Wisconsin Treatment Court and Diversion 2019-2023 Evaluation

Wisconsin DOJ

Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis

Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals 2025 Conference

Evaluation Components

- Executive Summary
- Participant Overview
- Recidivism Analysis
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Recommendations

Participant Summary

- Pandemic Impacts on Programs*
- Treatment Court Referrals and Eligibility*
- Treatment Court Admissions
- Treatment Court Discharges

Virtual and Non-Contact Program Changes

This is based solely on observation and participant input—the lack of face-to-face accountability, whether it be from a supervisory role such as coordinator contact or probation supervision, or peer support such as therapy groups or recovery groups, or even from our judge in court, has been detrimental to the program as a whole and has led to a higher relapse rate within our participant pool. (Hybrid (Drug & OWI) Court))

Unable to Use What Works

Our limited access to testing means that participants are not regularly being tested for alcohol, and they are aware that the sweat patches do not detect alcohol. Without this monitoring, several participants have recidivated. (Hybrid (Drug & OWI) Court)

External Impacts on Programs

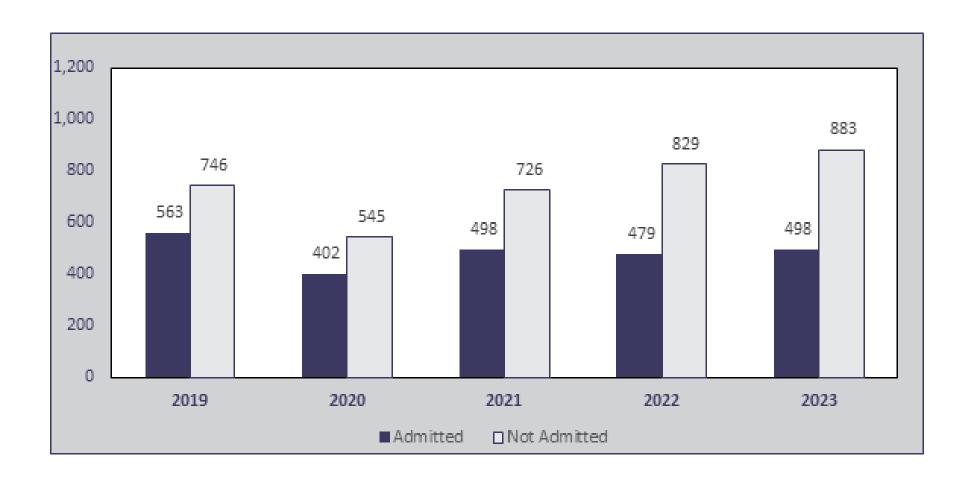
COVID has amplified the stresses of participants related to housing needs.

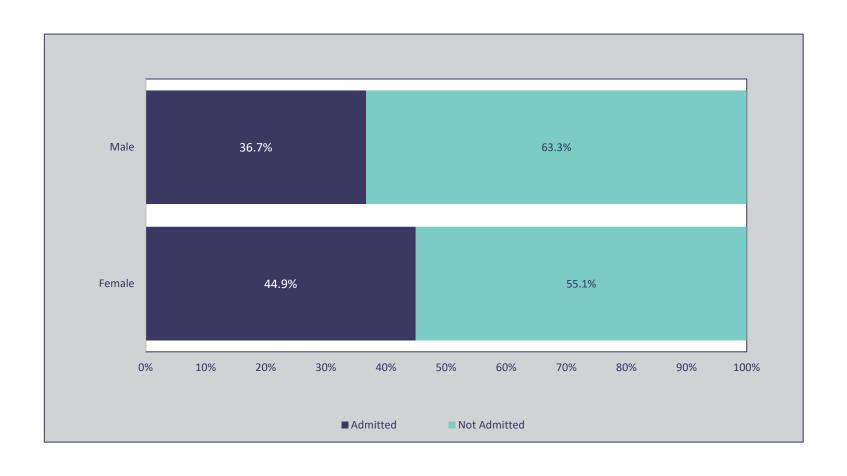
Needing to house participants in hotels has increased triggers, as participants have used and partied in the same place where they are now being housed.

