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An Evaluation of The Milwaukee County  
Supervised Pretrial Release Program

NCJRS

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**DOCUMENT DIGEST**Department of Health  
and Social Services*Document Title:* An Evaluation of the Milwaukee County  
Supervised Pretrial Release Program*Document Date:* April 1986

The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), in cooperation with Milwaukee County and Wisconsin Correctional Services (WCS), began piloting the Milwaukee County Supervised Pretrial Release (SPR) program in October, 1984.

The Milwaukee SPR program is designed for individuals who are charged with criminal offenses and are not able to meet bail requirements or are not qualified for release on their own recognizance. Potential SPR candidates must be determined, through screening, to have a minimum risk to themselves or others. WCS screens and evaluates potential candidates and recommends them to a Milwaukee court for the approval of a SPR plan. If the court approves the plan, two DHSS probation agents provide intensive monitoring and surveillance of these SPR clients. For each agent, the supervision of 40 clients is considered a full caseload. If SPR clients are later determined to be guilty, these agents provide presentence investigations upon court request.

The three objectives of this evaluation are:

- A. To study the SPR program's effectiveness by comparing the failure to appear rate, abscond rate, and rearrest rate of its clients with a comparable group of non-SPR releases.
- B. To assess the possible impact of the SPR Program on state and local dispositions.
- C. To evaluate the potential benefits of the Milwaukee SPR program in  
(1) relieving the overcrowded conditions in the Milwaukee County Jail  
and (2) reducing jail costs.

The evaluation indicated that defendants under supervised pretrial release were less likely to be rearrested for new offenses and less likely to abscond than those who were released without supervision. SPR clients, however, were somewhat less likely to show up for court appearances than non-SPR releases. These findings indicate that, overall, the SPR program is effective in minimizing the risk to public safety.

The evaluation also revealed that SPR clients tended to receive favorable dispositional outcomes. SPR clients were more likely to receive probation, were less likely to be sentenced to state prisons or to the county jail, and had a shorter period of probation and/or shorter period of incarceration in the county jail than non-SPR releases. When sentenced to state prisons, SPR clients tended to have a slightly longer period of incarceration than non-SPR releases. They were also less likely to have their charges dismissed or be ordered to pay a fine/restitution.

The evaluation estimates that the Milwaukee County SPR program saved an average of 80 jail beds per day since an average of 80 SPR clients, who would have been detained in the jail, were supervised in the community by the program's two probation agents. The 80 beds saved represents a net annual savings of \$1,491,791 when the per diem total cost of \$54.09 is used to calculate the dollar savings. On the other hand, if the more conservative per diem variable cost of \$10.80 is applied, the net annual savings is \$227,746.

In view of the above evaluation findings, the following recommendations are presented:

- (1) The Milwaukee County SPR program appears effective based on the program's savings in jail space, its savings in jail costs and its capability to protect the public. Therefore, Milwaukee County should consider continuing the project beyond June of 1986 when current funding expires.
- (2) The SPR program approach may be appropriate in other counties in addition to Milwaukee. The SPR approach should be considered by counties that have overcrowded jail conditions, and have fully utilized traditional pretrial release mechanisms (e.g., release on personal recognizance, 10% bail, surety bail, etc.).
- (3) The Department should help interested counties determine how they might benefit from a SPR program. Implementation of a SPR program requires careful consideration of various program elements such as screening procedures, evaluation criteria, supervision standards, agent training, etc. A basic management information system may also be needed to monitor screening, evaluation, and supervisory outcomes of SPR clients. Therefore, counties should carefully examine the feasibility of a SPR program prior to its implementation, and the Department should assist them in conducting feasibility studies.
- (4) The Department should consider providing SPR supervision services on a contract basis to counties wishing to purchase them. Since the Department already has trained agents and support personnel in the community, it should be possible to make supervised pretrial release services available to counties at a very reasonable cost.

