



Anchorage Wellness Court Summary of Facts 2005 Update

Report prepared for
Partners for Progress

by

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February 14, 2006
JC 0605.01

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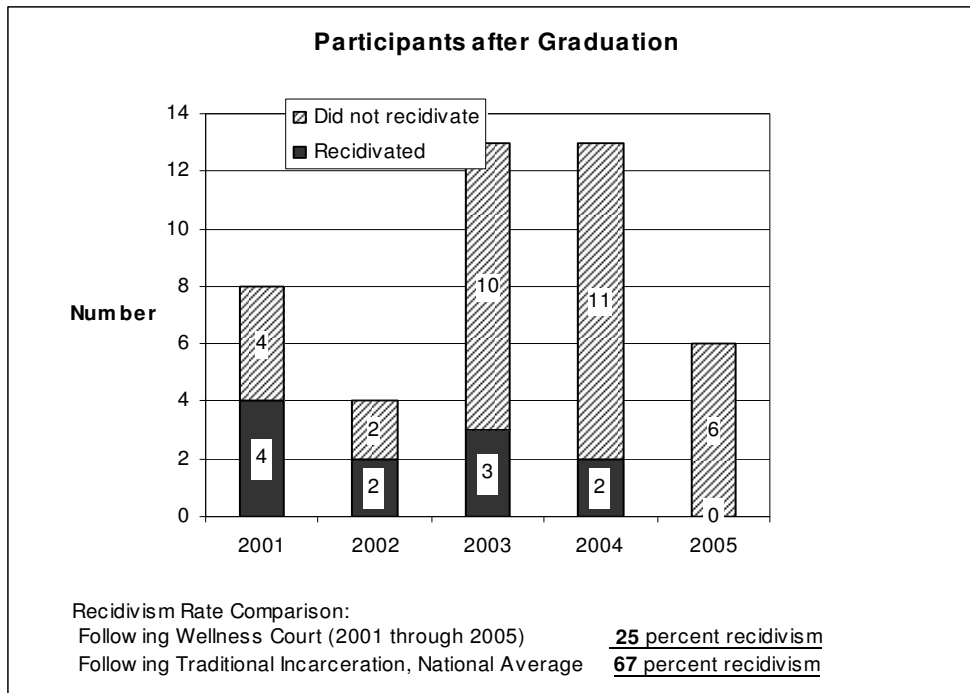
Executive Summary

Anchorage Wellness Court, a therapeutic court for alcoholic misdemeanants, has been operating for five years under judges James N. Wanamaker, Stephanie Rhoades, Peter Ashman, and William F. Morse of the Anchorage District Court. Participants enter the 18 month program under a plea agreement that gives them a reduced sentence if they complete the program. During their 18 months in the program they must:

- Stay alcohol and drug free
- Commit no new offenses
- Be monitored for sobriety
- Attend treatment for their addiction
- Take naltrexone for the first four months
- Attend a weekly group for people on naltrexone
- Attend a weekly work-book based cognitive behavioral program
- Attend AA
- Appear before the judge at regular intervals
- Be rewarded or sanctioned for progress
- Work
- Pay restitution
- Pay most treatment costs

As of December 31, 2005, Forty-four participants had completed this rigorous 18 month program and graduated from Wellness Court. The Justice Center obtained recidivism data from the Alaska Court System's case management system and the Department of Corrections booking and movement files. The data consisted of all filed arrests and all bookings on the participants from January 1, 2001 through January 1, 2006. The results are as follows:

Statistical Summary



Recidivism based on post-graduation convictions or pleas. Two graduates pleaded to a DWI in 2005.

Gender and age of the 2005 Wellness Court participants differed somewhat from previous years. Males comprised 81% percent of the group, compared to 85% in 2004, 72% in 2003, 67% in 2002, and 68% in 2001. No females were active in the program at the end of 2005. The average age of participants was similar to previous years.

	2001 Wellness Court	2002 Wellness Court	2003 Wellness Court	2004 Wellness Court*	2005 Wellness Court*	Comparison Group
Total participants	34	45	46	41	42	30
Gender	11 female (32%) 23 male (68%)	15 female (33%) 30 male (67%)	13 female (28%) 33 male (72%)	6 female (15%) 35 male (85%)	8 female (19%) 34 male (81%)	5 female (17%) 25 male (83%)
Average age of all participants	41	43	41	38	40	40
Average age of male participants	42	43	42	40	40	39
Average age of female participants	39	42	41	36	39	46

*2005 participant total includes 20 individuals who were carried over from 2004. There were 22 new participants in 2005.

Figure 2 illustrates the Wellness Court participant activity for the years 2001 through 2005 and cumulative. The opt-out category includes participants who violated conditions of release. The graduate category includes one individual who graduated subsequent to transfer to another court in 2004. The enrolled category includes two individuals who re-entered the program in 2004.

