

Overview of the PMT Data for Family Drug Court Program Grantees: July–December 2017

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

Report Highlights

All grantees receiving Family Drug Court grant funding are required to report data on their program activities into the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) on a semi-annual basis. This report presents an overview of the data reported by Family Drug Court program grantees in the PMT for activities occurring during the July–December 2017 reporting period and is divided into two sections:

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 July–December 2017 reporting period include:

- Eighteen grantees served a total of 391 parents and guardians and 767 additional family members.
- Seventy-two percent of grantees used evidence-based programs or practices.
- Fifty-eight percent of the parents and guardians tracked for substance abuse showed a decrease in substance use in the short-term.²
- Thirty-eight percent of the 605 children served were placed in out-of-home care.
- Fifty-five percent of parents and guardians tracked received a technical violation in the short-term.
- Five percent of parents and guardians were arrested for new drug offenses while enrolled in the program.
- Over ten-thousand drug tests were conducted on program participants with 11 percent testing positive for drugs and alcohol.

¹ 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

² Short-term outcomes refer to benefits or changes that youth experience while enrolled in the program or 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.

1. Examination of Program Information

1.1 Reporting Compliance

Family Drug Court program grantees are required to report semi-annually for each federal award they receive. As table 1 illustrates, 18 grantees completed reporting requirements for the July–December 2017 reporting period, resulting in a compliance rate of 67 percent.³ All 18 grantees who completed reporting requirements reported that they were operational, meaning that they expended grant funds and provided services during the July–December 2017 period.

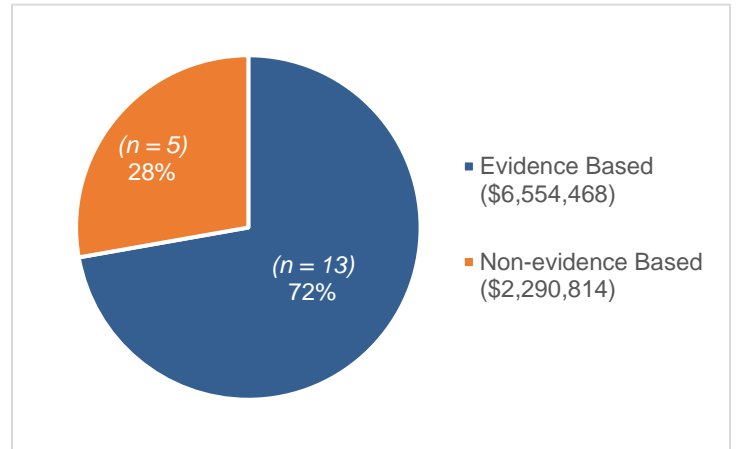
Table 1: Status of Grantee Reporting (July–December 2017)

Data Reporting Period	Status			Total
	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	
July–December 2017	8	1	18	27

1.2 Evidence-Based Programming

OJJDP strongly encourages the use of research and evidence-based practices in their drug treatment programs. 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. To understand how Family Drug Court grantees are prioritizing evidence-based programs, grantees are asked to report whether or not their programs are evidence-based. As shown in figure 1, the majority of grantees (72 percent) are implementing evidence-based practices, totaling over \$6.5 million in grant funding.

Figure 1: Grantees Implementing Evidence-Based Programs and/or Practices (July–December 2017)⁴



³ Grantees that were not operational, or who did not complete their performance report, are excluded from further analysis in this report.

⁴ N = 18 grantees.

1.3 Funding Information

Table 2 shows a comprehensive comparison of federal award amounts by state, with *N* representing the total number of grants during the reporting period.⁵ Based on current and active Family Drug Court grants, Montana received the most funds with three awards totaling over \$1.6 million, followed by Michigan and Wisconsin.

Table 2: Federal Award Amount by State (July–December 2017)⁶

State	<i>N</i>	Grant Amount	State	<i>N</i>	Grant Amount
MT	3	\$1,674,549	RI	1	\$550,000
MI	3	\$1,400,000	WA	1	\$480,895
WI	1	\$649,875	NE	1	\$400,000
AZ	1	\$614,806	GA	1	\$399,999
FL	1	\$600,000	IN	1	\$399,151
OH	1	\$599,999	AL	1	\$304,247
MN	1	\$558,230	GU	1	\$213,531

1.4 Organization Type

Local government agencies, including counties, cities, and districts, made up the bulk of awards, representing 39 percent of active grantees in July–December 2017 (table 3). Tribal governments represented 17 percent of active Family Drug Court awards while other government agencies and nonprofit community-based organizations each represented 11 percent of active Family Drug Court awards.