AN EVALUATION OF THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
SUPERVISED PRETRIAL RELEASE PROGRAM

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AN EVALUATION OF THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
SUPERVISED PRETRIAL RELEASE PROGRAM

I. INTRODUCTION

Pretrial detention deprives defendants of their freedom prior to trial, limits their participation in the preparation of a defense, and deprives them of their earning capacity. On the other hand, pretrial release poses the potential risk that defendants may fail to appear in court, abscond or commit new offenses. Since American law assumes that a person is innocent until proven guilty in a court trial, a major issue in the pretrial handling of individuals charged with crimes is how to balance the assumption of innocence (hence, should not be detained) and the protection of the community (therefore, should be detained).

Many people feel that pretrial release practices are overly lenient, and that use of these practices by the courts increases danger to the community. They call for tough bail laws and increased use of pretrial detention. Yet these demands come at a time when most county jails are already overcrowded. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the increased use of pretrial detention is one of the major factors that has contributed to the overcrowded condition of county jails.

In response to both the problems of overcrowded local jails and the concern for public safety, Supervised Pretrial Release (SPR) programs

have been piloted in many jurisdictions. Generally speaking, these SPR programs focus on those defendants who can not secure their own release through bail or personal recognizance but who are good pretrial release candidates if provided with appropriate levels of supervision.

#### Milwaukee County SPR Program

In Wisconsin, the state Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) entered into an agreement with Milwaukee County, and Wisconsin Correctional Service (WCS), a nonprofit organization in the City of Milwaukee, to pilot a SPR program in Milwaukee County. The program was first implemented in October, 1984 through redeployment of Division of Corrections resources. Subsequently, the Department requested funding for two social worker positions to continue the Milwaukee SPR program during 1985-87. After the Wisconsin Legislature approved the continued funding for the Milwaukee SPR program, the Department initiated an evaluation to determine the success of the SPR program in safely releasing offenders on pretrial supervision and the program's cost-effectiveness.

The Milwaukee SPR program is designed for jailed defendants who either are not qualified for release on their own recognizance or are not able to meet bail requirements. Potential SPR clients must be determined, through screening, to have a minimum risk to themselves

or others. WCS screens and evaluates jailed defendants and then recommends qualified defendants to a Milwaukee court for the approval of a SPR plan. If the court approves these recommendations, the two DHSS probation agents provide intensive monitoring and surveillance of the SPR clients. For each agent, the supervision of 40 clients is considered a full caseload. If SPR clients are later determined to be guilty, these agents provide presentence investigations upon court request.

It is anticipated that the Milwaukee County SPR program will decrease the number of inmates in the county jail, and reduce the jail's operating costs. In addition, since defendants under SPR can better prepare for their court trials, SPR clients as a group may have a higher dismissal rate than if they were detained in the county jail. Even if SPR clients are convicted, they would have had an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to be successfully supervised in the community. Consequently, judges may be more inclined to use probation over incarceration and/or impose shorter sentences. If this is true, the SPR Program is also expected to increase the state probation caseload and decrease the state prison population.



## II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The primary purpose of the SPR evaluation is to examine the effectiveness of the SPR program, its potential impact on state and local dispositions, and possible costs and benefits of the program to Milwaukee County. Specifically, the evaluation project has the following objectives:

- A. To study the SPR program's effectiveness by comparing the failure to appear rate, abscond rate, and rearrest rate of its clients with a comparable group of non-SPR releases.
- B. To assess the possible impact of the SPR Program on state and local dispositions.
- C. To evaluate the potential benefits of the Milwaukee SPR program in (1) relieving the overcrowded conditions in the Milwaukee County Jail and (2) reducing jail costs.

III. A COMPARISON OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SPR CLIENTS AND OTHER  
MILWAUKEE DEFENDANTS

The primary purpose of this evaluation is to examine the effectiveness of the SPR program and its impact on state and local dispositions. To carry out this evaluation, SPR clients' rearrest, abscond, and failure to appear rates, and their dispositional outcomes, will be compared with the corresponding rates and outcomes of other defendants in Milwaukee county.

Past studies indicate that defendants' characteristics have some influence on their rearrest, abscond, and failure to appear rates, and on dispositional outcomes. For example, single and young persons tend to commit more criminal offenses than married and older persons. Offenders charged with felonies are more likely to be sentenced to a longer incarceration than those charged with misdemeanors. Similarly, defendants having prior criminal records are more likely to receive a prison sentence than those with no prior criminal records.