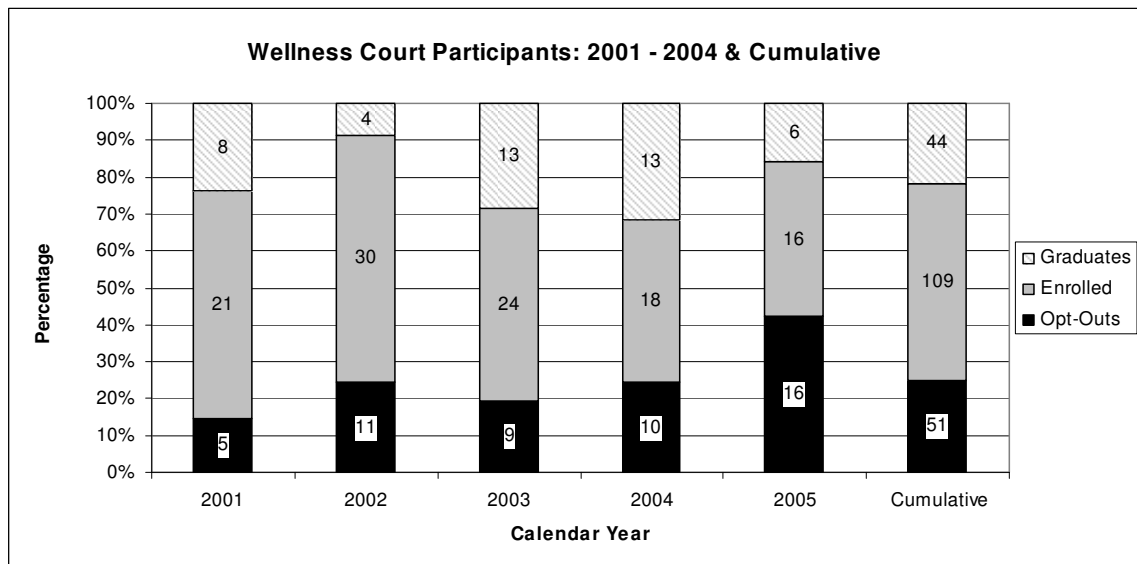


Figure2

Figure 3 illustrates the gender breakdown of the court participants. As shown in the first table the ratios are similar across years.

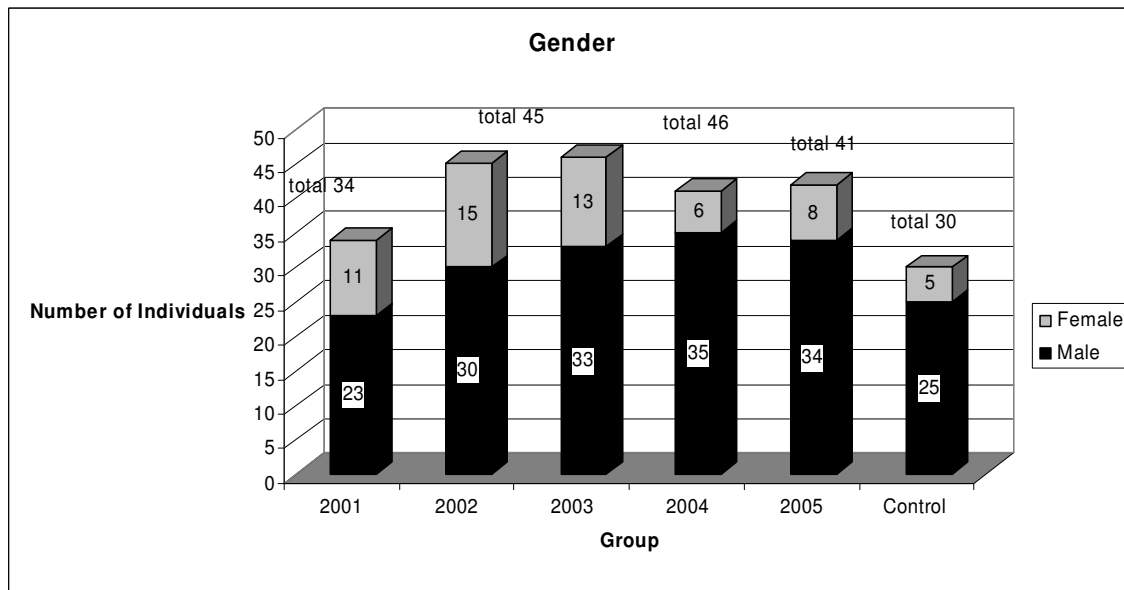


Figure 3

As in previous years the ethnic makeup of court participants is primarily Native Alaskan and Caucasian. Only four individuals fell outside of these two groups.

