

Accountability Courts Statewide Performance Measures Report

Fiscal Year 2025

December 2025
Council of Accountability
Court Judges of Georgia



Prepared by the Division of Data and Research

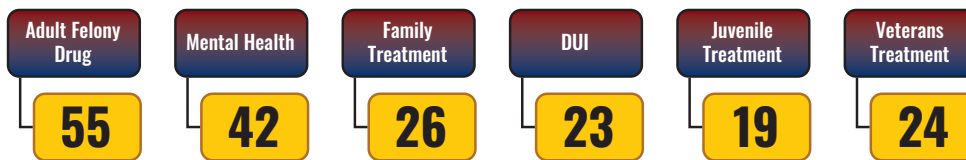
Executive Summary

This *Performance Measures Report (PMR)* presents aggregated data and analysis on Georgia's accountability courts and the participants they serve. Updated annually, it is published as part of the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) *Annual Report*. The PMR provides quantitative insights that enable CACJ and the public to better understand the outcomes and impacts of accountability courts across the state.

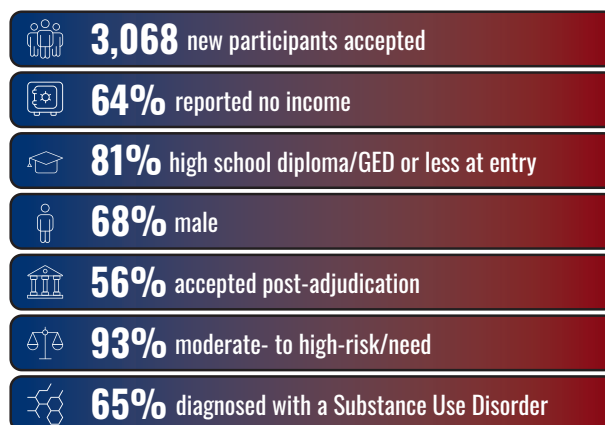
In FY 2025, the number of accountability courts grew to 189 courts, up from 188 courts in FY 2024. These 189 courts served 9,329 participants, an increase of 12.3% over FY 2024. Of those served, 3,068 entered the program during the fiscal year and 1,803 graduated.



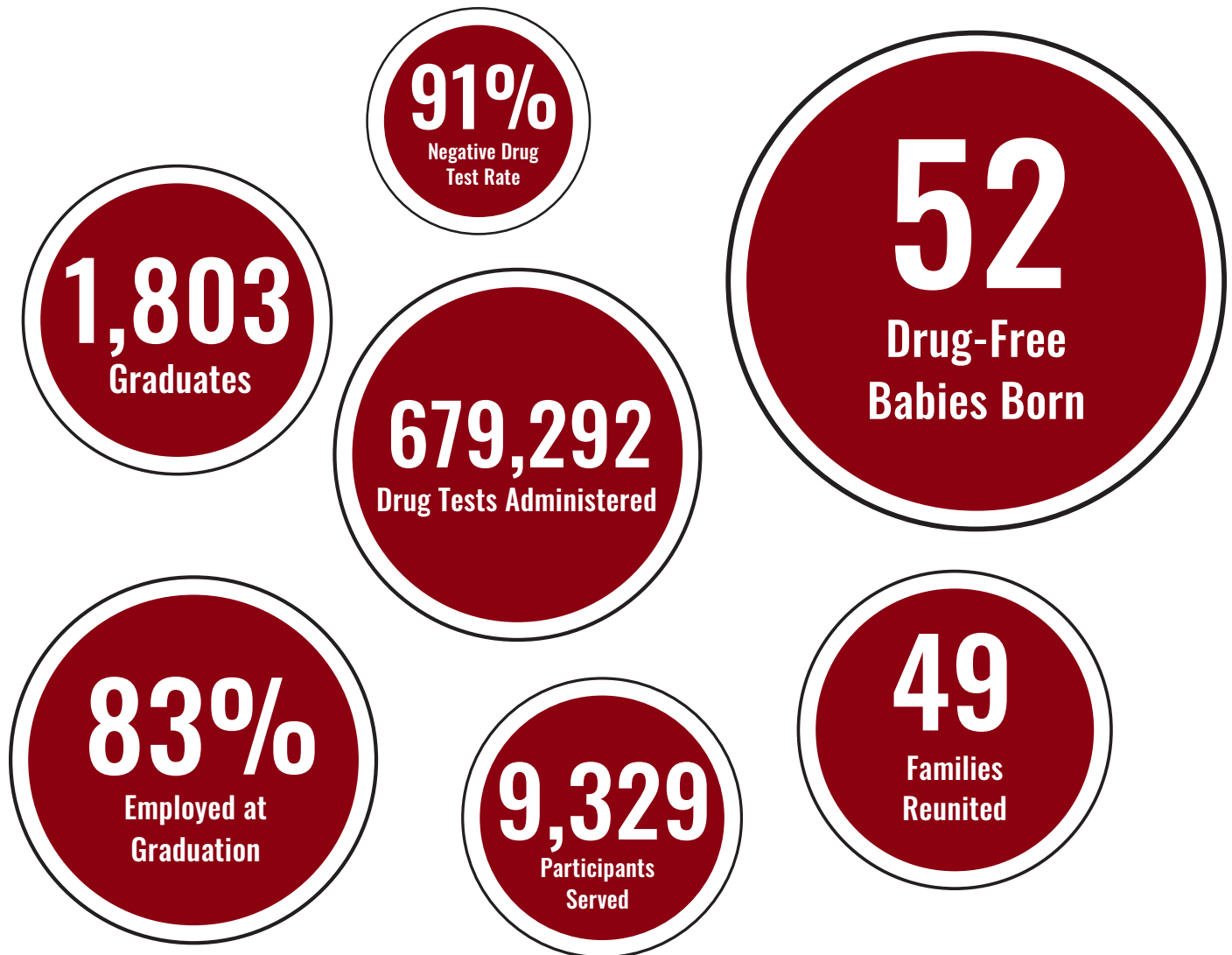
Total of **189** courts and tracks in FY25



Entrance characteristics of accountability court participants accepted in FY25



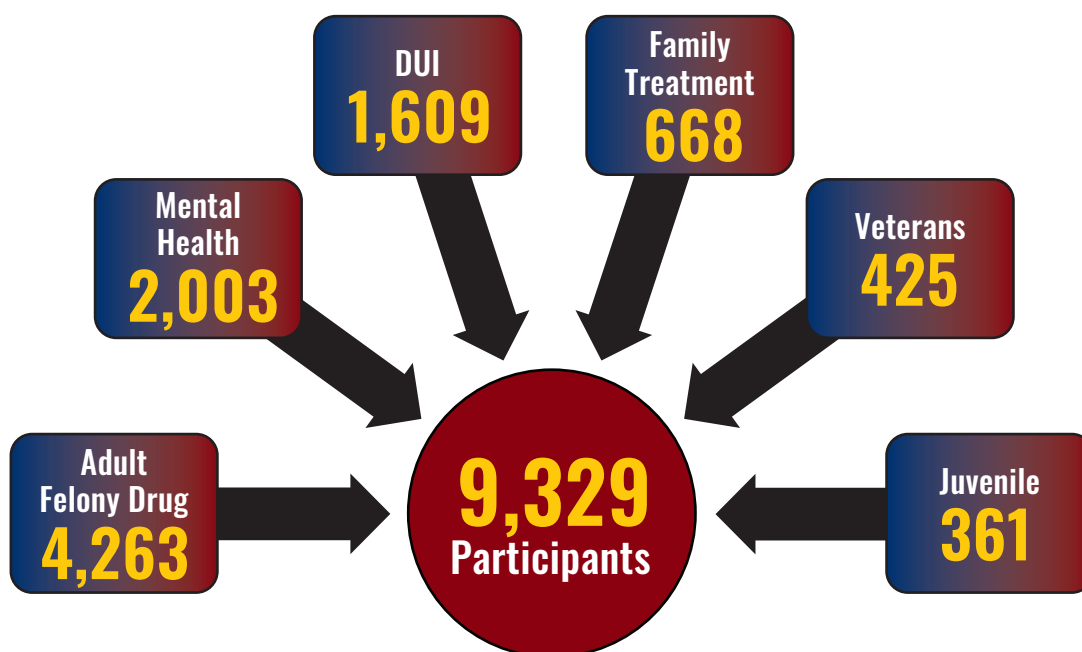
Impact Summary



Participant Summary

**9,329**

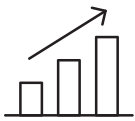
total accountability court participants
served in FY25

**3,068**

new accountability court participants
accepted in FY25

Participants

Georgia's accountability courts served 9,329 participants in FY 2025, 1,022 more than the previous fiscal year. This represents a 12.3% increase in participants served. Since 2013 over 41,000 participants have been served through Georgia Accountability Courts. For information on active participants by program county, please see Appendix A.

