



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON ALCOHOL MISUSE AND CRIME

NPAMC

September 2009

Governors Highway Safety Association

Savannah, Georgia

Alcohol Misuse and Crime

- We don't have a good handle on the problem
- We really aren't doing a good job addressing it



DUI

- Traffic crashes are the single greatest cause of death for every age group between three and 34 years of age in the U.S. (except for age 7)
- Almost 12,000 people are killed in crashes where at least one driver has a BAC of 0.08 or higher each year
- Alcohol related crashes cost society over 100 billion dollars each year



Of course, it's not all
about drunk drivers



Substance Abuse and Crime

- Researchers estimate that:
 - Up to 80% of offenders under supervision have substance misuse issues
 - Up to 36% of crimes are committed while the offender is under the influence of alcohol



Recidivism

Jail and prison alone don't work for most people who abuse alcohol or drugs and overcrowding is a major concern



We need to take
control of these
issues before they
take control of us



Judicial v. Medical Approaches

Judicial

- Focuses on the crime itself
- Addresses alcohol as an element of a charged offense
- Tries to treat everyone the same
- Favors punishment
- Bases decisions on statutes and precedent

Medical

- Focuses on the alcohol misuse problem
- Addresses alcohol as a cause or contributing cause of behavior
- Treats people as individuals
- Favors rehabilitation
- Bases decisions on scientific evidence



Which approach works best?



Why Do People Routinely Ask That Question?

The solutions are **NOT** mutually exclusive.....

In fact, comprehensive approaches are the **MOST** effective!



Proven Programs

- Drug and DWI Courts
 - Numerous studies have demonstrated the utility of drug and DWI courts
 - Five meta-analysis show that drug courts can reduce recidivism by up to 35%
 - In a rigorous study of two DWI courts in Michigan, regular probationers were arrested **for any offense** three times as often as DWI court participants over a two year period. They were arrested **for DWI** 19 times more often



Promising Programs Incorporating Evidence Based Practices

- Hawaii's Opportunity Program with Enforcement (HOPE)
 - Requires random testing of all participants
 - Imposes swift and certain sanctions for those who violate rules
 - Requires treatment only for those who test positive
 - Key preliminary findings:
 - Arrest rates for probationers in the control group were three times higher than the rate for those in the HOPE group
 - Probationers in the control group tested positive twice as often on drug tests as those in the HOPE group (26% v. 11%) *even though they knew when they would be tested*



Promising Programs Incorporating Evidence Based Practices

The award winning South Dakota 24/7 Sobriety Program

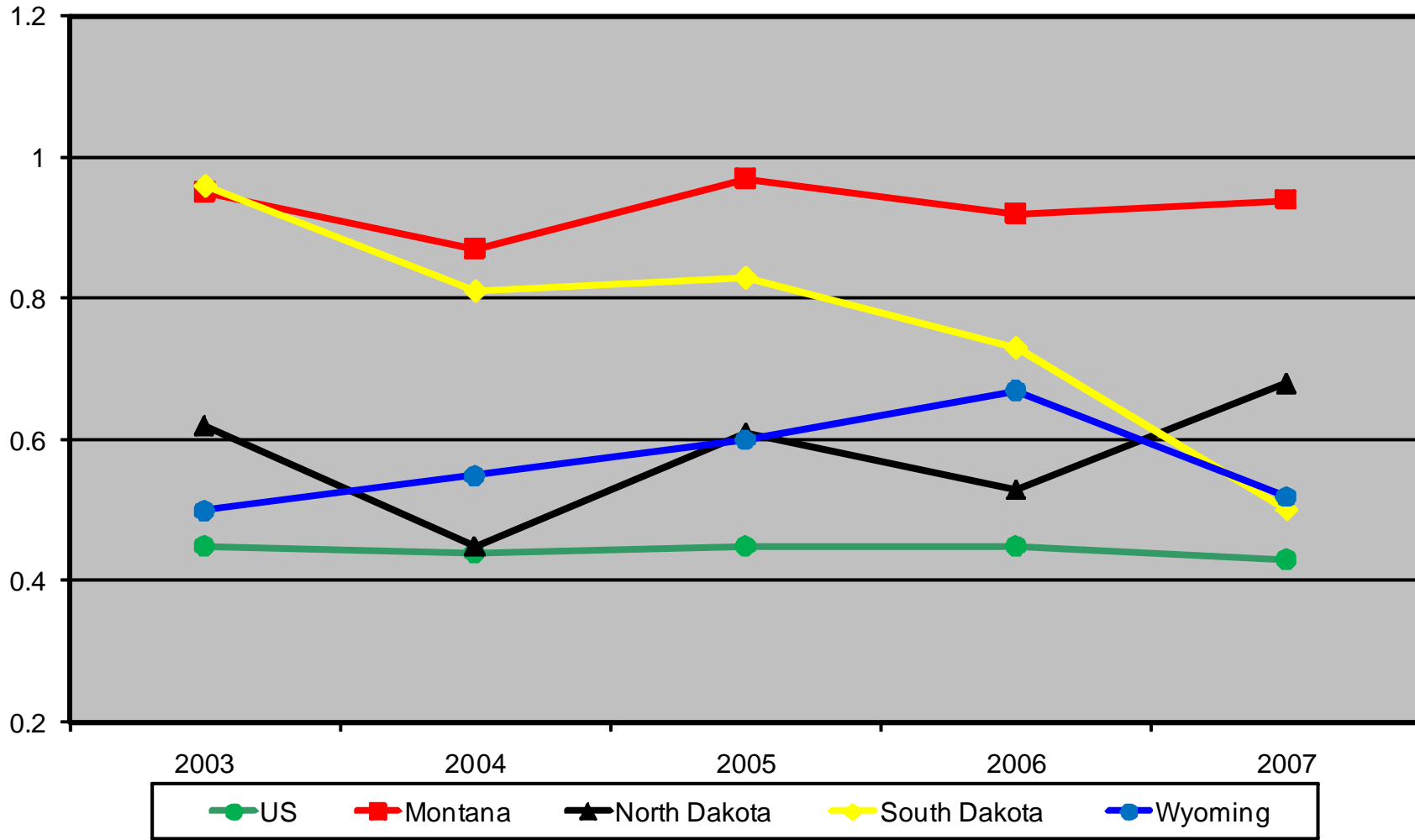


What is the South Dakota 24/7 Sobriety Program?

