

# Michigan Drug Treatment Courts

## 2010 Annual Report and Evaluation Summary



### **Project Years**

October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009

October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010

Provided by the  
Michigan Supreme Court  
State Court Administrative Office

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## Executive Summary

**Eighty-four drug treatment court programs operate in Michigan to reduce substance abuse and criminal activity through a combination of therapeutic services and judicial supervision.** Programs admit nonviolent offenders from circuit and district courts, drunk driving offenders, juvenile offenders, parents with cases in the family division of circuit court, and defendants in tribal court. During fiscal years 2009 and 2010, 5,463 people were admitted to drug courts, 8,499 cases were active in drug court, and 2,872 participants completed a drug court program.

**The Michigan Supreme Court's State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) administers state and federal grant programs to fund drug courts throughout the state.** In 2010, SCAO awarded \$1,353,500 in state funds to 49 drug courts. SCAO also awarded \$1,800,000 in federal dollars from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to 11 courts, and \$500,000 in federal dollars from the Office of Highway Safety Planning to 9 courts.

**In the last three years, adult circuit drug courts and DWI courts have each seen an 8 percent increase in retention rates.** National studies have indicated that the longer individuals remain in treatment, the better their treatment outcomes. Between 57 percent and 77 percent of participants remained in drug treatment court programs for more than one year.

**Fifty-three percent of all individuals discharged from Michigan drug courts successfully completed a drug court treatment program in fiscal years 2009 and 2010.** In the last three years, the number of participants who successfully completed a family dependency drug court increased by 10 percent. The successful discharges from DWI courts increased 3 percent.

**Participants have made significant employment and educational gains while participating in drug court programs.** More than half (54 percent) of the graduates from district drug courts and half (50 percent) of the graduates of the circuit drug courts reported improved employment status while participating in a drug court program. Additionally, district drug courts have seen a 13 percent increase in education improvement across the last three years.

**Drug court program graduates averaged more than 300 days of sobriety at graduation.** Graduates from adult circuit drug court programs demonstrated the highest average number of sobriety days of all of the drug court types (373 days). DWI court graduates averaged nearly a year (333 days) of sobriety at graduation. Adult district court graduates also demonstrated an average 306 days of sobriety upon graduation.

This report summarizes drug court activity for the two fiscal years between October 1, 2008, and September 30, 2010. Grant information and full evaluation reports are available online at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/tcs/spec.htm>. To request information by phone, contact SCAO's Specialty Courts Program at 517-373-7351.

## **Overview of Drug Courts in Michigan**

Also known as “problem-solving courts,” specialty courts have steadily gained acceptance as an alternative to imprisonment for nonviolent criminal offenders who abuse drugs or alcohol. Many repeat offenders have substance use disorders, causing them to cycle in and out of the justice system. To break this cycle, specialty courts employ “therapeutic jurisprudence,” which emphasizes treatment, rehabilitation, intensive supervision, judicial status hearings, frequent drug testing, and graduated incentives and sanctions. Core drug court team members consist of judges, probation officers, law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, defense counsel, and substance use disorder treatment providers.

Spurred in part by the problem of jail overcrowding, many Michigan courts have turned to the problem-solving approach. Beginning in the late 1980s, drug courts offered an effective solution to alcohol- and drug-related crime by addressing the underlying cause and treating addiction as a complex disease. Recognizing that repeat criminal offenders often have alcohol and substance use disorders, many judges, prosecutors, and city attorneys have implemented drug treatment courts in their jurisdictions.

### **Descriptions of Drug Court Types**

Although they share the same judicial model of therapeutic jurisprudence, adult drug treatment courts, family dependency treatment courts, juvenile drug treatment courts, and DWI treatment courts all have program-specific components designed to meet the specific needs of their target population.

