



Michigan's Problem-Solving Courts

**The House Appropriations
Subcommittee**

March 4, 2020



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



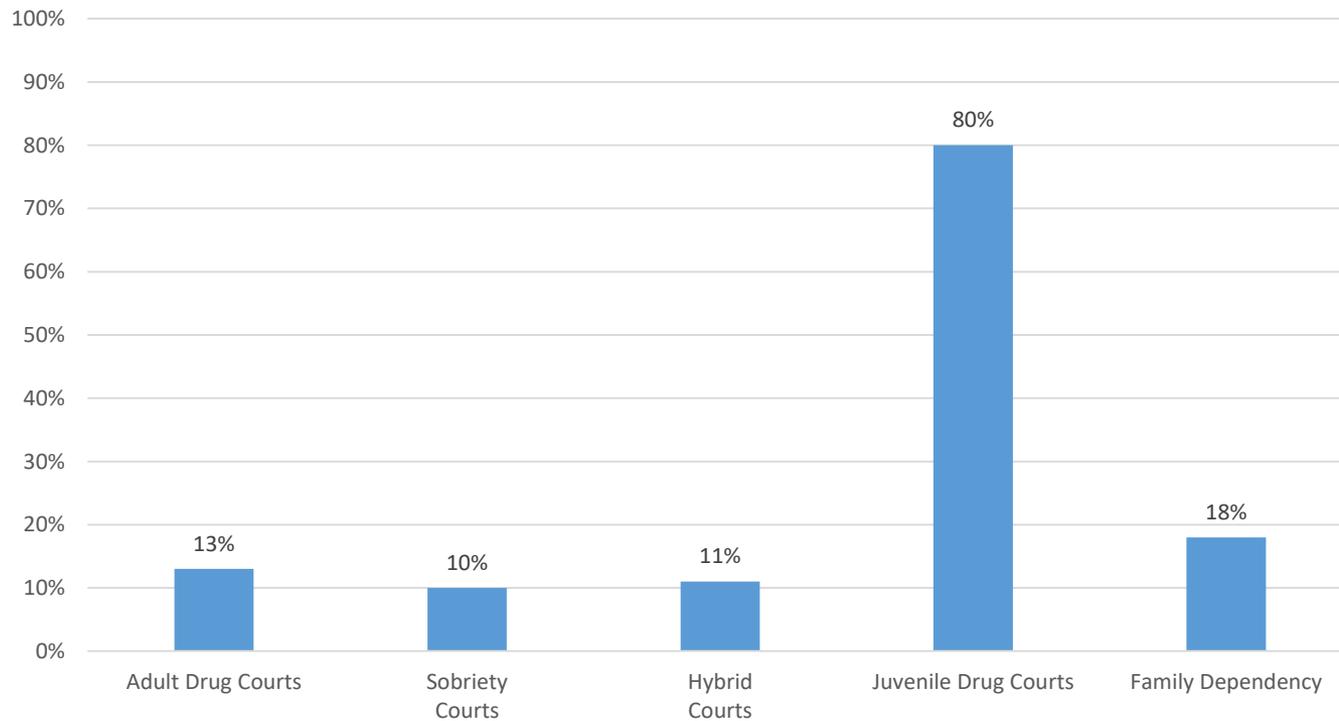
- 126 programs plus 9 Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts
- During fiscal year 2019
 - Screened 4,497 potential participants
 - Admitted 3,024 offenders into a program
 - Discharged 2,755 participants
 - 6,717 active participants
 - Hybrid programs totaled 4,289 participants (64%)
 - Sobriety programs totaled 1,738 participants (26%)
 - Adult drug programs totaled 333 participants (5%)
 - Juvenile drug programs totaled 194 participants (3%)
 - Family dependency programs totaled 163 participants (2%)



Improved Education



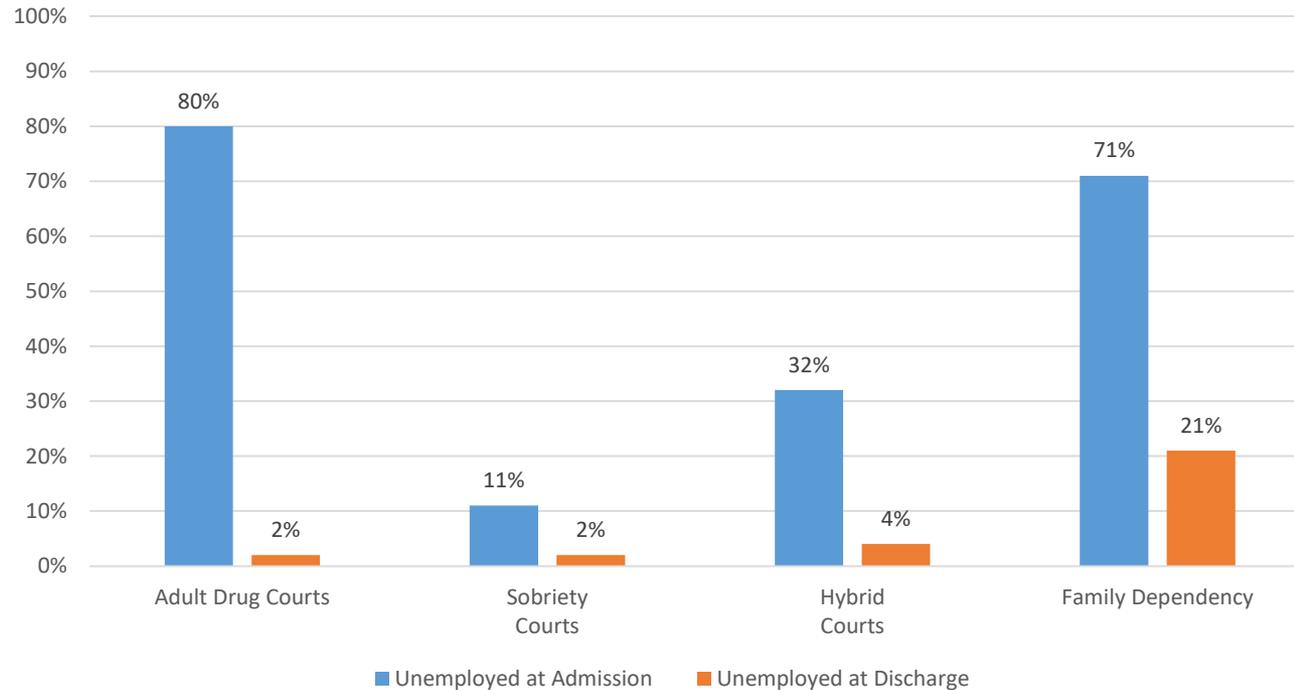
Improved Education Level by Program Type