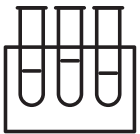
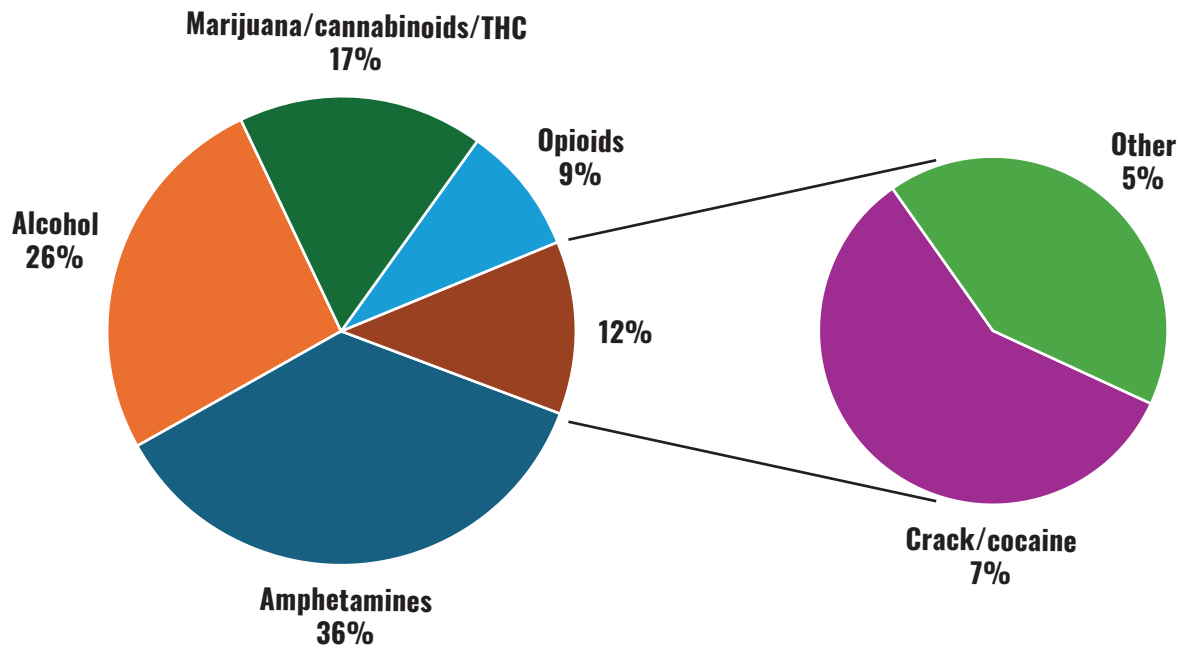


12.3% increase in the number of participants served compared to FY 2024

Total Number of Participants Served						
Court Type	Fiscal Year					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Adult Felony Drug	5,034	4,099	3,607	3,456	3,845	4,263
Mental Health	1,497	1,418	1,269	1,374	1,626	2,003
DUI	2,072	1,617	1,303	1,479	1,526	1,609
Family Treatment	668	591	522	570	616	668
Veterans	414	385	337	351	389	425
Juvenile	241	288	157	234	305	361
Total	9,926	8,398	7,195	7,464	8,307	9,329

Primary Drug of Choice

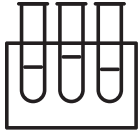
Over three quarters (78%) of the participants indicated that amphetamines (36%), alcohol (26%), or marijuana/cannabinoids (17%) are their primary drug of choice. These preferences have remained the same top three drugs of choice since FY 2019, with only slight variation in percentages. For the chart below, heroin and prescription opioids were combined into one category, opioids.



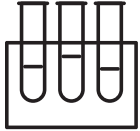
The top three primary drugs of choice have remained the same since FY 2019.

Drug Tests

In FY 2025, over 679,000 drug tests were administered through the 189 accountability courts. This averaged approximately 86 tests per participant. Roughly 35% of the participants tested positive for drugs in the first phase of programming, but positive tests decreased substantially as the participants progressed through program phases.



91% negative drug test rate



98% tests were urine tests

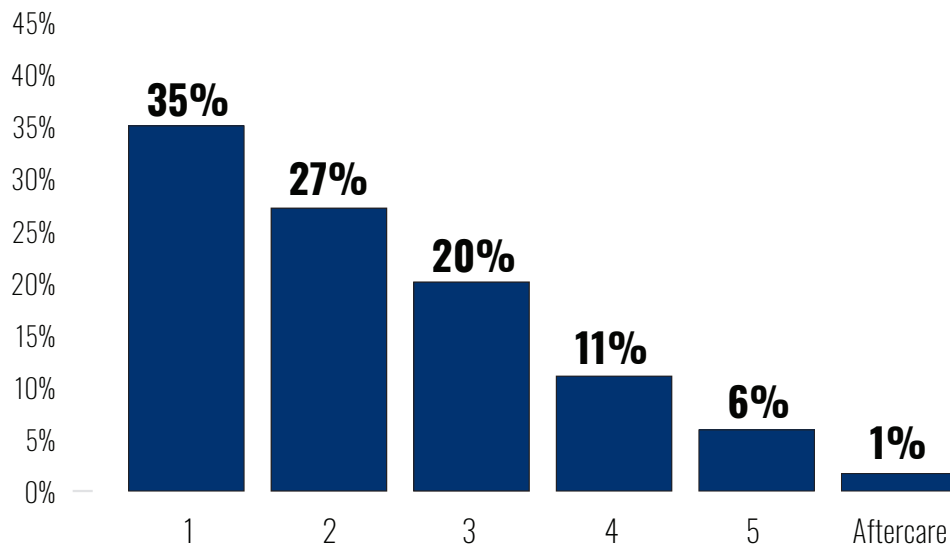
679,292

Total Drug Tests Administered

86

Average Drug Tests per Participant

Percent of Positive Drug Test Results by Phase



Participant Graduates and Other Exits

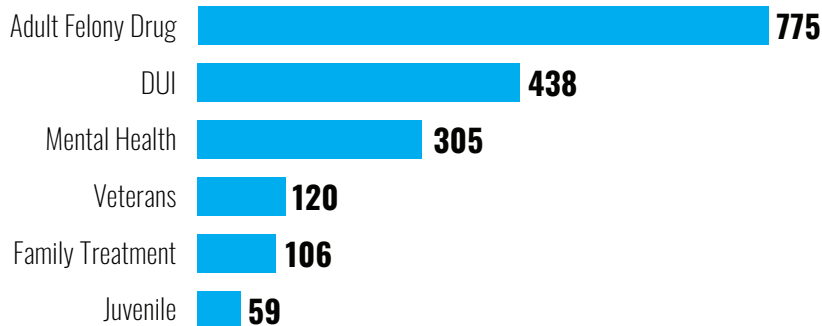
For the purposes of outcome measurement, multiple exit types are collapsed to allow for dichotomous analysis: successful or unsuccessful. The following exit types were included in this analysis:

- Graduated and Completed, or Successful:
 - A participant who successfully completed all program requirements, or a participant who completed all program requirements expected of them at the time of their release, mostly due to sentence term expiration before program completion date.
- Discharged and Terminated, or Unsuccessful:
 - A participant may be discharged due to: (1) non-behavioral reasons, such as a mental health, medical, or other circumstance beyond their control, that cannot be managed by court and community resources, and that prevent the participant from being able to successfully complete the program; (2) death; or (3) reassignment to another jurisdiction or program type within the same jurisdiction.
 - A participant may be terminated due to: (1) failure to comply with program rules and regulations, or (2) voluntary withdrawal from the program.

