



# Michigan's Problem-Solving Courts

**The House Appropriations  
Subcommittee**

**March 4, 2021**



# Structure of a Problem-Solving Court



- Alternative to jail/prison for individuals with a substance use disorder and/or mental illness in need of treatment
- Guilty plea/found responsible
- Team of professionals (judge, treatment, probation, law enforcement, prosecutor, defense attorney, evaluator)
- Staffing meetings



# Structure of a Problem-Solving Court



- Intensive supervision
  - Frequent hearings
  - Treatment
  - Random and frequent drug and alcohol testing
  - Probation appointments
  - Home checks
  - Community service
- Phases
- Incentives/sanctions based on behavior
- Legal incentive for successful completion





# Drug Courts

Includes adult drug courts, DWI sobriety courts, Hybrid DWI/drug courts, family dependency courts, and juvenile drug courts



# What is Unique about 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



# Drug Courts and Michigan's Opioid Epidemic



- The criminal justice system and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment
- Drug courts increase referrals and access to SUD Treatment
- Effective for addressing current and future emerging drug trends



# Drug Court Caseload



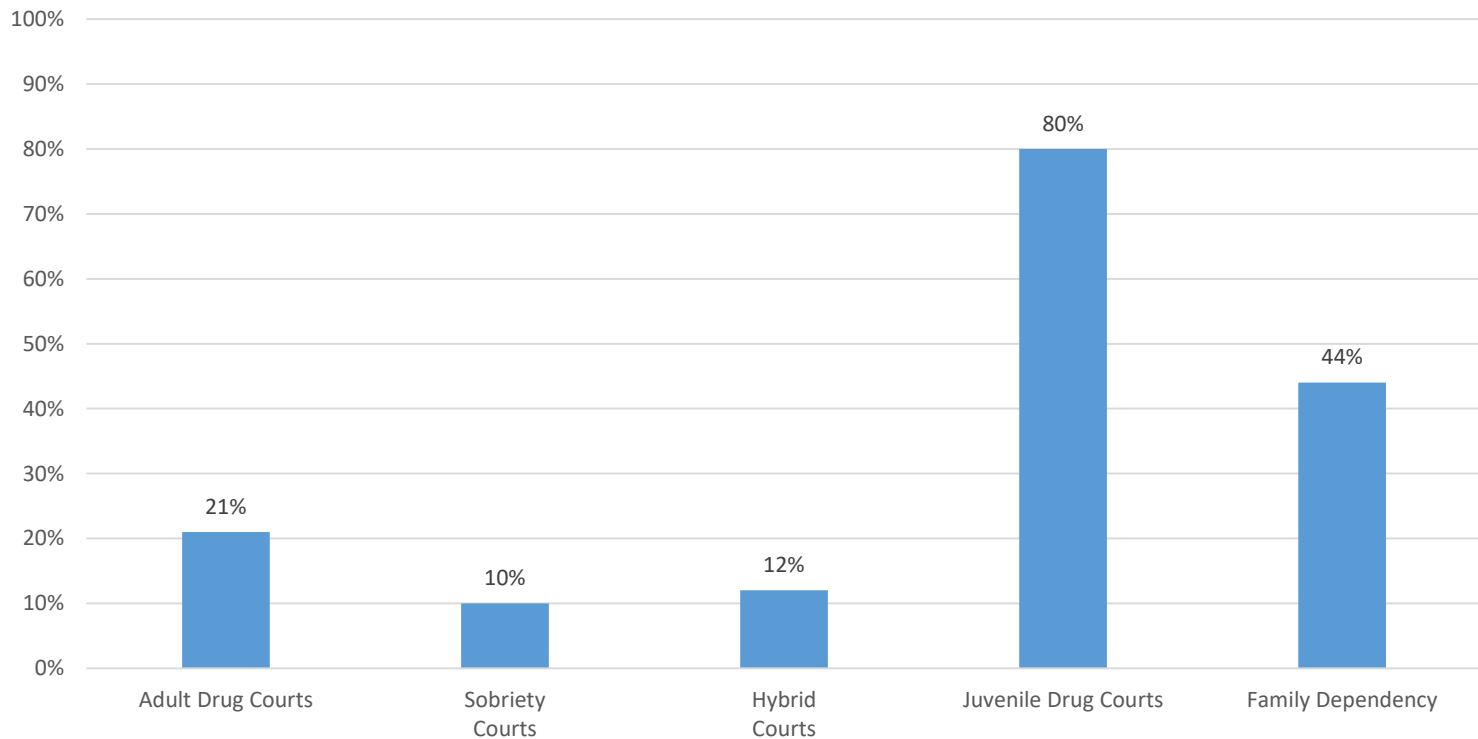
- 134 programs including 9 Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts
- During fiscal year 2020
  - Screened 3,120 potential participants
  - Admitted 2,200 offenders into a program
  - Discharged 2,880 participants
  - 6,160 active participants
    - Hybrid programs totaled 3,622 participants (59%)
    - Sobriety programs totaled 1,846 participants (30%)
    - Adult drug programs totaled 363 participants (6%)
    - Juvenile drug programs totaled 161 participants (3%)
    - Family dependency programs totaled 168 participants (3%)



