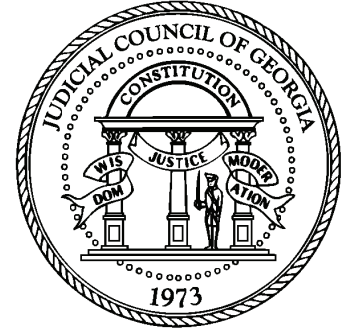


# Judicial Council of Georgia

## RESEARCH RESULTS: GEORGIA'S DUI COURTS WORK!



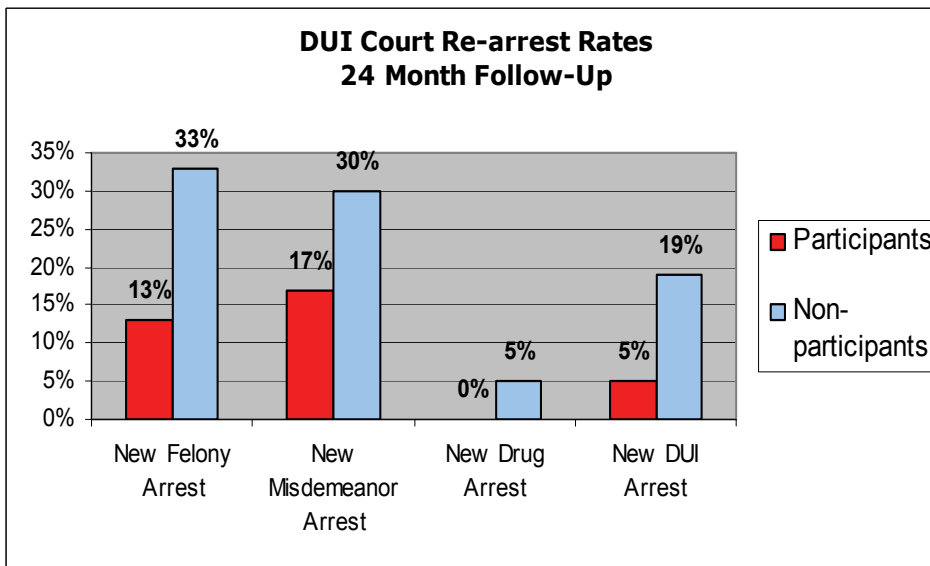
### Background

For many years, we've known that Drug and DUI Courts save taxpayers money by "freeing up" hard bed space in Georgia's prisons and jails. In 2002, the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) provided grant funding to the Judicial Council to establish specialized court dockets to manage cases of chronic multiple offenders convicted of DUI, who cause deaths and injuries on Georgia's highways and are not deterred by traditional DUI sanctions. The DUI Courts were implemented in the State Courts of Athens-Clarke County, Chatham County and Hall County to provide intensive judicial oversight, substance abuse treatment and offender accountability. Today, there are 10 DUI Courts operating in the State of Georgia. However, a complete picture of overall effectiveness has not been available until now.

*The average retention rate for Georgia's DUI Courts is 79%.*

### Demographics

The average DUI Court participant is a **35 year old white male**, with at least **three** lifetime DUI's—in most instances, he started drinking by the age of 18 and has a severe, untreated substance abuse problem. The majority of all DUI Court participants are high school graduates and **95% are physically addicted to alcohol** or other substances at the time that they begin DUI Court.



### Re-arrest Rates

With funding from GOHS a comprehensive evaluation of the three pilot DUI courts was recently undertaken. **The results clearly demonstrate that DUI Courts work—they are effective at reducing the recidivism rates of DUI offenders.**

At **12 months post graduation**, DUI Court participants are almost **3 times less likely** to have a new DUI arrest. At **24 months post graduation**,

DUI Court participants are **4 times less likely** to have a new DUI arrest. Even more promising, DUI Court participants are **20% less likely** to be arrested for a new felony.

