

# The Promise of Treatment Courts

## Presenter



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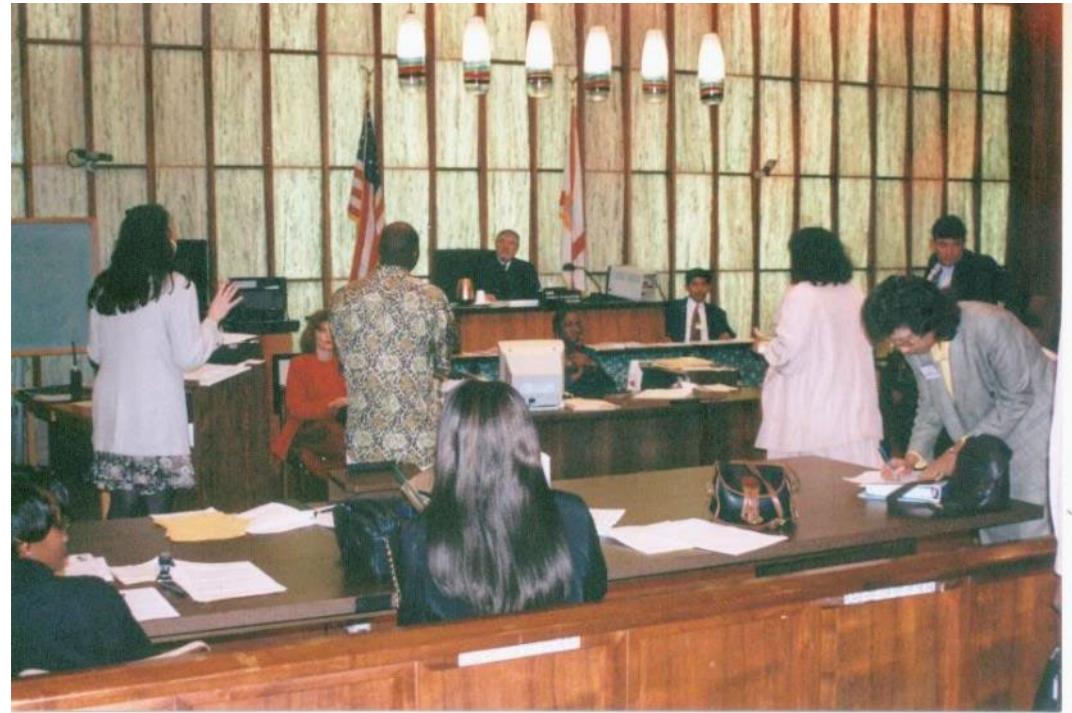
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# The Problem

- 91,799 fatal overdoses in 2020, a 30% increase from 2019
- Drug overdose deaths involving psychostimulants such as methamphetamine are increasing with and without synthetic opioid involvement.
- 41.1 million people were classified as needing substance use disorder treatment in 2020
- 45,979 U.S. adults committed suicide (2021)
- 6,261 veterans committed suicide (2021)

# The Solution

- Miami, Florida 1989
- Response to the cocaine epidemic and a court system on the brink of collapse
- Vast majority of individuals before the court were there as a result of their addiction