# Improved Education



Improved Education Level by Program Type

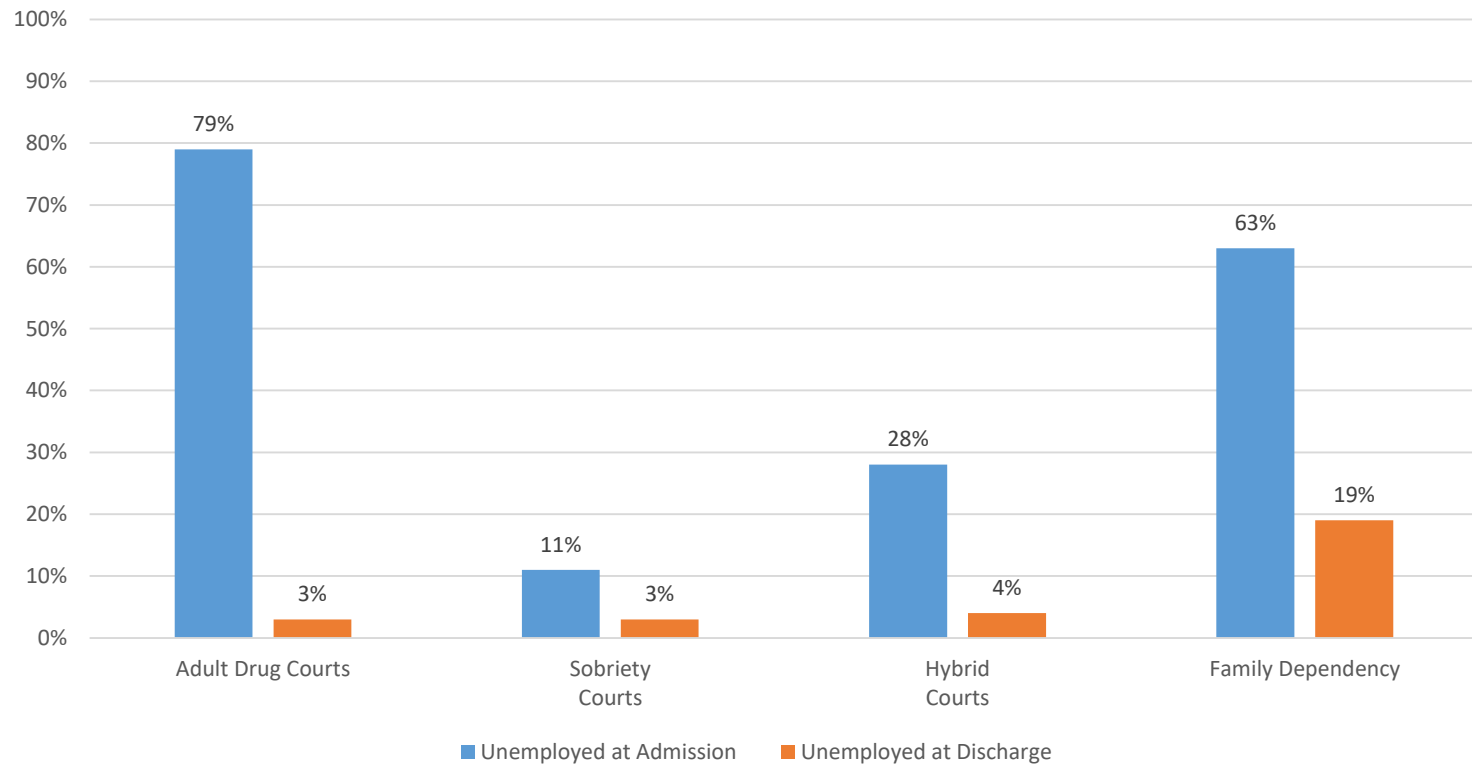




# Improved Employment



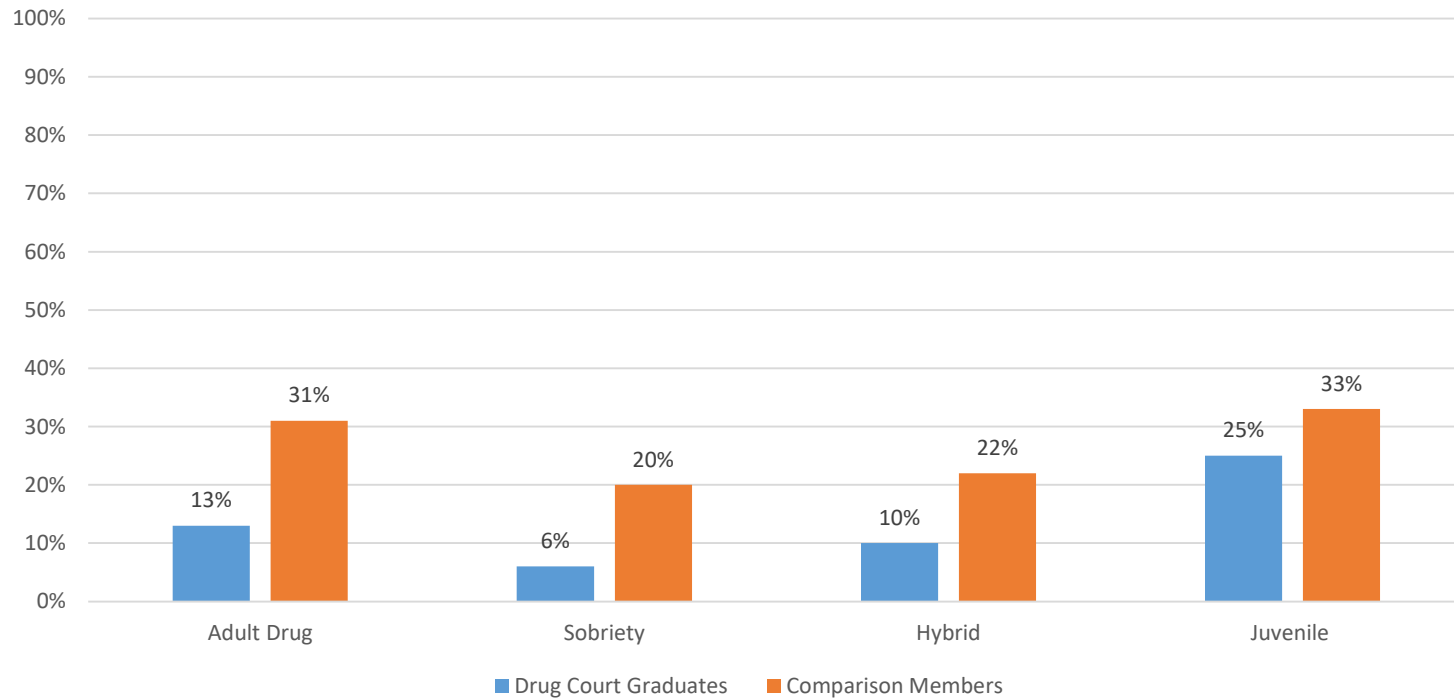
Employment Status by Program Type



# Reduced Recidivism



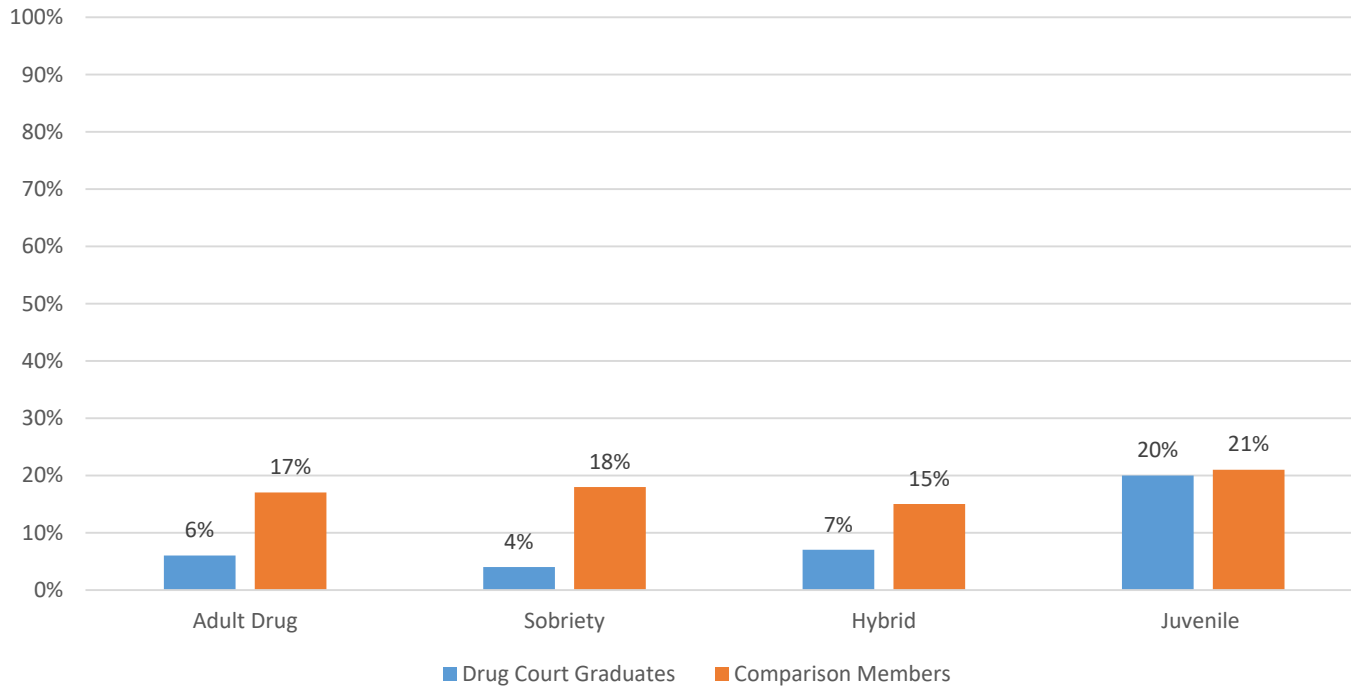
Graduates  
Any New Conviction Within Three Years of Admission



# Reduced Recidivism



Graduates  
Alcohol or Drug Conviction Within Three Years of Admission





# Mental Health Courts

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



