



State of New Jersey
Department of Corrections
State Parole Board

**2017 RELEASE COHORT OUTCOME REPORT:
A THREE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP**

PHILIP D. MURPHY

Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER

Lt. Governor

VICTORIA L. KUHN, ESQ.

Commissioner

New Jersey Department of Corrections

SAMUEL J. PLUMERI, Jr.

Chairman

New Jersey State Parole Board

Acknowledgements

New Jersey Department of Corrections

Victoria L. Kuhn, Esq.

Commissioner

Laura M. Salerno, Ph.D.

Division Director

Sabrina Haugebrook, MPA, MS

Research Scientist

Michele-Lynne Muni, Ph.D.

Research Scientist

Jerry D. Harris, Jr.

Software Development Specialist 3

New Jersey State Parole Board

Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr

Chairman

David M. Wolfsgruber

Executive Director

Nicole Swiderski, Ph.D.

Research Scientist

New Jersey Office of Information Technology

Jemin Shah

Data Warehouse Developer

Prasuna Pasupuleti

Data Warehouse Developer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
Introduction	4
Agency Mission Statements	5
Report Methodology	6
Section 1: Recidivism Trends	8
Section 2: County of Commitment	10
Section 3: Release Cohort Demographics	14
Section 4: Women Released in 2017	18
Section 5: Criminal History, Incarceration Stay, and Release Status	25
Section 6: Rehabilitation and Reentry Programs	31
Conclusion	37

Tables

- Table 1. Release Counts and Recidivism Percentages (Section 1)
- Table 2. 3-Year Recidivism Rates for TPVs and New Commitments (Section 1)
- Table 3. Recidivism Percentages for 2017 Release Cohort Occurring By Time Interval (Section 1)
- Table 4. County Of Commitment for 2017 Releases (Section 2)
- Table 5. Offense of Conviction by County of Commitment for 2017 Releases (Section 2)
- Table 6. Offense of Conviction by County of Commitment: Top Counties (Section 2)
- Table 7. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by County of Commitment for 2017 Releases (Section 2)
- Table 8. 2017 Release Cohort Demographics (Section 3)
- Table 9. 3-Year Readmission Rates by Gender and Type (Section 3)
- Table 10. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Education Level (Section 3)
- Table 11. Demographic Descriptives of 2017 Female Releases (Section 4)
- Table 12. Criminal History Descriptives of 2017 Female Releases (Section 4)
- Table 13. County of Commitment for 2017 Female Releases (Section 4)
- Table 14. Offense of Conviction by County of Commitment: Female Releases (Section 4)
- Table 15. 3-Year Female Recidivism Counts by Release Status (Section 4)
- Table 16. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by County of Commitment for 2017 Female Releases (Section 4)
- Table 17. 3-Year Female Recidivism Rates by Education Level (Section 4)
- Table 18. Sentence Descriptives for 2017 Release Cohort (Section 5)
- Table 19. Criminal History Descriptives (Section 5)
- Table 20. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Offense of Conviction (Section 5)
- Table 21. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Offense of Conviction & Reincarceration Offense (Section 5)
- Table 22. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Release Status: Trends from 2013 to 2017 (Section 5)
- Table 23. List of 2017 NJDOC Contracted RCRPs (Section 6)
- Table 24. 2017 Releases and RCRP Completion Rates (Section 6)
- Table 25. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by RCRP Completion Type (Section 6)
- Table 26. Descriptives of Mandatory Education Participants (Section 6)
- Table 27. Income Levels of Employed Releases 3 Years Post-Release (Section 6)

Maps

- Map 1. 3-year Rearrest Rates by County of Commitment (Section 2)
- Map 2. 3-year Reconviction Rates by County of Commitment (Section 2)
- Map 3. 3-year Reincarceration Rates by County of Commitment (Section 2)

Figures

- Figure 1. 3-Year Recidivism Rates (Section 1)
- Figure 2. Monthly Counts of Incarcerated persons Returned To DOC Facilities within 3-Years (Section 1)
- Figure 3. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Gender (Section 3)
- Figure 4. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Race and Ethnicity (Section 3)
- Figure 5. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Marital Status (Section 3)
- Figure 6. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Release Age Grouping (Section 3)
- Figure 7. 3-Year Recidivism Rates For 2017 Female Release Cohort (Section 4)
- Figure 8. 3-Year Female Recidivism Rates by Race and Ethnicity (Section 4)
- Figure 9. 3-Year Female Recidivism Rates by Age Group (Section 4)
- Figure 10. Time Served (Section 5)
- Figure 11. Offense of Conviction Category (Section 5)
- Figure 12. Prior Admissions Percentage (Section 5)
- Figure 13. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Sentence Length (Section 5)
- Figure 14. 3-Year Recidivism Rates for Incarcerated persons with MMTs (Section 5)
- Figure 15. 3-Year Recidivism Rates for Incarcerated persons with A NERA Sentence (Section 5)
- Figure 16. 3-Year Recidivism Rates Based On Number of Prior Admissions (Section 5)
- Figure 17. Readmission Reason for Releases Who Returned Within Three Years (Section 5)
- Figure 18. 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Release Status: Trends from 2013 to 2017 (Section 5)
- Figure 19. 3-Year Recidivism Rates and RCRP Completion (Section 6)
- Figure 20. HSE Test Results (Section 6)
- Figure 21. 3-Year Recidivism Rates For Mandatory Education Participants (Section 6)
- Figure 22. 3-Year Employment Rates For Vocational Education Participants (Section 6)
- Figure 23. 3-Year Recidivism Rates For Vocational Education Participants (Section 6)
- Figure 24. Psychoeducational Drug Treatment Participation (Section 6)
- Figure 25. 3-Year Recidivism Rates For Psychoeducational Drug Treatment Participants (Section 6)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SECTION 1: RECIDIVISM TRENDS

- There were 7,554 incarcerated persons released from DOC facilities in 2017. The number of DOC incarcerated persons released annually decreased 40.1% between 2007 and 2017.
- The 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration declined between 2007 and 2017.
- Approximately 29.2% of all incarcerated persons released in 2017 were reincarcerated within three years. This represents the lowest reincarceration rate within the past decade. Of all releases, 13.0% were reincarcerated for a technical parole violation and 2.4% were reincarcerated for a new offense.
- For those persons who were readmitted to a DOC facility within three years of release, nearly 23.0% were the result of a new commitment and 64.0% were due to technical parole violations (TPVs). New commitments decreased 30.2% between 2013 and 2017 while readmissions for TPVs increased nearly 20.0%.
- Readmissions to DOC facilities for the 2017 cohort peaked at three months post-release. Nearly 57.0% 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 Passaic) encompass approximately 47% of all releases.
- Counties with the highest number of returning incarcerated persons (Camden, Essex, Passaic) were not the same as those counties with the highest proportion of returning incarcerated persons (Cape May, Gloucester, Salem).

SECTION 3: RELEASE COHORT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Seven thousand forty seven (7,047) male incarcerated persons were released in 2017; approximately 67.0% were supervised upon release and 33.0% were released at the expiration of their sentences (i.e., non-supervised). Five hundred five (505) female incarcerated persons were released in 2017; approximately 74.0% were supervised upon release and 26.0% were non-supervised.
- The majority of releases self-identified as black/African American, followed by white and “other”.
- Most releases self-identified as non-Hispanic/Latino. Releases who self-identified as black/African-American were rearrested (54.1%), reconvicted (36.0%), and reincarcerated (31.5%) 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 64% 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 (52.7%), reconviction (37.8%), and reincarceration (31.1%) 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 2017

- The 2017 female cohort consisted of 505 released incarcerated persons. Female releases were predominately white, non-Hispanic/Latino, single (i.e., never married), and under the age of 40.

- The average woman was 37 years old at release.
- The majority had a high school diploma or higher education level (75.1%).
- The majority of female releases did not have a prior admission to a DOC facility (63.6%). The most common offense of conviction was a drug offense (33.1%) followed by a violent offense (29.6%).
- The average incarcerated person served 669 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 Morris County.
- Approximately 35% of women were rearrested, 27% were reconvicted, and 21% were reincarcerated within three years of release. Of all released women, 12.9% were reincarcerated for a technical parole violation and 2.4% were reincarcerated for a new offense. Between 2010 and 2017, rearrest rates decreased 6%, reconviction rates decreased 1%, and reincarceration rates decreased 5% over the eight-year period.
- Unsupervised releases were 40% less likely to be arrested and nearly 35% less likely to be reconvicted than supervised releases. Unsupervised releases were also 95% less likely to be reincarcerated than supervised releases.
- White women had the highest rates of rearrest and reconviction within three years of release, but a lower rate of reincarceration compared with women of other races.
- Women between the ages of 21 thru 29 had the highest percentage of rearrest within three years of release, but women between the ages of 30 thru 39 had the highest percentage of reconviction within three years of release. No statistical difference was noted between the age groups for reincarceration within three years.

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

- Incarcerated persons in the 2017 release cohort served an average of 2.5 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 2017 incarcerated persons were released following time served for a violent offense (37.0%), followed by a drug offense (26.0%), and property offense (18.0%).
- Incarcerated persons who were serving a sentence for a community supervision violation (CSV) and were released in 2017 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 nearly 39% more likely to be rearrested and 66% more likely to be reconvicted than supervised releases. However, unsupervised releases were 66% less likely to be reincarcerated.

SECTION 6: REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMS

- Approximately 39.0% of the full 2017 release cohort attended a Residential Community Reintegration Program (RCRP) and 29.0% of all releases completed a RCRP.
- Incarcerated persons who participated in and completed any RCRP prior to release to the community experienced statistically lower rates of rearrest (47.6% vs. 60.1%), reconviction (31.0% vs. 40.1%), and reincarceration (23.9% vs. 30.0%) than incarcerated persons who did not complete a RCRP.
- Of the 2017 releases, 1,357 incarcerated persons completed vocational education programming during their stay of incarceration. Nearly 99% 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 2017 cohort.

