



JUSTICE FOR ALL

NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH | MAY 2018

“People can and do change.”



Allison is a drug court graduate from Texas. She is also a sex trafficking survivor and advocate.

Click [here](#) to watch her story.

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for saving lives and reuniting families. Thank you for committing to research-driven treatment. Thank you for leading justice system reform. Every one of you working in treatment courts is a hero, and your impact is worth celebrating.

So let's celebrate!

This May marks yet another National Drug Court Month, our annual opportunity to share with the world our success in transforming lives. This year's theme is Justice For All, and you are ensuring just that.

The goal of National Drug Court Month is twofold:

- 1) Build support in your community for your program, and
- 2) Ensure members of Congress and other elected officials understand why treatment courts are a critical investment.

Across the country, adult and juvenile drug treatment courts, family treatment courts, tribal healing to wellness courts, DWI courts and veterans treatment courts will accomplish these goals by holding graduation ceremonies, hosting special community events and rallies and meeting with local, state and federal elected officials.

This year's celebration comes at an important time for treatment courts. We've just received the largest federal appropriation in the history of our movement, but we must fight to ensure this funding continues in the next fiscal year. National Drug Court Month is our opportunity to make our voices heard.

By the end of May, you will have generated thousands of media stories and exposed the public and policymakers to the most successful justice intervention for people with substance use and mental health disorders in our nation's history. We'll share those stories all month long via social media and email updates, so please be sure to [send us photos, videos and news reports](#).

In this kit, you'll find everything you need for a successful National Drug Court Month. NADCP stands ready to assist you in every way we can. Together, we will ensure that this National Drug Court Month is our biggest yet. Together, we will ensure Justice For All.

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of every past, present and future graduate.

Sincerely,



Carson Fox
Chief Executive Officer

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Ensure Critical Support

*National Drug Court Month is our chance to build crucial support for treatment court funding at the local, state and federal level. **Here are the four most important ways you can make an impact.***

- 1) Request a Congressional speech:** Members of Congress frequently deliver short speeches about important issues on the floor of the U.S. House or U.S. Senate. These “floor speeches” are one of the most effective ways we can ensure funding for treatment courts.

This May, we are asking every treatment court to reach out to their respective Members of Congress and request they deliver a floor speech in support of treatment courts. See pages 3-5 for a sample speech and detailed instructions on making this request.

- 2) Hold a graduation ceremony:** Graduations are the single most effective way to build support for your court program in the community and among stakeholders. Schedule a graduation ceremony for May, and invite key stakeholders, elected officials and the press. This is a great opportunity to celebrate not only graduates but all your program does for the community. Tips for getting media and elected officials to attend your graduation can be found on page 9.
- 3) Write an op-ed:** Submit an opinion piece to your local paper to tell the community about your success. National Drug Court Month is a great hook for local op-eds, and papers are very likely to publish what you send them. For instructions and a sample, see pages 11-12.
- 4) Issue a proclamation:** A proclamation is a great way to garner support at the city, county or state level. An official National Drug Court Month proclamation can also be used to generate press. You will find a sample proclamation on page 13.

More National Drug Court Month Event Ideas

*In addition to the four priority items listed on page 1, there are many other creative ways to celebrate National Drug Court Month. Below are some ideas to get you started. **Remember, elected officials can and should be invited to attend any event you hold!***

- 1) **Community clean-up project:** Invite your community to clean up a local park, street, highway or school. Invite past program graduates and their families to join, and encourage all court staff, law enforcement, probation, etc. to join in.
- 2) **Community/alumni picnic:** Picnics are perfect opportunities for your court participants to meet and talk with program alumni, as well as a way to foster community support and media coverage. Offer free food, and invite the public to come learn more about their local treatment court.
- 3) **School assembly:** Many treatment courts do outreach to local schools. This is a great way for your participants to give back to the community and spread a positive message to local youth.
- 4) **Walk, run or bike ride:** This is a fun community event that can easily become an annual tradition. It is also a great fundraising opportunity, especially if program alumni and current participants take part and ask their friends and family to sponsor them per kilometer or mile.
- 5) **Sports competition:** Many court programs host softball games, volleyball tournaments, etc. that pit program participants against court staff and/or law enforcement. These games are often a huge success and media draw.
- 6) **Donation drive:** A donation drive can be held through the entire month of May. Choose a local food bank or charity, and help them raise donations. This can also be an entry point for local businesses to get involved with your court.