Improved Employment



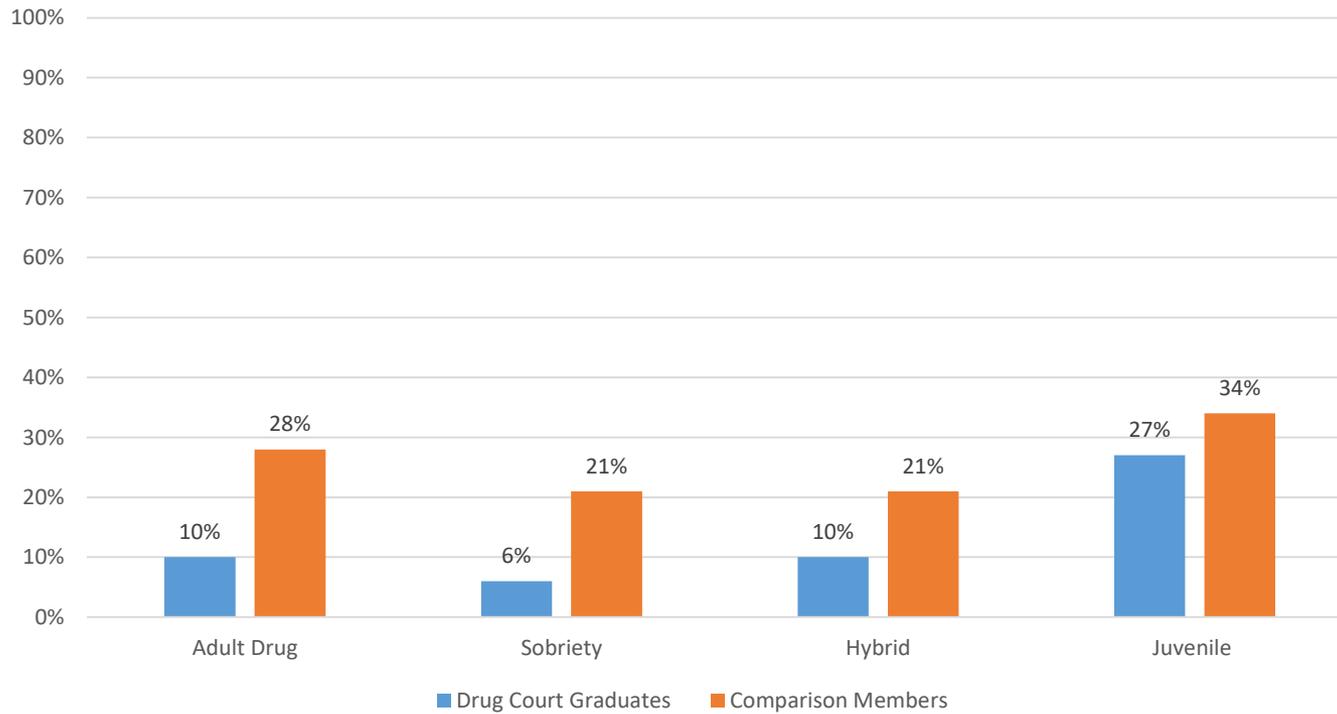
Employment Status by Program Type



Recidivism



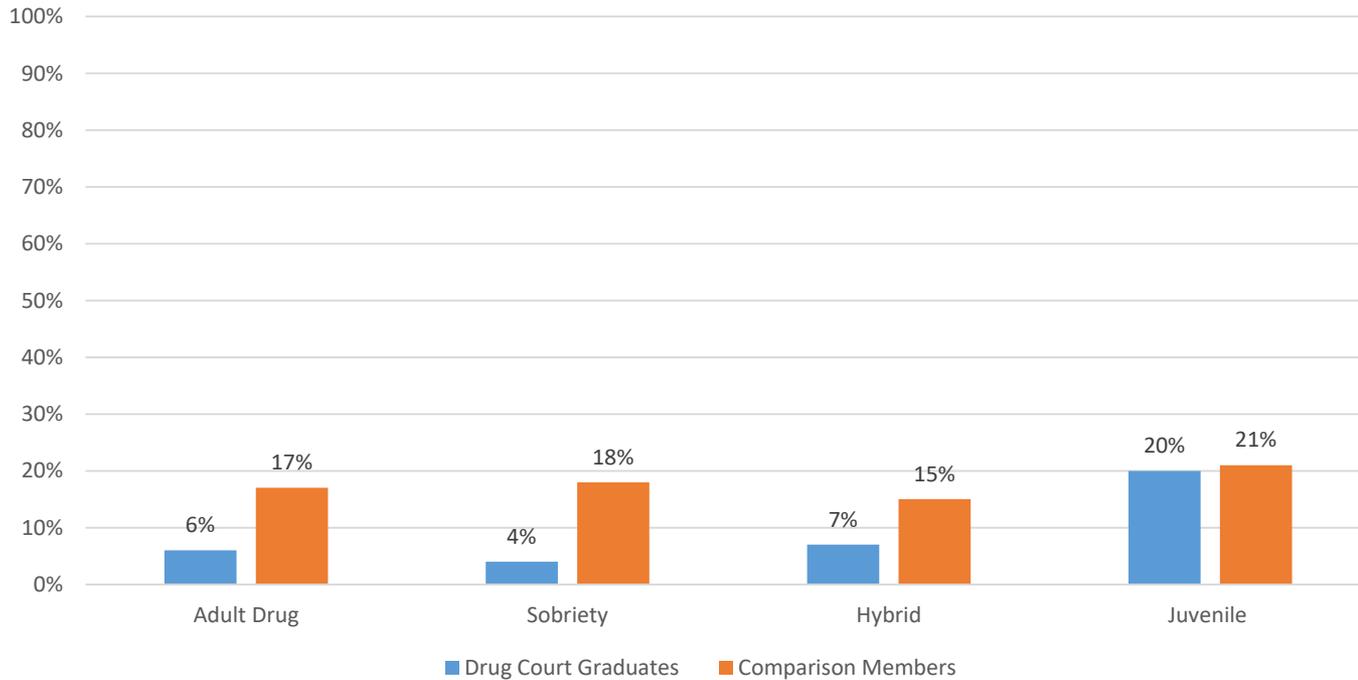
Graduates
Any New Conviction Within Three Years of Admission



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
- Drug and alcohol testing may be less frequent



Mental Health Court Caseload



