



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CENTER
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ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Pamela Harris
State Court Administrator
410-260-1295

February 10, 2022

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, 2021 – December 31, 2021. 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 Joseph M. Getty, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals
Honorable Keith A. 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
Sally McMillan Robb, Chief of Staff, Senate President
Jeremy P. Baker, Chief of Staff, House Speaker
Kelley O'Connor, Assistant State Court Administrator, Government Relations and Public
Affairs
Sarah Albert, Mandated Report Specialist

Maryland Judiciary
Calendar Year (CY) 2021
JRA – Number of Substance Abuse
Assessments Ordered



February 2022

**Substance Abuse Disorder Assessments Ordered, HG-8-505
Calendar Year 2021**

Between Circuit and District Court locations, there were 1,155 substance abuse disorder assessments ordered in calendar year 2021. Please see breakdown by county below (Table 1).

Table 1: CY 2021 8-505 Orders

County	Circuit Court	District Court	Total
Allegany	20	7	27
Anne Arundel	91	13	104
Baltimore City	128	10	138
Baltimore County	53	0	53
Calvert	8	28	36
Caroline	13	0	13
Carroll	27	0	27
Cecil	9	1	10
Charles	15	1	16
Dorchester	15	0	15
Frederick	55	2	57
Garrett	2	16	18
Harford	38	9	47
Howard	18	1	19
Kent	9	0	9
Montgomery	160	11	171
Prince George's	151	62	213
Queen Anne's	10	1	11
Saint Mary's	6	1	7
Somerset	11	2	13
Talbot	3	0	3
Washington	60	4	64
Wicomico	38	22	60
Worcester	23	1	24
Grand Total	963	192	1,155

Commentary Regarding Data Findings and Collection of CY 2020 and CY 2021 Data:

As in previous years, Calendar Year 2021 § 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,

two remaining counties are yet to be converted to MDEC: Baltimore City, and Prince George’s Counties. Montgomery County converted to MDEC in October of 2021.

In comparing Calendar Year 2021 (Table 1) and Calendar Year 2020 (Table 2) data, orders for evaluation increased by 43% in Calendar Year 2021 over Calendar Year 2020 in the circuit and District Courts. As indicated in the Judiciary’s Calendar Year 2020 report, the Governor’s stay-at-home order and other COVID-related impacts contributed to the 47% decrease in orders from Calendar Year 2019 (1,521) to Calendar Year 2020 (805). Correspondingly, the increase in orders from Calendar Year 2020 to Calendar Year 2021 is likely due to concurrent increases in criminal filings and hearings held and concluded as Judicial COVID-related operational restrictions were lifted, and courts resumed full operations for the majority of Calendar Year 2021¹.

Table 2: CY 2020 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

¹ Maryland Judiciary COVID Statistical Documents Report 4-6; <https://mdcourts.gov/courtoperations/covid19>

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 § 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.

Montgomery County – Montgomery County converted to MDEC in October 2021. To identify all Calendar Year 2021 orders for evaluation, Montgomery County legacy case management systems in the circuit and District Courts and MDEC “event” reports were queried.

MDEC (Circuit & District Court) – MDEC “Event” report was run for Calendar Year 2021 to identify the frequency of codes indicating the court order or receipt of in-patient, out-patient, and in-custody evaluations.

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