Request A Congressional Speech

In just three easy steps!

Step 1: Call your member of Congress' office in Washington, D.C.

- [Click here](#) to get your member's contact information.
- Ask to speak to the person handling judiciary issues, most often the **judicial legislative assistant**.
- If the judicial legislative assistant is available:
 - Introduce yourself.
 - Urge your member to fight for drug court funding by delivering a speech on the floor in support of National Drug Court Month
 - Let them know that you have drafted a short speech; ask that they read it on the floor.
- Follow up with an email (see the sample on page 4):
 - Attach the sample speech (see page 5).
 - Send it to the judicial legislative assistant.
 - Follow up after a few days to confirm receipt.

Step 2: If the member agrees to give a speech, notify NADCP.

- Contact Greg Loeffler, NADCP public affairs associate, at gloeffler@allrise.org.

Step 3: After the speech, send a personal thank-you letter.

- Consider asking your graduates/participants to send letters of thanks as well.



Sample Congressional Support Speech Email Request

Attach the sample support speech to the email request.

Dear [congressional staffer]:

May is National Drug Court Month, a celebration of the most successful strategy for cutting crime and saving lives and valuable tax dollars. As [Senator/Representative] [last name] represents our community, we need [his/her] continued support for drug courts and the 150,000 lives they restore each year.

In honor of National Drug Court Month, we ask that **[Senator/Representative] [last name]** provide one minute of remarks on the floor in support of our drug court graduates and continued federal funding. Attached please find a sample speech for you to adapt and use as desired.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [phone number] or [email address].

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your title]

Sample Congressional Support Speech

Adjust the sample speech below as needed, and email it to each member of Congress' judicial legislative assistant within 24 hours of your initial contact with them.

Today, I stand to support drug courts in my community and nationwide. I stand in recognition that drug courts are an indispensable resource to law enforcement and other community stakeholders impacted by an opioid epidemic claiming the lives of more than 100 Americans each day. I stand for the 150,000 people currently involved in drug court who are going back to school, back to work, back to their community as an asset and not a drain.

Drug courts and veterans treatment courts represent one of the most successful strategies in our nation's history for reducing crime. By holding offenders with substance use and mental health disorders accountable through strict supervision and treatment, drug courts and veterans treatment courts have saved billions of tax dollars and saved the lives of more than 1.5 million citizens and veterans.

This May, more than 3,000 drug courts and veterans treatment courts in the United States will celebrate National Drug Court Month and the 150,000 people they serve each year. There is no better time to pledge our support for the Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program and Veterans Treatment Courts at the Department of Justice.

For evidence of why this is a critical investment for Congress to make, we need look no further than the incredible stories of redemption found in drug courts and veterans treatment courts.

[Insert the success story of a local graduate here. This only needs to be a couple of sentences. Here is an example: *Like so many in our state, David became addicted to prescription drugs after experimenting in high school. Soon, his drug use spiraled out of control and he found himself living on the street and doing whatever he could to feed his addiction. When he was arrested, David faced several years in prison. But instead of locking him away with no treatment and at great expense to taxpayers, David received treatment, structure and accountability in drug court. The program turned his life around. Today, thanks to drug court, David is a proud father, a dedicated employee and a contributing member of his community.]*

I ask that you support the work of drug courts and veterans treatment courts in the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process so more lives can be saved, more families reunited, more hard-earned tax dollars spent on solutions that work. Thank you.

Hold a Graduation Ceremony

There is no better way to build support for your program than by holding a graduation ceremony and inviting key stakeholders, including members of Congress and the media to attend.

Recommended graduation ceremony dates:

April 30 – May 4 – Both House and Senate members will be in their districts/states

May 28 – June 1 – Both House and Senate members will be in their districts/states

The process for inviting members of Congress to attend a graduation is the same as requesting a floor speech (see instructions on page 3). A sample email is below, and a sample letter of invitation is on page 7. Be sure to also invite local stakeholders such as your mayor, county commissioners, state legislators and governor.

Sample Email Invitation

Attach the official graduation invitation letter on the following page to this email.

