

Performance Measurement and Program Evaluation For Drug Courts

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Module 2: Evaluation and Performance Measurement

- Suggestions for Evaluating Drug Court Programs
 - Start with well-defined program, a clear purpose for evaluating, and an audience for the results
 - Focus evaluation on most relevant questions—need, concept/theory, implementation, outcome, impact, and/or cost-effectiveness



The Evaluation Process

- Formative Evaluation
- Process Evaluation
- Outcome Evaluation
- Impact Evaluation
- Cost Efficiency Analysis



Suggestions for Evaluating Drug Court Programs

- Assess implementation – many programs fail because they are poorly implemented
- Conduct impact evaluations only when the program merits it and the practical context is amenable to it
- Performance measurement and outcome monitoring provide useful feedback to any program



Distinguishing Performance Measurement from Outcome and Impact Evaluation

- Unlike Outcome and Impact evaluations, performance measurement is not concerned with questions of “attribution”
- Performance Measures
 - Carefully chosen set of indicators of drug court performance in critical areas of functioning
 - “Dashboard” Analogy
 - Provide performance information in a timely and ongoing basis
 - Reflect program objectives



Theory of Performance Measurement

- Basic concept of performance measurement involves:
 1. Planning and meeting established operating goals/standards for intended outcomes
 2. Detecting deviations from planned levels of performance
 3. Restoring performance to the planned levels or achieving new levels of performance



Recommendations for Performance Measurement

- Retention
- Sobriety
- Recidivism (in-program)
- Units of Service



BJA Performance Measures, FY 2009

- Implementation Grants
 - Percent of program participants who re-offend while participating in drug court
 - Percent of participants who exhibit a reduction in substance use during the reporting period
 - Percent of participants successfully graduating from the drug court program
 - Termination rate of drug court participants



BJA Performance Measures, FY 2009

- Enhancement Grants (Additional Services)
 - Percent increase in units of services (additional or secondary drug court activity that address needs of drug court clients)
 - Percent increase in service provided to participant



BJA Performance Measures, FY 2009

- Enhancement Grants (Training)
 - Percent increase in participant satisfaction with training
 - Percent increase in knowledge of subject matter as a result of training



BJA Performance Measures, FY 2009

- Enhancement Grants (Data collection/MIS)
 - Percent increase in drug court automation
 - Percent increase in staff trained on data collection/MIS



BJA Performance Measures, FY 2009

- Statewide Grants (information tracking, dissemination, and clearinghouse activities)
 - Percent increase in compilation of resources and information dissemination to drug courts throughout state



BJA Performance Measures, FY 2009

- Statewide Grants (Training and Technical Assistance)
 - Percent increase in statewide training or technical assistance for drug courts
 - Percent increase in participants' satisfaction with training



BJA Performance Measures, FY 2009

- Statewide Grants (Data collection/MIS)
 - Percent increase in MIS evaluation capability



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Individual Statewide Performance Measurement Systems Developed with NCSC Assistance

- Efforts funded by BJA Drug Court Technical Assistance Grant
- Principal Measurement Domains
 - Accountability
 - Social Functioning
 - Processing

