

Program Evaluation Partnerships for Drug Court Demonstrations

**Mark D. Godley, Ph.D., Michael L. Dennis, Ph.D.
Melissa A. Siekmann, M.P.A., Rod Funk, B.S.,
Chestnut Health Systems
www.chestnut.org
(309) 827-6026**

**Ralph Weisheit, Ph.D.
Illinois State University**

Presentation at the American Evaluation Association annual conference, Chicago, IL. November 4-7, 1998. This evaluation study was funded under a contract from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Opinions presented here are those of the authors and do not represent positions of ICJIA, CHS, or the Madison County Court.

Program-Evaluation Partnership Approach

- Uses a team approach to evaluation planning and problem solving
- Makes internal or new data systems useful to decision makers
- Emphasizes rapid and regular feedback to review progress
- May use qualitative methods to help understand program process and make decisions

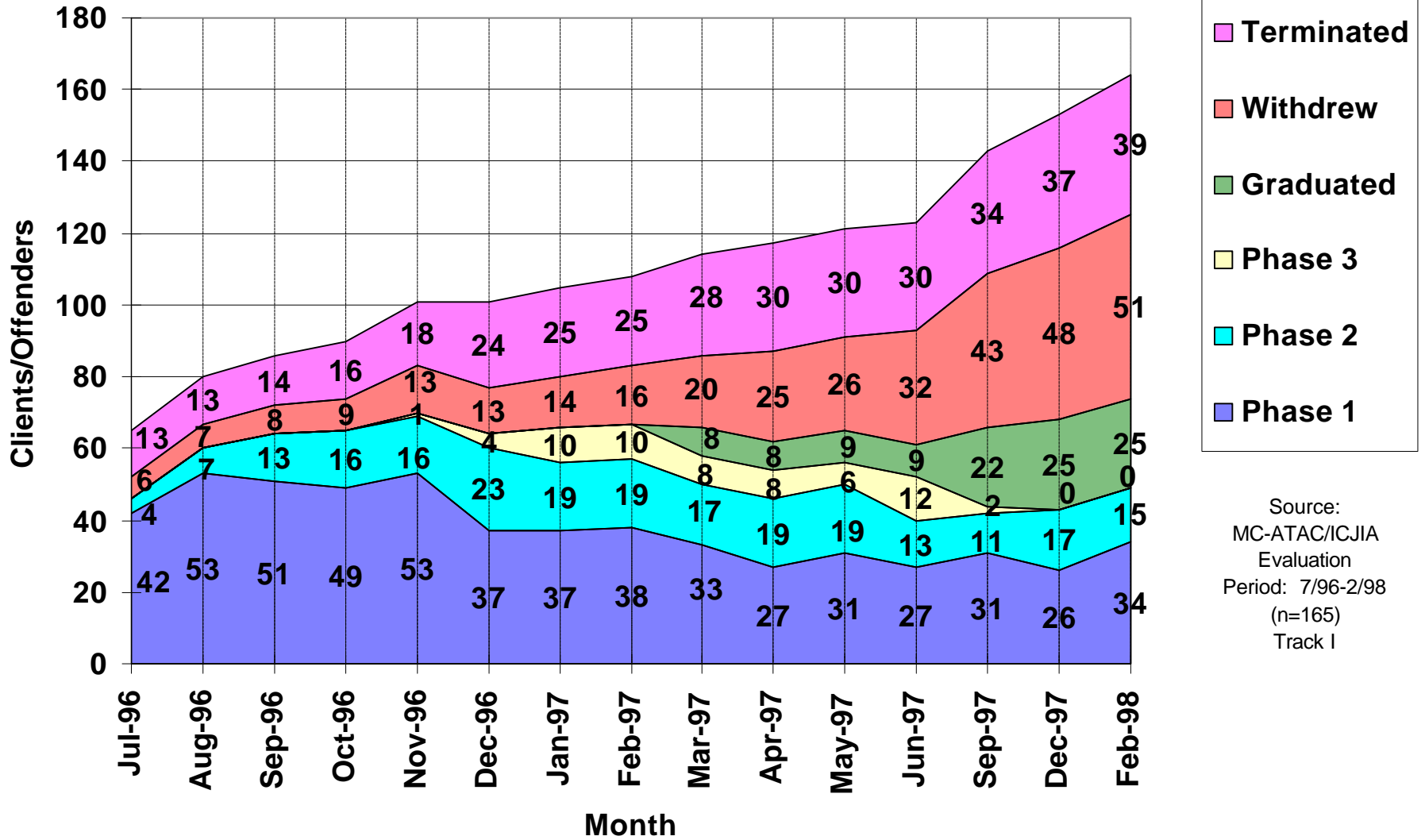
Goals of the Madison County Drug Court

- To reduce the number of drug abusers in Madison County, thereby reducing the demand for illegal drugs;
- To reduce the number of drug-related crimes, thereby reducing the burden of drug-related offending on law enforcement and the criminal justice system;
- To reduce recidivism by persons charged with drug-related offenses; (and)
- To enable persons to become productive members of society by eliminating their dependence on drugs and by directing their pursuit of gainful employment.

