

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE HEARING

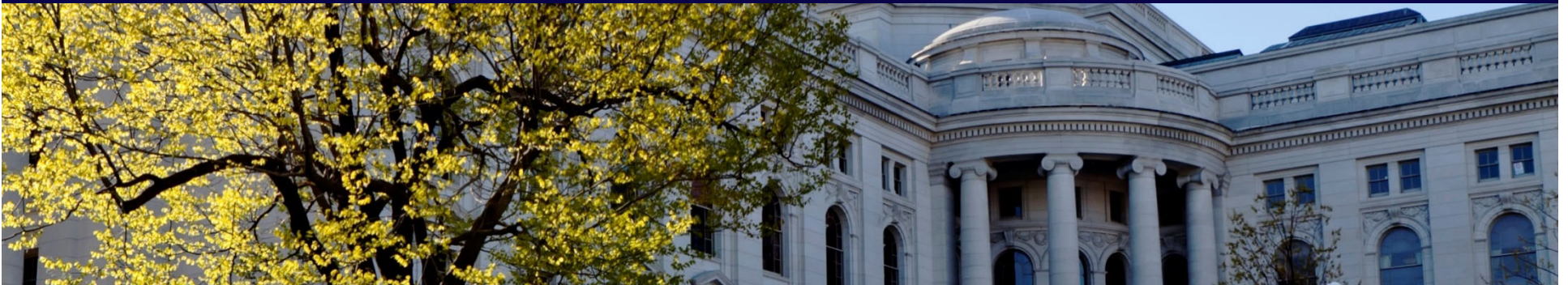


STATE OF WISCONSIN
Legislative Audit Bureau
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Hearing Date
April 20, 2023

Community Corrections Program

(report 23-5)



Audit Scope

As requested by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, we analyzed:

- the risk and needs assessment process;
- program services;
- violation investigations;
- violation consequences; and
- DOC's evidence-based response to violations project.



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April 20, 2023

2

**RISK AND NEEDS
ASSESSMENT**

Determines the likelihood an individual will engage in future criminal activity and the need for program services

**PROGRAM
SERVICES**

Provides services such as alcohol and other drug abuse treatment, which may be available to an individual

**VIOLATIONS
INVESTIGATIONS**

Determines whether an individual did not follow laws, court-ordered rules, or program rules

**VIOLATION
CONSEQUENCES**

Determines consequences that range from a verbal warning to revoking an individual's placement in the community



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April 20, 2023

Evidence-Based Response to Violations Project

DOC implemented various elements of its project over the past decade.

In 2019, DOC began to consider additional modifications to make the program more effective.

In January 2021, DOC changed its policies to reflect these program modifications.



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April 20, 2023

4

Individuals under Community Supervision

From January 2019 through December 2021, 128,213 individuals were under community supervision at some point in time.

Most individuals who responded to our survey indicated their DOC agents treated them fairly and with respect.



