

Specialty Dockets

Overview, Creation, & Expansion

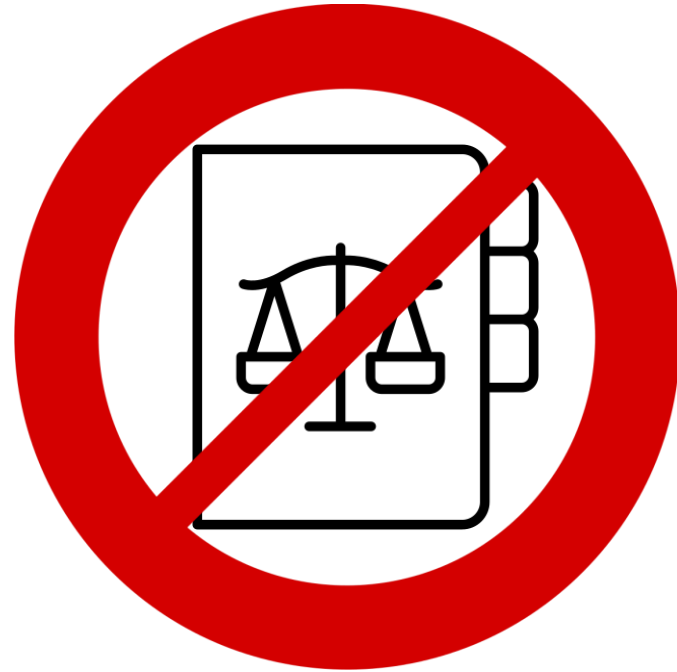
Opioid Abatement Authority
Anna Powers and Danny Livengood

Agenda

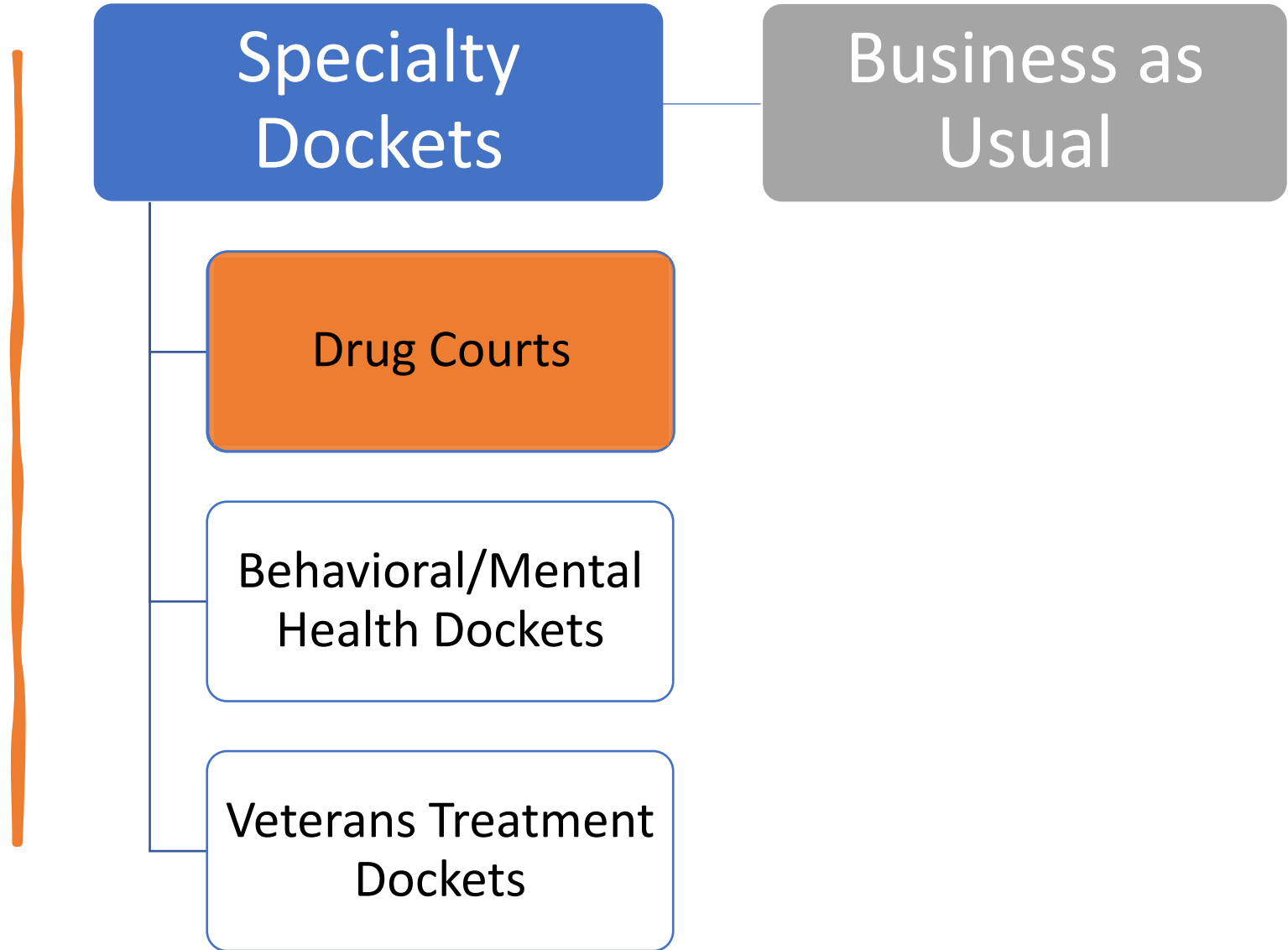
- Specialty Dockets Overview
- How to Start, Support, or Expand Specialty Dockets
- Specialty Dockets Operational Details
- Data, Costs, and Outcomes
- Specialty Dockets and the Opioid Abatement Authority

What are
Specialty
Dockets?

