

NSW Statewide Community & Court Liaison Service

NGOs Mental Health and the Community:
Turning the Tide

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What is Diversion?

- *Court Diversion*: Placing mental health teams in Magistrates' Courts
- *Police Diversion*: NSW Mental Health Act (1990), Section 24 – transfer by police for assessment at local admission facility
- *Prison Diversion*: Identification & screening of people with mental illness in the correctional setting

What is Court Diversion

- The policy of sending the mentally ill or disordered charged with summary offences to community based services for treatment, as an alternative to punitive disposals
- Health and judicial systems working together

Court Liaison Versus Diversion

- *Court Liaison*: an umbrella term for the linking of consumers between Area Health, courts, and correctional based mental health services
- *Court Diversion*: a key component of work undertaken by the court based mental health professional

Court Diversion Schemes in NSW

METROPOLITAN

- Central Sydney
- Parramatta
- Burwood
- Liverpool/Fairfield
- Sutherland
- Campbelltown

RURAL/REGIONAL

- Gosford
- Wyong
- Lismore
- Tamworth
- Dubbo
- Moree

NOTE...

Court diversion schemes are also provided by 3 local Area Health Services

Justification for NSW Statewide Community & Court Liaison Service

- Rising psychiatric morbidity in NSW correctional centres
- Implementation of the NSW Mental Health (Criminal Procedures) Act 1990
- Key issue for consumer and carer advocacy groups

Evidence Based Clinical Framework

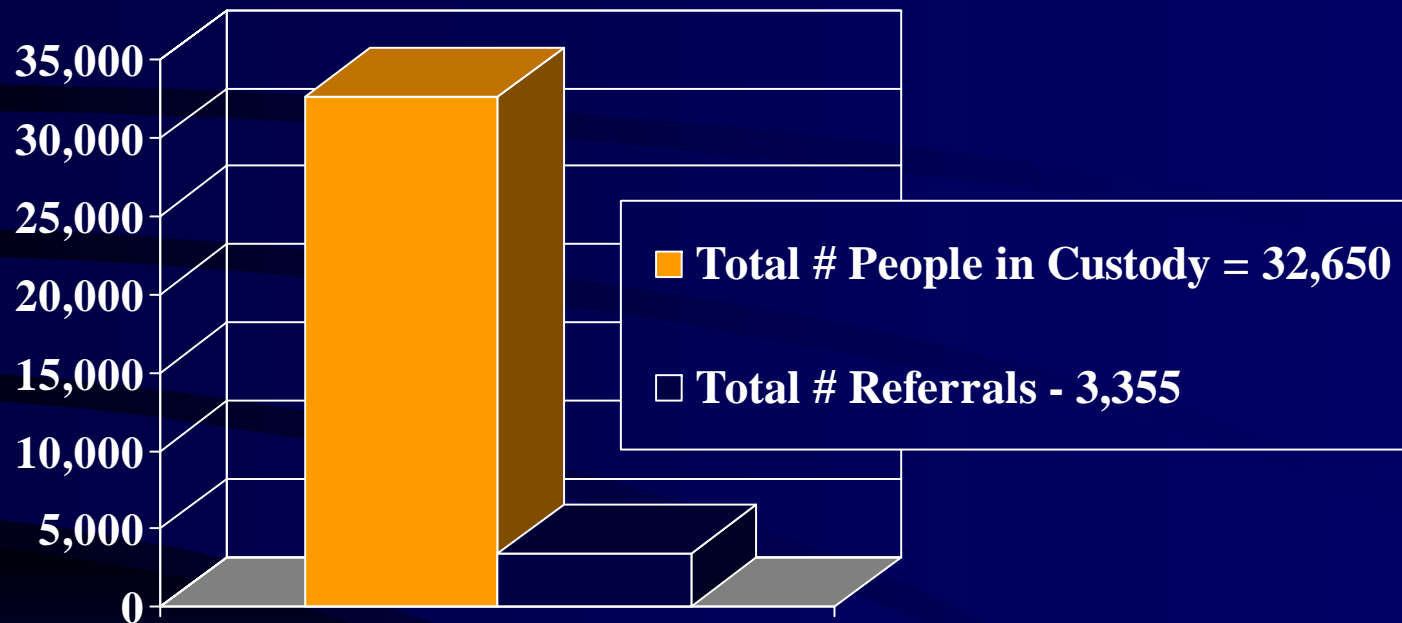
1. Identification & screening
2. Mental health assessment
3. Negotiations with court personnel
4. Linking consumers to treatment and care

