EVALUATION OF THE
BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN DWI/DRUG COURT
FINAL REPORT

Prepared for:
Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court

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September 2002

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Introduction

As of July 31, 2001, 560 offenders have been served in the Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court. The first client in the program began in July 1997. This report is divided into four major sections. In the first section, we briefly summarize four years of client demographic, criminal history, treatment, and other programmatic characteristics of individuals served in the Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court Program. In the second section, we present an analysis of the data using logistic regression modeling. This technique allows us to present the profiles of successful and unsuccessful drug court participants. The third section reflects an in-depth look into client recidivism for any new offense for drug court graduates compared to similar groups of successful and unsuccessful probation clients. Finally, an analysis of the difference between the costs of incarceration for drug court clients compared to a similar group of probation clients.

The client level drug court information in this report is based solely upon automated data collected and entered by Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court. No attempt was made to verify or validate data quality since the scope of our contract does not include these responsibilities. Similarly, the comparison group data included in the latter sections of this report are drawn from automated records maintained by the Court. We did not attempt to reconstruct any missing, incomplete or incorrect data.

Part One: Summary Statistics

In this section, we review summary client statistics for individuals served since the inception of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court. This summary explains not only who the clients are, but also what treatments or interventions they have been given, and how they performed in the program. In this summary, we only include those clients who have had an intake and discharge. This summary does not include clients assessed but not accepted into the program or clients who were current at of August 1, 2001. A total of 450 clients have been served and discharged from Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court through July 31, 2001.

The Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court maintains a client database created by the Institute for Social Research. This database stores screening, intake, treatment, and exit data for drug court clients. The database has facilitated the ability to standardize client information. In the following paragraphs, we will explain the process of how a client enters the program along with a discussion of screening data, followed by intake and exit information.

Demographic Summary

On July 24, 1997 the DWI /Drug Court program at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court began taking their first clients. While the court primarily deals with DWI cases, it also addresses drug offenses and other misdemeanor cases that have resulted in large part due to the defendant's

dependence on alcohol and other substances. According to the program's mission statement, "the Bernalillo County DWI/Drug Court is a voluntary program, which seeks to reduce substance abuse, crime, and recidivism by providing intensive supervision, treatment, and judicial oversight for alcohol and other drug dependent participants."

The types of people eligible to participate in the program include men and women who are non-violent offenders who have been convicted of a subsequent misdemeanor DWI or other misdemeanor offense. After entering a guilty plea to the offense that qualified them for the drug court program, the client, if willing, is referred to the drug court team for eligibility screening. The primary persons responsible for eligibility screening are the drug court team comprised of judges, the chief probation officer, drug court probation officers, and the treatment provider.

Once a client is deemed acceptable for participation in the program they are placed in the first phase of the program. Clients are required to complete three phases before being placed in to the fourth and final aftercare phase. Each of the first three phases includes counseling, urinalysis, 12 step AA or NA meetings, DWI/Drug Court attendance, and regular meeting with their drug court probation officer. In the transitional phase, clients are still under the jurisdiction of the court. During this phase, the client participates in a reduced number of counseling sessions and 12 step meetings. Because the client is still an active drug court participant, they may also be required to submit to urine screening or other conditions. Each client is given a handbook which explains the specific requirements of each phase of the program.

All clients are screened before being accepted into the drug court program. The screening form includes a variety of criminal history and substance abuse information necessary to determine client eligibility. In this section, we summarize some of the screening findings for the 450 clients who participated in the program during the past four years.

Intake Date

Following screening, clients are ready to be accepted into the drug court program. On average, clients wait 11.2 days between their screening and intake. Table 1 shows the number of clients who received an intake by fiscal year.

Table 1: Number of Clients Served by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Frequency	Valid Percent
July 1997 - June 1998	80	17.8%
July 1998 - July 1999	112	24.9%
July 1999 - July 2000	177	39.3%
July 2000 - July 2001	81	18.0%
Total	450	100.0%

Age at Intake

The mean age at intake for all clients is 36.5 years old. Table 2 shows the distribution of clients by age ranges.

Table 2: Age at Intake for All Drug Court Participants

Age in Years	Frequency	Valid Percent
18-24	47	10.4%
25-34	153	34.0%
35-44	175	38.9%
45-54	62	13.8%
Over 54	13	2.9%
Total	450	100.0%

Ethnicity

The majority of all drug court participants are Hispanic (58.4%), followed by White non-Hispanics (22.7%) and Native Americans (16.9%). It is interesting to compare these figures to the general census figures for Bernalillo County from 1998. The data show that Whites comprised 50.7% of the population, while Hispanics were 39.3% and Native Americans only 3.8%. Thus we find that Native Americans and Hispanics are over-represented in the drug court population. It would be interesting to know if the ethnicity ratios found in drug court mirror the offending population for those eligible for drug court.

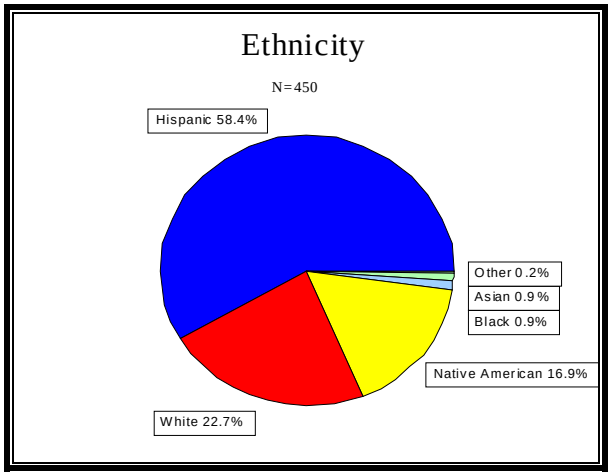

Figure 1: Ethnicity for All Drug Court Participants

Gender

Males comprise 84.0% of all clients admitted into the Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court. It is interesting to note that intakes by gender have varied by fiscal year. We found for example, only five women were administered intakes during fiscal year 2001, only 6.2% of all intakes.

Table 3: Gender

Gender	Frequency	Valid Percent
Males	378	84.0%
Females	72	16.0%
Total	450	100.0%

Years of education at intake

The mean years of education at intake for all clients is 12.0 years. The median is also 12.0 years. On average, women have slightly less education at intake.

Number of dependents
The data show that about half of all program participants have children while the other half do not. The mean number of dependents for all clients is 1.0 child. No data was available for seventy-nine clients.

Marital status
Less than one quarter of clients served were married at the time of intake. Single individuals make up a disproportionate percentage of the drug court population when compared to the general public.

Table 4: Marital Status for All Drug Court Participants

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Married	108	24.0%
Widowed	6	1.3%
Divorced	88	19.6%
Separated	10	2.2%
Never Married	54	12.0%
Single, Otherwise Unknown	184	40.9%
Total	450	100.0%

Employment status at intake
Most clients were employed at the time of intake (74.2%). It is unknown if clients are employed part-time or full time.

