

SAN FRANCISCO DRUG COURT

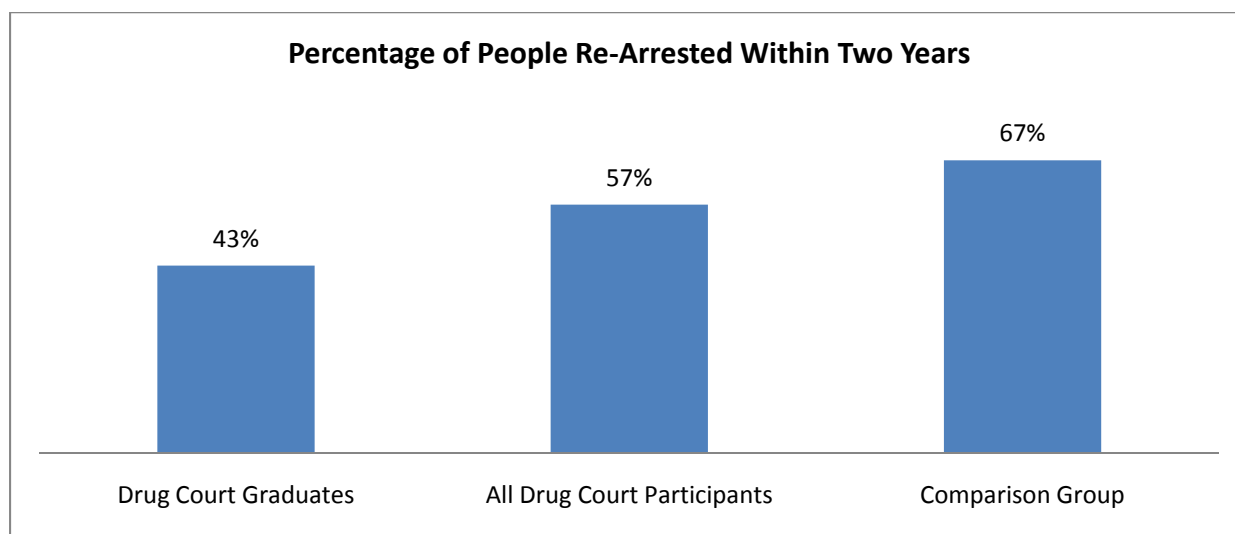
COST STUDY FACT SHEET

The following statistics are part of a multi-site evaluation of the costs and benefits of California’s drug courts. This fact sheet is a component of Phase III, statewide launch phase, of a research effort to develop a statewide methodology for assessing the benefits and costs of drug courts in the State of California. The aim of this effort is to produce a validated methodology to conduct inexpensive cost-benefit studies on an ongoing basis of drug courts throughout the state. As a part of this effort, a web-based tool was created – the Drug Court Cost Self-Evaluation Tool (DC-CSET) – which drug courts statewide can use to help determine their own costs and benefits. For more information on this study and other drug court studies go to www.npcresearch.com and www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/aoc.

RECIDIVISM RATE

San Francisco Drug Court participants had the following recidivism (re-arrest) rates over a two-year period.¹ Re-arrests include any type of arrest (but not including traffic citations).

Figure A: Two-Year Re-Arrest Rate for San Francisco Drug Court: Graduates, All Participants and Comparison Group



COSTS AND BENEFITS DUE TO RECIDIVISM

Table A shows the average number of recidivism events (e.g., re-arrests, jail time, prison time) per offender for drug court graduates, all drug court participants (regardless of graduation status) and the comparison group over 2 years after drug court entry.²

¹ Numbers for drug court participants provided by drug court staff. Comparison numbers provided by NPC Research from similar counties in California.

² Numbers for drug court participants provided by drug court staff. Comparison numbers provided by NPC Research from similar counties in California.

Table A: San Francisco Drug Court: Average Number of Recidivism Events per Person Two Years after Drug Court Entry

Recidivism Events	Drug Court Graduates Per Person (n=14)	Drug Court Participants Per Person (n=56)	Comparison Group Per Person (n=1,685)
Re-Arrests/Bookings	0.86	1.57	1.83
Court Cases	1.36	2.57	0.76
Jail Bookings	0.78	1.43	1.69
Jail Days	55.36	86.13	126.11
Probation Days After Exit	74.07	159.38	612.51
Prison Days	34.64	39.11	74.56

Table B provides the average recidivism cost per graduate, per drug court participant and per comparison group member for each type of recidivism event.

Table B: San Francisco Drug Court: Average Criminal Justice System Costs Associated with Recidivism per Person Over Two Years

Recidivism Related Events	Unit Costs	Drug Court Graduates Per Person (n = 14)	Drug Court Participants Per Person (n=56)	Comparison Group Per Person (n=1,685)
Re-Arrests/Bookings	\$394.24	\$339	\$619	\$721
Court Cases	\$2,289.38	\$3,114	\$5,884	\$1,740
Jail Bookings	\$195.00	\$152	\$279	\$330
Jail Days	\$150.00	\$8,304	\$12,920	\$18,917
Probation Days After Exit	\$4.88	\$361	\$778	\$2,989
Prison Days	\$97.50	\$3,377	\$3,813	\$7,270
Total		\$15,647	\$24,293	\$31,967

The total cost of events related to recidivism for the San Francisco Drug Court per drug court graduate was \$15,647 and per drug court participant (regardless of graduation status) was \$24,292, while the cost per comparison group member was \$31,967. The difference between the drug court and comparison group was **\$7,675** per participant. This amount represents the recidivism cost savings due to participation in drug court. Further, our analysis of case processing costs (see detailed cost report) showed that the drug court program cost \$9,757 per participant while the cost of a similar case in traditional court cost \$16,379. This results in case processing cost savings of **\$6,622** per person. Added to the two-year savings due to reduced recidivism, there is a total savings per participant of **\$14,297**. If this amount is multiplied by the total number of participants who have entered the program since its inception (approximately 3,359 offenders) the total amount “saved” by the program due to positive outcomes for its participants (i.e., lower recidivism) is **\$48,023,623**.