Output & Outcomes

- Has the NSW Statewide Community & Court Liaison Service been effective? Key quality indicators include:
 - Appropriate referral rates
 - Identification of morbidity
 - Diversion to hospitals and community health centres
 - Diversion and special population groups
 - Health & judicial outcomes
 - Complaints / other feedback
 - # publications and presentations

Appropriate Referral Rates

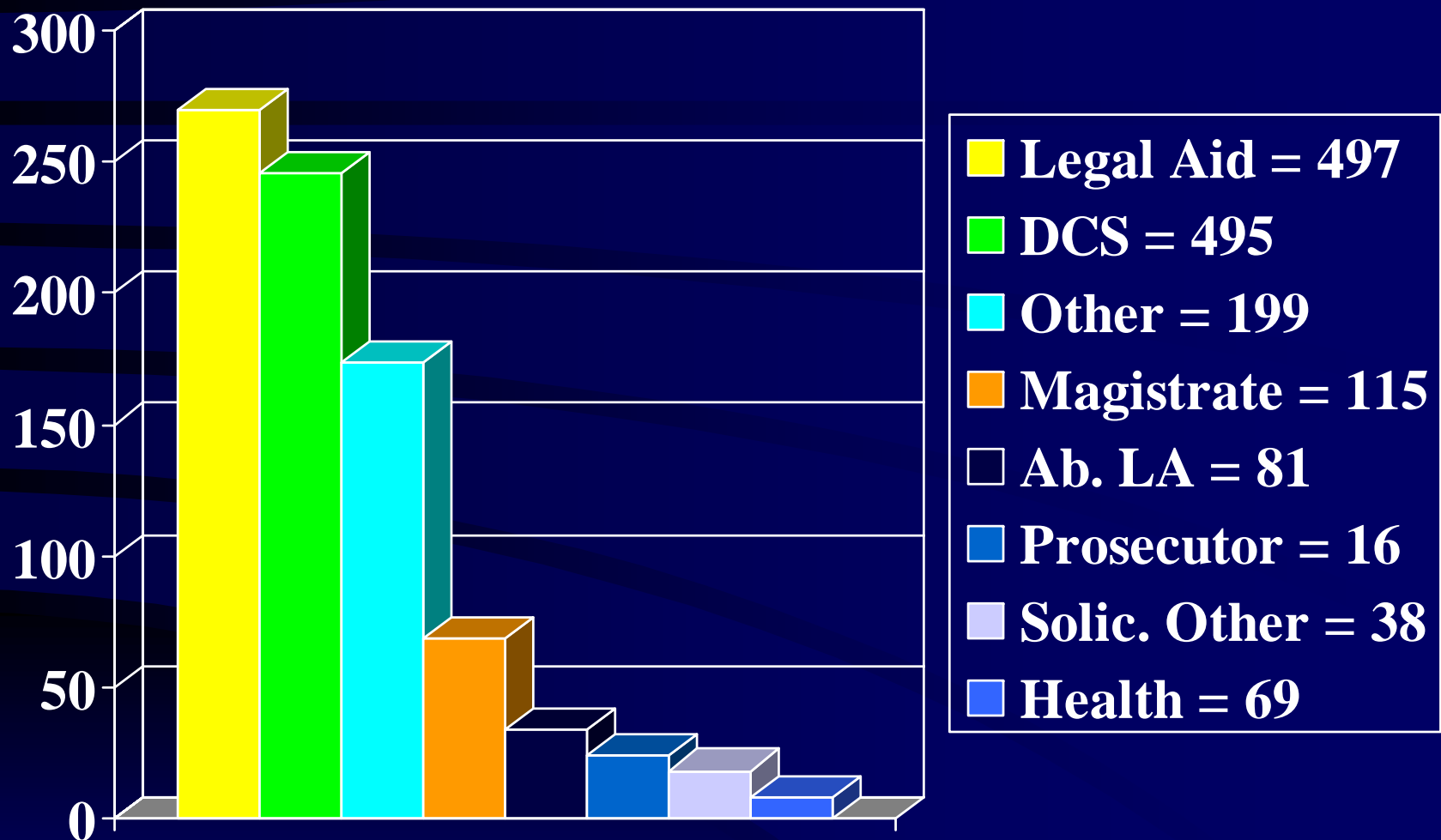
April 2002 – March 2004



NOTE...