Dear [congressional staffer]:

May is National Drug Court Month, a celebration of the most successful strategy for cutting crime and saving lives and valuable tax dollars. As [Senator/Representative] [last name] represents our community, we need [his/her] continued support for drug courts and the 150,000 lives they restore each year.

It is my honor to invite [Senator/Representative] [last name] to provide the [commencement address/keynote address] at the [graduation ceremony] of the [treatment court] on [time and date]. Media will be invited. Attached please find the event invitation with further details.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. If you have any questions, or to confirm the event details, please feel free to contact me at [phone number] or [email address].

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your title]

Sample Graduation Invitation Letter

Fill out the sample letter below.

To: [Your senator or representative]
Attn: [Scheduler]
CC: [Judiciary legislative assistant/staff member]
From: [Judge name, city, state]
Subject: Visit with Constituents
Date: [Current date]

Dear [Senator/Congressman/Congresswoman] [last name]:

As the presiding judge of the [treatment court], it is my honor to invite you to deliver a commencement address during a special ceremony celebrating National Drug Court Month and honoring our most recent graduates on [date] at [time] at [location]. Your support for drug court was critical to giving our graduates an opportunity to address their substance use disorder and become productive citizens. This event—with community leaders, court staff, friends, family and media in attendance—will be a powerful opportunity for all of us to show our gratitude for your commitment to drug court.

Our drug court is one of more than 3,000 nationwide annually serving 150,000 people. Drug courts are now the most successful justice program for reducing addiction, crime and recidivism while saving taxpayer dollars. Our drug court graduates entered the program addicted to drugs and as a drain on the community, but because of the combination of accountability and treatment they received in drug court, they are now going back to school, reuniting with their families, finding employment and paying taxes. They want to thank you for your continued support of drug court, support that will help future drug court graduates receive the same opportunity.

[Add basic information/statistics on your program.]

As our [Senator/Representative] for [location], it would be an honor to have you address our [graduates/participants/families/etc.]. Thank you for your service to our community and for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, or to confirm the event details, please feel free to contact me at [phone number] or [email address].

Sincerely,

[Judge name]
[Judge title]

“When I was offered veterans treatment court, the light came on. You realize there is another way to live.

I like to pursue that light in other people’s eyes now.”



Robert is a veterans treatment court graduate from Oklahoma. He is now veteran mentor and AmeriCorps leader.

Click [here](#) to watch his story.

Get Media to Your Graduation/Event

Your court's graduation ceremony is newsworthy. If one or more members of Congress attend, it is your responsibility to get media to the event to ensure the member receives positive coverage.

Designate a media coordinator and spokesperson for your court:

1. The **media coordinator** is responsible for identifying and contacting media for your court.
2. The **media spokesperson** is the individual providing quotes and interviews to the media. The spokesperson must be knowledgeable about your court and able to speak from a position of authority. This is often the judge but could be another key member of the team.

Write your press release. If your members' attendance is confirmed, let them know you will be sending a press release (use the sample provided on page 10). They may want to see it before it is sent.

Identify media outlets to contact. Don't limit your list to local media; state and regional media may also be interested. If you've worked with reporters in the past, or know of reporters covering criminal justice issues, reach out to them directly. Otherwise, contact the outlet and ask for the assignment desk.

Send your press release. Email your press release to each media outlet 5-10 days prior to the event. Include the release in the body of the email, not as an attachment.

Follow up. Don't be afraid to make repeated calls to follow up. This is often what it takes to get noticed.

Send positive media stories about your treatment court to your members of Congress and other elected officials. Include both your representatives and senators. You can look up contact information for your members of Congress [here](#).

Note: Personal stories are critical. Ask successful graduates or participants nearing program completion if you can share their story. If they wish to remain anonymous, ask if you can do so without using their name or photo. If you choose to feature a success story from your court, remember that **new participants are in a vulnerable stage and should not be profiled by the media.**

For assistance with media outreach and interviews, contact Brooke Glisson, NADCP associate director of communications, at bglisson@allrise.org.

Sample Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact:

[Your name]

[Your title]

[Your phone number and email address]

[court logo]

Local Court Celebrates National Drug Court Month with [Event]

[Name] Will Deliver Keynote Address

[CITY, STATE, DATE]—In celebration of National Drug Court Month, the [treatment court] will hold a [graduation ceremony/event] on [date] at [location]. [Name (judge, member of Congress, etc.)] will deliver the keynote address.

