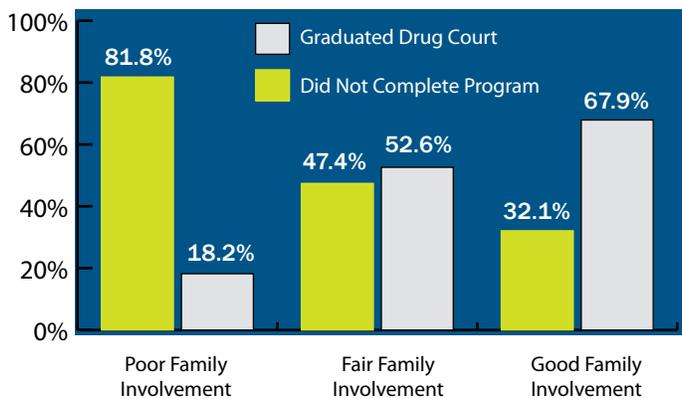




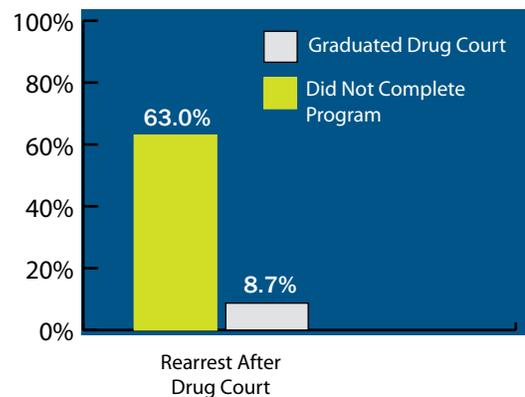
## Family Support Linked to Success in Juvenile Drug Court Program

Greater parental involvement is associated with increased rates of graduation from juvenile drug court and reduced recidivism after program completion, according to new findings from a study of one juvenile drug court in Texas.<sup>1</sup> Parents' participation was categorized as poor, fair, good, or excellent<sup>2</sup> with regard to the level of involvement in their child's drug court program.<sup>3</sup> As family involvement increased, youth were more likely to graduate from the program. Among participants whose families were in the poor-family-involvement group, only 18.2% graduated from the program. For those with families in the fair-family-involvement group, 52.6% graduated. Finally, for those with families in the good-family-involvement group, 67.9% graduated. Within 12 months of program completion or unsuccessful termination, youth who graduated were much less likely to be rearrested than those who did not (8.7% vs. 63.0%). Authors advocate for policies that utilize positive reinforcement as a method to increase parental involvement and program compliance while their children are involved in drug court programs.

**Juvenile Drug Court Program Completion Rates, by Family Involvement Category**



**Rearrest Rates Among Juvenile Drug Court Program Non-Completers and Graduates**



**Source:**

Alarid, L. F., Montemayor, C. D., and Dannhaus, S. (2012). The effect of parental support on juvenile drug court completion and postprogram recidivism. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 10 (4), 354-369.

**Notes:**

- <sup>1</sup> The study included 108 participants in the juvenile drug court program.
- <sup>2</sup> There were no participants whose parental involvement was categorized as excellent.
- <sup>3</sup> Family involvement was measured by probation officers' assessments of program compliance and parent behavior (i.e., contacting probation officers, attending counseling sessions, attending court dates, involvement with youth's school, and holding youth accountable).

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at [www.centerforhealthandjustice.org](http://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org).

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