



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
STATE PAROLE BOARD

**2018 RELEASE COHORT OUTCOME REPORT:
A THREE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SECTION 1: RECIDIVISM TRENDS

- There were 6,902 incarcerated persons released from DOC facilities in 2018.
- The 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration declined between 2009 and 2018.
- Approximately 28.6% of all incarcerated persons released in 2018 were reincarcerated within three years. This represents the lowest reincarceration rate within the past decade.
 - Of all releases, 24.9% were reincarcerated for a technical parole violation.
 - Of all releases, 4.4% were reincarcerated for a new offense.
- For those persons who were readmitted to a DOC facility within three years of release, 18.4% were the result of a new commitment and 65.8% were due to technical parole violations (TPVs). New commitments decreased 46.2% between 2014 and 2018 while readmissions for TPVs increased nearly 18%.
- Readmissions to DOC facilities for the 2018 cohort peaked at four months post-release. Nearly 63.0% of all releases who were reincarcerated within three years were readmitted to a DOC facility within the first year of release.

SECTION 2: COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

- The majority of released incarcerated persons were committed from Camden and Essex Counties. The top 5 counties of commitment (Camden, Essex, Passaic, Middlesex, and Union) encompass approximately 50.0% of all releases.
- Counties with the highest number of returning incarcerated persons (Camden, Essex, Passaic) were not the same as those counties with the highest proportion of returning incarcerated persons (Sussex, Atlantic, Burlington, Gloucester, Camden).

SECTION 3: RELEASE COHORT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Six thousand, four hundred, seventy-nine (6,479) male incarcerated persons were released in 2018; approximately 69.0% were supervised upon release and 31.0% were released at the expiration of their sentences (i.e., non-supervised). Four hundred twenty (420) female incarcerated persons were released in 2018; approximately 74.0% were supervised upon release and 26.0% were non-supervised.
- The majority of releases self-identified as black/African American, followed by White and “other”.
- Most releases self-identified as non-Hispanic/Latino. Releases who self-identified as black/African-American were rearrested (53.5%), reconvicted (30.8%), and reincarcerated (30.0%) at significantly higher rates than White and “other” race releases within three years of release. Releases who identified as non-Hispanic/Latino recidivated at higher levels on all three measures than those who identified as being ethnically Hispanic.
- Approximately 62% of releases had at least a high school degree/high school equivalency at release. Releases without a high school degree/high school equivalency had higher rates of rearrest (50.9%), and reincarceration (31.3%) than releases with at least a high school degree/high school equivalency.
- The average incarcerated person at release was approximately 36 years old. Incarcerated persons who were under the age of 21 at release had the highest rates of recidivism within three years.

SECTION 4: WOMEN RELEASED IN 2018

- The 2018 female cohort consisted of 420 released incarcerated persons. Female releases were predominately white, non-Hispanic/Latino, single (i.e., never married), and under the age of 40.

- The average woman was 37 years old at release.
- The majority had a high school diploma or higher education level (78.4%).
- The majority of female releases did not have a prior admission to a DOC facility (67.6%). The most common offense of conviction was a drug offense (32.4%) followed by a violent offense (32.1%).
- The average incarcerated person served 629 days (or 1.7 years). The average woman had a prior criminal record with seven prior arrests and four prior convictions.
- The majority of female releases were committed from Camden County.
- Approximately 25% of all female incarcerated persons released in 2018 were reincarcerated within three years.
 - Of all female releases, 23.3% were reincarcerated for a technical parole violation.
 - Of all female releases, 1.8% were reincarcerated for a new offense.
- White women had the highest rates of rearrest (37.5%) and reincarceration (26.3%) within three years of release. Black/African women had the highest rate of reconviction (17.2%).
- Women released when they were under the age of 21 had the highest percentage of rearrest and reconviction three years of release, but women between the ages of 21 thru 29 had the highest percentage of reincarceration within three years of release. Differences in recidivism percentages between the age groupings were statistically significant.

SECTION 5: CRIMINAL HISTORY, INCARCERATION STAY, AND RELEASE STATUS

- Incarcerated persons in the 2018 release cohort served an average of 2.6 years before being released. Incarcerated persons who served more than two years of incarceration had the lowest recidivism rates in the 3-year follow-up period post-release.
- The majority of 2018 incarcerated persons were released following time served for a violent offense (38.0%), followed by a drug offense (24.0%), and property offense (17.0%).
- Incarcerated persons who were serving a sentence for a community supervision violation (CSV) and were released in 2018 consistently had the highest rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration in the 3-year follow-up period.
- Released incarcerated persons, on average, had eight prior arrests on record, nearly five prior convictions, and one prior DOC admission.
- Unsupervised releases were nearly 26% more likely to be rearrested and 51% more likely to be reconvicted than supervised releases. However, unsupervised releases were 70% less likely to be reincarcerated.

SECTION 6: REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMS

- Approximately 39.0% of the full 2018 release cohort attended a Residential Community Reintegration Program (RCRP) and 30.0% of all releases completed a RCRP.
- Incarcerated persons who participated in and completed any RCRP prior to release to the community experienced statistically lower rates of rearrest (46.0% vs. 57.5%), reconviction (26.5% vs. 34.0%), and reincarceration (22.5% vs. 28.2%) than incarcerated persons who did not complete a RCRP.
- Of the 2018 releases, 1,485 incarcerated persons completed vocational education programming during their stay of incarceration. Nearly 98% of all vocational education participants were employed at any time within three years of release. Vocational education participants had slightly lower 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than the full 2018 cohort.
- Nearly 19% of all incarcerated persons released in 2018 participated in psychoeducational drug treatment during their stay of incarceration. Psychoeducational drug treatment participants had slightly lower 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than the full 2018 cohort.

INTRODUCTION

This report is the result of a legislative mandate instituted by P.L.2009, c. 329, § 3, codified at N.J. Stat. § 30:4-91.15. The law enforcement agencies of the New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC) and New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) are tasked by the legislature to compile reports that record and examine annual recidivism rates. This report is also the result of a legislative mandate instituted by P.L.2015, c. 144, § 1. The DOC and SPB are tasked with measuring the effectiveness of the State's reentry initiatives and programs. This report is the twelfth in a series of reports that measure overall recidivism levels, describe adult cohort characteristics, and analyze recidivism factors. It is the seventh report that examines reentry programming consistent with P.L.2009, c. 329, § 3, amended by P.L.2015, c. 144, § 1, codified at N.J. Stat. § 30:4-91.15.

There are multiple sections to the report. The introduction presents the agencies' mission statements and describes the report methodology. Sections 1 through 6 provide details of the 2018 adult release cohort including cohort demographics, recidivism rates, and reentry and rehabilitative programming analyses. The adult cohort includes 1) adult releases of the DOC who are supervised by the SPB or Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Intensive Supervision Program upon release and 2) unsupervised adult releases (i.e., max outs) from the DOC.

In New Jersey, law enforcement agencies such as the DOC and SPB attempt to prepare adult incarcerated persons for the transition from behind bars to the community to assist releases in becoming law-abiding citizens. Incarcerated persons start preparing for rehabilitation and reentry immediately upon intake into our system. Incarcerated persons receive a comprehensive plan based on their assessment scores at intake. The plan includes the in-prison programs and treatment that will be beneficial to an incarcerated person once released from prison. Programs and treatment (such as education, vocational classes, anger management, and substance abuse classes, among others) lead incarcerated persons to better understand their behavior and provide the necessary skills to assist with community reentry.

As noted within the mission statements, the rehabilitation of individuals who will return to society is paramount. The two agencies in this report promote incarcerated person rehabilitation and provide services that boost a successful transition back to the community for adult incarcerated persons. This release outcome report is one tool that measures the effectiveness of New Jersey's reentry initiatives and programs. The success of these agencies is illustrated in our decreasing recidivism rates, as fewer adult releases are returning to prisons.

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENTS

New Jersey Department of Corrections

The mission of the New Jersey Department of Corrections is to advance public safety and promote successful reintegration in a dignified, safe, secure, gender-informed, and rehabilitative environment supported by a professional, trained, and diverse workforce enhanced by community engagement. The mission is realized by ensuring the safety and security of staff and incarcerated persons, providing the highest quality rehabilitative and reintegration programs guided by gender-informed care and trauma services with the support of community partners.

The Department is responsible for managing approximately \$1.1 billion and employing approximately 6,600 persons, including almost 4,900 in custody positions, to supervise approximately 14,000 incarcerated persons. The DOC is responsible for nine institutions: seven adult male correctional facilities, one youth correctional facility, and one women's correctional institution. These facilities collectively house incarcerated persons at minimum, medium, and maximum-security levels. In addition, the Department contracts with various Residential Community Reintegration Programs to provide for the transition of minimum-security incarcerated persons back into the community.

The Department is committed to providing incarcerated persons with structured learning experiences, both academic and social, which will enhance their return to the community as productive citizens. The DOC's goal is to provide incarcerated persons with the experiences and skills necessary to enter the job market. Comprehensive academic education and career technical training are important elements to a successful transition into society and the workforce. The Department also offers an array of institutional and community-based program opportunities for incarcerated persons, including community labor assistance, library (lending and law) services, and substance abuse treatment. Other specialized services include victim awareness, chaplaincy services, transitional services, Intensive Supervision Program, and ombudsperson services, which is one of many options available to incarcerated persons to seek redress for problems and complaints.

Additionally, the DOC, acting in conjunction with the New Jersey State Parole Board, provides a continuum of treatment services for individuals as they complete their sentences. Public safety is enhanced through the development, coordination, administration, and delivery of these institutional and community-based programs and services.

New Jersey State Parole Board

The New Jersey Parole Act of 1979 grants the SPB the authority and responsibility to decide which incarcerated persons of the State's and of the counties' correctional institutions shall be granted release on parole and what the conditions of that release will be.

Since 2001, the SPB has been charged with the responsibility of overseeing all of the functions, powers, and duties of the State's sworn parole officers who supervise and monitor parolees. The Parole Act of 1979 created presumptive parole, meaning that when an incarcerated person appears before a Board Panel, the assumption before anything is said or reviewed, is that the incarcerated person has a

legitimate expectation of release upon his or her parole eligibility date. The Board must make appropriate release decisions based on all relevant information. To assist Board members with this important task, they obtain a comprehensive pre-parole package that includes a current psychological evaluation of the incarcerated person as well as a risk and needs assessment tool (the LSI-R) to determine what degree of supervision and what program placement may be appropriate if release is authorized.

The statute further provides, as to offenses committed on or after August 19, 1997, that an adult incarcerated person shall be paroled unless he or she has failed to cooperate in his or her rehabilitation or there is a reasonable expectation that the incarcerated person will violate conditions of parole. This statutory standard implements an important objective of parole--namely, to encourage an incarcerated person to avoid institutional disciplinary infractions and for them to participate in institutional programs while incarcerated. Once an incarcerated person is granted parole release, the Board then has the continuing responsibility of ascertaining and monitoring compliance with the conditions of supervision that have been earlier established by the Board. If the parolee does not comply with the conditions of supervision, the Board has the lawful authority to issue a warrant for the arrest of that parolee. Following an administrative hearing, a Board Panel may either “revoke” the grant of the offender’s parole and return the parolee to prison, or modify the offender’s parole conditions.

The SPB is committed to a mission of promoting public safety and fostering rehabilitation of offenders by implementing policies that result in effective parole case management. The SPB seeks to accomplish this through the administration of an innovative parole system. The parole system in New Jersey addresses the needs of the community, victims, and offenders through responsible decision-making and supervision processes. The implementation of this system results in effective parole case management and serves to attain the important goals of the SPB, which are to increase public safety and decrease recidivism while promoting successful offender reintegration.

REPORT METHODOLOGY

Sections one through six of this report examine the subsequent criminal activity of adult incarcerated persons released from the completion of a maximum sentence with the DOC or released to supervision by the SPB or the AOC Intensive Supervision Program in 2018; this resulted in the review of criminal activity for a total of 6,902 adults. Unless otherwise noted, all analyses review criminal activity that occurred within three years of release, or 1,095 days. Each individual’s State Bureau of Identification (SBI) number was used to electronically retrieve information for criminal events that occurred within New Jersey both before and after the 2018 release. This allowed researchers to track all measures of recidivism over the course of the follow-up period.

The adults who are excluded from these analyses are individuals who were arrested outside of New Jersey, individuals without a SBI number, individuals who were deceased within three years of release, and individuals who were released to other agencies (e.g., released to a law enforcement agency in another state, released to a federal law enforcement agency).

Throughout this report, the DOC provides data on multiple levels of criminal activity (i.e., rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration), as well as violations of community supervision. Specifically:

1. Rearrest: Defined as an arrest on criminal charges within three years post-release (i.e., 1,095 days) regardless of outcome. The term rearrest includes violations for releases placed on parole or other forms of supervision (e.g., Intensive Supervision Program).
2. Reconviction: Defined as a conviction for a crime within three years post-release (i.e., 1,095 days). This count is collected regardless of whether or not the individual went on to be readmitted to DOC custody.
3. Reincarceration: Defined as a DOC admission for a conviction of a crime within three years post-release (i.e., 1,095 days). This count also includes incarcerated persons released to any form of community supervision who are reincarcerated for a new offense only.
4. Reincarceration for a community supervision violation: Defined as a DOC admission for a community supervised release who returns to a DOC facility within three years of release for any violation of supervision (e.g., dirty urine, curfew infraction). A community supervised release with both a supervision violation and an arrest for a new crime is classified under the rearrest category only.
5. Reincarceration for a new commitment: Defined as a DOC admission for any previously incarcerated person due to a new offense. The individual has been arrested, convicted, and incarcerated for an offense for which he/she has not served a sentence previously. The new commitment occurs within three years of release.

In multiple sections, the categorizations of the offense of conviction, or the offense for which incarcerated persons were serving time and released in 2018, were separated consistent with the federal government's crime types, including violent, weapons, property, drugs, and other crimes. "Other" crimes include offenses that do not fit into the other typologies, such as crimes against the courts (e.g., contempt, failure to appear) and traffic offenses. The terms technical parole violation (TPV) and community supervision violation (CSV) may be used. A TPV is defined as a return to prison from SPB supervision due to a violation of supervision terms. A CSV is defined as a return to prison on either a TPV or a violation of another form of supervision (e.g., Intensive Supervision Program, supervision under Megan's Law).

