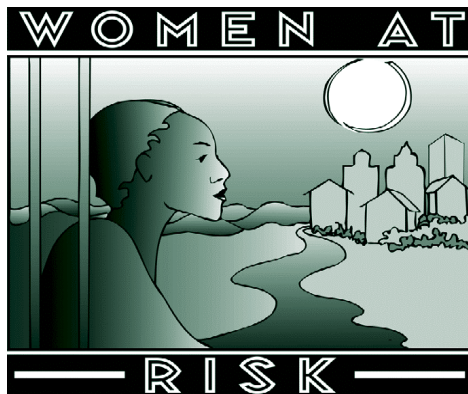


The Women At Risk_{SM} Program
sponsored by

Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc.

***Report to the
NC General Assembly***

February 1, 2005



*Women At Risk_{SM} is a community-based treatment alternative
for women at risk of going to jail or prison.*

Ellen Clarke, Executive Director
Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc.

Brenda Carleton, Program Director
Women At Risk

**PO Box 7472
Asheville, NC 28802
828.252.2485
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The Women At RiskSM Program

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WESTERN CAROLINIANS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE, INC.
The Women At Risk Program
PO Box 7472 , Asheville, NC 28802 www.wccj.org

February 1, 2005

TO: The Speaker of the NC House of Representatives
The President Pro Tempore of the NC Senate
Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

FROM: Ellen Clarke, Executive Director, Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc.

Please find attached a ***Report to the NC General Assembly*** from the Women At Risk Program, sponsored by Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc. This Report contains information about the activities of the Women At Risk Program from July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004.

The Women At Risk Program is a community-based treatment program serving female offenders as a special condition of regular or intensive probation. Women At Risk works to reduce recidivism among female offenders, as well as the necessity to imprison them, by providing a comprehensive treatment alternative to prison.

We are delighted to send you another strong report of Women At Risk Program activities for FY 03-04, drawing your attention to ***increases over last fiscal year in every category we track, including the number of clients referred, intakes (new cases opened), clients served and program graduates.*** The Women At Risk Program continues to enjoy a positive relationship with the criminal court system in WNC. In addition, as the only state-licensed outpatient treatment facility in our region offering wrap-around mental health services for female offenders, we were not surprised to find ourselves beginning FY 04-05 with a two-month waiting list of new referrals who seek assistance. As a result, last fall, the Women At Risk treatment team implemented a new protocol and triage system for handling this onslaught of cases, enabling us to process new clients more quickly.

The Speaker of the NC House of Representatives
The President Pro Tempore of the NC Senate
Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations
February 1, 2005

Once again, the Women At Risk Program's ***Report to the NC General Assembly*** contains additional background information about the mental health, addiction and criminal justice histories of our clients at intake. The level of trauma and violence (including physical and sexual abuse) in their lives is shocking: ***77% experienced domestic violence in adult relationships; 40% were sexually abused as children. 81% of Women At Risk clients entered the program with a mental health diagnosis and 65% an addiction diagnosis. At intake, 70% of last year's new clients were (or had been) on probation; 19 % had been in jail 5 or more times; 16% had served prison time.*** Without treatment, such as found in the Women At Risk Program, these women are destined to re-offend, perpetuating a cycle of violence and crime for themselves and their children.

As in year's past, we are delighted to report on the cost effectiveness of the Women At Risk Program. ***The average daily state cost of prison incarceration is more than 3 times greater than the average daily cost of Women At Risk,*** even coupled with Intensive Probation, the most expensive form of probation supervision. With every successful client at Women At Risk, the state is saving precious tax dollars.

Thank you again for the opportunity to partner with the state of North Carolina in this important work of restorative justice through community-based treatment alternatives to incarceration. On April 1, WCCJ/Women At Risk expects to complete a successful capital campaign, raising enough funds (all from private sources) for the agency to retire a mortgage and renovate the Program's outpatient facility in downtown Asheville. Our contributors throughout WNC tell us that this is the kind of public-private partnership they support. We pass along their appreciation for the confidence that the NC General Assembly has in the Women At Risk Program, and we look forward to sharing our good news from FY 03-04 with your colleagues.

THE WOMEN AT RISKSM PROGRAM

Fact Sheet

MISSION	Women At Risk (WAR) is a community-based treatment program serving female offenders as a special condition of regular or Intensive probation. The program is sponsored by Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc. (WCCJ) .
PURPOSE	Women At Risk works to reduce recidivism among female offenders, as well as the necessity to imprison them by providing a comprehensive treatment alternative to prison.
GOAL	Women At Risk assists women to remain out of custody, to succeed on probation and to overcome self -destructive and abusive behaviors that brought them to the court's attention and the risk of imprisonment.
TARGET	Women At Risk screens the court and jail rosters for eligible defendants who may receive either a Community or Intermediate Punishment as defined by Structured Sentencing. Women At Risk may serve as a component of a Sentencing Services Plan and may be suitable for probation violations.
SERVICES	Women At Risk services include weekly two-hour intensive group sessions; abuser treatment; substance abuse treatment; intensive individual case management and court advocacy. Women At Risk monitors the attendance and participation of each client and provides individual written reports to probation, the court and other referral sources.
OUTCOME	The desired treatment outcome for Women At Risk is to reduce the degree of self-destructive attitudes and negative personal choices that shape a woman's criminal activity and court involvement. The desired correctional outcome is to lower recidivism among this offender population.

The Women At RiskSM Program

Glossary of Terms

Referrals: Referrals are recorded when a potential client or her referral source calls us to set up an intake.

Cases Opened: We consider a case opened when we have finished the intake process. This means we have conducted case management, mental health and substance abuse assessments.

