

# Accountability Courts Statewide Report Fiscal Year 2022



December 16, 2022

Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia

At the end of fiscal year 2022, there were **171** accountability courts and program tracks:

**53 Adult Felony Drug Courts**  
2,081 Participants

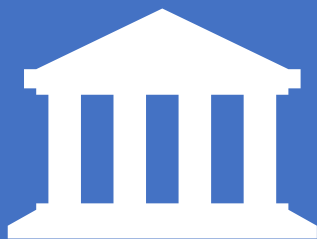
**40 Mental Health Courts**  
769 Participants

**21 DUI Courts**  
836 Participants

**21 Veterans Courts**  
185 Participants

**23 Family Treatment Courts**  
316 Participants

**13 Juvenile Drug/Mental Health Courts**  
103 Participants



## Executive Summary

Georgia's accountability courts seek to provide research supported and cost-saving alternatives to incarceration. In Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022), participants in Council of Accountability Court Judges' (CACJ) certified programs engaged in evidence-based treatment, ancillary services, monitoring in the community, and a focus on individual goals supervised by multi-disciplinary team members.

In FY 2022, accountability courts continued to serve participants despite challenges caused by the ongoing effects of the pandemic. Georgia's courts are still recovering from significant case backlogs, which undoubtedly impact accountability courts' referrals and admissions. Despite these challenges, Georgia's accountability courts accepted more participants in FY 2022 compared to FY 2021. A consistent theme for FY 2022 was a focus on Georgia's accountability court standards and best practices; the foundation from which our courts were built. This was evidenced by the CACJ's 2022 annual training conference's title, "Back to the Future of Accountability Courts." CACJ continues to focus on increasing the number of participants served in Georgia's accountability courts and increasing fidelity to the accountability court model.

These data<sup>1</sup> should be interpreted within the context of the ongoing, residual impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Georgia's courts and CACJ's data integrity efforts.

## Average Participant Across All Program Types

### Average age at admission

36 years old

### Income level

82% earning less than \$25,000 annually

### Unemployment level

43% Unemployed at entry

### Education level at entry

80% High School Diploma/GED or Less

### Gender

65% Male

### Acceptance type

57% Post-adjudication/ 28% Pre-adjudication  
(DUI Court participants are 100% post-adjudication)

