

Fiscal Year 2024

**Problem-Solving Courts
Annual Report**



Administrative Office of the Courts

November 2024

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 4

 Figure 1: Washington County Circuit Adult Drug Court accepts proclamation from the County Commissioners. 5

Oversight..... 6

 Administrative Office of the Court’s (AOC) Office of Problem-Solving Courts (OPSC) 6

 Direct Assistance 6

 Monitoring and Evaluation..... 6

 Research in Action: Administrative Office of the Courts Collaborates on PSC Program Success 7

 Internal Monitoring and Evaluation Infrastructure..... 7

 Internal, Interactive, Program-Specific Best Practice Dashboards..... 7

 Figure 2: Best Practice Coordinator’s Dashboard 8

 Regular Site Visits with Treatment Court Teams..... 9

 Empowering Treatment Court Teams 9

 Results 9

 Figure 3: Best Practice Adherence through FY 2024..... 10

 Full Implementation of Adult Drug Court Performance Measure 6..... 10

 Figure 4: Procedural Justice Survey Results 10

 Monitoring Emerging Research Opportunities..... 11

New PSCs in FY 2024 11

 Figure 5: FY 2024 Operational Problem-Solving Courts in Maryland 12

Funding 12

 \$1.7 Million Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance Award – FY 2022- FY 2025 12

 BJA Grant Funded Projects - Updates..... 13

 Figure 6: Service Referrals by Type of Service, Universal Risk and Need Pilot Program, FY 2024 13

 Figure 7: New MIS Dashboards..... 15

 BJA Grant Objectives..... 14

 PSC Grants and Budget Requests..... 14

 Table 1: PSC Grant/Budget Request Awards FY 2024..... 16

 Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) Grant for Non-Reimbursable Services..... 17

Training and Education..... 17

 Figure 8: DWI “Operational Tune-Up” Training at Maryland Judicial Center, August 2023 17

 Training and Education Highlight – DWI Court 2-Day “Operational Tune-Up” Training..... 17

 Training and Education Highlight – 19th Annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium 18

 Figure 9: Dorchester County Adult Drug and Veterans Courts Teams at 2024 PSC Symposium..... 18

 Training and Education Highlight – Celebrating 30 Years! Selecting the Right Participant 18

 Training and Education Highlight – Celebrating 30 Years! Mental Health First AID..... 18

Figure 10: Caroline County Adult Drug Court Team at PSC Equity and Inclusion Training..... 18

Training and Education Highlight – Celebrating 30 Years! Equity and Inclusion..... 18

Training and Education Highlight – Celebrating 30 Years! Family Ties: Supporting Families when a Parent is Incarcerated 19

Training and Education Highlight – Celebrating 30 Years! Forming Community Advisory Boards 19

Drug Courts 19

Figure 12: Caroline County Circuit Court, Adult Drug Court Graduation..... 19

Table 2: Drug Court Statistical Summary: No. of Court Participants July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 20

Mental Health Courts 21

Figure 13: Baltimore City, Family Recover Court..... 21

Figure 14: Baltimore City District Court, Mental Health Court Graduation..... 21

Table 3: Mental Health Court Statistical Summary– July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 22

Veterans Courts..... 22

Figure 15: Baltimore City Veterans Treatment Court Graduation 22

Table 4: Veterans Court Statistical Summary– July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 23

Truancy Reduction Courts..... 23

Table 5: Truancy Reduction Pilot Program Statistical Summary, July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024..... 23

Conclusion 24

Appendix A: PSCs in Maryland: History and Governance 25

Appendix B: Maryland Judicial Council - An Overview..... 26

2024 Judicial Council..... 27

Scope of Activity 28

Committee Membership 28

Executive Summary

In FY 2024, the Maryland Judiciary proudly marked 30 years of Problem-Solving Courts (PSC) in Maryland, underscoring the Judiciary’s unwavering commitment to providing fair, efficient, and effective justice for all. What began in 1994 with the launch of Maryland’s first PSC, the Baltimore City Adult District Drug Court, has since evolved into a network of 68 PSCs across the state. At the core of these courts are the dedicated teams of professionals who go above and beyond every day to help participants navigate the complex challenges of substance use disorders, mental health issues, veteran recovery, and truancy. By combining accountability with evidence-based treatment and behavioral health services, Maryland’s PSCs continue to transform lives and strengthen communities throughout the state.

PSCs in Maryland have served more than 30,000 unique individuals across the state over these 30 years, and demonstrate outcomes such as reduced recidivism and a more cost-effective approach to drug and mental health-related crimes. Over the last 15 years, the Office of Problem Solving Courts (OPSC) in Maryland has grown its funding from \$7.3M in 2008 to more than \$10M in 2024 in parallel to a 39% increase in the number of PSCs in the state. This cost effective use of funds is further illustrated by a 2022 statewide evaluation of Maryland PSCs by NPC Research which found that adult drug courts (ADC) in Maryland cost \$14,352 less in spending per person than usual criminal justice and societal cost outcomes experienced within the traditional court system. Over the two-year period under evaluation, NPC Research calculated \$21.4M in cost savings by Maryland’s adult drug courts.

OPSC’s dedication to monitoring and evaluation of courts, statewide application of evidence-based best practices, and use of research in action and provides continual real-time learning for PSC teams. Further backing OPSC’s research-based strategy, NPC Research’s 2022 report

30 YEARS
in Maryland

2024
 **x68**
> 30,430 Served

Problem Solving Courts

1970-1990's: War on Drugs

In response to increased incarceration and failures of punitive measures to reign in drug-related crimes, Maryland established its first two PSCs.

The 1970's onward brought about a new "war on drugs," characterized by stricter standards for drug use and increases in incarceration rates.

1994: 1st PSCs **x2** in Maryland

2001: 1st Eval **x6** of MD PSCs

The Maryland Judiciary expanded its work to include all PSCs even outside drug courts, including mental health, veterans, and truancy courts.

With a strong commitment to evidence-based programming, the Maryland Judiciary commissioned its first outcome and process evaluation for PSCs in the state.

2006: Expanding **x37** Court Types

2017: The Hope Act

The Maryland Judiciary adopted performance standards for PSCs in Maryland, empowering OPSC to evaluate PSC performance and uphold standards across the state.

The Maryland General Assembly passed the Hope Act and called for OPSC to expand its services in response to the Opioid epidemic.

2017: Measuring **x56** Performance

2020: COVID-19 & Calls for Equity

OPSC began planning for technology upgrades, resulting in the current MIS, a data management system providing remote collaboration with court participants and community partners as well as monitoring of equity.

The COVID-19 pandemic & public calls for social justice prompted courts in Maryland to implement technologically-mediated hearings and equal justice forums.

2021: Technology & Access **x58**

2022: Best Practice Standards **x61**

OPSC is providing models for building court capacity to address behavioral health through evidence-based programming, technological innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

OPSC began tracking use of best practice standards across the state and providing court specific dashboards for PSCs to internally monitor and improve court practices.

2024: **> 30,430** Individuals Served **x68**

discovered that two-thirds of Maryland ADCs studied became more successful at reducing rearrests over time. NPC Research identified that these improvements correlate with courts' use of specific best practice strategies, including team structure, screening and matching services to participant needs, testing for substance use, and evidence-based behavioral modification strategies, practices core to OPSC's research to practice model.

This research-based approach to court improvement began in 2001, seven years after the formation of the first problem-solving court in Maryland, when the Judiciary commissioned its first outcome and process evaluation¹. Since then, 14 studies have been conducted by various external evaluators, resulting in more than 40 site-specific or statewide reports including 19 outcome and cost evaluations, 21 process evaluations, and two performance measure assessments. Outcome studies assess program effectiveness and offer valuable insights into how well Maryland's PSCs achieve positive outcomes for participants both during and after the program. Process evaluations shed light on the extent to which Maryland's problem-solving courts comply with nationally recognized best practice standards. Findings and recommendations from external evaluations have guided technical assistance, training,

Problem-Solving Court Definition

Problem-solving courts address matters that are under the court's jurisdiction through a multidisciplinary and integrated approach that incorporates collaboration among court, government, and community-based organizations.

and the creation of action plans aimed at enhancing adherence to best practices and reducing post-program recidivism. These studies also demonstrate accountability to public officials and other stakeholders, providing an objective, third-party assessment of treatment court programs.

