



Anchorage Wellness Court Summary of Facts 2003 Update

Report prepared for
Partners for Progress

by

Alan R. McKelvie

Justice Center
University of Alaska Anchorage



February 14, 2004
JC 0418.01

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Summary of Facts
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Prepared By:

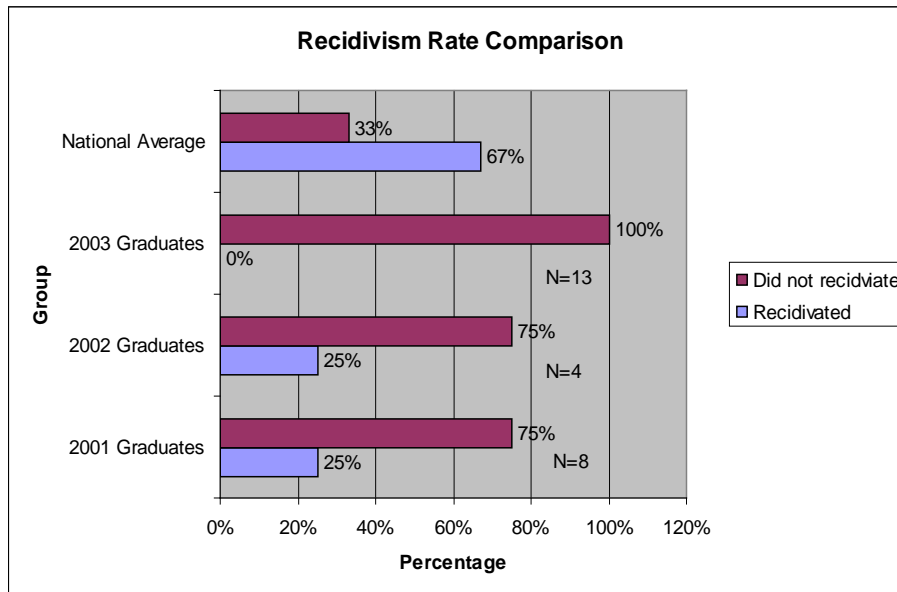
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Executive Summary

Anchorage Wellness Court, a therapeutic court for alcoholic misdemeanants, has been operating for three years under Judge James N. Wannamaker 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
- 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, 2003, twenty five participants had completed this rigorous 18 month program and graduated from Wellness Court (An additional 5 have graduated in January and February 2004). The Justice Center obtained recidivism data from the Alaska Court System’s case management system and the Department of Corrections movement files. The data consisted of all filed arrests and all bookings on the participants from January 2001 through February 2004. The results are as follows:



*Based on post-graduation convictions.

Statistical Summary

Gender and age of the 2003 Wellness Court participants varied little compared to previous years. Males comprised 72% percent of the group, compared to 67% in 2002, and 68% in 2001. Females comprised 28% in 2003, 33% in 2002 and 32% in 2001. The average age of participants was also similar.

	2001 Wellness Court	2002 Wellness Court	2003 Wellness Court*	Comparison Group
<i>Total participants</i>	34	45	46	30
<i>Gender</i>	11 female (32%) 23 male (68%)	15 female (33%) 30 male (67%)	13 female (28%) 33 male (72%)	5 female (17%) 25 male (83%)
<i>Average Age of all participants</i>	41	43	41	40
<i>Average Age of male participants</i>	42	43	42	39
<i>Average age of female participants</i>	39	42	41	46

*2003 participant total includes 30 individuals who were carried over from 2002. There were 16 new participants in 2003.

Figure 2 illustrates the Wellness Court participant activity for the years 2001 through 2003 and cumulative. The opt-out category includes participants who violated conditions of release.

