

Treatment Courts in Pennsylvania

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History of Treatment Courts

- Florida - Miami-Dade 1989
- Pennsylvania – Philadelphia 1997
- 2006 Supreme Court officially recognized PSCs and creates Problem Solving Courts Office in the AOPC.
- 2010 Governor Edward Rendell signed into law Act 30, authorizing the establishment of PSCs in PA

Current Pennsylvania Treatment Courts

- Drug - 43
- DUI - 15
- Hybrid Drug/DUI - 10
- Mental Health - 28
- Veterans - 28
- Family - 4
- Juvenile – 3
- Other - 7

The Adult Drug Court 10 Key Components

1. Drug courts integrate alcohol and other treatment services with justice system case processing.
2. Using a nonadversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights
3. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program
4. Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services
5. Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing
6. A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance
7. Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential
8. Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness
9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations
10. Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness

Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards

- Target Population
- Roles and Responsibilities of the Judge
- Multidisciplinary Team
- Substance Use, Mental Health and Trauma Treatment and Recovery Management
- Complimentary Services and Recovery Capital
- Community Supervision
- Incentives, Sanctions and Service Adjustments
- Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Program Monitoring, Evaluation and Improvement

Target Population

- Objective Eligibility Criteria
- High Risk/High Need
- Valid Eligibility Assessments

Roles and Responsibilities of the Judge

- Education
- Term
- Pre-Court Staff Meeting
- Status Hearing
- Decision Making

Multidisciplinary Team

- Steering Committee
- Treatment Court Team
- Advisory Group
- Training and Education
- Team communication and Decision Making
- Pre-Court Staff Meetings/Court Status Hearings

Substance Use, Mental Health and Trauma Treatment and Recovery Management

- Treatment Decision Making
- Collaborative, Person-Centered
- Evidence Based
- Treatment and Dosage
- Recovery Management Services

Complimentary Services & Recovery Capital

- Recovery Capital
 - Health
 - Housing
 - Family
 - Vocational
 - Community, Cultural, Spiritual

Community Supervision

- Core Correctional Practices
- Trauma-Informed Supervision
- Standard Supervision Conditions
- Supervision Case Planning and Management
- Supervision Caseloads
- Office and Field Visits

Incentives, Sanctions and Service Adjustments

- Proximal, Distal and Managed Goals
- Incentives
- Sanctions
- Service adjustments
- Jail use
- Phases
- Program discharge

Drug and Alcohol Testing

- Frequency
- Randomization
- Duration
- Breadth
- Accurate and Reliable Testing
- Rapid Results

Program Monitoring, Evaluation and Improvement

- Monitoring BPs
- Criminal Recidivism
- Timely and Reliable Data Entry
- Electronic Database
- Evaluations

Structure and Model

- Pre-Plea/Pre-Trial
- Post-Plea/Pre-Disposition
- Post-Sentence/Revocation
- Hybrid

Risk Levels

- What is High Risk/High Need?
 - High Risk to Reoffend
 - High Clinical Need (Substance Use Disorder/Mental Health)

Other Risk Levels

- High Risk/Low Need
- Low Risk/High Need
- Low Risk/Low Need



What can we do with these other R/N Levels applicants instead of Treatment Courts?

STATISTICS

Adult Drug Courts Data

Adult Drug

DUI

Mental Health

Veterans

Glossary

Select Adult Drug Court

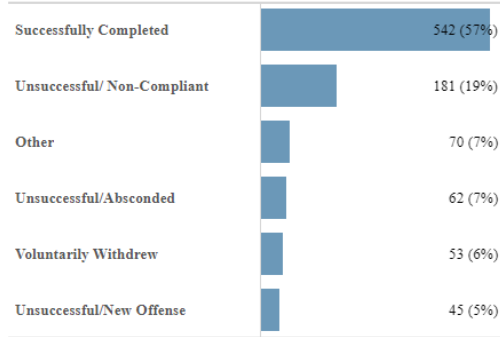
State Total

Select Year

2022

There were **953** total discharges.

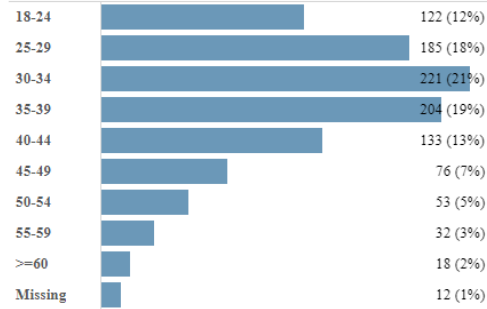
57% of all discharges graduated successfully.



