

Budget Brief – Drug Courts / Drug Boards

NUMBER HHS-05-12

SUMMARY

Drug Courts is a judicial process that offers nonviolent drug-abusing offenders intensive court-supervised drug treatment as an alternative to jail or prison. The local area substance abuse authorities and private contractors provide treatment services. Drug Boards is an administrative process similar to Drug Courts, but is offered by the Board of Pardons and Parole in the correctional system to individuals on probation or parole. This line item of appropriation is entirely funded from the General Fund Restricted - Tobacco Settlement Account, according to a statutory distribution formula.

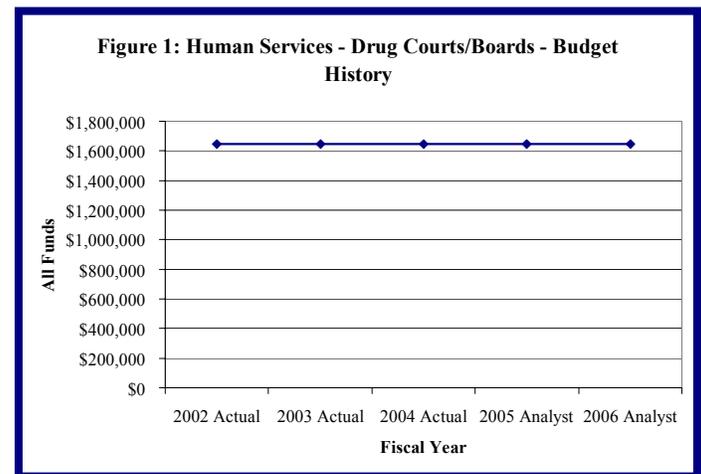
ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Additional Funding Needs

To fully fund treatment for all persons eligible for drug courts and drug boards, estimate have ranged upwards of \$20 million. There is no department request to increase the State's direct support of drug courts and boards.

Drug Offenders Reform Act

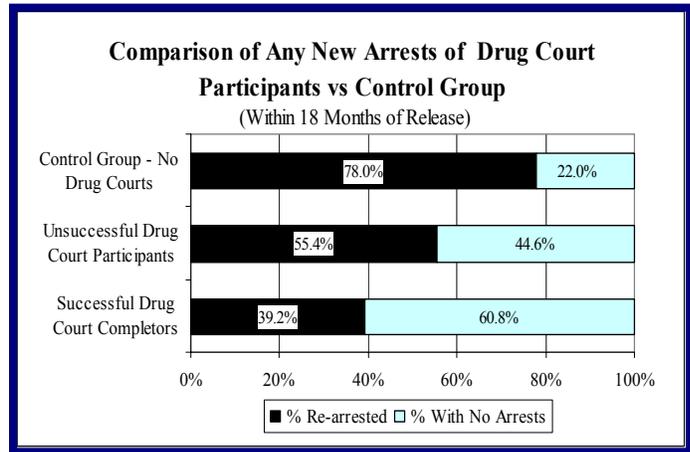
Approximately 85 percent of Utah's prison population has a drug abuse problem related to crimes committed. The 2005 Legislature will again consider the Drug Offenders Reform Act (DORA), which is a plan to increase funding for drug treatment to people in the corrections system by \$16.6 million (General Fund) over three years. The majority of these funds would be used for evaluation and treatment for prison and jail inmates, with a portion set aside for expansion of drug courts.



ACCOUNTABILITY DETAIL

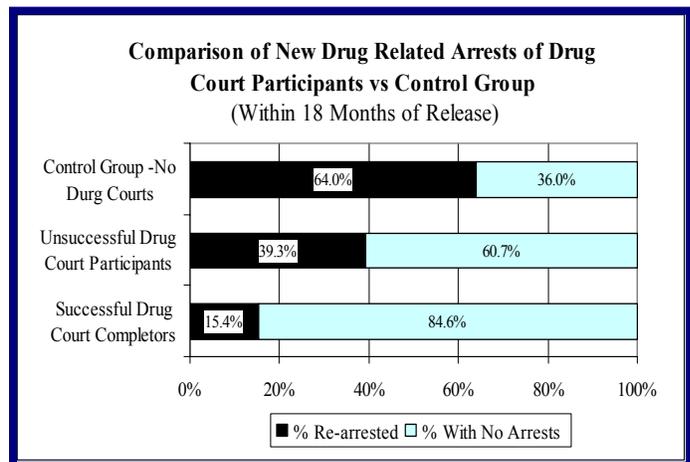
Drug Courts: New Arrests for Crime after Treatment

The chart on the right represents data from a 2001 study of the Salt Lake Drug Court. The study tracked three groups for 18 months to find out the percentage re-arrested for any new crime. The group of successful drug court completers showed a 39% re-arrest rate within 18 months of release. The group of drug court participants who did not complete the program had a 55% re-arrest rate. The control group of non-participant inmates had a 78% re-arrest rate.



Drug Court: New Arrests for Drug Related Crimes

This chart, based on the same Salt Lake Drug Court report, shows the same three groups and their arrests for any new drug-related crime within 18 months of release. The successful completers had a drug-related new arrest rate of 15.4%, the unsuccessful participants' rate was 39.3%, and the control group of non-participants had a drug-related crime arrest rate of 64%.



BUDGET DETAIL***Budget Recommendations***

The Analyst recommends an FY 2006 appropriation for the Drug Court and Drug Board line item of appropriation totaling approximately \$1.6 million, all from the Tobacco Settlement Account. This is the same amount that has been appropriated since the 2000 Legislature passed S.B.15 which iterates the distribution of the State's share of the tobacco settlement funds.

Intent Language

Funds appropriated to Drug Courts/Drug Boards from the Tobacco Settlement Restricted Account for FY 2005 are non-lapsing.

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

1. The Analyst recommends a base budget for the Drug Court and Drug Board line item of appropriation totaling \$1,647,200 from General Fund Restricted - Tobacco Settlement Account as detailed in the Budget Detail Table.
2. Consider above listed intent language to grant non-lapsing authority for both FY 2005 and FY 2006, as in prior years.

BUDGET DETAIL TABLE

Human Services - Drug Courts/Boards						
	FY 2004	FY 2005		FY 2005		FY 2006
Sources of Finance	Actual	Appropriated	Changes	Revised	Changes	Analyst*
GFR - Tobacco Settlement	1,647,200	1,647,200	0	1,647,200	0	1,647,200
Total	\$1,647,200	\$1,647,200	\$0	\$1,647,200	\$0	\$1,647,200
Programs						
Drug Board	350,900	350,900	0	350,900	0	350,900
Drug Courts	1,296,300	1,296,300	0	1,296,300	0	1,296,300
Total	\$1,647,200	\$1,647,200	\$0	\$1,647,200	\$0	\$1,647,200
Categories of Expenditure						
Other Charges/Pass Thru	1,647,200	1,647,200	0	1,647,200	0	1,647,200
Total	\$1,647,200	\$1,647,200	\$0	\$1,647,200	\$0	\$1,647,200

*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.