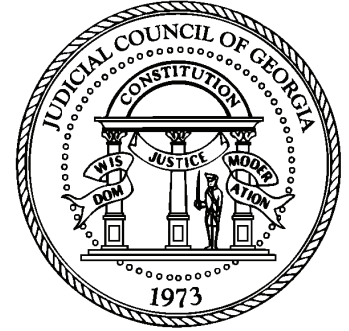


Judicial Council of Georgia

RESEARCH RESULTS: GEORGIA'S DUI COURTS WORK!



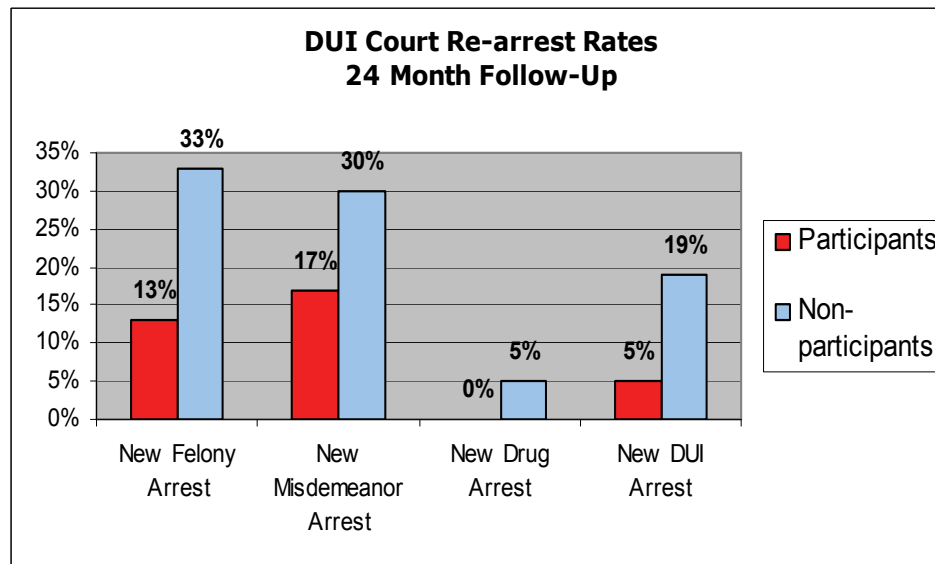
Background

For many years, we've known that Drug and DUI Courts save taxpayers money by "freeing up" hard bed space in Georgia's prisons and jails. In 2002, the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) provided grant funding to the Judicial Council to establish specialized court dockets to manage cases of chronic multiple offenders convicted of DUI, who cause deaths and injuries on Georgia's highways and are not deterred by traditional DUI sanctions. The DUI Courts were implemented in the State Courts of Athens-Clarke County, Chatham County and Hall County to provide intensive judicial oversight, substance abuse treatment and offender accountability. Today, there are 10 DUI Courts operating in the State of Georgia. However, a complete picture of overall effectiveness has not been available until now.

The average retention rate for Georgia's DUI Courts is 79%.

Demographics

The average DUI Court participant is a **35 year old white male**, with at least **three** lifetime DUI's—in most instances, he started drinking by the age of 18 and has a severe, untreated substance abuse problem. The majority of all DUI Court participants are high school graduates and **95% are physically addicted to alcohol** or other substances at the time that they begin DUI Court.



Re-arrest Rates

With funding from GOHS a comprehensive evaluation of the three pilot DUI courts was recently undertaken. **The results clearly demonstrate that DUI Courts work—they are effective at reducing the recidivism rates of DUI offenders.**

At **12 months post graduation**, DUI Court participants are almost **3 times less likely** to have a new DUI arrest. At **24 months post graduation**,

DUI Court participants are **4 times less likely** to have a new DUI arrest. Even more promising, DUI Court participants are **20% less likely** to be arrested for a new felony.

For more information, contact Debra Nesbit at nesbitd@gaoc.us or call 404-651-7616