



# Treatment Courts Across the United States (2020)

As of December 31, 2020, a total of 3,848 treatment courts were in operation across the United States. This document outlines the type & location (i.e., state/territory) of these programs. These data were gathered by National Drug Court Resource Center (NDCRC) staff from state/territory coordinators and/or their designees between January and April 2021<sup>1</sup>. Data regarding Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts (THWCs) are not included in this document. The NDCRC is currently conducting a study (*Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts: An Inaugural Survey of the Field*) that will provide an overview of THWCs within the US and should be completed by the end of 2021.

State	Adult										Juvenile					State/Territory Total
	Drug	DWI/DUI	*Hybrid Drug/DUI	Co-occurring Disorder	Family	Mental Health	Opioid	Reentry	Veterans	Other	Drug	Co-occurring Disorder	Mental Health	Reentry	Truancy	
Alabama	55		28		14	11			20		10		1			111
Alaska	5	2	4		2	3			1	1						14
Arizona	19	2	4		4	13	1		12		9					60
Arkansas	49	14				5			11		18					97
California	82	16		6	33	52		18	47		20	1	8	2	10	295
Colorado	30	15	2	2	12	4			6		3		2			74
Connecticut	1															1
Delaware	5	2			3	3		1	3				3		3	23
District of Columbia	1					1										2
Florida	56	4			13	31			31		20		1			156
Georgia	54	19	3	32	23				20	3	9	4				164
Guam	1	1			1			1	1		1					6
Hawaii	6					1			4		4					15
Idaho	35	7	3		2	11			5		4		2			66
Illinois	56	3	2	1		24			15							99
Indiana	44	1			14	8		11	28		1				1	108



State	Adult										Juvenile					State/Territory Total
	Drug	DWI/DUI	*Hybrid Drug/DUI	Co-occurring Disorder	Family	Mental Health	Opioid	Reentry	Veterans	Other	Drug	Co-occurring Disorder	Mental Health	Reentry	Truancy	
Iowa	13		2		10	3			1		1					28
Kansas	11					4			1		2				2	20
Kentucky	57					1			7							65
Louisiana	30	9	21		7	3		8	4	1	9		1			72
Maine	6			1	3				1							11
Maryland	28		3		5	7		2	7		1				8	58
Massachusetts	25				1	7			5		3					41
Michigan	73	34	61		8	34					13		7			196
Minnesota	38	12	17		3	4			7		1					65
Mississippi	38				3						15					56
Missouri	80	23	34		15						4					137
Montana	14	6		2	5				4		2					33
Nebraska	42	1						2	2		1					48
Nevada	21	8		2	4	6	3	1	6		4					55
New Hampshire				14					1	10						25
New Jersey	21															21
New Mexico	32	1	9		3	5			2		6					49
New York	100	4	27		18	30	10		38		2					202
North Carolina	26	6			9	8			4		3					56
North Dakota	7		7								6					13
N. Mariana Islands	1															1
Ohio	112	6		3	34	35		10	30		20	5	6			261
Oklahoma	50	2	2	5	4	22			3		7					93
Oregon	29	2	2		6	20			5		4					66



State	Adult										Juvenile					State/Territory Total
	Drug	DWI/DUI	*Hybrid Drug/DUI	Co-occurring Disorder	Family	Mental Health	Opioid	Reentry	Veterans	Other	Drug	Co-occurring Disorder	Mental Health	Reentry	Truancy	
Pennsylvania	48	14	10	1	5	22	2	1	25	1	5					124
Puerto Rico	10															10
Rhode Island	1				1				1		1					4
South Carolina	23	1				8			5		14	1				52
South Dakota	10	4	3			2			3							19
Tennessee	51	4			1	8			10		7					81
Texas	70	22	11	2	14	24		9	29		19		7			196
Utah	28					12			2		20		3			65
Vermont	3	1				1										5
Virginia	39	2			4	13			7		7		1			73
Washington	28	6			19	18			10		9		1			91
West Virginia	31				8						18					57
Wisconsin	45	19	15	3	6	5			9		2					89
Wyoming	15		1						1		3					19
<b>Total</b>	<b>1755</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3848</b>

\*Hybrid Drug/DUI courts are accounted for within the Adult Drug Court total for each state. The number in the Hybrid Drug/DUI court column represents the number of Adult Drug Courts that also serve DUI populations. To avoid duplication, this column should be excluded when totaling all court types.