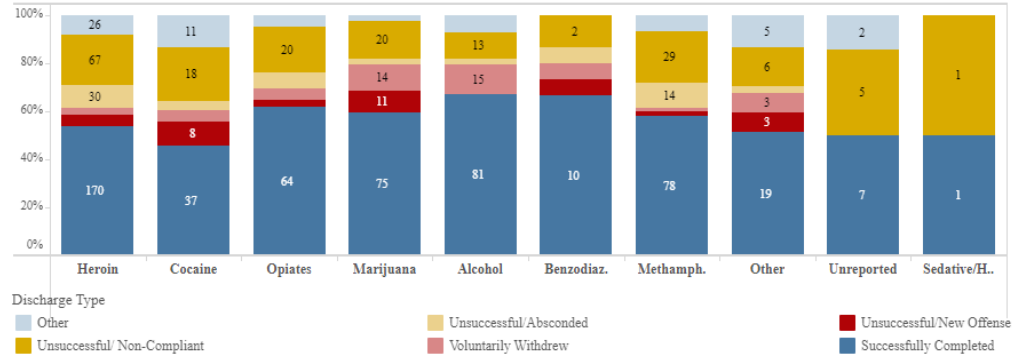
There were **1,056** admissions.

64% of admissions were male.

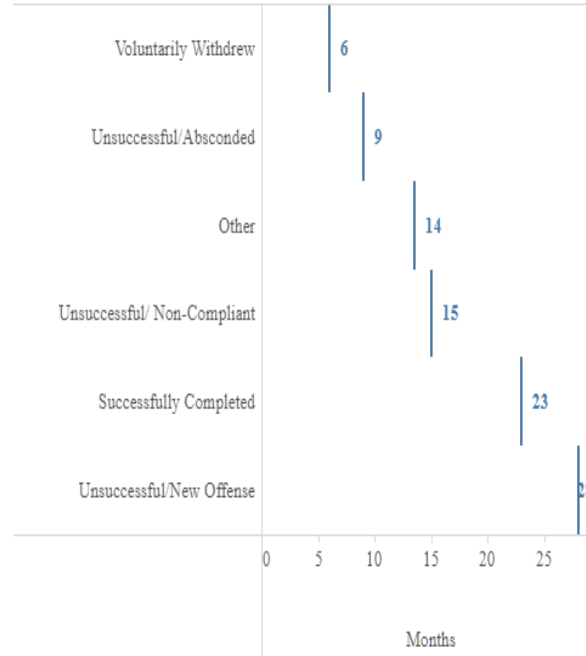
Average age at screening was **36**.



Discharge Type by Drug of Choice



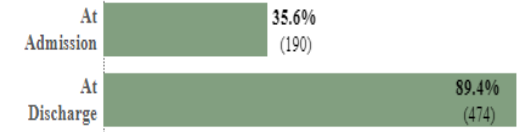
Median Months in Program by Discharge Type



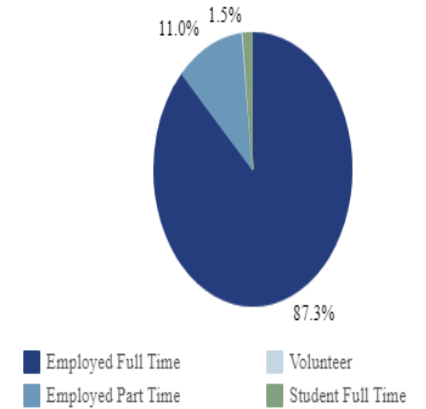
Among successful graduates, there was a **149%** increase in employment.

Employed

(N=530)



87% of the employed successful graduates were employed full time: (N=474)



9% (81) of participants have improved in education level at discharge.

AOPC

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

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Pennsylvania Statewide Common Pleas Caseload Statistics

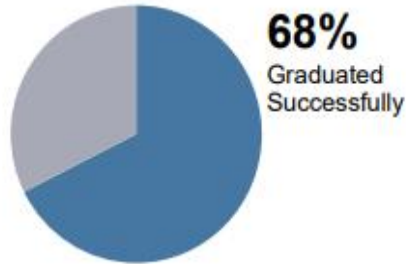
Pennsylvania's Veterans Treatment Courts



2020 Problem Solving Courts

2,192 Discharges →

Of All Court Participants Discharged:



What are Veterans Treatment Courts?

