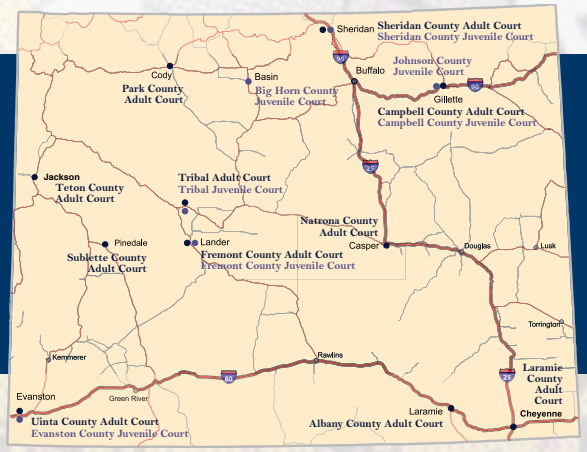
WYOMING DRUG COURT PERFORMANCE MEASURES PROJECT

Why do we need to measure Wyoming's drug court performance? If you cannot measure an activity performed by a drug court you cannot influence or control it. If you cannot control or influence it, you cannot manage it. Without dependable measurements, intelligent decisions cannot be made.

Participating Wyoming Drug Court Locations



The focus of performance measurement is on measures of stated objectives called "outcomes."[1] The basic concept of performance measurement involves three steps:

1. Planning and meeting established operating goals/standards for intended outcomes.
2. Detecting deviations from planned levels of performance.
3. Restoring performance to the planned levels or achieving new levels of performance.

Wyoming has adopted four performance measure areas for its drug courts: Retention; Sobriety; In-Program Recidivism; and Units of Service.[2,3]

METHODOLOGY

NCSC designed a web-based data collection instrument to collect demographic and performance measure data for Wyoming drug courts. Individual drug courts performed the data entry for every person participating in their respective drug courts during the time period of January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005. NCSC examined and "cleaned" the data of inconsistencies and obvious errors. Finally, NCSC analyzed the data to ascertain the demographic makeup of Wyoming's drug court participants and the performance of Wyoming's drug courts on key measures including retention, in-program recidivism, sobriety, and units of service.

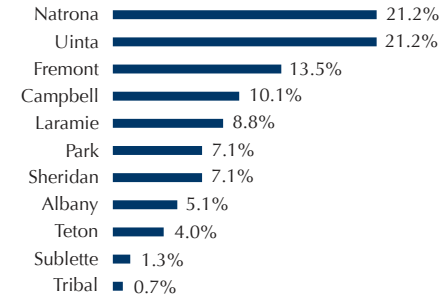
[1] Cheesman, F., Rubio, D., and VanDuizend, R. (2004). Developing statewide performance measures for drug courts. *Statewide Technical Assistance Bulletin*, *2*, 1-8.

[2] These performance measures are consistent with the recommendation of the National Research Advisory Committee. The National Drug Court Institute, with funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, assembled a group of leading scholars and researchers that became known as the National Research Advisory Committee (NRAC). NRAC provides guidance to the field on drug court evaluation and performance measurement.

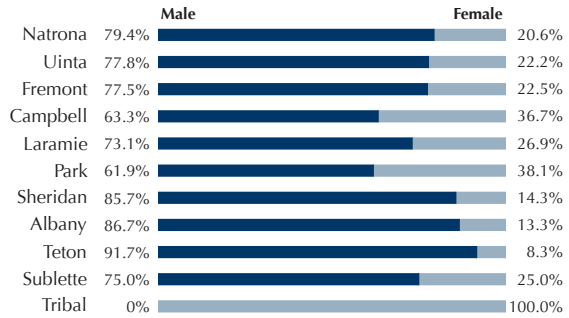
[3] Heck, C. (2006). *Local Drug Court Research: Navigating Performance Measures and Process Evaluations.* Washington DC: National Drug Court Institute.

• **Demographics** include court locations, gender, drug of choice, and referral offense.

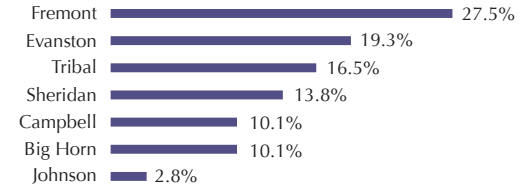
Percent of Cases by Court Location • Adults



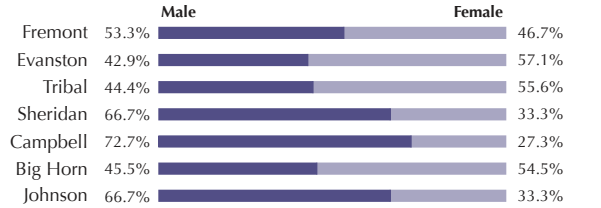
Percent of Cases by Court Location and Gender • Adults



