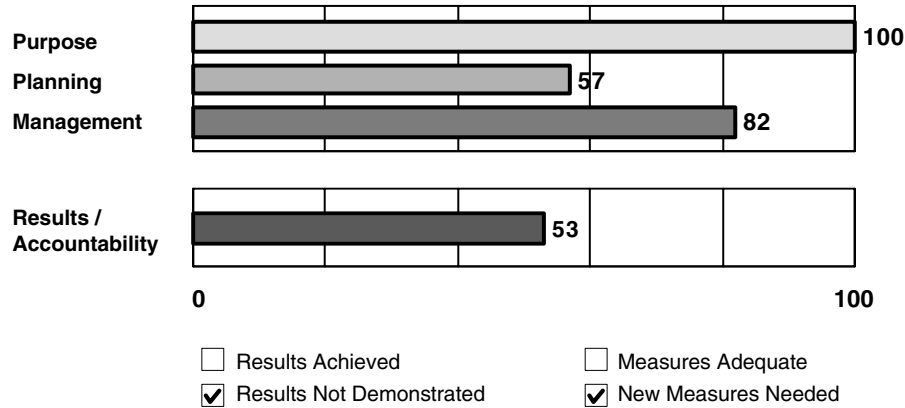


Program: Drug Courts

Agency: Department of Justice

Bureau: Office of Justice Programs



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

Measure	Year	Target	Actual
Long-term Measures: Measures under development			
Number of drug courts that become operational	2001	56	49
	2002	50	46
	2003	50	
	2004	55	
Percentage of drug-court participants who remain arrest-free	2001	80%	80%
	2002	80%	80%
	2003	80%	
	2004	80%	

Rating: Results Not Demonstrated

Program Type: Competitive Grants

Program Summary:

Drug Court provides grants and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal governments to implement "drug courts." These courts break the cycle of substance abuse and crime by providing non-violent offenders with substance abuse treatment while keeping them under court supervision, including drug testing.

The assessment indicates that the Drug Court program has identified good long-term objectives: improving public safety and reducing recidivism in drug court communities. However it has not specified measures or timelines for these objectives. Additional findings include:

1. Annual performance measures are focused on outputs, i.e. the number of active courts, instead of grantees' effectiveness or quality.
2. From a financial management standpoint, Drug Courts is one of the better managed programs in the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), with few obvious weaknesses. Like other OJP programs, a fair number of grantees fail to submit required status reports or performance data. However, the limited number of grantees makes it possible to correct this problem by taking such actions as withholding funds from grantees who are non-compliant.
3. The program appears to have achieved its target recidivism rate over the last few years, though this only tracks offenders currently in the program. Independent studies of drug courts indicate that they provide an effective intervention to substance abusers who might not otherwise receive treatment, and generally result in lower recidivism rates. Still, more attention is needed to track how participants fare after they complete the program.

In response to these findings, the agency will:

1. Develop measures for the long-term goals of improving public safety and reducing recidivism.
2. Determine how many additional drug court programs are needed to reach these goals enough, which could be based on the optimal number of jurisdictions covered or the total offender capacity.
3. Improve grantees' performance reporting.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate
50	52	68