


**New Mexico Problem-Solving Courts:
Best Practices Assessment
Statewide Summary**

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Background of project

In January 2015, the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) contracted with NPC Research to perform a variety of activities including drug court fidelity and certification, including a best practices assessment of New Mexico's problem-solving courts.

All 49 problem solving-solving courts in the state participated.



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Who is NPC Research?


- NPC Research is a private research and evaluation firm based in Portland, Oregon
- Vision: Informing Policy, Improving Programs to Enrich People's Lives
- In the past 20 years, NPC has completed over 250 drug court evaluations and research studies nationally
- Adult, Juvenile, DWI/DUI, Reentry, Mental Health, Veterans and Family Treatment Courts



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Background of assessment


- Assessment activities included administration of an electronic assessment of all problem-solving court sites in New Mexico.
- The online assessment examined the extent to which the problem-solving courts are implementing the 10 Key Components of Drug Courts as well as the national drug court best practice standards.



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Online Assessment


- Who is on the team?
- Who attends team meetings (staffings)?
- Who attends status review hearings?
- How often do status review hearings happen?
- How frequently do participants have drug tests?
- What kind of treatment and other services are provided?
- How many participants have entered the program? How many graduates?



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After Assessment

- Reviewed each individual assessment for completeness and illogical answers
- Follow-up phone calls and emails with each site to gather missing answers and check on illogical results
- Analyzed best practices results




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Best Practices

- Looked at 101 drug courts around the nation (detailed process studies/10 KC)
- 69 included recidivism and cost evaluations

(About 15% of these had either no effect or increased recidivism and costs)

- In total, this study included 32,719 individuals (16,317 drug court participants and 16,402 comparison group members).



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Best Practices

- Purpose was to translate the 10KC into practical application – specific drug court practices
- What are the best drug courts doing?

Found over 50 practices that were related to significantly lower recidivism or lower costs or both

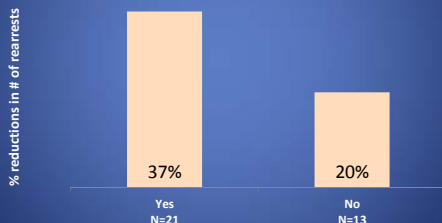
Many of these were eventually incorporated into NADCP's Best Practice Standards



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Drug courts that used program evaluations to make modifications in drug court operations had **85% greater reductions in recidivism**

The results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations



| Response | N | % reductions in # of rearrests |
|----------|----|--------------------------------|
| Yes | 21 | 37% |
| No | 13 | 20% |

Note: Difference is significant at $p < .10$



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New Mexico Results



www.VADLO.com

"Data don't make any sense, we will have to resort to statistics."

