

Overview of the DCTAT Data for Juvenile Drug Court Program Grantees: July–December 2014

The Juvenile Drug Court Program is administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). 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, 2014.¹ 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 2014 reporting period.

- There were 17 active Juvenile Drug Court Program grantees, with a 94 percent compliance rate.
- Seventy percent of the Juvenile Drug Court programs were implemented by a unit of local government and by juvenile justice agencies (35 percent for each agency type).
- Grantees reported that youth showed 100 percent positive change in high school completion and 96 percent in school attendance; 74 percent of youth demonstrated positive change in social competence, and 75 percent showed a decrease in substance use.
- Fifty two of 126 (41 percent) youth successfully exited the juvenile drug courts program.
- Two hundred and eleven youth were enrolled in substance use services, 136 were enrolled in mental health services, and 58 were enrolled in other types of services.
- Fifteen active grantees were implementing 64 programs, and 97 percent of them used some form of evidence-based program or practice.
- Ten percent of program youth were committed to a juvenile residential facility as a result of a new adjudication.

1. Examination of Program Information

Across all reporting periods, grantees have input 58 sets of program data, for a reporting compliance rate of 98 percent. During the July–December 2014 reporting period, 17 grants were active. Data were completed for 16 active grants; 1 was not started (Table 1).

¹ The data reported to OJJDP have undergone system-level validation and verification checks. OJJDP also conducts reviews of the aggregate data findings and grantee-level data reports for obvious errors or inconsistencies. A formal data validation and verification process is planned for this program in 2015.

Table 1. Status of Grantee Reporting by Period: January 2012–December 2014

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 ²	17
Total	1	0	58	59

Table 2 presents aggregate demographic data for January 2013–December 2014 and the number of grantees serving each population. 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).

The target population information is only required to be reported once in the DCTAT. However, grantees may update their target population to best fit their program during the life of the award. Because of the nature of the reporting requirement, the target population number is steady throughout each reporting period. 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. Target Population Served: July 2013–December 2014

Population	Number of Grantees Serving Group During Reporting Period		
	July–December 2013	January–June 2014	July–December 2014
Race/Ethnicity			
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	3	5
Asian	1	1	3
Black/African American	8	8	14
Caucasian/Non-Latino	6	6	8
Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)	7	7	10
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1	1	2
Other Race	4	4	6
White/Caucasian	6	7	11
Youth Population Not Served Directly	0	0	0
Justice System Status			
At-Risk Population (No Prior Offense)	5	5	7
First-Time Offenders	9	9	13
Repeat Offenders	9	9	14
Sex Offenders	0	0	1
Status Offenders	3	3	4
Violent Offenders	0	0	1
Youth Population Not Served Directly	0	0	0
Gender			
Male	9	9	15
Female	8	9	14
Youth Population Not Served Directly	0	0	0
Age			
0–10	0	0	1
11–18	9	9	15
Over 18	1	1	2
Youth Population Not Served Directly	0	0	0

² Two grantees reported “Not Operational”; no funds expended or grant activity occurred based on approved grant application.

Geographic Area			
Rural	5	4	7
Suburban	5	5	10
Tribal	2	5	2
Urban	4	4	8
Youth Population Not Served Directly	0	0	0
Other			
Mental Health	6	6	11
Substance Use	9	9	15
Truant/Dropout	2	2	4

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 practice³ (Table 3).

Table 3. Grantees Implementing Evidence-Based Programs and/or Practices⁴

Reporting Period	N	Funding Amount ⁵	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

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 2014 reporting period, there were 14 active grantees (see footnote 2) implementing 64 programs, and 97 percent of the programs used some form of evidence-based program or practice. Notably, the percentage of programs or initiatives employing evidence-based practices has stayed close to 100 percent since the inception of the DCTAT data entry requirement.

Table 4. Percentage of Grantees Who Employ Evidence-Based Programs or Practices During the Reporting Period

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

³ 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.

⁴ The data represent all awards, whether they were operational or not during the reporting period.