- Nearly 19% of all incarcerated persons released in 2017 participated in psychoeducational drug treatment during their stay of incarceration. Psychoeducational drug treatment participants had slightly lower 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than the full 2017 cohort.

INTRODUCTION

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) and New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) are tasked by the legislature to compile reports that record and examine annual recidivism rates. This report is also the result of a legislative mandate instituted by P.L. 2015, c. 144 (a4008). The DOC and SPB are tasked with measuring the effectiveness of the State's reentry initiatives and programs. This report is the eleventh in a series of reports that measures overall recidivism levels, describes adult cohort characteristics and analyzes recidivism factors. It is the sixth report that examines reentry programming consistent with P.L. 2015, c. 144 (A4008).

There are multiple sections to the report. The introduction presents the agencies' mission statements and describes the report methodology. Sections 1 through 6 provide details of the 2017 adult release cohort including cohort demographics, recidivism rates, and reentry and rehabilitative programming analyses. The adult cohort includes 1) adult releases of the DOC who are supervised by the SPB or Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Intensive Supervision Program upon release and 2) unsupervised adult releases (i.e., max outs) from the DOC.

In New Jersey, law enforcement agencies such as the DOC and SPB attempt to prepare adult incarcerated persons for the transition from behind bars to the community to assist releases in becoming law abiding citizens. 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 statements, the rehabilitation of individuals who will return to society is paramount. The two agencies in this report promote offender rehabilitation and provide services that boost a successful transition back to the community for adult 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 adult offenders are returning to prisons.

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENTS

New Jersey Department of Corrections

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

The Department is responsible for managing 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 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.

REPORT METHODOLOGY

Sections one thru six 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 2017; this resulted in the review of criminal activity for a total of 7,554 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 2017 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 2017, 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 α is found to be .05 or lower, indicating a 5% risk or less of concluding that a difference between groups exists when there is no actual difference.

SECTION 1: RECIDIVISM TRENDS

There were 7,554 incarcerated persons released from DOC facilities in 2017. The number of DOC releases has steadily declined since 2007. As displayed in Table 1, the number of incarcerated persons released annually decreased 40.1% between 2007 and 2017. The 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration declined between 2007 and 2017. Approximately 29% of all persons released in 2017 were reincarcerated within three years. This represents the lowest reincarceration rate 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%
2017	7,554	48.5%	33.9%	29.2%

**Recidivism Decreases:
2007-2017**

Rearrest ↓ 14.5%
Reconviction ↓ 23.8%
Reincarceration ↓ 21.1%

TABLE 1. RELEASE COUNTS AND RECIDIVISM PERCENTAGES

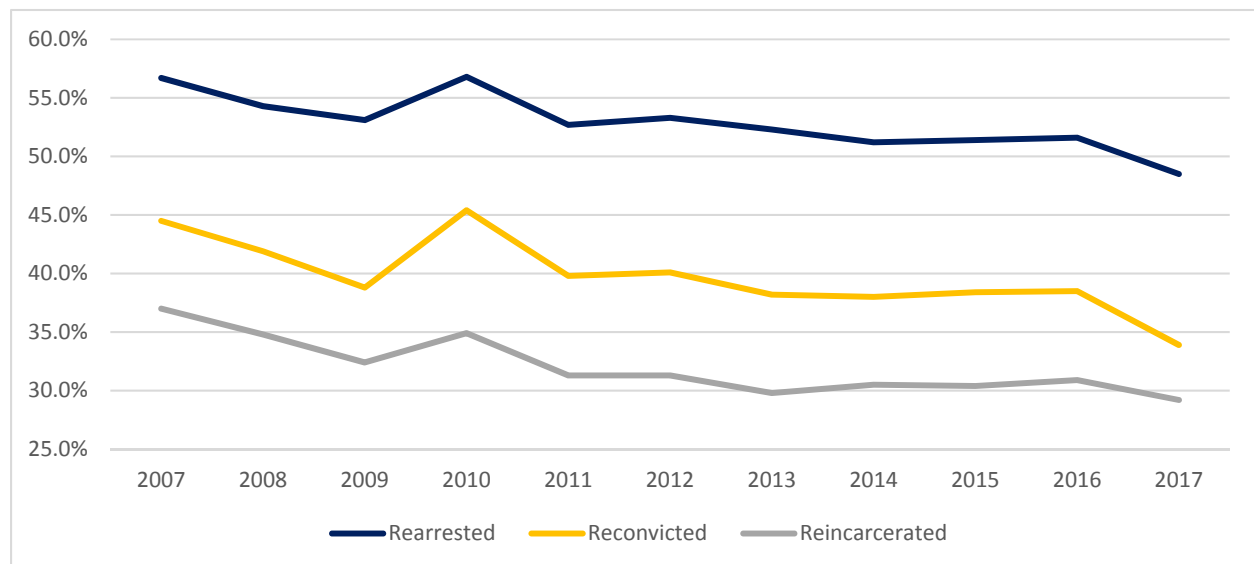


FIGURE 1. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES

Further analysis of reincarcerations was completed for cohorts released within the past five years (Table 2). For the 2017 release cohort, 23.1% of persons who were reincarcerated had a new commitment and 64.0% had a technical parole violation (TPV). Commitments for new offenses decreased 30.2% between 2013 and 2017 while readmissions for TPVs increased 19.9%.

Year of Release	Number of Releases Reincarcerated	Type of Reincarceration	
		Technical Parole Violations	Commitments for New Offenses
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%
2017	2,208	64.0%	23.1%

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, reconvictions occurred most frequently in the second year of release.

	≤ 6 Months	≤ 1 Year	≤ 2 Years	≤ 3 Years
Rearrested	29.6%	53.4%	83.1%	100.0%
Reconvicted	15.9%	37.7%	76.6%	100.0%
Reincarcerated	32.8%	57.0%	86.8%	100.0%

TABLE 3. RECIDIVISM PERCENTAGES FOR 2017 RELEASE COHORT OCCURRING BY TIME INTERVAL

Readmissions to DOC facilities for the 2017 cohort peaked at three months post-release. By the first year of follow-up, 1,248 releases (or 16.5% of the entire release cohort) was reincarcerated. Said another way, nearly 57% 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)

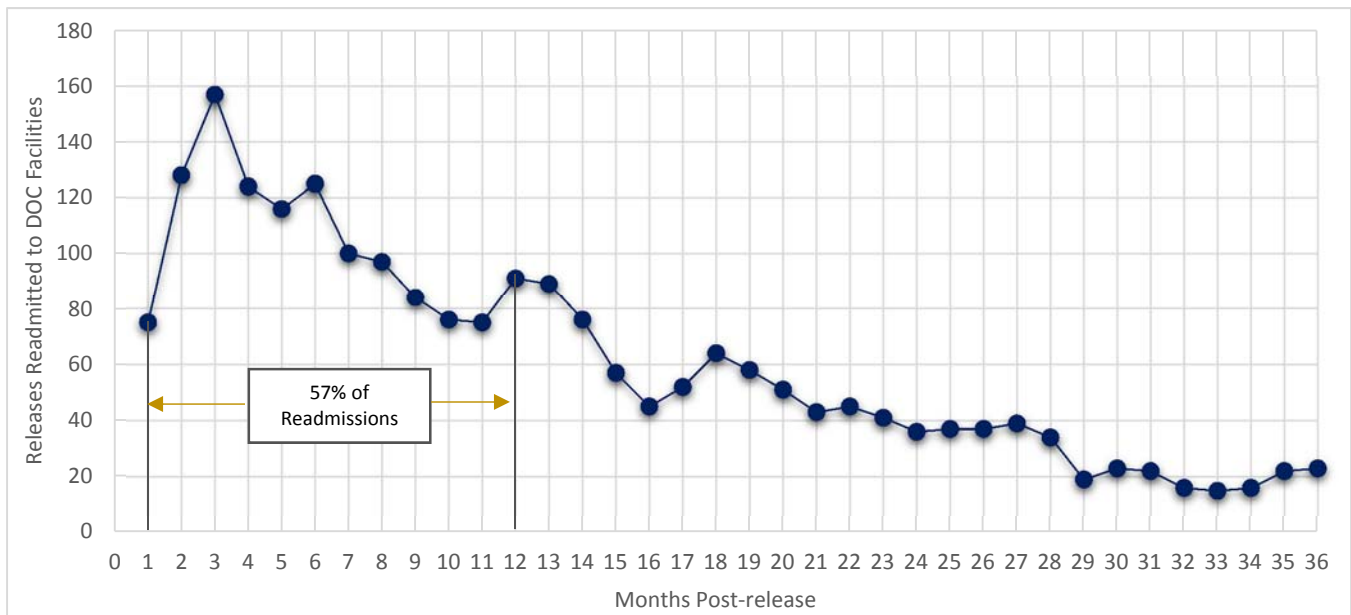


FIGURE 2. MONTHLY COUNTS OF RELEASES RETURNED TO DOC FACILITIES WITHIN THREE YEARS

SECTION 2: COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

This section details the recidivism levels of the 2017 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	453	6.0%
Bergen	321	4.3%
Burlington	317	4.2%
Camden	1,090	14.6%
Cape May	292	3.8%
Cumberland	234	3.1%
Essex	893	11.8%
Gloucester	207	2.7%
Hudson	492	6.5%
Hunterdon	60	0.6%
Mercer	439	5.8%
Middlesex	561	7.4%
Monmouth	389	5.2%
Morris	97	1.3%
Ocean	321	4.3%
Passaic	507	6.7%
Salem	98	1.3%
Somerset	131	1.7%
Sussex	61	0.8%
Union	516	6.8%
Warren	64	0.8%
TOTAL	7543	100.0%



Top 5 Counties of Commitment

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

TABLE 4. COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2017 RELEASES

The majority of released incarcerated persons were committed from Camden and Essex Counties (Table 4). About 15 percent of the entire release cohort was committed from Camden County. Essex County was the next highest at 12%. Overall, the top 5 counties of commitment encompassed 47% of all releases.