### Risk level

90% Moderate or High Risk

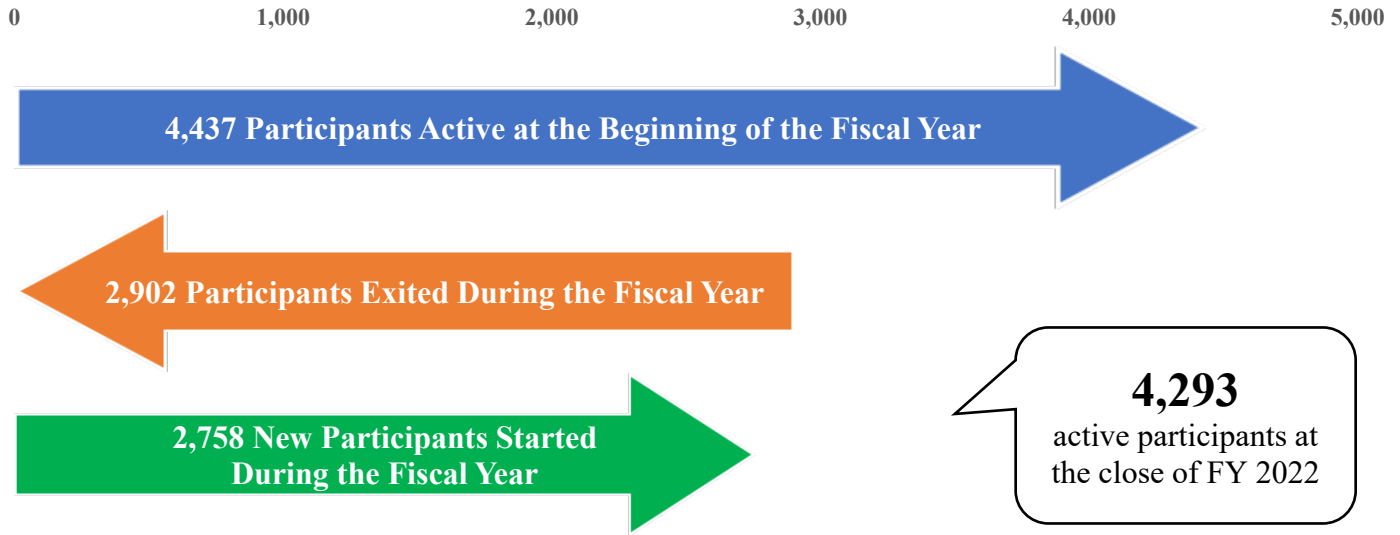
### Diagnosis/Diagnostic impression

77% Substance Use Disorder

### Race

62% White

## FY 2022 Total Participants Served<sup>2</sup>



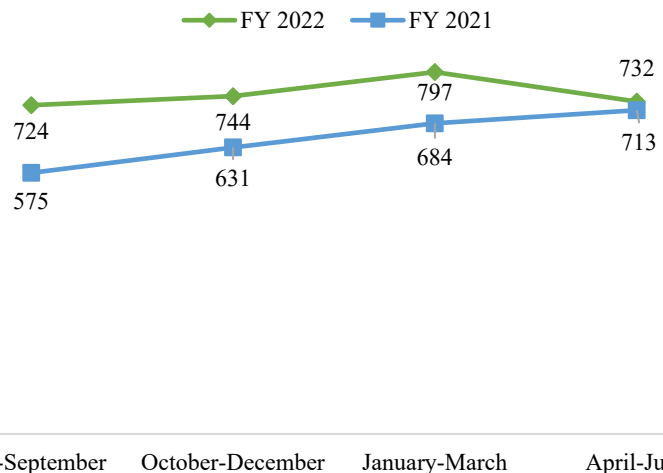
**7,195** participants served throughout FY 2022 including new, active, and exited participants.

Accountability courts accepted **155 more** new participants in FY 2022 compared to FY 2021.

