

Scope of Work: Drug Courts



Program Evaluation Topic:
South Dakota Drug Courts

Description of Program:

Drug courts are specially designed criminal court dockets aimed at reducing criminal recidivism and substance abuse while increasing the likelihood of successful rehabilitation for adults with substance use disorders charge with drug related offenses. The drug court program includes continuous and intensive judicially supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug and alcohol testing, community supervision, and the use of appropriate sanctions, incentives, and habilitation services. The first drug Court was established in the Northern Hills in 2007.

Scope of Work:

Question 1: Do South Dakota's Drug Courts align with national best practices and standards?

- Hypothesis: South Dakota's Drug Courts align with national best practices and standards.
- Objective: Certify 100% of South Dakota Drug Courts adhere to the national Drug Court model with fidelity after 3 years of operations.
- Task #1 Assess and verify the fidelity tool used by the South Dakota Drug Courts.
 - Task #2 Random sample drug courts to assess adherence to national best practices and standards.
 - Task #3 Analyze results of the fidelity tool used by the drug courts.

Question 2: Are South Dakota's Drug Courts reducing recidivism for participants after exiting the drug court program?

- Hypothesis: South Dakota's Drug Courts are reducing recidivism for participants after exiting the drug court program.
- Objective: South Dakota's Drug Courts reduce recidivism by 8% to 14% within three years after exiting the Drug Court program.
- Task #1 Identify similar participant and comparison groups by drug court based on a set of matching characteristics.
 - Task #2 Analyze the recidivism rates of each group.

Question 3: Are South Dakota's Drug Courts cost-effective?

- Hypothesis: South Dakota's Drug Courts are cost-effective.
- Objective: South Dakota Drug Courts yield a net savings of \$3,000 to \$22,000 per participant.
- Task #1 Analyze the costs for incarceration and drug courts.