# Effective Strategies and Sentencing Practices for Impaired Driving Cases

Going to Scale for Public Safety

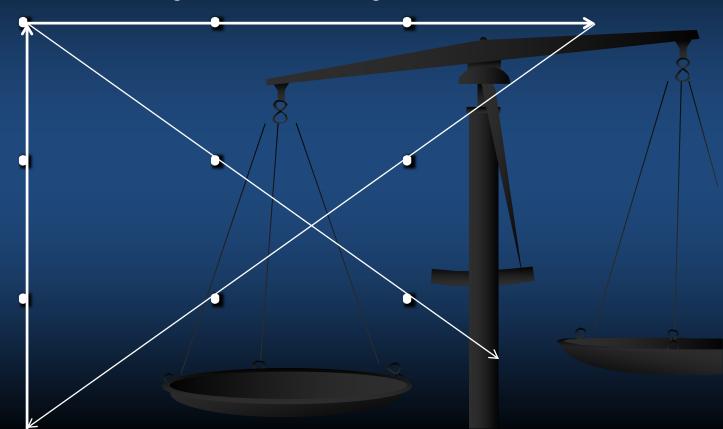
Judge Richard A. Vlavianos San Joaquin County, California

#### **Objectives:**

- 1. Identify the highest risk DWI/DUI offenders and design a strategy to hold them accountable;
- 2. Understand and apply the basic principles supporting evidence-based sentencing;
- 3. Understand the need to use evidence-based screening and assessment to separate high-risk/high-need offenders from other high-risk DWI/DUI offenders;
- 4. Reduce recidivism and improve public safety by applying basic evidence-based sentencing principles in sentencing DWI/DUI offenders.

#### **Expanding Our Vision**

Task - Draw four straight lines connecting all nine boxes



"It ain't what you don't know that gets you in trouble.

It's what you know for sure that just ain't so."

### WHY DU!?

What we know for sure that just ain't so!

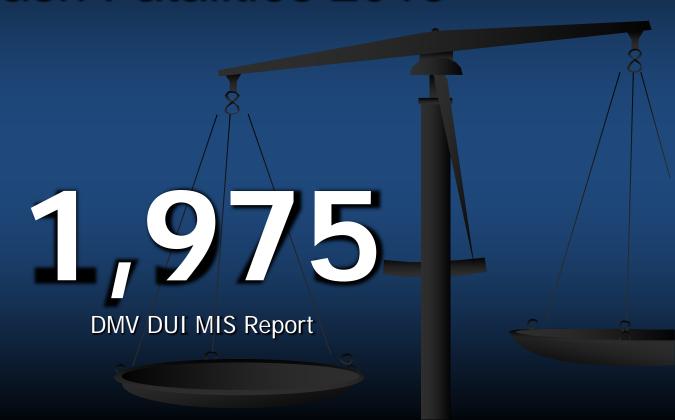
DUIs are only misdemeanors – need to focus on more serious crime

