

MICHIGAN'S JUDICIARY: PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

NUMBERS AS OF JAN. 1, 2018:

- Michigan has 185 problem-solving courts.
- 127 Drug/Sobriety
25 Veterans
33 Mental Health
- These courts are accessible to 97 percent of Michigan's population.
- Michigan is a national leader with 25 veterans treatment courts.

WHAT ARE PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS?

Problem-solving courts are special court programs that focus on providing treatment and intense supervision to offenders instead of locking them in prison. These include drug and sobriety, mental health, veterans, and other nontraditional courts.

The Michigan Supreme Court, 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.**

Support for these courts is part of MSC's "driving change" initiative to measure performance, implement best practices, and improve outcomes.

Problem-solving courts save lives through strict supervision and treatment. They improve the quality of life for both graduates and for the community at large.



They also reduce crime and make communities safer because graduates are much less likely to commit another offense. Finally, problem-solving courts save money by avoiding costly incarceration.

The data contained in this document is based on data compiled by SCAO from October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.

DRUG AND SOBRIETY COURTS



Drug court is an umbrella term that refers to voluntary judicial programs that offer an alternative to imprisonment for nonviolent criminal offenders with substance use disorders (SUD).

To combat offenders cycling in and out of the criminal justice system, problem-solving

courts use a specialized therapeutic jurisprudence model designed to treat the SUD underlying the criminal behavior and, therefore, reduce recidivism.

Participants are held accountable through intensive supervision, frequent judicial status review hearings, random and frequent drug testing, and incentives and sanctions.

Drug courts emphasize a holistic and team approach that includes judges, prosecutors, program

coordinators, probation officers and case managers, law enforcement, defense counsel, and treatment providers.

Drug courts have evolved over time and now include several models to serve specific offender populations:

- **Adult drug courts** are defined as programs that target drug-related non-drunk driving felony and/or misdemeanor offenses.
- **Sobriety courts** accept only drunk driving offenders.
- **Hybrid courts** combine the adult drug court model and the sobriety court model.
- **Juvenile drug courts** accept criminal and status offenders (i.e., juveniles deemed to be runaways, incorrigible, or truant).
- **Family dependency treatment courts** target selected child abuse and neglect cases where parental substance abuse is a primary factor.



DRUG AND SOBRIETY COURTS (cont.)

Ignition Interlock Outcomes

Ignition interlock devices are used to control drunk driving recidivism among chronic DWI offenders in sobriety courts.

- There were 702 participants using ignition interlock devices who were discharged from a treatment court program during FY 2017. Of those, 637 (91%) successfully completed a program.
- Graduates who used ignition interlock devices achieved an average of 389 days of consecutive sobriety.
- Graduates averaged 418 drug and alcohol tests and less than 1% of those tests were positive.
- Recidivism rate among graduates for any new conviction after 2 years was reduced by 86%.
- Recidivism rate among graduates for a new alcohol or drug conviction after 2 years was reduced by 82%.

Total Number of Participants: 6,582

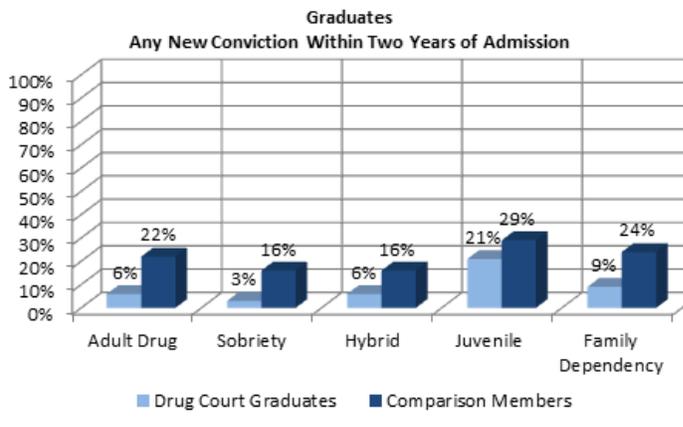
Success Rate:

