

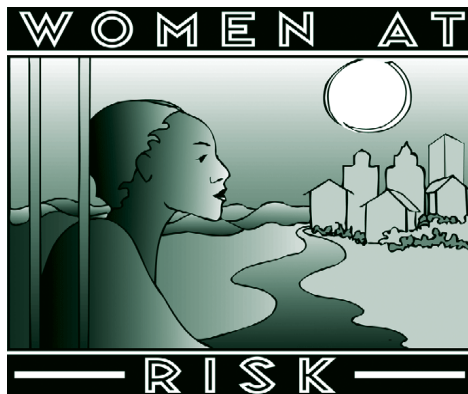
The Women At Risk Program

sponsored by

Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc.

Report to the NC General Assembly

February 1, 2006



Women At Risk 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

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The Women At Risk 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, 2006

TO: The Hon. James B. Black, Speaker of the NC House of Representatives
The Hon. Marc Basnight, President Pro Tempore of the NC Senate

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

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, 2004 – June 30, 2005. We have complied with all of the reporting requirements of non-State entities receiving State appropriations, including the submission of a “Program Activities and Accomplishments Report” which is also attached.

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 04-05, drawing your attention to ***increases over last fiscal year in the number of new cases opened, clients served and program graduates and a decrease in Program terminations/drop-outs***. The Women At Risk Program continues to enjoy a positive relationship with the criminal court system in WNC. Women At Risk remains the only state-licensed outpatient treatment facility in WNC to offer wrap-around mental health services for female offenders, complete with transportation and child care assistance.

Most graduates of the Women At Risk Program remain out of prison. Over a three year period (July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2005) only 8% of Women At Risk graduates (9/114) have had their probation revoked and sentenced to active time.

This ***Report to the NC General Assembly*** also 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: ***78% experienced domestic violence in adult relationships; 41% were sexually abused as children. 77% of Women At Risk clients entered the program with a mental health diagnosis and 63% an addiction diagnosis. We also learned that 74% of new clients had a jail record (20% having been to jail 5 or more times); 66% were (or had been) on probation; and 20% 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.

The Women At Risk Program remains a successful and cost effective treatment alternative to prison. ***The average daily state cost of prison incarceration is more than 3 times greater than the average daily cost of Women At Risk***, even when 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. We are delighted to report that on June 17, 2005, WCCJ/Women At Risk completed a successful capital campaign, raising enough funds to retire our mortgage and renovate the Program's outpatient facility in downtown Asheville. Our supporters throughout WNC tell us that this is the kind of public-private partnership they endorse. We pass along their appreciation for the confidence which the NC General Assembly has shown the Women At Risk Program over the years, and we look forward to sharing our good news from FY 04-05 with your colleagues.

The Women At Risk Program

Fact Sheet

MISSION	Women At Risk (WAR) is a licensed, community-based, outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment program for indigent women who are at risk of incarceration and/or termination of their parental rights.
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, complete probation, and overcome self-destructive and abusive behaviors that brought them to the court's attention and the risk of imprisonment. Women At Risk provides mental health and substance abuse treatment and concrete skills to assist women in managing the challenges in their daily lives.
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 is often suitable for probation violations. Women At Risk clients often present with untreated mental illness and substance abuse. Women At Risk clients are generally referred by the court system or a social service agency.
SERVICES	Women At Risk services include mental health and substance abuse assessment and the development of an individualized treatment plan which may include group therapy, substance abuse treatment, abuser treatment, intensive case management and court advocacy. Women At Risk treatment plans also address daily living needs such as housing, employment, education, medical care, and childcare. 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 provide substance abuse and mental health treatment, while helping our clients learn concrete skills to assist in managing the challenges in their daily lives and remain out of prison. Measurable goals and objectives include reducing criminal justice recidivism rates, improving client mental health and daily functioning, decreasing substance abuse and relapse, and increasing access to community resources that address daily functioning needs.

The Women At Risk Program

Glossary of Terms

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

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 and created an individualized service plan.

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

Jail Screening: Staff from Women At Risk conduct weekly on-site screenings at the Buncombe County Detention Center, providing assessment, advocacy, and referral to treatment resources. Some of these inmate contacts result in referrals at a later date to the Women At Risk Program. Staff also regularly confer with the Henderson County Detention Center about appropriate referrals to the Women At Risk Program.

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 complete requirements developed in their individualized service plan which may include: 16-week therapy group, 3 levels of substance abuse treatment, abuser treatment, individual therapy, case management goals, compliance with other court requirements and fee payment.

