



National Prosecutors' Consortium

Survey Highlights

Connecticut

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CONNECTICUT REPORT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background.....	1	Specialty Courts.....	10
Methodology.....	1	Alternatives to Incarceration.....	12
The Current State: Connecticut.....	2	Specialized Programs.....	13
Overview: Types of Cases.....	2	Community Programs.....	14
Chief Prosecutor.....	4	Technology.....	15
Office Budget.....	4	Body-Worn Cameras.....	15
Starting Salaries.....	6	Websites.....	16
Case Processing	6	Research.....	16
Number of Employees.....	8	Conclusions.....	17
Prosecutor Initiatives.....	10		



BACKGROUND

The National Prosecutors' Consortium (NPC), a collaboration between Justice & Security Strategies (JSS) and the Prosecutors' Center for Excellence (PCE), is designed to collect information on innovative programs employed by prosecutors' offices, to assist prosecutors in developing and deploying new programs, and to expand the research capacities of prosecutors' offices. The team developed a survey that is being administered at the county level across the United States on a state-by-state basis. This survey seeks to accomplish two objectives to support prosecution needs: 1) collection of a thorough baseline of information on the operation of county prosecutors' offices across the country, and 2) identification of those offices that have adopted innovative programs.



METHODOLOGY

NPC conducted focus groups with prosecutors and prosecutor coordinating offices. As part of this effort, NPC identified the desired topic areas and reviewed survey questions. The survey is designed as an agency-based questionnaire intended to collect data on the characteristics and operations within each prosecutor's office. The survey is delivered through an online, secure, cloud-based service using the Qualtrics survey platform. States will be offered this survey on a rolling basis.

As part of the data quality assurance process, we have identified a battery of 84 questions that provide the core information of the survey. To minimize the proportion of missing data, the weighted number of completed responses is compared to a threshold. Offices in jurisdictions where the responses did not pass this threshold will be contacted and additional responses will be requested. This report discusses responses from all partially complete surveys, but there may be changes in the number of valid cases for some questions as follow-ups with agencies continue.

THE CURRENT STATE - CONNECTICUT

This report discusses results from the state of Connecticut. All prosecutors' offices operating in Connecticut's 13 judicial districts were contacted, and all 13 offices (100%) participated in the survey.

Figure 1 illustrates the coverage of judicial districts in Connecticut. As of April 10, 2019, all judicial districts have submitted survey responses.

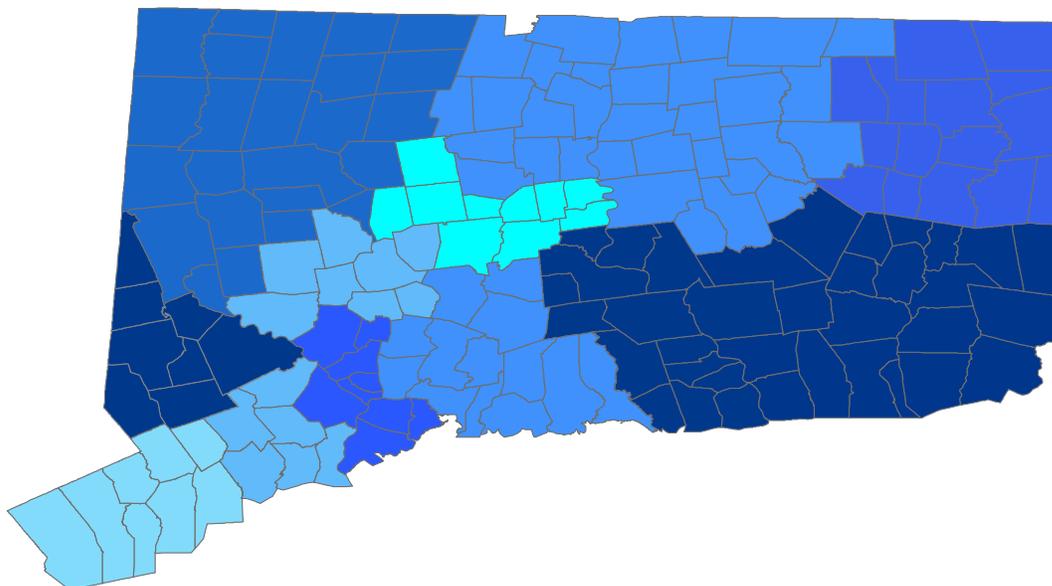


Figure 1. Surveys Completed by Connecticut Judicial District

TYPES OF CASES

Figure 2 depicts the percentage of prosecutors' offices handling specific types of cases. All offices reported handling all or at least some felonies, misdemeanors, and infraction cases. Ten offices (77%) reported handling juvenile cases. Approximately 69% of the responding offices (N = 13) reported handling civil matters. **Figure 3** highlights the percentage of prosecutors' offices involved in various types of civil matters. Of the 69% of offices that reported involvement in civil matters, all offices reported handling civil forfeitures. Mental health commitments were reported by six offices. Seven offices reported handling nuisance abatement and FOIA or other public information requests. No offices reported handling child protection, adult protection, or child support cases.

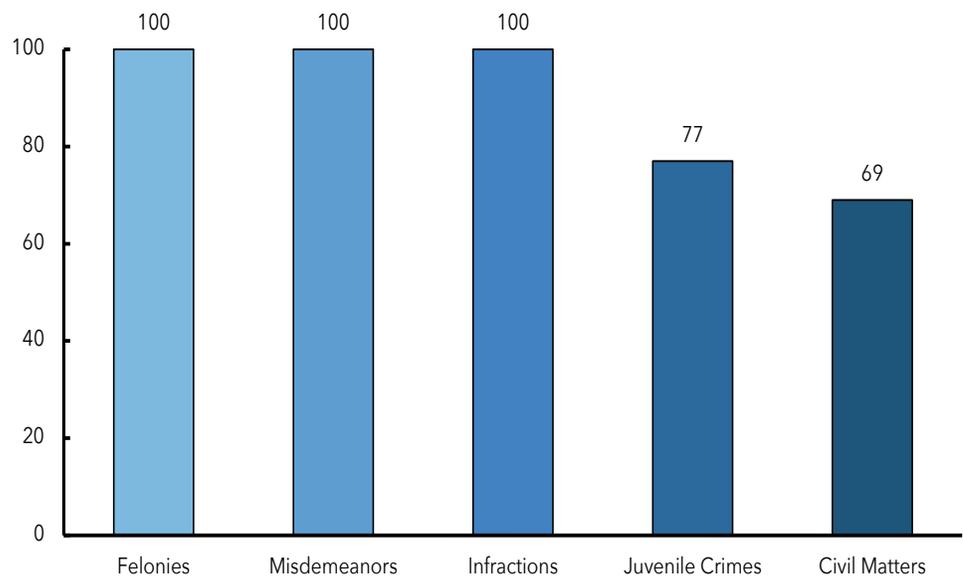


Figure 2. Percentage of Prosecutors' Offices with Jurisdiction over Cases by Type (N =13).

