

Program Performance Report

Implementation Grantees of the Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program

April–June 2012



BJA
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Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program (ADC)—Implementation—April–June 2012

Program Performance Report (April–June 2012)

The Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program (ADC) Program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), is intended to “build and/or expand drug court capacity at the state, local, and tribal levels to reduce crime and substance abuse among high risk, high need offenders.”¹ Drug courts, which are a significant part of a larger universe of problem-solving courts, have been proven to reduced recidivism and substance use among program participants. When implemented in an evidence-based manner, drug courts have also been proven to increase the likelihood of rehabilitation. Some of the key components that serve as guidelines for drug court operations include early intervention and intensive treatment, close judicial supervision, mandatory and random drug testing, community supervision, appropriate incentives and sanctions, and recovery support services.

BJA awarded grants to state programs, enhancement programs, or implementation programs. Implementation grants were awarded to jurisdictions that have completed a substantial amount of planning and are ready to implement a drug court. Grantees may fund court operations, offender supervision, and various other service treatment and recovery support services. The following report examines data entered into the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) for April–June 2012 for implementation grants awarded in fiscal years 2008–2011.

Table 1 shows 74 of 78 grantees and subrecipients submitted performance information during the quarter. One grantee was removed from this analysis because the inclusion of their data significantly skewed the results. For example, this one grantee in a large urban location represented over 70% of all the screened Drug Court candidates in April–June 2012 which significantly skewed the overall admission rates. This grantee implemented a universal screening procedure which results in a much larger pool of candidates including all offenders booked into jail that potentially could be enrolled in the drug court.

Table 1. Implementation Grantees and Subrecipients Reported, April–June 2012

Implementation Grantees and Subrecipients	Total Responding to at Least One Question
2008 (N=7)	7
2009 (N=21)	19
2010 (N=32)	31
2011 (N=18)	17
Overall (N=78)	74

¹ Bureau of Justice Assistance. (2012). *Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program FY 2012 Competitive Grant announcement*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice. Office of Justice Program. Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Program- and Participant-Level Key Measures

Table 2. Program Entry and Participant Level Outcomes, *N* (%)

Location (N)	Eligible	Admitted	Successful Completion	Tested Positive	In-Program Recidivism
Urban (15)	305 (57%)	145 (48%)	59 (50%)	74 (19%)	19 (2%)
Suburban (14)	122 (47)	77 (63)	36 (51)	96 (25)	18 (4)
Rural (36)	202 (65)	149 (74)	69 (55)	150 (24)	47 (6)
Tribal (9)	75 (82)	38 (51)	4 (15)	19 (37)	14 (11)
Overall (74)	704 (59%)	409 (58%)	168 (49%)	339 (23%)	98 (4%)

Overall, 59 percent of screened candidates were deemed eligible for drug court participation during the quarter (Table 2). Eligibility ranged from 47 percent in suburban areas to 82 percent in tribal areas. Of those who are eligible, 58 percent were ultimately admitted into drug court programs during the quarter for all locations combined. A little less than half (49 percent) of drug court grantees successfully completed their programs. The BJA successful completion rate target is 48 percent. The completion rate during the quarter was lowest among tribal programs (15 percent) and highest among rural programs (55 percent). Almost 1 in 4 drug court participants in the program for at least 90 days tested positive at least once for drug and alcohol use, and about 4 percent reoffended and were charged with a new offense during the quarter.

Table 3. Participants with High Criminogenic Risks and Needs

Location	<i>N</i> (%)
Urban (15)	91 (59%)
Suburban (14)	95 (74)
Rural (36)	103 (72)
Tribal (9)	12 (52)
Overall (74)	301 (68%)

Of all drug court participants assessed with a risk and needs assessment instrument, 68 percent were categorized as having high criminogenic risks and needs (Table 3). In this quarter about 52 percent of tribal drug court participants who have been assessed are deemed high risk, compared with 74 percent in suburban areas, 72 percent in rural areas, and 59 percent in urban areas. Research suggests that drug court programs should target high risk offenders in order to increase the cost-effectiveness of the program.