In order to take into account the influence of defendant characteristics on dispositional outcomes and rearrest, abscond, and failure to appear rates, the characteristics of the 81 SPR clients, who were terminated during the six month period from March 1, 1985 to

August 31, 1985, were collected and analyzed in Table III-1. The comparable characteristics of 3,137 Milwaukee defendants terminated in the same period were also collected and analyzed in the same table for comparison purposes.

As shown in Table III-1, the percentage of the 81 SPR clients who were males (88.5%) was similar to that of the Milwaukee defendant population (84%). More black persons (65.4% vs. 56.2%) and fewer white persons (30.8% vs. 37.4%) were represented in the SPR group than in the Milwaukee defendant population.

Moreover, SPR clients tended to be younger than other defendants in Milwaukee county. This is evidenced by the fact that only 36.9% of the Milwaukee defendants were 25 years of age or younger, as compared to 53.8% of the SPR clients.

Only 3.8% of the SPR clients, as compared with 10.2% of the total defendant population, were married. The low percentage of "married" SPR clients may be partially due to the relative high percentage of the SPR clients who were 25 years of age or younger.

Table III-1

Characteristics of SPR Clients and  
The Milwaukee Defendant Population

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<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>SPR Clients</u>	<u>Milwaukee Defendant Population</u>
Sex		
Male	88.5%	84.0%
Female	11.5%	16.0%
Race		
Black	65.4%	56.2%
Hispanic	3.8%	4.5%
White	30.8%	37.4%
Am. Indian	0.0%	1.0%
Other	0.0%	0.9%
Age		
19 & Under	3.8%	1.1%
20 - 25	50.0%	35.8%
26 - 30	11.6%	25.4%
31 - 35	19.2%	15.9%
36 - 50	9.7%	17.7%
51 - 65	3.8%	3.0%
65 & over	1.9%	1.1%
Marital Status		
Divorced	5.8%	8.3%
Married	3.8%	10.2%
Separated	5.8%	5.1%
Single	57.7%	51.2%
Widowed	.0%	0.6%
Others	26.9%	24.6%

Table III-1 (Continued)

Characteristics of SPR Clients and  
the Milwaukee Defendant Population

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<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>SPR Clients</u>	<u>Milwaukee Defendant population</u>
Employment		
Employed	15.4%	20.5%
Unemployed	57.7%	55.3%
Not reported	26.9%	24.2%
Prior Criminal Record		
Yes	65.5%	68.5%
No	34.5%	31.5%
Types of Charge		
Felony	89.2%	60.7%
Misdemeanors	10.8%	39.3%

---

\* Percentages are used as the basis for comparison in the table since these two groups differ greatly in size and since the amount of case information available for analysis varies from one characteristic to another.

With regard to employment, 15.4% of the SPR clients were employed as compared with 20.5% of the Milwaukee defendants.

The percentage of SPR clients who had a prior criminal record (65.5%) is slightly lower than that of the Milwaukee defendant population (68.5%). However, these SPR clients had a much higher percentage of felony charges (89.2%) than the Milwaukee defendant population (60.7%).

In summary, SPR clients were most likely to be male, and black. As compared with all other defendants in Milwaukee County, SPR clients tended to be younger, single, and unemployed. Proportionally, SPR clients had more felony charges against them.

The above findings suggest that SPR clients possess characteristics (younger, single, unemployed, etc.) that are likely to increase the propensity of committing offenses and being rearrested. Other things being equal, they are more likely to be sentenced for longer periods of incarceration due to the higher percentage of felony charges against them than other defendants in Milwaukee County. The implication is that if, in later analyses, SPR clients are found to have lower rearrest, abscond, and failure to appear rates and to be sentenced for shorter periods of incarceration, these lower rates and favorable dispositional outcomes could be more reasonably attributed to the SPR program's effectiveness than to the influence of defendant characteristics.