Clients Served: This is the cumulative number of all clients active in the program for the entire fiscal year.

BC Jail Screening: Staff from Women At Risk/Buncombe County conducts weekly screenings at the Buncombe County Detention Facility. Some of these contacts result in referrals at a later date.

Terminations: A case is terminated when we close the file because of lack of contact with a client, non-compliance with our requirements, incarceration or referral to another program.

Graduates: To graduate from Women At Risk clients must attend a minimum of 16 Women At Risk group sessions, pay the \$20-\$30 fee and complete any other individualized program requirements. Most clients also attend on-site abuser treatment, substance abuse treatment and/or individual therapy appointments.

Active Clients: Active clients are clients who have completed intake and are “on schedule” with our program on the last day of the fiscal year. (This is not a cumulative number.)

Successful Clients: This is the total number of Graduates plus Active Clients.

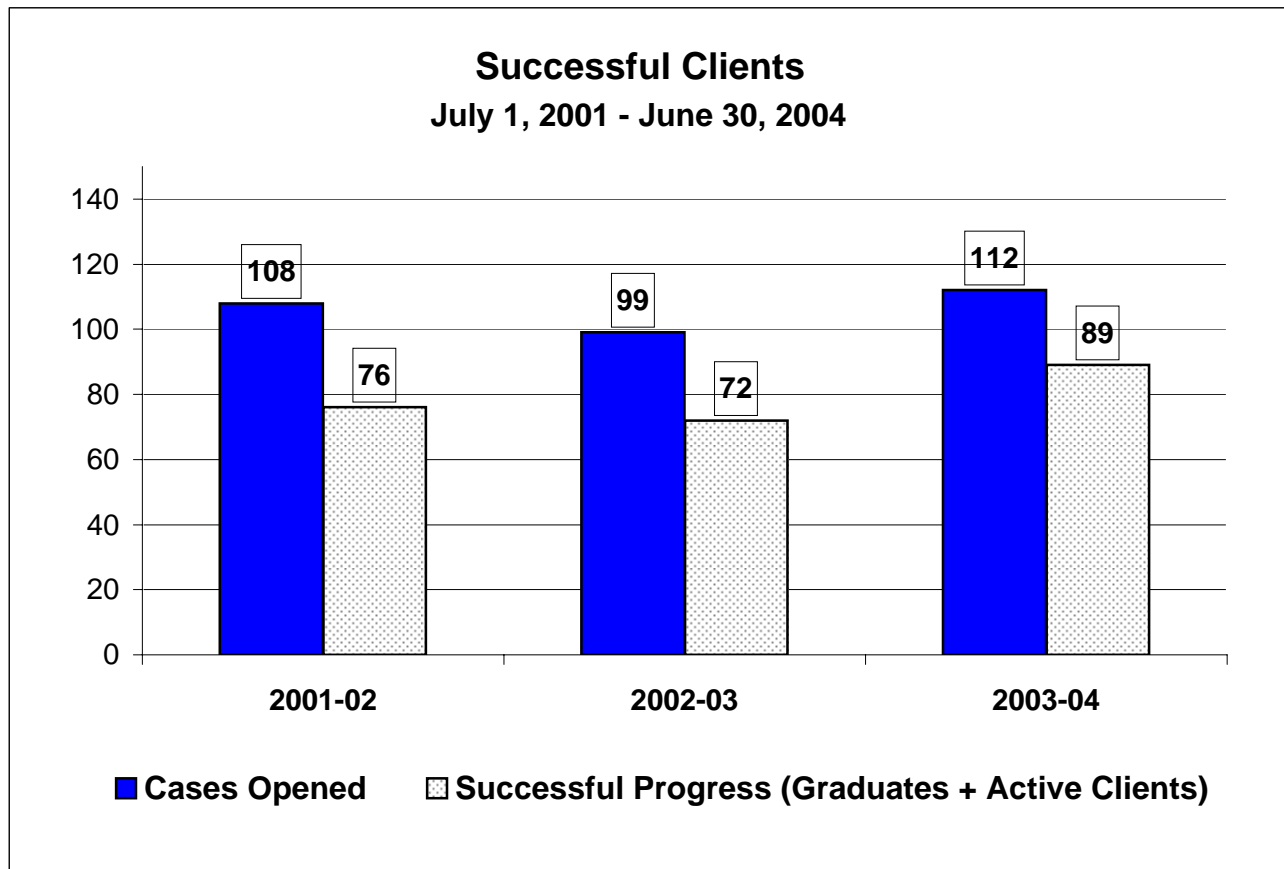
The Women At RiskSM Program

ACTIVITY

(See Women At Risk Glossary of Terms)

	FY <u>2001-02</u>	FY <u>2002-03</u>	FY <u>2003-04</u>
Referrals	188	175	224
Cases Opened	108	99	112
Clients Served	143	142	158
BC Jail Screening	152	135	159
Terminations	60	67	74
Graduates	33	26	35
Active Clients (On Schedule at end of FY)	43	46	54
Successful Progress (Graduates + Active Clients)	76	72	89
Terminations Sentenced to Active Time**	11	18	9
Graduates Sentenced to Active Time**	4	1	1

