

WINNIPEG DRUG TREATMENT COURT (WDTC)

An Overview



HISTORY

- Accepted first client January 2006
- Graduated first client December 2006
- To date have admitted 367 people to WDTC
- To date have graduated 110 people
- Was a federally funded program through the Addictions Foundation from January 2006-March 31, 2015. The last admissions were in May 2014.
- Officially became a Manitoba Justice Program April 1, 2015 and re-opened the doors September 2015.



WINNIPEG DRUG TREATMENT COURT

A MANITOBA JUSTICE PROBLEM SOLVING COURT

**The Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court
Vision: To break the cycle of drug use,
criminal behaviour and incarceration in
a special court for drug addicted non-
violent offenders, through a collaborative
approach between justice, treatment
agencies and community agencies.**



GOALS OF WDTTC

- To reduce recidivism through judicially-supervised drug treatment programs.
- To break the cycle of drug use, crime and incarceration.
- To provide information on community supports, tools for employment and educational success, positive mental and physical health, appropriate housing and improved family relationships



THE WDTC MODEL

The WDTC model involves a progression through program phases including orientation, stabilization, intensive treatment, maintenance and graduation/aftercare. A client centered approach ensures that following admissions each client's phase placement and progression is based on individual factors; clients move through the program in different ways but will all have the same outcome. The court uses a harm reduction approach that recognizes that clients may relapse at various times in their struggle against addiction, but at the same time promotes individual accountability through weekly court visits and drug screening.

The WDTC Staffing Model: Program Manager, Case Manager, 2 Addictions Therapists, Probation Officer, and a Support Worker.

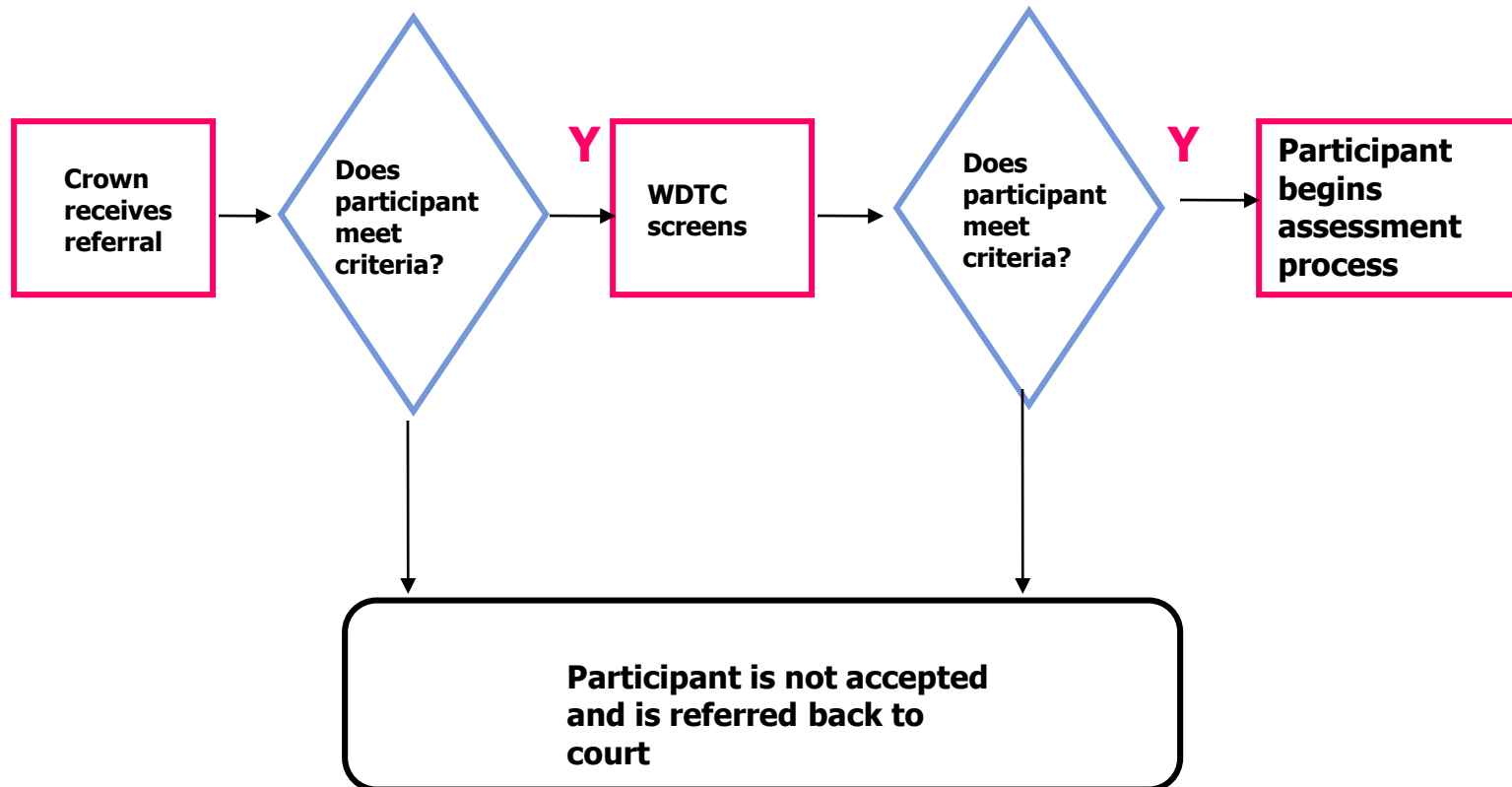
Referral Process: Clients can self-refer or are referred by defense counsel. Some are recruited through word of mouth or advertisement in correctional facilities. They are screened in by a Crown and then assessed by the program manager.