Additional variables are included and analyzed to determine whether an association with recidivism exists. These variables include but are not limited to release status, release age, time served on sentence, gender, race/ethnicity, marital status, Residential Community Reintegration Program (RCRP) completion, education level, and prior criminal history.

For all analyses of the adult sample, statistical significance is determined when the significance of α is found to be .05 or lower, indicating a 5% risk or less of concluding that a difference between groups exists when there is no actual difference.

SECTION 1: RECIDIVISM TRENDS

There were 6,902 incarcerated persons released from DOC facilities in 2018. The number of DOC releases has steadily declined within the last ten years. As displayed in Table 1, the number of incarcerated persons released annually decreased 42.0% between 2009 and 2018. The 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration declined between 2009 and 2018. Approximately 29% of all persons released in 2018 were reincarcerated for any reason within three years. This represents the lowest reincarceration rate of the past decade (Table 1 and Figure 1).¹

Year of Release	Total Releases	Rearrested Within 3 Years	Reconvicted Within 3 Years	Reincarcerated Within 3 Years
2009	11,895	53.1%	38.8%	32.4%
2010	11,388	56.8%	45.4%	34.9%
2011	10,835	52.7%	39.8%	31.3%
2012	9,934	53.3%	40.1%	31.3%
2013	9,669	52.3%	38.2%	29.8%
2014	9,109	51.2%	38.0%	30.5%
2015	9,017	51.4%	38.4%	30.4%
2016	8,162	51.6%	38.5%	30.9%
2017	7,554	48.5%	33.9%	29.2%
2018	6,902	47.8%	28.9%	28.6%

**Recidivism Decreases:
2009-2018**

Rearrest ↓ 10.0%
Reconviction ↓ 25.5%
Reincarceration ↓ 11.7%

TABLE 1. RELEASE COUNTS AND RECIDIVISM PERCENTAGES

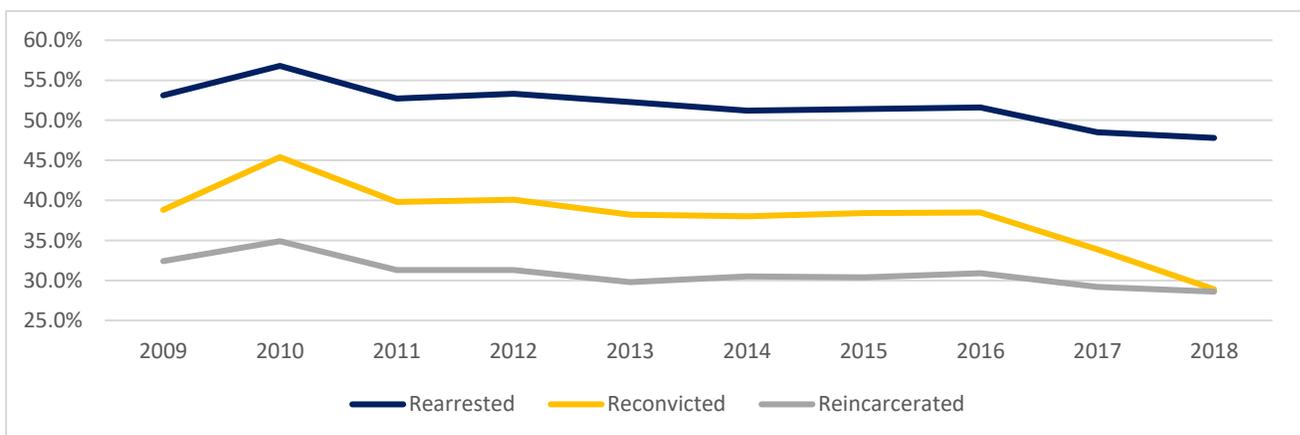


FIGURE 1. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES

¹ Rearrest is defined as an arrest on criminal charges within three years of release regardless of outcome and includes rearrests for supervision violations. Reconviction is defined as a conviction for a crime within three years of release regardless of whether or not the individual went on to be readmitted to DOC custody. Reincarceration is defined as a DOC admission for a conviction of a new crime or a supervision violation within three years of release.

Further analysis of reincarcerations was completed for cohorts released within the past five years (Table 2). For the 2018 release cohort, 18.4% of persons who were reincarcerated had a new commitment and 65.8% had a technical parole violation (TPV). Commitments for new offenses decreased 46.2% between 2014 and 2018 while readmissions for TPVs increased 17.7%.

Year of Release	Number of Releases Reincarcerated	Type of Reincarceration	
		Technical Parole Violations	Commitments for New Offenses
2014	2,777	55.9%	34.2%
2015	2,741	58.6%	30.6%
2016	2,519	61.6%	27.6%
2017	2,208	64.0%	23.1%
2018	1,973	65.8%	18.4%

TABLE 2. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES FOR TPVS AND NEW COMMITMENTS

For those who recidivated, rearrests and reincarcerations post-release typically occurred within the first year of follow-up (Table 3). In contrast, convictions were more likely to occur after the first year of release.

	≤ 6 Months	≤ 1 Year	≤ 2 Years	≤ 3 Years
Rearrested	29.6%	53.8%	84.0%	100.0%
Reconvicted	19.6%	46.2%	81.7%	100.0%
Reincarcerated	35.6%	62.6%	89.0%	100.0%

TABLE 3. RECIDIVISM PERCENTAGES FOR 2018 RELEASE COHORT OCCURRING BY TIME INTERVAL

Readmissions to DOC facilities for the 2018 cohort peaked at four months post-release. By the first year of follow-up, 1,223 releases (or 17.7% of the entire release cohort) were reincarcerated. Said another way, 63% of all releases who were reincarcerated in the follow-up period were readmitted to a DOC facility within the first year of release. (Figure 2)

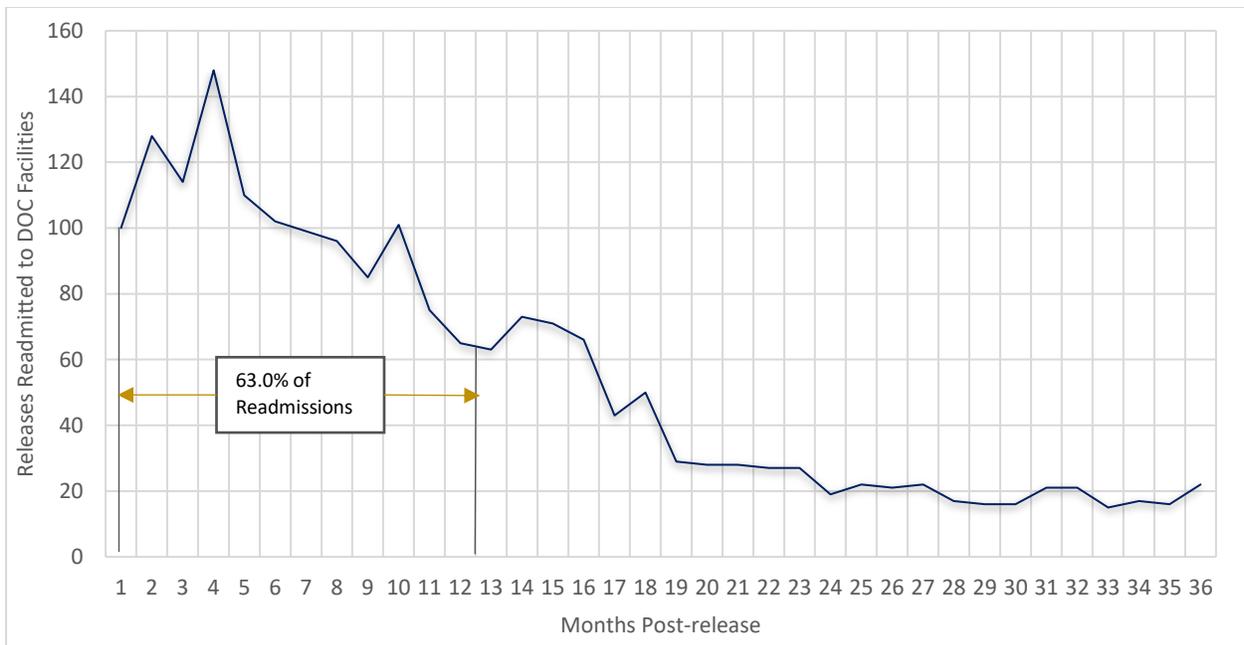


FIGURE 2. MONTHLY COUNTS OF RELEASES RETURNED TO DOC FACILITIES WITHIN THREE YEARS

SECTION 2: COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

This section details the recidivism levels of the 2018 release cohort by the county from which incarcerated persons were committed.¹ Please note that NJDOC does not track the county of release.

Committed County	Incarcerated Persons Released	Percent of Release Cohort
Atlantic	377	5.5%
Bergen	262	3.8%
Burlington	273	4.0%
Camden	1,003	14.5%
Cape May	239	3.5%
Cumberland	221	3.2%
Essex	888	12.9%
Gloucester	190	2.8%
Hudson	423	6.1%
Hunterdon	46	0.7%
Mercer	384	5.6%
Middlesex	501	7.3%
Monmouth	355	5.1%
Morris	91	1.3%
Ocean	296	4.3%
Passaic	531	7.7%
Salem	98	1.4%
Somerset	98	1.4%
Sussex	72	1.0%
Union	494	7.2%
Warren	53	0.8%
TOTAL	6,895	100.0%



Top 5 Counties of Commitment

1. CAMDEN
2. ESSEX
3. PASSAIC
4. MIDDLESEX
5. UNION

TABLE 4. COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2018 RELEASES

Nearly 30% of released incarcerated persons were committed from just two counties: Camden and Essex (Table 4). Overall, the top 5 counties of commitment encompassed 50.0% of all releases.

¹ Note that table sums may not match due to missing information.

SECTION 2: COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

TABLE 5. OFFENSE OF CONVICTION BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2018 RELEASES

Committed County	Offense of Conviction												
	2018 Releases	Violent		Weapons		Property		Drugs		Other		CSV	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Atlantic	375	107	28.5	61	16.3	33	8.8	71	18.9	16	4.3	87	23.2
Bergen	258	66	25.6	16	6.2	68	26.4	58	22.5	16	6.2	34	13.2
Burlington	273	78	28.6	22	8.1	53	19.4	45	16.5	19	7.0	56	20.5
Camden	998	264	26.5	177	17.7	106	10.6	223	22.3	41	4.1	187	18.7
Cape May	238	48	20.2	11	4.6	28	11.8	81	34.0	19	8.0	51	21.4
Cumberland	217	39	18.0	54	24.9	47	21.7	28	12.9	13	6.0	36	16.6
Essex	881	282	32.0	161	18.3	85	9.6	139	15.8	48	5.4	166	18.8
Gloucester	189	56	29.6	14	7.4	45	23.8	27	14.3	13	6.9	34	18.0
Hudson	422	149	35.3	65	15.4	34	8.1	96	22.7	12	2.8	66	15.6
Hunterdon	46	6	13.0	1	2.2	11	23.9	15	32.6	5	10.9	8	17.4
Mercer	384	107	27.9	71	18.5	40	10.4	75	19.5	15	3.9	76	19.8
Middlesex	493	116	23.5	37	7.5	130	26.4	108	21.9	25	5.1	77	15.6
Monmouth	352	88	25.0	44	12.5	57	16.2	93	26.4	12	3.4	58	16.5
Morris	91	24	26.4	9	9.9	13	14.3	23	25.3	11	12.1	11	12.1
Ocean	294	64	21.8	9	3.1	58	19.7	85	28.9	12	4.1	66	22.4
Passaic	530	191	36.0	71	13.4	50	9.4	111	20.9	20	3.8	87	16.4
Salem	98	21	21.4	13	13.3	12	12.2	24	24.5	10	10.2	18	18.4
Somerset	98	24	24.5	13	13.3	23	23.5	12	12.2	11	11.2	15	15.3
Sussex	71	17	23.9	1	1.4	9	12.7	28	39.4	4	5.6	12	16.9
Union	491	139	28.3	62	12.6	58	11.8	112	22.8	22	4.5	98	20.0
Warren	53	13	24.5	5	9.4	10	18.9	13	24.5	3	5.7	9	17.0

TABLE 6. OFFENSE OF CONVICTION BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT: TOP COUNTIES

The county of commitment was further analyzed in terms of the offense of conviction. Those counties with the highest *number* of incarcerated persons in each offense category were not the same as those counties with the highest *proportion* of incarcerated persons in each category.

Offense of Conviction	Top County By Raw Count	Top County by Proportion
<i>Violent</i>	Essex	Passaic
<i>Weapons</i>	Camden	Cumberland
<i>Property</i>	Middlesex	Bergen/Middlesex
<i>Drugs</i>	Camden	Sussex
<i>Other</i>	Essex	Morris
<i>CSV</i>	Camden	Atlantic

Table 7 below details the 3-year recidivism rate outcomes for each county in New Jersey. It should be noted that those counties with the highest *number* of returning incarcerated persons were not the same as those counties with the highest *proportion* of returning incarcerated persons. The highest sending counties of releases are ranked below.