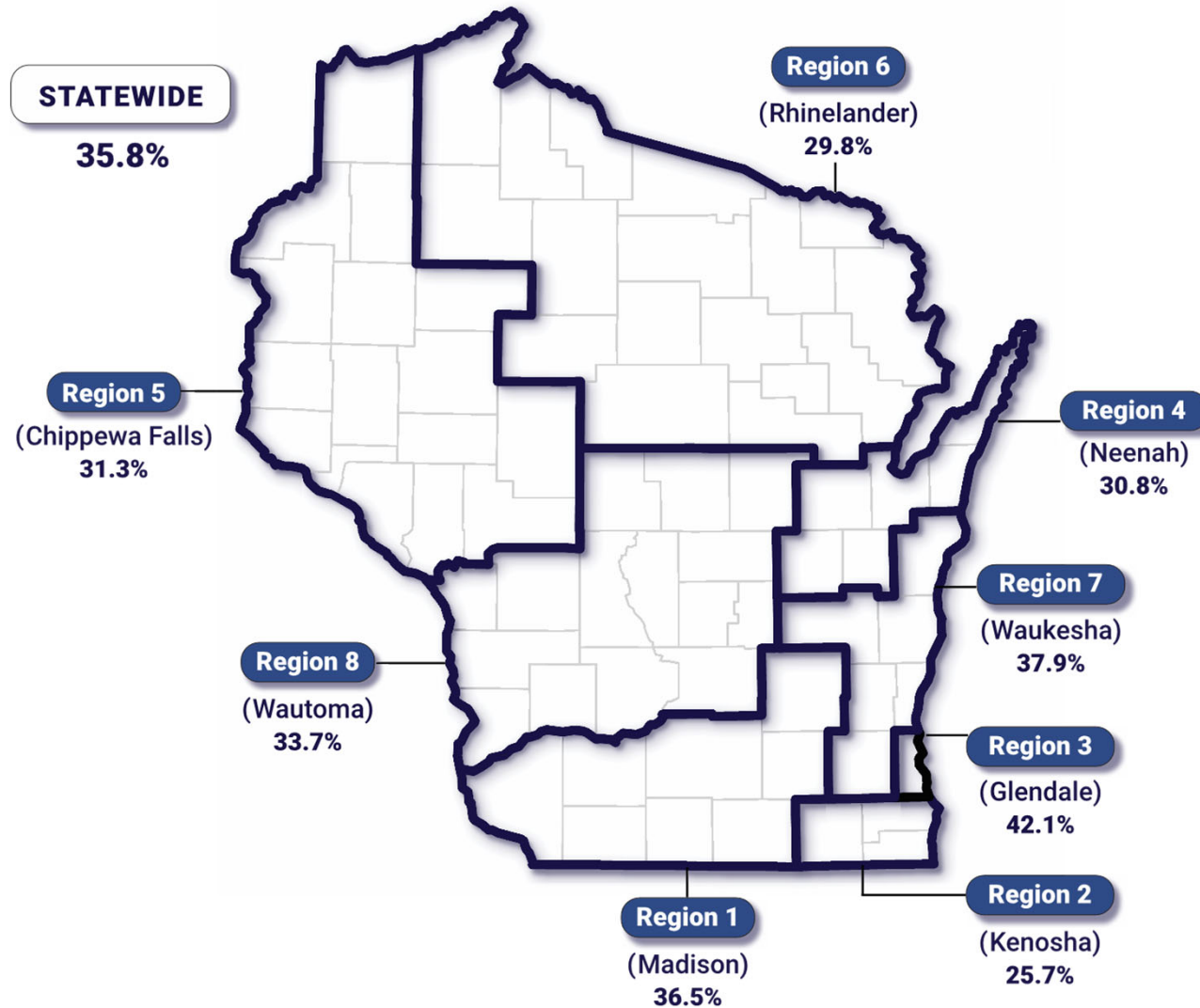
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April 20, 2023

5

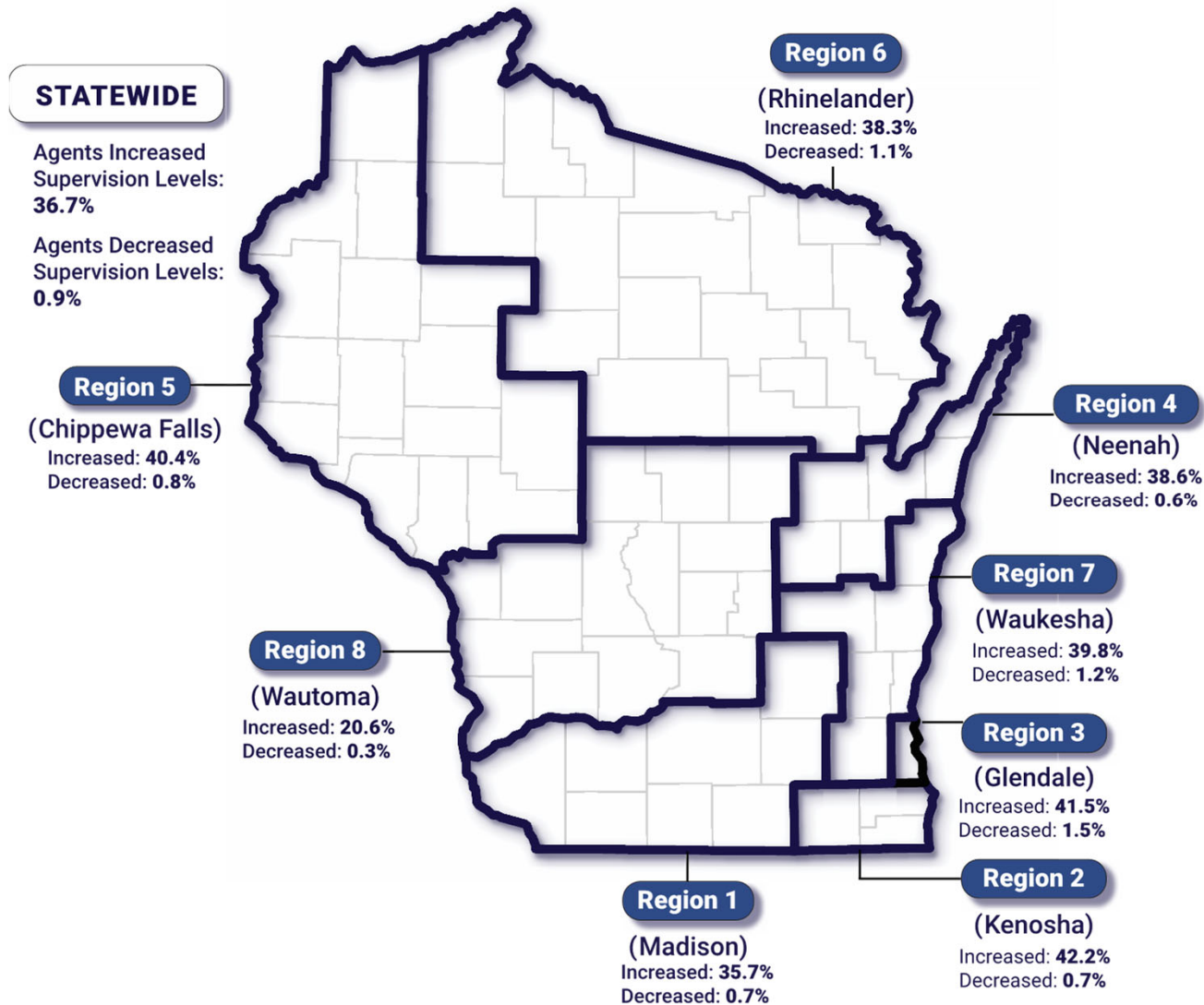
Proportion of Initial Risk and Needs Assessments Not Completed in a Timely Manner

