



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Marla S. Moore
Director

Georgia Accountability Courts Program Data Report: April – June 2014 September 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 Courts	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% Change Q1-Q4
Courts reporting	75	79	89	91	21.3%
Participants ¹	3,786	3,872	4,184	4,505	19.0%
Reviewed	1,920	1,708	1,866	2,220	13.5%
Accepted ²	761	640	662	737	-3.1%

The number of courts reporting quarterly data increased each quarter in FY2014 ending with 91 courts submitting reports. The 21 percent increase in courts reporting corresponds with a 19 percent increase in active participants. Across all quarters the average number of participants per court ranges from 47-50. Courts also show an increase in the number of offenders reviewed for entry into a program, both in raw numbers and as a percentage of the existing population. Over 2,000 offenders were reviewed in Q4, which is 53 percent of the participant population reported in Q3. The number of offenders accepted into a program, however, has fluctuated across quarters.

¹ Includes new and existing participants.

² Offenders reviewed that accepted entry into a program.

All Courts	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% Change Q1-Q4
Accepted	761	640	662	737	-3.1%
High Risk	439	275	269	417	-5.0%
Moderate Risk	194	169	296	219	12.9%
Rejected	873	805	765	1116	27.8%
Prior history	223	313	275	503	125.6%
Other	650	492	490	613	-5.7%
Declined	286	215	293	300	4.9%

Acceptance/Rejection Analysis

While the number of offenders accepted into a program has varied during FY2014, the overall change from Q1 to Q4 has been minimal. Fourth quarter saw a substantial rise over Q2 and Q3 in the number of high risk offenders accepted into programs, important to note as this population typically receives the most benefit from accountability court programs. As the number of offenders reviewed has grown, so has the number of applicants being rejected. Each quarter saw an average of 40-50 percent of applicants rejected, either due to prior criminal history or other reasons. The number of offenders declining to receive services from a program has remained consistent across quarters.

All Courts	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% Change Q1-Q4
Exited	572	491	566	651	13.8%
Graduates	358	296	308	385	7.5%
Released	214	195	258	266	24.3%
Non-compliance	183	154	224	233	27.3%
Discharged	23	26	22	26	13.0%
Dismissed	8	15	12	7	-12.5%

Participants Exiting Programs

Over 15 percent of the third quarter population exited programs during Q4, over half of whom graduated from their respective programs. The average graduation rate among all programs has risen from just under 8 percent in the second quarter to over 9 percent in the fourth quarter.

Of those offenders that were released from programs prior to graduation, the vast majority were removed for non-compliance, consistently 80 percent or more of all participant releases.

Recidivism

Current Participants

Fourth quarter saw 198 arrests for program participants, half of which were attributed to probation violations. There were 65 new felony and misdemeanor convictions for participants.

Graduates

Of those courts that track graduate recidivism at least three years, 912 arrests were reported for participants within 36 months of graduation, with the greatest number of arrests occurring 25-36 months post-graduation. Courts that track recidivism beyond 36 months, however, show a decrease in the number of graduate arrests beginning in the fourth year after graduation and carrying through to the 5+ year mark.

Of courts tracking recidivism 36 months or more post-graduation, 271 program graduates were convicted of misdemeanor charges, 120 convicted of felony charges, and 172 convicted of probation violations. Five hundred forty graduates received at least some jail time, and only 15 were admitted to prison. The data exhibited the same trend as arrests, peaking 25-36 months after graduation and then decreasing dramatically.

It is important to note that these recidivism figures extend beyond the one year of participant data that has been received for FY2014. Any arrests, convictions, or jail admissions of participants that graduated prior to FY2014 cannot be accurately compared to the current years' data.