

"I wasn't arrested. I was rescued."

-- 2004 Adult Drug Court Graduate
and ex-Methamphetamine user.

Background Information and Performance Overview of New Mexico Drug Courts for Fiscal Year 2008 (July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008)

Drug Courts: Facts and Figures

A drug court is a specially designed court calendar or docket, the purposes of which are to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance abuse and to increase the participants' likelihood of successful rehabilitation through early, continuous, and intense judicial oversight, treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, and use of appropriate sanctions, incentives, and other community-based rehabilitation services.

- The first drug court started in Dade County, Florida, in 1989, and there are now more than **2100** nationwide.
- The first NM Drug Court started in 1994 (Las Cruces DWI/Drug Court). There are **35** active drug courts in New Mexico (with several more in the planning or pilot stage):
 - 14 Adult/Felony, 13 Juvenile, 3 Family Dependency, and 5 DWI/Drug Courts.
- NM Drug Courts are currently working with more than **1200** active participants; they have worked with **over 9900** and have graduated **over 4600** participants since 1994.

New Mexico Drug Court Performance Measures

New Mexico's Drug Court programs demonstrate excellent performance when compared with national averages and other points of comparison.

- Average NM Drug Court graduate **Recidivism Rate** is **9.5%** during three-years post graduation.
 - National average two-years after graduation, based on a study of 95 of the nation's largest drug courts, is **27.5%**.
 - National average for similar offenders who do not participate in drug court is **40-60%**.
- Average NM Drug Court **Cost-per-client-per-day** in FY07 was **\$24.75**.
 - Average NM daily cost of incarceration, both males and females, is **\$81.35**.
- Average NM Drug Court **Graduation Rate** is **60%**
 - National average for drug court graduation rate is **47%**, according to a 2001 meta-study of drug court evaluations.