“Dockets”



What are Specialty Dockets?



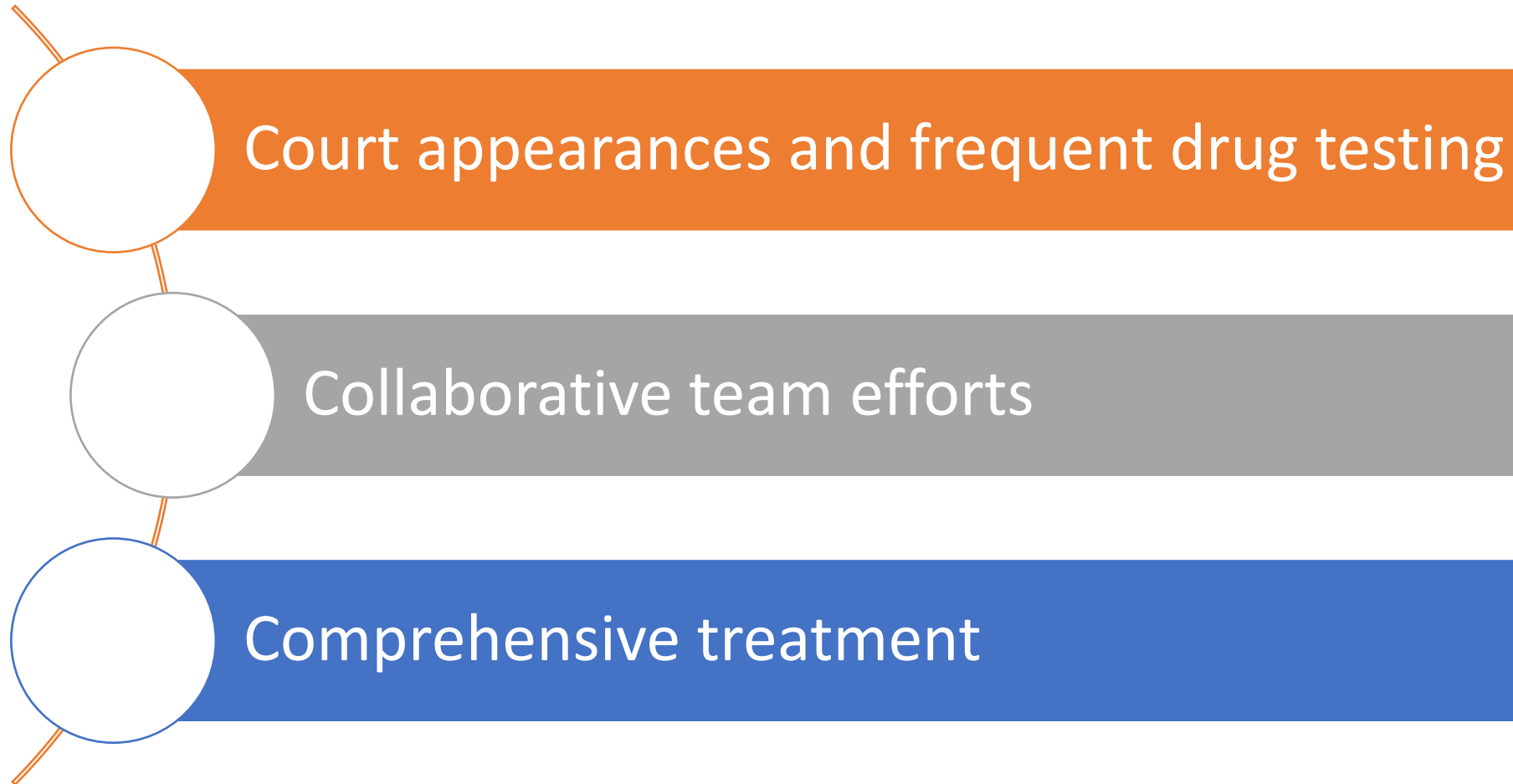
Specialty Dockets Overview

Specialty Docket participants voluntarily participate in extended duration (10-15 months) **evidence-based treatment**

Judicial monitoring

Strict supervision with the participant primarily receiving treatment in the community

Specialty Dockets Overview



Starting a Specialty Docket: Overview

- **Identify an interested local Judge**
- **Contact the Specialty Dockets team!**
We are happy to help answer questions.
- **Establish** an interdisciplinary planning committee
- **Complete** and submit an application:
 - <https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/sds/home.html>

Starting a Specialty Docket: Details

1. The Judge may contact the Chief Justice with the intention to plan a Specialty Docket
2. Form a planning committee. The planning team needs to include:
 - Judge, Prosecutor, Defense Attorney, Local Government Leader, Treatment Representative, Specialty Docket Coordinator/ Planning Coordinator, Probation, local Law Enforcement, and others depending on the type of Specialty Docket

