

The Use of Drug Testing in a Problem Solving Court

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Overview

- ▶ Provide overview of Best Practices for Drug Testing in a Problem-Solving Court
- ▶ Apply research findings to program procedures

Drug Testing Best Practices

- ▶ Frequent- at least 2 x weekly
- ▶ Random Testing
- ▶ Duration of Testing
- ▶ Breadth of testing
- ▶ Witnessed Collection
- ▶ Valid Specimens
- ▶ Accurate and Reliable Testing Procedures
- ▶ Rapid Results
- ▶ Participant Contract

Why do we do drug tests?

- ▶ What do drug tests tell us?
 - ▶ Reveal un-reported use
 - ▶ Confirm reported use, verify substances
 - ▶ Did the client actually use what they thought they used?
 - ▶ Confirm abstinence

How to use the results

- ▶ Talk to the clients about the results.
 - ▶ Encourage honesty
- ▶ Assist treatment, potentially increase treatment
- ▶ Praise negative results

Drug testing requirements for participants

- ▶ 60% of those surveyed reported probationers must take time off work to test
- ▶ 50% of those surveyed reported probationers report having trouble getting time off
- ▶ What are the testing hours? Does it suit those you serve?

Who conducts the test

- ▶ Trained in collections
 - ▶ Tampering
 - ▶ Distracting
 - ▶ Chain of Custody
- ▶ Probation staff time
- ▶ Potential to outsource

Conclusions

- ▶ Drug testing provides additional monitoring capabilities
- ▶ Results should be used to assist in guiding treatment
- ▶ Test results are not the only indicator for success
- ▶ Results should be used to support the client in recovery

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