

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES AND DIVERSION PROGRAMS IN WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Legislative Council

Special Committee on Problem Solving Courts,
Alternatives and Diversion

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

An Overview of the Treatment, Alternatives and Diversion Program

- 2005 Wisconsin Act 25 authorized “grants to counties to enable them to establish and operate programs, including suspended and deferred prosecution programs based on principles of restorative justice that provide alternatives to prosecution and incarceration for criminal offenders who abuse alcohol or other drugs.”
- Allocated \$1 million to implement the grant program
- Although the Program is administered by the Department of Justice, it is operated as a collaboration among DOJ, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Health Services and the Director of State Courts Office.
- An Advisory Committee was created and is invaluable to the structure and ongoing operations of the program.

Required Project Components

- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Serve non-Violent Offenders (2 standards, statutorily required)
- Use Evidence-Based Practices
- Employ Sanctions and Incentives
- Provide Comprehensive Treatment to:
 - Eliminate or Reduce Use of Alcohol or Other Drugs
 - Improve Mental Health
 - Facilitate gainful Employment or Education/Training
 - Provide Stable Housing

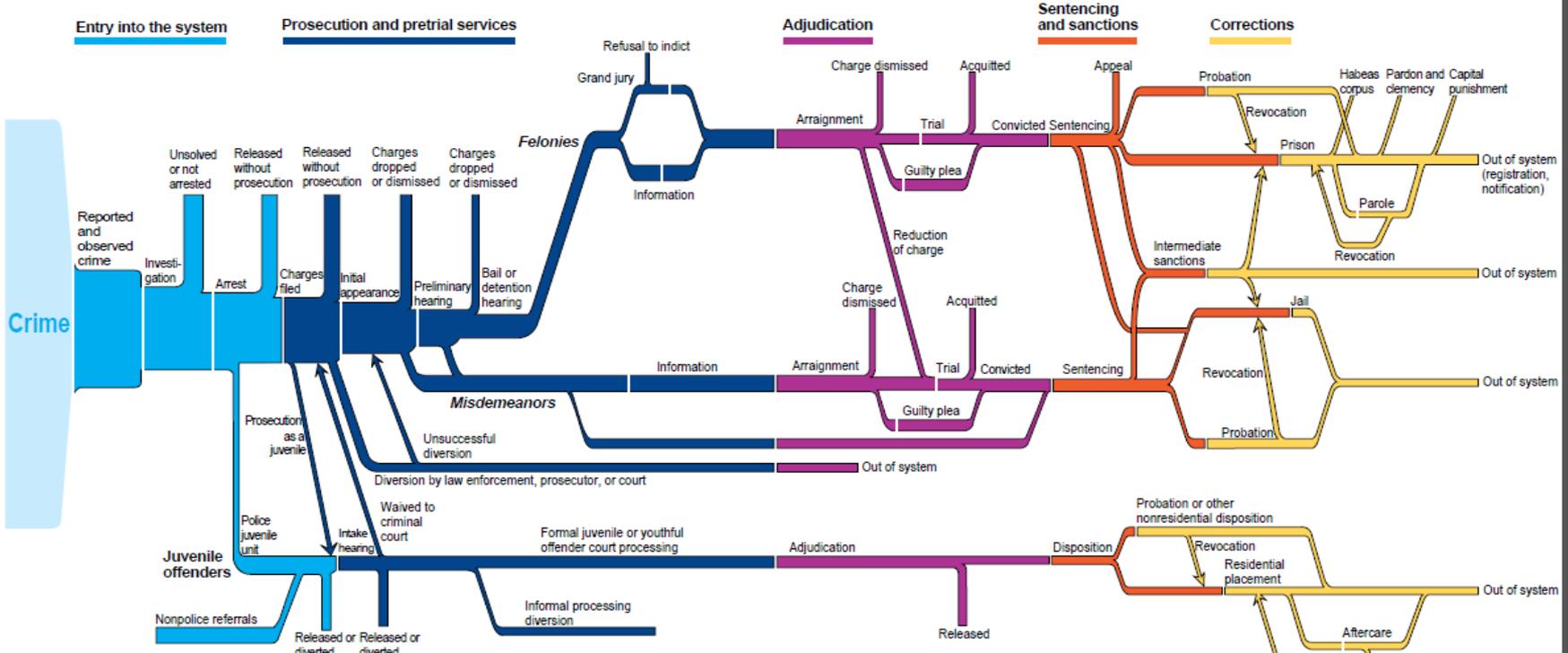
Required Components Continued

- Integrate Mental Health Services
- Use Certified Treatment Providers
- Require Participants to Co-Pay for Services (service fee set by project)
- Collaborate with Key Local Stakeholders

TAD targets Non-Violent Offenders With The Goals Of :

- Promoting public safety,
 - Reducing prison and jail populations,
 - Reducing prosecution and incarceration costs,
 - Reducing recidivism, and,
 - Improving the welfare of participants.
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- Operational Goal: Reducing the Length, Severity and Impact of Criminal Careers.

