

Community Corrections

Allen County, Indiana



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Veteran's Court Program

Report for Calendar Years
2014 – 2016

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Veteran's Court Program Impact Evaluation

Introduction

The following report summarizes the major evaluation findings examining offenders placed in supervision via the Veteran's Court program (VCP) by the Allen County Circuit Court.

The report is designed with the following questions as organizing principles:

1. Who tends to enter the VCP?
2. What types of offenses are committed leading to referral to the VCP?
3. What level of risk do VCP offenders demonstrate?
4. How successful are offenders in completing the VCP?
5. What relationships exist between items listed in questions 1 through 3 and program completion?

Allen County Community Corrections Description

The mission of Allen County Community Corrections is to operate “a community-based supervision program that recruits and recognizes a well-trained, professional work force to serve and protect our community, its crime victims and those adult offenders under supervision by effectively deploying the field's best practices, proven programming, and rehabilitative strategies to hold offenders accountable and promote their success.”

Veteran's Court Program Purpose

In recent years, the Allen Circuit Restoration Court observed an increase in the number of U.S. Military Veterans presenting with a severe mental illness accompanied by a diagnosis for Traumatic Brain Injury. In November 2013, the Allen Circuit Restoration Court began the operation of a Veteran's Court program to facilitate the receipt of entitlements, and address unique priorities specific to U.S. Military Veterans. The Veterans service model is operated in collaboration with the Allen Superior Drug Court in efforts to provide similar services to veterans in that court system.

History of Veteran's Court Program

Allen County Community Corrections initiated the Veteran's Court program in November 2013. Since this time, the program has addressed the unique priorities presented by US military veterans in collaboration with the Allen Superior Drug Court.

Preparation of this Evaluation Report

The information presented in this report examines those who entered supervision, and those that left supervision between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2016. During this time, a total of 34 offenders entered supervision and 24 offenders completed supervision. Given the recent time when this program began operation, no offenders were eligible to complete a three year post-program (follow-up) recidivism check. The data, given to the examiners on January 31, 2017, was used for all of the analyses provided in this report.

It is important to know that this report, although looking at factors associated with individual offenders, is designed to assess outcomes at a programmatic level. As a consequence, information provided represents an analysis of offenders under supervision at two different time points – entry into supervision (intake) and completion of supervision (discharge). Such analyses are not designed to follow an offender during the course of their supervision. It is also important to recognize that this report does not include information on offenders who were not accepted into supervision, and it is crucial to identify that those offenders accepted did not represent a random group of offenders being processed through the Allen County judicial system. In other words, as there is no contrast or control group available to serve as a comparison, it is challenging to claim without uncertainty that the outcomes are exclusively due to the programs implemented. This is especially true for samples seen at completion of supervision, as it is not known how representative these samples are.

Executive Summary of Evaluation Findings

Veteran's Court

- Offenders entering the Veteran's Court Program (VCP) were, on average, 48.6 years of age, with a range of just under 26 (25.6) years to just over 69 (69.2) years.
- All 34 offenders entering this supervision were male (100%).
- 22 (64.7%) of the Veteran's Court Program offenders were Caucasian and 12 (35.3%) were African American.
- 17 (50.0%) of offenders starting the Veteran's Court Program were single, 4 (11.8%) were married, 1 (2.9%) was separated, 11 (32.4%) were divorced and 1 (2.9%) was widowed.
- Offenders entering Veteran's Court Program were reported to have 0 to 2 dependent children, with a median number of children of 0.
- 25 (73.5%) of those starting the Veteran's Court Program had obtained a high school diploma and 3 (8.8%) completed a general equivalency diploma (GED). Three (3) offenders (8.8%) had obtained a Bachelors degree and 1 (2.9%) a Masters degree. Just 2 (5.9%) offenders had not received their high school diploma.
- Of those entering Veteran's Court Program between 2014 and 2016, 13 (38.2%) lived in quadrant 4, 8 (23.5%) in quadrant 3, 9 (26.5%) in quadrant 2, and 4 (11.8%) in quadrant 1.
- Of the 34 offenders in the program, 15 (44.1%) offenders were charged with Level 6 Felonies, 13 (38.2%) were charged with Class D Felonies, 4 (11.8%) were charged with Level 5 Felonies, and 2 (5.9%) with Class A Misdemeanors.
- 33 (97.1%) of the offenders were charged with major driving offenses and 1 (2.9%) of the offenders with a violent offense.
- Risk of re-offense was measured in various ways. Of the 25 offenders receiving an IRAS assessment (73.5% of the total in the program), according to the IRAS, 4 of the offenders assessed (16.0% of those assessed and 11.8% of the total in the program) were found to have a High level of reoffending.
- Regarding program outcomes, 10 of the 34 offenders (29.4%) entering Veteran's Court Program from 2014 to 2016 were either still under supervision or had missing data. Using the 24 offenders identified as completing supervision, 14 (58.3%) successfully completed the program, 7 (29.2%) were dismissed for having committed technical violations, 2 (8.3%) escaped, and 1 (4.2%) was administratively released from the program.
- Those who successfully completed their supervision were more likely to have been in supervision longer. No other predictors were shown to be statistically significant discriminators between those who were successful versus unsuccessful.

