

WESTERN CAROLINIANS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE, INC.
The Women At Risk Program
PO Box 7472, Asheville, NC 28802 (828) 252-2485
www.wccj.org

Mission

Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to comprehensive mental health and substance abuse treatment as an alternative to costly incarceration. The Women At Risk Program is a nationally accredited and state licensed community-based facility providing mental health and substance abuse treatment for women at risk of imprisonment.

Performance measures evaluating Program success

Cost effectiveness

- The Women At Risk Program worked with 153 offenders in FY 2009-10.
- In FY 2009-10, the average daily cost of the Women At Risk Program per offender was \$8.
- The average daily cost of in-prison substance abuse treatment per offender in North Carolina is \$16.84
- The average daily cost of incarceration per inmate in North Carolina is \$74.
- FY 2009-10 Program graduates worked with Women At Risk for an average of 210 days from intake to completion.

Prison risk

- In FY 2009-10, 77% (136) of Program clients came directly from the criminal justice system (122) or DSS (14). The criminal court bench was the largest referral source (42) followed by probation (28).
- In FY 2009-10, 55% (81) of Program clients faced at least 6 months incarceration. Women At Risk determined their prison risk from the level of new criminal charge (30), probation status (27), and probation violation (24).

Lower rate of recidivism

- 74% of Women At Risk graduates stay out of prison for at least three years. This analysis compares Program graduates to program dropouts three years after leaving Women At Risk (July 1, 2006-June 30, 2010).

Program completion rate

- In FY 2009-10, Women At Risk clients completed the Program at a rate of 45%. The national completion rate for outpatient treatment for substance abuse is 36%. (US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.)

Improved daily functioning

- Women At Risk provides "best practice" care with wrap-around mental health treatment that addresses documented risk factors like substance abuse, childhood trauma, and domestic violence.
- In FY 2009-10, 100% of Program graduates improved their daily functioning, as measured by the Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF), recorded at intake and at graduation. GAF tracks clinical progress with psychological, social, and occupational functioning like employment, reduced substance use, managing the symptoms of mental illness, regaining custody of children, leaving abusive relationships and establishing safe and stable housing.
- Other examples of improved daily functioning address health and wellness including a 76% reduction in visits to their local hospital emergency rooms for Women At Risk clients during FY 2009-10.

Support of Superior and District Court Bench

- "When Women At Risk becomes involved with a defendant there most likely will be one less person led out of the courtroom in handcuffs to be sent to prison." Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Mark E. Powell (Judicial District 29B)
- "Women At Risk provides us with a valuable and irreplaceable alternative to incarceration." Chief District Court Judge Calvin Hill (Judicial District 28)

State licensure and national accreditation

- The Women At Risk Program is licensed by NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Facility Services.
- The Women At Risk Program holds national accreditation by CARF (Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities).

"Terri"

TASC referred Terri to the Women At Risk Program for felony larceny. Terri's criminal history included probation 3 times and jail 6 times. At intake Terri was 20 years old and pregnant, facing a probation violation due to positive drug screens and failure to pay her fees and fines. Terri has a mental health and substance abuse dual diagnosis. Her family history includes domestic violence, instability, and family drug and alcohol issues. She dropped out of school after the ninth grade due to an earlier pregnancy and has had no contact with her first child. One month after entering Women At Risk, Terri gave birth to a healthy baby. Despite challenges with transportation and child care, Terri continued her participation at Women At Risk. Program staff helped her address a variety of personal needs including onsite childcare while she completed mental health and substance abuse treatment groups. Terri attended the Women At Risk Program for 11 months. By graduation, Terri had paid her delinquent fines and costs and was more than four months clean and sober. Working closely with probation, Women At Risk helped Terri learn to rely on both systems for support and guidance.

Funding of WCCJ Women At Risk FY 2009-2010

NC General Assembly	\$262,500.00	60.7%
Grants	\$92,318.00	21.3%
Client Fees & Billing	\$31,486.00	7.3%
Churches & Individual Contributions	\$22,810.00	5.3%
WCCJ Fundraisers	\$19,662.00	4.5%
Miscellaneous	\$3,808.00	0.9%
TOTAL	\$432,584.00	

Proposed Use of State Appropriation in FY 2010-11

Women At Risk Program Expenditures

Other revenue streams	\$250,059
State appropriation	\$246,258

	<u>Other</u>	<u>State</u>
Treatment Services (64%)	\$158,893	\$158,895
Clinical	\$86,775	\$86,776
Case Management	\$72,118	\$72,119
Operating Expenses (17%)	\$45,442	\$41,637
Administrative (19%)	\$45,724	\$45,726

Total Expenditures \$496,317

- Over the past four years, the ratio of dollars from the state appropriation that fund Women At Risk Program services has declined from 76% in FY 2007-08 to 50% in FY 2010-11.
- Today's funding of Women At Risk reflects a mix of revenue streams that balances state dollars with private support.
- Women At Risk remains a sound investment of public funds by continuing to hold down operating costs and spend only a fraction of what it would cost to incarcerate the same offenders.

The Women At Risk Program



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

Report to the NC General Assembly

February 1, 2011

Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc.

www.wccj.org

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

February 1, 2011

TO: Senator Harry Brown
Senator Thomas Goolsby
Representative W. David Guice
Representative Shirley Randleman

FROM: Ellen Clarke, Executive Director, WCCJ/Women At Risk

SUBJECT: Annual Report to the NC General Assembly

Thank you for the opportunity to present the annual ***Report to the NC General Assembly*** from the Women At Risk Program. This report contains information about Program operations during Fiscal Year 2009-10.

We have complied with all of the reporting requirements for non-state entities receiving state appropriations, including the submission of a "Program Activities and Accomplishments Report" which is also attached.

For 1/10th the cost of a day in prison, the Women At Risk Program provides essential, out-patient treatment services to and placements for offenders that reduce the need for state incarceration; lower criminal recidivism; and keep mothers and children together.

The Women At Risk Program works collaboratively with the criminal justice system, providing attorneys, judges and probation officers with an effective out-patient alternative to prison.

The Women At Risk Program is licensed by NC Department of Health and Human Services as an outpatient mental health facility and also is nationally accredited by CARF (the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) for following best-practices in providing holistic, gender responsive mental health and substance abuse treatment for female offenders.