Participants by Program Type:

| Program Type | # of Participants | Percent |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Adult Drug | 4022 | 61% |
| Sobriety | 1786 | 27% |
| Hybrid | 332 | 5% |
| Juvenile | 260 | 4% |
| Family Dependency | 182 | 3% |

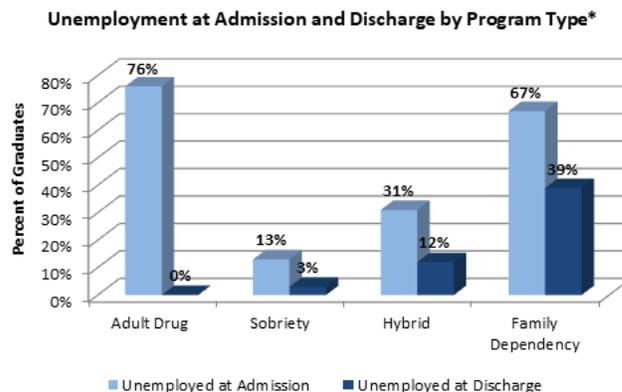
- There were 2,914 participants discharged from a program during FY 2017.
- Of those, 1,814 participants (62%) had successfully completed a program.
- 31% were discharged unsuccessfully due to non-compliance, absconding, or a new offense.
- 7% were discharged for reasons such as voluntarily withdrew, transferred to another jurisdiction, death, medical discharge, or statutorily ineligible.

Recidivism Rate Among Graduates



Graduates were FAR LESS likely to commit another crime after two years.

Unemployment Rate Among Graduates



Unemployment was DRASTICALLY reduced.



VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

Michigan veterans treatment courts (VTC) follow the drug court model and require compliance with a modified version of the Ten Key Components of Drug Courts as required by statute (MCL 600.1200, *et seq.*). Michigan is a national leader in giving vets a second chance.

These programs integrate principles from both drug courts and mental health courts to serve military veterans who suffer from mental illness, substance use disorders, or traumatic brain injuries.

VTCs promote sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with the traditional partners found in drug courts and mental health courts, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs, volunteer veteran mentors, and organizations that support veterans and their families.

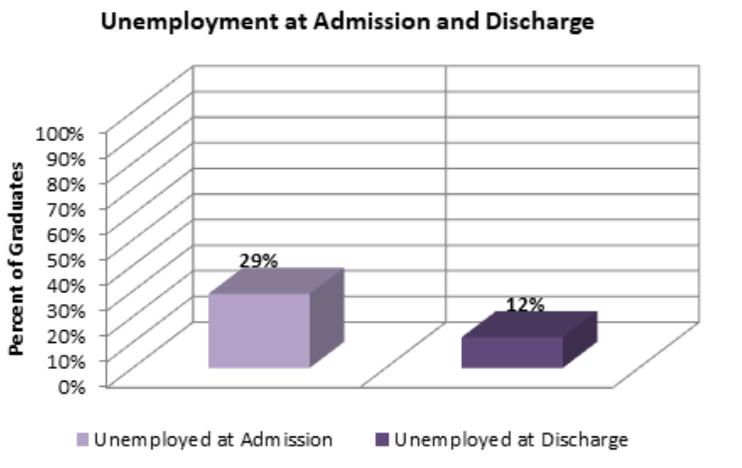
VTCs across the country have been on the rise in answer to the growing number of veterans returning from duty. The number of Michigan's VTC programs has risen to 25 in FY 2017, from only 8 in 2013.



Success Rate:

- There were 221 veterans discharged from a program during FY 2017 and of those, 146 participants (66%) had successfully completed a program.
- Graduates averaged 396 days of consecutive sobriety.
- Out of 190 drug/alcohol tests, only 2% were positive among graduates.
- Graduates averaged 525 days in a program.

Unemployment Rate Among Graduates



Unemployment among graduates was cut by TWO-THIRDS.

Importance of Veteran Mentors

The effectiveness of Michigan's 25 VTCs is due, in large part, to the unique component of the volunteer veteran mentors.