Individuals Who Began Community Supervision from January 2019 through December 2021



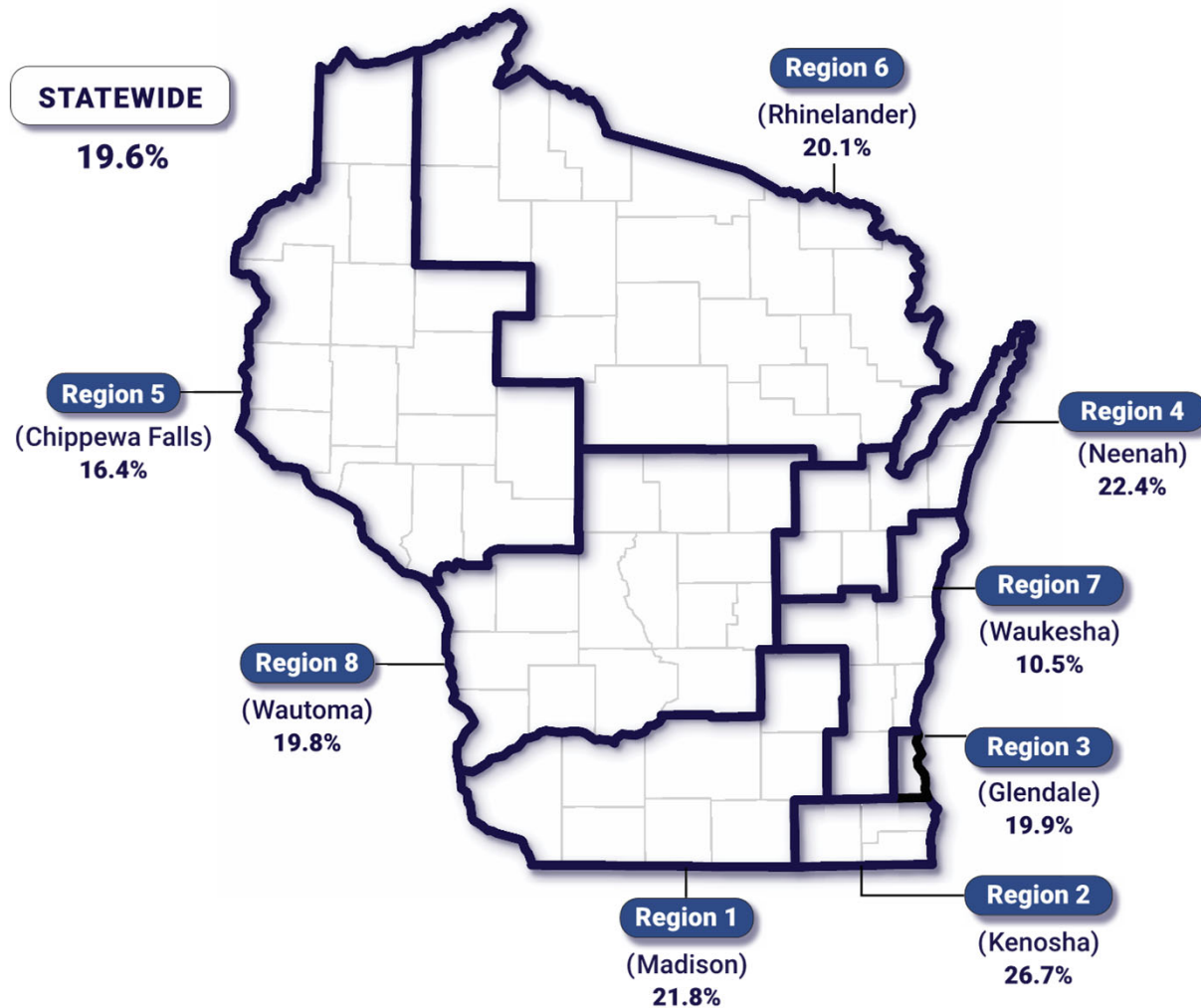
Extent to Which DOC Agents Overrode the Risk and Needs Assessment Supervision Levels