# What is Unique about Mental Health Court?



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



# Mental Health Court Caseload



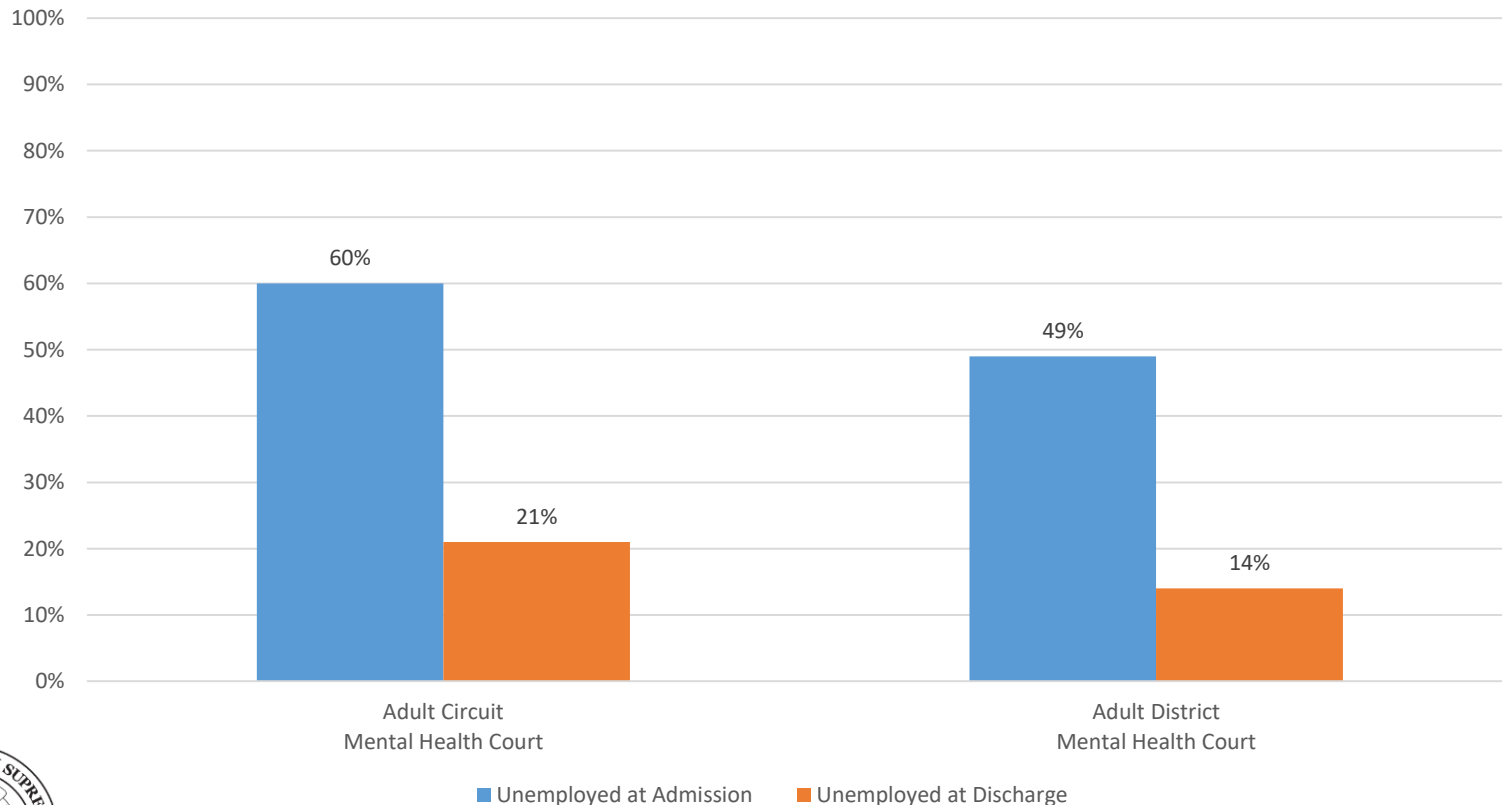
- 38 programs
- During fiscal year 2020
  - Screened 1,002 participants
  - Admitted 545
  - Discharged 639
  - 1,304 active participants
    - Adult district court programs totaled 799 participants (61%)
    - Adult circuit court programs totaled 424 participants (33%)
    - Juvenile mental health court programs totaled 81 participants (6%)



