

# Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts

# MAINE'S TREATMENT AND RECOVERY COURTS

---

- Veterans Treatment Court  
Kennebec (Augusta)
- Veterans Treatment Track  
Cumberland (Portland)
- Family Recovery Courts  
Androscoggin (Lewiston)  
Kennebec (Augusta)  
Penobscot (Bangor)
- Adult Drug Treatment Courts  
York (Alfred)  
Cumberland (Portland)  
Androscoggin (Auburn)  
Penobscot (Bangor)  
Hancock (Ellsworth)  
Washington (Calais/Machias)
- Co-Occurring Disorders Court  
Kennebec (Augusta)



# Treatment and Recovery Court Team Members

---

Judge

Prosecutor

Defense  
Attorney

Treatment  
Provider

Case Manager

Case Manager  
Supervisor

Probation  
Officer

Law  
Enforcement  
Officer

Veterans Justice  
Outreach  
(VJO)

Mentor/Peer  
Support

Coordinator

Evaluator

# TEAM MEMBER IMPACT

---

- Judge: When the judge spends an average of 3 or more minutes per participant during status review hearings, costs savings go up 36% and recidivism goes down by 154%
- Prosecutor: When the prosecutor attends Staffing, cost savings go up 171%
- Defense Attorney: When the defense attorney attends Staffing, cost savings go up 93%



- Treatment: When the treatment provider communicates with the team by email recidivism goes down 119%
- Treatment: When treatment attends the court sessions recidivism goes down by 100%
- When all team members attend Staffing recidivism goes down by 35%

Recidivism reduction and cost saving are relative to courts that do not follow these practices,  
NPC Research Key Component Study, 2008

# 10 KEY COMPONENTS

## Treatment and Recovery Courts

- Key Component 1 Drug Courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.
- Key Component 2 Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
- Key Component 3 Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.
- Key Component 4 Drug Courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
- Key Component 5 Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.



- Key Component 6 A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.
- Key Component 7 Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.
- Key Component 8 Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness
- Key Component 9 Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.
- Key Component 10 Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness.

<https://www.ndci.org/resources/defining-drug-courts-the-key-components/>

# BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS

---

- I. Target Population
- II. Equity and Inclusion
- III. Roles and Responsibilities of the Judge
- IV. Incentives, Sanctions, and Therapeutic Responses
- V. Substance Use Disorder Treatment



- VI. Complementary Treatment and Social Services.
- VII. Drug and Alcohol Testing.
- VIII. Multidisciplinary Team.
- IX. Census and Caseloads.
- X. Monitoring and Evaluation.

<https://www.ndci.org/standards/>

# 5 PHASE PROCESS

---

## Phase 1: Orientation, Engagement, and Stabilization

- 30 days (minimum)
- Court: weekly or as directed
- Show up!
- Be honest!
- Treatment and case management plans developed and implemented
- Attend pro-social activities
- 14 days with no missed, positive, or diluted tests
- 14 days with no court-imposed sanctions



## Phase 2: Sobriety and Abstinence

- 90 days (minimum)
- Court weekly or as directed
- Engage in treatment and case management plans
- Demonstrate changes to people, places and things
- Attend pro-social activities
- 30 days with no missed, positive, or diluted tests
- 30 days with no court-imposed sanctions

## Phase 3: Maintenance and Relapse Prevention

- 90 days (minimum)
- Court every other week or as directed
- Continued engagement with treatment
- Develop a relapse prevention plan
- Return to work or education
- Strengthen community involvement
- 60 days with no missed, positive, or diluted test
- 60 days with no court-imposed sanctions

#### Phase 4: Maintenance and Community Involvement

- 90 days (minimum)
- Court monthly or as directed
- Continued engagement in treatment
- Increased return to the community with lower supervision
- 60 days with no missed, positive, or diluted test
- 60 days with no court-imposed sanctions

#### Phase 5: Early Recovery and Alumni

- 90 days (minimum)
- Court monthly or as directed
- Continued engagement in treatment
- Develop a continuing plan of care for after completion of court
- 90 days with no missed, positive, or diluted test
- 90 days with no court-imposed sanctions