10.3% of all people in custody were referred for CLS assessment

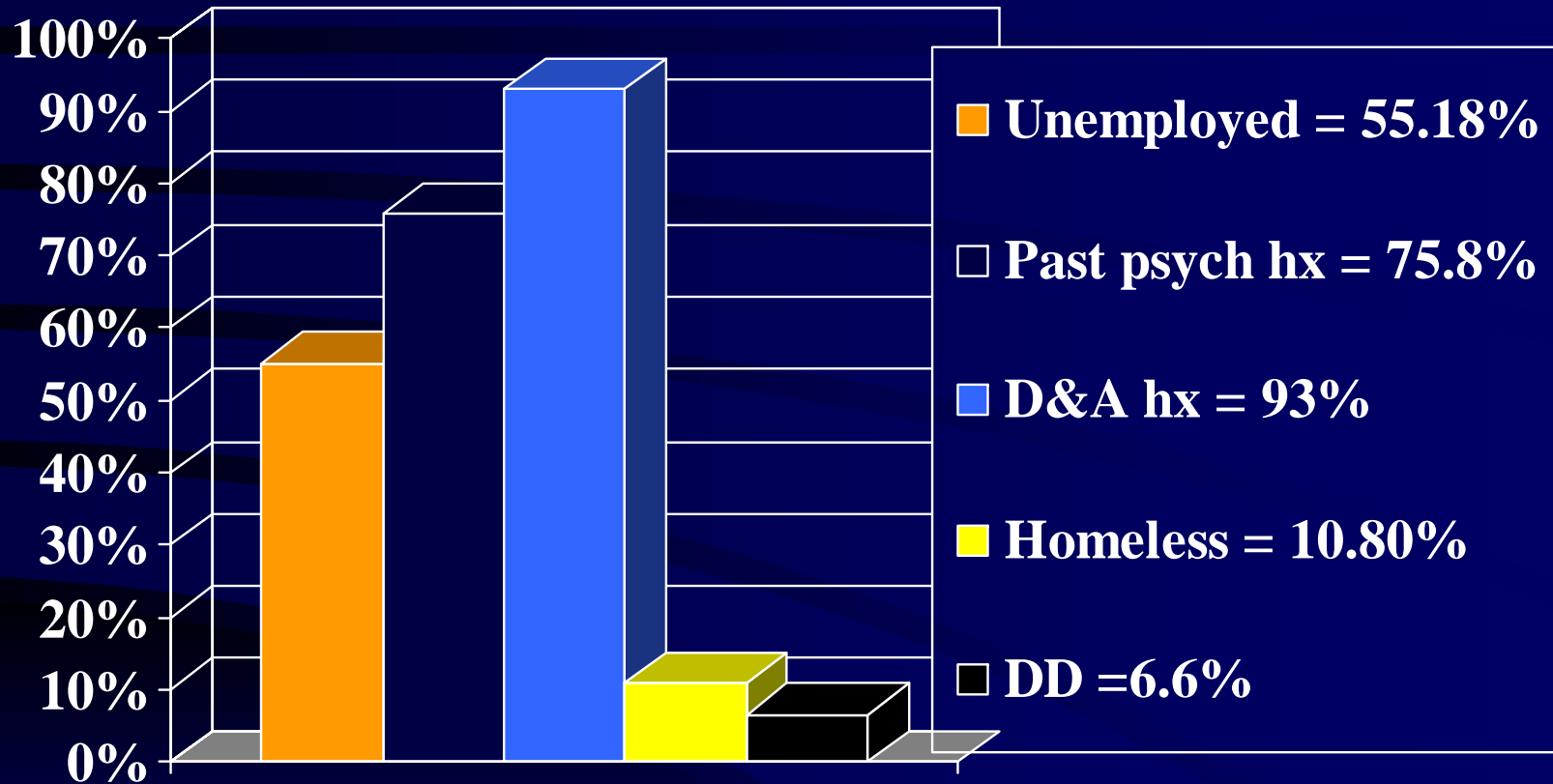
Source of Referral



Cross Sectional Survey