Throughout Maryland, PSCs represent the most intensive, community-based programs available to address aberrant behavior associated with substance use disorder and mental illnesses. During FY 2024, 2,569 individuals participated in Maryland's PSCs. Judges and magistrates met with those program participants nearly 23,963 times in scheduled court hearings.

At the end of FY 2024, there were 68 PSCs in Maryland: 38 drug courts, seven truancy reduction courts, nine veterans courts, eleven mental health courts, two re-entry courts, and one back-on-track program.

PSCs vary considerably by jurisdiction and case type. However, all focus on collaborating with the service communities in their jurisdictions and stress a multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving that addresses the underlying issues of individuals appearing in court.

Using its FY 2024 appropriation, the Judiciary provided \$8.2 million of its annual budget in grants to directly support PSCs in Circuit and



Figure 1: Washington County Circuit Adult Drug Court accepts proclamation from the County Commissioners.

¹ Crumpton, Dave M.P.A., Brekhuis, Jodi M.S., Weller, Judy B.A., Finigan, Mike Ph.D.; NPC Research. [Cost Analysis of Baltimore City, Maryland Drug Treatment Court](#). 2004.

District Court locations across Maryland. These funds were used for staffing, treatment, drug testing, travel and training, remote court needs, and ancillary services that directly benefit PSC participants.

The Judiciary provides direct assistance to both planned and operational programs to support positive outcomes and sustainability and sets high expectations for monitoring and evaluating PSCs to maintain best practices.

Oversight

Administrative Office of the Court's (AOC) Office of Problem-Solving Courts (OPSC)

As part of the Judiciary's mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all, OPSC assists PSC programs to develop, maintain, and advance a collaborative therapeutic system.

In FY 2024, OPSC staff had **516** face-to-face or virtual contacts with programs in the field ranging from attending events such as graduations, completing programmatic site visits, attending program staffing and court hearings, and completing financial (grant) visits.

OPSC has overseen the creation of PSC in 23 of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland and works with public and private stakeholders to develop and establish best practices in PSCs.

OPSC oversees the financial support for Maryland's PSCs, enforces programmatic guidelines, maintains a statewide management information system, and identifies new and expanding populations for PSCs. Working with justice partners, OPSC continues to serve as the courts' liaison to sustain and advance PSCs in Maryland.

Direct Assistance

OPSC provides direct assistance, expertise, and guidance to PSCs, helping them to improve operations, services, and communications. PSC teams may address protocol development, ancillary and treatment services, funding opportunities, court proceedings, and role clarification through this assistance. Teams also discuss and devise plans to institute new research and evidence-based practices into their current operations.

Direct assistance to Maryland's PSCs includes guidance to improve drug testing policies, enhance sanction and incentive responses, rework and expand program entrance criteria, develop therapeutic responses to relapse, and understand the roles and responsibilities of each team member. The teams also review staffing processes and court proceedings to help their programs operate more efficiently, effectively, and consistently.

Maryland's problem-solving court judges met with participants **23,963** times in court hearings during FY 2024.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In FY 2024, OPSC launched a new cloud-based management information system (MIS), AutoMon Involvement Management System (AIMS), to support the improved collection, standardization, and analysis of PSC program data. The new data management system allows for case management collaboration and communication between court teams, service providers, court participants, evaluators, and state administrators. With both statewide and local-level configuration of dashboards supporting research in action, court professionals can practice real-time evidence-based decision-making and accountability to best practice standards, while enabling state administrators to strategically channel

resources to local teams and maintain cost-effectiveness in spending.

Research in Action: Administrative Office of the Courts Collaborates on PSC Program Success

Nearly three years ago, in FY 2021, the Judiciary expanded on the longstanding collaborative partnership between the AOC's OPSC and Research and Analysis (R&A) programs to establish a research position dedicated to PSCs (PSC Senior Researcher). Under that establishment, the OPSC-R&A Research in Action initiative was conceptualized to focus on objectives that fall within the intersection of the researcher and practitioner disciplines. The PSC senior researcher is overseen by the R&A director with guidance provided by the OPSC director.

Internal Monitoring and Evaluation Infrastructure

As in the previous three fiscal years, full implementation of a research-driven internal monitoring and evaluation infrastructure was a key objective in FY 2024. Throughout FY 2024, the OPSC-R&A team worked to refine internal evaluation components, a two-fold approach that includes regular best practice focused site visits and application of independent self-monitoring tools, such as interactive dashboards. This strategy not only facilitates a comprehensive understanding of program performance but also empowers treatment court teams to access critically important information about best practice standards and proactively address adherence barriers within their own programs. This evaluation methodology has served as a template for internal evaluation across all Maryland PSC programs.

In FY 2024, All Rise released newly revised national best practices standards for Adult Treatment Courts². Building on All Rise's Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards, 1st ed., these new updates include recommendations for: (1) expanding the definition of high-risk/high-need to include individuals with persistent mental health or trauma disorders and other needs such as traumatic brain injury, insecure housing, or compulsive gambling; (2) discouraging adult treatment court admissions requirements that exclude certain sociodemographic or sociocultural groups or that do not serve improved outcomes and public safety; (3) utilizing culturally proficient services for court participants through outreach efforts, culturally salient treatment and service options, and reducing resource constraints, such as providing funding for participant transportation costs; (4) improving procedural fairness and thus court participants' motivation to change by helping judges avoid actions that can shame, stigmatize, or retraumatize participants during court proceedings; (5) carefully balancing incentives and sanctions for participants, guiding staff to set achievable goals and avoid harmful high-magnitude sanctions, while promoting a structured approach to goal progression; (6) offering collaborative person-centered treatment services as well as psychiatric medication and medication for addiction to support recovery; (7) ensuring participants have access to complementary services and recovery capital to support their success; (8) creating multidisciplinary and well-coordinated court teams; and (9) monitoring and evaluating court practices and performance to continually improve services.