### Suggested Citation

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## Definitions of Adult Court Types<sup>2</sup>

### Adult Drug Court (only)

A specially designed criminal court calendar or docket, the purposes of which are to achieve a reduction in criminal recidivism and substance use and increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation for adults with substance use disorders charged with drug-related offenses. Interventions include early, continuous, and intensive judicially supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug and alcohol testing, community supervision, and the use of appropriate sanctions, incentives, and habilitation services (Huddleston et al., 2004).

### DWI/ DUI Court (only)

A DUI court is typically a post-conviction court docket dedicated to changing the behavior of persons with serious substance use disorders or high blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels arrested for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol (DUI) or driving while impaired (DWI). The goal of the DUI court is to protect public safety while addressing the root causes of recidivist impaired driving. DUI courts utilize a team of criminal justice professionals (including prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, and law enforcement) along with substance use disorder treatment professionals to systematically change participant behavior. Like drug courts, DUI courts involve extensive interactions between the judge and participant to hold the participant accountable for compliance with court, supervision, and treatment conditions (Huddleston et al., 2004).

### Hybrid Adult Drug Court / DWI/DUI

Hybrid adult drug/DWI/DUI court is a program that enrolls both adult drug court and DWI/DUI participants in one program.

### Co-occurring Disorder Court

Co-occurring disorders courts are specialized criminal court dockets or calendars that serve individuals diagnosed with both a moderate-to-severe substance use disorder and a severe and persistent mental illness, such as bipolar disorder (manic depression), major depression, or schizophrenia. The programs do more than simply treat dually diagnosed disorders. Mental illness and substance use disorders are often reciprocally aggravating conditions, meaning that continued symptoms of one disorder are likely to precipitate relapse in the other disorder. For example, a formerly depressed person who continues to misuse drugs is likely to experience a resurgence of depressive symptoms. Conversely, a person recovering from a substance use disorder who continues to suffer from depression is at serious risk for relapsing to drug abuse. For this reason, co-occurring disorders courts treat mental health and substance use disorders concurrently, as opposed to consecutively. Whenever possible, both disorders are treated in the same facility by the same professional(s) using an evidence-based integrated treatment model that focuses on the mutually aggravating effects of the two conditions. Participants also receive unhindered access to medical and psychiatric practitioners qualified to prescribe and monitor response to psychotropic and addiction medications (Steadman et al., 2013).

### Family Drug Court

A family drug court is a juvenile or family court docket for cases of child abuse or neglect in which parental substance use is a contributing factor. Judges, attorneys, child protection services, and treatment personnel unite with the goal of providing safe, nurturing, and permanent homes for children while simultaneously providing parents with the necessary support and services they need to become drug and alcohol abstinent. Family drug courts aid parents or guardians to regain control of their lives and promote long-term stabilized recovery to enhance the possibility of family reunification within mandatory legal timeframes (Huddleston et al., 2005).



## **Mental Health/Wellness Court**

Modeled after drug courts and developed in response to the overrepresentation of people with mental health disorders in the criminal justice system, mental health courts divert certain defendants suffering from severe and persistent mental illness into judicially supervised, community-based treatment. Participants are invited to participate following a specialized screening and assessment process, and they may choose to decline participation. For those who agree to the terms and conditions of community-based supervision, a team of court and mental health professionals work together to develop treatment plans and supervise participants in the community. Participants appear at regular status hearings, during which incentives are offered to reward adherence to court conditions, sanctions for nonadherence are handed down, and treatment plans and other conditions are periodically reviewed for appropriateness (Council of State Governments, 2005).

## **Opioid Court**

Opioid intervention courts are rapid response programs that use immediate screening and treatment engagement, intensive judicial monitoring, and recovery support services to prevent opioid overdose and save lives. By helping to stabilize individuals who are at immediate risk of overdose death, opioid courts offer support to individuals in crisis and set participants on the path to long-term recovery and a better quality of life.

