

WHERE JUSTICE & TREATMENT MEET: DRUG COURTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Ira Packer, PhD, Professor

UMMS Law & Psychiatry Program & Center of Excellence for
Specialty Courts

The Honorable Mary Hogan-Sullivan,
Director of Specialty Courts, MA Trial Court

Gina M. Vincent, PhD, Associate Professor
UMMS Law & Psychiatry Program & CoE

Outline

- Define the drug court model
- Involvement of UMMS
- Characteristics of drug courts in Massachusetts
 - *Participants*
 - *Courts' needs from providers*
- Effectiveness of drug courts & the risk management approach

Therapeutic Jurisprudence

- TERM DEVELOPED BY LAW PROFESSORS DAVID WEXLER AND BRUCE WINICK
- FOCUSED ON HOW LEGAL PROCEDURES AND ACTORS CAN HAVE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THOSE BEFORE THE COURT
- SPECIALTY COURTS (OR PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS) REPRESENT AN EXPANSION OF THE TJ CONCEPT
- THESE COURTS ARE PART OF A CONTINUUM OF APPROACHES TO HAVING COURTS ADDRESS PROBLEMS SUCH AS DRUGS AND MENTAL ILLNESS

Problem-Solving Courts

■ COMMON ELEMENTS:

- *TRY TO RESOLVE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS*
- *WITH AIM OF REDUCING RECIDIVISM*
- *MORE COOPERATIVE, LESS ADVERSARIAL **BUT** MINDFUL OF LEGAL RIGHTS*
- *APPRECIATION OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AS DISORDERS,*
- *REQUIRES COORDINATION WITH TREATMENT PROVIDERS*
- ***ONLY AS EFFECTIVE AS THE AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY OF SERVICES***

Problem-Solving Courts Currently in Massachusetts

- DRUG COURTS
 - 29 (3 JUVENILE, 1 FAMILY)