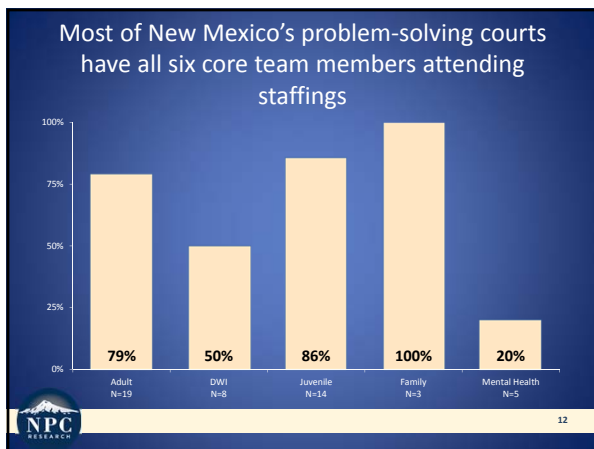


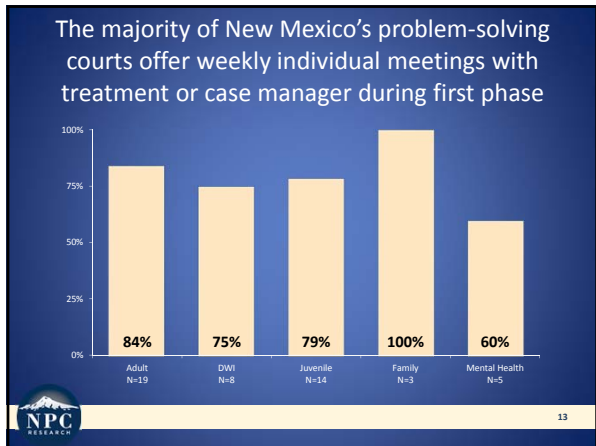
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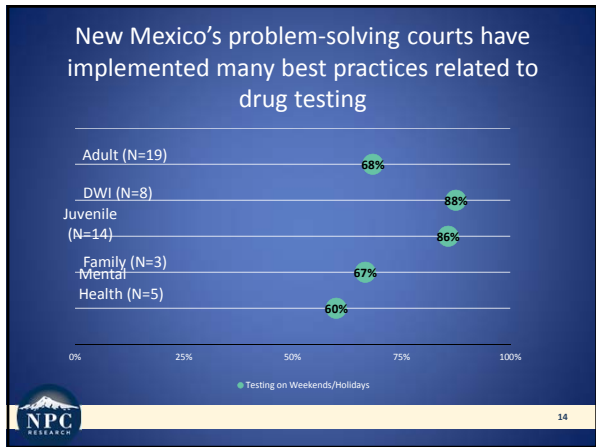
Commendations



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- New Mexico's problem-solving courts benefit from judicial leadership
- 96% of programs have status reviews at least every 2 weeks in the first phase
 - 84% have reviews at least monthly during the last phase
 - 94% of judges spend an average of 3 minutes or greater per participant
 - 80% of programs have voluntary judges, including all family and mental health courts
- NPC RESEARCH 15

Additional New Mexico Best Practices


- Most programs:
 - ✓ Include non-drug charges
 - ✓ Have participant handbooks
 - ✓ Work with a single treatment provider
 - ✓ Incorporate evidence-based treatment models
 - ✓ Use licensed treatment providers
- All programs completed the BP assessment



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Additional New Mexico Best Practices

- Most programs:
 - ✓ Utilize a statewide case management system
 - ✓ Last a minimum of 12 months
 - ✓ Have incentives for program completion
 - ✓ Conduct status reviews every 2 weeks in the first phase
 - ✓ Provide an average of at least 3 minutes per participant of interaction with the judge

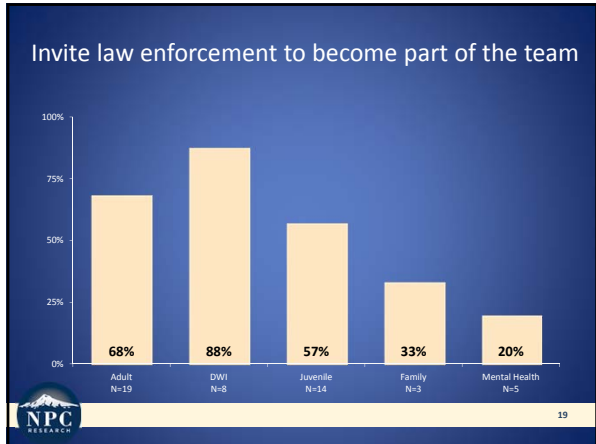


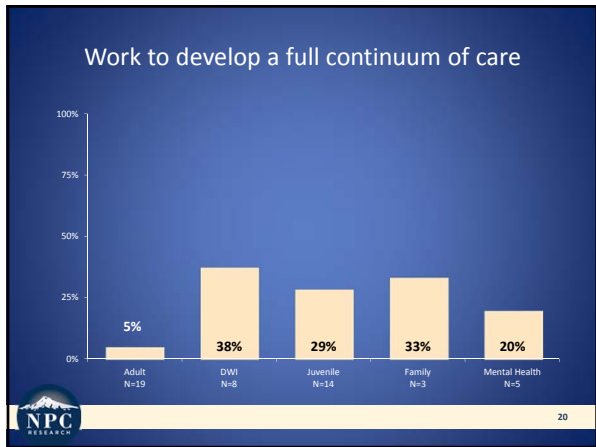
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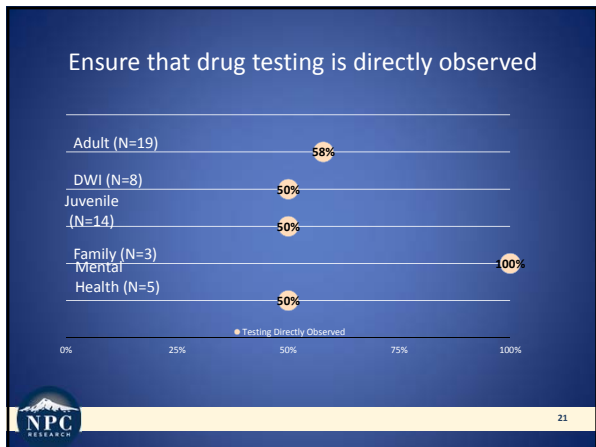
Recommendations

