



PROGRAM DATA REVIEW

Oklahoma County Veteran Treatment Court

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Submitted to

Oklahoma County Veteran Treatment Court

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REVIEW OF PROGRAM DATA COLLECTION

Treatment courts are twice as **cost-effective** and **more successful at reducing recidivism** when they evaluate their programs, review findings as a team, and adapt practices to align with the best practice standards, as outlined in the National Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards. Therefore, treatment court programs should schedule regular team reviews of program data.

Program data can be used to:

- Analyze operations
- Modify procedures
- Assess effectiveness
- Make treatment adjustments
- Measure and refine goals

Like many complex service organizations, treatment courts are prone to drift, where the quality of their services can decline significantly over time. Management strategies focused on **continuous performance improvement** help prevent drift and promote the implementation of best practices.

NPC Research reviewed Oklahoma County’s Veteran Treatment Court (VTC) program data

to assess whether the program is consistently collecting the data necessary for **high-quality participant monitoring, program performance measurement, and evaluation**. Connexis was the data management system used by the VTC from 2020 through June 2025 to track participant data. The following summary presents the results of the data review for the VTC over a 5-year period, focusing on data availability for key indicators of treatment court performance.

This report uses the data accessibility key shown below to indicate which data were accessible, along with notes about ways to increase data usability in the future. Data elements that are **bold** in the tables below represent data necessary for evaluating in-program and long-term outcomes.

It is important to note that this report only reflects whether data were included in the datasets and does not assess the completeness or quality of the available data. Certain variables (e.g., incentives and sanctions, treatment data, risk/need scores at entry) were confirmed to be collected by the program but were not provided to NPC for review.

Data Accessibility Symbol Key		
 Data submitted for a data element	 Data were submitted but are inconsistently connected or do not fully measure the data element (see “Notes” column)	 Data element not included in the submitted dataset

Participant Identifiers and Demographics

Participant identifiers are critical for linking program data stored in multiple systems (rather than a single statewide case management system) and with other administrative datasets, such as arrest records, to measure recidivism. It is also important to include a program identifier if you operate different treatment court programs, which can allow you to track participants by program.

Demographics are important to understand characteristics of the population being served and to assess equity and disparities in program entry, outcomes, and service provision. To assess disparities in program entry, demographics must be collected on non-admitted referrals in addition to admitted participants.

<i>Participant Identifiers and Demographics</i>		
Data Element	Data Accessibility	Notes
Unique identifier (Client ID)	✓	There is a unique ID formatted as: [CF-XX-XXXX] Unclear whether it is a court case ID or unique program ID.
Last name	✓	
First name	✓	
Date of birth	✓	
Gender	✓	
Race/ethnicity	✓	
Social Security Number	✓	
Veteran status	✓	

Referral and Program Status

Reviewing referral information is an effective way for programs to evaluate whether their process is recruiting the desired number and type of participants. Tracking the average time from offense to referral and to program entry helps determine if the referral process leads to timely entry and efficiently connects potential participants with services. Analyzing referral sources and reasons why individuals were not admitted helps programs pinpoint sources that are not providing expected referrals and identify whether eligibility criteria are being applied as intended.

<i>Referral</i>		
Data Element	Data Accessibility	Notes
Offense date (enrolled participants only)	✓	
Arrest date (enrolled participants only)	✓	
Court case number for case leading to referral	✓	
Referral date	✓	
Referral source (e.g., Judge)	✓	
Reason not enrolled	✓	
Admission status to program	✓	

Program status data elements are essential for providing information on key performance metrics, such as enrollment rates, the average length of time participants stay in each phase, and graduation rates. Analyzing data on these performance metrics helps programs evaluate participant success rates and determine if certain groups of participants tend to perform better than others or need additional support in one program phase or another.

Program Status		
Data Element	Data Accessibility	Notes
Program entry date	✓	
Admission type (e.g., readmitted)	X	
Phase start and end dates for each program phase	✓	
Program status (e.g., active, did not enter, graduate, non-graduate)	✓	
Program exit date (graduates and non-graduates only)	✓	
Non-graduate reason (non-graduates only)	✓	

Treatment Court Activities

Drug testing results and data on responses to behavior are great measures of participants' successes and challenges during the program and are associated with improved program outcomes (e.g., retention, successful program completion). They are also important for helping to ensure appropriate service adjustments (including treatment adjustments) and behavioral responses are made, the impact of responses on future behavior (i.e., impact of treatment adjustments on substance use indicated by drug test results), as well as calculating program costs in a cost-benefit analysis.