Homicides
should be the
main public
safety focus

#### California Homicides 2015



# California Alcohol & Drug Involved Crash Fatalities 2015

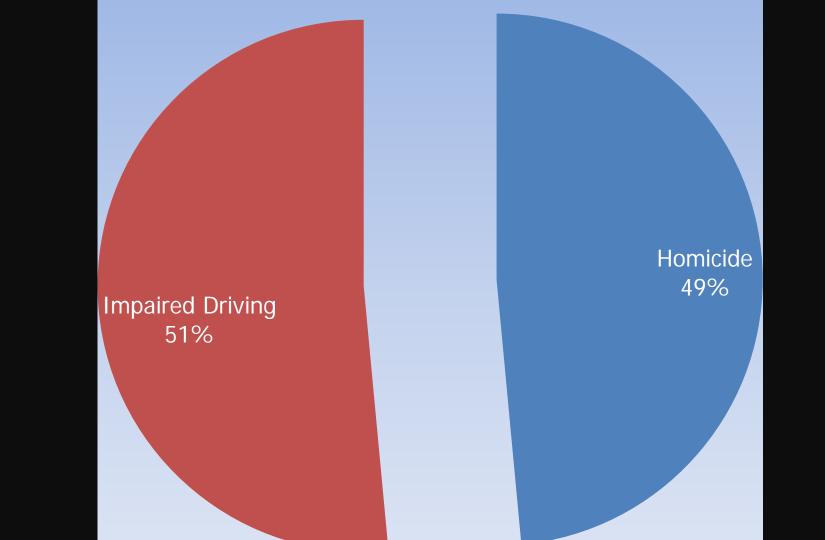


#### 2015 - California Homicides and Impaired Driving Deaths Compared

- Total =
  - Homicide =
  - Alcohol/Drug Impaired Driving =

3,836 1,861

1,975

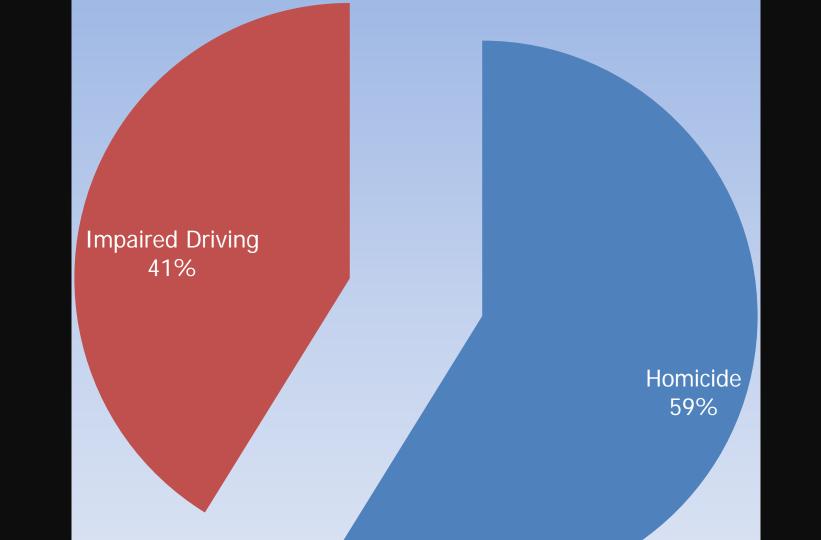


# Imagine - 34% Reduction in DUI Deaths

- Total =
  - Homicide =
  - Alcohol/Drug Driving = 1,303

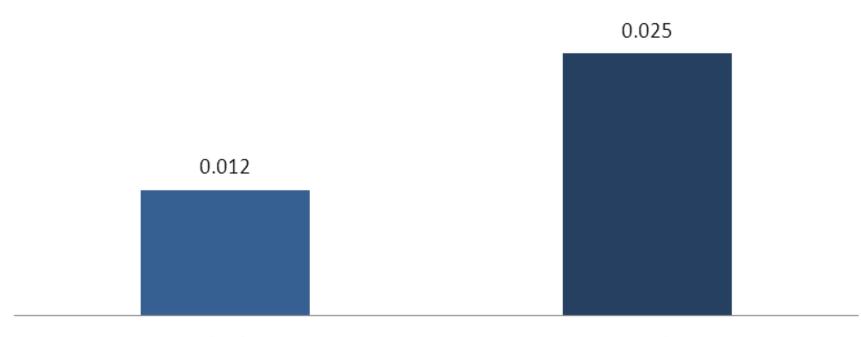
-672 lives

3,125 1,861

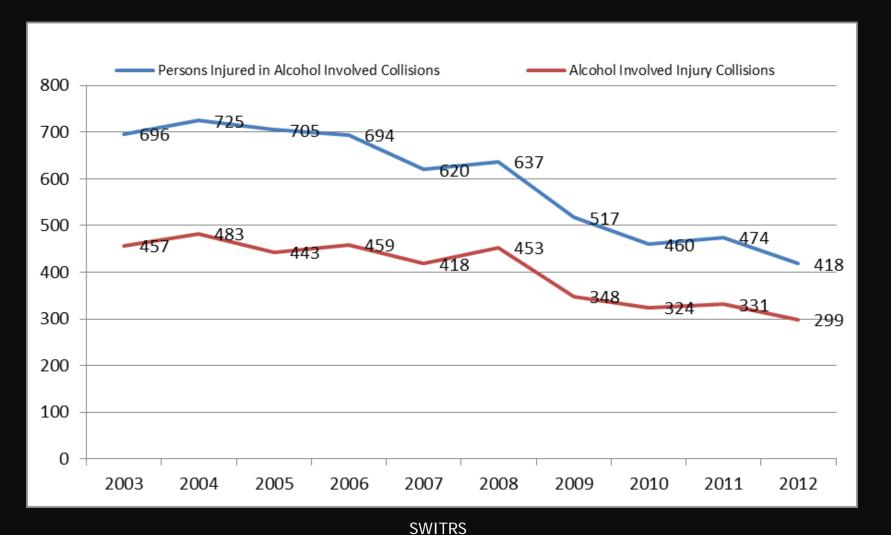


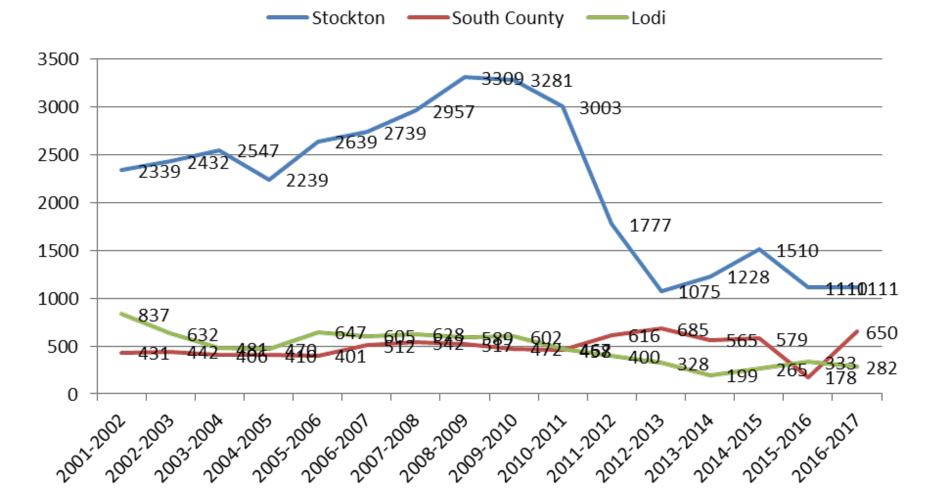
# WHAT CAN BE DONE!

#### **Average Number of Accidents**



DUI Monitoring Court (N = 1,170) Comparison (N = 1,262)





# EVIDENCE BASED SENTENCING PRINCIPLES

# Evidence Based Sentencing Principles

- Identify the highest risk group
- Target all of that group
- Screen for risk/need/
- Assess for needs refer to appropriate programming
- Court monitoring for all high risk offenders

# Evidence Based Sentencing Principles

- Accountability to the Court
- Court Leadership Role

#### TARGETING THE HIGH RISK GROUP



#### Repeat Offenders Constitute:

- 1.43% of California Drivers
- 26% of California DUI Offenders
- 59% of California drivers in alcohol/drug fatal or injury crashes

**DMV MIS Report 2015** 

#### KNOWING THE CLIENT



## What do we know about DUI offenders?

- High risk for a new DUI does not mean high risk for other types of criminal recidivism
- More likely to be high functioning in other areas (Many alcoholics still get up every morning and go to work and take care of their children)
- DUI offenders don't often show up as high risk on risk assessments standardized on the typical criminal justice population