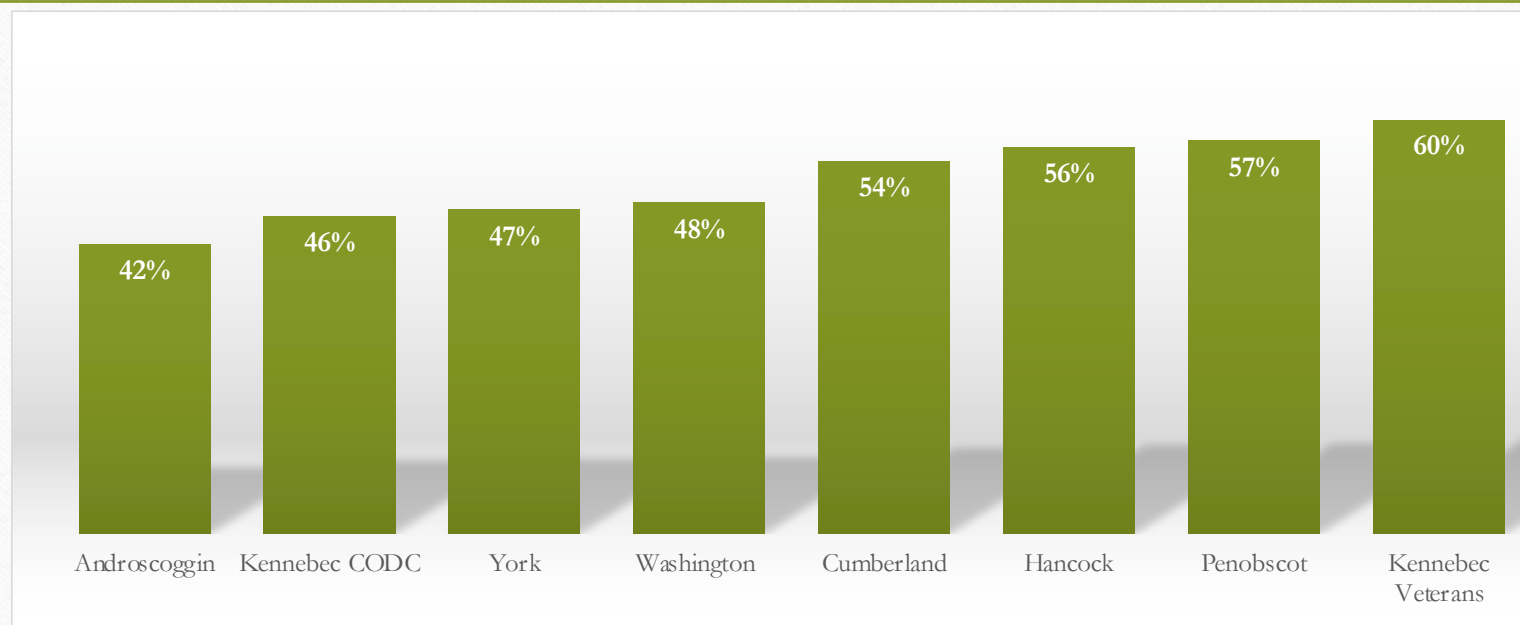
# Treatment Court Work

How do we know?

