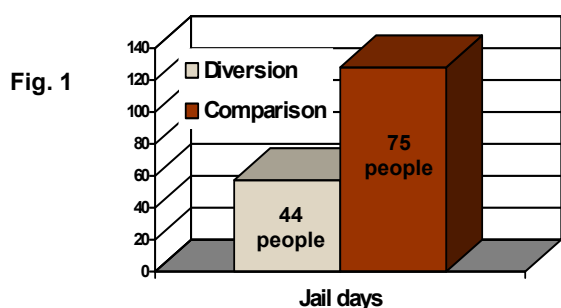


**Research Informing Policy**

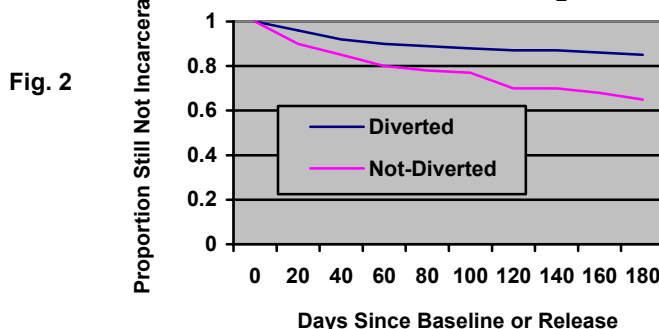
Connecticut, like many states in the nation, is focusing attention on its criminal justice system. The **CT Prison and Jail Overcrowding Commission (PJOC)**, chaired by Department of Correction (DOC) Commissioner Theresa Lantz, released its report last week. Many PJOC's findings and relate to people with mental and substance use disorders who are involved in the criminal justice system. While largely unnoticed, the **DMHAS Research Division** has served to inform the policy recommendations made by PJOC through knowledge gained in an impressive series of studies conducted over the past seven years.

*The Criminal Justice Diversion Study, 1998-2001*, compared 12-month outcomes of persons with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders in 7 criminal courts with a DMHAS-operated diversion program to similar offenders in 5 courts with no diversion program. Results indicated that *persons in the diversion group spent less time incarcerated, were less likely to be re-incarcerated, and had a better quality of life, at no greater cost (Figures 1 and 2)*. The federal Substance & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded this study.

**Jail days one year following index arrest**



**Length of time to re-incarceration, following release on index charge**



**Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Studies (CJ-DATS)**

DMHAS and DOC and the Judicial Branch are developing and fielding studies of interventions for drug-involved offenders. Two studies funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) are currently being launched:



- **Step'n Out** - 200 parolees entering outpatient substance abuse treatment at LMG, Inc. in Bridgeport will be assigned to parole, or to integrated treatment and parole. The parole officer, treatment counselor and person in recovery set goals and meet regularly. The person in recovery earns points for achieving goals, which can be redeemed for rewards that encourage recovery-oriented activities.
- **Transitional Case Management** will test transitional case management to standard referral services for drug-involved offenders. 200 participants of prison-based therapeutic communities and a work release program will work with a case manager from *The Connection, Inc.* in New Haven two months prior to release, and for three months following release. The focus will be on the strengths and goals of the person in recovery. A pre-release conference call will take place with key persons in the participant's discharge plan.

**Preventing Relapse Among Mothers Post-Incarceration**

DMHAS is seeking funding to test a novel intervention for mothers being released from prison who participated in York Correctional Institution's Marilyn Baker program. Participants would be randomly assigned to usual Relapse Prevention through DOC's community supervision program; or to Relapse Prevention with transportation and childcare; or Relapse Prevention with a parenting component called the Nurturing Program for Families Affected by Substance Abuse. The agency providing the treatment will be Families in Crisis.