

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

Pandemic Impacts on Programs

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))



Pandemic Impacts on Programs

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)*

Pandemic Impacts on Programs

External Impacts on Programs

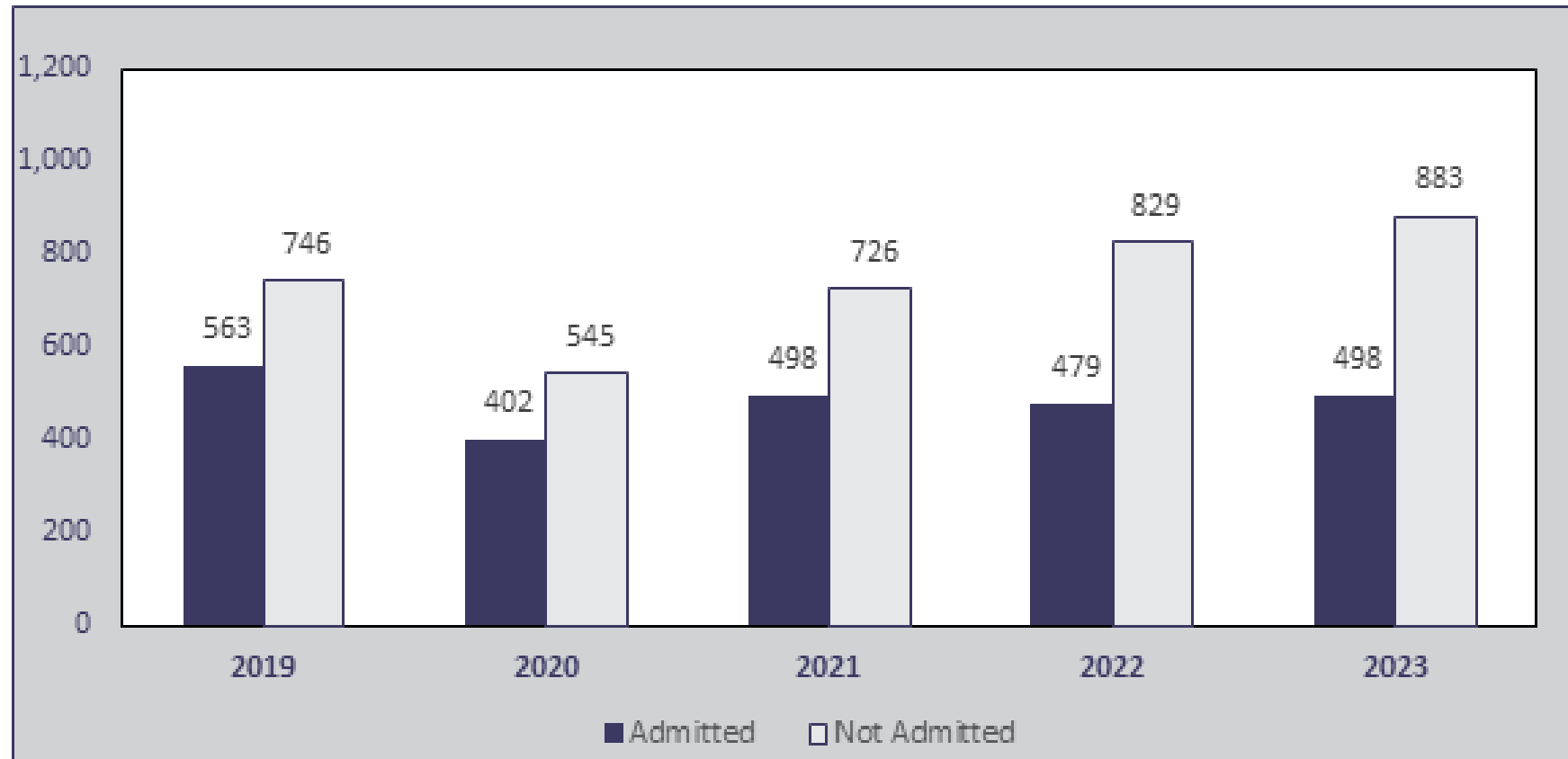
COVID has amplified the stresses of participants related to housing needs. Needing to house participants in hotels has increased triggers, as participants have used and partied in the same place where they are now being housed. Additional triggers/stressors are decreased employment opportunities, lack of in-person 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))