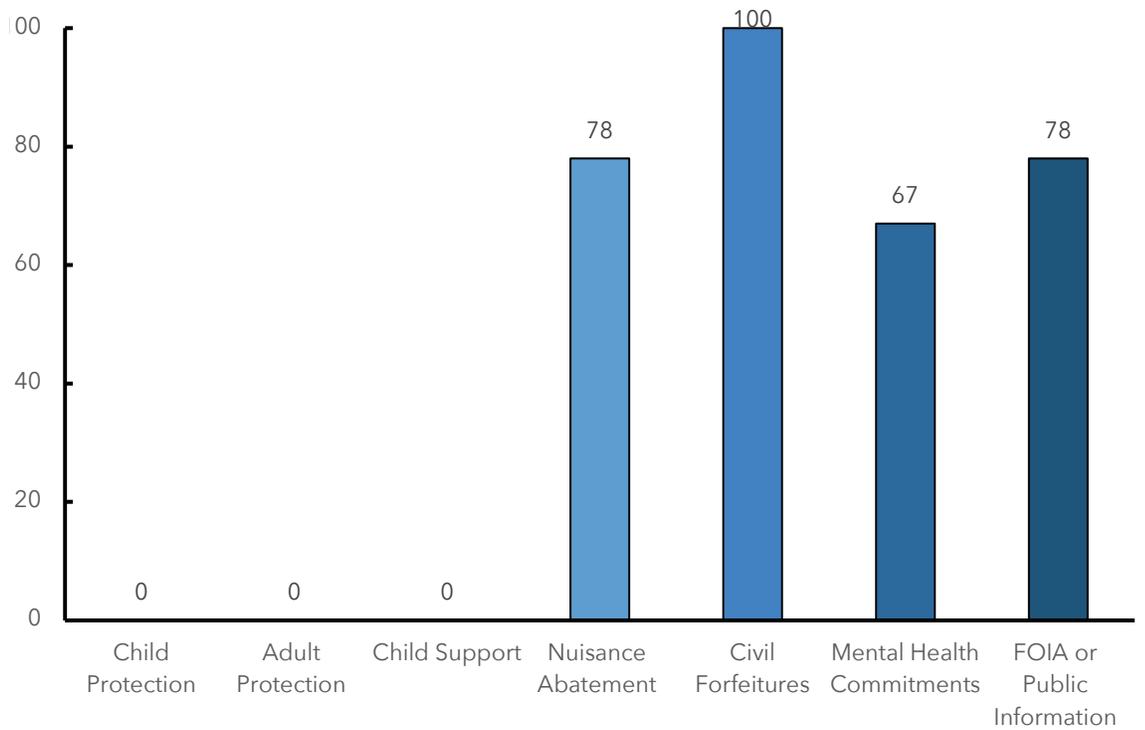


Figure 3. Percentage of Prosecutors' Offices with Jurisdiction over Civil Matters by Type (N = 9).

CHIEF PROSECUTOR

All 13 judicial districts indicated that their Chief Prosecutor was appointed. On average, the appointed Chief Prosecutors have been in office for approximately 8 years. The tenure of the Chief Prosecutor ranges from less than one year to 16 years. As seen in **Figure 4**, 23% of the Chief Prosecutors have held their positions for less than one year to two years, 15% 3-4 years, 8% 5-7 years, 15% 8-10 years, and 39% for over 10 years.

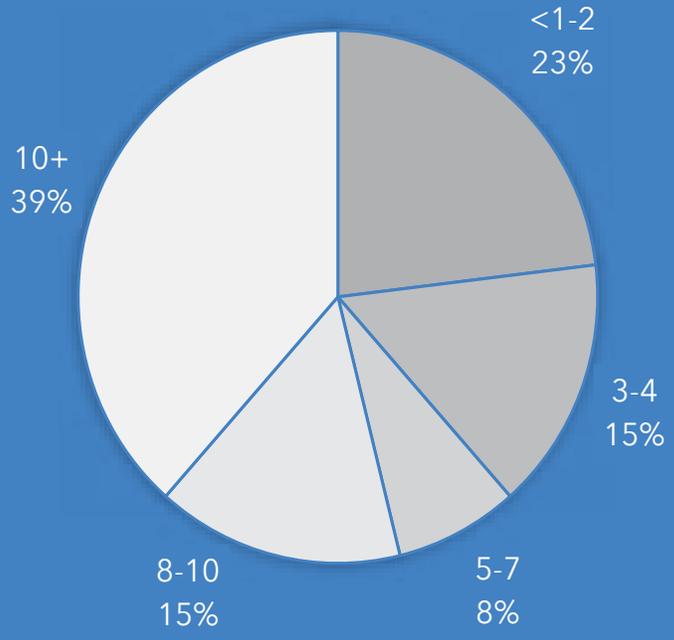


Figure 4. Chief Prosecutor Years in Office (N =13).

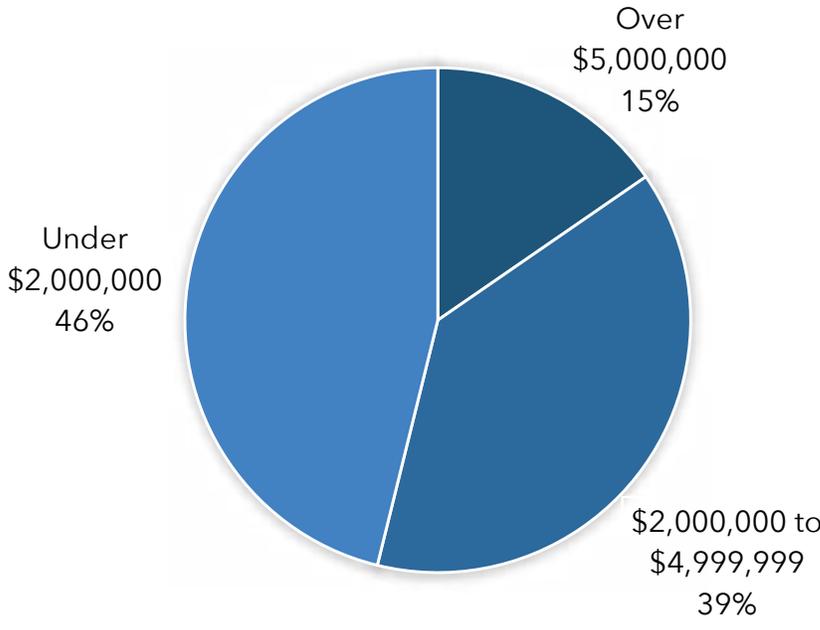


Figure 5. Ranges of 2018 Total Budgets (N = 13).

OFFICE BUDGET

The average 2018 budget for prosecutors' offices is approximately \$2,608,938, with a low value of \$1,138,523 and a high value of \$5,486,487. **Figure 5** depicts that 46% of the offices have a budget under \$2,000,000, 39% have budgets between \$2,000,000 and \$4,999,999, and 15% have budgets over \$5,000,000.

The average 2018 personnel budget for Connecticut prosecutors' offices is approximately \$2,537,762 with a range of \$1,396,718 to \$5,286,119. **Figure 6** shows that 46% of respondents have a personnel budget of under \$2,000,000, 46% have a personnel budget of \$2,000,000 to \$4,999,999, and 8% have a personnel budget over \$5,000,000.

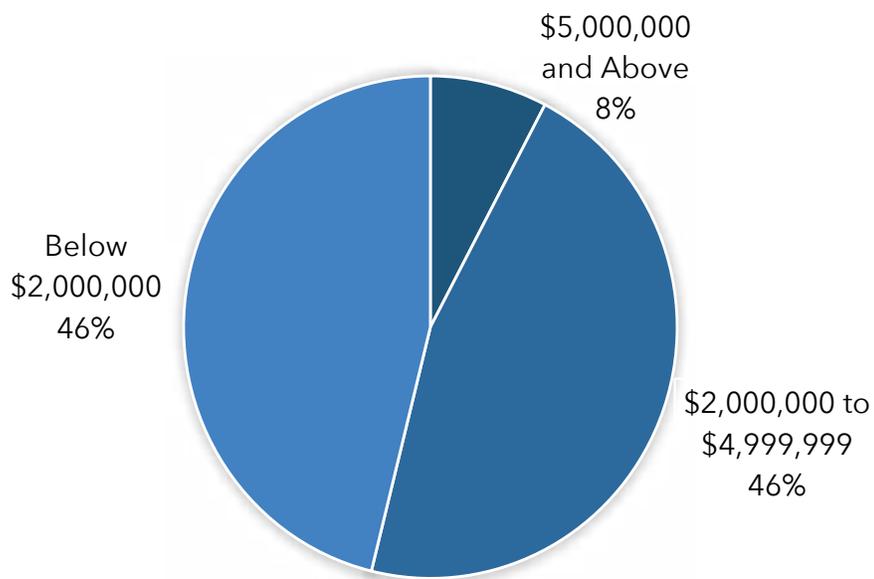


Figure 6. Ranges of 2018 Personnel Budgets (N = 13).

