



VERMONT STATEWIDE TREATMENT COURT OUTCOME & COST EVALUATION

Supplemental Findings Appendix

December 2023

Vermont Statewide Treatment Court Evaluation: Supplemental Findings Appendix

In 2021, the Vermont Judiciary initiated a statewide process, outcome and cost evaluation of its adult treatment courts: Chittenden County Treatment Court (CCTC), Chittenden County *Mental Health Court* (CCMHC), Washington County Treatment Court (WCTC), Rutland County Treatment Court (RCTC), and the Southeast Regional *DUI Treatment Docket* (SERDTD). The purpose of the evaluation was to provide the state with key information about the effectiveness of its programs and recommendations for improvements to support the programs in their main goals to reduce recidivism, protect public safety and improve the lives of participants and their families.

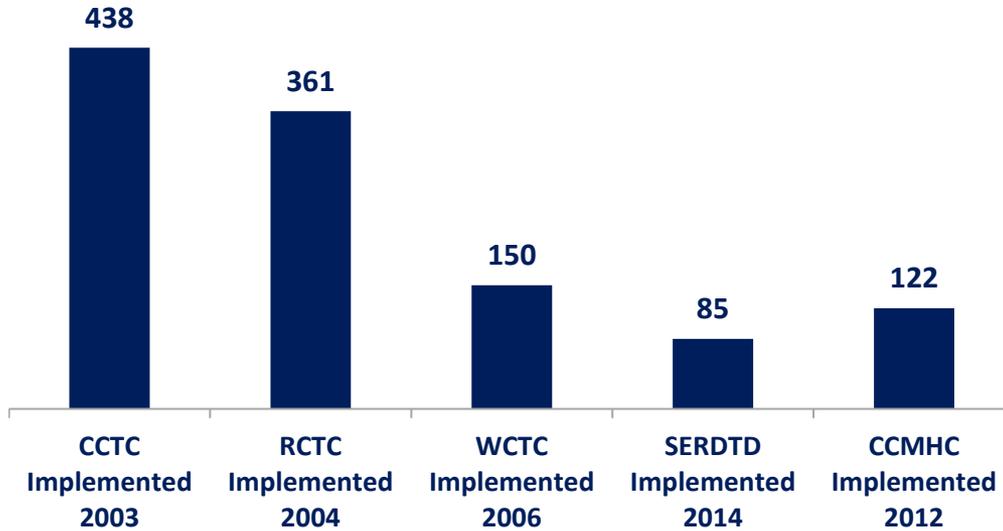
This appendix serves as a companion document to the *Vermont Statewide Treatment Court Outcome and Cost Evaluation Summary of Key Findings Report* to provide additional metrics related to participants served, in-program outcomes, justice involved outcomes and costs. Results are provided for all five of the programs included in the statewide evaluation.

See the individual program reports for more site specific details. See the Statewide Summary of Key Findings report for more background and interpretation of results. See the Methods Appendix for details of the methodology used in the evaluation.