Pandemic Impacts on Programs

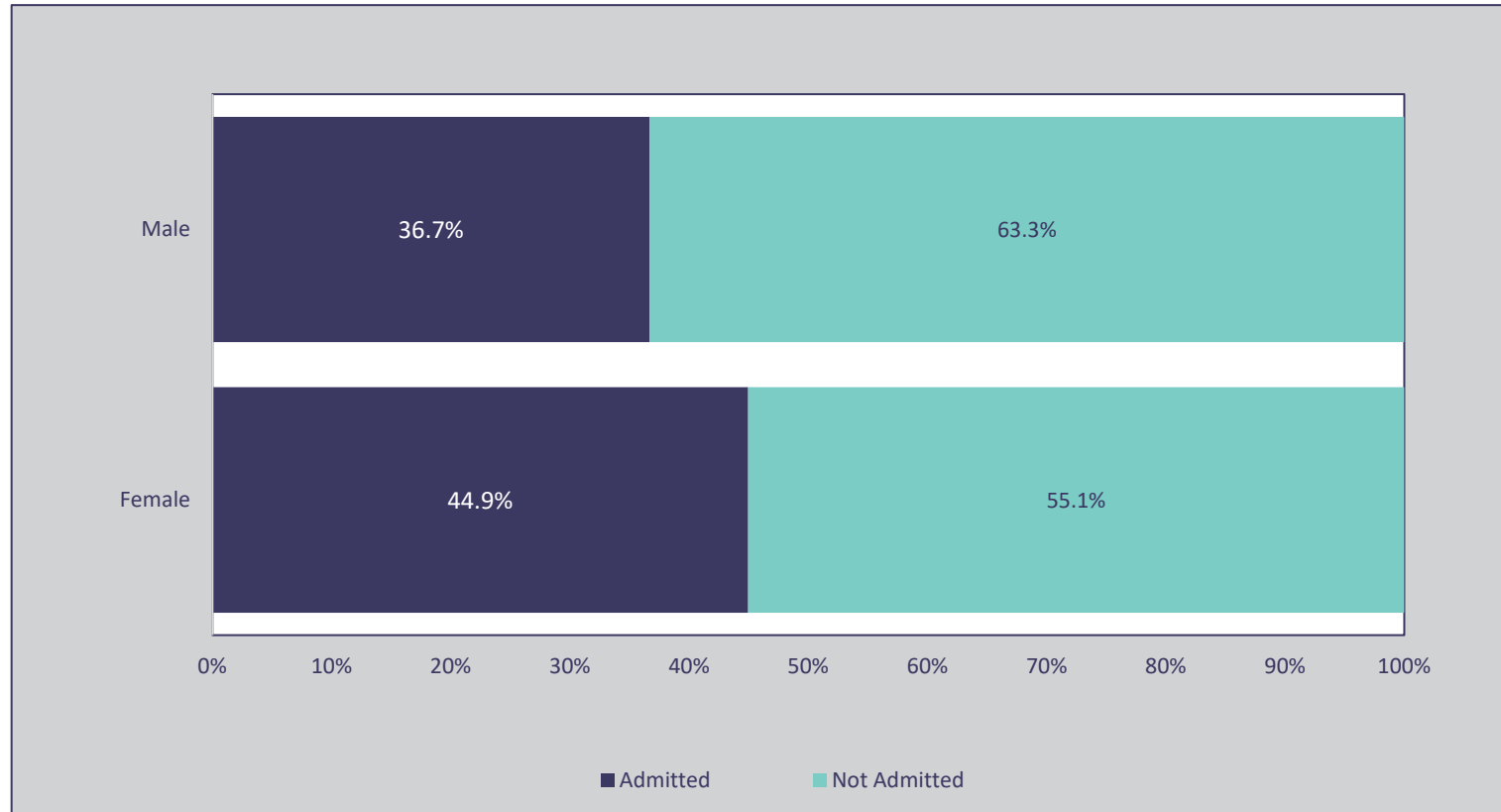
Suspended Programs

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

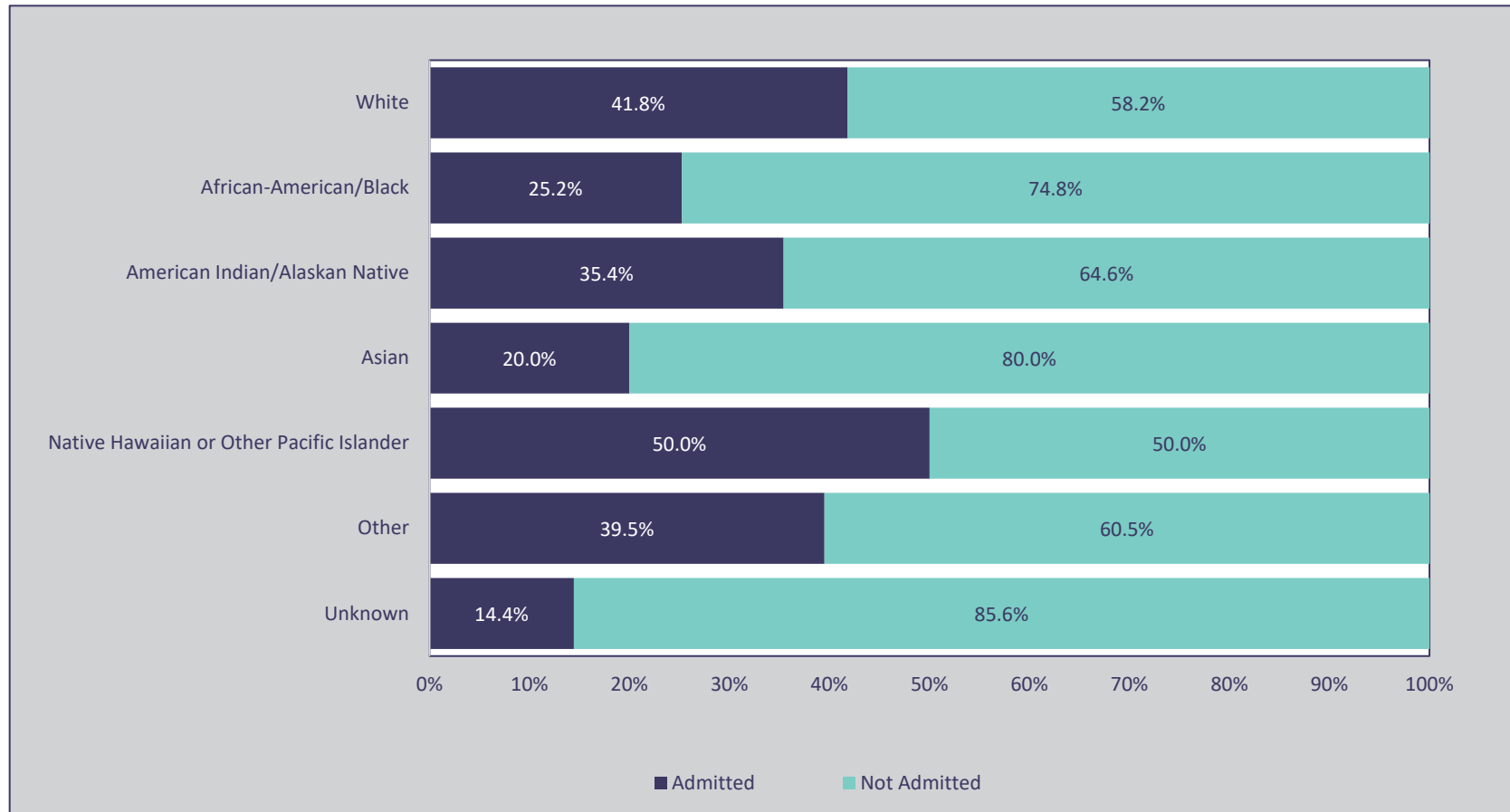
Treatment Court Referrals



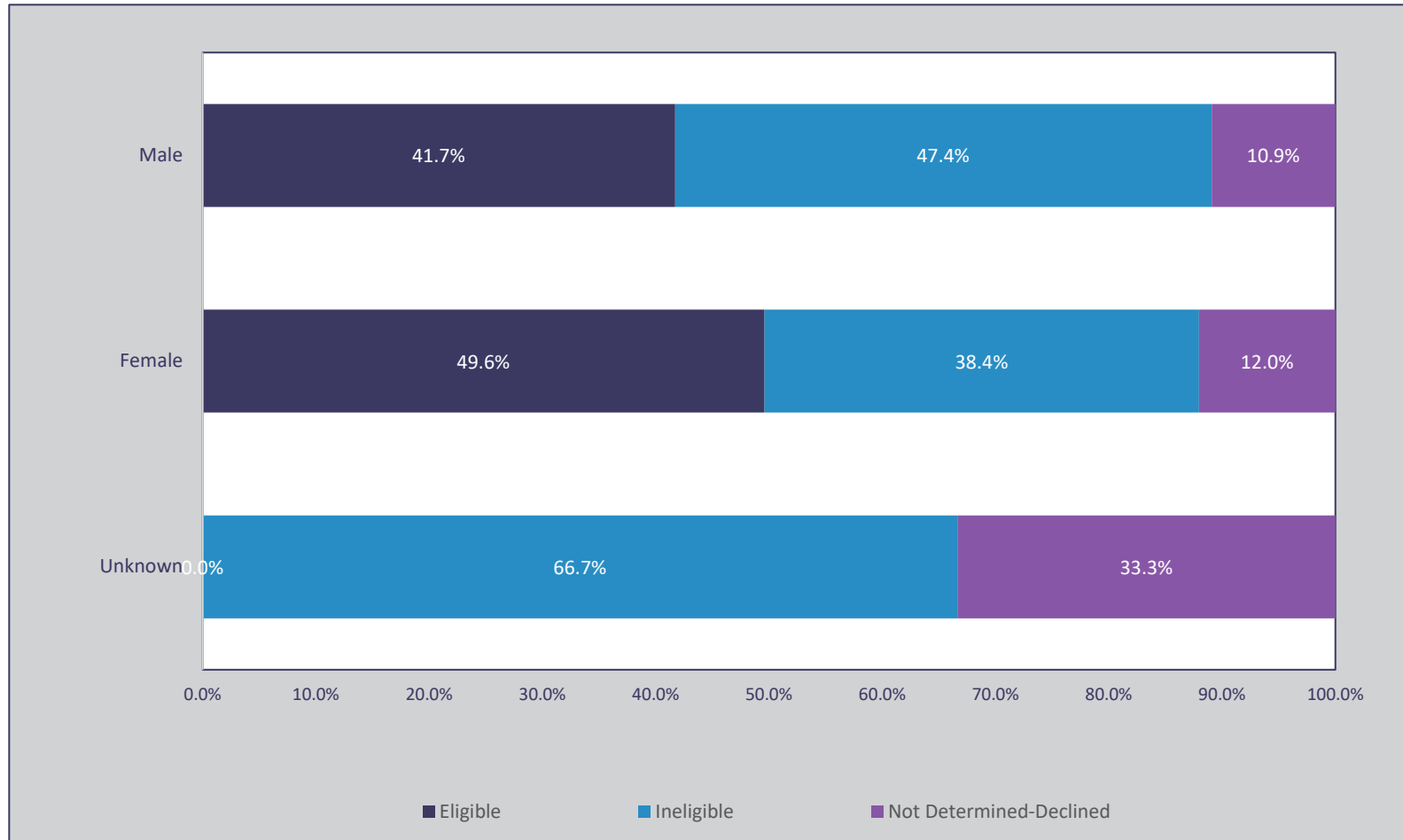
Treatment Court Referrals



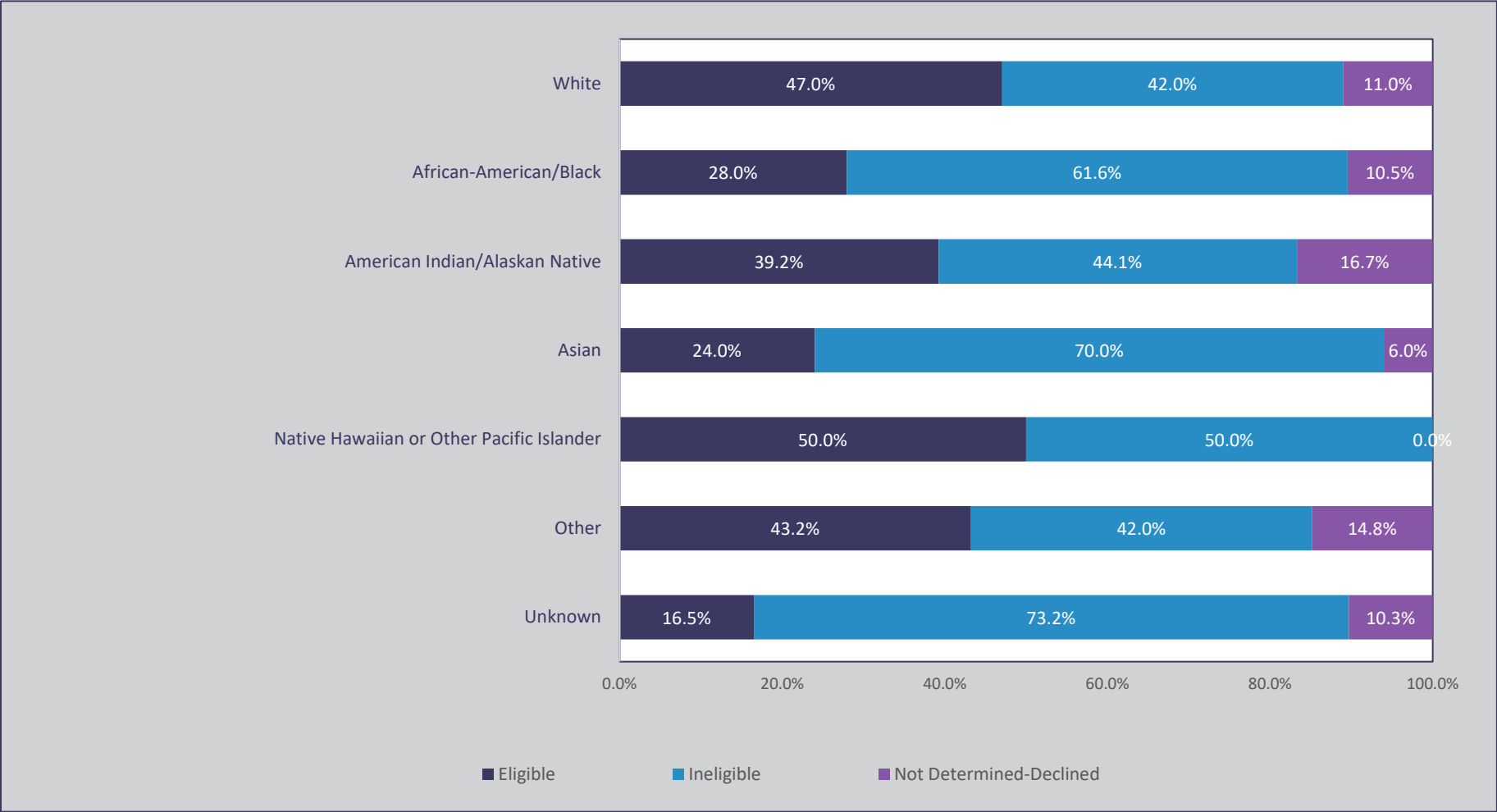
