

**Coming Soon:  
Evaluation Findings, Publications, and Practical Applications of Results**



**Juvenile Drug Court Practitioners, Community Stakeholders, Policy Makers, Evaluators and Judicial Leaders:**

Over the next several weeks, you will receive publications from the National Cross-Site Evaluation of Juvenile Drug Courts (JDC) and Reclaiming Futures (RF). You can also find these products at the SIROW website: [www.sirow.arizona.edu/JDCRF](http://www.sirow.arizona.edu/JDCRF). Findings indicate useful staff training to better serve youth, cost-effectiveness of the integration of JDC/RF, approaches to engage youth involved in the juvenile justice system, and strategies to collaborate with youth-serving community organizations. Findings will inform the field regarding the effectiveness of integrating JDC and RF at the organization level (e.g., type of services provided) and at the level of individual outcomes (e.g., substance use and criminal involvement). Findings will

contribute to the literature on juvenile substance abuse by adding to the research on the effectiveness of juvenile drug courts and adolescent treatment. Research findings will be useful to inform policy and practice of JDCs and implementation of the RF Model.

**Overview and Objectives of the National Cross-Site Evaluation of Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) partnered with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJ) to improve the effectiveness and efficacy of juvenile drug courts (JDCs). These agencies sponsored an initiative to rehabilitate nonviolent, substance-abusing youth by integrating two models, Juvenile Drug Court: Strategies in Practice (JDC:SP; National Drug Court Institute & National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 2003) and Reclaiming Futures (RF; <http://reclaimingfutures.org/>; Nissen, Butts, Merrigan, & Kraft, 2006). The JDCs funded under this initiative were charged with combining the six RF steps with JDC:SP to enhance the capacity of their programs.

OJJDP, directly and through an interagency agreement with the Library of Congress, then funded the *National Cross-Site Evaluation of Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures* to evaluate the JDC and RF initiative.

This national evaluation was led by the **University of Arizona’s Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW)** in collaboration with evaluation partners, **Chestnut Health Systems** and **Carnevale Associates, LLC**. It was a multi-site, multi-year evaluation of multiple JDCs awarded grant funding under the JDC and RF initiative (henceforth referred to as JDC/RF sites).

<b>The Steps of Reclaiming Futures</b>	<b>The Juvenile Drug Court: Strategies in Practice</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Initial Screening</li> <li>2) Initial Assessment</li> <li>3) Service Coordination</li> <li>4) Initiation</li> <li>5) Engagement</li> <li>6) Transition</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Collaborative Planning</li> <li>2) Teamwork</li> <li>3) Clearly Defined Target Population &amp; Eligibility Criteria</li> <li>4) Judicial Involvement &amp; Supervision</li> <li>5) Mentoring &amp; Evaluation</li> <li>6) Community Partnerships</li> <li>7) Comprehensive Treatment Planning</li> <li>8) Developmentally Appropriate Services</li> <li>9) Gender-Appropriate Services</li> <li>10) Cultural Competence</li> <li>11) Focus on Strengths</li> <li>12) Family Engagement</li> <li>13) Educational Linkages</li> <li>14) Drug Testing</li> <li>15) Goal-Oriented Incentives &amp; Sanctions</li> <li>16) Confidentiality</li> </ol>

The *National Cross-Site Evaluation of Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures* examined the implementation, process, outcome, and cost effectiveness of geographically-diverse JDC/RF sites across the country. The evaluation utilized both quantitative and qualitative data from multiple sources. These sources included the JDC/RF program clients, JDC/RF site personnel, and other individuals working in youth-serving agencies in the local communities. Data were collected via local evaluators, web-based surveys, in-depth qualitative interviews, observations of JDC/RF team meetings, and visits to the JDC/RF sites. The data were analyzed to address eleven research questions and five research objectives.

Objective	Corresponding Research Questions
Objective 1. Assess the operations of Juvenile Drug Court/Reclaiming Futures models using established indices for performance, efficiencies, and cost effectiveness	1. What factors are critical to combining the six stages (6) of the Reclaiming Futures and the sixteen (16) key elements of Drug Court models? 2. What system-level effects have occurred in administration, collaboration, and the provision of services by combining the two models? 3. What adaptations or modifications occurred by integrating the Juvenile Drug Court and Reclaiming Futures models?
Objective 2. Improve the empirical knowledge base about Juvenile Drug Courts and the Reclaiming Futures.	4. What services are actually being delivered and were they evidence-based? 5. Who is being served by the initiatives grantees? 6. Who is being missed or needs to be served?
Objective 3. Analyze the efficacy of combined efforts of Juvenile Drug Courts and the Reclaiming Futures Model.	7. To what extent are some approaches more effective in reaching and keeping the target population involved or engaged? 8. What system-level interventions would better support matching services to clients/participants? 9. To what extent are different system-level approaches, training, and/or resources associated with changes in the services delivered? 10. How are changes in the level and appropriateness of services related to changes in client/participant and program performance?
Objective 4. Conduct case studies using Administrative, Collaboration, and Quality Indices and the sixteen key elements of Juvenile Drug Courts	Research Questions 1, 2, 3, and 8 relate to this objective.
Objective 5. Evaluate the potential for replication of these models.	11. Are some approaches more cost-effective than others?

For additional information about or results from the National Cross-Site Evaluation of Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures please visit our website at <http://sirow.arizona.edu/JDCRF>

**References:**

National Drug Court Institute & National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (2003). *Juvenile Drug Courts: Strategies in Practice*. (Bureau of Justice Assistance Monographs). Rockville, MD: Bureau of Justice Clearinghouse. Retrieved from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/197866.pdf>

Nissen, L. B., Butts, J. A., Merrigan, D., & Kraft, M. K. (2006). The RWJF Reclaiming Futures initiative: Improving substance abuse interventions for justice-involved youths. *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, 57(4), 39-51.

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