The average percentage of personnel to total budget by budget category is displayed in **Figure 7**. This graph provides a method to determine whether agencies with large budgets spend a disproportionate amount of their budget on personnel costs. From this graph it appears that average percentage of personnel to total budget is constant across budget categories with agencies spending an average of 97% of their total budgets on personnel costs.

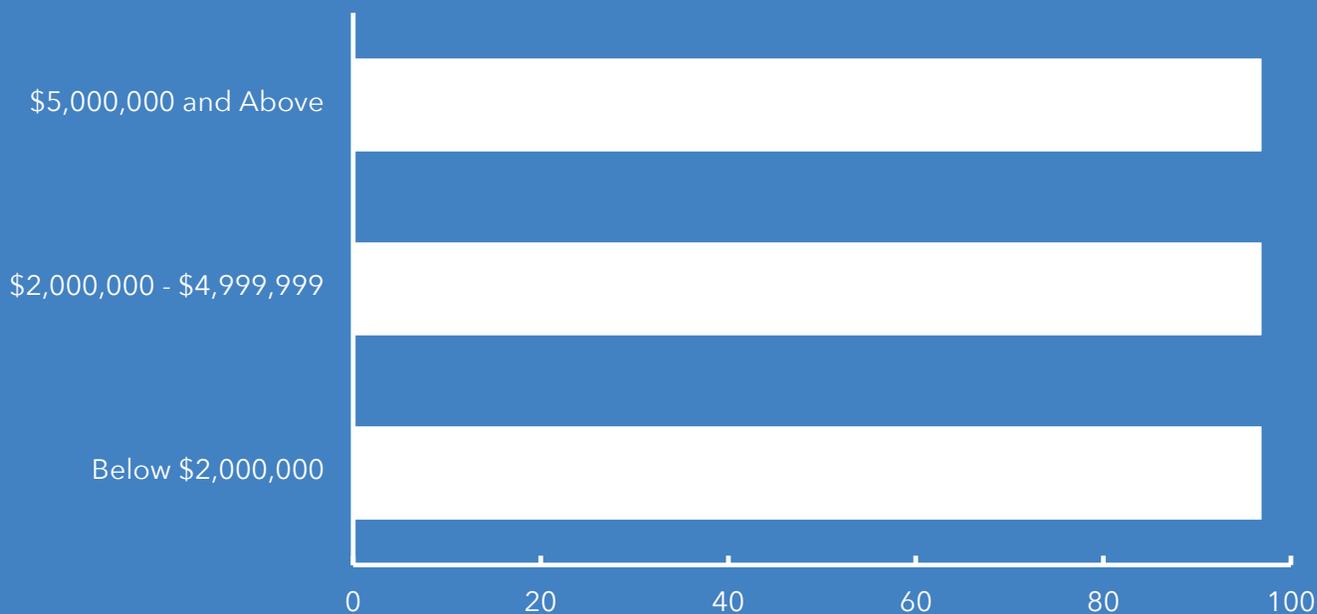


Figure 7. Average Percentage Personnel to Total Budget by Budget Category (N = 13).

STARTING SALARIES

The 2018 starting salaries of recently graduated law students hired as prosecutors in Connecticut ranged from a minimum of \$65,000 to a maximum of \$67,641. The average of the 12 responding offices was \$67,421.

CASE PROCESSING

In 2018, the offices surveyed averaged 2,026 felony cases charged, 688 cases convicted, and 423 cases diverted. Further, these offices reported 6,969 misdemeanor cases charged, 1,943 convicted, and 1,633 diverted. Finally, on average, the offices charged 696 juvenile cases resulting in 307 cases with convictions, and 140 cases diverted.

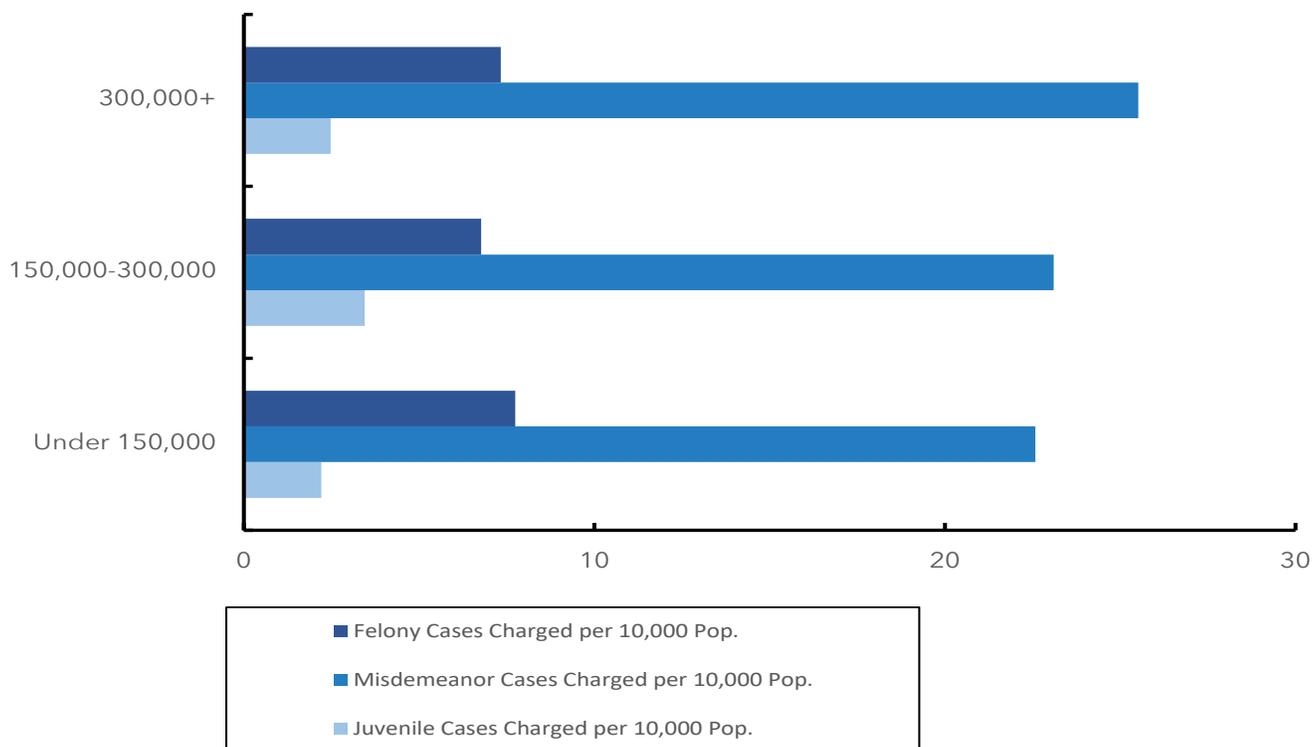


Figure 8. Cases Charged per 10,000 Population by Population Category (N = 13).

Figure 8 depicts the number of felonies, misdemeanors, and juvenile cases charged by judicial district population category in 2018. There is little variance in the number of felony and juvenile cases charged per capita. There are slight differences in rates of misdemeanor cases charged, as the largest judicial districts charge slightly more misdemeanors per 10,000 residents compared to smaller judicial districts.

Figure 9 below presents the average number of charged cases in 2018 per full-time attorney for felonies, misdemeanors, and both felonies and misdemeanors combined.* While these data are limited, the estimated workloads can provide a useful benchmark for agencies. Across reporting offices, there are an average of 132 charged felony cases per full-time attorney and 456 charged misdemeanor cases per full-time attorney. Overall, this resulted in an average of 587 charged misdemeanor and felony cases per full-time attorney.