- MENTAL HEALTH COURTS
 - 7

- VETERANS COURTS
 - 5

UMMS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR SPECIALTY COURTS

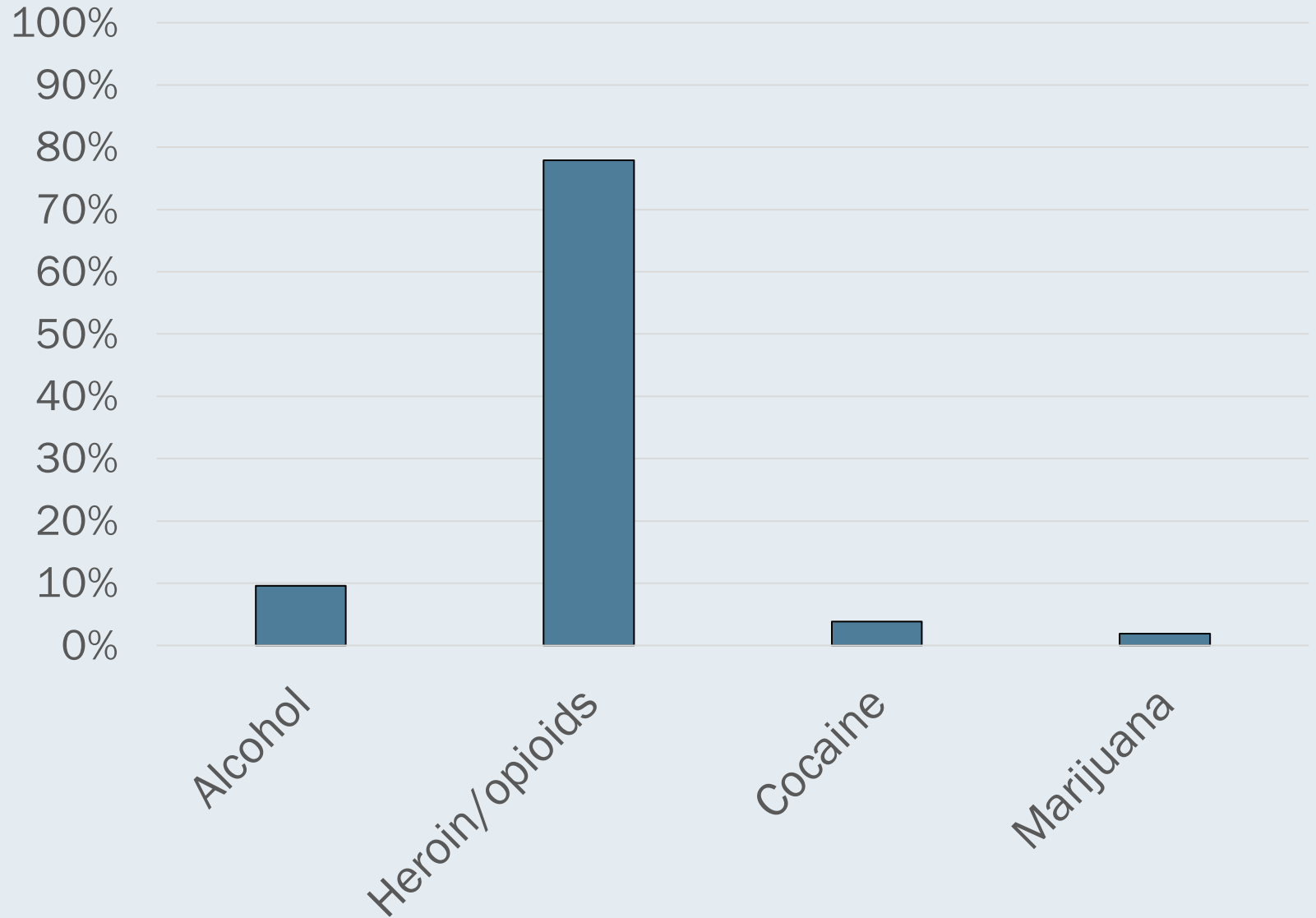
Role of the CoE

- EOTC HAS CONTRACTED WITH UMASS MEDICAL SCHOOL LAW AND PSYCHIATRY PROGRAM

- THE CENTER'S ROLE IS TO SUPPORT THE EOTC IN EXPANDING AND IMPROVING SPECIALTY COURTS
 - *RESEARCH*
 - *EVALUATION*
 - *TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE*
 - *CERTIFICATION*
 - *LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE REVIEW*
 - *WEBSITE - WWW.MACOE.ORG*

DRUG COURTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Primary Drug of Choice



