

# District Court and the Addicted Offender

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District Court Special Topic Seminar  
UNC School of Government  
March, 2007

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## Overview

- Definition of Addiction
- Rehabilitation as a Goal
- Evaluating Treatment Programs
- Handling Offender's Relapses
- What Drug Treatment Court Methods Can Teach About Offender Management
- National Trends

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## Addiction

- A disease
- Characterized by continuous or periodic lack of control over use of drug or alcohol
- Preoccupation with substances
- Continued use despite adverse consequences
- Distortions in thinking and denial

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### Principles of Effective Treatment

- Address things that can be changed
- Therapeutic integrity of program
- Targeting of offenders
- Services targeted to learning styles and abilities of offenders

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### Evaluating Treatment Programs

- Are they designed to target specific characteristics and problems of offenders?
- Do they use appropriate therapeutic techniques?
- Is the staff trained?
- Are programs evaluated?
- Is the length of treatment sufficient?
- Is most intensive treatment targeted at most serious offenders?
- Does the program use cognitive behavioral treatment methods?

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### Sentencing Offenders

- What do you say to offenders?
- How do you react to failure of a defendant while in treatment?

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### Applying Drug Court Principles to Regular Criminal Court

- Immediate intervention
- Non-adversarial adjudication
- Judge involvement
- Rules and structure for treatment
- Team approach

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### Prototypical Hardcore Offender

- Age—35
- Education—High school
- Occupation—Blue collar
- Income—Low
- Traffic record—Other traffic or criminal
- Gender—Male
- Race—White
- Marital—Unmarried
- BAC—0.18
- Priors—two or three

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### Is There Hope?

- Identification strategies
- Information sharing across and within jurisdictions
- More scrutiny on refusals
- Collaboration among justice officials
- Emphasis on treatment

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