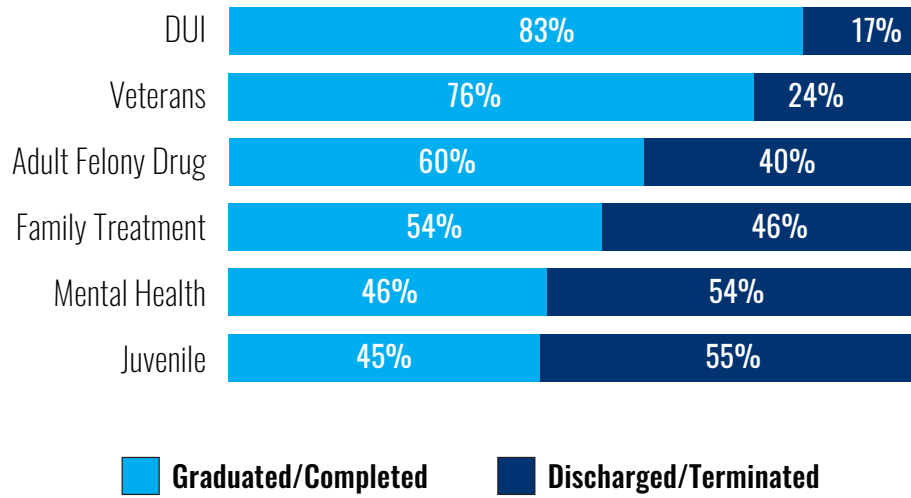


1,803 participants graduated across all courts

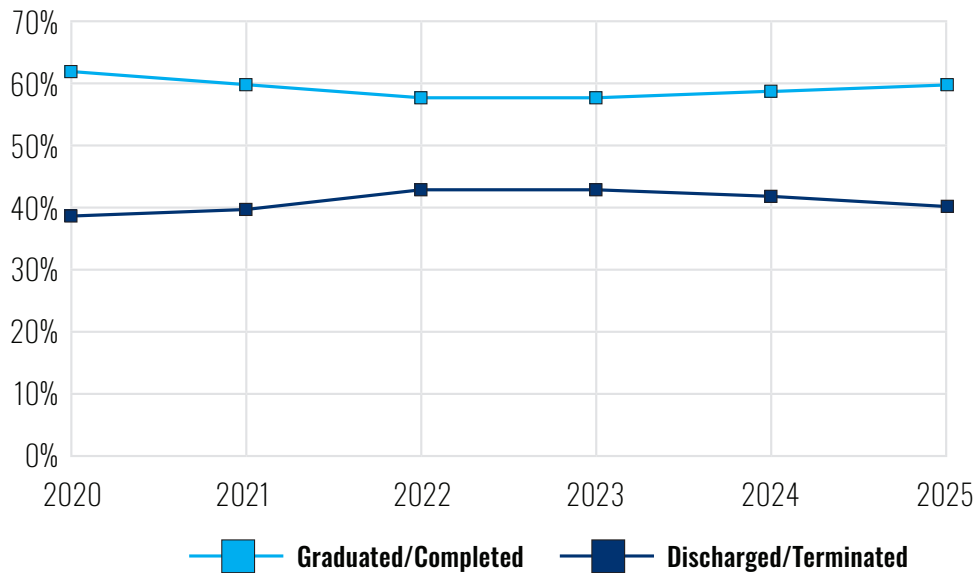
FY25 Number of Graduates by Court Type



FY25 Exits by Court Type



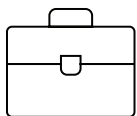
Participant Exit Trends Over Time from FY20 to FY25



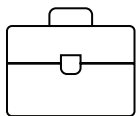
Employment Status for Participants

All employment statistics show only participants who were eligible to work; participants who were not eligible to work were not included in employment statistics. Participants who were disabled, students, in vocational rehab, or in a juvenile accountability court were considered ineligible for these analyses. Employment data came from Q4. When Q4 data was missing, it came from the previous quarter and so on. Among participants who had exited, their reported employment and income came from the quarter they were in at their time of exit, unless that quarter was missing data, then it came from the previous quarter.

Active Participants

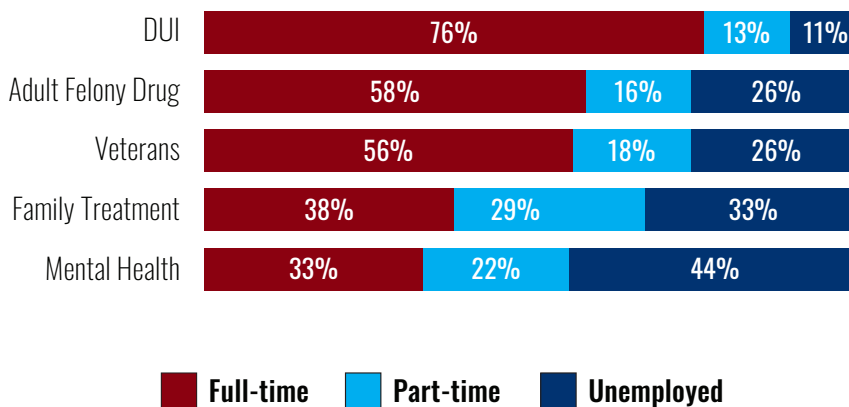


73% of active participants are employed



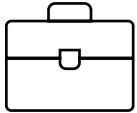
55% of active participants work full-time

Active Participant Employment Type by Court Type



Participants at Entry and Exit

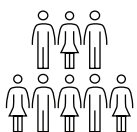
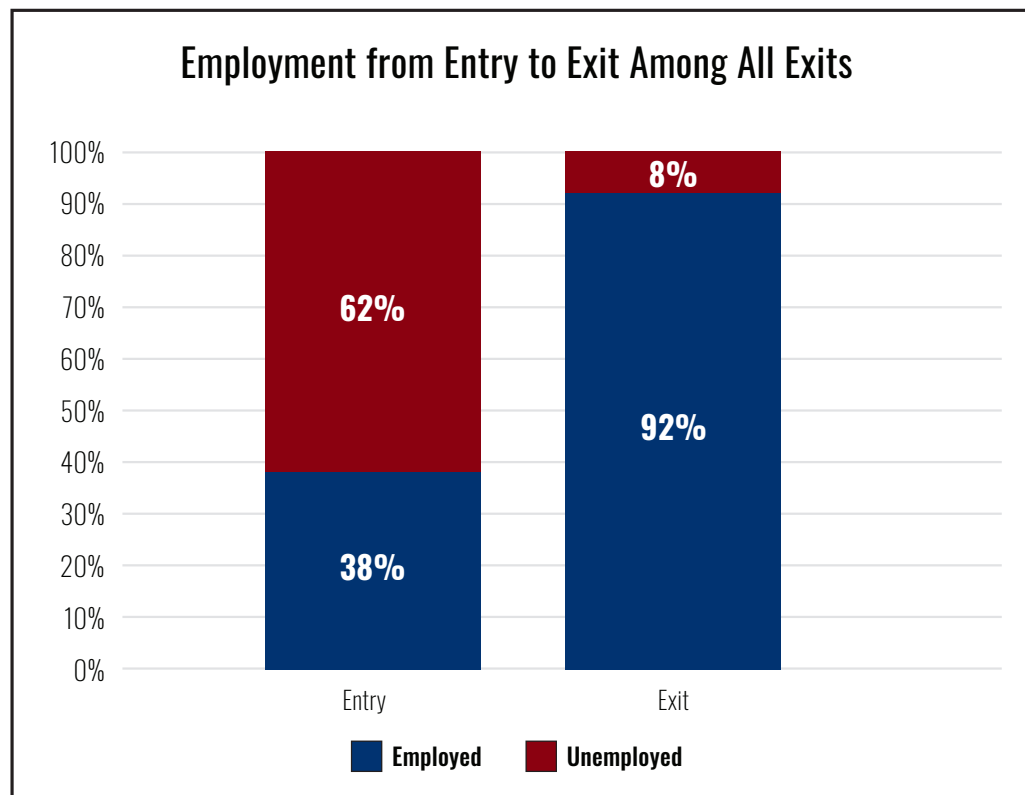
Although employment is a goal for most program types, it is important to note that some courts, such as the mental health courts, do not prioritize employment as a program outcome because many participants are eligible for disability benefits and are unable to work due to their mental illness.



92% of participants are employed when exiting the program



83% of graduates are employed when exiting the program



968 participants were unemployed at entry and employed at exit

Income Level for Participants

All income statistics show only participants who were eligible to work; participants who were not eligible to work were not included in income statistics. Participants who were disabled, students, in vocational rehab, or in a juvenile accountability court were considered ineligible for these analyses. Income data came from Q4. When Q4 data was missing, it came from the previous quarter and so on. Among participants who had exited, their reported employment and income came from the quarter they were in at their time of exit, unless that quarter was missing data, then it came from the previous quarter.

