


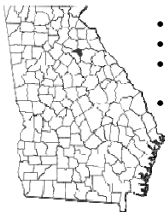
Athens-Clarke County DUI/Drug Court:
A Police Perspective of Experiences & Outcomes



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Athens-Clarke County Demographics



- Entertainment/Medical Hub for 17 counties (2007 population: 593,569)
- Smallest (in area) of Georgia's 159 counties
- Unified city and county government
- Population: 111,706 (2008 estimate)

• <u>Demographics</u>	
Identify as Black:	26.1%
Identify as White:	66.9%
Identify as Hispanic/Latino:	8.9%
Individuals below Poverty:	29.4%

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The Need for Innovation

- Stakeholders realized that:
 - Within the county, the large number of entertainment spots dispensing alcohol (300+) increases the potential for DUI offenses;
 - DUI offenders posed a significant danger to the community's safety
 - The threat of jail time was not sufficient to deter a number of DUI offenders ;
 - Incarceration alone will not reduce repeat offenders and the behavioral factors of DUI;
 - Repeat offenders placed an additional strain upon multiple components of the Criminal Justice System;
 - Reduced DUI recidivism was a police and court goal;

Thus, a new coordinated approach was needed to address the **behavioral and environmental** factors of DUI

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DUI Court Planning Team

- Judge(s)
- Prosecutor(s)
- Defense Counselor(s)
- Treatment Representative(s)
- DUI/Drug Court Coordinator(s)
- Expert(s) in Research/Evaluation
- Probation/Supervision
- Law Enforcement

Source: The DWI Court Reporter (June 2008)

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The Need for Effective Collaboration

- Collaborative Model: The individual (or entity) shares responsibility with community members (other stakeholders) and they lead the problem solving process.
- Collaboration involves a formal, sustained commitment to work together to accomplish a common mission.
- For police, collaboration involves working with community members (and entities) who have a vested interest in the problem and who are willing to commit resources toward its solution.
- In collaboration all participants invest time, talents, and resources into making the solution a reality as contrasted with cooperation.

Source: Collaborative Problem Solving (COPS, 1996)

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Collaboration

<p><u>Advantages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improves knowledge - Broadens community contacts - Saves police resources - Transfers responsibility to residents - Builds support for police - Generates funding and supplies - Builds trust in police - Expands response options 	<p><u>Disadvantages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Causes Frustration - Creates unwanted responses - Involves personal agendas
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Source: Collaborative Problem Solving (COPS, 1996)

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Collaboration vs. Cooperation

- Active vs. Passive
- Both involve people with similar goals
- Both involve deciding on a solution to a problem
- In collaboration, though, all participants invest time, talents, and resources into making the solution a reality

Source: Collaborative Problem Solving (COPS, 1996)

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The Athens-Clarke County Experience

- Initial rate of recidivism in early group was less than 3%
- Average number of convictions per participant: 5
- Program requires:
 - Individual Accountability
 - Enhanced Supervision
 - Extended counseling and treatment (for a minimum of 12 months)
 - Frequent and random drug testing
 - Direct contact with a judge (minimum two times per month)

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By the Numbers

- Study Findings after Two (2) Years of Operation:
 - Recidivism rate of 3% as compared to 13% in contemporary group (matched groups in other counties)
 - Recidivism rate of 24% in retrospective group
 - 11% terminated in first two (2) years of operation
 - In first 6 years of operation, not a single graduate received a new DUI conviction
- Current State of Affairs:
 - Recidivism rate is still approx. 3%
 - 85 offenders are in the current program
 - Over 500 high-risk offenders have been in the program
 - Over 200 offenders have graduated from the program
 - 135 offenders have been terminated from the program since its inception

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Program Operation

- An individual may qualify for the program if:
 - They are involved with a 3rd lifetime DUI
 - 2nd in 5 years DUI
 - Exhibit a combination of criminal acts and substance abuse that indicate a need for enhanced supervision
 - Fast Track of offenders – Defendant must see the immediacy of trial
- In exchange for an individual's adherence to the program's firm guidelines and requirements, participants receive certain tangible benefits (e.g., reduced jail sentences), but may receive longer actual time in jail from sanctions for non-compliance.

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Phases of the Program

- **Phase I:**
Jail, Orientation, and Intake
- **Phase II:**
Extended Assessment and Pretreatment Tasks
(minimum 8 weeks)
- **Phase III:**
Active Treatment and Early Recovery
(minimum 24 weeks)
- **Phase IV:**
Relapse Prevention
(minimum 16 weeks)
- **Phase V:**
Continuation of Care and Maintenance
(until graduation)

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Law Enforcement Perspective

- The results produced by the DUI Court have significantly improved the overall public safety of Athens-Clarke County
- Decreased levels of DUI among participants.
- Jail cost avoidance savings estimated at approx. \$100,000 per year.
- Returns the offender to the community as a tax payer and not a tax taker.
- Graduates are less likely to pose a potential public danger in the future.
- One Officer noted:
"It was common for more than one of our officers to have arrested the same offender for DUI in a relatively short period of time; this does not appear to be the case as it once was."
- Participants describe the program as:
An "insurance policy"
Means of "obtaining a good look at self"
Means for a "different outlook on life."

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Insights

- Requires probationary and police surveillance
- 4th Amendment Waiver
- Feedback mechanism to police officers
- Access to a drug lab administered by the Court
- The Judge is important as a motivator
- Prosecuting Attorney is the gatekeeper

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Insights (Continued)

- Time in jail, in and of itself, will not correct substance abuse drivers
- In general, 18 months is required to develop behavior and cultural change
- You cannot test participants too much (3 to 5 random tests a week)
- You must conduct surveillance and house checks at least once a quarter

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Training Options

For 2010, the following training programs have been scheduled by the National Center for DWI Courts:

- **3½ Day Training Programs:**
(designed for teams that are *not* currently operating a drug or DWI Court)

April 26-29, 2010	Springfield, MO
August 2-5, 2010	Traverse City, MI
September 21-24, 2010	Athens, GA
- **1 Day Training Programs:**
(designed for *operational* Drug Court teams that would like to expand their target population to include impaired drivers)

June 21, 2010	Salt Lake City, UT
October 8, 2010	Washington, D.C.

Source: <http://www.dwicourts.org/resources/training-programs>

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Questions

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