

## Overview of the DCTAT Data for Juvenile Drug Court Program Grantees: July–December 2015

The Juvenile Drug Court Program, administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), offers an alternative to incarceration for qualifying populations, typically nonviolent drug offenders. The program helps state courts, local courts, units of local government, and tribal governments develop and establish juvenile drug courts adopting the Reclaiming Futures model for juvenile offenders who are using substances. The Reclaiming Futures model 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 court and Reclaiming Futures models should enable 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

This performance report is an overview of the Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT) data for Juvenile Drug Court Program grantees as reported through December 31, 2015. The report is divided into two sections. Section 1 introduces program information for Juvenile Drug Court Program grantees, and Section 2 gives an analysis of core Juvenile Drug Court Program measures.

The highlights below all refer to the July–December 2015 reporting period.

- There were 23 active Juvenile Drug Court Program grantees, with a 100 percent reporting compliance rate.
- Units of local government (35 percent) run the majority of the juvenile drug court programs, followed by other government agency and juvenile justice organizations.
- In the short-term outcome for targeted behaviors, of the youth in school attendance, 88 percent reached the targeted behavior; of the youth in social competence, 84 percent demonstrated positive improvement in social skills; and of the youth in high school completion, 80 percent graduated from high school.
- Substance use target behavior has the most youth participants (684) and of those, 379 youth showed a reduction in substance use.
- One hundred and twelve out of 200 (56 percent) youth successfully exited juvenile drug court programs.
- Three hundred and eight youth were enrolled in substance use services, 139 were enrolled in mental health services, and 147 were enrolled in other types of services.
- Twenty three active grantees implemented 84 programs, and 88 percent of those programs were evidence based.
- In the short term, out of 540 program youth, 9 percent were committed to a juvenile residential facility as a result of a new adjudication.
- According to long-term recidivism data, 246 youth had exited the program 6 to 12 months ago and were tracked for new adjudications. Of those, 7 (3 percent) were recommitted to a juvenile residential facility.

### 1. Examination of Program Information

Across all reporting periods, grantees have input 72 sets of program data, for a reporting compliance rate of 99 percent. During the July–December 2015 reporting period, 23 grants were active. Data were completed for all active grants (Table 1).

**Table 1. Status of Federal Awards Reporting by Period: January 2012–December 2015**

Data Reporting Period	Status			
	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	Total
January–June 2012	0	0	6	6
July–December 2012	0	0	9	9
January–June 2013	0	0	9	9
July–December 2013	0	0	9	9
January–June 2014	0	0	9	9
July–December 2014	1	0	16	17
January–June 2015	0	0	13	13
July–December 2015	0	0	23	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>95</b>

Table 2 presents aggregate demographic data for July 2014–December 2015. The number represents the population that grantees are expected to serve per federal grant.<sup>1</sup> Targeted services include any services or approaches specifically designed to meet the needs of the population (e.g., gender-specific, culturally based, developmentally appropriate services).

Grantees are only required to report target population information once in the DCTAT. However, grantees may update their servicing target population chart to best fit their program during the life of the award. The slight variation in numbers between each reporting period is caused by the number of active or inactive federal awards during the reporting period or additional services that grantees may have added to their programs.

**Table 2. Grantees Serving Target Population: July 2014–December 2015**

Population	Number of Grantees Serving Group During Reporting Period		
	July–December 2014	January–June 2015	July–December 2015
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
American Indian/Alaska Native	5	2	3
Asian	3	2	4
Black/African American	14	12	15
Caucasian/Non-Latino	8	6	7
Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)	10	10	12
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	2	1	2
Other Race	6	5	7
White/Caucasian	11	10	13
Youth Population Not Served Directly	0	0	4
<b>Justice System Status</b>			
At-Risk Population (No Prior Offense)	7	6	9
First-Time Offenders	13	11	13
Repeat Offenders	14	11	14
Sex Offenders	1	1	1
Status Offenders	4	4	7
Violent Offenders	1	2	3
Youth Population Not Served Directly	0	0	4
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	15	13	16
Female	14	13	16
Youth Population Not Served Directly	0	0	2

<sup>1</sup> Grantees, or the recipient organizations, can have multiple federal awards, and each award is required to report on the expected demographic served.