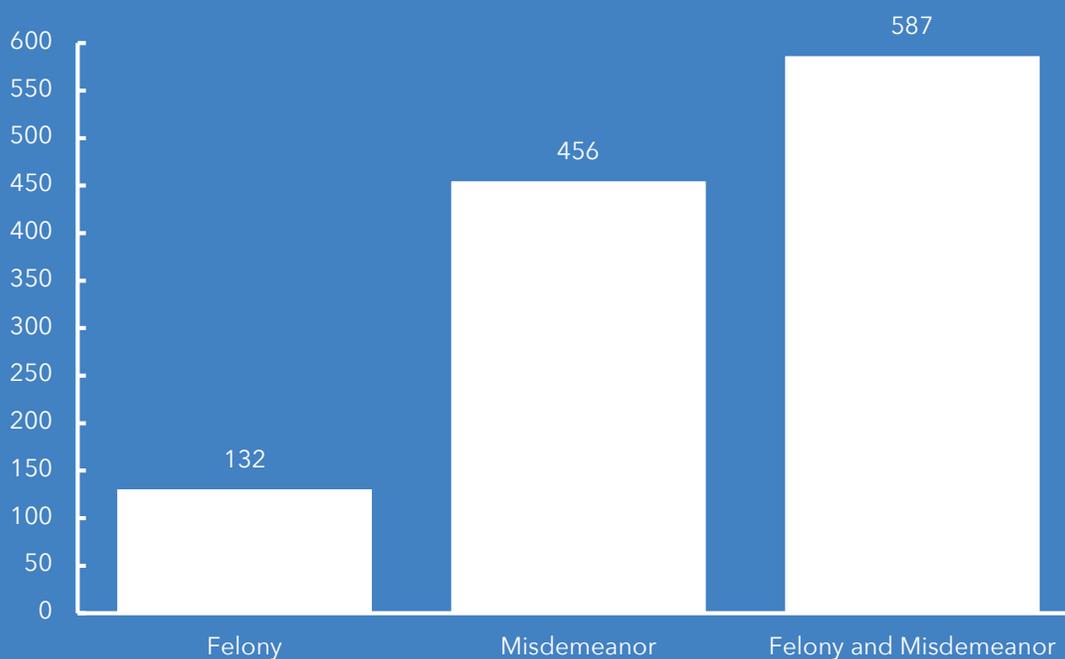


Figure 9. Average Number of Cases per Full-Time Attorney by Type of Case (N = 13).

**In other reports, this figure is based on the number of cases reviewed. Due to inaccurate and missing information on the number of cases reviewed by Connecticut prosecutors' offices, this table was changed to reflect the number of cases charged per full-time attorney. For this reason, comparisons to prosecutors' offices in other states is inappropriate.*



NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

On average, prosecutors' offices in Connecticut reported employing 15 full-time and 0.7 part-time attorneys. These offices also reported employing 11 full-time and 0.2 part-time non-attorneys.

Figure 10 presents the number of full-time employees per 10,000 population by population category. Offices covering between 150,000 and 299,999 residents have the lowest number of full-time attorneys, non-attorneys, and total employees per 10,000 residents. Offices covering less than 150,000 residents have the highest number of full-time attorneys, non-attorneys, and total employees per 10,000 residents.

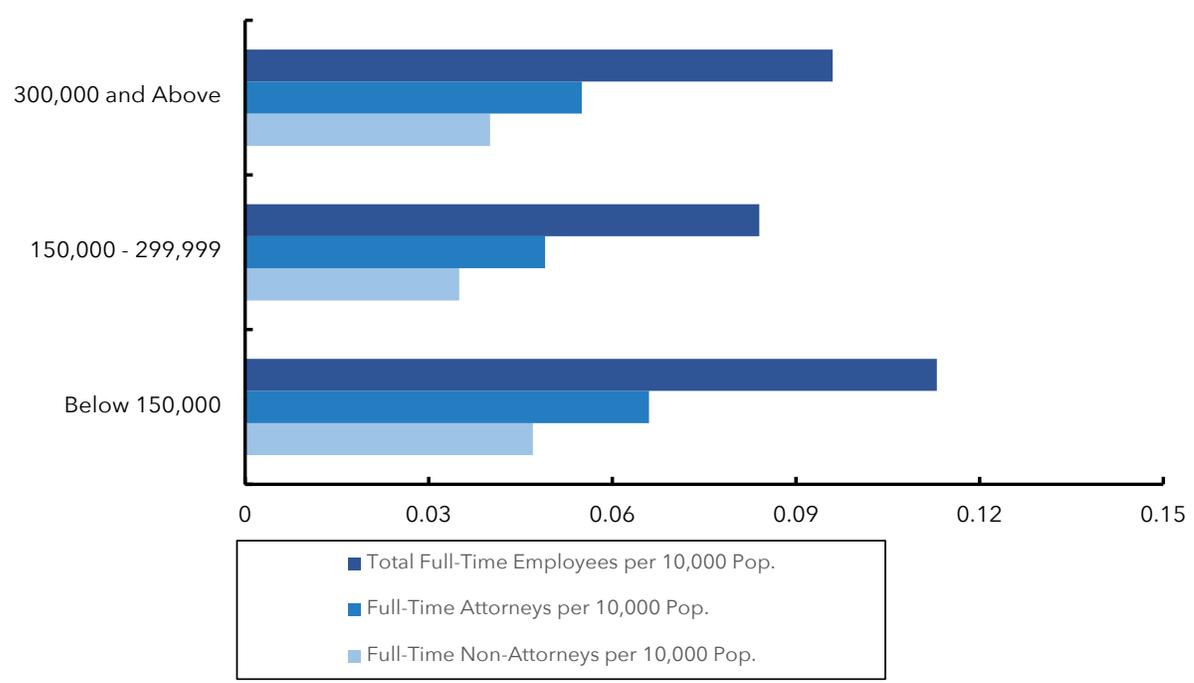


Figure 10. Full-Time Employees per 10,000 Population by Population Category (N = 13).

A different strategy for examining staffing information is to consider the ratio of staff to a measure of workload. Figure 11 presents the average number of full-time employees per 1,000 felony and misdemeanor cases charged. Judicial districts covering fewer than 150,000 residents have the highest number of full-time attorneys, non-attorneys, and total employees per 1,000 cases charged.

