



**State of New Jersey**  
**Department of Corrections**  
**State Parole Board**  
**Juvenile Justice Commission**

**2016 RELEASE COHORT OUTCOME REPORT:  
A THREE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: ADULT COHORT

## SECTION 1: RECIDIVISM TRENDS

- There were 8,162 incarcerated persons released from DOC facilities in 2016. The number of DOC incarcerated persons released annually decreased 35.3% between 2007 and 2016.
- The 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration declined between 2007 and 2016.
- Approximately 31.0% of all incarcerated persons released in 2016 were reincarcerated within three years. This represents one of the lowest reincarceration rates of the past decade. Of all releases, 19% were reincarcerated for a technical parole violation (TPV) and 8.5% were reincarcerated for a new offense.
- Nearly 28.0% of all readmissions to a DOC facility within three years post-release were the result of a new commitment and 62.0% were due to TPVs. Commitments for new offenses decreased 23.5% between 2012 and 2016 while readmissions for TPVs increased 14.1%.
- Readmissions to DOC facilities for the 2016 cohort peaked at 4 months post-release. Nearly 56.0% 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, Middlesex, Union, and Atlantic) encompass approximately 50.0% of all releases.
- Counties with the highest number of returning incarcerated persons (Camden, Essex, Middlesex, Mercer, and Atlantic/Passaic [tie]) were not the same as those counties with the highest proportion of returning incarcerated persons (Mercer, Cape May, Camden, Cumberland, Hunterdon).

## SECTION 3: RELEASE COHORT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Seven thousand, six hundred and fourteen (7,614) male incarcerated persons were released in 2016; nearly 64% were supervised upon release and 36% were released at the expiration of their sentences (i.e., non-supervised). Five hundred forty-eight female (548) incarcerated persons were released in 2016; nearly 66% were supervised upon release and 34% 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 (57.6%), reconvicted (42.1%), and reincarcerated (33.1%) 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 59% of releases had at least a high school degree or high school equivalency at release. Releases without a high school degree had higher rates of rearrest (55.2%) and reconviction (41.8%) than releases with a high school degree and above.
- 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 2016

- The 2016 female cohort consisted of 548 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 36 years old at release.
- The majority had a high school diploma or higher education level (70.3%).
- The majority of female releases did not have a prior admission to a DOC facility (62.4%). The most common offense of conviction was a property offense (31.3%) followed by a drug offense (30.6%).
- The average incarcerated person served 645 days (or 1.8 years). The average woman had a prior criminal record with 7 prior arrests and 4 prior convictions.
- The majority of female releases were committed from Camden County; the fewest were committed from Warren County.
- Approximately 42% of women were rearrested, 30% were reconvicted, and 23% were reincarcerated within three years of release. Of all released women, 13.5% were reincarcerated for a technical parole violation and 2.2% were reincarcerated for a new offense. Between 2010 and 2016, rearrest rates increased 14.7%, reconviction rates increased 15.6%, and reincarceration rates increased 0.9% over the seven-year period.
- Unsupervised releases were 15.2% less likely to be arrested and 23.4% less likely to be reconvicted than supervised releases. Unsupervised releases were also 95.8% less likely to be reincarcerated than supervised releases.
- White women had the highest rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration within three years of release compared with women of other races.
- Women between the ages of 40 thru 49 had the highest percentage of rearrest within three years of release. However, women under 21 had the highest percentage of reconviction and reincarceration within three years of release.

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

- Incarcerated persons in the 2016 release cohort served an average of 2.4 years before being released. Incarcerated persons who served more than 2 years of incarceration had the lowest recidivism rates in the 3-year follow-up period post-release.
- The majority of 2016 incarcerated persons were released following time served for a violent offense (34.0%), followed by a drug offense (28.0%), and property offense (19.0%).
- Incarcerated persons who were serving a sentence for a community supervision violation (CSV) and were released in 2016 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, and nearly five prior convictions, and one prior DOC admission.
- Unsupervised releases were 43.0% more likely to be rearrested and 59.0% more likely to be reconvicted than supervised releases. However, unsupervised releases were 61.2% less likely to be reincarcerated.

#### **SECTION 6: REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMS**

- Approximately 36.0% of the full 2016 release cohort attended a Residential Community Reintegration Program (RCRP) and 26.0% of all releases completed a RCRP.

- Incarcerated persons who participated in and completed any RCRP prior to release to the community did not have statistically lower rates of rearrest than incarcerated persons who did not complete a RCRP (50.2% vs. 51.9%), but experienced lower rates of reconviction (34.8% vs. 39.6%) and reincarceration (24.9% vs. 32.3%).
- Of the 2016 releases, 1,270 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 2016 cohort.
- Nearly 20% of all incarcerated persons released in 2016 participated in psychoeducational drug treatment during their stay of incarceration. Psychoeducational drug treatment participants had slightly lower 3-year rates of rearrest and reconviction than the full 2016 cohort. However, reincarceration rates were slightly higher than the full 2016 cohort.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: JUVENILE COHORT

## OVERALL JUVENILE FINDINGS

- In 2016, the Juvenile Justice Commission recidivism rate was lower than it had been in 2007, the first year of the report, on all three measures of recidivism. Since 2007, new court filings/arrests have decreased 12.8 percentage points, new adjudications/convictions have decreased 16.8 percentage points, and new commitments to state custody have decreased 9.7 percentage points.
- Approximately 70.8% of juvenile offenders did not return to a juvenile or adult State facility within three years of release from custody.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF 2016 JUVENILE COHORT

- The juvenile cohort was comprised of 288 releases.
- The average age at release from the JJC was 18.4 years.
- The racial/ethnic composition of the cohort was 72.9% Black, 16.0% Hispanic, 10.4% White, and 0.7% other, or 89.6% minority.
- Males comprised 95.1% of the juvenile release cohort and females comprised 4.9%.
- The average time served in custody for the juvenile cohort was 396 days.
- Most youth served sentences for persons offenses (42.0%), followed by violations of probation (21.9%), weapons offenses (14.9%), property offenses (10.4%), drug offenses (5.9%), and public order offenses (4.9%).

## JUVENILE COHORT RECIDIVISM WITHIN THREE YEARS

- 71.2% of the cohort had a new court filing/arrest.
- 57.3% of the cohort had a new adjudication/conviction.
- 28.8% of the cohort had a new commitment.
- The average time to re-offend for a new court filing/arrest was 319 days.
- The average time to re-offend for a new adjudication/conviction was 361 days.
- The average time to re-offend for a new commitment to a State facility was 355 days.

## DIFFERENCES IN RECIDIVISM (REARREST) ACROSS KEY VARIABLES

- Males were more likely to recidivate (75.3% males vs. 67.5% of females).
- Recidivating youth had accumulated a greater number of total adjudications of delinquency in their history than non-recidivists (6.5 vs. 4.7).
- Recidivating youth had higher scores on the JJC's Initial Classification & Custody Document than non-recidivists (12.6 vs. 11.4).
- Youth of color were more likely to recidivate than white youth (77.4% vs. 50.8%).
- Youth residing in the 15 most densely populated cities were more likely to recidivate compared with other youth (79.7% vs. 69.7%).
- Youth committed/admitted on drug charges (as their most serious offense) were most likely to recidivate (91.1%), followed by public order offenses (83.8%), property offenses (80.2%), weapons offenses (79.2%), Violations of Probation (71.7%), and persons offenses (69.3%).
- Youth committed/admitted on disorderly persons/petty disorderly persons offenses (as their most serious offense) were most likely to recidivate (94.1%), followed by 4<sup>th</sup> degree offenses, third degree offenses (81.8%), 2<sup>nd</sup> degree offenses (73.4%), Violations of Probation (72.4%), and 64.4% for 1<sup>st</sup> degree offenses.

**REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMMING ANALYSES (REARREST)**

- Youth who have a GED or high school diploma when leaving the JJC were slightly more likely to recidivate than those who had a high school credential (75.6% vs. 74.3%).
- Sex offender specific treatment is provided in both secure and residential environments. The recidivism rate for those in secure care receiving sex offender treatment was 29.6% and 50.0% for those receiving sex offender treatment in a residential setting.
- Intensive substance abuse treatment is provided in both secure and residential environments. The recidivism rate for those receiving most of their intensive substance abuse treatment in secure care was 60.7%, as compared to 82.8% for those receiving the majority of their intensive substance abuse treatment in a residential setting.
- Youth participating in a transitional program had a higher recidivism rate (79.8%) than youth who did not participate in a transitional program (68.6%).
- Youth who departed secure care recidivated 3 days later than youth departing residential programs (308 vs. 305 days).

# INTRODUCTION

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This report is the result of a legislative mandate instituted by P.L. 2009, c.329, (C.30: 4-91.15). The law enforcement agencies of the New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC), New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) and the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) 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 (a4008). The DOC, SPB, and JJC are tasked with measuring the effectiveness of the State's reentry initiatives and programs. This report is the tenth in a series of reports that measures overall recidivism levels, describes adult and juvenile cohort characteristics and analyzes recidivism factors. It is the fifth report that examines reentry programming consistent with P.L. 2015, c. 144 (A4008).

There are multiple sections to the report. The introduction presents the various agencies' mission statements and describes the report methodology. It should be noted that the methods and definitions used in this report may significantly differ between agencies and careful attention should be given to the varying definitions of recidivism. Sections 1 through 6 provide details of the 2016 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. Section 7 details the 2016 juvenile release cohort; demographics, recidivism rates, and reentry and rehabilitative programming analyses are also provided for the youth releases. The juvenile cohort includes all juveniles released from the JJC in 2016.

In New Jersey, law enforcement agencies such as the DOC, SPB, and JJC attempt to prepare adult incarcerated persons and juvenile residents for the transition from behind bars to the community to assist releases in becoming law abiding citizens. Offenders start preparing for rehabilitation and reentry immediately upon intake into our system. Incarcerated persons receive a comprehensive plan based upon their assessment scores at intake. The plan includes the in-prison programs and treatment that will be beneficial to an offender 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 necessary skills to assist with community reentry.

As noted within the mission statement of each agency, the rehabilitation of offenders who will return to society is paramount. Each of the three agencies in this report promote offender rehabilitation and provide services that boost a successful transition back to the community for adult and juvenile offenders. 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 less juveniles are returning to juvenile facilities and less adult offenders are returning to prisons.

## AGENCY MISSION STATEMENTS AND CORE VALUES

### **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 an operating budget of \$974 million for fiscal year 2023 and employing approximately 6,500 persons, including almost 4,700 in custody positions, to supervise approximately 13,000 offenders. 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 in 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 offenders 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 offenders 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 New Jersey State Parole Board 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 State Parole Board has been charged with the responsibility of overseeing all of the functions, powers, and duties of the State's 407 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. It is important that the Board 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 own 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 offender 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 Board 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 Board 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 Board, which are to increase public safety and decrease recidivism while promoting successful offender reintegration.

## **New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission**

### *Mission Statement*

The JJC is committed to leading the ongoing reform of the youth justice system; to implementing and promoting policies and practices that improve outcomes for young people involved with the justice system, their families, and their communities; and to advancing race equity and eliminating racial disparities in the administration of justice. Across a continuum of care, which includes locally operated community-based prevention and intervention programs, as well as JJC-operated secure care facilities, residential community homes, and community-based parole and transitional services, the JJC is committed to providing culturally responsive programming, supports, and opportunities designed to help youth grow and thrive and to become independent, productive, and law-abiding citizens.

### *Vision Statement*

The JJC's vision is for a youth justice system where integrity, commitment, leadership, diversity, inclusion, and compassion are the foundation for providing youth with opportunities to grow and thrive, for assisting

families and communities in their efforts to support young people, and for in turn, reducing delinquency and protecting public safety. This vision will be achieved by:

- Leading collaborative efforts to prevent young people from entering the youth justice system and to develop effective community-based interventions for at-risk and court-involved youth.
- Partnering with families and communities to provide youth with a continuum of rehabilitative services and learning opportunities that promote positive growth and development.
- Assisting youth to achieve successful reentry back to their communities through a network of support services and personal skill development opportunities that strengthen their levels of self-sufficiency.
- Empowering young people involved in the youth justice system to recognize and embrace the belief that positive change is achievable and helping them to realize that they have the power to determine their futures through their own actions and commitment to success.
- Promoting practices that ensure all youth involved in the justice system are treated fairly and have equitable outcomes and experiences free from all forms of discrimination.

### *Core Values*

**Integrity:** The JJC expects its employees to demonstrate integrity, to act with honesty and fairness, and to treat others with dignity and respect.

**Commitment:** The JJC will, through collaboration, diligence, and commitment to achieving our vision, improve outcomes for youth, families, and communities.

**Leadership:** The JJC encourages staff to lead by example and to motivate and inspire others as they work to have a positive impact on young people's lives and encourages young people to develop leadership skills and to become positive role models among their peers and in their communities.

**Diversity:** The JJC is committed to promoting efforts to achieve and embrace a cross-cultural and diverse workplace environment.

**Inclusion:** The JJC will foster an environment that welcomes the differences of others, ensures the equitable treatment of all, values people for who they are, and encourages the search for and expression of novel perspectives that help us to grow and improve decision-making.

**Compassion:** The JJC believes we must act with compassion and empathy toward others; by taking care to understand the lived experiences and complex challenges faced by young people, we will promote the trusting relationships and connections that are critical to each youth's long-term success.

## REPORT METHODOLOGY

### **Adult Sample: Department of Corrections**

Sections one thru seven of this report examine the subsequent criminal activity of adult offenders 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 2016; this resulted in the review of criminal activity for a total of 8,162 adults. Unless otherwise noted, all analyses review criminal activity that occurred within three years of release, or 1095 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 2016 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 offenders who were arrested outside of New Jersey, offenders without a SBI number, offenders who were deceased within three years of release, and offenders 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 a rearrest on felony charges within three years post-release (i.e., 1095 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 felony reconviction within three years post-release (i.e., 1095 days). This count is collected regardless of whether or not the offender went on to be readmitted to DOC custody.
3. **Reincarceration:** Defined as a DOC readmission for a felony conviction within three years post-release (i.e., 1095 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 readmission for a community supervised offender 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 offender 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 readmission for any offender due to a new offense. The offender 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 they were serving time and released in 2016, were separated consistent with the federal government's crime types, including violent, weapons, property, drugs, and other crimes. "Other" crimes includes 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 category of community supervision violation is also incorporated to capture releases who returned to prison on either a technical parole violation or a violation of another form of supervision (e.g., Intensive Supervision Program, supervision under Megan's Law).

Additional variables are included and analyzed in an effort 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  $\alpha$  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.

### **Juvenile Sample: Juvenile Justice Commission**

Section 7 of this report examines the release of youth offenders (n=288) from the JJC in 2016. For the JJC analysis, the measures and definitions of recidivism were consistent with the work of the National Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA). Recidivism was defined as “a new offense that would be a crime if perpetrated by an adult, committed by a previously-adjudicated youth who has been released from a program or returned to the community.” Measurement of recidivism refers to the type(s) of data used to identify an individual as a recidivist or non-recidivist. While there are various ways that recidivism can be measured, the present study focused on three measures. The three primary measures of recidivism considered in the study address three distinct questions. Do youth have a subsequent delinquency court filing or adult arrest for a new offense?

1. Do youth have a subsequent adjudication or conviction for a new offense?
2. Do youth experience a subsequent commitment to the JJC or to the New Jersey Department of Corrections for a new offense?