Veterans Courts assist veterans who are charged with crimes and are struggling with addiction, mental illness or other co-occurring disorders. Veterans Court participants:

- 1) Appear before the judge on a regular basis
- 2) Gain support and guidance from veteran mentors
- 3) Receive supervision by specialized probation officers
- 4) Get treatment and support to address underlying problems often caused by post-traumatic stress disorder
- 5) Work closely with the VA Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists

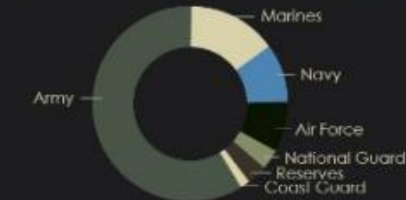
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792,000
total veterans in Pennsylvania (2020)

Pennsylvania's veteran population ranks **4th** in the United States

191 admissions in 2020

They came from the following branches of service:



204 veterans (out of 268 discharged from the program) were discharged in 2020

which is a **76%** success rate

32% increase in employment among successful graduates

25 veterans treatment courts in Pennsylvania were active in 2020. (Common Pleas)

12 counties have veterans diversion programs (Magisterial District Court)

Average age at screening was **45.**



Statewide court programming for Veterans Courts and all problem-solving courts are supported by the AOPC.

Mental Health Courts in Pennsylvania



What are Mental Health Courts (MHCs)?

MHCs are problem-solving courts that work with key justice system officials and leaders in the mental health system to divert offenders with severe mental illness into a judicially-supervised program, including community-based treatment.

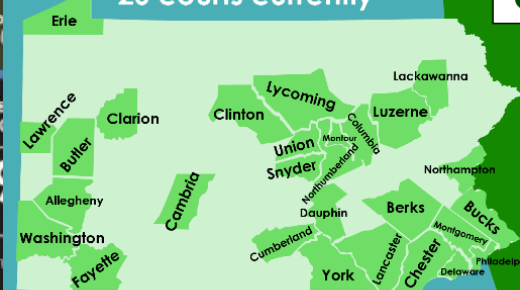
Statewide admission data (2020):

318 people were admitted.

64% of participants were male.

Average age of participants is **38.**

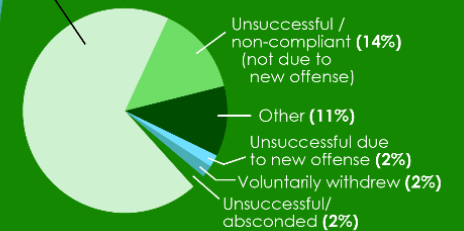
Pennsylvania's MHCs: 26 courts currently



Among successful graduates, there was a **113% increase** in employment.

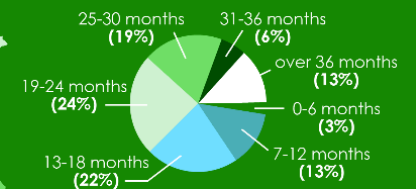
Statewide discharge data (2020):

68% (324) of all discharges graduated successfully



62% successfully completed the program in 2 years or less.

Months in program (graduated successfully):



