

King County Juvenile Drug Court Outcome Evaluation

Prepared for King County Superior Court – Juvenile Court
Services
September 2016

Prepared by

Marc Bolan Consulting
www.marcbolanconsulting.com
marc@marcbolanconsulting.com
(206) 948-0923

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Background on the Juvenile Drug Court.....	3
Key Findings	5
Methodology	6
Computation of Recidivism Measures	10
Analysis	10
18 Month Follow-Up Analysis	10
24 Month Follow-Up Analysis	15
36 Month Follow-Up Analysis	16
48 Month Follow-Up Analysis	17

Introduction

Marc Bolan Consulting worked in conjunction with King County Superior Court Juvenile Court Services and the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget on the comprehensive evaluation of the Juvenile Drug Court. The overall evaluation consists of two components, a process evaluation examining the implementation of the program and an outcome evaluation comparing recidivism outcomes for drug court participants with a group of comparison youth. The process evaluation, based on a series of interviews with program staff and other key stakeholders, was completed in June 2015. The current report provides a summary of the contrast of recidivism outcomes for drug court participants, drug court non-participants and youth in a demographically matched comparison group. This report builds on a previous outcome analysis looking at past program participants that was completed in 2007 and supplements some of the key themes identified in the process evaluation report.

The key research question in this study is the extent to which there are meaningful differences in long term recidivism outcomes for those who participate in the Drug Court program contrasted with a set of Comparison youth. We look at follow-up recidivism data 18, 24, 36 and 48 months after the start of the intervention, and look beyond simply whether a youth is convicted of an additional crime, but also at the severity of the offense and the time that transpired before that additional offense. To fill out the contrast we compare the results in these two groups with the Drug Court Non-Participants.

A secondary question looks more closely at differences within the Drug Court Participant sample. First, we can look at the long term outcomes for youth who completed and graduated from the program vs. those who did not. We also can look more closely at the factors that might explain which program participants achieved more promising recidivism outcomes.

Background on the Juvenile Drug Court

The following description is an excerpt from the current King County Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) Policies and Procedures Manual and provides a good overview of the program:

The mission of the King County Juvenile Drug Court is to reduce drug/alcohol abuse by juveniles, thereby eliminating a significant cause of juvenile criminal activity. Key elements of the program include:

- A. Management of the juvenile offender by a proactive Superior Court Judge;*
- B. Intense, supervised treatment, which imposes stringent accountability;*
- C. Utilization of treatment programs with maximum potential for breaking the addiction cycle;*
- D. Reduce the recycling of offenders through the juvenile justice system, thus decreasing costs to the public and restoring justice;*
- E. Self-Improvement*

The King County JDC was first implemented in Seattle in July 1999 under the leadership of the Honorable Laura Inveen. Since that time Judges Patricia Clark, LeRoy McCullough, Philip Hubbard and Wesley Saint Clair have presided over the JDC. The program expanded in 2009 under the King County Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Plan to serve south King County residents at the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent. About 90 children and their families per year are currently served by the program.

The Drug Court has three primary goals:

- Reduce recidivism for participant youth, enhance community safety, and restore restitution;

- Reduce substance abuse and the impact of drug cases on the juvenile justice system; and
- Enable drug court participants to become responsible, productive members of the community.

The JDC supports substance-abusing offenders in breaking the cycle of addiction and the crimes that accompany it by combining effective treatment and intensive judicial supervision. It is a pre-adjudication program that provides eligible youth the opportunity to receive drug treatment in lieu of incarceration. 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 Drug Court judge on a regular basis.

Case review hearings initially occur every week and then become less frequent as the youth progresses through the program. Incentives are awarded to recognize the youths' achievements and graduated sanctions are used when a youth violates program rules. If the respondents meet the requirements of each of the three levels of Drug Court, they graduate from the program and the charges are dismissed. Youth typically spend between 12 and 18 months in the program.

To date 586 youth have participated in the King County JDC. There have been 208 graduations celebrated. Our earlier 2007 outcome evaluation documented that recidivism rates for youth enrolled in King County JDC were significantly reduced, including minority youth who had substantially lower recidivism rates than their counterparts in the comparison group. A 2011 Washington State Institute for Public Policy report cited that juvenile justice drug courts as a whole save citizens \$9,713 for each participant served.

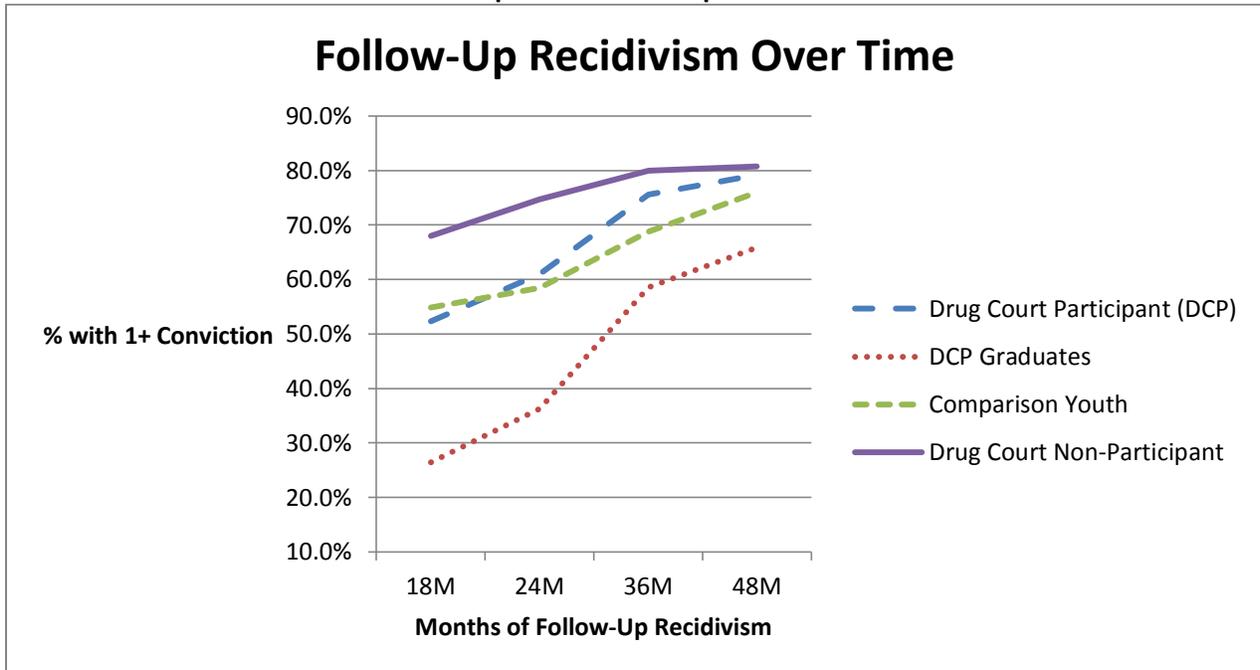
At this time there are three different service tracks in the program. The standard intervention model is described above and serves the largest number of youth. Track 2 is designed for youth with co-occurring mental health and substance use issues and the intervention is intended to provide additional family engagement, psychological and psychiatric services to these youth. There are some differences in the phase requirements in Track 2, and the focus is on the development of individualized plans and goals. About 15 youth are served through Track 2 services.