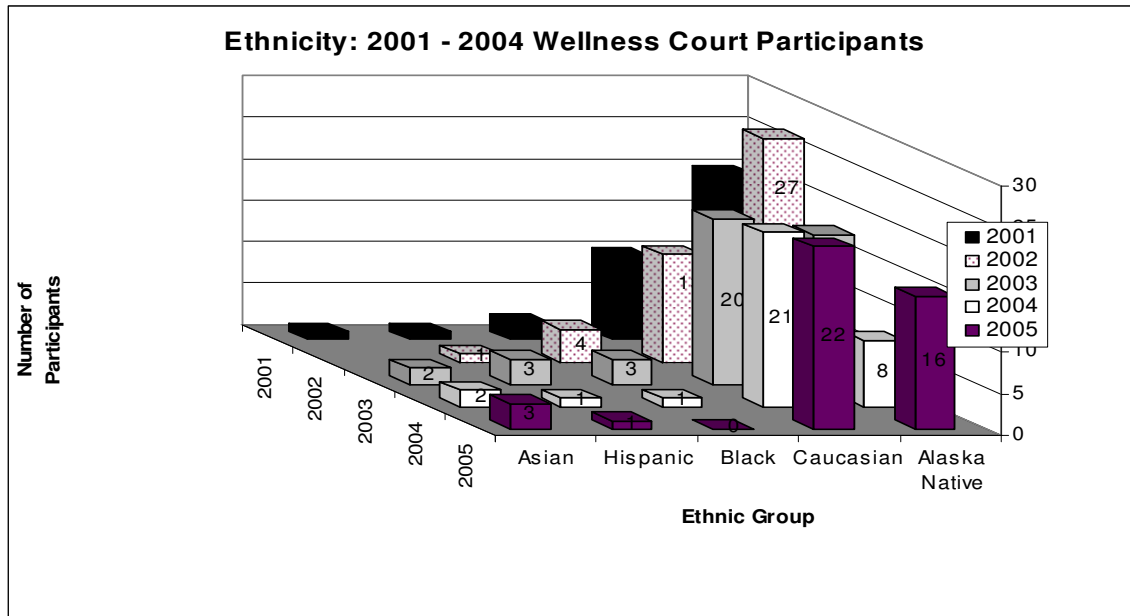


Figure 4

Before entering Wellness Court, 2005 entrants had accumulated 64 DUI offenses for an average of 2.9 per person. They had also committed 254 non DUI offenses for an average of 11.5 per person.

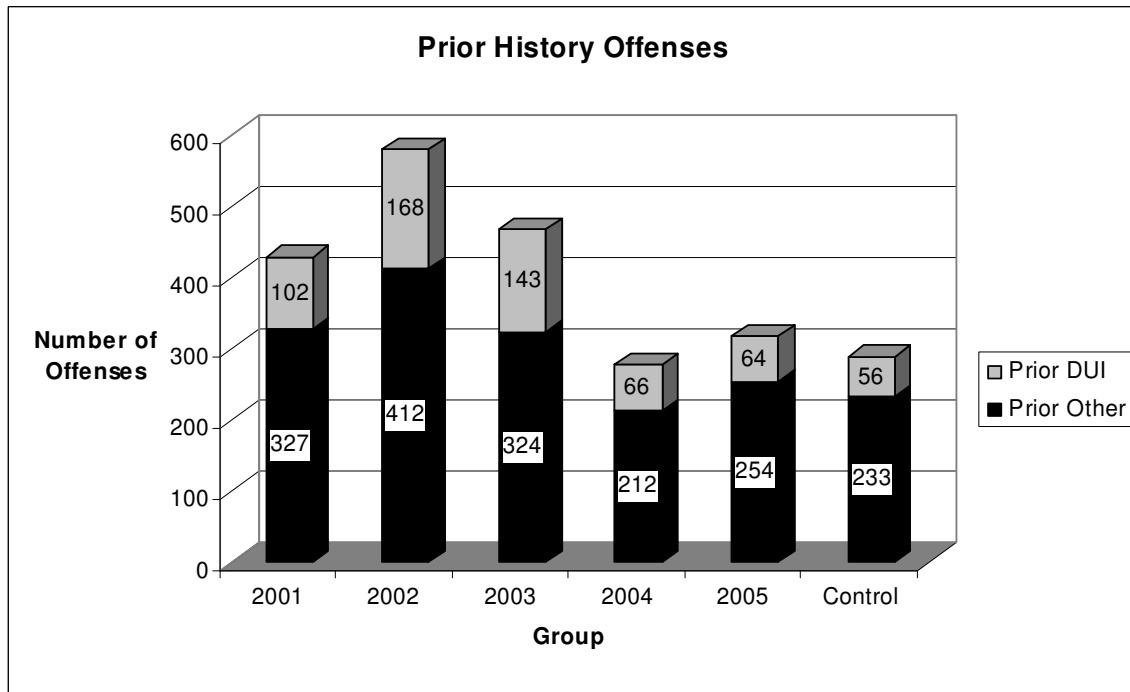


Figure 5