

Attachment

Research Questions

Process Evaluation

Drug court characteristics

- What is the target population? Is the court reaching its target population?
- What is the drug court capacity?
- What is the required length of drug court participation?
- Who are the drug court team members?
- How do persons enter drug court (diversion, post-conviction, petition to revoke probation)?
- For diversion models, what is the average length of time from arrest to enrollment in drug court? For post-conviction models, what is the average length of time from sentencing to enrollment in drug court?
- What are the requirements for eligibility, graduation, and termination?
- What types of treatment and ancillary services does the drug court offer?

Participant characteristics

- How many participants have been screened for eligibility?
- How many participants are currently enrolled in the drug court? How many have graduated? How many have withdrawn or been terminated?
- What are the demographic characteristics of individuals served by the drug court?
- What are the offense histories of drug court participants, including the current offense?
- What are the substance abuse characteristics of drug court participants, including drug of choice, history of use, and prior treatment attempts?
- How many drug tests were administered?
- How many drug court hearings were held?
- What sanctions and incentives were administered and how often?
- What were the participants' drug test results while enrolled in drug court?
- What types of services are participants referred to while in drug court? How often are they referred to each type of service?
- How many 12-step meetings did participants attend while enrolled in drug court?
- To what extent do participants comply with the various requirements of the drug court? How does this affect the length of their participation?
- In addition to completing the drug court requirements, what are the other accomplishments of participants while enrolled in drug court?

Outcome Evaluation

- What are the recidivism rates for drug court participants? How does this rate compare to similar persons who did not participate in drug court?
- What types of offenses were participants arrested for during drug court participation or after exiting drug court? How does this compare to similar persons who did not participate in drug court?
- Are these offenses related to substance use and/or abuse?
- What is the average length of sobriety for drug court participants?
- What are the graduation rates and the retention rates for drug court participants?
- Are certain participant characteristics associated with better outcomes than others?
- How does length of time enrolled in drug court relate to recidivism?
- How many participants have given birth to drug-free babies?

Cost-Benefit Analysis

- How much does it cost to process an offender in the “traditional” manner?
- What is the average cost of the drug court per participant per year?
- What is the estimated avoided incarceration costs per participant associated with drug court participation?
- What are the estimated avoided costs related to victimization?
- What are the estimated avoided costs related to medical expenses?
- What are the estimated avoided costs related to the birth of drug free babies?
- What are the estimated avoided costs related to social and welfare services, if available?