

**PROCESS EVALUATION OF THE DEARBORN AND OHIO COUNTIES
(LAWRENCEBURG, IN) JUVENILE DRUG COURT PROGRAM**

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OVERVIEW OF DRUG COURTS

In 1989, the first drug court program emerged in Dade County, Florida as a means to expedite the flow of drug-related cases through overburdened court systems and to better address the treatment needs of its clientele: the drug-involved offender (NIJ, 1995). Since 1995, the United States Department of Justice's Drug Courts Program Office (DCPO) has made approximately 650 grants supporting the development and maintenance of local drug courts, totaling more than \$125 million in funding. As of May 2001, 483 adult, 158 juvenile, 38 family, and 9 combination adult/juvenile/family drug courts were in operation for a total of 688 drug court programs (Belenko, 2001). There are reportedly over 430 programs in the planning process, with all 50 states having drug courts in operation or in the planning stages (American University, 2001).

Court systems have pursued three primary strategies to address the volume of drug-related cases in the criminal justice system and break the "cycle of addiction." Current judicial strategies incorporate tactics involving expedited case management, specialized courts and caseloads for drug cases, and alternative sentencing and diversionary programs (Smith, et al., 1991). According to the Center for Court Innovation, drug courts are a prime example of a growing judicial reform movement known as "problem-solving courts." Problem-solving courts and courts with specialized caseloads (e.g., domestic violence court or family court) seek to broaden the focus of court intervention from simply adjudicating past and current legal issues to changing future behavior to achieve tangible results for victims, offenders and the community at-large (Berman & Feinblatt, 2001). In general, drug court programs strive to reduce drug-related and non-drug-related criminal activity, promote sobriety and long-term sober living, and improve the quality of life for program participants. Through early intervention, frequent judicial contact, and informed decision-making, the drug court model serves as a mechanism for the provision of intensive, long-term supervision and treatment to offenders

whose substance abuse and criminal behavior intersect (Belenko, 2001; Berman & Feinblatt, 2001).

Drug courts are one of the more successful modalities of coercive treatment (Satel, 2000). Data consistently show that when treatment is lengthy in duration (beyond 90 days), and when it is completed, treatment recipients are more successful at maintaining sobriety and committing fewer crimes (Satel, 2000). Drug courts help offenders with addictions enter and stay in treatment. It is estimated that, nationally, “about 60% of those who enter drug courts were still in treatment after one year” (Belenko, 1998). In comparison, eighty to ninety percent of participants who voluntarily enter treatment programs leave treatment by the end of the first year; about half of those who voluntarily seek treatment drop out of their program in the first three months (Satel, 2000). In a meta-review of 37 published and unpublished drug court evaluations produced between 1999 and April 2001 from programs around the nation, The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA) found that, on-average, forty-seven percent of drug court participants successfully graduate from drug court programs (Belenko, 2001). This figure is consistent with estimates from the United States General Accounting Office’s 1997 report on drug courts which found that, on-average, a minimum of forty-eight percent of participants who enter drug court graduate (U.S. General Accounting Office, 1997). These figures do not include those who were still active at the time the evaluations were conducted, so completion rates from drug court programs across the nation may be higher than currently reported (Belenko, 1999).

While drug courts vary widely in regards to their structure and jurisdiction, the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) have identified the following key elements of the drug court model, and most drug courts attempt to integrate these components into their program (Gebelein, 2000):

- Early identification and prompt placement of eligible participants.

- Participant access to a continuum of treatment, rehabilitation, and related services
- Integration of substance abuse treatment with justice system case processing.
- Use of a nonadversarial approach, in which prosecutors and defense attorneys promote public safety while protecting the right of the accused to due process.
- A coordinated strategy among judge, prosecution, defense, and treatment providers to govern offender compliance.
- Ongoing judicial interaction with each participant.
- Abstinence is monitored through frequent testing for alcohol and illicit drugs.
- Monitoring and evaluation to measure achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
- Continuing interdisciplinary education to promote effective planning, implementation, and operation.
- Partnerships with public agencies and community-based organizations to generate local support and enhance drug court effectiveness.

DEARBORN AND OHIO COUNTIES JUVENILE DRUG COURT PROGRAM

The Dearborn and Ohio Counties Juvenile Drug Court Program, also known as REDIRECT, is an intensive program for first-time and repeat nonviolent juvenile offenders. The program went into operation in April, 1999. The REDIRECT program was initiated as a joint project of the Dearborn-Ohio Circuit Court and Dearborn-Ohio Counties Prosecuting Attorney's office. Referrals to the program can be made by local law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, the probation department, schools and parents. Program participation may be ordered by the Court or may be an agreed upon component of probation. REDIRECT is a three-phase supervision and treatment program spanning nine to eighteen months, with a six-month aftercare component.

