

**State Court Administrative Office  
Field Services Division  
Problem-Solving Courts**



# Michigan's Problem-Solving Courts

**House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Judiciary**

**February 22, 2022**

# What is a Problem-Solving Court?



- Evidence-based model
- Alternative to jail/prison for individuals with a substance use disorder and/or mental illness in need of treatment
- Team of professionals (judge, treatment, probation, law enforcement, prosecutor, defense attorney, evaluator)
- Staffing meetings
- Address the needs of offenders, victims, and the community

# Michigan's Problem-Solving Court Types



## Drug Courts

Includes adult drug courts, DWI sobriety courts, hybrid DWI/drug courts, family dependency courts, tribal healing-to-wellness courts, and juvenile drug courts

## Mental Health Courts

Includes adult circuit courts, adult district courts, and juvenile mental health courts

## Veterans Treatment Courts

# Drug Courts



- 10 Key Components
- Substance use disorder
- Restricted driver's license for repeat drunk drivers who install an ignition interlock device
- Common charges
  - Controlled substance use or possession
  - DWI
  - Controlled substance manufacturing or distribution
  - Property offenses

# Mental Health Courts



- Serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, or a developmental disability (as defined by mental health code)
  - Schizophrenia
  - Bipolar disorder
  - Psychotic disorder
- 10 Essential Elements
- Partnership with Community Mental Health
- Focus on medication and treatment compliance

# Veterans Treatment Court



- 10 Key Components
- Veterans treatment court uses a hybrid integration of drug court and mental health court principles
- Coordinate with Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, state Departments of Veterans Affairs, volunteer mentors, and organizations that support veterans and veterans' families
- Serve veterans struggling with addiction, serious mental illness, and co-occurring disorders

# Michigan's Problem-Solving Courts



## Drug/Sobriety Courts

Hybrid DWI/Drug	DWI	Juvenile	Adult Drug Court	Family Dependency	Tribal	Total
58	35	12	12	9	9	135

## Mental Health Courts

Adult	Juvenile	Total
35	7	42

## Veterans Treatment Courts

Total
28



# Drug Court Caseload



## During fiscal year 2021

- Screened 3,432 potential participants
- Admitted 2,430 into a program
- Discharged 2,482 participants
- 5,603 active participants
  - 64% Hybrid programs
  - 26% Sobriety programs
  - 5% Adult drug programs
  - 3% Juvenile drug programs
  - 2% Family dependency programs

# Mental Health Court Caseload



## During fiscal year 2021

- Screened 1,175 potential participants
- Admitted 638 into a program
- Discharged 570 participants
- 1,260 active participants
  - 68% Adult district court programs
  - 28% Adult circuit court programs
  - 4% Juvenile mental health court programs

# Veterans Treatment Court Caseload



## During fiscal year 2021

- Screened 226 potential participants
- Admitted 193 into a program
- Discharged 230 participants
- 475 active participants

