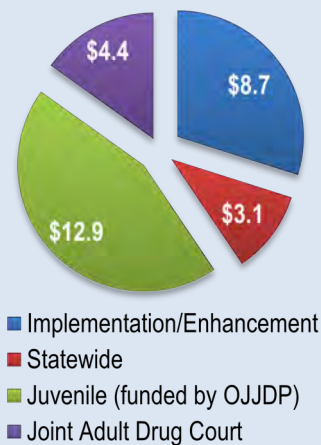


Program Funding

Federal Fiscal Year	Drug Courts Budget Authority
2013	\$ 41,000,000
2014	\$ 40,500,000
2015	\$ 41,000,000
Total	\$ 122,500,000

FY 2014 Funding Chart
Drug Courts
(\$ in millions)



Program Goals

To equip courts and court systems with the necessary tools and resources to intervene with and divert people from incarceration who have a high risk for recidivating and who have a high need for substance abuse treatment. To accomplish this goal, adult drug court discretionary grant funds will be awarded to build and/or expand drug court capacity at the state, local, and tribal levels to reduce crime and substance abuse among high-risk, high-need offenders.

Adult Drug Court

Purpose of Report

The Adult Drug Court Grantee Feedback Report is a biannual report prepared by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) that allows grantees to compare their project's reported performance measurement data to the Adult Drug Court program as a whole. All reported data represent the 6-month period of October 2014–March 2015, unless otherwise noted.

Program Purpose¹

The purpose of the Adult Drug Court program is to implement and enhance drug treatment courts that integrate substance abuse treatment, mandatory drug testing, sanctions and incentives, and transitional services in a judicially supervised court setting with jurisdiction over nonviolent participants with a high risk for recidivating and a high need for treatment to address substance addiction.

Program Highlights

From October 2014 to March 2015:

- A total of 12,227 participants were enrolled in BJA-funded drug courts. This is a 2,432 increase from April–September 2014.
- There was an average graduation rate of 49.8 percent, which is slightly lower than the previous 6 month's rate of 51.5 percent.
- A total of 76.3 percent of new participants assessed had high criminal need and risk, which is higher than 75 percent of new participants during the April–September 2014 reporting periods.
- Less than 27 percent of participants tested positive for illegal substance use in random drug tests administered to those in the program at least 90 days. This is somewhat higher than previous reporting periods, where only about 24 percent tested positive.

Table 1. Grant Breakdown as of March 31, 2015

Type of Grant (Total N = 258)	Fiscal Years Present	Average Funds Received	Minimum	Maximum
Statewide* (n = 85)	2009–2014	\$303,706	\$4,275*	\$1,500,000
Implementation (n = 59)	2010–2014	\$228,618	\$94,598	\$350,000
Enhancement (n = 114)	2010–2014	\$228,618	\$91,762	\$300,000

*Statewide spending varies, based on whether the state spreads the total funding to certain subgrantees or uses it to fund certain items in all of their courts.

