

Census of Problem-Solving Courts



The National Center for State Courts, on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, is conducting this Census of Problem-Solving Courts. The information you provide in this survey will help to establish an accurate national picture of the organization and operation of problem-solving courts.

Thank you for your participation. Should questions arise while you are completing the survey, please call the NCSC at 800-616-6109 or send an e-mail to CensusPSC@ncsc.org.



OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

BJS



Paperwork Reduction Act Burden Statement: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. If you have comments regarding the survey, or suggestions on how to simplify this form, write to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, 810 7th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531.

OMB NO. 1121-0337 / Exp 09/30/2015.

Part I: General Information

1. Does your Problem-Solving Court use a **hybrid approach**? That is, does this single Problem-Solving Court integrate principles from multiple different problem-solving court models? *One such example would be a hybrid DWI/Drug Court.*

IMPORTANT NOTE: Do not check “yes” if you are responsible for overseeing several problem-solving courts. Check “yes” only if the individual court/docket addressed in this survey is a hybrid court/docket. A separate survey should be completed on behalf of each problem-solving court in your jurisdiction. If you are aware of a problem-solving court that has not been separately identified for inclusion in this Census, please notify us at CensusPSC@ncsc.org.

Yes No

2. **If Yes to #1 above:** Please mark **all** court types below that describe your court (e.g., for a hybrid DWI/Drug Court, check both “Adult Drug” and “DWI/DUI”).

If No to #1 above: Identify the **single** category label that **best** describes your Problem-Solving Court from the list below.

Drug	Community Issues	Youth
<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Community	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Youth/Teen
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Truancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Community	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Gun	
<input type="checkbox"/> DWI/DUI	<input type="checkbox"/> Prostitution	
<input type="checkbox"/> Campus Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Gambling	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Gang	
Co-Occurring	Reentry	Veterans
<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Co-occurring disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Reentry	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Veterans
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Co-occurring disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Reentry	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Drug Treatment
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Co-occurring disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Reentry	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Mental Health Treatment
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reentry Drug	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Parole Violation	

(list continues on next page)

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Mental Health	Domestic Relations	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Treatment
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> (General) Problem-Solving
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Dependency/ Family Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Elder Abuse	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Support/Fathering	

3. Is your Problem-Solving Court a pilot program?

Yes No

4. Please provide name and contact information for your court.

- a. Name of your Problem-Solving Court: _____

- b. Street address for your Problem-Solving Court: _____

- c. City of your Problem-Solving Court: _____

- d. State of your Problem-Solving Court: _____

- e. Zip code for your Problem-Solving Court: _____

- f. Phone number for your Problem-Solving Court: _____

- g. Your professional information:
 - i. Your name (first and last): _____

 - ii. Your position title: _____

 - iii. Your organizational affiliation: _____

 - iv. Your e-mail address: _____

 - v. Your phone number: _____

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Part II: Court Operations

5. Does your Problem-Solving Court...

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

c. ...have a judge(s)/judicial officer(s) (i.e., judicial officer oversees proceedings has the authority of the court)?

Yes No

If you answered "YES" to 5a, 5b, and 5c, skip to Question 9 on the next page.

If you answered "NO" to any of the above, please continue on this page.

6. Is adjudication and sentencing a bifurcated process? For example, the traditional court may handle the case for adjudication, but the Problem-Solving Court may oversee sentencing.

Yes No

7. Does the adjudication component of the process operate within the judiciary (i.e., as part of the judicial rather than executive branch)?

Yes No

8. Does a judicial officer (e.g., someone who has the same authority as a judge) preside over the adjudication component of the process?

Yes No

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9. Does your Problem-Solving Court...

	Yes	No
...have a dedicated prosecutor(s)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...have a dedicated defense attorney(s)/public defender(s)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...have dedicated court staff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...have a dedicated operations manager/program coordinator?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...have an operations manual for the court? A manual provides a clear model for operating the court and includes all Problem-Solving Court policies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...have a mission statement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

- Municipal
- County
- District/Circuit
- State
- Other: _____

11. Has your Problem-Solving Court been officially certified by a state-level agency (or otherwise approved as meeting prescribed PSC standards set by the state)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Optional comments:

12. Were stakeholders (e.g. judge, attorneys, service providers) involved in the planning of this Problem-Solving Court?

- Yes
- No (**skip to Question 14**)
- Information about planning efforts is not available (**skip to Question 14**)

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13. Which stakeholders were part of the planning process?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Judge(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prosecuting attorney(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Defense attorney(s)/public defender(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Court administrator(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Probation or other supervision agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law enforcement agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service provider(s) (e.g., offender/victim services, counseling or treatment services, or general supportive services)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

- a. Number of full-time Problem-Solving Court personnel: _____
 Don't know number of full-time personnel
- b. Number of part-time Problem-Solving Court personnel: _____
 Don't know number of part-time personnel

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

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

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16. What key underlying problem(s) is your Problem-Solving Court designed to address in your community?
Check all that apply.

