THE ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF

ACCOUNTABILITY COURT PROGRAMS

IN GEORGIA

EVIDENCE FROM A SURVEY OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

2022 UPDATE

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Executive Summary

Georgia's 158 adult accountability courts offer an alternative to traditional adjudication and incarceration for offenders charged with a variety of crimes. This number includes 53 felony drug courts and 21 DUI courts. In addition, Georgia now has 23 family treatment courts, up from 18 in 2017. The number of mental health courts has also increased over the past five years, from 28 to 40. The state now has 21 veterans treatment courts, up from 15 in 2017. The goals of these programs are twofold: for participants to overcome their destructive behaviors and become productive members of society, and to keep families intact. This study identifies the costs and benefits that accrue to the state government as well as to society generally from the work of these programs in helping participants lead productive lives while overcoming their addictions and destructive behaviors.

The Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) contracted with the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government to estimate the economic and other impacts that accrue from the state's accountability courts. Researchers at the Institute of Government found that the economic benefits of accountability courts are $25,921 per graduate.

Institute of Government researchers estimate that each graduate of Georgia's accountability court programs produces an average of **$25,921** in savings, revenues, and other contributions to the state's economic well-being.

Data from CJCC indicate that state grants to accountability court programs and appropriations to the CACJ provide $6,528 per program participant annually, or about $13,000 for a typical 24–month program. By contrast, one year of incarceration by the Georgia Department of Corrections plus one year of probation by the Department of Community Supervision costs $24,801. As a result, average accountability court costs are $11,744 per participant less than the costs for traditional adjudication per defendant when considering state costs. Georgia's accountability court programs also use some local resources and, occasionally, federal grant funds for program delivery. In addition, participants pay weekly or monthly fees to the court program, further defraying program costs. Accountability court participants contribute to the state's economy by paying taxes, supporting their families, and helping the state avoid costs for health care and social programs. This study calculates that each graduate of these programs produces benefits, savings, and other contributions to the state's economic well-being, totaling nearly $26,000.

While drug courts were originally created to deal with increases in caseloads, most drug court programs nationally have demonstrated reduced recidivism among participants compared to defendants who go through traditional adjudication. A review of more than 150 studies of drug

court programs suggests that these programs reduce recidivism for participants compared to nonparticipants by about 12 percentage points, from 50% to 38%. The recidivism rate for program graduates is even lower at about 15% nationally.[1]

The Institute of Government surveyed 374 participants in 37 accountability court programs of all types to determine the benefits of taking part in the programs for their families and their communities. Program coordinators were instructed to ask recent program graduates and participants nearing graduation to complete the survey. Using the survey results, the research team was able to estimate the economic benefits of those who have successfully completed the programs. The Institute research team also reviewed the literature on accountability courts to determine how much these programs cost and to identify additional benefits to society. From the information gathered, the researchers estimated the benefits of one accountability court program graduate to be $25,921. Georgia's adult accountability court programs graduated 1,592 persons in fiscal year (FY) 2022, which brought the total estimated benefit to $41.27 million.

The major benefits of the accountability court programs stem from the continued productivity of these individuals as they earn income, provide basic support to their families, and cover their health insurance needs. Babies born to program participants are far less likely to suffer from neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) as their mothers are much more likely to be drug-free during pregnancy. Participants work and pay taxes, contributing to the Georgia economy. In addition to gainful employment, participants contribute to government and nonprofit agencies through community service as part of their regular program or as sanctions for program transgressions. The goal of community service is largely to help participants develop as individuals and contribute to worthwhile causes. Additional costs to the state are avoided by keeping the children of participants out of the foster care system and from reduced recidivism and victimization costs that subsequent criminal activity would impose on society.

The total estimated benefits of accountability court programs to state and local governments and to society are substantial for the 1,592 program graduates in FY 2022:

- $41.27 million in total estimated benefits
    - $18.70 million in reduced adjudication, incarceration, and probation costs
    - $1.67 million collected in program fees paid by graduates
    - $1.68 million in health care benefits from private health insurance and avoided costs associated with babies born with NAS
    - $1.47 million in state income taxes paid
    - $1.21 million in community service work
    - $3.11 million in foster care costs avoided
    - $13.43 million in crime victimization costs avoided through decreased recidivism

Introduction

In 2016, the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) contracted with the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government (Institute of Government) to estimate the economic and other impacts that accrue from the state's accountability courts: drug, DUI,[a] mental health, veterans treatment, and family treatment courts. That study, published in 2017,[b] showed that each accountability court graduate contributed an average of just over $22,000 in estimated economic benefits to Georgia's economy through reduced costs to the state for incarceration, health care, and child care; additional income tax revenue; the value of community service work; and avoidance of costs associated with recidivism.[c] The 2017 study reported that the total economic benefits from 1,729 program graduates was $38.2 million.

In 2022, CACJ and CJCC contracted with the Institute of Government to replicate the 2017 study in light of the expansion of accountability court programs across the state. This study uses a nearly identical methodology, but surveyed participants in 37 court programs[d] compared to 32 in 2017, and obtained data from 374 participants compared to 452 in 2017.

The Role and Purpose of Accountability Courts

Accountability courts offer an alternative to traditional adjudication and incarceration primarily for nonviolent offenders,[e] most commonly in response to an arrest for crimes related to drug use (drug courts), a mental health condition (mental health courts), or DUI offenses (DUI courts). Additionally, family treatment courts tailor treatment for defendants who have families, especially those with young children, and veterans treatment courts are designed for those dealing with stresses related to military service, especially post-traumatic stress. These programs[f] combine judicial oversight of offenders with treatment, counseling, and behavior modification to address underlying issues or extenuating circumstances. The first accountability

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[a] DUI stands for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

[b] The 2017 economic impact study, *The Estimated Economic Impacts and Benefits of Accountability Court Programs in Georgia*, can be found at www.cacj.georgia.gov/data-research/economic-impact-study.

[c] O.C.G.A. § 42-2-11: "'Recidivism' means returning to prison or jail within three years of being placed on probation or being discharged or released from a department [of Corrections] or jail facility."

[d] Surveys were mailed to 40 accountability courts, but only 37 courts responded.

[e] Accountability courts, primarily mental health and veterans treatment courts, can accept certain violent offenses.

[f] Some accountability court programs have one or more tracks for program participants whose actions are the result of more than one issue or behavior. For example, a drug court may have a mental health track for participants with a co-occurring substance use disorder and a veterans track for participants who use drugs as the result of trauma suffered during military service.

court in Georgia was a drug court in Macon in 1994. Today, Georgia has 158 adult accountability court programs,[g] eight more than in 2017.

> The first accountability court in Georgia was a drug court in Macon in **1994**. Today, Georgia has **158** adult accountability court programs.

The first drug court program in the nation was established in 1989 in Dade County, Florida.[2] At that time, researchers and practitioners believed that numerous offenders were pleading guilty, serving a sentence, and then reoffending shortly after release. Drug courts sought to close this "revolving door" by implementing a comprehensive approach to criminal justice and expanding the options available for adjudication from traditional detention to treatment, supervision, and other sanctions for drug offenders. By taking a rehabilitative approach to offenders, drug courts have focused on several common goals: intensive drug treatment, close supervision, and offender accountability.[3]

In the five years following the Institute of Government's first economic impact study of Georgia's accountability court programs, research has expanded and the number of programs nationwide has grown. A large portion of the accountability court literature focuses on drug courts because these provided the model for other types of programs.[4] Studies on the efficacy of drug courts continue to find promising evidence of reduced recidivism and drug use.[5] Research is continuing to examine the broad variation in drug court implementation and service availability across regions, which may impact processes and outcomes for participants. More specifically, recent research has focused on how drug courts work and who they work best for, as opposed to whether they work.[6]

The drug court model has been extended to other programs, with some studies suggesting that one type of accountability court, like drug courts, is not inherently more effective than another type.[7] More specifically, greater variation tends to exist within a type of program, rather than across different types, and programs with a larger variety of services are likely to have more successful program completions.[8] One systematic review of 56 studies that included various types of accountability courts examined 68 different outcomes. Overall, the review found significant reductions in re-arrests and reduced recidivism, particularly for individualized programs and those with frequent judicial supervision in the early stages of the program.[9] However, studies have also found that court- and program-level factors such as staffing, clinical

[g] In addition to the adult accountability courts, there are 10 juvenile drug courts and 8 juvenile mental health courts. These types of courts were not included in this study.

standards, and decision-maker beliefs or attitudes may significantly impact program organization and should be considered when assessing accountability court efficacy.[10]

Similar to drug courts, driving under the influence (DUI) courts target repeat offenders of alcohol- or drug-impaired driving, with similar empirical support for their utility. A longitudinal evaluation study of a DUI monitoring court in San Joaquin County, California, found that participation in the court reduced recidivism rates and new DUI convictions, led to fewer total crashes, and reduced the likelihood of failure to appear in court.[11] That study reported outcomes six years after the original conviction for DUI court participants and a comparison group. They found a 24% decrease in DUI recidivism among program participants. Additionally, they found a 23% lower new DUI conviction rate among participants with zero or one DUI in the two years prior to the original conviction, and a 48% lower conviction rate among participants with an average of two or more prior DUIs. These results suggest that participation in the DUI monitoring court was most effective for higher-risk DUI participants.

Over the last five years, many studies have found evidence of the efficacious use of mental health courts, veterans treatment courts, and family treatment courts.[12] A 2021 review of different accountability court programs found that mental health courts exhibited larger treatment effects than either drug or DUI courts.[13] Programs that address substance use, mental health, and co-occurring post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among veterans have shown promise in reducing re-arrests among program graduates and among veterans that stay in the programs longer.[14] Another study found that parents participating in family treatment courts perceive court processes to be more fair, which contributed to greater compliance and having their cases closed faster.[15] Across the various types of accountability courts, growing evidence suggests that their application among a wide range of justice-involved adults can be successful.

A different type of treatment court, the first opioid intervention court (OIC), was launched in 2017, in Buffalo, New York. The OIC aimed to provide rapid access to medication-assisted treatment as well as court supervision, peer support, and drug testing.[16] Though different from the drug treatment courts in Georgia, the OIC was designed based on treatment court research and utilizes evidence-based treatment services and judicial supervision similar to other types of accountability courts. A study of the Buffalo OIC found some success in its primary goal of reducing overdose deaths, with death rates decreasing from 6% among "business-as-usual" opioid user cases to 3% among OIC participants.[17] Additionally, significantly more OIC participants engaged in substance use treatment and had lower rates of recidivism, particularly less time incarcerated and fewer convictions, compared to the business-as-usual group.[18] The enduring consequences of the opioid epidemic and the initial success of the Buffalo OIC has inspired further implementation in other parts of New York as well as in other states.

Research on Cost Evaluation

Recent research on accountability courts has revealed their potential benefits for communities and local governments. Toward the end of 2017, a presidential commission was formed to combat the opioid epidemic, with millions of federal dollars being put toward treatment services in drug courts and other types of accountability courts.[19] Research from the US Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice found that even though initial costs for treatment in accountability court programs were higher, lower rates of recidivism and avoided costs saved an average of nearly $5,700 per person.[20] Similarly, an evaluation of two county drug court programs in Missouri found total cost savings over two years to range from approximately $3,900 to $5,300 per drug court participant, which was projected to save over $21 million after five years of serving annual cohorts of roughly 300 participants.[21]

A recent cost evaluation of San Joaquin County's DUI court in California found that the program did not save a substantial amount when factoring in avoided costs ($152 per participant), but the evaluation calculated costs and expenditures over only two years and did not include corrections agency savings.[22] Additionally, the researchers noted that the program investment cost for the DUI monitoring court in San Joaquin County was low to average when compared to other treatment court programs.[23] Another recent study examined a Florida mental health accountability court program in Miami–Dade County, where the first drug court began in 1989. The researchers estimated an annual cost avoidance of $12 million resulting from a 45% decrease in the jail population and the closure of a jail facility.[24] The authors noted that most of the monetary savings were reinvested in the jail system for renovation of existing facilities and construction of a new facility to provide services to patients with serious mental illness.

Finally, a cost evaluation of the inaugural OIC in Buffalo estimated that the program costs $1,482 per participant but that taxpayer savings were much higher at $7,278 per participant, primarily from less incarceration time and lower use of publicly funded treatment. This roughly 1:5 cost-benefit ratio did not include other societal benefits from reduced victimization and deaths.[25]

Types of Accountability Courts in Georgia

Georgia's 158 adult accountability court programs offer an alternative to traditional adjudication and incarceration for offenders charged with a variety of crimes. This number includes 53 felony drug courts and 21 DUI courts. The state now has 23 family treatment courts, up from 18 in 2017. The number of mental health courts has also increased over the past five years, from 28 to 40. Georgia now has 21 veterans treatment courts, up from 15 in 2017. The goals of these programs are twofold: for participants to overcome their destructive behaviors

and become productive members of society, and to keep families intact. This study identifies the costs and benefits that accrue to the state government as well as to society generally from the work of these programs in helping participants lead productive lives while overcoming their addictions and destructive behaviors.

The scope of this study measures the economic impacts of the adult accountability court program participants. These programs operate in phases, usually four or five, that begin with close monitoring of participants' activities and behaviors in the first phase, coupled with counseling, often both individually and in group sessions. As participants are promoted to the second and each subsequent phase, court appearances, counseling, and other forms of oversight are reduced, and the participants become more responsible for progress toward ending their destructive behaviors. Many programs have work requirements, impose fees on participants to defray program costs, and require those without a high school education to complete a general equivalency diploma, or GED.

