Data Monitoring and Evaluation: **How to capture, use, and engage with treatment court data**

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Learning Objectives



Why data matters to the entire team



Understand data collection, monitoring, and evaluation in problem-solving courts



Identify ways to use data to improve the program and engage with the community

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Live Polling

Who is responsible for entering data on your team?

Do you have a local case management system for your problem-solving court?

Does your team regularly meet to discuss data?



Why Data Matters

Problem-solving courts (PSCs) are susceptible to "program drift"—moving away from best practice standards over time; routine review detects drift and deficiencies

PSCs are more effective and cost-effective when they **monitor practices, evaluate outcomes, and implement modifications**

All Rise (2026) Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards

Why Data Matters to **Judicial Officers**

- Supports **informed, consistent decisions** using real-time participation/compliance information (e.g., attendance, testing, service delivery)
- Helps **ensure practices align with best-practice benchmarks** (e.g., hearing frequency, treatment and entry timeliness)
- **Enables review of equity in outcomes and helps identify gaps in service delivery**
- **Enables accurate public reporting** (e.g., explains recidivism and program impact to the community)



Image developed using NCSC AI Sandbox

Why Data Matters to Defense/Prosecution

- **Creates transparency about who is being served** (intended target population)
- **Supports fairness by tracking equivalent outcomes and equal access to the program**
- **Clarifies success** (completion, length of stay, attendance, etc.)



Image developed using Microsoft CoPilot

Why Data Matters to Coordinators

- **Allows for ease in routine summary reporting** for leadership or funders (or applications for grants, foundations, and budget requests).

- **Can provide transparency** to participants, the public, and help the team adjust as needed

- **Provides program oversight** to ensure equal access and target population met, highlights service gaps and whether the program is meeting timeframe goals, and can show participant progress information by phase



Image developed using Microsoft CoPilot

Why Data Matters to Probation Officers

- **Enables timely responses**: missed appointments, testing, and violations are recorded quickly (w/in 48 hours) and action taken quickly

- Supports monitoring of **community supervision dosage** (e.g., office check-ins, field or home visits)

- **Monitors census/capacity for supervision of high-risk/high-need individuals per officer**



Why Data Matters to Legislators and Steering and Advisory Committees

- Provides **accountability and transparency** (annual statistics, trends, and demographic information)
- Supports sustainability: evaluation results help courts **"tell the story"** of successes and needs
- **Informs policy and investment decisions using credible measures** like recidivism and costs-savings
- **Guides governance action**: steering/oversight bodies use summaries for **policy setting and sustainability efforts**

