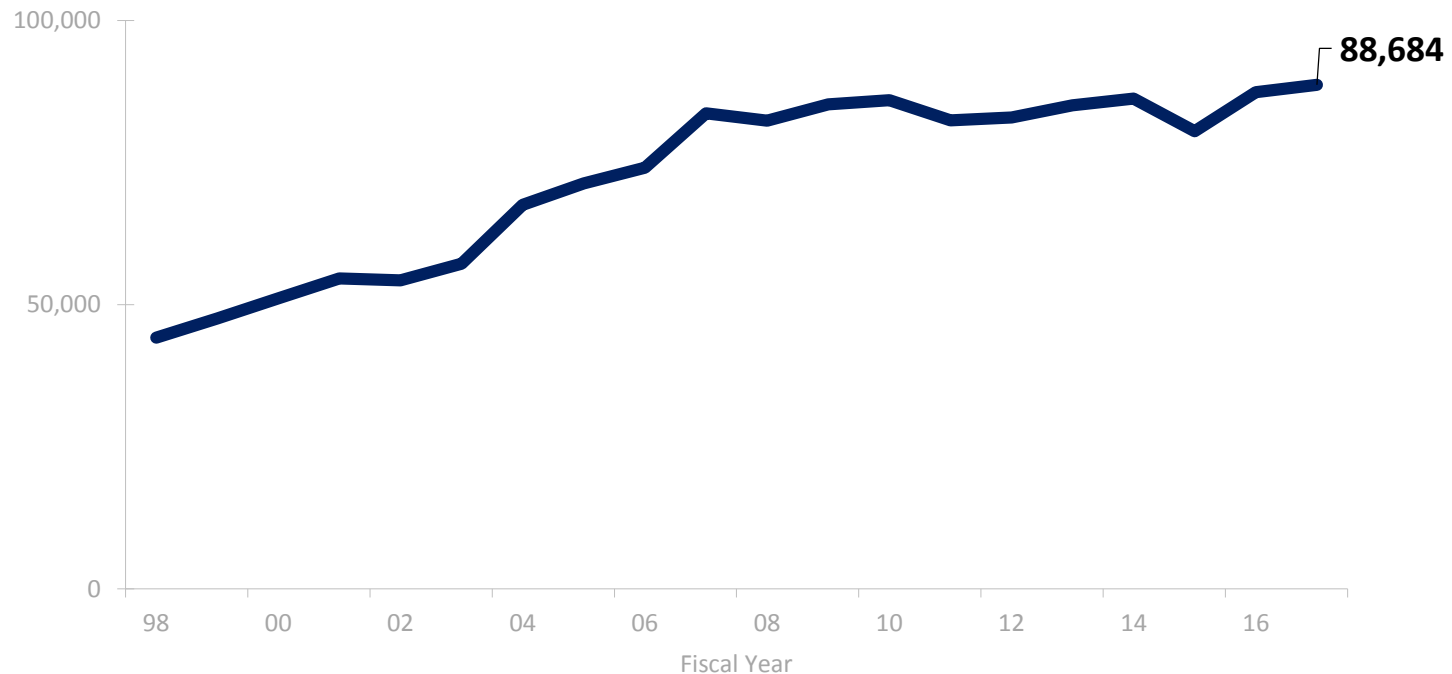


House Select Committee on Opioids and Substance Abuse

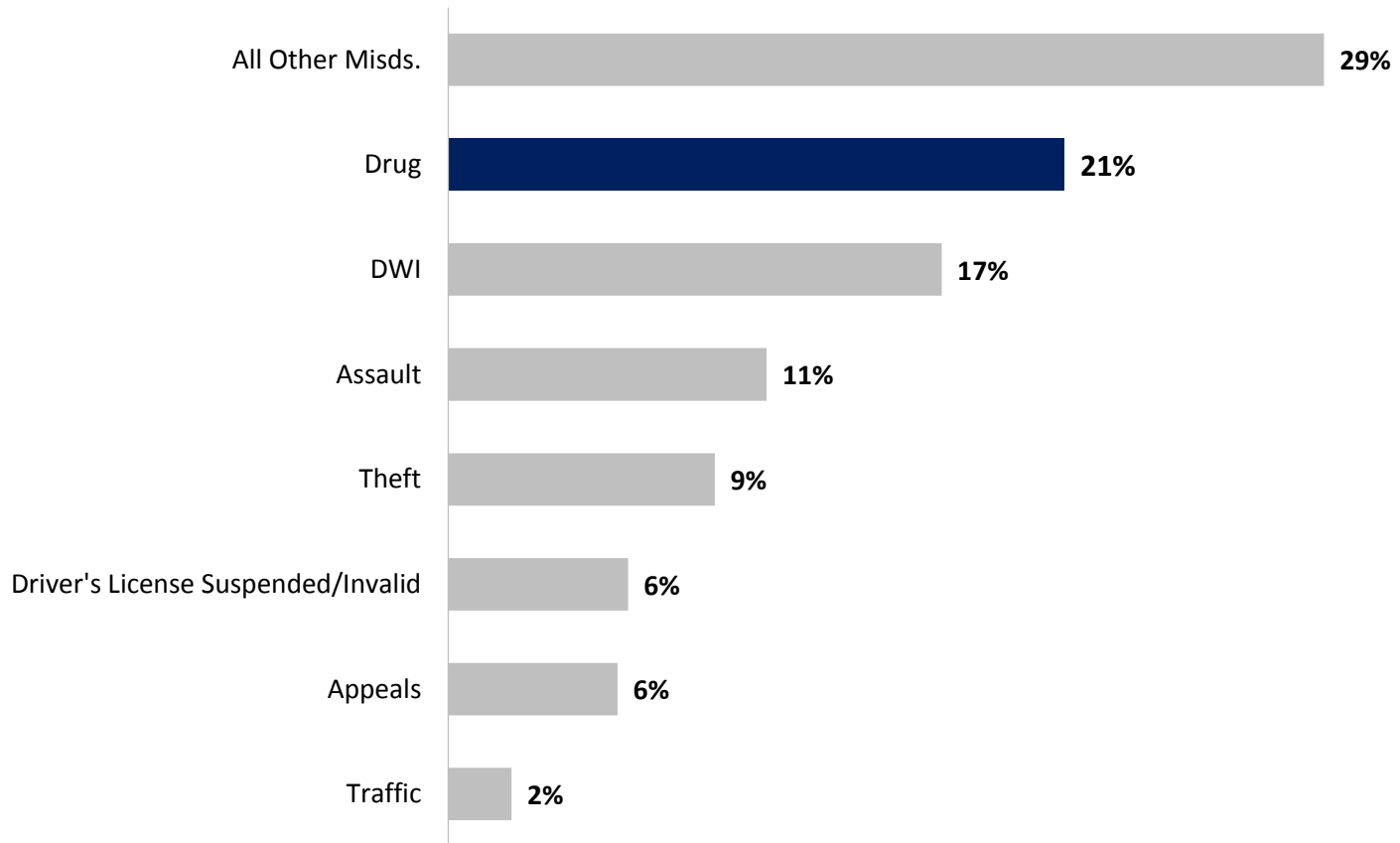
Written testimony by David Slayton
Executive Director, Texas Judicial Council
August 7, 2018