The most common type of accountability court is the felony drug court. In Georgia, drug court programs are authorized by O.C.G.A. § 15-1-15, which states, in part:

> (a) (1) Any court that has jurisdiction over any criminal case which arises from the use, sale, possession, delivery, distribution, purchase, or manufacture of a controlled substance, noncontrolled substance, dangerous drug, or other drug may establish a drug court division to provide an alternative to the traditional judicial system for disposition of such cases.

While drug courts were originally created to deal with increases in caseloads and the revolving door of reoffending, most drug court programs nationally have demonstrated reduced recidivism among participants compared to defendants who go through traditional adjudication. A review of more than 150 studies of drug court programs suggests that these programs reduce recidivism by about 12 percentage points, from 50% to 38%. For program graduates, the recidivism rate is even lower, about 15%.[26]

DUI court programs are authorized by O.C.G.A. § 15-1-19 and are designed to deal with the underlying issue of alcohol and drug abuse resulting in operation of a vehicle while impaired. In many court systems, judges may sentence an offender to a DUI court program upon a second or third DUI offense within a specific length of time. For example, the DUI Court Program in Chatham County states the following on its website:

> The sentencing judge may sentence anyone with two DUIs in a five-year period, or three DUIs in a lifetime, to participate. After sentencing, the court mandates

substance abuse treatment, 12-step meeting attendance, random drug tests, biweekly court appearances and more, as a condition of probation.[27]

Failure to meet the requirements of the program typically result in sanctions or revocation of probation, in which case the defendant returns to court for sentencing.

Mental health courts are authorized by O.C.G.A. § 15-1-16. The CACJ standards for these programs are intended to connect "mental health treatment and community resources, abstinence from alcohol and other illicit drugs, and promotion of law-abiding behavior in the interest of public safety."[28] After expert diagnostic evaluation, the treatment team tailors a plan of treatment specific to the needs of the defendant. At the core of a mental health court program are services that include group and individual counseling, and drug testing.[29]

According to the Council of Accountability Court Judges, mental health court programs should ideally offer the following:

- Family counseling
- Assessment and treatment for trauma
- Gender-specific counseling
- Domestic violence counseling
- Health screening
- Medication management
- Assessment and counseling for co-occurring substance use issues

Family treatment courts are authorized by O.C.G.A. § 15-11-70, which states that a family treatment court division has the following goals:[30]

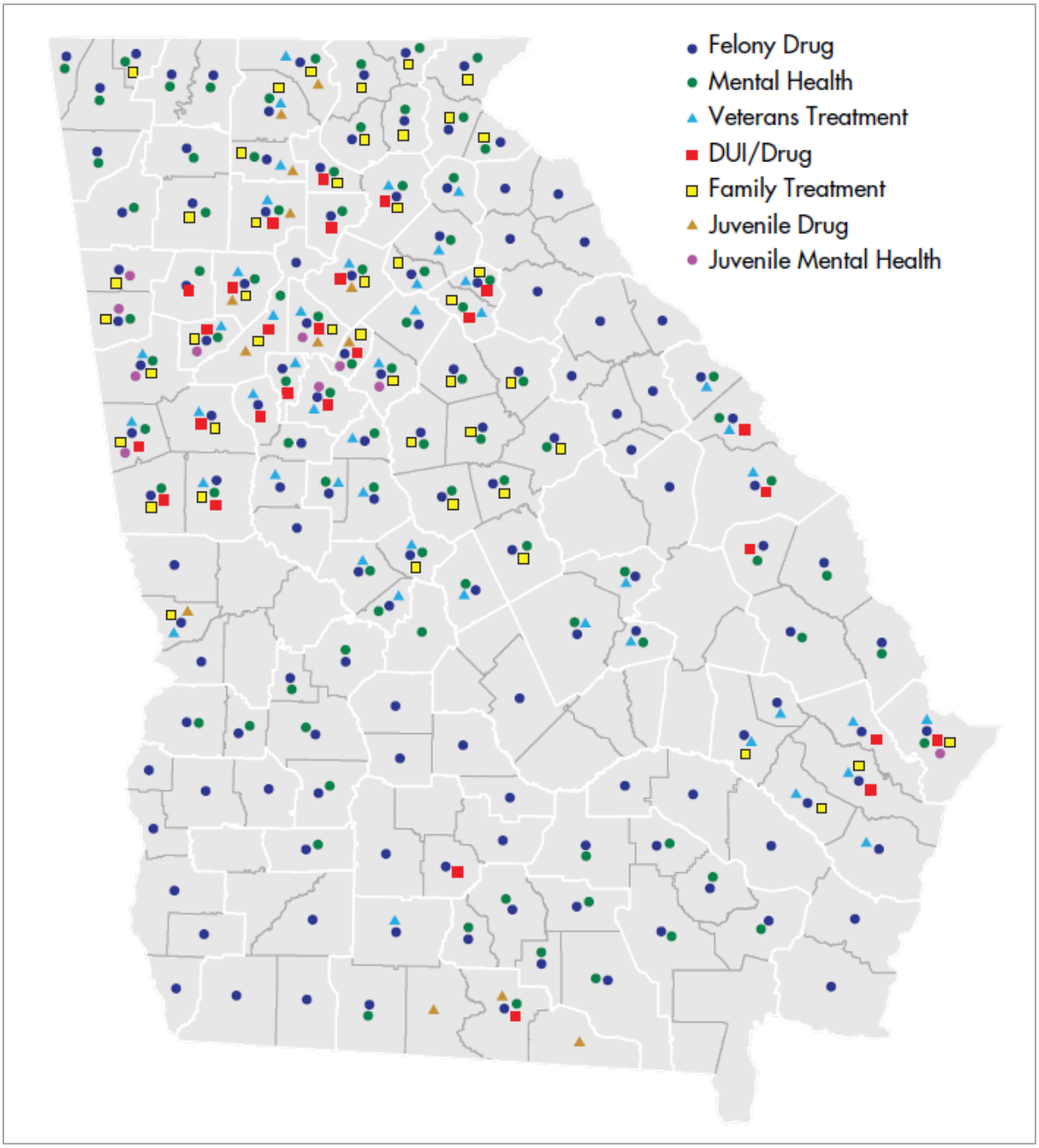
- The protection, best interests, and permanency of children
- The promotion of safe and stable families through abstinence from alcohol and illicit drugs
- The promotion of law-abiding behaviors in the interest of public safety while addressing the comprehensive needs of parents and children
- Targeting permanency for children who have been exposed to parental substance abuse

The family treatment court model is designed to reduce foster care stays and restore children to their parents in a stable family unit. Like the mental health court program, treatment and counseling programs are tailored for each participant. Treatment may vary depending on the

type of drug abuse involved—alcohol, controlled substances, or uncontrolled substances—and the need to address physical abuse of family members.

Veterans treatment courts, authorized under O.C.G.A. § 15-1-17, are structured on the model of drug and mental health court programs. Georgia law states that a judge may refer any criminal case in which the defendant is a veteran to a veterans treatment court program except for those involving murder, armed robbery, or sexual assault.[31] A key feature of veterans treatment court programs is the assistance of a veteran mentor who has some understanding of the issues affecting the participant.

Figure 1. All Accountability Courts in Georgia, as of July 1, 2022



Notes: Juvenile drug and juvenile mental health courts were not included in this study. Some courts serve additional counties within their circuit.

In its *Georgia Accountability Court, Adult Felony Drug Court Policy and Procedure Manual*, the CACJ describes a typical accountability court program, as shown in Figure 2.[32]

Figure 2. Accountability Court Phases

ACCOUNTABILITY COURT PROGRAM PHASES

PHASE 1 Stabilization and Orientation

Minimum of two months in duration

- Attend court every week
- Attend treatment: group/individual sessions as required
- Pay weekly program fees
- Submit to required and random drug testing (minimum twice per week)
- Meet weekly with coordinator
- Establish a sponsor and communicate weekly
- Search for employment (if currently not employed)
- Abide by set curfew time
- Begin active plan to obtain GED (if currently do not have a diploma or GED)
- Attend a minimum of two Narcotics Anonymous (NA)/Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) sessions each month
- Remain clean and sober for 30 consecutive days before phase up

PHASE 2 Intensive Treatment

Minimum of three months in duration

- Attend court every week
- Attend treatment: group/individual sessions as required
- Pay weekly program fees
- Submit to required and random drug testing (minimum twice per week)
- Meet weekly with coordinator
- Maintain employment or full-time student status
- Maintain communication with sponsor
- Abide by set curfew time
- Attend a minimum of two NA/AA sessions each month
- Must be drug- and sanction-free for 60 consecutive days prior to phase up

PHASE 3 Recovery Skills Development: Treatment, Self-Help, Life Skills, and Transition

Minimum of five months in duration

- Attend court every other week
- Attend treatment: group/individual sessions as required
- Pay weekly program fees
- Submit to required and random drug testing
- Meet weekly with coordinator
- Maintain employment or full-time student status
- Maintain communication with sponsor
- Abide by set curfew time
- Attend a minimum of three NA/AA sessions each month
- Must be drug-free for 90 consecutive days and sanction-free for 60 consecutive days prior to phase up

PHASE 4 Aftercare

Minimum of eight months in duration

- Attend court every other week
- Attend treatment: group/individual sessions as required
- Pay weekly program fees
- Submit to required and random drug testing
- Meet weekly with coordinator
- Maintain employment or full-time student status
- Maintain communication with sponsor
- Abide by set curfew time
- Complete community service project
- Must be drug-free for 180 consecutive days and sanction-free for 150 days to apply for graduation from program
- Obtained GED and/or maintained employment throughout phases

Participants who reach the final phase of a program have largely accomplished the goals set for them and are often used as role models for people entering the programs. In the final phase, the participant has demonstrated his or her ability to succeed, often feels a sense of accomplishment, and is typically invested in the program emotionally as well as financially.[33]

Participant Survey

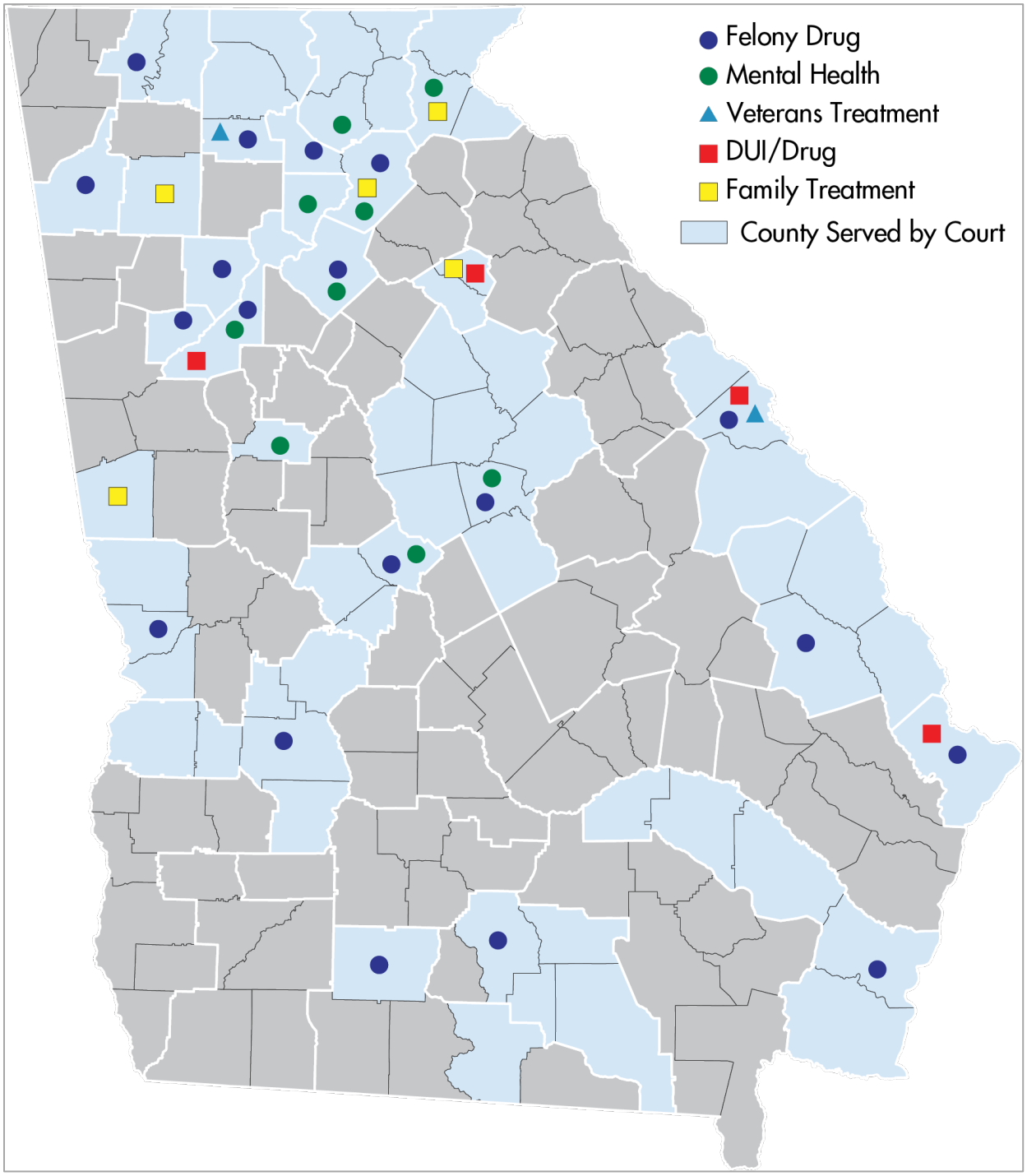
Estimating the economic impacts of accountability court programs requires data about participants' family, work status, and other activities as well as behaviors related to their participation in the program. The Institute of Government research team developed a survey to obtain demographic data from participants, information about their marital status, and the ages of their children. The survey also requested information about their employment status, hours of community service work performed, whether they had health insurance for themselves and family members, and the amount of program fees they had paid to offset the accountability court program costs. The survey instrument is included as Appendix A and is nearly identical to the survey used in 2017.

