

Outcome Evaluation of the Woman Offender Case Management Model (WOCMM)

Female Probation Project

Prepared for:
Connecticut Judicial Branch
Court Support Services Division

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Orbis Partners Inc.



History...

- There has been an increased demand for gender-responsive services
- Federal initiatives - began to explore and verify the need for gender-responsive services
- Emphasis initially was to clarify the need and definition of “what is gender-responsive”
- WOCMM was initiated by the National Institute of Corrections to go beyond theory and policy
- *Develop a model to support day-to-day practice*

WOCMM...

MODEL DEVELOPMENT

- Worked with advisory committee to merge evidence-based research from
 - Corrections
 - Mental Health
 - Wraparound Projects
 - Research on women

WOCMM...

- 2006 - NIC issued an RFP to pilot WOCMM
- NIC offered sites training, process and outcome evaluation, and technical assistance
- Site selection - strong leadership, experience with implementing EBP, interest and commitment to administer gender-responsive services - WOCMM model with fidelity
- CSSD successful in competitive grant process

EBP and GR Practices

- **Gender Responsive**
 - Strengths-Based
 - Trauma Informed
 - Culturally Competent
 - Relational
- **Consistent Approach**
- **Team Approach**
- **Continuous**
- **Individualized**
- **Collaborative**
- **Enhance Motivation**
- **Implementation Integrity**
- **Outcome Based**



The PROCESS- Four Core Elements

ELEMENT 1: Engage and Assess

ELEMENT 2: Enhance Motivation

ELEMENT 3: Implement the Case Plan

ELEMENT 4: Review Progress

WOCMM... Primary Outcomes

WOMEN:

1: Reductions in official measures of recidivism

2: Demonstrated increases in human and social capital (across measures of health and well-being, social support, etc.)

WOCMM... Primary Outcomes

Staff Proficiencies

1: Increased knowledge about women and gender-responsive practices

2: Demonstrated proficiency in engagement, GR assessment, motivation, case planning, and intervention

3: Increased professional satisfaction

Participation in WOCMM

Eligibility:

- Female, 18 years + , new case
- Probation term of one year or more
- Not a sex offender
- Targeted for higher risk participants (LSI-R assessment score of 22 or higher)

Sites:

- 4 pilot sites: Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, New Britain
- 8 officers, 4 contracted staff
- 35 cases per officer

Outcome Evaluation Methodology

- **Successfully implemented the “gold standard”**
- **Randomized process of assignment to WOCMM or regular probation supervision (Comparison Group)**
- **Allowed for tracking outcomes between the two groups to determine the impact, if any, of the WOCMM initiative**
- **Most rigorous research design possible**

