



Treatment Courts Save Money, Cut Crime, Make Neighborhoods Safer

Treatment courts save money

Treatment courts are on the front lines of America's drug and crime epidemic. They are a proven, cost-effective solution for reducing crime and preventing overdose deaths.

A 2022 study found that treatment courts reduce rates of substance use disorder and drug overdose deaths.¹

Economic benefits include savings in court and prison costs, reduced recidivism expenses, paid taxes, paid program fees, paid foster care expenses, and reduced costs associated with victimization.

A 2025 report on Georgia treatment courts, known as accountability courts, demonstrated significant taxpayer savings

**Treatment courts
save an average of
\$6,000 for every
person they serve.²**

- **\$168 million in cost savings** – for every \$1 invested, \$6.60 was saved.³
- **\$45.9 million in economic benefits** – for every graduate \$25,921 in economic benefits saved.⁴

Treatment courts cut crime

**Treatment courts
reduce recidivism
by as much as 58%.⁶**

Nearly 85% of the prison population have a substance use disorder or were under the influence of drugs at the time of their arrest.⁵

Treatment courts are an alternative to incarceration, allowing resources to instead be used to arrest and incarcerate violent criminals.

By combining accountability with personal responsibility, treatment courts take people who drain our resources and turn them into productive, working, tax-paying citizens.

A 2025 recidivism study from the Midland County, Texas, treatment court demonstrates within three years of graduation

- **97% of graduates have not been rearrested.**
- Nearly 50% of defendants who did not participate/graduate in the program were rearrested.⁷



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The case for a federal investment in treatment courts

Decline in fentanyl deaths: Communities that implemented opioid intervention courts saw a 45% decrease in overdose death rates.⁸

Reduces violent crime: A 2024 national study found that treatment courts reduced violent crime in communities by targeting criminogenic behavior.⁹

National security: Drugs pose a significant national security threat that impacts all aspects of society. They cost taxpayers billions, drive violent crime, contribute to crowded emergency rooms, make our roadways less safe, and flood our neighborhoods with fentanyl, leading to fatalities. Treatment courts help break the cycle of drug use and crime, reducing demand and enhancing national security.

Economic impact: Drugs deplete resources at the federal, state, and local levels, necessitating shared responsibility among all levels of government. An investment in treatment courts can save up to \$6,000 for each individual served.

Evidence-based effectiveness: Decades of research support the effectiveness of treatment courts. Federal funds must be allocated to programs with demonstrated results that achieve the highest cost savings.



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Endnotes

- 1 Lindenfeld, Z., Kim, S., & Chang, J. E. (2022). Assessing the effectiveness of problem-solving courts on the reduction of overdose deaths in the United States: A difference-in-difference study. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports*, 4, Article 100088. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dadr.2022.100088>
- 2 Rossman, S. B., Roman, J. K., Zweig, J. M., Rempel, M., Kralstein, D., Henry, K., Downey, P. M., & Lindquist, C. (2011). *The Multi-Site Adult Drug Court Evaluation Volume 3: The drug court experience*. Urban Institute Justice Policy Center. <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/27376/412356-The-Multi-site-Adult-Drug-Court-Evaluation-The-Drug-Court-Experience.PDF>
- 3 Georgia Council of Accountability Court Judges. (2024). *Council of Accountability Court Judges Annual Report 2024*. <https://online.pubhtml5.com/krpu/dqfo/>
- 4 Georgia Council of Accountability Court Judges. (2022) *The estimated economic impacts of accountability court programs in Georgia: Evidence from a survey of program participants*. <https://cacj.georgia.gov/document/document/economic-impact-study2022/download>
- 5 National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2020). *Criminal Justice Drug Facts*. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/criminal-justice>
- 6 Rossman, S. B., Roman, J. K., Zweig, J. M., Rempel, M., Kralstein, D., Henry, K., Downey, P. M., & Lindquist, C. (2011). *The Multi-Site Adult Drug Court Evaluation Volume 3: The drug court experience*. Urban Institute Justice Policy Center. <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/27376/412356-The-Multi-site-Adult-Drug-Court-Evaluation-The-Drug-Court-Experience.PDF>
- 7 Midland County [Texas] Adult Felony Drug Court. *Recidivism Report: 2018–2023*. [Unpublished report from court office, obtained February 2025].
- 8 Carey, Shannon. *National Drug Court Institute and the Bureau of Justice Assistance*. 2021.
- 9 Hibbard, P. F., & Chapman, J. E. (2024). Drug treatment courts and community-level crime. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 94, Article 102267. doi: [10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2024.102267](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2024.102267)