

2019 PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS ANNUAL REPORT: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AS OF JANUARY 1, 2019,
THERE WERE 188
PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS (PSCs)
STATEWIDE, INCLUDING:

- 128 drug treatment / DWI sobriety courts
 - 58 hybrid drug treatment / DWI sobriety courts
 - 31 DWI sobriety courts
 - 9 adult and 13 juvenile drug treatment courts
 - 8 tribal family dependency courts
 - 9 tribal drug treatment / DWI sobriety courts
 - 1 adult and 1 family dependency court in planning stages
- 33 mental health courts (27 adult and 6 juvenile courts)
 - 2 adult mental health courts in the planning stage
- 27 veterans treatment courts

Independence. Accessibility. Engagement.

Efficiency. These four principles are the foundation for our Court as we work to ensure that the doors of our justice system are open to all. Taken together, these principles send a strong message that Michigan courts treat all litigants equally, regardless of power or party; that income must not be a barrier to justice; that judges must be connected to the community; and that courts must be prudent stewards of public resources.

The judges who lead Michigan's 188 problem-solving courts work to uphold these principles. Indeed, through regional initiatives, these courts are accessible to all Michigan residents; programs engage the community to support participants as they deal with addiction through treatment; and by solving problems instead of incarcerating participants, communities save money. But most importantly, lives are saved and communities are safer.

Problem-solving courts focus on providing treatment and intense supervision to offenders as an alternative to incarceration. These include drug and sobriety, mental health, veterans, and other nontraditional courts. The Michigan Supreme Court (MSC), through its State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), assists trial court judges in the management of these courts by providing **training, education, operational standards, monitoring, certification requirements, and funding.**

Judges and court staff operating these PSCs are dedicated team members who invest their time beyond standard court hours to help participants who may be struggling with their addiction or mental illness. The Michigan Supreme Court recognizes the many judges across the state who voluntarily take on these additional dockets to truly solve problems and save lives.



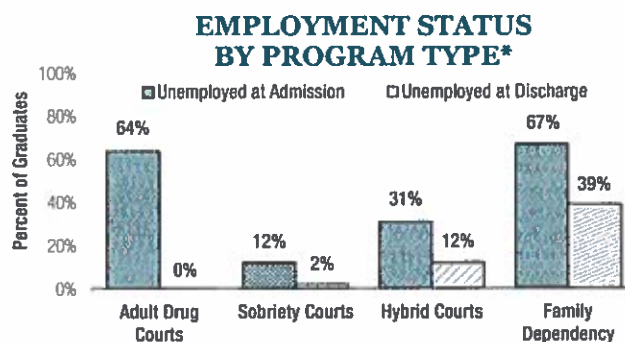


Drug and Sobriety Court Graduates Find Work, Commit Fewer Repeat Offenses

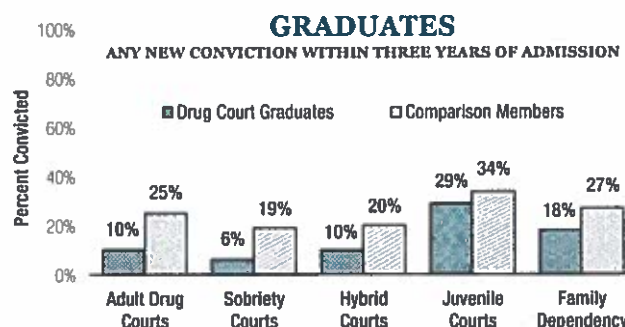
Of the 2,984 participants discharged from a drug or sobriety court program during FY 2018, 1,925 participants (65 percent) had successfully completed a program, while 29 percent were discharged unsuccessfully due to noncompliance, absconding, or a new offense.

Maintaining steady employment is a critical factor in the success of drug and sobriety court graduates. Follow-up analysis shows a **dramatic drop in unemployment**.

Just as important: graduates are much less likely to reoffend. For example, participants who successfully complete a drug or sobriety court program are two times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission to a hybrid program.



* Juvenile drug court offenders were not included as their main goal while working a program is to improve their education level.



Ignition Interlock Devices Successful in Preventing New Offenses

In FY 2018, there were 1,501 active participants among 67 sobriety, hybrid, and veterans treatment court programs who were members of the interlock program with an installed device on their vehicles. There were 725 participants using ignition interlock devices who were discharged from a treatment court program during FY 2018. Of those, 671 (93 percent) successfully completed a PSC program.

Graduates using interlock devices were 4 TIMES LESS LIKELY to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission to the program.

