

December 2007

INTEGRATED CRISIS RESPONSE PILOTS: PRELIMINARY REPORT ON CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

In 2005, the Washington State Legislature passed E2SSB 5763, making a number of changes to the provision of substance abuse and mental health treatment funded by the state. This law also directs the Department of Social and Health Services to establish two sites for the Integrated Crisis Response (ICR) Pilot Program. The integration of mental health and chemical dependency investigations is expected to improve the efficiency of evaluation and treatment and result in improved mental health, chemical dependency, and other outcomes.

At the ICR pilot sites, Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs) investigate and have the authority to detain individuals who are determined to be “gravely disabled or presenting a likelihood of serious harm” due to mental illness, substance abuse, or both.¹ In non-pilot counties, this function is conducted separately by mental health professionals and chemical dependency specialists operating under different statutes. The ICR legislation also established secure detoxification facilities at each pilot site to house individuals who might otherwise refuse services.²

Following a Request for Proposals bidding process, pilots were established in Pierce County and the North Sound³ Regional Support Networks (see Exhibit 1). These sites began operations in spring 2006.

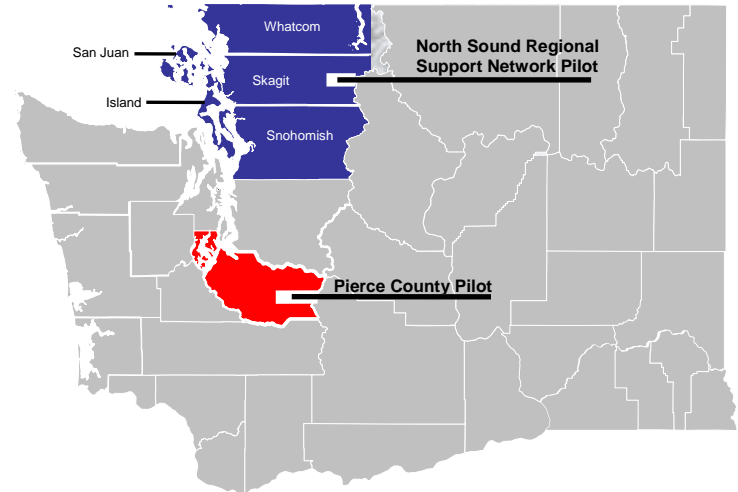
The legislation also directed the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (Institute) to determine if the ICR pilots cost-effectively improved mental health/chemical dependency evaluation, treatment, and outcomes of clients detained under the new statute. This preliminary report describes the key characteristics of clients investigated and detained at the ICR pilot sites during the first 16 months of the program. A final report will be published in September 2008.

¹ E2SSB 5763, §101(7), Chapter 504, Laws of 2005.

² Specific details about program elements and implementation are available in a separate report. J. Mayfield & M. Burley. (forthcoming). *Implementation Study of the Washington State Integrated Crisis Response Pilots*. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

³ The North Sound Regional Support Network comprises Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties.

**Exhibit 1
Integrated Crisis Response Pilot Sites**



Summary

In 2006, by legislative direction, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services established two pilot sites for the Integrated Crisis Response Program. At the pilot sites, newly created Designated Crisis Responders investigate and have authority to detain individuals with serious mental illness or substance abuse problems. Previously, this function was conducted separately by mental health professionals and chemical dependency specialists under different statutes. The pilots also created secure detox facilities to hold involuntarily detained individuals.

At the pilot sites, designated crisis responders can place individuals with acute chemical dependency in secure detoxification facilities. These individuals typically have a history of placing additional burdens on other state and local systems. For example, compared with individuals detained to mental health facilities, those detained to secure detox were more frequent visitors to emergency rooms, used more publicly paid medical services, and were more likely have been arrested the previous year. More than half of the individuals detained to secure detox facilities also received publicly funded mental health services in the previous year.

The extent to which the pilot sites are reducing the strain on other systems and how effectively they improve the treatment and outcomes of individuals investigated by the Designated Crisis Responders is the focus of a final report to be published in September 2008.