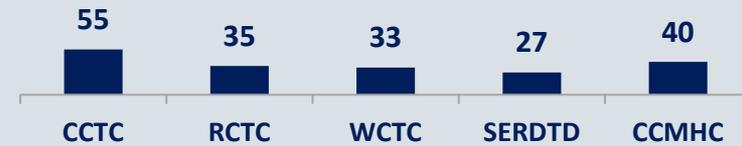
Participants Served

*Participants Served from Program Implementation to September 2022**



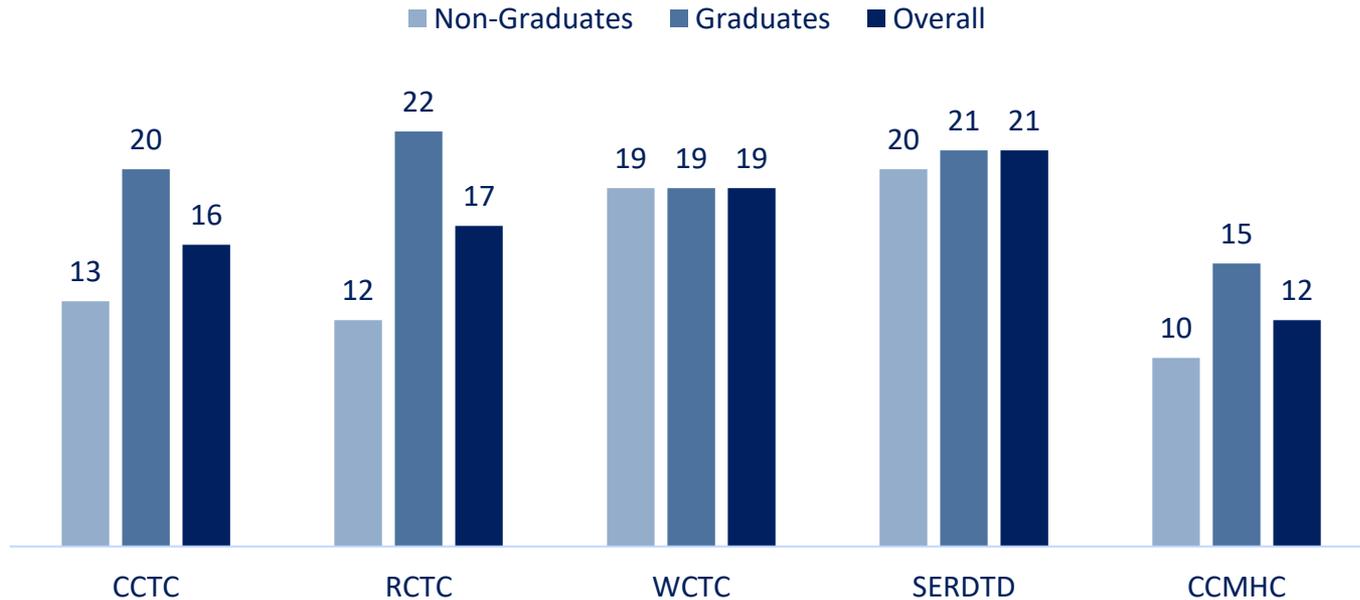
A total of **1,156** individuals in Vermont were served by the programs from implementation to September 2022

Average Annual Census for Sample Period (2015 to 2019)



In-Program Outcomes: Time in Program

Average Length of Stay in Months by Program



Key findings:

- Best practices recommend an average program length of at least 12 months. **All programs are meeting best practices.**

Keep in mind:

- Non-graduates exited fairly quickly in some programs. The scarcity of housing, transportation, health care, and social services in Vermont means that participants' basic human needs are often not being met, which detracts from their focus on recovery and may contribute to some participants exiting the program unsuccessfully within a short time.

Justice Involved Outcomes: Match Overview

Criminal justice outcomes were measured against a matched comparison group of individuals who were eligible for the treatment court in the same jurisdiction but who did not participate. Participants in four of the five programs were matched to the comparison group on gender, age, race and criminal history. However, a valid matched comparison group for CCMHC was not possible because there were no data on mental health status for comparison group members. Instead, for the CCMHC, the evaluation used a pre-post design comparing number of arrests in the two years prior to entry to number of arrests two years after entry.

Overview of Matched Program & Comparison Groups

| | CCTC | | RCTC | | WCTC | | SERDTD | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | Program N = 93 | Comp N = 93 | Program N = 59 | Comp N = 57 | Program N = 74 | Comp N = 74 | Program N = 58 | Comp N = 58 |
| Demographics | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 58% | 62% | 54% | 56% | 54% | 54% | 76% | 76% |
| White | 91% | 88% | 98% | 98% | 97% | 99% | 97% | 97% |
| Average age at entry (years) | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 29 | 29 | 44 | 43 |
| Average number of arrests 2 years prior to program entry | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 5.5 | 5.7 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Drug | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| DUI | 0.12 | 0.16 | 0.1 | 0.03 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 1.1 |
| Person | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Property | 2.9 | 3.2 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Misdemeanor | 4.4 | 4.3 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 1.6 | 1.5 |
| Felony | 1.9 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 0.9 |

