

Drug Courts

Program description:

While each drug court is unique, they all share the primary goals of reducing criminal recidivism and substance abuse among participants. Drug courts use comprehensive supervision, drug testing, treatment services, and immediate sanctions and incentives in an attempt to modify the criminal behavior of certain drug-involved defendants.

Typical age of primary program participant: 28

Typical age of secondary program participant: N/A

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes Measured	Primary or Secondary Participant	No. of Effect Sizes	Unadjusted Effect Sizes (Random Effects Model)			Adjusted Effect Sizes and Standard Errors Used in the Benefit-Cost Analysis					
			ES	SE	p-value	First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
						ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Crime	P	67	-0.25	0.03	0.00	-0.25	0.03	30	-0.25	0.03	40

Benefit-Cost Summary

The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2011). The economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in Technical Appendix 2.	Program Benefits					Costs	Summary Statistics			
	Partici-pants	Tax-payers	Other	Other Indirect	Total Benefits		Benefit to Cost Ratio	Return on Investment	Benefits Minus Costs	Probability of a positive net present value
	\$0	\$3,376	\$10,373	\$1,684	\$15,433	-\$4,178	\$3.69	26%	\$11,255	100%

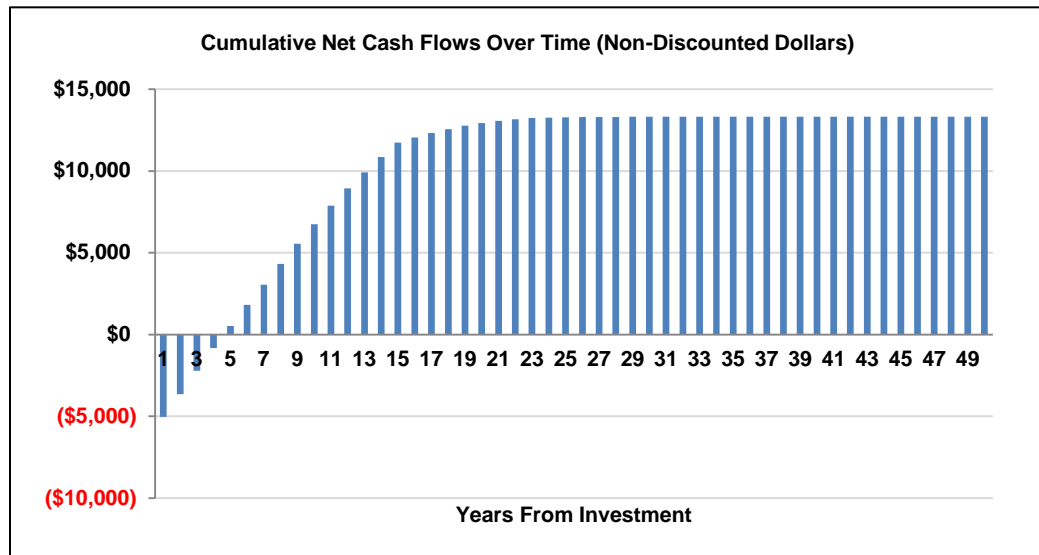
Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates

Source of Benefits	Benefits to:					Total Benefits
	Partici-pants	Tax-payers	Other	Other In-direct		
Crime	\$0	\$3,376	\$10,373	\$1,684		\$15,433

Detailed Cost Estimates

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to implement programs in Washington. The comparison group costs reflect either no treatment or treatment as usual, depending on how effect sizes were calculated in the meta-analysis. The uncertainty range is used in Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in Technical Appendix 2.	Program Costs			Comparison Costs			Summary Statistics	
	Annual Cost	Program Duration	Year Dollars	Annual Cost	Program Duration	Year Dollars	Present Value of Net Program Costs (in 2011 dollars)	Uncertainty (+ or - %)
	\$11,227	1	2007	\$7,335	1	2007	\$4,187	10%

Source: Barnoski, R. & Aos, S. (2003, March). Washington State's drug courts for adult defendants: Outcome evaluation and cost-benefit analysis (Document No. 03-03-1201). Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.



