

DRUG COURTS

North Dakota Juvenile Drug Courts Continue Success

In 2011, the North Dakota Juvenile Drug Court Program marked its 11th year in operation. An Upper Midwest Drug Court Conference was held in October, attracting drug court teams of judges, defense counsel, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation officers, school representatives, treatment providers, and administrative staff.

Juvenile Drug Courts are located in Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck, Minot, Williston, and Devils Lake. Since its inception in May 2000, there have been 445 participants in the program. Forty-three percent of those graduated, 50 percent were terminated for noncompliance and further offenses, 6 percent are currently active, and 2 percent were suspended for various reasons.

Following is the 2011 statewide data for the Juvenile Drug Courts:

- 24 graduations
- 20 terminations
- 27 female participants
- 45 male participants
- 58 Caucasian participants
- 1 Hispanic participant
- 3 African American participants
- 10 Native American participants
- 72 total program participants
- 25 participants currently active
- 2,810 community service hours completed

“WE’RE HOLDING THE KIDS’ FEET TO THE FIRE. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO HAVE THAT IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCE— TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DECISIONS THEY MAKE RIGHT AWAY, NOT A MONTH OR TWO MONTHS DOWN THE ROAD.”

JUDGE KAREN BRAATEN,
NORTHEAST JUDICIAL DISTRICT,
IN AN INTERVIEW ON JUVENILE
DRUG COURT FOR HIGHRISKHIGH.
ORG, A MULTI-MEDIA PROJECT OF
PRAIRIE PUBLIC.

CUMULATIVE JUVENILE DRUG COURT TOTALS

Court Location	Year Started	Participant # to Date
Fargo	May 2000	148
Grand Forks	May 2000	162
Bismarck	October 2003	90
Minot	January 2007	28
Williston	January 2008	11
Devils Lake	January 2009	13