



SAN FRANCISCO COLLABORATIVE COURTS

PROGRAM ACTIVITY REPORT 2014

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
COLLABORATIVE COURTS DIVISION

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INTRODUCTION

The San Francisco Superior Court delivers high quality collaborative justice programs that address addiction, mental health, and other social service needs. The Collaborative Courts Division oversees program operations with the vision of “contributing to a safe and just San Francisco for all.” Along with our partners, we change lives by demonstrating our Core Values in everything we do:

- High quality and culturally competent services
- Non-adversarial adjudication
- Procedural fairness
- Cross system collaboration
- Personal accountability
- Respectful, compassionate, kind, and supportive interactions

Collaborative courts depend on the dedication of our public and non-profit partner agencies. These include: the Department of Public Health, Office of the District Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments, Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, Human Services Agency, Veterans Administration, San Francisco Sheriff’s Department, San Francisco Police Department, and a myriad of community-based service providers.

All of our programs follow the key components of problem-solving courts, including early identification and engagement of eligible participants, access to a continuum of treatment and other services, and ongoing judicial interaction, among others. Each participant receives an initial assessment that informs the Court about substance use, mental health, and other social service needs, followed by individualized treatment planning and Court-monitored accountability. Collaborative court team members guide participants towards recovery and self-sufficiency, thereby reducing recidivism and its associated costs.

The purpose of this report is to provide the San Francisco community with a snapshot of achievements and program operations across all collaborative courts in the previous calendar year. The statistics presented in this report vary between programs, largely based on length of time in operation and the availability of data. We are open to feedback about your agency’s informational needs, which will help enhance future reports.

Lisa Lightman
Director, San Francisco Collaborative Courts

ADULT PROGRAMS

ADULT DRUG COURT

OVERVIEW

Drug Court is a felony court that provides intensive judicial supervision and case management to non-violent offenders with substance use disorders. Drug Court has its own treatment clinic, the Drug Court Treatment Center, located one block from the criminal court. Drug Court is a 10-to-12 month program that includes regular court appearances, outpatient and residential treatment, and regular drug testing. Since its inception in 1995, Drug Court has worked with nearly 5,000 defendants.

NEW PROGRAM INFORMATION

Over the past five years, the Court has seen a significant decrease in its felony caseload. In 2014, there were 3,435 felony complaints filed in San Francisco, less than half the number filed in 2008 (7,459). The monthly average for active drug-related felony cases fell by 77% over the same five year period – from 1,738 at the end of 2008 to 409 at the end of 2014.

In November, California voters passed Proposition 47, “Reduced Penalties for Some Crimes Initiative,” which mandates misdemeanors instead of felonies for “non-serious, nonviolent crimes,” unless the defendant has prior disqualifying convictions. Proposition 47 caused a sea change in the number of defendants considered eligible for and who opt to participate in Drug Court. Presented with this challenge, Drug Court has maintained its caseload by ensuring all eligible defendants are identified as early as possible. The passage of Proposition 47 has also led Drug Court stakeholders to develop alternative protocols for misdemeanor defendants.

In 2013, Drug Court’s retention and graduate rates were below the national average. While San Francisco’s program works with harder to serve clients with complex social service needs, the decrease in retention motivated the Court to seek technical assistance from the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) in New York. Throughout the year, the Court completed all sixteen recommendations detailed in CCI’s final report. Here are a few highlights:

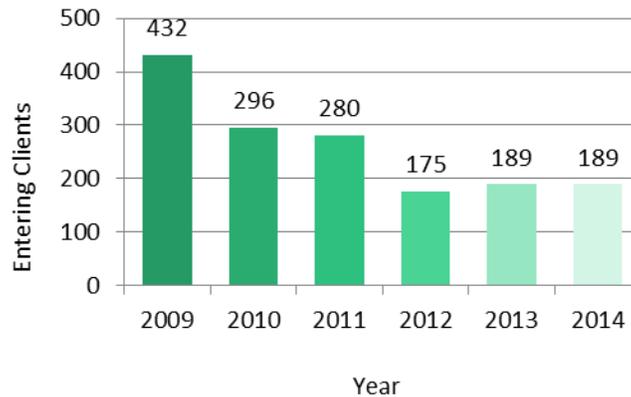
- Revised guidelines to expand legal eligibility criteria to enter Drug Court;
- Implemented a new training program to educate Drug Court team members and partner agencies about updates to clinical and criminal justice policies;
- Established a Drug Court-dedicated Probation Officer position to provide the team with a summary of COMPAS risk/needs assessments;
- Developed a Drug Court Participant Handbook that outlines our sanctions and incentives guidelines and includes a four-phase system protocol.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

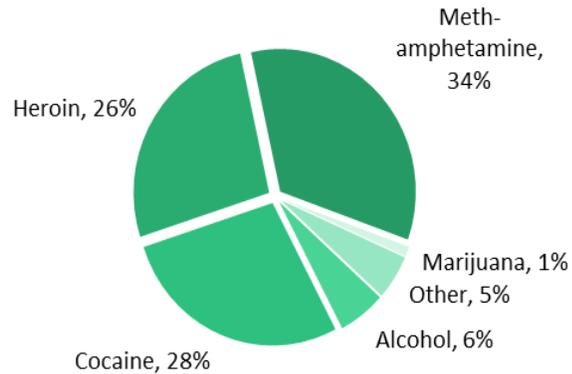
Clients Served

In 2014, 189 clients entered Drug Court, the same as the previous year. Overall, 296 clients had at least one court date scheduled in Drug Court in 2014. Drug Court has served 1,561 clients since 2009.