The remainder of this report will describe the methodology and findings of the process evaluation for the Dearborn and Ohio Counties Drug Court Program.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The primary focus of this evaluation report is an assessment of the characteristics of those participating in the drug court program and drug court processes. The following research questions were developed to examine the Dearborn and Ohio Counties Juvenile Drug Court Program:

1. What are the characteristics of offenders referred to the drug court?
2. How many offenders are referred to the court each month?
3. How many are accepted?
4. How many are placed in which types of drug treatment?
5. How many complete treatments?
6. What are the characteristics of offenders who complete treatment and how do they compare with those who fail to complete treatment?
7. What do drug court participants like most about the drug court?
8. What do drug court participants like least about the drug court?
9. Has the drug court developed policies and procedures and do they follow them?

While case processing time from arrest to disposition and arrest to the start of treatment are commonly explored in drug court process evaluations, it was agreed upon by the Drug Court program and the University of Cincinnati (UC) that, because of the rural nature and small case load of the jurisdiction, concerns over processing time were not an issue. Therefore, the potential effects of the program on case processing time were not examined in this evaluation.

METHODOLOGY

Sample

This evaluation examines available case information on youths who participated in the REDIRECT program from April 1999 through July 2001. During this time, approximately 44

juveniles participated in the REDIRECT program. According to staff, 16 youths have graduated from the drug court, 16 participants were unsuccessfully terminated from the program, and 12 juveniles are currently in drug court.¹ The University of Cincinnati collected a retrospective comparison group of 49 juveniles adjudicated between 1997 and 1999 who met the legal criteria for drug court admission.²

Data Collection and Data Analysis

The Dearborn and Ohio Counties Drug Court Program assumed primary responsibility for data collection, with support from the University of Cincinnati. The University of Cincinnati provided data collection instruments, an evaluation database system to compliment the collection instruments, a detailed protocol for data collection, and technical support throughout the evaluation period (see Appendix I for *Data Collection Protocol*). Much of the data required to address the established research questions and the information common in a process evaluation are incomplete or missing. Files made available to University of Cincinnati staff were reviewed with program and court staff in an effort to address missing data and complete the data collection. However, a great deal of data remained missing and was not available for this evaluation.

Where the nature and quality of the data allowed, statistical analyses were conducted. Independent sample t-tests were used to assess differences between drug court participants and the comparison group on various characteristics. Due to the small number of cases and the missing information, statistical tests were limited. Where data were unavailable for statistical analysis, descriptive statistics were used to examine the characteristics of drug court participants and the comparison group.

¹ This information was relayed in interviews and other communications with program staff.

² Much of the information on personal characteristics and criminal history relevant to the comparison group was missing or unavailable.

Limitations

The quantity and quality of the data made available through the data collection process limits the statistical techniques available for analysis, as well as limits the stability and interpretability of the findings. This analysis involves a small number of cases. Consequently, the small sample sizes used in this analysis fail to produce stable parameter estimates. The results of the statistical analysis are unstable in that they are susceptible to significant changes due to the addition of a small number of cases, or the completion of more information on existing cases. Therefore, the results and their generalizability should be interpreted with caution.

RESULTS

Table 1 compares the drug court and comparison group on several demographic characteristics: age, sex, race/ethnicity, academic achievement, residential status, residential stability over the last year, the sample's history of running away from home and their performance in school.³ The groups were very similar with regard to background characteristics. T-tests revealed non-significant differences between these groups in regards to age and residential stability.

The criminal histories for the two groups differed significantly in several categories (Table 2). Chi Square analyses indicates that the drug court group reported significantly more delinquent arrest, felony arrest, felony adjudications, prior drug charge arrests, prior community supervision, prior unsuccessful terminations from supervisions and prior placement in secure facilities. Whether these findings are due to differences in the accuracy of the available data or actual differences in criminality is unknown.

