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Real Help for Addicted Offenders: Further Evidence from the Calgary Drug Treatment Court



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Calgary Drug Treatment Court Crime Reduction Outcomes Fact Sheet

The Calgary Drug Treatment Court (CDTC) opened in 2007, providing the only community alternative to incarceration for non-violent drug-addicted offenders whose crimes are driven by addiction. Calgary Drug Treatment Court provides an evidence-informed program that integrates court intervention and treatment services to assist participants to end the cycle of active addiction, crime, and incarceration in their lives, and return to family, work, and community.

The cohort of interest in this study consists of 87 participants who graduated from the Calgary Drug Treatment Court Program during the 9+ year period between April 1, 2010 and June 30, 2019.

CDTC Crime-related Outcomes

The analysis includes post-program convictions during an average period of 3.84 years. The time that elapsed between graduation and June 30th, 2019 (the study end date) for this cohort ranges from 3 months to 9 years and averages 3.84 years.

76% had no new substantive convictions after graduation

Data on criminal convictions for these graduates showed:

- 66.7% had no convictions for any new offences since graduation. When those with only administration of justice offence convictions¹ and those with a single conviction for simple drug possession are excluded, 75.9% had no new criminal convictions since graduation.
- Graduates had a total of 2,803 convictions prior to program admission and 279 convictions following graduation.
- When comparing only those convictions incurred during the equivalent period of time prior to admission as the time elapsed following graduation, these graduates had a total of 1163 pre-program convictions compared to 279 post-program convictions. This equivalent pre/post comparison shows a decrease of 76.1% in convictions at an average 3.84 years post-graduation.²
- When graduates are grouped by the number of years since they graduated to understand the length of time free from convictions, nearly 70% who graduated between 3 and 4 years before the study end date (n=50) had no new convictions.
- The program's graduation rate is 51.6% (2016-2019).

¹ Administration of justice convictions include failing to comply with a term of probation and failing to comply with a term of a Judicial Interim Release (Bail) Order.

² The percentage decrease in convictions is calculated by determining the period of time between graduation and the end of the data collection period (June 30, 2019) for each graduate, and comparing any convictions during that period with convictions incurred during the same period of time prior to program admission.

**Calgary Police
Service Contacts
with Program
Graduates**

*Police had 67.3%
fewer contacts with
graduates after
graduation*

**Graduates Free
from Substantive
Convictions and
Charges**

*70% were free from
substantive
convictions and
charges after
graduation*

**CDTC Target
Population Aligns
with Greatest Need
& Community
Impact**

*89% were assessed
as high-risk to
reoffend*

Although there are a number of limitations associated with using police contact data to understand recidivism, the results are positive, showing that:

- 77 graduates (88.5%) had a total of 947 reports created documenting contact with the Calgary Police Service prior to program admission, and 32 graduates (36.8%) had a total of 226 reports created following graduation.
- When comparing only those contacts documented during the equivalent period of time prior to admission as the time period following graduation, there were 67.3% fewer police contacts with graduates following graduation.³
- 5 graduates (5.7%) who did not have post-program convictions were charged with offences following graduation that may reflect involvement in criminal activity (theft-related, drug trafficking related, and/or fraud-related charges).
- If these 5 are assumed to have had post-program criminal activity, the combined data on post-graduation convictions and charges shows that 61 graduates (70.1%) were free from substantive criminal convictions and charges during the average 3.84 years following graduation.⁴

Calgary Drug Treatment Court primarily serves offenders who are at high risk to reoffend and have high needs. Prior to program admission:

- 42% were living in a homeless shelter or on the street - 35% were temporarily housed with friends or family or in transitional housing
- 82% were unemployed
- 89% were earning less than \$15,000 per year
- 100% were committing crime to obtain money for drugs – primarily theft (62%) and drug-trafficking (54%)
- 72% were exposed to one or more types of childhood abuse/trauma
- 89% were assessed at high risk to reoffend and 73% were assessed as having high needs (i.e. homelessness, unemployment, and lack of pro-social supports)

³ Calculated using the same process as described in footnote 2 above.

⁴ Graduates post-program charges are included in this data if their charges included theft-related, drug-related, or fraud-related charges, but not if they incurred only administration of justice charges, or single charges for offences that do not indicate a return to substantive criminal activity (driving while disqualified and mischief).

- Graduates were age 14 on average at the onset of drug use
- 71% were youth (age 13-24) at the time of their first conviction
- 84% identified a physical health issue
- 73% reported having an existing mental health issue/diagnosis⁵

The majority of pre-admission offences committed by program graduates (primarily theft-related and drug-trafficking) are labour-intensive for police and legal systems to investigate and prosecute. CPS statistical reports (2018) show that 56% of all contacts with Calgary Police Service Officers were related to drugs (15.72%), property crime (13.89%), and vulnerable people (27.25%) including those with substance use, homelessness and mental health concerns.⁶

Almost 70% of incarcerated federal offenders are assessed as having a substance abuse problem that requires intervention.⁷

Cost Avoidance and Cost Savings

CDTC saves society \$15 – \$20 million per year in the cost of stolen goods alone

The annual cost to serve a participant in the Calgary Drug Treatment Court program is \$27,000/year.⁸

Analysis of the cost avoidance and savings related to recidivism for graduates of the Calgary Drug Treatment Court (See details on pages 16-17 of this report) shows:

- Savings of \$76 million in the estimated cost of stolen goods over a period of 4 years
- Avoidance of \$7.4 million in the cost of incarceration for the average 1 year in custody graduates did not serve as a result of successfully completing the program
- Avoidance of over \$300,000 in police response costs for 45 program graduates, at an average 2.3 years following graduation
- Avoidance of over \$300,000 in the cost of services involved in delivering the warrant/incarceration cycle (including police response and laying a charge, through to warrant for failure to appear, arrest, incarceration and court appearance – for 45 graduates, at an average 2.3 years following graduation.

