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## Sentencing Unsuccessful Drug Court Participants: Examining Court Focal Concerns of a Special Population

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**APRIL 2016**

## About the College of Public Affairs and Community Service

The College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) was created in 1973 to ensure that the university was responsive to the critical social needs of our community and state. The College was given the mission not only to provide educational programs of the highest caliber to prepare students for leadership in public service, but also to reach out to the community to help solve public problems.

The College has become a national leader among similar colleges, with nine programs ranked in the top 25 in the nation. Our faculty ranks are among the finest in their disciplines. Faculty, staff, and students are integral to the community and state because of our applied research, service learning, and community partnerships. We take our duty seriously to help address social needs and craft solutions to local, state, and national problems. For more information, visit our website: [cpacs.unomaha.edu](http://cpacs.unomaha.edu)

## CPACS Urban Research Awards

Part of the mission of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) is to conduct research, especially as it relates to concerns of our local and statewide constituencies. CPACS has always had an urban mission, and one way that mission is served is to perform applied research relevant to urban society in general, and the Omaha metropolitan area and other Nebraska urban communities in particular. Beginning in 2014, the CPACS Dean provided funding for projects with high relevance to current urban issues, with the potential to apply the findings to practice in Nebraska, Iowa and beyond.

# **Sentencing Unsuccessful Drug Court Participants:**

**Examining Court Focal Concerns of a Special Population**

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College of Public Affairs and Community Service Dean's Office.





## SUMMARY

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha has cultivated a collaborative relationship with the Douglas County Adult Drug Court, resulting in several successful program evaluations. The findings of this research have been published in the peer-review journal, *The Drug Court Review* (Gibbs, B.R. and W. Wakefield (2014). *The efficacy of enhanced alcohol use monitoring: An examination of the effects of EtG/EtS screening. Drug Court Review, 9(1), 1-22.*), and presented at national conferences for the American Society of Criminology (November 20, 2015: Wash. DC) and the American Academy of Criminal Justice (April 1, 2016: Denver). As part of our continuous research evaluation of the Douglas County Adult Drug Court, we are building on a data foundation in place and extending it to include aspects which will, indeed, make the potential outcomes applicable on not only a local level, but also to a wider community network of drug courts. We will focus on final sentencing dispositions of those who were unsuccessful in the program during the research period (2008-2013). Many of these participants were likely to have either been supervised by probation services or served a period of incarceration. This information will be important to consider and control for when evaluating any post participation criminal offending.

- We updated our present DCADC data set by adding participant information (all information that was previously gathered) from those who participated in the program from 2011-13 to the present.
- We have been granted permission from the Douglas County Adult Drug Court for access to updated criminal record checks on the more than 800 offenders who participated in the drug court program from 2008-2013. In addition, we have been given remote access to the PSCMIS system as previously provided. Lastly, during a limited period, we have been given access to program

files physically located at the DCADC for clients who participated from 2011-13 to the present.

- We are mining the information located in the criminal history record of those offenders who participated in the DCADC from 2008-2013.

The authors will use the results from this study to apply for further grants to assess other urban located drug courts (locally, regionally, and nationally) to compare with the current research results.



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