

WATCh

Warm Springs Addictions Treatment and Change

Prepared by the Montana Department of Corrections

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Warm Springs



Glendive

The Warm Springs Addictions Treatment and Change (WATCh) program in Warm Springs and Glendive is the Department of Corrections' residential felony DUI treatment program.

WATCh is a six-month, intensive, cognitive behavioral based modified therapeutic community, which assists offenders ("family members") to develop those skills necessary to create pro-social change, reduce anti-social thinking, criminal behavior patterns and the negative effects of chemical addictions while integrating more fully into society.

Goals

The WATCh program has as one of its primary goals the operation of a safe, humane program that provides a place of custody and programs and services that offer family members opportunities for positive change. Specific goals act as benchmarks for the measurement of the services provided:

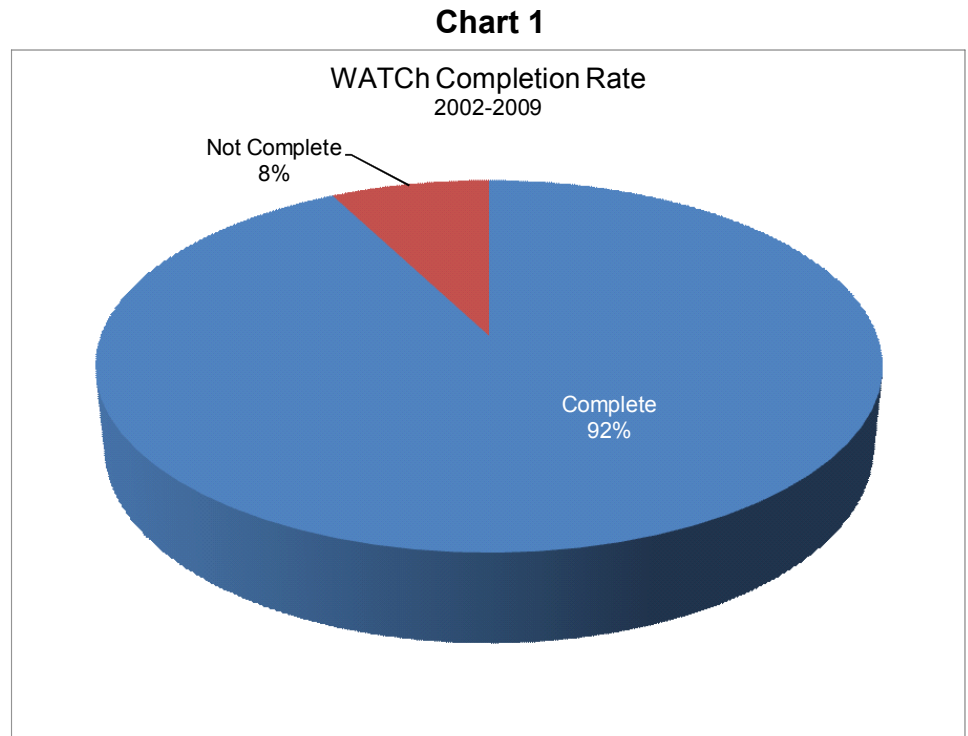
- To increase the offenders' level of knowledge of chemical dependency and the consequences of drinking and driving
- To provide offenders with treatment and associated services necessary to create pro-social change, reduce anti-social thinking, criminal behavior patterns and the negative effects of chemical dependency particularly as it relates to drinking and driving
- To promote responsibility and accountability of offenders by providing an experiential pro-social community environment
- To decrease the incidences of further DUI and other drug-related convictions

Description

Operated by Community Counseling and Correctional Services Inc. under contract with the department, the program serves offenders sentenced under 61-8-731 MCA. That law allows a judge to sentence a person convicted a fourth or subsequent time of drunken driving to the Department of Corrections for placement in an appropriate correctional facility or program for a term of 13 months. The law also states that a court “shall order that if the person successfully completes a residential alcohol treatment program operated or approved by the Department of Corrections, the remainder of the 13-month sentence must be served on probation.” Judges cannot sentence someone directly to WATCh. Judges can recommend placement there and the department tries to comply.

WATCh West, located in Warm Springs, is a 115-bed facility for male offenders. It opened in February 2002. WATCh East, located at Glendive in the former Eastmont facility, is a 50-bed program for both females and males. It opened in February 2005.