Track 3 is associated with a Stipulated Order of Continuance (SOC) and is intended for youth with who might benefit from a shorter and less intensive intervention. In Track 3 the youth typically work directly with a single Juvenile Probation Counselor who connects them with needed resources, has less direct contact with the Court and Judge, and has the ability to graduate the youth upon completion of individualized goals within 4-6 months. There are about 18-25 youth active in Track 3 services at any given time period.

Key Findings

- In the overall analysis there are no substantial differences at follow-up periods in recidivism between full **Drug Court Participant** group and **Comparison** group. At 18 months the percent in each group with one or more convictions is nearly equivalent and, as time passes, the rate is higher for the Participant group at 24, 36 and 48 months after start date (see FIGURE 1). Additionally we find that the severity of the convictions and the counts of convictions are higher over time for the **Participant** group in contrast with the **Comparison** group.
- We do find that the average length of time to the first conviction is considerably longer at each follow-up period for the **Drug Court Participant** youth. For instance at the 18 month follow-up it took over 6.4 months for the average **Participant** youth to obtain a conviction; an average higher than the 5.8 observed for the **Comparison** group.
- The **Drug Court Non-Participant** youth fared the worst across the three primary analysis groups. This group includes youth referred to the program, but who never participated in the intervention. These youth had the highest follow-up conviction rate and the highest count of convictions over time.
- There is a more interesting story when we look at **Drug Court Participants** who graduated from the intervention. About half of those in the **Participant** group graduated from the program (*on average within 17.5 months of their start date*) and they are more likely to be:
 - Younger at Start Date
 - White as opposed to African American or Hispanic
 - Have more severe offenses at the time of referral
 - Have lower criminal history scores at the time of referral
 - Starting the program prior to 2011
- Drug Court Graduates, over time, have significantly lower rates of recidivism than Non-Graduates and the **Comparison** youth. At 18 months the percent with a conviction (26.4 percent) is about half of that observed in the Comparison group and is about 1/3 the rate for Non-Graduates. We further find that if these youth do get conviction, it took over 10 months to acquire the conviction and the ranking of the severity of the offense is significantly lower than the other analysis groups. There is some convergence in recidivism rates after 36 months, but Graduates continue to perform the best of all groups.
- The previously completed process evaluation noted some key themes that might account for some of the successes, particularly among graduating youth, we are seeing in the program. The evaluation highlighted the importance of strong teamwork, judicial leadership and the development of consistent structure in the intervention in supporting the ability to carry out services. It is likely that the strengths in these areas have benefitted youth, particularly in helping the make it through the intervention and graduated from the program. The quantitative data does suggest graduation as a powerful factor in helping stem further criminal activity.
- The process evaluation also highlighted a challenge over time with the loss of program advocate role, and important role that connected program staff with the youth family structure. This change started to occur a few years into the current program analysis period and the data from the evaluation reflects some of that change. We do find that program graduation rates are somewhat lower in the later years of our time period (e.g., from 2010 on) and we also find that follow-up recidivism rates are also slightly higher for **Drug Court Participants** starting in the later years of the period.

FIGURE 1: Recidivism Rates Across Groups Over Follow-Up Time Periods



Methodology

The current analysis focuses on participants enrolled in the Drug Court program between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2013. The starting date this period (i.e., January 2005) reflects the ending date of the sample of youth from the last evaluation. The end date (i.e., December 31, 2013) was chosen to ensure at least 18 months of follow-up recidivism data for included all youth in the sample. The program maintains a comprehensive database of youth referred for possible inclusion in the Drug Court intervention. From this database we extracted all youth within this enrollment period in one of the following groups:

- **Drug Court Participants** – those youth referred to and opted into the Drug Court program. This group includes those who graduated and those who participated and terminated and/or dropped out from program prior to graduation.
- **Drug Court Non-Participants** - those youth referred to Drug Court program but did not opt in or were not deemed eligible for participation

We started with a sample of all youth categorized in the groups noted above. For a cleaner comparison, those youth with a status designation indicating participation in the Drug Court Track 2 or 3, those with no information on the original charges at the time of referral, and those who had deceased over the course of the intervention were removed from the study. This resulted in samples of 195 **Drug Court Participants** and 178 **Drug Court Non-Participants**. We had information on these individuals including demographics, case information, severity of the offense at time of referral, criminal/social history information prior to referral, the youth’s completion or end date and, among Drug Court participants, whether they graduated from the program

The **Drug Court Non-Participant** sample represents a form of a comparison to the **Participant** group. Many documented studies of the efficacy of Drug Court interventions have used **Non-Participants** as the comparison group in the analysis. However, in this case there are some concerns pertinent to this sample that suggested the need for a more formal comparison group. We echo some of these concerns first described in the previous outcome evaluation:

1. This particular group includes youth who either opted out of participation in the intervention prior to starting the program OR those who were deemed ineligible for participation by the program staff. As such it represents a combination of some youth who voluntarily stepped away from participation with other youth who may have been excluded from participation for various circumstances.
2. While the clear advantage of this group is that we can be assured that the youth in fact qualified for Drug Court participation in considering their circumstances, alcohol and drug use history and criminal offenses, there remains a crucial difference between **Participants** and **Non-Participants** that would be difficult to account for in this study. It is possibly the case that these youth opted-in or were deemed ineligible in part because they lacked the motivation or desire to proceed with such an intervention. We might assume that **Participants** were at least motivated enough to start the intervention, and that those who graduated carried out that motivation to its full extent, and perhaps that might be a driving factor on why outcomes differ between the two groups.

