

DRUG COURTS IN THE U.S. CUTTING CRIME, SAVING MONEY

3,316

treatment
courts
currently in
operation¹

75%

drug court
graduates who
remain arrest
free⁵

\$27

saved on
average for
every dollar
invested²

140,000

Americans
currently being
served by drug
courts¹



Drug courts are the *most successful* criminal justice intervention for addicted offenders. These courts are proven to *save lives, save money and reduce crime*:

- ✓ Adult drug courts reduce recidivism by as much as 45 percent.⁴
- ✓ 75 percent of drug court graduates remain arrest free, compared to just 30 percent of those released from prisons.⁵
- ✓ Juvenile drug courts reduce recidivism by as much as 40 percent.⁷
- ✓ Sending someone to a drug court instead of state prison can save up to \$13,000 per participant.²
- ✓ Family drug courts reduce the likelihood of re-entry into foster care by two-thirds.⁶
- ✓ Every U.S. state and territory utilizes drug court.¹



NADCP

National Association of
Drug Court Professionals

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1 American University School of Public Affairs Justice Programs Office (2016).

2 Aos, S., Miller, M., & Drake, E. (2006). Evidence-based public policy options to reduce future prison construction, criminal justice costs, and crime rates. Olympia, WA: Washington State Institute for Public Policy; Carey, S. M., Finigan, M., Crumpton, D., & Waller, M. (2006). California drug courts: Outcomes, costs and promising practices: An overview of phase II in a statewide study. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs, SARC Supplement 3*, 345-356; Finigan, M., Carey, S. M., & Cox, A. (2007). The impact of a mature drug court over 10 years of operation: Recidivism and costs. Portland, OR: NPC Research; Loman, L. A. (2004). A cost-benefit analysis of the St. Louis City Adult Felony Drug Court. St. Louis, MO: Institute of Applied Research; Bar-noski, R., & Aos, S. (2003). Washington State's drug courts for adult defendants: Outcome evaluation and cost-benefit analysis. Olympia, WA: Washington State Institute for Public Policy; Logan, T. K., Hoyt, W., McCollister, K. E., French, M. T., Leukefeld, C., & Minton, L. (2004). Economic evaluation of drug court: Methodology, results, and policy implications. *Evaluation & Program Planning*, 27, 381-396.

3 Finigan, M., Carey, S. M., & Cox, A. (2007). The impact of a mature drug court over 10 years of operation: Recidivism and costs. Portland, OR: NPC Research. Available at www.npcresearch.com.

4 Aos et al. (2006). Evidence-based public policy options to reduce future prison construction, criminal justice costs, and crime rates. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy; Lattimer (2006). A meta-analytic examination of drug treatment courts: Do they reduce recidivism? Canada Dept. of Justice; Lowenkamp et al. (2005)

5 Finigan, M., Carey, S. M., & Cox, A. (2007). The impact of a mature drug court over 10 years of operation: Recidivism and costs. Portland, OR: NPC Research. Available at www.npcresearch.com.

6 Marlowe, D. & Carey, S. M. (2012). Research Update on Family Drug Courts. Alexandria, VA: National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Available at NDCI.org.

7 Marlowe, D. (2010). Research Update on Juvenile Drug Courts. Alexandria, VA: National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Available at NDCI.org.