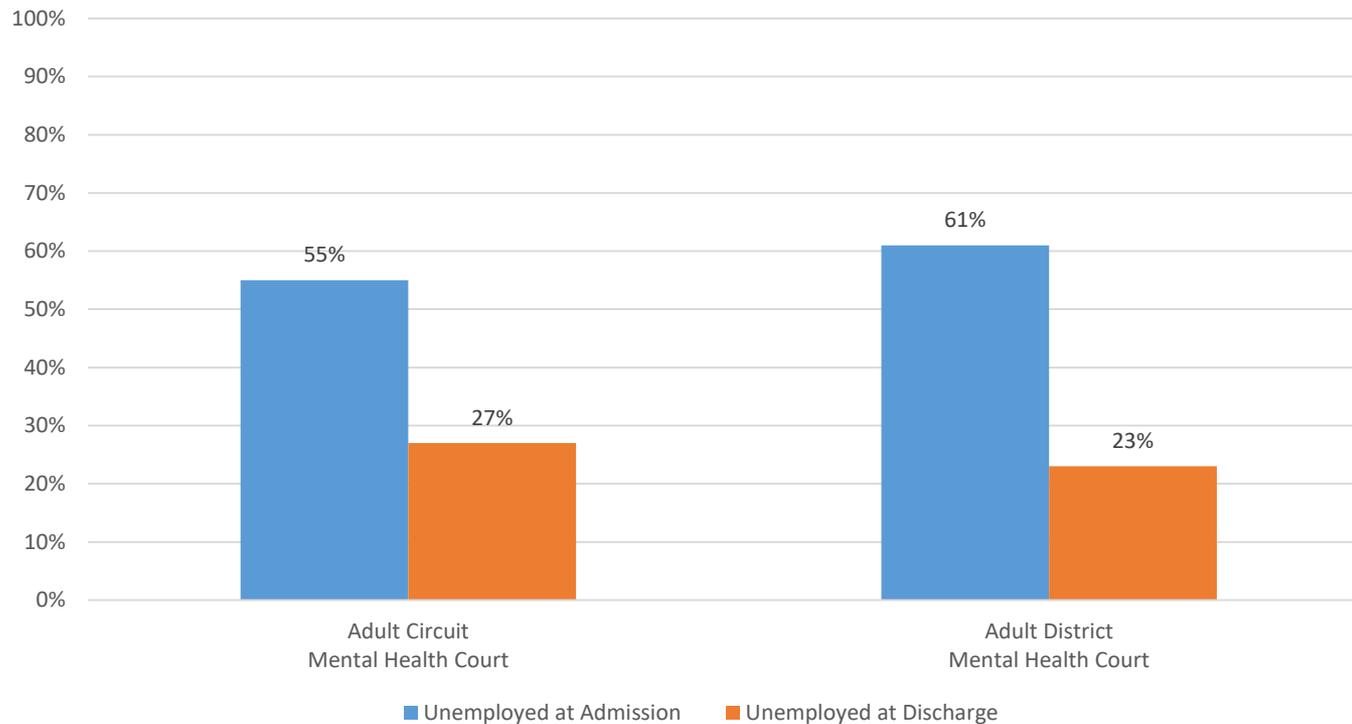
- 37 programs
- During fiscal year 2019
 - Screened 1,278 participants
 - Admitted 638
 - Discharged 653
 - 1,393 active participants
 - Adult district court programs totaled 752 participants (54%)
 - Adult circuit court programs totaled 532 participants (38%)
 - Juvenile mental health court programs totaled 109 participants (8%)



