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November 9, 2026

The General Assembly of Virginia
201 N. Ninth Street
The General Assembly Building
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Senators and Delegates:

The Virginia Recovery Court Act (Virginia Code § 18.2-254.1) directs the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, with the assistance of the state Recovery Court Advisory Committee, to develop a statewide evaluation model and conduct ongoing evaluations of the effectiveness and efficiency of all recovery courts established in accordance with the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Please find attached the current annual report of these evaluations.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

KRH

Karl R. Hade

KRH:jrs
Attachment

2026 VIRGINIA RECOVERY COURTS ANNUAL REPORT

December 2026

Judicial Services
Office of the Executive Secretary
Supreme Court of Virginia

2026 Virginia Recovery Courts Annual Report is prepared by

Specialty Dockets Services Division
Department of Judicial Services
Office of the Executive Secretary
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December 2026

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Preface

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 18.2-254.1 (Appendix A), the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) of the Supreme Court of Virginia, with assistance from the state Recovery Court Advisory Committee, is required to develop a statewide evaluation model and to conduct ongoing evaluations of the effectiveness and efficiency of all local recovery courts.[1]

The primary data presented in this report pertains to Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. However, from a longitudinal perspective, some tables and figures may include data dating back to 2019. In the section on criminal recidivism, the focus is on individuals who exited an adult recovery court in 2023, as detailed in that section.

[1] Va. Code §18.2-254.1 directs OES to develop a statewide evaluation model and conduct ongoing evaluations of the effectiveness and efficiency of all local recovery courts. The following recovery courts annual report fulfills that requirement.

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Recovery Courts Overview

During FY 2026, 60 approved recovery courts operated in Virginia. These included 54 adult courts, 2 juvenile courts, and 4 family courts.

Goals of Virginia recovery courts include:

- Reducing substance use among offenders;
- Lowering recidivism rates;
- Decreasing substance-related court workloads;
- Enhancing personal, familial, and societal accountability among offenders; and
- Promoting effective planning and resource allocation among criminal justice and community agencies.

Recovery courts provide substance use and mental health treatment as alternatives to traditional case processing. This approach often results in alternatives to incarceration, such as case dismissal, charge reduction, or reduced supervision, when appropriate.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, substance use disorders (SUDs) are mental conditions that affect the brain and behavior, leading to an impaired ability to control the use of substances including alcohol, medications, and legal or illegal drugs. Referring to SUDs as a "brain disease" highlights the significant neurological changes associated with chronic substance use.[2] Nearly a quarter million adults in Virginia live with co-occurring mental health and SUDs, underscoring the need for effective treatment-focused interventions.[3]

By integrating evidence-based strategies within a public health framework, recovery courts address the specific needs of justice-involved individuals whose challenges are often not adequately treated in traditional court settings. This integrated approach enhances public safety by linking the criminal justice system with treatment providers and community resources.

This report reviews the operations and outcomes of Virginia's recovery courts during FY 2026. Analyses are based on data from participants enrolled in recovery court programs between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, regardless of their participation outcomes.[4] The report includes measures such as participant demographics, program entry offenses, program duration, graduation and termination rates, and post-exit rearrest and reconviction rates.

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[2] National Institute for Mental Health. Finding Help for Co-Occurring Substance Use and Mental Disorders. March 2025.

[3] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. State Data Tables and Reports from the 2023–2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Table 35, "Co-occurring Substance Use Disorder and Any Mental Illness in the Past Year Among People Aged 18 or Older, by Age Group and State." Released February 4, 2026.

[4] The primary data reported in this report are the FY 2026 data. However, for a longitudinal perspective, years dating back to 2019 may be presented in certain tables or figures. For the section on criminal recidivism, the focus is on people who left a recovery court in 2023, as is detailed in that section.

Data presented in this report were drawn from two primary sources:

1. The Virginia Specialty Dockets DIMS database (SDDD), maintained by OES, and
2. Arrest data obtained from the Virginia State Police (VSP).

Due to the number of limited participants in the juvenile recovery court models during FY 2026, only basic descriptive data is provided for these program types.

Best Practices

The Specialty Docket Services (SDS) Best Practices Specialists remained committed to supporting Virginia's recovery courts through technical assistance, training, implementation support, and continuous quality improvement. In January 2026, All Rise published a comprehensively updated version of the Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards.[5] These standards synthesize the latest research in addiction science, behavioral health, pharmacology, and criminal justice to provide practical, evidence-based guidance for treatment courts and improve responses for adults with substance use disorders, mental health conditions, and co-occurring disorders.

Throughout the reporting period, the SDS Best Practices Specialists supported recovery courts through the following activities:

- Conducted 10 recovery court site visits to observe staffing and court dockets to provide individualized requested feedback, identified operational strengths and opportunities for improvement, and supported alignment with the All-Rise Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards.
- Co-facilitated recovery court refresher team training, providing education on evidence-based practices, recovery court operations, and *Virginia Recovery Court Standards*.
- Provided comprehensive technical assistance to a recovery court during their application process by addressing operational questions, implementation challenges, and opportunities to strengthen alignment with evidence-based practices while ensuring policies and procedures reflected current Virginia recovery court requirements.
- Delivered individualized technical assistance to 13 recovery courts on a wide range of topics, including participant relapses and recovery, abstinence monitoring, eligibility criteria, treatment and service adjustments, peer support services, alumni development, grant funding opportunities, and community outreach strategies.
- Contacted all 12 recovery court Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) grant recipients to offer individualized implementation support, technical assistance, and ongoing consultation as they developed or enhanced their recovery court programs. Two of those recovery courts reached out for technical assistance.

[5] All Rise, Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards (Jan. 2026).

- Collaborated in revising the SDS implementation and refresher training curriculum to ensure consistency with current evidence-based research and the 2026 All Rise *Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards*.
- Developed best practice resource materials highlighting key evidence-based principles, including but not limited to incentives and sanctions, treatment and service adjustments, multidisciplinary team roles and responsibilities, phase structure, drug and alcohol testing, due process, and participant engagement.
- Supported statewide standards development by contributing to the revision of the *Virginia Recovery Court Standards*. In May 2026, the state Recovery Court Advisory Committee approved the updated *Virginia Recovery Court Standards*.

Collectively, these efforts demonstrated the ongoing commitment of OES, the Department of Judicial Services (DJS), and SDS to strengthen Virginia's recovery courts through evidence-based research and continuous training and technical assistance.

Administration of Recovery Courts in Virginia

OES supports the development, implementation, and monitoring of adult, juvenile, and family recovery courts through the SDS Division within DJS.

The state Recovery Court Advisory Committee was established pursuant to Va. Code §18.2-254.1 to:

i. Evaluate and recommend standards for the planning and implementation for recovery courts;
ii. Assist in evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of these programs; and
iii. Encourage and enhance cooperation among agencies involved in their planning and implementation.

Virginia Code § 18.2-254.1.F outlines the membership composition of the Advisory Committee, which includes directors of various executive branch agencies and representatives of key stakeholder organizations whose involvement is essential to the development and long-term sustainability of recovery courts.

The term “specialty dockets’’ refers to specialized court dockets operating within the existing framework of Virginia's circuit and district court system. Rule 1:25 of the Supreme Court of Virginia states:

The Supreme Court of Virginia currently recognizes only the following three types of specialty dockets:

(i) recovery court dockets as provided for in the Recovery Court Act, § 18.2-254.1;
(ii) veterans dockets; and
(iii) behavioral health dockets as provided for in the Behavioral Health Docket Act, § 18.2-254.3.

Recovery court dockets specifically offer judicial monitoring of intensive treatment and strict supervision in drug and drug-related cases.[6]

Funding for Virginia's Recovery Courts

Virginia's recovery courts operate under a sustainable funding strategy approved by the state Recovery Court Advisory Committee. The strategy is designed to meet the long-term funding needs of all recovery courts in Virginia, supporting both currently funded and unfunded courts, as well as those in planning stages. The Committee uses a data-driven formula to ensure that funding is allocated accurately, fairly, and transparently, with the overarching goal of supporting as many recovery courts as possible.

- Accuracy is assessed through data entered in the SDDD.
- Fairness is achieved by applying a consistent methodology that promotes equitable distribution of resources across all Virginia recovery courts.
- Transparency is maintained by clearly outlining the funding process and making allocation procedures accessible to each recovery court.

The Committee continues to encourage jurisdictions to establish recovery courts to address substance misuse, emphasizing adherence to national evidence-based criteria to ensure predictable and consistent outcomes.

While the Committee actively seeks additional funding to eventually support all eligible Virginia recovery courts, state funds are not intended to be the sole source of support. Therefore, each recovery court must demonstrate sufficient local commitment to sustain operations.

All recovery courts receiving state funds must:

- Obtain approval from the state Recovery Court Advisory Committee to begin operations;
- Enter all required data into the SDDD;
- Submit quarterly grant reports on time;
- Report retention and recidivism rates;
- Demonstrate a 25% match (cash or in-kind) in accordance with the Bureau of Justice Assistance federal formula grants requirement; and
- Maintain a 3-year average minimum of 10 active participants.

Currently, state funds are administered to 30 adult recovery courts through a reimbursable grant process. These funds primarily support personnel who are essential to recovery court operations. Treatment services are generally provided through local public substance use treatment systems, including Community Services Boards (CSBs) or Behavioral Health Authorities (BHAs). Participant supervision is conducted by state probation and parole officers or local community corrections officers.

[6] Supreme Court of Virginia Rule 1:25(b)(3)

Recovery courts receiving state grant funds must establish:

- A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with their local CSB or other treatment providers for treatment services; and
- A MOA with the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC) or local community corrections for participant supervision.

These agreements outline personnel responsibilities and financial commitments. Dockets that do not receive state funding rely on a combination of local funds, in-kind services, federal grants, and other available resources.

All Virginia recovery courts continue to face challenges in securing and maintaining adequate funding, particularly for addressing the complex needs of participants. While dockets generally support core staff training, additional funding is needed to support specialized professional development, including training on:

- Injectable naltrexone, naloxone, other medications;
- Evidence-based relapse prevention strategies; and
- Cultural competency and trauma-informed practices.

Statewide Universal Drug Testing Grant

The Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) is an independent organization that provides funding and support through grants, donations, and other efforts to assist in the treatment, prevention, and reduction of opioid use disorders and misuse throughout the Commonwealth. Financial assistance offered through the OAA consists of settlement funds paid to Virginia by prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors. For the 2024–2025 performance period, OES entered a MOU with the OAA to:

- Develop a statewide best practice standard for drug testing;
- Promote awareness of these standards among localities that financially support such programs; and
- Establish a grant program to assist localities with covering the costs of testing for substances for specialty dockets, ensuring compliance with the new drug testing standard.

Best practice standards per the MOU include:

- The most comprehensive, research-based guidance available, and
- Use of evidence-based testing for substances practices, including:
  - Random selection and testing 365 days a year;
  - Reliable, next-business-day results with 97% accuracy to enable timely interventions;
  - Reduced costs and processing time associated with confirmation testing;
  - Broad, customizable testing panels with rotating options;
  - Daily engagement through text, website or phone check-ins, including messages of affirmation; and
  - Pre-relapse intervention using predictive analytics to identify participants at elevated risk before relapse occurs.

To achieve these objectives, OES revised its statewide drug testing standards pursuant to the OAA grant award. The updated standards require adherence to the following evidence-based best practices:

- Urine testing at least twice per week until the participant reaches the final program phase;
- Ethyl glucuronide (EtG) or ethyl sulfate (EtS) testing one time per week during the first two program phases;
- Urine specimens submitted within eight hours of notification of a scheduled test;
- Random and unpredictable testing, including weekends and holidays; and
- Test results communicated within 48 hours of sample collection to both the court and participants.