Veteran's Court Program

Section 1

Characteristics of offenders entering the
Veteran's Court Program
during years 2014 – 2016

Demographics of those entering the Veteran's Court Program between 2014 and 2016

GENDER

Female
0.0%



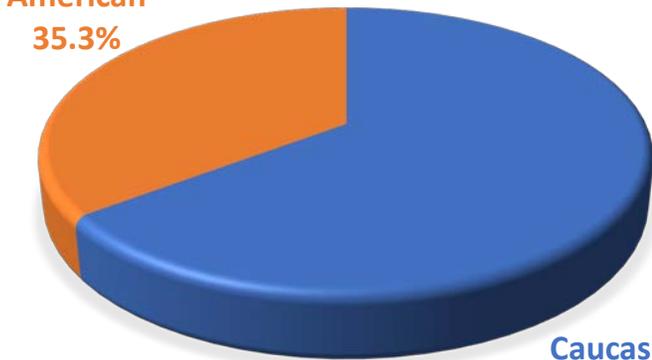
Male
100.0%

Thirty-four (34) offenders entered supervision via the Veteran's Court Program between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2016.

Offenders were, on average, 48.6 years of age (Standard Deviation [SD] = 13.5), with a range of under 26 years of age (25.6) to just over 69 years of age (69.2). All of these offenders were male (100.0%). Twenty-two (22) offenders (64.7%) were Caucasian and 12 offenders (35.3%) were African-American.

RACE/ETHNICITY

African American
35.3%



Caucasian
64.7%

Seventeen (17) of the 34 offenders were single (50.0%), 4 were married (11.8%), 1 (2.9%) was separated, 11 were divorced (32.4%), and 1 (2.9%) was widowed. For offenders entering the Veteran's Court Program, the median number of dependent children reported was 0, with a range of 0 to 2 children.

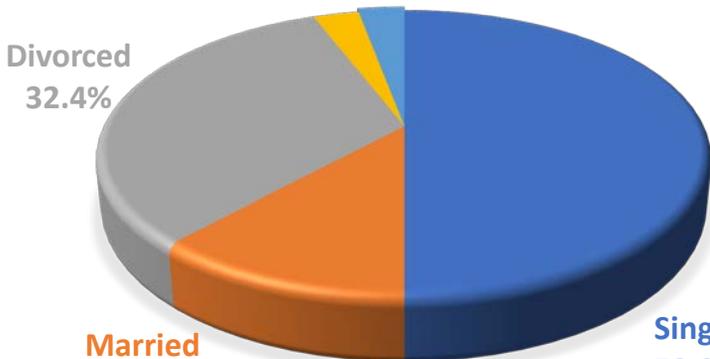
Twenty-five (25) of the 34 offenders (73.5%) starting the Veteran's Court Program had obtained a high school diploma and 3 (8.8%) completed a general equivalency diploma (GED). Three (3) offenders (8.8%) had obtained a Bachelors degree, and 1 (2.9%) offender, a Masters degree. Two (2) offenders (5.9%) had not received their high school diploma.