TABLE 5. OFFENSE OF CONVICTION BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2017 RELEASES

Committed County	Offense of Conviction												
	2017 Releases	Violent		Weapons		Property		Drugs		Other		CSV	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Atlantic	450	118	26.2	61	13.6	64	14.2	90	20.0	21	4.7	96	21.3
Bergen	320	97	30.3	22	6.9	58	18.1	85	26.6	18	5.6	40	12.5
Burlington	316	104	32.9	28	8.9	63	19.9	39	12.3	21	6.6	61	19.3
Camden	1,083	283	26.1	128	11.8	123	11.4	269	24.8	56	5.2	224	20.7
Cape May	290	38	13.1	19	6.6	50	17.2	93	32.1	18	6.2	72	24.8
Cumberland	232	56	24.1	39	16.8	36	15.5	47	20.3	8	3.4	46	19.8
Essex	889	260	29.2	129	14.5	102	11.5	164	18.4	42	4.7	192	21.6
Gloucester	207	44	21.3	9	4.3	60	29.0	37	17.9	17	8.2	40	19.3
Hudson	492	173	35.2	71	14.4	41	8.3	95	19.3	12	2.4	100	20.3
Hunterdon	58	8	13.8	5	8.6	17	29.3	16	27.6	5	8.6	7	12.1
Mercer	438	120	27.4	65	14.8	65	14.8	91	20.8	15	3.4	82	18.7
Middlesex	559	125	22.4	30	5.4	121	21.6	133	23.8	43	7.7	107	19.1
Monmouth	387	89	23.0	36	9.3	57	14.7	107	27.6	18	4.7	80	20.7
Morris	96	30	31.3	6	6.3	16	16.7	25	26.0	9	9.4	10	10.4
Ocean	319	67	21.0	15	4.7	62	19.4	88	27.6	22	6.9	65	20.4
Passaic	505	181	35.8	75	14.9	46	9.1	102	20.2	21	4.2	80	15.8
Salem	97	16	16.5	11	11.3	21	21.6	22	22.7	3	3.1	24	24.7
Somerset	130	30	23.1	8	6.2	25	19.2	32	24.6	4	3.1	31	23.8
Sussex	61	19	31.1	0	0.0	6	9.8	17	27.9	3	4.9	16	26.2
Union	516	143	27.7	60	11.6	51	9.9	121	23.4	40	7.8	101	19.6
Warren	63	16	25.4	2	3.2	13	20.6	13	20.6	5	7.9	14	22.2

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>	Camden	Passaic
<i>Weapons</i>	Essex	Cumberland
<i>Property</i>	Camden	Hunterdon
<i>Drugs</i>	Camden	Cape May
<i>Other</i>	Camden	Morris
<i>CSV</i>	Camden	Sussex

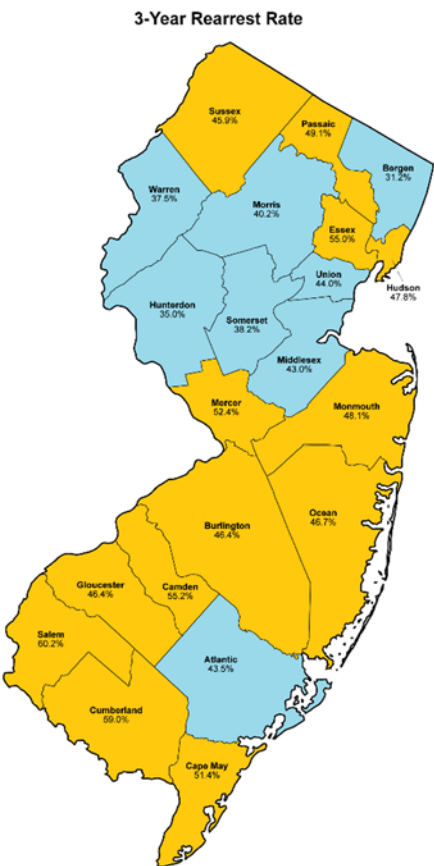
Table 7 below details the 3-year recidivism rate outcomes for each county in New Jersey. It should be noted that those counties with the highest *number* of returning incarcerated persons were not the same as those counties with the highest *proportion* of returning incarcerated persons. The highest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

TABLE 7. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2017 RELEASES

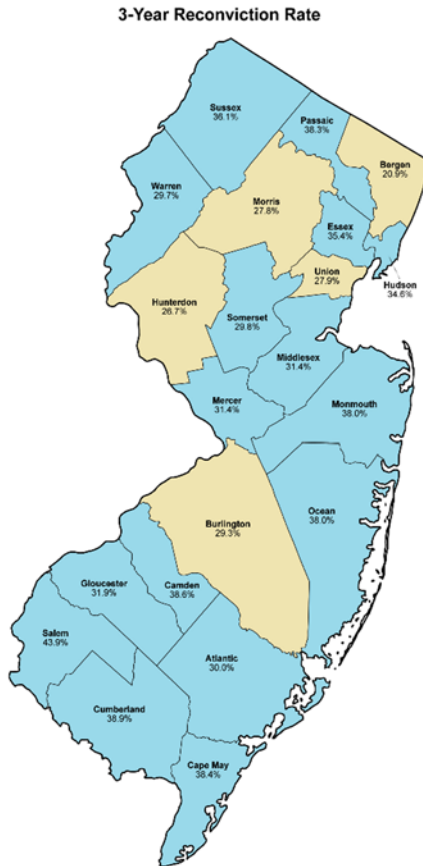
Committed County	2017 Releases	Rearrest		Reconviction		Reincarceration	
		Raw Count	Percentage	Raw Count	Percentage	Raw Count	Percentage
Atlantic	453	197	43.5	136	30.0	108	23.8
Bergen	321	100	31.2	67	20.9	53	16.5
Burlington	317	147	46.4	93	29.3	88	27.8
Camden	1,090	602	55.2	421	38.6	363	33.3
Cape May	292	150	51.4	112	38.4	106	36.3
Cumberland	234	138	59.0	91	38.9	70	29.9
Essex	893	491	55.0	316	35.4	263	29.5
Gloucester	207	96	46.4	66	31.9	73	35.3
Hudson	492	235	47.8	170	34.6	148	30.1
Hunterdon	60	21	35.0	16	26.7	11	18.3
Mercer	439	230	52.4	138	31.4	131	29.8
Middlesex	561	241	43.0	176	31.4	140	25.0
Monmouth	389	187	48.1	148	38.0	112	28.8
Morris	97	39	40.2	27	27.8	19	19.6
Ocean	321	150	46.7	122	38.0	102	31.8
Passaic	507	249	49.1	194	38.3	162	32.0
Salem	98	59	60.2	43	43.9	33	33.7
Somerset	131	50	38.2	39	29.8	31	23.7
Sussex	61	28	45.9	22	36.1	20	32.8
Union	516	227	44.0	144	27.9	153	29.7
Warren	64	24	37.5	19	29.7	19	29.7
TOTAL	7,543	3,661	48.5	2,560	33.9	2,205	29.2

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. Salem	1. Camden	1. Salem	1. Camden	1. Cape May
2. Essex	2. Cumberland	2. Essex	2. Cumberland	2. Essex	2. Gloucester
3. Passaic	3. Camden	3. Passaic	3. Camden	3. Passaic	3. Salem

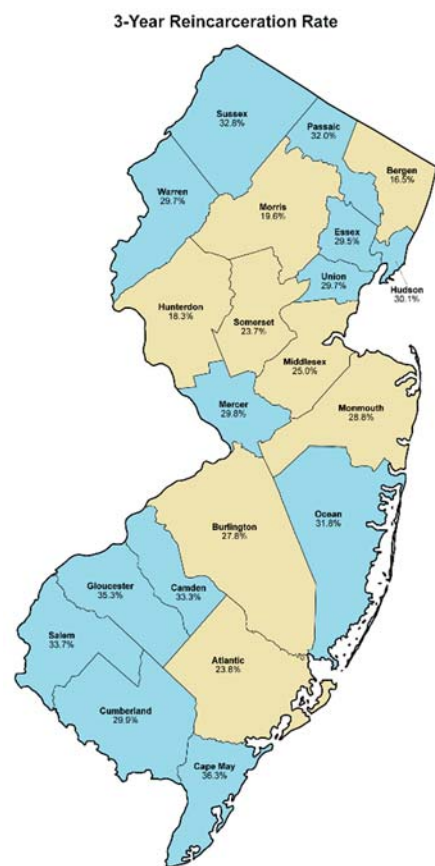
Recidivism rate proportions are also illustrated in Maps 1, 2 and 3.



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



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



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

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

SECTION 3: RELEASE COHORT DEMOGRAPHICS

This section will provide a detailed description of the incarcerated persons released from DOC facilities in 2017. Unless otherwise noted, analyses include the full release cohort (N=7,554).

Descriptives

TABLE 8. 2017 RELEASE COHORT DEMOGRAPHICS

	N	Percentage
Gender		
<i>Male</i>	7,047	93.3
<i>Female</i>	505	6.7
Race		
<i>White</i>	2,891	38.9
<i>Black/African American</i>	4,238	57.0
<i>Other</i>	310	4.2
Ethnicity		
<i>Hispanic/Latino</i>	1,083	14.6
<i>Non-Hispanic/Latino</i>	6,329	85.4
Marital Status		
<i>Single</i>	5,804	82.3
<i>Other</i>	1,250	17.7
Education Level		
<i>Some schooling</i>	1,932	26.6
<i>HS graduate/HSE degree</i>	4,656	64.1
<i>Any college and beyond</i>	674	9.3
Age at Release		
<i>Under 21</i>	70	0.9
<i>21-29</i>	2,467	32.7
<i>30-39</i>	2,520	33.4
<i>40-49</i>	1,448	19.2
<i>50-59</i>	818	10.8
<i>60 and above</i>	231	3.1
	Mean (sd), Range	
Age at Release (years)	36.2 (10.91), 18-86	

Male releases represented 93% of the total 2017 release cohort. Five hundred five female incarcerated persons were released in 2017.

