

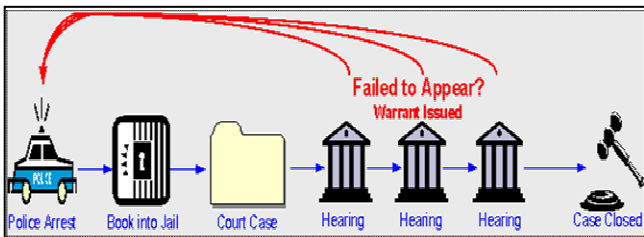
**COURT APPEARANCE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM: 2007 ANALYSIS HIGHLIGHTS**

The mission of the Court Appearance Notification System (CANS) is to reduce failure to appear in court (FTA) in Multnomah County. Similar to a doctor’s office, CANS operates by placing automated telephone calls to defendants prior to their court hearing to remind them of where and when to appear.

In the *first eight months of FY 07*, CANS helped prevent over 750 instances of FTA and 300 FTA warrants, resulting in approximately \$1 million of net cost avoidance for Multnomah County’s criminal justice system.

FTA rates for hearings successfully receiving CANS reminder calls are approximately 17%, a 41% reduction versus FTA rates for hearings not receiving reminder calls. CANS is projected to avoid a minimum of \$1.6 million in costs associated with FTA for Multnomah County’s criminal justice system for FY 07.

**BACKGROUND.** Failure to Appear in court results in a significant drain on criminal justice resources across all justice agencies in Multnomah County. An FTA often results in the production of warrants which are issued by judges, processed by the Sheriff’s Office, served by law enforcement agencies, and require that low-risk arrestees be jailed until their hearing.

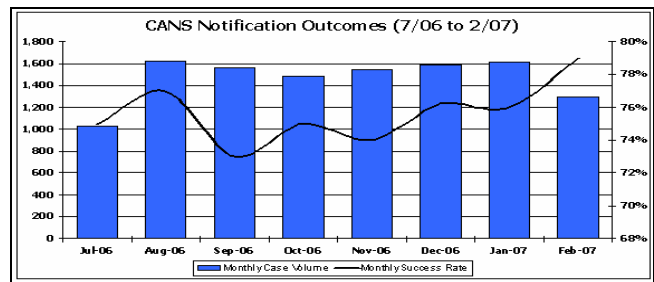


In 2005, CANS was established as part of a system wide effort to effectively reduce FTA in Multnomah County. Following the initial success of the CANS program, the system was expanded to place notification calls to a larger number and wider variety of cases in 2006.

**NOTIFICATION CALLS WERE PLACED.** Between July 1, 2006 and February 28, 2007 (FY 07 call data) 11,747 hearings received reminder calls from CANS. During this eight month period, 76% of all hearings receiving reminder calls were successfully notified. In total, 8,879 hearings were successfully notified during this period.

CANS places reminder calls on Tuesday through Saturday, from 7am to 7pm. If CANS does not

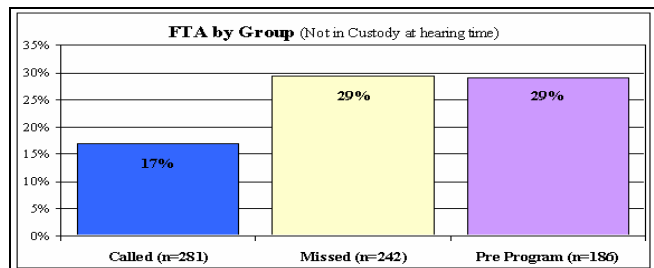
successfully deliver the message on the first call, it will make additional attempts. CANS stops calling upon successful delivery of the message and can make up to four attempts per hearing. ‘Successful’ calls are defined as calls where either an individual or an answering machine receives a complete iteration of the reminder message.



**NOTIFICATION OUTCOMES.** An analysis of the FY 07 call data was performed to determine if differences in FTA rates for hearings receiving call notification were consistent with those observed in the 2006 Process and Outcome Evaluation of the CANS pilot program (FY 06 Evaluation).<sup>1</sup>

Group	Males	White	Age	Felony
Called (n=281)	71%	64%	33.8	15%
Missed (n=242)	72%	65%	33.4	10%
Pre-Program (n=186)	76%	62%	35.7	N/A

A sample of 700 hearings was taken from the FY 07 call data. This sample data was used to determine the FTA and warrant rates for the ‘Called’ and ‘Missed’ groups. These findings were then compared to a ‘Pre-program’ group. Persons who were in custody at the time of their hearing were removed from the analysis.