OES awarded funding on a reimbursable grant basis to eighteen recovery courts, three behavioral health dockets, and two veteran's treatment dockets across the Commonwealth. Many of these dockets initiated or expanded partnerships with industry-leading diagnostic and toxicology service providers in the criminal justice field. Through these partnerships, programs are meeting the goals set forth in the MOU between OES and the OAA and are adhering to best practices and cost-efficient protocols.

Recovery Courts in Virginia

The Virginia Recovery Court Act (Va. Code § 18.2-254.1), enacted by the General Assembly in 2004, establishes the framework for the creation, implementation, and oversight of recovery courts in the Commonwealth. Under the Act, the Supreme Court of Virginia is responsible for administrative oversight, while the state Recovery Court Advisory Committee, chaired by the Chief Justice, provides guidance on the implementation and operation of local recovery courts. The Committee is also authorized to review and approve new recovery courts applications.

Recovery courts are specialized dockets within Virginia's existing court system that focus on judicial monitoring, intensive treatment, and strict supervision of individuals with SUDs who are involved in drug cases and drug-related cases. Local officials must complete a formal application process and receive authorization before establishing a recovery court in Virginia.

Once operational, recovery courts serve as a critical bridge between the judicial system, the behavioral health system, and community-based services. As more treatment-focused dockets are implemented and more Virginians are served, the Commonwealth continues to experience substantial cost savings compared to traditional case processing. By leveraging evidence-based practices and fostering cross-system collaboration, Virginia's recovery courts demonstrate improved outcomes for justice-involved adults, justice-involved juveniles, and parents engaged in abuse, neglect, or dependency cases.

This report provides data for adult recovery court models, with separate program descriptions for juvenile, and family recovery courts. The analyses are based on participants served at any point during FY 2026 (July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026) based on data entered in the SDDD by the local courts. Due to the limited data availability for the two juvenile recovery courts, this data is not included in this year's analyses.

Recovery Courts Approved to Operate

Adult recovery courts operate within circuit courts. Juvenile and family recovery courts operate within juvenile and domestic relations district courts.

Family recovery courts are distinct from other treatment dockets because they involve civil, rather than criminal cases. These dockets are typically initiated through petitions filed by local departments of social services.

Figure 1: Recovery Courts Within the Virginia Judicial System

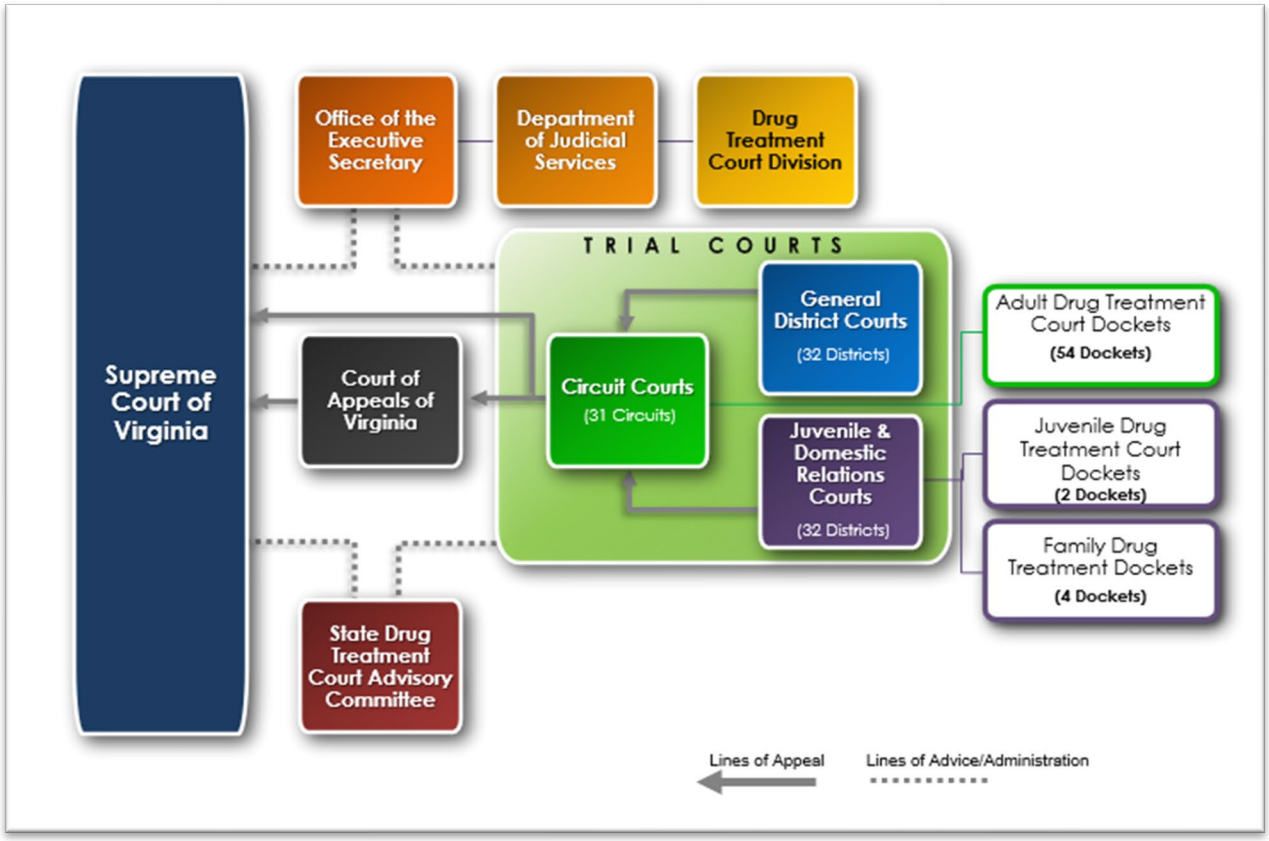


Table 1: Recovery Court Types and Descriptions

• **Adult** recovery courts in circuit courts offer judicial monitoring of intensive treatment and strict supervision in drug and drug-related cases.
• **Juvenile** recovery courts in juvenile and domestic relations district courts monitor adjudicated delinquents on supervised probation.
• **Family** recovery courts in juvenile and domestic relations district courts monitor select abuse, neglect, and dependency cases where parental substance use is a primary factor. These are civil dockets. Judges, attorneys, child protection services, and treatment personnel unite with the goal of providing safe, nurturing, and permanent homes for children while simultaneously providing parents with the necessary support and services to become abstinent. Family recovery courts aid parents in regaining control of their lives and promote long-term, stable recovery to support family reunification within mandatory legal timeframes.

Adult Recovery Courts

Adult recovery courts are an alternative to incarceration for nonviolent offenders diagnosed with a moderate to severe SUD. Instead of incarcerating offenders, these courts offer a voluntary, therapeutic program aimed at breaking the cycle of substance use and criminal behavior. Participants receive early, continuous, and intensive judicial supervision combined with treatment, periodic testing for substance use, community supervision, sanctions, and other rehabilitative services. Recovery courts reflect a high level of collaboration among judicial, criminal justice, and behavioral health systems. These programs function as a specialized team within the existing judicial system structure, addressing nonviolent drug and drug-related cases. A distinctive aspect of recovery courts is the close collaboration between criminal justice professionals and substance use treatment providers. The goal is to reduce return to substance use and reduce criminal recidivism by employing a comprehensive approach that includes treatment needs assessments, judicial interaction, monitoring, community supervision, graduated sanctions and incentives, treatment, and rehabilitation services.

Within a cooperative courtroom environment, the judge leads a team of recovery court personnel that includes a coordinator, attorneys, probation officers, and substance use treatment counselors, all working together to support and monitor participants' compliance with abstinence, and court appearances. In some cases, the team may also include law enforcement officers and jail staff. Various local, state, and federal stakeholders provide support to these programs in addition to the support provided by OES (see Appendix B).

The recovery court process begins with a legal review of the participant's current and prior offenses and includes a clinical assessment of the individual's substance use history. Offenders who meet the eligibility criteria and are found to have a moderate to severe SUD may volunteer to enter the recovery court and receive referrals to additional service providers as needed. A unique feature of recovery courts is the requirement for participants to appear regularly, often weekly, before the recovery court judge to report on their compliance with program

requirements. The judges' direct involvement in participants' lives is a key factor contributing to the success of these dockets.

Evidence shows that criminal justice supervision and sanctions, when not combined with treatment, do not significantly reduce recidivism among offenders with SUDs. Recovery courts achieve better outcomes by combining swift, certain, and fair sanctions with positive incentives. Long-term behavioral change is most effectively influenced by incentives, and contingency management approaches that provide systematic rewards for reaching treatment milestones have been shown to reduce recidivism and substance use.[7]

As a result of this multifaceted approach, participants in recovery courts exhibit lower recidivism rates compared to substance-involved offenders who are incarcerated. This success is largely due to the comprehensive and structured regimen of treatment and recovery services established through recovery court partnerships. The primary difference between recovery courts and traditional case processing is the judges' continued oversight and involvement throughout the monitoring process. By closely supervising participants, the court actively supports their recovery journey and swiftly imposes therapeutic sanctions or reinstates criminal proceedings when participants fail to comply. The treatment team maintains a critical balance of authority, supervision, accountability, support, and encouragement.

FY 2026 Summary Measures

Figure 2: FY 2026 Adult Recovery Court Highlights

- In FY 2026, adult recovery courts generated an estimated **$11,809,676 in savings** for local agencies and the Commonwealth of Virginia, based on the **614 adults accepted** into adult recovery courts during the fiscal year.
- The acceptance rate was **61.1%**, an increase of **2.2 percentage points** from FY 2025.
- Adult recovery courts served **1,545 participants**, an increase of **59 participants (3.97%)** from FY 2025.
- The graduation rate was **55.8%**, a decrease of **2.1 percentage points** from FY 2025.
- The three-year reconviction rate for recovery court participants who graduated in FY 2023 was **19.0%**, compared with **25.6%** for recovery court participants who did not graduate.

[7] All Rise. Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards, January 2026.

Virginia FY 2026 Adult Recovery Court Cost Savings

According to the 2012 *Virginia Drug Treatment Courts Cost-Benefits Analysis,*[8] every adult participant accepted into a Virginia recovery court (formerly "drug court") saves the Commonwealth an estimated $19,234 (unadjusted) compared to traditional case processing.[9] These savings result from positive recovery court outcomes, including fewer arrests, reduced substance-related court workloads, and less time spent on probation, in jail, or in prison, compared to the outcomes associated with the traditional system.

In FY 2026, adult recovery courts produced an estimated $11,809,676 in savings for local agencies and the Commonwealth of Virginia, based on 614 adults accepted into adult recovery courts during the fiscal year.

The 2012 evaluation included data from 12 out of the 16 recovery courts operating in Virginia at that time. As of FY 2026, there are 54 adult recovery courts in operation, reflecting significant growth in program availability across the Commonwealth.

A critical finding of the 2012 evaluation was that adult recovery court participants were significantly less likely to recidivate than a carefully matched comparison group processed through the traditional court system. Compared to the matched comparison group over the three-year post-exit follow-up period, recovery court participants, with the measurements (both those who successfully and unsuccessfully completed the program) incurred 30% fewer new misdemeanor arrests, 42% fewer new felony arrests, 69% fewer jail days, 88% fewer prison days, and 24% fewer supervision days. This reduction in recidivism demonstrated a strong and sustained impact, highlighting the effectiveness of recovery court interventions.

The $19,234 per-participant savings figure reflects the net difference across all cost domains measured in the analysis: placement costs (arrest through recovery court entry or sentencing), recovery court program costs, post-placement outcome costs (new arrests, prison, and probation), and victimization costs to crime victims and society. Recovery court participants averaged $44,840 in total costs across these domains, compared to $64,074 for the traditional-processing comparison group — a savings of $19,234 per person, the majority of which (roughly $25,840 per person) came from reduced outcome costs tied to lower recidivism.

Increasing the number of recovery courts and the number of participants accepted into these programs leads to greater estimated savings for the Commonwealth compared to processing these defendants through the traditional justice system (see Figure 3).

