

# **BEXAR COUNTY**

## **Judicial Services**

### **BEXAR COUNTY JUDICIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT**

#### **SPECIALTY COURTS 1st QUARTER REPORT FY 2013-14 (October, 2013 - December, 2013)**

#### **JUDICIAL SYSTEM WORKLOAD AND EFFICIENCY MEASURES**

## **Brief Summary:**

This report is based on FY 2013-2014 between the months of October and December (Quarter 1). Bexar County operates ten Specialty Courts (also referred to commonly and in research as problem-solving courts), including,

- 1) Family Drug Court,
- 2) Felony Drug Court,
- 3) Felony Re-Entry Court,
- 4) Misdemeanor Drug Court,
- 5) Misdemeanor Mental Health Court, and
- 6) Misdemeanor Veterans Court
- 7) Misdemeanor DWI Court
- 8) Juvenile Mental Health\*
- 9) Juvenile Drug Court\*

\* For the purpose of this report, only data from the adult courts are being presented.

These Problem Solving Courts go beyond the traditional court functions of applying the law and deciding guilt and punishment, but work on modifying criminal behavior that's harmful and costly both to the people who engage in it or to the community. The Bexar County Specialty Courts, as most specialty courts nationwide, were established to help divert certain case types of defendants from the mainstream court adjudication processes to be dealt with in a different, individualized intensive manner as the traditional court processes were found to ineffective.

This report focuses on the following five measures and shows how the individual courts performed in each of these measures.

Measure 1: Incoming Cases

Measure 2: Number of Participants/Caseload

Measure 3: Number of Cases heard at Docket Meetings

Measure 4: Retention Rates

Measure 5; Completion Rates

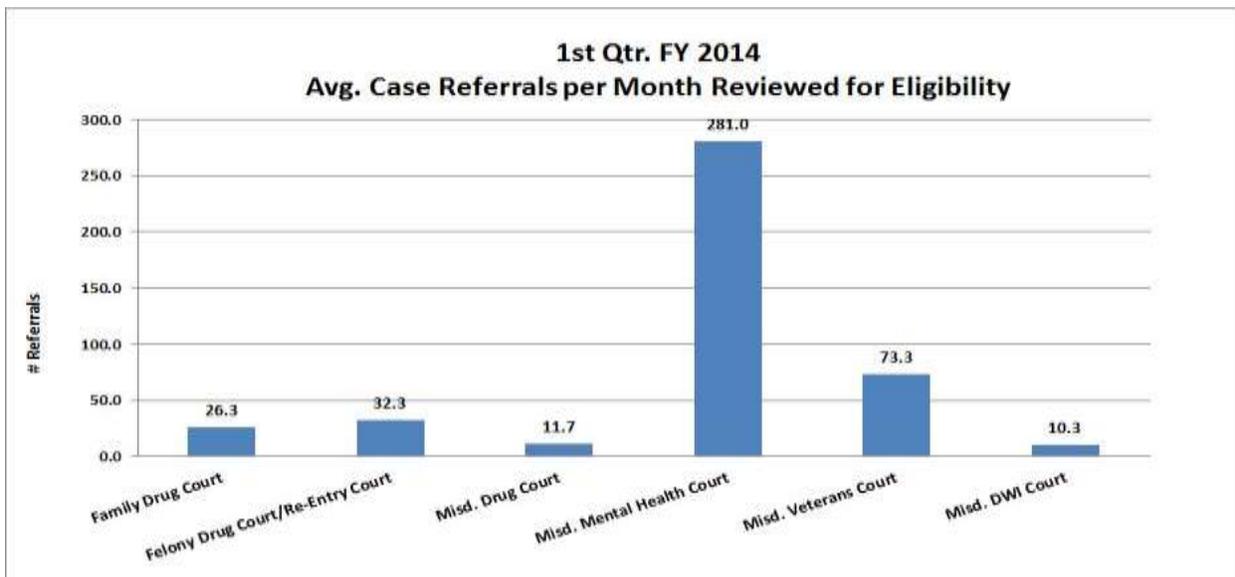
## Measure 1: Incoming Cases

**Definition:** The average monthly number of defendants or clientele referred to the Court and the number accepted into the program or denied due to ineligibility.

**Analysis and Interpretation:** The average monthly number of referrals to the Court is a measure of the incoming workload. Each referral is reviewed by staff from different agencies to determine eligibility to the program. The reviews result in the referrals being accepted or denied access into the program or still pending eligibility as staff waits for additional information. The following table shows the average monthly number of referrals reviewed by the Court staff during 1st Quarter FY 2013-14 and the results of those reviews. The first chart displays the average number of referrals for a month for each Court.