⁵ Hoffart, Irene. (July 2020). Calgary Drug Treatment Court 2019 Evaluation Report.

⁶ Calgary Police Service – Info Post. (2018). Officer Contact Statistical Report.

[file:///C:/Users/Arla/Downloads/officer-contact-2018-annual-report%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Arla/Downloads/officer-contact-2018-annual-report%20(2).pdf)

⁷ McVie, Fraser. Drugs in federal corrections: The issues and challenges. FORUM on Corrections Research. Correctional Service of Canada. (March 5, 2015). <https://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/research/forum/e133/e133c-eng.shtml>

⁸ This includes program delivery costs, including the actual cost of dedicated treatment services and an estimate of in-kind contributions (including Judges and Court Services, Crown Prosecution, Legal Aid, Calgary Police Service, and Probation). It does not include the cost of other community services accessed by participants during the program (2019).

9-Year Review of Recidivism Calgary Drug Treatment Court 2010-2019

INTRODUCTION

This report provides information regarding criminal offence activity for 87 graduates of the Calgary Drug Treatment Court who graduated during the 9+-year period from April 1, 2010 to June 30, 2019. Information is presented regarding graduates' age and gender, pre-program and post-graduation convictions, contact with the Calgary Police Service, and time free from criminal convictions and charges following graduation.

The data shows that 66.7% of graduates had no new convictions since graduation. When those with administration of justice convictions⁹ (n=5) only and those with a single conviction for simple drug possession (n=3) are excluded, 75.9% of graduates had no new convictions, and 70.1% had no new substantive convictions or police charges¹⁰ since graduation.

The time since graduation varies significantly for those included in the study, ranging from 3 months to over 9 years and averaging 3.84 years. To provide a pre/post comparison of the volume and extent of criminal activity prior to and following program involvement, the number of convictions incurred during the same period of time prior to admission and following program graduation is provided. When considering only convictions incurred during the same pre and post period for each individual, graduates had a total of 1163 convictions prior to entering the program compared with the 279 following the program. This shows a 76.1% decrease in convictions at an average 3.84 years' following graduation.¹¹

The greatest proportion of pre-program convictions (38.0%) are theft-related (theft, break and enter, and possession of stolen goods), while the greatest proportion of post-graduation convictions (44.4%) are administration of justice convictions reflecting a decrease in severity and risk to the community from offences committed following the program.

The program impact over time is also analysed through a review of the timing of post-graduation convictions, showing a significant impact on crime reduction over several years. This analysis shows that 96% of graduates had no new convictions at the end of 1 year following graduation and of those who graduated between 3 and 4 years prior to the study end date (n=50), nearly 70% had no new convictions.

⁹ Administration of justice convictions include failing to comply with a term of probation and failing to comply with a term of a Judicial Interim Release (Bail) Order.

¹⁰ Graduates post-program charges are included in this data if they incurred theft-related, drug-related, or fraud-related charges, but not if they incurred only administration of justice charges, or other single charges that do not reflect a significant return to criminal activity (driving while disqualified and mischief).

¹¹ The percentage decrease in convictions is calculated by determining the period of time between graduation and the end of the data collection period (June 30, 2019) for each graduate, and comparing any convictions during that period with convictions incurred during the same period of time prior to program admission.

A review of Calgary Police Service contact during equivalent time periods prior to and following graduation shows that there were 358 pre-program police reports and 117 reports following graduation. This comparison of equivalent pre-post periods shows a 67.3% decrease in police reports created by the Calgary Police Service for study graduates following graduation. Comparison of the charges laid as a result of these police contacts during the equivalent pre-post period, shows a decrease of 69.8% in charges laid following graduation for study graduates.

Of those with charges laid by the Calgary Police Service following graduation, 5 graduates (5.7%) who did not have post-program convictions were charged with substantive offences that may reflect post-program involvement in criminal activity. All graduates in the study (100%) had pre-program convictions for offences committed prior to admission. Of this total group, 26 (29.9%) had new substantive convictions or charges¹² after graduation, which represents a substantial decrease (70.1%) from 100% at program admission.

This study is the second of two recidivism studies completed on graduates of the Calgary Drug Treatment Court. The first study (2015) included analysis of pre and post convictions on 36 program graduates. Post-graduation data was available for this group during an average 19 months/1.59 years following graduation (there was an average 1.59 years between graduation and the end of the data collection period - April 1, 2015). The second study (2020) provides a review of criminal convictions and contacts with the Calgary Police Service for 87 graduates (the 36 graduates included in the first study and an additional 51 who graduated since 2015). Post-graduation data for this group was available for an average 3.84 years following graduation (there was an average 3.84 years between graduation and the end of the study period - June 30, 2019).

Completion of this second study allows for analysis of the program's impact on recidivism with a larger number of graduates and over a longer period of time (2.25 years longer on average than in the 2015 study) – a substantially greater time period for post-program recidivism to occur.

- Analysis of the percentage of graduates who did not have new convictions following graduation from the program in the 2015 and 2020 studies showed a difference of only about 2% (about 69% and 67% respectively), and that is at a substantially longer period of study – 2.25 years longer, on average, with the 2020 cohort.
- Analysis of the change in the number of post-graduation convictions compared with pre-program convictions (during equivalent pre and post time periods) showed an 81.7% decrease in convictions in the 2015 study, compared with a 76.1% decrease in the 2020 study. As above, comparison of this data across the 2 studies shows only a slight difference in outcome in the 2020 study with just 5.6% less reduction in convictions, at more than 2 years longer following graduation than those in the 2015 study.

¹² Graduates post-graduation charges are included in this data if they included theft-related, drug-related, or fraud-related charges, but not if they included only administration of justice charges, or single charges for offences that do not indicate a return to significant criminal activity (i.e. driving while disqualified, mischief).