The Investigation and Detention Process

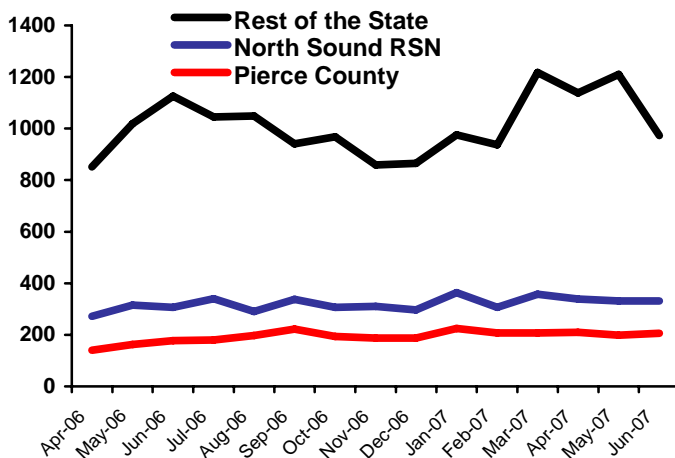
Designated Crisis Responders at the pilots have the authority to investigate and detain an individual up to 72 hours for mental health and/or chemical dependency disorders that render the person “gravely disabled or presenting a likelihood of serious harm.” Additionally, individuals detained for chemical dependency issues may be committed to a 14-day secure detoxification facility at the pilot site. Individuals with mental disorders may still be committed to a 14-day evaluation and treatment facility under pre-existing statutes. These statutes also authorize longer-term 60- and 90-day commitments. See the Appendix for a schematic of the detention and commitment process.

DCRs are local mental health professionals who have undergone 40 hours of chemical dependency training. In non-pilot counties, mental health and chemical dependency investigations are not necessarily coordinated, and facilities and involuntary treatment options for chemical dependency clients are limited.

Investigations

Approximately 22,700 mental health investigations were recorded in Washington over the 16-month period from March 2006 through June 2007. About 8,000 (35 percent) of the investigations were conducted at the two pilot sites. The total investigations each month are illustrated in Exhibit 2 for both pilots and the rest of the state. North Sound and Pierce County averaged about 310 and 190 investigations a month respectively. The majority of investigations (94 percent) at North Sound were in the three larger counties, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom.

Exhibit 2
Mental Health Investigations
by Month



Source: MHD-CIS

The source of each investigation referral is tracked by the pilot sites. The top three entities referring individuals for mental health investigations in North Sound were hospital emergency rooms (73 percent), hospital medical units (7 percent), and law enforcement (6 percent). In Pierce County, a broader variety of entities referred individuals for investigations: Crisis Triage⁴ (28 percent), Community Mental Health Agencies (19 percent), and hospital emergency rooms (12 percent) were the top three sources. However, hospital medical units, hospital psychiatric units, residential facilities, and law enforcement were, combined, responsible for another 25 percent of investigation referrals in Pierce County.

Investigation Outcomes

With every investigation there is a possibility that the individuals investigated could be involuntarily detained, because they are gravely disabled or a danger to self or others. Individuals may be detained for 72 hours to a Mental Health Evaluation and Treatment (E&T) facility, they may be detained for 72 hours at a secure detoxification facility (at the pilot sites only), or they may be referred to other services in the community.⁵

Statewide, there were about 8,460 recorded detentions between March 2006 and June 2007—approximately 37 percent of all investigations. Over 47 percent of investigations resulted in detentions at Pierce County and North Sound. In all non-pilot counties, the detention rate was less than 32 percent of all investigations.⁶

The remainder of this report uses data from the point in time associated with each individual’s first investigation during the study period (March 2006 through June 2007). There were 14,124 such investigations. The outcomes of these investigations are described in Exhibit 3.

⁴ Crisis Triage is a facility with a continuum of round-the-clock services that provide a coordinated and multidisciplinary approach to assessment and stabilization.

⁵ Not all detentions are involuntary. Some individuals enter secure detox on a voluntary basis with the understanding that a detention order will be requested if they leave.

⁶ Historically, the pilot sites have been more likely to detain individuals, so the differences in detention rates are not entirely attributable to the ICR program.

Exhibit 3
Investigation Outcomes
Based on First Investigation
During the 16-month Study Period

Investigation Outcome	North Sound	Pierce County	Rest of State	Total
Mental Health Detention	1,457 (47%)	654 (38%)	3,913 (42%)	6,024 (43%)
Detention to Secure Detox	363 (12%)	362 (21%)	NA	725 (5%)
Other*	1,262 (41%)	687 (40%)	5,426 (58%)	7,375 (52%)
Total	3,082 (100%)	1,703 (100%)	9,339 (100%)	14,124 (100%)

*Includes referrals to services such as voluntary outpatient, inpatient, residential treatment, and community services.
Source: MHD-CIS

Statewide, 43 percent of these investigations resulted in detentions to a mental health evaluation and treatment facility. Five percent resulted in detentions to secure detox (available only at the ICR pilot sites). The remaining 52 percent of investigations resulted in referrals to other services such as voluntary outpatient, inpatient, residential treatment, among other community services.