MARITAL STATUS

Separated
2.9%

Widowed
2.9%

Divorced
32.4%

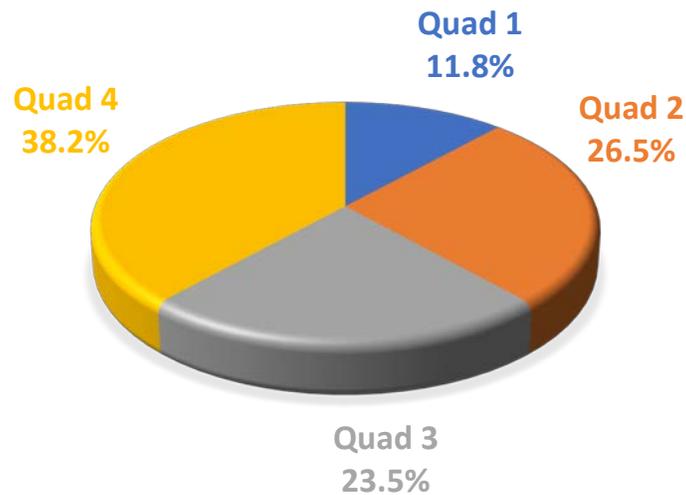


Married
11.8%

Single
50.0%

Demographics of those entering the Veteran's Court Program between 2014 and 2016

RESIDENCE BY QUADRANT IN ALLEN COUNTY



Of the 34 offenders entering the Veteran's Court Program, 13 (38.2%) lived in Quadrant 4, 8 (23.5%) in Quadrant 3, 9 (26.5%) in Quadrant 2, and 4 (11.8%) in Quadrant 1.

Veteran's Court

Section 2

Types of offenses of those entering the
Veteran's Court Program during years 2014 –
2016

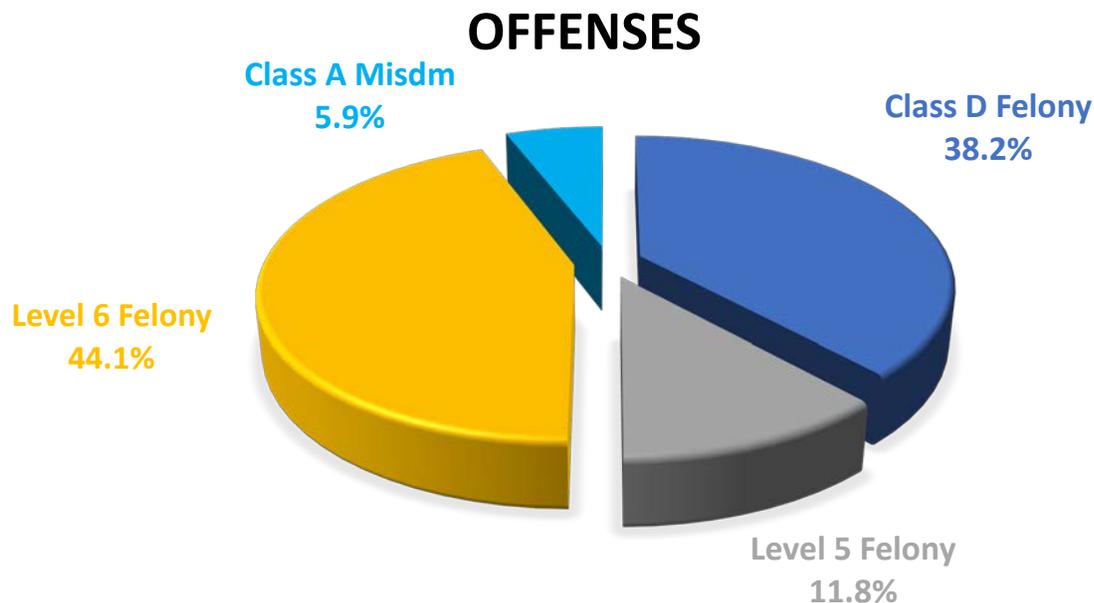
Types of Offenses Committed

The chart below shows the percent of primary offenses for offenders entering the Veterans Court Program. Two of every five offenders were noted to have Class D felony charges (38.2%), while just over one of every twenty (5.9%) had Class A Misdemeanor charges. The others, consisting of nearly every 3 of 5 offenders (55.9%), were charged with Level 5 (11.8% of the sample) or Level 6 (44.1% of the sample) felony offenses.

Nearly all of the offenders in the Veterans Court program were noted to have primary offenses included convictions for driving-related offenses (97.1%). A small fraction of Veterans Court offenders were convicted of violent offenses (2.9%). None in this supervision group had been convicted of property, drug, public order, or sexual offenses.

