

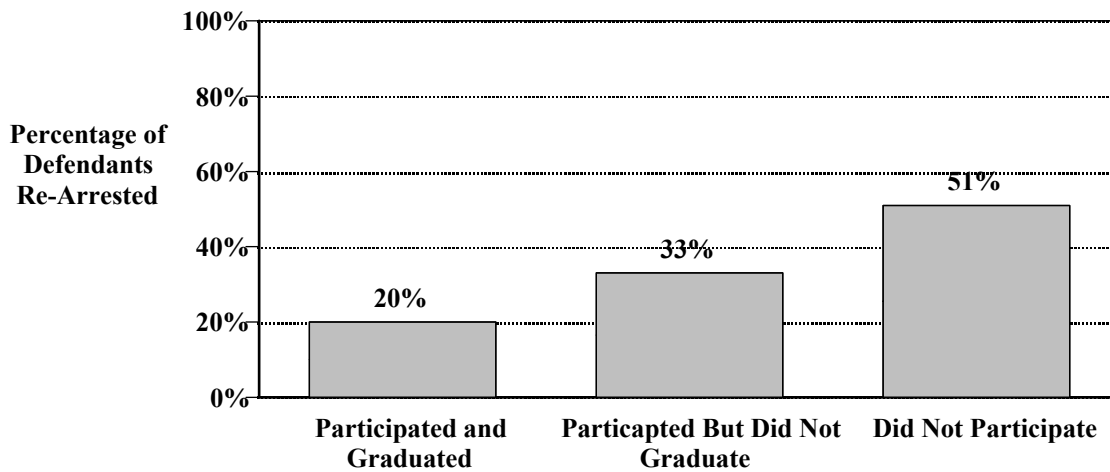
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Los Angeles County Drug Court Graduates Half as Likely to Be Re-Arrested

Defendants who participated in a drug court program as an alternative to prosecution for non-violent drug offenses were less likely to be re-arrested, according to an evaluation of the Los Angeles County drug court program. The pre-plea diversion program includes supervision based on frequent drug testing and court appearances. Drug court graduates were more than half as likely as defendants who did not participate in the program to be re-arrested in the year after completing the program (20% vs. 51%). Furthermore, even those who participated in, but did not graduate from, the drug court program had lower re-arrest rates than non-participants (see figure). According to the authors, "The success of drug court participants in reducing future arrests suggest the effectiveness of the program's emphasis on promoting self-sufficiency and empowering substance abusers to become productive and responsible members of the community" (p. 223).

Percentage of Los Angeles County Defendants Re-Arrested in the Year After Exiting the Drug Court Program (Drug Court Participants) or in the Year After Sentencing (Non-Participants), 1994-1997



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Fielding J. E., Tye. G., Ogawa M. "Los Angeles County Drug Court Programs: Initial Results," *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment* 23(3):217-224, 2002. For more information please contact Dr. J. E. Fielding at jfielding@dhs.co.la.ca.us.