This report will show the following for FY 2009-10:

- The Women At Risk Program served a total of 153 WNC female offenders. Graduates of Women At Risk stay in the program for an average of 210 days.
- Treatment at WCCJ costs approximately \$7.75 per person per day, while the average cost of incarcerating one person for one day in North Carolina is \$74.34.
- 55 % of the clients (81 offenders) served by Women At Risk faced at least 6 months of state incarceration with a potential cost to the NC taxpayer of \$1,098,931.
- 74% of Women At Risk graduates remain out of prison for at least three years.
- Women At Risk serves clients all along the criminal justice continuum: pretrial; jail diversion; probation; court-ordered at sentencing; upon re-entry from prison.

- 85% of Women At Risk clients struggle with addiction and 79% are parents and single heads of households. Large majorities live in poverty, have mental health diagnoses with a history of being violently and sexually abused.
- Women At Risk not only helps reduce the recidivism of female offenders, the Program also empowers offenders to improve their lives in many important ways. Additional measures of success recorded at graduation include improved mental health functioning, reduced substance abuse, stabilized housing and employment, improved parenting skills, and a staggering 76% reduction in visits to the ER.

Women At Risk is a cost-effective and successful treatment program that reduces recidivism and creates safer communities.

Thank you again for your support of the Women At Risk Program.

Cc Doug Holbrook, Justice & Public Safety Team
 John Poteat, Justice & Public Safety Team
 Fiscal Research Division
 NC General Assembly

The Women At Risk Program

Table of Contents

WOMEN AT RISK TREATMENT MODEL.....	1
ILLUSTRATION OF WOMEN AT RISK TREATMENT MODEL.....	2
WOMEN AT RISK ACTIVITY REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2009-10.....	3
WOMEN AT RISK: REFERRALS.....	4
WOMEN AT RISK: CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS.....	5
WOMEN AT RISK: CORE COMPONENTS OF THE MODEL.....	9
WOMEN AT RISK GRADUATES: THE STORY OF SUCCESS.....	11
WOMEN AT RISK WORKS!.....	12
WOMEN AT RISK: EARLY EXITS.....	13
WOMEN AT RISK: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES.....	14
WOMEN AT RISK OPERATING BUDGET FOR FY 09-10.....	15
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT.....	17

WOMEN AT RISK TREATMENT MODEL: BEST PRACTICE FOR FEMALE OFFENDERS

“As a judge for eighteen years, I believe a person's support structure is one of the most important factors to consider when deciding whether they should be confined in the Department of Corrections or allowed to remain in the local community. For persons burdened with mental health or substance abuse issues there may be no alternative to incarceration as many of these persons do not have the ability to function successfully in everyday life, let alone under supervised probation.

Programs such as Women at Risk give defendants support targeted to their specific needs to assist them in remaining in the community and resolving their problems. When Women At Risk becomes involved with a defendant there most likely will be one less person led out of the courtroom in handcuffs to be sent to prison.”

The Hon. Mark E. Powell, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge,
Judicial District 29B (Henderson, Transylvania and Polk Counties)

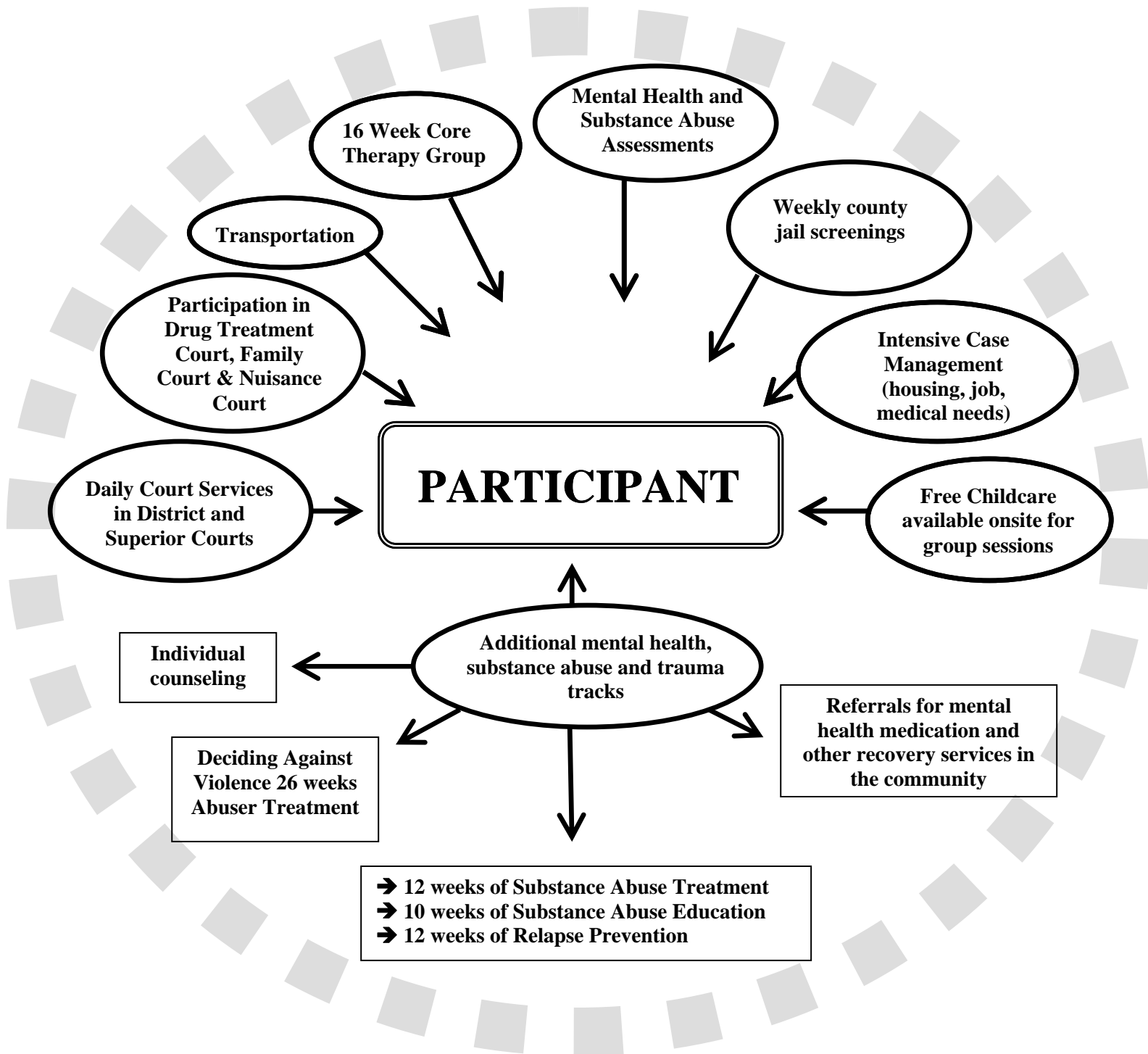
Women At Risk is a nationally accredited state-licensed program that offers outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment for women at risk of incarceration. The Women At Risk Program expands the state's capacity to treat this at-risk, offender population for 1/10th the daily cost of state incarceration.

