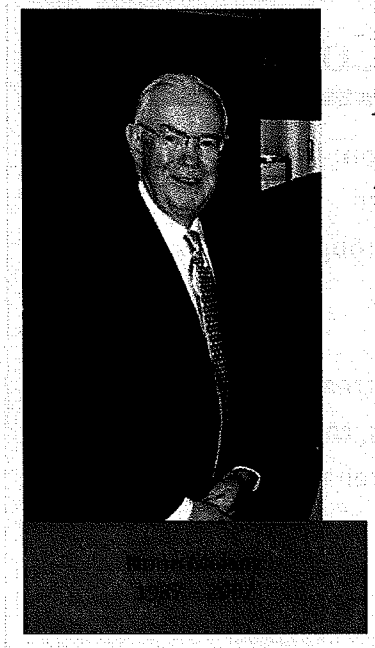
Department of Judicial Administration
Superior Court Clerk's Office

Presentation:
King County Drug Court

Regional Law, Safety and Justice Committee
January 27, 2011

Presented by: Mary Taylor, Program Manager,
King County Drug Court



Drug addiction is a great human tragedy.

Drug addiction ruins lives, imperils families and children, and tears apart communities.

Any discussion of drug abuse policy must begin with this truism and avoid academic responses that do not consider the human cost of drug addiction.

From Beyond the "War"
Using the Criminal Justice System to Bring Addicts Into Treatment

Presented to the 2001 Washington State Legislature
King County Prosecuting Attorney
Norm Maleng, 2001

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Today's Presentation

Overview of Adult Drug Court:

- Definition, Process, Program Statistics

Changes:

- Eligibility Criteria, Demographics, Population

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What is a Drug Court?

Drug courts can be defined by their mission:

To alter criminal behavior and promote abstinence from drugs and alcohol through the use of:

- Judicial supervision
- Different levels and modalities of treatment
- Drug testing, incentives, sanctions, case management
- Coordinated and comprehensive rehabilitative services

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In King County

- Adult Drug Court Implemented in 1994
- 12th drug court in the U.S.
- Felony Pre-adjudication Model
- Cases Filed in King County Superior Court

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Drug Court Structure

Managed by the Department of Judicial Administration

Drug Court Team Includes

- Superior Court Judge
- Prosecutor
- Public Defenders (ACA)
- Treatment and administrative staff (DJA)
- Housing Case Managers (DJA)
- Seattle Police Liaison Detective

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Governance

- The Drug Court Executive Committee provides oversight of the program and is responsible for setting major policy regarding the Drug Court.

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The Drug Court Executive Committee is comprised of representatives from:

- **Superior Court**
- **Judicial Administration**
- **Office of the Prosecuting Attorney**
- **Office of Public Defense**
- **County Council**
- **County Executive**
- **Adult and Juvenile Detention**
- **Community and Human Services Department**
- **Sheriff's Office**
- **Seattle Police Department**
- **HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area)**

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Drug Court Process

- Prosecuting attorney screens cases for drug court eligibility
- Case referred to drug court for arraignment
- If defendant chooses to try out drug court, begins treatment within one week
- One to four months later, defendant "opts-in" to drug court or takes case mainstream

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For a minimum of 10 months after opt-in:

- Attend treatment sessions
- Undergo 2 monitored and random drug tests per week
- Attend 3 sober support groups per week
- Appear before the drug court judge every 2 to 6 weeks

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If successful:

Participant graduates

Charge is dismissed

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If unsuccessful

Participant is terminated from Drug Court and sentenced on original charge

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Changes in Eligibility Criteria

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KC Drug Court Eligibility Criteria

- **1994-2001:** VUCSA Possession heroin + cocaine

Additions:

- **2001:** "Facilitators" – people who set up the deal
- **2003:** Other Class C Felonies TMV, etc.
- **2003:** Kent Calendar
- **2004:** Delivery Cases .5 grams or less only

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Recent Changes in Eligibility Criteria Include:

October 2008:

- Possession cases of less than three grams no longer filed in Superior Court (filed as misdemeanors in District Court) after FADS no longer eligible
- Increase in amount of drugs allowed in possession with intent to deliver and delivery cases 3 grams + $850

November 2010:

- Possession cases of less than three grams again eligible for drug court, if case is prison range
- Further increase in amount of drugs allowed in possession with intent and delivery cases 7 grams + $700

January has been very busy as a result

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Changes In Population

- Decrease in Referrals
- Increase in Young Adults
- Increase in Unemployment
- Increase in Marijuana and Decrease in Heroin and Crack Cocaine as First Choice of Drug