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

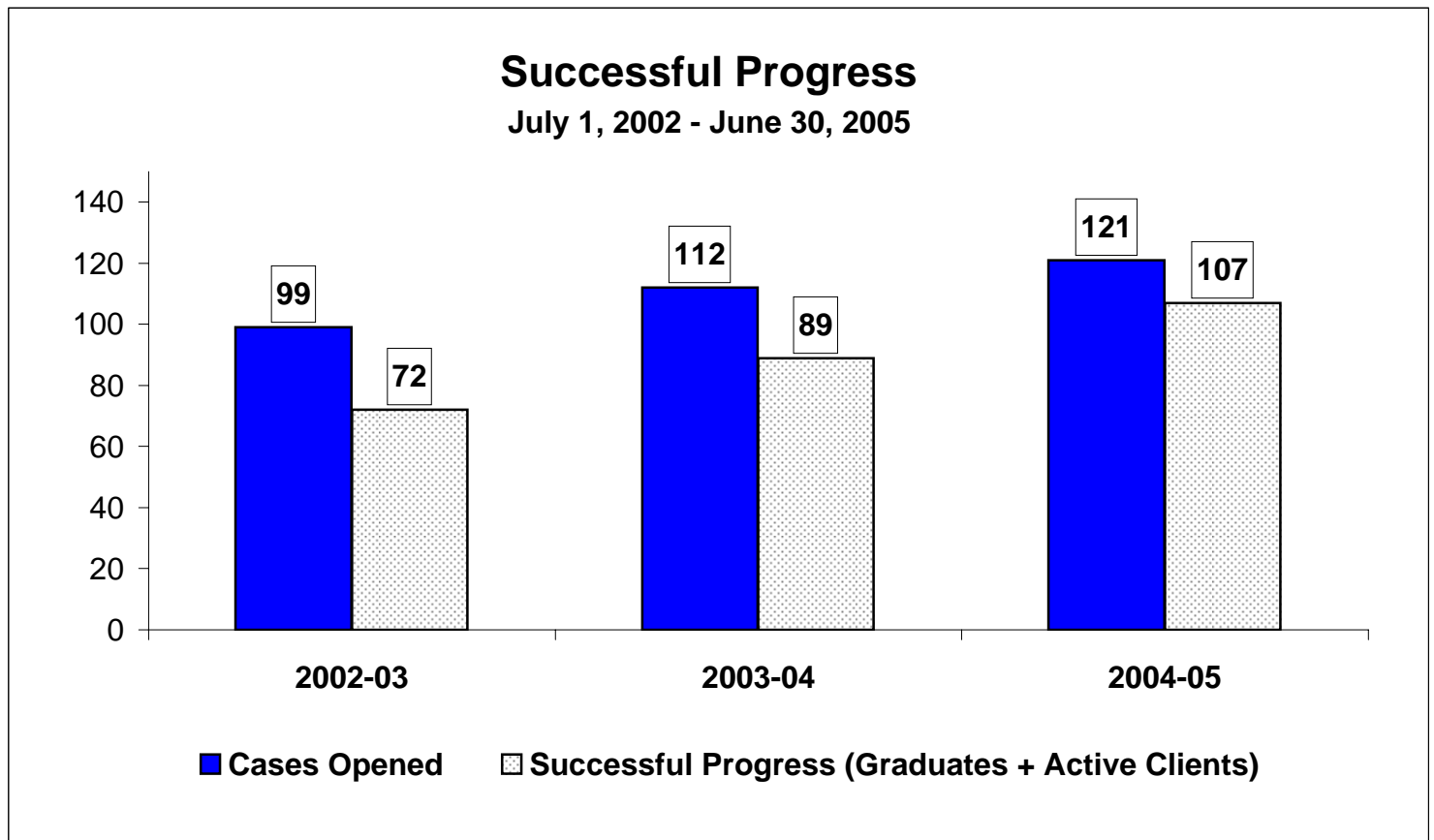
The Women At Risk Program

ACTIVITY

(See Women At Risk Glossary of Terms)

	FY <u>2002-03</u>	FY <u>2003-04</u>	FY <u>2004-05</u>
Referrals	175	224	214
Cases Opened	99	112	121
Clients Served (Active Clients + Cases Opened)	142	158	175
BCDC/Jail Screening	135	159	168
Terminations	66	76	63
Graduates	27	35	52
Active Clients (on schedule at end of FY)	46	54	55
Successful Progress (Graduates + Active Clients)	72	89	107
Terminations with Probation Revoked/Sentenced to Active Time**	22	21	18
Graduates with Probation Revoked/Sentenced to Active Time**	1	5	3

**Data obtained 6/30/05



The Women At Risk Program

Referral Sources July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2005

	FY	FY	FY
<u>Referral Source</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>
Bench	17	39	51
Attorneys/Public Defenders	30	30	21
Jail	10	27	22
Probation	15	15	16
TASC	1	9	10
Drug Treatment Court	3	8	3
Pretrial Release	5	7	10
W.C.C.J./S.S./W.A.R.	6	3	4
Buncombe Alternatives/S.S.	2	2	3
Self	30	17	11
Another Client/Friend	17	22	8
D.S.S.	12	14	27
Partnership for Drug-Free NC	0	8	6
Helpmate	6	5	1
MAPSAP	2	1	0
New Vistas	0	0	3
Other Substance Abuse Treatment	7	5	4
Department of Correction	1	1	2
Other	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
TOTAL	175	224	214

The Women At Risk Program

Client Demographics July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2005