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. A more comprehensive comparison of State award amounts is displayed in Table 5. The amount in the table represents the funding the recipient received from OJJDP regardless of the extent of the grant or how much has been spent by the grantee in previous reporting cycles.

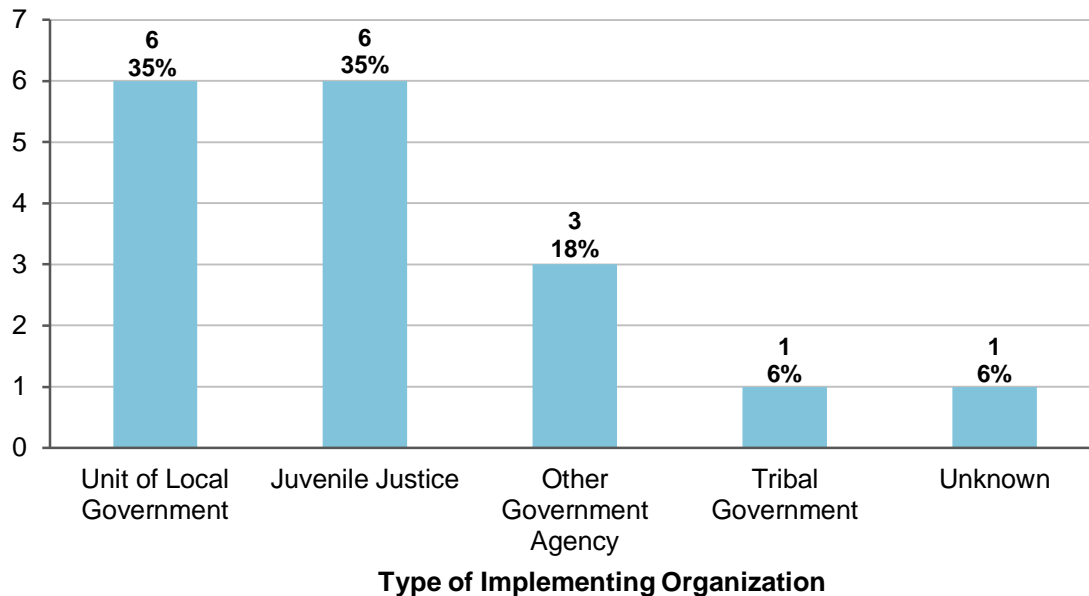
Table 5. Total Grant Amount by State (Dollars): July–December 2014

Grantee State	Grant Amount (Dollars)
CA	437,000
CO	961,386
FL	1,324,098
LA	249,182
MD	517,310
MI	526,443
NC	1,228,006
OH	2,251,443
OK	425,000
OR	522,365
TX	647,019
WA	951,443

1.2 Implementing Organization Type

Analysis of implementing agencies for this reporting period revealed that units of local government and juvenile justice organizations run the majority of juvenile drug courts (35 percent each). The “other government agency” category accounted for 18 percent, and tribal government accounted for 6 percent. One grantee did not report on its organization type; that accounted for the final 6 percent (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Implementing Agencies: July–December 2014



2. Analysis of Core Measures⁶

During the July–December 2014 reporting period, Juvenile Drug Court Program grantees served 434 youth participants; 138 (31 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.

