

Colorado Problem Solving Courts



- ADULT DRUG COURT
- MENTAL HEALTH COURT
- JUVENILE DRUG COURT
- DUI COURTS
- VETERANS/TRAUMA COURT
- FAMILY/D&N COURT
- JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH
- HYBRID COURTS



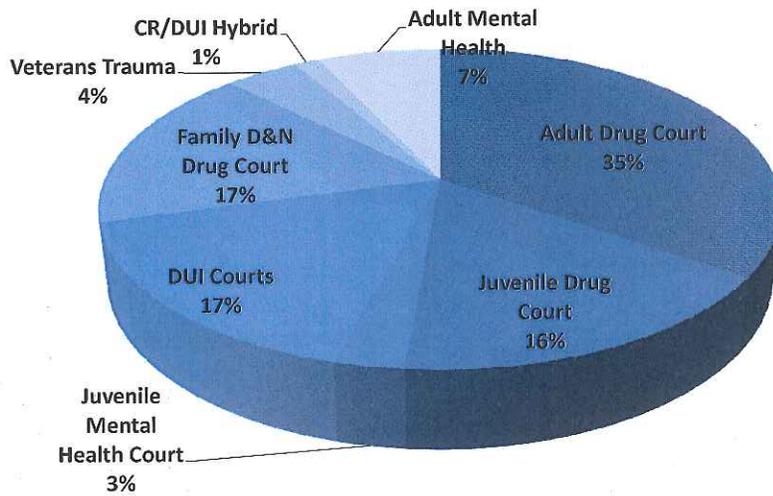
Problem Solving Court State Profile

- ◎ **73 Operational Problem Solving Courts**
- ◎ **8 Problem Solving Courts in Planning**
- ◎ **Now serving over 3,000 Defendants/Clients**
- ◎ **Most Commonly used drugs prior to program entrance:
Alcohol, Marijuana, Amphetamines and Cocaine with heroine
and prescription drug use growing**

2/19/2013



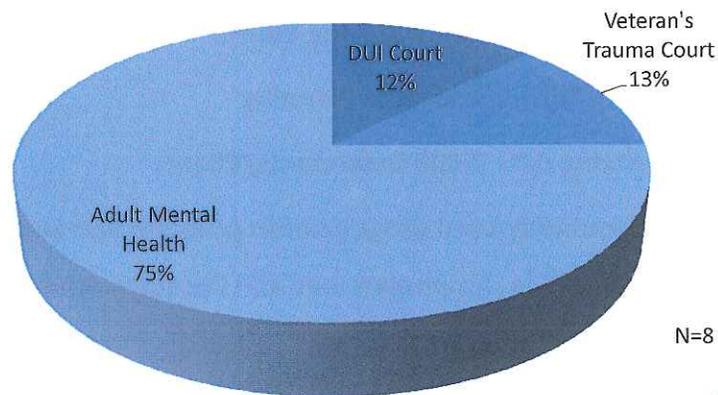
Operational Problem Solving Courts In Colorado



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Problem Solving Courts in Planning



N=8

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Mental Health Courts

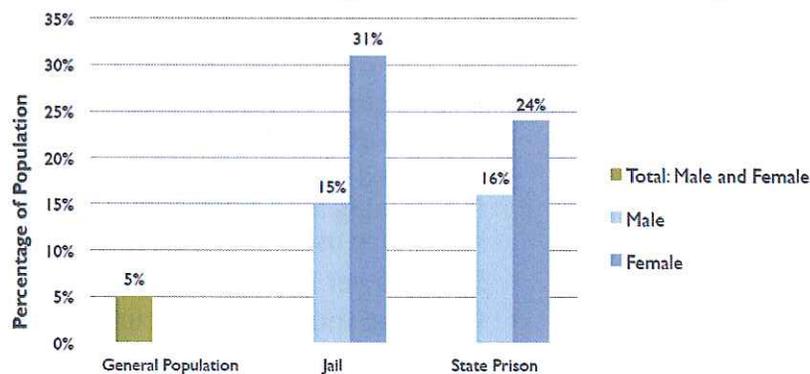
- What are Mental Health Courts?
 - A “Mental Health Court” is a program based in a court room and led by a judge that brings together members of the criminal justice system and the behavioral health system, among others, to work with individuals with mental illnesses who face criminal charges.

- Why a Mental Health Court?
 - Over representation in jails and prisons
 - Poor Performance under correctional supervision
 - Those with a mental health diagnosis tend to stay incarcerated for longer periods of time compared to other similar individuals with similar charges
 - Higher risk for committing new crimes



Mental Illness in Detention

Serious Mental Disorders among Offenders and the General Population



Sources: General Population (Kessler et al.,1996), Jail (Steadman et al., 2009), Prison (Ditton 1999)



The Essential Elements

- 1 Planning and Administration
- 2 Target Population
- 3 Timely Participant Identification & Linkage to Services
- 4 Terms of Participation
- 5 Informed Choice
- 6 Treatment Supports & Services
- 7 Confidentiality
- 8 Court Team
- 9 Monitoring Adherence to Court Requirements
- 10 Sustainability

The Council of State Governments Justice Center worked with leaders in the field to identify the common characteristics shared by mental health courts and how they can be achieved. These common characteristics are articulated in the *Ten Essential Elements*.



Research on MHC's



- Fewer bookings into jail
- Greater number of treatment episodes
- Greater number of treatment services
- Significantly less likely to incur new charges or be arrested
- Improved their independent functioning and decreased their substance use
- Spent fewer days in jail
- Reported more favorable interactions with the Judge and feeling like they were treated with greater fairness



How the Legislature Can Help

- Seek expert knowledge from task force in area of mental health and the criminal justice system
- Understand where Mental Health Courts fit into the system
- Promote community awareness and education around mental health issues to reduce the stigma and normalize mental health needs

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