

Overview of the PMT Data for Juvenile Drug Court Grantees: July–December 2017

The Juvenile Drug Court Program, administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), supports juvenile drug treatment courts (JDTCs) in implementing system changes, service delivery, and programming enhancements. A juvenile drug treatment court provides specialized treatment and services for youth with substance use or co-occurring mental health disorders. With the support of OJJDP, JDTCs represent a unique, treatment-oriented approach that uses community partners to engage young people with substance use disorders. JDTCs offer juveniles treatment, mental health, and social support services to help them recover from substance use and lead healthier lives.

Report Highlights

All grantees receiving Juvenile Drug Court grant funding are required to report data on their program activities into the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) on a semi-annual basis. This report presents an overview of the data reported by Juvenile Drug Court program grantees in the PMT for activities occurring during the July–December 2017 reporting period and is divided into two sections:

1. An examination of program information for Juvenile Drug Court program grantees.
2. An analysis of Juvenile Drug Court performance measures.

Key findings for the July–December 2017 reporting period include:

- Eighteen grantees served a total of 505 program youth, including 211 youth who were new admissions to the program.
- Ninety-eight percent of program youth were served using an evidence-based program or practice.
- Fifty-five percent of program youth who exited the program during the reporting period successfully completed all program requirements.
- Sixty-three percent of the program youth receiving services designed to improve a specific behavior, such as substance use or social competence, demonstrated a short-term¹ improvement in the targeted behavior area.
- In the short term, 14 percent of program youth had a technical violation and 11 percent of youth were adjudicated for a new offense.

¹ Short-term outcomes refer to benefits or changes that youth experience while enrolled in the program or 0 to 6 months after completing the program's requirements. Long-term outcomes are measured from 6 to 12 months after that participant completes program requirements.

1. Examination of Program Information

1.1 Reporting Compliance

Juvenile Drug Court grantees are required to report semi-annually for each federal award they receive. As table 1 illustrates, 20 grantees completed reporting requirements for the July–December 2017 reporting period, resulting in a compliance rate of 87 percent. Of the 20 grantees who completed their reporting requirements, only 18 reported that they were operational, meaning they expended grant funds and provided services during the July–December 2017 period.²

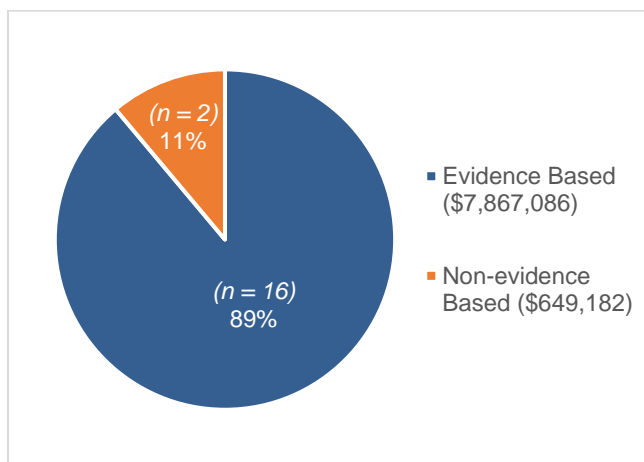
Table 1: Status of Grantee Reporting (July–December 2017)

Data Reporting Period	Status			Total
	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	
July–December 2017	2	1	20	23

1.2 Evidence-Based Programing

OJJDP strongly 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 prioritize evidence-based programs, grantees are asked to report on whether their programs are evidence-based. As shown in figure 1, of the 18 grantees active during the period, 89 percent implemented evidence-based practices with \$7.9 million in grant funding.

Figure 1: Grantees Implementing Evidence-Based Programs and/or Practices (July–December 2017)³



² Grantees that were not operational, or who did not complete their performance report, are excluded from further analysis in this report.

³ N = 18 grantees.

1.3 Funding Information

Table 2 shows a comprehensive comparison of the federal award amounts by state, with *N* representing the total number of grants during the reporting period.⁴ Based on current and active Juvenile Drug Court grants, Florida received the most funds with two awards totaling nearly \$1.7 million, which is 20 percent of the total Juvenile Drug Court funding during the period.