DRUG COURT: ENTERING CLIENT VOLUME



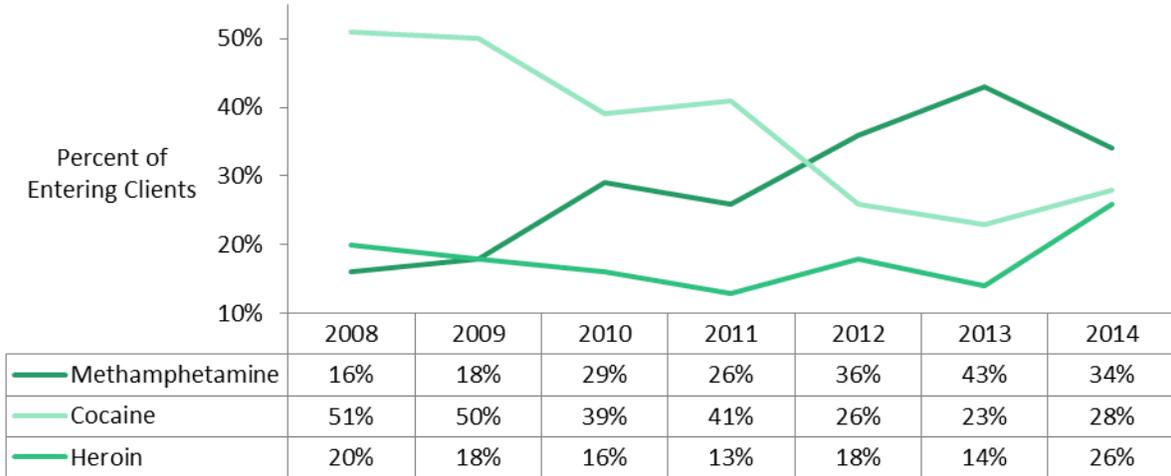
DRUG COURT: PRIMARY DRUG OF CHOICE



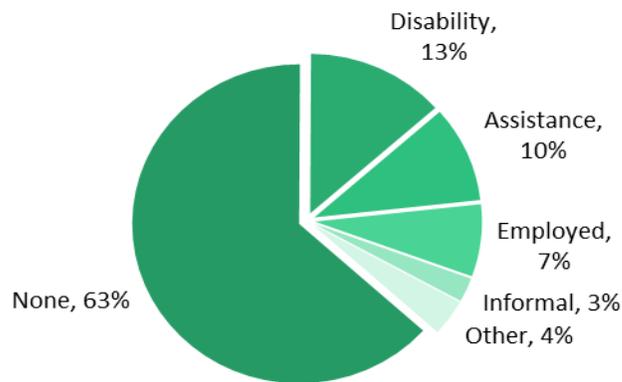
Primary Drug of Choice

In 2014, there was an 85% increase in the number of entering Drug Court clients reporting heroin as their primary drug of choice. This reflects the nationwide spike in opiate use. For the first time since 2008, there was a decrease in the percentage of clients reporting methamphetamine as their primary drug of choice.

DRUG COURT: DRUG OF CHOICE TRENDS



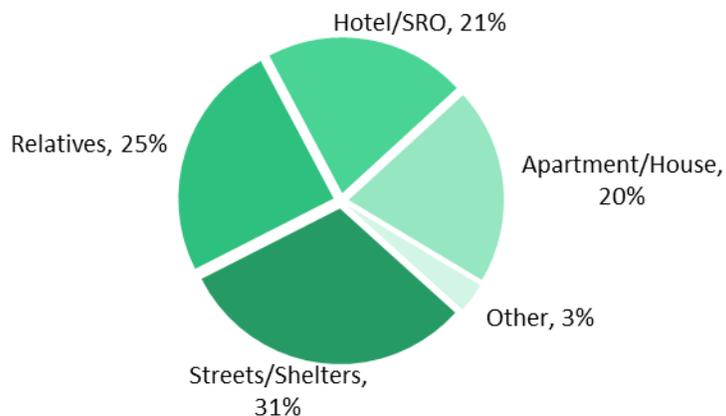
DRUG COURT: INCOME SOURCE AT ENTRY (N=189)



Income Source

The majority (63%) of clients reported having no income upon entering Drug Court. Only 7% of entering Drug Court clients report employment as their primary income source.

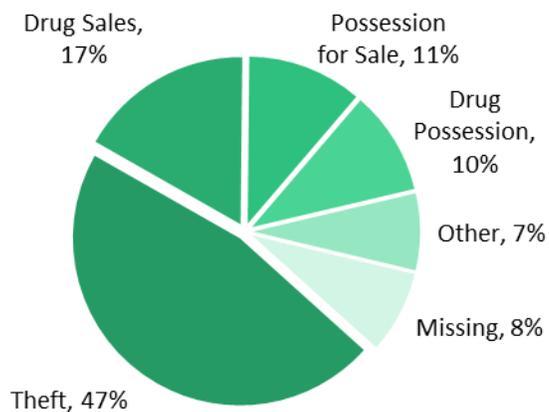
DRUG COURT: LIVING SITUATION AT ENRTY (N=189)



Living Situation

Fifty-two percent of clients report being homeless or living in a hotel/SRO upon entering Drug Court.