Data for this report was obtained from the JOIN database, and the Calgary Police Service Sentry database. Special thanks to our partners, Alberta Justice, Public Prosecution Service of Canada, and the Calgary Police Service for providing the information required to complete this study.

1.0 Age and Gender

1.1 Gender

Of the total sample (n=87), 79.3% are male and 20.7% are female.

Table 1: Gender

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	69	79.3%
Female	18	20.7%
Total	87	100.0%

1.2 Age at Admission

The majority of graduates were in the 30-39 age range at the time of their admission to the program, followed by the 20-29 age range. Females and males were similar in age, with females averaging age 33.1 and males averaging age 34.7. Overall, the average age at the time of program admission was 34.3.

Table 2: Age at Program Admission

Age Range	# (%) Males	# (%) Females	# (%) of Total Sample
20-29	20 (23.0%)	7 (8.0%)	27 (31.0%)
30-39	29 (33.3%)	6 (6.9%)	35 (40.2%)
40-49	15 (17.2%)	4 (4.6%)	19 (21.8%)
50-59	5 (5.7%)	1 (1.1%)	6 (6.9%)
Total	69 (79.3%)	18 (20.7%)	87 (100.0%)

1.3 Age at First Conviction

The majority of graduates in the study (71.2%) were youth aged 13 to 24 at the time of their first conviction. On average, these graduates were convicted on their first criminal charges at the age of 21. The age at first conviction is very similar for males and females in the study, with 71.0% of males and 72.2% of females incurring their first conviction as youth.

Age at first conviction assists in understanding the extent of needs of the population served. Outcomes are generally expected to be poorer for those who struggle with crime and addiction as youth.

Table 3: Age at first conviction by gender

Age Range	# (%) Males	# (%) Females	# (%) of Total Sample
13 - 15	9 (13.05%)	3 (16.70)	12 (13.80%)
16 - 18	11 (15.95%)	2 (11.10%)	13 (14.90%)
19 - < 24	29 (42.00%)	8 (44.40%)	37 (42.50%)
25 - < 30	11 (15.95%)	2 (11.10%)	13 (15.00%)
31 - < 42	9 (13.05%)	3 (16.70%)	12 (13.80%)
	69 (100.0%)	18 (100.0%)	87 100.0%

2.0 Convictions

2.1 Pre-program Convictions

Information was gathered regarding graduates' convictions prior to participating in the program. Charges at entry to the Calgary Drug Treatment Court are included in the section on pre-program convictions, as participants plead guilty to these charges at admission and are sentenced for them at discharge.

Program graduates included in the study (n=87¹³) had a total of 2803 convictions that were incurred prior to program involvement. All graduates had at least one conviction for offences committed prior to program admission. The number of convictions of each graduate range from 1 to 102 and average 32.2. On average these convictions occurred within a period of 12.8 years prior to program admission. The majority of offences committed by graduates prior to entering the program were:

- a) theft-related (n=1066 or 38.0%¹⁴),
- b) administration of justice (n=837 or 29.9%),
- c) drug-related (n=310 or 11.1%¹⁵), and
- d) fraud-related (n=176 or 6.3%).

2.2 Post-Program Convictions

In total, 29 graduates (33.3%) incurred 279 convictions following graduation. The number of post-program convictions range from 0 to 27 and average 3.2. On average these convictions occurred within a period of 3.84 years following graduation. The majority of these post-program convictions were: administrative (n=124 or 44.4%); or theft-related (n=96 or 34.4%¹⁶); followed by drug-related (n=25 or 9.0%¹⁷) and fraud-related convictions (n=21 or 7.5%).

Six graduates (6.9%) had a total of 10 administration of justice convictions during their time in the program. These convictions likely reflect graduates' failure to meet the conditions of their bail order during periods of relapse while in the program.

¹³ Two graduates who died within a short period of time following graduation were not included in the study in order to avoid distorting the results. These 2 graduates had no new convictions or police charges following graduation, at the time of their death.

¹⁴ For the purpose of determining theft-related offences, 'possession of the proceeds of crime' offences are included with other theft and break-and-enter property offences.

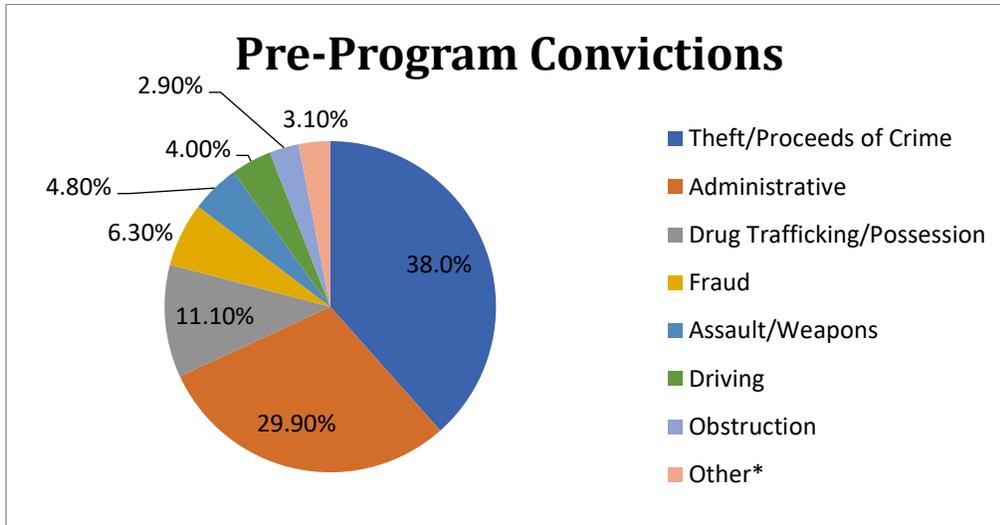
¹⁵ Drug-related offences include both drug trafficking related offences (144/5.1%) and drug possession offences (166/5.9%).

