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Drug Treatment Court Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean: Cost Estimation

Centre for the Study of Justicia and Society, PUC

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I. Study Presentation

The **objective** of this study was to conduct a cost assessment of DTC program, and to develop a proposal for its scalability

Study Presentation

Methodology

1. Identification of the all processes related to DTC
2. Identification and evaluation of all costs associated with DTC
3. Elaboration of recommendations for the scalability and territorial replicability of DTC model

Processes Mapping

Study presentation

Process Mapping Prodcuts

- Process Flow Chart
- DTC Process Summary Table

- Identification of DTCs Institutional Structure and Main Stakeholders
- Identification of DTCs Stages, Components, activities and resources
- Validation of all information recollected to this point.
- Identification of the main actors to be interviewed for the cost evaluation

II. Cost Evaluation

Study presentation

Costing Technique: Transactional and Institutional Cost Analysis (TCAI)

- An individual's interaction with various institutions is viewed as part of a set of transactions in which the individual uses resources provided by multiple institutions.
- **Total integral costs** are estimated, i.e., **Direct Costs + Indirect Costs.**

- Identification of the flow of processes and activities, and of all operations involved in this flow.
- Determine the human, material and financial resources used by each institution for each transaction.
- Determine the costs of the resources used by each institution for each transaction.
- Calculate total program cost.

III. Scalability Recommendations

Study Presentation

Cost and scalability evaluation products

- Cost Report
- Scalability proposal and Recommendations report

- Identification of areas for improvement in program effectiveness and efficiencies
- Recomendations in order to deepen DTC model
- Recommendations for the territorial replicability and expansion of DTC model

Study Presentation

Methodology for Data Collection

- Documentary Analysis of official DTC documents
- Online Interviews to Key actors
- Field visit between august and november. Face to Face interviews with key actors.
- Program administrative data analysis

II. General results

Countries and DTC Programs to evaluate

Country	DTC Program
Jamaica	Jamaica's Drug Treatment Court
Guyana	Guyana's Drug Treatment Court
Costa Rica	Drug Treatment Procedure under Court Supervision (PTDJR)
Colombia	Judicial Drug Treatment Follow-Up Program (PSJTD)
Panama	Judicial Drug Treatment Program (PJTD)
Peru	Therapeutic Justice Program with a Restorative Focus (JTR)
	Restorative Juvenile Justice Program (JJR)
Dominican Republic	Court Supervised Treatment Program (PTSJ)

DTC programs characteristics

Program and country	PJTDR Costa Rica	PSJTD Colombia	PJTD Panama	PTSJ Dominican Republic	JTR Peru	JRR Peru	TTD Jamaica	TTD Guyana
Starting year	2013	2017	2014		2019	2020	2001	2019
Target population	Adults and adolescents	Adolescents	Adults	Adults	Adolescents	Adolescents	Adults and adolescents	Adults
Execution phase	Criminal enforcement phase	Criminal enforcement phase	Criminal enforcement phase	Criminal enforcement phase	Criminal enforcement phase	Criminal enforcement phase	Criminal enforcement phase	Post-judgment model
Procedural mechanism	Conditional suspension of proceedings	Conditional suspension of proceedings & Substitution of the sanction	Conditional suspension of proceedings	Conditional suspension of proceedings	Conditional suspension of proceedings	Fiscal Referral	Post-conviction diversion	Post-conviction diversion
Coordinating institution	Office of Restorative Justice - Judicial Branch	Ministry of Justice and Law	Defense Institute - Judicial Branch	Judiciary	Judiciary	Public Prosecutor's Office	Judiciary	Judiciary
Type of treatment provided	Outpatient and Residential	Outpatient and Residential	Outpatient	Outpatient	Outpatient	Outpatient	Outpatient and Residential	Outpatient and Residential
Frequency of follow-up hearings	Every three months	Once a month	Every three months	Every one month and a half	Every two months	Every two months	Once a week Every two weeks/Once a month	Once a week Every two weeks/Once a month
Professional in charge of psychosocial support	Judicial Branch Psychosocial Team	Mayor's Office liaison professionals	Public Criminal Defense Team and Judicial Branch Compliance	Dupla de la Procuraduría General de la República (Attorney	Adolescent Guidance Service Team	Public Prosecutor's Team	Case Manager-Judiciary	Case Manager-Judiciary

*Although many of the DTC programs in the region present an extensive catalog of crimes, in practice the crimes that actually enter are more limited, therefore the crimes that are actually entering the region's programs are presented.

