

# Louisiana Juvenile Drug Court Program Standards

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## The Problem & Hope

(Mitchell, Wilson, Eggers, MacKenzie 2012)

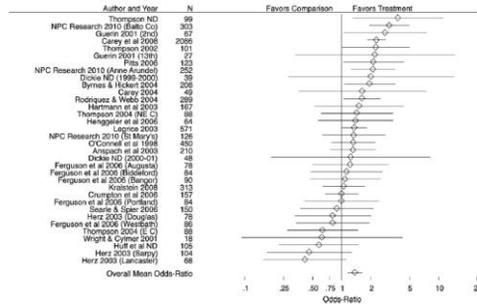


Fig. 2. Forest plot of general recidivism effect sizes for juvenile drug courts.

## A Short Hx--16 Strategies for JDCs

(Wormer & Lutze, 2010)

1. Engage all stakeholders in creating an interdisciplinary, coordinated, and **systemic approach** to working with youth and their families.
2. Develop and maintain an interdisciplinary, **non-adversarial** work team.
3. Define a **target population** and **eligibility criteria** that are aligned with the program's goals and objectives.
4. Schedule frequent judicial reviews and be sensitive to the effect that court proceedings can have on youth and their families.



9. Design treatment to address the unique needs of each gender.

10. Create policies and procedures that are responsive to cultural differences and train personnel to be culturally competent.

11. Maintain a **focus on the strengths** of youth and their families during program planning and in every interaction between the court and those it serves.

12. Recognize and engage the **family as a valued partner** in all components of the program.



5. Establish a **system for program monitoring and evaluation** to maintain quality of service, assess program impact, and contribute to knowledge in the field.

6. Build **partnerships with community organizations** to expand the range of opportunities available to youth and their families.

7. **Tailor interventions** to the complex and varied needs of youth and their families.

8. Tailor treatment to the **developmental needs** of adolescents.

13. Coordinate with the school system to ensure that each participant enrolls.

14. Design drug testing to be frequent, random, and observed. Document testing policies and procedures in writing.

15. Respond to compliance and noncompliance with incentives and sanctions that are designed to reinforce or modify the behavior of youth and their families.

16. Establish a **confidentiality** policy and procedures that guard the privacy of the youth while allowing the drug court team to access key information.

## Seven Program Characteristics that Impact SA and Crime/Delinq Changes

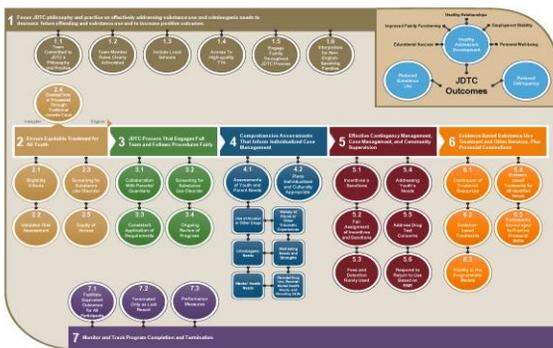
Baumer, P. C., Korchmaros, J. D., Stevens, S. J., Dennis, M. L., & Moritz, K. R. (July, 2015).  
Korchmaros, JD, Baumer, PC, & Valdez, ES (2016).

1. having a defined **target population** and **eligibility criteria**;
2. imposing **sanctions** to modify non-compliance;
3. conducting random & observed **drug testing**;
4. **coordinating with the school system**;
5. providing **gender-appropriate treatment**;
6. employing policies and procedures responsive to **cultural differences**; and,
7. **training personnel to be culturally competent**.

## Strategies evolved to Guidelines



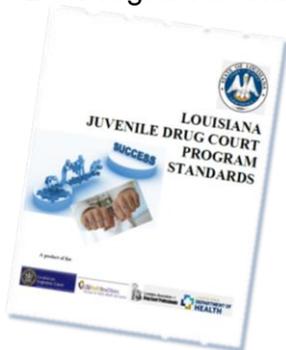
US DOJ OJJDP (2016). **Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines**.  
Available at <https://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/250368.pdf>



## Strategies & Guidelines Become Standards...



## La JDC Program Standards



## La JDC Program Standards... Purpose

JDCs were established to offer unique **community-based** supervision and **interventions** aimed at **reducing drug use and high rates of recidivism** associated with substance abuse. The purpose of these standards are to set **consistent and measurable processes** for Louisiana JDCs. Standards are **based on best practices** that have been shown to increase the likelihood of improved outcomes for youth, families, and communities.



## Purpose Continued...

The **standards** that follow constitute the *minimum necessary requirements* of juvenile drug court (JDC) programs. All Louisiana JDCs are expected to meet these standards. **Best practices** are offered as guidelines to enhance programs. Both standards and best practices are based on current information from the field, U.S. DOJ OJJDP Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines, and the professional literature. Congruence with the national Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines is identified following the measures and rationale for each Louisiana JDC standard.



## 10- JDC Program Standards

*STANDARD 1- Scope of Practice*

*STANDARD 2- Target Population*

*STANDARD 3- Policy & Procedure Manuals*

*STANDARD 4- Participant Handbooks*

*STANDARD 5- Roles & Responsibilities of the JDC Team*

*STANDARD 6- Juvenile Drug Court Process*

*STANDARD 7- Responses to Participant Behavior-  
Incentives, Sanctions, & Therapeutic Approach*

*STANDARD 8- Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment*

*STANDARD 9- Professional Development & Training*

*STANDARD 10- Quality Assurance*