Table 5: Employment Status at Intake for All Drug Court Participants

Employment Status	Frequency	Valid Percent
Employed	334	74.2%
Unemployed	116	25.8%
Total	450	100.0%

Primary substance of choice
By far the leading drug of choice among this drug court population is alcohol. This is not surprising since the main client population of the drug court is repeat DWI offenders.

Table 6: Primary Substance of Choice for All Drug Court Participants

Primary Substance	Frequency	Valid Percent
Alcohol	422	93.8%
Heroin	8	1.8%
Amphetamines	1	0.2%
Cocaine	19	4.2%
Total	450	100.0%

Referral source
Not surprisingly most referrals to drug court come from either probation or a judge. The referral source was missing for eighty-eight participants.

Table 7: Referral Sources for All Drug Court Participants

Referral Source (missing=88)	Frequency	Valid Percent
Judge	156	43.1%
Probation Officer	153	42.3%
Other	53	14.6%
Total	362	100.0%

Prior misdemeanor convictions
The number of prior misdemeanor convictions could not be determined for 146 (32.4%) clients due to missing data. We found the mean number of misdemeanor convictions for the remaining clients to be 4.7 convictions. The number of convictions ranged between zero and sixty-five. The majority of clients (91.4%), had eight or fewer prior misdemeanor convictions.

Prior DWI convictions
Program participants had a mean of 2.7 prior DWI convictions. Sixteen clients (3.7%) were coded as having no prior DWI convictions. See Table8.

Table 8: Number of Prior DWI Convictions for All Drug Court Participants

Number of Prior DWI Convictions (missing=12)	Frequency	Valid Percent
None	16	3.7%
One	28	6.4%
Two	184	42.0%
Three	136	31.1%
Four	53	12.1%
Five or more	21	4.8%
Total	438	100.0%

Referring offense
According to the data, the majority of clients referred to Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court are referred for DWI offenses (95.1%). Among these charges, DWI 1 is the leading charge followed by Aggravated DWI 1 and Aggravated DWI 2. Other clients were admitted with such offenses as petty larceny and prostitution. These clients were determined by the drug court staff to have charges that were substantially affected by the clients' substance abuse, which is part of the formal eligibility criteria.

It is important to note that often defendants are charged with a more serious offense than they are convicted of committing. For example, a defendant may be initially charged with their third DWI offense but through the plea bargaining process, the conviction could be plead down and

recorded as a first DWI. The important point to emphasize here is that most of the convicted offenses reported in this study were likely less serious than the original charged offenses.

Table 9: Referring Offenses All Drug Court Participants

Referring Offense	Frequency	Valid Percent
Aggravated DWI 1	80	17.8%
Aggravated DWI 2	77	17.1%
Aggravated DWI 3	42	9.3%
Criminal Solicitation	2	0.4%
Drug Paraphernalia	2	0.4%
DWI 1	118	26.2%
DWI 2	66	14.7%
DWI 3	44	9.8%
DWI 4	1	0.2%
Petty Larceny	3	0.7%
Prostitution	7	1.6%
Shop Lifting	5	1.1%
Other	3	0.7%
Total	450	100.0%

Current substance abuse problem

During the initial screening, drug court staff code whether the client currently appears to have a substance abuse problem. All participants were identified as having a current substance abuse problem.

Primary substance

The leading primary substance identified for drug court participants is alcohol (94.2%) followed by cocaine (3.8%), and heroin (1.8%).

Age at first use

The mean age at first use for all clients was calculated to be 17.2 years old. Clients varied considerably in their responses ranging from six to thirty-six years old . The standard deviation is 3.6 years.

Years of abuse

According to the data, most clients had been abusing alcohol and/or drugs for many years at the time of their initial screening. In fact, clients reported an average of 12.7 years of abuse. The median is 12 years of abuse. Years ranged between one and forty-eight years. More than 30% had been abusing drugs and/or alcohol for more than fifteen years.

Prior in-patient or out-patient treatment

Sixty-five clients (15.6%) were determined to have participated in a prior in-patient treatment. The majority of clients had never been in in-patient treatment. However, most clients (70.2%) did report having participated in a prior out-patient treatment for their substance abuse problem.

Current or past psychological or mental treatment
Thirty clients (7.0%) were coded as being current or previous mental health patients.

Client Exit Information

Exit Date
In July 2000, a change in the program requirements altered the length of stay in the program. Originally clients graduated following completion of the core program, a minimum of six months, and then went to aftercare. After July 2000, clients were required to complete a minimum of twelve weeks of aftercare prior to graduation. This significantly altered the length of stay bringing it to nine months. The average length of stay for all clients is 229 days. It is interesting to compare average length of stay controlling for discharge reasons and the programming shift in 2000. We found prior to the program change in 2000, graduates were in the program an average of 229 days. Following the change, graduates stayed in the program 353 days. If we consider all discharged clients, prior to the change participants were in an average of 179 days while after the shift participants were in the program an average of 282 days.

Table 10: Mean Length of Stay for All Drug Court Participants

		All Clients		Prior to 07/2000			After 07/2000		
Discharge Reason	**#**	**%**	**Mean Length of Stay in Days**	**#**	**%**	**Mean Length of Stay in Days**	**#**	**%**	**Mean Length of Stay in Days**
Absconded	77	17.1	112	49	21.1	80	28	12.8	167
Terminated	77	17.1	182	38	16.4	158	39	17.9	206
Voluntarily Terminated	16	3.6	103	10	4.3	69	6	2.7	162
Graduates	251	55.8	286	135	58.2	229	116	53.2	353
Grad. Pending*	29	6.4	237	0	0	0	29	13.3	237
Total	450	100.0	229	232	100.0	179	218	100.0	282

*Graduation Pending the Completion of Transitional Care/Aftercare

While Table 10 shows the average number of days to discharge, there are some other interesting drug court milestones to note. The average number of days until promotion to Phase II for all clients is 100 days and to Phase III, the average is 173 days. The average length of stay until promotion to aftercare is 226 days. Of course fewer clients are considered at each phase due to program attrition.

Table 11 considers discharge reason by ethnic identity. Specifically, the rows show ethnic categories and the columns show each of the possible discharge statuses. The far right two columns show the ethnic categories for all clients discharged during the study frame. Considering graduates, the data show that Hispanics graduate at a rate slightly higher than the total population. Whites and Native Americans graduate at a slightly lower rate. Hispanics and native Americans abscond at a higher rate than Whites. However, White participants are more likely to be terminated from the program at a higher rate than Hispanics or Native Americans. The most important factor shown by Table 11 is graduation rates closely mirror the population

for all discharged clients. In other words, no ethnic category graduates at a significantly higher or lower rate than any other group.