EFFECTIVENESS OF DRUG COURTS

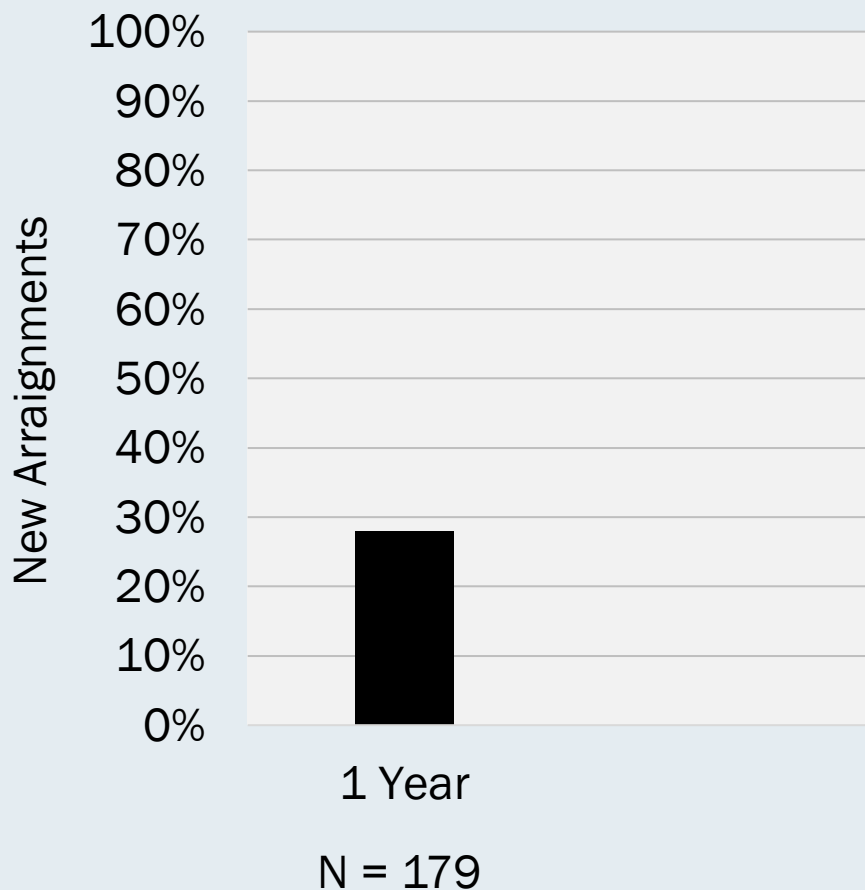
Meta-Analytic Evidence for Drug Courts

- Mitchell et al. (2012)
 - *92 adult drug court evaluations*
 - *Only 25% with rigorous designs*
- Average effect on reoffending – OR = 1.66*
 - *Lowers recidivism by 50% to 38% on average*
 - *Effects lasting up to 3 years*
- Average effect on drug use – OR = 1.45 (ns)
 - *Few studies have examined relapse (k = 4)*
- Usefulness varies by risk level of the participant

