



# Superior Court of California County of Orange

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## Orange County Collaborative Courts Annual Report for 2009

Enclosed please find the 2009 Annual Report of the Collaborative Courts, which sets forth the results of the Orange County's Collaborative Court programs for the last calendar year.

The programs, which offer therapeutic, life-changing alternatives to the revolving door of incarceration and re-arrest, include adult and juvenile Drug Court, Dependency Drug Court, DUI Court, mental health courts, Veterans Court, Homeless Outreach Court, Truancy Court, Girls Court, and the domestic violence Safe Families Program.

The success of these programs, both economic and social, is reflected in many ways:

1. Providing therapeutic treatment instead of incarceration results in a substantial savings in the costs of jail and prison bed days. In 2009:
  - Drug Court saved 25,343 jail bed days for a cost savings of more than **\$2,383,000**, and 13,966 prison bed days, for a cost savings of more than **\$1,360,000**;
  - Juvenile Drug Court saved 3,055 days of custody, for a cost savings of more than **\$452,750**.
  - DUI Court saved 24,796 jail bed days, for a cost savings of more than **\$2,330,600**.
2. The early reunification of families through Dependency Drug Court results in significant savings in the costs of out of home placement:
  - In 2009, the early reunification of 63 children with clean and sober parents resulted in an estimated savings of more than \$2,000,000, of which the County's share was more than **\$875,000**.

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3. Processing cases through Collaborative Court tracks yields cost savings when compared with processing them through “business as usual”:
  - Researchers for the Administrative Office of the Courts found that every \$1.00 invested in the Drug Court at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana resulted in a total cost savings of **\$7.30**.
4. The Collaborative Court programs also produce substantial health-related cost savings:
  - Females in the adult and juvenile Drug Court, DUI Court, and mental health court programs have given birth to **147** drug-free babies while participating in the program, saving the health care system millions of dollars.
  - The DUI Courts have graduated **514** DUI offenders, each of whom had been arrested for the second or third time. This has saved health care costs for many people – including the participants who will live longer, healthier lives and the innocent victims who will not be injured or die in future automobile accidents.
5. Graduates of Collaborative Courts programs have low rates of recidivism:
  - Drug Court graduates who have been out of the program for three years have a recidivism rate, for any crime, that is far less than half the rate of offenders who qualified for but did not participate in Drug Court (**32% to 74%**);
  - of the Juvenile Drug Court graduates out of the program for two years, only **18%** had a subsequent referral to Probation;
  - of the mental health court graduates, only **15%** have been re-arrested; and
  - of the 514 DUI Court graduates, only 19 have been re-arrested for drunk driving – a recidivism rate of **3.7%**.

The success of Orange County’s Collaborative Court programs is due to the steadfast support of the County, and to the dedication of the partnering agencies. On behalf of this collaboration, I am pleased to present the 2009 Annual Report – which is also available online at [www.occourts.org/directory/collaborative-courts/index.html](http://www.occourts.org/directory/collaborative-courts/index.html).

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