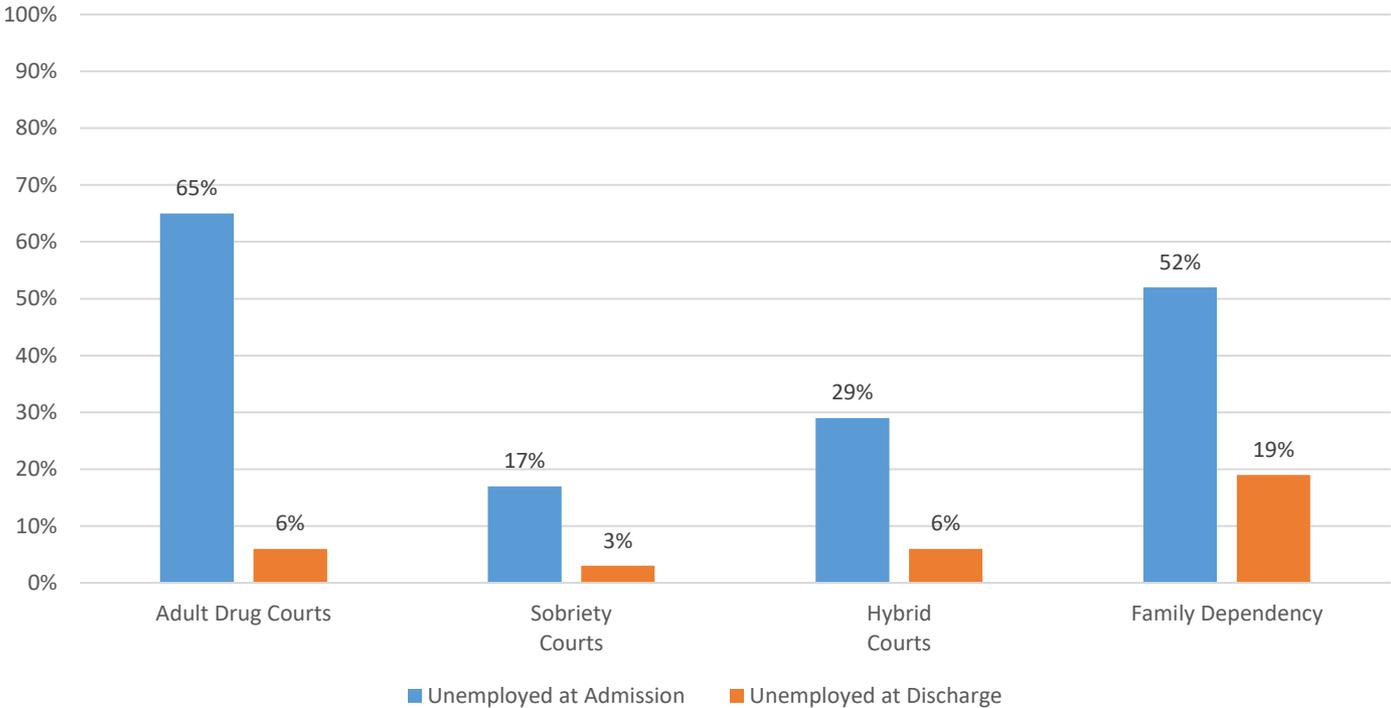


# Problem-Solving Court Outcomes and Recidivism

# Improved Employment – Drug Court



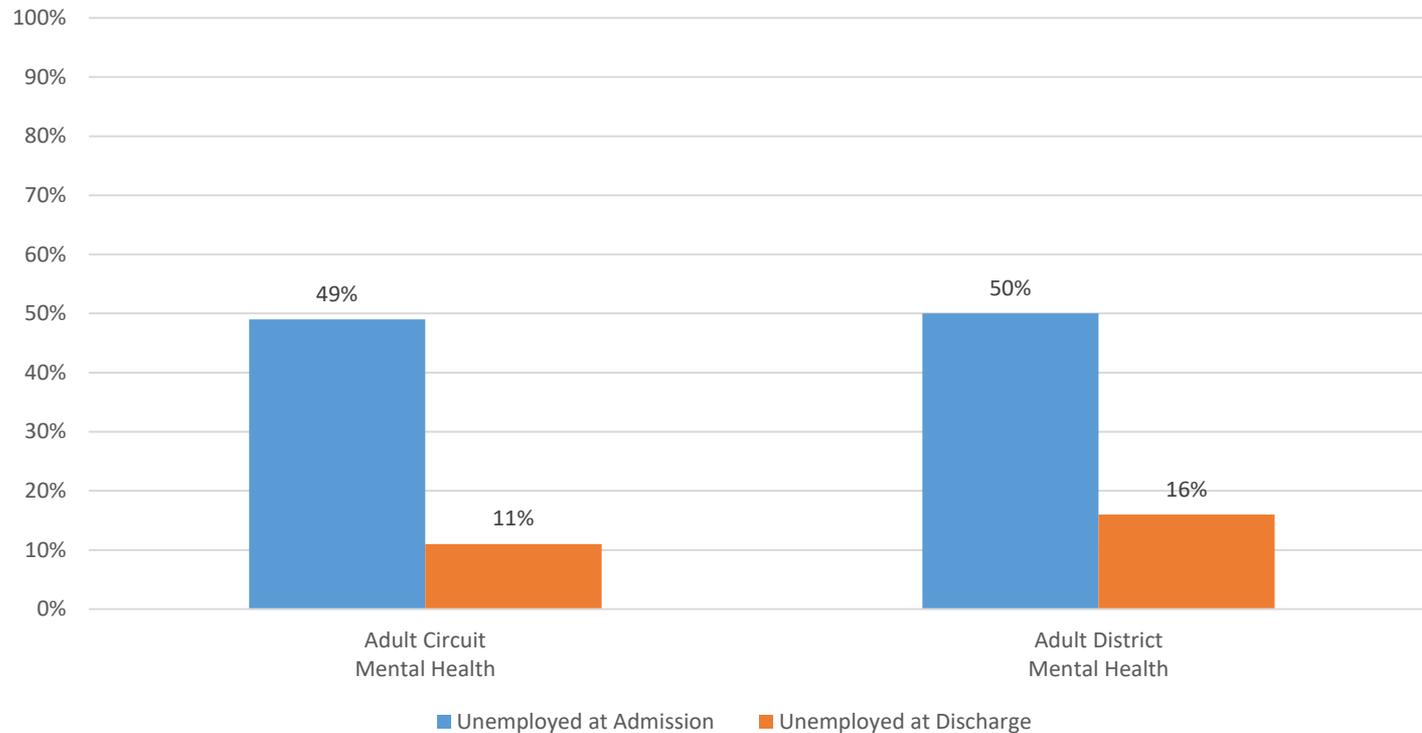
Employment Status by Program Type



# Improved Employment - MHC



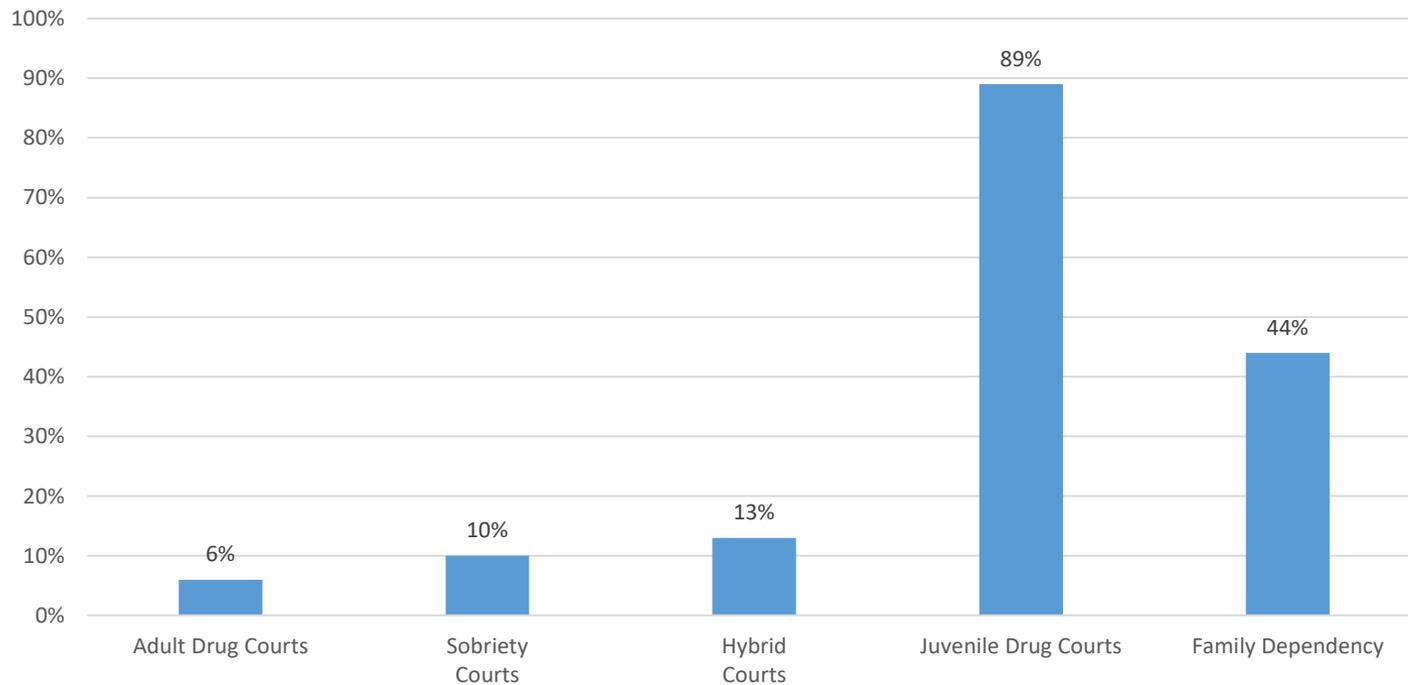
Unemployment Status at Admission and Discharge by Court Type



