



# Treatment Court Facts

## Drug Courts Coordinating Commission

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### Problems Treatment Courts Can Help Address

- In 2010, Missouri led the nation with 1,960 meth-lab incidents.
- There were 18,086 persons admitted into the Missouri state prisons in fiscal 2011. Of these, 6,686 had drug or DWI convictions.
- During fiscal 2008, there were 1,916 children removed from their homes as a result of parental drug or alcohol use.

### Why Treatment Courts?

- They are a proven cost-effective method for diverting offenders from incarceration in prisons.
- Treatment courts lower the recidivism rate of offenders when compared to either incarceration or probation.
- They allow offenders to remain in their communities, to support their families and to pay taxes.
- Treatment courts reduce the number of babies born addicted.
- They reduce crime and the need for foster care, and they help ensure that child support payments are made.

### Current Status of Treatment Courts in Missouri

- As of January 1, 2013, there were 135 treatment court programs. Of these, 90 are adult drug courts, 11 are juvenile drug courts, 12 are family drug courts, 18 are DWI courts, 1 is a reintegration court, and 3 are veterans treatment courts.
- These programs have over 3,600 active participants.
- Since their inception, Missouri treatment courts have had over 12,000 graduates.
- Since treatment courts began, 583 drug-free babies have been born to treatment court participants.
- The graduation rate for all programs is over 50 percent
- The retention rate for all programs is over 60 percent.
- In fiscal 2013, the state's treatment court programs requested more than \$14 million in funding while the commission has \$6 million to spend.

### Return on Investment in Drug Courts

- Incarceration: Potential incarceration cost savings or cost avoidance for 2,707 adult offenders diverted from state prisons is about \$27 million. Fiscal 2011 incarceration costs are \$22,852 per year per person, and treatment courts costs are \$6,190 per year per person.
- Probation: Initially, drug courts are more expensive than regular probation. However, due to the higher recidivism rate for probation, savings result in the second year. Based on a city of St. Louis cost-benefit analysis, after two years, the state gains \$2.80 for each \$1 spent on drug courts. After four years, the state gains \$6.32 for each \$1 spent on drug courts.
- Foster Care: Potential foster care savings for 313 family drug court participants are nearly \$500,000. Foster care costs \$7,773 per year per child.
- Youth Services: In fiscal 2010 potential youth services savings for 115 juvenile offenders are more than \$6 million. Youth services cost \$53,032 per year per youth.

### Missouri's Commitment to Treatment Courts

- 2013 will mark the 20th anniversary of treatment courts in Missouri – the first treatment court started in 1993 in Jackson County. Missouri is a national leader, with more treatment courts per capita than any other state in the nation.
- This growth was due in part to legislative adoption of treatment courts with the 1998 passage of HB 1147, codified at section 478.001, RSMo. In 2001, the general assembly and the governor enacted HB 471, codified at section 478.009, RSMo, to help ensure the coordination and allocation of treatment court funding through the creation of the Drug Courts Coordinating Commission and the Drug Court Resources Fund.
- In 2010, legislation was adopted to establish DWI Courts or Dockets in Missouri. This legislation also allows for limited driving privileges to be granted by a Drug/DWI Court Judge or Commissioner.