Across the pilot sites, the rates of detention to mental health facilities and secure detox differed. Pierce County had a higher rate (21 percent) of detention to secure detox than did North Sound (12 percent). North Sound had a higher rate (47 percent) of detention to mental health facilities than Pierce County (38 percent).

Characteristics and Histories of Clients Detained to Mental Health E&T Facilities or Secure Detox

The following describes the characteristics of individuals detained to secure detox and mental health E&T facilities. It also describes differences, if any, in characteristics of clients detained at the two ICR pilot sites and the rest of the state.

We examine demographics; prior investigations, detentions, and commitments; previous admissions to detox, hospitalizations, and emergency room visits; reimbursements for publicly funded medical care; prior mental health or chemical dependency treatment; and recent history of employment and arrests. Because it is possible for an individual to be investigated more than once, the following information describes client experiences over the 12 months preceding the individual's first investigation during the study period.

Demographics. Exhibits 4A and 4B display the distribution by gender, age, and race of individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities at the two pilot sites and the rest of the state, as well as those detained to the secure detox facilities at the pilots.

Gender. Regarding gender, the only notable difference is that the secure detox facilities at the pilots were less likely to admit females (38 percent) than males (62 percent).⁷ The percentages of individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities were more evenly split by gender.

Age. Two noticeable differences emerge regarding the age of detained individuals: Those detained to the secure detox facilities at both pilot sites were more concentrated around the 35- to 44-year age group than those detained to mental health facilities, and very few individuals in secure detox were 65 or older. In North Sound, individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities tended to be older (24 percent were 65 or older).

Race. Pierce County tended to have higher concentrations of Black and Asian/Pacific Islander clients detained to Mental Health E&T compared with the rest of the state. Due to the large number of individuals at North Sound with race not reported, it is difficult to draw any conclusions about the racial distribution at that pilot site.

Exhibit 4A
Gender, Age, and Race of Individuals Detained to Mental Health E&T Facilities

	Rest of State <i>n=3,913</i>	North Sound <i>n=1,457</i>	Pierce County <i>n=654</i>
Gender			
Female	47.8%	49.8%	48.6%
Male	52.0%	50.0%	51.2%
Age			
19-24	11.7%	10.8%	12.4%
25-34	22.0%	17.1%	17.1%
35-44	22.1%	19.6%	24.6%
45-54	19.7%	17.9%	21.7%
55-64	11.7%	10.4%	14.1%
65+	12.8%	24.1%	10.1%
Race			
White	74.1%	67.5%	72.3%
Black	6.8%	2.8%	11.9%
Native American	2.2%	2.1%	1.7%
Asian/Pac. Islander	3.3%	1.7%	6.7%
Other	3.7%	2.7%	2.1%
Not Reported	9.8%	23.1%	5.5%

Source: MHD-CIS

⁷ In other non-secure detox facilities in the state, the gender split is even wider (73 percent vs. 27 percent). David Mancuso. (2007). *About the Secure Detox Pilots*. Report 4, p. 64. Olympia: Department of Social and Health Services.

Exhibit 4B
Gender, Age, and Race of Individuals
Detained to Secure Detox Facilities

	Rest of State <i>n=0</i>	North Sound <i>n=363</i>	Pierce County <i>n=362</i>
Gender			
Female	NA	37.7%	37.6%
Male	NA	61.7%	62.2%
Age			
19-24	NA	11.3%	7.2%
25-34	NA	21.2%	21.0%
35-44	NA	31.4%	32.3%
45-54	NA	26.2%	29.0%
55-64	NA	8.8%	9.4%
65+	NA	1.1%	1.1%
Race			
White	NA	57.9%	77.9%
Black	NA	1.7%	9.7%
Native American	NA	7.2%	6.1%
Asian/Pac. Islander	NA	0.6%	1.7%
Other	NA	1.9%	1.4%
Not Reported	NA	30.9%	3.3%

Source: MHD-CIS

Investigations, Detentions, and 14-Day Commitments in the Previous Year

Previous mental health investigations, detentions, and 14-day commitments are described in Exhibits 5A and 5B. As might be expected, individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities were more likely to have previous mental health investigations, detentions, or commitments than those detained at secure detox facilities.