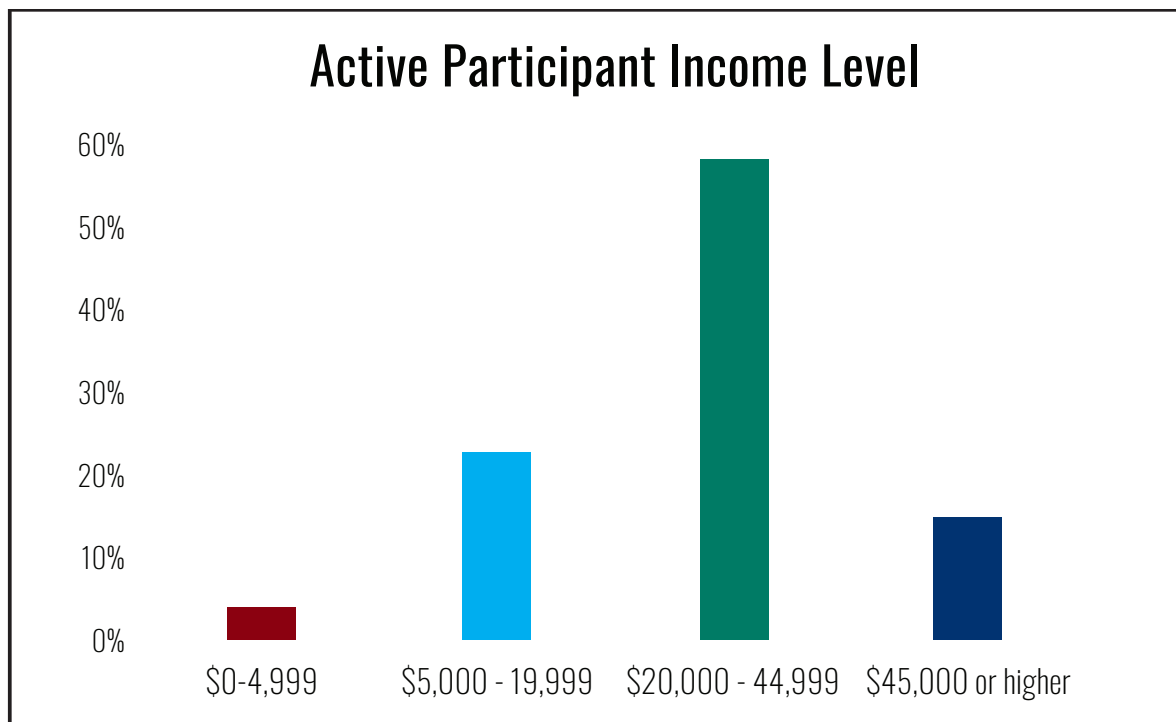
Active Participants



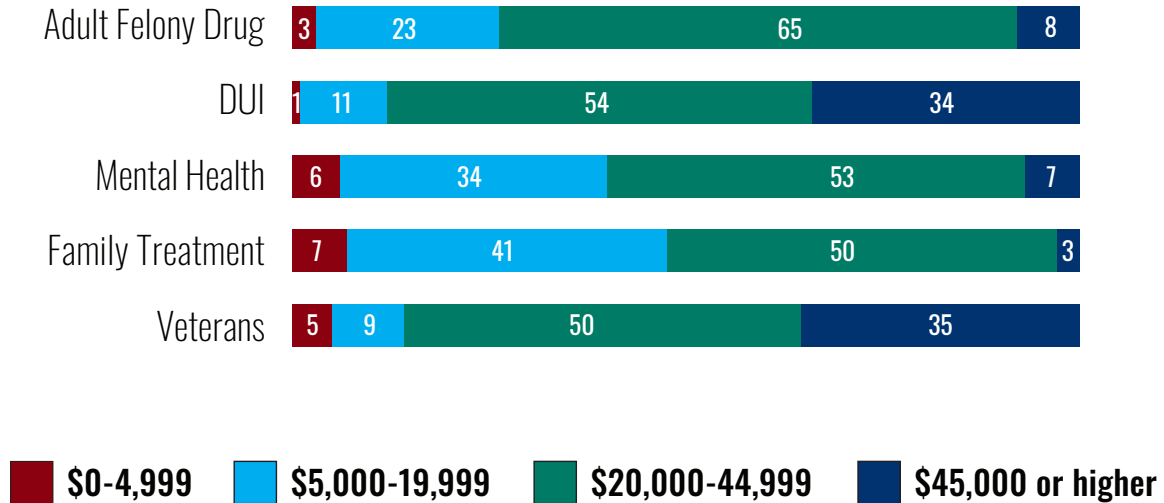
76% of participants have some income



73% of participants with income earn \$20,000 or more annually

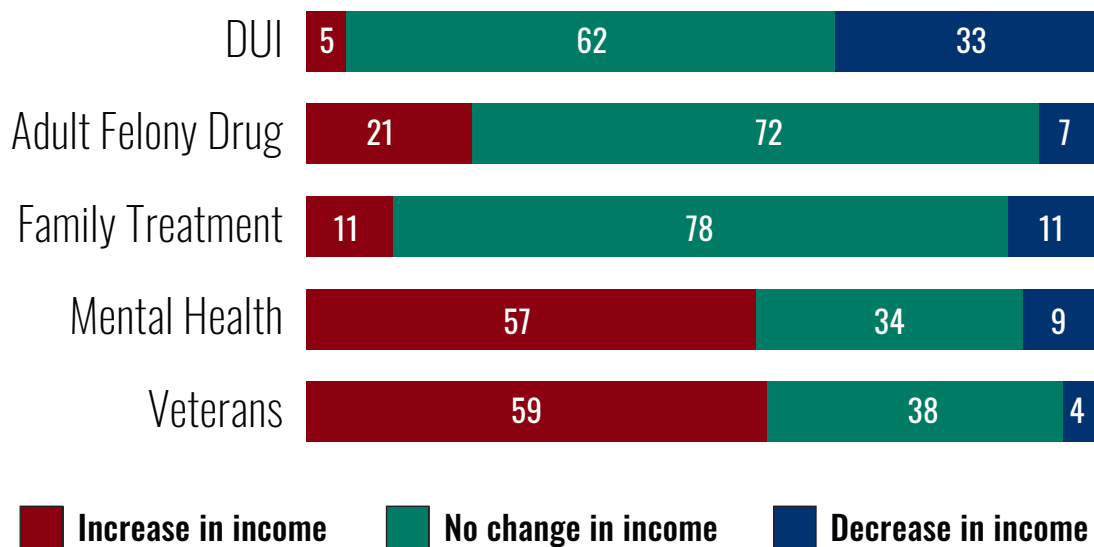


Income Level by Court Type (%)

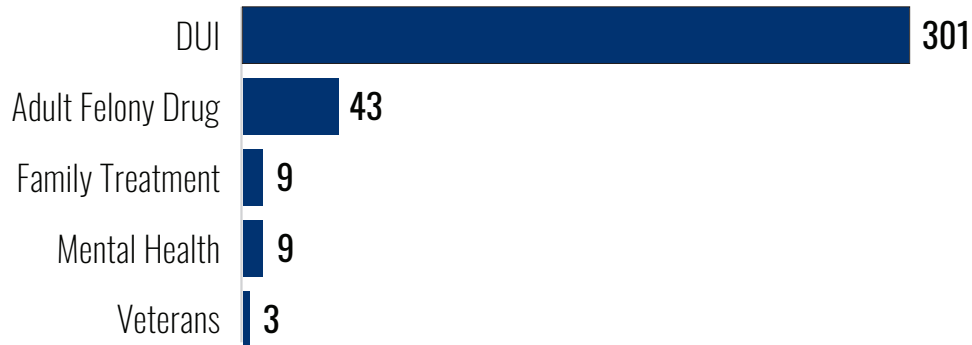


Income at Entry and Exit

Entry to Exit Income Change by Court Type in FY25 (%)



