

Benton County Drug Treatment Court



Outcome Evaluation

Produced by:

**Oregon Judicial Department
Office of the State Court Administrator
Court Programs and Services Division**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is the outcome evaluation section of the two-part process and outcome evaluation of the Benton County Drug Treatment Court (BCDTC). The Oregon Judicial Department's (OJD) Court Programs and Services Division (CPSD) conducted the outcome evaluation between May 2004 and March 2005.

The BCDTC began as a pilot project in November 2001 after nearly two years of planning and team building. The program was awarded an implementation grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in October 2002 and a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant in June 2003.

The outcome evaluation assessed if, and to what extent, the program achieved its long term goals, objectives, and performance measures.

Benton County Drug Treatment Court Goals: <input type="checkbox"/> Improve Lives <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce Crime <input type="checkbox"/> Promote a Healthy, Safe Community		
Objective	Status	Measures
Increase adult education	71.4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of adults without a high school diploma or GED who complete education programs or skills training before graduation.
Increase adult employment	600% 71%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percent change in the number of adults employed between the time of entry into the drug treatment court and one-year post graduation. •Percent of participants obtaining/maintaining/improving employment while in drug treatment court.
Increase adult wage rate	500% 403%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percent change in adult wages between entry in the drug treatment court and one-year following graduation. •Percent change in income during time in the drug treatment court.
Increase adult housing stability	79%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percent of participants' living conditions that improve between program entry and post-participation follow-up.
Reduce adult criminal recidivism	-87% 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percent change in the number of adult criminal charges between one year prior to entry in the drug treatment court and one-year following participation/graduation. •Number of charges in the one-year following graduation from the drug treatment court.
Reduce adult substance abuse	83%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percent of adults who complete at least two-thirds of their treatment plans and who are not abusing alcohol or other drugs at separation from the program.

INCREASE ADULT EDUCATION

Seven of the 28 BCDTC participants did not have a high school diploma or GED prior to entry in the BCDTC. Five of seven graduates (71.4%) who lacked high school diplomas or GEDs earned their GEDs while participating in the program. The staffing team waived the GED requirement for two of the graduates based on cognitive assessments.

INCREASE ADULT EMPLOYMENT

Eight of the 14 separated participants responding to the evaluators' follow-up survey had been separated from the program for one year. One of the eight was employed at the time of program entry. Seven of the eight (four graduated, four terminated) reported that they were currently employed. This represents a 600 percent increase in the number of adults employed between program entry and the follow-up survey for the eight separated participants. Thirty-nine of the 55 (71%) survey respondents reported that they either obtained, maintained, or improved their employment while participating in the BCDTC.

INCREASE ADULT WAGE RATE

The eight participants separated for one year or more reported average wages of \$1,679/month. These participants' average wage at the time of entry was \$280/month. This represents a 500 percent increase in the average wage of the eight responding participants who have been separated from the program for more than a year. There was a 403 percent increase in the average wage of the 55 survey respondents. At program entry only 15 percent (8/55) were employed. At the time of the survey, 64 percent (35/55) of respondents were employed.

INCREASE ADULT HOUSING STABILITY

Seventy-nine percent (11/14) of separated participants who returned surveys indicated that their living conditions improved between program entry and at the time of the participant follow-up survey. Sixty-six percent (27/41) of active participants reported that their living conditions have improved while in the program. Sixty-nine percent (38/55) of all survey respondents indicated their living conditions have improved.

REDUCE ADULT CRIMINAL RECIDIVISM

Criminal recidivism data obtained through OJIN data queries demonstrated an 87 percent reduction in the number of criminal charges in the one year prior to program entry and one year following participation. Fifty-nine participants had a total of 215 criminal charges in the one year before they entered the BCDTC. Eight participants accumulated 27 charges within one year of separating from the program. Ten of these charges resulted from criminal activity by two of the 28 BCDTC graduates. The 17 other charges related to criminal activity of participants terminated from the program.

REDUCE ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Eight-three percent (24/29) percent of the participants who completed at least two thirds of their treatment plans were not abusing alcohol or other drugs at program separation. Thirty-nine (39) BCDTC participants completed Phases I and II and progressed to Phase III. Ten of the 39 are still active participants. Of the 29 participants who separated from the program, 24 had no

positive UAs during their participation in Phase III of the program. Of the five participants who had one or more positive uranalysis test results during Phase III, four graduated, and one terminated from the program.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this report are promising. The BCDTC increases the likelihood that Benton County is a healthy, safe community with reduced recidivism through the improved lives of its participants. The program worked diligently to retain 86 percent (76/88) of participants at one year following program entry. The reduction in criminal charges and probation violations between the year before program entry and the year following are directly attributed to the program requirements and the intense monitoring and supervision of participants.

In addition to reduced recidivism, the lives of participants are improved. Direct program results are increased educational level, employment, and improved living conditions of participants. Participants who lack a GED at the time of program entry complete one before graduating. Unemployed participants start looking for work early and begin making contributions to their community. Participants who reported that they lived on the streets or “crashed” at friends’ homes become self sufficient and acquired stable housing. The data suggests that several BCDTC participants learned the skills and techniques necessary for living productive lives in recovery.