Table 4. Participants Who Exited the Program Unsuccessfully

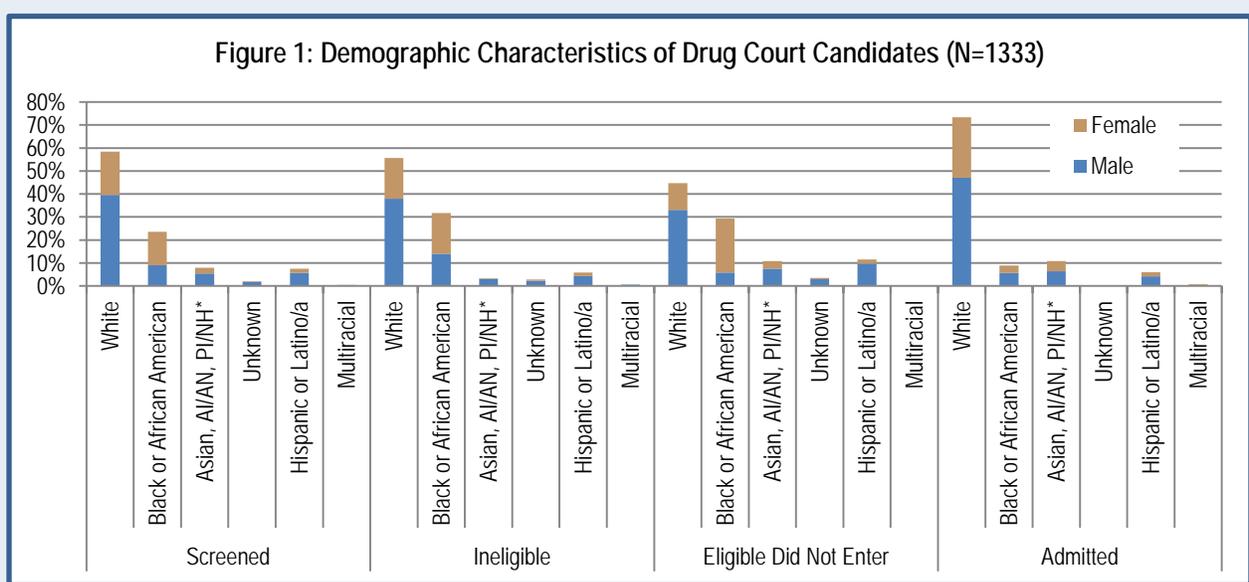
Exit Reasons	<i>N</i> (%)	Time Frame	<i>N</i> (%)
Court or Criminal Involvement	55 (32%)	0 to 3 months	49 (28%)
Lack of Engagement	43 (25)	4 to 6 months	42 (24)
Absconding	33 (19)	7 to 9 months	35 (20)
Relocating or Case Transfer	7 (4)	10 or more months	47 (27)
Death or Serious Injury	7 (4)		
Other	28 (16)		

About 51 percent of drug court program participants did not complete the program successfully during April–June 2012.² Most (76 percent) exit the program for one of three reasons: further court or criminal involvement (32

² This is derived from subtracting the completion rate (49%) from 100%.

percent), lack of engagement (25 percent), or absconding (19 percent). Another 16 percent of participants exited the program for “other” reasons including voluntary withdrawal, continued drug and alcohol use, or failure to meet the conditions of the court.³

Drug court participants who unsuccessfully exited the program during the quarter were slightly more likely to exit the program within 0 to 3 months of participation. Of those that unsuccessfully exited the program, over half (52 percent) left the program in the first 6 months.



*American Indian/Alaska Native, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian.

Figure 1 compares the demographic makeup of potential drug court candidates from screening through admission. Potential drug court candidates are typically identified at the time of arrest or referred to the court by a criminal justice professional. Candidates are first screened for eligibility to ensure they meet certain eligibility criteria. Candidates that do not meet all the criteria are considered ineligible. Drug Court candidates that are eligible are considered for admission into the program. A portion of eligible candidates do not enter the program due to various reasons such as refusing entry or judicial objection (see Table 5 below.) Finally, eligible candidates may be admitted into the Drug Court Program.

- For the April–June 2012 quarter, 59 percent of screened candidates were white, compared with about 24 percent that are black or African American. Interestingly, 15% are black or African American females and 9% are black or African American males.
- Of those that were screened, 56 percent of white drug court candidates were deemed ineligible, compared with 32 percent of black or African American candidates.
- Over 70 percent of Drug Court candidate admitted into the program during the quarter were white. About 10 percent were black or African American and 10 percent were Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian.
- 23 percent of black or African American female candidates were deemed eligible but did not enter the Drug Court program.

³ Some grantees classified failure to meet the conditions of the court as “other,” when in fact they could also be classified under the “lack of engagement” category.