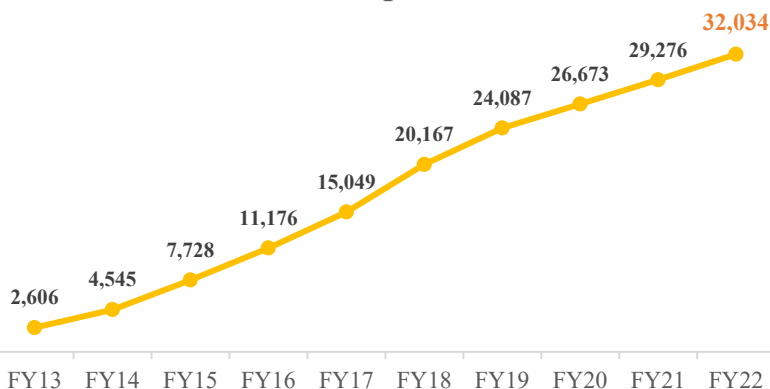
**2,603** new participants in FY 2021

**2,758** new participants in FY 2022

## New Participants by Quarter



## Cumulative Number of Served Participants

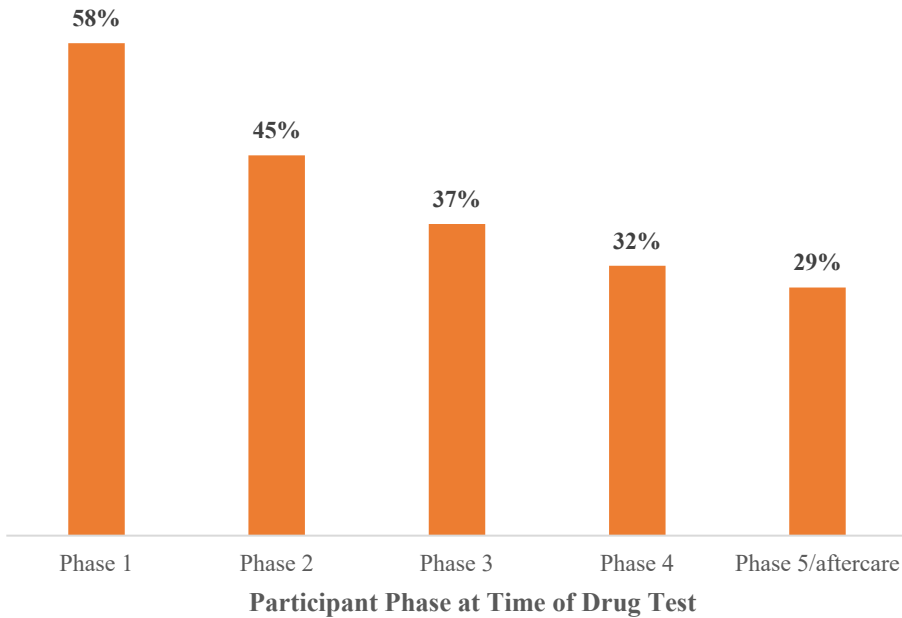


**4,293** active participants at the close of FY 2022

**32,034** participants served since FY 2013 and counting...

# Drug Testing Promotes Sobriety

## Participants With a Positive Test in FY 2022



**393,730**

Total Drug Tests Administered

**25,399**

Positive<sup>3</sup> Drug Tests

**92%**

Negative Test Rate<sup>4</sup>

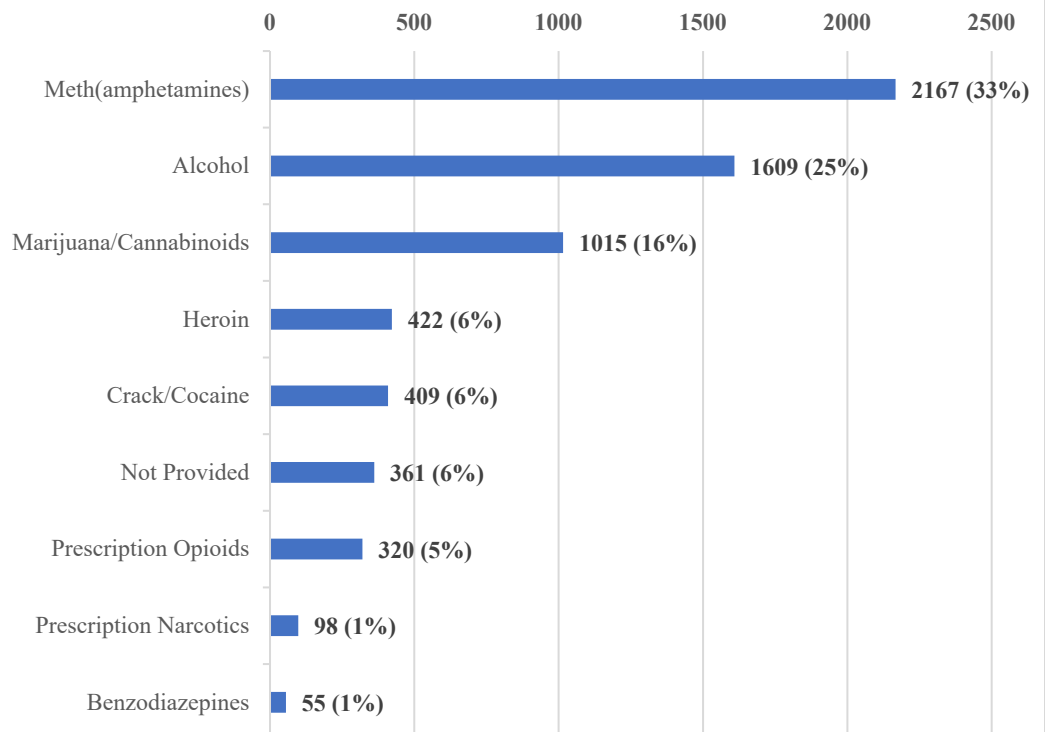
## Drug of Choice

The most frequently reported primary drug of choice for FY 2022 was meth (amphetamines), followed by alcohol and marijuana.