¹⁶ See footnote 14 above.

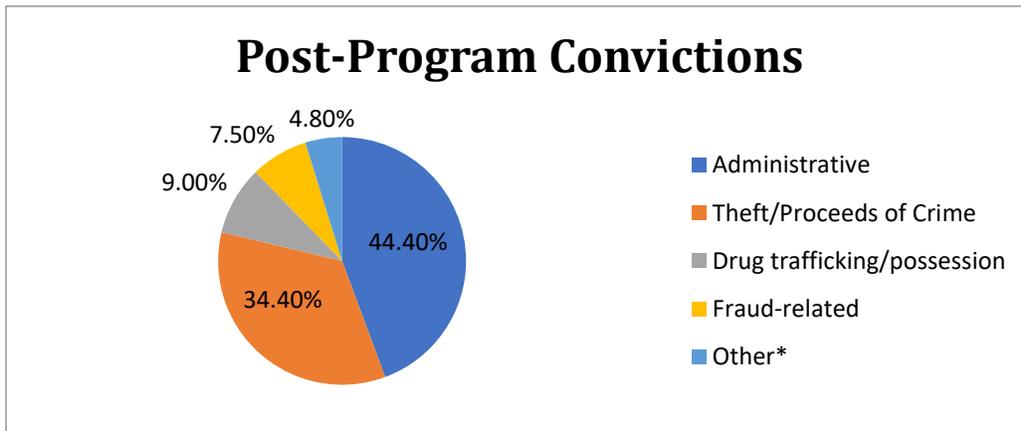
¹⁷ See footnote 15 above.

2.3 Comparison of Pre and Post Program Convictions

On average, program graduates (n=87) completed the program 3.84 years prior to June 30, 2019 (the study end date). When only those convictions incurred during the equivalent time period prior to admission as the time period elapsed following graduation are considered for each graduate, there are a total of 1163 pre-program and 279 post-program convictions. The number of pre-program convictions during this period range from 1 to 47 and average 13 while post-graduation convictions range from 0 to 27 and average 3.2. This equivalent pre-post time period comparison shows a decrease of 76.1% in convictions.¹⁸



*Other includes Mischief and Prostitution related offences.



*Other includes: Assault, Driving, Weapons, Obstruction and Prostitution related offences.

¹⁸ The percentage decrease in convictions is calculated by determining the period of time between graduation and the end of the data collection period (June 30, 2019) for each graduate, and comparing any convictions during that period with convictions incurred during the same period of time prior to program admission.

3.0 Time Free from Convictions

Information regarding post program convictions were analysed to assist in understanding the time free from criminal activity for program graduates.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that prior to entering the program participants typically commit crime on a daily to weekly basis, driven by their drug addiction. Program participants¹⁹ self-report a typical cost to purchase drugs prior to program admission at an average \$1,940 per week.²⁰ The program's most recent evaluation (2020) shows that the vast majority of participants are unemployed at the time of admission (82%), and all obtain money for drugs mostly or entirely through crime (primarily theft – 62% and drug trafficking – 54%) on an ongoing basis.²¹

All graduates in the study (100%) had convictions for offences committed prior to admission. Of these 87 graduates, 29 (33.3%) had convictions at an average 3.84 years after graduation. Of the 29 who had convictions following graduation:

- 4 incurred a single administrative breach of their probation order (CC 733.1) during the one-year period of probation they were sentenced to at the time of graduation, and otherwise had no post-graduation convictions;
- 1 graduate incurred several administration of justice convictions but no other convictions,
- 2 had a single conviction for simple drug possession; and
- 1 had a single conviction for simple drug possession along with administration of justice convictions on one set of charges.

As of June 30, 2019, the period of time these 8 graduates were free from convictions ranges from .76 to 8.76 years, and averages 5.4 years. As these types and patterns of convictions are more reflective of a period of relapse rather than a return to criminal activity or a criminal lifestyle, these 8 participants are not included in the analysis of time free from convictions below, as having engaged in criminal activity post graduation. The remaining 21 graduates (25.3%) incurred a total of 259 criminal convictions following graduation.

3.1 Time Free from Convictions by Years following Graduation

Of the 87 graduates in the study, 66 (75.9%) were free from post-graduation convictions at the end of the reporting period (June 30th, 2019). To better understand the longer-term impact of the CDTC program intervention and change in recidivism outcomes over time, graduates included in the study were grouped by the length of time since their graduation from the program. This analysis shows the rate of reduction in post-graduation convictions among groups of graduates with similar periods of time since their graduation.

While a certain rate of drop-off (decline in outcomes) is expected over time with a high-risk drug-driven criminally involved population, the outcomes in this area remain positive over a period of several years.

¹⁹ Based on information from all CDTC participants from whom the information was gathered (n=140)

²⁰ Hoffart, Irene. (July 2020) Calgary Drug Treatment Court 2019 Evaluation Report.

²¹ Ibid.

Analysis of the number of graduates who incurred convictions within each year following graduation shows that 96% had no convictions at the end of 1 year. Although, and as would be expected, the percentage of graduates without convictions decreases over time, the proportion with no post-graduation convictions is nearly 70% even for those who graduated between 3 and 4 years prior to the study end date.²²

Table 4: Time free from convictions by year following graduation

Years following graduation	Number in Sample by Year	Number with no new convictions	Percentage without post-grad convictions
1.0	87	84	96.6%
2.0	78	67	85.9%
3.0	61	45	73.8%
4.0	50	34	68.0%

4.0 Contact with the Calgary Police Service

Information was gathered for this study from the Calgary Police Service (CPS) Sentry database, which documents police reports of contact with individuals for policing purposes. The information describes police reports including report dates and whether the subject of the report was a suspect, accused, charged, not charged, and/or arrested but not if they were a witness, victim or property owner. This information was provided for the period starting January 1/09 through June 30/19.