Number of Graduates with Increased Income from Entry to Exit



Family Outcomes



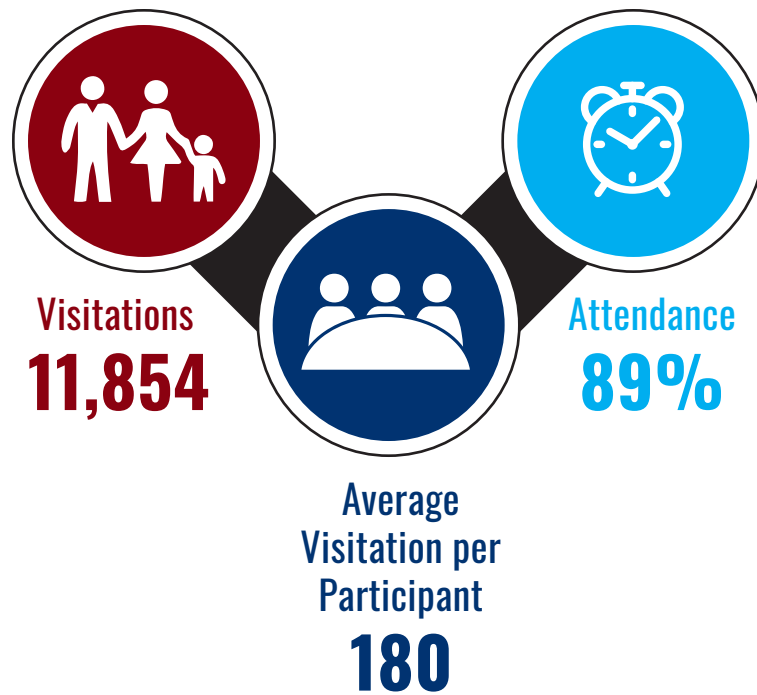
52 drug-free babies born to female participants



49 children reunified

Visitations

Visitation is a key component of family treatment courts. In FY 2025, family treatment courts reported 66 participants with 11,854 visitation sessions attended, which is approximately 8% more than what was reported in FY 2024. This averages 180 visits per program participant of the courts that reported visitation information. The visitation sessions were well attended, with 89% of the court scheduled visitations being attended.



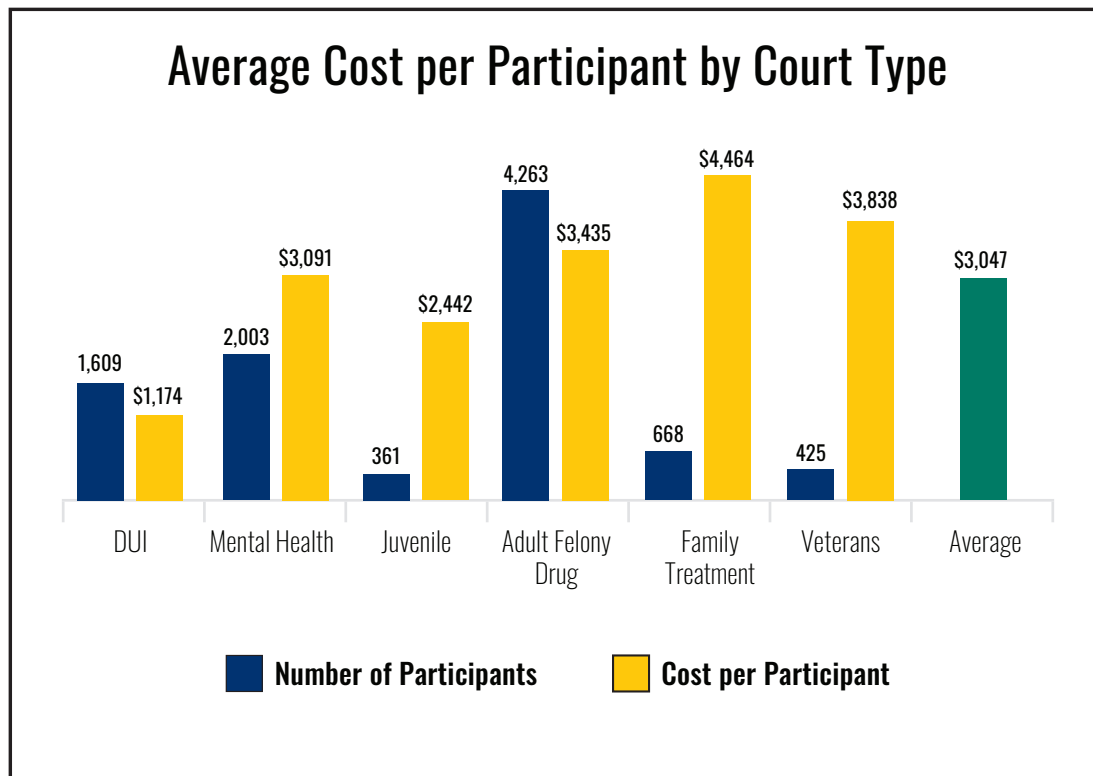
Budget Impact Analysis

Cost per Participant



\$3,047 average cost
per participant¹

¹ Costs are calculated using actual SFY 2025 accountability court expenditure of state grant dollars divided by the number of participants served by court type. These figures represent the state's per participant cost, and do not include funds courts may have from other local or federal sources.



Diversion Savings



\$23,766 average saving per adult participant

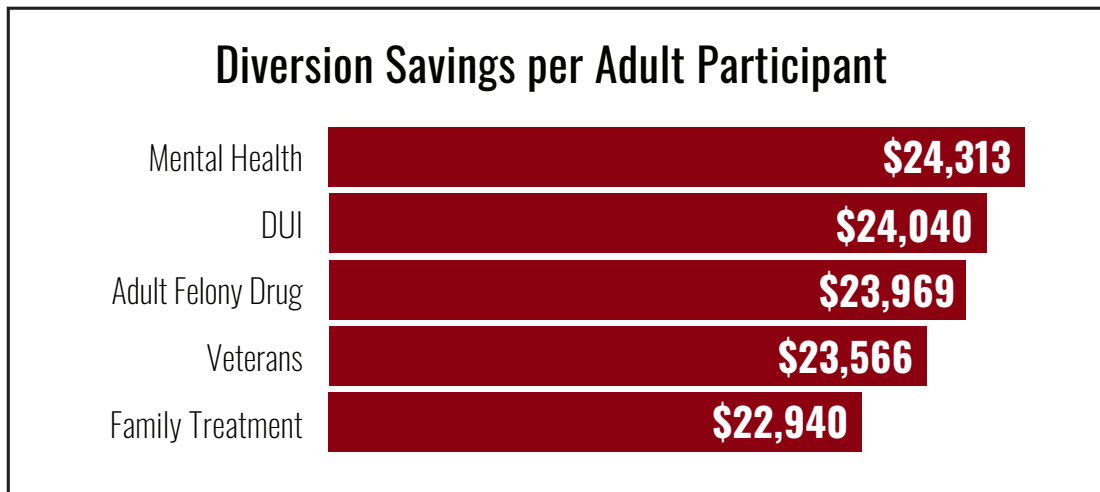


\$9.32 saved per dollar invested on adult accountability courts



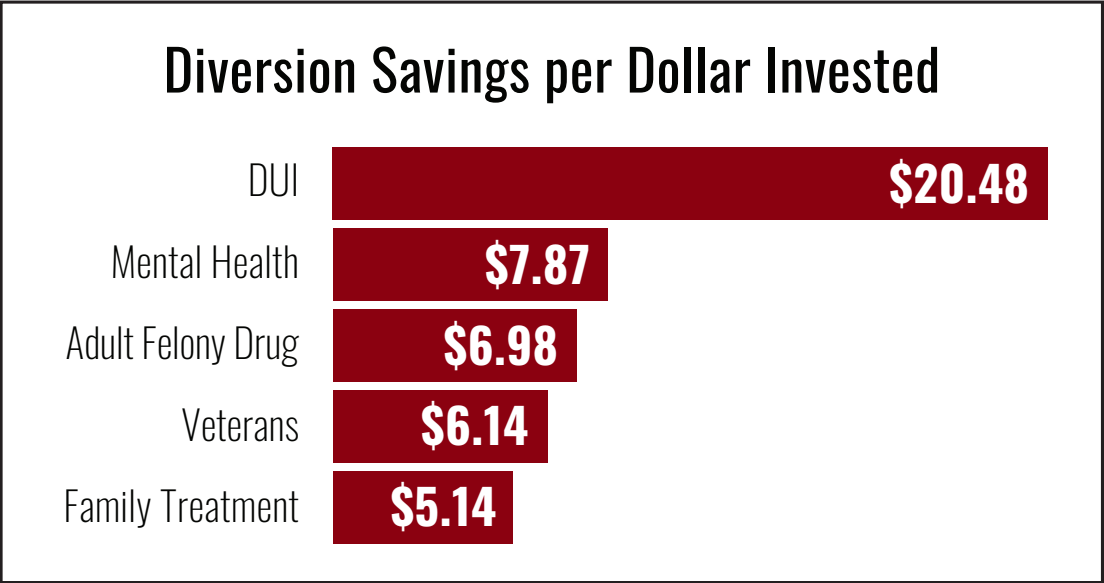
\$215 million diversion savings for adult participants²

While diversion savings per adult mental health court participant remained the highest this year, both DUI court and family treatment court diversion savings per adult participant increased significantly from FY 2024, at \$11,563 and \$7,707 respectively.