Women Probationer Participants - as of April 2010

In total

- **487 Enrolled, 260 Active**
- **485 assigned to comparison group**

Clients with 12-month exposure

- **263 WOCMM participants**
- **269 comparison group**

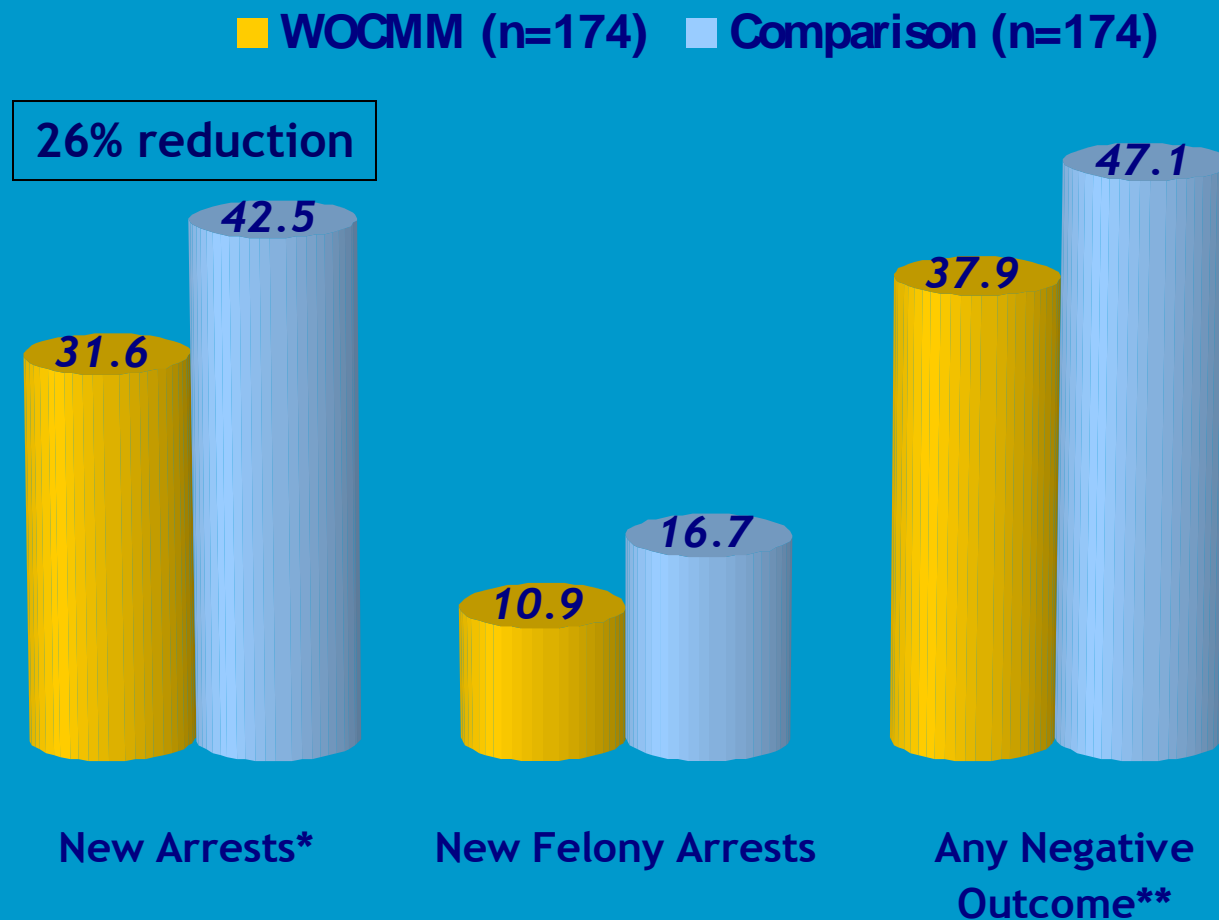
Final matched groups for recidivism analyses

- **174 WOCMM and 174 comparison group “exact match” participants - representative of full WOCMM sample**