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 2017 releases were single. Eighteen percent presented as “other” (married, divorced, separated, or widowed).

Approximately 64% of releases had at least a HS degree or high school equivalency (HSE) at release. Of those released, 9% reported any college and beyond.

The average age of an incarcerated person at release was approximately 36 years. Age at release ranged from 18 to 86. Thirty-three percent of the sample was under the age of 30 and 33% was between the ages of 30 and 39. Releases over the age of 50 accounted for only 14% of all releases.

Note: Counts may not sum to the cohort total (N=7554) 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.¹ Female releases were 30%, 23%, and 28% less likely than male releases to be rearrested, reconvicted, and reincarcerated within three years of release, respectively.

Reincarceration was further explored according to readmission type. Table 9 reports the percentages of readmission types by gender. Males were more likely to be readmitted for a new commitment (NC), and females were more likely to be readmitted for a technical parole violation (TPV). The readmission rates for a community supervision violation (CSV) were similar across genders.²

FIGURE 3. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY GENDER

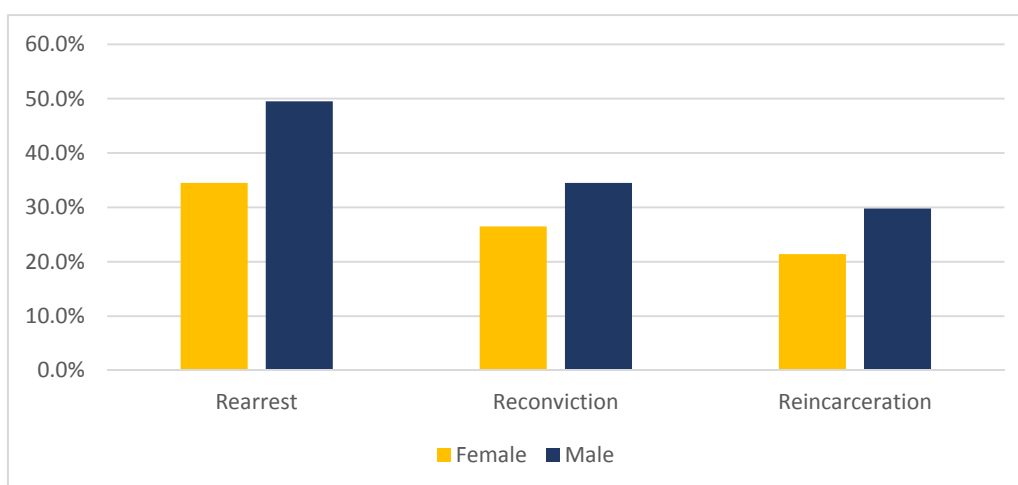


TABLE 9. 3-YEAR READMISSION RATES BY GENDER AND TYPE

	Female	Male
Readmission for a CSV	46 (41.4%)	967 (41.8%)
Readmission for a TPV	54 (48.6%)	748 (32.3%)
Readmission for a New Commitment	11 (9.9%)	599 (25.9%)
Total Readmissions	111 (100.0%)	2,314 (100.0%)

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.³

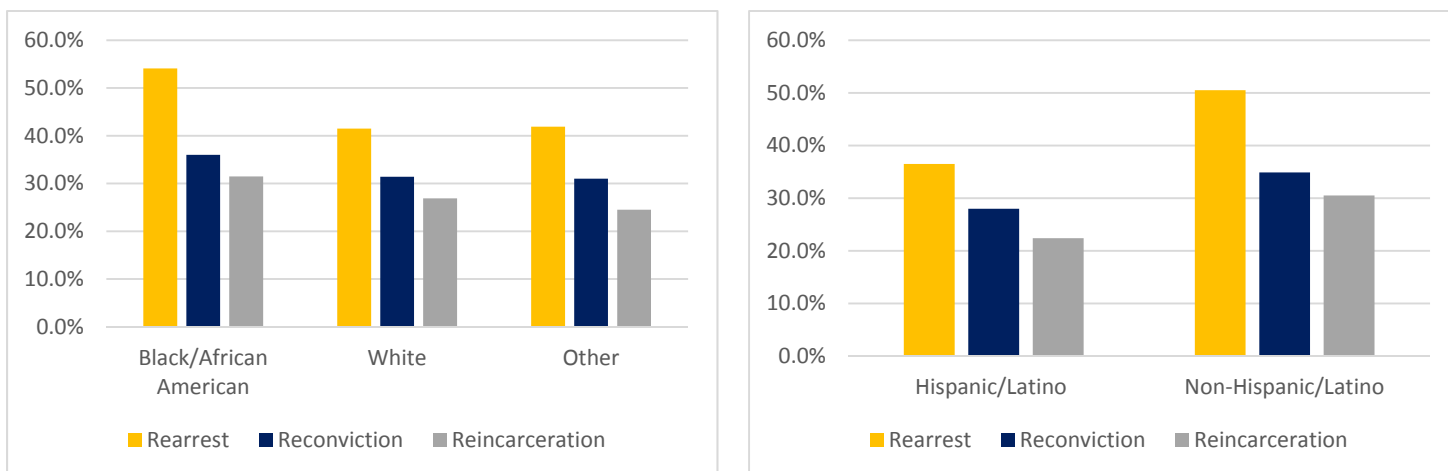
¹ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=42.92$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=13.28$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=16.12$, $df=1$, $p<.001$).

² These differences were statistically significant: $\chi^2=19.29$, $df=2$, $p<.001$.

³ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=115.25$, $df=2$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=17.36$, $df=2$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=20.80$, $df=2$, $p<.001$).

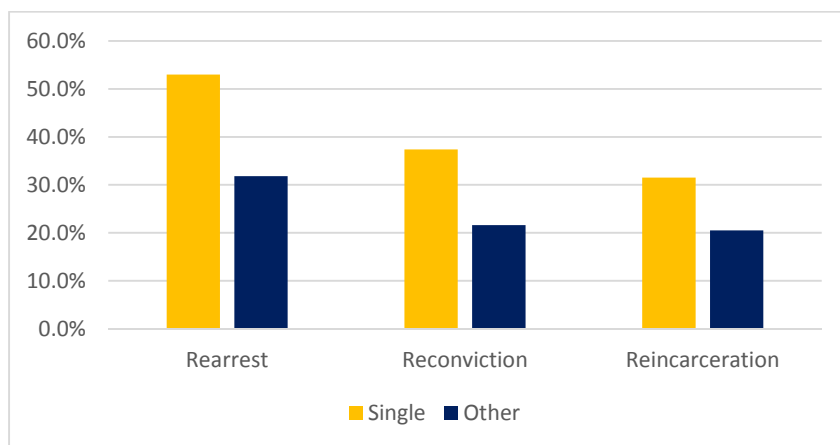
Releases who identified as being non-Hispanic/Latino recidivated at higher levels on all three measures than those who identified as being ethnically Hispanic.⁴ See Figure 4.

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



Releases who self-reported a marital status of single were more likely to reoffend post-release on all measures of recidivism.⁵ Single releases had a 67% increase in rearrest, a 73% increase in reconviction, and a 54% increase in reincarceration than non-single releases.

FIGURE 5. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY MARITAL STATUS



⁴ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=72.34$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=19.70$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=29.08$, $df=1$, $p<.001$).

⁵ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=185.00$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=113.98$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=60.29$, $df=1$, $p<.001$).

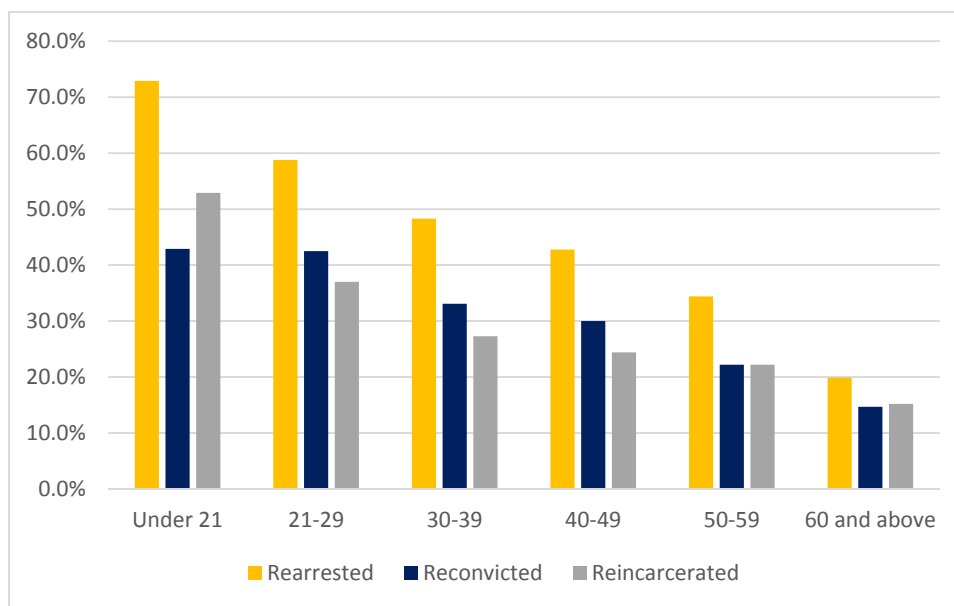
Recidivism by education level was analyzed (Table 10). Releases without a high school degree had higher rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than releases with a high school degree and above.⁶ Reincarceration rates three years post-release were similar among those with some schooling and a HS/HSE diploma education.