Internal, Interactive, Program-Specific Best Practice Dashboards

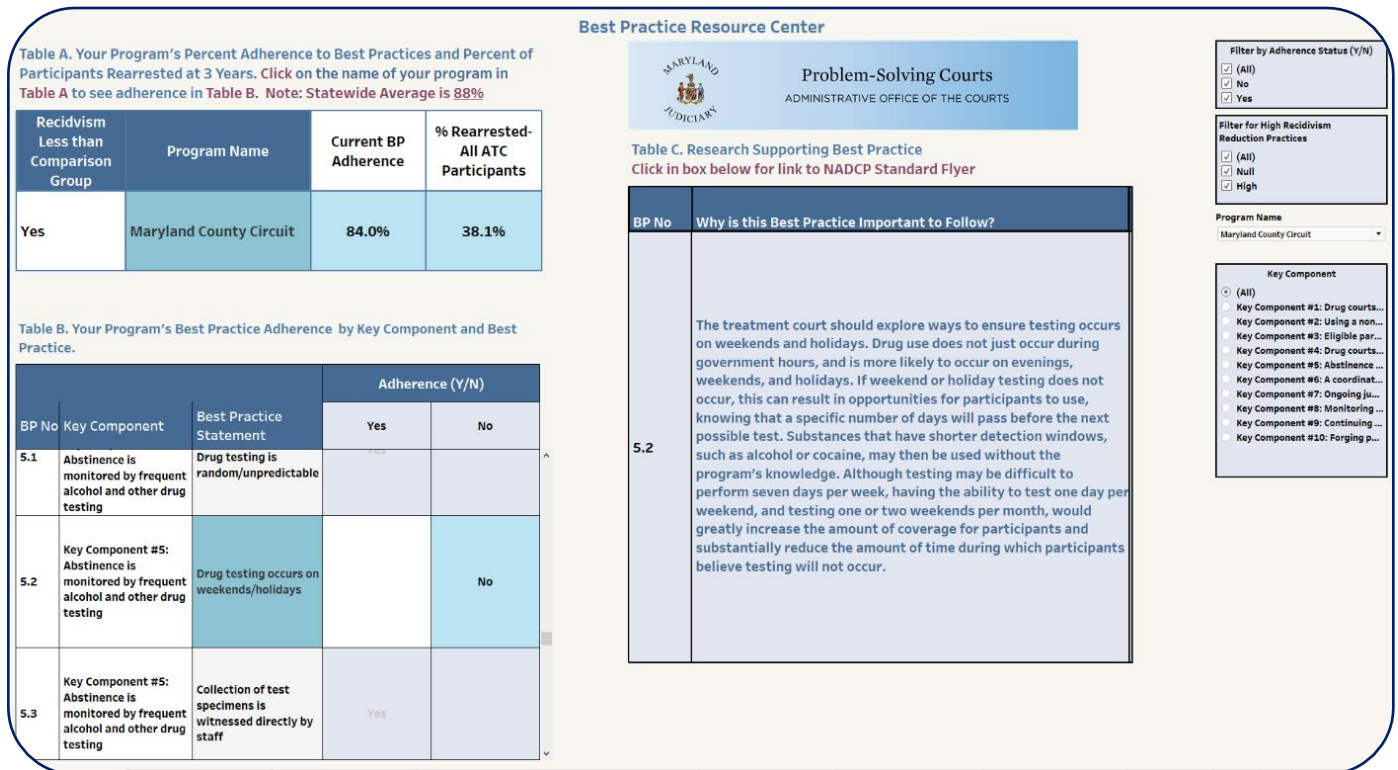
One of the cornerstone elements of the Judiciary's internal monitoring and evaluation strategy is the development and utilization of internal dashboards tailored to each PSC program. These dashboards serve as dynamic, real-time tools that provide treatment court teams with access to critical data and insights related to best practice standards and adherence (Figure 2.)

² All Rise Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards, 2nd ed. <https://allrise.org/publications/standards/>

The dashboards are designed to:

- Centralize Information:** The dashboards serve as centralized repositories of data, incorporating information on best practices, program-specific performance metrics, participant outcomes, and adherence to established standards.
- Real-Time Updates:** They offer real-time updates, ensuring that treatment court teams have access to the most current information available, allowing for timely decision-making and course corrections.
- Customization:** Treatment court teams can customize their dashboards to focus on the specific metrics and best practice indicators most relevant to their program's unique needs and goals.
- Adherence Tracking:** The dashboards include tools for tracking adherence to best practice standards, helping teams identify areas of improvement and potential barriers to adherence.

Figure 2: Best Practice Coordinator’s Dashboard



Regular Site Visits with Treatment Court Teams

In addition to the use of dashboards, the OPSC program managers conduct regular site visits to meet directly with treatment court teams. These site visits serve as interactive sessions where program managers collaborate with local teams to review findings related to best practice adherence. The key components of these site visits include:

1. **Data Review:** During site visits, OPSC program managers and local teams jointly review data presented on the dashboards. This data-driven approach allows for evidence-based discussions on program performance and adherence to best practices.
2. **Identifying Adherence Barriers:** Site visits offer an opportunity to identify and discuss specific adherence barriers that may be hindering a program's effectiveness. By pinpointing these barriers, treatment court teams can develop targeted strategies for improvement.
3. **Sharing Best Practices:** The site visits facilitate the exchange of best practices and innovative approaches among different treatment court teams, fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

Empowering Treatment Court Teams

By implementing this internal monitoring and evaluation strategy, treatment court teams are empowered in several ways:

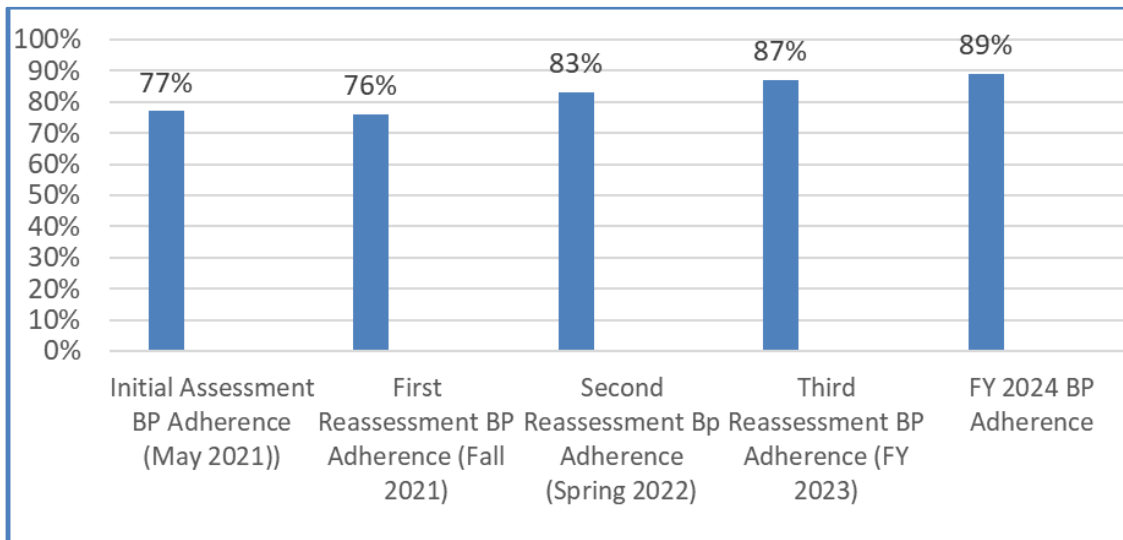
1. **Data-Driven Decision-Making:** Treatment court teams can make informed decisions based on real-time data and performance metrics, allowing for agile responses to emerging challenges and opportunities.
2. **Targeted Interventions:** The ability to identify adherence barriers through regular site visits enables teams to take proactive steps to overcome these barriers and enhance their program's effectiveness.
3. **Collaborative Learning:** The sharing of best practices during site visits fosters a culture of collaboration and learning among treatment court teams, promoting continuous improvement.

Results

Over the course of FY 2024, Maryland's adult treatment courts maintained a consistently high level of adherence to best practices, improving their performance by an additional 2%, reaching an 89% average adherence rate to best practice standards. Since initiating internal evaluation of best practices standards in Fall 2021, Maryland adult treatment courts have improved best practice adherence by more than 12% (Figure 3.)³ All Rises' new best practice standards specifically emphasize the importance of continually monitoring and evaluating court practices and performances to provide feedback to courts and improve services, a standard of practice that OPSC is setting for all courts across the state of Maryland through its monitoring program, thus ensuring a high quality of service, reduced recidivism, and fairness.

³ Although the first reassessment, conducted in early FY 2022, saw some courts increase their adherence, overall, the average adherence decreased slightly from 77.4% to 75.7%. However, this wasn't viewed as an actual decrease in best practice adherence, but rather the establishment of a true baseline.

Figure 3: Best Practice Adherence through FY 2024



Full Implementation of Adult Drug Court Performance Measure 6

FY 2024 Maryland adult drug courts continued implementation of [Adult Drug Court Performance Measure 6, Procedural Justice](#). Procedural justice is measured by administering a survey designed to assess participants’ perceptions of fairness based on their interactions with critical members of the adult treatment court team with whom the participant has substantial ongoing interaction such as the judge, coordinator, treatment provider, supervising officer, case manager, and general court staff. Procedural justice has been broadly linked with legal compliance, willingness to accept decisions (favorable or not), and legitimacy as a result of accepting the process as fair. Procedural justice is a concept that refers to participant perceptions of interactions and decision-making during their time in the program. The surveys utilize a Likert scale⁴ with participant responses of “strongly agree” signifying the most positive

Figure 4: Procedural Justice Survey Results

	Percent Strongly Agree/Agree	Percent Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Percent Strongly Disagree/Disagree
Judge	93.0%	5.5%	1.6%
Case manager	94.5%	4.5%	1.0%
Treatment	93.7%	4.8%	1.4%
Supervising Officer	92.2%	6.9%	0.9%
Coordinator	91.9%	6.8%	1.3%
Court Staff General	95.3%	4.0%	0.7%
Grand Total	93.2%	5.5%	1.2%

A Likert scale is a type of psychometric response scale in which responders specify their level of agreement to a statement typically in five points: (1) Strongly disagree; (2) Disagree; (3) Neither agree nor disagree; (4) Agree; (5) Strongly agree.

https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007%2F978-0-387-78665-0_6363

perceptions of procedural justice, and participant responses of “strongly disagree” signifying the most negative perceptions of procedural justice. Figure 4 provides aggregated level of agreement for all programs through the end of FY 2024. Since the initiation of the survey administration, more than 1,700 participant responses have been collected across 26 adult drug treatment courts. Administration of procedural fairness surveys is ongoing and will occur every six months.

