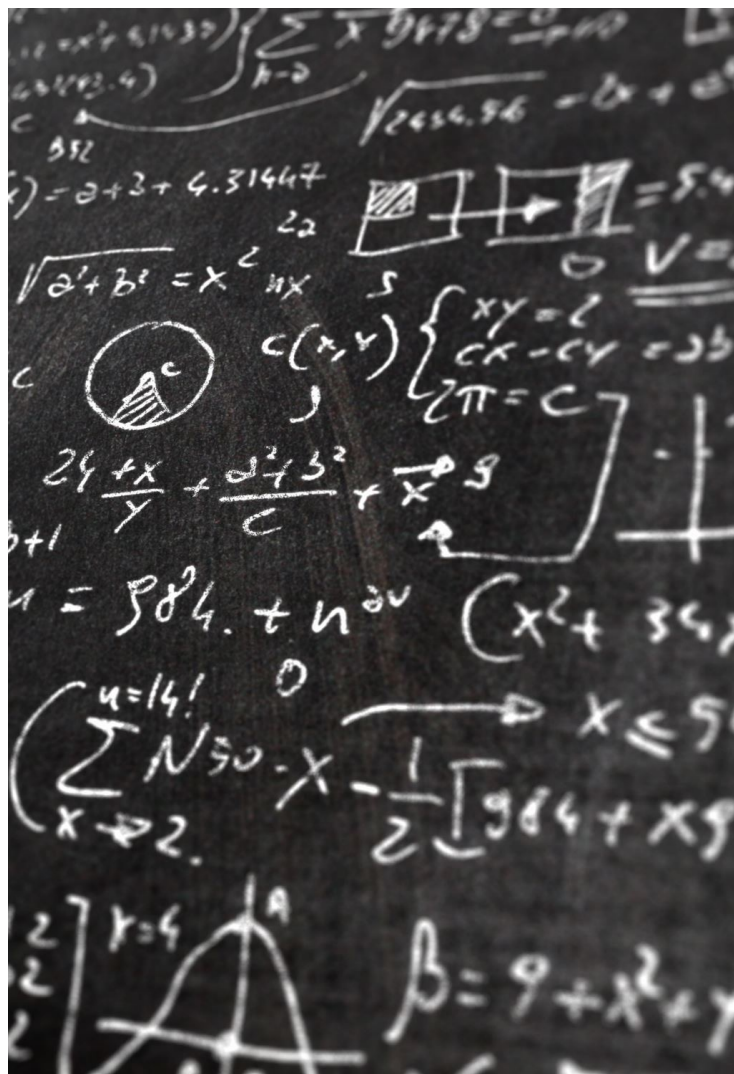# USING DATA EFFECTIVELY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS
&
MARKET YOUR PROGRAM TO STAKEHOLDERS

Dr. Kristen DeVall & Dr. Christina Lanier

2025 Washington State Treatment Court Conference

October 14-15, 2025

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning objectives:

Increase attendees' knowledge regarding:

1. Data collection for treatment court programs
2. The data needed to answer common questions about treatment courts
3. How to visually present data to various stakeholder groups

WHAT QUESTIONS ARE YOU FREQUENTLY ASKED ABOUT YOUR PROGRAM?

DATA COLLECTION CONSIDERATIONS

- Who is responsible for collecting these data?

- Where will the data be stored/maintained?

- When will the data be collected (e.g., point in time in program)?

- How often will the data be reviewed and analyzed?

- Who is responsible for data reporting?

- How often will stakeholders review data?

- What evaluation activities are currently taking place? If none, need to develop evaluation plan.

DATA COLLECTION: PROGRAM ENTRY/REFERRAL

- Sex
- Age
- Race/Ethnicity
- Marital Status
- Education Level
- Employment Status
- Housing Status
- # of dependents; custody?
- Veteran Status
- Precipitating offense
- Substances of use (primary & secondary)

- Substance use history
  - Age @ first use of drugs
  - Age @ first use of alcohol
- Involvement in CJS
  - Age @ first arrest
  - # of prior misdemeanors & felonies
- Referral source/date
- Screening results/date
- Assessment results/date
  - Risk/need
  - Clinical
- Status of entry (enrolled; not enrolled and why)
- Entry date

DATA COLLECTION: WHILE ENROLLED

Treatment information (type, duration, attendance dates)

Drug/alcohol screens (dates, results)

Incentives and sanctions (dates, types)

Community service (if applicable)

New charges/PVs

Dates for advancement to all phases

Recovery support services received (type & #)

Case management sessions attended & missed (dates)

Community supervision field/home visits (dates)

Court review hearing attendance

ADULT TREATMENT COURT
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Monitoring - The What, Why, & How