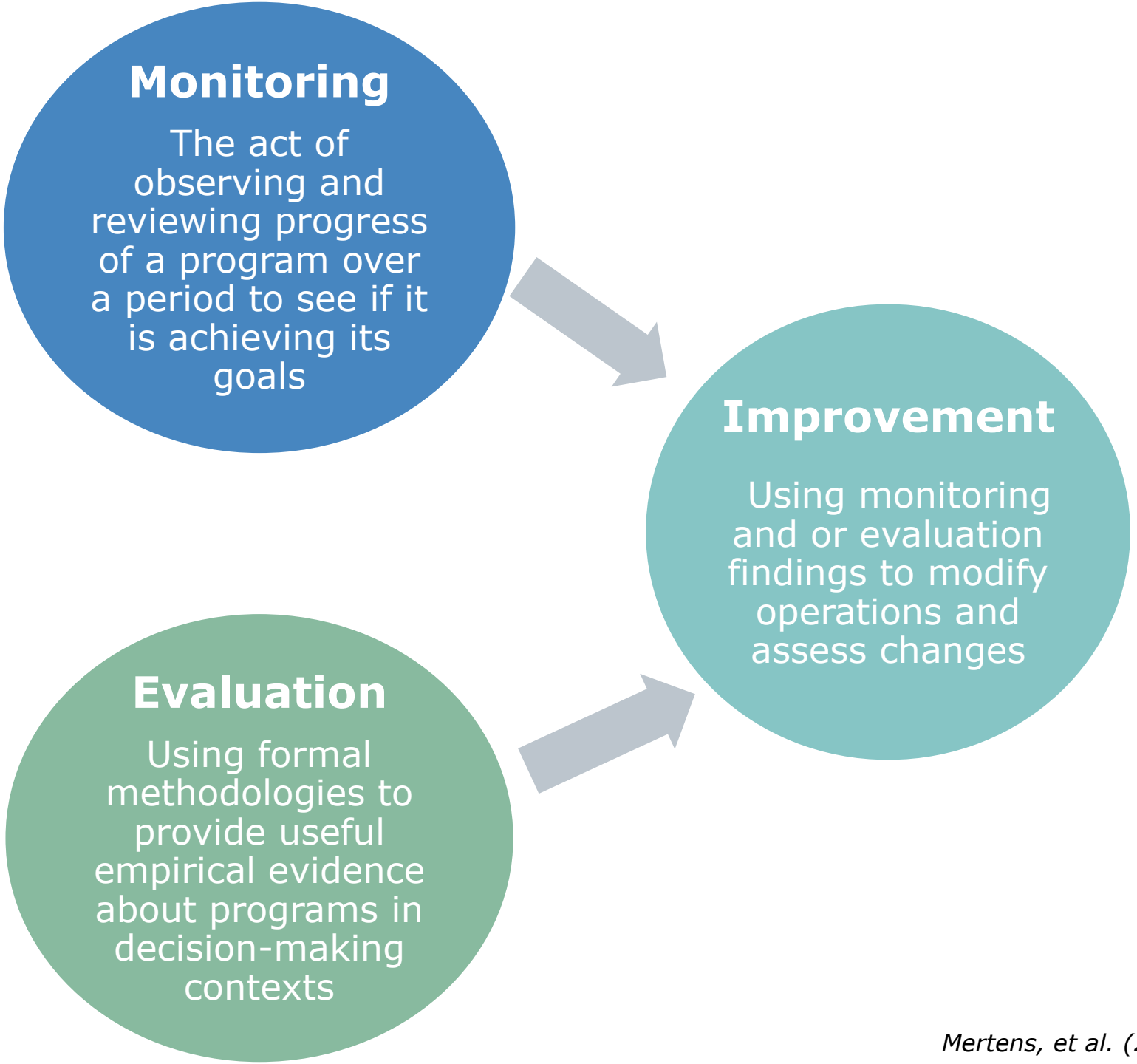


Why Data Matters to **Funding Sources**

- **Provides a data framework** that grantors appreciate
- **Allows for ease of routine funding reports**
- **High-quality data that can be analyzed and evaluated is sometimes required**
- **Demonstrates the program is invested in continuous quality improvement and sustainability**



Image developed using Microsoft CoPilot



Mertens, et al. (2019)



Monitoring

The act of observing and reviewing progress of a program over a period to see if it is achieving its goals

Key definitions to understand:

'Intent to Treat Analysis'

Monitor ALL individuals who participate in the program *(i.e., Successful, Neutral, and Unsuccessful)* to examine outcomes for all individuals the program set out to serve

'Time at Risk'

Monitor participants using a comparable **START date** and **FOLLOW-UP intervals** *(prevents unfair comparisons)*

Monitoring Access → Why?

- Number of Referred vs Accepted / Denied
- Referrals, Acceptances, Denials, and Opt-Outs by risk/need, charge, etc.
- Number of referrals by referral source (defense, supervision, treatment, judge, self)
- The time it takes for a referral to enter programming
- Ensures objective eligibility criteria
- Highlights low referral reasons by source, and incarceration timeframe/screening concerns
- Identifies education and training needs and resource limitations/barriers

Monitoring → Why?

Participant Performance

- Compliance
- Treatment/Court/Supervision attendance *(≥ 75% benchmark)*
- Test results/Use *(≥ 90 consecutive days benchmark negative tests prior to completion)*
- Sanction, Incentives, and Service Adjustments *(>4 incentives to sanctions)*
- Medication compliance
- Housing
- Employment
- Education
- Family reunification
- Recovery connections

and more….

- Provides a different perspective of success to the team and partners
- Shows service gaps/areas needing improvement/areas of success
- Shows implementation of graduated responses and ratio of incentives to sanctions
- Provides in-depth and overview reports for different audiences

Monitoring **Outcomes** → Why?