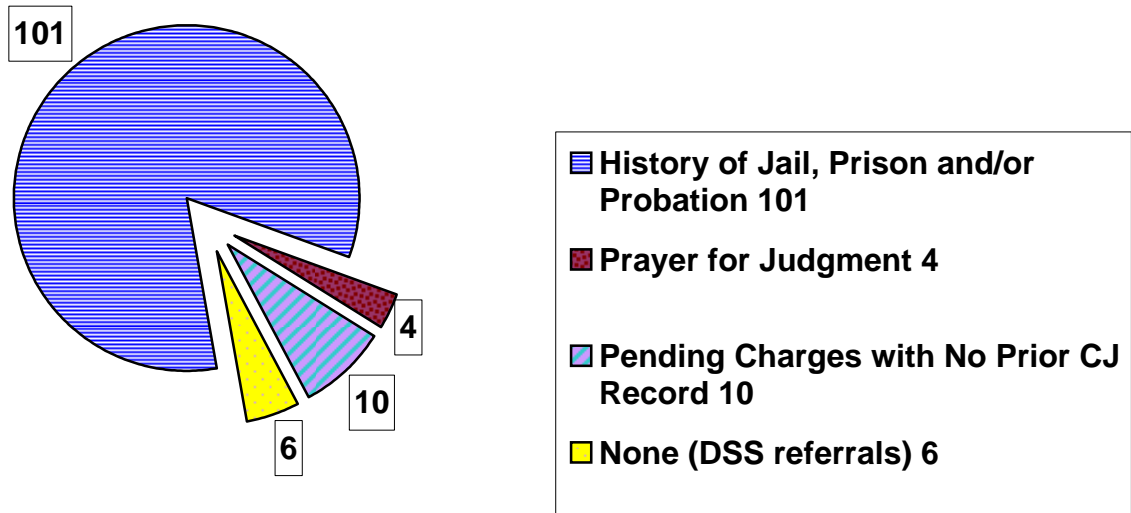
<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>	<u>FY 2003-04</u>	<u>FY 2004-05</u>
<u>Intakes</u>	99	112	121
<u>Principal Charge</u>			
Drugs	19	26	34
Fraud, Forgery (including Worthless Checks, Forgery & Uttering)	15	10	6
Probation Violation	11	17	14
Larceny, Embezzlement, Shoplifting	11	16	15
Assault (including Child Abuse)	16	19	24
Prostitution, Crime Against Nature	3	3	0
Trespass and Property Damage	1	1	1
Arson, Burning Offenses	2	0	1
Burglary and Breaking & Entering	0	2	1
Crimes Against the Administration of Justice	0	1	1
Motor Vehicle Offenses (including DWLR/DWI)	17	13	16
Robbery	2	1	2
Non-payment of Child Support	0	1	0
Involuntary Manslaughter/Attempted Murder	0	2	0
DSS Involvement Only	2	0	6
<u>Race</u>			
White	72	78	89
African American	22	30	21
Hispanic	0	1	4
Asian	1	0	2
Native American	4	1	2
Multi-racial	0	2	3
<u>Employed</u>	38	47	47
<u>Income Source</u>			
Wages	38	47	47
Work First (Public Assistance)	6	7	4
Food Stamps	26	48	45
Disability	11	14	10
<u>Highest Grade Completed (Average)</u>	11th	12th	11th
<u>Clients who are Mothers</u>	84	95	108
<u>Clients with Children</u>			
Average Number per Client	2.1	2.5	2.2
Average Age of Client (at Birth of 1st Child)	19.6	20.5	19.0
Average Age of Client's Mother (at Birth of 1st)	19.5	19.7	19.5
<u>Clients who are Pregnant At Intake</u>	5	7	6