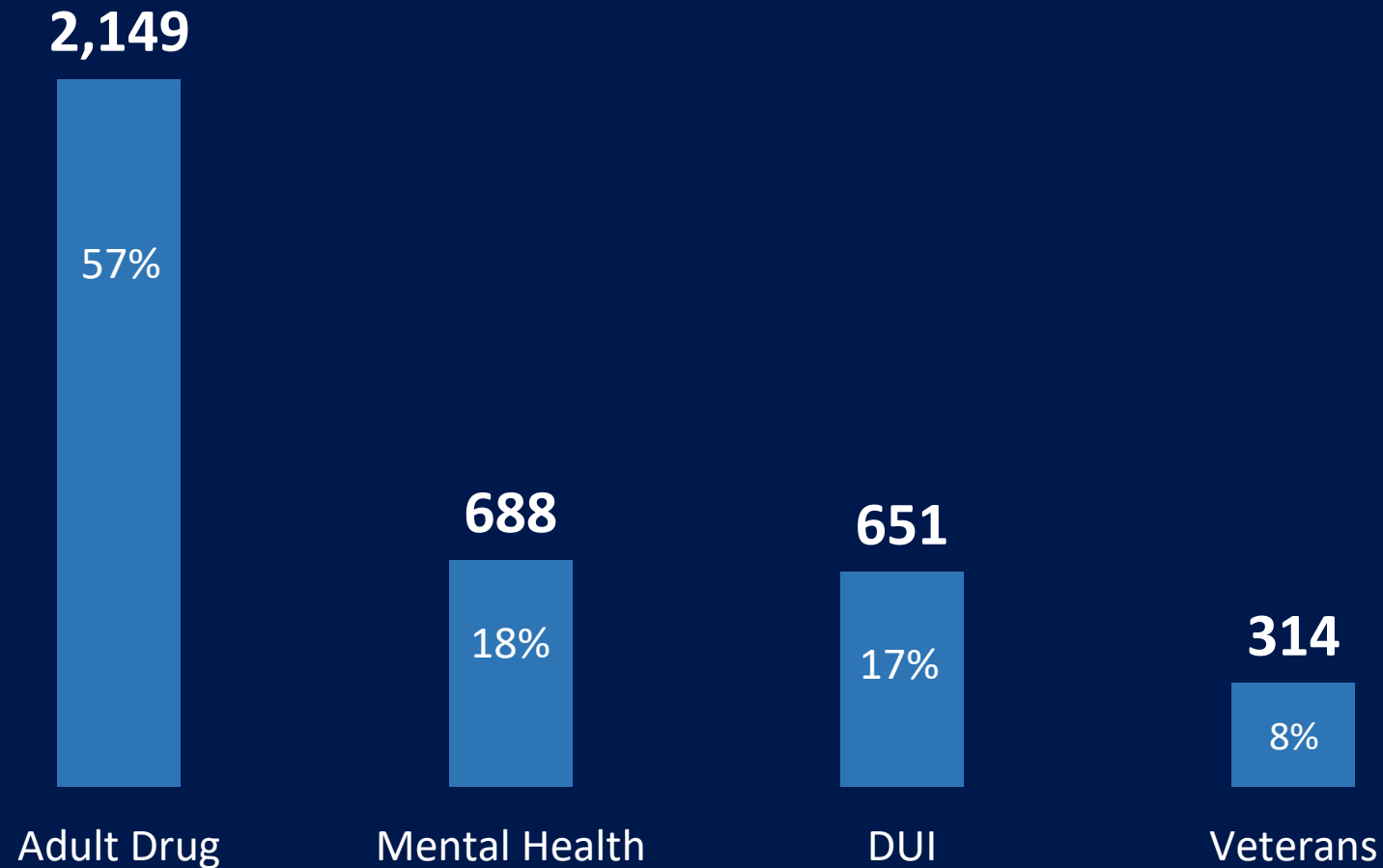
Additional data, including county-level data, available at

<http://www.pacourts.us/news-and-statistics/research-and-statistics/>

11% of participants improved their level of education at discharge.