[8] National Center for State Courts. Virginia Adult Drug Treatment Courts Cost Benefit Analysis. October 2012.https://www.vacourts.gov/static/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/sds/programs/rc/resources/virginiadtccostbenefit.pdf

[9] Id. at 12

Figure 3: Adult Recovery Courts Cost Savings for FY 2019-2026



Methodology correction (chart note): Total estimated savings are calculated using the number of participants accepted into recovery courts, not the number of graduates, consistent with the 2012 Cost-Benefit Analysis methodology underlying the $19,234 per-participant figure. Prior reports used graduate counts, which understated total savings.

Criminogenic Screening

A critical task for most jurisdictions is to develop a rapid, reliable, and efficient system to assess substances-involved offenders and direct them to the most effective programs, without unnecessarily increasing costs. This process requires careful consideration of each individual's criminogenic risks and clinical needs.

Criminogenic risks refer to characteristics that decrease an offender's likelihood of success in traditional rehabilitation and increase the chance of returning to substance use or criminal activity. In this context, "risk" encompasses participants' behaviors, history, and actions. High-risk factors, as identified by criminogenic screening tools, may include early onset of substance use or criminal behavior, recurring criminal activity, and past unsuccessful rehabilitation attempts.

Clinical needs are psychosocial factors that, if addressed effectively, can significantly reduce the likelihood of relapsing into substance use, criminal activity, or other misconduct. High-needs factors include moderate to severe SUD, psychiatric symptoms, chronic medical conditions, and illiteracy. Importantly, a high score does not imply that individuals should be excluded from rehabilitation or diversionary programs; rather, it indicates a need for more intensive, skillful community-based interventions to improve outcomes.

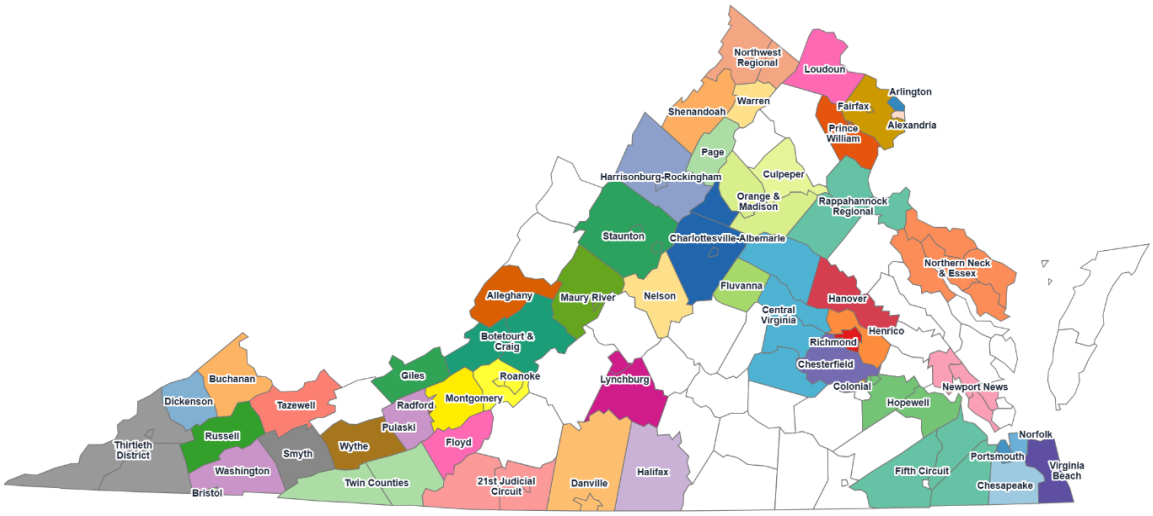
All Virginia adult recovery courts are now required to complete a criminogenic screening prior to accepting candidates. By matching participants with services based on their assessed risks and needs, recovery courts can allocate resources more effectively and ensure that interventions are tailored to those who will benefit most. Research consistently underscores the importance of aligning the risk and need levels of substance-involved offenders with appropriate levels of judicial supervision and treatment services.

SDS is currently working to select a statewide criminogenic screening tool that will integrate with the SDDD, further enhancing consistency and data-informed decision making.

Adult Recovery Courts Approved

Figure 4 shows the 54 courts (covering 94 localities) approved to operate in FY 2026.[10] Data was not available for all these courts because they began operating too late to be included in the data used for this report.

Figure 4: Approved Adult Recovery Courts in Virginia, FY 2026



[10] Refer to Appendix C for full list of approved recovery courts in FY 2026

Summary of Adult Recovery Court Activity, FY 2026

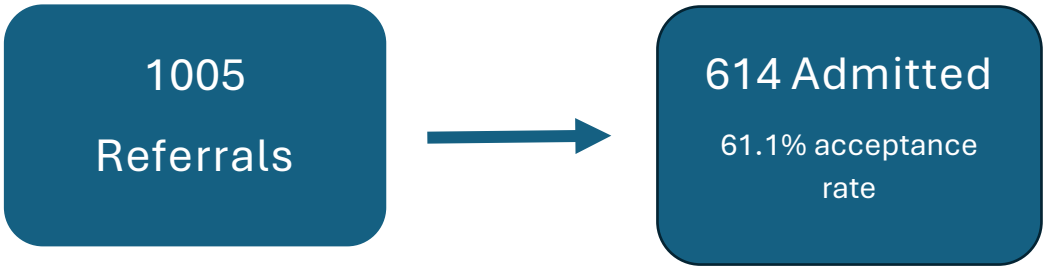
The results are based on data entered in the SDDD by the local courts. Records with no reported information for a characteristic are excluded from that characteristic's denominator. Totals therefore vary across tables.

Key Definitions:

- Referrals: Individuals presented to the specialty dockets team for review to determine if the individual meets eligibility criteria.
- Admissions: Referred individuals who have been determined to meet eligibility criteria and have been formally inducted into a specialty docket.
- Participants: Individuals who were actively engaged in the specialty docket (at any point within this reporting fiscal year) and who are subject to the program's requirements, including court monitoring, treatment services, and community supervision.

Referrals and Admissions

Figure 5: Referrals and Admissions, FY 2026



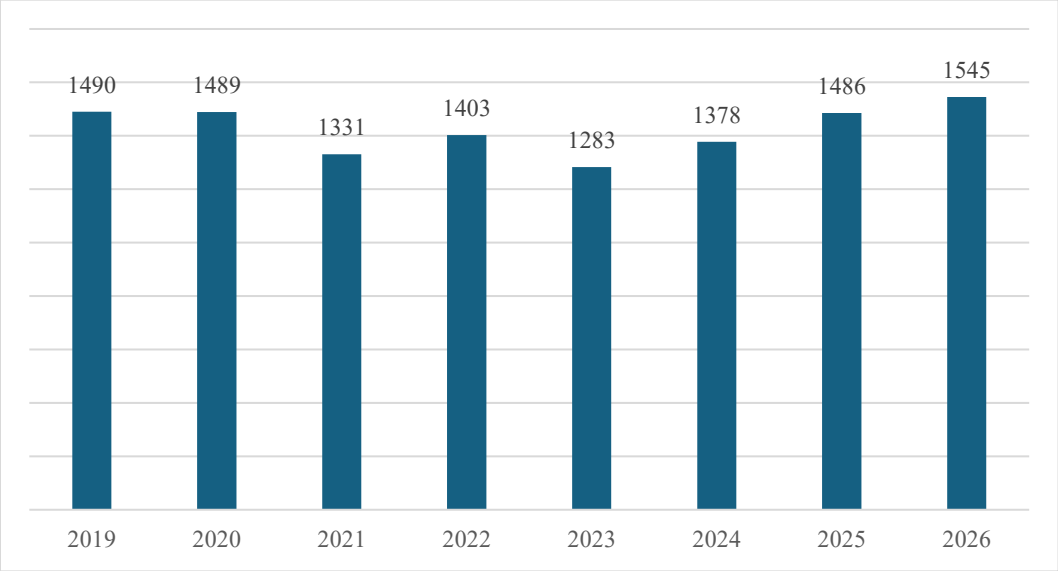
Participants

Table 2: Adult Recovery Court Participants and Change from FY 2025

Participants 2026	Increase from FY 2025
1545	+59 participants (+3.97%)

Note: Specialty Dockets often take more than one year to complete. The participant count includes all active participants, including FY 2026 admissions as well as those admitted previously.

Figure 6: Number of Adult Recovery Court Participants, FY 2019–2026



Demographics of Adult Recovery Court Participants, FY 2026

Table 3: Adult Recovery Court Participants by Gender, FY 2026

Gender	#	%
Male	973	63.0%
Female	567	36.7%
Other	4	0.3%
Total	1,544	100%

Note: Excludes participants (1) with no information reported by the local court.

Table 4: Adult Recovery Court Participants by Race, FY 2026

Race	#	%
White	1,102	71.5%
Black/African American	367	23.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7	0.5%
Native American	3	0.2%
Other	63	4.1%
Total	1,542	100%

Note: Excludes participants (3) with no information reported by the local court. Percentages may not sum to exactly 100% due to rounding.

Table 5: Adult Recovery Court Participants by Ethnicity, FY 2026

Ethnicity	#	%
Non-Hispanic	1,419	95.7%
Hispanic	63	4.3%
Total	1,482	100%

Note: Excludes participants (62) with no information reported by the local court.

Table 6: Adult Recovery Court Participants by Age Group, FY 2026

Age Group	#	%
18–24	90	5.9%
25–34	446	29.1%
35–44	591	38.6%
45–54	289	18.9%
55–64	103	6.7%
65+	13	0.8%
Total	1,532	100%

Note: Excludes participants (13) with no information reported by the local court.

Social Characteristics of Adult Recovery Court Participants, FY 2026

Table 7: Adult Recovery Court Participants by Marital Status, FY 2026

Marital Status	#	%
Single	812	60.7%
Married	143	10.7%
Divorced	169	12.6%
Separated	115	8.6%
Cohabitating	44	3.3%
Widowed	38	2.8%
Other	16	1.2%
Total	1,337	100%

Note: Excludes participants (208) with no information reported by the local court. Percentages may not sum to exactly 100% due to rounding.

Table 8: Adult Recovery Court Participants by Employment Category, FY 2026

Employment Category	#	%
Unemployed	737	54.9%
Employed Full Time	210	15.7%
Employed Part Time	126	9.4%
Other	162	12.1%
Disabled	86	6.4%
Self-Employed	20	1.5%
Total	1,341	100%

Note: Excludes participants (204) with no information reported by the local court.

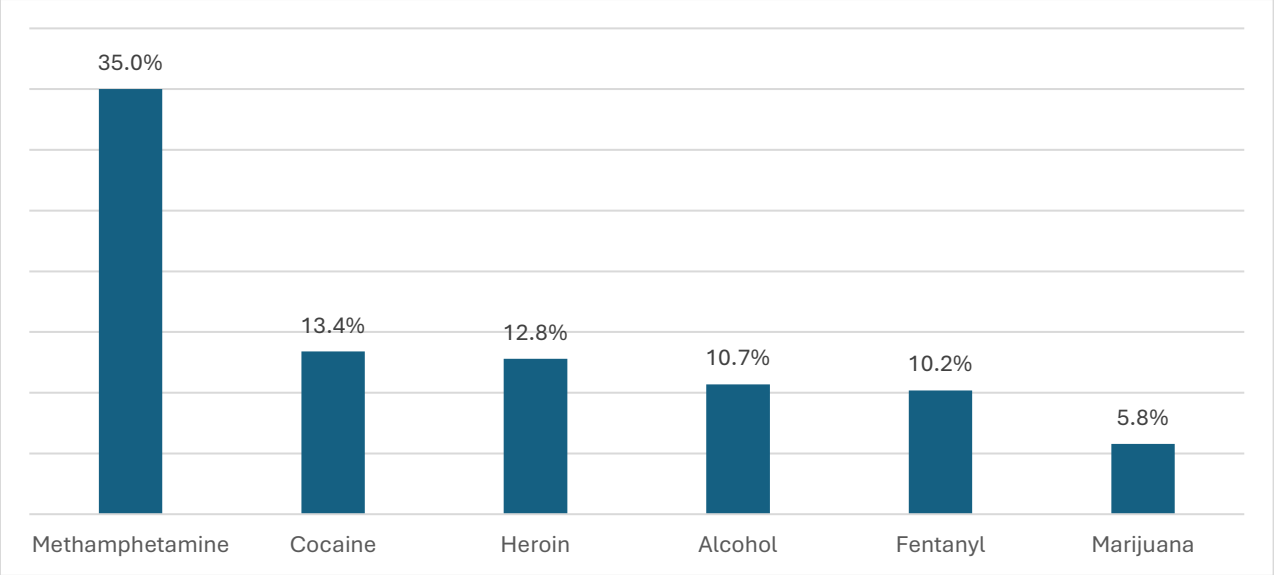
Table 9: Adult Recovery Court Participants by Education Category, FY 2026

Education Category	#	%
High School/Alternative/GED Completed	651	55.0%
High School Did Not Complete	284	24.0%
Trade / technical / 2-year school completed	214	18.1%
4-Year College Graduate	26	2.2%
Advanced Degree (Master's/PhD)	8	0.7%
Total	1,183	100%

Note: Excludes participants (362) with no information reported by the local court.