In DUI Courts, alcohol was the most reported primary drug of choice.



## Primary Drug of Choice



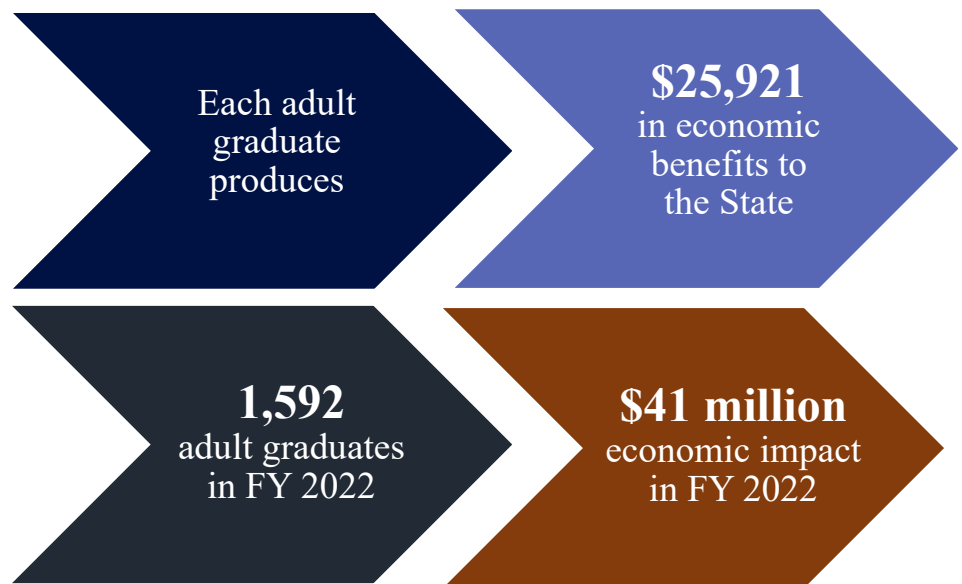
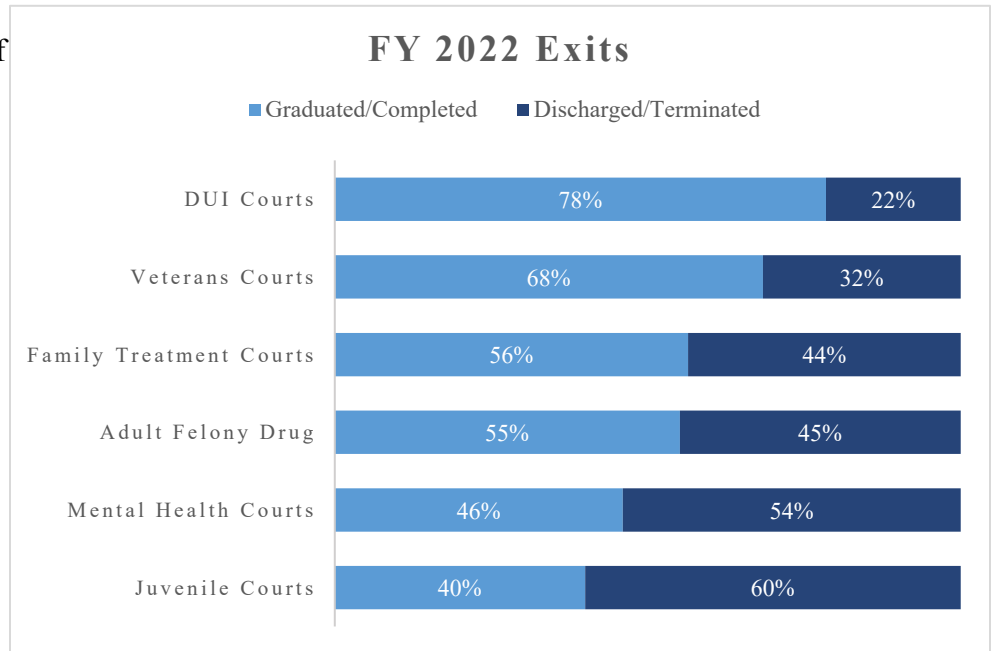
# Program Participation Produces Positive Outcomes

Across all program types, **57%** of adult and juvenile participants who exited in FY 2022 either graduated or completed the program.