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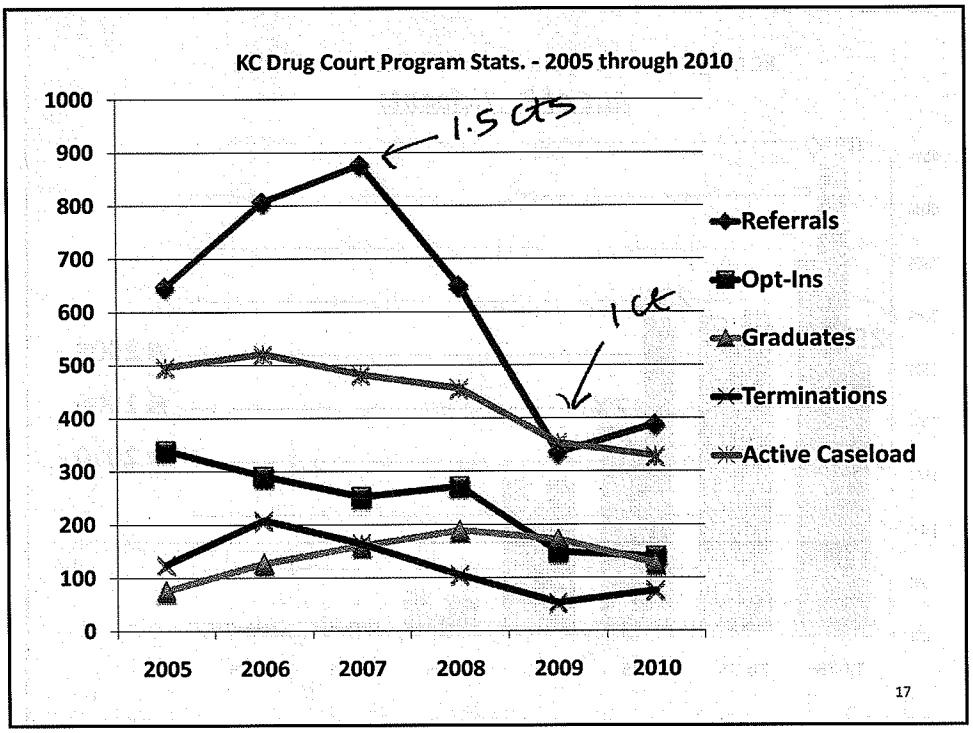