Average Monthly Cases Reviewed	1st Qtr. FY 2014				
	Reviewed	Pending	Accepted	Denied	Refused
Family Drug Court	26.3	21.3	4.3	16.3	3.7
Felony Drug Court (FDC)	30.3	8.3	11.7	7.3	3.0
Felony Re-Entry Court	2.0	inc FDC	2.0	0.0	inc FDC
Misdemeanor Drug Court	11.7	23.3	1.7	7.0	0.3
Misdemeanor Mental Health Court	281.0	35.7	14.7	77.3	9.3
Misdemeanor Veteran's Court	73.3	429.0	9.3	37.0	2.7
Misdemeanor DWI Court	10.3	41.3	1.0	10.0	0.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>435.0</b>	<b>559.0</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>155.0</b>	<b>19</b>

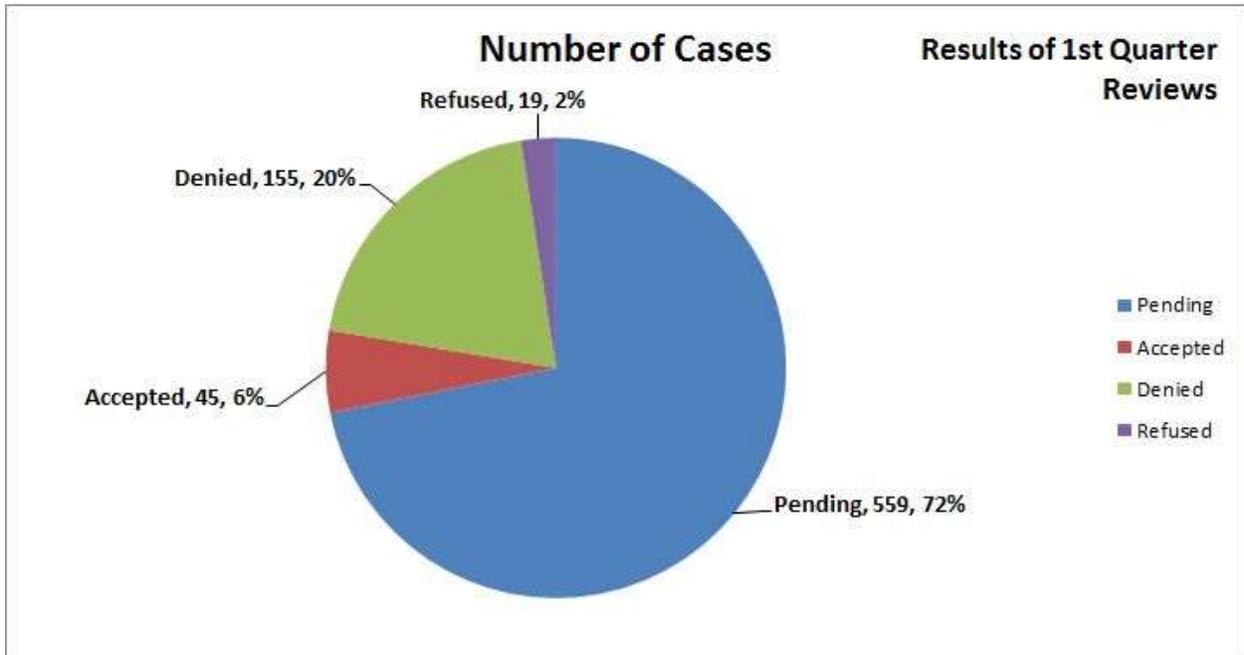
\* Felony Drug and Re-Entry Courts share the same referral process for incoming cases



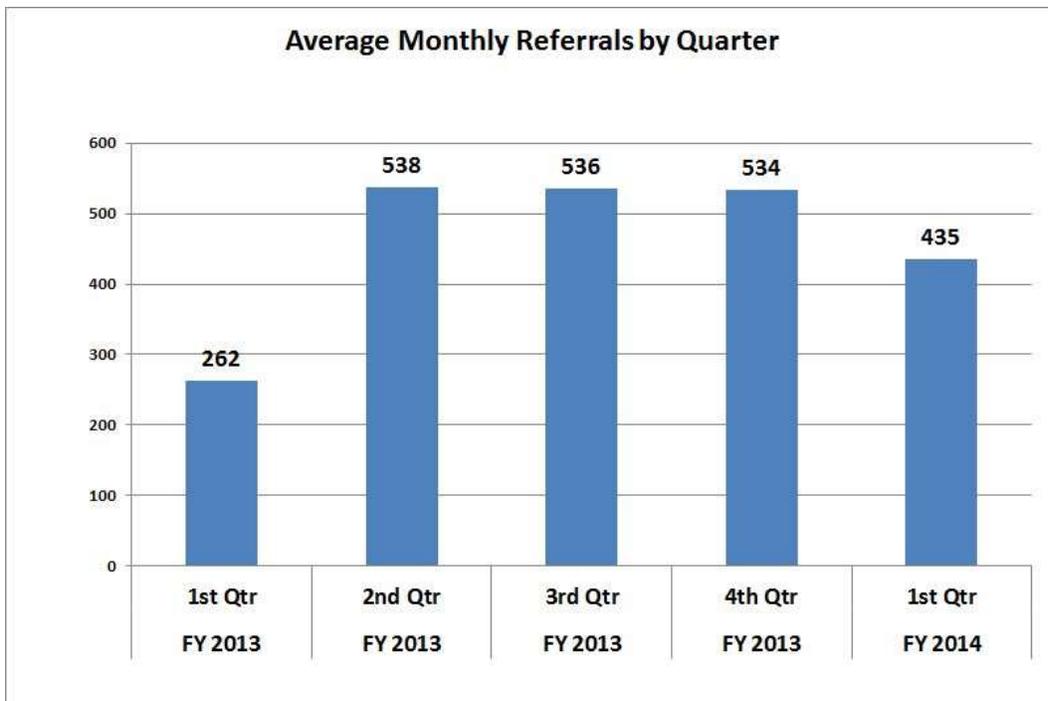
Reviews of incoming referrals can result in several outcomes,