The average number of prior Department of Correction (DoC) commitments for those entering the Veterans Court program was 1.1 (*SD* = 1.8), with a range of 0-6. The Median number of prior commitments was 0. Violence classification was missing on 73.5% of the sample. Five offenders were classified as having committed a violent crime with no victim, and four were classified as having committed a violent crime in which they were also a victim.

Primary Offense	%
Violent offenses	2.9
Property offenses	0.0
Drug offenses	0.0
Public order offenses	0.0
Sexual offenses	0.0
Major driving offenses	97.1



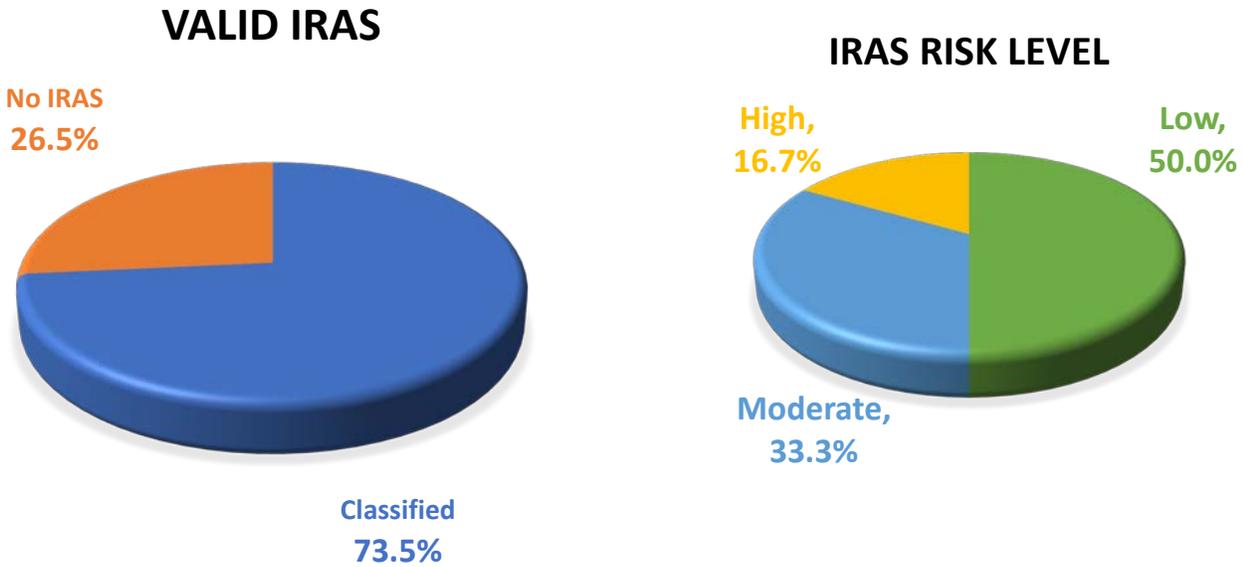
Veteran's Court

Section 3

Measured risk levels of those entering the
Veteran's Court Program during years 2014 –
2016

Level of risk identified in Veteran’s Court offenders

Nearly three-fourths of the offenders had IRAS scores recorded (n = 25, 73.5% of total cases). The average score for offenders having IRAS scores rated was 16.0 (SD = 5.6). Of the offenders in Veterans Court with IRAS scores, 16.7% were considered to be at High Risk of reoffending, 33.3% a Moderate Risk, and 50.0% a Low Risk.



IRAS Scores	Mean	SD
Total at entry	16.0	5.6
Criminal History	3.7	1.7
Education, Employment, Finances	1.9	1.3
Family and Social Support	1.3	1.0
Neighborhood Problems	0.8	1.0
Substance Abuse	2.8	1.3
Peer Associations	2.2	1.3
Criminal Attitudes/Behaviors	3.2	1.6

Scores on components of the IRAS are shown in the table above. Criminal history had the highest score (Mean = 3.7, SD = 1.7). The Mean score for criminal attitudes/behaviors was 3.2 (SD = 1.6) and Education, employment and financial situation was 1.9 (SD = 1.7). Scores on the peer associations component was 2.2 (SD = 1.3), substance abuse 2.8 (SD = 1.3), neighborhood problems 0.8 (SD = 1.0), and family and social support 1.3 (SD = 1.0).