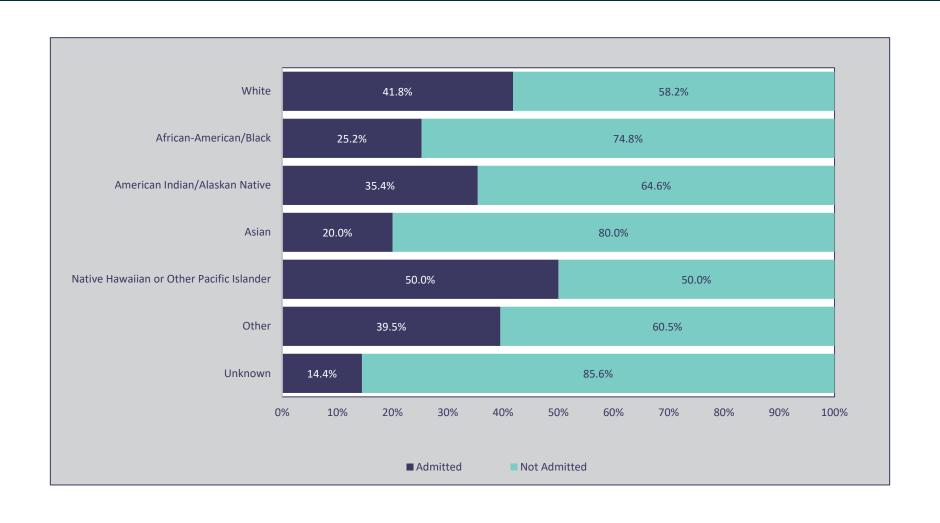
Additional triggers/stressors are decreased employment opportunities, lack of inperson meetings and treatment services, and food scarcity. Case Managers have worked very hard to help participants overcome these triggers/stressors and continue to make progress in the program. (Hybrid (Drug & OWI) Court))

Suspended Programs

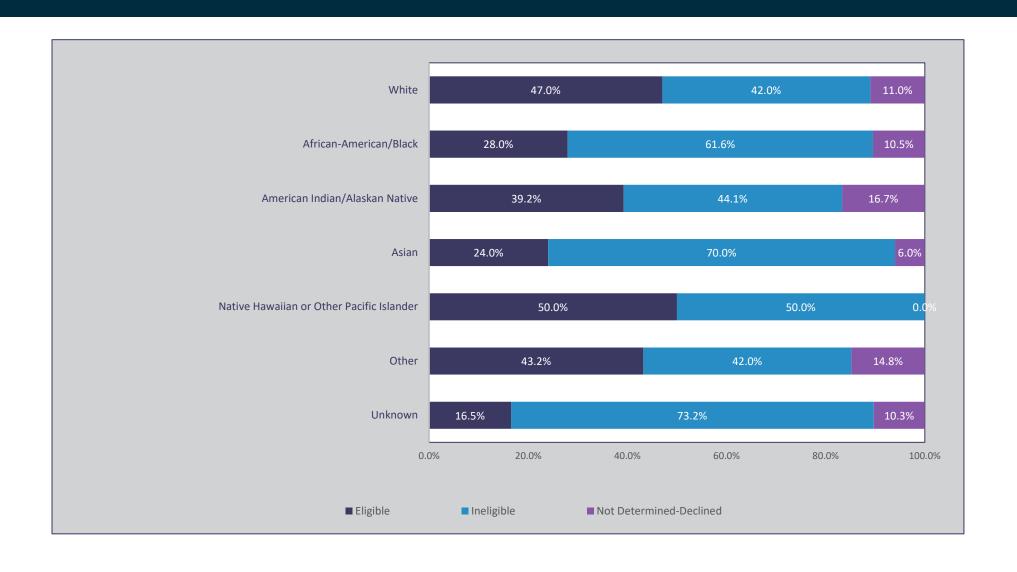
Suspensions of new referrals
Suspension referrals to residential treatment
Postponement of court hearings
Delayed termination hearings
Delayed graduations
Court backlogs preventing program progress



