks in a day).

Results: Drug Use (cont'd)

Days of Drug Use per Month Since Baseline

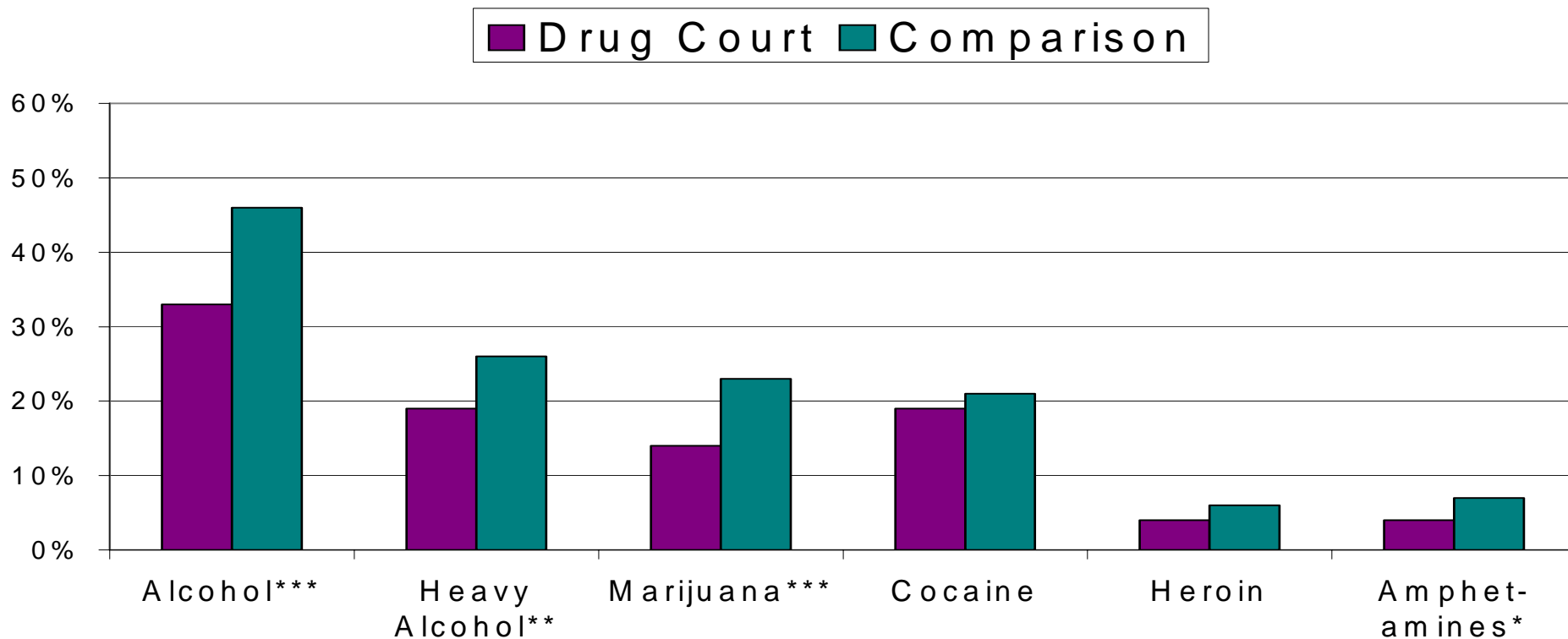


+ p < .10 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001

Note: "Serious" drugs include all except marijuana and non-heavy use of alcohol (less than 4-6 drinks in a day).

Results: Drug Use (cont'd)

