



Pretrial Supervision:
The D.C. Pretrial Services Agency's
High Intensity Supervision Program

NIJ Pretrial Research Meeting

May 22, 2007

Charlotte, NC

Targeted Defendants

- Supervision-related program failures from other PSA supervision and treatment units
- Felony or violent misdemeanor-charged defendants, based on risk assessment score
- Defendants compliant with halfway house requirements for at least 30 days

Eligibility Criteria

- No outstanding extraditable warrants or detainers
- No removals from HISP within the past 30 days
- Verified address with operable landline telephone to monitor curfew
- Homeowner agreement to have EM equipment installed

Supervision and Services

- In-person contact with case manager
- Drug testing at least once a week
- Community phase – EM enforced curfew from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Home confinement phase – 24-hour curfew for the first 21 days
- Placement into drug treatment after assessment of defendants referred by the Court or who repeatedly test positive
- Referrals to social services based on results from a PSA-developed needs screener

Sanctions—Community Phase

- First infraction: curfew increased to 800:pm to 600:am for 30 days
- Second infraction: 7-day 24-hour curfew
- Third infraction: 14-day 24-hour curfew

Subsequent infractions result in a 24-hour curfew pending a Court hearing

Sanctions—Home Confinement Phase

- First infraction: Home Confinement extended an additional 7 days
- Second infraction: Home Confinement extended an additional 14 days
- Third infraction: Home Confinement extended an additional 21 days

Subsequent infractions result in full Home Confinement pending a Court hearing

A faint, stylized background image of a pair of scales of justice, symbolizing law and equity. The scales are positioned on the left side of the slide, with the pans hanging from a central beam.

Court Notification of Violations

HISP supervision includes weekly notification to Court of violations in the Community Phase and notification after each violation in Home Confinement.

EM

EM was added to HISP in 2003, following closure of a local halfway house. While a more efficient monitor of the curfew condition, EM limits the HISP population to defendants with operable land-line phones and whose homeowner is willing to part with special phone services. As a result, many high-risk defendants remain in general supervision. PSA is adding cellular EM technology and GPS capability to address these concerns.

Under the HISP release order, judges can place defendants on evening curfews or an initial 21-day home confinement period, followed by an evening curfew. The order also permits PSA case managers to change curfew hours (as a sanction for defendant conduct) and place defendants into substance abuse treatment without the need for an additional court order (see HISP release order).

Supervision Data

Average FY2007 HISP population	215
Average FY2007 case manager:defendant ratio	1:24 (9 case managers)
FY2006 responses to infractions	
Reporting Infractions	96%
Drug Testing Infractions	100%
Curfew Infractions	100%

In FY2007, HISP placements have accounted for 5% of PSA's total supervised population

Time under HISP Supervision

The average length of stay in HISP is 90 days compared to 106 days for other agency units. Time in HISP accounts for half the total average pretrial period (180 days) for HISP defendants.

Charges

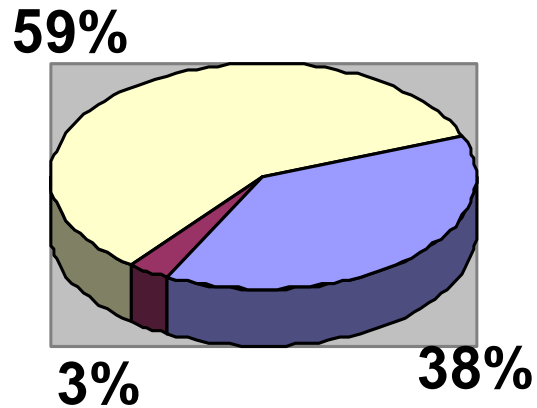
In FY2006:

Drug offenses made up half of all charges for HISP defendants, primarily drug distribution and possession with intent to distribute charges

Felonies made up 70% of HISP charges

41% of misdemeanor cases involved domestic assault, sex abuse or simple assault offenses

HISP Population Breakdown



- Program Failures from other PSA units
- HISP placements at first appearance
- Originally detained-HWOB or on financial bond