Monitoring Emerging Research Opportunities

The OPSC-R&A team also monitors and reviews emerging research in the field for practical application in Maryland’s PSC programs. This year, the OPSC-R&A team continued to work towards the incorporation of evidence-based data tools used to measure race and gender equity and inclusion in treatment courts. In the year ahead, the PSC senior researcher will continue to spend time in the field with program managers and their teams to identify technical assistance needs, improve data collection, best practice adherence, and performance measure monitoring.

New PSCs in FY 2024

[Maryland Rule 16-207](#) provides a formal process for PSCs to become operational and be recognized as such by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland. Applicants are expected to prepare a completed application and any supporting materials to provide the most accurate details of the proposed PSC.

The prospective PSC leadership confers with OPSC and each state, local, or federal agency or official whose participation in the program will be required under the plan. Examples of officials to be consulted, depending on the nature of the proposed program, include, but are not limited to, the Office of the State's Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, Department of Juvenile Services, behavioral health, substance use and educational organizations, the Department of Parole and Probation, and the Department of Human Services.



The Judicial Council’s Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee reviews the application to:

- Determine whether the application is complete and comprehensive.
- Identify potential program weaknesses or areas of concern.
- Determine whether the application has adequate facilities, staff, and management capacity.

The committee may request clarification and offer recommendations or corrections as necessary.

In FY 2024, 6 new PSCs became operational in Maryland:

<i>PSC Name:</i>	<i>Opening Date:</i>
• Allegany County District Mental Health Court	August 4, 2023
• Montgomery County District DUI Treatment Court	August 4, 2023
• Washington County District Veterans Treatment Court.	December 15, 2023
• Frederick County District Veterans Treatment Court	December 15, 2023
• Worcester County Circuit Mental Health Court	March 12, 2024
• Worcester County District Mental Health Court	March 12, 2024

Figure 5: FY 2024 Operational Problem-Solving Courts in Maryland

County	Adult District Drug Court	Adult Circuit Drug Court	Juvenile Drug Court	Family/Dependency Drug Court	DUI/Drug Court	District Court Mental Health Court	Circuit Court Mental Health Court	Truancy Reduction Court	Re-entry Court	Veterans Court	Back on Track	Grand Total
Allegany		●				●						2
Anne Arundel	● 1	● 1			● 1					● 1		4
Baltimore City	●	●		●		●	●			●		6
Baltimore Co.	● 1	● 1		● 1		● 1						4
Calvert		●										1
Caroline		●										1
Carroll		●										1
Cecil		●										1
Charles		●		●								2
Dorchester	● 1							● 1		● 1		3
Frederick		●				●				●		3
Harford	● 1	● 1		● 1		● 1		● 1				5
Howard	●				●							2
Kent								● 1				1
Montgomery		●			●	●	●	● 1				4
Prince George's	● 1	●	● 1			● 1		● 1	● 1	● 1	● 1	8
Queen Anne's		●										1
Somerset		● 1						● 1		● 1		3
St. Mary's		●		●	●							3
Talbot		●							● 1			2
Washington		●								●		2
Wicomico		●						● 1		● 1		3
Worcester	●	●				●	●	● 1		●		6
Grand Total	● 8	● 20	● 1	● 5	● 4	● 8	● 3	● 7	● 2	● 9	● 1	68

Funding

\$1.7 Million Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance Award – FY 2022- FY 2025

In December of 2021, the Maryland Judiciary was awarded a four-year \$1.7 million grant through the Adult Drug and Veterans Court Discretionary Grant Program, a competitive grant program within the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The grant provides the Judiciary funding for the implementation of a statewide risk and need assessment tool in all adult drug and veterans treatment courts⁵ and for a new statewide MIS that will enable PSCs to improve program monitoring and evaluation including tracking performance measures and best practice adherence.

In addition to the statewide implementation of a risk and need assessment tool, the grant also provides funding for three pilot treatment courts to institute special implementation of the assessment tool by offering pre-adjudication risk and need assessments to all non-violent criminal offenders. This special implementation allows pilot locations the opportunity to provide all non-violent criminal offenders an objective, non-discriminatory tool to help inform risk, treatment needs and decisions concerning sentencing, diversion, pretrial detention, and release.

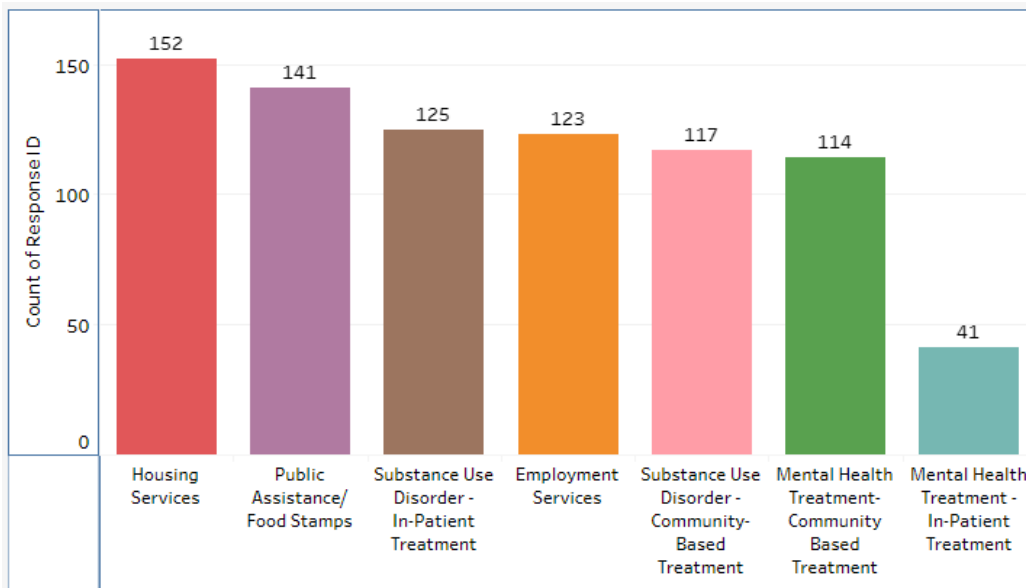
⁵ In FY 2022, the Judiciary entered into a contract with Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC) to implement the Risk and Needs Triage (RANT) assessment tool in all adult drug and veterans treatment courts.

BJA Grant Funded Projects - Updates

1. **Statewide Implementation of a Risk/Need Assessment Tool:** Implemented statewide in early FY 2023, the Risk and Need Triage (RANT) risk and need assessment tool continues to be used statewide in all adult drug and veteran’s treatment courts, to enable effective triaging of criminal offenders to specialty courts and service referrals. Use of the RANT tool ensures court resources are used in a cost-effective manner and court participants are referred to providers according to their specific needs.

Launch of the Universal Risk and Need Screening Pilot Program at Three Locations: In September 2023, three pilot sites in Caroline, Harford, and Cecil Counties were selected to participate in the Universal Risk and Need Screening Pilot Program. The program's phased rollout began in January 2024, with full implementation completed by April 2024. During FY 2024, the pilot sites collectively screened over 215 individuals for risk and need, resulting in more than 770 service referrals (Figure 6). Of these, 43%, or 93 individuals, were also referred to adult drug treatment court programs.