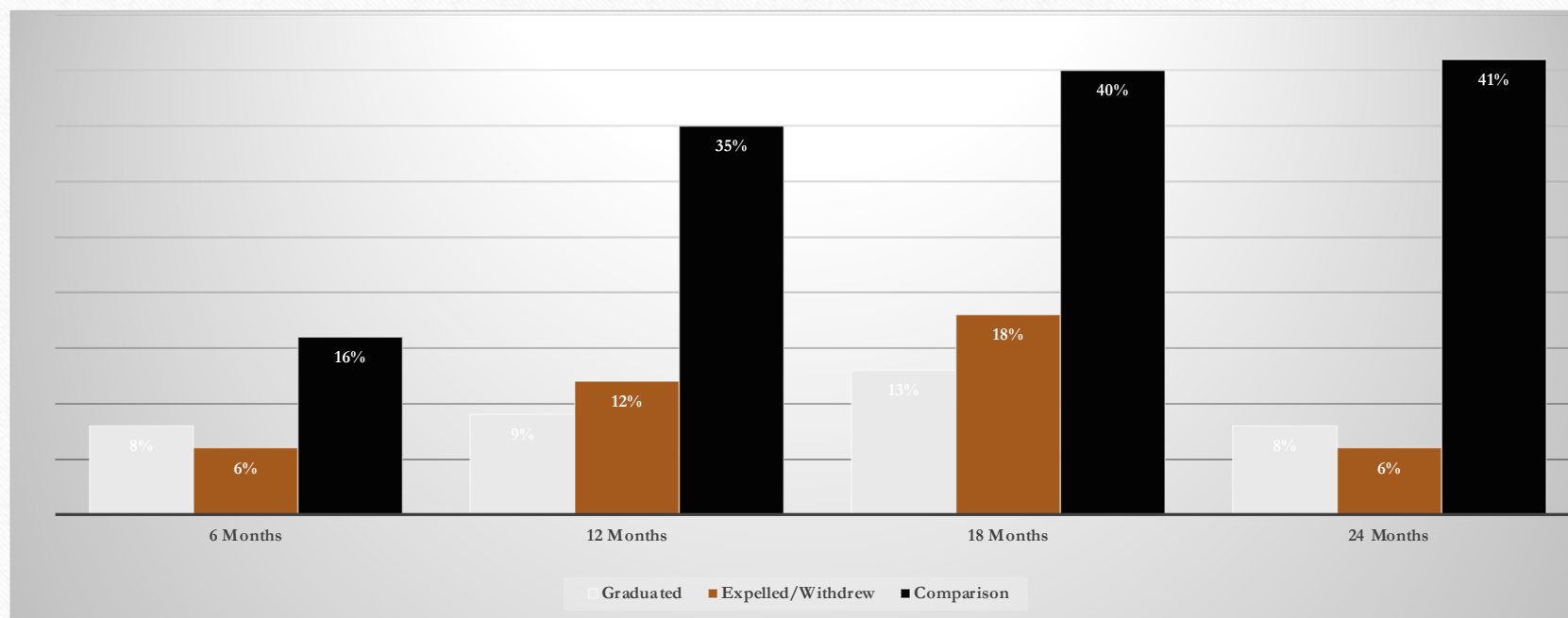
Recent year long evaluation of the Treatment Courts by  
Public Consulting Group

What does the data show?

# Graduation Rates of the Treatment and Recovery Courts



## Conviction Recidivism of Treatment and Comparison Groups After Release: 2016-2019



Conviction rates fairly comparable regardless of exit type; both superior to comparison group.



## Treatment Courts have Cost Benefits

Time	Treatment Group Cost Per Person	Comparison Group Cost Per Person	Treatment Savings Percent Per Person	Treatment Savings Dollars Per Person
Exit	\$ 38,193	\$ 43,461	12%	\$ 5,268
6 months	\$ 41,235	\$ 50,414	18%	\$ 9,179
12 months	\$ 42,974	\$ 58,672	27%	\$ 15,699
18 months	\$ 44,712	\$ 60,845	28%	\$ 16,133

Lower cost at exit and even greater savings taking reduced recidivism into account.

# TREATMENT AND RECOVERY COURTS WORK!

---

Kim S.

Adult Drug Treatment  
Court Grad

I just enjoy so many  
things these days that I'm  
not willing to give up.

Courtney A.

Family Recovery  
Court Graduate

This opportunity  
saved my life and  
gave me the ability to  
be a mother again.