- 1) Pending - staff is waiting for additional documentation before a decision is made for eligibility;
- 2) Accepted – staff has determined the referral is eligible for program participation and the clientele has accepted the program requirements;
- 3) Denied – staff has determined the referral is not eligible for the program; or
- 4) Refused – staff has determined the referral is eligible for the program, but the clientele has refused to participate due the program requirements.

The following chart shows the average monthly results of the referral reviews for eligibility for all the specialty courts.



The following chart displays a comparison of average monthly referrals for eligibility for all the specialty courts for this quarter compared with previous quarters.

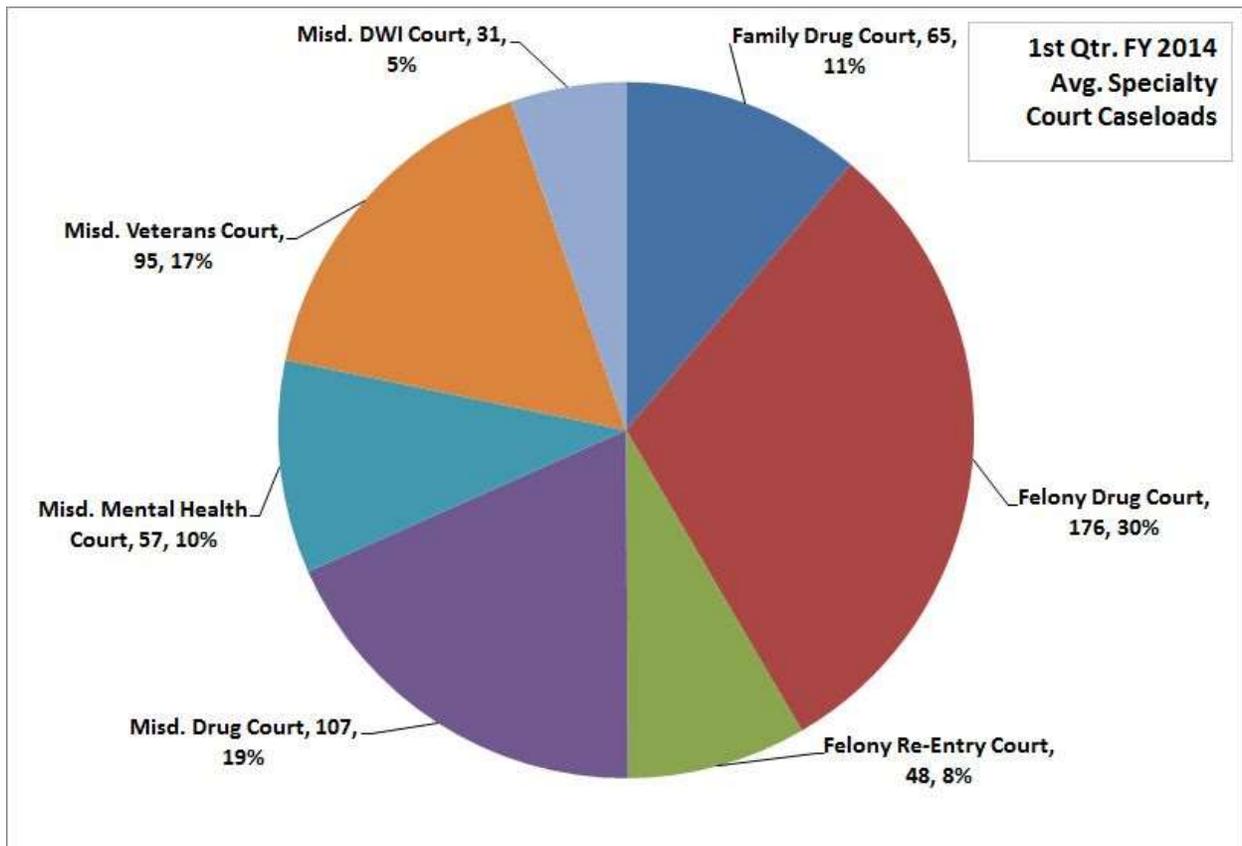


## Measure 2: Caseload

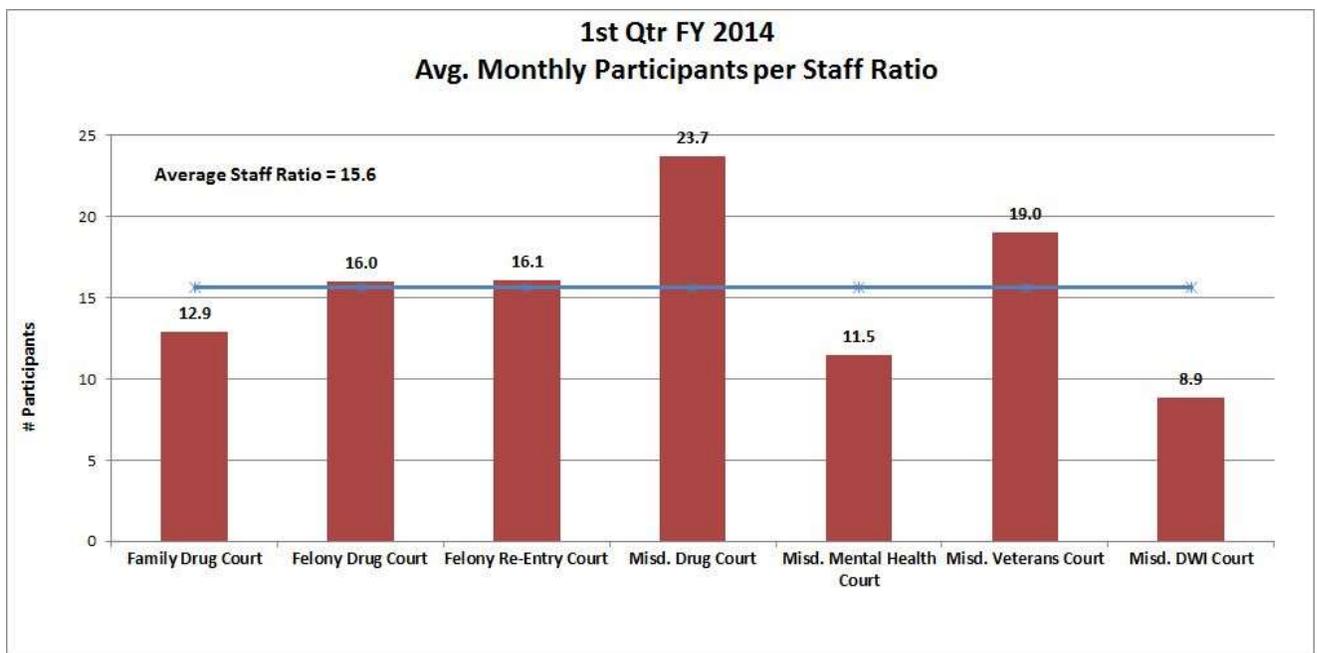
**Definition:** The caseload is the average monthly number of participants in the court program.

**Analysis and Interpretation:** The caseload is the number of program participants who are seen on a routine basis, their cases reviewed by staff regularly with the Court and the participant heard at Court dockets. The caseload measures the ongoing workload of the specialty court. The first table below displays the average caseload size during the 2nd Quarter FY 2013-14 for each specialty court. The second table lists the court staffing. The chart depicts the number of participants per staff ration for each specialty court. The final chart displays a comparison of the Participants per Staff Ratio with previous quarters.

Average Specialty Court Caseload	1st Qtr. FY 2014
<i>Family Drug Court</i>	65
<i>Felony Drug Court</i>	176
<i>Felony Re-Entry Court</i>	48
<i>Misdemeanor Drug Court</i>	107
<i>Misdemeanor Mental Health Court</i>	57
<i>Misdemeanor Veteran's Court</i>	95
<i>Misdemeanor DWI Court</i>	31