#### **Circuit and District Adult Drug Treatment Courts**

In 2010, 20 circuit and 15 district adult drug treatment courts were operational, and 4 district drug treatment courts were in the planning phase. The adult drug court model is the oldest and most frequently implemented drug court model. It is characterized by a specially designed court docket focusing on nonviolent drug-related felony and misdemeanor cases. The judge is actively involved in supervising drug court offenders during regularly scheduled review hearings that involve most of the drug court treatment team members. The primary purposes of a drug treatment court are to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance abuse, to increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation through early, continuous, and intense judicially supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, community supervision, and use of appropriate sanctions, incentives and other rehabilitation services.

#### **Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Treatment Courts**

There were 24 operational DWI treatment courts as of December 2010 and 1 in the planning phase. DWI treatment courts, also known as “sobriety” courts, target offenders who have been charged with driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The framework for DWI treatment courts includes key program components recommended by the Bureau of Justice Assistance in *The Ten Guiding Principles of DWI Courts*. This target population poses a

high risk to the community because, in most cases, their driving privileges have been revoked. Addressing transportation issues is a vital program component of this type of court.

### **Family Dependency Treatment Courts**

As of December 2010, there were eight operational family dependency treatment courts, and one additional family dependency treatment court was in the planning phase. The enactment of the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 has given added impetus to the establishment of family drug courts by calling for states to initiate termination of parental rights proceedings for children who have been in foster care for 15 of the previous 22 months. This short time frame makes it more important that court systems develop mechanisms to ensure judicial supervision and coordination of services provided to juveniles and families in crisis. Because many individuals and entities need to be involved with family dependency cases, development of family dependency treatment drug courts is proving to be a more complex task.

Family dependency treatment court dockets consist of selected abuse, neglect, and dependency cases where parental substance abuse is a primary factor in the allegations of abuse or neglect. Judges, attorneys, child protection services workers, and treatment personnel unite with the goal of providing safe, nurturing homes for children, while simultaneously providing parents the necessary support and services to become drug-free and alcohol-free. Family dependency treatment courts aid parents in regaining control of their lives and promote long-term stabilized recovery to enhance the possibility of family reunification within the mandatory legal time frames.

### **Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts**

At the conclusion of 2010, there were 14 operational juvenile drug treatment courts. A juvenile drug court is a docket within the family division of circuit court where selected delinquency cases, and in some instances status offense violations, are referred for handling by a designated judge. The youths referred to this docket are identified as having problems with alcohol and/or other drugs. The juvenile drug court judge maintains close oversight of each case through regular status hearings with the parties involved. The judge both leads and works as a member of a team that is comprised of a defense attorney and representatives from treatment providers, juvenile justice, social and mental health services, school and vocational training programs, law enforcement, probation, and the prosecutor's office. Over the course of a year or more, the team meets frequently to determine how best to address the substance abuse and related problems presented by the youth and the youth's family.

### **Healing to Wellness Tribal Courts**

The Tribal Advisory Committee describes its drug courts as Healing to Wellness courts. These courts operate within the tribal justice system to address alcohol- and drug-related crime. The programs use the core principles of drug treatment court and also incorporate customs and traditions of the native community. There were three of these specialty courts in operation in Michigan during 2010.

**Table 1**  
**Types of Drug Courts**  
*As of December 2010*

<b>Type of Drug Court</b>	<b>Operational Drug Courts</b>	<b>Drug Courts in Development</b>	<b>Total</b>
Circuit	20	1	21
District	15	3	18
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)	24	1	25
Family Dependency	8	1	9
Juvenile	14	0	14
Tribal	3	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>90</b>

Michigan has been a leader in the drug court movement. In June 1992, the first woman's drug treatment court in the nation was established in Kalamazoo County at the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court. The program was a success and other courts sought to establish their own drug court programs. The drug courts in operation as of December 2010 are listed by county on the next two pages.