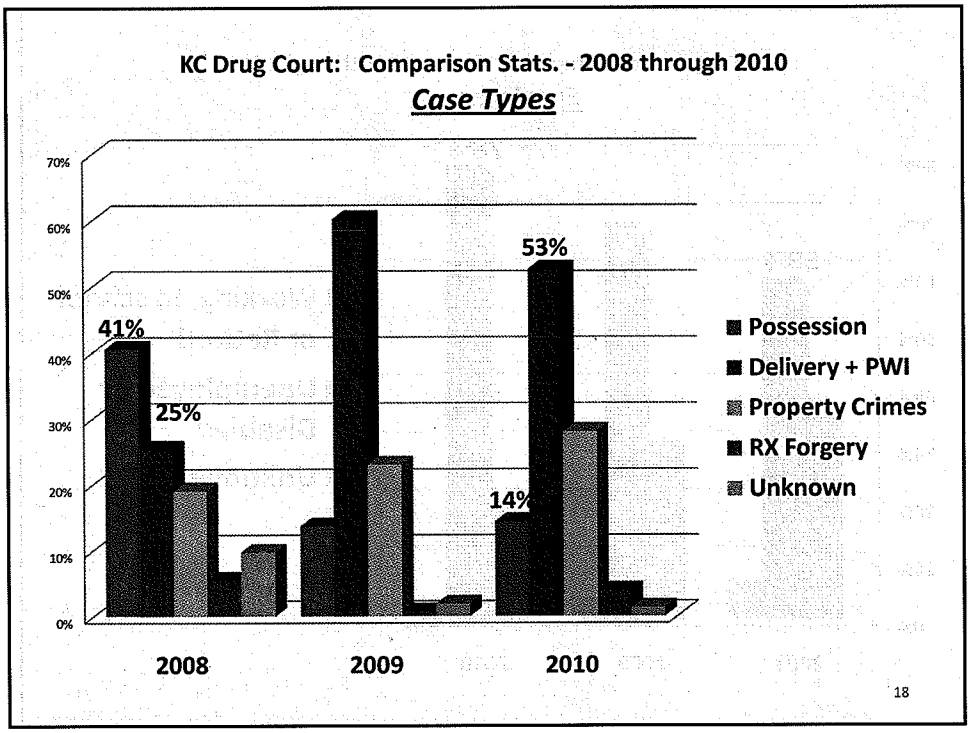
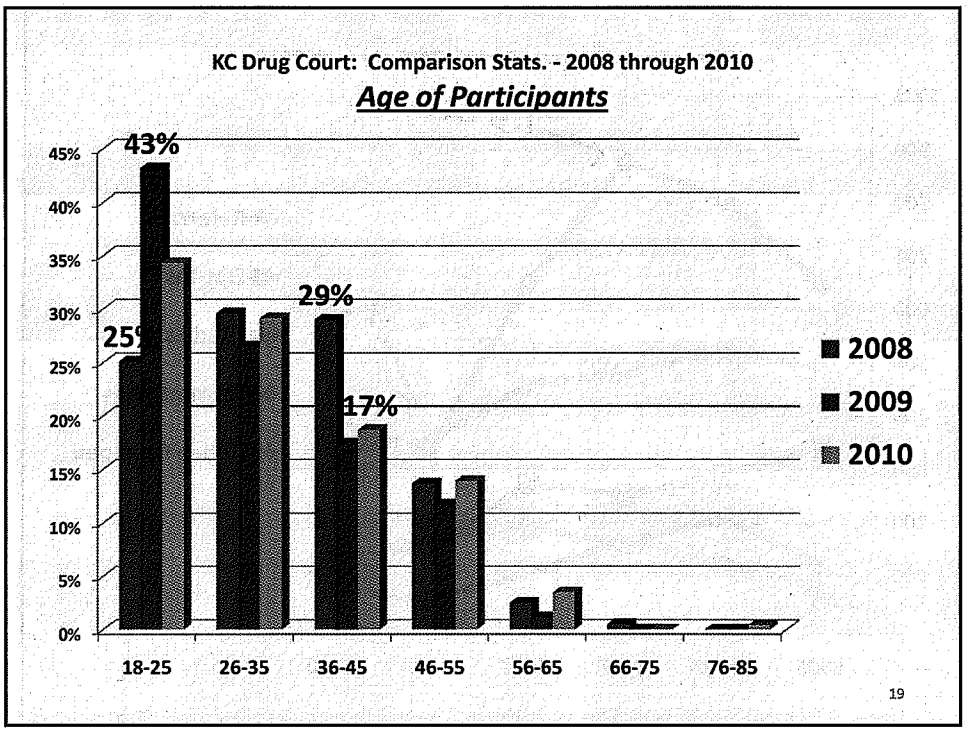
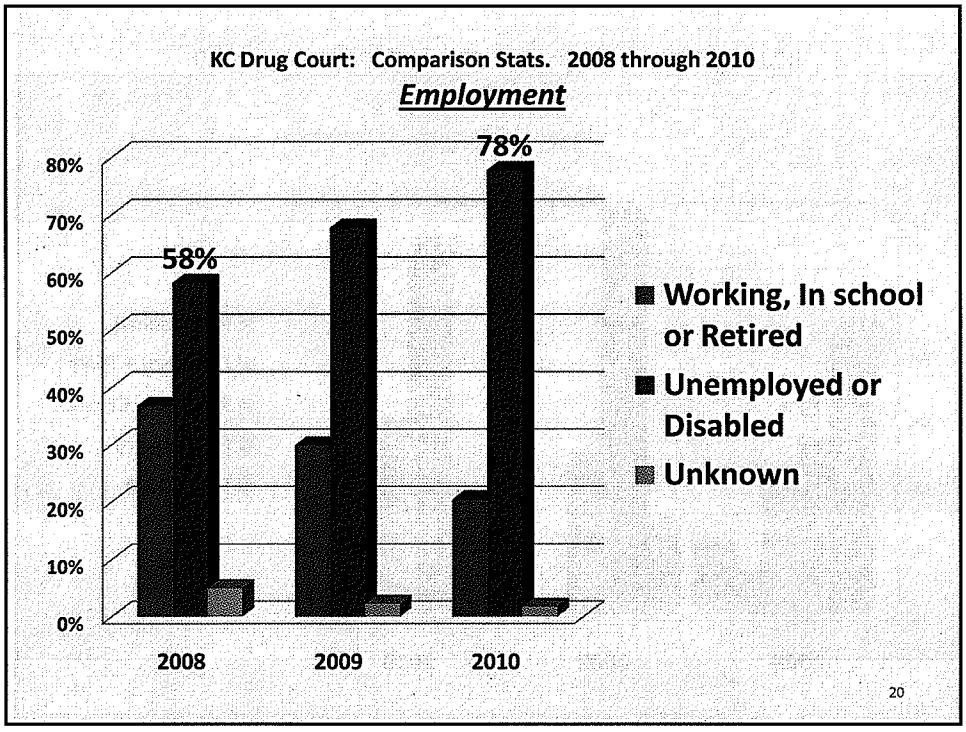
