

# Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts: National Survey and Latest Research

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# Introduction

- Background about panelists
- Background about NPC and TLPI
- What this session will cover



# What do we know so far?

- What are the practices and procedures in Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts?
- How do different cultures impact policies and procedures?
- Do Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts reduce recidivism?
- What are the cost impacts?



# Gottlieb Process/Outcome Study, 2005

- Successes: Started with committed and caring teams, training, holistic approach, spiritual component, structure for participants – increased self-esteem and accountability, some participants turned lives around



# Gottlieb Process/Outcome Study, 2005

- Challenges: maintaining participation by non-court team members, communication with treatment, clarity with participants about program requirements, inconsistent sanction application, non-intensive monitoring/supervision



# Gottlieb Study: Lessons Learned

- Develop a strong structure for your wellness court – build team based on roles
- Use informed consent process with participants
- Integrate cultural tradition into treatment but be careful to be sensitive to different religions



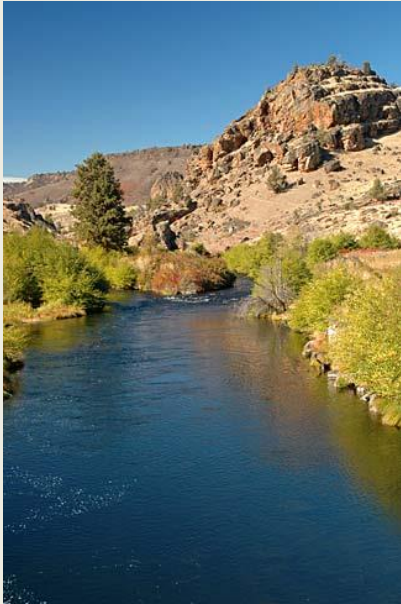


# Gottlieb Study: Lessons Learned

- Monitor participants during peak hours and conduct testing frequently/at unexpected times
- Reward compliant behaviors with incentives
- Minimize use of non-therapeutic sanctions
- Choose judge who understands and practices wellness court philosophy



# Gottlieb Study: Lessons Learned



- Begin systematic and automated data collection from Day 1
- Develop wellness court handbook for the staff
- Emphasize early outreach with the community



# NPC 10 Key Component Review, 2010

- Conducted assessment, site visit, interviews, observations, and consultation with experts
- THWCs can align with 10 KC of drug courts & best practices, as well as be culturally specific
- Tribes face some of the same challenges as other collaborations; they also have their own



# NPC Process, Outcome, and Cost Study, 2014

- Process evaluation
  - MOU between Tribal Court and County
  - Good communication between team members
  - Coordination of treatment within 2 primary agencies



# NPC Process, Outcome, and Cost Study, 2014

- Process evaluation
  - Specialized drug testing with rapid turnaround time
  - Written guidelines
  - Good coordination of team response to behavior
  - Focus on positive participant behaviors



# NPC Process, Outcome, and Cost Study, 2014

- Process evaluation
  - Judges spend more than 3 minutes per participant
  - Culturally specific groups and activities
  - Culturally specific treatment (on reservation)

