



FY2010 RECOMMENDATION/FY10-D09 STUDY COLORADO'S DUI COURTS

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2012 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION

Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics reviewed existing studies (see discussion).

2012 BARRIERS

Cost

Description

Examine DUI evaluation studies from other jurisdictions and evaluate Colorado DUI courts.

Agencies Responsible

Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics and/or Judicial Branch

Discussion

Examine DUI evaluation studies from other jurisdictions and evaluate Colorado DUI courts.

Studies of the efficacy of DUI Courts have found the following:*

- *Participants were re-arrested significantly less often than comparison group offenders who were sentenced in a traditional court. In an example from one DUI Court site, the comparison offenders from a traditional court were re-arrested nearly six times more often in the first year after starting probation for a DUI charge than the DUI Court participants.***
- *In another example, within a 2-year period, traditionally sentenced offenders in the comparison group were more than 3 times as likely to be re-arrested for any charge and were 19 times more likely to be re-arrested for a DUI charge than the DUI Court participants.*
- *Participants in the DUI Court significantly decreased their percent of positive drug tests over time. This provides support that the DUI Court was instrumental*

in reducing the amount of illegal drug use during the first year participants spent in the program.

- *Results show that DUI Court participants spent considerably more time in treatment than those sentenced in a traditional court.*
- *The average waiting period between arrest and sentencing was significantly reduced in the DUI Court.*
- *The number of days spent in jail prior to starting a program or probation and the total time in jail for that DUI was also significantly reduced, saving the criminal justice system time and money.*
- *Time enrolled in the program was higher for DUI Court participants. Longer time spent in the program predicted success as measured by both program completion and recidivism reduction.*

*Four DUI courts currently exist in Archuleta, Montezuma, El Paso, and Boulder counties, and four more counties are considering DUI courts should funding become available.*** The Commission maintains that evaluation studies are needed to examine whether Colorado DUI courts are promoting similar offender outcomes. Appendix F shows the guiding principles for DUI courts as stated by the National Center for DWI Courts.*****

Footnotes

**See <http://www.dwicourts.org/learn/about-dwi-courts/research>*

***Note that the National Center for DWI Courts refers to DUIs and DWIs as DWIs, driving while impaired.*

****Colorado Judicial Department, Division of Planning and Analysis (September 24, 2009).*

*****<http://www.dwicourts.org/learn/about-dwi-courts/-guiding-principles>*