# Improved Education – Drug Court



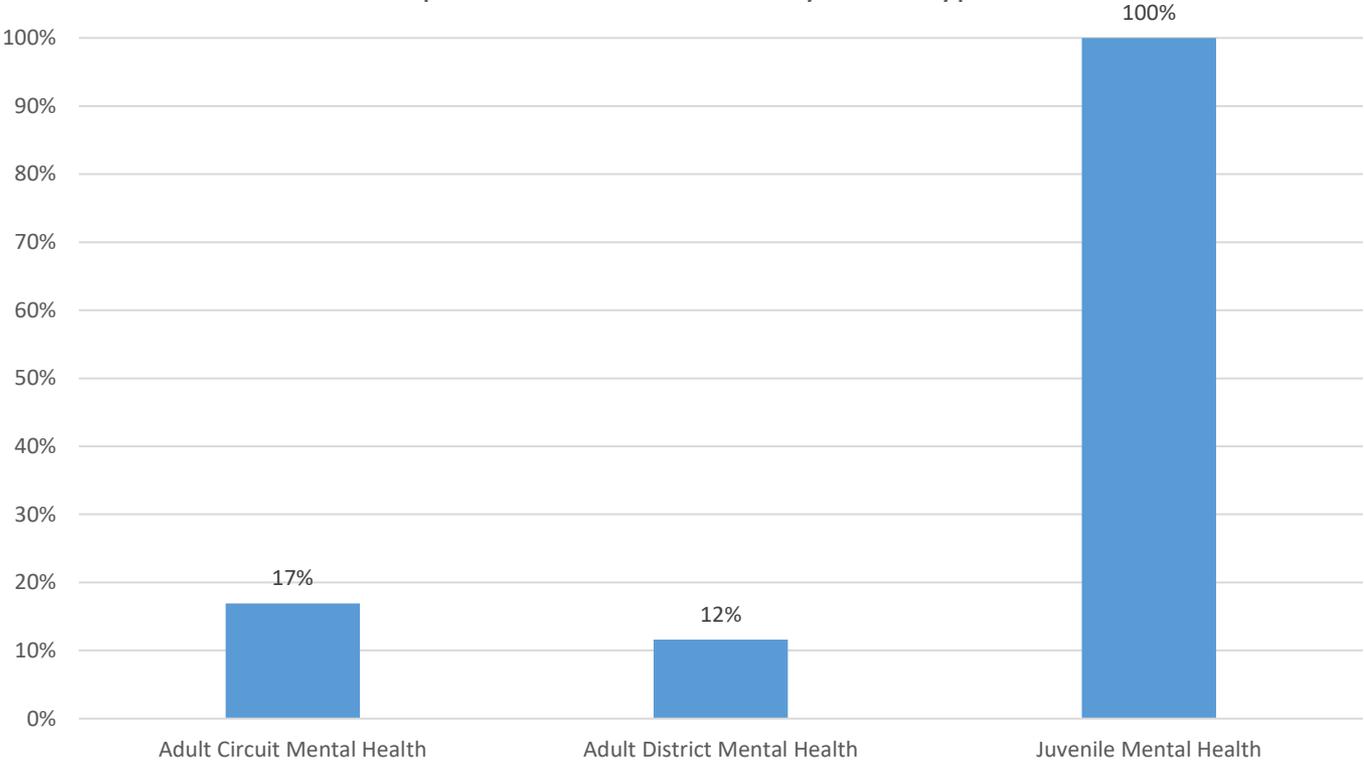
Improved Education Level by Program Type



