

## Maine's Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program Overview

In 1999, Maine's legislature authorized the use of funds to implement a statewide juvenile drug treatment court program. Six District Court Judges are assigned to six juvenile drug courts in York, Cumberland, Androscoggin, Kennebec, Penobscot and Sagadahoc counties serving over two-thirds of Maine's population. The program became operational when the first adolescent was admitted to the Bangor Juvenile Drug Court on January 26, 2000. This first drug court participant graduated from the program in January, 2001 and as of December 1, 2004, has not been re-arrested either as a juvenile or as an adult since completion of the program.

As of September 1, 2004, a total of 315 adolescents have been admitted to one of Maine's Juvenile Drug Courts, 96 have successfully completed the program and graduated, 153 were expelled and 66 adolescents currently remain active in the program. Graduation rates for Maine's juvenile drug court program (39%) compare favorably with graduation rates of juvenile drug court programs nationally (29%).

### Results from the Outcome Study

- Fewer juvenile drug court participants (44%) were re-arrested than the control group (52%) and program graduates (34%) were the least likely to re-offend overall.
- Recidivism rates for drug court graduates decreased 16% during the operational phase of the program (29%) compared to recidivism rates for drug court graduates during the implementation phase of the program (45%).
- The juvenile drug treatment court program has produced a reduction in criminal justice related expenditures and has become cost effective with expanded capacity. Findings indicate that the program has produced a net savings across three primary indicators: reduced detention/jail costs, reduced court costs and an overall savings in crime reduction/averted crimes yielding a net operational surplus of \$29,026.00.

**Table 1: Post-Program Recidivism Outcomes Measured Over Time**

	<i>Control</i>		<i>Experimental</i>		<i>Graduate</i>		<i>Expelled</i>		<i>Total</i>	
<i>Post-Program Arrest (One-year out) First 22 Months of Implementation</i>	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	45	<b>60</b>	41	<b>55</b>	10	<b>45</b>	31	<b>59</b>	86	<b>57</b>
Total	75	100	75	100	22	100	53	100	150	100
<i>Post-Program Arrest (One year out) Last 22 Months of Operation</i>	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	49	<b>46</b>	39	<b>36</b>	12	<b>29</b>	27	<b>42</b>	88	<b>41</b>
Total	107	100	107	100	42	100	65	100	214	100
<i>Post-Program Arrest (One year out) Overall</i>	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	94	<b>52</b>	80	<b>44</b>	22	<b>34</b>	58	<b>49</b>	174	<b>48</b>
Total	182	100	182	100	64	100	118	100	364	100

Source: Anspach, D. and Ferguson, A. "Part II: Outcome Evaluation of Maine's Statewide Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program." University of Southern Maine, Department of Sociology. 2005.