Starting a Specialty Docket: Details

- Judge, Prosecutor, Defense Attorney, Local Government Leader, Treatment Representative, Specialty Docket Coordinator/ Planning Coordinator, Probation, local Law Enforcement, and others depending on the type of Specialty Docket

*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 [...] A petitioning court must demonstrate sufficient local support for the establishment of this specialty docket

Starting a Specialty Docket: Details

3. Schedule required training
4. Complete an application to establish a Specialty Docket:
 - Each Specialty Docket has a separate application which can be found on our website: <https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/sds/home.html>

Starting a Specialty Docket: Details

5. Submit application for **State** Advisory Committee review.

6. After approval, establish a **Local** Advisory Committee as outlined in Statutes §18.2-254.1 & §18.2-254.3
 - Establish criteria for the eligibility and participation of offenders
 - Establish policies and procedures for the operation of the Docket to comply with national Best Practice Standards

How to Expand or Support Specialty Dockets

1

Request

2

Help

3

Encourage

Come speak with us!

Specialty Dockets: Operational Details

- Target Population
- Methodology
- Graduate outcomes
- Virginia's existing Specialty Dockets

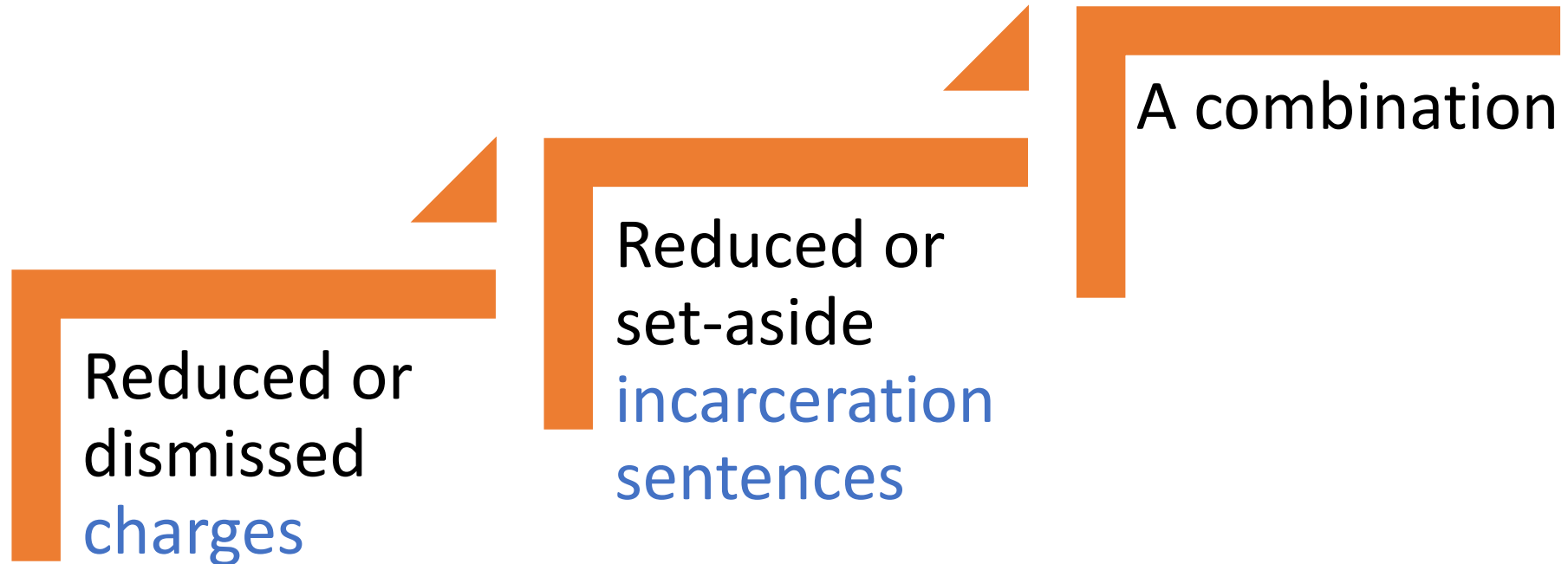
Specialty
Docket
Target
Population

Drug Court	Behavioral Health	Veterans
Non-violent offenders		
Offense is: Drug related OR Drug motivated	Mental illness is related to the current offense	Offense can be drug related/motivated, or mental illness related
Primary diagnosis of Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	Primary diagnosis of serious mental illness	Can have either or both a diagnosis of SUD and/or a serious mental illness
Moderate-High risk/need	Moderate-High risk/need	Moderate-High risk/need