Figure 6: Service Referrals by Type of Service, Universal Risk and Need Pilot Program, FY 2024



2. **New Statewide MIS:** Implemented in June 2024, OPSC’s new MIS, AIMS, improves program data collection and tracking, and case management collaboration and communication between court teams, service providers, court participants, evaluators, and state administrators. Statewide and local-level configuration of dashboards (Figure 7) supports research in action and assists PSC teams in practicing real-time evidence-based decision-making, track court performance, and monitor adherence to best practices. State-level administrators can strategically channel resources to local teams and maintain cost-effectiveness in spending by easily identifying areas of need.

BJA Grant Objectives

The objectives funded under the BJA grant support adherence to following Maryland-specific and the All Rise, or National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), evidence-based practices and performance measures:

- **Facilitate implementation of Maryland Adult Drug Court Performance Measure 1, Target Population and NADCP Best Practice for target population:** The defined objective of the Maryland ADC target population performance measure is to target high-risk, high-need populations, with a benchmark of achieving 100% target population admissions. NADCP Adult Drug Court Best Practices Volume I recommends adult drug courts use a validated risk-need assessment tool in order to target high-risk/high-need offenders for admission who have substance use disorder due to illicit drugs or alcohol and are at a substantial risk for reoffending or failing to complete a less intensive disposition, such as standard probation or pretrial supervision. Implementation of an assessment tool enables drug court teams to identify and target this population for potential admission to drug court.
- **Facilitate implementation of Maryland Adult Drug Court Performance Measures 3 and 4, “Processing Time” and NADCP Key Component #3 “eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program”:** Research indicates that effectiveness of treatment and long-term adjustment are linked to swift entry into treatment, with shorter processing times related to greater reductions in recidivism. Maryland Adult Drug Court performance benchmark for measures three and four is defined as less than 50 days from referral to first treatment episode. Administration of an assessment tool early in the process increases the efficiency of referral and admission to drug court.
- **Facilitate implementation of Maryland Adult Drug Court Performance Measure 18, “Access and Fairness” and NADCP best practice for equity and inclusion:** NADCP Adult Drug Court Best Practices Volume I recommends addressing equity and inclusion for individuals who have historically experienced sustained discrimination or reduced social opportunities because of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental health, religion, or socioeconomic status receive the same opportunities as other individuals to participate and succeed in the drug court. Implementation of an assessment tool for all criminal defendants enables courts to offer unbiased access to diversion programs.
- **Facilitate improved implementation of NADCP best practice for monitoring and evaluation:** NADCP Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards Volume 2 recommends several best practices for meeting monitoring and evaluation standards, including regularly monitoring: adherence to best standards, in-program outcomes, criminal recidivism, and racial and gender disparities among participants. Best practice monitoring of these measures depends on timely and reliable program entry, and performance data in concert with a MIS that provides for the ability to access and analyze this data regularly so that program improvements can be swiftly identified and implemented. The acquisition and implementation of a new MIS facilitates greater adherence to this standard.

PSC Grants and Budget Requests

In FY 2024, the Judiciary solicited grant applications from circuit courts and budget requests from District Court programs to support and maintain the capacity of existing and planned PSCs

across Maryland. The PSC Discretionary Grant and PSC Budget Request processes address staffing needs within the Judiciary and collaborating agencies, provide support for needed ancillary services, cover critically needed drug and alcohol testing costs, support trainings, and fund services that are deemed non-reimbursable by managed care. See [Table 1](#) for a list of problem-solving court grants and budget requests funded by the Maryland Judiciary.