Based on research conducted in the late 1980's at the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women (NCCIW), the Women At Risk Program has developed into a cost-effective and successful treatment alternative for women by addressing such documented risk factors like childhood trauma, domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse.

Subsequent research by the National Institute of Correction corroborates the holistic, gender-responsive approach of the Women At Risk Program. Dr. Pauline Brennan, of the University of Nebraska, Omaha offers further support for this idea: “Extant research on ‘best practice’ programs consistently indicates that ideal correctional interventions for women are delivered in a gender-responsive manner...Specific problem areas that must be addressed include substance abuse, physical and sexual abuse, intimate relationships, and mental health issues. And, because these treatment needs are overlapping in nature (i.e., they coexist), a holistic approach to treatment is mandated.” (Brennan, 2007).

The Women At Risk treatment model embodies this “best practice” care. As illustrated by the graphic on the next page, Program clients receive individualized, wrap-around treatment to address their unique needs and creates the possibility for permanent change and exit from the criminal justice system.

WOMEN AT RISK



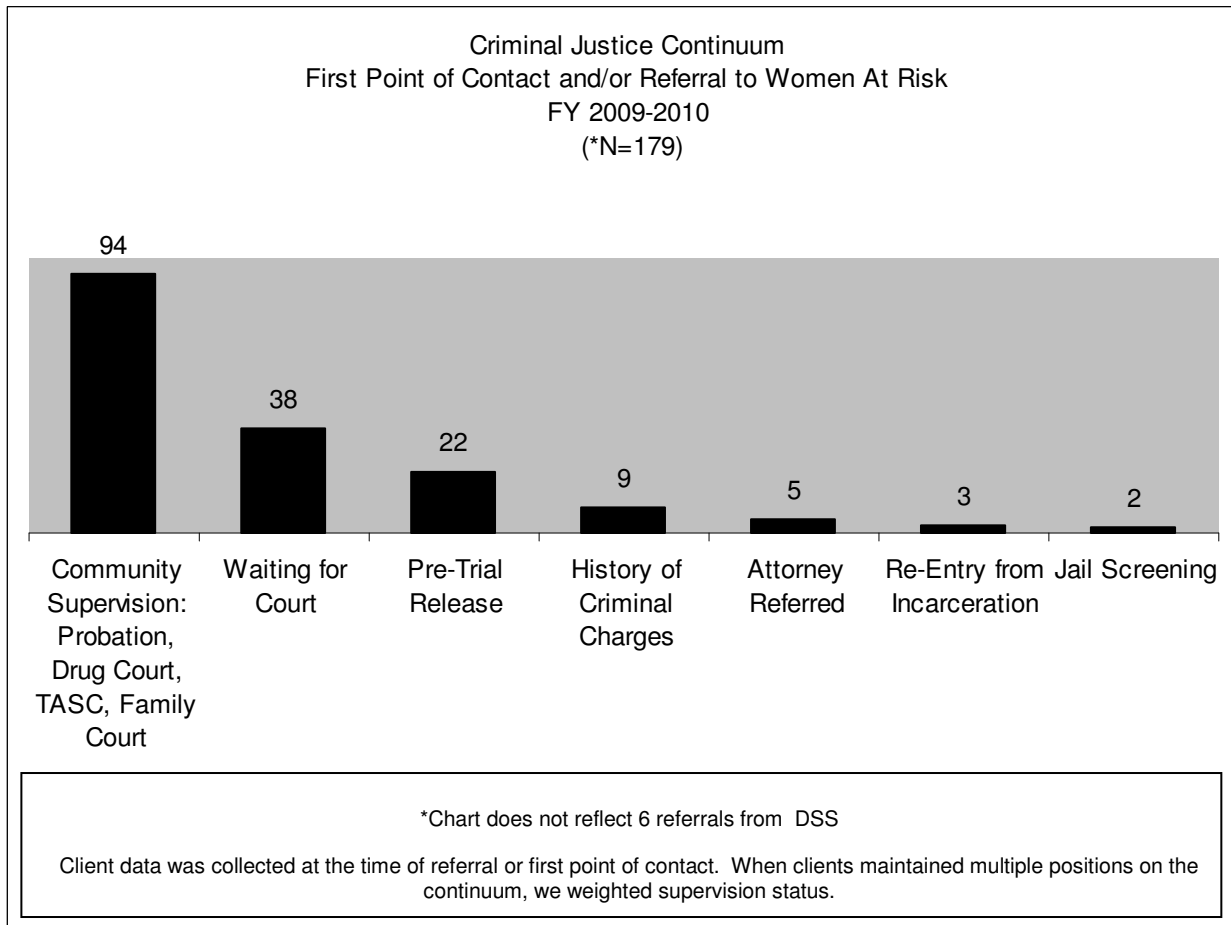
WOMEN AT RISK ACTIVITY REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2009-10