- Dispositions (discharges/successful completion) over time
  (≥ 60% national benchmark)
- Informs treatment providers and liaisons, referrals, court leadership, advisory and steering committees, funders, etc.
- Length of phases and overall program completion
- Data over time shows program improvements and participant improvement
- Satisfaction of participants (interval/exit surveys)
- Provides participant perception of fairness, respect, value of programming or components, overall sentiments, etc.

Monitoring Recidivism → Why?

- Track new arrests, charges, convictions, and incarcerations for at least 3 years after graduation (5 years or longer is ideal) from entry
- Track in-program recidivism separately
- Track by offense level (i.e., felony, misdemeanor) and offense classification (i.e., drug, OVI, assault, property, theft, etc.)
- Explain why any data are missing (unavailable, incomplete, untimely)

- Highlights community safety and rehabilitation
- Promotes program impact
- Helps to identify areas of improvement

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Considerations

Disaggregate outcomes by demographics and monitor family cohesion, communication, and home functioning, feasible):



Program completion (graduation) rates and termination rate and reasons why



Substance use during and after the program



In-program & post-program recidivism



Prosocial activities and protective factors (education enrollment, employment, pro-social activities and youth-peer associations)

OJJDP (2016)

Mental Health Treatment Court Considerations

Redefine Success in by measuring achievements or changes unique to this population:



Has the participant developed routines that support medication adherence?



Is the participant attending treatment consistently?



Are there reduced crisis contacts with law enforcement and/or crisis units?



Does the participant have stable housing after periods of being unhoused?

NCSC (2026); Friend, K., & Williams, L. (2026)

Live Polling, Activity

Has your program ever been evaluated by a third party?

Do you regularly share aggregate data or statistics (from your problem-solving court) with the community?



Evaluation

Using formal methodologies to provide useful empirical evidence about programs in decision-making contexts

For Evaluation…. Always ask:



Evaluation Activities

Data Analysis	• Review and analysis of quantitative data
Surveys	• Survey participants and/or team members
Peer Review	• Trained treatment teams reviewing one another's practices and reporting back
Focus Groups	• Private group discussions with participants and/or team members
Confidential Interviews	• Interviewing participants and/or team members (on perceptions, feelings about the program structure, team, etc.)
Comparison Groups	• Comparison of the program to another population of similar risk, need, etc.

Interviewing an Independent Evaluator

1. What are your prior experiences evaluating court programs?

2. Are you familiar with the Treatment Court Best Practice Standards?

3. Will you communicate findings and data requirements to the team, leadership, and partners and explain results?

4. What type of evaluation do you recommend for this program? *(i.e., process, outcome, efficiency analysis, etc.)*

5. Will the evaluation include recommendations to better adhere to best practices?

6. What human protections and data security will be in place to protect our participant's data?

7. What are the costs of this evaluation?



Improvement

Using monitoring and or evaluation findings to modify operations and assess changes

Data Improvement

- **Review performance as a team** (annually or more for new programs)
- **Use qualitative methods** (surveys/focus groups) to understand *why* benchmarks are missed
- **Set an evaluation schedule** (annual performance review; independent evaluation schedule as required or feasible)

Data Governance

- **Ensure high-quality data collection**
  - Setting key performance indicators (KPIs)
  - Adopting benchmarks
  - Establishing data collection requirements and access levels
- **Prioritize ongoing team data training**
- **Establishing a data infrastructure**
  - Storing data
  - Reviewing data
- **Data sharing**
  - Use a mix of quantitative and qualitative data to tell a story
  - Honor confidentiality

Data Quality

- **Define KPIs** (Key Performance Indicators)
- **Adopt national and locally-set benchmarks**
- **Set data entry responsibilities among team members**
  - <48-hour requirement embedded in MOUs/contracts
- **Limit data access levels and database administration authority**
  - Apply role-based access (e.g., read-only where appropriate; limit access to sensitive notes)

Data Training

- Recap the value of high-quality data and WHY we collect data
- Review data entry requirements (<48 hours)
- Review MOUs (Memorandums of Understanding)
  - Discuss timelines and data content for all team members that provide data
  - Review requirements for the confidentiality of data (compliance with 42CFR and HIPPA)
- Review engaging others with data
- Ongoing Training!