TABLE 10. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY EDUCATION LEVEL

	<i>Rearrested</i>	<i>Reconvicted</i>	<i>Reincarcerated</i>
<i>Some schooling</i>	52.7%	37.8%	31.1%
<i>HS graduate/HSE degree</i>	49.4%	34.2%	30.2%
<i>Any college and beyond</i>	36.9%	24.8%	23.3%

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

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



⁶ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=50.24$, $df=2$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=37.87$, $df=2$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=15.50$, $df=2$, $p<.001$).

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

⁸ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=281.65$, $df=5$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=182.33$, $df=5$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=152.24$, $df=5$, $p<.001$).

SECTION 4: WOMEN RELEASED IN 2017

This section focuses only on the women released from NJDOC custody in 2017. Women represented 6.7% of all releases (n=505). Descriptives of the women’s sample are reported and recidivism is analyzed.

Descriptives

Demographics

The complete 2017 release cohort consisted of 505 women (Table 11).¹

Releases were predominately white, non-Hispanic/Latino, single (i.e., never married),² and under the age of 40. The majority had a HS diploma or higher education level (75.1%). The average woman was 37 years old at release (*sd*=10.2).

Nearly 75% of all women were released to supervision. There were no differences between supervised and unsupervised releases except for education level: a greater proportion of supervised releases had a high school diploma or higher education level.³

TABLE 11. DEMOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIVES OF 2017 FEMALE RELEASES

	Supervised <i>n</i> =375	Unsupervised <i>n</i> =130	Total <i>N</i> =505
Race			
<i>White</i>	59.3%	58.1%	59.0%
<i>Black</i>	37.5%	40.3%	38.2%
<i>Other</i>	3.2%	1.6%	2.8%
Ethnicity			
<i>Hispanic</i>	14.5%	10.2%	13.3%
<i>Non-Hispanic/Latino</i>	85.5%	89.8%	86.7%
Marital Status			
<i>Single</i>	73.1%	81.0%	75.2%
<i>Other</i>	26.9%	19.0%	24.8%
Education Level			
<i>Some schooling</i>	21.5%	35.0%	24.9%
<i>HS graduate/HSE degree</i>	63.4%	54.7%	61.2%
<i>Any college and beyond</i>	15.1%	10.3%	13.9%
Age Group			
<i>Under 21</i>	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
<i>21-29</i>	28.5%	28.5%	28.5%
<i>30-39</i>	35.5%	37.7%	36.0%
<i>40-49</i>	21.3%	23.8%	22.0%
<i>50-59</i>	12.3%	8.5%	11.3%
<i>60 and above</i>	2.1%	1.5%	2.0%

Criminal History

Table 12 displays criminal history and stay of incarceration information for the women. The majority of releases did not have a prior admission to a DOC facility (63.6%). The most common offense of conviction was a drug offense (33.1%) followed by a violent offense (29.6%). The average incarcerated person served

¹ Only individuals with information available are included in table.

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

³ These differences were statistically significant. Education level: $\chi^2=8.97$, *df*=2, *p*<.01

669.36 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 12). Supervised releases were less likely to have a prior DOC admission, though they were more likely to have a violent offense of conviction.⁴ Though unsupervised releases served nearly 130 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.⁵

TABLE 12. CRIMINAL HISTORY DESCRIPTIVES OF 2017 FEMALE RELEASES

	Supervised <i>n=375</i>	Unsupervised <i>n=130</i>	Total <i>N=505</i>
Prior DOC History			
<i>No prior admissions</i>	70.9%	42.3%	63.6%
<i>1 + prior admissions</i>	29.1%	57.7%	36.4%
Offense of Conviction (booking)			
<i>Violent</i>	33.4%	18.5%	29.6%
<i>Weapons</i>	4.0%	6.2%	4.6%
<i>Property</i>	23.0%	39.2%	27.2%
<i>Drugs</i>	33.4%	32.3%	33.1%
<i>Other</i>	5.6%	3.8%	5.2%
Mean Time Served – Days (sd)	698.2 (1022.2)	568.2 (959.9)	669.4 (1006.8)
Mean Prior Arrests (sd)	6.46 (8.0)	9.19 (8.5)	7.2 (8.2)
Mean Prior Convictions (sd)	3.62 (4.6)	5.50 (5.3)	4.1 (4.8)
Mean Prior DOC admissions (sd)	0.60 (1.2)	0.96 (1.2)	0.69 (1.2)

County of Commitment

The counties of commitment for the releases were examined (Table 13). Camden County had the most women committed (58, or 11.5% of all women releases) than any other county in the state. Cape May (8.5%) and Middlesex (8.1%) counties rounded out the top three counties of commitment.

Top 5 Counties of Commitment

1. CAMDEN: 11.5%
2. CAPE MAY: 8.5%
3. MIDDLESEX: 8.1%
4. ESSEX: 7.7%
5. ATLANTIC: 7.5%

⁴ Prior admissions: $\chi^2=40.49$, $df=4$, $p<.001$; Offense of conviction: $\chi^2=18.95$, $df=5$, $p<.01$.

⁵ Prior arrests: $t=3.31$, $df=503$, $p<.001$; prior convictions: $t=3.89$, $df=503$, $p<.001$; prior incarcerations: $t=2.96$, $df=503$, $p<.01$.

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 produced the largest numbers of releases within the violent, weapons (tied with Atlantic), property (tied with Atlantic), and “other” offense categories. Cape May County provided the greatest number of releases with convictions for a drug offense, and Bergen and Sussex counties provided the greatest number of releases for a CSV. County proportions by offense of conviction are available in Table 14.

TABLE 13. COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2017 FEMALE RELEASES

Committed County	Incarcerated persons Released	Percent of Female Cohort
Atlantic	38	7.5
Bergen	20	4.0
Burlington	27	5.3
Camden	58	11.5
Cape May	43	8.5
Cumberland	11	2.2
Essex	39	7.7
Gloucester	16	3.2
Hudson	16	3.2
Hunterdon	14	2.8
Mercer	28	5.5
Middlesex	41	8.1
Monmouth	35	6.9
Morris	4	0.8
Ocean	35	6.9
Passaic	16	3.2
Salem	6	1.2
Somerset	15	3.0
Sussex	9	1.8
Union	28	5.5
Warren	6	1.2
TOTAL	505	100.0%



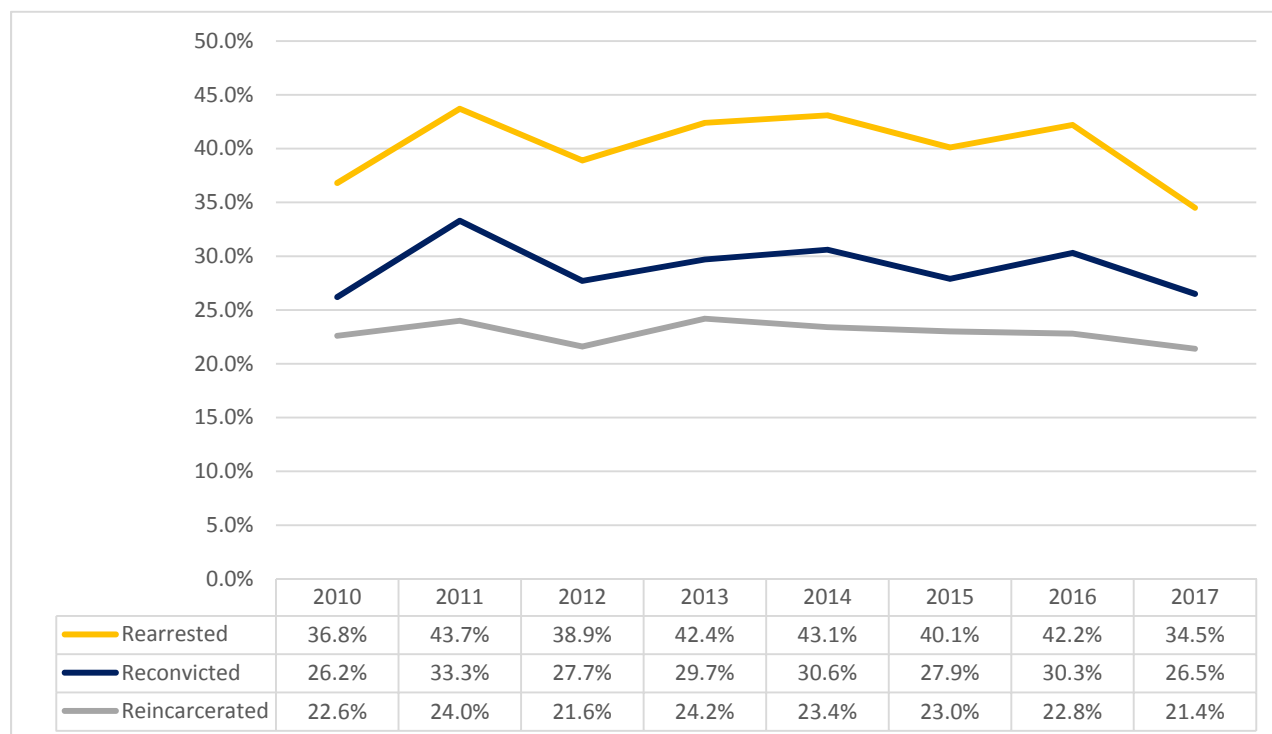
TABLE 14. OFFENSE OF CONVICTION BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT: FEMALE RELEASES

Offense of Conviction	Top County by Raw Count	Top County by Proportion
<i>Violent</i>	Camden	Hudson
<i>Weapons</i>	Camden/Atlantic	Morris
<i>Property</i>	Camden/Atlantic	Hunterdon/Morris
<i>Drugs</i>	Cape May	Sussex
<i>Other</i>	Camden	Salem
<i>CSV</i>	Bergen/Sussex	Sussex

Recidivism

The three-year recidivism rates of women releases were analyzed. For the 2017 cohort, 34.5% of women were rearrested, 26.5% were reconvicted, and 21.4% were reincarcerated within three years (see Figure 7). Reincarceration was further explored, and 90.1% of women who were reincarcerated were readmitted for a community supervision violation. The rearrest and reincarceration rates are the lowest since 2010. Overall, rearrest rates decreased 6%, reconviction rates decreased 1%, and reincarceration rates decreased 5% over the eight-year period. The highest rates were experienced in 2011.

