NEBRASKA ADULT PROBLEM-SOLVING COURT RECIDIVISM STUDY

FY 2018-FY 2020

STATE OF NEBRASKA JUDICIAL BRANCH

MARCH 2025

Executive Summary

The following evaluation sought to measure the outcomes of adult participants in Nebraska's problem-solving courts, as measured by successful completion and recidivism. To be included in the study, a problem-solving court had to be operational between FY 2018 and FY 2020 and have at least ten program completers during the study period. Participants from eleven of Nebraska's adult drug courts and the Douglas County Young Adult Court are included in the study.

Key findings are summarized below:

Demographics and Placement

- Most problem-solving court participants in the study sample are White males between the ages of 26 and 34.
- Most participants entered the problem-solving court program as a result of a felony drug offense.
- The majority of problem-solving court participants were classified as high or very high risk to reoffend on the LS/CMI risk assessment tool at program entry. Targeting individuals who are high-risk with high needs aligns with national best practices for treatment courts.

Completion Status and Length of Stay

- During the study period, nearly sixty percent of the participants successfully completed the program. One-quarter were terminated from the problem-solving court, and the remainder were discharged for other reasons.
- The average length of stay for all problem-solving court participants during the study period was 18.5 months, with graduates spending 23.2 months, on average, in the program and non-graduates spending 11.7 months, on average.

Recidivism of Problem-Solving Court Participants Compared to a Matched Probation Sample

- The recidivism rates of problem-solving court participants were examined compared to a matched sample of probationers during the study period. The three-year, post-program recidivism rates of the matched problem-solving court participants to the probation sample were 20.0% and 26.3%, respectively. The difference between the problem-solving group and the matched probation sample was statistically significant.

Recidivism of Problem-Solving Court Graduates and Non-Graduates

- Based on the recidivism definition adopted by the AOCP, the three-year problem-solving court recidivism rate of program graduates during the study period was 15.5%. The three-year recidivism rate of non-graduates was 26.5%. The difference in recidivism rates between graduates and non-graduates was statistically significant.