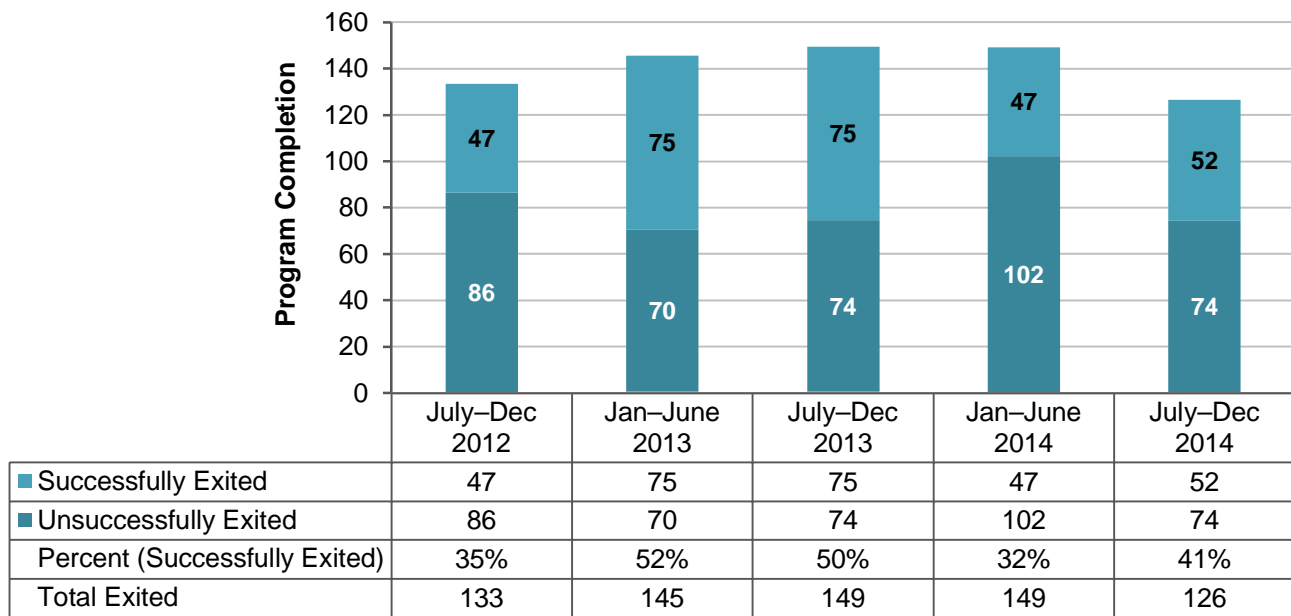
Table 6. Number of Program Youth Served During the Reporting Period: January 2012–December 2014

Reporting Period	Number of Program Youth Carried Over from the Previous Reporting Period	New Admissions during the Reporting Period	Total
Jan–June 2012	182	131	313
July–Dec 2012	229	104	333
Jan–June 2013	266	181	447
July–Dec 2013	271	122	393
Jan–June 2014	154	99	253
July–Dec 2014	296	138	434

In addition, 126 youth exited the program (Figure 2). Of those enrolled youth who exited the program, 52 (41 percent) successfully exited the court having completed all requirements. Each grantee defines the requirements needed for a youth to complete each program. “Successfully exited” is considered as program youth 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 “unsuccessfully exited.”

Overall program completion rates for youth have remained relatively stable since January–June 2012, with January–June 2013 and July–December 2013 having the highest successfully exited rates of 52 and 50 percent, respectively.

Figure 2. Number of Program Youth Who Exited the Program During the Reporting Period: July 2012–December 2014



⁶ All data included in this report are as of February 16, 2015; any data entry completed after that date were not included in this report.

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.

As shown in Table 7, 72 percent of program youth demonstrated an intended change in behavior.

Table 7. Target Behaviors (Short-Term Data): July–December 2014

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Intended Behavior Change	Percent of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Social Competence	23	17	74
School Attendance	27	26	96
High School Completion	2	2	100
Family Relationships	89	51	57
Antisocial Behavior	71	47	66
Substance Use	326	246	75
Total	538	389	72%

Table 8 presents data on long-term target behavior. Long-term outcomes are measured 6 to 12 months after a youth leaves or completes each program. Overall, 69 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 2014

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Intended Behavior Change	Percent of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Social Competence	9	5	66
School Attendance	9	8	89
High School Completion	5	3	60
Family Relationships	30	21	70
Antisocial Behavior	29	23	79
Substance Use	90	59	66
Total	172	119	69