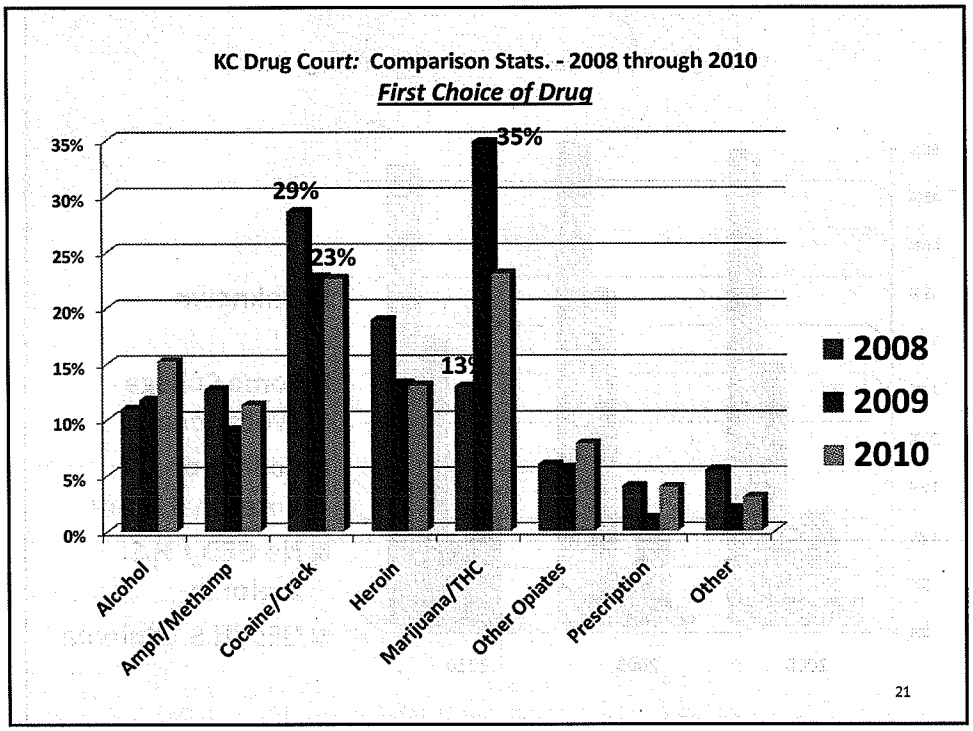
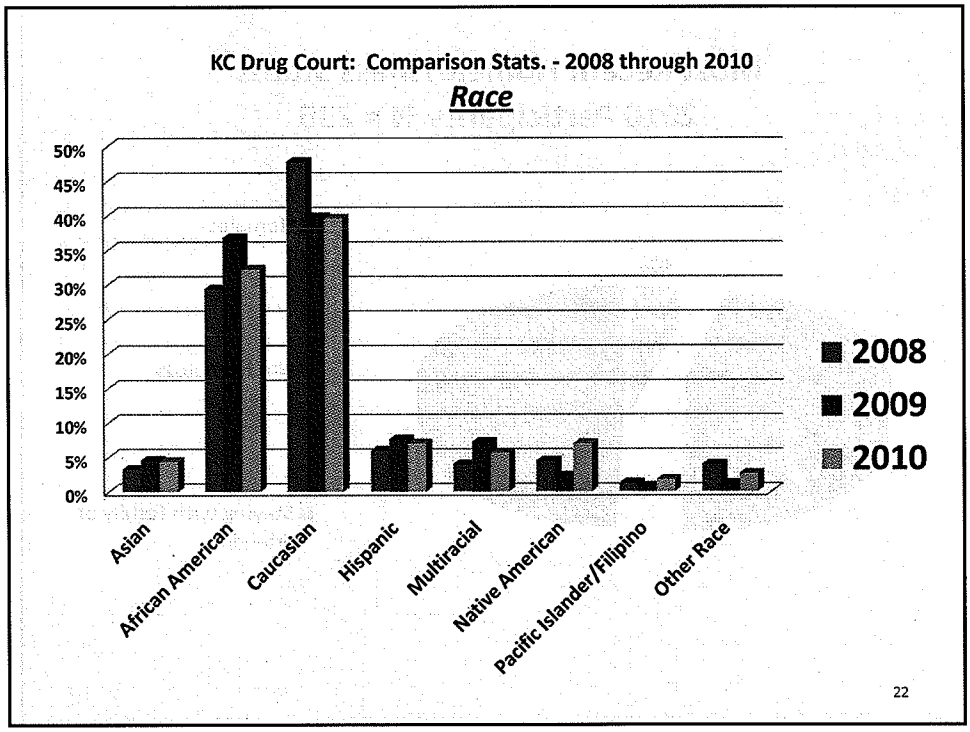