Treatment Court Referrals



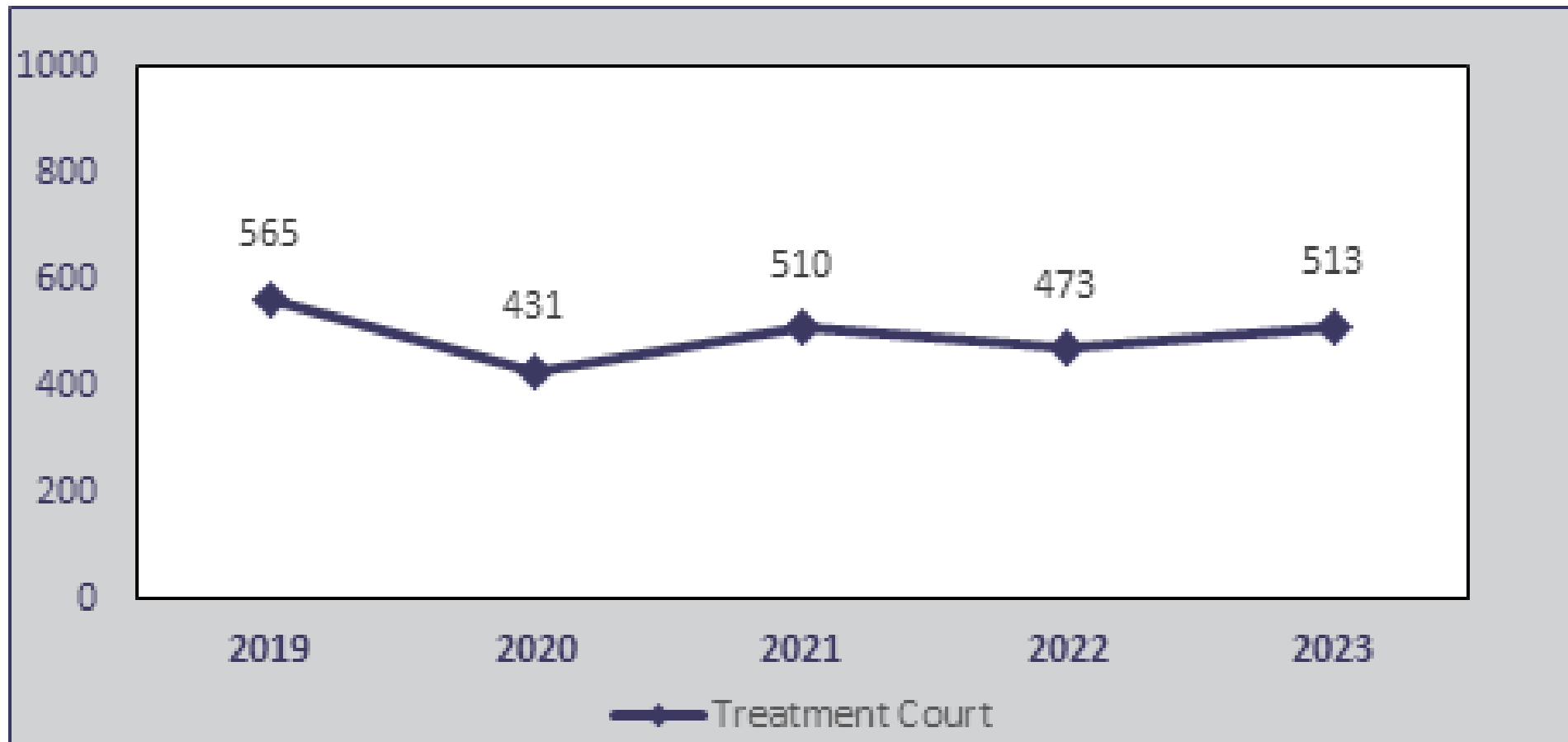
Treatment Court Referrals



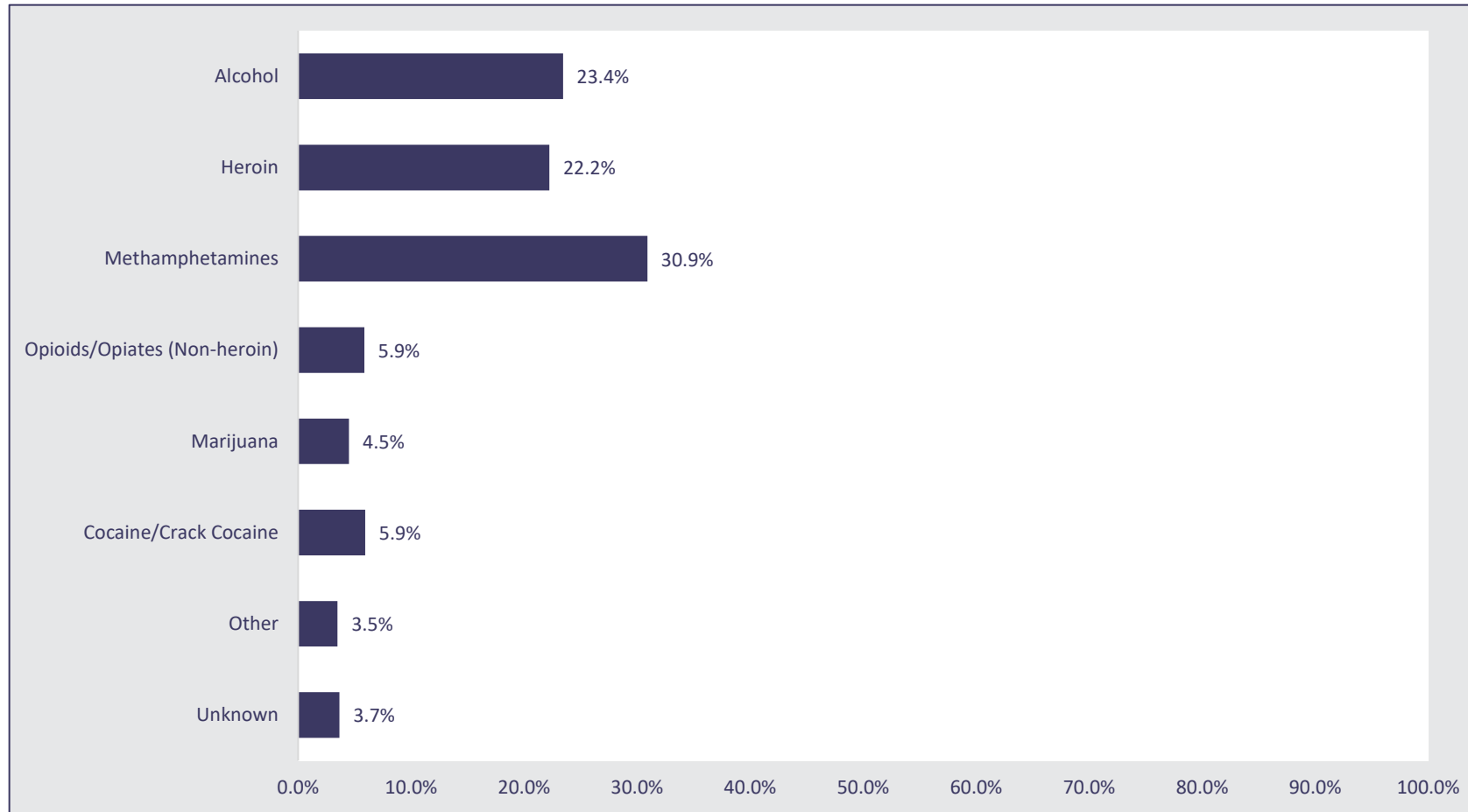
Treatment Court Referrals



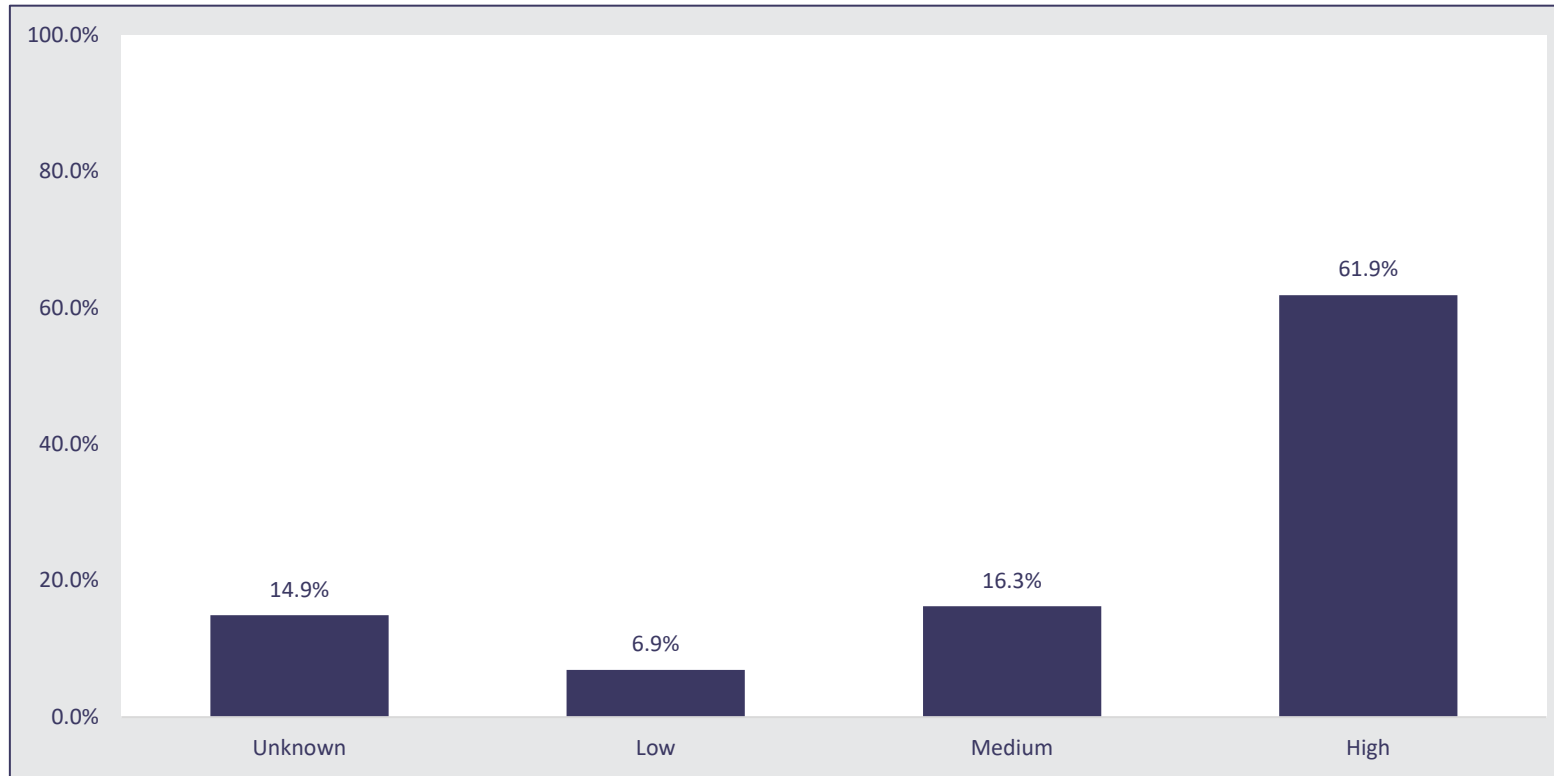
Treatment Court Admissions



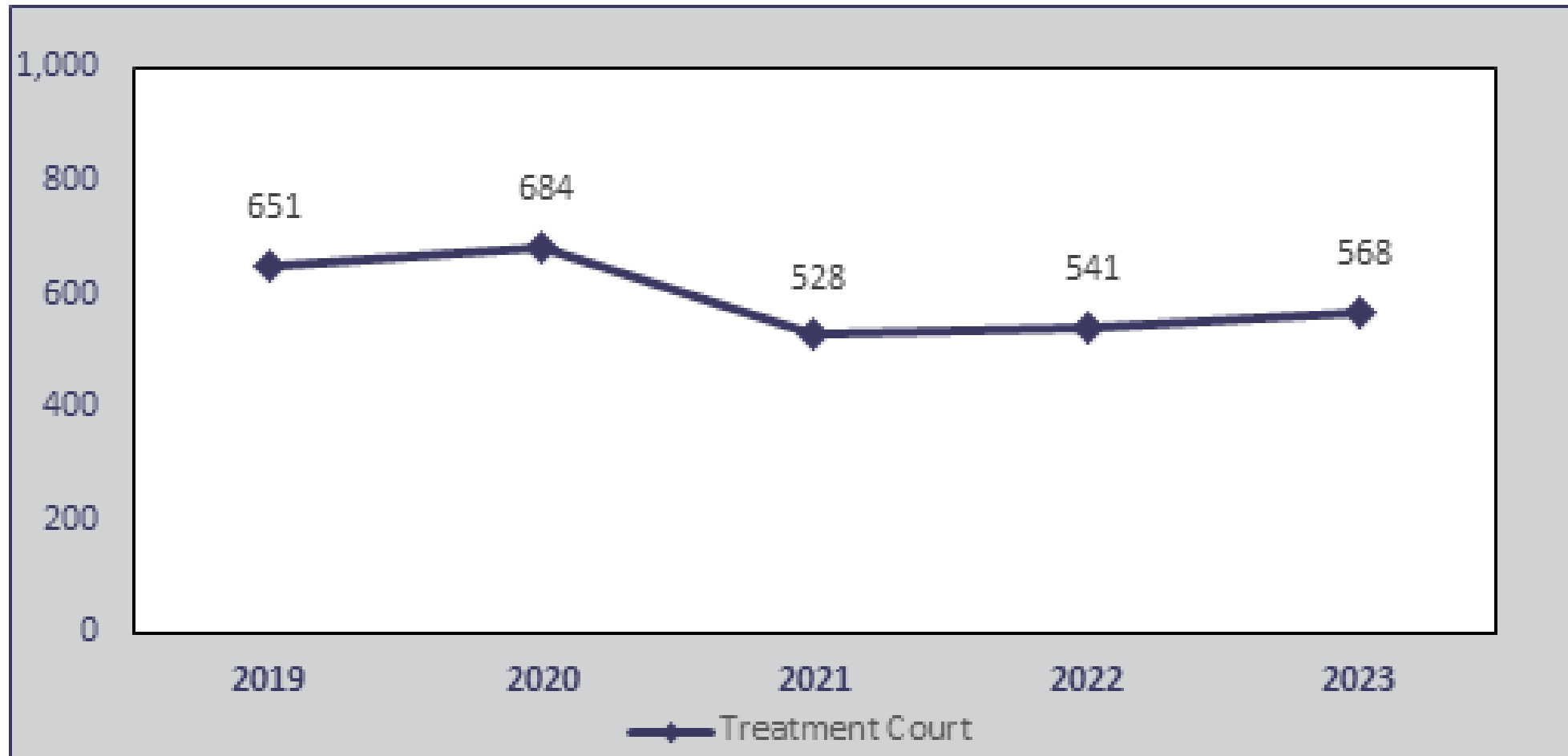
