



West
Virginia

JUVENILE DRUG COURTS

FY 2025

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 Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.
- The program seeks to divert non-violent, juveniles engaging in substance use from the traditional juvenile court process to a non-adversarial, intensive, individualized outpatient substance abuse treatment process which includes parental participation 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 referral by circuit judges, 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 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 FY 2025, there were fifteen (15) JDC programs serving the following counties: Berkeley, Boone, Brooke, Hancock, Harrison, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, 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 2025, **the average cost per youth was \$4,537.70.** This cost also includes intensive supervision, incentives, and drug testing. Individualized treatment and services to the family are generally paid for by the Bureau of Juvenile Services or Medicaid. This cost is in stark contrast to the approximately \$205,546 annually for a youth placed in a residential or correctional facility.
- There were **329** participants served by the JDC programs for FY 2025.
- 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.



OJJDP

Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention
Working for Youth Justice and Safety