



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

The Juvenile Drug Court program, administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), offers an alternative to incarceration for youth who meet certain qualifications, typically nonviolent drug offenders. The Juvenile Drug Court program helps state and local courts, as well as units of local and Tribal governments, implement juvenile drug court programs committed to integrating the Reclaiming Futures model with best practices in substance abuse treatment.

The Reclaiming Futures model brings together juvenile courts, probation, adolescent substance abuse treatment programs and the community and embodies three essential elements: designing a system of care that coordinates services, involving the community in creating new opportunities, and improving substance use treatment services. The integration of the juvenile drug courts and the Reclaiming Futures model enables communities to identify substance-using youth, match them with appropriate treatment options, and deliver services through a coalition of providers working under the guidance of a local court.

Report Highlights

All grantees receiving Juvenile Drug Court grant funding are required to report data on their program activities into 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 performance report is an overview of the performance measurement data for Juvenile Drug Court program grantees as reported in the PMT through June 30, 2017. The report is divided into two sections, outlined below:

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

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

- There were 20 active Juvenile Drug Court program grantees, with a 90 percent reporting compliance rate.
- Thirty-seven percent of the Juvenile Drug Court programs were run by juvenile justice agencies, followed by units of local government¹ and other government agencies.
- A total of 636 program youth were served during the reporting period, including 265 youth who were new admissions to the program.
- During the reporting period, 178 of 350 youth (51 percent), successfully exited Juvenile Drug Court programs.
- Of those services in which youth were enrolled, most ($n = 247$) were enrolled in substance use services followed by mental health services ($n = 95$).
- Overall, 56 percent of the program youth demonstrated an intended change in target behaviors in the short term and 43 percent demonstrated an intended change in target behaviors in the long term.²
- Although most of the youth received services for substance use, youth were less likely to demonstrate an intended behavior change in the short term (41 percent) and long term (32 percent) when compared with other target behaviors.
- Of the program youth tracked for adjudication for a technical violation in the short term, 7 percent were committed to a juvenile residential facility.
- For both short term and long term, 3 percent of youth tracked for adjudication for a new offense were committed to a juvenile residential facility.

1. Examination of Program Information

During the January–June 2017 reporting period, 20 grants were active. Data were completed for 18 active grants, resulting in 90 percent reporting compliance (table 1).

Table 1. Status of Federal Awards Reporting: January–June 2017

Report Status	Number of Grantees
Not Started	1
In Progress	1
Complete	18
Total	20

¹ Units of local government may include counties, municipalities (cities and towns), special districts and school districts.

² 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.

Table 2 presents aggregate demographic data for the January–June 2017 reporting period. The number represents the population that grantees are expected to serve per federal grant.³ Targeted services include any services or approaches specifically designed to meet the needs of the population (e.g., gender-specific, culturally based, or developmentally appropriate services). Grantees are only required to report target population information once in the PMT. However, grantees may update their target population to best fit their program during the life of the award. Most grantees ($n = 17$) reported serving youth between the ages of 11 and 18 and truant/dropout youth ($n = 17$).

Table 2. Number of Grantees Serving Target Population: January–June 2017

Population Served	N
Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian/Alaska Native	4
Asian	4
Black/African American	15
Caucasian/Non-Latino	9
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	13
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	2
Other Race	6
White/Caucasian	14
Youth population not served directly	2
Justice System Status	
At-Risk Population (no prior offense)	10
First Time Offenders	14
Repeat Offenders	14
Sex Offenders	1
Status Offenders	8
Violent Offenders	4
Youth population not served directly	2

Population Served	N
Gender	
Male	17
Female	16
Youth population not served directly	2
Age	
0–10	0
11–18	17
Over 18	5
Youth population not served directly	2
Geographic Area	
Rural	7
Suburban	14
Tribal	1
Urban	13
Youth population not served directly	2
Other	
Mental Health	14
Substance Use	9
Truant/Dropout	17

³ Grantees, or the recipient organizations, can have multiple federal awards, and each award is required to report on the expected demographic served.

