

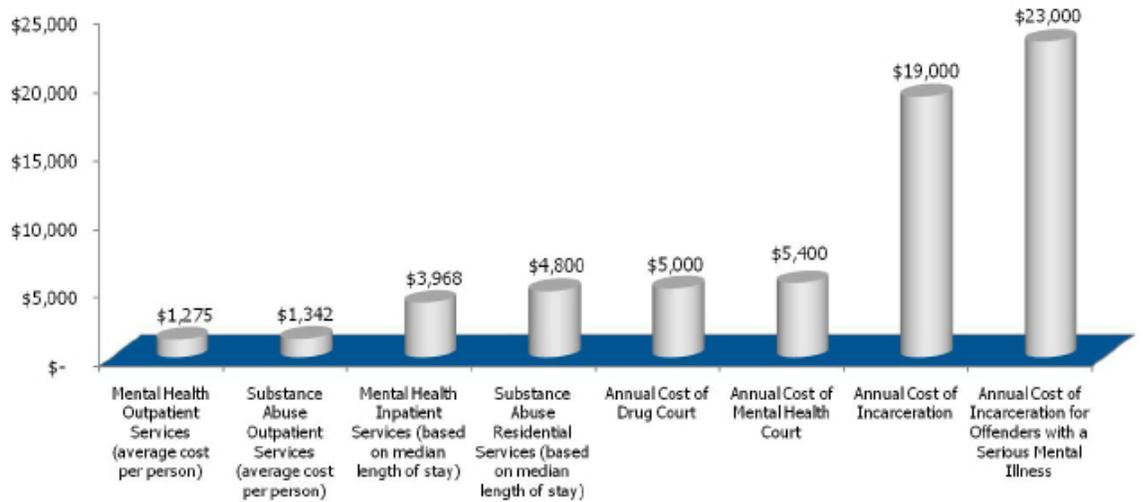
# Smart on Crime: A Better Choice

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is advocating a “Smart on Crime” legislative package that targets treatment services to at-risk populations, reduces crime and incarceration rates, and saves tax dollars. Smart on Crime, endorsed by the Oklahoma Sheriff’s Association and the Oklahoma District Attorney’s Council, uses evidence-based programs in the areas of criminal justice diversion, pre-sentencing engagement, and reintegration to reduce recidivism and decrease demand for correctional beds. The department has a tremendously successful track record with the operation of these innovative programs, which makes Smart on Crime an even better investment for the people of Oklahoma. Implementation of Smart of Crime requires funding and not statutory changes.

We know that untreated mental illness and substance abuse costs our state millions of dollars every year. It costs individuals and their families (divorce, suicide, teen pregnancy and unemployment); Oklahoma businesses (absenteeism, lost productivity, higher medical expenses); along with communities and state government services (increased demand on law enforcement and local emergency rooms, juvenile delinquency, in-school disruptions and dropouts, and increased engagement of the foster care system). The greatest expense, however, related to untreated mental and addictive disorders exists in our criminal justice system.

Out of 25,000 inmates, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections estimates that nearly 12,000 have a history of – or are currently exhibiting – symptoms of severe mental illness. There are 79% of female inmates and 46% of male inmates who have been diagnosed with a mental illness. Of these individuals, 57% were incarcerated for non-violent offenses. Out of all inmates in DOC custody, 33% were imprisoned for drug and alcohol offenses and at least 50% were incarcerated for a crime related to substance abuse.

**Cost of Services for Oklahoma Department of Mental Health Services versus Oklahoma Department of Corrections Stay**



Putting people with mental illness or addiction behind bars is not effective in either reducing crime or helping these individuals recover from their illness. The fact is that treatment works. Non-violent offenders would be better served, economically and medically, with treatment in their communities.

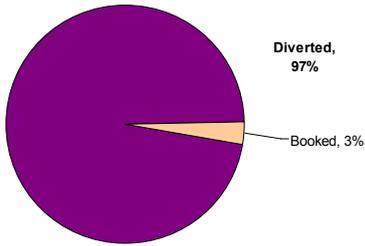
The average cost to maintain an inmate in prison is \$48 per day. For someone on a prison mental health unit, the cost jumps to approximately \$175 per day. Providing appropriate mental health services to someone in the community to keep them from entering the criminal justice system costs approximately \$25/day; and, providing appropriate substance abuse services to someone in the community to keep them from entering the criminal justice system costs less than \$15/day.

The ‘Smart on Crime’ package would include placing **non-violent offenders**, whose primary issue is an untreated mental or addictive disorder, in a closely monitored program such as drug court, mental health court, a day reporting program or a jail diversion program, or other proven programs that proactively address the problem and reduce incarceration.

The proposed cost for full implementation of the “Smart on Crime” package is estimated at \$95.6 million annually. By the third year of full implementation, it is expected that the cost of the program will be offset by cost savings, resulting in an annual net gain to the state every year after.