Individuals Who Began Community Supervision from January 2019 through December 2021



Proportion of Individuals Under Community Supervision Who Received Program Services Paid for or Provided by DOC

January 2019 through December 2021



Program Services

Although DOC centrally tracks program services it pays for or provides, DOC does not centrally track other program services, even if courts ordered individuals to complete these services.

DOC has not developed a statutorily required system for monitoring individuals who received program services in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the services. We found DOC had evaluated the effectiveness of only a small number of program service types.



Violations Committed by Individuals under Community Supervision

From January 2019 through March 2022, agents substantiated that 57,253 individuals committed 388,408 violations.

We found considerable differences among DOC's eight regions in the extent to which DOC agents completed investigations of individuals from January 2019 through December 2021.

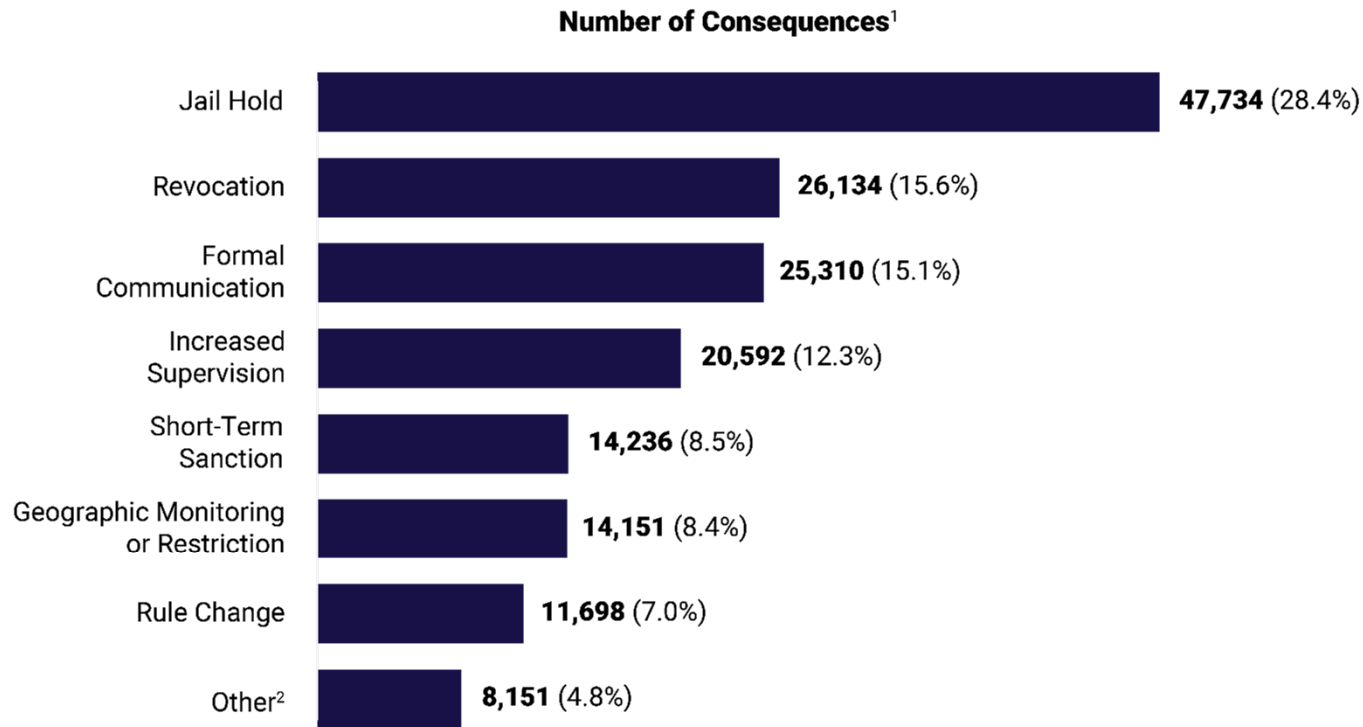


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10

Consequences DOC Imposed on Individuals under Community Supervision January 2019 through March 2022



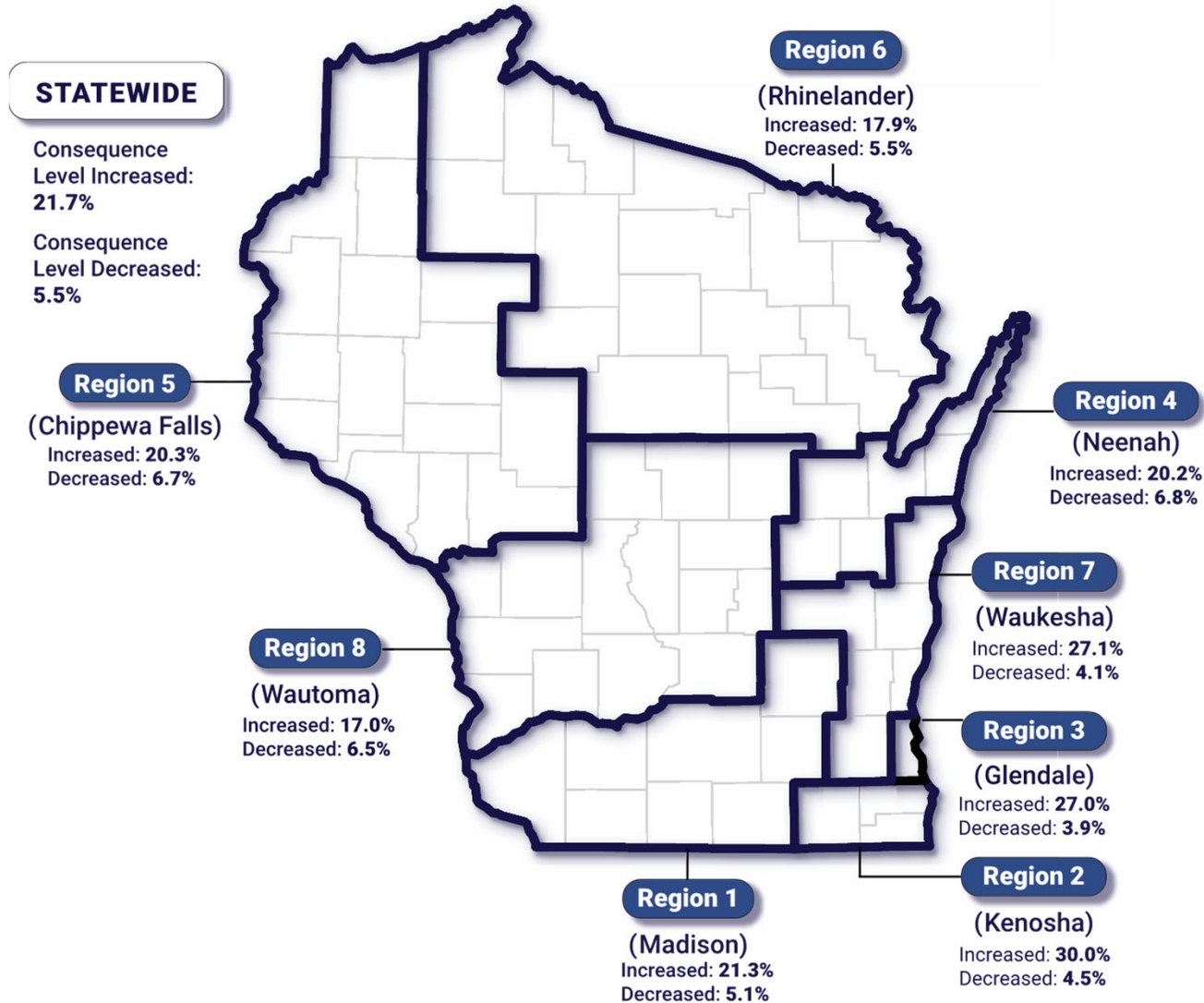
¹ DOC's data did not indicate the consequences for 1,092 investigations.

