

National Center for State Courts, 2010; NIJ, 2010; Peters, 1996; Rubio & Cheesman, 2009; Rubio et al., 2008a, 2008b). Of course, they do not come close to measuring the full range of best practices in treatment courts. Some practices, such as the effective delivery of incentives, sanctions, and service adjustments, are complicated to measure because delivery must be related to specific behaviors. For example, sanctions should be imposed for infractions of achievable (proximal) goals, not for difficult (distal) goals, and simply tallying the number

of sanctions that were delivered provides inadequate information for instructive analyses (see Standard IV, Incentives, Sanctions, and Service Adjustments). Formulas for calculating more complicated KPIs are available from a treatment court monitoring and evaluation manual published by the Organization of American States (Marlowe et al., 2019, pp. 53–58; <https://www.oas.org/ext/en/main/oas/our-structure/gs/sms/cicad/Home/moduleId/6877/id/526/lang/1/controller/Item/action/Download>) and other resources.

Table 1. Core Dataset of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Monitoring Treatment Court Adherence to Best Practices

Variable	KPI	Benchmark	Comments
Target population	The participant was assessed as high risk and high need using validated tools	100% of participants	Does not include participants assigned to alternate tracks for low-risk and/or low-need individuals.
Entry timeliness	Number of days from arrest or other precipitating event (e.g., probation violation) to entry into treatment court	≤ 50 days, but preferably as soon as possible	
Treatment timeliness	Number of days from entering treatment court to attending the first substance use, mental health, or trauma treatment session	≤ 1 week	
Team functioning	Number of precourt staff meetings attended by all team members	≥ 4 meetings per month or at the same frequency as court status hearings	
Court supervision	Number of court status hearings attended per month and per phase	≥ 2 hearings per month during the first 2 phases, and ≥ 1 per month thereafter	

X. Program Monitoring, Evaluation, and Improvement

Table 1. Core Dataset of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Monitoring Treatment Court Adherence to Best Practices

Variable	KPI	Benchmark	Comments
Treatment sessions	Number of mental health, substance use, trauma, and complementary treatment sessions attended per month and per phase	≥ 9 sessions or hours per week for the first 4 phases	Sessions include cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) counseling focused on teaching prosocial decision-making skills and providing training on adaptive life skills (e.g., vocational training). No reliable benchmarks are available for residential or inpatient treatment.
Medication provision	Percentage of participants receiving needed and desired medication for addiction treatment (MAT), psychiatric medication, or other medications		No reliable benchmarks are available for medication provision, but outcomes are uniformly poor for persons who do not receive needed MAT or psychiatric medications.
Community supervision	Number of community supervision office sessions and field visits completed per month and per phase	≥ 4 office sessions per month during the first 2 phases and ≥ 1 per month thereafter ≥ 2 field visits during the first 2 months	Does not include drug and alcohol testing or CBT counseling focused on prosocial decision-making and adaptive life skills, which are included in other KPIs.
Drug and alcohol testing	Number of point-in-time drug and alcohol tests (e.g., urine, saliva tests) administered per week and per phase Number of days applying testing methods that lengthen the time window for detection (e.g., continuous alcohol monitoring devices, sweat patches)	Single-point testing ≥ 2 times per week for the first 3 phases Continuous monitoring for ≥ 90 consecutive days	Benchmarks apply for participants with a substance use disorder or substance involvement.

Table 2. Core Dataset of Key Performance Indicators for Evaluating In-Program Outcomes in Treatment Courts

Variable	KPI	Benchmark	Comments
Program completion	Participant completed the program successfully	≥ 60% of participants	Benchmark reflects the national average completion rate in the United States. Excludes participants who received a neutral discharge for reasons unrelated to their performance (e.g., entering military service or leaving the county with the court's permission).
Attendance rates	Percentage of court status hearings, treatment sessions, community supervision sessions, and drug and alcohol tests attended or completed	≥ 75% of sessions or appointments	Calculate separately for different types of services (e.g., court, treatment, supervision, testing). Treatment sessions include CBT counseling focused on teaching prosocial decision-making skills and providing training in adaptive life skills (e.g., vocational training).
Length of stay	Number of days from program entry to completion or discharge	9 to 15 months of substance use, mental health, trauma, and complementary treatment services 12 to 18 months of total program enrollment	Treatment services include CBT counseling focused on teaching prosocial decision-making skills and providing training in adaptive life skills (e.g., vocational training). For participants who absconded from the program or are on extended bench warrant, discharge is calculated from the last in-person contact with staff.
Substance use	Percentage of point-in-time positive drug or alcohol tests (e.g., urine, saliva) per month, per phase, and throughout enrollment Number of continuous days without drug or alcohol use for testing procedures that lengthen the time window for detection (e.g., continuous alcohol monitoring devices, sweat patches)	≥ 90 consecutive days of negative drug and alcohol tests prior to completion	Benchmark applies for participants with a substance use disorder or substance involvement. Benchmarks are unavailable for specific phases or time in the program, but rates of positive tests should decline over successive phases or time. Does not include prescribed medications.
Housing	Percentage of participants with unsafe or unstable housing at entry who obtained safe and stable housing by discharge	100%	No specific benchmarks are available, but outcomes are uniformly poor for persons who do not obtain safe and stable housing.

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Table 2. Core Dataset of Key Performance Indicators for Evaluating In-Program Outcomes in Treatment Courts

Variable	KPI	Benchmark	Comments
Employment	Percentage of participants with inadequate or unstable employment at entry who desired and obtained stable employment or vocational assistance by discharge	≥ 90 days of employment	
Education	Percentage of participants desiring educational training or assistance who enrolled in such a program by discharge	≥ 90 days of enrollment	
Technical violations	Number of confirmed violations of curfews, travel or geographic restrictions, home detention, no-contact orders with other individuals, and similar court-imposed conditions		<p>Exclude infractions covered by other KPIs, including missed appointments and positive drug or alcohol tests.</p> <p>Report separately for in-program vs. postprogram technical violations.</p> <p>No benchmarks are available for technical violations, but the more often they occur, the poorer the long-term outcomes.</p>
Recidivism*	Number of new arrests, charges, convictions, incarcerations, and self-reported criminal activities		<p>Report separately for in-program vs. postprogram recidivism.</p> <p>Report separately for different KPIs (e.g., arrests or convictions).</p> <p>Classify by offense severity (e.g., felony, misdemeanor, or summary offenses).</p> <p>Classify by offense type (e.g., drug, impaired driving, property, financial, and violent offenses).</p> <p>In programs such as family or juvenile treatment courts, "recidivism" includes new child welfare or juvenile justice petitions.</p> <p>No benchmarks are available for recidivism, but the more often it occurs, the poorer the long-term outcomes.</p>

*Note: Additional information on calculating KPIs for criminal recidivism is provided in the commentary for Provision E.