

HENU COMMUNITY WELLNESS COURT

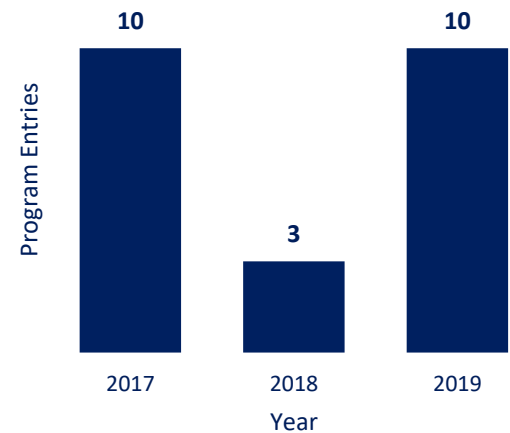


PROGRAM DATA REPORT

Program Background and Description

The Henu Community Wellness Court (HCWC) is a joint-jurisdiction collaboration between the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and the State of Alaska Court System. All individuals referred to the program are dependent on drugs or alcohol, and none have recent criminal charges involving violent behavior. The program also accepts families with open child welfare cases. There have been four child welfare cases in the program, with one active in December 2019. However, those data were not made available to the evaluation team and were therefore not analyzed for this report. Ten participants entered the program in its first year (2017), while three participants entered in 2018 and ten entered in 2019. The program has a capacity of 20 that has not been reached at any point during the operation of the HCWC.

Program Entry by Year



Evaluation Background

In October 2015, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe contracted with NPC Research to perform a process and outcome evaluation of the HCWC. The process evaluation included a site visit conducted by NPC researchers in June 2018. As part of the evaluation, NPC requested HCWC data for review and analysis. The Alaska Court System provided AKAIMS data to the researchers in September 2019 and again in December 2019. This report represents a summary of program participant characteristics from AKAIMS data. For all referrals, the HCWC tracks gender, race and ethnicity, age, and criminal charge history. For those admitted to the HCWC, case closure reason is recorded and reviewed and will allow for eventual comparison of program graduates versus non-graduates who do not successfully complete the program. As of December 2019, seven participants had graduated from the program and four participants failed to successfully complete the program. One additional participant opted out of the program. As the number of participants to have exited the program remains low, differences between graduates and non-graduates could not be meaningfully determined. This report focuses on characteristics of current and former participants and their activities in the program.

	Program Participants (N = 23)
Average Age	41
Female	48%
Male	52%
American Indian/Alaska Native	26%
White	65%
Other/Multiple	9%
Average Time in Program (non-actives only)	449 days

Participant Demographics

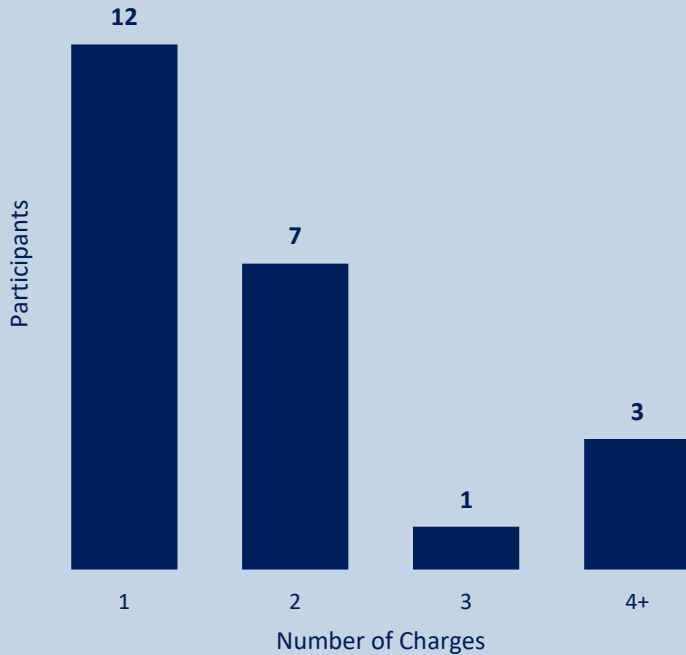
As of December 2019 the HCWC had eleven active participants. Throughout this report, the twelve individuals who were previously participants are included with the eleven active participants in order to provide the most robust description of the HCWC's participant population.

The average age of current and former HCWC participants is 41, and the majority (52%) are male. Two-thirds of participants are white, while about a quarter (26%) are Alaska Native or American Indian. An additional 5% are Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders, while 4% identify as multiracial.

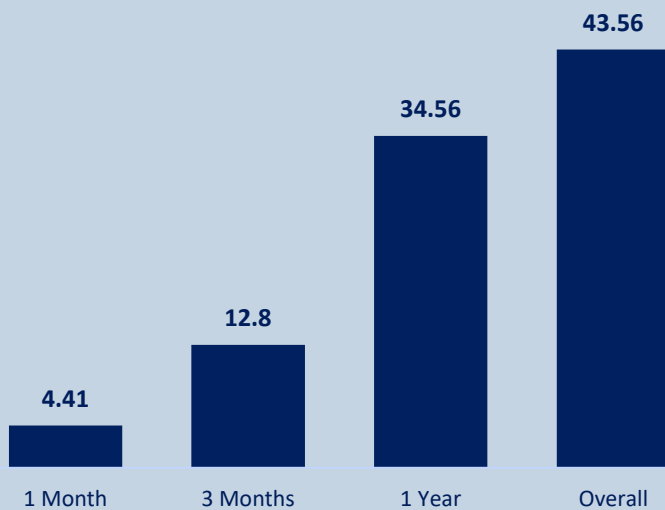
Of those who were previously participants, the average time spent in the program is 449 days. This varies between graduates (579 days) and non-graduates (302 days).

