**Juvenile Drug Court Planning Guide Assessment Tool**

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Assessing Your Juvenile Drug Court

This assessment tool is to be used by courts that apply the Juvenile Drug Court Planning Guide[[1]](#footnote-1). The goal of this assessment is to evaluate the juvenile drug court on various components of progress and improvement regarding the youth, the family, and the juvenile drug court team. A short, albeit important, component will also address programmatic procedures and collaboration with various community organizations, law enforcement, and schools.

The form of this assessment is a pre- and post- test design, meaning that an initial assessment will occur before implementing the planning guide, which will address components of the juvenile drug court, team, and youth and families. Then after the JDC planning guide has been implemented, follow up assessments will be completed. Follow up assessments will continue every three months for two years after implementation of the planning guide in order to maintain progress and track improvement.

The four steps of the initial assessment are:

1. Assess procedures and collaboration
2. Assess juvenile drug court team efforts and accomplishments
3. Assess Program
4. Assess youth and families

Each step will be outlined in further detail in later sections specific to each step.

After the initial assessment, follow-up assessments should be completed at three month intervals for up to twenty-four months; however, follow-ups are not mandatory but are strongly encouraged. If a follow-up interval of three months is unattainable, then follow-up intervals of six months can be utilized. The more follow up assessments that are completed, the more information about the implementation of the guide a court can collect and use to track progress. Before implementing the JDC planning guide, create an overall assessment plan including how long follow up assessments will occur, who will be in charge of collecting the data from the team and the youth and families, and who will oversee adherence to the guide and data collection. These assessments are essential for evaluating programmatic improvements and can act as a gauge to determine the current state of the juvenile drug court program. Each assessment should be filed and kept for comparison evaluations and discussed at program meetings. These assessments are a means of accessing pertinent information regarding the overall “health” and success of the program.[[2]](#footnote-2) Also, prior to the initial assessment, if you are able to acquire any of the juvenile drug court evaluation information (graduation rates, school grades, attendance rates, failed drug test rates, etc.) for the past years from the beginning of the drug court up to the current date, it would be beneficial for comparing to the same information after implementing the JDC planning guide.

Structure of Assessment

The following outline shows a basic structured assessment timeframe and order of procedures. First, the initial assessment will occur. This is a baseline assessment in order to compare to follow-up assessments once the planning guide is implemented. Although there is a corresponding datasheet to fill out during this initial assessment, if the court is able to gather any data from previous months/years, then it would be advantageous to gather that information at this time.

Second, implementation of the planning guide should occur. The initial assessments of adherence, motivation and success are more of goals at this stage than data collection because it is unlikely there will be any substantial amount of data collected.

Third, the follow-up assessments will begin 3 months after implementing the planning guide. Each follow-up assessment should occur around the same time each month and should not necessarily be a surprise. The goal is not to catch people off guard but to properly prepare and assess the juvenile drug court program and planning guide outcomes.

Planning Guide Assessment Outline:

Implement Initial Assessment

 Procedures and Collaboration

 JDC Team

JDC Program

 Youth and Families

Implementation of JDC Planning Guide

 Adherence

 Motivation

 Success

Follow-Up Assessment (at three months after implementing the Planning Guide)

 Procedures and Collaboration

 JDC Team

 JDC Program

 Youth and Families

Planning Guide Implementation Adherence

 Planning Guide Implementation Motivation

 Planning Guide Implementation Success

Follow-Up Assessment (at six months after implementing the Planning Guide)

 Procedures and Collaboration

 JDC Team

JDC Program

 Youth and Families

Planning Guide Implementation Adherence

 Planning Guide Implementation Motivation

 Planning Guide Implementation Success

Follow-Up Assessment (at nine months after implementing the Planning Guide)

 Procedures and Collaboration

 JDC Team

JDC Program

 Youth and Families

Planning Guide Implementation Adherence

 Planning Guide Implementation Motivation

 Planning Guide Implementation Success

Follow-Up Assessment (at twelve months after implementing the Planning Guide)