Information on Calgary Police Service contacts is used to understand the volume and types of police interaction with program graduates and supports understanding of their pre-program and post-graduation contact with the Calgary Police Service. There are significant limitations in this study with respect to using this data to understand recidivism rates:

- This information is available only for contacts with the Calgary Police Service and not police contacts in other municipalities. A significant number of program participants come to Calgary from other jurisdictions to attend the program and any contacts with police that occurred outside of Calgary are not reflected in this data. A total of 53 graduates (60.9%) were convicted on charges laid in jurisdictions outside of Calgary prior to program admission. Police interactions related to these convictions are not reflected in this data.
- CPS contacts prior to 2009 are not included in the data. The majority of graduates included in the study (62/71.3%) have criminal records which started prior to 2009, and a significant number have extensive criminal records dating back to the 1970's-1980's (n=15/17.2%) and 1990's (n=23/26.4%).
- This data shows whether a charge was laid by the Calgary Police Service, but not whether it was withdrawn, stayed, or resulted in a conviction.

²² For those graduates who died during the period of the study (n=3), the date of their death is used to determine their inclusion in the sample for each year post-graduation.

Nevertheless, this data provides useful information for understanding the volume and types of Calgary Police Service contact with program graduates during a period of time prior to and following graduation and contributes importantly to understanding the program's impact on police resources.

4.1 Summary of Police Reports by Program Status

The CPS Sentry database shows that a total of 1203 police reports were created on the graduates in this study between January 1st, 2009 and June 30th, 2019. Of these 1203 reports:

- 947 reports were created on 77 graduates prior to program admission, resulting in a total of 1271 charges. Ten graduates had no CPS reports created prior to admission.
- 31 reports were created on 14 graduates during their time in the program resulting in a total of 30 charges.
- 226 reports were created on 32 graduates after graduation, resulting in a total of 367 charges.

In total, 1203 police reports were created resulting in 1668 charges being laid.

4.2 Police Charges Prior to Program Admission

In total, 77 (88.5%) of the 87 graduates in the study had a total of 1271 charges laid by the Calgary Police Service prior to program admission. For these graduates, the number of reports ranges from 1 to 65 and averages 12.3. The majority of pre-program charges were theft-related (n=534 or 42.0%²³), drug-related (n=228 or 18.9%²⁴), and administration of justice (n=193 or 15.2%).

4.3 Police Charges During Participation in the Program

A total of 14 graduates in this study (16.1%) had police charges laid during their time in the program. Of these, 13 graduates incurred a total of 20 administration of justice charges; 3 had theft-related charges (n=9); and 1 had a driving related charge (n=1). These charges likely reflect graduates' behaviour during a period of relapse while in the program.

4.4 Police Charges Following Graduation

In total, 32 (36.8%) of the 87 graduates in the study had 367 charges laid against them by the Calgary Police Service following graduation. The majority of post-program charges were theft-related (n=129 or 35.1%²⁵), administrative (n=92 or 25.1%) and drug-related (n=52 or 14.2%²⁶). Of these graduates, 9 (n=10.3%) were charged with only administration of justice offences, or a single offence for mischief or driving while disqualified.

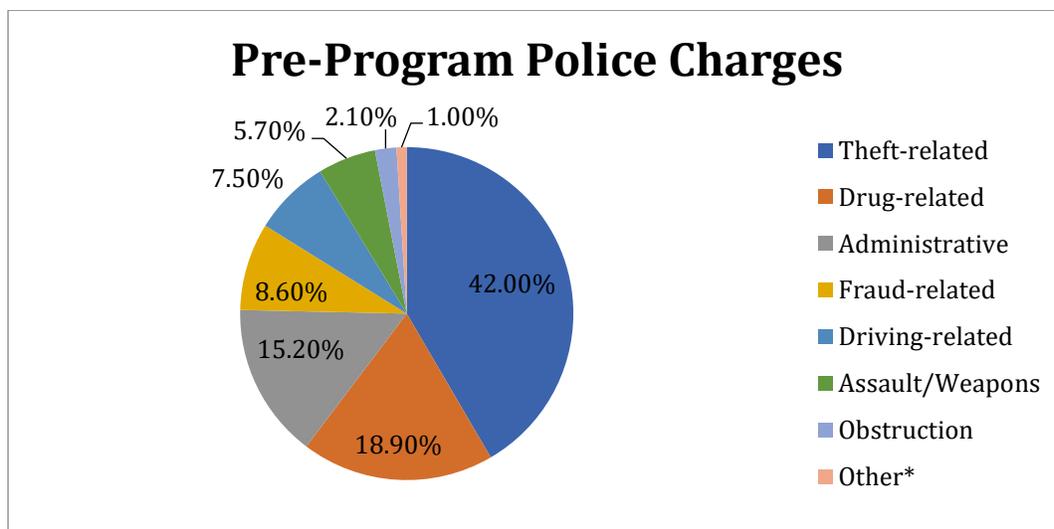
²³ For the purpose of determining theft-related charges, 'possession of the proceeds of crime' charges are included with theft, break-and-enter and other property-related charges.

²⁴ Drug-related offences include both drug trafficking related charges and drug possession charges.