1.1 Evidence-Based Programming and Funding Information

OJJDP encourages grantees to use 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 Juvenile Drug Court program grantees are prioritizing evidence-based programs, grantees are asked to report whether or not their programs are evidence-based.⁴ Overall, the majority of Juvenile Drug Court program grantees (89 percent) reported using federal funds to implement an evidence-based program or practice (figure 1).⁵

Figure 1. Grantees Implementing Evidence-Based Programs and/or Practices: January–June 2017

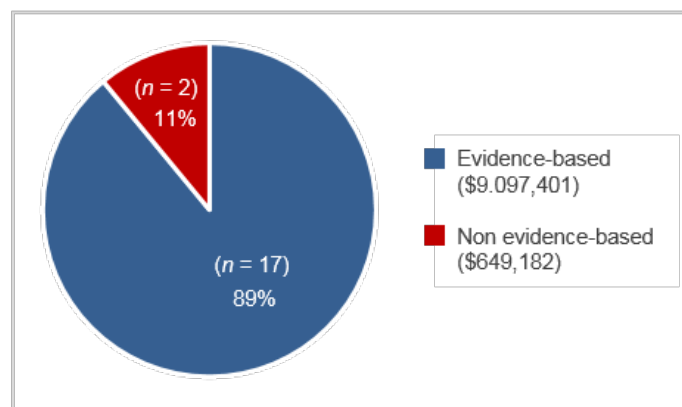


Table 3 displays a comprehensive comparison of the award amount by state and the District of Columbia (DC). The amounts in table 2 represent the total funding each state and DC received from OJJDP for the life of the award(s). DC made up over 39 percent of total funding.

Table 3. Total Grant Amount by State and DC (Dollars): January–June 2017

State	Number of Awards	Amount Awarded	State	Number of Awards	Amount Awarded
DC	1	\$5,988,057	GA	1	\$400,000
OH	2	\$1,851,443	MA	1	\$400,000
FL	2	\$1,724,098	NE	1	\$400,000
VA	2	\$800,000	NY	1	\$400,000
MI	1	\$526,443	OK	1	\$400,000
WA	1	\$526,443	WV	1	\$400,000
CO	1	\$524,569	LA	1	\$249,182
OR	1	\$522,365	TX	1	\$222,040
AR	1	\$400,000			

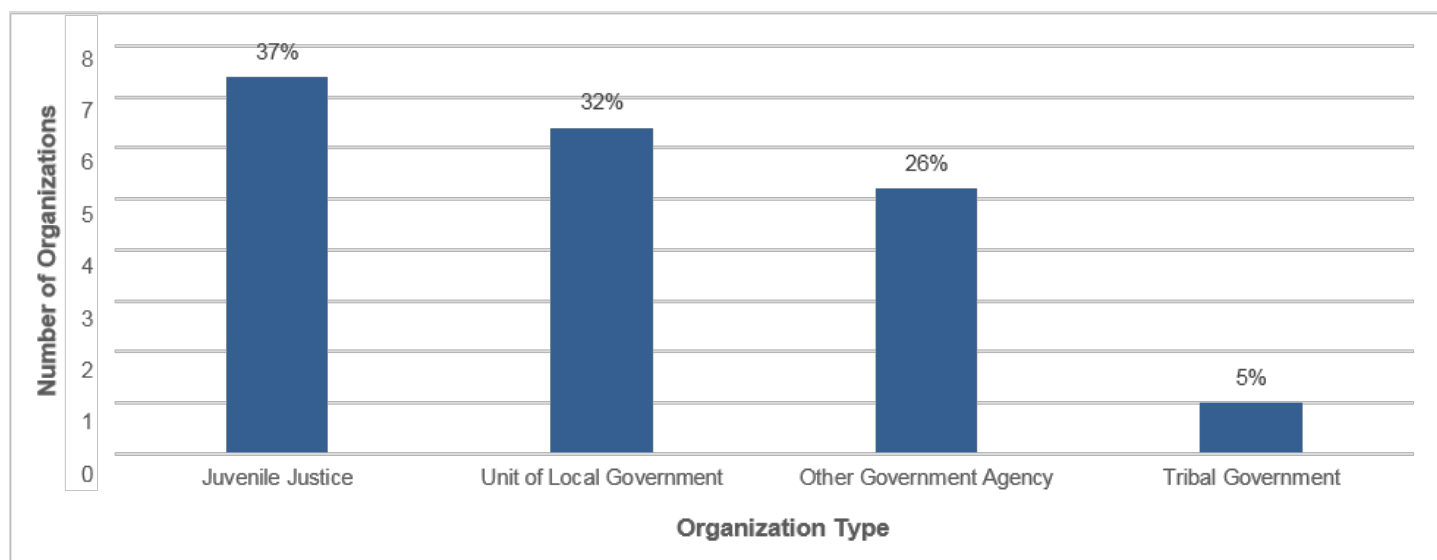
⁴ Grantees are asked, “Is the federal award used to implement an evidence-based program or practice?” This question is only reported once in the PMT, and it is reflective of the grant program for the life of the award.