February – March 2004

Socioeconomic Profile

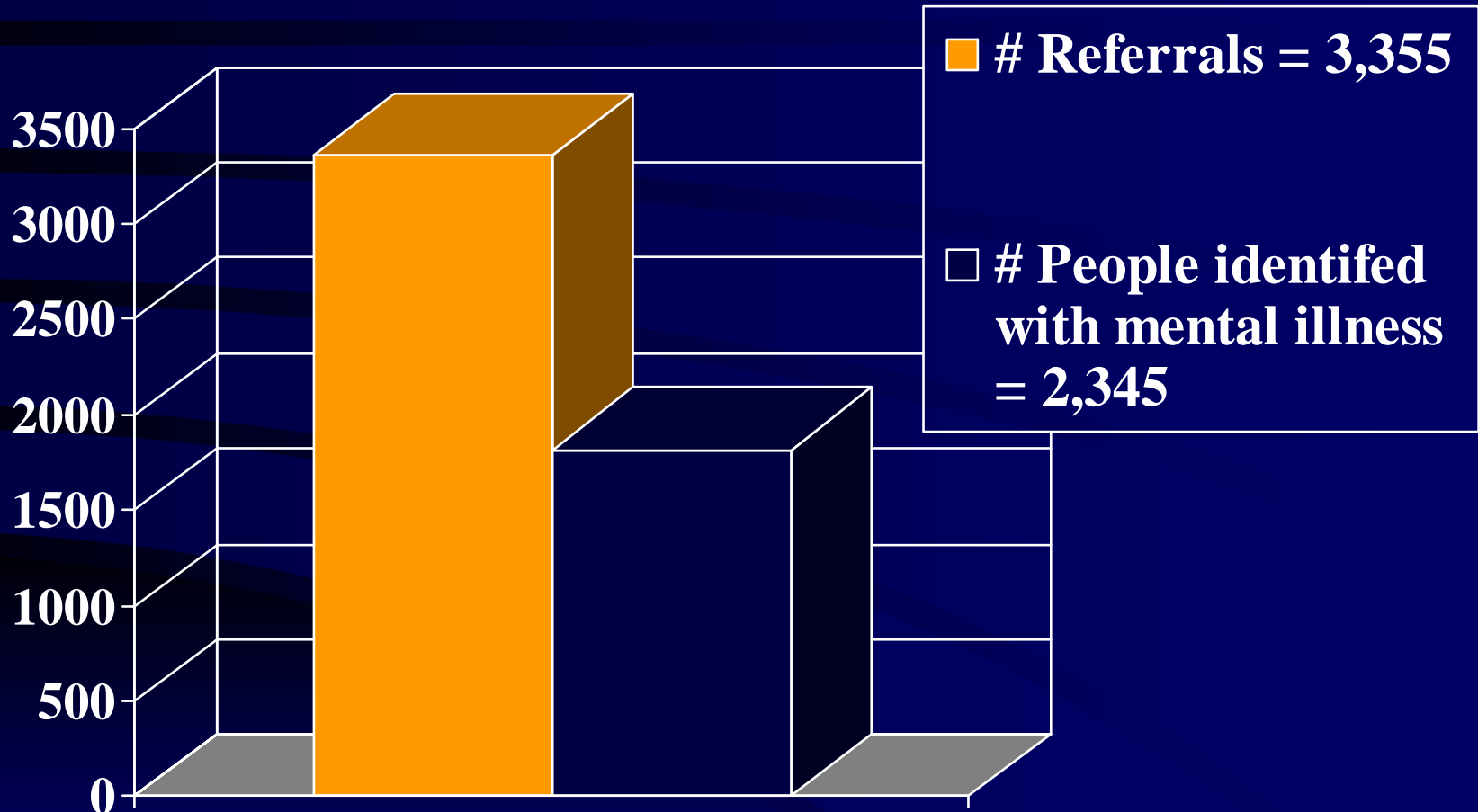


Cross Sectional Survey

February – March 2004

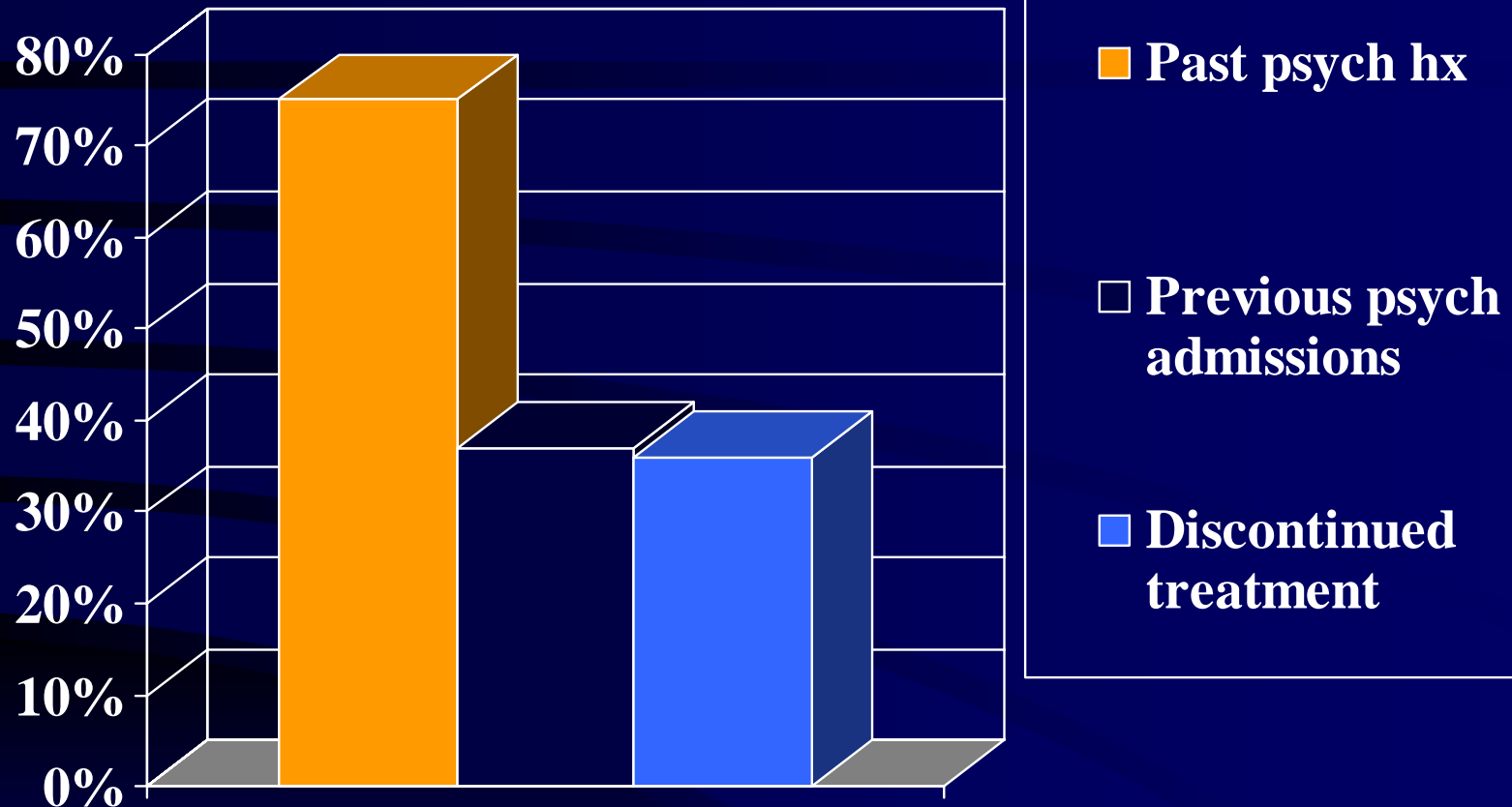
Identifying Mental Illness or Disorder

April 2002 – March 2004



70% of people referred for assessment had an identifiable mental illness or disorder