## IV. PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT ON DISPOSITIONAL OUTCOMES

Program Effectiveness

The SPR program is designed to provide intensive supervision and monitoring of criminal defendants released on pretrial supervision. Many of these defendants are charged with serious, felony offenses. The two SPR agents conduct home visits, job checks, make collateral contacts, etc. They also provide SPR clients with other services, such as transportation. The purposes of this supervision and the services provided is to discourage clients from engaging in further criminal activities and to assure their appearance in court on current charges. The effectiveness of the SPR monitoring, therefore, may be measured in terms of SPR clients' failure to appear rate, abscond rate, and rearrest rate.

To calculate the above rates, information on rearrests, absconders, scheduled court appearances and failures to appear were collected for the 81 SPR clients terminated during the March 1, 1985 to August 31, 1985 evaluation period. Similar information were also collected on a randomly selected comparison group of 87 non-SPR releasees who were terminated during the same period of time.

Rearrests for SPR clients and the comparison group are summarized in Table IV-1 and in Diagram 1. Of the 81 SPR clients, one (1.2%) was rearrested for a misdemeanor and 2 (2.5%) were rearrested for felony offenses. Of the 87 randomly selected non-SPR releasees, 5 (5.7%) were rearrested for misdemeanors and 6 (6.9%) were rearrested for felony offenses. Comparison of the above rates between the two groups suggests that SPR clients had lower rearrest rates for committing new criminal offenses (either felony or misdemeanors) than the non-SPR releasees (3.7% vs 12.6%). The two groups, however, have similar rearrest rates (12.4% vs. 12.6%) for no show, failure to appear, and non-compliance activities\*. Overall, the SPR group had a lower rearrest rate (16%) than the non-SPR releasees (25.3%).

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\* Non-compliance refers to activities that are in violation of SPR conditions.



