

Statewide Evaluation of 2003 Iowa Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts

BJS/JRSA 2009 National Conference

Michelle D. Cook

Lanette Watson

Paul Stageberg

Iowa Department of Human Rights
Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

October 23, 2009

Introduction / Methods

- ▶ Study background
- ▶ Samples
- ▶ Tracking variables



Drug Court Model Characteristics

Judge

- ▶ Judge central authority figure
- ▶ Regular status review hearings
- ▶ Drug court team
- ▶ Attorneys present

Community Panel

- ▶ Trained community volunteers
- ▶ Regular status review hearings
- ▶ Authority to administer numerous sanctions and rewards
- ▶ Power to refer client to appear before the judge



Adult Findings – Typical Participant

- ▶ 30 years old
- ▶ White
- ▶ Non-Hispanic
- ▶ Male
- ▶ Unmarried
- ▶ High school graduate
- ▶ Unemployed or under employed
- ▶ First used drugs or alcohol at age 14
- ▶ Methamphetamine user
- ▶ Had prior substance abuse treatment
- ▶ Felony referral offense
- ▶ Had not been arrested under the age of 16
- ▶ No prior prison admission
- ▶ Averaged seven prior convictions (two felonies and five misdemeanors)



Adult Findings – Participant Differences

Judge

- ▶ Greater percentage unemployment
- ▶ Greater percentage preferring cocaine
- ▶ Greater percentage with a prior prison admission

Community Panel

- ▶ Greater percentage of those with at least one prior felony



Adult Findings – Completion Rates

Variable	Judge	Community Panel
Model	58.2%	43.7%
Female	48.3%	35.0%
Male	62.9%	47.1%
Minority*	36.4%	22.2%
Non-minority	61.3%	46.8%
Meth users	73.3%	44.7%
Marijuana user*	33.3%	53.8%
No prior prison	73.2%	43.1%

▶ *denotes small numbers

Adult Findings – Process Differences

▶ Judge

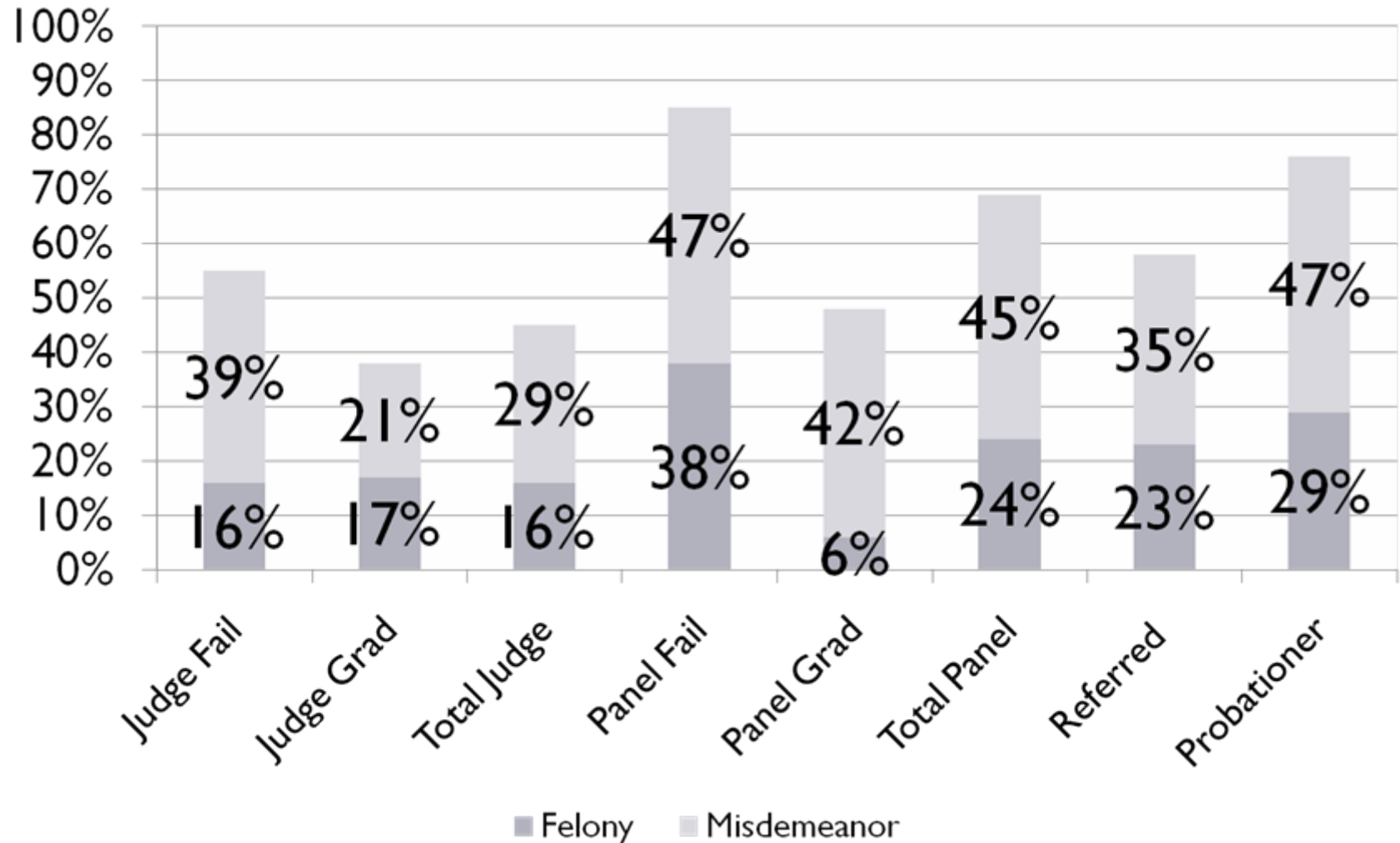
- ▶ In program longer
- ▶ More drug testing
- ▶ More intense levels of treatment

