



Behind the Curtain: The Ins and Outs of Incarceration in Wisconsin

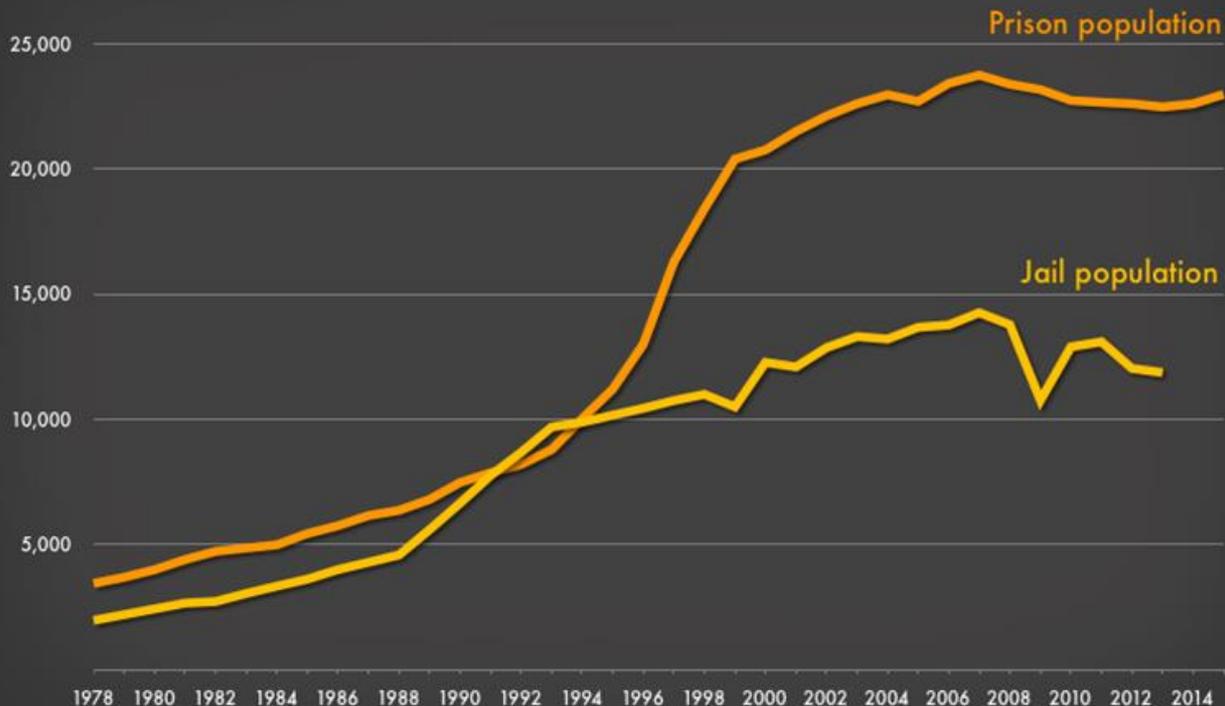
Dr. Karen Reece, VP of Research and Education
Nehemiah Center for Urban
Leadership Development



Mass Incarceration in WI Adult Prisons

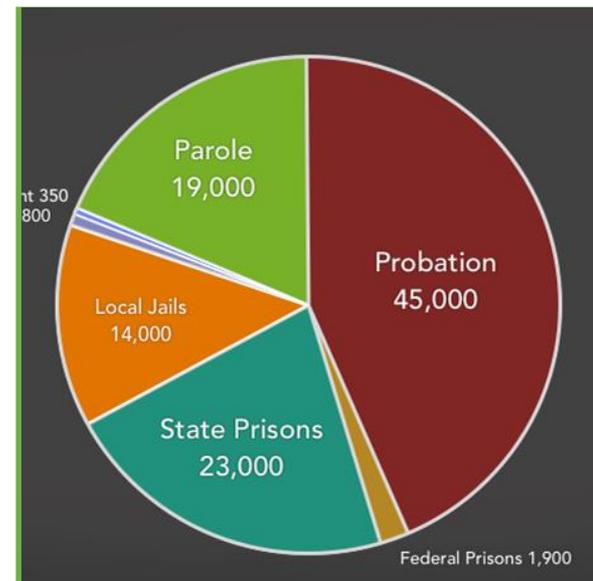
Wisconsin's prison and jail populations

Number of people incarcerated in state prisons and local jails, 1978-2015



Jail populations were adjusted to remove people being held for federal and state authorities.
For complete sourcing, see: www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/jailsovertime.html#methodology