DIAGRAM 1

# REARRESTS FOR SPR AND NON-SPR RELEASEES

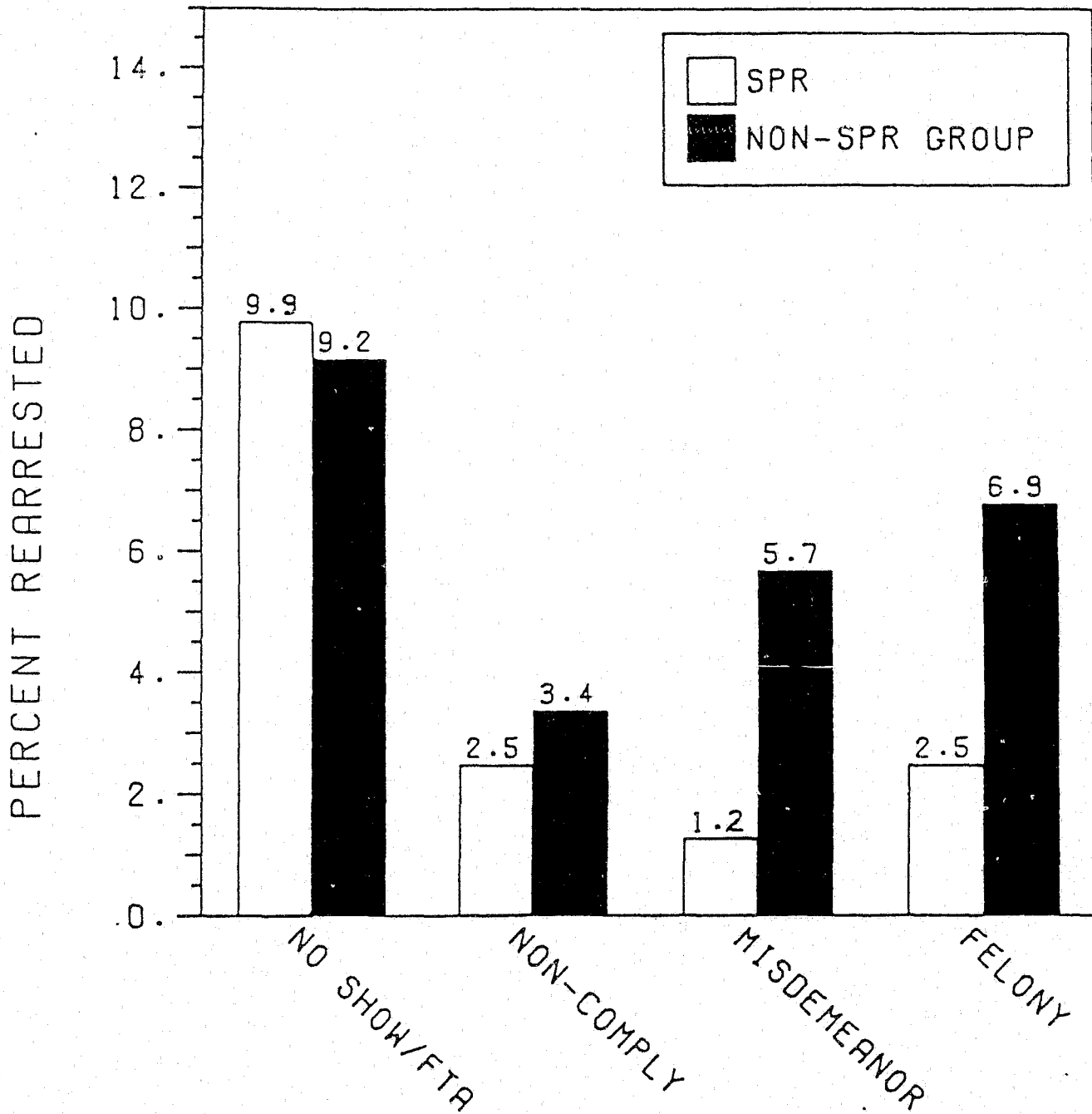


Table IV-1

Comparison of Rearrests Between  
SPR Clients and Non-SPR Releasees

Type of Rearrest	81 SPR Clients		87 Non-SPR Releasees	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
No Show or FTA <sup>+</sup>	8	9.9%	8	9.2%
Non-compliance*	2	2.5%	3	3.4%
Misdemeanors	1	1.2%	5	5.7%
Felonies	2	2.5%	6	6.9%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 16.7%	<hr/> 22	<hr/> 25.2%

<sup>+</sup> FTA denotes failure to appear.

\* Non-compliance refers to activities that are in violation of SPR conditions or other release conditions.

To calculate the failure to appear rate, the number of scheduled court appearances for the 81 SPR clients and for the 87 non-SPR releasees were obtained by examining case files stored in the Milwaukee Criminal Justice Information System (See Table IV-2). The total number of scheduled court appearances was 450 for the 81 SPR clients and 402 for the 87 non-SPR releasees. (The average number of scheduled court appearances for these two groups were 5.6 and 4.6 respectively.) Of the 450 scheduled court appearances, SPR clients failed to appear 62 times. This resulted in a failure to appear rate of 13.8% (62/450). On the other hand, the 87 non-SPR releasees failed to appear 46 times, which resulted in a failure to appear rate of 11.4% (46/402). Comparison of these failure to appear rates suggests that SPR

clients were somewhat less likely to show up for court appearances than non-SPR releasees.

Four out of the 81 SPR clients, or about 5%, absconded (See Table IV-2). Of the 87 non-SPR releasees, 6 (6.9%) absconded.

Comparison of these abscond rates suggests that SPR clients were somewhat less likely to abscond than the non-SPR releasees.

Table IV-2

Comparison of Abscond and Failure to Appear Rates

<u>Activities</u>	<u>81 SPR Clients</u>	<u>87 Non-SPR Releases</u>
Scheduled Court Appearance	450	402
Failure to Appear (FTA)	62	46
FTA Rate	13.8%	11.4%
Abscond Rate	4.9%	6.9%

In summary, comparisons of the 81 SPR clients with the randomly selected 87 non-SPR releasees indicate that SPR clients were less likely to be rearrested for new offenses and less likely to abscond than those defendants who were released without supervision. However, the SPR client group had a somewhat higher rate of failure to appear than the non-SPR group.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The WCS conducted an evaluation of all SPR clients who were terminated prior to December 31, 1985, and concluded that those SPR clients had a low rearrest rate and low failure to appear rate. Results of the WCS evaluation are presented in Appendix A.