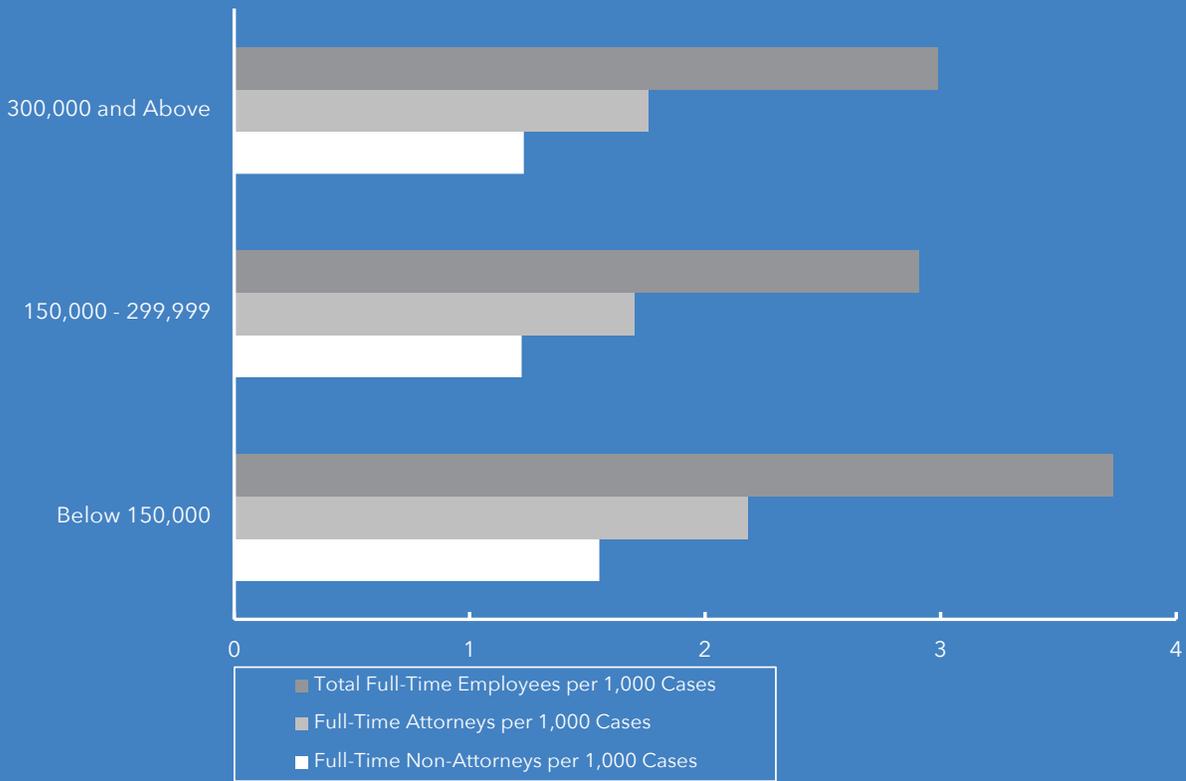


Figure 11. Average Number of Employees per 1,000 Felony and Misdemeanor Cases by Population Category (N = 13).



PROSECUTOR INITIATIVES

A total of 92% of offices reported engaging in problem solving courts or other programs that offer alternatives to incarceration in 2018. Over half of judicial districts reported that individuals with offenses involving low-level felonies (100%), misdemeanors (100%), and non-violent felonies (73%) are eligible for participation in these programs. A smaller number of offices (50%) reported that offenders with violent felonies are eligible for these programs.

SPECIALTY COURTS

We asked respondents about nine different types of specialty courts: Drug courts, Veterans' courts, Mental Health courts, Human Trafficking courts, Homeless courts, Alcohol/Sobriety courts, Domestic Violence courts, Community courts, and Re-entry courts. Figure 12 provides the frequency of judicial districts with each type of specialized court in 2018. While a large majority of judicial districts reported Domestic Violence courts (62%), fewer than half reported specialized Mental Health courts (23%), Community courts (23%), Alcohol/DUI courts (15%), Drug courts (15%), Veterans' courts (8%), and Re-entry courts (8%). None of the participating judicial districts reported specialized Human Trafficking or Homeless courts.

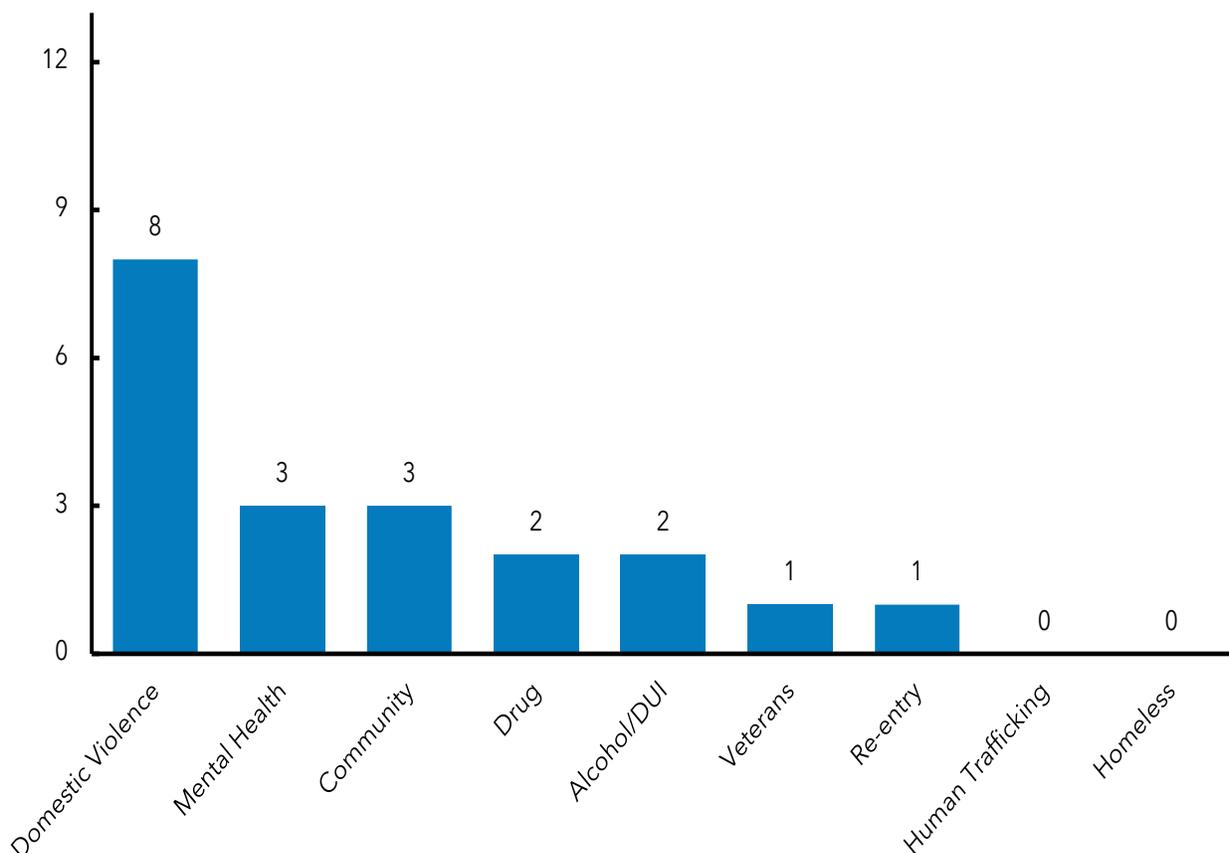


Figure 12. Number of Judicial Districts Reporting Specialized Courts by Type (N = 13).

Figure 13 shows the number of special court types compared to the population category of the judicial district. Judicial districts with 150,000 to 299,999 residents have on average nearly 2.5 special court types compared to 1 for the other categories.