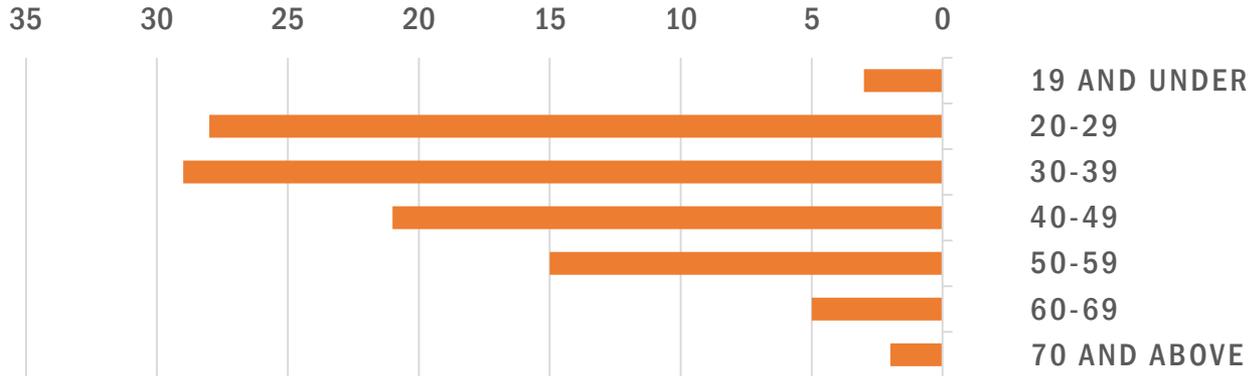
PRISON
POLICY INITIATIVE



Prison Policy Initiative

WI Adult Prison Demographics

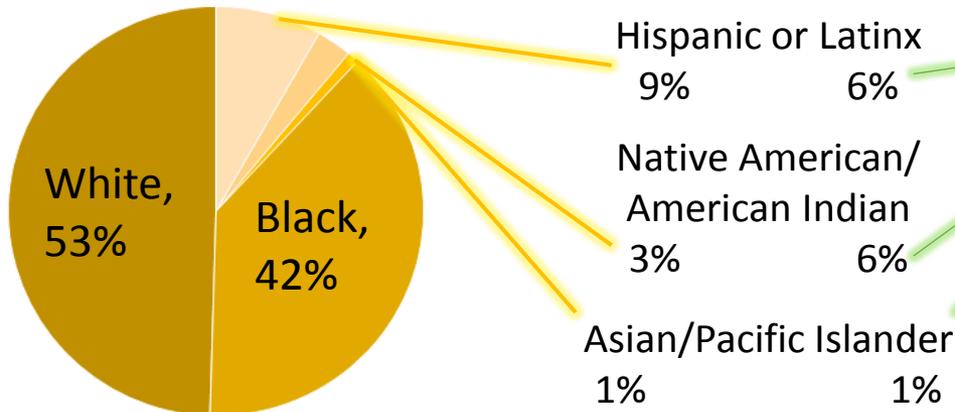
Age ranges



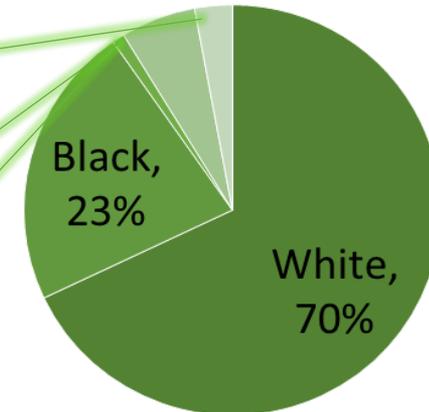
Age	Males	Females
Oldest Inmate	98	79
Youngest Inmate	15	16
Average Age	37.79	36.92

Women represent the fastest growing prison population.

Males

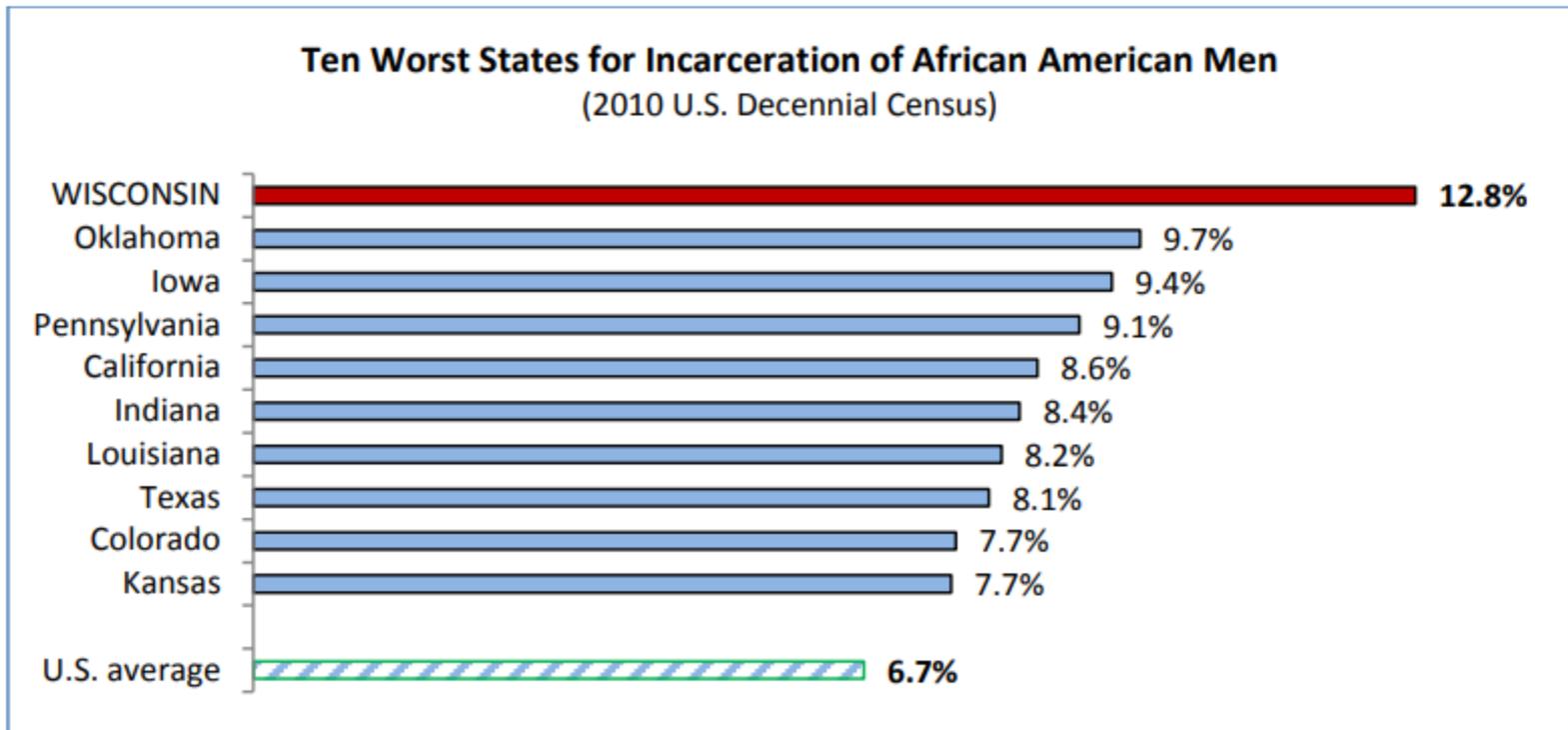
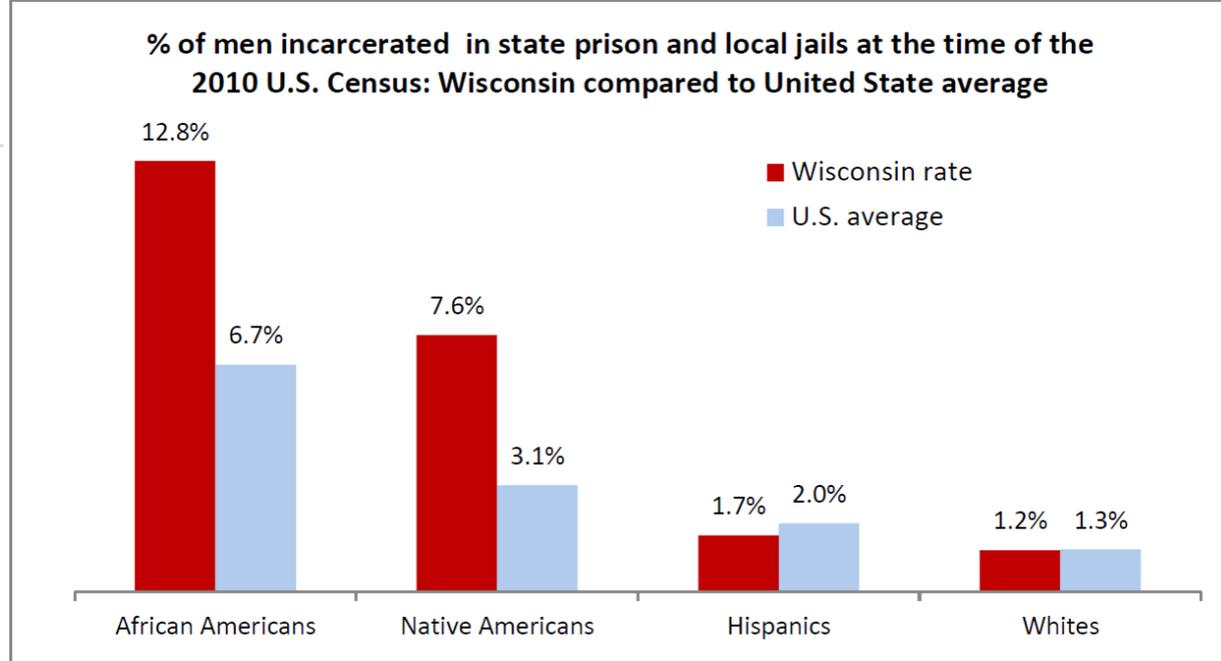