## **Re-entry Drug Court**

Reentry drug courts use the adult drug court model, as defined in the 10 Key Components of Drug Courts, to facilitate reintegration of inmates with serious substance use disorders into the community upon their release from local or state correctional facilities. These are distinct from reentry courts (defined below), which do not necessarily utilize the drug court model or focus on drug or alcohol use disorders, but often do work with similar populations. The participant is involved in regular judicial monitoring, intensive treatment, community supervision, and drug and alcohol testing. Participants are provided with specialized ancillary services required for successful reentry into the community (Tauber & Huddleston, 1999).

## **Veterans Treatment Court**

Veterans treatment courts apply a hybrid integration of drug court and mental health court principles to serve military veterans and sometimes active-duty military personnel suffering from service-related injury or illness, such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), reactive depression, and co-occurring substance use disorders. They promote sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with the traditional partners found in drug courts and mental health courts, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs health care networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, state departments of veterans affairs, volunteer veteran mentors, and organizations that support veterans and their families (Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2010). VTCs view veterans as persons with special needs who cannot be served adequately in conventional drug courts, mental health courts, or other veterans' treatment programs. Traumatic exposure during combat, difficulty reintegrating into civil society after discharge, and the unique socialization processes of military culture require veteran-specific services to be delivered in separate court-based programs by current or former veterans who are familiar with combat and military lifestyle.



## Definitions of Juvenile Court Types

### Juvenile Drug Court

A juvenile drug court is a specialized docket within the juvenile or family court system to which selected delinquency cases—and in some instances, status offense cases—are referred for handling by a designated judge. The youths referred to this docket are identified as having problems with alcohol and/or other drugs. The juvenile drug court judge maintains close oversight of each case through regular status hearings with the parties and their guardians. The judge both leads and works as a member of a team composed of representatives from treatment, juvenile justice, social and mental health services, school and vocational training programs, law enforcement, probation, prosecution, and defense counsel. Over the course of a year or more, the team meets frequently (often weekly), determining how best to address the substance use and related problems of the youth and his or her family that have brought the youth into contact with the juvenile justice system (NDCI & National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 2003).

### Co-occurring Disorder Court

See definition for co-occurring disorder court in the previous section; this program is for juveniles.

### Mental Health/Wellness Court

See definition for mental health/wellness in the previous section; this program is for juveniles.

### Re-entry Drug Court

See definition for re-entry drug court in the previous section; this program is for juveniles.

### Truancy Court

Truancy courts are designed to help school-aged children overcome the underlying causes of truancy by reinforcing and combining efforts from the school, courts, mental health providers, families, and the community. Guidance counselors submit reports on the child's weekly progress throughout the school year, which the court uses to enable special testing, counseling, or other necessary services. Truancy court is often held on the school grounds and results in the ultimate dismissal of truancy petitions if the child can be helped to attend school regularly. Many courts have reorganized to form special truancy court dockets within the juvenile or family court. Consolidation of truancy cases results in speedier court dates, more consistent dispositions, and makes court personnel more attuned to the needs of truant youths and their families. Community programs bring together the schools, law enforcement, social service providers, mental and physical health care providers, and others to help stabilize families and reengage youth in their education (National Drug Court Resource Center, n.d.).

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<sup>1</sup> The data for this publication were collected from statewide/territory coordinators via an Excel spreadsheet sent through email. The coordinators were asked to provide the total number of treatment courts by type and county that were operational as December 31, 2020. These data are intended to provide a snapshot of the current number of treatment courts operating in the United States and territories. Forthcoming publications will examine trends within various treatment court types over time, as well as more detailed data regarding participant demographics, program structure, most prevalent drugs of use, gaps in services, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Definitions for adult and juvenile court types were based on Marlowe, D. B., Hardin, C. D., & Fox, C. L. (2016). *Painting the current picture: A national report on drug courts and other problem-solving courts in the United States*. Alexandria, VA: National Drug Court Institute.