

Serious Mentally Ill Persons in the Douglas County Jail

DOUGLAS COUNTY, KS

Huskey & Associates
June 29, 2015

Agenda

- Quantify Serious Mentally Ill Persons (SMI) in Douglas County Jail
- Describe Characteristics of SMI
- Quantify SMI who Meet Screening Criteria for Mental Health Court
- Quantify SMI to be Served
- Next Steps



Huskey & Associates – 170 planning studies in 37 states

- **Bobbie Huskey, MSW**
Corrections Practitioner (30+ years in corrections), Principal Researcher
- **Paula Tomczak, Ph.D.**
15 years experience, Corrections Researcher

In association with:

- **Margaret Severson, JD, MSW** – Professor, KU School of Social Welfare
- **Jason Matejkowski, Ph.D.** – Professor, KU School of Social Welfare
- **Captain Eric Spurling** – Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Operations Division
- **Sharon Zehr** – Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center

Data gathered on all inmates booked during April, July, October 2014 & January 2015

- 1,971 bookings in these 4 months
- Represents 33.3% of total estimated bookings for a 12 month period

Data gathered by Douglas County Jail staff & Bert Nash CMC staff on 12 variables

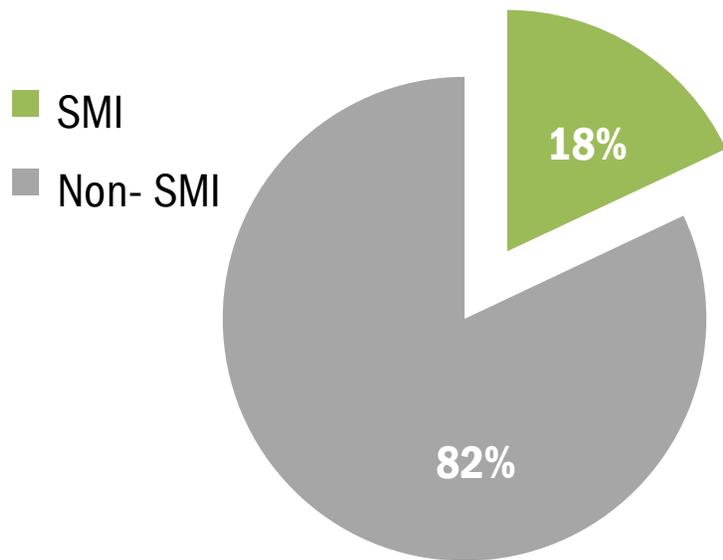
- Variables included: legal status, age, sex, race, charged with a violent felony/misdemeanor, charged with an escape charge/history of escape, Douglas County resident, found or suspected of having a serious mental illness, prior mental health treatment, prior psychiatric hospitalizations, have co-occurring substance use disorder, length of stay in jail.

SMI Definition

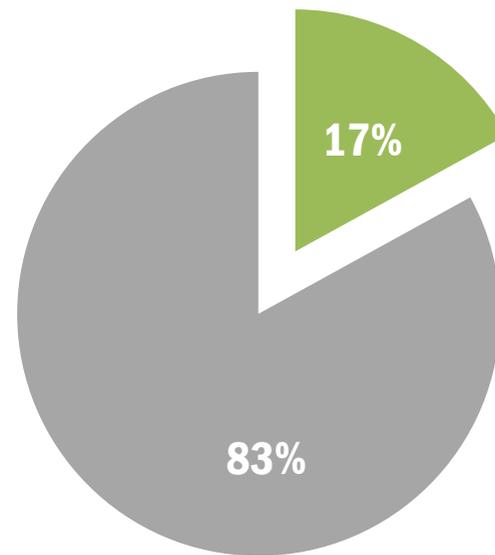
- Participants who at any time during a given year had a diagnosable mental, behavior or emotional disorder that resulted in functional impairment which substantially interfered with or limited one or more major life activities.