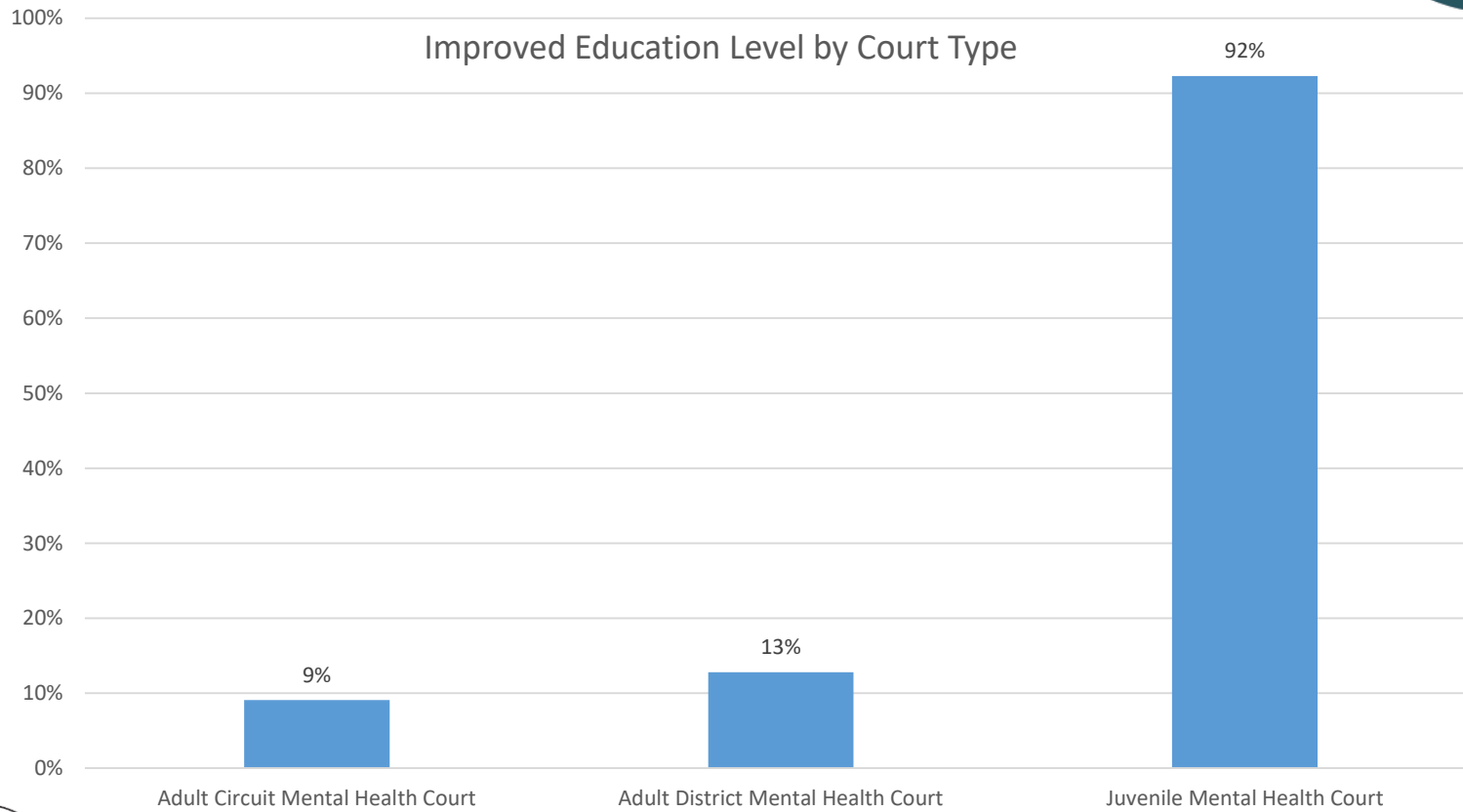
# Improved Employment



Unemployment Status at Admission and Discharge by Court Type



# Improved Education