Table 3: Active Grants by Organization Type (July–December 2017)⁷

Implementing Organization Type	<i>N</i>	Percentage
Local Government Agencies	7	39%
Tribal Government	3	17%
Other Government Agency	2	11%
Non-profit Community-based Organization	2	11%
Juvenile Justice	1	6%
Police/Other Law Enforcement	1	6%
Coalition	1	6%
Other Community-based Organization	1	6%
Total	18	N/A

⁵ The amounts represent the grant program for the life of the award, regardless of when it was awarded, and these amounts do not account for how much funding has been spent during the reporting period.

⁶ *N* = 18 grantees

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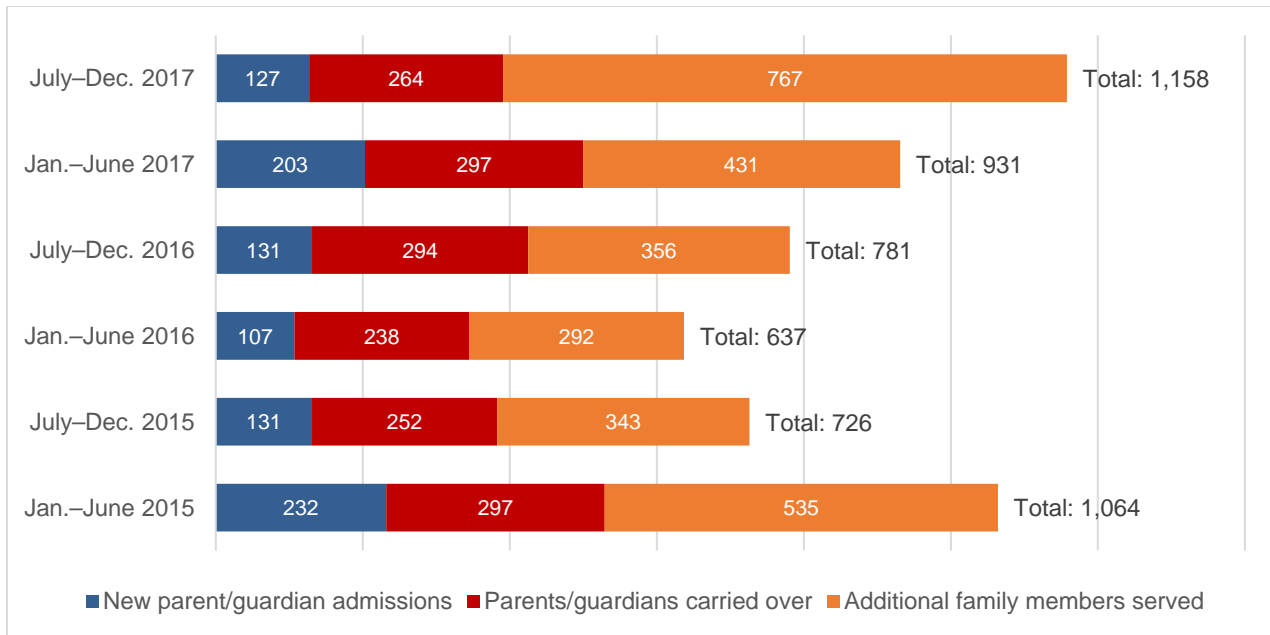
2. Analysis of Program Measures

Grantees report on performance measures, which collect data on grantees’ activities and program outcomes. These performance measures help OJJDP determine whether the Family Drug Court grant program has achieved its goals and objectives and may be used to improve program design and policy decisions at the federal level.

2.1 Participants Served

During the July–December 2017 reporting period, a total of 391 parents and guardians were served by Family Drug Court grantees. Of the parents and guardians served during the reporting period, 127 were new admissions to the program and 264 were rolled over from a previous reporting period (figure 2). It is important to note that sometimes when a parent or guardian enters a program, the timing may not directly correlate to the 6 month reporting period. Therefore, some parents and guardians are carried over to the next reporting period. In addition to parents and guardians, 767 additional family members, including youth and adults related to the enrolled parent/guardian, were served during the reporting period for a total of 1,158 participants served. While the number of parents and guardians served decreased 22 percent from the previous reporting period, the number of additional family members increased 78 percent over the previous reporting period.