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INTRODUCTION AND PROCESS EVALUATION FOLLOW-UP:

This report is the outcome evaluation section of the two-part process and outcome evaluation of the Benton County Drug Treatment Court (BCDTC). The Oregon Judicial Department's (OJD) Court Programs and Services Division (CPSD) conducted the outcome evaluation between May 2004 and March 2005.

The BCDTC began as a pilot program in November 2001 after nearly two years of planning and team building. The program was awarded an implementation grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in October 2002 and a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant in June 2003.

The *Benton County Drug Treatment Court Process Evaluation*, completed in March 2004, found that the BCDTC is operating within the framework of the **Drug Court 10 Key Components** developed by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. The report concluded:

“The BCDTC works because it takes an individually based cognitive skills learning approach. By placing individual emphasis on each participant, treatment plans are developed that provide participants with the specific help they need to fight their addictions. The team is held together by a highly motivated judge. The program, however, would not operate if the entire team was not dedicated to the success of the program and the individual participants... The program has worked diligently to retain participants.” (BCDTC Process Evaluation, p. 42)

The BCDTC Process Evaluation resulted in 15 recommendations which are included as Appendix # 1. As of the writing of this report, the BCDTC made significant program changes in seven recommendations related to law enforcement, ethical considerations, and database utilization. Below are brief descriptions of local efforts in these areas.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

BCDTC Process Evaluation Recommendation 1-1: BCDTC should continue to invite law enforcement agencies to planning and staffing meetings.

- ◆ The BCDTC is working to recruit permanent law enforcement program participation. The Benton County Sheriff and a Corvallis police lieutenant joined the staffing team following invitations and education.
- ◆ The BCDTC is exploring additional ways to involve local law enforcement. Participants on abscond status are identified at law enforcement briefings. Arresting officers are invited to attend graduation ceremonies. A plan is under development to utilize law enforcement for evening and weekend monitoring.
- ◆ The Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) provided a law enforcement representative who participated in the planning efforts for the emerging Benton

County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court (BCJDTC).

BCDTC Process Evaluation Recommendation 10-1: The BCDTC should continue to focus on educating local law enforcement about the benefits of the BCDTC.

- ◆ Presiding Judge Janet Holcomb facilitated several cross-training sessions with the BCSO and Benton County Community Correction (BCCC).

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

BCDTC Process Evaluation Recommendation 2-2 (and 7-1): All team members should have training on the content of the Oregon Code of Judicial Conduct that may impact the drug court judge, as well as rules for attorneys and treatment staff.

- ◆ Ethical considerations are important to the BCDTC. In November 2004, the staffing team participated in training and technical assistance on the ethical considerations of treatment courts. SAMHSA provided the trainer, Darryl Turpin, a national expert in program design and ethics.
- ◆ The staffing team committed to reviewing together the “Ethical Considerations for Judges and Attorneys in Drug Court.” This may be an agenda item in an upcoming retreat.

DATABASE UTILIZATION:

BCDTC Process Evaluation Recommendation 3-1: The BCDTC team should track the number of participants who are eligible but not admitted to the program.

- ◆ The staffing team developed and implemented a new process for reviewing eligible participants. As a result, support staff can add to the Oregon Drug Court Management System (ODCMS) the names of all individuals who are eligible for the program.

BCDTC Process Evaluation Recommendation 4-2 (and 8-2): The ODCMS has a remote application designed for treatment providers and case managers to record specific data for each participant. Now that the case manager is located at the treatment center, the use of this portion of the ODCMS application should begin.

- ◆ In November 2004, Benton County Mental Health (BCMh) began providing treatment services for the BCDTC. In February 2005, the evaluators worked with the BCDTC coordinator and BCMh to implement the ODCMS’ offsite data entry capabilities.
- ◆ BCMh currently provides a weekly export of treatment information including attendance and UA records that populate a new weekly report used for staffing meetings.

- ◆ Since the remote ODCMS data entry version is installed on the Benton County server, Community Corrections can access this version to provide attendance records for participant check-ins and home visits.

BCDTC Process Evaluation Recommendation 8-1. Data entry will have to become a priority of the team in order for the evaluators to report on program objectives and outcomes. Data for employment, wage, and housing information needs to be updated in the ODCMS. The team needs to develop a policy for receiving this information on a regular basis. Additionally, it is imperative to record participants' UA information and program referral in the ODCMS.

- ◆ The program hired a limited duration, part-time data entry assistant.
- ◆ The coordinator developed and implemented a monthly survey to capture education, employment, and housing changes on each participant.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY:

The evaluators designed the outcome evaluation to measure the extent to which the program achieved its long term goals, objectives, and performance measures. A variety of resources and techniques were used to collect the information necessary for the evaluation.

Resources used:

- ◆ Benton County's Oregon Drug Court Management System (ODCMS),
- ◆ The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) database, and
- ◆ The Oregon Judicial Information Network (OJIN).