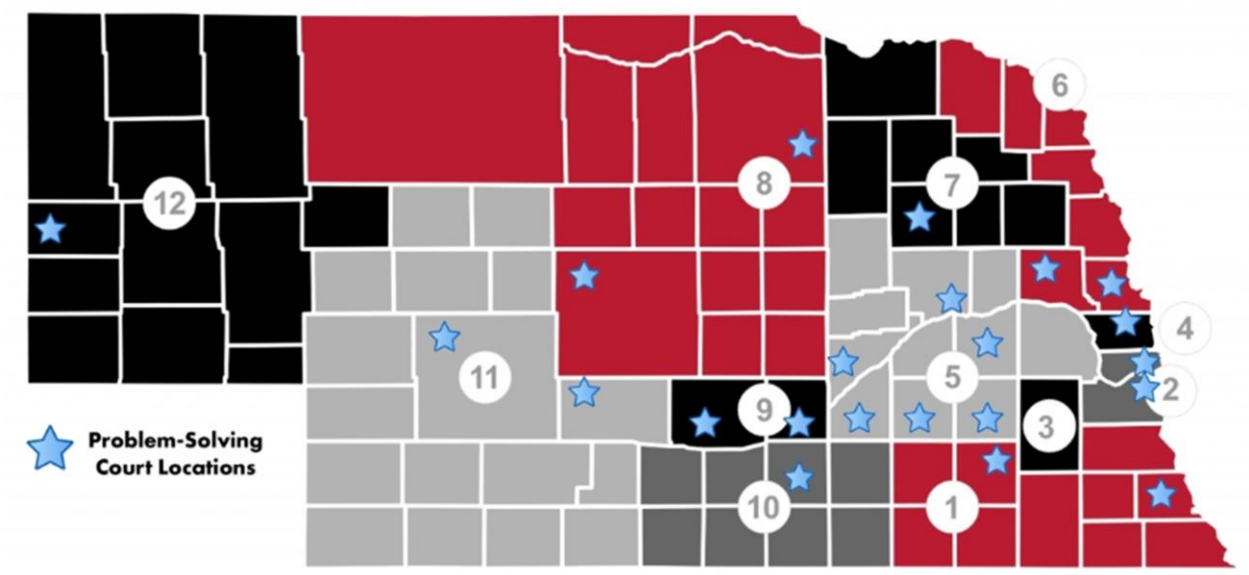
Introduction and Background

The first drug court in the United States began operating in 1989 in response to the increasing number of drug-related court cases entering and cycling through the criminal justice system. Since then, problem-solving courts have proliferated at a remarkable rate nationally, growing in aggregate number by 24% in the past five years (Marlowe et al., 2016). More than 3,000 problem-solving courts operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Problem-solving courts have been operating in Nebraska since 1997. They can only be established with the approval of the Nebraska Supreme Court. All Nebraska problem-solving courts adhere to established standards. Nebraska problem-solving court models include Adult Drug and DUI Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, Reentry Courts, Juvenile Drug Courts, Young Adult Courts, Mental Health Courts, and Family Treatment Courts.

Nebraska problem-solving courts operate within the district, county, or juvenile courts in all 12 Nebraska Judicial Districts. Most problem-solving courts in Nebraska operate under the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation (AOCP), with the exception of the adult drug courts in Douglas and Lancaster Counties. Family Treatment Courts (FTC) typically operate within both the Courts and the Department of Health and Human Services. Problem-solving courts are post-plea or post-adjudicatory intensive supervision treatment programs designed for high-risk and high-need individuals.

Figure 1: Nebraska Problem-Solving Court Statewide Map



Problem-solving courts reduce recidivism and increase community safety through a comprehensive and coordinated court response utilizing early assessment and intervention, individualized treatment, intensive community supervision, and consistent judicial oversight. Nebraska Problem-Solving Courts operate under a team approach where a judge, prosecutor, defense counsel, coordinator, community supervision officer, law enforcement, and treatment provider(s) work together to design an individualized program. Treatment is provided through a collaborative, team-based approach that identifies the specific needs of individuals and uses screening tools to develop customized programs designed to help the participants return to a

healthy, productive life and avoid reincarceration. Compliance with treatment and court orders is verified by frequent alcohol/drug testing, community supervision, home and field visits, and frequent interaction with a Judge in non-adversarial court review hearings.

PROJECT APPROACH

The Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation contracted with Rulo Strategies to complete the recidivism analysis. The primary purpose of the recidivism analysis was to answer key impact questions related to the adult drug courts and the Young Adult Court operating in Nebraska. Specifically, the evaluation sought to answer the following questions:

- Who was served by Nebraska's adult drug courts and Young Adult Court during the study period?
- How do participants exit Nebraska's adult drug courts and Young Adult Court, and what participant characteristics are associated with successful completion?
- How does the recidivism rate of Nebraska's adult drug courts and Young Adult Court compare to the recidivism rates of a matched probation sample?
- What participant characteristics are associated with lower recidivism rates?

COURTS INCLUDED IN THE STUDY

Nationally, problem-solving courts have demonstrated the ability to reduce recidivism and substance abuse among individuals who are at high risk for recidivism and have a high level of treatment needs. The following evaluation sought to measure the outcomes of adult participants in Nebraska's adult drug courts and Young Adult Court, as measured by successful completion and recidivism. To be included in the study, a problem-solving court had to be operational between FY 2018 and FY 2020 and have at least ten program completers during the study period. The problem-solving courts that met these criteria were:

- Central Nebraska Adult Drug Court
- District 6 Adult Drug Court
- Douglas County Adult Drug Court
- Douglas County Young Adult Court
- Fifth (5th) District Problem Solving Court
- Lancaster County Adult Drug Court
- Midwest Nebraska Adult Drug Court
- North Central Adult Drug Court
- Northeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court
- Sarpy County Adult Drug Court
- Scotts Bluff County Adult Drug Court
- Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court

SOURCES OF DATA

The following data sources were used.

Participant Information

Participant demographics and assessment information, including Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) data, was collected from the Nebraska Probation Applications Community Safety (NPACS) case management system. This information was used to describe the study population and understand how participant factors impact program outcomes.

"Business as Usual" Comparison Group Information

Data from NPACS was used to identify a comparison group that had completed probation during the study period. The initial pool of potential comparison group participants was identified based on drug-court-eligible offenses. LS/CMI scores, gender, age, and race were used to further identify an appropriate comparison group to the problem-solving court participants. Corresponding demographic information, entry and completion dates, and LS/CMI information were collected from NPACS for each individual in the comparison group.