**Data obtained 6/30/04



The Women At RiskSM Program

Referral Sources July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2004

	FY	FY	FY
<u>Referral Source</u>	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>
Bench	16	17	39
Attorneys/Public Defenders	22	30	30
Jail	9	10	27
Probation	7	15	15
TASC	0	1	9
Drug Treatment Court	0	3	8
Pretrial Release	3	5	7
W.C.C.J./S.S./W.A.R.	10	6	3
District Attorney's Office	2	0	0
Buncombe Alternatives/S.S.	2	2	2
Day Reporting Center	0	1	0
Self	28	30	17
Another Client/Friend	21	17	22
D.S.S.	38	12	14
Partnership for Drug-Free NC	0	0	8
Helpmate	9	6	5
Health Department	3	0	0
MAPSAP	1	2	1
Blue Ridge Center/MBH/De-tox	2	1	0
H.O.P.E.	1	0	0
Other	14	17	17
TOTAL	188	175	224

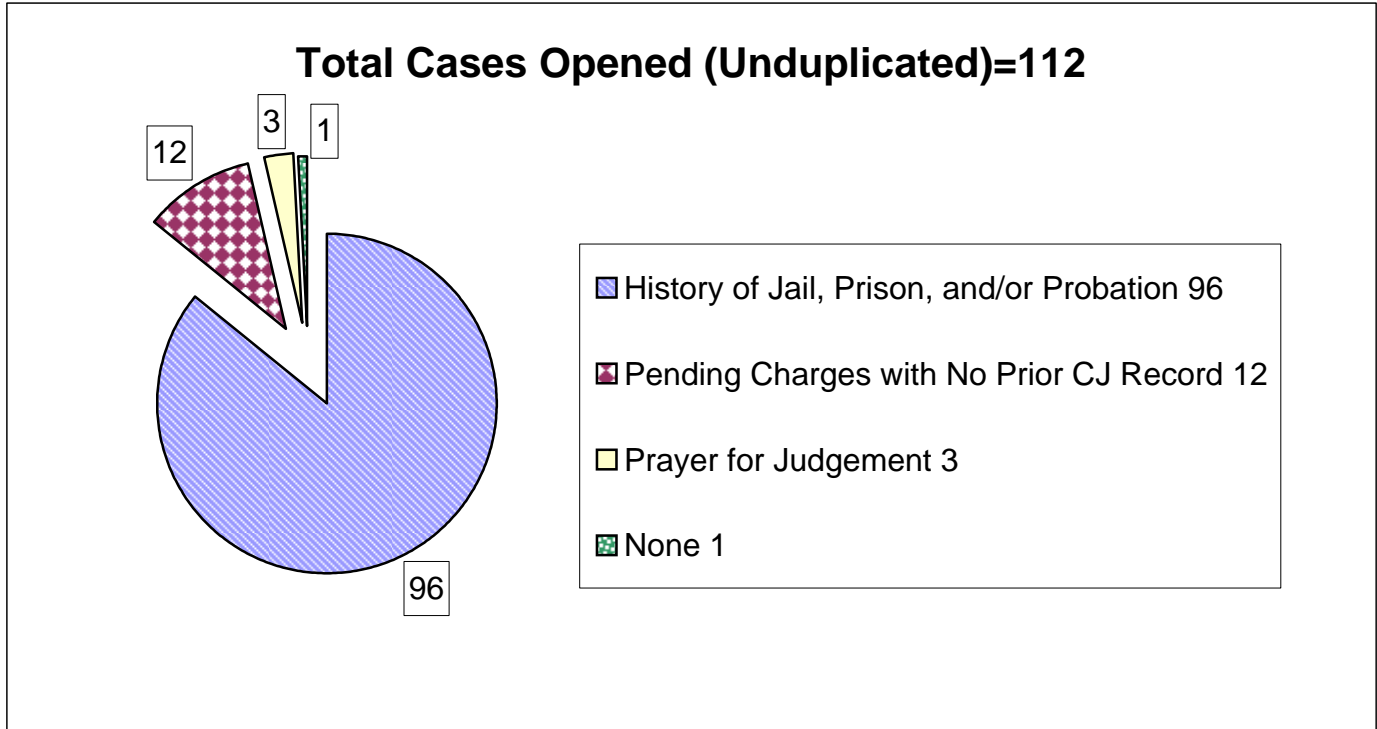
The Women At RiskSM Program

Client Demographics July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2004

	FY	FY	FY
<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>
Cases Opened	108	99	112
Principal Charge			
Drugs	22	19	27
Fraud, Forgery (including Worthless Checks, Forgery & Uttering)	16	15	10
Probation Violation	1	11	17
Larceny, Embezzlement, Shoplifting	13	11	16
Assault (including Child Abuse)	19	16	19
Prostitution, Crime Against Nature	4	3	3
Trespass and Property Damage	0	1	1
Arson, Burning Offenses	1	2	0
Burglary and Breaking & Entering	1	0	2
Child Sexual Assault	1	0	0
Crimes Against the Administration of Justice	3	0	1
Motor Vehicle Offenses (including DWLR/DWI)	12	17	13
Robbery	1	2	1
DSS (Termination of Parental Rights, Non-support of Child)	8	2	1
Race			
White	81	72	78
African American	24	22	30
Hispanic	1	0	1
Asian	1	1	0
Native American	1	4	1
Multi-Racial	0	0	2
Employed	48	38	47
Income Source			
Wages	48	38	47
Food Stamps	27	26	48
Disability	12	11	14
Work First (Public Assistance)	6	6	7
Highest Grade Completed (Average)	11th	11th	11th
Clients who are Mothers	92	84	95
Clients with Children			
Average Number per Client	2.2	2.1	2.5
Average Age of Client (at Birth of 1st Child)	20.0	19.6	20.5
Average Age of Client's Mother (at Birth of 1st)	19.6	19.5	19.7
Clients who are Pregnant At Intake	5	5	7