² Includes community service, loss of privileges, and required payment of fees.



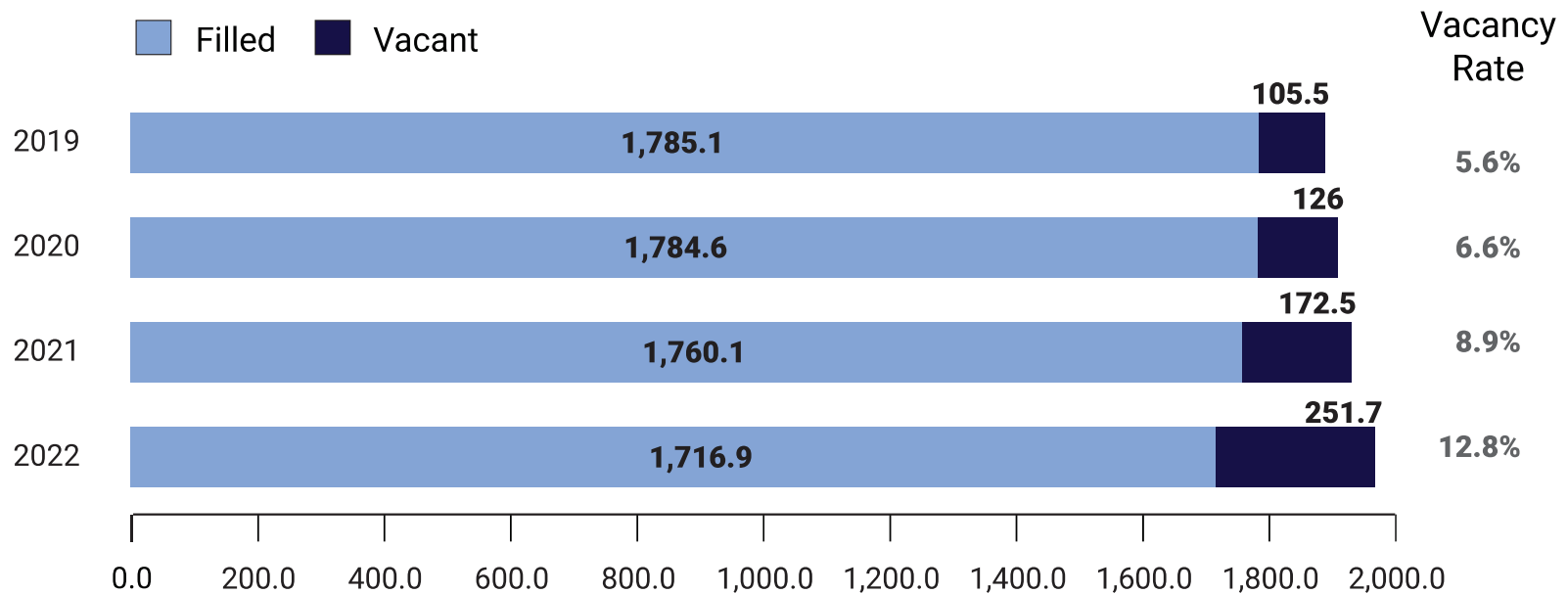
Overrides of Recommended Consequence Levels

January 2021 through March 2022



Vacancy Rates of Authorized FTE Staff Positions for the Community Corrections Program

As of July 1



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April 20, 2023

13

Improving Program Administration

We provide DOC with 27 recommendations to improve its administration of the program. Among these recommendations:

- DOC should examine programmatic differences among the eight regions, as well as among the races and ages of individuals under community supervision; and
- DOC should develop a written plan for comprehensively evaluating whether its evidence-based response to violations project has been successful.

