

SMART JUSTICE

SAVING PRISON BEDS, TAX DOLLARS, AND LIVES



Problem-Solving Courts Work!

Report to Governor
C.L. "Butch" Otter and
the 1st Regular Session
of the 62nd Idaho
Legislature

Idaho Judiciary

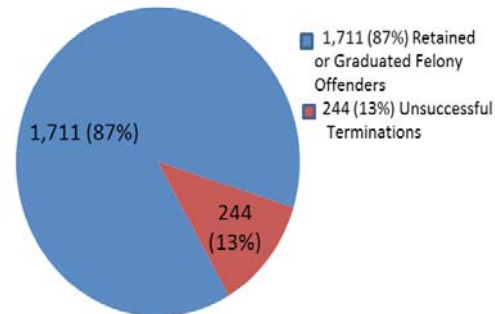
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COMMUNITY-BASED SENTENCING ALTERNATIVES REDUCE PRISON GROWTH

In FY2012 1,955 of the adult felony offenders participating in drug and mental health courts faced a potential prison sentence, if not supervised in the community. Of these offenders, 1,711 (87%) either remained in drug court or mental health court or had successfully completed all requirements and graduated at the end of the year. This represents a significant number of offenders who were managed in the community rather than being sentenced to prison, resulting in significant cost savings to Idaho taxpayers. Since the beginning of drug and mental health courts in Idaho, there has been a total of 9,646 individuals enrolled with a total of 4,747 graduates and 1,129 remaining in the courts at the end of the fiscal year.

**FY 2012 Felony Offender Retention:
1,955 Total Participants**



IDAHO IMPLEMENTS THREE VETERANS COURTS

A veterans court deals with an individual, most frequently having co-occurring mental and substance use disorders and experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from combat service in one of our country's armed forces. Repeated tours of duty, including combat engagement with increasing prevalence of traumatic brain injuries, leave returning soldiers vulnerable to a downward spiral of depression, substance abuse, domestic instability, and a tendency to violence. Veterans courts offer a humane yet accountable approach to resolving criminal and clinical issues while reducing both short-term and long-term costs associated with incarceration.

Ada County, Canyon County, and Bannock County accepted offenders into their veterans courts during FY2012. Ada County (beginning July 2011) served 21 participants, Canyon County (beginning March 2012) served 9 participants, and Bannock County (beginning June 2012) served 4 participants. A highly effective feature of these courts is the engagement of veteran mentors. A dedicated group of former service men and women have stepped forward to offer a unique perspective and a special kind of support, support only available from one "who has been there". The partnership with the Veterans Administration has been a particularly gratifying aspect of the state's development of the Idaho veterans' courts.

COURT MANAGEMENT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FUNDS

The Idaho Supreme Court received an appropriation of \$4,827,700 for FY2012 to provide substance abuse treatment for offenders being managed in drug and mental health courts. The Court was able to establish a system for treatment reimbursement and cost-containment resulting in meeting treatment needs while expending funds within the appropriated level of support. In addition, the court was able to increase quality assessment through development of a nationally recognized Peer Review Quality Assessment process. This effort will ensure that Idaho drug and mental health courts incorporate evidence-based approaches and achieve positive behavior change which fosters public safety.

NUMBER OF ADULT OFFENDERS SERVED AND GRADUATES

During FY2012, Idaho drug, mental health and veteran's courts supervised a total of 2,216 felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile offenders. Collectively, the adult drug courts, including the three new veteran's courts, supervised 1,685 offenders and mental health courts supervised 334 offenders. There were 512 graduates from Idaho drug and mental health courts during this past year.

IDAHO DUI COURTS DOCUMENT THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

DUI offenses in Idaho continue to place Idahoans at serious risk of injury and death on our roadways. Idaho recorded 1,375 felony DUI filings in FY2012 and 8,598 misdemeanor DUI filings. The proven effectiveness of DUI courts in reducing repeat impaired driving supports further expansion of these courts throughout the state. The existing courts are prepared to expand if additional resources are available. DUI courts have achieved a 75% graduation rate. A total of 491 DUI offenders participated in a DUI court in FY2012. An outcome evaluation of four well-established Idaho DUI courts determined that DUI court graduates had only half the recidivism of those in the comparison group.

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF ADDICTION AND CHILD ABUSE

Idaho's four child protection drug courts served 100 parents last year in Lewiston, Twin Falls, Pocatello and Idaho Falls. Because child protection drug courts in Idaho emphasize services not only to address parental substance abuse and other debilitating issues but also to meet the needs of the children, it is believed that they offer a real chance to end the intergenerational cycle of substance abuse and child maltreatment. Preliminary evaluation data has shown that the Idaho children whose parent was served in one of these child protection drug courts spent less time in foster care, and only 3% of these children re-entered the foster care system compared to 12% of those children whose parent was not served in a child protection drug court.

OVER 280 DRUG FREE BIRTHS FOR IDAHO PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS!

One of the most encouraging outcomes from the drug and mental health court effort is the number of babies born drug-free to women in drug and mental health courts. Not only do these healthy babies represent a major financial saving to our communities but they also begin life without the significant handicap of being born affected by or dependent upon drugs. In addition, their mothers are able to give them the care and nurturing they need for normal child development. Thirty five babies were born to clean and sober women in our drug and mental health courts this year, bringing the total to 283 drug free births, since the beginning of Idaho's problem solving courts.

DRUG AND MENTAL HEALTH COURTS CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS WITH JUVENILE OFFENDERS

A total of 197 juveniles participated and 34 graduated from Idaho's seven juvenile drug courts. The pilot juvenile mental health court, with sessions in Idaho Falls and Rexburg saw 13 graduates in FY2012. Many of these youth in juvenile mental health court would otherwise be committed to the Department of Juvenile Corrections at a very significant cost to the state.

