

Peterborough and City of Kawartha Lakes Community Support Court: An Impact Assessment

Background

Community Support Court (CSC)

Purpose: Specialized therapeutic court for individuals with mental health issues, substance abuse, cognitive impairments, developmental disabilities, and other social challenges.

Focus: Provides tailored support and rehabilitation services to address the root causes of criminal behavior.

Approach: Collaborative effort among community agencies and service providers as a multidisciplinary team to ensure comprehensive care and support for participants.

Goal: Offer a compassionate and effective alternative to traditional justice processes.

Established: In 2011, created as part of an initiative emphasizing rehabilitation, support, and community integration for vulnerable individuals.

Methods

Quantitative Analysis:

- Analyze program records (2017-2025) alongside data from 2011-2017 (Nguyen, 2017)
- Key metrics: recidivism rates & successful program completions
- Identify trends and assess program success

Qualitative Insights:

- Short surveys and semi-structured interviews CSC multi-disciplinary team
- Thematic analysis to explore common trends and a broader definition of success, considering multiple contributing factors.

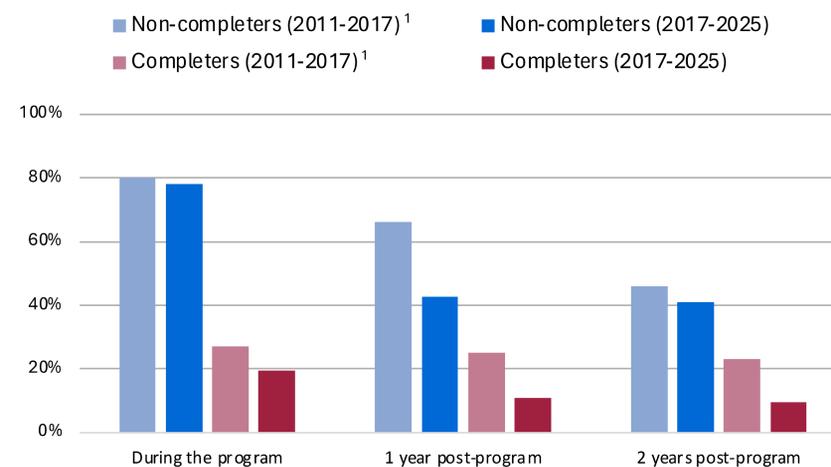
Purpose

Identify factors that influence the impact of the courts and establish additional parameters that define success within the CSC to:

- Fill gaps in existing research
- Analyze trends, recidivism, and community impact
- Provide evidence-based insights

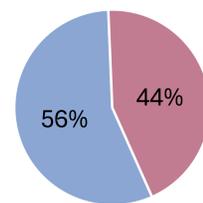
Key Findings

Peterborough CSC Recidivism Rates

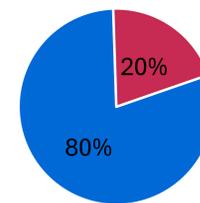


* Recidivism is defined as being charged and reconvicted after program acceptance

Completion Rate 2011-2017¹



Completion Rate 2017-2025



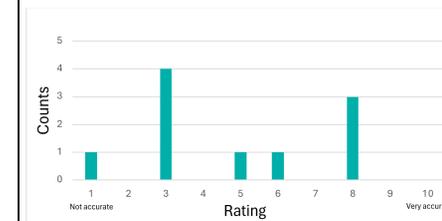
■ Completers ■ Non-completers

Survey Results

15 survey responses

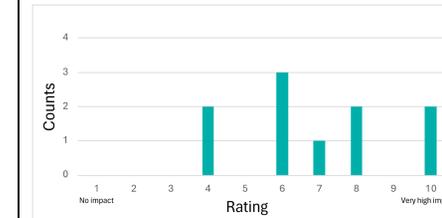
- 9 participants from Peterborough CSC
- 4 participants from City of Kawartha Lakes CSC
- 3 participants from both CSC programs

Out of 10, how accurate do you think recidivism data will reflect the true success of participants in Community Support programs?



Mean	4.8
Median	4.0
Std. Deviation	2.6

Out of 10, how would you measure the impact of community support courts on the community as a whole?



Mean	6.9
Median	6.5
Std. Deviation	2.1

Alternative Parameters of Success

Preliminary findings:

- Connections to community
- Accountability
- Social stability
- Harm reduction
- Increased self worth/self esteem

References

1. Nguyen. (2018). *Peterborough Community Support Court: An Evaluation of Recidivism*. Trent University.

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2024-2025
FRSC 4890

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