



# Hamilton County Criminal Justice Commission 2006 Program Survey Results

Vera Institute of Justice  
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CENTER ON SENTENCING & CORRECTIONS

# Survey Purpose

- ❑ The purpose of the survey was to gather information on the program options available to individuals involved in the Hamilton County criminal justice system
- ❑ The aim was to collect information about how programs are structured, populations served, and types of data collected
- ❑ The survey was not intended to evaluate or assess individual programs

# Summary of Responses

## □ 32 Surveys Distributed

- Programs surveyed were determined by Program Evaluation and Development Committee:
  - Programs receiving County funding  
and/or
  - Programs frequently utilized by Probation Officers

## □ 25 Responses about 27 Individual Programs

## □ Response Rate: 78%

# List of Responding Programs

- ADAPT for Men (Talbert House)
- ADAPT for Women (Talbert House)
- Alternative Interventions for Women (at Court Clinic)
- CCAT Day Treatment
- CCAT Inpatient
- CCAT OASIS
- Court Clinic TASC
- Crisis Intervention, Advocacy, Support & Education, Rape Crisis & Abuse Center of Hamilton County
- Domestic Relations Clinic Program (VA)
- Electronic Monitoring Division (Hamilton County Sheriff's Office)
- Extended Treatment Program (Talbert House)
- First Step Home, Inc.
- Hamilton County Diversion Program
- Hamilton County Adult Probation Behavior Control Program
- Incarcerated Veterans Outreach Program (VA)
- John's Education Program (Cincinnati Union Bethel)
- Off The Streets (Cincinnati Union Bethel)
- Pathways for Women Halfway House (Talbert House)
- Rewards Jail Intervention Program for Women (Talbert House)
- Spring Grove Center Halfway House for Adult Men (Talbert House)
- Talbert House Adult Services
- Talbert House SA/MI Services
- The Crossroads Center – Chaney Allen Women's Continuum of Care
- The Crossroads Center – SAMI Program
- Turning Point (Talbert House)
- YWCA Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program – AMEND Adult
- YWCA Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program – CAN (Control Anger Now)

