

Crow Wing County DWI Court, MN

Fact Sheet

July 2014

What are DWI courts?



The purpose of DWI courts is to guide DWI offenders identified as alcohol-addicted into treatment under intensive judicial supervision that will reduce alcohol dependence, reduce recidivism, improve public safety and improve the quality of life for them and their families.

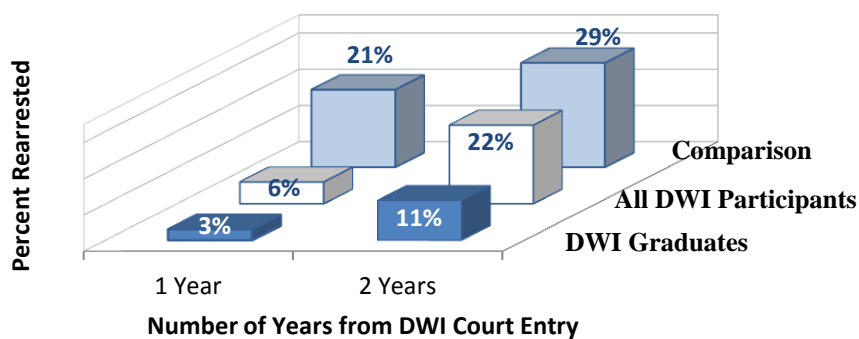
There are two key policy questions of interest to policymakers about DWI courts. The evaluation of Crow Wing County's DWI Court (CWDWI) provided answers to

these questions. This study included participants who entered the program between 2008 and 2012, and a matched comparison group of DWI offenders who were eligible but were not referred to the program. All participants were assessed as high-need (100%) and most were assessed as high risk (90%). Participants had an average of three DWI arrests in the ten years before DWI court entry.

Does the DWI court reduce recidivism?

YES! CWDWI program participants were significantly less likely to be re-arrested than offenders who were eligible for the program but did not participate ($p < .05$ at one year).

Fewer DWI Court Participants ReArrested Each Year



Participants were one-third as likely to be rearrested (on any charge) as the comparison group in the first year after DWI court entry and 24% less likely after two years.

Out of 51 DWI court participants, there was only *one new DWI arrest* in the two years after DWI court entry, an indicator of reduced driving while using alcohol, and *increased public safety*.

Does the DWI court result in savings to the taxpayer?

YES! There were substantial cost savings due to DWI court participants' positive outcomes.

The total cost related to recidivism 2 years post DWI court entry per participant was \$8,090, while the cost per comparison group member was \$11,166. This results in a total cost savings of **\$3,076** per CWDWI participant. This translates to resources that are now available for other purposes.

Cost Savings by Agency

Agency	Savings per Participant
District Court	\$124
City Attorney	\$48
County Attorney	\$147
Defense Attorney	\$171
Department of Corrections	(\$2,562)
Community Corrections	\$259
Law Enforcement	(\$139)
Crashes	(\$103)
Victimizations	\$5,131
TOTAL	\$3,076

When the yearly per participant savings is multiplied by the capacity of the program per year (approximately 25 offenders), the total amount "saved" by the program per year due to positive outcomes for its participants (i.e., lower recidivism) is **\$28,450**, which can then be multiplied by the number of years the program remains in operation and for additional cohorts per year. After 5 years, the accumulated resource savings come to **\$426,750.***

These results demonstrate that the CWDWI program is effective in reducing recidivism and saving criminal justice system resources. Crow Wing County and the State of Minnesota would benefit from enhancing and sustaining this program.

**These savings do not include program investment costs*



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