The three measures, therefore, are identified as:

1. New court filing/arrest (regardless of whether it results in an adjudication of delinquency or conviction as an adult)
2. New adjudication/conviction
3. New commitment to the JJC or NJDOC

The date recorded for the recidivism event was the available date most closely representing when the juvenile committed (or allegedly committed) the new offense. The study used this offense date to determine whether a given recidivism event occurred within three, six, 12, 24, or 36 months. The JJC’s Information Technology Unit provided a database, based on its Juvenile Information Management System (JIMS), containing youths’ names and relevant information to identify youth released from JJC custody during 2016. For each of the releases initially identified, an additional search was conducted with the assistance of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The AOC provided recidivism-related data from its Family Automated Case Tracking System database. After matching these data, JJC staff conducted case look ups for recidivism-related data from the State Police Criminal Case History database.

Note that the average age at release for youth in the study was 18.4 years. As a result, and as suggested by the three questions noted above, the study reviewed both juvenile and adult records for youth in the study in order to assess recidivism.



# SECTION 1: RECIDIVISM TRENDS

There were 8,162 incarcerated persons released from DOC facilities in 2016. The number of DOC releases has steadily declined since 2007. As displayed in Table 1, the number of incarcerated persons released annually decreased 35.3% between 2007 and 2016. The 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration declined between 2007 and 2016. Approximately 31% of all persons released in 2016 were reincarcerated within three years. This represents one of the lowest reincarceration rates of the past decade (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Year of Release	Total Releases	Rearrested Within 3 Years	Reconvicted Within 3 Years	Reincarcerated Within 3 Years
2007	12,617	56.7%	44.5%	37.0%
2008	12,989	54.3%	41.9%	34.8%
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%

**Recidivism Decreases:  
2007-2016**

*Rearrest ↓ 9.0%*  
*Reconviction ↓ 13.5%*  
*Reincarceration ↓ 16.5%*

TABLE 1. RELEASE COUNTS AND RECIDIVISM PERCENTAGES

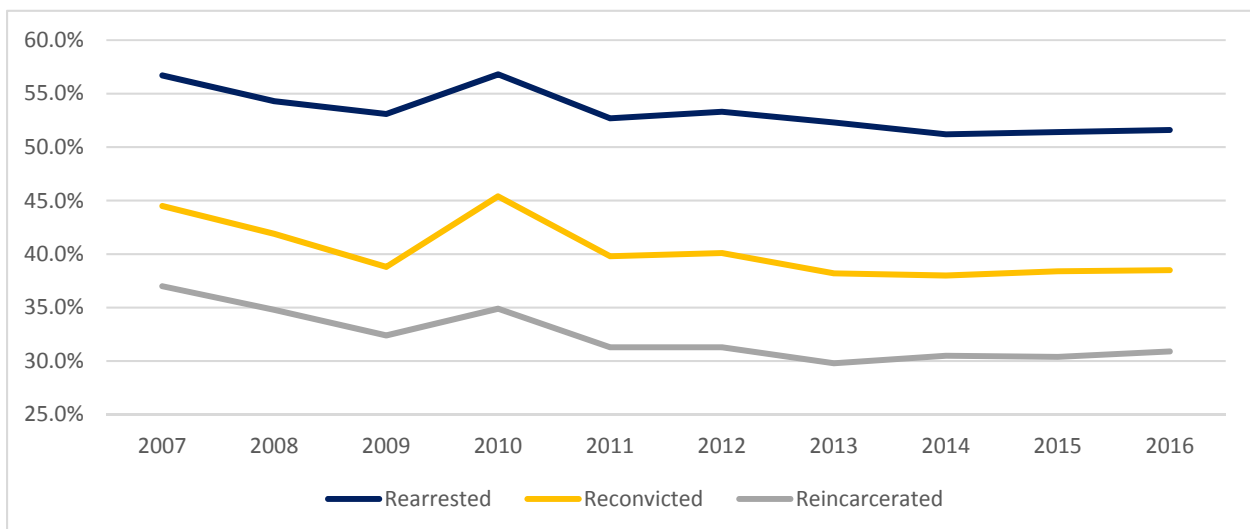


FIGURE 1. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES

Further analysis of reincarcerations was completed for cohorts released within the past five years (Table 2). For the 2016 release cohort, 27.6% of persons who were reincarcerated had a new commitment and 61.6% had a technical parole violation (TPV). Commitments for new offenses decreased 23.5% between 2012 and 2016 while readmissions for TPVs increased 14.1%.

Year of Release	Number of Releases Reincarcerated	Type of Reincarceration	
		Technical Parole Violations	Commitments for New Offenses
2012	3,114	54.0%	36.1%
2013	2,884	53.4%	33.1%
2014	2,777	55.9%	34.2%
2015	2,741	58.6%	30.6%
2016	2,519	61.6%	27.6%

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 occurred most frequently in the second year of release.

	≤ 6 Months	≤ 1 Year	≤ 2 Years	≤ 3 Years
Rearrested	28.7%	52.9%	82.6%	100.0%
Reconvicted	13.9%	33.9%	73.7%	100.0%
Reincarcerated	31.1%	56.3%	83.9%	100.0%

TABLE 3. RECIDIVISM PERCENTAGES FOR 2016 RELEASE COHORT OCCURRING BY TIME INTERVAL

Readmissions to DOC facilities for the 2016 cohort peaked at four months post-release. By the first year of follow-up, 1,401 releases (or 17.1% of the entire release cohort) was reincarcerated. Said another way, nearly 56% 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)

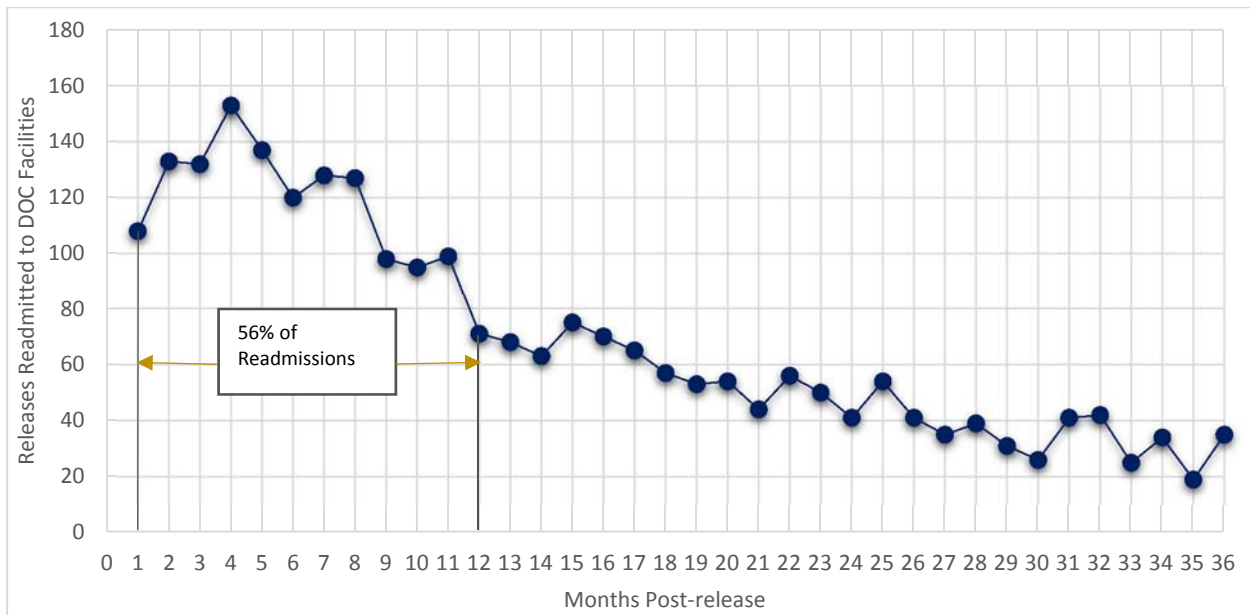


FIGURE 2. MONTHLY COUNTS OF RELEASES RETURNED TO DOC FACILITIES WITHIN THREE YEARS

## SECTION 2: COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

This section details the recidivism levels of the 2016 release cohort by the county from which incarcerated persons were committed. Please note that NJDOC does not track the county of release.

Committed County	Incarcerated Persons Released	Percent of Release Cohort
Atlantic	573	7.0%
Bergen	334	4.1%
Burlington	319	3.9%
Camden	1,176	14.4%
Cape May	320	3.9%
Cumberland	216	2.6%
Essex	1,022	12.5%
Gloucester	206	2.6%
Hudson	499	6.1%
Hunterdon	48	0.6%
Mercer	459	5.6%
Middlesex	649	8.0%
Monmouth	433	5.3%
Morris	109	1.3%
Ocean	361	4.4%
Passaic	511	6.3%
Salem	88	1.1%
Somerset	121	1.5%
Sussex	65	0.8%
Union	583	7.1%
Warren	63	0.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,155</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



### Top 5 Counties of Commitment

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

TABLE 4. COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2016 RELEASES

The majority of released incarcerated persons were committed from Camden and Essex Counties (Table 4). Fourteen percent of the entire release cohort was committed from Camden County. Essex County was the next highest at 13%. Overall, the top 5 counties of commitment encompassed almost 50% of all releases.

TABLE 5. OFFENSE OF CONVICTION BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2016 RELEASES

Committed County	Offense of Conviction												
	2016 Releases	Violent		Weapons		Property		Drugs		Other		CSV	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Atlantic	567	130	22.9	75	13.2	69	12.2	141	24.9	18	3.2	134	23.6
Bergen	333	91	27.3	24	7.2	70	21.0	81	24.3	18	5.4	49	14.7
Burlington	317	77	24.3	33	10.4	76	24.0	45	14.2	23	7.3	63	19.9
Camden	1,168	289	24.7	153	13.1	129	11.0	286	24.5	80	6.8	231	19.8
Cape May	319	36	11.3	9	2.8	71	22.3	107	33.5	17	5.3	79	24.8
Cumberland	215	52	24.2	34	15.8	37	17.2	37	17.2	15	7.0	40	18.6
Essex	1,020	296	29.0	163	16.0	118	11.6	164	16.1	56	5.5	223	21.9
Gloucester	206	44	21.4	12	5.8	54	26.2	47	22.8	14	6.8	35	17.0
Hudson	496	150	30.2	65	13.1	50	10.1	102	20.6	7	1.4	122	24.6
Hunterdon	48	7	14.6	0	0.0	9	18.8	14	29.2	1	2.1	17	35.4
Mercer	459	107	23.3	58	12.6	56	12.2	108	23.5	25	5.4	105	22.9
Middlesex	647	132	20.4	50	7.7	136	21.0	146	22.6	35	5.4	148	22.9
Monmouth	430	89	20.7	37	8.6	58	13.5	113	26.3	27	6.3	106	24.7
Morris	109	34	31.2	9	8.3	16	14.7	24	22.0	13	11.9	13	11.9
Ocean	361	76	21.1	22	6.1	61	16.9	92	25.5	25	6.9	85	23.5
Passaic	507	158	31.2	69	13.6	55	10.8	110	21.7	15	3.0	100	19.7
Salem	88	18	20.5	9	10.2	7	8.0	29	33.0	12	13.6	13	14.8
Somerset	121	32	26.4	8	6.6	25	20.7	24	19.8	6	5.0	26	21.5
Sussex	65	14	21.5	1	1.5	15	23.1	18	27.7	2	3.1	15	23.1
Union	583	150	25.7	68	11.7	69	11.8	163	28.0	28	4.8	105	18.0
Warren	63	16	25.4	5	7.9	16	25.4	8	12.7	1	1.6	17	27.0

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	Morris/Passaic (tie)
<i>Weapons</i>	Essex	Essex
<i>Property</i>	Middlesex	Gloucester
<i>Drugs</i>	Camden	Cape May
<i>Other</i>	Camden	Salem
<i>CSV</i>	Camden	Hunterdon

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.

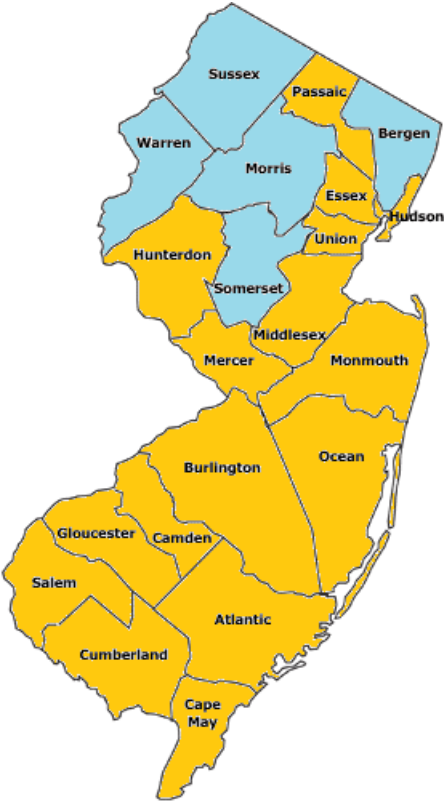
TABLE 7. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2016 RELEASES

Committed County	2016 Releases	Rearrest		Reconviction		Reincarceration	
		Raw Count	Percentage	Raw Count	Percentage	Raw Count	Percentage
Atlantic	573	295	51.5%	222	38.7%	165	28.8%
Bergen	334	121	36.2%	94	28.1%	65	19.5%
Burlington	319	159	49.8%	113	35.4%	96	30.1%
Camden	1,176	675	57.4%	487	41.4%	412	35.0%
Cape May	320	160	50.0%	121	37.8%	118	36.9%
Cumberland	216	135	62.5%	108	50.0%	72	33.3%
Essex	1,022	547	53.5%	381	37.3%	334	32.7%
Gloucester	206	101	49.0%	89	43.2%	68	33.0%
Hudson	499	257	51.5%	189	37.9%	133	26.7%
Hunterdon	48	28	58.3%	22	45.8%	16	33.3%
Mercer	459	261	56.9%	180	39.2%	173	37.7%
Middlesex	649	322	49.6%	236	36.4%	195	30.0%
Monmouth	433	228	52.7%	186	43.0%	122	28.2%
Morris	109	45	41.3%	32	29.4%	19	17.4%
Ocean	361	180	49.9%	145	40.2%	108	29.9%
Passaic	511	262	51.3%	203	39.7%	165	32.3%
Salem	88	50	56.8%	40	45.5%	28	31.8%
Somerset	121	48	39.7%	38	31.4%	37	30.6%
Sussex	65	28	43.1%	27	41.5%	20	30.8%
Union	583	278	47.7%	199	34.1%	150	25.7%
Warren	63	26	41.3%	24	38.1%	19	30.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,155</b>	<b>4,206</b>	<b>51.6%</b>	<b>3,136</b>	<b>38.5%</b>	<b>2,515</b>	<b>30.8%</b>

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	1. Cumberland	1. Camden	1. Cumberland	1. Camden	1. Mercer
2. Essex	2. Hunterdon	2. Essex	2. Hunterdon	2. Essex	2. Cape May
3. Middlesex	3. Camden	3. Middlesex	3. Salem	3. Middlesex	3. Camden

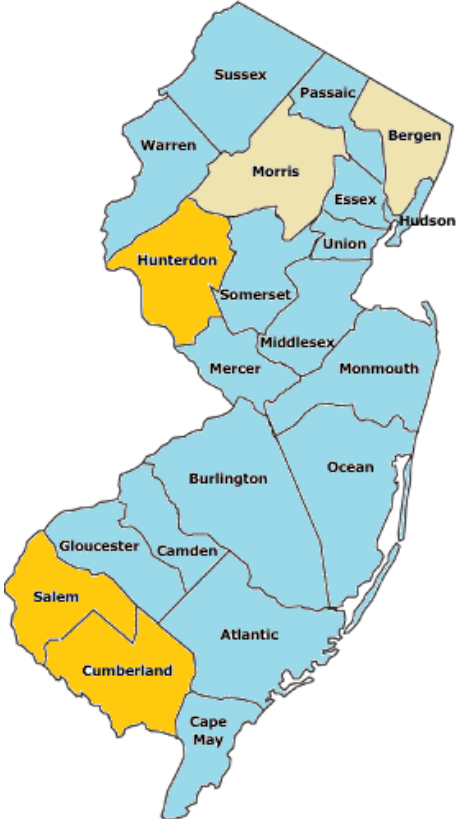
Recidivism rate proportions are also illustrated in Maps 1, 2 and 3.