▶ Community Panel

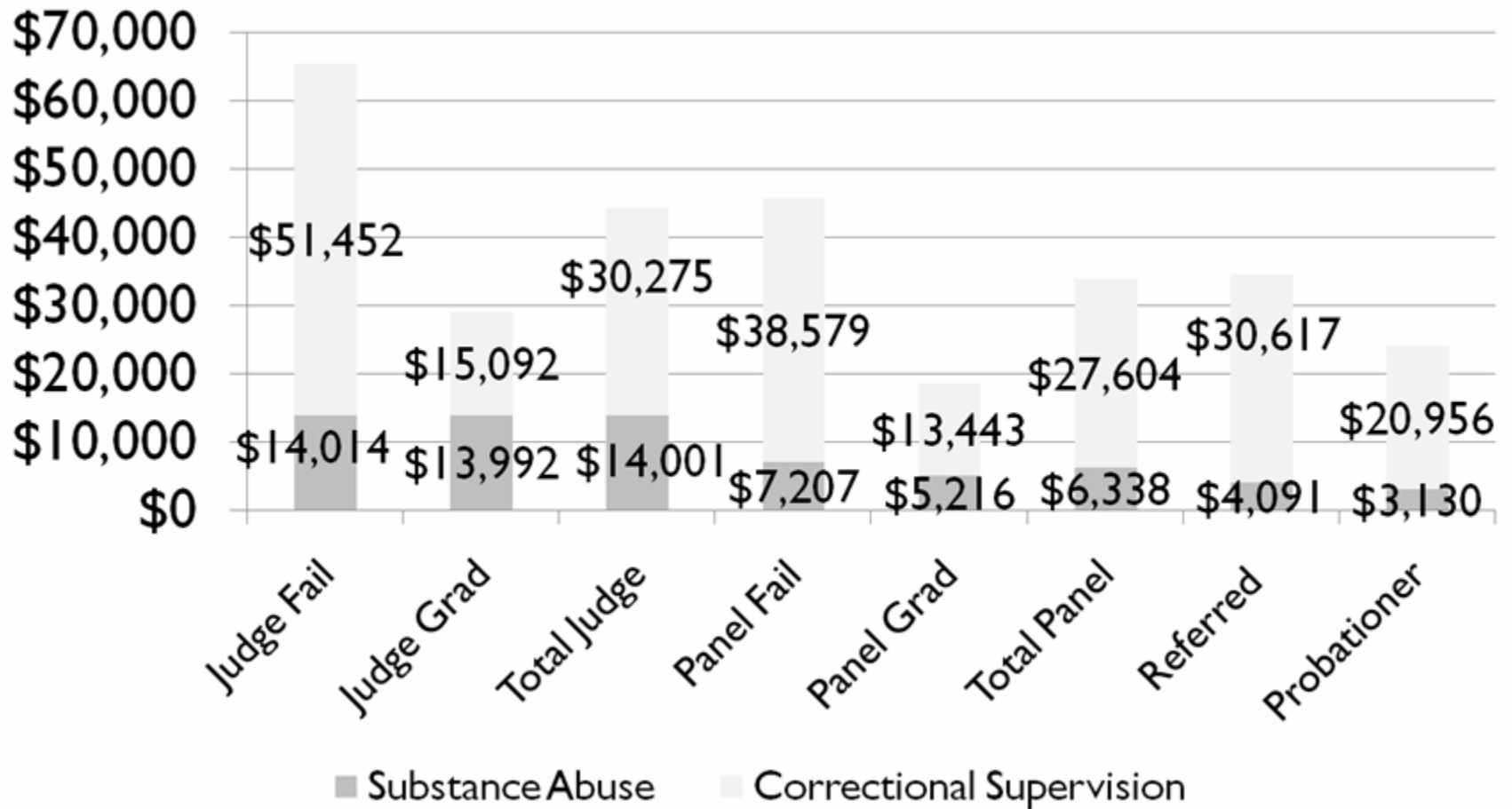
- ▶ Fewer urinalysis
- ▶ More breath analysis
- ▶ Greater percentage of positive drug tests