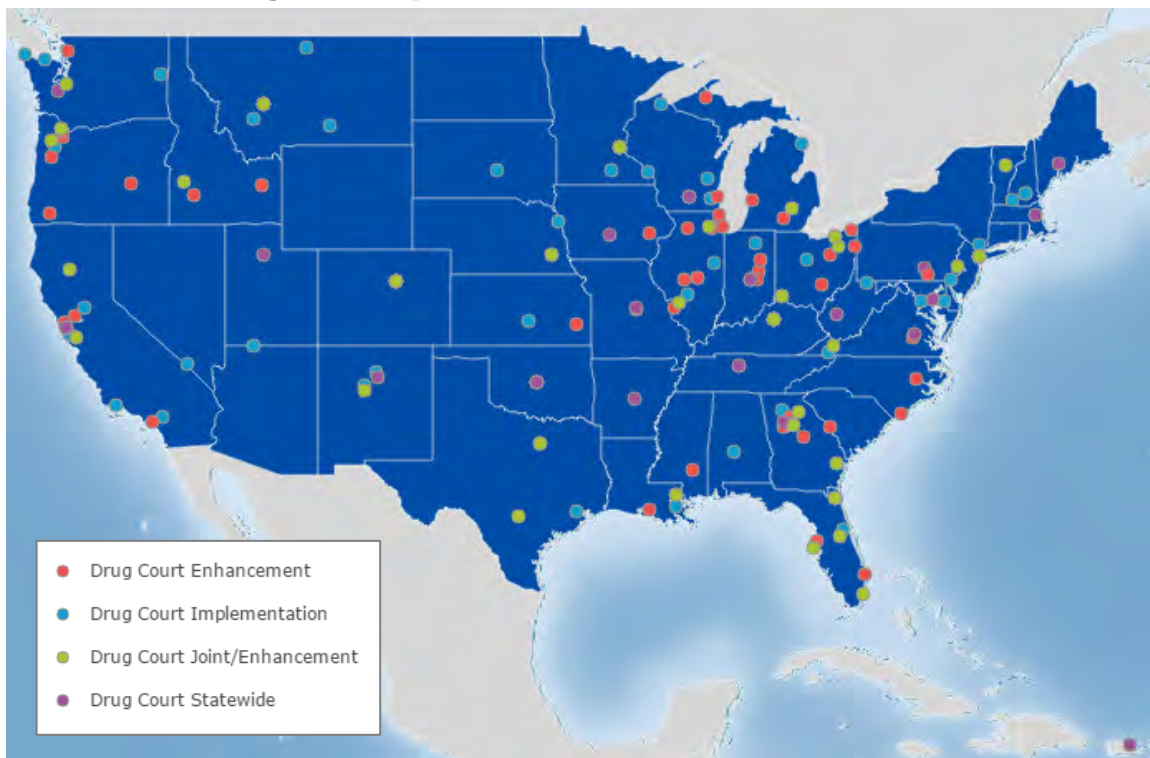
¹ The Biannual Grantee Feedback Report includes performance data reported by BJA Drug Court grant recipients that conducted grant activities through March 2015. The following data comes from the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) data covering Drug Court grants from fiscal year (FY) 2009 through FY 2014. The data reflected in this report represents the information as entered by grantees.

Statewide grants are awarded to state agencies. Statewide grantees can use the funds to “improve, enhance, or expand drug court services statewide,”² such as performing court evaluations or establishing a statewide drug court data system. These grantees can also financially support implementation or enhancement of drug courts in states that are not currently receiving BJA funding.³ *Enhancement* grants are awarded to operational adult drug courts (operating at least 1 year) that seek to do one or more of the following: (1) expand the number of participants served who meet the existing target population description, (2) expand the target population description and serve additional participants who meet the expanded description, (3) enhance court operations, (4) enhance court and/or supervision services, and (5) enhance recovery support services.⁴ *Implementation* grants are awarded to jurisdictions that have “completed a substantial amount of planning” and are ready to implement a new drug court into their community.⁵

Table 2. Location and Type of Grantees as of March 31, 2015

Type of Grant	Rural	Suburban	Urban	Tribal
Statewide (n = 85)	21% (17)	32% (26)	47% (38)	0% (0)
Implementation (n = 59)	39% (23)	10% (6)	44% (26)	7% (4)
Enhancement (n = 114)	25% (27)	20% (22)	54% (59)	1% (1)
Total Courts (N = 258)	27% (67)	22% (54)	49% (123)	2% (5)

Figure 1. Map with Grantees as of March 31, 2015



² BJA Adult Drug Court Solicitation 2016. Found at <https://www.bja.gov/adultdrugcourts16>