**Table 2**  
**Operational Michigan Drug Courts**  
*As of December 2010*

<b>County</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>Type of Drug Court</b>
Alcona	23 <sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Alger	93 <sup>rd</sup> District Court	Adult
Alpena	26 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Barry	5 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Barry	5 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Bay	18 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Family Dependency
Bay	74 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Benzie	19 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Benzie	85 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Adult
Berrien	2 <sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Calhoun	37 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult – Men
Calhoun	37 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult – Women
Calhoun	10 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Adult
Cass	4 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Adult
Cass	43 <sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court	Family Dependency
Charlevoix	33 <sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Charlevoix	90 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Cheboygan	53 <sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Chippewa	Gwaiak Miicon Drug Court	Tribal
Dickinson	95B District Court	Adult
Eaton	56 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Eaton	56A District Court	DWI
Emmet	90 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Emmet	57 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Emmet	Odawa Youth Healing to Wellness Program	Tribal
Genesee	7 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Genesee	7 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Family Dependency
Grand Traverse	13 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Grand Traverse	86 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Hillsdale	1 <sup>st</sup> Circuit Court	Family Dependency
Ingham	30 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Family Dependency
Ingham	54A District Court	DWI
Ingham	55 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Ionia	64A District Court	DWI
Iron	41 <sup>st</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Iron	95B District Court	Adult
Isabella	21 <sup>st</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Isabella	21 <sup>st</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Isabella	76 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Adult
Jackson	4 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Kalamazoo	8 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Kalamazoo	9 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult - Men
Kalamazoo	9 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult - Women

**Table 2**  
**Operational Michigan Drug Courts**  
*As of December 2010*

<b>County</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>Type of Drug Court</b>
Kalamazoo	9 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Family Dependency
Kalamazoo	9 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Kent	61 <sup>st</sup> District Court	Adult
Leelanau	Grand Traverse Band Tribal Court	Tribal
Livingston	44 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Livingston	53 <sup>rd</sup> District Court	DWI
Luce/Mackinac	92 <sup>nd</sup> District Court	DWI
Macomb	16 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Macomb	16 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Macomb	37 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Adult
Macomb	39 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Manistee	19 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Marquette	96 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Midland	42 <sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Muskegon	60 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Oakland	6 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Oakland	6 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Oakland	43 <sup>rd</sup> District Court	DWI
Oakland	47 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Oakland	51 <sup>st</sup> District Court	DWI
Oakland	52 <sup>nd</sup> District Court – Division 1	DWI
Oakland	52 <sup>nd</sup> District Court – Division 2	DWI
Oakland	52 <sup>nd</sup> District Court – Division 3	DWI
Ogemaw	34 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Family Dependency
Otsego	87 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Adult
Ottawa	20 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Ottawa	20 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Ottawa	58 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Saginaw	10 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Family Dependency
Schoolcraft	93 <sup>rd</sup> District Court	Adult
Van Buren	36 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Washtenaw	15 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Washtenaw	22 <sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Wayne	3 <sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court	Adult
Wayne	3 <sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court	Juvenile
Wayne	16 <sup>th</sup> District Court	DWI
Wayne	19 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Adult
Wayne	23 <sup>rd</sup> District Court	Adult
Wayne	33 <sup>rd</sup> District Court	DWI
Wayne	35 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Adult
Wayne	36 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Adult

## Caseload Statistics

### New Admissions and Active Cases

Between October 1, 2008, and September 30, 2010, Michigan drug courts screened and admitted more than 5,463 individuals, a 10.8 percent increase in the last three years. During fiscal years 2009 and 2010, drug courts handled a total of 8,499 cases, an 8.3 percent increase across the last three years. Of the new admissions, 2,449 participants (45 percent) were charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, 1,419 participants (26 percent) were adults in circuit court, 909 participants (17 percent) were in district court, and 486 participants (9 percent) were juveniles. An additional 200 participants (4 percent) were individuals with civil petitions in the family division of circuit court who were admitted to a family dependency treatment court.