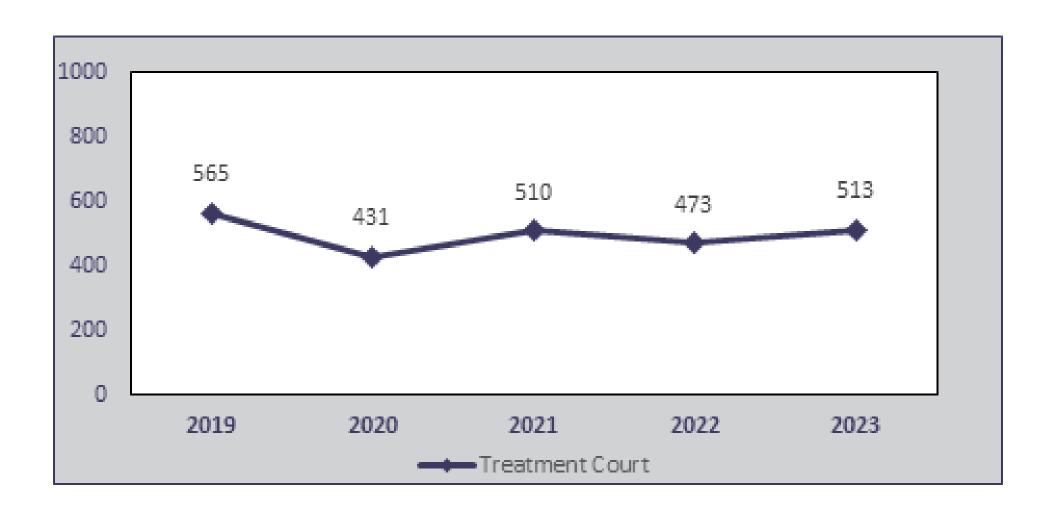




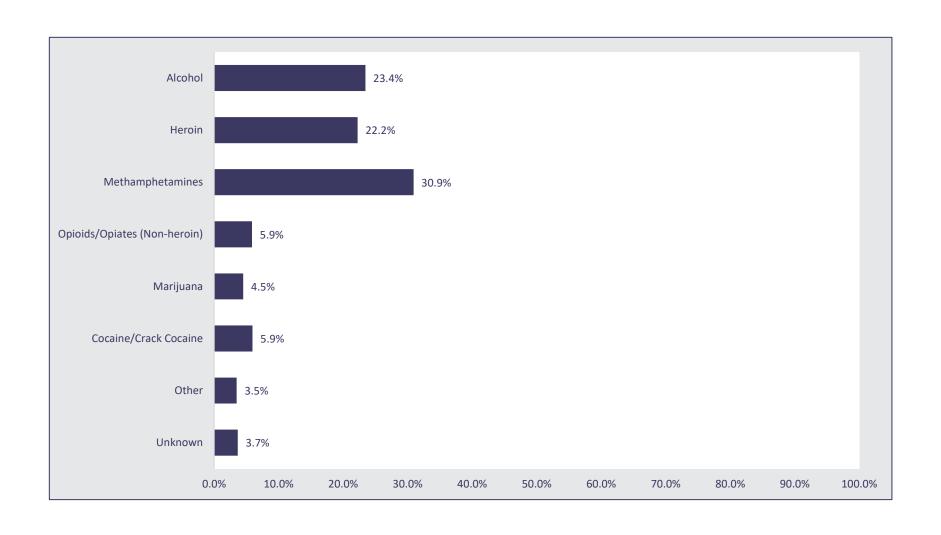




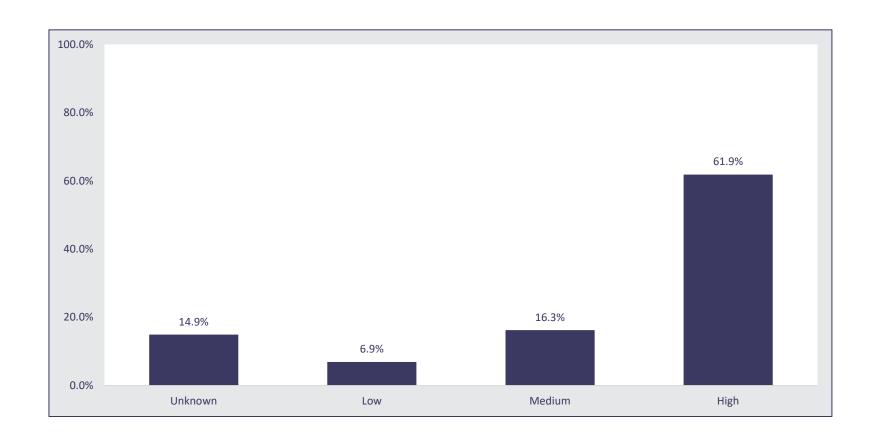
Treatment Court Admissions

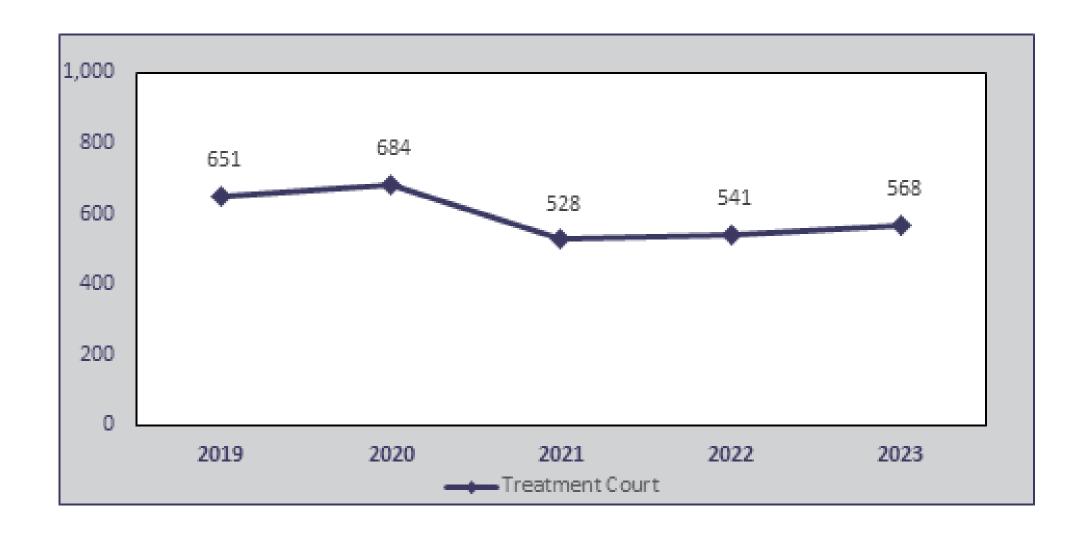


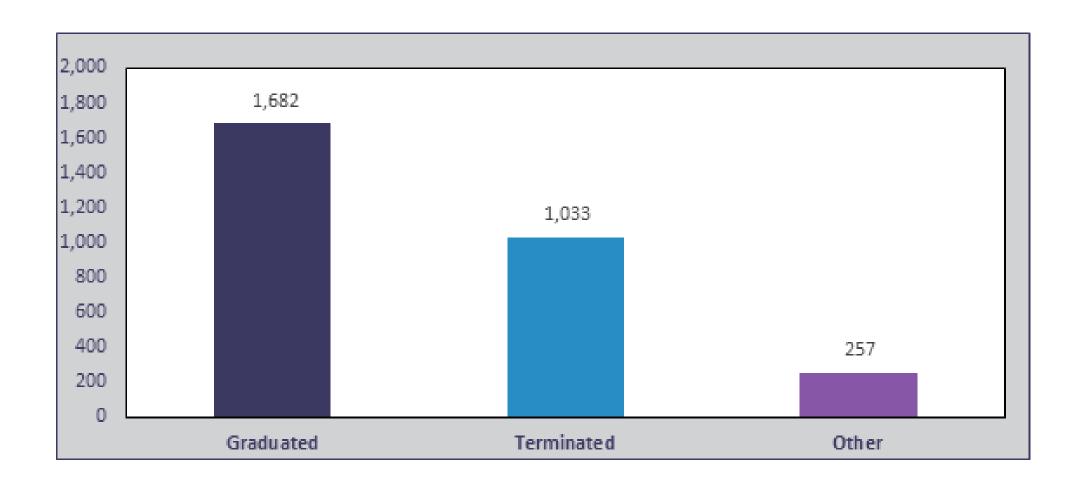
Treatment Court Admissions

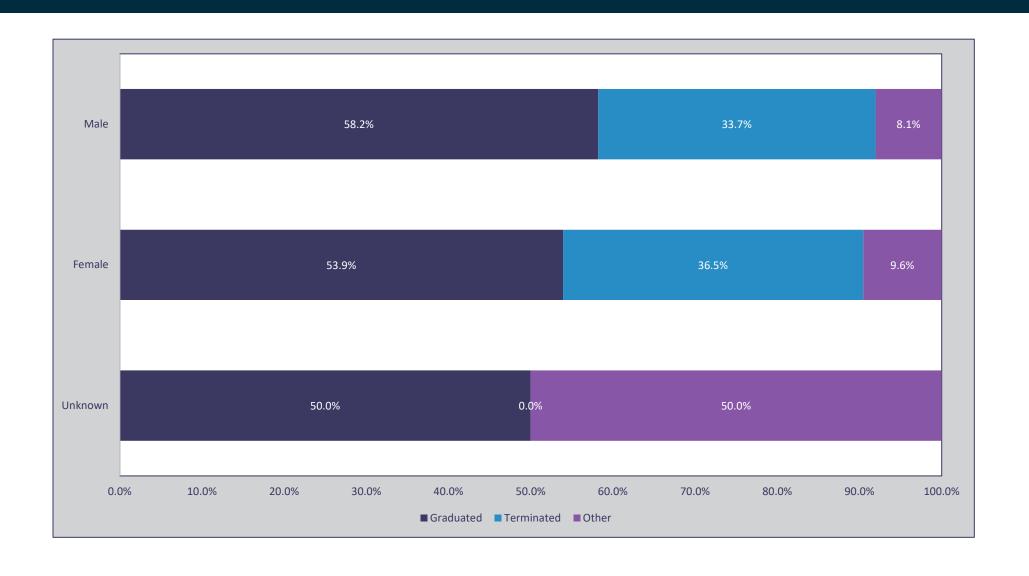


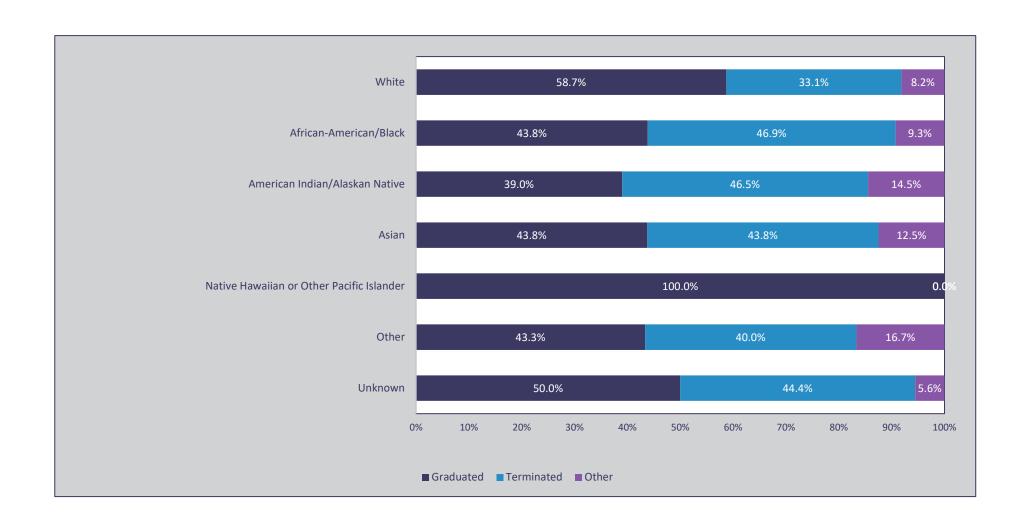
