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CALGARY DRUG TREATMENT COURT FACT SHEET

CDTC TARGET
POPULATION
ALIGNS WITH
GREATEST NEED
AND COMMUNITY
IMPACT

- CDTC targets participants who are at high risk to reoffend and who commit crime frequently. Data collected on program graduates shows that prior to admission offenders incurred an average of 36 convictions.
- CDTC targets high needs offenders. At time of admission:
 - 91% are earning less than \$15,000/year in legitimate income;
 - All earned most of their income illegally prior to admission;
 - 62% did not graduate high school;
 - 73% were unemployed;
 - 47% were living in a homeless shelter or on the street (an additional 37% did not have permanent housing); and
 - Less than half identified someone to whom they could go for support.
- CDTC treats those who commit crimes that are frequent and labour-intensive for police and legal systems. Graduates' pre-admission convictions were mostly property (39.7%) and drug-related (15.6%) offences. "Reductions in [property crime] play a significant role in the reduction of the overall crime rate for the city." (CPS Annual Statistical Report, 2008-2012).
- CDTC works with offenders whose criminal activity is driven by drug addiction. The latest report by the Correctional Investigator of Canada (Sapers, 2014) states, "Upon admission, 80% of federally sentenced offenders have a serious substance abuse problem. Over half reported that alcohol or drug use was a factor in the commission of their offence."

CDTC HAS BEEN IN
OPERATION FOR 8
YEARS

- CDTC operated with start-up funding through the City of Calgary between 2007 and 2010. With additional funding from the province, the CDTC became fully operational in April 2010.

NUMBERS SERVED

- Between September 2013 and August 2014 CDTC increased admissions to the program by 77% over the previous one year period, and sustained an ongoing capacity of 33 participants until the intent to cut funding to drug treatment courts was confirmed by the province in February, 2015.
- In the fall of 2014, the CDTC determined to increase program capacity to 45. At that time the court was open to allocating the necessary judicial resources to accommodate a further day of drug court. This capacity is attainable at the previous provincial funding level and with allocation of court resources.

GRADUATION
RATE

- The program's overall graduation rate is 50.0%. This is somewhat higher than the approximate average graduation rate (40%) reported for Canadian drug treatment courts (Gutierrez & Bourgon, 2009).

ALMOST HALF OF
NON-COMPLETERS
ENGAGED
SUBSTANTIALY

- Of those who are discharged from CDTC prior to graduation, 28% remained in the CDTC program for 6 - 12 months and 30% remained in the program for 1 year or more. These participants typically experience significant positive outcomes despite not graduating.

CDTC CRIME-
RELATED
OUTCOMES –
(GRADUATES):

- A study was completed of the criminal convictions incurred by a cohort of 22 CDTC clients who successfully graduated from the CDTC in the period between April 2010 and November 2013.
- Post-graduation crime involvement for this cohort was tracked until August 31, 2014 (2.33 years post-graduation on average) and shows the following:
 - 68.2% (15/22) had no new criminal convictions since graduation;
 - A total reduction in criminal convictions from 794 pre-admission to 48 post-graduation;
 - The number of convictions per graduate prior to their involvement in the program range from 7 to 95 and average 36.1;
 - The number of convictions following graduation from the program range from 0 to 16 and average 2.18; and
 - A much greater percentage of offences committed prior to admission were a more severe type than those committed following graduation:
 - Of the 794 convictions prior to admission 55.3% were property-related (39.7%) or drug-related (15.6%), while 27.5% were administrative.
 - Of the 38 convictions since graduation 62.5% (30/48) were administrative, while 37.5% were property crimes (16/48 - with more than half of these committed by one graduate), drug-related (1) and prostitution (1).

COST AVOIDANCE
– CRIME-RELATED
OUTCOMES

- Cost avoidance and cost savings created by drug treatment courts is compelling.
 - CDTC participants report their average cost to purchase drugs at \$3,450/week. When the estimated street value of stolen goods is considered (1/5th or 20%), this is a substantial cost savings to the community.
 - CDTC participants are facing 1-3 years' incarceration at time of admission. The average cost to keep a federal inmate incarcerated is \$117,788/year. This means a minimum of \$117,788 in cost avoidance for each federal participant who is successful in the program.
- Many other costs are avoided due to reducing or eliminating drug use and crime, including: health services; emergency response services; police investigations (\$1,912); Legal Aid (\$84/hour); and court time.

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