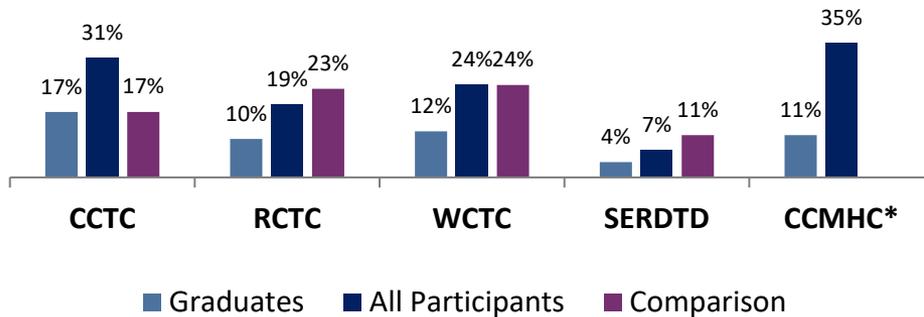
Key findings:

- **Match success!** The balance achieved through the matching process shows very little difference between all criminal history measures and demographics between the participant groups and comparison groups for all programs.

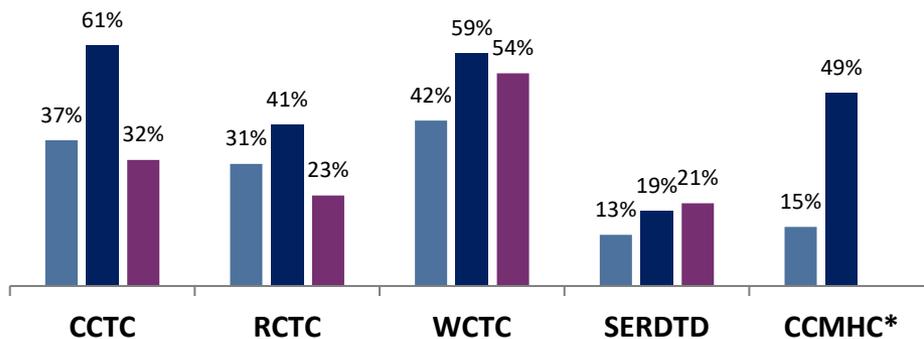


Justice Involved Outcomes: Recidivism Rates by Charge Severity

Felony Recidivism Rates



Misdemeanor Recidivism Rates



Key findings at 2 years post program entry:

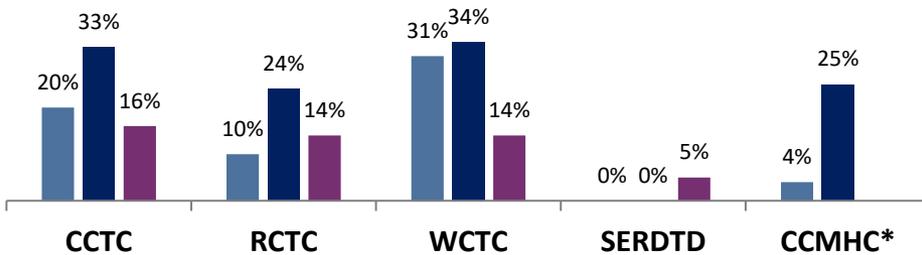
- CCTC participants were rearrested *more* often than their comparison group for both felonies and misdemeanors, although CCTC graduates had an equivalent rearrest to the comparison group for felonies.
- RCTC participants were rearrested at *lower* rates than their comparison group for felony charges, but at a *higher* rate for misdemeanor charges. RCTC graduates had a relatively low rearrest rate for felonies.
- WCTC participants were rearrested at the *same* overall as their comparison group for felonies, but at a *higher* rate for misdemeanor charges. WCTC graduates were arrested less often than all participants for both felonies and misdemeanors.
- SERDTD participants were rearrested *less* often than their comparison group for both felonies and misdemeanors, with SERDTD graduates having the lowest rearrest rates.
- CCMHC graduates were rearrested less often than non-graduates for both felonies and misdemeanors. The pre-post analysis for the CCMHC (not displayed) showed that the average number of both felony and misdemeanor arrests for CCMHC participants *decreased* 2 years after program entry compared to 2 years prior to entry.



