

For Whom Does Jail Diversion Work?

Dan Abreu, Policy Research Associates

BJS/JRSA 2009 National Conference

St. Louis, MO | October 22, 2009



POLICY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

What is “Jail Diversion”?

→ Jail diversion for people with serious mental illness is a strategy by which jail time is reduced or avoided by using community-based treatment as an alternative to incarceration.

Growth of Jail Diversion Programs

→ From the first national survey in 1992, the number of operating jail diversion programs has expanded from 52 to approximately 560 in 2008

Unsequential Intercept Model

Community

Arrest

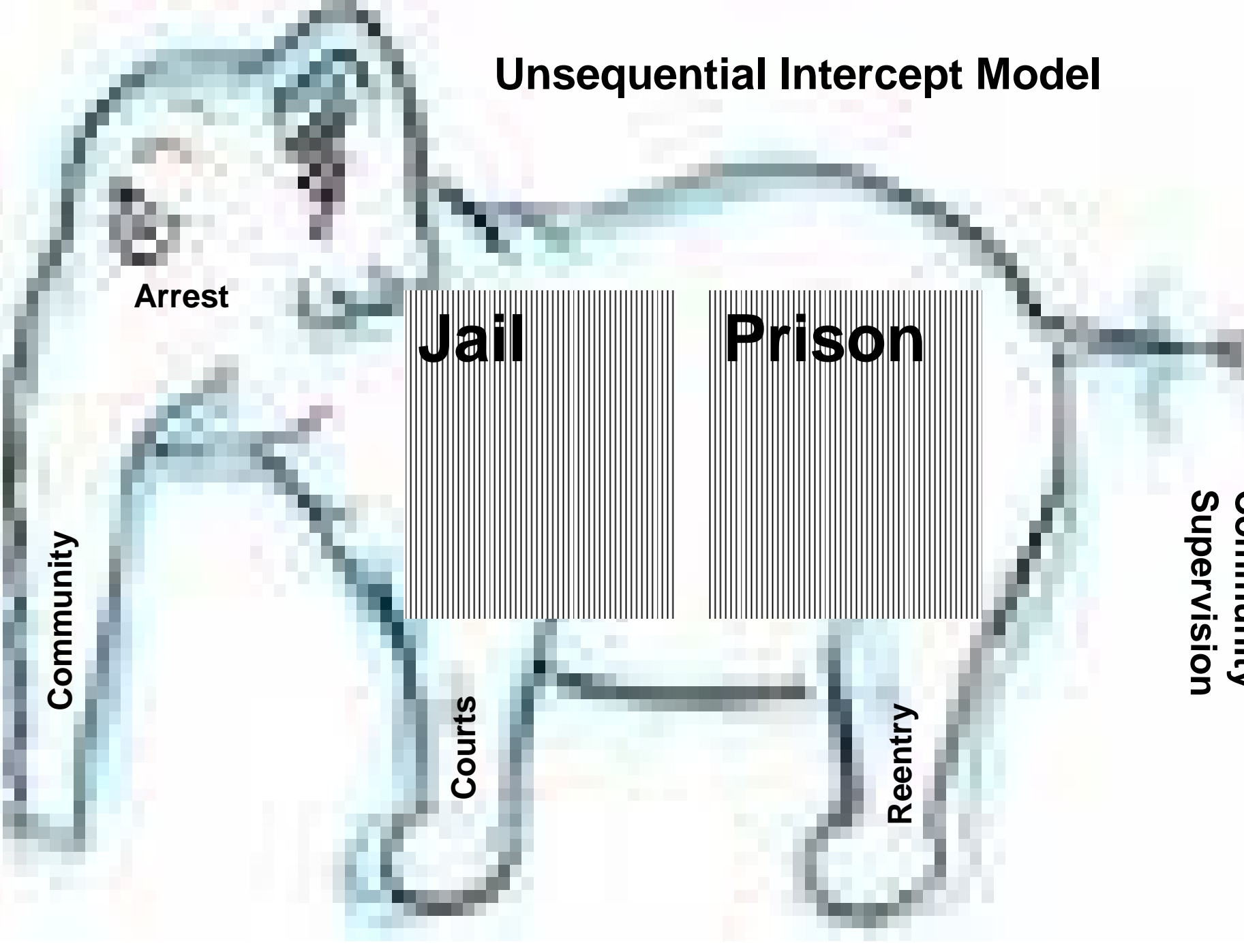
Jail

Prison

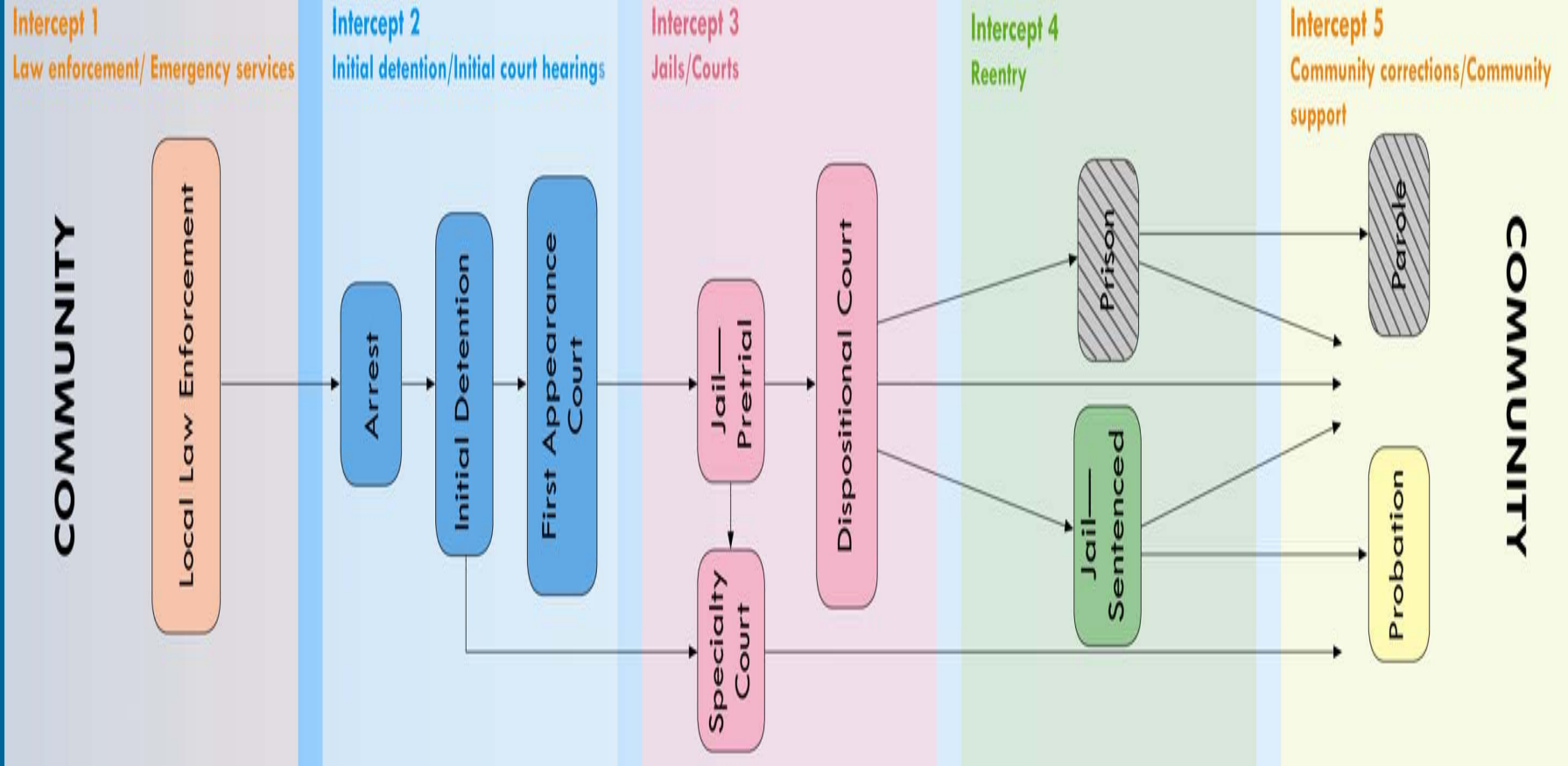
Courts

Reentry

Community
Supervision



Sequential Intercept Model



Basic Models of Jail Diversion

→ Pre-booking

→ Law enforcement or emergency services

→ Person would have been arrested

→ Post-booking

→ Person is arrested and transported to holding or jail

→ Jail, court, or pre-trial services staff “house” the program

→ Diversion may occur up to sentencing

Court-Based Diversion

→ Regular Dockets

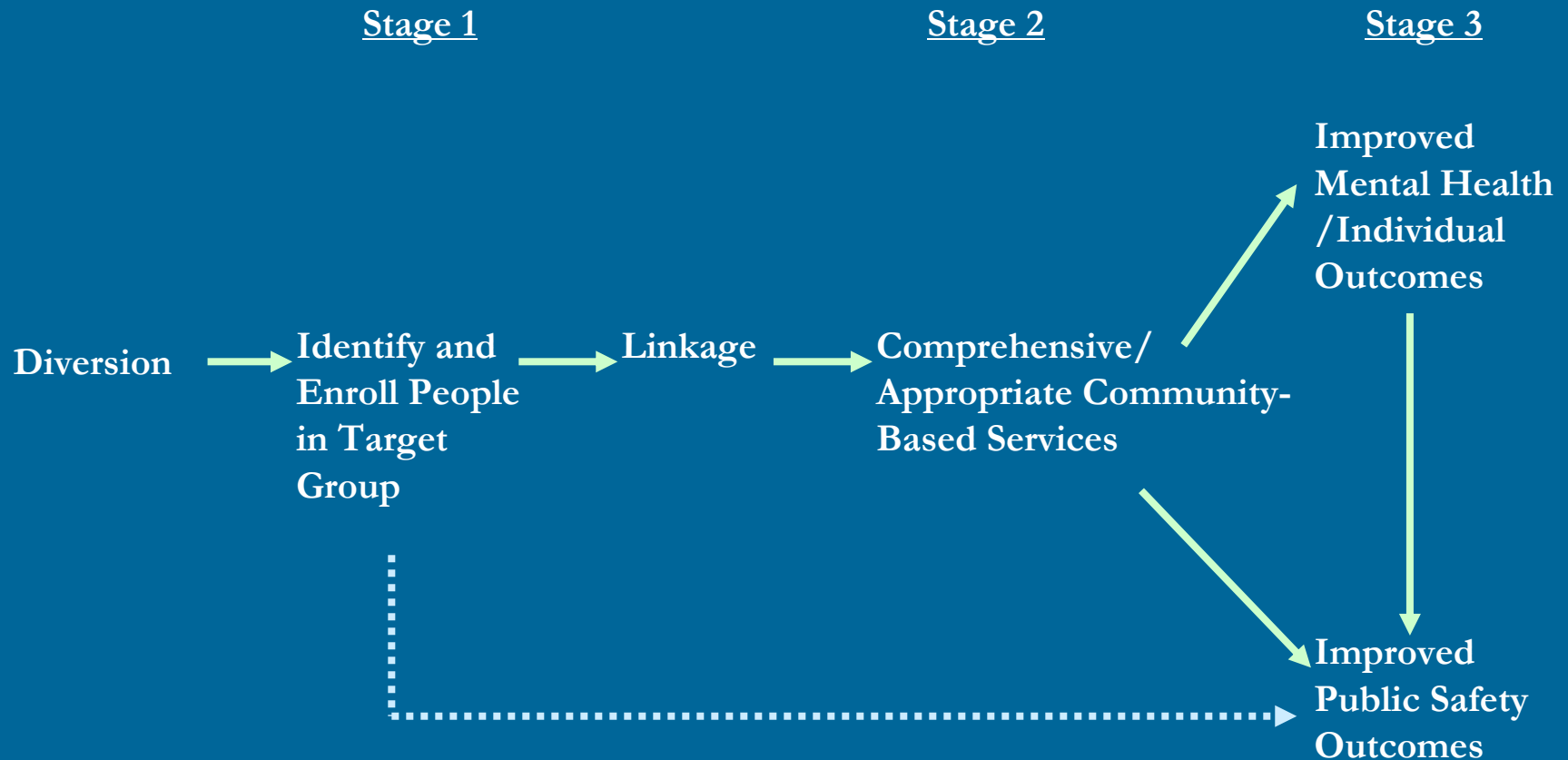
→ Bail (First Appearance)

→ Dispositional

→ Specialty Dockets

→ Dispositional

Logic Model



Current Study

- Post-booking programs awarded funds through 2002 RFA which had adequate in-window and follow-up interview rates
 - 14 of the 20 programs
- No comparison group
- 923 consented to participate in evaluation
- 546 included in current study

Research Questions

- Does participation in a non-specialty court, post-booking jail diversion program reduce participants' contact with the criminal justice system?
- Do any baseline factors predict participants' subsequent contact with the criminal justice system?

Traumatic Experiences (n=546)

	Lifetime		Past 12 Months	
	F	M	F	M
Physical	93.2%	89.8%	67.4%	58.6%
Sexual	77.1%	34.7%	32.1%	27.5%

How Were People Diverted?