Table 11: Discharge Reason by Ethnicity

	Discharge Reason										All Discharged Clients	
Ethnicity	**Absconded**		**Terminated**		**Voluntarily Terminated**		**Graduates**		**Other**			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
White (Non-Hispanic)	11	14.3	22	28.6	8	50.0	53	21.1	8	27.6	102	22.7
African American	1	1.3	0	0	0	0	3	1.2	0	0	4	0.9
Native American	15	19.5	12	15.6	2	12.5	40	15.9	7	24.1	76	16.9
Hispanic	50	64.9	42	54.5	6	37.5	152	60.6	13	44.9	263	58.4
Asian	0	0	1	1.3	0	0	2	0.8	1	3.4	4	0.9
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4	0	0	1	0.2
Total	77	100.0	77	100.0	16	100.0	251	100.0	29	100.0	450	100.0

Similarly, the effects of gender on discharge reason appears to be evenly distributed. While females appear to graduate at a slightly lower rate than males, the difference is negligible. Women are slightly more likely to abscond or to be terminated than males. Males are more likely than females to be discharged for other reasons. Based on this data, the program appears to be equally successful for males and females.

Table 12: Discharge Reason by Gender

	Discharge Reason										All Discharged Clients	
Gender	**Absconded**		**Terminated**		**Voluntarily Terminated**		**Graduates**		**Other**			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Males	64	83.1	64	83.1	13	81.3	212	84.5	25	86.2	378	84.0%
Females	13	16.9	13	16.9	3	18.7	39	15.5	4	13.8	72	16.0%
Total	77	100.0	77	100.0	16	100.0	251	100.0	29	100.0	450	100.0%

Employment status at discharge

At discharge, 83.4% of clients are employed, nearly a ten percent increase compared to intake.

Table 13: Employment Status at Discharge for All Drug Court Participants

Employment Status at Discharge (missing=10)	Frequency	Valid Percent
Employed	367	83.4%
Unemployed	47	10.7%
Not applicable	26	5.9%
Total	450	100.0%

Discharge Status
According to the data, 55.8% of discharged clients were coded as graduates (N=251). Twenty-nine additional clients were assigned to an "other" category. These clients were recorded as pending graduation following successful completion of aftercare. While these clients most likely will complete the program and graduate, we chose to exclude these cases from this analysis. One client died while in the program and was also not included in this analysis. Slightly less than 40% of all clients who received an intake were discharged unsuccessfully (N=170). There are three ways that clients leave the program: absconders (17.1%); voluntarily terminate (3.6%); or, the client is terminated by the judge (17.1%).

Client Activity Information
Drug court is an intensive program with a range of treatments, sanctions, and surveillance strategies to encourage participants towards recovery. The drug court database has an activity log with over fifty different activity codes. In general, we find that activity information is being inconsistently entered and that missing data occurs too often. Listed below are the valid means and percentages for certain activities. A valid percent or mean is found by dividing by the actual number of cases and excluding missing cases. Furthermore, we compare graduate statistics to clients who did not graduate.

Group Counseling
Graduates attended an average of 58.7 group sessions per client. All 251 graduates participated in group counseling. A total of thirty-eight non-graduates attended an average of thirty-three group sessions per client.

Individual Counseling
Only about half of graduates participated in individual counseling. These 124 clients received an average of 3.7 sessions each.

Acupuncture
We found that 91.4% of all clients participated in at least one acupuncture treatment. All participants are required to complete 16 sessions of acupuncture. The only participants who would not have done any would have exited the program prior to starting acupuncture. It is unlikely that 8.6% of clients would have fallen into this group. Thus, we have to assume that this information was never entered into the database. No attempt was made to validate existing data or recreate missing information. Of the graduates, 241 clients received an average of 17.5 treatments. Unsuccessful clients were not far behind as 144 clients received 16.7 treatments each.

Urine Analysis
On average, all drug court graduates were given an average of 63.2 urine screens. On average, 62.7 of the screens were negative for substances. While 80% of graduates never had any positive UA's, the remaining 20% had an average of 2.4 dirty UA's each. The data show that 149 of the 170 clients who did not graduate had an average of 35.5 negative UA screens each. More than half of clients discharged unsuccessfully had a positive test for an average of 2.2 dirty UA's each. Only 0.8% of all screens administered were positive for drugs or alcohol. In other words, 99.2% of all screens given to graduates were negative.

It should be noted that all participants are administered a breath alcohol test at every clinical contact, with every urine drug screen and periodically at probation meetings and court sessions. Due to the number of tests administered, negative results are not recorded into the database. Positive breathalyzer tests are entered as positive drug screens.

Victim Impact Panel (VIP)
All participants are required to attend the Victims Impact Panel presented by Mothers Against Drunk Driving in the second phase of the program. While incomplete data was entered regarding this service, it is reported assumed that all participants that progressed to the third phase of the program or graduated completed this requirement.

Judicial Sessions
Participants are required to attend judicial sessions with the drug court judge every two weeks in phase one and every four week in phases two and three.

Meeting with Probation Officer
All participants are required to meet regularly with their probation officer. In phase one, clients see their officer twice per week; while in phase two, participants meet once per week. By phase three, meetings are required twice per month. Graduates met with their probation officer an average of twenty-eight times during their drug court participation. Clients who failed to graduate met only 19.1 times each. Based on the program requirements, we suspect that drug court staff fail to regularly and consistently enter all contacts.

Failures to Appear (FTA's)
Occasionally, drug court participants fail to appear for a required drug court session or clinically required session. According to drug court staff, the majority of FTA's are for clinical services. Unfortunately, the database does not capture whether the offender subsequently completed a required session. Drug court graduates had about half as many FTA's as did their non-graduate counterparts. Graduates failed to appear an average of 3.6 times while non-graduates did not appear 8.4 times.

AA/NA Meetings
Graduates attended an average of 33.1 AA/NA Meetings while non-graduates attended only 17.8 meetings.

Client Jailed

Almost one-third of clients who eventually graduated the drug court program spent time in jail during the program. These graduates went to jail an average of 1.7 times. About one-third of non-graduates were jailed an average of 2.1 times.

Part Two: Profiling Graduates and Non-Graduates

More than half of clients who enter the Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court successfully complete the program. One of the tasks of this evaluation is to explain the profile or the defining characteristics of both successful and unsuccessful clients. The purpose of this exercise is to identify programming needs and potential modifications needed to improve client services. In order to analyze the data and better understand these issues, we have chosen to conduct a logistic regression analysis. This approach is very popular in the social sciences and is an appropriate strategy here given the nature of the available data. In the following section, logistic regression models are briefly explained.

Using Logistic Regression

The goal of a logistic regression analysis is the same as that of any model-building technique used in statistics: to find the best fitting and most parsimonious, yet reasonable model to describe the relationship between an outcome (dependent or response) variable and a set of independent (predictor or explanatory) variables. What distinguishes a logistic regression model from the linear regression model is that the outcome variable in logistic regression is *binary* or *dichotomous*. The difference between logistic and linear regression is reflected both in the choice of study parameters and in the statistical assumptions. Once this difference is accounted for, the methods employed in an analysis using logistic regression follow the same general principles used in linear regression. The fact that the logistic function ranges between 0 and 1 is the primary reason the logistic model is so popular. The model is designed to describe a probability, which is always some number between 0 and 1. In sociological terms, such a probability gives the risk of a client failing to succeed in the DWI/Drug Court program.