The risk and needs classifications from the Youthful Level of Service Inventory (Y-LSI) for

³ Information on school performance, the number of unexcused absences, and in- and out-of-school suspensions was not available for presentation. According to Program staff, 8 program graduates obtained their high school diploma or GED while in the program, and 12 graduates (75 percent) were employed at the time of graduation.

the two groups are presented in Figure 1. The mean Y-LSI score for program participants was 23.77 (N = 22). Among the program participants who received a Y-LSI assessment, 45 percent were classified as moderate in criminogenic risk and needs. Another 45 percent were classified as high in criminogenic risk and needs. The mean Y-LSI score for the comparison group was 14.71 (N = 7). As indicated in Figure 1, 100 percent of the comparison group were classified as moderate in risk and needs. While the REDIRECT program was established to deal with both first-time offenders and more serious repeat offenders, program staff have noted that the juveniles admitted into the program have been the more serious, repeat offenders. T-tests for a difference in means indicates that the two groups differed significantly in regards to risk, with the drug court participants being a higher risk and needs level group. This is consistent with the observations from program staff.

Table 1. Comparison of Demographic Data⁴

	DRUG COURT		COMPARISON GROUP	
	N	%	N	%
AGE				
13	0	0	1	2.2
14	1	2.9	7	15.2
15	13	38.2	10	21.7
16	9	26.5	10	21.7
17	6	17.6	9	19.6
18	5	14.7	9	19.6
Mean	16.03		16.0	
SEX				
Male	29	80.6	35	71.4
Female	7	19.4	14	28.6
RACE/ETHNICITY				
Caucasian	30	93.7	49	100
African American	1	3.1	0	0
Other	1	3.1	0	0
YEARS OF SCHOOLING COMPLETED				
6 th Grade	0	0	6	16.7
7 th Grade	5	15.6	4	11.1
8 th Grade	7	21.9	4	11.1
9 th Grade	7	21.9	6	16.7
10 th Grade	7	21.9	7	19.4
11 th Grade	4	12.5	8	22.2
12 th Grad/GED	2	6.3	1	2.8
PRIMARY RESIDENCE				
Parent(s)/Guardian(s)	32	88.9	41	95.3
Unknown	4	11.1	2	4.7
RESIDENCE CHANGE IN LAST 12 MONTHS				
0 (Unknown)	21	77.8	7	77.8
1	3	11.1	1	11.1
2	2	7.4	1	11.1
3+	1	3.7	0	0
Mean	.48			.33
RECORD OF RUNNING AWAY				
Yes	3	15.0	3	12.0
No	17	85.0	22	88.0
RECORD OF TRUANCY				
Yes	13	52.0	19	63.3
No	12	48.0	11	33.6
RECORD OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUPENSIONS				
Yes	16	64.0	20	62.5
No	9	36.0	12	37.5

⁴ Due to missing data, the N for the drug court group may not equal 44, and the N for the comparison group may not equal 49.

Table 2. Prior Criminal Histories

	DRUG COURT		COMPARISON GROUP	
	N	%	N	%
DELINQUENT ARREST**				
No	3	13.0	8	72.7
Yes	20	87.0	3	27.3
DELINQUENT ADJUDICATION				
No	13	56.5	8	72.2
Yes	10	43.5	3	27.3
MISDEMEANOR ARREST				
No	10	45.5	6	26.1
Yes	12	54.5	17	73.9
MISDEMEANOR ADJUDICATION				
No	11	50.0	8	47.1
Yes	11	50.0	9	52.9
FELONY ARREST*				
No	11	47.8	8	88.9
Yes	12	52.2	1	11.1
FELONY ADJUDICATION**				
No	11	47.8	8	100
Yes	12	52.2	0	0
PRIOR DRUG CHARGE ARREST**				
No	1	2.7	12	24.5
Yes	36	97.3	37	75.5
PRIOR COMMUNITY SUPERVISION**				
No	7	25.0	19	59.4
Yes	21	75.0	13	40.6
PRIOR UNSUCCESSFUL TERMINATIONS*				
No	9	39.1	18	66.7
Yes	14	60.9	9	33.3
PRIOR SECURE FACILITY PLACEMENT**				
No	7	25.9	26	92.9
Yes	20	74.1	2	7.1