<b>Age</b>			
0–10	1	1	1
11–18	15	13	16
Over 18	2	2	4
Youth Population Not Served Directly	0	0	4
<b>Geographic Area</b>			
Rural	7	6	9
Suburban	10	9	11
Tribal	2	1	1
Urban	8	8	10
Youth Population Not Served Directly	0	0	4
<b>Other</b>			
Mental Health	11	12	14
Substance Use	15	13	17
Truant/Dropout	4	4	6

### 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 grantees are prioritizing evidence-based programs, grantees are asked to report whether or not their programs are evidence based. Overall, the majority of Juvenile Drug Court grantees reported using federal funds to implement an evidence-based program or practice (Table 3).<sup>2</sup>

**Table 3. Grantees Implementing Evidence-Based Programs and/or Practices<sup>3</sup>**

Reporting Period	N	Funding Amount	Federal Award Used to Implement an Evidence-Based Program or Practice?
January–June 2012	6	\$ 2,548,796	Yes
July–December 2012	9	\$ 6,425,900	Yes
January–June 2013	9	\$ 6,425,900	Yes
July–December 2013	9	\$ 6,425,900	Yes
January–June 2014	9	\$ 6,425,900	Yes
July–December 2014	17	\$10,040,695	15 Yes; 2 No
January–June 2015	13	\$ 8,067,696	12 Yes; 1 No
July–December 2015	23	\$12,316,878	21 Yes; 2 No

Table 4 further examines the number of programs or initiatives employing evidence-based practices by all active Juvenile Drug Court grantees during each reporting period. During the July–December 2015 reporting period, there were 23 active grantees implementing 84 programs, and 83 percent of the programs used some form of evidence-based program or practice.

<sup>2</sup> Grantees are asked, “Is the federal award used to implement an evidence-based program or practice?” This question is only reported once in the DCTAT, and it is reflective of the grant program for the life of the award.

<sup>3</sup> The data represent all awards, whether they were operational or not during the reporting period.

**Table 4. Percentage of Evidence-Based Programs or Practices: January 2012–December 2015**

Reporting Period	Total Number of Programs or Initiatives	Number of Program/Initiatives Employing Evidence-Based Programs or Practices	Percent Employing Evidence-Based Programs
January–June 2012	21	20	95
July–December 2012	34	33	97
January–June 2013	26	26	100
July–December 2013	22	22	100
January–June 2014	22	22	100
July–December 2014	64	62	97
January–June 2015	53	44	83
July–December 2015	84	74	88

An examination of grant amounts by state based on current and active Juvenile Drug Court Program grants shows that Ohio received the most funds, followed by Florida and North Carolina. Table 5 displays a comprehensive comparison of state award amounts. The amount in the table represents the total funding the state received from OJJDP for the life of the award(s).

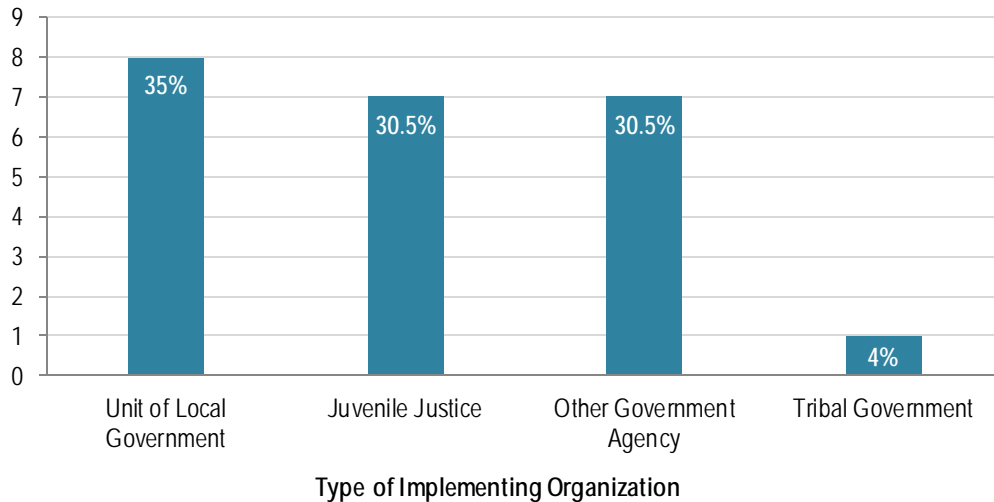
**Table 5. Total Grant Amount by State (Dollars): July–December 2015**