Identifying Mental Illness or Disorder

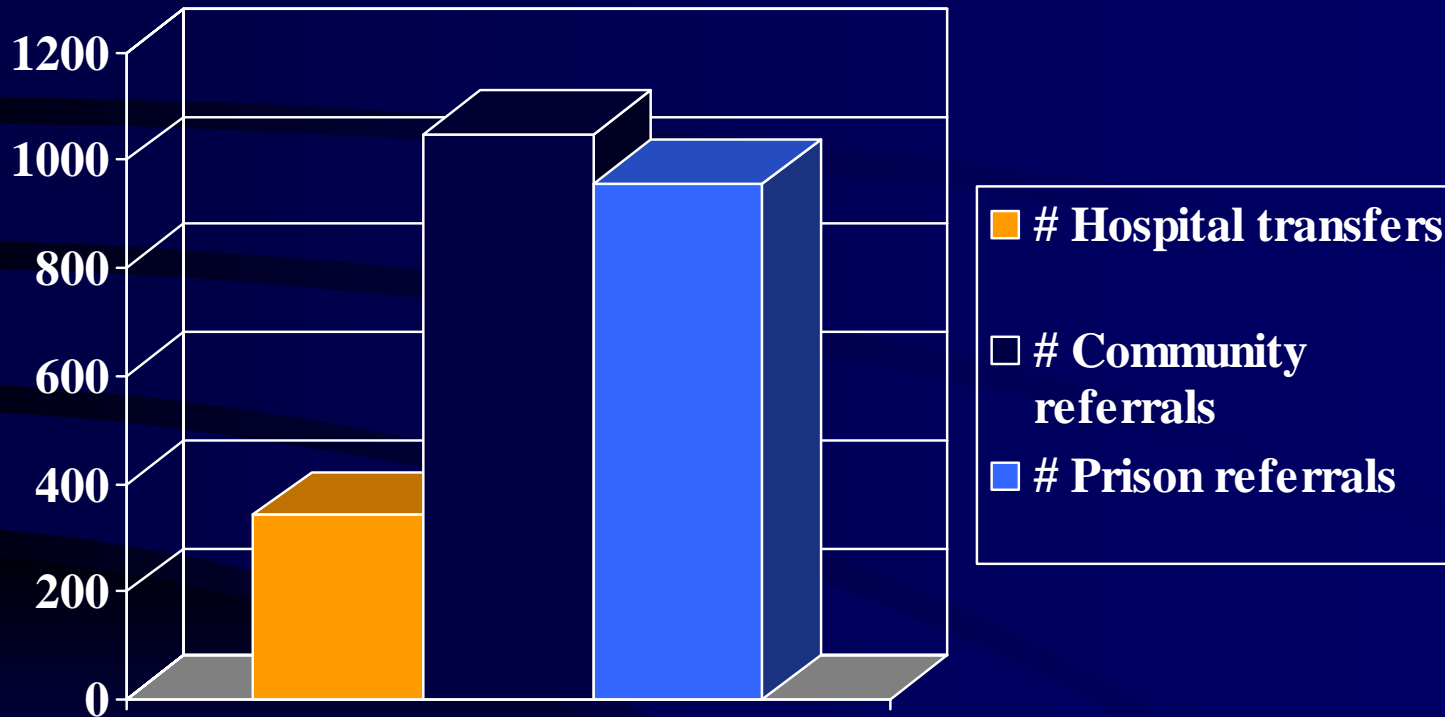


Cross Sectional Survey

February – March 2004

Court Outcomes

April 2002 – March 2004



59% were diverted to community based mental health services (inpatient or ambulatory)

Rural & Regional Areas

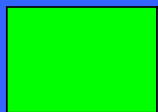
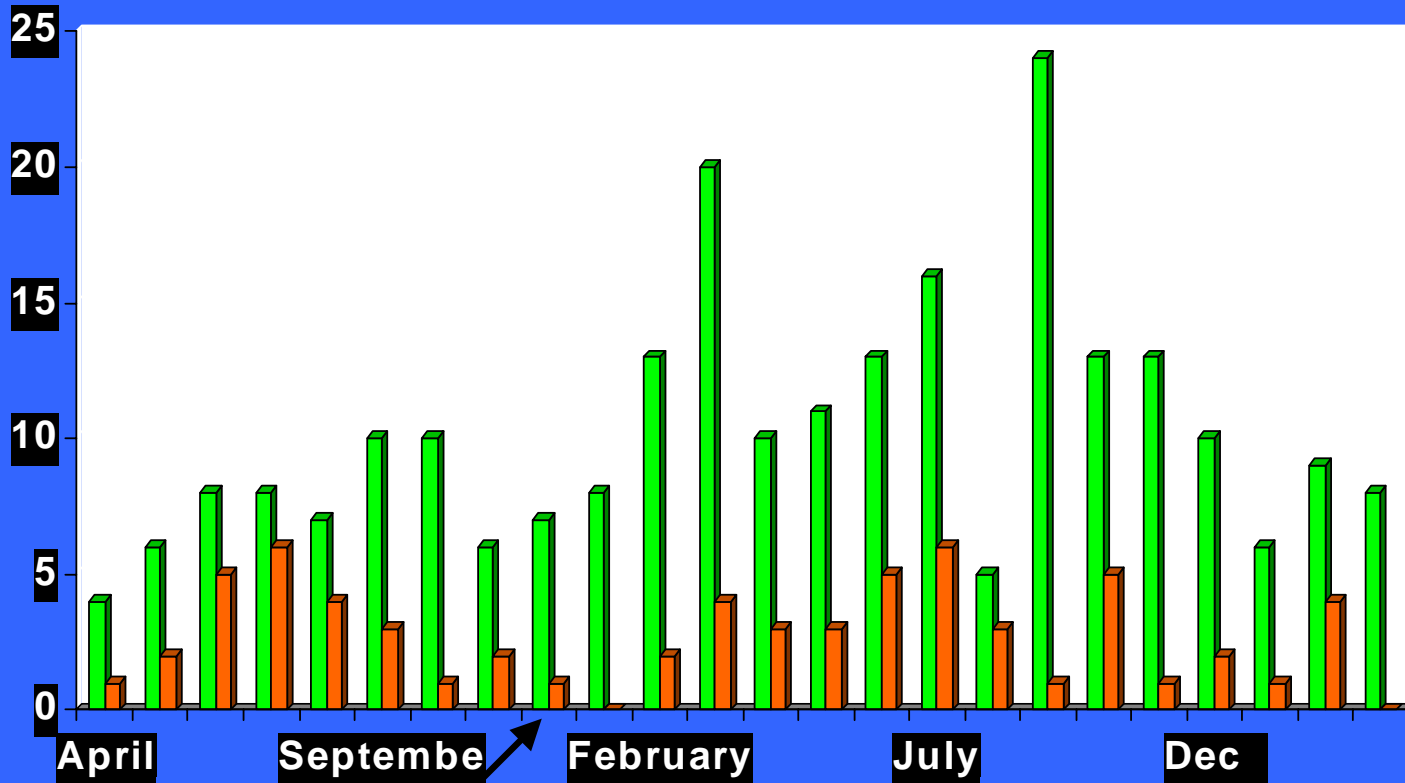
April 2002 – October 2003



