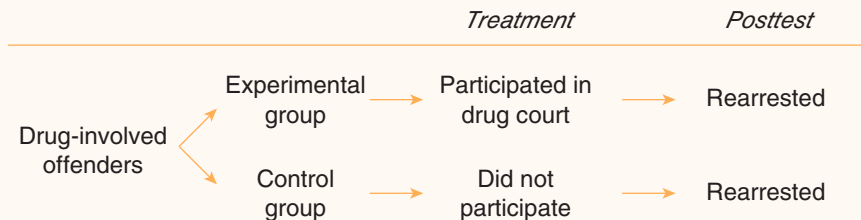


Exhibit 6.8**Quasi-Experimental Design of Drug Court Research**

Source: Adapted from Listwan, S. J., Sundt, J. L., Halsinger, A. M., & Katessam, E. H. (2003). The effect of drug court programming on recidivism: The Cincinnati experience. *Crime and Delinquency*, 49, 389–411.

Listwan and her colleagues (2003) examined whether participants in the Hamilton County Drug Court program in Cincinnati, Ohio, had lower rates of recidivism for both drug-related and other offenses. Exhibit 6.8 illustrates that there were two groups compared: those who participated in the drug court (experimental group) and those who were eligible but did not receive the drug court treatment services or the additional court supervision (control group). Importantly, the offenders were not randomly assigned to these groups. The researchers simply stated, “Members of [the control group] . . . either refused drug treatment or were refused by the drug court team” (p. 396).

Unfortunately, many evaluations of this nature do not have the ability to employ random assignment, thereby diluting the ability to determine the causal relationship between the treatment and the results. The researchers did examine the potential differences between the two groups and determined that they did not significantly differ in terms of age, race, education, or prior arrest for a drug-related offense, but the experimental group had a higher number of women and people with other prior records not related to drugs. Arrest and incarceration records for the participants were collected for up to four years after the program, but results were mixed. While participation in the program decreased the probability that offenders would be rearrested for drug-related offenses, it did not decrease the likelihood that they would be rearrested for other offenses.