Thus it was necessary to construct a sample of “comparison” youth; a group of youth who could have qualified for inclusion in the Drug Court program, but were never referred, considered, or given the opportunity to participate in the intervention. To identify this group we used the following steps:

1. We looked for all youth between age 12 and 18 with a conviction between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2013 for an offense that fell within the range of possible offenses that would qualify for inclusion in the Drug Court program (see APPENDIX A for eligible offenses). This included youth who had NOT been referred for possible participation in the program. It was possible for a single youth to have multiple conviction events within this period.
2. We obtained PACT risk assessment data gathered +/- 120 days from the date of the conviction and looked at the question regarding drug/alcohol use. We only included those conviction events with a score of 2 (i.e., drug/alcohol disrupts life) on this question. This narrowed the number of conviction events, but it was still the case that many youth had multiple conviction events to consider.
3. Given that many youth had multiple convictions over the time period, and there was a need to have a single youth with a single conviction in the **Comparison** group, we decided to use a random selection process to choose a single conviction event to serve as proxy for a youth in the analysis. So if a youth had three different events in the period (e.g., one in 2010, one in 2011 and one in 2012) we randomly chose a single event (e.g., 2010 event) and used all the assessment, demographic and case information associated with that event for the analysis.
4. After the random selection we had a sample of 468 **Comparison** youth, each with a single conviction event. The “start” date for that youth was the date of the disposition of the conviction.

It is important to clarify the definition of start date given that only **Drug Court Participants** actually “started” in a program. For the **Drug Court Participant** sample the start date is equivalent to the date they opted in to the program. For the **Drug Court Non-Participant** sample the start date represents the

date when they were referred for possible inclusion in the program. For the **Comparison** sample the start date is disposition date as previously described in the identification process.

As noted we narrowed down the sample to 468 possible **Comparison** youth with conviction event in the time period of the study. The goal at this point was to then select a sample from this larger group that was similar in characteristics to the 195 **Drug Court Participants** in order to carry out an apples-to-apples comparison of the recidivism outcomes for the two groups. We used the Propensity Score Matching (PSM) approach to match the individuals in the two groups.

The PSM method is an approach used to account for possible differences in treatment and comparison groups by matching individuals based on a combination of covariates. In a situation where a study employs random assignment to place cases into a treatment and comparison group we would expect the distribution of individuals would be quite similar across different characteristics. In situations such as in this study where there are clear differences in the composition of those in the treatment (i.e., **Drug Court Participant** sample) and **Comparison** groups (see TABLE 1 below) this method is useful balancing those differences and identifying a set of **Comparison** cases that are most similar in background and characteristics to the participants. This, in turn, would account for any biases based on other possible predictors when looking at differences in recidivism outcomes.

In this study we used a version of the PSM method that relies on one-on-one matching of cases from the two groups. This ensured that we would select a sample of 195 of 468 possible **Comparison** youth that most closely matched the characteristics of the 195 in **Drug Court Participant** group. The approach involves the specification of a multivariate logistic regression model predicting assignment into either the treatment or comparison condition using variables that might vary between the two groups. From TABLE 1 we clearly see variations between the overall Comparison population and the **Participant** group. For example, there is a larger skew towards less severe offenses at the time of referral in the **Participant** group.

As such we used the following set of variables for inclusion in the matching process:

- Youth age at Start Date
- Gender
- Race
- Severity of the Original Offense
- Criminal History Score (from PACT assessment)
- Year of Start Date

The matching procedure identified a set of 195 Comparison youth that were similar on these characteristics to the participant group. In TABLE 1 we present a summary of the key variables for the overall **Comparison** population, the matched **Participant** and **Comparison** groups and for the **Drug Court Non-Participant** group. Of note:

- The original **Comparison** population characteristics are quite different from the **Drug Court Participant** sample. This naturally prompted the need to use the PSM method rather than a simple random selection of **Comparison** youth. Some of the key differences are:
 - A higher percent of youth 16 or 17 at the Start Date in the **Drug Court Participant** group
 - A higher percentage of African American youth in the **Drug Court Participant** group.
 - A higher percentage of the **Drug Court Participants** opted in the program based on less severe offenses (i.e., offenses with a grade of D or E)

- The original **Comparison** youth have higher criminal history scores from the initial PACT assessment than **Drug Court Participants**.
- The **Drug Court Participants** skew more towards a start date in the period between 2008 and 2010
- After the PSM process we see greater similarities between the **Comparison** group and **Drug Court Participants**. The differences noted above have dissipated and there only remain small variations in the two groups by Age at Start.
- The **Drug Court Non-Participants** have a unique set of characteristics relative to the other two groups. Specifically they:
 - Tend to be older at the start period with a higher percentage 18 or older at start.
 - Are more likely to be either African American or White, and less likely to be from the other racial categories
 - Are more likely to have been referred with a less severe offense – hence the high percentage with a severity score of 8-10 (i.e., grade of D or lower)
 - Like the participants, they are more likely to have started in the period from 2008 to 2010.