NOTE...

45% of people accessing court liaison services live in rural or regional Areas

S33 Applications 2002/04: Outcomes



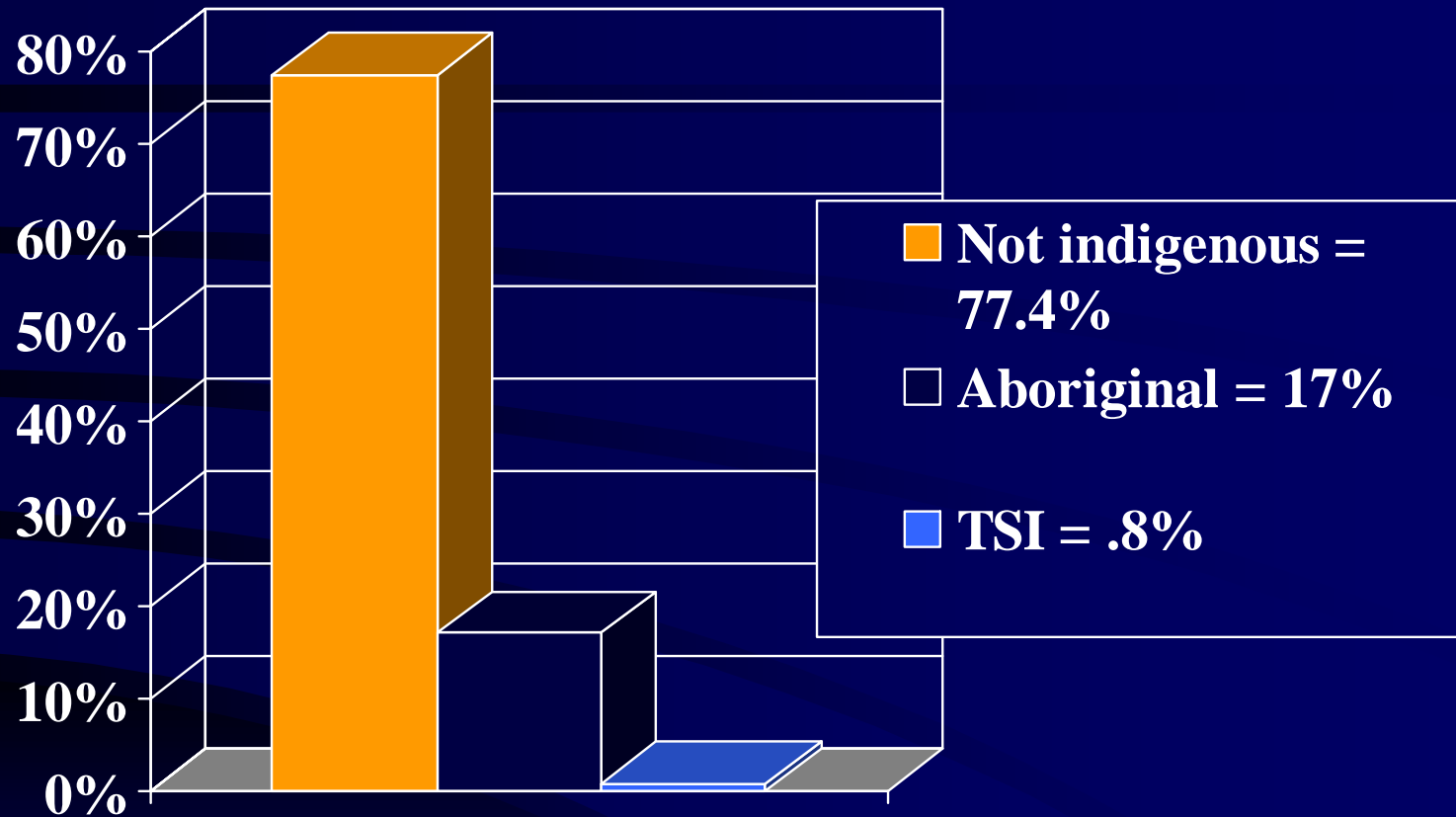
S33 applications that resulted in admission: 246 (79.5%)



