

# Evaluation of the Wisconsin Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Program

**New evaluation results suggest that TAD programs significantly reduce the likelihood of being charged with a new offense**

The Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program (TAD) targets non-violent offenders in seven counties including Burnett, Dane, Milwaukee, Rock, Washburn, Washington, and Wood. Collaboration among the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (OJA), the Department of Corrections (DOC), and Department of Health Services (DHS) established the TAD grant program in 2007 and evaluation services are provided by the University of WI Population Health Institute. An examination of outcomes for 710 offenders discharged from TAD prior to September 1, 2008 was conducted utilizing program data and electronic outcomes data from state data systems (Circuit Court Automated Program, Crime Information Bureau, and DOC).

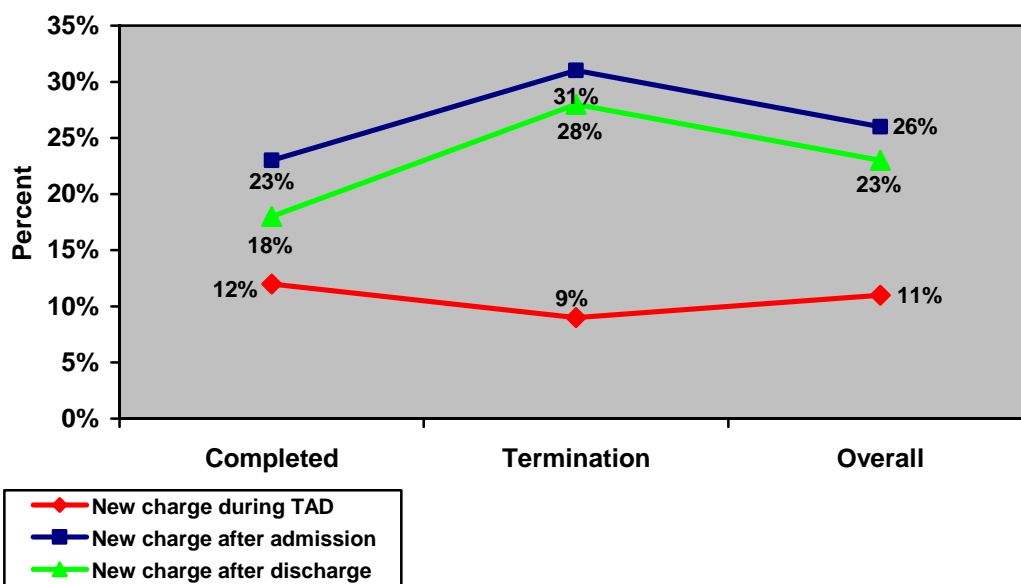
## Criminal Justice Impacts

- 56 percent of offenders discharged from TAD successfully completed the program to date
- Offenders who complete TAD are significantly more likely to have their cases dismissed
- An average of 95 incarceration days were avoided for each offender discharged from TAD, totaling 37,989 days saved across all sites
- The longer an offender is involved in TAD and the lower their criminal risk rating the less likely they are to be charged with a new offense
- None of the TAD graduates were admitted to state prison after TAD discharge
- 35 percent of offenders admitted to TAD for OWI were charged with a new offense
- Variation exists among TAD sites in both graduation rates and the likelihood of being charged with a new offense

## Recommendations

- TAD programs should seek to increase the number of offenders successfully discharged from the programs to realize even greater diversion savings
- TAD programs should focus on retaining participants in longer episodes of outpatient substance abuse treatment
- TAD programs should focus on lower the level of criminal risk of participants through the provision of services targeting factors that decrease criminal risk
- The legislature should continue to fund TAD programs at current or enhanced levels to allow counties to continue to develop and improve the effectiveness of these programs

**New Charge by Program Completion**



**TAD programs significantly reduce the likelihood of being charged with a new offense**