Table 2: Federal Award Amount by State (July–December 2017)⁵

State	<i>N</i>	Grant Amount	State	<i>N</i>	Grant Amount
FL	2	\$1,724,098	AR	1	\$400,000
CO	2	\$1,019,254	MA	1	\$400,000
VA	2	\$800,000	NE	1	\$400,000
OH	1	\$526,443	NY	1	\$400,000
MI	1	\$526,443	WV	1	\$400,000
WA	1	\$526,443	LA	1	\$249,182
OR	1	\$522,365	TX	1	\$222,040
GA	1	\$400,000	Total	18	\$8,516,268

1.4 Organization Type

Juvenile justice agencies and local government agencies made up the bulk of awards, each representing 33 percent of grantees in the July–December 2017 reporting period (table 3). Other government agencies represented 28 percent of Juvenile Drug Court awards during the period and tribal governments made up just 6 percent of awards during the period.

Table 3: Active Grants by Organization Type (July–December 2017)⁶

Implementing Organization Type	<i>N</i>	Percentage
Juvenile Justice	6	33%
Local Government Agency	6	33%
Other Government Agency	5	28%
Tribal Government	1	6%
Total	18	N/A

⁴ The amounts represent the grant program for the life of the award, regardless of when it was awarded, and these amounts do not account for how much funding has been spent during the reporting period.

⁵ *N* = 18 grantees.

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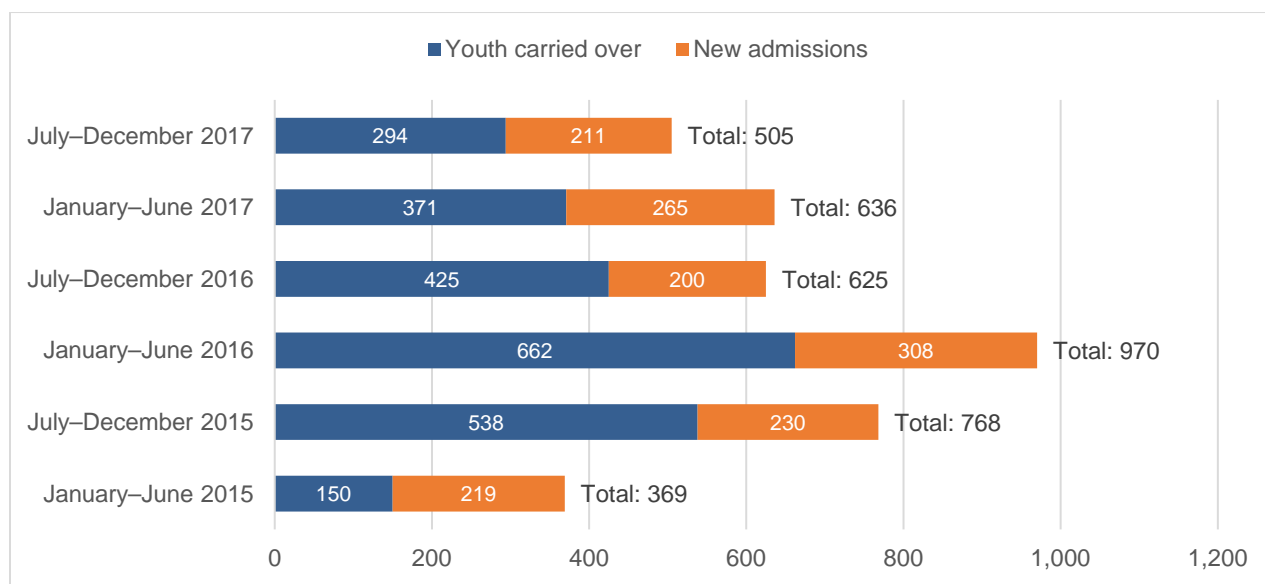
2. Analysis of Performance Measures

Grantees report on performance measures, which collect data on grantees’ activities and program outcomes. Performance measures help OJJDP determine whether the Juvenile Drug Court grant program has achieved its goals and objectives and may be used to improve program design and policy decisions at the federal level.

