



## **Anchorage Wellness Court Summary of Facts 2004 Update**

Report prepared for  
Partners for Progress

by

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Anchorage Wellness Court  
Summary of Facts  
2004 Update

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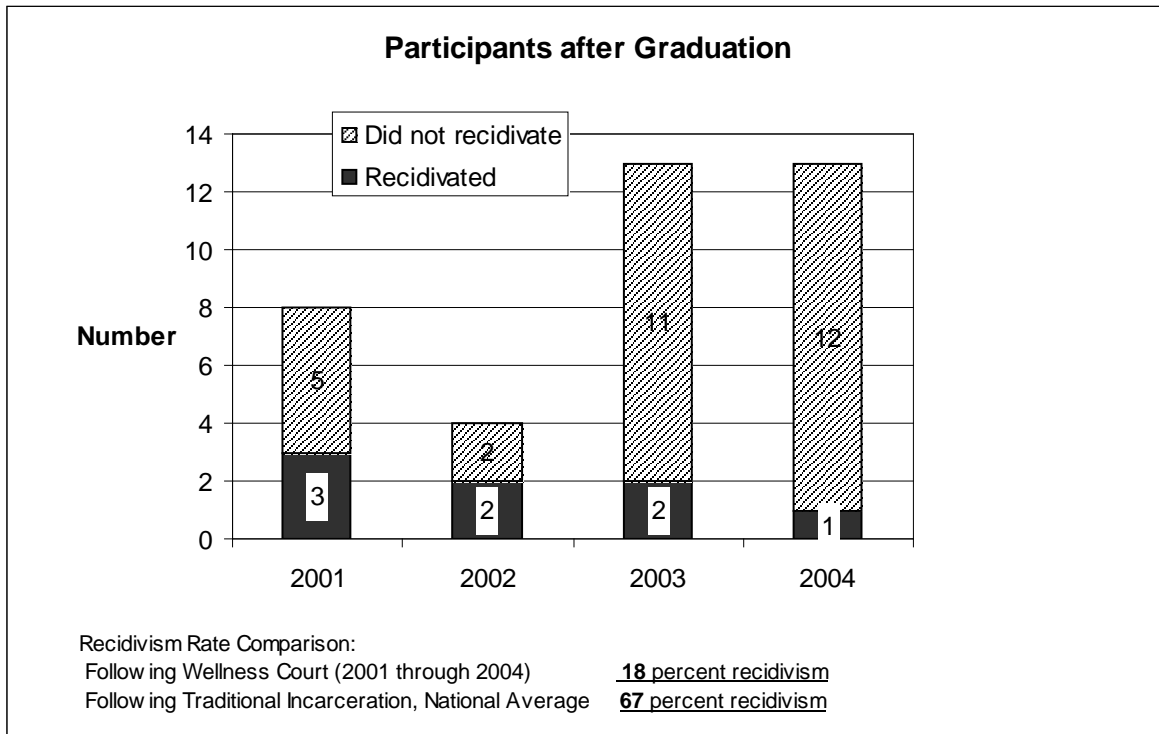
## **Executive Summary**

Anchorage Wellness Court, a therapeutic court for alcoholic misdemeanants, has been operating for four years under Judge James N. Wanamaker and Judge Stephanie Rhoades 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, 2004, thirty eight 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 movement files. The data consisted of all filed arrests and all bookings on the participants from January 1, 2001 through January 1, 2005. The results are as follows:

### Statistical Summary



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

Gender and age of the 2004 Wellness Court participants differed somewhat from previous years. Males comprised 85% percent of the group, compared to 72% in 2003, 67% in 2002, and 68% in 2001. Females comprised 15% in 2004, 28% in 2003, 33% in 2002 and 32% in 2001. The average age of participants was similar.

	2001 Wellness Court	2002 Wellness Court	2003 Wellness Court	2004 Wellness Court*	Comparison Group
Total participants	34	45	46	41	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%)	5 female (17%) 25 male (83%)
Average age of all participants	41	43	41	38	40
Average age of male participants	42	43	42	40	39
Average age of female participants	39	42	41	36	46

\*2004 participant total includes 28 individuals who were carried over from 2003. There were 13 new participants in 2004.

Figure 2 illustrates the Wellness Court participant activity for the years 2001 through 2004 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. The enrolled category includes two individuals who re-entered the program for the second time.