TABLE 1: Characteristics of Analysis Groups

	Original Comparison	COMPARISON Group	Drug Court Participants	Drug Court Non-Participants
N	468	195	195	178
Age at Start (rounded)				
<=15	19.8%	20.0%	11.8%	8.4%
16	21.6%	20.0%	31.3%	14.0%
17	31.0%	32.8%	36.9%	21.3%
18	27.6%	27.2%	20.0%	33.1%
Gender				
Male	84.8%	82.1%	81.5%	83.1%
Female	15.2%	17.9%	18.5%	16.9%
Race				
Native American	3.8%	3.1%	4.1%	3.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7.5%	6.7%	7.7%	5.1%
Black	37.0%	49.7%	47.2%	46.1%
Hispanic	15.0%	18.5%	12.8%	12.4%
White	36.8%	22.1%	28.2%	32.6%
Severity of Offense				
<=5 (grade of B or B+)	44.0%	45.1%	42.1%	30.3%
6-7 (grade of C or C+)	42.5%	23.1%	19.5%	21.9%
8-10 (grade of D or lower)	13.5%	31.8%	38.5%	47.8%
Criminal History Score				
0-8	35.3%	43.6%	48.2%	44.4%
9-14	40.6%	37.4%	34.4%	33.7%
15+	24.1%	19.0%	17.4%	21.9%
Start Year				
2005-2007	40.8%	32.3%	30.8%	34.3%
2008-2010	33.1%	31.3%	42.1%	42.1%
2011-2013	26.1%	36.4%	27.2%	23.6%

Computation of Recidivism Measures

The evaluation staff worked with the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget's Juvenile Justice Research and Evaluation Analyst to access information on the chosen youth through the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) court record database. This database maintains all information on individual convictions, tracking information by offense date and case filing date. The data set includes both youth and adult criminal offenses. Each conviction event includes information about the type of conviction (i.e., misdemeanor or offense), the specific charge (e.g., Burglary 4) and the ranking of the severity of the offense (where higher values indicate more severe offenses). We looked at all misdemeanor and felony convictions (inclusive of deferred convictions and diversions) for each youth that occurred at any date after his or her start date. By matching the youth in the three groups to the database we are able to compute summary measures for recidivism 18, 24, 36 and 48 months after the youth's start date. These include:

- % of youth with 1+ Convictions (*either misdemeanor or felony*) in period after start date (e.g., 18M after start date)
 - % with 1+ Misdemeanor Conviction in period after start date
 - % with 1+ Felony Conviction in period after start date
- (*SAMPLE: those in time period with 1 or more convictions*)
 - Average number of months between Start Date and Offense Date of the first conviction after the start date
 - Average maximum WSIPP Severity Offense Score –*higher values indicate a more severe offense*
 - Average # of Convictions in period after the start date
 - Average # of Misdemeanor Convictions in period after the start date
 - Average # of Felony Convictions in period after the start date

Analysis

The primary analysis addressed the question of differences between the **Drug Court Participant** sample and the matched sample of **Comparison** youth. The contrast involved looking at the measures previously described for each group 18, 24, 36 and 48 months after a youth start date. It was possible to look at all youth in the analysis groups at the 18 and 24 month follow-up periods and then look at somewhat smaller numbers at the 36 and 48 month periods.

18 Month Follow-Up Analysis

In TABLE 2 (and FIGURES 2-3) we can assess differences in the conviction rates for **Drug Court Participants** and **Comparison** youth. In total there is little difference between the overall groups at this assessment period. The percentage of **Comparison** youth with a Conviction (54.9 percent) and a Felony Conviction (29.2 percent) are slightly higher, but there are no significant differences between the groups. We do see that both groups have conviction rates substantially lower than observed for the **Drug Court Non-Participant** group. This is particularly true for the overall and misdemeanor conviction rates (i.e., 68.0 and 53.4 percent respectively in the **Drug Court Non-Participant** group).

The results are more enlightening when we look within the **Drug Court Participant** group at program Graduates and Non-Graduates. Recall that the full **Drug Court Participant** group consists of a mix of youth, about half of whom have received limited “exposure” to the intervention (*e.g., a youth who participated for some months and then no longer remained in the program*) and another half who graduated from the program. In TABLE 2 we clearly see differences in these groups. The 18M Conviction rate for Graduates is about 1/3 of what we observe for the Non-Graduates (i.e., 26 vs. 74 percent) and this rate is about half of what we see for the overall **Comparison** group. The difference is even more pronounced when we look at the Felony Conviction rate (i.e. 7 percent for Graduates and 50 percent for Non-Graduates).

TABLE 2: Comparison of Conviction Rates: 18 MONTH FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS

GROUP	% with 1+ Conviction in 18M		
	Total	Misdemeanor	Felony
Drug Court Participants (n=195)	52.3%	41.0%	28.7%
Graduates (n=91)	26.4%	23.1%	6.6%
Non-Graduates (n=95)	73.6%	60.0%	50.5%
Comparison Youth (n=195)	54.9%	41.5%	29.2%
Drug Court Non-Participants (n=178)	68.0%	53.4%	32.6%