S33 applications that DID NOT result in admission: 64 (20.5%)

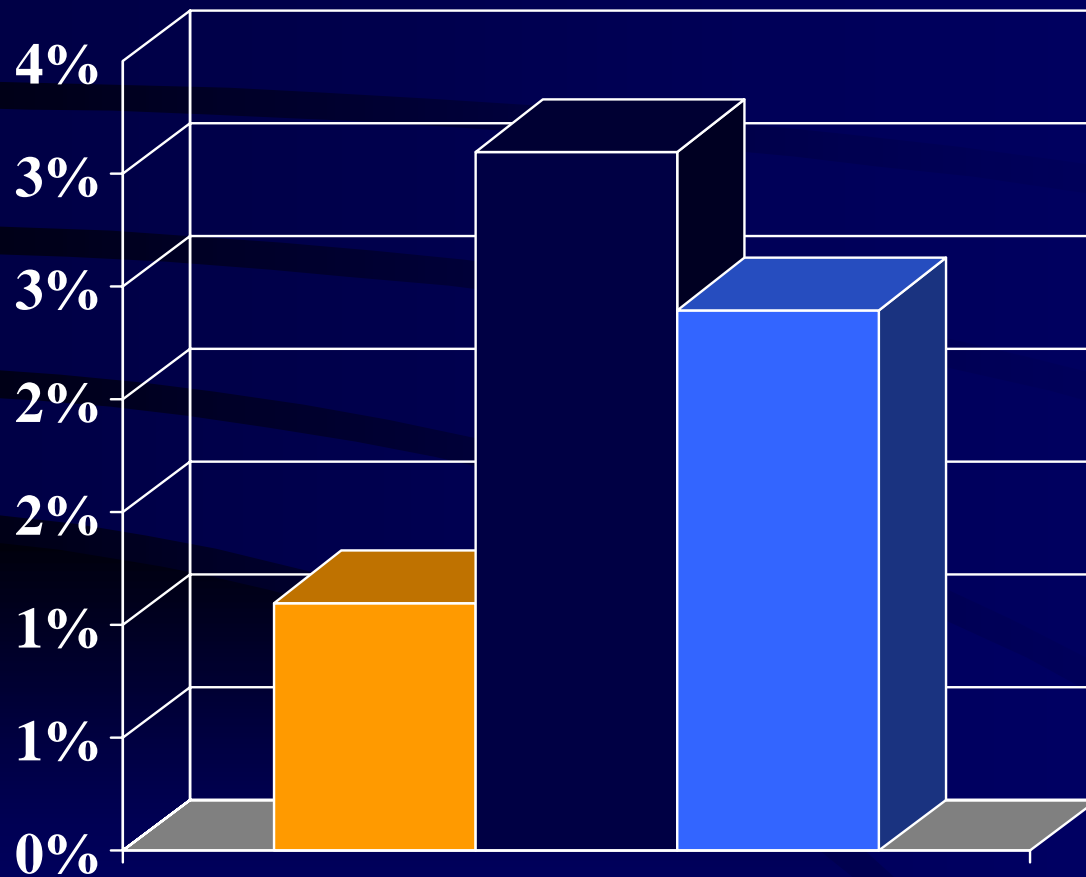
Indigenous Populations

February 2003 – March 2004



People With Intellectual Disability

February 2003 – March 2004



6.6% of all referrals



- Moderate**
- Borderline**
- Mild**

Health & Judicial Outcomes

Further evaluation underway:

- *Health gain*
 - Hospital readmissions / length of stay
 - Continuity of care
- *Community safety*
 - Preventing violent incidents
- *Recidivism*
 - Rearrest / reconviction rates

Complaints & Other Feedback

- 3,355 assessment and no formal complaints
- 2002 Magistrates' survey
- Feedback from consumers and carers
- Customer satisfaction surveys 2003/04

Communications Strategy

- 7 articles about the service in NSW and international publications
- More than 50 presentations about the service and target populations at conferences, seminars, meetings and workshops
- Regular liaison meetings with Area Health Services, NGOs and consumer groups

What is Next?

- Further service development & evaluation
- Introducing Telehealth
- Forensic community mental health service