



Statewide Drug Court Evaluation

Minnesota Judicial Branch

Vision

The general public and those who use the court system will refer to it as accessible, fair, consistent, responsive, free of discrimination, independent, and well managed.

Mission

To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.

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Branch

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Drug courts are an effective problem-solving approach for dealing with alcohol and other drug addicted offenders in the judicial system. Drug courts closely monitor the defendant's progress toward sobriety and recovery through ongoing treatment, frequent drug testing, regular mandatory check-in court appearances, and the use of a range of immediate sanctions and incentives to foster behavior change. At present there are 40 drug courts operating in Minnesota.

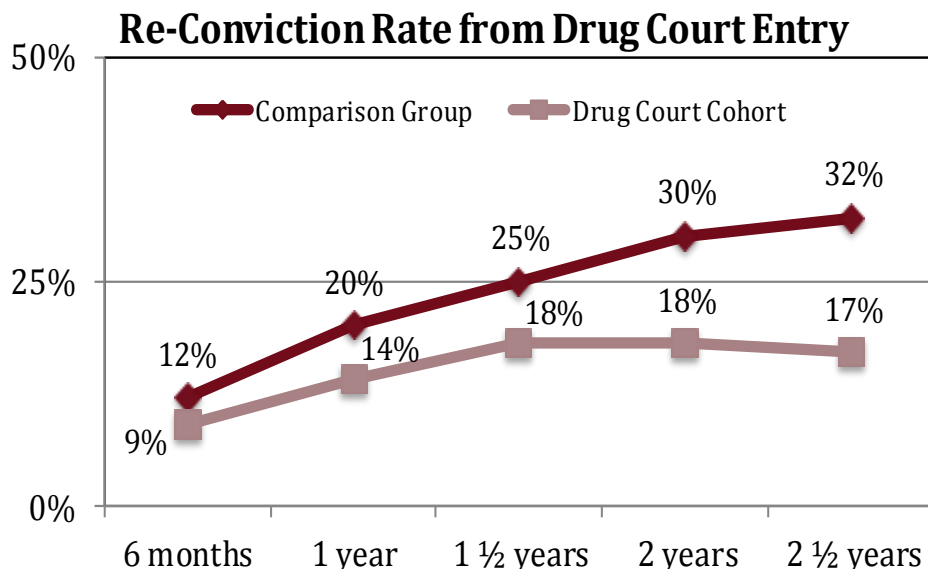
The State Court Administrator's Office recently completed a 2 and one half year study of over 500 Adult Drug Court participants. The study shows reduced recidivism and overall incarceration over almost 650 comparison participants. Most participants graduate drug court & show increased community engagement.

Enhancing Public Safety

Almost half as many reconvictions for drug court participants over 2 1/2 years.

Drug Court Significantly Reduces Recidivism:

New charges & convictions are lower for drug court participants. From drug court entry through 2 1/2 years (drug court lasts approximately 1 1/2 years), one-quarter (26%) of drug court participants had new charges compared to 41% of the comparison group. Conviction rates are also lower for drug court participants (17% vs. 32%).



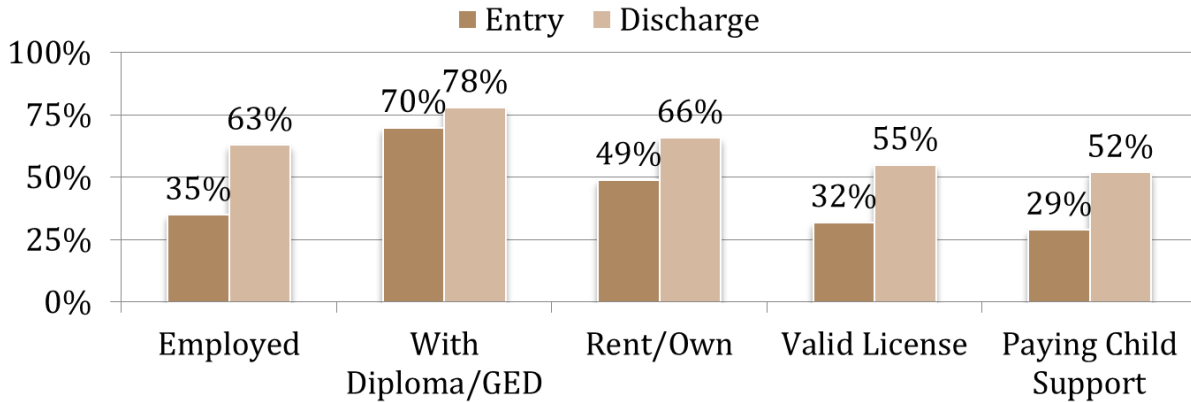
Ensuring Participant Accountability

Participants gain education, valid licenses, jobs, and most graduates have over 1 year of sobriety

Drug Courts Promote Social Engagement:

One drug court goal is to ensure participants are accountable for their decisions & improve the quality of their life & their families, & communities. Over half of participants (54%) who start drug court graduate. Almost all participants (94%) receive treatment and 80% complete at least one episode. Non-metro participants are more likely to gain a valid driver's license.

Entry & Discharge - All Discharged Participants

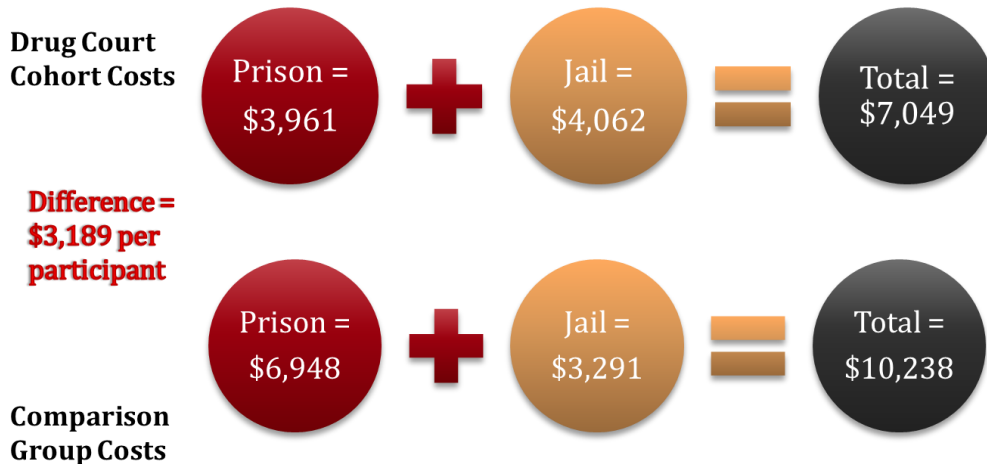


Reducing Costs to Society

Over \$3,000 less per participant spent on overall

Less Prison & Overall Incarceration, Mixed Jail Results:

Over 2 1/2 years, drug court participants spend half as much time in prison as the comparison, and two-thirds as much time incarcerated overall. Drug court participants in almost all courts spend less time in jail over 2 1/2 years than the comparison group.



For the full report, visit the Minnesota Judicial Branch website at <http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=1884>