

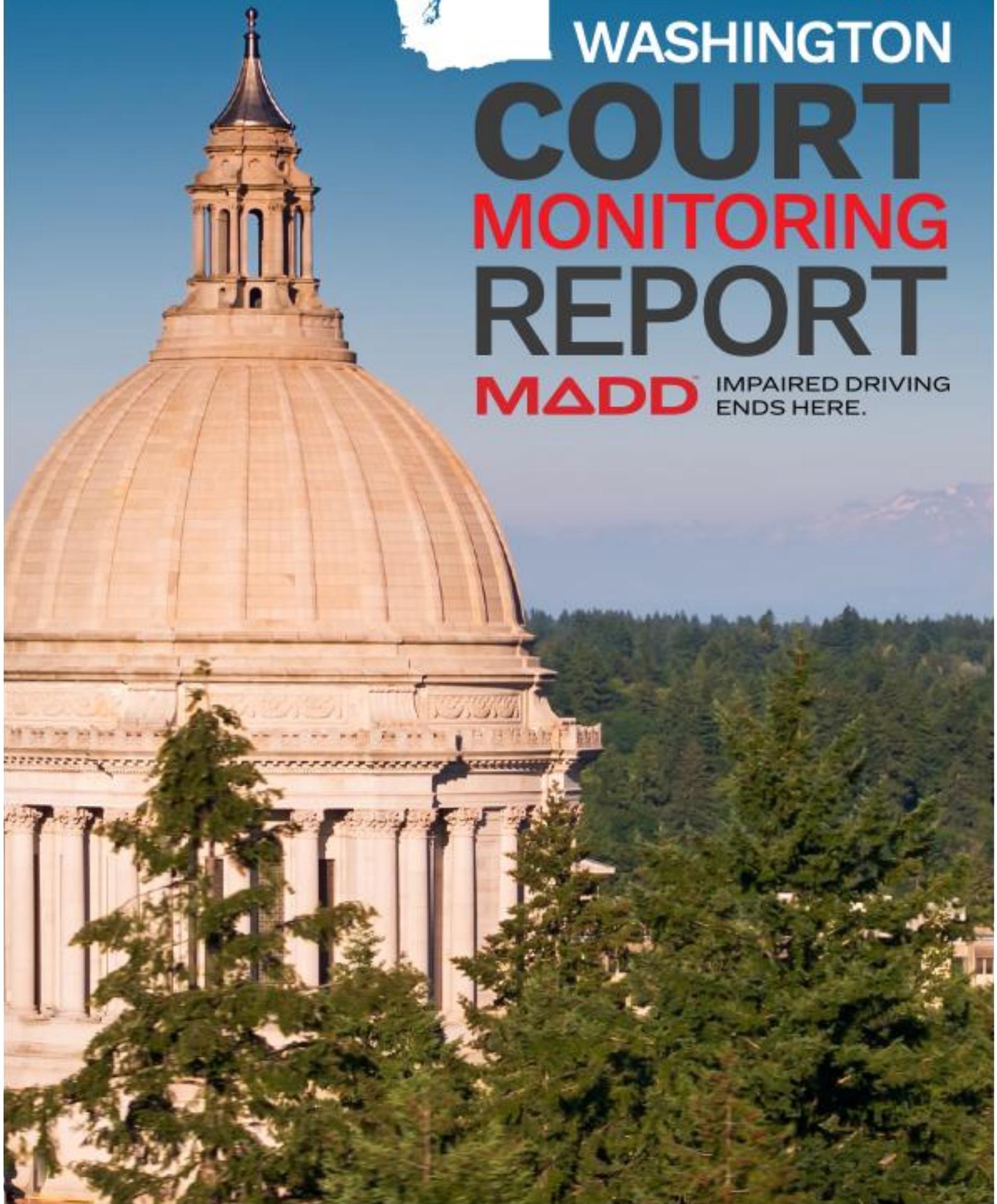
2025



WASHINGTON

COURT MONITORING REPORT

MADD IMPAIRED DRIVING
ENDS HERE.



