

Pennsylvania's Treatment Courts – a Different Path for Justice

What are treatment courts?

Treatment courts – including veterans courts, adult and juvenile drug courts, DUI courts and mental health courts – divert nonviolent offenders from jail if they comply with treatment and program requirements. Participants are monitored by a team of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation and treatment staff and mentors.



Goal of treatment courts:

To supervise treatment and rehabilitation of screened and selected defendants to try and change their behavior.

1997 The year the first treatment court in Pennsylvania started (drug court)

136 The current number of treatment courts in Pennsylvania



■ has at least one treatment court

□ does not have a treatment court

Diverting certain defendants to treatment courts has saved tax payer dollars by:

- saving jail costs
- ensuring collection of fines, costs and restitution
- reducing homelessness
- strengthening families and improving lives



In 2024...

1,979 participants were admitted to treatment courts in Pennsylvania

186 participants achieved an increase in education.

1,309 participants graduated successfully.

397 participants who were unemployed found jobs.

12-24 months

The average length of time participants spent in treatment court programs