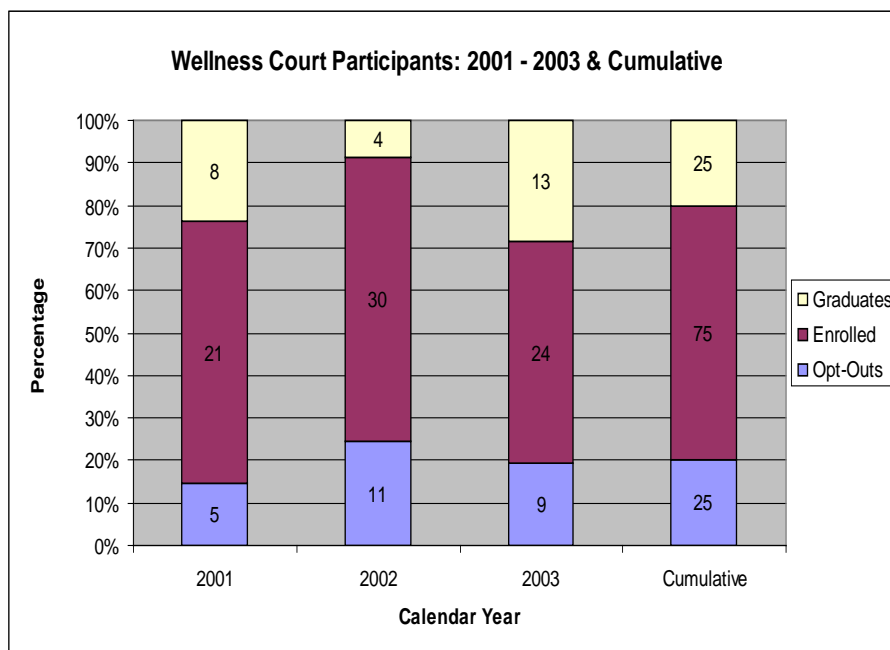


Figure 2

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

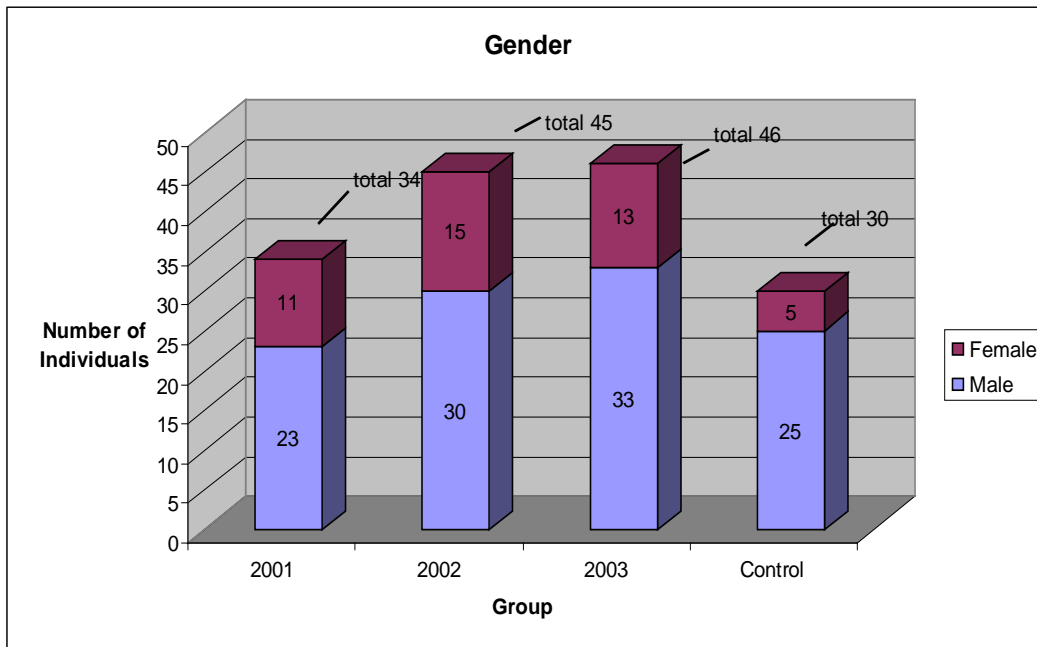


Figure 3

As in previous years the Ethnic makeup of Court participants is primarily Native Alaskan and Caucasian. Only eight individuals fell outside of these two groups.