Using survey data to make inferences about all participants in accountability court programs in Georgia requires that survey respondents be representative of all program participants. To help ensure that the respondents were representative of all participants statewide, the Institute researchers and program experts at CACJ selected 40 accountability court programs[h] from across the state to participate in the survey. These programs, shown in Figure 3, are drawn from urban and rural areas, and represent each geographic region of the state and accountability court type. A complete list of the programs surveyed is included as Appendix B.

The program coordinators were instructed to administer the survey to participants who had reached the final phase of the program as well as to any former participants they were in contact with who had graduated within the past 12 months. Participants in early phases of their programs were not included because most would still be in the stabilization and recovery stages. Prior research indicates that people who are dismissed from accountability court programs, and thus do not reach the final phase, are as costly or more costly to the judicial and corrections systems as defendants who go through traditional adjudication.[34] For these reasons, the economic benefits of these programs primarily accrue to those who succeed and graduate. Research also indicates that those who reach the final phase of a program are very likely to graduate and realize the benefits of their treatment. For example, a 2014 study of the Forsyth County Drug Court reported that 35 of 54 participants admitted to the program between July 1, 2007, and December 31, 2009, reached the final phase of the program, and all 35 graduated.[35]

[h] Only 37 courts returned surveys.

Figure 3. Map of Accountability Court Programs Included in the Survey



The survey was conducted from June to September 2022. The research team sent each program administrator the survey forms, envelopes, instructions for administering the survey, and a tamper-proof lockbox. After completing the survey, participants placed it in an envelope, sealed it, and deposited the envelope into the lockbox through a slot on the end.

The survey administration protocols ensured participant privacy, and the court program staff had no access to any completed survey forms. The secured lockboxes were returned to the Institute of Government via United Parcel Service. Participants were told that program staff would not have access to their completed forms and that completion of the survey was voluntary. The instructions further indicated that they did not have to answer any questions on the form and that they could stop at any point if they decided not to answer the remainder of the survey.

Thirty-seven of 40 administrators returned survey responses, and 374 participants completed the survey. Not all respondents answered every item on the survey. The number of responses to each question or inquiry are reported in the tables below.

The survey asked respondents to report the amount of fees they had been assessed, the amount of fees they had paid, and the number of community service hours completed. These are data that the program coordinators have access to. Thus, coordinators were instructed to provide these figures to participants at the time the survey was administered, but to provide no other assistance to participants in completing the survey.

Sixty-six percent of all respondents were male (Table 1). Males accounted for about two-thirds of all respondents in drug court programs, 76.92% in DUI court programs, and 79.55% in veterans treatment court programs. Mental health court participants were more evenly divided between males and females—57.58% and 42.42%, respectively—while females accounted for 82.35% of participants in family treatment court programs.

Overall, 67.21% of accountability court program participants in the survey sample identified as White, while 28.46% identified as African American (Table 2). Whites made up more than 90% of family treatment court participants, 76% in drug courts, roughly two-thirds of those in veterans treatment courts, and almost 60% of those in mental health courts. African Americans made up 52.63% of those in DUI court programs. Table 3 indicates that less than 5% of respondents overall identified as Hispanic or of Latino/a origin.

More than 77% of participants in drug and DUI court programs reported that they were employed full time, with another 12% and 9%, respectively, reported at least part-time employment (Table 4). Less than 5% of drug court participants and 8% of DUI court participants

reported that they were unemployed. More than 80% of family treatment court participants indicated either full-time (60.61%) or part-time employment (24.24%).

Just less than half (48.48%) of mental health court participants indicated that they were employed full time, with about another 24% indicating part-time employment. Three-quarters of veterans treatment court participants were employed full time, and about 9% indicated part-time employment. A small minority (10.22%) of respondents owned their own business, with the largest percentage (18.18%) among DUI court participants (Table 5).

The average length of time respondents were in their court program was 21 months, with veterans treatment court participants having the longest average length at 24 months and DUI court participants the shortest at 16 months (Table 6). The average annual income of all participants in these programs was $30,697, up from an average of $22,340 in the 2017 sample. A total of 343 respondents had been assessed an average of $1,219 in fees (annualized) while those paying fees (316) had paid an average of $1,242 (annualized). Respondents had performed an average of 56 hours (annualized) of community service (Table 7) compared to an average of 70 hours for the 2017 sample.

Health insurance is critical because it helps families stay healthy and avoid large expenditures resulting from illness or accident. Having private health insurance reduces costs imposed on state-funded programs such as Medicaid. About half of all respondents (49.33%) reported having no health insurance (Table 8). Those with coverage indicated that they had coverage for themselves only (33.78% of all respondent), had family coverage (14.75% of all respondent), or were covered on their spouse's insurance (2.14% of all respondent).

Roughly 54% of respondents (201 of 374) indicated that they had minor children (Table 9). Table 10 reports the health insurance status of just those 201 respondents, with just under half (49.25%) reporting that they had no health insurance. About 28% had insurance only for themselves, and 21% reported that they had family coverage.

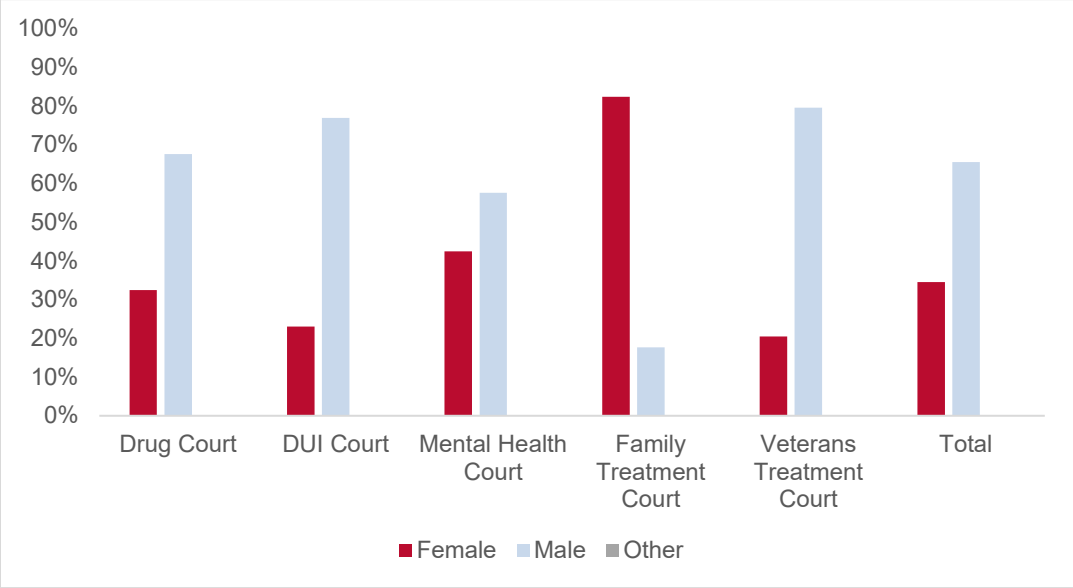
Table 1. Reported Gender of Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents

Survey Question: What gender do you consider yourself to be?

	Drug Court		DUI Court		Mental Health Court		Family Treatment Court		Veterans Treatment Court		Total	
Female	60	32.43%	18	23.08%	14	42.42%	28	82.35%	9	20.45%	129	34.49%
Male	125	67.57%	60	76.92%	19	57.58%	6	17.65%	35	79.55%	245	65.51%
Other	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total	185	100.00%	78	100.00%	33	100.00%	34	100.00%	44	100.00%	374	100.00%

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Figure 4. Reported Gender of Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents, Percentage by Court Type



Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

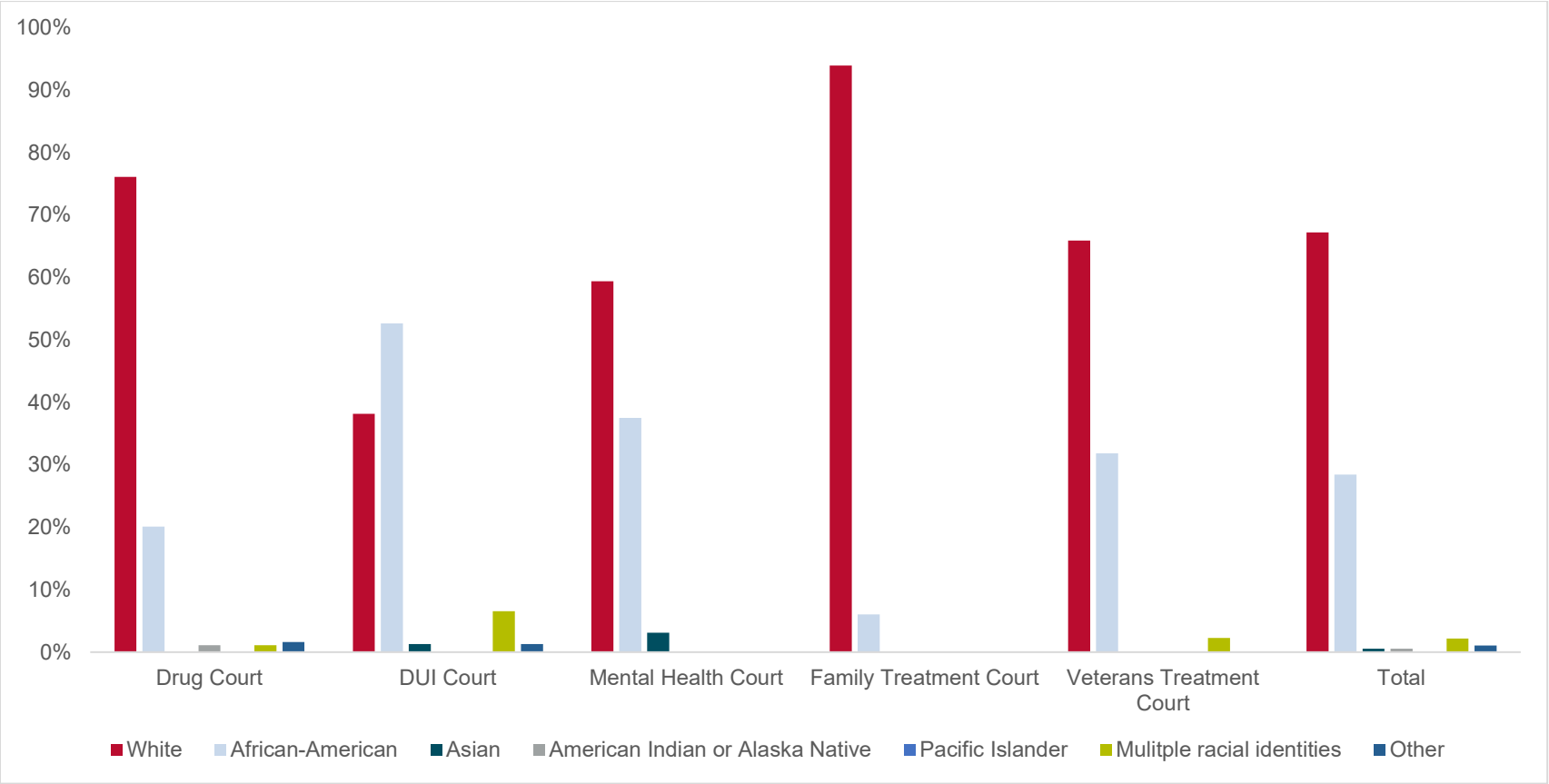
Table 2. Reported Race of Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents

Survey Question: What race do you consider yourself to be?