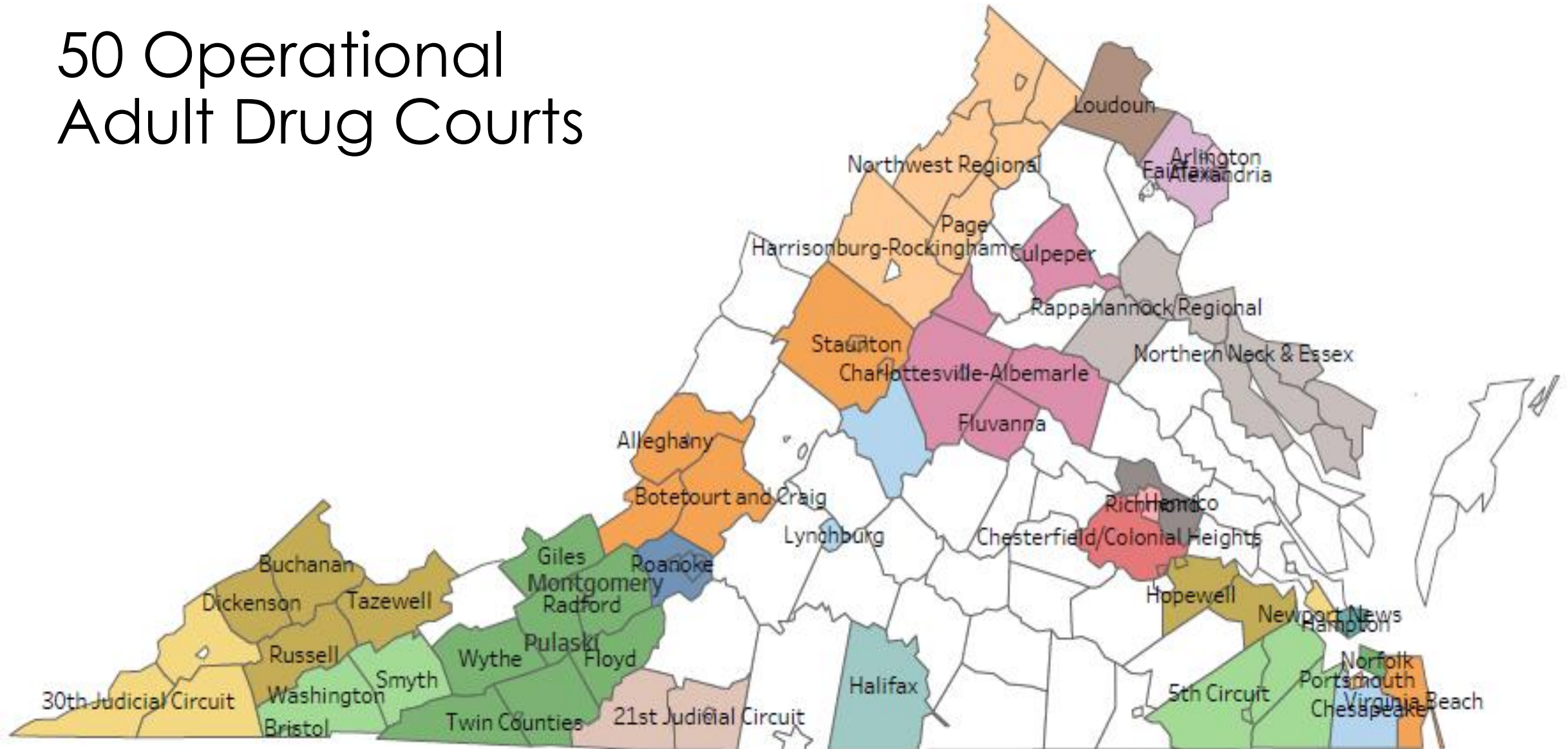
Specialty Dockets Methodology



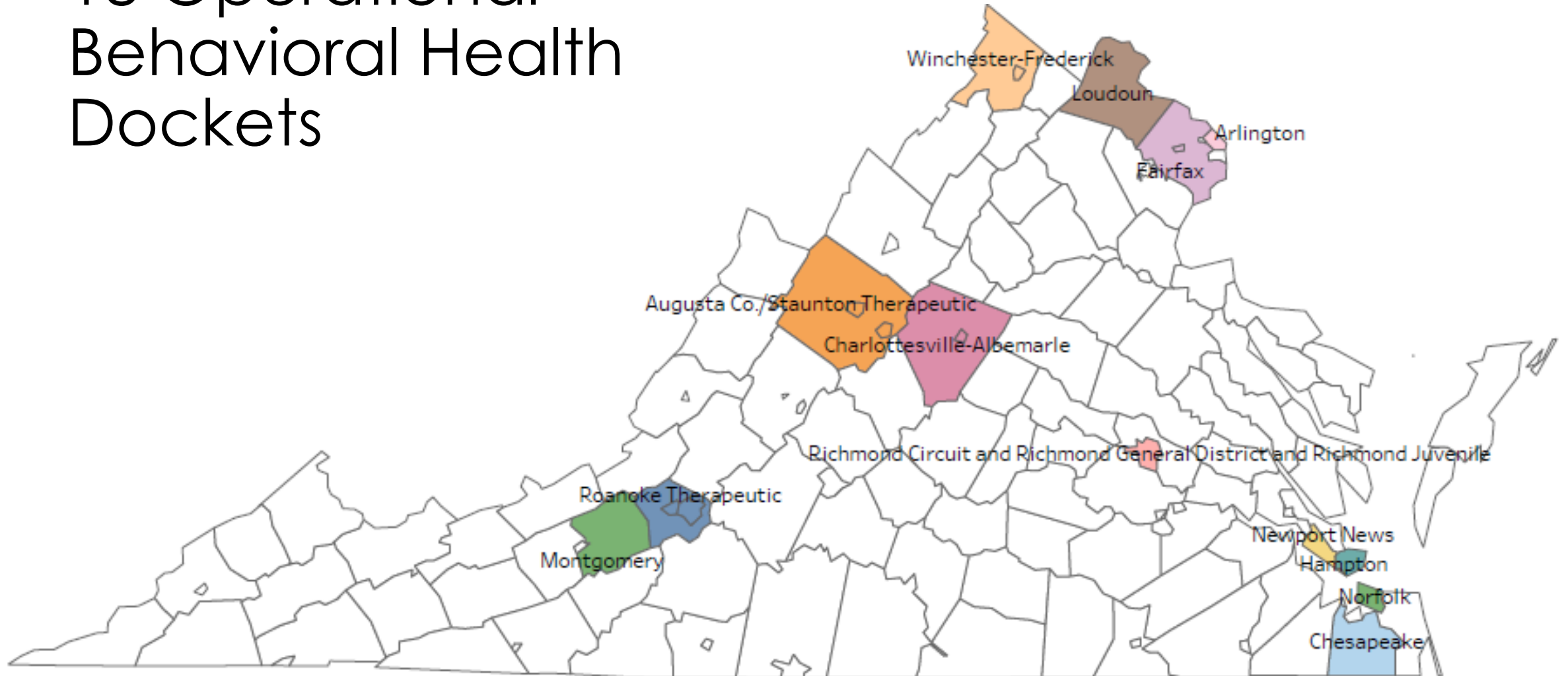
Specialty Docket Graduates



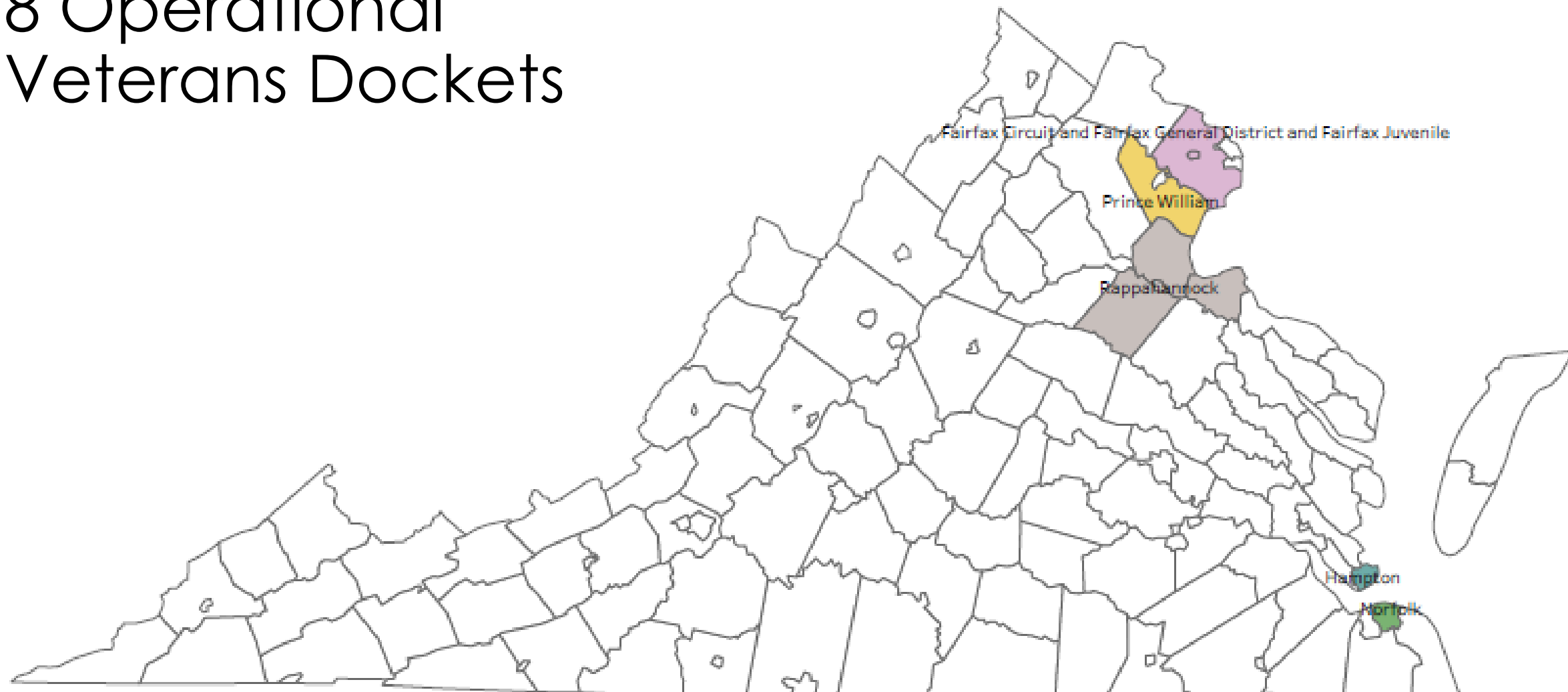
50 Operational Adult Drug Courts



18 Operational Behavioral Health Dockets



8 Operational Veterans Dockets



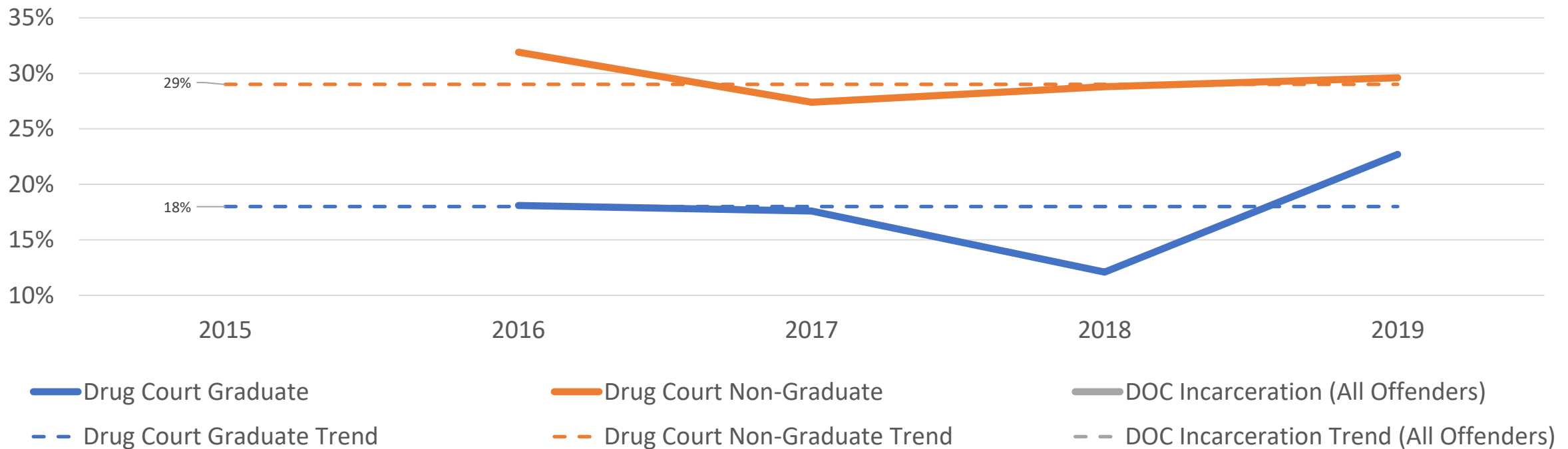
How Specialty Dockets Can Help

Recidivism rates are lower

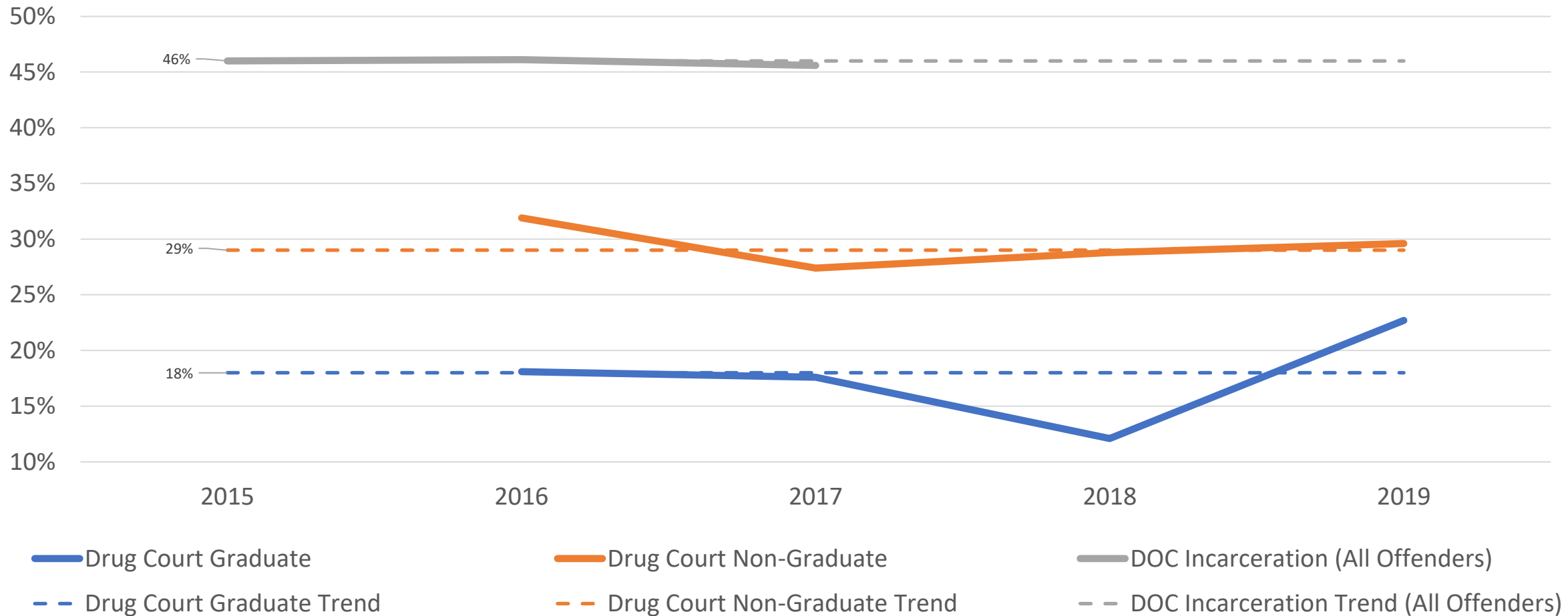
Specialty Dockets reduce costs

Specialty Dockets provide
recovery services

Drug Court vs Incarceration Reconviction Rates 3 Years After Exit

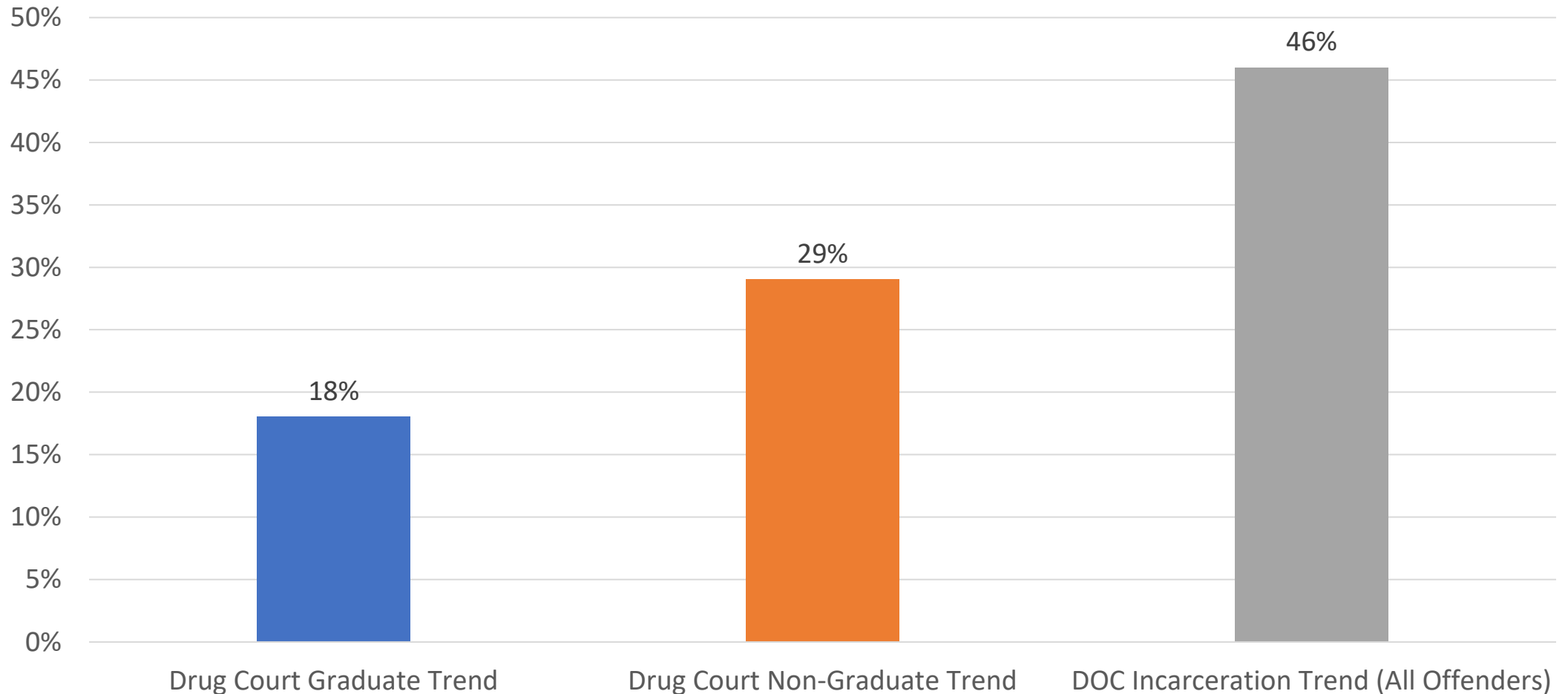