FIGURE 7. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES FOR 2017 FEMALE RELEASE COHORT



Three-year recidivism was stratified by release status. Unsupervised releases were 40.4% less likely to be arrested and 34.6% less likely to be reconvicted than supervised releases. Unsupervised releases were also 95.2% less likely to be reincarcerated than supervised releases. All differences between supervised and unsupervised releases were statistically significant.⁶

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

	Supervised	Unsupervised
<i>Rearrested</i>	109	65
<i>Reconvicted</i>	81	53
<i>Reincarcerated</i>	103	5

⁶ Rearrest: $\chi^2=18.73$ df=1, p<.001; Reconviction: $\chi^2=18.20$, df=1, p<.001; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=32.04$, df=1, p<.001.

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

TABLE 16. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT FOR 2017 FEMALE RELEASES

Committed County	2017 Releases	Rearrest		Reconviction		Reincarceration	
		Raw Count	Proportion	Raw Count	Proportion	Raw Count	Proportion
Atlantic	38	15	39.5%	8	21.1%	5	13.2%
Bergen	20	10	50.0%	7	35.0%	3	15.0%
Burlington	27	10	37.0%	7	25.9%	4	14.8%
Camden	58	17	29.3%	12	20.7%	12	20.7%
Cape May	43	21	48.8%	16	37.2%	19	44.2%
Cumberland	11	5	45.5%	4	36.4%	1	9.1%
Essex	39	17	43.6%	12	30.8%	8	20.5%
Gloucester	16	4	25.0%	4	25.0%	1	6.3%
Hudson	16	3	18.8%	3	18.8%	3	18.8%
Hunterdon	14	5	35.7%	5	35.7%	3	21.4%
Mercer	28	6	21.4%	3	10.7%	6	21.4%
Middlesex	41	16	39.0%	12	29.3%	12	29.3%
Monmouth	35	12	34.3%	9	25.7%	4	11.4%
Morris	4	1	25.0%	1	25.0%	1	25.0%
Ocean	35	12	34.3%	11	31.4%	8	22.9%
Passaic	16	4	25.0%	5	31.3%	4	25.0%
Salem	6	2	33.3%	1	16.7%	1	16.7%
Somerset	15	4	26.7%	3	20.0%	3	20.0%
Sussex	9	5	55.6%	5	55.6%	2	22.2%
Union	28	4	14.3%	5	17.9%	6	21.4%
Warren	6	1	16.7%	1	16.7%	2	33.3%
TOTAL	505	174	34.5%	134	26.5%	108	21.4%

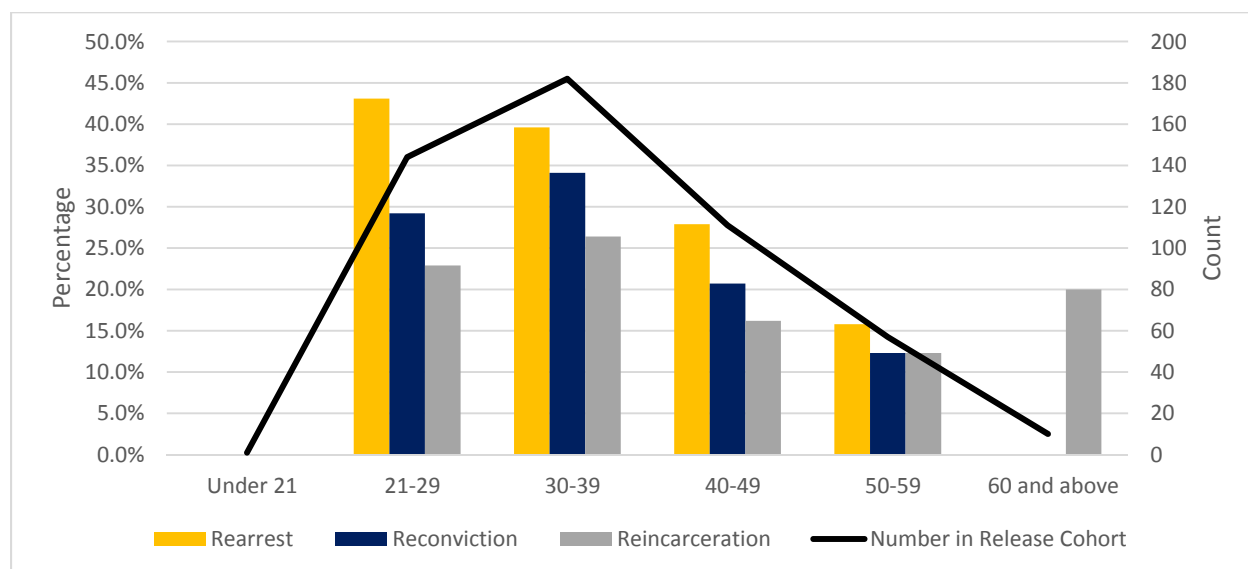
Rearrest		Reconviction		Reincarceration	
Top 3 Counties by Raw Count	Top 3 Counties by Proportion	Top 3 Counties by Raw Count	Top 3 Counties by Proportion	Top 3 Counties by Raw Count	Top 3 Counties by Proportion
1. Cape May 2. Camden/Essex 3. Middlesex	1. Sussex 2. Bergen 3. Cape May	1. Cape May 2. Camden/Essex/ Middlesex 3. Ocean	1. Sussex 2. Cape May 3. Cumberland	1. Cape May 2. Camden/Middl esex 3. Essex	1. Cape May 2. Warren 3. Middlesex

Recidivism by self-reported race and ethnicity were also examined. The criminogenic patterns of the female releases appear to be different than the 2017 release cohort as a whole, which is predominately male. White women had the highest rates of rearrest and reconviction within three years of release, but a lower rate of reincarceration compared with women of other races; however, these differences were not statistically significant. 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; women who self-identified as non-Hispanic/Latino had higher rates of recidivism on all measures, however, these differences were also not statistically significant. This was similar to the full sample of releases (Section 3).

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



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 21 thru 29 had the highest percentage of rearrest within three years of release, but women between the ages of 30 thru 39 had the highest percentage of reconviction within three years of release. No statistical difference was noted between the age groups for reincarceration within three years.⁷

An examination of recidivism rates by education level did not yield differences in reoffending rates across educational attainment (Table 17). 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 within three years, though they were the least likely to be reincarcerated within three years.

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

	Rearrest	Reconviction	Reincarceration
<i>Some schooling</i>	39.1%	26.1%	17.4%
<i>HS graduate/HSE degree</i>	35.5%	29.1%	23.4%
<i>Any college and beyond</i>	26.6%	23.4%	23.4%

⁷ Rearrest: $\chi^2=23.49$, $df=5$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=17.65$, $df=5$, $p<.01$.

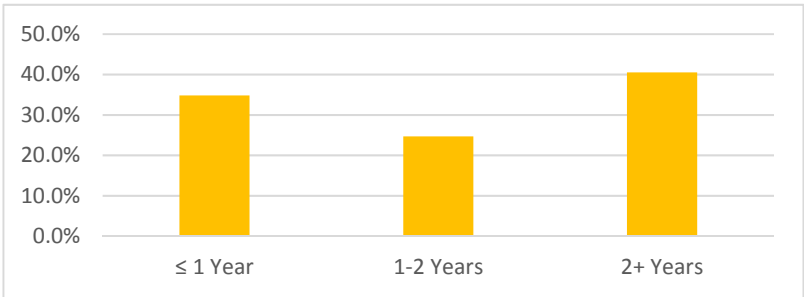
SECTION 5: CRIMINAL HISTORY, INCARCERTION STAY, AND RELEASE STATUS

This section details the criminal histories of the 2017 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=7,554).

Descriptives

Incarcerated persons in the 2017 release cohort served an average of 2.5 years before being released (median= 1.6 years; *sd*=3.4 years). Despite this average length, the majority of releases served two or more years (40.5%; Figure 10).

FIGURE 10. TIME SERVED

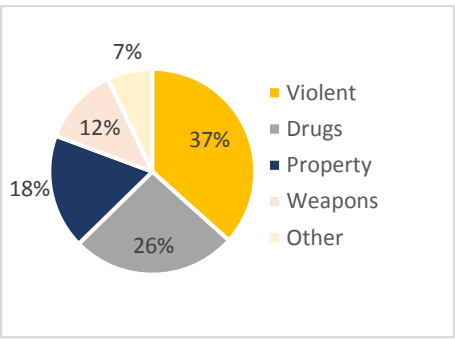


Most releases were on supervision post-release (67.2%) while 32.8% completed their term with no time owed (i.e., released without supervision). Approximately 24.2% of the 2017 release cohort served a mandatory minimum term (MMT). In New Jersey, incarcerated persons with a MMT must serve the mandatory minimum portion of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole. This calculation does not include earned credits for commutation, minimum security, or work.¹ Only 16.1% of the 2017 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 1st or 2nd 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 18. SENTENCE DESCRIPTIVES FOR 2017 RELEASE COHORT

	N	Percentage
Total Incarcerated Persons with a MMT	1,830	24.2%
Sentenced Under NERA	1,218	16.1
Total Released	7,554	
Unsupervised Releases	2,475	32.8%
Supervised Releases	5,079	67.2%
Average Prison Time Served	2.5 years	

FIGURE 11. OFFENSE OF CONVICTION CATEGORY



The majority of 2017 incarcerated persons were released following time served for a violent offense (37%). The second highest offense of conviction was a drug offense (26%). Property, weapons, and “other” offenses comprised 37% of the sample.²

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

² 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 2017 were not first-time offenders. The average released inmate had one prior DOC admission and 46.3% of incarcerated persons were released after a first stay of incarceration (Figure 12). Released incarcerated persons, on average, had nearly eight prior arrests on record and five prior convictions (Table 19).