**3-Year Rearrest Rate**



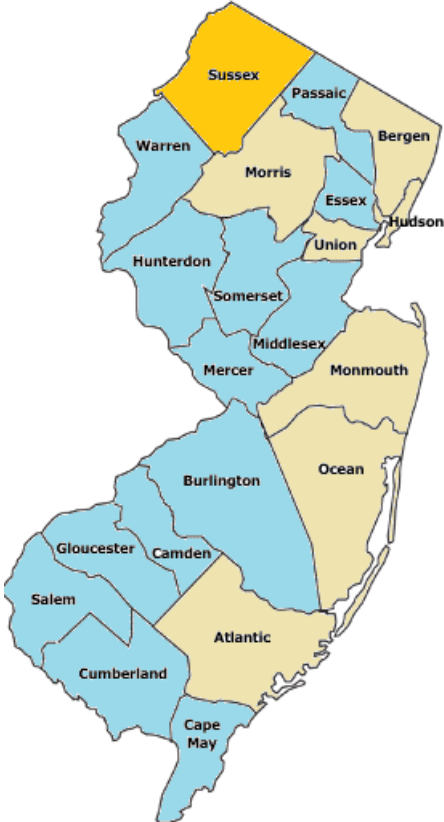
MAP 1. 3-YEAR REARREST RATES BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

**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 persons released from DOC facilities in 2016. Unless otherwise noted, analyses include the full release cohort (N=8,162).

## Descriptives

TABLE 8. 2016 RELEASE COHORT DEMOGRAPHICS

	N	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
<i>Male</i>	7,614	93.3
<i>Female</i>	548	6.7
<b>Race</b>		
<i>White</i>	3,199	39.2
<i>Black/African American</i>	4,471	54.8
<i>Other</i>	376	4.6
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
<i>Hispanic/Latino</i>	1,220	14.9
<i>Non-Hispanic/Latino</i>	6,883	84.3
<b>Marital Status</b>		
<i>Single</i>	6,125	75.0
<i>Other</i>	1,313	16.1
<b>Education Level</b>		
<i>Some schooling</i>	2,254	27.6
<i>HS graduate/HSE degree</i>	4,802	58.8
<i>Any college and beyond</i>	817	10.0
<b>Age at Release</b>		
<i>Under 21</i>	64	0.8
<i>21-29</i>	2,733	33.5
<i>30-39</i>	2,649	32.5
<i>40-49</i>	1,632	20.0
<i>50-59</i>	888	10.9
<i>60 and above</i>	196	2.4
	<b>Mean (sd), Range</b>	
<b>Age at Release (years)</b>	36.0 (10.7), 17-82	

Male releases represented 93% of the total 2016 release cohort. Five hundred forty-eight female incarcerated persons were released in 2016.

Race and ethnicity are self-reported descriptives. The majority of releases self-identified as Black/African American, followed by White. Nearly 15% of the release cohort self-identified as Hispanic/Latino.

Most of the 2016 releases were single. Sixteen percent presented as “other” (married, divorced, separated, or widowed).

Approximately 59% of releases had at least a HS degree or high school equivalency (HSE) at release. Of those released, 10% reported any college and beyond.

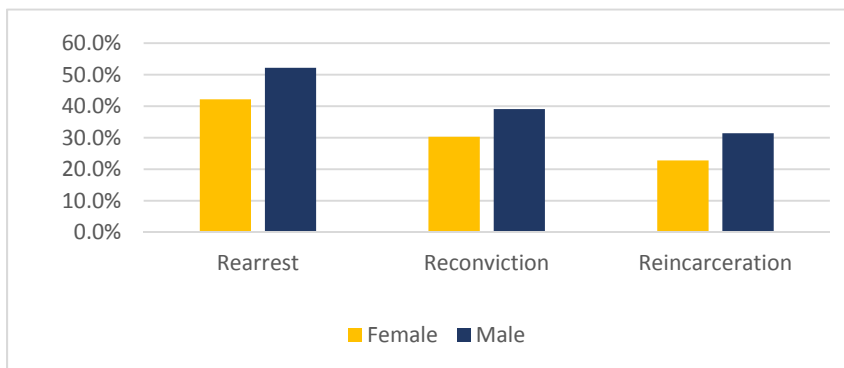
The average incarcerated person at release was approximately 36 years old. Age at release ranged from 17 to 82. Nearly 34% of the sample was under the age of 30 and 33% were between the ages of 30 and 39. Releases over the age of 50 accounted for only 13% of all releases.

Note: Counts may not sum to the cohort total (N=8162) and percentages may not sum to 100% due to missing information.

## Recidivism

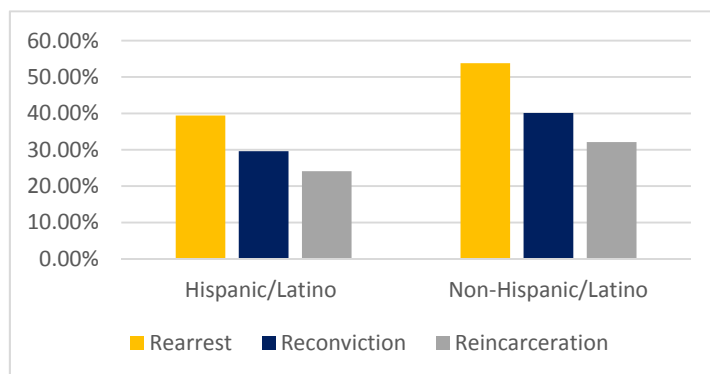
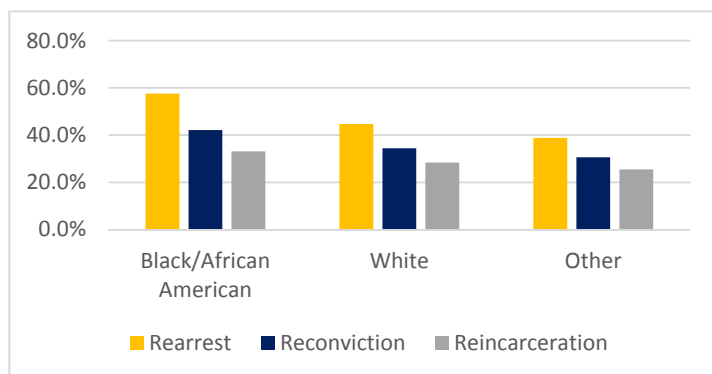
Male releases were rearrested, reconvicted, and reincarcerated at higher rates than their female counterparts post-release.<sup>1</sup> Female releases were 19%, 23%, and 27% less likely than male releases to be rearrested, reconvicted, and reincarcerated within three years of release, respectively.

FIGURE 3. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY GENDER



Releases who self-identified as Black/African American were rearrested, reconvicted, and reincarcerated at significantly higher rates than White and “Other” race releases in the three year follow-up period.<sup>2</sup> Releases who identified as being non-Hispanic/Latino recidivated at higher levels on all three measures than those who identified as being ethnically Hispanic.<sup>3</sup>

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



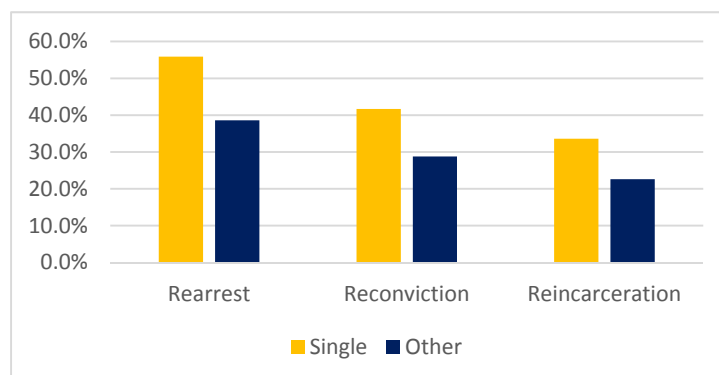
<sup>1</sup> These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest:  $\chi^2=20.85$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.001$ ; Reconviction:  $\chi^2=16.60$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.001$ ; Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=17.85$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.001$ ).

<sup>2</sup> These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest:  $\chi^2=150.23$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p<.001$ ; Reconviction:  $\chi^2=57.80$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p<.001$ ; Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=24.52$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p<.001$ ).

<sup>3</sup> These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest:  $\chi^2=85.90$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.001$ ; Reconviction:  $\chi^2=48.58$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.001$ ; Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=31.35$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.001$ ).



FIGURE 5. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY MARITAL STATUS



Releases who self-reported a marital status of single were more likely to reoffend post-release on all measures of recidivism.<sup>4</sup> Single releases had a 45% increase in rearrest and reconviction rates over non-single releases, and a 48% increase in reincarceration than non-single releases.

Recidivism by education level was analyzed (Table 9). Releases without a high school degree had higher rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than releases with a high school degree and above.<sup>5</sup> Reincarceration rates three years post-release were similar among those with some schooling and a HS/HSE diploma education.

TABLE 9. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY EDUCATION LEVEL

	<i>Rearrested</i>	<i>Reconvicted</i>	<i>Reincarcerated</i>
<i>Some schooling</i>	55.2%	41.8%	32.2%
<i>HS graduate/HSE degree</i>	52.7%	39.2%	32.1%
<i>Any college and beyond</i>	41.0%	30.6%	24.7%

Because of the known association between criminality and age,<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> 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 6).

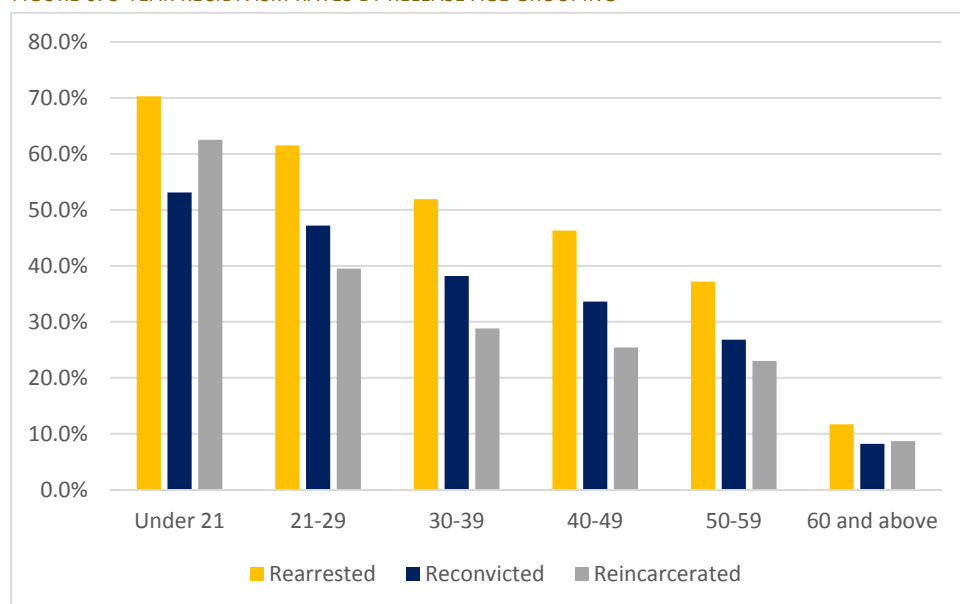
<sup>4</sup>These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest:  $\chi^2=183.17$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.001$ ; Reconviction:  $\chi^2=106.88$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.001$ ; Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=87.22$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.001$ ).

<sup>5</sup> These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest:  $\chi^2=49.95$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p<.001$ ; Reconviction:  $\chi^2=31.67$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p<.001$ , Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=18.58$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p<.001$ ).

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest:  $\chi^2=333.93$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p<.001$ ; Reconviction:  $\chi^2=238.24$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p<.001$ ; Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=224.93$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p<.001$ ).

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



# SECTION 4: WOMEN RELEASED IN 2016

This section focuses only on the women released from NJDOC custody in 2016. Women represented 6.7% of all releases (n=548). Descriptives of the women’s sample are reported and recidivism is analyzed.

## Descriptives

### Demographics

The complete 2016 release cohort consisted of 548 women (Table 10).<sup>1</sup>

Releases were predominately white, non-Hispanic/Latino, single (i.e., never married), and under the age of 40. The majority had a HS diploma or higher education level (70.3%). The average woman was 36 years old at release (*sd*=9.93).

Nearly 66% of all women were released to supervision. There were few differences between supervised and unsupervised releases with the exception of marital status and education level: a higher proportion of unsupervised releases were single in comparison to supervised releases, and a higher proportion of supervised releases were high school graduates.<sup>2,3</sup>

### Criminal History

Table 11 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 (62.4%). The most common offense of conviction was a drug offense (30.8%) followed by a violent offense

TABLE 10. DEMOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIVES OF 2016 FEMALE RELEASES

	Supervised <i>n</i> =359	Unsupervised <i>n</i> =189	Total <i>N</i> =548
<b>Race</b>			
<i>White</i>	63.1%	56.7%	<b>60.9%</b>
<i>Black</i>	35.2%	40.6%	<b>37.1%</b>
<i>Other</i>	1.7%	2.7%	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
<i>Hispanic</i>	12.5%	12.4%	<b>12.5%</b>
<i>Non-Hispanic/Latino</i>	87.5%	87.6%	<b>87.5%</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>			
<i>Single</i>	73.3%	81.5%	<b>77.5%</b>
<i>Other</i>	26.7%	18.5%	<b>22.5%</b>
<b>Education Level</b>			
<i>Some schooling</i>	24.9%	39.1%	<b>29.7%</b>
<i>HS graduate/HSE degree</i>	67.4%	51.1%	<b>61.8%</b>
<i>Any college and beyond</i>	7.8%	9.8%	<b>8.5%</b>
<b>Age Group</b>			
<i>Under 21</i>	0.6%	0.0%	<b>0.4%</b>
<i>21-29</i>	32.3%	27.0%	<b>30.5%</b>
<i>30-39</i>	38.7%	38.1%	<b>38.5%</b>
<i>40-49</i>	16.2%	22.2%	<b>18.2%</b>
<i>50-59</i>	10.3%	11.1%	<b>10.6%</b>
<i>60 and above</i>	1.9%	1.6%	<b>1.8%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Only individuals with information available are included in table.

<sup>2</sup> “Other” marital status refers to incarcerated persons who self-reported being married, divorced, separated or widowed.

<sup>3</sup> These differences were statistically significant. Marital status:  $\chi^2=4.602$ , *df*=1, *p*=.032; Education level:  $\chi^2=13.193$ , *df*=2, *p*<.001

(22.3%). The average incarcerated person served 645 days (or 1.8 years). The average woman had a prior criminal record, with 7 prior arrests and 4 prior convictions.