Techniques used:

- ◆ Distributed two questionnaires -- one for all current participants, and the other for all people separated from the program,
- ◆ Conducted one focus group for BCDTC graduates, and
- ◆ Established a comparison group with characteristics similar to the 20 BCDTC participants who have been separated from the program for at least one year.

This section of the report describes how the evaluators used each of the resources and techniques.

ODCMS

The ODCMS was developed by the OJD through BJA Grant # 2000-DC-VX-0090. The database is used as the case management and data depository for 19 of Oregon's 28 treatment courts. BCDTC began using the ODCMS with its first participants. The database includes information on urine sample collections and results, scheduled appointments, court appearances, sanctions, phase progress, referrals, and additional data elements as they relate to participation in the BCDTC. The evaluators used the ODCMS to capture participant information including: names, program dates, education, drug screening, and the individual achievements of all BCDTC participants.

GPRA:

As a requirement of their 2003 SAMHSA grant, BCDTC surveyed participants and entered the data on the CSAT's GPRA website. BCDTC provided the evaluators with BCDTC's GPRA website login and password allowing the evaluators to download reported data elements. A complete list of GPRA data elements is provided in Appendix # 2. The GPRA data provided additional insight related to the education, employment, and housing of BCDTC participants. Data was available for 69 of the 88 participants who entered the program before 12/31/2004. GPRA data is not available for the 19 participants who separated from the program prior to the commencement of the GPRA surveys.

OJIN:

The evaluators used the Oregon Judicial Information Network (OJIN) to identify misdemeanor and felony charges and convictions for BCDTC participants. The evaluators collected statewide data using OJIN queries that matched the names, date of birth, social security, drivers license, state identification, and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) numbers. In addition, the

evaluators used OJIN to identify potential candidates for the comparison group for the outcome evaluation. (For further information, see the comparison group discussion below.)

QUESTIONNAIRES:

BCDTC employment and housing data was incomplete in both the ODCMS and GPRA data sets. To address this, the evaluators developed two questionnaires that were administered to current and separated participants during February 2005. The surveys were designed to collect missing information on skill-based program participation, employment, and housing. Each survey also included a space for participants to provide comments on the BCDTC program. The BCDTC coordinator personally distributed surveys to the 41 current participants who attended BCDTC during the month of February, resulting in 100 percent response rate. The evaluators distributed follow-up surveys to the 49 separated participants in person at the graduate focus group, by mail, by e-mail, and through Benton and Linn County Community Corrections for those terminated participants currently under supervision. Fourteen separated participants returned surveys to the evaluators; this represents a 29 percent response rate. Eight of the 14 separated participants had been separated from the program for more than a year and included four graduates and four terminated participants. Copies of the existing and separated participant questionnaires are included in Appendix # 3.

GRADUATE FOCUS GROUP:

BCDTC graduates were invited to an evening focus group on February 2, 2005. The evaluators made several attempts to contact graduates by phone, mail, and e-mail correspondence. Twenty-two¹ of the then 23² graduates were invited to participate. Although ten graduates confirmed attendance, only four graduates participated in the focus group. The evaluators prepared focus group questions to elicit the graduates' perceptions of the program; the questions are included in Appendix #4.

COMPARISON GROUP:

Twenty participants have been separated from the BCDTC for one year or more. Of the 20, nine graduated, ten were terminated, and one died. A comparison group was randomly selected through a quasi-experimental design based on characteristics of the 20 separated participants. The comparison group was selected from Benton County individuals who during the year 2000 had a probation violation associated with an existing possession of a controlled substance conviction. The year 2000 was selected because it is the year before the BCDTC program started. The evaluators used OJIN queries to identify misdemeanor (MI) and felony (FE) convictions in an Oregon Circuit Court for the entire pool.

The evaluators randomly sorted the pool and provided the Benton County District Attorney (DA) with the names and criminal histories of the first 35. Interestingly the names of three individuals who later became BCDTC participants were found in the first 38 records. However the

¹One graduate requested not to be contacted.

²Five additional participant graduated on March 2, 2005.

evaluators did not include them in the list provided to the DA because they could not be used in the comparison group. The DA screened 34 names before finding 20 individuals who would have been eligible to participate in the BCDTC. The DA rejected the names of individuals with criminal histories that included convictions for person-based crimes and delivery or manufacturing of a controlled substance. Additionally, the DA excluded all names that scored between “A” and “D” on the A-I scale of the Oregon Sentencing Guidelines. An individual with the score of E represents an individual whose criminal history includes four or more adult convictions for non-person felonies but no adult conviction or juvenile adjudication for a person felony. A guide to Oregon’s Sentencing Guidelines is included in Appendix # 5 of this report.

The table below shows characteristics of the separated participants and comparison group.

Participant and Comparison Group Demographics		
	Separated Participants (N=20)	Comparison Group (n=20)
Average Age at Entry	34.5 years	30.9 years
Race/Ethnicity	Caucasian 20 ³	Caucasian 18, Black 1, Hispanic 1
Gender	7 Female 13 Male	5 Female 15 Male
Average Number of MI or FE Convictions Prior to Program Entry	4.2 Convictions	3.2 Convictions
Average Number of Drug Related MI or FE Convictions Prior to Program Entry	1.5 Convictions	1 Conviction

Benton County Community Corrections (BCCC) provided the evaluators with aggregate data on urine sample collection, urinalysis results, and employment information for 19 of the 20 individuals in the comparison group.