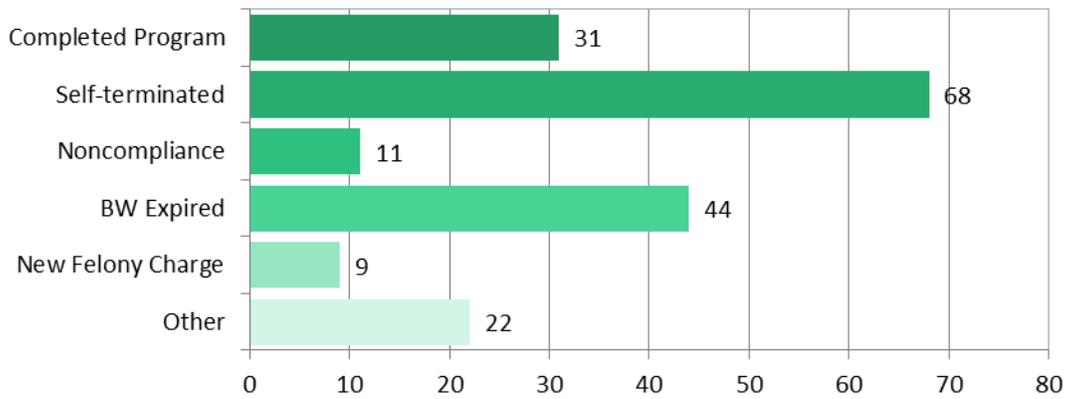
DRUG COURT: PRIMARY CHARGE (N=189)



Legal Characteristics

Forty-seven percent of entering clients had a theft-related primary charge (e.g. Penal Code sections 459, 487 and 496 or Vehicle Code section 10851). Seventy-seven percent of Drug Court clients entered with a "pre-plea" status, while 8% entered with a "deferred entry of judgement." (Entry status is missing for 15% of entering clients.) Eighty-four percent of Drug Court clients are incarcerated at entry. Forty percent of entering clients faced a "motion to revoke" probation, while 6% were on parole.

DRUG COURT: CLIENTS BY EXIT TYPE (N=185)



Exiting Clients

Thirty-one clients graduated from Drug Court in 2014. Another 154 clients exited Drug Court unsuccessfully throughout the year. Sixty-eight of those clients “self-terminated,” or opted out of Drug Court services.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT

OVERVIEW

Established in 2003, the San Francisco Behavioral Health Court (BHC) addresses the complex needs of mentally ill defendants, including those with co-occurring substance use disorders. An individualized treatment plan is developed for each client, including psychiatric rehabilitation services, medication management, supportive living arrangements, substance use treatment, supported employment, and intensive case management services. Participation is voluntary.

NEW PROGRAM INFORMATION

In 2013, BHC received a \$250,000 grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to implement the Housing and Employment for Recovery Outcomes (HERO) program. HERO provides transitional housing and supported employment services to qualifying BHC clients with the eventual goal of permanent housing and employment based on interest or former work experience. Employment counseling begins while clients are in jail and continues for the duration of the client's participation in the HERO program. Recognizing the importance of housing and employment for collaborative court clients, the Court is focused on developing a sustainability plan and expanding the reach of this innovative program. By the end of 2014, the HERO program had served 40 clients.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Assessments

In 2014, Jail Health Reentry Services administered 350 clinical assessments¹ on 274 defendants. Following the initial clinical assessment, 76 defendants were referred to BHC for legal eligibility assessments.

198 defendants were denied BHC services based on clinical assessment results. The most common reasons for clinical denial were: defendant not diagnostically appropriate (52%); defendant not amenable to services (17%); and defendant resides out of county (8%).

DENIAL REASON	PERCENT
Not diagnostically appropriate	52%
Not amenable	17%
Out of county resident	8%
Too decompensated	5%
Noncompliant with in-custody treatment plan	1%
Impairment level doesn't warrant BHC	2%
Other	14%
Missing	1%

¹ These figures do not include assessment appointments that were inconclusive and required an additional assessment.

Clients Served

In 2014, 46 clients were found legally eligible to participate in BHC. Throughout the year, 188 defendants had at least one court date scheduled in BHC.

Mental Health Diagnosis

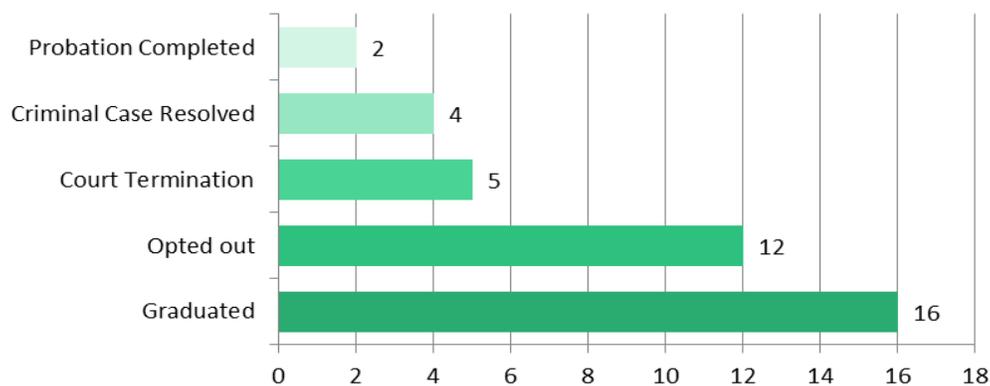
To be eligible for BHC, a defendant must present with an Axis I diagnosis per the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). Of the 46 clients who entered the program, the most common primary diagnoses were Schizophrenia (50%) and Schizoaffective Disorder (26%). Thirty-nine entering clients (78%) were diagnosed with co-occurring substance use disorder.

