

## Overview of the PMT Data for Family Drug Court Program Grantees: January–June 2017

The Family Drug Court program is administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Within the justice system, family drug courts are specialized courts which handle cases of child abuse and neglect that involve substance use by the child’s parents or guardians. Family drug courts operate as alternatives to traditional family courts to balance the specific needs of both parents and children.<sup>1</sup> The aim of the program is to enhance the capacity of family drug courts by developing long term strategies to ensure their sustainability. Family drug courts build the capacity of states, state and local courts, local government, and federally recognized Indian Tribal governments to either implement new drug courts or enhance preexisting drug courts.

### Report Highlights

On a semi-annual basis, all Family Drug Court program grantees input data in the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT). Performance measures help OJJDP determine whether the federal program has achieved its goals and objectives and may be used to improve program and policy decisions at the federal level. This report presents an overview of the data reported by Family Drug Court program grantees in the PMT for activities occurring during the January–June 2017 reporting period.

The report is divided into two sections, outlined below:

1. An examination of program information for Family Drug Court program grantees.
2. An analysis of Family Drug Court program performance measures.

Key findings from the analysis for the January–June 2017 reporting period include:

- There were 23 active Family Drug Court program grantees. Grantees served 500 parents or guardians and 431 additional family members.
- Thirty-nine percent of the family drug courts were run by units of local government ( $n = 9$ ).<sup>2</sup>
- Seventy-four percent of grantees used evidence-based programs or practices.
- Grantees reported 78 percent of parents or guardians receiving services for targeted behaviors

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<sup>1</sup> Development Services Group, Inc. 2016. “Family Drug Courts.” Literature review. Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. [https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Family\\_Drug\\_Courts.pdf](https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Family_Drug_Courts.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Units of local government may include counties, municipalities (cities and towns), special districts and school districts.

demonstrated a positive change in family relationships in the short term<sup>3</sup> and 64 percent showed a decrease in substance use.

- Three hundred and twenty-nine children were placed in out-of-home care, and 224 children received a permanent placement.
- Of those parents or guardians tracked for technical violations<sup>4</sup>, 41 percent received a technical violation, and 14 percent were arrested for new technical violations.
- Four percent of parents or guardians were arrested for new drug offenses during the reporting period.
- Six percent of parents or guardians were arrested for new drug offenses 6–12 months after exiting the program.

## 1. Examination of Program Information

Family Drug Court program grantees are required to report in the PMT semi-annually for every active federal award they receive. Table 1, below, outlines the reporting compliance rate of active federal awards for each reporting period, starting with the January–June 2012 period.<sup>5</sup> During the January–June 2017 reporting period, 100 percent of family drug court grantees completed the PMT reporting requirement for all 23 active federal awards.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 1. Status of Family Drug Court Program Reporting by Period: January 2012–June 2017**

Data Reporting Period	Status			
	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	Total
January–June 2012	1	1	17	19
July–December 2012	0	0	23	23
January–June 2013	3	0	20	23
July–December 2013	3	0	27	30
January–June 2014	1	0	25	26
July–December 2014	2	0	23	25
January–June 2015	0	0	21	21
July–December 2015	1	0	17	18
January–June 2016	0	0	15	15
July–December 2016	3	0	23	26
January–June 2017	0	0	23	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>249</b>

<sup>3</sup> Short term outcomes refer to benefits or changes that youth experience while enrolled in the program for 0 to 6 months after completing the program’s requirements. Long term outcomes are measured from 6 to 12 months after that participant completes program requirements.

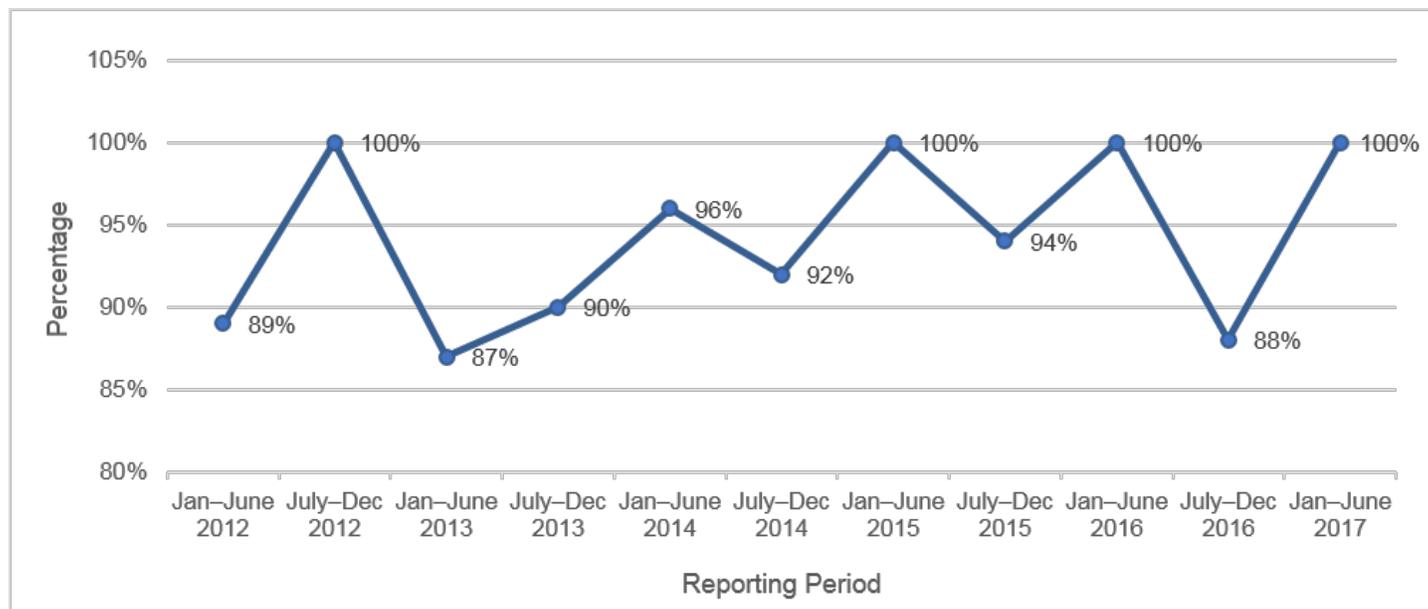
<sup>4</sup> Technical violations are defined as violations of the Family Drug Court program conditions (this may include non- drug related charges).