Of the 2,399 men and women admitted to the program since it began, 2,237 have been discharged. Ninety-two percent of those (2,066) completed the treatment program before they left (Chart 1). Another 171 did not for a variety of reasons, including disciplinary action, voluntary resignation, medical reasons or transfer to the other WATCh facility. Those who quit voluntarily or faced discipline because of behavior problems returned to prison.



Generally, all offenders convicted of a fourth felony DUI are accepted. However, several exclusions may apply, such as multiple convictions requiring a higher supervision level, medical conditions impacting an offender's ability to participate, and cognitive impairments. A screening committee determines acceptance. The Warm Springs committee consists of WATCh staff members, an institutional probation and parole officer, an Anaconda/Deer Lodge County law enforcement representative, a representative of Montana State Hospital, and others as the contractor and department deem appropriate. The Glendive committee consists of a department employee, the program administrator or designee appointed by the contractor, a law enforcement officer appointed by the Dawson county sheriff and the Glendive police department, a Glendive resident appointed by the city council, and a member of the public who lives in the subdivisions adjacent to the facility and is appointed by the city council.

The average stay in the WATCh program is six months. The daily cost for an offender at WATCh West is \$87.92 and the daily cost at WATCh East is \$110.53. The cost of an average stay at WATCh West is \$15,826 and the cost at WATCh East is \$19,895.

Programming at WATCh includes, but is not limited to chemical dependency programming, cognitive principles and restructuring, criminal thinking errors, family relationships and parenting, anger management, life skills and career development, victim issues and restorative justice, grief groups, men's issues, women's art workshops, co-dependency, negligent vehicular homicide group, Toastmasters, GED classes, community speakers bureau, and smudging and sweats.

Components

1. Security is the top priority

Although WATCh is ostensibly a treatment program, it is still a correctional program and those individuals receiving treatment at the facility are still offenders. Therefore, public safety is of paramount concern for the program. CCCS has implemented the following security control features:

- 24-hour, 7-day a week security staff on-site
- Regular and random security searches of offenders and their living areas as well as common and treatment spaces
- Regular and random breathalyzer and urinalysis screening and testing
- Perimeter fencing
- 21 security cameras of the interior and exterior areas. Cameras supplement, not supplant, security personnel.

2. Programming intensity and daily schedule

Family members in the WATCh program receive extensive and varied programming seven days a week. Family members are also responsible to complete individual assignments, participate in recreational and religious opportunities, complete therapeutic tasks and participate in other projects as determined by their respective treatment team and family. The daily schedule provides for structured activities that are organized, consistent and routine, while still allowing individuals to have free time.

3. Program phases

The WATCh program includes three distinct phases. Each phase has specific requirements, as well as individual responsibilities and privileges. Family members may not progress through the phases without the endorsement of their respective treatment team.

Success

One measure of the effectiveness of any correctional program is monitoring what happens to offenders once they leave. WATCh program graduates consistently have maintained a compliance rate far above the 50 percent rate envisioned when the program was launched. After an initially high rate based on the relatively small number of graduates in 2003, the average compliancy rate has been 72.3 percent (Chart 2).

