

Fourth Judicial District DWI Court, MN

Fact Sheet

July 2014

What are DWI courts?

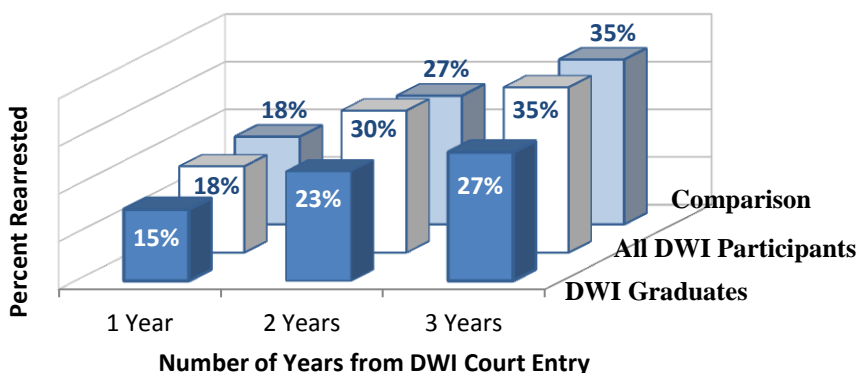
The purpose of DWI courts is to guide DWI offenders identified as alcohol-addicted into treatment under intensive judicial supervision that will reduce alcohol dependence, reduce recidivism, improve public safety and improve the quality of life for participants and their families.

There are two key policy questions of interest to policymakers about DWI courts. The evaluation of the Fourth Judicial District DWI Court (FJDWI) provided answers to these questions. This study included participants who entered the program between 2007 and 2012, and a matched comparison group of DWI offenders who were eligible but were not referred to the program. Most participants were assessed as high-need (92%) and unknown number were high risk (though just 7% had felony DWI charges). Participants had an average of three DWI arrests in the ten years before DWI court entry.

Does the DWI court reduce recidivism?

NO. FJDWI program participants were equally likely to be re-arrested compared to offenders who were eligible for the program but did not participate in the three years after program entry.

Percent of DWI Court Participants Rearrested at 1, 2 and 3 Years



However, unlike other cohort years, participants who entered the program in 2009 were significantly less likely to be rearrested than matched comparison offenders (21% vs 39% respectively).

DWIs. DWI court participants received new DWIs at slightly higher rates than the comparison group (8% vs 6%) but the rates are very low and this difference was not significant.

There is evidence that the DWI court programs are more effective with high risk participants. FJDWI outcomes may be improved by focusing on assessment results and targeting higher risk offenders.

Does the DWI court result in savings to the taxpayer?

NO. There were no cost savings associated with the FJDWI program due mainly to more days in jail for terminated participants and more days on probation for all DWI court participants than the comparison group.

The total per participant cost related to recidivism 3 years post DWI court entry was \$17,472 while the cost per comparison group member was \$15,731. This results in a higher cost (a loss) of **\$1,741** per FJDWI participant over the three years after DWI court entry.

Cost Savings by Agency

Agency	Savings per Participant
District Court	(\$23)
City Attorney	(\$30)
County Attorney	\$0
Defense Attorney	(\$12)
Department of Corrections	\$1,525
Community Corrections	(\$742)
Law Enforcement	(\$1,922)
Crashes	(\$1,132)
Victimizations	\$595
TOTAL	\$1,741

For the FJDWI, every agency has a loss for DWI court participants in the three years after DWI court entry except for the DOC, which has a savings of \$1,525 due to fewer days in prison for DWI court participants. There was also a savings in victimizations due to lower number of property and person crimes for DWI court participants. This results in a net loss of \$1,741 per participant.

The FJDWI is exemplary in following research based best practices for DWI courts. *It is possible that these less positive outcomes are due to treating a lower risk population and that targeting higher risk offenders could substantially improve program outcomes.*



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