KC Drug Court Program Stats. - 2005 through 2010
1000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
Referrals
Opt-Ins
Graduates
Terminations
Active Caseload
1.5 cts
1 ct
17

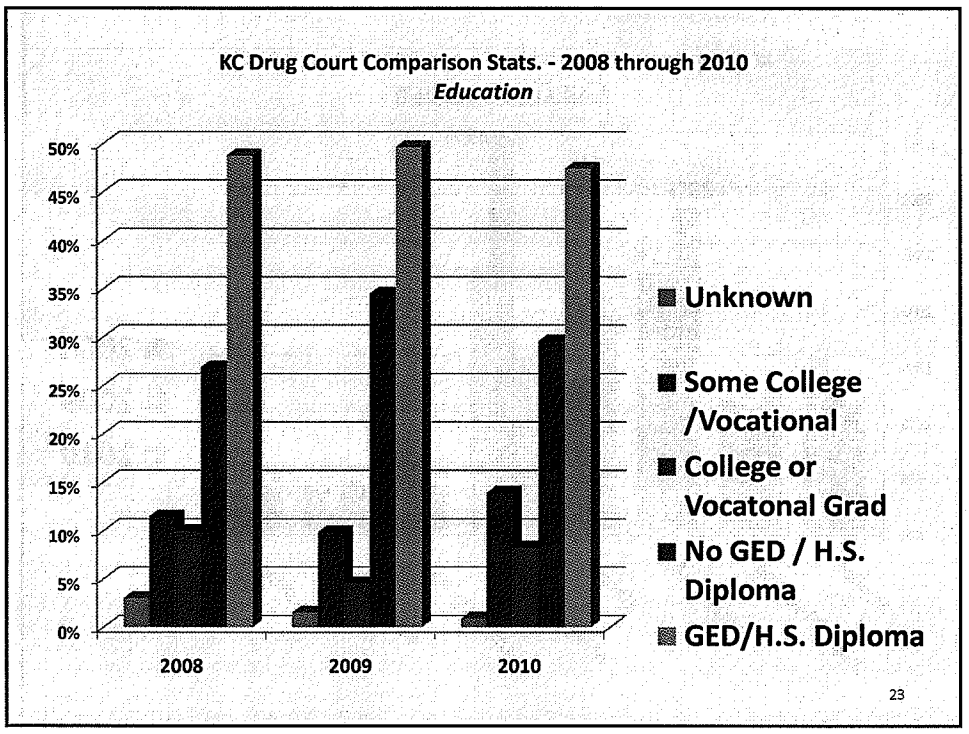

KC Drug Court: Comparison Stats. - 2008 through 2010
Case Types
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
41%
25%
53%
14%
2008
2009
2010
Possession
Delivery + PWI
Property Crimes
RX Forgery
Unknown
18


KC Drug Court: Comparison Stats. - 2008 through 2010
Age of Participants
45%
40%
35%
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
43%
29%
17%
2008
2009
2010
18-25
26-35
36-45
46-55
56-65
66-75
76-85
19


KC Drug Court: Comparison Stats. 2008 through 2010
Employment
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
58%
78%
Working, In school or Retired
Unemployed or Disabled
Unknown
2008
2009
2010
20


KC Drug Court: Comparison Stats. - 2008 through 2010
First Choice of Drug
35%
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
29%
23%
35%
Alcohol
Amph/Methamp
Cocaine/Crack
Heroin
Marijuana/THC
Other Opiates
Prescription
Other
2008
2009
2010
21


KC Drug Court: Comparison Stats. - 2008 through 2010
Race
50%
45%
40%
35%
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
Asian
African American
Caucasian
Hispanic
Multiracial
Native American
Pacific Islander/Filipino
Other Race
2008
2009
2010
22


KC Drug Court Comparison Stats. - 2008 through 2010
Education
50%
45%
40%
35%
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
2008
2009
2010
Unknown
Some College /Vocational
College or Vocatonal Grad
No GED / H.S. Diploma
GED/H.S. Diploma
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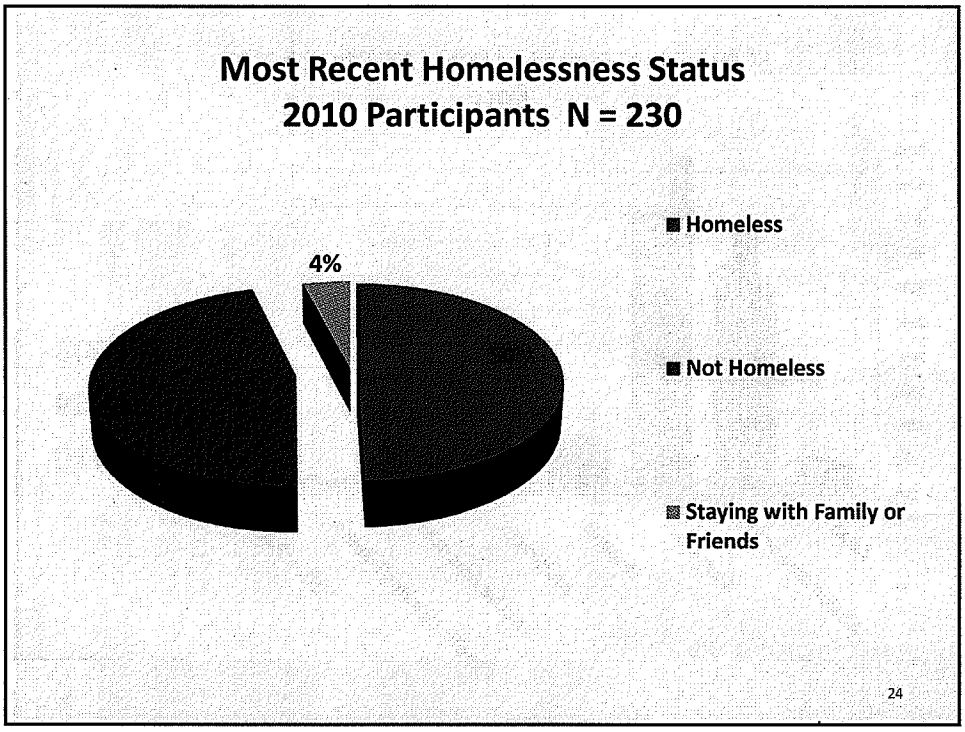
Most Recent Homelessness Status
2010 Participants N = 230
4%
Homeless
Not Homeless
Staying with Family or Friends
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Changes In Population

