

Florida's Adult Post-Adjudicatory Drug Court Expansion Program Facts Updated July 2017

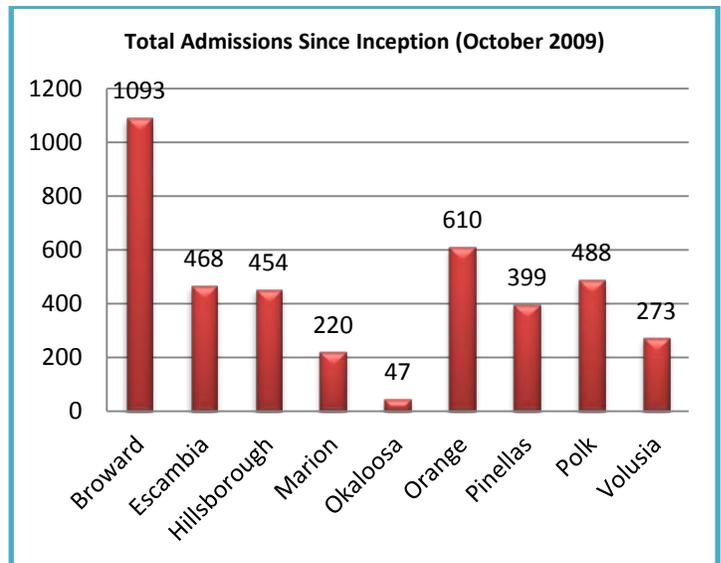
Quick Facts:

- Program was implemented in October 2009 and originally funded by a federal grant, which expired June 30, 2013. The State is currently funding the program with recurring general revenue dollars effective July 1, 2014.
- Nine programs participating in nine counties – Broward, Escambia, Hillsborough, Marion, Okaloosa (effective July 2016), Orange, Pinellas, Polk, and Volusia.
- As of June 2015, expansion drug court costs average \$21.59 per person per day. According to the Department of Corrections' 2014-2015 [agency statistics](#), housing offenders in prison costs \$51.65 per person per day.
- As of July 2017:
 - Nine programs have been utilizing residential treatment options.
 - Admissions by gender show 32% female and 68% male.
 - The most common offense category is controlled substance use/possession at 45%.
 - The most common primary drug of choice is cocaine at 29% followed by marijuana at 23%.

Program Performance

Since Program Inception in October 2009

| | |
|--|-------|
| Number of Admissions | 4,052 |
| Number Currently Active | 610 |
| Number of Successful Completions | 1,547 |
| Number of Unsuccessful Discharges ¹ | 1,732 |
| Number of Administrative Discharges | 83 |



Program Findings:

The Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability (OPPAGA) completed an outcome and cost study of the program. The January 2014 report, *Expansion Drug Courts Can Produce Positive Outcomes Through Prison Diversion and Reduced Recidivism*, is available [here](#). Among the key findings from the OPPAGA Report are:

- The estimated cost savings through diversion if 100% of offenders were prison-bound is \$7.6 million;
- Diverting prison-bound offenders to drug courts may also produce cost savings through reduced recidivism;

¹ Includes voluntary withdrawals

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- The estimated annual savings through reduced recidivism is about \$500,000;
- Drug court completion rates varied, affected by the availability and use of program options and judicial interaction; the average completion rate statewide is 53%.
- When compared to similar offenders, successful drug court completers had fewer felony convictions; 9% drug court completers vs. 19% comparison group.
- When compared to similar offenders, successful drug court completers had fewer prison sentences; 2% drug court completers vs. 9% comparison group.

Statewide Drug Court Case Management System:

The Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) implemented the Florida Drug Court Case Management System (FDCCMS) in 2011 and was initially used only by the expansion program. The FDCCMS is now managing cases in drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans courts throughout the state. The purpose of the FDCCMS is to handle the case management needs of all problem-solving court types by streamlining data collection and entry, allowing problem-solving court coordinators and case managers to efficiently manage caseloads and monitor program outcomes.

Currently, a total of 76 problem-solving courts are utilizing the system, including 29 adult drug courts, 3 DUI courts, 6 family dependency drug courts, 8 juvenile drug courts, 11 mental health courts, and 19 veterans courts.

Expansion Drug Court Success Story (Submitted by Lawrence - May 2017, graduate from Polk County Expansion Program)

What Brought Me To The PADC and What It Has Taught Me?

In terms of my legal situation, I was incarcerated at the Polk County Jail for my second felony probation violation due to failed drug screens with positive results for cocaine and I accepted an offer/opportunity to defer a 3 year prison sentence by completing the Post Adjudication Drug Court (PADC) program and that is what brought me to the PADC.

In my personal situation, I was sick and tired of being sick and tired and that is what brought me to the PADC. I had tried, and failed, on many occasions to quit using drug without the aid of a treatment facility or 12-step program; the result was always a short lived clean time only to yield to the compelling obsession to use drugs. I prayed to the Lord God Almighty to either send me to prison or give me something just short of prison that would help me to stop using drugs. My prayers were answered when God sent the PADC court representative (Mr. Warren Cunningham) to the probation violation courtroom to call my name and asked me if I had a drug problem that I wanted help in quitting. It was the best thing that has ever happened for me. Not when I graduated Salutatorian at my Junior High, nor winning a city-wide high school essay contest, nor being a member of Who's Who Among America High School students, nor giving the Valedictory address at my High School graduation, nor being a member of Outstanding College Students of America, nor receiving repeated Dean's List Honors in college, nor receiving my college degree, but it was when I recently completed the PADC program I felt the feeling of true accomplishment and achieved the greatest success in my life.

There are many, many things that I learned while completing the PADC program, the below listed items are just a few. Moreover, the road of recovery is a lifelong commitment to a perpetual cycle of learning, growing and sharing. PADC is responsible for recovery's introduction into my life and holding my hand while guiding me along its path until I was able to walk it without PADC but with the aid of others in the recovery community; which I count, without any fear of contradiction, the most important thing I (or any other PADC client) gained through the PADC program.

**LESSON #1: "We admitted we were powerless."*

**LESSON #2: "We must only sweep our side of the street."*

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**LESSON #3: "Resentment is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die."*

**LESSON #4: "Seek progress, not perfection."*

**LESSON #5: "Gratitude is the best attitude."*

**LESSON #6: "By making a searching and fearless inventory of ourselves, we can improve."*

**LESSON #7: "We humbly ask Him to remove our shortcomings."*

**LESSON #8: "Life is best lived one day at a time."*

**LESSON #9: "Be of service to others."*

**LESSON #10: "Pray."*

These 10 lessons on recovery became ingrained into a way of life for me. They're essential to my recovery, along with attending meetings, working the 12 steps, having a sponsor, and reaching out to others. Learning, adhering, and remaining continually committed to my new way of life is due to Jehovah's Grace working through the State of Florida's Problem-Solving Courts in allowing me an opportunity to enroll and successfully complete the life changing program of the PADC which was, and is, the educator, stimulator, motivator, and the all empowering denominator of my recovery process.