## Combined FY 2022 Adult and Juvenile Exit Statuses:

1,644 Graduated/Completed  
1,223 Discharged/Terminated

***“Any amount of participation in an accountability court, regardless of completion, leads to lower recidivism.”<sup>5</sup>***



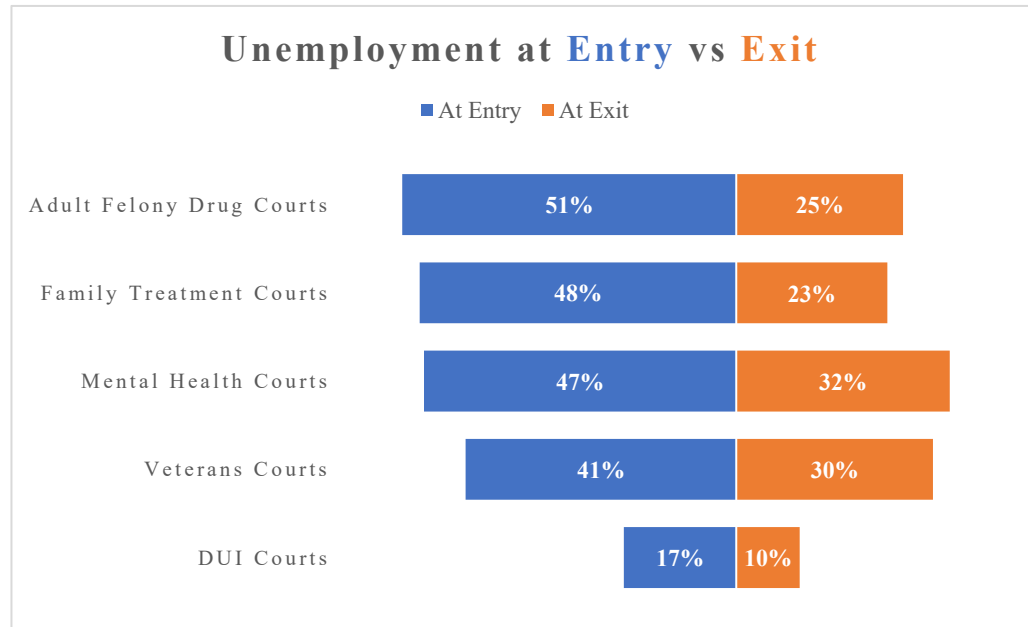
According to recent research conducted by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government<sup>6</sup>, each adult graduate from an accountability court produces **\$25,921** in economic impact to the state of Georgia. FY 2022 adult graduates netted estimated total economic benefits of **\$41 million**.