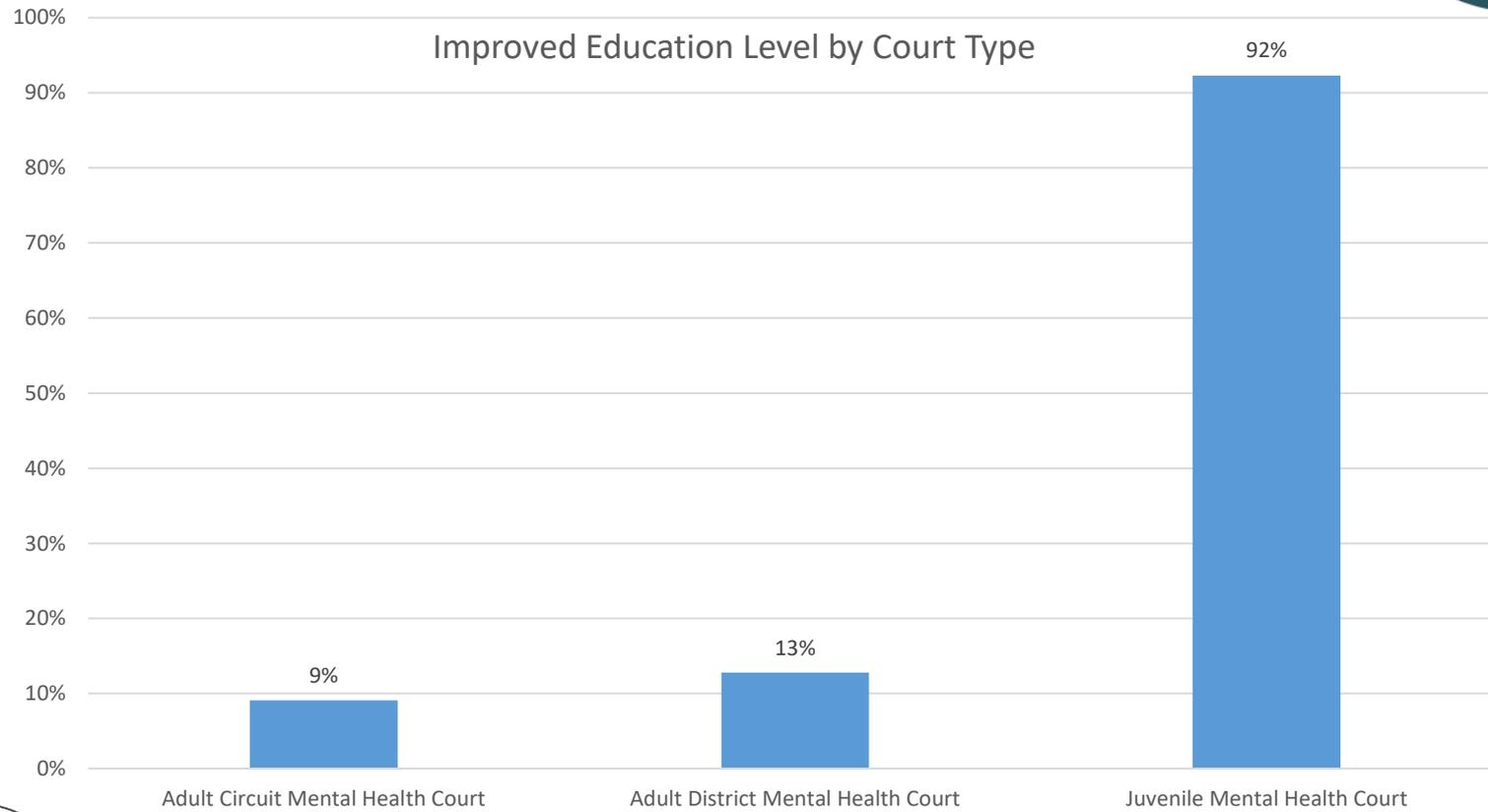
Improved Employment



Unemployment Status at Admission and Discharge by Court Type



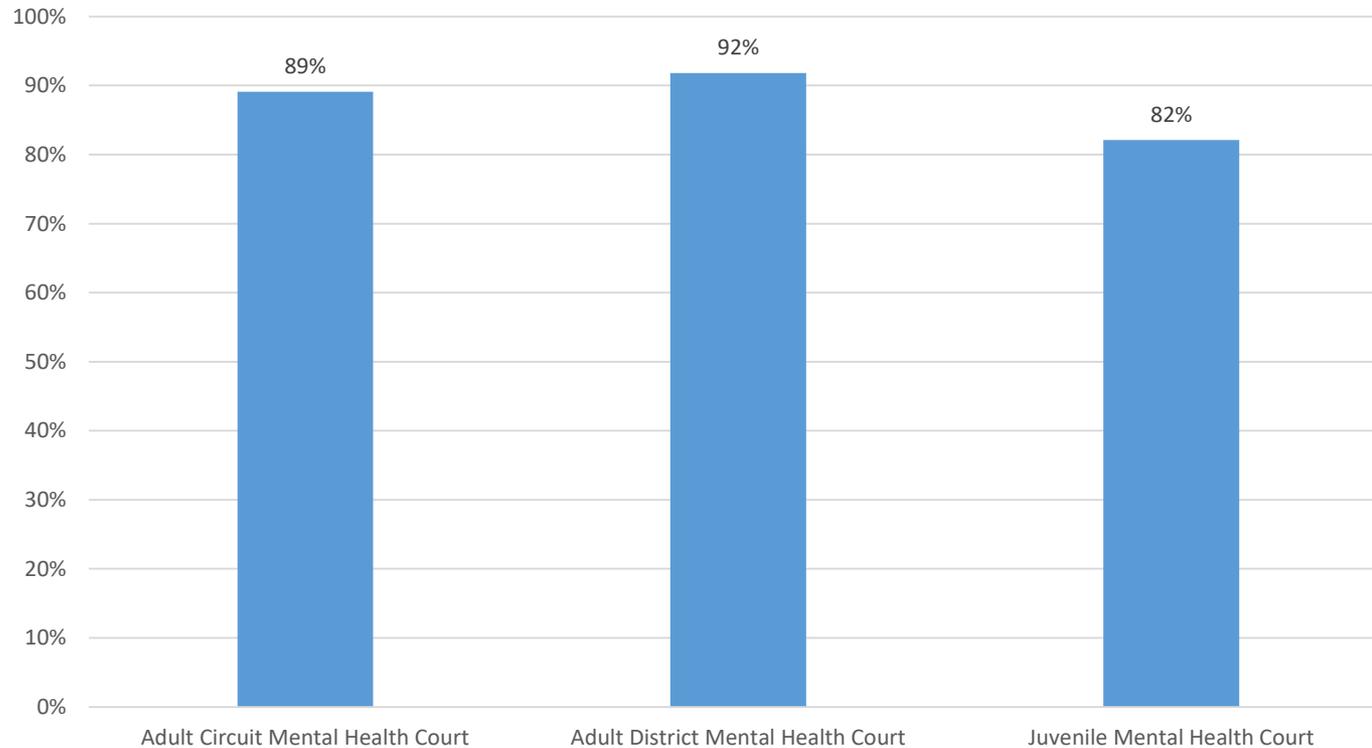