Serious Mentally Ill

As a Percent of Total Jail Bookings



Douglas County, KS
N=493

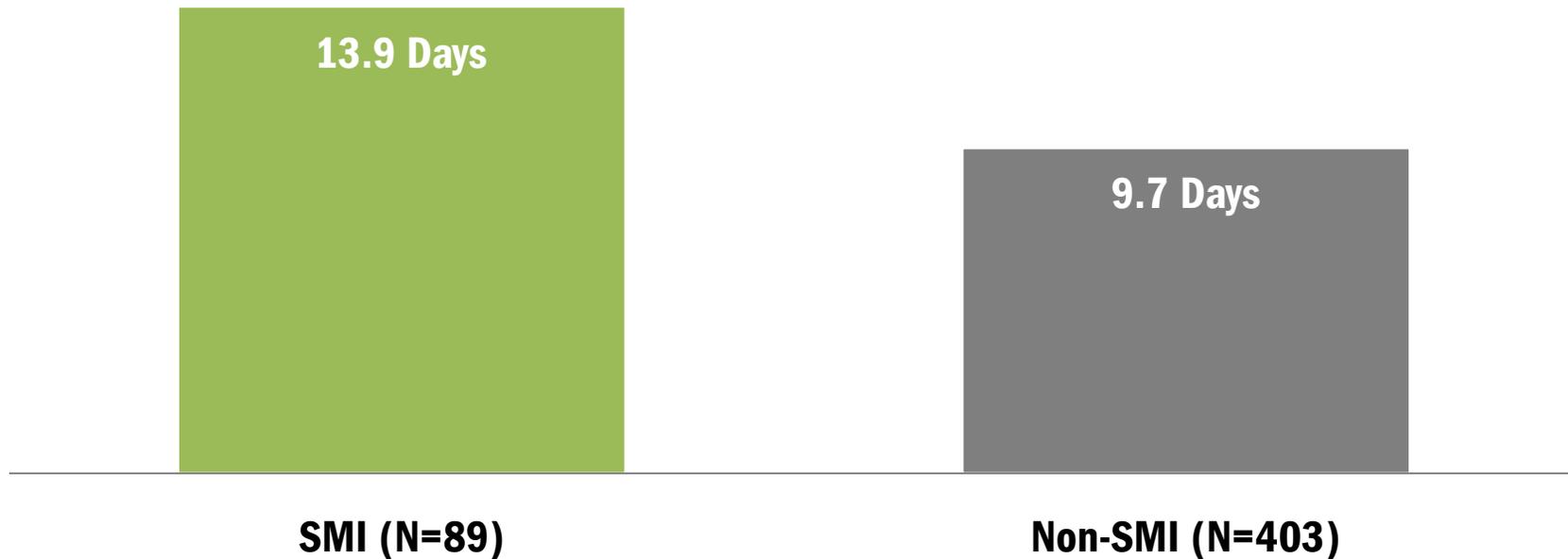


Five Jails in Maryland & New York
N=822

Sources: Douglas County Jail. 2015; Steadman et al 2009

Serious Mentally Ill

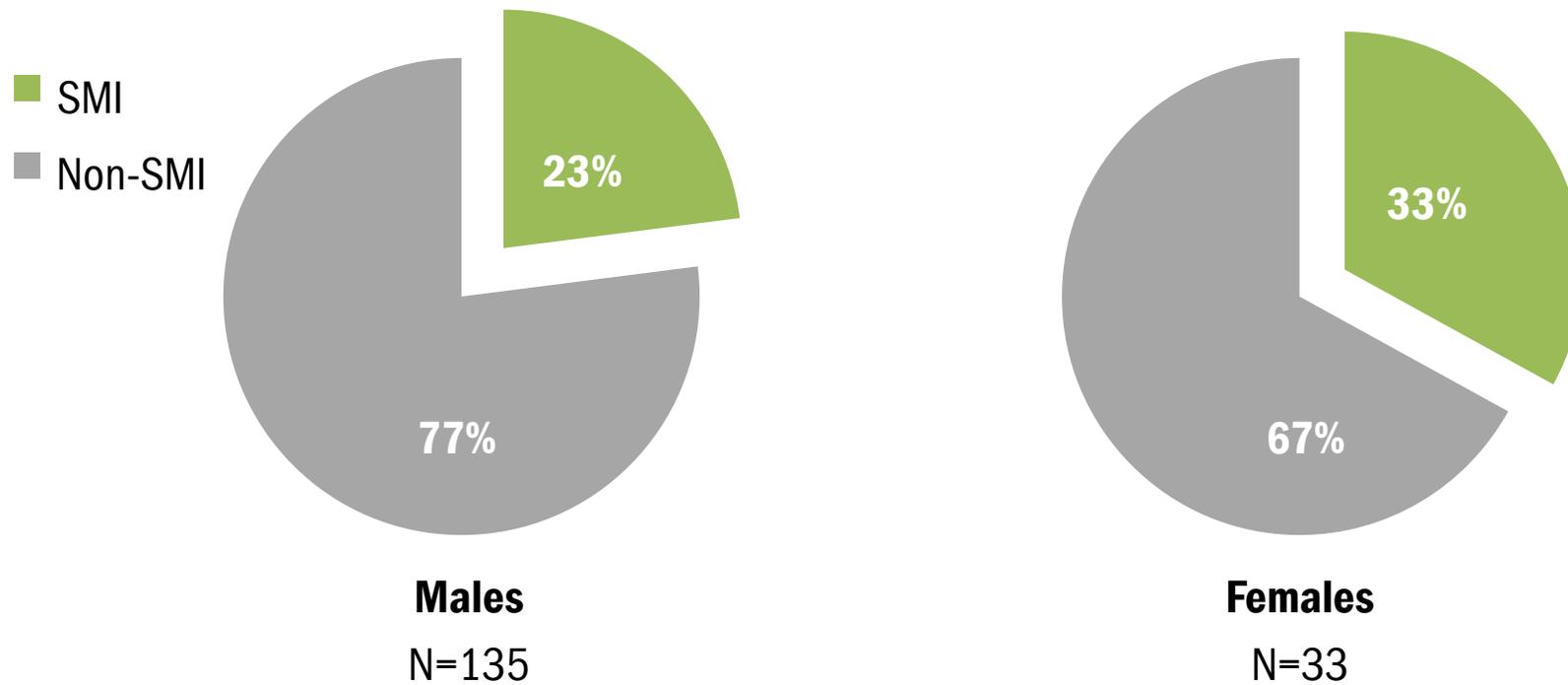
Average Length of Stay in Jail



Sources: Douglas County Jail. 2015; Note - average LOS taken for April, July & October 2014

Serious Mentally Ill

Average Number SMI Housed in Jail by Sex

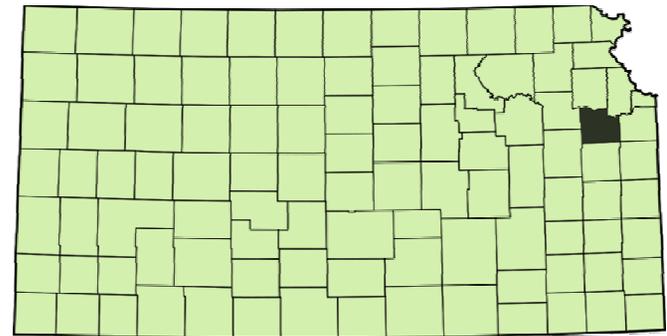


Sources: Douglas County Jail, 2015

SMI Characteristics

Douglas County

- 8 of 10 awaiting trial
- 35 years — Average age
- 78% White, 17% Black, 5% AI/AN
- 87.4% are Douglas County residents
- 99.4% not charged with escape charge/history of escape
- ~71% had prior psychiatric hospitalizations (8% more males)



SMI Characteristics

SMI Characteristics	Douglas County	National Jail Population
Not charged with violent felony/misdemeanor offense	80.1%	56% - 70%
Received prior mental health treatment	100%	9% males & 23% females
Had a co-occurring substance use disorder	~77%	38% - 76%
Booked more than one time	16.8% (12.3% non-SMI)	26%-54% (3+ incarcerations)

Sources for National Jail Data: James & Glaze 2006, Ditton 1996

Screening Criteria

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for Potential Mental Health Court

- 1) Any pre-trial defendant or convicted offender age 18 and older
- 2) Must be found or suspected of having a serious mental illness (SMI)
- 3) Not charged/convicted with a violent felony or violent misdemeanor offense
- 4) Not charged/convicted with an escape charge and does not have a history of escape
- 5) Resident in Douglas County (does not exclude homeless) & within the Court's jurisdiction



