



Clark County Family Treatment Court Evaluation Fact Sheet

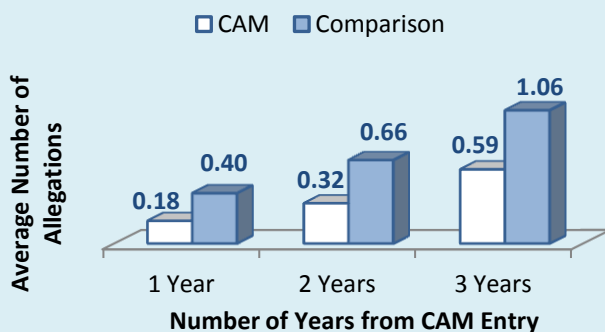
October 2015

The purpose of family treatment courts is to guide child welfare involved families with drug abuse issues into treatment under intensive judicial supervision to reduce drug dependence, reduce child welfare and criminal recidivism, and improve the quality of life for participants and their families.

In 2010, the Clark County Washington Family Treatment Court (FTC), with assistance from a SAMHSA Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) grant, implemented new evidence based services for children. A local evaluation conducted by NPC was completed in September 2015. Outcomes were compared for families who entered the program from 2010 to 2014 (N=65), and matched comparison families who were eligible but were not referred to the program (N=61). FTC families before and after CAM implementation were also compared.

Do family drug courts reduce child welfare involvement?

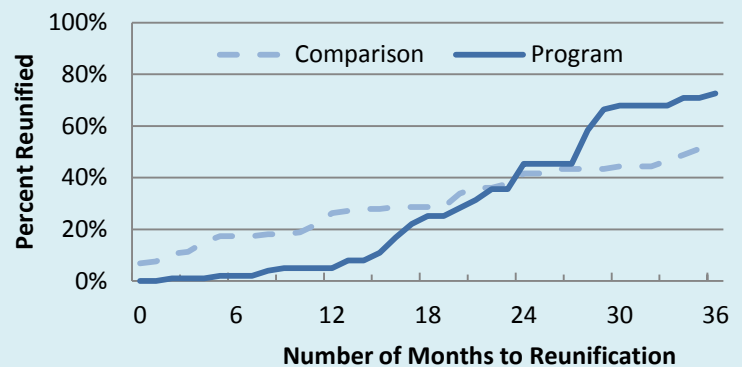
FTC Children have fewer Maltreatment Episodes



Children of FTC program participants were significantly less likely to be victims of any type of maltreatment (allegations) than children of parents who were eligible for the program but did not participate ($p < .05$). Specifically, children of program participants were less likely to be physically abused and significantly less likely to be neglected 2 and 3 years post program entry ($p < .05$).

Do family drug courts increase reunification rates?

Children of FTC participants were more likely to be reunified and stay reunified with their parents than children of parents who were eligible for the program but did not participate (63% to 49%). Although both groups averaged just over 2 years to reunification, post-reunification, children of program parents were more likely to stay at home (95% compared to 83%).

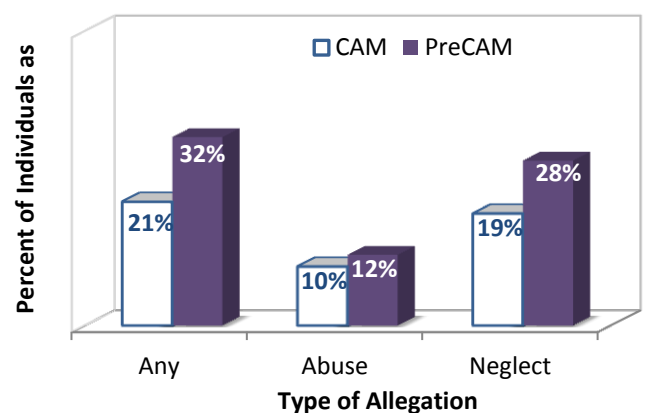


Do family drug courts improve with children-specific services?