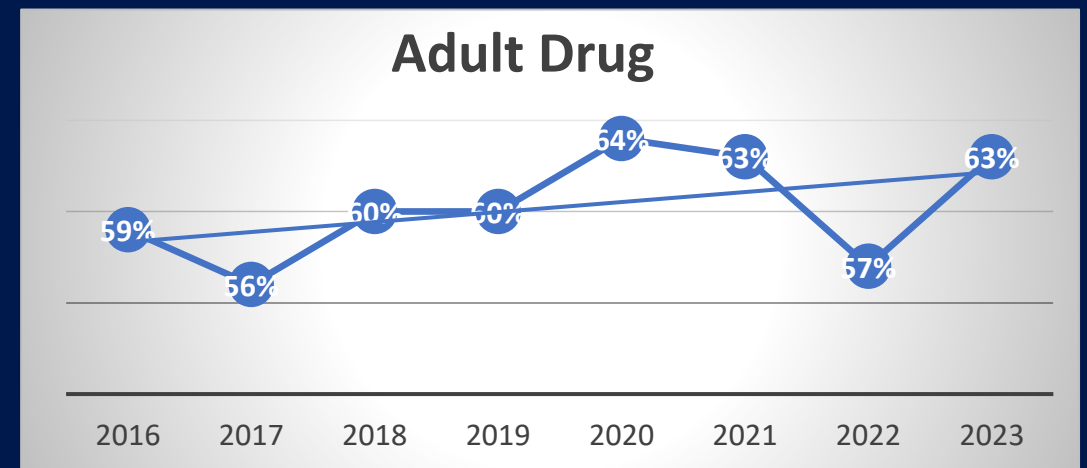
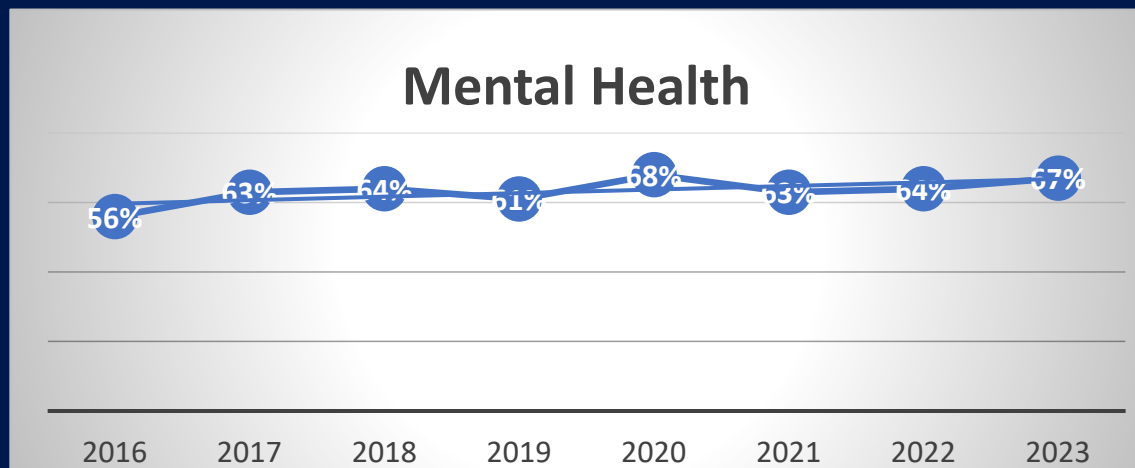
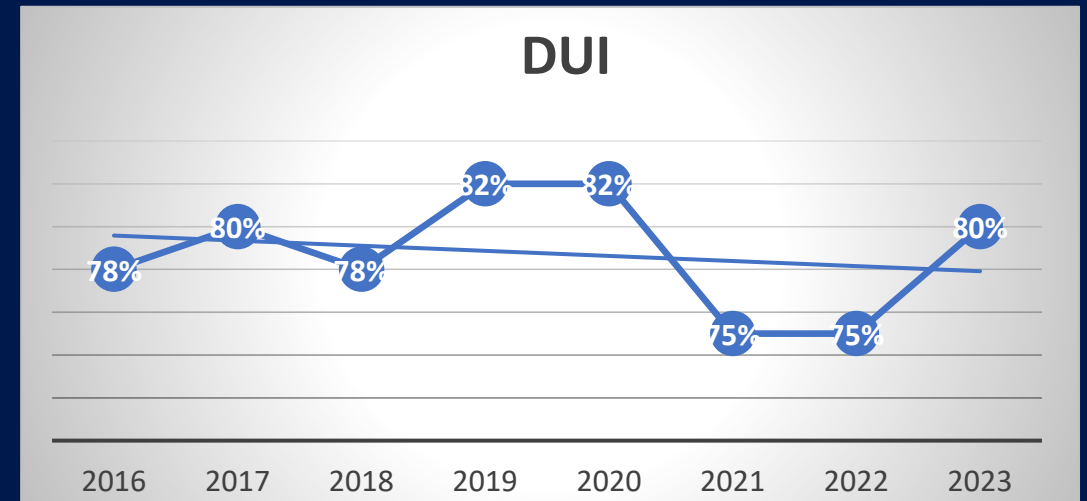
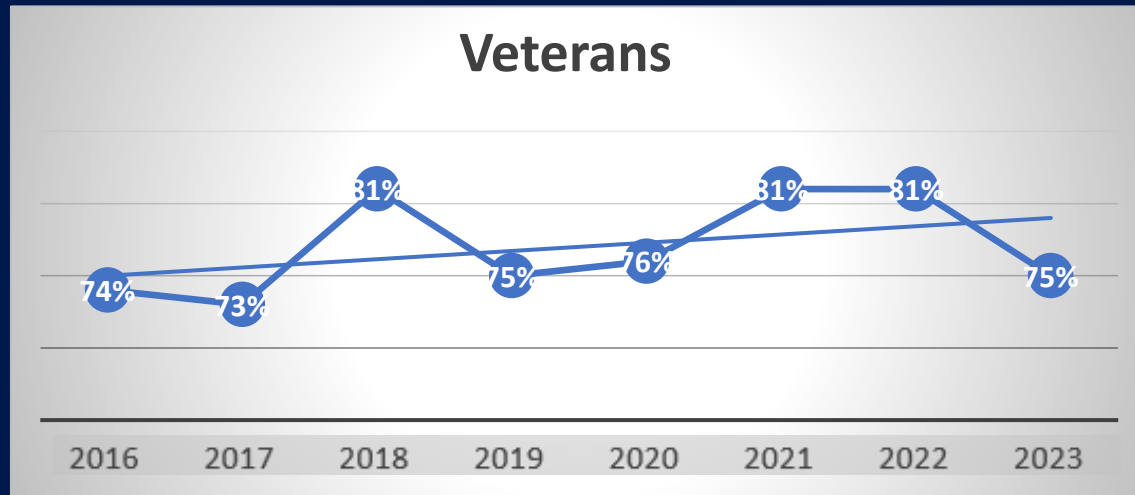
At year-end 2023, there were 3,802 persons enrolled in Pennsylvania's Treatment Courts



