

SB 418: Legislative Mental Health Investments ***Civil Admissions to the Montana State Hospital, FY2004-2015***

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for the Children, Families Health and Human Services Interim Committee
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Background

Senate Bill 418 requires the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee to monitor and evaluate the use of the additional money appropriated by the 2015 Legislature for mental health services. Among other things, the committee is to review how well the Department of Public Health and Human Services is supporting a community-based system of care as shown through the increased use of community crisis services to reduce short-term admissions to the Montana State Hospital. The committee also is to look at whether DPHHS is increasing the discharge rate at state-operated facilities.

Overview of Information

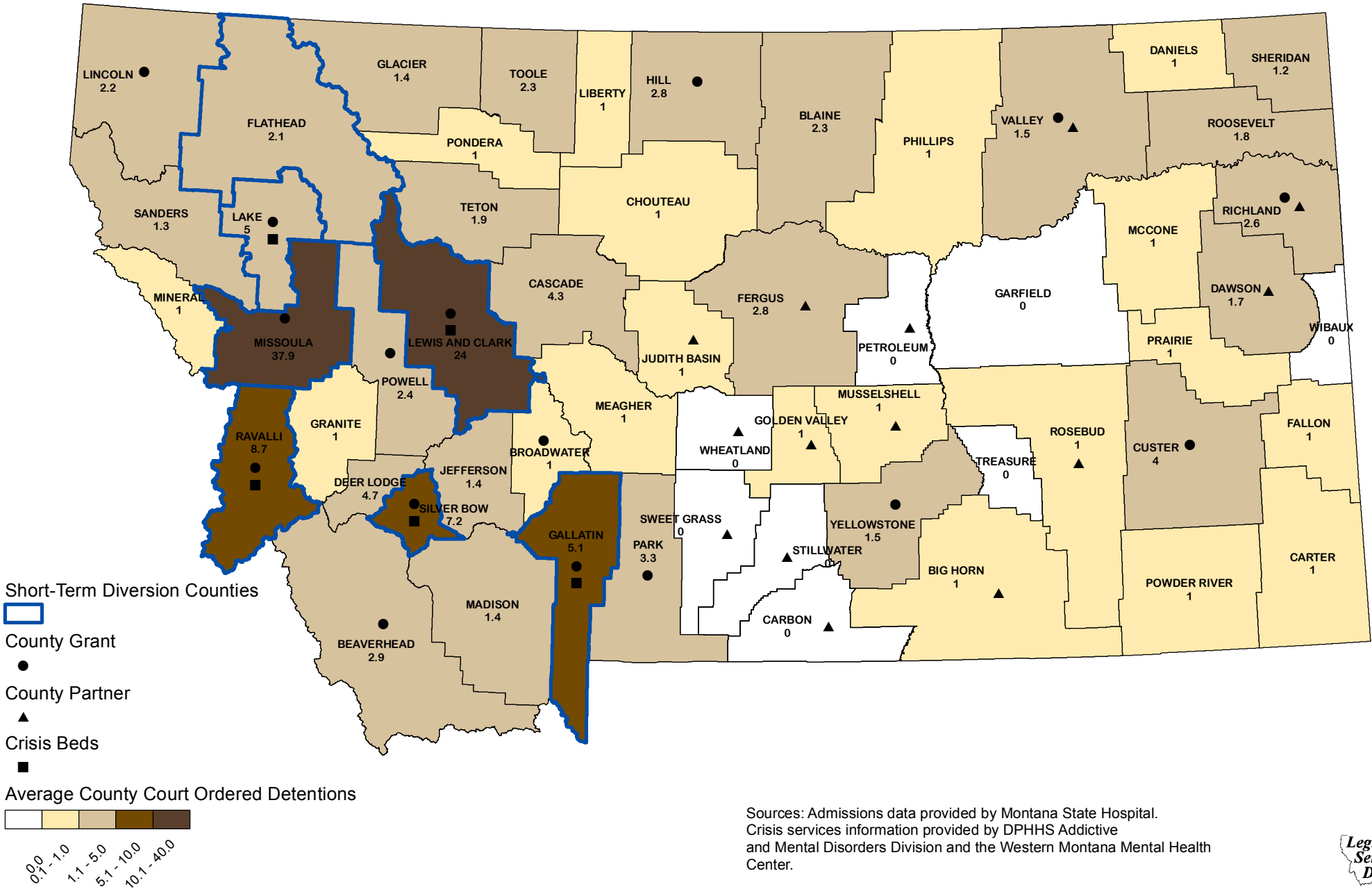
This briefing paper illustrates the distribution of publicly funded mental health crisis and diversion services and provides county-level data on civil admissions to the Montana State Hospital for fiscal years 2004 through 2015.

People who pose a danger to themselves or others may be admitted to the Montana State Hospital in one of three ways, as follows.