## Drug Court

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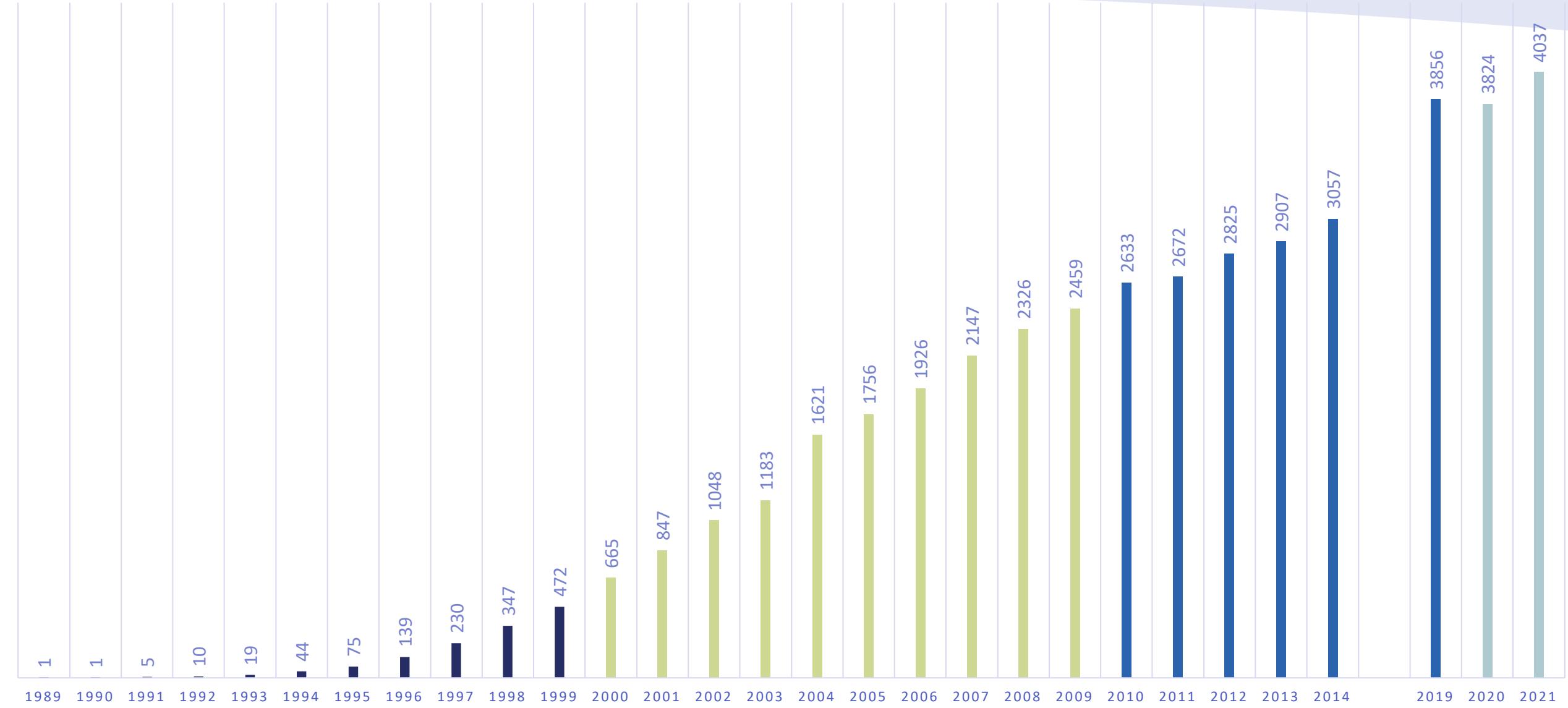
An alternative to incarceration that combines public health and public safety approaches to connect people involved in the justice system with individualized, evidence-based treatment and recovery support services



Everyday in America, 33  
people die of an overdose

>> Drug addiction has become an  
unprecedented public health crisis.

# Growth of Treatment Courts across U.S. States/Territories (1989-2021)



# Treatment Courts Today

- Adult, juvenile, family, tribal drug court
- DWI court
- Veterans treatment court
- 4,037 programs nationwide
- 150,000 people annually connected to substance use and mental health disorder treatment



# Treatment Courts Today

- Serve individuals with long criminal histories who are most likely to be unsuccessful in traditional treatment
- Are not for low level possession cases
- Annually connect thousands of individuals in need to FDA-approved medications to treat addiction—more than any other intervention
- Have the goal of sustained recovery—when an individual experiences improved health and wellness, lives a self-directed life, and strives to reach their full potential

# The Results

- 1.5 million people have been served by treatment courts since inception
- Treatment courts:
  - ✓ reduce recidivism up to 58%
  - ✓ save an average of \$6,000 per participant
  - ✓ refer more people to medication for opioid use disorder than any other intervention
  - ✓ keep families together and break generational cycles of addiction

*American University School of Public Affairs Justice Programs Office (2019);*

*United States Government Accountability Office Report to Congressional Committees (2011).*

*Adult Drug Courts: Studies Show Courts Reduce Recidivism, but DOJ Could Enhance Future Performance Measure Revision Efforts. GAO-12-53.*

*National Drug Court Resource Center. <https://ndcrc.org/database/> (retrieved October 2021);*

*National Institute of Justice (2011), Multi-site Adult Drug Court Evaluation*

# Define promise

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- a declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.
- "what happened to all those firm promises of support?"