 Procedures and Collaboration

 JDC Team

JDC Program

 Youth and Families

Planning Guide Implementation Adherence

 Planning Guide Implementation Motivation

 Planning Guide Implementation Success

Follow-Up Assessment (at fifteen months after implementing the Planning Guide)

 Procedures and Collaboration

 JDC Team

JDC Program

 Youth and Families

Planning Guide Implementation Adherence

 Planning Guide Implementation Motivation

 Planning Guide Implementation Success

Follow-Up Assessment (at eighteen months after implementing the Planning Guide)

 Procedures and Collaboration

 JDC Team

JDC Program

 Youth and Families

Planning Guide Implementation Adherence

 Planning Guide Implementation Motivation

 Planning Guide Implementation Success

Follow-Up Assessment (at twenty-one months after implementing the Planning Guide)

 Procedures and Collaboration

 JDC Team

JDC Program

 Youth and Families

Planning Guide Implementation Adherence

 Planning Guide Implementation Motivation

 Planning Guide Implementation Success

Follow-Up Assessment (at twenty-four months after implementing the Planning Guide)

 Procedures and Collaboration

 JDC Team

JDC Program

 Youth and Families

Planning Guide Implementation Adherence

 Planning Guide Implementation Motivation

 Planning Guide Implementation Success

Initial Assessment

Procedures and Collaboration

This assessment form is to help evaluate the progress of the juvenile drug court procedures and collaboration with the surrounding community. This assessment should be filled out by the juvenile drug court team including the coordinator, supervisor, judge, probation officers, and anyone else on the juvenile drug court team. If there is only one person (no team members) then that person should fill this out. In order to analyze the data, each question requires a single value; therefore, if only one person fills it out, then those responses are the values to be used in data analysis, but if multiple team members fill it out, then average all of the team members’ responses per question and use that as the final value[[3]](#footnote-3).

Procedures Evaluation Form

1. Please indicate whether you offer these services/conditions/sanctions and their effectiveness regarding program success and outcomes.

Community Service Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Detention Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Drug Testing Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Drug Treatment Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Electronic Monitoring Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Fines Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Fees Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Intensive Supervision Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

License Suspension Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Mental Health Treatment Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Mentoring Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Parental Involvement Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Skills Training Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Work Programs Offer Don’t offer

How effective has this been on the outcome and success of the program?

Not effective at all Slightly Effective Somewhat Effective Very Effective

 1 2 3 4

Collaboration Evaluation Form:

1. Please place a check mark in the box of each collaborator with the juvenile drug court.

 Prosecuting Attorney’s Office

Defense Attorney’s Office

Juvenile Probation Services/Juvenile Intake

Local Law Enforcement

Mental Health/Treatment Providers

School District

School Resource Officers

Social Services Office

Juvenile Detention

Community Providers

Other: please specify .

1. For each collaborator that you checked above, please indicate the level of collaboration and how long they have been a collaborator with the juvenile drug court program. If there are more collaborators that were not on the list, which you wanted to include, then please add them below and indicate length and level of collaboration.

Name of collaborator: .

How long has this collaborator been a part of the juvenile drug court? Years Months

 What is the level of collaboration?

 None at all Moderate Full

 1 2 3 4 5

Name of collaborator: .

How long has this collaborator been a part of the juvenile drug court? Years Months

 What is the level of collaboration?

 None at all Moderate Full

 1 2 3 4 5

Name of collaborator: .

How long has this collaborator been a part of the juvenile drug court? Years Months

 What is the level of collaboration?

 None at all Moderate Full

 1 2 3 4 5

Name of collaborator: .

How long has this collaborator been a part of the juvenile drug court? Years Months

 What is the level of collaboration?

 None at all Moderate Full

 1 2 3 4 5

Name of collaborator: .

How long has this collaborator been a part of the juvenile drug court? Years Months

 What is the level of collaboration?

 None at all Moderate Full

 1 2 3 4 5

Name of collaborator: .