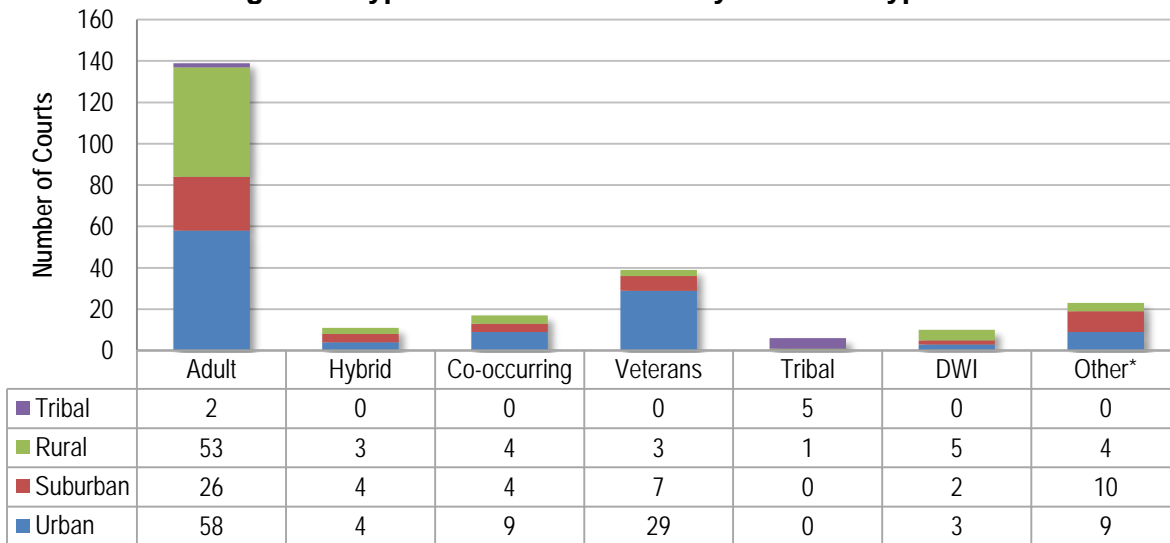
³ Bureau of Justice Assistance (2013).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

Types of Courts Served by Grants

Figure 2. Types of Courts Funded by Location Type^{6,7}



*Those that marked “other” mostly did so to indicate that their court serves more than one population, such as an adult court that also serves veterans or mental health participants, or that they have a separate track within the main court.

Participants⁸

Table 3. Program Participants by Location Type: October 2014–March 2015

Court Location	Number of New Participants	Average Number of New Participants*	Total Participants	Average Number of Total Participants
Urban (<i>n</i> = 111)	2,883	26.0	8,034	72.4
Suburban (<i>n</i> = 47)	465	9.9	1,524	32.4
Rural (<i>n</i> = 72)	871	12.1	2,584	35.9
Tribal (<i>n</i> = 5)	38	7.6	85	17.0
Total (<i>N</i> = 235)	4,257	18.1	12,227	52.0

*Totals and averages are for the two reporting periods.

Successful Participants

Table 4. Graduation Rates by Location Type⁹

Court Location	Average Graduation Rate	Maximum Graduation Rate
Urban (<i>n</i> = 89)	54.8%	100%
Suburban (<i>n</i> = 45)	51.8%	100%
Rural (<i>n</i> = 53)	42.3%	100%
Tribal (<i>n</i> = 4)	20%	66.6%
Total Courts (<i>N</i> = 191)	51.5%	100%

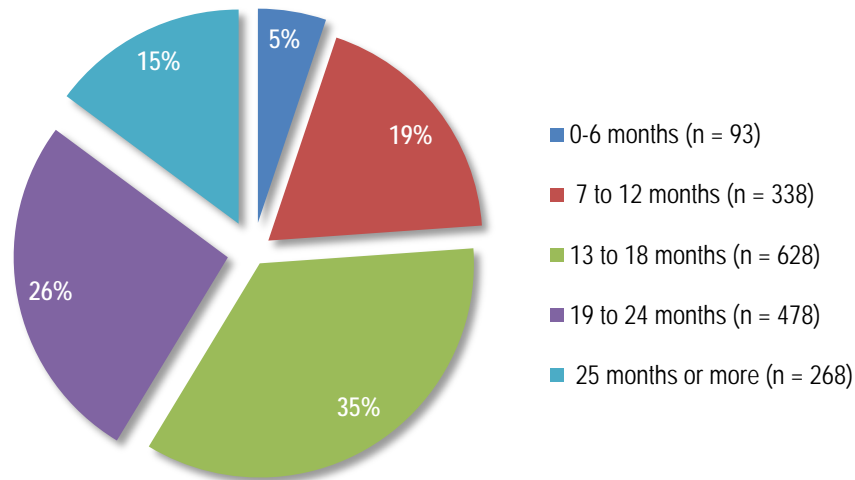
⁶ Hybrid DWI/Drug Court: A specialized court that accepts both drug and DWI/DUI cases. Most hybrid courts started out as a Drug Court but now offer a specialized DWI/DUI docket to deal with DWI/DUI participants (DWIcourts.org).