Drug Court vs Incarceration Reconviction Rates 3 Years After Exit



Trend Rates of Reconviction within 3 Years of Exiting Drug Court or Incarceration

(Exited Between 2016-2019)



Cost Savings

Virginia Drug Courts save **\$19,234** per person compared to traditional case processing

FY 2022 yielded an estimated **cost savings over \$4.6 million**

Specialty Dockets and the OAA

The Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) has approved a \$500,000 grant award for development of a statewide best practices standard for drug testing in all Specialty Dockets and to establish a mini-grant program to offer financial assistance to localities with help pay for drug testing.

Specialty Dockets and the OAA

Your locality can apply for OAA grant funds for:

- Planning a specialty docket
- Funding parts or pieces of a Specialty Docket, such as:
 - drug testing
 - treatment resources
 - local staff positions
 - training
 - supplies
 - collateral services

Some OAA Recent Virginia Applications

- Upper 10th circuit applied for funds for planning a drug court grant
- Prince George and Surry Counties will apply for funds to establish a crisis stabilization center
- Grayson county, Carroll County, and Galax were collectively approved for a **\$260k** award to enhance their recovery docket

Some OAA Recent Virginia Applications

- A partnership including Montgomery County, Giles County, Floyd County, Pulaski County, and Radford City was awarded **\$3.5 million** for the “New River Valley Ecosystem of Recovery,” with expansion of in-patient treatment, medication for opioid use disorders, enhancement of transportation, the addition of recovery court clinicians, and more
- A partnership including Smyth County, Bland County, Carroll County, Grayson County, Wythe County, and Galax City was awarded **\$1 million** for expanding Office Based Opioid Treatment services and medication for opioid use disorders, and for assisting in providing region-wide transitional recovery housing.