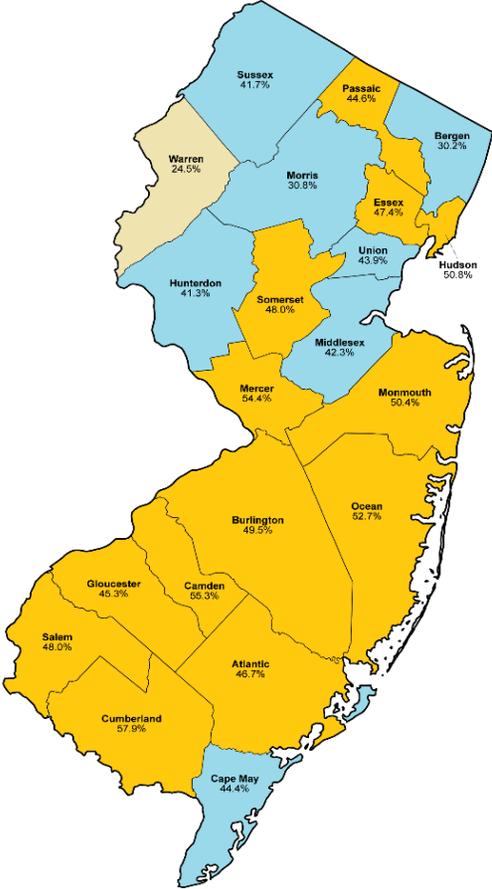
TABLE 7. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2018 RELEASES

Committed County	2018 Releases	Rearrest		Reconviction		Reincarceration	
		Raw Count	Percentage	Raw Count	Percentage	Raw Count	Percentage
Atlantic	377	176	46.7	100	26.5	123	32.6
Bergen	262	79	30.2	58	22.1	51	19.5
Burlington	273	135	49.5	92	33.7	89	32.6
Camden	1,003	555	55.3	323	32.2	319	31.8
Cape May	239	106	44.4	71	29.7	74	31.0
Cumberland	221	128	57.9	89	40.3	70	31.7
Essex	888	421	47.4	224	25.2	240	27.0
Gloucester	190	86	45.3	57	30.0	62	32.6
Hudson	423	215	50.8	123	29.1	114	27.0
Hunterdon	46	19	41.3	11	23.9	13	28.3
Mercer	384	209	54.4	102	26.6	116	30.2
Middlesex	501	212	42.3	145	28.9	139	27.7
Monmouth	355	179	50.4	114	32.1	98	27.6
Morris	91	28	30.8	21	23.1	22	24.2
Ocean	296	156	52.7	108	36.5	76	25.7
Passaic	531	237	44.6	157	29.6	164	30.9
Salem	98	47	48.0	21	21.4	24	24.5
Somerset	98	47	48.0	31	31.6	31	31.6
Sussex	72	30	41.7	19	26.4	25	34.7
Union	494	217	43.9	120	24.3	114	23.1
Warren	53	13	24.5	7	13.2	9	17.0
TOTAL	6,895	3,295	47.8	1,993	28.9	1,973	28.6

Rearrest		Reconviction		Reincarceration	
Top 3 Counties by Raw Count	Top 3 Counties by Proportion	Top 3 Counties by Raw Count	Top 3 Counties by Proportion	Top 3 Counties by Raw Count	Top 3 Counties by Proportion
1. Camden 2. Essex 3. Passaic	1. Cumberland 2. Camden 3. Mercer	1. Camden 2. Essex 3. Passaic	1. Cumberland 2. Ocean 3. Burlington	1. Camden 2. Essex 3. Passaic	1. Sussex 2. Atl/Burl/Glou 3. Camden

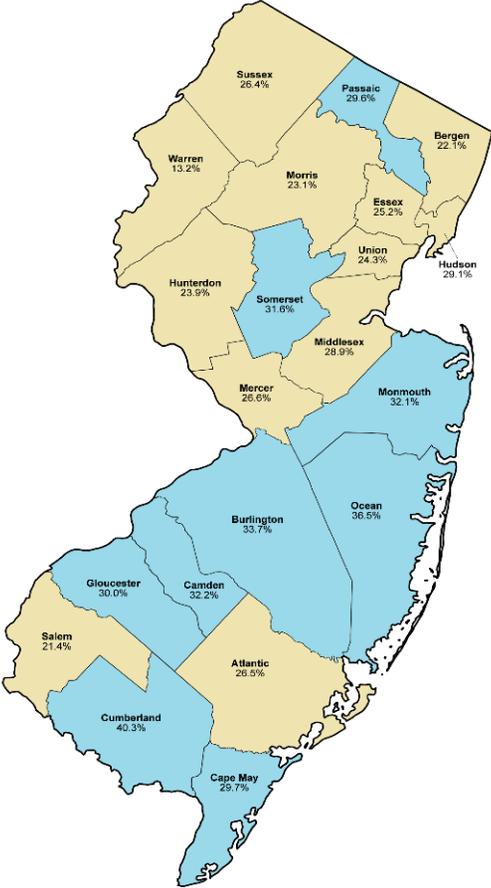
Recidivism rate proportions are also illustrated in Maps 1, 2 and 3.

3-Year Rearrest Rate



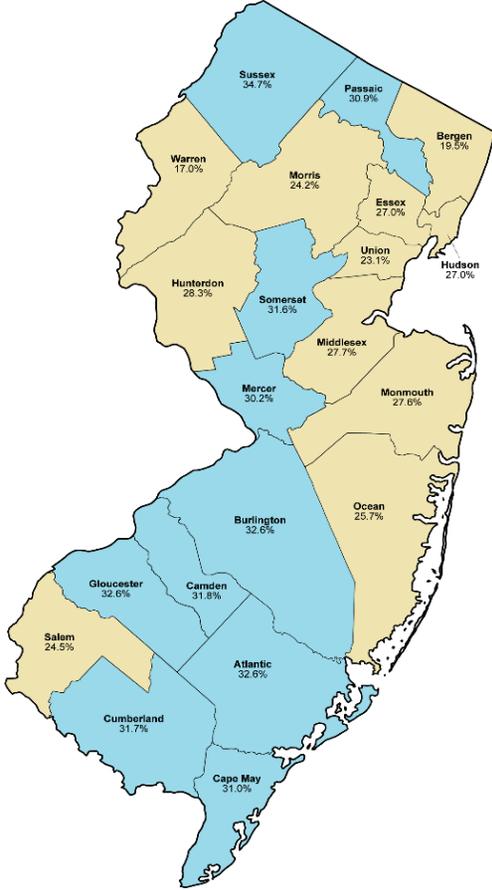
MAP 1. 3-YEAR REARREST RATES BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

3-Year Reconviction Rate



MAP 2. 3-YEAR RECONVICTION RATES BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

3-Year Reincarceration Rate



MAP 3. 3-YEAR REINCARCERATION RATES BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

Key: Recidivism Percentages		
0-29%	30-44%	45%+

SECTION 3: RELEASE COHORT DEMOGRAPHICS

This section will provide a detailed description of the incarcerated persons released from DOC facilities in 2018. Unless otherwise noted, analyses include the full release cohort (N=6,902).

Descriptives

TABLE 8. 2018 RELEASE COHORT DEMOGRAPHICS

	N	Percentage
Gender		
Male	6,479	93.9
Female	420	6.1
Race		
White	2,507	36.3
Black/African American	3,999	57.9
Other	292	4.2
Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latino	1,034	15.0
Non-Hispanic/Latino	5,753	83.4
Marital Status		
Single	5,464	79.2
Other	1,046	15.2
Education Level		
Some schooling	1,797	26.0
HS graduate/HSE degree	4,278	62.0
Any college and beyond	572	8.3
Age at Release		
Under 21	67	1.0
21-29	2,213	32.1
30-39	2,305	33.4
40-49	1,381	20.0
50-59	728	10.5
60 and above	208	3.0
	Mean (sd), Range	
Age at Release (years)	36.3 (10.8), 18-85	

Male releases represented 94% of the total 2018 release cohort. Four hundred twenty female incarcerated persons were released in 2018.

Race and ethnicity are self-reported descriptives. The majority of releases self-identified as Black/African American, followed by white. Fifteen percent of the release cohort self-identified as Hispanic/Latino.

Most of the 2018 releases were single. Fifteen percent presented as “other” (married, divorced, separated, or widowed).

Approximately 62% of releases had at least a HS degree or high school equivalency (HSE) at release. Of those released, 8% reported any college and beyond.

The average age of an incarcerated person at release was approximately 36 years. Age at release ranged from 18 to 85. Thirty-three percent of the sample were under the age of 30 and 33% were between the ages of 30 and 39. Releases over the age of 50 accounted for only 14% of all releases.

Note: Counts may not sum to the cohort total (N=6902) and percentages may not sum to 100% due to missing information.

Recidivism

Male releases were rearrested and reconvicted at higher rates than their female counterparts post-release.¹ Women were 27% and 22% less likely than men to be rearrested and reconvicted within three years of release, respectively. While there was no statistically significant difference in the reincarceration rate between men and women, there was a 15% practical difference between the genders.

Reincarceration was further explored according to readmission type. Table 9 reports the percentages of readmission types by gender, specifically identifying readmissions for a technical parole violation (TPV), community supervision violation (CSV), and new commitments. A TPV is defined as a return to prison from SPB supervision due to a violation of supervision terms. A CSV is defined as a return to prison on either a TPV or a violation of another form of supervision (e.g., Intensive Supervision Program, supervision under Megan’s Law). Males were more likely to be readmitted for a new commitment and a TPV. However, women were more likely to be readmitted for a CSV.²

FIGURE 3. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY GENDER

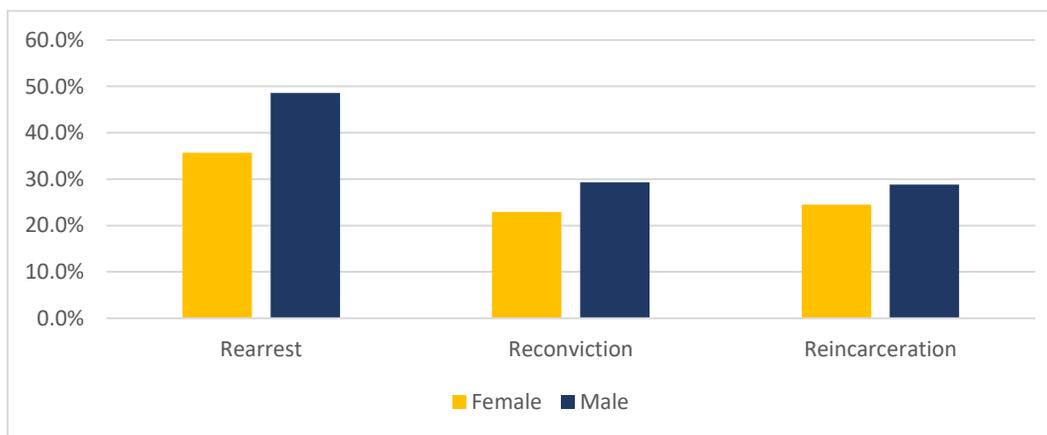


TABLE 9. 3-YEAR READMISSION RATES BY GENDER AND TYPE

	Female	Male
Readmission for a CSV	63 (61.2%)	869 (46.5%)
Readmission for a TPV	33 (32.0%)	688 (36.8%)
Readmission for a New Commitment	7 (6.8%)	311 (16.6%)
Total Readmissions	103 (100.0%)	1,869 (100.0%)

Releases who self-identified as “Other” were rearrested, reconvicted, and reincarcerated at significantly lower rates than White and Black/African American releases in the three-year follow-up period.³ Releases

¹ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=26.07$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=7.99$, $df=1$, $p<.01$).

² These differences were statistically significant: $\chi^2=10.97$, $df=3$, $p<.05$.

³ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=124.18$, $df=2$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=25.69$, $df=2$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=10.83$, $df=2$, $p<.01$).

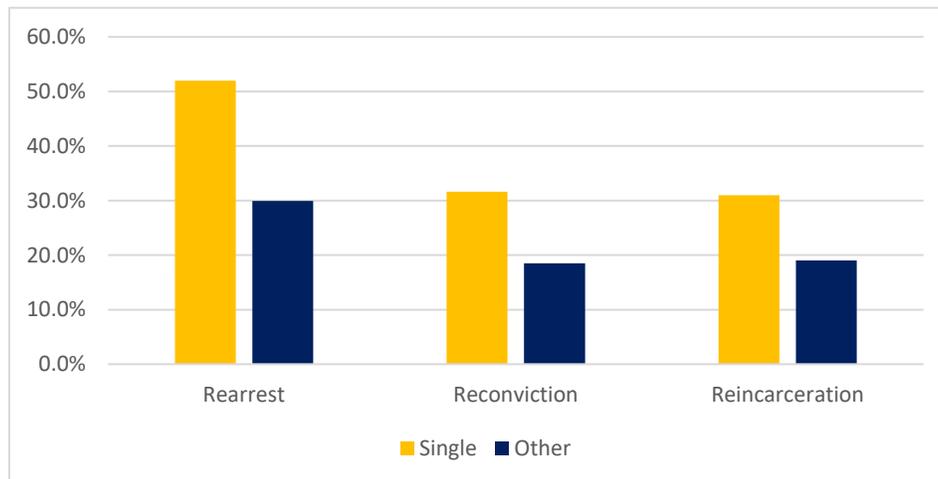
who identified as being ethnically Hispanic recidivated at lower levels on all three measures than those who identified as being non-Hispanic/Latino.⁴ See Figure 4.

FIGURE 4. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



Releases who self-reported a marital status of single were more likely to reoffend post-release on all measures of recidivism.⁵ Single releases had a 74% increase in rearrest, a 71% increase in reconviction, and a 63% increase in reincarceration than non-single releases.

FIGURE 5. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY MARITAL STATUS



⁴ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=92.43$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=44.38$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=33.19$, $df=1$, $p<.001$).

⁵ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=171.23$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=71.45$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=61.24$, $df=1$, $p<.001$).