# Improved Education - MHC



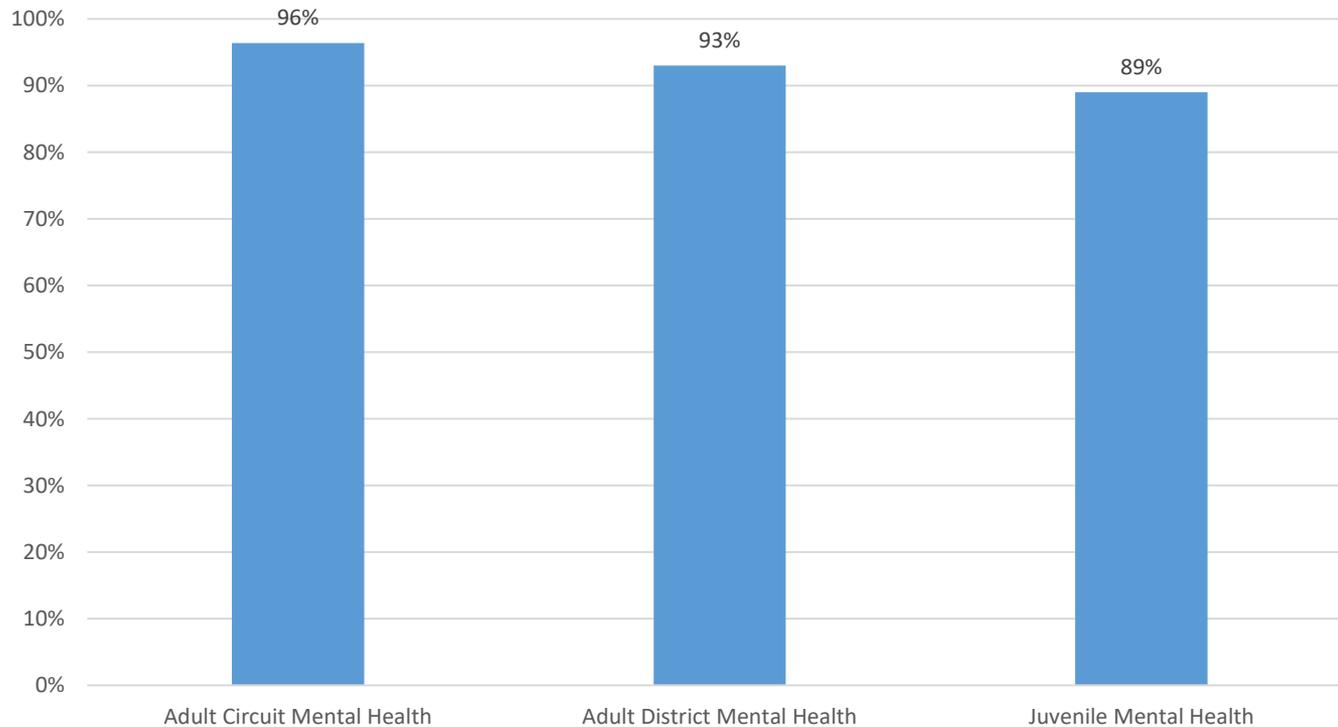
Improved Education Level by Court Type



# Medication Compliance - MHC



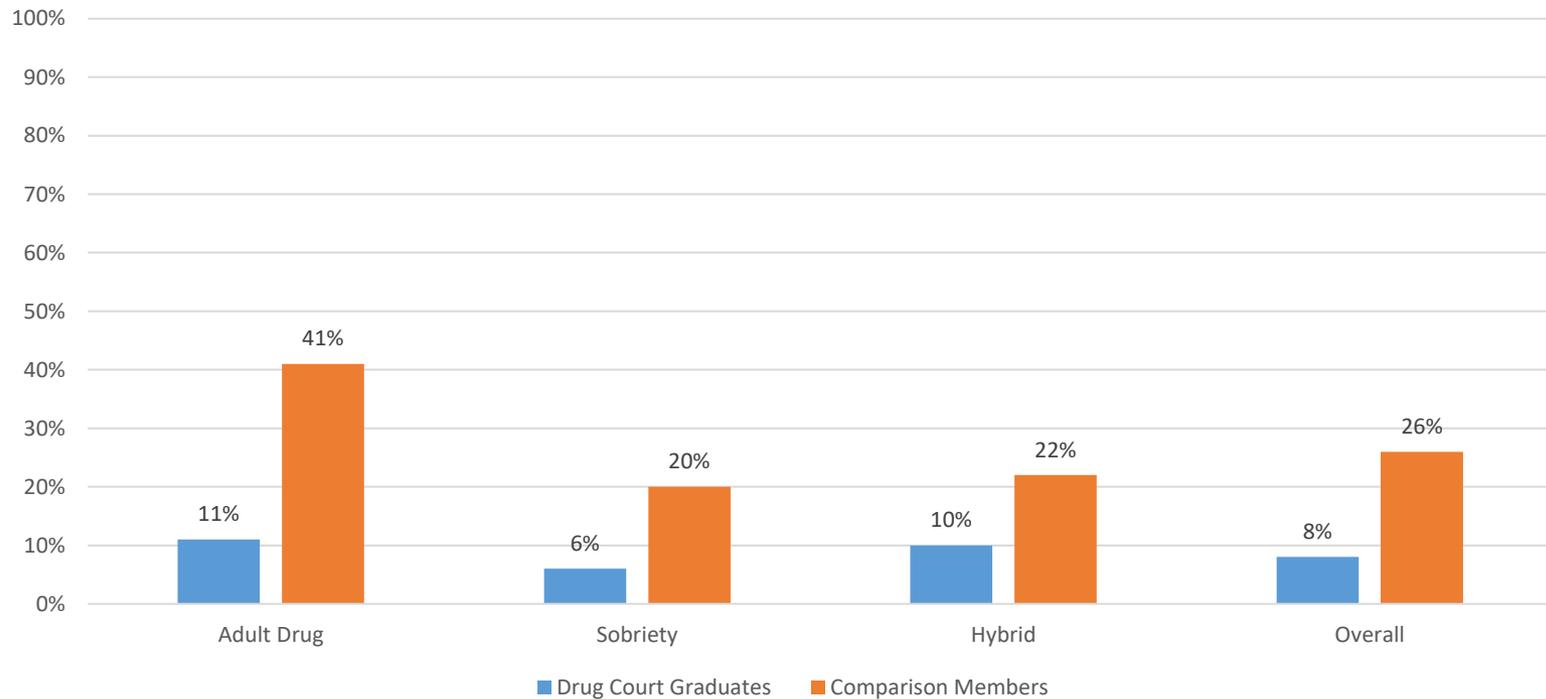
Full Compliance With Medication by Court Type



