

**From:** National Association of Drug Court Professionals [mailto:nadcp-info@nadcp.org]  
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## ONDCP shines a bright spotlight on Drug Courts

Yesterday morning, the Administration held a press briefing on new [ADAM II survey results](#) showing that in 10 U.S. cities a majority of adult males tested positive for illegal drugs at the time of arrest, but there have been significant reductions in overall cocaine and methamphetamine use. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Gil Kerlikowske was joined by Chief of the Services Research Branch of the National Institute of Drug Abuse, Redonna Chandler and NADCP CEO, West Huddleston to highlight efforts currently underway to reform the American criminal justice system and further reduce drug abuse and crime. Drug Court, in-custody treatment and HOPE probation were front and center as solutions!

“It won’t surprise you to hear that Drug Courts work,” Huddleston stated to the press. “More than two decades of exhaustive scientific research by the most notable criminal justice researchers in the country has shown that Drug Courts dramatically reduce drug abuse and crime, restore families and save tax-payers a fortune. Drug Courts are as much a societal solution as they are a budget solution.”

Huddleston continued, “Drug Courts demonstrate that breaking the cycle of addiction and crime in America is well within our reach, but no one would argue that Drug Courts have realized their full potential. Only half of U.S. counties have a Drug Court this morning. That is why today’s news is so critical. We are working hard to expand the reach of proven programs throughout the country. I am proud to stand beside Director Kerlikowske and be counted as someone at service to the critical reform work ahead.”

Multiple national press outlets ran the story including [Reuters](#), [MSNBC](#), [Fox News](#) and [Huffington Post](#).

Yesterday afternoon, ONDCP Deputy Director of Demand Reduction David Mineta joined West Huddleston at the 10th Anniversary and Commencement Ceremony for Prince Georges County, Maryland Drug Court Program. Deputy Director Mineta congratulated the graduates on their outstanding accomplishment. “It is always inspiring for me to attend these ceremonies—to hear

firsthand the stories of courage and perseverance of the graduates as well as their families and loved ones,” he said. “We know that Drug Courts work—they serve as a vital option for non-violent drug offenders and make real progress in breaking the vicious cycle of drug use, crime, incarceration, and re-arrest.”

Earlier in the week, Director Kerlikowske joined West Huddleston at the 13th Recognition Ceremony for the District of Columbia Superior Court Family Treatment Court to recognize 11 Family Treatment Court participants moving to the next phase of recovery. Director Kerlikowske posted the following [blog statement](#):

*Today I was inspired as I heard firsthand each woman’s story of courage and perseverance. One graduate thanked the court for “teaching her how to live again.” Another said “I’m really happy with the woman I’ve become—a good mother, a loving, kind, patient, trustworthy friend and sister...Now I know why I’m here.” These women are living proof that we are not powerless over substance use disorders and that recovery is possible.*



*(NADCP CEO West Huddleston addresses the court. ONDCP Director Kerlikowske, and NADCP Board Member Judge Pamela Gray with eight proud graduates)*

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