The Women At Risk Program

Criminal Justice Status of Women At Risk Clients at Intake

FY 2004-05

Total Cases Opened (Unduplicated) = 121



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

FY 2004-05

Jail	74%
Probation	66%
Jail 5 or more times	20%
Prison	15%

The Women At Risk Program

Mental Health Status of Women At Risk Clients at Intake

FY 2004-05

%

Mental Health Diagnosis at Intake

77%

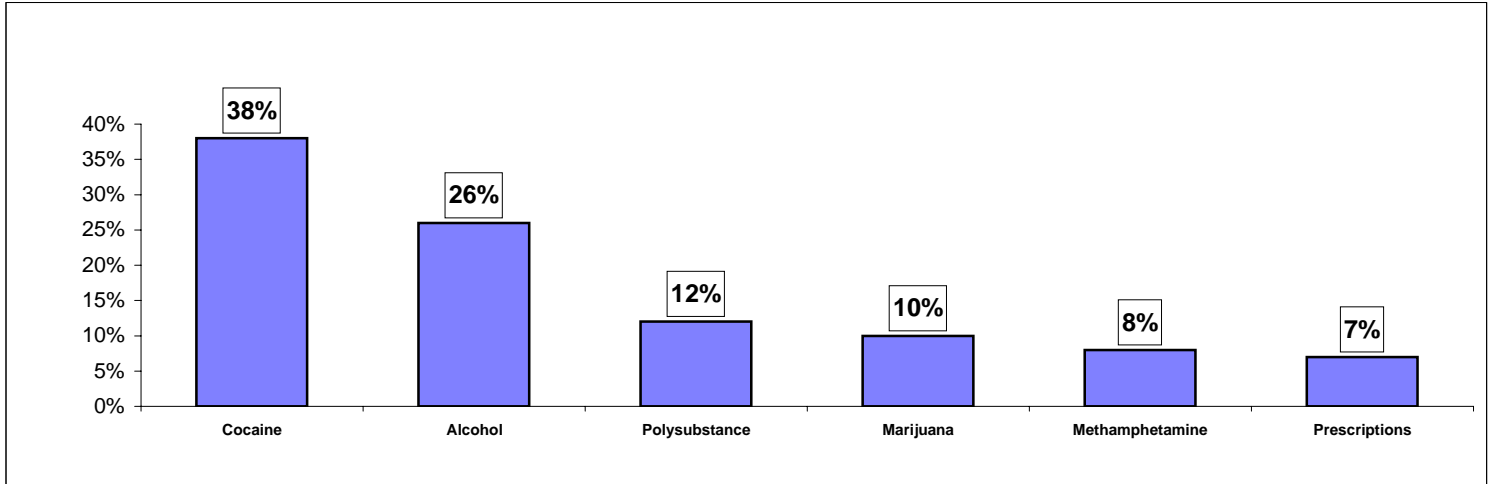
Addiction Diagnosis at Intake

63%

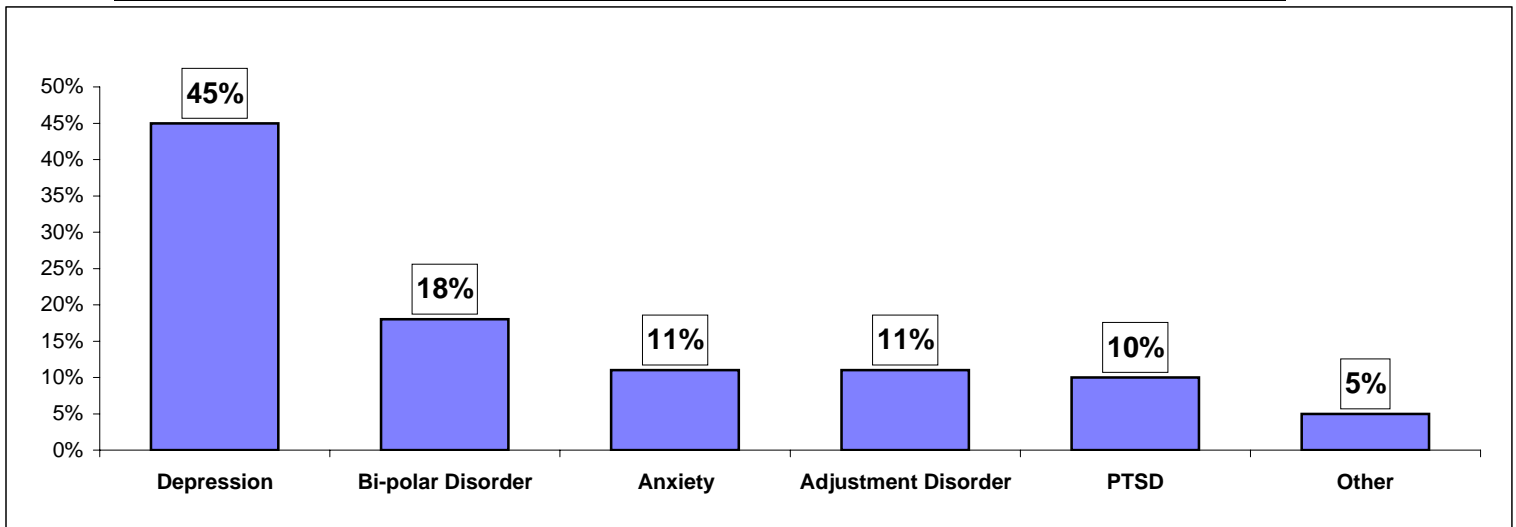
Dual Diagnosis of Addiction and Mental Health at Intake

49% (121 cases)