Releases were again aggregated based on post-supervision status (Table 11). Supervised releases were less likely to have a prior DOC admission, though they were more likely to have a violent offense of conviction.<sup>4</sup> Though unsupervised releases served nearly 32 days less in prison than unsupervised releases, these differences were not found to be statistically significant. However, supervised releases, on average, had fewer prior arrests, convictions, and incarcerations on record when compared to unsupervised releases.<sup>5</sup>

TABLE 11. CRIMINAL HISTORY DESCRIPTIVES OF 2016 FEMALE RELEASES

	Supervised <i>n</i> =359	Unsupervised <i>n</i> =189	Total <i>N</i> =548
<b>Prior DOC History</b>			
<i>No prior admissions</i>	75.5%	37.6%	62.4%
<i>1 + prior admissions</i>	24.5%	62.4%	37.6%
<b>Offense of Conviction</b>			
<i>Violent</i>	32.2%	14.4%	26.1%
<i>Weapons</i>	2.2%	6.4%	3.7%
<i>Property</i>	21.0%	30.9%	24.4%
<i>Drugs</i>	38.9%	38.3%	38.7%
<i>Other</i>	5.6%	10.1%	7.2%
<b>Mean Time Served – Days (sd)</b>	656.4 (1045.6)	624.3 (1158.0)	704.6 (1224.6)
<b>Mean Prior Arrests (sd)</b>	6.3 (6.4)	9.2 (8.3)	7.3 (7.2)
<b>Mean Prior Convictions (sd)</b>	3.7 (4.3)	5.6 (5.8)	4.3 (4.9)
<b>Mean Prior DOC admissions (sd)</b>	0.5 (1.0)	1.5 (1.6)	0.8 (1.3)

### County of Commitment

The counties of commitment for the releases were examined (Table 12). Camden County had the most women committed (68, or 12.4% of all women releases) than any other county in the state. Essex (9.0%) and Middlesex (8.6%) counties rounded out the top three counties of commitment.

#### Top 5 Counties of Commitment

1. CAMDEN
2. ESSEX
3. MIDDLESEX
4. OCEAN
5. CAPE MAY/ATLANTIC

<sup>4</sup> Offense of conviction:  $\chi^2=30.29$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p<.000$ ; Prior admissions:  $\chi^2=79.972$ ,  $df=4$ ,  $p<.000$ .

<sup>5</sup> Prior arrests:  $t=4.29$ ,  $df=307.61$ ,  $p<.001$ ; prior convictions:  $t=3.92$ ,  $df=298.39$ ,  $p<.001$ ; prior incarcerations:  $t=6.86$ ,  $df=276.22$ ,  $p<.001$ .

The 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. In terms of raw numbers, Camden County often produced the largest numbers of releases in each respective category; this was true for violent, weapons, CSVs and “other” crimes. Correspondingly, Essex and Cape May counties provided the greatest number of releases with convictions respectively for a property or drug offense. The counties with the highest proportions of releases were more mixed (Table 13), though Gloucester County provided the greatest number of releases with convictions for property and “other” offenses, proportionally.

TABLE 12. COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2016 FEMALE RELEASES

Committed County	Incarcerated persons Released	Percent of Female Cohort
Atlantic	39	7.1%
Bergen	25	4.6%
Burlington	36	6.6%
Camden	68	12.4%
Cape May	39	7.1%
Cumberland	9	1.6%
Essex	49	9.0%
Gloucester	21	3.8%
Hudson	16	2.9%
Hunterdon	7	1.3%
Mercer	27	4.9%
Middlesex	47	8.6%
Monmouth	36	6.6%
Morris	6	1.1%
Ocean	41	7.5%
Passaic	14	2.6%
Salem	10	1.8%
Somerset	10	1.8%
Sussex	12	2.2%
Union	31	5.7%
Warren	4	0.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



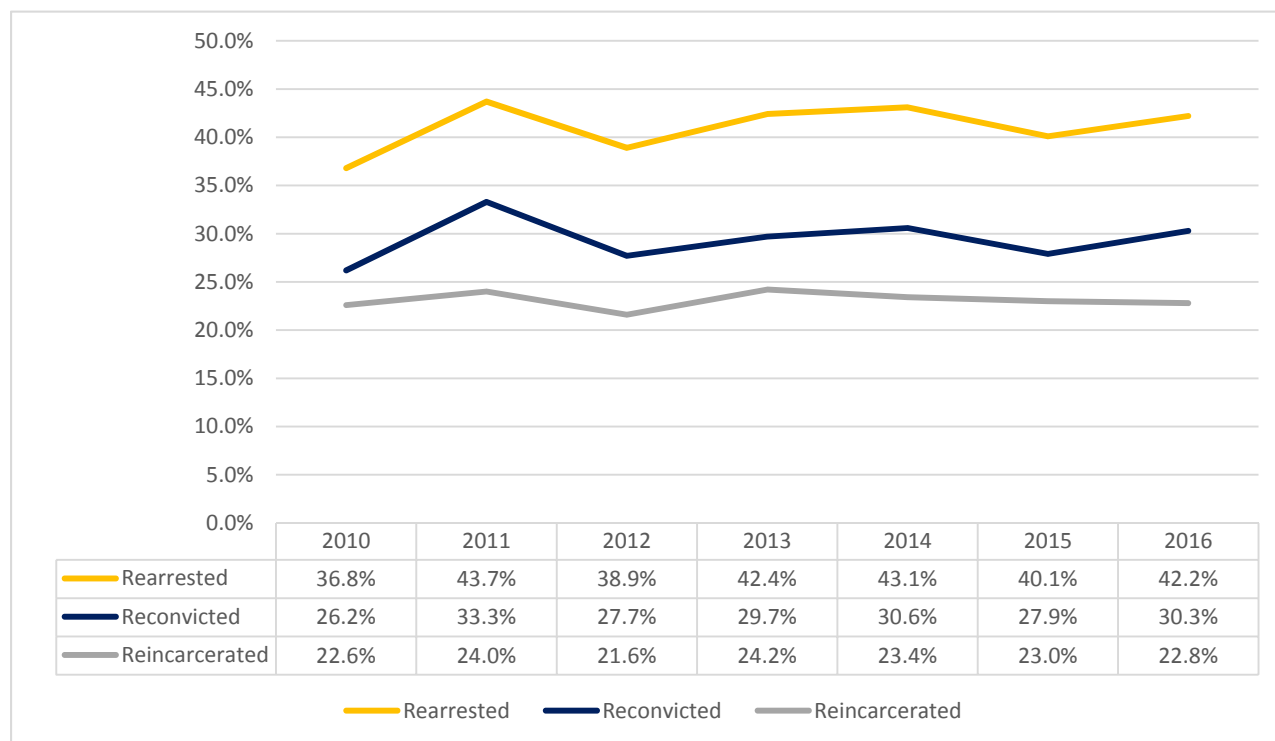
TABLE 13. OFFENSE OF CONVICTION BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT: FEMALE RELEASES

Offense of Conviction	Top County By Raw Count	Top County by Proportion
<i>Violent</i>	Camden	Hudson
<i>Weapons</i>	Camden	Mercer
<i>Property</i>	Essex	Gloucester
<i>Drugs</i>	Cape May	Sussex
<i>Other</i>	Camden	Gloucester
<i>CSV</i>	Camden	Hunterdon

## Recidivism

The three-year recidivism rates of women releases were analyzed. For the 2016 cohort, 42.2% of women were rearrested, 30.3% were reconvicted, and 22.8% were reincarcerated within three years. These rates are comparable with the recidivism rates for each year between 2010 and 2016. Overall, rearrest rates increased 14.7%, reconviction rates increased 15.6%, and reincarceration rates increased 0.9% over the seven-year period. The highest rates were experienced in 2011.

FIGURE 7. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES FOR 2016 FEMALE RELEASE COHORT



Three-year recidivism was stratified by release status. Unsupervised releases were 15.2% less likely to be arrested and 23.4% less likely to be reconvicted than supervised releases. Unsupervised releases were also 95.8% less likely to be reincarcerated than supervised releases. These release status trends mimic those of the overall sample (as presented in Section 3), though the rates on all measures of recidivism are lower for the female cohort compared with the full 2016 release cohort. All differences between supervised and unsupervised releases were statistically significant.<sup>6</sup>

TABLE 14. 3-YEAR FEMALE RECIDIVISM COUNTS BY RELEASE STATUS

	Supervised	Unsupervised
<i>Rearrested</i>	125	106
<i>Reconvicted</i>	94	72
<i>Reincarcerated</i>	120	5

<sup>6</sup> Rearrest:  $\chi^2=22.96$  df=1,  $p<.001$ ; Reconviction:  $\chi^2=8.32$ , df=1,  $p<.01$ ; Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=66.63$ , df=1,  $p<.001$ .

Table 15 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 the same as those counties with the highest *proportion* of releases who recidivated. The highest sending counties are ranked below.

TABLE 15. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2016 FEMALE RELEASES

Committed County	2016 Releases	Rearrest		Reconviction		Reincarceration	
		Raw Count	Proportion	Raw Count	Proportion	Raw Count	Proportion
Atlantic	39	20	51.3%	17	43.6%	10	25.6%
Bergen	25	7	28.0%	7	28.0%	4	16.0%
Burlington	36	17	47.2%	13	36.1%	11	30.6%
Camden	68	26	38.2%	17	25.0%	14	20.6%
Cape May	39	14	35.9%	7	17.9%	12	30.8%
Cumberland	9	4	44.4%	3	33.3%	1	11.1%
Essex	49	20	40.8%	12	24.5%	9	18.4%
Gloucester	21	7	33.3%	8	38.1%	3	14.3%
Hudson	16	4	25.0%	4	25.0%	3	18.8%
Hunterdon	7	4	57.1%	3	42.9%	1	14.3%
Mercer	27	11	40.7%	4	14.8%	8	29.6%
Middlesex	47	20	42.6%	16	34.0%	13	27.7%
Monmouth	36	19	52.8%	14	38.9%	9	25.0%
Morris	6	1	16.7%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%
Ocean	41	18	43.9%	13	31.7%	7	17.1%
Passaic	14	7	50.0%	5	35.7%	4	28.6%
Salem	10	6	60.0%	3	30.0%	1	10.0%
Somerset	10	6	60.0%	7	70.0%	4	40.0%
Sussex	12	7	58.3%	6	50.0%	5	41.7%
Union	31	12	38.7%	6	19.4%	5	16.1%
Warren	4	1	25.0%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>42.2%</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>30.3%</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>22.9%</b>

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. Atl/Esx/Mdlsx 3. Monmouth	1. Salem/Smrst 2. Sussex 3. Hunterdon	1. Atl/Camden 2. Middlesex 3. Monmouth	1. Somerset 2. Sussex 3. Atlantic	1. Camden 2. Middlesex 3. Cape May	1. Sussex 2. Somerset 3. Cape May

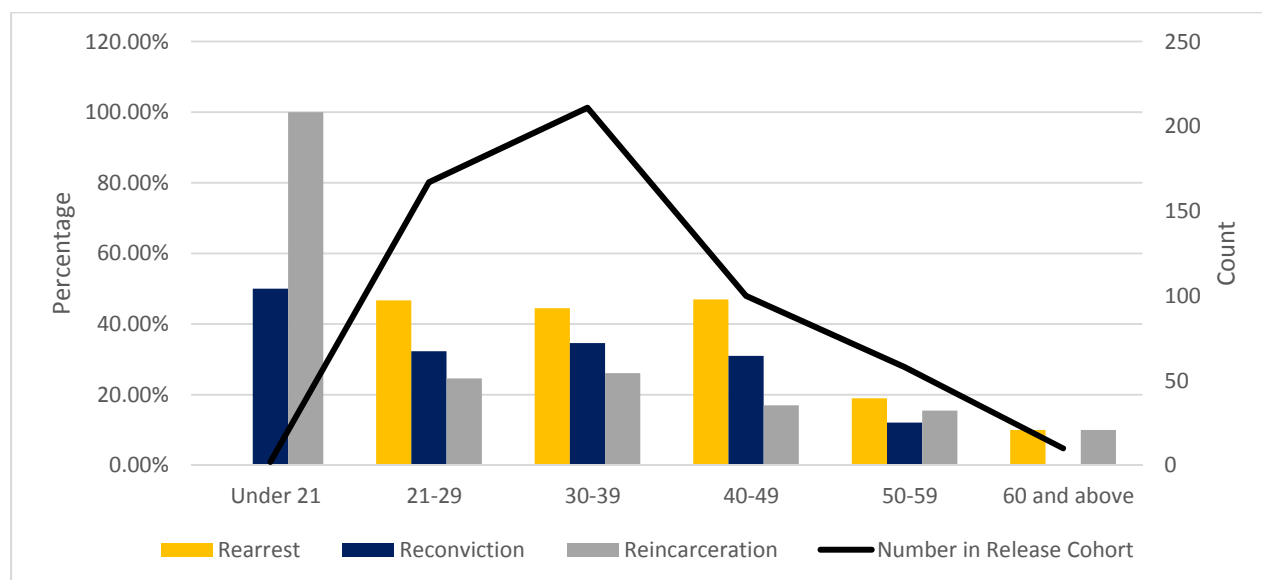
Recidivism by self-reported race and ethnicity were also examined. The criminogenic patterns of the female releases appear to be different than the 2016 release cohort as a whole, which is predominately male. White women had the highest rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration within three years of release.<sup>7</sup> This is in contrast to the full sample in which releases who self-identified as Black/African American were rearrested, reconvicted, and reincarcerated at significantly higher rates than releases of other racial groups. Ethnicity was also explored; persons who self-identified as non-Hispanic/Latino had higher rates of recidivism on all measures. This was similar to the full sample of releases (Section 3).



<sup>7</sup> Ethnicity - Rearrest:  $\chi^2=4.64$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.05$ ; Reconviction:  $\chi^2=8.56$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.01$ ; Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=6.69$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.01$ .



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



Differences in reoffending post-release were noted between age groupings (Figure 9). Women between the ages of 40 thru 49 had the highest percentage of rearrest within three years of release. However, women under 21 had the highest percentage of reconviction and reincarceration within three years of release. These findings should be interpreted with caution as the count of women who were under 21 at the time of release was quite low (2) compared with the counts of other age groupings.<sup>8</sup>

An examination of recidivism rates by education level did not yield differences in reoffending rates across educational attainment (Table 16). Despite the lack of statistical significance, there is a meaningful difference in the recidivism rates. Women without a HS degree or HSE experienced the highest rates of rearrest and reconviction within three years, while women with a HS degree or HSE had the highest percentage of reincarceration.

TABLE 16. 3-YEAR FEMALE RECIDIVISM RATES BY EDUCATION LEVEL

	Rearrest	Reconviction	Reincarceration
<i>Some schooling</i>	47.0%	33.1%	19.9%
<i>HS graduate/HSE degree</i>	42.0%	30.9%	27.1%
<i>Any college and beyond</i>	34.9%	20.9%	16.3%

<sup>8</sup> Rearrest:  $\chi^2=21.37$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p<.01$ ; Reconviction:  $\chi^2=16.04$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p<.01$ ; Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=12.93$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p<.05$ .

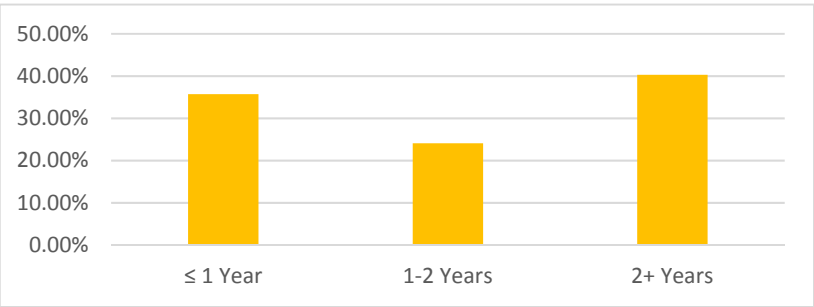
# SECTION 5: CRIMINAL HISTORY, INCARCERTION STAY, AND RELEASE STATUS

This section details the criminal histories of the 2016 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=8,162).