The number of new **misdemeanor drug possession** cases filed increased to a new peak in FY 2017

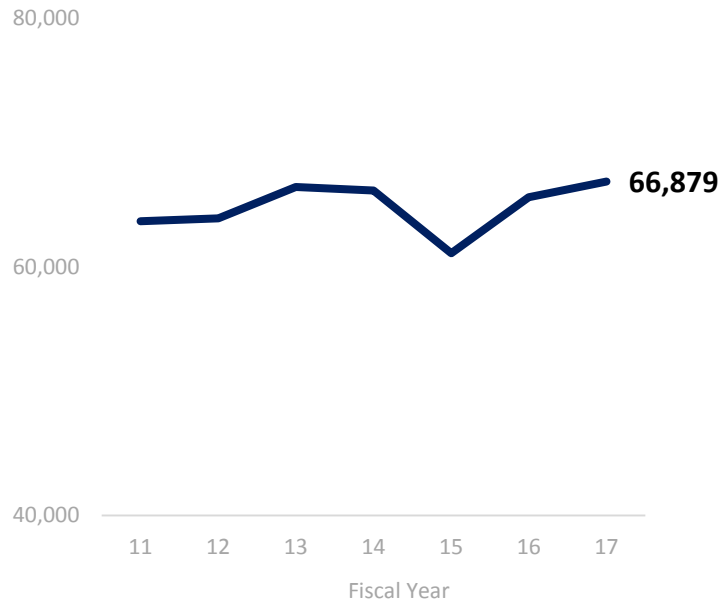


Misdemeanor drug possession cases accounted for more than 20 percent of criminal cases filed in FY 2017

