

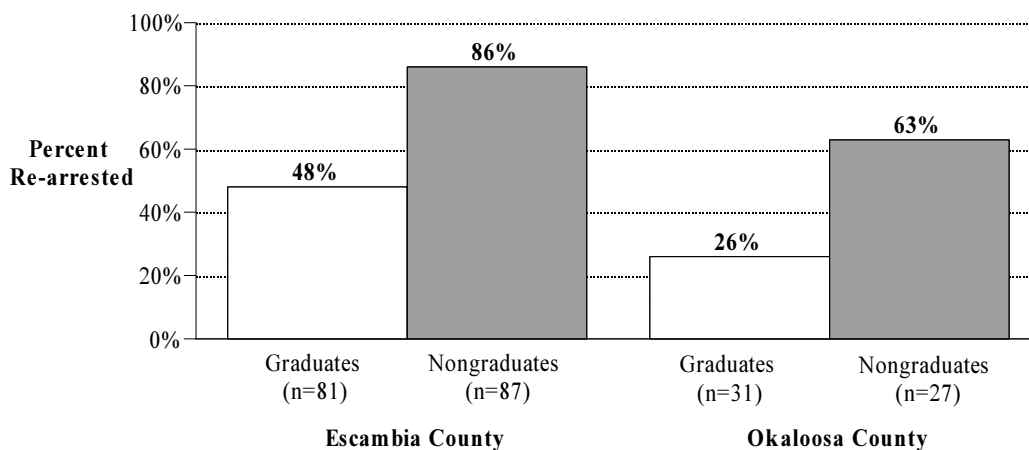
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Florida Drug Court Graduates Less Likely to Be Arrested than Nongraduates

In a recent 30-month follow-up study examining two Florida drug court intervention programs, graduates were less likely than nongraduates to be re-arrested for felonies, drug sales or use, violent crimes, or violation of probation or parole. The one-year outpatient program included individual and group counseling, peer support groups, frequent random drug testing, and intensive supervision. According to official records, 48 percent of the graduates of the treatment program in Escambia County were re-arrested during the follow-up period, compared to 86 percent of the nongraduates. Similar results were found for Okaloosa County's drug court program. The authors note that "reduced levels of criminal justice involvement among drug court graduates are likely to translate into considerable cost savings for taxpayers through delays in the construction of jail and prison facilities, reduced law enforcement and court costs, and reduced costs to crime victims" (p. 92).

**Percentage of Florida Drug Court Program Participants Re-arrested,
by Program Completion, 1993-1996**



NOTES: The study examined all participants admitted to Escambia and Okaloosa counties' drug court programs after June 1993 who graduated or were terminated from the programs by June 30, 1996. The Escambia program included both sentenced offenders and unsentenced defendants who pleaded no contest to their charges; the Okaloosa program included only unsentenced defendants.

The 30 month period included 12 months in the drug court program and 18 months of follow-up after discharge from the program.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Peters, Roger H & Murrin, Mary R., "Effectiveness of Treatment-Based Drug Courts in Reducing Criminal Recidivism," *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 20(1):72-96, February 2000.

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CESAR FAX is supported by a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention.
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