Substance History

Figure 7: Substances Most Frequently Used by Adult Recovery Court Participants, FY 2026



Note: Figure 7 should be interpreted with caution. Data is based on self-reported primary drug use. This excludes participants (362) with no information reported by the local court.

Screens for Substance Use

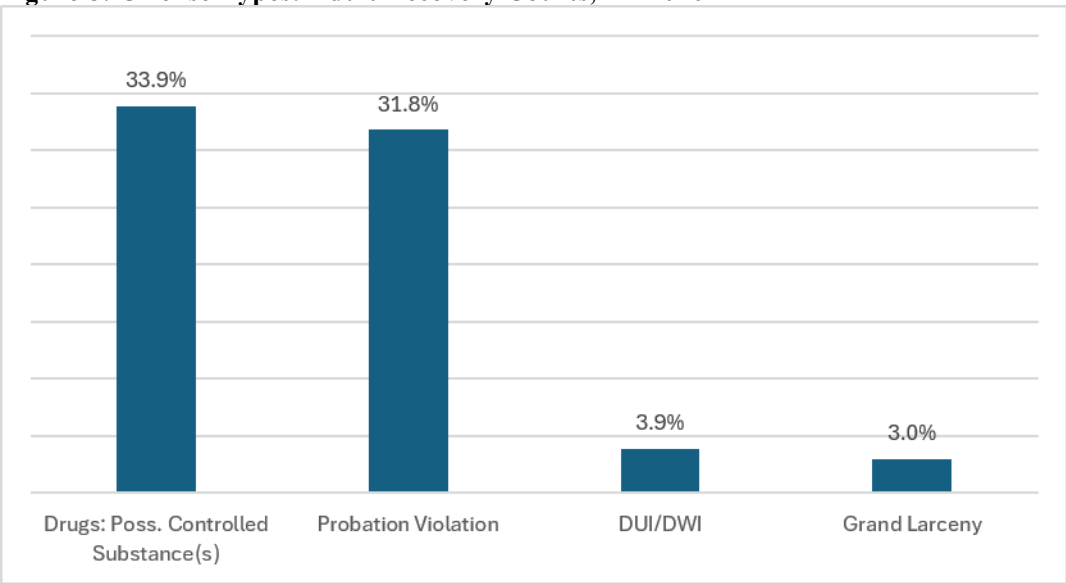
Table 10: Adult Recovery Courts Screenings for Substances, FY 2026

Test Results	Count	Percentage
Positive	**11,599**	**16.0% of all tests**
Includes: Administrative positive	1,554	13.4% of positive tests
Negative	**60,942**	**84.0% of all tests**
Includes: MAT detected	11,284	18.5% of negative tests
Total	**72,541**	**100.0%**

Note: Administrative positive results are included in the positive category and may include missed or refused tests, failure to provide a required sample, or diluted or invalid samples classified as positive under program policy. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is an evidence-based approach that combines approved medications with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat opioid and alcohol use disorders effectively. MAT-detected results are included in the negative category as they reflect prescribed treatment rather than prohibited substance use.

Offenses

Figure 8: Offense Types: Adult Recovery Courts, FY 2026



Summary of Exits

Key Definitions:

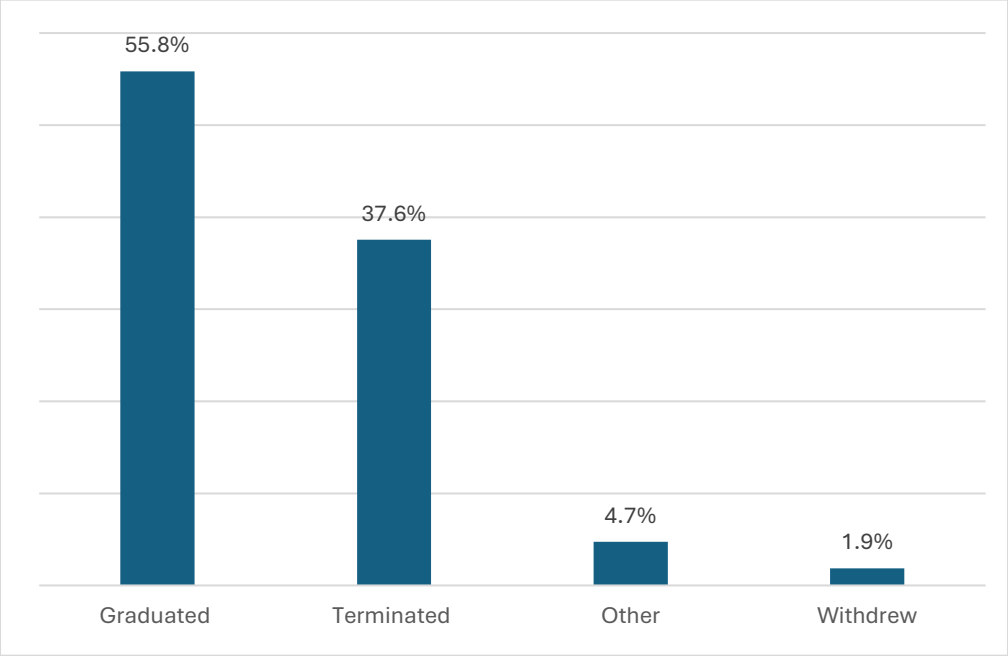
- Graduate: Participants who have successfully met the requirements of their participation in the specialty docket. Graduates are no longer enrolled in the specialty docket or subject to its program requirements.
- Termination: Participants who have not successfully met the requirements of their participation in the specialty docket and who are removed as recommended by the docket team following a hearing. Terminated individuals are no longer enrolled in the specialty docket or subject to its program requirements. Their legal case is returned to traditional case processing in accordance with the conditions established upon entry into the specialty docket.
- Withdrawal: Participants who have voluntarily removed themselves from the program. Individuals who withdraw are no longer enrolled in the specialty docket or subject to its program requirements. Their legal cases return to traditional case processing in accordance with the conditions established upon entry into the specialty docket.

Graduation and Termination Rates

Table 11: Adult Recovery Court Exit Outcomes, FY 2026

Outcome	Count	Percentage
Graduated	330	55.8%
Terminated	222	37.6%
Withdrew	11	1.9%
Other	28	4.7%
Total Exits	**591**	**100%**

Figure 9: Adult Recovery Courts Exit by Type, FY 2026



Length of Stay

Length of stay is measured in days from docket entry to exit (graduation, termination, or withdrawal).

Table 12: Adult Recovery Court Length of Stay for Exits, FY 2026

Mean Length of Stay (Days)	
Graduations	631
Terminations	408
Withdrawals	326

Adult Recovery Court Recidivism

Criminal history records obtained from VSP for all recovery court participants who exited in FY 2023 were used to calculate recidivism. For this report, recidivism is defined as any rearrest or reconviction, excluding offenses related to good behavior, probation violations, and contempt of court.

In accordance with national standards, recidivism rates were calculated cumulatively over one-, two-, and three-year periods.

- The one-year recidivism rate includes participants whose first rearrest occurred within 0–365 days of program exit.
- The two-year recidivism rate includes participants whose first rearrest occurred within 0–730 days of program exit.
- The three-year recidivism rate includes participants whose first rearrest occurred within 0–1,095 days of program exit.

Rates for graduates and for participants with unsuccessful exits were compared to identifying differences in post-program outcomes.

Caution should be exercised when comparing recidivism rates for individuals exiting an adult recovery court to recidivism rates reported by the DOC, as methodological differences may affect comparability and results.

FY 2023 Rearrest Rates

The overall rearrest rate for non-graduates was 1.4 times that of graduates (see Figure 10 and Table 13).

Figure 10: Adult Recovery Court Graduate and Non-Graduate Rearrest Rates, Persons Exiting a Docket During FY 2023

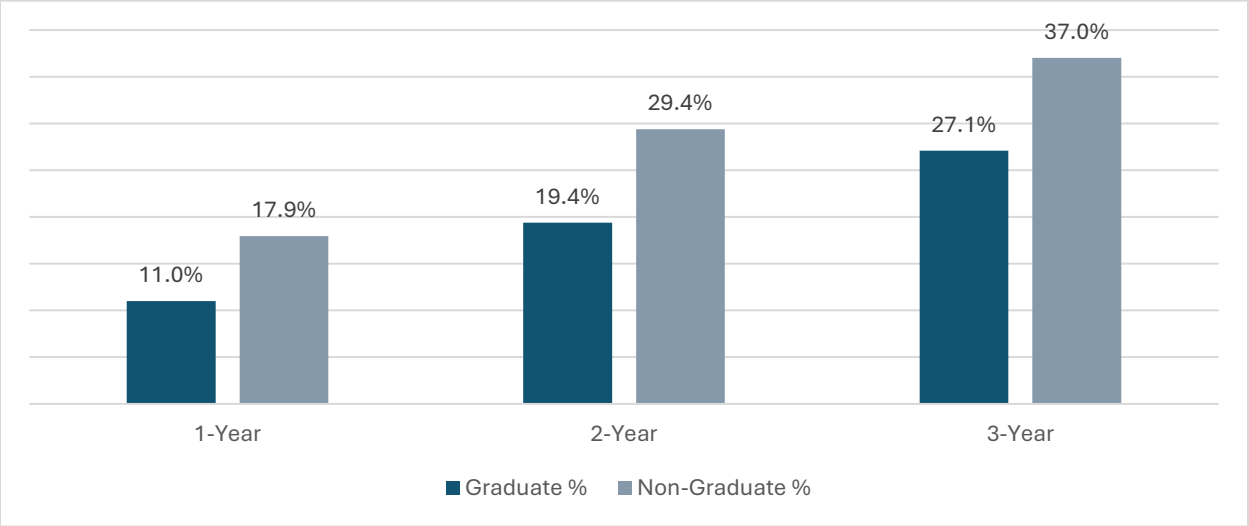


Table 13: Adult Recovery Court Graduate and Non-Graduate Rearrest Rates, Persons Exiting a Docket During FY 2023

Time Post Exit	Graduates	Non-Graduates	Total
One-year count (0-356 days)	30	47	77
One-year rearrest rate	11.0%	17.9%	14.4%
Two-year count (0-730 days)	53	77	130
Two-year rearrest rate	19.4%	29.4%	24.3%
Three-year count (0-1095 days)	74	97	171
Three-year rearrest rate	27.1%	37.0%	32.0%
Total Exits	273	262	535

Note: Counts are cumulative and will not add up to the total exits. Total exits are provided for percentage calculation reference. The graduate non-rearrest count is 199. The non-graduate non-rearrest count is 165. The total non-rearrest count is 364.