<sup>5</sup> This was the first year grantees were required to report in the PMT.

<sup>6</sup> Although all 23 grantees are marked as completing their reporting requirements, one grantee reported being “not operational” and did not report data for performance measures and is therefore excluded from the analysis of performance measure data.

Across all reporting periods, Family Drug Court program grantees had an average reporting compliance rate of 94 percent. Figure 1 provides the percentage breakdown for each reporting period.

Figure 1. Percentage of Compliance Rate for Each Reporting Period: January 2012–June 2017



### 1.1 Demographics

Table 2 presents the aggregate demographic data for the January–June 2017 reporting period and the number of Family Drug Court program grantees that serve each population. Targeted services include any approaches specifically designed to meet the needs of the population (e.g., gender-specific, culturally-based, and/or developmentally-appropriate services). The majority of grantees report serving White/Caucasians ( $n = 13$ ) followed by American Indian/Alaska Natives ( $n = 10$ ). Twenty-two grantees reported providing services for substance abuse followed by mental health ( $n = 18$ ).

Grantees are only required to report the target population in the PMT once. However, grantees may update their target population to best fit their program during the life of the award.

Table 2. Number of Grantees Serving Target Population ( $n = 22$ )<sup>7</sup>: January–June 2017

Population Served	N
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
American Indian/Alaska Native	10
Asian	1
Black/African American	8
Caucasian/Non-Latino	10
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	7
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1
Other Race	4
White/Caucasian	13
Youth population not served directly	2
<b>Justice System Status</b>	
At-Risk Population (no prior offense)	9
First Time Offenders	10
Repeat Offenders	15
Sex Offenders	0
Status Offenders	1
Violent Offenders	1
Youth population not served directly	3

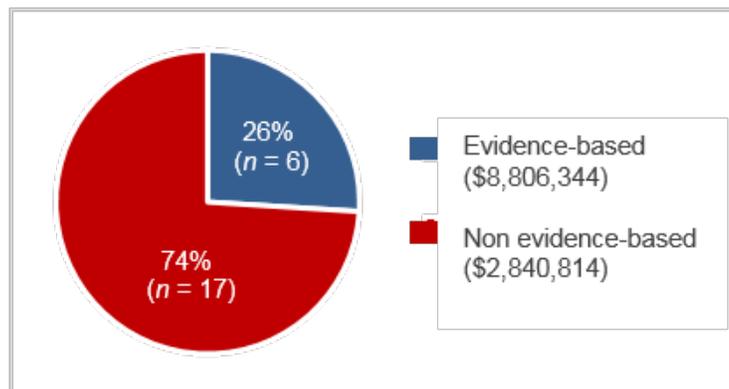
Population Served	N
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	18
Female	19
Youth population not served directly	2
<b>Age</b>	
0–10	9
11–18	11
Over 18	18
Youth population not served directly	2
<b>Geographic Area</b>	
Rural	11
Suburban	6
Tribal	3
Urban	8
Youth population not served directly	2
<b>Other</b>	
Mental Health	18
Substance Abuse	22
Truant/Dropout	3

## 1.2 Evidence-Based Programming and Funding Information

Evidence-based programs and practices include program models that have been shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to be effective at preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency or related risk factors. OJJDP encourages grantees to use evidence-based practices to increase the effectiveness of their programs.

Figure 2 shows that grantees use about 74 percent ( $n = 17$ ) of federal funds to implement evidence-based programs and/or practices.