Multiplicative Adjustments Applied to the Meta-Analysis

Type of Adjustment	Multiplier
1- Less well-implemented comparison group or observational study, with some covariates.	1.00
2- Well-implemented comparison group design, often with many statistical controls.	1.00
3- Well-done observational study with many statistical controls (e.g., instrumental variables).	1.00
4- Random assignment, with some implementation issues.	1.00
5- Well-done random assignment study.	1.00
Program developer = researcher	0.36
Unusual (not "real-world") setting	0.50
Weak measurement used	0.80

The adjustment factors for these studies are based on our empirical knowledge of the research in a topic area. We performed a multivariate regression analysis of 96 effect sizes from evaluations of adult and juvenile justice programs. The analysis examined the relative magnitude of effect sizes for studies rated a 1, 2, 3, or 4 for research design quality, in comparison with a 5 (see Technical Appendix B for a description of these ratings). We weighted the model using the random effects inverse variance weights for each effect size. The results indicated that research designs 1, 2, and 3 should have an adjustment factor greater than 1 and research design 4 should have an adjustment factor of approximately 1. Using a conservative approach, we set all the multipliers to 1.

In this analysis, we also found that effect sizes were statistically significantly higher when the program developer was involved in the research evaluation. Similar findings, although not statistically significant, indicated that studies using weak outcome measures (such as technical violations) were higher.

Studies Used in the Meta-Analysis

Barnoski, R., & Aos, S. (2003, March). Washington State's drug courts for adult defendants: Outcome evaluation and cost-benefit analysis (Document No. 03-03-1201). Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

Bavon, A. (2001). The effect of the Tarrant County drug court project on recidivism. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 24(1), 13-24.

Breckenridge, J. F., Winfree, L. T., Jr., Maupin, J. R., & Clason, D. L. (2000). Drunk drivers, DWI 'drug court' treatment, and recidivism: Who fails? *Justice Research and Policy*, 2(1), 87.

Brewster, M. P. (2001). An evaluation of the Chester County (PA) Drug Court Program. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 31(1), 177-206.

Carey, S. M., Lucas, L. M., Waller, M. S., Lambarth, C. H., Linhares, R., Weller, J. M., & Finigan, M. W. (2009, January). Vermont drug courts: Rutland County adult drug court process, outcome, and cost evaluation (Final Report). Portland, OR: NPC Research.

Craddock, A. (2002, May). North Carolina Drug Treatment Court evaluation: Final report. Raleigh: North Carolina Court System.

Crumpton, D., Brekhus, J., Weller, J., & Finigan, M. (2003, January). Cost analysis of Baltimore City, Maryland Drug Treatment Court. Portland, OR: NPC Research.

Deschenes, E. P., Cresswell, L., Emami, V., Moreno, K., Klein, Z., & Condon, C. (2001, September). Success of drug courts: Process and outcome evaluations in Orange County, California (Final Report). Long Beach: California State University Long Beach.

Ericson, R., Welter, S., & Johnson, T. L. (1999, May). Evaluation of the Hennepin County Drug Court. Minneapolis: Minnesota Citizens Council on Crime & Justice.

