

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

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### National

#### [Rural Courts Begin to Offer Medications to Treat Addiction](#)

Governing

A study conducted a decade ago found that barely half of drug treatment courts offered medication treatment. Those that didn't cited uncertainty about its efficacy and noted political, judicial, and administrative opposition. But research in the years since has persuaded many of the most insistent abstinence-only advocates.

According to Monica Christofferson, Director of Treatment Court Programs at the Center for Justice Innovation, amid an accelerating opioid crisis there has been a "huge shift" among judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies away from the stigma associated with medication treatment. Simply put, "MOUD works," Christofferson asserted.

By 2022, more than 90 percent of drug courts located in communities with high opioid mortality rates that responded to a survey said they allow buprenorphine and/or methadone, the medications most commonly used to treat addiction. The study also found that 65 percent of drug court program staffers have received training in medication for treatment, and a similar share have arranged for clients to continue receiving medications while serving jail time for program violations. Still, almost 1 in 4 programs told researchers they overrule medication decisions.

### Louisiana

#### [Opioid and Drug Crisis Addressed through Drug Court Program](#)

KLFY

In an effort to address the opioid and drug crisis here in Lafayette, there are programs like the 15th JDC FIST Drug Treatment Court Program also known as Drug Court.

Programs like these offer adult drug use offenders a chance at getting the help they need while possibly avoiding jail time.

Drug court is a treatment program which helps drug using offenders with supervised treatment and rehabilitation. The program is a way for people who have been arrested for less serious drug use to get the help they need while addressing the opioid crisis and drug use in Lafayette.

**Pennsylvania**[County, State Officials Kick Off LETI Program at Indiana County Courthouse](#)

WCCS Radio

A new program aimed at providing a new treatment-driven initiative to help with substance abuse disorder kicked off this morning at a news conference in the Indiana County Courthouse.

The Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative, or LETI, is a four-stage initiative where those who need help with substance abuse disorder find treatment before they face the criminal justice system. Indiana County becomes the 25<sup>th</sup> county in Pennsylvania to join the program.

Indiana County focused on two of [the] phases so far: drug court and a diversion program at the district court level. The added programs will happen prior to arrests or police encounters to guide people to treatment through early intervention programs.