Females

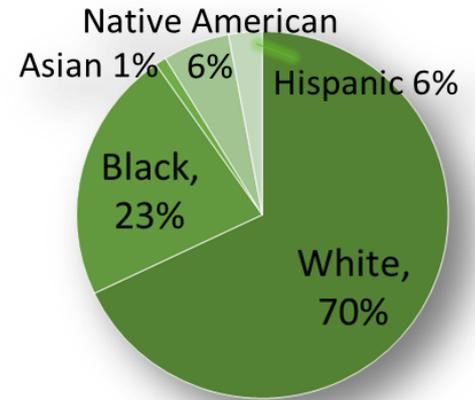
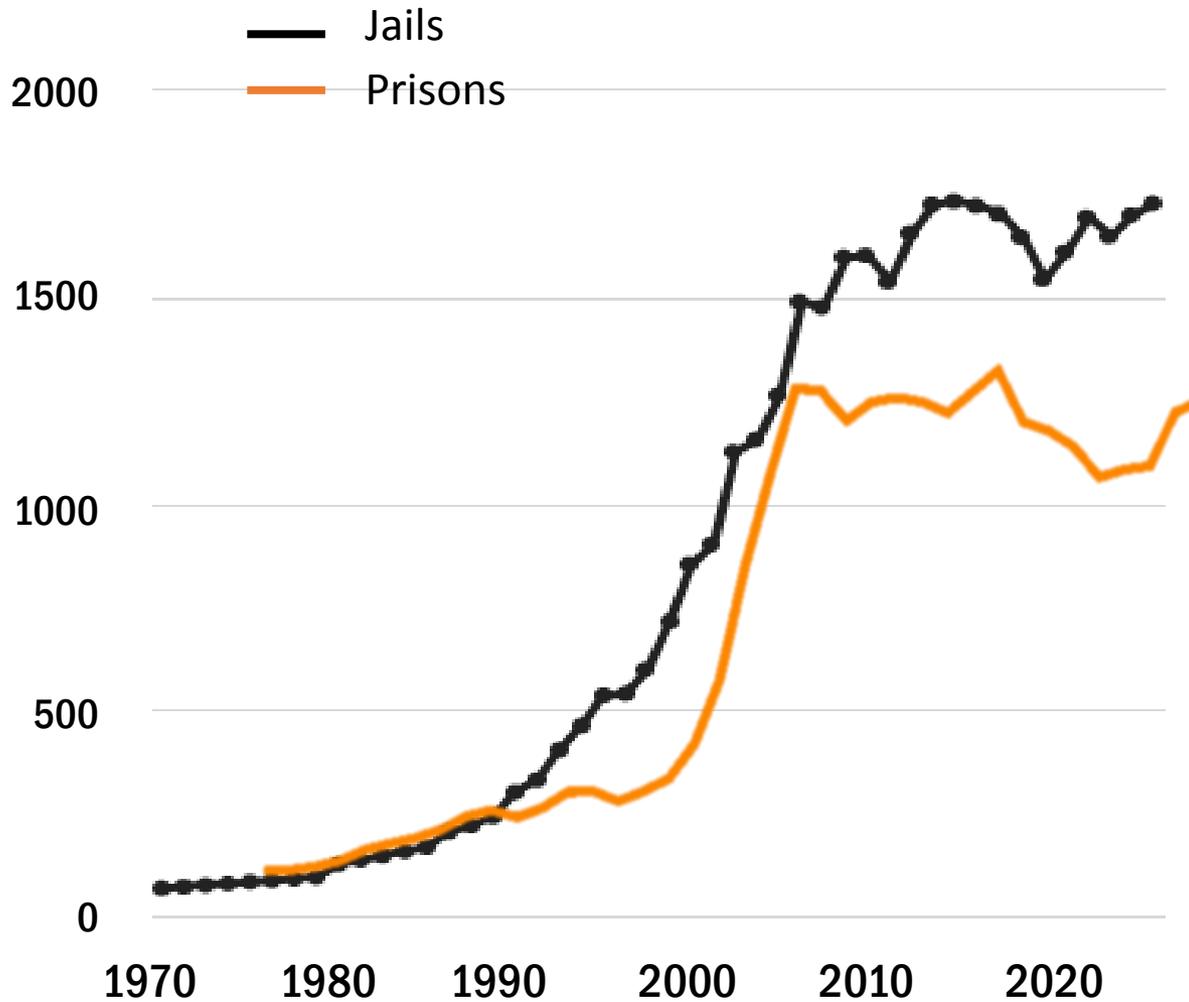


Racial Disparities in Incarceration

- [Pawasarat and Quinn, 2013](#)



Women in WI Jails and Prisons



Demographics of women in WI prisons

Source: <http://doc.wi.gov>

Women in WI prisons and jails rose rapidly in response to stricter prosecution of drug-related offenses.

Jail vs. Prison

Jail

- Operated/funded by counties
- Temporary detention, pre-trial, sentences 1 year or less
- Few, if any, programs

Prison

- Operated/funded by states
- Long term detention, sentences 1 year and 1 day or more
- Some programs: AODA, vocational, ABE, etc.



Dane County Jail, above.

Fox Lake Correctional, below.



Wisconsin Corrections Break Down

- The Jail System
 - Wisconsin has 72 counties and 81 jail facilities with a combined rated capacity of 17,742.