# Reduced Recidivism - Drug Court



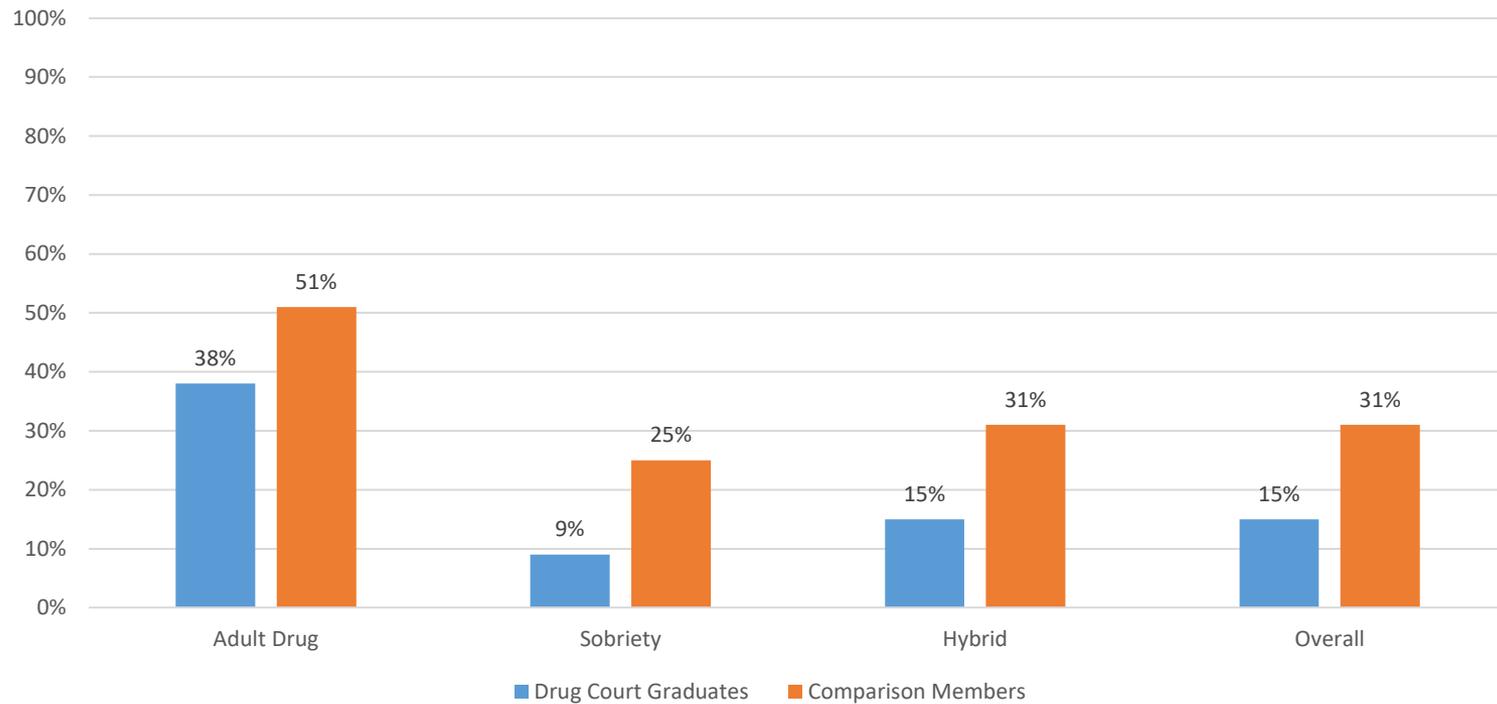
Graduates  
New Conviction Within Three Years of Admission



# Reduced Recidivism – Drug Court



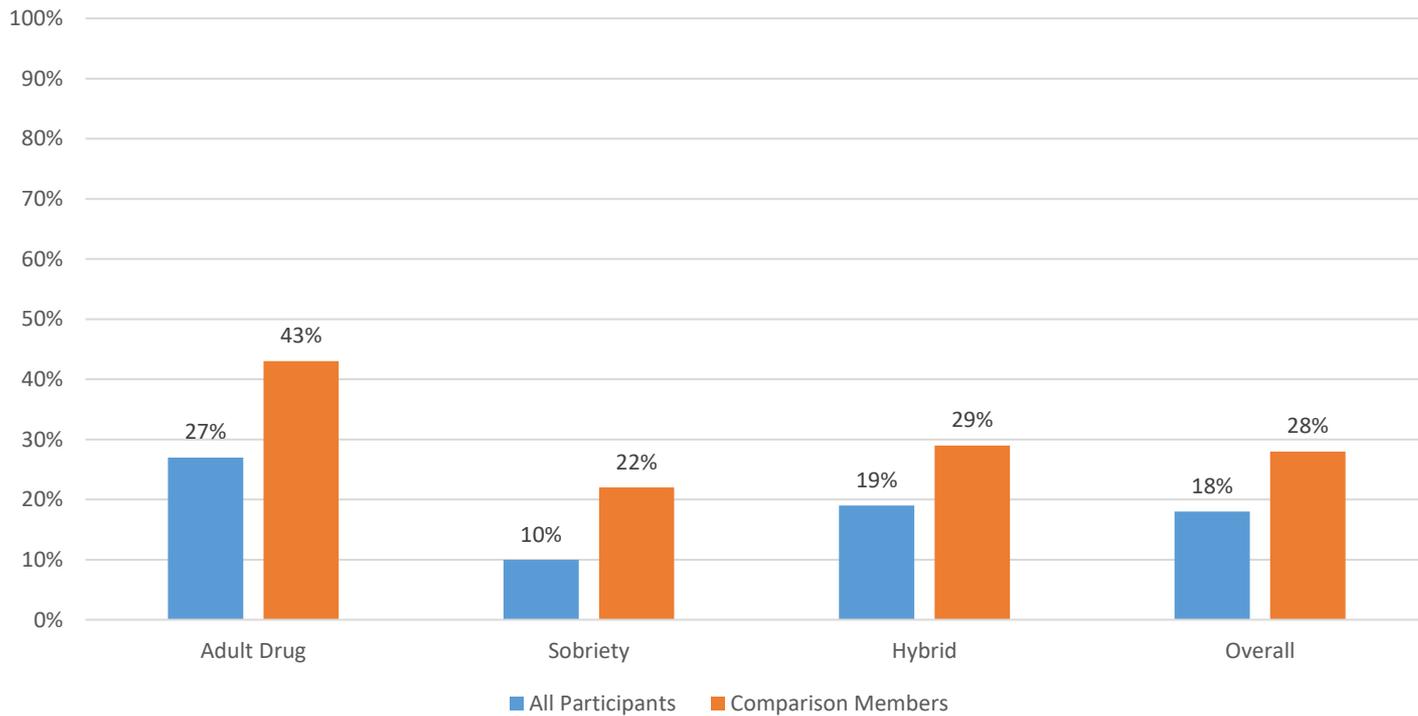
Graduates  
New Conviction Within Five Years of Admission