Level of risk identified in Veteran's Court offenders

Just over one-tenth (11.8%) of all Veterans Court offenders were classified on the risk level of the PCL-R. Of the Veterans Court offenders classified on the PCL-R, three-fourths (75.0%) were classified as low risk. The remaining 25.0% were classified as high risk.

Total scores on the VRAG were reported on 4 of the sample of offenders entering the Veterans Court. The scores ranged from 0-13, with a *Median* of 2.0, or medium risk of future violence.

Only one of the offenders entering Veterans Court was classified for risk of future spousal assault with the SARA.

No Veterans Court offenders were classified for risk of future sexual offending with the SORAG.

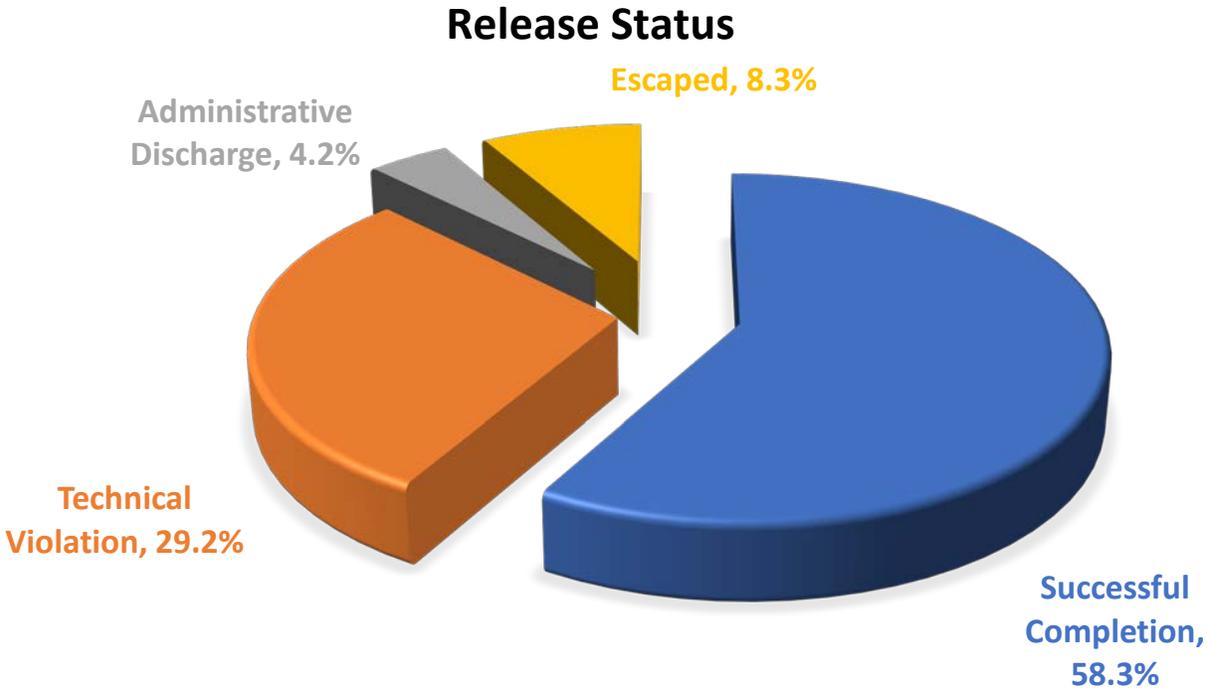
Veteran's Court

Section 4

Completion percentage of those entering the
Veteran's Court Program during years 2014 –
2016

How successful are offenders in completing the Veteran's Court?

The number of offenders ending supervision was 24. About 3/5 (58.3%) of these offenders were identified as successfully completing the program. Nearly 3 of every 10 (29.2%) of offenders completing supervision were terminated due to technical violations, 8.3% escaped, and 4.2% were administratively discharged.