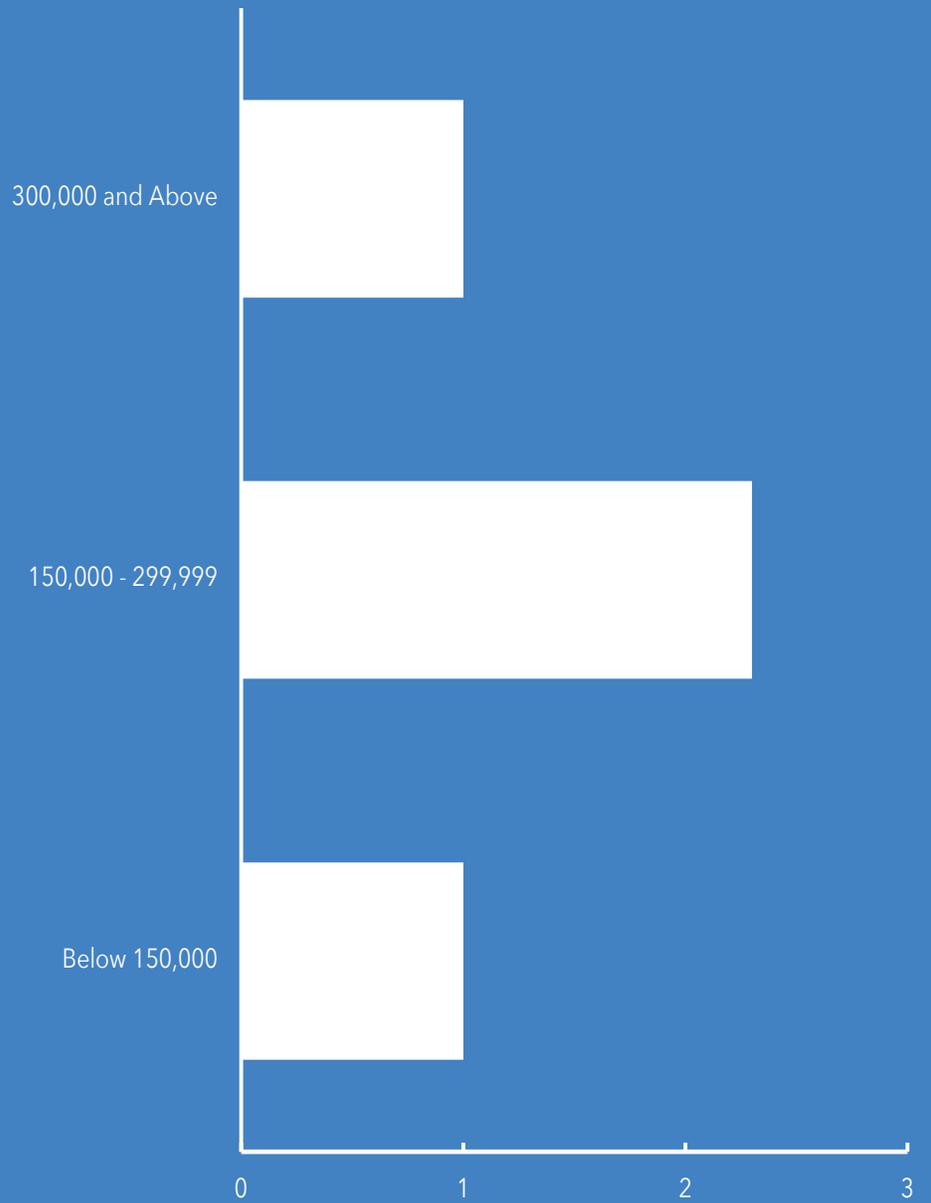


Figure 13. Average Number of Special Court Types by Population Category (N = 13).



ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION

We also asked whether the offices in each judicial district offered alternatives to incarceration in 2018, as shown in **Figure 14**. About 69% of offices reported offering community service, drug treatment, anger management, and mental health programs. Training and education programs were offered in 62% of judicial districts. Less common were restorative justice (31%) and deflection (15%) programs.

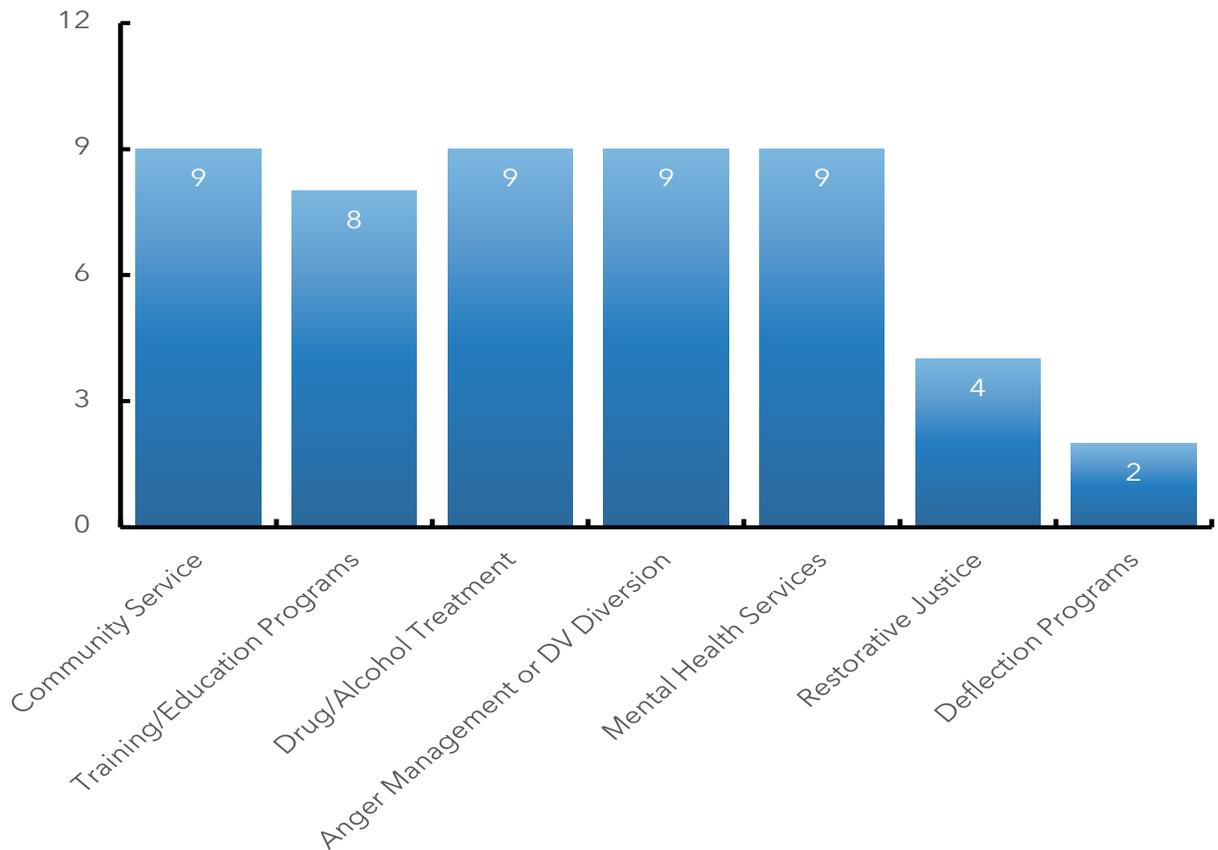


Figure 14. Number of Judicial Districts Reporting Alternatives to Incarceration by Type (N = 13).

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

Figure 15 presents the number of prosecutors' offices that reported operating specialized programs. The most common program was Victim/Witness Relocation, which was reported by 85% of offices. Less common were Conviction Review Units (46%), Witness Assistance programs (38%), Crime Strategies Units (38%), Victim Assistance programs (31%), and Restitution programs (23%). Rarely did prosecutors' offices report running Community Affairs Units (8%), and Community Prosecutor programs (8%). No offices reported offering Victim Services without arrest programs.

