

## Census of Problem-Solving Courts

The National Center for State Courts, on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, is conducting a National Census of Problem-Solving Courts. The information you provide in this survey will help to establish an accurate picture of Problem-Solving Courts nationwide--including how many exist, who they serve, and program characteristics--that does not currently exist.

Thank you for participating in the Census of Problem-Solving Courts. Should questions arise while you are completing the survey, please call 800-616-6109 or send an e-mail to [CensusPSC@ncsc.org](mailto:CensusPSC@ncsc.org).



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## Census of Problem-Solving Courts

### Respondent Information

State/territory: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Identify the SINGLE category label that best describes your Problem-Solving Court.

Drug	Community Issues	Youth
<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Community	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Youth
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Gun	<input type="checkbox"/> Teen
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Prostitution	<input type="checkbox"/> Girls
<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Gambling	<input type="checkbox"/> Boys
<input type="checkbox"/> DWI/DUI	<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless	<input type="checkbox"/> Truancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Campus Drug		
Co-Occurring	Reentry	Veterans
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-occurring disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Reentry	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Veterans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reentry Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Drug Treatment
	<input type="checkbox"/> Parole Violation	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Mental Health Treatment
Mental Health	Domestic Relations	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Treatment
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Problem-Solving
	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Dependency/Family Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Elder Abuse	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Support/Fathering	

Please mark here if your court addresses a combination of court types (e.g., DWI/Drug Court).

Please mark all court types that describe your court (e.g., hybrid DWI/Drug Court would select “Adult Drug” and “DWI/DUI”).

Drug	Community Issues	Youth
<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Community	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Youth
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Gun	<input type="checkbox"/> Teen
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Prostitution	<input type="checkbox"/> Girls
<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Gambling	<input type="checkbox"/> Boys
<input type="checkbox"/> DWI/DUI	<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless	<input type="checkbox"/> Truancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Campus Drug		
Co-Occurring	Reentry	Veterans
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-occurring disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Reentry	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Veterans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reentry Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Drug Treatment
	<input type="checkbox"/> Parole Violation	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Mental Health Treatment
Mental Health	Domestic Relations	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Treatment
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Problem-Solving
	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Dependency/Family Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Elder Abuse	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Support/Fathering	

Please provide name and contact information for your court.

a. Name of your Problem-Solving Court:

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Street address for your Problem-Solving Court:

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Phone number for your Problem-Solving Court:

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Your professional information:

i. Your name:

\_\_\_\_\_

ii. Your position title:

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iii. Your organizational affiliation:

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iv. Your e-mail address:

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v. Your phone number:

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### Court Operations

2. Does your Problem-Solving Court...

a. ...operate within the judiciary (i.e., as part of the judicial rather than executive branch)?

Yes

No

b. ...have a dedicated docket/calendar?

Yes

No

c. ...have a dedicated judicial officer(s)? (i.e., judicial officer has the authority of the court and is assigned to the Problem Solving cases).

Yes

No

If your answer is NO to #2a, b, or c, please STOP and discontinue this survey.

d. ..have a dedicated prosecutor(s)?

Yes

No

e. ...have a dedicated defense attorney(s)/public defender(s)?

Yes

No

f. ...have dedicated court staff?

Yes

No

g. ...have a dedicated operations manager/program coordinator?

Yes

No

h. ...have an operations manual for the court? A manual provides a clear model for operating the court and includes all Problem-Solving Court policies.

Yes

No

i. ...have a mission statement?

Yes

No

3. At what level of government does your Problem-Solving Court operate?

Local jurisdiction (e.g., municipal, county, district),

State,

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Were the following stakeholders involved in planning efforts to create this Problem-Solving Court?

Information about planning efforts is not available (skip to Question 5).

a. Judge(s)

Yes

No

b. Prosecuting attorney(s)

Yes

No

c. Defense attorney(s)/public defender(s)

Yes

No

d. Court administrator(s)

Yes

No

e. Probation or other supervision agency

Yes

No

f. Law enforcement agency

Yes

No

g. Service provider(s) (e.g., offender/victim services, counseling or treatment services, or general supportive services)

Yes

No

5. How many full-time and part-time staff members are currently employed by your Problem-Solving Court?

This count should not include those fully employed by an external agency (e.g., community service provider or other government agency), but those paid, at least in part, through the judiciary.