Percent Used Drugs Since Baseline By Drug



+ p < .10 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001



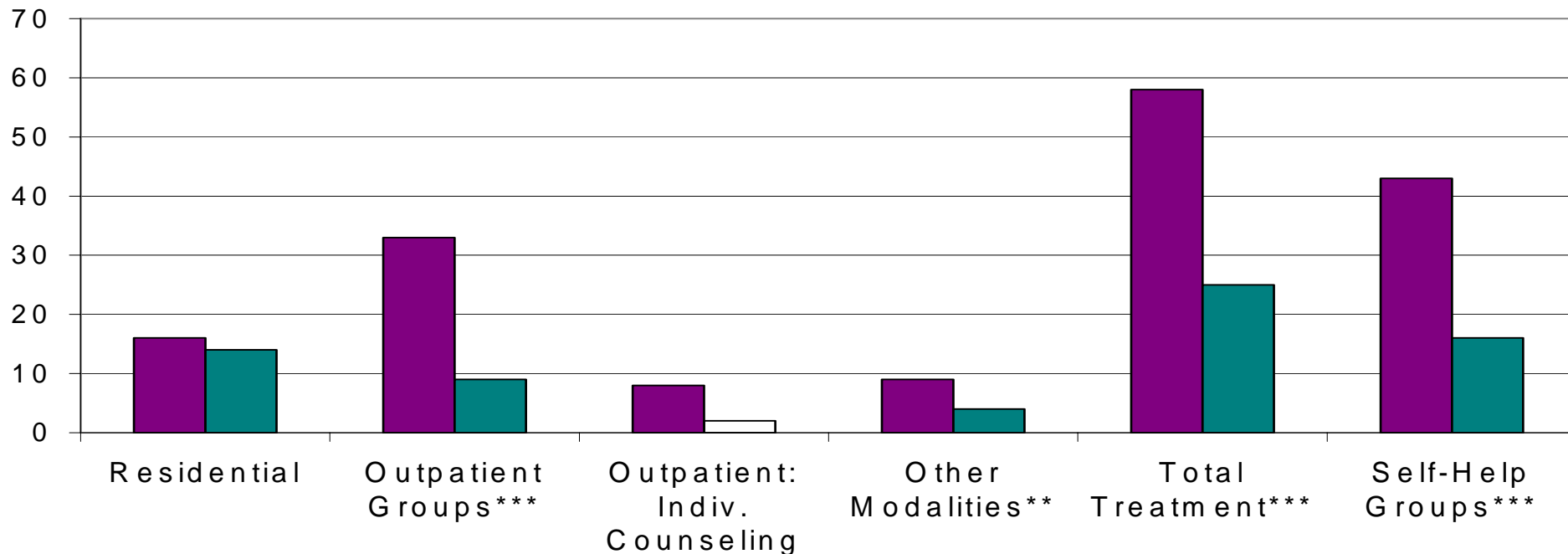
4. Why Might Drug Courts Have Positive Effects?

- Linkage to Treatment
 - Days of Treatment
- Offender Perceptions
 - Motivation to Change
 - Perceptions of Sanction Certainty
 - Perceptions of the Case Manager/Supervision Officer
 - Perceptions of the Judge
 - Perceptions of Court Fairness
- Intensity of Program Supervision
 - Court Appearances
 - Contacts with Supervision Officer