How long has this collaborator been a part of the juvenile drug court? Years Months

 What is the level of collaboration?

 None at all Moderate Full

 1 2 3 4 5

Name of collaborator: .

How long has this collaborator been a part of the juvenile drug court? Years Months

 What is the level of collaboration?

 None at all Moderate Full

 1 2 3 4 5

Name of collaborator: .

How long has this collaborator been a part of the juvenile drug court? Years Months

 What is the level of collaboration?

 None at all Moderate Full

 1 2 3 4 5

Name of collaborator: .

How long has this collaborator been a part of the juvenile drug court? Years Months

 What is the level of collaboration?

 None at all Moderate Full

 1 2 3 4 5

Name of collaborator: .

How long has this collaborator been a part of the juvenile drug court? Years Months

 What is the level of collaboration?

 None at all Moderate Full

 1 2 3 4 5

Name of collaborator: .

How long has this collaborator been a part of the juvenile drug court? Years Months

 What is the level of collaboration?

 None at all Moderate Full

 1 2 3 4 5

Name of collaborator: .

How long has this collaborator been a part of the juvenile drug court? Years Months

 What is the level of collaboration?

 None at all Moderate Full

 1 2 3 4 5

1. Please indicate the overall experience of collaboration with those organizations that you indicated in #1.

 Very Poor Poor Fair Good Excellent

 1 2 3 4 5

JDC Team and Program Accomplishments

In this section, you will be asked to rate the effort of yourself and the team along with your perceptions of how well the program set expectations and guidelines for each team member and the overall goals and accomplishments of the JDC. ***It is extremely important that EVERY team member fills out these items.*** Average all responses together for each question and use that value as the final value.

Please indicate what you feel is the most appropriate answer.

1. I believe that the effort **I** put into my work is best described as:

No effort all Some effort Adequate effort A lot of effort Full effort

1 2 3 4 5

1. I believe that the effort **the team** puts into their work is best described as:

No effort all Some effort Adequate effort A lot of effort Full effort

1 2 3 4 5

1. I believe that the expectations for my job/role are:

Not clear at all Somewhat clear Clear Very Clear Completely clear

1. 2 3 4 5

1. I believe that the expectations for the team are:

Not clear at all Somewhat clear Clear Very Clear Completely clear

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I believe that the goals of the team are:

Not clear at all Somewhat clear Clear Very Clear Completely clear

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I believe that the extent to which we have accomplished our goals as a JDC team has been:

Very Poor Poor Adequate Good Very Good

1 2 3 4 5

1. I believe that the team sees me as:

Not valuable at all Somewhat valuable Pretty valuable Extremely valuable

 1 2 3 4

1. I see the rest of the team as:

Not valuable at all Somewhat valuable Pretty valuable Extremely valuable

 1 2 3 4

Juvenile Drug Court Program Assessment

This section is dedicated to various outcome measures that are important in tracking the progress and potential improvements of the juvenile drug court.

 # of referrals

 # of participants

 % males

 % females

 % White

 % African-American

 % Hispanic

 % Asian/Pacific Islander

 % Native American

 % Middle-Eastern

 % Other

 Average age

 % in 7th grade

 % in 8th grade

 % in 9th grade

 % in 10th grade

 % in 11th grade

 % in 12th grade

 % working on GED

 % in community college

 % not attending any type of school

Please list the substances in which the participants were using prior to entry into the program (ex. Marijuana, alcohol, methamphetamines, heroin, cocaine, etc.)

 .

 % Recidivism rate (# of graduates who re-offend after graduation/total # of graduates)

 % Court attendance rate (# of court hearing attended/# of court hearings scheduled)

 days Average length in program (for all participants including both those who completed and those who left)

 days Average length in Phase 1

 days Average length in Phase 2

 days Average length in Phase 3

 days Average length in Phase 4

 % Graduation Rate (number of those who completed the program divided by all participants who have left the program):

 # of participants who completed

 # of participants who completed + # of participants who were terminated or left

 % Termination Rate:

# of participants who were terminated

 # of participants who completed + # of participants who were terminated or left

What are the reasons for termination or leaving (list all)? .