Treatment Court Admissions



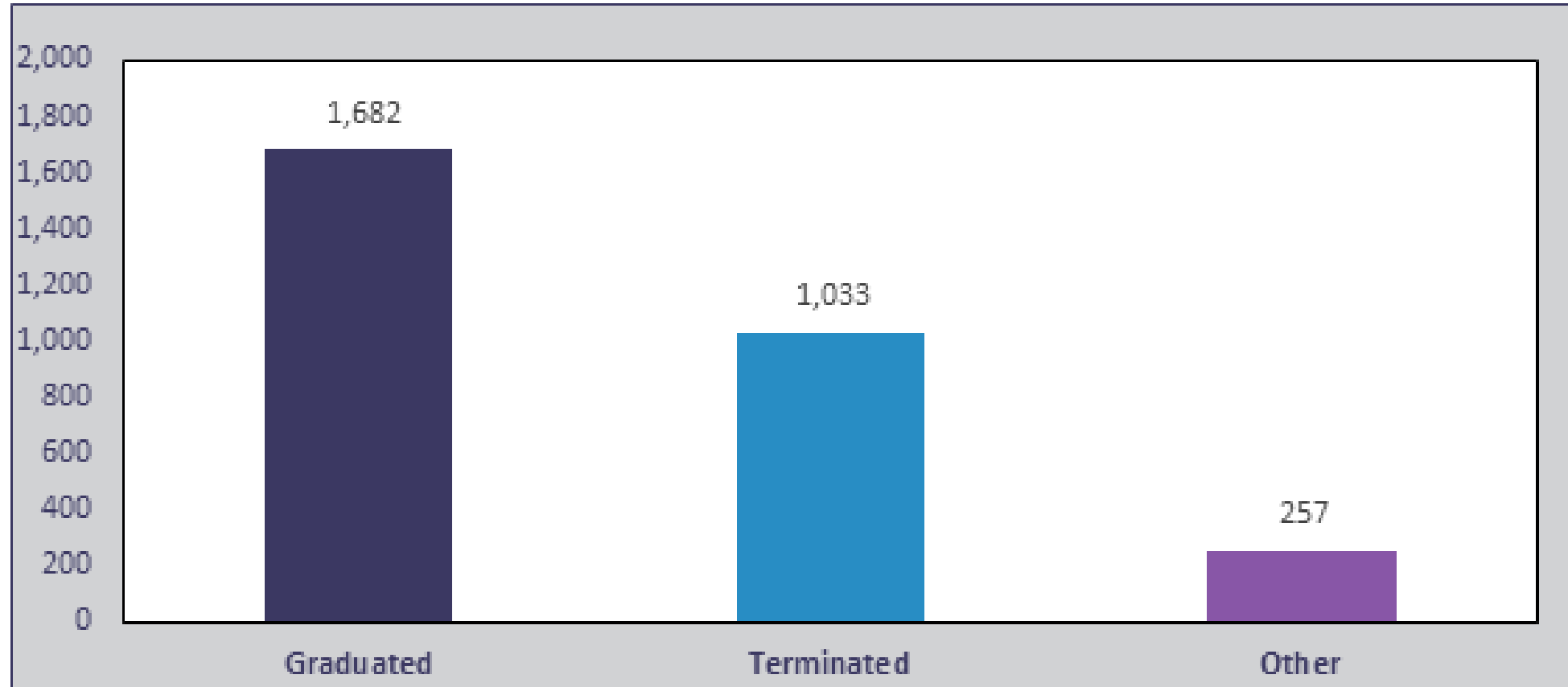
Treatment Court Admissions



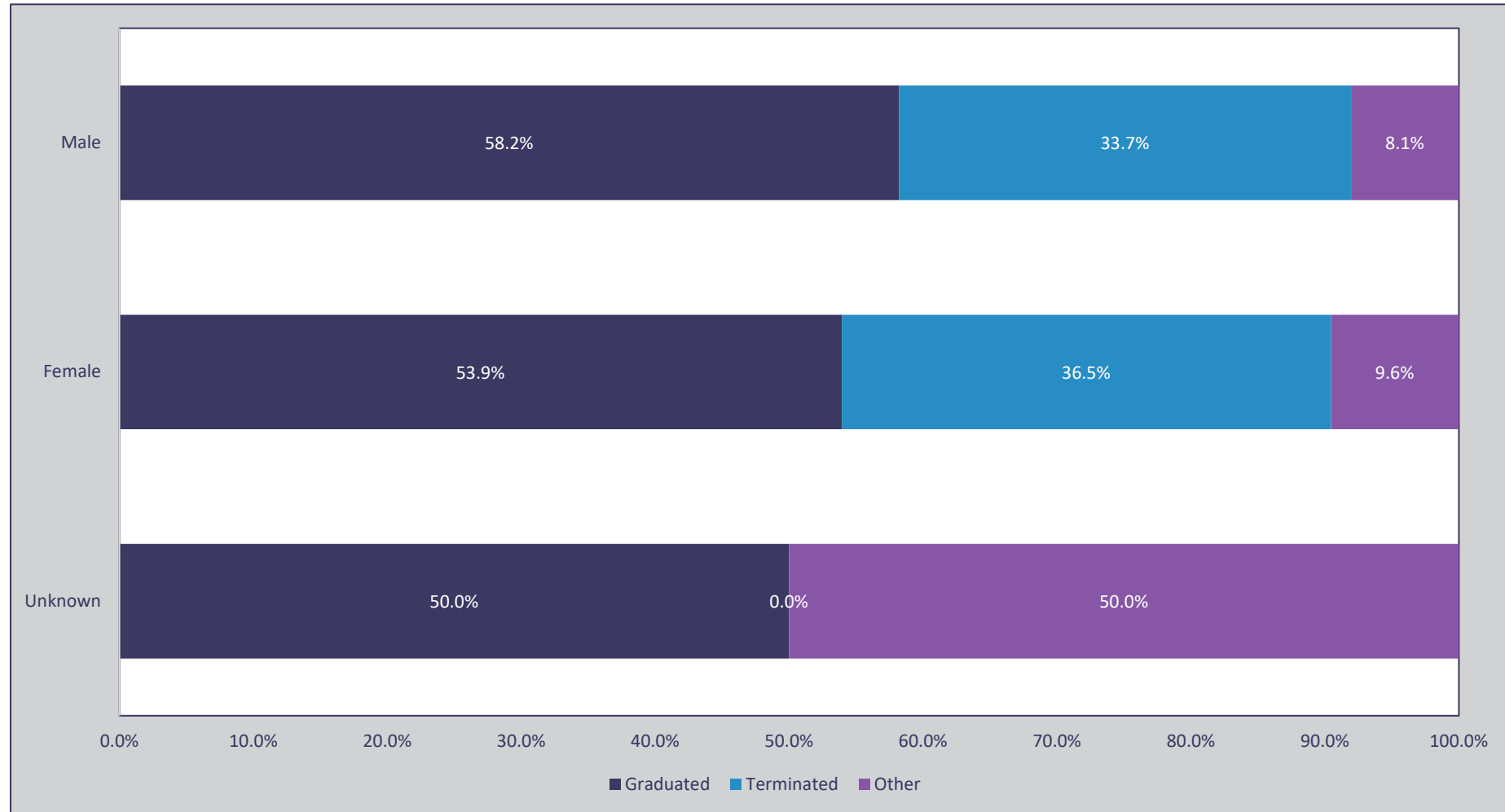
Treatment Court Discharges



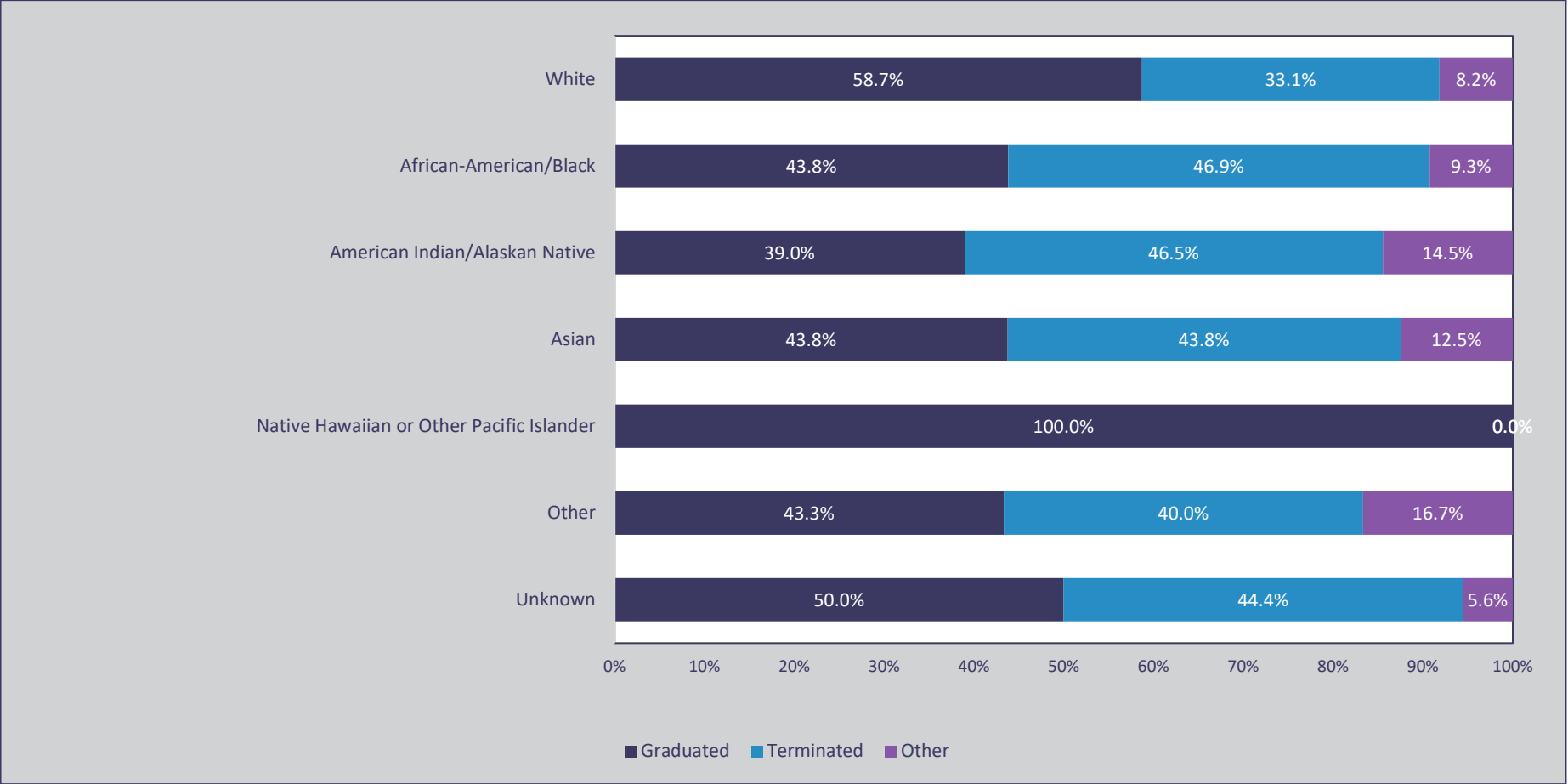
Treatment Court Discharges



Treatment Court Discharges



Treatment Court Discharges