# Reduced Recidivism – Drug Court



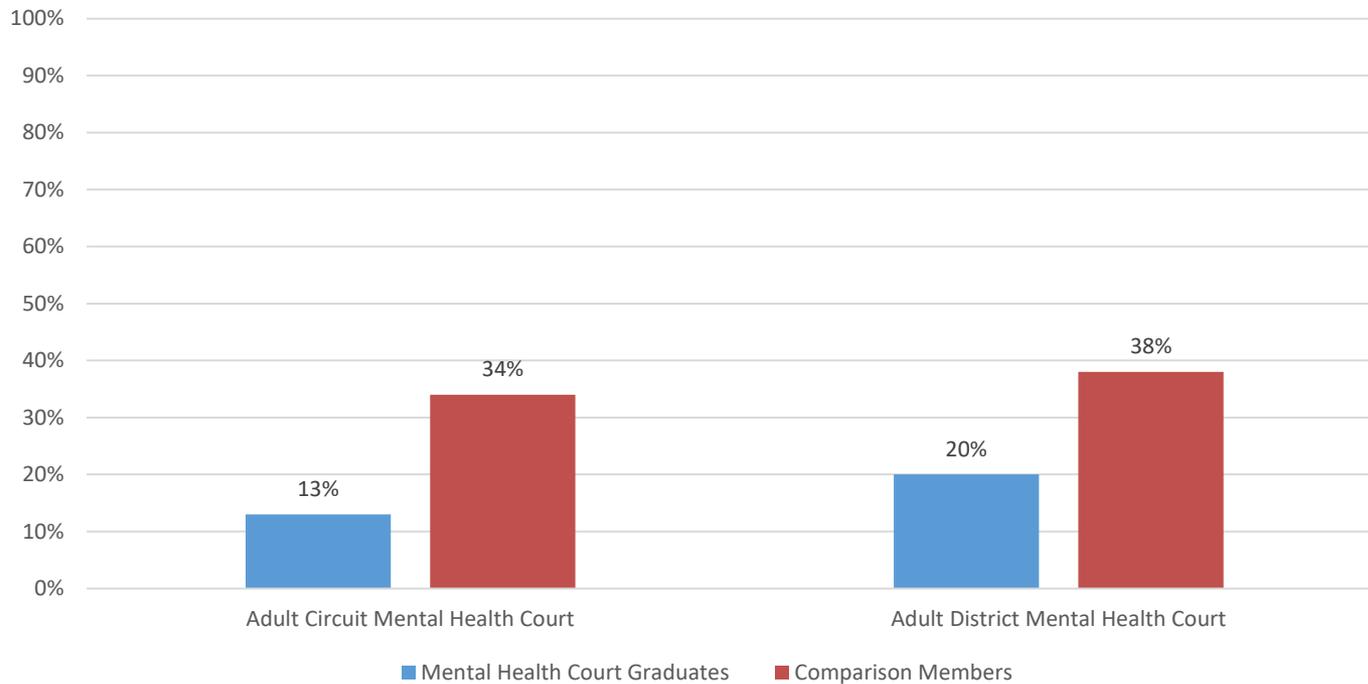
All Participants  
New Conviction Within Three Years of Admission



# Reduced Recidivism - MHC



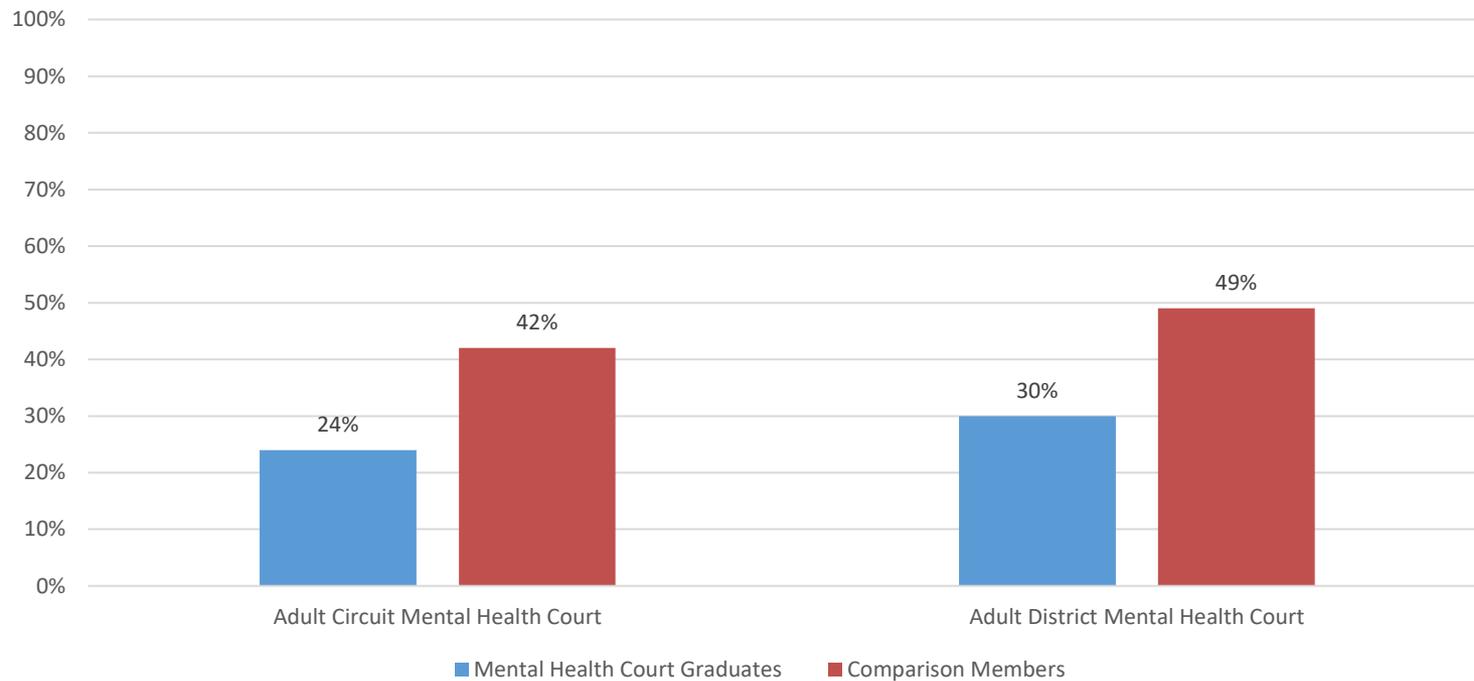
Graduates  
New Conviction Within Three Years of Admission