DTC programs characteristics

Program and country	PJTDR Costa Rica	PSJTD Colombia	PJTD Panama	PTSJ Dominican Republic	JTR Peru	JRR Peru	TTD Jamaica	TTD Guyana
Does it contemplate post-graduation follow-up?	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Program status	National application procedure	Program in force in 18 territories nationwide	Pilot Program in the province of Cocle	National District Pilot Program	Pilot Program in 3 jurisdictions	Pilot Program in Central Lima District	Program in force in 5 Courts	Georgetown Court Pilot Program

Various stakeholders interviewed

Country	Visit dates	Key stakeholders interviewed
Jamaica	16-20 auguts 2023	(1) Judiciary, (2) National Council on Drug Abuse (NC Ministry of Health.
Guyana	22- 27 auguts 2023	(1) Judiciary, (2) Supreme Court, (3) Ministry of Healt Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, (5) Phc Recovery Project, (6) Police Force, (7) Public Cri Defense, (8) Georgetown Hospital, (9) Forensic Sc Service
Costa Rica	29– 1 september 2023	(1) Restorative Justice Office, (2) Public Prosecutor's C (3) Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction, (4) P Defender's Office, (5) Costa Rican Drug Institute, (6) (Rican Drug Institute.
Colombia	5-9 september 2023	(1) Judicial Branch, (2) Attorney General's Office, (3) Att General's Office, (4) Ministry of Health, (5) E.S.E Carism Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, (7) Family Defer Office, (8) Mayor's Office of Medellín, (7) Ministry of Ju and Law.
Panama	19- 23 september 2023	(1) Judicial Branch, (2) Public Defense Institute, (3) P Prosecutor's Office, (4) National Council for the Study Prevention of Drugs, (5) Ministry of Health, (4) Penor Health Center
Peru	23-27 october 2023	(1) Judicial Branch, (2) Supreme Court, (3) Public Prosec Office, (3) Superior Family Prosecutor's Office, (3) Mir of Health, (4) Juvenile Center for Adolescent Couns Service, Community Mental Health Center, Public Cri Defense Office
Dominican Republic	14-18 november 2023	(1) Judicial Branch, (2) National Drug Council, (3) P Criminal Defense Office, (4) Office of the Attorney Ge of the Republic, (5) Ministry of Health, (6) Center Comprehensive Care of Dependencies

Range of average cost per user for programs

Phase	Range and average cost per phase per user (USD)	Range and average of the percentage of total cost per user (%)
Entry	85 USD –559 USD (349 USD)	2% - 11% (10%)
Intervention	2704 USD - 7430 USD (4757 USD)	50% - 95% (78%)
Graduation	120 USD – 822 USD (430 USD)	3% – 15% (7%)
Post-graduation	75 USD – 1645 USD (1079 USD)	1% - 30% (15%)

*The average is indicated in parentheses

Source: own elaboration

Breakdown of the total cost per user of the "Intervention Phase" of the TTD programs in the region