Mentors are matched to participants based on war or conflict, rank, and branch of service, which has proven to be the most important criterion for developing a lasting bond.

Because veteran mentors have had some of the same experiences, VTC participants confide in their mentors, are open to discussions, and are accepting of their help.

That help comes in the form of assistance in navigating the VA, transportation to appointments, support at court review hearings, and much more.

MSC hosted a Justice For Vets 2-day mentor boot camp in October 2017, which provided training for 60 veteran mentors from 12 courts across Michigan.

Asked why he became a mentor, one Marine vet instructor said simply, "I do this because I can't save the friends I lost."



MENTAL HEALTH COURTS

Unlike drug courts, Michigan's mental health courts are reported by whether the mental health program operates in an adult circuit court, adult district court, or are a juvenile program for youths who are under 17 years of age.

The Michigan mental health courts (MHCs) target offenders who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, or a developmental disability as defined by MCL 330.1100a(25) and 330.1100d(2)(3), and the severe nature of the mental illness or functional impairment must necessitate intensive clinical services.

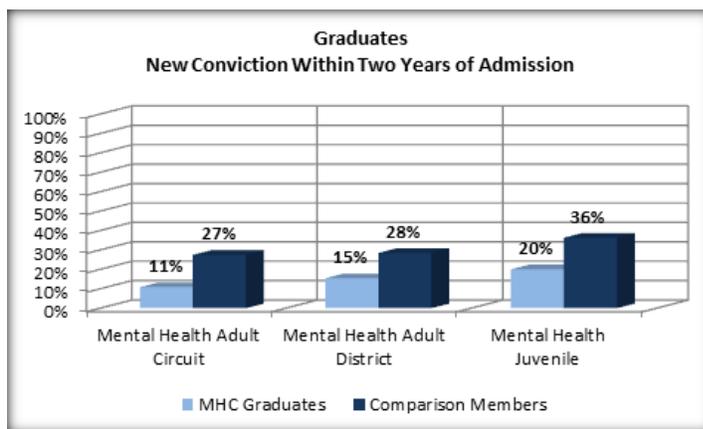
MHCs provide intense judicial oversight, treatment through local community mental health service providers, drug testing when appropriate, referrals to community services such as housing or clothing resources, enrollment in educational classes and certificate programs, transportation assistance, and assistance with obtaining employment.

Courts that receive Michigan Mental Health Court Grant Program state general funds from the SCAO collaborate closely with community mental health service providers to ensure that participants have access to a wide range of treatment services.

Total Number of Participants (1,247) by Program Type:

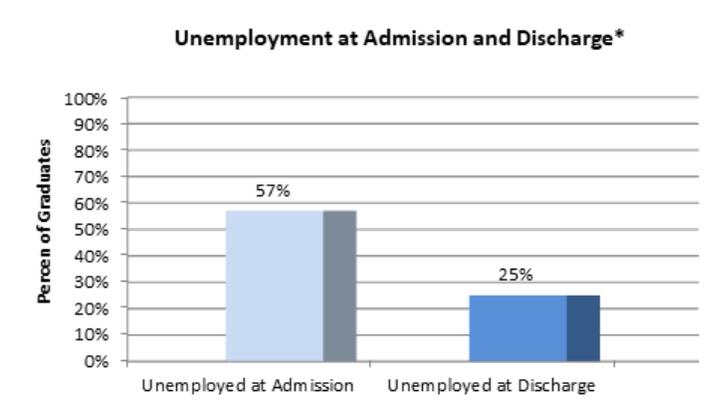
- Adult district mental health courts totaled 678 participants (54%).
- Adult circuit mental health courts totaled 476 participants (38%).
- Juvenile mental health courts totaled 93 participants (8%).

Recidivism Rate Among Graduates



Graduates were FAR LESS likely to commit another crime after two years.

Unemployment Rate Among Graduates



More than half of unemployed adults found employment by the time they graduated.

Nearly all graduates (adult and juvenile) reported improved mental health and improved quality of life upon graduation.