	Drug Court		DUI Court		Mental Health Court		Family Treatment Court		Veterans Treatment Court		Total	
White	140	76.09%	29	38.16%	19	59.38%	31	93.94%	29	65.91%	248	67.21%
African American	37	20.11%	40	52.63%	12	37.50%	2	6.06%	14	31.82%	105	28.46%
Asian	0	0.00%	1	1.32%	1	3.13%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	0.54%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	1.09%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	0.54%
Pacific Islander	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Multiple racial identities	2	1.09%	5	6.58%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	2.27%	8	2.17%
Other	3	1.63%	1	1.32%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	4	1.08%
Total	184	100.00%	76	100.00%	32	100.00%	33	100.00%	44	100.00%	369	100.00%

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Figure 5. Reported Race of Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents, Percentage by Court Type



Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

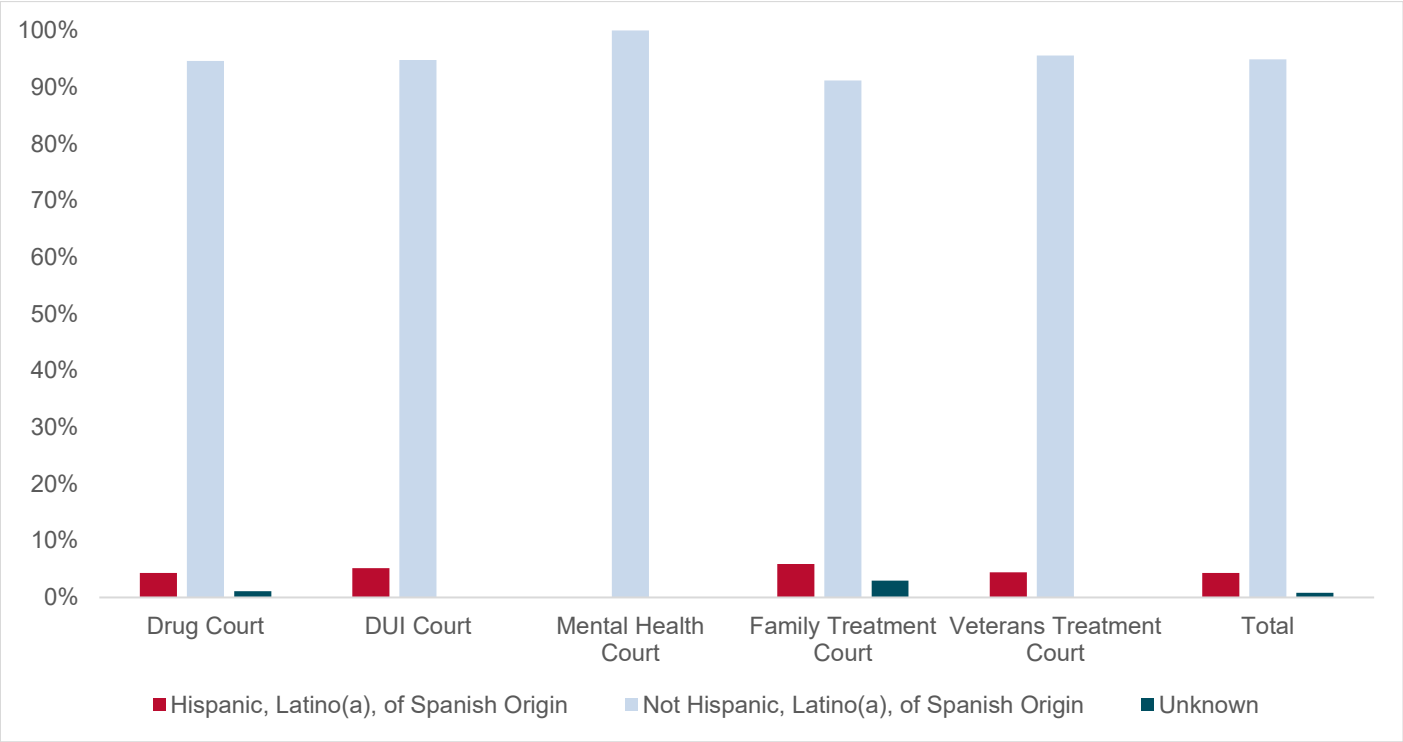
Table 3. Reported Ethnicity of Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents

Survey Question: Are you Hispanic, Latino(a), or of Spanish origin?

	Drug Court		DUI Court		Mental Health Court		Family Treatment Court		Veterans Treatment Court		Total	
Yes	8	4.32%	4	5.19%	0	0.00%	2	5.88%	2	4.44%	16	4.30%
No	175	94.59%	73	94.81%	31	100.00%	31	91.18%	43	95.56%	353	94.89%
Don't know	2	1.08%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	2.94%	0	0.00%	3	0.81%
Total	185	100.00%	77	100.00%	31	100.00%	34	100.00%	45	100.00%	372	100.00%

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Figure 6. Reported Ethnicity of Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents, Percentage by Court Type



Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

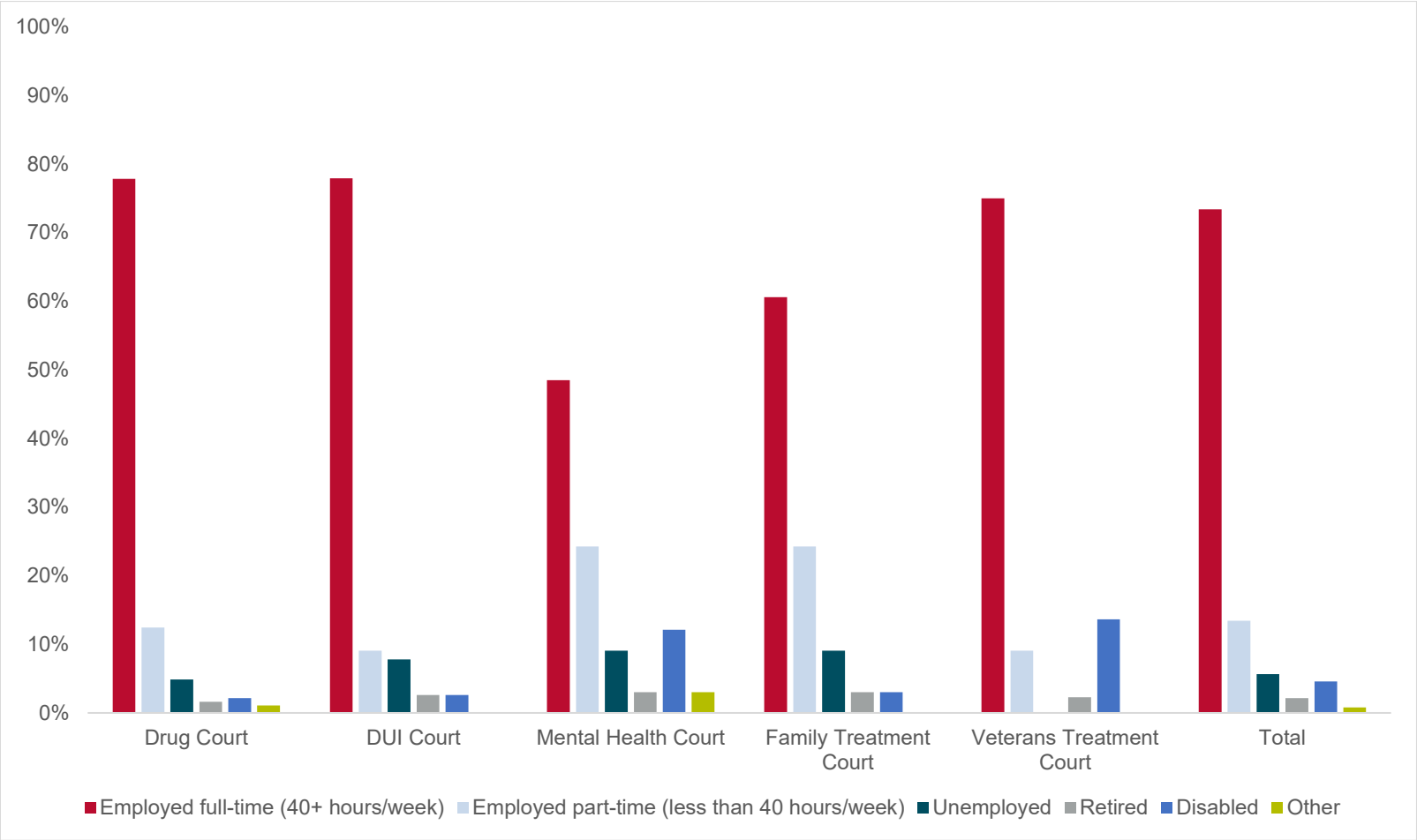
Table 4. Reported Work Status of Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents

Survey Question: Which best describes your current work status?

	Drug Court		DUI Court		Mental Health Court		Family Treatment Court		Veterans Treatment Court		Total	
Employed full time (40+ hours/week)	144	77.84%	60	77.92%	16	48.48%	20	60.61%	33	75.00%	273	73.39%
Employed part-time (less than 40 hours/week)	23	12.43%	7	9.09%	8	24.24%	8	24.24%	4	9.09%	50	13.44%
Unemployed	9	4.86%	6	7.79%	3	9.09%	3	9.09%	0	0.00%	21	5.65%
Retired	3	1.62%	2	2.60%	1	3.03%	1	3.03%	1	2.27%	8	2.15%
Disabled	4	2.16%	2	2.60%	4	12.12%	1	3.03%	6	13.64%	17	4.57%
Other	2	1.08%	0	0.00%	1	3.03%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3	0.81%
Total	185	100.00%	77	100.00%	33	100.00%	33	100.00%	44	100.00%	372	100.00%

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Figure 7. Reported Work Status of Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents, Percentage by Court Type



Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

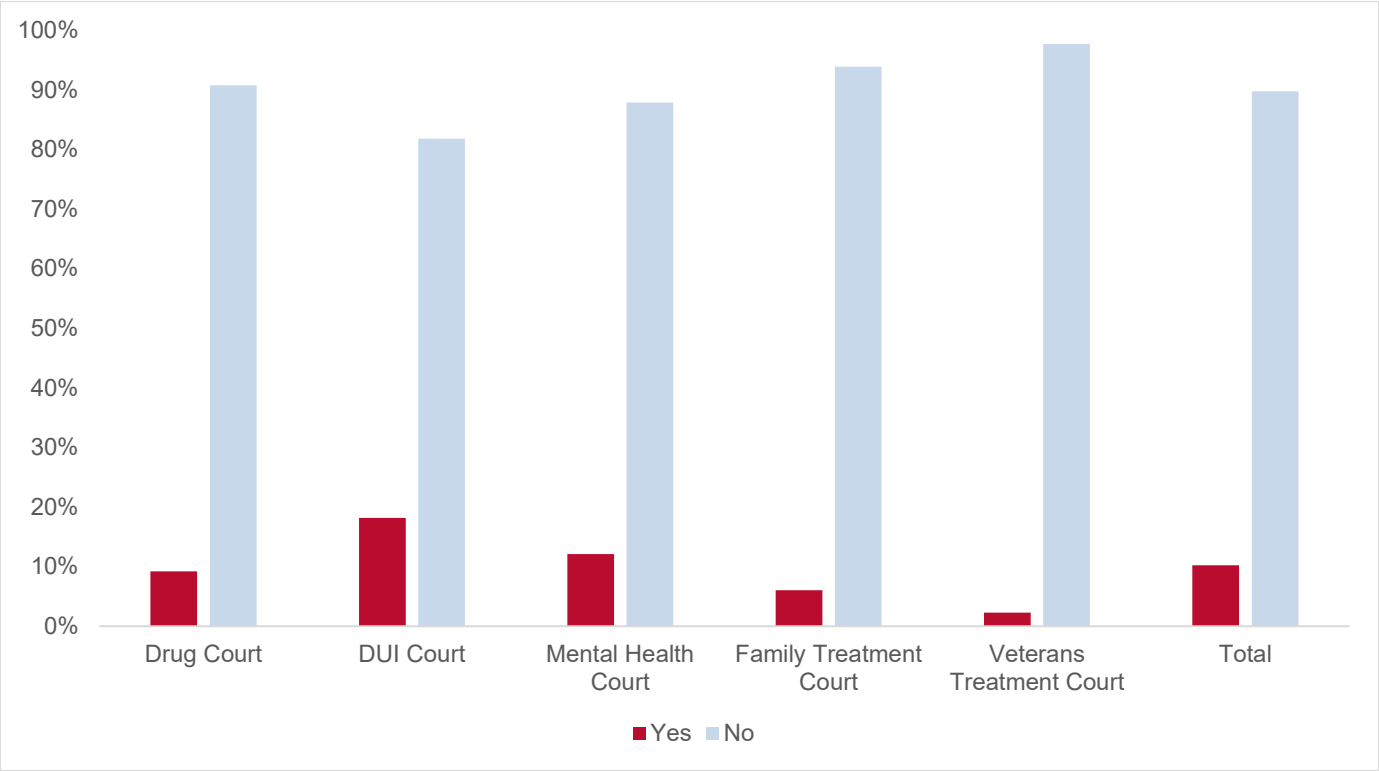
Table 5. Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents Who Reported Being Business Owners

Survey Question: Do you own your own business (self-employed)?

	Drug Court		DUI Court		Mental Health Court		Family Treatment Court		Veterans Treatment Court		Total	
Yes	17	9.19%	14	18.18%	4	12.12%	2	6.06%	1	2.27%	38	10.22%
No	168	90.81%	63	81.82%	29	87.88%	31	93.94%	43	97.73%	334	89.78%
Total	185	100.00%	77	100.00%	33	100.00%	33	100.00%	44	100.00%	372	100.00%

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Figure 8. Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents Who Reported Being Business Owners, Percentage by Court Type



Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Table 6. Months in Program, Income, and Fees Reported by Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents

	Drug Court	DUI Court	Mental Health Court	Family Treatment Court	Veterans Treatment Court	Total
Average months in the program	22.1	16.0	21.5	23.1	24.1	21.1
Number of participants	185	77	33	34	45	374
Average income (annualized)	$29,524	$37,052	$25,545	$24,176	$33,419	$30,697
Number of participants	183	77	33	34	43	370
Average fees assessed (annualized)	$1,259	$2,618	$574	$574	$729	$1,219
Number of participants assessed fees	181	72	23	23	25	343
Average fees paid (annualized)	$1,083	$2,033	$422	$638	$1,340	$1,242
Number of participants paying fees	161	68	21	25	41	316

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Table 7. Details of Community Service Reported by Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents

Survey Question: How many hours of community service have you performed while in the program?