JAIL SCREENINGS: Number of female inmates in County Detention Centers screened weekly by Women At Risk staff who provide assessment, liaison and referral for these offenders to treatment resources, including Women At Risk.	118
REFERRALS: The number of women referred to our program, recorded at the time a potential client or referral source calls to schedule a Women At Risk Program intake assessment.	179
CASES OPENED: The number of clients who completed the Program's intake process: this includes a comprehensive mental health and substance abuse assessment, an assessment of case management needs and the creation of a person centered plan for each client.	85
TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED: The number of clients served by the Women At Risk Program. This includes a carryover of 68 active clients continuing from FY 08-09 (continuing participants) plus the number of new cases opened in FY 09-10.	153
GRADUATES: The number of clients who successfully complete the Women At Risk Program by meeting the goals of their respective person centered plans.	51
EARLY EXITS: The number of clients who exit Women At Risk without successfully completing Program requirements. This number is further explored on pg. 13 of this report.	62
CONTINUING PARTICIPANTS: The number of clients who are actively complying with the Program requirements of their person centered plans on June 30, 2010 but have not yet graduated.	39
PRISON RISK: 55% of clients served faced at least 6 months incarceration at intake. Prison risk was determined by level of new criminal charge (30), probation status (27), and probation violation (24).	81

WOMEN AT RISK: REFERRALS

“Women at Risk is a long time and valued component of our court system...Women At Risk provides us with a valuable and irreplaceable alternative to incarceration for women who are appropriate for their program. Providing substance abuse treatment and counseling among other things to this subset of defendants gives us a meaningful and appropriate alternative to incarcerating many female defendants, thus saving taxpayers the cost of keeping them housed in prisons or jails. This program is a vital part of our jail and prison diversion strategy...”

The Honorable J. Calvin Hill
Chief District Court Judge
28th Judicial District (Buncombe County)



Women At Risk clients can enter the Program at any point in their criminal justice involvement: with pending charges, as a condition of release from jail, as a condition of probation, etc. Often, clients have more than one point of contact with the system at a time. For instance, a woman on probation who gets new charges may begin our program as part of her probation and to address the current criminal court case.

The Women At Risk Program works closely with our criminal justice system. Court officials rely on the Program as an effective treatment alternative to incarceration.

The Women At Risk Program

Client Demographics at Intake July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>		
<u>Intakes</u>	85	
<u>*Principal Charge</u>		
Drugs	23	27%
Probation Violation	22	26%
Assault (including Child Abuse)	10	12%
Larceny, Embezzlement, Shoplifting	10	12%
Motor Vehicle Offenses (including DWLR/DWI)	10	12%
Prostitution, Crime Against Nature	4	5%
Fraud, Forgery (including Worthless Checks, Forgery & Uttering)	3	4%
Attempted Robbery	1	1%
<i>*Principal Charge does not include 2 clients with DSS Involvement Only</i>		
<u>Race</u>		
White	52	61%
African American	30	35%
Native American	2	2%
Multi-racial	1	1%
<u>Employed</u>	20	24%
<u>Income Source</u>		
Food Stamps	56	66%
Wages	20	24%
Disability	10	12%
Receives Child Support	7	8%
Work First (Public Assistance)	1	1%
<u>Highest Grade Completed (Average)</u>	10	
<u>Clients who are Mothers</u>	67	79%
<u>Clients with Children</u>		
Average Number per Client	2	
Average Age of Client (at Birth of 1st Child)	20	
Average Age of Client's Mother (at Birth of 1st Child)	19	
<u>Clients who are Pregnant At Intake</u>	4	5%

MENTAL HEALTH:

According to Pauline Brennan, PhD, “The extent of mental illness among Women At Risk participants, and other female offenders, is noteworthy because it highlights the importance of mental health treatment for this population.” (Brennan, 2007) At mid-year 2005, an estimated 73% of women in state prisons reported a mental health issue, compared to 55% of men (US Department of justice, September 2006). Women At Risk data for mental health issues are consistent with the national data.

Mental Health Status of Women At Risk Clients at Intake FY 2009-2010

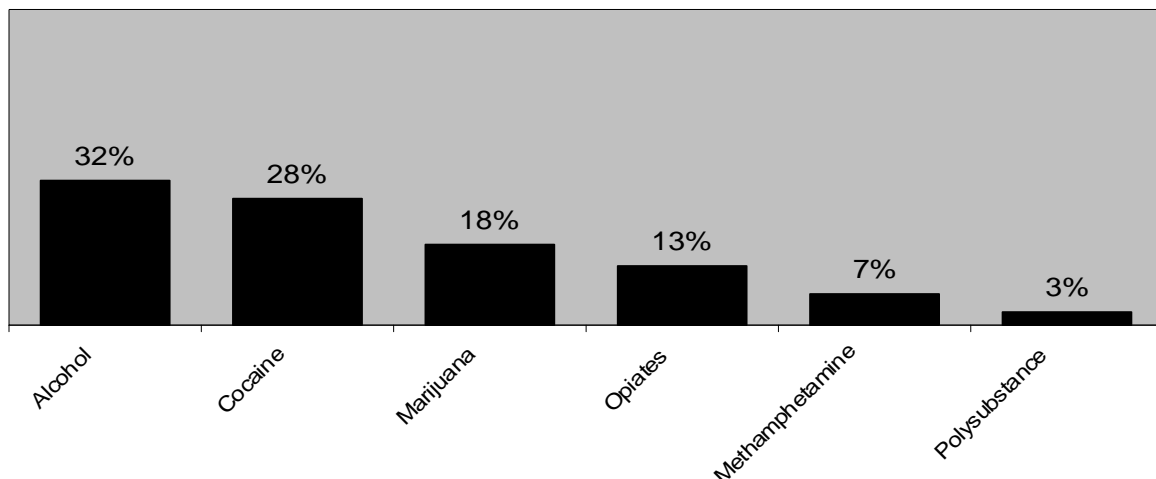
	N=85
Addiction Diagnosis	85%
Mental Health Diagnosis	74%
Dual Diagnosis of Addiction and Mental Health	66%

SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

Research consistently indicates that women are more likely to be involved in crime if they are drug users. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, on every measure of drug use, women offenders in state prisons reported higher drug use than their male counterparts. In addition, 40% of women offenders and 32% of male offenders had been under the influence of drugs when they broke the law. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1999c)