FY 2023 Reconviction Rates

The data aligns with trends from previous annual reports, showing that graduates have a lower reconviction rate than non-graduates. Overall, the reconviction rate for those who did not successfully complete the program was higher than that of graduates (see Figure 11 and Table 14).

Figure 11: Adult Recovery Court Graduate and Non-Graduate Reconviction Rates, Persons Exiting a Docket During FY 2023

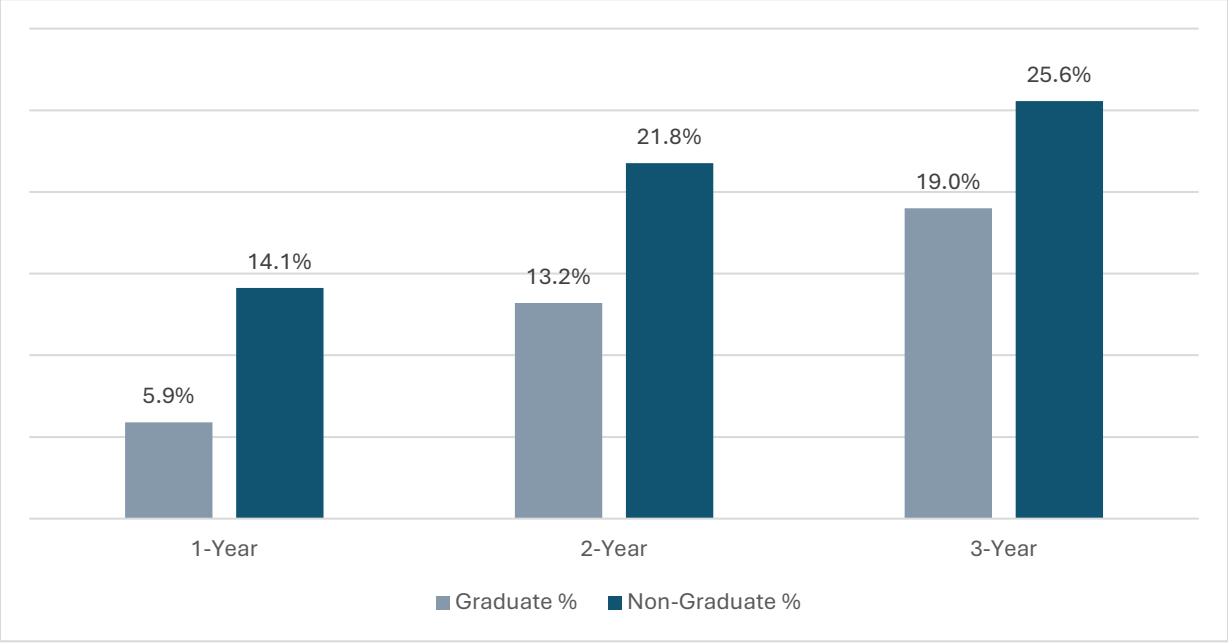


Table 14: Adult Recovery Court Graduate and Non-Graduate Reconviction Rates, Persons Exiting a Docket During FY 2023

Time Post Departure	Graduates	Non-Graduates	Total
One-year count (0–365 days)	16	37	53
One-year reconviction rate	5.9%	14.1%	9.9%
Two-year count (0–730 days)	36	57	93
Two-year reconviction rate	13.2%	21.8%	17.4%
Three-year count (0–1,095 days)	52	67	119
Three-year reconviction rate	19.0%	25.6%	22.2%
Total Exits	**273**	**262**	**535**

Note: Counts are cumulative and will not add up to the total exits. Total exits are provided for percentage calculation reference. The graduate non-reconviction count is 221. The non-graduate non-reconviction count is 195. The total non-reconviction count is 416. For DOC comparison data see Appendix E

Juvenile Recovery Courts

Juvenile recovery courts operate through a collaborative partnership among the judicial system, the juvenile justice system, and behavioral health treatment providers. These courts aim to reduce rearrests and substance use among juveniles who are actively using substances and are charged with delinquent acts in the juvenile and domestic relations district courts.

The juvenile recovery court model mirrors the adult model by integrating probation, supervision, substance use testing, treatment services, regular court appearances, and behavioral sanctions and incentives. However, juvenile programs also address factors unique to adolescents and their families, including school attendance, conflict resolution, family dynamics, and parenting skills. Family involvement is a critical component of the juvenile recovery process.

Cases handled in juvenile recovery courts are often complex, involving severe or aggressive delinquent behavior coupled with escalating substance use. Many of the circumstances that bring juveniles under court jurisdiction are closely connected to SUDs.

Over the past several years, the number of participants in juvenile recovery courts has declined, and some programs have ceased operations, reflecting national trends. This decline is believed to be associated with the increased availability of community-based programs and early intervention initiatives.

During FY 2026, there were only two operational juvenile recovery courts throughout Virginia, each with very limited capacity. As a result, there is insufficient data to conduct a meaningful analysis for this model in the current reporting period.

Figure 12: Approved Juvenile Recovery Courts in Virginia, FY 2026

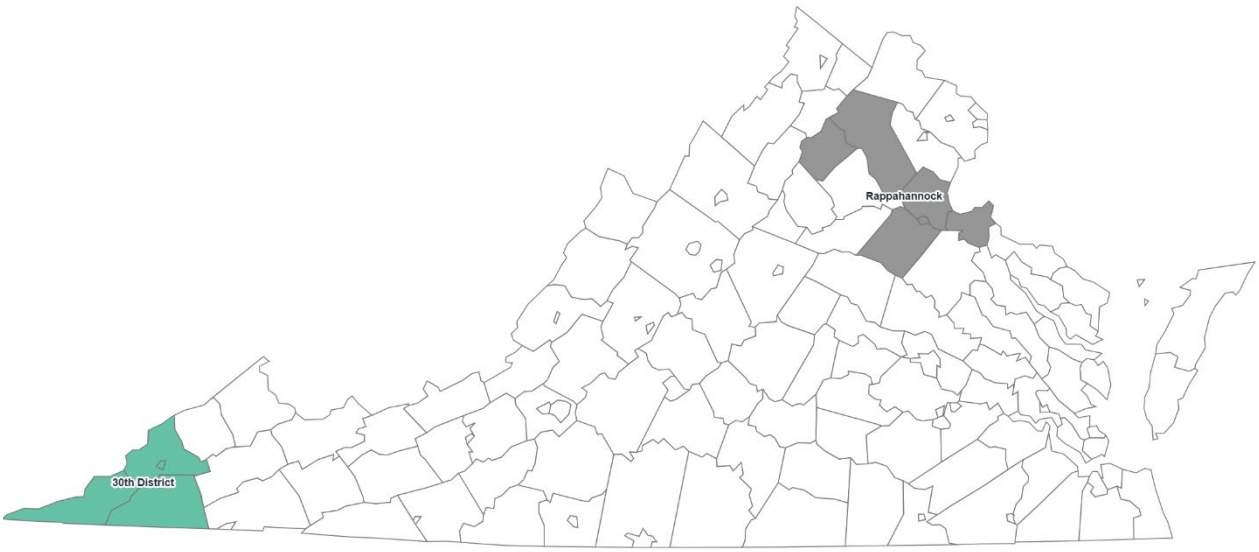


Table 15: Juvenile Recovery Courts in Virginia, FY 2026

Rappahannock Regional (Fredericksburg, Stafford, King George & Spotsylvania Counties)
Thirtieth District (Lee, Scott & Wise Counties)

Note: Localities served are in parenthesis.

Family Recovery Courts

A family recovery court is a specialized civil docket designed for parents and guardians involved in dependency proceedings who are facing allegations of child abuse or neglect caused or influenced by a moderate-to-severe SUD. The purpose of these courts is to protect the safety and welfare of children while providing parents and guardians with the tools and support necessary to become sober, responsible caregivers.

Family recovery courts focus on achieving the best interests of the child by ensuring a safe and stable environment, while simultaneously offering intensive intervention and treatment for the parent's or guardian's SUD and any co-occurring conditions. To accomplish this, family recovery courts assemble an interdisciplinary team that works collaboratively to assess the family's circumstances and develop a comprehensive case plan addressing the needs of both the child or children and the parent or guardian.

Through this coordinated approach, the family recovery court team promotes quick access to permanency for children and provides parents and guardians with a meaningful opportunity to achieve sustained recovery, establish a safe and nurturing home, and preserve family unity whenever possible.

Family recovery courts typically serve parents and guardians with a diagnosed SUD who come to the court's attention in the following situations:

1. Found cases of child neglect or abuse,
2. Child in need of services cases,
3. Custody or temporary entrustment cases, or
4. Delinquency cases.

Parents and guardians may enter the family recovery court at day-one or child planning conferences. In all cases, at the time of referral and admission, there must be an existing case plan for permanency for the child(ren). Before admission into a family recovery court, parents and guardians undergo screening, during which substance use must be identified as a factor contributing to the substantiated findings of neglect, abuse, or dependency.

The primary incentive for parents and guardians to comply with the rigorous family recovery court program is the potential return of their children to their care. Unlike adult recovery courts where probation officers provide supervision, social services professionals deliver case management, supervision, and other key functions within family recovery courts.

Family recovery courts are civil dockets, and this model emphasizes immediate access to substance use treatment combined with judicial monitoring to support reunification for families affected by SUDs. The focus, structure, purpose, and scope of family recovery courts differ significantly from the adult criminal and juvenile delinquency recovery court models.

These courts incorporate best practices from both the recovery court model and traditional dependency court practice, enabling them to effectively manage cases under the mandates of the *Adoption and Safe Families Act.*[11] This approach ensures the best interests of children remain at the center of discussion while providing coordinated substance use treatment and family-centered services to achieve safe and timely permanency.

Virginia family recovery courts provide:

1. Timely identification of defendants in need of substance use treatment;
2. The opportunity to participate in the family recovery court for quicker permanency placements for their children;
3. Judicial supervision of structured community-based treatment;
4. Regular status hearings before the judge to monitor treatment progress and program compliance;
5. Increased parent/guardian accountability through a series of graduated sanctions and rewards or increased parenting skills and monitoring;
6. Mandatory periodic testing for substance use; and
7. Assistance with employment, housing, and other necessary skills to enable parents to be better equipped at parenting.

[11]Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, Pub. L. No. 105-89, 111 Stat. 2115.

All family recovery court participants must submit to frequent and random testing for substance use, intensive group and individual outpatient therapy two to three times per week, and regular attendance at recovery meetings. Participants are required to pay child support and, in some cases, their treatment fees. Child visitation is also monitored as needed. Additionally, participants must be employed or in school full-time, if capable. Failure to participate or to produce these outcomes results in immediate sanctions, including termination from the docket.

The *Family Recovery Court Standards* adopted in 2008 reflect the existing common characteristics outlined in *Family Dependency Treatment Courts: Addressing Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Using the Drug Court Model*[12] modified for use within Virginia.

There are and will continue to be differences among individual family recovery courts based on the unique needs and operational environments of the local court jurisdictions and the populations served. However, there is also a need for overall uniformity of basic program components and operational procedures and principles. Therefore, the *Family Recovery Court Standards*[13] are an attempt to outline those fundamental standards and practices to which all family recovery courts in the Commonwealth of Virginia should aspire.