#### Are DUI offenders really different?

- More likely to be:
  - Male
  - □ White
  - Older
  - Highly educated
  - Employed
  - Of a higher income level
  - Scored as low risk on assessment
    - Need DUI specific tool DUI RANT, IDA, CARS

# Are DUI offenders really that different from drug offenders?

- Engage in behavior that is dangerous and frequently causes serious injury or fatalities
- Denial drinking alcohol is not illegal, highly prevalent, and even encouraged in many activities

#### Screening Tools

- DUI RANT substance abuse
- CARS mental health

#### **Assessment Tools**

- IDA substance abuse
- CARS mental helath

#### Court Monitoring – Good News

# TRADITIONAL DUI COURTS WORK!

#### TRADITIONAL DUI COURT

#### **Treatment**

- Designed for addicted/dependent offenders
  - Intensive treatment
  - Intensive court supervision
  - 75 100 participants, no >125
  - Great success rates
- Evidence based model for addicted offenders

#### Traditional DUI Court Data

- Georgia study 3 courts (NHTSA)
  - 20% reduction in recidivism
  - Up to 65% for graduates
- Wisconsin study 1 court (Temple).
- Michigan study 3 courts (NPC)
- Minnesota study 9 courts (NPC)

#### Court Monitoring- Bad News

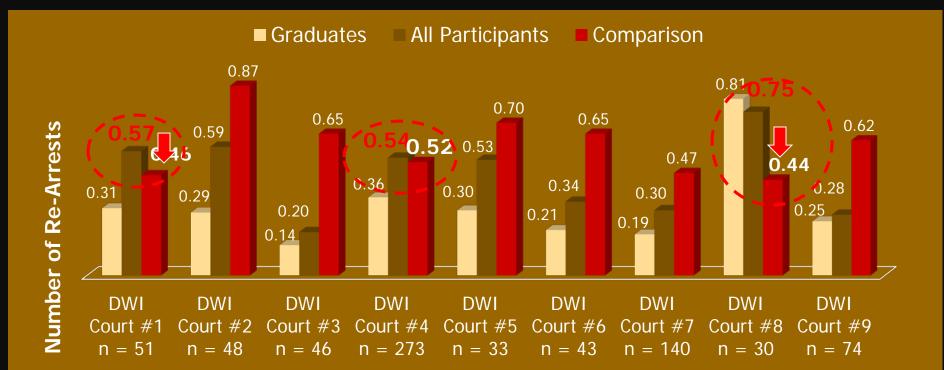
### TRADITIONAL DUI COURTS ARE NOT FOR EVERYONE!

#### Who They Work For

- Only Individuals who are high risk and high need!
- Increases recidivism/no effect for the rest

#### Minnesota Study in 9 DWI Courts Completed September 2014

Participants (regardless of graduation status), at the majority of the 9 DWI courts had lower re-arrest rates but not all of them

