



# WRAPAROUND MILWAUKEE

Child & Adolescent Services Branch

News – A Monthly Publication

OCTOBER 2010

## From the Director...



### Study on Recidivism Rates of Juvenile Offenders

The following article by Pnina Goldfarb, Ph.D., Wraparound Milwaukee Program Evaluator, is the result of a study she conducted on recidivism rates of juvenile offenders who are enrolled in Wraparound Milwaukee. We are pleased to see that the early results of this study show enrollment in Wraparound Milwaukee has a positive effect on reducing re-offending behaviors. Thanks to Pnina for her work on this important study.

#### **A Study in Wraparound Recidivism September 2010**

Recidivism is a fundamental concept in criminal justice and is viewed as one of the most important measures used to gauge success for any sanctions or intervention programs for juvenile offenders. According to the National Institute of Justice (May 2010), "recidivism refers to a person's relapse into criminal behavior" during or after receiving sanctions and/or participating in an intervention program for a previous offense.

The study and monitoring of recidivism rates is essential to Wraparound Milwaukee. Approximately 70% of youth enrolled come with a history of adjudicated delinquency, in addition to serious emotional disturbance. Reduction in delinquent behavior is a concrete measure of program effectiveness.

#### **Methodology**

Conducting research on Juvenile recidivism is complex and can be narrowed or broadened to address many varied questions about this population. For this initial recidivism study, the primary question is whether Wraparound is successful in reducing delinquent behavior resulting in arrests during the course of enrollment.

In this present study of Wraparound recidivism, the following definitions and collection strategies have been implemented:

- The delinquent offense that triggered the referral and enrollment to Wraparound is considered the initial offense even though there may have been delinquent activity prior to Wraparound.

- In all cases, the arrest and referred offense is what is documented. Subsequent actions that may occur during the legal process (e.g. reducing or dismissing the charge) are not considered in the data.
- The recidivism data in this report only reflects the juvenile activity while still enrolled in Wraparound.

The Wraparound youth included in this analysis are youth who entered the program from October 1, 2009 to July 31, 2010. There were a total of 411 new youth enrolled during this time period, of which 104 were females and 307 were males. As noted above, Wraparound Milwaukee was able to obtain information about the "triggering" offense for enrollment and offenses the youth may have committed after the date of enrollment.

#### **Results**

**Overall Recidivism Rate:** Only **11.9% (46) youth out of the total population of 411** exhibited new, referred offenses after enrollment in Wraparound.

**Length of Time Analysis:** The data was further analyzed to determine the distribution of re-offenses across time in Wraparound. Two analyses were conducted; the first that looks at the reoffending population and the second that looks at reoffenses within the total Wraparound population who entered the program between October 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010.

Table 1 includes the basic data about the number of youth enrolled each "quarter", the number of youth who reoffended, and during what period of enrollment they first reoffended. Charts 1 and 2 display the information graphically.

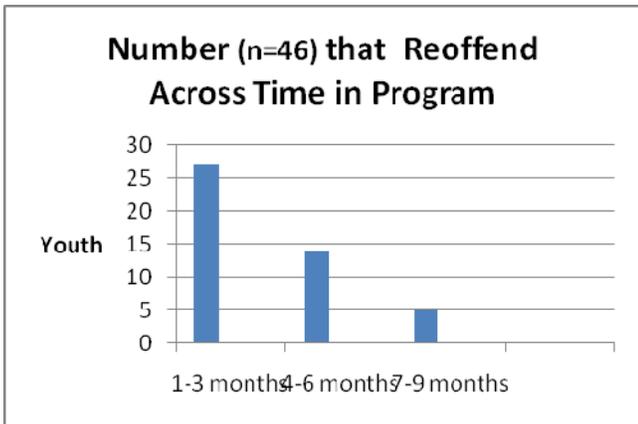
**Table 1  
Recidivism Rates across Time in Program**

