

A communication periodical for our clients, staff & the community at large

The Chronicle

A Paterson Counseling Center Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- PCC can treat you for primary illnesses unrelated to your addiction if required
- PCC has a fully operational medical office on-site
- PCC is open 7 days a week
- PCC provides coordination of medication with vacation and travel schedules

Drug Courts Adds Value

THE VERDICT IS IN...

In 20 years since the first Drug Court was founded, there has been more research published on the effects of Drug Courts than on virtually all other criminal justice programs combined.

The scientific community has put Drug Courts under a microscope and concluded that Drug Courts work. Better than jail or prison. Better than probation and treatment alone. Drug Courts significantly reduce drug use and crime and are more cost-effective than any other proven criminal justice strategy.



+ Drug Courts Reduce Crime

- **FACT:** Nationwide, 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after leaving the program.
- **FACT:** Rigorous studies examining long-term outcomes of individual Drug Courts have found that reductions in crime last at least 3 years and can endure for over 14 years.
- **FACT:** The most rigorous and conservative scientific “meta-analyses” have all concluded that Drug Courts significantly reduce crime as much as 35 percent more than other sentencing options.

+ Drug Courts Save Money

- **FACT:** Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in Drug Court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs alone.
- **FACT:** When considering other cost offsets such as savings from reduced victimization and healthcare service utilization, studies have shown benefits range up to \$12 for every \$1 invested.
- **FACT:** Drug Courts produce cost savings ranging from \$4,000 to \$12,000 per client. These cost savings reflect reduced prison costs, reduced revolving-door arrests and trials, and reduced victimization.
- **FACT:** In 2007, for every Federal dollar invested in Drug Court, \$9.00 was leveraged

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in state funding.

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- + **Drug Courts Ensure Compliance**
 - FACT: Unless substance abusing/addicted offenders are regularly supervised by a judge and held accountable, 70% drop out of treatment prematurely.
 - FACT: Drug Courts provide more comprehensive and closer supervision than other community-based supervision programs.
 - FACT: Drug Courts are six times more likely to keep offenders in treatment long enough for them to get better.
- + **Drug Courts Combat Meth Addiction**
 - FACT: For methamphetamine-addicted people, Drug Courts increase treatment program graduation rates by nearly 80%.
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 - FACT: When compared to eight other programs, Drug Courts quadrupled the length of abstinence from methamphetamine.

Warning Signs that a Friend or Family Member is Abusing

Drug abusers often try to conceal their symptoms and downplay their problem. If you're worried that a friend or family member might be abusing drugs, look for the following warning signs:

Physical warning signs of drug abuse

Bloodshot eyes or pupils that are larger or smaller than usual.
Changes in appetite or sleep patterns. Sudden weight loss or weight gain.
Deterioration of physical appearance and personal grooming habits.
Unusual smells on breath, body, or clothing.
Tremors, slurred speech, or impaired coordination.

Behavioral signs of drug abuse

Drop in attendance and performance at work or school.
Unexplained need for money or financial problems. May borrow or steal to get it.
Engaging in secretive or suspicious behaviors.
Sudden change in friends, favorite hangouts, and hobbies.
Frequently getting into trouble (fights, accidents, illegal activities).

There are many warning signs of drug use and abuse in teenagers. The challenge for parents is to distinguish between the normal, sometimes volatile, ups and downs of the teen years and the red flags of substance abuse.

- Being secretive about friends, possessions, and activities.
- New interest in clothing, music, and other items that highlight drug use.
- Demanding more privacy; locking doors; avoiding eye contact; sneaking around.
- Skipping class; declining grades; suddenly getting into trouble at school.
- Missing money, valuables, or prescriptions.
- Acting uncharacteristically isolated, withdrawn, or depressed.
- Using incense, perfume, or air freshener to hide the smell of smoke or drugs.
- Using eyedrops to mask bloodshot eyes or dilated pupils.