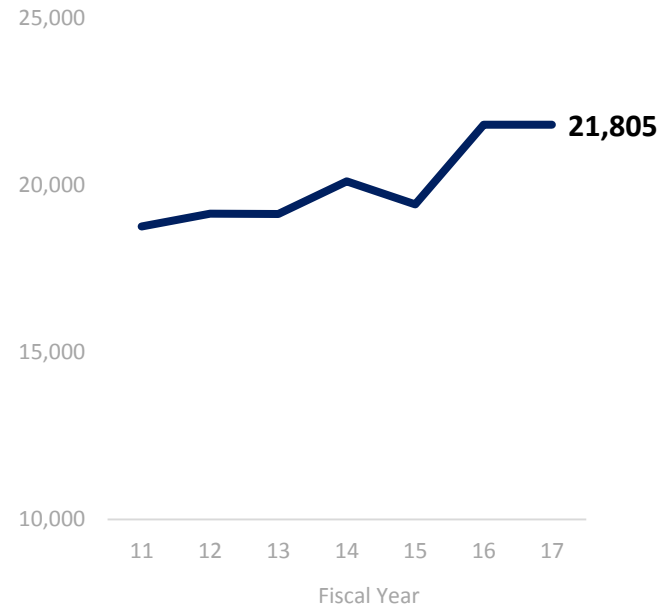


Misdemeanor Drug Possession Cases

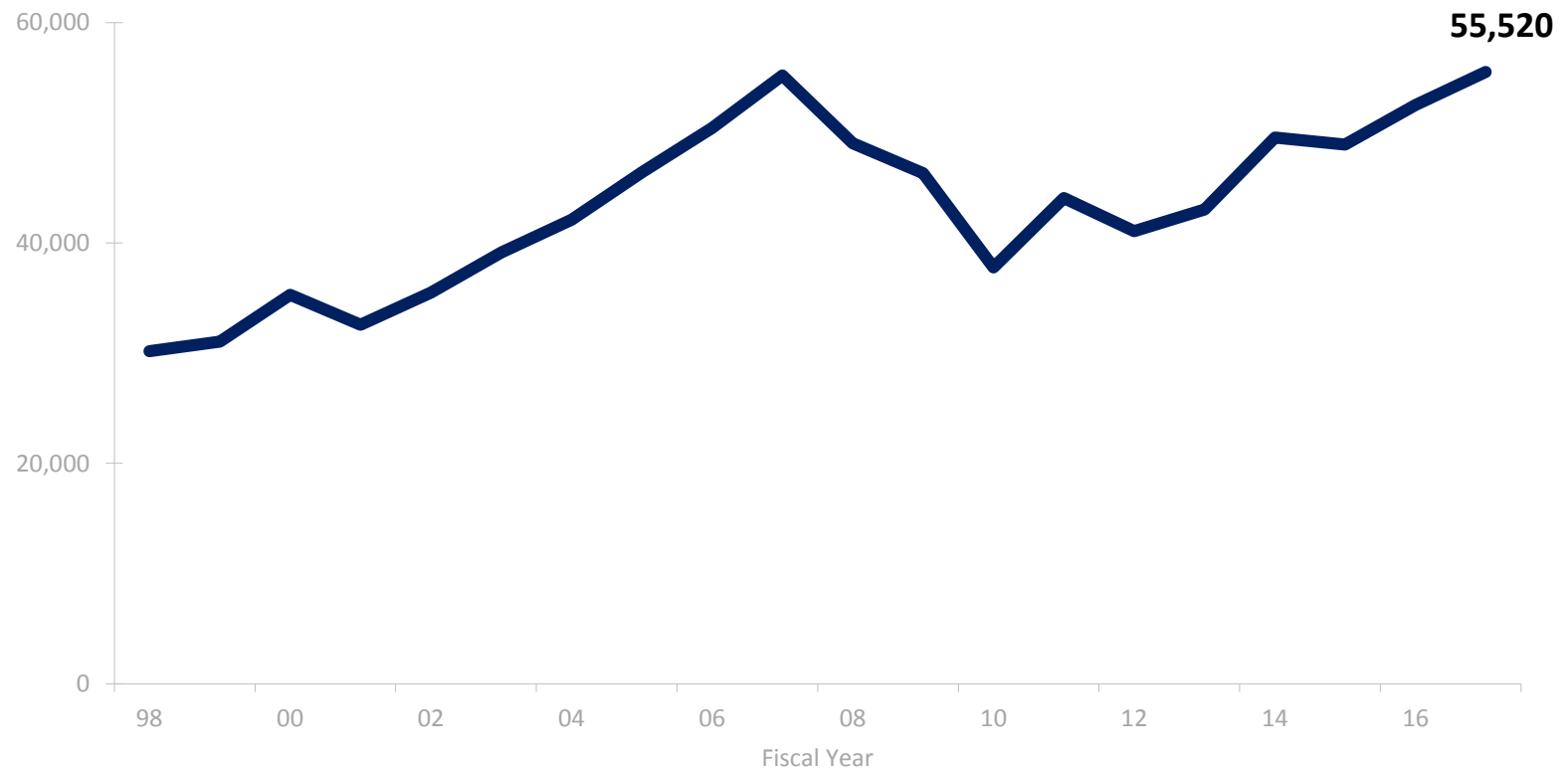
Marijuana



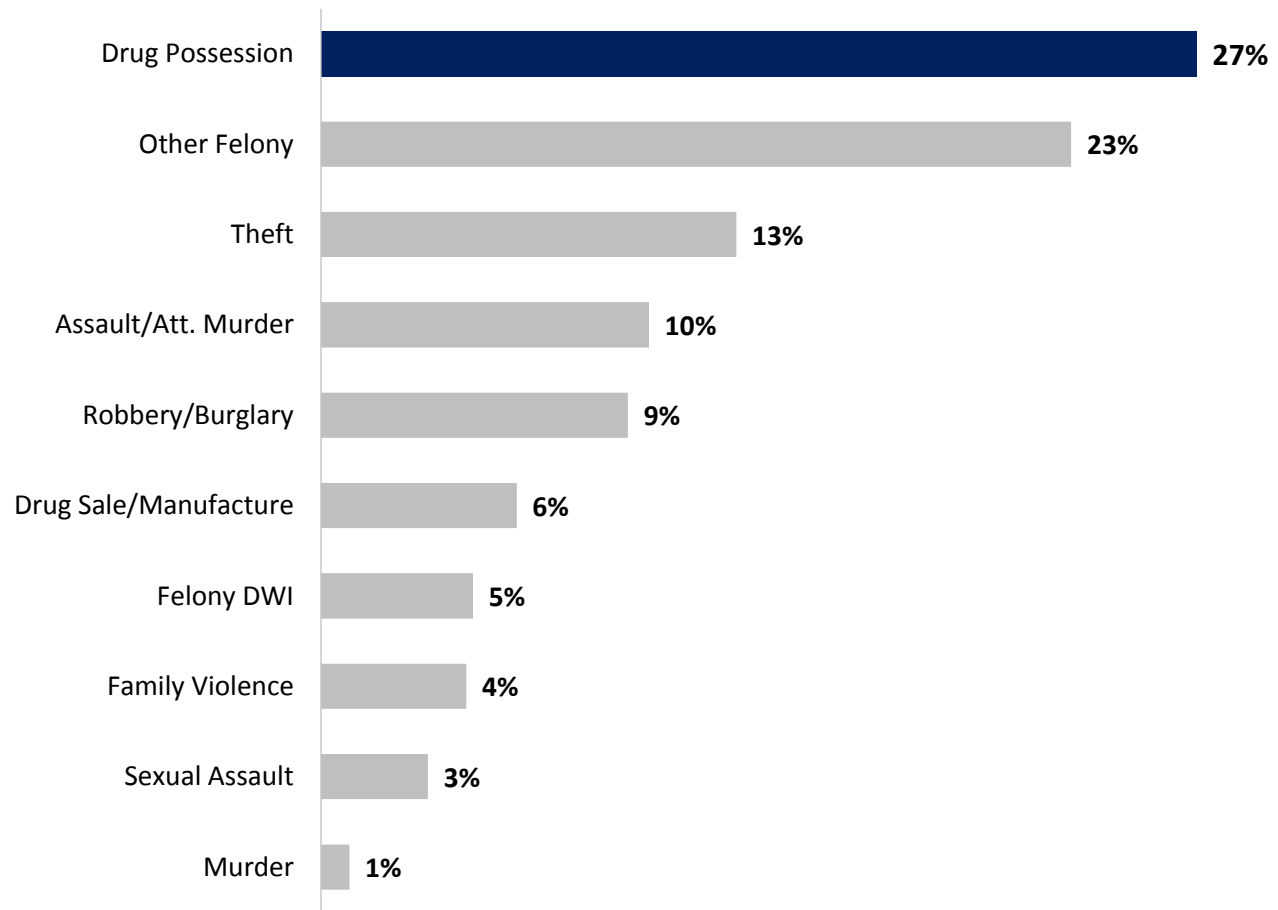
Other Drug Offenses



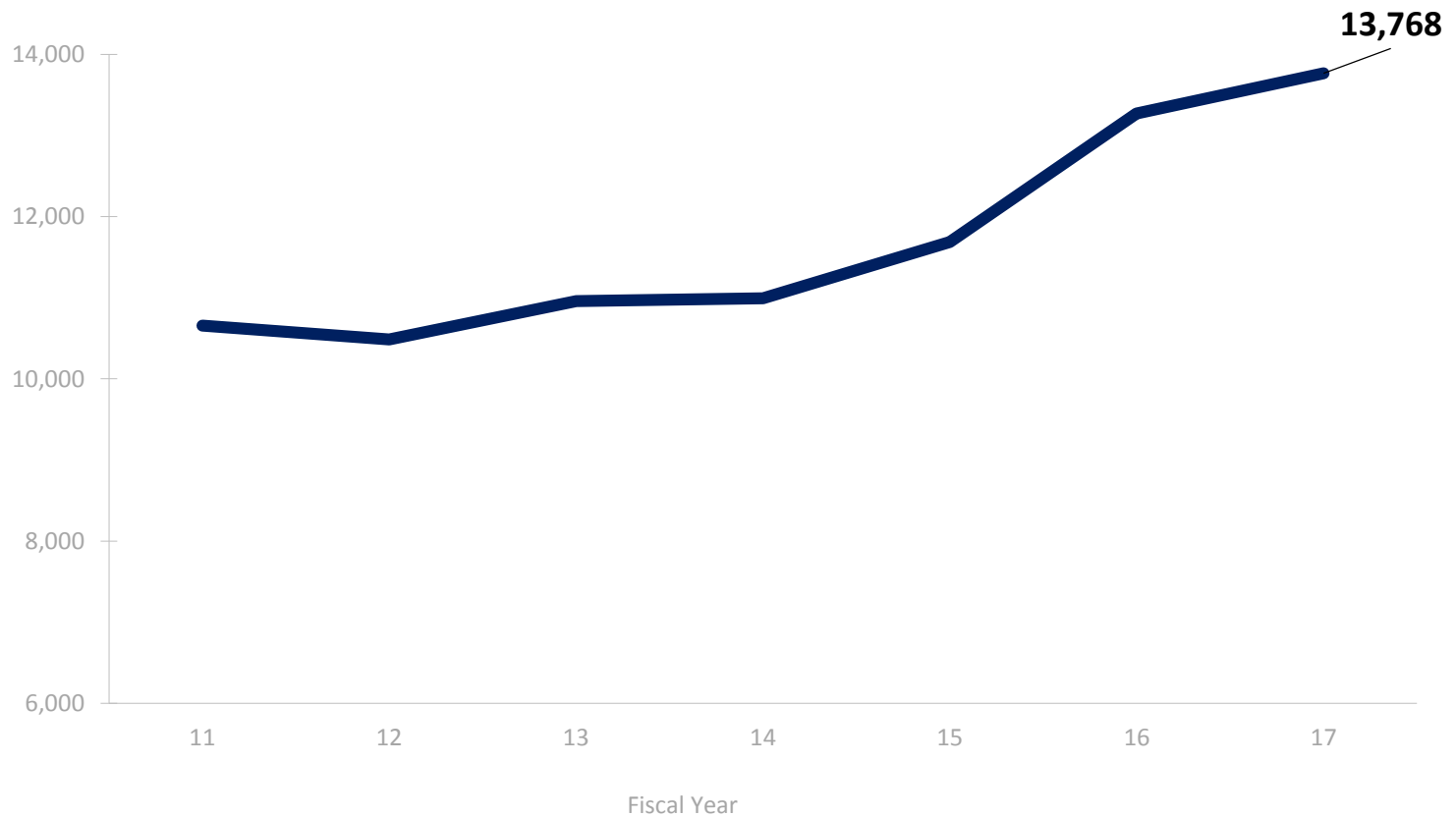
The number of new **felony drug possession** cases filed also increased to a new peak in FY 2017



Felony drug possession cases accounted for more than a quarter of criminal cases filed in FY 2017.



New **child protection** cases increased 29 percent over the last 5 years.



Specialty Courts Overview

- Texas specialty courts are “problem-solving” trial courts that seek to treat the underlying issues that bring people into court.
- Specialty court dockets operate across Texas, including DWI court, drug court, family drug court, veterans court, mental health court, and commercially sexually exploited persons court.
- Funding for specialty courts comes from a variety of sources, but the largest amount comes from the Texas Governor’s Criminal Justice Division (CJD).



Specialty Courts Across the State

Court Type	# of Courts
Drug Court (Adult and Juvenile)	75
Co-Occurring Disorder	5
Mental Health	20
DIVERT	3
DWI (Hybrid Included)	31
Family	11
Prostitution	6
Veterans	37
Domestic Violence	10
TOTAL	198