Who is Served by Drug Court

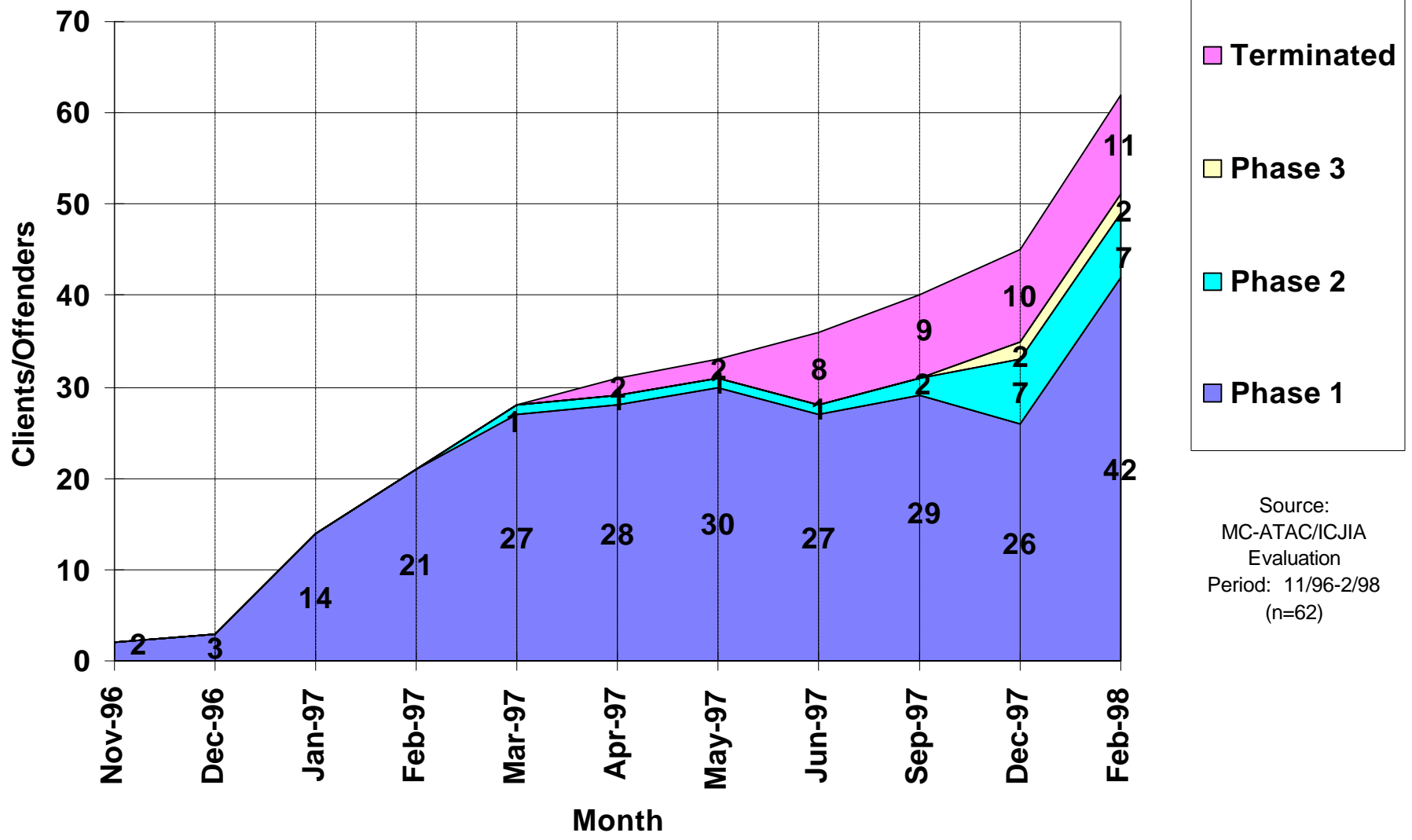
- **Demographics:** 62% male; 61% white, 73% age 18-35, 58% single, 68% non-salary income, 84% residents of Madison County.
- **Offenders:** 78% Class 3 and 4 possession; 9% class 3 and 4 theft; 9% retail theft; 8.4% forgery; 14.3% other charges
- **Substance use:** 52% cocaine dependence; 31% cannabis dependence; 25% alcohol dependence; 3% cocaine abuse; 2% alcohol abuse; 12: other substance use disorders
- **History:** 38% prior history of substance abuse treatment; 22% prior history of mental health treatment.

Client status and caseflow by time



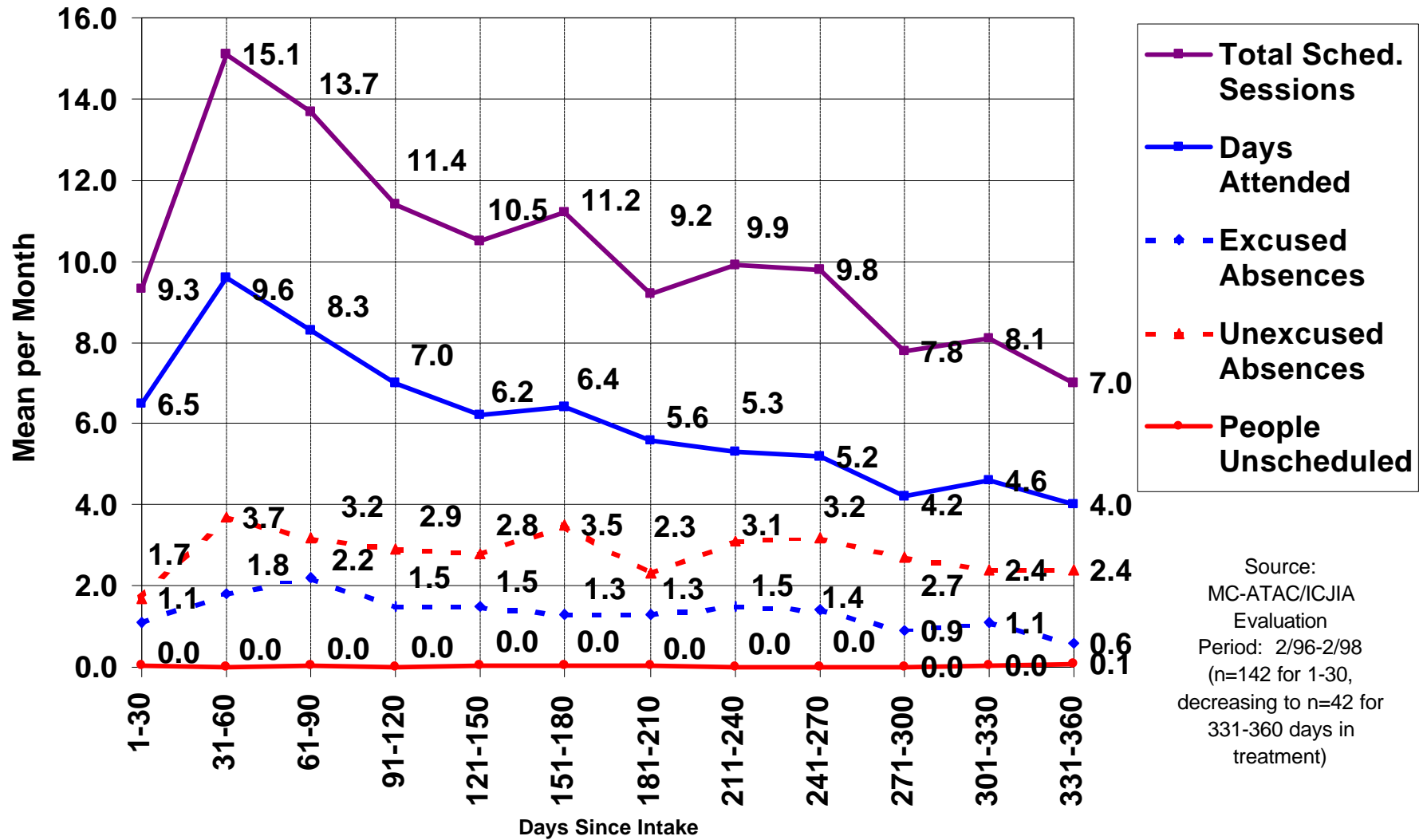
Source:
 MC-ATAC/ICJIA
 Evaluation
 Period: 7/96-2/98
 (n=165)
 Track I