DIAGNOSIS	PERCENT
Schizophrenia, Paranoid type	41%
Schizoaffective Disorder	13%
Psychotic Disorder NOS	11%
Bipolar Disorder	9%
Major Depressive Disorder	6%
Other	11%
Missing	9%

Exiting Clients

In 2014, 39 clients exited BHC. Forty two percent of clients completed the program in full and graduated, 30% of clients "opted out" or self terminated, 13% of client's participation was terminated by the court, 10% of clients had their criminal case resolved, and 5% of clients successfully completed their probation.

BHC: CLIENTS BY EXIT TYPE (N=39)



Exiting Clients

Clients participating in BHC have unique needs and personalized treatment plans; officially graduating doesn't necessarily define whether or not a client has achieved success in the program. For example, a client who has successfully completed their probation or has credit for time served may voluntarily exit the program before becoming eligible for graduation.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER

OVERVIEW

Established in 2009, the Community Justice Center (CJC) is a criminal court and social service center that serves San Francisco's Tenderloin, Civic Center, Union Square, and South of Market neighborhoods. Clinical staff are available onsite to assess social service needs related to defendants' underlying offenses and to develop individualized treatment plans for defendants determined eligible for CJC services. CJC clients are connected with treatment for substance use, mental health, or primary health issues. CJC includes a restorative justice program that allows CJC clients to complete community service hours (voluntary or Court-ordered) and give back to the community. CJC clients have completed 10,605 community service hours since 2011.

Staff from the Superior Court, Department of Public Health, Office of the Public Defender, Office of the District Attorney, and Adult Probation have offices in the CJC's Service Center.

NEW PROGRAM INFORMATION

In 2014, the RAND Corporation published a report on the San Francisco Community Justice Center (CJC) regarding whether or not the CJC reduces the risk of criminal recidivism. RAND examined one year arrest rates of individuals arrested for eligible offenses both inside and outside CJC's designated geographic area (the Tenderloin, South of Market, Union Square, and Civic Center neighborhoods), both before and after the CJC became active as a community court. Analysis of this data concluded that the probability of re-arrest for those originally arrested within the CJC catchment area decreased over time, compared to those that were arrested outside of the area, whose probability of being rearrested increased over time. Furthermore, there was an 8.9% to 10.3% reduction in the probability of being rearrested within one year, supporting the hypothesis that the CJC reduces criminal recidivism.

The CJC received a grant from the Judicial Council of California to serve parolees in need of services. Identified as the CJC-Parolee Court, services include case management and housing for parolees in the CJC geographic area.

In September 2014, the Center for Court Innovation, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, chose San Francisco as one of four mentor courts for jurisdictions seeking to enhance procedural justice and promote the use of alternatives to jail.

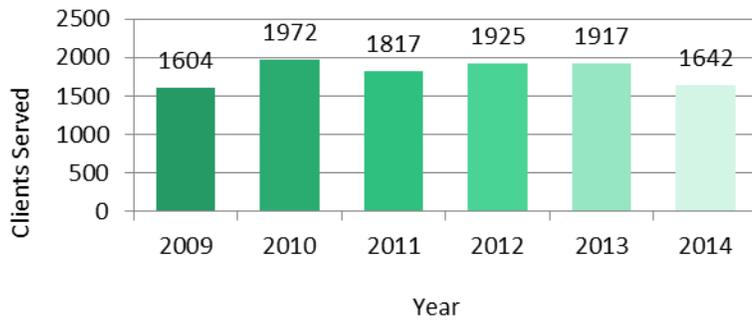
The CJC completed a new database to improve the program's ability to track client progress and analyze program activity.

The waiting area in the CJC Service Center at 555 Polk Street received a complete renovation through the city's First Impressions Program. First Impressions help consumers to learn basic construction and remodeling skills, receive on-the-job training and mentoring and secure meaningful employment opportunities.

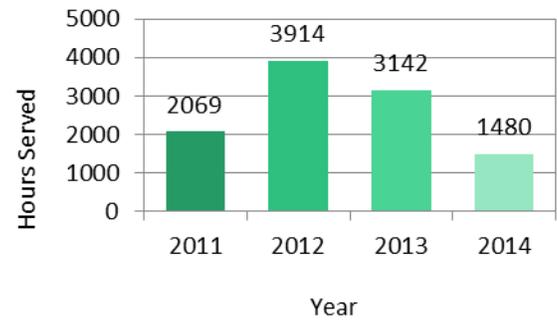
PROGRAM ACTIVITY

In 2014, a total of 1,642 defendants had at least one court date scheduled in the CJC, representing a volume of approximately 2,108 cases. Between the years of 2011 and 2014, CJC served a total of 10,877 clients.