Treatment Court Admissions









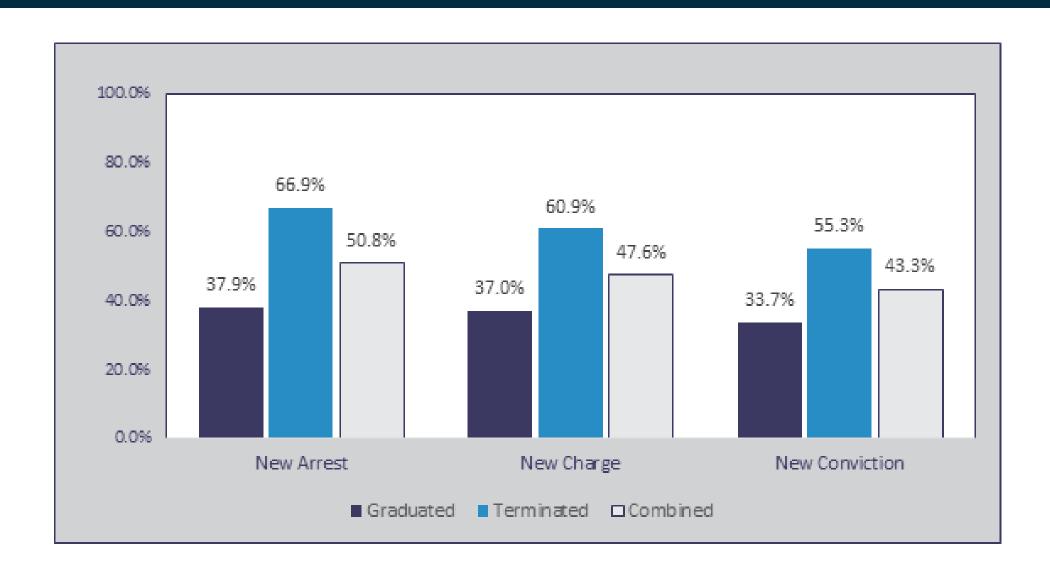


Area of Contact	2019 Average	2020 Average	2021 Average	2022 Average	2023 Average	Five-Year Average
Judge	6.22 (n = 582)	6.13 (n = 325)	6.12 (n = 265)	6.33 (n = 358)	6.24 (n = 366)	6.21
Case Manager	6.46 (n = 577)	6.40 (n = 324)	6.32 (n = 266)	6.44 (n = 357)	6.41 (n = 363)	6.41
Probation Officer	6.43 (n = 540)	6.28 (n = 307)	6.29 (n = 253)	6.29 (n = 335)	6.47 (n = 345)	6.35
Treatment Provider	6.49 (n = 578)	6.28 (n = 322)	6.27 (n = 265)	6.41 (n = 355)	6.40 (n = 365)	6.37
Staff of Court	6.15 (n = 578)	6.08 (n = 318)	6.03 (n = 264)	6.24 (n = 358)	6.22 (n = 366)	6.14
Total Average	6.35	6.23	6.21	6.34	6.35	6.30