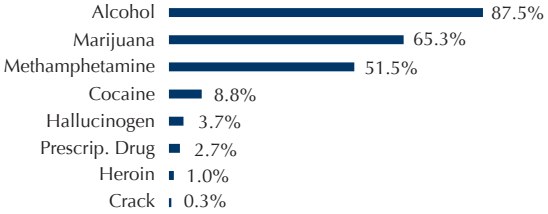
Percent of Cases by Court Location • Juveniles



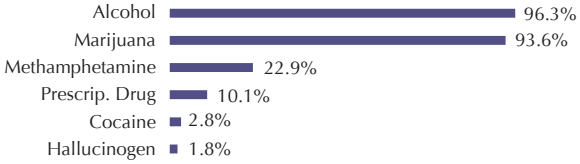
Percent of Cases by Court Location and Gender • Juveniles



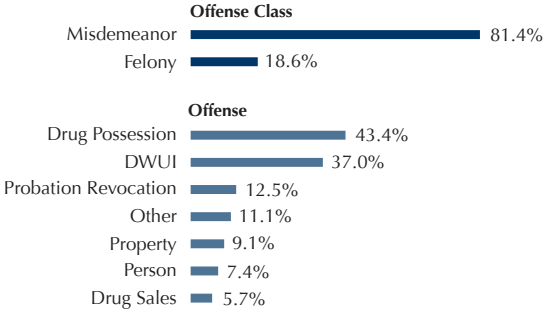
Percent of Participants Reporting Drug Use • Adults



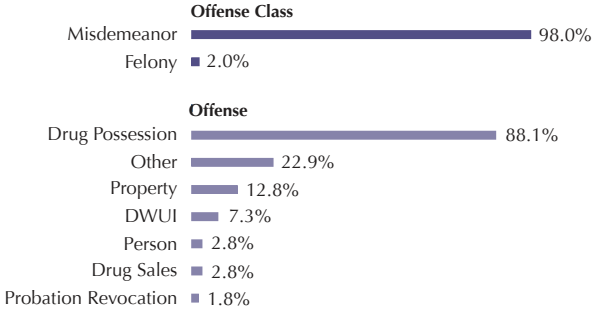
Percent of Participants Reporting Drug Use • Juveniles



Percent of Participants Reporting Each as a Referral Offense* • Adult



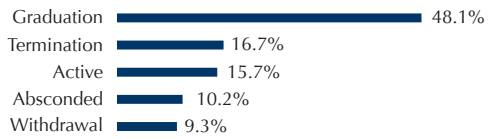
Percent of Participants Reporting Each as a Referral Offense* • Juveniles



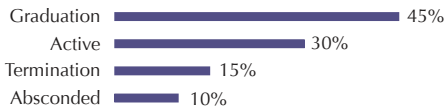
** Participants could have been referred for up to three offenses.*

• **Retention** is measured by graduation and termination rates and length-of-stay in the drug court program.

Status of Admissions • Adults



Status of Admissions • Juveniles

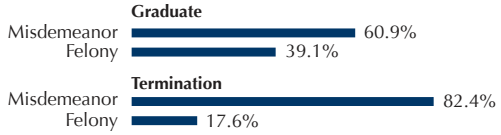


• **In-Program Recidivism** refers to the number and percentage of arrests while participating in the drug court program.

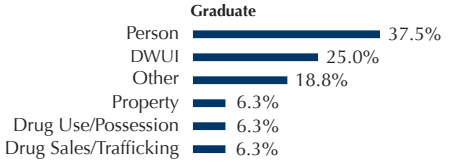
Percentage Rearrested (Terminated vs. Graduated) • Adults

Percentage Rearrested (Terminated vs. Graduated) • Juveniles

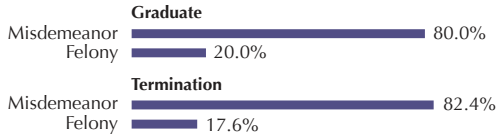
If Rearrested, Offense Class • Adults

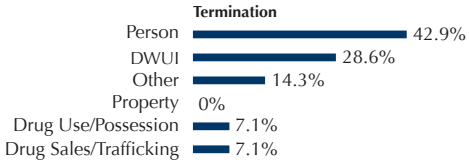


If Rearrested, Offense Type • Adults



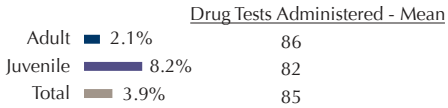
If Rearrested, Offense Class • Juveniles



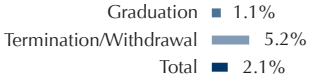


• **Sobriety** is examined by the percentage of drug tests failed and the period of longest continuous sobriety.