*Significant at the p<0.05 level. **Significant at the p<0.01 level

Figure 1. Y-LSI Risk and Needs Levels

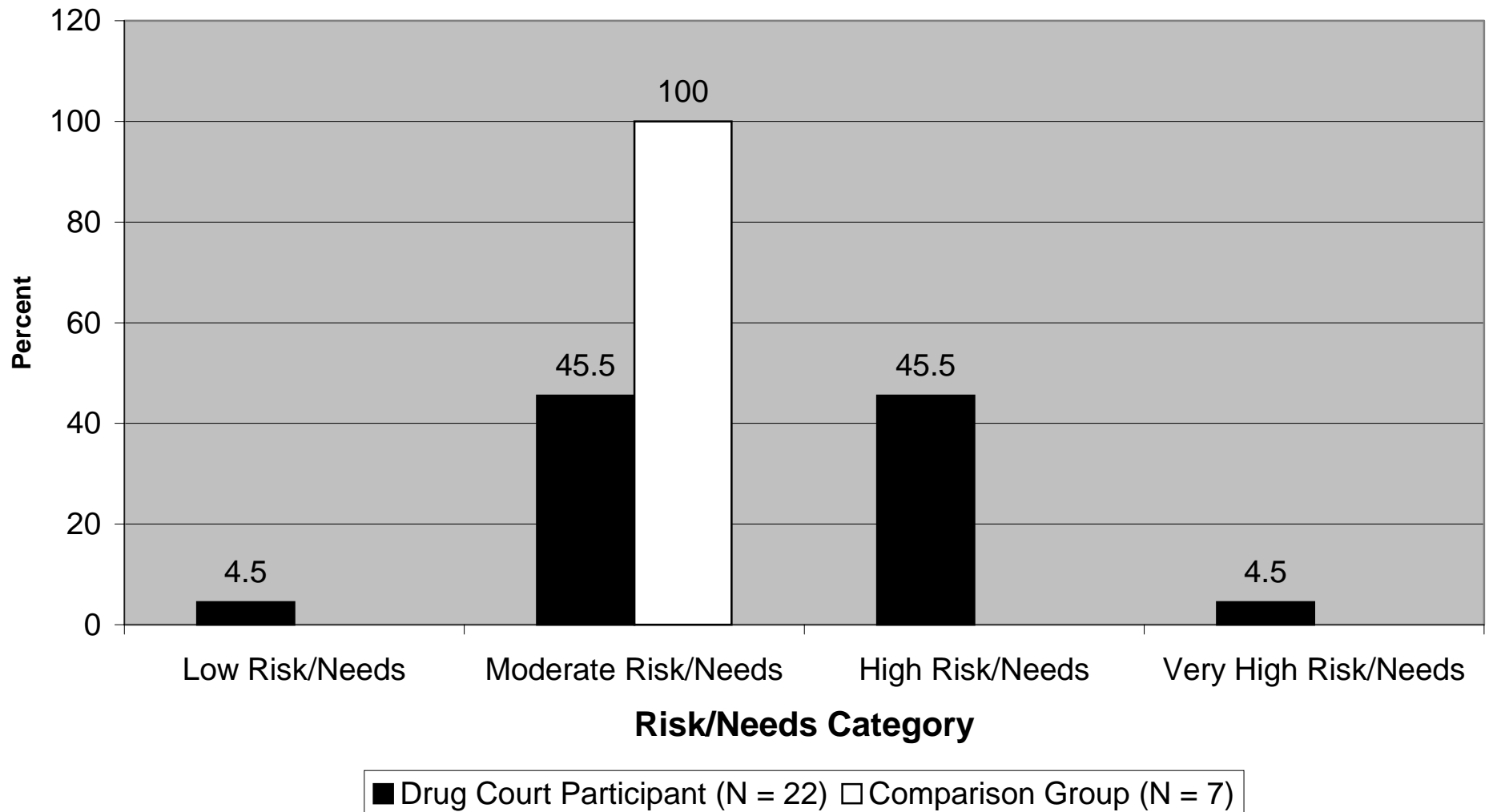


Table 3. Drug Testing Results

	Number		Percentage		Percentage	
	Drug Tests Taken		Negative Drug Tests		Positive Drug Tests	
	Drug Court	Comparison	Drug Court	Comparison	Drug Court	Comparison
Mean	3.48	2.79	24.95	13.13	41.41	48.23
Std. Dev.	2.77	1.54	35.65	23.82	45.29	47.57
N	21	29	21	29	21	29

Drug testing results are presented in Table 3. No significant difference in drug testing results was detected.

Table 4 shows the reported drug use of the program participants. On average, drug court participants reported first using alcohol at the age of 12, and reported drug use also began at this age. In regard to drug usage, 64 percent of those in the Drug Court reported using alcohol at least once a week. For the comparison group, reports of first alcohol use start at age 12, and age 11 for first drug use. Fifty percent of the comparison group reported alcohol usage on a weekly basis, and 63 percent claimed to use drugs at least once a week.