Studies Used in the Meta-Analysis

- Fielding, J. E., Tye, G., Ogawa, P. L., Imam, I. J., & Long, A. M. (2002). Los Angeles County drug court programs: Initial results. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 23(3), 217-224.
- Finigan, M. W., Carey, S. M., & Cox, A. (2007, April). The impact of a mature drug court over 10 years of operation: Recidivism and costs (Final Report). Portland, OR: NPC Research.
- Godley, M. D., Dennis, M. L., Funk, R., Siekmann, M., & Weisheit, R. (1998, November). An evaluation of the Madison County assessment and treatment alternative court. Chicago: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.
- Goldkamp, J. S., & Weiland, D. (1993). Assessing the impact of Dade County's Felony Drug Court: Final report. Philadelphia: Crime and Justice Research Institute.
- Goldkamp, J. S., Weiland, D., & Moore, J. (2001, August). The Philadelphia treatment court, its development and impact: The second phase (1998-2000). Philadelphia: Crime and Justice Research Institute.
- Goldkamp, J. S., White, M. D., & Robinson, J. B. (2001). Do drug courts work? Getting inside the drug court black box. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 31(1), 27-72.
- Gottfredson, D. C., Coblenz, K., & Harmon, M. A. (1997). A short-term outcome evaluation of the Baltimore City Drug Treatment Court Program. *Perspectives*, Winter, 33-38.
- Gottfredson, D. C., Najaka, S. S., Kearley, B. W., & Rocha, C. M. (2006). Long-term effects of participation in the Baltimore City Drug Treatment Court: Results from an experimental study. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 2(1), 67-98.
- Granfield, R., Eby, C., & Brewster, T. (1998). An examination of the Denver Drug Court: The impact of a treatment-oriented drug-offender system. *Law & Policy*, 20(2), 183-202.
- Harrell, A., Roman, J., & Sack, E. (2001, June). Drug court services for female offenders, 1996-1999: Evaluation of the Brooklyn Treatment Court. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.
- Johnson, G. D., Formichella, C. M., & Bowers, D. A., Jr. (1998). Do drug courts work? An outcome evaluation of a promising program. *Journal of Applied Sociology*, 15(1), 44-62.
- Latessa, E. J., Shaffer, D. K., & Lowenkamp C. (2002, July). Outcome evaluation of Ohio's drug court efforts: Final report. Cincinnati, OH: University of Cincinnati, Center for Criminal Justice Research, Division of Criminal Justice.
- Listwan, S. J., Borowiak, J., Latessa, E. J. (2008, August). An examination of Idaho's felony drug courts: Findings and recommendations. Kent, OH: Kent State University, Department of Justice Studies, Institute for the Study and Prevention of Violence.
- Listwan, S. J., & Latessa, E. J. (2003, April). The Kootenai and Ada County drug courts: Outcome evaluation findings (Final Report). Cincinnati: Center for Criminal Justice Research, University of Cincinnati.
- Listwan, S. J., Shaffer, D. K., & Latessa, E. J. (2001, February). The Erie County drug court: Outcome evaluation findings. Cincinnati, OH: University of Cincinnati, Center for Criminal Justice Research.
- Listwan, S. J., Shaffer, D. K., & Latessa, E. J. (2001, July). The Akron municipal drug court: Outcome evaluation findings. Cincinnati, OH: University of Cincinnati, Center for Criminal Justice Research.
- Listwan, S. J., Sundt, J. L., Holsinger, A. M., & Latessa, E. J. (2003). The effect of drug court programming on recidivism: The Cincinnati experience. *Crime & Delinquency*, 49(3), 389-411.
- Logan, T., Hoyt, W., & Leukefeld, C. (2001, October). Kentucky drug court outcome evaluation: Behaviors, costs, and avoided costs to society. Lexington: University of Kentucky, Center on Drug and Alcohol Research.
- M Bell. (1998). King County Drug Court evaluation: Final report. Seattle, WA: Author.
- Mackin, J. R., Carey, S. M., Finigan, M. W., Lucas, L. M., Strong, S. E., & Waller, M. S. (2008, April). Harford County District Court Adult Drug Court outcome and cost evaluation. Portland, OR: NPC Research.
- Mahaffy, K. A. (2006, October). Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas adult drug court: Outcome evaluation. Millersville, PA: Millersville University, Department of Sociology/Anthropology.
- Marchand, G., Waller, M. S., & Carey, S. M. (2006, September). Barry County Adult Drug Court outcome and cost evaluation (Final Report). Portland, OR: NPC Research.
- Marchand, G., Waller, M., & Carey, S. M. (2006, September). Kalamazoo County Adult Drug Treatment Court outcome and cost evaluation (Final Report). Portland, OR: NPC Research.
- Martin, T. J., Spohn, C. C., Piper, R. K., & Frenzel-Davis, E. (2001). Phase III Douglas County Drug Court evaluation: Final report. Omaha, NE: Institute for Social and Economic Development.
- Martinez, A. I., & Eisenberg, M. (2003, January). Initial process and outcome evaluation of drug courts in Texas. Austin, TX: Criminal Justice Policy Council.
- McNeece, C. A., & Byers, J. B. (1995, November). Hillsborough County Drug Court: Two-year (1995) follow-up study. Tallahassee: Florida State University, School of Social Work, Institute for Health and Human Services Research.
- Miethe, T. D., Lu, H., & Reese, E. (2000). Reintegrative shaming and recidivism risks in drug court: Explanations for some unexpected findings. *Crime & Delinquency*, 46(4), 522-541.
- Peters, R. H., & Murrin, M. R. (2000). Effectiveness of treatment-based drug courts in reducing criminal recidivism. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 27(1), 72-96.
- Rempel, M., Fox-Kralstein, D., Cissner, A., Cohen, R., Labriola, M., Farole, D., . . . Magnani, M. (2003, October). The New York State Adult Drug Court evaluation: Policies, participants and impacts. New York: Center for Court Innovation.
- Shanahan, M., Lancsar, E., Haas, M., Lind, B., Weatherburn, D., & Chen, S. (2004). Cost-effectiveness analysis of the New South Wales Adult Drug Court program. *Evaluation Review*, 28(1), 3-27.
- Spohn, C., Piper, R. K., Martin, T., & Frenzel, E. D. (2001). Drug courts and recidivism: The results of an evaluation using two comparison groups and multiple indicators of recidivism. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 31(1), 149-176.
- Spokane County Drug Court. (1999). Evaluation: Spokane County Drug Court Program. Spokane, WA: Author.
- Stageberg, P., Wilson, B., & Moore, R. G. (2001, January). Final report on the Polk County Adult Drug Court. Des Moines: Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning.