Mental Health Courts Successful in Improving Quality of Life

During FY 2018, there were 1,414 participants in mental health courts statewide, including juvenile, adult district, and circuit court programs. There were 625 participants discharged from 32 mental health courts in FY 2018 and of those, 355 participants (57 percent) successfully completed a program.

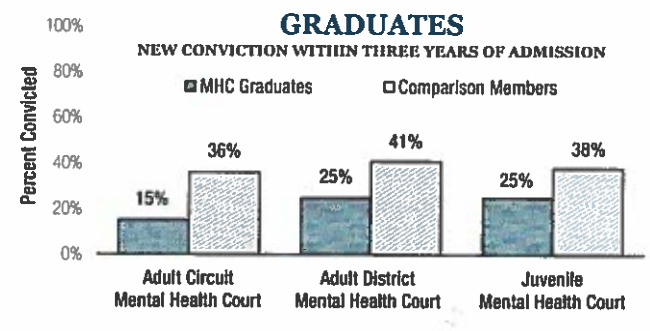
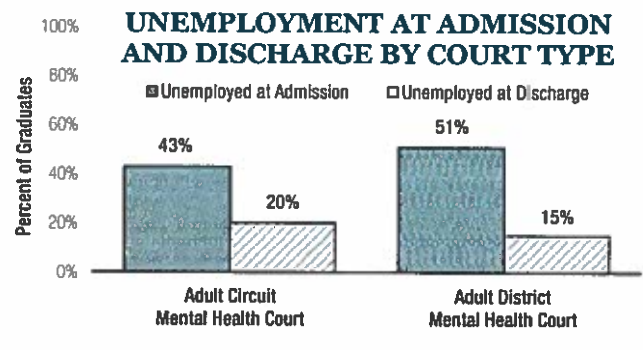
The drop in unemployment is good measure of the success of mental health courts and reflects the improving quality of life for graduates.

For example, unemployment among adult circuit mental health court graduates was **reduced by more than half and by more than two-thirds among district program graduates.**

In addition, graduates were much less likely to commit another crime.

Reoffense rates vary across different court programs, but on average graduates were **about half as likely to commit another crime within three years of admission to a program.**

Furthermore, virtually all participants in mental health courts improved their mental health status, making their lives more stable and productive.



“The love that Judge Skocelas and his team showed for me had a huge impact on my life. They truly cared, and you could see it in the way that they looked at you, in the way that they talked to you, and in the resources they informed you about. They really wanted people to succeed.”

— Makenzie Scimeca

Allegan County Mental Health Court Graduate





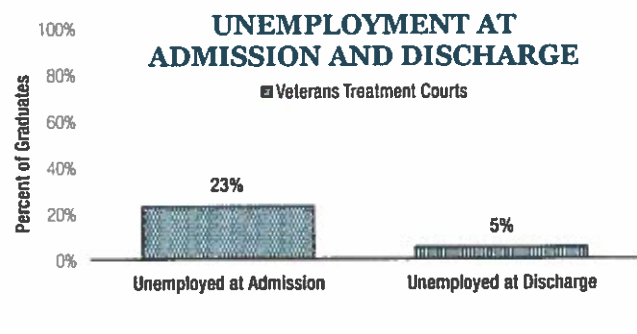
Michigan is National Leader in Veterans Treatment Courts

When veterans become entangled in the criminal justice system, veterans treatment courts (VTCs) respond in a nontraditional way by providing them a structured environment that is already ingrained in military personnel, treatment toward restoration, and mentoring from fellow veterans. In FY 2018, Michigan had 25 VTC programs. Since the end of the fiscal year, the number of courts has grown to 27.

During 2018, 596 participants were *active* in 25 VTC programs statewide. Of the 241 veterans discharged during FY 2018, 172 participants (71 percent) had successfully completed a program.

VTC programs do not yet have data comparisons available to assess success rates relative to similar veterans who are not participants in a program. However, we do have substantial other measures of success, including a more than **75 percent drop in unemployment**.

The high success rate of VTCs is an early measure of their effectiveness. VTCs had retained 92 percent of their participants over a 12-month period, which is important for allowing time for treatment engagement and increasing the likelihood of success in the program. Having veteran peers as mentors may be partially responsible for this high retention rate since military culture is built on supporting one another. In addition, VTCs are very structured and disciplined in their expectations, which is naturally familiar to military personnel. Michigan will continue to honor those who served our country by assisting our veterans suffering from invisible wounds of war in their recovery.



State Court Administrative Office Committed to Tough Programs

The State Court Administrative Office very carefully reviews the results of treatment court programs to make sure that best practices are employed and that courts maintain high standards. As a result, programs are difficult and participants who aren't committed to success drop out. Such drop-outs are expected and reflect the strict supervision and high expectations of judges, court staff, and treatment providers.