### Descriptives

Incarcerated persons in the 2016 release cohort served an average of 2.4 years before being released (median= 1.6 years; *sd*=3.2 years). Despite this average length, the majority of releases served two years (Figure 10).

FIGURE 10. TIME SERVED

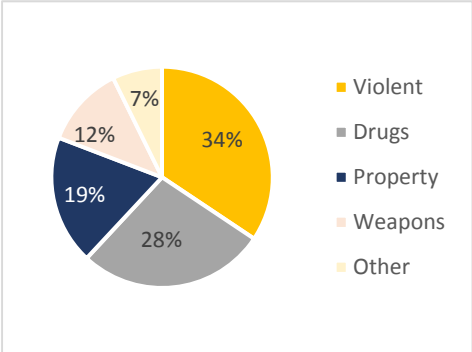


Most releases were placed on supervision (63.7%) while a little under 40% completed their term with no time owed (i.e., released without supervision). Approximately 22.4% of the 2016 release cohort served a mandatory minimum term (MMT). In New Jersey, incarcerated persons with a MMT must serve the mandatory minimum portion of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole. This calculation does not include earned credits for commutation, minimum security, or work.<sup>1</sup> Only 13.5% of the 2016 release cohort was sentenced to serve a mandatory term under the No Early Release Act (NERA). Under NERA, incarcerated persons who are convicted of certain types of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> degree crimes must serve at least 85% of their sentence before reaching parole eligibility. No Early Release Act terms are a form of MMTs.

TABLE 17. SENTENCE DESCRIPTIVES FOR 2016 RELEASE COHORT

	N	Percentage
Total Incarcerated Persons with a MMT	1,828	22.4%
Sentenced Under NERA	1,101	13.5%
Total Released	8,162	
Unsupervised Releases	2,961	36.3%
Supervised Releases	5,201	63.7%
Average Prison Time Served	2.4 years	

FIGURE 11. OFFENSE OF CONVICTION CATEGORY



The majority of 2016 incarcerated persons were released following time served for a violent offense (34.4%). The second highest offense of conviction was a drug offense (27.6%). Property, weapons, and “other” offenses comprised 40% of the sample.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For more information please see <https://www.state.nj.us/corrections/pages/FAQ.html>.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2016 were not first-time offenders. The average released inmate had one prior DOC admission and only 45% of incarcerated persons were released after a first stay of incarceration (Figure 12). Released incarcerated persons, on average, also had eight prior arrests on record and nearly five prior convictions (Table 18).

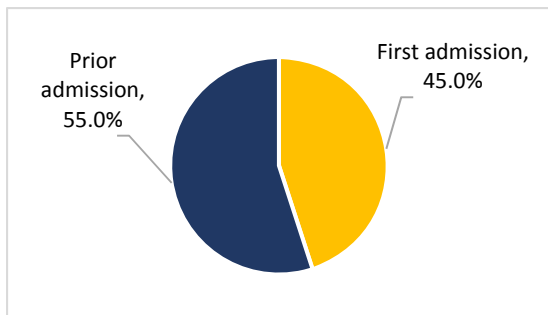


FIGURE 12. PRIOR ADMISSIONS PERCENTAGE

TABLE 18. CRIMINAL HISTORY DESCRIPTIVES

	Mean	Median	Percent of Release Cohort
Prior Arrests	7.9	6	89.8%
Prior Convictions	4.6	3	82.3%
Prior Admissions	1.3	1	54.9%

**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: 46.4%, reconviction: 33.7%; reincarceration: 26.8%).<sup>3</sup> In contrast, incarcerated persons who served less than one year had the highest rates of rearrest (55.3%), reconviction (42.2%), and reincarceration (36.6%).

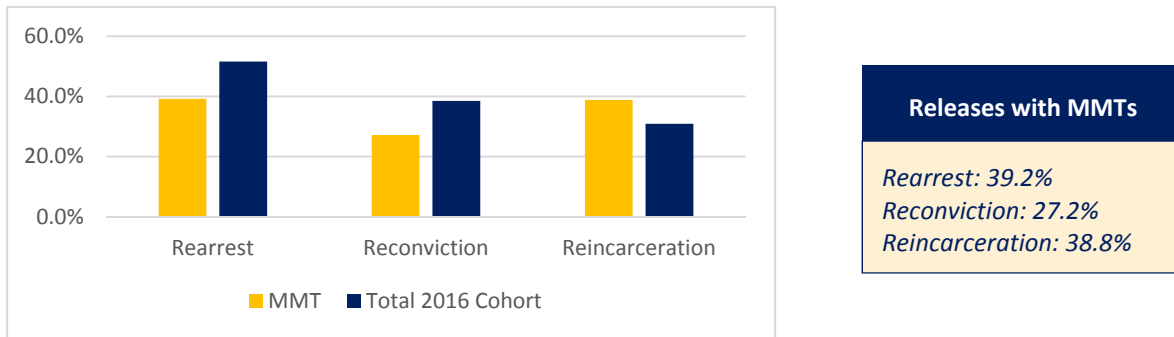
FIGURE 13. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY SENTENCE LENGTH



<sup>3</sup> These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest:  $\chi^2=58.9$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p=.000$ ); Reconviction:  $\chi^2=53.0$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p=.000$ ; Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=73.5$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p=.000$ ).

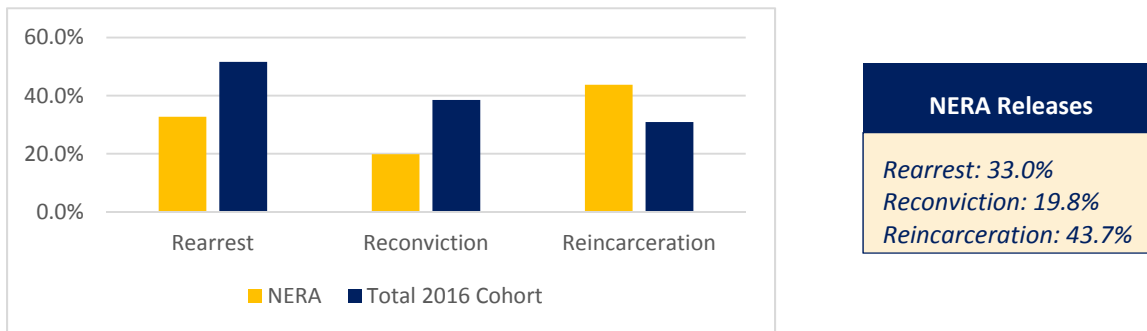
Special Sentences: MMTs and NERA

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



Releases who served a mandatory minimum term of incarceration had slightly lower rates of rearrest and reconviction, but slightly higher rates of reincarceration than the 2016 release cohort as a whole (Figure 14). Persons serving a sentence under NERA had lower rates of rearrest (33%) and reconviction (19.8%) than the 2016 release cohort (Figure 15), but a higher rate of reincarceration (43.7%). 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 were reviewed (Table 19). Incarcerated persons who were serving a sentence for a community supervision violation (CSV) and were released in 2016 consistently had the highest rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration in the 3-year follow-up period. Incarcerated persons who were released after serving a sentence for a violent offense had the lowest rates of rearrest and reconviction. Incarcerated persons who served a sentence for a weapons offense had the lowest rates of reincarceration.<sup>4</sup>

TABLE 19. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY OFFENSE OF CONVICTION

	Rearrest	Reconviction	Reincarceration
<b>Violent</b>	41.4%	28.9%	35.0%
<b>Weapons</b>	56.8%	42.3%	20.3%
<b>Property</b>	57.2%	45.5%	32.2%
<b>Drugs</b>	56.8%	42.6%	30.0%
<b>Other</b>	56.4%	41.7%	26.7%
<b>CSV</b>	74.5%	60.0%	47.3%

<sup>4</sup> Differences in recidivism rates by offense of conviction were statistically significant. (Rearrest:  $\chi^2=193.96$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.000$ ); Reconviction:  $\chi^2=176.72$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.000$ ; Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=86.02$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.000$ ).

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

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

Reincarceration Offense	Offense of Conviction					
	Violent	Weapons	Property	Drugs	Other	CSV
<i>Violent</i>	5.7%	16.3%	3.0%	5.7%	11.0%	0.0%
<i>Weapons</i>	2.9%	18.9%	3.2%	2.8%	4.8%	0.0%
<i>Property</i>	1.9%	3.1%	13.9%	2.5%	4.8%	0.0%
<i>Drugs</i>	1.7%	15.8%	3.6%	11.2%	4.8%	0.0%
<i>Other</i>	1.0%	2.6%	2.4%	1.2%	4.8%	0.0%
<i>CSV</i>	86.9%	43.4%	73.8%	76.6%	69.9%	100.0%

For those releases who were reincarcerated within three years, the offense of reincarceration was analyzed according to the original offense of conviction. Table 20 displays these results. In all offense of conviction categories, incarcerated persons who returned to DOC custody were most likely to return for a CSV.<sup>5</sup> The second highest reincarceration category was the same category as the offense of conviction. For example, 2016 releases who served a sentence for a violent offense were second-most likely to return to custody for a violent offense. The same pattern is found for weapons, property, and drug offenders. The only exception to this was incarcerated persons convicted of “other” crimes; these incarcerated persons were most likely to return for a CSV followed by a violent offense.<sup>6</sup>

*Prior Admissions*

As noted earlier, most persons who were released in 2016 were already recidivists in that they had prior DOC stays on record (i.e., 55.0%). Recidivism rates for this group can be viewed in Figure 16.

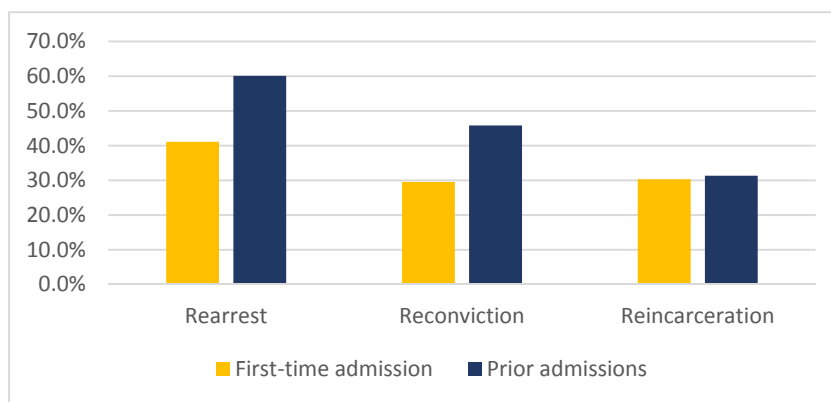


FIGURE 16. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BASED ON NUMBER OF PRIOR ADMISSIONS

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.<sup>7</sup> First timers were 31.6% less likely to be rearrested and 35.6% less likely to be reconvicted. There were no significant

<sup>5</sup> These differences were statistically significant. ( $\chi^2=697.46$ ,  $df=30$ ,  $p=.000$ ).

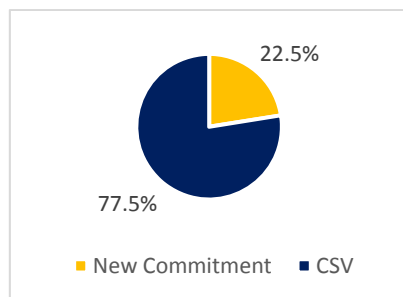
<sup>6</sup> Other offenses include but are not limited to administrative crimes (e.g., escape, official misconduct, hindering apprehension) and public order crimes (e.g., riot, violation of public health and safety), among others.

<sup>7</sup> These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest:  $\chi^2=291.69$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ ); Reconviction:  $\chi^2=227.97$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ ).

differences between first timers and recidivists in terms of reincarceration. These results highlight the “revolving door” nature of corrections that impacts some incarcerated persons in particular.<sup>8</sup>

### Post-Release Supervision

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



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 the majority of releases were released to parole supervision (i.e., 61.5%).

The specific rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration rates for releases who were and were not supervised post-release are available to view in Table 21. For the 2016 release cohort, unsupervised releases were 43% more likely to be rearrested and 59.0% more likely to be reconvicted than supervised releases. However, unsupervised releases were 61.2% less likely to be reincarcerated. Nearly 40% of all supervised releases were reincarcerated within three years of release compared to 15% of unsupervised releases.<sup>9</sup>

TABLE 21. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY RELEASE STATUS: TRENDS FROM 2012 TO 2016

	Rearrest		Reconviction		Reincarceration	
	Supervised	Unsupervised	Supervised	Unsupervised	Supervised	Unsupervised
2012	46.6%	62.1%	32.2%	50.3%	39.3%	21.1%
2013	44.8%	63.5%	30.1%	50.2%	37.5%	18.4%
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%
Δ	-4.29%	+2.74%	-1.55%	No change	+1.01%	-27.01%

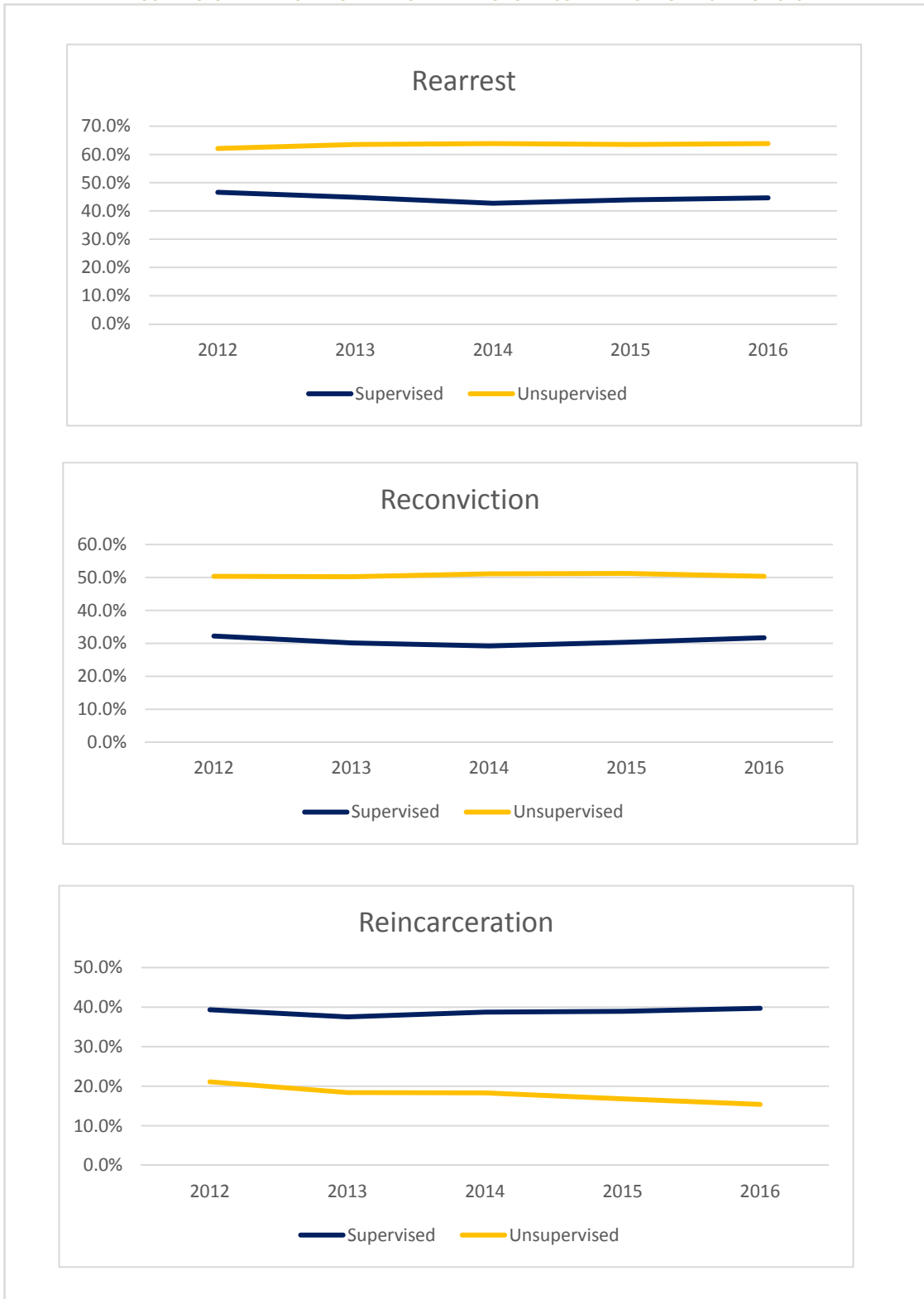
Trends of 3-year recidivism rates by release status are also displayed in Table 21. In the past five release cohorts, supervised releases had decreases in the rates of rearrest and reconviction, but an increase in the rate of reincarceration. Unsupervised releases experienced decreases in the rates of reincarceration, but a slight increase in the rate of rearrest. These results are also displayed graphically in Figure 18.

