

# IOWA FAMILY TREATMENT COURT REPORT

## Iowa Family Treatment Court Locations:

Black Hawk County  
*First Judicial District*

Buena Vista County  
*Third Judicial District*

Cass/Audubon Counties  
*Fourth Judicial District*

Cerro Gordo County  
*Second Judicial District*

Johnson County  
*Sixth Judicial District*

Linn County  
*Sixth Judicial District*

Polk County  
*Fifth Judicial District*

Scott County  
*Seventh Judicial District*

Wapello County  
*Eighth Judicial District*

Warren County  
*Fifth Judicial District*

Webster County  
*Second Judicial District*

Woodbury County  
*Third Judicial District*

## Family Treatment Court

Total Number of Families Served:  
1,512

Total Number of Parents/Caregivers:  
1,709

Total Number of Children:  
2,974

## Key elements of Family Treatment Courts include:

- Early substance abuse assessments and entry into treatment for parents
- Regular, frequent judge-led court hearings
- Recovery support services for families
- Team approach to joint case planning
- Coordinated delivery of services for families
- Common vision and training on substance abuse and child welfare

## From March of 2008 through March of 2020

### Results for Parents

- 90.5% of the parents were admitted to substance abuse treatment.
- Average length of stay in substance abuse treatment for participants is over 2 times longer than other parents in the child welfare system (197 days vs. 97 days for others).

### Results for Children

- 77% of the children were able to remain in the custody of their parent or caregiver during their participation in the program.
- 72% of children in care were returned home within 12 months.
- 91% of the children did not suffer a recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months of entry into Family Treatment Court.

**Estimates show Family Treatment Courts have generated \$17.7 million dollars in cost avoidance for the state since 2007, an average of approximately \$11,769.51 per family.**

## Current activities:

- identifying what families can benefit best from family treatment court
- to infuse key elements of working with families with substance abuse issues into more traditional Child In Need of Assistance cases and increasing capacity of current Family Treatment Courts.
- Prenatal screening to prevent substance exposure and early identification to remediate the impact of the substance exposure on the child