⁵ The data represent all awards, whether they were operational or not during the reporting period. However, one grantee did not report on this question for the January–June 2017 reporting period.

1.2 Organization Type

Analysis of the types of agencies implementing juvenile drug court programs revealed that the majority of drug courts were run by juvenile justice agencies (37 percent), followed by units of local government and other government agencies, accounting for 32 percent and 26 percent, respectively (figure 2).

Figure 2. Number and Type of Agencies: January–June 2017

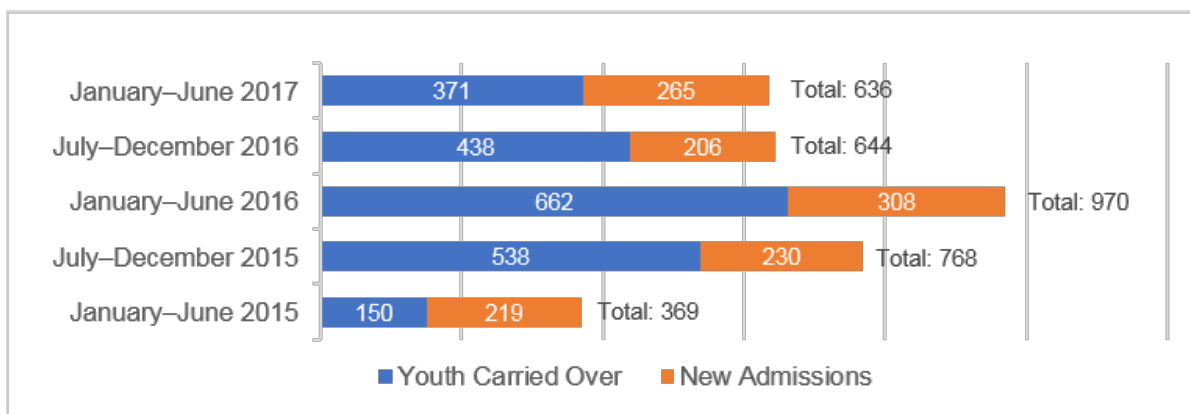


2. Analysis of Program Performance Measures

During the January–June 2017 reporting period, Juvenile Drug Court program grantees served 636 youth participants. Of the youth served this reporting period, 265 of them (42 percent) were new admissions (figure 3) and 88 percent were served with an evidence-based program or practice.⁶ It is important to note that sometimes when a youth enters a program, the timing may not directly correlate to the six-month reporting period. Therefore, some youth are carried over to the next reporting period.