Figure 2 highlights the drugs of first and second choice for members of the drug court group. Similar data were not available for the comparison group. Marijuana and alcohol were the most common substances of choice. Twenty-one of the drug court participants (47.7%) reported having chemically dependent family member, and only six drug court participants (13.6%) had received drug or alcohol treatment prior to entering the drug court program.⁵

⁵ Only three drug court participants, and one member of the comparison group, were dual diagnosed with substance abuse and mental illness needs. Information on the treatment needs of the sample is provided in Table 5. The available data regarding the first three treatment placements for drug court participants, the outcomes of those placements, and the reason for noncompletion is presented in Table 6.

Table 4. Reported Substance Abuse History for Drug Court Participants

	N	%
AGE AT FIRST ALCOHOL USE		
9	0	0
10	2	6.9
11	5	17.2
12	7	24.1
13	10	34.5
14	5	17.2
17	0	0
Mean	12.38	
FREQUENCY OF ALCOHOL USE		
Daily	3	10.7
Once a week	15	53.6
Less than once a week	10	35.7
AGE AT FIRST DRUG USE		
7	1	3.7
9	0	0
10	0	0
11	3	11.1
12	8	29.6
13	11	40.7
14	3	11.1
15	1	3.7
Mean	12.44	
FREQUENCY OF DRUG USE		
Daily	15	55.6
Once a week	12	44.4
Less than once a week	0	0