Generally, VETERANS & DUI Courts had the **highest successful completion rates**

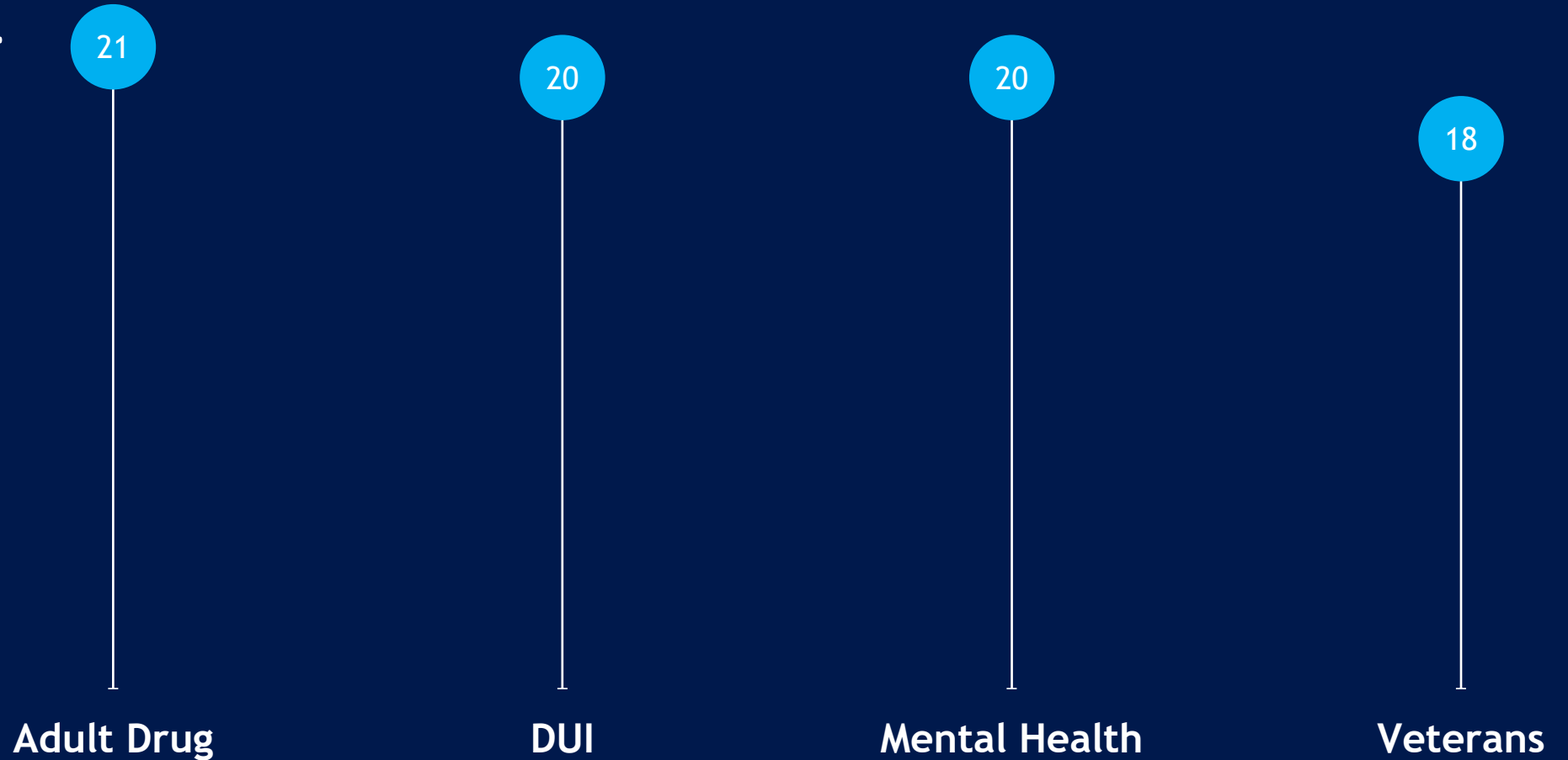