Figure 7: New MIS Dashboards

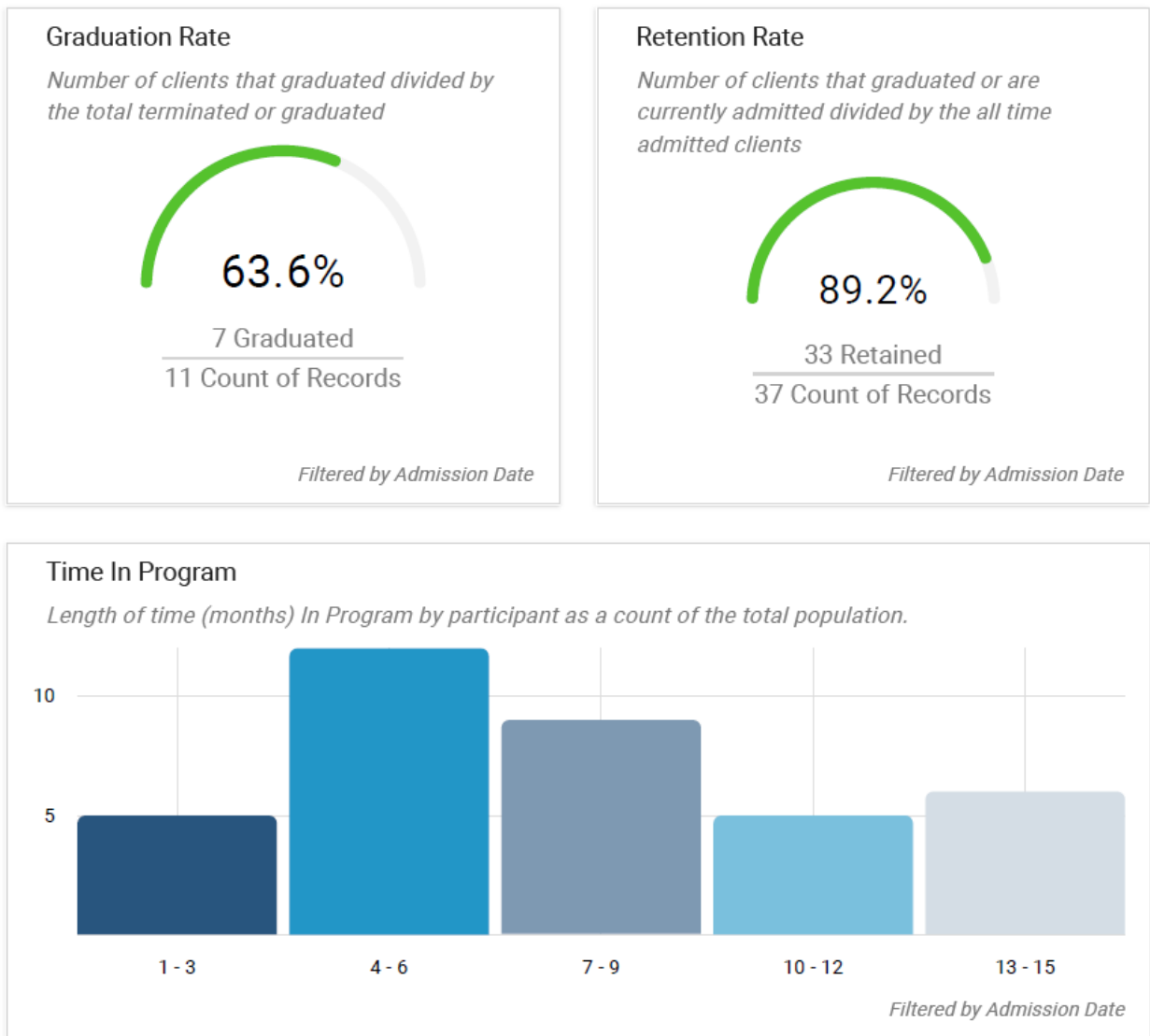


Table 1: PSC Grant/Budget Request Awards FY 2024

Problem-Solving Court Grant/Budget Request Awards FY 2024		
Problem-Solving Court Jurisdiction	OPSC Grant/Budget Request Awards	Total by County
Allegany Circuit Court	\$262,500.00	\$339,700.00
Allegany District Court	\$77,200.00	
Anne Arundel Circuit Court	\$443,293.00	\$878,125.00
Anne Arundel District Court	\$434,832.00	
Baltimore City Circuit Court	\$500,000.00	\$720,764.00
Baltimore City District Court	\$220,764.00	
Baltimore Co. Circuit Court	\$359,000.00	\$411,900.00
Baltimore Co. District Court	\$52,900.00	
Calvert Circuit Court	\$289,000.00	\$289,000.00
Caroline Circuit Court	\$116,000.00	\$116,000.00
Carroll Circuit Court	\$367,000.00	\$367,000.00
Cecil Circuit Court	\$424,000.00	\$424,000.00
Charles Circuit Court	\$195,000.00	\$195,000.00
Dorchester Circuit Court	\$475,000.00	\$499,000.00
Dorchester District Court	\$24,000.00	
Frederick Circuit Court	\$364,000.00	\$464,000.00
Frederick District Court	\$100,000.00	
Harford Circuit Court	\$285,000.00	\$344,960.00
Harford District Court	\$59,960.00	
Howard District Court	\$196,460.00	\$196,460.00
Kent Circuit Court	\$81,395.00	\$81,395.00
Montgomery Circuit Court	\$384,000.00	\$557,350.00
Montgomery District Court	\$173,350.00	
Prince George's Circuit Court	\$564,540.00	\$654,528.00
Prince George's District Court	\$89,988.00	
Queen Anne's Circuit Court	\$115,110.00	\$115,110.00
Somerset Circuit Court	\$269,000.00	\$269,000.00
St. Mary's Circuit Court	\$308,000.00	\$308,000.00
Talbot Circuit Court	\$176,000.00	\$176,000.00
Washington Circuit Court	\$270,000.00	\$270,000.00
Wicomico Circuit Court	\$335,000.00	\$335,000.00
Worcester Circuit Court	\$224,076.00	\$232,736.00
Worcester District Court	\$8,660.00	
TOTAL	\$8,245,028.00	\$8,245,028.00

Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) Grant for Non-Reimbursable Services

In FY 2024, BHA provided \$1 million, and the Judiciary provided \$800,000 for a total of \$1.8 million in combined resources. The funding is used to provide grant awards to drug treatment providers to purchase non-reimbursable services delivered in ambulatory treatment settings. Such services are treatment provider time spent in court on behalf of the client such as at status hearings, pre-court meetings, and case consultation meetings with drug court personnel; non-reimbursable clinical case management associated with substance use disorder treatment services; correspondence with court officials on behalf of participants; and transportation as needed for substance use disorder treatment.

Training and Education

Participation in technical assistance and evidence-based training and education is a priority for the Judiciary. Every year, Judiciary staff and the Judicial Council’s Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee plan and fulfill a wide array of technical assistance and evidence-based trainings.

Technical assistance engagements equip teams with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to effectively address the complex challenges presented by PSC participants and offer practical guidance and support, assisting problem-solving court teams to implement best practices and navigate programmatic complexities. Evidence-based trainings provide a solid foundation in proven methods and interventions, ensuring that participants receive the most effective treatment and support available. Having a well-trained team means learning new skills that can improve outcomes, reduce mistakes, build confidence, and create a better working environment. By engaging in these initiatives, PSCs enhance their ability to deliver equitable justice outcomes, reduce recidivism, and ultimately, improve the lives of those they serve. Additionally, ongoing participation in training and education fosters a culture of continuous improvement and innovation, ensuring that PSCs remain at the forefront of advancing the Judiciary’s mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all.

In FY 2024, in celebration of 30 years of PSC in Maryland, OPSC led monthly Best Practice-Focused and Technical Assistance trainings for Maryland’s PSC teams. These trainings contributed towards enhanced knowledge and skills in best practice standards among court professionals, including participant selection, mental health needs, equity and inclusion, family life, and community advisory boards.

Training and Education Highlight – DWI Court 2-Day “Operational Tune-Up” Training

In August 2023, PSC teams from across Maryland participated in a national training initiative to reassess their PSC’s policies and



Figure 8: DWI “Operational Tune-Up” Training at Maryland Judicial Center, August 2023

procedures according to established treatment court models. Conducted by All Rise, this training aimed to “tune-up” DWI courts’ operations. Drawing from the latest science and best practice principles related to DWI and drug courts, teams addressed a variety of issues such as: participant identification and entry; treatment continuums; building recovering oriented systems of care; advanced responding to behavior, addressing disparities; team building; due process, equal protection, confidentiality, and other legal issues.

Training and Education Highlight – 19th Annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium

In November 2023, OPSC hosted the 19th Annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium in Towson, MD. This event brought together professionals from treatment courts across the state to explore the latest trends and best practices in the field. The symposium offered a multidisciplinary platform for attendees to enhance their knowledge and share valuable experiences. Participants represented a variety of court types, including adult drug courts, DUI courts, family recovery courts, juvenile drug courts, mental health courts, re-entry courts, truancy courts, and veteran treatment courts.



Figure 9: Dorchester County Adult Drug and Veterans Courts Teams at 2024 PSC Symposium

Training and Education Highlight – Celebrating 30 Years! Selecting the Right Participant

In January 2024, OPSC conducted a virtual training session for all PSC professionals focused on enhancing program outcomes and cost-effectiveness through current guidelines for participant screening. Participants learned to utilize legal and clinical screening methods to assess eligibility and suitability, equipping them with practical tools to improve intake and entry processes.

Training and Education Highlight – Celebrating 30 Years! Mental Health First AID

In February 2024, OPSC hosted a two-day Mental Health First Aid® Maryland certification course designed to equip PSC court professionals with the skills to recognize and respond to mental health and substance abuse challenges among program participants. Attendees learned to identify the signs, symptoms, and risk factors associated with mental illness and substance use, enabling them to make appropriate referrals to targeted services and self-help resources. This training fosters a culture of safety and care within our courts while helping to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

Training and Education Highlight – Celebrating 30 Years! Equity and Inclusion

In March 2024, OPSC, in collaboration with the Treatment Court Institute (TCI) and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, conducted training for PSC teams across Maryland aimed at enhancing equity and access for racial minorities in their courts. This jointly designed program provided court teams with tools to collect and analyze data to identify and address racial disparities, ensuring equitable access and retention in their problem-solving courts.



Figure 10: Caroline County Adult Drug Court Team at PSC Equity and Inclusion Training

Training and Education Highlight – Celebrating 30 Years! Family Ties: Supporting Families when a Parent is Incarcerated

In April 2024, OPSC hosted the Center for Children and Family Futures for a virtual training aimed at reducing trauma and toxic stress for children and families affected by parental incarceration. Court professionals learned strategies to support families, including promoting treatment for substance use disorders during incarceration and post-release, identifying barriers to family time, and fostering family ties and resilience, particularly in the parent-child relationship. The training emphasized the importance of ensuring that incarcerated parents remain actively involved in their treatment and case plans. These evidence-based strategies can significantly improve outcomes for children and families following release.

Training and Education Highlight – Celebrating 30 Years! Forming Community Advisory Boards

In June 2024, OPSC partnered with All Rise to conduct a training session for PSC professionals on developing community advisory boards. Advisory boards help court teams better understand and respond to the experiences of participants. The training addressed common questions court teams face when establishing advisory boards and provided strategies for fostering community involvement. Participants gained valuable insights into the importance of community engagement and effective approaches to enhance collaboration.

Drug Courts

Drug courts, broadly referred to as adult treatment courts, constitute a Judiciary-led coordinated system that demands accountability of staff and court participants and provides immediate, intensive, and comprehensive drug treatment, supervision, and support services using a variety of incentives and sanctions to encourage participant compliance. Drug courts represent the coordinated efforts of criminal justice, behavioral health, and social service agencies, along with treatment communities that actively intervene in, and break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, and crime. As an alternative to less effective interventions, such as incarceration or general probation, drug courts quickly identify individuals with substance use disorder and place them under strict court monitoring and community supervision coupled with effective, individually assessed treatment, and ancillary services. [Table 2](#) provides a comprehensive list and key statistics of all Maryland adult, family, and juvenile drug courts, and DUI treatment courts.