- 498 Respondents
- Survey open for two week period in April 2018

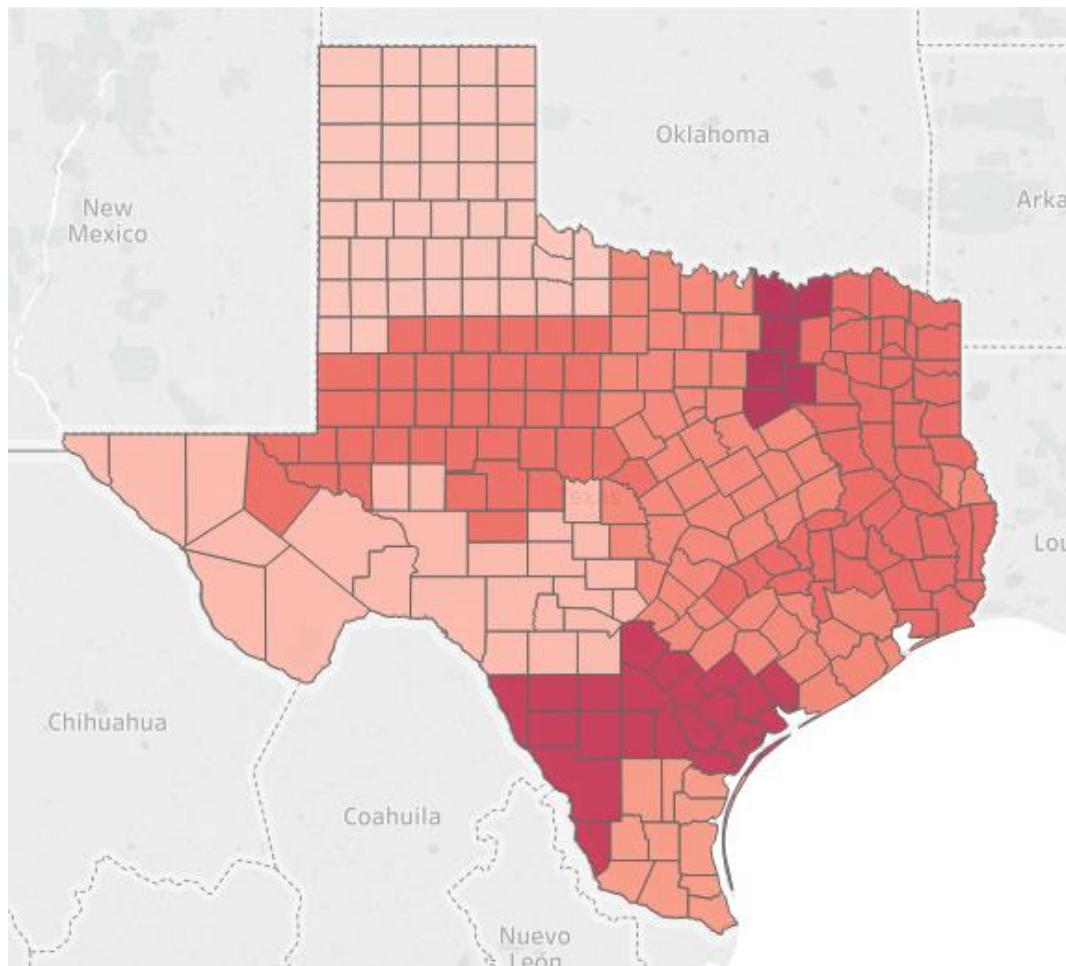
Breakdown of Respondents

- 25% Muni, 25% JP, 20% District, 20% County, 10% Associate/Magistrate
- 63% Criminal Jurisdiction
- 33% a Judge for more than 12 years