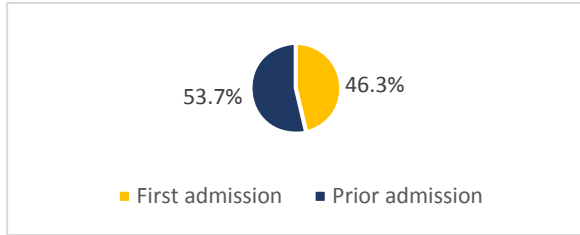


FIGURE 12. PRIOR ADMISSIONS PERCENTAGE

TABLE 19. CRIMINAL HISTORY DESCRIPTIVES

	Mean	Median	Percent of Release Cohort
Prior Arrests	7.7	6	48.5%
Prior Convictions	4.5	3	34%
Prior Admissions	1.3	1	46.3%

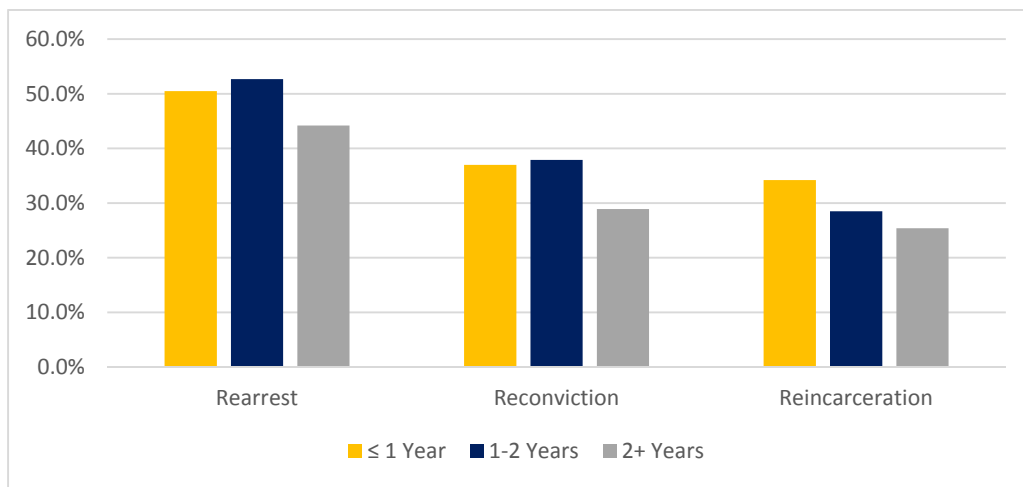
Recidivism

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: 44.2%, reconviction: 28.9%; reincarceration: 25.4%).³ In contrast, incarcerated persons who served less than one year had the highest rates of rearrest (50.5%), reconviction (37.0%), and reincarceration (34.2%).

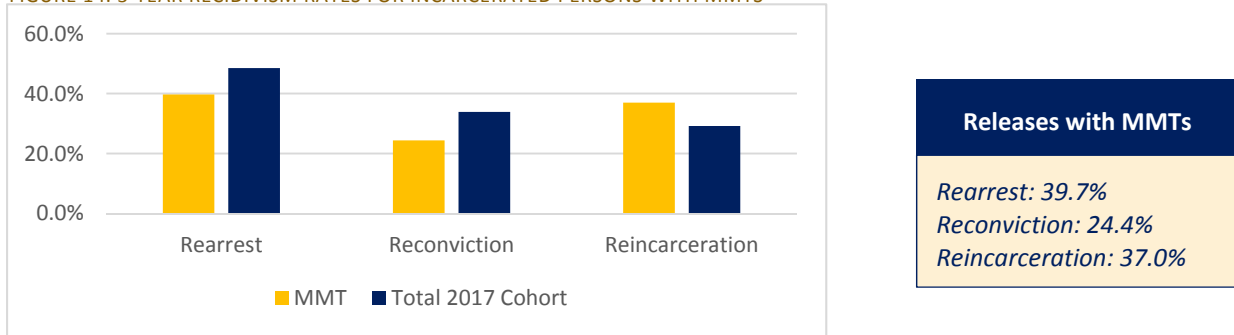
FIGURE 13. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY SENTENCE LENGTH



³ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=39.85$, $df=2$, $p<.001$); Reconviction: $\chi^2=58.23$, $df=2$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=53.69$, $df=2$, $p<.001$).

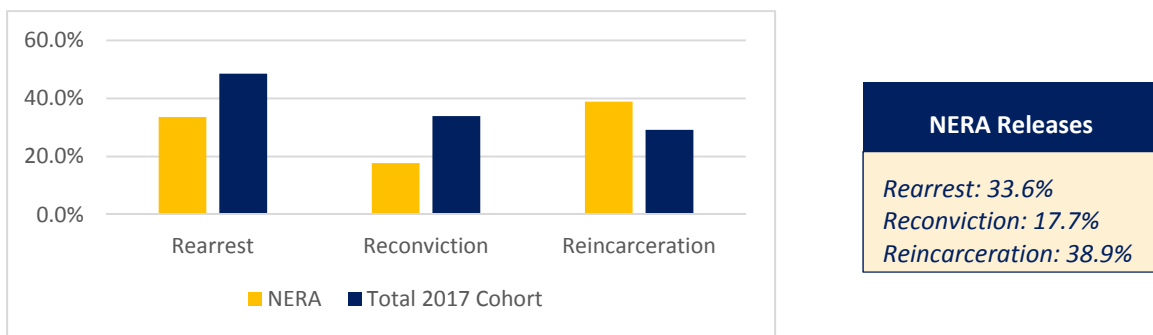
Special Sentences: MMTs and NERA

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



Releases who served a mandatory minimum term of incarceration had lower rates of rearrest and reconviction, but slightly higher rates of reincarceration than the 2017 release cohort as a whole (Figure 14). Persons serving a sentence under NERA had lower rates of rearrest (33.6%) and reconviction (17.7%) than the 2017 release cohort (Figure 15), but a higher rate of reincarceration (38.9%). 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 20). Incarcerated persons who were serving a sentence for a community supervision violation (CSV) and were released in 2017 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.⁴

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

	Rearrest	Reconviction	Reincarceration
Violent	40.2%	26.8%	34.6%
Weapons	51.3%	35.0%	17.5%
Property	56.5%	42.4%	33.0%
Drugs	52.2%	36.1%	25.4%
Other	50.8%	36.2%	24.9%
CSV	73.4%	64.1%	35.9%

⁴ Differences in recidivism rates by offense of conviction were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=141.94$, $df=5$, $p<.001$); Reconviction: $\chi^2=137.31$, $df=5$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=128.80$ $df=5$, $p<.001$).

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

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

Reincarceration Offense	Offense of Conviction					
	Violent	Weapons	Property	Drugs	Other	CSV
<i>Violent</i>	6.6%	9.3%	3.5%	4.9%	6.6%	4.3%
<i>Weapons</i>	1.6%	19.1%	1.8%	5.1%	3.3%	0.0%
<i>Property</i>	1.4%	4.3%	12.4%	1.4%	5.0%	4.3%
<i>Drugs</i>	1.1%	9.9%	1.8%	9.1%	4.1%	0.0%
<i>Other</i>	0.3%	2.5%	1.6%	1.4%	5.8%	0.0%
<i>CSV</i>	89.0%	54.9%	78.9%	78.1%	75.2%	91.3%

For those releases who were reincarcerated within three years, the offense of reincarceration was analyzed according to the original offense of conviction. Table 21 displays these results. In all offense of conviction categories, incarcerated persons who returned to DOC custody were most likely to return for a CSV.⁵ The second highest reincarceration category was the same category as the offense of conviction, with the exception of “Other” offense.⁶ For example, 2017 releases who served a sentence for a violent offense were second-most likely to return to custody for a violent offense.

Prior Admissions

As noted earlier, most persons who were released in 2017 were already recidivists in that they had prior DOC stays on record (i.e., 53.7%). Recidivism rates for this group can be viewed in Figure 16.

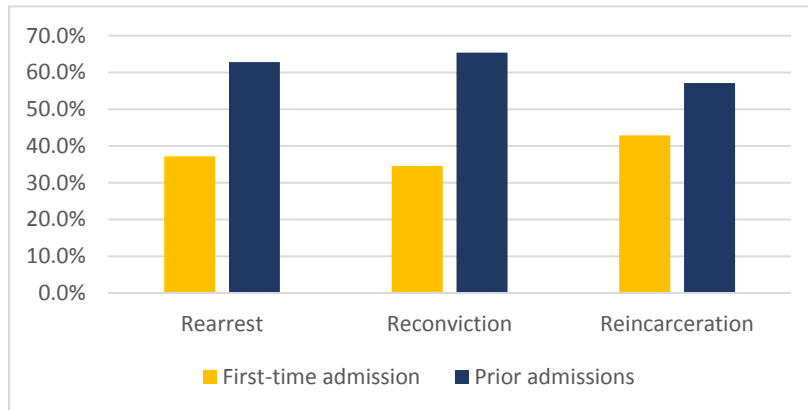


FIGURE 16. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BASED ON NUMBER OF PRIOR ADMISSIONS

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.⁷ First timers were 40.7% less likely to be rearrested, 47.1% less likely to be reconvicted, and 33.1% less likely to be

⁵ These differences were statistically significant. ($\chi^2=364.99$, $df=25$, $p<.001$).

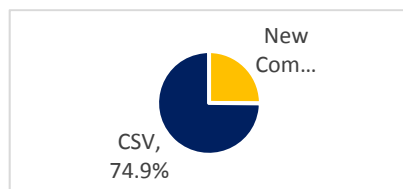
⁶ Other offenses include but are not limited to administrative crimes (e.g., escape, official misconduct, hindering apprehension) and public order crimes (e.g., riot, violation of public health and safety), among others.