 % Failed drug tests (# of failed drug tests divided by the total number of drug tests )

\*\*\***During follow ups, this will be calculated by the # of failed drug tests divided by the total number of drug tests** ***for that given 3 month period (or 6 month period)***.

Youth and Parent Assessments

*Youth Assessment*

The purpose of this assessment is two-fold. First, the purpose of the assessment is to ask the youth to fill out a questionnaire regarding their attitudes and feelings toward their recovery and the court’s treatment of them. If this is already done in exit interviews, then this would be a good time to administer this questionnaire to the youth. Second, the assessment will address the drug court’s record of the youth’s participation and achievements in the program.

When having the youth and families fill out these self-report assessments, it is critical that they have complete privacy and anonymity. Tell them that their answers will be completely anonymous, will not be graded, and will not be identified with them in any way. If possible, create a secure and anonymous drop off location for them to turn these assessments in (e.g. a lock box, a postal box, or an unmarked folder with all of the other assessments). Also, tell them not to put their names on them. Keeping these assessments anonymous will help encourage honesty and not put undue stress on the court participants.

This portion is to be filled out by the youth.

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with each statement.

1. The judge treated me with respect.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The judge was fair.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The judge was concerned about me.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. Visits with the judge helped me to stay drug free.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The judge expected too much of me.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. My probation officer treated me with respect.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. My probation officer was fair.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. My probation officer was concerned about me.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. Visits with my probation officer helped me to stay drug free.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. My probation officer expected too much of me.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The treatment staff treated me with respect.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The treatment staff was fair.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The treatment staff was concerned about me.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. Visits with the treatment staff helped me to stay drug free.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The treatment staff expected too much of me.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

*If the youth had been in trouble with the law before:*

1. It helped me to appear in court on a regular basis.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. It helped me to report to my probation officer on a regular basis.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. It helped me attend treatment on a regular basis.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. Drug Court was easier than detention.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. Drug Court was easier than regular probation.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I think that my participation in the Drug Court will help me avoid drug use in the future.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. In general, I am better off for participating in Drug Court as opposed to other court sanctions.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I was personally helped through participation in Drug Court.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I felt that the court treated my family with respect.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I felt that the court took my family history into account.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I felt that the court took my culture into account.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I felt that the court took my gender into account.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I felt that the court took my sexuality into account.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. What have you liked most about drug court so far?
2. What have you liked least about the drug court so far?

|  |
| --- |
| As honestly as possible, please indicate how much of this survey you answered *truthfully*.  |
| My answers on this survey are…  | 0% true  | 25% true  | 50% true  | 75% true  | 100% true  |

Youth evaluation to be filled out by a JDC team member.

 % Court appearance attendance

 % School Attendance

 % Treatment attendance

 % # of failed drug tests

 days in Phase 1

 days in Phase 2

 days in Phase 3

 days in Phase 4

 days in the program

 Graduate?

 Terminated?

School Grades:

Course: . Grade: .

Course: . Grade: .

Course: . Grade: .

Course: . Grade: .

Course: . Grade: .

Course: . Grade: .

Course: . Grade: .

Parental/Family Assessment

This assessment is two-fold. First, a level of involvement will be assessed by the juvenile drug court team. Second, an evaluation questionnaire will be given to the parents to fill out. Be sure to identify which youth each parent is responsible for so you can match them and compare evaluations (youth and parents). However, be sure to keep the parents’ self-reports anonymous. If these are not kept anonymous, then the parents might think that their child will be punished for negative opinions toward the courts. Be sure to address this issue when asking the parents to fill out the self-reports.

This portion is the assessment *to be filled out by the juvenile drug court team member*.

1. # of parents involved

2. Which parent(s) is involved? (mother, father, both, none).

3. Are any other family members involved (e.g. grandparents)? Yes No

 If yes, who? .