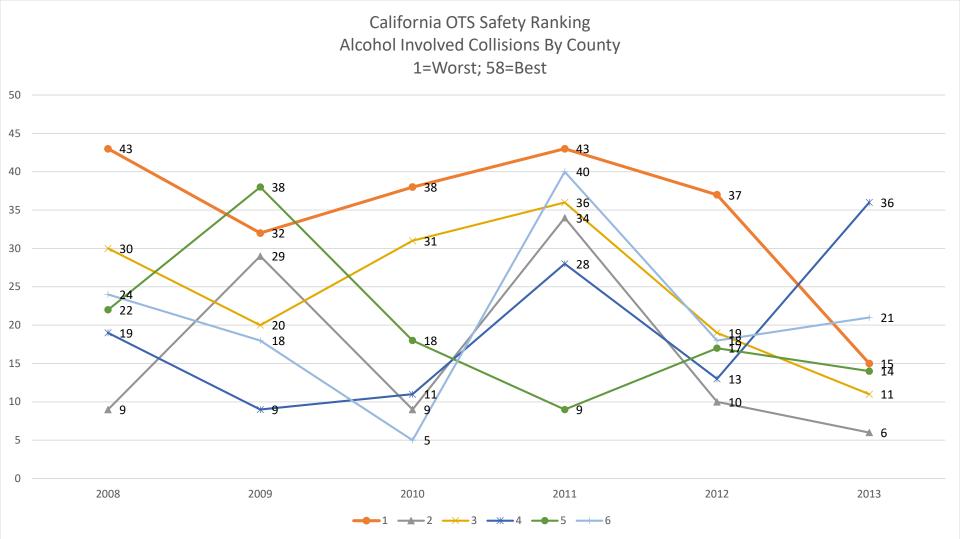


#### % Appropriate for DUI Court

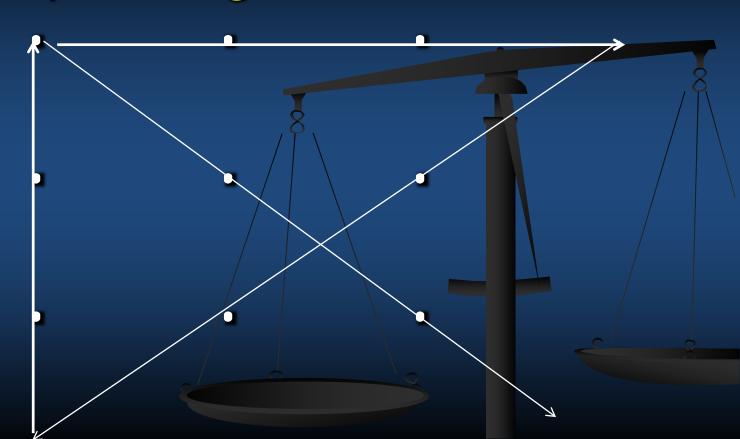
- Risk/Needs Data on Repeat Offenders San Joaquin Co. using DUI RANT
  - 1133 over 36 months in S.J. County
  - 31% High Risk/High Need
  - 69% not Traditional DUI Court is **NOT**APPROPRIATE
    - ■48% High Risk/Low Needs
    - 17% Low Risk/Low Needs
    - 4% Low Risk/High Needs

# LIMITATIONS OF TRADITIONAL DUI COURTS

- Numbers should be no >125
  - S.J. County >500 repeat offenders per year
- Need to work with many more high risk offenders than traditional DUI Court handles
- Traditional DUI Court can exclude:
  - Many high risk substance abusers who need lesser interventions; and
  - Those who do not volunteer



### **Expanding Our Vision**



### Court Monitoring - Good News

# THE MULTI-TRACK DUI COURT

Moving the traffic safety needle through a more comprehensive and systemic approach

## TRADITIONAL DUI COURT PRINCIPLES THAT CAN BE USED

- Monitoring & accountability to court
  - Same judge
- Compliance monitored
- Consequences certain & swift
- Positive reinforcement
- ACCOUNTABILITY WORKS!!!

### MULTI-TRACK MODEL DESIGN

- All Repeat Offenders!!!
- Track One Everyone except High Risk/High Needs
  - Mostly Substance Abuşers
  - Court Monitoring, no treatment
- Track Two High Risk, High Needs
  - Addicts
  - DUI Court Monitoring and Treatment
- DUI RANT Screening determines track

### COURT MONITORING TRACK

- Report to Case Manager verifes compliance
- Added probation conditions
  - Alcohol/drug monitoring 1 year; Abstain clause
- Court reviews scheduled for 1 mo.; 6 mo.; 1 yr.
  - Court appearance added with non-compliance
- Swift response to non-compliance
- Recognition for compliance
- 81% of clients 29% of costs