MONITORING
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Variable	KPI	Data Needed	Benchmarks
Target population	Participant risk/need levels	- risk/need level	HR/HN – 100% (unless multiple tracks)
Entry timeliness	# of days between arrest/other precipitating event (e.g., PV) & entry into treatment court	- date of precipitating event - program entry date	≤ 50 days (or sooner)
Community supervision	# of community supervision office sessions & field visits completed per month & per phase	- dates of all office visits - dates of all field visits - phase dates	≥ 4 office per mo. (P1-2) & ≥ 1 thereafter ≥ 2 field visits during first 2 mos.
Court supervision	# of court status hearings attended per month & per phase	- dates of ct. review sessions attended - phase dates	≥ 2 hrgs. per mo. (P1-2) & ≥1 per mo. thereafter

MONITORING
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

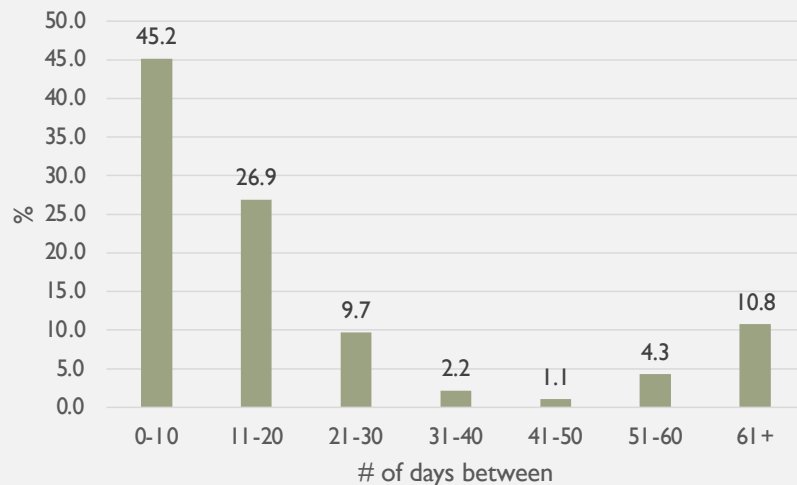| Variable	KPI	Data Needed	Benchmarks
Treatment timeliness	# of days between program entry & first treatment session	- date of 1st treatment appt. - program entry date	≤ 1 week
Treatment sessions	# of treatment sessions attended per month & per phase	- dates of all treatment sessions attended - phase dates	≥ 9 sessions/hrs. per wk. P1-4
Medication provision	% of participants receiving needed medications	- # of participants in need of FDA-approved meds. - # of participants having received FDA-approved medications	No reliable benchmark
Drug/alcohol testing	# of drug/alcohol tests administered per week & per phase	- dates of all drug/alcohol tests administered - phase dates	≥ 2x per wk. (P1-3)
	# of days applying testing methods that lengthen the detection window	- dates of continuous monitoring device utilization	Continuous monitoring for ≥ 90 days

MONITORING
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Variable	KPI	Date Needed	Benchmarks
Team functioning	# of pre-court staffing meetings attended by all team members	- dates of all pre-court staffing sessions - pre-court staffing team member attendance logs	≥ 4 meetings per mo. (or same freq. as court status hrgs.)

HOW TO USE
MONITORING KPIs

ENTRY TIMELINESS
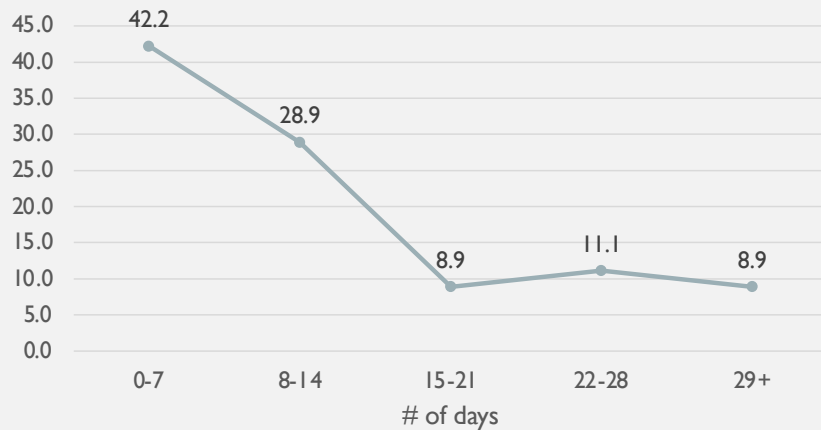## KPI: # OF DAYS FROM ARREST/PRECIPITATING EVENT TO PROGRAM ENTRY

- Average # of days: 29.7
- Median # of days: 11
- Range of days: 2-279

- Program <u>meets</u> the stated benchmark of ≤ 50 days with an average of 29.7 days

- **Why useful?**
  - Are participants entering the program as quickly as intended?
  - If no, review process for entering the program to identify gaps.

