

# **Outcome Data for the Adult Drug Court in Las Cruces, NM.**

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Counseling & Recovery, Inc. of Las Cruces, NM provides drug treatment and other services for clients participating in the Las Cruces' Adult Drug Court. The program has been in existence since early 1995 and includes MRT in its treatment.

In October 2002 the Third Judicial District's District Attorney's office scanned both state and national databases for new arrests of drug court participants. Arrests were chosen as the most appropriate outcome variable because arrests cost money and consume the time of court and professional staff. In addition, arrests are a category of quantifiable data directly related to the mission of drug courts. Since data for control groups is difficult to obtain in drug court settings, we chose the arrest rates of several groups of offenders for the purposes of comparison. However, there are few reliable measures of the recidivism rates of DWI and other drug-related offenders, which match our specific demographics. In addition, the statistics of the population of offenders we are reporting on may now be skewed due to the amount of treatment, which is currently mandated.

For purposes of the present report, New Mexico's statewide DWI recidivism rates (from 1992 to 1997) were utilized as a comparison statistic. The reason these were chosen is that in 1992 few DWI and drug offenders were being mandated into treatment and the data represents a "pure" group that is minimally affected by mandated treatment. This group of nontreated DWIs in New Mexico was comprised of approximately 70% first offender DWIs and 30% multiple-offenders. The drug court treatment program accepts only multiple DWIs and drug related offenders, further skewing the comparison data. Additionally, it took approximately 9 months from arrest to program entry and the graduates completed the program in approximately a year. The graduates were, on average, 21 months past their entry arrest when they left the program.

## **Results**

The following rearrest data was collected on 146 drug court graduates during the month of October 2002. It covers three years of client exit dates from September 1999 through September 2002. Of the program graduates, 10 percent had been rearrested over the initial 18-month period of the study. By contrast, DWI offenders not participating in drug courts show a 15.7 percent rearrest rate at 18 months following their initial arrest. Thus, at the 18-month follow-up period, drug court treatment cut the expected rearrest rate by just over one-third (36.3%). At the 45-month rearrest data collection follow-up, only 11 percent of graduates had been rearrested. Statewide DWI rearrest data showed that between 19 months to 48 months after their release, 35.9% of nontreated offenders are rearrested.