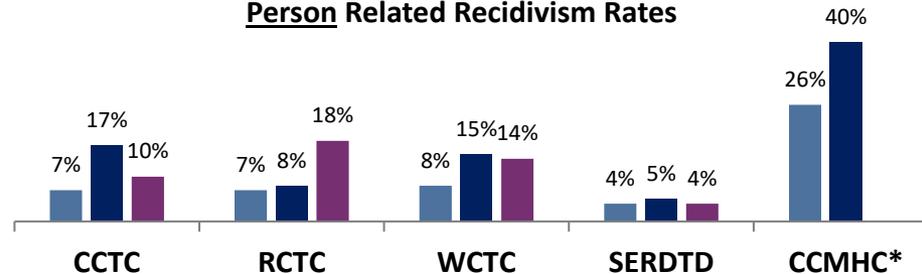
Justice Involved Outcomes: Recidivism Rates by Charge Type

■ Graduates ■ All Participants ■ Comparison

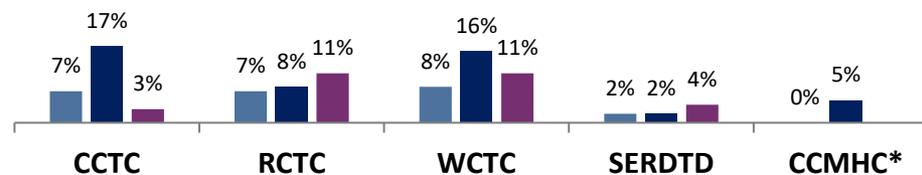
Property Related Recidivism Rates



Person Related Recidivism Rates



Drug Related Recidivism Rates



Key findings at 2 years post program entry:

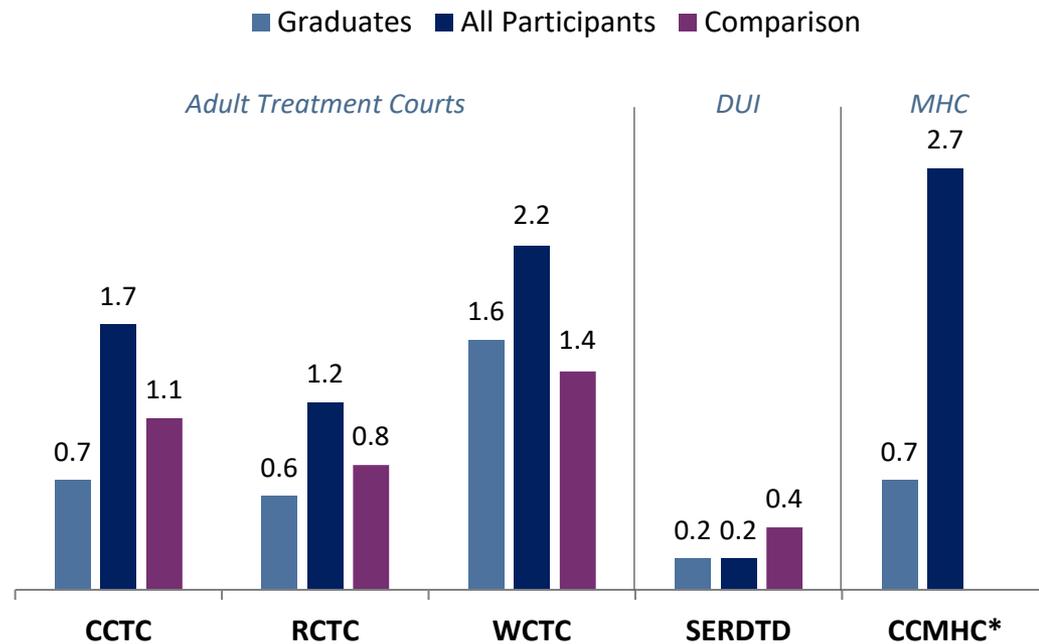
- Property related recidivism is generally *higher* for participants compared to both their comparison groups and other charge types (except for SERDTD participants). Program graduates consistently had lower property related recidivism than non-graduates.
- Person related recidivism results vary by program. CCTC participants have *moderately higher* rates and WCTC and SERDTD participants have only *slightly higher* rates than their comparison groups. RCTC participants have *lower* rates than their comparison group. Program graduates had lower recidivism rates than all participants (which includes non-graduates), except SERDTD graduates had an equivalent rearrest rate. While the pre-post analysis (not displayed) showed that the number of person arrests *declined* for CCMHC participants, their rearrest rate is still high compared to participants in the other programs.
- Drug related recidivism results also vary by program. RCTC and SERDTD participants are rearrested at a *lower* rate than their comparison groups, while CCTC and WCTC participants are rearrested at a *higher* rate than their comparison groups. Program graduates had lower drug related recidivism than non-graduates, except SERDTD graduates had equivalent rates to the non-graduates. The pre-post analysis (not displayed) showed that the number of drug arrests *declined* over time for CCMHC participants.