# Reduced Recidivism - MHC



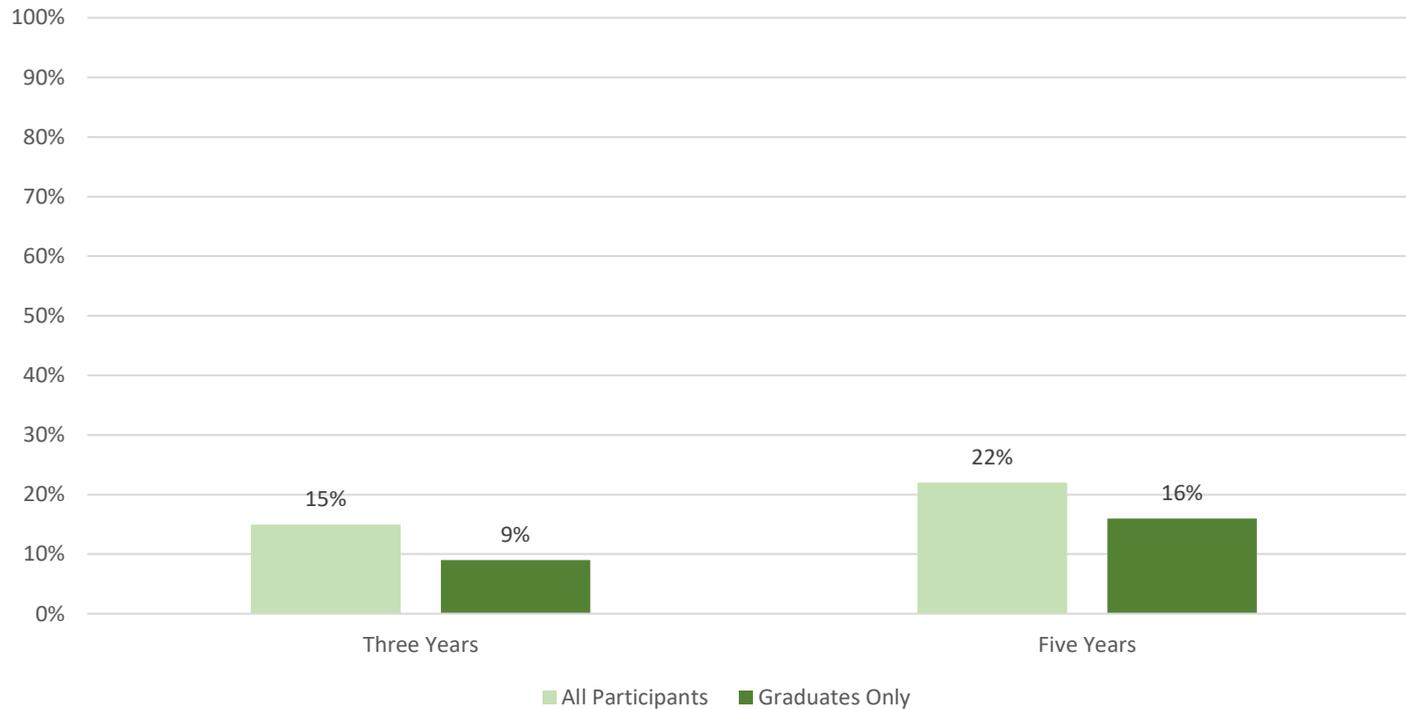
Graduates  
New Conviction Within Five Years of Admission



# Recidivism – VTC



Participants of VTC Programs  
New Conviction Within Three and Five Years of Admission



# What's Next?



- Enhancement and Expansion
- Certification
- Training and Technical Assistance



# Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation in Michigan

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# Summary of Swift and Sure



- MCL 771A.1 to MCL 771A.8
- Different than drug court
- High-risk felony probationers
  - High risk — yes; high need — not necessarily
- Behavior modification
  - Fairness and perceived fairness
  - Certainty in sanctioning (“sure”)
    - Sanction after every violation of probation
  - Immediate sanction (“swift”)

# Probationer Eligibility



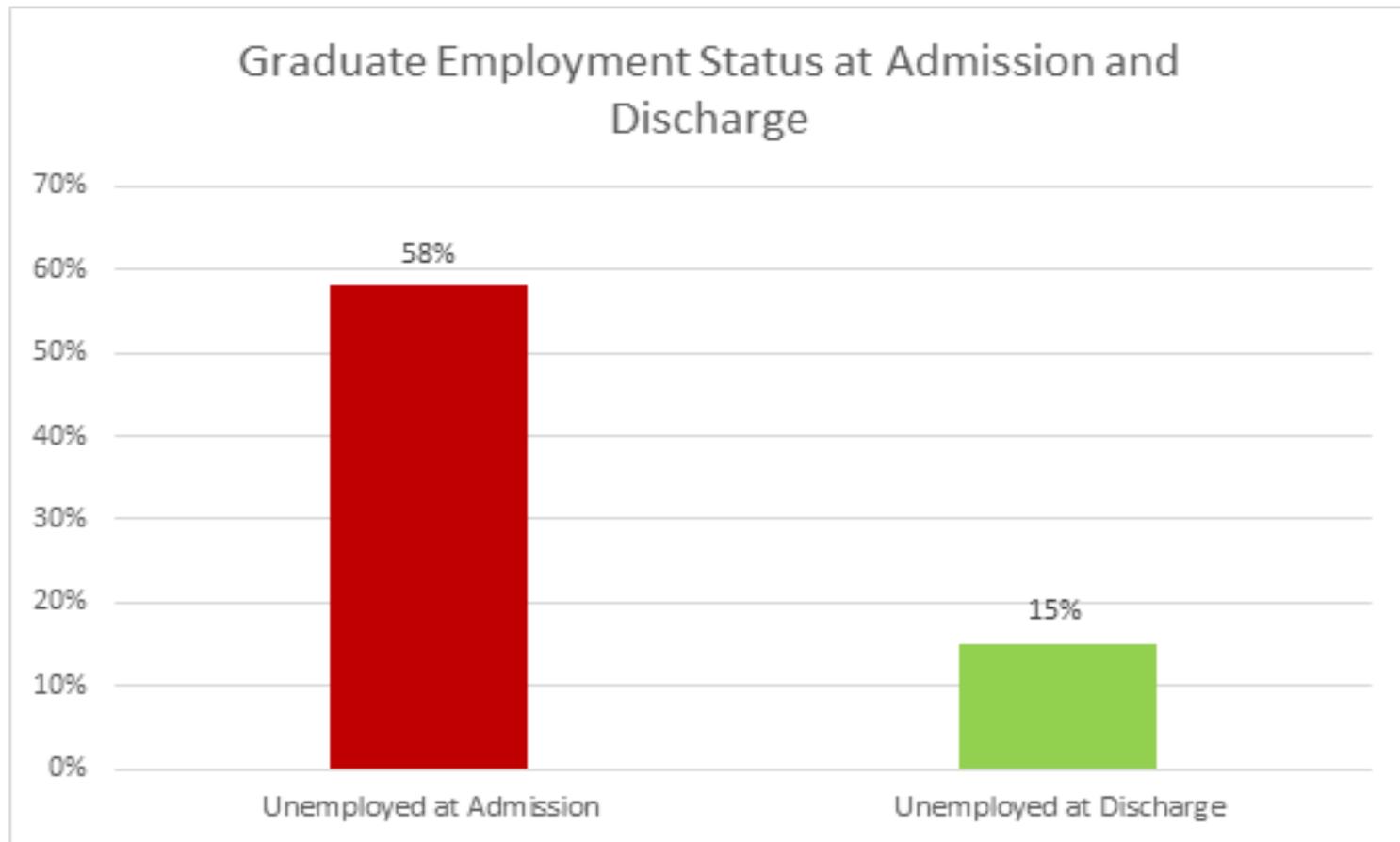
- Eligibility under MCL 771A.6:
  - Risk level other than low (based on validated assessment) and not charged with certain serious offenses