CJC: TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED



CJC: COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS



INTENSIVE SUPERVISION COURT

OVERVIEW

The Intensive Supervision Court (ISC) (originally called the Probation Alternatives Court) began in October 2010. ISC was created by the Adult Probation Department as a voluntary court-based intensive supervision program with the goals of reducing recidivism, improving public safety, reducing state prison commitments, minimizing incarceration, and improving probation supervision completions.

ISC's target population is high-risk, high-needs probation clients who are facing a state prison commitment as a result of probation violations. ISC essentially provides this challenging population with another opportunity for supervision in the community as an alternative to state prison. The ISC is unique from other treatment courts with a collaborative approach in that it targets clients who have been terminated from other treatment courts or who would be considered ineligible or unsuitable for other treatment courts due to their extensive criminal records, histories of unsuccessful performance on probation, and high risk for probation revocation and state prison commitment.

ISC clients receive a COMPAS risk and needs assessment, case management based on assessment results, extensive wraparound support services, electronic monitoring when appropriate, and close judicial monitoring. The court utilizes a multidisciplinary treatment team approach and provides services such as housing, employment, education, family reunification support, substance abuse, health, and mental health programs.

NEW PROGRAM INFORMATION

- ISC clients continue to access mental health and substance abuse assessment, treatment plans, and referrals through the Behavioral Health Access Center.
- The ISC makes case management referrals to the Community Service and Assessment Center (CASC), Citywide Case Management, and the Senior Ex-Offender Program. ISC staff participate in monthly interdisciplinary conferences with CASC staff to manage clients' intensive case management plans.
- The ISC makes referrals to the Reentry Pod for intensive in-custody programming. The Pod is now an integral part of ISC's rewards and responses options for client behavioral management.

STATISTICS:

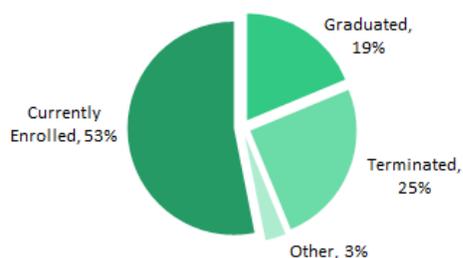
- Number of clients served since program inception: 120
- Number of active participants in 2014: 64, including 56 male, 6 female, and 2 transgender clients
- IN 2014, clients had an average of 4.1 prior felonies and collectively faced an estimated 241 years in state prison.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

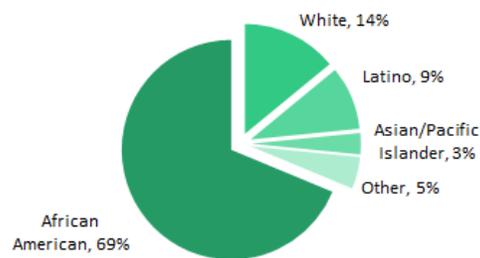
Clients Served

Overall, 64 clients received services through ISC in 2014, including both entering and continuing clients. By the end of the year, 33 remained in the program, one transferred to another county, 12 graduated, one was deceased, and 16 terminated unsuccessfully.

ISC: CLIENTS BY STATUS AT YEAR END, 2014 (N=64)



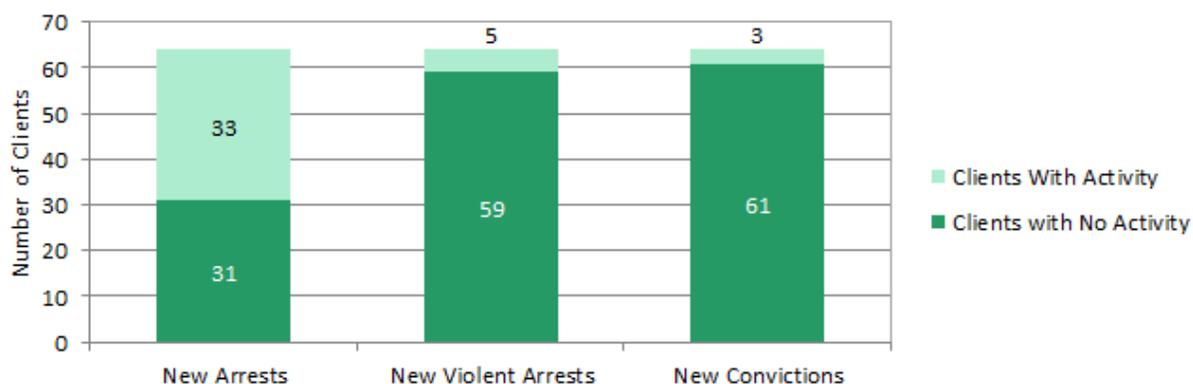
ISC: CLIENTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2014 (N=64)



New Criminal Activity

Forty eight percent of clients (31) had no new arrests in 2014, 92% (59) had no new violent arrests, and 95% (61) had no new convictions.