Recidivism Data

At the time the study was conducted, comprehensive recidivism data for this study could not be obtained through a statewide or national criminal history repository. As a result, recidivism data was obtained from the court's case management system.

STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Throughout this report, the term "statistically significant" is used. In any analysis, there is a possibility that a result is simply due to random chance or error, even if it looks convincing. A statistically significant result shows strong evidence that a relationship is not due simply to random chance. We can more confidently say a result is true when it is statistically significant. The smaller the p-value, the more confident we are that the result is reliable. The conventional, accepted p-value of a statistically significant result is .05, although p-values between .10 and .051 are described in the report as approaching significance. *Table 1* explains the p-values found throughout this report.

Table 1: Explanation of Statistical Significance

p-value	Possibility Finding is a Result of Chance/Error	Possibility Finding is the Result of Factors Studied
.05	5%	95%
.01	1%	99%
.001	0.1%	99.9%

Participant and Placement Offense Characteristics

In the following section, we examine the characteristics of Nebraska's problem-solving court participants, including demographics (gender, race, age), placement offense information, and risk assessment. The data in this section reflects the full sample of participants (n=969) who completed a problem-solving court program during the study period (FY 2018–FY 2020) instead of the matched sample later used in this report for the recidivism analysis. Consequently, these data provide the most valid and comprehensive picture of problem-solving court participants during the study period.

DEMOGRAPHICS

During the study period, Nebraska's adult problem-solving court participants were 63.6% male and 36.4% female (see *Table 2)*. The largest proportion of adult problem-solving court participants during the study period were 26 to 34 years old at entry (48.7%), followed by 35 to 44 years old at entry (23.0%) and 18-25 years old at entry (13.4%). The majority of participants were White (80.0%). Participant demographics are highly related to recidivism, particularly age and gender (e.g., Lanagan & Levin, 2002). It should be noted that the effect of race is greatly diminished or disappears for some problem-solving court outcomes when factors related to race (e.g., previous criminal history, unemployment, and education) are controlled (e.g., Dannerbeck, Harris, Sundet, & Lloyd, 2006), suggesting that race is a proxy for these variables.

Table 2: Demographics of Adult Problem-Solving Court Completers

	Number	Percent
GENDER		
Male	616	63.6%
Female	353	36.4%
AGE		
18-25	130	13.4%
26-34	472	48.7%
35-44	223	23.0%
45-54	99	10.2%
55+	45	4.6%
RACE		
White	775	80.0%
Non-white	194	20.0%

*Non-white includes Black (8.5%), American Indian or Alaskan Native (1.8%), Asian/Pacific Islander (0.5%), and Other (80.0%)

PLACEMENT OFFENSE

Nebraska's problem-solving courts accept a variety of placement offenses. *Table 3* shows the types of placement offenses entering Nebraska's adult problem-solving courts during the study period. The most common placement offense types were drug offenses (80.1%) and property offenses (12.2%). Examples of the types of offenses included in each category can be found in *Appendix A*.

Table 3: Placement Offense of Adult Problem-Solving Court Completers, FY18–FY20 (N=969)

	Number	Percent
Drug Offense	776	80.1%
Property Offense	118	12.2%

Person	27	2.8%
Public Order	18	1.9%
DUI	10	1.0%
Driving	4	0.4%
Violation of Court Order	4	0.4%
Other	12	1.2%

*Participants may have multiple placement offense types reflected in the data.

PLACEMENT OFFENSE SEVERITY

Most participants entered a Nebraska problem-solving court on a felony-level offense (98.8%) (see *Table 4*).

Table 4: Placement Offense Classification Severity for Adult Problem-Solving Court Completers

Placement Offense Classification Severity*	Number of Offense Classification Severity for All Problem-Solving Court Participants	% of Offense Classification Severity for All Problem-Solving Court Participants
Felony	957	98.8%
Misdemeanor	12	1.2%

SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

Evidence-based screening and assessment protocols can help match each participant to an appropriate type and intensity of intervention. Administration of an empirically based and validated risk and needs assessment tool is the foundation of effective screening and assessment. Risk assessments measure the likelihood that a defendant will re-offend, and needs assessments identify a person's criminogenic needs (i.e., factors that are strongly correlated with criminal behavior, such as drug addiction, antisocial attitudes, and associates, lack of problem-solving skills, lack of education, or lack of job skills). Modern assessment tools measure static (those things that cannot be changed, such as age and criminal history) and dynamic (those that can be changed, such as drug addiction and anti-social attitudes) risk factors.