The WI Dept. of Corrections inspects jails and enforces jail compliance

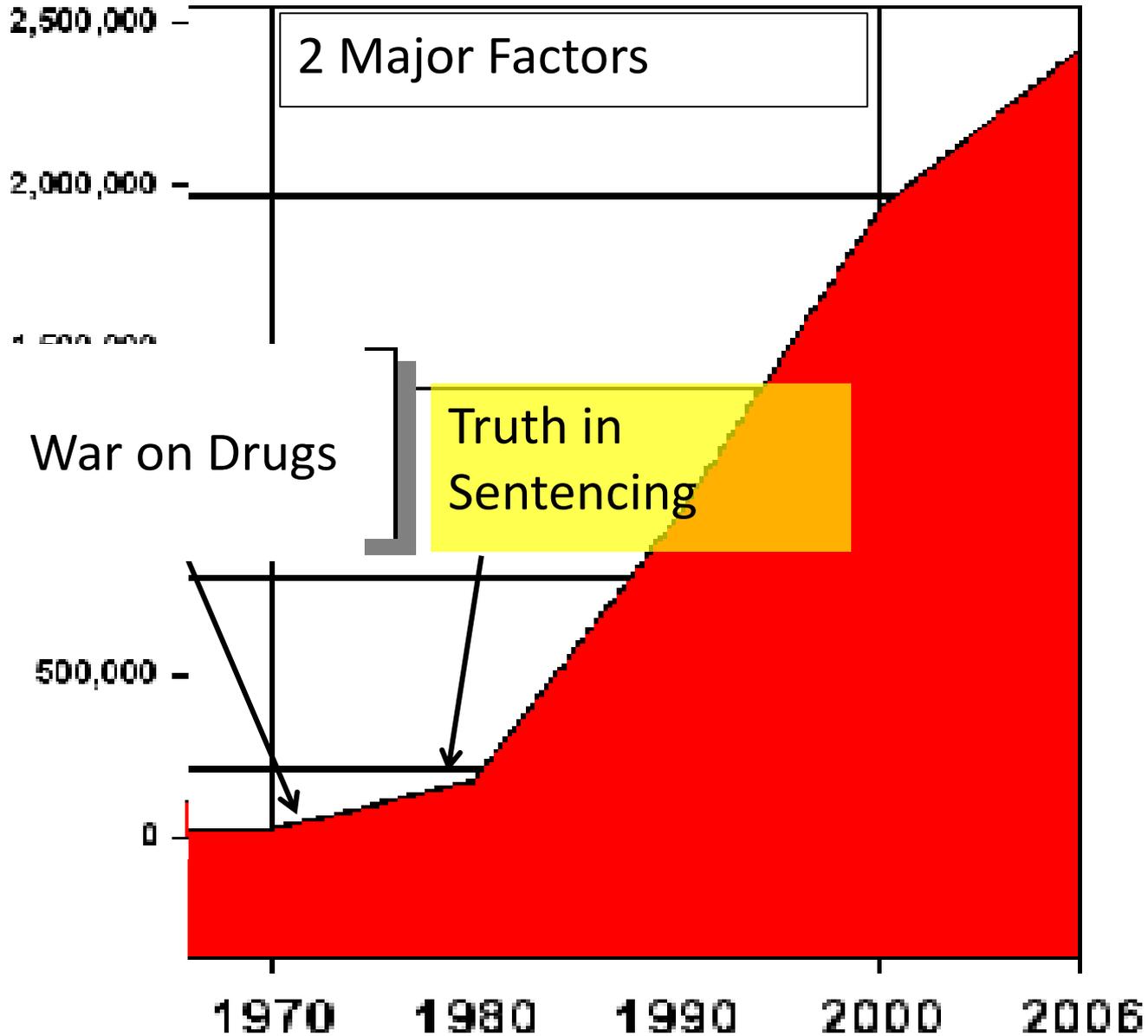
Wisconsin Corrections Break Down

- The Prison System (As of May 10)
 - The Dept. of Corrections managed 23,719 people in prison (1,562 women), operates 18 institutions, 2 hold facilities, a network of 16 smaller correctional centers, and has ~10,000 employees.



Design Capacity:
17,842 – men
980 - women

Tough on Crime -



New Sentence Structures in WI

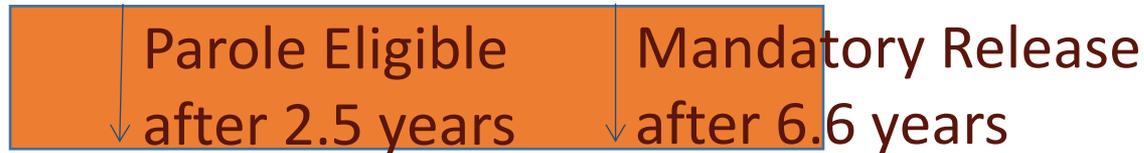
“Old Law” – before Dec 31, 1999

Parole Eligible after serving 25% of sentence

Appearance before Parole Review Commission (PRC)

Mandatory Release after serving 2/3 of sentence

10 year prison sentence



Judge wants to ensure 5 years served...

20 year prison sentence



TOUGH ON CRIME – TRUTH IN SENTENCING

NEW SENTENCE STRUCTURES IN WI

- “New Law” or 1997 Act 283– after Dec 31, 1999
 - a.k.a. Truth In Sentencing I
 - Eliminates parole, bifurcated sentencing
 - Increased most maximum penalties by 50%
- Bifurcated Sentence =
 - Confinement + Extended Supervision

10 year “imprisonment” sentence

5 years Confinement

5 years Extended
Supervision



TOUGH ON CRIME – TRUTH IN SENTENCING NEW SENTENCE STRUCTURES IN WI

- 2001 Act 109 – Budget Reform Bill in 2002
 - a.k.a. Truth In Sentencing II
 - Allows petition for sentence adjustment a.k.a. good time, release at 85% or 75% confinement sentence
 - Early Release Programs for people with AODA needs
 - 10 year “imprisonment” sentence

5 years Confinement

5 years Extended
Supervision

↓
Petition for release through
Earned Release Review
Commission (ERRC)

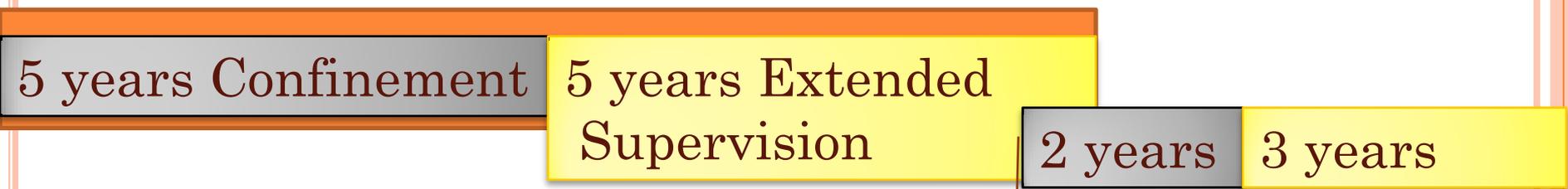
*Additional time added to ES



TOUGH ON CRIME – TRUTH IN SENTENCING NEW SENTENCE STRUCTURES IN WI

- Revocation can lead to extended sentences.