FIGURE 2: 18 Month Recidivism by Groups – Overall Convictions

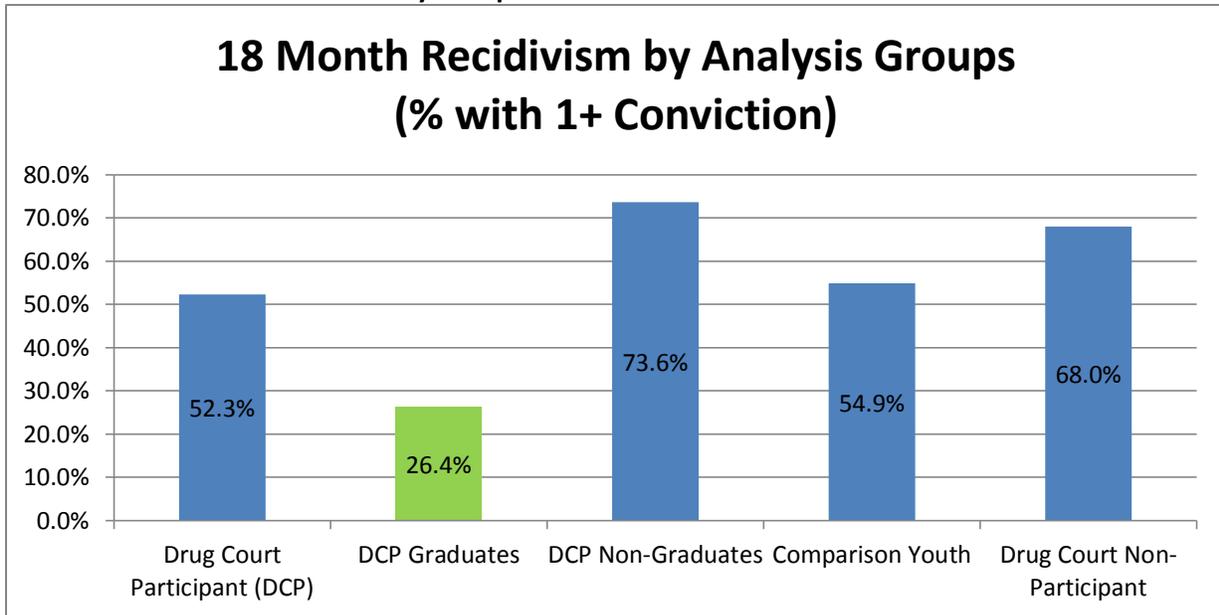
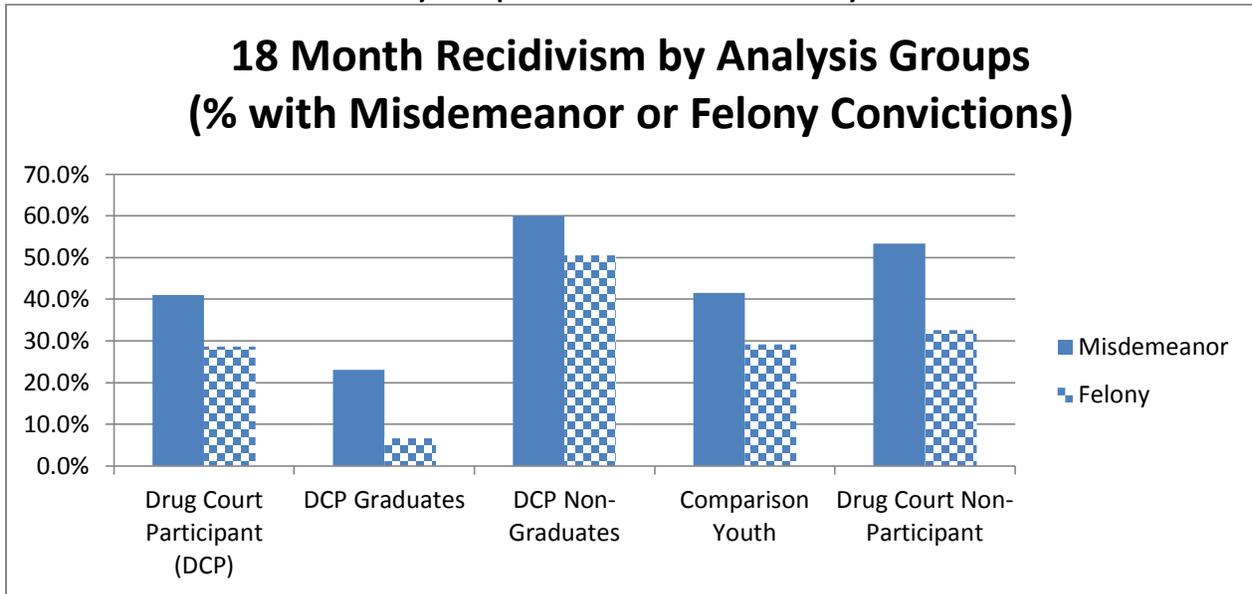


FIGURE 3: 18 Month Recidivism by Groups – Misdemeanor and Felony Convictions



In TABLE 3 (and FIGURES 4-5) we look further at measures computed among those who had a conviction event in the 18M follow-up period. We are interested not just in whether there was a conviction, but also the number of convictions for a youth, the severity of these convictions and how quickly youth obtained a new conviction after program start. Again, as we look at the overall contrast between the **Drug Court Participant** and **Comparison** youth we see few differences. The time to the first conviction is somewhat longer for the **Participants** and the severity of the conviction is slightly lower, but the counts of actual convictions are quite similar. Moreover, in the analysis we don't see great disparities among those in the **Drug Court Non-Participant** group.

We continue to see pronounced differences between the Graduates and Non-Graduates. Among those who eventually graduated from the program and did have a conviction, the average time to that first conviction is greater (i.e., over 10 months after start), the severity of the conviction is much lower (i.e., average of 43.1) and a youth had an average of 1.42 convictions and only 0.25 felony convictions by 18 months. Once again considerably more promising outcomes than Non-Graduates and the **Comparison** group as a whole.

TABLE 3: Comparison of Recidivism Measures: 18 MONTH FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS

GROUP	SAMPLE: Youth with 1+ Conviction in 18M				
	Average Months to Conviction	Average Maximum WSIPP Score	Average Convictions	Average Misdemeanor Convictions	Average Felony Convictions
Drug Court Participants (n=195)	6.4	68.6	2.17	1.30	0.87
Graduates (n=91)	10.1	43.1	1.42	1.17	0.25
Non-Graduates (n=95)	5.5	76.6	2.43	1.36	1.07
Comparison Youth (n=195)	5.8	72.8	2.07	1.24	0.83
Drug Court Non-Participants (n=178)	6.1	67.4	2.13	1.45	0.68