The screening and assessment results should determine who receives services and what services should be provided. Individuals assessed at medium- to high risk of reoffending are more likely to benefit from a correctional intervention than those assessed at low risk of reoffending (Andrews et al., 2006; Lowenkamp et al., 2005; Lowenkamp et al., 2006). Research suggests that delivering intensive supervision and programming to low-risk probationers can be counterproductive. Intensive interventions risk disrupting established prosocial behaviors, activities, or relationships (such as jobs, school, parenting, or religious observances). Moreover, placing low-risk probationers in programming alongside high-risk probationers risks exposing low-risk probationers to individuals with more entrenched antisocial attitudes. In doing so, agencies can increase a low-risk probationer's likelihood of offending (Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2004).

In Nebraska, the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) is used as the statewide case management and assessment tool to measure the risk and needs of individuals under probation supervision. The LS/CMI assesses eight domains (Andrews & Bonta, 1995), including Criminal History, Education/Employment, Family/Marital, Leisure/Recreation, Companions, Alcohol/Drug Problem, Procriminal Attitude, and Antisocial Pattern. Problem-solving court participants' risk was assessed at program entry, after six months, and again around 12 months after program entry.

Table 5 displays the percentage of the Nebraska problem-solving court sample assigned to each LS/CMI risk level at program entry using the Nebraska cutoffs. Nebraska classifies participants with an LS/CMI score between 0–4 as Very Low, 5–10 as Low, 11–19 as Medium, 20–29 as High, and 30–43 as Very High. Most participants were high or very high risk to reoffend (73.7%), while only 6.4% were low risk.

Table 5: LS/CMI Risk Scores at Program Entry for Problem-Solving Court Completers

	Number	Percent
LS/CMI SCORE		
Very High	284	29.3%
High	430	44.4%
Medium-High	90	9.3%
Medium Low	103	10.6%
Low	54	5.6%
Very Low	8	0.8%

Completion Rates

The following section outlines program completion rates of adult problem-solving court participants during the study period.

TYPE OF PROGRAM EXIT

Figure 2 shows that 59.1% of the problem-solving court participants exited successfully from their problem-solving court program through graduation. Another 25.0% were terminated unsuccessfully, and 15.9% exited by other means (voluntary withdrawal or discharge).