Figure 12: Caroline County Circuit Court, Adult Drug Court Graduation

Table 2: Drug Court Statistical Summary: No. of Court Participants July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

County	Location	Program Type	Year Est.	Fiscal Year				
				2024				
				Entered Program	Successful Completion	Admin. Discharge	Unsuccessful Completion	Total Active Clients
Allegany	Circuit	Adult	Jun-18	28	10	1	4	42
Anne Arundel	Circuit	Adult	Dec-05	71	29	6	11	114
	District	Adult	Feb-97	44	32	13	2	83
Baltimore City	Circuit	Adult	Oct-94	91	8	37	17	128
		Family	Aug-05	34	8	8	23	57
	District	Adult	Mar-94	19	8	0	6	26
Baltimore County	Circuit	Adult	Sep-20	17	5	0	3	25
		Family	Aug-10	17	3	7	0	24
	District	Adult	Jun-21	14	1	14	2	18
Calvert	Circuit	Adult	Feb-15	63	31	29	8	106
Caroline	Circuit	Adult	Nov-11	5	3	0	2	10
Carroll	Circuit	Adult	Apr-07	8	12	1	4	25
Cecil	Circuit	Adult	Jun-06	37	24	7	11	69
Charles	Circuit	Adult	Jun-22	32	1	19	0	39
		Family	Jan-11	6	1	3	1	11
Dorchester	District	Adult	Jun-04	36	5	3	10	48
Fredrick	Circuit	Adult	May-05	22	11	0	4	38
Harford	Circuit	Adult	Dec-18	32	2	2	2	37
		Family	May-04	4	3	0	0	5
	District	Adult	Nov-97	11	5	1	3	19
Howard	District	Adult	Jul-04	6	5	3	5	17
		Adult D..	Jul-04	14	15	1	3	32
Montgomery	Circuit	Adult	Nov-05	25	15	1	10	51
	District	Adult D..	Aug-23	91	0	60	0	102
Prince George's	Circuit	Adult	Aug-02	9	6	3	1	18
		Juvenile	Aug-02	33	18	3	10	46
		Re-entry	Oct-13	7	0	18	0	19
	District	Adult	Apr-06	217	0	89	0	249
Queen Anne's	Circuit	Adult	Jun-22	4	0	1	2	6
Somerset	Circuit	Adult	Aug-18	16	1	5	3	22
St. Mary's	Circuit	Adult D..	Jul-09	8	6	4	1	18
		Family	Aug-16	7	2	1	1	10
Talbot	Circuit	Adult	Aug-07	6	7	1	0	14
Washington	Circuit	Adult	May-19	8	5	1	1	14
Wicomico	Circuit	Adult	Sep-05	52	8	0	1	60
Worcester	Circuit/District	Adult	Dec-05	25	7	9	6	39
Grand Total				1,119	297	351	157	1,641

Note: Administrative Closure is defined as administratively discharged during the reporting period (e.g., death, probation expired, moved jurisdictions).

Mental Health Courts



Figure 13: Baltimore City, Family Recover Court

judicially supervised treatment plan developed jointly by a team of court staff and mental health professionals. The overarching goal of the mental health court is to decrease the frequency of participants' contact with the criminal justice system by providing judicial oversight to improve their social functioning with respect to employment, housing, treatment, and support services in the community. Mental health courts rely on individualized treatment plans and ongoing judicial monitoring to address mental health needs and public safety concerns. These courts also seek to address the underlying problems that contribute to criminal behavior and the overall recidivism rate of this population.

In Maryland, as in other states, those with mental health disorder are increasingly becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Mental health courts were established in response to the increased numbers of individuals with mental health disorders found caught in the revolving door of the criminal justice system. See [Table 3](#) for a comprehensive list and basic information of all mental health courts.

A mental health court is a specialized court docket established for defendants with a primary mental health diagnosis. A problem-solving approach substitutes for the traditional adversarial criminal court process. Participants are identified through mental health screenings and assessments, and they voluntarily participate in a



Figure 14: Baltimore City District Court, Mental Health Court Graduation

Table 3: Mental Health Court Statistical Summary– July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

County	Location	Year Est.	Fiscal Year				
			2024				
			Entered Program	Successful Completion	Admin. Discharge	Unsuccessful Completion	Total Active Clients
Allegany	District	Aug-23	1				1
Baltimore City	Circuit	May-17	17	31	8	3	57
	District	Oct-02	118	20	112	2	187
Baltimore County	District	Nov-21	7	1	1	0	9
Fredrick	District	Jul-20	3	0	2	0	4
Harford	District	Jan-03	10	10	3	1	24
Montgomery	Circuit	Jan-17	9	2	1	2	13
	District	Jan-17	19	13	6	2	37
Prince George’s	District	Jul-07	52	10	65	5	118
Worcester	Circuit	Mar-24	3	0	0	0	3
	District	Mar-24	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total			239	87	198	15	453

Note: Administrative closure is defined as administratively discharged during the reporting period (e.g., death, probation expired, moved jurisdictions.)

Veterans Courts

Veterans courts provide services to those who served in the military and suffer from conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, other mental health issues, and/or substance use disorders. Veterans can resolve



Figure 15: Baltimore City Veterans Treatment Court Graduation

outstanding criminal offenses, obtain the treatment and services they need, and stabilize their lives. A veterans court connects eligible participants to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, long-term supportive housing, and other benefits for participants whose service-related disabilities prevent their return to the workforce. The veterans court can also access local resources where the veteran does not qualify for VA benefits. See [Table 4](#) for a comprehensive list and basic characteristics of all veterans courts.



Table 4: Veterans Court Statistical Summary– July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

County	Location	Year Est.	Fiscal Year				
			2024				
			Entered Program	Successful Completion	Admin. Discharge	Unsuccessful Completion	Total Active Clients
Anne Arundel	District	Nov-18	30	13	6	0	42
Baltimore City	District	Oct-15	5	6	1	9	17
Dorchester	District	Jun-18	14	6	3	1	24
Prince George’s	Circuit	Apr-15	13	5	1	0	19
Grand Total			62	30	11	10	102

Note: Dorchester Regional Veterans Treatment Court consists of Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties.

Note: Administrative Closure is defined as administratively discharged during the reporting period (e.g., death, probation expired, moved jurisdiction).

Truancy Reduction Courts

Truancy Reduction Courts improve school attendance and positively affect the youth’s attitude about education through a nurturing approach that ultimately will build a relationship between the family, the school, and the court. The court program is an alternative to punitive measures such as having parents prosecuted in criminal court or stigmatizing the child and further souring their outlook on education and the criminal justice system. A social worker, counselor, or case manager works with families to determine reasons for poor attendance and makes referrals to community-based services when appropriate. Maryland’s truancy reduction courts welcomed 196 new students and their families into their programs and continued to make contact with current participants; providing needed resources and motivation to continue with their lessons (Table 5).

Table 5: Truancy Reduction Pilot Program Statistical Summary, July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

County	Location	Year Est.	Fiscal Year				
			2024				
			Entered Program	Successful Completion	Admin. Discharge	Unsuccessful Completion	Total Active Clients
Dorchester	Circuit	Mar-07	183	45	99	29	275
Harford	Circuit	Jan-08	8	6	6	1	16
Kent	Circuit	Sep-14	28	12	2	3	42
Prince George’s	Circuit	May-09	22	6	5	12	40
Grand Total			241	69	112	45	373

Note: Dorchester Regional Truancy Court consists of Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties.

Note: Administrative Closure is defined as administratively discharged during the reporting period (e.g., moved jurisdiction).

Conclusion

OPSC's accomplishments in FY 2024 underscore progress made in advancing the effectiveness of PSCs across the state. The Judiciary's commitment to internal monitoring and evaluation of treatment court best practice standards has yielded real results, with a notable increase in statewide best practice adherence. This commitment to excellence has positioned Maryland's PSCs as examples of innovation and accountability within the justice system.

Moreover, FY 2024's heightened investment and engagement in technical assistance and evidence-based trainings has empowered PSC teams with the knowledge and tools needed to excel in their roles. As a result, teams are better equipped to address the complex challenges that PSC participants face, ultimately leading to improved outcomes and reduced recidivism.