Adult Findings – Recidivism



Adult Findings – Costs



Juvenile Findings – Typical Participant

- ▶ 16 years old
- ▶ White
- ▶ Non-Hispanic
- ▶ Male
- ▶ Misdemeanor level referral
- ▶ Misdemeanor level offense history
- ▶ Marijuana drug of choice
- ▶ First used drugs or alcohol at age 13
- ▶ Father with a substance abuse problem
- ▶ No prior substance abuse treatment history
- ▶ Attended a traditional middle or high school
- ▶ Received counseling prior to drug court entry
- ▶ Did not live with both parents



Juvenile Findings – Model Differences

▶ Judge model

- ▶ Greater percentage of participants who identified alcohol as their primary substance of choice

▶ Community Panel

- ▶ Greater percentage of fathers having a substance abuse problem
- ▶ Smaller percentage of participants attending school in a traditional setting
- ▶ Smaller percentage of participants living with both parents

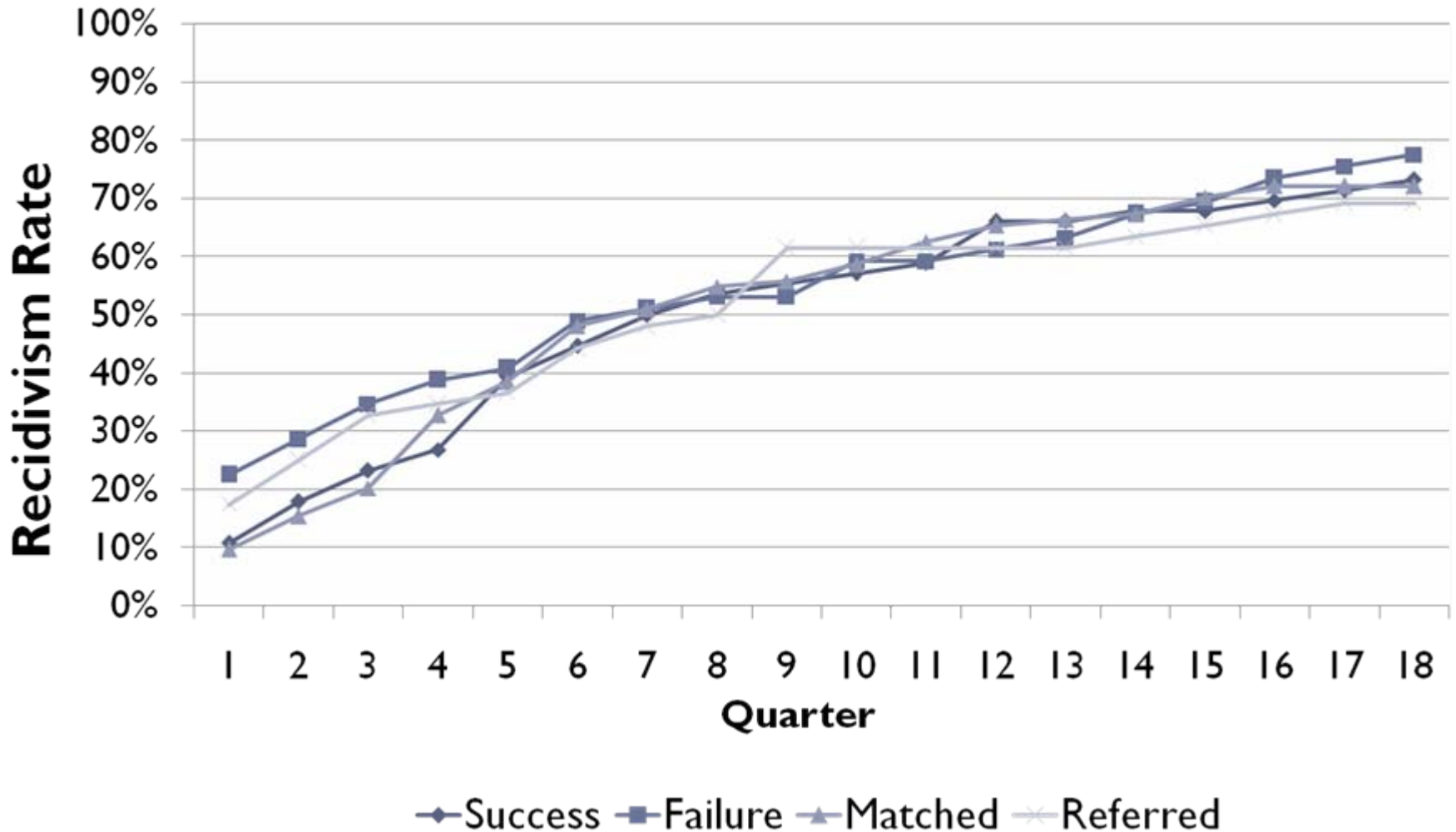


Juvenile Findings – Completion Rates

Variable	Judge	Community Panel
Model	76.9%	39.4%
Female	100.0%	35.7%
Male	71.9%	40.4%
Minority*	60.0%	33.3%
Non-Minority	79.4%	40.7%
Misdemeanor Level Referral Offense	79.4%	43.9%
Felony Level Referral Offense*	60.0%	11.1%
Misdemeanor Level Prior Offense	92.9%	45.1%
Felony Level Prior Offense*	36.4%	20.0%
Marijuana Drug of Choice	77.8%	37.3%