Studies Used in the Meta-Analysis

- Tjaden, C. D., Diana, A., Feldman, D., Dietrich, W., & Jackson, K. (2002). Denver Drug Court: Second year report, outcome evaluation. Vail, CO: Toucan Research and Computer Solutions.
- Truitt, L., Rhodes, W. M., Hoffman, N. G., Seeherman, A. M., Jalbert, S. K., Kane, M., . . . Finn, P. (2000). Phase I: Case studies and impact evaluations of Escambia County (Pensacola), Florida and Jackson County (Kansas City), Missouri drug courts. Cambridge, MA: Abt Associates.
- Turner, S., Greenwood, P., Fain, T., & Deschenes, E. (1999). Perceptions of drug court: How offenders view ease of program completion, strengths and weaknesses, and the impact on their lives. *National Drug Court Institute Review*, 2(1), 61-86.
- Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council. (2001, September). Salt Lake County Drug Court outcome evaluation. Salt Lake City, UT: Author.
- Vito, G. F., & Tewksbury, R. A. (1998). The impact of treatment: The Jefferson County (Kentucky) Drug Court Program. *Federal Probation*, 62(2), 46-51.
- Weatherburn, D., Jones, C., Snowball, L., & Hua, J. (2008, September). The NSW drug court: A re-evaluation of its effectiveness (Crime and Justice Bulletin No. 121). Sydney, Australia: New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.
- Wiest, K. L., Martin, S. J., Waller, M. S., Cox, A., Linhares, R., Crumpton, D., . . . Finigan, M. W. (2007, April). Indiana drug courts: Monroe County Drug Treatment Court process, outcome and cost evaluation (Final Report). Portland, OR: NPC Research.
- Wiest, K. L., Martin, S. J., Waller, M., Cox, A., Linhares, R., Carey, S. M., & Finigan, M. W. (2007, April). Indiana drug courts: Vanderburgh County day reporting drug court: Process, outcome and cost evaluation (Final Report). Portland, OR: NPC Research.
- Wolfe, E., Guydish, J., & Termondt, J. (2002). A drug court outcome evaluation comparing arrests in a two year follow-up period. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 32(4), 1155-1171.