



# Superior Court of California County of Orange

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## Orange County Collaborative Courts Annual Report for 2008

Enclosed please find the 2008 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 Courts, Dependency Drug Courts, DUI Courts, Mental Health Courts, Homeless Outreach Court, Truancy Court, and Domestic Violence Courts. In 2008, two innovative, nationally-recognized programs were started: Veterans Court and the Community Court, which offers onsite supportive services.

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 2008:
  - o the adult Drug Courts saved 21,247 jail bed days for a cost savings of more than **\$1,997,850**, and 17,674 prison bed days, for a cost savings of more than **\$1,723,000**;
  - o the Juvenile Drug Court saved 2,487 days of custody, for a cost savings of more than **\$368,500**.
  - o the DUI Court program saved 13,851 jail bed days, for a cost savings of more than **\$1,302,400**.
2. The early reunification of families through the Dependency Drug Court program results in significant savings in the costs of out of home placement:
  - o In 2008, the early reunification of 72 children with clean and sober parents resulted in a savings of more than \$2,250,000, of which the County's share was more than **\$1,000,000**.

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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 Courts, DUI and Co-Occurring Disorders Court programs have given birth to 129 drug-free babies while participating in the program, saving the health care system millions of dollars.
  - The DUI Courts have graduated 326 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:
  - Adult 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 (**31.9% to 74%**);
  - of the Juvenile Drug Court graduates out of the program for two years, only **19%** had a subsequent referral to Probation;
  - of the Co-Occurring Disorders Court graduates, only **23.4%** have been re-arrested; and
  - of the 326 DUI Court graduates, only nine have been re-arrested for drunk driving – a recidivism rate of **2.76%**.

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 2008 Annual Report.

Paul W. Shapiro  
Collaborative Courts Officer