- Emergency detentions occur when a law enforcement officer believes an emergency situation exists because of a person's mental disorder and asks that a professional person conduct an evaluation. The professional may order that the person be detained and treated at the Montana State Hospital or another mental health facility until the next business day.
- Court-ordered detentions occur if a professional person has documented the need for commitment and the county attorney has filed a commitment petition. A court may order that the person be sent to the Montana State Hospital for treatment for up to five days or until an initial hearing can be held on the commitment petition.
- Involuntary commitments occur after a county attorney has filed a commitment petition and a court has found that, because of a mental disorder, the person has injured himself or herself, poses an imminent risk of injury to self or others, or is substantially unable to provide for the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety. A person may be committed for a maximum of 90 days and may be recommitted upon filing of another petition and a finding by a court that the person is in need of continued commitment.

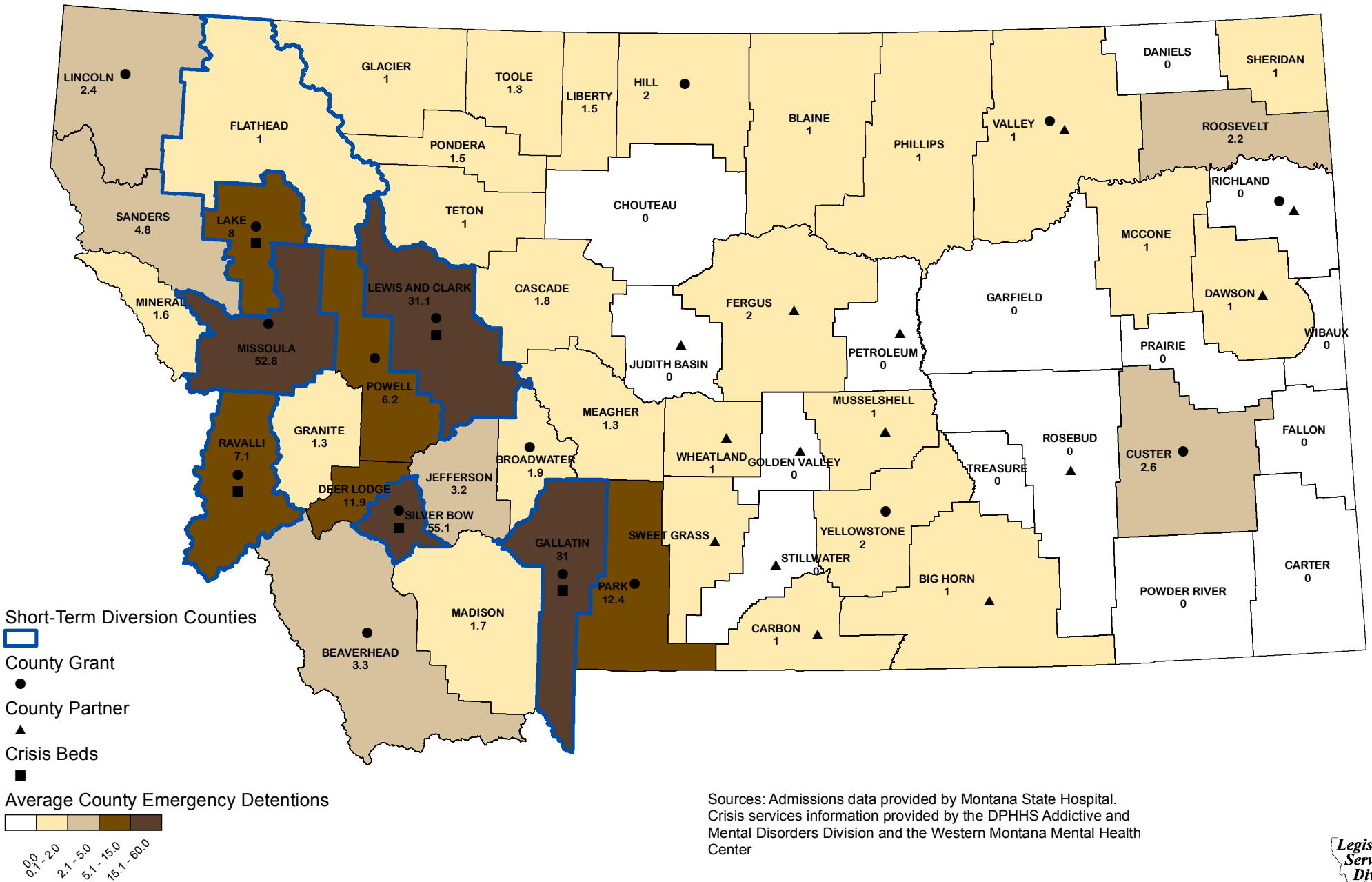
The maps on the following three pages show average admissions by county for each of the three types of civil commitments. The graphs on the last page show the use of these three types of commitments in Gallatin, Ravalli, and Silver Bow counties. Crisis stabilization facilities with secure detention beds have been providing short-term diversion in those counties for the past several years.