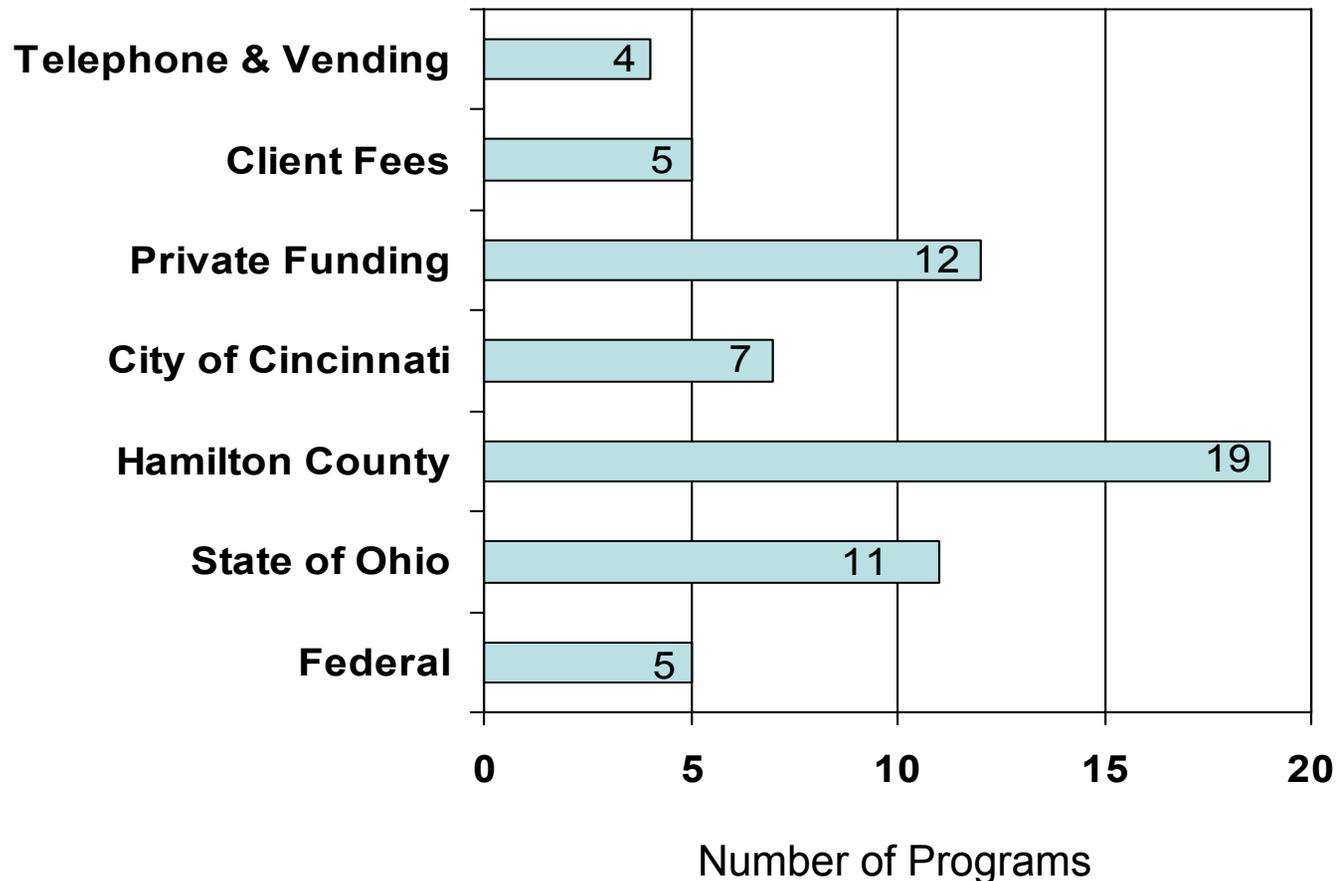
# Program Characteristics and Structure

# Location

- ❑ All programs based in the city of Cincinnati
- ❑ 5 of 27 programs operate in Hamilton County and at least one other county:
  - Electronic Monitoring Division
  - Extended Treatment Program (Talbert House)
  - Incarcerated Veterans Outreach Program
  - YWCA AMEND Adults
  - YWCA CAN (Control Anger Now)

# Breakdown of Program Funding Sources

- ☐ Most programs receive funding from multiple sources



# Program Staffing

- ❑ The average program has 18 staff members
  - 14 full-time
  - 4 part-time staff
  
- ❑ The average program has 11 staff who provide direct service to clients, 9 of whom have degrees (Bachelors or higher) or other qualifications (e.g. professional licenses) relating to the service they provide
  - In total, the programs surveyed employ 277 staff who provide direct services to clients. 232 of these (84%) had degrees or other qualifications relating to the service they provide.
  
- ❑ 2 of 27 Programs utilize peer-to-peer services
  - Alternative Interventions for Women
  - Off The Streets

# Program Training Requirements

- ❑ 25 of 27 Programs require/offer some training for staff
- ❑ Most Common Trainings
  - CPR/First Aid (15 programs)
  - Crisis De-escalation (15 programs)
  - Ethics (15 programs)
  - Cultural Diversity (15 programs)
  - Confidentiality/HIPAA (12 programs)
  - Fire Safety (11 programs)
- ❑ Direct Service Training
  - All Talbert House programs require Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Training
  - Seven other programs require/offer training in treatment approaches including Motivational Interviewing and Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment

# Program Duration

## ❑ Significant Variation Among and Within Programs

- Among Programs
  - Minimum Length: John's Education Program - One day-long class (7 hours)
  - Maximum Length: Talbert House SA/MI Services - No limit, often 2-5 years
- Within Programs
  - Some programs have different tracks e.g. Court Clinic TASC Length of Stay can be 6-8 weeks or 6-12 months depending on level of care
- Just three programs have durations of 30 days or less

# Intermediate Sanctions/Positive Reinforcements

- ❑ 20 Programs utilize intermediate sanctions (prior to discharge) for program non-compliance, such as:
  - Written Discipline
  - Loss of privileges such as visitation or furlough passes
  - Report to Probation Officer
  - Corrective Thinking Jeopardy Track
  - Behavior Contract
  - Short-term Incarceration
  