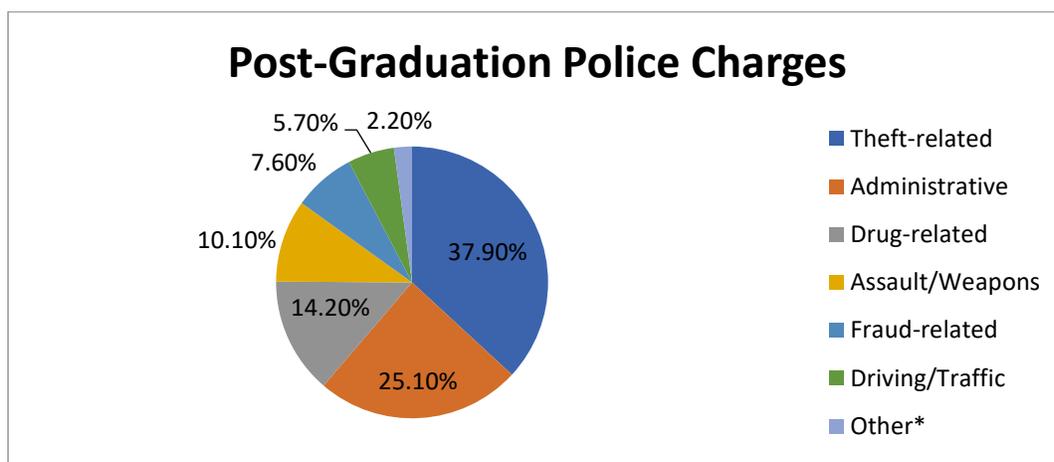
²⁵ See Footnote 12 above.

²⁶ See Footnote 13 above.

Theft-related charges made up the majority of charges laid both prior to admission (42.0%) and following graduation (37.9%). Administration of justice charges made up a greater proportion of post-program charges (25.1%) than pre-program charges (18.9%).



*Other includes Mischief and Prostitution charges.



*Other includes Mischief, Obstruction, and Prostitution related charges.

4.5 Comparison of Pre-Program and Post-Graduation Police Contact

Of those for whom data on police reports is available for an equivalent period of time prior to and following the program (n=45 or 51.7%):

- 358 reports were created on 45 graduates prior to program involvement, resulting in 580 charges.
- 117 reports were created on 18 graduates following graduation, resulting in 175 charges.

Of those who had a police report created following graduation:

- 10 (22.2%) had 1 or 2 reports.
- The majority of the 175 charges (n=128) were laid against 4 graduates.

This data shows a 67.3% decrease in reports created by the Calgary Police Service and a 69.8% decrease in charges laid, during an average 2.3 years prior to and following participation in the program²⁷.

4.6 Time free from Convictions and Calgary Police Service Charges

A review of post-graduation police charges shows that 5 graduates (5.7%) who did not have post-graduation convictions were charged with offences that may reflect post-graduation involvement in criminal activity. These 5 graduates incurred theft-related (n=9), drug trafficking related (n=4), fraud-related (n=1), and weapons-related charges (n=2). In total 26 graduates (29.9%) had substantive charges²⁸ after graduation, which represents a substantial decrease from 100% of graduates at admission.

Combined, the data on criminal convictions and charges following graduation demonstrates that 61 graduates (70.1%) were free from both substantive convictions and substantive charges laid by Calgary Police Service, during the average 3.84 years following graduation. Almost all of these graduates had an extensive criminal history prior to entering CDTC.

²⁷ The percentage decrease in Calgary Police Service reports and charges laid, is calculated by determining the period of time between graduation and the end of the data collection period (June 30, 2019) for each graduate, and comparing any reports and charges during that period with those incurred during the same period of time prior to program admission.

²⁸ Graduates post-program charges are included in this data if their charges included theft-related, drug-related, or fraud-related charges, but not if they included only administration of justice charges, or single charges for offences that do not indicate a return to substantive criminal activity (i.e. driving while disqualified, mischief).

5.0 Limitations to the Study

There are some limitations to this study:

- Comparison of convictions and charges prior to admission and following graduation are complicated by factors including changes in policing practices over time, changes in sentencing practices over time, and gaps in criminal activity resulting from periods of time incarcerated. This study does not include data analysis of periods of time graduates were incarcerated either prior to admission or following graduation.
- Data on charges includes only charges laid by the Calgary Police Service. A number of graduates in the study incurred charges in other municipalities prior to program admission, and some may have incurred charges in other municipalities following graduation. These charges are not included in this study.
- This study does not include a control group or comparative data on outcomes for offenders who did not participate in the Calgary Drug Treatment Court and received incarceration alone. The program hopes to benefit from access to such comparative data in the future.

6.0 Summary

Overall, this study shows a substantial decrease in convictions for graduates of the Calgary Drug Treatment Court as well as a substantial decrease in graduates' contact with the Calgary Police Service following graduation.

Comparison of convictions during equivalent time periods prior to program admission and following graduation shows a decrease of 76.1% at an average 3.84 years following graduation. A similar pre-post comparison of contact with the Calgary Police Service during equivalent time periods (average 2.3 years) prior to admission and following graduation shows a 67.3% decrease in police reports. Police charges laid as a result of the police contacts during the same pre and post time period shows a 69.8% decrease in charges laid for this graduate group.

A review of the timing of post-program convictions shows that 96% of graduates had no convictions at the end of 1 year following graduation, and nearly 70% of those who graduated between 3 and 4 years prior to the study end date (n=50) had no new convictions.

Appendix A

Cost Savings and Cost Avoidance Analysis

Savings in the Cost of Stolen Goods

Data and Assumptions:

- Average cost to purchase drugs prior to admission = \$1,940 per week.²⁹
- Applying the estimated 1/5th street value of stolen goods, the value of stolen goods required to purchase \$1,940 in drugs per week is \$9,700.
- Of current program graduates, 60 committed property crimes as a primary means of obtaining money for drugs.³⁰

$$60 \text{ graduates} \times \$9,700/\text{week} = \$582,000 \times 52 \text{ weeks/year} = \$30,264,000/\text{year}$$

Applying a reduction of 30% to account for other factors (i.e. income from other sources being used to purchase drugs, factors other than the Calgary Drug Treatment Court Program impacting graduates' success) the cost savings per year are estimated at \$21,184,800. Applying a further reduction in subsequent years (Year 2 = 4%; Year 3 = 10%; Year 4 = 12%) to account for the drop off rate (rate at which graduates incurred new convictions following graduation, as shown in this study) the estimated cost savings resulting from the reduction in stolen goods for 60 graduates of the Calgary Drug Treatment Court is as follows:

Year 1 Savings	Year 2 Savings	Year 3 Savings	Year 4 Savings	Total Savings over 4 Years
\$21,184,800	\$20,337,408	\$18,303,667	\$16,107,227	\$75,933,102

Avoidance of Incarceration Costs

Data and Assumptions:

- On average, participants are facing just over 2 years' in custody on the charges they plead guilty to at admission to Calgary Drug Treatment Court.
- Half of the custodial sentence would have been served had they not graduated from CDTC.
- Once credit is applied for pre-trial custody, 50% would have served their custodial sentence in provincial jail.
- The average cost of incarceration in provincial jail in Alberta is \$51,830/year.³¹
- The average cost of incarceration in federal prison is \$120,571/year.³²

$$44 \text{ graduates (facing provincial custody)} \times \$51,830/\text{year} \times 1 \text{ year} = \$2,280,520$$

$$43 \text{ graduates (facing federal custody)} \times \$120,571/\text{year} \times 1 \text{ year} = \$5,184,553$$

$$\text{Total Costs Avoided} = \$7,465,073$$

To date, CDTC has avoided \$7,465,073 in the cost of incarceration alone for the 1 year of time in custody (average) that graduates did not serve because of successfully completing the program.

²⁹ Calgary Drug Treatment Court Society. Program Evaluation. (2020).

³⁰ Calgary Drug Treatment Court Society. SPSS Program Data. (2010-2019).

³¹ Frechette, Jean-Denis. (2018). Update on Costs of Incarceration. Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer.

³² Statistics Canada. (2017-18). As cited in the Office of the Correctional Investigator, 2018-2019 Annual Report. <https://www.oci-bec.gc.ca/cnt/rpt/pdf/annrpt/annrpt20182019-eng.pdf>

Avoidance of the Cost of Police Contacts

Data and Assumptions:

- 241 (67.3%) fewer police reports³³ were created on 45 graduates included in the study following graduation, as compared with the number of reports created during the same period prior to admission.^{34,35}
- On average 3 police contacts are assumed to have occurred for each police report created.
- The average cost per police call out/contact is \$430.³⁶

241 reports x 3 police contacts = 723 x \$430 = \$310,890 (at an average 2.3 years post-graduation)³⁷

A reduction of 241 (67.3%) police reports following graduation results in over \$300,000 in cost avoidance of police services, over an average period of 2.3 years.

Avoidance of Costs associated with the Warrant/Incarceration Cycle

Data and Assumptions:

- 241 (67.3%) fewer police reports were created by the Calgary Police Service on 45 graduates included in the study following graduation, as compared with the number of reports created during the same period prior to admission.^{38,39}
- The cost associated with the Warrant/Incarceration Cycle including police response, laying a charge, failure to appear, warrant, arrest, incarceration, and court appearance is \$1,668.15.⁴⁰
- In 3/4 cases where police make an arrest, the full Warrant/Incarceration Cycle occurs.⁴¹

Reduction of 181 warrant/incarceration cycles (241 CPS reports x .75) = 181 x \$1,668.15 = \$301,935.

Assuming one failure-to-appear occurs in 75% of cases, analysis of the cost of the full warrant/incarceration cycle, suggests cost avoidance in justice and law enforcement services of over \$300,000 for 45 graduates over an average period of 2.3 years.

³³ Police reports include report dates and whether the subject of the report was a suspect, accused, offender, charged, not charged, and/or arrested, but not if they were a witness, victim, or property owner.

³⁴ Calgary Police Service Sentry database. CDTC Graduate List Offending Data. January 1/09 to June 30/19.

³⁵ The decrease in police reports is calculated by determining the period of time between graduation and the end of the data collection period (June 30, 2019) for each graduate, and comparing any police reports during that period with police reports created during the same period of time prior to program admission. Information on police reports is included for the period starting January 1st, 2009, which allows for comparative pre and post data on 45 of the graduates in the study.

³⁶ Weikart, Kalagnanum and Findley. (2013). Financial Proxies for Social Return on Investment Analyses in Saskatchewan. University of Saskatchewan.

³⁷ This calculation shows the cost avoidance associated with fewer police contacts for 45 of the graduates in the study. For these graduates, the average period of time within which the police contacts occurred was 2.3 years prior to admission and 2.3 years following graduation.

³⁸ See footnote 25 above.

³⁹ See footnote 26 above.

⁴⁰ Cost analysis of the Warrant-Incarceration Cycle (Calgary Police Service, 2020), shows a total cost of \$1,688.15 for the services required to implement the Warrant-Incarceration Cycle.

⁴¹ This assumption is based on criminal record data which shows that graduates had a combined total of 825 fail to appear convictions and were convicted on a combined total of 1,004 sets of charges, suggesting that the warrant-incarceration cycle applied in approximately 75% of these cases.

APPENDIX B

List of Criminal Code Convictions of CDTC Participants by Category

All criminal code convictions incurred by graduates in the sample are included in the chart below. Criminal code offences are grouped into 10 categories.

