

**ECHO IDAHO**

**Counseling Techniques for  
Substance Use Disorders**

# Problem Solving Court

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None of the planners or presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.



**University of Idaho**  
School of Health and Medical  
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# What are problem solving courts?

The legacy of treatment courts began in 1989 in Miami-Dade County (FL). At the time, the United States was embroiled in the “war on drugs” and large percentages of individuals being processed through criminal justice systems across the country had similar characteristics: 1) a substance use disorder that contributed to criminal behavior; 2) had cycled through the criminal justice system one or more times previously; and 3) were charged with non-violent crimes. A small but determined group of criminal justice practitioners came together and openly expressed dissatisfaction with the traditional criminal justice system that was ineffective at reducing recidivism. They argued that the strategies being utilized did not focus on nor address the underlying criminogenic needs of justice-involved individuals. To this end, they sought to design a strategy for more effectively intervening in the lives of these individuals so as to stop the revolving door cycle in/out of the criminal justice system in which so many individuals were stuck. Out of these efforts the drug court model was born.

# Timeline

## 1989

- First drug court opens in Miami, Florida

## 1992

- First women's drug court opens in Kalamazoo, Michigan

## 1993

- First community court opens in Brooklyn, New York

## 1994

- Congress passes Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (the "Crime Bill")
- National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) founded

## 1995

- Drug Courts Program Office (DCPO) established in U.S. Department of Justice
- First DWI court opens in Doña Ana, New Mexico
- First juvenile drug court opens in Visalia, California
- First family drug court opens in Reno, Nevada

## 1996

- First NADCP mentor drug court established
- First felony domestic violence court opens in Brooklyn, New York

## 1997

- First tribal healing to wellness court opens in Fort Hall, Idaho
- NADCP, DCPO, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) release *Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components*
- First mental health court opens in Broward County, Florida

## 1998

- National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) founded

## 2000

- American Bar Association releases Proposed Standard 2.77 – Procedures in Drug Treatment Courts

## 2001

- NADCP and National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges release *16 Strategies for Juvenile Drug Courts*
- First juvenile mental health court opens in Santa Clara County, California

## • 2002

- DCPO merges into BJA

## • 2007

- National Center for DWI Courts (NCDC) founded

## • 2008

- First veterans treatment court opens in Buffalo, New York

## • 2010

- National Drug Court Resource Center opens
- Justice for Vets founded

## • 2011

- Multisite Adult Drug Court Evaluation finds that drug courts reduce crime and substance abuse and improve family functioning and employment

## • 2013

- Volume I of *Best Practice Standards* published

## • 2014

- *Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts: The Key Components* published

## • 2015

- Volume II of *Best Practice Standards* published

## • 2017

- *10 Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts* published
- First opioid court opens in Buffalo, New York

## • 2018

- *Best Practice Standards* vols. I & II (revised) published
- Spanish translations of *Best Practice Standards* vols. I & II published