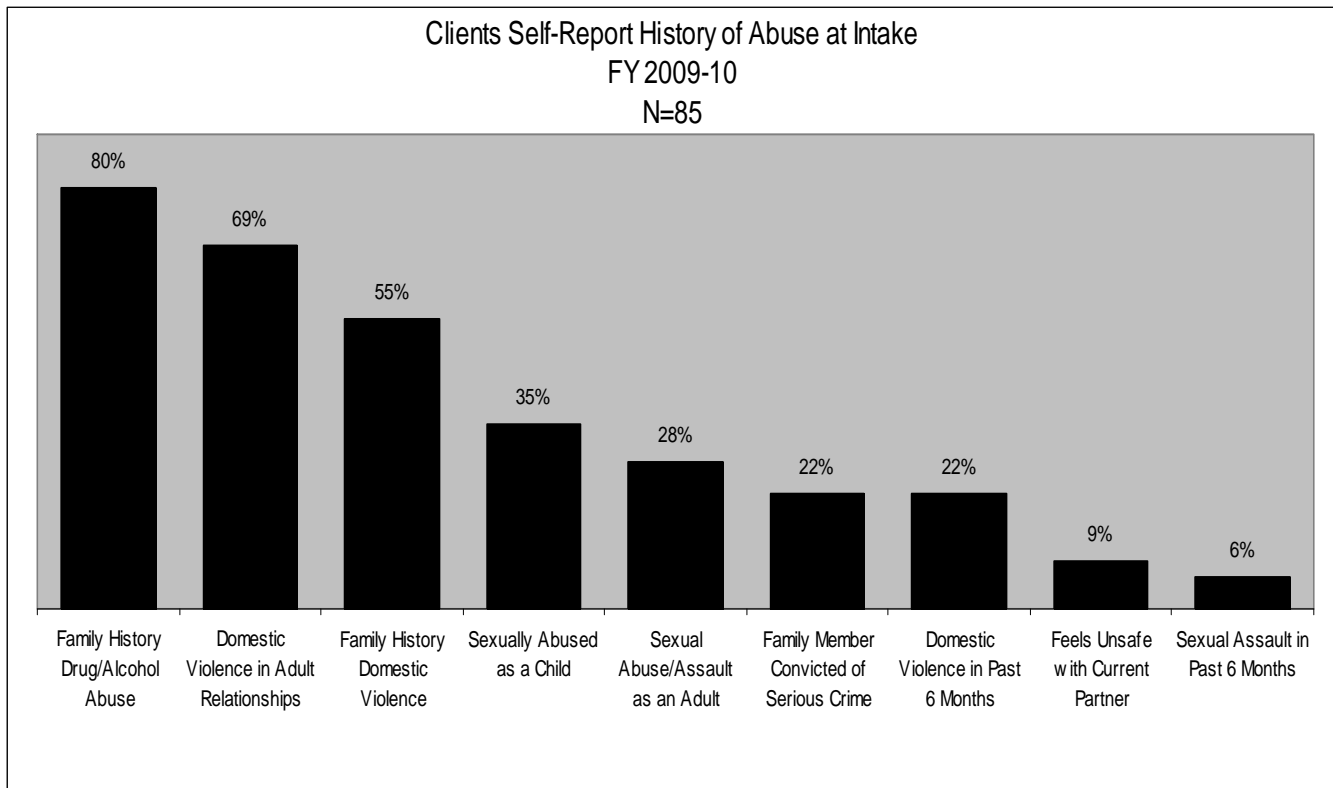
In 2006, a study published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that 60% of women in state prison had a history of drug dependence. Women At Risk clients exceed this number. In FY 2009-2010, 85% of Women At Risk clients met the criteria for an addiction diagnosis.

**Analysis Addiction Diagnosis of Women At Risk Clients at Intake
FY 2009-2010
N=72**



TRAUMA:

Women in prison are three times more likely to have a history of abuse than men. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1999c). During FY 09-10, 55% of our clients reported growing up in violent homes and 69% reported having experienced domestic violence as an adult. In fact, 22% said they had experienced domestic violence in the 6 months prior to intake. In addition, over a third of our clients (35%) reported childhood sexual abuse, and nearly a third (28%) have been sexually assaulted as an adult.

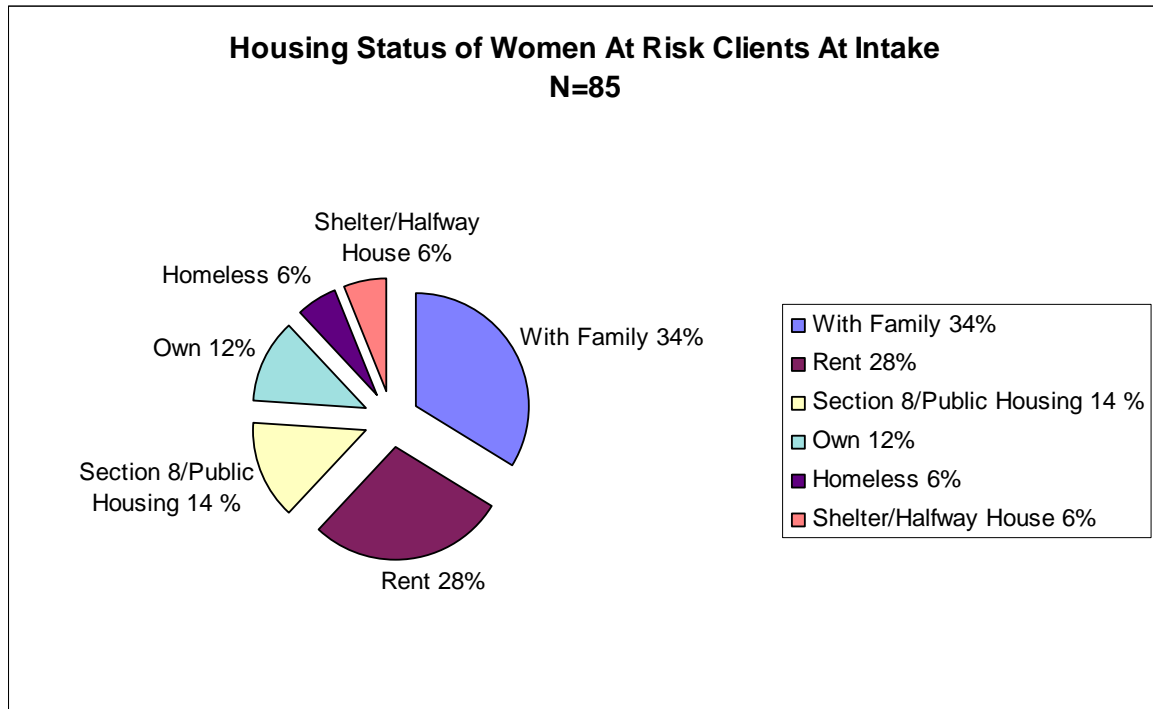


“Women At Risk gives women the tools and support to help them make more positive choices and permanent changes in their lives. The program helps these women want to change their lives for the better. I have had several probationers I supervised that have turned their lives around with the help of the Women At Risk Program. This program provides structure and motivation for these women in a safe and nurturing environment.”