Figure 2: Type of Program Exit

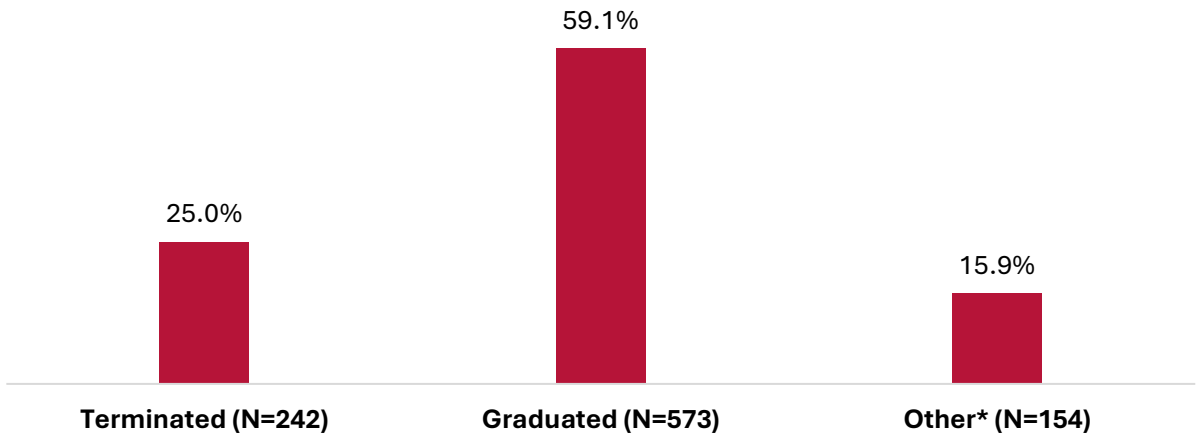


Table 6 shows the gender and risk level of participants who graduated from their problem-solving court program successfully. Fifty-eight percent of male participants and 61.2% of female participants graduated. Age was closely associated with the likelihood of successfully completing problem-solving court, with only 43.8% of 18-25-year-olds successfully completing their problem-solving court compared to 71.1% of adults aged 55 and older. Of participants who exited successfully, only 48.2% of the participants who were assessed as very high risk to re-offend, and 56.0% of those at high risk to re-offend successfully completed the program compared to 71.1% of those who were a medium-high risk to re-offend. The differences in successful completion rates based on assessed risk levels were statistically significant.

Table 6: Type of Program Exit by Gender and Risk Level, Adult Problem-Solving Court Completers

	Successful Completion	
	Number	Percent
GENDER		
Male (n=616)	357	58.0%
Female (n=353)	216	61.2%
AGE AT PLACEMENT		
18-25 (n=130)	57	43.8%***
26-34 (n=472)	279	59.1%***
35-44 (n=223)	137	61.4%***
45-54 (n=99)	68	68.7%***
55+ (n=45)	32	71.1%***

RACE		
White (n=775)	484	62.5%
Non-White (n=194)	89	45.9%***
LS/CMI SCORE		
Very High (n=284)	137	48.2%***
High (n=430)	241	56.0%
Medium-High (n=90)	64	71.1%***
Medium Low (n=103)	80	77.7%
Low (n=54)	44	81.5%
Very Low (n=8)	7	87.5%***

***Significant $p < .001$

TIME IN PROGRAM

On average, all program participants (graduates and non-graduates) remained in the program for 553.6 days (18.5 months) (see *Table 7*). Graduates stayed in problem-solving court, on average, 697.5 days (23 months). Terminated participants stayed an average of 350.8 days (11.7 months) in the program. Graduates spent significantly more time in the problem-solving court program compared to non-graduates.

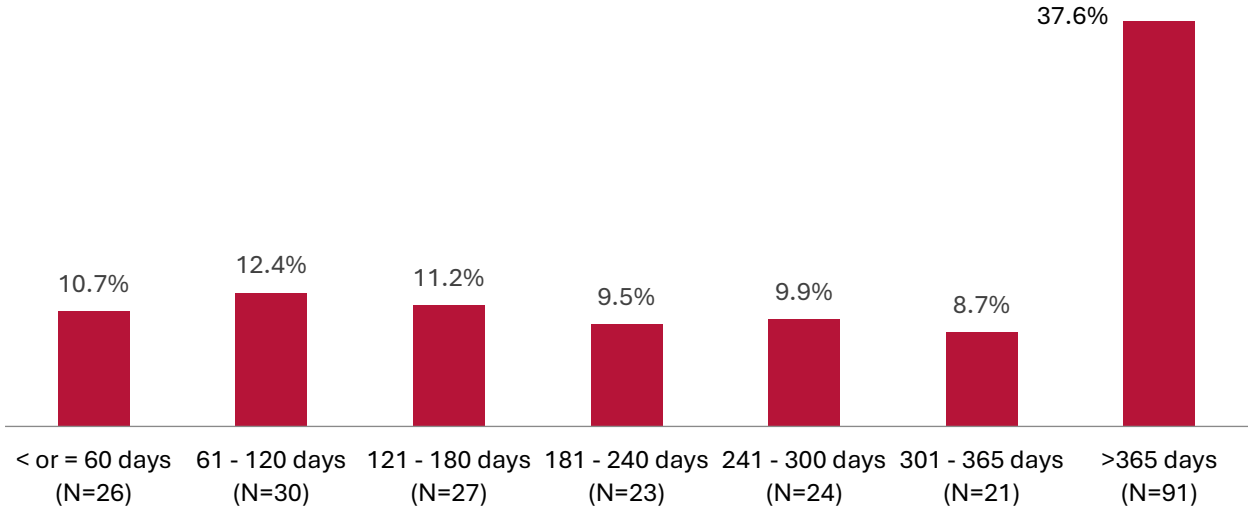
Table 7: Time in Program

	Average Length of Stay
All Participants (N=969)	18.5 months
Graduates (N=573)	23.2 months***
Terminated Participants (N=242)	11.7 months
Other* (N=154)	12.1 months