³As recorded on the individual’s drivers license.

STUDY DESIGN:

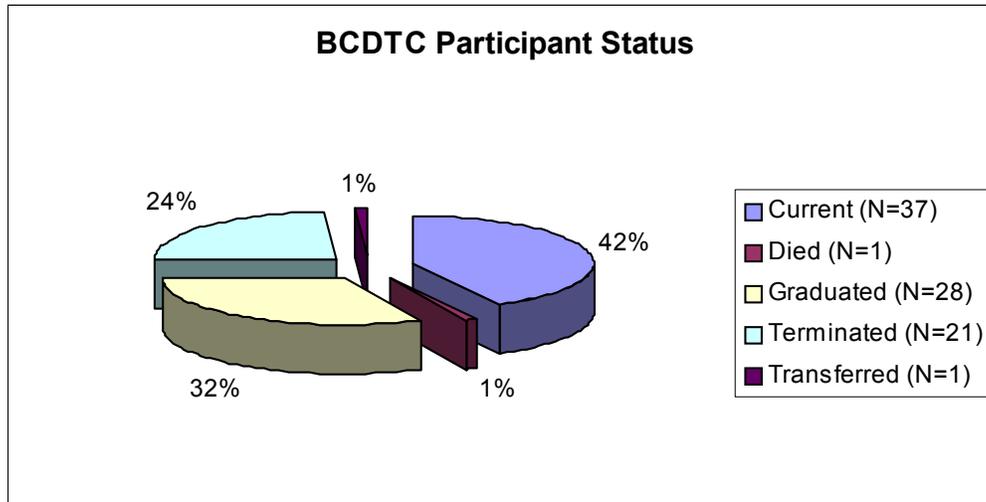
The outcome evaluation assessed if, and to what extent, the program achieved its long term goals, objectives, and performance measures.

Benton County Drug Treatment Court Goals: □ Improve Lives □ Reduce Crime □ Promote a Healthy, Safe Community	
Objective	Measures
Increase adult education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of adults without a high school diploma or GED who complete educational programs or skills training before graduation.
Increase adult employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percent change in the number of adults employed between the time of entry into the drug treatment court and one-year post graduation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percent of participants obtaining/improving employment while in drug treatment court.
Increase adult wage rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percent change in adult wages between entry in the drug treatment court and one-year following graduation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percent change in income during time in the drug treatment court.
Increase adult housing stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percent of participant’s living conditions that improve between program entry and at post-participation follow-up.
Reduce adult criminal recidivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percent change in the number of adult criminal charges between one year prior to entry in the drug treatment court and one-year following participation/graduation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Number of charges in the one-year following graduation from the drug treatment court.
Reduce adult substance abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percent of adults who complete at least two-thirds of their treatment plans and who are not abusing alcohol or other drugs at separation from the program.

Between November 2001 and December 2004, the BCDTC served 88 participants. An additional nine participants entered the BCDTC in the first three months of 2005. Unless otherwise noted, this evaluation focused on the data specific to the 88 participants who entered the program before December 31, 2004.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:

The chart below shows the status of the 88 participants who started the program before December 31, 2004.



As of March 1, 2005, 37 of the 88 were current participants. Of the current participants, 29 were actively participating, four were in a residential treatment facility, two were in custody, and two were on bench warrant status.

Throughout this report, the evaluators cite data on all participants (88), current participants (37), graduates (28), and terminated (21). The reader should note that the participant who transferred and the one who died are only included in the “all participants” category. As a result, the sum of the current participants (37), graduates (28), and terminated (21) categories equals 86.

AGE

The average age of all participants upon entry into the program is 31 years. It is interesting to note that the average age of graduates at the time of entry is slightly higher at 34 years, and the average age at the time at entry of current participants is ten years younger than the graduates. The graduate focus group participants discussed their observations about the age of current participants. There was consensus among them that the current participants will likely have more trouble in recovery since they likely have not yet experienced the “low” that provides the motivation to make life changes. The table below shows the average, median⁴, mode⁵, and range for the current participants, graduates, and terminated BCDTC participants.

⁴Middle number in a range.

⁵Number that is most frequent in a range.

PARTICIPANT AGE AT PROGRAM ENTRY				
	Current Participants (N=37)	Graduates (N=28)	Terminated (N=21)	All Participants (N=88)
Average:	24	34	31	31
Median:	25	35.5	32	32
Mode:	21	27, 33, 30, 36, 39, 40, 42, 43	21	21
Range:	18-49	19-55	18-54	18-55

RACE AND ETHNICITY

The ODCMS provided race and ethnicity information for 83 of the 88 BCDTC participants. Caucasians make up 94 percent (78/83) of the participants. The other five participants are Native American (3), Alaskan Native (1), and African American (1).