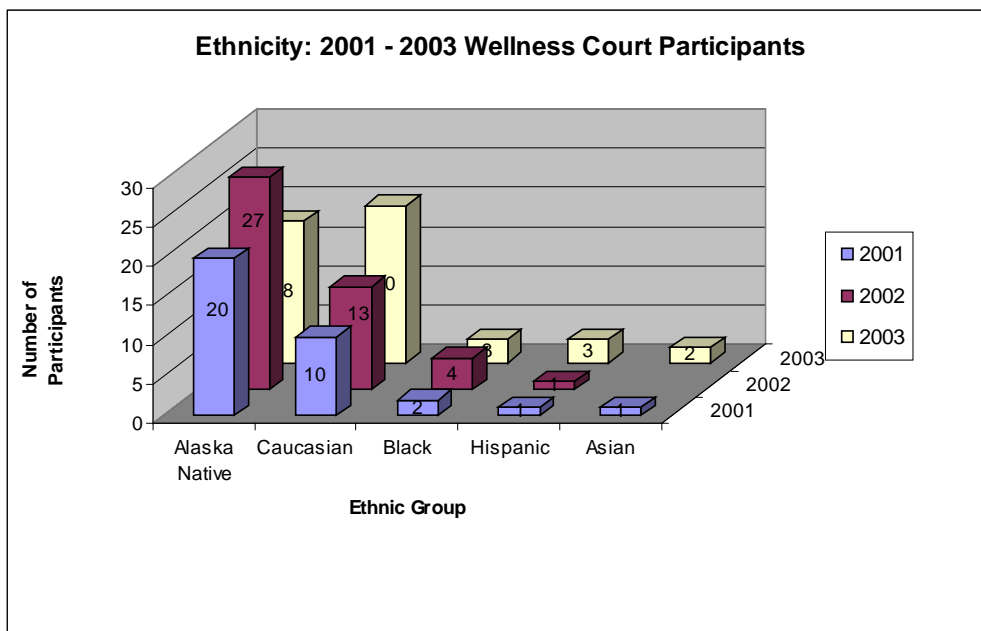


Figure 4

Before entering Wellness Court, 2003 participants had accumulated 143 DUI offenses for an average of 3.1 per person. They had also committed 324 non DUI offenses for an average of 7.0 per person.

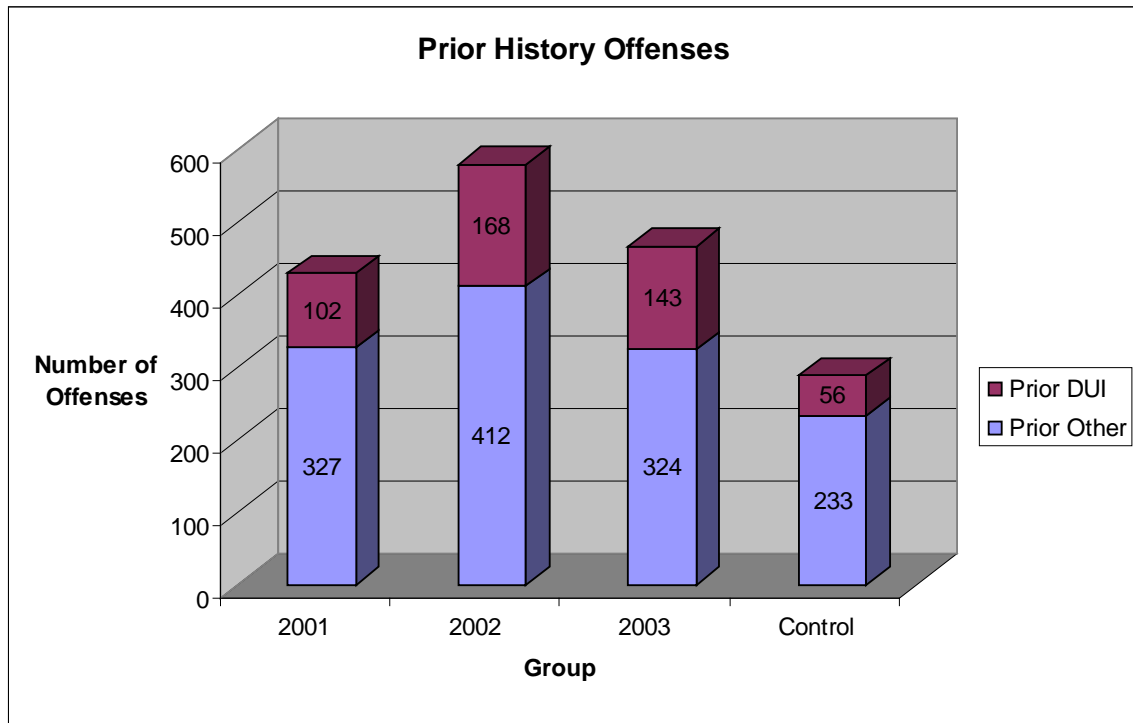


Figure 5