Almost 38 percent of individuals detained to a mental health E&T facility in Pierce County had at least one mental health investigation in the previous year. The rate of prior investigations was about 10 percent less in North Sound and the rest of the state.

Individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities in Pierce County had a slightly higher rate of previous detentions than those in North Sound and the rest of the state. The rate of prior 14-day commitments (4 percent) in North Sound was considerably lower than the rate in Pierce County (9 percent).

Exhibit 5A
Any Investigations, Detentions, and
Commitments in the Year Preceding 72-Hour
Detention to Mental Health E&T Facilities

	Rest of State <i>n=3,913</i>	North Sound <i>n=1,457</i>	Pierce County <i>n=654</i>
Investigation	28.4%	27.2%	37.8%
Detention	7.8%	7.4%	9.6%
14-Day Commitment	6.5%	4.3%	9.2%

Source: MHD-CIS

Exhibit 5B
Any Investigations, Detentions, and
Commitments in the Year Preceding 72-Hour
Detention to Secure Detox Facilities

	Rest of State <i>n=0</i>	North Sound <i>n=363</i>	Pierce County <i>n=362</i>
Investigation	NA	23.4%	17.4%
Detention	NA	4.1%	2.5%
14-Day Commitment	NA	1.1%	1.4%

Source: MHD-CIS

Chemical Dependency Services During the Previous Year

Exhibits 6A and 6B display the percentages of detained individuals who received chemical dependency-related services through the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) in the year preceding their detention. The services included admission to detoxification facilities, outpatient treatment, and inpatient/residential treatment.

Very few individuals detained to mental health facilities were reported to have used any DASA services in the year preceding their detention. However, more than 70 percent of individuals detained to secure detox had been admitted to a detoxification facility in the previous year. While the majority of these clients had only one detox admission in the previous 12 months, one had at least 20.

Almost 20 percent of individuals admitted to secure detox in North Sound had outpatient chemical dependency treatment in the previous year, compared with about 16 percent in Pierce County. Rates of prior inpatient chemical dependency treatment were identical for both pilot sites.

Exhibit 6A

DASA Services in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Mental Health E&T Facilities

	Rest of State <i>n=3,913</i>	North Sound <i>n=1,457</i>	Pierce County <i>n=654</i>
Detoxification	3.6%	3.0%	1.5%
Chemical Dependency Outpatient Treatment	4.5%	3.8%	2.3%
Chemical Dependency Inpatient Treatment	2.7%	1.9%	1.5%

Source: TARGET

Exhibit 6B

DASA Services in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Secure Detox Facilities

	Rest of State <i>n=0</i>	North Sound <i>n=363</i>	Pierce County <i>n=362</i>
Detoxification	NA	71.6%	78.7%
Chemical Dependency Outpatient Treatment	NA	19.8%	15.5%
Chemical Dependency Inpatient Treatment	NA	14.9%	14.9%

Source: TARGET

Mental Health Services During the Previous Year

Exhibits 7A and 7B describe the percentages of detained individuals who received publicly funded mental health services in the year preceding their detention. The services included mental health outpatient treatment, community hospitalization, and state psychiatric hospitalization.

Individuals detained to mental health facilities were more likely to have used mental health services in the previous year than those detained to secure detox. However, more than half of the individuals detained to secure detox used mental health services in the previous year.

Compared with Pierce County and the rest of the state, individuals detained in North Sound had lower prior utilization rates in all three service areas. Pierce County had substantially higher prior utilization rates for outpatient treatment and admissions to the local state hospital.

Exhibit 7A

Mental Health Services in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Mental Health E&T Facilities

	Rest of State <i>n=3,913</i>	North Sound <i>n=1,457</i>	Pierce County <i>n=654</i>
Outpatient Treatment	63.6%	50.4%	73.7%
Community Hospital*	13.9%	10.9%	13.6%
State Hospital	4.0%	1.7%	9.9%

*Includes mental health E&T facilities.