Analysis Addiction History of Women At Risk Clients at Intake

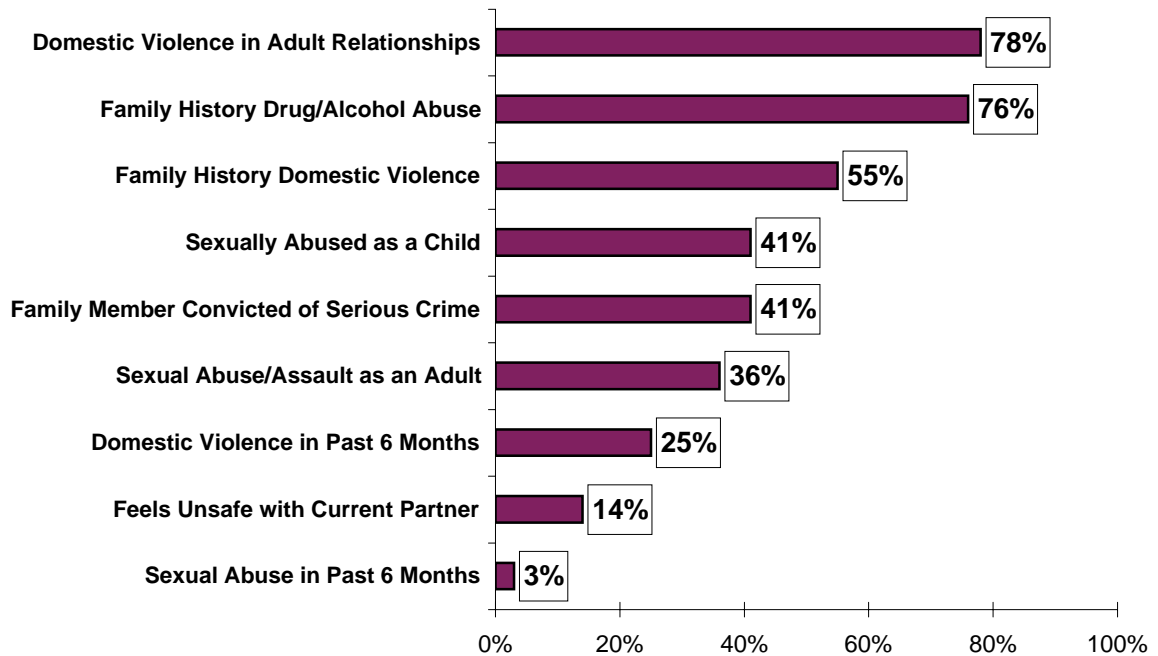


Analysis Mental Health History of Women At Risk Clients at Intake



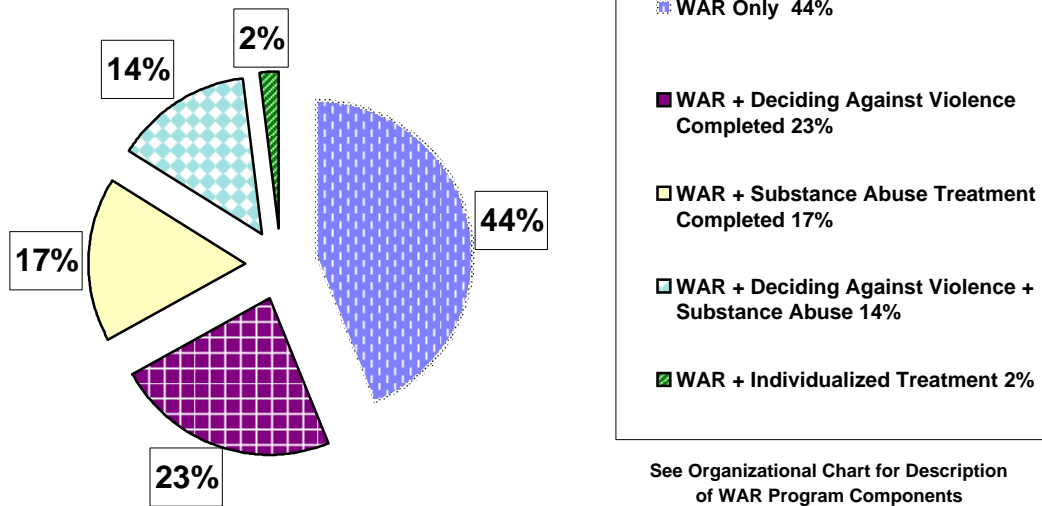
The Women At Risk Program

Clients Self-Report History of Abuse and Addiction at Intake FY 2004-05



The Women At Risk Program

52 Graduates for FY 2004-05
Average of 26 Weeks of Treatment



The Women At Risk Program

Recidivism Outcomes: Graduates vs Terminations

July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2005

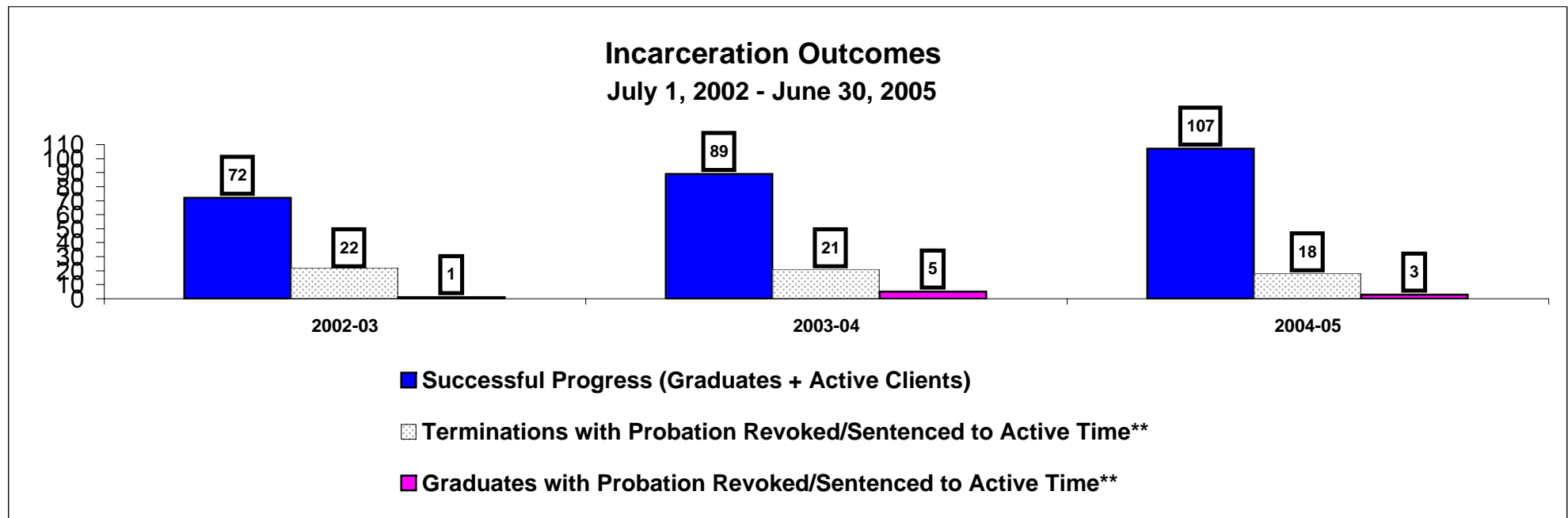
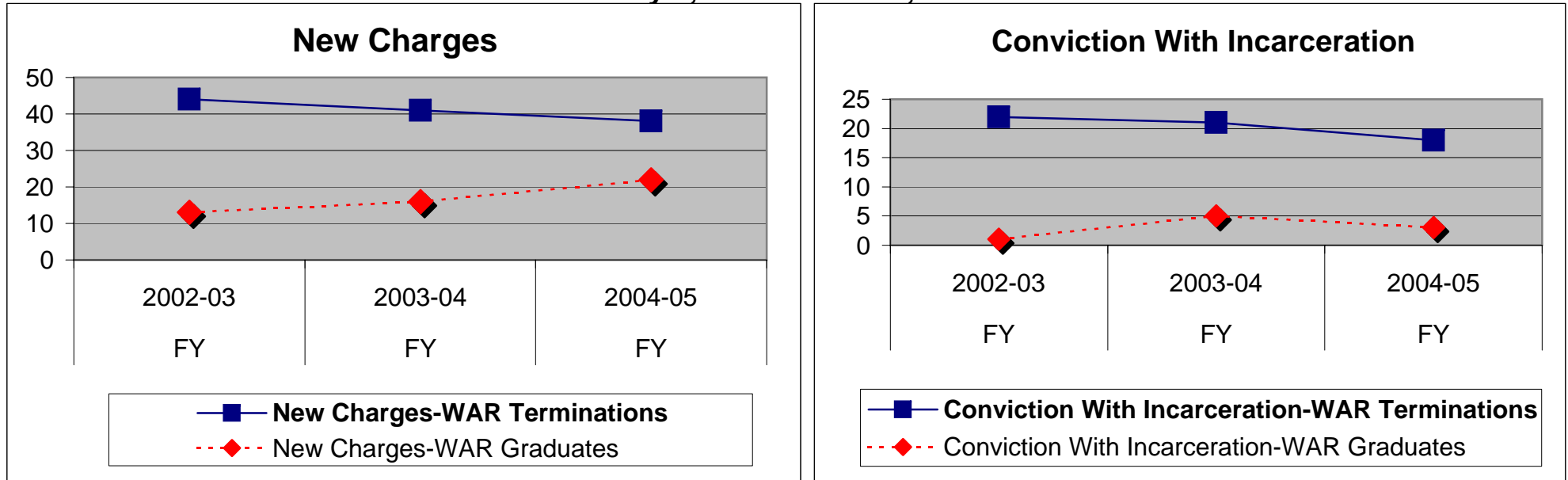
Graduates	FY 2002-03	FY 2003-04	FY 2004-05
WAR Program Graduates	27	35	52
New Charges-WAR Graduates	13	16	22
New Charges Pending-WAR Graduates	0	0	6
New Charges Dismissed-WAR Graduates	6	6	8
Conviction Without Incarceration-WAR Graduates	6	5	7
Conviction With Incarceration-WAR Graduates	1	5	3

