

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

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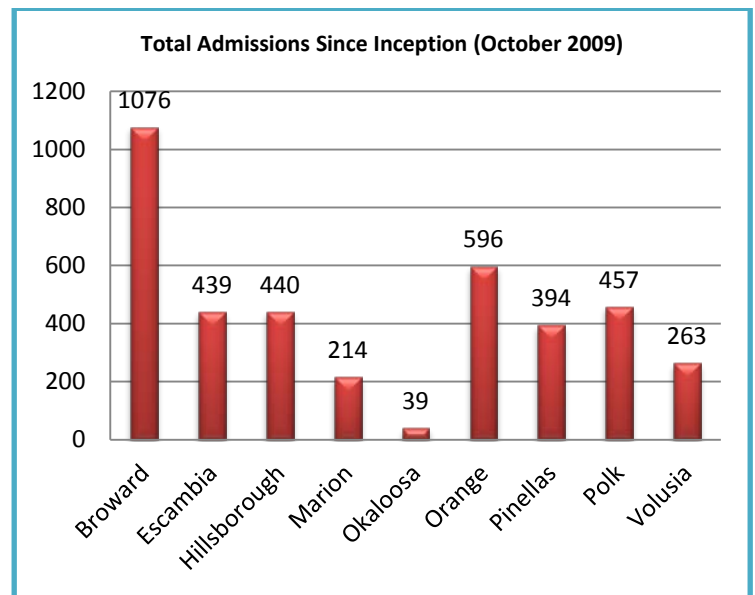
## Quick Facts:

- 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 2016:
  - Eight programs have been utilizing residential treatment options.
  - Admissions by gender show 31% female and 69% male.
  - The most common offense category is controlled substance use/possession at 44%.
  - The most common primary drug of choice is cocaine at 30% followed by marijuana at 24%.

## Program Performance

*Since Program Inception in October 2009*

Number of Admissions	3,918
Number Currently Active	623
Number of Successful Completions	1,479
Number of Unsuccessful Discharges <sup>1</sup>	1,655
Number of Administrative Discharges	81



## 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;
- 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

<sup>1</sup> Includes voluntary withdrawals

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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, 27 adult drug courts, 2 DUI courts, 6 family dependency drug courts, 7 juvenile drug courts, 11 mental health courts, and 19 veterans courts are utilizing the system.

## **Expansion Drug Court Success Story** (Submitted by Christine S., graduate from Polk County Expansion Program)

*It was July 24, 2015, when I was in a courtroom for what felt like the "buzzilinth" time, talking to my paid lawyer about my sentence which at the time I was sure was a lengthy prison stay; when I was blessed to have a conversation with a man named Warren. Who for some reason saw something in me that I didn't even see in myself. He gave me something that day. For the first time in my life he gave me hope not because I wasn't going to prison but because I felt my prayers had been answered. I knew then that I was in for the toughest battle of my life. How could anyone possibly help me quiet the demons that consumed me for 25 years? And so my journey began...*

*For about 6 months I showed up, attended every class, every court date, did my assignments, got a sponsor, went to meetings but still something was missing. Which at this time I wasn't even sure I knew exactly what it was. My counselor at the time resigned and I felt lost. I felt abandoned yet again and true to form I began to sabotage all I had accomplished for myself for the past 6 months. But then something happened. I was called into the program director's office and it was at that moment that I knew someone cared enough about me to pick me up from the despair I found myself in and showed me I didn't have to be afraid of telling the truth. She made being honest feel safe. For the first time in a long time I felt understood - I wasn't being judged for what I did wrong but was being accepted for who I was. And so I picked myself back up and knew then that the staff was there to help me, to guide me, to show me how to love myself and taught me how to trust which was a huge turning point in my recovery because that showed me they weren't given up on me as I had felt all my life. That I was valuable, I was lovable and I was worth saving. This came at a crucial point because I now had to be vulnerable with a new counselor. I had to trust her with my demons and all of my baggage that I've been carrying around all my life in order for me to truly get the help I so desperately cried out for. And so for the next 11 months and thankfully with the help of my counselor, Mrs. Jenna I have grown into a new me. A woman who knows and understands and most importantly accepts that although I may forever be an addict I can choose sobriety and recover every day because through her I was able to see that I am so much more than what my demons convinced me I was. She has helped me rediscover myself and have confidence in the choices I have made for my future. I have gained the love and respect from my dad and stepmom and with their help I have been able to start my own cleaning business. She has given me the tools I need for a better tomorrow. Knowing that I have done my best at being so open, honest and trust worthy I've allowed myself to heal. I know now that I have so much to offer not only myself but others as well. I've come to accept my past as just that - my past. Even though I'm nervous about my future I know that I can smile proudly knowing that my story isn't over yet.*

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## **Expansion Drug Court Success Story** (Submitted by Jarquis B., graduate from Pinellas County Expansion Program)

*I've been on probation two other times and never did right. I'd messed up within weeks, so this [Prison Diversion court] has been a blessing. This is my first time ever successfully completing probation. Thanks for the court giving me a second chance and the help of Liz (treatment counselor) and WestCare (treatment provider) for giving me the strength and knowledge to do better in life. I have learned so much more about life since I've been sober. Trust me, if I can do this, anybody could. All you got to do is stay focused and believe in yourself, and stay away from the negativity.*