

Federal Statistics and Treatment Programs

Federal Statistics

Of the federal cases in South Dakota in 2018, 145 (16.27% of all cases) were narcotics/dangerous drug cases. That is up from 113 (13.08% of all cases) in 2017. This excludes all criminal charges from Indian Country.

For additional information, I reached out to Delia Druley, Assistant United States Attorney from the Sioux Falls US Attorney's office. Unfortunately, their office did not have any information regarding drug-offender disposition or treatment programs utilized in the federal South Dakota system. She referred me to the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services and the Bureau of Prisons for treatment information and incarceration data.

I also talked with Lynn Bowers, Deputy Chief at the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office in South Dakota, regarding treatment for federal offenders. She said that her office has even fewer resources than the state for pursuing treatment options. With the resources they do have, they either utilize state resources or have contracts with private providers in South Dakota. She did not have any data about the success of the federal treatment programs in the state or the disposition of drugs cases within the federal system in South Dakota.

However, according to the FY2018 Annual Report for U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services, 65% of offenders under their supervision are Native American. Additionally, 23% of their caseload is for drug-related offenses, independent of race (the national average is 47%). Our lower rate maybe be partially because the rate of sex and violent offense cases in their South Dakota office is three to four times higher than the national average.

Federal Prison Treatment Programs

The federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) also offers several drug treatment services. I spoke with Dr. Eric Henning, one of the doctors responsible for the drug treatment program at the Yankton Federal Prison Camp (FPC) to discuss the resources and treatment options there.

The most impactful is the Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP). RDAP is a voluntary, nine-month, 500-hundred-hour program. RDAP embraces a comprehensive and intensive therapeutic community model focused on substance abuse, addiction, criminal thinking patterns, coping skills and more. Currently, this program is being offered at the Yankton FPC. Offenders who complete the program can receive 6-12 months off their sentence. Unfortunately, not all facilities offer this program and the waitlist to get into the program is in the thousands, so the percentage of individuals who receive assistance under this program is extremely limited.

Alternatively, all federal prisons offer the Non-Residential Drug Abuse Program (NRDAP). This program is designed for inmates who are awaiting RDAP; inmates who do not meet RDAP strict qualifications; those referred by staff; offenders with judicial recommendations for drug treatment; and more. NRDAP is 12 to 24 weeks in duration. Successful completion of the NRDAP is rewarded by an award of \$30, in addition to potentially receiving the maximum pre-release time in a halfway house.

Finally, the Drug Education Course is provided at all BOP institutions. While open to all inmates who may have a substance abuse history and voluntarily request it, certain inmates may be required to take this course. This course is to be provided at the beginning of an offender's sentence as a preventive measure and takes 12-15 hours. Refusal, withdrawal, or expulsion from this program by those for whom it is required will result in being limited to only the lowest federal prison wages and ineligibility for a federal prison industries work assignment.

Unfortunately, Dr. Henning had no specific statistics for Yankton FPC.