- Increase in the Number of Young Adults
- Increased Unemployment
- Increase in Marijuana and Decrease in Heroin and Crack Cocaine as First Choice of Drug
- Decrease in Referrals

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Observations

Young adults charged with delivery, unemployed with alcohol and marijuana as first choice of drugs, and gang affiliations

Serious gang esp in 2009 which brought new problems

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Addressing Changes

YOUNG ADULT PILOT PROJECT

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Parameters of Pilot Project

- Effective September 1, 2010 n = 30
- Case type and sentence: Delivery, PWI of Schedule I and II drugs, and cases with a prison range sentence Specialty tx program
- Age: 18 to 25 at time of arraignment
- Risk: Determined to be at high risk according to the General Assessment and Instructional Needs (GAIN) and clinical assessment

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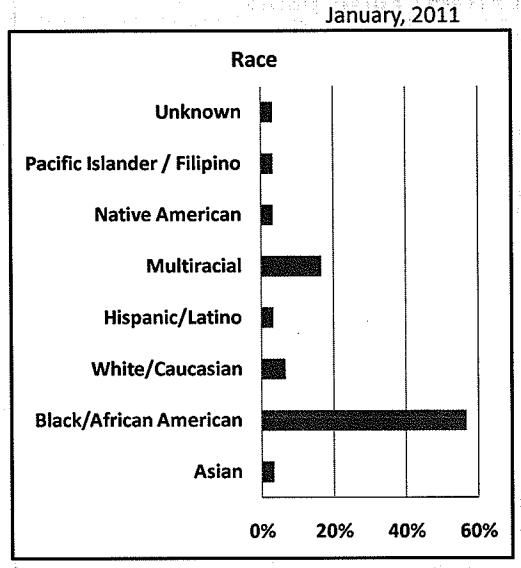
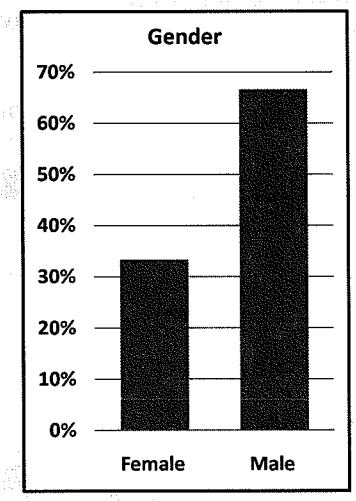
Young Adult Pilot Project Participants
January, 2011





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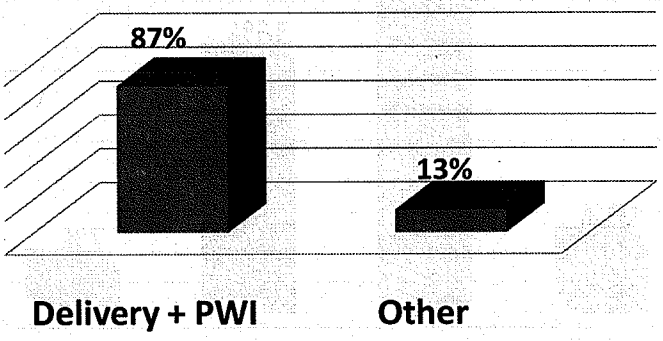
Young Adult Pilot Project Participants
January, 2011