Treatment Court Activities		
Data Element	Data Accessibility	Notes
UAs and other drug tests		
Dates of scheduled UAs	✓	
Results of UAs	✓	
Dates of other drug test types	✓	
Results of other drug test types	✓	
Court Appearances		
Dates of scheduled court appearances	✓	
Attendance at scheduled court appearances	✓	
Incentives, Sanctions, & Service Adjustments		
Behavior that led to incentive or sanction	✓	
Incentive	✓	
Incentive date	✓	
Sanction	✓	
Sanction date	✓	
Time in jail as a sanction (start and end dates)	✓	

Risk, Need, and Treatment

Since treatment courts are intended to serve high-risk/high-need individuals, measuring risk and need levels and factors help the program provide participants with appropriate support and resources. Collecting risk and need scores allows programs to better understand the population they serve and match services to needs. Outcomes (e.g., successful program completion, time in program) can be disaggregated by risk and need level to see if they influence program outcomes

Assessments

Data Element	Data Accessibility	Notes
Risk score and level at entry	✓	
Risk score and level at exit	X	
Need score and level at entry	✓	
Need score and level at exit	X	
Substances used (e.g., primary substance, secondary substance)	✓	
Mental health diagnoses	✓	
Age at first substance use	✓	
Prior treatment history	✓	

Data related to treatment services can be used to assess whether treatment received matches assessed participant needs and whether dosage or treatment type is related to continued substance use, higher graduation rates, and other outcomes. Treatment court teams can also monitor treatment completion by reviewing these data on an ongoing basis.

Treatment		
Data Element	Data Accessibility	Notes
Dates of treatment services	✓	
If treatment session was attended or missed	✓	
Types/modalities of treatment services	✓	
Hours by modality	✓	

Psychosocial Indicators

Psychosocial indicators, such as employment status, educational attainment, income, and housing, are important performance measures of participant and program success and should be recorded at program entry and exit and whenever a change occurs during program participation. Reviewing these data allows teams to evaluate the extent to which participants' recovery capital has improved while enrolled in the program.

Social Indicators		
Data Element	Data Accessibility	Notes
<i>Social Indicators at Program Entry</i>		
Parental status at program entry	✓	
Marital status at program entry	✓	
Employment at program entry	✓	
Income at program entry	✓	
Housing at program entry	✓	
Highest educational attainment at program entry	✓	
<i>Social Indicators at Program Exit</i>		
Employment at program exit	✓	
Income at program exit	✓	
Housing at program exit	✓	
Highest educational attainment at program exit	✓	

Recommended Veteran-Specific Data Elements to Collect

- Branch of service
- Military discharge date
- Military discharge reason
- Military rank
- Months deployed abroad
- Military combat exposure
- Occupational specialty
- Years of service
- Awards and decorations
- Disciplinary action/rank reduction
- Any military incarceration history
- Number of deployments abroad
- Conflict eras of service
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Traumatic brain injury (TBI)
- Improvised Explosive Device (IED) or Home-Made Explosives (HME) training or exposure
- Military sexual trauma (MST)
- Disability compensation from VA
- Vet Center utilization

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



Overall, NPC commends the Oklahoma County Veteran Treatment Court program for:

- Recording comprehensive drug testing results: Date of test, substance types, and results of tests can all be used to monitor ongoing treatment progress and participant alignment with program expectations as well as assess overall program outcomes.
- Tracking court interactions: Incentives, sanctions, and court hearing attendance are tracked in detail for some participants. Responses to behavior information includes date of response, type (incentive or sanction), and a description of the response. Descriptions include a designation specifically of whether jail was used as a sanction. Court attendance information included date of hearing and the status of attendance.
- Consistently recording key identifiers: Important participant demographic information (e.g., gender, race, program entry date) appeared to be nearly complete for all participants included in the exports.
 - In particular, we commend the program for thoroughly recording education at entry and exit for the majority of participants.

While it is important to consistently track all data points, there are key pieces of data necessary for evaluating in-program and long-term outcomes that should, at minimum, be collected for all participants.



Going forward, NPC recommends the Oklahoma County Veteran Treatment Court program:

- Records as much recommended information as possible for all participants and does so consistently. Refer to the above tables to see which data elements need to be tracked more thoroughly, focusing on the bold elements. For example, start with the following data elements:
 - Program entry date for participants who were accepted to and entered the program; similarly, program exit date.
 - Referral information (source, reason not enrolled, admission status).
 - All drug testing results for participants.
 - Incentives, sanctions, and court hearing attendance.
- Reviews program data for accuracy after Connexis data are uploaded to the new DIMS system.
- Utilizes reporting functions in the new database to periodically review program trends.



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