FIGURE 4: 18 Month Recidivism by Groups – Months to First Conviction

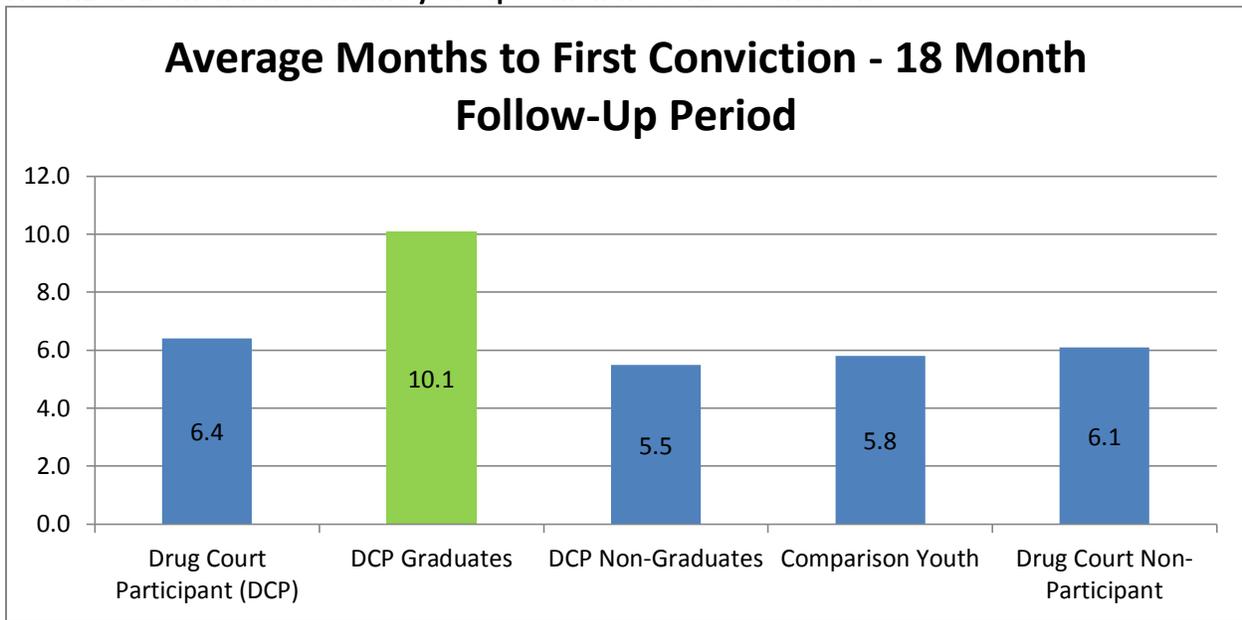
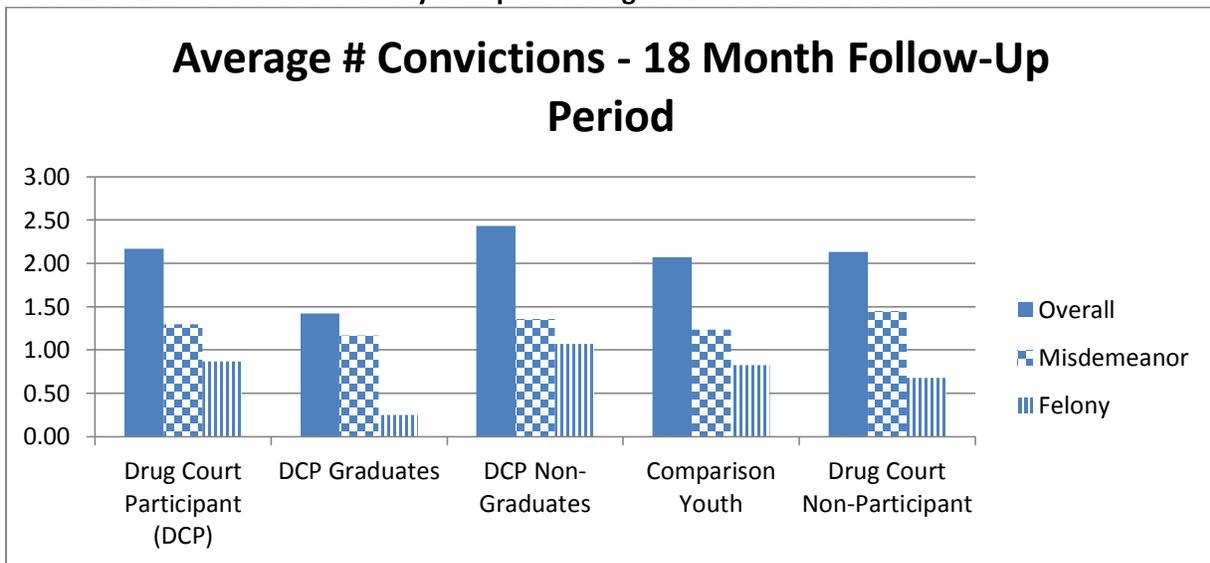


FIGURE 5: 18 Month Recidivism by Groups – Average Number of Convictions



As noted there is some interest in looking at the factors that might account for differential recidivism rates within the Participant sample. Given the powerful effect of program graduation we first looked at the characteristics of those Participants who were more likely to graduate from the program over time. We see in TABLE 4 that Graduates are:

- Younger at the start of the intervention
- More likely to be White as opposed to Black or Hispanic
- More likely to have been referred with more severe offenses from the onset
- More likely to have had lower criminal history scores at the onset
- More likely to have started the intervention prior to the 2011 program year

TABLE 4: Graduation by Youth Characteristics – Drug Court Participants

<i>Sample: all Drug Court Participants</i>	% Graduated from Program
OVERALL	48.9%
Age at Start (rounded)	
<=16	51.4%
17	46.9%
18	40.0%
Race	
White	55.6%
Black	44.8%
Hispanic	45.8%
Severity of Offense	
<=5 (grade of B or B+)	51.9%
6-7 (grade of C or C+)	50.0%
8-10 (grade of D or lower)	45.2%
Criminal History Score	
0-8	55.7%
9-14	46.9%
15+	35.3%
Start Year	
2005-2007	53.4%
2008-2010	54.9%
2011-2013	32.6%

In TABLE 5 we look at the 18M overall Conviction rate with the **Drug Court Participant** and **Comparison** samples broken down by different compositional factors. As we have noted the overall rates for the two groups are nearly equivalent and the rate is clearly lower among Drug Court Graduates. There are some interesting patterns when we look at these data:

- In the **Drug Court Participant** group the youngest participants have the lowest recidivism rates. Earlier in TABLE 4 we also saw that younger participants were more likely to graduate. This recidivism rate for **Drug Court Participants** 16 or younger (i.e., 49 percent) is almost 10 percentage points lower than the youngest participants in the **Comparison** group.
- In both samples the African American youth have the highest recidivism rates. The White **Drug Court Participants** have quite low recidivism rates and we note that they are more likely to have graduated from the program.
- The contrast by severity of offense in each sample is interesting. While there is no relationship between severity of offense and recidivism in the **Comparison** sample, it is clear that **Participants** with a moderate offense severity (i.e. C+ or C offenses) have the lowest 18 month recidivism rates.
- There is clear and expected relationship between criminal history score and recidivism in the **Drug Court Participant** group. Those with higher scores at the start period have increased rates of recidivism. Interestingly the pattern varies in the **Comparison** sample; those with lower scores actually end up with higher rates of recidivism. Again we note that those in the **Participant** sample with lower scores are far more likely to have graduated from the program.

