



Report to the Governor
C.L. "Butch" Otter
and the
1st Regular Session of the
64th Idaho Legislature

IDAHO JUDICIARY

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IDAHO'S PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS FY 2017 MID-YEAR REPORT

Since the first two drug courts began in Idaho in 1998, problem-solving courts have expanded to a total of **68 courts** statewide, targeting offenders with high risk of recidivism and who have significant behavioral health treatment needs. Since inception, Idaho's problem-solving courts have served 20,964 individuals with over 7,000 graduates. There were 627 graduates in FY 2016 alone. **In FY16, the Ada County Drug Court reached graduate number 1,000!** If not for problem-solving courts in Idaho, many of these offenders would be bound for the penitentiary at a significant cost to taxpayers.

In FY2016 there were:

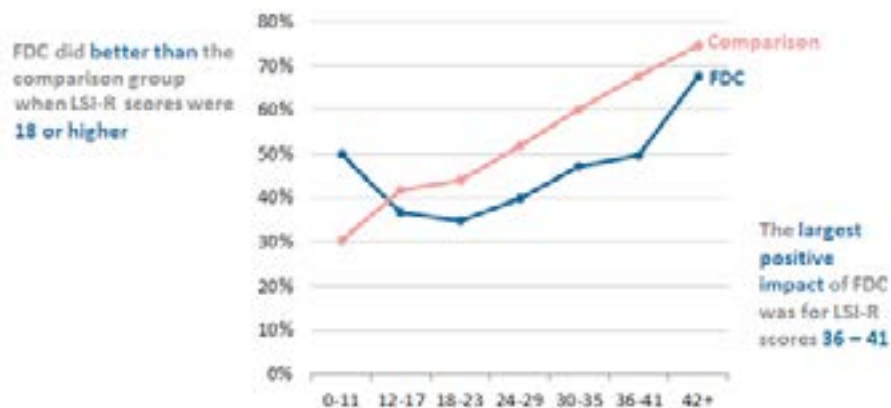
- 28 Felony Drug Courts
- 5 Juvenile Drug Courts
- 6 DUI Courts
- 2 Child Protection Drug Courts
- 1 Misdemeanor Mental Health Court
- 1 Domestic Violence Drug Court
- 11 Adult Mental Health Courts
- 5 Misdemeanor/DUI Courts
- 6 Veterans Courts
- 2 Juvenile Mental Health Courts
- 1 Young Adult Drug Court

In addition to the appropriation to the Idaho Supreme Court from the Legislature, partnerships with executive branch agencies, including the Department of Health and Welfare-Division of Behavioral Health, Office of Highway Safety, and the Division of Veterans Services, provided funding to expanded options for treatment for persons in problem-solving courts.

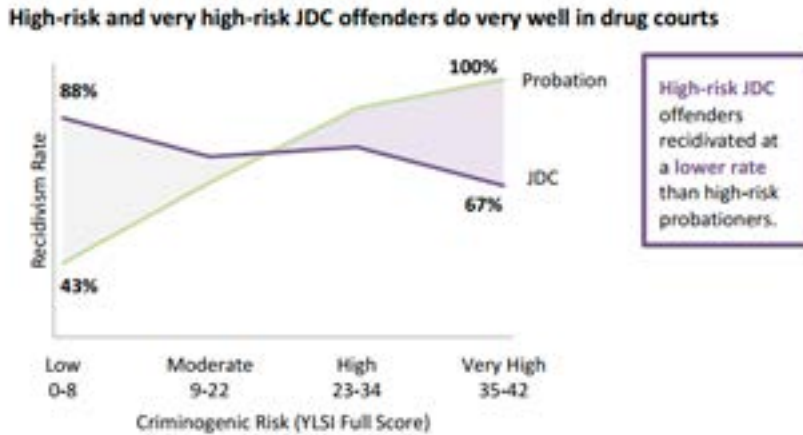
Positive Outcomes Achieved

Recent statewide outcome evaluations, addressing Idaho's felony drug courts and juvenile drug courts, highlighted a positive success rate in reducing both criminal recidivism and program failure when the appropriate **high risk population** is involved. Idaho adult felony drug courts recidivism, program failure, and early termination rates were 39% compared to the comparison group of 51% for offenders on a retained jurisdiction, and 54% for probationers. Below is a chart detailing the impact of criminogenic risk and measures of success for offenders in a felony drug court (FDC) that confirms national findings that drug courts work for high risk and high need offenders better than business as usual.

