

# Mapping New England

## Drug-Related Crime and Admissions to Treatment Facilities, by County

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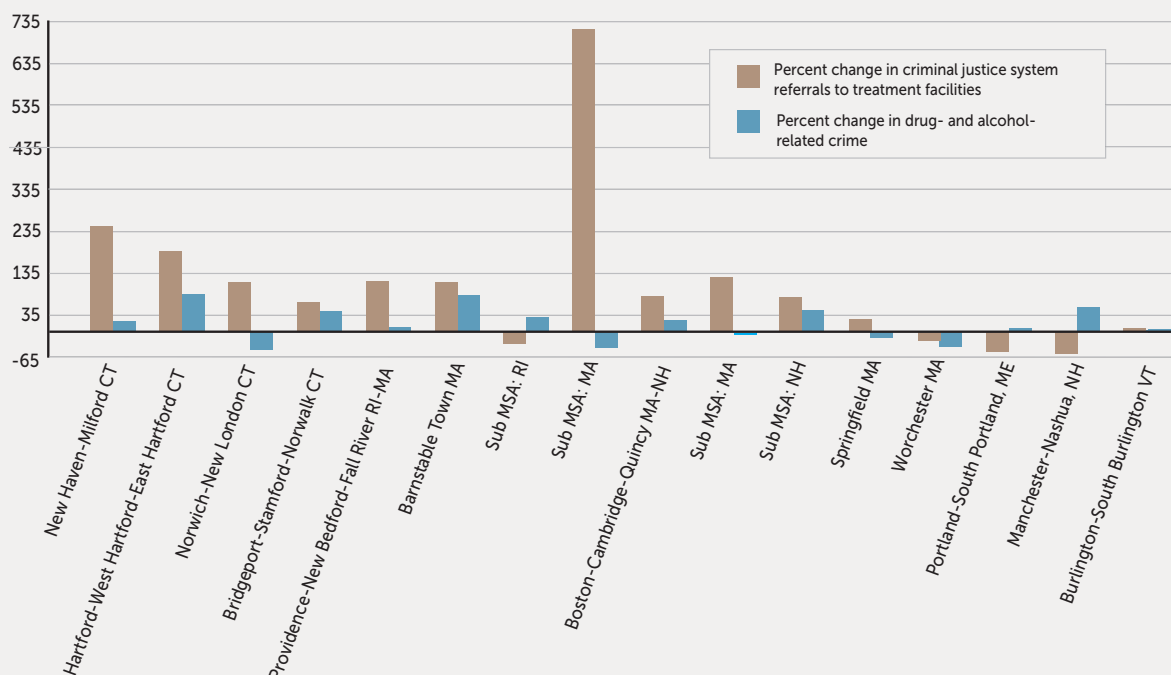
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF BOSTON

Many legal scholars argue that a better response to drug- and alcohol-related crimes than incarceration is therapeutic jurisprudence (TJ).<sup>1</sup> Implemented through drug-treatment courts, TJ address offenders' social, mental, and substance-abuse problems in addition to their criminal activity.<sup>2</sup>

The map shows changes in drug-related crimes per 100,000 individuals between 2005 and 2012, with Grand Isle County, Vermont, experiencing the largest decreases, and Middlesex County, Connecticut, experiencing the largest increases. Data are not available for criminal justice system referrals at the county level, but we can look at contemporaneous changes in admissions to treatment centers at the level of the metropolitan statistical area (MSA). By comparing them to changes in drug- and alcohol-related crimes in the same location, we can classify areas as having high levels of TJ, little to no TJ, or preemptive TJ. Or we can say they are stable.

Norwich–New London, Connecticut, and Springfield, Massachusetts, are practicing preemptive TJ, experiencing both increases in admissions to treatment facilities from criminal justice referrals and decreases in drug- and alcohol-related crimes. Worcester, Massachusetts, is stable, with decreases in both referrals and substance-related crimes. Two MSAs are practicing little to no TJ: Portland–South Portland, Maine, and Manchester–Nashua, New Hampshire.

### Therapeutic Jurisprudence Classification by Metropolitan Statistical Area



Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA) Treatment Episode Data Set, Admissions (TEADS-A 2005 and 2012), and US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data, National and Incident-Based Reporting System, 2005 and 2012.

<sup>1</sup>P.F. Hora, W.G. Schma, and J.T. Rosenthal, "Therapeutic Jurisprudence and the Drug Treatment Court Movement," *Notre Dame Law Review* 74 (1998).

<sup>2</sup>Bruce J. Winick, "Therapeutic Jurisprudence and Problem Solving Courts," *Fordham Urban Law Journal* 30 (2002).