Improved Education



Medication Compliance



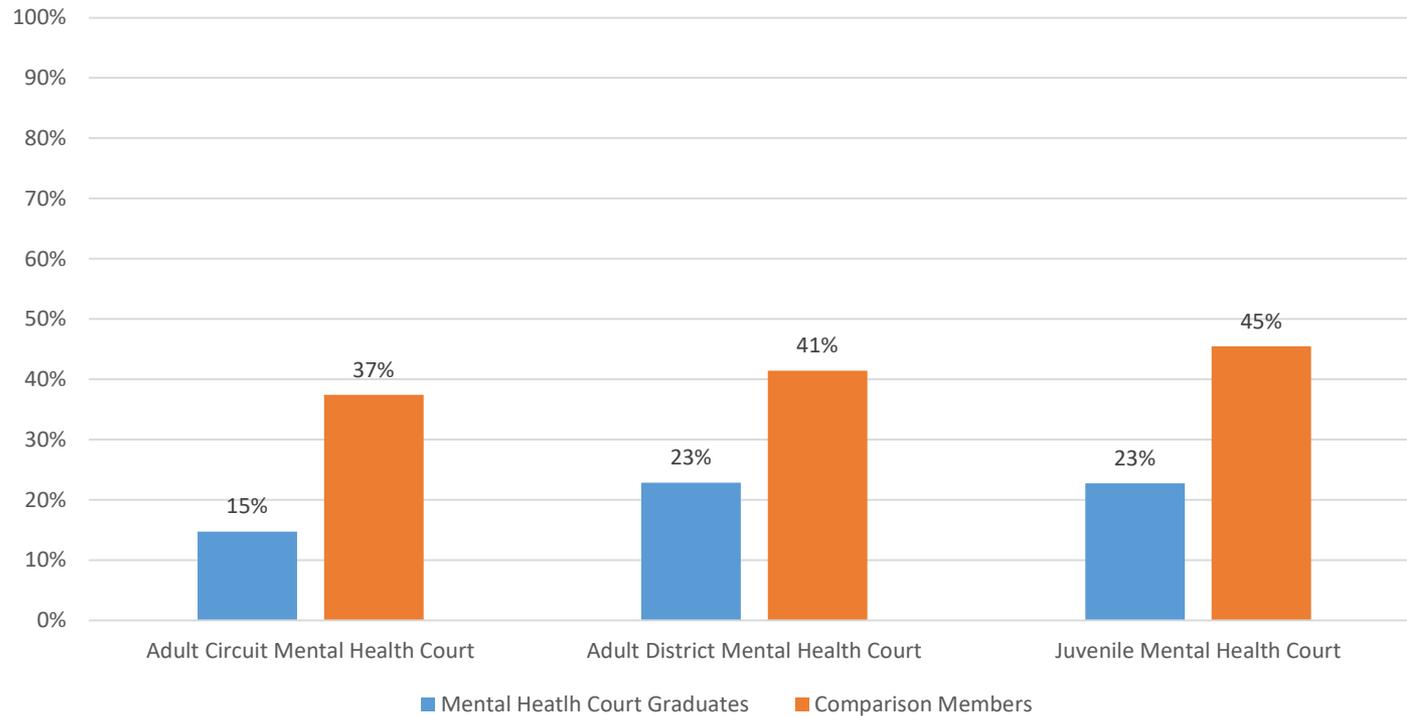
Full Compliance With Medication by Court Type