# The Promise

- 22.3 million Americans live in recovery after some form of substance-use disorder.  
<https://www.recoveryanswers.org/research-post/1-in-10-americans-report-having-resolved-a-significant-substance-use-problem/>
- 3 out of 4 people who experience addiction eventually recover.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0376871620303343>



# Living the Promise

*Recovery is a **PROCESS** of change  
through which individuals improve  
their health and wellness, live  
self-directed lives, and strive to  
reach their potential.*

Community



Home



Health



Purpose



*“Recovery capital is conceptually linked to natural recovery, solution-focused therapy, strengths-based case management, recovery management, resilience and protective factors, and the ideas of hardiness, wellness, and global health.” William White*

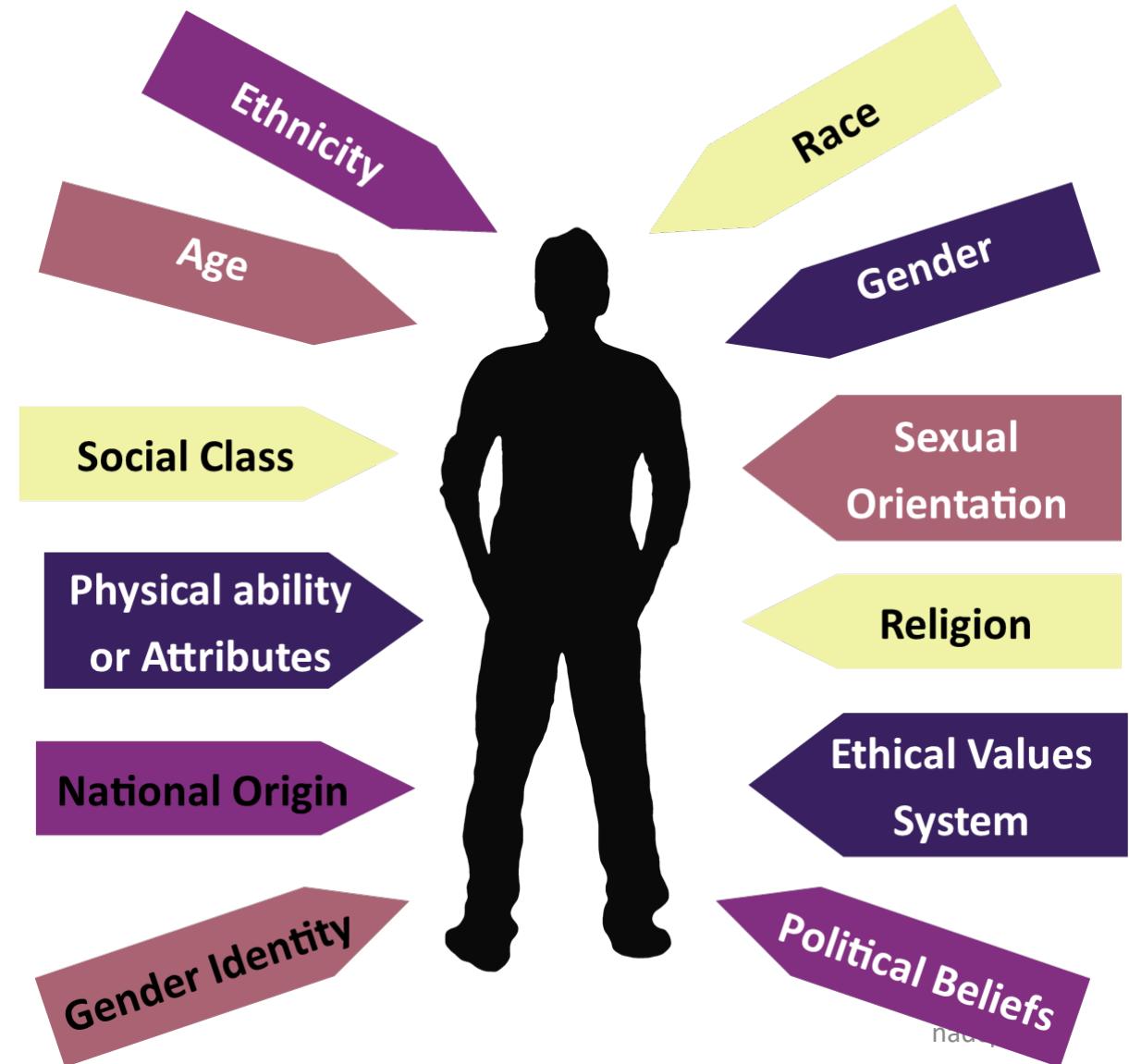


***Social connectedness is a sense of belonging to a group, family, or community. It's about the relationships people have with each other and their engagement with the broader community. Social connection is an integral component of health and well-being.***