<sup>8</sup> Pew Center on the States. (2011). State of recidivism: The revolving door of America’s prisons. Washington, DC: Pew Charitable Trusts.

<sup>9</sup> These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest:  $\chi^2=278.18$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ ); Reconviction:  $\chi^2=275.65$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ ; Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=520.66$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ ).

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

FIGURE 18. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY RELEASE STATUS: TRENDS FROM 2012 TO 2016



# SECTION 6: REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMS

In calendar year 2016, NJDOC contracted with 15 Residential Community Reintegration Program (RCRP) facilities to serve incarcerated persons 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, one was a program for special needs incarcerated persons in transition, four were houses with a work release program, and the remaining eight houses utilized drug treatment with a work release component. A listing of the RCRPs can be found below.

TABLE 22. LIST OF 2016 NJDOC CONTRACTED RCRPS

Name	Type of RCRP
Clinton House	Work Release RCRP
Urban Renewal Corporation 1	Work Release RCRP
Urban Renewal Corporation 2	Work Release RCRP
Fletcher House	Work Release RCRP
Comunidad Unida Para Rehabilitación de Adictos (CURA)	Drug Treatment RCRP
The Harbor	Drug Treatment RCRP
Tully House	Drug Treatment RCRP
Kintock-Newark	Drug Treatment RCRP
Kintock-Bridgeton	Drug Treatment RCRP
Fenwick House	Drug Treatment RCRP
Garrett House	Drug Treatment RCRP
Hope Hall	Drug Treatment RCRP
Columbus House	Special Needs (Other)
Talbot Hall	Assessment Center (Other)
Albert M. "Bo" Robinson	Assessment Center (Other)

## RCRP Descriptives

There are a limited number of beds available in the RCRPs. As a result, 36% of the full 2016 release cohort attended a RCRP and 26% of all releases completed a RCRP. Nineteen percent of the entire release cohort completed a drug house and 5.1% completed a work release program. Approximately 6.4% of offenders in the cohort completed a special needs or assessment center RCRP.

TABLE 23. 2016 RELEASES AND RCRP COMPLETION RATES

	N	Percentage
<i>Attend Any RCRP</i>	2,940	36.0%
<i>Complete Any RCRP</i>	2,127	26.0%
<i>Complete a Drug Treatment RCRP</i>	1,570	19.2%
<i>Complete a Work Release RCRP</i>	418	5.1%
<i>Complete a Special Needs or Assessment Center RCRP</i>	523	6.4%



## 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 did not have statistically lower rates of rearrest than incarcerated persons who did not complete a RCRP, but experienced lower rates of reconviction and reincarceration.<sup>1,2</sup>

FIGURE 19. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES AND RCRP COMPLETION

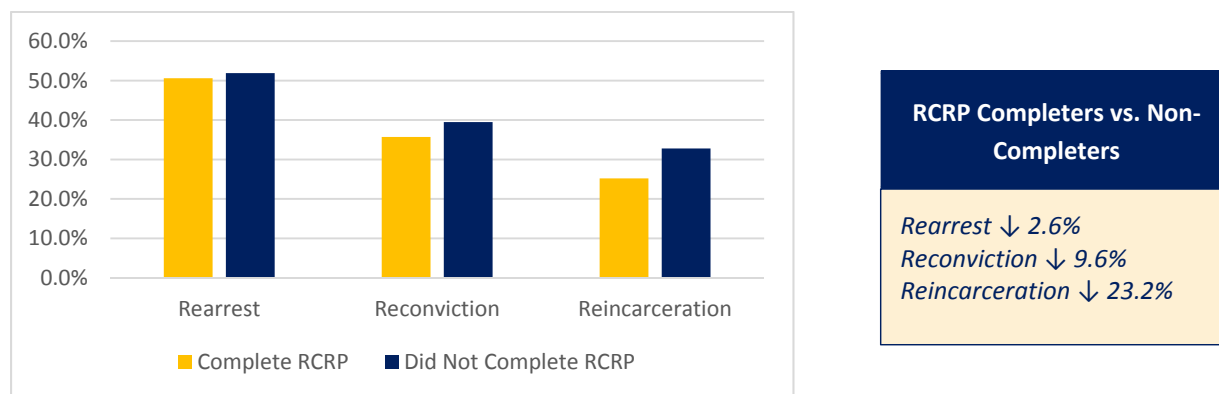


Table 24 details the three year recidivism rates based on type of RCRP attended. It should be noted that incarcerated persons may have attended more than one RCRP prior to release. For example, an incarcerated person could complete a drug treatment RCRP and then be transferred to a work release RCRP. 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 2016 release cohort. Completion of any RCRP did not result in recidivism rates higher than the 2016 release cohort as a whole; in many instances, RCRP completion was associated with a decrease in rates compared to the full sample. 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.

TABLE 24. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY RCRP COMPLETION TYPE

	Rearrest	Reconviction	Reincarceration
<b>Total 2016 Cohort</b>	51.6%	38.5%	30.9%
<b>Complete Any RCRP</b>	50.6%	35.7%	25.2%
<b>Complete Work Release RCRP</b>	45.5%	33.3%	18.2%
<b>Complete Drug Treatment RCRP</b>	50.1%	34.8%	22.1%
<b>Complete Other RCRP</b>	55.8%	40.9%	38.2%

<sup>1</sup> These differences were statistically significant. (Reconviction:  $\chi^2=9.44$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.05$ ; Reincarceration:  $\chi^2=42.52$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ ).

<sup>2</sup> Non-completers include incarcerated persons who did not attend a RCRP at any time during their stay of incarceration or incarcerated persons who did attend a RCRP but did not successfully complete their participation for any reason.

### Mandatory Education

The NJDOC 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 2016 release cohort, there were a total of 222 persons who participated in mandatory education programming during their stay of incarceration. Information about these 222 persons can be viewed in Table 25.

TABLE 25. DESCRIPTIVES OF MANDATORY EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS

	N	Percentage
<b>Race</b>		
<i>White</i>	64	29.6%
<i>Black</i>	142	65.7%
<i>Other</i>	10	4.6%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
<i>Hispanic/Latino</i>	40	18.0%
<i>Non-Hispanic/Latino</i>	182	82.0%
<b>Gender</b>		
<i>Male</i>	214	96.4%
<i>Female</i>	8	3.6%
<b>Offense of Conviction</b>		
<i>Violent</i>	114	51.4%
<i>Weapons</i>	42	18.9%
<i>Property</i>	20	9.0%
<i>Drugs</i>	31	14%
<i>Other</i>	14	6.3%
		<b>Mean (sd), Range</b>
<b>Age at Release (years)</b>	31.5 (8.8), 19-62	
<b>Number of Prior Arrests</b>	5.7 (5.5), 0-30	
<b>Number of Prior Convictions</b>	3.2 (3.6), 0-21	
<b>Number of Prior Incarcerations</b>	1.0 (1.3), 0-7	
<b>Time Served (days)</b>	1303.21 (955.5), 1-8722	

Incarcerated persons who participated in mandatory education were predominately Black, male, and serving a sentence for a violent offense. The average age was 31.5 years old and the majority of incarcerated persons had a prior criminal history and one prior DOC admission. These incarcerated persons served an average of 4.55 years.

During their stay of incarceration, 77 incarcerated persons who participated in mandatory education programming took the HSE test. Of these, 69 passed and 8 failed, for a pass rate of 89.6%.

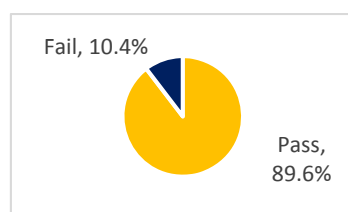
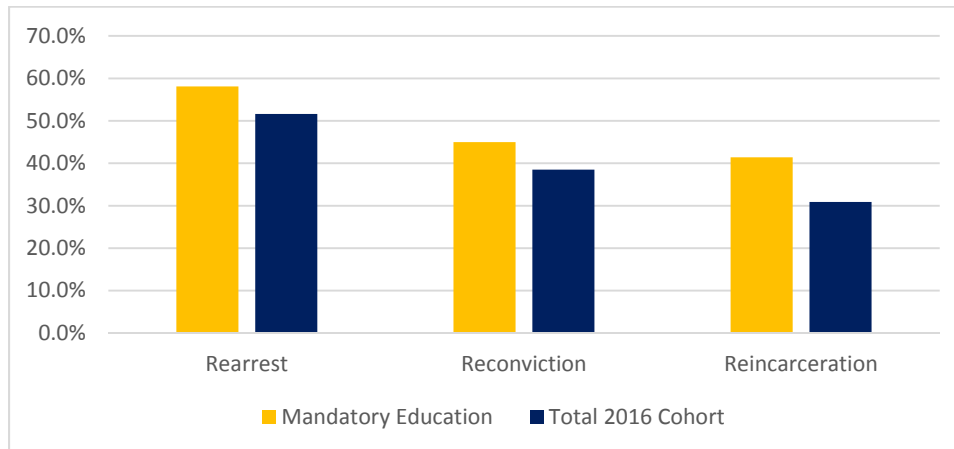


FIGURE 20. HSE TEST RESULTS

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



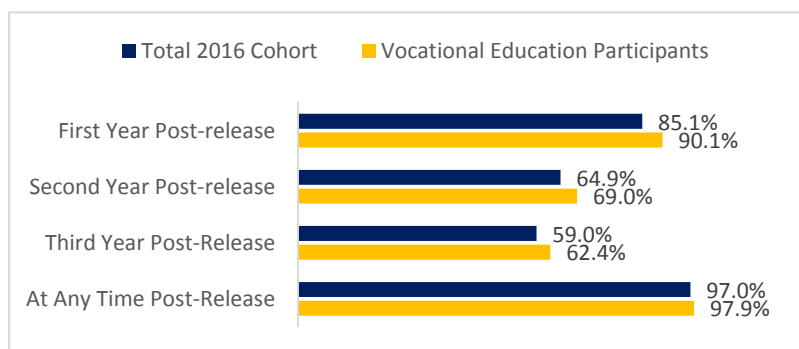
Mandatory education participants had slightly higher rates of recidivism than the 2016 release cohort as a whole (Figure 21). This is likely attributed to incarcerated person age at release. The average incarcerated person was 36 years old at release in 2016 (see Section 3). Mandatory education incarcerated persons were, on average, 4.5 years younger at release than the full cohort. Research indicates that criminality declines with age.<sup>3,4</sup>

### 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 2016 releases, 1,270 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 2016 release cohort as a whole (Figure 22). Note that these rates do not include releases with missing data (Vocational Education Participants: N=719; 2016 Release Cohort: N=4141)

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



<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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

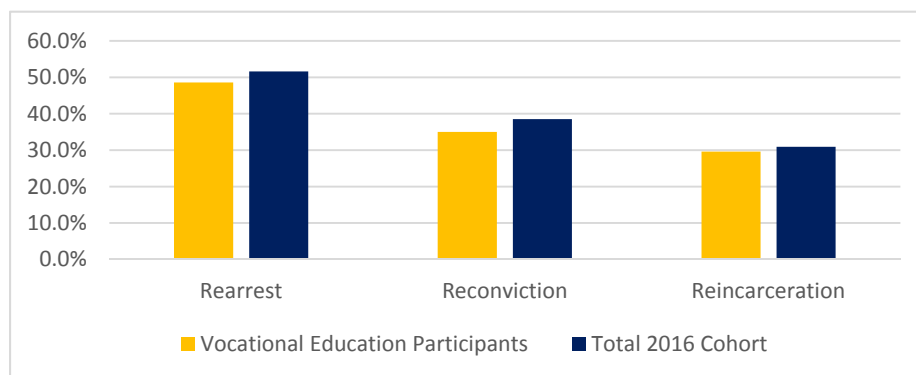
Income Range	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
	Vocational Education	2016 Cohort	Vocational Education	2016 Cohort	Vocational Education	2016 Cohort
\$0	37.2%	41.40%	23.0%	32.5%	28.1%	32.3%
Under \$10,000	60.0%	56.6%	66.7%	61.1%	60.1%	58.9%
\$10,000-\$19,999	2.8%	1.8%	9.7%	6.1%	10.2%	8.0%
\$20,000-\$29,999	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%	1.6%	0.7%
\$30,000-\$39,999	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
\$40,000 +	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%

TABLE 26. INCOME LEVELS OF EMPLOYED RELEASEES 3 YEARS POST-RELEASE

Of those incarcerated persons who were employed post-release, nearly 99% had an income level of under \$20,000 (Table 26). Income levels were similar across vocational education participation and the full 2016 release cohort, though a greater proportion of vocational education participants reported income in the \$10,000-\$19,999 range compared to the entire 2016 release cohort.

In analyzing recidivism, vocational education participants had slightly lower 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than the full 2016 cohort.

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



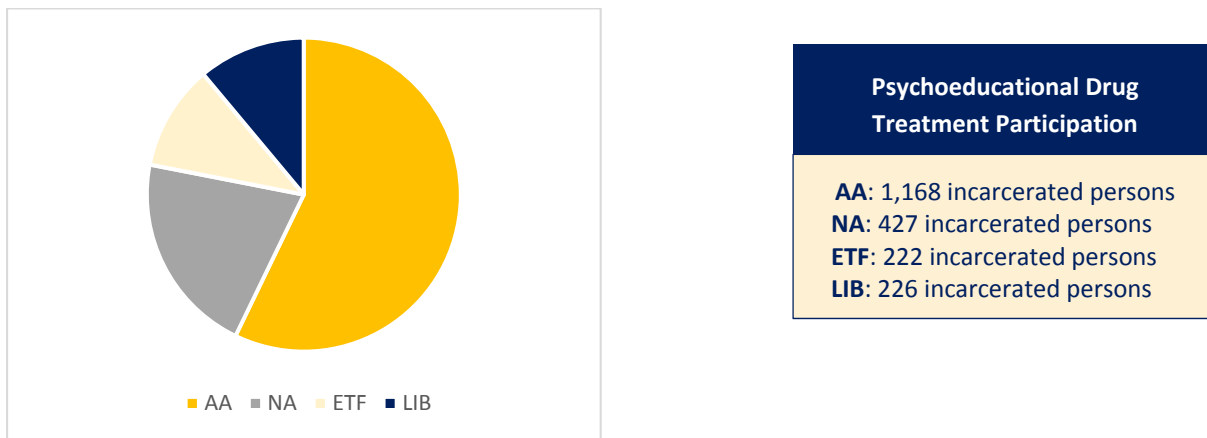
### Psychoeducational Drug Treatment

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 which 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 incarcerated persons as allies in the end of the criminal and addictive lifestyle of their loved ones. 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 nine 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.