Figure 13: Approved Family Recovery Courts in Virginia, FY 2026

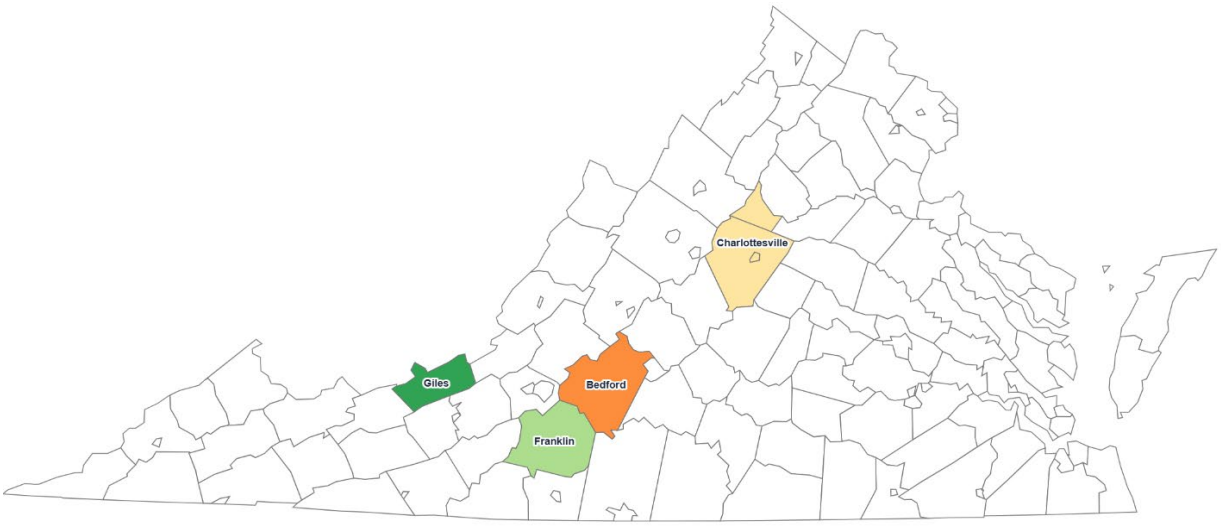


Table 16: Operational Family Recovery Courts in Virginia, FY 2026

Bedford County
Charlottesville/Albemarle County
Franklin County
Giles County

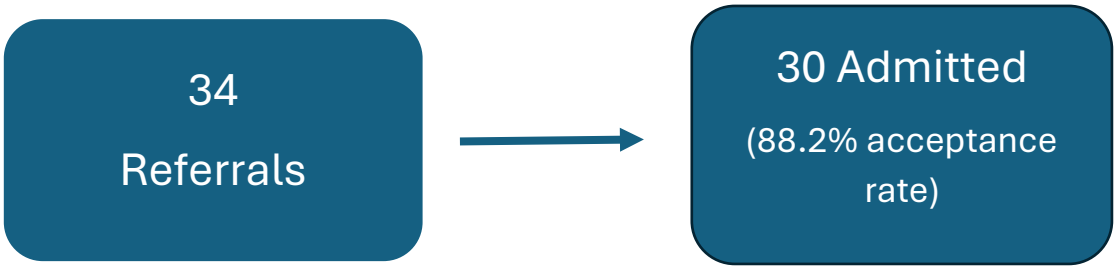
[12] Center for Children and Family Futures and National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards. 2019.

[13] Supreme Court of Virginia, Office of the Executive Secretary, Family Recovery Court Standards (adopted Oct. 2008)

Summary of Family Recovery Court Activity

Referrals and Admissions

Figure 14: Referrals and Admissions for Family Treatment Courts, FY 2026



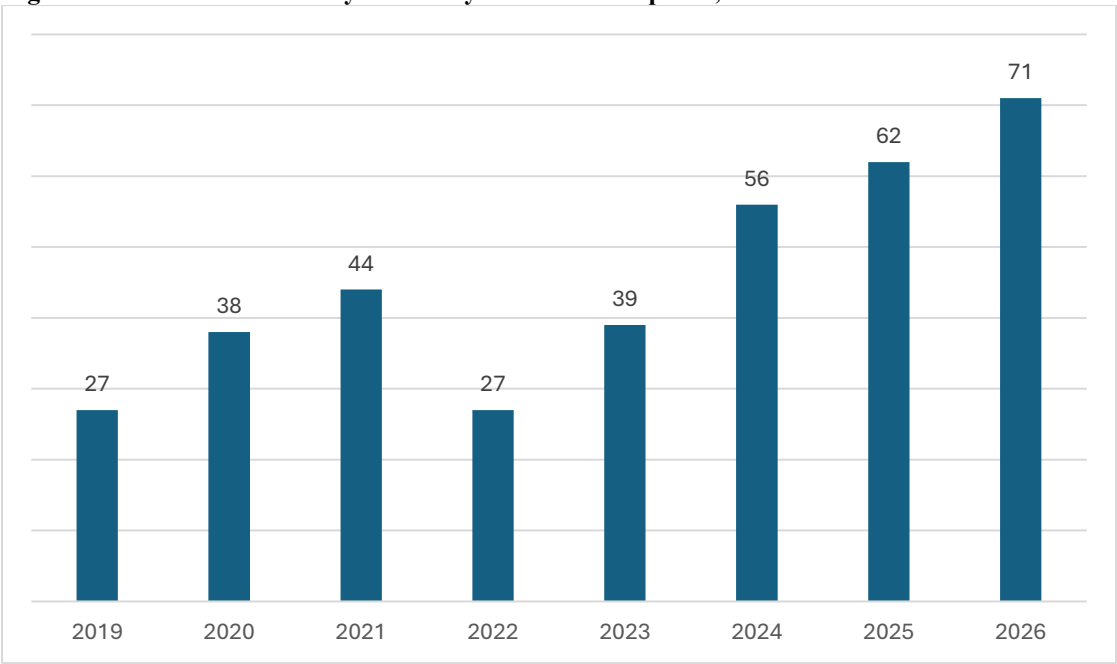
Participants

Table 17: Family Recovery Court Participants and Change from FY 2025

Participants 2026	Increase from FY 2025
71	+9 participants (+14.5%)

Note: Specialty Dockets often take more than one year to complete. The participant count includes all active participants, including FY 2026 admissions as well as those admitted previously.

Figure 15: Number of Family Recovery Court Participants, FY 2019–2026



This report does not include demographic or social characteristic breakdowns due to the low number of family recovery court participants.

Screens for Substance Use

Table 18: Family Treatment Courts Screens for Substance Use, FY 2026

Test Results	Count	Percentage
Positive	**399**	**15.0% of all tests**
Includes: Administrative positive	28	7.0% of positive tests
Negative	**2,258**	**85.0% of all tests**
Includes: MAT detected	498	22.1% of negative tests
Total	**2,657**	**100.0%**

Note: Administrative positive results are included in the positive category and may include missed or refused tests, failure to provide a required sample, or diluted or invalid samples classified as positive under program policy. MAT is Medication Assisted Treatment, evidence-based approach that combines approved medications with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat opioid and alcohol use disorders effectively. MAT-detected results are included in the negative category because they reflect medication-assisted treatment rather than prohibited substance use. Administrative positive and MAT detected are included in their respective totals.

References

Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, Pub. L. No. 105-89, 111 Stat. 2115. November 19, 1997. https://www.congress.gov/105/statute/STATUTE-111/STATUTE-111-Pg2115.pdf

All Rise. Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards. Updated January 2026. https://allrise.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/All-Rise_Adult-Treatment-Court-Best-Practice-Standards_January-2026-4.pdf

Center for Children and Family Futures and National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards. 2019. https://www.cffutures.org/files/OJJDP/FDCTTA/FTC_Standards.pdf

National Center for State Courts. Virginia Adult Drug Treatment Courts Cost Benefit Analysis. October 2012. https://www.vacourts.gov/static/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/sds/programs/rc/resources/virginiadtccostbenefit.pdf

National Institute of Mental Health. Finding Help for Co-Occurring Substance Use and Mental Disorders. March 2025. https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/substance-use-and-mental-health

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. State Data Tables and Reports from the 2023–2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Table 35, "Co-occurring Substance Use Disorder and Any Mental Illness in the Past Year Among People Aged 18 or Older, by Age Group and State." Released February 4, 2026. https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/nsduh-national-survey-drug-use-and-health/state-releases

Supreme Court of Virginia. Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Rule 1:25(b)(3), "Specialty Dockets." https://www.vacourts.gov/static/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf

Virginia Department of Corrections. Recidivism At a Glance: Releases from State Responsible (SR) Incarceration. https://vadoc.virginia.gov/general-public/recidivism-studies/

Virginia General Assembly. Code of Virginia § 18.2-254.1, Recovery Court Act. https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title18.2/chapter7/section18.2-254.1/

Appendices

Appendix A: Va. § 18.2-254.1. Recovery Court Act

A. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Recovery Court Act."

B. The General Assembly recognizes that there is a critical need in the Commonwealth for effective treatment programs that reduce the incidence of drug use, drug addiction, family separation due to parental substance abuse, and drug-related crimes. It is the intent of the General Assembly by this section to enhance public safety by facilitating the creation of recovery courts as means by which to accomplish this purpose.

C. The goals of recovery courts include: (i) reducing drug addiction and drug dependency among offenders; (ii) reducing recidivism; (iii) reducing drug-related court workloads; (iv) increasing personal, familial and societal accountability among offenders; and (v) promoting effective planning and use of resources among the criminal justice system and community agencies.

D. Recovery courts are specialized court dockets within the existing structure of Virginia's court system offering judicial monitoring of intensive treatment and strict supervision of addicts in drug and drug-related cases. Local officials must complete a recognized planning process before establishing a recovery court program.

E. Administrative oversight for implementation of the Recovery Court Act shall be conducted by the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Supreme Court of Virginia shall be responsible for (i)providing oversight for the distribution of funds for recovery courts; (ii) providing technical assistance to recovery courts;(iii) providing training for judges who preside over recovery courts; (iv) providing training to the providers of administrative, case management, and treatment services to recovery courts; and (v) monitoring the completion of evaluations of the effectiveness and efficiency of recovery courts in the Commonwealth.

F. The state Recovery Court Advisory Committee shall be established to (i) evaluate and recommend standards for the planning and implementation of recovery courts; (ii) assist in the evaluation of their effectiveness and efficiency; and (iii) encourage and enhance cooperation among agencies that participate in their planning and implementation. The committee shall be chaired by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia or his designee and shall include a member of the Judicial Conference of Virginia who presides over a recovery court; a district court judge; the Executive Secretary or his designee; the directors of the following executive branch agencies: Department of Corrections, Department of Criminal Justice Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Department of Social Services; a representative of the following entities: a local community-based probation and pretrial services agency, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Association, the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, the Circuit Court Clerk's Association, the Virginia Sheriff's Association, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, the Commission on VASAP, and two representatives designated by the Virginia Drug Court Association.

G. Each jurisdiction or combination of jurisdictions that intend to establish a recovery court or continue the operation of an existing one shall establish a local recovery court advisory committee. Jurisdictions that establish separate adult and juvenile recovery courts may establish an advisory committee for each such court. Each advisory committee shall ensure quality, efficiency, and fairness in the planning, implementation, and operation of the recovery court or courts that serve the jurisdiction or combination of jurisdictions. Advisory committee membership shall include, but shall not be limited to the following people or their designees: (i) the recovery court judge; (ii) the attorney for the Commonwealth, or, where applicable, the city or county attorney who has responsibility for the prosecution of misdemeanor offenses; (iii) the public defender or a member of the local criminal defense bar in jurisdictions in which there is no public defender: (iv) the clerk of the court in which the recovery court is located; (v) a representative of the Virginia Department of Corrections, or the Department of Juvenile Justice, or both, from the local office which serves the jurisdiction or combination of jurisdictions; (vi) a representative of a local community-based probation and pretrial services agency; (vii) a local law-enforcement officer; (viii) a representative of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services or a representative of local drug treatment providers; (ix) the recovery court administrator; (x) a representative of the Department of Social Services; (xi) county administrator or city manager; and (xii) any other people selected by the recovery court advisory committee.