What is the sequence of events in the criminal justice system?



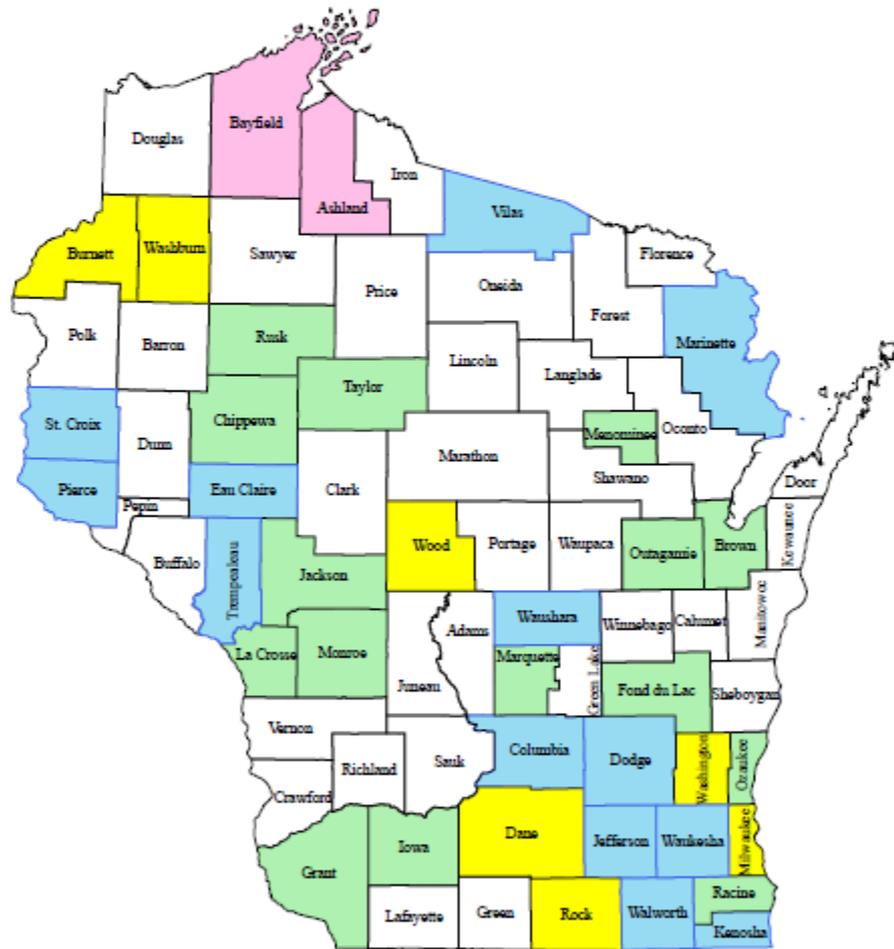
Note: This chart gives a simplified view of caseload through the criminal justice system. Procedures vary among jurisdictions. The weights of the lines are not intended to show actual size of caseloads.

Source: Adapted from *The challenge of crime in a free society*. President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, 1967. This revision, a result of the Symposium on the 30th Anniversary of the President's Commission, was prepared by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 1997.

TAD Funding History

- January 1, 2007- 6 grants were funded (7 counties) \$1 million
- January 1, 2012 + 1 grant (2 counties)
- January 1, 2014 + 13 grants (12 Counties and 1 Tribe) \$1.5 million
(note: \$1 million for TAD Expansion and \$500,000 for Drug Court Funding)
- June 1, 2014 + 14 grants (15 Counties and 1 Tribe) \$1.5 million
- Total = 34 projects (35 Counties and 2 Tribes) \$4.0 million