2016

2023

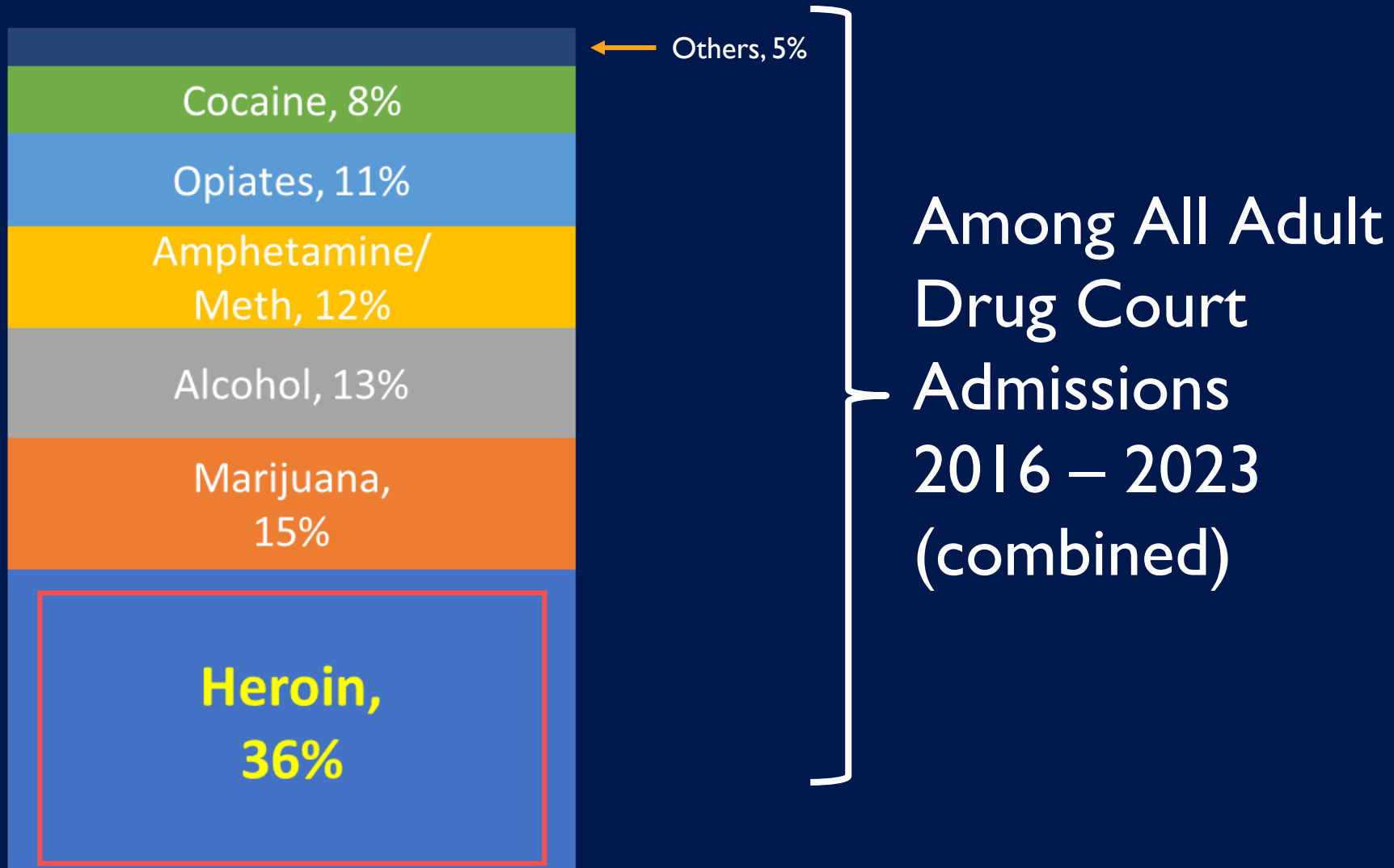


Months to Successful Completion don't differ much...

