

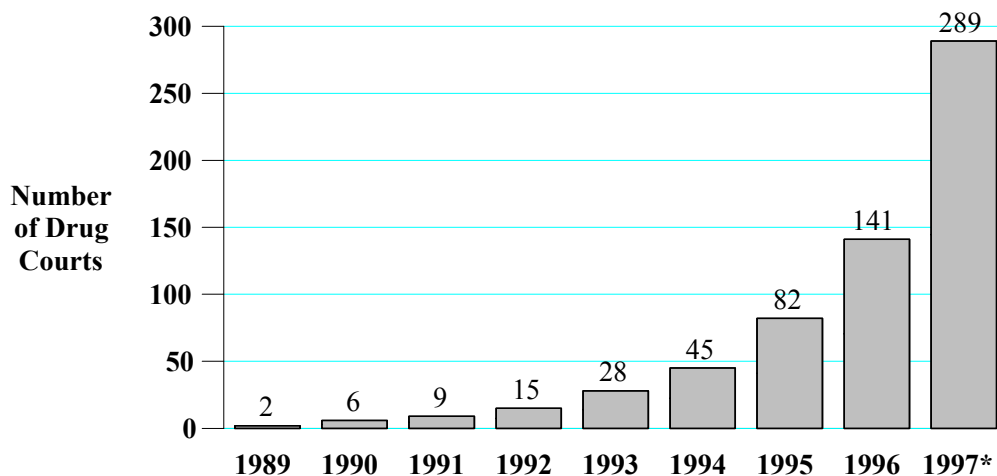
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Drug Courts Found to be Cost-Effective Means of Reducing Crime and Substance Abuse

A recent study by Drug Strategies examined the development and effectiveness of drug courts across the nation. The report, *Cutting Crime: Drug Courts in Action*, concluded that drug courts reduce criminal recidivism and drug abuse, are cost-effective, and may make case processing more efficient. Drug courts offer nonviolent drug offenders reduced criminal penalties upon completion of court-supervised substance abuse treatment. Today, nearly 300 drug courts are either operating or being planned in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Number of U.S. Drug Courts, 1989-1997



*Includes about 100 drug courts being planned.

NOTE: Data for the report were collected from individual drug court evaluations; federal and state sources; and extensive interviews with drug court professionals nationwide, including on-site interviews with practitioners at 10 drug courts.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Drug Strategies, *Cutting Crime: Drug Courts in Action*, 1997, Washington, DC. For more information, contact Drug Strategies at 202-663-6090.

Drug Courts Report Now Available from Drug Strategies

Cutting Crime: Drug Courts in Action describes the development and effectiveness of drug courts across the nation. To purchase a copy (\$12.95), contact Drug Strategies at 2445 M Street, NW, Suite 480, Washington, DC 20037, 202-663-6090.

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