The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

Criminal Justice Status of Women At Risk Clients at Intake FY 2003-04



Analysis of Criminal Justice History of Women At Risk Clients at Intake

FY 2003-04

Probation	70%
Jail 5 or more times	19%
Prison	16%
Jail 10 or more times	6%
Jail 20 or more times	5%
Probation 5 or more times	1%

The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

Mental Health Diagnosis of Women At Risk Clients at Intake

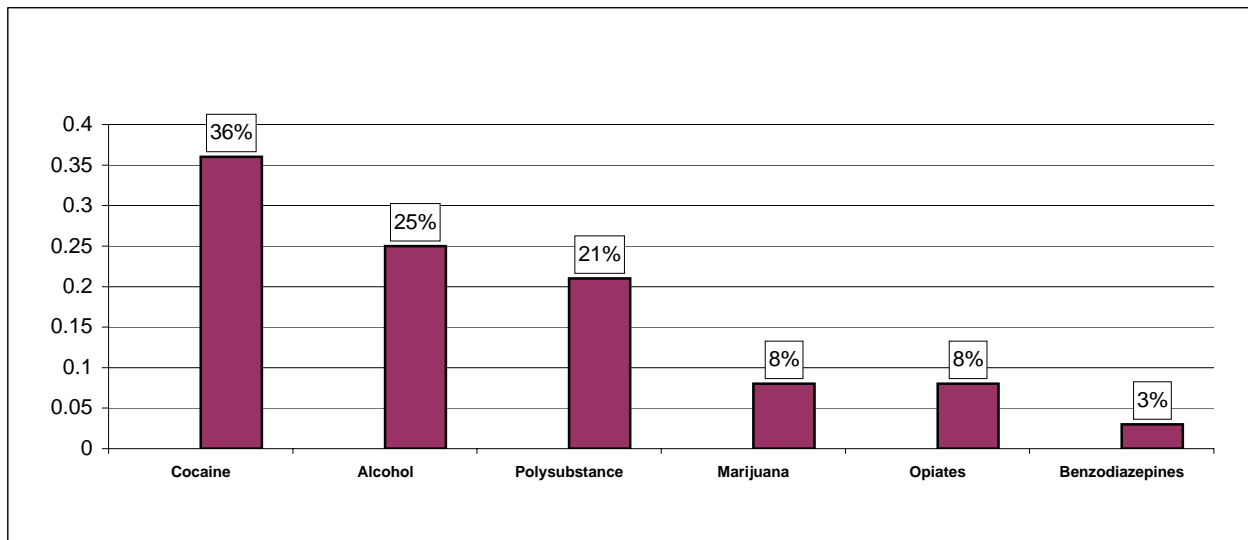
FY 2003-04

%

Mental Health Diagnosis at Intake	81%
Addiction Diagnosis at Intake	65%
Dual Diagnosis of Addiction and Mental Health at Intake	50% (112 cases)

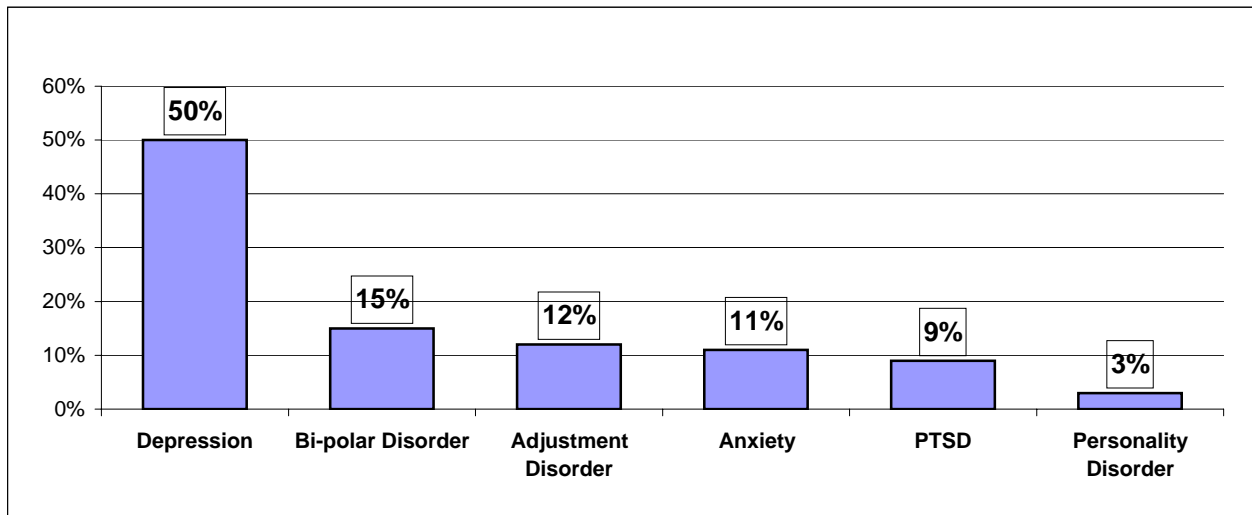
Analysis Addiction Diagnosis of Women At Risk Clients at Intake

