

# HIGHLIGHTS OF JUVENILE DRUG TREATMENT COURT (JDTC) DEEP-DIVE

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Meeting  
May 14<sup>th</sup> 2020

***SANDAG***

# Purpose/Methodology

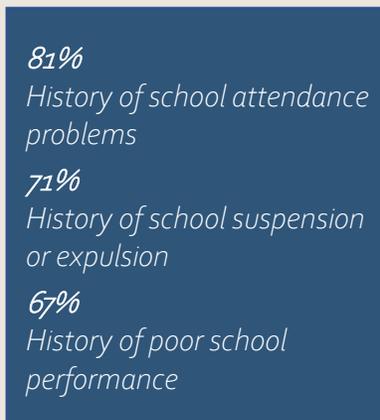
- Better understand the youth characteristics and outcomes of participants in JDTC
- Conducted a retrospective evaluation of the JDTC cohort who exited the program between 7/1/18 and 3/31/19 (n=22)
- Review Probation Case Management System case files for substance use, prior juvenile justice involvement, demographics and other risk factors
- Reviewed juvenile justice contact before, during and up to six-months post

# JDTC Participant Characteristics

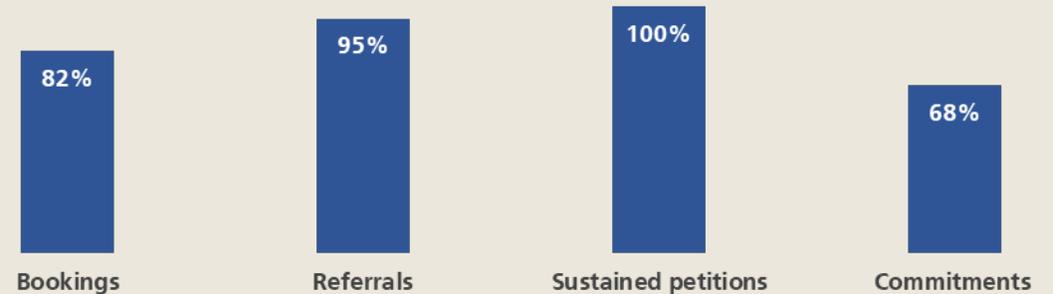
## Characteristics



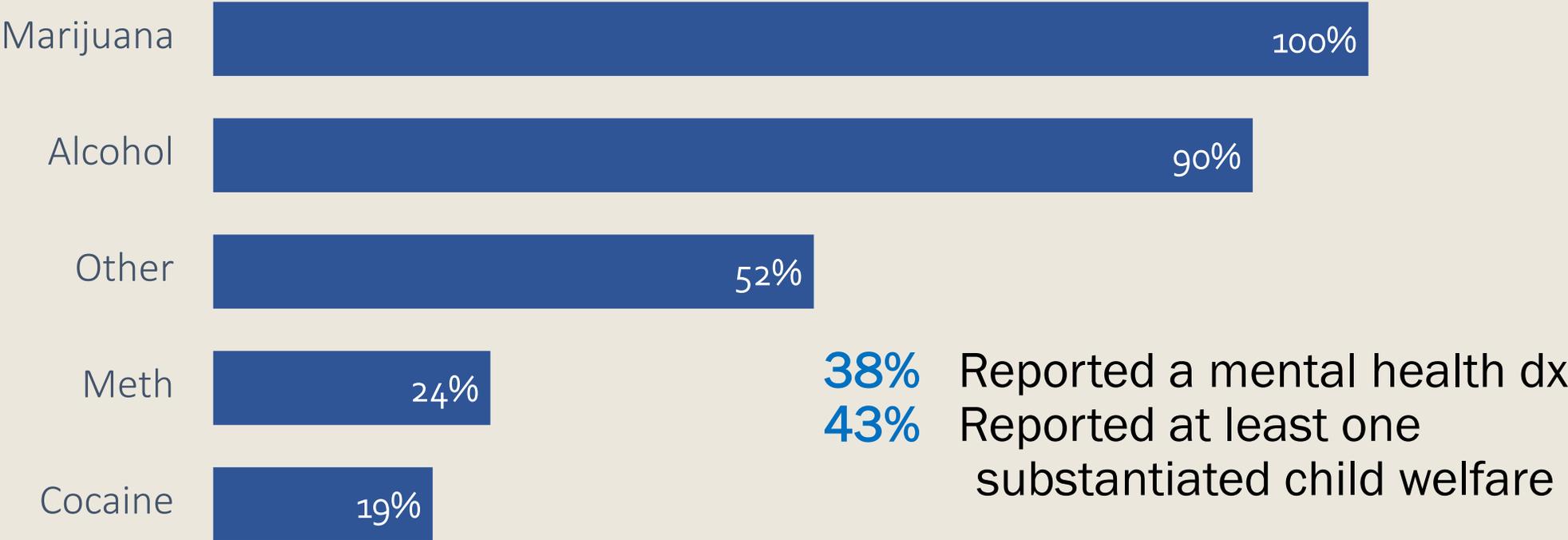
## Prior School Engagement



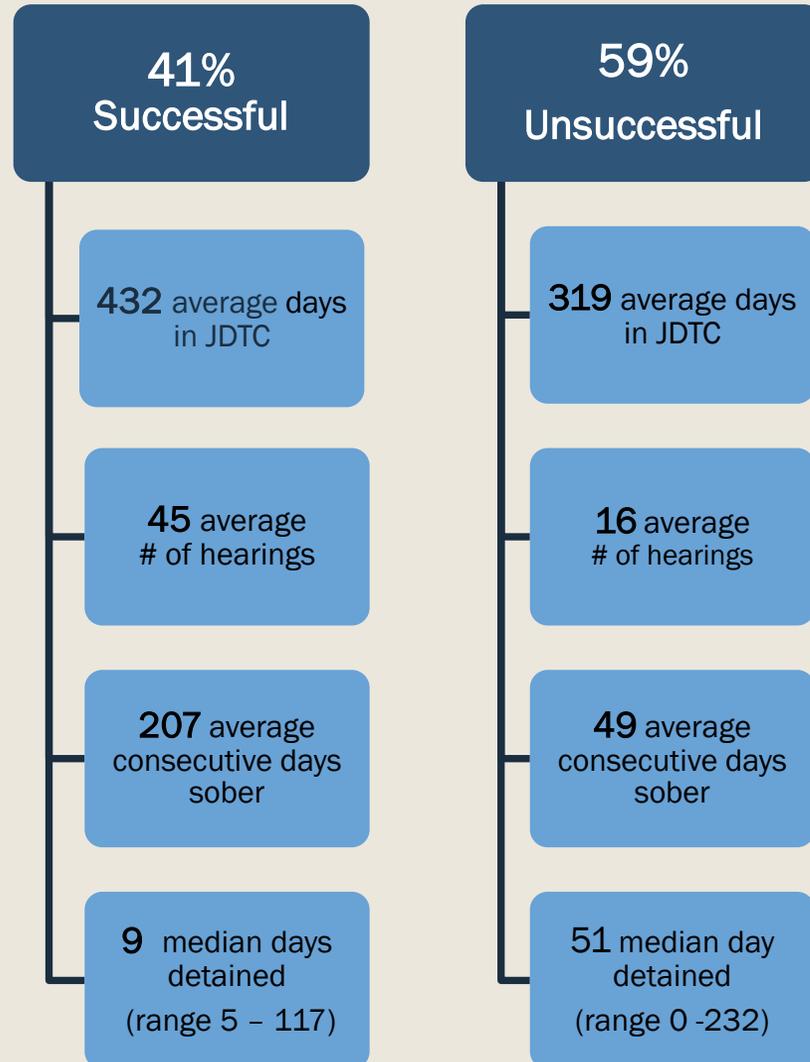
## Juvenile justice involvement prior to program enrollment