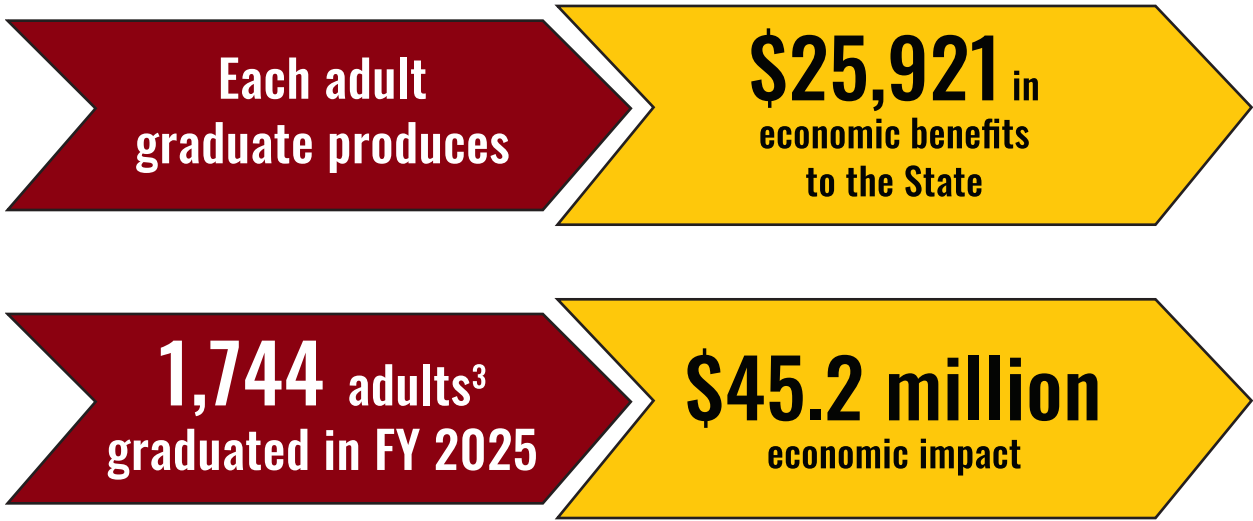


² Adult Felony, Mental Health, and Veterans' alternative costs are based on the daily cost of incarceration of \$75.00. This amount is provided by DCS. Family Treatment courts' alternative costs are based on the average daily cost of all child welfare services available to children in state custody, \$53.73. DUI courts savings are based on the average daily cost of jail stays (\$69.00) reported for counties in which DUI courts operated in the FY 2025 Court Operating Profile. Decreased investment in DUI courts represents a potential cost shift back to county jails. Only adult participant data were used for analysis.

The diversions savings per dollar invested in DUI courts doubled in FY 2025 from FY 2024, from \$10.00 to \$20.48. Diversion savings per dollar invested in DUI, adult felony drug, veterans, and family treatment courts all increased in FY 2025 from FY 2024.



Economic Impact



3 This number reflects the number of adults who graduated from an adult felony drug, DUI, family treatment, or mental health court. This number does not include juveniles.

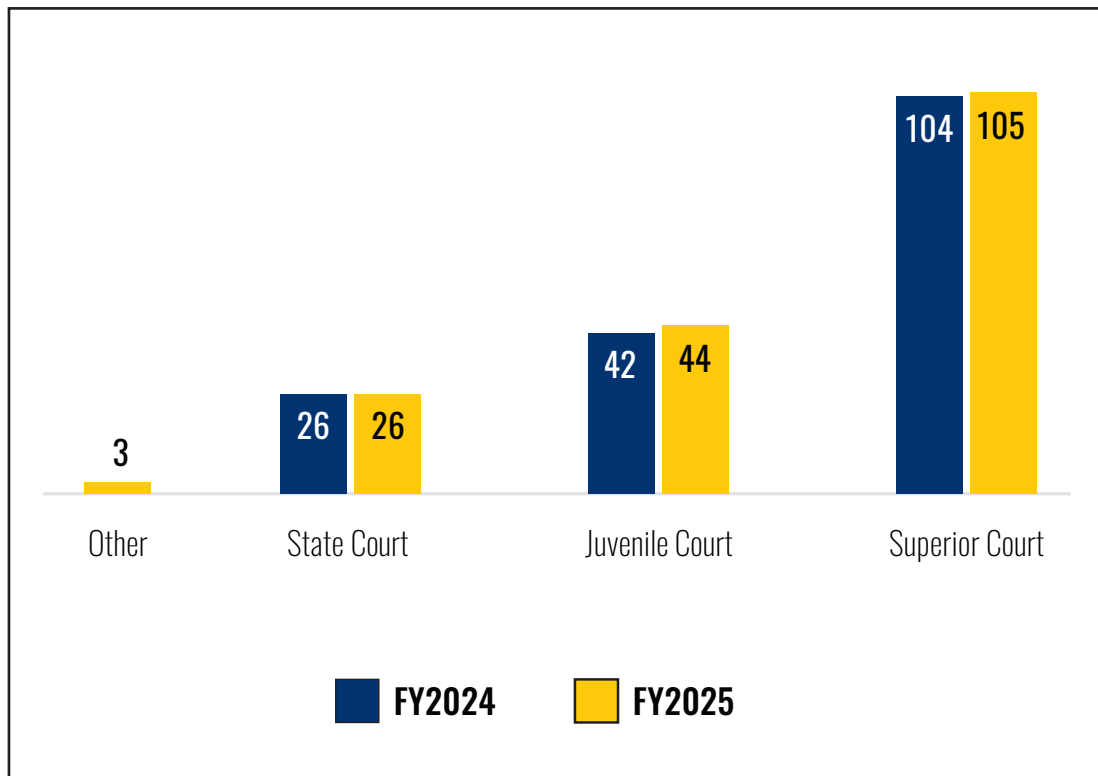
Court Operating Profile Analysis

The source of these data is an annual survey tool called the Court Operating Profile (COP). The COP collects programmatic data from all accountability courts that seek state funding through CACJ. The survey includes sections on the court structure, court type, operations, target population, eligibility, capacity, treatment, staffing structure, and drug testing. The purpose of the survey is to collect statewide data on program operations.

Court Level



59% of Georgia's accountability courts are at the superior court level



Acceptance Structure

Courts were asked to select all acceptance types that apply to their program:

- Pre-adjudication (the candidate has not yet pled guilty)
- Post-adjudication - sentence deferred (the candidate has pled guilty, but sentence is not imposed)
- Post-adjudication - sentenced to probation with the accountability court as a condition of probation
- Post-adjudication - enrollment in adult drug court in conjunction with probation violation on an earlier case
- A combination of pre- and post-adjudication
- Probation violation
- Dependency

The most common (73%) acceptance type selected by courts was post-adjudication, where the defendant is sentenced to probation with accountability court completion as a condition of their probation.

Benefits to completion of an accountability court include but are not limited to long-term recovery, housing, income, and employment stability, family reunification, and deferred prison sentences. While participants are in an accountability court, they have daily contact with court staff, a significant level of supervision when compared to traditional probation.

Acceptance Type	Courts (#)	Courts (%)
Post-adjudication - sentenced to probation with the accountability court as a condition of probation	130	73.0%
Probation violation	116	65.2%
Post-adjudication - enrollment in adult drug court in conjunction with probation violation on an earlier case	85	47.8%
Post-adjudication - sentence deferred (the candidate has pled guilty, but sentence is not imposed)	73	41.0%
Pre-adjudication (the candidate has not yet pled guilty)	72	40.4%
A combination of pre- and post-adjudication	64	36.0%
Dependency	27	15.2%

Tracks

About **18%** of the accountability court programs reportedly have different tracks in FY2025. The below table shows the primary court type and reported tracks, if applicable. The most common types were high risk offender and mental health tracks (23% of reported tracks for both types).