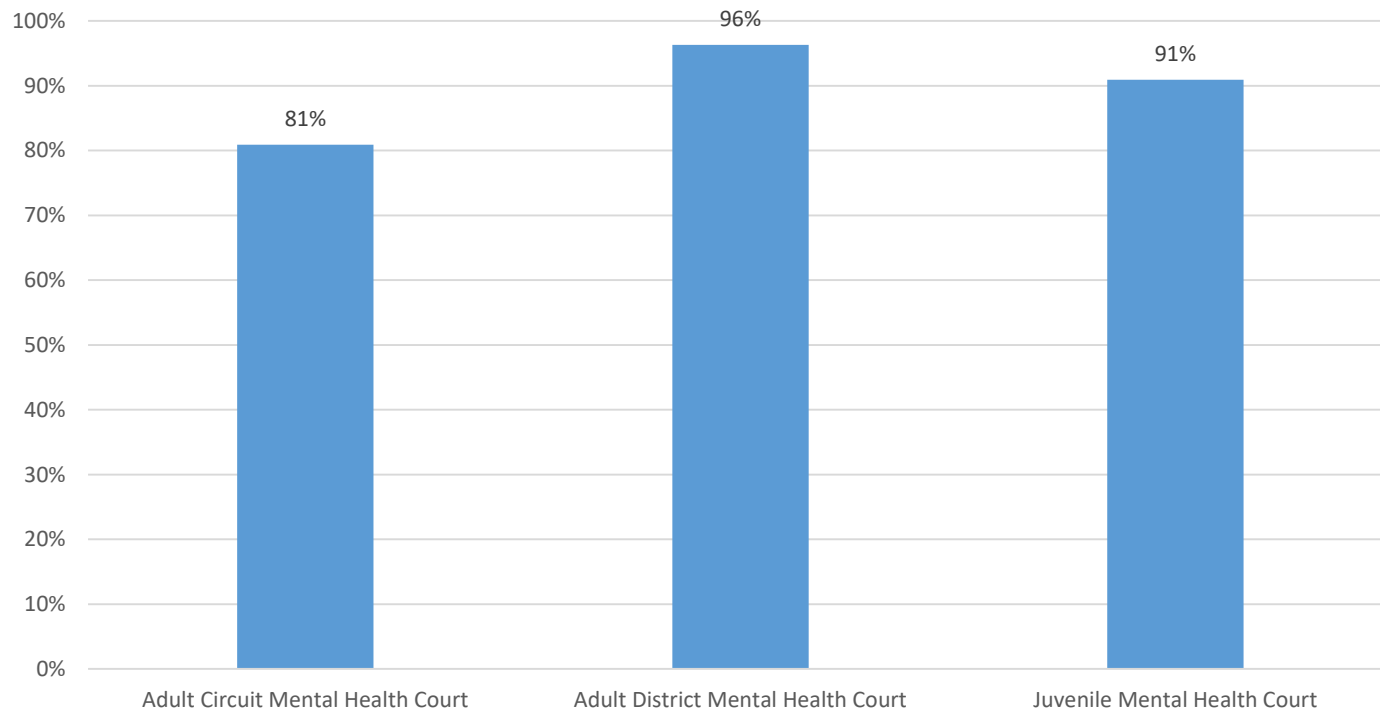




# Medication Compliance



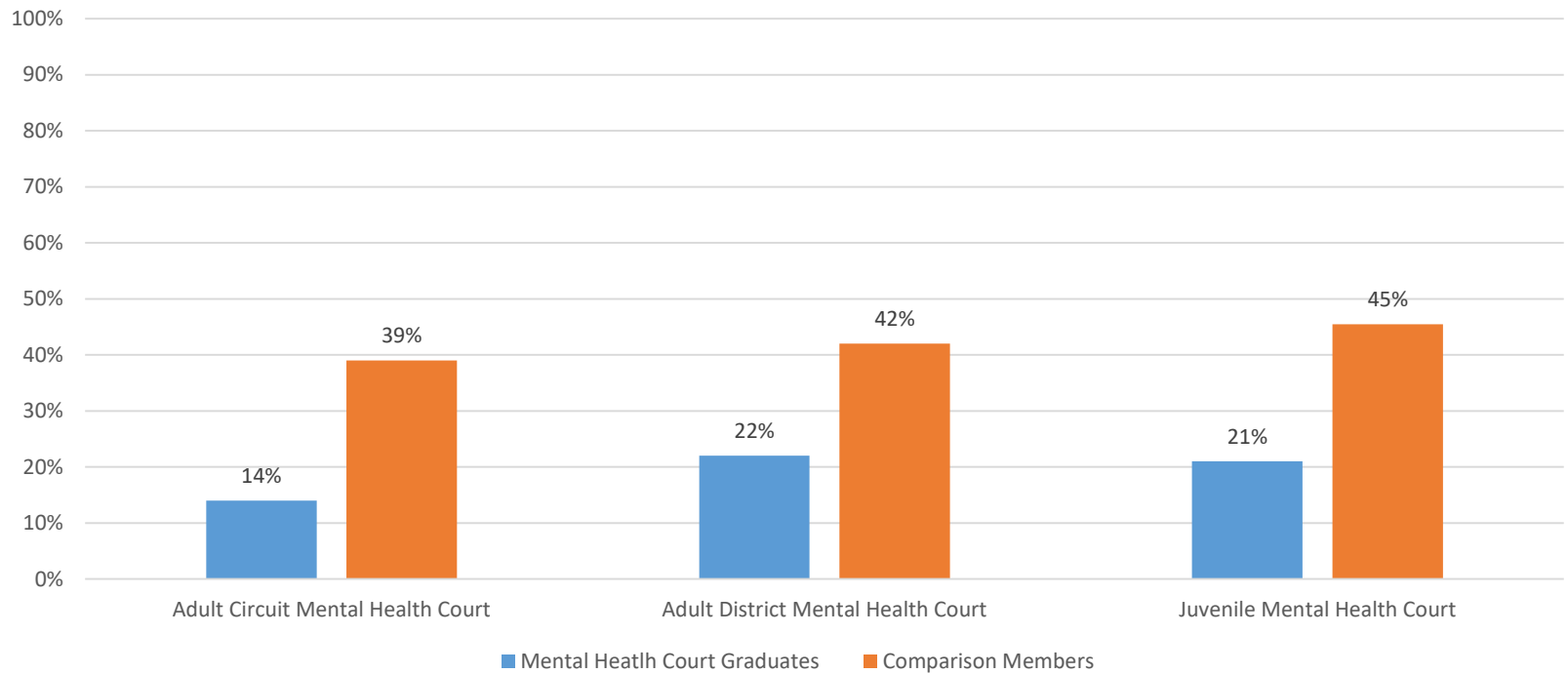
Full Compliance With Medication by Court Type