FDC participants with LSI-R scores of 18 and above had lower rates of undesirable outcomes than probationers and those on retained jurisdiction



High or very high risk-to-recidivate juveniles who participated in a Juvenile Drug Court were less likely to commit new crimes than those on probation. These better outcomes achieved by drug court participants not only reduced victimization, but saved real tax dollars that would otherwise be spent on commitment.



The full studies and additional information can be found on the Idaho Supreme Court-Problem Solving court web page: <http://www/isc/idaho.gov/solve-court/rd>

National Recognition for Idaho Mental Health Court

Bonneville County Mental Health Court has again been recognized as a national model to guide other mental health courts in best practices. The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center selected the eastern Idaho court as one of three National Learning Sites. CSG will facilitate visits from courts across the U.S., especially new mental health courts, for visits to Idaho Falls to observe court operations and to interview team members. The Bonneville County Mental Health Court provides strong leadership in working with felony offenders with serious mental illness who are at high risk for recidivism and has developed tailored approaches to be effective in changing behavior and reducing future criminal offenses.

Peer Review

Idaho continues to lead the nation in the development and implementation of a peer lead process for drug courts to assess the ability to operate within standards and guidelines. In 2013, Idaho worked closely with Northwest Professional Consortium Inc. Research (NPC) to develop a peer-to-peer review that provides the following:

- An evidence-based practice education for drug court coordinators to assess their own court's operations;
- A fidelity assessment to assist the court being reviewed identify areas for improvement;
- The sharing of creative approaches across both courts.

Eight other states (Oregon, Colorado, Washington, Minnesota, Georgia, Montana, New York, and New Mexico) have adopted a similar approach with an additional four states considering such an approach. In FY16, ten felony drug courts participated in a peer review, adding to the ten that had already received a peer review report.

Veterans Treatment Courts Continue to Save Lives and Restore Honor

Veterans Treatment Courts in Idaho began in March 2011, and since that time there have been over 287 participants in Veteran Treatment Courts with 87 graduates. During FY2016, a total of 136 veterans participated in the veterans' courts and there were 40



Mission Statement of the Idaho Courts

As the Third Branch of Government, we provide access to justice by ensuring fair processes and the timely, impartial resolution of cases.

The Idaho Courts stand for:

- Integrity*
- Fairness*
- Independence*
- Respect*
- Excellence*
- Innovation*

The Idaho Courts strive to:

Provide Timely, Impartial Case Resolution through Legally Fair Procedures

Ensure Access to Justice

Promote Effective, Innovative Services

Increase Public Trust and Confidence in Idaho Courts

Adopted by the Supreme Court
October 31, 2011
and revised
April 25, 2016

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graduates. High-risk and high-need veterans involved in the justice system now have access to Veterans Treatment Court through six courts statewide: Ada, Bannock, Bonneville, Canyon, Nez Perce, and Twin Falls Counties. These courts can currently serve 110 veterans.

Idaho is home to 132,395 veterans including over 100,000 wartime veterans. When an Idaho veteran becomes involved with the justice system, challenges associated with their combat experience, redeployment, and returning home must be considered. This assessment will help determine whether effective treatment, combined with court-managed accountability, might provide the best long-term outcome. **Idaho's Drug Court and Mental Health Court Coordinating Committee was the first in the country to adopt Veterans' Court Standards and Guidelines for Effectiveness and Evaluation.**



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