FY 2003-04



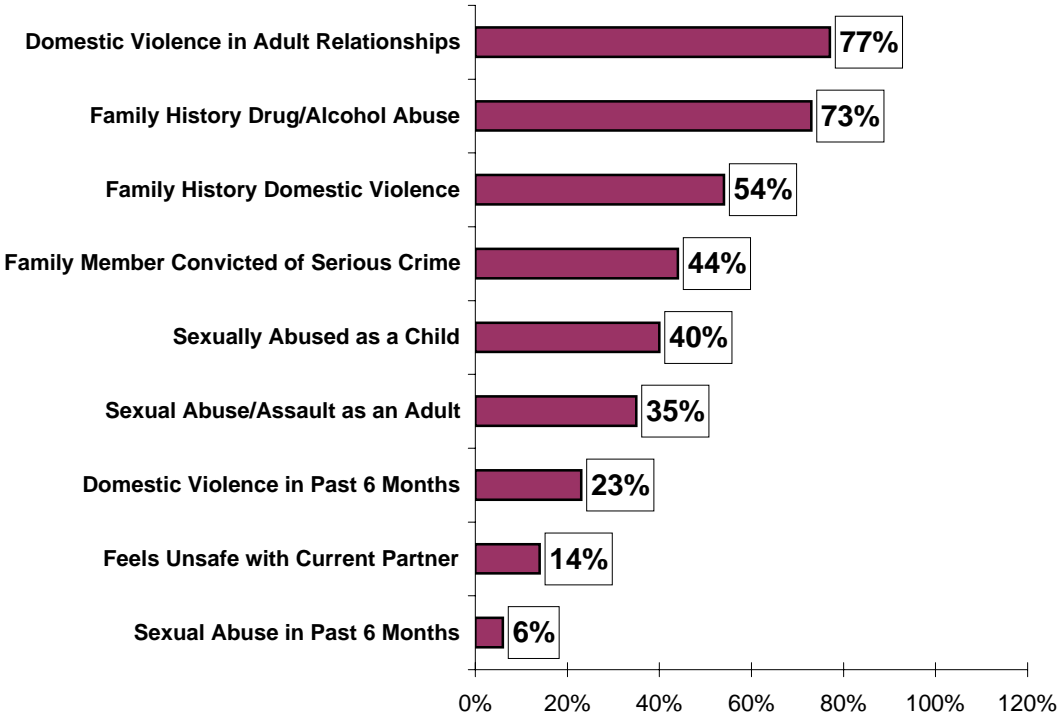
Analysis Mental Health Diagnosis of Women At Risk Clients at Intake

FY 2003-04



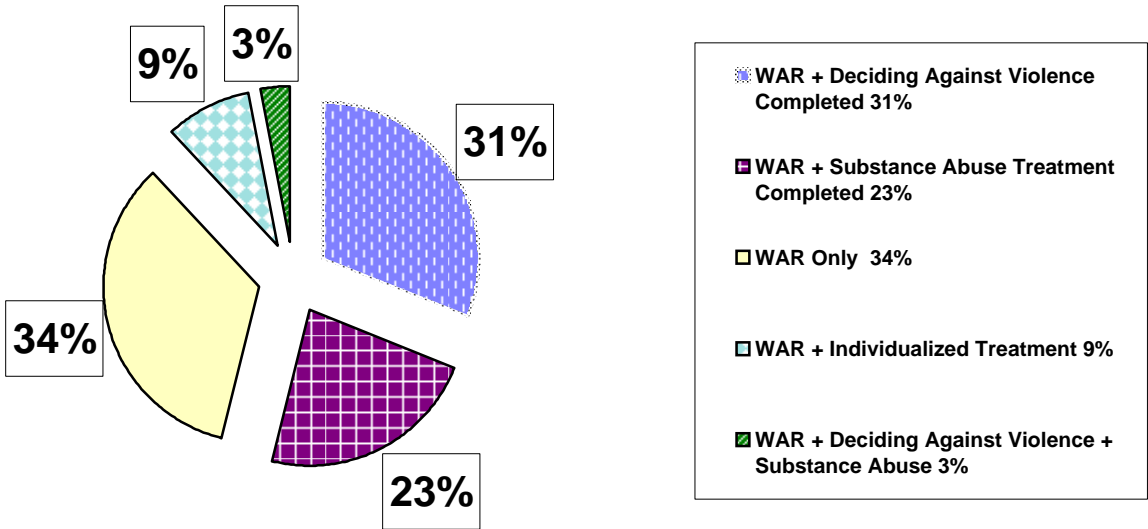
The Women At RiskSM Program

Clients Self-Report History of Abuse and Addiction at Intake FY 2003-04



The Women At RiskSM Program

35 Graduates for FY 2003-04
Average of 28 Weeks of Treatment



See Organizational Chart for Program Description

The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

Recidivism Outcomes

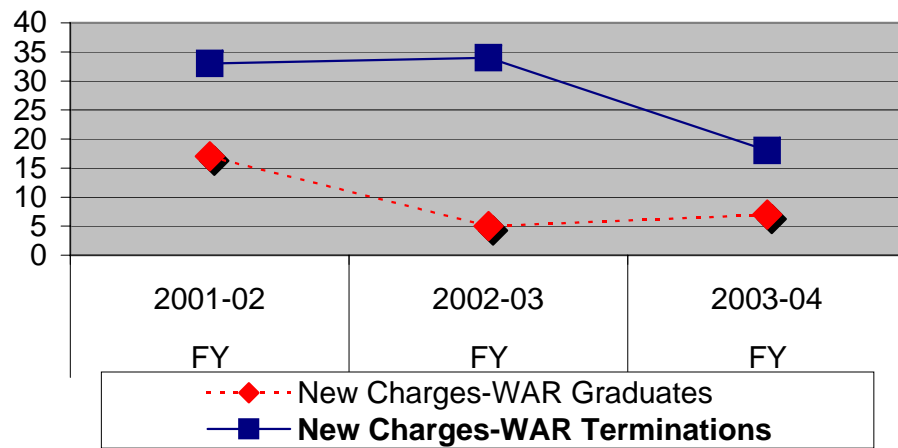
Activity	FY 2001-02	FY 2002-03	FY 2003-04
WAR Program Graduates	33	26	35
WAR Program Terminations	60	67	74
Outcome			
New Charges-WAR Graduates	17	5	7
New Charges-WAR Terminations	33	34	18
New Charges Pending-WAR Graduates	0	1	2
New Charges Pending-WAR Terminations	1	2	1
New Charges Dismissed-WAR Graduates	4	0	2
New Charges Dismissed-WAR Terminations	11	6	1
Conviction Without Incarceration-WAR Graduates	9	3	2
Conviction Without Incarceration-WAR Terminations	10	8	7
Conviction With Incarceration-WAR Graduates	4	1	1
Conviction With Incarceration-WAR Terminations	11	18	9