Entered program	Total Enrolled	1-3 Months	Percentage	4-6 Months	Percentage	7-9 Months	
October 1- January 9 (24)	127	12	12/124 or 9.6%	7	7/127 or 5.5%	5	5/127 or 3.9%
January 10- April 21 (16)	135	9	9/135 or 7%	7	7/135 or 5%		
April 22- July 31 (6)	149	6*	6/149 or 4%				
<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Average percent=6.86%**</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Average percent=5.25%***</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Average percent =3.9%***</b>

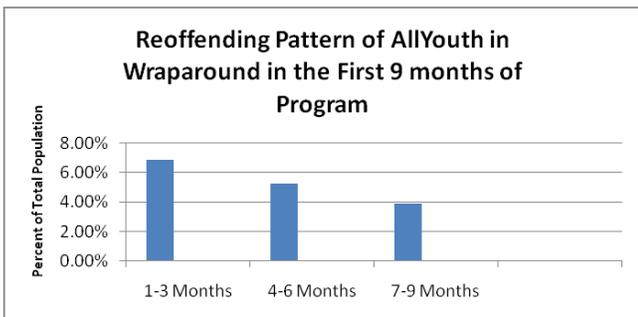
\*As this is rolling admission, this includes youth that have been in the program less than 3 months  
\*\* Significantly different at the .001 & .008 confidence levels respectively



**Chart 1**



**Chart 2**



Within the framework of a 9-month period, the exploration of these outcomes provides a snapshot pattern of recidivism across time. In both analyses, the distribution of recidivism across a 9-month period reveals a “ramp down” trend of recidivism as youth are in the program from 1-3 months to 7-9 months. The data also reveals that youth who reoffend will do so at significantly higher rates earlier in the program and the number that recidivate decreases as the youth become more involved in the Wraparound program (<.00001 confidence level between 1-3 months & 7-9 months). Child and family teams are encouraged to take this finding into consideration when establishing plans and developing resources. Clearly, careful and accurate assessment and matching of youth needs with resources is critical to early and ongoing prevention of further delinquency.

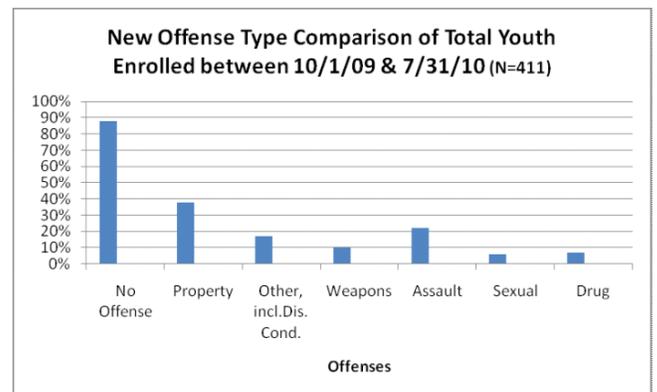
**Gender Analysis:** Table 2 presents the recidivism gender breakdown compared to the total population and their respective same sex population.

	Number	Percent
Female Recidivists in the total population who entered the program as of October 1, 2009	10/411	2.4%
Male Recidivists in the total population who entered the program as of October 1, 2009	36/411	8.7%
Female Recidivists in the total population of Females who entered the program as of October 1, 2009	10/104	9.6%
Male Recidivists in the Total population of Males who entered the program as of October 1, 2009	36/307	11.7%

Twenty-five percent of the 411 youth that entered Wraparound were female, 75% male; consistent with the general demographic data (see Annual Report 2009). The result suggests that girls are significantly less likely to reoffend during their Wraparound enrollment than boys (significant difference of <.0001).

**Offense Type Analysis:** Chart 3 reflects data about the new types of offenses youth engage in during enrollment in Wraparound.

**Chart 3**



What is so powerfully depicted in the above graph is the small number of total reoffenders (n=46) compared to the total number of enrollments during the time frame of this study (n=411). The distribution of new delinquency types shows “property” to be most common and “sexual misconduct” as the least frequent.