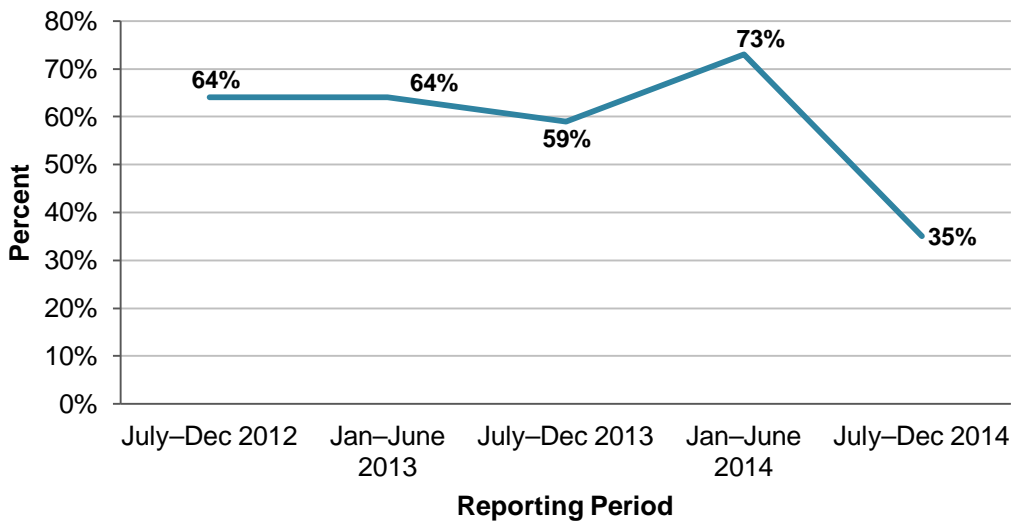
Technical violations and actual new adjudications are measured separately to allow for a better understanding of the population served by the grant. Short-term technical violations are expected to be significant in drug court programs, because participants are treated for addictions. As shown in Table 9, 307 youth were tracked for technical violations. Of those, 73 were committed to a juvenile residential facility, 1 was sentenced to adult prison, and 34 received some other sentence. Long-term measurement of technical violations revealed that 181 youth who exited the program 6 to 12 months ago were tracked for technical violations. Of those, only 4 received some other sentence; 2 percent of the youth tracked had a technical violation.

Table 9. Technical Violation Measures: July–December 2014

Performance Measure	Youth	Percent
Youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	73	24
Youth sentenced to adult prison	1	<1
Youth who received some other sentence	34	11
Youth tracked for technical violations (short-term outcome)	307	
Total	108/307	35
Youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were committed to a juvenile residential facility	0	N/A
Youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were sentenced to adult prison	0	N/A
Youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and received some other sentence	4	2
Youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were tracked for technical violations (long-term outcome)	181	
Total	4/181	2

The percentage of technical violations (35 percent) for July–December 2014 is significantly low compared with previous reporting periods (Figure 3). However, in the July–December 2014 reporting period, there was a 47 percent spike in active federal awards compared with previous quarters. Due to the increase, there are new grantees who may not have tracked this measure yet or their program is still relatively new so they are not able to obtain enough information for the measure for this period.

Figure 3. Technical Violations (Short-Term): July 2012–December 2014



As shown in Table 10, of the 362 program youth who were tracked for adjudications, 37 (10 percent) were committed to a juvenile residential facility as a result of a new adjudication. In addition, 17 were given some other sentence. Long-term recidivism measures showed that 258 youth had exited the program 6 to 12 months ago and were tracked for new adjudications. Of those, 18 (7 percent) were recommitted to a juvenile residential facility and 5 (2 percent) were given some other sentence.