## Treatment Promotes Employment

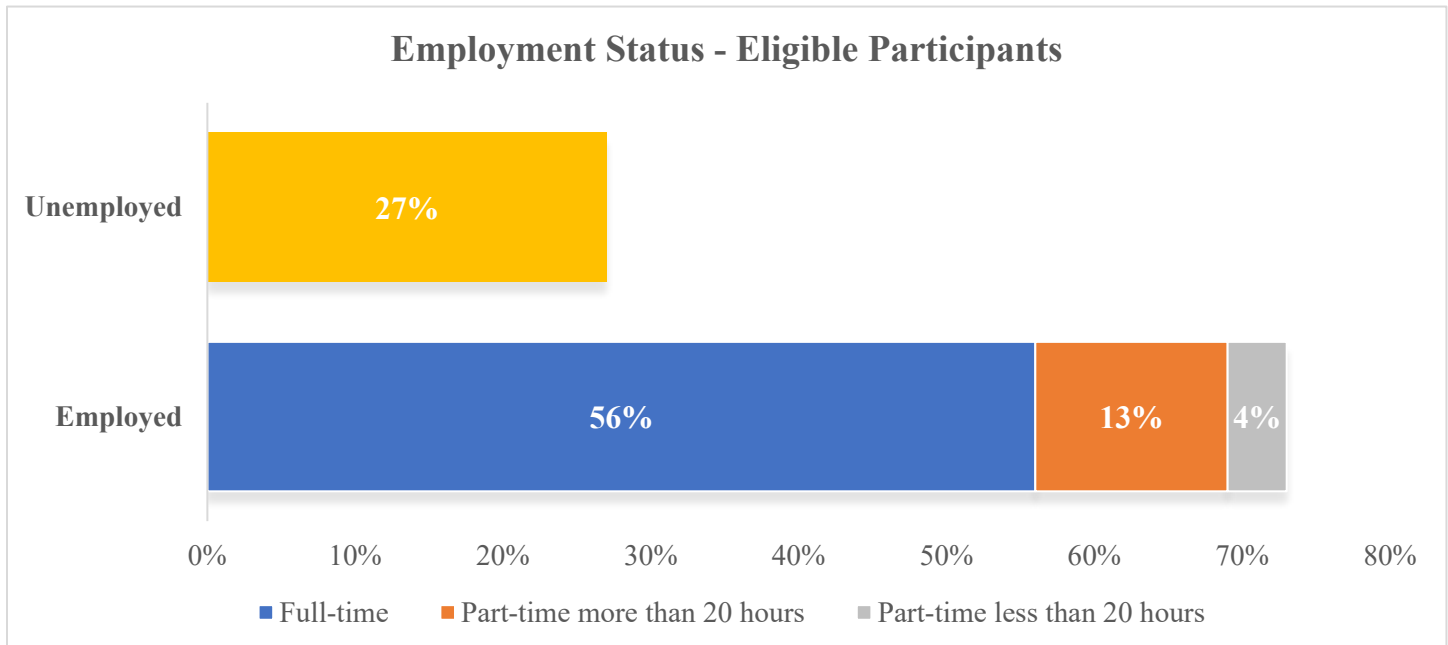
Employment at graduation is a key objective of program participation and a data element that is statutorily mandated for reporting.

Participants who exited an accountability court program in FY 2022 were **more likely to be employed** than when they entered the program.

Eighty-six percent of adult participants who exited an accountability court program in FY 2022 were employed, and **91% of graduates were employed.**



**73%** of the eligible<sup>7</sup> participants are employed  
**56%** work full-time

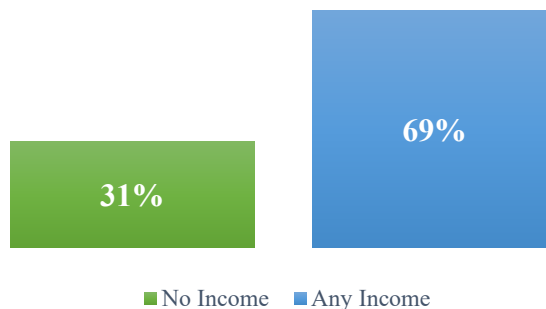


# Program Participation has Positive Economic and Social Impact

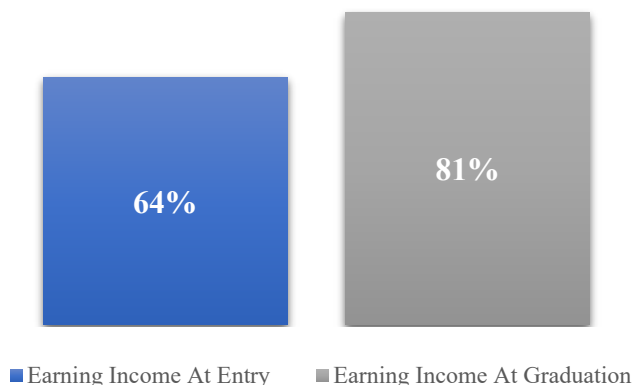
**69%** of active participants earn an income

**43%** earn more than \$20,000 per year

Percentage of Active Participants with Income



FY 2022 Graduates' Income



**81%** of FY 2022 graduates were earning an income at graduation

**23%** more participants employed and earning an income at graduation compared to at entry

## 90 Families Reunified



Families reunified in FY 2022 will benefit from increased stability and better economic prospects.