We recoded the variable discharge status to create a dichotomous dependent variable: 1=drug court graduate and 0 =unsuccessful drug court participant. Then, we ran a number of bivariate correlations (crosstabs) in order to determine which factors were significant in predicting client outcomes. Using SPSS 10.0, we recoded categorical independent variables in order to isolate their effect on the dependent variable. Consider ethnicity for example. The largest ethnic category in the current sample is Hispanics, followed by White non-Hispanics. By recoding these into dummy variables, we are able to isolate the effect of certain ethnic categories. This allows us to say things like, "Hispanic clients are this many more times to complete the DWI/Drug Court program successfully than are Whites." It is interesting to note however, that ethnicity was found to be an insignificant factor in determining client outcomes. Another way to think about independent variables is to think of them as explanatory factors. In other words, what effect does gender, age, prior criminal history, etc., have on whether a client successfully completes or not.

Missing data in logistic regression analysis decreases the number of cases that can be included in the models. In order to control for missing data, a procedure was used to change these values from missing to non-missing by recoding all missing values to zero values for all re-coded variables. For interval data, we re-coded missing data to equal the mean of the actual cases. For example, we wanted to include years of education. This field was not populated for several clients. Rather than drop these cases from the model, we re-coded them to the mean number of years of education (12.0 years). Implications associated with using this method include over-

estimating the number of cases experiencing the non-event. This is outweighed by the benefit of including the very important explanatory variables.

Table 14: Logistic Regression Model #1

Independent Variables	Parameter Estimate $\exists$	Significance Level	Odds Ratio (OR)
Client is Male	-.0408	.8860	.9601
Client is Hispanic	.1591	.4757	1.1724
Client is Married	.4351	.1029	1.5451
Age at First Substance Use	.0530	.1607	1.0544
Reported Years of Abuse	.0413	.0241*	1.0421
Participation in Prior In-Patient Treatment	-.5864	.0529*	.5563
Participation in Prior Out-Patient Treatment	.2584	.2427	1.2949
Years of Education	.0352	.4572	1.0359
Number of Dependents	-.1702	.0571*	.8435
Employed at Intake	.7270	.0024**	2.0688

*p>.05; **p>.01; ***p>.001

Table 15: Logistic Regression Model #2

Independent Variables	Parameter Estimate $\exists$	Significance Level	Odds Ratio (OR)
Client Moved to Phase II	2.0535	.0000***	7.7950
More Than One Dirty UA	-1.3834	.0000***	.2507
Number of Prior Misdemeanor Convictions	-.0729	.0692	.9297
Number of Prior Felony Convictions	-.6474	.1229	.5234
More Than Three FTA's	-2.2176	.0000***	.1089
Number of Prior DWI Convictions	.0971	.4407	1.1020
Client Participated in Acupuncture	1.3441	.0048**	3.8346
Client Participated in Individual Counseling	1.1766	.0001***	3.2434
Client Participated in Intensive Out-Patient	-.8370	.0214*	.4248

*p>.05; **p>.01; ***p>.001

How to Interpret Tables 14 and 15

Tables 14 and 15 show the output for two logistic regression models that profile clients who graduate and those who do not graduate. In the first column, independent variables are listed. Specific independent variables were included because of substantive or theoretical interest. The second column shows the parameter estimates or $\exists$. The parameter estimates explain the direction of the independent variable relative to the dependent. A positive or negative sign indicates the direction of the relationship. For example a negative sign indicates the independent variable has a negative effect on the outcome, in this case an unsuccessful termination. Similarly, a positive sign indicates which independent variables determine a successful outcome or graduation.

The third column shows the statistical significance or the strength of the parameter estimate. Several independent variables modeled were not significant statistically. This does not mean that they are unimportant to this study. For example, we found that gender was not a significant factor in determining the likelihood of graduation. This means that both males and females have similar tendencies to graduate in this sample. Although gender is statistically insignificant, we can report that the parameter estimate for males is negative (towards unsuccessful) and the estimate for females is positive (towards graduation). Similarly, the data show that ethnicity is not a significant predictor of program outcome. Whites, Hispanics, and other ethnic categories have similar tendencies to be successful or unsuccessful.

Finally, the fourth column shows the odds ratio. The odds ratio further explains the relationship between the dependent and independent variables. It shows the strength of the impact or relationship between the variables. For example, if we consider whether a client is moved to Phase II, we find that clients who make it to Phase II ($x=1$), as opposed to those who do not ($x=0$), increase their odds of graduating more than seven times (the odds ratio is 7.7950). The odds ratio is a measure of association which has found wide use as it approximates the odds of how much more likely or unlikely it is for the outcome to be present among those with $x=1$ than among those with $x=0$.

The statistical models shown in tables 14 and 15 allow for a better understanding of the characteristics of successful and unsuccessful clients. While these tables include several independent or explanatory variables, we considered many more but did not include them either because they were correlated or lacked statistical significance. In the following section, we summarize the data shown in the tables.

Discussion

Based on our analysis, we found that gender is not a statistically significant distinction in predicting graduation from drug court. Both males and females succeed or fail at similar rates. The data shows males tend to graduate at a slightly higher rate than females (54.2% compared to 56.1%).

We found ethnicity to be insignificant in predicting outcomes. The data show that regardless of ethnicity, clients graduate at similar rates. Hispanic clients have the highest graduation rates (57.8%), followed by Native Americans (52.6%), and white non-Hispanics (52.0%). There are too few African Americans, Asians or others to report graduation statistics.

We expected to find a correlation between being married and graduating from drug court. However, the data show that being married is statistically insignificant at p=.10. Over 40% of clients were coded as "single, otherwise unknown." Due to this fact, it appears the marital status variable is unreliable. For future analysis, it would be more useful to better collect this information.

The database includes information about the age at first reported substance abuse. The data show that age at first use is also insignificant. However, we found the total number of years of reported abuse is significant. As number of years of abuse increases, so does the likelihood that

a client will graduate the drug court program. This is somewhat counterintuitive since most would expect long time users to respond less favorably to treatment. It may be however, that this population has been using longer and have suffered longer the effects of their addiction and are more serious about recovery. Also, we find that length of use and the client's age at intake are slightly correlated (.357 at p=>.001). In other words older clients also have lengthier reported periods of substance abuse. As age increases, so do the odds that a client will graduate drug court (ß=.0315; p>.05; OR=1.032).

When potential drug court clients are screened for admission, court staff assesses previous in-patient and out-patient treatments. The logistic regression model shown in Table14 shows that whether a client had previously been given in-patient treatment is a statistically significant predictor of drug court graduation. Having a previous admission to in-patient treatment makes a client more likely to fail in drug court. This is the finding we expected to find since those clients with the most serious addictions are also those who are most likely to have a prior period of in-patient treatment. Almost all clients had been in out-patient treatment prior to their screening for drug court. We found that a prior out-patient treatment was statistically insignificant.

Drug court participants have an average of 12 years of education. The data show that educational level really has no impact on a client's likelihood of success or failure in drug court. Years of education completed is statistically insignificant.

