



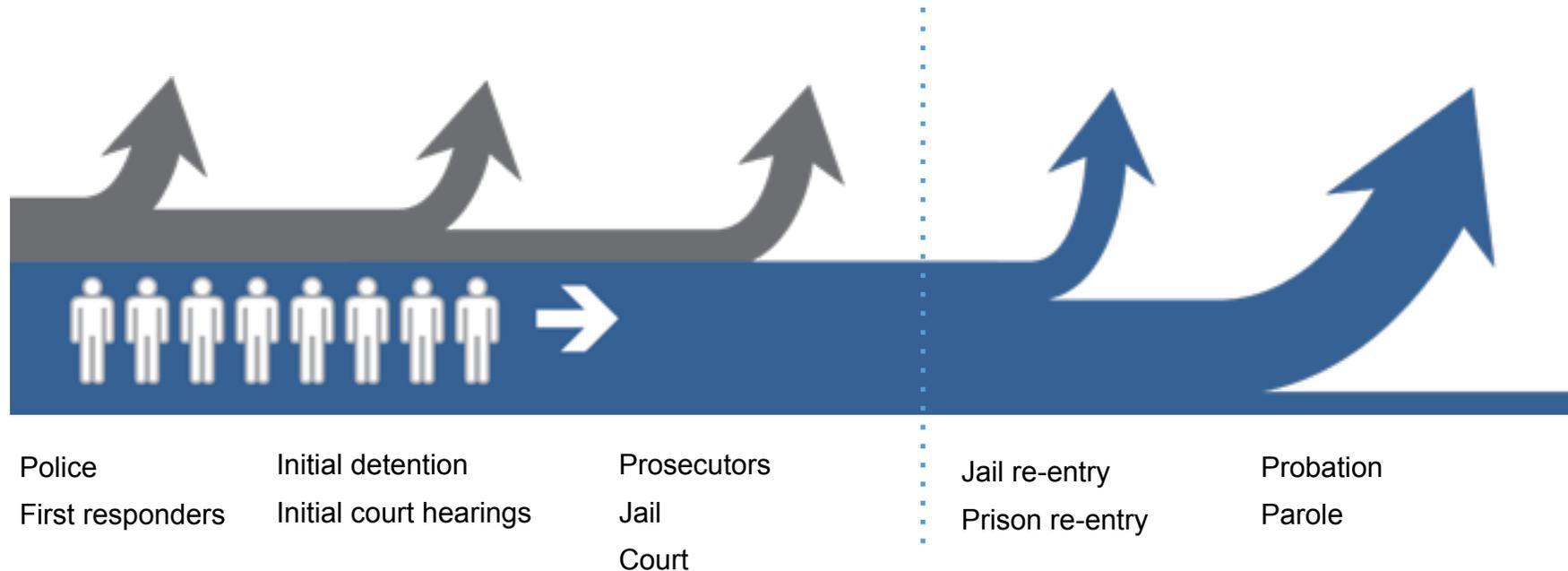
# Criminal justice diversion into drug or alcohol treatment – how are we doing?

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Many people with drug/alcohol problems come into contact with the criminal justice system. We need strong processes to divert people into treatment and services in the community.

Community-based services and recovery support



First, define your terms (lots of them!)

Arrest Referral

Pre-arrest/Law Enforcement Diversion

Criminal Justice Diversion

Probation and Parole

Jail Diversion/  
Bail Assessment

Alternatives to  
Custody/  
Incarceration

Deflection

Court Diversion/Drug Courts/  
Specialty Courts/Problem  
Solving Courts

Post-arrest/Prosecution/Pre-trial Diversion

# History in the USA and UK



- Harsh drug laws, mass arrests, all arrestees subject to prosecution/court, drug courts
- “Law and Order” but with a “Second Chance” philosophy
- Long sentences with little prison based treatment
- Current trends towards more/earlier diversion



- Tradition of warnings for low level drug offences
- Correlation between drug use patterns and certain types of crime
- 1998 strategy – DTTO's, DIP, DRR/ATR, liaison and diversion

# Who is targeted for diversion?



**USA**

Court diversion focused on specific populations; drug law offenders/other offences (relatively low risk offenders); age/race/gender – changing cohort now more pre-court diversion.

The net is wider and the stakes are higher.



**UK**

Focused on drug related offenders, smaller and more marginalised group, age/race/gender

# Diversion to what?



Varies widely based on local resources (makes for wide disparity of services, no national system). Traditionally primarily abstinence programmes, but this is rapidly changing - evidence-based practices, spread of methods, clear response to treatment success/failure.



Referral to generic treatment system, primarily substitution treatment. What does success look like? Unclear response to success/failure, declining priority for criminal justice access.