PARTICIPANT CHARGES AND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Number of Charges at Entry



Status Review Hearings by Time in Program



Criminal Charges

Criminal charge data were reviewed to determine the most serious charge level leading to HCWC program referral. Every participant had a felony charge at program entry. The most common type of charge leading to program entry is DUI (43%). Property charges are the second most common (38%), followed by drug charges (19%). Eleven (50%) participants had at least two charges at entry. The total number of charges at entry ranges from one to seven.

Two participants incurred further charges after exiting the program. Both of these previous participants (each of whom have two charges post-exit) were terminated from the program. The rate of recidivism for those terminated from the program is 50% (two out of the four terminated participants have new charges after leaving the program). The recidivism rate for program graduates remains 0%.

Status Review Hearings

Best practice research suggests that treatment court participants attend at least two status review hearings per month. The HCWC is exceeding the best practice, with participants attending an average of over 4 hearings in their first month. This rate continued for the first three months in the program, with participants attending an average of nearly 13 hearings in that time period (over 4 per month). This rate dipped slightly for participants who reached a year in the program, with an average of over 34 total hearings, almost 3 per month. Participants who have completed the program attended an average of over 43 hearings. While the average rate appears to decline with time spent in the program, the HCWC consistently exceeds the best practice associated with status review hearings.



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Substance Use Testing

HCWC participants are required to undergo substance use testing regularly. Best practice research indicates that participants should be randomly tested for substance use twice per week (or eight times per month). The HCWC exceeds this best practice. Participants were tested about 12 times in their first month, 36 times in their first three months, and nearly 114 times in their first year (roughly 9 times per month). Individuals who have exited the program experienced an average of about 159 tests over the course of their program participation.

In addition, rates of positive tests decreased with time spent in the program. In the first month and first three months of participation, 14% of completed tests were found positive. This fell to 7% in the first year of participation. Furthermore, 3% of all tests administered to participants who have exited the program were found positive. Research shows that treatment courts requiring participants to confirm sobriety for greater than 90 days prior to graduation have better long-term outcomes. HCWC graduates were substance-free for an average of 337 days, with testing continuing until just before graduation. On average, the last test was administered to graduates three days prior to exiting the program.

Incentives & Sanctions

The HCWC offers incentives to participants for positive behaviors and aims to modify non-compliant behavior with sanctions. Best practices call for a ratio of at least four incentives to every one sanction. The HCWC has often, but not always, achieved that goal. Participants received an average of over 2 incentives and just under 1 sanction during their first month in the program. By month three, participants received nearly 9 incentives and about 2 sanctions, reaching the goal of four incentives per one sanction. The numbers of incentives and sanctions varied between program graduates and non-graduates. Graduates received an average of over 32 incentives and only seven sanctions. Those terminated from the program received fewer incentives (about 18) and more sanctions (about 13).

Number of UAs and Rate of Positive Results by Time in Program

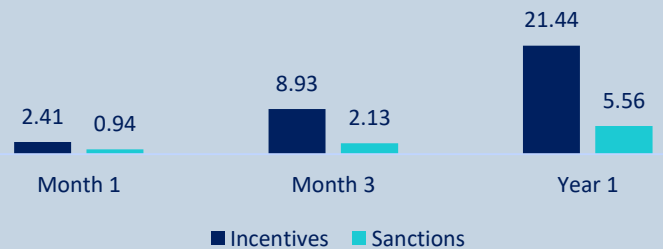


HCWC Graduates

337 Days Since Last Positive Drug Test

3 Days Since Last Drug Test

Incentives and Sanctions by Time in Program



Incentives and Sanctions by Program Status



SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary and Recommendations

The HCWC is successfully documenting most key characteristics of program referrals and participants AKAIMS. As participants close cases the program should continue to document closure reason and track successful versus non-successful completion. In the future, once a greater number of participants have completed the program, additional evaluation efforts should report graduation rates as well as characteristics of graduates and non-graduates.

Currently, the program data made available to evaluators is entered in AKAIMS and includes demographics, program completion status, court attendance, drug testing, incentives and sanctions, and criminal charge information. The program is commended for documenting these essential data points. However, there are several ways in which data collection could be improved. Currently, treatment attendance data has only been entered for one participant, and charge data is also incomplete. In the future, program staff should ensure that program data are entered in a consistent manner for every participant. Charge data should be entered for all former participants, regardless of whether they successfully graduated or were terminated from the program.

Overall, the HCWC has met or exceeded several best practice standards for treatment courts, including those associated with status review hearings and substance use testing. Best practices for provision of incentives and sanctions are also being met for graduates of the program.

It is important that child welfare data from the Online Resource for Children in Alaska (ORCA) be available to HCWC staff and the evaluation team for all families referred to HCWC with child welfare involvement. Additionally, the HCWC staff are encouraged to collaborate with participating treatment agencies to ensure data for all participants are available for program monitoring and evaluation purposes.

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