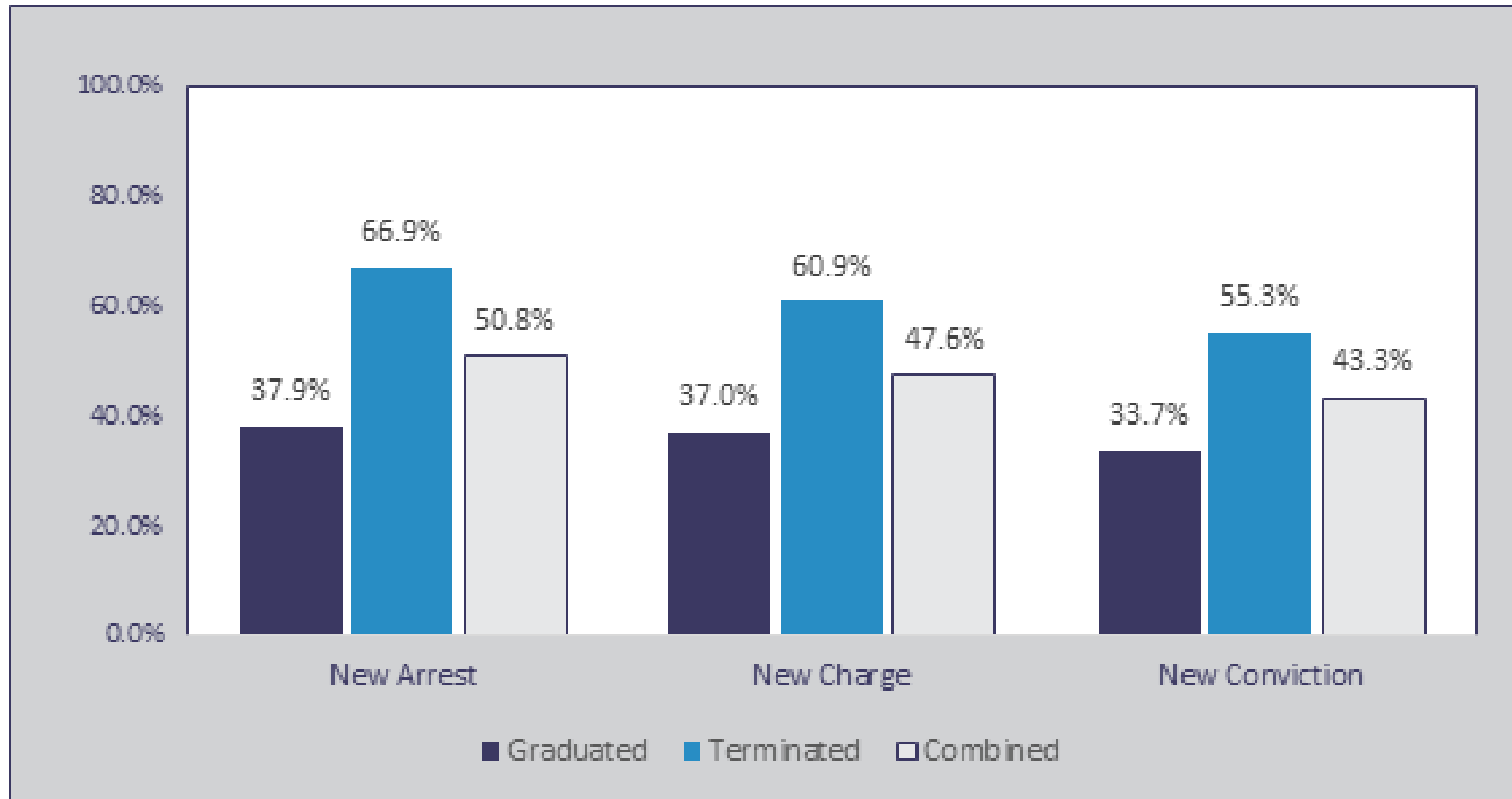
Treatment Court Discharges

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

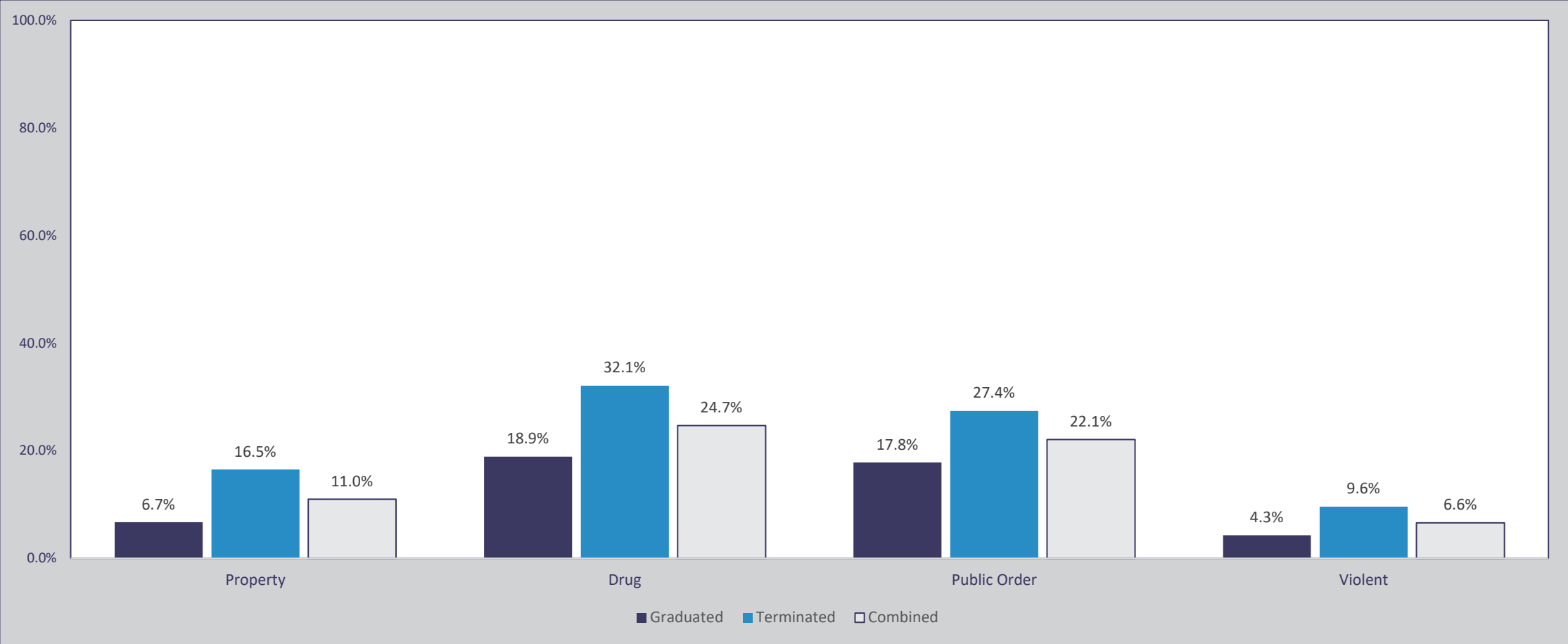
Recidivism

- 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

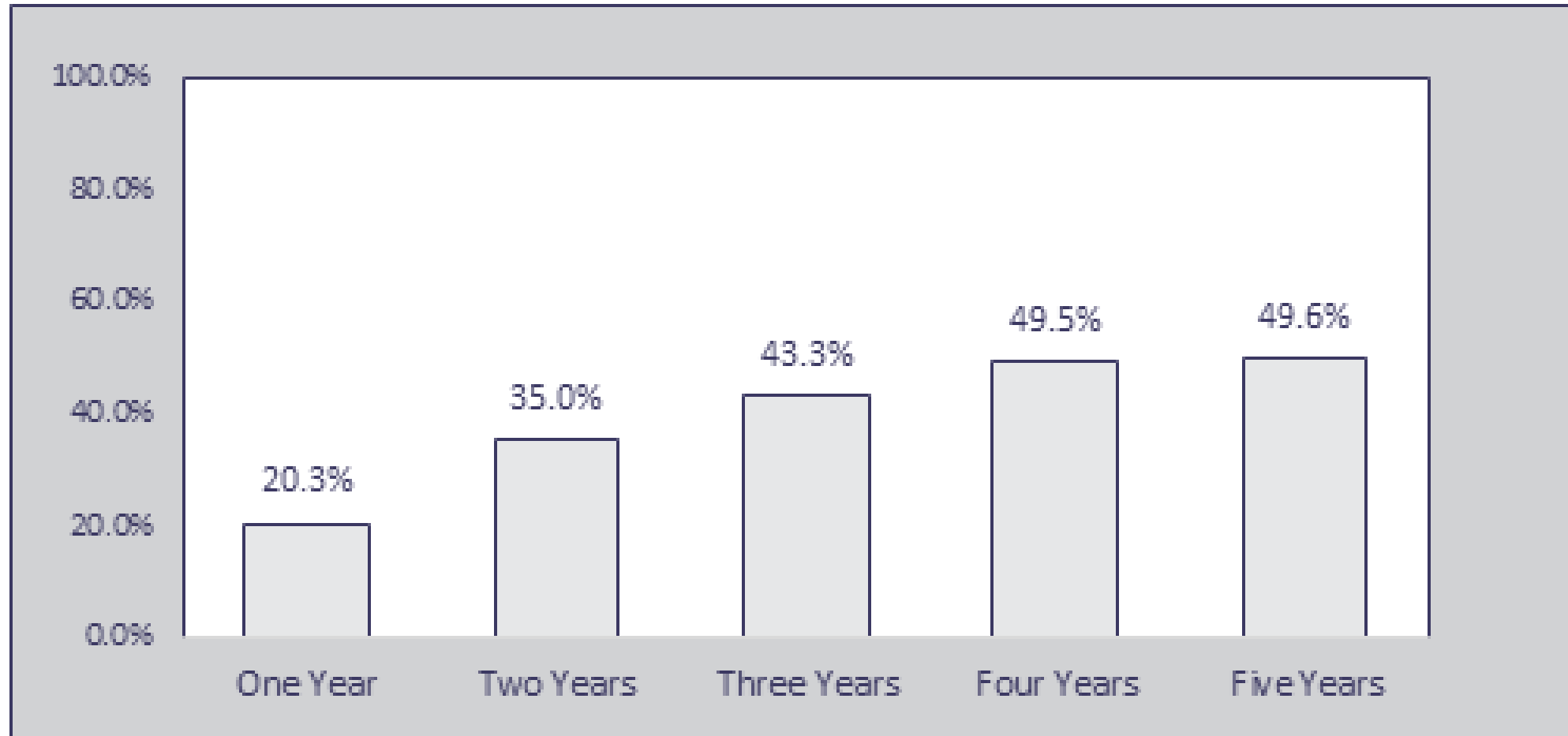
Treatment Court Three-Year Recidivism