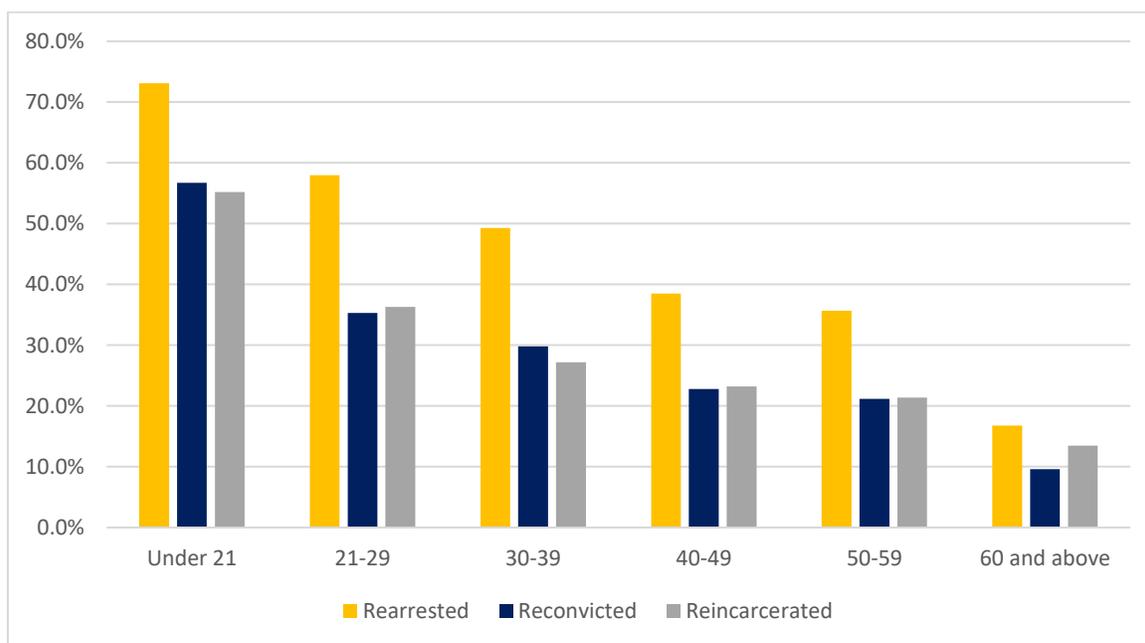
Recidivism by education level was analyzed (Table 10). Releases with a college degree or higher education level had significantly lower rates of all forms of recidivism than releases with a high school degree or some schooling as their highest education level.⁶

TABLE 10. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY EDUCATION LEVEL

	<i>Rearrested</i>	<i>Reconvicted</i>	<i>Reincarcerated</i>
<i>Some schooling</i>	50.9%	29.9%	31.3%
<i>HS graduate/HSE degree</i>	49.3%	30.0%	29.1%
<i>Any college and beyond</i>	33.4%	22.4%	22.4%

Because of the known association between criminality and age,⁷ recidivism was analyzed in terms of release age grouping (Figure 6, below). Of the groups, persons who were under the age of 21 at release had the highest rates of recidivism within three years.⁸ Releases aged 21-29 had the second highest rates of recidivism post-release. Each age group thereafter decreased in recidivism rates. These results follow the typical age-crime curve (see Footnote 7).

FIGURE 6. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY RELEASE AGE GROUPING



⁶ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=57.57$, $df=2$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=14.54$, $df=2$, $p<.001$, Reincarceration: $\chi^2=16.64$, $df=2$, $p<.001$).

⁷ For example, Hirschi, T., & Gottfredson, M. (1983). Age and the explanation of crime. *American Journal of Sociology*, 89(3), 552-584; Farrington, D. P. (1986). Age and crime. *Crime and Justice*, 7, 189-250.

⁸ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=282.27$, $df=5$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=154.50$, $df=5$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=151.74$, $df=5$, $p<.001$).

SECTION 4: WOMEN RELEASED IN 2018

This section focuses only on the women released from NJDOC custody in 2018. Women represented 6.1% of all releases (n=420). Descriptives of the women’s sample are reported and recidivism is analyzed.

Descriptives

Demographics

The complete 2018 release cohort consisted of 420 women (Table 11).¹

Releases were predominately white, non-Hispanic/Latino, single (i.e., never married),² and under the age of 40. The majority had a HS diploma or higher education level (78.4%). The average woman was 37 years old at release (*sd*=10.3).

Approximately 75% of all women were released to supervision. Differences were noted between supervised and unsupervised releases in terms of marital status and education level: a greater percentage of unsupervised releases were single, and supervised releases were more likely to have an education level of any college and beyond.³

TABLE 11. DEMOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIVES OF 2018 FEMALE RELEASES

	Supervised <i>n</i> =312	Unsupervised <i>n</i> =108	Total <i>N</i> =420
Race			
<i>White</i>	55.8%	56.1%	55.9%
<i>Black</i>	41.2%	39.3%	40.7%
<i>Other</i>	2.9%	4.7%	3.4%
Ethnicity			
<i>Hispanic</i>	11.0%	15.5%	12.2%
<i>Non-Hispanic/Latino</i>	89.0%	84.5%	87.8%
Marital Status			
<i>Single</i>	75.5%	84.8%	77.9%
<i>Other</i>	24.5%	15.2%	22.1%
Education Level			
<i>Some schooling</i>	19.6%	27.6%	21.6%
<i>HS graduate/HSE degree</i>	65.9%	67.3%	66.2%
<i>Any college and beyond</i>	14.5%	5.1%	12.2%
Age Group			
<i>Under 21</i>	0.6%	1.9%	1.0%
<i>21-29</i>	28.8%	23.1%	27.4%
<i>30-39</i>	34.3%	46.3%	37.4%
<i>40-49</i>	21.2%	15.7%	19.8%
<i>50-59</i>	12.2%	12.0%	12.1%
<i>60 and above</i>	2.9%	.9%	2.4%

¹ Only individuals with information available are included in table.

² “Other” marital status refers to incarcerated persons who self-reported being married, divorced, separated or widowed. Race and ethnicity were not significant.

³ These differences were statistically significant. Education level: $\chi^2=7.55$, *df*=2, *p*<.05; Marital status: $\chi^2=3.90$, *df*=1, *p*<.05

Criminal History

Table 12 displays criminal history and stay of incarceration information for the women. The majority of releases did not have a prior admission to a DOC facility (67.6%). The most common offense of conviction was a drug offense (32.4%) followed closely by a violent offense (32.1%). The average incarcerated person served 628.9 days (or 1.7 years). The average woman had a prior criminal record, with seven prior arrests and four prior convictions.

Releases were again aggregated based on post-supervision status (Table 12). Supervised releases were less likely to have a prior DOC admission. Though a greater percentage of supervised releases had a violent offense of conviction, differences between supervised and unsupervised releases in terms of the offense of conviction were not significant.⁴ Unsupervised releases spent approximately 20 more days more in prison than supervised releases, however, this difference failed to reach statistical significance. Supervised releases, on average, had fewer prior convictions and incarcerations on record when compared to unsupervised releases.⁵

TABLE 12. CRIMINAL HISTORY DESCRIPTIVES OF 2018 FEMALE RELEASES

	Supervised <i>n=312</i>	Unsupervised <i>n=108</i>	Total <i>N=420</i>
Prior DOC History			
<i>No prior admissions</i>	74.4%	48.1%	67.6%
<i>1 + prior admissions</i>	25.6%	51.9%	32.4%
Offense of Conviction (booking)			
<i>Violent</i>	33.7%	27.8%	32.1%
<i>Weapons</i>	3.5%	5.6%	4.0%
<i>Property</i>	24.4%	25.9%	24.8%
<i>Drugs</i>	32.4%	32.4%	32.4%
<i>Other</i>	5.8%	8.3%	6.4%
Mean Time Served – Days (sd)	623.7 (1084.6)	643.8 (919.7)	628.9 (1043.7)
Mean Prior Arrests (sd)	7.0 (7.2)	8.6 (8.4)	7.4 (7.6)
Mean Prior Convictions (sd)	3.9 (4.6)	5.13 (5.3)	4.2 (4.8)
Mean Prior DOC Admissions (sd)	0.52 (1.1)	1.0 (1.4)	0.65 (1.2)

⁴ Prior admissions: $\chi^2=27.93$, $df=4$, $p<.001$; Offense of conviction: not significant.

⁵ Prior arrests: not significant; prior convictions: $t=2.12$, $df=164.50$, $p<.05$; prior incarcerations: $t=3.64$, $df=156.98$, $p<.001$.

County of Commitment

The counties of commitment for the releases were examined (Table 13). Camden County had the most women committed (14.1% of all women releases) than any other county in the state. Essex (8.1%) and Monmouth (7.6%) counties rounded out the top three counties of commitment.

County of commitment was further analyzed in terms of the offense of conviction. Those counties with the highest *number* of releases in each offense category were not the same as those counties with the highest *proportion* of releases in each category. Raw counts and proportions are available in Table 14.

TABLE 13. COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2018 FEMALE RELEASES

Committed County	Incarcerated Persons Released	Percent of Female Cohort
Atlantic	27	6.4
Bergen	18	4.3
Burlington	25	6.0
Camden	59	14.1
Cape May	24	5.7
Cumberland	10	2.4
Essex	34	8.1
Gloucester	18	4.3
Hudson	11	2.6
Hunterdon	8	1.9
Mercer	19	4.5
Middlesex	31	7.4
Monmouth	32	7.6
Morris	7	1.7
Ocean	28	6.7
Passaic	20	4.8
Salem	7	1.7
Somerset	12	2.9
Sussex	10	2.4
Union	12	2.9
Warren	7	1.7
TOTAL	419	100.0%



TABLE 14. OFFENSE OF CONVICTION BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT: TOP COUNTIES FOR FEMALE RELEASES

Offense of Conviction	Top County by Raw Count (N)	Top County by Proportion (%)
Violent	Camden	Hudson
Weapons	Camden	Bergen
Property	Burlington	Salem
Drugs	Monmouth/Ocean	Sussex
Other/CSV	Camden/Cumberland/ Ocean/Somerset	Cumberland

Recidivism

The three-year recidivism rates of women releases were analyzed. For the 2018 cohort, 36% of women were rearrested, 23% were reconvicted, and 25% were reincarcerated within three years (see Figure 7). For those women who were readmitted to a DOC facility within three years of release, 8.7% were readmitted for a new commitment, and 47.6% were readmitted due to technical parole violations.⁶

Reconviction rates are the lowest since 2010. Overall, rearrest rates decreased 3%, reconviction rates decreased 13%, and reincarceration rates increased 8% over the nine-year period.

FIGURE 7. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES FOR 2018 FEMALE RELEASE COHORT

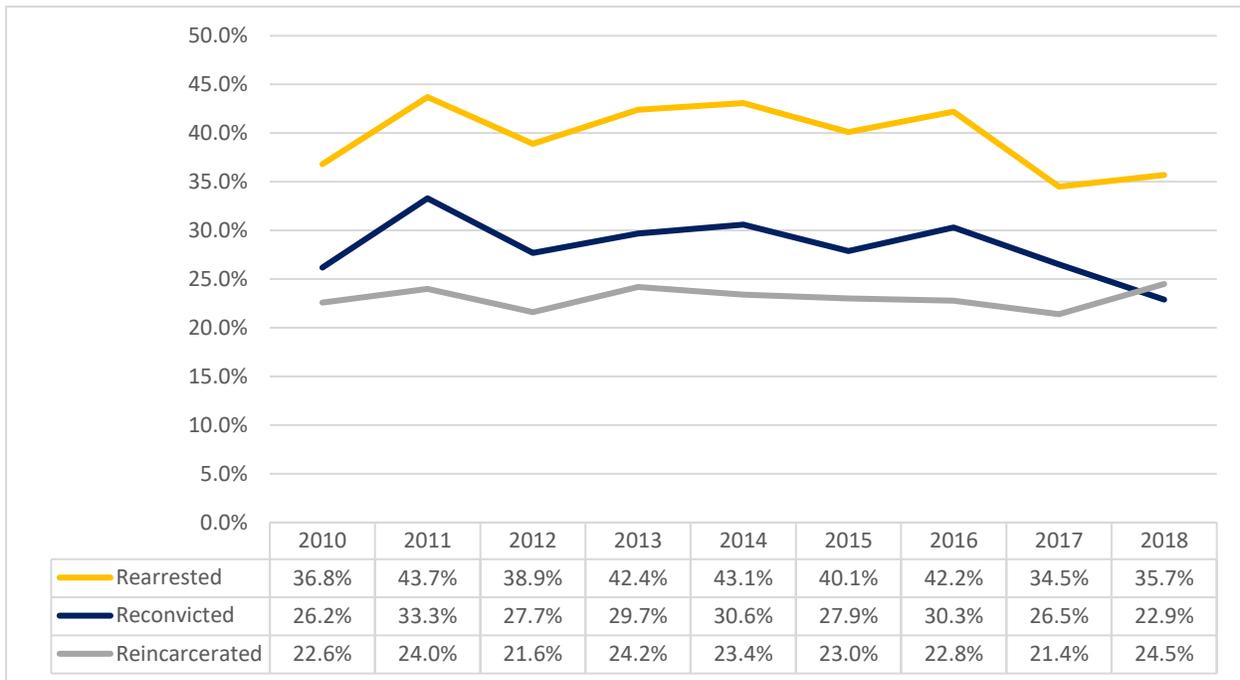


TABLE 15. 3-YEAR FEMALE RECIDIVISM PERCENTAGES BY RELEASE STATUS

Three-year recidivism outcomes were analyzed by release status. A greater percentage of unsupervised releases were rearrested and reconvicted compared with supervised releases and a 455% increase was observed when comparing reincarcerated unsupervised releases to supervised releases.⁷

	Supervised	Unsupervised
Rearrest	32.4%	45.4%
Reconviction	20.8%	28.7%
Reincarceration	31.1%	5.6%

⁶ These percentages are mutually exclusive and will not sum equally to 100%.

⁷ Rearrest: $\chi^2=5.90$, $df=1$, $p<.05$; Reconviction: NS; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=28.26$, $df=1$, $p<.001$.

Table 16 below details the 3-year recidivism outcomes for each county in New Jersey. Raw counts of releases who recidivated are displayed, as well as the proportion of releases from that county of commitment who recidivated. Those counties with the highest *number* of releases who recidivated were not always the same as those counties with the highest *proportion* of releases who recidivated. The highest sending counties are ranked below.