Figure 2: Number of Participants Served (January 2015–December 2017)⁸

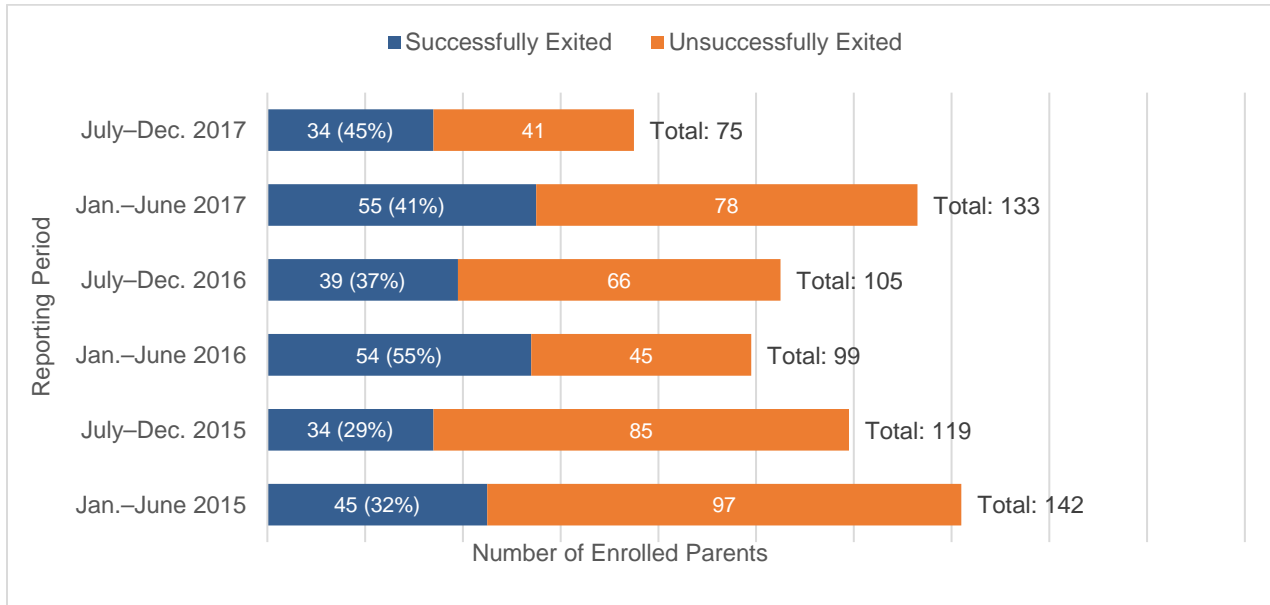


⁸ 17 grantees reported on this measure during the July–December 2017 reporting period. Earlier reporting periods ranged between 15–20 grantees reporting on the measure.

2.2 Parents and Guardians Exiting the Program

While fewer individuals exited the drug court program than in previous reporting periods, the percent of individuals successfully exiting increased from 41 percent during the January–June 2017 reporting period to 45 percent during the July–December 2017 (figure 3). The participants who successfully exited the program fulfilled all program obligations and requirements prior to exiting. Participants who fail to follow through with the program, including those who are expelled or leave voluntarily, are considered unsuccessful upon exiting. Each grantee defines the requirements needed for participants to complete its program.

Figure 3: Number of Enrolled Parents and Guardians Exiting the Court (January 2015–December 2017)⁹



2.3 Target Behaviors

Grantees were required to measure program participants’ performance and track outcome data for certain target behaviors. A target behavior is one that a grantee has chosen to track for parents and guardians served by a program; it measures a “positive” change in a behavior such as social competence, family relationships, and substance use. Table 4 lists the short-term behavior outcomes for parents and guardians served. Target behaviors that did not have enough reported data were excluded from the analysis. Overall, 64 percent of the program participants demonstrated a positive change in target behaviors in the short-term. Although substance use is the most focused treatment for drug court programs and had the most parents and guardians served ($n = 389$), participants were less likely to demonstrate a positive behavior change (58 percent) when compared with other target behaviors.

⁹ 11 grantees reported on this measure during the July–December 2017 reporting period. Earlier reporting periods ranged between 14–18 grantees reporting on the measure.

Table 4: Target Behaviors of Parents and Guardians, Short-term (July–December 2017)¹⁰

Target Behavior	Parents/Guardians Served	Parents/Guardians with Intended Behavioral Change	Percentage with Noted Behavioral Change
Employment Status	21	21	100%
Family Relationships	45	41	91%
Social Competence	27	23	85%
Substance Use	389	225	58%
Total	482	310	64%

2.4 Children Served

Family Drug Court programs not only serve parents and family members but also the children of the families involved in the court system. Table 5 presents the outcomes of children served by the Family Drug Court program during the reporting period. Of the 605 of children served, 38 percent were placed in out-of-home care. During the reporting period, 70 children were removed from the home while 26 were reunited after being removed from the home and 186 children were in permanent placement while 244 were awaiting permanent placement. Of the 256 parents and guardians in the drug court program, only two percent had their parental rights terminated during the reporting period.