THIRTEEN TENETS OF DRUG TREATMENT COURT

- Drug Treatment Courts integrate addiction treatment services with justice system case processing
- Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' Charter rights
- Eligible participants are identified early and placed in the Drug Treatment Court program as promptly as possible
- Drug Treatment Courts provide access to a continuum of drug, alcohol and other related treatment and rehabilitative services
- Compliance is objectively monitored by frequent substance testing
- A coordinated strategy governs Drug Treatment Court response to participants' compliance and non-compliance
- Swift, certain and consistent sanctions or rewards for non-compliance or compliance
- Ongoing judicial interaction with each Drug Treatment Court participant is essential
- Monitoring and evaluation processes measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness
- Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Drug Treatment Court planning implementation, and operations
- Forging partnerships among courts, treatment and rehabilitation programs, public agencies and community based organizations generates local support and enhances program effectiveness
- Ongoing case management providing the social support necessary to achieve social reintegration
- Appropriate flexibility in adjusting program content, including incentives and sanctions, to better achieve program results with particular groups such as women, indigenous people and minority ethnic groups

PROCESS FOR ADMISSION



WDTC

Types of Offences/Offenders

- Possession - drug addicts;
- Traffickers (low level) who are selling so they can use;
- Break & Enter – those who are breaking in and stealing to support their drug habit;
- Forgery/Fraud – again done to support their drug habit;



CROWN ACCEPTANCE

- The offender has been charged with possession, possession for the purpose of trafficking/trafficking; Criminal Code offences associated with drug offences or a non-violent Criminal Code offence.
- The offender has a drug addiction.
- The offence was caused or motivated by the drug addiction.



THE OFFENDER WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE, IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST:

- 1) If the offender is a member of a gang or criminal organization;
- 2) The offence involved the use of a weapon or violence;
- 3) The offence was solely motivated by profit (for example a commercial grow operation);
- 4) For drug offences, the offence was committed near a schoolyard; playground or other area where children are commonly present;
- 5) For drug or prostitution offences, the offence involved a person under 18 years of age (for example, trafficking to minors; communication with a person under 18 years of age);
- 6) The offender has outstanding immigration issues which may result or has already resulted in a deportation order;
- 7) The offender has any other serious outstanding criminal charges, whether federal or provincial.