# TRANSFORMATION

---






# WHY TREATMENT AND RECOVERY COURTS WORK

---

- More than just an alternative
- Unite public health with public safety
- Meet accountability with compassion
- Ensure evidence based treatment and recovery solutions instead of incarceration
- Transform courtrooms into places of hope, safety, and health

# Treatment Court Referral Form

<https://mjbportal.courts.maine.gov/CourtForms/FormLists/DownloadForm?strFormNumber=CR-234>

  
**STATE OF MAINE**  
**TREATMENT COURT REFERRAL FORM**

**ADULT DRUG TREATMENT COURT**

<input type="checkbox"/> ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CUMBERLAND COUNTY
<input type="checkbox"/> HANCOCK COUNTY	<input type="checkbox"/> PENOBSCOT COUNTY
<input type="checkbox"/> WASHINGTON COUNTY	<input type="checkbox"/> YORK COUNTY

**CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS COURT**      **VETERAN'S TREATMENT COURT**

<input type="checkbox"/> KENNEBEC COUNTY	<input type="checkbox"/> KENNEBEC COUNTY
	<input type="checkbox"/> CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Defendant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Custody: ☐ Yes ☐ No      If yes, location: \_\_\_\_\_  
If no, phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Docket Number(s) and Charge(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Assigned Prosecutor: \_\_\_\_\_  
An interpreter for the \_\_\_\_\_ language is requested.  
Attach DD-214 (VTC only)  
Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone and Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADTC**-Return completed form to the clerk of the court for requested ADTC.  
**CODC and Kennebec County VTC**: Return completed form to Kennebec County Clerk's Office.  
**Cumberland County VTC**: Return completed form to Cumberland County Clerk's Office.

CR-234, Rev. 10/18      Page 1 of 1

# INCENTIVES & SANCTIONS

## Positive Behavior

**Incentive Matrix: "What do we want the participant to learn from this?"**

### Step 1. Identify the Behavior

Easy/Prosocial	Moderate	Difficult/Distal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance at treatment</li> <li>Attendance at other appointments</li> <li>Home for home visits</li> <li>Report to UA</li> <li>Timeliness</li> <li>Payment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honesty</li> <li>Testing Negative</li> <li>Participating in Prosocial Activities</li> <li>Employment</li> <li>Progress toward Tx Goals</li> <li>Progress in Tx</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete Tx LOC</li> <li>Extended Abstinence/Neg. Tests</li> <li>Treatment Goals Completed</li> <li>Phase Goals Completed</li> <li>Program Goals Completed</li> </ul>

### Step 2. Determine the Response Level

	Easy/Prosocial	Moderate	Difficult/Distal
Distal	Phase 1 Small	Phase 2 Medium	Phase 3 Large
↓	Phase 2 Small	Phase 3 Medium	Phase 4 Large
	Phase 3 Small	Phase 4 Medium	Phase 5 Large
	Phase 4 Small	Phase 5 Medium	Phase 6 Large
Prox	Phase 5 Small	Phase 6 Medium	Phase 7 Large

### Step 3. Choose the Responses (Paired with Judicial Approval/Verbal Praise)

#### 3a. Incentive Response

Small	Medium	Large
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish Bowl</li> <li>Decision Dollars</li> <li>Example for other participants in court</li> <li>Handshake</li> <li>Candy</li> <li>≤ 1 day reduction of curfew</li> </ul>	<p><b>Any small and/or:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≤ 3 day reduction of curfew</li> <li>Choice of Gift Certificate</li> <li>Supervisor Praise</li> <li>Written Praise</li> <li>Positive Peer Board</li> <li>Certificate</li> <li>Reduction in CS hours</li> <li>Reduction in program fees</li> </ul>	<p><b>Any small, medium or large:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Framed Certificate</li> <li>Travel Pass</li> <li>Larger Gift Certificate</li> <li>Position as Mentor to New Participants</li> <li>Reduction of Curfew</li> </ul>

#### 3b. Therapeutic Response

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Single Event	Behavior Chain	Behavior Chain	Behavior Chain	Behavior Chain
	Cost/Benefit Analysis	Cost/Benefit Analysis	Cost/Benefit Analysis	Cost/Benefit Analysis
Continued Progress		Change in LOC	Aftercare Plan	Aftercare Plan
			Re-evaluate Pharmacological Interventions	Re-evaluate Pharmacological Interventions

#### 3c. Supervision Responses

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Change in Curfew Status	Reduced Contacts	Reduced Contacts	Reduced Contacts
	Reduction in Home Visits	Reduction in Home Visits	Reduction in Home Visits
		Reduce in External Monitoring Devices	Decreased Drug Testing

## Inappropriate Behavior

Sanction Matrix: "What do we want the participant to learn from this?"

