



SAN FRANCISCO COLLABORATIVE COURTS

COLLABORATIVE COURTS FACT SHEET/STATISTICS

San Francisco Collaborative Courts

Through the collaboration of criminal justice and treatment partners, and an emphasis on participant accountability and judicial monitoring, collaborative courts save money, reduce recidivism, and change lives. In 2012 alone, San Francisco Collaborative Courts served over 2,700 participants.

Drug Court

Drug Court Changes Lives

- Since 1995, San Francisco Drug Court has served nearly 5,000 drug offenders.
- In 2012, Drug Court served over 300 defendants with serious substance abuse problems facing felony drug charges or property charges motivated by addiction.
- The majority of Drug Court participants are daily users of cocaine, heroin or methamphetamine. In 2012, methamphetamine surpassed cocaine as the primary drug of choice most commonly reported by Drug Court participants.
- Most Drug Court participants are homeless or marginally housed and unemployed. At each graduation, 100 percent of participants have located stable housing and legal sources of income.

Drug Court Saves Money ¹

- Since 1995, Drug Court has saved San Francisco over \$48 million. Savings are accrued from both operating costs and recidivism costs.
 - On average, each San Francisco Drug Court participant saves over \$14,000 in a two year period.
 - For each dollar invested, Drug Court saves at least \$1.46. These savings increase over time as Drug Court participants continue to succeed, recidivate less frequently, and cost the system less than other offenders.
 - By investing in treatment, Drug Court generates savings for other city agencies: Police, Sheriff, Adult Probation, Public Defender and the District Attorney.
- Adult Probation Department (APD) Savings
 - Each Drug Court participant saves the San Francisco Adult Probation Department \$3,471.
 - Savings accrue from reduced probation time associated with Drug Court and reduced recidivism.
 - Since 1995, APD has saved more than \$11.6 million through Drug Court.
- Public Defender Savings
 - Each Drug Court participant saves the San Francisco Public Defender's Office \$219.

¹ Carey, Shannon M., and Mark Waller (Carey & Walker, 2008). California Drug Courts: Costs and Benefits. Phase III: DC-CSET Statewide Launch, Superior Court of San Francisco County Drug Court Site-Specific Report. NPC Research/Administrative Office of the Courts, September 2008.

- Since 1995, the Public Defender's Office has saved more than \$700,000 through Drug Court
- District Attorney Savings
 - Each Drug Court participant saves the San Francisco District Attorney's Office \$163.
 - Since 1995, the District Attorney's Office has saved more than \$500,000 through Drug Court.

Drug Court Reduces Recidivism

- Over a two year period, 43 percent of Drug Court graduates were re-arrested as compared to 67 percent of comparable offenders. That is a 24 percentage point difference.²
- Analyses of Drug Court participant recidivism consistently find that all participants, not just graduates, commit fewer crimes. In the two years after entering Drug Court, participants were arrested at a rate 55 percent lower than before they entered the program.

Behavioral Health Court

- Since its launch in 2002, over 300 defendants have graduated from Behavioral Health Court (BHC).
- At any given time, there are roughly 130 defendants with serious mental illness participating in BHC.

BHC Saves Money³

- On average, each participant saves the criminal justice system over \$10,000 during the first year of BHC (as compared to the previous year).

BHC Reduces Recidivism⁴

- BHC participation reduces the probability of a new criminal charge by 26 percent in the 18 months after entering the program.
- BHC participation reduces the probability of a new *violent* criminal charge by 55 percent in the 18 months after entering the program.

Community Justice Center⁵

- Since opening its doors in March 2009, the CJC has heard nearly 7,820 cases associated with over 4,646 defendants.

The CJC Changes Lives

- The CJC assessed over 2,200 defendants for treatment services.
 - 25 percent of CJC clients are felony probationers.
 - 45 percent have no legal source of income.
 - Nearly 40 percent are homeless at intake and an additional 34 percent are marginally housed.

The CJC Improves Efficiency

- The time between misdemeanor citation and first appearance is just seven days at the CJC.
- The appearance rate at CJC is 76 percent.

² Carey & Walker, September 2008

³ Lindberg, Arley (Lindberg, 2009). Examining Program Costs and Outcomes of San Francisco's Behavioral Health Court. University of California, Berkeley, School of Social Welfare, May 2009.

⁴ McNeil, D. & R. Binder (McNeil & Binder, 2007). "Effectiveness of a Mental Health Court in Reducing Criminal Recidivism and Violence," *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 169:9, September 2007, p. 1395-1403.

⁵ Statistics last updated in April 2013.