2.1 Youth Served

During the July–December 2017 reporting period, Juvenile Drug Court program grantees served 505 youth participants. Of the youth served this reporting period, 211 of the them (42 percent) were new admissions (figure 2) and 98 percent were served with an evidence-based program or practice.⁷ It is important to note that sometimes when a youth enters a program, the timing may not directly correlate to the 6-month reporting period. Therefore, some youth are carried over to the next reporting period.

Figure 2: Number of Program Youth Served (January 2015–December 2017)⁸



2.2 Youth Exiting the Program

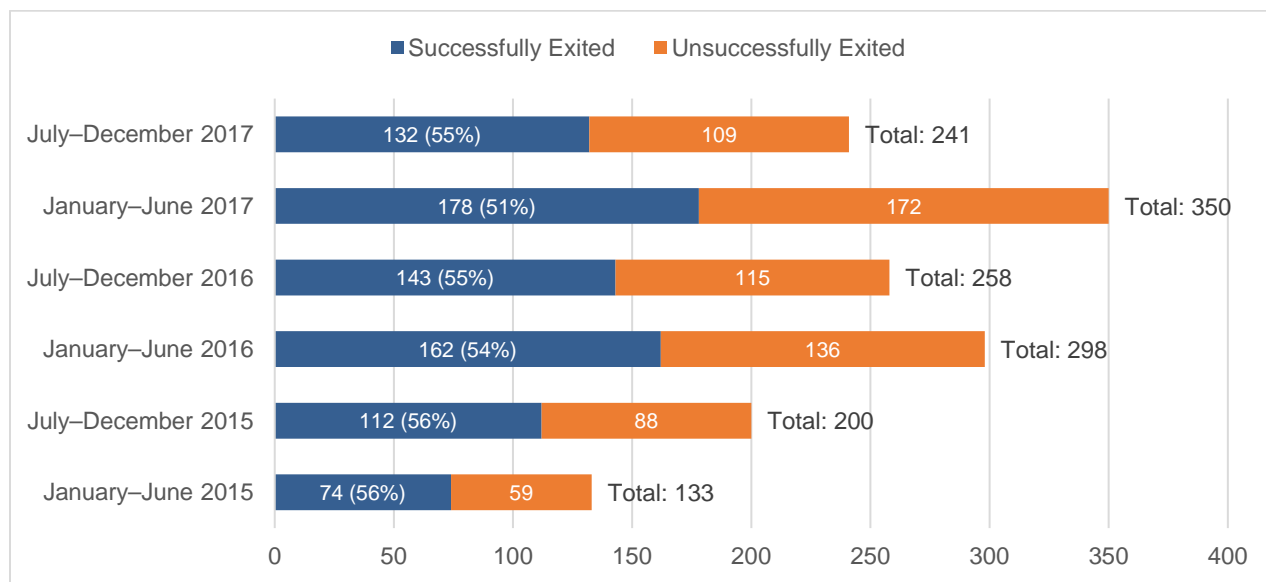
During the reporting period, 241 youth exited the program (figure 3). Of those who exited the program, more than half (55 percent), successfully exited the court having completed all requirements. “Successfully exited” youth are considered to be those individuals who have successfully fulfilled all program obligations and

⁷ Grantees reported 589 youth served using an evidence-based model or program out of 602 total youth served during the reporting period. This number for total youth served is inconsistent with the count of new admissions and youth carried over as it is reported separately.

⁸ 18 grantees reported on this measure during the July–December 2017 reporting period. Earlier reporting periods ranged between 13 and 20 grantees reporting on the measure.

requirements. Each grantee defines the requirements needed for a youth to complete its program. Youth who fail to follow through with the program, such as those who are expelled or leave voluntarily, are considered to have “unsuccessfully exited” the program.

