
INTRODUCTION

Scope and Acknowledgements

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W.S. 28-8-107(b) authorizes the Legislative Service Office to conduct program evaluations, performance audits, and analyses of policy alternatives. Generally, the purpose of such research is to provide a base of knowledge from which policymakers can make informed decisions.

In January 2006, the Management Audit Committee directed staff to undertake a review of drug court operations in Wyoming. The Committee requested an analysis of the program's costs, operations, and outcomes. This study focuses on the state's administrative structures and role in the management and oversight of locally-created drug courts. It addresses the following questions:

- Who runs drug courts and how do they work? How many offenders have graduated from drug courts, and at what cost? What are the similarities and differences among the local courts?
- How effective have drug courts been in achieving five goals listed in statute? Are the courts effective both individually and collectively?
- Does data collected at the state level support assertions that drug court participants have positive outcomes?
- How do the executive and judicial branches of government collaborate to ensure that legislative goals are achieved?
- How are standards set, and who makes policy for drug courts?

Acknowledgements

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