Charge



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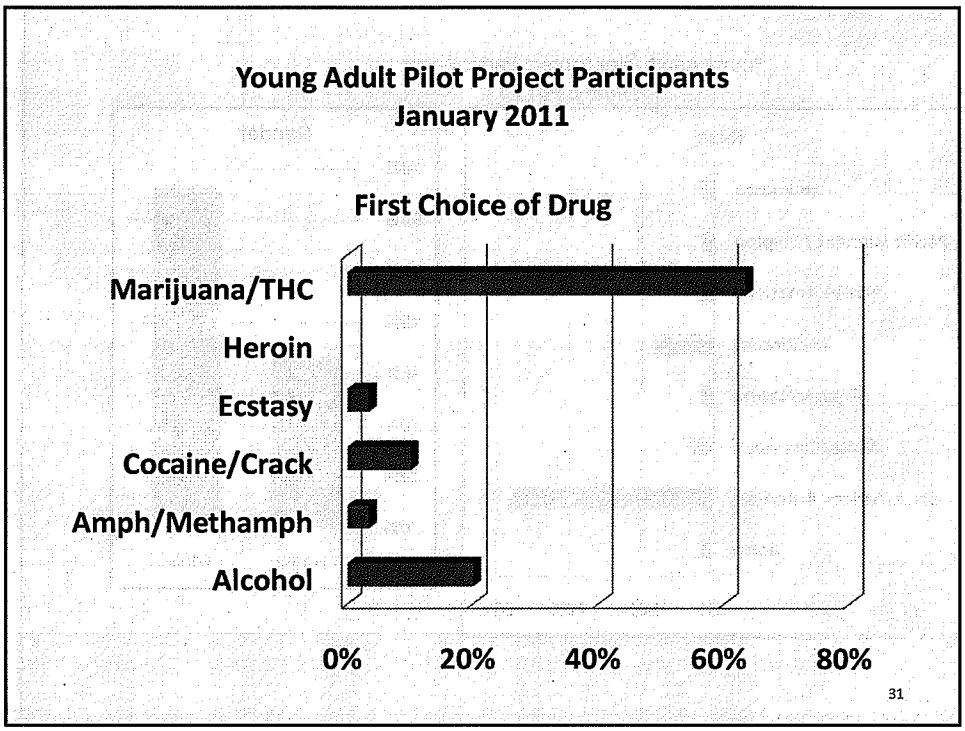
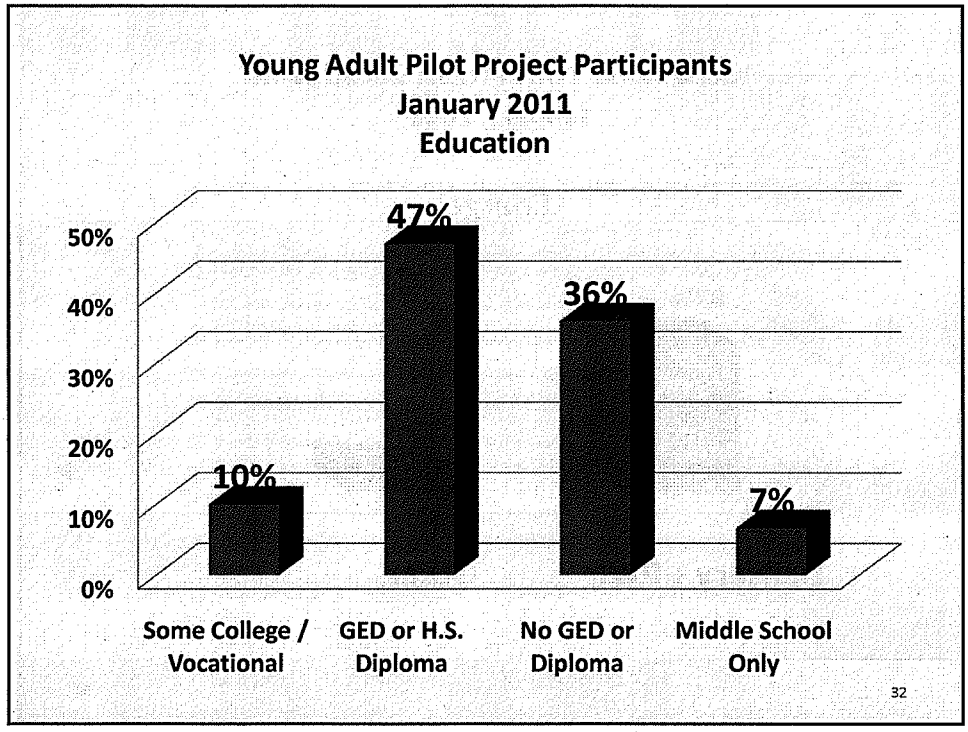

Young Adult Pilot Project Participants
January 2011
First Choice of Drug
Marijuana/THC
Heroin
Ecstasy
Cocaine/Crack
Amph/Methamph
Alcohol
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
31