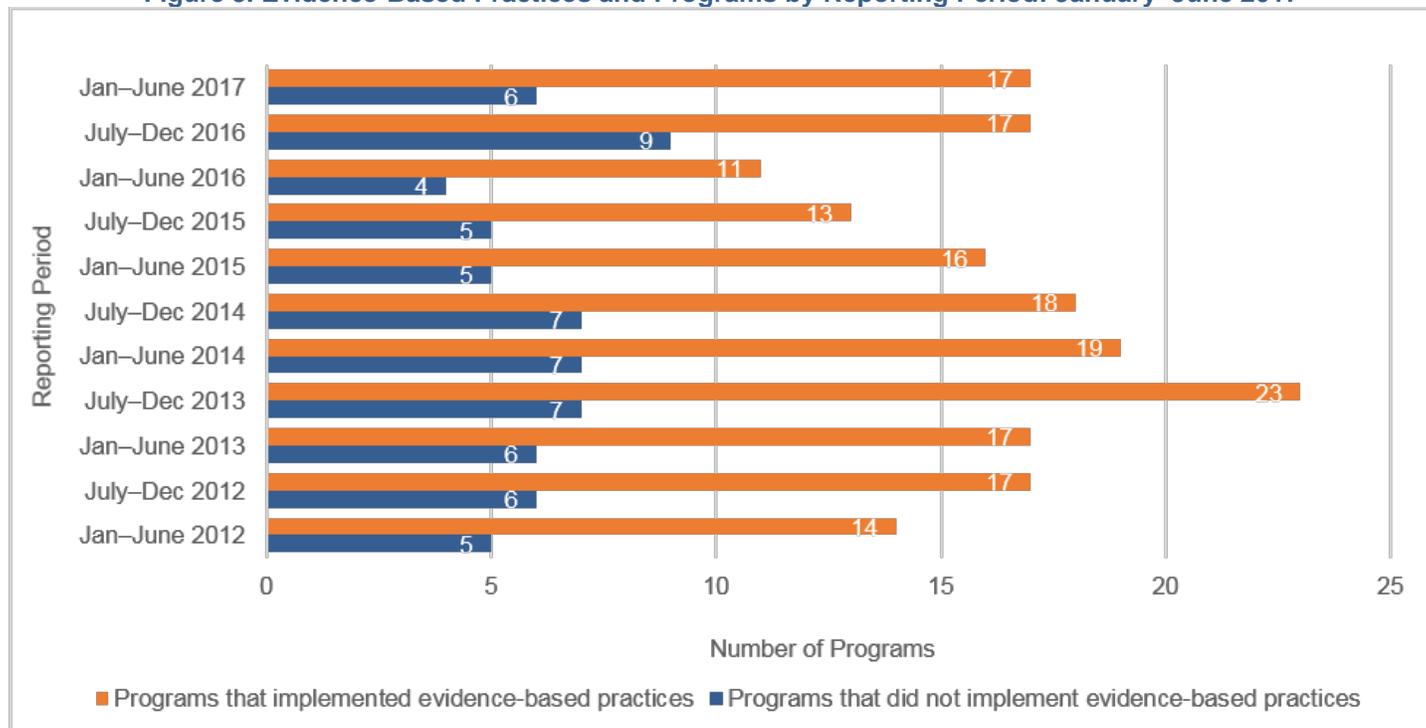
Figure 2. Grants Implementing Evidence-Based Programs and/or Practices ( $n = 23$ ): January–June 2017



<sup>7</sup> One grantee was not operational and did not provide services during the reporting period.

The number of programs implementing evidence-based practices has been steady throughout the 11 reporting periods. Figure 3 represents the breakdown of evidence-based and nonevidence-based programs for each reporting period since January–June 2012.

Figure 3. Evidence-Based Practices and Programs by Reporting Period: January–June 2017



Examining federal award amounts by state or district, based on current and active Family Drug Court program grants, Michigan received the most funds, followed by Montana. Table 3 shows a comprehensive comparison of federal award amounts<sup>8</sup>, with *N* representing the total number of grantees receiving federal awards.

