

# Otter Tail 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.

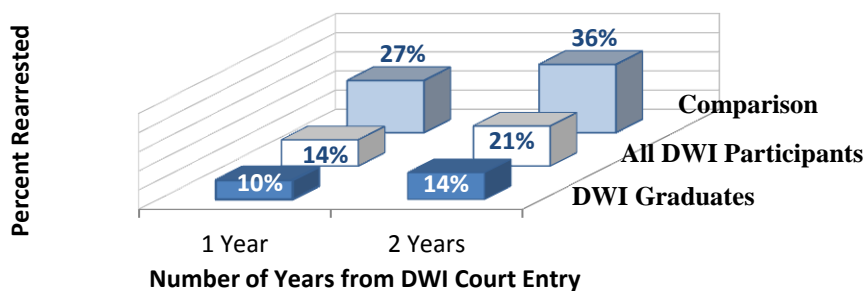
There are two key policy questions of interest to policymakers about DWI courts. The evaluation of Otter Tail County's DWI Court (OTC-DWI) provided answers to

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. Almost all participants were assessed as high-need (98%) and just over one-third were assessed as high risk (39%). Participants had an average of 2.7 DWI arrests in the ten years before DWI court entry.

## Does the DWI court reduce recidivism?

**YES!** OTC-DWI 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, due to small sample size*).

### Fewer DWI Court Participants ReArrested Each Year



Participants were almost half as likely to be rearrested (on any charge) as the comparison group in the first year after DWI court entry and 41% less likely after two years.

**DWIs.** Out of 43 DWI court participants, there was only *one new DWI arrest* in the two years after DWI court entry, an indicator of reduced alcohol use while driving 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 \$8,176, while the cost per comparison group member was \$19,562. This results in a total cost savings of **\$11,386** per OTC-DWI participant. This translates to resources such as jail beds that are now available for other purposes.

### Cost Savings by Agency

Agency	Savings per Participant
District Court	\$160
City Attorney	\$101
County Attorney	\$147
Defense Attorney	\$124
Department of Corrections	\$5,138
Probation Department	(\$1,188)
Law Enforcement	\$875
Crashes	\$0
Victimizations	\$6,029
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,386</b>

All agencies other than Probation experienced savings due to DWI court participation. When the yearly per participant savings is multiplied by the capacity of the program per year (approximately 20 offenders), the total amount "saved" by the program per year due to positive outcomes for its participants (i.e., lower recidivism) is **\$113,860**, 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 over **\$1.7 million.\***

These results demonstrate that the OTS-DWI program is effective in reducing recidivism and saving criminal justice system resources.

*\*These savings do not include program investment costs*



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