Drug Courts

Substance use continues to impact public health and safety nationwide. According to the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, approximately 41 million people age 12 or older needed substance use treatment in the past year. The survey also revealed that 1.6 million adolescents age 12 to 17 had a substance use disorder and 644,000 of these youth had a co-occurring major depressive episode in the past year.

Grants from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) help communities establish or expand juvenile drug treatment courts, family treatment courts, and Tribal juvenile healing to wellness courts. The courts use a multidisciplinary team—composed of judges, prosecutors, community corrections officers, social workers, and treatment professionals—to help participants overcome the effects of substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders. Training and technical assistance from OJJDP's providers improve program effectiveness.

Programs

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program
Grant recipients provide youth with individualized case management services, including treatment, intensive supervision, and referral to community resources. The courts work to increase family engagement and equip youth with the skills they need to lead productive, drug-free lives.

Family Treatment Court Program
This program serves parents and guardians who require treatment for a substance use disorder and who are involved with the child welfare system as a result of child abuse or neglect. Program goals are to ensure that children have safe, nurturing, and permanent homes; that parents and guardians achieve stable recovery; and that family members receive support and services to improve family functioning.

Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts
Through this program, OJJDP helps Tribal communities respond to the substance use challenges of court-involved youth. The courts use culturally informed approaches to promote accountability, healing, and Tribal identity in participants.

For More Information

Learn more about OJJDP's drug treatment court programs at ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/drug-courts.

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