Recidivism Outcome Criteria

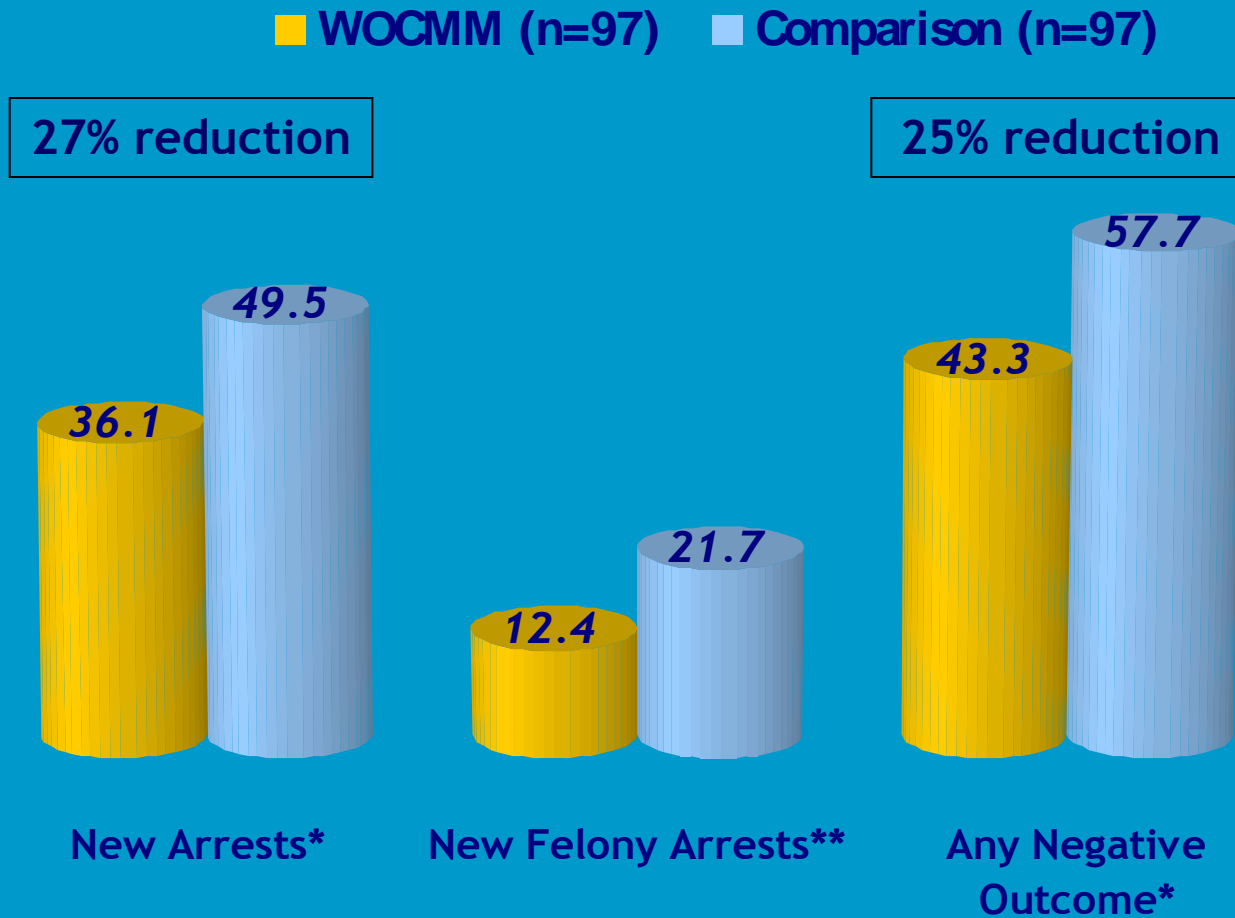
- **New Arrests**
- **New Felony Arrests**
- **Any Negative Outcome (includes new arrests as well as absconding and technical violations)**