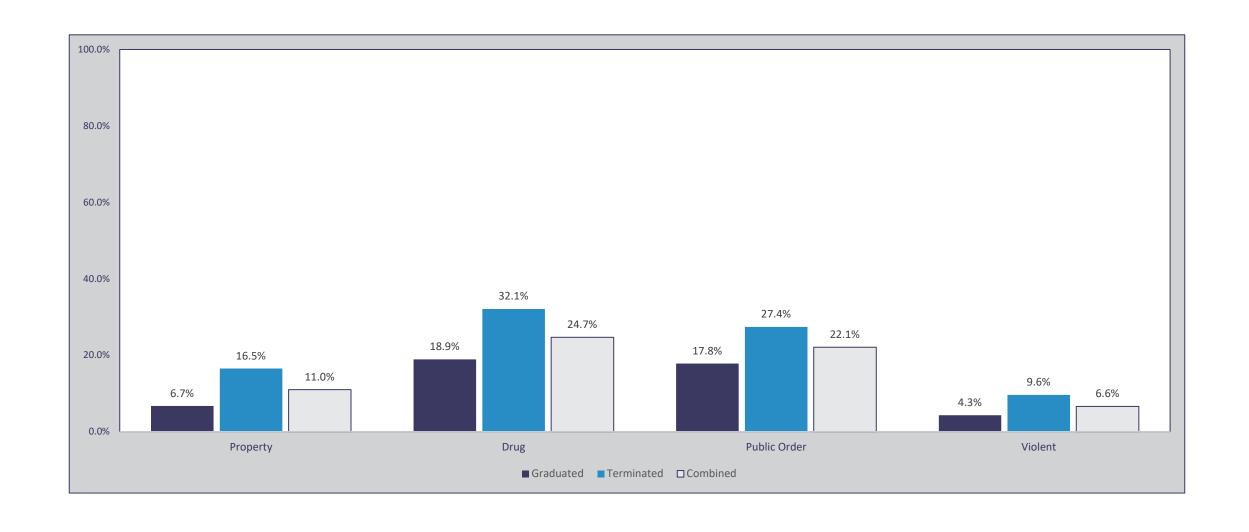
Recidivism

- Three different events: arrest, charge, conviction
- Five different follow-up periods: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 years
- Overall offense categories, offense subcategories
- Overall, graduated, terminated
- Overall TAD Discharge groups, Comparison A, Comparison B

