



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Supreme Court: Problem-Solving Courts Save Lives, Reduce Crime

Programs are lowering recidivism and unemployment, improving quality of life

LANSING, MI, March 28, 2019 – Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth T. Clement today announced the release of the [FY 2018 Problem-Solving Courts Annual Report](#) demonstrating the success of 188 problem-solving courts (PSC). In particular, she highlighted data showing that graduates of adult drug court programs are two times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years.

“We are proud that these life-saving courts are accessible to all Michigan residents,” said Justice Clement, MSC liaison to problem-solving courts, as she addressed more than 800 PSC judges, court staff, and graduates attending the 20th annual conference of the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals in Lansing. “Thank you to judges, court staff, and their partners outside the court—prosecuting and defense attorneys, law enforcement, treatment providers, testing facilities, local organizations and volunteers—who work so hard to engage the community in helping participants rebuild their lives. The result is fewer repeat offenses, safer communities, stronger families, and saved resources for local governments.”

Other key [report findings](#):

- Unemployment dropped dramatically among all graduates:
 - Reduced completely for adult drug court graduates;
 - By well over three-quarters for sobriety and hybrid (drug/sobriety) court graduates;
 - Almost completely for family dependency court graduates;
 - By more than half for adult circuit mental health court (MHC) graduates;
 - By more than two-thirds for district MHC graduates; and
 - By more than three-quarters for veterans treatment courts (VTC) graduates.
- Treatment court graduates who used ignition interlock devices on their vehicles were four times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission to the program.
- MHC graduates were about half as likely to commit another crime within three years of admission to a program.
- Virtually all participants in MHCs reported an improvement in their mental health status, making their lives more stable and productive.
- Michigan is a national leader in VTCs with 27 programs.

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 Supreme Court, through its State Court Administrative Office, assists trial court judges in the management of these courts by providing training, education, operational standards, monitoring, certification requirements, and funding. Find out more about PSCs [here](#).

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