Table 3. Federal Award Amount by State or District (Dollars): January–June 2017

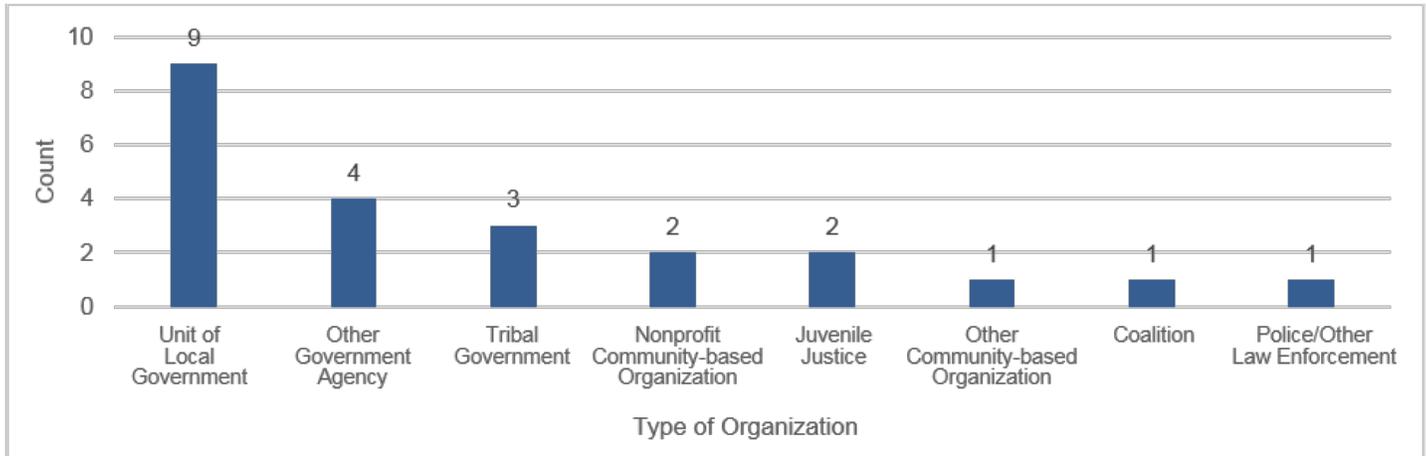
State	<i>N</i>	Grant Amount	State	<i>N</i>	Grant Amount
MI	4	\$2,013,513	OK	1	\$550,000
MT	3	\$1,674,549	RI	1	\$550,000
OH	2	\$1,138,362	WA	1	\$480,000
WI	1	\$649,875	NE	1	\$400,000
AZ	1	\$614,806	GA	1	\$399,999
FL	1	\$600,000	IN	1	\$399,151
MN	1	\$558,230	AL	1	\$304,247
DC	1	\$550,000	GU	1	\$213,531
ID	1	\$550,000			

<sup>8</sup> The federal award amounts represent the grant program for the life of the award, regardless of when it was awarded, and do not account for how much funding the grantee has spent during the reporting period.

### 1.3 Organization Type

Analysis of the types of agencies implementing family drug court programs revealed that the majority of programs, or 39 percent, were run by units of local government (figure 4).

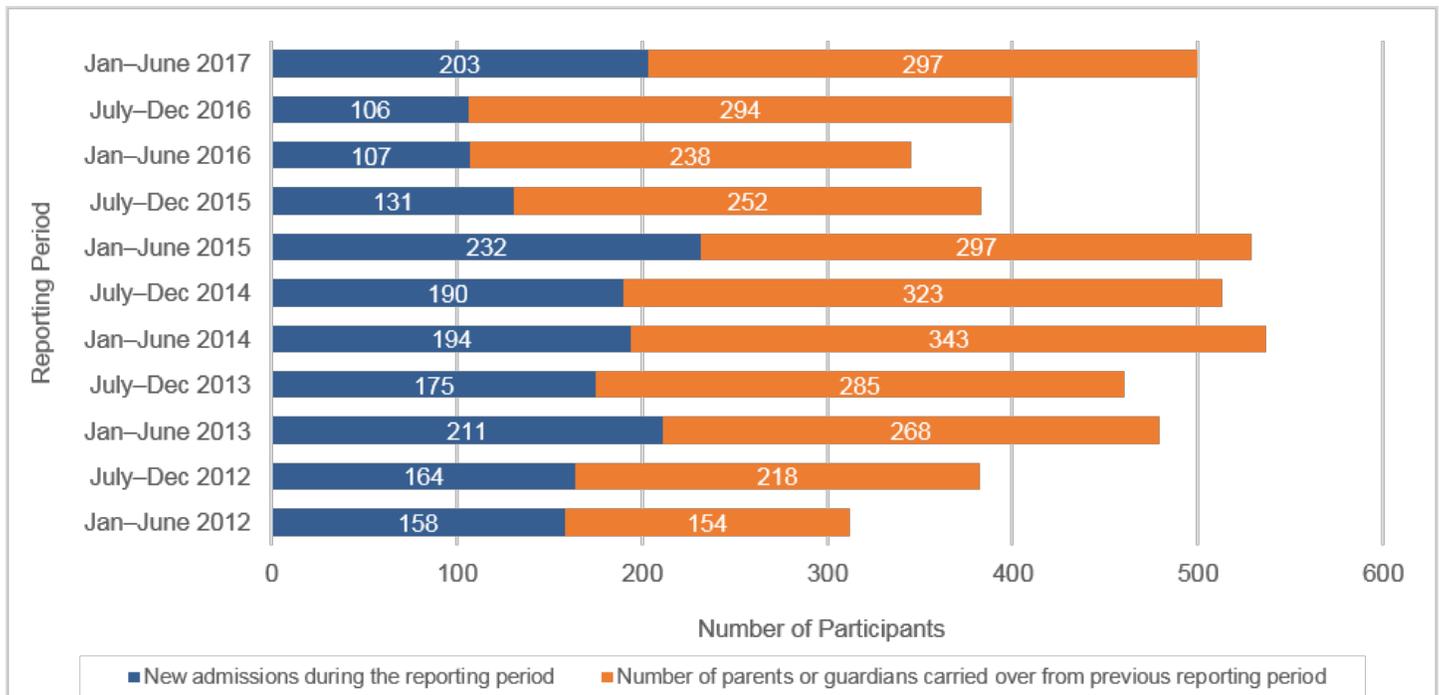
Figure 4. Grants by Implementing Organization Type (n = 23): January–June 2017