# Reduced Recidivism



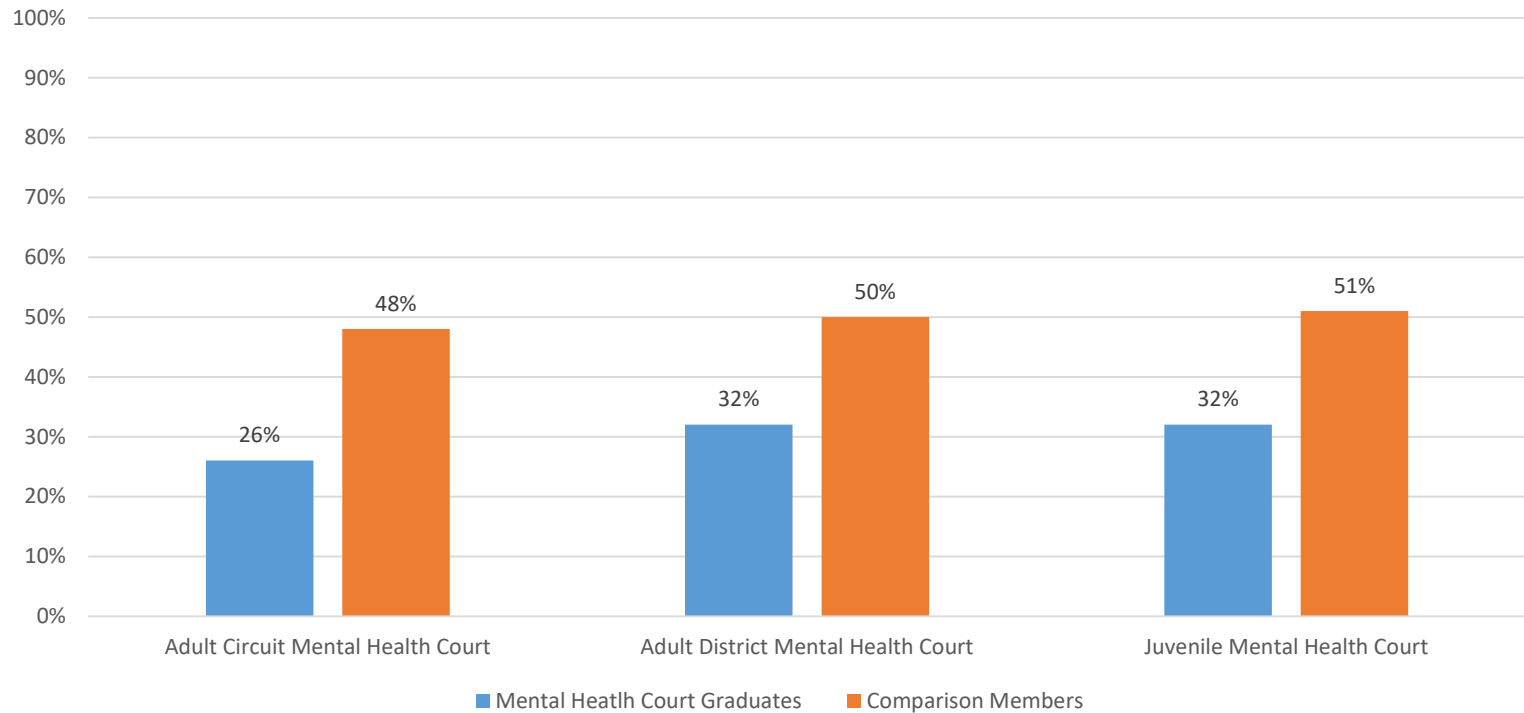
Graduates  
New Conviction Within Three Years of Admission



# Reduced Recidivism



Graduates  
New Conviction Within Five Years of Admission





# Veterans Treatment Courts



# What is Unique about 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



# Veterans Treatment Court Caseload



- 27 programs
- During fiscal year 2020
  - Screened 205
  - Admitted 173
  - Discharged 265
  - 556 active participants



# VTC Graduate Accomplishments



- Averaged 364 consecutive days of sobriety
- 94% reported an improved quality of life upon graduation
- Averaged 11 hours of mental health treatment services
- Averaged 68 hours of substance use disorder treatment services
- 81% reduction in unemployment among graduates



# PSCs and the COVID-19 Pandemic



## Innovative Ways of Doing Business

- Virtual Review Hearings
- Contactless Compliance Monitoring
- Virtual Treatment
- Drug Testing Using Oral Swabs
- Drive-Through Graduations





# What's Next?



- Enhancement and Expansion
- Certification
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Sustainability





# Michigan's Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program

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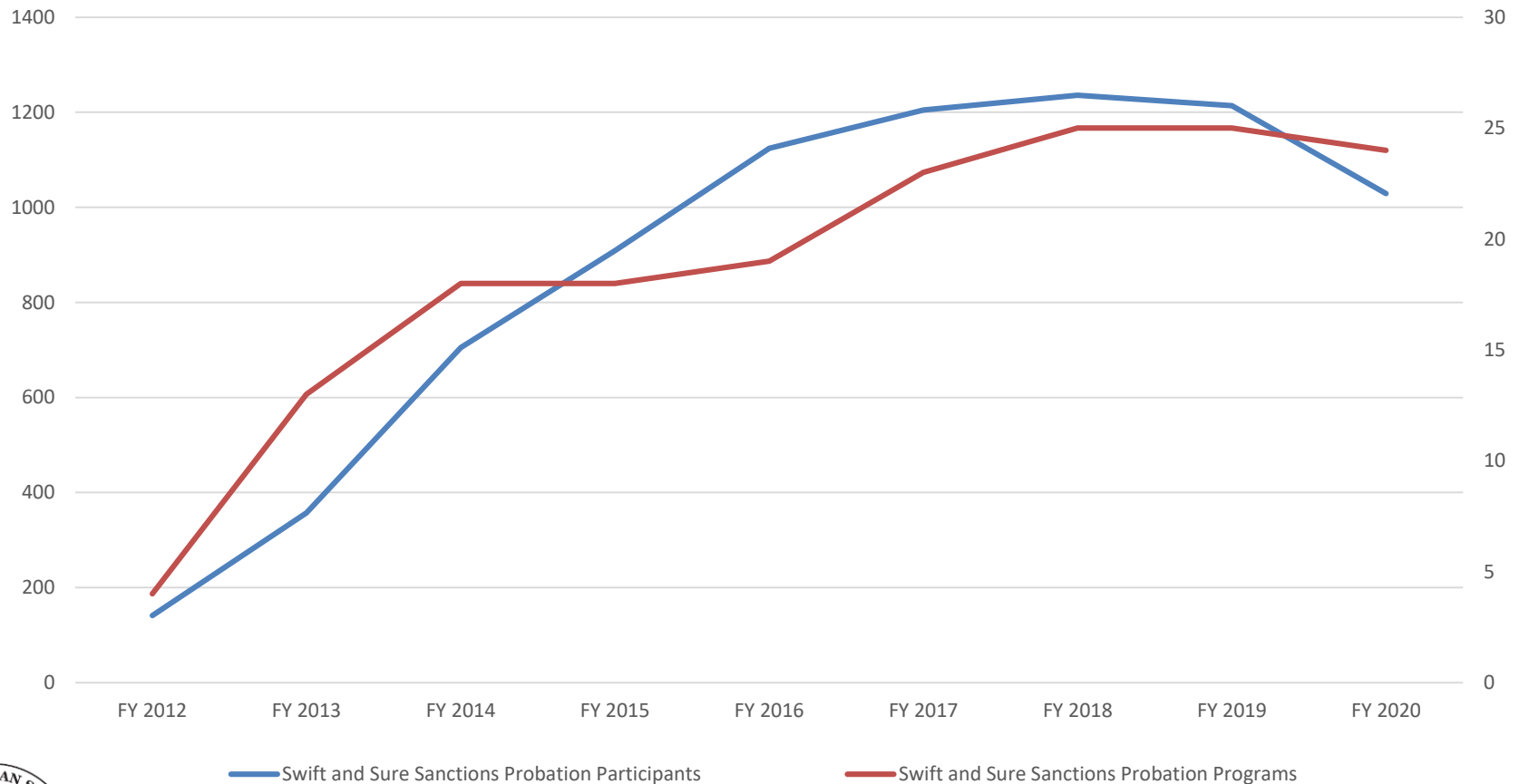
# What is Swift and Sure?