Recidivism



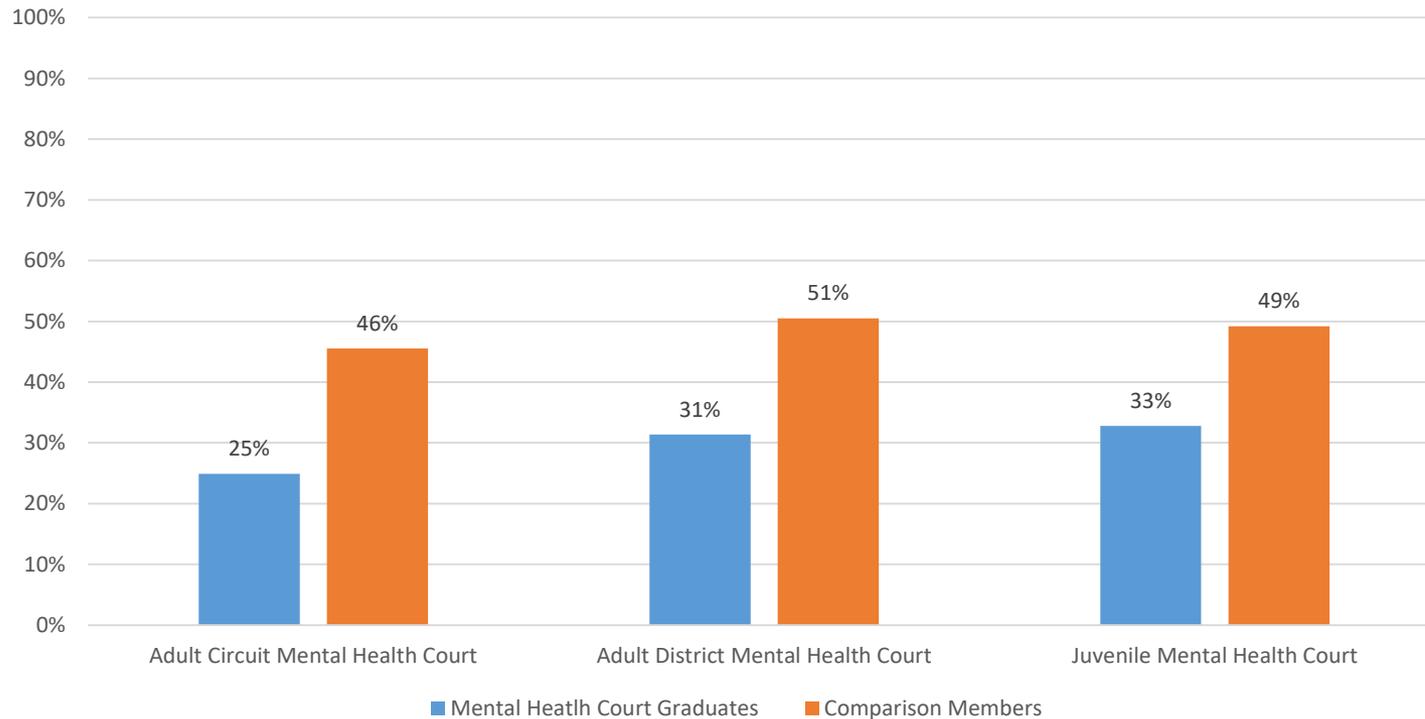
Graduates
New Conviction Within Three Years of Admission



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 2018
 - Screened 372
 - Admitted 276
 - Discharged 266
 - 645 active participants



VTC Graduate Accomplishments



- Averaged 373 consecutive days of sobriety
- Ninety-four percent reported an improved quality of life upon graduation
- Averaged 25 hours of mental health treatment services
- Averaged 66 hours of substance use disorder treatment services
- Eighty-seven percent reduction in unemployment among graduates



What's Next?



