

# Treatment Courts



## Treatment Courts

Treatment courts are an important part of our justice system, helping people with significant substance use and mental health issues achieve stability and find recovery. These courts help restore family relationships, promote essential life skills, and encourage individuals to become productive members of their communities.

Treatment courts require participants to regularly attend counseling sessions and appear before their judge, undergo randomized drug testing, and complete educational assignments and activities. When participants do not follow the requirements, possible sanctions include community service, additional assignments, or even jail time.

Once a participant has completed all of the program requirements, they are eligible for graduation — a milestone that honors their commitment, perseverance, and progress in recovery.

Idaho operates 70 treatment courts across 38 counties. These include courts focused on drug and alcohol use, mental health, veterans, and youth mental health and drug use.

The most recent court was created in early FY2026. The Tri-County Mental Health Court covers Adams, Payette, and Washington counties. Recognizing the need for a local mental health treatment court that doesn't require people to move to other parts of the state, court and community leaders came together, led by Judge Kiley Stuchlik, to establish this new court.

The 69 treatment courts active in FY2025 served 2,698 people, with 636 participants graduating their respective programs. There were 87 drug-free babies born to participants, representing lifelong health benefits for each child.

### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP**

The Idaho Behavioral Health Council has begun an initiative focused on frequent issues that face treatment courts, including a gap analysis, housing, and treatment options. Teams of multi-disciplinary professionals will tackle these important issues over the next few years, with a goal of finding solutions and providing support to the programs.

### **EVALUATING EFFECTIVENESS**

In FY2026, an external evaluator will conduct a statewide outcome evaluation for felony drug courts. This evaluation will assess these courts' effect on recidivism compared to putting higher-risk and higher-need people on probation. The evaluation will compare drug court participants to a matched group of offenders who may have been eligible, but did not participate, allowing the evaluators to determine if positive changes can be attributed to the program.

This will be the first statewide outcome evaluation of felony drug courts since 2014. That evaluation found that the recidivism rate for felony drug court participants was 12% lower than that of felony probationers.