OPSC's FY 2024 accomplishments under the BJA grant's universal risk and need pilot program demonstrate the Judiciary's continued commitment to the early identification of court-involved individuals in need of substance use disorder and mental health treatment. With the new MIS, OPSC is tracking performance measures, monitoring best practice adherence, and making data-driven decisions that will further enhance Maryland's PSC programs.

Looking forward to FY 2025, OPSC will continue to develop its capabilities in data-informed programming, refinement of program practices and increased impact, and further advancing the Judiciary's mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all.

For more information, please contact Gray Barton, OPSC director at 410-260-3617 or richard.barton@mdcourts.gov.

Appendix A: PSCs in Maryland: History and Governance

In 1994, one of the first drug courts in the country was initiated in Baltimore City to address substance use issues for those involved in the criminal justice system. In 2002, the Maryland Judiciary established the Drug Treatment Court Commission, which led the Judiciary's effort to implement and maintain drug court programs statewide. Commission members included circuit and District Court judges, legislators, and representatives from all appropriate executive branch agencies.

In December 2006, then-Chief Judge Robert M. Bell issued an administrative order establishing a Judicial Conference Committee on PSCs to institutionalize the work of the Commission and to expand its scope to include all PSCs.

In 2015, then Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera revamped the Judiciary's committee structure by appointing a new Judicial Council and a new set of Judicial Council committees including a Committee on Specialty Courts and Dockets. This new structure has continued under the guidance of current Chief Justice Fader, preceded by Chief Judge Getty, who served as chief judge from September 11, 2021, through April of 2022. The Judicial Council continues to serve as the principal policy advisory body to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee continues to promote and oversee the development, implementation, and evaluation of specialty courts and dockets statewide. The committee advances best practices in areas such as substance use disorder, mental health, and alcoholism. The committee monitors and directs the evaluation of the delivery of evidence-based training, direct assistance, research, funding, and support for specialty courts and dockets. See [Appendix B](#) for more information on the Judicial Council, this committee, and its membership.

The Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee, chaired by Hon. Kimberly M. Davis, is comprised of two subcommittees: the Problem-Solving Courts (PSC) Subcommittee and the Behavioral Health Subcommittee. The PSC Subcommittee assists courts and provides a comprehensive and collaborative approach to assist each program in employing best practices, including providing performance measurement, evidence-based training, direct assistance, research, and funding.

The Behavioral Health Subcommittee explores trial court sentencing alternatives for the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals with mental health needs and those with substance use disorder not enrolled in specialty courts. This subcommittee works closely with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and other governmental agencies to monitor and provide information regarding community and residential-based treatment.

Appendix B: Maryland Judicial Council - An Overview

The Judicial Council serves as the principal policy advisory body to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In 2013, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, then the administrative head of the Maryland Judiciary, commissioned a comprehensive review of the governance and operational structure of the Maryland Judiciary, which led to the reconstitution of the Judicial Council, as well as the restructuring of the Judiciary's myriad committees, subcommittees, and workgroups. The reconstituted Judicial Council and the new committee structure became effective January 1, 2015 and continues under the guidance of current Chief Justice Fader, preceded by Chief Judge Getty, who served from September 2021 through April 2022. Under the new structure, the council and its committees have worked to advance the Judiciary's mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all, with the strategic plan and eight key goals as their guide.

The Judicial Council consists of 22 members, including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges, the Chief Judge of the District Court, the State Court Administrator, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Clerks, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Administrators, the Chair of the Supreme Court of Maryland Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Chief Clerk of the District Court, the Chair of the Senior Judges Committee, three circuit court judges, four District Court judges, and two District Administrative Clerks. The Deputy State Court Administrator serves as Secretary to the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council's Executive Committee, which meets at the request and direction of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to provide input to the Chief Justice on matters that arise between sessions of the Judicial Council, consists of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Judges, the Chief Judge of the District Court, and the State Court Administrator.

As indicated above, several of the members serve by virtue of their position, while the remaining members are appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Each appointed member of the Judicial Council is appointed to a two-year term but can be reappointed to one additional consecutive two-year term as the Chief Justice deems necessary and appropriate. Unless otherwise directed by the Chief Justice, the Judicial Council meets bi-monthly.

As the highest governance body, the Judicial Council is the central hub for all Judiciary-wide policy changes, judicial reforms, legislative issues, and other internal and external developments that impact the administration of justice. To that end, the committees develop recommendations for the Judicial Council's consideration and the Chief Justice's approval that address policies, programs, and initiatives that help to ensure the effective and efficient administration of justice in Maryland. In addition, the Judicial Council takes up external matters that impact the Maryland Judiciary.

The diverse and focused members of the Judicial Council and its committees, including justices, judges, magistrates, trial court clerks and administrators, and commissioners, represent all geographical areas of the state. It is through their collective work that the Maryland Judiciary is fulfilling its mission and achieving its goals, all for the betterment of those who enter the courts and utilize the services the Judiciary offers.

2024 Judicial Council

*Honorable Matthew J. Fader

Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Maryland

*Honorable Audrey J. S. Carrion

Chair

Conference of Circuit Judges

Honorable Donine Carrington Martin

Charles County Circuit Court

Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024

Honorable Karen Christy Holt Chesser

District Court in St. Mary's County

Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024

Honorable Heather Dewees

Vice-Chair

Conference of Circuit Court Clerks

Honorable Jeffery S. Getty

Circuit Court for Allegany County

Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024

Honorable Fred S. Heckler

Vice-Chair

Conference of Circuit Court Judges

Circuit Court for Carroll County

Kathy Hefner

Administrative Clerk

Montgomery County

Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024

Honorable Geoffrey Hengerer

District Court of Baltimore City

Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024

Honorable James A. Kenney III

Chair, Senior Judges Committee

Rebecca Kimball

Administrative Clerk for Cecil County

Term: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025

Stephanie Medina

Chair

Conference of Circuit Court Administrators

Term: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025

Honorable Stacey Mayer

Baltimore County Circuit Court

*Honorable John P. Morrissey

Chief Judge, District Court of Maryland

Amanda Purnell

Vice-Chair

Conference of Circuit Court Administrators

*Judy Rupp

State Court Administrator

Hon. Shaem Spencer

District Court of Anne Arundel County

Term: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025

Honorable Kevin Tucker

Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks

Roberta Warnken

Chief Clerk, District Court of Maryland

*Honorable Greg E. Wells

Chief Judge, Appellate Court

Honorable Alan M. Wilner

Chair, Rules Committee

Nancy Faulkner

Secretary

Deputy State Court Administrator

Administrative Office of the Courts

*Executive Committee Member

The Judicial Council's Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee Purpose

The Specialty Courts and Dockets will promote and oversee the development, implementation and evaluation of specialty courts and dockets in the courts.

Scope of Activity

The committee will ensure the utilization of best practices by specialty courts and special dockets, in areas such as substance abuse, mental health and alcoholism. It will monitor and direct the evaluation of the delivery of evidence-based training, technical assistance, research, funding and support for specialty courts and special dockets. The committee will report on its initiatives and other activities, at least annually, to the Judicial Council.

Committee Membership

Hon. Kimberly M. Davis, Chair

Committee Member	Term Expires
Hon. Kimberly M. Davis, Chair	December 2025
Hon. Louis A. Becker	December 2025
Hon. Makeba Gibbs	December 2025
Administrative Clerk Kathryn Glenn	December 2024
Hon. Sherri D. Koch	December 2025
Hon. Andrea M. Leahy	December 2024
Hon. Patrice Lewis	December 2025
Hon. Thomas Pryal	December 2025
Hon. Holly D. Reed III	December 2024
Hon. Michelle R. Sanders	December 2025
Hon. Ronald Silkworth	December 2024
Hon. Rachel Skolnik	December 2025
Hon. Joseph Stanalonis	December 2025
Magistrate Mark Tyler	December 2024
Hon. Ann Wagner-Stewart	December 2025
Court Administrator Burgess Wood	December 2024
Gray Barton, <i>Staff</i>	