Questions?

Anna Powers, Coordinator
Department of Judicial Services
Office of the Executive Secretary
Supreme Court of Virginia
804-786-3321

Danny Livengood, Training Coordinator
Department of Judicial Services
Office of the Executive Secretary
Supreme Court of Virginia
804-371-5562

specialtydockets@vacourts.gov

How to Establish a Specialty Docket

The Drug Treatment Court Act (§18.2-254.1) transferred the responsibilities for administration and supervision of drug courts to the Supreme Court of Virginia. Under the Act, the Court is responsible for (i) providing oversight for the distribution of funds for drug courts; (ii) providing technical assistance to drug courts (iii) providing training for judges who preside over drug courts; (iv) providing training to the providers of administrative, case management, and treatment services to drug courts; (v) monitoring the completion of evaluations of the effectiveness and efficiency of drug courts in the Commonwealth. Since then, all specialty dockets follow a similar administrative path.

How to Establish a Specialty Docket

1. The Docket Judge may contact the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia by email or letter of the intention to plan a specialty docket.
2. Local officials shall complete a planning process recognized by the state corresponding docket advisory committee before establishing a specialty docket. Planning team to include:
 - Judge, Prosecutor, Public Defender/Defense Attorney, Treatment Representative, Specialty Docket Coordinator/ Planning Coordinator, Probation, local Law Enforcement, Peer support specialist (Behavioral Health), Department of Veterans Services (Veterans), School Representative (Juvenile), Child Welfare Protective Services Rep. (Family), local ASAP Representative (DUI), and Additional members to represent stakeholders, local gov't administration.
3. Schedule required training:
 - a. Developing a Mental Health Court: Interdisciplinary Training (BHD)
 - b. Virginia Veterans Treatment Dockets Implementation Training (VTD)
 - c. All Rise Foundational Training (DTCD)
4. Request Application to Establish a Specialty Docket:
 - a. <https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/sds/home.html>
 - b. Applications are accepted year-round. The applications are reviewed by the corresponding State Advisory Committee. Drug Court applications are reviewed by the State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee/Operations Committee & forwarded to the full committee with recommendations for approval after all the questions are resolved.
 - c. Once the Drug Court Advisory Committee votes to approve your application, you are authorized to begin. After approved to operate, grants are available to apply for start-up funds or other program aspects such as drug testing.
5. Submit completed application with Policy and Procedures Manual and Participant Handbook to Ms. Anna Powers or SpecialtyDockets@vacourts.gov to forward to the appropriate statewide Advisory Committee for review.

10/11/2023

- a. The Advisory Committee chair will respond to the planning judge with requests for clarification and application approval status.
6. If approved, establish a local Advisory Committee as outlined in statutes. Advisory Committee membership shall include, but shall not be limited to the following people or their designees:
 - a. Specialty Docket Judge, Commonwealth's Attorney, Defense Attorney, Representative of the VDOC or the VDJJ, Rep. of community corrections/pretrial services, local law enforcement, Rep. of the local CSB/BHA, Dept. of Social Services, and County Administrator or City Manager.
 - b. Each advisory committee shall ensure quality, efficiency, and fairness in the planning implementation and operation of the Specialty Dockets that serve the jurisdiction or combination of jurisdictions.
 - c. Each local Advisory Committee shall establish criteria for the eligibility and participation of participants.
 - i. The establishment of a Specialty Docket's criteria shall not be construed as limiting the discretion of the attorney for the Commonwealth to prosecute any criminal case arising therein which he/she deems advisable to prosecute, except to the extent the participating attorney for the Commonwealth agrees to do so.
 - ii. Adult Offenders who have been convicted of a violent criminal offense within the preceding 10 years, or juvenile offenders who previously have been adjudicated not innocent of any such offense within the preceding 10 years, shall not be eligible for participation in any Drug Court established or continued in operation as defined in §17.1-805 or 19.2-297.1.
 - iii. The violent offense prohibition is not extended to Behavioral Health or Veterans Treatment Dockets.
 - d. Each Specialty Docket Advisory Committee shall establish policies and procedures for the operation of the docket to attain the goals to comply with the national Best Practice Standards.
 - e. Each Advisory Committee may develop guidelines for each participant to contribute to the cost of the treatment he/she receives while participating in the Docket.
7. Operational Specialty Dockets:
 - a. Must demonstrate compliance to the established corresponding Virginia Standards for your model of specialty docket.
 - b. Must commit to entering complete and accurate data into the Specialty Dockets Database established by the Office of the Executive Secretary.
 - c. Comply with oversight by the Office of the Executive Secretary.

Apowers@vacourts.gov, 804-786-3321, or Department of Judicial Services, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia, 100 Ninth St, Richmond, VA 23219.