

# SAMHSA Drug Court Initiatives and Criminal Justice Programs

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**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

# SAMHSA - Criminal and Juvenile Justice Background

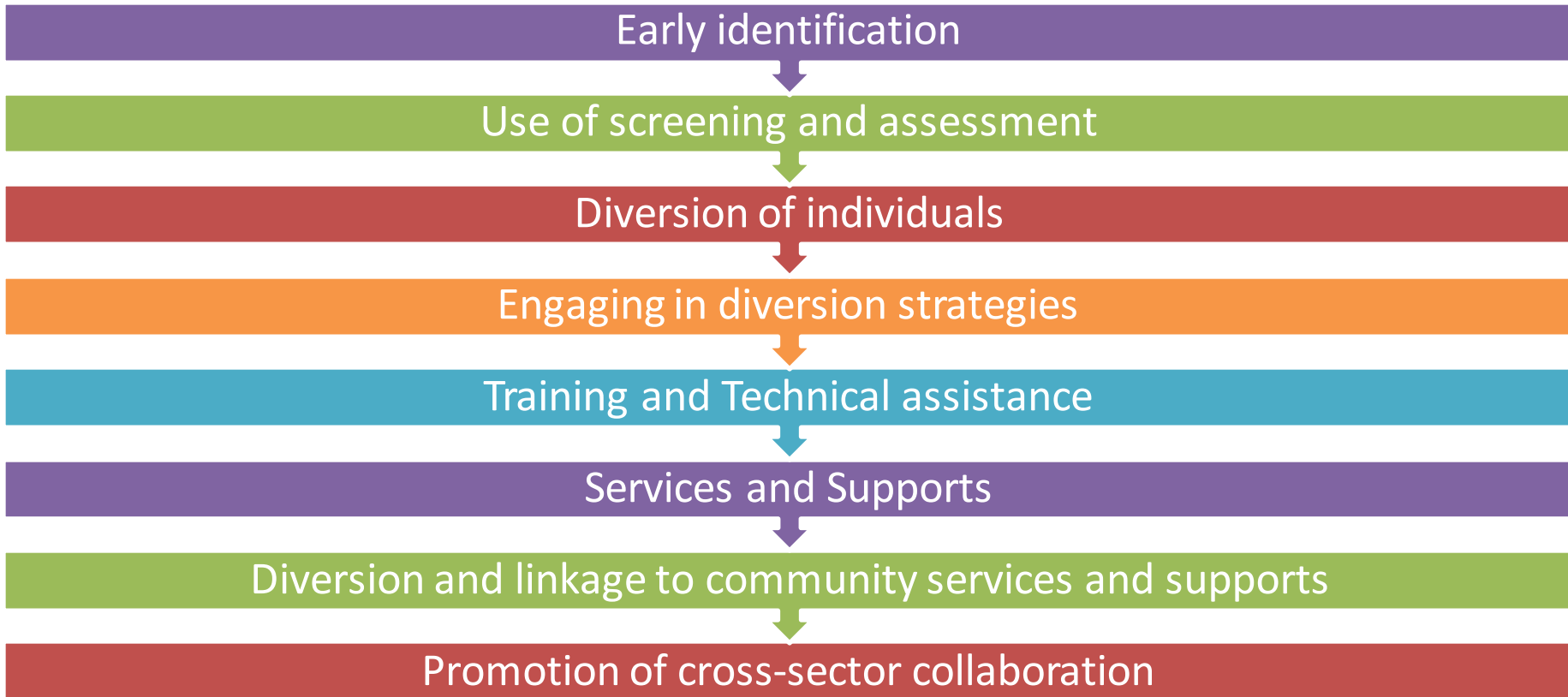


About 2 million times each year, people with serious mental illness are booked into jails.

About 2 in 5 people who are incarcerated have a history of mental illness (44% held in local jails and 37% in state and federal prisons).

Less than half of people (45%) with a history of mental illness receive mental health treatment while held in local jails.

# SAMHSA - Criminal and Juvenile Justice Approach



# SAMHSA's Criminal Justice Programs – Drug Courts

## Grants to Expand Substance Use Treatment Capacity in:

- Adult Treatment Drug Courts (ATDC)
- Adult Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts (ATHC)
- Veterans Drug Court (VTC)
- Family Treatment Drug Courts (FTDC)

The purpose of this program is to expand substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services in existing drug courts. The program recognizes the need for treatment instead of incarceration for individuals with SUDs



# SAMHSA's Criminal Justice Programs - Reentry

## Grants to Expand Substance Use Treatment Capacity in:

- Offender Reentry Program (ORP)

Purpose is to expand substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and related recovery and reentry services to sentenced adult offenders/ex-offenders with a SUD and/or co-occurring substance use and mental disorders



# SAMHSA Criminal Justice Programs – Services Provided

- Screening and assessing for the presence of SUD and/or co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders
- Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) and other approved FDA- medications
- Naloxone and other FDA- approved overdose reversal medications





# SAMHSA Criminal Justice Programs – Services Provided (continued)

- Family counseling and family recovery support services collaborate with community partners that are trained and can serve diverse populations to provide comprehensive services (e.g., child welfare agencies as referral sources, and other agencies that can address the needs of children).
- Education on HIV and viral hepatitis prevention, testing, and referral to treatment services
- Recovery support services (e.g., childcare, supported employment, skills training and development, and transportation services) that provide emotional and practical support to maintain client/participant remission.