- Substance use/abuse-related issues(s)
- Behavioral addiction(s) (e.g., gambling addiction)
- Mental health issue(s)
- Quality-of-life or nuisance offense(s) (e.g., homelessness)
- Poor offender compliance with court orders (e.g., restitution, child support, fines paid in full)
- Challenges that hinder access to the judicial system for certain underprivileged populations
(please list the type of underprivileged population): _____
- Challenges faced by offenders seeking to integrate back into the community
- Victim safety
- Other: _____

17. Is expertise in the relevant problem-solving area a mandatory qualification for at least some new professional staff positions within the Problem-Solving Court?

For example, the drug court judge has professional experience working with individuals with substance abuse or addiction problems or the mental health court program coordinator has an educational background in the psychological sciences.

- Yes No

Training. Training for stakeholders can range from a formal training curriculum to informal brown bag sessions on key topics such as underlying causes of the offender’s justice system involvement, relevant health or behavioral problems like drug addiction, mental illness, sex offending, domestic violence.

18. For each of the following stakeholders, does your Problem-Solving Court mandate training specific to the needs of program participants?

	Yes	No	Don’t Know	N/A
Dedicated judicial officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated prosecutor(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated defense attorney(s)/public defender(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated court staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated operations manager/program coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

20. Please check all levels of offenses that apply.

- Felony
- Misdemeanor
- Delinquency
- Status Offense
- Other: _____

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

- Yes No

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

Month: _____ Year: _____

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

- Yes No

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

Month: _____ Year: _____

24. If your Problem-Solving Court was/is a pilot program, when was/will your Problem-Solving Court's pilot phase be over?

Month: _____ Year: _____

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

Yes No

If Yes: Please enter the following information about the new Problem-Solving Court.

a. Name of merged Problem-Solving Court:

b. Phone number for this court:

c. Admitting first participant as of (month/year):

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

i. Position title:

ii. Organizational affiliation:

iii. E-mail address:

iv. Phone number:

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If your Problem-Solving Court has not yet begun admitting participants, please answer the subsequent questions to the best of your ability and base your responses on your program’s theorized model.

26. **Funding.** Please indicate how your Problem-Solving Court is currently funded by checking the box in the “Funding Source” column for each active source of funding for your court in the 2012 calendar year. Then, in the second column, for only those funding sources you checked, please indicate what percentage of your court’s funding for the calendar year 2012 came from each, totaling 100%. If you do not know the exact percentages, please provide an estimate and check the estimate box below the question.

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

Check this box if the percentages you listed above are **estimates** only.

Check this box if you **don’t know** funding information and cannot estimate.

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

OFFENDER/VICTIM SERVICES:

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

COUNSELING OR TREATMENT SERVICES:

- Treatment readiness program
- Individual counseling
- Emergency psychiatric services (crisis stabilization)
- Inpatient mental health treatment
- Outpatient mental health treatment
- Substance abuse treatment – less than 90 days
- Substance abuse treatment – 90 days or more
- Integrated substance abuse and mental health treatment
- Medication (e.g., methadone, buprenorphin) as a treatment strategy
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Other counseling/treatment services: _____

GENERAL SUPPORTIVE SERVICES:

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

28. Is your program designed to serve:

- Females only
- Males only
- Both males and females

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29. **Eligibility.** Other than case type, what characteristics are required to establish participant eligibility or ineligibility for your court? For each item listed below:

- Check “**Eligible**” if the item is required to establish participant eligibility for your court program.
- Check “**Ineligible**” if the item disqualifies a participant from the court program.
- Check “**Not applicable**” if the item is not a factor in determining participant eligibility for your court program.

Prior criminal history	Eligible	Ineligible	Not applicable
Prior conviction for a violent offense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prior conviction for a sex offense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other prior criminal history (describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mental health-related criteria	Eligible	Ineligible	Not applicable
Clinical diagnosis (e.g., SPMI or specific disorder such as schizophrenia, PTSD)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intellectual or developmental disorder (e.g., mental retardation, autism, traumatic brain injury)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other mental health criteria (describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Substance-related criteria	Eligible	Ineligible	Not applicable
Diagnosis of addiction or substance dependency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drug of choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other substance related criteria (describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Behavioral addiction	Eligible	Ineligible	Not applicable
Gambling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other behavioral addiction (describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Residential status	Eligible	Ineligible	Not applicable
Homeless or imminent risk of becoming homeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other	Eligible	Ineligible	Not applicable
Other (describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Point of entry.

30. At what point(s) in the justice system process are participants admitted into your Problem-Solving Court? Check all that apply.