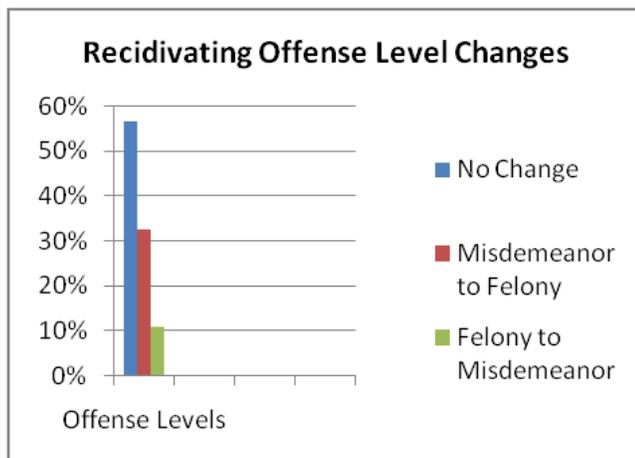
**Offense Code Analysis:** Table 3 reflects data that was collected to assess shifts in offense codes (misdemeanor and felony) from enrollment to re-offending, essentially trying to answer the question of whether offending behaviors become more severe or less severe during enrollment.

Chart 4 provides a graphic display of that information.

**Table 3**

	Number	Percent
Youth who change from a presenting Misdemeanor offense to Felony Offense during enrollment	15/46	32.6%
Youth who change from a presenting Felony Offense to a Misdemeanor offense during enrollment	5/46	10.8%
Youth whose Offense Code Status remains the same (either misdemeanor or felony)	24/46	56.6%

**Chart 4**



The overwhelming number of youth continued to offend at the same severity level in which they did when entering Wraparound. An analysis of the 20 youth that had shifts in their offense status yielded no statistical significance in their shifts (either severe or less severe) suggesting that it is not likely that the program influenced the severity level of the recidivating offenses.

**Summary & Conclusions**

As it relates to the question of whether involvement in Wraparound has a positive impact on reducing reoffending behaviors, the short answer is yes. This is reflected in both the low number of youth that reoffend and the fact that the likelihood of reoffending decreases over time. Taking into consideration the high-risk nature of the majority of youth enrolled in Wraparound, this data supports the assertion that Wraparound Milwaukee is a cost-effective approach to reducing youth crime and the harmful impact crime has on the community, their families and the youth themselves.

As powerful as the reported findings appear to be, it is very difficult to compare recidivism across systems.

Across the country, as well as within Wisconsin, the juvenile justice system's definitions of offenses, collection methodologies and even what activities actually constitute recidivism vary widely.

Therefore, there is no national recidivism rate reported for juveniles as there is for adults (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention {OJJDP}, September 2010). Any comparison of different sets of data requires a careful inspection of the definitions and methodologies.

Most states do their own studies on juvenile crime and recidivism and each state approaches their investigations differently. Therefore, any true comparison of different sets of data requires a careful inspection of the definitions and methodologies. Cottle, Lee and Heilbrun (2001) conducted a meta-analysis of 23 published studies, representing a sample size of 15,265 juveniles. From this study some baseline figures for comparison can be drawn. Cottle, et.al, found the overall mean for recidivism as measured by re-arrests was 48%. Perusing other states' recidivism data, ranges are reported from 31% to 7% (in rural areas)(Pennsylvania 2009, North Carolina 2004 and Michigan 2006). The Division of Juvenile Corrections reports that within 3 years of release from a juvenile correctional institution 45-50% of youth reoffend.

Notwithstanding the completion of a literature review that analyzes definitions of recidivism and methodologies for purposes of clear comparison; the overall recidivism rate of 11.9% outlined in this study appears to be strong data supporting the community/strength-based model of Wraparound.