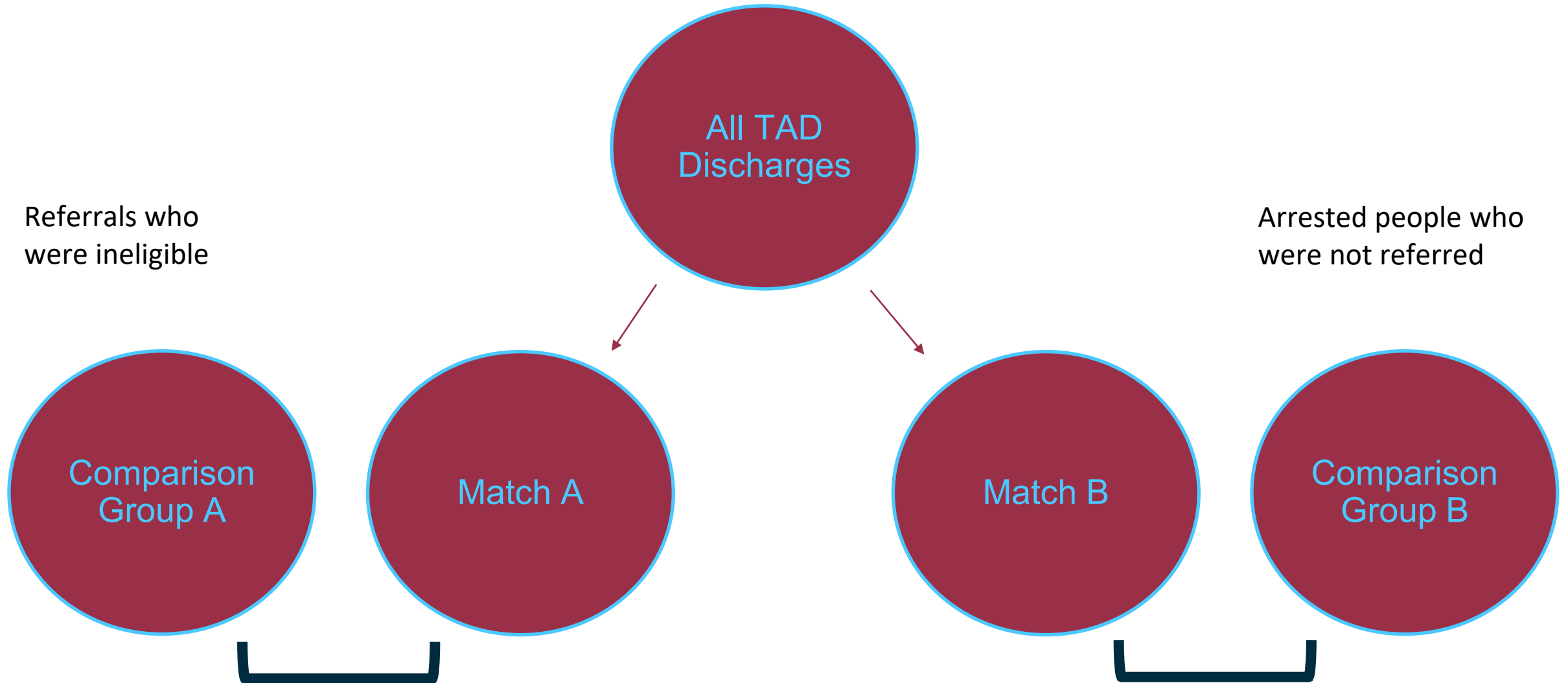
Treatment Court Three-Year Conviction Recidivism



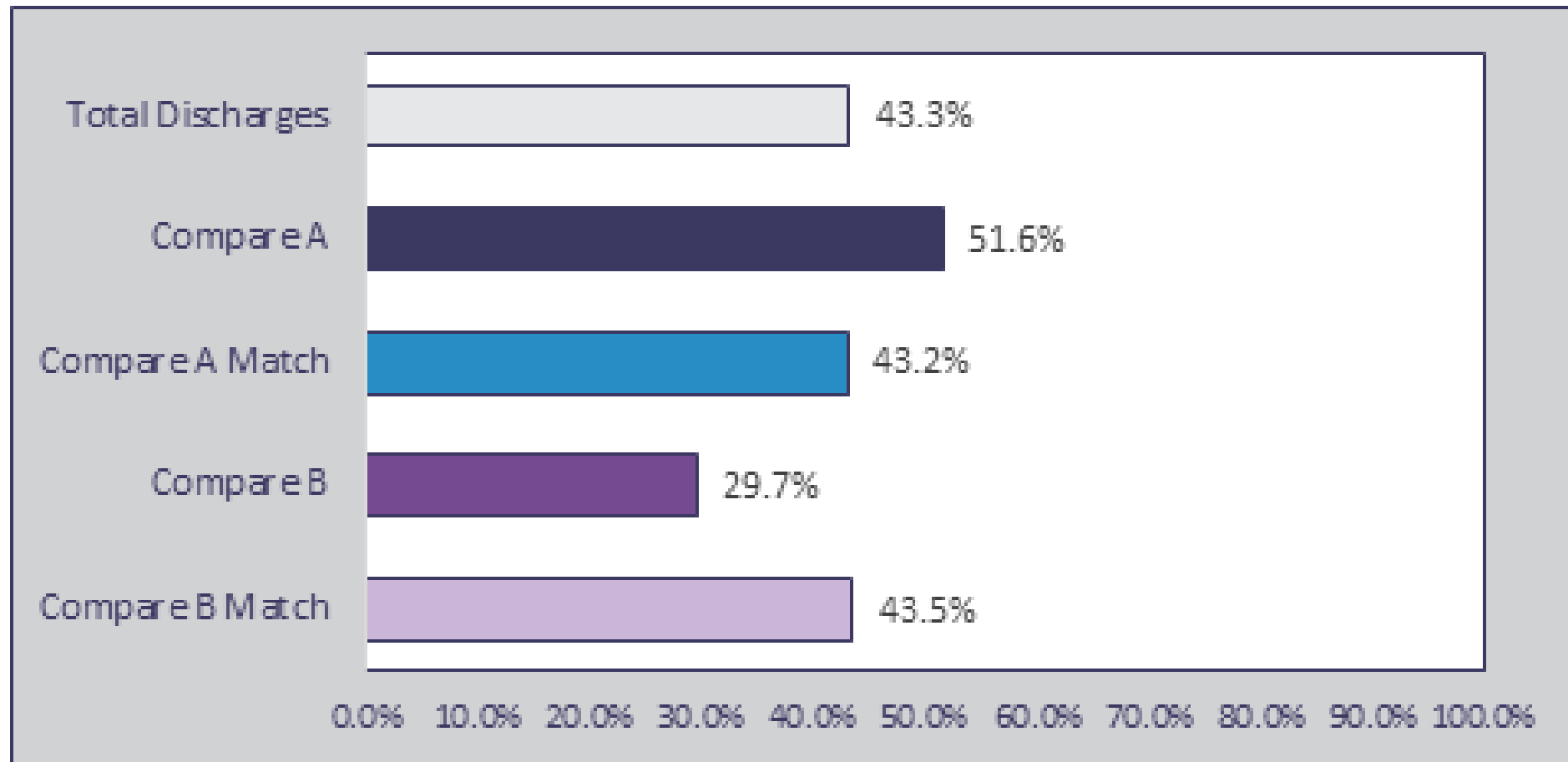
Treatment Court Conviction Recidivism



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

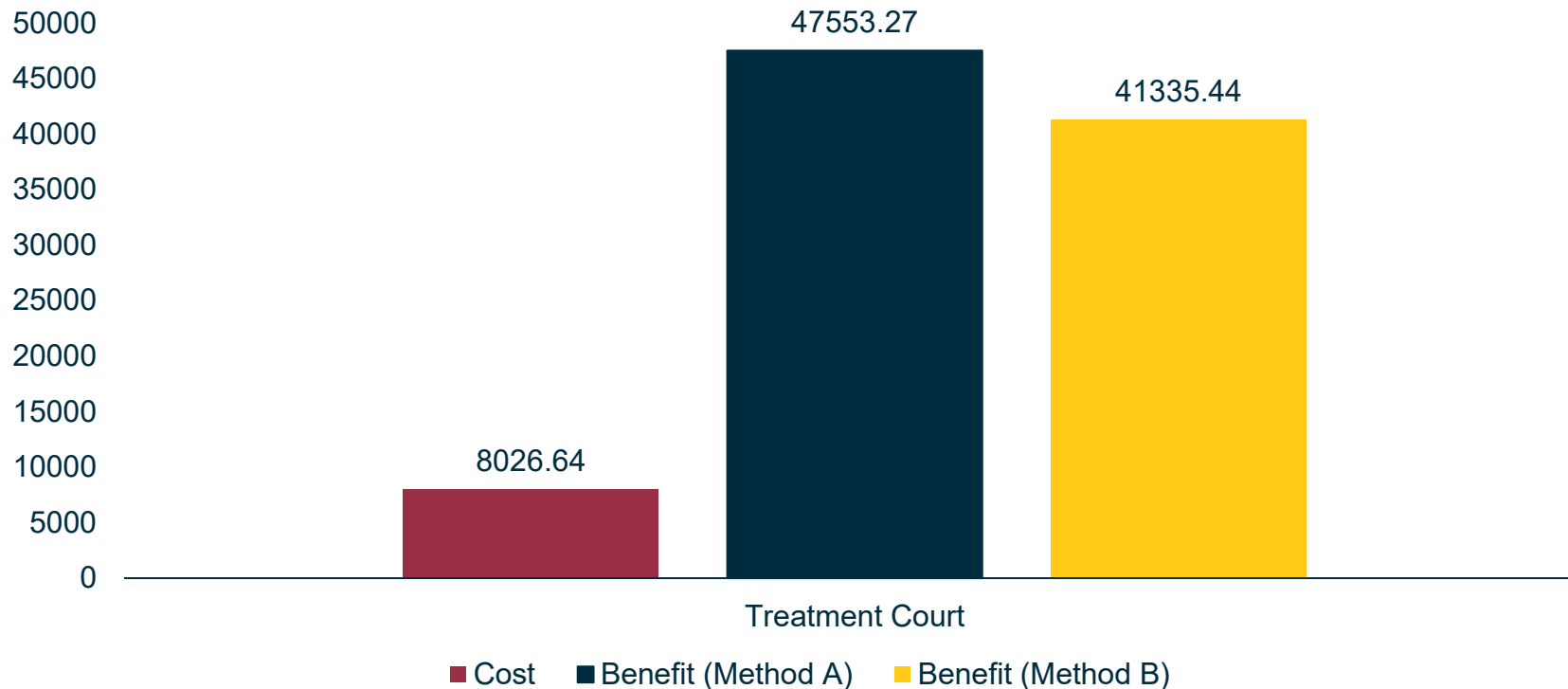
Item	Treatment Court
# Graduates	1682
Median Sentencing for Misdemeanor	92.45
Median Sentencing for Felony	743.81
Estimated # of Graduates Averting Jail	172.38
Estimated # of Graduates Averting Prison (Male)	413.85
Estimated # of Graduates Averting Prison (Female)	232.79
Estimated Jail Days Averted	15,936.47
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