Category of Offense	Criminal Code and Offense
Drug-related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *FD Act 41(1) - Possession of a restricted drug • *FD Act 48(2) - Possession of drugs for the purpose of trafficking • *NC Act Sec 3(1) - Possession of a narcotic • *NC Act Sec 4(1) - Trafficking in a narcotic • * NC Act 19.1(1)(A) – Possession of the Proceeds of Crime • *NC Act 423(1)(D) - Conspiracy to Traffic in Restricted Drug • CDSA Sec 4(1) - Possession of a schedule II substance • CDSA Sec 4(2) - Possession of a schedule II substance for the purpose of trafficking • CDSA Sec 5(1) - Trafficking in a Schedule 1 Substance • CDSA Sec 5(2) - Possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking
Theft-related:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *294(a) CC - Theft over \$200/\$1,000 • *294(b) CC - Theft under \$200/\$1,000 • *306 - Break, Enter and Theft • *313(A) - Possession of property obtained by crime over \$200 • 326.1 (B) – Theft of telecommunication service • 333.1 - Motor vehicle theft • 334(A) CC - Theft over \$5,000 • 334(B) CC - Theft under \$5,000 • 344(b) CC - Robbery • 348. (1) CC - Break and Enter with intent [Also 306(1)(a)] • 348. (1)(b) CC - Break, Enter and Theft [Also 306(1)(b)] • 348. (1)(b) - 430 CC - Break, Enter and Commit Mischief • 348. (1)(e) – Break and Enter – other than a dwelling house • 349(1) CC - Unlawfully in a dwelling house • 351(1) CC - Possession of Break and Enter Instruments • 352. CC - Possession of Instruments for Breaking into Coin Devices • 355.2 CC – Trafficking in property obtained by crime • 463(A) CC – Attempt to commit indictable offence • 463-334(A) - Attempted robbery over \$5000 • 463-344(B) - Attempted robbery under \$5000
Possession of Proceeds of Crime:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 354.(1) CC - Possession of property obtained by crime • 355(A) CC - Possessions of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 • 355(B) CC - Possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000

<p>Fraud related: (Includes Forgery, Counterfeit)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56.1 - Illegally possessing/making stolen identification documents • 130. (1)(a) – Personating Peace Officer • 209 – Cheating at Play • 326(1)(A) - Uttering Forged Document • 335(1) Take motor vehicle without consent • 342. (1) – Theft/Fraudulent Use of credit card • 342.1 (1) – Unauthorized use of computer • 342.3 – Unauthorized use of credit card data • 356. (1)(a) – Theft from mail • 362(1)(A) – False Pretences • 362(2) – False Pretences • 364(1) – Fraudulently obtaining food, beverage, or accommodation • 368 - Uttering forged document • 368. (1)(a) – Use of forged document • 369(b) - Possession of instruments to be used to commit forgery • 380(1)(a) - Fraud over \$5,000 • 380(1)(b) - Fraud under \$5,000 • 380(1)(B) - Attempted Fraud under \$5000 • 393. (3) - Fraudulently obtaining transportation • 402.2 (1) - Identity theft • 403. (1)(a) - Personation with intent • 450(b) – possession of counterfeit money • 452 - Uttering Counterfeit Money • 458 (d) – possession of counterfeiting instruments • 463-380 - Attempted fraud
<p>Administrative:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *26 Youth Offenders Act - Fail to comply with disposition • *133(1) - Escape lawful custody • *133 (2) CC - Failure to Comply with Probation Order • *133(3)(B) - Failure to comply with recognizance • *133(5) – Failure to appear • *137 - Youth Justice Act - Fail to comply with sentence or disposition • 145(1) - Unlawfully at Large • 145(1)(A) - Escape lawful custody • 145(5.1) - Failure to comply with conditions of undertaking given by officer • 145(2) - Failure to attend court • 145(3) - Failure to comply with recognizance • 145(4) and (5) - Failure to appear • 156(3) Failure to comply with recognizance • 666(1) Failure to comply with Probation Order • 733.1 (1) - Failure to comply with probation order • 742.6 – Breach of conditional sentence order • 811 - Breach of recognizance
<p>Prostitution-related:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 213. (1) – Engaging in Prostitution • 213. (1)(c) - Communication for the purpose of prostitution

Weapons/ Firearms related:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85/87 - Possession of a weapon • 86(2) - Deal with firearm or restricted weapon contrary to regulations • 87. (1) – Pointing a firearm • 88. (1) - Possession of weapon for a dangerous purpose • 89(1) – Carrying a prohibited weapon • 90. (1) - Carrying a concealed weapon • 91. (1) - Unauthorized possession of a firearm • 91. (2) – Unauthorized possession of prohibited weapon or restricted weapon • 92. (1) - Possession of a firearm knowing possession is unauthorized • 92. (2) – Possession of prohibited weapon, device, or ammunition • 95. (1) - Possession of prohibited restricted firearm with ammunition • 98.1 – Robbery to Steal a Firearm • 117.01(1) Possession of Firearm or Ammunition contrary to Prohibition order
Assault related:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 245 - Administering a noxious thing • 264.1 (1)(A) Uttering threats • 266 - Assault • 267(a) – Assault with a weapon • 267(1)(b) - Assault causing bodily harm • 270(1)(A) - Assault a Peace Officer • 270(1)(B) - Assault a Peace Officer with intent to prevent or resist arrest • 279. (2) – Forcible Confinement • 465.1 – Conspiracy
Driving- related:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *233 (1) CC – Criminal negligence is the operation of a motor vehicle • *236 – Driving with more than 80 mgs of alcohol in blood • 242(4) and 259(4) Driving while disqualified • 249 - Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle • 249.1 - Flight from Police • 252(1)(B)CC - Fail to stop at scene of accident • 252(1.1) - Failure to stop at scene of accident • 253(1)(A) - Operate a motor vehicle while impaired • 253 (1)(B) - Driving with more than 80 mgs of alcohol in blood • 254(3)/254(5) – Fail//Refuse to provide a sample • 259(4) CC - Driving while disqualified
Mischief and Disturbance- related:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72(1) – Forcible entry • 173(1)(A) - Indecent Act • 175(1)(A)(I) - Causing a disturbance (by fighting, screaming, shouting, swearing, singing, or using insulting or obscene language) • *387 (4) (B) - Mischief to private property • 430(1)(a) - Mischief • 430 (3) - Mischief over \$5,000 • 430(4) - Mischief • 437 – False alarm of fire
Obstruction- related:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *118(A) - Obstruction of a Peace Officer • 129(A) – Obstruction of a Peace Officer • 139. (1) – Attempted obstruction of justice