⁷ Some courts marked more than one court served by the grant. The total number of court types may exceed the total number of grantees. See Table 2 for a more accurate number.

⁸ For the October 2014–March 2015 reporting period, a total of 12,227 participants were enrolled in the drug courts served by the grantees.

⁹ Only those grantees that input data into the questions asking for number of successful participants and number of unsuccessful participants were reviewed for Table 4. Only grantees that have been open for at least a year were included into the average.

Figure 3. Time Spent in Program for Participants Who Graduated from Drug Court (Total Participants = 1,805)



- Research suggests that participants should remain in the drug court program a minimum of 6 months and no more than 18 months.¹⁰ There were 966 participants (54 percent) who completed the program successfully (also known as graduated) during the recommended time frame.
- A total of 1,374 participants (76 percent) remained in the drug court program for 13 months or more, with the majority (35 percent, $n = 628$) remaining in the program for 13 to 18 months.
- A total of 93 participants (5 percent) left the program successfully in 6 months or less, whereas 268 (15 percent) participants completed the program successfully in 25 months or more.

Race of Participants

Table 5. Race of New Participants and Those Who Are Eligible but Did Not Enter (Total $N = 235$)

Race	% Eligible but Did Not Enter (n)	% New Participants (n)	Total
White	49.1% (2,782)	50.9% (2,882)	100% (5,664)
Black/African American	53.3% (805)	46.7% (706)	100% (1,511)
American Indian/Alaska Native	41.3% (57)	58.7% (81)	100% (138)
Asian/Pacific Islander/ Multi/Other/Unknown	83.8% (1,588)	16.2% (308)	100% (1,896)
Total	5,232	3,977	9,209

Table 5 shows that participants who are classified as “White” and those classified as American Indian/Alaska Native tend to have a higher enrollment rate in drug courts than other races tracked.

¹⁰ Peters, R.H. (2011). *Translating drug court research into practice. Drug Court treatment services. Applying research findings to practice* [Issues Commentary and Resource Brief]. Washington, DC: Adult Drug Court Research to Practice Initiative. Available at <http://research2practice.org/projects/treatment/pdfs/Issues%20Commentary%20and%20Resource%20Brief.pdf>

Table 6. Ethnicity of New Participants and Those Who Were Eligible but Did Not Enter (Total N = 235)

Ethnicity	% Eligible but Did Not Enter (n)	% New Participants (n)	Total
Hispanic/Latino(a)	43.8% (429)	56.2% (550)	100% (979)
Non-Hispanic/Latino(a)	50.8% (3,502)	49.2% (3,385)	100% (6,887)
Ethnicity Unknown	65.2% (101)	34.8% (54)	100% (155)
Total	5,227	3,991	9,218*

*There were 1,195 eligible but did not enter participants and 2 new participants marked by grantees under “Gender Unknown Non-Hispanic/Latino(a).”

Non-Hispanic/Latinos(as) are more likely to be assessed for participation into Drug Court, but Hispanic/Latinos(as) tend to have a higher participation rate compared with not entering the program (56 percent compared with 49 percent).

Table 7. Race of Successful and Unsuccessful Participants (Total N = 219)

Race	Percent Successful (n)	Percent Exited Unsuccessfully (n)	Total
White	48.2% (1,187)	51.8% (1,276)	100% (2,463)
Black/ African American	51.8% (358)	48.2% (333)	100% (691)
American Indian/Alaska Native	54.1% (53)	45.9% (45)	100% (98)
Asian/Pacific Islander/ Multi/Other/Unknown	60.2% (202)	39.8% (134)	100% (336)
Total	1,800	1,788	3,588

All minorities have higher percentages of successful participants than of nonsuccessful participants.