The data show that the number of dependents that a client has is a statistically significant predictor of success. As the number of dependents increases, so do the odds that a client will be unsuccessful in drug court. The impact is exponential for each additional dependent. This has important implications for future programming. For example, maybe clients with dependents could benefit from family counseling or family preservation interventions. Also, the court needs to better understand what it is about clients with dependents that makes them less likely to graduate. Data collection needs to be expanded and improved. What kind of dependents are these? Are they children only? How old? What additional pressures do clients with dependents have? If clients with dependents do worse, this is an area where innovative programming changes could have an impact.

A major predictor of graduation from drug court is employment status. We found that clients who are employed at intake are more likely to graduate than those who are not. In fact, the odds of graduation are increased more than twofold. This also has programming implications. If clients who are employed are more likely to graduate, maybe job training, job supervision or other types of programming to enhance employment opportunities would further increase graduation rates. In the first model, being employed at intake is the strongest predictor of success in drug court.

We chose to do a second logistic regression model to further examine the relationship between clients' prior criminal behavior and various treatment interventions and graduation outcomes. The drug court database collects several different types of information related to client criminal history. These include whether the client has a prior conviction for a felony, the number of prior misdemeanors, the number of prior DWI convictions, and the current referring offense.

Although we expected to find a greater impact, the data show that criminal history has little effect on the likelihood of graduation from drug court. Neither felony convictions nor misdemeanor convictions are statistically significant predictors of success or failure. The significance levels are quite low however (p=.069 and p=.123) and both are in negative directions. Surprisingly, we found that the number of prior DWI convictions was also insignificant. This is an interesting finding and suggests the court may want to consider admitting clients with more DWI convictions. There is no evidence to suggest that clients with four or five convictions do worse than those with fewer.

Most clients have at least one failure to appear (FTA) during their participation in drug court. We expected to find a relationship between the number of FTAs and graduation rates. It turns out that clients who have more than three FTAs are less likely to graduate. However the effect on graduation is quite small as shown by the odds ratio. In other words, clients with more than three FTAs are only slightly more likely (11%) not to graduate.

We measured the predictive power of several treatments and other programmatic interventions. We found that several of these treatments were correlated to time. For example, participation in the Victim's Impact Panel (VIP) is strongly related to successful outcomes. However, the VIP is only for clients in phase two of the program. Since most of the unsuccessful clients are not promoted to phase two, the data was skewed. Thus, participation in the VIP is not included in the models.

The mean length of stay in the program for clients who do not graduate is 143 days. The mean length of time to promotion to phase two is 100 days. Most clients who fail to graduate leave the program within the first five months. Our analysis shows that if a client is promoted to phase two, the odds that the participant will graduate are very high. In fact, making it to phase two increases the odds of graduation nearly eight times.

Surveillance is an important part of the drug court program. On average clients who graduate are given more than sixty drug screens, while clients who do not graduate receive almost forty during their participation in drug court. The longer a client stays in the program the more drug screens they will be given. We re-coded the activity data related to drug screens and found an interesting relationship. Any client who receives a positive drug screen result for any drug has greater odds of failure in the program. Having one dirty UA increases the odds 0.25 times that the client will not graduate.

Acupuncture is an intervention that is administered to clients during phase one. On several occasions, we have heard clients report in court that acupuncture helps to curb their cravings and most clients do in fact participate in acupuncture. We found that having participated in any acupuncture made clients more likely to graduate. Keep in mind however that acupuncture treatment is also a function of time since some clients are terminated before an acupuncture treatment could be administered. The data show that 62% of clients who had at least one acupuncture treatment went on to graduate the program. Only 31% of those clients who did not have any treatments graduated. This study shows strong support for acupuncture treatment. The

odds of graduating from drug court are improved nearly four times compared to those clients who do not.

All clients receive group counseling during their participation in drug court. We found participation in group counseling to be statistically insignificant. Similar to VIP and acupuncture treatments, both individual and group counseling are affected by how long the client is in the program. Individual counseling is not given to all clients. We found that only 44% received any individual counseling. It is unclear why some clients are given individual and some are not. However, based on the findings in Table 15, clients who participate in at least one individual counseling session are more likely to graduate. We do not know what it is about individual counseling that appears to help clients succeed. However, we can confidently say that it does appear to make a difference. In terms of programming, it may be useful to look at why certain people are given individual counseling and others are not.

We also considered clients who participated in Intensive Out-Patient (IOP) treatment during their drug court experience. Intensive Out-Patient treatment is required for clients who require especially intensive interventions. One might assume that these clients are the most serious addicts who have the most difficult to treat abuse problems. A total of sixty-eight clients were referred to IOP in the current sample. Of these clients 62% did not graduate from drug court. The logistic regression in model two shows that being assigned to IOP treatment increases the odds that a client will not graduate from drug court. This is not meant to imply a causal relationship. Participants assigned to IOP have demonstrated significant problems requiring increased intervention at the IOP level.

Profile Summary

The preceding discussion has provided a clearer understanding of the relationship between certain demographic, descriptive and treatment variable and graduation from the DWI/Drug Court program. Here is a summary of what we know.

- Gender is not significant (males and females succeed and fail at similar rates)
- Ethnicity is not significant (all succeed and fail at similar rates).
- Marital status is not significant. However of all the marital statuses, clients who are married tend to do better than those that are not.
- Age at first substance use is insignificant.
- Years of education is insignificant. Mean years for all clients is 12 years.
- The more dependents a client has the less likely they are to graduate.
- A client who is employed at intake is far more likely to graduate than a participant who is unemployed.
- The longer a client reports having used substances, the more likely they are to graduate. This is correlated with client's age at intake.
- Older clients have higher odds of graduating.
- Having a prior in-patient treatment increases the likelihood that a drug court participant will not graduate.
- Having a prior out-patient treatment has no effect on outcomes. Almost all drug court participants have had a prior out-patient treatment

- Clients who are promoted to Phase Two increase their odds of graduating by nearly eight times.
- Any dirty UA screen increases the likelihood that a client will fail to graduate.
- Criminal history is not statistically significant to predicting graduation from drug court. This is true for felony, misdemeanor and prior DWI convictions.
- Participation in acupuncture increases the odds that a client will graduate.
- Participation in at least one individual counseling session increases the likelihood of graduation.
- Participation in Victim Impact Panel (VIP) is a positive indicator of graduation.
- Clients who are assigned to participate in Intensive Out-Patient (IOP) while in drug court are less likely to graduate.
- Clients who have three or more failures to appear are slightly less likely to graduate.

Part Three: Historical Outcome Study - Client Recidivism

One of the most frequent questions asked about drug courts, and most other programs which are implemented to serve offender populations, is "do they work?" Because of the relatively short time that drug courts have been functioning in New Mexico, it is not surprising that no definitive reports on client recidivism have been completed. In this section, we will present an historical outcome study of Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court Program.

