



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CENTER
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ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Pamela Harris
State Court Administrator
410-260-1295

February 22, 2021

Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
State House, H-107
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
State House, H-101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: JRA – Number of Substance Abuse Assessments Ordered

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

Pursuant to the Justice Reinvestment Act, SB 1005/ch 515, 2016, the Judiciary herein submits its report on the number of substance abuse assessments ordered by courts in criminal cases under Maryland Code, Health – General Article § 8-505.

The report covers the period of January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Walter at (410) 260-1725, or via email at jamie.walter@mdcourts.gov.

Sincerely,

Pamela Harris
State Court Administrator

Enc.

Hon. Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.

Hon. Bill Ferguson

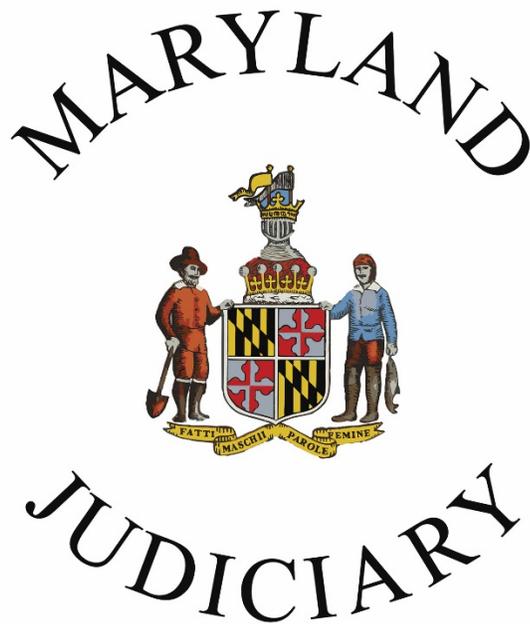
Hon. Adrienne A. Jones

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cc: Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals
Honorable Keith Baynes, Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges
Honorable Daniel M. Long, Chair, Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board
Honorable John P. Morrissey, Chief Judge, District Court
Keiffer Jackson Mitchell, Jr., Chief Legislative Officer, Office of the Governor
Yaakov E. "Jake" Weissman, Chief of Staff, Senate President
Alexandra Hughes, Chief of Staff, House Speaker
Kelley O'Connor, Assistant State Court Administrator, Government Relations and Public
Affairs
Sarah Albert, Mandated Report Specialist

**JRA – Number of Substance Abuse
Assessments Ordered
Calendar Year 2020**



Administrative Office of the Courts
February 2021

**Substance Abuse Disorder Assessments Ordered, Maryland Code, Health – General Article
§ 8-505
Calendar Year 2020**

Between Circuit and District Court locations, there were a total of 805 substance abuse disorder assessments ordered in Calendar Year 2020. Please see breakdown by county below (Table 1).

Table 1: CY 2020 MD Code, Health – Gen. Art. § 8-505 Orders

County	Circuit Court	District Court	Total
Allegany	13	5	18
Anne Arundel	98	16	114
Baltimore City	97	10	107
Baltimore County	39	4	43
Calvert	8	1	9
Caroline	2	2	4
Carroll	26	0	26
Cecil	12	0	12
Charles	38	5	43
Dorchester	21	6	27
Frederick	42	0	42
Garrett	2	13	15
Harford	35	6	41
Howard	19	0	19
Kent	9	2	11
Montgomery	55	5	60
Prince George's	64	26	90
Queen Anne's	5	0	5
Saint Mary's	8	0	8
Somerset	20	2	22
Talbot	3	1	4
Washington	24	2	26
Wicomico	39	11	50
Worcester	9	0	9
Grand Total	688	117	805

Commentary Regarding Data Findings and Collection of CY 2019 and CY 2020 Data:

As in previous years, Calendar Year 2020 MD Code, Health – Gen. Art. § 8-505 order data collection reflects efforts to increase the accuracy of counting orders through the identification and elimination of multiple evaluation codes used by certain courts. The Maryland Judiciary continues to train and educate clerks about use of these codes, particularly for courts in Maryland Electronic Court (MDEC) counties. Of note, three remaining counties are yet to be converted to MDEC: Baltimore City, Montgomery, and Prince George’s Counties.

In comparing Calendar Year 2020 (Table 1) and Calendar Year 2019 (Table 2) data, there were 47 percent fewer orders for evaluation in Calendar Year 2020 than in Calendar Year 2019 in the circuit and District Courts. In addition to the increased accuracy of counting orders, this change is likely due to the concurrent drop in criminal filings Calendar Year 2020 as a result of the Governor’s stay-at-home order and other circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 2: CY 2019 MD Code, Health – Gen. Art. § 8-505 Orders

County	Circuit Court	District Court	Total
Allegany	21	7	28
Anne Arundel	161	27	188
Baltimore City	188	52	240
Baltimore County	120	16	136
Calvert	6	1	7
Caroline	8	1	9
Carroll	55	0	55
Cecil	33	1	34
Charles	48	2	50
Dorchester	19	7	26
Frederick	44	6	50
Garrett	14	15	29
Harford	74	7	81
Howard	38	3	41
Kent	15	1	16
Montgomery	162	14	176
Prince George's	103	40	143
Queen Anne’s	19	3	22
Saint Mary’s	11	3	14
Somerset	10	10	20
Talbot	1	0	1
Washington	49	1	50
Wicomico	63	23	86
Worcester	17	2	19
Grand Total	1,279	242	1,521

Please see below for specific notes regarding each case management system.

Baltimore City Circuit Court – Confirmed that the number provided is the number of orders, not the number of defendants.

District Court Mainframe – As referenced in the Judiciary’s previous MD Code, Health – Gen. Art. § 8-505 legislative reports, a new code identifying § 8-505 orders was implemented in the District Court Mainframe in May of 2017. However, to control for any instances in which the code was not utilized and to ensure all § 8-505 orders were captured, several data queries were run through docket text and comments to get a total number of assessments ordered.

MDEC (Circuit & District Court) – MDEC “Event” report was run for Calendar Year 2020 to identify the frequency of codes indicating the court order or receipt of in-patient, out-patient and in-custody evaluations.

Montgomery County Circuit Court – Quality Control Division staff confirmed that the numbers provided are the number of granted orders. They attested that the count is of court orders, not unique cases or defendants.

Prince George’s County Circuit Court – As referenced in the Judiciary’s previous MD Code, Health – Gen. Art. § 8-505 legislative reports, a new code identifying § 8-505 orders was implemented in the Circuit Court for Prince George’s County in 2017.