Comparison of State and Local Dispositions

It is suggested that since SPR clients can better prepare for their defense, the outcome of their court trial is likely to be more favorable than those who are detained in county jails. It is also suggested that even if SPR clients are convicted, they would have had an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to be successfully supervised in the community. As a result, judges may be more inclined to use probation and/or impose shorter sentences when sentencing SPR clients. The above argument suggests that the Milwaukee SPR program may have some impact on state probation caseloads and state prison populations.

To assess the possible impact of the SPR program on state and local dispositions, the final dispositional outcomes of the 81 SPR clients and the 87 non-SPR releasees were obtained and are analyzed in Table IV-3. It shows that SPR clients are twice as likely as non-SPR releasees to receive a probation sentence (48.1% for SPR clients vs. 20.7% for non-SPR releasees).

Table IV-3 further indicates that SPR clients were less likely to be sentenced to state prisons or prison plus probation (17.3%) than non-SPR releasees (23.0%). SPR clients were also less likely to be sentenced to county jail or jail plus probation (8.6%) than non-SPR releasees (13.8%).

The percentage of SPR clients whose charges were dismissed (19.8%) is lower than that of non-SPR releasees (29.9%), however. SPR clients were also less likely to be fined or ordered to pay restitution (3.7%) than non-SPR releasees (5.7%). A possible reason for the lower percentage of dismissals and the lower percentage of fined/restitution orders for SPR clients may be due to the fact that a higher proportion of SPR clients had a felony charge than non-SPR releasees (89.2% vs. 60.7% as shown in Table III-1, Chapter III).

Table IV-3

Dispositional Outcomes of 81 SPR Clients and  
87 Randomly Selected Non-SPR Releasees

Disposition Outcome*	81 SPR Clients		87 Non-SPR Releasees	
	Number	%	Number	%
Charge Dismissed	16	19.8%	26	29.9%
Fined/Restitution	3	3.7%	5	5.7%
Probation	39	48.1%	18	20.7%
Incarcerated:				
County Jail/Jail-Probation	7	8.6%	12	13.8%
State Prisons/ Prison-Probation	14	17.3%	20	23.0%
Other**	2	2.5%	6	6.9%
Total	81	100%	87	100%

\* Dispositional outcomes reported by the Milwaukee Criminal Justice Information System include the combination of fine and dismissal, probation plus fines, probation plus prison, etc. In the table, the "fine and dismissal" outcomes is included in the "fined/restitution" category, and the "probation plus fines" is reclassified under the "probation" category.

\*\* The other category includes deferred prosecution, abscond, warrant issued, etc.

Of those sentenced to state prisons, the average sentence was 4.71 years for SPR clients and 4.58 years for non-SPR releasees. The difference between these two figures is relatively small and may be accounted for by the greater number of felony charges against SPR clients. For those sentenced to Milwaukee County Jail, the average sentence was 4.5 months for SPR clients and 7.5 months for non-SPR releasees. This represents a difference of three months in jail confinement. Since county jail sentences

are for less than 12 months, an average difference of 3 months is substantial.

For those who were sentenced to probation, the average sentence was 2.73 years for SPR clients and 3.23 years for non-SPR releasees.

In summary, comparisons of 81 SPR clients and 87 randomly selected non-SPR releasees terminated during March 1 to August 31, 1985, result in the following conclusions:

- (1) SPR clients were more likely to receive probation than non-SPR releasees;
- (2) SPR clients were less likely to be sentenced to state prisons or to the county jail;
- (3) SPR clients were less likely to have their charges dismissed or be ordered to pay a fine/restitution;
- (4) SPR clients tended to be sentenced to a shorter period of probation and/or shorter jail confinement than non-SPR releasees; and
- (5) SPR clients tended to be sentenced to slightly longer prison sentences than non-SPR releasees.

