Report to the Governor
C.L. "Butch" Otter
and the
1st Regular Session of the
64th Idaho Legislature

IDAHO JUDICIARY

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# IDAHO'S PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Since the first two drug courts began in Idaho in 1998, problem-solving courts have expanded to a total of 68 courts dealing with offenders at high risk of recidivism and who have significant behavioral health treatment needs. Problem-solving courts offer an important sentencing option for Idaho courts. If not for problem-solving courts in Idaho, many of these offenders would be bound for the penitentiary at significant cost to taxpayers.

In FY2016 there were:

- 28 Felony Drug Courts
- 5 Juvenile Drug Courts
- 6 DUI Courts
- 2 Child Protection Drug Courts
- 1 Misdemeanor Mental Health Court
- 1 Domestic Violence Drug Court
- 11 Adult Mental Health Courts
- 5 Misdemeanor/DUI Courts
- 6 Veterans Courts
- 2 Juvenile Mental Health Courts
- 1 Young Adult Drug Court

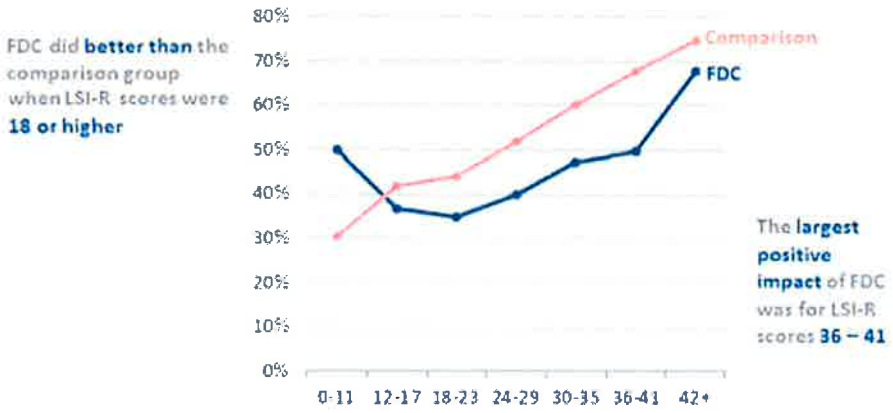
Funding from the Idaho Legislature and from cooperation with executive branch agencies, including the Department of Health and Welfare, Office of Highway Safety, and Division of Veterans Services have expanded options for treatment for persons in problem-solving courts.

Since inception, Idaho's problem-solving courts have served 15,642 individuals with over 6,000 graduates, including over 500 graduates in FY2016. The Ada County Drug Court alone recently reached graduate number 1,000. Across the state, the number of drug-free babies born to mothers in problem-solving courts grew to a total of 343.

## Positive Outcomes Achieved

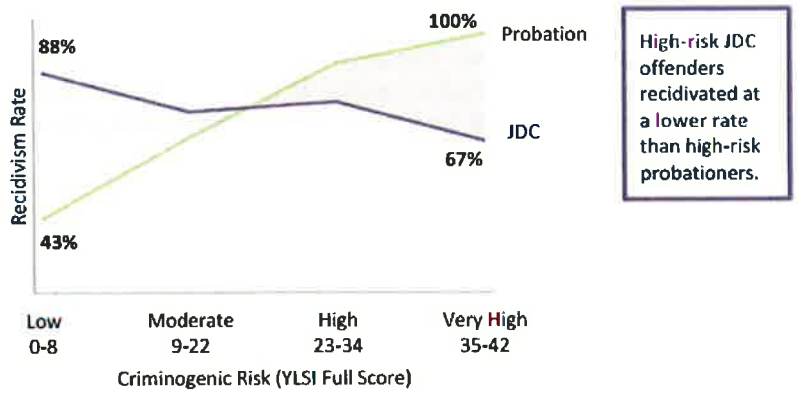
Recent statewide outcome evaluations, addressing Idaho's felony drug courts and juvenile drug courts, highlighted a positive success rate in reducing both criminal recidivism and program failure when the appropriate high risk population is involved. Idaho adult felony drug courts recidivism and program failure rates were 39% compared to the comparison group; 51% for offenders on a period of retained jurisdiction, and 54% for probationers.

FDC participants with LSI-R scores of 18 and above had lower rates of undesirable outcomes than probationers and those on retained jurisdiction



High or very high risk-to-recidivate juveniles who participated in a Juvenile Drug Court were much less likely to commit new crimes than those on probation. These better outcomes achieved by drug court participants not only reduced victimization, but saved real tax dollars that would otherwise be spent on commitment.

**High-risk and very high-risk JDC offenders do very well in drug courts**




## National Recognition for Idaho Mental Health Court

Bonneville County Mental Health Court has again been recognized as a national model to guide other mental health courts in best practices. The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center selected the eastern Idaho court as one of three National Learning Sites. CSG will facilitate visits from courts across the U.S., especially new mental health courts, for visits to Idaho Falls to observe court operations and to interview team members. The Bonneville County Mental Health Court provides strong leadership in working with felony offenders with serious mental illness who are at high risk for recidivism, and has developed tailored approaches to be effective in changing behavior and reducing future criminal offenses.

## Veterans Treatment Courts Continue to Save Lives and Restore Honor

Veterans Treatment Courts in Idaho began in March 2011, and since that time there have been over 287 participants with 87 graduates. Idaho's Drug Court and Mental Health Court Coordinating Committee is the first in the country to adopt Veterans Court Standards and Guidelines for Effectiveness and Evaluation.

During FY2016 alone, a total of 136 veterans participated in the Veterans Treatment Courts and there were 40 graduates. High-risk and high-need veterans involved in the justice system now have access to Veterans Treatment Court through six courts in Ada, Bannock, Bonneville, Canyon, Nez Perce, and Twin Falls Counties. These courts can currently serve 110 veterans.

Idaho is home to 132,395 veterans including over 100,000 wartime veterans. When an Idaho veteran becomes involved with the justice system, challenges associated with their combat experience, redeployment, and returning home must be considered. These courts, and their evaluation, will help determine whether effective treatment, combined with court-managed accountability, will provide the best long-term outcome.


***For more information, contact***
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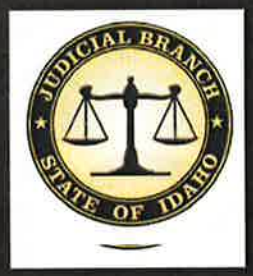


## Mission Statement of the Idaho Courts

*As the Third Branch of Government, we provide access to justice by ensuring fair processes and the timely, impartial resolution of cases.*

*The Idaho Courts stand for:*
*Integrity*
*Fairness*
*Independence*
*Respect*
*Excellence*
*Innovation*

*The Idaho Courts strive to:*

**Provide Timely, Impartial Case Resolution through Legally Fair Procedures**

**Ensure Access to Justice**

**Promote Effective, Innovative Services**

**Increase Public Trust and Confidence in Idaho Courts**

Adopted by the Supreme Court October 31, 2011 and revised April 25, 2016