▶ *denotes small numbers

Juvenile Findings – Cumulative Recidivism

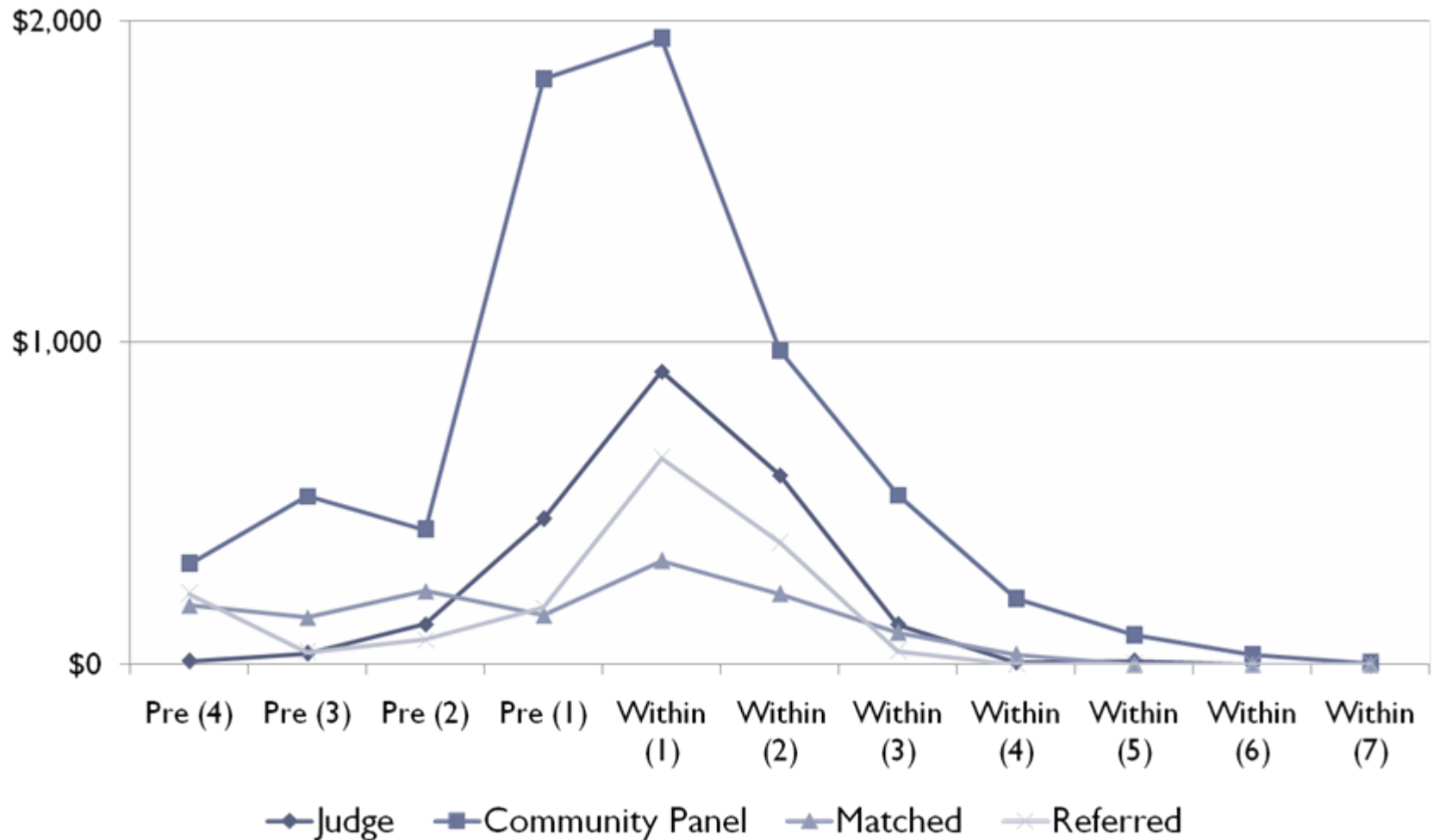


Juvenile Findings – Substance Abuse Treatment

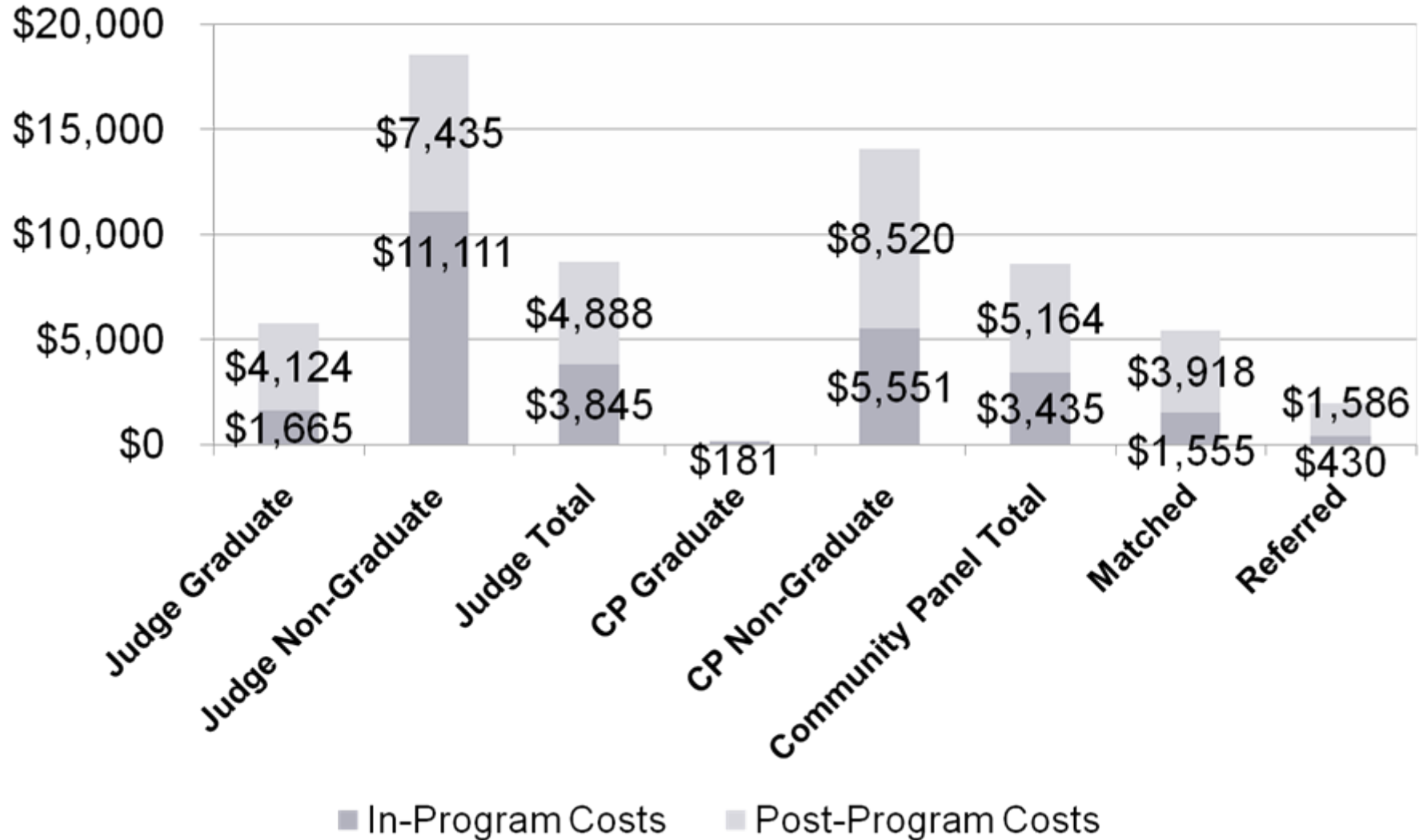
- ▶ Most participants received some form of substance abuse treatment (92.4%)
- ▶ Most substance abuse treatment received was outpatient (65.6%)
- ▶ Community Panel model participants received more treatment units and higher levels of treatment than Judge model participants