This study was begun in October 2000. At the beginning of October 2000, this program had 168 drug court graduates. Originally, the program was a minimum of six months long and consisted of three phases. In July 2000, a significant change to the requirements for the length of stay was made. Specifically, a required aftercare component of twelve weeks was added prior to graduation. As mentioned in Part One, this had an effect on the average length of stay for drug court participants. In order to graduate, clients must accumulate at least 189 "points." One point is given for each completed activity. Incentives and sanctions are an important part of the program. In addition to points, clients receive personal encouragement from judges, probation officers and treatment providers. Sanctions include incarceration, verbal admonishment, and loss of points. Clients may be sanctioned for positive drug screens and breath screens, failure to submit to a drug screen or breath test, other disclosures of drug or alcohol use, and unexcused absences from treatment sessions or meetings with probation.

In the following section, we will present findings based on the performance of these 168 graduates following their release from drug court. Methodologically, we compare the drug court graduates to two sample groups of probation clients. The comparison groups are comprised of offenders with similar referring offenses, ethnicity and gender. In the following sections we will explain how the samples were drawn and the rationale behind the research design.

Research Design

The Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court entered into a contract with the Institute for Social Research to conduct a historical comparison study specifically for drug court graduates. It is important to understand that this study does not consider all drug court participants, but only graduates. A future outcome should probably look at all participants since this would provide a broader and more sound research design. Similarly, the design could be improved by also measuring the impact of those offenders given immediate sentences to jail.

The subjects included in this study were accepted into the program between August 1997 and December 1999. Their graduation dates range from March 1998 to September 2000. During this time, 168 clients graduated from the program.

The Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court has its own probation division. Automated information for offenders serving probation terms is maintained by the court. Based on available data, we attempted to match the drug court graduates to a similar group of probation clients. In principle, we wanted a sample of probation clients who were similar in terms of criminal history, ethnicity and gender who also successfully completed probation. In other words, we wanted a comparison group of people who were otherwise eligible for drug court but for whatever reason did not participate in the program.

Initially, we chose to consider only clients who successfully completed probation since we were only looking at those clients who successfully completed drug court. However, as a result of subsequent discussions with the judge and other court representatives, we gathered an additional comparison group sample of clients who were discharged unsuccessfully from probation. However, the reader should understand that many of the unsuccessful probation clients were incarcerated at the time of their release from probation. The recidivism rates are incomparable because many of them were already in jail. Thus although the discharge dates are similar for all three groups, the unsuccessful probation group does not have the same exposure time and therefore any recidivism rates shown here are underestimated.

As mentioned above, the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court collects data for probation clients. We requested that the court provide us with all available data for probation clients released between March 1998 and September 2000. The court provided us with a sample of 1,367 probation records. Both comparison groups were drawn from this data. The automated data sample did not include sufficient criminal history information to determine whether an individual was eligible to be included in the comparison study. Thus, we first compiled a list of clients eligible to be included based on gender, ethnicity, and referring offense. Once we had this list, ISR staff went to the court and manually went through each person's automated court record to determine eligibility.

The following criteria were followed in the selection of both the successful and unsuccessful comparison group. A number of independent factors could exclude an offender from being included in the comparison group.

All Comparison Group Members:

- Were matched to the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Drug Court graduates who graduated between 03/01/1998 and 09/30/2000.
- Were matched to the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Drug Court graduates by gender, ethnicity, and referring offense.
- Did not have prior violent felony convictions or current misdemeanor violent convictions.
- Were not sentenced to DWI school for the referring offense.
- Were not sentenced to the First Offender Program for the referring offense.
- Had never participated in Metro Drug Court.
- Had at least three convictions for a DWI offense in the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Database or in the DMV database.
- Did not have six or more convictions for any DWI offense as shown by the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Database or in the Department of Motor Vehicles database.

In most cases, we were able to match clients one-to-one. In some instances however we did not have any eligible cases. For example, there were no Asian males referred for an Aggravated DWI 2 who successfully completed their probation during the study time frame. When possible, we attempted to include as similar a client as possible, although this was not always possible. Thus, we matched 156 successful and 154 unsuccessful probation clients to the 168 graduates. This tedious process of matching clients greatly improves the reliability of the analysis conclusions.

Once the two comparison groups were chosen, we requested a criminal history report from the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system (formerly known as ACOPS) maintained by the Albuquerque Police Department. This system only includes arrest data for law enforcement agencies in Bernalillo County. Any charges filed in other jurisdictions are not included in the CCH. Furthermore, the CCH data only includes felony and high court misdemeanors. Petty offenses and other lesser charges are not included. The final caveat regarding CCH data is that only offenders who are fingerprinted are included. Occasionally, offenders are released from the county jail before they are fingerprinted. National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) data would be preferable to the limited local criminal histories. However, with only a few exceptions, NCIC records are restricted to law enforcement agencies seeking information on open cases.

The following analysis is based on drug court graduates compared to two groups of probation clients. We believe that the better comparison is between the graduates and the successful probation clients since many of the unsuccessful clients were incarcerated following their release from probation. Furthermore, comparing drug court graduates to unsuccessful probation clients compares the best drug court outcomes to the worst probation outcomes. On the other hand, it may be that some drug court clients would have also been unsuccessful except for the interventions provided in drug court. In the future, another study should compare all drug court participants to a similar, random group of probation clients. In the following section, an analysis of the base demographics, criminal histories, prior treatments, and recidivism is presented.

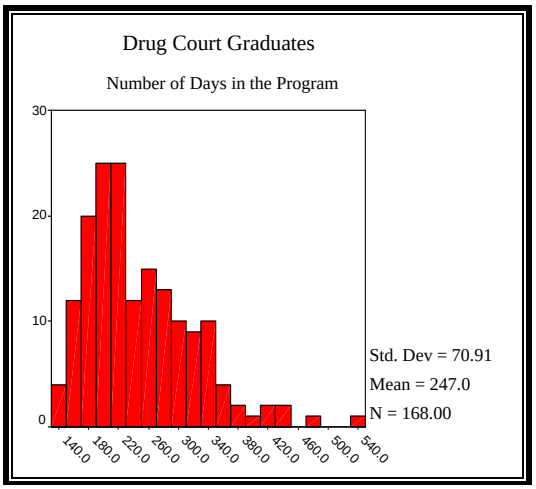

Figure 1: Length of Stay

Analysis and Discussion

This study considers drug court graduates discharged between March 1998 and September 2000, a thirty-two month period. The mean length of stay in the program for drug court graduates is 247 days. Figure 1 shows the curve in which clients leave the program. The range of length of stay for graduates is 141 to 541 days.

Referring Charges

Exit date was the first restriction on whether a client could be included in the comparison groups followed by referring offense. The offense for which a client is referred to probation or drug court is ordinarily a DWI offense. There were some exceptions however, as some offenders were referred to drug court following a petty larceny, shoplifting, prostitution charge, or some other offense. According to the drug court coordinator, these offenders are clients whose offense is directly a result of their substance abuse problem (i.e., prostitute working to support heroin or crack addiction). Table 16 below shows the referring offenses for the 168 drug court graduates studied. The two leading offenses are DWI 1 and Aggravated DWI 1. A charge can become an aggravated offense depending on the whether the BAC level is 0.16 or greater, bodily injury to a victim, or refuses the breathalyzer. Through the plea bargaining process, defendants are usually

convicted of a lesser offense than they are initially charged of committing. See the Appendix for referring offenses for all groups by gender and ethnicity.