Table 8. Ethnicity of Successful and Unsuccessful Participants (Total N = 219)

Ethnicity	Number Successful (n)	Exited Unsuccessfully (n)	Total
Hispanic/Latino(a)	57.8% (240)	42.2% (175)	100% (415)
Non-Hispanic/Latino(a)	48.9% (1,464)	51.1% (1,529)	100% (2,993)
Ethnicity Unknown	60% (21)	40% (14)	100% (35)
Total	1,745	1,749	3,494*

*There were 20 successful and 31 unsuccessful participants that grantees marked as “Gender Unknown Non-Hispanic/Latino(a).”

Almost 60 percent of the Hispanic/Latino(a) participants completed the program successfully.

Reasons Participants Did Not Enter the Program

Table 9. Reasons Participants Did Not Enter the Program¹¹

Reasons Participants Did Not Enter Program	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Tribal	Total
Other* ¹²	27.6% (883)	21.2% (151)	17.7% (153)	7.7% (2)	24.8% (1,189)
Violent history	17.7% (564)	16.5% (118)	10.2% (88)	15.4% (4)	16.1% (774)
Prosecutor objection	12.5% (400)	7.6% (54)	6.4% (55)	0% (0)	10.6% (509)
Participant refused entry	9.4% (300)	18.7% (133)	5.3% (46)	30.8% (8)	10.1% (487)
Candidate waiting for program slot (will enroll next quarter)	6.1% (196)	11.1% (79)	10.8% (93)	0% (0)	7.6% (368)
Insufficient risk (low risk)	4.8% (155)	2.1% (15)	10.1% (87)	0% (0)	5.4% (257)
Out of jurisdiction	2.5% (77)	7.8% (56)	10.8% (93)	15.4% (4)	4.8% (230)
Arrest, conviction, or incarceration on another charge	3.8% (122)	4.8% (34)	6% (52)	7.7% (2)	4.4% (210)
Candidate did not complete screening	4.1% (130)	1.1% (8)	5.1% (44)	3.8% (1)	3.8% (183)
Exclusionary prior nonviolent offense	3.2% (102)	3.6% (26)	6% (52)	0% (0)	3.8% (180)
No drug problem	2.8% (89)	2.2% (16)	5.3% (46)	11.5% (3)	3.2% (154)
Mental health diagnosis that cannot be handled by the court	2.6% (84)	2.7% (19)	2.7% (24)	7.7% (2)	2.7% (129)
Judicial objection	2.7% (86)	0.6% (4)	3.5% (30)	0% (0)	2.5% (120)
Defense objection	0.2% (7)	0% (0)	0.1% (1)	0% (0)	0.2% (8)
Total	66.6% (3,195)	14.9% (713)	18% (864)	0.5% (26)	100% (4,798)

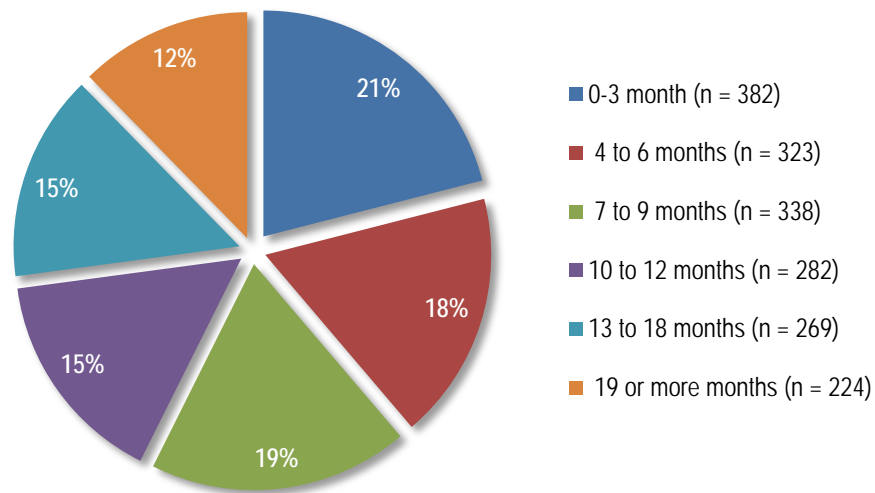
*The main other reasons include: prior participation in drug court (30); charges for distributing (29); illness and/or medication would prohibit participation (40); case dismissal (11); absconded/withdrew (236); still going through eligibility (57).