Grantee State	N	Grant Amount (Dollars)	Grantee State	N	Grant Amount (Dollars)
AR	1	400,000	NE	1	400,000
CO	1	524,569	NY	1	400,000
FL	2	1,724,098	OH	3	2,251,443
GA	1	400,000	OK	1	400,000
LA	1	249,182	OR	1	522,365
MA	1	400,000	TX	2	647,019
MD	1	517,310	VA	2	800,000
MI	1	526,443	WA	1	526,443
NC	1	1,228,006	WV	1	400,000

### 1.2 Implementing Organization Type

Analysis of implementing agencies for this reporting period revealed that units of local government ran the majority of juvenile drug courts (35 percent) and other government agencies and juvenile justice agencies accounted for 30.5 percent each of the awards (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Implementing Agencies: July–December 2015**



## 2. Analysis of Core Measures

During the July–December 2015 reporting period, Juvenile Drug Court Program grantees served 768 youth participants; 230 (30 percent) were new admissions (Table 6). Please note that sometimes a program cannot be completed in the 6 months represented by the reporting period. Therefore, youth are carried over to the next reporting period.

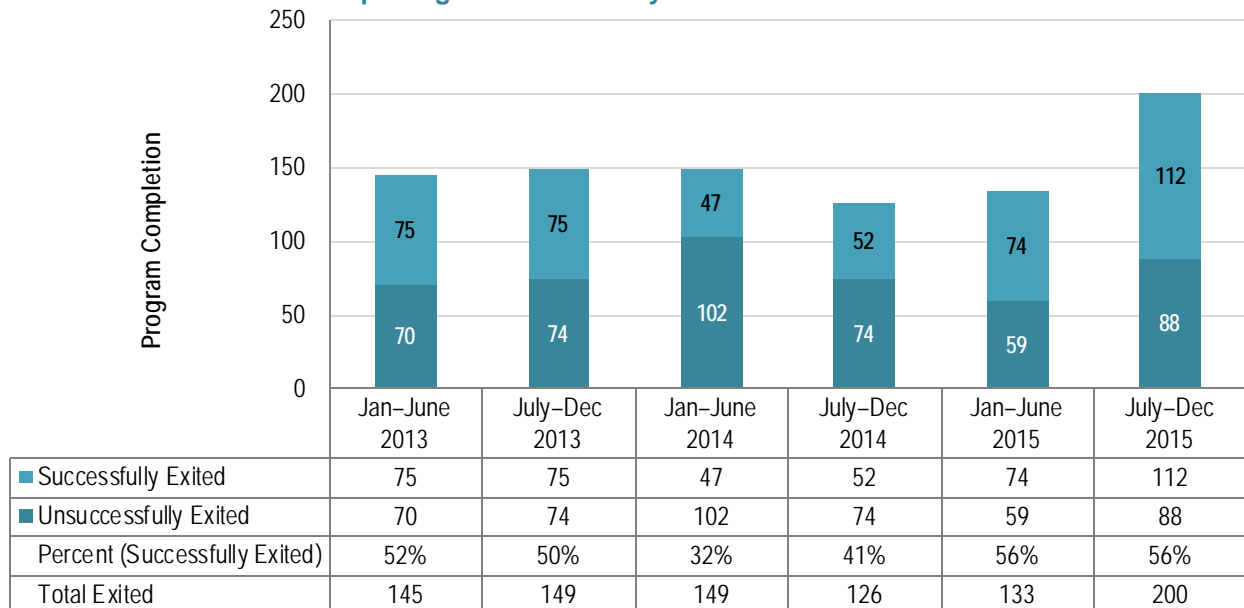
**Table 6. Number of Program Youth Served During the Reporting Period: January 2012–December 2015**

