

Rappahannock Area Alcohol Safety Action Program



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Recidivism Rate Comparison Study

This report includes a comparison study for the recidivism rate between all DUI Court referrals and a sampling of referrals without DUI Court monitoring. Offenders were referred that had been adjudicated for DUI's under 18.2-266 to 18.2-273, misdemeanor drug possession under 18.2-251, alcohol related Reckless Driving and other alcohol related offenses the Judge deemed alcohol and/or drug related (299 referral). The offenders referred all complete an intake assessment screening for substance abuse and psychiatric history. Only those offenders who have had multiple offenses or display identifiable symptoms of addiction are included in this study. These offenders are required to successfully complete substance abuse/ psychiatric treatment as clinical diagnosis determines to successfully complete probation supervision. The main difference between the two samplings is the amount of judicial involvement in each offender's probation monitoring. All offenders are required to do the same type of intervention requirements while in the program. However, those referred through the DUI Court program are seen for regularly scheduled judicial reviews. The DUI Court Judge can take immediate sanctions for non-compliant behavior such as residential treatment or issuing a show cause to revoke suspended jail time. In the sampling without DUI Court monitoring, there is no judicial involvement unless an offender becomes non-compliant in the program, and then a non-compliance report is issued to the presiding court. In turn, a show cause summons is issued with the hearing of non-compliance being held in 45 to 60 days, before the presiding Judge. There are 149 referrals from the DUI Court sampling and 249 referrals from the no court monitoring sampling included in this study. The recidivism rate is measured by how many referrals have had subsequent offenses since their initial referral into the program. Percentages from both of these samples are being compared.

There are two separate categories that each sampling has been divided into: Successful Completions and Unsuccessful Completions of each program. A Successful Completion is defined as completion of the assigned treatment and follow-up monitoring demonstrating abstinence of all alcohol/drug use and utilization of a conducive recovery environment. Each of the categories is further broken down by offenses that occurred during probation and offenses that occurred after the probationary period. These offenses include any alcohol and drug related charges or convictions that have occurred. The data for the study was gathered using DMV records that were pulled at the Rappahannock Area Alcohol Safety Action Program office. The offender's names have been removed due to Federal Confidentiality Laws (42 CFR Part 2).

In the DUI Court sampling, those included were referred between the dates of May 1, 1999 through June 30, 2001. There have been 103 graduates who have successfully completed the program. Of those graduates, 5 received subsequent offenses during their probationary period, which is a 5% recidivism rate. There have been 3 subsequent offenses that occurred after the probationer completed the DUI Court program, which is a 3% recidivism rate. Of these referrals, 85 were referred for DUI's, 16 were referred for drug possession, 2 for other alcohol related charges (299 referral), 1 for Reckless Driving and 1 for Underage Possession of alcohol. There have been 46 probationers who have failed to complete the DUI Court program and have been listed as unsuccessful. Of these probationers, 8 received subsequent offenses during their probationary period, which is a 17% recidivism rate and 2 have received offenses since being unsuccessfully discharged from the program, which is a 4% recidivism rate. Of these referrals, 28 were referred for DUI's, 13 were referred for Drug possession, 4 were referred for other alcohol related offenses (299 referral), and 1 was referred for Driving after illegally consuming.

In the sampling of individuals who were not court monitored, those included were referred between the dates of January 1, 1999 and December 30, 2000. All offenders from this time period that fit the same criteria as the DUI Court offenders were included. There have been 193 probationers from this sampling who have successfully completed the VASAP program. Of those probationers, 18 received subsequent offenses during their probationary period, which is a 9% recidivism rate. There have been 10 subsequent offenses that occurred after the probationer completed the VASAP program, which is a 5% recidivism rate. Of these offenders, 176 were referred for DUI's, 13 were referred for drug possession, 4 were referred for alcohol related Reckless Driving and 1 was referred for an other alcohol related offense (299 referral). There have been 56 probationers who have failed to complete the VASAP program and are listed as unsuccessful. Of these probationers, 10 received subsequent offenses during their probationary period, which is an 18% recidivism rate, and 15 have received subsequent offenses since being unsuccessfully discharged from the program, which is a 27% recidivism rate. Of these offenders, 44 were referred for DUI's, 10 were referred for Drug Possession, 1 was referred for Reckless Driving and 1 was referred for an alcohol related offense (299 referral).