Source: MMIS

Exhibit 7B

Mental Health Services in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Secure Detox Facilities

	Rest of State <i>n=0</i>	North Sound <i>n=363</i>	Pierce County <i>n=362</i>
Outpatient Treatment	NA	44.9%	61.9%
Community Hospital*	NA	9.1%	10.2%
State Hospital	NA	0.3%	1.1%

*Includes mental health E&T facilities.

Source: MMIS

Use of Funded Medical Services in the Previous Year

Exhibits 8A and 8B describe the publicly funded medical services used by detained individuals during the year preceding their detention.

Fewer than half of the individuals detained were eligible for publicly funded medical services in the previous year. The percentage of individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities at the pilots who were eligible for this service ranged from a low of 31 percent at North Sound to a high of 36 percent at Pierce County. Individuals detained to secure detox at either pilot were more likely to have been eligible and received publicly funded medical services.

The previous year's reimbursements for specific medical services ranged from a low of \$1,104 for outpatient treatment for individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities in Pierce County, to a high of \$13,463 for inpatient treatment for individuals detained to its secure detox.

Individuals detained to secure detox were considerably more likely to have visited an emergency room at least once in the previous year. About 33 percent used an emergency room in the previous year compared with

about 19 percent of individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities. Individuals who visited an emergency room in the previous year did so an average of five to eight times, depending on their location and type of detention. Individuals in Pierce County secure detox were the heaviest users of emergency rooms in the year preceding their detention.

Exhibit 8A

Publicly Funded Medical Services Used the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Mental Health E&T Facilities

	Rest of State <i>n=3,913</i>	North Sound <i>n=1,457</i>	Pierce County <i>n=654</i>
Medical Assistance*			
Eligible for Services	40.2%	31.1%	35.9%
Average Months Eligible	8.6	8.9	8.8
Reimbursement Dollars per Detained Client**			
Outpatient	\$1,164	\$1,220	\$1,104
Inpatient	\$11,397	\$10,266	\$11,843
Pharmacy	\$3,409	\$2,903	\$3,923
Emergency Room	\$5,132	\$5,288	\$2,089
Emergency Room Utilization			
Any Visits	25.0%	20.0%	17.9%
Average Number of Visits	4.9	5.5	4.5

*Excludes dually eligible clients.

**Excludes clients who did not receive publicly funded services.

Source: MMIS

Exhibit 8B

Publicly Funded Medical Services used in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Secure Detox

	Rest of State <i>n=0</i>	North Sound <i>n=363</i>	Pierce County <i>n=362</i>
Medical Assistance*			
Eligible for Services	NA	46.8%	48.3%
Average Months Eligible	NA	8.9	8.2
Reimbursement Dollars per Detained Client**			
Outpatient	NA	\$1,209	\$1,859
Inpatient	NA	\$7,759	\$13,463
Pharmacy	NA	\$1,440	\$1,878
Emergency Room	NA	\$2,477	\$2,982
Emergency Room Utilization			
Any Visits	NA	32.8%	33.1%
Average Number of Visits	NA	5.6	7.7

*Excludes dually eligible clients.

**Excludes clients who did not receive publicly funded services.

Source: MMIS

Mental Disorders Diagnosed in the Previous Year

For individuals who received fee-for-service publicly funded medical services, we were able to identify those diagnosed with mental disorders (see Exhibits 9A and 9B). Of detained individuals receiving fee-for-service medical assistance, 60 to 76 percent were diagnosed with some kind of mental illness. Individuals detained at North Sound were somewhat less likely to have been diagnosed with a mental disorder in the previous year.

Rates were somewhat lower for more serious disorders, such as depression, mania, and schizophrenia. Individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities were considerably more likely to have been diagnosed with schizophrenia than those detained to secure detox. Individuals detained to secure detox were more likely to have been diagnosed with depression or a personality disorder than those detained to mental health E&T facilities. Similarly, individuals detained to secure detox in Pierce County were more likely to have been diagnosed with mania or bipolar disorder than those detained to its mental health E&T facilities.

Exhibit 9A

Mental Disorder Diagnoses in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Mental Health E&T Facilities*

Disorder	Rest of State <i>n=2,760</i>	North Sound <i>n=914</i>	Pierce County <i>n=395</i>
Depression or Personality	16%	18%	11%
Mania or Bipolar	10%	12%	10%
Schizophrenia	43%	34%	54%
Any Mental Illness	69%	64%	76%

*Includes medical assistance fee-for-service clients only.

