

# Pennsylvania's Problem-Solving Courts - a Different Path for Justice

## What are problem-solving courts?

Problem-solving courts – including veterans courts, adult and juvenile drug courts, DUI courts and mental health courts – divert nonviolent offenders from jail if they comply with treatment and program requirements. Participants are monitored by a team of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation and treatment staff and mentors.

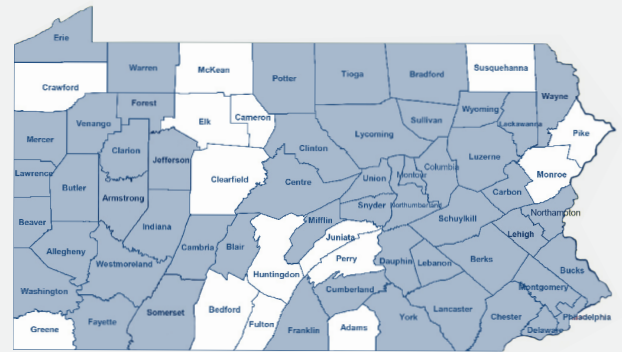


## Goal of problem-solving courts:

To supervise treatment and rehabilitation of screened and selected defendants to try and change their behavior.

**1997** The year the first problem-solving court in Pennsylvania started (drug court)

**127** The current number of problem-solving courts in Pennsylvania



■ has at least one problem-solving court □ does not have a problem-solving court

**12-24 months** The average length of time participants spent in problem-solving court programs

In 2020 ...

**1,616** participants were admitted to problem-solving courts in Pennsylvania

**228** participants achieved an increase in education.

**1,338** participants graduated successfully.

**427** participants who were unemployed found jobs.

Diverting certain defendants to problem-solving courts has saved tax payer dollars by:

- saving jail costs
- ensuring collection of fines, costs and restitution
- reducing homelessness
- strengthening families and improving lives