Median Months
to Successful
Completion...



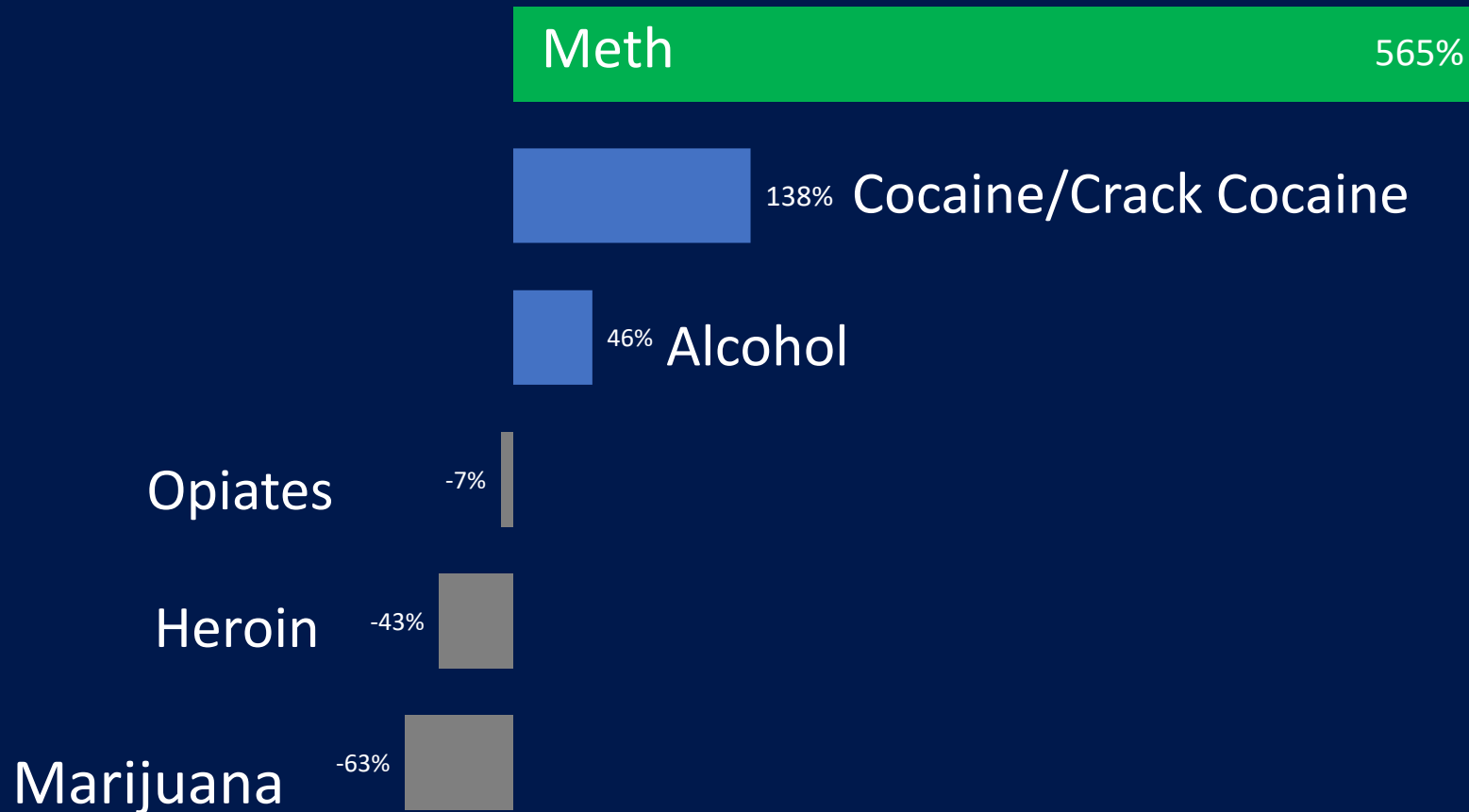
HEROIN has been the most common Drug of Choice



HEROIN is still the most common Drug of Choice, but METH has increased the most between 2016 and 2023



All except 4 counties experienced an increase in **METH** as the Primary Drug of Choice between 2016 & 2023



Research Findings: Treatment court model shown to be effective in addressing participants with stimulant use disorders; if incorporating:

- Evidence-based clinical treatment
- Contingency management
- Community reinforcement

Source: National Drug Resource Center: *Painting the Current Picture* (2022 report).

Transition to next presentation section