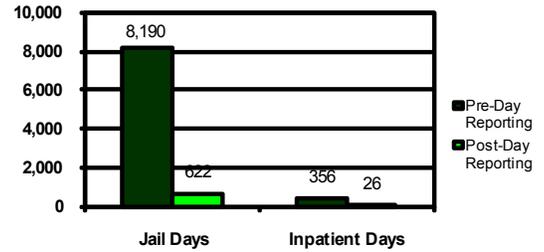
# Smart on Crime: A Better Choice

## Tulsa's Jail Diversion Program



Family & Children's Services Community Outreach Psychiatric Emergency Service teams (COPES) partners with local law enforcement in a pre booking jail diversion program, which for a recent three year period has **diverted 97% of non-violent criminal offenders from incarceration**. From 2004 to 2006, the program had 4,751 contacts, with 4,623 of those diverted.

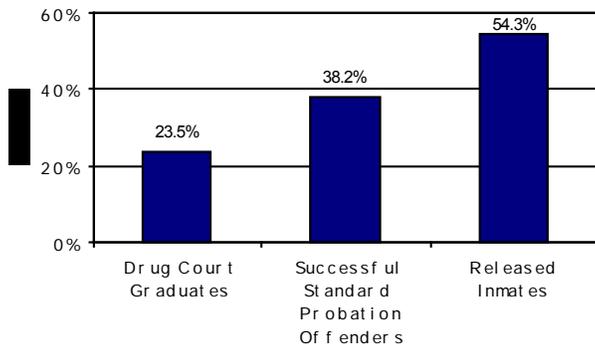
## OK County Day Reporting



In partnership with Northcare Community Mental Health Center, day reporting is a post-booking program that keeps participants in the community while they are awaiting trial. **Jail days were decreased by 92.4% and inpatient days were reduced by 92.7%.**

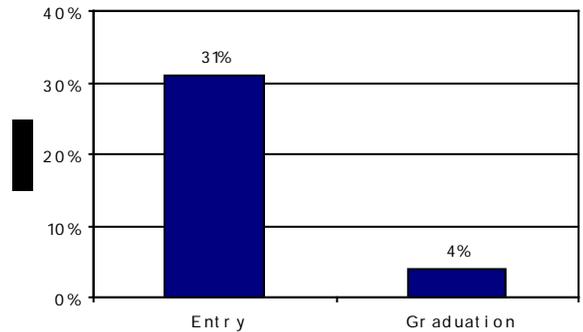
## Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts

A comparison of Re-arrest Rates for Drug Court



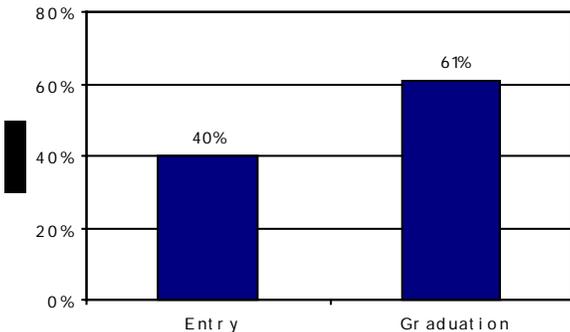
At the end of July 2009, there were 4,501 active participants in 41 adult drug and DUI courts in Oklahoma. **The annual estimated cost of DOC incarceration is \$19,000; the cost for drug court is \$5,000.** Another positive characteristic of drug court is it's ability to reduce re-arrest. **The re-arrest rates for drug court graduates after four years are less than 1/2 of released inmates.**

Reduction in Unemployment for Drug Court



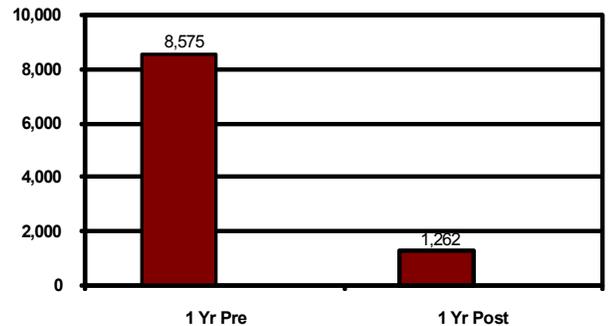
One of the aspects of Drug Court's success in Oklahoma is the support participants receive in seeking, gaining and maintaining employment. At entry, 31% of the participants were unemployed, compared to 4% at graduation. This is a **reduction in unemployment of 87.1%.**

Increase in Children Living With Their Parents for Drug Court



Another success of Drug Court is reuniting children with their parents. At entry, 40% of children of drug court participants were living with their parents compared to 61% at graduation. This is an **increase in children living with their parents of 52.5%.**

Jail Days Reduction for Mental Health Court



Mental health courts currently exist in 14 counties, including Oklahoma, Cleveland, Seminole, Hughes, Rogers, Craig, Wagoner, Cherokee, Tulsa, Pontotoc, Creek, Okfuskee, Comanche and Okmulgee counties. Effectiveness of courts can be demonstrated in the **reduction in the number of jail days, which was a 90% reduction** in the past year.