



Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

JUVENILE DRUG COURT

PERFORMANCE REPORT

July–December 2021

WORKING FOR YOUTH JUSTICE AND SAFETY

VISION STATEMENT

OJJDP envisions a nation where our children are free from crime and violence. If they come into contact with the justice system, the contact should be rare, fair, and beneficial to them.

MISSION STATEMENT

OJJDP provides national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent and respond to youth delinquency and victimization. The Office helps states, localities, and tribes develop effective and equitable juvenile justice systems that create safer communities and empower youth to lead productive lives.

This report was produced by Booz Allen Hamilton under contract number GS-00F-008DA, awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), U.S. Department of Justice. It is important to note that accurate data rely on correct data tracking and entry by the grantees and those agencies reporting to grantees, as such the data and analysis findings provided reflect the information as reported. These analytical findings make no claims of causation or demonstrate evidence of program effectiveness, and, as with all performance data, readers must use caution when interpreting the results, as factors other than the program may have contributed to the performance outcomes reported.

Data during the July to December 2021 activity period was impacted by the Covid-19 global pandemic. Grantees and service providers experienced a disruption to services, which raised obstacles for service delivery and data collection. The following data reflect services adapted to and provided during the Covid-19 pandemic.

INTRODUCTION

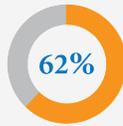
The Juvenile Drug Court program, administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), funds the implementation and improvement of juvenile drug treatment courts (JDTCs). JDTCs are specialized courts designed for youth with substance use disorders who encounter the juvenile justice system and are at medium- to high-risk for reoffending. JDTCs focus on collaborating with families to help youth successfully complete program requirements and prevent recidivism.

OJJDP requires grantees to report on performance measures to demonstrate whether the Juvenile Drug Court program achieved its goals in order to improve program and policy decisions. This report describes Juvenile Drug Court program activities occurring between July and December 2021 and highlights grantee results with OJJDP funding.

Highlights

254
NUMBER OF
YOUTH SERVED

Youth that demonstrated short-term¹ positive behavior change



Youth that demonstrated reduced short-term substance use



Youth exiting program successfully



Youth reoffending (short-term)



OVERVIEW OF AWARD INFORMATION

Between July and December 2021, OJJDP’s Juvenile Drug Court program funded 19 awards and 84 percent of the awards completed their reporting requirements (Figure 1). Sixteen awards were operational (or provided services during the activity period) and reported performance data on their grant activities. During the activity period, OJJDP awarded in excess of \$6.2 million² for JDTCs.

Figure 1. Award Details



¹ Short term includes youth tracked for the behavior of interest who received services during the activity period or youth who exited the program during the activity period.
² The funding amount represents the total amount awarded by OJJDP to those grantees that were operational during the activity period and does not count for the total amount spent during the activity period.
³ Total Funding Amount = \$6,268,640.

EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

OJJDP encourages grantees to use evidence-based practices and programs. Evidence-based practices include program models shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to be effective at preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency or related-risk factors. OJJDP’s Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines outline evidence-based practices regarding eligibility criteria, screenings and assessments, incentives, sanctions, and substance abuse treatment for JDTCs. During the July–December 2021 activity period, 74 percent of awards ($n = 19$) used one or more evidence-based program(s) or practice(s).

YOUTH SERVED

During the July–December 2021 activity period, the total number of youths served was 254. Sixty-six percent of youth served ($n = 167$) were new enrollments receiving JDTC services for the first time, and 95 percent received service from an evidence-based program or practice.

254

Youth receiving services for the first time

SERVICES PROVIDED

JDTCs work collaboratively with service providers to coordinate substance use and mental health treatment for eligible program youth. During the July–December 2021 activity period, 247 youths received substance use treatment and counseling through Juvenile Drug Court program grantees (Figure 2). In this activity period, the grantees provided mental health services to 160 youths, and 81 youths were enrolled in other services, such as educational services, social skills building, and cultural skills building.