Figure 3: Number of Program Youth Who Exited the Program (January 2015–December 2017)⁹



2.3 Target Behaviors

Programs using grant funds to provide direct services to youth are required to measure the program youths’ performance and track outcome data for certain target behaviors. A target behavior is one that a grantee has chosen to track for youth served by a program; it measures a “positive” change in a behavior such as school attendance, antisocial behavior, and community involvement. Table 4 lists short-term behavior outcomes for program youth. Target behaviors that did not have enough reported data were excluded from the analysis. Overall, 63 percent of the program youth demonstrated an intended change in target behaviors in the short-term. All youth receiving job services demonstrated improved job skills, and 91 percent of youth receiving services to improve school attendance reached the targeted behavior. Although substance use is the most focused treatment for drug court programs and has the most youth served ($n = 352$), youth were less likely to demonstrate an intended behavior change (53 percent) when compared with other target behaviors.

⁹ 18 grantees reported on this measure during the July–December 2017 reporting period. Earlier reporting periods ranged between 13 and 20 grantees reporting on the measure.

Table 4: Target Behaviors, Short-term (July–December 2017)¹⁰

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Intended Behavior Change	Percentage of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Job Skills	26	26	100%
School Attendance	96	87	91%
Social Competence	107	95	89%
Family Relationships	57	48	84%
Antisocial Behavior	59	37	63%
Substance Use	352	187	53%
Employment Status	82	7	9%
Total	779	487	63%

Table 5 presents long-term behavior outcome data for youth. Overall, 56 percent of program youth tracked for 6–12 months after program completion exhibited a long-term positive behavior change. Similar to short-term findings, all youth who received services to improve job skills demonstrated a positive change for those target behaviors, and although substance abuse services were provided to the largest number of youth, youth were less likely to demonstrate an intended substance abuse behavior change (43 percent) when compared with other target behaviors. Finally, 91 percent of youth served for social competence showed an improvement in social skills.

Table 5: Target Behaviors, Long-term (July–December 2017)¹¹

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Intended Behavior Change	Percentage of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Job Skills	17	17	100%
Social Competence	34	31	91%
School Attendance	30	26	87%
Family Relationships	43	32	74%
Antisocial Behavior	52	31	60%
Substance Use	287	122	43%
Employment Status	27	11	41%
Total	490	270	56%

¹⁰ Number of grantees reporting on this measure varies from 14 grantees reporting on substance use behavior to 3 grantees reporting on job skills and employment status.

¹¹ Number of grantees reporting on this measure varies from 13 grantees reporting on substance use to 3 grantees reporting on school attendance, job skills, and employment status.

2.4 Program Youth Offenses

Grantees also reported on the number of program youth who experienced a technical violation during the reporting period, or the number of program youth who had a violation of the terms of their supervision. An example of a technical violation is failure to pass an alcohol or drug test, which is often required of youth as part of their supervision in drug court programs. In the short-term, 495 youth were tracked for technical violations (table 6). Overall, 14 percent of tracked youth experienced a technical violation in the short-term, including 59 youth committed to a juvenile residential facility.

Table 6: Number of Youth Adjudicated for Technical Violations, Short-term (July–December 2017)¹²

Performance Measure	Youth	Percentage
Youth tracked for technical violations (short-term outcome)	495	
Youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	59	12%
Youth sentenced to adult prison	0	0%
Youth who received some other sentence	11	2%
Total Technical Violations, Short-term	70	14%

In the long-term, 7 percent of youth tracked had a technical violation within 6–12 months after program completion, including 13 youth who were sentenced to a juvenile residential facility (table 7). The number of long-term technical violations may be low due to difficulties with tracking youth who have left the program.