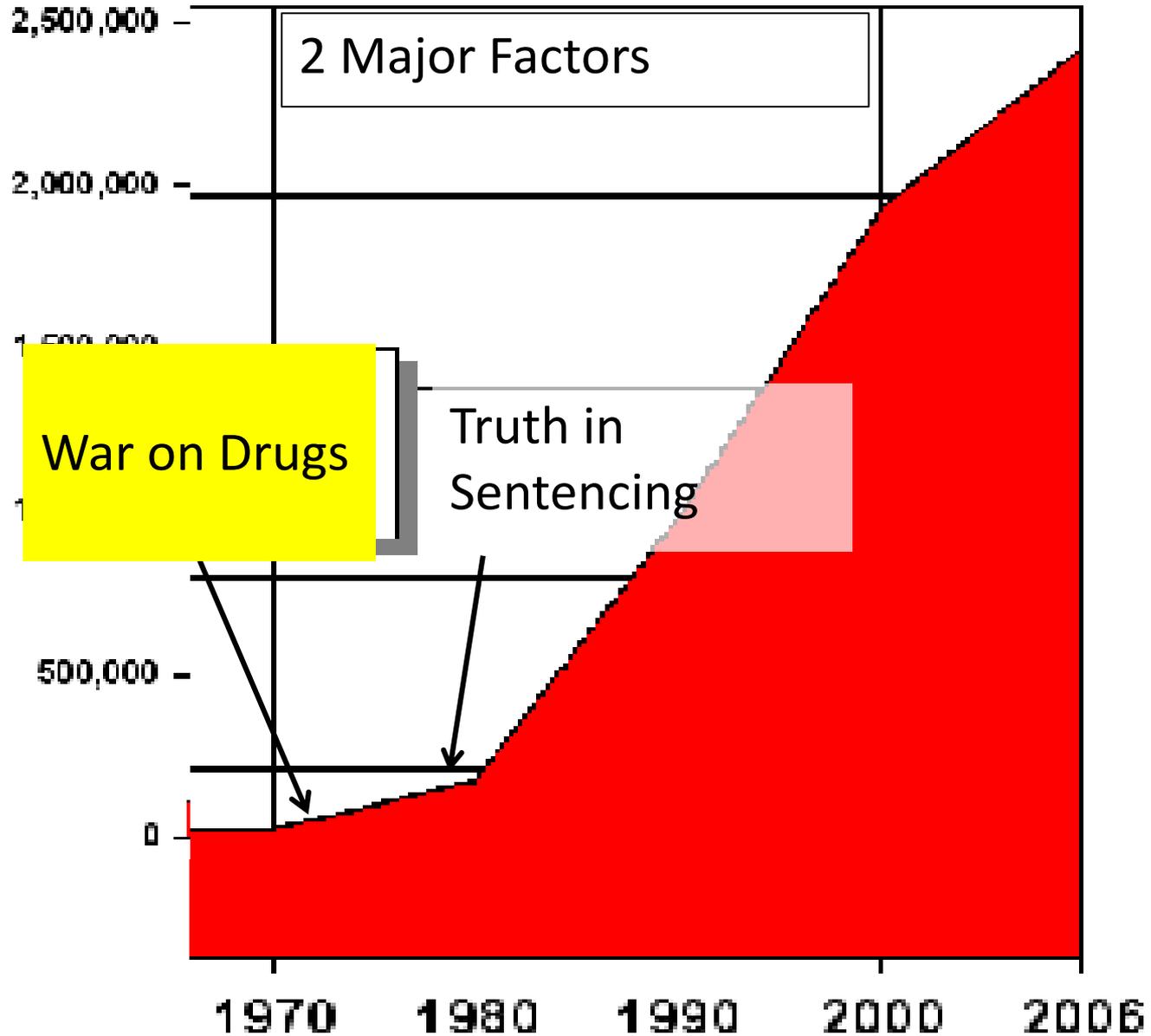
~~10~~¹⁴ year “imprisonment” sentence



Revocation
Back to court for
disposition hearing

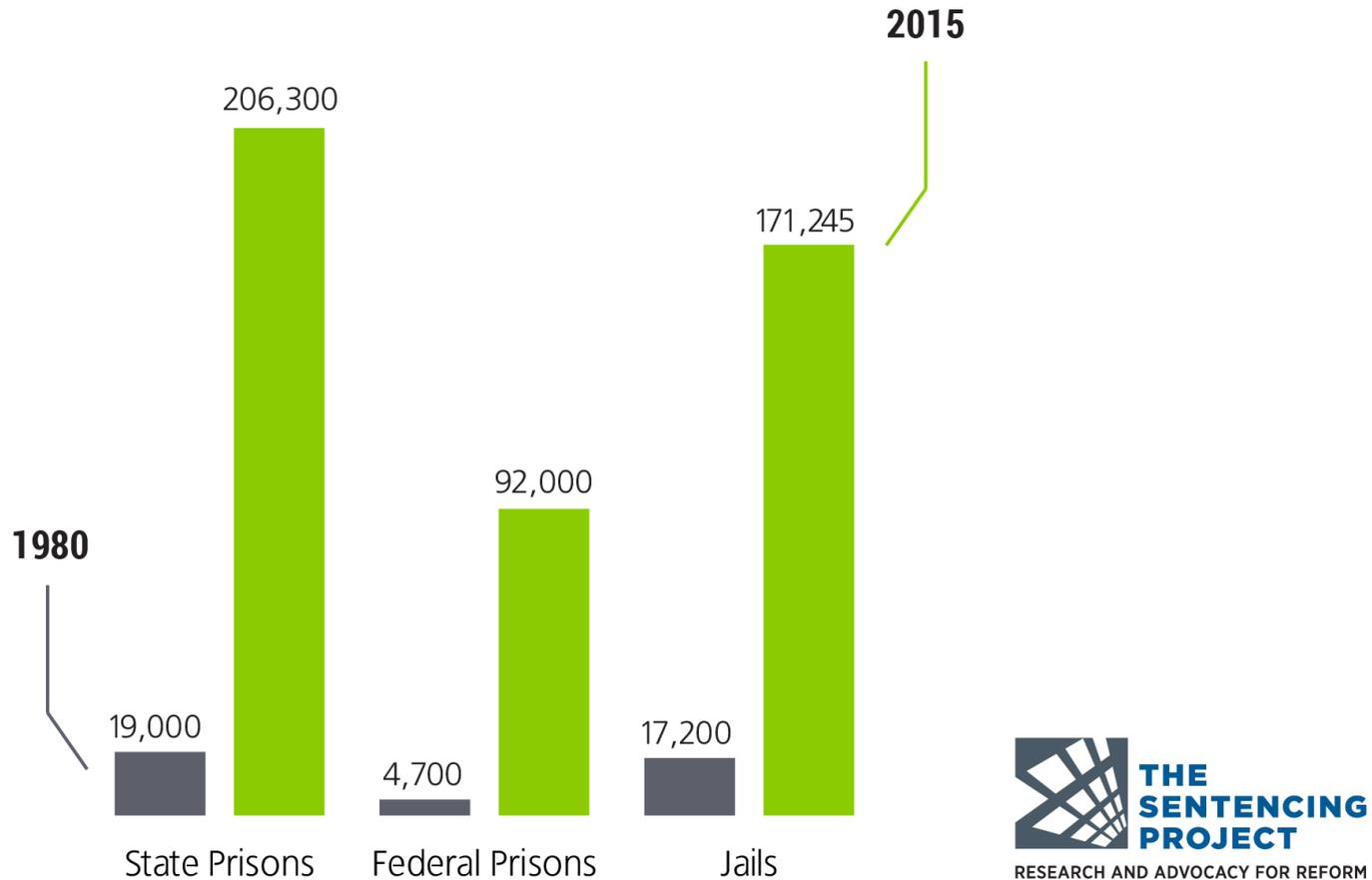


Tough on Crime -



War on Drugs and Prison Population

Number of People in Prisons and Jails for Drug Offenses, 1980 and 2015



Sources: Carson, E.A. and Anderson, E. (2016). *Prisoners in 2015*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; James, D.J. (2004). *Profile of Jail Inmates, 2002*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Mauer, M. and King, R. (2007). *A 25-Year Quagmire: The War on Drugs and its Impact on American Society*. Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project; Minton, T.D. and Zeng, Z. (2016). *Jail Inmates in 2015*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The War on Drugs

Racial Disparities in Incarceration Rates

WHO GETS ARRESTED? Black people are arrested and imprisoned for drugs at a far greater rate than white people.