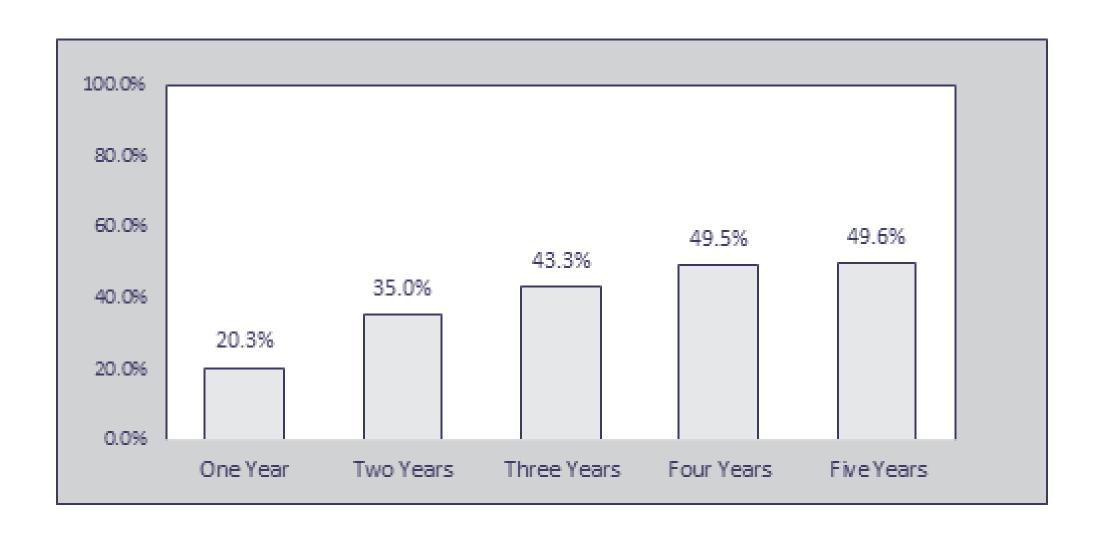
Treatment Court Three-Year Recidivism



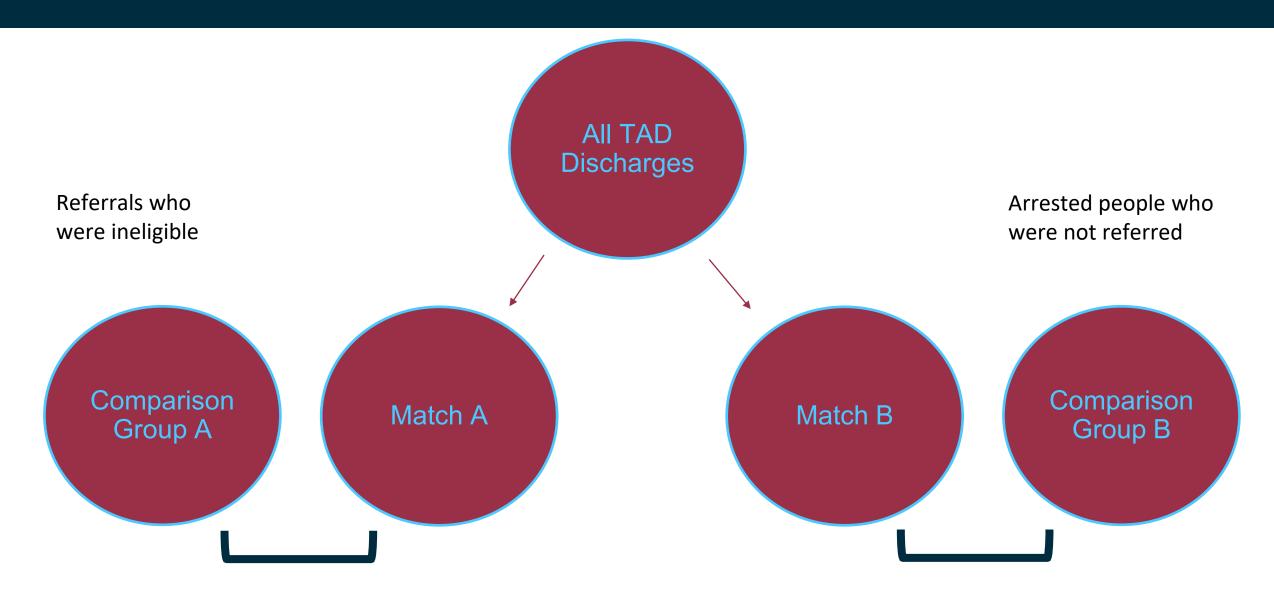
Treatment Court Three-Year Conviction Recidivism



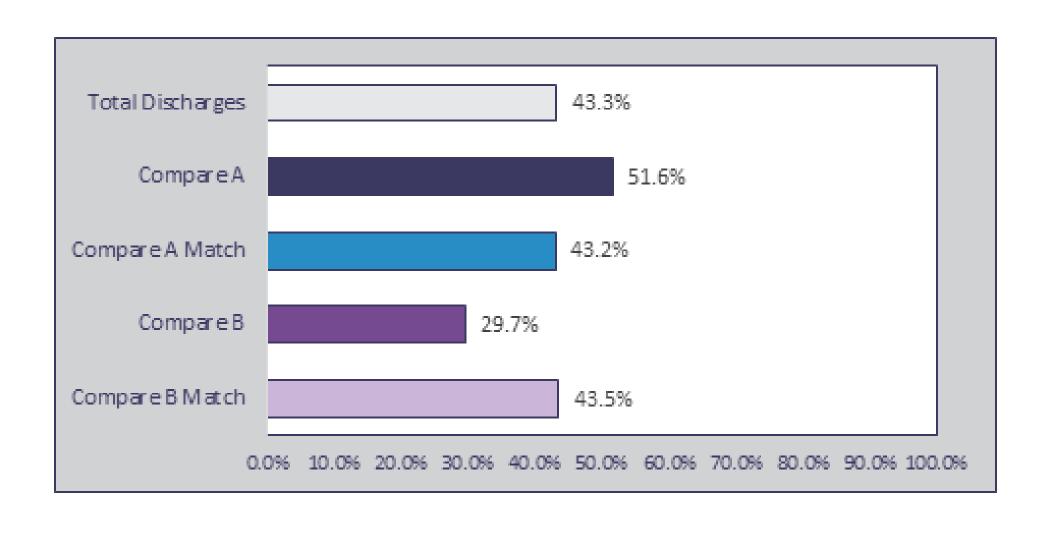
Treatment Court Conviction Recidivism



Recidivism Comparison Groups



Treatment Court Comparison Recidivism



Cost-Benefit Analysis

Item	Treatment Court
Est. Project Funding Total - Turnback	\$24,457,673.25
Estimated Fees Paid Total	\$602,500.77
# Discharges	2972
Total Cost Per Discharge	\$8,026.64