4. Level of parent involvement:

 Not involved Somewhat involved Involved Completely involved

 1 2 3 4

5. Level of parent cooperation:

 Very Poor Poor Good Very Good

 1 2 3 4

6. Parent court attendance rate (# of court hearings schedule/# of court hearings attended)

This portion is to be *filled out by the parent*:

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with each statement.

* 1. The judge treated me with respect.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The judge was fair.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The judge was concerned about me.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The judge expected too much of me.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. My child’s probation officer treated me with respect.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. My child’s probation officer was fair.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. My child’s probation officer was concerned about my child.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. My child’s probation officer expected too much of my child.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The treatment staff treated me with respect.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The treatment staff was fair.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The treatment staff was concerned about me.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. The treatment staff expected too much of me.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I felt that the court treated our family with respect.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I felt that the court took our family history into account.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I felt that the court took our culture into account.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. I felt that the court took my child’s gender into account.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree Strongly Agree

 1 2 3 4 5

1. What have you liked most about drug court so far?
2. What have you liked least about the drug court so far?
3. How would you describe your child’s peer influence? Positive Negative Neither

|  |
| --- |
| As honestly as possible, please indicate how much of this survey you answered *truthfully*.  |
| My answers on this survey are…  | 0% true  | 25% true  | 50% true  | 75% true  | 100% true  |

**Compared to typical children the same age as your child:**

How hard is he/she working on school work?

Much less Somewhat less Slightly less Average Slightly more Somewhat more Much more

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

How hard is he/she working at home (e.g., chores)?

Much less Somewhat less Slightly less Average Slightly more Somewhat more Much more

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

How appropriately is he/she behaving?

Much less Somewhat less Slightly less Average Slightly more Somewhat more Much more

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

How much is he/she learning?

Much less Somewhat less Slightly less Average Slightly more Somewhat more Much more

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

How happy is he/she?

Much less Somewhat less Slightly less Average Slightly more Somewhat more Much more

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

JDC Planning Guide Implementation Assessment

The purpose of this section is to assess how well the drug court team is adhering to the planning guide. Please have each team member fill this out and then average all of the team members’ scores together for analysis.

Please answer the following truthfully.

1. Please choose the answer choice that best describes the juvenile drug court team’s adherence to the JDC planning guide:

Very Poor Poor Adequate Good Very Good

1 2 3 4 5

1. Please describe the success of the implementation of the JDC planning guide.

Not successful Slightly successful Somewhat successful Very Successful

1 2 3 5

1. How motivated are you to implement the JDC planning guide?

Not motivated Slightly motivated Somewhat motivated Very motivated

1 2 3 5

Analysis

The purpose of this assessment tool is to record the current status of various aspects of the juvenile drug court program regularly (recommended every 3 months) throughout a period of time (recommended two years) after implementing strategies outlined in the juvenile drug court planning guide. In order to assess progress in the juvenile drug court program with the use of the planning guide, it is important to have all of the questions filled out at each stage of data collection. This requires cooperation from the juvenile drug court team, the youth and the families (if present). If necessary, use incentives and sanctions in order to encourage completing these assessments. The key to successful data collection is being thorough and persistent.

There are five Microsoft Excel files that accompany this survey: one for youth, one for families, one for implementation, one for JDC program, and one for the JDC team. They should be labeled accordingly. The Excel spreadsheets are formatted and set up to directly input the information collected using these forms. There should be an Excel spreadsheet within each excel file for each time point in which data is to be collected. Also, it is important to keep the information about each individual youth together to see if there is observable improvement in the youth and family as well. In other words, if a youth named John is in the program for 7 months, then there might be three separate evaluations that he and his family filled out (one at 1 month, one at 4 months, and one at 7 months). It is now possible to assess his progress over those 7 months by seeing which of his scores increased or decreased over time. Some statistics might be applicable while other might not. For instance, his grades might change, but the number of days he spent in phase 1 might not change because it becomes a static statistic once he moves phases. The self-report measures for youth and families should be kept anonymous and not identified with the participants in order to encourage honesty in the responses and not appear as coercion. Identifying their self-report responses is not as critical because it is simply an overall gauge of the participant’s perspective on the court and not a directly observable change regarding court improvements and goals.