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



State Court Administrative Office
Trial Court Services
Problem-Solving Courts



Michigan's Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program

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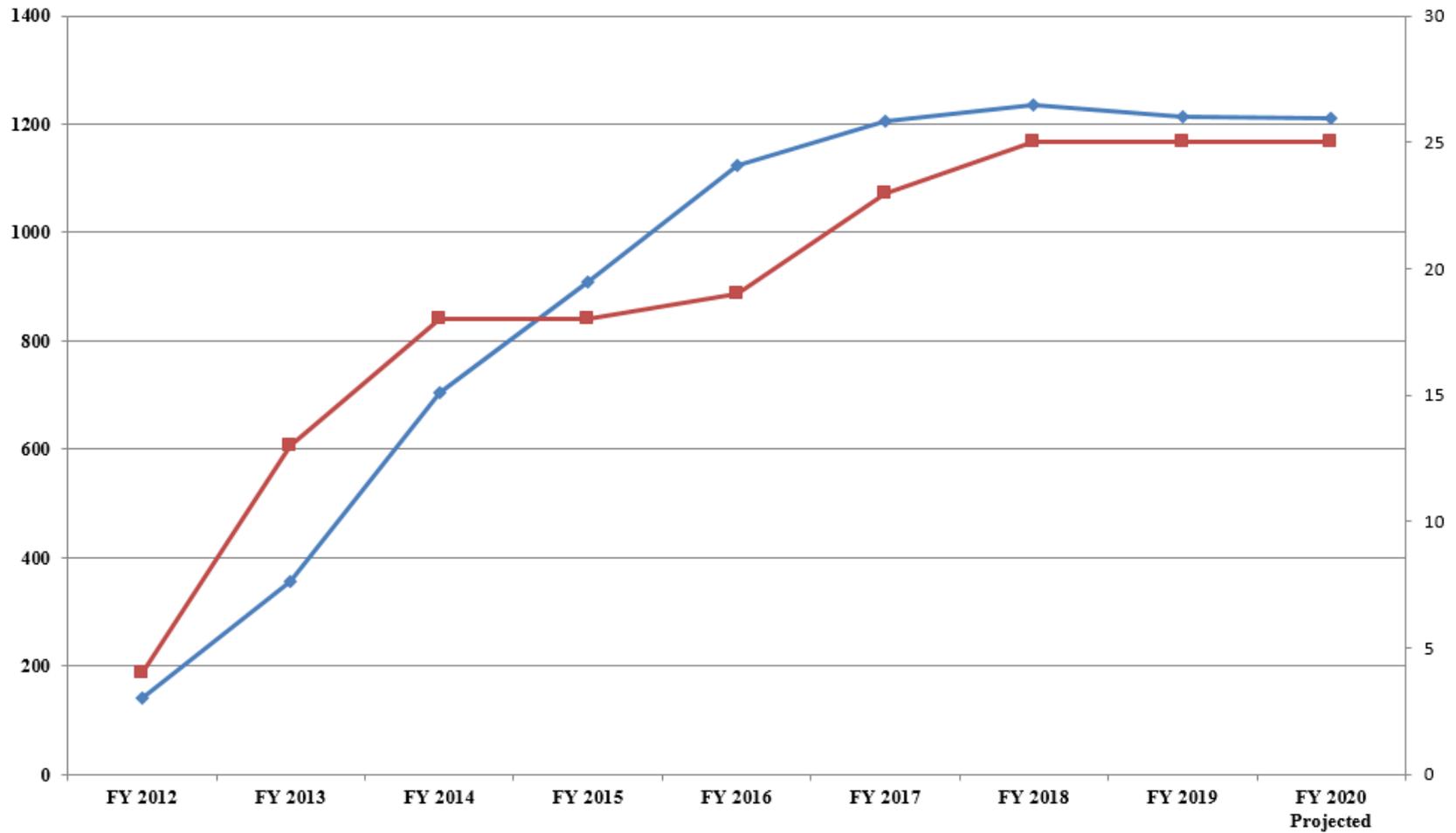
What is Swift and Sure?



- Alternative to jail and prison
- Different than drug court; 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”)
 - Sanction after every violation of probation
 - Fairness and perceived fairness