Client status and caseflow by time for Track II



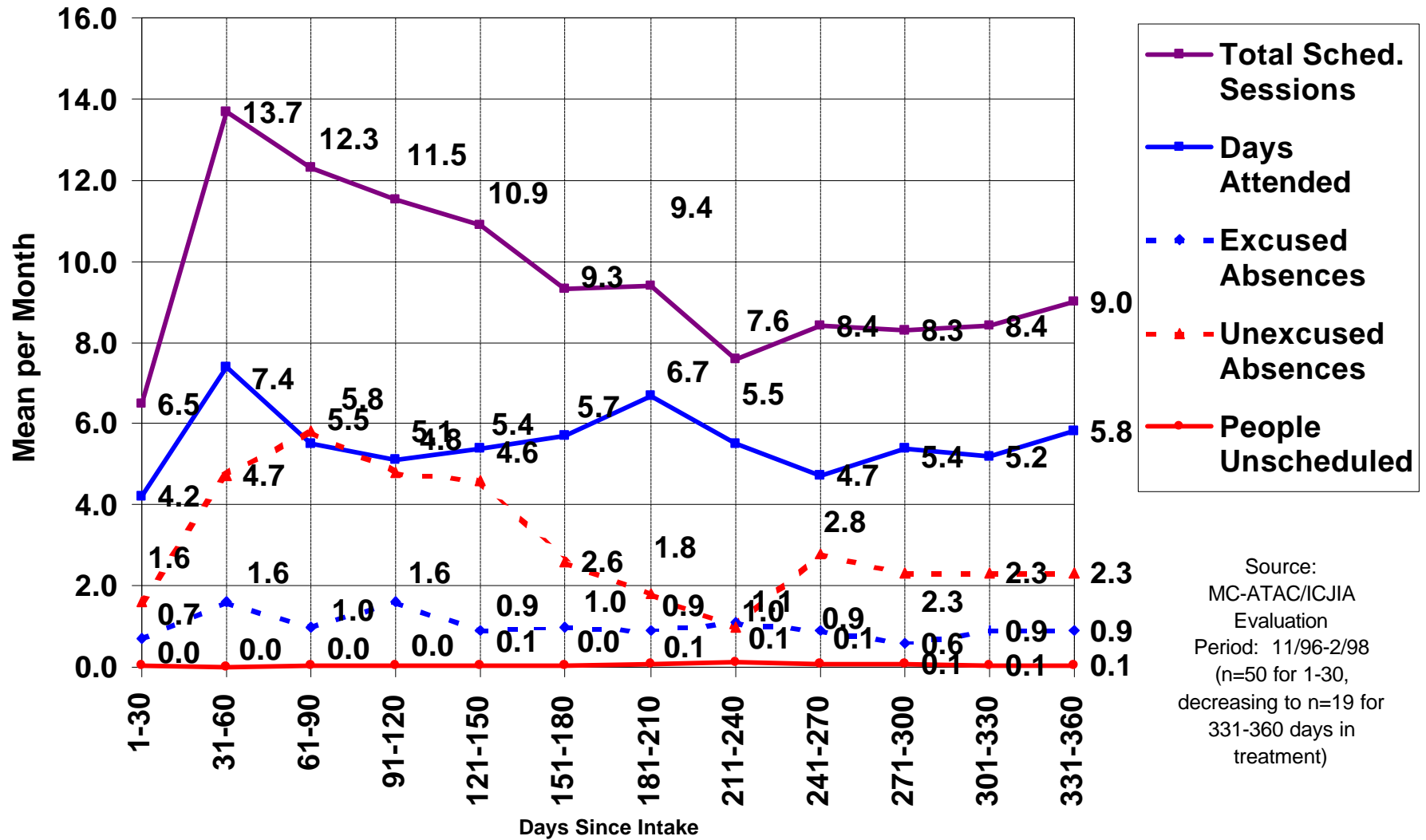
Source:
 MC-ATAC/ICJIA
 Evaluation
 Period: 11/96-2/98
 (n=62)