HOW It Works



MADD's Court Monitoring Program enlists court monitors to observe and document what happens in the courtroom during impaired driving case proceedings. The program was created to ensure that impaired driving offenders are prosecuted, and justice is achieved.

Court monitoring is a tool proven to affect the adjudication process and is recognized by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) as an effective countermeasure to reduce impaired driving. Court monitors on the local scale can impact the handling of impaired driving cases by their mere presence in the court room.

Court monitoring is intended to enhance transparency and accountability within the criminal justice system and reduce the likelihood of repeat offenses. One way this goal is achieved is by sharing data and observations with law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, and the public to promote awareness of impaired driving and ensure accountability for all impaired driving offenders. To reduce future offenses, MADD® supports swift and unbiased treatment of all impaired driving cases.

WHAT We Have Learned



A CLEAR PICTURE OF IMPAIRMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND OPPORTUNITY

Court monitors track misdemeanor impaired driving cases in the judicial courts of their respective counties. Court monitors are often physically present for court settings and acquire case information from courtroom observation and, when necessary, from

researching online databases. The data is then entered into the MADD National Court Monitoring Database for reporting purposes. The information presented in this report is from cases monitored in 2025 fiscal year (October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025). This year's combined court monitoring data from King and Yakima counties shows consistent themes across Washington: high levels of impairment, a significant presence of repeat offenders, and real challenges in ensuring accountability within the court system. Many cases involved BAC levels well above .15, and a large portion of defendants had prior DUIs, highlighting ongoing risks on our roadways and the importance of strong, dependable sentencing and supervision practices statewide.

We also saw how differences in prosecutorial decisions, plea negotiations, and access to case information can lead to uneven outcomes from one jurisdiction to another. These inconsistencies don't point to bad intent, but they do reveal opportunities for improved alignment, better communication, and stronger follow-through in cases involving high-BAC or repeat offenders. At the same time, both counties made meaningful strides in community engagement, coalition partnerships, and volunteer involvement, reinforcing how collaboration strengthens the whole system.

Overall, the statewide picture is one of commitment and progress paired with areas that need continued attention. The data confirms that when courts, law enforcement, community partners, and MADD work together, outcomes improve. Through ongoing monitoring, shared training, and consistent outreach, Washington is moving toward greater transparency, stronger accountability, and safer roads for everyone.

What This MEANS

KEY FINDINGS, STATEWIDE IMPLICATIONS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRONGER ACCOUNTABILITY

The combined data from King and Yakima counties makes one thing clear: Washington's impaired driving cases are consistently marked by high BAC levels and a significant number of repeat offenders. These aren't low-risk cases or marginal impairment situations. Many defendants were well above .15 BAC, with a notable percentage reaching .20 and higher. When this level of impairment becomes common, it reinforces the importance of strong, dependable accountability measures at every stage—arrest, arraignment, sentencing, and supervision. High-risk behavior demands consistent responses to protect the public and encourage long-term behavior change.