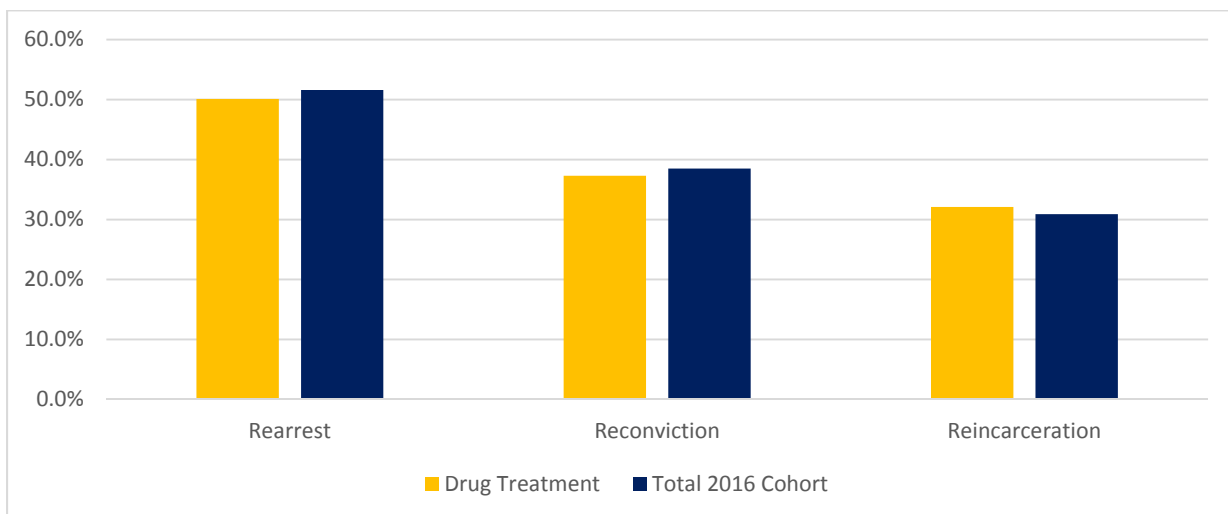
Nearly 20% of all incarcerated persons released in 2016 participated in psychoeducational drug treatment during their stay of incarceration. Alcoholics Anonymous was the most attended psychoeducational drug treatment program followed by NA. Together, AA and NA comprised 78% of all psychoeducational drug treatment participation.

FIGURE 24. PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL DRUG TREATMENT PARTICIPATION



In analyzing recidivism, psychoeducational drug treatment participants had slightly lower 3-year rates of rearrest and reconviction than the full 2016 cohort. However, reincarceration rates were slightly higher than the full 2016 cohort (Figure 25).

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



# SECTION 7: JUVENILE RELEASES

## 2016 Release Cohort: Youth Characteristics

The 2016 cohort was comprised of 288 youth released from JJC facilities. All juveniles were released from a committed (69.4%) or a probationer status (30.6%). More than a third (39.6%) of the cohort left from secure care (100% of those were committed youth) and 60.4% left from residential programs (49.4% were committed and 50.6% were probationers). The average length of stay in custody was 396 days, which was an increase of 6 days from 2015. The average length of stay was 370 days for youth departing residential programs (an increase of 2 days from 2015) and 436 days for youth departing secure care (an increase of 7 days from 2015). Day programs, utilized in prior years, were no longer used and thus no residents departed from a day program in 2016.

Of the youth released, 95.1% were males and 4.9% were females. The average age at release was 18.4 years. The racial breakdown of the cohort was 72.9% Black, 16.0% Hispanic, 10.4% White, and 0.7% Other (or 10.4% White and 89.6% Youth of Color). Most of the youth served sentences for persons offenses (42.0%), followed by violations of probation (VOP) (21.9%), weapons offenses (14.9%), property offenses (10.4%), drug offenses (5.9%), and public order offenses (4.9%).

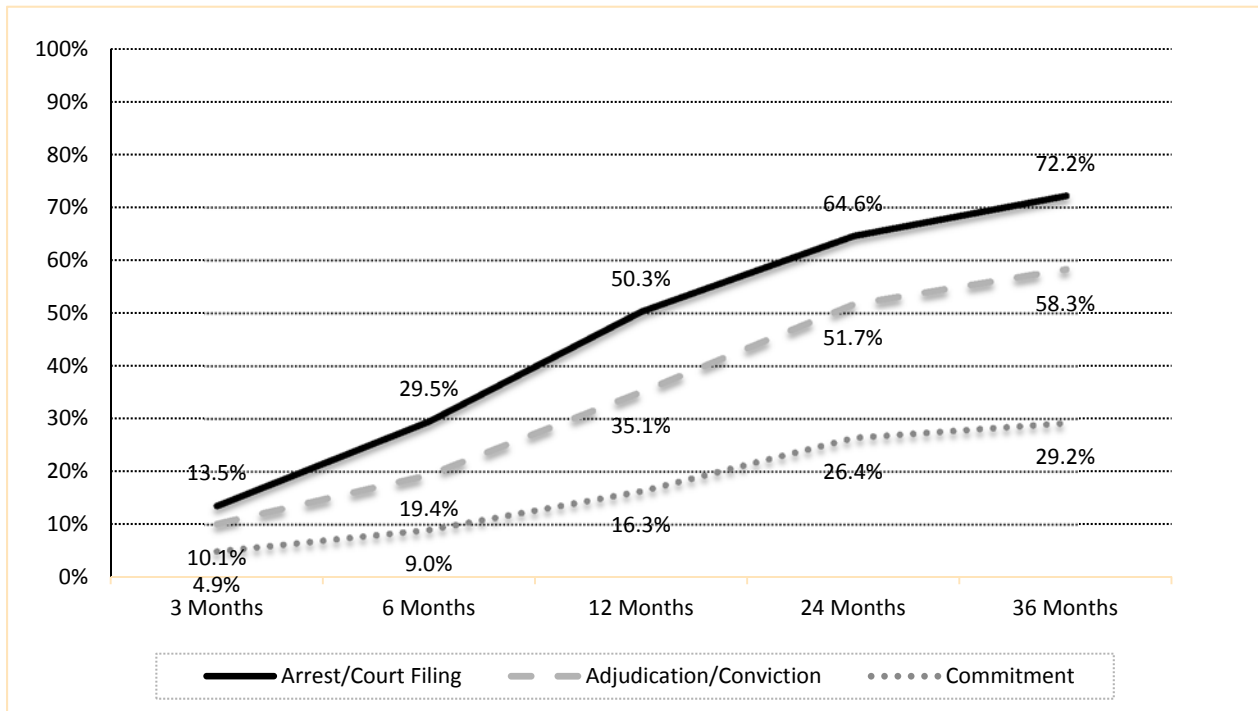
## 2016 Release Cohort Recidivism Rates

The reporting of results begins with a focus on an examination of the overall recidivism rates for youth released from JJC custody in 2016. As shown in Figure 3, the rate of recidivism increased over time through the three-year period for each of the three measures, although there is a noticeable slowing after 12 months. By one year following release, 49.7% of the youth released in 2016 had a new court filing/arrest, 34.7% committed a new offense resulting in an adjudication/conviction, and 16.0% re-offended resulting in a new commitment to a State facility. At two years following release, recidivism rates had increased: 64.6% had a new court filing/arrest, 56.6% had a new adjudication/conviction, and 26.4% had a new commitment to a State facility. By three years after release, 71.2% of the youth had new court filings/arrests, 57.3% had new adjudications/convictions, and 28.8% had new commitments.

The study also examined average time to recidivate (in days) for all youth re-offending within three years. Average time to recidivate was as follows:

- for those with a new court filing/arrest, 319 days;
- for those with a new adjudication/conviction, 361 days; and
- for those with a new commitment, 355 days.

FIGURE 26. OVERALL RECIDIVISM RATES FOR YOUTH RELEASED FROM JJC CUSTODY IN 2016



### Recent Trends in Juvenile Recidivism

As part of the analysis, a comparison was made with the previous years' findings regarding the three measures of recidivism. Importantly, since 2007, recidivism rates have decreased markedly on all three measures. As indicated in the table below, since 2007, new court filings/arrests have decreased by 12.8 percentage points, new adjudications/convictions have decreased by 16.8 percentage points, and new commitments to state custody have decreased by 9.7 percentage points.

TABLE 27. TRENDS IN JUVENILE RECIDIVISM, 2007 TO 2016

Release Year	Court Filing/Arrest	Adjudication/Conviction	Commitment
2007	85.0%	75.1%	38.9%
2008	85.0%	73.3%	38.7%
2009	84.8%	73.4%	34.7%
2010	86.1%	71.6%	36.9%
2011	84.0%	71.9%	32.4%
2012	78.9%	67.7%	33.1%
2013	78.9%	67.6%	30.2%
2014	76.9%	58.9%	23.9%
2015	78.0%	61.3%	28.0%
2016	72.2%	58.3%	29.2%

Table 28 examines changes in the time it took for youth to recidivate, measured in days from the date of a youth's release to the date of re-offense. Since 2007, time to recidivate for court filings/arrests, adjudications/convictions, and commitments have increased, a positive finding.

TABLE 28. AVERAGE TIME TO RECIDIVATE IN DAYS, 2007 TO 2016

Release Year	Court Filings/Arrest	Adjudication/Conviction	Commitment
2007	256	273	303
2008	236	256	281
2009	269	288	342
2010	262	276	327
2011	272	282	304
2012	310	326	333
2013	277	288	308
2014	302	289	311
2015	303	310	340
2016	319	361	355

### Differences in Recidivism Across Youth Characteristics

The remaining analyses seek to describe differences between recidivists and non-recidivists in terms of various youth characteristics and across different programmatic interventions. Note that over time, as the result of successful reform efforts and lower rates of youth crime, the number of youth in JJC custody has decreased substantially, resulting in significantly smaller numbers of youth in each one-year release cohort. In fact, from 2015 to 2016, 48 fewer youth departed from the JJC, a 14.3% decrease in the number of departures in just a single year. These small sample sizes make meaningful analyses, and particularly the ability to detect statistically significant differences, difficult. Therefore, the analyses of differences in recidivism rates across various youth characteristics and interventions include youth released from JJC custody in the most recent two-year period (2015 and 2016), bringing the number of cases in the analysis to 624.

Regarding differences in recidivism across youth characteristics, the analysis of bivariate relationships revealed that for youth released in 2015 and 2016, twelve factors were associated at a statistically significant level with recidivism within three years, on one or more of the three measures of recidivism.

*Gender.* Released males were more likely to have recidivated than females. The recidivism rate for males was higher for new court filings/arrests within three years of release (75.3% vs. 67.5%),<sup>1</sup> for new adjudications/convictions (60.8% vs. 40.0%),<sup>2</sup> and for new commitments (29.6% vs. 10.0%).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2=1.223$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.269$ .

<sup>2</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $\chi^2=6.711$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.010$ .

<sup>3</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $\chi^2=7.094$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.008$ .



*Race/Ethnicity.* Youth whose race/ethnicity is identified as “other” were more likely to have a new court filing/arrest (80.0%), followed by Black youth (78.2%), Hispanic youth (73.8%), and White youth (50.8%).<sup>4</sup> Youth in the Other race/ethnicity category were also more likely to have a new adjudication/conviction (80.0%), followed by Black youth (63.5%), Hispanic youth (55.3%), and White youth (34.4%).<sup>5</sup> Finally, youth in the Other race/ethnicity category were more likely to have received a new commitment (40.0%), followed by Black youth (32.7%), Hispanic youth (20.4%), and White youth (8.2%).<sup>6</sup>

As part of the analysis, race/ethnicity was recoded into “minority” and “nonminority” categories (with White as the sole race/ethnicity category coded as nonminority). Minority youth were more likely to have had a new court filing/arrest (77.4% vs. 50.8%),<sup>7</sup> a new adjudication/conviction (62.2% vs. 34.4%),<sup>8</sup> as well as a new commitment (30.6% vs. 8.2%).<sup>9</sup>

*Municipality of Residence.* Released youth were categorized as residing in one of the fifteen most densely populated New Jersey cities (the Urban 15 areas) or not.<sup>10</sup> Those residing in the Urban 15 areas were more likely than those in non-Urban 15 areas to have a new court filing/arrest (79.7% vs. 69.7%),<sup>11</sup> a new adjudication/conviction, (67.2% vs. 51.3%),<sup>12</sup> and a new commitment (35.0% vs. 21.4%).<sup>13</sup> When honing in on the six most densely populated New Jersey cities,<sup>14</sup> the relationship between recidivism and residence remains strong and statistically significant. Those residing in the Urban 6 areas were more likely than those in other areas to have a new court filing/arrest (79.0% vs. 71.3%),<sup>15</sup> a new adjudication/conviction (66.6% vs. 53.0%),<sup>16</sup> and a new commitment (36.6% vs. 21.3%).<sup>17</sup>

*Number of Adjudications.* The average number of adjudications of delinquency accumulated by youth at the time of commitment/admission to the JJC (both prior and current adjudications) was 6.01. The average number of adjudications for youth who experienced a new court filing/arrest within three years of release was higher than for those who did not (6.5 vs. 4.7).<sup>18</sup> The same was true for new adjudications/convictions (6.7 vs. 5.1),<sup>19</sup> and for new commitments (6.9 vs. 5.7).<sup>20</sup>

<sup>4</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=21.619$ ,  $df=3$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>5</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=20.565$ ,  $df=3$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>6</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=20.070$ ,  $df=3$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>7</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=20.716$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>8</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=17.570$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>9</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=13.525$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>10</sup> The Urban 15 Cities are as follows: Bayonne City, Camden City, Clifton City, East Orange City, Elizabeth City, Irvington City, Jersey City, Newark City, Passaic City, Paterson City, Toms River Township, Trenton City, Union City, Vineland and Woodbridge Township.

<sup>11</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=8.198$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.004$ .

<sup>12</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=16.292$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>13</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=14.229$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>14</sup> The six most densely populated cities are: Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson and Trenton.

<sup>15</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=4.898$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.027$ .