Reporting Period	Number of Program Youth Carried Over from the Previous Reporting Period	New Admissions during the Reporting Period	Total
January–June 2012	182	131	<b>313</b>
July–December 2012	229	104	<b>333</b>
January–June 2013	266	181	<b>447</b>
July– December 2013	271	122	<b>393</b>
January–June 2014	154	99	<b>253</b>
July– December 2014	296	138	<b>434</b>
January–June 2015	150	219	<b>369</b>
July– December 2015	538	230	<b>768</b>

In addition, 200 youth exited the program (Figure 2). Of those enrolled youth who exited the program, 112 (56 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 (are expelled or voluntarily depart) are considered to have “unsuccessfully exited” the program.

Overall program completion rates for youth have remained relatively stable since July–December 2012, with January–June 2015 and July–December 2015 having the highest successfully exited rates; both had 56 percent.

**Figure 2. Number of Program Youth Who Exited the Program During the Reporting Period: January 2013–December 2015**



Data were also collected on the number of youth who demonstrated a positive change in a targeted behavior during the reporting period. Tables 7 and 8 show a list of measures for which grantees were required to evaluate program

youth performance and track data for certain target behaviors. The tables present both short-term (Table 7) and long-term (Table 8) percentages for the specified target behaviors.

Overall, 59% of the program youth demonstrated an intended change in target behaviors. Table 7 shows the breakdown of the target behaviors that program youth received services for during the reporting period. Of the youth in school attendance, 88 percent reached the targeted behavior; of the youth in social competence, 84 percent demonstrated positive improvement in social skills; and of the youth in high school completion, 80 percent graduated from high school. Even though substance use target behavior has a low outcome rate, it is the most focused treatment for drug court programs. During the reporting period, 684 program youth received substance abuse treatment, and of those, 379 youth showed a reduction in substance use.

**Table 7. Target Behaviors (Short-Term Data): July–December 2015**

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Intended Behavior Change	Percent of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Social Competence	58	49	84
School Attendance	41	36	88
High School Completion	5	4	80
Family Relationships	105	64	61
Antisocial Behavior	71	39	55
Substance Use	684	379	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>59</b>

Table 8 presents data on long-term target behaviors. Long-term outcomes are measured 6 to 12 months after a youth leaves or completes a program. Overall, 59 percent of program youth exhibited an intended behavior change 6 to 12 months after program completion.

**Table 8. Target Behaviors (Long-Term Data): July–December 2015**

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Intended Behavior Change	Percent of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Social Competence	12	10	83
School Attendance	12	12	100
High School Completion	6	10	60
Family Relationships	34	15	44
Antisocial Behavior	33	17	52
Substance Use	293	168	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>59</b>

Technical violations and actual new adjudications are measured separately to allow for a better understanding of the population served by the grant. Short-term technical violations are expected to be significant in drug court programs, because participants are treated for addictions. As shown in the top part of Table 9, 540 youth were tracked for technical violations in the short term. Of those, 49 were committed to a juvenile residential facility, 2 were sentenced to adult prison, and 21 received some other sentence. The bottom part of Table 9 shows long-term measurement of technical violations for 241 youth who exited the program 6 to 12 months ago. Of those, 27 had a technical violation (2 percent).

