




National Institute of	Justice NIJ
 Drug Courts and Treatment Options: Research and Evaluation	
<p><i>U.S. Sentencing Commission's Symposium on Alternatives to Incarceration</i></p> <p><i>July 14, 2008</i></p>	

National Institute of	Justice NIJ
 <u>NIJ's Drugs and Crime Research Portfolio</u> Informs crime reduction through: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Epidemiology – to increase our understanding of relationships between drugs, alcohol, violence and crime;2. Prevention and Intervention – to identify and evaluate strategies to prevent, deter or reduce drug and alcohol-related crime (including treatment);3. Drug Markets – to increase our understanding about the dynamics of drug production and distribution in domestic and international markets;4. Market Disruption – to identify and evaluate strategies to disrupt drug markets at different levels and by type of market; and,5. Technology – to identify and assess new drug testing and detection methods, technologies and strategies.	



Past Prevention and Intervention Research

Breaking the Cycle (BTC)

Demonstration project tested feasibility and impact of system-wide interventions to reduce drug use among felony defendants in 3 sites; all drug screened as pretrial release condition; received drug testing and appropriate drug treatment if reported drug use, tested positive, or arrested on drug offenses.

Process evaluation found problems in identifying and addressing range of drug-related problems, and in managing defendants across agencies; still, impact evaluation showed reductions in drug use and crime compared to similar defendants arrested in prior year.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)

Assists development of RSAT programs in detention/correctional facilities in all States and territories.

Survey of 384 adult program administrators Nationwide found that most programs offered fewer than 60% of evidence-based practices (EBPs) available; analysis showed that programs offering more EBPs were accredited, performance-based, offered better trained, and more regard for substance abuse treatment.



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Drug Court Research Portfolio

- **Past Research and Evaluation** – Drug Courts: The Second Decade; NIJ Webcast (see NIJ website, specialized courts webpages)
- **Impact and Cost Studies** – Single-site studies based on archival data; Impact of a Mature Drug Court Over 10 Years of Operation: Recidivism and Costs (see clearinghouse at NCJRS)
- **Multi-Site Adult Drug Court Evaluation** – Multi-million dollar process, impact and cost study of 1800 probationers from 30 rural/suburban/ urban jurisdictions by Urban/RTI/CCI team
- **Local Program Evaluation and Performance Measures** – NADCP/NDCl training DVD



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Variance in Drug Court Program Cost Studies

University of Kentucky (2001). Kentucky Drug Court Outcome Evaluation: Behavior, Costs, and Avoided Costs to Society - Daily cost of drug court participants ranged from \$3.58 to \$9.93 per day; avoided costs ranged from \$1.44 to \$2.27 per participant over 12-month followup

University of Nebraska (2004). Cost/Benefit Analysis of the Douglas County Drug Court - Investment cost was \$4803 for drug court participants compared to \$9,224 for traditionally-adjudicated offenders; annual outcome cost savings was \$2999 per participant over 24-month followup

NPC Research (2007). Indiana Drug Courts: A Summary of Evaluation Findings in Five Adult Programs - Cost savings per participant ranged from \$314 to \$7040 over the 24-month followup

NPC Research (2007). Impact of a Mature Drug Court Over 10 Years of Operation: Recidivism and Costs - \$1392 instant case savings, \$6744 outcome cost savings over 5-year followup



Drug Court Program and Evaluation Issues

- Identifying community priorities and program target population
- Risk and needs assessment (alcohol and other drug use, comorbidity, public safety, and other concerns)
- Treatment and ancillary service resources and delivery options
- Judicial and other team training/experience
- Graduated sanctions and rewards
- Performance measures to demonstrate participant outcomes, and modify program given needs and resources over time
- Cost avoidance estimation using local proxy measures



NIJ Drugs and Crime Research Dissemination

- **NIJ website** at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/>; specialized courts
- **NIJ Conference** 7/21/08-7/23/08 at Crystal Gateway Marriott, VA
- **National Criminal Justice Reference Center** at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/>
- **National Archive of Criminal Justice Data** at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>



NIJ Courts, Drugs and Crime Research and Evaluation

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