- ❑ 17 programs utilize positive reinforcements or rewards for program progress, such as:
  - Public verbal praise
  - Additional privileges such as extra furlough passes
  - Reduced office visits
  - Rewards points to purchase food or other items

# Requirements for Successful Program Completion

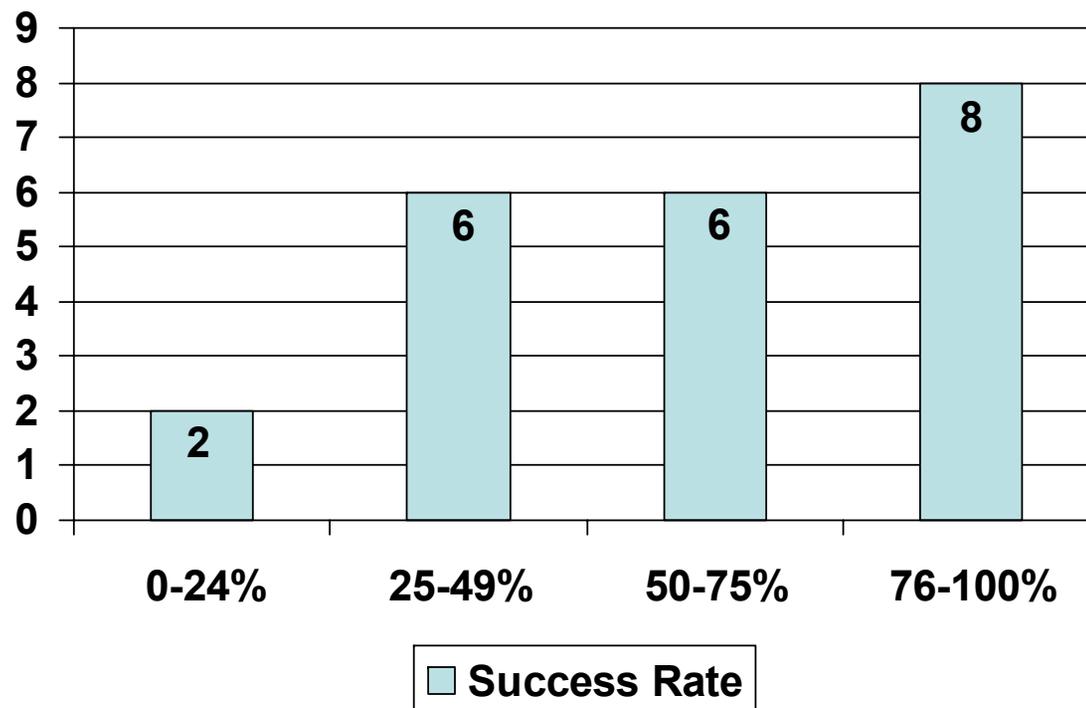
## ❑ Common Requirements Include

- Comply with individual goals of service/treatment plan
- Attend all meetings/groups
- Maintain stability in areas such as housing, employment, mental health, substance use
- No new involvement in the Criminal Justice system
- Maintain sobriety/negative drug screens