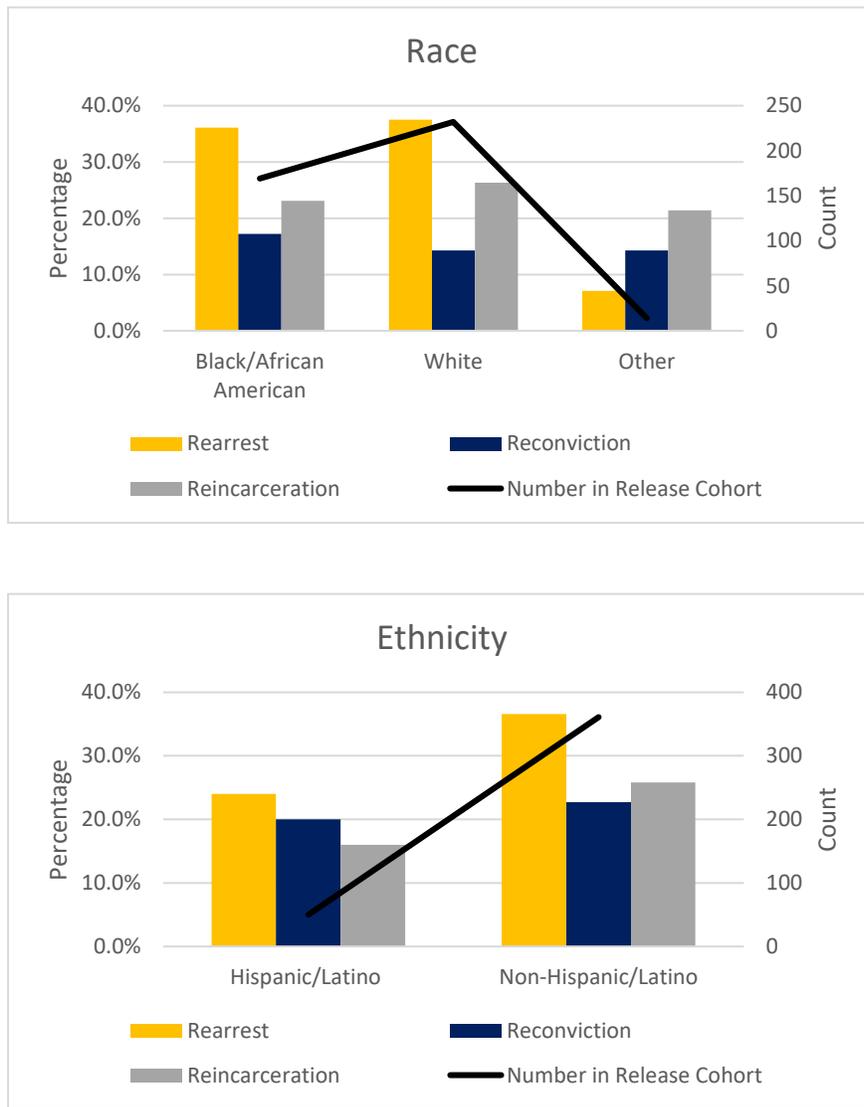
TABLE 16. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2018 FEMALE RELEASEES

Committed County	2018 Releases	Rearrest		Reconviction		Reincarceration	
		Raw Count	Proportion	Raw Count	Proportion	Raw Count	Proportion
Atlantic	27	10	37.0%	6	22.2%	9	33.3%
Bergen	18	3	16.7%	3	16.7%	4	22.2%
Burlington	25	10	40.0%	5	20.0%	6	24.0%
Camden	59	25	42.4%	13	22.0%	21	35.6%
Cape May	24	10	41.7%	7	29.2%	3	12.5%
Cumberland	10	8	80.0%	4	40.0%	3	30.0%
Essex	34	10	29.4%	4	11.8%	5	14.7%
Gloucester	18	9	50.0%	8	44.4%	9	50.0%
Hudson	11	2	18.2%	2	18.2%	3	27.3%
Hunterdon	8	3	37.5%	3	37.5%	3	37.5%
Mercer	19	7	36.8%	2	10.5%	4	21.1%
Middlesex	31	7	22.6%	8	25.8%	7	22.6%
Monmouth	32	15	46.9%	8	25.0%	7	21.9%
Morris	7	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Ocean	28	13	46.4%	10	35.7%	6	21.4%
Passaic	20	3	15.0%	2	10.0%	4	20.0%
Salem	7	3	42.9%	2	28.6%	3	42.9%
Somerset	12	7	58.3%	3	25.0%	2	16.7%
Sussex	10	2	20.0%	3	30.0%	3	30.0%
Union	12	1	8.3%	2	16.7%	1	8.3%
Warren	7	1	14.3%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	419	150	35.8%	96	22.9%	103	24.6%

Rearrest		Reconviction		Reincarceration	
Top 3 Counties by Raw Count	Top 3 Counties by Proportion	Top 3 Counties by Raw Count	Top 3 Counties by Proportion	Top 3 Counties by Raw Count	Top 3 Counties by Proportion
1. Camden 2. Monmouth 3. Ocean	1. Cumberland 2. Somerset 3. Gloucester	1. Camden 2. Ocean 3. Gloucester/ Middlesex/ Monmouth	1. Gloucester 2. Cumberland 3. Hunterdon	1. Camden 2. Atlantic/Gloucester 3. Middlesex/ Monmouth	1. Gloucester 2. Salem 3. Hunterdon

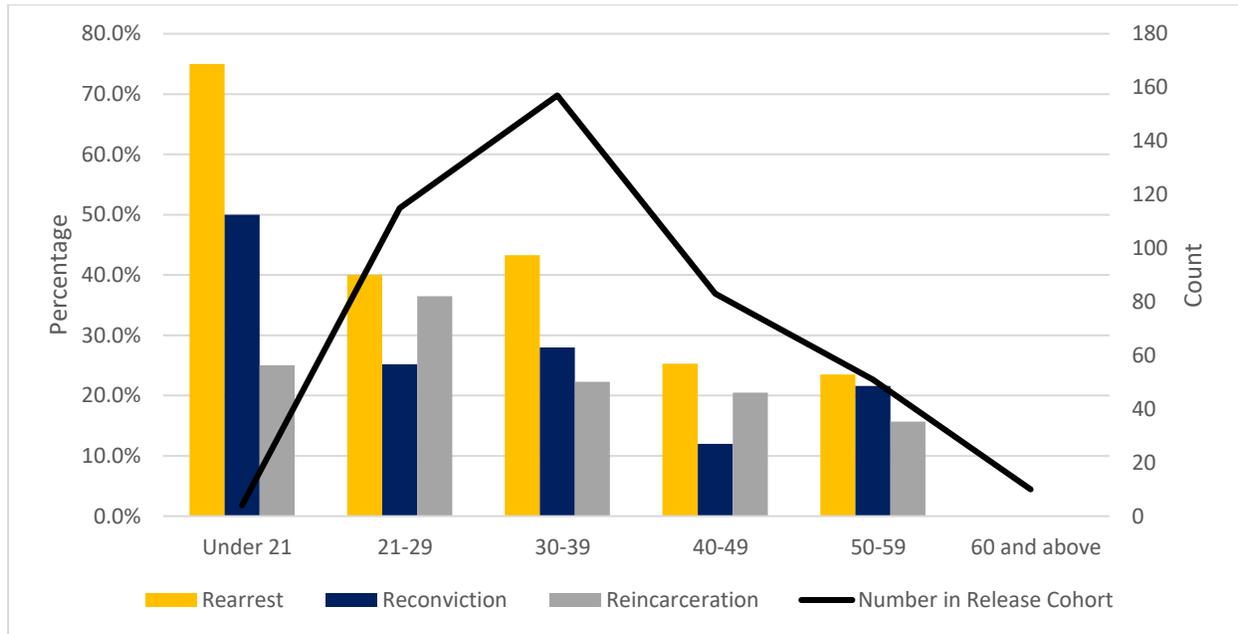
Recidivism by self-reported race and ethnicity were also examined. The criminogenic patterns of the female releases appear to be different than the 2018 release cohort as a whole, which is predominately male. Releases who self-identified as “Other” were rearrested, reconvicted, and reincarcerated at lower rates than White and Black/African American releases in the three-year follow-up period; these differences were only statistically significant for conviction⁸. Ethnicity was also explored and women who self-identified as non-Hispanic/Latino had higher rates of recidivism on all measures, however, these differences were also not statistically significant.

FIGURE 8. 3-YEAR FEMALE RECIDIVISM RATES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



⁸ Reconviction: $\chi^2=7.12$, $df=2$; $p<.05$.

FIGURE 9. 3-YEAR FEMALE RECIDIVISM RATES BY AGE GROUP



Differences in reoffending post-release were noted between age groupings (Figure 9). Women released when they were under the age of 21 had the highest percentage of rearrest and reconviction within three years of release, but women between the ages of 21 thru 29 had the highest percentage of reincarceration within three years of release. Differences in recidivism percentages between the age groupings were statistically significant.⁹

An examination of recidivism rates by education level yielded significant differences in rearrest rates across educational attainment (Table 17), with women with a college education and beyond experiencing lower incidents of rearrest within three years.¹⁰ Despite the lack of statistical significance for reconviction and reincarceration, women with a high school degree or high school equivalency experienced the highest rates across all measures of recidivism.

TABLE 17. 3-YEAR FEMALE RECIDIVISM RATES BY EDUCATION LEVEL

	Rearrest	Reconviction	Reincarceration
<i>Some schooling</i>	35.3%	22.4%	22.4%
<i>HS graduate/HSE degree</i>	39.8%	24.0%	27.6%
<i>Any college and beyond</i>	18.8%	14.6%	12.5%

⁹ Rearrest: $\chi^2=20.33$, $df=5$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=12.92$, $df=5$, $p<.05$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=15.50$, $df=5$, $p<.01$.

¹⁰ Rearrest: $\chi^2=7.85$, $df=2$, $p<.05$.

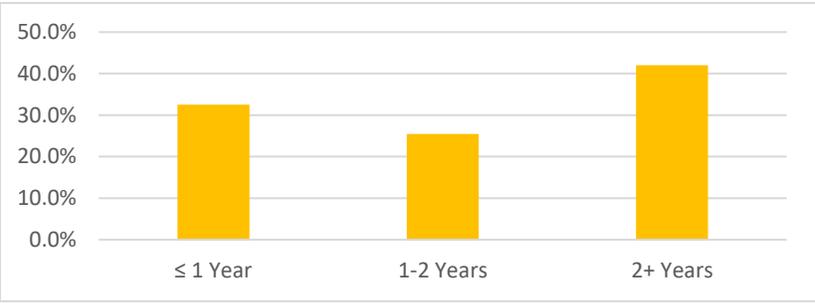
SECTION 5: CRIMINAL HISTORY, INCARCERTION STAY, AND RELEASE STATUS

This section details the criminal histories of the 2018 releases as well as information pertaining to their stays of incarceration and supervision post-release. Recidivism rates based on these metrics are analyzed. Unless otherwise noted all analyses include the full release cohort (N=6,902).

Descriptives

Incarcerated persons in the 2018 release cohort served an average of 2.6 years before being released (median=1.7 years; *sd*=3.6 years). Despite this average length, the majority of releases served two or more years (42.0%; Figure 10).

FIGURE 10. TIME SERVED

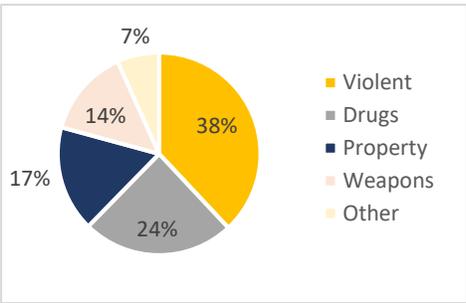


Most releases were on supervision post-release (68.9%) while 31.1% completed their term with no time owed (i.e., released without supervision). Approximately 24.7% of the 2018 release cohort served a mandatory minimum term (MMT). In New Jersey, incarcerated persons with a MMT must serve the mandatory minimum portion of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole. This calculation does not include earned credits for commutation, minimum security, or work. Only 15.4% of the 2018 release cohort was sentenced to serve a MMT under the No Early Release Act (NERA). Under NERA, incarcerated persons who are convicted of certain types of first or second degree crimes must serve at least 85% of their sentence before reaching parole eligibility.

TABLE 18. SENTENCE DESCRIPTIVES FOR 2018 RELEASE COHORT

	N	Percentage
Total Incarcerated Persons with a MMT	1,706	24.7
Sentenced Under NERA	1,064	15.4
Total Released	6,902	
Unsupervised Releases	2,146	31.1
Supervised Releases	4,756	68.9
Average Prison Time Served	2.6 years	

FIGURE 11. OFFENSE OF CONVICTION CATEGORY



The majority of 2018 incarcerated persons were released following time served for a violent offense (38%). The second highest offense of conviction was a drug offense (24%). Property, weapons, and “other” offenses comprised 38% of the sample.¹

¹ Other offenses include but are not limited to administrative crimes (e.g., escape, official misconduct, hindering apprehension), public order crimes (e.g., riot, violation of public health and safety), and community supervision violations, among others.

SECTION 5: CRIMINAL HISTORY, INCARCERATION STAY, AND RELEASE STATUS

Many releases in 2018 were not first-time offenders. The average released inmate had one prior DOC admission and 54.0% of incarcerated persons were released after a first stay of incarceration (Figure 12). Released incarcerated persons, on average, had eight prior arrests on record and nearly five prior convictions (Table 19).