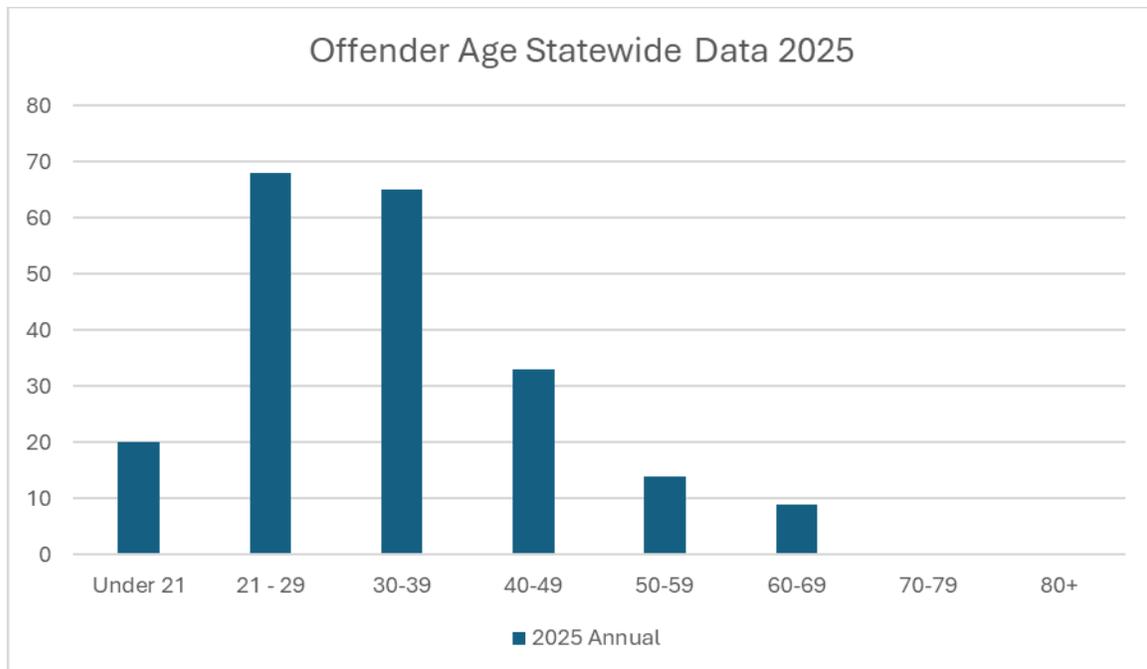
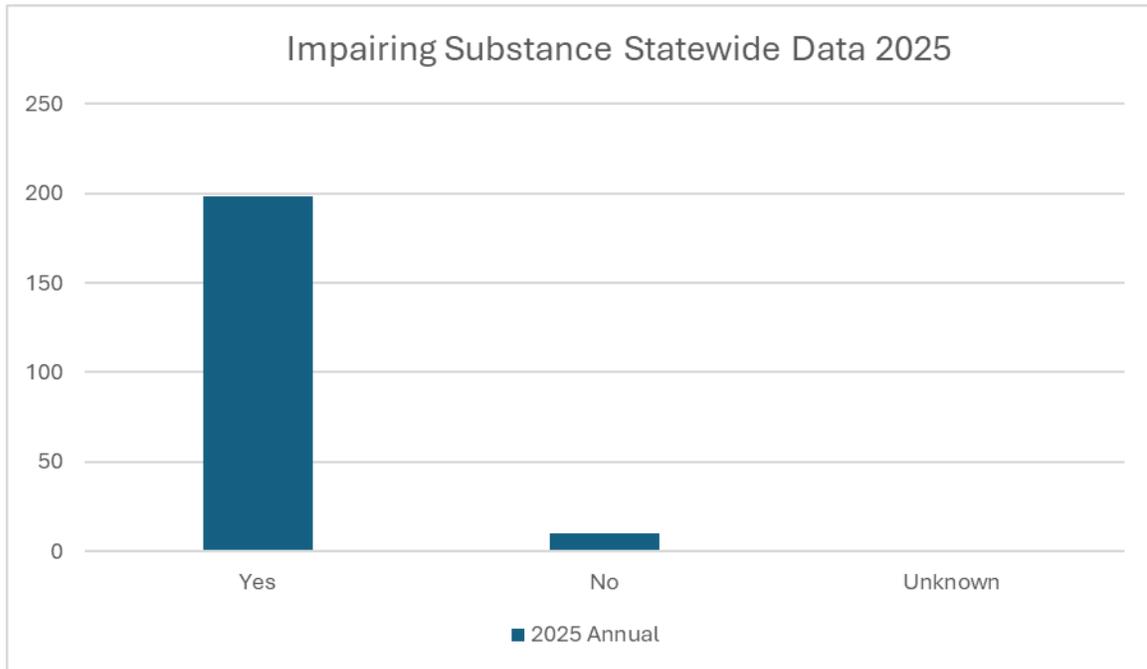
Another major takeaway is how differences in case handling from one jurisdiction to another influence outcomes. Plea negotiations, charge reductions, amended BAC levels, and scheduling delays all shape the level of accountability an offender ultimately experiences. Consistency matters, especially for high-BAC and repeat offenders, and the statewide data suggests there is room for improved alignment on how these cases are managed from filing to resolution.

