

Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare

Transition Services

presented by

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“A major contribution to recidivism rates throughout the United states is lack of resources or connection to resources that aid prisoners’ prosocial integration into the community.”

Washington State University

What is Driving Jail Populations in Okanogan County, Washington?

Washington Rural Jails Network. February 2022



“People cycling in and out of jail are more likely to experience homelessness, substance use, lack of stable income, and mental and physical problems than the general population.”

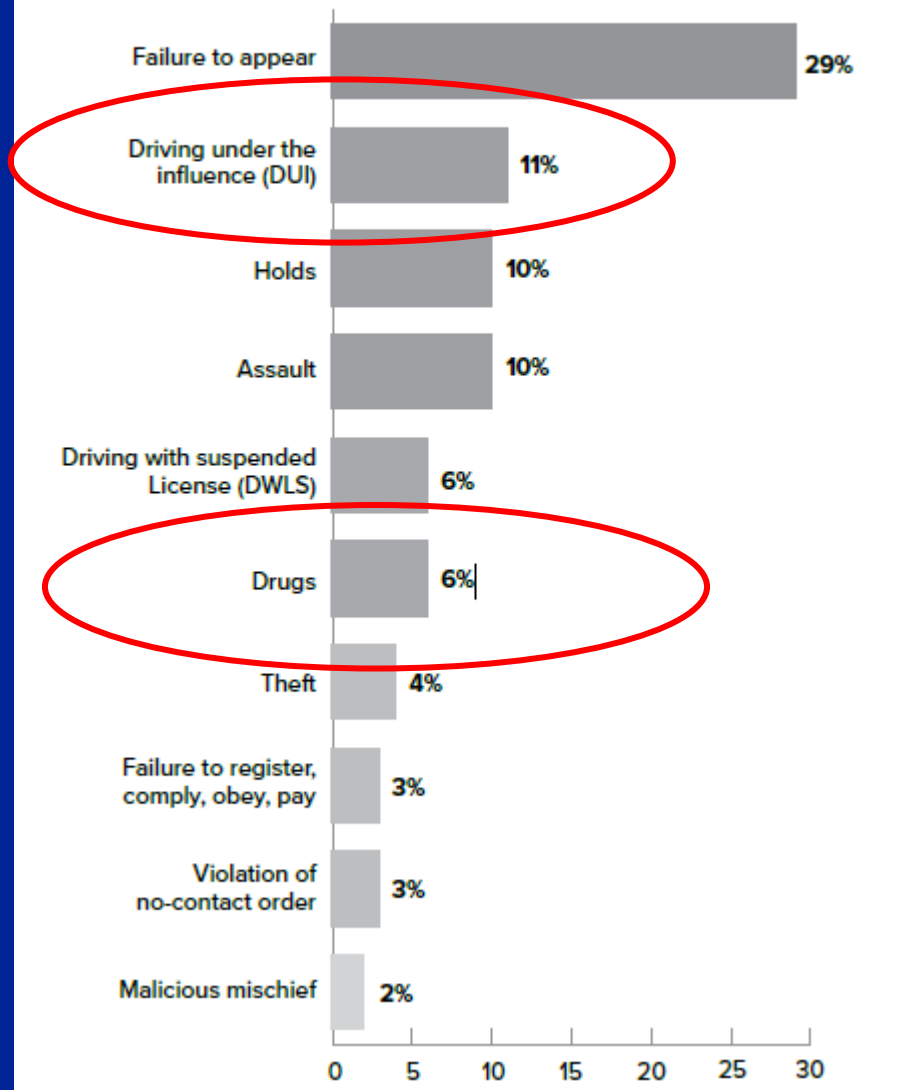
Washington State University

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Figure 3. Percent of pretrial jail bookings by primary charge



While this report from the WSU study on jail populations in Okanogan County reflects 17 percent of primary jail charges were directly related to substance misuse, it's not unusual for other charges, or secondary charges to have related untreated behavioral health conditions that led to the charges.

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“The leading reason people went to jail pretrial (38 percent) was for failure to navigate the local criminal legal system (such as failure to appear in court), rather than charges against people or property.”

“I got, I think, maybe two FTAs [Failure to Appear]. And that was my fault thinking it was on a different day or different time or something. So, yeah, I have been in trouble for that.”

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What are transition services and why are they needed?

- The goal of Transition Services is to reduce the likelihood of re-incarceration, and develop living skills and positive social connections that support independence.
- Individuals exiting incarceration face barriers to successful transition back into the community.
- Significant barriers are “mental/physical health, employment, housing, skill development, mentorship, and social networks.”*
- Transition services provide pre- and post-release support to overcome these barriers.

**Successful Reentry: A Community-Level Analysis. Harvard.edu*

OBHC's Transition Services Program:

- Engages with incarcerated individuals who have behavioral health conditions up to 90 days before release to identify their behavioral health needs and other barriers to successful re-integration into the community.
- Helps them make and implement plans for ensuring these needs are met.
- Enhances development of life skills and social supports conducive to independence.
- Provides continuing case management and support until 90 days post-release.

What kinds of support are provided?

- Intensive, individual case management
- Assistance with securing documentation – birth records, drivers licenses, and other vital records.
- Help applying for Medicaid or health insurance
- Mental Health evaluation, screening & treatment
- Substance Use Disorder assessment, screening, treatment
- Recovery support

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“I had all of these warrants everywhere. I could never get my license [reinstated] so therefore I would never have insurance. And, you know, I would be driving to work and get pulled over and get a no insurance ticket and no license ticket and maybe lose my car. It just—it was a lot of traffic [infractions.]”

...kinds of support (*continued*)

- Coordination of access to primary health care, including dental
- Facilitating access to programs filling basic needs such as food, clothing, hygiene, and housing
- Post-release employment search support
- Aid in accessing and applying for education and job-training programs

Who is eligible for Transition Services?

- Incarcerated individuals who:
 - Have mental health and/or substance use conditions.
 - Are age 18+.
 - Are within 90 days of release.
 - Meet income requirements.
- Participation is voluntary and available at the request of the individual.
- Services are free to eligible individuals.

Program partners

- Okanogan County Court
- Okanogan County Jail
- OBHC Behavioral HealthCare providers
- Other behavioral health/recovery providers
- Primary health providers
- State and local social services providers
- Educational entities



OBHC's Transition Services program is funded by:

- Contract with Carelon Healthcare Services (formerly Beacon Health)

Questions?

