Beltrami County DWI Court, MN Fact Sheet

July 2014

What are DWI courts?

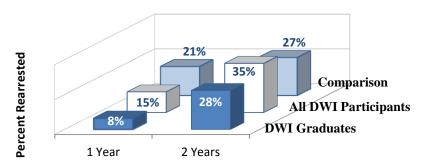
The purpose of DWI courts is to guide DWI offenders identified as alcohol-addicted into treatment under intensive judicial supervision that will reduce alcohol dependence, reduce recidivism, improve public safety and improve the quality of life for participants and their families.

There are two key policy questions of interest to policymakers about DWI courts. The evaluation of Beltrami County's DWI Court (BCDWI) provided answers to these questions. This study included participants who entered the program between 2006 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 (87%) and less than half were high risk (42%). Participants had an average of three DWI arrests in the ten years before DWI court entry.

Does the DWI court reduce recidivism?

YES and NO. In the first year after program entry, BCDWI program participants were less likely to be re-arrested than comparison offenders, but participants were more likely than the comparison group to be rearrested after two years (not statistically significant).

Percent of DWI Court Participants Rearrested at 1 and 2 Years



Number of Years from DWI Court Entry

However, female participants had significantly fewer rearrests than comparison females, while male participants had more rearrests.

DWI Recidivism. Out of the 119 DWI offenders in the study, there were eight *new DWIs* in the two years after DWI court entry, indicating that the overall DWI recidivism rate is low.

Outcomes may be improved by following best practices such as clarifying team member roles, increased team communication and participation in DWI court staffings and court appearances.



This research was funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the MN Office of Traffic Safety. The study was performed by NPC Research, a nationally recognized firm in drug and DWI court research. www.npcresearch.com

Does the DWI court result in savings to the taxpayer?

YES. There were some cost savings due to fewer days in prison for DWI court participants.

The total per participant cost related to recidivism 2 years post DWI court entry was \$12,306 while the cost per comparison group member was \$14,953. This results in a total cost savings of \$2,647 per BCDWI participant. This translates to resources (such as prison beds) that are now available for other purposes.

Cost Savings by Agency

	Savings
Agency	per Participant
District Court	(\$47)
County Attorney	(\$40)
Defense Attorney	(\$63)
Department of Correction	ons \$4,772
Law Enforcement	(\$603)
Crashes/Victimizations	(\$1,372)
TOTAL	\$2,647

For the BCDWI, every agency has a loss for DWI court participants in the two years after DWI court entry except for the DOC, which has a savings of \$4,772. This results in a net savings of \$2,647. When this 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 prison use) is \$33,088.*

These results demonstrate that the BCDWI program can produce some savings. *Program enhancements*, including increased team member involvement and collaboration, could substantially improve participant outcomes.

*These savings do not include program investment costs