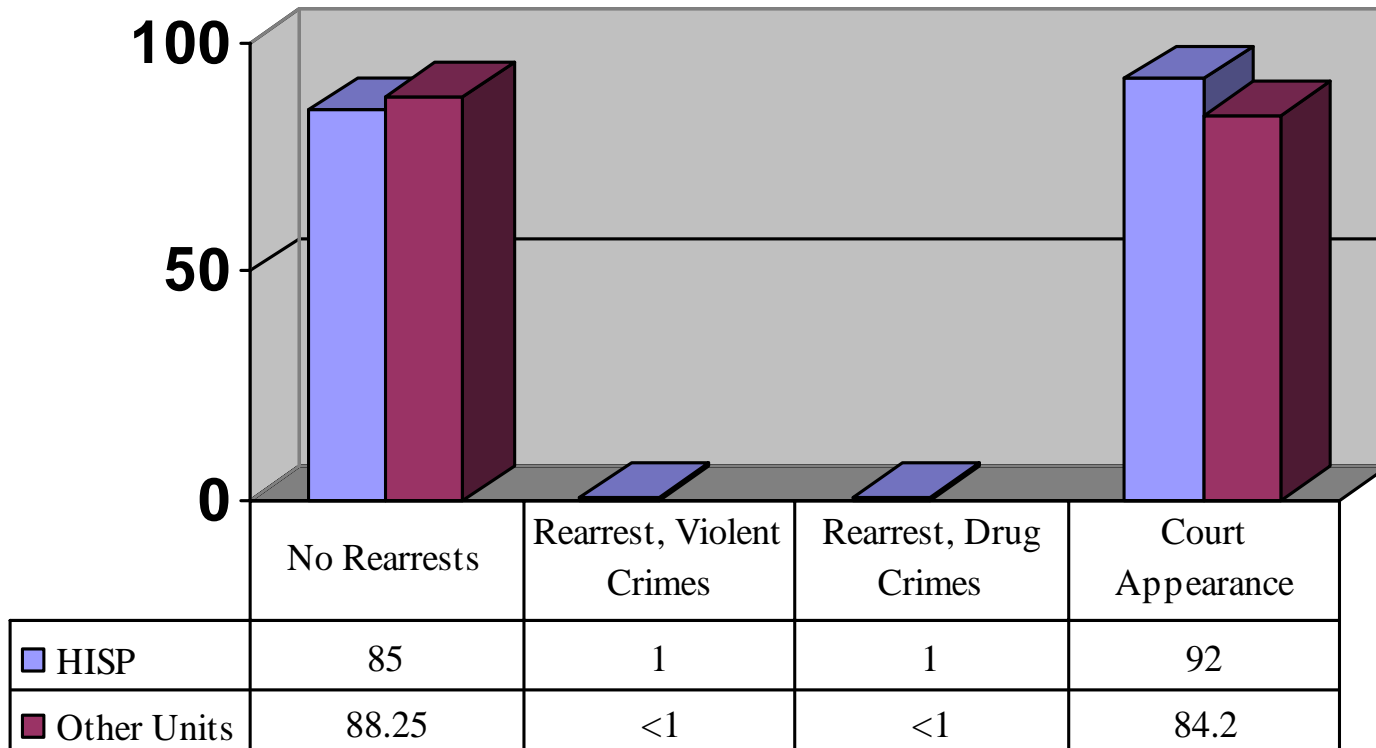
Risk Scores

Score Type	Appearance	Safety
Median	3	20
Lowest Risk Score	0	0
Highest Risk Score	16	49

The median HISP appearance risk score was a point lower than the median score of non-HISP defendants while the median safety score was nearly 7 points higher than for other defendants. 46% of HISP defendants scored in the “high risk” category at initial appearance compared to 26% of all other defendants on release.

NOTE: Program failures were not re-assessed with the risk assessment instrument before their transfer to HISP.

HISP Safety and Appearance Rates



Research Issues

- The relationship between supervision and outcomes: Is there a relationship between compliance/noncompliance and pretrial misconduct? What supervision components best reduce misconduct?
- The quality of case manager/defendant relationship and supervision outcomes/misconduct.
- Effect of caseload size on supervision outcomes/misconduct.
- The effectiveness of sanctions, incentives, and revocations on criminality and short and long-term defendant behavior.

Research Issues

- The value to short-term supervision of high-risk defendants of cognitive therapy and other behavior management techniques.
- The factors that predict supervision compliance/noncompliance.
- Introducing motivational interviewing into “mainstream” supervision to affect supervision outcomes and misconduct rates.
- Risk assessment versus risk classification: is one better for the pretrial stage? Can the two co-exist?