Screening Criteria

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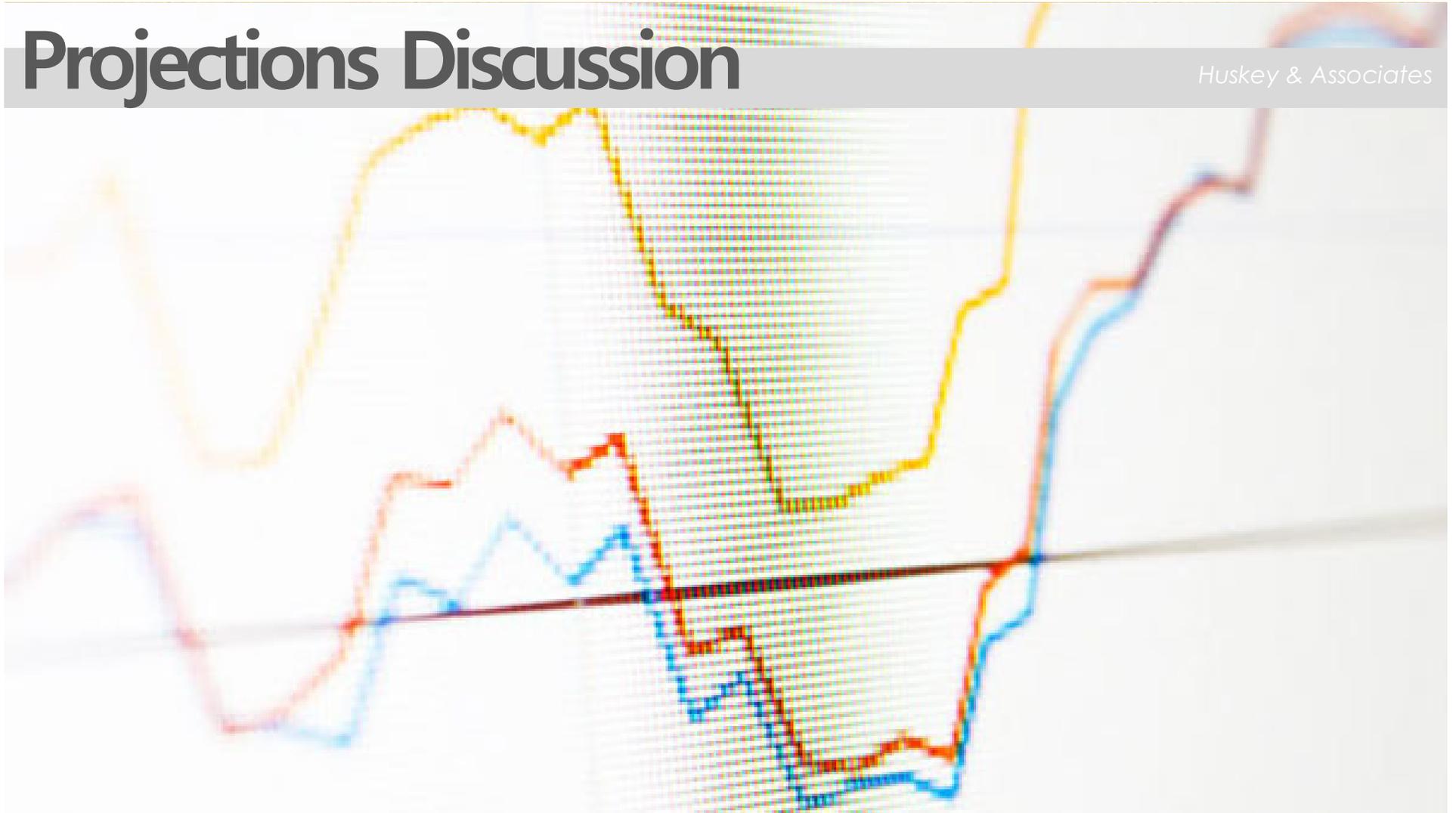
Number of Douglas County Inmates Who Met Criteria

Male (N=366)		Female (N=127)		Total (N=493)	
N	% of Total	N	% of Total	N	% of Total
41	11.2%	22	17.3%	63	12.8%

Sources: Huskey & Associates. Douglas County Jail & Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center. 2015