Chart 2

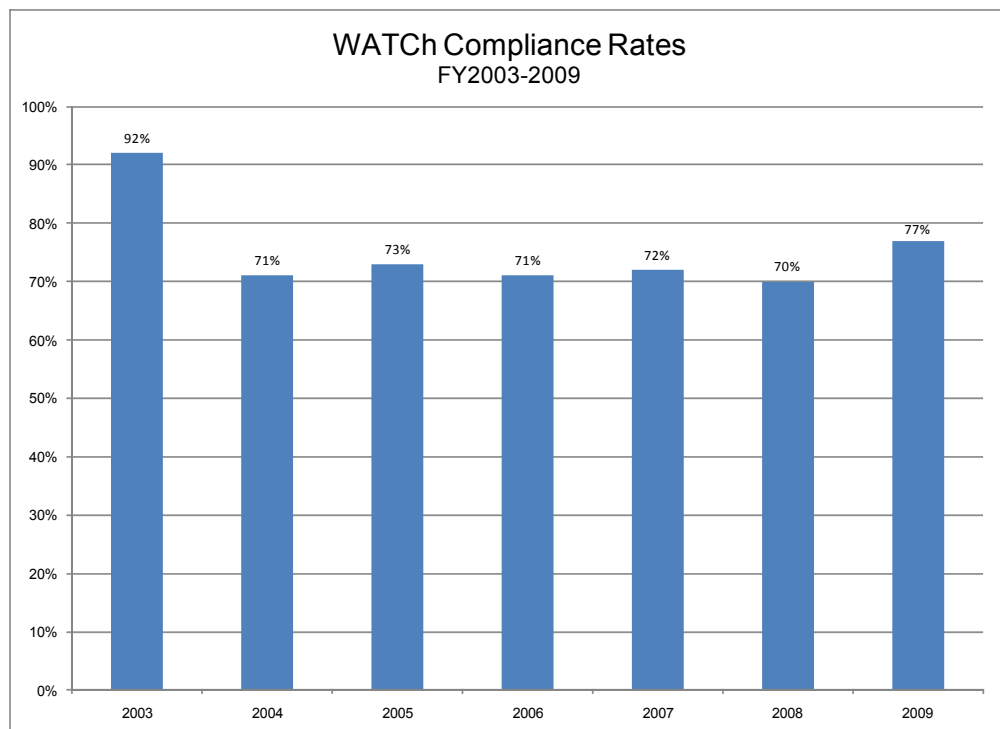
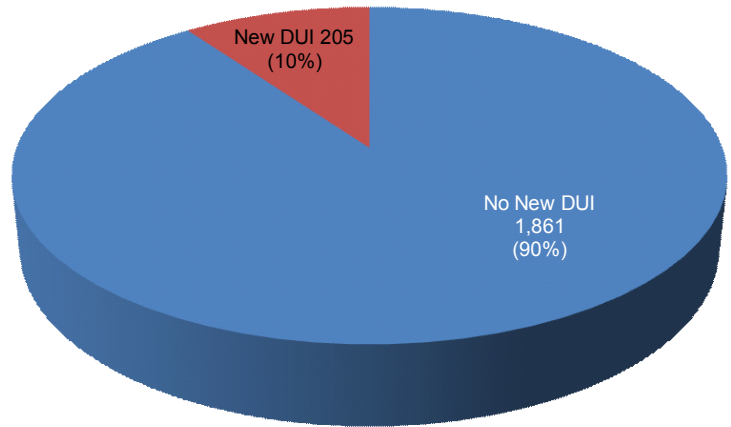


Chart 3

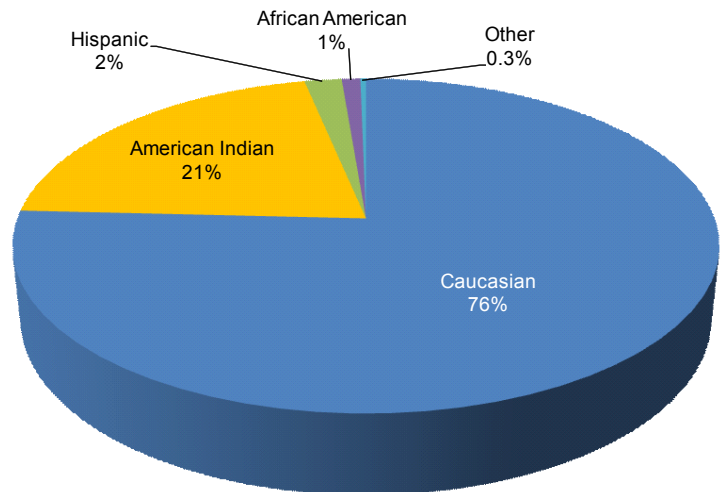
Percentage of WATCh Graduates Getting a New DUI
2002-2009



For an alcohol treatment program such as WATCh, a key measure of success is how often graduates get another DUI. Of the 2,066 offenders graduating from the program, only 205 (10 percent) have been arrested and/or convicted of another instance of drunken driving (Chart 3).

Chart 4

WATCh Admissions by Ethnicity
FY2002-2009



WATCh has an American Indian population that is disproportionately large compared to the general population. While about 6.5 percent of Montana's total residents are American Indian, about 21 percent of admissions to the WATCh program are Indians. (Chart 4)

Table 1

Age at admission	44.1
BAC at arrest	0.217
Number of DUIs	5.6
Number of misdemeanors	18.7
Number of felonies	2.6
Number of prior outpatient treatments	0.86
Number of prior inpatient treatments	1.3
Age of first alcohol use	13.8
Education grade level	11.9
Number of dependents	1.5
Admissions with psychiatric conditions	21.50%

Table 1 paints a picture of the average WATCh participant. The belief that those convicted of felony DUI tend to be relatively young drivers with modest blood-alcohol levels is wrong. The average age of those admitted to the WATCh program is 44 years and the average alcohol content of their blood when arrested was almost 0.22, or nearly three times the legal limit of .08.