Becky Kiesow, PPO II
Buncombe County Probation

HOUSING:

Again, we see this as a particular barrier for many Women At Risk participants. In fact, 12% of our clients are homeless or living in a shelter/halfway house and an additional 34% are relying on family members for their housing. The low percentage in public housing reflects the fact that many of our clients are not eligible for public housing due to their criminal history.



CHILDREN:

79% of Women At Risk participants are mothers, and many are dealing with custody issues while they are in our program. An important goal of the Women At Risk Program is to assist our clients in improving their parenting skills and creating a stable home environment for their children.

WOMEN AT RISK: CORE COMPONENTS OF THE MODEL

“When I think about how Women At Risk has helped me to defend my clients, I think about the women I have met at the jail who are feeling hopeless, afraid, and helpless. Many are victims of substance abuse, some are victims of domestic abuse, and many are homeless. One thing that all of these women have in common is their need for help and support. Unfortunately, North Carolina’s criminal justice system often does not provide the support that these women need. I know that as soon as I pick up the phone to refer a client to Women At Risk, she has a network of professionals ready to help her with mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and community support. Women At Risk is such a valuable program- it gives women the hope and support they need to address the issues that brought them to the legal system in the first place. Seeing a client succeed and become a productive member of our community is what keeps me going in a job that is too often filled with sorrow and disappointment. Women At Risk provides us with countless success stories, and for that I am thankful.”

Mary Bradford,
Assistant Public Defender
28th Judicial District (Buncombe County)

I. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

To begin the Women At Risk program, clients complete an extensive mental health and substance abuse assessment where they work collaboratively with a treatment team to complete a Person Centered Plan. The PCP addresses treatment needs in areas such as: court requirements (Probation, Drug Treatment Court, Nuisance Court, Family Court); mental health; substance abuse; housing; employment; education; and health. Treatment staff then meet with each client to set goals and objectives that are measurable, attainable and time-specific.

A primary component of the Women At Risk Model is a continuum of care that addresses the participant’s unique mental health, substance abuse and trauma issues. The core therapy group empowers women to make healthy choices, acquire new coping skills and improve daily functioning. This weekly, two hour group is co-facilitated by two licensed clinical therapists. Participants learn about issues, such as anger, grief, cognitive skills, domestic violence, parenting, and trauma.

The Women At Risk Program offers three additional substance abuse treatment groups on-site for women who are chemically dependent. Additionally, a 26-week Deciding Against Violence group focuses on abuser treatment and offers women important information on healthy relationships. Individual counseling is available as needed for more intensive trauma work. Women At Risk has responded to our clients’ unique mental health and substance abuse challenges.

II. Clinical Case Management

The second component of the Women At Risk Model is clinical case management. Through development of the Person Centered Plan, clients learn to create attainable goals and objectives for their lives. Clients then work with their case managers to meet those goals in areas such as housing, employment, education and physical health.

Current research supports the need to provide comprehensive case management. Many studies have shown that having a job or having a history of employment reduces the likelihood of recidivism. With regard to the effect of educational attainment, several research studies provide evidence that more education reduces the likelihood of recidivism.

III. Court Liaison and Jail Screening Programs

It is important to recognize that many Women At Risk participants have been involved in the criminal justice system for years. Often, they spend time in jail or prison simply because they have not been able to comply with probation requirements. For this reason, the Program focuses on teaching clients time management skills, how to appropriately communicate with probation officers, and how to successfully create a payment plan for their fees. Our primary goal is to help clients understand the complexities of the system so that they can successfully meet all of their requirements, thus reducing the likelihood of incarceration in the future.

The third program component of Women At Risk is court liaison services. Our court liaison works closely with clients to help them comply with probation, court, and custody mandates. For example, the Program accompanies clients to court, provides monthly progress reports to probation officers and attends team meetings as needed.

Weekly jail screenings provide a unique continuum of care for Women At Risk clients. Through assessment, advocacy and referrals, staff are able to pinpoint particular services for female offenders. For instance, a client may be able to work with Women At Risk to secure placement at a long-term residential treatment facility that could begin as soon as her court case is completed. Women At Risk often collaborates with probation officers, attorneys and the criminal court to implement complex treatment plans that can be incorporated into a sentencing agreement.

WOMEN AT RISK GRADUATES: THE STORY OF SUCCESS

Year after year, Women At Risk is able to report that our graduates are less likely to recidivate, thus showing the benefits of the Program treatment model.

In her research study, funded by the National Institute of Correction, that addressed Women At Risk outcomes, Dr. Pauline Brennan examined three measures of recidivism: post-exit arrest, post-exit conviction, and post-exit incarceration.

Subsequent review of Program outcome data supports Dr. Brennan's original conclusion that "Women At Risk Program graduates were less likely to recidivate, regardless of how the outcome was measured." (Brennan, February 2007)

FY 09-10 Participants (N=113)

Recidivism Analysis of Graduates v. Early Exits July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

	<u>Graduates (N=51)</u>		<u>Early Exits (N=62)</u>	
Arrest	8	16%	20	32%
Conviction	1	2%	15	24%
Incarceration	0	0%	14	23%

FY 06-07 Participants (N = 131)

Recidivism Analysis of Graduates v. Early Exits 3 years after leaving the Program July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2010

	<u>Graduates (N=47)</u>		<u>Early Exits (N=84)</u>	
Arrest	27	57%	58	69%
Conviction	24	51%	45	54%
Incarceration	12	26%	37	44%

WOMEN AT RISK WORKS!