Pnina Goldfarb, Ph.D  
Wisconsin Council on Children & Families

*This project was made possible by a collaboration of Wraparound Milwaukee and Delinquency & Court Services, with a special thank you to Eric Meaux and Wendy Moraza.*

**New Census Data:**

**Child Poverty Rate Increases in Wisconsin**

In information recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau and sent to us by the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, Wisconsin's child poverty rate increased significantly last year. The State's child poverty rate rose from 13.4% in 2008 to 16.7% in 2009. While Wisconsin's child poverty rate remains lower than the national rate (20% in 2009), the increase in Wisconsin's rate was greater than the national increase.

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About 214,000 Wisconsin children lived in poverty in 2009, 42,000 more than the previous year.

Milwaukee County had the lowest median income of any Wisconsin County at \$41,968 with 20.1% of Milwaukee County families living in poverty. Within Wraparound Milwaukee, based on 2009 annual report data, 69% of families served earned less than \$25,000 annually with over a quarter of the families living in households earning \$10,000 or less annually. To put these annual earnings into perspective, a family of 3 earning \$18,310 annually is considered living in poverty according to the 2009 federal poverty guidelines.

The recession has hit our families very hard in this state and particularly Milwaukee, and the economic stresses are even greater now than in past years.

The one brighter spot has been healthcare. While the loss of jobs has resulted in a larger percentage of uninsured people than in recent years, because of the BadgerCare Plus program (Medicaid), the 9.4% of Wisconsin residents lacking health insurance in 2009 was the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest among states. We know how vital BadgerCare Plus is for families in Wraparound Milwaukee to meet the mental health and supportive needs of their child and family.

For additional information on the poverty data, please call the Wraparound Milwaukee Administration Office at (414) 257-7639.

Bruce Kamradt, Director

## Wraparound Success Story...



*Dustin\* turned 18 on July 29, 2010. This marked an extremely happy moment in his life, as he was surrounded by his family and team members celebrating all of Dustin's successes over the past several months and everything he has learned while enrolled in Wraparound Milwaukee. Things had not started out well for Dustin. He began in court-ordered Wraparound three years earlier. He had been placed out of his home due to physically aggressive behaviors toward his mother. He spent almost nine months in an out-of-home placement before being allowed to come home. His order ended shortly after he came home and despite the fact that he had made a lot of progress, his mother still knew he would benefit from further help.*

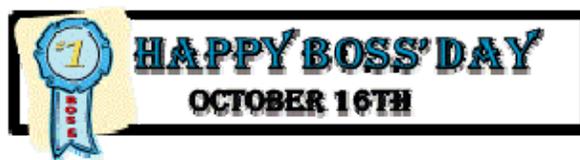
*Dustin was enrolled in the Wraparound – REACH program in October 2009. Things started off on a strong foot for him as the team got going. Dustin was doing well at home and making straight A's at school. Over the course of the next several months Dustin had a rough time getting along with his stepdad*

*and lost motivation in school. He went to respite and entered a transitional living program. With the help of his mother, a crisis stabilizer, therapist and some hard work, Dustin was able to finish the school years on a positive note and make progress towards his goals.*

*Currently Dustin is living in an apartment with a family friend, attending school, maintaining a positive relationship with his family and working. Dustin has learned through all of his ups and downs that he has the support of his family and that he can be successful. Dustin's ability to learn in situations of adversity and his recognition that everyone needs help sometimes, are true testaments to his personality and his determination to lead a successful life.*

(\* Name changed for confidentiality.)

Submitted by St. Aemilian-Lakeside - REACH



## Mobile Crisis...



The Mobile Urgent Treatment Team for Treatment Foster Care (MUTT-TFC) will participate in treatment foster parent training at the Grand Avenue on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. This training will assist TFC parents in de-escalating situations with youth and understanding how to utilize MUTT. I will also have the privilege of presenting on community treatment at Concordia University on October 26<sup>th</sup>, to social work students.

I recently provided testimony to a legislative council, run by Representative Sandy Pasch, on Monday, October 4, at the Medical College. My testimony was related to inpatient hospitalization authorization under Chapter 51. Few local hospitals have incorporated changes made in 2006 to Chapter 51. These changes give parents and guardians more authority in seeking care for youth.