Table 7.: Number of Youth Adjudicated for Technical Violations, Long-term (July–December 2017)¹³

Performance Measure	Youth	Percentage
Youth tracked for technical violations (long-term outcome)	253	
Youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	13	5%
Youth sentenced to adult prison	2	1%
Youth received some other sentence	2	1%
Total Technical Violations, Long-term	17	7%

2.5 Program Youth Recidivism

In addition to technical violations, grantees reported on the number of youth adjudicated for a new delinquent offense during the reporting period. In the short-term, 487 youth were tracked for a new delinquent offense (table 8). Overall, 11 percent of program youth tracked experienced an adjudication for a new delinquent

¹² 14 grantees reported on this measure.

¹³ 10 grantees reported on this measure.

offense in the short-term, including 34 youth recommitted to a juvenile residential facility and 20 youth receiving some other sentence.

Table 8: Number of Youth Adjudicated for a New Delinquent Offense, Short-term (July–December 2017)¹⁴

Performance Measure	Youth	Percentage
Youth tracked for adjudications (short term outcome)	487	
Youth recommitted to a juvenile residential facility	34	7%
Youth sentenced to adult prison	1	<1%
Youth who received some other sentence	20	4%
Total New Adjudications, Short-term	55	11%

In the long-term, 7 percent of youth tracked experienced a new adjudication within 6–12 months after completing the program, including 10 youth committed to a juvenile residential facility (table 9). Similar to technical violations, difficulties tracking youth after they have left the program may affect grantees ability to accurately report data.

Table 9: Number of Youth Adjudicated for a New Delinquent Offense, Long-term (July–December 2017)¹⁵

Performance Measure	Youth	Percentage
Youth tracked for new adjudications (long term outcome)	245	
Youth recommitted to a juvenile residential facility	10	4%
Youth sentenced to adult prison	2	<1%
Youth received some other sentence	5	2%
Total New Adjudications, Long-term	17	7%

2.6 Services Provided to Program Youth

Table 10 compares the number of youth in need of services with the number of youth receiving services. The central goal of drug court programs is to improve substance use treatment services for youth, so it is not surprising that the majority of youth in need of substance use counseling services were receiving such services (93 percent). Although 147 youth were assessed as needing mental health services, 59 percent of youth were actually receiving needed mental health services. Just 24 youth were assessed as needing housing with 93 percent receiving housing. Since program youth are under the age of 18 they are more likely to live at home with their parents or guardians, which may account for the low number of youth in need of housing. Other services, including educational services, social skills building, and cultural skills building were provided to 274 youth during the reporting period.

¹⁴ 17 grantees reported on this measure.

¹⁵ Nine grantees reported on this measure.

Table 10: Types of Services Provided to Youth (July–December 2017)¹⁶

Performance Measure	Youth	Percent
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing substance use counseling/services	312	N/A
Youth <i>enrolled</i> in substance use counseling/services	291	93%
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing mental health services	147	N/A
Youth <i>enrolled</i> in mental health services	86	59%
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing housing services	24	N/A
Youth who <i>successfully</i> found housing	22	92%
Youth <i>assessed</i> as needing other services	363	N/A
Youth <i>enrolled</i> in other services	274	75%

Summary

Juvenile drug courts serve as a judicially supervised court system intended to strike a balance between protecting community safety and improving the health and wellbeing of juveniles. During the July–December 2017 reporting period, 508 youth were served by OJJDP-funded Juvenile Drug Court programs, and 98 percent of youth were served with an evidence-based program or practice. Of the 244 youth who exited the Juvenile Drug Court programs, more than half (55 percent) successfully exited by completing all program requirements. The number of youth successfully exiting the program has remained consistent across previous reporting periods. Of those services in which youth were enrolled, most received substance use services followed by mental health services. Despite most youth assessed as needing substance use services and being enrolled in these services, youth were less likely to demonstrate an intended behavior change in both the short-term (54 percent) and long-term (43 percent) when compared with other target behaviors, including job skills. Of the program youth tracked for a technical violation, 14 percent had such a violation in the short-term and 7 percent in the long-term. Of youth tracked for an adjudication for a new offense, 11 percent recidivated in the short-term and 7 percent recidivated in the long-term.

¹⁶ Number of grantees reporting on this measure ranged from 18 reporting substance use counseling services to four grantees reporting housing services.