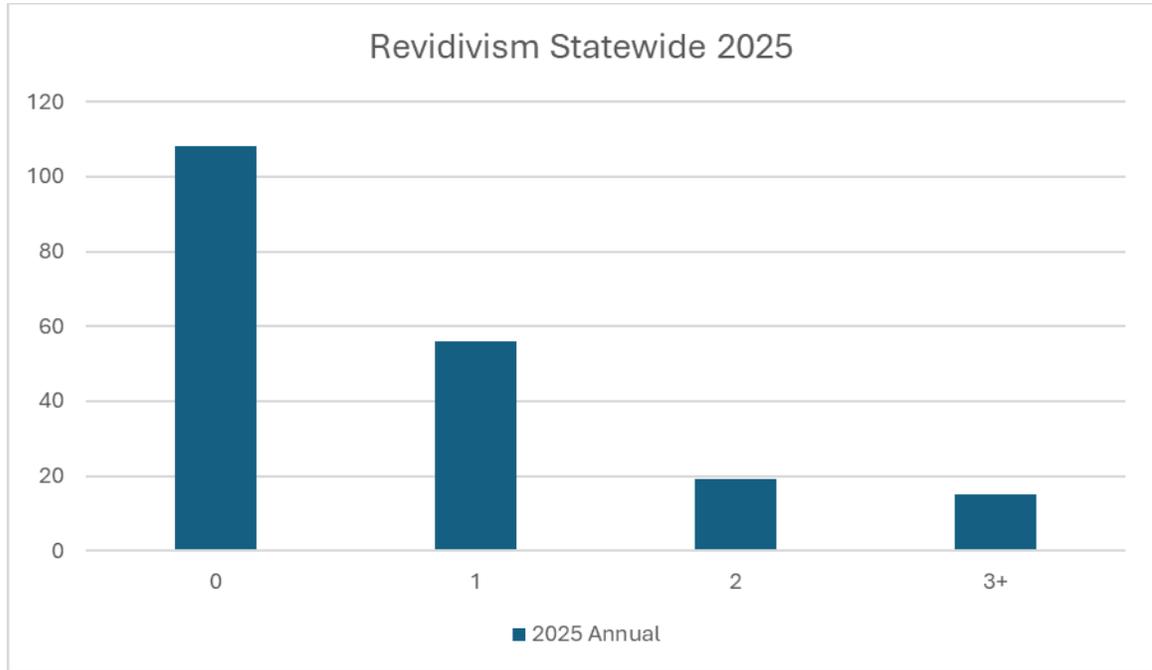
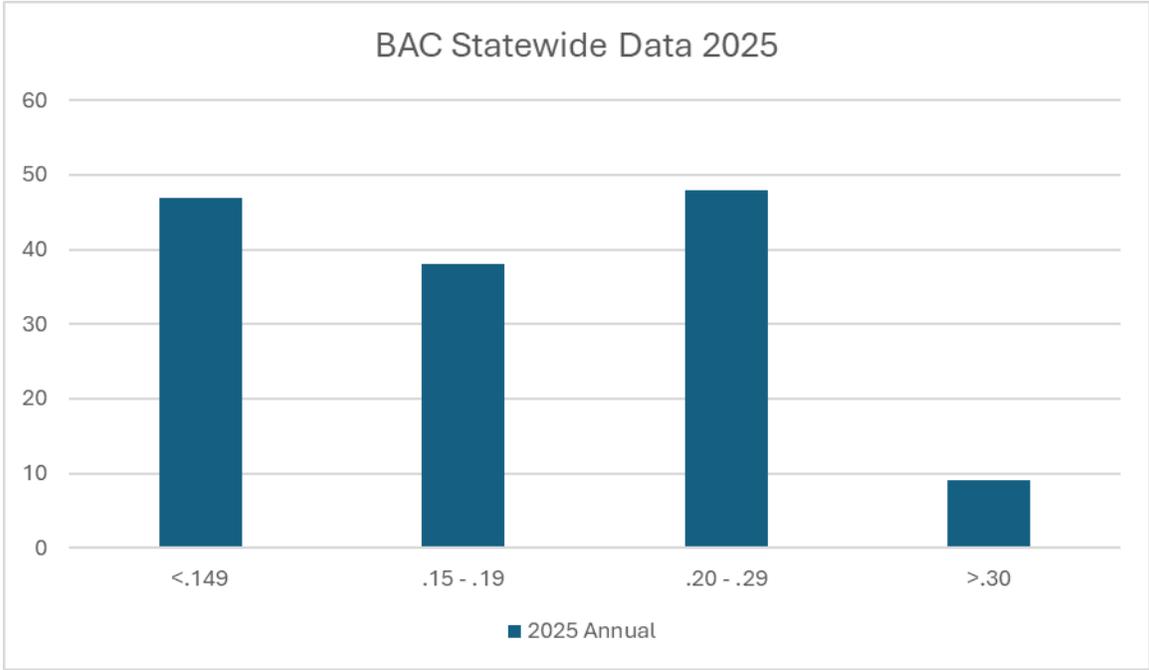
Improving accountability isn't about being punitive; it's about ensuring that consequences, treatment, and monitoring are applied in ways that actually reduce future offending. Tools like ignition interlock devices, DUI supervision programs, timely case processing, and appropriate sentencing conditions work best when they are reliably implemented across counties. When one jurisdiction applies them rigorously and another uses them sparingly, it creates uneven outcomes; not just for offenders, but for victims and the broader community. Strengthening statewide consistency would help ensure that the risk-level posed by an offender more accurately determines the level of intervention they receive.