Data Infrastructure:

- **Store data in an analyzable database or spreadsheet that can rapidly generates reports**

- **Encrypt web-accessible databases**/emailed files using > minimum industry-standard 128-bit SSL

- **Ensure frequent checks that data-sharing complies with applicable confidentiality/privacy requirements and agreements**

Data Sharing

- **Set a reporting cadence: Who needs what, when:**
    - **Operational team:** real-time dashboards; court docket list; participant information sheets
    - **Steering/advisory/court leadership:** routine summaries to inform policy and sustainability (quarterly, annually, etc.)
    - **Community/funders/legislators:** aggregate, deidentified outcome reports (as needed)
- **Share themes from qualitative data (surveys/focus groups) to help explain the data story**
- **Honor confidentiality** (HIPPA, 42CFR, IRB processes)



Using Data to Engage

Year In Review

Quantitative Data Report Templates

Sample Document: Exit Interview - All Rise

Using aggregate data for community support

- **Sharing program statistics with teammates for community education and networking**
  - Community event talking points
  - Elevator speeches
- **Formatted templates to highlight the different areas you are working with participants on** (housing, family reunification, employment assistance, etc.)
  - Year in Review (template)

Year-in-Review

Downloadable Template

Program Name/Logo

July 1, 2026—June 20, 2027



52 court sessions held

86 admitted participants

68 successful graduates



29 participants achieved FT employment

1,547 community volunteer hours completed



52 participants provided Narcan kits

75 participants connected with peer support

2,000 hours of peer support contact with participants



12 participants assisted with securing safe housing

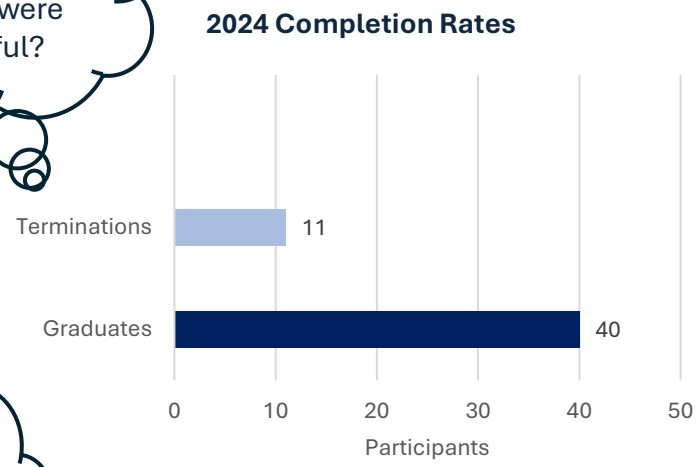
38 participant referred for ancillary services

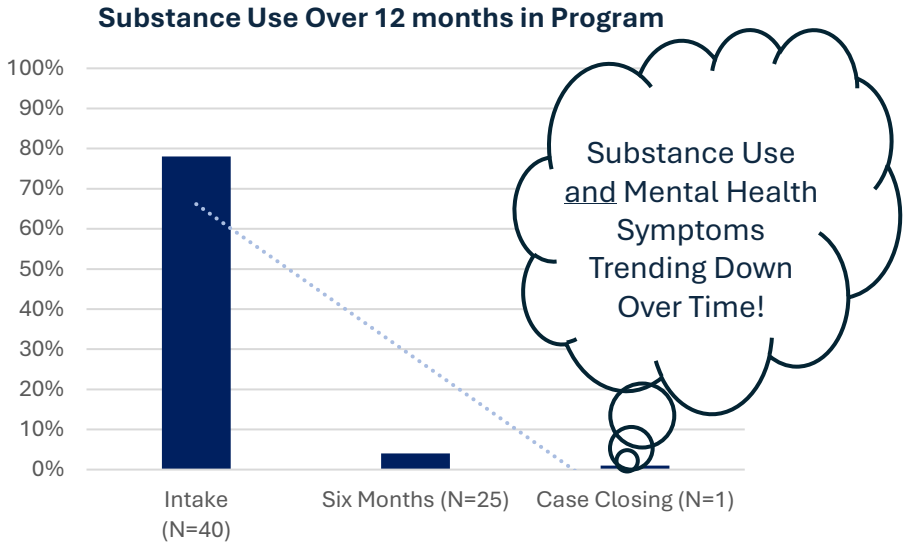
Easy-to-Understand Reports for Review

- **Annual and quarterly reports to discuss with team members and advisory/steering committee members**
  - Show the trend lines on measurements over time
  - Ask questions about the data results to see what might need to change
  - Keep the data simple!