Veteran's Court

Section 5

Characteristics of offenders completing the
Veteran's Court Program during years 2014 –
2016

Relationships Between Offender Characteristics and Program Completion in the Veteran's Court Program between 2014 and 2016

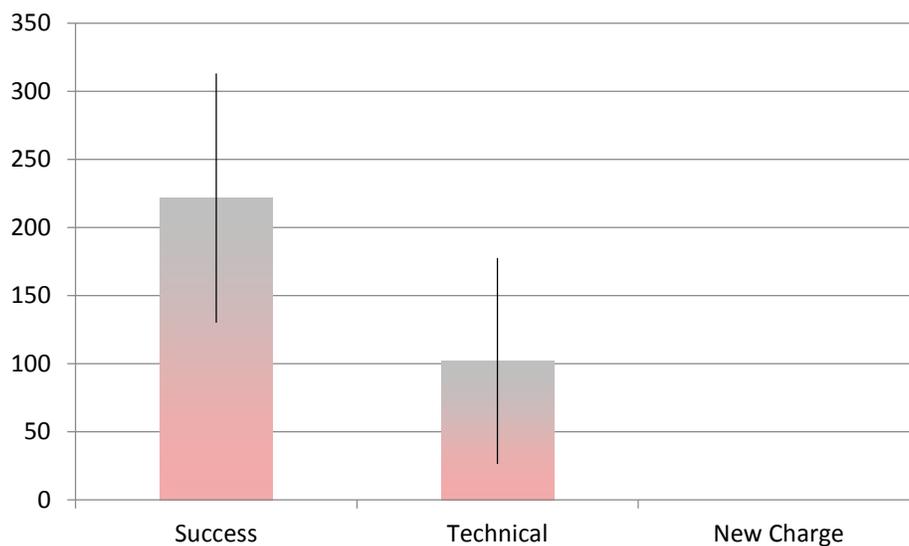
Characteristics of offenders who were identified as completing the Veteran's Court program were further examined. This investigation compared characteristics of those who successfully completed their program to those who were terminated for technical violations and those for whom new charges were filed. Of the 24 offenders classified as having successfully completed the program or as having received a technical violation or new charges, approximately 3 in 5 of those who completed supervision were successful (14 out of 24 identified completers), while about 2 of every 5 offenders (41.7%) were deemed to have been unsuccessful.

Characteristics of these offenders are presented below. Some caution is suggested in the interpretation of these findings, as there may be other unmeasured factors present that influence results. In addition, when compared to the larger population of offenders who are and will move through Veteran's Court, the representativeness of these offenders is not established.

- **As length of time in supervision increased, so did the odds of successful completion of supervision** (Odds ratio = 1.02, Confidence interval = 1.00 to 1.03).
- **As the number of prior DOC commitments increased, the lower the odds an offender had to successfully complete the program; while only marginally statistically significant, each prior DOC commitment was shown to decrease the odds of success by approximately 47%** (Odds ratio = 0.53, Confidence interval = 0.27 to 1.04).
- Age was unrelated to program success (Odds ratio = 1.00, Confidence interval = 0.93 to 1.08).
- Offenders living in quadrant 4 showed equivalent odds of positive completion when compared to all of the other offenders, Odds ratio = 0.42, Confidence interval = 0.07 to 2.66.
- Race was unrelated to successful completion (Odds ratio = 0.30, Confidence interval = 0.05 to 1.99).
- Because only males were enrolled in Veteran's Court, analysis of gender differences in program success was not possible.
- **Years of education completed was a variable marginally positively associated with successful program completion** (Odds ratio = 4.52, Confidence interval = 0.80 to 25.50).
- Marital status was unrelated to successful completion.
- The odds of successful completion was unrelated to the attainment of at least a high school education or GED.
- Only 3 offenders in the Veteran's Court were assessed with the PCL-R, so this analysis was not performed.
- Only 3 offenders in the Veteran's Court were assessed with the VRAG, so this analysis was not performed.
- Scores on the IRAS were not related to program completion (Odds ratio = 0.82, Confidence interval = 0.63 to 1.07).

Completion of Veteran's Court supervision between 2014 and 2016

Time in program was also calculated for the categories identified. Vertical bars represent the mean length of time on program. The vertical lines represent the range encompassing +/- 1 standard deviation. Those in supervision the longest included offenders who successfully completed the program (Mean = 221.6 days). For those who received technical violations, the lengths of time offenders were on program ranged from 48 days to 244 days, with a Median of 65.5 days. No offenders in the Veteran's Court received new charges.



Veteran's Court

Sections 6 – 8

Characteristics of offenders completing the 36
month follow-up period during years 2014 –
2016

Recidivism information on offenders participating
in this component of data collection was not
available.