**Table 3**  
**New Admissions and Active Cases**

<b>Type of Drug Court</b>	<b>New Admissions</b>		<b>Active Cases</b>	
	#	%	#	%
Circuit	1,419	26	2,203	26
District	909	17	1,437	17
DWI	2,449	45	3,907	46
Family Dependency	200	4	259	3
Juvenile	486	9	693	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,463</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8,499</b>	<b>100</b>

*This table includes new admissions and active cases during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 from 87 drug courts.*

### Most Serious Charge

Michigan drug courts provide services to persons charged with a variety of nonviolent offenses and persons involved in family division child abuse or neglect petitions. Of the participants with active cases during fiscal years 2009 and 2010, 34 percent were charged with one or more felony offenses, 62 percent were charged with one or more misdemeanors, and 4 percent were involved in civil petitions or status offenses.

Ninety-seven percent of the offenders admitted into a circuit drug court were charged with at least one felony. The misdemeanor charges in circuit drug courts were largely due to DWI third offense cases pled down to DWI second offense cases. For 92 percent of the offenders admitted into adult district courts, the most serious offense charged was a misdemeanor. The remaining 8 percent were largely felony controlled substance use and possession charges and cases accepted by rural courts without a local circuit drug court program. Ninety-two percent of participants in family dependency treatment court were related to civil petitions. The majority (87 percent) of the offenders in DWI courts were charged with a misdemeanor. Exceptions were likely the result of prosecutors authorizing DWI courts to accept defendants charged with felony operating while impaired (OWI 3<sup>rd</sup>). Juveniles in drug court were charged with a variety of offenses, including felonies (26 percent) and status offenses (6 percent).

**Table 4  
Most Serious Charge**

<b>Type of Drug Court</b>	<b>Felony</b>		<b>Misdemeanor</b>		<b>Civil Petition</b>		<b>Status/ Other</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Circuit	2,141	97	58	3	0	0	4	0
District	108	8	1,325	92	0	0	4	0
DWI	477	12	3,399	87	0	0	31	1
Family Dependency	0	0	0	0	237	92	22	9
Juvenile	178	26	446	64	30	4	39	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2904</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5,228</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>

*This table includes active cases during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 from 87 drug courts.*

### **Drug of Choice**

The primary drug of choice for participants in a circuit drug court includes alcohol (37 percent), marijuana (15 percent), crack cocaine or cocaine (14 percent) and heroin (12 percent). Multiple drugs (8 percent), methamphetamine/amphetamine (8 percent), and opiate (6 percent) are also somewhat common.

Of the participants in district drug courts nearly half (44 percent) identified alcohol as their primary drug, 20 percent identified marijuana, and 19 percent identified crack cocaine or cocaine as their drug of choice. An additional 11 percent identified heroin as their primary drug of choice. The majority (83 percent) of participants in DWI courts identified alcohol as their primary drug of choice. Nine percent identified marijuana and 3 percent identified cocaine or crack cocaine. Marijuana (34 percent) is the most common drug of choice for family dependency treatment court participants. Cocaine and crack cocaine account for 21 percent of the participants in the family dependency treatment courts. Alcohol (13 percent) was also relatively common for participants in the family dependency treatment courts. Methamphetamine or amphetamine is the drug of choice for 10 percent of the participants in the family dependency treatment courts. The majority (84 percent) of juveniles in the juvenile drug courts report marijuana as their primary drug. An additional 12 percent indicated alcohol as their primary substance of use. Very few juveniles choose any other drug as their primary drug of choice.

Across the last three years, drugs of choice have remained consistent in DWI and juvenile drug courts. Circuit drug courts have seen a 10 percent reduction in the number of individuals choosing cocaine and crack cocaine as their drug of choice. Additionally, circuit drug court participants reported a 6 percent increase in alcohol as their primary drug of choice and a 4 percent increase in methamphetamine or amphetamine use. District drug courts have seen an 8 percent decrease in alcohol as the primary drug of choice, and have seen a 4 percent increase in heroin. In the last three years, drugs of choice have shifted markedly in family dependency treatment courts. A 21 percent decrease in cocaine and crack has been accompanied by an 8 percent increase in marijuana, a 7 percent increase in the use of multiple drugs, and a 6 percent increase in the use of methamphetamine or amphetamine.