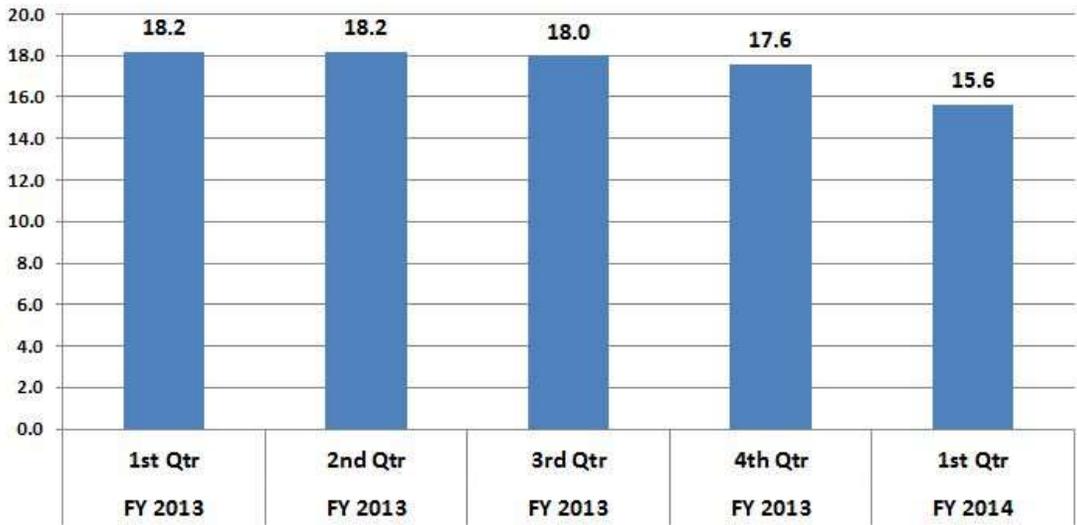
Average Specialty Court Caseload	1st Qtr Ave.	Staffing					Participants/Staff
		Crt Mgr/Prj Dir.	Case Mgr	Prob. Off.	Other	Total	
Family Drug Court	65	1	3	0	1	5	12.9
Felony Drug Court	176	0.5	4	4	2.5	11	16.0
Felony Re-Entry Court	48	0.5	1	1	0.5	3	16.1
Misdemeanor Drug Court	107	0.5	1	3	0	4.5	23.7
Misdemeanor Mental Health Court	57	1	2	1	1	5	11.5
Misdemeanor Veteran's Court	95	2	1	2	0	5	19.0
Misdemeanor DWI Court	31	0.5	1	1	1	3.5	8.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15.6</b>



**Note:**

- 1) Caseload standard is set by Community Justice Assistance Division (CJAD) of the TDCJ to be 45 cases per Probation Officer.
- 2) Bexar County staffing includes court managers or project directors, case managers, probation officers, associate judge and support staff, such as intake specialists or data analysts.

