

Ramsey 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.

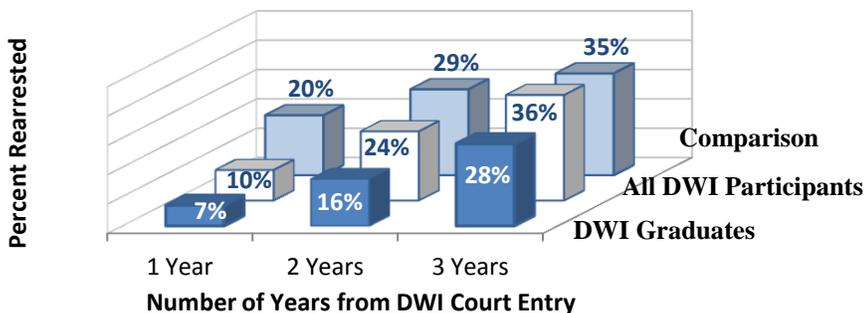
There are two key policy questions of interest to policymakers about DWI courts. The evaluation of Ramsey County's DWI Court (RDWI) provided answers to

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. The majority participants were assessed as high-need (81%) and just over half were assessed as high risk (56%). Participants had an average of 2.6 DWI arrests in the ten years before DWI court entry.

Does the DWI court reduce recidivism?

YES and NO. RDWI program participants were significantly less likely to be re-arrested than offenders who were eligible for the program but did not participate in the two years after program entry ($p < .05$).

Fewer DWI Court Participants ReArrested at 1 and 2 Years



Participants were 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. There was no difference at three years.

DWIs. Just 4 % of DWI participants had a new DWI after 3 years.

Does the DWI court result in savings to the taxpayer?

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

The total cost related to recidivism **2 years** post DWI court entry per participant was \$10,620, while the cost per comparison group member was \$12,314. This results in a total cost savings of **\$1,694** per RDWI participant over a 2 year period.

Cost Savings by Agency

Agency	Savings per Participant
District Court	\$121
City Attorney	\$77
County Attorney	\$123
Defense Attorney	\$89
Department of Corrections	\$138
Community Corrections	\$228
Law Enforcement	(\$1,589)
Crashes	(\$606)
Victimizations	\$3,113
TOTAL	\$1,694

All agencies other than Law Enforcement experienced savings due to DWI court participation. (Also, participants experienced 1 more crash than the comparison group). When the yearly per participant savings is multiplied by the capacity of the program per year (approximately 60 offenders), the total amount "saved" by the program per year due to positive outcomes for its participants (i.e., lower recidivism) is **\$50,820**, 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 **\$762,300**. *These savings do not include program investment costs

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



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