The number of Native America/Alaskan Native participants is higher than one might expect based on US Census data. The absence of Asian and Hispanic BCDTC participants, given their population in the county, is an area that needs further analysis. The table below compares the US Census 2003 Population Estimates for Benton County⁶ to all BCDTC participants.

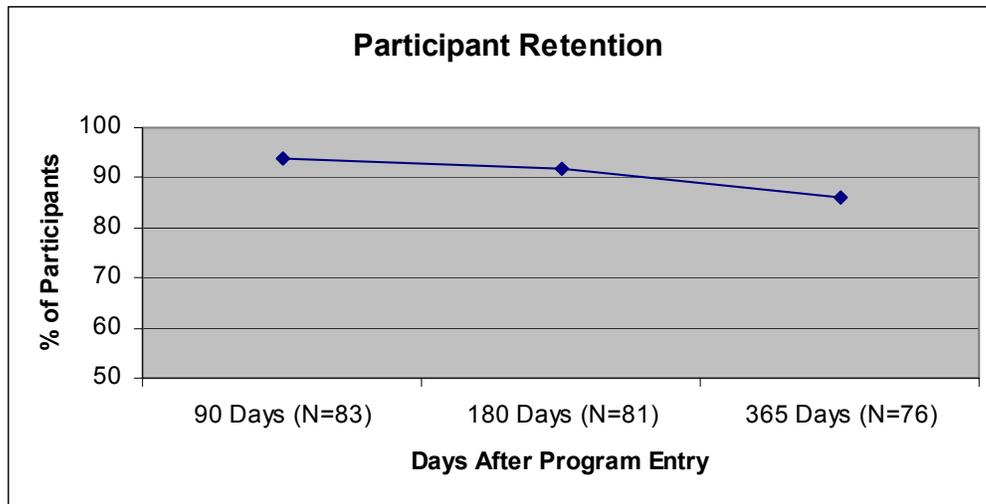
US Census Racial and Ethnic Categories	BCDTC Participants	US Census 2003 Population Estimates for Benton County
White (Caucasian)	94%	91%
Black	1%	1%
Asian	0%	5%
Native American/Alaskan Native	5%	.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%	.3%
Two or More Races	0%	2%
Hispanic	0%	5%

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates: <http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/files/cc-est2003-race6-41.cvs>

LENGTH OF TIME IN PROGRAM

Graduates represent 32 percent (28/88) of all the participants who started the program before December 31, 2004. The average time for a participant to successfully complete the program was 1.39 years (508 days). The actual time for graduates ranged from just over a year (373 days) to almost three years (1,077 days).

The graph below demonstrates BCDTC's retention of participants:



The ultimate goal of the BCDTC is successful graduation. Regardless of graduation, the longer participants spend in the program, the more likely they will experience crucial moments in their recovery that will motivate them to change. Program retention also demonstrates a program's ability to provide a continuum of treatment and life enhancement services which have a direct link to the benefits associated with participation. Although retention is self-selective and tied to a participant's motivation to make life changes, the longer a participant spends in a program, the more likely the individual will not recidivate or require social services. BCDTC's participant retention rate is 94 percent (83/88) retention at 90 days, 92 percent (81/88) retention at 180 days, and 86 percent (76/88) retention at 365 days. The BCDTC participant retention rate at one year is much higher than the 60 percent average reported from nearly 100 evaluations of other drug courts.⁷

DRUG OF CHOICE:

A primary drug of choice is recorded in the ODCMS for 79 of the 88 participants who started the BCDTC program before 12/31/2004. Methamphetamine is the drug of choice for 58 percent (46/79) of BCDTC participants. The table below shows the drug of choice for all participants,

⁷Marlowe, D.B., DeMatteo, D.S., & Festinger, D.S. (2003, October). A sober assessment of drug courts. *Federal sentencing reporter*, (16)1 113-128.

current participants, graduates, and those terminated from the program.

Primary Drug of Choice for BCDTC Participants				
Drug	Current Participants (N=37)	Graduates (N=28)	Terminated Participants (N=21)	All Participants (N=88)
Alcohol	3	3	1	8
Cocaine	0	0	0	0
Heroin	0	1	2	4
Marijuana	10	4	3	17
Methamphetamine / Amphetamine	20	19	7	46
Other	2	1	1	4
Not Recorded	2	0	7	9

FINDINGS:

EDUCATION:

Benton County Drug Treatment Court Goals: <input type="checkbox"/> Improve Lives <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce Crime <input type="checkbox"/> Promote a Healthy, Safe Community		
Objective	Status	Measures
Increase adult education	71.4% (5/7)	• Percent of adults without a high school diploma or GED who complete educational programs or skills training before graduation.

The BCDTC coordinator collected educational level data on all participants at program intake and recorded it in the ODCMS. Additionally, the coordinator adds subsequent events in the ODCMS as participants complete educational programs. Seven of the 28 BCDTC participants did not have high school diplomas or GEDs prior to program entry. Five of BCDTC’s seven graduates (71.4%) without a high school diploma or GED earned their GED while participating in the program. The staffing team waived the GED requirement for two graduates based on cognitive assessments. There were no ODCMS records indicating participants had any additional skills training (i.e. certificates in computer technology, auto mechanics, dental assistants, etc.).