## V. SPR PROGRAM SAVINGS

To determine the savings of the Milwaukee SPR program, the costs of operating the program must be compared to the costs that would have been incurred if SPR clients had been detained in the Milwaukee County jail. To do this, information was needed on SPR program costs, Milwaukee County jail bed savings, and the daily costs of maintaining a defendant in the Milwaukee County Jail.

SPR program costs include two probation agents and their supporting costs which include space, travel, clerical assistance, funds for the purchase of client services, etc. For the March 1 to August 31 period covered by this evaluation, these program costs are estimated at \$43,782. Annualized to a full year, they would be twice as much, or \$87,564.

The number of jail beds saved by the SPR program can be estimated from the average caseload of the probation agents. Records from the SPR unit indicate that both of the two probation agents had a full caseload, i.e., 40 cases per day, during the six month evaluation period. Therefore, the average number of Milwaukee County jail beds saved is estimated to be approximately 80 beds per day since, without the program, each of these SPR clients would have occupied a jail bed.

This bed savings figure can be multiplied by the daily cost of maintaining a defendant in the Milwaukee County Jail to calculate the



estimated daily savings in county jail costs. Two figures are used to represent Milwaukee's jail costs. The first is the variable cost which includes food, laundry, personnel items, etc. The per diem variable cost is calculated to be \$10.80.\* The other figure is the per diem total cost, which includes variable costs and fixed costs (building, equipment, administrative salary, etc.). The per diem total cost is calculated to be \$54.09.\*

Multiplying the savings of 80 beds per day by the per diem total cost of \$54.09 results in an estimated savings of \$4,327 per day, or an estimated annual savings of \$1,579,355 ( $\$4,327 \times 365$ ) in total operating costs. The net annual savings would be \$1,491,791 when the annual SPR program costs of \$87,564 are subtracted from the annual jail savings.

If the more conservative per diem variable cost of \$10.80 is used, the bed savings would result in an estimated savings of \$864 ( $\$10.80 \times 80$ ) in variable costs per day, or an estimated annual savings of \$315,360 ( $\$864 \times 365$ ) in the jail's variable costs. The net annual savings in variable costs would be equal to \$227,796 when the annual SPR program costs of \$87,564 are subtracted.

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\* These figures were supplied by Milwaukee County Clerk of Court.

## VI. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of Findings

Results of this evaluation indicate that defendants under supervised pretrial release were less likely to be rearrested for new offenses and less likely to abscond than those who were released without supervision. SPR clients, however, were somewhat less likely to show up for court appearances than non-SPR releasees. These findings indicate that, overall, the SPR program is effective in minimizing the risk to public safety.

The evaluation also revealed that SPR clients tended to receive favorable dispositional outcomes. SPR clients were more likely to receive probation, were less likely to be sentenced to state prisons or to the county jail and had a shorter period of probation and/or shorter period of incarceration in the county jail than non-SPR releasees. However, SPR clients tended to have a slightly longer period of incarceration in state prisons than non-SPR releasees. They were also less likely to have their charges dismissed or be ordered to pay a fine/restitution. Other things being equal, the use of the SPR program is likely to mitigate the state prison population and increase the state probation caseload.

The evaluation estimates that the Milwaukee County SPR program saved the need for an average of 80 jail beds per day since an average of 80 SPR clients, who would have been detained in the jail, were

supervised in the community by the program's two probation agents. The 80 jail beds saved represents a net annual savings of \$1,491,791 if the per diem total cost of \$54.09 is used to calculate the dollar savings. On the other hand, if the more conservative per diem variable cost of \$10.80 is applied, the net annual savings is \$227,796.

### Recommendations

In view of the above findings, the following recommendations are presented:

- (1) The Milwaukee County SPR program appears effective based on the program's savings in jail space, its savings in jail costs and its ability to protect the public. Therefore, Milwaukee County should consider continuing the project beyond June of 1986 when current funding expires.
- (2) The SPR program approach may be appropriate in other counties in addition to Milwaukee. The SPR approach should be considered by counties that have overcrowded jail conditions, and have fully utilized traditional pretrial release mechanisms (e.g., release on personal recognizance, 10% bail, surety bail, etc.).
- (3) The Department should help interested counties determine how they might benefit from a SPR program. Implementation of a SPR program requires careful consideration of various program

elements such as screening procedures, evaluation criteria, supervision standards, agent training, etc. A basic management information system may also be needed to monitor screening, evaluation, and supervisory outcomes of SPR clients. Therefore, counties should carefully examine the feasibility of a SPR program prior to its implementation, and the Department should assist them in conducting feasibility studies.