Drug arrests per 100,000 people

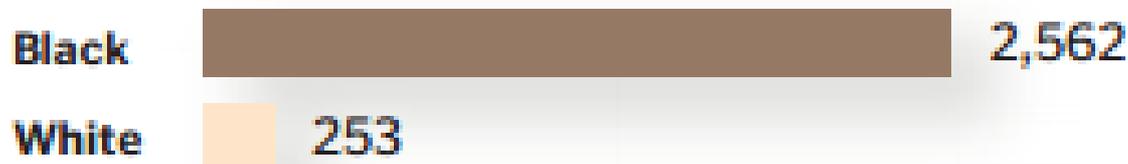
(43 cities studied)



SOURCE: The Sentencing Project: "Disparity by Geography, The War on Drugs in America's Cities," May 2008

Admissions to U.S. prisons for drug offenses,

(per million people, 2003, 34 states reporting)



Differences in Drug Abuse Rates?

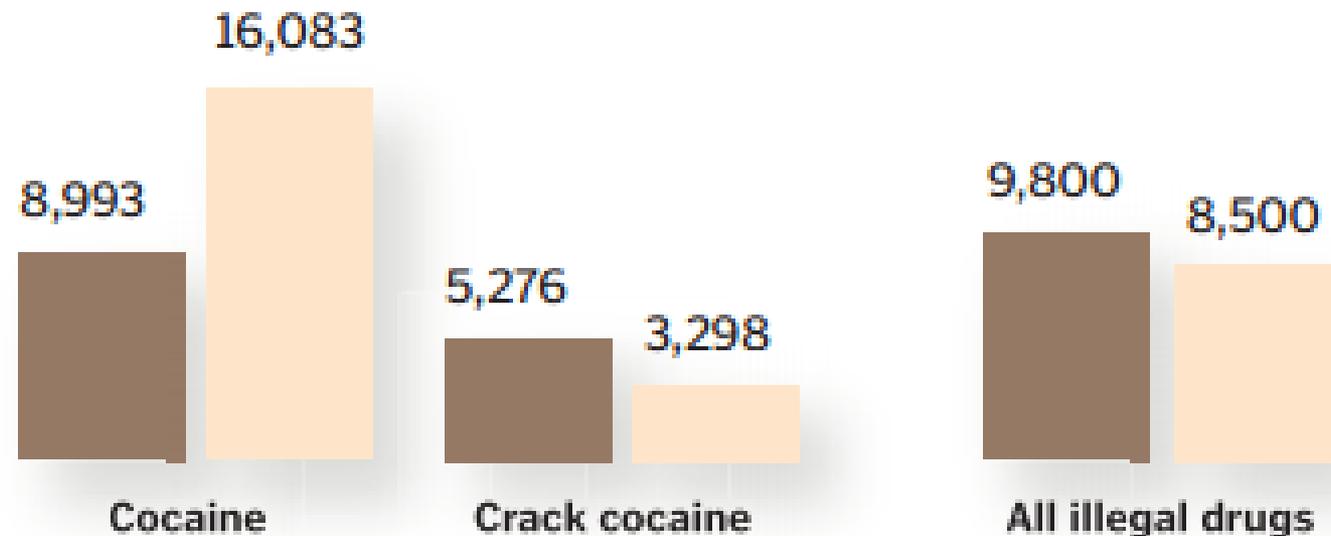
Who Uses Illegal Drugs?

WHO USES ILLEGAL DRUGS?: White people currently use illegal drugs at roughly the same rate as black people.

Have used cocaine during lifetime
(per 100,000 people, age 12 and older)

**Current users
of all illegal drugs**

■ Black ■ White



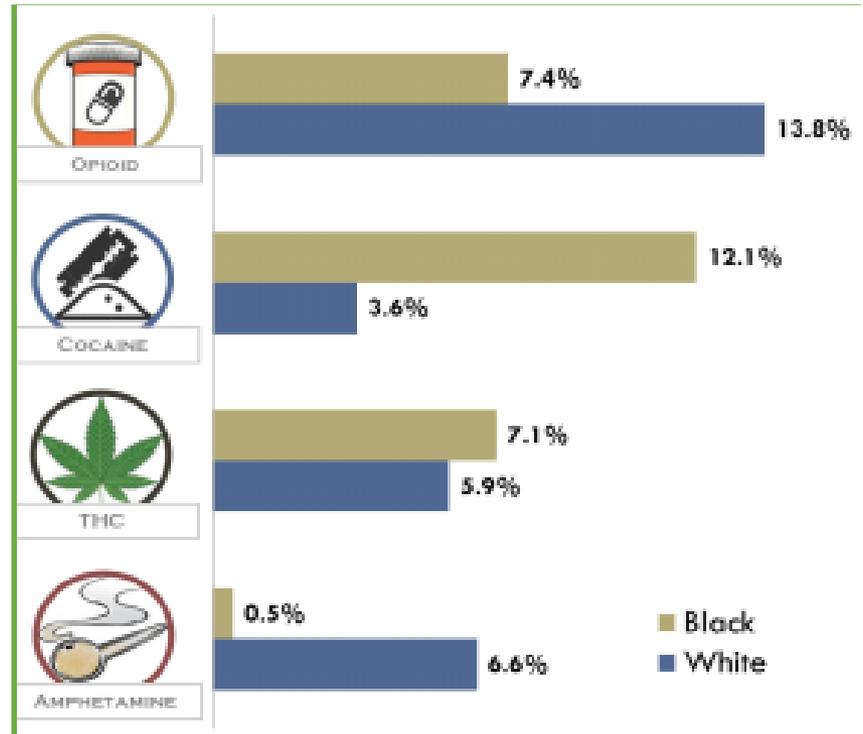
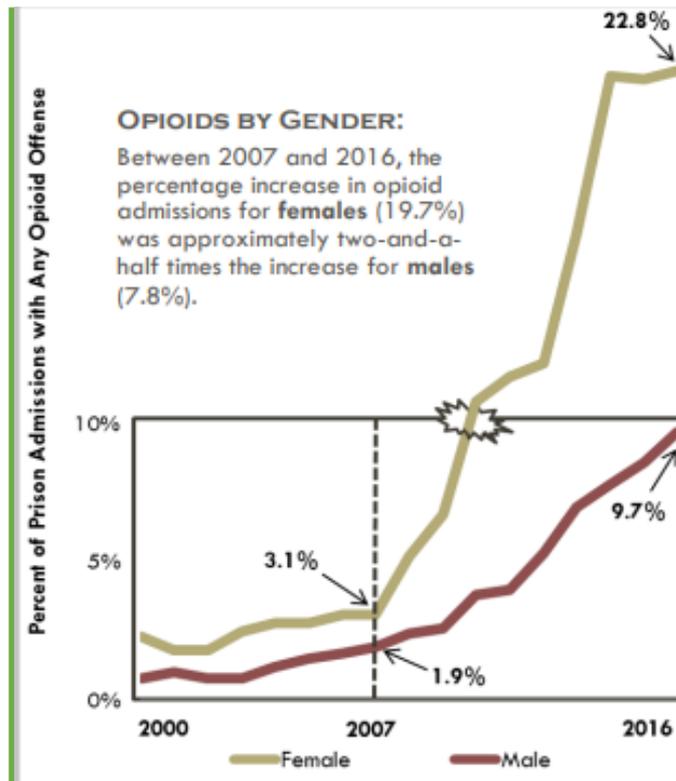
SOURCE: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2006