Projections Discussion

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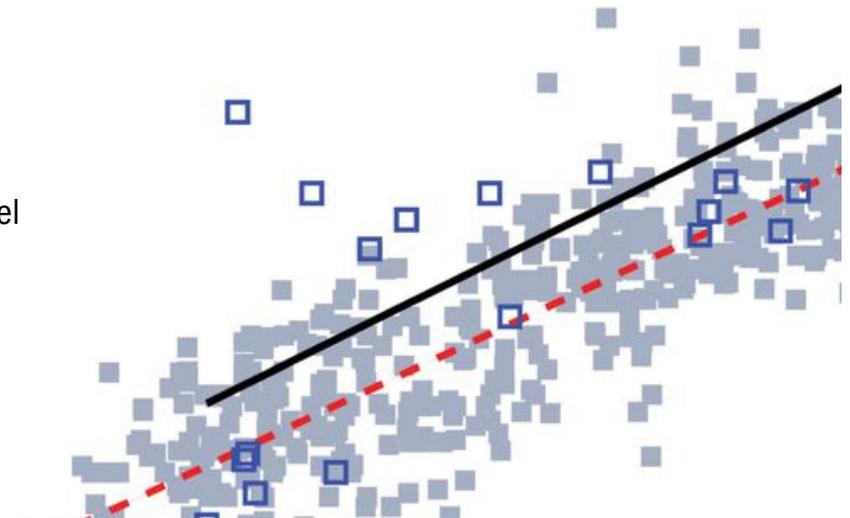


Data Driving the Projections

- 12.8% met screening criteria for SMI
- 20% (of SMI accepted at screening) excluded during assessment process/opt out
- SMI offenders participate for an average of 90 days in Specialty Court
- Assumes that each SMI admitted to the Specialty Court is counted only once in a given month to avoid double counting
- SMI inmates stay average of 13.9 days