The addition of CAM services to FTC resulted in significant improvements in child welfare outcomes compared to FTC prior to CAM services (FTC-PreCAM). At Year 2 post program entry:

- CAM parents were perpetrators on significantly fewer maltreatment allegations ($p < .05$)
- CAM children had fewer new placements ($p < .05$)
- CAM children were less likely to be victims of maltreatment
- CAM children spent fewer days in out of home care

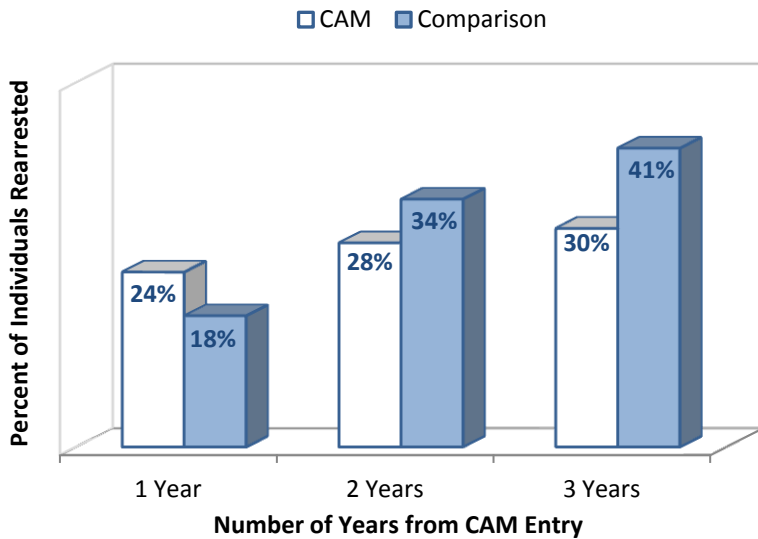
FTC-CAM Parents Less Likely to be Perpetrators



Do family drug courts reduce criminal justice recidivism?

Participants, though not identified through criminal justice courts, were less likely to be re-arrested than the comparison group in the 3 years after FTC entry (not sig. due to small sample size).

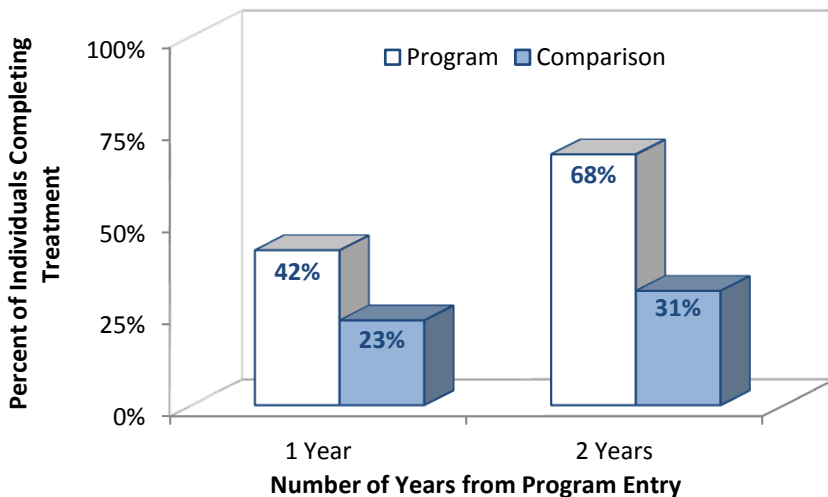
Fewer FTC Adults Re-Arrested by Year 3



Do family drug courts increase substance abuse treatment success?

Adults participating in FTC were significantly more likely to complete an outpatient substance abuse treatment program than adults who were eligible but never participated in the program ($p < .001$). Regardless of successful completion, participants spent more than double the number of days in treatment than non-FTC parents 2 years post entry (232 days to 92 days, $p < .001$).

Successful Treatment Completion over 2 Years



Do family drug courts result in cost savings to the taxpayer?

There were substantial cost savings related to parent participation in FTC.

The total cost related to child welfare and criminal recidivism 2 years post FTC entry per participant (regardless of graduation status) was \$21,518, while the cost per comparison group member was \$31,748. This results in a total cost savings of **\$10,230** per FTC participant, which translates to resources (such as out of home care placements) that are now available for other children.

Cost Savings by Agency

Agency	Savings per FTC Participant
Superior Criminal Court	(\$36)
District Court	\$72
Prosecuting Attorney's Office	(\$21)
Office of Public Defense	\$45
Law Enforcement	\$38
Sheriff's Office	\$566
DSHS	\$3,931
Treatment	\$231
Victimizations	\$4,169
TOTAL	\$9,003

When the cost difference in outcomes is calculated without program related treatment costs, the benefit due to reduced recidivism and child welfare involvement over the 2 years rises to **\$12,009**. When this per participant amount is multiplied by the average number of participants served by the program per year (approximately 40 parents), the total amount "saved" per year is **\$240,180**, which can then be multiplied by the number of years the program is in operation and by new participant cohorts each year. After 5 years, the accumulated resource savings come to over **\$3.6 million**.

These results demonstrate that the FTC program is effective in reducing child welfare and criminal justice recidivism while using fewer child welfare and criminal justice system resources.