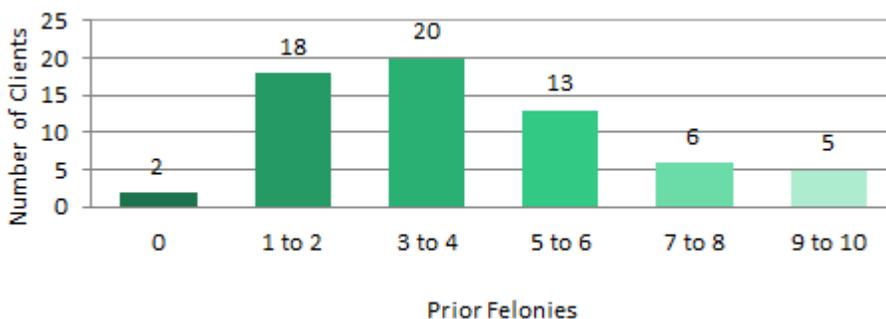
ISC: NEW ARREST ACTIVITY 2014 (N=64)



Criminal Justice Factors

ISC clients have extensive criminal histories. The majority (80%) had between one and six prior felonies, while 17% had between 7 and 10 prior felonies. On average, clients were facing an estimated 3.8 years of state prison time, with 10 clients facing five or more years of prison.

ISC: YEARS OF STATE PRISON (N=64)



VETERANS JUSTICE COURT

OVERVIEW

The Veterans Justice Court (VJC) – established in April, 2013 and expanded as a stand-alone court in January, 2015 – is for military veterans charged with criminal offenses. The court’s objective is to provide substance abuse and mental health treatment, as well as academic, vocational, or skills improvement leading to job placement and retention. To participate, the defendant must meet VJC legal eligibility and clinical suitability criteria.

NEW PROGRAM INFORMATION

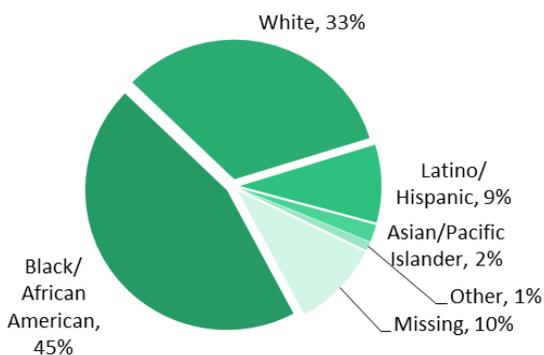
With the 2015 move and expansion, Veterans Justice Court (VJC) serves persons charged with misdemeanors and most felonies in San Francisco who served in the military (including those with less than honorable discharges). Veterans Justice Court now serves veterans beyond the CJC boundaries.

The Superior Court was the recipient of a \$350,000 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant under the 2014 Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program to allow for additional case management services. The BJA received more than 200 applications nationwide and funded fewer than 15 programs. San Francisco’s 3-year grant will pay for a case manager who will help clients not eligible for VA healthcare services to access other services. This position will allow the VJC to help eligible veterans regardless of their service or discharge status. Initially, the VJC caseload is expected to increase from 35 to an estimated 50 clients.

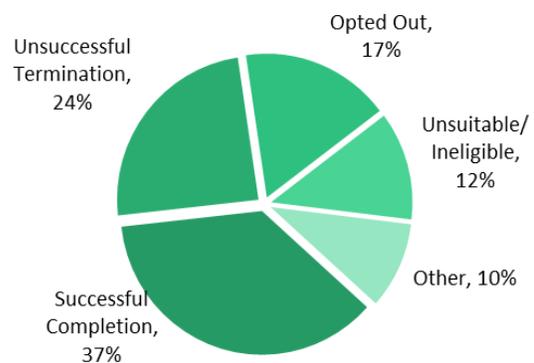
PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Thirty-eight clients entered VJC in 2014. Forty-five percent of entering clients were Black/African American, 33% were White, and 9% were Latino/Hispanic. Of the 41 clients who exited VJC in 2014, 37% (15) successfully completed the program.

VJC: ETHNICITY (N=38)



VJC: EXITS BY TYPE, 2014 (N=41)



YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT

OVERVIEW

The San Francisco Dependency Drug Court (DDC) is a court-supervised family support program serving families involved in the juvenile dependency (child welfare) system that have been impacted by parental substance use. DDC uses a multidisciplinary team approach to develop family-focused, trauma informed treatment plans that address the needs of each family member.

DDC seeks to enhance permanency outcomes for children – with the preferred outcome of family reunification – by offering coordinated treatment planning. Services include: judicial monitoring, substance use assessment and treatment, mental health services, parenting education, intensive case management, drug testing, priority referrals to transitional housing, and other family support services.

DDC'S GOALS ARE TO:

- Increase reunification rate among families involved in the juvenile dependency system that are impacted by parental substance use;
- Increase placement stability and reduce children's re-entry into foster care after reunification;
- Provide highly coordinated and clinically-focused substance use treatment and ancillary service planning, while ensuring that parents have a voice in the decision making process;
- Increase inter-agency collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and cross-systems efficiencies;
- Promote early bonding and attachment;
- Improve developmental outcomes for children.

NEW PROGRAM INFORMATION

In 2014, DDC began implementing the Prevention and Family Recovery (PFR) program, an initiative funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and overseen by Children and Family Futures. PFR seeks to promote child well-being by implementing evidence-based parent education and increasing access to children's therapeutic services. Using grant funds, DDC added two new members to its multidisciplinary team: a full-time Public Health Nurse and a part-time Children's Services Coordinator. Both positions were implemented through the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

DDC also began offering SafeCare, an evidence-based home visitation program that has been shown to reduce child maltreatment among families in the child welfare system. All DDC participating families with children 0-5 years old are eligible to receive SafeCare services.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

In 2014, 114 parents were referred to DDC; 74 parents and 99 children entered DDC. Thirty-nine percent of entering parents were African American, 26% were White, 23% were Latino, 9% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 3% were Native American.