TREATMENT TIMELINESS

KPI: # OF DAYS FROM ENTERING TREATMENT COURT TO ATTENDING FIRST TREATMENT SESSION
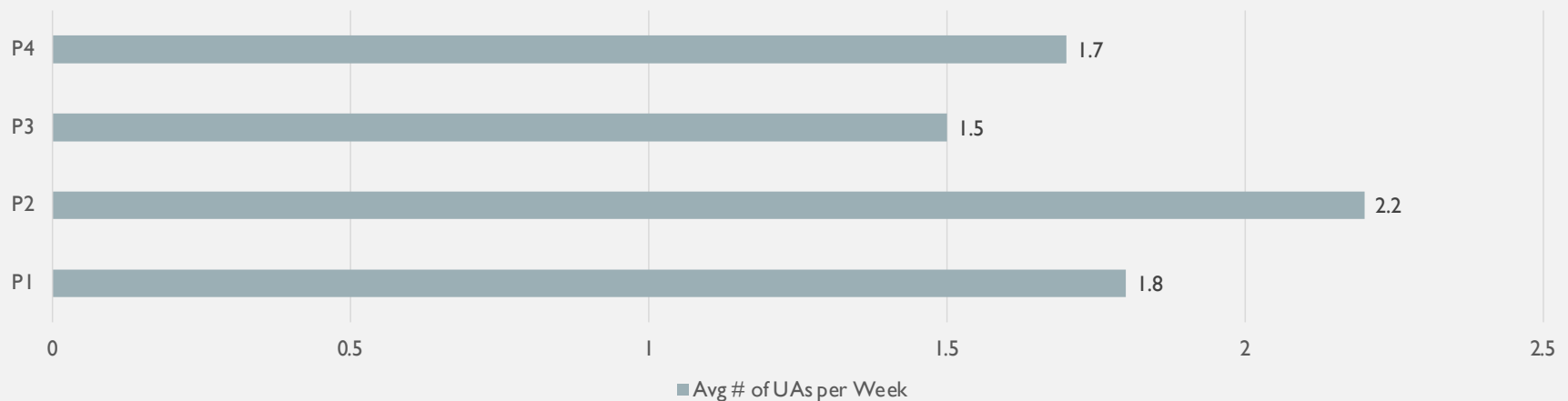

- Average # of days: 17.2
- Median # of days: 10.0
- Range of days: 0-197

- Program <u>does not</u> meet the stated benchmark of treatment entry with one week with an average of 17.2 days

- **Why useful?**
  - Upon entering the program, how quickly are participants engaging in treatment?
  - Revisit process for enrolling participants in treatment.
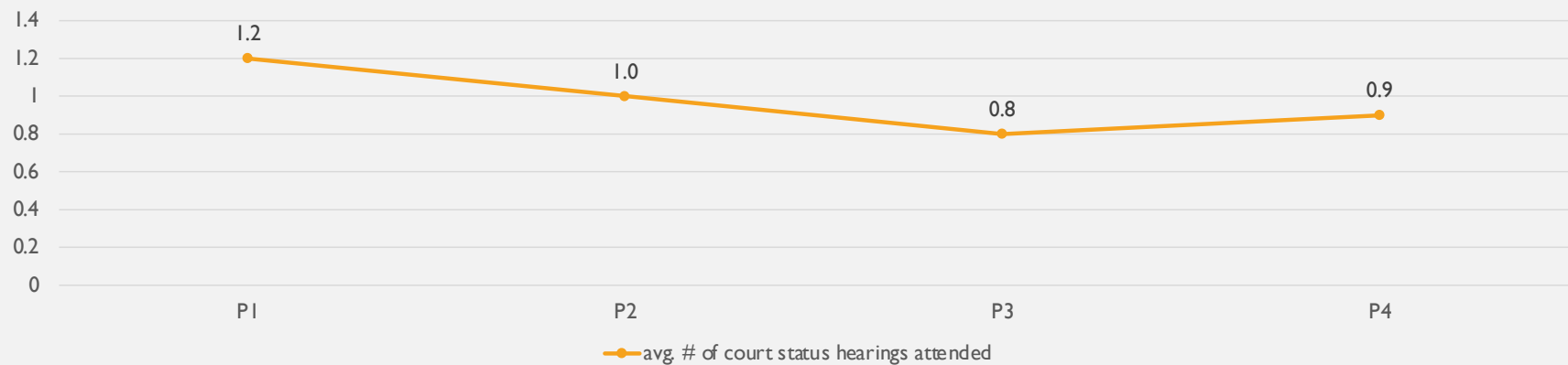
DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING TIMELINESS
KPI: # OF POINT-IN-TIME DRUG/ALCOHOL ADMINISTERED PER WEEK AND PER PHASE

Phase	Avg # of UAs per Week
P4	1.7
P3	1.5
P2	2.2
P1	1.8

■ Avg # of UAs per Week

- Program <u>partially meets</u> the stated benchmark of ≥ 2 test per week for the first 3 phases.