### Step 1. Identify the Behavior

Low (Less Immediate)	Moderate	High (More Immediate)	Very High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Late for Scheduled Event</li> <li>Missed payment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Missed UA</li> <li>Failure to Complete Assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unexcused Absence tx</li> <li>Alcohol Use</li> <li>Drug Use</li> <li>Tampered UA or device</li> <li>Dishonesty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criminal Behavior (new crimes, drinking and driving)</li> <li>Arrest</li> </ul>

### Step 2. Determine the Response Level

	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
Distal	Phase 1	Level 1	Level 2	Level 4
	Phase 2	Level 1	Level 2	Level 4
	Phase 3	Level 2	Level 3	Level 5
	Phase 4	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Prox	Phase 5	Level 4	Level 5	Level 5

### Step 3. Choose the Responses (paired with Judicial Verbal Disapproval and Explanation)

#### 3a. Sanction/Punishment Responses

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Community Service	≤ 4 hrs	≤ 8 hrs	≤ 16 hrs	≤ 24 hrs	≤ 32 hrs
Curfew	≤ 3 days	≤ 5 days	≤ 7 days	≤ 10 days	≤ 15 days
House Arrest	≤ 24 hrs	≤ 72 hrs	≤ 5 days	≤ 7 days	≤ 15 days
Jail			≤ 24 hours	Review Placement	Termination
Other					

#### 3b. Therapeutic Responses

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behavior Chain</li> <li>Cost/Benefit Analysis</li> <li>Skill Development</li> <li>Thought Restructuring</li> <li>Homework/Practice</li> <li>Thinking Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 plus</li> <li>LOC Review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1, 2, plus</li> <li>Referral Medication Eval</li> <li>Treatment Team Review/Round Table</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1, 2, 3, plus</li> <li>Re-Assessment</li> </ul>	

#### 3c. Supervision Responses

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≤ 1 additional report days/week</li> <li>Official Letter in File</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≤ 2 additional report days/week</li> <li>Home Visit</li> <li>Curfew</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous Testing</li> <li>GPS/Electronic Monitoring</li> <li>≤ 3 additional report days/week</li> <li>Home Visit</li> <li>Increase Frequency UA Test</li> <li>Contingency Contract</li> <li>Additional Court Report</li> <li>Case Conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≤ 4 additional report days/week</li> <li>Contingency Contract</li> <li>Electronic Monitor Device</li> <li>Case Conference</li> <li>Curfew</li> </ul>	



# LINKS AND RESOURCES

- Maine Treatment Courts:  
<https://www.courts.maine.gov/courts/treatment/index.html>
- Maine Treatment Court Handbook:  
<https://mjbportal.courts.maine.gov/CourtForms/FormsLists/DownloadForm?strFormNumber=CR-249>
- National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP):  
<https://www.nadcp.org/>
- Justice for Vets:  
<https://justiceforvets.org>
- New England Association of Recovery Court Professionals: <https://nearcp.org>
- 2020 Annual Report on Maine's Drug Treatment Courts:  
<https://www.courts.maine.gov/about/reports/adtc-report-2020.pdf>
- Maine Adult Drug Treatment Courts Evaluation Report 2015-2020:  
<https://www.courts.maine.gov/about/reports/adtc-evaluation-report-2020.pdf>
- National Drug Court Institute: [Home - National Drug Court Institute - NDCI.org](#)

# CONTACTS

---

Richard Gordon  
Treatment and Recovery Court Coordinator  
[richard.gordon@courts.maine.gov](mailto:richard.gordon@courts.maine.gov)

Maine Pretrial Services (Case Management)  
Darcy Wilcox  
[darcy.wilcox@mainepretial.org](mailto:darcy.wilcox@mainepretial.org)

Maine Prisoner Re-Entry Network  
Bruce Noddin  
[bruce@re-entrymaine.org](mailto:bruce@re-entrymaine.org)

Doug Dunbar  
Eastern Maine Development Corporation  
Opportunity Grant  
[doug.dunbar@emdc.org](mailto:doug.dunbar@emdc.org)