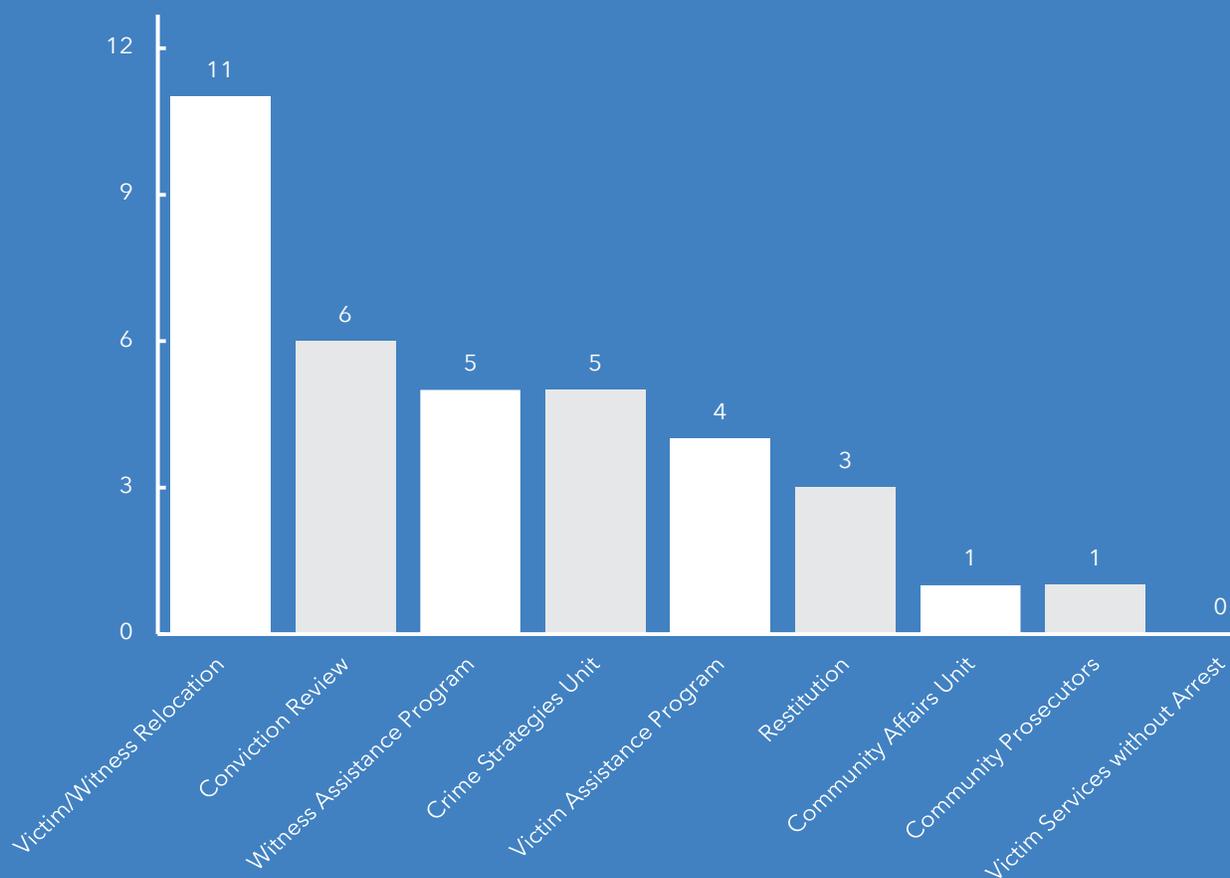


Figure 15. Judicial Districts Reporting Specialized Programs by Type (N = 13).



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Finally, we asked whether the prosecutors' offices ran or participated in several different community programs. These results are presented in **Figure 16**. The majority of offices reported participating in Community Engagement programs (69%), Co-Located Child Abuse programs (69%), Adult Education programs (69%), Youth Education programs (62%), and Violence Reduction programs (62%). Slightly fewer offices reported participating in Co-Located Domestic Violence programs (46%), Sports programs (23%), and Re-entry programs (23%). Considerably fewer offices reported participating in Neighborhood courts (15%), Truancy programs (8%), and Neighborhood Clean Up programs (8%). No offices reported participating in Children of Inmates programs.

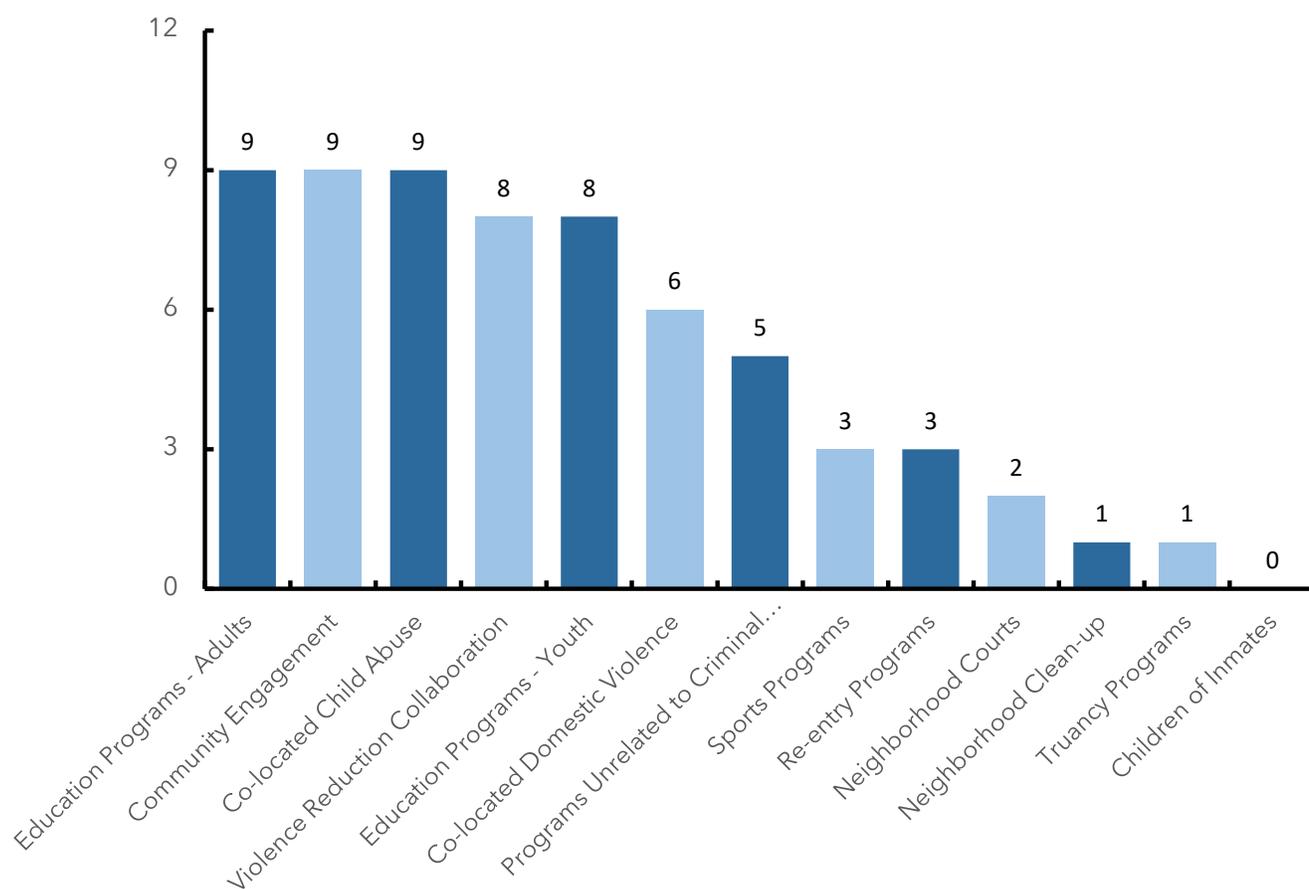


Figure 16. Participation in Community Programs by Type (N = 13).

TECHNOLOGY

In the following section, we asked respondents about the use of technology within their offices. These results are presented in **Figure 17**. Fifteen percent (15%) of judicial districts reported having a technology unit responsible for the computers, data, software, and hardware functioning within their own offices. No offices reported using an electronic case management system, while 69% reported using electronic discovery. All offices (100%) reported using technology in their courtrooms, and 31% reported having staff to support them with the use of this technology.