Cost-Benefit Analysis

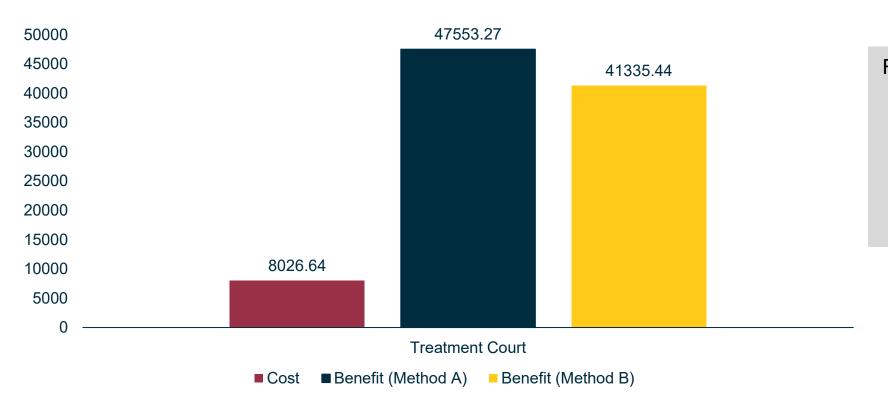
Item	Treatment Court
# Graduates	1682
Median Sentencing for Misdemeanor	92.45
Median Sentencing for Felony	743.81
Estimated # of Graduates Averting Jail	172.38
Estimated # of Graduates Averting Prison (Male)	413.85
Estimated # of Graduates Averting Prison (Female)	232.79
Estimated Jail Days Averted	15,936.47
Estimated Prison Days Averted (Male)	307,824.69
Estimated Prison Days Averted (Female)	173,151.39
Averted Incarceration Per Graduate	\$42,427.70

Cost-Benefit Analysis

Item		Treatment Court
	Averted Crime Costs from Difference in Conviction Recidivism (METHOD A) per Discharge in cohort	\$5,125.57
	Averted Crime Costs from Difference in Conviction Recidivism (METHOD B) per Discharge in cohort	\$-1,092.26

Cost-Benefit Result

(Averted Incarceration per graduate + Averted Costs due to Averted Crime per people in 3-year follow-up)/Cost per discharge



For every \$1 in TAD funding spent, approximately:

\$5.15 - \$5.92 is saved
Treatment Courts

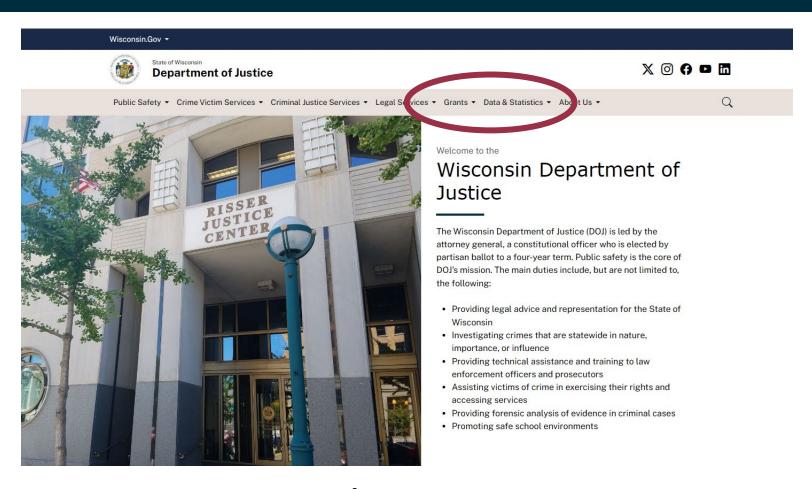
Recommendations

- Comparison with non-TAD funded programs
- Understanding program processes to increase successful outcomes
- Understanding program success beyond recidivism
- WI DOJ staffing capacity
- Expanding necessary services TAD programs rely on

FYI: New DOJ Public Website

Grants

Data & Statistics (Dashboards)



wisdoj.gov

FYI: New DOJ Public Website

Grants

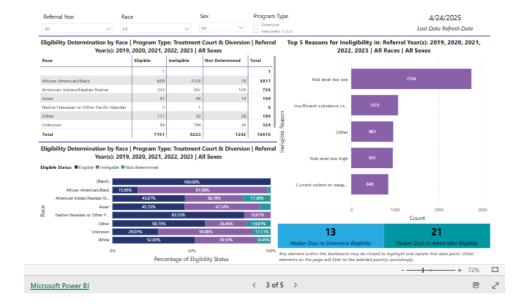
Data & Statistics (Dashboards)

wisdoj.gov



Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Reports

The Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Admission Cohort Report public dashboard serves as a live companion to the yearly static reports on referrals and admissions to TAD-funded treatment courts and diversion programs located below. This dashboard is connected directly to the Comprehensive Outcome, Research and Evaluation (CORE) database where TAD-funded sites are required to input data on their program referrals, eligibility determinations, program admissions, program discharges, and other information about participants while they are in the program. The dashboard refreshes every morning and can be used to examine statewide aggregate data for TAD-funded programs. Currently, the dashboard contains data for the past 5 years' of CORE data entries (2019-2023). Sites are instructed on the usage and elements of CORE through training materials and annual conferences and are advised to enter in applicable participant information within a 48-hour window of occurrence. However, due to various circumstances, the data here may not always be entirely accurate and/or up to date.



Questions?

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