¹¹ After potential participants are screened, they may or may not be found eligible for drug court participation.

¹² One urban grantee does not keep track of why potential participants did not enter the program. This grantee had 391 “other” participants for the October–December 2014 reporting period.

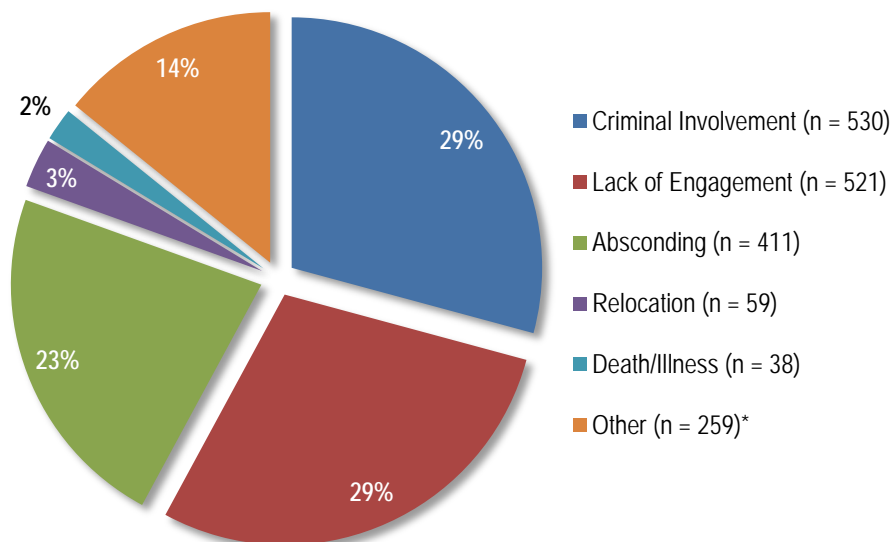
Participants Who Left the Program Unsuccessfully

Figure 4. Time Spent in Program for Participants Who Did Not Complete Program Requirements (Total Participants = 1,818)



A total of 39 percent of participants (705) left drug court unsuccessfully within 6 months. Reasons for unsuccessful exits can include: continued use of drugs, absconding, and not following protocol. Interestingly, 42 percent (775) left the program without graduating after participating for 10 months or more.

Figure 5. Reasons Participants Left Program Without Completion (Total Participants = 1,818)



*Other reasons include: clients opted out (proposition 47 in California); program decided the offenders were not a good fit; offenders continued drug use/relapses; mental health or other illnesses caused the participants to leave.

Risk/Assessments, Drug Testing, and Services Rendered

Table 10. Average Number of New Participants Screened and Found to Be High Risk

Location Type	Average Number of New Participants Assessed	Average Number of New Participants Found to Be High Risk	Average Percentage of New Participants Found to Be High Risk
Urban (n = 86)	13.6	9.3	68.4%
Suburban (n = 28)	8.4	6.1	75.3%
Rural (n = 52)	8.1	7	86.4%
Tribal (n = 4)	4.1	2.6	63.4%
Total (N = 170)	10.8	7.9	73.1%

Drug court grantees should be completing risk/assessments of each participant entering into their court. Evidence is clear that drug court resources should be reserved for participants with high criminogenic risk and high substance abuse treatment need.¹³

As almost three quarters of participants in BJA-funded drug courts are determined to be at high risk for recidivism, this suggests that grantees are using validated risk assessment tools and admitting the right target population. Figure 6 displays the wide variety of assessment tools grantees are using.

Figure 6. Validated Risk Assessment Tools Listed by Grantees (N = 179 Grantees)



In this word cloud, the larger the text displaying an assessment tool, the more often it is used by grantees. LSI-R is the most commonly used tool, followed by RANT. The tools displayed in the smaller-sized text are used less often.

