



# STANDARD X-MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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# BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS

- How many have Best Practice Standards Volume 1 and 2?
- How many have actually read them?
- If not, get them and read them!
- Web link- <https://www.nadcp.org/standards/>







# STANDARD X

Monitoring and Evaluation

# ADHERENCE TO BEST PRACTICES

- Monitor adherence on at least an annual basis
- Develops a remedial action plan and timetable to rectify deficiencies
- Examines the success of the remedial actions
- Outcome evaluations describe the effectiveness of the Drug Court in the context of its adherence to best practices.





**THE PROCESS**



# WHAT IS OUR IMPACT?

- Understanding what distinguishes effective Drug Courts from ineffective and harmful Drug Courts is now an essential goal for the field.
- Some Drug Courts reduce crime-50%
- Some have no impact
- Some increase crime rates
- Without monitoring and evaluation of adherence to the standards there is no way to know which your drug court is doing.



# IN-PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Continually monitors participants outcomes during enrollment in the program
- Data collected- attendance at scheduled appointments, drug and alcohol test results, graduation rates, lengths of stay, and in-program violations and new arrest





# CRIMINAL RECIDIVISM

- What is recidivism?
- Arrest?
- Conviction?
- Incarceration?
- Classification of crime? Felony, Misdemeanor, Summary,
- Nature of crime- drug offense, property and theft offenses, violent offenses, technical, prostitution and traffic offenses.



# INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR

- Blind Spots
- Expertise in evaluating the data, comparison groups and able to produce valid and reliable results.
- Participant's perception
- How often?
  - Program or environment have a substantial change
  - Staff turnover or evidence of drift
  - This typically means at least every 5 years



# SELECTION OF EVALUATOR

- Ask for referrals
- Read prior evaluation reports
- Did that report recommend concrete actions for the Drug Court to take to enhance adherence to the best practice
- What about \$-
  - Look to universities- students may be interested as a part of a thesis, dissertation or capstone project.
  - Oversight and supervision from an senior academic faculty so can receive high level research expertise at minimal or no cost.



# HISTORICALLY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST GROUPS

- Racial and ethnic minority individuals are underrepresented in some Drug Courts and have lower graduation rates.
- Drug Courts have an affirmative obligation to determine whether racial and ethnic minority individuals and member of other discriminated groups are being disproportionately burdened or excluded from their programs.
- If so take reasonable corrective action and evaluate the success of the corrective actions.



# NOT KNOWING IS NOT AN EXCUSE

- Not knowing if your Drug Court is disproportionately burdening disadvantaged groups is itself a violation of best practice standards.
- Local courts can gather some data easily such as graduation rates between different racial groups.
- An experienced evaluator and university faculty are likely to be familiar with this literature and know how to perform these types of analysis. They can determine things such as equal access.

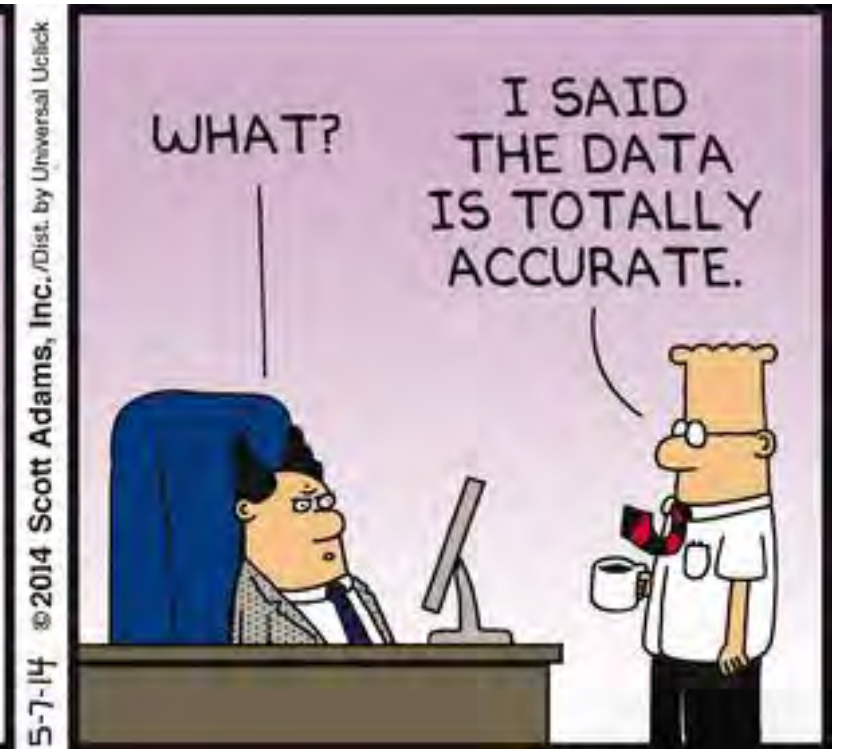


# ELECTRONIC DATABASE

- Case Management system?
- Drug Courts 65% more cost-effective when they enter standardized information concerning their services and outcomes into an electronic management information system which is capable of generating automated summary reports.



# TIMELY AND RELIABLE DATA ENTRY



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# **TIMELY AND RELIABLE DATA ENTRY**

- Best is to enter when it occurs or “real-time recording
- Total recall?
- No more than 48 hours, after that errors in data entry have been shown to increase significantly
- Staff members that are persistently tardy when entering data pose a serious threat to the integrity of a Drug Court.





## INTENT-TO-TREAT ANALYSIS

- Outcomes only for participants who graduated successfully from the program. This unfairly and falsely inflates the apparent success of the program.
- Must include all eligible individuals who participated in the Drug Court regardless of whether they graduated, were terminated, or withdrew from the program.
- In other words, examines outcomes for all individuals whom the program initially set out to treat.



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**COMPARISON  
GROUP**

# COMPARISON GROUP

- The mere fact that someone performed well after participating in Drug Court does not prove the Drug Court was responsible for their favorable outcomes.
- They might have functioned just as well if they had never entered Drug Court.
- This is why a reasonably unbiased comparison group can yield a fair and accurate assessment of what would most likely have occurred without Drug Court.
- Multiple ways to approach identifying a comparison group. An experienced evaluator can help determine what is feasible with your program.



# TIME AT RISK

- To be valid, Drug Court and comparison participants must have the same time at risk, meaning the same opportunity to engage in substance abuse, crime and other behaviors of interest to the evaluation.
- Example measuring criminal recidivism for 12 months on Drug Court participants and 24 months for the comparison group. This would give unfair advantage to Drug Court group.





**QUESTIONS?**