Recidivism data reflect new criminal charges (and the outcomes from any charges) for up to three years post graduation or termination from Women At Risk. The charges and convictions are those that have occurred since the client left Women At Risk as a program graduate or termination. The fiscal years refer to the year the client left the Women At Risk Program. This data was collected by completing record checks for criminal justice status as of 6/30/04.

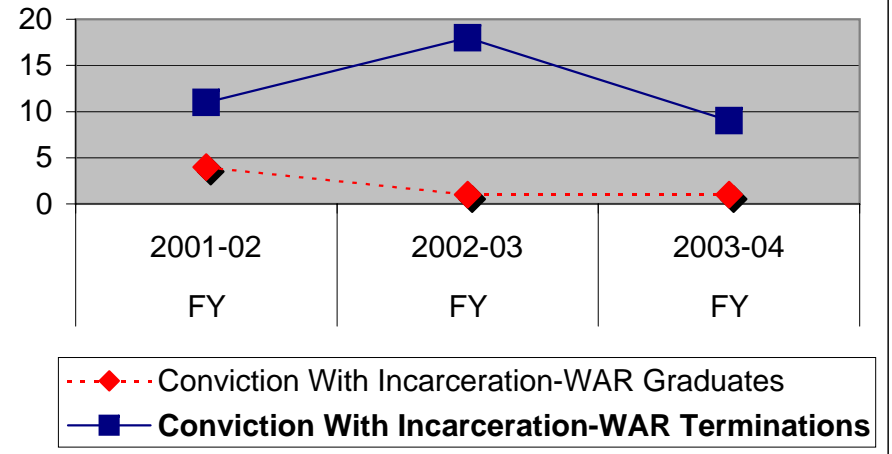
The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

Recidivism Outcomes

New Charges

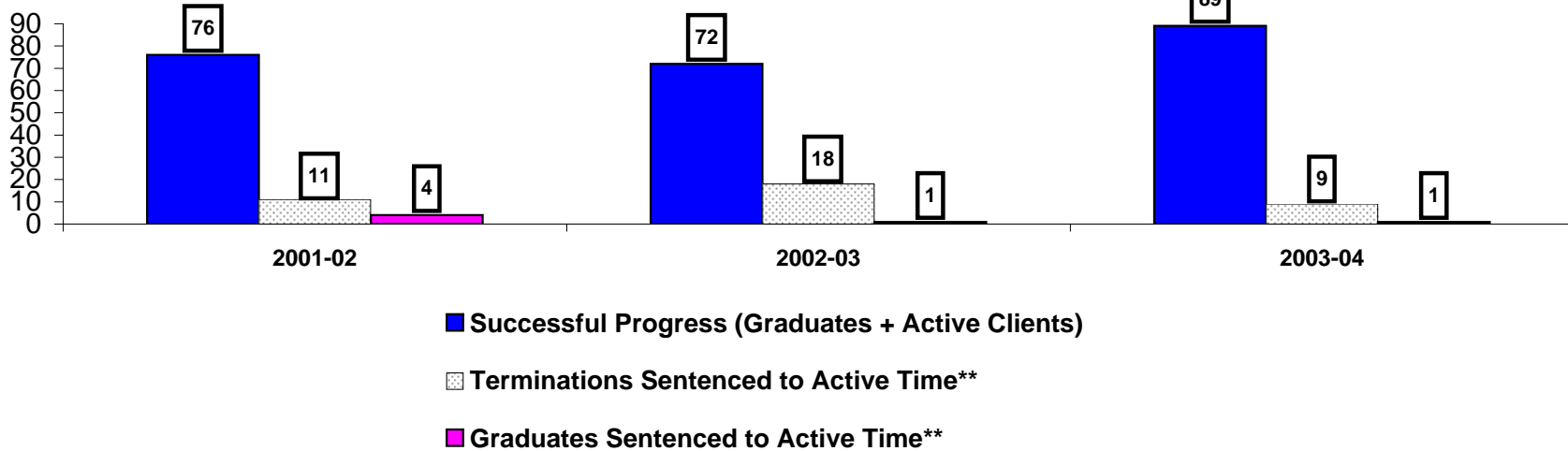


Conviction With Incarceration



Incarceration Outcomes

July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2004



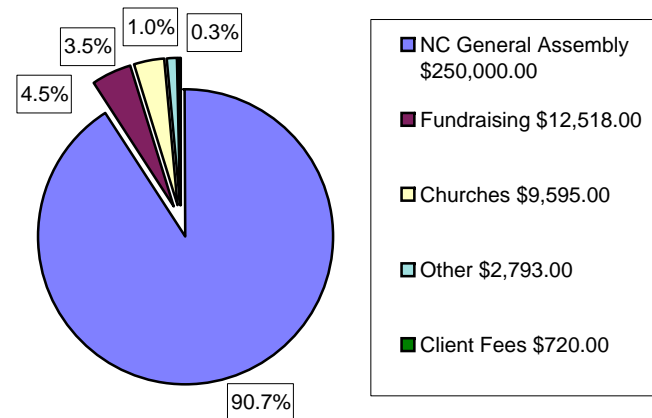
The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