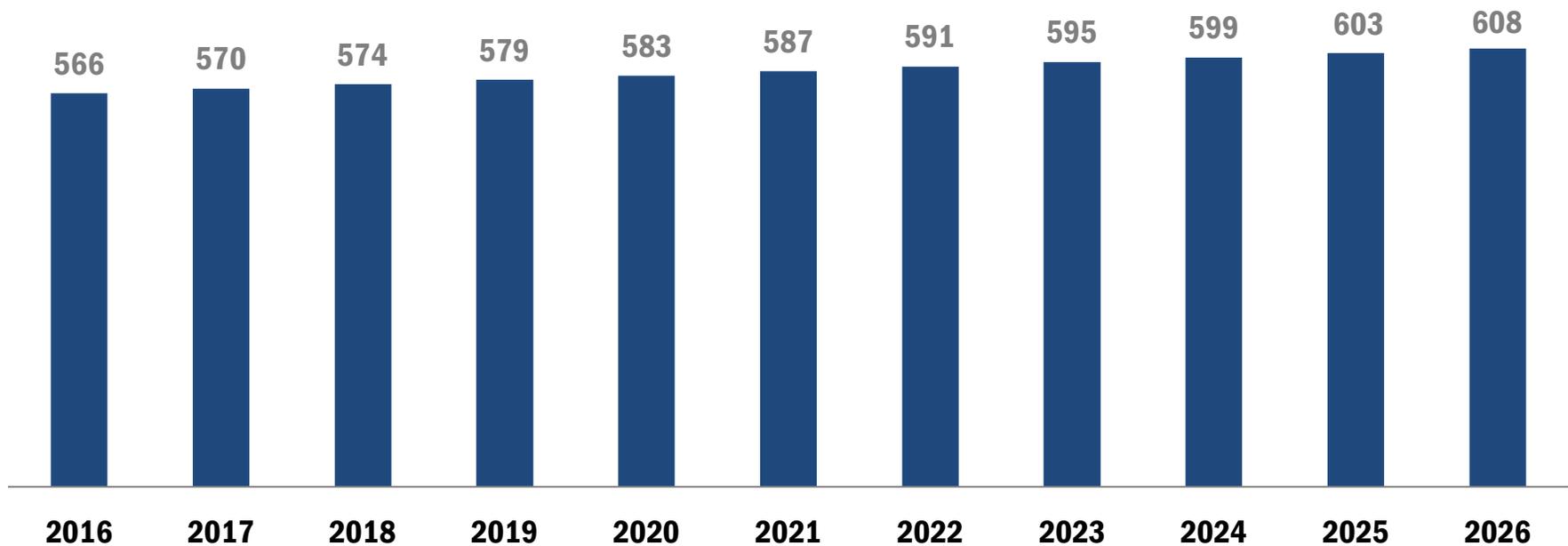
Findings

- Nationally accepted Ordinary Least Squares Regression Model



Douglas County, KS

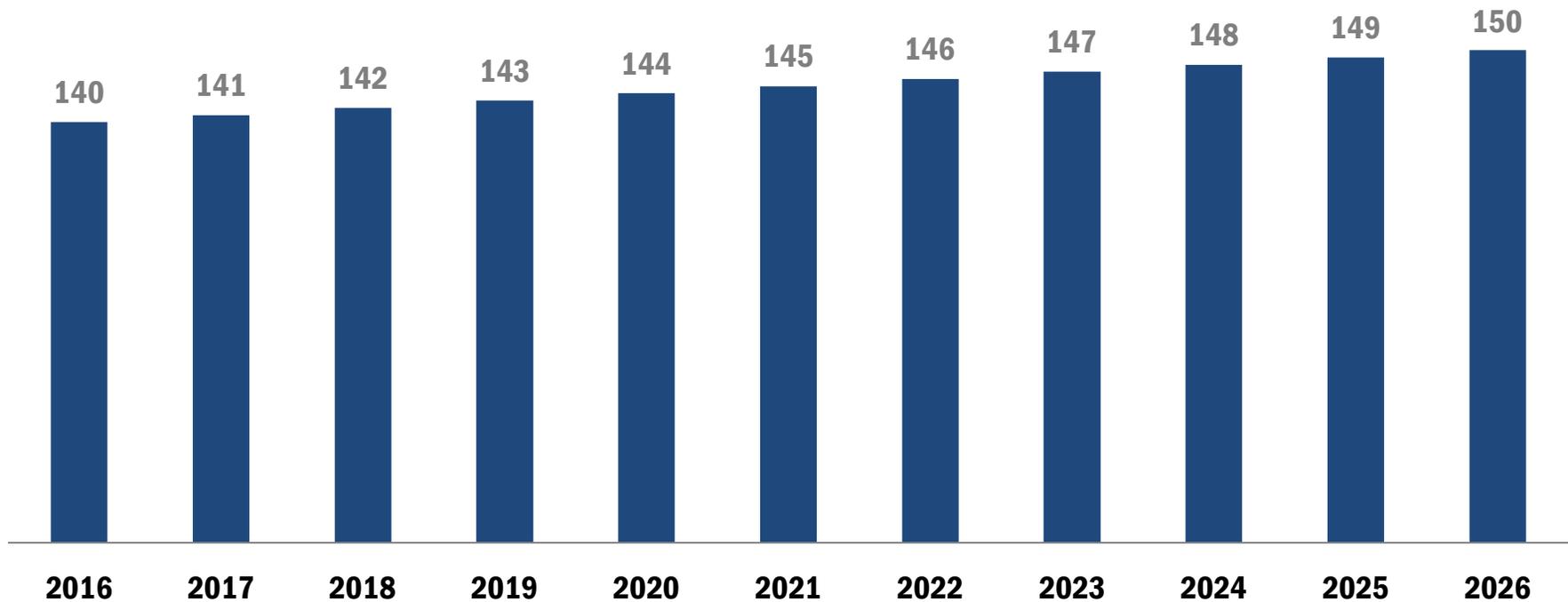
Projected Number of SMI Individuals Eligible for Alternatives to Jail Annually 2016-2026



Source: Huskey & Associates. Represents jail bookings that meet screening criteria, excludes portion of individuals during assessment and counts SMI individuals admitted to the Specialty Court only once in a given month to avoid double counting.

Douglas County, KS

Projected Average Daily Number of People with SMI in Alternatives to Jail Program 2016-2026



Source: Huskey & Associates. Assumes length of stay of 90 days.

Next Steps

14

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Working Together

- Reach Consensus on Target Population and Eligibility Criteria for Intervention
- Reach Consensus on Type of Special Court (e.g. Mental Health Court or an Integrated Court with Co-occurring Disorders)
- Reach Consensus on Which Court(s) will Operate
- Examine Elements of Court Intervention in Other Jurisdictions
- Site Visits to Other Jurisdictions
- Develop Program Goals and Objectives
- Develop Specific Program Services to Reduce Recidivism