Table 10. Recidivism Measures as a Result of New Adjudication: July–December 2014

Performance Measure	Youth	Percent
Youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	19	5
Youth sentenced to adult prison	1	<1
Youth given some other sentence	17	5
Youth tracked for adjudications (short-term outcome)	362	
Total	37/362	10
Youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were recommitted to a juvenile residential facility	18	7
Youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were sentenced to adult prison	0	N/A
Youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were given some other sentence	5	2
Youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were tracked for new adjudications (long-term outcome)	258	
Total	23/258	9

Overall, the recidivism rate remained low, with a slight peak in the long-term percentage during the January–June 2013 reporting period, because one grantee reported a higher number of youth tracked—115 youth (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Recidivism Measures (Percent): July 2012–December 2014

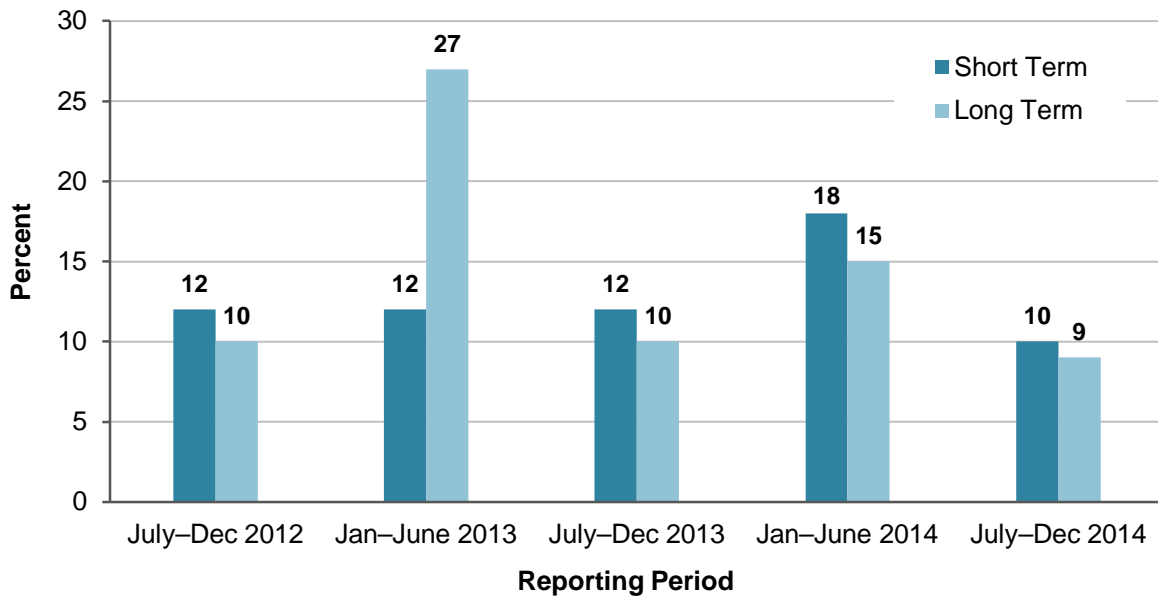


Table 11 compares the number of youth assessed as needing these and other services with the number enrolled in or obtaining such services. Substance-use services take the lead with 211 enrollments, followed by mental-health services with 136 enrollments. Because the Juvenile Drug Court Program requires youth to be younger than age 18 to obtain the services, housing services received the least number of referrals (15 youth), as most youth live at home with their parents/guardians.

Table 11. Types of Services Provided to Participants: July–December 2014

Performance Measure	Youth
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing substance use counseling/services	213
Youth <i>enrolled</i> in substance-use counseling/services	211
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing mental health services	154
Youth <i>enrolled</i> in mental health services	136
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing housing services	17
Youth who <i>successfully</i> found housing	15
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing other services	66
Youth <i>enrolled</i> in other services	58

3. Summary

The Juvenile Drug Court Program offers an alternative to incarceration for qualifying populations, typically nonviolent drug offenders. 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 2014 reporting period, 434 youth were served by 14 OJJDP-funded Juvenile Drug Court programs. In addition, 211 youth received substance-use services, 136 youth received mental-health services, and 58 youth received some other form of services. One hundred twenty-six youth exited the drug court program. Of those, 52 (41 percent) successfully exited by completing all program requirements. Ninety-seven 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.