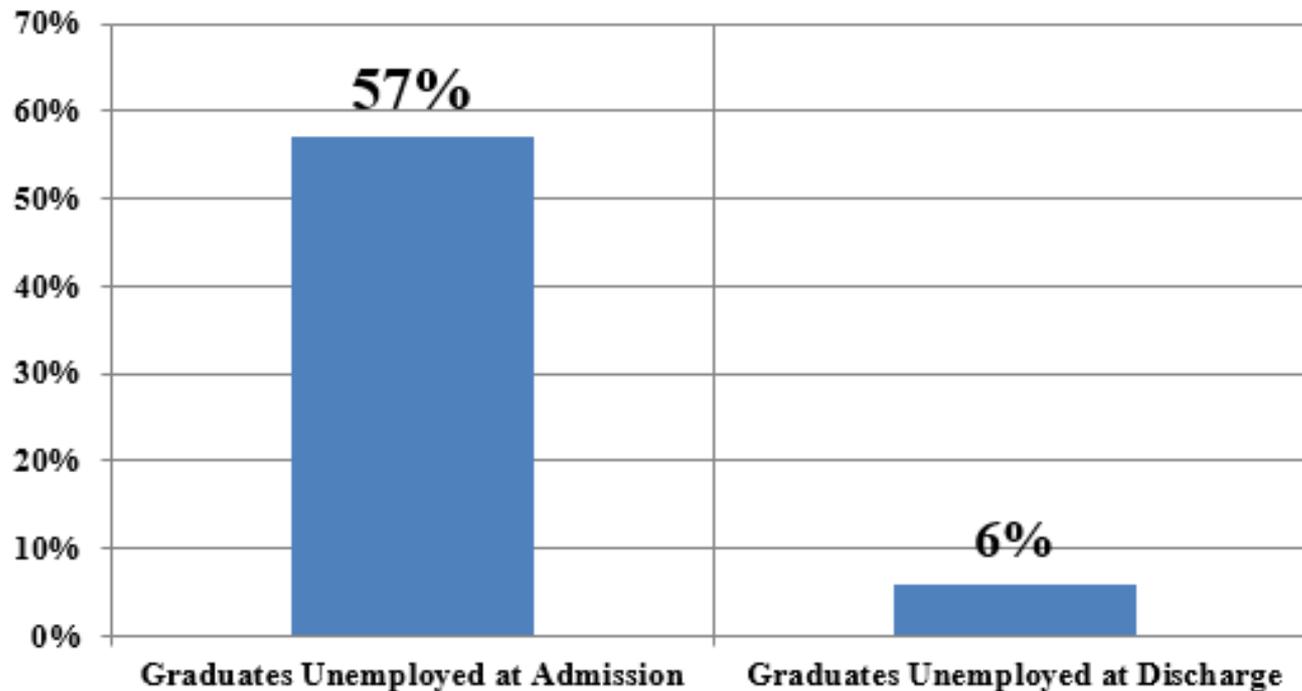
Number of Probationers and Programs



Improved Employment



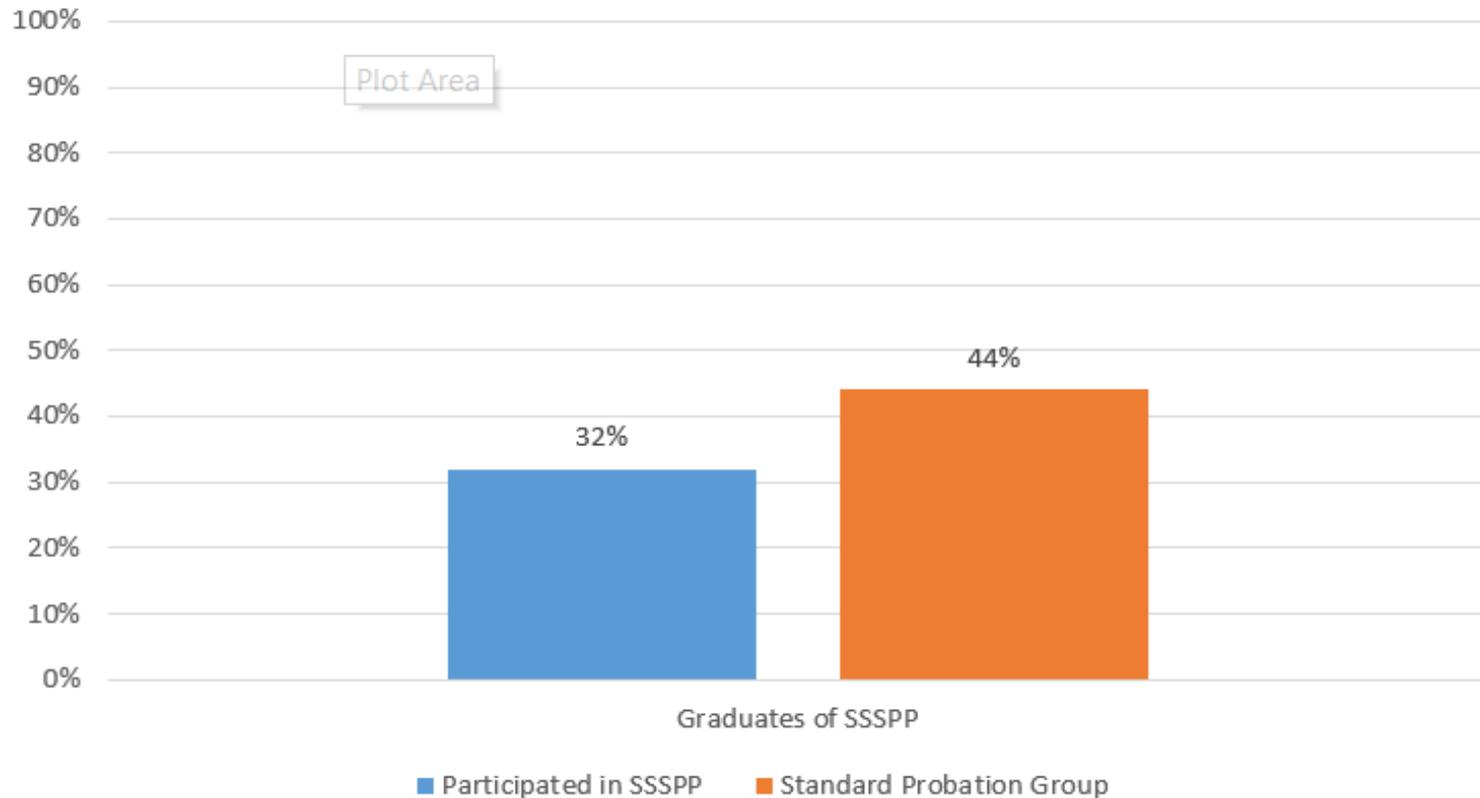
Unemployment at Admission and Discharge



Less Crime



New Conviction Within Three Years of Admission



Questions



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