The MUTT team said goodbye to Diana Johnstone, who is leaving after giving birth to Elsa in September. We are pleased to welcome back Alfonso Watkins to the MUTT-MPS team and welcome Dr. Verma, Neurology Fellow from the Medical College, as a trainee.

Dr. Chris Morano, Mobile Crisis Director

## Announcements...



### Positive Recognition Awards

The following have been recipients of "Positive Recognition" awards:

**Thavone Munesy-Delgado – AJA Counseling Center**

Nominated by Theresa Evans - Parent

*"Thavone has done more than her job – is always there for our family... a very caring, hard-working woman. "*

**Human Development Center**

Nominated by Margaret Oulahan – LaCausa, Inc.

*"[after being informed that a crisis provider no longer worked for the agency] within 45 minutes Charnelle called me back with the name of the new provider... I am very pleased with the way this situation was handled... Glad to have Lora on the team!"*

**Cynthia Barton, Special Ed. Supervisor – Milwaukee Public Schools**

Nominated by Rob Bergeson – Alternatives in Psychological Consultation

*"Cynthia assisted a team with developing a creative IEP that allows for a tailored care and sustainable approach. She truly believes in being able to have a positive outcome for the children she helps."*

**Kurt Maurer – Willowglen Community Care**

Nominated by Subrena Roberts - Parent

*"He is really on top of things... keeps the family updated... should be recognized – he does his job and goes up over and beyond!..."*



## Upcoming Events...

### NOVEMBER 2010

- Nov. 2**            **ARB Meetings**  
9:00-1:00pm    WM – Room 253
- Nov. 3**            **DHHS Centralized QA Mtg.**  
9:00-11:00am   WM – Room 212
- Nov. 4**            **Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting**  
8:15-10:00am   @ St. Charles
- Nov. 4**            **High Risk Reviews**  
11:00-1:00pm   WM – Room 253
- Nov. 4**            **Monthly Care Coordinator Mtg.**  
1:00-3:00pm    CHP Auditorium
- Nov. 9**            **ARB Meetings**  
9:00-1:00pm    WM – Room 253
- Nov. 10**          **Child Psych. Cons. – LaCausa**  
12:00-1:00pm   WM – Room 253
- Nov. 11**          **High Risk Reviews**  
11:00-1:00pm   WM – Room 253
- Nov. 16**          **ARB Meetings**  
9:00-1:00pm    WM – Room 253
- Nov. 17**          **Provider Meeting**  
10:00-11:30am  WM - Cafeteria
- Nov. 18**          **Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting**  
8:15-10:00am   @ St. Charles
- Nov. 18**          **High Risk Reviews**  
11:00-1:00pm   WM – Room 253
- Nov. 24**          **Child Psych. Cons. – R-AJA**  
12:00-1:00pm   WM – Room 253
- Nov. 25**          **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**  
WM Offices Closed

Editor

Debra Jansen, Consumer Relations Coordinator - (414) 257-6532.  
For more information on Wraparound Milwaukee, go to our Website at [www.county.milwaukee.gov](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov) and search using the keywords "Wraparound Milwaukee".

### Greater Milwaukee Major Events

- |               |                                   |                             |                |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 11/6          | Veterans Day Parade               | Downtown Milwaukee          | (414) 273-5533 |
| 11/18-1/2     | Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival | Downtown Milwaukee          | (414) 220-4700 |
| 11/19-11/21   | Holiday Folk Fair International   | Wisconsin Exposition Center | (414) 225-6225 |
| 11/20         | Milwaukee Holiday Parade          | Downtown Milwaukee          | (262) 377-5935 |
| 12/3-12/4     | Christmas in the Ward             | Historic Third Ward         | (414) 273-1173 |
| 12/4-12/5     | Christmas Express Train           | The Elegant Farmer          | (262) 363-6770 |
| & 12/11-12/12 |                                   |                             |                |