

Juvenile Drug Courts and Teen Substance Abuse. Jeffrey A. Butts and John Roman (Editors). Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press, 2004, 284 pages. ISBN: 0-87766-725-X \$29.50 paperback.

This book examines the history and current status of juvenile drug courts. It provides excellent models of successful adult drug courts and a few examples of juvenile drug courts. The book will be helpful to researchers and practitioners who want to expand their knowledge of drug courts. Researchers and practitioners working in the drug court field could benefit immensely from the book because the authors provide areas of needed research and a synopsis of past empirical research. The book would also benefit social work educators dealing with juvenile delinquency and substance abuse. The authors conclude by discussing the future of drug courts. They provide conceptual models for the implementation of a successful drug court.

The authors' discussion of the history of drug courts provides the context for a discussion of juvenile drug courts. In the first few chapters the editors do a good job of providing the background necessary to understand the phenomenon of the juvenile drug court (for example, the success of adult courts and the desire of policymakers to use the model with adolescents). This is followed by an in-depth discussion of drug policy in the United States, including the current proliferation of drug-related arrests and the increase in drug-related incarcerations, and the need for alternative treatments that deal specifically with substance abuse.

The book is generally well written. The basic overview of the model being used is easy to follow. There are some redundancies throughout the book, which may be useful for readers who are new to the topic. The authors provide an excellent examination of past research on drug courts. There is limited evidence that evaluates the impact of drug courts. This is especially true of juvenile drug courts. Possible reasons for the limited evidence include "problems in designing and supporting drug court evaluations, lack of attention to conducting theory-based evaluations, and difficulty in

the generalizability from evaluations given the wide variation in drug court operations" (p. 133).

Juvenile drug courts are increasing in the United States, as a result of increasing availability of external funding, raising the question of what constitutes a "serious" juvenile drug user. Nearly half of all adolescents in the United States will try some form of illegal drug before they reach 18 years of age. However, the majority of these drug users are able to control their behavior and go on to lead productive lives. The authors pose a relevant question that must be addressed as juvenile drug courts increase: Who should be served by these courts? Drug courts, especially juvenile drug courts, will continue to grow, but are they serving a population in need of services or are they merely serving to continue the flow of funding to local courts?

The authors stress the importance of rigorous and theory-based evaluation research. Questions about juvenile drug courts need to be addressed and methodologically sound research should be conducted. Such research would have a profound effect on future policy and practice.

Wesley T. Church II
The University of Alabama

The Children of Neglect: When No One Cares.

Margaret G. Smith and Rowena Fong. New York: Brunner-Routledge, 2004, 321 pages. ISBN: 0-415-94658-1 \$29.95 paperback.

Child maltreatment researchers, practitioners, and policymakers will welcome Margaret Smith and Rowena Fong's book *The Children of Neglect: When No One Cares*. Although Wolock and Horowitz identified the "neglect of neglect" in 1984, child abuse has continued to be the primary focus of maltreatment research. The authors tease out the complexities of neglect, separate from abuse, into a theoretically sound book that uses cutting-edge literature. Of families who maltreat, neglectful families are generally the most difficult to identify and treat. This book significantly contributes to the knowledge base of maltreatment research and practice in important ways. First, it is well researched and empirically based. Second, the book covers the