H. Each local recovery court advisory committee shall establish criteria for the eligibility and participation of offenders who have been determined to be addicted to or dependent upon drugs. Subject to the provisions of this section, neither the establishment of a recovery court nor anything herein shall be construed as limiting the discretion of the attorney for the Commonwealth to prosecute any criminal case arising therein which he deems advisable to prosecute, except to the extent the participating attorney for the Commonwealth agrees to do so. An adult offender shall not be eligible for participation in any recovery court established or continued in operation pursuant to this section if any of the following conditions apply:

1. The offender is presently charged with a felony offense or is convicted of a felony offense while participating in any recovery court where:
   a) The offender carried, possessed, or used a firearm or any dangerous weapon specified in § 18.2-308 during such offense;
   b) The death or serious bodily injury of any person occurred during such offense; or
   c) The use of force against any other person besides the offender occurred during such offense; or
2. The offender was previously convicted as an adult of any felony offense that involved the use of force or attempted use of force against any person with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury.

I. Each recovery court advisory committee shall establish policies and procedures for the operation of the court to attain the following goals: (i) effective integration of drug and alcohol treatment services with criminal justice system case processing; (ii) enhanced public safety through intensive offender supervision and drug treatment; (iii) prompt identification and placement of eligible participants; (iv) efficient access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and related treatment and rehabilitation services; (v) verified participant abstinence through frequent alcohol and other drug testing; (vi) prompt response to requirements through a coordinated strategy; (vii) ongoing judicial interaction with each recovery court participant; (viii) ongoing monitoring and evaluation of program effectiveness and efficiency; (ix) ongoing interdisciplinary education and training in support of program effectiveness and efficiency; and (x) ongoing collaboration among recovery courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations to enhance program effectiveness and efficiency.

J. Participation by an offender in a recovery court shall be voluntary and made pursuant only to a written agreement entered into by and between the offender and the Commonwealth with the concurrence of the court.

K. Nothing in this section shall preclude the establishment of substance abuse treatment programs and services pursuant to the deferred judgment provisions of § 18.2-251.

L. Each offender shall contribute to the cost of the substance abuse treatment he receives while participating in a recovery court pursuant to guidelines developed by the recovery court advisory committee.

M. Nothing contained in this section shall confer a right or an expectation of a right to treatment for an offender or be construed as requiring a local recovery court advisory committee to accept for participation every offender.

N. The Office of the Executive Secretary shall, with the assistance of the state Recovery Court Advisory Committee, develop a statewide evaluation model and conduct ongoing evaluations of the effectiveness and efficiency of all local recovery courts. A report of these evaluations shall be submitted to the General Assembly by December 1 of each year. Each local recovery court advisory committee shall submit evaluative reports to the Office of the Executive Secretary as requested.

O. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no recovery court shall be established subsequent to March 1, 2004, unless the jurisdiction or jurisdictions intending or proposing to establish such court have been specifically granted permission under the Code of Virginia to establish such court. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any recovery court established on or before March 1, 2004, and operational as of July 1, 2004.

P. Subject to the requirements and conditions established by the state Recovery Court Advisory Committee, there shall be established a recovery court in the following jurisdictions: the City of Chesapeake and the City of Newport News.

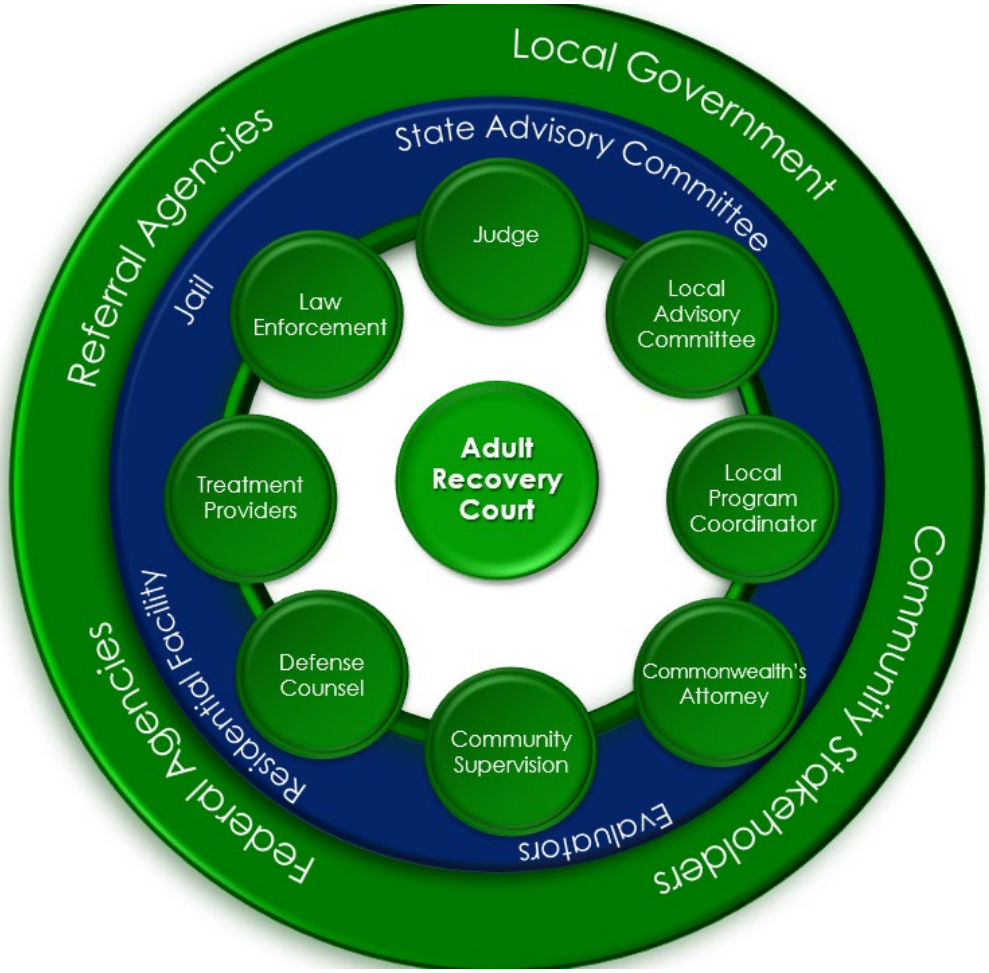
Q. Subject to the requirements and conditions established by the state Recovery Court Advisory Committee, there shall be established a recovery court in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for the County of Franklin, provided that such court is funded solely through local sources.

R. Subject to the requirements and conditions established by the state Recovery Court Advisory Committee, there shall be established a recovery court in the City of Bristol and the County of Tazewell, provided that the court is funded within existing state and local appropriations.

2004, c. 1004; 2005, cc. 519, 602; 2006, cc. 175, 341; 2007, c. 133; 2009, cc. 205, 281, 294, 813, 840; 2010, c. 258; 2024, cc. 25, 130, 260.

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section(s) may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

Appendix B: Diagram of Virginia Adult Recovery Court Stakeholders



Appendix C: Approved Virginia Recovery Courts, FY 2026

Name	Localities	Court Type	Docket Type	Approved Date
Alexandria	Alexandria	Circuit	Adult	October, 2018
Alleghany	Alleghany County, Covington	Circuit	Adult	April, 2021
Arlington	Arlington	Circuit	Adult	October, 2012
Bedford Family	Bedford	J&DR	Family	May, 2018
Botetourt and Craig	Botetourt County, Craig County	Circuit	Adult	May, 2021
Bristol	Bristol	Circuit	Adult	March, 2010
Buchanan	Buchanan County	Circuit	Adult	July, 2012
Central Virginia	Buckingham County, Prince Edward County, Cumberland County	Circuit	Adult	June, 2024
Charlottesville Family	Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Greene County, Louisa County, Madison County	J&DR	Family	July, 2002
Charlottesville-Albemarle	Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Greene County, Louisa County	Circuit	Adult	July, 1997
Colonial	York, Poquoson	Circuit	Adult	May, 2026
Chesapeake	Chesapeake	Circuit	Adult	August, 2005
Chesterfield	Chesterfield County, Colonial Heights	Circuit	Adult	September, 2000
Culpeper	Culpeper	Circuit	Adult	October, 2019
Danville	Danville	Circuit	Adult	October, 2021
Dickenson	Dickenson County	Circuit	Adult	July, 2012
Fairfax	Fairfax County, Fairfax City	Circuit	Adult	October, 2017
Fifth Circuit	Suffolk, Franklin City, Isle of Wight, Southampton County	Circuit	Adult	April, 2021
Floyd	Floyd	Circuit	Adult	October, 2015
Fluvanna	Fluvanna County	Circuit	Adult	October, 2019
Franklin Co. Family	Franklin County	J&DR	Family	May, 2024
Giles	Giles County	Circuit	Adult	October, 2015
Giles Family	Giles County	J&DR	Family	October, 2018

Name	Localities	Court Type	Docket Type	Approved Date
Halifax	Halifax	Circuit	Adult	April, 2015
Hanover	Hanover County	Circuit	Adult	May, 2003
Harrisonburg-Rockingham	Harrisonburg, Rockingham County	Circuit	Adult	April, 2017
Henrico	Henrico County	Circuit	Adult	January, 2003
Hopewell	Hopewell, Prince George County, Surry	Circuit	Adult	September, 2002
Loudoun	Loudoun County	Circuit	Adult	October, 2018
Lynchburg	Lynchburg	Circuit	Adult	October, 2016
Maury River	Buena Vista City, Lexington City, Rockbridge County	Circuit	Adult	May 2025
Montgomery	Montgomery County	Circuit	Adult	April, 2021
Nelson	Nelson County	Circuit	Adult	May, 2024
Newport News	Newport News	Circuit	Adult	November, 1998
Norfolk	Norfolk	Circuit	Adult	November, 1998
Northern Neck/Essex	Essex, Lancaster County, Northumberland County, Richmond County, Westmoreland County	Circuit	Adult	October,2017
Northwest Regional	Clarke County Frederick County, Winchester	Circuit	Adult	April, 2016
Orange & Madison	Orange County, Madison County	Circuit	Adult	October, 2021
Page	Page County	Circuit	Adult	November, 2021
Piedmont	Henry County, Martinsville, Patrick County	Circuit	Adult	May, 2021
Portsmouth	Portsmouth	Circuit	Adult	January, 2021
Prince William	Prince William County, Manassas, Manassas Park	Circuit	Adult	May, 2024
Pulaski	Pulaski County	Circuit	Adult	October, 2014
Radford	Radford	Circuit	Adult	October, 2017

Name	Localities	Court Type	Docket Type	Approved Date
Rappahannock Regional Juvenile	Fredericksburg, King George County, Stafford County, Spotsylvania County	J&DR	Juvenile	October, 1998
Rappahannock Regional Adult	Fredericksburg, King George County, Stafford County, Spotsylvania County	Circuit	Adult	October, 1998
Richmond	Richmond City	Circuit	Adult	March, 1998
Russell	Russell County	Circuit	Adult	July, 2012
Shenandoah	Shenandoah County	Circuit	Adult	June, 2024
Smyth Co. Recovery Court	Smyth County	Circuit	Adult	April, 2016
Staunton	Staunton, Augusta County, Waynesboro	Circuit	Adult	July, 2002
Tazewell	Tazewell County	Circuit	Adult	March, 2009
Thirtieth District Juvenile	Lee County, Scott County, Wise County	J&DR	Juvenile	September, 2002
Thirtieth Judicial Circuit	Lee County, Scott County, Wise County	Circuit	Adult	July, 2012
Twenty-third Judicial Circuit	Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem	Circuit	Adult	September, 1995
Twin Counties Recovery Court	Grayson County, Carroll County, Galax	Circuit	Adult	October, 2017
Virginia Beach	Virginia Beach	Circuit	Adult	April, 2016
Washington	Washington County	Circuit	Adult	July, 2012
Warren	Warren County	Circuit	Adult	June,2024
Wythe	Wythe County	Circuit	Adult	April, 2021

Appendix D: Rule 1:25 Specialty Dockets

Rule 1:25. Specialty Dockets.

(a) Definition of and Criteria for Specialty Dockets. —

(1) When used in this Rule, the term "specialty dockets" refers to specialized court dockets within the existing structure of Virginia's circuit and district court system offering judicial monitoring of intensive treatment, supervision, and remediation integral to case disposition.