WDTC

○ Waiver - Track 1

- Designed for offenders who are charged with possession of a controlled substance and who have a demonstrable dependence on that substance or low level traffickers of marihuana. The Crown will withdraw the charge(s) against *successful* Track 1 participants.



WDTC

○ Waiver - Track 2

- Designed for offenders who are charged with trafficking and/or possession for the purpose of trafficking and certain Criminal Code offences who also have a demonstrable dependence on a controlled substance. An individual with an extensive criminal record charged with possession of a controlled substance may be considered for this track. Upon successful completion, Track 2 participants will be given a non-custodial sentence.



WDTC SCREENING

Areas Assessed:

- Addiction – history of drug use and current use. Any and all treatment involvement.
- Criminal history/risk/community safety
- Education, employment and financial
- Family and social support
- Safe and suitable housing
- Peer associations
- Criminal attitudes and behaviour
- Mental and physical health concerns
- Cultural and religious background
- Motivation



ELIGIBILITY

- Must be assessed as being dependant on drugs and their criminal behaviour must have been caused or motivated by their addiction.
- Must present as motivated and willing to commit to the case plan developed for them to address their individualistic needs.
- Must be willing to engage in all aspects of the WDTC program.
- For those in custody, there must be access to resources to ensure safe supervision in the community.
Males Participate in Winding River Program.



CASE PLANNING

- It is out of this screening that areas of need are identified and a comprehensive client centered case management plan is developed prior to entering the DTC.
- Identified necessary community resources to ensure safety and success.
- Phase placement
This is determined by individualistic factors. There are 5 phases in the program:
 - Orientation
 - Stabilization
 - Intensive
 - Maintenance
 - Graduation/Aftercare.