**Table 5  
Drug of Choice**

<b>Type of Drug Court</b>	<b>Alcohol %</b>	<b>Marijuana %</b>	<b>Cocaine/ Crack %</b>	<b>Heroin %</b>
Circuit	37	15	14	12
District	44	20	19	11
DWI	83	9	3	0
Family Dependency	13	34	21	7
Juvenile	12	84	0	0
<b>All Participants</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>Type of Drug Court</b>	<b>Multiple Drugs %</b>	<b>Opiate %</b>	<b>Methamphetamine</b>		<b>Other %</b>
			<b>Amphetamine %</b>		
Circuit	8	6	8		0
District	1	3	0		2
DWI	1	1	0		3
Family Dependency	9	5	10		1
Juvenile	1	0	0		3
<b>All Participants</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>

*This table includes active cases during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 from 87 drug courts. Barbiturates, benzodiazepine, club drugs, hallucinogens, inhalants, sedatives, and hypnotics are included as other drugs.*

### Gender

Overall, males were more likely than females to be admitted to a drug court. However, the majority (80 percent) of participants in family dependency treatment courts were female. Close to three-quarters of the participants in the DWI courts, which handled 3,907 cases, were male. District courts had the most even distribution of the genders. Throughout the last three years, family dependency treatment courts have seen a 7 percent decrease in female participants. Juvenile drug courts have seen a 5 percent decrease in female participants in the same date range.

**Table 6  
Gender**

<b>Type of Drug Court</b>	<b>Females</b>		<b>Males</b>		<b>Total #</b>
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	
Circuit	582	26	1,621	74	2,203
District	575	40	862	60	1,437
DWI	1,040	27	2,867	73	3,907
Family Dependency	208	80	51	20	259
Juvenile	133	19	560	81	693
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,538</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>8,499</b>

*This table includes active cases during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 from 87 drug courts.*

## Ethnicity

The 2009 Michigan census<sup>1</sup> identified 81.2 percent of Michigan residents as White, including Hispanics. The drug court population is reflective of the ethnic composition of Michigan. Hispanic and White individuals totaled 79 percent of the drug court population. The only notable trend in ethnicity of drug court participants across the last three years has been a 10 percent decrease in White participants in district drug courts, corresponding to a 10 percent increase in African American participants in district drug courts.

**Table 7**  
**Ethnicity**

<b>Type of Drug Court</b>	<b>White %</b>	<b>African American %</b>	<b>Hispanic %</b>	<b>Other %</b>	<b>Total %</b>
Circuit	76	19	2	3	100
District	63	33	2	2	100
DWI	82	9	6	3	100
Family Dependency	68	24	6	2	100
Juvenile	68	21	5	6	100
<b>All Participants</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>

*This table includes active cases during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 from 87 drug courts. Asian/Pacific Islander, Multi-racial, Native American, and individuals not identifying with any of the above categories are included in Other.*

## Age at Screening

A substantial portion (32 percent) of drug court participants were between the ages of 22 and 30 when screened for admission. An additional 21 percent were between 31 and 40 years old at screening. The majority of juveniles screened and admitted to juvenile drug courts were 15 or 16 years old. In the last three years, the distribution of ages of participants accepted into drug court programs has been largely consistent. However, circuit drug courts, DWI courts, and family dependency treatment courts have seen small increases in the percentage of participants aged 22-30 years at screening. Also worth noting, district drug courts have seen a 3 percent increase in participants 51 years old or older at screening across the last 3 years.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, Census of Population and Housing, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report.