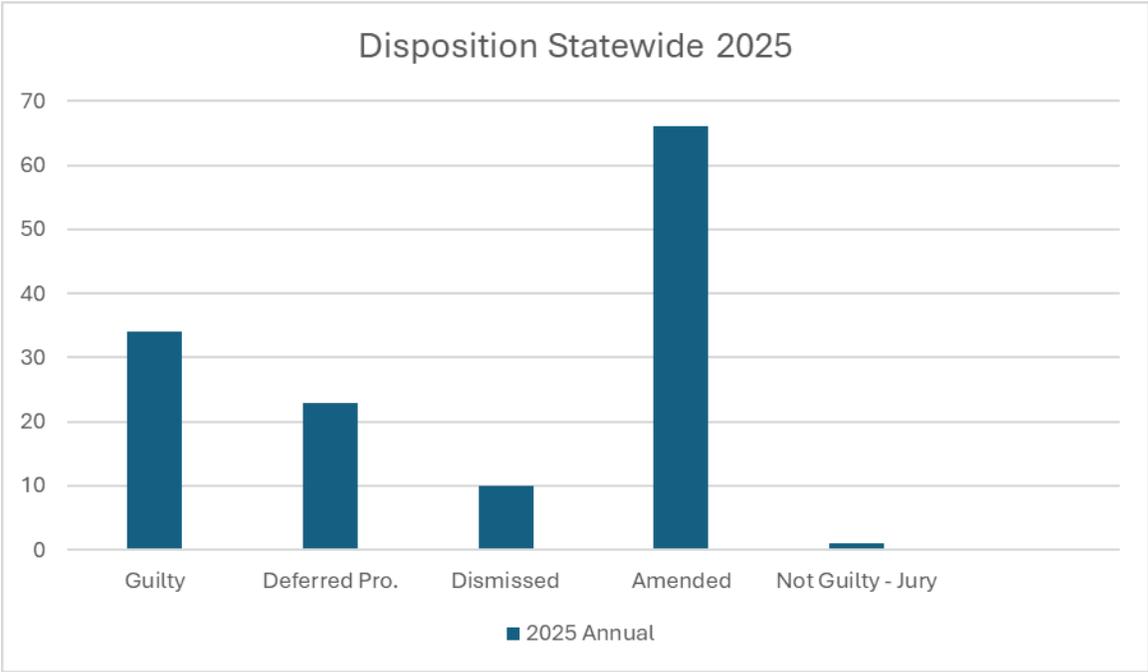
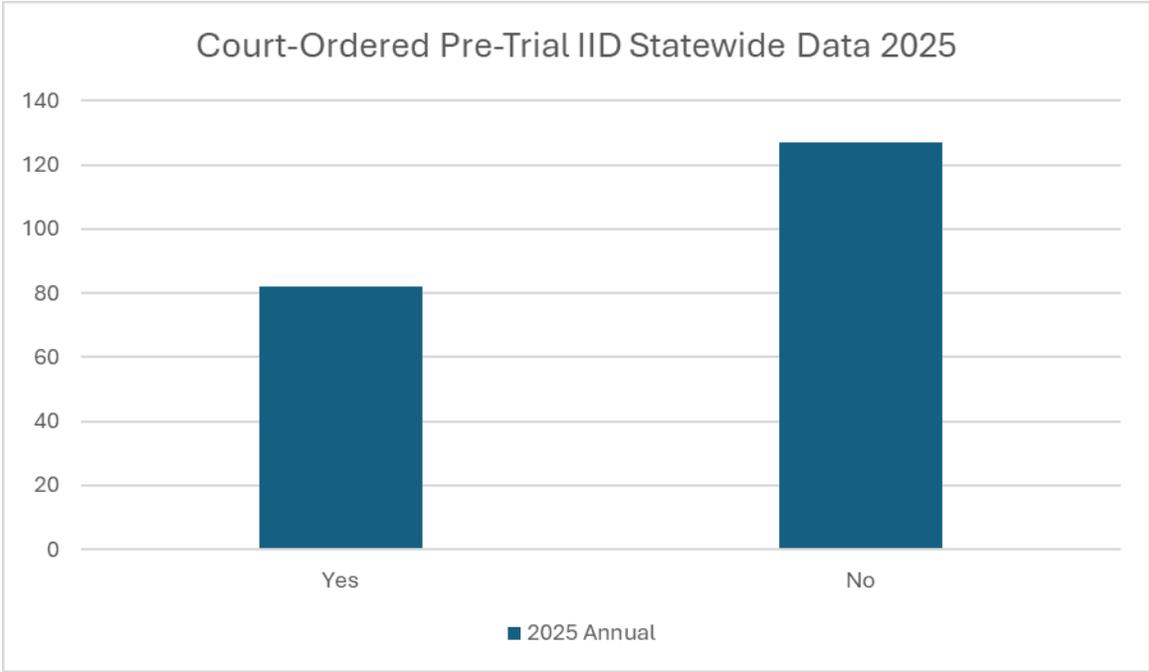
A related observation is the impact of limited access to case information. When case details are incomplete, when electronic systems are difficult to access, or when formal readings are routinely waived, it becomes harder for anyone (judges, prosecutors, defense, or community partners) to make fully informed decisions. Better data access enhances transparency and supports outcomes that match the seriousness of each case. Washington would benefit from continued collaboration across agencies to improve information flow and ensure that decisions are supported by accurate, reliable case records.

Finally, both counties demonstrated the value of community engagement, partnership building, and volunteer involvement. These strengths are essential for improving accountability because they create a more connected system, one where law enforcement, prosecutors, probation, and community advocates share the same goals and reinforce the same expectations. The more coordinated these efforts become, the more effectively Washington can address impaired driving, support victims, and create safer roads. This year's findings show progress, momentum, and clear paths forward for strengthening justice outcomes statewide.

STATEWIDE DATA GRAPHS









EFFECTIVE JUSTICE THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

Join MADD's **Court Monitoring Program**

MADD provides volunteers the opportunity to observe the adjudication process of impaired driving cases.

Our program works to enhance accountability and transparency in the criminal justice system.

Sign up today!

MADD
IMPAIRED
DRIVING
ENDS HERE.

COURT
MONITORING

Contact us at:
PO Box 78143
7633 S 126th Street
Seattle, WA 98178

King County CM: Ashley.Bonus@madd.org
Yakima County CM: Molly.Johnston@madd.org