MA Drug Court Outcomes

New Arraignments for Graduates

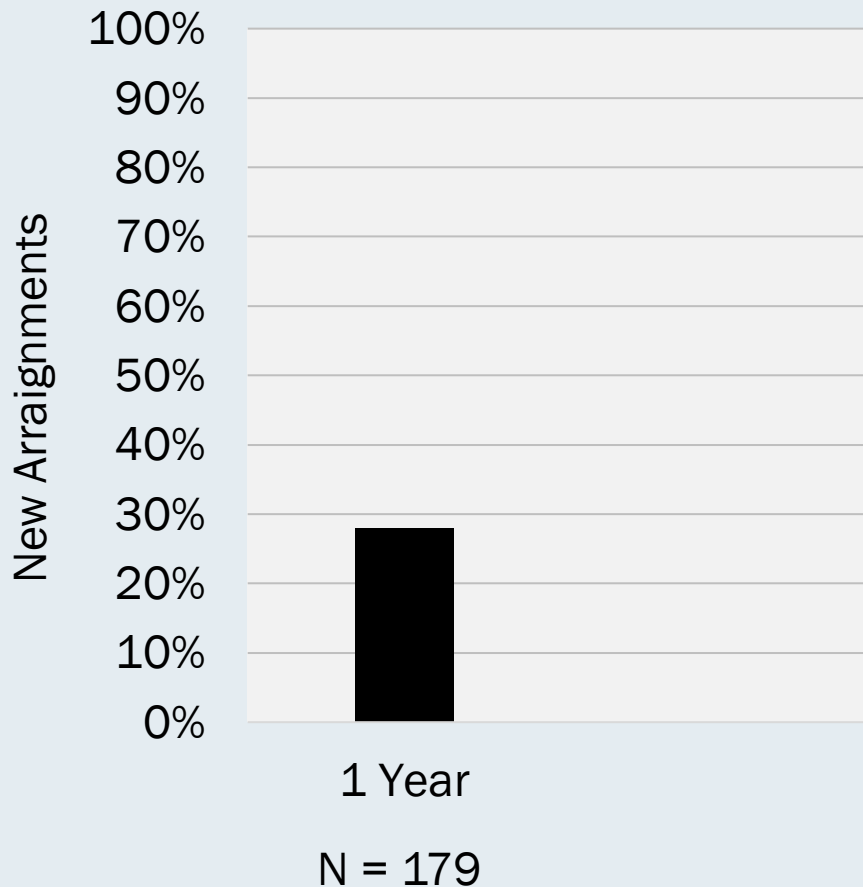
Recidivism Rate of Graduates



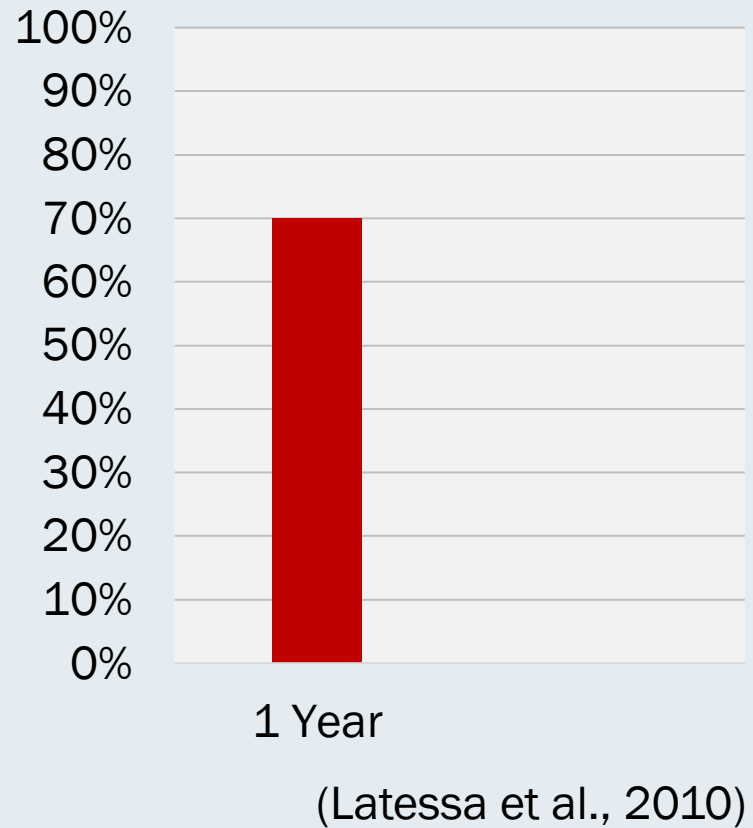
MA Drug Court Outcomes

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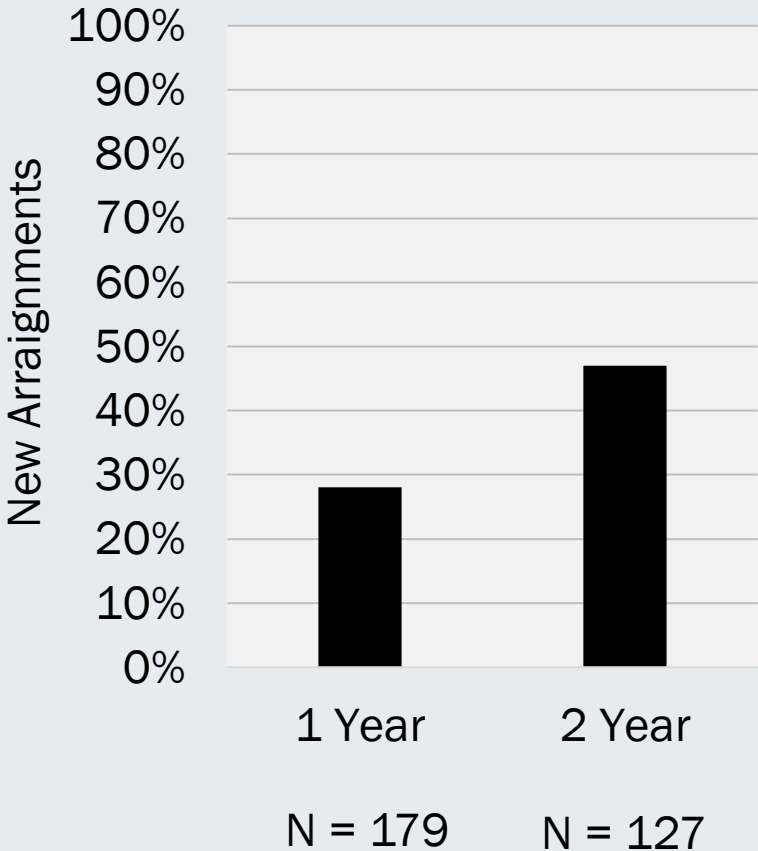
Average Recidivism Rate for High-Risk Male Offenders from Other Studies