Drug Offenses in WI by Race and Gender



DRUG ADMISSIONS BY GENDER:

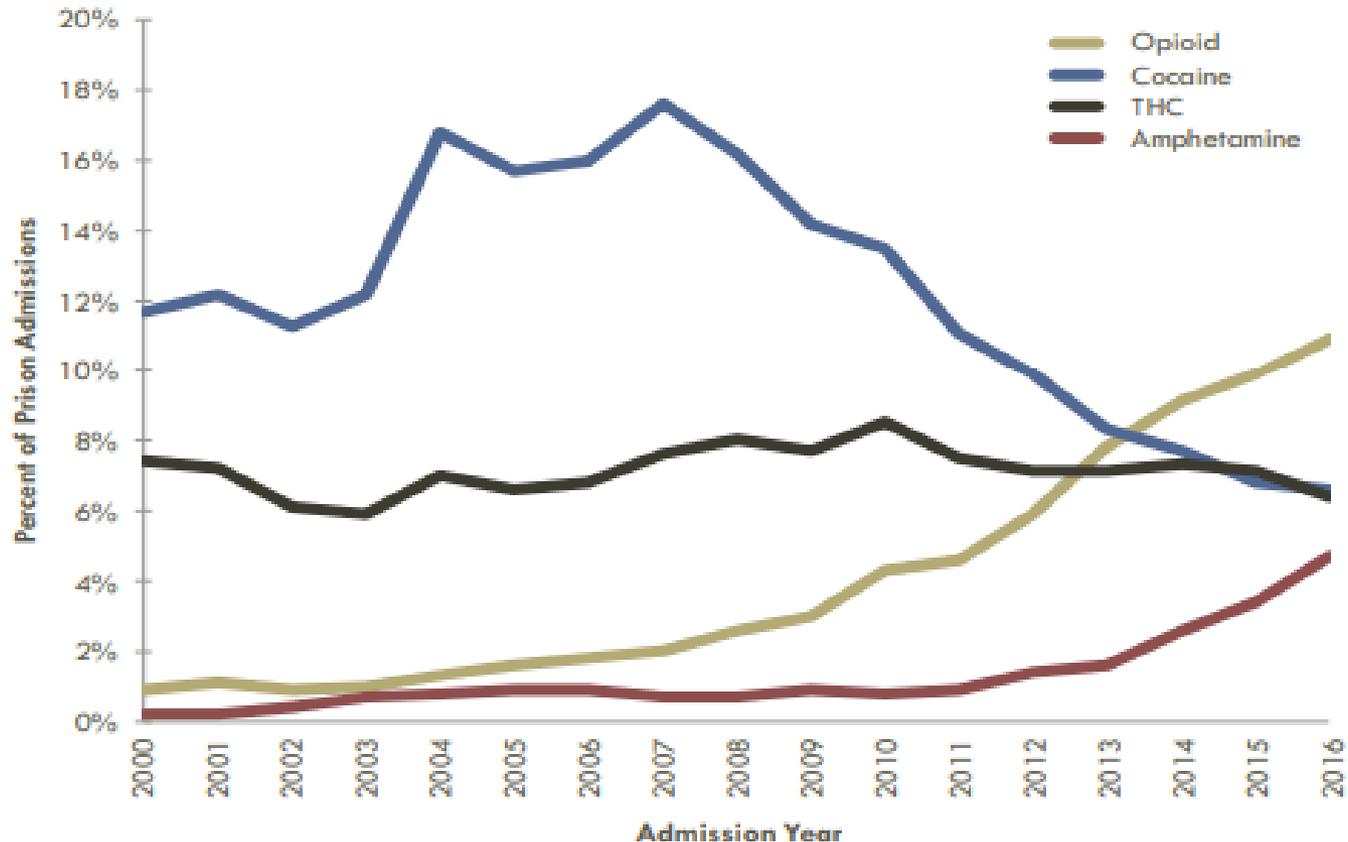
In 2016, approximately two out of five **females** (40.2%) and one out of four **males** (25.4%) admitted to prison had an active drug offense.



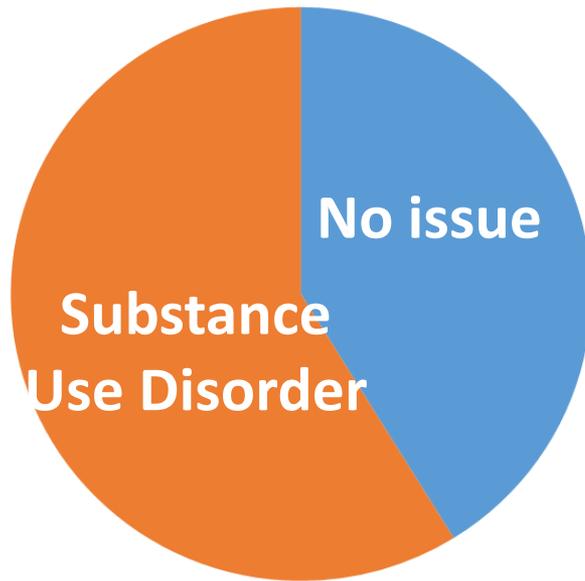
Addiction and Specific Drug Offenses in WI



PERCENT OF PRISON ADMISSIONS WITH SPECIFIC DRUG OFFENSES (2000-2016)