- Alternative to jail and prison
- Different than drug court — it's more like regular felony probation
- High-risk felony probationers
  - High risk — yes; high need — not necessarily
- Behavior modification
  - Immediate sanction ("swift")
  - Certainty in sanctioning ("sure")
    - Swift Sanction after every violation of probation
  - Fairness and perceived fairness



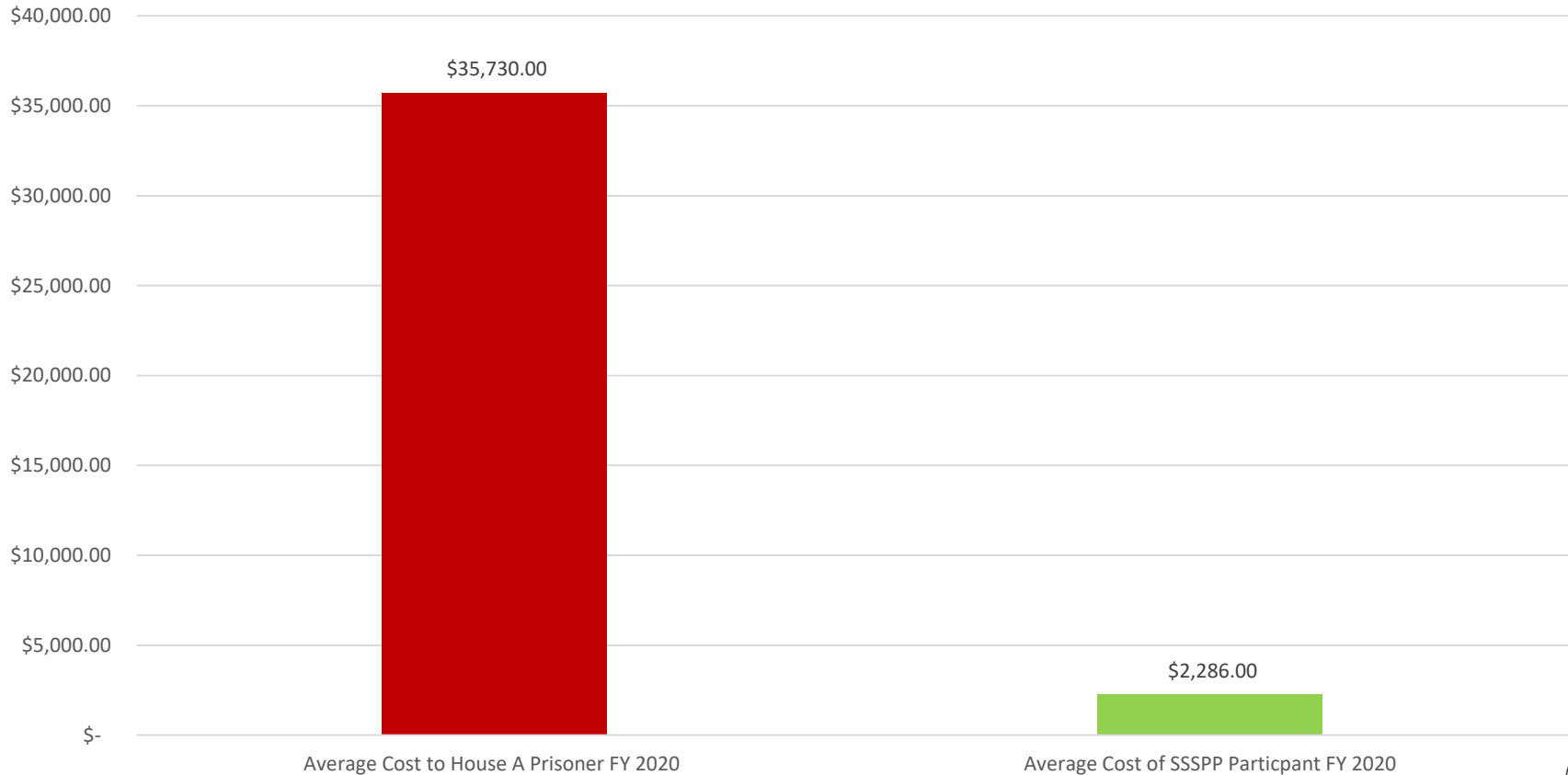
# Number of SSSPP Probationers and SSSPP Programs