FIGURE 12. PRIOR ADMISSIONS PERCENTAGE

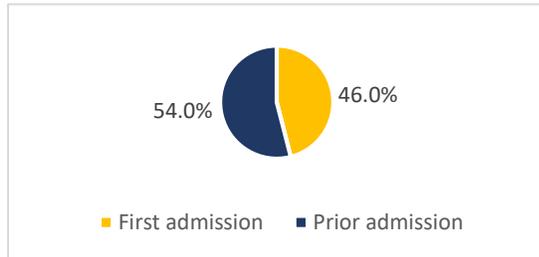


TABLE 19. CRIMINAL HISTORY DESCRIPTIVES

	Mean	Median	Percent of Release Cohort
Prior Arrests	8.0	6.0	89.7%
Prior Convictions	4.7	3.0	81.5%
Prior Admissions	1.4	1.0	54.0%

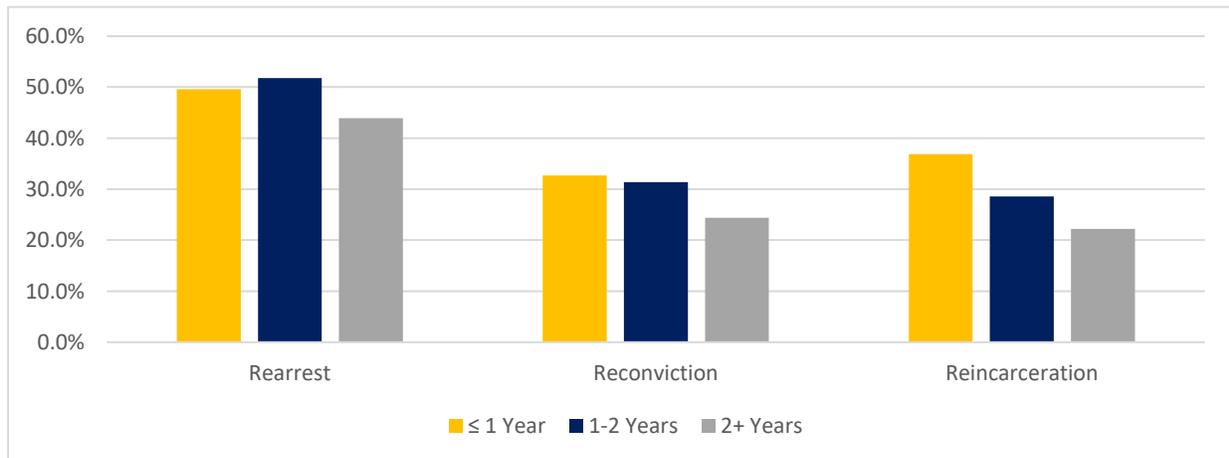
Recidivism

Correlates of recidivism were examined. Specifically, sentence length, mandatory minimum terms (MMTs), No Early Release Act (NERA) sentences, offense of conviction categories, and supervision post-release were analyzed.

Sentence Length

Incarcerated persons who served more than 2 years of incarceration had the lowest recidivism rates in the 3-year follow-up period post-release (rearrest: 43.9%, reconviction: 24.4%; reincarceration: 22.2%).² In contrast, incarcerated persons who served less than one year had the highest rates of reconviction (32.7%) and reincarceration (36.9%), while those serving sentences between 1-2 years had the highest rates of rearrest (51.8%).

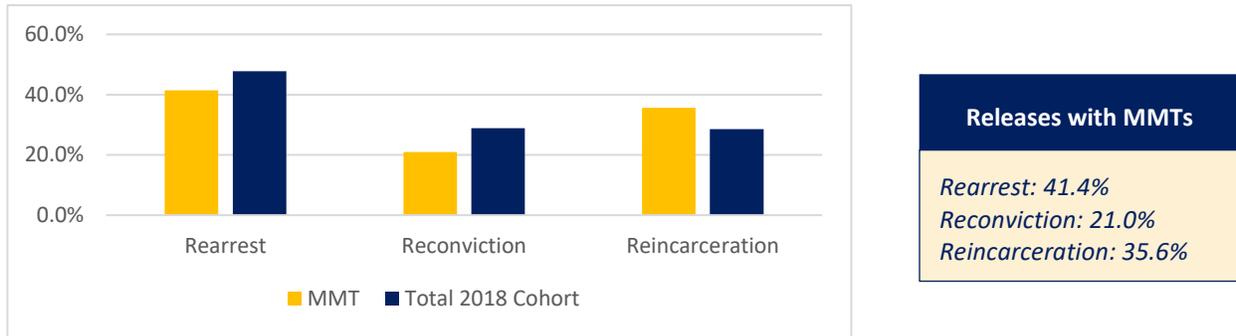
FIGURE 13. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY SENTENCE LENGTH



² These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=32.10$, $df=2$, $p<=.001$); Reconviction: $\chi^2=49.07$, $df=2$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=133.84$, $df=2$, $p<.001$).

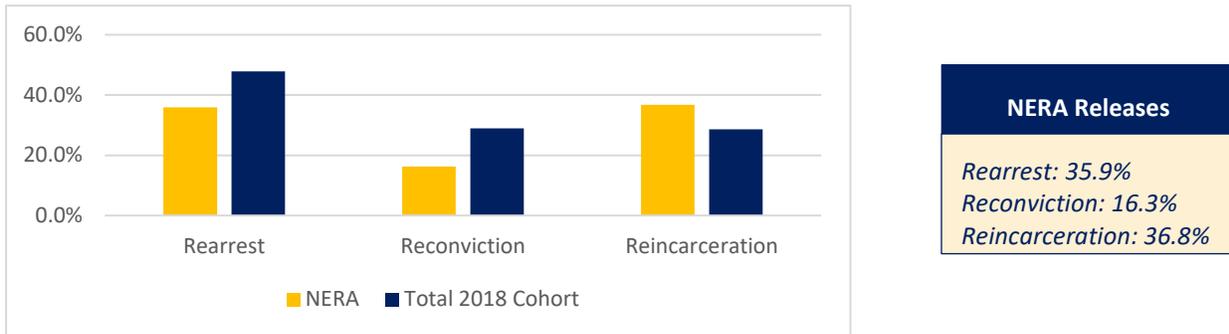
Special Sentences: MMTs and NERA

FIGURE 14. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES FOR INCARCERATED PERSONS WITH MMTs



Releases who served a mandatory minimum term of incarceration had lower rates of rearrest and reconviction, but slightly higher rates of reincarceration than the 2018 release cohort as a whole (Figure 14). Persons serving a sentence under NERA had lower rates of rearrest (35.9%) and reconviction (16.3%) than the 2018 release cohort (Figure 15), but a higher rate of reincarceration (36.8%). Under New Jersey law, offenders sentenced under NERA are mandated to a term of parole supervision upon release.

FIGURE 15. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES FOR INCARCERATED PERSONS WITH A NERA SENTENCE



Offense of Conviction

Recidivism rates by offense of conviction are in Table 20. Incarcerated persons who were serving a sentence for a community supervision violation (CSV) and were released in 2018 were more likely to be arrested, convicted, and incarcerated in the 3-year follow-up period. Incarcerated persons who served time for a violent offense had lower rates of rearrest and reconviction. Incarcerated persons who served a sentence for a weapons offense had the lowest rates of reincarceration.³

TABLE 20. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY OFFENSE OF CONVICTION

	Rearrest	Reconviction	Reincarceration
Violent	41.4%	22.2%	33.5%
Weapons	55.2%	32.8%	18.5%
Property	51.6%	37.2%	32.7%
Drugs	49.6%	30.7%	25.2%
Other	49.1%	28.5%	22.4%
CSV	74.1%	53.4%	36.2%

³ Differences in recidivism rates by offense of conviction were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=90.05$, $df=6$, $p<.001$); Reconviction: $\chi^2=124.52$, $df=6$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=108.72$, $df=6$, $p<.001$).

SECTION 5: CRIMINAL HISTORY, INCARCERATION STAY, AND RELEASE STATUS

TABLE 21. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY OFFENSE OF CONVICTION & REINCARCERATION OFFENSE

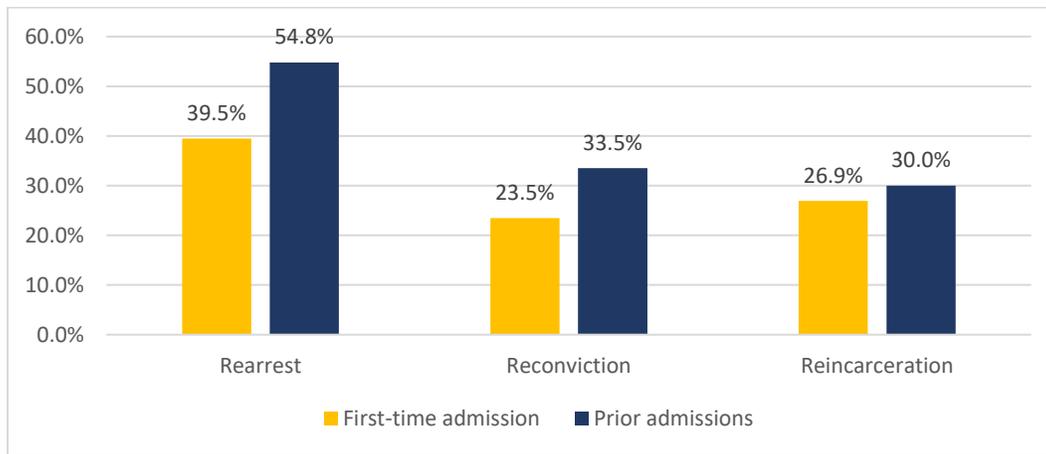
Reincarceration Offense	Offense of Conviction					
	Violent	Weapons	Property	Drugs	Other	CSV
<i>Violent</i>	5.0%	9.0%	3.9%	5.0%	3.4%	0.0%
<i>Weapons</i>	1.4%	8.4%	1.3%	3.1%	5.7%	0.0%
<i>Property</i>	1.4%	1.7%	11.3%	1.9%	4.5%	0.0%
<i>Drugs</i>	1.3%	8.4%	1.8%	5.0%	5.7%	4.8%
<i>Other</i>	0.6%	3.4%	1.3%	0.7%	3.4%	9.5%
<i>CSV</i>	90.4%	69.1%	80.3%	84.4%	77.3%	85.7%

For those releases who were reincarcerated within three years, the offense of reincarceration was analyzed according to the original offense of conviction. Table 21 displays these results. In all offense of conviction categories, incarcerated persons who returned to DOC custody were most likely to return for a CSV.^{4,5} The second highest reincarceration category was typically the same category as the offense of conviction.

Prior Admissions

As noted earlier, most persons who were released in 2018 were already recidivists in that they had prior DOC stays on record (i.e., 54.0%). Recidivism rates for this group can be viewed in Figure 16.

FIGURE 16. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BASED ON NUMBER OF PRIOR ADMISSIONS



First-time releases were significantly less likely to reoffend within three years post-release compared to those incarcerated persons who had multiple DOC stays of incarceration on record.⁶ First timers were 27.9% less likely to be rearrested, 29.9% less likely to be reconvicted, and 10.3% less likely to be

⁴ These differences were statistically significant. ($\chi^2=197.13$ df=25, $p<.001$).

⁵ Other offenses include but are not limited to administrative crimes (e.g., escape, official misconduct, hindering apprehension) and public order crimes (e.g., riot, violation of public health and safety), among others.

⁶ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=160.56$, df=1, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=83.56$, df=1, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=8.17$, df=1, $p<.01$).

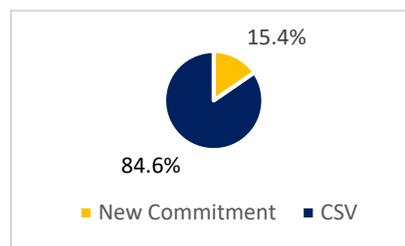
SECTION 5: CRIMINAL HISTORY, INCARCERATION STAY, AND RELEASE STATUS

reincarcerated than individuals with prior admissions. These results highlight the “revolving door” nature of corrections that impacts some incarcerated persons in particular.⁷

Post-Release Supervision

Overall, most incarcerated persons who returned to DOC custody within three years were readmitted due to a CSV (Figure 17). Community supervision violations include technical parole violations (TPVs), violations of probation supervision, and juvenile post-incarceration violations. This finding was expected given that most releases were released to a form of community supervision (i.e., 68.9%).

FIGURE 17. READMISSION REASON FOR RELEASES WHO RETURNED WITHIN THREE YEARS



The specific rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration rates for releases who were and were not supervised post-release are available to view in Table 22. For the 2018 release cohort, unsupervised releases were nearly 26% more likely to be rearrested and 51% more likely to be reconvicted than supervised releases. However, unsupervised releases were 70% less likely to be reincarcerated.⁸ In exploring reincarcerations for a new commitment only, significant differences were found between supervised and unsupervised releases (97.8% and 60.0%, respectively).⁹

TABLE 22. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY RELEASE STATUS: TRENDS FROM 2014 TO 2018

	Rearrest		Reconviction		Reincarceration	
	Supervised	Unsupervised	Supervised	Unsupervised	Supervised	Unsupervised
2014	42.7%	63.8%	29.2%	51.1%	38.7%	18.3%
2015	43.9%	63.5%	30.3%	51.2%	38.9%	16.8%
2016	44.6%	63.8%	31.7%	50.3%	39.7%	15.4%
2017	43.0%	59.9%	27.9%	46.3%	37.3%	12.7%
2018	44.2%	55.8%	24.9%	37.7%	36.4%	11.2%
Δ	3.5%	-12.5%	-14.7%	-26.2%	-5.9%	-38.8%

Trends of 3-year recidivism rates by release status are also provided in Table 22. Among the most recent five release cohorts, supervised and unsupervised releases had decreases in all rates of recidivism, with the exception of rearrests: supervised releases experienced a slight increase over the last five years. These results are also displayed graphically in Figure 18.