- a. Number of full-time Problem-Solving Court personnel: \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Number of part-time Problem-Solving Court personnel: \_\_\_\_\_

6. How frequently is the Problem-Solving Court in session?

- Daily  
 More than once a week but less than daily  
 Weekly  
 More than once a month but less than weekly  
 Monthly  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. What key underlying problem(s) is your Problem-Solving Court designed to address in your community?

Select all that apply.

- Substance-related issues(s)  
 Behavioral addiction(s) (e.g., gambling addiction)  
 Mental health issue(s)  
 Quality-of-life or nuisance offense(s) (e.g., homelessness)  
 Poor offender compliance with court orders (e.g., restitution, child support, fines paid in full)  
 Challenges that hinder access to the judicial system for certain underprivileged populations

If marked, please list the type of underprivileged population: \_\_\_\_\_

- Challenges faced by offenders seeking to integrate back into the community  
 Victim safety  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Is expertise in the relevant problem-solving area a mandatory qualification for new professional staff positions within the Problem-Solving Court? For example, the drug court judge has professional experience working with individuals with substance abuse or addiction problems or the mental health court program coordinator has an educational background in the psychological sciences.

- Yes  
 No

9. For each of the following stakeholders, does the Problem-Solving Court mandate training specific to the needs of program participants? Training for stakeholders can range from a formal training curriculum to informal brown bag sessions on key topics such as underlying causes of the offender's justice system involvement, relevant health or behavioral problems like drug addiction, mental illness, sex offending, domestic violence.

- a. Dedicated judicial officer(s)  
 Yes

- No
  - b. Dedicated prosecutor(s)
    - Yes
    - No
  - c. Dedicated defense attorney(s)/public defender(s)
    - Yes
    - No
  - d. Dedicated court staff
    - Yes
    - No
  - e. Dedicated operations manager/program coordinator
    - Yes
    - No
- 

10. Please select all case types (subject matters) that fall under the jurisdiction of your Problem-Solving Court.

- Criminal (include criminal charges for domestic violence, abuse, or neglect),
- Family/Domestic Relations (include dependency, orders of protection, adjudication of parental rights, custody, visitation)
- Juvenile (include delinquency, or status offenses)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Please select all case types that apply:

- Felony
- Misdemeanor
- Delinquency
- Status Offense
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Is your Problem-Solving Court currently admitting participants?

- Yes
- No

13. When did/will your Problem-Solving Court admit its **first** participant?

Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Is your Problem-Solving Court currently preparing to cease operations?

- Yes

No

If Yes: When did/will your Problem-Solving Court admit its **last** participant?

Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this existing Problem-Solving Court merging operations with another problem-solving court?

Yes

No

If you marked Yes, please enter the following information about the new Problem-Solving Court.

Name of merged Problem-Solving Court:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number for this court:

\_\_\_\_\_

Admitting first participant as of (month/year):

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person (e.g., program coordinator) for this court:

\_\_\_\_\_

a. Name:

b. Position title:

c. Organizational affiliation:

d. E-mail address:

e. Phone number:

\_\_\_\_\_



**Funding**

15. How is your Problem Solving Court currently funded? Select all that apply. For those sources selected, what percentage of your court’s funding for **the most recent 12-month period** came from each selected funding source?

Funding Source	Percentage
<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent item in state government budget	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent item in local government budget	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal start-up fund(s)/grant(s)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal enhancement fund(s)/grant(s)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal block grant funding	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> State start-up fund(s)/grant(s)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> State enhancement fund(s)/grant(s)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Private foundation start-up fund(s)/grant(s)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Private foundation enhancement fund(s)/grant(s)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> In-kind services	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Client fees	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	_____

This is an estimate only.

**Commonly used services**

16. Please identify the types of services commonly used by active participants in your Problem-Solving Court program. For the purpose of this Census, “commonly used” services are those services that are used by **at least 10%** of your active Problem-Solving Court program participants.