The result of the FY 07 analysis indicates that the likelihood of FTA for the ‘Called’ group is 17%. This

<sup>1</sup> Nice, Matt L. (2006) *Court Appearance Notification System: Process and Outcome Evaluation*. Budget Office Evaluation

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figure is consistent with the FTA rate observed in the FY 06 Evaluation for the 'Called' group. Further, warrants were issued for FTA in 70% of instances of FTA. This figure is consistent with the FTA warrant issuance rate observed in the FY 06 Evaluation.

Based on these findings, the CANS program effectively reduces the likelihood of FTA by 31%. Defendants who successfully received a notification call decreased their failure rate by 41%.

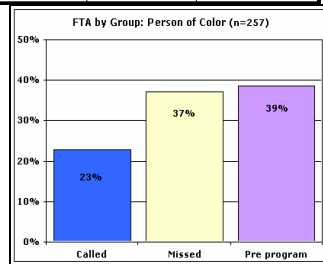
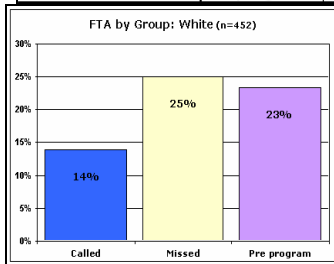
**OVER-REPRESENTATION.** One unintended consequence in any new criminal justice program is the possibility of increasing racial disparities also known as over-representation. A December 2002 Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) report identified issues relating to increasing the rate of appearances at court as a strategy for reducing minority over-representation in the criminal justice system. In developing CANS, LPSCC wanted to know if the effects would be race neutral, or perhaps reduce the current disparity previously identified.

reconciled. Jail booking and holding resulting from FTA incur additional costs. This analysis assumes that FTA warrants result in one day of jail holding. Cost estimates for Jail bed days were developed using reports prepared by the Multnomah County District Attorney<sup>2</sup> and NPC research.<sup>3</sup>

Function Component	FTA Only	FTA w/ New Warrant
Issuing / Clearing Warrants		\$26.42
Police Apprehension		\$202.96
Booking In Jail		\$299.15
Jail Holding (1 day)		\$158.00
Court Hearing (loaded)	\$714.38	\$714.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$714.38</b>	<b>\$1,400.91</b>

During the first eight months of FY 07, CANS prevented over 1,000 instances of FTA and 400 FTA warrants. This translates into an estimated \$1 million in FTA related costs avoided during this period, and a projected cost avoidance of \$1.6 million for FY 07.

Group		Appeared	FTA	FTA (%)
White (n=452)	Called	155	25	14%
	Missed	117	39	25%
	Pre program	89	27	23%
Non-White (n=257)	Called	78	39	23%
	Missed	54	32	37%
	Pre program	43	27	39%



Results found that Persons of Color who successfully received a reminder call had a 41% lower incidence of FTA than Persons of Color who did not receive calls. This suggests that the reduced FTA rates from the program extend to both Persons of Color and Whites.

**CALCULATING COST AVOIDANCE.** Costs associated with FTA can be avoided. At a minimum, costs are incurred when judges, prosecutors, defense and support staff must re-process a missed hearing. Costs associated with FTA increase when new warrants are produced and

	8 Month Period (n=11,747)	FY07 (n=18,000 cases)	Full Implementation (n=72,000)
FTA Avoided w/ CANS	1,057	1,620	6,480
Warrants Avoided w/ CANS	431	661	2,642

	8 Month Period (n=11,747)	FY07 (n=18,000 cases)	Full Implementation (n=72,000)
FTA Cost	\$755,264	\$1,157,296	\$4,629,182
Warrant Cost	\$295,973	\$453,522	\$1,814,087
<b>Total Cost Avoidance</b>	<b>\$1,051,237</b>	<b>\$1,610,817</b>	<b>\$6,443,269</b>

**SUMMARY.** The CANS program costs Multnomah County approximately \$56,000 for FY 07. When these program costs are taken into account, the estimated annual net cost efficiency for CANS is approximately \$1.55 million.

Further cost efficiencies are possible if the CANS program is expanded to include all of the hearings eligible to receive CANS calls. There are an estimated 72,000 hearings and case events that are eligible to receive notification calls. Estimated cost efficiencies resulting from full implementation of CANS exceed \$6 million annually. ■

<sup>2</sup> French, C. (2006). *Independent Review of Policies and Procedures of Correctional Facilities Operated by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office*. Multnomah County District Attorney's Office  
<sup>3</sup> Finigan, M. (2006). *An Analysis of the Impact of the Multnomah County Drug Court on the Drug Court Eligible Population from 1991 to 2001*. NPC Research