Terminations	FY 2002-03	FY 2003-04	FY 2004-05
WAR Program Terminations	66	76	63
New Charges-WAR Terminations	44	41	38
New Charges Pending-WAR Terminations	2	3	8
New Charges Dismissed-WAR Terminations	9	10	4
Conviction Without Incarceration-WAR Terminations	11	7	8
Conviction With Incarceration-WAR Terminations	22	21	18

The Women At Risk Program

Recidivism Outcomes: Graduates vs Terminations

July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2005



The Women At Risk Program

FY 2004-05 Operating Budget

Revenue July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

<u>Source</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Total Revenue</u>
NC General Assembly	\$275,000.00	90.6%
WCCJ Fundraisers	\$9,890.00	3.3%
Grants	\$8,500.00	2.8%
218 Patton Ave. Rentals & Misc	\$4,800.00	1.6%
Churches	\$4,217.00	1.4%
Client Fees	\$1,202.00	0.3%
 TOTAL	 \$303,609.00	

Expenses July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

<u>Source</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Total Expenses</u>
Personnel		
Salaries	\$186,778.00	
Benefits	\$57,463.00	
Total Personnel	\$244,241.00	80.2%
Operating Expenses		
Occupancy	\$25,486.00	
Communications	\$3,437.00	
Postage	\$234.00	
Printing	\$508.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	\$538.00	
Insurance	\$5,774.00	
General & Administrative	\$8,000.00	
Client Supplies	\$1,039.00	
Miscellaneous	\$685.00	
Total Operating Expenses	\$45,701.00	15.0%
Contractual		
Supervision	\$3,223.00	
Client Services	\$2,900.00	
Professional Fees	\$2,040.00	
Total Contractual	\$8,163.00	2.7%
Supplies & Equipment	\$3,385.00	1.1%
Transportation & Training	\$3,055.00	1.0%
 TOTAL	 \$304,545.00	

WAR Personnel

<u>Position</u>	<u>WAR Allocation</u>
Program Director	100%
Clinical Therapist	100%
Court Liaison	100%
Case Managers (2)*	100%
Executive Director	50%
Finance Manager*	40%

*3/4 Time Positions

The Women At Risk Program

FY 2004-2005

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>
(See Women At Risk Glossary of Terms)	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>
Referrals	175	224	214
Clients Served	142	158	175
Successful Progress (Graduates + Active Clients)	72	89	107
Graduates	27	35	52
Terminations	66	76	63

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)]

Clients Served	\$304,545.00	365	\$834.37	175	\$4.77
[Total Operating Budget/365 days = Daily Basis/# Successful Progress Cases = Average Daily Cost(ADC)]					
Successful Progress	\$304,545.00	365	\$834.37	107	\$7.80

Average Daily Cost of Women At Risk Program

(Based on State Appropriation)

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

Clients Served	\$275,000.00	365	\$753.42	175	\$4.31
[State Appropriation/365 days = Daily Basis/# Successful Progress Cases = Average Daily Cost(ADC)]					
Successful Progress	\$275,000.00	365	\$753.42	107	\$7.04

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

WAR Successful Progress (\$ 7.04) + Community/Intermediate Supervision (\$1.93) =	\$8.97
WAR Successful Progress (\$ 7.04) + Electronic House Arrest (\$6.71) =	\$13.75
WAR Successful Progress (\$ 7.04) + Intensive Probation (\$12.95) =	\$19.99