**OFFENDER/VICTIM SERVICES:**

- Batterer program
- Anger management
- Prostitution program
- Victim-defendant mediation
- Other offender/victim services: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNSELING OR TREATMENT SERVICES:**

- Treatment readiness program
- Individual counseling
- Emergency psychiatric services (crisis stabilization)
- Inpatient mental health treatment
- Outpatient mental health treatment
- Substance abuse treatment – less than 90 days

- Substance abuse treatment – 90 days or more
- Integrated substance abuse and mental health treatment
- Medication (e.g., methadone, buprenorphin) as a treatment strategy
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Other counseling/treatment services: \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL SUPPORTIVE SERVICES:**

- Employment readiness program or other job-related training
- Health education
- Life skills (e.g., parenting, self-management, decision-making, risk reduction)
- GED-related class
- Financial counseling services
- Assistance in locating housing
- Assistance in financing housing
- Assistance in accessing benefits (e.g., Medicaid, SSI, SSDI, veterans)
- Transportation (e.g., bus fare, rides to program-related appointments)
- Child care during program appointments
- Supported employment
- Court sponsored “alumni” groups
- Civil (legal) services assistance
- Cultural, ethnic, or racial-specific services
- Other supportive service(s): \_\_\_\_\_

17. **Participant Eligibility:** Other than case type, what characteristics are required to establish participant eligibility or ineligibility for your court? Select all that apply:

**Prior criminal history**

- a. Prior conviction  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable
- b. Prior conviction for violent offense  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable
- c. Prior conviction for a sex offense  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable
- d. Other prior criminal history: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable

**Mental health-related criteria**

- e. Clinical diagnosis (e.g., SPMI or specific disorder such as schizophrenia, PTSD)  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable
- f. Intellectual or developmental disorder (e.g., mental retardation, autism, traumatic brain injury)  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable
- g. Other mental health criteria: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable

**Substance-related criteria**

- h. Diagnosis of addiction or substance dependency  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable
- i. Drug of choice  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable

**Behavioral addiction**

- j. Gambling  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable
- k. Other behavioral addiction: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable

**Residential status**

- l. Homeless or imminent risk of becoming homeless  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable

**Other**

- m. Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eligible  Ineligible  Not applicable

18. **Point of entry.** At what point(s) in the justice system process are participants admitted into your Problem-Solving Court?

If Criminal:

- Pre-plea
- Post-plea/pre-sentence
- Post-plea/condition of sentence,
- Post-conviction/pre-sentence,
- Post-sentence,
- Post-release,
- Other scenario: \_\_\_\_\_

If Domestic Relations:

- Upon filing or case initiation,
- After order issued (temporary or final),
- After adjudication of rights (e.g., custody, visitation),
- Other scenario \_\_\_\_\_

If Juvenile:

- Pre-plea,
- Post-plea/pre-disposition,
- Post-disposition,
- Post-release,

Other scenario: \_\_\_\_\_

Please identify the **most common** point of entry for participants admitted to your Problem-Solving Court program:

Pre-plea,

Post-plea/pre-disposition,

Post-disposition,

Post-release,

Upon filing or case initiation,

After order issued (temporary or final),

After adjudication of rights (e.g., custody, visitation)

Other scenario: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Are Problem-Solving Court participants required to attend ongoing case management or probation supervision meetings?

Yes

No

20. Are Problem-Solving Court participants required to attend regular judicially-supervised status hearings?

Yes

No

a. If Yes: As part of these regular judicially-supervised status hearings, does the Problem-Solving Court judge directly interact with participants (e.g., by conversing with each participant to affirm his/her understanding of responsibilities or to discuss behavioral progress)?

Yes

No

21. Does the court obtain regular updates from service providers on participant progress?

Yes

No

a. If Yes: Does the court use indicators of participant progress from service providers to modify the case/treatment plan (e.g., to change service quantity or quality)?

Yes

No

22. Does a team (or representatives from collaborating agencies) meet informally/formally to review cases in preparation for each judicially-supervised status hearing?