***Significant $p < .001$

A sub-analysis of the time between program entry and termination was conducted, as shown in *Figure 3,* for the 242 individuals who were terminated from problem-solving court. Only 23.1% of the terminated participants were terminated from the program within the first 120 days (four months) after entry, while (107) 41.5% were terminated between four months and one year after acceptance. The remaining 37.6% were terminated more than one year after acceptance.

Figure 3: Number of Days from Program Entry to Termination (N=242)



These data reflect that participants are not routinely terminated without being given ample time to succeed in problem-solving court. They also reflect that problem-solving courts invest resources in participants terminated late in their problem-solving court programs. Given this investment, problem-solving courts should avoid termination if at all possible.

Recidivism Rate

Two recidivism rates are reported in this section. In keeping with the Nebraska Problem-Solving Court Standards, recidivism rates, as defined by any new conviction for a Class I or II misdemeanor, a Class IV felony or above, or a Class W misdemeanor based on a violation of state law or an ordinance of any city or village enacted in conformance with state law, within 3 years of being released, regardless of completion status, are reported. Second, the recidivism rates for successful completers are provided to align with the state's definition of recidivism.

To provide context to the recidivism rates of problem-solving court participants, the recidivism rates of problem-solving court participants are also compared to a "business as usual" sample of probation completers. To ensure that the groups were "balanced," meaning that the characteristics of the problem-solving court study group were as equal as possible to the "business as usual" group, we "matched" the samples. The goal of matching is to produce two study groups that are as similar as possible to prevent unjustified extrapolation when comparing the outcomes of the two groups. Note that matching is not an estimation technique but rather a data-processing step that precedes data analysis (Ho et al., 2007).

Many methods have been developed to perform matching, but in this study, we rely on what is likely the most used method: matching on propensity scores. Propensity Score Matching (PSM) selects treated and untreated observations for analysis based on the similarity of the estimated likelihood of being in the treatment group given a set of covariates (Stuart, 2010). PSM represents a practical advance over exact matching—choosing treated-control dyads for analysis that are precisely the same on all observed characteristics—which becomes difficult or impossible when covariates are many or measured at an interval level. In the present application, the selection of treatment and control cases was performed with propensity scores estimated via logit using the following covariates: 1) placement charge (restricted to problem-solving court eligible offense); 2) LS/CMI drug and alcohol scores; 3) total LS/CMI risk score; 4) age at the time of referral; 5) gender; and 6) racial category. Propensity scores were estimated using the pooled problem-solving court and comparison group individuals to match between the groups. During the second stage, we restricted matches between groups to the jurisdictions in the study and specified one-to-one matching without replacement. Thus, the matched problem-solving court and comparison group samples are the same size overall and within the jurisdiction. The result was a matched recidivism sample of 680 problem-solving court participants and 680 probationers who completed supervision between FY2017 and FY2020.

RECIDIVISM RATES OF PROBLEM-SOLVING COURT PARTICIPANTS BY PROGRAM COMPLETION TYPE

One of the most important and interesting outcomes of a drug court program is the rate of participants who reoffend after the program. The Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation (AOCP) uses the following definition of recidivism for adult problem-solving courts:

As applied to adults, recidivism shall mean a final conviction of a Class I or II misdemeanor,

a Class IV felony or above, or a Class W misdemeanor based on a violation of state law or an ordinance of any city or village enacted in conformance with state law within 3 years of being successfully released.

Based on the recidivism definition adopted by the AOCP, the three-year problem-solving court recidivism rate of program graduates during the study period was 15.5%. The three-year problem-solving court recidivism rate of all participants was 20.0% (*Table 8*). The difference in recidivism rates between graduates and non-graduates was statistically significant. We also found statistically significant differences in the most serious offenses between graduates and non-graduates. Graduates had fewer new convictions than non-graduates (1.5 compared to 1.9) during the three-year follow-up period. They were more likely to have a misdemeanor as their most serious new offense than a felony. These differences were statistically significant.