## MONITORING TECHNOLOGIES

- Transdermal Monitoring (ankle bracelet)
- Ignition Interlock Device
- Remote Testing (cell phone)
- Daily Testing (24/7 program)
- Drug Testing

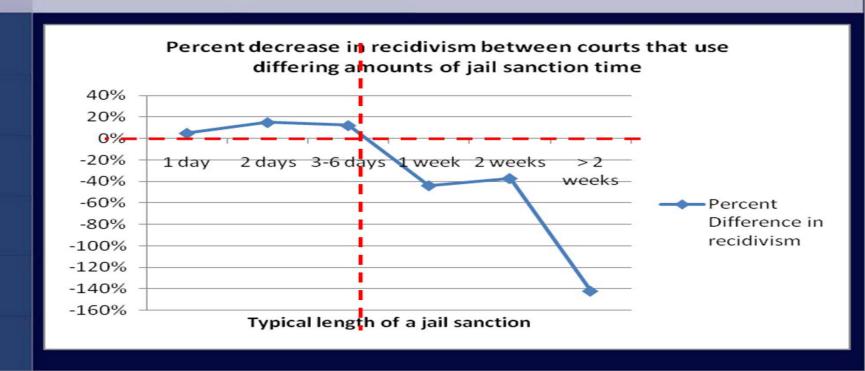
### Making Monitoring Work

- Non-negotiable IT WORKS!
- Costs
  - Mostly offender paid they can
  - Some grant funding for those who can't
- Checked at least every two weeks for certainty and celerity
- Any violations, missed tests, or tampers advanced to the next court calendar

### Use of Jail



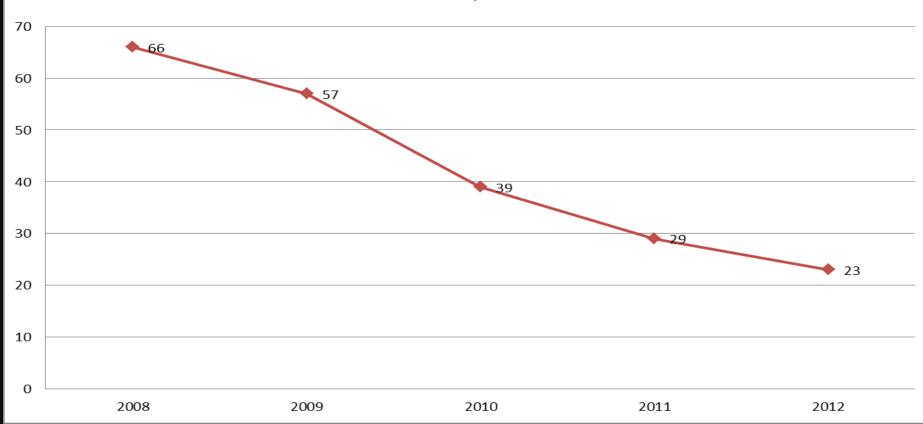
Courts that use jail greater than 6 days have worse (higher) recidivism



