

Highlights of the 2010 FIST Drug Court Outcome Evaluation

This study compared the outcomes of non-violent drug offenders who completed one of three types of programs: probation alone (Straight Probation in Tract 3); a program of education, drug treatment & probation in Tract 1 (Prevention Plus); and the FIST Drug Court program which includes education, drug treatment, probation & judicial supervision).

Outcomes

Most of the sample was not re-arrested in the first six months after the initial eligible drug court arrest (79%).

During the 6-12 months after the initial eligible drug court arrest, 79% of the total sample was rearrested.

For all persons in the sample, during the first year after the initial eligible drug court arrest, most re-arrests were drug related.

Drug Court Completers V. Straight Probation/Tract 3 Completers

Straight probationers are nearly 6 times more likely to be re-arrested within the first six months than are Drug Court completers (28.3% v. 5.4%). Straight probationers are nearly 8 times more likely to recidivate a drug crime than are Drug Court completers. Likewise, straight probationers are 3 times more likely to recidivate with a violent crime than are Drug Court completers within this time period.

Drug Court Completers V. Prevention Plus/Tract 1 Completers

Within First 6 Months of program completion, Prevention Plus completers are nearly 5 times more likely to recidivate with a drug crime than are Drug Court completers. When we look at crimes of any type we find, Prevention Plus completers are twice as likely to be re-arrested within the first six months than are Drug Court completers (10.9% v. 5.4%).

At 12 plus months, more completers of Prevention Plus are re-arrested for drug crimes than are Drug Court completers (37% v. 20%), and completers of Prevention Plus are significantly more likely to be re-arrested for violent crimes than are Drug Court Completers at this time (25% v. 12%).

At 12 plus months, those participants who complete Drug Court are significantly less likely (30% v. 52%) to be rearrested after 12 months, especially for drug crimes and violent crimes than are those participants who complete Tract 1.

In sum, then, Drug Court completers have a better recidivism rate at all times and for all crimes, especially drug and violent crimes in comparison to both groups of eligible and suitable persons who were offered and refused drug court during the period studied. These other groups, Prevention Plus and Straight Probation, are interesting comparisons and Prevention Plus which offers some prevention education and seems to have a better rate of recidivism than does the Straight Probation which offers no prevention education and which has the worst rate of recidivism. When the FIST Drug Court was modified to include Moral Reconciliation Therapy there was a 14% improvement in the rate of recidivism.