Recidivism Rates of WOCMM & Comparison Participants



* p<.05
** p<.10

Recidivism Rates by High (29+) LSI-R Score

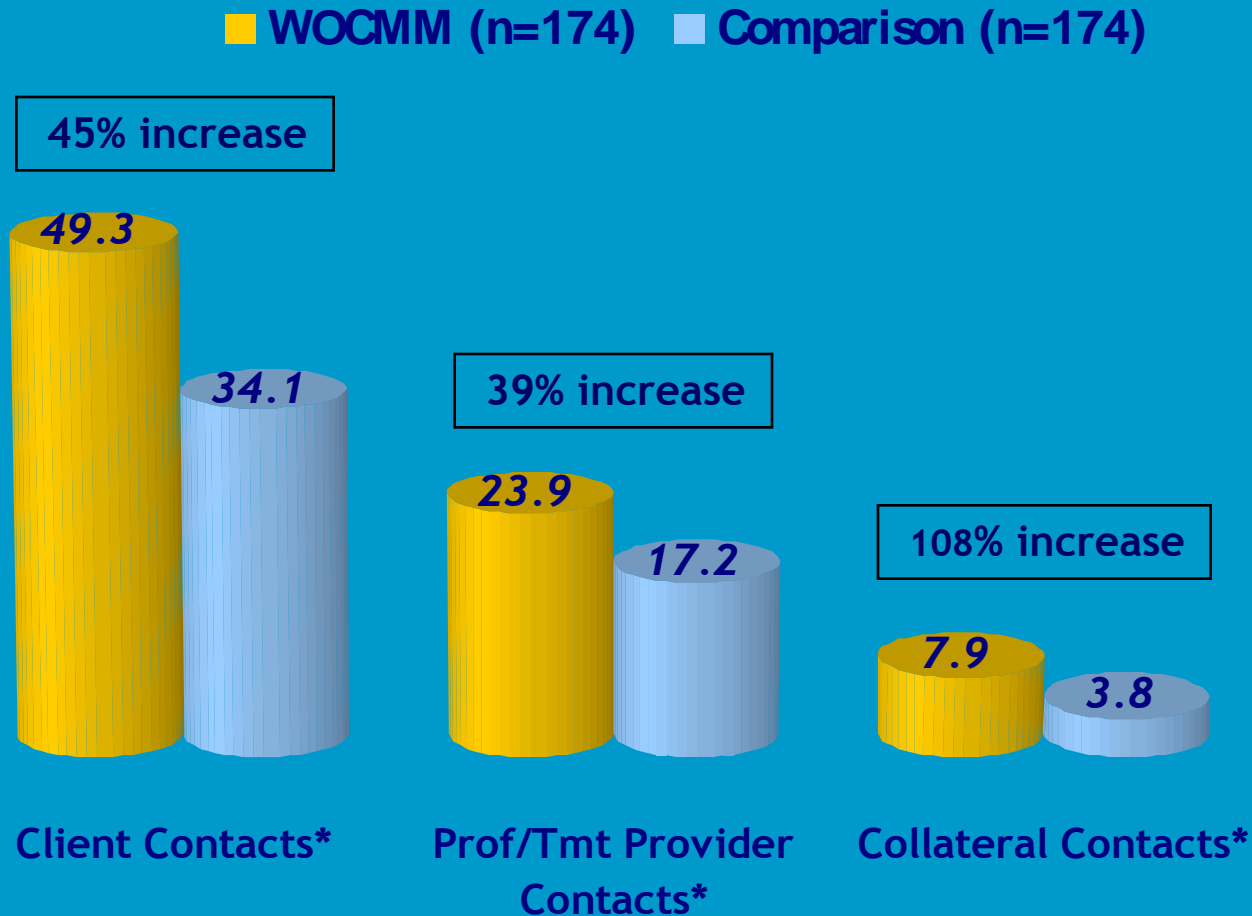


* $p < .05$
** $p < .10$

What accounts for the lower recidivism rates of WOCMM participants?