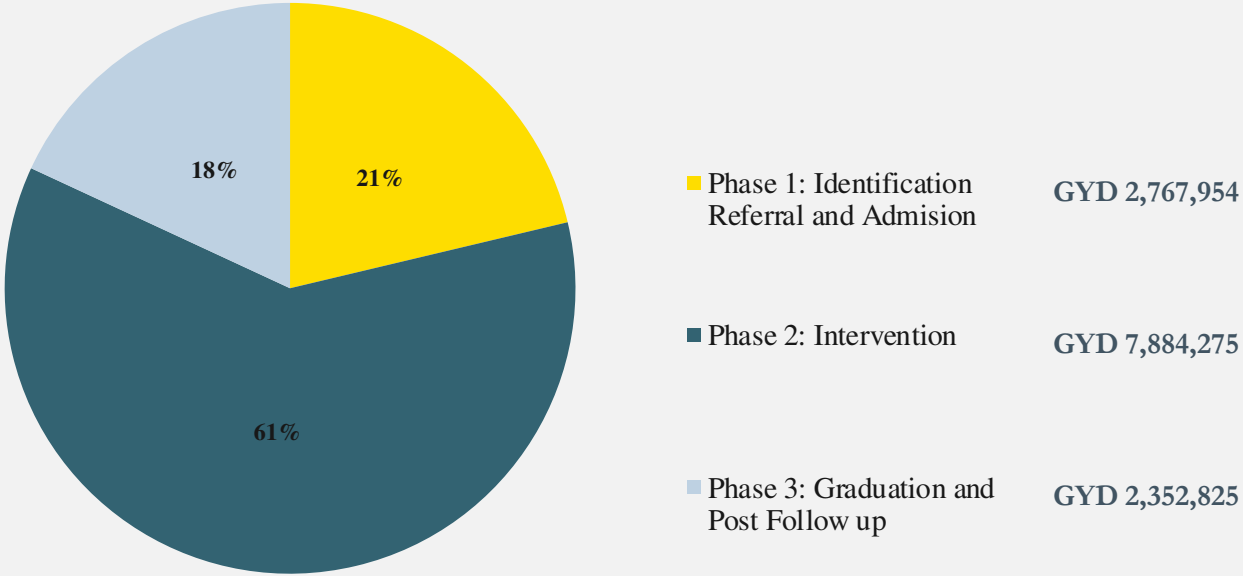
Intervention phase detail	Range and average cost per phase per user (USD)	Range and average of the percentage of total cost per user (%)
Substance Abuse Treatment	203 USD - 6502 USD (2292 USD)	4% - 88% (42%)
Judicial Follow-up	293 USD - 2390 USD (1475 USD)	5% - 88% (33%)
Psychosocial Support	440USD – 4300 USD (1847 USD)	9% – 91% (40%)

*The average is indicated in parentheses

Source: own elaboration

Guyana´s DTC Cost Estimation

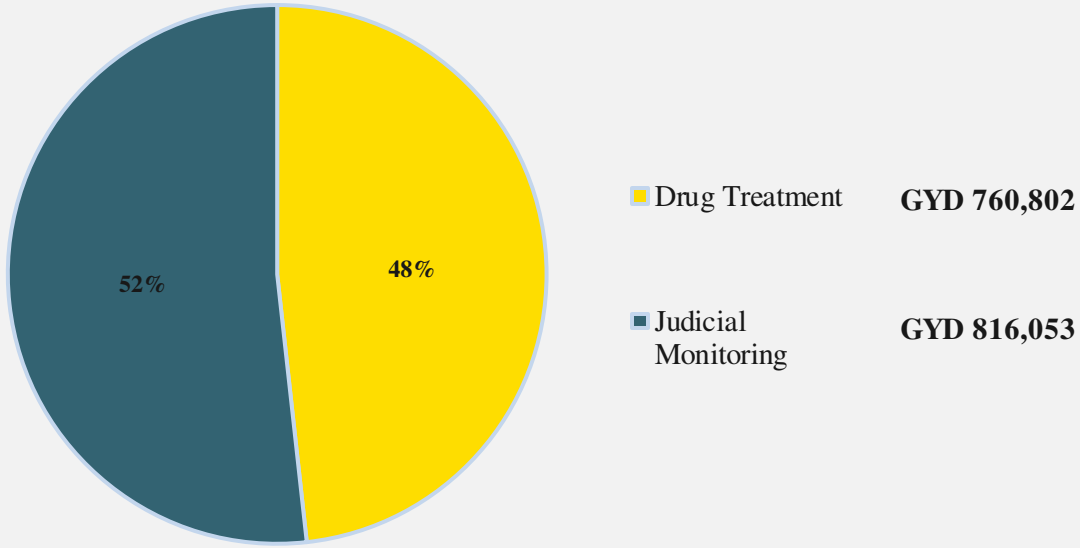
Graph 3: Guyana´s DTC Total Annual Cost per phase, 2022 execution