Table 5. Reasons Screened Candidates Did Not Enter Program by Location Type, *N* (%)

Location	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Tribal	Overall
Eligible Did Not Enter Total	145 (49)	44 (15)	73 (24)	36 (12)	298 (100)
Participant Refused Entry	113 (38)	12 (4)	25 (8)	12 (4)	162 (54)
Prosecutor or Defense Objection	2 (1)	2 (1)	11 (4)	0 (0)	15 (5)
Judicial Objection	0 (0)	4 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	5 (2)
Out of Jurisdiction	19 (6)	2 (1)	8 (3)	12 (4)	41 (14)
Arrest, Conviction, or Incarceration on Another Charge	4 (1)	1 (0)	7 (2)	0 (0)	12 (4)
Other Did Not Enter	7 (2)	23 (8)	21 (7)	12 (4)	63 (21)
Ineligible Total	203 (43)	137 (29)	109 (23)	19 (4)	468 (100)
No Drug Problem	43 (9)	3 (1)	7 (1)	0 (0)	53 (11)
Exclusionary Prior Non-violent Offense	27 (6)	13 (3)	20 (4)	1 (0)	61 (13)
Violent History	56 (12)	21 (4)	25 (5)	16 (3)	118 (25)
Mental Health Problem	3 (1)	7 (1)	14 (3)	1 (0)	25 (5)
Other Not Eligible	74 (16)	93 (20)	43 (9)	1 (0)	211 (45)

Over half (53 percent) of screened and eligible candidates did not enter a drug court program because they refused entry (Table 5). Another 22 percent did not enter for “other” reasons. In all geographic locations, participant refusal and “other” reasons were the most common ones given for not entering a drug court program. For those who were ineligible for the drug court program, most did not have a drug problem (62 percent). Violent history was the second most common reason cited for ineligibility (19 percent), followed by “other” reasons (17 percent).

Key Findings

The following key findings are based on analysis of the April–June 2012 Drug Court performance measures.

- The demographic profile across screened candidates, eligible candidates, and admitted participants was inconsistent. White drug court participants admitted during this reporting period represent a larger proportion of all candidates than were screened (71 percent vs. 59 percent.) Additionally, black or African American candidates represented about 24% of all screened candidates but less than 10% of all admitted candidates.
- In this quarter, 49 percent of participants who exited the drug court programs did so successfully. BJA’s target graduation rate is 48 percent.
- The completion rate was low (15 percent) among participants located in tribal areas.
- Over half of program participants unsuccessfully left the program in the first 6 months of participation.
- About 53 percent of eligible candidates are refusing program entry.

Key Performance Measures

Measure	Data Elements Used to Calculate Measure	Definition	Interpretation
Percent Eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Number of eligible offenders B. Number of candidates screened $\% \text{ Eligible} = A/B$	This compares the number of candidates meeting eligibility criteria with the number of candidates screened for program participation.	This assesses the eligibility screening process—specifically, how many participants the program can serve and the number of candidates selected to participate in drug court programs.
Percent Admitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Number of participants admitted to drug court programs B. Number of candidates meeting eligibility criteria. $\% \text{ Admitted} = A/B$	Admitted participants compared with the total number of offenders who were eligible.	Assesses the ongoing capacity of the program by tracking new participant admissions.
Percent Successful Completions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Number of participants successfully completing program requirements B. Number of participants who failed the program due to court or criminal involvement C. Number who fail due to lack of engagement D. Number who fail due to relocating or case transfer E. Number who fail due to death or serious illness F. Number who fail for other reason $\% \text{ Successful} = A/(A+B+C+D+E+F)$	Number of participants who successfully completed the program.	Assesses how many participants have successfully completed program requirements as determined by the drug court program. Can also be thought of as the graduation rate.
Percent Tested Positive for Drug or Alcohol Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Number of participants who tested positive for drug or alcohol use B. Number of participants tested $\% \text{ Positive Drug or Alcohol Test} = A/B$	Percentage of participants that have failed drug and alcohol tests while in the program.	Assesses how many participants continue to use substances while in the program. Also assesses the use of drug and alcohol testing as a key component of the program.
In-Program Recidivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Number of participants charged with a drug offense. B. Number of participants charged with a non-drug offense C. Number of participants currently enrolled in the program D. Number of newly admitted participants $\text{In-Program recidivism} = (A+B)/(C+D)$	Rate of recidivism for participants who have been charged with a new drug and/or non-drug related offense while enrolled in the program.	Assesses participation in continued criminal behavior while enrolled in the drug court program.
Percent High Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Number of participants assessed as having high criminogenic risks and needs B. Number of participants assessed using a risk assessment instrument $\% \text{ High risk} = A/B$	Percentage of participants identified using a valid screening/assessment instrument as having high criminogenic risks and needs.	Assess the percentage of drug court participants that have high criminogenic risks and needs; participants with high criminogenic risks and needs are at higher risk for reoffending compared with low- and medium-risk individuals.