FY 2003-04 Operating Budget

Income (7/1/03-6/30/04)

<u>Source</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
NC General Assembly	\$250,000.00	90.7%
Fundraising	\$12,518.00	4.5%
Churches	\$9,595.00	3.5%
Other	\$2,793.00	1.0%
Client Fees	\$720.00	0.3%
TOTAL	\$275,626.00	

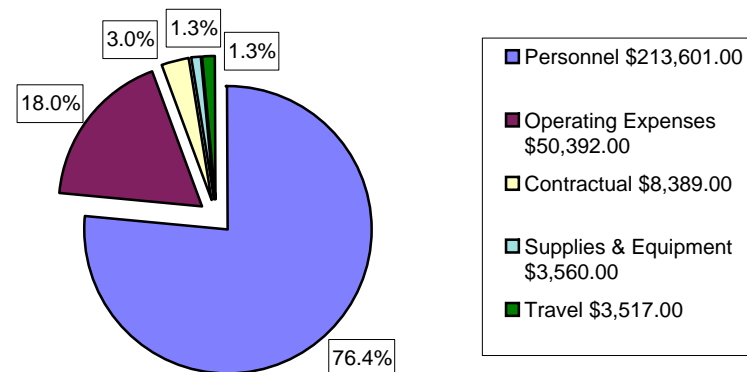
Income Total = \$275,626



Expenses (7/1/03-6/30/04)

<u>Source</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Personnel	\$213,601.00	76.4%
Operating Expenses	\$50,392.00	18.0%
Contractual	\$8,389.00	3.0%
Supplies & Equipment	\$3,560.00	1.3%
Travel	\$3,517.00	1.3%
TOTAL	\$279,459.00	

Expense Total \$ 279,459



The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

FY 2003-2004

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	FY	FY	FY
	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>
Referrals	188	175	224
Clients Served	143	142	158
Successful Progress (Graduates + Active Clients)	76	72	89
Graduates	33	26	35
Terminations	60	67	74

(See Women At Risk Glossary of Terms)

Average Daily Cost of Women At Risk Program

(Based on Total Operating Budget)

[Total Operating Budget/365 days = Daily Basis/# Cases Opened = Average Daily Cost(ADC)]

Clients Served	\$279,459.00	365	\$765.64	112	\$6.84
Successful Progress	\$279,459.00	365	\$765.64	89	\$8.60

[Total Operating Budget/365 days = Daily Basis/# Successful Progress Cases = Average Daily Cost(ADC)]

Average Daily Cost of Women At Risk Program

(Based on State Appropriation)

[State Appropriation/365 days = Daily Basis/# Cases Opened = Average Daily Cost(ADC)]

Clients Served	\$250,000.00	365	\$684.93	112	\$6.12
Successful Progress	\$250,000.00	365	\$684.93	89	\$7.70

[State Appropriation/365 days = Daily Basis/# Successful Progress Cases = Average Daily Cost(ADC)]

Average Daily State Correctional Cost of Women At Risk Program and Probation

WAR Successful Progress (\$ 7.70) + Community/Intermediate Supervision (\$1.87) =	\$9.57
WAR Successful Progress (\$ 7.70) + Electronic House Arrest (\$5.89) =	\$13.59
WAR Successful Progress (\$ 7.70) + Intensive Probation (\$10.94) =	\$18.64