Source: Own Elaboration Nº 2022: 5 participants

Guyanas´s DTC Cost Estimation

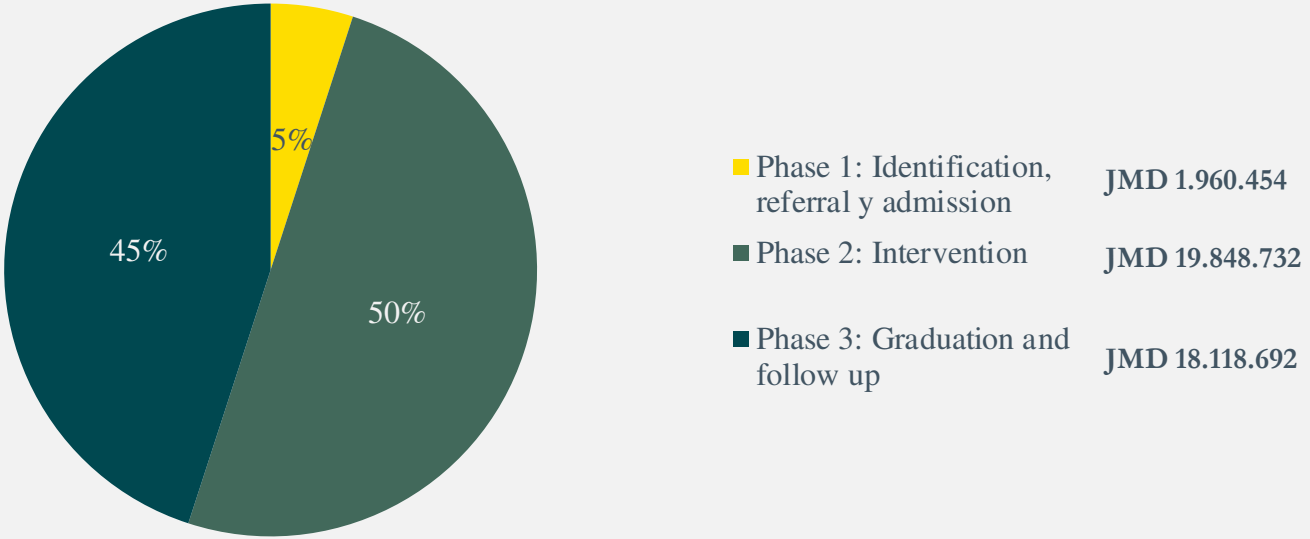
Graph 5: Guyanas DTC Total Annual Cost Intervention phase per user , 2022 execution



Source: Own Elaboration Nº 2022: 5 participants

Jamaica:
DTC cost estimation

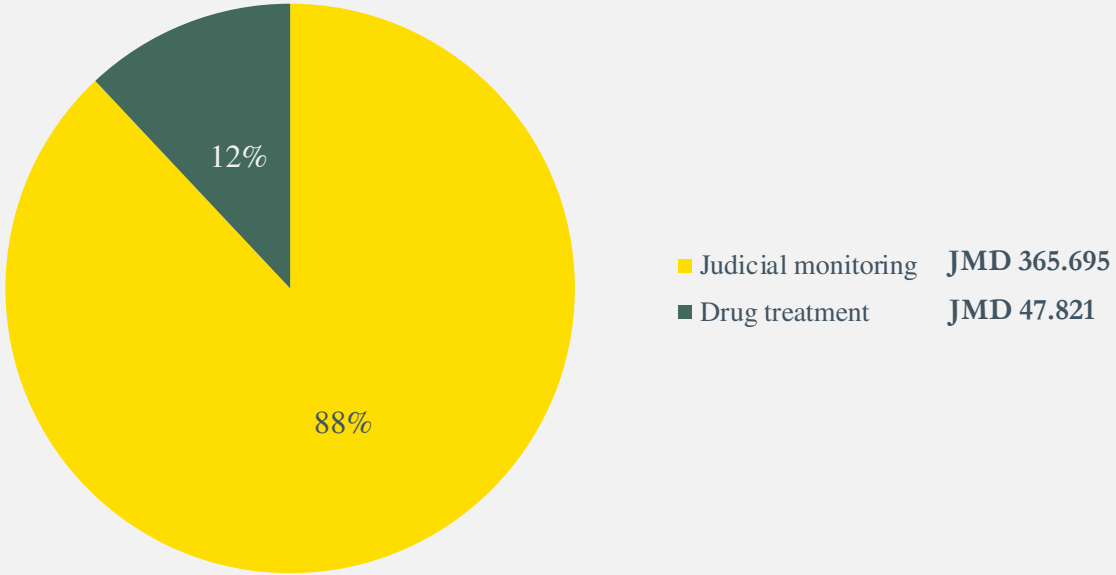
Graph: Jamaica's DTC Total Annual Cost per phase, 2022 execution