Table 16: Referring Offenses for Drug Court Graduates, 3/98 to 9/00

Referring Offense	Drug Court Graduates		Successful Probation Sample		Unsuccessful Probation Sample	
Aggravated DWI 1	38	22.6%	38	24.4%	26	16.9%
Aggravated DWI 2	30	17.9%	25	16.0%	26	16.9%
Aggravated DWI 3	22	13.1%	21	13.5%	29	18.8%
DWI 1	43	25.6%	36	23.1%	32	20.8%
DWI 2	16	9.5%	17	10.9%	15	9.7%
DWI 3	14	8.3%	17	10.9%	22	14.3%
DWI 4	1	0.6%	1	0.6%	1	0.6%
Other	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Petty Larceny	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Prostitution	1	0.6%	1	0.6%	1	0.6%
Shoplifting	1	0.6%	0	.0.0%	2	1.3%
Total	168	100.0%	156	100.0%	154	100.0%

Gender

Table 17 shows the distribution of males to females for drug court graduates and for successful and unsuccessful probation clients. As shown in the table, the ratio of males to females is similar for all three groups.

Table 17: Gender Distribution for All Groups

Gender	Drug Court Graduates		Successful Sample		Unsuccessful Sample	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Females	30	17.9%	30	19.2%	26	16.9%
Males	138	82.1%	126	80.8%	128	83.1%
Total	168	100.0%	156	100.0%	154	100.0%

Ethnicity

After referring offense and gender, we controlled for ethnicity when choosing the comparison groups. As Table 18 shows, the relative distribution as a percentage of the total is quite similar for both comparison groups. Again, there are some slight differences due to the inability to match all clients one-to-one. None of these differences are greater than six percent for any ethnic category.

Table 18: Ethnic Distribution for All Groups

Ethnicity	Drug Court Graduates		Successful Sample		Unsuccessful Sample (missing=1)	
	N	Valid %	N	Valid %	N	Valid %
White (Non-Hispanic)	37	22.0%	40	25.6%	37	24.0%
African American	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
American Indian	25	14.9%	21	13.5%	29	18.8%
Hispanic	103	61.3%	95	60.9%	86	55.8%
Asian	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	1	0.6%
Other	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	168	100.0%	156	100.0%	153	100.0%

Age

Drug court clients tend to be older than either probation sample. Compared to the unsuccessful group, drug court clients are an average of 1.2 years older. While we did not measure the correlation between age and probation exit status in this sample, we expect that younger clients tend to have greater odds of being unsuccessful.

Table 19: Mean Age at Intake for All Groups

	Mean age at exit
Drug Court Graduates	38.4 years old
Successful Sample	37.6 years old
Unsuccessful Sample	37.2 years old

Marital Status

Table 20 present data on client marital status. There are several differences between the graduate group and the probation groups. These differences are due mostly to the fact that the probation database and the drug court database are not the same. For example the probation database does not specify “never married”, “separated” or “widowed.” Analysis shows that a higher percentage of drug court clients are married than ether probation sample. We expect the probation data is unreliable.

Table 20: Marital Status for All Groups

	Drug Court Graduates		Successful Probation Sample (Missing=9)		Unsuccessful Probation Sample (Missing=9)	
Married	43	25.6%	24	16.3%	21	14.5%
Widowed	5	3.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Divorced	35	20.8%	38	25.9%	36	24.8%
Separated	5	3.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Never Married	18	10.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Single, otherwise unknown	62	36.9%	85	57.8%	88	60.7%
Total	168	100.0%	147	100.0%	145	100.0%

Education
Drug court graduates tend to have a slightly lower number of years of education at intake. However, all three groups have twelve or more years of education on average.

Table 21: Mean Years of Education Completed at Intake

	Drug Court Graduates	Successful Sample	Unsuccessful Sample
Mean years	12.0 years	12.1 years	12.2 years

Recidivism
In this report, recidivism is defined as any new charge. As mentioned above, the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) records maintained by the Albuquerque Police Department were accessed to get an idea of recidivism differences between drug court graduates and probation clients. There are a host of problems with the CCH data. These criminal histories only include new felony and high court misdemeanors of offenders booked and fingerprinted in Bernalillo County. While the data presented below is almost certainly an underestimate of actual recidivism, there is no reason to believe that missing data is greater for one group over another. In other words, while the CCH data is lacking, it is lacking similarly for all three groups. Keep in mind that many individuals in the unsuccessful probation group were incarcerated following their failure and were consequently not able to re-offend. Recidivism rates are thus shown lower than they would have been had these offenders been out of jail.

Table 22: Recidivism Rates for All Groups

	Drug Court Graduates (N=168)		**Successful Probation Sample (N=158)**		**Unsuccessful Probation Sample (N=154)**	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Recidivism within six months	6	3.6%	14	9.0%	15	9.7%
Recidivism within seven to twelve months	9	5.4%	14	9.0%	9	5.8%
Recidivism after one year	11	6.5%	14	9.0%	20	13.0%
Recidivism Total	26	15.5%	42	27.0%	44	28.5%

Table 23 shows that 15.5% of drug court graduates were booked on a new offense at the time the CCH data was collected (April 2001). Successful probation clients had a recidivism rate nearly twice as high as drug court clients. The unsuccessful group recidivated at an even higher rate even though many were incarcerated for some portion of their exposure time. In order to control for exposure time, we subtracted the graduation discharge date from the new arrest date. This procedure allows us to account for when clients committed their new offense. At six months, only 3.6% of drug court clients had been rearrested while nearly three times as many had new charges in the probation groups. One year after discharge, drug court clients had a total

recidivism rate of 9%, while the successful group had an 18% rate and the unsuccessful group was near 16%. The data show a clear trend overall as drug court clients recidivate at a lower rate.

Considering the number of participants rearrested for a new DWI, we found that 12.5% of drug court participants were arrested within the first two years following graduation. Only 7.1% of graduates were arrested for a new DWI during the *first year* compared to 12.7% for the successful group and 11.7% for the unsuccessful group. Within two years, the closely matched probation groups had a higher rate at 16.7% for the successful group and 20.8% for the unsuccessful group. Furthermore, drug court graduates also recidivated for violent offenses less often than either of the probation groups during the two years following graduation. See Table 23.

Table 23: Two Year Recidivism Rates for DWI and Violent Crimes for All Groups

	Drug Court Graduates (N=168)		**Successful Probation Sample (N=158)**		**Unsuccessful Probation Sample (N=154)**	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Recidivism for DWI	21	12.5%	26	16.7%	32	20.8%
Recidivism for Violent Offense	4	2.4%	12	7.7%	9	5.8%
Recidivism for any offense	26	15.5%	42	27.0%	44	28.5%

In conclusion, this study has systematically shown that drug court graduates are committing new offenses at a lower rate than probation clients, both successful and unsuccessful. Not only are they committing fewer offenses overall, but they are also committing a lower percentage of DWI's and violent offenses. In the following section, we consider incarceration costs of Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court graduates compared to the successful probation group.