**For more information, contact Debra Nesbit at [nesbitd@gaoc.us](mailto:nesbitd@gaoc.us) or call 404-651-7616**

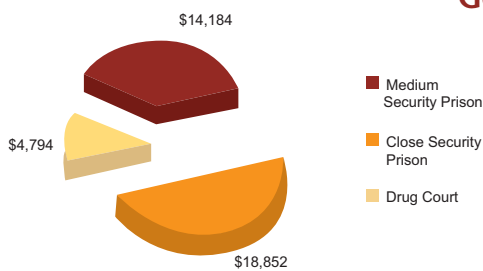
## Georgia's Drug & DUI Courts Creating Accountability, Saving Families, Saving Costs

### THE TIME IS NOW.....

- From 2001 – 2005, over 65,000 children in Georgia had a parent incarcerated for a drug or alcohol offense
- In the last five years alone, the number of persons entering a Georgia prison for a meth-related offense has nearly doubled
- In 2005, Georgia prisons admitted 2,224 people who had at least one meth offense
- Georgia Department of Family and Children Services caseworkers estimated that 53% of meth users lose permanent custody of their children, compared to 38% of users of other drugs
- Two-thirds of imprisoned drug and alcohol offenders in Georgia have an average of two children each

*The number of drug-related crimes committed in Georgia and the cost to house the offenders is alarming.*

### Comparisons of Criminal Justice Alternatives for Drug Offenders in Georgia\*

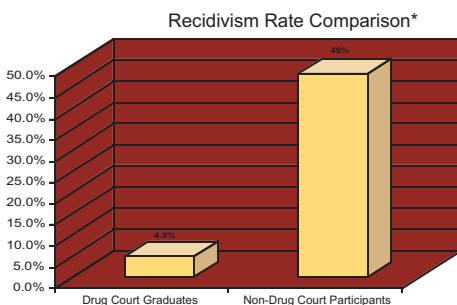


\* Per offender/per year  
 Source: Georgia Department of Corrections and Administrative Office of the Courts

- Managing a drug offender in the community costs much less than sending a person to prison
- One year in Drug Court costs Georgia about 1/4 the cost of one year in prison

**The cost of Drug Court per offender/per year is \$4,794**

### Drug Courts Work



\* Compares Hall County Drug Court to National rate

- Drug Court graduates receive significantly fewer new felony and misdemeanor charges and convictions
- Drug Court graduates are much less likely to be incarcerated in prison

*"If you don't like having to spend more money to build more prisons, you'll love drug courts. These courts have the support of judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials around the state because they all know that they work, and they work at a fraction of the cost of incarceration."*

**Chief Justice  
 Leah Ward Sears  
 Supreme Court  
 of Georgia**

## Georgia's Drug & DUI Courts Creating Accountability, Saving Families, Saving Costs

### What is a Drug Court?

- A Drug Court is an accountability court given the responsibility to handle cases involving drug-using offenders through comprehensive supervision, drug testing, treatment services, and immediate sanctions and incentives.
- Drug Court programs bring the full weight of judges, prosecutors, public defenders, treatment providers, probation and law enforcement officers, and other dedicated criminal justice practitioners to force the offender to deal with his or her substance abuse problem through a blending of accountability and treatment.

### Participation in a Drug Court program requires:

- Regular and frequent court status hearings before a specially trained judge
- Drug offenders remain in Drug Court for a minimum of 18 months
- Offenders progress through program phases which require:
  - Accountability and Responsibility
  - Employment and Productivity
  - Rehabilitation and Recovery
  - Community Service
- Random drug screens
- Compliance Officer home visits

**THE TIME IS NOW.....** Georgia's war on drug abuse gains new momentum every time we secure new funding for Drug Court. The Judicial Council of Georgia's FY 2008 budget provides funding for the statewide expansion of Drug Courts as well as a statewide drug testing and data collection program.

Currently, Georgia has more than 47 Drug Courts in the State, with several more in the planning stages. The Judicial Council of Georgia has appointed a Standing Committee on Drug Courts to encourage and support the implementation of drug courts in all 49 Judicial Circuits. These Courts have experienced phenomenal success and tremendous growth by reducing substance abuse, crime and recidivism.

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*"Drug courts have been shown to be the most effective and efficient way to hold offenders accountable for drug related crimes and increase public safety. Drug courts are tough on crime and save taxpayer dollars. Expensive prison beds are available for violent offenders."*

*Judge George H. Kreeger  
Chair, Standing Committee  
Superior Court  
of Cobb County*

*Quotes from Hall County  
Drug Court Participants:  
"I was on a dead-end street, but my life's running smoothly now thanks to Drug Court."*

*"I learned that I am responsible and accountable for my actions."*

*"I took advantage of the second chance that the program gave me."*

*"After 20 years of shooting dope, it's a milestone for me to have successfully completed the program drug-free."*