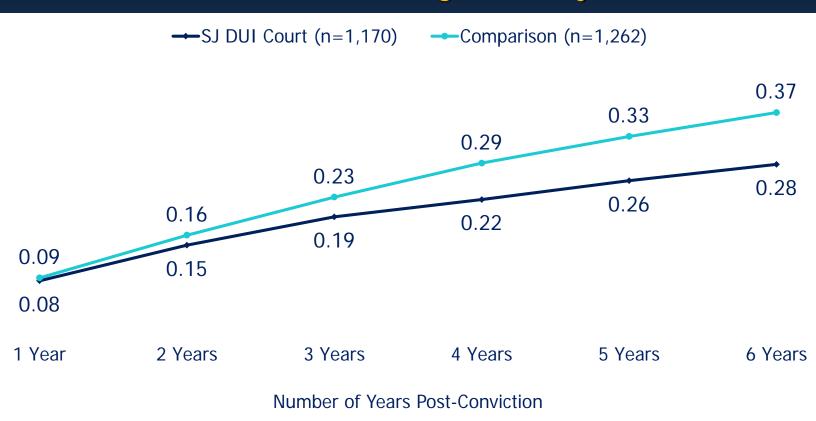
# OUTCOMES Safety

### Recidivism Reduction Among Second Offenders Since Implimentation of DUI Court in San Joaquin County

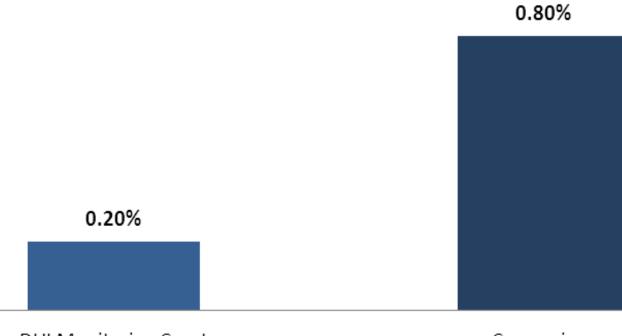
Source: DMV MIS Reports 2010-2015



### Participants in the SJ DUI Court had Fewer DUI Arrests 6 Years After Program Entry

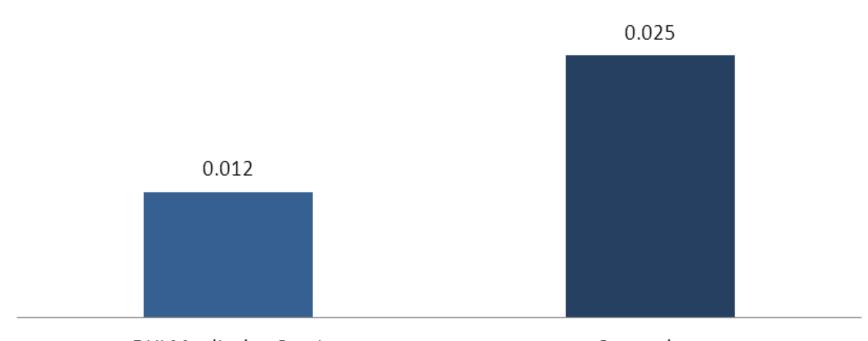


#### Percent of Individuals With Accidents



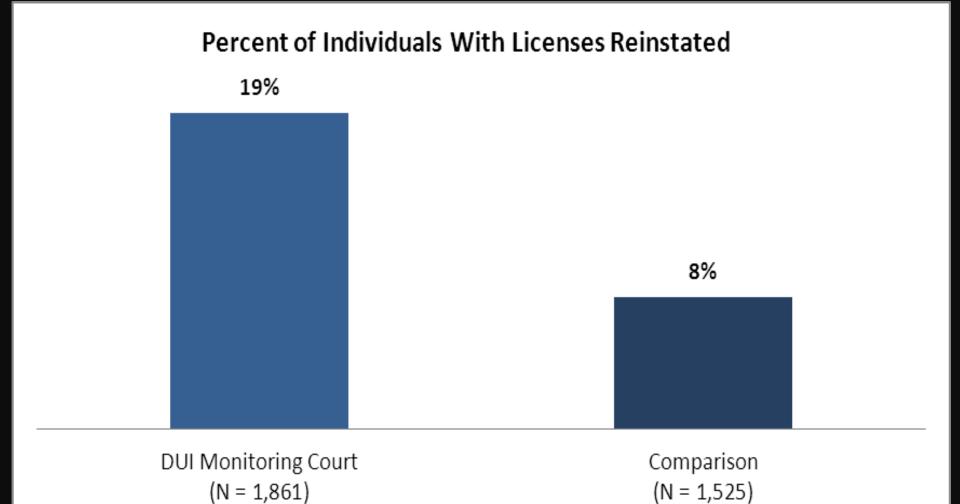
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#### **Average Number of Accidents**