Source: MMIS

Exhibit 9B

Mental Disorder Diagnoses in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Secure Detox Facilities*

Disorder	Rest of State <i>n=0</i>	North Sound <i>n=216</i>	Pierce County <i>n=189</i>
Depression or Personality	NA	33%	24%
Mania or Bipolar	NA	13%	19%
Schizophrenia	NA	14%	30%
Any Mental Illness	NA	60%	73%

*Includes medical assistance fee-for-service clients only.

Source: MMIS

Medications Prescribed in the Previous Year

For individuals receiving fee-for-service publicly funded medical services, we are able to identify conditions for which medication was prescribed (see Exhibits 10A and 10B).

Individuals detained to secure detox were more likely to have been prescribed medications for pain, cardiac conditions, and depression or anxiety, than those detained to mental health E&T facilities. Individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities were more likely to have been prescribed medications for psychotic and bipolar disorders than those detained to secure detox.

Exhibit 10A

Medications Prescribed in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Mental Health E&T Facilities*

Condition	Rest of State <i>n</i> =2,760	North Sound <i>n</i> =914	Pierce County <i>n</i> =395
Depression or Anxiety	31%	29%	33%
Anti-psychotic or Bipolar	39%	36%	39%
Seizure Disorders	18%	19%	20%
Cardiac	17%	19%	19%
Pain	21%	24%	20%

*Includes medical assistance fee-for-service clients only.
Source: MMIS

Exhibit 10B

Medications Prescribed in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Secure Detox Facilities*

Condition	Rest of State <i>n</i> =0	North Sound <i>n</i> =216	Pierce County <i>n</i> =189
Depression or Anxiety	NA	35%	40%
Anti-psychotic or Bipolar	NA	23%	29%
Seizure Disorders	NA	13%	23%
Cardiac	NA	24%	29%
Pain	NA	40%	41%

*Includes medical assistance fee-for-service clients only.
Source: MMIS

Arrests During the Previous Year

Exhibits 11A and 11B display the percentages of detained individuals who were arrested in the year preceding their detention, and the average number of arrests.

Individuals who were detained to secure detox were about *twice as likely* to have been arrested for a misdemeanor or felony in the previous year as those detained to mental health E&T. Felony arrests were also considerably more likely among those detained to secure detox.

Exhibit 11A

Arrests in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Mental Health E&T Facilities*

	Rest of State <i>n</i> =3,913	North Sound <i>n</i> =1,457	Pierce County <i>n</i> =654
Any Arrests	18.6%	17.2%	21.1%
Average Number of Arrests*	1.8	2.1	1.9
Any Felony Arrests	6.8%	5.8%	7.3%

*Of those arrested.
Source: WSIPP-CJS

Exhibit 11B

Arrests in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Secure Detox Facilities

	Rest of State <i>n</i> =0	North Sound <i>n</i> =363	Pierce County <i>n</i> =362
All Arrests	NA	37.5%	40.3%
Average Number of Arrests*	NA	2.1	2.6
Any Felony Arrests	NA	9.9%	14.9%

*Of those arrested.
Source: WSIPP-CJS

Employment During the Previous Year

Employment and wages of individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities or secure detox are displayed in Exhibits 12A and 12B.

Individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities were less likely to have been employed at any time during the previous year than those detained at secure detox facilities. Of individuals detained at mental health E&T facilities, 23 to 27 percent were employed in the previous year, compared with 36 to 44 percent of those detained at secure detox.

Substantive employment (employed during every quarter) was also more likely among those detained to secure detox (11 to 15 percent) than among those detained to mental health E&T (9 to 11 percent).

Individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities, if they worked, earned more than those detained to secure detox. Average total earnings over the previous year were about \$20,000 for those detained to mental health E&T facilities and about \$15,000 for those in secure detox.

Exhibit 12A

Employment in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Mental Health E&T Facilities

	Rest of State <i>n</i> =3,913	North Sound <i>n</i> =1,457	Pierce County <i>n</i> =654
Employed at Any Time	26.5%	24.5%	22.5%
Employed Most of Year*	11.4%	10.6%	8.9%
Average Earnings**	\$19,515	\$19,938	\$20,580

*Employed in every quarter of the previous year.