## ❑ Some programs require Court Approval for clients to be successfully discharged

# Successful Program Completion (CJ-Involved)

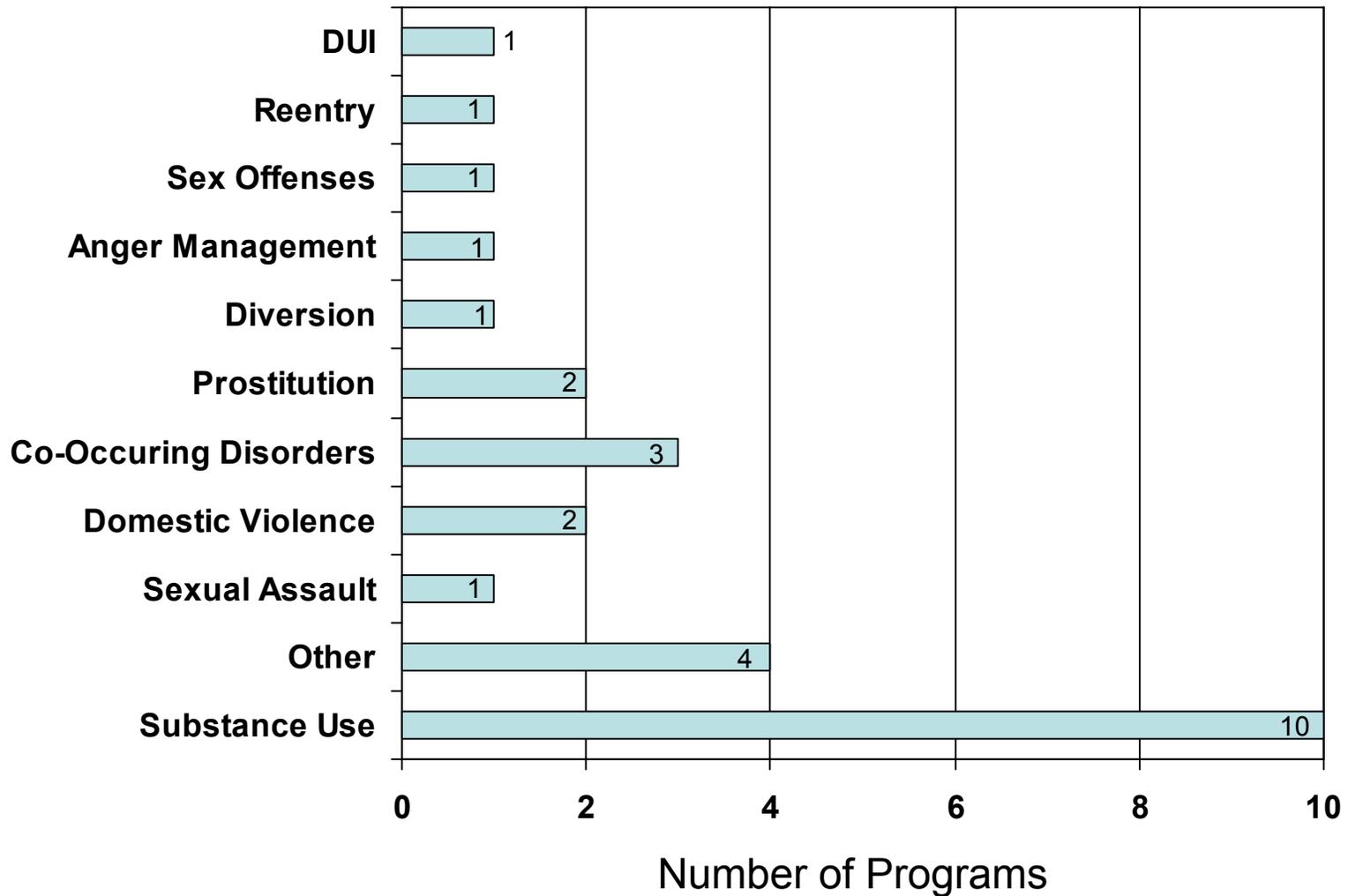
- ❑ On average, approximately 60% of individuals involved in the Criminal Justice system successfully completed the program



Missing Data: 5 Programs; Some programs reported success rates for entire population served

# Results: Client Characteristics

# Type of Program: Population Served



# Therapeutic Approaches and Service Delivery Models utilized by Programs

## Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

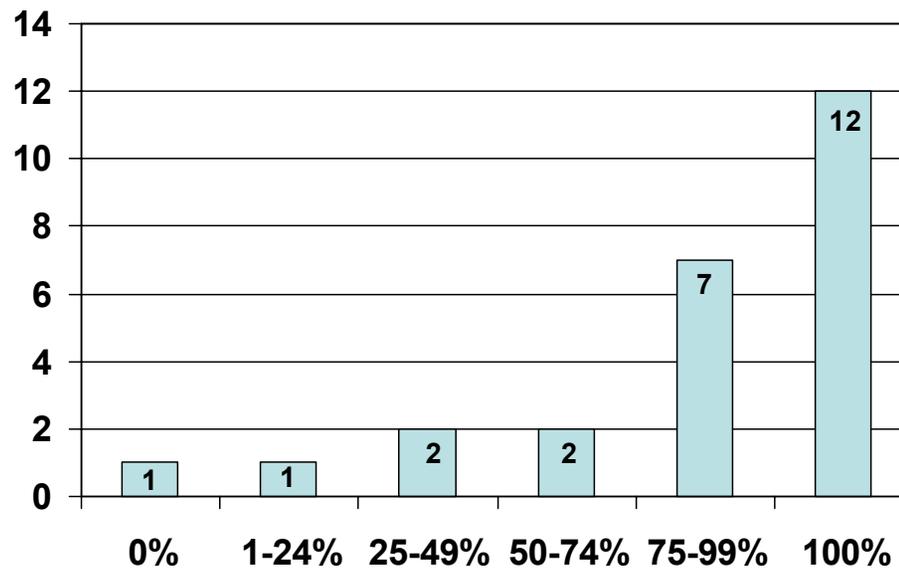
- 21 of 27 programs utilize some form of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