Treatment Attendance by Time in Treatment Since Intake Track I



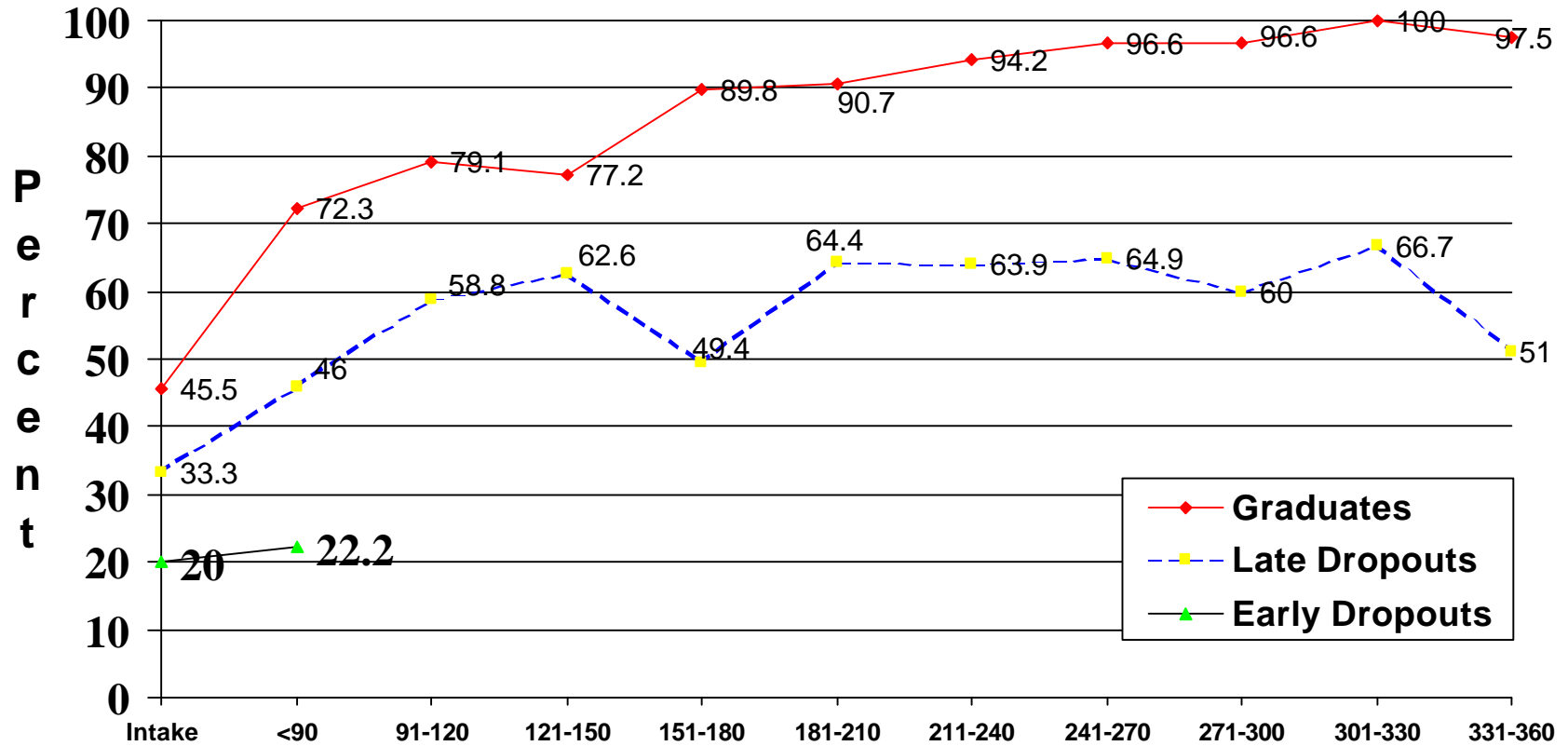
Source:
 MC-ATAC/ICJIA
 Evaluation
 Period: 2/96-2/98
 (n=142 for 1-30,
 decreasing to n=42 for
 331-360 days in
 treatment)

Treatment Attendance by Time in Treatment Since Intake for Track II



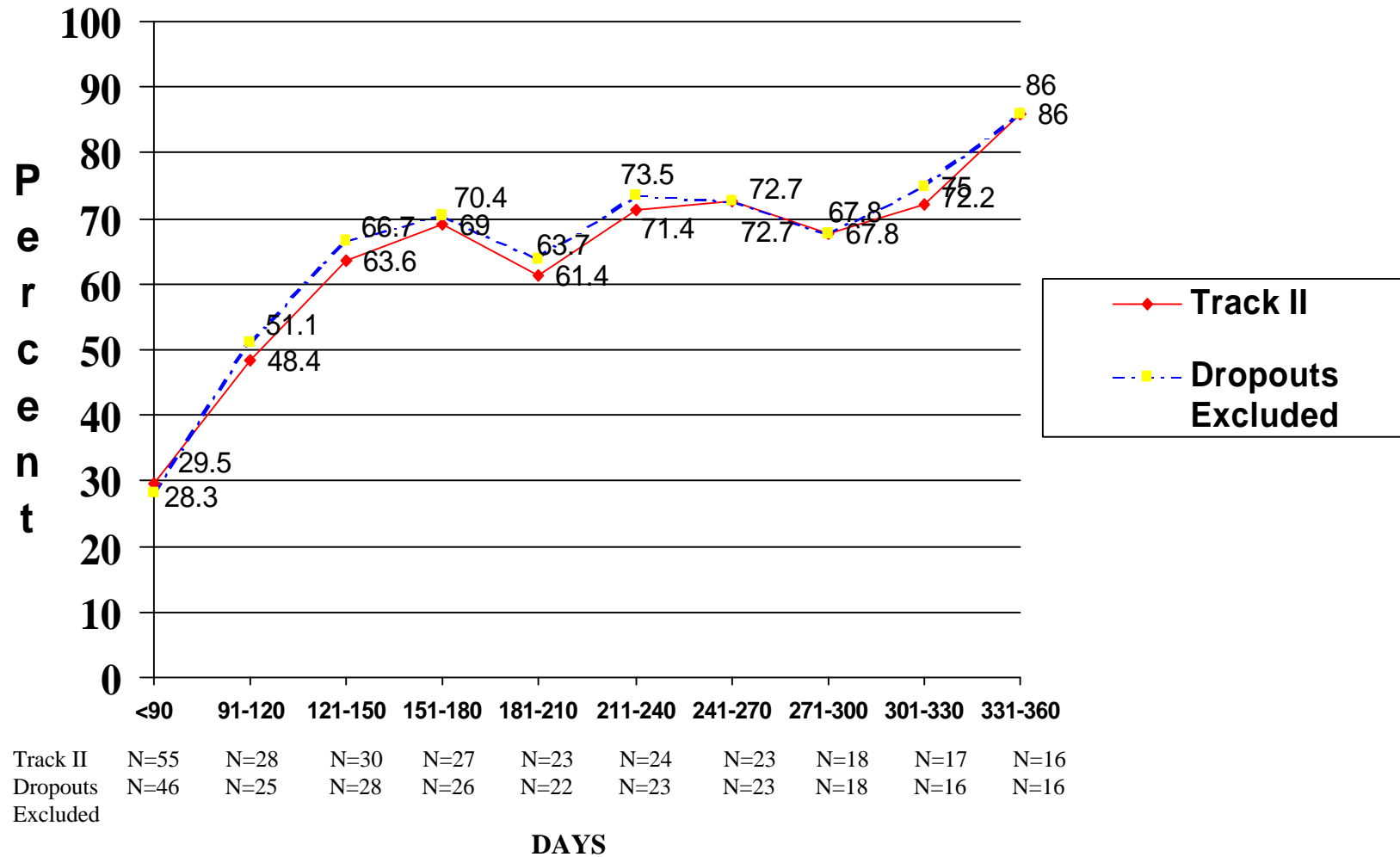
Source:
 MC-ATAC/ICJIA
 Evaluation
 Period: 11/96-2/98
 (n=50 for 1-30,
 decreasing to n=19 for
 331-360 days in
 treatment)

Percent of Clean Urine Screens by Time In Treatment Cohorts March, 1996 to February, 1998



Intake urine screens were estimated using the recency of drug use self-reports from the GAIN-I. Those who reported drug use in the past week or marijuana use in the past 1-4 weeks were coded as having "dirty" urine screens. The intake N sizes are smaller because the GAIN was modified and clients taking the earlier version were not included. There is a significant improvement in clean drug tests for Drug Court clients that graduated from the program ($C_{(9)} = 0.82, p < .05$). Late Dropouts come close to a significant improvement, $C_{(9)} = 0.51, p = .063$.