This is the court's [#] ceremony since its founding in [year]. [#] men and women are expected to be among this year's graduates. The ceremony marks their completion of an intensive program of comprehensive substance use disorder treatment, close supervision and accountability. Treatment courts are this nation's most effective strategy to reduce drug use and recidivism among substance-addicted, nonviolent offenders with criminal histories. Nationally, these courts save up to \$13,000 for every individual they serve and return as much as \$27 for every \$1 invested.

[If you have a quote from a program graduate, add it here.] [Provide specific information/statistics on your court here.] National Drug Court Month is coordinated by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). This year, treatment courts throughout the nation are advocating to ensure continued federal and state funding for these effective, evidence-based programs. Next week's uplifting [graduation ceremony/event] is evidence of the tremendous impact the [treatment court] has had on our community and will send a powerful message that these programs reduce addiction, crime and recidivism while saving lives, families and valuable resources for our state.

[If you have a quote from your judge or a local official, add it here.]

There are more than 3,000 treatment courts in the United States annually serving 150,000 people. Since 1989, treatment courts have saved more than 1.5 million lives and billions of tax dollars.

"Treatment courts are a proven budget solution that stops the revolving door of arrest and incarceration for people with substance use and mental health disorders. They prove that justice is sometimes best served by connecting people to treatment and resources to help them turn their lives around," said NADCP CEO Carson Fox. "Treatment courts save lives and resources and must be expanded to meet the growing need."

Research continues to show that treatment courts work better than jail or prison, better than probation and better than treatment alone. Learn more about national treatment court research at AllRise.org.

Submit An Op-ed

National Drug Court Month typically receives significant media attention, and one way to enhance this attention locally and regionally to ensure our message gets out across the country is to write an opinion editorial (op-ed).

We've provided a sample op-ed for you to adapt and use as appropriate on the following page. Here are some general tips to help ensure that any op-ed you write gets published:

- **Find a news hook.** Your court's graduation ceremony or other event is newsworthy; give it an extra hook by relating it to the broader discussion of the importance of criminal justice reform and finding proven budget solutions for your locality. If your court is in jeopardy of losing funding, say so!
- **Know the word limit.** Check the specific newspaper's op-ed guidelines to find out their preferred length. They generally look for submissions between 500-700 words.
- **"Humanize" your piece.** Anecdotes and personal stories help illustrate and bring clarity to complicated issues. Think about personal experiences in your treatment court, and use them as examples in the op-ed (but only use names with permission).
- **Stick to a single point.** You only have so much space; make a single, strong point clearly and persuasively. Your first paragraph should draw the reader in, but if you choose to open with an anecdote, make sure you get to the point quickly.
- **Make a specific recommendation.** This is an opinion piece: state your opinion on what is needed to ensure your court can continue to operate effectively.
- **End with a bang.** Your final paragraph is as important as your opening paragraph. Be sure to summarize your argument in one strong final paragraph.
- **Follow up.** Most op-ed editors will respond to you within a week. If you haven't had a response in that timeframe, or if your piece is particularly time-sensitive, you can make a follow-up phone call to be sure it was received and ask about its status.

Sample Op-ed

Celebrating National Drug Court Month

A courtroom is not a place where you expect to find scenes of celebration and tears of joy. Unless, of course, it is drug court. This May, drug courts throughout [state] will join more than 3,000 such programs nationwide in celebrating National Drug Court Month. In 2018 alone, more than 150,000 individuals nationwide who entered the justice system due to addiction will receive life-saving treatment and the chance to repair their lives, reconnect with their families and find long-term recovery. National Drug Court Month is not only a celebration of the lives restored by drug court, it also sends the powerful message that these programs must be expanded to reach more people in need.

Nearly 30 years ago, the first drug court opened its doors with a simple premise: rather than continue to allow individuals with long histories of addiction and crime to cycle through the justice system at great expense to the public, use the leverage of the court to keep them engaged in treatment long enough to be successful. Today, drug courts and other treatment courts have proven that a combination of accountability and compassion can not only save lives, but save valuable resources and reduce exorbitant criminal justice costs.

