



West
Virginia

Juvenile Drug Court

FY 2023

Supreme
Court of
Appeals of
West
Virginia

Division of
Probation
Services

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- The West Virginia Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) is a cooperative effort of the juvenile justice, social service, substance abuse treatment, law enforcement and education systems.
- JDC's are established in accordance with §49-4-703 and are designed and operated consistent with the developmental and rehabilitative needs of the juveniles and operate under uniform protocol and procedures established by the WV Supreme Court of Appeals.
- The program seeks to divert non-violent, juvenile offenders engaging substance abuse from the traditional juvenile court process to a non-adversarial, intensive, individualized outpatient substance abuse treatment process which includes parental involvement and cooperation.
- The goal is to prevent and/or reduce future court involvement for the JDC involved juveniles. The objectives are to eliminate illegal substance use, improve educational outcomes, and enhance positive life choice decision making.
- All JDCs use evidence-based treatment approaches and assessments and are evaluated annually.
- Referrals to JDC can be made via complaint or petition by judicial officials, law enforcement, school personnel, probation officers, prosecutors, child protective services/youth services workers, and parents.
- The program is structured in four phases with the last phase serving as built-in Aftercare for all participants. The minimum program length is twenty eight (28) weeks. .
- There are five (5) entry levels into the JDC: pre-petition diversion; signed, but non-filed petition; filed petition (pre-adjudicatory); filed petition (post-adjudicatory); and as a condition of probation.
- Program components include: intensive supervision, frequent and observed drug testing, meetings between juveniles and probation officer and parents and probation officer, counseling sessions for juveniles and for families, court appearances for juvenile and parents, and community service.
- During CY 2023, there were fourteen (14) JDC programs serving the following counties: Berkeley, Boone, Brooke, Hancock, Harrison, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mercer, Monongalia, Morgan, Pleasants, Putnam, Raleigh, Ritchie, Wayne, Wirt, and Wood Counties.
- Cost savings for the criminal justice system stem from reduced re-arrests, law enforcement contacts, court hearings, and use of detention centers. Other cost savings for the State result from reduced out-of-home placement and decreased use of residential treatment centers.
- For FY 2023, **the average cost per youth was \$4,094.05.** This cost includes intensive supervision and individualized treatment services and includes services to the family. This is in contrast to the approximately \$110,000 annually in a residential or correctional facility.
- There were **354** participants served by the JDC programs for fiscal year 2023.
- National reports support the effectiveness of JDC's that adhere to best practices and evidence-based practices from the fields of adolescent treatment and delinquency prevention.