Young Adult Pilot Project Participants
January 2011
Education
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
10%
47%
36%
7%
Some College / Vocational
GED or H.S. Diploma
No GED or Diploma
Middle School Only
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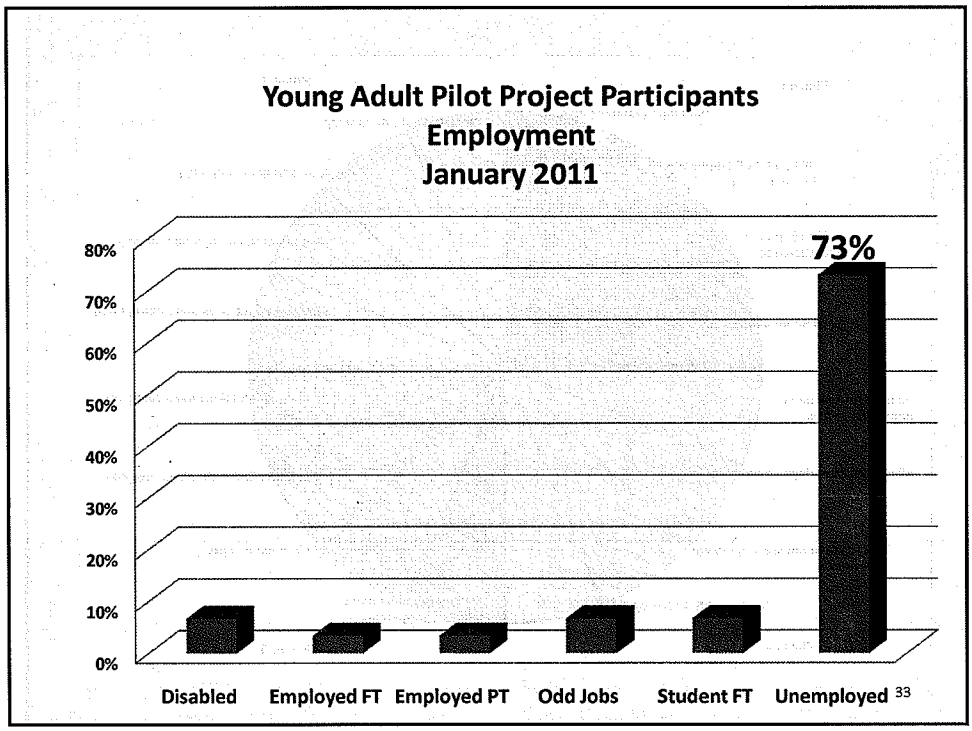

Young Adult Pilot Project Participants
Answers to Mental Health Questions (self-report)

- Mental Health Diagnosis

  Yes 27% No 73%

- Depression

  Yes 33% No 67%

- PTSD

  Yes 27% No 73%

- Learning/Behavior Problems in School

  Yes 57% No 43%

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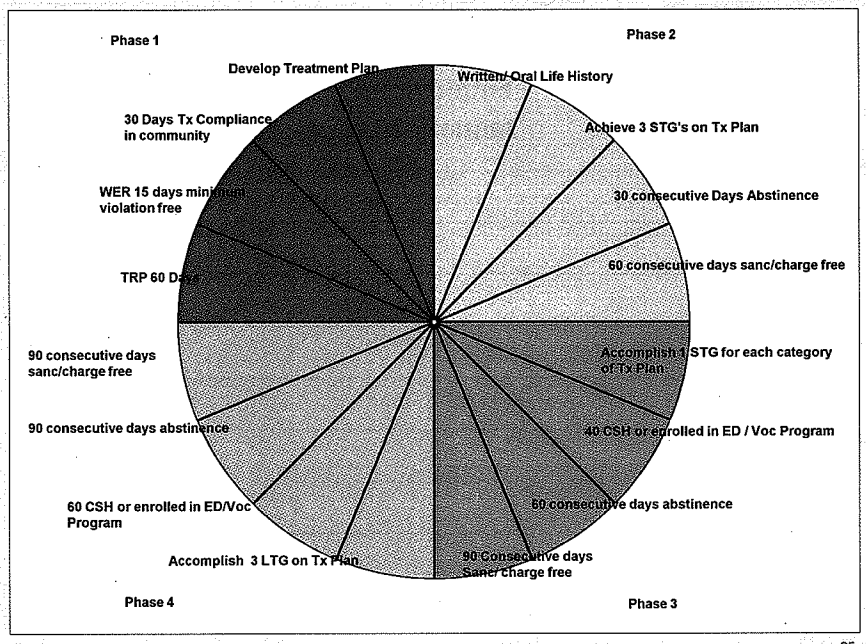

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Continuing Drug Court Challenges

- Difficult to treat young adult population
- A changing adult population with increased criminogenic factors

program really structured for possession, homeless people + the sands are really shifting.

- Cuts in services at the state and local level

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Questions / Comments

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