[Insert a brief graduate success story. Example: Several years ago, a young woman entered our treatment court. After years of struggling with a substance use disorder, she resorted to stealing to support her addiction. She was arrested numerous times, but nothing changed. She was facing years in prison when she received the opportunity to participate in our treatment court.

In treatment court, she met regularly with a case manager and participated in rigorous treatment and counseling. With the help of the court team, including community-based treatment providers, she began to put the pieces of her life back together. While in the program, we helped her enroll in college and find part-time work. She completed the treatment court program and went on to get her bachelor's degree and reconnect with her family.

Today, she has no criminal record holding her back. She is happy, healthy, employed and contributing to our community.]

This is just one of the thousands of individual stories that demonstrate why treatment courts are so critical in the effort to address addiction and related crime. But if you are looking for research, treatment courts have that too. Numerous studies have found treatment courts reduce crime and drug use and save money. They also improve education, employment, housing, financial stability and family reunification, which reduces foster care placements.

Treatment courts represent a compassionate approach to the ravages of addiction. This year's National Drug Court Month celebration should signal that the time has come to reap the economic and societal benefits of expanding this proven budget solution to all in need.

ALL RISE

Proclamation in Support of National Drug Court Month

- WHEREAS** there are now more than 3,000 treatment courts nationwide; and
- WHEREAS** treatment courts are the cornerstone of justice reform sweeping the nation; and
- WHEREAS** treatment courts have served more than 1.4 million individuals; and
- WHEREAS** they are now recognized as the most successful justice system intervention in our nation's history; and
- WHEREAS** they save up to \$27 for every \$1 invested and up to \$13,000 for every individual they serve; and
- WHEREAS** treatment courts significantly improve substance use disorder treatment outcomes, substantially reduce addiction and related crime, and do so at less expense than any other criminal justice strategy; and
- WHEREAS** treatment courts improve education, employment, housing and financial stability, promote family reunification, reduce foster care placements, and increase the rate of addicted mothers delivering babies who are fully drug free.
- WHEREAS** treatment courts facilitate community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professionals; and
- WHEREAS** treatment courts demonstrate that when one person rises out of substance use and crime, we all rise; and
- WHEREAS** the time has come to put a treatment court within reach of every eligible person in need.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that _____ declares that Drug Court Month be established during the month of May 2018.

“By being immersed in the drug court continuum of care, my desire to stay sober became greater than my desire to use.”



Robert is a drug court graduate from Washington, D.C. He is now a behavioral services executive.

Click [here](#) to watch his story.

Social Media for National Drug Court Month

Social media is one of the best ways to reach your community and your members of Congress. This May, we want your community and elected officials to learn about the inspiring stories in your program and see the faces of the lives you saved. Here at NADCP, we've also been hard at work producing [Voices of Reform](#), a series of testimonial videos in which graduates tell their powerful stories of success, recovery and hope through treatment court (see page 18). We encourage you to share these videos with your members of Congress and on social media all month long.

Be sure to follow our [All Rise](#) and [Justice For Vets](#) Facebook pages and our [NADCP/All Rise](#) and [Justice For Vets](#) Twitter accounts for content you can like, share and retweet all month long! And don't forget about our [YouTube channel](#), which has the [Voices of Reform](#) video series, celebrity PSAs, conference clips, media compilation videos and much more. Below are some samples to get you started!

[Click here](#) to get your members' social media account information, and don't forget to thank them on Facebook and Twitter for their support.

Note: Remember that posts on social media (text, photos, videos, etc.) are **public content**. Put a system in place to ensure that content posted or shared is factual, appropriate and in accordance with the principles and responsibilities of your court and the U.S. judicial system.

Sample Facebook Posts

Sample 1: General

It's National Drug Court Month! Our court is saving lives and reducing crime by offering evidence-based accountability and treatment to people struggling with substance use and mental health disorders. #JusticeForAll

Sample 2: General

We know that [jurisdiction] has been hit hard by the opioid epidemic. We can't incarcerate our way out of this problem. That's why the [treatment court] is so critical. We provide intense supervision and treatment to lead people out of the justice system and into long-term recovery. #JusticeForAll

Sample 3: Veterans Treatment Courts

We're celebrating the life-saving work of veterans treatment courts across the US the entire month of May. Most veterans return home strengthened by their service. But for those who struggle with the transition, the [veterans treatment court] provides accountability, treatment and mentoring by other veterans to help get their lives back on track. #Justice4Vets #JusticeForAll

Sample 4: DWI Courts

We're celebrating the life-saving work of DWI courts across the country the entire month of May. Every day, DWI courts keep our roads and communities safer while providing accountability and treatment to help repeat impaired drivers get back on track. #JusticeForAll

Sample Tweets

It's National #DrugCourtMonth! Thank you @[member of Congress] for supporting treatment courts that save lives, reduce crime and save taxpayer dollars. #JusticeForAll

May is National #DrugCourtMonth, and we're asking @[member of Congress] to ensure continued funding for life-saving drug courts and veterans treatment courts. #JusticeForAll

#Veterans treatment courts save lives. As part of National #DrugCourtMonth, we're celebrating serving those who've served us. #Justice4Vets #JusticeForAll

DWI courts make our streets safer and are working to end impaired driving by addressing the root of the problem: addiction. May is National #DrugCourtMonth, and we're celebrating lives and families saved through #recovery! #JusticeForAll

May is National #DrugCourtMonth: all month long, we're celebrating leading people out of the justice system and into long-term #recovery through effective treatment courts! #JusticeForAll

May is National #DrugCourtMonth! More than 3,000 treatment courts across the country are breaking the cycle of addiction and crime, providing hope and healing through #recovery to people with substance use disorders.

We can't arrest our way out of the #opioid epidemic. Treatment courts provide evidence-based treatment to lead people out of the justice system and provide hope and healing through #recovery. Celebrating National #DrugCourtMonth all month long! #JusticeForAll

“DWI court allowed me to change the generational curse that was on our family forever.

The work that treatment courts are doing is affecting generations ahead.”



Patricia is a DWI court graduate from Missouri. She is now a peer recovery specialist.

Click [here](#) to watch her story.

Testimonial Videos

Here at NADCP, we have been hard at work producing [Voices of Reform](#), a series of testimonial videos in which graduates tell their powerful stories of success, recovery and hope through treatment court. We encourage you to share these videos with your members of Congress and on social media all month long.

The series is available on our [National Drug Court Institute](#) website and our [All Rise YouTube](#) channel.



Robert W.
Adult Drug Court
Washington, DC



Patricia S.
DWI Court
Missouri



Robert W.
Veterans Treatment Court
Oklahoma



Chelsea C.
Adult Drug Court
West Virginia



Carlos G.
Adult Drug Court
New Mexico



Michael F.
Adult Drug Court
New Jersey



NADCP

National Association of
Drug Court Professionals

1+
million
total served by
treatment courts¹

140,000
people served by
treatment courts
each year¹

3,316
treatment
courts in the
US¹

30%
of prisoners
don't
reoffend³

75%
of treatment court
graduates don't
reoffend³

\$13,000
saved for every
treatment court
participant²

TREATMENT COURTS ARE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Treatment courts are the **single most successful** criminal justice intervention for addicted offenders. Proven to **save lives, save money, and reduce crime**, these courts:

- ✓ Treat substance use disorders
- ✓ Treat mental health needs
- ✓ Deliver services for lifelong recovery
- ✓ Secure education, employment, and housing
- ✓ Produce tax-paying, productive citizens
- ✓ Break the cycle of addiction in families
- ✓ Reduce re-arrests and re-incarcerations
- ✓ Reduce substance use and overdose
- ✓ Reduce emergency room admissions
- ✓ Reduce foster care placements

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

²Aos, 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; Barnoski, 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.

³Finigan, 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.

LEARN MORE: ALLRISE.ORG



NCDC
NATIONAL CENTER
FOR DWI COURTS

Top DWI
courts reduce
recidivism by
60%⁴

2+
million
drivers in the US
with 3 or more
DWI convictions³

The estimated cost of
alcohol-impaired crashes
in the US in 2010 was
\$44
billion¹

\$3.19
saved for every \$1
invested in DWI
courts⁶

726
DWI courts in
the US⁵

10,497
lives lost in
impaired-
driving crashes
in 2016²

IMPAIRED DRIVING EPIDEMIC

There is a disturbing upward trend in the number of annual impaired-driving-related fatalities due to repeat driving while intoxicated (DWI) offenders and drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .15 or higher. However, the criminal justice system's traditional response of incarceration and other punishment does not deter these offenders because it does not address the root cause of the problem: **addiction**.

