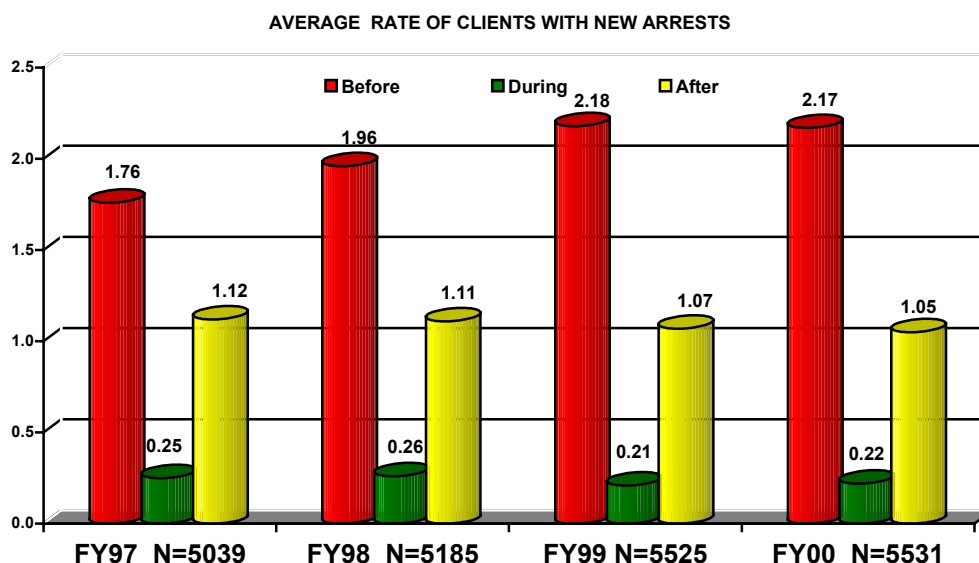


Drug Arrests Reduced During and After Substance Abuse Treatment

This brief report is based on work completed by Hung Nguyen of the Dads Research Institute and presented at the May 2003 Innovative Partnership meeting. Using four years worth of data from CJIC matched to clients in DADS treatment, patterns of arrest 1 year prior to treatment, during treatment and one year after treatment could be identified. While there has been a slight increase in the average rate of new arrest prior to treatment over the last four years this number is significantly reduced after treatment. More significant is the large decline in arrest observed during treatment, however, the time period is much smaller (average length of stay 102 days).

Similar results are seen for public assistance usage as well as mental and physical health treatment.



Conclusions

In 2000, Thomas McLellan presented at a National Institute on Drug Abuse sponsored meeting titled *Blending Clinical Practice and Research: Forging Partnerships to Enhance Drug Addiction Treatment* and reiterated that substance abuse be treated as a chronic illness that requires constant care and management. Like diabetes, as long as the client is receiving the appropriate treatment the illness remains in control. However, once treatment stops the negative symptoms begin to emerge. The data presented by Hung Nguyen supports that hypothesis, as during the treatment period the lowest levels of negative outcomes are observed. Substance abuse treatment, which serves to mirror the management of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, would extend the time period in which there is a reduction of negative outcomes. The client's prognosis for long term recovery would be improved, as the client would have fewer negative outcomes to contend with and could more fully concentrate on recovery.