**Table 8**  
**Age at Screening**

Type of Drug Court	16 or Younger	17-18	19-21	22-30	31-40	41-50	51 or Older	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Circuit	0	2	9	34	26	22	8	100
District	0	5	13	31	23	20	9	100
DWI	0	4	10	36	20	19	9	100
Family Dependency	0	1	7	52	30	9	1	100
Juvenile	95	5	0	0	0	0	0	100
<b>All Participants</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>

*This table includes active cases during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 from 87 drug courts.*

**Education at Admission**

Offenders admitted to DWI courts had a higher level of education than offenders admitted to other types of drug courts. Forty-four percent had more than a high school education. Additionally, more than half (53 percent) of the offenders admitted to DWI courts were employed full-time. In comparison, 45 percent of offenders admitted to a family dependency treatment court had less than a high school education and 77 percent were unemployed. Sixty-five percent of the juveniles admitted to juvenile drug court were in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade at screening.

In the last three years, there has been a 5 percent increase in participants with more than a high school education in adult district drug courts and a 4 percent increase in adult circuit drug courts. Juvenile drug courts have experienced a shift in their participants as well. A 3 percent increase in participants attending 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades at screening and a 2 percent increase in participants enrolled in grades nine or ten at screening suggests programs are moving away from admitting participants in grades less than nine.

**Table 9**  
**Education at Admission**

Type of Drug Court	Less Than 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	HS Diploma or GED	More Than HS	Total
	%	%	%	%
Circuit	28	48	25	100
District	31	40	30	100
DWI	17	39	44	100
Family Dependency	45	33	22	100
Juvenile	Less Than 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> Grades	11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Total
	30	65	5	100

*This table includes active cases during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 from 87 drug courts.*

## Employment Status at Admission

Also in the last three years, the number of participants entering a drug court program while unemployed increased by 6 percent in DWI courts, 5 percent in family dependency treatment courts, and 2 percent in adult district drug courts. For family dependency treatment courts, the shift was almost exclusively from part-time work to unemployment. In DWI courts, the increase in unemployment was due to a decrease in full-time employment. In district drug courts, a 14 percent decrease in full-time employed participants was coupled with an 11 percent increase in those indicating they are not in the labor force (e.g., full-time students, homemakers, retired individuals). In family dependency treatment courts, the 5 percent increase in unemployed participants was paired with a decrease in part-time employed participants.

**Table 10**  
**Employment Status at Admission**

Type of Drug Court	Unemployed %	Employed Part-Time %	Employed Full-Time %	Not in Labor Force %	Total %
Circuit	55	14	24	8	100
District	38	16	25	21	100
DWI	28	15	53	4	100
Family Dependency	77	6	8	9	100
Juvenile	23	4	0	73	100

*This table includes active cases during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 from 87 drug courts.*

## Performance Outcomes

Several factors can be used to evaluate the success of drug courts. First, success can be measured by the number of days participants are retained in drug court treatment programs. Next, the proportion of participants that successfully complete a drug court program is another common performance measure. Additionally, the proportion of participants who improve their employment status or educational attainment while participating in the program is a factor in measuring a program's impact. Lastly, the number of consecutive sobriety days documented when participants graduate from drug court programs indicates the success of programs.

### Retention

National studies indicate that participants who stay in treatment longer and complete treatment are more likely to have positive outcomes and are less likely to be rearrested for a drug related crime.

The retention rates differed for each court type. Retention was measured for the first 12 months after admission. DWI courts achieved the highest retention rate at 79 percent. Circuit (77 percent) and juvenile drug courts (69 percent) also achieved high retention rates. District courts retained 64 percent of participants for one year. The family dependency treatment courts, which serve relatively few individuals, retained over half of their participants (57 percent) for at

least 12 months. In the last three years, circuit drug courts and DWI courts have each seen an 8 percent increase in retention rates. The other drug court types have remained relatively consistent in their retention rates.