Justice Involved Outcomes: Number of Arrests

Key findings at 2 years post program entry:

- The findings for the number of arrests are similar to the results for the recidivism rates for programs presented in the *Summary of Key Findings Report*.
- CCTC participants have a *higher* number of rearrests than their comparison group. CCTC graduates have a lower number of rearrests than all participants.
- RCTC participants have a *higher* number of rearrests overall than the comparison group, but this varies by charge, including a *lower* number of arrests for person, drug, and felony charges. RCTC graduates have a lower number of rearrests than all participants.
- While a similar *percentage* of WCTC participants are rearrested as the comparison group, the *number* of participant rearrests (including for graduates) is higher than the comparison group.
- SERDTD participants have a *lower* number of rearrests than their comparison group.
- CCMHC graduates have a much lower number of rearrests than all CCMHC participants. The pre-post analysis (not displayed) for the CCMHC showed that the average number of arrests for CCMHC participants *decreased* 2 years after program entry compared to 2 years prior to entry. However, their average number of rearrests is higher than the participant average in the other four programs.

Number of Rearrests 2 Years Post Entry



Costs: Program Costs Per Participant by Site

| Transaction | CCMHC | CCTC | RCTC | WCTC | SERDTD |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| All Participants | N= 59 | N= 79 | N= 54 | N= 68 | N= 58 |
| Court Sessions | | | | | |
| Unit Cost | \$495.45 | \$495.45 | \$328.93 | \$307.04 | \$391.16 |
| Avg. # Events per person | 24.81 | 25.59 | 42.69 | 35.61 | 35.41 |
| Avg. Cost per person | \$12,292 | \$12,679 | \$14,042 | \$10,934 | \$13,851 |
| Case Management Days | | | | | |
| Unit Cost | \$5.33 | \$5.33 | \$11.30 | \$10.06 | \$10.13 |
| Avg. # Events per person | 402.68 | 481.24 | 533.57 | 584.85 | 635.55 |
| Avg. Cost per person | \$2,146 | \$2,565 | \$6,029 | \$5,884 | \$6,438 |
| UA Drug Tests | | | | | |
| Unit Cost | \$35.00 | \$35.00 | \$6.00 | \$6.00 | \$6.00 |
| Avg. # Events per person | 93.33 | 94.23 | 111.89 | 94.87 | 137.93 |
| Avg. Cost per person | \$3,267 | \$3,298 | \$671 | \$569 | \$871 |
| Jail Sanctions | | | | | |
| Unit Cost | \$220.60 | \$220.60 | \$220.60 | \$220.60 | \$220.60 |
| Avg. # Events per person | 3.57 | 4.06 | 5.55 | 3.21 | 1.71 |
| Avg. Cost per person | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| TOTAL | \$17,705 | \$18,542 | \$20,742 | \$17,387 | \$21,160 |

Key findings:

- Court sessions comprise the bulk of program costs, ranging from 63% to 69% of total program costs.
- Graduates cost from slightly less to a few thousand more than all participants, ranging from \$17,386 at WCTC to \$25,321 at CCTC. Greater costs for graduates typically reflect their longer times in the programs.
- SERDTD also uses breathalyzers at a unit cost of \$1.50 and an average cost per person of \$43 (\$828 for UA tests and \$43 for breathalyzers equals \$871 for drug tests).

None of the reported program costs include the costs of treatment services, which are an integral part of the treatment court programs. Due to a lack of complete treatment data for any of Vermont's treatment court programs, treatment costs could not be accurately calculated. On average, across the U.S. treatment services cost ~\$10,000 per participant.