The evaluators could not acquire educational data for the comparison group. The table below shows the diploma/GED status for all participants who entered the program before December 31, 2004.

Diploma/ GED Status for BCDTC Participants				
	Current Participants (N=37)	Graduates (N=28)	Terminated Participants (N=21)	All Participants (N=88)
Diploma/GED at Program Entry	26	21	7	54
Earned GED While in the Program	4	5	1	10
No GED *	7	2	13	24

* This category includes the participant who transferred and the one who died in the total count.

One BCDTC graduate reported that, as a result of the program, she entered Linn Benton Community College, earning a 4.0 grade point average during the 2004 fall term. Another graduate returned to college to complete his nursing credentials.

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE:

Benton County Drug Treatment Court Goals: <input type="checkbox"/> Improve Lives <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce Crime <input type="checkbox"/> Promote a Healthy, Safe Community		
Objective	Status	Measures
Increase adult employment	600% ((7-1)/1)	•Percent change in the number of adults employed between the time of entry into the drug treatment court and one-year post graduation.
	71% (39/55)	•Percent of participants obtaining/maintaining/improving employment while in drug treatment court.
Increase adult wage rate	500% ((\$1,679-\$280)/\$280)	•Percent change in adult wages between entry in the drug treatment court and one-year following graduation.
	403% ((\$719-\$143)/\$143)	•Percent change in income during time in the drug treatment court.

As stated earlier, ODCMS and GPRA employment and wage data for all participants is incomplete. As a result, the evaluators used data for the employment and wage performance measures from the participant surveys. The surveys provided a snapshot of 55 participants.

Fourteen separated participants responded to the survey. Eight of the 14 had been separated from the program for one year. One of the eight was employed at the time of program entry. Seven of the eight (four graduated, four terminated) reported on the survey that they were currently employed. This represents a 600 percent increase in the number of adults employed between program entry and the follow-up survey for the eight separated participants. Thirty-nine of the 55 (71%) survey respondents reported that they either obtained, maintained, or improved their employment while participating in the BCDTC.

Thirteen separated participants reported current wages that averaged \$1,229/month. Their average monthly wage upon entry into the program was \$171. This represents a 619 percent increase in the average wage of the 13 separated participants.

The eight participants separated for one year or more reported average wages of \$1,679/month. These participants' average wage at the time of entry was \$280/month. This represents a 500 percent increase in the average wage of the eight responding participants who have been separated from the program for more than a year. There was a 403 percent increase in the average wage of the 55 survey respondents. At program entry, only 15 percent (8/55) were employed. At the time of the survey, 64 percent (35/55) of respondents were employed.

Employment is a significant part of the lives of successful BCDTC participants. Each of the participants of the graduate focus group described his or her job at length. The participants were proud to be employed and pleased to be making contributions to their communities. Having funds to purchase his own vehicle is a highlight of one of the participants.

Employment, seeking employment, or enrolled in an education program is a BCDTC graduation requirement. ODCMS records show 93 percent (26/28) of BCDTC graduates were employed at graduation. Of the two graduates not employed at graduation, one is a stay-at-home parent, and the other was actively seeking employment. The table below provides information on the employment status of BCDTC participants.

Employment Status for BCDTC Participants				
	Graduates ¹⁰ (N=28)	Current Participants Survey Responses (N=41)	Terminated Survey Responses (N=5)	All Survey Responses (N=55)
Unemployed at Program Entry	21	33	5	45
Employed at Program Entry	7	8	0	10
Gained/Maintained Employment During Program (at time of survey or separation)	27 ⁹	27	2	38
Lost Employment During Program (at time of survey or separation)	0	2 ¹⁰	0	2
Unemployed Status at separation was the same as at program entry	2	12	3	15

The unemployment rate in Oregon is one of the nation's highest; in 2004 the rate was 7.4 percent

⁸ODCMS Data.

⁹One of the two participants unemployed at graduation gained employment during the program but was not employed at program separation.

¹⁰Three participants lost employment held at program entry. One of the three participants obtained subsequent jobs.

although the rate for the Corvallis Metro area was 3.8 percent.¹¹

Employment data was available from BCCC for 14 of the 20 individuals in the comparison group. Fifty percent (7/14) individuals were employed during their time as BCCC probation clients. Fifty percent (10/20) of the 20 BCDTC participants who have been separated from the program for more than a year were employed while participating in the program. Two of the 20 BCDTC who has been separated from the program for more than a year were employed at program entry and eight gained employments while participating.

Seventy-one percent (39/55) of all the BCDTC participants responding to the evaluators' questionnaire obtained, maintained, or improved employment while participating in the program.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost?la+41>

HOUSING:

Benton County Drug Treatment Court Goals: <input type="checkbox"/> Improve Lives <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce Crime <input type="checkbox"/> Promote a Healthy, Safe Community		
Objective	Status	Measures
Increase adult housing stability	79% (11/14)	•Percent of participant’s living conditions that improve between program entry and at post-participation follow-up.