**Table 11  
Retention**

<b>Type of Drug Court</b>	<b>Percent Retained in Program</b>
Circuit	77
District	64
DWI	79
Family Dependency	57
Juvenile	69

*This table includes a subset of cases that were active during fiscal years 2009 and 2010. It includes all successful cases, all transferred cases, cases discharged unsuccessfully or by voluntary withdrawal within 12 months, and any case active for at least 12 months.*

### **Completion**

Fifty-three percent of all individuals discharged from Michigan drug courts successfully completed a drug court treatment program in fiscal years 2009 and 2010. Sixty percent of individuals discharged from DWI courts completed the program. Half of the participants in juvenile drug courts completed the program. Forty-eight percent of individuals discharged from circuit court drug courts successfully completed the programs, while district drug court success rate (43 percent) and family dependency treatment courts success rate (42 percent) nearly tied. These rates are within the range of completion rates reported by the U.S. Government Accountability Office for adult drug courts throughout the nation.<sup>2</sup> In that report, the national range of completion rates for the adult drug courts ranged from 27 percent to 66 percent. In the last three years, the number of participants who successfully completed a family dependency treatment court increased by 10 percent. The successful discharges from DWI courts increased 3 percent.

<sup>2</sup> United States Government Accountability Office, Report to Congressional Committees. (February, 2005) *Adult Drug Courts: Evidence Indicates Recidivism Reductions and Mixed Results for Other Outcomes*. This report is available on-line at [www.gao.gov/new.items/d05219.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05219.pdf).

**Table 12  
Completion**

<b>Type of Drug Court</b>	<b>Successfully Completed</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Circuit	633	48
District	435	43
DWI	1,497	60
Family Dependency	77	42
Juvenile	230	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,872</b>	<b>53</b>

*This table includes participants discharged during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 from 87 drug courts.*

### **Improvement in Employment and Education**

Despite poor employment rates in Michigan, many participants were able to improve their employment status by the time they were discharged from drug court. More than half (54 percent) of the graduates from district drug courts and half (50 percent) of the graduates from the circuit drug courts reported improved employment. For juveniles, 83 percent of successful graduates reported an improvement in their educational level, suggesting that they were able to stay in school and continue to the next grade.

In the last three years, fewer participants have been able to improve their employment status while participating in drug court programs than in the past. Compared to three years ago, successful participants were 7 to 19 percent less likely to improve their employment status. However, many more participants have improved their education while in the programs than in the past. District drug courts have seen a 13 percent increase in education improvement across the last three years. All other drug court types saw a 1 to 5 percent improvement in education in the last three years.

**Table 13  
Improvement in Employment and Education**

<b>Type of Drug Court</b>	<b>Employment</b>		<b>Education</b>	
	<b>All Discharges</b>	<b>Successful Discharges</b>	<b>All Discharges</b>	<b>Successful Discharges</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Circuit	30	50	13	21
District	28	54	15	30
DWI	30	42	13	18
Family Dependency	21	36	18	31
Juvenile	14	22	60	83
<b>All Participants</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>

*This table includes participants discharged during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 from 87 drug courts.*

## Consecutive Sobriety Days

One of the goals of drug court programs is to establish abstinence from alcohol and drug use among the participant population. Graduates from circuit drug court programs demonstrated the highest average number of sobriety days of all of the drug court types (373 days). DWI court graduates averaged nearly a year (333 days) of sobriety at graduation. District court graduates also demonstrated more than 300 days of sobriety. Family dependency and juvenile drug court program graduates averaged 230 and 216 sobriety days at graduation. The lower average number of sobriety days in family dependency treatment court and juvenile drug court programs (230 and 216, respectively) is likely due to the abbreviated program structure typical of these programs when compared to the other drug court types.

**Table 14**  
**Successful Participants' Sobriety Days at Discharge**

<b>Type of Drug Court</b>	<b>Average Consecutive Days of Sobriety</b>
Circuit	373
District	306
DWI	333
Family Dependency	230
Juvenile	216

*This table includes successful graduates discharged during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 from 87 drug courts.*