**Of those employed.

Source: ESD

Exhibit 12B

Employment in the Year Preceding 72-Hour Detention to Secure Detox Facilities

	Rest of State <i>n</i> =0	North Sound <i>n</i> =363	Pierce County <i>n</i> =362
Employed at Any Time	NA	44.4%	36.2%
Employed Most of Year*	NA	15.4%	10.8%
Average Earnings**	NA	\$16,863	\$14,885

*Employed in every quarter of the previous year.

**Of those employed.

Source: ESD

Conclusion

Both North Sound and Pierce County pilots are using secure detox to serve individuals with acute chemical dependency, who have a history of placing a greater burden on state and local systems. Compared with individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities, those detained to secure detox were more frequent visitors to emergency rooms, used more publicly paid medical services, and were more likely to have been arrested in the previous year. More than half of the individuals detained to secure detox facilities received publicly funded mental health services in the previous year.

Using linked administrative data from multiple state agencies, we are able to produce a profile of individuals detained at mental health E&T and secure detox facilities from March 2006 to June 2007. While there are some differences between the pilot sites (investigation referral sources, for example), the most notable differences are between individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities and those detained to secure detox:

- Previous utilization of DASA chemical dependency services by individuals detained to mental health E&T facilities is very low;
- More than half of the individuals detained to secure detox facilities received publicly funded mental health services in the previous year;
- Individuals detained to secure detox facilities were considerably more likely to be frequent visitors to hospital emergency rooms than their counterparts at mental health E&T facilities;
- Individuals detained to secure detox were twice as likely to have been arrested in the previous year as those detained at mental health E&T facilities; and
- Individuals detained at mental health E&T facilities were less likely to be employed previously; however, those who were employed earned more than their counterparts in secure detox.

These data will help researchers identify a comparison group of individuals who are not served by the pilot sites. The comparison group will be used to estimate the outcomes associated with the pilots, including:

- Client health status
- Subsequent detoxification episodes
- Mortality rates
- Emergency room visits
- Avoidable hospitalizations
- Subsequent crisis investigations
- Subsequent arrests or convictions
- More appropriate referrals and services
- Employment and earnings

Data Sources

The Institute combined data from multiple administrative data systems to identify study subjects and examine their characteristics and history. The following information systems maintained by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the Institute (WSIPP), and the Employment Security Department (ESD) were used for this report:⁸

- MHD-CIS: DSHS Mental Health Division data track investigations, petitions and commitments, referral sources and outcomes, services, providers, diagnoses, global assessment of functioning, and demographics;
- TARGET: DSHS chemical dependency data track demographics, diagnoses, service providers, detoxification episodes, and chemical dependence referrals and treatment;
- WSIPP-CJS: The Institute's Criminal Justice System tracks Washington State criminal convictions and arrests;
- MMIS: DSHS Medicaid Management Information System tracks Medicaid eligibility, diagnoses, procedures, prescriptions, providers, hospitalizations and emergency room admissions, and payments; and
- UI Wage and Hours File: ESD tracks earnings and hours worked (if in covered employment in Washington State).

⁸ For a description of the limitations of using these data sources, see Wei Yen and Jim Mayfield. (2005). *Long-Term Outcomes of Public Mental Health Clients: Additional Baseline Characteristics*. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

Other Reports

December 2007. In addition to this preliminary report, the findings of a process study conducted in 2007 will be published in December 2007. The process study is based on interviews with key informants and a review of enabling legislation, as well as the recommendations of the Cross-System Crisis Response Task Force.⁹ The study will describe implementation, training, administrative, and environmental factors—for example, organizational structure, coordination, partners, and resources—that distinguish the pilot sites and allow policymakers to compare program implementation and legislative intent.