$$\frac{(\text{Averted Incarceration per graduate} + \text{Averted Costs due to Averted Crime per people in 3-year follow-up})}{\text{Cost per discharge}}$$



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

\$5.15 - \$5.92 is saved
Treatment Courts

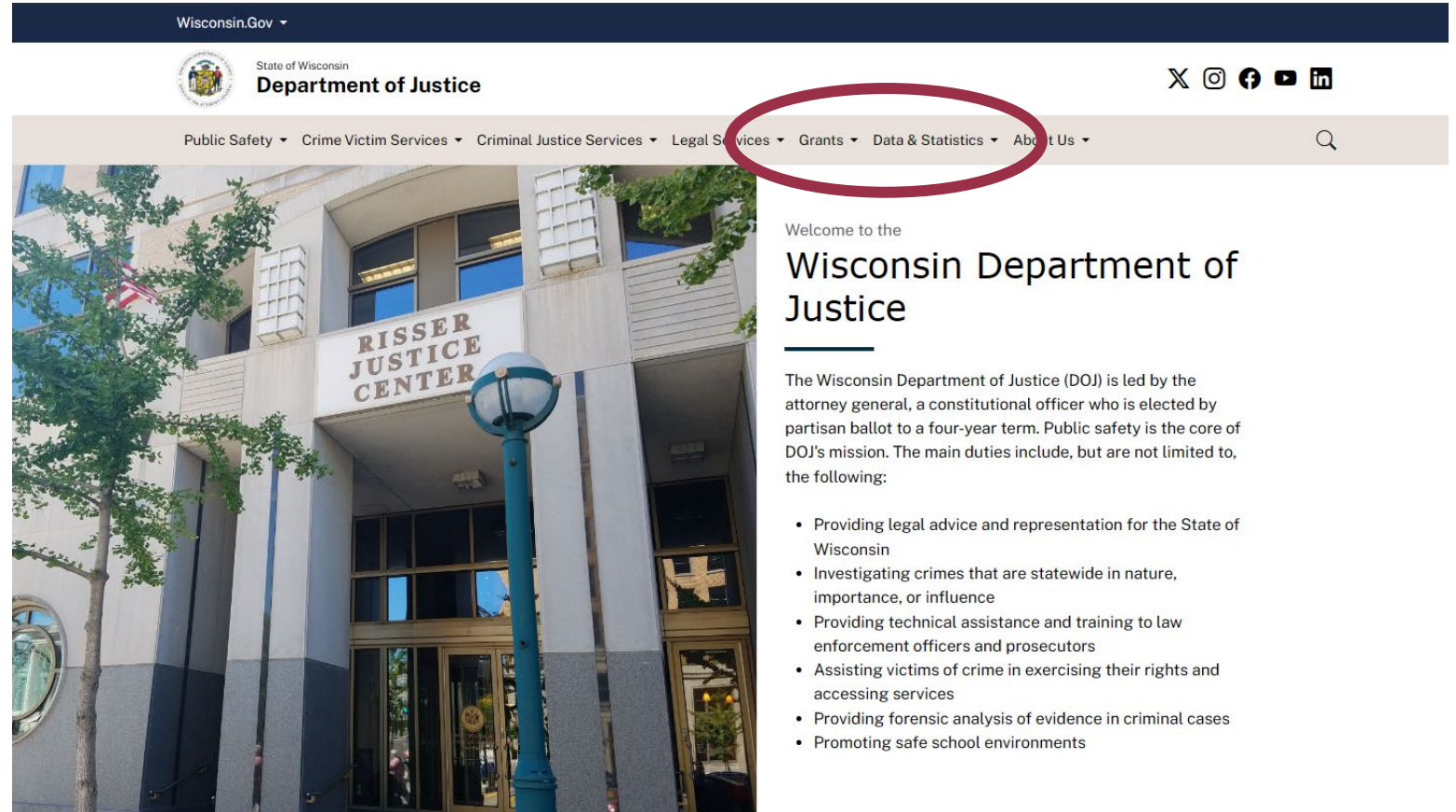
Recommendations

- 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)



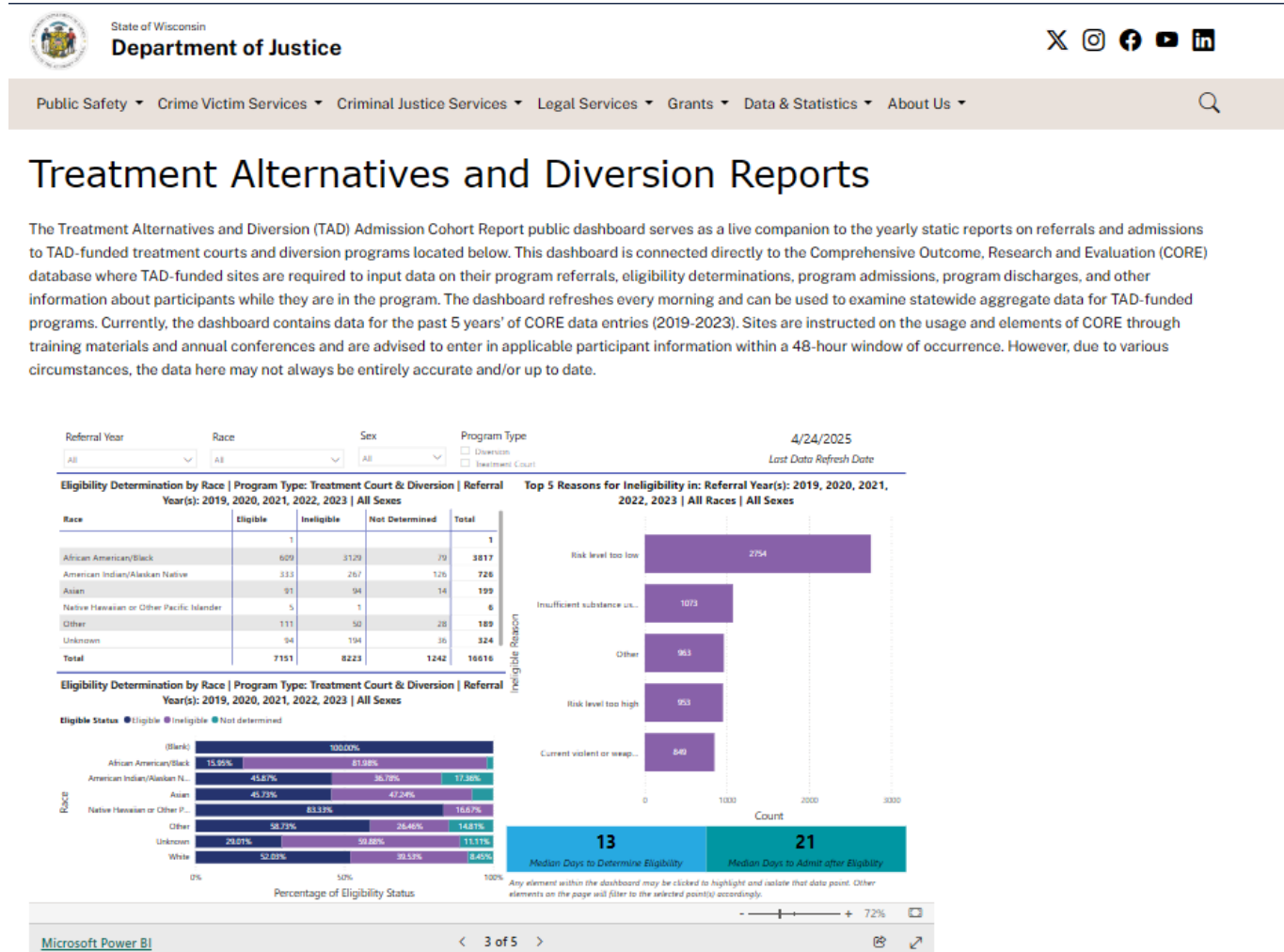
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Grants

Data & Statistics (Dashboards)

wisdoj.gov



Questions?

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