Costs: Outcome Costs per Participant by Site

| Transaction | CCTC | CCTC Comp | RCTC | RCTC Comp | WCTC | WCTC Comp | SERDTD | SERDTD Comp | CCMHC* |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| All Participants | N= 93 | N= 93 | N= 59 | N= 57 | N= 74 | N= 71 | N= 58 | N= 57 | N= 65 |
| Arrests | | | | | | | | | |
| Unit Cost | \$189.63 | \$189.63 | \$152.16 | \$152.16 | \$201.17 | \$201.17 | \$191.95 | \$191.95 | \$189.63 |
| Avg. # Events per person | 1.74 | 1.11 | 1.20 | 0.75 | 2.22 | 1.41 | 0.22 | 0.42 | 2.65 |
| Avg. Cost per person | \$330 | \$210 | \$183 | \$114 | \$447 | \$284 | \$42 | \$81 | \$503 |
| Court Cases | | | | | | | | | |
| Unit Cost | \$3,006.69 | \$3,006.69 | \$3,006.69 | \$3,006.69 | \$3,006.69 | \$3,006.69 | \$3,006.69 | \$3,006.69 | \$3,006.69 |
| Avg. # Events per person | 1.59 | 0.95 | 1.15 | 0.70 | 2.14 | 1.32 | 0.22 | 0.32 | 2.57 |
| Avg. Cost per person | \$4,781 | \$2,856 | \$3,458 | \$2,105 | \$6,434 | \$3,969 | \$661 | \$962 | \$7,727 |
| Probation/Parole Days | | | | | | | | | |
| Unit Cost | \$11.76 | \$11.76 | \$11.76 | \$11.76 | \$11.76 | \$11.76 | \$11.76 | \$11.76 | \$11.76 |
| Avg. # Events per person | 117.09 | 249.33 | 283.75 | 286.96 | 364.51 | 254.65 | 699.78 | 263.32 | 134.49 |
| Avg. Cost per person | \$1,377 | \$2,932 | \$3,337 | \$3,375 | \$4,287 | \$2,995 | \$8,229 | \$3,097 | \$1,582 |
| Jail/Prison Days | | | | | | | | | |
| Unit Cost | \$220.60 | \$220.60 | \$220.60 | \$220.60 | \$220.60 | \$220.60 | \$220.60 | \$220.60 | \$220.60 |
| Avg. # Events per person | 86.31 | 54.02 | 44.59 | 34.54 | 57.68 | 99.65 | 11.98 | 35.02 | 66.94 |
| Avg. Cost per person | \$19,040 | \$11,917 | \$9,837 | \$7,620 | \$12,724 | \$21,983 | \$2,643 | \$7,725 | \$14,767 |
| Property Victimizations | | | | | | | | | |
| Unit Cost | \$15,937.43 | \$15,937.43 | \$15,937.43 | \$15,937.43 | \$15,937.43 | \$15,937.43 | \$15,937.43 | \$15,937.43 | \$15,937.43 |
| Avg. # Events per person | 0.61 | 0.49 | 0.53 | 0.25 | 0.78 | 0.21 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.62 |
| Avg. Cost per person | \$9,722 | \$7,809 | \$8,447 | \$3,984 | \$12,431 | \$3,347 | \$0 | \$797 | \$9,881 |
| Person Victimizations | | | | | | | | | |
| Unit Cost | \$51,629.54 | \$51,629.54 | \$51,629.54 | \$51,629.54 | \$51,629.54 | \$51,629.54 | \$51,629.54 | \$51,629.54 | \$51,629.54 |
| Avg. # Events per person | 0.30 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.17 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.65 |
| Avg. Cost per person | \$15,489 | \$5,163 | \$5,153 | \$9,810 | \$9,293 | \$8,777 | \$2,581 | \$2,065 | \$33,559 |
| TOTAL | \$50,739 | \$30,887 | \$30,425 | \$27,008 | \$45,616 | \$41,355 | \$14,156 | \$14,727 | \$68,019 |

In all sites the cost of the treatment court participant outcomes was higher than the comparison group with the exception of SERDTD where the participants cost \$571 less per person than the comparison group (a cost savings).

* There was no comparison group for CCMHC.



For questions about this report or project, please contact
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