***Average Daily State Cost of Prison Incarceration**

\$63.56

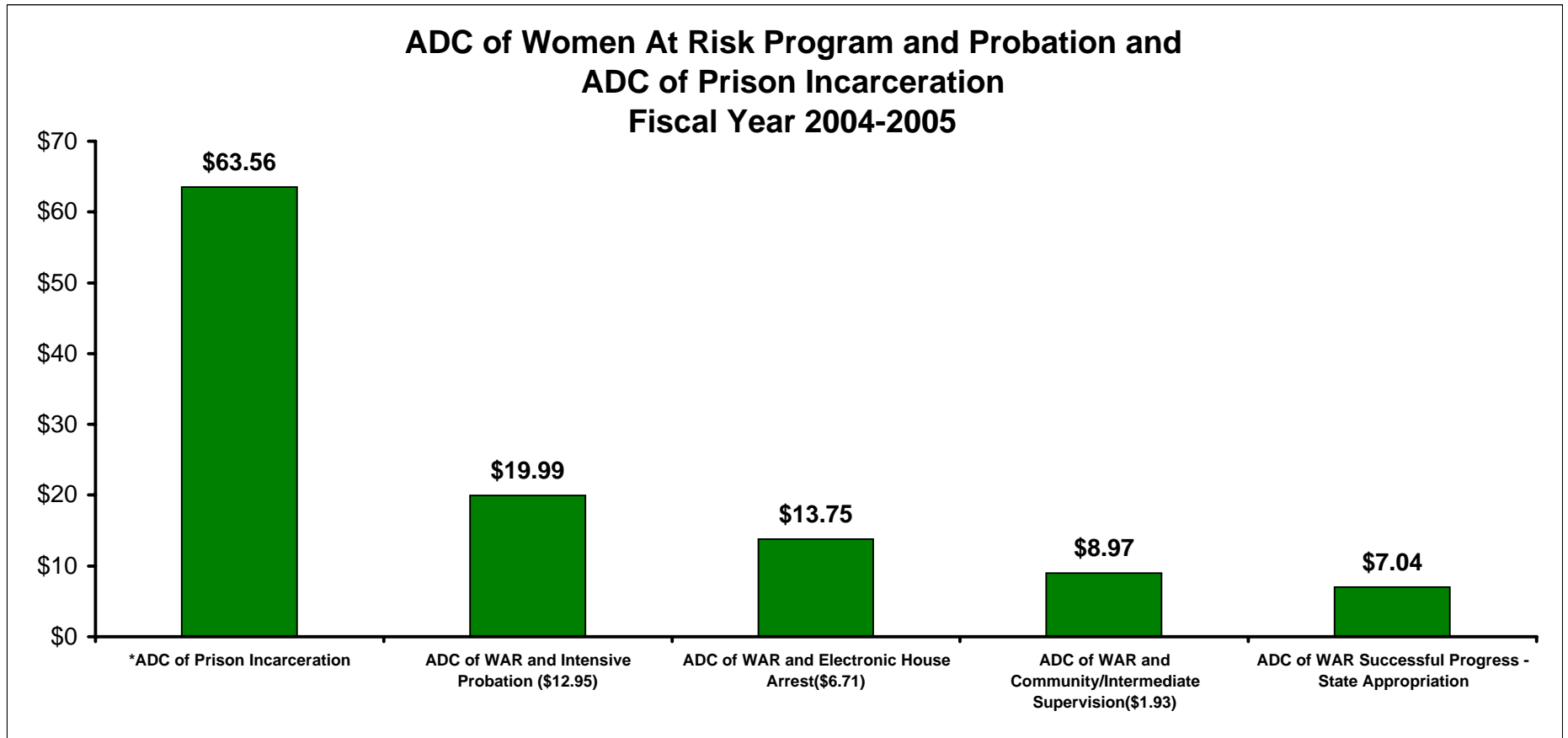
Range \$51.25 - \$74.52

The Women At Risk Program

FY 2004-2005

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

*ADC of Prison Incarceration	\$63.56
ADC of WAR and Intensive Probation (\$12.95)	\$19.99
ADC of WAR and Electronic House Arrest(\$6.71)	\$13.75
ADC of WAR and Community/Intermediate Supervision(\$1.93)	\$8.97
ADC of WAR Successful Progress - State Appropriation	\$7.04



Profile of Women At Risk Program Graduate

Donna S. began drinking beer at age thirteen. Her father and brother drank constantly so it seemed like the normal thing to do in her family. At eighteen she was drinking a six pack of beer on week days and more on the weekends. She quit school because it was hard for her and “I wanted freedom and my own job”. Donna married an abusive man who also drank large quantities of alcohol. During her three pregnancies she “cut back” on drinking but was unable to quit. By the age of twenty six she was drinking a twelve pack of beer daily, working sporadically, living with daily physical abuse and attempting to raise three children with little assistance from their father.

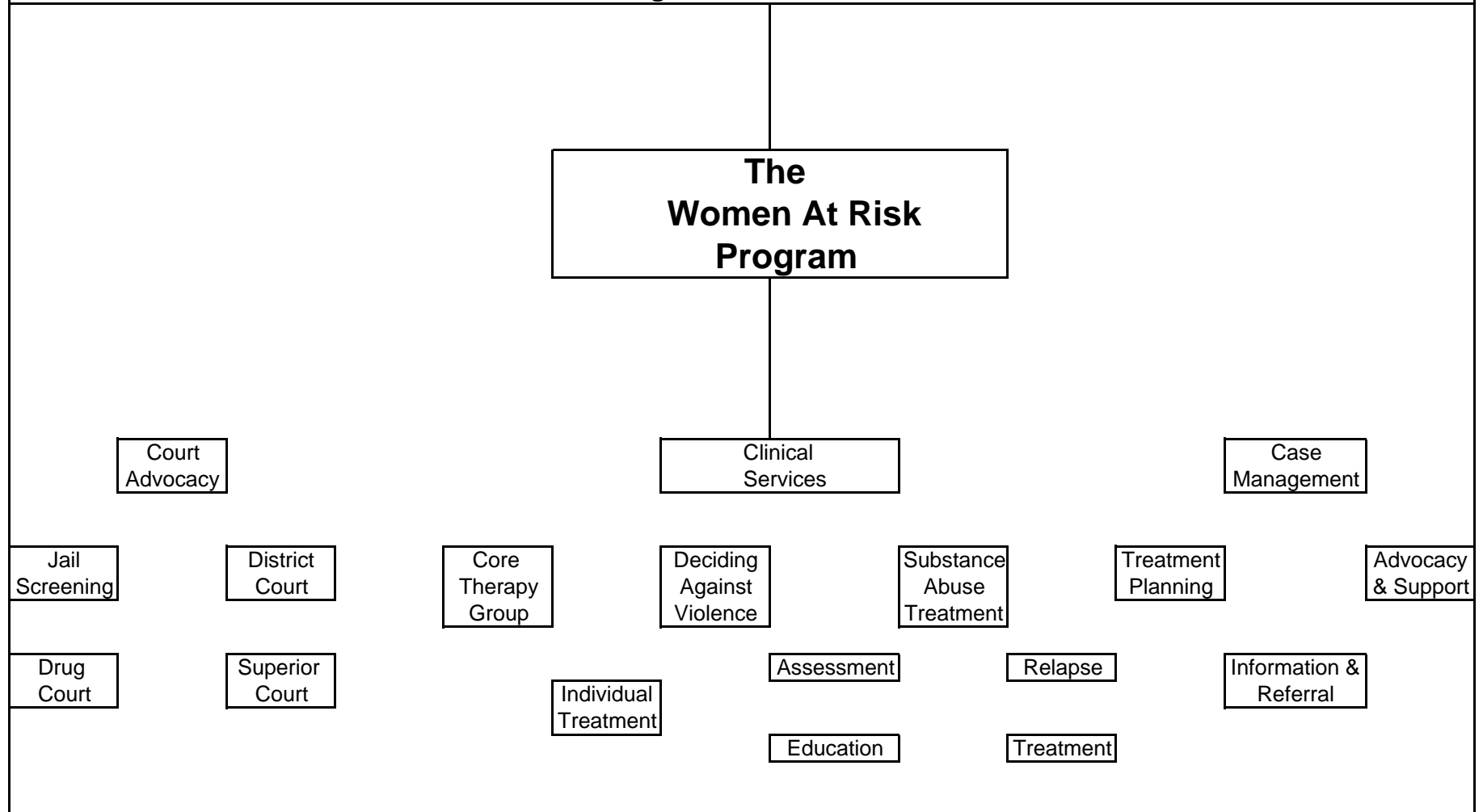
Donna left her abusive husband when she was thirty years old but her problems were not over. She tried to quit drinking but was never able to stop for more than a day. “I couldn’t hold a job” she said, “unless they ‘let’ me drink at work.” Donna felt out of control and unable to deal with being the single parent of three children and the sole wage earner. She lived in a rural area and had no information about treatment for substance abuse or assistance with her ongoing anxiety and depression. Then her oldest daughter, just past her nineteenth birthday, overdosed on a combination of illegal drugs. Three days after her daughter’s death Donna was drinking heavily and driving. She was arrested and charged with DUI, (M) Child abuse, Resisting Arrest and Assaulting an Officer. Donna had “hit bottom”.