Part Four: Incarceration Costs Comparison

The reader should be aware of several factors that may affect the validity of this comparison. First, the Bernalillo County Detention Facility has been under a federal order to control jail overcrowding and Metropolitan Court judges have consequently felt some pressure to reduce jail sentences. We find that some offenders who would have previously been sentenced to jail are now being placed on probation or remanded to the Community Custody Program (CCP). This situation may have an affect on probation success rates. Second, participants in the drug court program and probation have different programming standards. For example, a probation client with a urine analysis positive for cocaine or a new offense could be revoked immediately, whereas a drug court participant would likely be assigned an intermediate sanction before being discharged unsuccessfully. Any new charge for a new DWI or violent felony received while in the program would result in an immediate revocation. Third, the programmatic differences between probation and drug court are significant. There are different supervision requirements, treatment provisions and judicial accountability. Fourth, some offenders are given jail only sentences. This means that although the offender may have been eligible for admission into drug court, the judge sentenced the individual directly to jail. This study does not include any estimates of these types of sentences but it should be noted that if they had been included the costs of incarceration would have been greater. While the measures presented in this preliminary and incomplete report do provide a tangible measure of some possible cost savings of assigning an offender to drug court, this should not be considered the final statement on the cost differences between these sentencing options.

This analysis considers the number of days spent in jail by each graduate as a result of the offense, which led to his or her referral into drug court. In some cases, jail days occurred prior to the offender's admission into the drug court program. Drug court participants sometimes received jail days as a sanction during their participation in the program.

Collectively, Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court graduates spent a total of 915 days in jail as a result of the referring offense. Based on daily cost data, Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court graduates cost $61,305 in jail time (based on $67 per day). The average number of days spent in jail per drug court graduate is 5.45 days. Thus, jail costs for Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court are $365.15 per participant.

Many participants were determined to be eligible for the Community Custody Program (CCP). The data show drug court graduates spent a total of 1,483 days in the CCP program. According to jail staff, the CCP costs $32.75 per day, per participant. Thus, the total costs of CCP participation for Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court graduates are $48,568. On average, drug court graduates spend 8.83 days in CCP custody at a cost of $289.18 each. See Table 24.

Table 24: Total CCP/Jail Days Costs Comparison

	Total Metro Graduates (***N=168)***	Total Comparison Group (***N=154)***	Total Cost Savings	Adjusted* Comparison Group (***N=168)***	Adjusted* Total Cost Savings
Days in Jail	915 days	3,366 days	2,451 days	3,672 days	2,757 days
Costs @ $67/day	$61,305	$225,522	$164,217	$246,024	$184,719
Days in CCP	1,483 days	3,103 days	1,620 days	3,385 days	1,902
Costs @ $32.75/day	$48,568	$101,623	$53,055	$110,859	$62,291
Total Costs/Savings	$109,873	$327,145	$217,272	$356,883	$247,010

**Adjusted figures calculated by multiplying the average number of jail/CCP days of the comparison group by 14 (Graduate N - Comparison N = 14).*

The data show comparison group individuals spent a total of 3,366 days in jail as a result of their referring offense. The total cost of this incarceration is $225,522. Jail sentences range from 0 to 192 days. Comparison group participants spent an average of 21.86 days in jail at an average cost of $1,464.62 per offender. Although not included in this analysis, the number of jail days and the associated costs for offenders given jail sentences would have increased these figures dramatically.

Probation clients also participate in the Community Custody Program. Comparison group participants spent a total of 3,103 days assigned to the CCP Program. The total cost of this program for these probationers is $101,623. Offenders spent an average of 20.15 days in CCP at a cost of nearly $659.91 per person. See Table 25 for a comparison of the individual offender averages.

Table 25: Individual CCP/Jail Days Costs Comparison

	Individual Averages for Metro Graduates (N=168)	Individual Averages for Comparison Group (N=154)	Cost Savings per Offender
Days in Jail	5.45 days	21.86 days	16.41 days
Costs @ $67/day	$365	$1,465	$1,100
Days in CCP	8.83 days	20.15	11.32
Total Costs/Savings	$654	$2,125	$1,471

Costs Summary

Offenders served in the Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court spend fewer days in jail and fewer days assigned to the Community Custody Program. There is a cost difference between Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court and probation. Comparing these differences show that Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court saved taxpayers over $200,000 in combined jail costs and CCP days for drug court graduates compared to successful probation clients from 03/01/1998 to 09/30/2000, a thirty-two month period. In addition to direct cost savings as a result of fewer jail days and reduced average number of days in the CCP Program, it could be argued the Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court contributed to reduced crowding in the jail and assisted in conserving the

resources of the Community Custody Program. Although not collected, we suspect that most of the jail days served by drug court participants occurred around the time of arrest. Therefore, the number of days served by drug court participants is not a reflection on the efficiency of the program. It does however, raise the question if an even greater savings might be realized with earlier intervention.

The comparison group has fourteen fewer individuals, which suggests actual cost figures would be higher. Multiplying these fourteen persons by the average days in jail (21.86) and CCP (20.15) adds an additional $20,504 in jail costs and $9,239 to the costs of the comparison group totals. Adding these costs to the figures shown in Table 25 would make the total cost savings of drug court compared to probation around $247,015.

Report Overview, Conclusions and Future Research

Part One of this study provided a summary of the 450 clients who were served in the Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court since its inception. This review summarizes basic client demographics, treatment participation and discharge status upon exit. In Part Two, we detail the profile of drug court graduates and non-graduates. Using logistic regression modeling, we identified several statistically significant indicators of the likelihood of graduation. The Historical Outcome Study included as Part Three shows how well drug court graduates did in terms of new arrests following graduation compared to two different comparison samples drawn from probation clients. Drug court graduates recidivate at a lower rate than both comparison groups. Additionally, we find that drug court graduates commit fewer DWI offenses and fewer violent offenses than the comparison groups. Part Four presents a cost analysis of drug court participation compared to offenders assigned to probation. We find that drug court participants spend fewer days in jail or the Community Custody Program. While the savings shown is dramatic, the monetary savings in jail days is even greater than reported since we did not include offenders who were sentenced only to jail.

This study has established an important baseline for the Bernalillo County Metropolitan DWI/Drug Court Program. Our understanding of drug court in general and the aspects of treatment that appear to influence successful outcomes has improved. At the same time, we have become aware of some program areas that need to be improved. Data collection and consistent data entry is a specific area where improvement is needed. We have also identified some research design flaws. A future study would be improved by the expansion of the data set to include all drug court participants. Similarly, a future study should include those offenders sentenced directly to jail. The criminal history records reported in this study are not complete. The validity and reliability of the findings reported here would be improved through the use of national criminal history data. Despite these limitations this report stands as an important evaluation milestone and basis for improving the program.