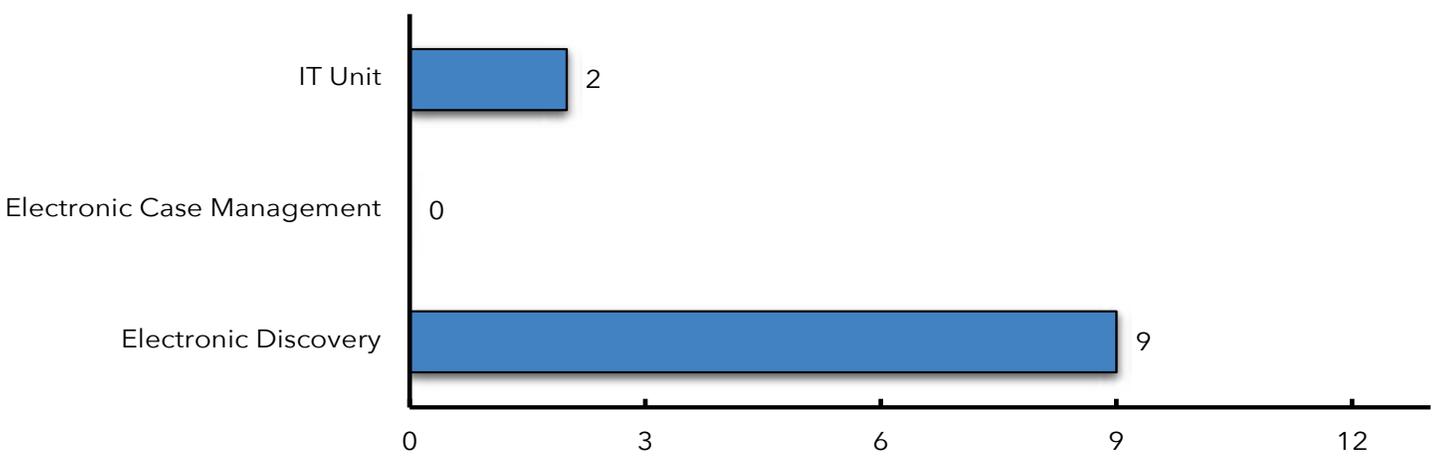
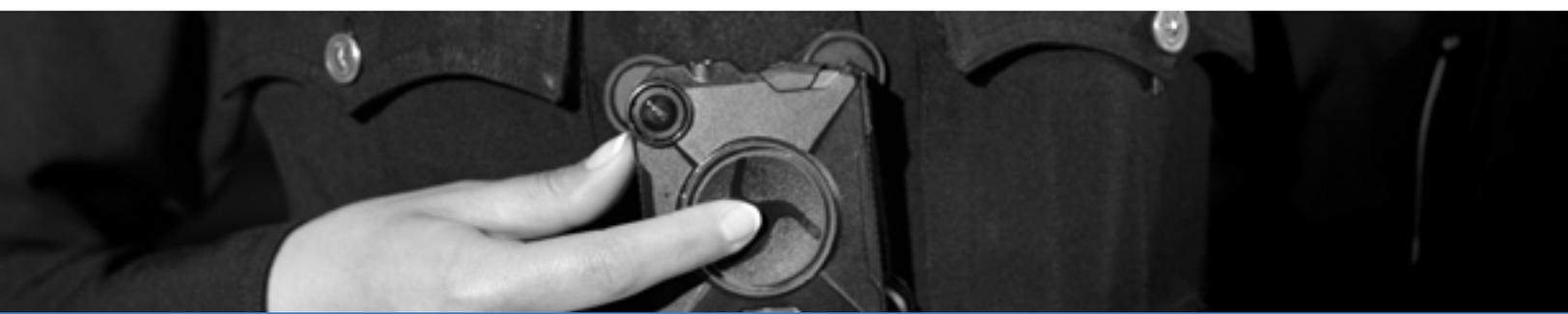


Figure 17. Technology Use within Prosecutors' Offices by Type (N = 13).



BODY-WORN CAMERAS

In addition, all of the respondents (100%) reported having at least one police agency within their jurisdiction that has implemented a body-worn camera (BWC) program. **Figure 18** presents the method of delivery for BWC video. Of those receiving BWC video, 8% are using cloud-based interfaces, 38% are using DVDs, and 54% are using both cloud and DVD interfaces. All respondents (100%) reported needing additional staff to view and manage the evidence collected by BWCs.

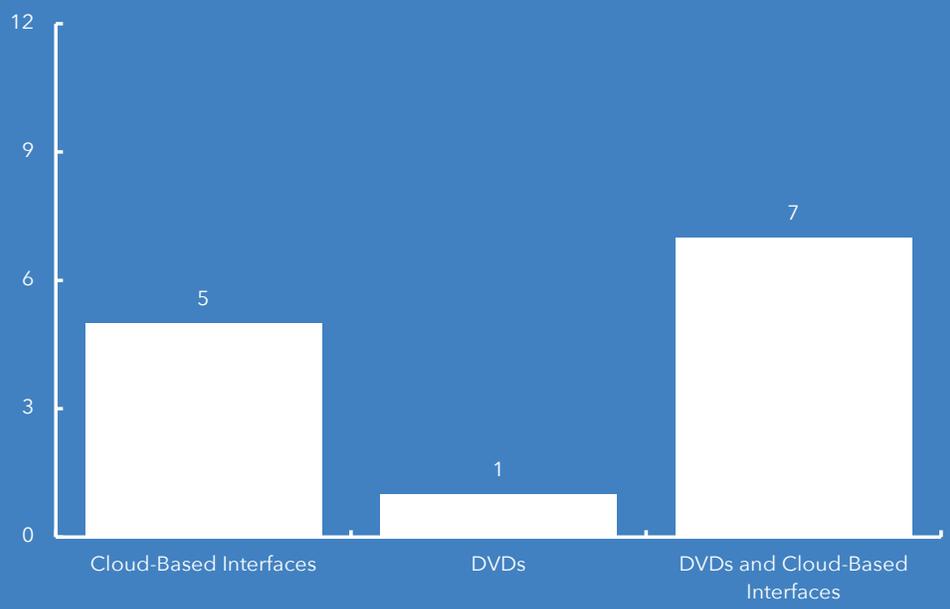


Figure 18. BWC Recordings Received by Prosecutors' Offices by Type (N = 13).

WEBSITES

Asked what they share with the public online, 38% of survey respondents reported having office websites and 50% reported updating their websites routinely (monthly, quarterly, or annually).

RESEARCH

Research and analysis were reported by a minority of the responding offices. Just over 30% of offices reported involvement in a research project in the last two years with a university, college, consultant, or independent research firm.

Thirty-one percent (31%) reported analyzing crime data, caseloads, or other types of information routinely on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. No responding offices provide an annual report to the public on the work of the office.

Eighty-three percent (83%) of the responding judicial districts have participated in major U.S. Department of Justice grant-based programs. Eighty-three percent (83%) of offices have participated in Project Safe Neighborhoods programs, 42% have participated in Violence Against Women Act programs, 17% have participated in Federal Victims of Crimes Act programs, and finally, 8% have participated in a Smart Prosecution Initiative or Innovative Prosecution Solutions program.



CONCLUSIONS

The statewide survey administered by JSS and PCE provides many insights into the day-to-day functioning of Connecticut prosecutors' offices. From the survey, we can determine that all Connecticut prosecutors' offices handle at least some felonies, misdemeanors, and infractions, and that the majority of responding offices also handle juvenile and civil matters.

All of Connecticut's Chief Prosecutors are appointed and have served for an average of 8 years. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the offices have budgets under \$5 million and 15% have budgets over \$5 million. The number of full-time employees per 10,000 population is highest for the smallest judicial districts.

The per capita rates of felony and juvenile cases charged are very similar for districts in the largest two population categories. The smallest population category (Below 150,000 residents) had the highest number of employees (attorney, non-attorney, and total) per capita.

Nearly all offices offer specialized or problem-solving courts and some courts are significantly more common than others. While a majority of offices reported offering Domestic Violence courts, few reported offering Alcohol/DUI, Mental Health, Community, Drug, Veterans', and Re-entry

courts. No offices offered Homeless or Human Trafficking courts.

Most offices reported running specialized programs. Victim/Witness Relocation programs were the most commonly offered. Only a few offices offered Community Prosecutor programs and Community Affairs Units, and no offices offered Victim Services without arrest programs.

Over half of respondents reported providing specific community programs to the areas they serve. The most common offerings were Community Engagement, Co-Located Child Abuse, and Adult Education programs.

This research has provided great insight into the basic needs of prosecutors' offices. Further research based on these findings should focus on prosecutors' caseloads. Specifically, researchers should continue to investigate ideal caseloads for prosecutors and evaluate proper resource management.

All in all, the Connecticut offices that completed the statewide prosecutor survey have provided vital data that have increased the knowledge base on the functioning of Connecticut prosecutors' offices as well as on the role of Connecticut prosecutors.