- **Why useful?**
  - What is the overall distribution by week?
  - Are there differences by phase with regard to meeting the benchmarks?

COURT SUPERVISION
KPI: # OF COURT STATUS HEARINGS ATTENDED PER MONTH AND PER PHASE

avg. # of court status hearings attended

- Program does not meet the stated benchmark of ≥ 2 court status hearings per month in phase 1 and 2 and ≥ 1 per month thereafter.

- **Why useful?**
  - Are participants attending court review sessions as intended?
  - Are there differences by phase?

ADULT TREATMENT COURT KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Evaluation - The What, Why, & How

EVALUATION
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Variable	KPI	Data Needed	Benchmarks
Program completion	Participants successfully completing the program	- participants' discharge type	≥ 60%
Attendance rates	% of court status hearings, treatment sessions, community supervision sessions, & drug/alcohol tests attended/completed	- # of scheduled appts./sessions by service type - # of attended appointments/sessions by service type	≥ 75% sessions/appts.
Length of stay	# of days between program entry & program discharge (successfully or unsuccessfully)	- Program entry date & exit date - Treatment entry date & exit date	9-15 mos. of SUD, MH, trauma, & TX svcs. 12-18 mos. of total program enrollment
Substance use	% of + drug/alcohol tests per month & per phase # of continuous days w/o drug/alcohol use for testing procedures that lengthen detection window	- Dates of scheduled drug/alcohol tests - Results of scheduled drug/alcohol tests - Dates of continuous drug/alcohol monitoring - Violations of continuous drug/alcohol monitoring	≥ 90 consecutive days of negative drug/alcohol tests prior to program completion

EVALUATION
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

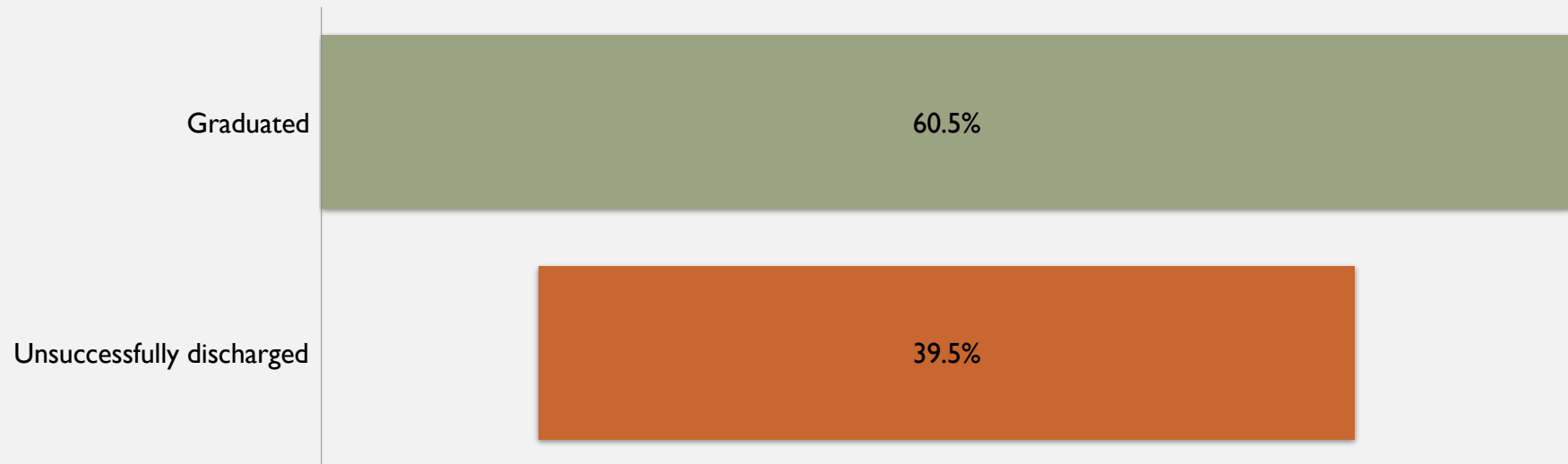| Variable	KPI	Data Needed	Benchmarks
Housing	% of participants with unsafe/unstable housing at entry who obtained safe/stable housing by discharge	- Housing status at program entry - Housing status at program exit	100%
Employment	% of participants w/ inadequate/unstable employment at entry who desired & obtained stable employment/vocational assistance by discharge	- Employment status at program entry - Employment status at program exit - Dates of employment	≥ 90 days of employment
Education	% of participants desiring educational training or assistance who enrolled in such a program by discharge	- Education level at program entry - Education level at program exit - Dates enrolled in educational training/assistance programming	≥ 90 days of enrollment

