



**Treatment
Court Institute**

Incorporating Drug Testing Into Case Management

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines

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Module Objectives



- Describe various testing techniques, and the importance of using research and science to inform practice and policy
- Discuss necessary policy development or program changes in order to create an effective testing protocol
- Develop a range of responses to failure to test, tampering and positive tests that focus on treatment and criminogenic needs

Corresponding Guidelines

GUIDELINE 5.5

A participant's failure to appear for a drug test and otherwise tampering with drug test results should be addressed with immediate, granted sanctions.

GUIDELINE 5.6

The JDTC team should be prepared to respond to a return to substance use in ways that consider the youth's risk, needs and responsibility.

Drug Testing Research



- When youth failed to appear for testing it was correlated with higher failure rates in the JDTC.
- Youth that fail to appear for drug testing during initial phases should be considered a warning sign that the youth is high risk for program failure
- Watch for high failure rates — positive tests and failure to report — as a warning sign, and respond appropriately

Guideline 5.5: Address Failure To Appear and/or Tampering Immediately

- Address a tampered or missed test with immediacy and through a graduated sanctions process
- Random, frequent, and observed
- Be sensitive to the potential trauma that youth have experienced.
- Frequency of testing should be last supervision level lifted.

Guideline 5.6: Respond To Return To Use With Consideration of Risk/Need

- Return to use should be based on what is known about each youth's goals and progress
- Caution: do not confuse treatment and sanction responses

Types of Tests



TYPE OF TEST	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Urinalysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inexpensive• Immediate results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Same gender staff must observe
Saliva	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less invasive• Either gender can observe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cannot detect drugs used more than two days previously.
Patch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gives a good picture of the types of drugs that were used over a period of time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High initial expense• Results are not immediate
Hair Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detects drug use over a longer time period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not measure immediate use (2-week lag)• Cost• Results are not immediate• Does not calibrate amount

Policy and Procedures



Drug Testing in JDTC should be used differently than traditional juvenile court or the ADC model. Remember – it is only one tool!

DRUG TESTING

Adult Drug Court

- Frequent and random

Traditional Juvenile Court

- Intermittently — not necessarily frequent or random
- Used punitively

Juvenile Drug Court

- Frequent and random
- **Used therapeutically, not to “catch” the youth**

Source: NCJFCJ: Yeres et al., 2014)



True or False

The DSM-5 states that 90 days of consecutive non-use is needed for behavior change.

False



- In fact, the DSM-5 defines remission as three months without “symptoms” (including craving) – but is noticeably silent on actual “use.”



**What are drug
test results
used for?**

Or

**What is the
value in
continued drug
testing, given
the lack of
research?**

The Value of Drug Testing



Understanding drug use can help JDTC teams:

- Identify drugs of choice or changes in use
- Engage in conversations about honesty and triggers
- Sustain change talk about self-regulation
- Measure treatment effectiveness / engagement

Policy Building Exercise



At your tables, or in small group of 5-6 individuals review the following questions.

- How frequently will we test youth?
- What testing methods will we use?
- How will we ensure randomness?
- How will we decide which drugs to test for?
- Who is responsible for the testing?
- How will staff be trained?
- How will we respond to positive drug screens?

Summary and Questions



- Ensure that data is used to monitor for drug trends and types
- Policies should be reviewed yearly to make necessary adjustment
- Allow youth and families — that have graduated from the program - to have input on recommended policy changes.
- Engage in on-going training on drug testing, as it is a dynamic and ever-changing field of work

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Resources



Training and Technical Assistance

Submit your request for training and technical assistance.

Join the JDTC Listserv

Connect with the JDTC community, share ideas, and access support.

Tune-In-Tuesday Webinar Series

Tune-In-Tuesdays will occur each quarter and will provide JDTC team members with practical tools to address common challenges in JDTC programs.

Interactive JDTC Map

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Resources

Drug Testing



**Drug Testing and
Wellness Considerations**



**Drug Court Judicial
Benchbook – Chapter 6**
The Fundamentals of Drug Testing



Concentration Levels

All Rise
**Treatment
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**Thank
You** 

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