

Substance Abuse and Mental Illness a Top Priority

In June, 2021, the Michigan Supreme Court established the Michigan Judicial Council to embark on a strategic planning process to include visioning, analyzing trends, reviewing outreach data, and developing strategic goals and long-term strategies for advancing judicial branch reform and improvements.

At that time, Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack said: “Michigan’s judiciary is at the center of the most dramatic and meaningful changes in how people interact with government to make our justice system more accessible, equitable, engaged, and efficient,”

As part of the planning process to develop a strategic agenda for Michigan’s judiciary, the Judicial Council conducted a strategic planning survey of over 2,500 judges, administrators, and leaders of partner organizations and associations as described below.

Overview of Strategic Planning Surveys(cont.)

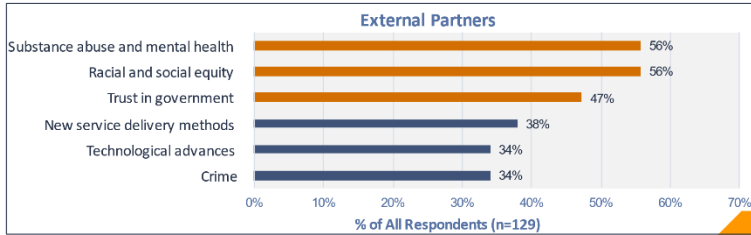
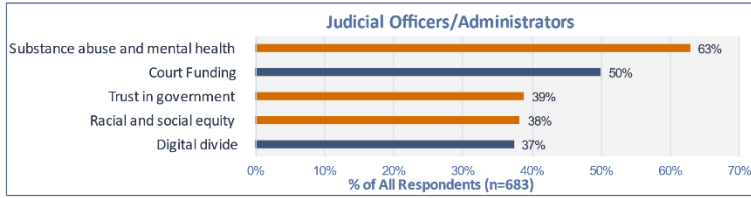
- 4. Survey #1 to all Judicial Officers & Administrators
 - 1,774 people were surveyed (N=1774)
 - 683 completed the survey (n=683)
 - Response rate: 39%
- 5. Survey #2 to External Partners
 - The leadership of partner organizations & associations were asked to distribute the survey to their leadership (e.g., boards, committees, etc.). They included:
 - State Bar of Michigan
 - Michigan Sheriffs’ Association
 - MI Association of Chiefs of Police
 - MI Indigent Defense Commission
 - Prosecuting Attorney’s Association of MI
 - Criminal Defense Attorneys of MI
 - MI Department of Corrections
 - External Partners continued)
 - MI Committee on Juvenile Justice
 - MI Domestic & Sexual Violence Prev./Treatment Bd
 - MI Association of County Clerks
 - Community Mental Health Association
 - House Judiciary Committee
 - House Appropriations Subcommittee on Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
 - Appropriations Subcommittee on Corrections/Jud.
- 6. Survey #3 to External Partners
 - ~750 (estimated) external partners were surveyed (N=750)
 - 129 partners completed the survey (n=129)
 - Response rate: ~17% (estimated)

The survey asked which five of 25 listed existing or emerging trends would have the most impact on the judiciary in the next three to five years?

The results contained in the chart below rated addressing substance abuse and mental health as the top (#1) most impactful trend facing the judiciary in the next 3-5 years by both external partners and judges/administrators. The clear consensus was that these issues are greatly affecting society, communities,

families, courts, and justice system and addressing substance abuse and mental illness should be a high priority for the Judicial Branch

Q1: Most Impactful Trends in the Next 3 -5 Years
 Top 5 – Comparison of Judges/Admin. & External Partners



3 of the top 5 trends are the same for Judicial Officers/Admin. & External Partners. (orange bars denote trends that are the same for the 2 groups)

*This was a multiple response question; respondents were asked to select their top 5 choices from a list provided in the survey.