## • 2019

- *Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards* published

# Timeline

# Painting the Current Picture – National Drug Court Research Center (2022)



## Painting the Current Picture

A National Report on Treatment Courts in the United States

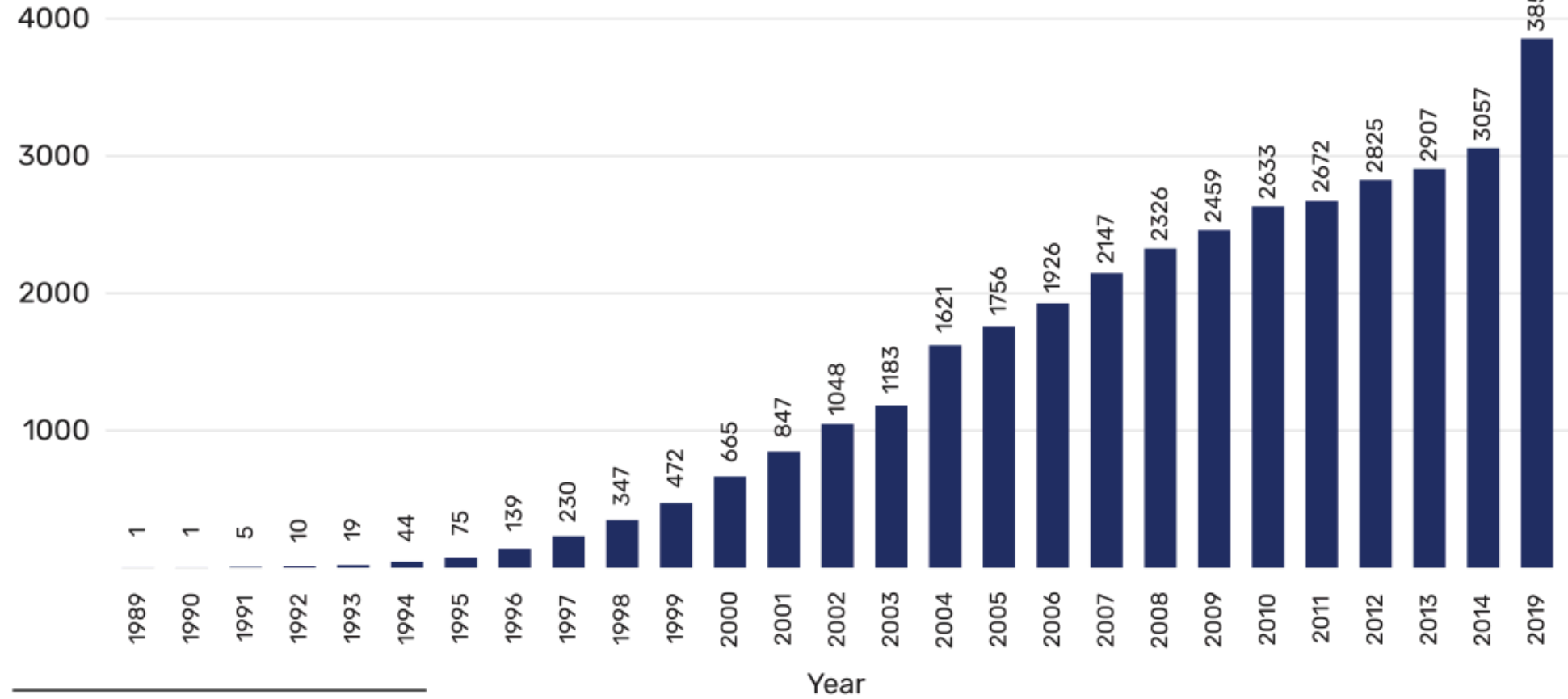
*Highlights & Insights*

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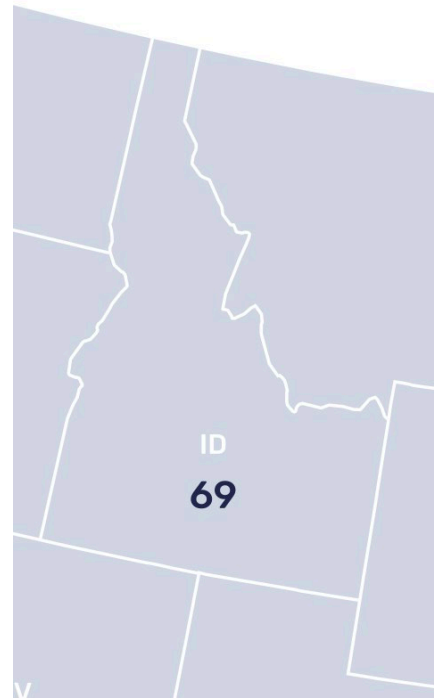
<sup>1</sup>The first two authors are listed alphabetically and both authors contributed equally to the preparation of this monograph.