	Drug Court	DUI Court	Mental Health Court	Family Treatment Court	Veterans Treatment Court	Total
Number of participants performing community service	139	61	27	31	42	300
Percent of sample performing community service	75.14%	78.21%	81.82%	91.18%	95.45%	80.21%
Average hours of community service completed per participant (annualized)	35.8	116.1	24.2	23.9	82.0	56.1

Survey Question: At what type of organization did you perform most of your community service?

Government agency	30	18.87%	9	12.33%	7	26.92%	5	15.63%	8	18.18%	59	17.66%
Nonprofit agency	92	57.86%	34	46.58%	15	57.69%	24	75.00%	29	65.91%	194	58.08%
Other	37	23.27%	30	41.10%	4	15.38%	3	9.38%	7	15.91%	81	24.25%
Total	159	100.00%	73	100.00%	26	100.00%	32	100.00%	44	100.00%	334	100.00%

Note: 34 respondents indicated an organization type but did not report any hours.

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

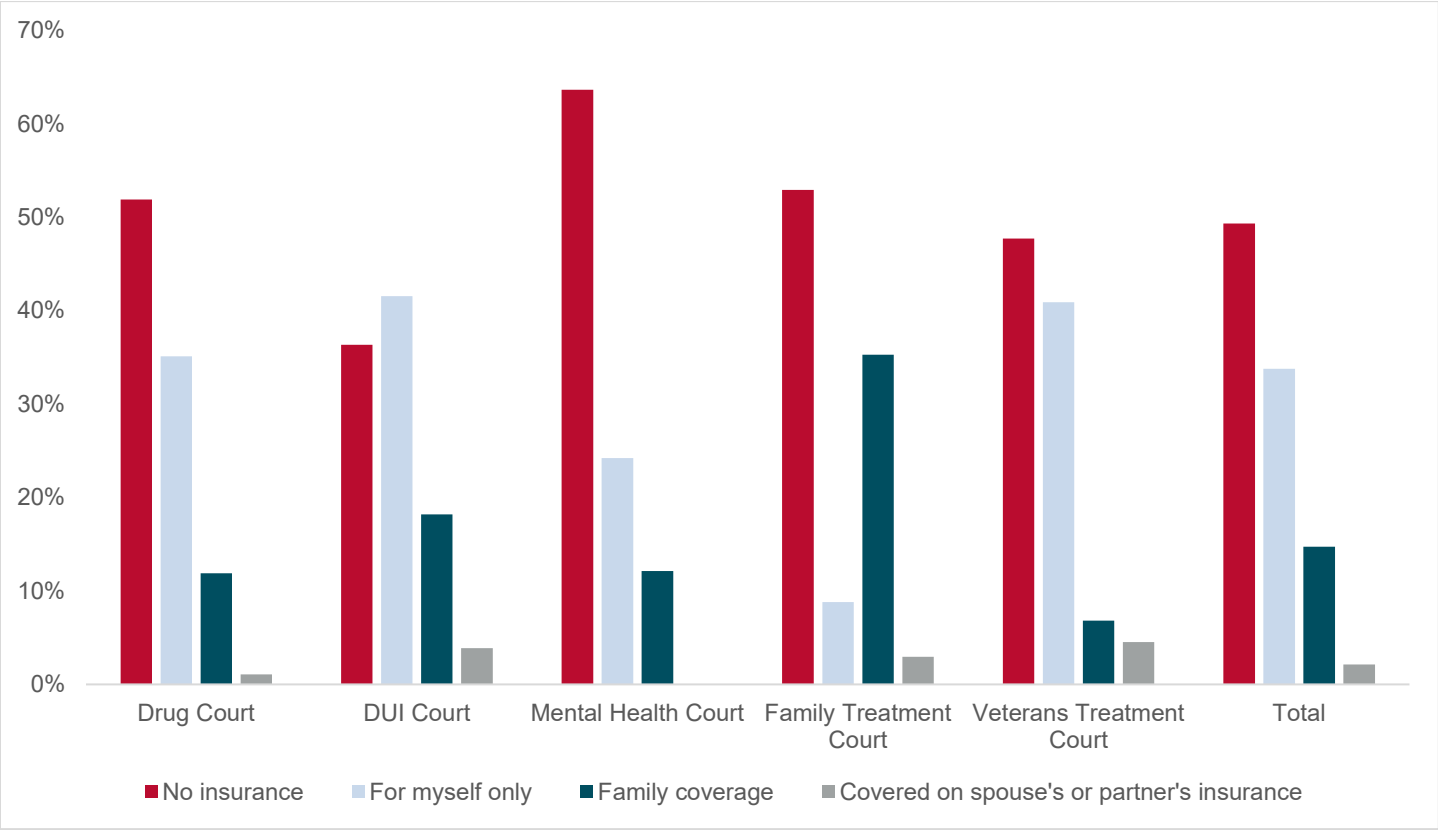
Table 8. Health Insurance Status Reported by Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents

Survey Question: Do you currently have health insurance (other than Medicaid or Medicare)?

	Drug Court		DUI Court		Mental Health Court		Family Treatment Court		Veterans Treatment Court		Total	
No insurance	96	51.89%	28	36.36%	21	63.64%	18	52.94%	21	47.73%	184	49.33%
For myself only	65	35.14%	32	41.56%	8	24.24%	3	8.82%	18	40.91%	126	33.78%
Family coverage	22	11.89%	14	18.18%	4	12.12%	12	35.29%	3	6.82%	55	14.75%
Covered on spouse's or partner's insurance	2	1.08%	3	3.90%	0	0.00%	1	2.94%	2	4.55%	8	2.14%
Total	185	100.00%	77	100.00%	33	100.00%	34	100.00%	44	100.00%	373	100.00%

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Figure 9. Health Insurance Status Reported by Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents, Percentage by Court Type



Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Table 9. Number of Children Reported by Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents

Survey Question: Do you have any children?

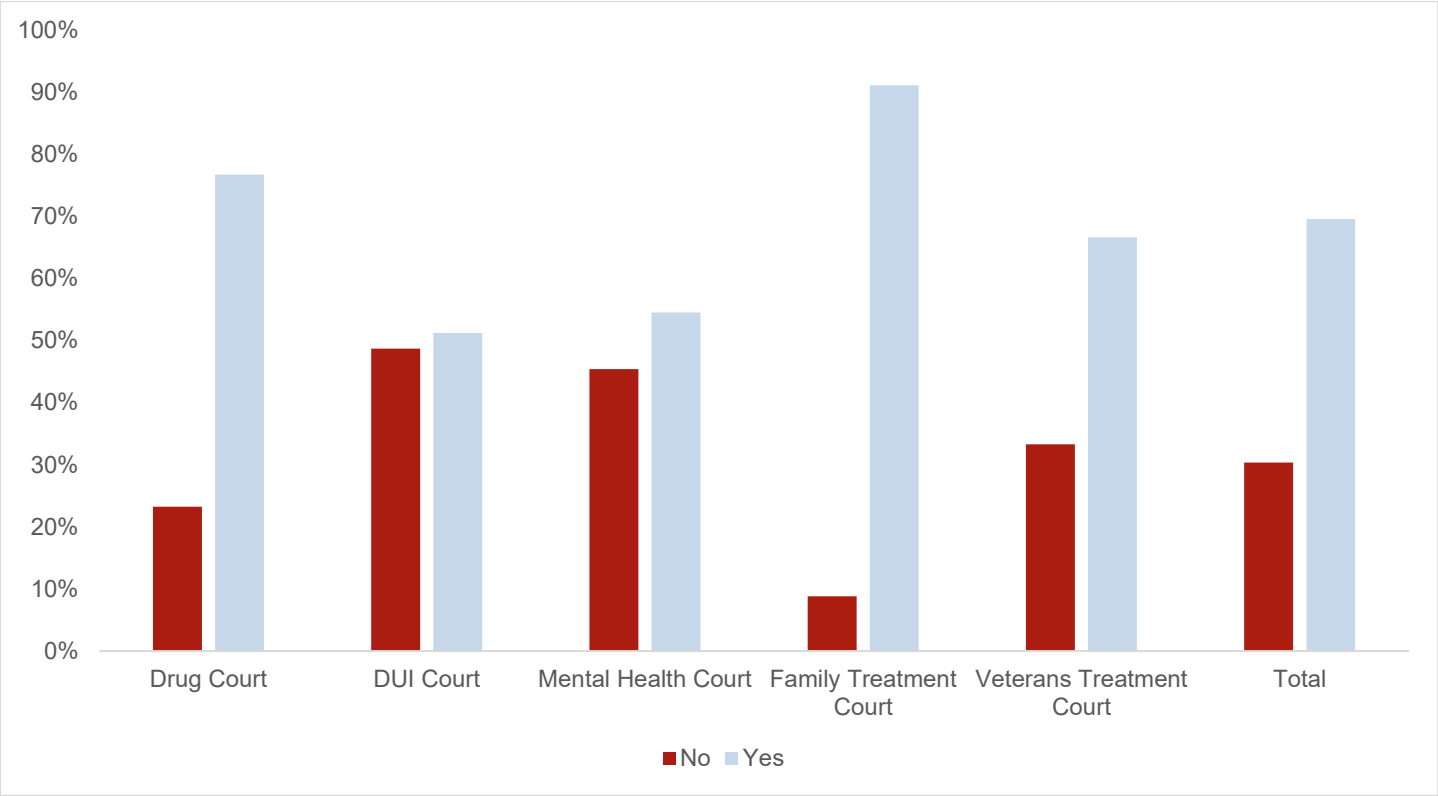
	Drug Court		DUI Court		Mental Health Court		Family Treatment Court		Veterans Treatment Court		Total	
No	43	23.24%	38	48.72%	15	45.45%	3	8.82%	15	33.33%	114	30.40%
Yes	141	76.76%	40	51.28%	18	54.55%	31	91.18%	30	66.67%	260	69.60%
Total	184	100.00%	78	100.00%	33	100.00%	34	100.00%	45	100.00%	374	100.00%
Average number of children for respondents with children	1.97		1.29		1.55		2.32		2.11		1.84	

Respondents reporting minor children

No minor children	71	38.92%	54	69.23%	20	60.61%	4	11.76%	24	53.33%	173	46.40%
One or more minor child	113	61.08%	24	30.77%	13	39.39%	30	88.24%	21	46.67%	201	53.60%
Total	184	100.00%	78	100.00%	33	100.00%	34	100.00%	45	100.00%	374	100.00%
Average number of minor children for respondents reporting minor children	2.42		2.25		2.62		2.47		2.76		2.46	

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Figure 10. Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents Who Reported Having Children, Percentage by Court Type



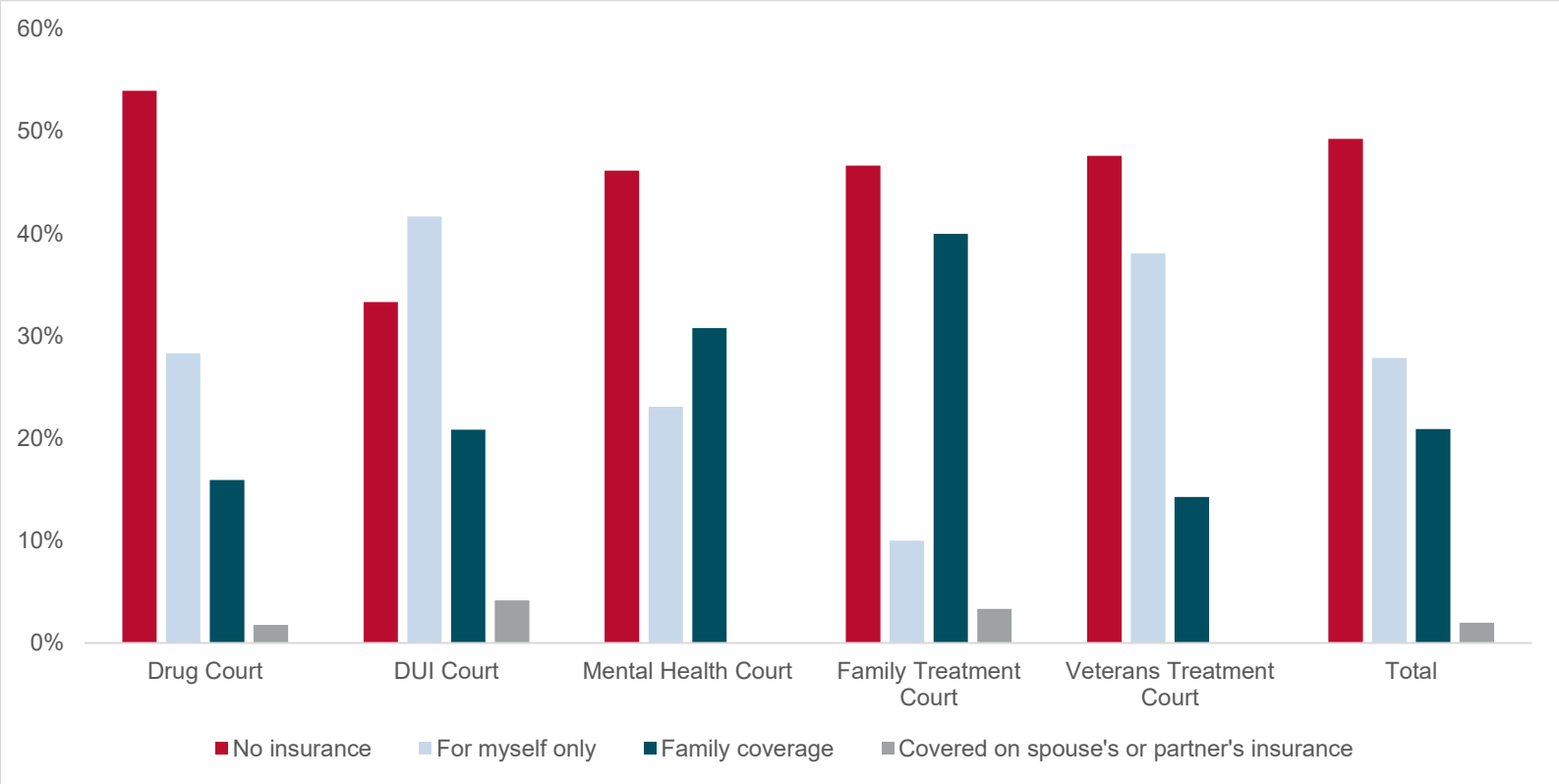
Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Table 10. Health Insurance Status Reported by Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents with Minor Children