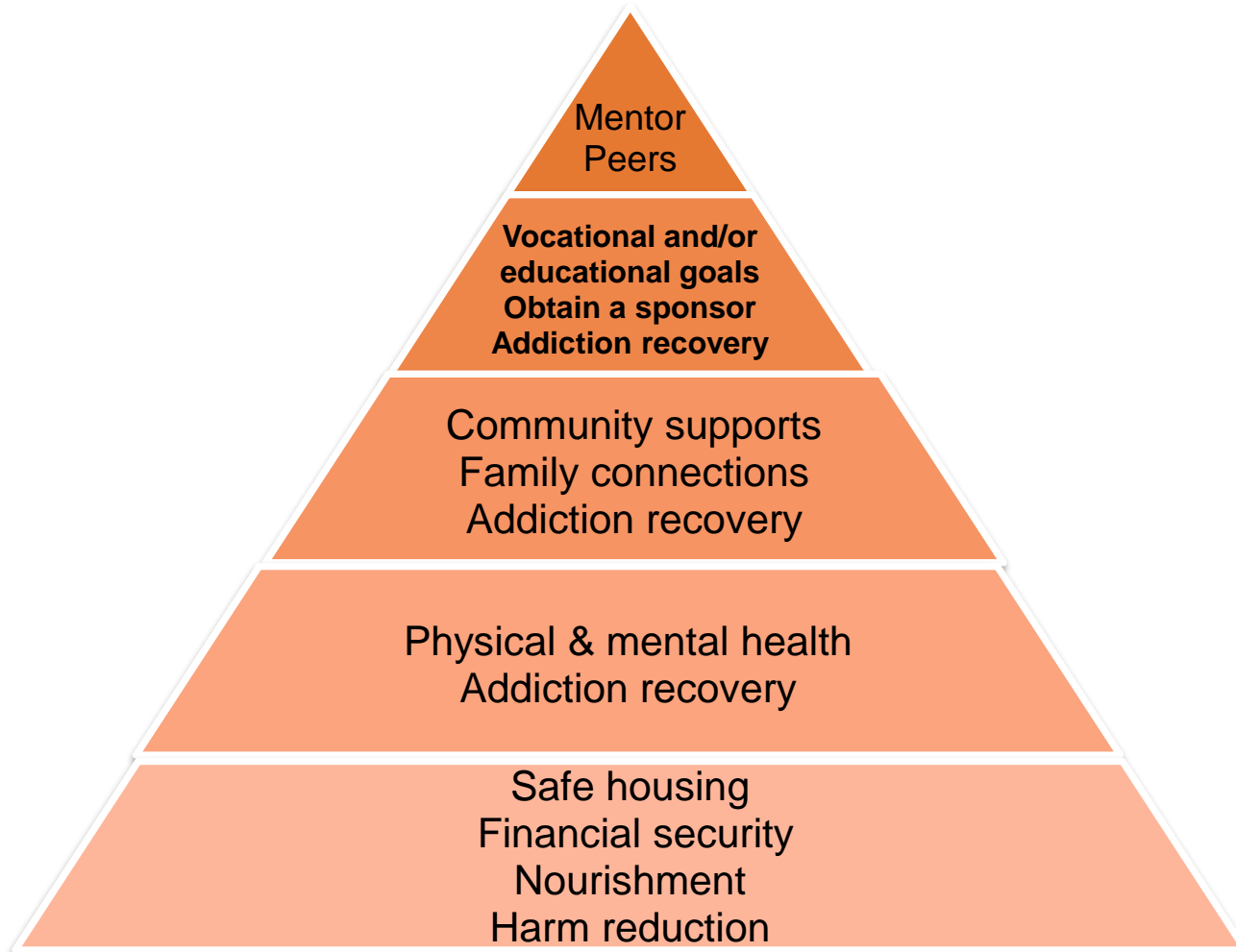


WHAT DO WDTC PROGRAMS INVOLVE?

- Each participant works with a WDTC case manager and service providers to develop a comprehensive and realistic case management plan that include:
 - Regular court appearances
 - Periodic and random drug testing
 - Client centered treatment for substance dependence
 - Cognitive behavioural therapy to address criminal thinking
 - Counselling
 - Life skills training
 - Employment training
 - Job placement
 - Mental/physical health referrals
 - Housing referrals
 - Participation in an LS/CMI Assessment



CASE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



GRADUATION



- A minimum of 4 consecutive months of abstinence from all non-prescription narcotic drugs and alcohol
- Approx. 12-18 months in program, this can vary a lot depending on phase placement at the beginning.
- Completed all required phases
- Significant progress toward resolving identified issues on their individual treatment plan;
- Currently working towards a diploma, GED or other studies or education/training program as approved by WDTC; or
- Have steady employment approved by WDTC
- No recent violations of the law for minimum of 8 months.
- Attending and involved in community supports (i.e. mentoring, leading, etc)



Methamphetamine and Drug Treatment Courts



Addiction Campuses

METHAMPHETAMINE

Abuse, Addiction And Treatment Options

Methamphetamine is a powerful stimulant and long-term abuse of it can result in serious, negative consequences. Formal treatment is almost always required to treat addiction to meth.



CLIENT PROFILE 2015

Drug court cases average 30 years of age (range from 18-64), 3 out of 5 admissions are male, 46% are Indigenous and 52% are Caucasian, fairly similar to last year. The proportion of First Nations or Métis clients increased significantly over the first three years of WDTIC operation, but has not changed much the past four years.

Around 70% of admissions are single and unemployed upon entering the program.

Education levels are consistent; about 56% of cases with grade eleven or more.

Drug trafficking (or possession for the purpose) is the typical client charge (58%), up a bit, followed by break-ins (13%) and a bit surprisingly, robberies (9%).



CLIENT PROFILE 2015 (CONT'D)

81% of participants have a criminal history, down 4% from 2013. About 31% have a record for violence. These convictions are typically for minor assaults or are old crimes.