Outcome Summary

The numbers provided in this study show that there is a significant difference in recidivism rates between individuals with DUI Court monitoring and those without monitoring. Percentages of new DUI offenses for those who did not participate in the DUI Court program were higher than those who did participate in DUI Court. It is also significant to note that those who successfully completed the program that they were assigned had a lower recidivism rate than those who were unsuccessfully discharged. These statistics can easily be seen in the following:

With DUI Court monitoring-

103 Graduates-

5 offenses during probation- 5%

3 offenses after probation- 3%

=**8 total new offenses since referral- 8%**

46 unsuccessful completions-

8 offenses during probation- 17%

2 offenses after probation- 4 %

=**10 total new offenses since referral- 22%**

Without DUI Court Monitoring-

193 successful completions

18 offenses during probation- 9%

10 offenses after probation- 5%

=**28 total new offenses since referral- 15%**

56 unsuccessful completions-

10 offenses during probation- 18%

15 offenses after probation- 27%

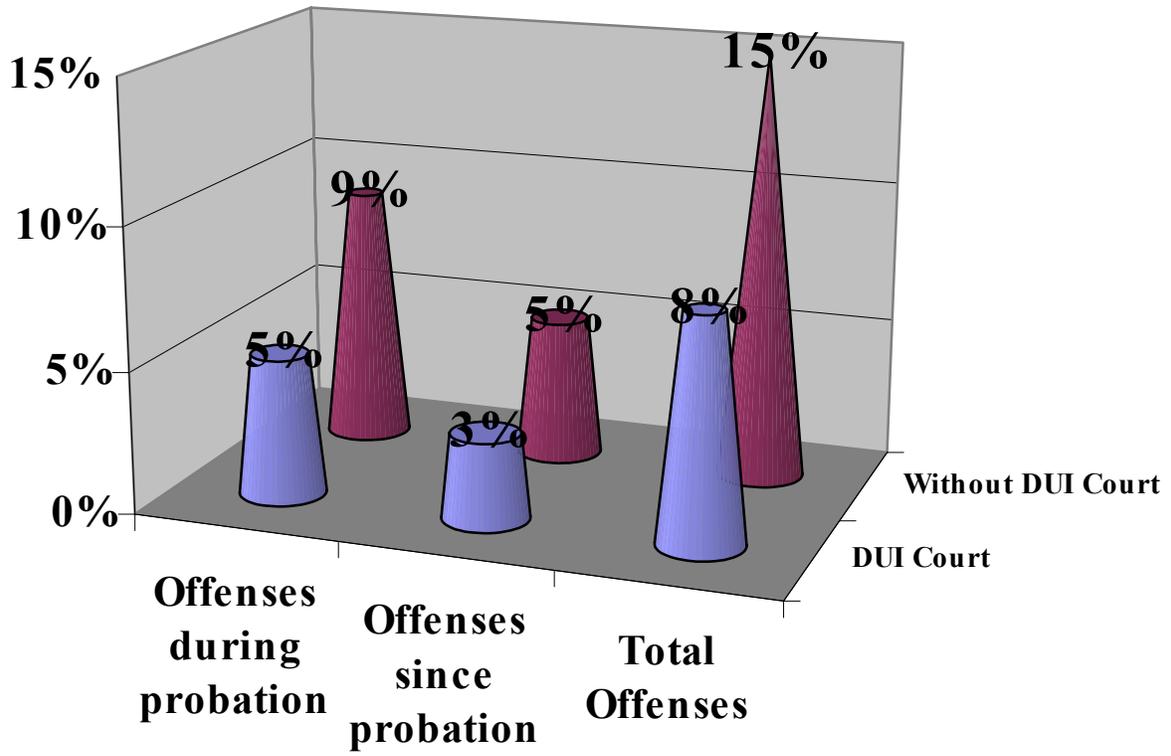
=**28 total new offenses since referral- 45%**

There are a number of other benefits to the DUI Court program, such as:

- ☀ **Improvement in client attitude-** these clients generally express a willingness to complete the program and are less argumentative.
- ☀ **Support of RAASAP case manager by the Court-** the Judge reinforces the requirements of the program to the client, which makes the case managers job easier.
- ☀ **Clients gain a better understanding of their requirements-** this can reduce the number of non-compliances.
- ☀ **Less court time involved for RAASAP case managers-** without DUI Court a case manager may spend 4-6 hours of their costly time in court for 1 non-compliant case. With DUI Court, a case manager spends approximately one hour in court dealing with 10-20 cases.
- ☀ **Less time spent on case review appointments-** frequency of seeing client's in court reduces the number of case review appointments needed for these clients in the RAASAP office.
- ☀ **Less paperwork time for non-compliance reports-** weekly court reports require less time writing than do non-compliance reports to other courts.
- ☀ **Reduced time lapse between non-compliance and court intervention-** DUI Court deals with non-compliant behaviors in less than 30 days. Without this monitoring, it will be at least 2-3 months before the case is brought to court.
- ☀ **Improves community safety due to the promptness of dealing with non-compliances-** those who have to wait for non-compliances to be heard in court present a community threat because their non-compliance behaviors are not promptly dealt with.

In summary, it is recommended that the DUI Court program continue for at least 2 years in order to more accurately assess the efficacy of the program. DUI Court has been in existence for less than 3 years and there are always improvements that can be made to a new program to increase its success. There are a number of benefits to the DUI Court program as listed above. Overall, the recidivism rates reflected in this study are impressive and should reflect the success of both DUI Court and RAASAP.

Successful Completions



Unsuccessful Completions