### Participants/Staffing Ratio by Quarter

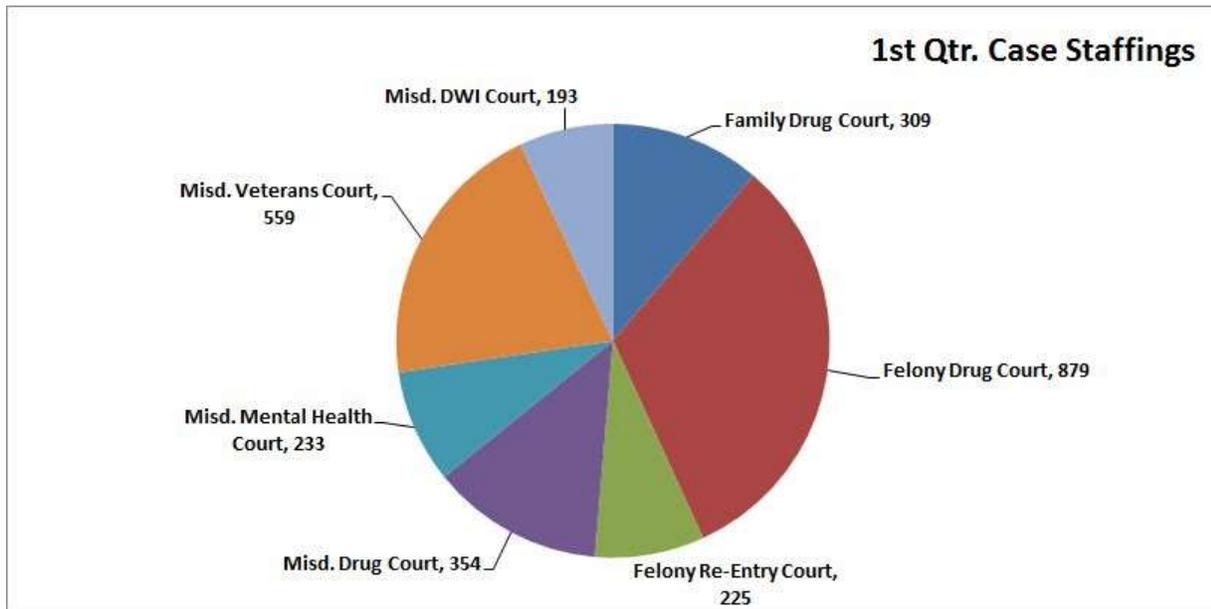


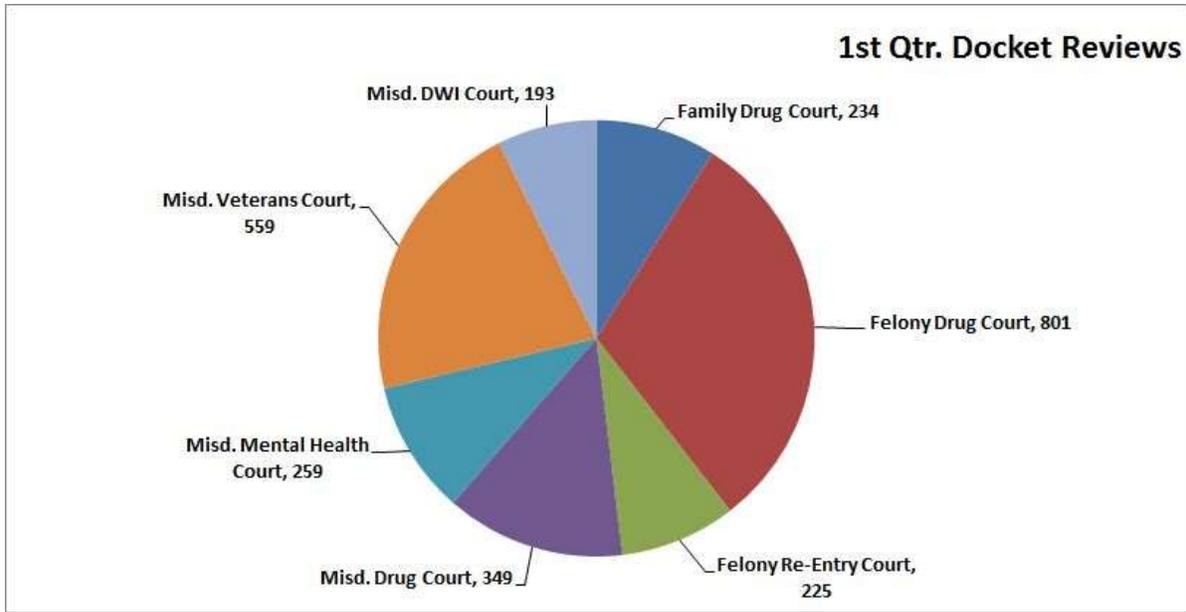
### Measure 3: Number of Case Reviews

**Definition:** The average number of case reviews monthly at staff meetings or during court sessions.

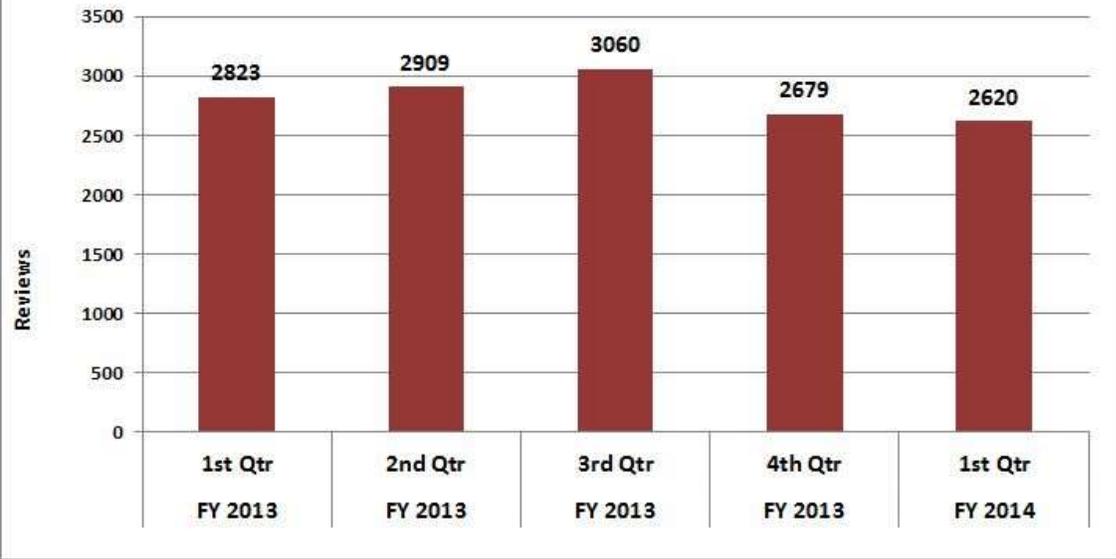
**Analysis and Interpretation:** The number of case reviewed during case staffings or court sessions is a measure of the daily case work. This is a measure of the court workload and represents the actual day to day workings of the Specialty Court. Participants in the case staffings include the Judge, probation officers, case managers, prosecuting attorneys defense attorneys and often representatives of the community providers. This measure takes into consideration the number of times the case staffing were conducted to discuss cases and the number of court sessions that were held with the participant present and interacting with the Judge. The following table displays the average number of case reviews in a month during the 1st Qtr. FY 2013-14. The following 2 charts provide a breakdown by specialty court the number of case staffings and dockets