Data on participant housing was drawn from the participant surveys and the GPRA data set. Seventy-nine percent (11/14) of separated participants who returned surveys indicated that their living conditions have improved between program entry and at the time of the participant follow-up survey. Sixty-six percent (27/41) of active participants also reported that their living conditions have improved while in the program. Sixty-nine percent (38/55) of all survey respondents indicated their living conditions have improved.

The GPRA data set provides the following housing information for all BCDTC participants:

Improved Living Conditions - Obtained Own Residence	33% (20/61)
Improved Living Conditions - Participants Who Moved from Shelter or Street/Outdoors to Someone Else’s Home or a Halfway House	10% (6/61)
Maintained Their Living Conditions	51% (31/61)
Participants’ Living Conditions Were Improved or Stable While in the Program	93% (57/61)

The GPRA questionnaire used to populate the data set focuses on actual locations. While the actual locations were recorded, the evaluators’ survey also asked “Did/Have your living conditions improve(d) while in the program?” This question prompted participants to identify the change of roommates, the sobriety of co-habitants, and other improved living conditions which are not related to a change of address.

¹² Existing measure originally worded, “Percent change in the number of adults living 90 days or more in the same residence between entry in the drug treatment court and one year following participation/graduation.” Changed due to lack of data available in 90 day intervals.

Clean and sober housing is a crucial component of recovery. Individuals whose living conditions include other substance abusers have a difficult time recovering from their addictions. A limited number of beds are available for BCCC clients as they transition to their own housing. Several BCDTC participants have been able to occupy these beds during their recovery. One graduate focus group participant expressed his gratitude for clean and sober housing; he explained how the BCDTC worked with BCCC to allow him to stay in the transition housing for an extended period of time. Without this opportunity, the participant would have experienced greater difficulties in his recovery.

CRIMINAL RECIDIVISM:

Benton County Drug Treatment Court Goals: <input type="checkbox"/> Improve Lives <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce Crime <input type="checkbox"/> Promote a Healthy, Safe Community		
Objective	Status	Measures
Reduce adult criminal recidivism	-87% ((27-215)/215)	•Percent change in the number of adult criminal charges between one year prior to entry in the drug treatment court and one year following participation/graduation. ¹³
	10 ¹⁴	•Number of charges in the one year following graduation from the drug treatment court.

Criminal recidivism data obtained through OJIN data queries demonstrated an 87 percent reduction in the number of criminal charges in the one year prior to program entry and one year following participation. Fifty-nine participants had a total of 215 criminal charges in the one year before they entered the BCDTC. Eight participants accumulated a total of 27 charges within one year of separating from the program. Ten of these charges were the result of criminal activity by two of the 28 BCDTC graduates. The 17 other charges related to criminal activity of participants terminated from the program.

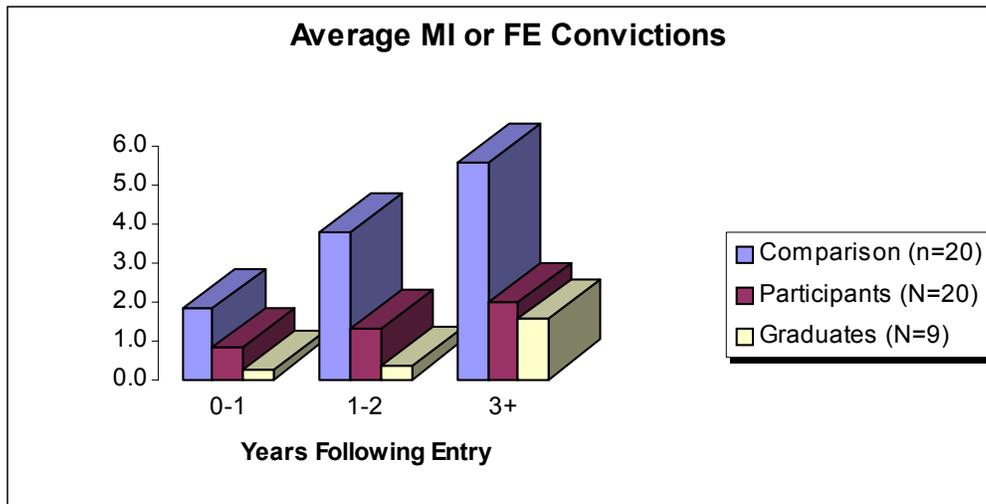
Only 67 percent (59/88) of BCDTC participants entering the program had charges in the year before the program because the majority of participants enter the program through probation violations (PVs). Criminal activity by individuals on probation is usually handled as a PV rather than charged as a new case. The difference between charges one year prior to entry and one year following participation increase dramatically when probation violations are included. There are 72 recorded PVs for 46 of the 88 participants in the one year before starting the BCDTC and only one PV in the year following program separation.

¹³ Charges include those which are misdemeanor or felony in Oregon Circuit Courts. Not included but noteworthy are the 27 violation charges for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana (PIZM) distributed between 17 participants in the one year before program entry and one violation charge within in one year of program separation.

¹⁴ Two of BCDTC's 28 graduates were responsible for all ten charges.

