

NAMI California Criminal Justice Committee County Listings of CIT Programs & Mental Health Courts

The NAMI California Criminal Justice Committee will be tracking progress of implementation and expansion of criminal justice best practices throughout our state on an annual basis. To the best of our knowledge, we are the only organization in California that has aggregated this information for this purpose. Posted on our site is a listing provided to us by the California CIT Association of every Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program in California. In addition, we received a listing from the Judicial Council of California of every collaborative model mental health court (adult and juvenile) in our state. NAMI California would like to thank both organizations for their assistance, support, and transparency.

California is a huge state comprised of 58 counties. In this first annual survey, 28 counties are listed with CIT law enforcement training programs. Seven of these counties have developed two programs and one county, Santa Clara, leads the state with three programs. 25 counties have developed mental health/behavioral health courts (MHCs). These courts employ a collaborative model vs. the traditional adversarial criminal court where the goals are based on outcomes over convictions, treatment over incarceration, while maintaining accountability to the court and our criminal justice process. The breakdown of these listings by county are listed below. Please view the documents for complete county listings.

CIT Counties	28
CIT Total Programs	36
Counties with Multiple CIT Programs	7 Los Angeles, Orange, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Ventura
Counties with Mental Health Courts	25
Adults MHCs	24
Juvenile MHCs	9
Counties with both Adult & Juvenile MHCs	8 Alameda, Fresno, Imperial, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, and Santa Clara
Counties with both Mental Health Courts & CIT Programs	18 Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Marin, Monterey, Orange, Placer, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Ventura
Counties with Adult MHCs, Juvenile MHCs, and CIT Programs	5 Fresno, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Bernardino, and Santa Clara

We congratulate every county in California on these lists that has taken the initiative and found the political will to establish the above criminal justice best practices in our state. We are especially proud of those counties that have begun to create a true “criminal justice continuum of care” by establishing both law enforcement CIT training and collaborative court models.

These programs save lives. They reduce recidivism and help mental health consumers who have become entangled with the criminal justice system regain their chance for a productive life and the ability to continue their journey towards recovery. If your county is absent from these lists, perhaps it is time you asked your county officials “Why?”