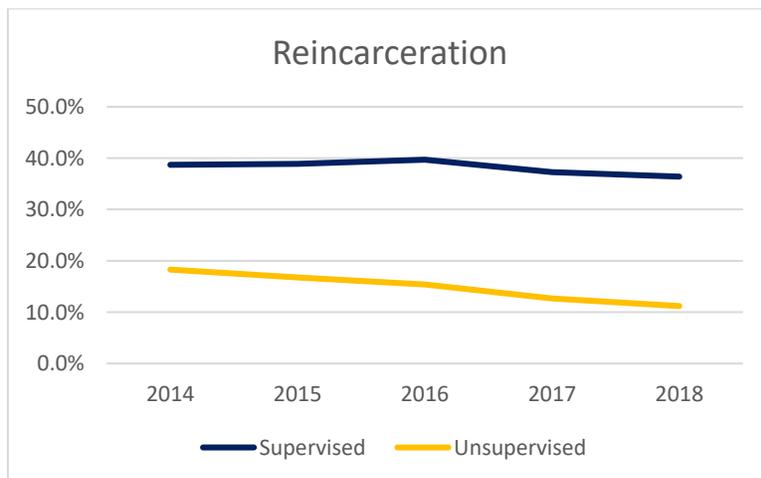
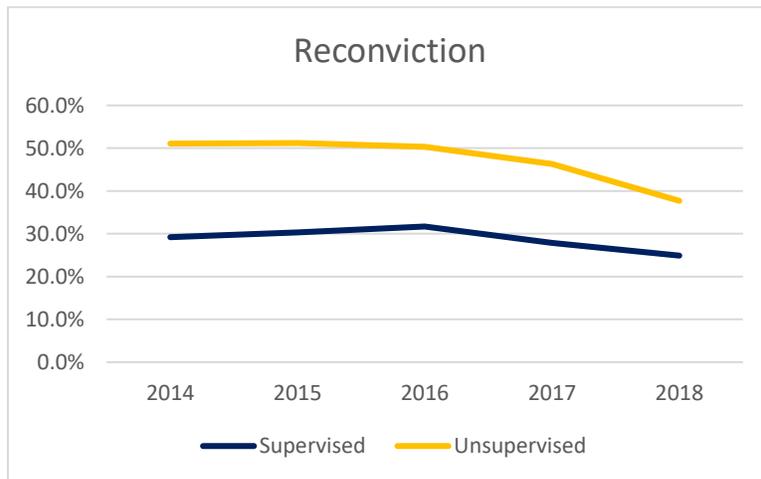
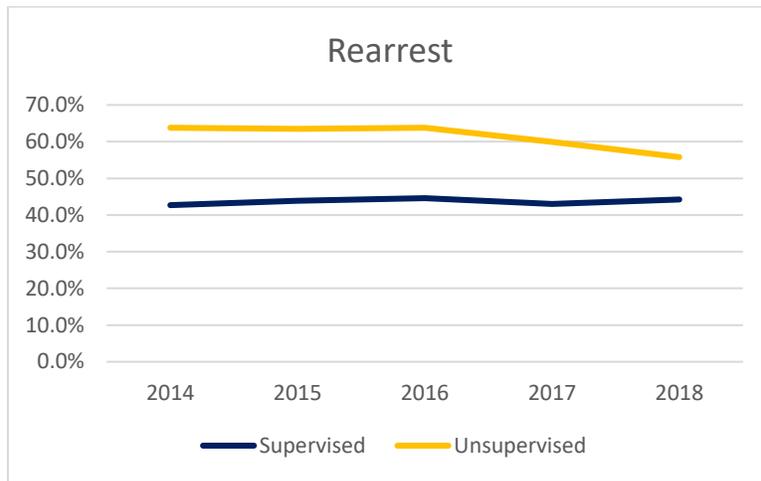
⁷ Pew Center on the States. (2011). State of recidivism: The revolving door of America’s prisons. Washington, DC: Pew Charitable Trusts.

⁸ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=80.07$, $df=1$, $p<.001$); Reconviction: $\chi^2=117.18$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=461.99$, $df=1$, $p<.001$).

⁹ These differences were statistically significant: $\chi^2=221.02$, $df=1$, $p<.001$

SECTION 5: CRIMINAL HISTORY, INCARCERATION STAY, AND RELEASE STATUS

FIGURE 18. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY RELEASE STATUS: TRENDS FROM 2013 TO 2018



SECTION 6: REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMS

In calendar year 2018, NJDOC contracted with 15 Residential Community Reintegration Program (RCRP) facilities to serve incarcerated persons (IPs) transitioning from DOC custody to community corrections before being released in the community. RCRPs serve both male and female incarcerated persons. Two of the contracted RCRPs were assessment and treatment centers, five were RCRPs with a work release program, and the remaining eight RCRPs utilized drug treatment with a work release component. A listing of the RCRPs can be found below.

TABLE 23. LIST OF 2018 NJDOC CONTRACTED RCRPS

Name	Type	County
Albert M. "Bo" Robinson	Assessment Center (Other)	Mercer
Clinton House	Educational/Vocational/Work Release RCRP	Mercer
Comunidad Unida Para Rehabilitación de Adictos (CURA)	Drug Treatment RCRP	Essex
Fenwick House	Drug Treatment RCRP	Passaic
Fletcher House	Educational/Vocational/Work Release RCRP	Camden
Garrett House	Drug Treatment RCRP	Camden
Hope Hall	Drug Treatment RCRP	Camden
Kintock-Bridgeton 1	Drug Treatment RCRP	Cumberland
Kintock-Bridgeton 2	Work Release RCRP	Cumberland
Kintock-Newark	Drug Treatment RCRP	Essex
Talbot Hall	Assessment Center (Other)	Hudson
The Harbor	Drug Treatment RCRP	Essex
Tully House	Drug Treatment RCRP	Essex
Urban Renewal Corporation 1	Work Release RCRP	Essex
Urban Renewal Corporation 2	Work Release RCRP	Essex

RCRP Descriptives

There are a limited number of beds available in the RCRPs. As a result, 39% of the full 2018 release cohort attended a RCRP and 30% of all releases completed a RCRP. Twenty two percent of the entire release cohort completed a drug treatment RCRP and 6.0% completed a work release RCRP. Approximately 7.0% of offenders in the cohort completed an assessment center RCRP.

TABLE 24. 2018 RELEASES AND RCRP COMPLETION RATES

	N	Percentage
<i>Attend Any RCRP</i>	2,695	39.0
<i>Complete Any RCRP</i>	2,064	29.9
<i>Complete a Drug Treatment RCRP</i>	1,491	21.6
<i>Complete a Work Release RCRP</i>	411	6.0
<i>Complete an Assessment Center RCRP</i>	476	6.9

RCRPs and Recidivism

Residential Community Reintegration Program participation and recidivism were examined. Incarcerated persons who participated in and completed any RCRP prior to release to the community experienced statistically lower rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than incarcerated persons who did not complete a RCRP.^{1,2} For RCRP completers, most returns to prison within three years were the result of a community supervision violation (85.7%).

FIGURE 19. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES AND RCRP COMPLETION

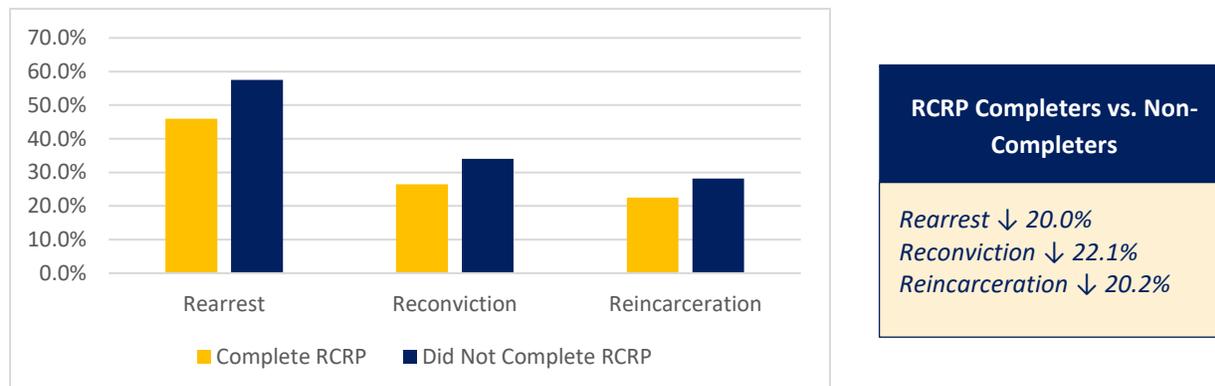


Table 25 details the three-year recidivism rates based on type of RCRP attended. It should be noted that incarcerated persons may have attended more than one RCRP prior to release. For example, an incarcerated person could complete a drug treatment RCRP and then be transferred to a work release RCRP. Thus, the rates should not be compared to one another and are displayed to illustrate the differences in recidivism rates between RCRP completers and the total 2018 release cohort. In many instances, RCRP completion was associated with a decrease in rates compared to the full release cohort. For RCRP completers specifically, releases who attended and completed a work release RCRP prior to release had the lowest rates of all recidivism types post-release. Releases who completed an Assessment Center RCRP had the highest rates of recidivism post-release.

TABLE 25. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY RCRP COMPLETION TYPE

	Rearrest	Reconviction	Reincarceration
Total 2018 Cohort	47.8%	28.9%	28.6%
Complete Any RCRP	46.6%	26.6%	23.2%
Complete Work Release RCRP	38.7%	18.7%	13.9%
Complete Drug Treatment RCRP	45.3%	25.3%	19.9%
Complete Assessment Center RCRP	53.8%	34.5%	37.8%

¹ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=28.01$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=14.25$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=9.31$, $df=1$, $p<.01$).

² Non-completers include incarcerated persons who attended a RCRP at any time during their stay of incarceration but did not successfully complete their participation for any reason.

Mandatory Education

The DOC provides mandatory education to incarcerated persons who do not have a high school diploma or a high school equivalency (HSE) degree. Under the State Facilities Education Act (SFEA) of 1979 (N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-1 et seq.), all incarcerated persons under the age of 20, as well as those under age 21 with an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP), are provided traditional high school coursework. Students earn credits from their home school districts toward the fulfillment of their high school diplomas. Similarly, incarcerated persons who are over the age of 21 who do not have a high school diploma or HSE and have 18 months or more remaining on their sentence before a mandatory release date are eligible for mandatory education programming to obtain a HSE (N.J.S.A. 30:4-92.1 (P.L. 2009, c.330)). Within the 2018 release cohort, there were a total of 131 persons who participated in mandatory education programming during their stay of incarceration. Information about these 131 persons can be viewed in Table 26.³

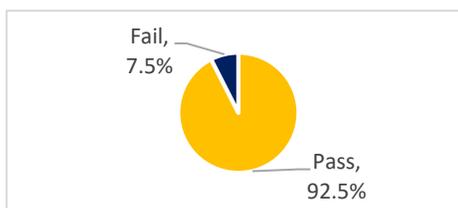
TABLE 26. DESCRIPTIVES OF MANDATORY EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS

	N	Percentage
Race		
<i>White</i>	22	16.8
<i>Black</i>	103	78.6
<i>Other</i>	6	4.6
Ethnicity		
<i>Hispanic/Latino</i>	17	13.0
<i>Non-Hispanic/Latino</i>	109	83.2
Gender		
<i>Male</i>	127	96.9
<i>Female</i>	4	3.1
Offense of Conviction		
<i>Violent</i>	82	62.6
<i>Weapons</i>	15	11.5
<i>Property</i>	2	1.5
<i>Drugs</i>	25	19.1
<i>Other</i>	7	5.3
		Mean (sd), Range
Age at Release (years)	32.7 (7.7), 20-60	
Number of Prior Arrests	7.3 (6.1), 0-28	
Number of Prior Convictions	4.3 (4.0), 0-20	
Number of Prior Incarcerations	1.6 (1.5), 0-6	
Time Served (days)	1471.2 (1393.8), 59-8876	

Incarcerated persons who participated in mandatory education were predominately Black, male, and serving a sentence for a violent offense. The average age was 33 years old and the majority of incarcerated persons had a prior criminal history and nearly two prior DOC admissions. These incarcerated persons served an average of 4.0 years.

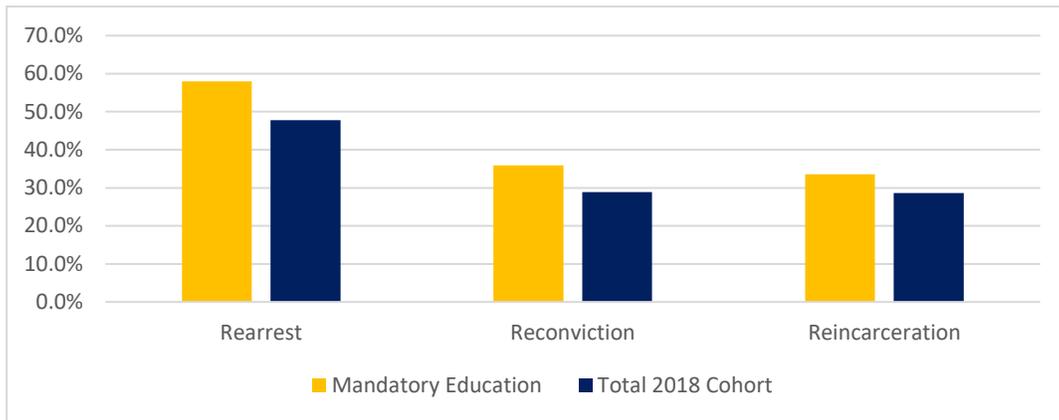
During their stay of incarceration, 40 incarcerated persons who participated in mandatory education programming took the HSE test. Of these, 37 passed and 3 failed, for a pass rate of 92.5%.

FIGURE 20. HSE TEST RESULTS



³ The table only includes individuals for which information was available.

FIGURE 21. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES FOR MANDATORY EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS



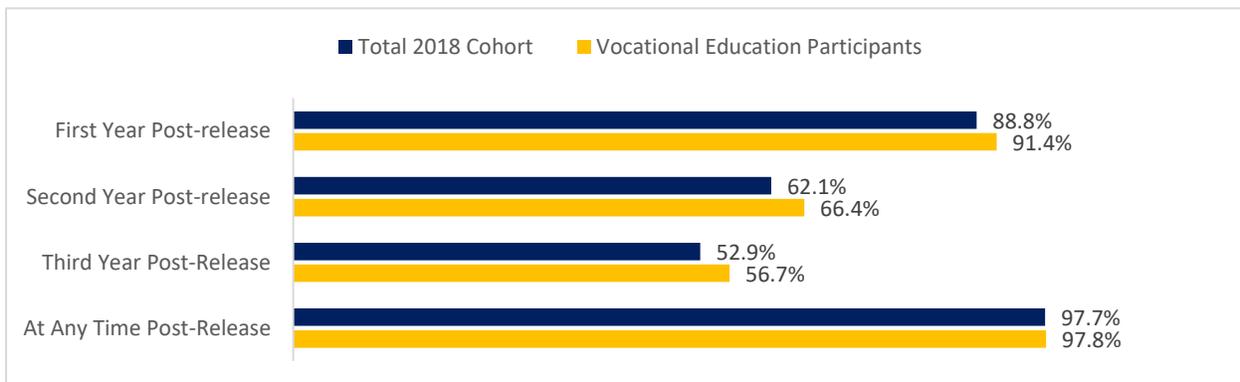
Mandatory education participants had slightly higher rates of recidivism than the 2018 release cohort as a whole (Figure 21). This is likely attributed to incarcerated person age at release. The average incarcerated person was 36 years old at release in 2018 (see Section 3). Mandatory education incarcerated persons were, on average, nearly four years younger at release than the full release cohort. Research indicates that criminality declines with age.^{4,5}

Vocational Education

DOC provides vocational education programs to incarcerated persons at all facilities. There are 23 courses of study which include cabinetmaking, cosmetology/barbering, plumbing, and graphic arts, among others. Of the 2018 releases, 1,485 incarcerated persons completed vocational education programming during their stay of incarceration.