## 2. Analysis of Program Measures

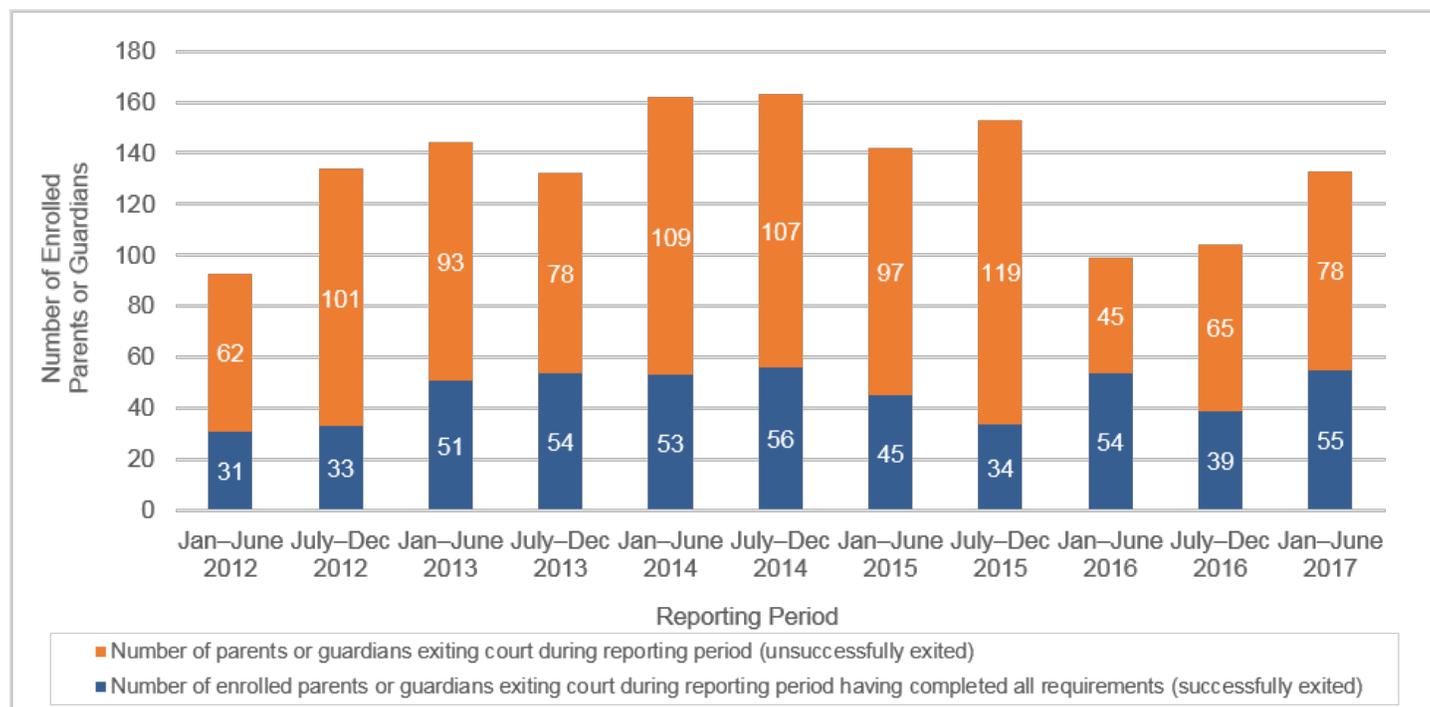
During this reporting period, 500 parents or guardians were served by various programs funded by the Family Drug Court program grant. Of those 500 parents or guardians served, 203 were new admissions to the program (figure 5). Also, the program served 431 additional family members.

Figure 5. Number of Parents or Guardians Served per Reporting Period: January–June 2017



There were 133 enrolled parents and guardians who exited the court during the January–June 2017 reporting period. Of that group, 41 percent of participants successfully exited the court, meaning they completed all requirements (figure 6).<sup>9</sup> On average, 35 percent of parents and guardians have exited the court successfully for each reporting cycle since the initial January–June 2012 reporting period.

Figure 6. Number of Enrolled Parents or Guardians Exiting the Court per Reporting Period: January–June 2017



Data are also collected to track the number of parents or guardians who demonstrate a positive change for a target behavior in each reporting period. A target behavior is one that a grantee has chosen to track for youth served by a particular program; it measures a “positive” change in a behavior such as social competence, family relationships, and substance use. Table 4, outlines the short term<sup>10</sup> percentages for the specified target behavior during the January–June 2017 reporting period. Seventy-four percent of parents or guardians served by the program exhibited a desired short term change in those target behaviors. Ninety-one percent of participating parents or guardians showed the most improvement in a target behavior change for employment status. Seventy-five percent of the parents or guardians in the targeted behavior for social competence skills displayed an increase in that area. Eighty-three percent of other grantees reported a positive behavioral change in family

<sup>9</sup> Each grantee defines the requirements needed for the participants to complete each program. “Successfully exited” program participants successfully fulfilled all program obligations and requirements. Participants who fail to follow through with the program (such as through expulsion or voluntary departure) are considered to be those who “unsuccessfully exited.”