In all, 111 parents and 158 children participated in DDC during the year, including both entering and continuing families. Twenty-one parents successfully terminated or graduated from the program.

JUVENILE REENTRY COURT

OVERVIEW

The Juvenile Reentry Court (JRC) was established in 2009 by the Juvenile Probation Department and the Office of the Public Defender to provide coordinated and comprehensive reentry case planning and aftercare services for high needs foster youth in the juvenile delinquency system. The model establishes a collaborative team approach in the development and implementation of reentry plans for youth returning home from out-of-home placement. Three months prior to completion of out-of-home placement, the plan is finalized and may include housing, vocational training, education, therapy and/or drug treatment, and any other services needed to ensure the minor's success. JRC employs evidence-based practices (motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral therapy) and utilizes risk-needs assessment tools that further enhance the appropriate treatment plan.

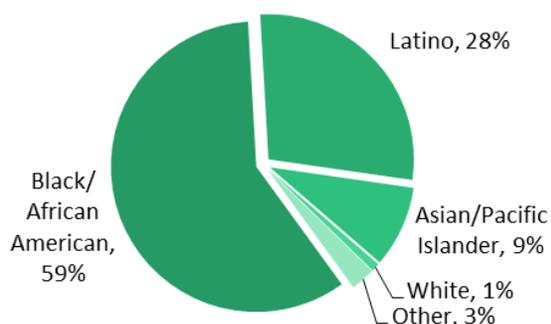
NEW PROGRAM INFORMATION

JRC expanded into a specialized Girls Court, a one-day per month calendar to provide gender-specific services to increase the program retention and success of this target population. Girls are often traumatized sexually and are abused in ways that are different than boys. Two leading community providers, Huckleberry House and the Center for Young Women's Development (CYWD) are present during Girls Court and in pre court meetings to share their expertise and to advise the team. Because immediacy of program delivery is critical to program success, Girls Court has been referring girls directly to CYWD and Huckleberry House during the court session. Girls Court is committed to working with at-risk girls and will continue to build their community connections and partnerships to advance the provision of out of custody services.

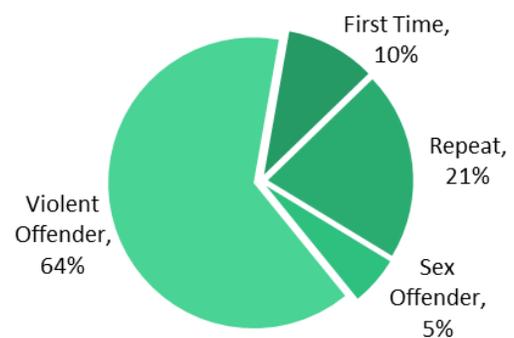
PROGRAM ACTIVITY

In 2014, 110 youth were served in the Juvenile Reentry Program. The vast majority (59%) were African American, followed by Latino (28%). Fifty-two percent of youth were minors, while the remaining 48% were over 18 years old. Finally, 64% of youth were violent offenders and 21% were repeat offenders.

JRC: ETHNICITY (N=110)



JRC: BY OFFENDER TYPE, 2014 (N=110)



SAN FRANCISCO ACHIEVEMENT COLLABORTIVE TEAM (SF-ACT)

OVERVIEW

The San Francisco Achievement Collaborative Team (SF-ACT) is a joint educational and behavioral health program for substance using youth at the Civic Center Secondary School. This juvenile drug court program was restructured in September 2013 to provide multi-phased evidence-based treatment and court supervision for probation-involved youth in a school setting.

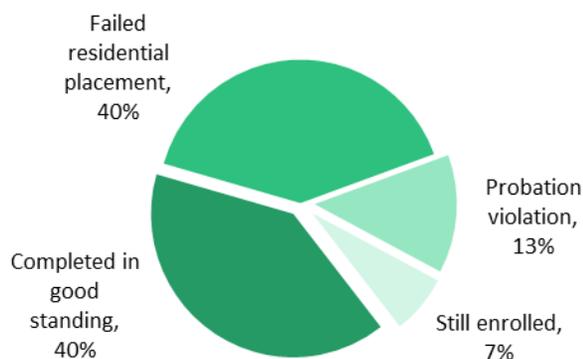
SF-ACT offers individual and family therapy, home visits, substance abuse counseling, case management and academic support. The program is a partnership between the San Francisco Unified School District, the San Francisco Superior Court, the Department of Public Health, the Juvenile Probation Department, the Office of the District Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, the Department of Children, Youth and Families, Catholic Charities, and Richmond Area Multi-Services. A Wellness Center at the Civic Center School is the central hub for all additional health and wellness services.

SF-ACT targets juvenile offenders (ages 14-17 years) whose delinquent behavior is connected to the ongoing chronic and habitual abuse of substances. Typically, youth enrolled in SF-ACT will have social histories marked by prior contacts with law enforcement, previous exposure to addiction treatment programs and a history of relapse into substance abuse. SF-ACT also provides voluntary aftercare services, including monthly check-ins with client and family, and linkages to community-based organizations. Furthermore, youth who successfully finish the program can choose to participate in alumni groups, or become mentors for current SF-ACT clients.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

There were 15 youth served by the SF-ACT program in 2014. Forty percent of clients completed SF-ACT in good standing, 40% failed to comply with their residential treatment placement and were taken into custody, 13% were taken into custody prior to completion due to a probation violation, and one client was still enrolled in SA-ACT (7%) at the end of 2014.