- There are variations when looking at start year of the intervention. In the **Participant** group recidivism is somewhat higher for those who started in the period from 2008 to 2010. In contrast there is a linear relationship in the **Comparison** group; those who “started” in earlier years have increased recidivism rates.

TABLE 5: 18 Month Conviction Rates by Analysis Group

<i>% With 1+ Conviction at 18M</i>	COMPARISON Group	Drug Court Participants
N	195	195
OVERALL	54.9%	52.3%
Age at Start (rounded)		
<=16	59.0%	49.2%
17	62.5%	59.7%
18	43.4%	53.8%
Race		
White	48.8%	40.0%
Black	63.9%	63.0%
Hispanic	38.9%	52.0%
Severity of Offense		
<=5 (grade of B or B+)	53.4%	57.3%
6-7 (grade of C or C+)	55.6%	39.5%
8-10 (grade of D or lower)	53.3%	56.5%
Criminal History Score		
0-8	60.0%	40.4%
9-14	49.3%	59.7%
15+	54.1%	70.6%
Start Year		
2005-2007	66.7%	48.3%
2008-2010	59.0%	57.3%
2011-2013	40.8%	49.6%

24 Month Follow-Up Analysis

The patterns first observed in the 18 month analysis persist in the 24 month follow-up analysis. As we see in TABLE 6 the overall **Drug Court Participant** sample has slightly higher 24 month recidivism rates, particularly in the case of Felony Convictions, than the **Comparison** sample. The **Drug Court Non-Participant** youth continue to have the highest conviction rate, especially when looking at the Misdemeanor conviction rate.

Again there are substantial differences between the Graduates and Non-Graduates. Only 36 percent of program graduates obtained a new conviction by 24 months after start and only 15 percent obtained a Felony Conviction. These rates still significantly lower than observed for the Non-Graduates and in the **Comparison** sample.

TABLE 6: Comparison of Conviction Rates: 24 MONTH FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS

GROUP	% with 1+ Conviction in 24M		
	Total	Misdemeanor	Felony
Drug Court Participants (n=195)	61.0%	45.6%	40.0%
Graduates (n=91)	36.3%	28.6%	15.4%
Non-Graduates (n=95)	85.3%	63.2%	65.3%
Comparison Youth (n=195)	58.5%	45.1%	31.8%
Drug Court Non-Participants (n=178)	74.7%	61.2%	39.9%

In TABLE 7 we look further at measures computed among those who had a conviction event in the 24M follow-up period. The overall contrast between the **Drug Court Participant** youth and **Comparison** youth is interesting. While **Participants** with a conviction acquire a higher number of average convictions (i.e., 2.51 vs. 2.31), their time to the first conviction is over two months longer than observed for the **Comparison** group. The **Drug Court Non-Participants** stand out in that they have the highest average number of Misdemeanor convictions, yet the lowest number of Felony convictions.

We still see substantial differences between the Graduates and Non-Graduates. Among those who eventually graduated from the program and did have a conviction, the average time to that first conviction is greater (i.e., over 13 months after start), the severity of the conviction is much lower (i.e., average of 55.6 vs. 85.8 for Non-Graduates) and the youth had an average of 1.70 convictions and only 0.46 felony convictions by 24 months. Once again considerably more promising outcomes than Non-Graduates and the **Comparison** group as a whole.

TABLE 7: Comparison of Recidivism Measures: 24 MONTH FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS

GROUP	SAMPLE: Youth with 1+ Conviction in 24M				
	Average Months to Conviction	Average Maximum WSIPP Score	Average Convictions	Average Misdemeanor Convictions	Average Felony Convictions
Drug Court Participants (n=195)	8.5	76.5	2.51	1.45	1.06
Graduates (n=91)	13.4	55.6	1.70	1.24	0.46
Non-Graduates (n=95)	6.7	85.8	2.89	1.54	1.35
Comparison Youth (n=195)	6.8	73.7	2.31	1.39	0.92
Drug Court Non-Participants (n=178)	7.5	73.1	2.55	1.76	0.79

36 Month Follow-Up Analysis

First, to note, the sample size for the 36 month follow-up analysis is smaller as we no longer can look at youth with a start date in 2013 (i.e., they would have a maximum of 24 months of follow-up data). As we look at TABLE 8 we are starting to see more divergence between the overall **Drug Court Participant** group and the **Comparison** Group. The overall conviction rate at 36 months follow up is higher for the **Participant** group (i.e., 76 vs. 69 percent) and we especially see an increase in the felony conviction rate (i.e., 51 vs. 37 percent). Additionally, the results for the overall **Drug Court Participant** group are much closer to what we observe for the **Non-Participant** group.

We are also starting to see some convergence in the outcomes for program Graduates and Non-Graduates. There is still a significant difference in the overall conviction rate for the two groups (i.e., 59 vs. 93 percent) and a pronounced difference in the Felony Conviction rate (i.e., 27 vs 74 percent), though these measures are getting closer as time passes.

TABLE 8: Comparison of Conviction Rates: 36 MONTH FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS

GROUP	% with 1+ Conviction in 36M		
	Total	Misdemeanor	Felony
Drug Court Participants (n=180)	75.6%	61.1%	50.6%
Graduates (n=87)	58.6%	50.6%	27.6%
Non-Graduates (n=86)	93.0%	74.4%	74.4%
Comparison Youth (n=173)	68.8%	59.5%	37.0%
Drug Court Non-Participants (n=165)	80.0%	68.5%	47.3%

In TABLE 9 we look further at measures computed among those who had a conviction event in the 36M follow-up period. There are few differences between the **Drug Court Participant** youth and **Comparison** youth in the severity and count of convictions over time. We do continue to see that the time to the first conviction is over 3 ½ months longer for **Participants** than observed for the **Comparison** group. The **Drug Court Non-Participants** still stand out in that they have the highest average number of Convictions and Misdemeanor convictions, yet the lowest number of Felony convictions.

We still see substantial differences between the Graduates and Non-Graduates. Among those who eventually graduated from the program and did have a conviction, the average time to that first conviction is greater (i.e., over 19 months after start), the severity of the conviction is much lower (i.e., average of 62.8 vs. 90.2 for Non-Graduates) and the youth had an average of 2.18 convictions and only 0.61 felony convictions by 36 months. Once again considerably more promising outcomes than **Non-Graduates** and the **Comparison** group as a whole.