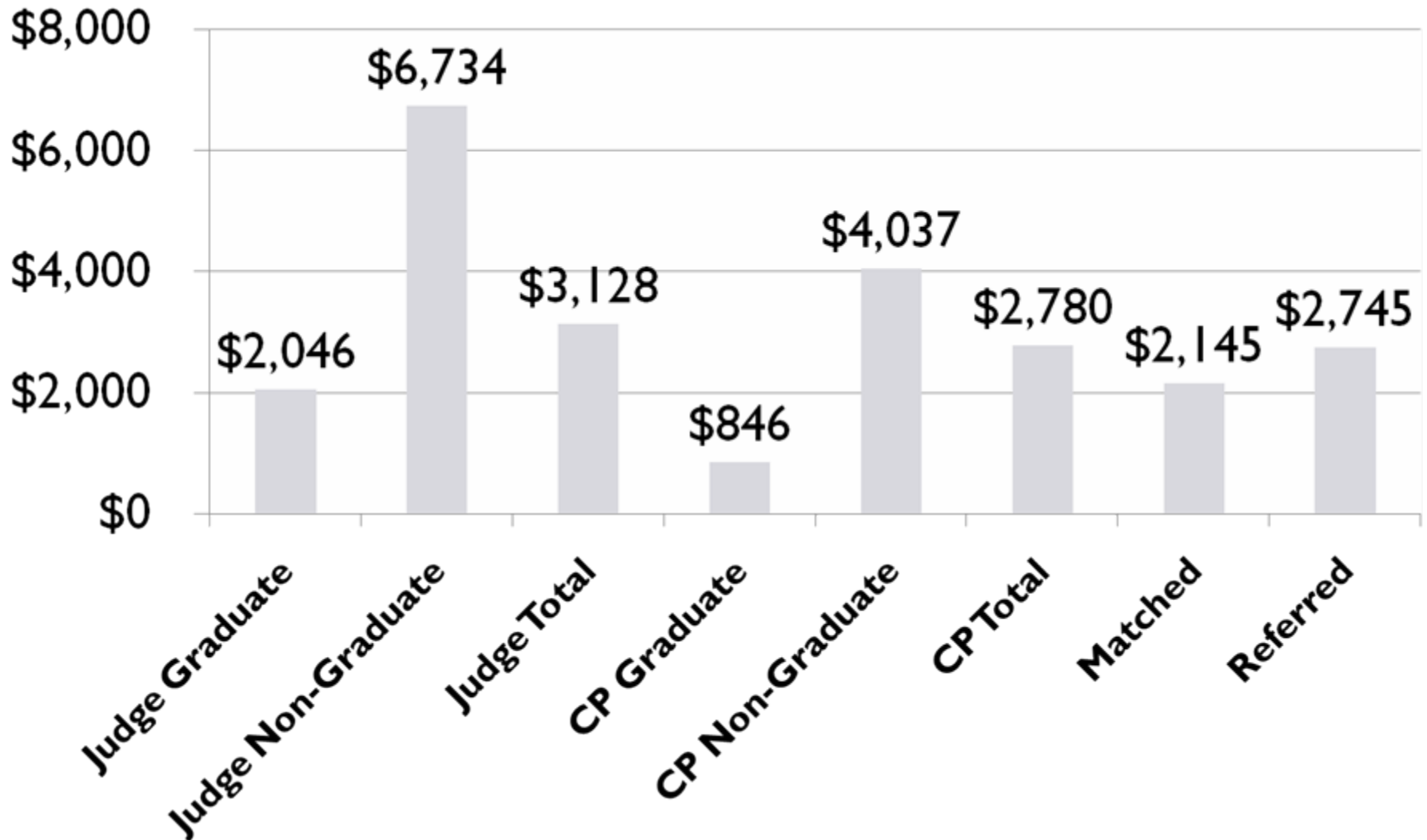
Juvenile Findings – Substance Abuse Treatment Costs (Pre and Within)



Juvenile Findings – Placement Costs



Juvenile Findings – Criminal Justice Supervision Costs



Challenges in Conducting a Statewide Multi-Site Drug Court Evaluation

- ▶ Unique client and community resources and needs
- ▶ Data access
- ▶ Data quality
- ▶ Small numbers for certain data elements



Implications for Justice Policy

- ▶ Efficacy of taking an adult program and replicating it in the juvenile system
- ▶ Treatment works
- ▶ Frequent urinalyses are a deterrent
- ▶ Community panel model not as successful as traditional judge model
- ▶ Potential to reduce justice system costs when used as an alternative to prison



Contact Information

Michelle D. Cook

DHR/CJJP

321 E. 12th Street

Lucas State Office Building

Des Moines, IA 50319

(515) 281-0884

Michelle.Cook@iowa.gov

Full report:

<http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/cjpp/publications/fy10.htm>