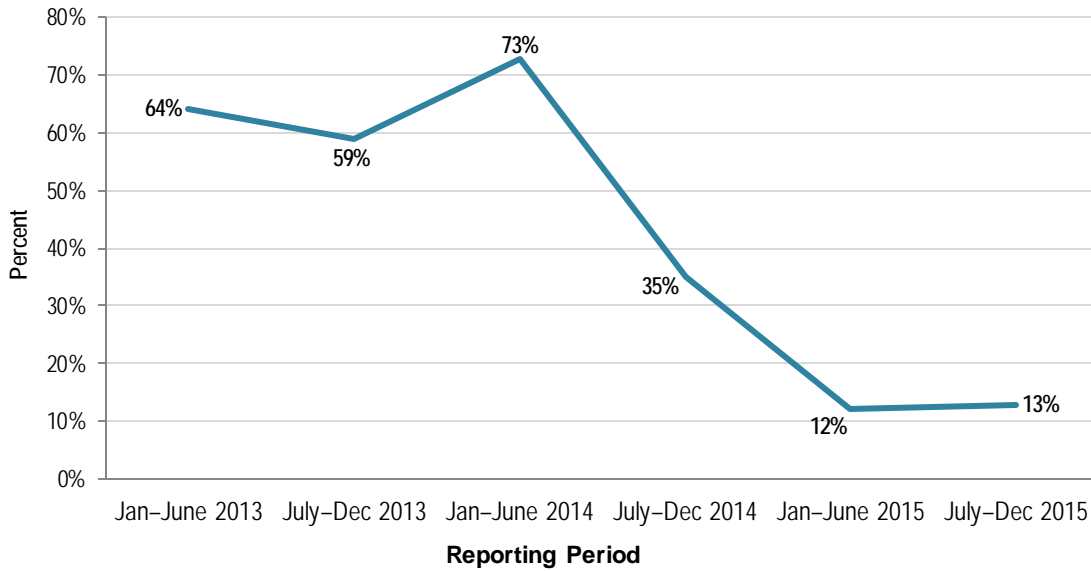
**Table 9. Technical Violation Measures: July–December 2015**

Performance Measure	Youth	Percent
Youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	49	9
Youth sentenced to adult prison	2	<1
Youth who received some other sentence	21	4
Youth tracked for technical violations (short-term outcome)	540	
<b>Total technical violations</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>13</b>

Youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	8	3
Youth sentenced to adult prison	3	1
Youth received some other sentence	16	6
Youth tracked for technical violations (long-term outcome)	241	
<b>Total technical violations</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>11</b>

Figure 3<sup>4</sup> represents the short-term percentage of program youth who have committed a technical violation and received some form of punishment during the reporting period. The January–June 2015 reporting period has the lowest technical violations rate, and the January–June 2014 reporting period has the highest.

**Figure 3. Technical Violations (Short Term): January 2013–December 2015**



As shown in the top part of Table 10, of the 672 program youth who were tracked for adjudications in the short term, 23 were committed to a juvenile residential facility as a result of a new adjudication. In addition, 29 were given some other sentence. The bottom part of Table 10 shows long-term recidivism data; 246 youth had exited the program 6 to 12 months ago and were tracked for new adjudications. Of those, seven (3 percent) were recommitted to a juvenile residential facility, and five (2 percent) were given some other sentence.

**Table 10. Recidivism Measures for Program Youth Tracked: July–December 2015**

Performance Measure	Youth	Percent
Youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	23	3
Youth sentenced to adult prison	0	N/A
Youth given some other sentence	29	4
Youth tracked for adjudications (short-term outcome)	672	
<b>Total new adjudications</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>8</b>
Youth recommitted to a juvenile residential facility	7	3
Youth sentenced to adult prison	0	N/A
Youth given some other sentence	5	2
Youth tracked for new adjudications (long-term outcome)	246	
<b>Total new adjudications</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>

Figure 4 represents the short- and long-term recidivism rates among program youth by reporting period. Overall, the recidivism rate remained low, with a slight peak in the long-term percentage during the January–June 2013 reporting period (Figure 4).