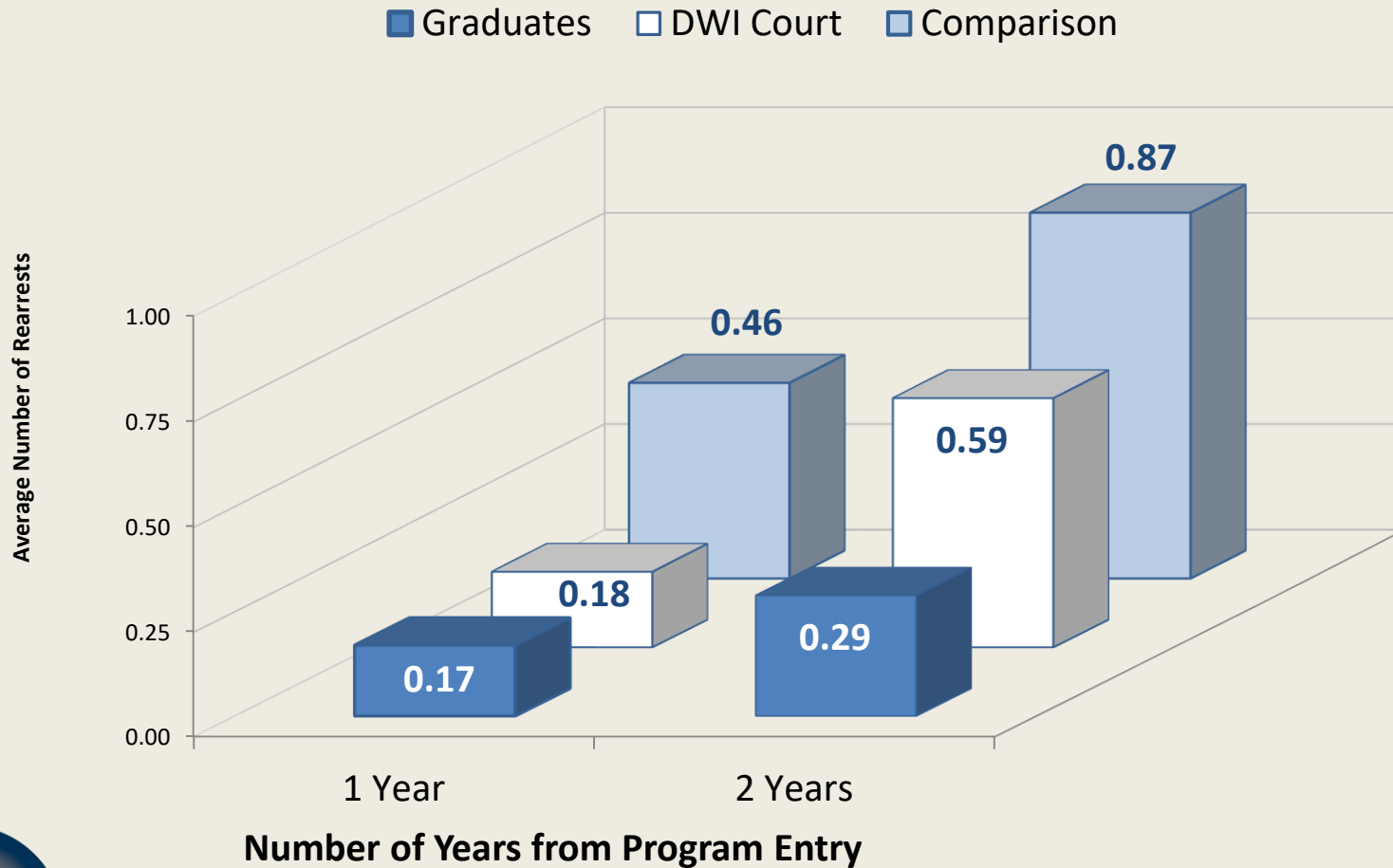


# Outcome Study



- Comparison group
- Program group had significantly fewer arrests both 1 year (65% fewer) and 2 years (33% fewer) after program entry
- Program group had significantly longer time before being rearrested (21 months compared to 18 months)

# Program Participants Had Fewer Rearrests over 2 Years



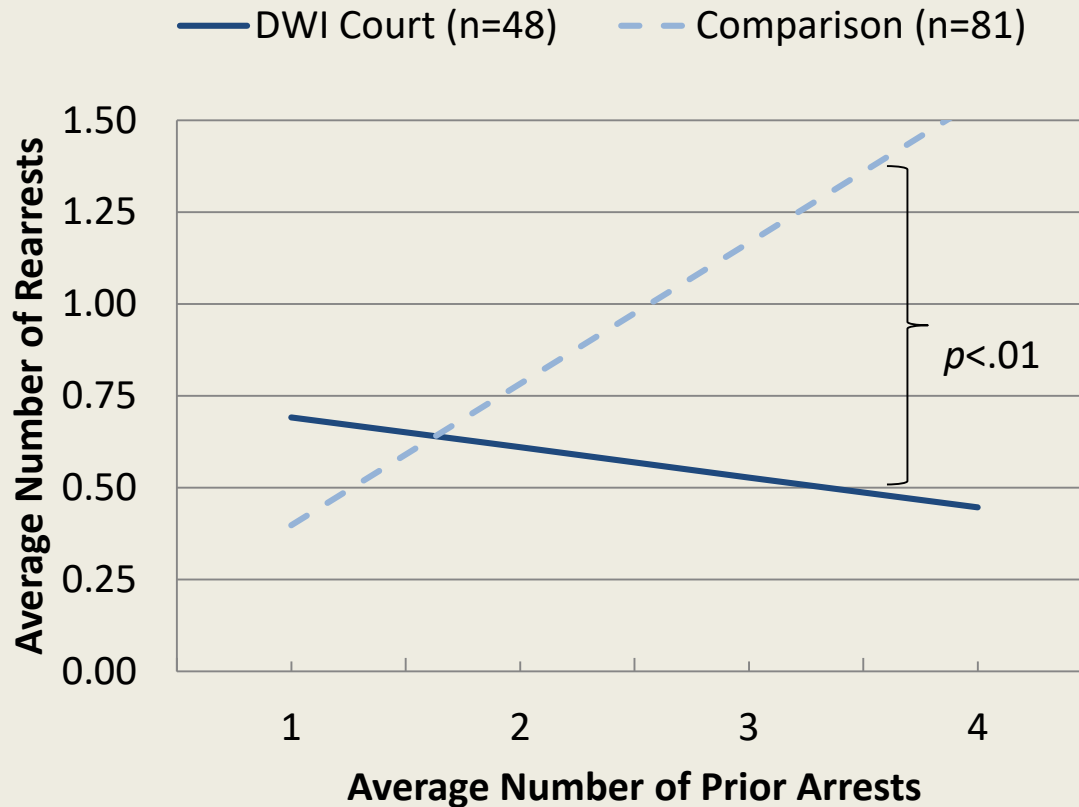


# Outcomes

- High-risk/high-need participants benefitted the most – they had better outcomes compared to the comparison group
- Low-risk people had slightly worse outcomes compared to the comparison group
- Graduation rate was 65%