EVALUATION
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

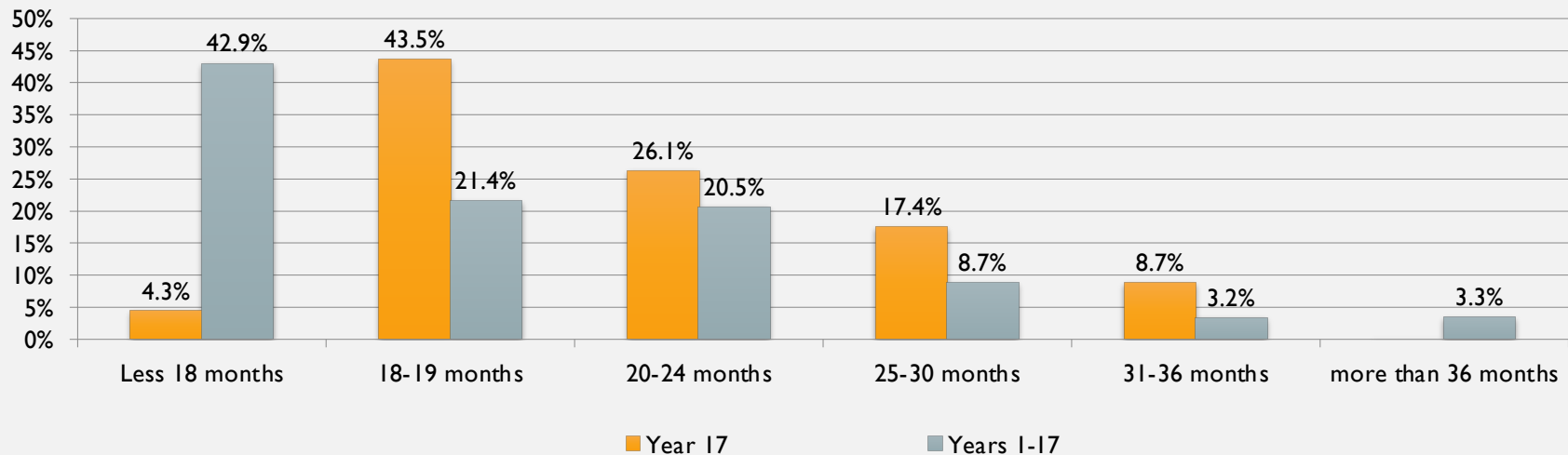| Variable	KPI	Data Needed	Benchmarks
Technical violations	# of confirmed violations of curfews, travel or geographic restrictions, home detention, no-contact orders with others, & similar court-imposed conditions	- dates of confirmed violations by type (i.e., curfew, travel restrictions, no-contact order, home confinement)	No reliable benchmark
Recidivism	# of new arrests, charges, convictions, reincarcerations, and self-reported criminal activities	- incident date - dates of new arrests, charges, convictions, reincarcerations, & self-reported criminal activities - type of offenses – property, violent, drug, alcohol, financial, etc. - offense severity - (i.e., misdemeanor/felony)	No reliable benchmark

HOW TO USE
EVALUATION KPIs

PROGRAM COMPLETION
KPI: PARTICIPANTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE PROGRAM

Graduated — 60.5%

Unsuccessfully discharged — 39.5%

- Program <u>meets</u> the stated benchmark of 60% of participants successfully completing the program with 60.5%.

- **Why useful?**
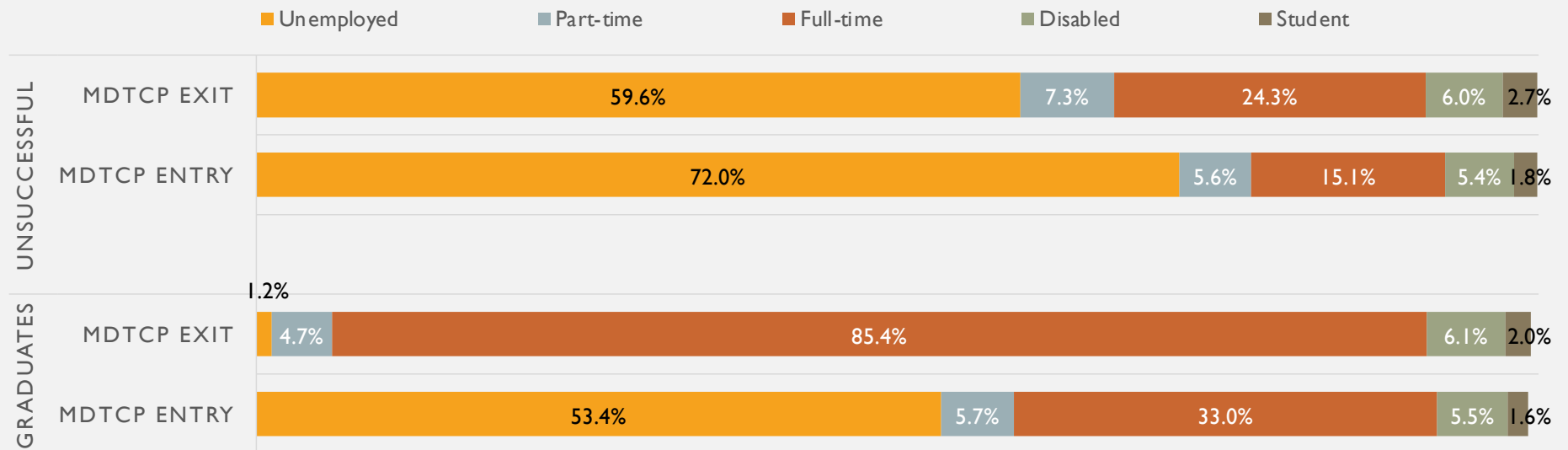 - Among those with a disposition, what % graduated?