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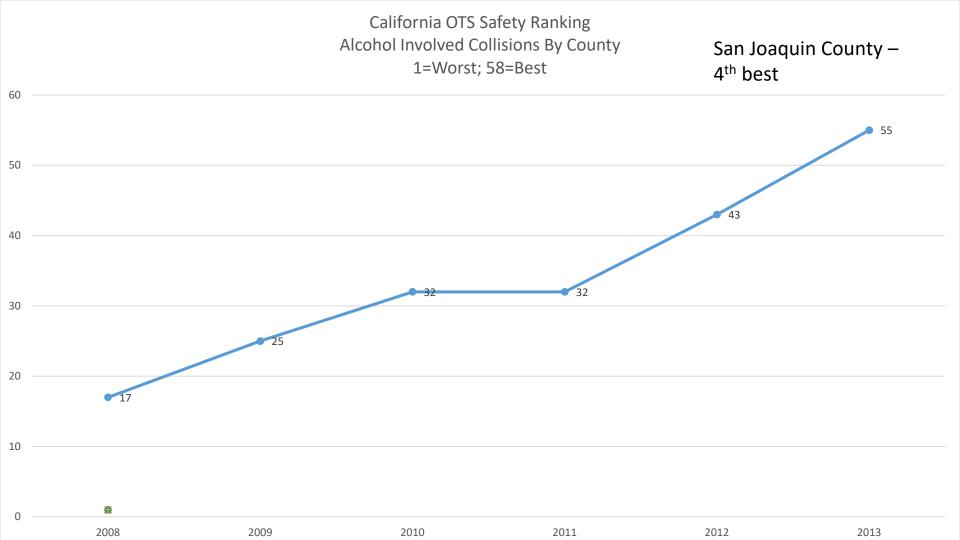
# OTHER OUTCOMES

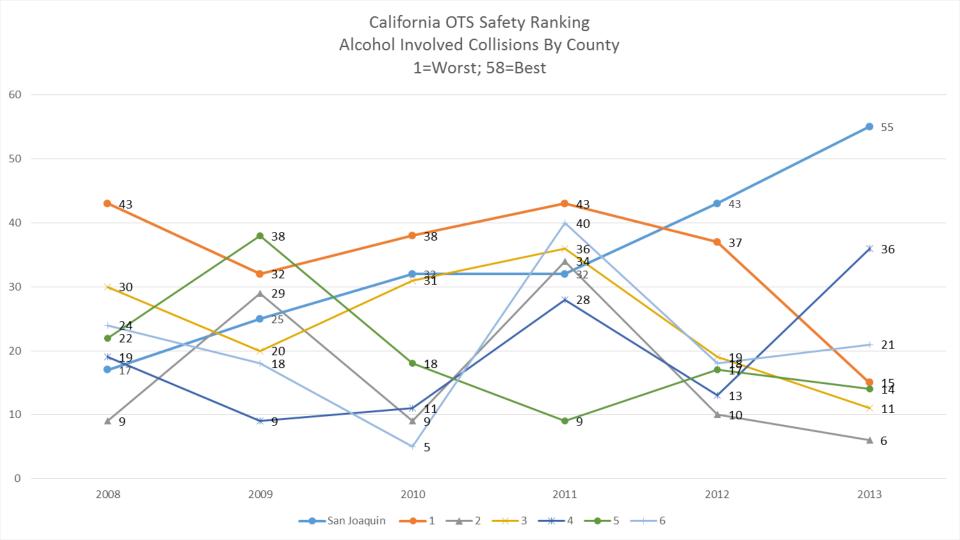




### NUMBERS

- Active clients 274
- Since inception (11.5 years) 4,679
- Completions 4,105
  - Successful **84%** (3,430)
- Recidivism **11%** (506)
  - 32% Reduction overall
  - >50% Reduction in collisions





## Questions?