# Structure of a Swift and Sure Court



- Orientation hearing
- Violation hearing
- Probation appointments
- Random and frequent drug and alcohol testing
- SU and MH treatment, if needed
- Home and employment checks
- Immediate sanction for every violation

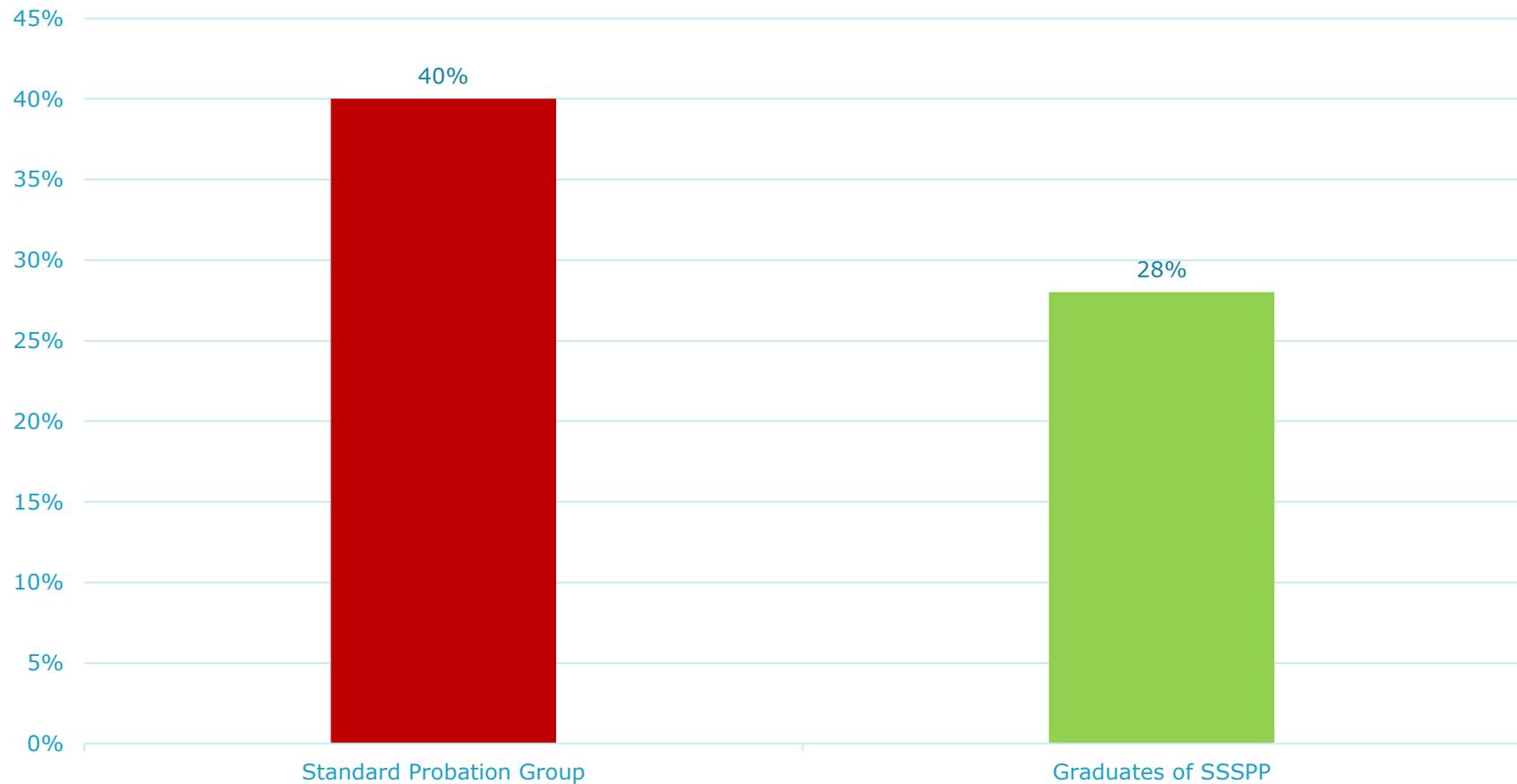
# Improved Employment



# Reduced Recidivism



New Conviction Within Three Years of Admission



# Questions



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