	Drug Court		DUI Court		Mental Health Court		Family Treatment Court		Veterans Treatment Court		Total	
No insurance	61	53.98%	8	33.33%	6	46.15%	14	46.67%	10	47.62%	99	49.25%
For myself only	32	28.32%	10	41.67%	3	23.08%	3	10.00%	8	38.10%	56	27.86%
Family coverage	18	15.93%	5	20.83%	4	30.77%	12	40.00%	3	14.29%	42	20.90%
Covered on spouse's or partner's insurance	2	1.77%	1	4.17%	0	0.00%	1	3.33%	0	0.00%	4	1.99%
Total	113	100.00%	24	100.00%	13	100.00%	30	100.00%	21	100.00%	201	100.00%

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Figure 11. Health Insurance Status Reported by Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents with Minor Children, Percentage by Court Type



Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Economic Benefits of Accountability Court Programs

PROGRAM COSTS COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL ADJUDICATION COSTS

Accountability court programs in Georgia are funded primarily with resources from state and local governments. A number of programs also have received funding from US Department of Justice or Department of Health and Human Services grants. Federal grants typically provide funding for two years and cover initial program costs, training, investments in technology, or program services.

In fiscal year (FY) 2022,[i] the state appropriated $30,518,949 to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for grants to fund court program costs and administrative activities.[j] In addition, the state provided $667,696 in funding for administration of the CACJ. Together, the total state expenditure is $31,186,645, or $6,528.50 for each of the 4,777 total program participants. Over a typical 24-month program, state spending per participant is estimated at $13,057.

One of the first questions that research focused on after the proliferation of accountability courts was whether the programs imposed greater costs than traditional adjudication. Many observers speculated that there might be cost savings because accountability court participants are typically only incarcerated during the period prior to assignment to the program, and because they pay for at least part of their treatment through fees.

A number of studies have measured the costs of drug and DUI court programs. Most of these report the total cost per participant for programs that typically last 24 months. This section compares the costs of the typical 24-month accountability court program to the cost of traditional adjudication, incarceration, and probation, which often cover a similar period of time.

The cost drivers for accountability court programs are counseling sessions, drug tests, court appearances, and the time needed for interactions with program staff. Due to the more frequent oversight activities and other requirements in the early phases, program costs are heavily front loaded. Family treatment, mental health, and veterans treatment court programs are generally modeled after drug and DUI court programs, with some additional components based on participants' specific needs. The Institute of Government research team examined 12 studies completed between 1996 and 2015, adjusting the findings to 2022 dollars using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Nine of these studies were completed by NPC Research in Portland, Oregon.

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[i] The state's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30.

[j] For more information on how CACJ is funded, see the *Executive Summary of the Council of Accountability Court Judges: Process and Outcomes Report* at cacj.georgia.gov/data-research/process-outcomes-report.

The average cost per participant across these nine drug court programs studied was $26,687. The participant costs ranged from a low of $11,501 in Pima County, Arizona, to $46,157 and $47,672 in two Maryland counties. Both Maryland programs included significant "intensive outpatient treatment days," which was a major cost component in the studies.[36]

By comparison, a study conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, which was itself an analysis of nine studies, found an average cost of $16,249. A study of the drug court program in Bexar County, Texas, conducted by NPC found a cost of $14,178 (2022 dollars).[37] A study of the Washington, DC, drug court program conducted by the District of Columbia Crime Policy Institute using data from the mid-1990s showed per-participant costs of $22,665 (2022 dollars).[38] Averaging the findings from these studies indicates that the mean accountability court participant costs $25,684 for a the typical 24-month program. Again, all these costs have been adjusted to 2022 dollars using the CPI.

In Georgia, the estimated cost to the state for one year of incarceration and one year of probation is **$24,801**. The state cost for the average accountability court participant is **$13,057** for a 24-month program.

The cost of traditional adjudication includes the handling and processing of a case through the judicial system and the cost of incarceration, the latter being the largest driver of costs. Indeed, the typical one-year prison sentence accounts for more than 75% of total expenditures for defendants who are processed through traditional adjudication.

Most studies of accountability court programs seeking to compare their costs to traditional adjudication report a single figure for all costs rather than reporting separate amounts for the handling and processing of the case, which generally includes law enforcement, the prosecuting attorney, the public defender if utilized, and costs for pre-trial jail time and incarceration.

However, seven studies reviewed by American University provide detailed information that allows for this calculation. The average costs for traditional adjudication (not including incarceration following a conviction) was $6,364, adjusted to 2022 dollars.[39] The costs incurred for handling the case of a defendant assigned to an accountability court program would be similar.

The Georgia Department of Corrections reports that the average cost per inmate-day at its state prisons was $65.95 in FY 2018 and $65.84 in FY 2019, the most recent data available for corrections costs on the department's website.[40] At $66 per day, the cost of incarceration for 365 days is $24,090. This compares to an annual cost of $20,075 cited in the 2017 economic impact report. The Georgia Department of Community Supervision reports that it supervised 245,387

people in FY 2021 with a budget of $174,436,073.[41] While supervision costs vary based on the reporting requirements, the department's cost per probationer is $711 annually.

Three studies of the efficacy of Georgia accountability court programs compared program participants and graduates to control groups of defendants who went through traditional adjudication.[42] Two of those studies evaluated the Forsyth County Drug Court Program, and the third evaluated the Hall County DUI Court Program. In those studies, data made available by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation on the criminal histories of defendants in the control groups indicated that the average sentence imposed was one year with an additional year on probation.

Using these data, the estimated costs of a defendant in either traditional adjudication or accountability court assignment is $6,364 in pre-sentencing or pre-diversion costs. In addition to this pre-sentencing amount, a defendant in traditional adjudication costs $24,090 for incarceration, and $711 for 12 months of probation supervision, for a total of $31,165. The total cost for an accountability court participant including pre-assignment ($6,364) and a typical two-year program ($13,057) is $19,421, or $11,744 less than the average cost of traditional adjudication, incarceration, and probation (Table 11). The cost savings for diversion to an accountability court program reported in 2017 was only $4,707.

Several factors likely contributed to the higher estimated cost savings in 2022. Total program costs per accountability court program participant reported in the 2017 study were $15,523 compared to $13,057 reported here for 2022. Over the past five years, the increase in the number of programs across the state and the number of defendants diverted to them may have produced a greater economy of scale. In addition, as these programs mature, they may become more efficient and a higher proportion of their operating costs are borne locally. Also, the higher costs of incarceration and probation reported for 2022 contributed to the greater estimated state cost savings.

Table 11. Comparison of Traditional Adjudication and Accountability Court Program Costs, 2022

	Traditional Adjudication	Accountability Court Program
Pre-sentencing/Pre-diversion	$6,364	$6,364
Incarceration (1 year)	$24,090	NA
Probation (1 year)	$711	NA
Accountability Court Program (2 years)	NA	$13,057
Total	$31,165	$19,421
Difference		–$11,744

Notes: NA means not applicable. Probation costs for accountability courts are generally included in the accountability court program costs.

PROGRAM FEES

Program fees are assessed by accountability court programs to cover a portion of the costs to provide services such as counseling sessions, drug testing, and general oversight activities of the staff and court. In addition to defraying program costs, participants are more likely to succeed if they have a vested interest in the form of financial resources. The results from the survey indicate that the amount of fees collected varied by court type (Table 6) but that participants overall paid an average of $1,242 (annualized) compared to $1,932 in the 2017 study.

> Participants overall paid an average of **$1,242** (annualized) in fees to cover program costs.

HEALTH CARE COSTS

Most states, including Georgia, have a variety of ways to cover the health care costs of low-income, homeless, and indigent persons. PeachCare for Kids® operates as the Georgia version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), authorized in 1997 under Title XXI of the Social Security Act and reauthorized in 2009. This program covers the cost of most medical services, including preventive care. The Indigent Care Trust Fund, established in 1990, expanded Medicaid coverage and provides support for hospitals and other health care providers that serve the medically indigent.[43]

The Kaiser Family Foundation reports that the average uninsured person in the United States spent $3,084 on health care services each year from 2015 to 2017, compared to $2,443 in 2013.[44] [45] Adjusting the 2015–2017 figure to 2022 dollars yields $3,855. The total costs of uncompensated medical care delivered in the US in 2013 was $84.9 billion. Due to the Affordable Care Act, this figure declined to an average of $42.4 billion annually during the years 2015 to 2017. The federal government and state governments offset approximately 62% of these costs, or about $26.3

billion in 2017, with the rest paid by other sources including the uninsured person. Of the portion funded from public sources, the federal government funds 62% while the states pick up 38%.

In response to the question "Do you currently have health insurance?" 126 of 373 respondents (33.78%) indicated that they had coverage for themselves only (Table 8). Fifty-five respondents (14.75%) indicated that they had family coverage. Those 55 respondents indicated that they had an average of 1.6 minor children (Table 12). If it is assumed that family health coverage includes a spouse and their children, each of these families, averaging 3.6 persons, is not a burden to the state programs that provide health care coverage because the participant is working and providing their own health insurance. Thus, the annual estimated cost avoided for an uninsured individual in 2022 was $908 and $3,269 for the average family of respondents with family coverage. These costs would have been funded by the Indigent Care Trust Fund or absorbed by local hospitals and other providers.

Table 12. Number of People Covered by Health Insurance as Reported by Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents

Health Insurance	Average Number of Children	Total Persons Covered	Number of Participants	Percent of Sample*
Individual	NA	1	126	33.78%
Family	1.6	3.6	55	14.75

Notes: *n=373; NA means not applicable. Individual coverage includes only the participant. Family coverage includes the participant, their spouse, and their children.

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

The data in this section indicate that health care coverage could help avoid $908 in state-funded health care costs for 33.78% of accountability court program graduates and $3,269 in health care costs for 14.75% of graduates.

A related but separate health care issue is the birth of children to mothers addicted to illicit drugs. The survey asked parents, "How many of your children were born while you were in this court program?" Female drug court participants who are clean during pregnancy results in a significant savings to the health care system. Medical care for children born addicted to the drugs that their mothers take is expensive. The costs for treating these children immediately after birth far surpasses the typical health care costs for other children, with their care often being funded by the Indigent Care Trust Fund or absorbed by hospitals.

The female respondents to the survey indicated that 11 babies were born to 11 mothers while in an accountability court program. While data were not available about the health of these

children at birth, there is a greater likelihood that they were born without the complications of drug addiction due to their mothers' participation in an accountability court program. In the survey respondent sample, 129 of 374 participants (34.49%) were female. Assuming this is representative of accountability court participants across Georgia, we would expect 11 births for every 374 program participants. The average length of time in the program for the 11 mothers who had a child born while in the program was 29.7 months. Thus, we expect 4.44 births annually per 374 program participants, or 1.19% of the sample.

Children born to mothers addicted to opioid painkillers suffer from neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), which is essentially withdrawal from the substances they were exposed to in utero by their mothers' addiction. Addiction to illegal drugs, such as heroin and amphetamines, and to prescription opioids is a growing problem that is causing an increase in the number of NAS cases in Georgia and nationally. In addition, the Georgia Department of Public Health indicates that NAS can also occur with antidepressants and benzodiazepines.[46] Children born with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) experience similar issues at birth. However, FAS can cause lifelong medical and psychological problems. Because the survey did not collect data on the health of these children, no attempt is made here to determine FAS costs avoided in the long term.

The average cost from 2004 to 2014 to treat a case of NAS was $19,340 in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), compared to a cost of $3,700 for a regular, uncomplicated delivery.[47] Using US Bureau of Labor Statistics data, health care costs rose an average of 2.88% annually between 2009 (the midpoint from 2004 to 2014) and 2022.[48] As a result, medical care costing $19,340 in 2009 would cost an estimated $27,974 in 2022, while a regular birth cost rose from $3,700 to an estimated $5,352. This difference of $22,622 represents potential health care cost savings that would be funded from public sources for infants born with NAS. The typical NICU is set up to treat premature deliveries with the use of sophisticated monitoring equipment. Babies suffering with NAS require more one-on-one treatment but otherwise may be alert and active. Delivering care that the unit is not designed for can place a severe burden on hospital staff, an issue that may not be captured in the costs.[49]

Health care–related cost savings attributable to the accountability courts stem from three sources: participants who have health insurance for themselves (33.78% of the sample), those who have health insurance for their families (14.75%), and births that avoid the costs of NAS care (1.19%).