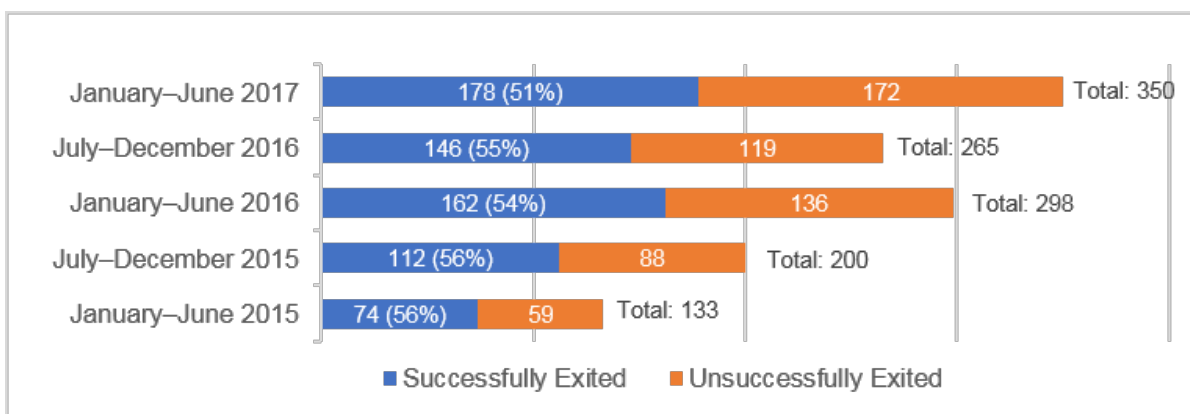
⁶ Grantees reported 713 youth served using an evidence-based model or program out of 811 total youth served during the reporting period. This number for total youth served is inconsistent with the count of new admissions and youth carried over as it is reported separately.

Figure 3. Number of Program Youth Served During Reporting Period: January 2015–June 2017



In addition, 350 youth exited the program during the reporting period (figure 4). Of those enrolled youth who exited the program, more than half (51 percent), successfully exited the court having completed all requirements. Each grantee defines the requirements needed for a youth to complete its program. “Successfully exited” youth are considered to be those who have successfully fulfilled all program obligations and requirements. Youth who fail to follow through with the program (expelled or leave voluntarily) are considered to have “unsuccessfully exited” the program.

Figure 4. Number of Program Youth Who Exited Program During Reporting Period: January 2015–June 2017



Programs using grant funds to provide direct services to youth were required to measure program youths’ performance and track data for certain target behaviors. 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 school attendance, antisocial behavior, and community involvement. This section presents an analysis of the number of youth who demonstrated a positive change in a targeted behavior during the reporting period.

Table 4, below, lists short term outcomes for youth who demonstrated a positive change in a target behavior. Target behaviors that did not have enough reported data were excluded from the analysis. Overall, 56 percent of the program youth demonstrated an intended change in target behaviors in the short term. The largest percentage of youth (95 percent) demonstrated positive improvement in social skills after receiving social competence services. Of the youth receiving school attendance services, 83 percent reached the targeted behavior. Although substance use is the most focused treatment for drug court programs, and most of the youth received services for substance use ($n = 548$), youth were less likely to demonstrate an intended behavior change (41 percent) when compared with other target behaviors.

Table 4. Target Behaviors (Short Term Data): January–June 2017

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Intended Behavior Change	Percentage of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Social Competence	110	104	95%
School Attendance	112	93	83%
Family Relationships	77	56	73%
Antisocial Behavior	88	51	58%
Substance Use	548	223	41%
Total	935	527	56%

Table 5, below, presents data for youth who demonstrated a positive change in a target behavior in the long term, or 6–12 months following completion of the program. Overall, 43 percent of program youth exhibited an intended behavior change 6–12 months after program completion. All the youth who received services to improve school attendance demonstrated a positive change for that target behavior, and 91 percent of youth served for social competence showed an improvement in social skills. Similar to the short term findings, although most youth received services for substance abuse, youth were less likely to demonstrate an intended behavior change (32 percent) when compared with other target behaviors.

