



# ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CENTER  
187 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Pamela Harris**  
State Court Administrator  
410-260-1295

February 25, 2020

Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Bill Ferguson  
President of the Senate  
H-107 State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

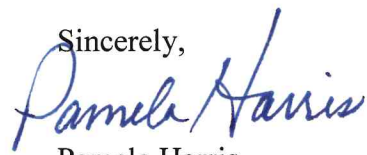
Honorable Adrienne A. Jones  
Speaker of the House  
H-101 State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: JRA – Number of Substance Abuse Assessments Ordered

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

Pursuant to the Justice Reinvestment Act, Senate Bill 1005/Chapter 515, Section 15 of the 2016 Session, the Judiciary herein submits its report on the number of substance abuse assessments ordered by courts in criminal cases under Health – General Article § 8-505.

This report covers the period of January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Walter at (410) 260-1725, or via email at [jamie.walter@mdcourts.gov](mailto:jamie.walter@mdcourts.gov).

Sincerely,  
  
Pamela Harris  
State Court Administrator

Hon. Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.

Hon. Bill Ferguson

Hon. Adrienne A. Jones

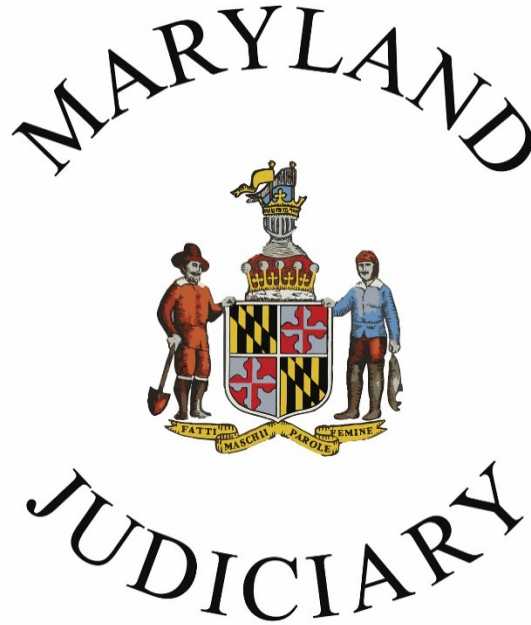
February 25, 2020

Page 2

cc: Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals  
Honorable Laura S. Ripken, Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges  
Honorable Daniel M. Long, Chair, Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board  
Honorable John P. Morrissey, Chief Judge, District Court  
Keiffer Jackson Mitchell, Jr., Chief Legislative Officer, Office of the Governor  
Yaakov "Jake" Weissmann, Chief of Staff, President of the Senate  
Alexandra Hughes, Chief of Staff, Speaker of the House  
Kelley O'Connor, Assistant State Court Administrator, Government Relations & Public  
Affairs  
Sarah Albert, Mandated Report Specialist

# **JRA – Number of Substance Abuse Assessments Ordered**

**Calendar Year 2019**



Administrative Office of the Courts

February 2020

**Substance Abuse Disorder Assessments Ordered, HG-8-505  
Calendar Year 2019**

Between circuit and District Court locations, there were 1,521 substance abuse disorder assessments ordered in Calendar Year 2019. Please see breakdown by county below (Table 1).

**Table 1: Calendar Year 2019 8-505 Orders**

<b>County</b>	<b>Circuit Court</b>	<b>District Court</b>	<b>Total</b>
Allegany	21	7	28
Anne Arundel	161	27	188
Baltimore City	188	52	240
Baltimore County	120	16	136
Calvert	6	1	7
Caroline	8	1	9
Carroll	55	0	55
Cecil	33	1	34
Charles	48	2	50
Dorchester	19	7	26
Frederick	44	6	50
Garrett	14	15	29
Harford	74	7	81
Howard	38	3	41
Kent	15	1	16
Montgomery	162	14	176
Prince George's	103	40	143
Queen Anne's	19	3	22
Saint Mary's	11	3	14
Somerset	10	10	20
Talbot	1	0	1
Washington	49	1	50
Wicomico	63	23	86
Worcester	17	2	19
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>1,521</b>

Commentary Regarding Data Findings and Collection and Updated Calendar Year 2018 Data:

In Calendar Year 2019 we are able to use more precise counting of orders through the identification and elimination of multiple evaluation codes used by certain courts. Therefore, we are updating the Calendar Year 2018, 8-505 substance abuse orders to account for use of multiple codes. In comparing updated Calendar Year 2018 and Calendar Year 2019 data, orders for evaluation between circuit and District Courts are remarkably stable. The Maryland Judiciary continues to train and educate clerks about use of these codes, particularly for courts in MDEC counties. Of note, in Calendar Year 2019, Baltimore County converted to MDEC making only three remaining counties yet to be converted to MDEC: Baltimore City, Montgomery, and Prince George’s Counties. Please see below for specific notes regarding each case management system.

**Table 2: Calendar Year 2018 8-505 Orders - Updated**

<b>County</b>	<b>Circuit Court</b>	<b>District Court</b>	<b>Total</b>
Allegany	20	14	34
Anne Arundel	181	30	211
Baltimore City	192	77	269
Baltimore County	133	2	135
Calvert	27	11	38
Caroline	25	1	26
Carroll	48	1	49
Cecil	26	2	28
Charles	47	2	49
Dorchester	41	5	46
Frederick	64	4	68
Garrett	12	10	22
Harford	57	5	62
Howard	39	2	41
Kent	12	7	19
Montgomery	70	4	74
Prince George's	89	0	89
Queen Anne's	20	1	21
Saint Mary's	14	3	17
Somerset	18	6	24
Talbot	1	1	2
Washington	69	2	71
Wicomico	75	46	121
Worcester	12	5	17
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>1,533</b>

**Montgomery County Circuit Court** – The Quality Control Division confirmed that the numbers provided are the number of granted orders. They attested that the count is of court orders, not unique cases or defendants.

**Prince George’s County Circuit Court** – A query was run through docket text and comments to get total number of assessments ordered as no code existed to properly identify these orders. New codes have been created in Prince George’s case management system to report a more accurate total moving forward.

**Baltimore City Circuit Court** – Confirmed that the number provided is the number of orders, not the number of defendants.

**District Court Mainframe** – As referenced in the Judiciary’s Calendar Year 2019 and Calendar Year 2018, 8-505 legislative reports, a new code identifying 8-505 orders was implemented in the District Court Mainframe in May of 2017. However, to control for any instances in which the code was not utilized and to ensure all 8-505 orders were captured, several data queries were run through docket text and comments to get a total number of assessments ordered.

**MDEC (Circuit & District Court)** – MDEC “Event Listing” report was run for Calendar Year 2019 to identify the frequency of codes indicating in-custody assessments. This process does not necessarily return all 8-505 orders in counties operating on MDEC as problems have been identified in pinpointing the out-patient assessments due to code mapping from UCS to MDEC. The number of 8-505 orders were added across case management systems for those counties that transitioned to MDEC.