<sup>10</sup> Short term outcomes refer to benefits or changes that youth experience while enrolled in the program for 0 to 6 months after completing the program’s requirements. Long term outcomes are measured from 6 to 12 months after that participant completes program requirements.

relationships, as well as a 69 percent positive behavioral change in substance use. Overall, data from the latest reporting period show services provided through Family Drug Court programs result in a positive change in target behaviors.

**Table 4. Short Term Performance Data on Target Behaviors of Parents or Guardians: January–June 2017**

Target Behavior	Parents or Guardians Receiving Services for Target Behavior	Parents or Guardians with Noted Behavioral Change	Percentage of Parents or Guardians with Noted Behavioral Change (%)
Employment Status	34	31	91%
Family Relationships	124	103	83%
Social Competence	59	44	75%
Substance Use	383	266	69%
<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>74%</b>

The Family Drug Court program not only serves parents and family members, but it also serves the children of the families involved in the court system. Table 5 presents performance data for children served by the Family Drug Court program during the reporting period. Of the total number of children served ( $n = 790$ ), 42 percent were placed in out-of-home care. Sixty-five percent of children awaiting permanent placement received placement, and 63 percent of children removed from their home and given temporary placement were reunited with their families.

**Table 5. Children’s Condition While Parents or Guardians Are in Family Drug Court Programs: January–June 2017**

Performance Measure	Number	Percentage
Number of children awaiting permanent placement	347	
Children in permanent placement	224	65%
Number of children removed from the home	186	
Children reunited after being removed from the home and placed in temporary placement	117	63%
Number of children served	790	
Children placed in out-of-home care	329	42%
Number of parents or guardians in the program	381	
Parents or guardians whose parental rights were terminated	4	1%

Table 6 shows data that demonstrate the number of parents participating in the Family Drug Court program who were assessed as needing specified services and who actually enrolled in the services provided. The number of assessments conducted compared with the actual enrollment in the provided services could differ within the reporting cycle. People may have been assessed in a prior reporting period, and actual enrollment could be delayed until a future reporting period. In addition, the Family Drug Court program accepts referrals for participants who have been assessed by another agency. These two factors contribute to the variation in the number of participants assessed as needing various services compared with the number enrolled in services.

During the reporting period, 401 parents or guardians were assessed as needing substance use counseling or related services, and 436 parents or guardians were enrolled in these services. Ninety-one percent of parents or guardians assessed as needing mental health services received those services. However, 49 percent of parents or guardians who needed housing actually found housing. Finally, 318 were enrolled in other services such as those related to parenting skills or educational or vocational training. These services are aimed at helping parents reunite with their children who were removed from their care due to unsafe or dangerous living environments caused by substance use.

**Table 6. Services Provided to Participating Parents or Guardians: January–June 2017**

Services Provided	Number	Percent
Parents or guardians <i>assessed</i> as needing <b>substance use counseling/services</b>	401	
Parents or guardians <i>enrolled</i> in <b>substance use counseling/services</b>	436	109%
Parents or guardians <i>assessed</i> as needing <b>other services</b>	298	
Parents or guardians <i>enrolled</i> in <b>other services</b>	318	107%
Parents or guardians <i>assessed</i> as needing <b>mental health services</b>	221	
Parents or guardians <i>enrolled</i> in <b>mental health services</b>	201	91%
Parents or guardians <i>assessed</i> as needing <b>housing services</b>	158	
Parents or guardians who successfully found <b>housing</b>	77	49%

Table 7, below, presents data that indicate the number of additional family members assessed as needing the specified services and those who are actually enrolled in the services provided. Additional family members (youth and adults) served by the Family Drug Court program received substance use counseling or services, mental health services, housing services, and other types of services. Of those additional family members assessed as needing substance use counseling/services, 76 percent were enrolled in these services, and 64 percent of additional family members needing mental health services actually received these services. Fifty-three percent of additional family members needing housing successfully found housing.

**Table 7. Services Provided to Additional Family Members: January–June 2017**

Services Provided	Number	Percent
Additional family members assessed as needing <b>other services</b>	218	
Additional family members <i>enrolled</i> in <b>other services</b>	211	97%
Additional family members assessed as needing <b>substance use counseling/services</b>	25	
Additional family members <i>enrolled</i> in <b>substance use counseling/services</b>	19	76%
Additional family members assessed as needing <b>mental health services</b>	152	
Additional family members <i>enrolled</i> in <b>mental health services</b>	98	64%
Additional family members assessed as needing <b>housing services</b>	91	
Additional family members who successfully found <b>housing</b>	48	53%

Technical violation data were also tracked and reported for parents or guardians enrolled in the program. As table 8, below, shows, 221 parents or guardians were tracked for technical violations. Of those tracked, 90 had a technical violation, and 31 or 14 percent of parents or guardians were arrested for a new technical violation.