Table 5. Target Behaviors (Long Term Data): January–June 2017

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Intended Behavior Change	Percentage of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
School Attendance	26	26	100%
Social Competence	30	33	91%
Family Relationships	27	34	79%
Antisocial Behavior	25	53	47%
Substance Use	125	396	32%
Total	542	233	43%

Grantees also reported on the number of program youth who had technical violations, or who had a violation of the terms of their supervision. An example of a technical violation is failure to pass an alcohol or drug test, which is often required of youth as part of their supervision in drug court programs. As shown in the top half of table 6 (below), 540 youth were tracked for technical violations in the short term. Of those, 37 were committed to a juvenile residential facility, while 38 received some other sentence. No youth were sentenced to adult prison during the reporting period. Table 6 also shows the long term measurement of technical violations for 350 youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago. Of the 350 youth, 13 youth, or 4 percent, had a technical violation.

Table 6. Number of Youth Adjudicated for Technical Violations: January–June 2017

Performance Measure	Youth	Percentage
Youth tracked for technical violations (short term outcome)	540	
Youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	37	7%
Youth sentenced to adult prison	0	0%
Youth who received some other sentence	38	7%
Total Technical Violations, Short Term	75	14%
Youth tracked for technical violations (long term outcome)	350	
Youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	6	2%
Youth sentenced to adult prison	0	0%
Youth received some other sentence	7	2%
Total Technical Violations, Long Term	13	4%

In addition to technical violations, grantees also reported on the number of youth adjudicated for a new delinquent offense during the reporting period. As shown in table 7, of 697 program youth who were tracked for adjudication for a new delinquent offense in the short term, 20 were committed to a juvenile residential facility. In addition, three were sentenced to adult prison, and 47 were given some other sentence. The bottom half of table 7 presents long term recidivism data. Of the 336 youth tracked for a new adjudication 6–12 months after completing the program, 10 were recommitted to a juvenile residential facility, two were sentenced to adult prison, and 20 were given some other sentence. The overall recidivism rate in both the short term and long term was 10 percent.

Table 7. Number of Youth Adjudicated for a New Delinquent Offense: January–June 2017

Performance Measure	Youth	Percentage
Youth tracked for adjudications (short term outcome)	697	
Youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	20	3%
Youth sentenced to adult prison	3	<1%
Youth who received some other sentence	47	7%
Total New Adjudications, Short Term	70	10%
Youth tracked for new adjudications (long term outcome)	336	
Youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	10	3%
Youth sentenced to adult prison	2	<1%
Youth received some other sentence	20	6%
Total New Adjudications, Long Term	32	10%

Figure 5, below, represents the short and long term recidivism rates among program youth by reporting period. Overall, the long term recidivism rates remained low, with a peak during the most recent reporting period. It is unclear from the available data what may have led to this. It may be possible, for example, that more youth were committing new offenses 6–12 months after completing their program when compared to other reporting periods; however, the peak could also be attributed to an increase in grantees’ ability to track long term data.

