

## King County Drug Diversion Court (KCDDC)

Updated 7/1/24

### **Outcomes**

**Reduced Recidivism:** 90% of KCDDC participants have no new felonies at 36-month follow-up, per Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) analysis. 73% have no new crimes at any level, including no new misdemeanors. This is not just graduates – it is all participants. KCDDC has a beneficial impact on recidivism for all participants whether or not they graduate. This is especially significant as DSHS reports that prior to entering KCDDC, 63% of the participants in the analysis had past felony convictions and 93% had past misdemeanor convictions (an average of 3.5 prior felonies and 10 prior misdemeanors). Without the intervention of KCDDC, it seems reasonable to expect their pattern of recidivism would have continued. <sup>i</sup>

**Increased Employment:** KCDDC participants sustained a 107% increase in employment at 18-month follow-up, per DSHS analysis. <sup>ii</sup>

**Reduced Jail Bookings:** KCDDC participants showed a 79% decrease in jail booking over the long term, per analysis by the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) Performance, Measurement, and Evaluation (PME) team for the MIDD behavioral health sales tax annual report. Note that KCDDC is identified as “TX-ADC” on the MIDD dashboard. <sup>iii</sup>

**Decreased Homelessness:** 100% of KCDDC participants were housed at program exit, per analysis by the DCHS PME team for the MIDD behavioral health sales tax annual report. Note that KCDDC is identified as “TX-ADC” on the MIDD dashboard. <sup>iv</sup>

**Evidence-based:** The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) classifies drug courts as an evidence-based program.<sup>v</sup> This classification is based on the findings from a meta-analysis that reviewed rigorous studies for approximately 30,000 drug court participants (not just KCDDC). WSIPP’s meta-analysis showed statistically significant crime reductions beyond what could reasonably occur by chance.<sup>vi</sup> The analysis showed drug courts as having a larger effect on recidivism than most other criminal legal interventions studied.<sup>vii</sup> WSIPP found an effect size of -0.255, which is a statistically significant effect size. This finding was based on 29,452 individuals in the treatment group across 72 independent analyses contained within 56 separate studies. <sup>viii</sup>One study included in the analysis was the 2013 DSHS evaluation of Washington drug courts which included King County Drug Diversion Court.<sup>ix</sup>

## **Cost Savings**

A DSHS analysis of drug court participants in Washington State found significant reductions in crime for drug court participants create a **net benefit of \$22,000 per participant, or a \$4 return on every \$1 invested.** <sup>x</sup>

A Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) analysis concluded drug courts produce a **return on investment 100% of the time.** <sup>xi</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division (2024 January). [“King County. Drug Court Participants: Recidivism and Key Outcome Measures”](#). p. 9 (Note that the most recent dashboard report showing the updated 90% no new felonies statistic has not yet been published to the website.)

<sup>ii</sup> DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division (2024 January). [“King County. Drug Court Participants: Recidivism and Key Outcome Measures”](#). p. 13 (Note that the most recent dashboard report has not yet been published to the website.)

<sup>iii</sup> King County Department of Community and Human Services. Annual Report on [MIDD 2022 Data Dashboard](#)

<sup>iv</sup> King County Department of Community and Human Services. Annual Report on [MIDD 2022 Data Dashboard](#)

<sup>v</sup> [Wanner, P. \(2018\). Inventory of evidence-based, research-based, and promising programs for adult corrections \(Document Number 18-02-1901\). Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.](#) p. 12

<sup>vi</sup> [Washington State Institute for Public Policy \(2023 December\). “Drug Courts: Adult Criminal Justice.”](#)

<sup>vii</sup> [Wanner, P. \(2018\). Inventory of evidence-based, research-based, and promising programs for adult corrections \(Document Number 18-02-1901\). Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.](#) p. 12

<sup>viii</sup> [Washington State Institute for Public Policy \(2023 December\). “Drug Courts: Adult Criminal Justice.”](#)

<sup>ix</sup> Mayfield, J., Estee, S., Black, C., Felver, B. (2013 July). [Drug Court Outcomes: Outcomes of Adult Defendants Admitted to Drug Courts Funded by the Washington State Criminal Justice Treatment Account.](#) Washington State Department of Social and Health Services: Research and Data Analysis Division.

<sup>x</sup> Mayfield, J., Estee, S., Black, C., Felver, B. (2013 July). [Drug Court Outcomes: Outcomes of Adult Defendants Admitted to Drug Courts Funded by the Washington State Criminal Justice Treatment Account.](#) Washington State Department of Social and Health Services: Research and Data Analysis Division. p. 7

<sup>xi</sup> [Wanner, P. \(2018\). Inventory of evidence-based, research-based, and promising programs for adult corrections \(Document Number 18-02-1901\). Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.](#) p. 12