Basic Annual Report

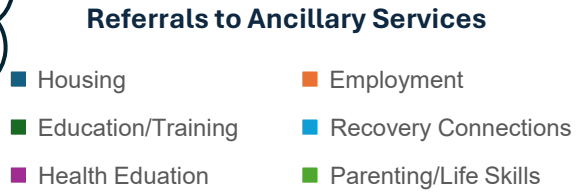
A 78% success rate is great, but should we explore why 11 participants were unsuccessful?



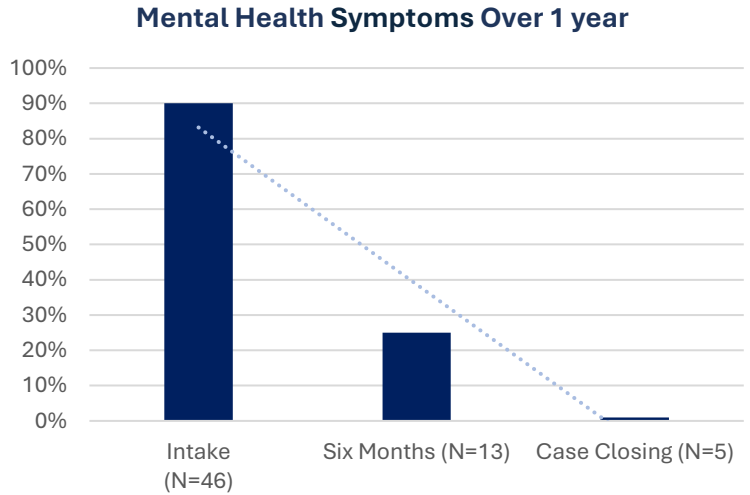


Substance Use and Mental Health Symptoms Trending Down Over Time!

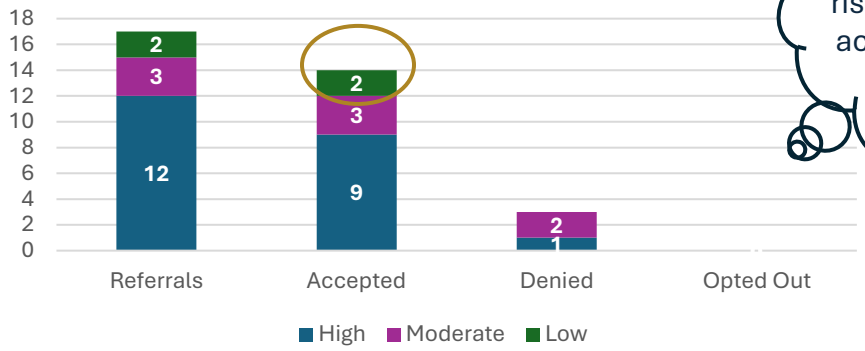
Why are Education-related referrals low?



