

King County Drug Diversion Court

(August, 2016)

Background

The King County Drug Diversion Court (KCDDC) was implemented in August 1994, the twelfth drug court in the country. Currently, there are drug courts in every state and 3,000 nationwide. **Since KCDDC's inception, 2,256 people have graduated from the program.**

The KCDDC provides eligible defendants charged with felony drug and property crimes, the opportunity for drug treatment and access to other ancillary services such as mental health treatment, housing, transportation and job skills training. Eligible defendants can elect to participate in the program or proceed with traditional court processing. After choosing to participate in the program, defendants come under the court's supervision and are required to attend treatment sessions, undergo random urinalysis, and appear before the KCDDC judge on a regular basis. If defendants meet the requirements of each of the four phases of KCDDC, they graduate from the program and their charges are dismissed. If defendants fail to make progress they are terminated from the program and sentenced on their original charge. Successful participants take an average of 15 months to complete the program.

KCDDC Services

- Outpatient and residential treatment.
- Opiate Maintenance Therapy.
- A 60-day in-custody, certified treatment program at the Maleng Regional Justice Center.
- Specialized treatment for young people ages 18 to 24.
- Gender-specific and culturally-specific treatment.
- Housing – transitional and permanent.
- On-site case management to assist with housing, education, employment, dental/medical and other needs.
- Transportation tickets and ORCA passes.

Benefits of King County Drug Court

- Drug Court saves incarceration costs.
- Other benefits include:
 - Reduction in public health costs.
 - Reduction in economic costs (lost productivity, unemployment, workplace accidents and absences).
 - Reduction in social welfare costs (child abuse and neglect, domestic violence).
 - Reduction in costs relating to drug use (e.g. fetal alcohol syndrome, IV drug related HIV, hepatitis C)

Program Statistics 2013-present

Program Stats	2013	2014	2015	2016 through 7/31/16 only
Referrals	397	428	381	213
Opt-ins	172	217	190	97
Mainstream	184	184	154	86
Graduations	135	113	124	80
Other Dismissal	14	12	10	3
Plead Guilty	27	5	1	0
Terminations	77	65	45	32

Profile of the Population Served by KCDDC

Overall high risk, high need offenders have a poorer prognosis for success in standard rehabilitation treatment programs and require more concentrated and sustained interventions to dislodge their entrenched maladaptive behaviors (Marlowe, 2012).

A breakdown of the characteristics of drug court participants who opted into drug court further illustrates the high risk and high need nature of the KCDDC population. *Data below includes only participants on whom data was available.

Participant Background (2013-2015 referrals)*	N	#	%
Prior treatment before KCDDC	466	316	68%
Average years of substance use prior to KCDDC	385	13.5	NA
Median years of substance use prior to KCDDC	385	10	NA
Have at least 1 prior felony (by self-report)	463	246	21%
Have been to prison (by self-report)	473	140	11%
Facing Prison on Current Charge			68%
Homeless or in housing crisis at KCDDC start	511	275	54%
Not employed and not in school at KCDDC start (excludes those unable to work due to disability)	461	284	62%
Unable to work due to disability at KCDDC start	461	87	19%
No GED/ high school diploma	487	143	29%
Endorse depression at KCDDC start	488	225	46%
Report having a prior mental health diagnosis at KCDDC start	479	206	43%

Age at KCDDC Start (2013-2015 referrals)*	N	#	%
Age 18-25	527	165	31%
Age 26-30	527	83	16%
Age 18-30	527	248	47%

Race (2013-2015 referrals)*	N	#	%
Asian / Pacific Islander	521	32	6%
Black / African American	521	137	26%
Hispanic / Latino	521	40	8%
Multiracial	521	18	3%
Native American	521	17	3%
White / Caucasian	521	277	53%
People of Color Combined	521	244	47%

Primary Charge (2013-2015 referrals)	N	#	%
Delivery + PWI	1190	413	35%
Property Crimes	1190	405	34%
Possession	1190	347	29%
Other	1190	25	2%