



Fact Sheet:



Drug Court Programs

BACKGROUND

California's first adult drug court began in Alameda County in 1991. In 1995, California's first juvenile offender drug court began in Tulare County. The Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) has supported the development of drug courts in California since 1998. ADP, in alliance with the numerous drug courts throughout the State is committed to the concept that alcohol and drug services and treatment are preferable to incarceration of nonviolent drug offenders.

The goals of drug court programs are to:

- reduce drug usage and recidivism;
- provide court supervised treatment;
- integrate drug treatment with other rehabilitation services to promote long-term recovery and reduce social costs; and
- reduces the number of children in the Child Welfare System
- access federal and State support for local drug courts.

COMMON DRUG COURTS MODELS

Across the State, local agencies have developed adult, juvenile, and dependency drug courts, which generally fall into one of four models.

Pre-plea models afford drug possession offenders a stay of prosecution if they participate in court-supervised treatment. Upon successful completion of the drug court program the participant is discharged without a criminal record. However, failure to complete the program leads to the filing of charges and adjudication.

Post-plea models require a defendant to enter a guilty plea before entering treatment. Treatment is from nine months to three years. Upon successful completion of the drug court program, the criminal charges are dismissed. However, failure to complete the program leads to the sentencing phase of adjudication.

Post-adjudication models allow repeat drug offenders to enter treatment after their conviction, but prior to serving their sentence. Successful completion of the drug court program allows these offenders to serve their sentence in treatment instead of custody. Failure to complete the program leads directly to the activation of their sentence.

Civil models allow individuals involved in civil actions (usually child custody) to enter treatment as a condition of retaining or regaining custody of their child(ren). Failure to complete the program leads to permanent loss of custody.

TYPES OF DRUG COURTS/OFFENDER MODELS

Dependency Drug Courts focus on cases involving parental rights in which an adult is the party litigant and there is a substance abuse charge against a parent. The goal is to provide parent(s) with the necessary parenting skills and treatment for their substance abuse to allow children to remain safely in their care and to help decrease the number of children placed in foster care.

Adult Drug Courts focus on adult offenders. Participants are convicted felons or misdemeanants. The primary purpose of adult drug court is to provide access to treatment for substance-abusing offenders while minimizing the use of incarceration by providing structure by linking supervision and treatment with ongoing judicial oversight and team management. Majority of drug courts include initial intensive treatment services with ongoing monitoring and continuing care for 12 months or more.

Juvenile Drug Courts focus on delinquency matters that involve substance-using juveniles by providing immediate and intensive intervention with continuous court supervision. This includes requiring both the juvenile and the family to participate in treatment, submit to frequent drug testing, appear regularly at frequent court status hearings, and comply with other court conditions geared toward accountability, rehabilitation, long-term sobriety and cessation of criminal activity.

ADP'S DRUG COURT PROGRAMS

The Drug Court Partnership (DCP) Act of 1998 created the DCP program. This program has granted State General Fund (SGF) to counties each year beginning in May 1999. The funds are in support of adult drug courts in 32 counties.

The Comprehensive Drug Court Implementation (CDCI) Act of 1999 created the CDCI program. This program has granted SGF to counties each year beginning in December 2000. The funds are in support of adult, juvenile, dependency, and family drug courts. Currently ADP funds CDCI programs in 54 counties.

TARGET POPULATIONS

Drug courts are diverse and serve various populations such as adults, juveniles, repeat drug offenders, multiple offenders, parents of children in the Child Welfare System, and drug probation violator. Generally, drug court participants have abused alcohol and other drugs for ten years or more and received little or no substance abuse treatment.

CALIFORNIA'S DRUG COURTS

ADP provides funding to 54 of the 58 counties, supporting 132 drug courts. According to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) data base, as of November 2008, there were 203 drug courts within the 58 counties of the State. For additional information on AOC, refer to their website listed below.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

There is a growing body of information (papers, articles, and reports) about the effects of drug courts and their impact on drug offenders and communities. The Department's contributions include the March 2002, *Drug Court Partnership Final Report to the Legislature*, and the March 2005, *Comprehensive Drug Court Implementation Final Report to the Legislature*. These reports are available on the Department's website at <http://www.adp.ca.gov/DrugCourts/index.shtml>

ADDITIONAL DRUG COURT INFORMATION

Visit ADP'S web page at:

<http://www.adp.ca.gov/DrugCourts/index.shtml>

Administrative Office of the Courts web page:

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/aoc>

County	Dependency	Juvenile	Adult	DCP Funded	CDCI Funded	Counties Funded by ADP	Counties Not Funded by ADP
Alameda			3	✓	✓	✓	
Alpine			1		✓	✓	
Amador			1		✓	✓	
Butte	1		1	✓	✓	✓	
Calaveras			1		✓	✓	
Colusa			0				✓
Contra Costa		2	1		✓	✓	
Del Norte			1		✓	✓	
El Dorado	2	2	1		✓	✓	
Fresno			1	✓	✓	✓	
Glenn			1	✓	✓	✓	
Humboldt			1	✓	✓	✓	
Imperial			0				✓
Inyo			1		✓	✓	
Kern			1	✓	✓	✓	
Kings			1		✓	✓	
Lake	1	1	1		✓	✓	
Lassen			1		✓	✓	
Los Angeles	3		13	✓	✓	✓	
Madera			1	✓	✓	✓	
Marin			1		✓	✓	
Mariposa			1		✓	✓	
Mendocino			1	✓	✓	✓	
Merced	1		1	✓	✓	✓	
Modoc	1		1		✓	✓	
Mono			0				✓
Monterey			1		✓	✓	
Napa			1	✓	✓	✓	
Nevada		1	1	✓	✓	✓	
Orange	1		5	✓	✓	✓	
Placer			2	✓	✓	✓	
Plumas			1	✓	✓	✓	
Riverside	3		4	✓	✓	✓	
Sacramento	1		1	✓	✓	✓	
San Benito			1		✓	✓	
San Bernardino	3		6	✓	✓	✓	
San Diego	4		4	✓	✓	✓	
San Francisco	1	1	1	✓	✓	✓	
San Joaquin	1		1	✓	✓	✓	
San Luis Obispo	1		1	✓	✓	✓	
San Mateo			2	✓	✓	✓	
Santa Barbara		3	4	✓	✓	✓	
Santa Clara	1	1	1	✓	✓	✓	
Santa Cruz	1		1	✓	✓	✓	
Shasta			1	✓	✓	✓	
Sierra			1		✓	✓	
Siskiyou			1		✓	✓	
Solano	1		1		✓	✓	
Sonoma			1	✓	✓	✓	
Stanislaus			1	✓	✓	✓	
Sutter			1	✓	✓	✓	
Tehama	1		1		✓	✓	
Trinity			0				✓
Tulare		1	2		✓	✓	
Tuolumne	1		1	✓	✓	✓	
Ventura	1	1	1		✓	✓	
Yolo			1	✓	✓	✓	
Yuba			1		✓	✓	
Totals	30	13	89	32	54	54	4