Donna’s public defender suggested she join Women At Risk before her case reached court. He was especially concerned about her symptoms of depression and aware that intensive case management at Women At Risk could refer her to appropriate resources in addition to providing her with therapy and substance abuse services.

Donna formed a trusting relationship with the Women At Risk staff and began regular attendance in therapy group and substance abuse education. Case management was an extremely important part of Donna’s treatment: she needed assistance from multiple agencies. Her case manager monitored her participation and progress. Donna’s depression and anxiety improved within several months after mental health provided her with appropriate medications. She attended parenting classes and found affordable therapy for her children. During Women At Risk group therapy Donna was able to talk about her grief over the death of her daughter. She also discussed her history of childhood abuse and domestic violence and learned about the ways she had been affected by that abuse. She absorbed information about alcohol and other drugs from substance abuse education group and told the staff, “I don’t want this happening to my other kids.”

Women At Risk court advocates provided Donna’s public defender with information about her progress in treatment. Donna also relied on the court advocates to help her understand what was said in court and what she must do to follow court requirements. She was sentenced to a very short term in jail and court ordered to complete Women At Risk following her sentence. At graduation Donna had been sober for over seven months. She had completed parenting classes, found a job and moved into a small subsidized apartment. “Things are far from perfect,” she told us, “but now I think I can make it.”

Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc.
The Women At Risk (WAR) Program
Organizational Chart



The Women At Risk Program

Program Activities and Accomplishments Report

Instructions:

>\$25,000 but <\$500,000 A certification, a financial accounting of the State funds received, used, or expended, and a description of the activities and accomplishments undertaken by the grant recipient must be completed by grantees that receive at least \$25,000 but not more than \$500,000 for each program. The completed forms should be submitted to the funding agency.

>\$500,000 A certification, an audit including schedule of awards, and a description of the activities and accomplishments undertaken for each program by the grant recipient must be completed by grantees that receive \$500,000 or more. The completed forms and audit should be submitted to both the granting agency and the Office of the State Auditor, 20601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0601, Attn. Angela Gunn.

Grantee Name:	Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc.
Grantee Tax ID #	58-1491257
Program Name:	Women At Risk Program
Project/Activity Title:	Women At Risk
Grantee's Fiscal Year End: (mmddyyyy)	July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005
Date of This Report:	December 15, 2005
Preparer of This Report:	Ellen Clarke, Executive Director

In compliance with the requirements of G.S. 143-6.2, *Use of State Funds by Non-State Entities*, the following is a description of activities and accomplishments undertaken by our organization using the provided state funding: Complete this report for each different program funded.

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, a three-tier substance abuse treatment group, and an anger management/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 Facility Services as an outpatient mental health program. Given the serious substance abuse problems presented by our clients, it has become an agency requirement that all Women At Risk Program staff have, or be working on, certification in substance abuse counseling. During FY04-05, the Women At Risk Program Director was accepted into the NC Addition Fellows Program.

The Women At Risk Program

Program Activities and Accomplishments Report

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 04-05, the Women At Risk Program processed **200 referrals**; opened **120 new cases**; **served 174 female offenders**; **graduated 52 clients** and **carried over 55 open cases** to FY 05-06. These offenders participated in the following services on-site at Women At Risk: core psychotherapy treatment group; abuser treatment (anger management) group; substance abuse treatment groups; individual therapy; psychiatric consultation; and clinical case management. Off-site, Women At Risk staff worked with clients in criminal and civil court, Drug Court and with inmates at the Buncombe County Detention Center and the Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women. New probation outcome and recidivism data on Women At Risk graduates vs. terminations will be included in the February 1, 2006 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, from the United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County and from the Asheville ABC Board; contributions from area churches; individual gifts and contributions; and client fees. This mix has enabled WCCJ/Women At Risk to operate successfully and efficiently with less than 10% of the agency's corporate budget devoted to management and general expenses. During FY 04-05, WCCJ/Women At Risk successfully completed a capital campaign to acquire and renovate the agency's historic building at 218 Patton Avenue in Asheville.

If there are any questions, please contact the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor:
Angela Gunn @ (919) 807-7556 or
Harriet Abraham @ (919) 807-7673.