LENGTH OF STAY
KPI: # OF DAYS FROM PROGRAM ENTRY TO COMPLETION OR DISCHARGE (GRADUATES PRESENTED)

	Less 18 months	18-19 months	20-24 months	25-30 months	31-36 months	more than 36 months
Year 17	4.3%	43.5%	26.1%	17.4%	8.7%	
Years 1-17	42.9%	21.4%	20.5%	8.7%	3.2%	3.3%

- Program <u>meets</u> the stated benchmark of 12-18 months of total program enrollment in year 17 with 95.7% of graduates remaining in the program for 18 months or longer.

- **Why useful?**
  - How long are graduates spending in your program compared to the intended program length?
  - Does this change over time?

EMPLOYMENT
KPI: % OF PARTICIPANTS W/ INADEQUATE/UNSTABLE EMPLOYMENT AT ENTRY WHO DESIRED & OBTAINED STABLE EMPLOYMENT/VOCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BY DISCHARGE

Legend: ■ Unemployed ■ Part-time ■ Full-time ■ Disabled ■ Student

UNSUCCESSFUL

MDTCP EXIT: Unemployed 59.6%, Part-time 7.3%, Full-time 24.3%, Disabled 6.0%, Student 2.7%

MDTCP ENTRY: Unemployed 72.0%, Part-time 5.6%, Full-time 15.1%, Disabled 5.4%, Student 1.8%

GRADUATES

MDTCP EXIT: Unemployed 1.2%, Part-time 4.7%, Full-time 85.4%, Disabled 6.1%, Student 2.0%

MDTCP ENTRY: Unemployed 53.4%, Part-time 5.7%, Full-time 33.0%, Disabled 5.5%, Student 1.6%

- Program <u>meets</u> the stated benchmark of ≥ 90 days of employment for graduates, but not for those unsuccessfully discharged

Why useful?