## 18 Drug-free Babies Born



Each additional baby born drug free saves an average of **\$63,200** in delivery and medical costs. In FY 2022, Georgia saved over **\$1.1 million**.

# FY 2022 Accountability Courts and Program Tracks

## Court Name

Alapaha Circuit Mental Health and Drug Court	Coweta County Family Treatment Court
Appalachian Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court	Coweta Veterans Treatment Court
Appalachian Circuit H.E.L.P. Court	Dawson County Family Treatment Court
Appalachian Circuit Veterans Court	Dawson County Treatment Court (Drug/DUI)
Appalachian Judicial Circuit Family Treatment Court	Dawson County Treatment Court (MH)
Appalachian Juvenile Drug Court	DeKalb County Drug Court
Athens-Clarke County DUI Treatment Court	DeKalb County DUI Court
Athens-Clarke County Family Treatment Court	DeKalb County Felony Mental Health Court
Atlantic Judicial Circuit Drug Court	DeKalb County Juvenile Court - INSPIRE Family Treatment Court
Atlantic Judicial Circuit Family Treatment Court	DeKalb County Juvenile Court - Journey Mental Health Court
Atlantic Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court	DeKalb County Juvenile Court - Rebound Drug Court
Augusta Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court	DeKalb County Veterans Treatment Court
Augusta Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court	DeKalb Misdemeanor Mental Health Court
Augusta Judicial Circuit Veterans Court	Dodge County Adult Felony Drug Court
Barrow County Drug Court	Dougherty Superior Court MH/SA Treatment Program
Bartow Family Treatment Court	Douglas Circuit Accountability Courts - Felony Drug Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit Drug Accountability Court	Douglas Circuit Accountability Courts - HOPE Court
Brunswick Judicial Circuit Drug Court	Douglas Circuit Accountability Courts - Veterans Court
Burke County DUI/Drug Court	Douglas County Family Treatment Court
Carroll County Drug Court	Douglas County State DUI/Drug Court - Drug Track
Carroll County Family Treatment Court	Douglas County State DUI/Drug Court - DUI Track
Carroll County Juvenile Wellness Court	Dublin Judicial Circuit Mental Health and Veterans Treatment Court
Chatham County DUI Court	Enotah Family Treatment Court
Chatham County Family Treatment Court	Enotah S.T.A.R. Court
Chatham County SPARC Program	Fayette County DUI Court
Cherokee County DUI/Drug Court - Drug	Fayette County Veteran's Treatment Court
Cherokee County DUI/Drug Court - DUI	Forsyth County CARE Program
Cherokee County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court	Forsyth County Drug Court
Cherokee County Treatment Accountability Court	Forsyth County DUI Court
Cherokee County Veterans Treatment Court	Forsyth County Family Treatment Court
Cherokee Judicial Circuit Drug Court	Fulton County Adult Felony Drug Court
Clayton County Behavioral Health Accountability Court	Fulton County Behavioral Health Treatment Court
Clayton County Drug Court	Fulton County DUI Treatment Court
Clayton County DUI Court	Fulton County Juvenile Drug Court CHOICES Program
Clayton County Veterans Treatment Court	Fulton County Juvenile Family Dependency Treatment Court
Cobb County Drug Court	Fulton County Misdemeanor Mental Health Court
Cobb County DUI Court	Fulton County Veterans Treatment Court
Cobb County Family Treatment Court	Griffin Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court
Cobb County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court	Gwinnett County Drug Court
Cobb County Mental Health Court	Gwinnett County DUI Court
Cobb County Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court	Gwinnett County Family Treatment Court
Colquitt County Accountability Court	Gwinnett County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court
Conasauga Drug Court	Gwinnett County Mental Health Court
Conasauga Mental Health Court	Gwinnett County State Court Veterans Intervention Program
Conasauga Veterans Treatment Court	Gwinnett County Superior Court Veterans Court
Cordele Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court	Hall County Drug Court
Coweta Circuit Mental Health Court	Hall County DUI Court
Coweta County Drug Court	Hall County Family Treatment Court
Coweta County DUI Court	Hall County HELP Program/Veterans Treatment Court