Figure 2. Drugs of Choice

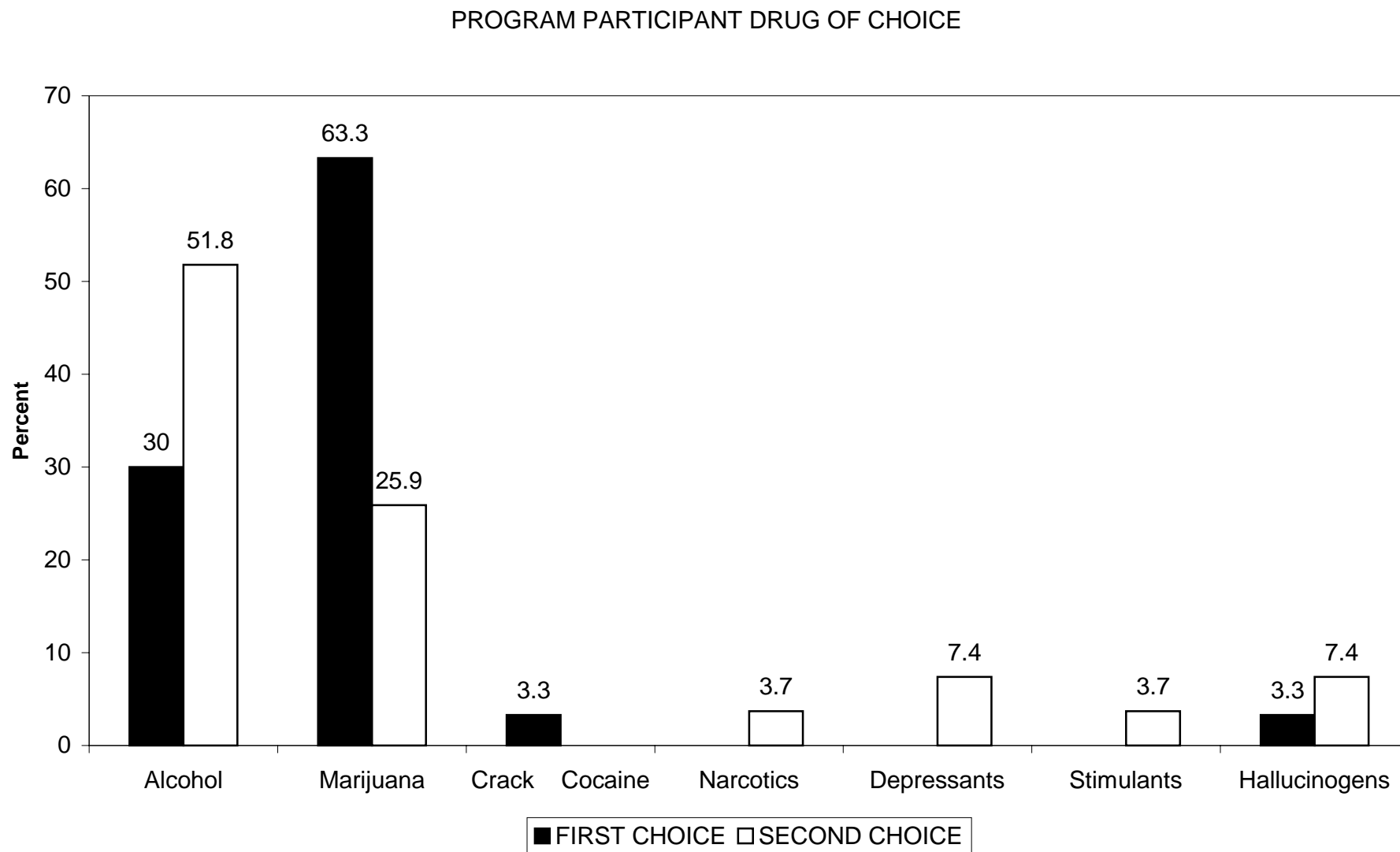


Table 5. Treatment Needs of Drug Court Participants

TREATMENT NEEDS	DEGREE OF TREATMENT NEEDS									
	Unknown/ Missing		Chronic: Severe		Frequent: Serious		Situational: Minor		None: No Disruption	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Alcohol Abuse	13	35.1	1	2.7	9	24.3	11	29.7	3	8.1
Drug Abuse	13	35.1	5	13.5	11	29.7	7	18.9	1	2.7
Mental Health	22	59.5	0	0	1	2.7	2	5.4	12	32.4
Family	17	45.9	0	0	2	5.4	9	24.3	9	24.3
Housing	18	48.6	0	0	0	0	2	5.4	17	45.9
Education	24	68.6	1	2.9	4	11.4	4	11.4	2	5.7
Physical	20	57.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	42.9
Employment	33	94.3	0	0	1	2.9	0	0	1	2.9

Table 6. Treatment Activity for Drug Court Participants

	N = 37	%
FIRST TREATMENT PLACEMENT—PHASE I		
Intensive Outpatient	7	18.9
Outpatient	15	40.5
Unknown/Missing	15	40.5
OUTCOME OF FIRST PLACEMENT		
Completed placement	17	45.9
Did not complete placement	1	2.7
Unknown/Missing	19	40.5
REASON FOR NONCOMPLETION OF FIRST PLACEMENT		
New Referral	1	100
SECOND TREATMENT PLACEMENT—PHASE II		
Outpatient	12	32.4
Unknown/Missing	25	67.6
OUTCOME OF SECOND PLACEMENT		
Completed placement	9	24.3
Unknown/Missing	28	75.6
REASON FOR NONCOMPLETION OF SECOND PLACEMENT		
Unknown/Missing	37	100
THIRD TREATMENT PLACEMENT—PHASE III		
Outpatient	10	27.0
Unknown/Missing	27	73.0
OUTCOME OF THIRD PLACEMENT		
Completed placement	2	5.4
Unknown/Missing	35	94.5
REASON FOR NONCOMPLETION OF THIRD PLACEMENT		
Unknown/Missing	37	100

Information pertaining to the number of case hearings and status review hearings, the total number of days spent confined, and status at termination from the program was not available for drug court participants. Information on participant attitudes toward the drug court program was available for only four respondents; two respondents completed 90-day questionnaires and another two respondents completed termination questionnaires (see Tables 7 & 8). Three comments on what was best about the drug court program were available:

- “It helped me get my life back on track.”
- “That it keeps me clean.”
- “The way the program helped me become drug free.”

When asked what they liked least about the program, respondents indicated felt the program consumed a lot of time, that there was too much drug testing and reporting to court, and that some of the counselors were unable to relate to the group's feelings.

Table 7. Participant Attitudes Toward Program at 90 Days

	Program Participant Attitudes Toward Drug Court				
	Unknown	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
RESPECT					
Judge treated me with respect	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Probation Officer treated me with respect	N/A	1	1	N/A	N/A
Treatment Staff Treated me with respect	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
FAIRNESS					
Judge was fair	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Probation Officer was fair	N/A	1	1	N/A	N/A
Treatment Staff was fair	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
CONCERNED					
Judge was concerned about me	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Probation Officer was concerned about me	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A
Treatment Staff was concerned about me	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
DRUG-FREE					
Judge visits helped me stay drug free	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Probation Officer visits helped me stay drug free	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Treatment Staff visits helped me stay drug free	N/A	1	1	N/A	N/A
EXPECTATIONS					
Judge expected too much from me	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A
Probation Officer expected too much from me	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A
Treatment Staff expected too much from me	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A