¹³ Marlowe, D. B. (2012). Alternative tracks in adult drug court: Matching your program to the needs of your clients [Drug Court Practitioner Fact Sheet, vol. 7(2)]. Alexandria, VA: National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Available at <http://www.ndci.org/sites/default/files/nadcp/AlternativeTracksInAdultDrugCourts.pdf>.

Table 11. Average Number of Participants Drug Tested After Being in the Program 90 days¹⁴

	Average Tested	Average Positive	Average Percentage Positive
Urban (n = 111)	67	19	29%
Suburban (n = 47)	29	5	22%
Rural (n = 72)	36	13	26%
Tribal (n = 6)	11	5	44%
Total (N = 236)	49	14	29%

Drug Court Services Paid for with Grant Funds

Table 12. Participants Receiving BJA-Funded Services as of March 31, 2015

Services	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Tribal	Total
Employment	73.3% (403)	11.5% (63)	12% (66)	3.2% (18)	16.3% (550)
Mental health services	63.6% (332)	13.2% (69)	19.9% (104)	3.3% (17)	15.4% (522)
Other services*	61.1% (313)	16.2% (83)	20.5% (105)	2.2% (11)	15.1% (512)
Pro-social services	62.8% (284)	12.4% (56)	23.2% (105)	1.6% (7)	13.4% (452)
Health services	63.7% (237)	11% (41)	22.3% (83)	3% (11)	11% (372)
Housing services	64.4% (201)	15.1% (47)	19% (59)	1.5% (5)	9.2% (312)
Education services	74.1% (212)	4.2% (12)	14.3% (41)	7.4% (21)	8.5% (286)
Veteran services	95.8% (186)	2.1% (4)	2.1% (4)	0% (0)	5.7% (194)
Trauma treatment	67.6% (123)	20.9% (38)	8.2% (15)	3.3% (6)	5.4% (182)
Total	67.8% (2,291)	12.2% (413)	17.2% (582)	2.8% (96)	100% (3,382)

*"Other services" spending items include: transportation for participants (bus passes and helping participants get their licenses); basic living support services; and financial support services.

Table 13. Drug Court Program Enhancements as of March 31, 2015

Drug Court Enhancements	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Tribal	Total
Case manager	45.5% (56)	17.9% (22)	33.3% (41)	3.3% (4)	26.8% (123)
Training	47.5% (38)	16.3% (13)	32.5% (26)	3.7% (3)	17.4% (80)
Evaluation	47.2% (25)	15.1% (8)	35.8% (19)	1.9% (1)	11.6% (53)
Equipment	63.8% (30)	0% (0)	29.8% (14)	6.4% (3)	10.2% (47)

¹⁴ Random drug testing is a requirement of all drug courts. A few grantees had a few outliers that skewed the average percentage.

Drug Court Enhancements	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Tribal	Total
Other*	40.4% (19)	23.4% (11)	36.2% (17)	0% (0)	10.2% (47)
Enhancing risk/assessment screening	42.1% (16)	21% (8)	34.2% (13)	2.7% (1)	8.3% (38)
Aftercare support	45.7% (16)	14.3% (5)	34.3% (12)	5.7% (2)	7.6% (35)
Performance standards measures	25% (5)	10% (2)	60% (12)	5% (1)	4.4% (20)
MIS (management information system)	25% (4)	37.5% (6)	31.3% (5)	6.2% (1)	3.5% (16)
Total	45.5% (209)	16.3% (75)	34.6% (159)	3.5% (16)	100% (459)

*Other includes primarily drug testing.

Technical Assistance to Improve Outcomes

Do you have questions about how to get the most from your drug court grant? Be sure to contact American University, the Technical Assistance provider for the drug court program.

Drug Court TA Provider: American University

American University
www.american.edu/justice

Contact your TA Team:

Tracy Velazquez, Associate Director
tracyv@american.edu

Steve Collins, Program Coordinator
scollins@american.edu

Upcoming Events:

June 28, 2016 Webinar at 12pm EST
 PTSD and Trauma in Veterans Treatment Courts