Source: Own Elaboration Nº 2022: 48 participants

Jamaica:
DTC cost estimation

Graph: Jamaica's DTC Total Annual Cost Intervention phase per User, 2022 execution



Source: Own Elaboration Nº 2022: 48 participants

III. Measurment and data collection challenges

Measurement and data collection challenges

- It is difficult to estimate the financial contribution of all the institutions that contribute to the program, both directly and indirectly.
- Challenges related to the measurement of indirect costs:
  - Indirect cost measurement involves prorating by population served annually, and not all countries have such a number. Using other figures, such as the total population of the city or others, leads to cost underestimation errors.
  - Institutions have information on direct and indirect costs on a grouped basis.

Measurement and data collection challenges

- Challenges related to direct cost measurement::
  - There are no exclusive use budgets for the programs, so there are not always formal records of the contribution of each institution.
  - The greatest cost is usually associated with the personnel who dedicate hours to the program, but these are difficult to quantify because in most cases it is not exclusive dedication.
  - The use of material resources and services is not always systematically recorded by each of the institutions involved.
  - Most of the programs lack budget execution planning.

Comparability of programs

- Highly diverse programs, adapting the model prevalent in North America according to local needs and capacities.
- Differences:
  - Procedural mechanisms to formalize cases
  - Different institutional insertions
  - Operational differences in terms of teams and responsibilities
  - Intensity and periodicity of treatment

IV. Scalability, challenges and conclusions

Scalability analysis

Critical points for the deepening of the DTC models in the región

- Need to expand the catalog of indictable offenses
- Strengthen inter-institutional alliances and consolidate institutional anchorage.
- Increase human resources with continuous training and awareness-raising processes.
- Strengthen material resources available for program implementation and standardize implementation protocols.
- Generate adherence mechanisms by identifying barriers to permanence.
- Strengthen financial planning and generation of resources for program implementation.

Scalability analysis

Territorial replicability of DTC programs in the región

- The analysis depends on the execution phase of each program, which is different from country to country.
- Challenges of replicability in programs in pilot or start-up phase:
  - Selection of localities to expand to (considering crime incidence and therefore potential benefit).
  - Strengthen the institutional anchoring of the program at the local level.
- Challenges of replicability programs in more advanced stages of implementation::
  - Updating and standardization of protocols.
  - Training of personnel

Conclusions and challenges

1. Programs need to estimate their potential demand and identify target population.

This is crucial for planning the budget and knowing the needs for care.

2. Identify potential barriers to accessing the target population.

Consider social, cultural and/or economic elements that restrict participation of the target population.

3. Conduct design evaluations of TTD programs.

Corroborate that the design meets the objectives and needs of the populations.

4. Once the model has been agreed upon, carry out process and/or implementation evaluations.

To analyze how the model is being implemented and identify gaps and opportunities for improvement.

5. Process evaluation should consider a cost control component.

The budget allocation and execution processes should be evaluated. Eventually evaluate cost-effectiveness

6. Generate budget glosses for own use.

These should respond to the program components and consider scalability for those who are expanding.

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