



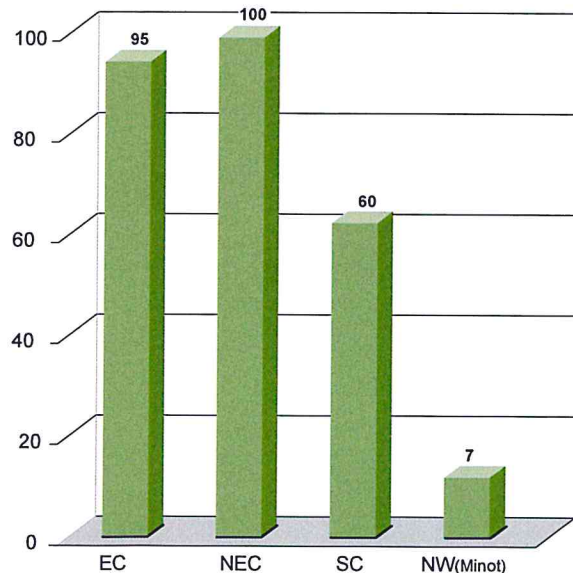
Expansion of Juvenile Drug Courts Continue

The Northwest Judicial District started its first juvenile drug court in 2007 with the opening of a court in Minot in January.

A drug court requires a team of individuals from a community who develop an individualized plan for the participants and participate in weekly staffing and court sessions. The drug court team is comprised of a judge, treatment provider, defense counsel, school representative, probation officer, drug court coordinator, prosecutor, and law enforcement representative.

Drug court participants and parents attend a closed court session each week. The participants are between the age of 13 and 17, and have been assessed with an alcohol or substance abuse problem. The program lasts a minimum of nine months. Participants are required to have random drug testing, curfew checks, attend alcohol or substance abuse treatment, and complete community service projects. Participants are also required to attend school or be employed.

Drug Court Participants By Location 2000-2007





The Supreme Court continues to look at the feasibility of other juvenile drug courts in the state. Preparations for the Williston Juvenile Drug Court, the second juvenile drug court in the Northwest Judicial District and fifth in the state, were completed in 2007 with a projected start date of January 2008. During the past year, the Williston team members, lead by the Hon. David Nelson, attended training with the National Drug Court Institute and team training with the Bismarck Juvenile Drug Court team members.

The Supreme Court will pursue a juvenile drug court in the Northeast Judicial District at Devils Lake in 2008.

Statewide data as of December 31, 2007:

- 262 juveniles have entered the drug court programs.
- 118 have graduated from the drug court programs.
- The average age at entry is 16.4 years.
- Average number of prior referrals to juvenile court before entering drug court is 5.9.
- Fifty percent of participants are terminated from the program because of noncompliance and further offenses
- Alcohol and marijuana are the primary drugs of choice.
- Fifty-seven percent of the participants have a dual diagnosis of substance abuse and mental health
- Participants completed a total 2,548 community service hours in 2007.

Individual Court Statistics and Information

Unit 1

Juvenile Drug Court Highlights

- The juvenile drug court program in Grand Forks celebrated its 7th anniversary.
- Judge Karen Braaten continues to preside over juvenile drug court proceedings.
- There were 3 graduations and 16 new participants entered the program.
- The average age of participants is 15.9 years.
- Participants completed 750 hours of community service.

Unit 2

Juvenile Drug Court Highlights

- The juvenile drug court program in Fargo celebrated its 7th anniversary.
- Judge Wade Webb continues to preside over the drug court proceedings.
- There were 8 graduation and 15 new participants entered the program.
- The average age of participants is 16.1 years.
- Participants completed 826 hours of community service.

Unit 3

Juvenile Drug Court Highlights

- The juvenile drug court program in Bismarck celebrated its 5th anniversary.
- Referee John Grinsteiner presides over the drug court proceedings.
- There were 6 graduation and 12 new participants entered the program.
- The average age of participants is 15.8 years.
- Participants completed 630 hours of community service.

Unit 4

Juvenile Drug Court Highlights

- The juvenile drug court in Minot will celebrate its first anniversary on January 18, 2008.
- Judge Douglas Mattson presides over the drug court proceedings.
- Seven participants entered the program.
- The average age of the participants is 15.8 years.
- Participants completed 230 hours of community service.