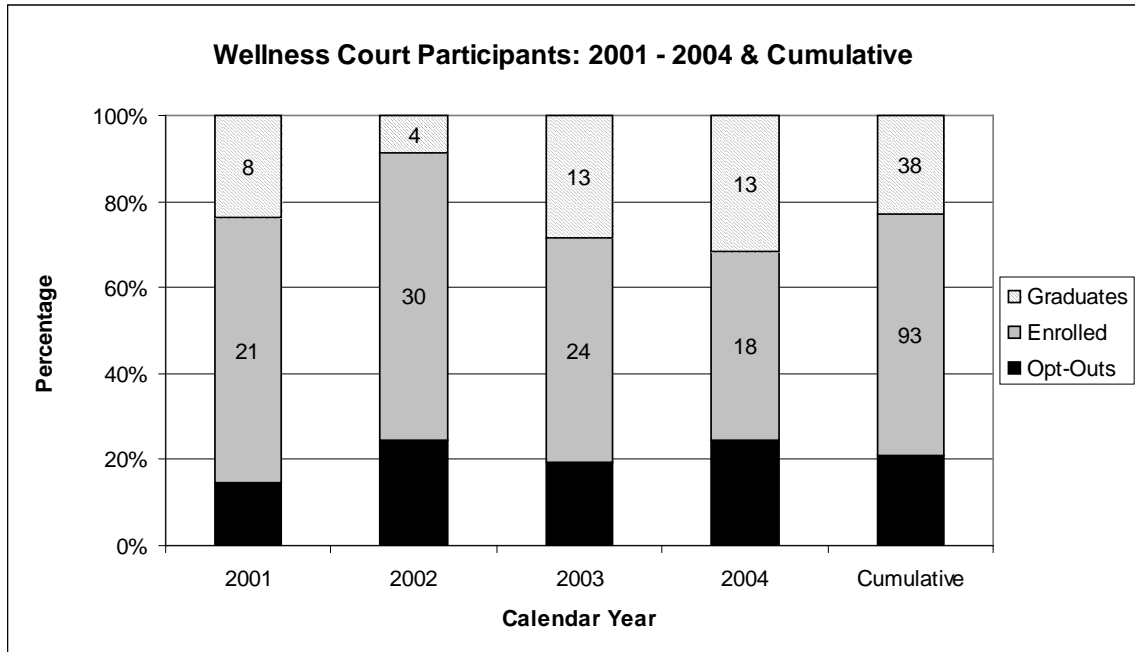


Figure 2

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

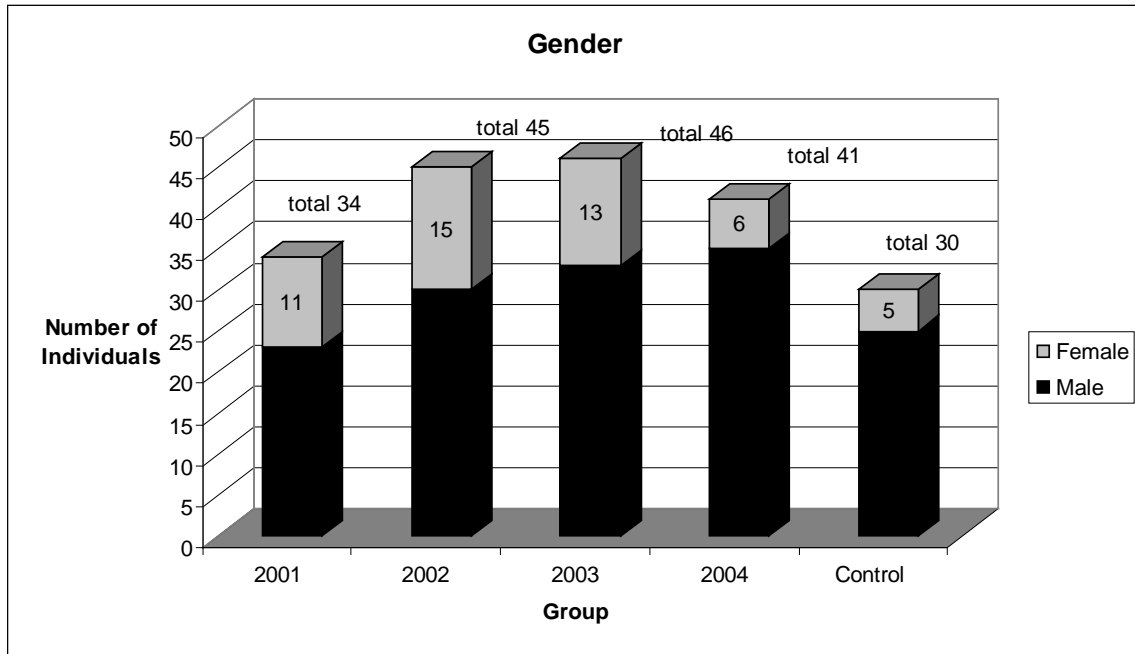


Figure 3

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

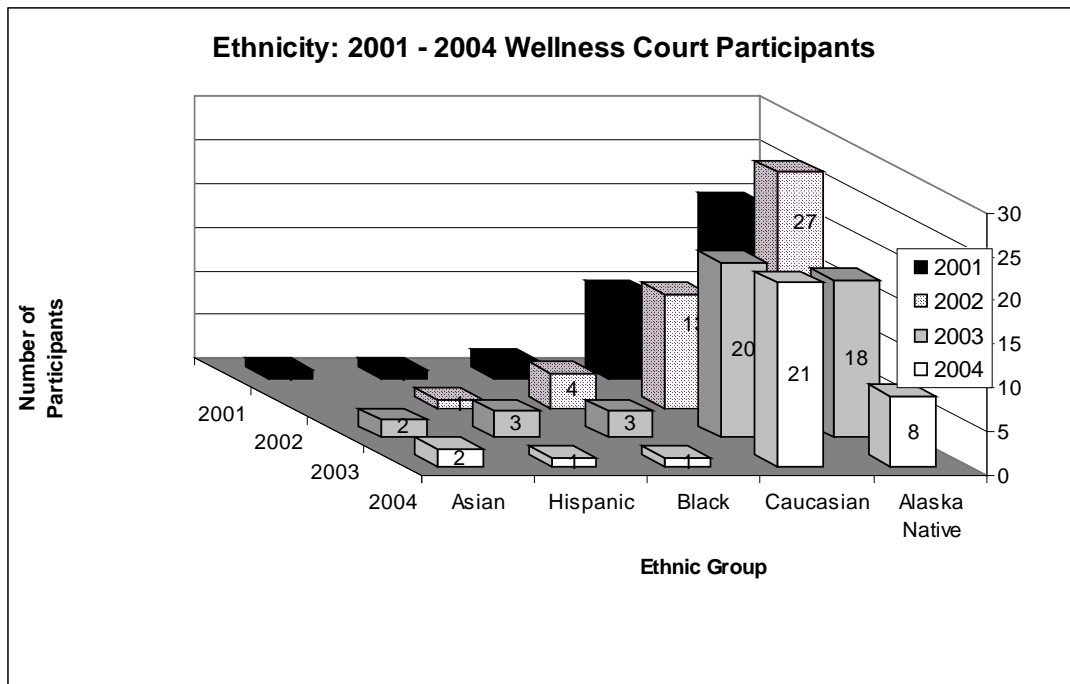