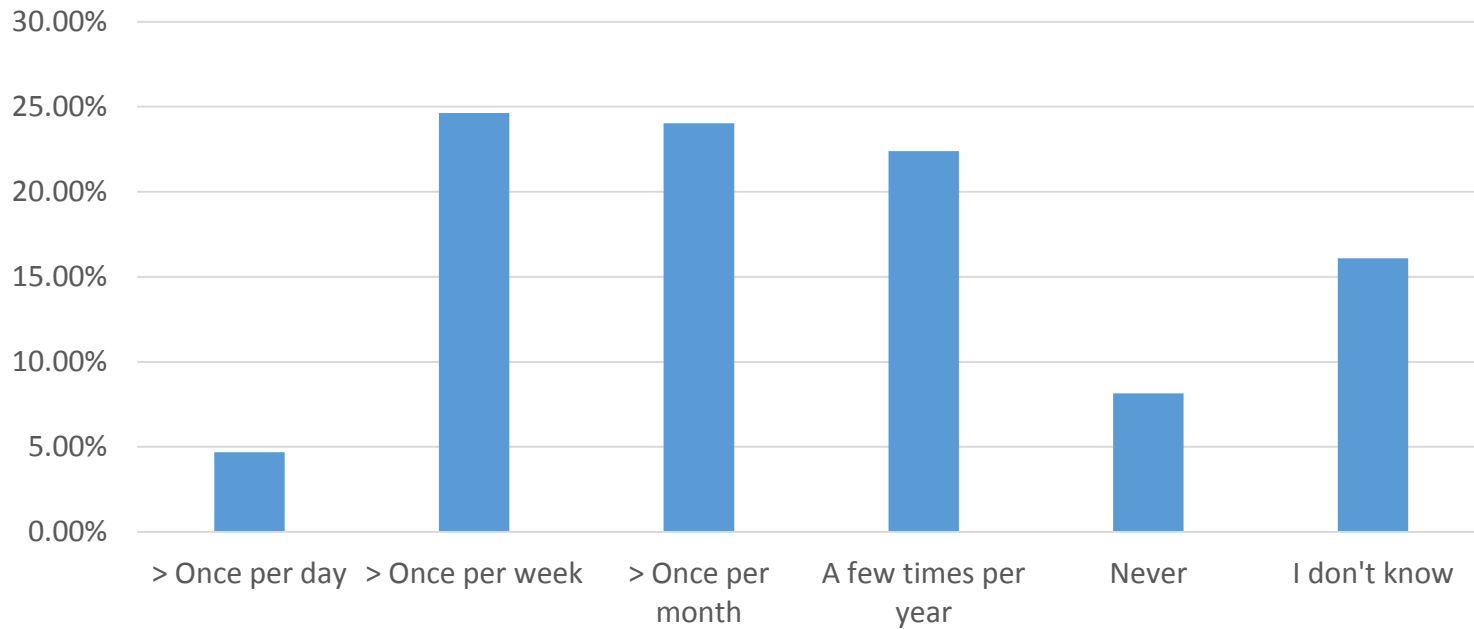
Survey of Texas Judges



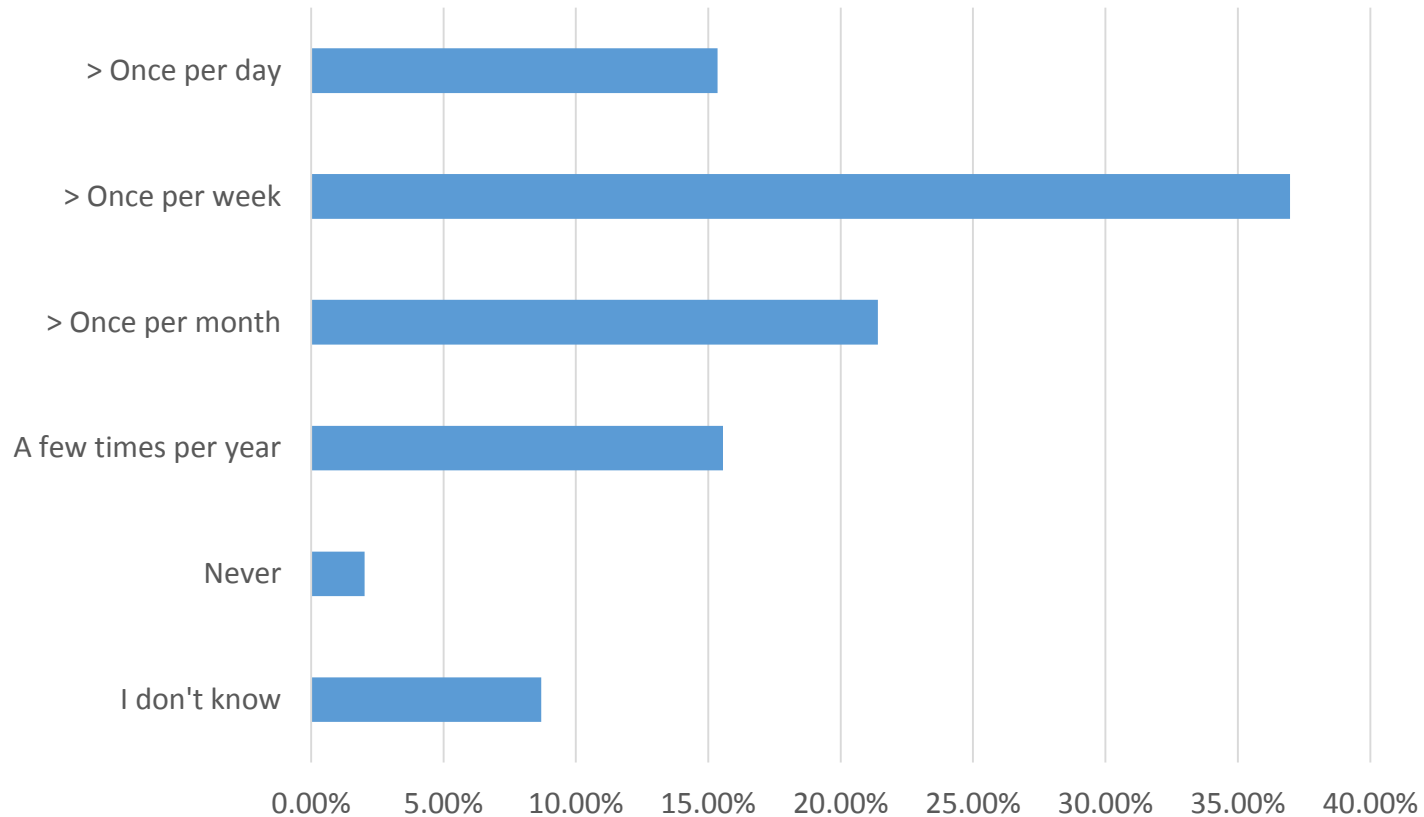
Over 70% of respondents view opioids as moderate or major problem.



Q7 - In your role as a judge or magistrate, how often do you see an individual in your court with an opioid addiction?



Q8 - In your role as a judge or magistrate, how often do you see an individual in your court with a drug addiction that is NOT opioid related?