Average Court Ordered Detentions by County, FY 2004 - FY 2015



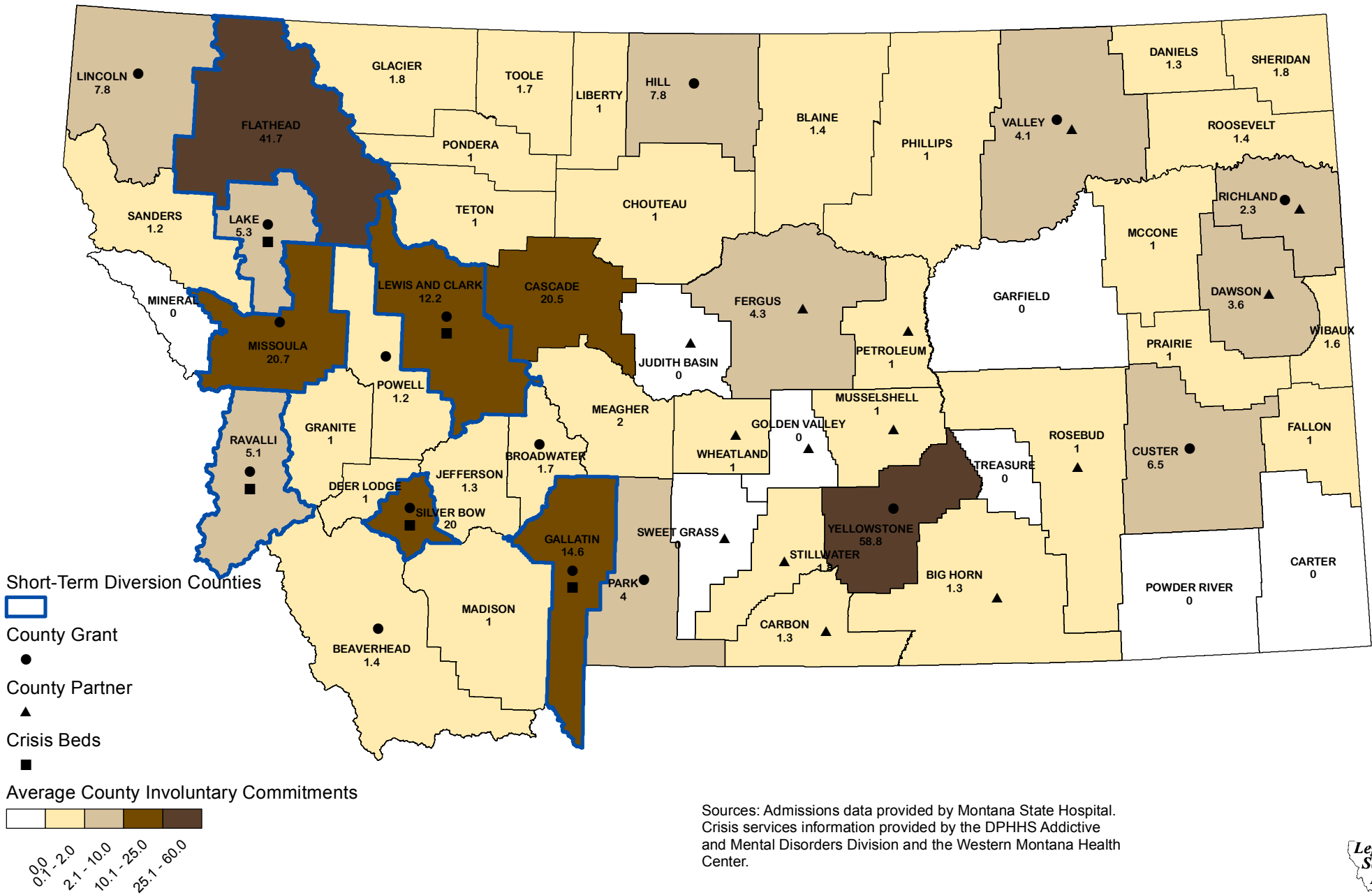
Sources: Admissions data provided by Montana State Hospital.
 Crisis services information provided by DPHHS Addictive and Mental Disorders Division and the Western Montana Mental Health Center.

Average Emergency Detentions by County, FY 2004 - FY 2015



Sources: Admissions data provided by Montana State Hospital. Crisis services information provided by the DPHHS Addictive and Mental Disorders Division and the Western Montana Mental Health Center

Average Involuntary Commitments by County, FY 2004 - FY 2015



Sources: Admissions data provided by Montana State Hospital. Crisis services information provided by the DPHHS Addictive and Mental Disorders Division and the Western Montana Health Center.

Emergency detentions in the graphs below drop significantly in FY 2015. The Montana State Hospital stopped accepting emergency placements that year because its patient census exceeded the licensed capacity.