Table 8. Participant Attitudes Toward Program at Termination

Program Participant Attitudes Toward Drug Court					
	Unknown	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
RESPECT					
Judge treated me with respect	N/A	1	1	N/A	N/A
Probation Officer treated me with respect	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	1
Treatment Staff Treated me with respect	N/A	1	1	N/A	N/A
FAIRNESS					
Judge was fair	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A
Probation Officer was fair	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	1
Treatment Staff was fair	N/A	1	1	N/A	N/A
CONCERNED					
Judge was concerned about me	N/A	1	1	N/A	N/A
Probation Officer was concerned about me	N/A	1	1	N/A	N/A
Treatment Staff was concerned about me	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
DRUG-FREE					
Judge visits helped me stay drug free	N/A	1	1	N/A	N/A
Probation Officer visits helped me stay drug free	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	1
Treatment Staff visits helped me stay drug free	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
EXPECTATIONS					
Judge expected too much from me	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	1
Probation Officer expected too much from me	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Treatment Staff expected too much from me	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1

SUMMARY

Like many drug court programs around the nation, complete and accurate data collection is a concern. Failure to accurately collect and record data relevant to process evaluation questions seriously limited the ability to assess the impact of the REDIRECT program. The quantity and quality of the data made available through the data collection process limits the stability and interpretability of the findings described in this report. The numbers of cases involved in this evaluation were very small. Consequently, the results of the tests for significance are unstable and sensitive to the addition of new cases or the completion of more information on existing cases. Therefore, the results and their generalizability should be interpreted with caution.

At this time, the quality and quantity of the recorded data also limits the ability to fully understand whom the Dearborn and Ohio Counties Juvenile Drug Court Program is serving, and what are the effects and outcomes of the interventions provided by the program. If the current data collection issues are not addressed, if the attention and resources dedicated to data collection remains the same, then future evaluations (process, outcome, and cost benefit) of the Dearborn and Ohio Counties Juvenile Drug Court Program will also yield limited findings on the effects of the drug court. The following research questions can be summarized from this report:

What were the characteristics of offenders referred to the Drug Court?

- The majority of Drug Court participants were male (80%), Caucasian (93%), with an average age of 16. Among Program participants, 52% had a record of truancy, and 64% had a record of out-of-school suspensions. The majority of the Comparison Group was male (71%), Caucasian (100%), with an average age of 16. The majority of comparison group members also had records of truancy (63%) and out-of-school suspensions (62%).

- The mean Y-LSI score for program participants was 15.85, compared to a mean Y-LSI score of 2.19 for the comparison group. Among the program participants who received a Y-LSI assessment, 45 percent were classified as moderate in criminogenic risk and needs, and 45 percent were classified as high in criminogenic risk and needs.
- The criminal histories for the two groups differed significantly in several categories. The mean number of prior felony arrests and prior felony convictions were significantly higher for the drug court group. Juveniles admitted into the REDIRECT Program averaged more prior delinquent arrests, felony arrests, and prior drug charge arrests. Drug Court participants had more felony convictions prior sentences to community supervision and more unsuccessful terminations from supervision in the community than the comparison group. The mean number of prior sentences to a secure facility was also larger for the drug court group. Whether these findings are due to differences in the accuracy of the available data or actual differences in criminality is unknown.
- The most common type of violation for drug court participants was for noncompliance with the terms of the program/supervision and positive urine screens. The most common first sanction rendered for a violation was detention center confinement. The second most common sanction rendered was boot camp.
- According to program staff, eight program graduates obtained their high school diploma or GED while in the program. Twelve graduates (75 percent) were employed at the time of graduation.

Did the Drug Court follow developed policies and procedures? How many offenders were referred and accepted each month?

- The lack of full “buy-in” from Program and Court staff to the drug court model, more specifically the team approach the model advocates, was an issue that affected both data collection and program operations. Over the course of the evaluation UC staff, members of the Drug Court Team and Court staff had several meetings and discussions regarding adherence to the data collection protocol established for the evaluation and the REDIRECT program itself. Beyond the program’s failure to comply with the established evaluation protocols—thorough record keeping on relevant information for members of the REDIRECT program and a comparison group—the timely identification and referral of juveniles who may have been eligible and appropriate for the program did not occur as planned.
- Lack of communication and cooperation between probation department staff and staff assigned to the drug court program resulted in a failure to identify and screen all youths who were drug court eligible, which limited the number of program participants and the ability to develop a comparison group of juveniles under court supervision at the same time as the drug court group. With this in mind, information

on the number of youth referred to drug court was not available for this evaluation. On average, the program admitted 1.68 juveniles per month.