→ Condition of Diversion:

Charges Dropped, 2.7% | Condition of Bail, 44.2% | Deferred Prosecution, 9.4% | Condition of Probation, 22.4% | Deferred Sentencing, 8.7% |

Drug & Alcohol Use

		Number Cases Reporting Use	Percent of Cases Reporting Use	Mean Number of Days of Use	Median Number of Days of Use
Any alcohol - Last 30 Days	Baseline	576	59.1%	13.1	8
	6 Months	169	28.4%	5.8	3
	12 Months	105	30.1%	6.6	3
Alcohol to Intoxication - Last 30 Days	Baseline	372	38.2%	12.9	8
	6 Months	76	12.8%	5.2	2
	12 Months	45	12.9%	7.3	4
Illegal drugs - Last 30 Days	Baseline	568	58.3%	17.8	20
	6 Months	101	17.0%	9.5	5
	12 Months	55	15.7%	10.0	5

Daily Living/Role Functioning Scale

	N	Mean Score (Range: 0 to 4) ¹	Mean Difference From Baseline ²
Baseline	977	2.01	--
6 Months	594	1.31	-0.70
12 Months	349	1.17	-0.84

1 – Where 0 = No Difficulty and 4 = Extreme Difficulty

2 – Calculations based on those individuals having both interviews completed

Colorado Symptom Index (CSI)

	N	Mean Score (Range: 0 to 60) ¹	Mean Difference From Baseline ²
Baseline	968	31.5	--
6 Months	590	22.3	-9.2
12 Months	346	21.4	-10.1

1 – Where 0 = Low Symptoms/High Well-Being and 60 = High Symptom/Low Well-Being

2 – Calculations based on those individuals having both interviews completed

Arrests

Any Arrests and Pre-12M to Post-12M Comparison of Mean Arrests and Mean Jail Days

	Pre-12M		Post-12M	
	n	%	n	%
Any Arrests	546	100.0	288	52.7
Arrests (Mean)	2.3		1.1	
Jail Days (Mean)	51.6		34.5	

Baseline Characteristics Within Criminal Justice Outcomes

	No Post-Enrollment Arrest (n=258)		Any Post-Enrollment Arrest (n=288)	
	n	%	n	%
Sex (Female)	143	55.4	136	47.2
Age (Mean)		35.5		35.1
Race (White)	146	56.6	156	54.2
Charge Level (Misdemeanor)	172	66.7	203	70.5
Illegal Drugs Used	139	53.9	173	60.1
Colorado Symptom Index		32.3		32.2
Lifetime Sexual Abuse (Y)	145	56.2	162	56.3
Lifetime Physical Abuse (Y)	236	91.5	263	91.3
Prior Arrests (Mean)**		1.8		2.8
Prior Jail Days (Mean)*		44.4		58.1

Baseline Characteristics Within Criminal Justice Outcomes

	No Post-Enrollment Jail Days (n=274)		Any Post-Enrollment Jail Days (n=272)	
	n	%	n	%
Sex (Female)	153	55.8	126	46.3
Age (Mean)		35.4		35.1
Race (White)	159	58.0	143	52.6
Charge Level (Misdemeanor)	187	68.2	188	69.1
Illegal Drugs Used	148	54.0	164	60.3
Colorado Symptom Index		32.3		32.2
Lifetime Sexual Abuse (Y)	155	56.6	152	55.9
Lifetime Physical Abuse (Y)	250	91.2	249	91.5
Prior Arrests (Mean)**		1.9		2.8
Prior Jail Days (Mean)**		42.6		60.8

Baseline Characteristics Within Criminal Justice Outcomes

Recidivism			
	No Arrest (n=286)	One Arrest (n=148)	Two or More Arrests (n=145)
Sex	54% Female	48% Female	47% Female
Age	36	36	35
Race	55% White	53% White	55% White
Charge Level	70% Misdemeanor	69% Misdemeanor	72% Misdemeanors
Illegal Drug Use (Last 30 Days)	50%	63%	55%
CSI	31.5	32.2	32.2
Lifetime Sexual Abuse	56%	54%	60%
Lifetime Physical Abuse	89%	92%	91%
Prior Arrests	1.75	2.36	3.17
Prior Jail Days	40	56	59

Summary

- Half of the individuals enrolled in a jail diversion program were not arrested or spent any days in jail during Post-12M
- Arrests for the entire sample were reduced by 56.5% & jail days by 33.2% between Pre-12M & Post-12M
- Three-quarters of the sample reduced days in jail from Pre-12M to Post-12M
- Mean Pre-12M arrests and jail days were found to be consistent and significant factors for predicting contact with the justice system.

Contact Information

Dan Abreu, Policy Research Associates

(518) 439-7415 x248 |

dabreu@prainc.com

<https://www.prainc.com>



POLICY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES