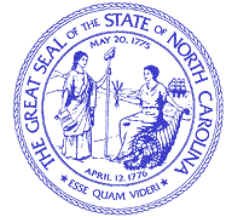


[Drug Courts: A Proven Budget Solution!](http://www.nccourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/DTC/Default.asp)



For more information: <http://www.nccourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/DTC/Default.asp>

Drug Treatment Courts are now a part of the fabric of their communities. After 16 years of operation, drug treatment court graduates are remaining drug and alcohol free, raising healthy children, participating in their communities, attending and completing school, working and paying taxes. The demand for new drug treatment courts in new counties and judicial districts continues and the many years of experience and best practices will pave the way for new jurisdictions to efficiently implement effective treatment courts.

NC Adult Criminal DTCs served 1,402 offenders during FY09-10. Processing those same offenders through the traditional court system would have **cost NC over \$4.9 million**. This figure does not include the cost for any substance abuse treatment, the court costs involved in sentencing these offenders, the court costs involved in processing probation violations/revocations and any subsequent jail/prison sentences due to any revocation. Additionally, probation revocations accounted for greater than 50% of admissions to NC prisons in FY09. 76% of those admissions did not involve a new offense.

DTC Facts – Cost Effectiveness

- Incarceration of drug-using offenders costs between \$23,000 and \$50,000 per person, per year.
- Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in Drug Court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36.
- Drug Courts produce cost savings ranging from \$4,000 to \$12,000 per client.
- In 2007, for every Federal dollar invested in Drug Court, \$9.00 was leveraged in state funding.
- More importantly, though, are the human and societal benefits. In FY2009-2010, a total of 25 drug free babies were born to mothers participating in NC DTC. That equates to \$750,000 - \$1.4M saved for every baby born or \$18,750,000 - \$35,000,000 for FY 2009-2010 alone!

DTC Facts – Recidivism

- Nationwide, 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free two years after leaving the program and longer-term national effects are being researched.
- Drug Courts significantly reduce crime as much as 35 percent more than other sentencing options.
- Drug Courts are **six times** more likely to keep offenders in treatment long enough for them to get better. Unless substance abusing/addicted offenders are regularly supervised by a judge and held accountable for keeping their obligations, **70 percent** drop out of treatment prematurely and few successfully graduate.

In his inaugural address, Governor Deal says Drug Courts a Budget Solution, Calls for Expansion - “For violent and repeat offenders, we will make you pay for your crimes. For other offenders who want to change their lives, we will provide the opportunity to do so with Day Reporting Centers, Drug, DUI and Mental Health Courts. . . As a State, we cannot afford to have so many citizens waste their lives because of addictions. It is draining our State Treasury and depleting our workforce. . .”

- Georgia Governor, Nathan Deal, January 11, 2011

“As a judge, it is indeed heartening to see people with severe drug and alcohol problems come into our drug courts matriculate through a rigorous program, and then graduate with what is effectively a new life ahead of them. Not only do these reduce recidivism for these offenders, but also they give them and their families a new life.”

The Honorable Thomas F. Moore, District Court Judge, NC Judicial District 26