(2) Types of court proceedings appropriate for grouping in a "specialty docket" are those which (i) require more than simply the adjudication of discrete legal issues, (ii) present a common dynamic underlying the legally cognizable behavior, (iii) require the coordination of services and treatment to address that underlying dynamic, and (iv) focus primarily on the remediation of the defendant in these dockets. The treatment, the services, and the disposition options are those which are otherwise available under law.

(3) Dockets which group cases together based simply on the area of the law at issue, e.g., a docket of unlawful detainer cases or child support cases, are not considered "specialty dockets."

(b) Types of Specialty Dockets. — The Supreme Court of Virginia currently recognizes only the following three types of specialty dockets: (i) recovery court dockets as provided for in the Recovery Court Act, § 18.2-254.1, (ii) veterans dockets, and (iii) behavioral health dockets as provided for in the Behavioral Health Docket Act, § 18.2-254.3. Recovery court dockets offer judicial monitoring of intensive treatment and strict supervision in drug and drug-related cases. Veterans dockets offer eligible defendants who are veterans of the armed services with substance dependency or mental illness a specialized criminal specialty docket that is coordinated with specialized services for veterans. Behavioral health dockets offer defendants with diagnosed behavioral or mental health disorders judicially supervised, community-based treatment plans, which a team of court staff and mental health professionals design and implement.

(c) Authorization Process. — A circuit or district court which intends to establish one or more types of these recognized specialty dockets must petition the Supreme Court of Virginia for authorization before beginning operation of a specialty docket or, in the instance of an existing specialty docket, continuing its operation. A petitioning court must demonstrate sufficient local support for the establishment of this specialty docket, as well as adequate planning for its establishment and continuation.

(d) Expansion of Types of Specialty Dockets. — A circuit or district court seeking to establish a type of specialty docket not yet recognized under this rule must first demonstrate to the Supreme Court that a new specialty docket of the proposed type meets the criteria set forth in subsection (a) of this Rule. If this additional type of specialty docket receives recognition from the Supreme Court of Virginia, any local specialty docket of this type must then be authorized as established in subsection (c) of this Rule.

(e) Oversight Structure. — By order, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may establish a Specialty Docket Advisory Committee and appoint its members. The Chief Justice may also establish separate committees for each of the approved types of specialty dockets. The

members of the Veterans Docket Advisory Committee, the Behavioral Health Docket Advisory Committee, and the committee for any other type of specialty docket recognized in the future by the Supreme Court will be chosen by the Chief Justice. The Recovery Court Advisory Committee established under Code § 18.2-254.1 constitutes the Recovery Court Docket Advisory Committee.

(f) Operating Standards. — The Specialty Docket Advisory Committee, in consultation with the committees created under subsection (e), will establish the training and operating standards for local specialty dockets.

(g) Financing Specialty Dockets. — Any funds necessary for the operation of a specialty docket will be the responsibility of the locality and the local court but may be provided via state appropriations and federal grants.

(h) Evaluation. — Any local court establishing a specialty docket must provide to the Specialty Docket Advisory Committee the information necessary for the continuing evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of all local specialty dockets.

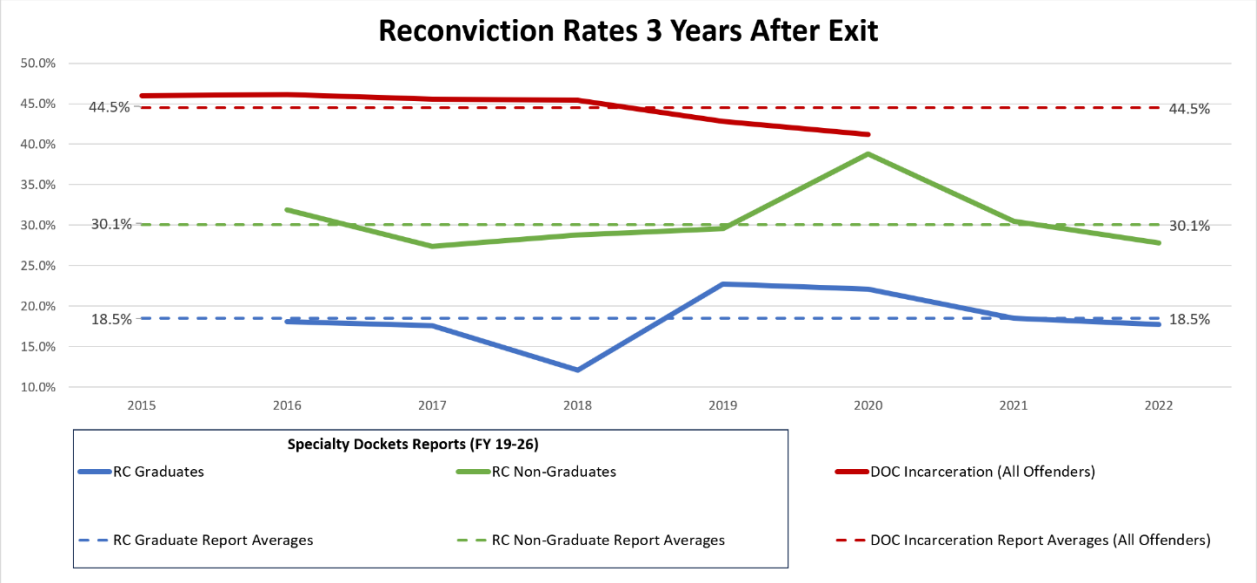
Last amended by Order date June 21, 2024; effective August 20, 2024

Appendix E: 3-Year Reconviction Rates Comparison: Recovery Court and VA DOC Incarceration

Per national usage standards, the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC), and the OES use "recidivism" in specific and technically defined—but different— ways. Therefore, "recidivism rates" studies and reports from these groups are not comparable. However, details in these reports do overlap, specifically in reconviction data.

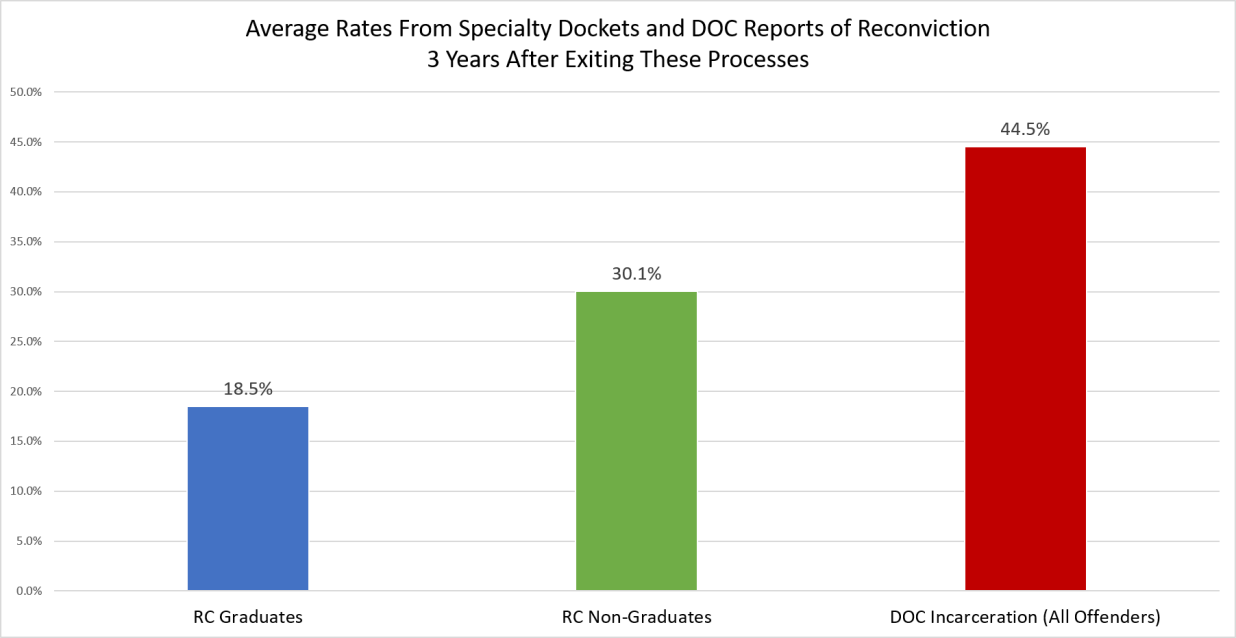
Both DOC and OES report reconviction data after exit (exit from incarceration for the DOC or exit from recovery court for OES). The table details the percentage of people reconvicted within three years of their exit. This longer-duration metric is important in evaluating sustained recovery and rehabilitation.

While the data from both DOC and OES identify reconviction over a three-year period, the populations are not directly comparable. OES annual reports are exclusively for offenders with drug- and drug-motivated offenses by those (primarily) with a SUD, while the reports published by DOC[14] gives data for all formerly incarcerated individuals, including an unknown portion of non-similar offenses/population.



The average lines (dashed lines) indicate the average reconviction rates, calculated as the averages of the annual data reported, not compiled data. Recovery court reports show an average graduate reconviction rate of 18.5% and an average non-graduate reconviction rate of 30.1%. DOC reports show an average former-inmate reconviction rate of 44.5%.

[14] Virginia Department of Corrections. Recidivism At a Glance: Releases from State Responsible (SR) Incarceration. 2026.


Average Rates From Specialty Dockets and DOC Reports of Reconviction
3 Years After Exiting These Processes
50.0%
45.0%
40.0%
35.0%
30.0%
25.0%
20.0%
15.0%
10.0%
5.0%
0.0%
18.5%
30.1%
44.5%
RC Graduates
RC Non-Graduates
DOC Incarceration (All Offenders)

Appendix F: State Recovery Court Advisory Committee Membership

Chair:

The Honorable Cleo E. Powell
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Virginia

Vice Chair:

*The Honorable Robert Turk, Judge
Montgomery Circuit Court
Montgomery Recovery Court

Members:

Karl Hade
Executive Secretary
Office of the Executive Secretary

Hon. Colette McEachin
Commonwealth's Attorney
City of Richmond
Commonwealth Attorneys Association

Jennifer MacArthur
Adult Justice Program Manager
Department of Criminal Justice Services

*Hon. Louise DiMatteo
Judge
Arlington Circuit Court
Arlington Recovery Court

Catherine French-Zagurskie
Chief Appellate Counsel
Virginia Indigent Defense Commission

*Hon. Jack S. Hurley
Judge
Tazewell Circuit Court
Tazewell Adult Recovery Court

William H. Anspach
Chief
Colonial Heights Police Department
Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police

Hon. Karl Leonard
Sheriff
Chesterfield County
Virginia Sheriff's Association

Terrelle Stewart
Executive Director
District 19 CSB
Virginia Association of Community Services Boards

*Hon. Joseph Vance, IV
Judge
Fredericksburg Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Rappahannock Juvenile Recovery Court

Joseph Walters
Director
Virginia Department of Corrections

Megan Roane
Director
Blue Ridge Court Services
Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association

Dr. Candance Roney
Director
Substance Use Services
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Hon. Carson Beard
Clerk
Culpeper Circuit Court
Circuit Court Clerks Association

VACANT
Department of Social Services

James Towey
Manager
Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Department of Juvenile Justice

Michelle Ward
Program Coordinator
Smyth County Recovery Court

*Hon. Charles S. Sharp
Judge, Retired
Stafford Circuit Court At Large Member

Hon. Eric Olsen
Commonwealth Attorney
Stafford County
At Large Member

* Indicates Executive Committee member

Staff:

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Office of the Executive Secretary

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Angela Dodson
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Liane Hanna
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Department of Judicial Services
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Office of the Executive Secretary

Auriel Diggs
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Department of Judicial Services
Office of the Executive Secretary

Celin Job
Specialty Dockets Database Analyst
Department of Judicial Services
Office of the Executive Secretary