Figure 4

Before entering Wellness Court, 2004 participants had accumulated 66 DUI offenses for an average of 1.6 per person. They had also committed 212 non DUI offenses for an average of 5.2 per person.

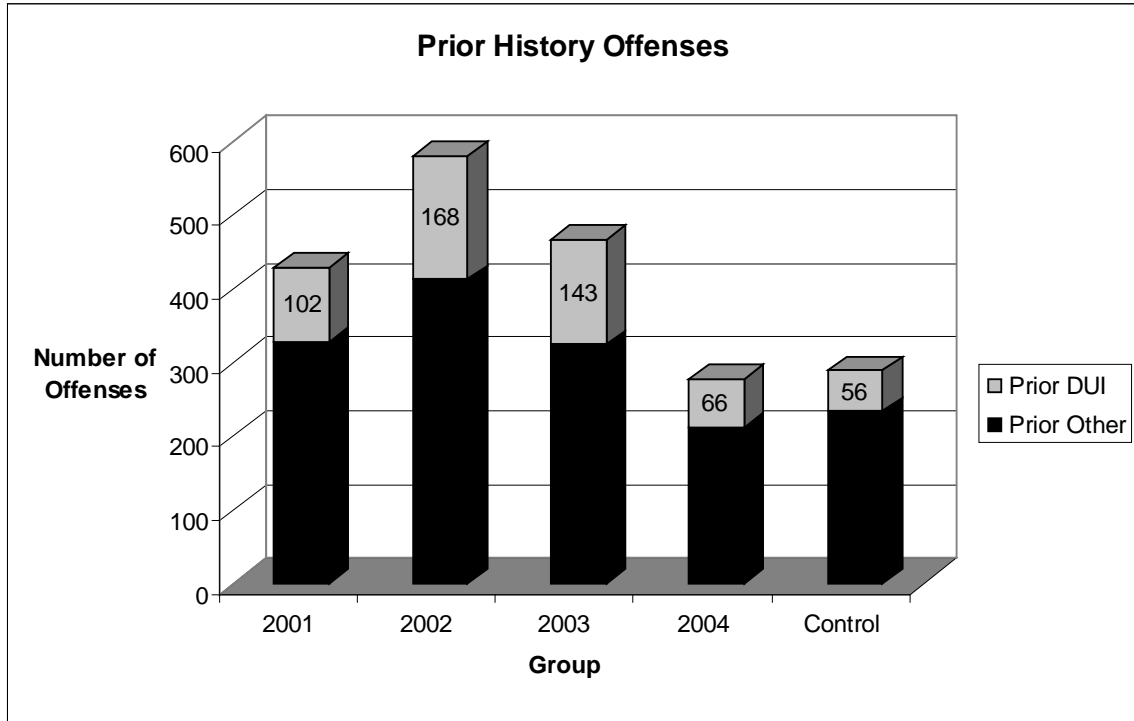


Figure 5