<sup>4</sup> From July 2012–July 2014, two grantees reported the highest number of youth who had a technical violation during the reporting period. Their grants closed in September of 2014, which reduced the percentage of youth who had a technical violation overall for the program.

**Figure 4. Recidivism Measures (Percent): January 2013–December 2015**

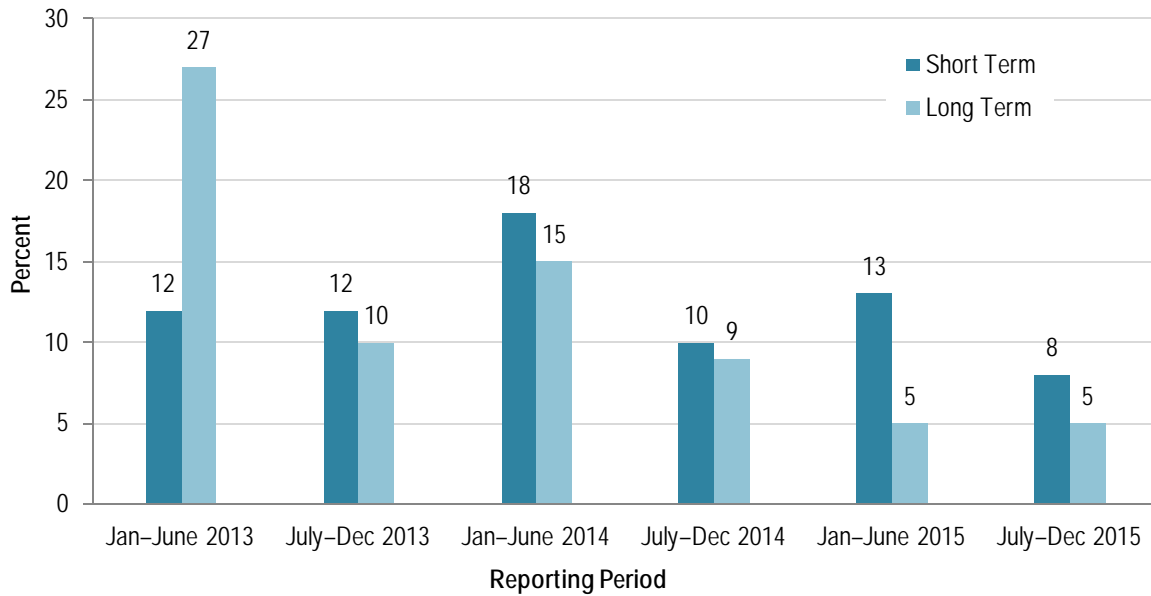


Table 11 compares the number of youth assessed as needing these and other services with the number of youth enrolled in or obtaining such services. Substance-use services take the lead, with 308 enrollments, followed by mental-health services, with 139 enrollments. Because the Juvenile Drug Court Program requires youth to be younger than age 18 to obtain the services, housing services received the least number of referrals, as most youth live at home with their parents/guardians.

**Table 11. Types of Services Provided to Participants: July–December 2015**

Performance Measure	Youth
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing substance use counseling/services	321
Youth <i>enrolled</i> in substance-use counseling/services	308
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing mental health services	140
Youth <i>enrolled</i> in mental health services	139
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing housing services	40
Youth who <i>successfully</i> found housing	18
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing other services	150
Youth <i>enrolled</i> in other services	147

### 3. 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 July–December 2015 reporting period, 768 youth were served by 23 OJJDP-funded Juvenile Drug Court programs. In addition, 308 youth received substance-use services, 139 youth received mental-health services, and 147 youth received some other form of services. Two hundred youth exited the drug court program. Of those, 112 (56 percent) successfully exited by completing all program requirements. Ninety-one percent of the Juvenile Drug Court grantees that report data in the DCTAT use their funds toward some form of evidence-based practices in their program.