Wisconsin TAD Projects June 2014



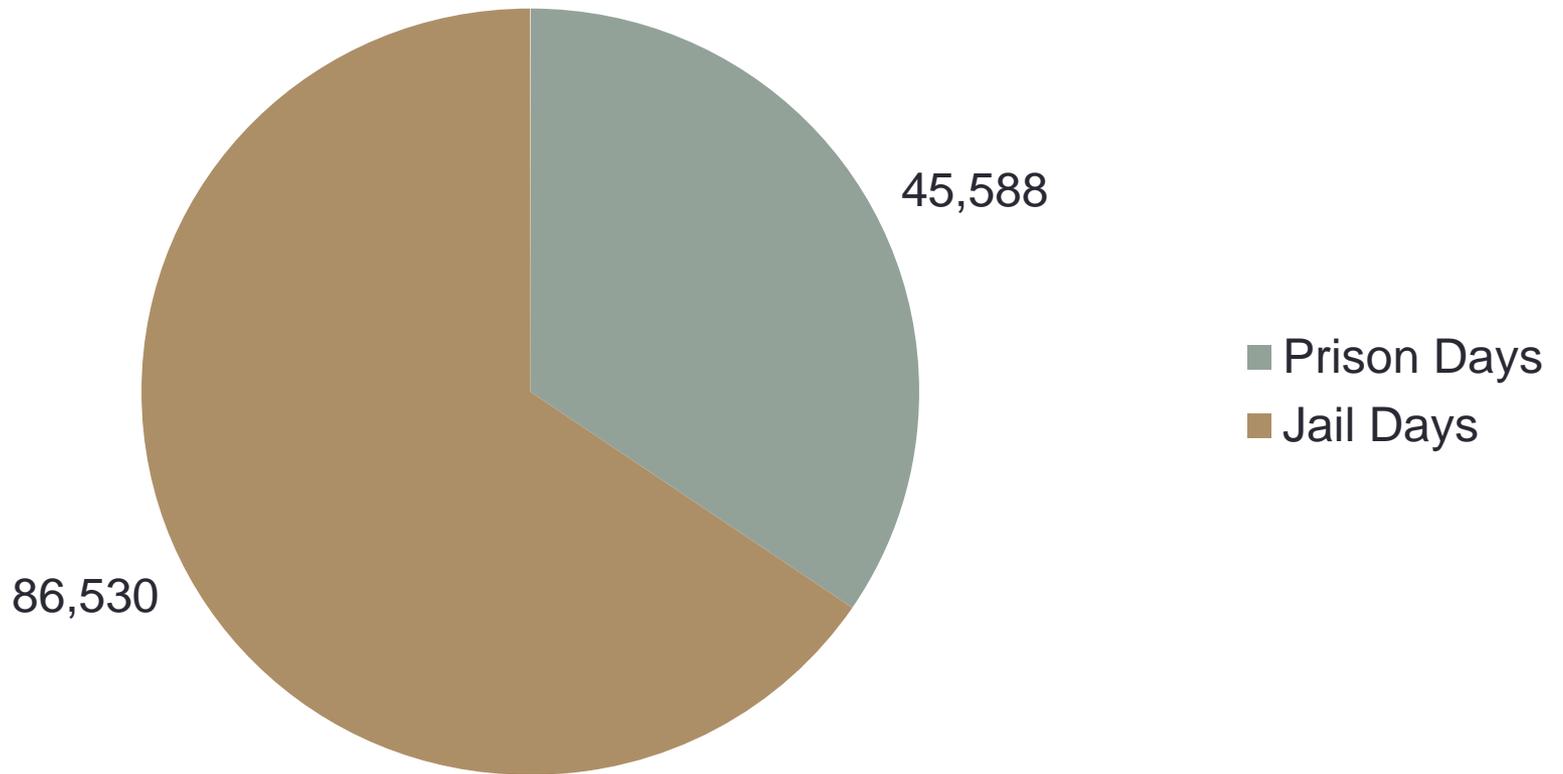
- Group I Original TAD sites
- Group II
- Group III
- Group IV

TAD Admissions and Completion 2007-2013

	Treatment Courts	Diversion Projects	Overall
# of Admissions	653	2,440	3,093
Average Days in Project	320	158	191
Graduation/Completion Rate	56%	68%	66%

2007-2010

132,118 Total Incarceration Days Averted



Does TAD Save Money? Yes!

- **Every \$1.00 invested in TAD yields benefits of \$1.93 to the criminal justice system through averted incarceration and reduced crime.**
- **TAD treatment courts yield benefits of \$1.35 for every \$1.00 invested.**
- **TAD diversion projects yield benefits of \$2.08 for every \$1.00 invested.**

Why Does TAD Work?

- Research-Based
- Requires Evidence-Based practices
- Promotes Local Response to Local Problems
- Flexible
- Spectrum of Activities From Pre-Trial to ATR
- Focused on Client Needs Directed at Reducing Criminogenic Risk Factors
- Makes use of Existing Resources
- Risk and Needs Assessment is a Key Element
- Followed Closely by Case Management and Evaluation
- Partnerships!!

How Can TAD Be Improved?

- Evidence-based practices must be a primary component in all TAD implementation plans.
- Ongoing evaluation must be conducted to ensure TAD program fidelity and outcome measures.
- Modify participant eligibility criteria to meet the demonstrated capabilities and risk levels adopted by the local TAD Advisory Committees and Projects.
- Continue to structure TAD as a multi-agency, collaborative effort at both the local and state levels.

Questions?

Thank You for Your Attention

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