**Table 8. Technical Violation Measures: January–June 2017**

Performance Measure	Number
Enrolled parents or guardians tracked for technical violations	221
Enrolled parents or guardians with a technical violation	90
Enrolled parents or guardians arrested for a new technical violation	31
Percentage of arrests for technical violations	14%
<b>Percentage of technical violations</b>	<b>41%</b>

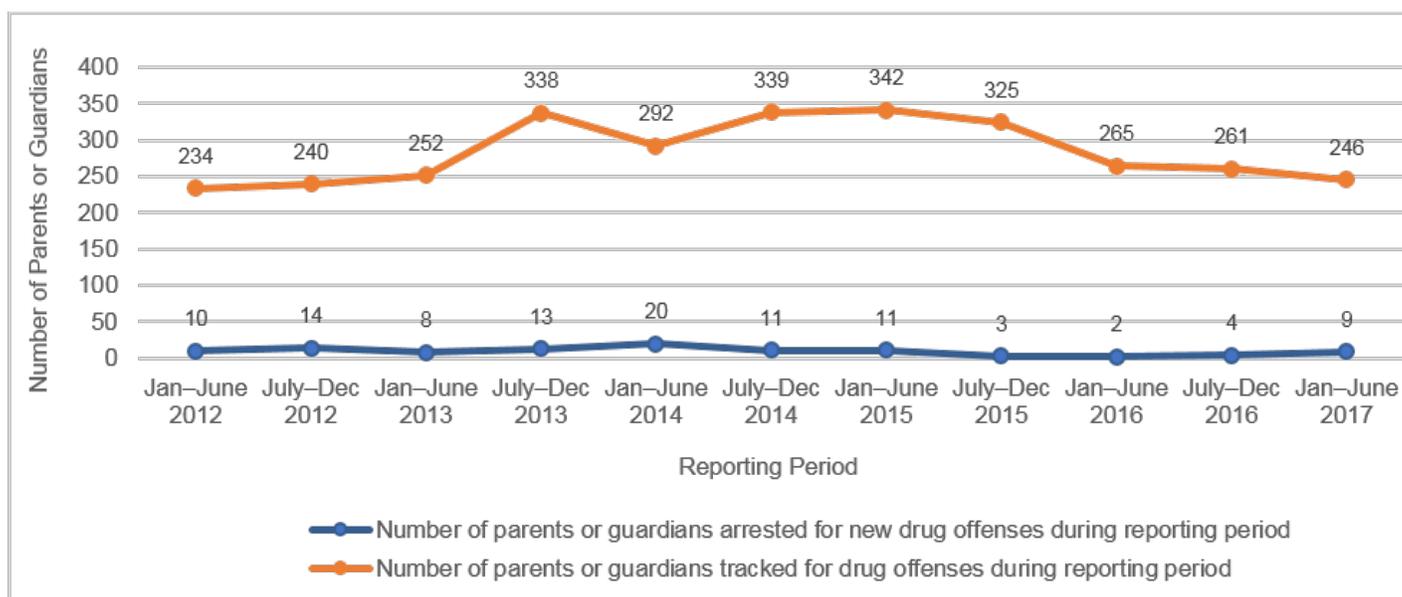
Drug offenses were also tracked over the short term and long term, and data were reported for those parents or guardians enrolled in the program who had drug offenses. Two hundred forty-six enrolled parents or guardians were tracked for drug offenses (table 9). Of those, only nine parents or guardians, or 4 percent, were arrested for a new drug offense.

**Table 9. Short Term Performance Data on Drug Offenses: January–June 2017**

Performance Measure	Number
Enrolled parents or guardians tracked for drug offenses	246
Enrolled parents or guardians arrested for a new drug offense	9
Percentage of parents or guardians arrested for new drug offenses	4%

Figure 7 provides a breakdown of the number of parents or guardians who have been arrested for a new drug offense since January 2012. A review of the data demonstrates that the number of arrests remained low throughout the reporting periods.

**Figure 7. Enrolled Parent or Guardian Arrests for New Drug Offenses by Reporting Period: January 2012–June 2017 (Short Term)**