*Average Daily State Cost of Prison Incarceration

\$57.92

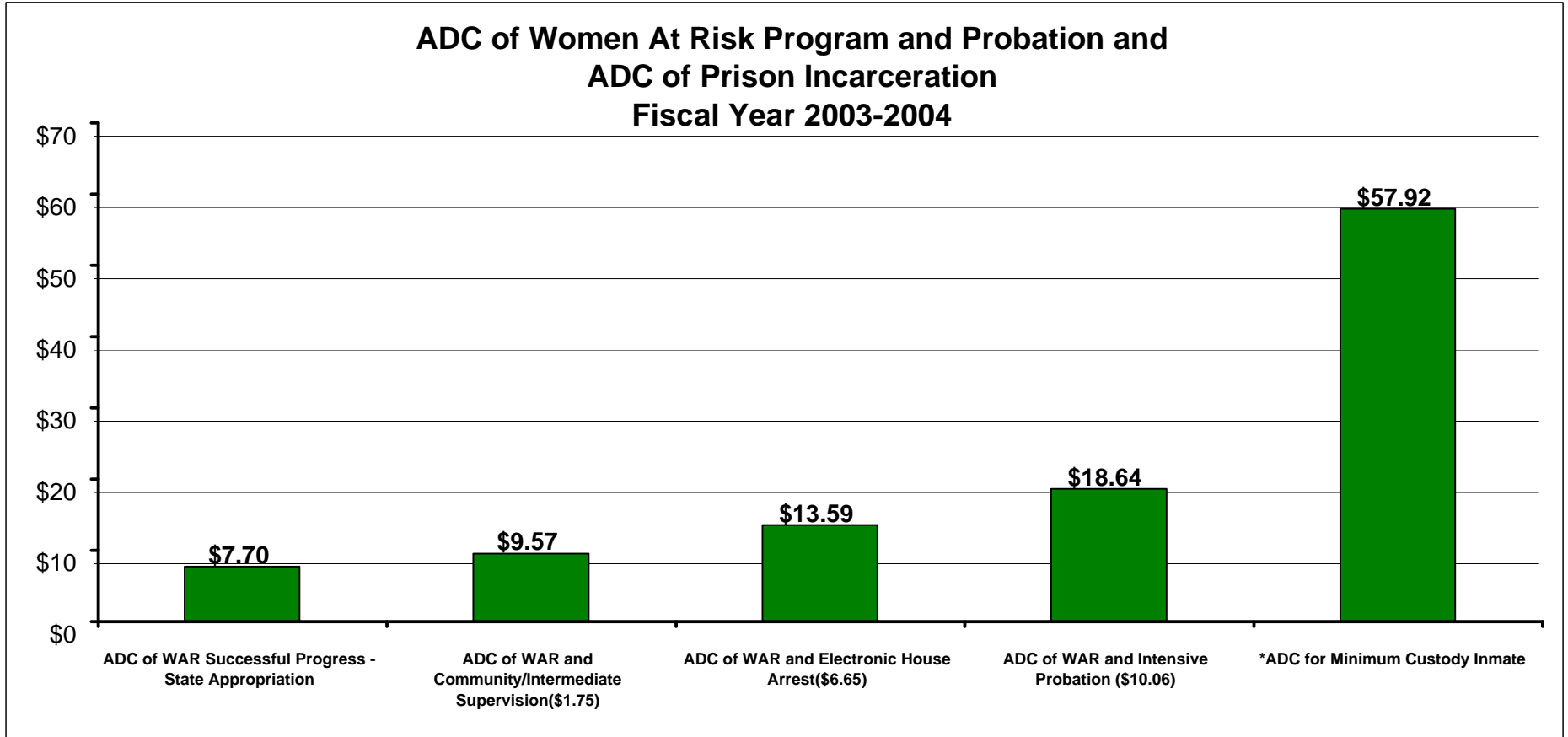
Range \$46.23 - \$74.56

The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

FY 2003-2004

ADC of Women At Risk Program and Probation and ADC of Prison Incarceration

ADC of WAR Successful Progress - State Appropriation	\$7.70
ADC of WAR and Community/Intermediate Supervision(\$1.75)	\$9.57
ADC of WAR and Electronic House Arrest(\$6.65)	\$13.59
ADC of WAR and Intensive Probation (\$10.06)	\$18.64
*ADC for Minimum Custody Inmate	\$57.92



Profile of Women At Risk Program Graduate

“Jessica Corn” (not her real name) was 34 years old when, as a Drug Treatment Court client, she came to the Women At Risk Program in March of 2004. (She had previously been a client of Women At Risk for a brief period in 2003.) At intake Ms. Corn had charges of Felony Possession of Schedule II, five counts of Driving While License Revoked, Misdemeanor Larceny by Trick and Worthless Checks

Drug Treatment Court in Buncombe County provides twelve months of treatment and accountability to offenders who are pleading guilty to felony drug and/or drug-related charges. The clients attend various types of treatment in the community and are case-managed by the Buncombe County Day Reporting Center. Every other week clients appear in court to review their progress with the Drug Court team, administered by Superior Court Judge Ronald Payne, in conjunction with representatives from the district attorney, public defender, probation and treatment community, including the Women At Risk Program.

When Ms. Corn was accepted into Drug Court, she was ordered to complete Women At Risk as the outpatient treatment component of Drug Court, following 28 days of inpatient treatment at the Julian S. Keith Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center.

Ms. Corn grew up in Weaverville, NC with her mother, three sisters and two brothers. Her mother was not always around to raise the children, due to drug addiction, and Ms. Corn states that she spent more time with her biological sister growing up. Ms. Corn became pregnant at age 15 and moved in with her aunt to have her daughter and to help take care of her niece. Ms. Corn began using marijuana at age 15, benzodiazepines (sedatives) at age 17 and alcohol at age 18. At 19, she began using cocaine intravenously and smoking crack. She used heavily for that year while living in her car. In 1992, at age 23, she spent six months in prison for Possession of Cocaine and Driving While Intoxicated. During incarceration Ms. Corn did not receive any treatment for her drug addiction.

Ms. Corn has been in and out of relationships with men that, she reports, abuse her. She has been in a relationship for the past four years with a man of this description, and they have two young sons, ages three and one. Ms. Corn struggles with her decision to remain with the father of her young

children, who contributes financially and helps take care of the boys, or to be on her own. Ms. Corn's daughter, now 18, lives with her father and her 14-year-old son just successfully completed a term at the Eckerd Foundation Wilderness Camp, as an alternative to juvenile detention due to problems with shoplifting and drugs and a lack of parental supervision.

Since last March, Ms. Corn attended Women At Risk over a period of 45 weeks before graduating in early January from the Program's 16-week therapy group, our 10-week substance abuse education group, and our 12-week Relapse Prevention group. Ms. Corn also completed her Community Service hours at the Women At Risk Program.

The Women At Risk therapy group is a psycho-didactic group that helps women address various mental health problems, including victimization and abuse, that have contributed to their criminal behavior. The substance abuse education group gives clients gender specific information about drugs and alcohol and how women are physically damaged by addiction. Relapse prevention helps women focus on staying clean and sober.

After a year of hard work, Ms. Corn remains clean and sober. She has put together two waitress jobs in order to make ends meet. She is reunited with her teenage son, whose successful experience at Eckerd Camp has contributed to his being a full-time high school student on the A-B honor role. Today, Ms. Corn has progressed through the Drug Treatment Court program and has moved into their third and final phase. She continues to visit Women At Risk and has begun to share her story and the importance of community-based programming, like Women At Risk and Drug Court, with community groups.

1/31/2005

Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc.
The Women At Risk_{SM} (WAR) Program
Organizational Chart