INCOME TAXES

Georgia has a graduated income tax, meaning Georgians pay lower rates at lower levels of income. All Georgians pay no income tax on the first $100 of income, $1 on the second $100, and

$2 on the next $100. Married taxpayers who file jointly pay 1% on the first $1,000 of adjusted gross income, 2% on the next $1,000, and reach a marginal tax rate of 5.75% for income over $10,000, as shown in Table 13. This means that the highest possible tax rate for any taxpayer will be less than 5.75% given the lower rates applied to the first $10,000 of income. These rates are applied to adjusted gross income (AGI), that is, after the taxpayer has subtracted either the standard deduction or the total of their itemized tax deductions from their gross income.

After calculating AGI, taxpayers apply the rates according to the chart in Table 13, yielding their tax liability. Dividing the tax liability by gross income (before tax deductions) yields the effective tax rate. The estimate of accountability court participants' tax liability must start with the effective tax rate because survey respondents provided gross monthly income (before tax deductions). Both the Fiscal Research Center at Georgia State University and the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute put Georgia's estimated average effective tax rate at about 3%.[50] Using a 3% effective rate produces the average income tax liability for accountability court participants, as shown in Table 14.

Table 13. Georgia Income Tax Rates, Married Filing Jointly, 2022

Income	Rate
The first $1,000	1%
Dollars earned from $1,000 to $3,000	2%
Dollars earned from $3,001 to $5,000	3%
Dollars earned from $5,001 to $7,000	4%
Dollars earned from $7,001 to $10,000	5%
Dollars earned from $10,001	5.75%

Source: Georgia Department of Revenue

Respondents reported an average annualized income of $30,697, up from $22,340 reported in the 2017 study. Low unemployment in the state during 2021 and 2022 likely contributed to this increase as more employment opportunities were available across Georgia. Only 22 respondents reported having income less than $500 per month, and more than half (55.7%) reported a monthly income of at least $2,000.

Table 14. Income and Tax Liability of Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents

	Drug Court	DUI Court	Mental Health Court	Family Treatment Court	Veterans Treatment Court	Total
Average income (annualized)	$29,524	$37,052	$25,545	$24,176	$33,419	$30,697
Estimated income tax paid (rounded to $)	$886	$1,112	$766	$725	$1,003	$921
Number of respondents	183	77	33	34	43	370

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

VALUE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK

Community service work assigned to accountability court program participants varies widely depending on program goals and opportunities in the local community. More than 80% of respondents (300 of 374) reported that they had been assigned community service and had completed an average of 56.1 hours (annualized), with DUI court participants completing the most at 116.1 hours (Table 15). Accountability court participants are typically assigned community service hours as part of their regular program activities or as a sanction for failure to complete program requirements, such as missing court appearances or counseling sessions. They may also be assigned community service for a failed drug test or other specific behaviors that violate program requirements.

Independent Sector (IS) is an umbrella organization that promotes the interests of nonprofits, foundations, and corporations related to issues of public policy and the common good.[51] For 2020, IS estimated the value of an hour of nonprofit community service nationally at $29.95 based on the cost of replacing that labor with a full-time employee. In Georgia, the IS estimate is $26.77 per hour.[52] The estimate is based on the cost of all production and nonsupervisory workers in nonfarm payrolls as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and includes the value of fringe benefits[k] that would be provided to employees. Organizations that rely on volunteer work use that figure to report the value received on their balance sheets and in their annual reports. A number of organizations have recognized and used the estimate from IS, including the Corporation for National and Community Service, The NonProfit Times, and Nonprofit Quarterly.[53]

[k] Fringe benefits are benefits offered by a company in addition to an employee's salary, such as paid time off, health and life insurance, and others.

Acknowledging that the value calculated using the BLS data includes a host of skilled workers, even if they are not performing supervisory roles, and that the work typically assigned to participants does not require extensive skill and does not include benefits, the Institute of Government research team valued the community service hours performed by accountability court program participants at $17, a figure between the federal minimum wage of $7.25 and the $26.77 figure for Georgia calculated by IS. Again, the IS estimate is based on what it would cost to replace that labor with a full-time employee.

Table 15. Details of Community Service Reported by Accountability Court Participant Survey Respondents

Survey Question: How many hours of community service have you performed while in this program?

	Drug Court	DUI Court	Mental Health Court	Family Treatment Court	Veterans Treatment Court	Total
Number of participants reporting community service	139	61	27	31	42	300
Percent of sample performing community service	75.14%	78.21%	81.82%	91.18%	95.45%	80.21%
Average hours of community service completed (annualized)	35.8	116.1	24.2	23.9	82.0	56.1
Value per hour	$17.00	$17.00	$17.00	$17.00	$17.00	$17.00
Value per participant	$609	$1,974	$411	$406	$1,394	$954

Source: 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

REDUCED FOSTER CARE COSTS

Foster care provides for the needs of minor children when parents are unable to do so on their own. The primary goal is to provide care and assistance while parents recover financially, emotionally, and/or physically so that families can be reunited. Accountability court programs can help families avoid separation while parents recover from addiction and other issues that often result in children being placed in foster care. The costs to the state to compensate foster parents is based on the per diem schedule shown in Table 16.

Table 16. Georgia Foster Care Per Diem Rates, 2022

Child ages birth through 5	$25.27 per day
Child ages 6 through 12	$27.26 per day
Child age 13 and older	$29.65 per day

Source: Northeast Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). n.d. "Georgia Kinship Care Financial Resource Guide." Retrieved from northeastgacasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2018_11_15_PublicBenefitsChart_Final.pdf

Thirty-five respondents to the survey (9.36%) specified that their children had been in foster care during the previous five years, with only three indicating that their children were currently in foster care. The 35 respondents had a total of 83 children, or an average of 2.37 per respondent. Thirty-three of these children (39.8%) were under age six; 39 (47.0%) were between six and 12; and 11 (13.3%) were between ages 13 and 17. The Institute research team assumed these children were likely living with their natural families because of the stability provided by the accountability court programs. The analysis also assumes the alternative, that these children would be in foster care for the entire period of the parent's incarceration. Table 17 shows the total foster care costs avoided for the 35 respondents whose children had been in foster care within the past five years.

Table 17. Total Foster Care Costs Avoided Due to Survey Respondents' Participation in Accountability Court Programs

Age of Children	Number of Children	Foster Care Per Diem	Total Annual Cost
0–5	33	$25.27	$304,377
6–12	39	$27.26	$388,046
13–17	11	$29.65	$119,045
Total	83		$811,468

Source: Calculated from 2022 Accountability Court Participant Survey using Georgia foster care per diem rates

OTHER SOCIETAL BENEFITS: REDUCED DRUG CRIME VICTIMIZATION

Studies, including ones conducted on accountability courts in Georgia, show that these programs are effective at reducing recidivism. In the 2017 economic impact study, the research team used findings from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice, reporting that each drug court participant saved $6,665 in reduced crime victimization costs in 2014.[54] These savings resulted from avoidance of subsequent criminal activity that likely would have occurred in the absence of the drug court program. Those costs included the averages for both the loss of property and medical expenses resulting from crime victimization. The NIJ has not produced an update to this report, but the 2014 figure is

equivalent to $8,439 in adjusted 2022 dollars using the CPI.[1] Crime victimization costs are over and above the costs imposed on the criminal justice system and the benefits of increased social productivity—all the items covered so far in this report.

Costs and Savings from Accountability Court Participation

A total of 1,592 participants graduated from one of Georgia's accountability courts in FY 2022. Table 18 shows how these people were distributed across the five program types. Nationally, about half of all accountability program participants eventually graduate from their program, so Georgia would be expected to enroll about twice the number of participants as graduates each year.

Table 18. Number of Accountability Court Program Graduates in Georgia, FY 2022

	FY 2022 Graduates
Drug Court	777
DUI Court	367
Mental Health Court	226
Family Treatment Court	127
Veterans Treatment Court	95
Total	1,592

Source: Council of Accountability Court Judges

Using the estimates generated from the Accountability Court Participant Survey, the Institute of Government research team calculated the economic impact of accountability court program participation for the 1,592 Georgians who graduated from their programs in FY 2022.

The benefits of Georgia's accountability court programs are significant. For the 1,592 program graduates in FY 2022, savings from diverting these defendants from traditional adjudication and incarceration saved $18.7 million (Table 19). Program costs were further offset by $1.67 million in fees collected from participants, for a total savings of $20.36 million. Additional benefits of these accountability court programs for these 1,592 graduates include the following:

[1] The NIJ report calculated the costs using the national recidivism rate and spreading benefits over the total number of participants. The Institute of Government researchers multiplied the adjusted figure of $8,439 (2022 dollars) by the number of graduates, which produced a more conservative estimate of the victimization costs avoided.

- $1.68 million in health care benefits from private health insurance and avoided costs associated with babies born with NAS
- $1.47 million in state income tax revenues
- $1.21 million in community service work
- $3.11 million in foster care costs avoided
- $13.43 million in crime victimization costs avoided by reducing recidivism

Detailed estimates of the benefits by court type are presented in Tables 20 through 23 and are summarized in Table 24. Each participant represents an immediate savings of $11,744 compared to traditional adjudication, incarceration, and probation. Program costs are further offset by an average of $1,242 in program fees paid by about 84% of graduates, bringing the direct savings to $12,791 per graduate (Table 19).

Participants who have their own health insurance coverage for themselves and their families avoid $1.26 million in costs that would otherwise be largely borne by the Indigent Care Trust Fund, hospitals, or local health care providers (Table 20). For mothers who give birth to children while in these programs, to the extent that their newborns are not born with drug dependencies, nearly $429,000 in NAS costs are avoided (Table 20). The total for these health-related economic benefits is $1.68 million, $1,058 per graduate.

Participants who are working provide an estimated $1.47 million in income tax revenue to the state, and participants that provide community service, either as part of their regular program requirements or as a sanction, contribute an estimated $1.21 million in benefits, largely to governments and nonprofit organizations (Table 21). This results in a total economic benefit of $2.68 million ($1,681 per graduate) from work and community service activities.

Tables 22 and 23 show estimates of the substantial state costs that are avoided because families are more likely to remain intact and program graduates are less likely to reoffend. Estimated foster care program expenditures of $3.11 million are avoided because 318 children are able to remain with their families. This assumes that these children would be in foster care during the period of the parent's incarceration. Because program graduates are less likely to reoffend, potential crime victimization costs are avoided totaling nearly $13.43 million. The total estimated net benefit of Georgia's accountability court programs from the 1,592 graduates in FY 2022 is $41.27 million, or $25,921 per graduate (Table 24). To the extent that defendants can be diverted from traditional adjudication and incarceration into these programs, benefits will continue to accrue to the state and its economy.

Georgia has been at the forefront of accountability court development over the past two decades. The investment in these programs has reduced the costs for handling the cases of defendants diverted to these programs. The most significant savings are from reducing the number of prisoners in state correctional facilities and reducing the likelihood of recidivism for program graduates. Beyond that, and of far greater value, program graduates have remained with their families, supported their children, and contributed to the economy while receiving treatment to overcome their addictions and destructive behavior. This study estimates that each defendant who can receive treatment along with structured supervision rather than occupy a prison bed will produce significant economic benefits to state and local government, and the Georgia economy.

The total estimated net benefit from the 1,592 accountability court graduates in FY 2022 is **$41,265,924**, or **$25,921** per graduate.