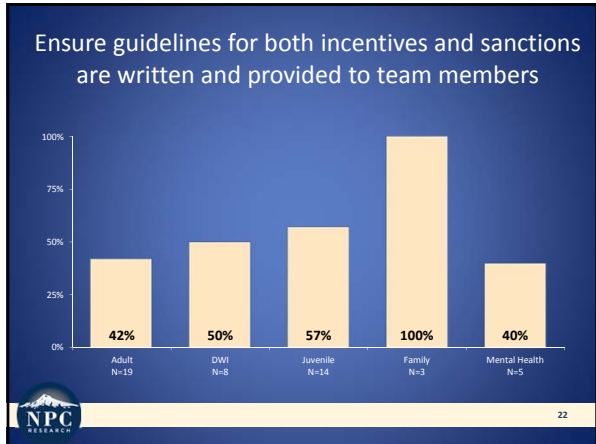


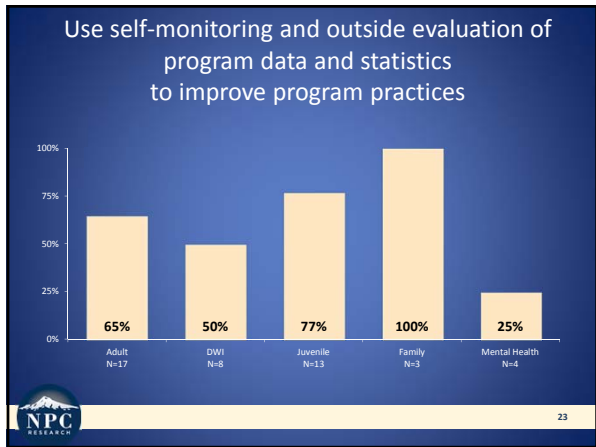
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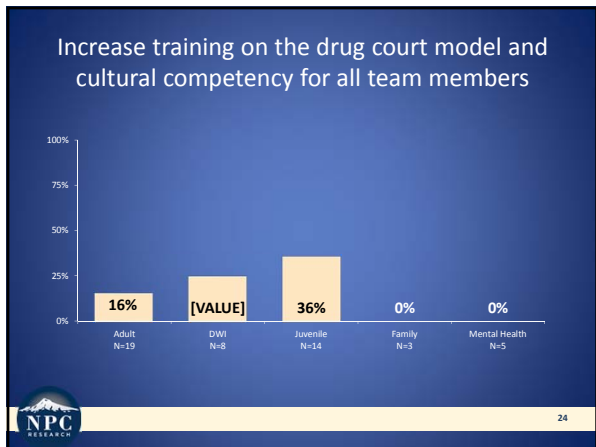










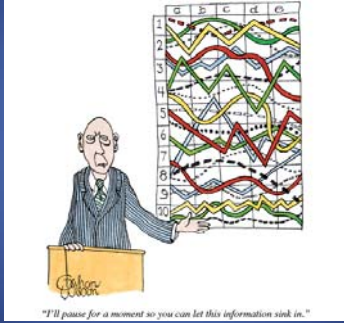


Summary

- NM is following many best practices
- Programs differ in the best practices they have implemented
- Results of the assessment provide information for your individual program as well as for the state as a whole
- There are patterns at the state level regarding areas of strengths and areas for improvement
- This information will help shape TA and training offered
- Make sure to ask questions if you need clarification or help implementing any of the best practices



Questions or Comments?



Acknowledgements

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