Percent of Clean Urine Screens by Length of Time in the Program for Track II November, 1996 to February, 1998

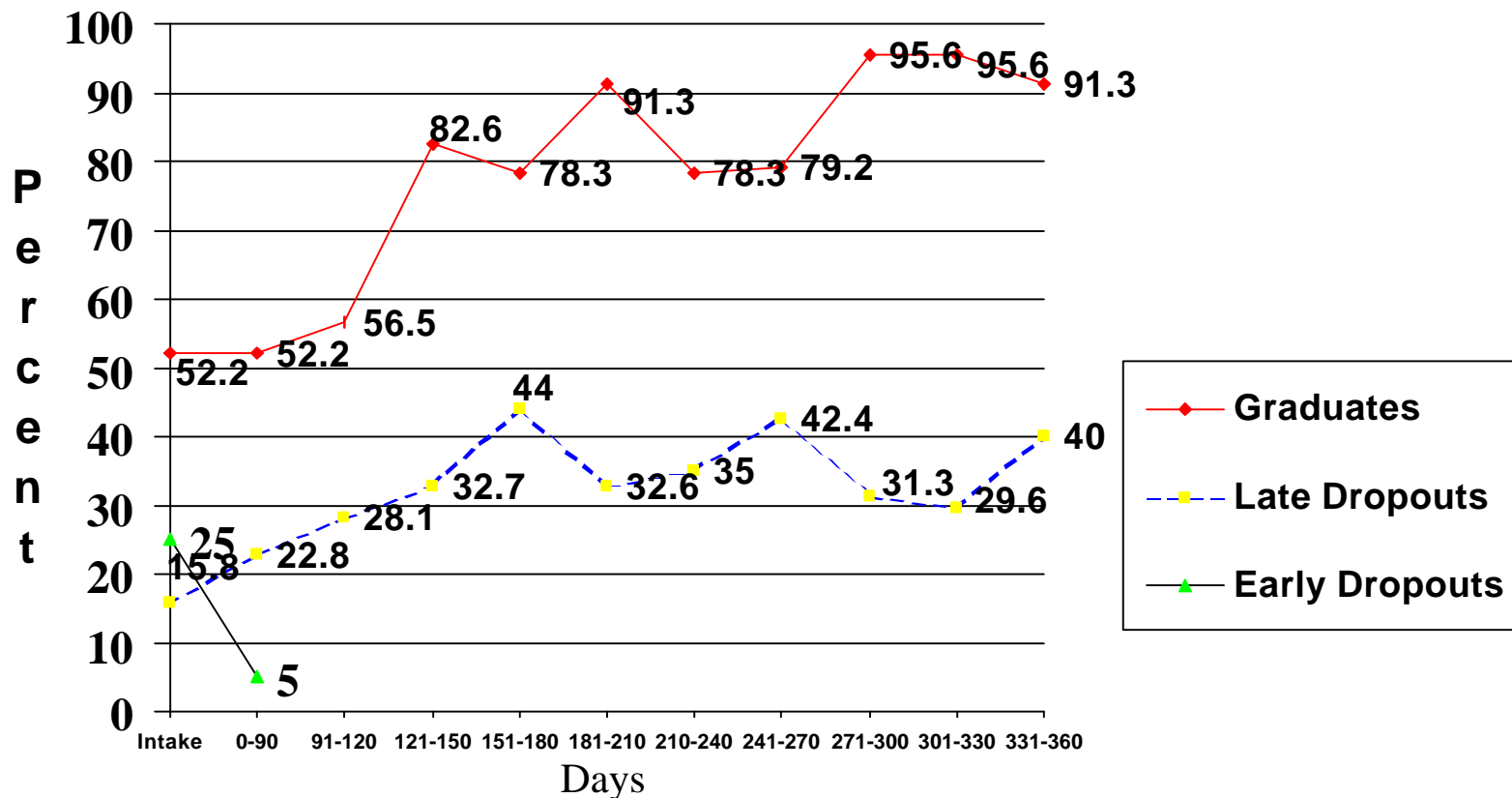


Interpretation: There is a significant improvement in clean drug tests for Drug Court clients in Track II, the longer they stay in the program ($C_{(8)} = 0.76, p < .05$). This trend is still significant after removing clients that dropped out ($C_{(8)} = .75, p < .05$).

Percent Employed by Time in Treatment Cohorts

March, 1996 to February, 1998

Clients who are full-time students, homemakers, in residential care, or on medical leave were not included in computing the percents.