Figure 2. Services Provided to Youth

247

Substance use services/counseling



160

Mental health services



81

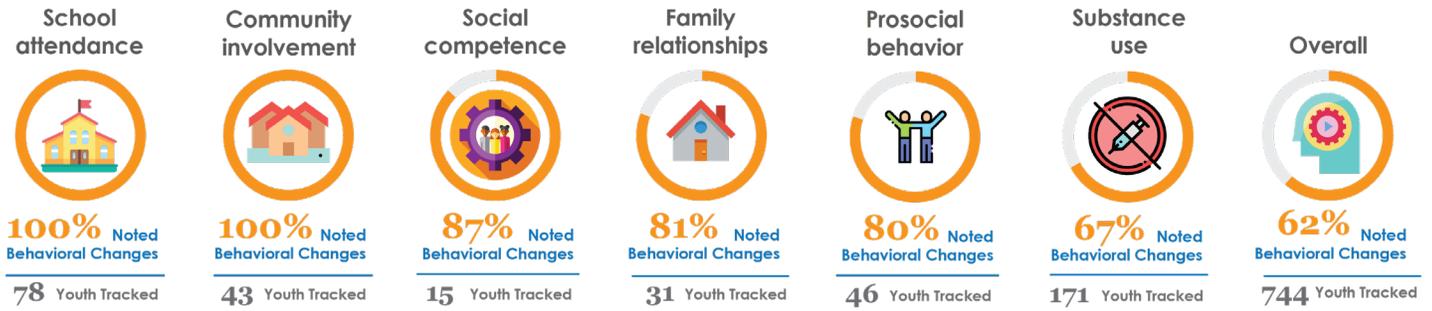
Other services



TARGET BEHAVIORS

JDTCs track youth participants for behavior changes to measure the program’s impact in several targeted areas, such as job skills, community involvement, and school attendance. As shown in Figure 3, 100 percent of tracked youth demonstrated a short-term, positive change during the activity period in school attendance and community involvement. Additionally, 67 percent of tracked youth showed a reduction in a substance use target area. Overall, 62 percent of program youth tracked showed a behavioral improvement in the short term.

Figure 3. Short-term Outcome Percentages for the Specified Target Behaviors



YOUTH EXITING SUCCESSFULLY

Each JDTC creates and defines the requirements for youth to successfully complete their program. Youth who fulfill all program obligations and requirements “successfully exit,” while those who fail to complete the requirements, such as those who were expelled or who left voluntarily, “unsuccessfully exit” the program. Grantees reported that of the 77 youths who exited their Juvenile Drug Court program during the activity period, 52 percent ($n = 40$) successfully exited (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Percent of Youth Exiting Successfully



PROGRAM YOUTH RECIDIVISM

Grantees track program youth who received services during the activity period or program youth who exited the program during the activity period for the rate of recidivism. Grantees reported 16 percent of program youth recidivated in the short term during the July–December 2021 activity period (Figure 5). Only 6 percent of program youth who exited the program 6–12 months prior to the activity period reoffended in the long term⁴ (Figure 6).

Figure 5. Short-Term Recidivism Outcomes



Figure 6. Long-Term Recidivism Outcomes



⁴ Long term includes youth tracked for the behavior of interest who exited the program 6–12 months before the start of the activity period.

CONCLUSION

JDTCs represent a specialized approach to respond to the needs of youth with substance use disorders. By implementing OJJDP's Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines and evidence-based treatments, JDTCs reduce recidivism and substance use among youth and increase their likelihood of successful outcomes.⁵ The data reported by OJJDP's Juvenile Drug Court program grantees reinforce the research findings by showing a measurable impact on the lives of the youths served by JDTCs.

During the July–December 2021 activity period, OJJDP funded 19 awards serving a total of 254 youth. JDTC grantees provided substance use counseling to 247 youths and mental health services to 160 youth. Program youth showed improvement in several areas, including school attendance, community involvement, social competence and family relationships. Sixty-seven percent of youth tracked showed reduced substance use behaviors in the short term. Of 77 youths exiting the program during the activity period, 52 percent successfully completed all requirements for JDTC graduation. Grantees were especially successful at reducing recidivism during this activity period; 84 percent of youth tracked did not reoffend in the short term and 94 percent did not reoffend in the 6-12 months after exiting the program. These results indicate the success of specialized drug courts at improving the outcomes of youth with a substance use disorder who encounter the juvenile justice system.

⁵ *Assessing the effectiveness of drug courts on recidivism: A meta-analytic review of traditional and non-traditional drug courts.* 2012. *Journal of Criminal Justice* 40:60–71. Mitchell, O., Wilson, D.B., Eggers, A., and MacKenzie, D.L.