



In-depth Analysis of C4RJ’s 2010 Recidivism Study
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We believe victim satisfaction is the best measure of success for a restorative justice program, and C4RJ maintains satisfaction ratings around 90% among persons harmed in the cases referred to us. We are aware that the future conduct of offenders is also a significant measure of our impact, so we were pleased to learn that in a recent examination of records, just 16% of C4RJ offenders had been cited for additional offenses.¹ That compares with 27% recidivism in the criminal justice system and with 18% for offenders in restorative justice programs nationally.²

Of 196 offenders in the program through August 23, 2009, just 32 reoffended. Of these 32, 21 were for offenses involving an illegal substance. By far, the greatest number of these (13) was for minor-in-possession-of-alcohol, followed by possession of a Class D substance (marijuana). Other substance offenses included minors transporting alcohol, furnishing alcohol to minors, distribution of marijuana, intent to distribute, and distribution of counterfeit drugs (2).

These numbers were not a surprise to us; before we began accepting referrals for underage substance use, we were advised by substance experts that one intervention is often not enough to dissuade users from continued use. Given this advice, we were surprised that only seven individuals who were referred to us on a substance charge were later cited on another substance charge. C4RJ focuses on a number of issues in its work with offenders on substance-related charges, including personal safety and responsibility, and social-host liability.

The records check covered the period starting with C4RJ’s inception in 2000, so a period of more than 9 years. Most reoffenses occurred 2 to 3 years after involvement with C4RJ.

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A snapshot of C4RJ Cases 2000-mid 2009	
Total offenders	196 ³
Property crimes	104
Alcohol charges	61
Marijuana charges	21
Theft/attempted theft	28
Assault/crimes against persons	11
Reoffense after participating in C4RJ	32 (including 4 referred to C4RJ second time)
Reoffenders with substance charges	21 (13 alcohol, 8 marijuana)
Initial substance-related offense with substance-related second or third offense	7

¹ Criminal activity which does not result in police or court intervention will not show up in a records check; similarly, the records reviewed in this study were statewide and not national. As a result, we suspect that the *actual* – albeit undocumented – recidivism may be slightly higher than these recidivism results show.

² Figures from this study are available at <http://wcr.sonoma.edu/v1n1/embreit.html>.

³ The total does not equal the numbers by type of crime referred because some incidents entailed more than one offense.