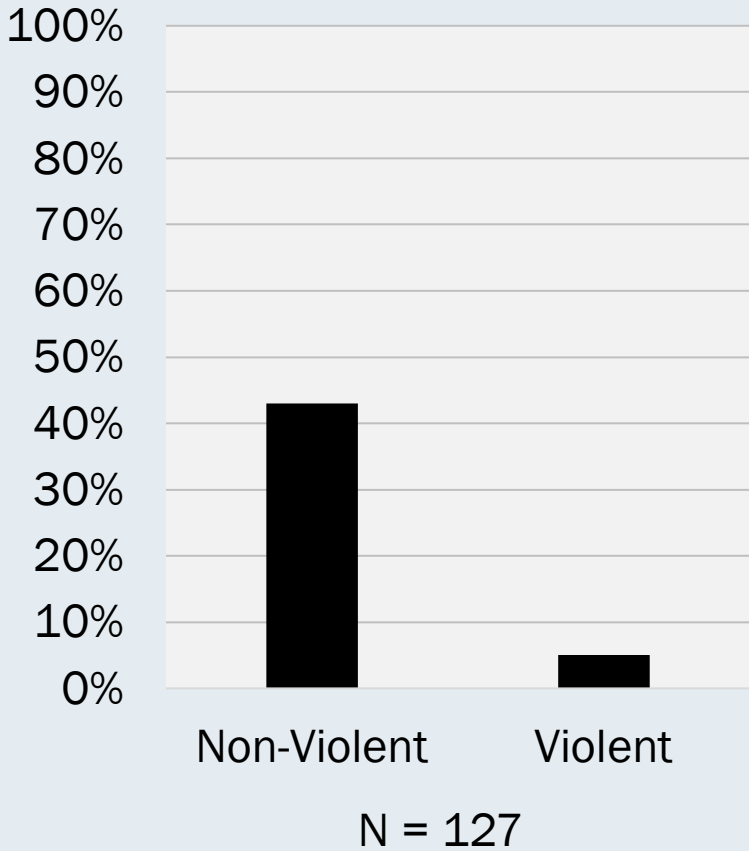
MA Drug Court Outcomes

New Arraignments for Graduates

Recidivism Rate of Graduates



Type of Arraignments - 2-year



Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) Effective Case/Risk Management

Risk

- *Match the intensity of the intervention with one's level of risk for re-offending*
- *The "Who"*