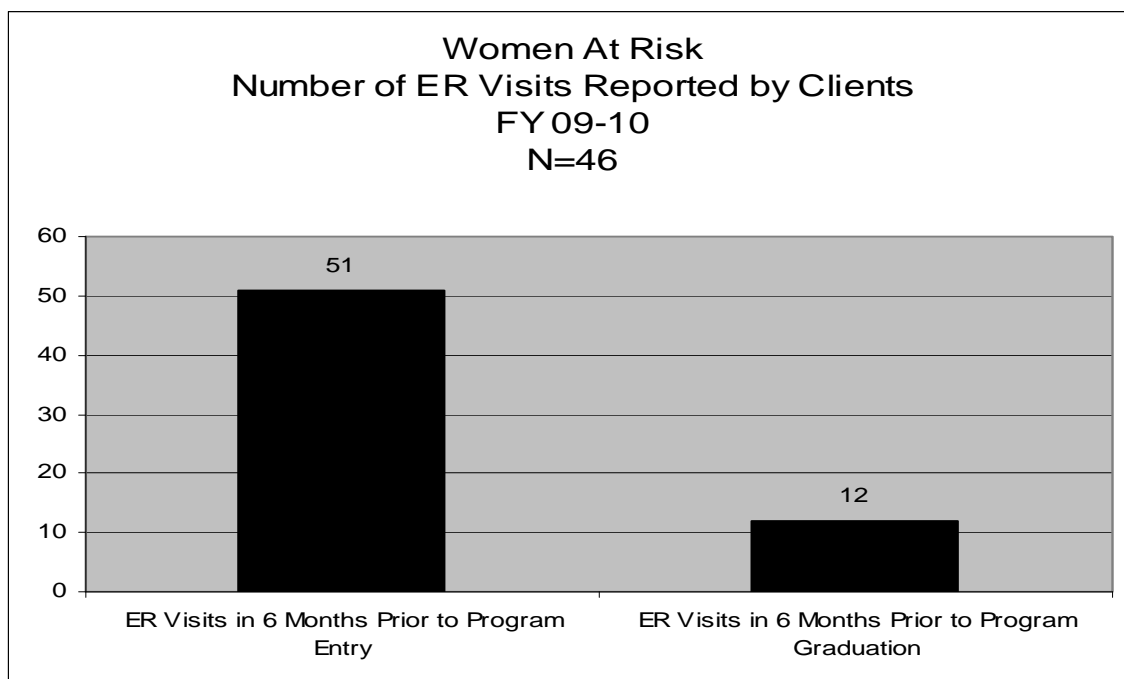
Women At Risk not only helps reduce the recidivism of female offenders, the Program also empowers participants to improve their lives in many important ways. Indicators of improved daily functioning for Women At Risk participants are captured at intake and at graduation. Improvement is measured by the Program staff's clinical judgment combined with collateral information, such as urinalysis drug screens, and the client's own identification of goals obtained.

In FY09-10 100% of Program Graduates had an improved GAF score!

A higher GAF score indicates:

- Improved mental health
- Reduced substance use
- Increased stability
- Functioning well at work or school
- Positive relationships
- Interest and involvement in a wide range of activities
- Feeling satisfied
- No more than everyday problems and concerns

Another measure of success is a lower number of visits to the Emergency Room, as Women At Risk case managers help clients establish health care with regular providers and face fewer crises. In FY 09-10, we compared how many times our clients reported going to the Emergency Room in the 6 months before they entered the Program with how many times they went to the Emergency Room in the 6 months before graduating from Women At Risk. The data collected on 46 of our 51 graduates showed a staggering 76% reduction in visits to the ER as women graduated. At an average cost of \$1,078 per ER visit, this reduction creates a potential savings of \$42,042.



WOMEN AT RISK: EARLY EXITS

Analysis of Factors Leading to Early Exit from Program FY 09-10	
	Early Exits N=62
<u>Failure to Complete:</u>	
No Contact	16
Non-Compliant	11
Completed Intake Only	6
Re-entered Program	6
<u>Other Factors:</u>	
Transfer to More Appropriate Services	7
Incarcerated	5
Not Required/Mandated to Program	3
Moved out of Service Area	3
Conflict With Work Schedule	3
Illness	1
Deceased	1

As the chart shows, Women At Risk participants may exit the Program early for a variety of reasons.

It is apparent that “no contact” is the most common reason for early exit from the program. According to research conducted by two students from UNC-Asheville in Fall 2010, there is never one specific factor that leads to no contact; however through examining our case files, a few factors became apparent. Of the 16 women who dropped contact with the agency, 90% were mothers and 80% were unemployed at the time of their last contact with the program. Unemployment is associated with a lack of resources that may hinder a woman’s ability to attend groups, such as difficulty in arranging transportation, no phone to call the program, and no money to pay for childcare.

It is noteworthy that 6 of the women who exited in FY09-10 re-entered the program in FY10-11. Women whose cases are closed are allowed to re-enter the program after 90 days.

THE WOMEN AT RISK PROGRAM: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

“The Office of the District Attorney is looking forward to the continued input and assistance of Western Carolinians For Criminal Justice (and the Women At Risk Program) as we address the challenges presented to our criminal justice system each year. We are all committed to doing our very best to work within increasingly tightening budgets while providing the best levels of service to keep our community safe...I am encouraged by... your effort to continue the provision of vital services for many of the people who come through the court system each year. Thank you for your dedication to providing treatment resources to those in need.”

The Hon. Ronald L. Moore, District Attorney
28th Prosecutorial District (Buncombe County)

For more than twenty-eight years, Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice (WCCJ) has addressed the increasingly complex and expensive social problems of incarceration, providing gender sensitive, community-based treatment alternatives to prison. As a cost-effective intervention to deter future criminal behavior, WCCJ programming offers mental health and substance abuse treatment, along with extensive case management services, to offenders at risk of incarceration.

Exemplifying the best in public-private partnerships, WCCJ/Women At Risk remains a sound investment of public funds, particularly today as North Carolina faces such serious economic challenges and critical budget decisions.

The Women At Risk Program produces concrete results at a time when every public dollar invested must deliver a strong return. For 1/10th the daily cost of imprisonment, Women At Risk reduces the need for state incarceration for many offenders and lowers their criminal recidivism. In addition the Program achieves important and lasting results unattainable in prison from changed behaviors to improved daily functioning – all the while keeping mothers and children together.

Operated by a nationally accredited not-for-profit agency, the fiscal deliverables of the Women At Risk Program strengthen our partnership with the state. These include:

- Lowering the ratio of government dollars that fund program services.
- Securing private sector funding to augment the state appropriation.
- Holding down operating costs so that Women At Risk spends only a fraction of what the Department of Correction spends to lock up the same offenders.