Table 19. Total Annual Program Estimated Savings and Program Fees for FY 2022 Graduates of Accountability Courts in Georgia

	Drug Court	DUI Court	Mental Health Court	Family Treatment Court	Veterans Treatment Court	Total
Number of FY 2022 graduates	777	367	226	127	95	1,592
Adjudication and Program Costs						
Average savings per graduate over traditional adjudication	$11,744	$11,744	$11,744	$11,744	$11,744	$11,744
Subtotal	$9,125,088	$4,310,048	$2,654,144	$1,491,488	$1,115,680	$18,696,448
Program Fees Collected						
Percent of survey participants paying fees	87.0%	87.2%	63.6%	73.5%	91.1%	84.3%
Estimated number of graduates paying fees	676	320	144	93	87	1,342
Average fees per graduate paying fees	$1,083	$2,033	$422	$638	$1,340	$1,242
Subtotal	$732,097	$650,609	$60,657	$59,554	$115,970	$1,666,764
Total savings per court type	$9,857,185	$4,960,657	$2,714,801	$1,551,042	$1,231,650	$20,363,212
					Average savings per graduate	**$12,791**

Note: 100% of graduates are affected by adjudication and program costs. Fees paid by a portion of graduates are averaged over all graduates. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Table 20. Health Care–Related Benefits of FY 2022 Graduates of Accountability Courts in Georgia

	Drug Court	DUI Court	Mental Health Court	Family Treatment Court	Veterans Treatment Court	Total
Number of FY 2022 graduates	777	367	226	127	95	1,592
Health Care Single Coverage						
Average costs avoided per affected graduate	$908	$908	$908	$908	$908	$908
Number of graduates affected	262	124	76	43	32	538
Subtotal	$238,323	$112,567	$69,319	$38,954	$29,139	$488,302
Health Care Family Coverage						
Average costs avoided per affected graduate	$3,269	$3,269	$3,269	$3,269	$3,269	$3,269
Number of graduates affected	115	54	33	19	14	235
Subtotal	$374,652	$176,959	$108,972	$61,237	$45,807	$767,627
Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Births Avoided						
Average costs avoided per affected graduate	$22,622	$22,622	$22,622	$22,622	$22,622	$22,622
Number of graduates affected	9	4	3	2	1	19
Subtotal	$209,170	$98,797	$60,840	$34,189	$25,574	$428,569
Total savings per court type	$822,145	$388,323	$239,131	$134,379	$100,520	$1,684,498
					Average savings per graduate	**$1,058**

Note: Percentage of graduates affected by health care–related benefits: Health care single coverage = 33.78%; Health care family coverage = 14.75%; NAS births avoided = 1.19%. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Table 21. Georgia Income Tax Revenue and Community Service Benefits of FY 2022 Graduates of Accountability Courts in Georgia

	Drug Court	DUI Court	Mental Health Court	Family Treatment Court	Veterans Treatment Court	Total
Number of FY 2022 graduates	777	367	226	127	95	1,592
Income Taxes						
Average taxes paid per graduate by court type	$886	$1,112	$766	$725	$1,003	$921
Number of graduates FY 2022	777	367	226	127	95	1,592
Subtotal	$688,204	$407,943	$173,195	$92,111	$95,244	$1,466,089
Community Service						
Percent of survey participants performing community service	75.14%	78.21%	81.82%	91.18%	95.45%	79.68%
Estimated number of graduates performing community service	584	287	185	116	91	1,277
Average annualized hours of service completed	35.8	116.5	24.2	24.0	82.0	56.1
Value per hour	$17.00	$17.00	$17.00	$17.00	$17.00	$17.00
Subtotal	$355,324	$566,747	$76,073	$47,049	$126,404	$1,209,774
Total income tax and community service benefits per court type	$1,043,528	$974,689	$249,268	$139,160	$221,649	$2,675,863
					Average benefits per graduate	**$1,681**

Note: All accountability court graduates must pay income tax. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Table 22. Foster Care Program Costs Avoided by FY 2022 Graduates of Accountability Courts in Georgia

	Drug Court	DUI Court	Mental Health Court	Family Treatment Court	Veterans Treatment Court	Total
Number of FY 2022 graduates	777	367	226	127	95	1,592
Foster Care for Children Ages 0–5						
Average number of children by program	37.8	0.0	0.0	78.4	6.5	122.7
Cost per child	$9,224	$9,224	$9,224	$9,224	$9,224	$9,224
Subtotal	$348,650	$0	$0	$723,126	$59,953	$1,131,730
Foster Care for Children Ages 6–12						
Average number of children by program	58.8	14.1	0.0	74.7	4.3	151.9
Cost per child	$9,950	$9,950	$9,950	$9,950	$9,950	$9,950
Subtotal	$585,054	$140,294	$0	$743,258	$42,785	$1,511,390
Foster Care for Children Ages 13–17						
Average number of children by program	16.8	0.0	0.0	26.1	0.0	42.9
Cost per child	$10,822	$10,822	$10,822	$10,822	$10,822	$10,822
Subtotal	$181,814	$0	$0	$282,461	$0	$464,275
Total savings per court type	$1,115,518	$140,294	$0	$1,748,845	$102,738	$3,107,394
					Average savings per graduate	**$1,952**

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Table 23. Crime and Victimization Costs Avoided by FY 2022 Graduates of Accountability Courts in Georgia

	Drug Court	DUI Court	Mental Health Court	Family Treatment Court	Veterans Treatment Court	Total
Number of graduates FY 2022	777	367	226	127	95	1,592
Average cost avoided per affected graduate*	$8,439	$8,439	$8,439	$8,439	$8,439	$8,439
Total savings per court type	$6,557,103	$3,097,113	$1,907,214	$1,071,753	$801,705	$13,434,888
					Average savings per graduate	**$8,439**

* NIJ calculated this benefit per program participant. It is applied here only to program graduates.

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Table 24. Annual Net State and Societal Benefits Attributable to 1,592 FY 2022 Graduates of Accountability Courts in Georgia

	Drug Court	DUI Court	Mental Health Court	Family Treatment Court	Veterans Treatment Court	Total
Number of graduates FY 2022	777	367	226	127	95	1,592
Adjudication cost savings	$9,125,088	$4,310,048	$2,654,144	$1,491,488	$1,115,680	$18,696,448
Program fees	$732,097	$650,609	$60,657	$59,554	$115,970	$1,666,834
Net program cost benefits	$9,857,185	$4,960,657	$2,714,801	$1,551,042	$1,231,650	$20,363,282
Health Care Costs						
Single coverage	$238,323	$112,567	$69,319	$38,954	$29,139	$488,302
Family coverage	$374,652	$176,959	$108,972	$61,237	$45,807	$767,627
NAS births	$209,170	$98,797	$60,840	$34,189	$25,574	$428,569
Total health care–related benefits	$822,145	$388,323	$239,131	$134,379	$100,520	$1,684,498
Work-Related Benefits						
Income taxes	$688,204	$407,943	$173,195	$92,111	$95,244	$1,466,089
Value of community service hours	$355,324	$566,747	$76,073	$47,049	$126,404	$1,209,774
Total work-related benefits	$1,043,528	$974,689	$249,268	$139,160	$221,649	$2,675,863
Costs Avoided						
Foster care	$1,115,518	$140,294	$0	$1,748,845	$102,738	$3,107,394
Crime and victimization	$6,557,103	$3,097,113	$1,907,214	$1,071,753	$801,705	$13,434,888
Total costs avoided	$7,672,621	$3,237,407	$1,907,214	$2,820,598	$904,443	$16,542,282
Grand total per court type	$19,395,479	$9,561,076	$5,110,414	$4,645,178	$2,458,261	$41,265,924
Average savings and benefits per graduate						**$25,921**

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Appendix A. Accountability Court Program Participant Survey

Georgia Accountability Court Survey

This survey is anonymous. No one, including the researcher, will be able to associate your responses with your identity. Please do not write your name or put any other identifying information on this survey form. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You may choose not to take the survey, to stop responding at any time, or to skip any questions that you do not want to answer without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. In addition, your participation or refusal does not in any way affect your benefits or relationship with the accountability court program.

If you choose not to complete the survey or decide not to finish the survey after you have started, place the survey in the envelope provided, seal it, and place it in the survey lock box.

If you have any questions about this survey or about how the information collected will be used, you may contact the principal researcher for the project or the University of Georgia Institutional Review Board. Contact information is printed below and on a separate card that you may take with you.

Principal Researcher: Dr. Wes Clarke	University of Georgia IRB
gwclarke@uga.edu	irb@uga.edu
(706) 542-6202	(706) 542-3199

After completing the survey, please place it in the envelope provided, seal it, and deposit the envelope in the survey lock box. Court personnel do not have a key to the lock box. The survey instrument will be opened only by the survey research staff at the University of Georgia.

Please follow these Instructions...
- ➜ Use a blue or black in pen to fill out this questionnaire. (DO NOT USE A PENCIL)
- ➜ Completely fill in the appropriate bubble like this ●.
- ➜ If you make a mistake, mark through the incorrect bubble like this ✖, and fill in the correct bubble.

1. What gender do you consider yourself to be?
   - ◯ Female
   - ◯ Male
   - ◯ Other (please specify): _____

2. In what year were you born?

3. Are you Hispanic, Latino(a), or of Spanish origin?
   - ◯ Yes
   - ◯ No
   - ◯ Don't know

4. What race do you consider yourself to be?
   - ◯ White
   - ◯ Black or African American
   - ◯ Asian
   - ◯ American Indian or Alaska Native
   - ◯ Pacific Islander
   - ◯ Multiple racial identities
   - ◯ Other (please specify): _____

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PLEASE completely fill in the appropriate bubble, like this ●. If you make a mistake, mark through the incorrect bubble like this ●.

5. Which best describes your current work status?
   - ◯ Employed full-time (40+ hours/week)
   - ◯ Employed part-time (less than 40 hours/week)
   - ◯ Unemployed
   - ◯ Retired
   - ◯ Disabled
   - ◯ Other (please specify): _____

6. Do you own your own business (self-employed)?
   - ◯ Yes
   - ◯ No

7. What is your current monthly income?
   - ◯ $500 or less
   - ◯ $501 - $1,000
   - ◯ $1,001 - $1,500
   - ◯ $1,501 - $2,000
   - ◯ $2,001 - $2,500
   - ◯ $2,501 - $3,000
   - ◯ $3,001 - $3,500
   - ◯ $3,501 - $4,000
   - ◯ $4,001 - $4,500
   - ◯ $4,501 - $5,000
   - ◯ $5,001 - $5,500
   - ◯ $5,501 - $6,000
   - ◯ Over $6,000

8. Do you currently have health insurance (other than Medicaid or Medicare)?
   - ◯ I have coverage for myself only
   - ◯ I have family coverage
   - ◯ I am covered on my spouse's/partner's health insurance
   - ◯ No

9. If you have a spouse, partner, or child(ren), do you currently contribute financially?
   - ◯ Yes
   - ◯ No
   - ◯ Not applicable

PLEASE completely fill in the appropriate bubble, like this ⬬. If you make a mistake, mark through the incorrect bubble like this ⬬.

10. How many months have you been in this court program?

- ◯ 1 - 6 months
- ◯ 7 - 12
- ◯ 13 - 18
- ◯ 19 - 24
- ◯ 25 - 30
- ◯ 31 - 36
- ◯ More than 36 months

11. How many hours of community service have you performed while in this program?

☐☐☐ hours

12. At what type of organization did you perform most of your community service?

- ◯ Government agency
- ◯ Non-profit organization
- ◯ Other

13. What are the total fees assessed for this court program?

$ ☐☐☐☐.☐☐

14. How much have you already paid in fees to this program?

$ ☐☐☐☐.☐☐

15. Do you currently live...

- ◯ With someone else
- ◯ By yourself → **Skip to question 17 on page 4**

16. Who else do you currently live with? (Please select all that apply)

- ◯ Parent(s)
- ◯ Spouse or partner
- ◯ Family other than my parent, spouse or partner
- ◯ Friend(s)
- ◯ Roommate(s)
- ◯ I live in a communal/residential facility
- ◯ Other (please specify): _____

PLEASE completely fill in the appropriate bubble, like this ●. If you make a mistake, mark through the incorrect bubble like this ⊗.

17. Which best describes your current relationship status?

- ◯ Single
- ◯ Living with partner
- ◯ Married
- ◯ Divorced
- ◯ Separated
- ◯ Widowed

18. Do you have any children?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No → **Survey complete! Thank you for your participation.**
  Please seal your survey in the provided envelope and deposit it in the survey lock box.

19. Please indicate the number of children you have in the following age ranges.

Age 0-5: ☐☐

Age 6-12: ☐☐

Age 13-18: ☐☐

Over the age of 18: ☐☐

20. How many of your children were born while you were in this court program?

☐☐ child(ren)

◯ None of my children were born while I was in this court program

21. With whom do your children currently live? (Please select all that apply)

- ◯ You
- ◯ Your spouse or partner
- ◯ Your ex-spouse or -partner
- ◯ Relatives
- ◯ Friends
- ◯ Foster care
- ◯ Other (please specify): _____

22. Have any of your children lived in foster care in the past five years?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
Your assistance in providing this information is very much appreciated.
Now, please seal your survey in the provided envelope and deposit it in the survey lock box.

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Appendix B. Accountability Court Programs Selected for Participant Survey

Alapaha Circuit Mental Health and Drug Court

Appalachian Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court

Appalachian Circuit Veterans Court

Athens–Clarke County DUI Court

Athens–Clarke County Family Treatment Court

Augusta Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court

Bartow Family Treatment Court

Brunswick Judicial Circuit Drug Court

Chatham County DUI Court

Cobb County Drug Court

Colquitt County Accountability Court

Conasauga Drug Court

Dawson County Treatment Court (DUI/Drug)

Douglas Circuit Accountability Courts — Felony Drug Court

Enotah S.T.A.R. Court

Forsyth County CARE Program

Fulton County Adult Felony Drug Court

Fulton County Behavioral Health Treatment Court

Fulton County DUI Court

Gwinnett County Drug Court

Gwinnett County Mental Health Court

Hall County Drug Court

Hall County Family Treatment Court

Hall County HELP Program/Veterans Treatment Court

Lowndes County Accountability Court

Macon Judicial Circuit Drug Court

Macon Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court

Mountain Judicial Circuit Family Treatment Court

Mountain Mental Health Court

Muscogee County Adult Drug Court

Ocmulgee Circuit Adult Treatment Court Collaborative—Mental Health Division

Ocmulgee Circuit Adult Treatment Court Collaborative—Substance Abuse Division

Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Drug Court

Richmond County DUI Court

Richmond County Veterans Court

Rome/Floyd Drug Court

Savannah Chatham County Drug Court with Veterans Division

Southwestern Judicial Circuit Accountability Court

Spalding County Mental Health/Veterans Treatment Court

Troup County Family Treatment Court

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