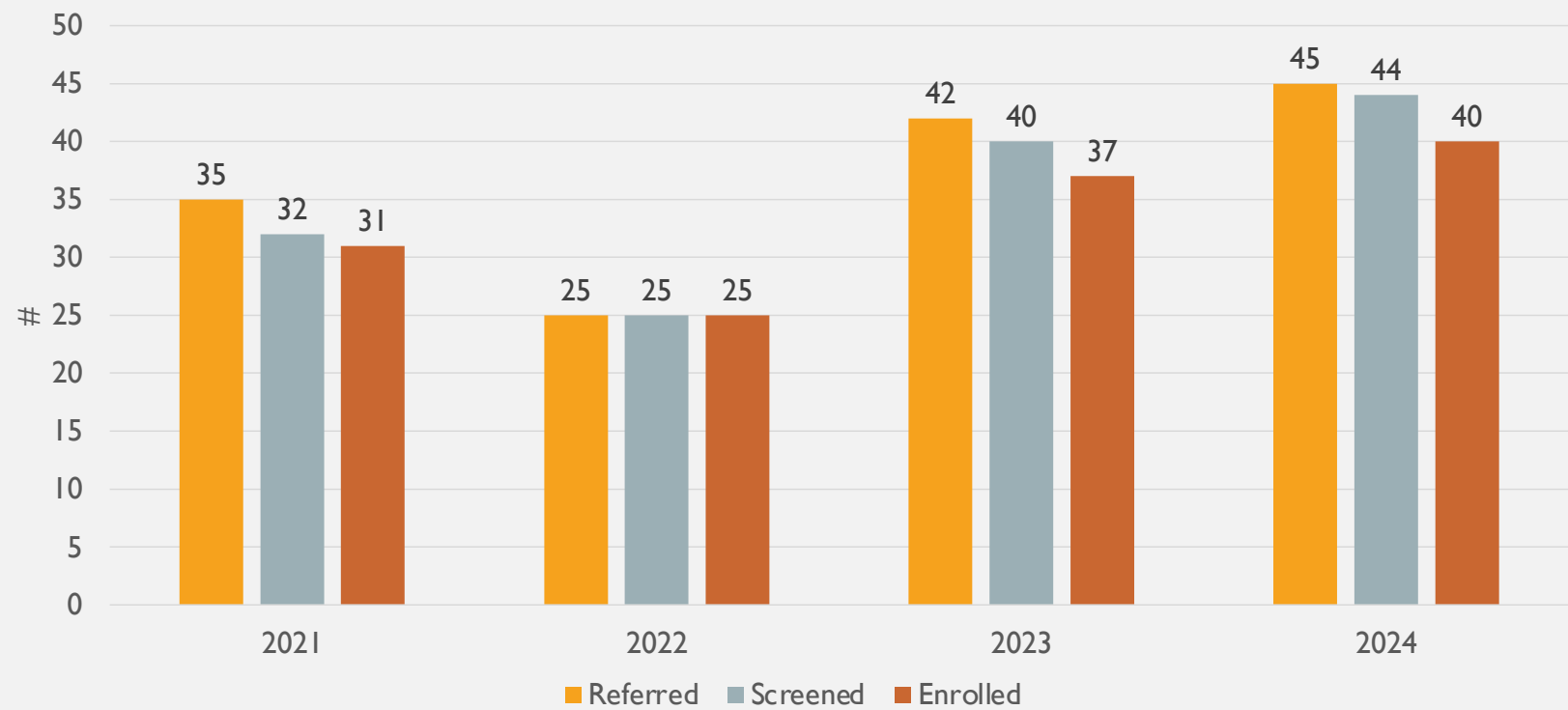- Is there a change in employment status among participants? By discharge type?

RECIDIVISM

KPI: # OF NEW ARRESTS, CHARGES, CONVICTIONS, REINCARCERATIONS, AND SELF-REPORTED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

	All Participants	Graduate	Unsuccessful
Any Arrest			
Yes	29.9%	20.7%	36.8%
No	70.1%	79.3%	63.2%
Any Conviction			
Yes	14.9%	10.3%	18.4%
No	85.1%	89.7%	81.6%

- No benchmarks for this variable. Examine increase/decrease over time.

- **Why useful?**
    - What percentage of participants with a disposition recidivated post-program?
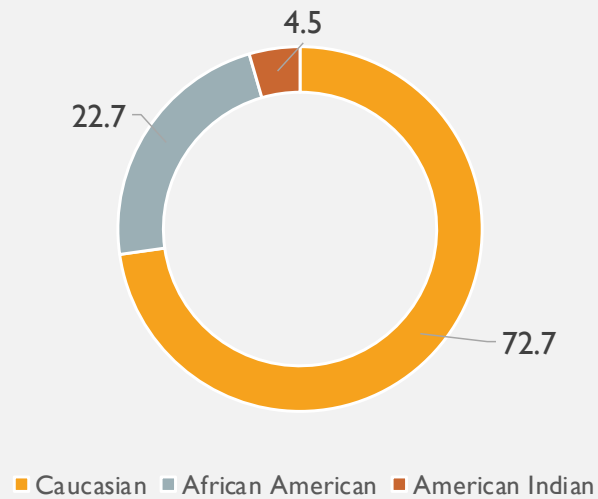   - Does recidivism vary by disposition type?
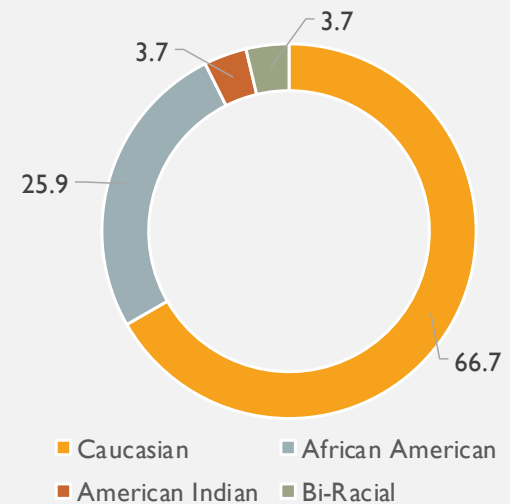
SOMETHING HERE LOL

DEMOGRAPHICS: GENDER & RACE (%)