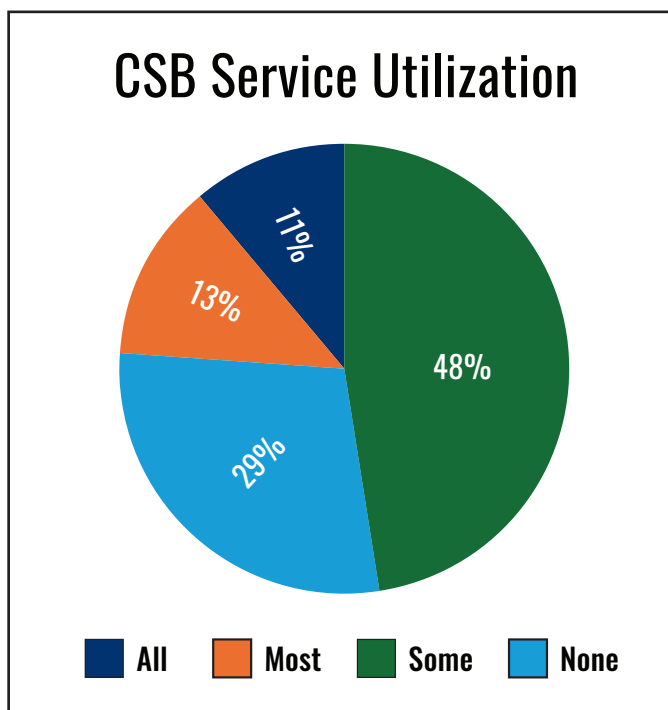
In accountability courts, tracks refer to distinct pathways or groupings of participants based on their specific needs, risk levels, and circumstances. Each track tailors the intensity of supervision, the type and frequency of treatment, the length of participation, and the kinds of incentives and sanctions used. In short, tracks help match the level of service to the individual participant — a key principle of evidence-based practice.

Primary Program Type	Drug Track	Mental Health Track	Veterans Track	Low Risk Track	High Risk Track	Co-occurring Disorder Track
Adult Felony Drug	0	4	5	1	3	1
Adult Mental Health	1	0	5	0	2	4
DUI	0	0	2	4	4	1
Family Treatment	1	2	0	1	2	2
Juvenile Treatment	2	3	0	1	2	1
<i>Total</i>	4	9	12	7	13	9

Community Service Board Services Utilization

Almost half of Georgia's accountability court programs utilize some services from Community Service Boards (CSB).

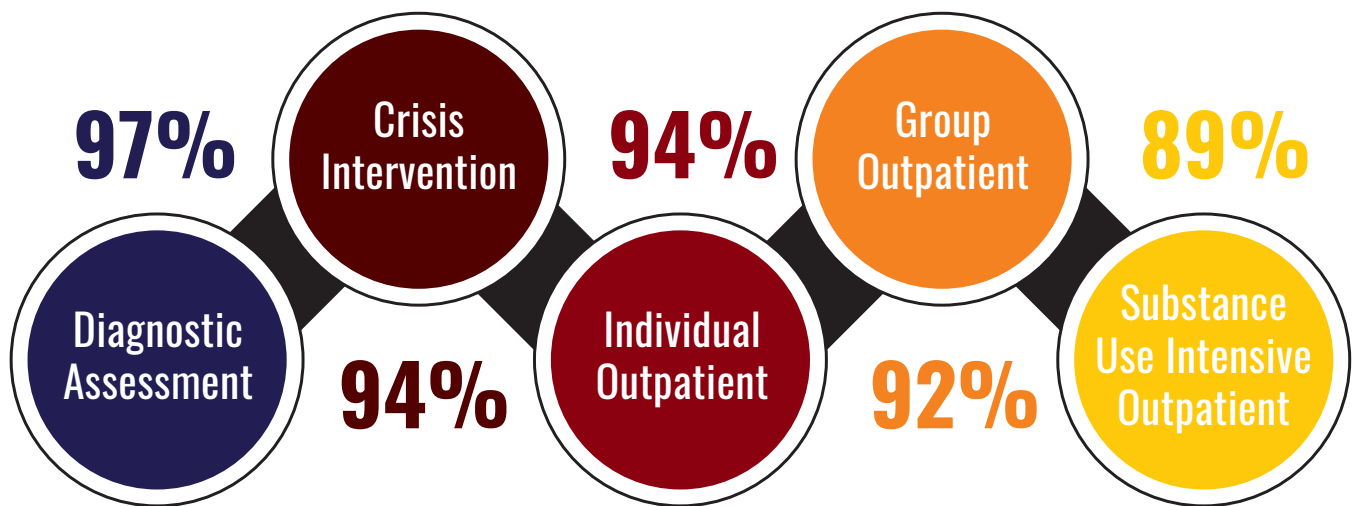
In Georgia, CSBs are essential public organizations that provide services for mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases. They play a critical role in the state's healthcare system by offering treatment for behavioral health needs. The chart below shows the percentage of courts who utilize all, most, some, or none of CSB services.



Outpatient Services

Diagnostic Assessment is the most offered outpatient service available to accountability court participants. The graphic below shows the top five outpatient services offered and the percentage of courts for each. Outpatient services refer to community-based treatment programs where participants receive therapy or other interventions without being required to live at a facility.

Top 5 Outpatient Services Offered

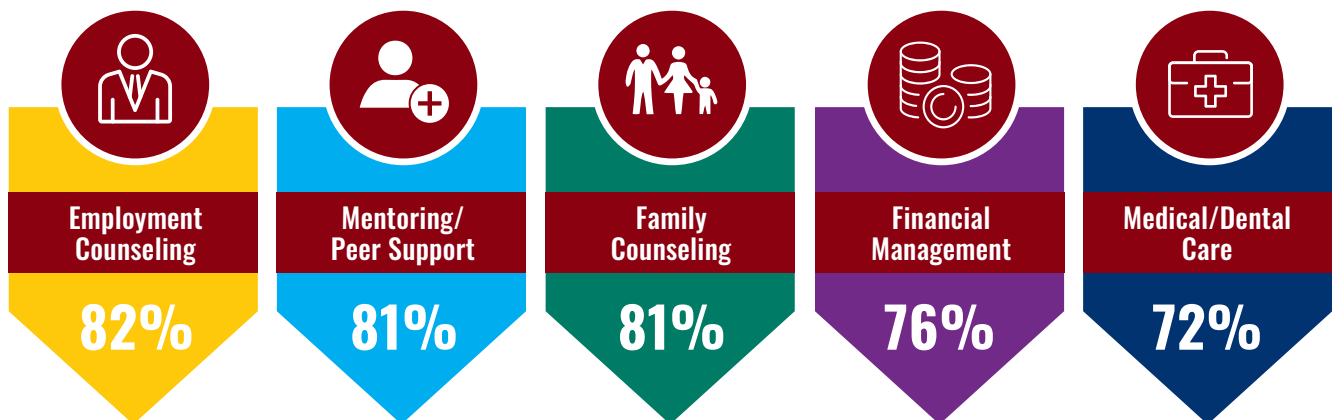


Life Skills

Employment counseling is the most offered life skill service offered to accountability court participants. The graphic below shows the top five life skills services offered and the percentage of courts for each.

Treatment courts offer life skills to equip participants with the skills needed to build a stable, sober life and reduce the likelihood of relapse and re-offending. These skills cover areas like coping with stress, managing finances, and improving social and job-related abilities, which are crucial for a successful transition back into the community after completing the program.