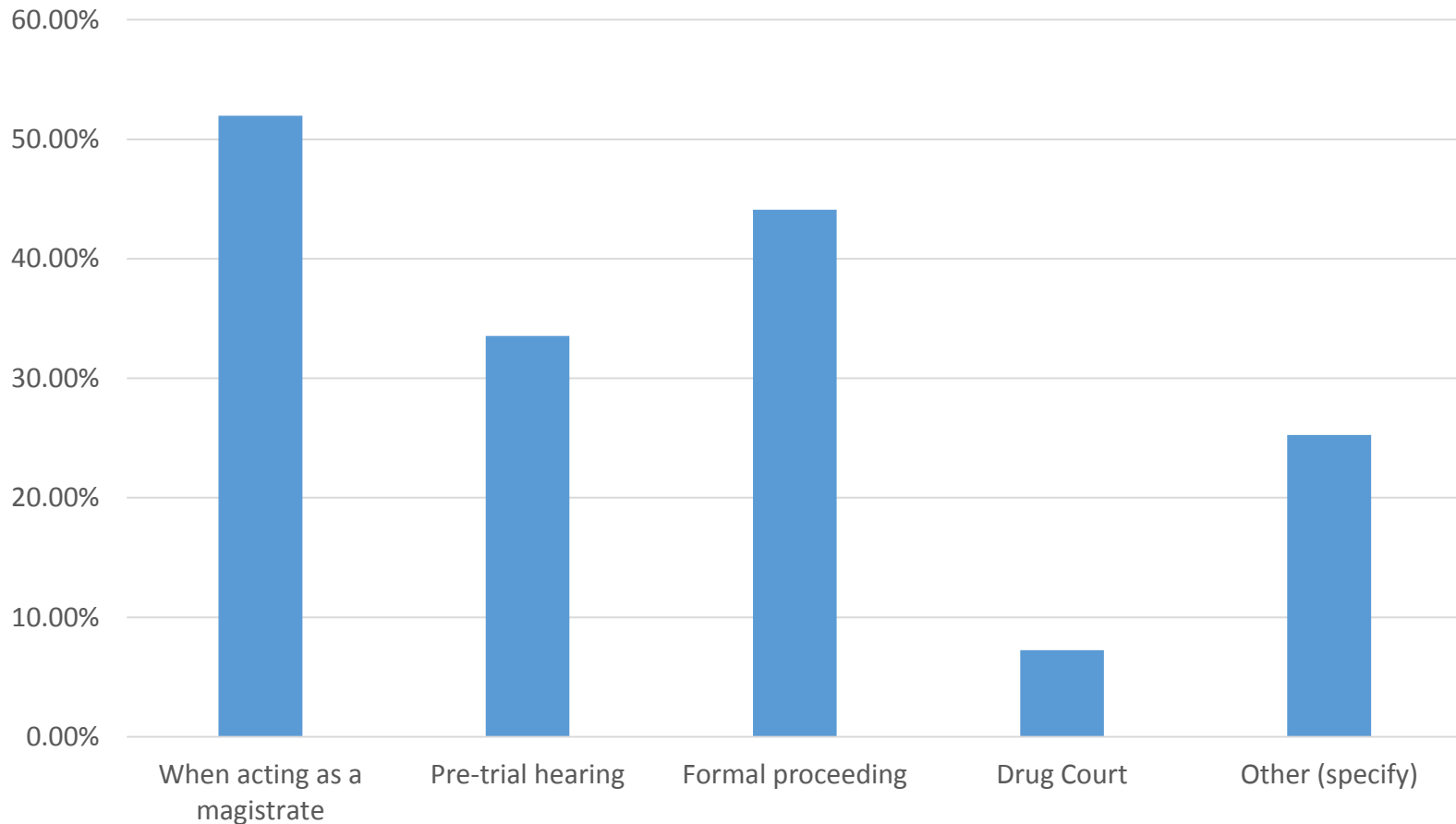


Top 3 Addictions Identified

- 63% Ranked Alcohol 1st
- 38% Ranked Methamphetamines 1st
- 54% Ranked Marijuana 2nd
- 64% Ranked Opioids 3rd, followed closely by Prescription Drugs at 61%



Q9 - In what type of court proceeding do you typically encounter an individual with a drug addiction? Check all that apply.



Top Resources Needed

- Additional Treatment Options
- Education
- Training
- Funding



Top Resources Needed by Court Type

Judge Role	Top Resource Needed
District	Additional Treatment Options
County Court at Law	Additional Treatment Options
County	Additional Treatment Options
Justice	Education
Municipal	Education
Magistrate	Education



Comments from Judges

- “We are up against many obstacles for individuals engaged in Medication-Assisted Treatment. Few inpatient treatment providers will work with them and sober housing providers do not want to house them. We also have a lack of education and support on how to support these individuals while on MAT.”
- “Methamphetamines are destroying our families and children. I would imagine that it is involved in 75% of the domestic cases I have and 85-90% of all of my criminal docket, which is huge in all three counties.”
- “Most crime can be traced back to drugs. The more we can do to try to stop the problem and end the revolving door to the criminal justice system, the better we can serve the community. Helping people become productive members of society is good for everyone and saves taxpayer money as well.”



Texas Judicial Council Recommendations

- The Legislature should establish a statewide Opioid Task Force to promote communication and collaboration between local and state leaders, experts, and advocates in confronting the opioid abuse and dependency epidemic as it crosses Texas.
- The Judicial Council should collect relevant case level data from all court levels including magistrates, to generate more timely and detailed information to support policy, planning, management, and budget decisions for the justice system. The collection of the relevant case level data should be fully funded by the Legislature.



Texas Judicial Council Recommendations

- The Legislature should amend Title 2, Subtitle K of the Government Code to provide the Judicial Branch with increased oversight of specialty courts.
- The Legislature should appropriate funds to the Office of Court Administration for the development of a statewide specialty court case management system.