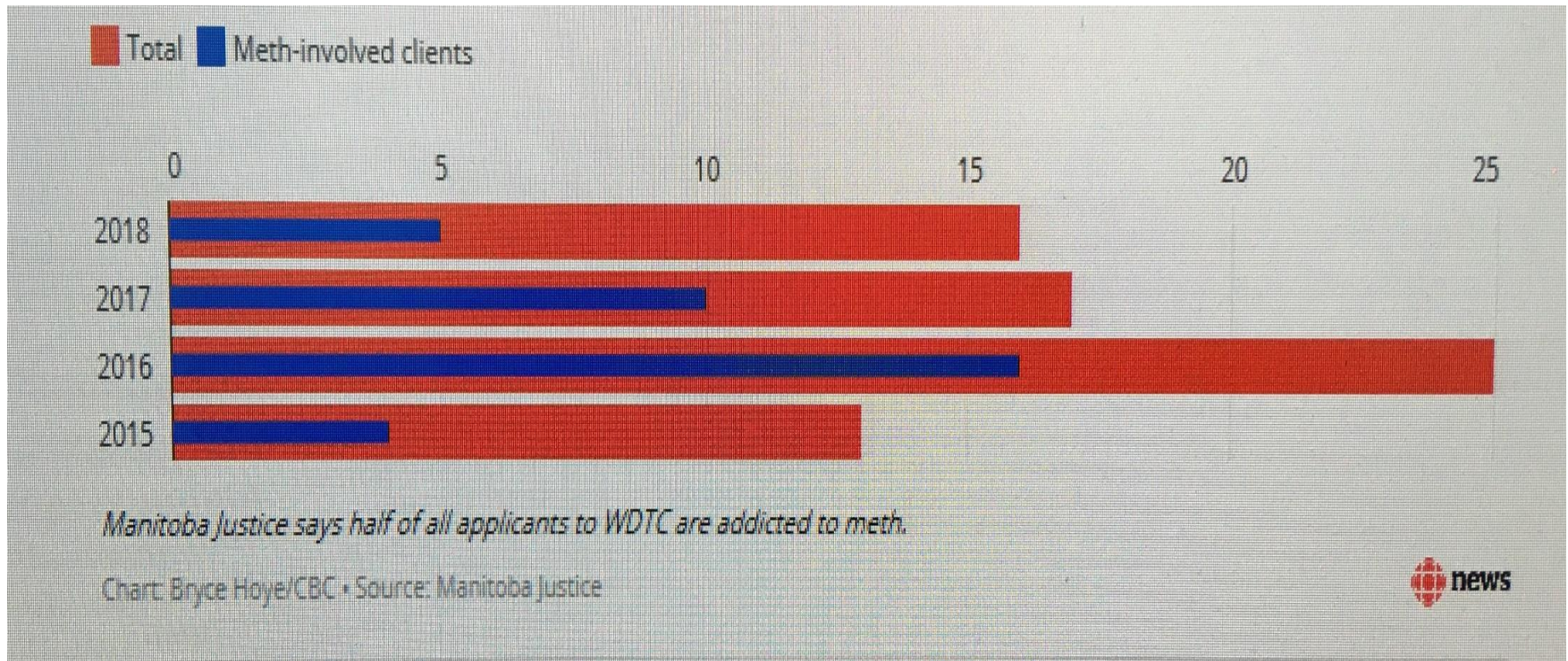
Most drug court cases were *high risk/needs* on the community corrections Primary Risk Assessment and Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (59%), but *low risk* on the provincial inmate Institutional Security Assessment (84%).

The primary drug of choice cocaine (60%) is popular at a rate similar to past years, but its prominence declined from the choice of 76% of clients five years ago. Crystal Methamphetamine remains the second most common drug of choice (16%) and cannabis is the third highest (10%). Other drugs of choice include opioids, hallucinogens, amphetamines and ecstasy.