Top 5 Life Skills Offered

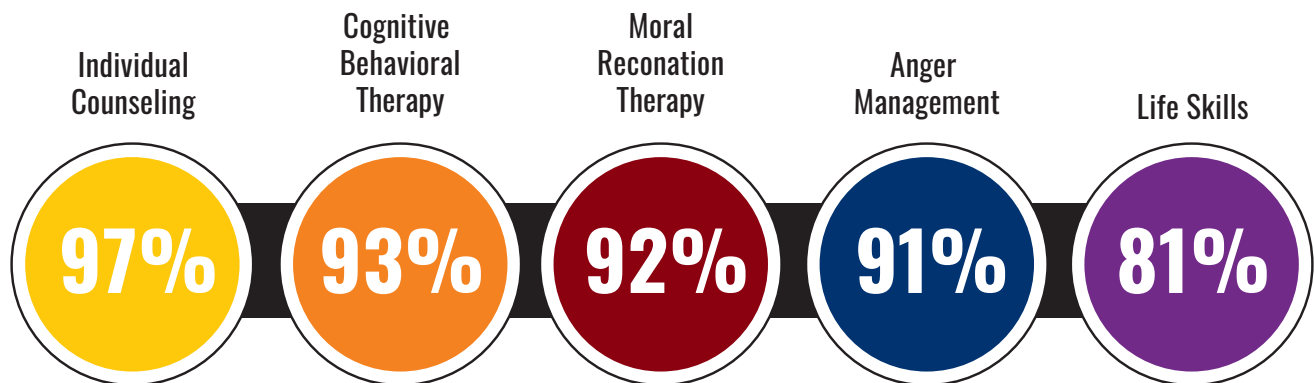


Evidence-Based Treatment Curricula/Modalities

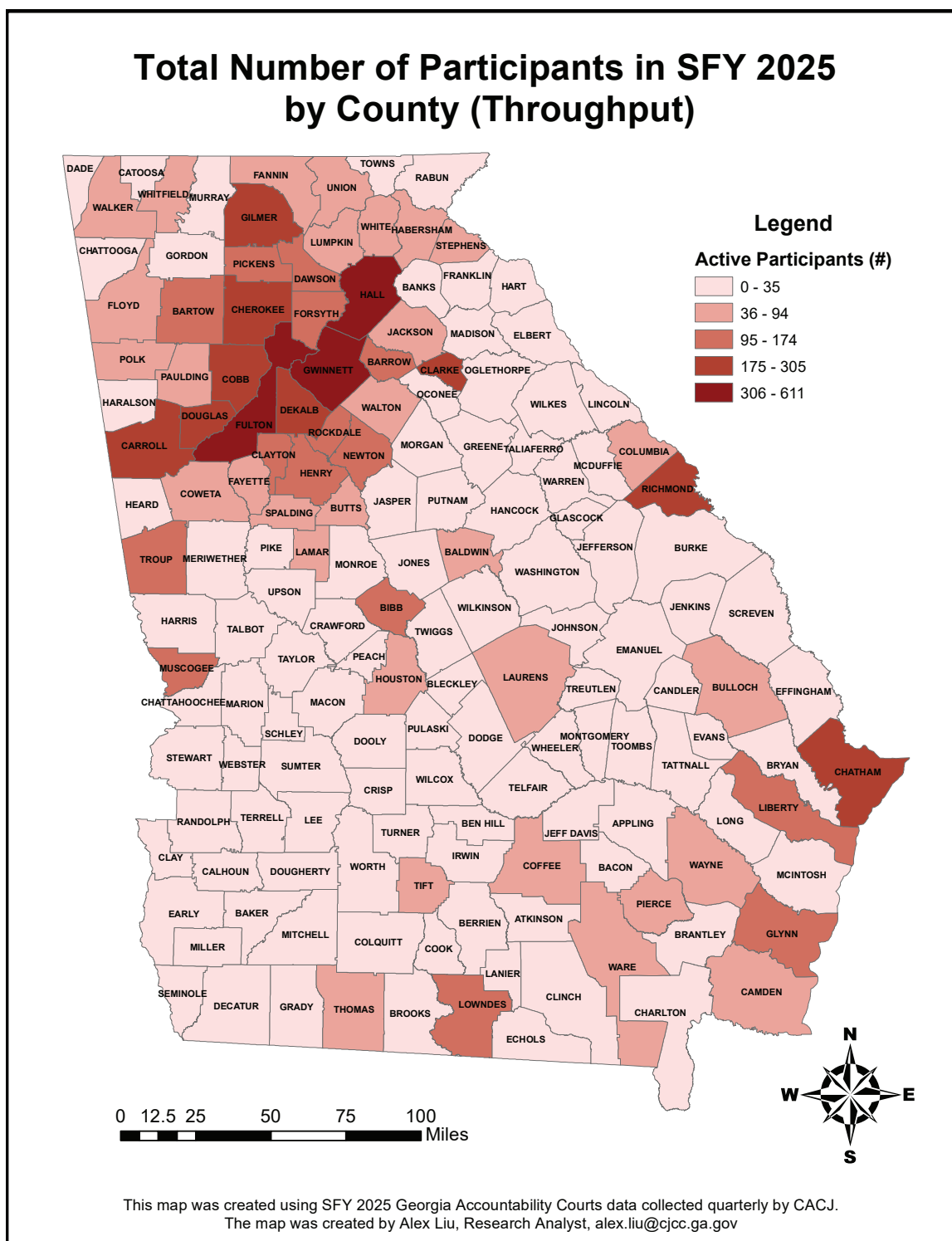
97% of the courts offer individual therapy to program participants. The below graphic shows the top five evidence-based treatment curricula/modalities offered and the percentage of courts for each.

Treatment courts should offer evidence-based treatment (EBT) because it is proven to reduce crime, lower recidivism rates, and improve participants' overall well-being. EBT helps individuals address the root causes of substance use disorders, develop healthier coping mechanisms, and build a foundation for long-term recovery. By focusing on these scientifically-supported practices, treatment courts can provide a more effective and cost-effective alternative to traditional incarceration, leading to safer communities and stronger families.

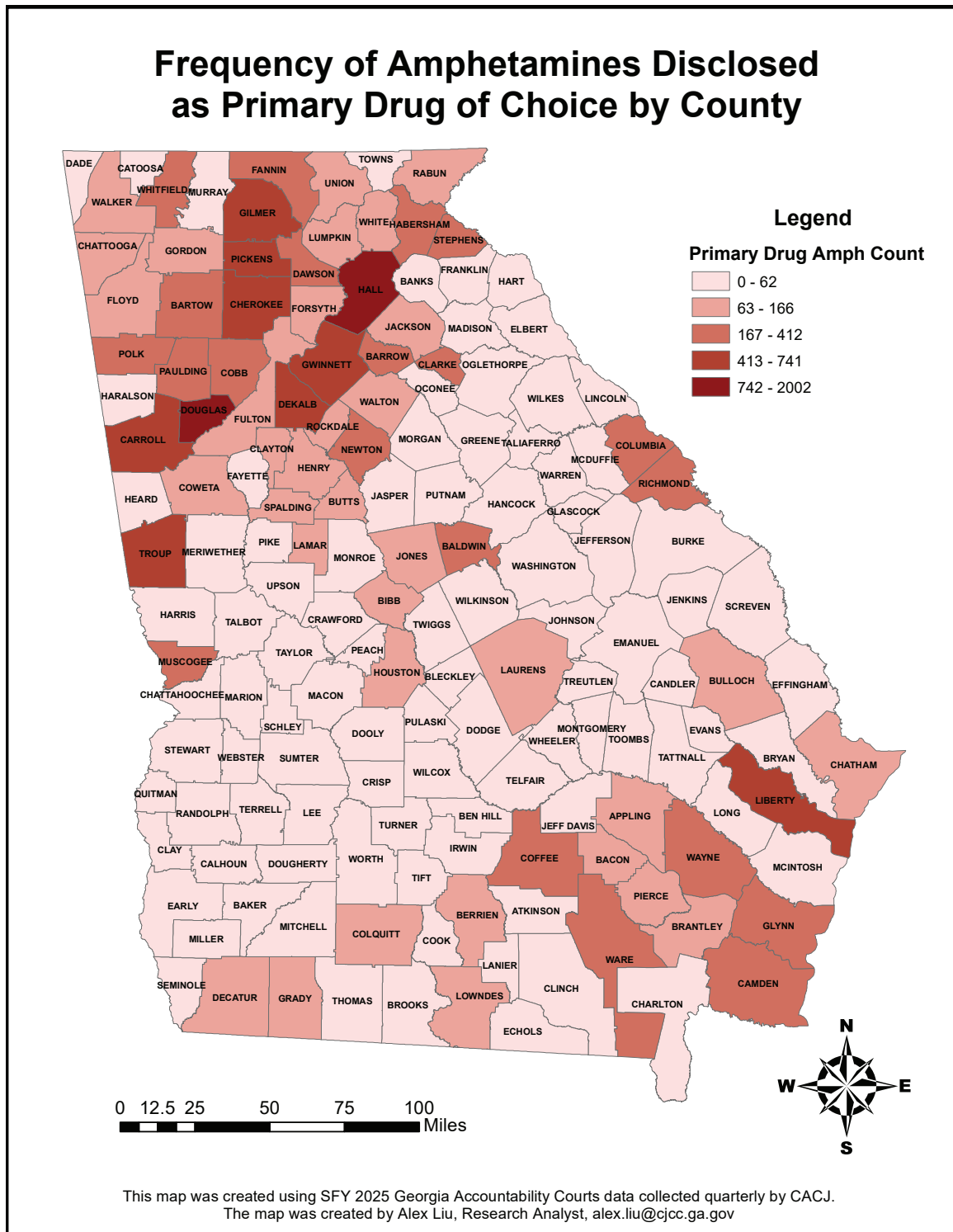
Top 5 Evidence-based Treatment Offered



Appendix A: Participant Throughput by Participant County of Residence



Appendix B: Top 3 Primary Drugs of Choice by Participant County of Residence



Legend

Primary Drug Alcohol Count

- 0 - 23
- 24 - 77
- 78 - 216
- 217 - 481
- 482 - 840

0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Miles

N
W E
S

64

Frequency of Marijuana Disclosed as Primary Drug of Choice by County