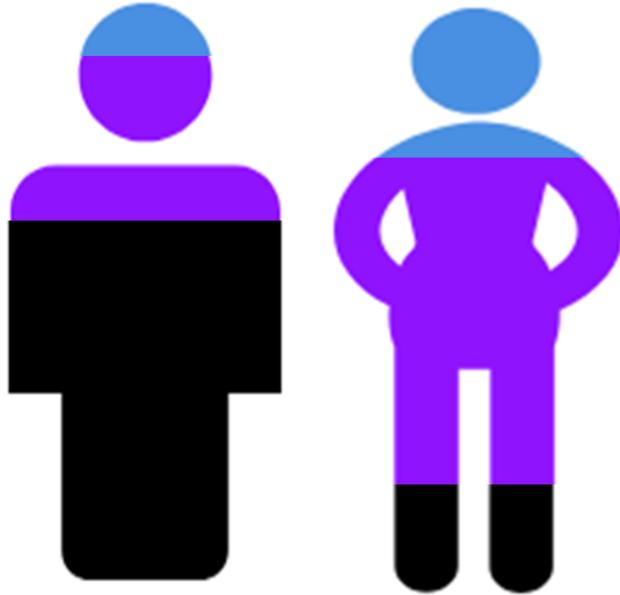
WI Prison Treatment Needs and Options



- There are about 23,000 people in WI prisons, 70% have a need for substance abuse treatment.
- On average 11% get treatment
- Most institutions offer 12-step groups such as NA or AA.

Program/Education Name	2012 Wait List
Anger Management	2,595
AODA Residential	9,279
AODA Relapse	315
AODA Dual Diagnosis	245

Mental Illness in WI Prisons



- 35% of male inmates have a mental health condition
- 8% have a serious condition

- 81% of female inmates have a mental health condition
- 27% have a serious condition

Criminalization of Mental Illness in Wisconsin

Like every state in the nation, Wisconsin incarcerates more individuals with severe mental illness than it hospitalizes.

Total inmate population 2005	Estimated population of SMI inmates	Total psychiatric inpatient population 2004	Likelihood of incarceration vs. hospitalization
36,154	5,785	1,500	3.9 to 1

(SOURCE: MORE MENTALLY ILL PERSONS ARE IN JAILS AND PRISONS THAN HOSPITALS: A Survey of the States, Treatment Advocacy Center, 2010)

WI County Jails and Treatment

Just five counties' jails — Waukesha, Washington, Walworth, Fond du Lac and Dane — are [accredited](#) by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care,

Wisconsin Watch reviewed mental health care in jails and prisons in 2012

Key findings:

1. Many people with mental illness — but services are largely inadequate.
2. DOC does not evaluate the quality of jails' mental health care despite legislature requirement.
3. One-third of Wisconsin's jails have been cited for inadequate suicide prevention efforts.



Produced by the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism

On the plus side:

Some jails have counselors and chaplains available 24/7

Huber privileges can allow someone to access treatment outside of the jail.

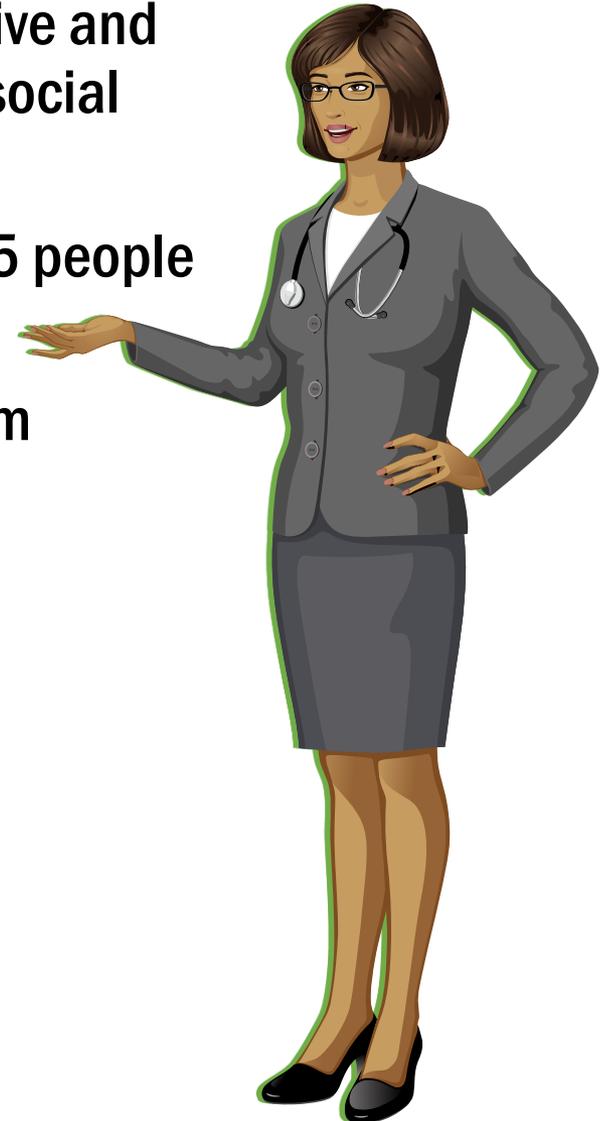
Treatment Programs

Programs

- **Anger Management/Domestic Violence – cognitive and interpersonal skills to groups of 8-15 people by social work staff**
- **AODA Residential – four months, groups of 12-15 people by clinical supervisor**
- **Challenge Incarceration/Earned Release Program**
- **Cognitive Behavioral Program**
- **Mental Illness Chemical Abuse**
- **Parenting**
- **Sex Offender Treatment**

Support Groups

- **Alcoholics Anonymous**
- **Narcotic Anonymous**



99% OF THE FAILURES COME FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE HABIT OF MAKING EXCUSES.

ST. CROIX COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



St. Croix CIP

Green Bay



Oakhill



Program Status in Calendar Year 2011

CY 2011 Program Information	Program Status				
Program Type	Completed	Enrolled	Term, No Fault	Term, Staff	Total
Anger Management	657	845	593	147	2,242
AODA	2,921	3,793	3,161	603	10,478
Cognitive Intervention (CGIP)	779	1,109	952	171	3,011
Domestic Violence	448	587	631	102	1,768
Sex Offender Treatment	238	197	647	82	1,164
Total	5,043	6,531	5,984	1,105	18,663

Program Wait List Overview

Program/Education Name	Current Wait List**
Anger Management	2,595
AODA Residential	9,279
AODA Relapse	315
AODA Dual Diagnosis	245
Cognitive Intervention (CGIP)	2,387
Domestic Violence	1,718
Violence in Relationships (Female DV)	152
Sex Offender Treatment SO-2	2,293
Sex Offender Treatment SO-4	1,591

Implications for Public Health



96% of employers conduct criminal background checks. Many employers will not hire jobseekers with any type of conviction.



Housing is routinely denied to people with records and their families.



60% of higher education institutions use criminal records to make admissions decisions.



6.1 million people cannot vote due to a criminal conviction.

Employment, housing, education, and voting access are all social determinants of public health.



Dr. Karen Reece, VP of Research and Education

kreece@nehemiah.org

608-257-2453 x234

<http://nehemiah.org>