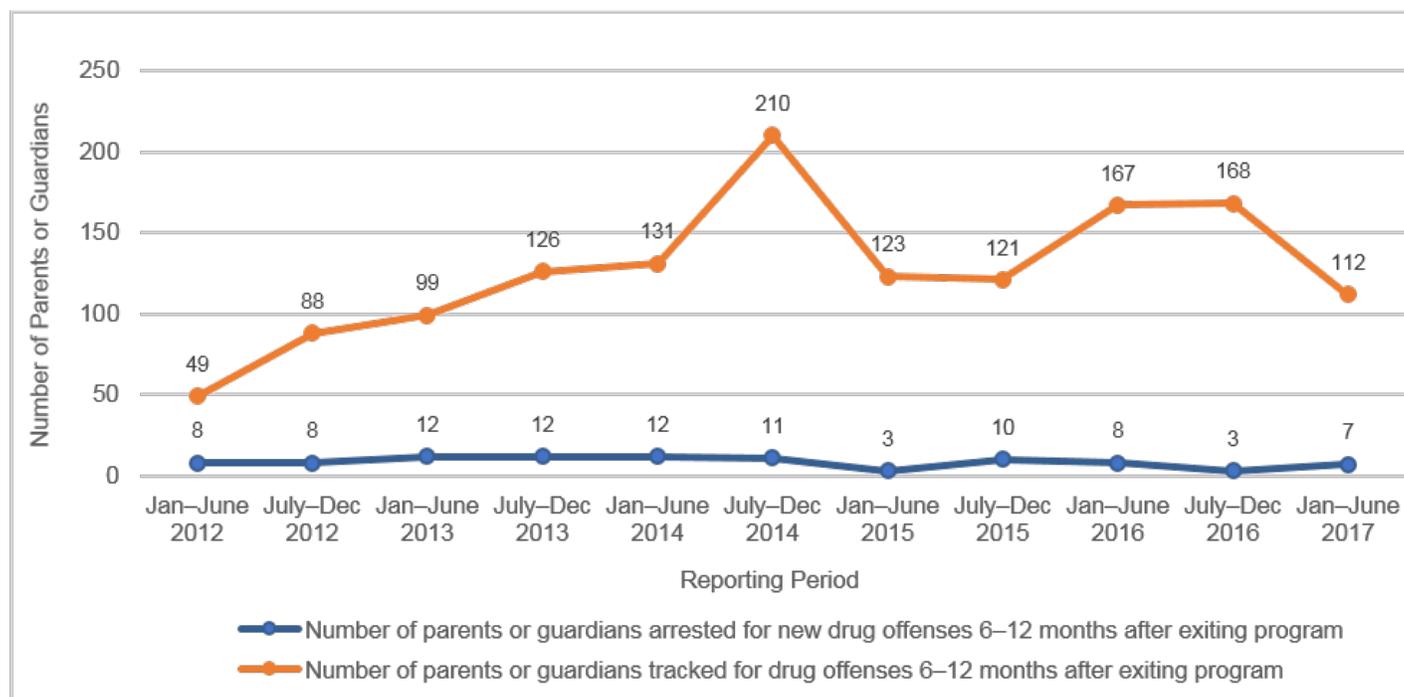
Among parents or guardians tracked for drug offenses over the long term, seven of the parents or guardians enrolled in the program, or 6 percent, were arrested for a new drug offense (table 10).

**Table 10. Long Term Performance Data on Drug Offenses: January–June 2017**

Performance Measure	Number
Enrolled parents or guardians tracked for drug offenses	112
Enrolled parents or guardians arrested for a new drug offense	7
Percentage of parents or guardians arrested for new drug offenses	6%

In comparing reporting periods since January–June 2012, arrests for new drug offenses among enrolled parent or guardian long term participants also remained low with seven arrests for the January–June 2017 reporting period (figure 8).

**Figure 8. Enrolled Parent or Guardian Arrests for New Drug Offenses by Reporting Period: January 2012–June 2017 (Long Term)**



A large number ( $n = 15,528$ ) of drug and alcohol tests were performed for enrolled parents or guardians during the reporting period. Approximately 11 percent of the parents or guardians tested positive for drugs and alcohol, as reported in table 11, below; constituting a two percent increase from the previous reporting period. This increase could be due to grantees serving a greater number of program participants during the current reporting period.

**Table 11. Drug and Alcohol Tests Conducted: January–June 2017**

Performance Measure	Number
Number of drug and alcohol tests performed on enrolled parents or guardians	15,528
Number of positive tests recorded	1,769
Percentage of positive tests recorded on enrolled parents or guardians	11%

## Summary

During the January–June 2017 reporting period, 23 Family Drug Court program grantees had a 100 percent reporting compliance rate. Grantees served a total of 931 program participants.<sup>11</sup> Seventeen grantees (74 percent) used evidence-based programs or practices to implement their program. About 133 participants exited the court, of those, 55 participants completed all program requirements and were considered to have successfully exited the court. Court obligations vary by court, but generally include a predefined list of obligations or requirements that participants must meet before completion. On average, 35 percent of parents and guardians have exited the court successfully for each reporting cycle since the initial January–June 2012 reporting period. The Family Drug Court program not only serves parents and family members, but it also serves the children of the families involved in the court system. Of the total number of children served, 42 percent were placed in out-of-home care. Sixty-five percent of children awaiting permanent placement received placement, and 63 percent of children removed from their home and given temporary placement were reunited with their families. Parental rights were terminated for four parents or guardians. Services provided to families are aimed at helping parents reunite with their children who were removed from their care due to unsafe or dangerous living conditions caused by substance use. A total of 401 parents or guardians were assessed as needing substance use counseling or related services, and 436 parents or guardians were enrolled in these services. Additionally, 91 percent of parents or guardians who needed mental health services received these services, and 49 percent of parents or guardians assessed as needing housing actually found housing. Since reporting started in 2012, the rates of arrests for new drug offenses have remained low for both short term and long term participants. For the January–June 2017 reporting period, only nine participants, or 4 percent, were arrested for a new drug offense in the short term, and seven participants, or 6 percent, were arrested for a new drug offense in the long term.

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<sup>11</sup> Number includes parents/guardians and additional family members served.