Female Participants

4.5
22.7
72.7

■ Caucasian ■ African American ■ American Indian

Male Participants

3.7
3.7
25.9
66.7

■ Caucasian ■ African American
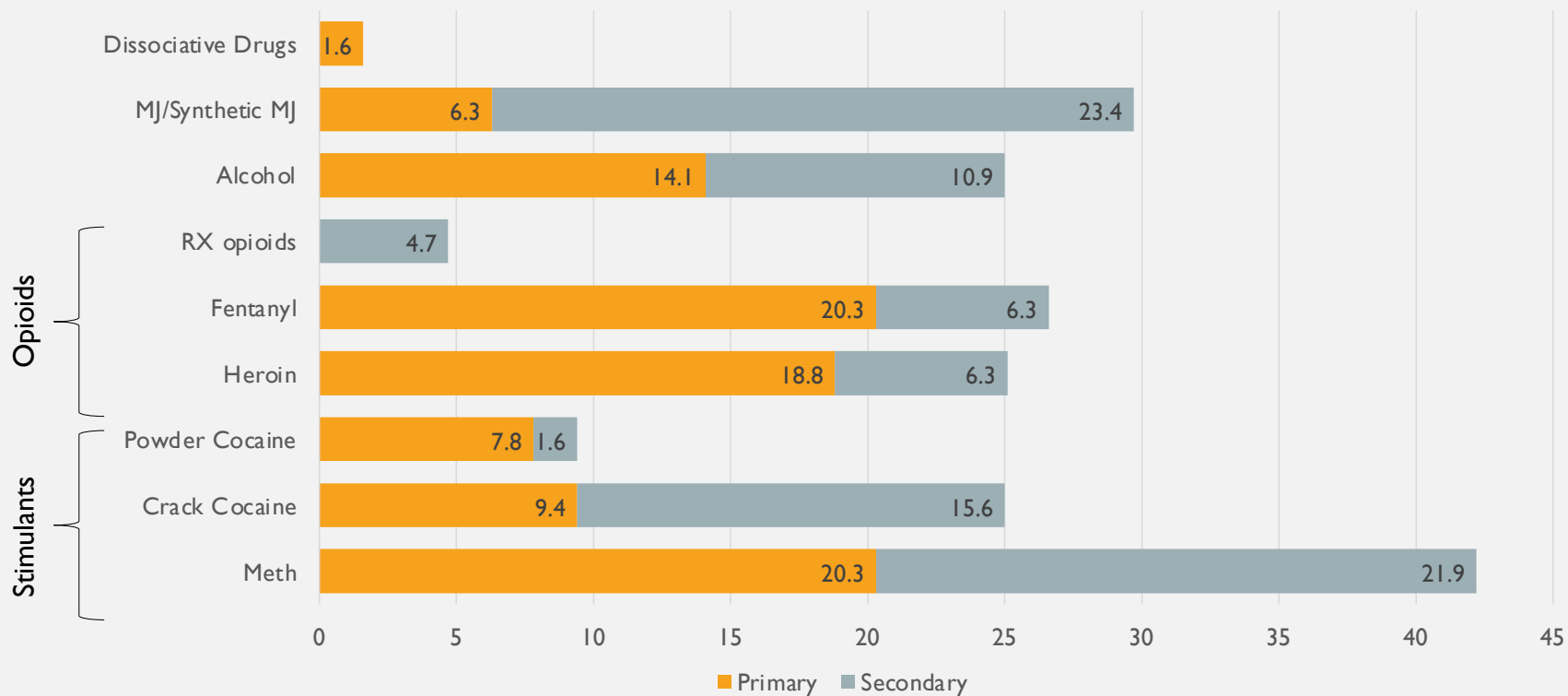■ American Indian ■ Bi-Racial

SUBSTANCES OF USE AMONG PARTICIPANTS (%)

THE ROLE OF QUALITATIVE DATA

WHAT CAN QUALITATIVE DATA DO FOR YOU?

Can help you do the following:

1. Understand the meaning of the events, situations & actions participants are involved with & of the accounts that they give of their lives & experiences.

2. Understand the particular context within which participants act & the influence this context has on their actions.

3. Understand the process by which events & actions take place.

4. Develop causal explanations.

From Bickman, L., & Rog, D. J. (Eds.). (2008). *The SAGE handbook of applied social research methods*. Sage publications.

STRATEGIES FOR COLLECTING QUALITATIVE DATA

Interviews

Focus groups

Surveys – using open-ended questions

QUALITATIVE DATA CONSIDERATIONS

- What question(s) are you trying to answer?
- Who is asking the questions?
- Where are interviews/focus groups being conducted?
- Confidentiality & anonymity
  - How to ensure?
- Coding for themes across participants
- Using quotes

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER…

✓ Collect data

✓ Accurate data is CRUCIAL!

✓ Process measures

✓ Outcome measures

✓ Use qualitative data to help tell your program's story

THANK YOU!

Dr. Christina Lanier
Professor
Sociology & Criminology
UNCW
lanierc@uncw.edu

Dr. Kristen DeVall
Professor
Sociology & Criminology
UNCW
devallk@uncw.edu