Table 5: Children of Family Drug Court Participants (July–December 2017)¹¹

Performance Measure	Number
Number of children served	605
Children placed in out-of-home care	230
Percent of children in out-of-home-care	38%
Number of children removed from the home	70
Children reunited after being removed from the home and placed in temporary placement	26
Percent of children reunited after being removed from the home and placed in temporary placement	37%
Number of children awaiting permanent placement	244
Children in permanent placement	186
Percent of children awaiting permanent placement received permanent placement	76%
Number of parents and guardians in the program	256
Parents and guardians whose parental rights were terminated	5
Percent of parents and guardians whose parental rights were terminated	2%

¹⁰ 16 grantees reported on substance use target behavior. Other target behaviors ranged from 3–5 grantees reporting.

¹¹ Number of grantees reporting on these measures ranged from 10–16 grantees.

2.5 Services Provided to Program Participants

Table 6 compares the number of parents, guardians, and additional family members participating in the Family Drug Court program in need of specific services with the number who actually received services. It is important to note that program participants 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. Therefore, it is possible for the data to show more participants enrolled than those assessed in a reporting period.

Because the central goal of drug court programs is to improve substance use treatment services for participants, substance use counseling services had the greatest enrollment, with 319 parents and guardians and 29 additional family members enrolled. Mental health services had 194 parents and guardians enrolled and 81 additional family members enrolled. Of those in need of housing services, 70 parents and guardians and 51 additional family members successfully found housing. Finally, 238 parents and guardians and 199 additional family members were enrolled in other services, including 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 Program Participants (July–December 2017)¹²

Performance Measure	Parents and Guardians	Additional Family Members	Total
Assessed as needing substance use counseling/services	260	42	302
Enrolled in substance use counseling/services	319	29	348
Assessed as needing mental health services	192	86	278
Enrolled in mental health services	194	81	275
Assessed as needing housing services	141	54	195
Successfully found housing	70	51	121
Assessed as needing other services	189	198	387
Enrolled in other services	238	199	437

2.6 Parent and Guardian Offenses

A large number ($n = 10,429$) of drug and alcohol tests were performed for enrolled parents and guardians during the reporting period. Approximately 11 percent of the parents and guardians tested positive for drugs and alcohol, as reported in table 7.

¹² Number of grantees reporting on these measures ranged from 7–16 grantees.

Table 7: Drug and Alcohol Tests Conducted (July–December 2017)¹³

Performance Measure	Number
Number of drug and alcohol tests performed on enrolled parents and guardians	10,429
Number of positive tests recorded	1,140
Percentage of positive tests recorded on enrolled parents and guardians	11%

Grantees also reported on the number of enrolled parents and guardians who had technical violations, which may include non-drug related violations. As shown in table 8, a total of 128 parents and guardians were tracked for short-term technical violations while enrolled in the program. Of those, 55 percent experienced a technical violation during the reporting period and 19 percent of parents and guardians were arrested for a new or repeated technical violation during the reporting period.

Table 8: Short-term Technical Violations (July–December 2017)¹⁴

Performance Measure	Number	Percent
Enrolled parents and guardians tracked for technical violations	128	N/A
Enrolled parents and guardians with a technical violation	70	55%
Enrolled parents and guardians arrested for a new technical violation	24	19%

In addition to technical violations, data were reported for parents and guardians who were tracked in the short-term for drug offenses. A total of 166 enrolled parents and guardians enrolled in the program were tracked for drug offenses (table 9). Of those, only 5 percent of participants were arrested during the reporting period for a new drug offense.

Table 9: Short-Term Drug Offenses (July–December 2017)¹⁵

Performance Measure	Number
Enrolled parents and guardians tracked for drug offenses	166
Enrolled parents and guardians arrested for a new drug offense	9
Percentage of parents and guardians arrested for new drug offenses	5%

¹³ 16 grantees reported on this measure.

¹⁴ 11 grantees reported on this measure.

¹⁵ 7 grantees reported on this measure.

Summary

During the July–December 2017 reporting period, 18 Family Drug Court grantees served a total of 1,158 individuals, including parents, guardians, and additional family members. Of the 75 participants who exited the court during the reporting period, 45 percent successfully completed all program requirements, a four percent increase over the previous 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, 38 percent of whom were placed in out-of-home care during the period. A total of 260 parents and guardians were assessed as needing substance use counseling or related services with 319 parents and guardians enrolled in these services. Additionally, 194 parents and guardians received mental health services and 70 guardians in need of housing found housing. Nineteen percent of guardians tracked were arrested for a new technical violation in the short-term, however, the short-term rates of arrests for new drug offenses remains low with only 5 percent of participants arrested for a new drug offense during the July–December 2017 reporting period.