

JUVENILE DRUG TREATMENT COURT GUIDELINES



Juvenile drug treatment courts (JDTCs) are designed for youth with substance use disorders who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. These courts offer an important way to respond to the needs of substance-using youth and treat their complex disorders, which require specialized interventions.

Until now, these courts have had no research-based guidelines to follow. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has partnered with a research team, experts in the field, and other federal agencies to develop the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines. The guidelines are organized into key objectives with corresponding guideline statements, and include rigorous supporting research and considerations for implementation. They are based on research and evidence and are designed to support judges and professional court staff, young people with substance use disorders, and their families.

Learn more about the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines at www.ojjdp.gov/juvenile-drug-treatment-court-guidelines.html.

OBJECTIVES

1

Focus the JDTC philosophy and practice on effectively addressing substance use and criminogenic needs to decrease future offending and substance use and to increase positive outcomes.

2

Ensure equitable treatment for all youth by adhering to eligibility criteria and conducting an initial screening.

3

Provide a JDTC process that engages the full JDTC team and follows procedures fairly.

4

Conduct comprehensive needs assessments that inform individualized case management.

5

Implement contingency management, case management, and community supervision strategies effectively.

6

Refer participants to evidence-based substance use treatment, to other services, and for prosocial connections.

7

Monitor and track program completion and termination.