# Average Number of Rearrests by Number of Prior Arrests at 2 Years

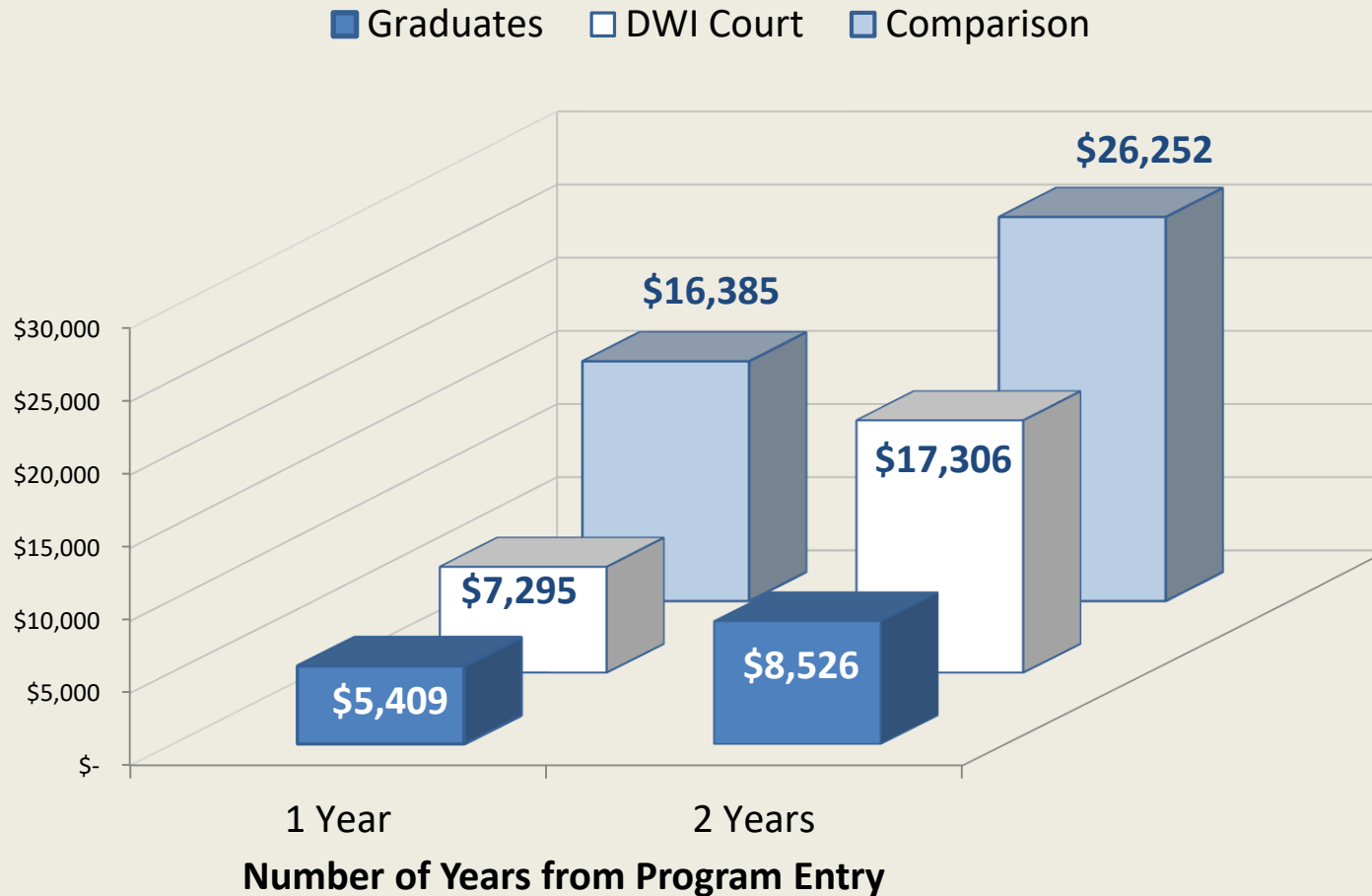


# Cost Study

- Program investment was \$19,710 per participant
- Cost benefit due to reduced recidivism: \$8,946
- Projected for 3 more years, savings would be \$22,365 per participant



# Program Participants Cost the System Less Over 2 Years



# For further information

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