Yes

No

a. If Yes: Are the following Problem-Solving Court stakeholders typically represented in these case review meetings?

i. Judge

Yes

No

- ii. Prosecuting attorney(s)
  - Yes
  - No
- iii. Defense attorney(s)/public defender(s)
  - Yes
  - No
- iv. Probation/supervising agency
  - Yes
  - No
- v. Law enforcement agency
  - Yes
  - No
- vi. Service provider(s)
  - Yes
  - No

23. Does the Problem-Solving Court program apply a continuum of behavioral reinforcement responses (i.e., sanctions, incentives)?

- Yes
- No

a. If Yes: Does the Problem-Solving Court maintain a schedule linking participant compliance/noncompliance with that response continuum (i.e., linking types of infractions to appropriate sanctions, achievements to incentives)?

- Yes
- No

24. **Case closure.** What are the benefits for participants who successfully complete your Problem-Solving Court program? Select all that apply:

- Case dismissed
- Sentence is suspended (in part or full)
- Record expunged
- Expedited settlement or placement
- Other scenario: \_\_\_\_\_

25. **Design capacity.** How many active participants is your Problem-Solving Court program designed to handle at any one time?

\_\_\_\_\_ Participants       Don't know

26. **Active participants.** What is the current number of active participants in your Problem-Solving Court program? \_\_\_\_\_ Participants       This is an estimate only.

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## Data Collection Practices

27. Does your Problem-Solving Court use an electronic case management/information system?

- Yes  
 No

a. If Yes: Does this case management/information system allow for data to be shared with or entered by external agencies (e.g., service providers)?

- Yes  
 No

28. Does your Problem-Solving Court track individual participant outcomes after graduation?

- Yes  
 No

a. If Yes: For how many months after graduation does your court track each participant's outcomes? \_\_\_\_\_ months

b. Does your court share program-level data on participant outcomes with key stakeholders?

- Yes  
 No

29. **Evaluation.** Which of the following types of evaluations has been conducted on your Problem-Solving Court?

- Process evaluation  
 Outcome/Impact evaluation  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Don't know  
 None

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## Data

Please answer each question based only on data from **the most recent 12-month period**. If you do not have precise values, please indicate that you are providing an estimate *or* indicate that you do not have this type of data available and cannot estimate by marking the appropriate box. If your Problem-Solving Court has not yet begun to admit participants, skip this section.

30. How many participants were **admitted** to your Problem-Solving Court program in this **12-month period**?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- This is an estimate only.  
 No data available and cannot offer an informed estimate.  
 Data element is not applicable.

If zero, skip a-c.

31. How many participants **exited** your Problem-Solving court program in this **12-month period**?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- This is an estimate only.
  - No data available and cannot offer an informed estimate.
  - Data element is not applicable.

a. Of these participants, how many exited your Problem-Solving court program by...

- i. ...successful completion/graduation? \_\_\_\_\_  Data element is not applicable
- ii. ...administrative closure? \_\_\_\_\_  Data element is not applicable
- iii. ...voluntary withdrawal? \_\_\_\_\_  Data element is not applicable
- iv. ...general discharge? \_\_\_\_\_  Data element is not applicable
- v. ...transfer? \_\_\_\_\_  Data element is not applicable
- vi. ...failure/termination? \_\_\_\_\_  Data element is not applicable

- These numbers are an estimate only.
- No data available and cannot offer an informed estimate.

b. Of all participants who exited your Problem-Solving court program in this **12-month period**, what was the **average length (in days)** from admission to exit? \_\_\_\_\_ days

- This number is an estimate only.
- No data available and cannot offer an informed estimate.

c. Of these participants who exited your court program in this **12-month period**, what percentage

- i. ...were identified as **female**? \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. ...were identified as:
  - 1. White \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Black or African American \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Asian \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. American Indian or Alaska Native \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. ...were identified as **Hispanic/Latino**? \_\_\_\_\_

- These numbers are an estimate only.
- No data available and cannot offer an informed estimate.

**Thank You** for your participation in the Census of Problem-Solving Courts.

If you are aware of any other problem-solving courts in your jurisdiction, please send an email to [CensusPSC@ncsc.org](mailto:CensusPSC@ncsc.org) that identifies the court name(s) and contact person(s).