## Other Approaches Mentioned

- Motivational Interviewing (7 Programs)
- Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment (IDDT) (2 Programs)
- Minnesota Model (2 Programs)

## Client Population: Breakdown of programs by percentage of clients involved in the Criminal Justice System

- ❑ 12 of 27 Programs serve only individuals involved in the Criminal Justice System

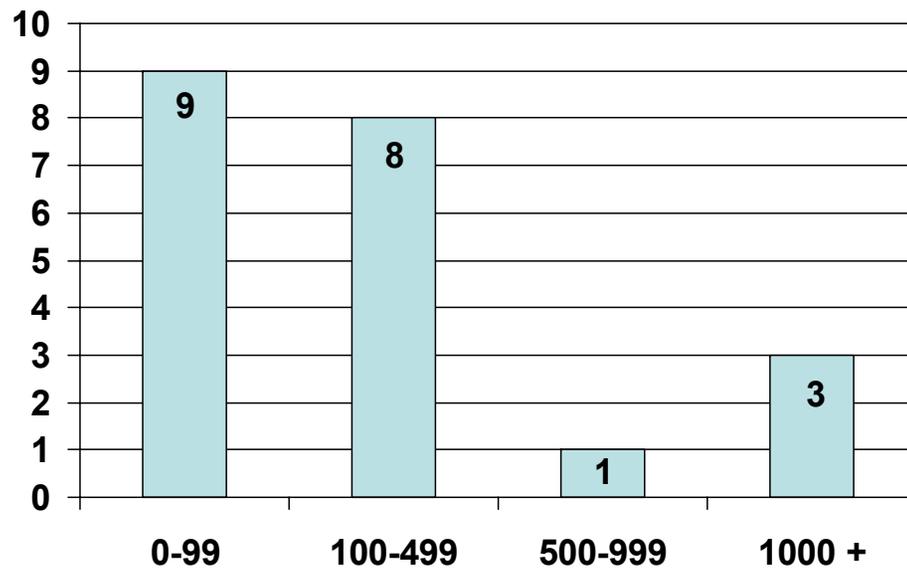


Percent of CJ Involved Clients Served

Missing Data: 2 Programs

## Client Population: Breakdown of programs by number of clients involved in the Criminal Justice System

- ❑ The average number of CJ involved individuals served in one year was 785, however most programs served fewer than 500



