



2012 AMC Annual Conference

Stearns County Adult Drug Court

Presented by Janelle P. Kendall, Stearns County Attorney
December 3, 2012

A comprehensive, intensive, and specialized model for combating controlled substance abuse offenses committed by truly addicted offenders.

- **Specialized, trained team** of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and probation/surveillance agents.
- **High authority-figure accountability** accomplished through weekly court hearings where court may swiftly impose a broad range of conventional and unconventional consequences.
- **Strictly enforced conditions** of release and probation.
- **Constant monitoring** through home visits, drug testing, and weekly meetings with specialized probation agents.
- **Chemical dependency treatment *and* offender accountability** are the core of the program's success.
- **Graduation** only after completion of all three phases and at least 12 months of sobriety.

Stearns County Adult Drug Court is mandatory and specifically designed for offenders in need of intensive supervised probation.

- **MANDATORY** admittance for all eligible offenders screened either **pre-trial and/or post-conviction**.
- Access to offenders at their **low points** forces offenders to make an **early choice: prison or treatment**.
- **Excludes violent offenders** and those who are **not chemically dependent** (and those whom the law presumes are already bound for prison unless dispositional departure granted).
- Key eligibility requirement is that an offender be in need of **intensive supervised probation**.
- Offenders see the **same judge/prosecutor/defense attorney/probation agent** for regular court reviews.
- **Expertise, consistency, and coordination** among team members ensure efficiency and accountability.
- **UNIQUE mandatory pre-trial eligibility** ensures immediate treatment – according to public defender, the key to ensuring that clients think rationally and constructively about their case and their future.
- **Treatment and accountability-focused model ensure that treatment is available and that noncompliance will result in prompt, court-directed, and certain consequences.**

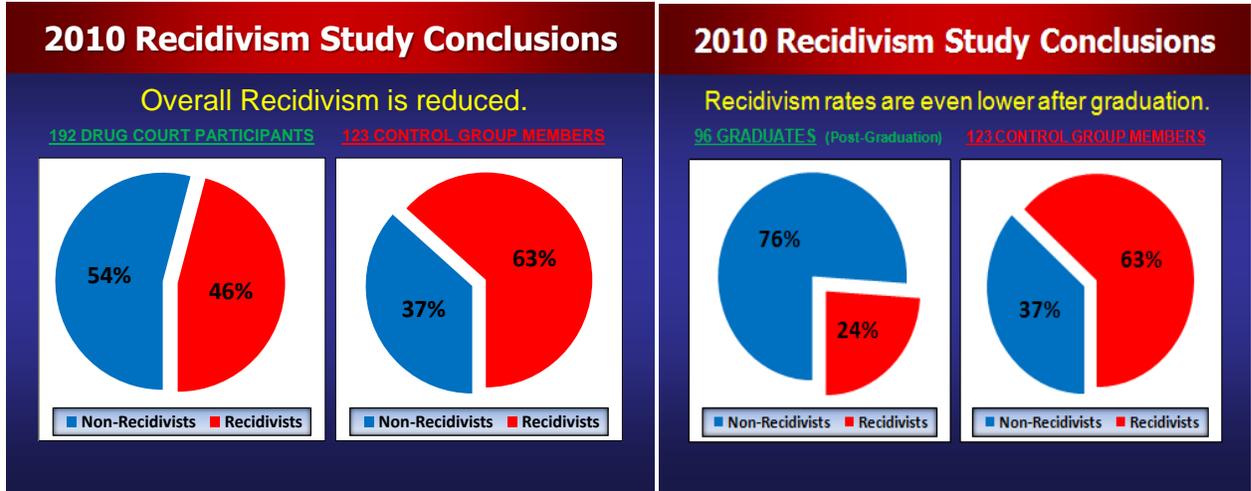
The Ultimate Question: Does Our Model Reduce Crime?

Stearns County Adult Drug Court Recidivism Study (2010)

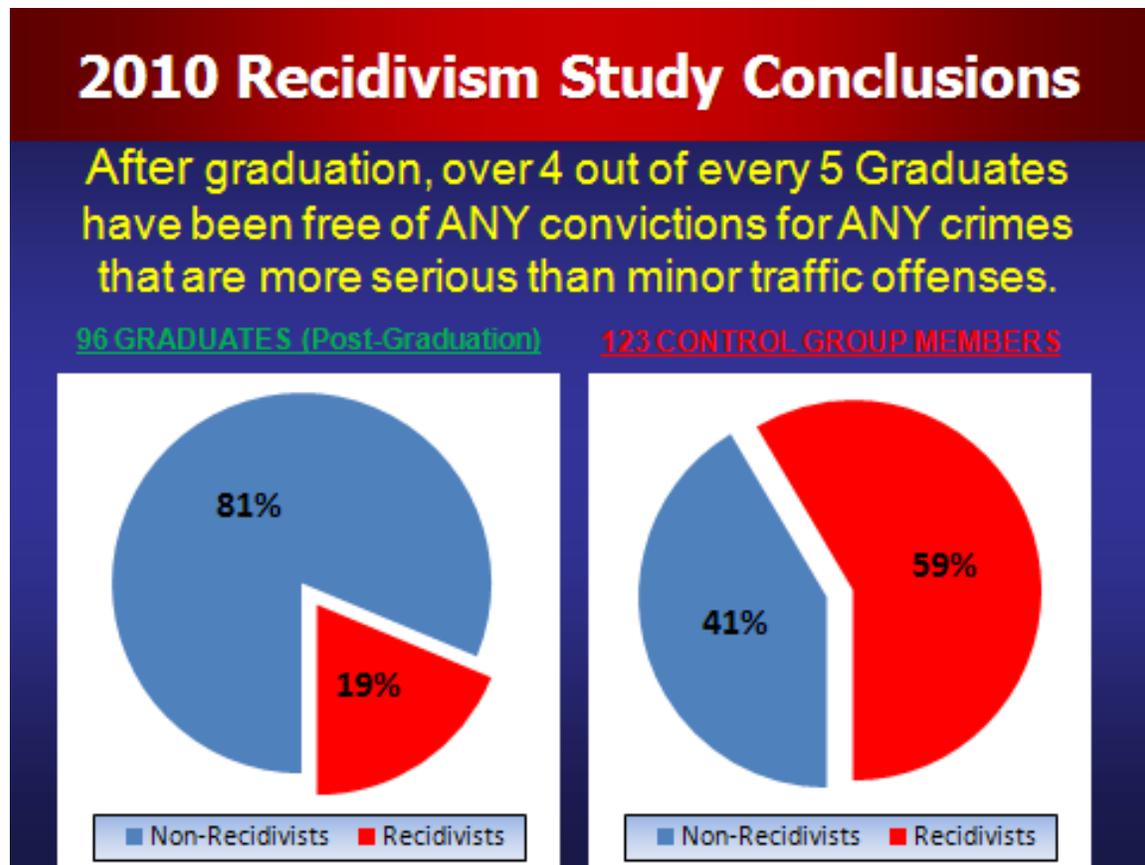
- Comprehensive study compiled data on **every new criminal conviction** committed by the **192 Drug Court Participants** admitted from drug court's **opening in June 2002 through December 2009**.
- Developed a **123-member Control Group** out of all individuals who were screened out of drug court only because they were non-residents or drug court was over-capacity.
- Data was dissected, peer-reviewed, and triple-checked to ensure accuracy and that all possible variables of recidivism were accounted for.

Turn the page over to see the results . . .

STEARNS COUNTY DRUG COURT REDUCES RECIDIVISM



GRADUATION SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES RECIDIVISM



Over eight years of data *prove* that the model works!!!