Total Monthly Case Reviews	1stQtr.	
	Case Staffings	Dockets
Family Drug Court	309	234
Felony Drug Court	879	801
Felony Re-Entry Court	225	225
Misdemeanor Drug Court	354	349
Misdemeanor Mental Health Court	233	259
Misdemeanor Veteran's Court	559	559
Misdemeanor DWI Court	193	193
<b>Total Cases Reviewed</b>	<b>2752</b>	<b>2620</b>





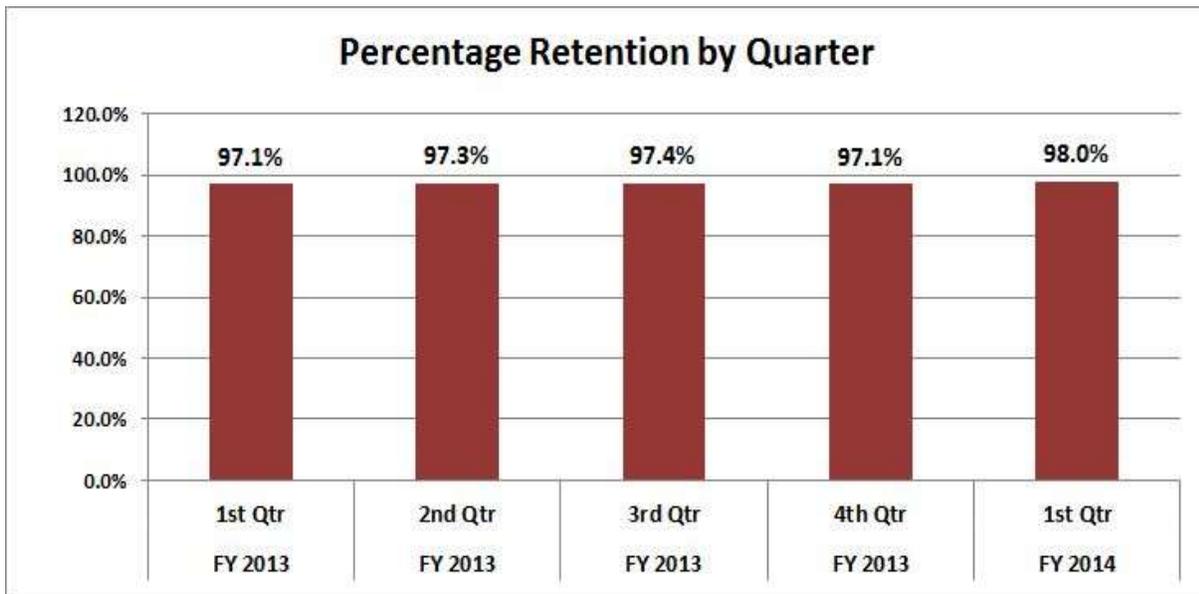
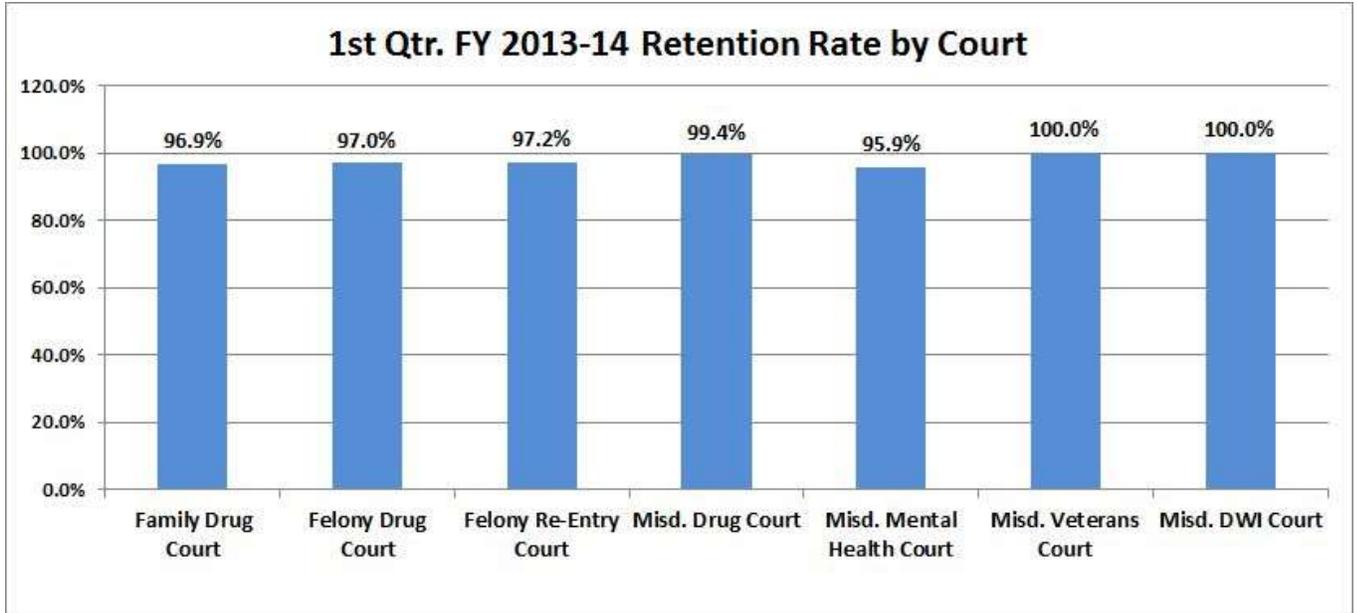
### Number of Docket Reviews by Quarter



