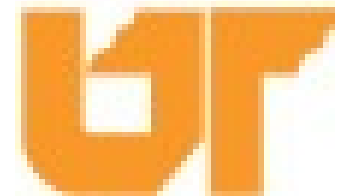# Never Served Populations
Addiction, Risk, and Health in Drug Court Clients in Memphis TN

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Drug Courts

- **Coordinated efforts**
  - Judiciary
  - Prosecution/Defense/Probation
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social Services
  - Mental Health and treatment communities

Drug Courts

- An alternative to incarceration

- Forced intervention
  - Quick identification
  - Strict monitoring
  - Community supervision
  - Effective, long-term treatment

Drug Courts

- 1st Miami, FL (1989)

- 2,000 programs today

- GAO reported "substantially reduce crime by lowering re-arrest and conviction rates among drug court graduates" (GAO-05-219)

TN Drug Courts

- **45 Drug Courts in 53 counties (2005-6)**

- **Shelby County Drug Court (1997)**
  - 1 of 33 Mentor Courts Nationally
  - Graduates
    - 849 persons
  - Recidivism for drug related crime (1997 - Oct, 2006)
    - 232 persons (27.33 %)

Shelby County Drug Court Support Foundation

- Established 2004
- Not for profit organization of community volunteers
- Mission is to increase awareness and raise funds to support Shelby County Drug Court
    - Community activities
    - Grants

Federal Initiatives

- **Drug Court Treatment Act (July, 2003)**
  - Administered by Office of Criminal Justice Programs in Tennessee
  - http://www.state.tn.us/finance/rds/drugcourts.html
- <u>**Defining Drug Courts: Key Components**</u>
  - US DOJ OJP: Drug Courts Program Office
  - www.nadcp.org/docs/d**key**pdf.pdf

Defining Drug Courts: Key Components

1 - Integrate treatment with criminal justice planning

2 - Non-adversarial approach to clients

3 - Identify eligible clients quickly after arrest

4 - Access to treatment and rehabilitation

Defining Drug Courts: Key Components

5 - Monitor abstinence with frequent testing

6 - Use coordinated strategy to govern compliance

7 - Ongoing judicial interaction with each client

8 - Measure achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness

Defining Drug Courts:
Key Components

9 - Employ continuing interdisciplinary education to promote effective planning and implementation

10 - Forge partnerships with court, public agencies and community based organizations to generate support and enhance effectiveness

Funding

- **OCJP – TN**
  - TN Department of Finance and Administration
- **Grant awarded to Shelby County Drug Court Support Foundation**
  - Grant's Committee
  - *Recovered Life is Valuable* (ReLIV)
- **Foundation contracted with University of TN Health Science Center College of Nursing**

Literature Review

- No data in literature about drug court clients' health or health risks

- Minimal literature about drug court successes or barriers to success

The Study Purpose

- **Evaluate health and life style risk factors in drug court clients**

- **Report evaluation outcomes to Shelby County Drug Court Judge and Office of Criminal Justice Programs**

- **UTHSC IRB application**
  - Exemption received September 2006

The Study

- **Assumptions**
  - Drug Court clients are
    - Users, sellers, abusers and/or addicts
    - Criminals because they are arrested/convicted for a crime associated with drug use or sale

The Study

- **Assumptions**
  - **Program enrollment and completion**
    - Some accept program to avoid jail
    - Many will successfully complete the program
    - Some will not
      - We don't know why some relapse

The Study

- **Incorrect Assumptions**
  - Adherence to protocol while in treatment
    - Unpredictable with appointments
    - Failure to show up = consequences

The Study

- **Incorrect Assumptions**
  - Trust
    - Beneficence and goals for service understood by clients
    - In reality, fearful and suspicious resulted in non-compliance where parts of evaluation were declined selectively

The Study

- **Three pronged approach**
  1) Assessment of lifestyle risks
  2) Health history
  3) Physical Evaluation, including
     - Vision, hearing, and neurological screening tests
     - Mood, anger, and violence screening tools
     - Laboratory tests that include screening major systems

Sample Selection

- ## Naturalistic study of drug court clients
  - ### Convenient sample of volunteers
- ## 3 Community treatment centers
  - ### Transitional housing centers
- ## All 3 Phases of recovery represented

Methods

Sample

- $N = 45$

- Drug court volunteers

- Gender

  - 42% female
  - 58% male

Methods

Sample (cont)

- Self-identified race/culture
  - African American (62%)
  - Caucasian (36%)
  - Asian (2%)
- Age
  - 18-29 years (44%)
  - 30 years and older (56%)

Methods

- Evaluation
  - Health history
  - Exposure to risk
  - Mental health
  - Current physical health status

Methods

- Analysis
  - Descriptive statistics
  - McNemar's Test
  - Linear regression

Results

- **Multiple Health risks**
  - Gained weight after drug court enrollment (85%)
  - Smokers (82%)

Results

- **Prevalence of Disease**
  - Dental disease (73%)
  - Hypercholesterolemia (54%)
  - Ear pathology (50%)
  - Genitourinary disease (43%)

Results

- **Prevalence of Disease**
  - Hepatitis (39%)
  - Cardiovascular pathology (33%)
  - Respiratory disease (32%)
  - Asymptomatic STI (17%)
  - Liver disease (17%)

Results

- Evidence of mental health disease (54%)

- Experienced deadly intra-familial violence in first degree relative (25%)

Results

- Reported no health care in 5 or more years (32%)

- Reported never had been to a health care provider (22%)

  - Coined term "never-served" population

- Sought government assistance (8%)

Results

- Self-report of dental disease and physical findings (P=0.0047)
- Increasingly different kinds of drugs used are significantly related to race (P=0.0003) and gender (P-0.0351)
  - White males use more types of drugs than all other groups

Conclusions

- **Disease burden**
  - Significant
  - Lethal
- **Need for health care for "Never-served"**
  - Aversion to health seeking behaviors
    - Addictions
    - Poor coping skills
  - Absence of resources

Thank you!

- Questions?