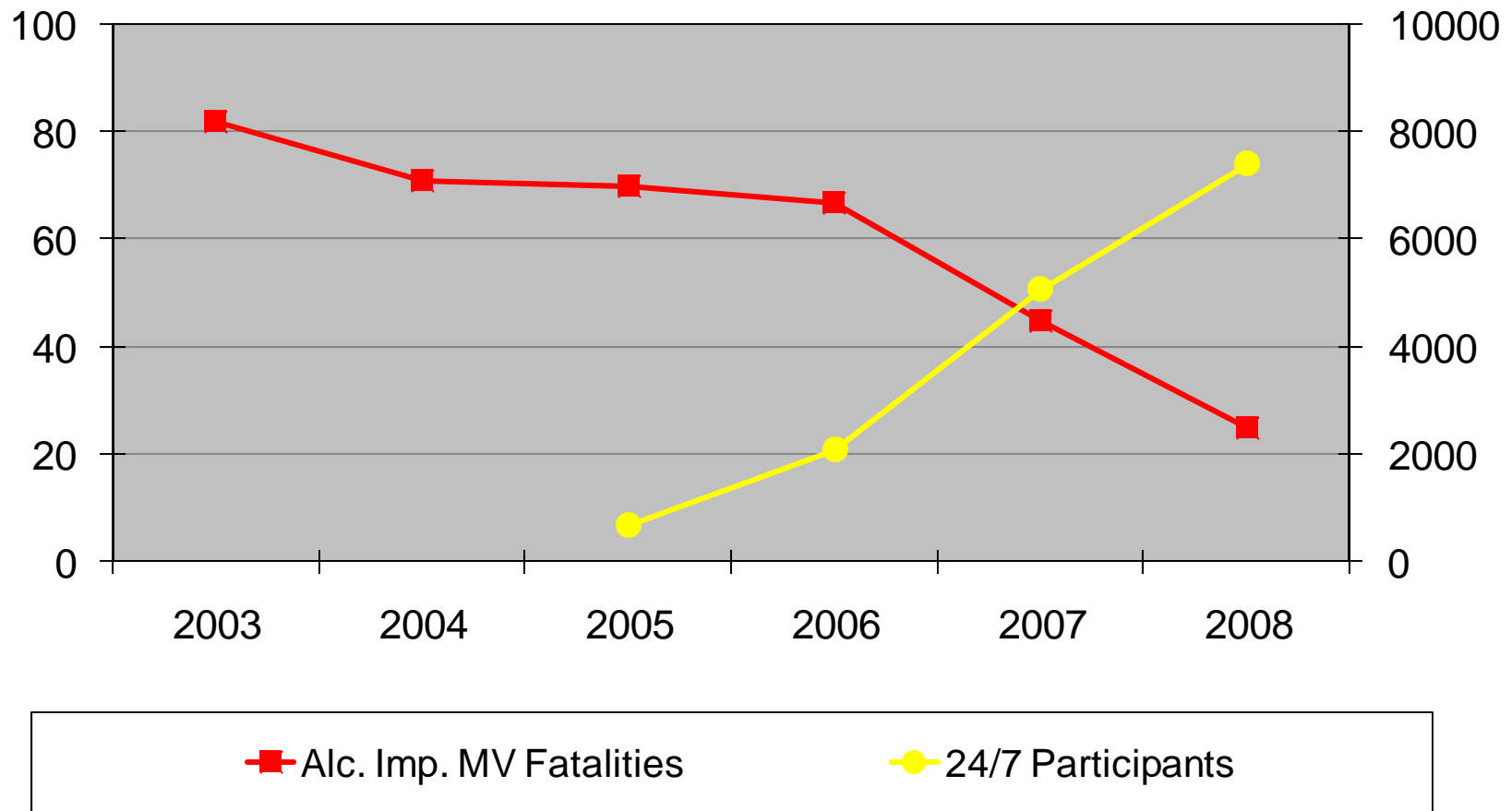
- A statewide program that provides unprecedented levels of supervision by integrating state of the art testing
 - Twice daily breath testing or continuous alcohol monitoring to monitor sobriety
 - Random urine testing to monitor drug use
 - Drug patch testing to monitor drug use
- Preliminary data indicates that the program reduces recidivism
- A formal evaluation is underway; results should be available this Fall



Alcohol-Impaired Motor Vehicle Fatalities/Vehicle Miles Traveled



Alcohol-Impaired MV Fatalities and 24/7 Participation



What do all of these programs have in common?

- These programs are different, but all work well because they share certain features in common:
 - Intensive supervision/monitoring
 - Accountability
 - Swift, certain and meaningful sanction or other responses to violations



Combine them with traditional solutions (including ignition interlock) to get the best results



NPAMC: Working together to address the problem



Call to Action



Contact Information

Stephen K. Talpins

Chief Executive Officer

National Partnership on Alcohol Misuse and Crime

sktalpins@alcoholandcrime.org

(305) 610-3585

