



National Acupuncture  
Detoxification Association  
(NADA)

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## A History of Acupuncture in the First Three Drug Courts

### # 1 Miami uses Acu from the Get Go; Sparks a Drug Court Movement...

NADA-style ear acupuncture has been used in drug courts since 1989, when the first drug court in the US started in Miami. Responding to the cocaine epidemic in the late 1980's, the Metro-Dade NADA drug court program yielded fewer arrests among Miami cocaine addicts and longer times elapsed before re-arrests occurred, according to a 1990 independent study funded by the US Department of Justice. The Study Chief, John S Goldkamp, PhD noted the value of ear acupuncture adjunct therapy "as a resource for stabilizing defendants...and for increasing amenability to treatment." NADA ear acupuncture continues at Miami's Metro-Dade Drug Court today.

### # 2 Portland NADA Drug Court Cuts Crime and Saves Millions...

Shortly after the Miami Drug Court commenced, a second drug court started at the Multnomah County Drug Court of Portland, Oregon started, using ear acupuncture since its birth in 1991. In 1998, independent researchers found that the drug court radically reduced criminal recidivism and saved millions of dollars in estimated "avoided costs." Ten years later, ear acupuncture continued as well as reduced recidivism, estimated to have saved taxpayers over \$7.9 million each year.

### # 3 92% of Acu Choosing Clients Complete Drug Court At Broward...

Extraordinarily high completion rates (92%) were documented at Broward County Drug Court (Florida) in 1999 among drug court participants who chose ear acupuncture, compared to 60% of clients who didn't. At that time, Broward was the largest drug court in the US. Broward was the third drug court created.

*What is NADA? NADA, a not for profit training and advocacy organization, encourages community wellness through the use of a standardized auricular acupuncture protocol for behavioral health, including addictions, mental health, and disaster and emotional trauma. We work to improve access and effectiveness of care through promoting policies and practices which integrate NADA-style treatment with other Western behavioral health modalities.*

### Cost-Effective, No-Nonsense Treatment Adjunct

- Inexpensive (63 Cents = Average Cost Per Person/Per Treatment)
- Popular in most cultural circumstances
- NADA clinics can function in any location where people being treated can sit in a group.
- Refined and developed by experienced addictions professionals for over 35 years
- Train existing drug court program staff to implement NADA-style drug court programs (drug courts in many states don't have to hire full body acupuncturists, and program costs can be minimal. To learn more about state regulations re: NADA training and certification in your jurisdiction, go to [acudetox.com/about](http://acudetox.com/about))

**Acupuncture and Detoxification Best Practices Manual** The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) published a best practices addictions treatment manual (Detoxification and Substance Abuse Treatment (TIP 45)) with mention of ear acupuncture as beneficial.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=hssamhsatip&part=A85279>



*"I was skeptical at first but everyone I talked to said (acupuncture) helped. I became a believer."*

*--Former Attorney General Janet Reno, who oversaw the First NADA Acupuncture "Metro Dade" Drug Court program in Miami*

**National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA)**

Pioneer and Partner for Drug Court Programs Since The First Drug Courts in 1989

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**What Uncle Sam Says About Acupuncture and Drug Courts:**

- Acupuncture is more accessible to drug courts than methadone and other pharmacological interventions...
- 32% of drug courts utilize acupuncture services...

—Drug Court Report published by SAMHSA/CSAT (2001)  
[www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/188086.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/188086.pdf)



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Responding to the cocaine epidemic in the late 1980's, the Metro-Dade NADA drug court program yielded fewer arrests among Miami cocaine addicts and longer times elapsed before re-arrests occurred, according to a 1990 independent study funded by the US Department of Justice. Miami's Drug Court still offers NADA ear acupuncture today. NADA continues to train drug court personnel across the US. To learn more about state regulations re: NADA training and certification in your jurisdiction, go to [acudetox.com/about](http://acudetox.com/about)

NADA was co-founded by one drug court pioneer, Dr. Michael Smith. He has published numerous studies and essays on acupuncture for addictions treatment, available at: <http://www.acudetox.com/bookstore/>

**Independent Evaluation Studies**

**"Blueprint" Sacramento Drug Court**

cites acupuncture as "great deal" to do with success (2008)

**Sacramento Acupuncture-Required Drug Court**  
2- year recidivism rate

**17%**

**National Average for Drug Courts**  
2 yr recidivism rate

**27.5%**

**10-year Savings**

for Oregon Taxpayers 10 years after implementation of Multnomah Co. Acupuncture Drug Court (2007)

**\$79 Million**

**Research on Drug Court Programs that use NADA-style ear acupuncture:**

Finigan, M. W., Carey, S.M., "Impact of a Mature Drug Court Over 10 Years of Operation: Recidivism and Costs (Final Report)," *NPC Research*, April 2007.

Goldkamp, J.S., Weiland, D., "Assessing the Impact of Dade County's Felony Drug Court," *National Institute of Justice*. December 1993.

Harrell, A, Cavanagh, S, Roman, J, "Evaluation of the DG Superior Court drug intervention programs," *National Institute of Justice's Research in Brief*. April 2000.

Loman, L. A., "A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the St. Louis City Adult Felony Drug Court," *Institute of Applied Research*. 2004.

Office of Justice Programs, "Miami's 'Drug Court' A Different Approach," *U.S. Department of Justice*. June 1993.

Renaud, J. "Acu Addresses Drug Court Client Needs," *Guidepoints*. January 2004.

Renaud, J. "Acu-Choosers Shine in Drug Court Clinic," *Guidepoints*. May 1999.