TABLE 9: Comparison of Recidivism Measures: 36 MONTH FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS

GROUP	SAMPLE: Youth with 1+ Conviction in 36M				
	Average Months to Conviction	Average Maximum WSIPP Score	Average Convictions	Average Misdemeanor Convictions	Average Felony Convictions
Drug Court Participants (n=180)	12.2	79.1	3.04	1.82	1.22
Graduates (n=87)	19.3	62.8	2.18	1.57	0.61
Non-Graduates (n=86)	7.8	90.2	3.71	2.07	1.64
Comparison Youth (n=173)	8.8	75.1	2.97	1.85	1.12
Drug Court Non-Participants (n=165)	8.8	78.5	3.30	2.31	0.99

48 Month Follow-Up Analysis

While the overall and misdemeanor conviction rates are similar for the **Drug Court Participants** and **Comparison** youth, we continue to see elevated rates of felony convictions in the Participant group (see TABLE 10). By 48 months there is little difference between the **Participants** and **Non-Participants**.

We do continue to observe differences between the Graduates and Non-Graduates. The disparities appear more for the overall and felony conviction rates and these rates continue to be lower than observed for the overall **Comparison** group.

TABLE 10: Comparison of Conviction Rates: 48 MONTH FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS

GROUP	% with 1+ Conviction in 48M		
	Total	Misdemeanor	Felony
Drug Court Participants (n=159)	79.2%	67.3%	55.3%
Graduates (n=82)	65.9%	58.5%	32.9%
Non-Graduates (n=75)	94.7%	78.7%	80.0%
Comparison Youth (n=146)	76.0%	65.8%	41.8%
Drug Court Non-Participants (n=150)	80.7%	68.7%	50.0%

In TABLE 11 we look further at measures computed among those who had a conviction event in the 48 month follow-up period. The **Drug Court Participants** do have higher levels of offense severity and larger numbers of convictions than the **Comparison** youth, but still the time to the first conviction is over 2 ½ months longer for Participants than observed for the **Comparison** group. The **Drug Court Non-Participants** still stand out in that they have the highest average number of Convictions and Misdemeanor convictions, yet the lowest number of Felony convictions.

We still see substantial differences between the Graduates and Non-Graduates. Among those who eventually graduated from the program and did have a conviction, the average time to that first conviction is greater (i.e., over 21 months after start), the severity of the conviction is much lower (i.e., average of 67.7 vs. 93.7 for Non-Graduates) and the youth had an average of 2.98 convictions and only 0.83 felony convictions by 48 months.

TABLE 11: Comparison of Recidivism Measures: 48 MONTH FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS

GROUP	SAMPLE: Youth with 1+ Conviction in 48M				
	Average Months to Conviction	Average Maximum WSIPP Score	Average Convictions	Average Misdemeanor Convictions	Average Felony Convictions
Drug Court Participants (n=159)	13.4	82.5	3.67	2.21	1.46
Graduates (n=82)	21.0	67.7	2.98	2.15	0.83
Non-Graduates (n=75)	7.8	93.7	4.23	2.30	1.93
Comparison Youth (n=146)	10.9	77.3	3.32	2.11	1.21
Drug Court Non-Participants (n=150)	10.3	82.7	3.88	2.74	1.14

**APPENDIX A: Juvenile Drug Court Eligible Offenses
(adopted from RCW 13.40.0357
Juvenile offender sentencing standards.)**

Offense Category	Description (RCW Citation)	Category for Attempt
------------------	----------------------------	----------------------

Arson and Malicious Mischief

C	Reckless Burning 1 (9A.48.040)	D
B	Malicious Mischief 1 (9A.48.070)	C
C	Malicious Mischief 2 (9A.48.080)	D

Burglary and Trespass

B	Residential Burglary (9A.52.025)	C
B	Burglary 2 (9A.52.030)	C
C	Vehicle Prowling 1 (9A.52.095)	D

***Drugs**

B+	Violation of Uniform Controlled Substances Act - Narcotic, Methamphetamine, or Flunitrazepam Sale (69.50.401(2) (a) or (b))	B+
C	Violation of Uniform Controlled Substances Act – Nonnarcotic Sale (69.50.401(2)(c))	C
C	Fraudulently Obtaining Controlled Substance (69.50.403)	C
C+	Sale of Controlled Substance for Profit (69.50.410)	C+
B	Violation of Uniform Controlled Substances Act - Narcotic, Methamphetamine, or Flunitrazepam Counterfeit Substances (69.50.4011(2) (a) or (b))	B
C	Violation of Uniform Controlled Substances Act - Nonnarcotic Counterfeit Substances (69.50.4011(2) (c), (d), or (e))	C
C	Violation of Uniform Controlled Substances Act - Possession of a Controlled Substance (69.50.4013)	C
C	Violation of Uniform Controlled Substances Act - Possession of a Controlled Substance (69.50.4012)	C

*See Juvenile Drug Court Drug Offense Criteria

Obstructing Governmental Operation

Offense Category	Description (RCW Citation)	Category for Attempt
------------------	----------------------------	----------------------

C	Escape 1 (RCW 9A.76.110)	C
C	Escape 2 (RCW 9A.76.120)	C
B+	Intimidating a Public Servant (9A.76.180)	C+
B+	Intimidating a Witness (9A.72.110)	C+

Theft and Forgery

B	Theft 1 (9A.56.030)	C
C	Theft 2 (9A.56.040)	D
B	Theft of Livestock 1 and 2 (9A.56.080 and 9A.56.083)	C
C	Forgery (9A.60.020)	D
C	Identity Theft 1 (9.35.020(2))	D
B	Possession of Stolen Property 1 (9A.56.150)	C
C	Possession of Stolen Property 2 (9A.56.160)	D
C	Taking Motor Vehicle Without Permission 1 and 2 (9A.56.070 and 9A.56.075)	D
B	Theft of Motor Vehicle (RCW 9A.56.065)	C
B	Possession of a Stolen Vehicle (RCW 9A.56.068)	C
B	Trafficking in Stolen Property 1 (RCW 9A.82.050)	C
C	Trafficking in Stolen Property 2 (RCW 9A.82.055)	C