Nearly 98% of all vocational education participants were employed at any time within three years of release. Employment rates for each individual year post-release were similar to those of the 2018 release cohort as a whole (Figure 22). Note that these rates do not include releases with missing data (Vocational Education Participants: n=672; 2018 Release Cohort: n=3,392)

FIGURE 22. 3-YEAR EMPLOYMENT RATES FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS



⁴ Farrington, D.P. (1986). Age and crime. In M. Tonry and N. Morris (Eds.), *Crime and Justice: An Annual Review of Research*, Volume 7 (pp.189-250). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

⁵ Tremblay, R.E. & Nagin, D.S. (2005). The developmental origins of physical aggression in humans. In R.E. Tremblay, W.H. Hartup, and J. Archer J (Eds), *Developmental origins of aggression* (pp.83-106). New York: Guilford Press.

SECTION 6: REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMS

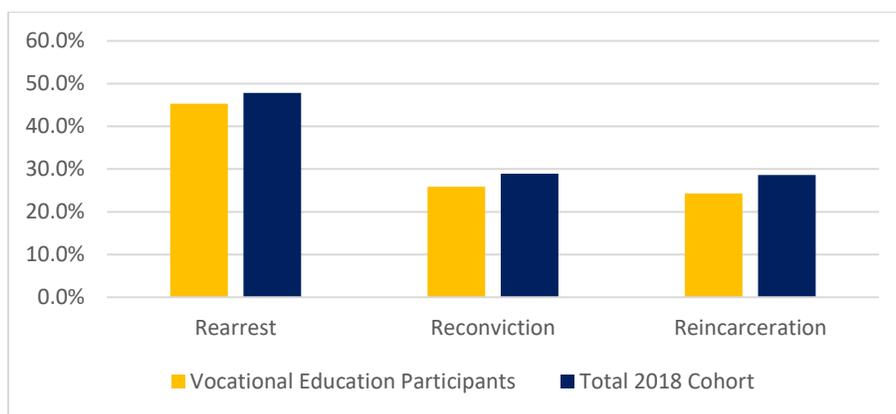
Income Range	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
	Vocational Education	2018 Cohort	Vocational Education	2018 Cohort	Vocational Education	2018 Cohort
\$0	33.8%	38.30%	25.6%	33.0%	31.0%	36.4%
Under \$10,000	63.5%	59.2%	63.0%	58.1%	49.2%	50.0%
\$10,000-\$19,999	2.7%	2.2%	10.9%	8.1%	18.9%	12.4%
\$20,000-\$29,999	0.0%	0.2%	0.6%	0.6%	0.9%	0.9%
\$30,000-\$39,999	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
\$40,000 +	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%

TABLE 27. INCOME LEVELS OF EMPLOYED RELEASES 3 YEARS POST-RELEASE

Of those incarcerated persons who were employed post-release, nearly all had an income level of under \$20,000 (Table 27). Income levels were similar across vocational education participation and the full 2018 release cohort, though a greater proportion of vocational education participants reported income in the under \$10,000 range compared to the entire 2018 release cohort.

In analyzing recidivism, vocational education participants had slightly lower 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than the full 2018 cohort. In examining reincarceration further, nearly 86% of vocational education participants were readmitted for a community supervision violation and 14% were readmitted for a new commitment.

FIGURE 23. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS



Psychoeducational Drug Treatment

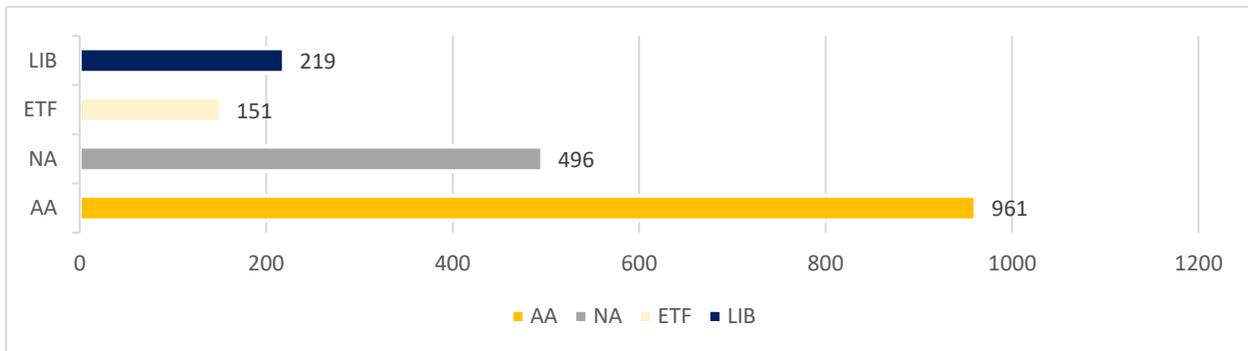
The DOC provides addiction treatment services to its substance use disorder offender population through programs including Living in Balance, Engaging the Family, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and Gamblers Anonymous. Living in Balance (LIB) is a research-based, psychoeducational program that provides treatment sessions for persons who abuse or are addicted to alcohol and other drugs. Participation is dependent on sentence length and RCRP eligibility. LIB programs are available in all DOC facilities. The Engaging the Family (ETF) program engages the spouse/committed partner and children of

SECTION 6: REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMS

incarcerated persons as allies in the rehabilitation process. The goals of the program are to strengthen marriage and family relationships of incarcerated persons, enhance the well-being of children of incarcerated parents, and motivate and prepare incarcerated fathers to maintain drug and crime free lifestyles. Participation is focused on incarcerated persons who will serve the entirety of their sentence behind bars. ETF is available in seven DOC facilities. Alcoholics Anonymous is available in all DOC facilities, Narcotics Anonymous is available in two facilities, and Gamblers Anonymous is available in one facility.

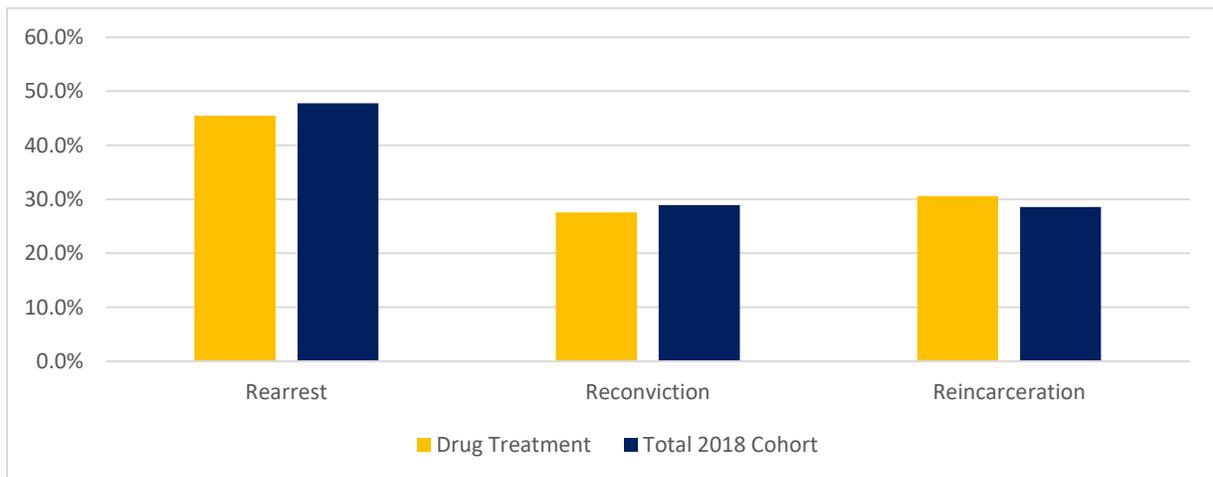
Nearly 19% of all incarcerated persons released in 2018 participated in psychoeducational drug treatment during their stay of incarceration. Alcoholics Anonymous was the most attended psychoeducational drug treatment program followed by NA. Together, AA and NA comprised 80% of all psychoeducational drug treatment participation.

FIGURE 24. PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL DRUG TREATMENT PARTICIPATION



In analyzing recidivism, psychoeducational drug treatment participants had slightly lower 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than the full 2018 cohort (Figure 25). In exploring reincarceration rates further, 14.1% of psychoeducational drug treatment participants were readmitted for a new commitment and 85.9% were readmitted for a community supervision violation.

FIGURE 25. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES FOR PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL DRUG TREATMENT PARTICIPANTS



CONCLUSION

This report is the twelfth in a series of reports measuring various outcomes relative to New Jersey's adult offender populations and meets a legislative mandate. To this end, the New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC) and the New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) examined the recidivism of a select cohort of adult offenders released from the custody of DOC in calendar year 2018. In addition to measuring overall recidivism levels, this report describes adult cohort characteristics and analyzes those factors associated with recidivism.

For the purposes of this report, the DOC defines recidivism in agreement with the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the Pew Center on the States. The analysis is expanded beyond the usual recidivism measure of reincarceration to also include data on rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration for a community supervision violation or new commitment that occurs during the follow-up period. A three-year follow-up period was utilized for all analyses.

The 3-year recidivism rates of adult incarcerated persons released in 2018 were lower than those of incarcerated persons released in prior cohorts. For the 2018 cohort, 47.8% were rearrested, 28.9% were reconvicted, and 28.6% were reincarcerated within three years of release. Overall, these rates are lower than national estimates.^{1,2,3} However, it should be noted that the outcomes of the 2018 release cohort, which were examined from the period of January 1, 2018 thru December 31, 2021, were likely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, within the New Jersey Judiciary, restrictions were in place limiting in-person trials and on-location services from March 2020 thru August 2021, creating a backlog of trial court cases.⁴ The extent of the pandemic's effect on recidivism rates post-release remains unknown until post-release outcomes of future release cohorts are analyzed.

The findings of this report also highlight the difficulty many incarcerated persons face upon reentry, particularly within 12 months of release. Nearly 54% of releases with a rearrest event are rearrested within the first 12 months of release. After this one-year mark, rearrest rates drop significantly. These rates are consistent with national trends,^{5,6} but are concerning nonetheless. The DOC is firmly committed to providing incarcerated persons in its custody with programming and resources that will place them in a better position to succeed at the completion of their sentences. The DOC aims to not only protect the

¹ Durose, M. R., & Antenangeli, L. (2021). Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017). Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Dept. of Justice, & Office of Justice Programs.

² Durose, M., Cooper, A., & Snyder, H. (2014). Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 30 States in 2005: Patterns from 2005 to 2010. Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Dept. of Justice, & Office of Justice Programs.

³ Alper, M. & Durose, M.R. (2018). 2018 Update on Prisoner recidivism: A 9-Year Follow-Up Period (2005-2014). Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Dept. of Justice, & Office of Justice Programs.

⁴ Biryukov, N. (2021, August 2). N.J. courts to fully re-open amid stunning backlogs, broad vacancies [Review of N.J. courts to fully re-open amid stunning backlogs, broad vacancies]. New Jersey Monitor. <https://newjerseymonitor.com/briefs/n-j-courts-to-fully-re-open-amid-stunning-backlogs-broad-vacancies/#:~:text=By%3A%20Nikita%20Biryukov%20%2D%20August%20%2C%202021%207%3A00%20am&text=State%20courts%20resumed%20holding%20in,will%20be%20lifted%20starting%20today>.

⁵ Durose, M. R., & Antenangeli, L. (2021). Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017). Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Dept. of Justice, & Office of Justice Programs.

⁶ Durose, M., Cooper, A., & Snyder, H. (2014). Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 30 States in 2005: Patterns from 2005 to 2010. Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Dept. of Justice, & Office of Justice Programs.

public by operating safe, secure and humane correctional facilities, but also provide proper classification, appropriate treatment of incarcerated persons and offer programs in the areas of education, behavior modification and substance use treatment that promote successful reentry into society. Specifically, the Department has provided those in DOC custody with licensed substance use disorder treatment and other programming to prevent substance use and relapse. The DOC has worked closely with the Department of Human Services to tailor licensing standards to a correctional setting, thus providing incarcerated persons with the same treatment opportunities available in the community. Licensed drug treatment programs are now available at eight RCRP facilities, and, after an extensive planning and renovation process, Mid-State Correctional Facility reopened in April 2017 as the first licensed, clinically driven drug treatment prison operated by the DOC.

The Department has also continued its efforts to provide educational services to those in custody with great success. While completing their sentences, large numbers of incarcerated persons are earning their high school and equivalency diplomas and associate degrees. The Department offers a wide range of vocational programming and has issued increasing numbers of industry-based vocational certificates so that incarcerated persons are better prepared for meaningful employment once released. Finally, as offenders complete their sentences and prepare to return to the community, they receive assistance in obtaining necessary identification documents. Assistance is also provided in such areas as family reunification and linkages to housing as well as other important resources.

In this regard, the results of the present analyses support the missions of the New Jersey Department of Corrections. Residential Community Reintegration Program completion was related to decreased rates of recidivism post-release. Incarcerated persons who participated in psychoeducational drug treatment programming had lower rates of recidivism after release. Nearly 98% of all vocational education participants were employed at any time within three years of release. Further, vocational education participants experienced decreases in rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration compared to the full release cohort. The DOC will continue to examine these data to ensure that the Department is making a positive difference in the lives of incarcerated persons as they prepare for reentry, resulting in improved public safety in communities throughout New Jersey and beyond.