## Diversity is a Fact

Diversity is the range of human differences, including but not limited to,



# Living the Promise

- What were your parent's attitudes towards LGBT communities?
- What early messages did you receive about your identity?
- What gender roles did you learn about when growing up?
- Inclusion is an Act



# Living the Promise

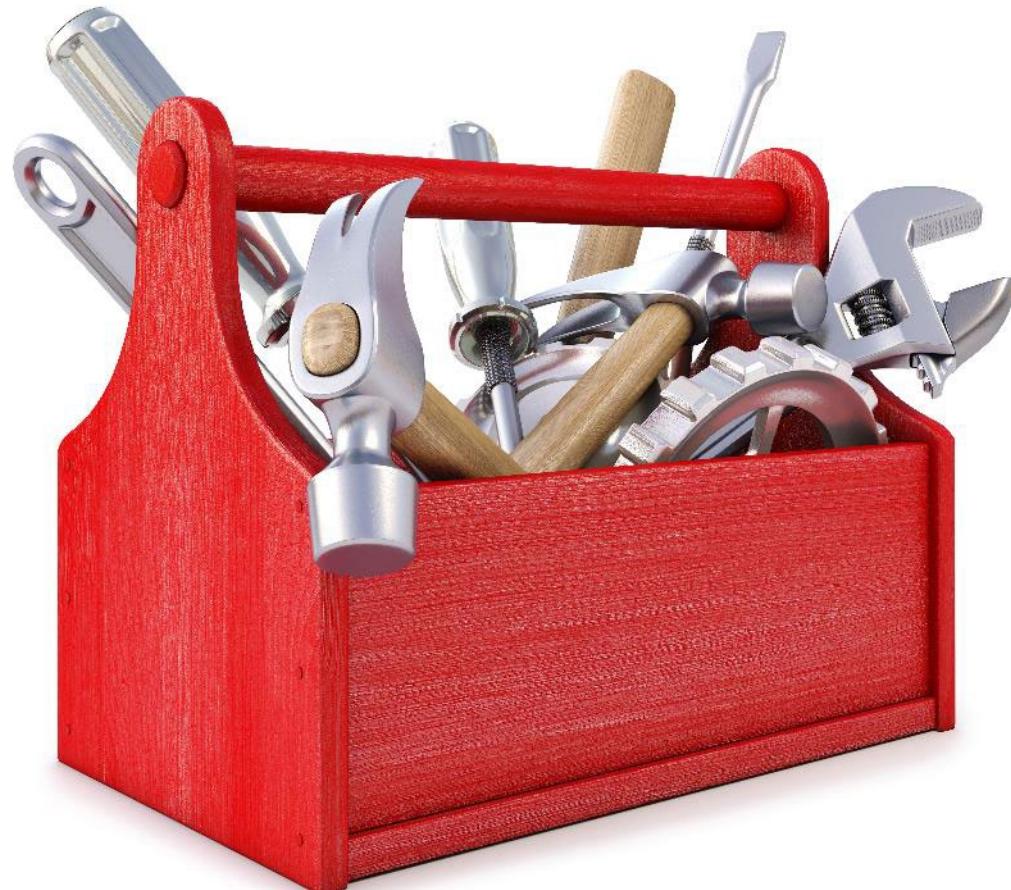
We follow the research! We implement harm reduction strategies:

- MOUD
- Naloxone
- Jail is not treatment



## Using the Tools

- Risk Assessment
- Clinical Assessment
- Incentives
- Sanctions
- Therapeutic Adjustments



## Communication

- Goals
  - Case Plan
- Collaboration
- Ambassador
  - Profession
  - Community



## Community Development

## It Takes a Village