# Treatment Drug Courts: Increasing Healthy Behaviors

Since FY 2019, 26,924 clients nationally have been served in Treatment Drug Court programs.



Healthy Behavior	U.S. Change at 6-mos
Did not use illegal drugs or alcohol	↑ 33.0%
No arrests in 30 days	↑ 8.3%
Currently employed or in school	↑ 35.8%
Socially connected	↑ 5.8%
Permanent place to live	↑ 26.0%
No alcohol or illegal drug-related health, behavioral, or social consequences in the previous 30 days	↑ 13.8%

Source: SPARS data extracted 11/17/22

# Treatment Drug Courts: Decreasing Risky Behavior & Improving Mental Health

Risky Behavior	U.S. Change at 6-mos
Unprotected sex w a partner HIV+ or has AIDS	↓ 32.1%
Unprotected sex w an injection drug user	↓ 45.5%
Unprotected sex w someone high on any substance	↓ 59.9%

Mental Health	U.S. Change at 6-mos
Reported depression	↓ 26.1%
Reported suicide attempts	↓ 51.9%
Reported trouble controlling violent behavior	↓ 48.5%



# SAMHSA Funding Sources

- Block Grants (e.g. SAPTBG)
- Formula Based Grants (e.g. State Opioid Response)
- Discretionary Grants – (e.g. Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Treatment Drug Courts)

[Developing a Competitive SAMHSA Grant Application](#)



# Recent Challenges

- **COVID-19 associated restrictions**
  - Decreased capacity / shift away from in-person
- **Transition to virtual**
  - Access and education
- **Criminal Justice Reform**
  - Decrease in low-level drug arrests
- **Workforce issues**
  - Staff shortage/turnover



# Criminal Justice Grants in Action: Penobscot Nation, Maine





# Penobscot Nation in Maine

# More Grantee Testimonials

“He maintained his sobriety and was able to reunite with his family and attend his son’s high school graduation. He has also enrolled in community college and is working towards certifying himself as a substance abuse counselor.”

“She maintained gainful employment throughout the time she was enrolled. She moved from Process Group into MRT Group and worked through the step work, offering positive feedback to peers doing step work of their own and serving as a mentor to them also. She completed the Drug Court Program with flying colors and is a perfect example of how it can be done.”

“Family entered drug court in September 2020. Since beginning drug court, fathers license was reinstated and will be starting barber school next month. Father has obtained employment. They have become involved in their local church where the mother is teaching the kids songs in sign language. They have regained custody of their children and went on their first family vacation in fourteen years.”

# SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation

Focus: Expanding access to programs, services, and supports for adults with mental and substance use disorders who come into contact with the criminal justice system

Provides training and technical assistance in following areas:

Sequential Intercept Mapping Workshops	Trauma-Informed Responses Training for Judges and Court Personnel
Treatment/Specialty Courts	Reentry Programs
Implementing Medications for SUD	Understanding Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) models
General: Screening and assessment; research and evaluation; data and information sharing; peer and family support; reducing racial and ethnic disparities; etc.	



# The Technology Transfer Centers (TTC)



ATTC

Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network  
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

ATTC: <https://attcnetwork.org/>



MHTTC

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network  
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

MHTTC: <https://mhttcnetwork.org/>



PTTC

Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network  
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

PTTC: <https://pttcnetwork.org/>

# Centers of Excellence

The purpose of these CoEs is to develop and disseminate training and technical assistance for healthcare practitioners on issues related to addressing behavioral health disparities. The centers will implement training and technical assistance for practitioners to address the disparities in behavioral healthcare in three key populations:



African American Behavioral Health  
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

<http://africanamericanbehavioralhealth.org/>



**E4** CENTER

Center of Excellence for  
Behavioral Health Disparities in Aging

<http://e4center.org/>



**CENTER of EXCELLENCE**  
LGBTQ+ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EQUITY

<http://www.lgbtqequity.org/>

# *Thank you!*

SAMHSA's mission is to lead public health and service delivery efforts that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and provide treatments and supports to foster recovery while ensuring equitable access and positive outcomes.

1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727) | 1-800-487-4889 (TTY)

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