



Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Program 2009 Annual Site Progress Report

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (PHI) is conducting an ongoing evaluation of the seven Wisconsin **Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD)** projects. This report provides a summary of the outcomes of offenders who participated in TAD between the start of the projects in 2007 and August 31, 2009. The purpose of the report is to provide feedback to TAD sites for the purpose of program improvement; it is not intended as the final evaluation of the grant program required by statute. The final evaluation report for TAD will be submitted to the WI Legislature by OJA in December 2011. Wisconsin Act 25 statutorily created TAD in 2005 and the grant program was collaboratively established in 2007 by the WI Office of Justice Assistance (OJA), the WI Department of Corrections (DOC), and the WI Department of Health Services (DHS). The evaluation of TAD required by statute is funded by OJA, DOC, and DHS. Data collection for the current effort included review of project materials, participant-level data provided by TAD sites, project team interviews, and outcomes data from the Circuit Court Automated Program (CCAP) and DOC administrative data systems.

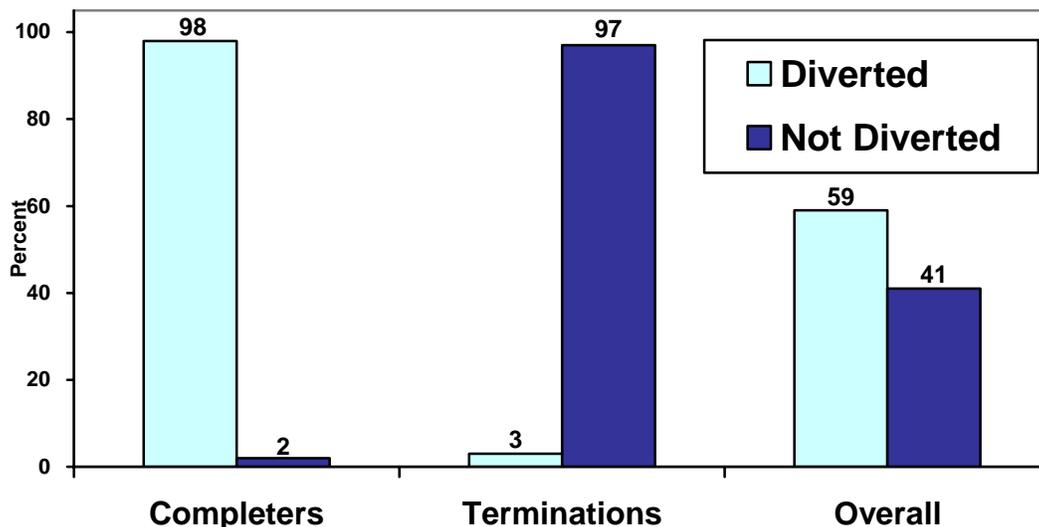
The seven TAD project sites in Wisconsin utilize a variety of drug treatment court and diversion models to provide substance abuse treatment and divert non-violent offenders from incarceration. The seven sites are Burnett County/St. Croix Tribe, Washburn County, Dane County, Milwaukee County, Rock County, Washington County, and Wood County. All of the projects were fully operational by July 2007, admitting a total of 1,515 offenders and discharging 1,313 offenders through August 31, 2009. There were 783 project completions/graduates, 530 terminations/drop-outs, and 202 offenders active in the projects as of August 31, 2009.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

TAD provides an effective alternative to prosecution and incarceration for non-violent criminal offenders who abuse alcohol or other drugs.

- ➔ Overall, 60% of offenders are successfully discharged from TAD projects which exceeds the national drug court graduation rate estimated at 50%.
- ➔ Figure 1 reveals that offenders who completed TAD were significantly more likely to have their case diverted (charges dismissed, charges reduced, or alternative to revocation completed) than those who were terminated from TAD. Ninety-eight percent of the completers were diverted, compared to 3% of the terminations.
- ➔ Analysis of sentencing data showed that graduates (56%) were significantly more likely to receive a non-incarceration sentence disposition outcome for their original offense than project terminations (34%).

Figure 1: Case Diversion by Reason for Discharge



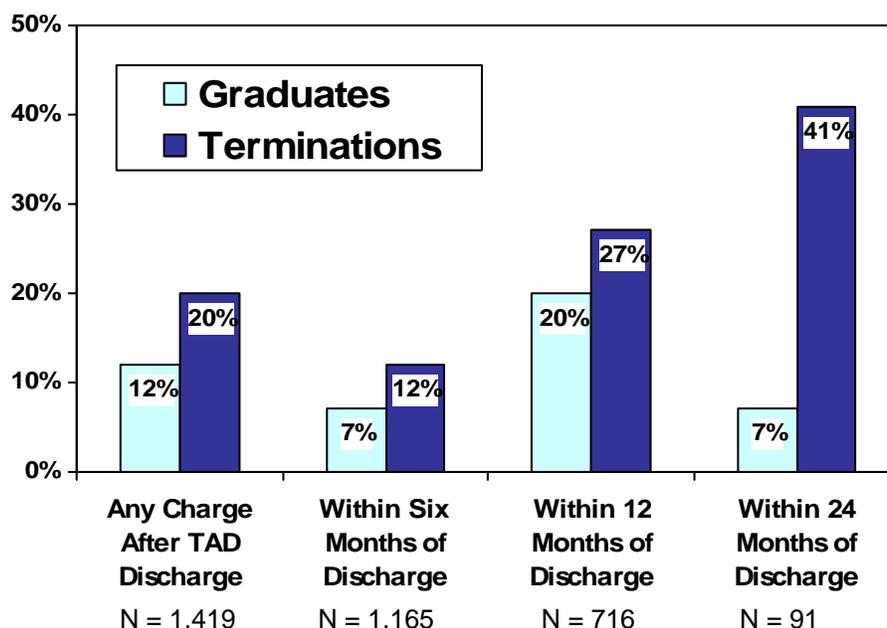
Incarceration Days Avoided:

- An estimated 90,743 incarceration days were saved through TAD as of August 31, 2009.
- A total of 60,291 jail days and 30,452 prison days were avoided by TAD discharges through August 31, 2009.
- An average of 111 incarceration days were avoided per discharged offender through participation in TAD, and an average of 115 incarceration days were avoided for each project graduate.

Any New Offense During/After TAD Participation:

- Overall, 24% of TAD discharges were charged with a new offense at any time after project admission, 11% were charged with a new offense while participating in TAD, and 16% were charged with a new offense after TAD discharge.
- Completing TAD projects decreases the likelihood of committing a new offense after project discharge (Figure 2). Graduates were significantly less likely than terminations to have a new charge after TAD discharge at each time interval examined.

Figure 2: Charged With a New Offense After TAD Discharge



Note. Excludes cases with disposition data available in CCAP indicating that the charge was dismissed.

Incarceration in Wisconsin State Prison After TAD Participation:

- Overall, 9% of TAD discharges were incarcerated in Wisconsin state prison after TAD discharge.
- TAD graduates were significantly less likely than terminations to be admitted to Wisconsin state prison after their discharge from the project within the time frame of this study.

The overall evaluation results suggest that:

- TAD projects are effectively providing comprehensive substance abuse treatment, monitoring, and case management services that improve the criminal justice outcomes of non-violent offenders who graduate from the project.
- TAD graduates are less likely than terminations to be charged with a new offense or be incarcerated in WI state prison after discharge from the project.
- TAD projects have also increased justice system and service system collaboration, increased local treatment capacity and quality, and continue to modify and improve their service models.