Linkage to Treatment

Days of Treatment Since Baseline

■ Drug Court ■ Comparison

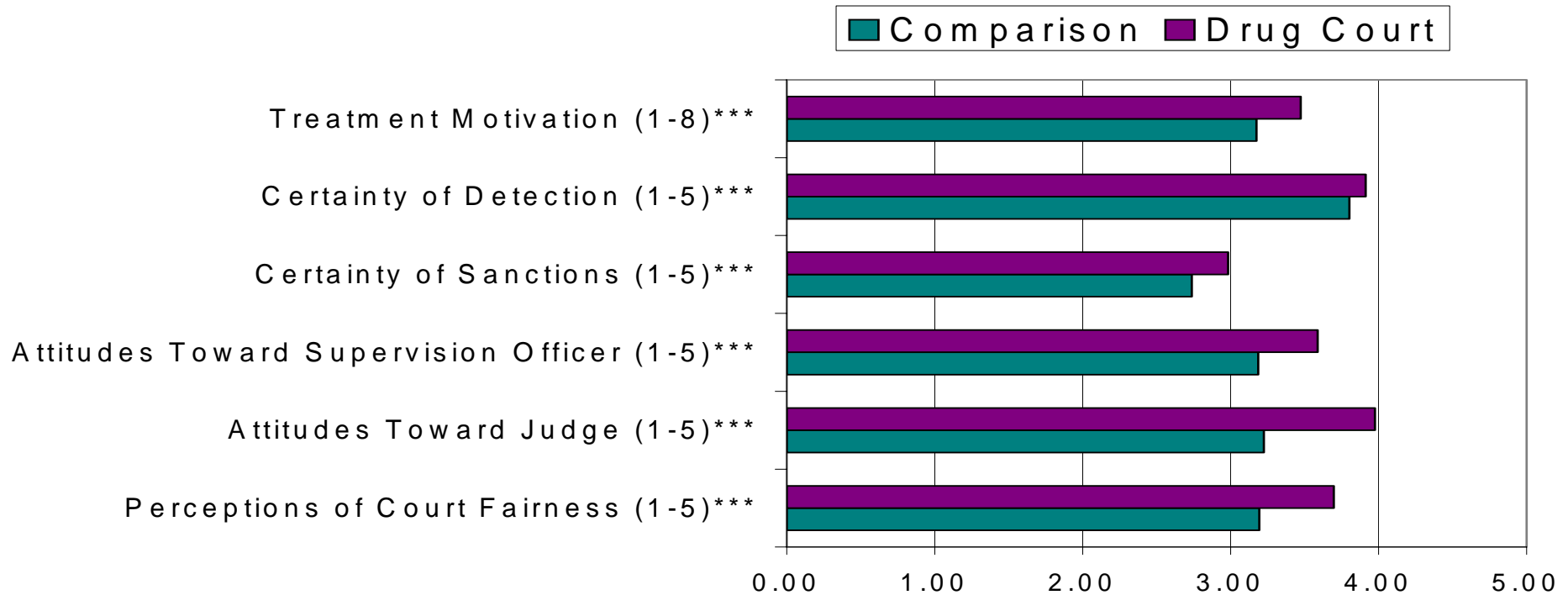


+ p < .10 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001

Note: Other modalities includes detox, medical interventions (e.g., methadone), and alternative approaches (e.g., acupuncture).

Offender Perceptions

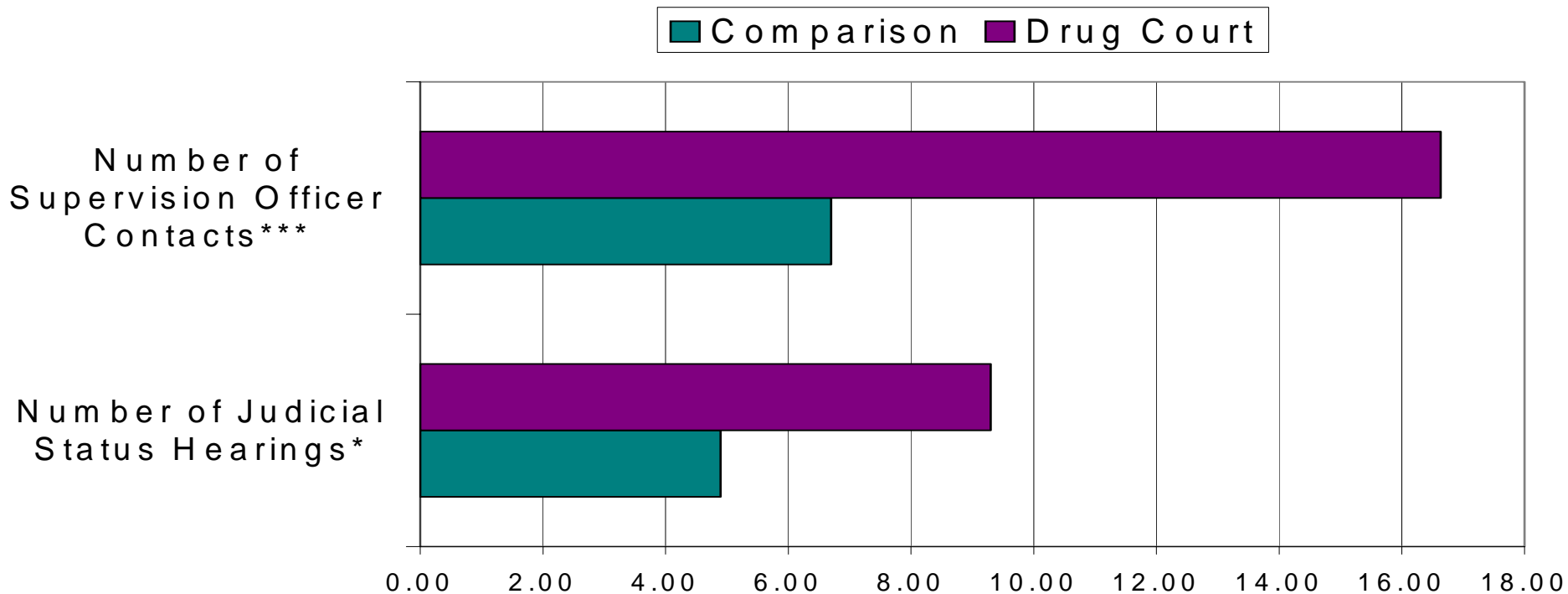
Offender Perceptions: Baseline Survey Responses (Ave. One-Month Post-Entry)



+ p < .10 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001

Intensity of Program Supervision

Intensity of Program Supervision: Six-Month Survey Results




+ p < .10 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001



Intervening Factors Predicting No Drug Use and No Criminal Acts

- Linkage to Treatment
 - **Days of Treatment** } *Weaker effects than other measures below*
- Offender Perceptions
 - Motivation to Change
 - Perceptions of Sanction Certainty
 - Perceptions of the Case Manager/Supervision Officer
 - **Perceptions of the Judge** } *Perceptions of the Judge*
 - **Perceptions of Court Fairness** } *Drives The Two Findings*
- Intensity of Program Supervision
 - **Court Appearances: Stronger effect on criminal acts**
 - **Contacts with Supervision Officer**