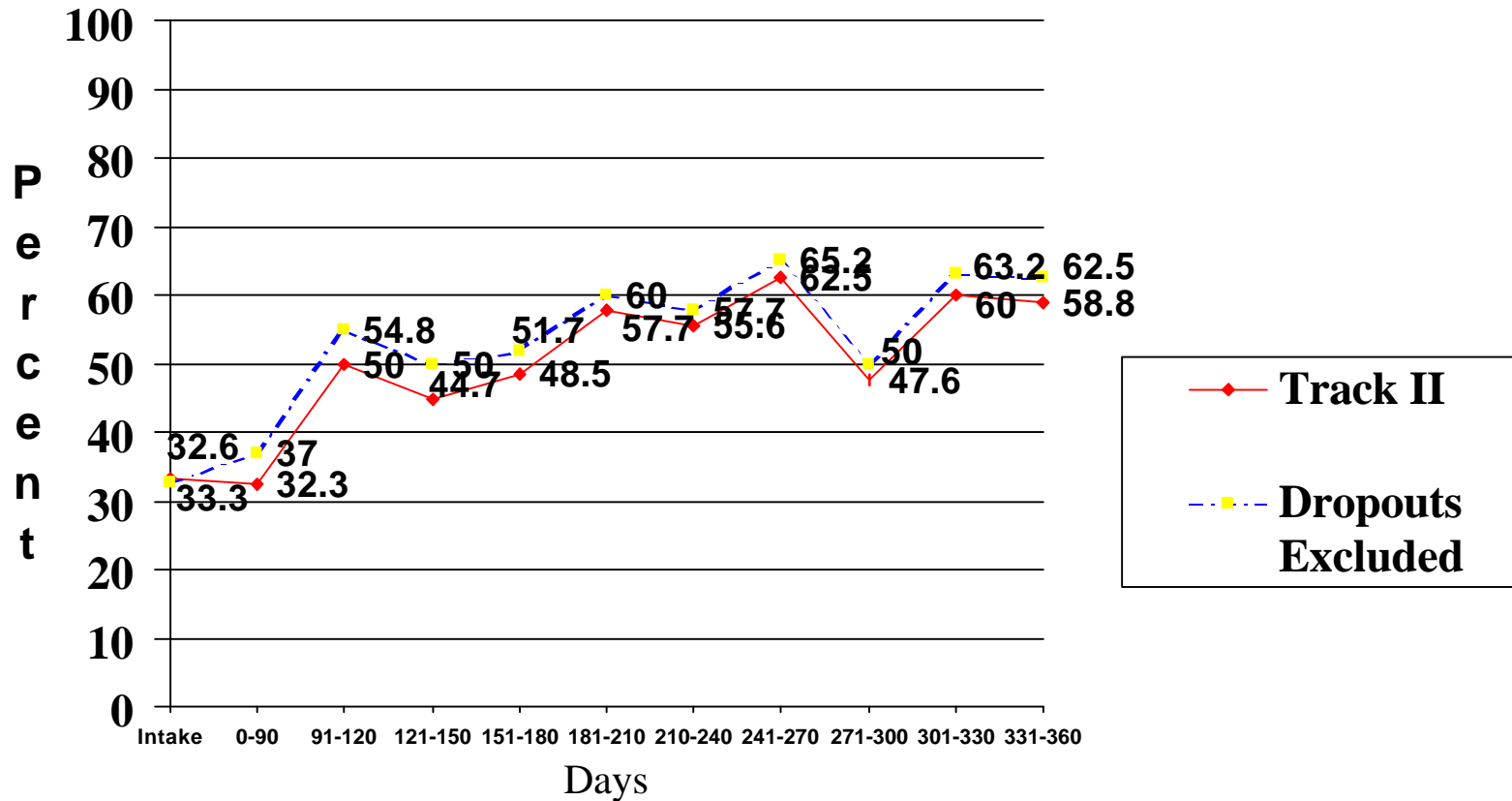


Graduates	N=23	N=23	N=23	N=23	N=23	N=23	N=23	N=23	N=23	N=23	N=23
Late Dropouts	N=60	N=60	N=60	N=55	N=50	N=43	N=40	N=33	N=32	N=27	N=25
Early Dropouts	N=20	N=20									

Interpretation: There is a significant improvement in Drug Court Graduates finding and keeping employment ($C_{(9)} = 0.76, p < .05$). The trend is close to significance for the Late Dropouts ($C_{(9)} = .53, p = .052$).

Percent Employed by Length of Time in the Program For Track II November, 1996 to February, 1998

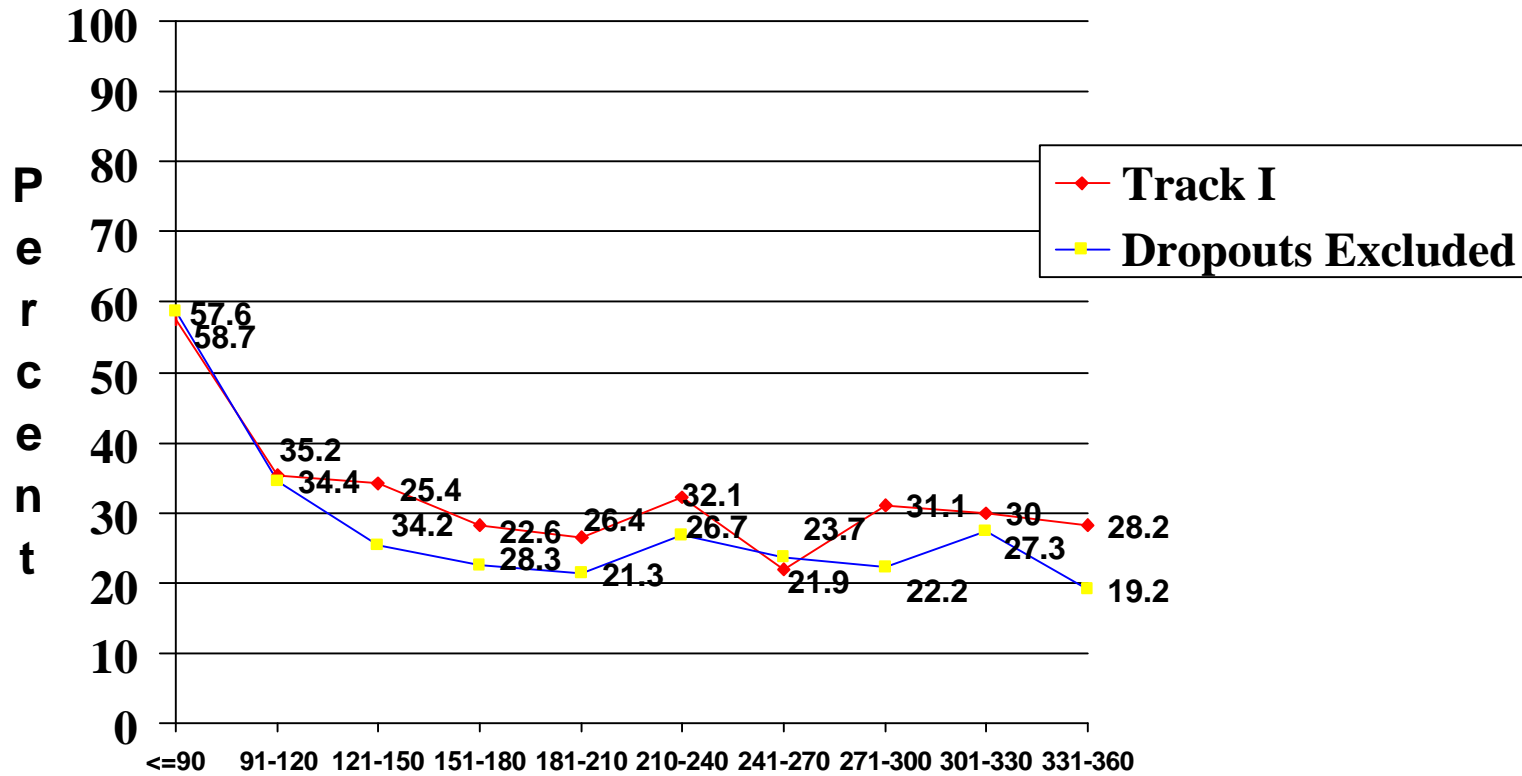
Clients who are full-time students, homemakers, in residential care, or on medical leave were not included in computing



Track II	N=60	N=56	N=40	N=38	N=33	N=26	N=27	N=24	N=21	N=20	N=17
Dropouts Excluded	N=49	N=46	N=31	N=30	N=29	N=25	N=26	N=23	N=20	N=19	N=16

Interpretation: There is a significant improvement in Drug Court clients finding and keeping employment ($C_{(9)} = 0.59, p < .05$). The trend is still significant after excluding dropouts ($C_{(9)} = .59, p < .05$).