Number of CJ Involved Clients Served

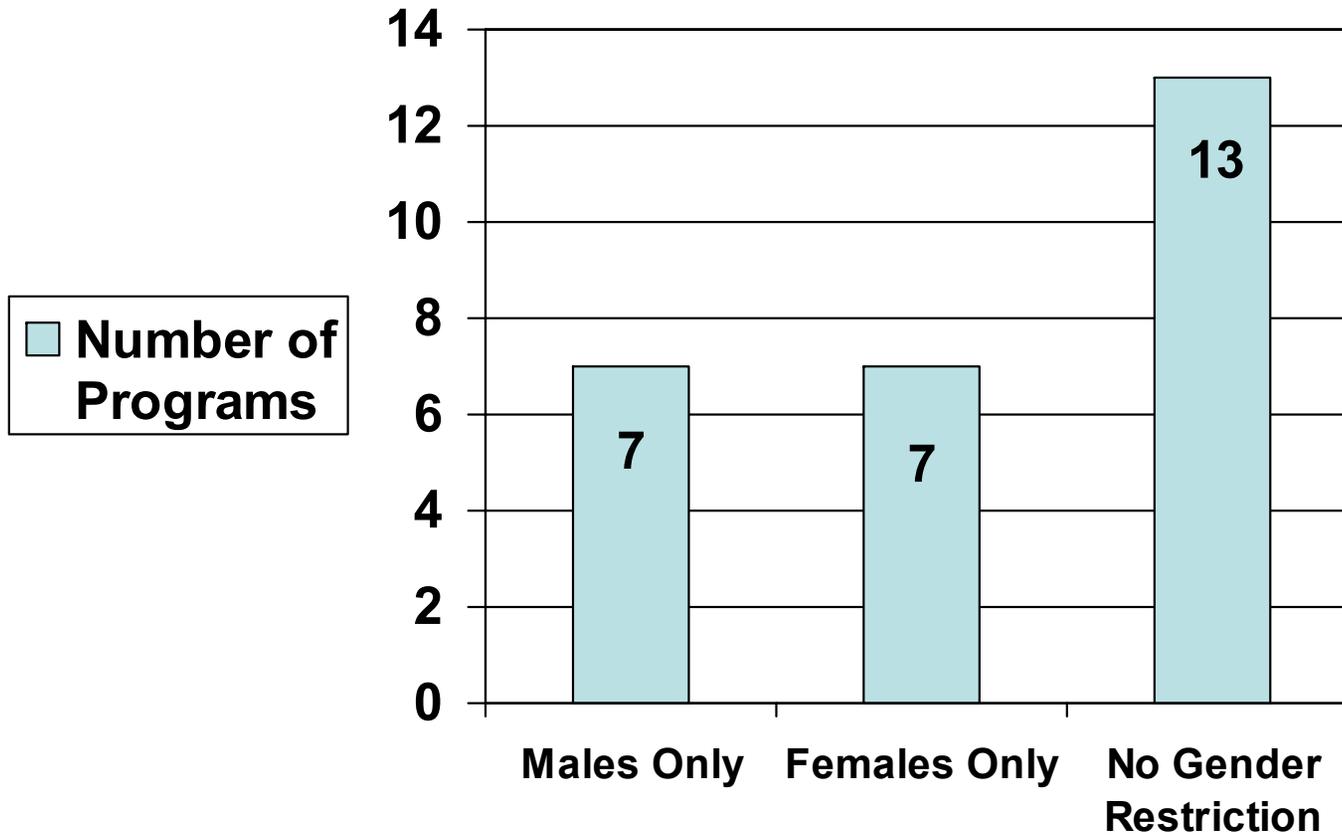
Missing Data: 6 Programs

# Admission and Eligibility

# Assessment

- ❑ Most programs assess client risk/needs
  - Two programs that do not conduct assessment:
    - Electronic Monitoring Division
    - Diversion Program
  
- ❑ Programs use both clinical assessment and formal tools that assess both risk and needs
  - 18 Programs use at least one formal assessment tool
  
- ❑ Common Assessment Tools Utilized
  - SASSI (Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory) (10 Programs)
  - DAF (Diagnostic Assessment Form) (10 Programs)
  - LSI-R (Level of Service Inventory-Revised) (7 Programs)
  - MAST (Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test) (4 Programs)
  - HIT (How I Think Questionnaire) (3 Programs)

# Eligibility: Gender



# Eligibility: Restrictions

## ❑ Most common restrictions

- *Sex Offense*: 9 Programs restrict admission for prior sex offense convictions
- *Violence*: 7 Programs restrict admission based on violence (either a current violent offense or a prior violent offense)
- *Arson Conviction*: 7 Programs restrict admission for a prior arson conviction (all Talbert House Programs)

## ❑ Wide variation among programs

- Other restrictions include lack of stable living, severe mental health issues, or certain medical conditions

# Eligibility: Repeating the Program

- ❑ All 27 programs permit re-admission to someone who has previously failed the program
- ❑ Some programs have re-admission conditions, which include
  - No abuse/violence to staff
  - No risk to self, others or staff
  - If discharged for program violation, must be treatment ready and/or agree to behavioral contract
  - If discharged for medical reason, must be medically stable