<sup>16</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=12.446$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>17</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=17.869$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>18</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $F=26.634$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>19</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $F=27.224$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>20</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $F=13.053$   $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

*Type of Offense.* Youth committed/admitted to the JJC for drug offenses were most likely to have a new court filing/arrest within three years (91.1%), followed by those entering with public order offenses (83.8%), property offenses (80.2%), weapons offenses (79.2%), Violations of Probations (VOP) (71.7%), and persons offenses (69.3%).<sup>21</sup> For new adjudications/convictions, the highest rate was for drug offenses (75.6%), followed by public order offenses (70.3%), property offenses (68.4%), weapons offenses (68.1%), VOPs (56.7%), and persons offenses (52.5%).<sup>22</sup> Finally, for new commitments, the highest rate was for weapons offenses (44.4%), followed by property offenses (38.4%), drug offenses (35.6%), public order offenses (27.0%), VOPs (22.8%), and then person offenses (22.2%).<sup>23</sup>

*Degree of Offense.* Youth committed/admitted to the JJC for disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses (DP/PDP) were more likely to have had a new court filing/arrest within three years (94.1%), followed by those entering with 4<sup>th</sup> degree offenses (82.8%), 3<sup>rd</sup> degree offenses (81.8%), 2<sup>nd</sup> degree offenses (73.4%), VOPs (which have no designated degree) (72.4%), and 1<sup>st</sup> degree offenses (64.4%).<sup>24</sup> For new adjudications or convictions, the highest rate was for youth with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree offenses (67.3%), followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> degree offenses (60.6%), DP/PDP offenses (58.8%), VOPs (57.5%), 4<sup>th</sup> degree offenses (55.2%), and then 1<sup>st</sup> degree offenses (49.0%).<sup>25</sup> Finally, for new commitments, youth with 4<sup>th</sup> degree offenses (44.8%) had the highest recidivism rate, followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> degree offenses (37.1%), 2<sup>nd</sup> degree offenses (31.4%), VOPs (22.8%), 1<sup>st</sup> degree offenses (14.4%), and DP/PDP offenses (11.8%).<sup>26</sup>

*Additional Factors.* Several additional characteristics of released juveniles were examined, with a primary concern for their relationship with *new court filings/arrests* within three years. The focus of the further analysis was on areas of youths' functioning, needs, and prior delinquency and placement history. For these additional variables, data are collected either exclusively or largely on JJC's committed youth (rather than on JJC's probationers). As a result, the findings are relevant largely for the JJC's committed population.

- *Comprehensive Informational Assessment (CIA) Needs Area Scores.* The CIA is used to determine levels of need on eight separate life domains. The domains include family/household; educational/vocational; substance abuse; peers/role models; attitudes/behaviors; use of time/leisure activity; medical/physical health; and psychological/mental health. The analysis considered the relationship between all of these needs areas and recidivism, as measured by new court filings/arrests within three years. Recidivists were found to have higher need scores than non-recidivists regarding family/household, 5.5 vs. 5.1,<sup>27</sup> substance abuse, 6.2 vs. 5.0,<sup>28</sup> education/vocation, 3.9 vs. 3.2,<sup>29</sup> peers/role models, 4.4 vs. 3.8,<sup>30</sup> use of time/leisure, 1.4 vs.

<sup>21</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=14.876$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.011$ .

<sup>22</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=15.082$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.010$ .

<sup>23</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=21.329$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.001$ .

<sup>24</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=14.953$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.011$ .

<sup>25</sup>  $X^2=9.274$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.099$ .

<sup>26</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=24.856$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>27</sup>  $F=1.257$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.263$ .

<sup>28</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $F=12.147$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.001$ .

<sup>29</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $F=15.044$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>30</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $F=11.280$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.001$ .

1.2,<sup>31</sup> attitudes/behaviors, 3.6 vs. 2.9<sup>32</sup> and medical/physical needs, 1.4 vs. 1.2.<sup>33</sup> Scores in the eighth needs area, psychological/mental health, were lower among recidivists, 2.5 vs. 3.0.<sup>34</sup>

- *Initial Classification & Custody Document (ICCD) Scores.* The ICCD guides placement decisions for committed youth and serves as a broad measure of prior delinquency and placement history. The analysis considered the relationship between ICCD scores and recidivism, as measured by new court filings/arrests within three years. Among committed youth, the average ICCD score for recidivists was 12.6, compared with 11.4 for non-recidivists.<sup>35</sup>

### REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMMING ANALYSES

Youth involved with the JJC receive the same basic curricula in three common programs. New Freedom is a cognitive-behavioral substance abuse curriculum that works with residents' thinking patterns to affect and redirect future behavior through the stages of change. The Phoenix curriculum is built on a motivational enhancement and cognitive-behavioral model and is specifically targeted toward disentangling youth from gangs. And ART (aggression replacement training) focuses on the underlying philosophy that every act of adolescent aggression, whether in school, at home, or in the community, has both external and internal causes. ART is an evidenced-based cognitive behavioral intervention that consists of three components: anger control, behavioral skills, and moral reasoning.

There are a few key intervention strategies that differ significantly based on each youth's needs and risk factors. This recidivism study examined differences between those who did and those who did not recidivate in terms of several key interventions provided by the JJC. This analysis focused primarily on *new court filings/arrests* within three years (unless otherwise noted).

*Sex Offender Treatment.* Sex offender specific treatment is provided in both the secure and residential environments. Of the entire two-year cohort, 6.6% of the youth received sex offender treatment. Of that subgroup, 34.1% received the treatment in a residential program and 65.9% received that treatment in a secure care environment. The recidivism rate for those in secure care receiving sex offender treatment was 29.6% and 50.0% for those receiving sex offender treatment in a residential setting.<sup>36</sup> The number of cases in each of these populations is still very small even after combining 2015 and 2016 departures (n=27 for secure and n=14 for residential sex offender programs).

*Substance Abuse Treatment.* Of the entire cohort, 30.6% received intensive substance abuse treatment. Like sex offender specific treatment, intensive substance abuse treatment is provided in both secure and residential environments. Of the youth receiving intensive substance abuse treatment, 85.3% received the majority of their treatment in a residential setting and 14.7% received the majority of their intensive treatment in a secure setting. Some youth received intensive substance abuse treatment in both venues. For the purpose of this analysis, these youth were classified according to the venue in which they received

<sup>31</sup>These differences were statistically significant.  $F=8.525$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.024$ .

<sup>32</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $F=8.106$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.005$ .

<sup>33</sup>  $F=1.447$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.230$ .

<sup>34</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $F=4.494$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.035$ .

<sup>35</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $F=4.844$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.028$ .

<sup>36</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=36.136$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p=0.000$ .

the majority of their substance abuse treatment—secure or residential. The recidivism rate for those receiving most of their intensive substance abuse treatment in secure care was 60.7%, as compared to 82.8% for those receiving the majority of their intensive substance abuse treatment in a residential setting.<sup>37</sup>

*Transitional Reentry Programs.* In 2009, the JJC started transitional programs in certain residential facilities on a small scale. Transitional programs are available for both committed and probationer youth (males). Committed youth attend as a condition of their parole, and probationers attend when they have completed a community residential program and have been granted a release date. This transitional setting allows residents to gain responsibility gradually as they prepare to return to their community, in a facility that is closer to their home. The youth receive education in their home school district or at the transitional program, which follows the Core Curriculum Content Standards of the NJ Department of Education. Each youth receives a myriad of other services that are best suited to meet his release plan, including career exploration, health/wellness, life skills, family reunification, and/or planning for independent living. Residents are permitted to visit their homes, schools, religious services, and work sites in accordance with program policies. A resident's stay can range from two weeks to 45 days. Program completion is determined by each resident's behavior, their individual completion of transitional goals, and the recommendation of the transitional team.

By 2016, these transitional programs had taken root in three locations. At the Northern Region Independence and Reentry Success Center, starting in 2009, youth from Essex, Hudson and Union counties could be assigned to this transitional setting. In 2010, the Southern Transitional program began for Atlantic County residents. In 2015, Vineland Preparatory Academy also began a transitional component which served youth from Camden and Cumberland counties. In the combined cohort, 55.6% of the youth participated in these programs. Youth participating in a transitional program had a higher recidivism rate (79.8%) than youth who did not participate in a transitional program (68.6%).<sup>38</sup> One possible explanation for the higher recidivism rates among youth attending transitional programs is that those who went to transitional programs had an average of 6.3 adjudications, as compared to the non-transitional group who had an average of 5.7 adjudications.<sup>39</sup> As described earlier, number of adjudications has a statistically significant relationship with recidivism. Additionally, youth from the Urban 15 areas were more likely to participate in transitional programs than youth who were not from the urban areas (56.8% vs. 44.4%).<sup>40</sup> And, as described earlier, youth returning to these Urban 15 areas had a higher recidivism rate than those returning to other communities.

*High School Completion.* For youth without a high school diploma or GED, the JJC provides a full, year-round academic program aligned to Core Curriculum Content Standards of the Department of Education. While 8.2% of youth entering the JJC had their GED or diploma prior to intake, 39.4% had their GED or

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<sup>37</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $9.489$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p=.009$ .

<sup>38</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=10.326$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.001$ .

<sup>39</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $F=4.271$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.039$ .

<sup>40</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $X^2=9.431$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.002$ .

diploma when exiting the JJC, a substantial gain. Of those without a high school credential when leaving, the mean age was 17.7, so a primary contributing factor for their lack of graduation is age.

Youth who had a GED or high school diploma when leaving the JJC were on average 19.2 years of age and were slightly more likely to be arrested within three years (75.6% vs. 74.3%).<sup>41</sup> Rates of adjudication/conviction were about the same for those who had a high school credential at release vs. those who did not (59.8% vs. 59.3%).<sup>42</sup> However, youth with a high school credential were less likely to be committed (23.6% vs. 31.5%)<sup>43</sup> within three years.

*Type of Facility.* Finally, this analysis compared recidivism across residential and secure care settings in a more in-depth way, again focusing on rearrest/court filings, but considering additional time frames, including time to recidivism.

Contrary to findings from previous reports, youth departing residential programs had higher rates of rearrest/court filings within three years (78.3%) than youth departing secure settings (69.5%).<sup>44</sup> Youth who departed secure settings recidivated three days later than youth departing residential settings (308 vs. 305 days). When looking at committed youth only (who can spend time in either secure or residential), those departing from secure care also had a lower rate of rearrest/court filing within three years (69.5%) than youth departing residential programs (75.7%). Committed youth who departed from secure facilities recidivated slightly sooner (308 days) than those youth who departed from a residential program (310 days).<sup>45</sup> When looking at where committed residents spent the majority of their sentence—secure or residential settings—those who spent the majority of their time in residential programs had a higher rate of rearrest within three years than those who spent the majority of their time in secure facilities. (77.8% vs. 69.7%)<sup>46</sup>. Since these findings are contrary to those in previous reports where youth from residential settings were found to have lower recidivism rates than youth from secure settings, these trends will be monitored closely in subsequent reports.

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<sup>41</sup>  $\chi^2=0.128$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.721$ .

<sup>42</sup>  $\chi^2=0.015$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.902$ .

<sup>43</sup> These differences were statistically significant.  $\chi^2=4.582$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.032$ .

<sup>44</sup> These results are statistically significant.  $\chi^2=6.034$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.014$ .

<sup>45</sup>  $F=0.004$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.948$ .

<sup>46</sup>  $\chi^2=2.844$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.092$ .

# CONCLUSION

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This report is the tenth in a series of reports measuring various outcomes relative to New Jersey’s adult and juvenile offender populations and meets a legislative mandate. To this end, the New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC), the New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) and the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) examined the recidivism of a select cohort of offenders (juvenile and adult) released from the custody of each respective law enforcement agency in calendar year 2016. In addition to measuring overall recidivism levels, this report describes adult and juvenile 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, while the JJC defines recidivism in accordance with the National Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJAC). For the adult analysis, 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. For the juvenile analysis, recidivism was defined as a new offense that would be a crime if perpetrated by an adult, committed by a previously-adjudicated youth who has been released from a program or returned to the community. A three-year follow-up period was utilized for all analyses.

The 3-year recidivism rates of adult incarcerated persons released in 2016 were similar to those of incarcerated persons released in prior cohorts. For the 2016 cohort, 52% were rearrested, 39% were reconvicted, and 31% were reincarcerated within three years of release. Overall, these rates are lower than national estimates. A recent 2021 Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) report analyzing recidivism rates in 34 states found that after a three-year period, nearly 39% of 2012 releases experienced a return to prison.<sup>1</sup> This finding is similar in prior BJS reports.<sup>2,3</sup> The recidivism outcomes presented in this report continue to place New Jersey well below the estimates for the all states included in all three BJS studies.

In a 2015 publication from the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law, New Jersey was praised for its crime rate decrease and prison population reduction. From 2011-2014, New Jersey reduced its prison population by 9.5% and the crime rate decreased by 20% during this period.<sup>4</sup> Since 2014, New Jersey’s prison population has decreased further. Findings from the recidivism analyses included in this report support the notion that New Jersey has continued to demonstrate a pattern of simultaneously reducing recidivism and the crime rate while maintaining public protection.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Eisen, L-B., & Chettiar, I. (2015). The Reverse Mass Incarceration Act. Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. Available at: <https://www.brennancenter.org/publication/reverse-mass-incarceration-act>



Despite the gains made in recidivism and crime rate deductions, the findings of this report also highlight the difficulty many incarcerated persons face upon reentry, particularly within 12 months of release. Nearly 56% 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,<sup>5,6</sup> 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 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 DOC. Residential Community Release Program completion was related to decreased rates of recidivism post-release. Incarcerated persons who participated in psychoeducational drug treatment programming had lower rates of rearrest and reconviction 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.

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

For the juvenile cohort, the Juvenile Justice Commission followed the justice system activity of its released youth for three full years after each had been released from custody. Specifically, at the three-year point, 72.2% of the youth released had a court filing/arrest, 58.3% had a new offense leading to an adjudication/conviction, and 29.2% had a new offense leading to a new commitment to the JJC or to State prison. Importantly, an examination of juvenile recidivism rates over a ten-year period (2007-2016) indicates recidivism rates have decreased for all three measures. New court filings/arrests have decreased by 12.8 percentage points, new adjudications/convictions have decreased by 16.8 percentage points, and new commitments have decreased by 9.7 percentage points.

To provide context for these results, it is worth noting that the juvenile justice literature reports that juveniles placed in State correctional programs across the country return to offending and to the correctional system at high rates, and often very quickly. The 2014 publication by the Pew Charitable Public Trusts entitled, "Measuring Juvenile Recidivism," notes the difficulties in comparing states' juvenile recidivism rates due to varying data collection techniques. Some correctional agencies do not track recidivism regularly or include detailed measures of recidivism. In addition, the length of time offenders are followed may also vary from state to state. And, some jurisdictions do not track juvenile offenders' involvement with the adult system.

The extent of identified personal, family, and community risk factors faced by youth placed with the JJC underscore the challenges to achieving sustained, successful reintegration back to the community. The JJC continues to work to strengthen its approach to working with youth and to strengthen community and family supports for youth in its care.

It is important to note that all youth leaving JJC custody in the time period covered by this report receive parole supervision, unlike the adult system. The JJC's Office of Juvenile Parole and Transitional Services begins working with residents early in their stay to prepare an individualized transition-release plan. In addition, while this report focuses on the 624 individuals released from the JJC's care in 2015 and 2016, the JJC serves a total population of more than 15,000 youth annually, including youth served through its Office of Local Programs and Services. The Office of Local Programs and Services administers funding to develop and implement a coordinated, community-based continuum of programs and services to address the needs of at-risk and court-involved youth in the community. This continuum of services includes delinquency prevention programs, court diversion programs, detention alternatives, dispositional options, and re-entry programs. The juvenile arrest rate in New Jersey, and nationally, has decreased steadily over the past decade. These data demonstrate that the JJC's efforts, including parole services, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, and community-based prevention programs, are having a significant impact on overall public safety. Since the empirical research in the field indicates that placement in a correctional facility is among the strongest predictors of recidivism, the importance of the JJC's work as it relates to serving youth in these community-based settings is clear.