2022

**Figure 2: Number of Treatment Courts in the United States from 1989 to 2019**



# Idaho Treatment Courts



# Treatment Court in Idaho

- ▶ First treatment court began September 1998 in Kootenai County under Judges James Judd and Eugene Marano
- ▶ Ada Court Drug Court began under Judge Daniel Eismann March 1999
- ▶ In 2000, treatment courts were started in Bonneville, Bannock, Jefferson, Fremont, Madison, Power, Teton and Twin Falls Counties
- ▶ 2001 Idaho Drug Court and Mental Health Court Act
- ▶ Idaho currently has:
  - ▶ Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, DUI Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Child Protection Court, Domestic Violence Drug Court

**In fiscal year 2024, Idaho treatment courts served 2,279 people with 613 participants graduating their respective programs.**



# Idaho Treatment Courts

- ▶ Region 1
    - ▶ Felony Drug Court – 5
    - ▶ MHC, DUI court Veterans Court - 1
  - ▶ Region 2
    - ▶ Felony Drug Court – 3
    - ▶ Mental Health Court – 3
    - ▶ Veterans Court, DUI Court - 1
  - ▶ Region 3
    - ▶ Felony Drug Court – 3
    - ▶ MHC, Veterans Court Juvenile DC - 1
  - ▶ Region 4
    - ▶ Felony Drug Court – 4
    - ▶ MHC, Veterans Court 1
  - ▶ Region 5
    - ▶ Felony Drug Court – 4
    - ▶ MHC, Veteran Court, Juvenile DC – 1
    - ▶ DUI Court - 3
  - ▶ Region 6
    - ▶ Felony Drug Court – 6
    - ▶ MHC, Veterans Court, CP Drug Court, Wood Court - 1
  - ▶ Region 7
    - ▶ Felony Drug Court – 6
    - ▶ DUI Court – 3
    - ▶ MHC – 3
    - ▶ Juvenile MHC – 2
    - ▶ CP Drug Court, Veterans Court, Domestic violence court - 1
- 69 total  
Courts  
Statewide**

# Best Practice Standards

- ▶ Target Population
  - ▶ Objective Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria
  - ▶ High Risk and High Needs Participants
  - ▶ Validated Eligibility Assessments
  - ▶ Criminal History Disqualifications
  - ▶ Clinical Disqualifications
  - ▶ Admission Timeline

# Team Members

- ▶ Presiding Judge
- ▶ Public Defender
- ▶ Defense Council
- ▶ Court Coordinator
- ▶ Treatment Provider
- ▶ Probation and Parole
- ▶ Other State Holders – Vocational Rehabilitation, Law enforcement, etc.

# Team Structure

- ▶ Screening Process
- ▶ Pre-court Staff Meetings
- ▶ Status Hearings

# Phase Based Programming

- ▶ Phase 1: 4-8 weeks
- ▶ Phase 2: 12-14 weeks
- ▶ Phase 3: 16-20 weeks
- ▶ Phase 4: 20-24 weeks
- ▶ Phase 5: minimum of 12 weeks
- ▶ Graduation

# Components of Program

- ▶ Evidence – Based Treatments
  - ▶ Treatment groups
  - ▶ Individual sessions
- ▶ Probation meetings
- ▶ Community based support groups
- ▶ Random Drug testing
- ▶ Work/Volunteer
- ▶ Regular court sessions
- ▶ Court costs/fees

<b>Phase 1 Checklist</b>		
<b>Advancement to Phase 2</b>		
<b>NAME</b>		_____
Check off if completed	Date Completed	Task
		Completed your orientation with the coordinator - date
		Got set up on the UA line - date
		Applied for Medicaid - date
		Completed your assessment with Riverside - date
		Finished your treatment plan with Riverside - date
		Attended all groups and DC sessions
		Completed your 30/30 support group meetings - date
		Met with a recovery coach - date
		Made a daily schedule with Riverside - date
		Made an appointment with a medical provider - date
		Made an appointment with a dentist - date
		Met with you PO - date
		Made a payment on your DC fees - date and <b>amount</b>
		Made a payment on your cost of supervision - date and <b>amount</b>

# Why Treatment Courts

- ▶ Reduce Recidivism
  - ▶ National Institute of Justice report shows: Reduction in recidivism ranged from 17%-26%
- ▶ Lower Costs
  - ▶ Reduced recidivism and other long-term program outcomes resulted in public savings of \$6,744 on average per participant
- ▶ Factors of Success
  - ▶ Proper assessment and treatment
  - ▶ The role of the judge
- ▶ Amended sentencing agreement