- Pre-plea
- Post-plea/pre-sentence
- Post-plea/condition of sentence
- Post-conviction/pre-sentence
- Post-sentence
- Post-release
- Upon filing or case initiation
- After order issued (temporary or final)
- After adjudication of relief (e.g., custody, visitation)
- Post-plea/pre-disposition
- Post-disposition,
- Other: _____

31. If your Problem-Solving Court has multiple points of entry, please identify the most common point of entry for participants admitted to your Problem-Solving Court. Check only one point of entry.

- Pre-plea
- Post-plea/pre-sentence
- Post-plea/condition of sentence
- Post-conviction/pre-sentence
- Post-sentence
- Post-release
- Upon filing or case initiation
- After order issued (temporary or final)
- After adjudication of relief (e.g., custody, visitation)
- Post-plea/pre-disposition
- Post-disposition,
- Other: _____

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

34. Does your Problem-Solving Court obtain regular updates from service providers on participant progress?

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Stakeholder	Yes	No
Judge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prosecuting attorney(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Defense attorney(s)/public defender(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Probation/supervising agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law enforcement agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service provider(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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36. Does your Problem-Solving Court maintain a schedule linking participant...

a. ...compliance/achievements with a continuum of incentives?

Yes No

b. ...noncompliance with a continuum of appropriate sanctions?

Yes No

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

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

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

_____ Participants Check this box if the number is an estimate only.

39. **Active participants.** How many active participants are currently in your Problem-Solving Court program?

_____ Participants Check this box if the number is an estimate only.

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Part III: Data Collection Practices

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

Yes No

If Yes: Does this case management/information system allow data to be...

a. ...shared with external agencies (e.g., service providers)?

Yes No

b. ...entered by external agencies (e.g. service providers)?

Yes No

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

Yes No

If Yes, please answer the following.

a. For how many months after graduation does your court track each participant's outcomes?
_____ months

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

Yes No

42. Which of the following types of evaluations has been conducted on your Problem-Solving Court by an external party?

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

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Please answer each question based only on data from the 2012 calendar year. If you do not have precise values, please indicate that you are providing an estimate *or* indicate that you do not have these data available and cannot estimate by marking the appropriate box. If your Problem-Solving Court has not yet begun to admit participants, skip this section.

43. How many participants were **admitted** to your Problem-Solving Court in the 2012 calendar year?

_____ **admitted**

- Check this box if the above number is an estimate only.
- Check this box if no data is available and you cannot offer an informed estimate.
- Check this box if the data element is not applicable (e.g., your court didn't exist in 2012).

44. How many participants **exited** your Problem-Solving Court in the 2012 calendar year?

_____ **exited**

- Check this box if the above number is an estimate only.
- Check this box if no data is available and you cannot offer an informed estimate.
- Check this box if the data element is not applicable (e.g., your court didn't exist in 2012).

If your answer to Question 44 was greater than 0, please answer a-e.

a. Of these participants who exited your Problem-Solving Court in 2012, how many exited by...

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

- Check this box if the above numbers are estimates only.
- Check this box if no data are available and you cannot offer informed estimates.

b. Of all participants who exited your Problem-Solving Court in the 2012 calendar year, what was the **average length (in days)** from admission to exit?

_____ **days**

- Check this box if the above number is an estimate only.
- Check this box if no data is available and you cannot offer an informed estimate.

c. Of these participants who exited your Problem-Solving Court in the 2012 calendar year, what percentage was identified as **female**?

_____ **% female**

- Check this box if the above percentage is an estimate only.
- Check this box if no data is available and you cannot offer an informed estimate.
- Check this box if the data element is not applicable.

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- d. Of these participants who exited your Problem-Solving Court in the 2012 calendar year, what percentage were identified as...

White? _____%

Black or African American? _____%

Asian? _____%

American Indian or Alaska Native? _____%

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander? _____%

- Check this box if the above percentages are estimates only.
 Check this box if no data is available and you cannot offer an informed estimate.
 Check this box if the data element is not applicable.

- e. Of these participants who exited your Problem-Solving Court in the 2012 calendar year, what percentage were identified as **Hispanic/Latino**?

_____ % **Hispanic/Latino**

- Check this box if the above percentage is an estimate only.
 Check this box if no data is available and you cannot offer an informed estimate.
 Check this box if the data element is not applicable.

Thank you for completing the Census of Problem-Solving Courts survey!

Please return this completed form using any of the methods listed below.

Fax:

(757) 564-2081

ATTN: Census of Problem-Solving Courts

Email:

CensusPSC@ncsc.org

Postal mail:

ATTN: Census of Problem-Solving Courts

National Center for State Courts

300 Newport Avenue

Williamsburg, VA 23185

If you are aware of any other problem-solving courts in your jurisdiction who did not receive this survey, please let us know! Send us an email at CensusPSC@ncsc.org with the court's name and a contact person's name and email address.