

FACT SHEET: DRUG COURTS

Northampton County Statistics

- In operation since April, 2015
- 4-phase program designed to last 18-24 months
- Intended for high risk/high needs individuals with repeated criminal episodes and repeated treatment failures who have violated probation or parole
- 26 participants
- Participant profile:
 - 15 (58%) male
 - 11 (42%) female
 - Average age: 29
 - Youngest: 20
 - Oldest: 50
 - 72% of participants self-report heroin addiction
 - 92% of participants report poly-substance use
 - 40% of participants report alcohol use
 - 40% of participants report marijuana use
 - 40% of participants report methamphetamine use
- The Fiscal Benefits of Drug Court:
 - Based on prison's current per diem and an average six-month sentence, Drug Court results in a prison savings of \$17,906.40 per participant
 - Drug Court has saved over 4,200 prison days, resulting in a conservative estimated cost savings of \$417,816.00
 - Criminal Division has collected over \$17,900.00 on cases under the supervision of the Drug Court

Nationwide Statistics

- “More than 80% of people charged with a crime in this county misuse illicit drugs or alcohol, and nearly one half have a moderate to severe substance use disorder . . . Nationwide, Drug Courts reduce recidivism by an average of about 60%.”

Source: NDCI National Report on Drug Courts and other Problem-Solving Courts in the United States, by Douglas Marlowe, JD, Ph.D., Carolyn Hardin, MPA, and Carson L. Fox, JD (June 2016)

- Nationwide, 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after leaving the program
- Drug Courts reduce crime as much as 45 percent more than other sentencing options
- Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in Drug Court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs alone; when considering other cost offsets such as savings from reduced victimization and healthcare service utilization, studies have shown benefits range up to \$27 for every \$1 invested
- Drug Courts produce cost savings ranging from \$3,000 to \$13,000 per client. These cost savings reflect reduced prison costs, reduced revolving-door arrests and trials, and reduced victimization
- Unless substance abusing/addicted offenders are regularly supervised by a judge and held accountable, 70% drop out of treatment prematurely
- Drug Courts provide more comprehensive and closer supervision than other community-based supervision programs
- Drug Courts are six times more likely to keep offenders in treatment long enough for them to get better

Source: <http://www.nadcp.org/learn/facts-and-figures>