It is important to consider that court closures and shifts in criminal justice resources due to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in 2020, may have lowered recidivism rates during the three-year follow-up period. Therefore, recidivism rates during this period may not predict future recidivism trends.

Table 8: Recidivism Rates of Problem-Solving Court Completers (N=680)

	Graduates N=401	Non-Graduates N=279	All program Completers N=680
Three-year recidivism rate	15.5%***	26.5%	20.0%
Average # of new convictions	1.5**	1.9	1.8
Most serious offense			
Felony	25.8%**	32.4%	29.4%
Misdemeanor	74.2%	67.6%	70.6%

**Significant $p < .01$, ***Significant $p < .001$

Table 9 outlines the recidivism rates of problem-solving completers by LS/CMI risk level and length of stay. The length of time spent in the program was not found to be associated with recidivism, meaning that longer time in the program did not result in reduced recidivism rates.

Table 9: Recidivism Rates of Problem-Solving Court Completers Based on Risk Level and Length of Stay (N=680)

	All program Completers N=680
LS/CMI Risk Level	
Low/Very Low	22.2%
Medium	16.4%
High/Very High	21.0%
Length of Stay	
14-17 months	15.6%
18-24 months	15.5%
Greater than 24 months	19.6%

RECIDIVISM RATES OF THE PROBLEM-SOLVING COURT PARTICIPANTS COMPARED TO BUSINESS-AS-USUAL

Table 10 compares the recidivism rates of the matched problem-solving court and probation comparison group. In this matched problem-solving court/probation sample, the three-year recidivism rate for the problem-solving court sample was 20.0%, while the three-year recidivism rate for the probation group was 26.3%. The difference in recidivism rates between the matched problem-solving court group and the matched probation comparison group was statistically significant. The individuals in the matched probation sample were more likely than the individuals in the matched problem-solving court sample to be convicted of a new felony as their most serious recidivist event during the three-year follow-up period.

Table 10: Recidivism Rate of Matched Problem-Solving Court Sample to Matched Probation Sample

	Matched Problem-Solving Court Sample	Matched Probation Sample
Recidivism rate	20.0%	26.3%**
Average # of new convictions	1.7	2.1
Average number of days to the first conviction	534 days	609 days
Most serious offense		
Felony	29.4%	46.9%
Misdemeanor	70.6%	53.1%
Breakdown of new convictions by type NOTE: May be greater than 100% as a person may be convicted of more than one offense type		
Drug offense	12.2%	14.9%
DUI offense	13.9%	9.2%
Property offense	25.6%	17.9%
Person offense	6.3%	11.4%
Public Order offense	20.6%	12.5%
Driving offense	2.9%	11.7%
Violation of a court order	2.1%	3.0%
Firearm/Weapon offense	1.3%	2.2%
Other offense	15.1%	17.2%

**Significant $p < .01$

The evaluation team conducted a hierarchical binary logistic regression to assess which individual-level variables predict three-year post-program recidivism. Chi-square analyses were run to determine which participant-level variables were related to three-year post-program recidivism. Participant-level variables significantly related to recidivism were included in the full models. It should be noted that while the sample size of participants used in the recidivism models is large enough to conduct the evaluation analysis, a larger sample size may result in more robust findings.

As displayed in *Table 11* below, four individual-level variables significantly predicted three-year post-program recidivism in the full model. Controlling for all other factors entered into the model, participants who were older and who successfully completed the problem-solving court program (compared to those who did not) were less likely to recidivate. In contrast, participants who scored high or very high risk to reoffend on the LS/CMI (compared to those who scored low/medium risk) were likely to recidivate within three years of program exit.

It is important to note that the length of time in the program was included in the model and was not found to be associated with recidivism.

