The Offender Screening Program began in 2013 with 37 counties and is now available in all 77 counties in Oklahoma with over 45,000 defendants screened as of December 2020.

**3 Key Points**

- Screenings are voluntary
- Defendants will not be asked about the facts of their current case
- There is no cost to the defendants for the screening

There will never be a recommendation for prison. Screenings should be interpreted as “if community-based supervision is an option, here are the available services that would result in the best outcome for the defendant and the public.”

**Statewide Trends and Benefits**

- Offender screening (OS) has reduced the average time an offender spends awaiting sentencing by 57 days, resulting in $15.5 million dollars in jail cost savings. (This is based on time between arrest and final disposition in FY13, pre OS and FY16, post OS and on the number of offenders screened in FY16).

- OS provides an opportunity to match defendants to all local available services and diversions to reduce further criminal justice involvement

- Veterans who are screened are also referred for appropriate local veteran services.

- The appropriate use of the OS program after initial arrest should provide more appropriate service referral recommendations, thus leading to better overall diversion program outcomes.