



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

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Georgia Accountability Courts Program Data Report: January – March 2014 May 2014

Introduction

As a result of 2012 criminal justice reform legislation and Judicial Council policy directives, Georgia accountability courts funded in part by state grants must submit detailed, quantitative program data to support a longitudinal study of the relationship between treatment programs and criminality. Quarterly data reports serve as interim snapshots of program activity and lay the foundation for measuring court performance and analyzing reform initiatives over time. The importance of accurate, reliable, and valid data cannot be overstated if policy makers are to draw realistic conclusions from the long term study.

Programs Analysis

All Accountability Courts	Q1	Percentage	Q2	Percentage	Q3	Percentage	% Change Q1-Q3
Courts reporting ¹	75	75.8%	79	78.2%	89	84.8%	18.7%
Participants ²	3,786	-	3,872	-	4,184	-	10.5%
Reviewed ³	1,920	63.4%	1,708	52.8%	1,866	53.0%	-2.8%
Accepted ⁴	761	39.6%	640	37.5%	662	35.5%	-13.0%

The number of accountability courts reporting quarterly data increased to 89 in Q3, an increase of nearly 20 percent since the new quarterly reporting form was introduced in FY2014. The number of participants enrolled in accountability court programs has grown 10.5 percent since Q1, due at least in part to the increased number of courts reporting. The number of offenders reviewed for entry into a program remained steady at 53 percent of the existing participant population. Despite increased reporting and a consistent review rate, the percentage of offenders accepted into accountability court programs has incrementally declined since first quarter.

¹ Total number of grant-funded accountability courts: Q1 – 99; Q2 – 101; Q3 – 105.

² Includes new and existing participants.

³ Newly accepted participants were removed from percentage calculations.

⁴ Offenders reviewed that accepted entry into a program.

All Courts	Q1	Percentage	Q2	Percentage ⁵	Q3	Percentage ⁵	% Change Q1-Q3
Accepted	761	39.6%	640	37.5%	662	35.5%	-28.0%
High Risk	439	57.7%	275	43.0%	269	40.6%	-52.6%
Moderate Risk	194	25.5%	169	26.4%	296	44.7%	-19.6%
Rejected	873	45.5%	805	47.1%	765	41.0%	-7.2%
Prior history	223	25.5%	313	38.9%	275	35.9%	25.6%
Other	650	74.5%	492	61.1%	490	64.1%	-18.5%
Declined	286	14.9%	215	12.6%	293	15.7%	-29.7%

Acceptance/Rejection Analysis

As new accountability courts become established and reach service capacity we can expect to see the acceptance rate taper somewhat and stabilize, a possible explanation for the data trend. The rejection rate has shown an overall decrease from Q1 as well, from 45 percent of offenders to 41 percent. The percentage of offenders that declined participating in accountability court programs remained steady over the first three quarters. Due to data inconsistencies the percentages are not cumulative, leaving a small margin of error for the rates of acceptance, rejection and declination.

Of those accepting entry into a program in Q3, 40 percent were considered High Risk, and 45 percent were deemed Moderate Risk. This is a substantial increase in the percentage of moderate risk offenders accepted, while the percentage of High Risk offenders entering programs has fallen to 40 percent of the new participant population over the course of FY2014. Eighty-five percent of the incoming participants had a risk assessment evaluation, an increase from Q2 and a routine aligned with best practices.

All Courts	Q1	Percentage	Q2	Percentage	Q3	Percentage	% Change Q1-Q3
Exited	572	-	491	13.0%	566	14.6%	15.3% ⁶
Graduates	358	62.6%	296	60.3%	308	54.4%	-14.0%
Released	214	37.4%	195	39.7%	258	45.6%	20.6%
Non-compliance	183	85.5%	154	79.0%	224	86.8%	22.4%
Discharged	23	10.7%	26	13.3%	22	8.5%	-4.3%
Dismissed	8	3.7%	15	7.7%	12	4.7%	50.0%
Abusers	2,963	78.3%	3,106	80.2%	3,245	77.6%	9.5%
Users	660	17.4%	574	14.8%	709	17.0%	7.4%

⁵ Percentages are not cumulative due to data discrepancies.

⁶ Percent change reflects difference Q2-Q3.

Participants Exiting Programs

Nearly 15 percent of the existing Q2 population exited accountability court programs during Q3, about half of whom exited the program as graduates. This is a decrease from previous quarters that saw at least a 60 percent graduation rate. Conversely, there has been a substantial increase in the number of participants released from programs prior to graduation. Primary reasons for release were non-compliance (86%), administrative discharge (9%), and dismissal (5%).