



**NCDC**  
NATIONAL CENTER  
FOR DWI COURTS

Top DWI  
courts reduce  
recidivism by  
**60%**<sup>4</sup>

**2+**  
**million**  
drivers in the US  
with 3 or more  
DWI convictions<sup>3</sup>

The estimated cost of  
alcohol-impaired crashes  
in the US in 2010 was  
**\$44**  
**billion**<sup>1</sup>

**\$3.19**  
saved for every \$1  
invested in DWI  
courts<sup>6</sup>

**726**  
DWI courts in  
the US<sup>5</sup>

**10,265**  
lives lost in  
impaired-  
driving crashes  
in 2015<sup>2</sup>

# IMPAIRED DRIVING EPIDEMIC

There is a disturbing upward trend in the number of annual impaired-driving-related fatalities due to repeat driving while intoxicated (DWI) offenders and drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .15 or higher. However, the criminal justice system's traditional response of incarceration and other punishment does not deter these offenders because it does not address the root cause of the problem: **addiction**.

DWI court participants are **19 times less likely to reoffend**.<sup>7</sup> DWI courts are **changing the criminal justice system's approach** to impaired driving:

- ✓ Provide intense supervision
- ✓ Provide individualized, long-term treatment
- ✓ Change participants' thinking and behavior
- ✓ Demand accountability
- ✓ Save taxpayers' money
- ✓ Improve public safety

<sup>1</sup> National Center for Statistics and Analysis (2015). *Alcohol-impaired driving: 2014 data*. (Traffic Safety Facts. DOT HS 812 231). Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation (2016). *2015 Motor Vehicle Crashes: Overview*. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

<sup>3</sup> Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) (2009). *New Data Shows Disturbing Number of Repeat Drunk Drivers on America's Roadways*.

<sup>4</sup> Mitchell, O., Wilson, D.B., Eggers, A., & MacKenzie, D.L. (2012). *Assessing the effectiveness of drug courts on recidivism: A meta-analysis review of traditional and nontraditional drug courts*. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 40(1).

<sup>5</sup> National Association of Drug Court Professionals (2015).

<sup>6</sup> Carey, S., Harrison, P., Johnson, A., & Zil, C. (2014). *Minnesota DWI Courts: A summary of evaluation findings in nine drug court programs*. Portland: NPC Research.

<sup>7</sup> Carey, S., Fuller, B., & Kissick, K. (2008). *Michigan DUI Courts Outcome Evaluation: Final Report*. Portland: NPC Research.

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