COMPARISON GROUP:

The evaluators identified the criminal conviction rates for the separated and comparison groups. Convictions were identified for the three-year period following program entry for BCDTC participants, or the date of the 2000 PV for the comparison group. The comparison group had a total of 111 MI or FE convictions within the three-year period following their initial 2000 PV. The 20 separated BCDTC participants had a total of 39 MI or FE convictions within the three-year period following entry in the program. Of the 39 convictions in the three-year period for the 20 separated BCDTC participants, 14 of the convictions were attributed to two BCDTC graduates.



There is a significant reduction in the combined average charges and PVs between the actual BCDTC separated participants and the comparison group. Separated participants had a 69 percent $((1.1-3.5)/3.5)$ reduction in the average number of charges and PVs between the one year period before program entry and the year following entry¹⁵, whereas the comparison group shows an 11 percent $((5.85-6.55)/6.55)$ reduction. The table below shows the total numbers of PVs and MI/FE charges for the comparison group and all BCDTC participants.

¹⁵This is the one year period following program entry, not one year following program separation. This includes time in the program unless a participant separates before one year.

Participant and Comparison Group PV and MI/FE Charges						
	BCDTC Separated Participants (N=20)		Comparison Group (n=20)		All BCDTC Participants (N=88)	
	Year Before Entry	Year Following Entry	Year Before Entry	Year Following Entry	Year Before Entry	Year Following Entry
Total PVs	26	5	30	23	72	11
Average PVs Per Participant	1.3	.25	1.5	1.15	.82	.13
MI or FE Charges	44	17	101	94	215	27
Average MI or FE Charges Per Participant	2.2	.85	5.05	4.7	2.44	.31
Combined PVs and MI or FE Charges Per Participant	3.5	1.1	6.55	5.85	3.26	.43
Percent Change	68.57% Reduction		10.69% Reduction		86.81% Reduction	

SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

Benton County Drug Treatment Court Goals: <input type="checkbox"/> Improve Lives <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce Crime <input type="checkbox"/> Promote a Healthy, Safe Community		
Objective	Status	Measures
Reduce adult substance abuse	83% (24/29)	Percent of adults who complete at least two thirds of their treatment plans and who are not abusing alcohol or other drugs at separation from the program.

The evaluators obtained information on drug screening from the ODCMS. Seven-thousand four-hundred and six (7,406) drug screen entries are recorded in the ODCMS for the 88 participants who started before 12/31/2004. The data revealed that 83 percent (24/29) of the participants who completed at least two thirds of their treatment plans were not abusing alcohol or other drugs at program separation. Thirty-nine (39) BCDTC participants completed Phases I and II and progressed to Phase III. Ten of the 39 are still active participants. Of the 29 participants who separated from the program, 24 had no positive UAs during their participation in Phase III of the program. Of the five participants who had one or more positive urinalysis test results during Phase III, four graduated, and one terminated.

Positive UAs by Phase for BCDTC Participants			
	Phase I (N=86)	Phase II (N=61)	Phase III (N=39)
Number of UAs	3,004	2,519	1,883
% Positive	32% (961)	7% (176)	5% (93)

The table below shows the number of UAs and positive UA results for the BCDTC Participants and the Comparison Group.

UAs Administered to BCDTC Participants and Comparison Group			
	BCDTC Separated Participants (N=20)	Comparison Group (n=19)	All Participants (N=88)
Total UAs Administered (average # per person)	1,262 (63)	362 (19)	7,406 (84)
% Positive	22% (279/1,262)	47% (170/362)	17% (1,230/7,406)

Participants of the graduate focus group noted that it is easy to use alcohol on the weekends while participating in the program. Because alcohol is quickly eliminated from the body, it is possible for a participant to abuse alcohol Friday and Saturday while still providing a clean urine sample on Monday morning. According to the participants, this is common knowledge among participants. BCDTC may want to consider collecting random urine or breath samples on the weekend. This could possibly be facilitated by BCCC or a new partnership with local law enforcement.

SUMMARY:

The findings of this report are promising. The BCDTC increases the likelihood that Benton County is a healthy, safe community with reduced recidivism through the improved lives of its participants. The program worked diligently to retain 86 percent (76/88) of participants at one year following program entry. The reduction in criminal charges and probation violations between the year before program entry and the year following are directly attributed to program requirements and the intense monitoring and supervision of participants.

In addition to reduced recidivism, the lives of participants are improved. A direct result of the program is the increased educational level, employment, and improved living conditions of participants. Participants who do not have GEDs at the time of program entry complete one before graduating. Unemployed participants start looking for work early and begin making contributions to their community. Participants who reported that they lived on the streets or “crashed” at friends’ homes become self sufficient and acquired stable housing. The data suggests that several BCDTC participants have learned the skills and techniques critical to live productive lives in recovery.

FUTURE STEPS:

The BCDTC is still a young program. At the time of this evaluation, only 20 participants had been separated from the program for more than a year. To date, 51 participants have separated from the program, including 28 successful graduates. Ten of the program’s current participants are in Phase III, and will likely graduate. BCDTC’s recidivism rates should be revisited in the future.