- It is important to note that since its inception there have been major turnover of staff. There was a loss of the in-house treatment staff member, loss of a case manager, and the loss of the probation officer assigned to the drug court. There was also a change in the outside treatment provider, which required training and cooperation with the drug court model and issues of confidentiality. These changes, however, eventually led to a better drug court team dynamic and the program's ability to cooperate with other court staff.
- A new Case Manager/Coordinator was brought into the Program, the timely screening of cases has reportedly improved, and data collection has improved. Unfortunately, data that would allow for the calculation of case processing time and numbers was not available for this evaluation.

What were the treatment needs of Drug Court participants?

- On average, drug court participants reported first using alcohol at the age of 12, and reported drug use also began at this age. In regard to drug usage, 64% of those in the Program reported using alcohol at least once a week. Marijuana and alcohol were the most common substances of choice.
- Twenty-one of the drug court participants (47.7%) reported having chemically dependent family member, and only six drug court participants (13.6%) had received drug or alcohol treatment prior to entering the drug court program.
- Alcohol abuse was a frequent, serious treatment need for 24% of those in the REDIRECT Program. Drug abuse was a frequent, serious treatment need for 29% of those in Drug Court.

How many are placed in which types of drug treatment? How many complete their treatment placements? What are the characteristics of those who complete treatment placements and those who do not?

- The data available for this evaluation indicates that 45% entered PHASE I of the REDIRECT treatment regimen completed the phase. Of those advancing to PHASE II, 24% completed the phase, and Phase III participants had a 27% completion rate.
- Due to the amount of missing data in regards to treatment placements and outcomes, questions regarding the characteristics of those who successfully complete or fail treatment placements could not be answered with the data made available for this evaluation.

What did participants like most and least about the REDIRECT Program?

- Comments on what was best about the drug court program suggest that REDIRECT helped some participants achieve and maintain sobriety.
- When asked what they liked least about the program, respondents indicated felt the program consumed a lot of time, that there was too much drug testing and reporting to court, and that some of the counselors were unable to relate to the group's feelings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations can be offered to enhance future evaluations of the Dearborn and Ohio Counties Juvenile Drug Court Program:

- Interviews with the Drug Court Team and Court staff, and review of the technical assistance provided over the duration of the evaluation period, suggests that buy-in to the drug court model is vital to the success of the Dearborn and Ohio Counties Juvenile Drug Court Program. As is the case in all drug court programs, steps should be taken to assure that the drug court program operates in accord with other court staff and programs.
- Establish a support staff position with data collection and data entry into an evaluation database or management information system being a primary responsibility of the position.
- Establish and adhere to a data collection protocol to ensure relevant information is accurately collected in a timely fashion. This protocol should make clear what is to be collected and by whom on the drug court team.
- As part of the protocol, individuals responsible for data collection need to have full access to information relevant to future evaluation questions.
- As part of the protocol, quarterly reviews of the information being collected should be performed to enhance the timely collection of data. If at all possible, retroactive data collection should be avoided.

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX I: Protocol for Data Collection

- I. The *Intake* portion of the data collection instrument is to be completed on everyone who is screened for possible participation in the Drug Court program. In addition, the *Intake* portion of the data collection instrument is to be completed on everyone who is an identified member of the control group.
- II. The *Process* portion of the data collection instrument is to be completed on everyone who is either (a) participating in the Drug Court program, or (b) an identified member of the control group.
- III. The *Supervision* portion of the data collection instrument is to be completed on everyone who is either (a) participating in the Drug Court program, or (b) an identified member of the control group, if applicable. This portion of the data collection instrument includes the Standardized Treatment Form, the Standardized Drug Testing Form, and the Standardized Violations Form.
- IV. The *Closure* portion should be completed on all individuals who have been accepted and participated in the Drug Court program.
- V. The *Drug Use Questionnaire* should also be administered to everyone who is screened for participation in the drug court and members of the control group, if possible.
- VI. The *Termination Survey* should be administered twice; once at 90 days into the program (for those who were accepted and opted to participate in the drug court), then again at their termination for the program regardless of whether they were terminated early, or whether or not they were terminated successfully.
- VII. *Juvenile Parent and School Surveys* are optional. They should be administered twice and given to everyone. Once at intake and then again at termination or near termination. They should be administered regardless of termination status (i.e. successful or unsuccessful).