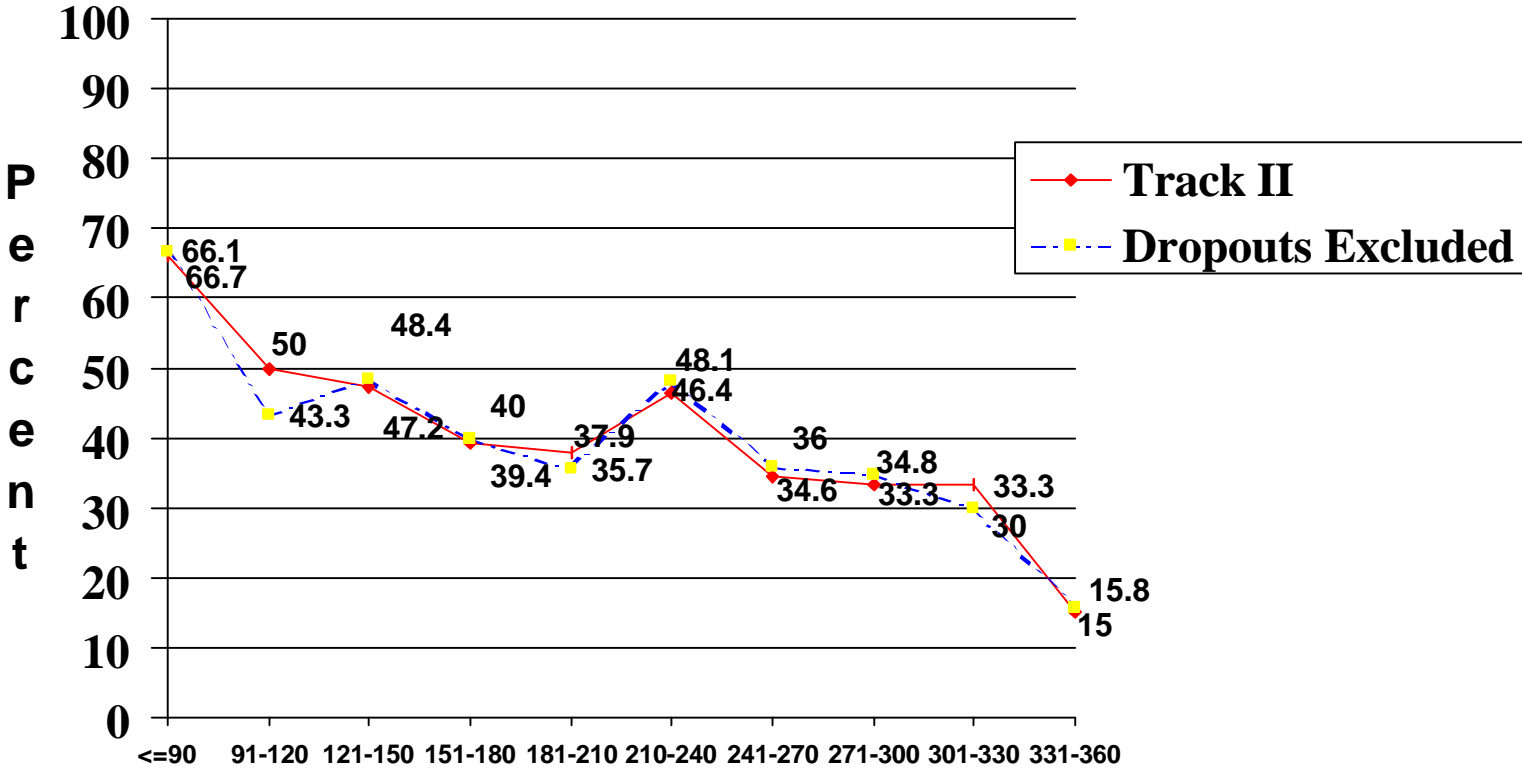
Percent of Clients Receiving Sanctions by Length of Time in the Program for Track I March 1996 to February, 1998



Track I	N=165	N=122	N=114	N=99	N=91	N=78	N=64	N=61	N=50	N=39
Dropouts Excluded	N=75	N=61	N=59	N=53	N=47	N=45	N=38	N=36	N=33	N=26

Interpretation: There were significant decreases over time in percent of clients receiving sanctions:
For Track I, $C_{(8)}=.54$, $p<.05$ and for Dropouts Excluded, $C_{(8)}=.66$, $p<.05$.

