South Dakota Treatment Courts

Annual Report

FY 2026: July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026

ACCOUNTABILITY—TREATMENT—RECOVERY—PUBLIC SAFETY

Treatment courts provide judicially-supervised treatment as an alternative to incarceration for eligible individuals. These programs hold participants accountable while addressing substance use and behavioral health needs, promoting recovery, positive outcomes and public safety.

17	707	304	167
Treatment Courts Statewide	Participants Served	New Admissions	Graduates

TREATMENT COURTS MATTER

Accountability:
Frequent court reviews, intensive supervision, drug and alcohol testing, and clear program expectations.

Treatment:
Evidence-based services address substance use, mental health and other needs linked to repeated justice involvement.

Public Safety:
The long-term goal is fewer new crimes, greater stability and fewer people cycling repeatedly through the justice system.

TREATMENT COURTS in ACTION

197
Treatment Court Team Members

→

2,210
Training Hours Completed

→

51
Graduation Ceremonies Held

STATEWIDE MODEL WITH LOCAL TEAMS

South Dakota's 17 treatment courts pair judicial accountability with evidence-based treatment, multidisciplinary collaboration and continuous improvement to support recovery, stability and public safety. Each team consists of a judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, coordinator, treatment providers for both substance use disorder and mental health, court services officer and law enforcement.

WHO TREATMENT COURTS SERVE

Male: 63%

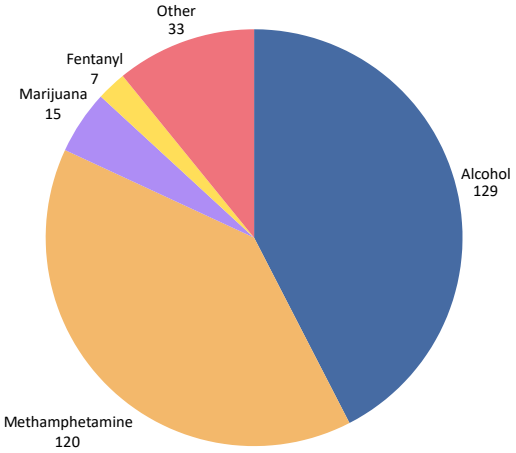
Female: 37%

Average Age: 39

High Risk/High Need: 98%

The population treatment courts are designed to serve.

Primary Drug of Choice for New Admissions



- **Alcohol:** 42.4%
- **Methamphetamine:** 39.5%
- **Marijuana:** 4.9%
- **Fentanyl:** 2.3%
- **Other:** 10.9%

TREATMENT & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

35,600 Hours of Participant Treatment | **86** Average Hours Per Participant

Participants receive individualized substance use and mental health treatment based on assessed needs, including assessments, evidence-based programming, counseling, moral reconation therapy, intensive outpatient treatment, mental health services, and medication management.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION

Drug Testing

88% Negative Drug/Alcohol Test Rate

89 Average Tests Per Participant

Community Service

2,454 Hours

TREATMENT COURT PARTICIPANT EMPLOYMENT

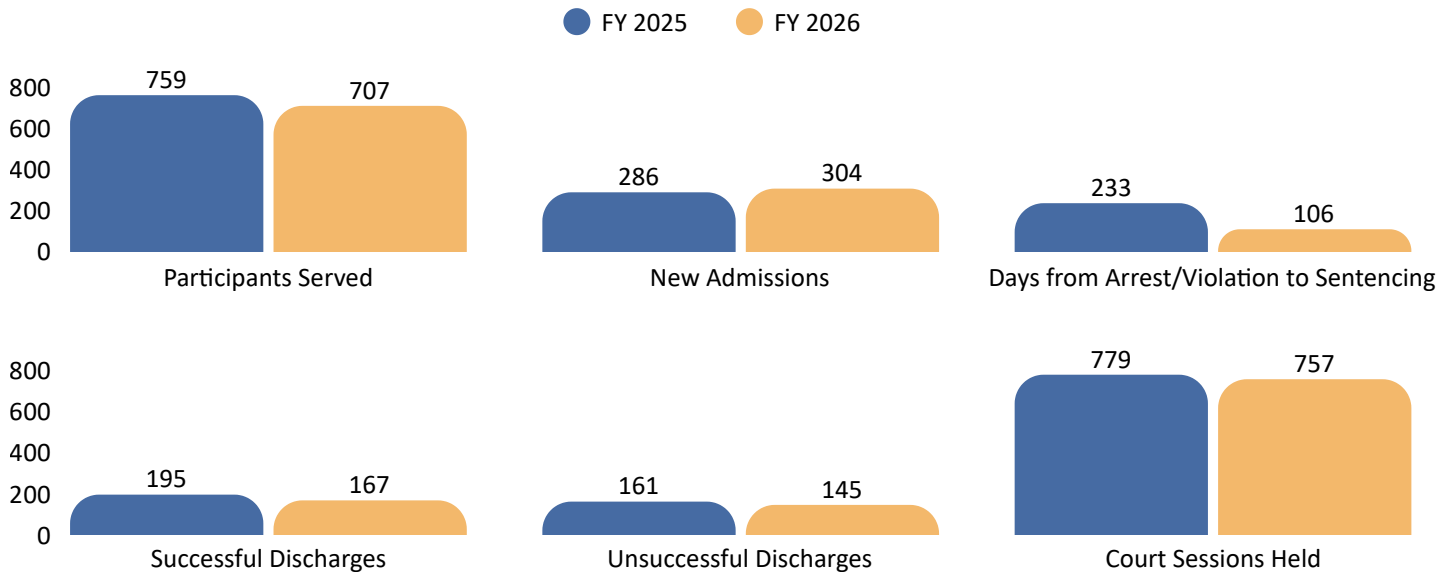
42%
Employed Full or Part Time at Induction

86%
Employed Full or Part Time at Successful Discharge

56%
Employed Full or Part Time at Any Discharge

FY 2026 KEY PROGRAM MEASURES

A year-over-year comparison of statewide treatment court activity.



TREATMENT COURT MEASURES

59.95% Retention Rate

Percentage of participants who have graduated or remain enrolled, reflecting continued engagement in treatment and programming.

59.76% Graduation Rate

Percentage of participants who graduated among those who exited the program.

**Retention and graduation rates are inception-to-date outcome measures.*

LONG-TERM PUBLIC SAFETY: RECIDIVISM RATES

71.49%
No Recidivism

16.23%
Year Three Recidivism

17.69%
Year Five Recidivism

Recidivism is a new felony conviction within three or five years of treatment court induction and includes all inducted participants regardless of discharge type. Three- and five-year recidivism rates are separate, overlapping measures. The five-year rate includes recidivism occurring during the first three years, so the rates should not be added together.

PUBLIC VALUE

$8,137
Treatment Court
Cost-Per-Participant FY 2026

$34,039
Prison
Cost-Per Participant FY 2025

**Most recent available annual costs shown; reporting years differ.*

BUILDING A STRONGER STATEWIDE SYSTEM

South Dakota Treatment Courts remain focused on providing consistent, high-quality programs that balance accountability, treatment, recovery and public safety. Through continued evaluation, strong local partnerships, and the use of data and best practices, UJS is committed to strengthening treatment courts and supporting better outcomes for participants and communities statewide.

FY 2026 laid the groundwork for continued improvement in consistency, quality, accessibility, data and strong local partnerships.

Best Practices	Completed statewide COMPASS review work to measure local practices against nationally-recognized treatment court standards and identify priorities for continuous improvement.
Consistency & Access	Advanced standardized, ADA-accessible participant materials and more consistent statewide practices so expectations are understandable, and access is fair across programs.
Data & Accountability	Continued strengthening DIMS data collection, recidivism analysis, admissions and discharge reporting, and the use of data to identify statewide and local improvement opportunities.
Skills for Long-Term Success	Expanded the use of ATLAS Interactive Journaling to support practical life skills, recovery capital, employment readiness, financial literacy and other competencies that support long-term stability.
Local Governance & Partnerships	Implemented a statewide process for signed memorandum of understandings (MOUs) and local steering committees to formalize partnerships, clarify roles and responsibilities, and strengthen local leadership, accountability, problem solving and long-term sustainability beyond the weekly treatment court team meeting.

**COMPASS is treatment court's statewide fidelity monitoring process, measuring local practices against nationally-recognized Treatment Court Best Practice Standards. It identifies strengths and areas for improvement, while COMPASS action lists document the steps local teams will take to strengthen alignment with best practices.*

LEARN MORE ABOUT TREATMENT COURTS:

Website: https://ujs.sd.gov/programs-services/treatment-courts

500 copies were printed at a cost of 24 cents each. 10/26/2026