- (4) The Department should consider providing SPR supervision services on a contract basis to counties wishing to purchase them. Since the Department already has trained agents and support personnel in the community, it should be possible to make supervised pretrial release services available to counties at a very reasonable cost.

## APPENDIX A

SUPERVISED PRETRIAL RELEASE  
PILOT PROJECT  
1984 - 1985  
by  
Wisconsin Correctional Service

A Supervised Pretrial Release (SPR) Project is being conducted under the direction of the Bureau of Community Corrections, Milwaukee Region and in cooperation with Wisconsin Correctional Service, on a pilot basis. The SPR project was initiated as a means to assist Milwaukee County in alleviating jail overcrowding. The staff are two Bureau of Community Corrections Probation Agents assigned to provide intensive pretrial supervision of high risk defendants. Potential impact of the program was projected in three areas:

1. Pretrial detention rate of felony defendants held in jail and subsequent jail costs.
2. Failure to appear rate and rearrest rates of defendants release on SPR.
3. Quality of recommendations on presentence investigations and numbers of persons sent to state penal institutions.

This report is limited to areas one and two. A complete evaluation of the project is being conducted by the Division of Policy and Budget.

The SPR pilot project currently monitors defendants stipulated by the Milwaukee County Courts. The program has been in operation since October 1984. From initiation of the program through December 1985, the SPR agents have supervised a total of 285 pretrial defendants.

REFERRALS TO SPR BY MONTH/YEAR

October/84	14	June/85	16
November/84	12	July/85	12
December 84	10	August/85	29
January/85	36	September/85	26
February/85	15	October/85	23
March/85	23	November/85	16
April/85	23	December/85	18
May/85	12	Total	<u>285</u>

For the most part, defendants stipulated to the program are charged with serious felony offenses and present a high risk for release. The program is designed to provide intensive monitoring for this group. SPR agents conduct home visits, job checks and make collateral contacts. they provide transportation resources for defendants on report dates and dates of court hearings. The scope of monitoring provided by SPR agents to defendants helps to assure their appearance in court and protect members of the community from further criminal activity.

SEVERITY OF CHARGES AGAINST SPR CLIENTS

<u>Type of Charge</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Misdemeanor	40	14.0
<u>Felony</u>	<u>254</u>	<u>86.0</u>
Total	285	100.0

The two (2) SPR agents each carry a caseload of forty (40) clients. This size caseload is suited to the level of services provided by the SPR team. They are required to monitor defendants until the criminal case is adjourned. The results have been favorable. The objectives of the project specify that there will be no more than a 10% failure to appear rate and not more than a 10% rearrest rate. The project has maintained a low rearrest rate:

Rearrest Rate for Discharged Clients	4.2%
Rearrest Rate for Discharged Felony Cases	4.8%
Rearrest Rate for Discharged Misdemeanor Cases	2.5%
Rearrest Rate for All Clients	2.5%

The failure to appear rate has also been under stated limits.

Failure to Appear Rate for Discharged Clients	9.7%
Failure to Appear Rate for Discharged Felony Cases	10.4%
Failure to Appear Rate for Discharged Misdemeanor Cases	7.5%
Failure to Appear Rate for All Clients	5.6%

The success rate, those clients who completed the SPR term with no further legal problems was 83.6% of discharged clients. An additional 120 clients had not been formally discharged or still had cases pending.

The case dispositions of those clients who reached final disposition at the time of discharge are as follows:

<u>CASE DISPOSITION</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Probation	73	57.0
Probation + Work Release	10	7.8
Case Dismissed	31	24.2
Time Served	2	1.6
Fined	4	3.1
<u>Sentenced to State Prison</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6.3</u>
Total	128	100.0