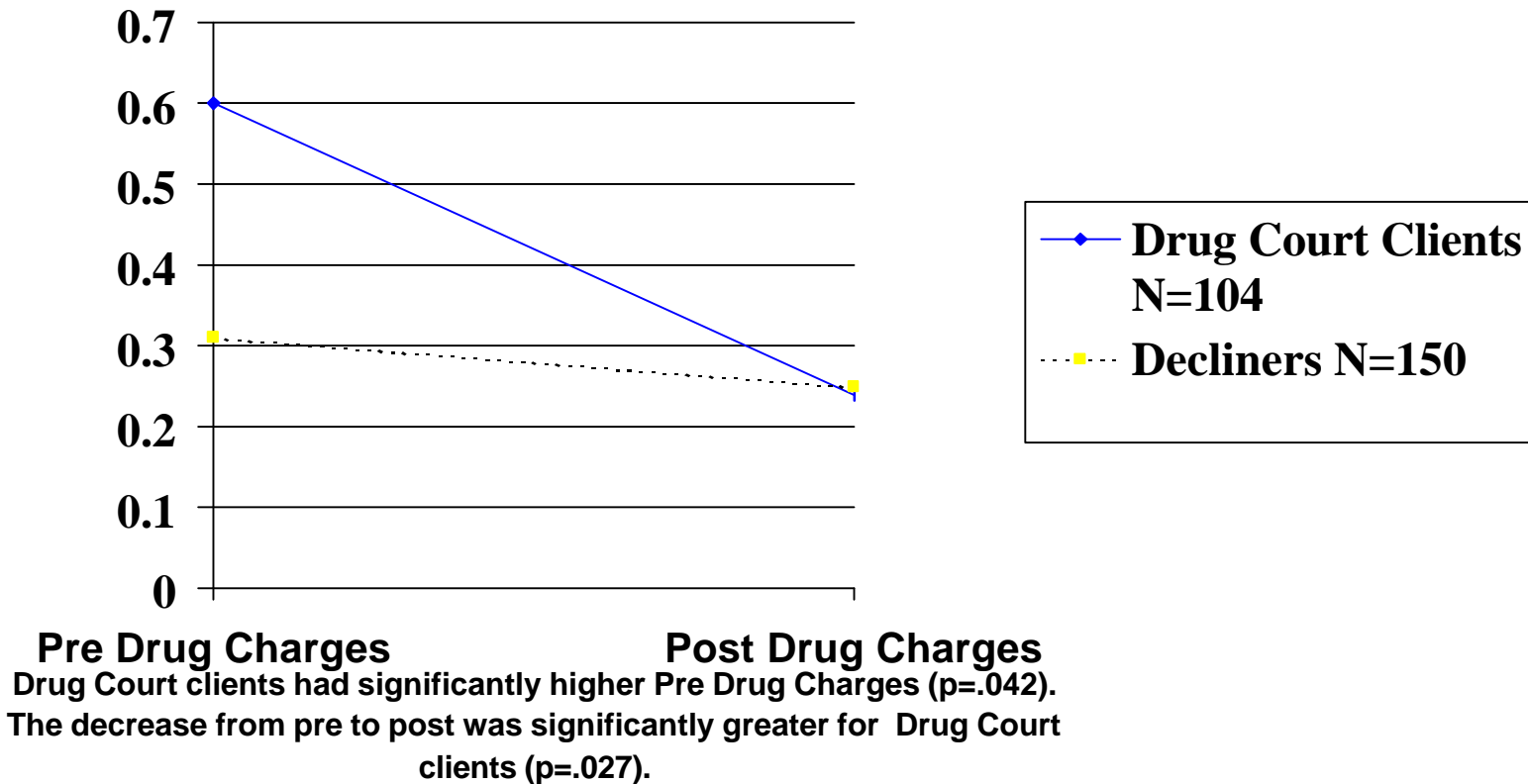
Percent of Clients Receiving Sanctions by Length of Time in the Program for Track II November, 1996 to February, 1998



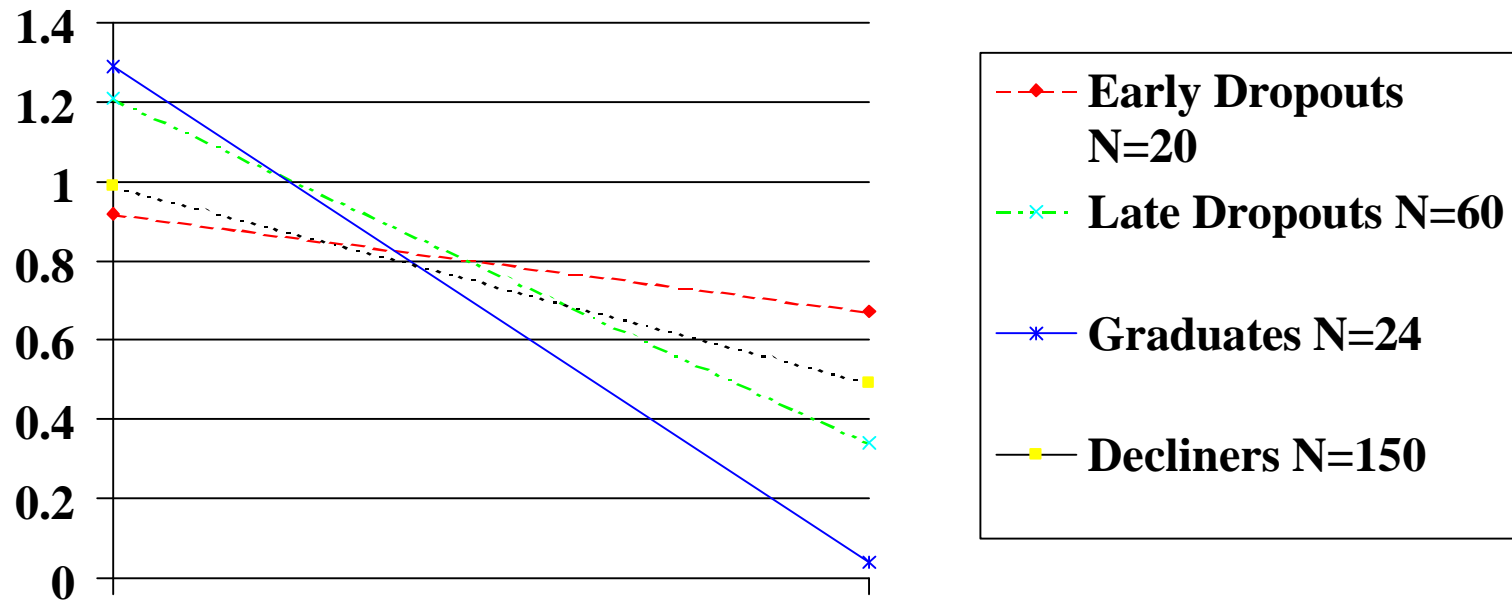
Track II	N=62	N=36	N=36	N=33	N=29	N=28	N=26	N=24	N=21	N=20
Dropouts Excluded	N=51	N=30	N=31	N=30	N=28	N=27	N=25	N=23	N=20	N=19

Interpretation: There were significant decreases over time in percent of clients receiving sanctions:
For Track II, $C_{(8)}=.73$, $p<.05$ and for Dropouts Excluded, $C_{(8)}=.63$, $p<.05$.

Average Drug Charges from 12 Months Prior to Entering/Declining Treatment to
12 Months After
Clients Versus Decliners



Average Arrest Episodes from 12 Months Prior to Entering/Declining Treatment to 12 Months After
By Treatment Groups



Pre Arrests

Post Arrests

There was no significant difference between Pre Arrest Episodes ($p=.462$). The decrease from pre to post was significantly different among the treatment groups ($p=.023$).