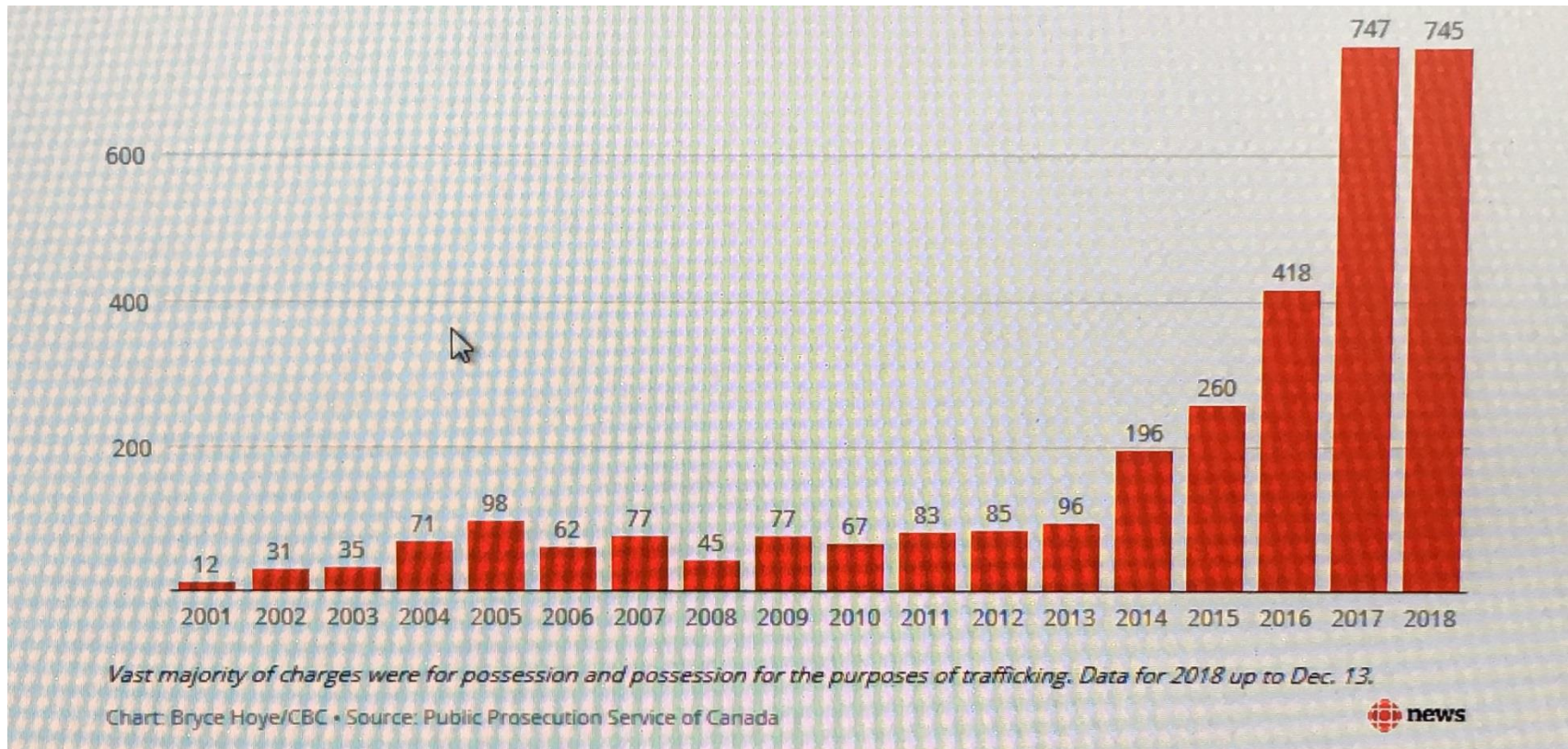
**This information was taken from the Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court Program Evaluation for Calendar Year 2015 by Michael Weinrath, PhD and Calum Smee, BA, Honours*



Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court Participation



Meth Charges in Manitoba



WHY DO WE NEED WDTC?

Conventional criminal justice strategies have not been able to effect a significant reduction in recidivism rates or the demand for and flow of drugs into our communities.