Table 6: Participant Characteristics Predicting Three-Year Recidivism

Participant Characteristics	Impact	Significance Level *P*
Age	For each one-year increase in participant age, the odds of three-year post-program recidivism decreased by 4%.	p = .003
LS/CMI risk – High Risk	The odds of three-year post-program recidivism for a participant who scored high risk on the LS/CMI at program entry are 146% higher than the odds of a participant who scored low/medium risk on the LS/CMI at program entry.	p = .039
LS/CMI risk – Very High Risk	The odds of three-year post-program recidivism for a participant who scored very high risk on the LS/CMI at program entry are 240% higher than the odds of a participant who scored low/medium risk on the LS/CMI at program entry.	p < .001
Discharge Status	The odds of three-year post-program recidivism for a participant who completes the program are 40% lower than the odds of a participant who did not successfully complete the program.	p = .009

Appendix A: Explanation of Offense Categories

Table 7: Explanation of Offense Categories

Offense Category	Examples of Offenses within this Category
Driving	Driving during revocation Leave accident – failing to furnish information No proof of insurance Operate motor vehicle/avoid arrest
Drug Offense	Controlled substance use/possession Controlled substance manufacturing/distribution No drug tax stamp Other drug offense
DUI	DUI Refuse to submit to test
Firearm/Weapon	Possess a deadly weapon-prohibited person
Person Offense	Assault and battery Commit child abuse negligently Domestic assault Labor/Sex Trafficking Robbery Strangulation
Property Offense	Bad Checks Burglary Credit card fraud Criminal trespass Conceal merchandise Forgery Insure or destroy the property of another Obtaining money by fraud Possess burglar's tools Steal money or goods Shoplifting Theft
Public Order	Bribery Carry concealed weapon-1st offense Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor Criminal Mischief Dumping Trash Drunk in Public Escape False reporting of information Making false statements to a police officer Obstruct the administration of the law Prostitution/Soliciting for prostitution Resisting arrest Terroristic threats Tamper with physical evidence Trespassing

Offense Category	Examples of Offenses within this Category
	Vandalism Weapons
Other	Attempt/conspiracy/solicitation to commit misdemeanor or felony
Violation of a Court Order	Failure to appear in court Sex offender registration act violation Violation of probation Violation of protective order

Technical Appendix: Detailed Analysis

Table 8: Demographic Variables Considered for the Recidivism Analysis

Participant Factors	Explanation
Gender (compared to male)	Male = 0 Female = 1
Age	Continuous
Race (compared to White)	White = 0 Non-White = 1
Placement Offense Category (compared to Drug)	Drug = 0 Property = 1 Other = 2
LS/CMI Risk Category (compared to Low/Medium Risk)	Low/Medium Risk = 0 High Risk = 1 Very High Risk = 2
Criminal History score	Continuous
Companions score	Continuous
Procriminal Attitude score	Continuous
Leisure/Recreation score	Continuous
Alcohol/Drug Problem score	Continuous
Antisocial pattern score	Continuous
Days in drug court as continuous	Continuous

Table 9: Comparison of Baseline Sample Differences: Original vs. Matched Samples, Probation

Matching Status	Original Sample		Matched Sample	
	Problem-Solving Court	Probation Comparison Group	Problem-Solving Court	Probation Comparison Group
Number of Defendants	949	3,089	680	680
Demographics				
Age (mean, in years)	30	34.9	29.8	30.8
Gender				
Male	63.6%	71.9%	63.4%	59.3%
Female	36.4%	28.1%	36.6%	40.7%
Race				
White	80.0%	77.7%	77.9%	79.3%
Nonwhite	20.0%	22.3%	22.1%	20.7%
Risk (mean)				
Total Risk Score (LS/CMI)	24.1	22.7	22.4	23.7
Alcohol Drug Problem	5.8	4.7	5.6	5.2
Antisocial Pattern	1.8	1.9	1.6	2.1
Companions	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0
Criminal History	4.0	4.6	3.8	4.7
Education Employment	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.5
Family Marital	2.4	2.0	2.2	2.0
Leisure Recreation	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5
Pro-criminal Attitude	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.7
Court (frequency)				
Central Nebraska Adult Drug Court	181	491	137	137
District 6 Adult Drug Court	61	138	39	39
Douglas County Adult Drug Court	181	927	155	155
Douglas County Young Adult Court	70	222	60	60
Fifth (5th) District Problem Solving Court	27	166	20	20
Lancaster County Adult Drug Court	137	357	78	78
Midwest Nebraska Adult Drug Court	92	170	59	59
North Central Adult Drug Court	29	63	17	17
Northeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court	56	191	46	46
Sarpy County Adult Drug Court	33	155	29	29
Scotts Bluff County Adult Drug Court	16	107	13	13
Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court	28	102	27	27

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