DWI court participants are **19 times less likely to reoffend**.⁷ DWI courts are **changing the criminal justice system's approach** to impaired driving:

- ✓ Provide intense supervision
- ✓ Provide individualized, long-term treatment
- ✓ Change participants' thinking and behavior
- ✓ Demand accountability
- ✓ Save taxpayers' money
- ✓ Improve public safety

¹ National Center for Statistics and Analysis (2015). *Alcohol-impaired driving: 2014 data* (Traffic Safety Facts. DOT HS 812 231). Washington, D.C.: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

² National Center for Statistics and Analysis (2018). *State alcohol-impaired-driving estimates: 2016 data* (Traffic Safety Facts. DOT HS 812 483). Washington, D.C.: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

³ Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) (2009). *New Data Shows Disturbing Number of Repeat Drunk Drivers on America's Roadways*.

⁴ Mitchell, O., Wilson, D.B., Eggers, A. & MacKenzie, D.L. (2012). *Assessing the effectiveness of drug courts on recidivism: A meta-analysis review of traditional and nontraditional drug courts*. Journal of Criminal Justice, 40(1).

⁵ National Association of Drug Court Professionals (2015).

⁶ Carey, S., Harrison, P., Johnson, A. & Zil, C. (2014). *Minnesota DWI Courts: A summary of evaluation findings in nine drug court programs*. Portland: NPC Research.

⁷ Carey, S., Fuller, B. & Kissick, K. (2008). *Michigan DUI Courts Outcome Evaluation: Final Report*. Portland: NPC Research.

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JUSTICE FOR VETS

15,000
currently served
by veterans
treatment
courts¹

5,700
volunteer
veteran mentors
in VTCs¹

354
VTCs in the
US¹

460,000
Iraq/Afghanistan
veterans suffer
from PTSD or
depression²

345,000
Iraq/Afghanistan
veterans have a
substance use
disorder²

181,500
incarcerated
veterans in
the US³

BENEFITS THEY'VE EARNED

SUPPORT THEY DESERVE

The majority of our veterans return home strengthened by their military service, but many struggle with trauma, mental illness (such as PTSD), and substance use disorders. These issues can be exacerbated by the loss of structure and camaraderie found in the military. Veterans treatment courts (VTCs) provide treatment, accountability, and mentoring, and they help connect justice-involved veterans with the benefits they've earned. VTCs save the lives, families, and futures of our veterans while also saving taxpayer dollars.

The most recent study, published by the *Community Mental Health Journal*, found that **veterans who participate in veterans treatment courts experience significant improvement** in:

- ✓ Depression
- ✓ PTSD
- ✓ Substance use
- ✓ Mental and emotional health
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Relationships and social connection
- ✓ Overall functioning and well-being

¹ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (2016).

² Tanielian, T. & Jaycox, L. (2008). *Invisible Wounds of War: Psychological and Cognitive Injuries, Their Consequences, and Services to Assist Recovery*. Washington, DC: RAND Ctr. for Military Health Policy and Research.

³ Berzofsky, M., Bronson, J., & Noonan, M. (2015). *Veterans in Prison and Jail, 2011-12*. US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Available at: <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/vpj1112.pdf>.

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“Drug court provided the hope and change of lifestyle I needed. I’m a better husband now.

I’m a better father now.

I’m an employer now.”



Michael is a drug court graduate from New Jersey. He is now the founder of a residence for people in recovery.

Click [here](#) to watch his story.

Thank You

We at NADCP and our divisions— the [National Drug Court Institute](#), [National Center for DWI Courts](#) and [Justice For Vets](#)—would like to express our profound gratitude to you, the individuals doing such difficult, important, rewarding work day in and day out. From DWI courts to family treatment courts; from tribal healing to wellness courts to juvenile drug courts; from veterans treatment courts to adult drug courts, **our country is learning a better way** to address substance use and mental health disorders in the justice system, **and you are the teachers**. Because of you, millions of lives have seen a level of restoration that would not have been possible otherwise.

Together, we will ensure Congress continues to support your programs and the men and women you serve.

Because of you, we All Rise.
Thank you.