Drug Treatment Courts have proven to be both 'tough' and effective.

Offenders who come before the DTC participate in treatment plans that are typically longer and more rigorous than the probation and/or jail sentences they might receive in a conventional court.



DRUG COURTS ARE CHEAPER AND PRODUCE SUPERIOR RETURNS ON THE INVESTMENT

- Drug courts return an average of \$2.21 to the justice system for every one dollar invested and up to \$12 in community impacts for every dollar invested.



WDTC INCREASES PUBLIC SAFETY BY ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF CRIME

- It monitors and supports offenders as they work to end their dependence on illicit drugs
- It reduces numbers of crimes committed to support drug dependence
- It reduces the harm people cause to themselves and others through their drug use.



RESEARCH ON LONG TERM TREATMENT

The length of time a patient spends in treatment is a reliable predictor of his or her post treatment performance.

Beyond a ninety-day threshold, treatment outcomes improved in direct relation to the length of time spent in treatment, with one year generally found to be the minimum effective duration of treatment.

Mandated participants tended to stay longer.

This was in light of the finding that most of the legally coerced addicts had more crime and gang involvement, more drug use, and worse employment records than their non-coerced counterparts.

One of the comments heard is that the WDTC is 'soft on crime'. Participants enrolled in WDTC are involved in a highly supervised and strongly mandated process longer than what they might have received through conventional court. Our Participants often say that they started WDTC in order to get out of jail but now they are doing it for recovery.



Factors that Give Rise to Methamphetamine Use and Addiction

- **Low cost and duration of high**
 - More bang for the buck
- **Accessibility/Availability**
 - Has become more accessible than other drugs
 - Has reached the rural communities
 - Production has moved from independent to organized crime which means larger volumes coming into those community
- **Lack of information**
 - Negative impacts
 - Frequently used as a cutting agent
 - Purchased unknowingly
- **Trauma, including intergenerational trauma**
 - Use to forget and cope
- **Homelessness, poverty**
 - Use for safety, staying awake/warm. To cope.
- **Physical and Mental health conditions**
 - Existing conditions or meth induced
 - between 8 and 46% of methamphetamine users experience drug induced psychosis.
- **Longer recovery time**
 - 6-12 months brain recovery time



What Makes DTC an Effective Solution

- Community based treatment
- Length/intensity of program
 - during this time individuals need daily support which DTC provides.
 - Evidence shows that meth users require lengthier withdrawal and stabilization period
- Weekly court reporting
- DTC begins with harm reduction with and end goal of abstinence.
- A collaborative approach allows numerous government departments to collaborate for the best interest of the participant.
- Comprehensive and individualized case plans
- Case management utilizes all possible community resources to develop effective case plans.
- DTC offers group, individual and family therapy with numerous therapeutic approaches
 - Cognitive Behavioural therapy
 - Dialectical Behavioural Therapy
 - Art Therapy
 - Mindfulness Therapy



PROOF THAT WDTC WORKS:

- **Of 288 cases who have been through the WDTC from January 2006-December 2015, 94 clients graduated (32.6%) a rate of 1 in 3 of all admissions makes it through our rigorous program.**
- **Recidivism numbers for graduates of the WDTC is quite low. At the end of 2015, only 10.6% of all graduates had re-offended and been convicted.**
- **For discharged and cases who opted out, under a third (30.5%) are convicted of new crimes. The fact that offenders who leave drug court do not reoffend reaffirms that the program is not putting the public at undue risk.**
- **The WDTC recidivism rate compare favorably to the recidivism rate of other correctional options: Manitoba Probation (28%) and provincial custody (66%).**



Challenges and Future Considerations

Expanding acceptance criteria

Expanding to more Manitoba communities.

More collaboration within government departments

- Community Corrections
- Housing
- EIA
- CFS
- Mental Health resources

More addiction related resources

- Longer term residential facilities
- Detox beds/Withdrawal management services