Note: magenta = statistically significant

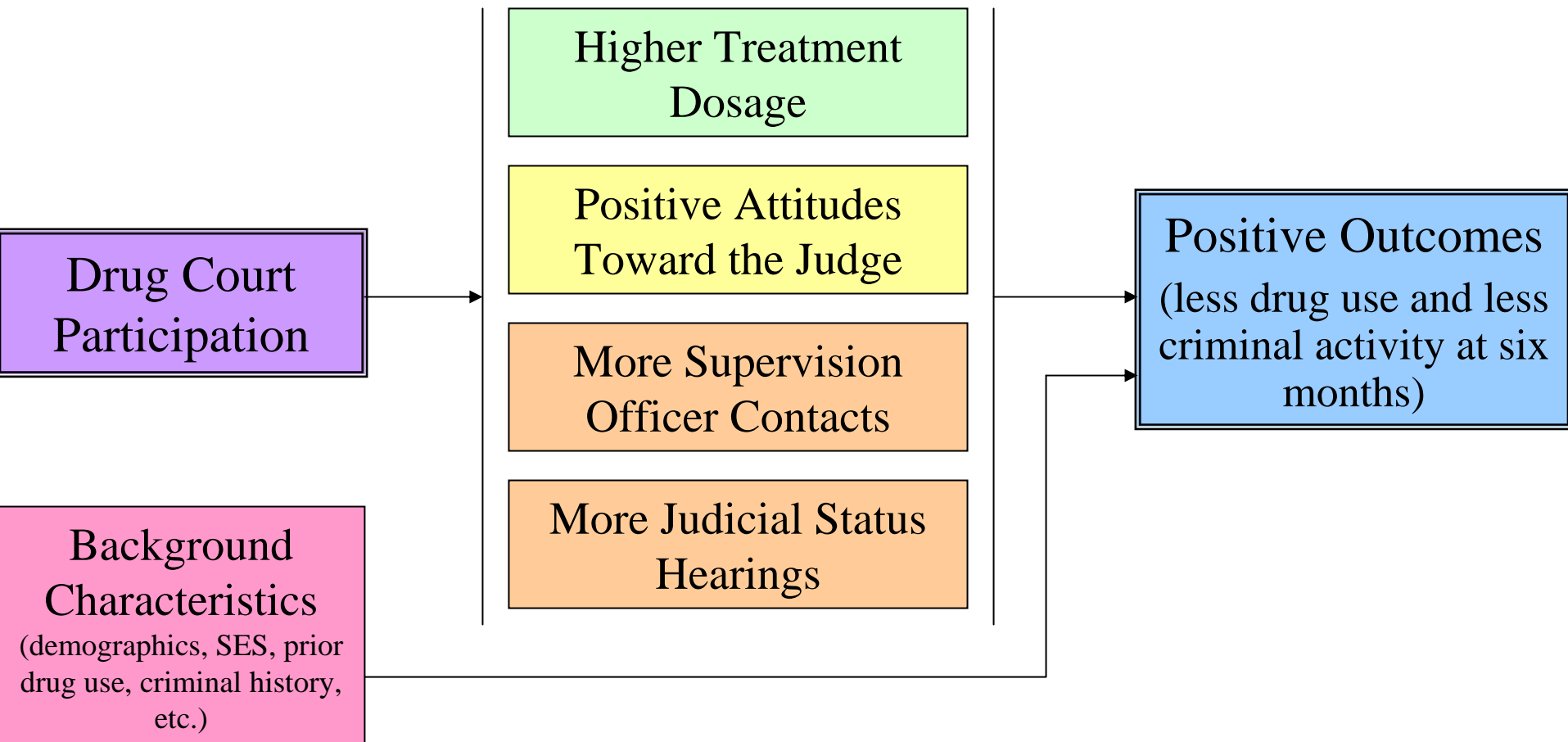


Perceptions of the Judge: Specific Measures

The Judge (each item asked separately; results averaged to create an overall score):

- Is knowledgeable about your case
- Knows you by name
- Helps you to succeed
- Emphasizes the importance of drug and alcohol treatment
- Is intimidating or unapproachable
- Remembers your situations and needs from hearing to hearing
- Gives you a chance to tell your side of the story
- Can be trusted to treat you fairly
- Treats you with respect

Beginnings of an Empirical Model





Stay Tuned for Next Year

- Final six-month offender survey results
- Eighteen-month offender survey results
- Official recidivism results (not self-report)
- Process evaluation of all 29 sites:
 - Description of court policies and practices by site
 - Analysis of *which kinds of drug courts* generate more positive outcomes than others?



Contact Information

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