Henry County Adult Felony Drug Court  
 Henry County DUI/Drug Court  
 Henry County Juvenile Mental Health Court  
 Henry County Resource Court  
 Henry County Veterans Treatment Court  
 Houston Mental Health Court  
 Jackson County Drug Court  
 Jefferson County Adult Felony Drug Court  
 Juvenile Drug Court of Muscogee County  
 Liberty County DUI Court  
 Lookout Mountain Drug Court  
 Lookout Mountain Mental Health Court  
 Lowndes County Accountability Court  
 Lowndes County DUI Court  
 Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court  
 Macon Judicial Circuit Drug Court  
 Macon Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court  
 Macon Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court  
 Mountain Adult Felony Drug Court  
 Mountain Judicial Circuit Family Treatment Court  
 Mountain Mental Health Court  
 Muscogee County Adult Drug Court  
 Muscogee County Family Drug Court  
 Muscogee County Mental Health Court  
 Muscogee County Veterans Treatment Court  
 Newton and Walton County Mental Health Court - Newton  
 Newton and Walton County Mental Health Court - Walton  
 Newton County Adult Felony Drug Court  
 Newton County Dependency Family Treatment Court  
 Newton County Veterans Treatment Court  
 North Enotah Felony Drug Court  
 Northern Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court  
 Ocmulgee Circuit Adult Treatment Court Collaborative -  
 Mental Health Division  
 Ocmulgee Circuit Adult Treatment Court Collaborative -  
 Substance Abuse Division  
 Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Family Treatment Court  
 Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Drug Court  
 Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court  
 Pataula Adult Felony Drug Court  
 Paulding Judicial Circuit Drug Court  
 Paulding Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court  
 Piedmont Circuit Mental Health Court  
 Piedmont Circuit Veterans Treatment Court  
 Richmond County DUI Court  
 Richmond County Veterans Court  
 Rockdale County Adult Drug Court  
 Rockdale County DUI Court  
 Rockdale County Family Treatment Court  
 Rockdale County Juvenile Drug Court  
 Rockdale County Juvenile Resource Court  
 Rockdale County Resource Court

Rome Circuit Mental Health Court  
 Rome/Floyd Drug Court  
 Savannah Chatham County Drug Court with Veterans Division  
 Savannah-Chatham Mental Health Court  
 South Enotah Felony Drug Court  
 South Georgia Judicial Circuit Accountability Court  
 Southwestern Judicial Circuit Accountability Court  
 Spalding County Mental Health/Veterans Treatment Court  
 Tallapoosa Drug Intervention Program  
 Tallapoosa Family Treatment Court  
 Tallapoosa Mental Health Court  
 Tift County DUI-Drug Court  
 Tifton Judicial Circuit Accountability Courts  
 Toombs Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court  
 Towaliga Accountability Courts  
 Troup County DUI/Drug Court  
 Troup County Family Treatment Court  
 Troup County Felony Adult Drug Court  
 Waycross Judicial Circuit Accountability Court - Drug Track  
 Waycross Judicial Circuit Accountability Court - Mental Health Track  
 Western Judicial Circuit Felony Drug Court  
 Western Judicial Circuit Treatment and Accountability Court  
 Western Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court

#### Endnotes

1. *The analysis and conclusions contained in this document are accurate as of the date retrieved (December 9, 2022) and may not match previous or future publications due to additional reports and/or corrections to previous reporting.*
2. *Unique participant counts are also the “throughput” figure. Throughout is calculated as: Number of active participants at FY start – Number of participants who exited in Q1 + New participants for that fiscal year.*
3. *Positive drug test count includes both positive and diluted results.*
4. *Negative drug test count includes negative and approved positive drug test results. Null and inconclusive drug test results were excluded from the rate calculation.*
5. *Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia. (2018, July). The estimated economic impacts and benefits of accountability court programs in Georgia. Retrieved from <https://cacj.georgia.gov/economic-impact-study>*
6. *Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia. (forthcoming). The estimated economic impacts of accountability court programs in Georgia: 2022 update. Retrieved from <https://cacj.georgia.gov/economic-impact-study>*
7. *Eligible participants are those who do not have a disability that could prevent them from working.*