Table 2

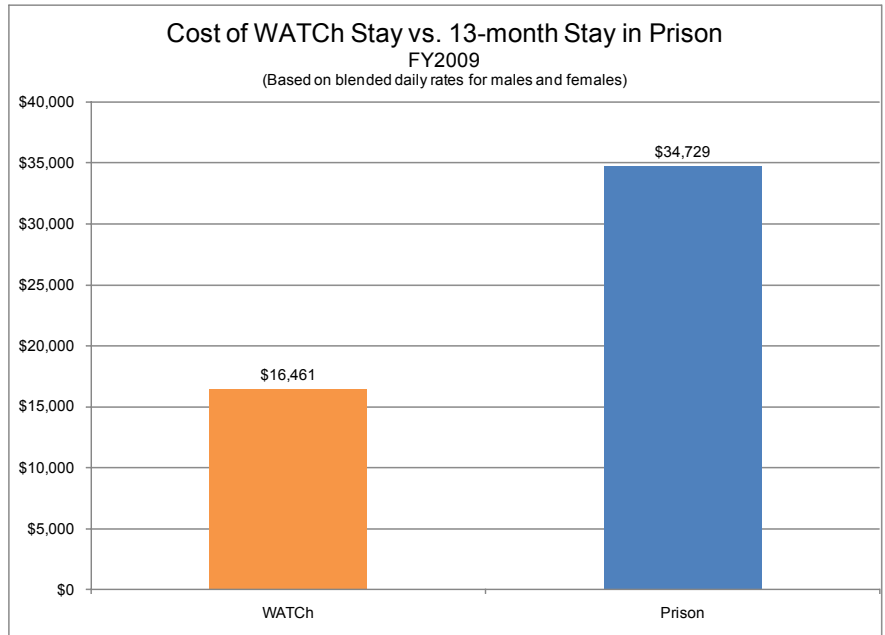
County	Admissions	Population
Yellowstone	297	142,348
Missoula	206	107,320
Gallatin	153	89,824
Flathead	147	88,473
Cascade	162	82,026
Lewis & Clark	136	60,925
Ravalli	71	40,664
Silver Bow	120	32,803
Lake	99	28,690
Lincoln	43	18,971
Hill	67	16,454
Park	25	16,189
Glacier	23	13,297
Big Horn	24	12,841
Jefferson	14	11,255
Fergus	17	11,195
Custer	4	11,149
Sanders	12	11,034
Roosevelt	1	10,089
Carbon	10	9,657
Richland	7	9,270
Rosebud	25	9,190
Beaverhead	19	8,903
Deer Lodge	27	8,843
Stillwater	8	8,687
Dawson	20	8,490
McCone	0	7,509
Powell	29	7,041
Valley	4	6,892
Blaine	7	6,491
Teton	10	5,992
Pondera	14	5,852
Chouteau	3	5,225
Toole	6	5,141
Broadwater	10	4,704
Musselshell	2	4,498
Phillips	0	3,904
Mineral	16	3,862
Sweet Grass	2	3,790
Sheridan	4	3,283
Granite	15	2,821
Fallon	0	2,716
Judith	2	2,014
Wheatland	1	2,010
Meagher	2	1,868
Liberty	0	1,725
Powder River	1	1,694
Madison	6	1,676
Daniels	0	1,643
Carter	0	1,234
Garfield	2	1,184
Golden Valley	1	1,081
Prairie	0	1,064
Wibaux	0	866
Treasure	3	637
Petroleum	1	436

Where WATCH participants come from is largely driven by population, with the greatest numbers coming from those counties with the largest number of residents. Table 2 shows the originating counties of WATCH admissions, listed in descending order of mid-2008 population estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Costs

A six-month stay at WATCH is slightly less than half the cost of spending the entire 13-month sentence in prison. (Chart 5)

Chart 5



An average stay in prison for a male offender is six times more expensive than treatment in the WATCH West program. The average stay in prison for a female offender is three times more expensive than WATCH East. (Chart 6)

Chart 6

