

# Borderland Substance Abuse (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.

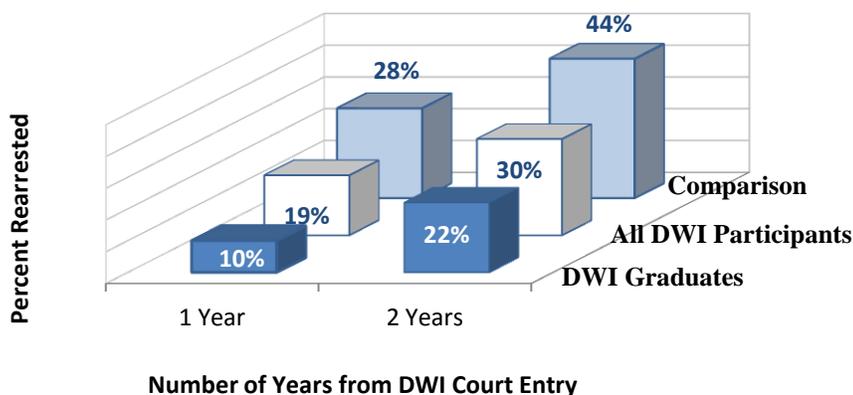
There are two key policy questions of interest to policymakers about DWI courts. The evaluation of Borderland Substance Abuse Court (BSAC) provided answers to

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. Just over half of the participants were assessed as high-need (54%) and two-thirds were assessed as high risk (69%). Participants had an average of 2.4 DWI arrests in the ten years before DWI court entry.

## Does the DWI court reduce recidivism?

**YES!** BSAC program participants were less likely to be re-arrested than offenders who were eligible for the program but did not participate (*results were not significant, probably due to small sample size*).

### Fewer DWI Court Participants are ReArrested Each Year



Participants were 32% less likely to be rearrested (on any charge) two years after DWI court entry.

## Does the DWI court reduce DWI recidivism and impact other outcomes?

**DWI Recidivism.** Out of 33 DWI court participants, there were only *two new DWI arrests* in the two years after DWI court entry, an indicator of reduced driving while using alcohol, and *increased public safety*.

Compared to DWI offenders who experienced traditional court processes, the BSAC participants (regardless of whether they graduated from the program):

- Had 24% fewer rearrests two years after program entry;
- Were 32% less likely to be rearrested for any charges
- Had no rearrests for person crimes
- Had a longer time to the first rearrest for any charge (20 months versus 18 months)
- Had a substantially higher graduation rate than the national average (77% versus 57%)

Research indicates that drug and DWI courts should target high-risk/high-need individuals, as lower risk participants require different intervention methods and may not benefit (or may actually be harmed) from the intense supervision provided by the full drug court model (NADCP, 2013). These positive results indicate that the BSAC is targeting the correct population and should continue or increase its focus on high risk individuals.

In general, these outcomes provide some evidence that the BSAC is implementing its program with good fidelity to the DWI court model and is having the intended impact on its participants..



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