# Data Collection and Evaluation

# Data Collected and Reported

- ❑ 26 Programs collect some individual level data
- ❑ 21 Programs report some data to at least one County agency
- ❑ **Most common data collected/reported**
  - Demographic Information
  - Program Completion Statistics
- ❑ **7 Programs collect some form of recidivism data**
  - Alternative Interventions for Women – Arrest; 3 years post-discharge
  - Court Clinic TASC – Re-arrest rates
  - Hamilton County Diversion Program – Recidivism
  - John’s Education Program – New convictions for prostitution related charges; 6 months
  - Off the Streets Program – Number of prostitution and other convictions; 6 months
  - Rewards Jail Intervention Program for Women – Recidivism
  - YWCA AMEND – One Year Recidivism Tracking Study

# Program Assessments

- Two Programs have been assessed using the Correctional Program Assessment Inventory (CPAI)
  - ADAPT for Men (Assessed in 2003): Rated “Satisfactory”
  - Turning Point (Assessed in 1997): Rated “Very Satisfactory”

# Program Evaluations (External)

- ❑ Six Programs have been or are in the process of being externally evaluated
  - Adapt for Men and Adapt for Women – evaluated as part of Ohio Drug Court Evaluation by University of Cincinnati (2000)
  - Pathways for Women Halfway House and Spring Grove Halfway House – evaluated as part of Ohio Halfway House Evaluation by University of Cincinnati (2002)
  - Talbert House SA/MI – contract with University of Cincinnati to conduct Quality Improvement Review (2005-2007)
  - Turning Point – evaluation by University of Cincinnati (2000)

# Client Satisfaction/Follow-Up

- ❑ 20 programs do some follow up with clients after they have left the program
  - Aftercare
  - Telephone contact to check on client's progress
  - Recidivism/Outcome checks
- ❑ Reasons for lack of follow up
  - Lack of time, staff, resources
- ❑ 22 programs conduct Client Satisfaction Surveys

# Recommendations and Next Steps

## Key Findings

- ❑ Of the programs surveyed, more than 1/3 target individuals with substance use issues
- ❑ 21 of 27 programs report using some type of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, which is one of the most effective methods of treatment
- ❑ Most direct service staff have appropriate degrees and qualifications, however it is unclear how many of these staff are trained on how to deliver specific service models
- ❑ Most programs (18 of 27) utilize formal assessment instruments although significant variation exists in the tools used

## Key Findings, continued

- ❑ There is no standardized method of data collection
  - Very few programs (7 of 27) collect data to measure recidivism
  - There is no standardized definition of recidivism
  - There is no standard time frame in which to measure recidivism
- ❑ The lack of standardized data collection means that it is difficult to compare programs and difficult for programs to share data among themselves
  - It is difficult, if not impossible, to determine if an individual has been served multiple programs
- ❑ Very few programs have been externally evaluated for effectiveness
  - Successful completion is not a measure of effectiveness
  - The gold standard for measuring effectiveness is to have an external group conduct a process (fidelity) and impact (outcome) evaluation

# Recommendations

## ❑ Improve Program Data Collection Methods

- Develop a standardized list of key data elements that all programs should collect to track outcomes
- Require all programs receiving county funding to collect designated data elements and report outcomes to the county annually
- Agree on a standardized definition of recidivism for the county and a method to track recidivism
- Hamilton County should develop a process for collecting, analyzing, and reporting recidivism rates to the public annually

# Recommendations, continued

## □ Review the Program Referral and Formal Assessment Process

- Determine if Referrals are Timely and Appropriate
- Identify Program Capacity Issues/Waiting Times
- Although standardizing assessments across programs is not necessary, steps should be taken to ensure tools used are validated for the program's target population.

## □ Develop a County Evaluation Protocol

- Hire or Designate an Evaluation or Research Specialist to coordinate data reporting and tracking program outcomes
- Contract with external evaluation experts to evaluate all programs over the next ten years, beginning in 2008. Annual evaluations should include at least one small program and one large program

## Recommendations, continued

- ❑ Develop a protocol for obtaining feedback from program participants
  - 24 of 27 programs said that such a process was developed, they would be willing to assist in communicating this process to program participants.
  - Attempt to standardize the feedback process so results can be analyzed along with recidivism data