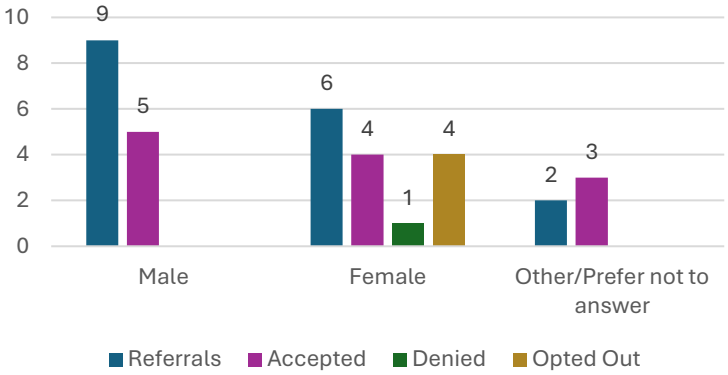




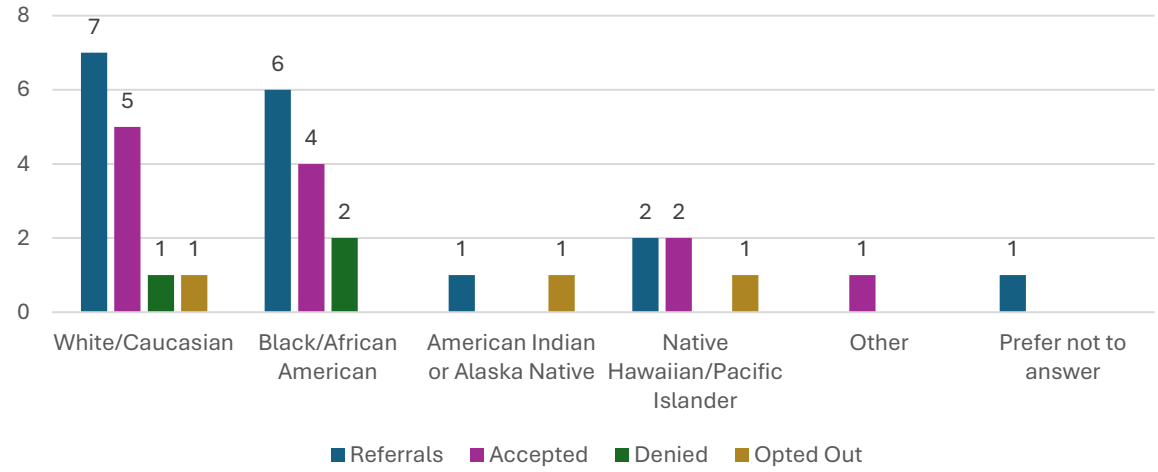
Basic Quarterly Report

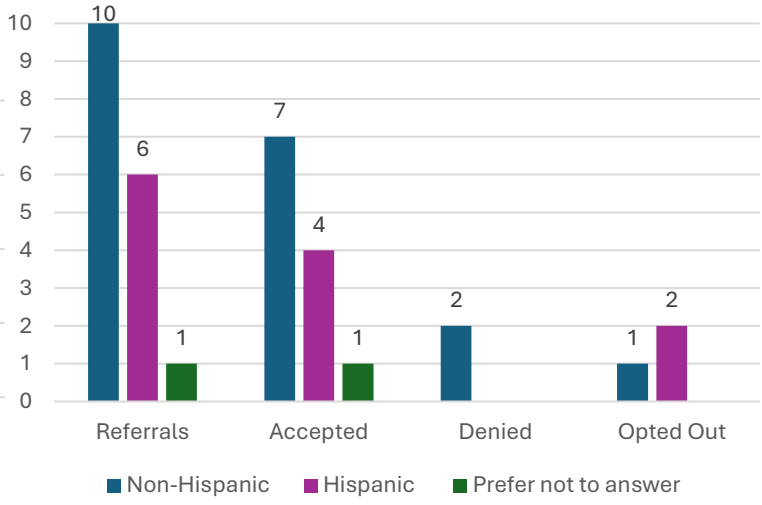


Were the 2 low-risk participants accepted high-**need**?



"The Union County Treatment Court team helped me when I needed it most, with no judgment" –Participant Testimonial





Qualitative Data Helps Tell a Story

- **Exit surveys**
  - Ask them to identify the one thing that helped them the most in being successful in the program (peers, providers, court sessions, team support, etc.)

- **In-program surveys:**
  - Perceptions of fairness
  - Sentiments on services provided
  - Incentives, sanctions, and service adjustments

- **Host participant 'listening sessions'**
  - Ask what participants like or dislike about the program and what gaps might exist

Using participant testimonials and feedback

- **Use testimonials in promoting program (with permission)**
  - Brochures
  - Website
  - Referral forms/posters
  - Data reports

- **Use survey and listening sessions to make program adjustments**
  - Provide or purchase different incentives
  - Discuss any noticeable service gaps or wait times with providers
  - Change or clarify program requirements, if needed

Live Polling, Activity

Share a KPI (Key Performance Indicator) that would most improve decision-making in your courtroom/team?

What is one thing you learned today that you can implement in your program to help with data monitoring and evaluation?

Key Takeaways

Monitoring practices help teams review data in meaningful ways

Reviewing data together as a team and re-training is valuable to understanding your program

Evaluation is not a one-time event— choose your evaluator wisely and know what you want to find out

Data can be used to engage and engage leadership, funders, and the community

Data collection, monitoring, evaluation, and governance is a team activity– it's not just for coordinators

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Thank you!

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