Figure 5. Recidivism Measures: January 2015–June 2017

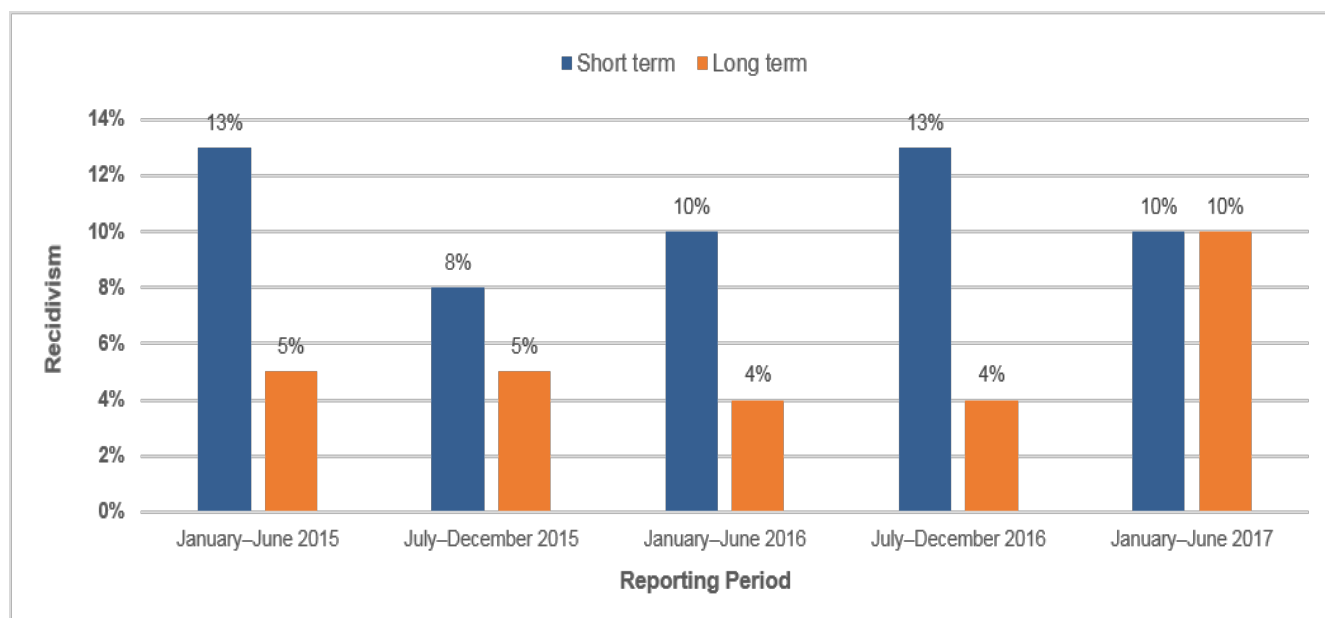


Table 8 compares the number of youth assessed as needing substance use counseling, mental health, housing, and other services with the number of youth enrolled in or obtaining such services. The majority of youth needed ($n = 330$) and were enrolled ($n = 247$) in substance use/counseling services, followed by mental health services, with 95 enrollments. Because the Juvenile Drug Court program requires youth to be younger than age 18 to qualify, housing services received the least number of referrals, since most youth presumably live at home with their parents or guardians.

Table 8. Types of Services Provided to Participants: January–June 2017

Performance Measure	Youth
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing substance use counseling/services	330
Youth <i>enrolled</i> in substance use counseling/services	247
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing mental health services	186
Youth <i>enrolled</i> in mental health services	95
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing housing services	23
Youth who <i>successfully</i> found housing	24
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing other services	184
Youth <i>enrolled</i> in other services	108

Summary

Juvenile drug courts serve as a judicially supervised court system intended to strike a balance between protecting community safety and improving public health and well-being. During the January–June 2017 reporting period, 636 youth were served by OJJDP-funded Juvenile Drug Court programs. Eighty-eight percent of youth were served with an evidence-based program or practice their program. Of the 350 youth who exited the Juvenile Drug Court programs, more than half (51 percent) successfully exited by completing all program requirements. Of those services in which youth were enrolled, most received substance use services followed by mental health services. Despite most youth assessed as needing substance use services and being enrolled in these services, youth were less likely to demonstrate an intended behavior change in both the short term (41 percent) and long term (32 percent) when compared with other target behaviors. Youth were also tracked for adjudication for technical violations and for new offenses in both the short and long term. Of the program youth tracked for adjudication for a technical violation, 7 percent were committed to a juvenile residential facility in the short term and 2 percent in the long term. For both short term and long term, 3 percent of youth tracked for adjudication for a new offense were committed to a juvenile residential facility. Overall, the long term recidivism rates for new offenses remained low, with a peak during the most recent reporting period. However, further analysis is needed to understand if the peak is attributed to more youth committing new offenses in the long term or if there are other contributing factors, such as an increase in grantees’ ability to track long term data.