Need

- *Target the individual's criminogenic needs for intervention*
- *The "What"*

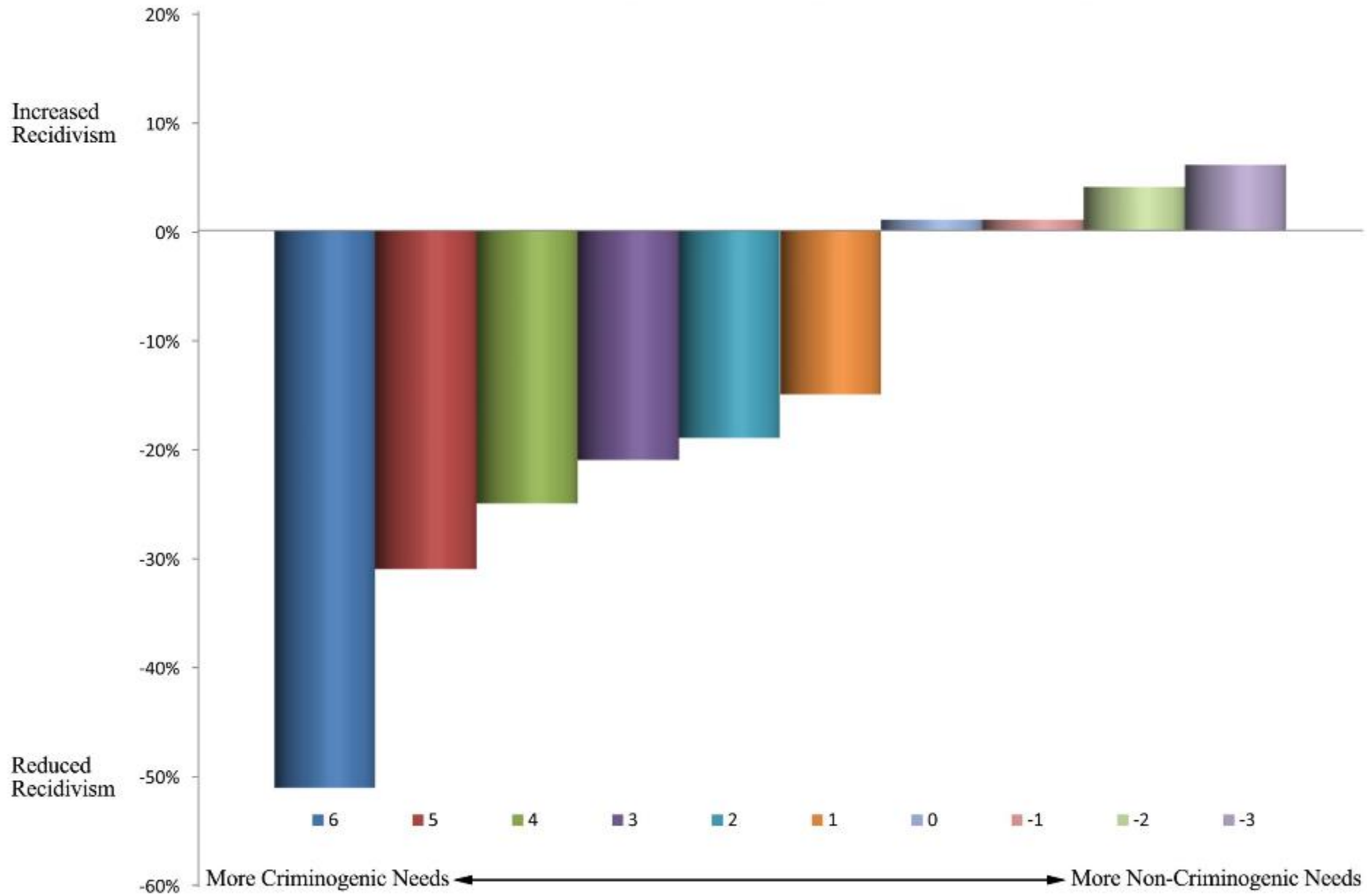
Central Criminogenic Needs

Domains
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="266 511 1251 568">1. Antisocial Personality<li data-bbox="266 582 1251 639">2. Antisocial Cognitions/Attitudes<li data-bbox="266 654 1251 711">3. Antisocial Associates<li data-bbox="266 725 1251 782">4. Substance Abuse<li data-bbox="266 796 1251 853">5. Family/Marital Relationships<li data-bbox="266 868 1251 925">6. Employment/Education<li data-bbox="266 939 1251 996">7. Lack of Prosocial Rec Activities

Emphasis in
drug courts

Most crucial
to recidivism

Recidivism outcomes in targeting criminogenic vs. non-criminogenic needs



(Andrews et al., 1999; Carey, 2011; Dowden, 1998)

Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) Effective Case/Risk Management