Percent Positive Drug Test



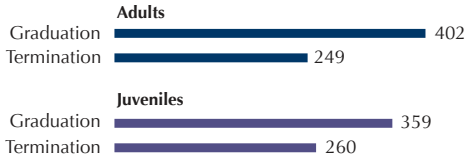
Percent Positive Drug Test • Adults



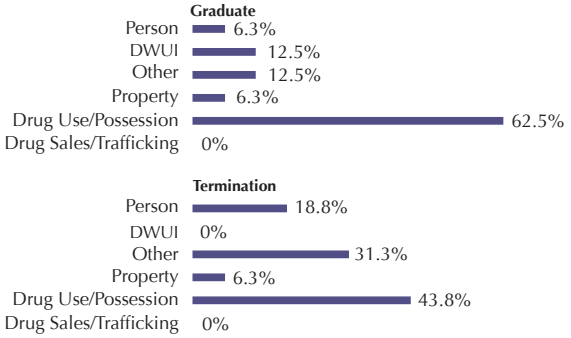
Mean Number of Days of Continuous Sobriety

Mean Number of Days of Continuous Sobriety • Adults

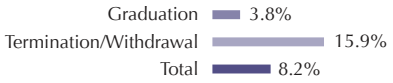
Retention Rates - Mean Days in Program



If Rearrested, Offense Type • Juveniles



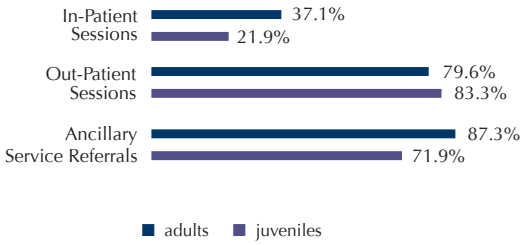
Percent Positive Drug Test • Juveniles



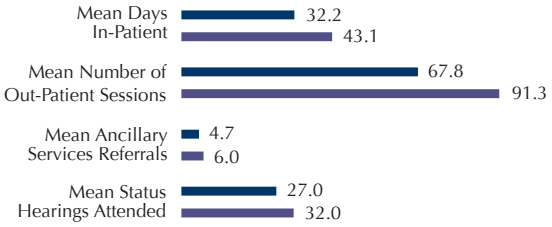
Mean Number of Days of Continuous Sobriety • Juveniles

• Units of Service provide a measure of the dosage of addiction-related treatment and ancillary services. [4]

Percent receiving the following services . . .



Mean number of days of service for those receiving service



[4] Ancillary services are non-addiction-related services that address other "criminogenic" needs of drug court participants (e.g., vocational training and medical treatment). To assess ancillary services dosage, the number of referrals were reported.

The Excel icons link to court location data in the online version of this report, available at: www.ncsconline.org/D_Consult.

PROFILING WYOMING DRUG COURT PARTICIPANTS

- The following describes typical drug court participants in Wyoming. The profile covers those active in a drug court program from January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005.

ADULTS PARTICIPANTS

- Were most likely male (76%)
- Were roughly 29 years of age at the time of admission
- Averaged 439 days from program admission to exit
- Much more likely to be Caucasian (90%)
- Had a 58% high school or GED completion rate
- Were likely to be employed (65%) and single (64%)
- Had received prior substance abuse treatment (65%)
- Had been arrested no more than 2 times in the prior year (63%)
- Most likely referred to drug court for a drug possession charge (43%)
- Stated alcohol (88%), marijuana (65%) and methamphetamines (52%) as their primary drugs of choice

JUVENILES PARTICIPANTS

- Could be male (53%) or female (47%)
- Were roughly 15½ years old at time of admission
- Averaged 389 days from program admission to exit
- More likely to be Caucasian (62%) than Native-American (35%)
- Likely to be between the 9th and 11th grades in school (76%)
- Had not received prior substance abuse treatment (73%)
- Had been arrested no more than 2 times in the prior year (63%)
- Most likely referred to drug court for a drug possession charge (88%)
- Stated alcohol (96%), marijuana (94%), and methamphetamine (23%) as their primary drugs of choice

The Wyoming Drug Court Performance Measures Project is the result of collaboration between the Court Consulting Division and the Research Division of the National Center for State Courts.

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The National Center for State Courts

This document has been prepared under an agreement between the Wyoming Department of Health and the National Center for State Courts. The points of view and opinions offered are those of the project consultants and researchers and do not necessarily represent the official policies or position of the Wyoming Department of Health or the National Center for State Courts.

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