**The following guidelines help identify which trends (in the values of each question) denote improvement and which trends denote diminishment.**

*Procedures and Collaboration.*

-Increase in the number of collaborators suggests improvement

-Increase in the effectiveness or various programmatic procedures (incentives, sanctions, community service, etc.) suggests improvement

-Increase in the number of services your program offers the youth and their families suggests improvement especially when they are viewed as effective practices

-Increase in the length that collaborators have been with the drug court program suggests improvement

-Increase in the level of collaboration between collaborator and the juvenile drug court program suggests improvement

\*\*\*Decrease in any of these areas potentially suggest diminishment in program effectiveness

*JDC Team and Program Accomplishments.*

-Increases on all items in this section suggest improvement

\*\*\*Decreases in any of these areas potentially suggest diminishment in program effectiveness

*Juvenile Drug Court Program Assessment*

-Increase in referrals might suggests improvement

-Increase in number of participants typically suggests improvement; however, this is usually true when increases in number of participants does not negatively influence the effectiveness of the program due to added stress on the JDC team and youth

-Increase in % of participants in school suggests improvement

-Decrease in % of participants not enrolled in school (but are school age) suggests improvement

-Decrease in recidivism rate suggests improvement

-Increase in court attendance rate suggests improvement

-Decrease in # of days in phase 1 typically suggests improvement

-Increase in graduation rate suggests improvement

-Decrease in termination rate suggests improvement; however, this also depends upon the reasons for termination

-Decrease in rate of failed drug tests suggests improvement

*Youth and Parent Assessments*

Youth

-Increases in #’s 1-4 suggest improvement

-Decreases in #5 suggest improvement

-Increases in #’s 6-9 suggest improvement

-Decreases in #10 suggest improvement

-Increases in #’s 11-14 suggest improvement

-Decreases in #15 suggest improvement

-Increases in #’s 16-28 suggest improvement

-Increase in court attendance rate suggests improvement

-Increase in school attendance rate suggests improvement

-Increase in treatment attendance rate suggests improvement

-Decreases in # of failed drug tests suggest improvement

-Decrease in # of days spent in phase 1 suggests improvement

-Decrease in length of stay in the program usually suggests, but this is only true when looking at the final # of days in the program up to graduation

-Increases in graduation suggest improvement

-Decreases in termination suggest improvement

-Increases in school grades suggest improvement

Parents/Family

-The more parents involved typically indicates improvement, but bad parental relationships might suggest that more parental involvement does not necessitate improvement

-Increase in the level of parental involvement usually suggests improvement, but if the parental relationships with the youth are maladaptive then the increase in parental involvement might not necessarily be beneficial

-Increase in the level of parental cooperation suggests improvement

In the section filled out by the parents:

-Increases in numbers 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-16 suggest improvement

-Decreases in numbers 4, 8, and 12 suggest improvement

-Changes from negative to positive peer influence suggest improvement

-Increase in work ethic (compared to peers) suggests improvement

-Increase in appropriate behavior (compared to peers) suggests improvement

-Increase in learning (compared to peers) suggests improvement

-Increase in happiness (compared to peers) suggests improvement

1. Many of the questions were adapted from Latessa, E. J., Sullivan, C., Blair, L., Sullivan, C. J., & Smith, P. (2013). Final Report Outcome and Process Evaluation of Juvenile Drug Courts. NCJRS; Center for Criminal Justice Research, University of Cincinnati. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For data analytic strategies or techniques regarding this assessment tool, please contact Logan A. Yelderman; lyelderman@ncjfcj.org; 775-784-1663 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For more details about how to collect data for individuals or teams, contact Logan Yelderman at lyelderman@ncjfcj.org or 775-784-1663. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)