SF_ACT: CLIENTS BY EXIT TYPE (N=15)



PROGRAM COMPLETIONS

Eighty three percent of youth that finished SF-ACT in 2014 demonstrated between 30% and 100% reduction in drug use by the time of completion. Two-thirds of clients who completed SF-ACT continued to engage in aftercare "alumni" services.

TRUANCY COURT

OVERVIEW

Truancy Court was developed as part of the San Francisco District Attorney's Truancy Intervention Program (SFTIP), established in 2006 through the joint efforts of San Francisco's District Attorney's Office, Mayor's Office, Superior Court, and Unified School District. Since that time, SFTIP has also incorporated additional public agencies, charter schools, and community-based service providers from across the city with an eye towards reducing absenteeism in our schools. This goal of reducing truancy not only gets our children back in school and on the path to success, but also saves billions of dollars in public resources and improves public safety.

Statistics show that there is a relationship between school attendance and public safety. In San Francisco, 94% of homicide victims under the age of 25 dropped out of high school and nationally, 68% of our state prison inmates are dropouts. Studies indicate that, on average, one additional year of schooling corresponds to a 20 percent decrease in the likelihood that a juvenile will steal a car and a 30% decrease in the likelihood that they will commit murder or assault. *Therefore, by keeping our children in school and off the streets, SFTIP hopes to keep students away from victimization and crime.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Truancy intervention begins at the school level. As mandated by the California Education Code, schools carry out a seven-step truancy process. Parents are notified in person, by telephone and by mail, attend conferences with school officials, and are offered services to assist them in getting their children to school. If all else fails in rectifying the truancy, the schools refer the cases to the District Attorney's office Truancy Intervention Program.

Our model employs a three-pronged approach to combat truancy:

Stage 1: Education. The District Attorney's Office engages in public education and outreach. This involves meeting with schools and families and taking part in events within the education community with the goal of spreading the word about truancy, its consequences and how the school district, District Attorney's Office and our other partners can help. In addition, each public school parent receives a letter from the DA at the outset of every school year describing the problem of truancy and the consequences, and urging parents to keep children in school. SFTIP has also used billboards, media and district-wide forums to educate parents about truancy and encourage students to stay in school.

Stage 2: Intervention. When children become habitually truant, parents are asked to attend school attendance review board (SARB) meetings. We also host school-based parent group sessions to outline the steps parents must take to get their children in school and avoid more serious consequences. The DA's Office also hosts collaborative meetings with various city agencies and service providers to address the needs of individual habitually truant students and their families.

Stage 3: Prosecution. Parents of truant children who do not change course in Stage 2 are subject to prosecution. Students themselves, who are over the age of 13, can also be subject to prosecution for their own truancy if they are the cause of their absenteeism. Truant families must report to a specialized Truancy Court that combines close court monitoring with tailored family services. In this court, SFUSD and the Truancy Assessment and Resource Center (TARC) – funded by the City and operated by Urban Services YMCA – are on hand to resolve underlying issues such as transportation, unstable housing, substance abuse, mental health, neglect or unresolved special education needs. Those families who are continually reluctant to send their children to school are subject to fine. Students who remain truant may face community service and suspension of their driver's license.

SCHOOL-SITE ACTIVITY

ACTIVITIES FOCUSED ON PRE-PROSECUTION INTERVENTION:

As part of SFTIP, in 2012 the District Attorney's Office began funding a case manager on-site at Burton High School to work with entering ninth-graders on the school district's "Early Warning List" – those students who had experienced high truancy and low academic performance in eighth grade. In 2013, San Francisco Supervisors Cohen and Breed provided funds to expand the program to Ida B. Wells Continuation School. Ongoing funding is now provided by the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families. Run by the YMCA's Truancy Assessment Resource Center (TARC), this funding pays for case managers to work at the school sites themselves – providing intensive support and supervision for students beginning at the start of the school year, before they become truant, and helping them to make a successful transition to high school.

2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR:

During the 2013-2014 school year, TARC was able to work with 25 students at both Ida B. Wells Continuation and Burton High School, for a total of 50 students served. TARC intervention for these students can involve everything from home visits and school-site meetings to other types of intervention, such as tutoring.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

The facts are disturbingly simple: Today's truant is tomorrow's dropout. And tomorrow's dropout is all too likely to find trouble and end up in our criminal justice system. In order to prevent this, SFTIP has over 60 pending cases with more interventions and referrals from the School District every year.

In 2014, SFTIP filed 37 new cases against truant students and/or parents of truant students to be heard in court. Every one of the families that appeared in court agreed to receive services and work with the court, the school district, TARC, and the San Francisco District Attorney's office to improve their truancy. In addition to this, a number of these families agreed to work with TARC or were already working with TARC. Each TARC caseworker typically has a rotating caseload of about 12-15 students. These caseworkers supplement and enhance the work in the courtroom done by SFTIP.

*Statistics provided by the Office of the District Attorney.