# Average Costs for SSSPP Participants



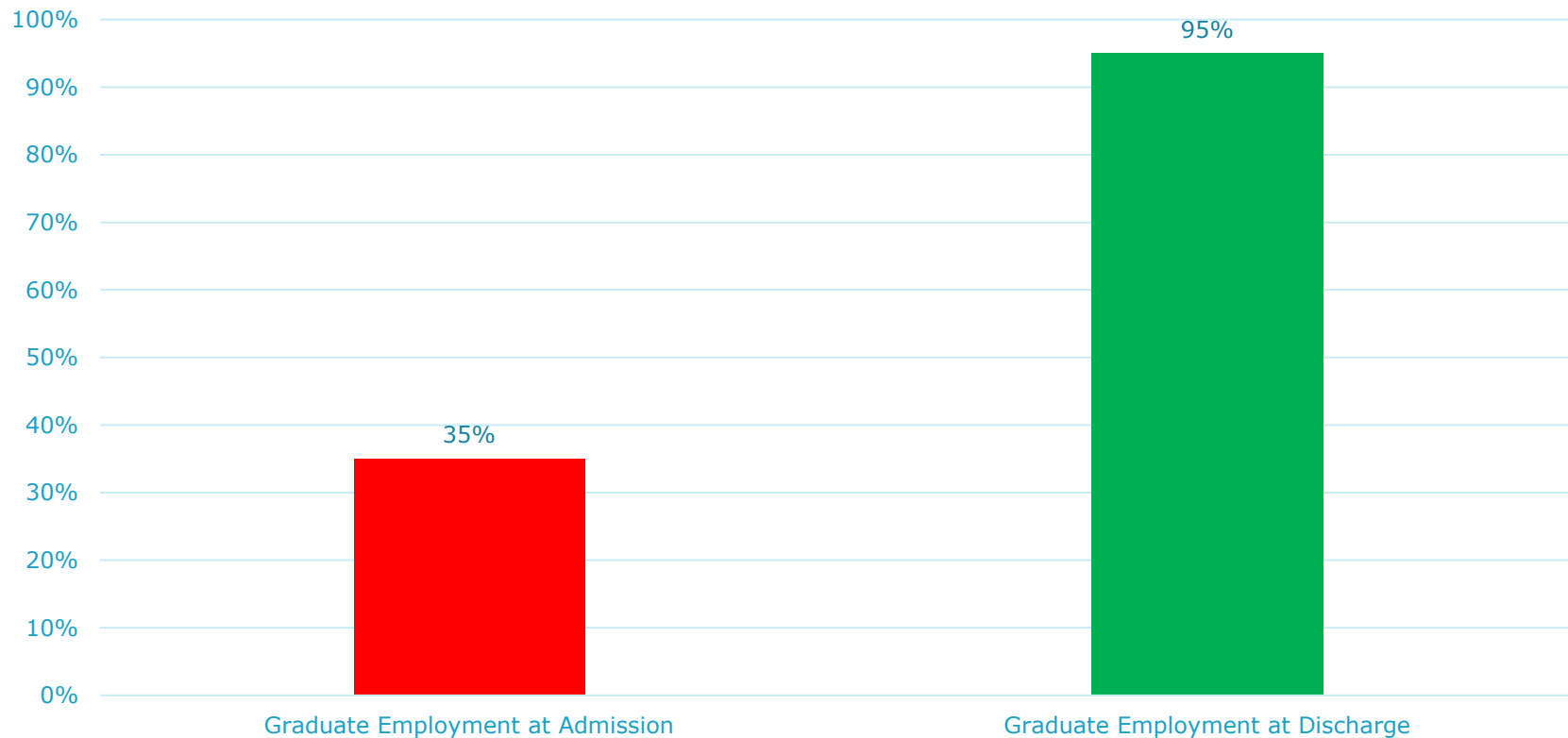
### Costs to House Prisoners Vs SSSPP Participants



# Improved Employment



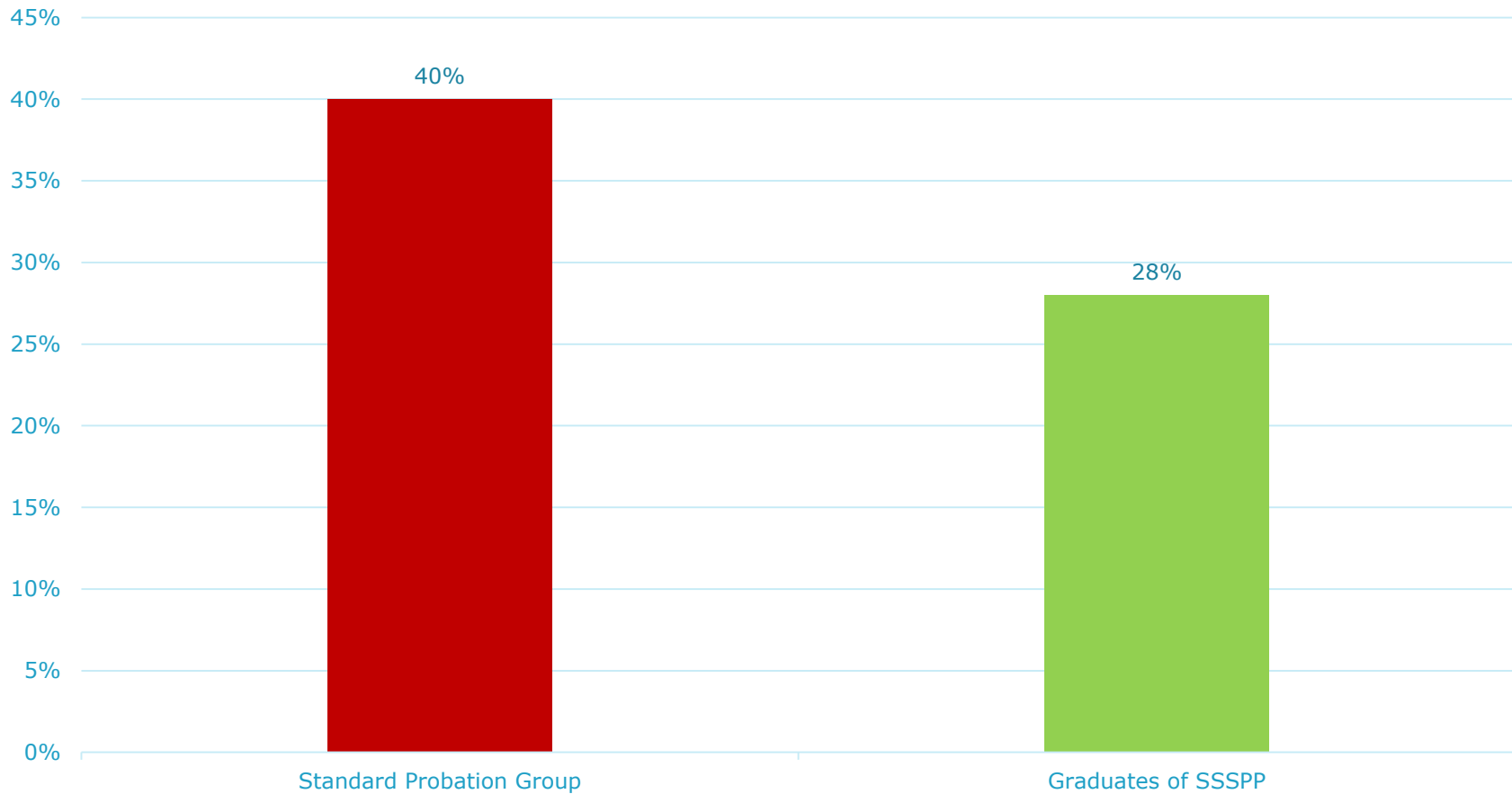
## SSSPP Employment Outcomes



# Reduces Crime



New Conviction Within Three Years of Admission



# Questions



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