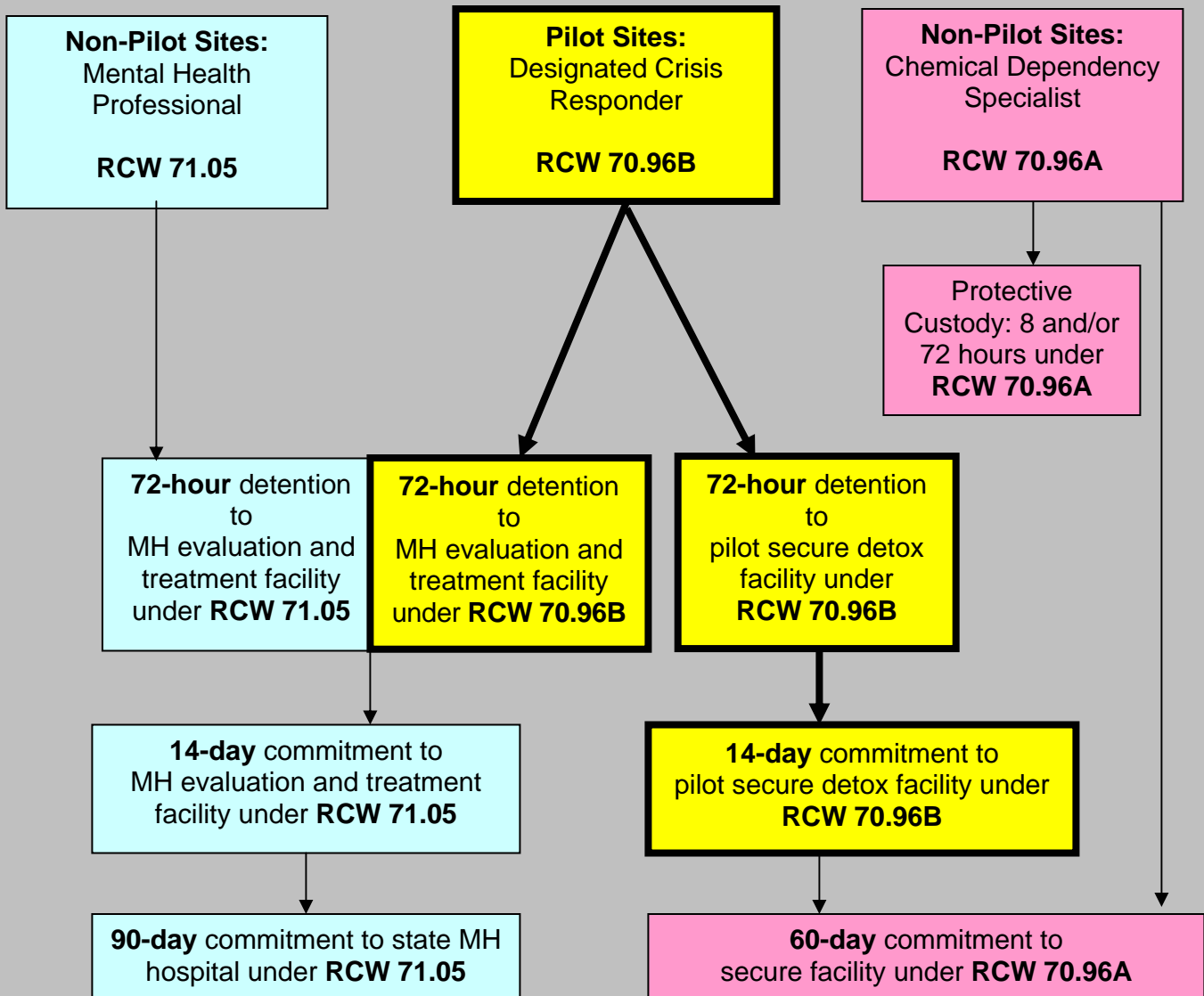
September 2008. A final report on the effectiveness of the integrated crisis response pilots will describe the “bottom-line” net impact of the pilots on the evaluation outcomes listed previously. The costs and benefits (including cost savings) of the pilots will be described in detail and will include an estimate of the long-term total benefits and expected costs if the program is implemented statewide. Considering the relatively short-term follow-up period (one to 24 months), the final report will represent a preliminary estimate of net program impacts.

⁹ *Cross-System Crisis Response Project, Recommendations for Improvements to Crisis Response*. (June 2004). Olympia: Prepared by the Cross-System Crisis Response Task Force at the request of the Association of County Human Services and the Department of Social and Health Services.

**Appendix
Investigation, Detention, and Commitment Flowchart***

This chart describes the investigation, detention, and commitment processes under pilot (yellow), Mental Health (blue), and Chemical Dependency (pink) statutes. Pilots are distinguished from the existing system by:

- Combining mental health (MH) and chemical dependency (CD) crisis responders;
- Creating 72-hour detention and 14-day commitment processes for CD, MH, and co-occurring disorders;
- Operating secure detoxification facilities; and
- Retaining current statutes for long-term commitment.



* Bold lines and yellow boxes represent authority and facilities unique to the pilot sites. The chart does not show cross-program or less-restrictive referrals, and cases do not necessarily result in the longer commitments indicated by arrows.

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