Risk

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- *The "Who"*

Need

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Responsivity

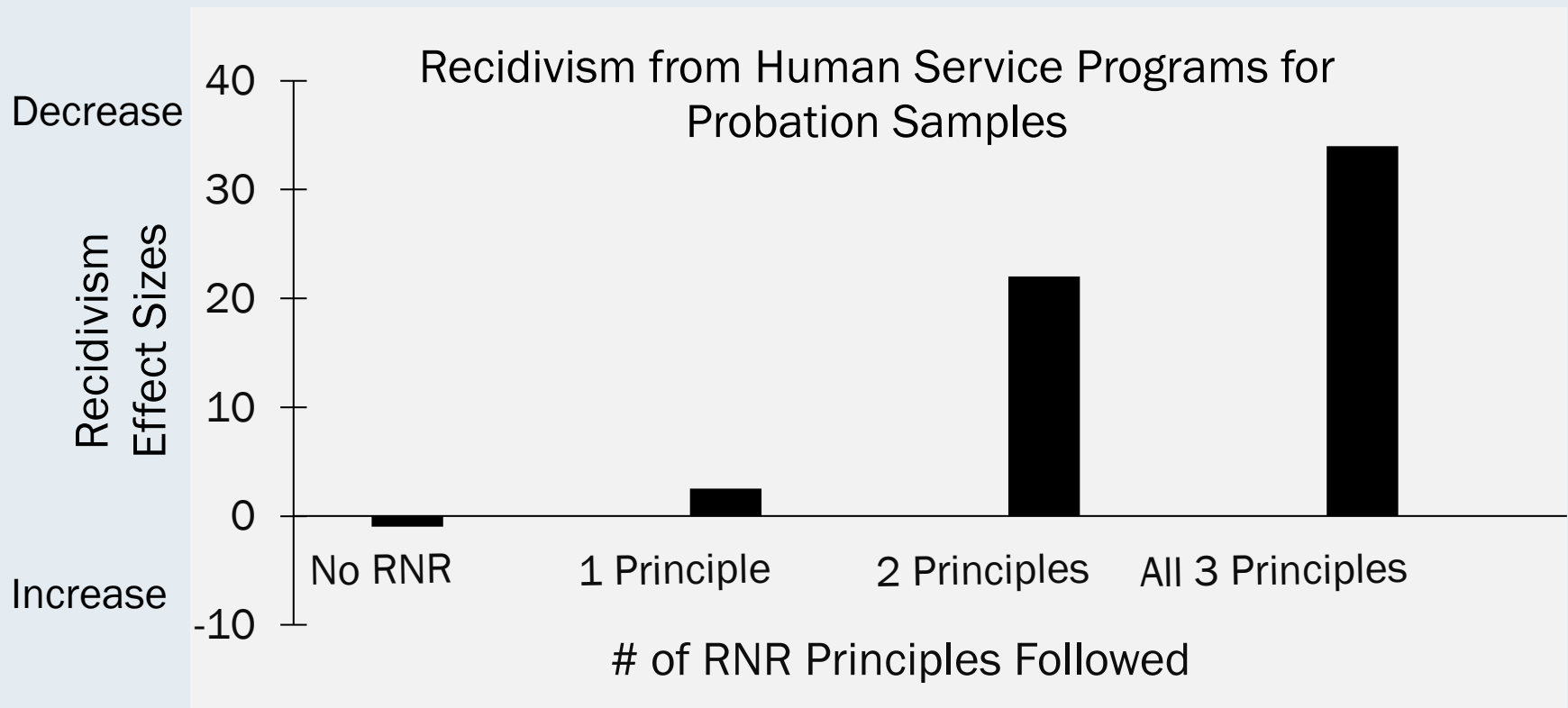
- *Match the mode & strategies of services with individual characteristics that would affect treatment response*
- *The "How"*

Research Evidence: Relevance of Mental Health

- *Treatment of criminogenic needs/risk has a larger impact on reoffending than mental health-related treatments (Skeem et al., 2011)*
- *BUT, presence of a mental health problem also is related to higher levels of criminogenic needs/risk (Schubert et al., 2011)*

Message: Treat both the mental health and the criminogenic needs

Research Evidence for RNR From > 370 Studies



of studies (k) = 374 ; ES = .56

(Andrews & Bonta, 2010)

Conclusions

- Drug courts combine a treatment philosophy with accountability
- Drug courts are effective for reducing recidivism
- Partnerships with clinicians/providers are crucial for success
- These partnerships should attend to BOTH behavioral health concerns AND criminogenic needs to most effectively manage risk