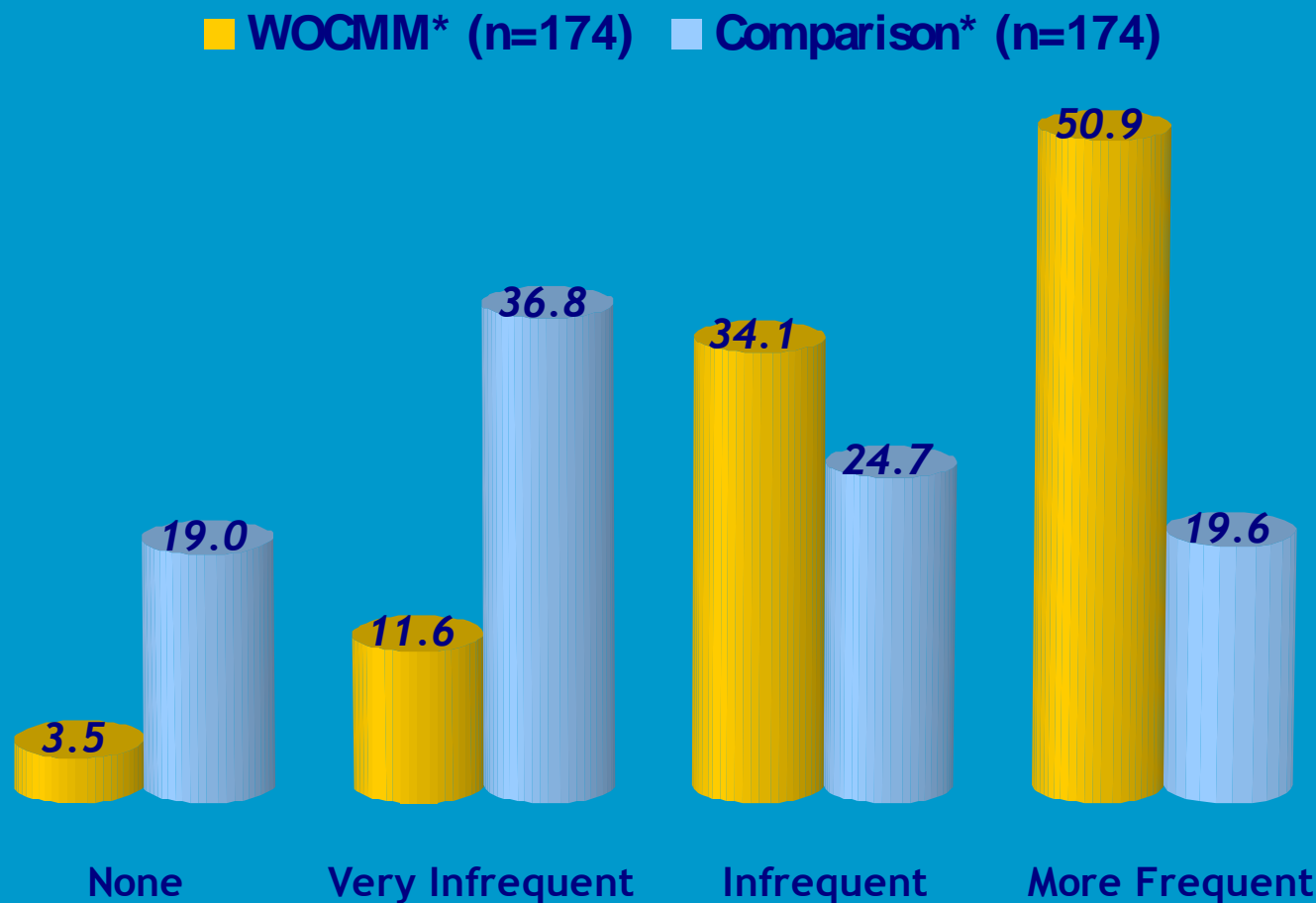
- Improved Officer Contact Activity for targeted supervision
- Use of Evidence-based supervision practices for women
- Use of Gender Specific Assessment for risk/needs identification, case planning, case management

Average Number of Officer Contacts by Type



* p<.05

% of Client Contacts Consistent with EBP



* p < .05

New Arrests by % of Client Contacts Consistent with EBP

- **37.7% of clients with a low frequency (None-Very Infrequent) of EBP contacts were arrested**

VS

- **26.0% of clients with a higher frequency (Infrequent-More Frequent) of EBP contacts were arrested**

Gender Responsive Assessment in WOCMM: SPIn-W

- Gender Responsive tool that assesses risk, need and protective factors for criminal justice involved women
- Items tailored to account for risk factors that manifest differently for women (e.g., parenting, mental health, past victimization, etc.)
- More accurate assessment for improved supervision/case management/case planning

Gain Scores in Human and Social Capital

Human Capital:

- Significant improvements in:
 - Self-Efficacy
 - Managing Stress
 - Problem-Solving, Decision-Making, Goal Setting

Social Capital:

- Significant improvements in:
 - Increased Supports (e.g., family, friends, etc.)
 - Parenting Strategies and Techniques

Summary and Conclusions

- **Significantly lower recidivism rates compared to regular probation, especially for higher risk women**
- **Increased, more productive officer contacts**
- **Benefits of Gender-responsive assessment**
 - **Improved identification of recidivism risk for women**
 - **Identification of needs and strengths**
- **WOCMM participants showed gains in human and social capital**