In the days ahead, the Women At Risk Program is poised for an even stronger partnership with the state of North Carolina working with prison-bound offenders and providing the support they need to live successfully and safely in our WNC communities.

The Women At Risk Program

FY 2009-10 Operating Budget

Revenue July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

<u>Source</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Total Revenue</u>
NC General Assembly	\$262,500.00	60.7%
Grants	\$92,318.00	21.3%
Client Fees & Billing	\$31,486.00	7.3%
Churches & Individual Contributions	\$22,810.00	5.3%
WCCJ Fundraisers	\$19,662.00	4.5%
Miscellaneous	\$3,808.00	0.9%
 TOTAL	 \$432,584.00	

Expenses July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

<u>Source</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Total Expenses</u>
Personnel		
Salaries	\$272,454.00	
Benefits	\$78,094.00	
Total Personnel	\$350,548.00	81.0%
Operating Expenses		
Shared Services	\$31,585.00	
Occupancy	\$21,500.00	
Communications	\$4,349.00	
Client Supplies	\$3,135.00	
Miscellaneous	\$2,956.00	
Insurance	\$2,243.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,319.00	
Printing	\$513.00	
Postage	\$301.00	
Total Operating Expenses	\$67,901.00	15.7%
Contractual		
Supervision	\$3,960.00	
Professional Fees	\$2,574.00	
Client Services	\$1,523.00	
Total Contractual	\$8,057.00	1.9%
Transportation & Training	\$3,147.00	0.7%
Supplies & Equipment	\$2,931.00	0.7%
 TOTAL	 \$432,584.00	

The Women At Risk Program

FY 2009-2010

ACTIVITY

Referrals	179
Total Clients Served	153
Graduates	51
Early Exits	62

Average Daily Cost of Women At Risk Program

(Based on Total Operating Budget)

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

Total Clients Served	\$432,584.00	365	\$1,185.16	153	\$7.75
-----------------------------	--------------	-----	------------	-----	--------

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

Graduates/Successful Progress	\$432,584.00	365	\$1,185.16	90	\$13.17
--------------------------------------	--------------	-----	------------	----	---------

Average Daily Cost of Women At Risk Program

(Based on State Appropriation)

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

Total Clients Served	\$262,500.00	365	\$719.18	153	\$4.70
-----------------------------	--------------	-----	----------	-----	--------

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

Graduates/Successful Progress	\$262,500.00	365	\$719.18	90	\$7.99
--------------------------------------	--------------	-----	----------	----	--------

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

*Women At Risk Participants (\$ 4.70) + Community/Intermediate Supervision (\$3.44) = **\$8.14**

*Women At Risk Participants (\$ 4.70) + Electronic House Arrest (\$11.07) = **\$15.77**

*Women At Risk Participants (\$ 4.70) + Intensive Probation (\$14.29) = **\$18.99**

*Average Daily State Cost of Prison Incarceration

\$74.34

Range \$64.59 - \$88.39

*Total Clients Served

Program Activities and Accomplishments Report

All forms must be completed electronically by logging in to www.ncgrants.gov

To log in users must have an NCID and password.

To create an NCID and password, visit this site:
<https://ncid.nc.gov/login/accountTypeSelection.htm>

Each grantee receiving at least \$25,000 should complete the basic information requested here relative to the organization, and a description of activities and accomplishments undertaken by the grantee with the State funds.

Grantee Name:	Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice
Grantee Tax ID #	58-1491257
Program Name:	Women At Risk Program
Project/Activity Title:	Women At Risk
Grantee's Fiscal Year End: (mmddyyyy)	06/30/2010
Date of This Report:	12/28/2010
Preparer of This Report:	Ellen Clarke

In compliance with the requirements of G.S. 143-6.2, *Use of State Funds by Non-State Entities*, (repealed June 30, 2007) and G.S. 143C-6-23, *State grant funds: administration, oversight and reporting requirements*, (effective July 1, 2007), the following is a description of activities and accomplishments undertaken by our organization using the provided state funding.

1. What were the original goals and expectations for the activity supported by this grant?

The purpose of Women At Risk is to reduce recidivism among female offenders, as well as the necessity to imprison them, by providing a comprehensive treatment alternative to prison.

2. If applicable, how have those goals and expectations been revised or refined during the course of the project?

Over the years, WCCJ/Women At Risk has expanded our original treatment model to include on-site psychotherapy groups, three levels of substance abuse treatment, and an abuser treatment group, all of which are co-facilitated by masters' level clinicians. The Women At Risk treatment team continues to develop new ways to match the treatment needs of our dual-diagnosed clients with our various program components, including individual and group treatment, clinical case management and court advocacy. The Women At Risk Program is licensed by the NC Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Health Service Regulation as an outpatient mental health program and has a provider contract with Western Highlands Network Local Management Entity. In February 2009, the Women At Risk Program earned national accreditation from CARF (the Council on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) as an outpatient treatment program serving clients with mental health and substance abuse issues.

3. What has the activity accomplished with these grant funds? Please include specific information including facts and statistics to support conclusions and judgments about the activity's impact.

During FY 09-10, the Women At Risk Program processed **179 referrals**; opened **85 new cases**; **served 153 female offenders**; **graduated 51 clients** and **carried over 39 open cases** to FY 10-11. These offenders obtained various services from the Women At Risk Program: core psychotherapy treatment group; abuser treatment (anger management) group; substance abuse treatment groups; individual therapy; and clinical case management. Off-site, Women At Risk staff worked with clients in criminal and civil court, Drug Treatment Court, SOAR Family Court and with inmates at the Buncombe County Detention Center, the Henderson County Detention Facility, and the Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women. New probation outcome and recidivism data on Women At Risk graduates vs. early exits will be included in the February 1, 2011 Women At Risk Report to the NC General Assembly.

4. If the activity is a continuing one, briefly summarize future plans and funding prospects.

The Women At Risk Program is supported by a mix of public and private funds, including a grant from the NC General Assembly; grants from private foundations; funding from the United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County; grant funding from the Asheville ABC Board; contributions from area churches; individual gifts and contributions; agency fund-raisers and reimbursements via Medicaid and IPRS funding.

If there are any questions, please contact the state agency that provided your grant. If needed, you may contact the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management:

NCGrants@osbm.nc.gov - (919) 807-4795