

# Florida's Adult Post-Adjudicatory Drug Court Prison-Diversion Program Facts July 2019

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## Quick Facts:

- Program was implemented in October 2009 and originally funded by a federal grant. The program is currently funded through state general revenue funding appropriated for problem-solving courts.
- Ten programs are currently participating in ten counties – Broward, Escambia, Hillsborough, Marion, Okaloosa, Orange, Pinellas, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia.
- As per the 2018 winning entry submitted by the OSCA to the Prudential Productivity Award committee, on average between 2013 and 2016, offenders diverted from prison into this program resulted in a savings of \$3.8 million when compared to the cost of a prison sentence. Information regarding this submission can be found [here](#).
- As of June 2019:
  - There were 756 active cases statewide.
  - Admissions by gender show 35% female and 65% male.
  - The most common offense category is controlled substance use/possession at 41%.
  - The most common primary drugs of choice are cocaine and methamphetamine at 25% followed by marijuana at 19%.
  - 35% of participants experienced an improvement in employment.

## 2019 Program Performance to Date

Number of Admissions	245
Number of Successful Completions	119
Number of Unsuccessful Discharges <sup>1</sup>	145
Number of Administrative Discharges	3



## Program Findings:

In January 2014, the Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability (OPPAGA) completed an outcome and cost study of the program. The report, entitled *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;

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<sup>1</sup> Includes voluntary withdrawals

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- 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.

## **Florida Drug Court Case Management System:**

The Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) implemented the Florida Drug Court Case Management System (FDCCMS) in 2011 through federal grant funding received for this program. The purpose of the FDCCMS is to handle the case management needs of drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans courts by streamlining data collection and entry, allowing problem-solving courts to efficiently manage caseloads and monitor program outcomes.

Currently, 82 problem-solving courts are utilizing the system, including 29 adult drug courts, 3 DUI courts, 5 family dependency drug courts, 10 juvenile drug courts, 11 mental health courts, and 19 veterans courts.

## **Expansion Drug Court Success Story** (Submitted by Tyjah D. 11/30/17)

*Dear Extended Court Family:*

*First, I'd like to start by saying Thank You! I've been involved in the court system since October 2012. In that time I've spent months in jails and rehabs, lied and manipulated, cried, missed holidays, lost friends, gained friends, fought and ran. Through all of that you all have been there in just the right ways, even when I didn't want you to be.*

*Today, 11-30-17, I'm 10 months and 6 days clean. Living in Ocala, working a job I really enjoy, going back to school, I have amazing friends, my family enjoys my company again (sometimes) and I enjoy myself again.*

*This program saved my life when I was too high, depressed, or lost to defend it. From an 18 year old punk with a death wish and a smile to hide behind to a 23 year old father of two on the road to a college degree and his own piece of security. Something I haven't felt in a long time.*

*Judge Pomponio*

*Ms. Kelly*

*Even the State Attorneys and all of my probation officers.*

*I honour and appreciate you all beyond words, and I will live a life based on that gratitude. I have new found freedom...I never thought I'd find that freedom in a jail cell.*

*With abounding gratitude,*

*Tyjah*

*11-30-17*