# Substance Use Hx and Mental Health History



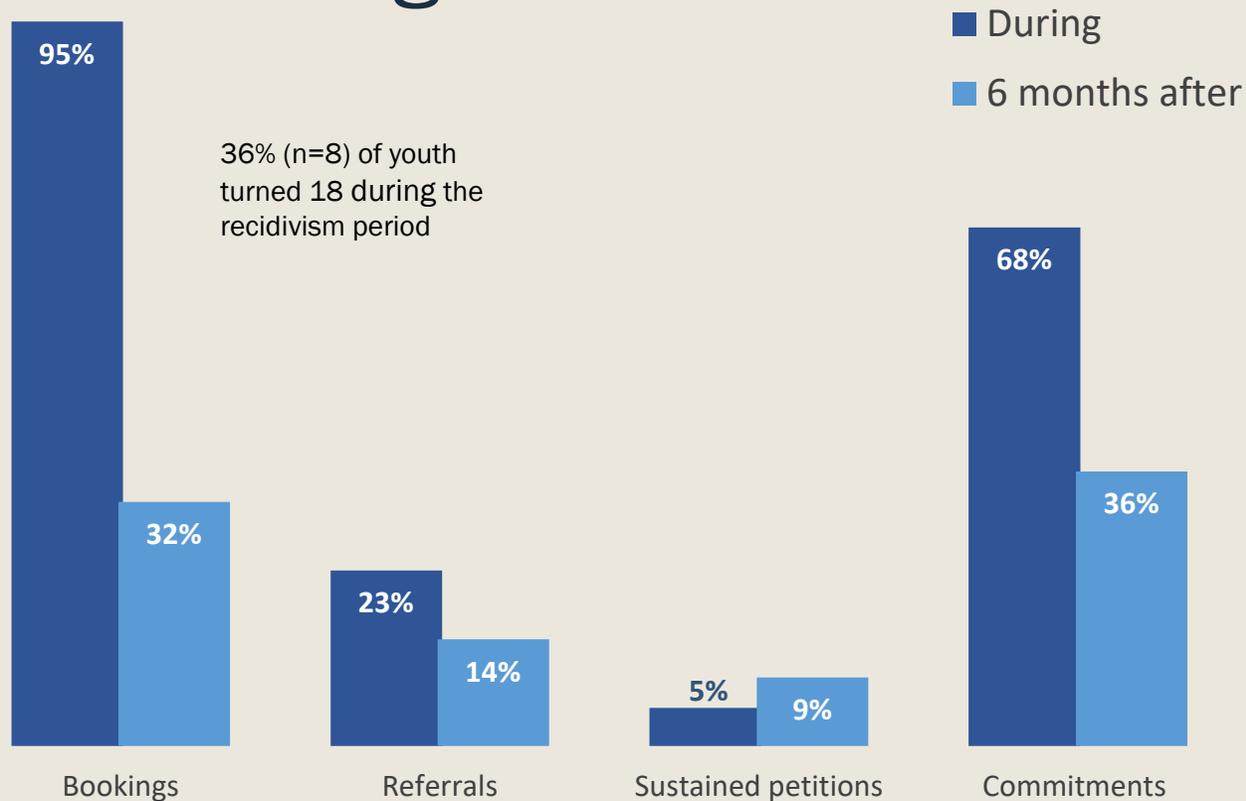
# Program Completion



## Factors associated with termination:

- ❖ Male
- ❖ Testing positive for cocaine or “other” drugs
- ❖ Spending more days detained prior to entering JDTC
- ❖ Having a prior felony sustained petition

# What was the juvenile recidivism rate during the program and six-months following JDTC discharge?



## Factors associated with recidivism:

- ❖ Males more likely to have new probation referrals
- ❖ Youth who were terminated from JDTC were more likely to have a new probation referral
- ❖ Youth who reported using “other” types of drugs were more likely to have a new commitment

# Lessons Learned

- Nearly 6 out of 10 youth did not successfully complete the program. This result supports a review of what types of programs work best for substance abuse and matched with type and severity of use.
- Youth who used other types of illicit drugs compared to those who used marijuana and/or alcohol, did not have positive outcome, which raises the question of the effectiveness of JDTC with this subpopulation.
- The data limitations did not allow measurement of fidelity to best practice.
- Model programs embrace a strength-based approach rather than a punitive approach.