## Measure 4: Retention Rates

**Definition:** The percentage of participants who remain in the program compared to the number of clients who exit the program.

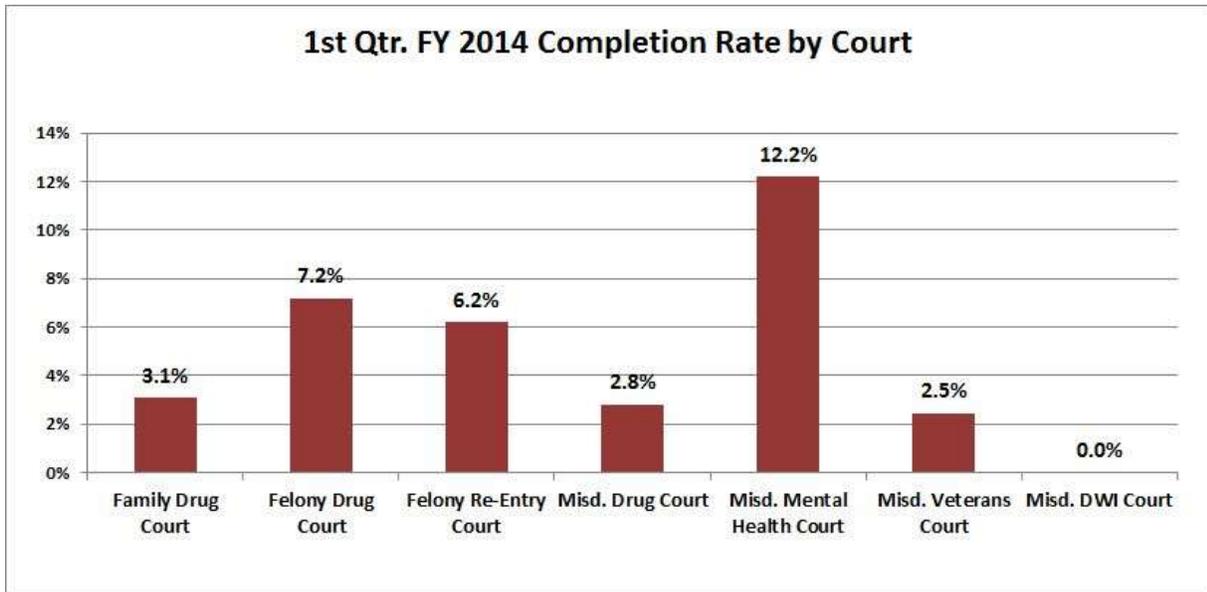
**Analysis and Interpretation:** The retention rate is the ratio, expressed as a percentage, of participants who exited the program during the quarter compared against the number of participants who remained in the program. The higher the retention rate reflects the level sustainability of the program. The first chart displays the retention rate by specialty court for the 1st Quarter of FY 2013-14. The second graph shows a comparison of the retention rate for the quarter with the previous quarters.



## Measure 5: Program Completion Rates

**Definition:** The percentage of clients who successfully complete the program compared to the number of participants in the program.

**Analysis and Interpretation:** The number of participants who successfully complete the program is a measure of the program's effectiveness. The completion rate is the ratio, expressed as a percentage, of participants who completed the program during the quarter compared against the number of participants in the program. The first chart displays the completion rate by specialty court for the 1st Quarter of FY 2013-14. The second graph shows a comparison of the completion rate for the quarter with the previous quarters.



*Note: Some Specialty Courts may only graduate participants on a semi-annual basis.*

