

Case Study

Turning Problem Solving Court Data to Action

How McHenry County's Problem Solving Courts Used Analytics to Drive Impact

The Challenge

Over the years, McHenry County, Illinois' Drug, DUI, and Mental Health Courts have become cornerstone programs within the justice system, supported by detailed participant data capturing timelines, treatment progress, sanctions, incentives, risk assessments, and more.

Despite this wealth of historical data, key questions persisted:

- Why do some participants reoffend while others achieve lasting recovery?
- How can historical data help improve outcomes?

While traditional statistics provided counts and numbers, leadership lacked a deeper understanding of cause-and-effect relationships in the data.

To address this, court leadership partnered with eMoksha to better understand how participant characteristics and program structures influence program outcomes.

Solution

eMoksha analyzed hundreds of participant records, exploring how time in program phases, risk levels, diagnoses, and outcomes etc. intersected. The analysis revealed patterns that challenged assumptions and provided new context for familiar challenges—offering data-driven clues about what truly influences participant success.

eMoksha's analysis revealed patterns that helped McHenry County see its programs through a new lens.

Each finding pointed to practical ways to strengthen outcomes and participant success:

- 1 Early Engagement Matters** Longer participation in early phases supported better long-term outcomes.
- 2 Tailored Treatment Works** Aligning program length and intensity with diagnosis improved stabilization.
- 3 Timely Entry Counts** Reducing delays between referral and program start boosted readiness and success.
- 4 Consistency Drives Progress** Regular incentives and recognition encouraged sustained engagement.



The Results

The insights are helping McHenry County make **targeted, evidence-based program refinements**. Program teams are beginning to use **data analytics** as a continuous feedback loop:



Reviewing trends



Adjusting strategies



Improving consistency in decision-making

Data shifted from a record-keeping exercise to a **driver of learning and program improvement**, forming the foundation for long-term progress.



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