⁷ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=235.27$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=213.67$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=14.20$, $df=1$, $p=.001$).

reincarcerated. These results highlight the “revolving door” nature of corrections that impacts some incarcerated persons in particular.⁸

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 most releases were released to a form of community supervision (i.e., 67.2%).

The specific rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration rates for releases who were and were not supervised post-release are available to view in Table 22. For the 2017 release cohort, unsupervised releases were nearly 39% more likely to be rearrested and 66% more likely to be reconvicted than supervised releases. However, unsupervised releases were 66% less likely to be reincarcerated.⁹ In exploring reincarcerations for a new commitment only, no differences were found between supervised and unsupervised releases (69.2% and 72.9%, respectively).

TABLE 22. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY RELEASE STATUS: TRENDS FROM 2013 TO 2017

	Rearrest		Reconviction		Reincarceration	
	Supervised	Unsupervised	Supervised	Unsupervised	Supervised	Unsupervised
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%
2017	43.0%	59.9%	27.9%	46.3%	37.3%	12.7%
Δ	-4.0%	-5.7%	-7.3%	-7.8%	-0.5%	-31.0%

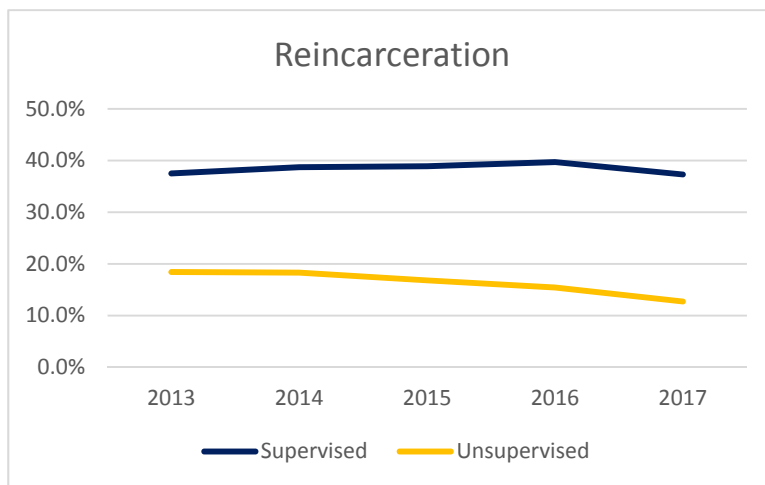
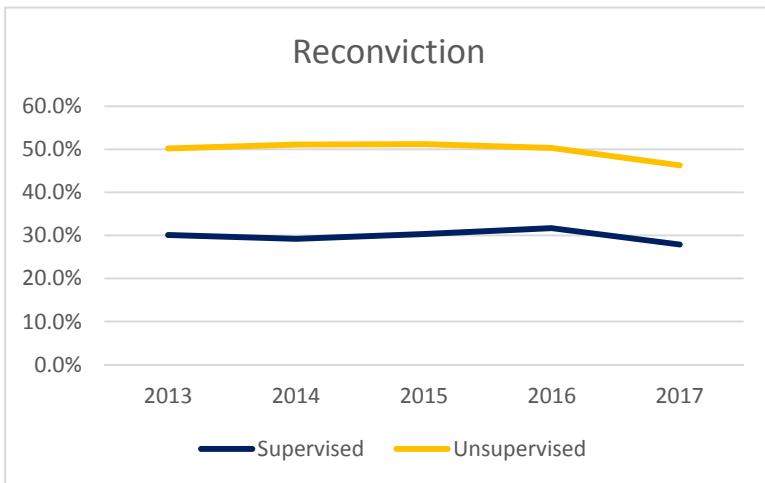
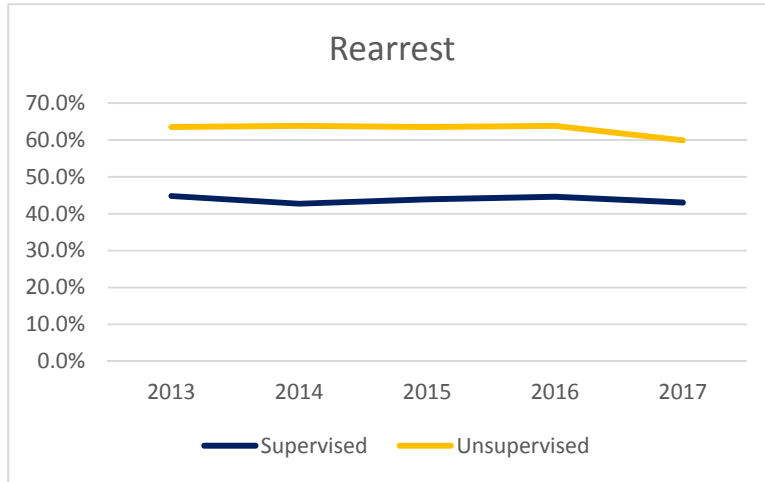
Trends of 3-year recidivism rates by release status are also provided in Table 22. Among the most recent five release cohorts, supervised releases had decreases in the rates of rearrest and reconviction, but an increase in the rate of reincarceration. Unsupervised releases experienced decreases in the rates of reincarceration, but a slight increase in the rate of rearrest. These results are also displayed graphically in Figure 18.

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

⁹ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=190.23$, $df=1$, $p<.001$); Reconviction: $\chi^2=250.84$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=484.605$, $df=1$, $p<.001$).

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

FIGURE 18. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY RELEASE STATUS: TRENDS FROM 2013 TO 2017



SECTION 6: REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMS

In calendar year 2017, NJDOC contracted with 16 Residential Community Reintegration Program (RCRP) facilities to serve incarcerated persons (IPs) transitioning from DOC custody to community corrections before being released in the community. RCRPs serve both male and female incarcerated persons. Two of the contracted RCRPs were assessment and treatment centers, one was a program for special needs IPs in transition, five 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 23. LIST OF 2017 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 1	Drug Treatment RCRP
Kintock-Bridgeton 2	Work Release 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, 39% of the full 2017 release cohort attended a RCRP and 29% of all releases completed a RCRP. Twenty percent of the entire release cohort completed a drug house and 5.6% completed a work release program. Approximately 7% of offenders in the cohort completed a special needs or assessment center RCRP.

TABLE 24. 2017 RELEASES AND RCRP COMPLETION RATES

	N	Percentage
<i>Attend Any RCRP</i>	2,917	38.6%
<i>Complete Any RCRP</i>	2,156	28.5%
<i>Complete a Drug Treatment RCRP</i>	1,511	20.0%
<i>Complete a Work Release RCRP</i>	426	5.6%
<i>Complete a Special Needs or Assessment Center RCRP</i>	526	7.0%

RCRPs and Recidivism

Residential Community Reintegration Program participation and recidivism were examined. Incarcerated persons who participated in and completed any RCRP prior to release to the community experienced statistically lower rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than incarcerated persons who did not complete a RCRP.^{1,2} For RCRP completers, most returns to prison within three years were the result of a community supervision violation (75%).

FIGURE 19. 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES AND RCRP COMPLETION

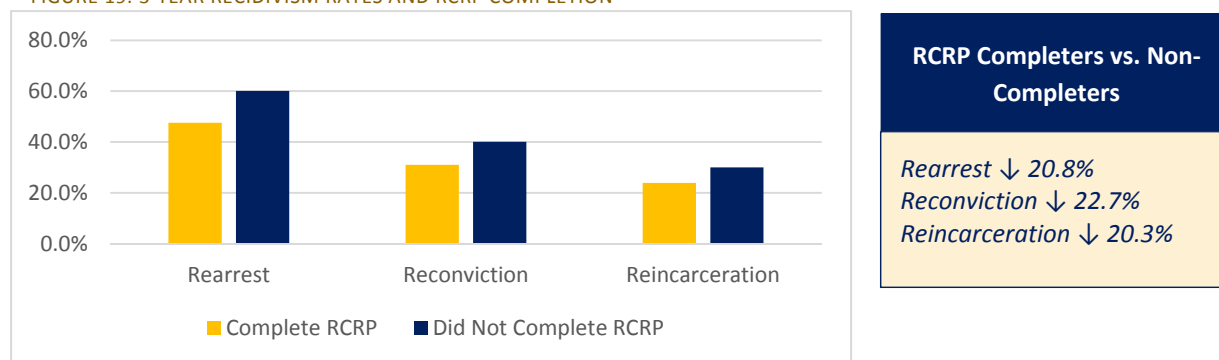


Table 25 details the three year recidivism rates based on type of RCRP attended. It should be noted that incarcerated persons may have attended more than one RCRP prior to release. For example, an incarcerated person could complete a drug treatment RCRP and then be transferred to a work release RCRP. Thus, the rates should not be compared to one another and are displayed to illustrate the differences in recidivism rates between RCRP completers and the total 2017 release cohort. 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. Releases who completed a Special Needs or Assessment Center RCRP had the highest rates of recidivism post-release.

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

	Rearrest	Reconviction	Reincarceration
Total 2017 Cohort	48.5%	33.9%	29.2%
Complete Any RCRP	47.8%	31.1%	24.1%
Complete Work Release RCRP	42.0%	27.0%	18.0%
Complete Drug Treatment RCRP	48.0%	31.0%	21.0%
Complete Other RCRP	51.0%	36.0%	36.0%

¹ These differences were statistically significant. (Rearrest: $\chi^2=36.75$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reconviction: $\chi^2=21.47$, $df=1$, $p<.001$; Reincarceration: $\chi^2=11.47$, $df=1$, $p<.001$).

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

Mandatory Education

The 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 2017 release cohort, there were a total of 145 persons who participated in mandatory education programming during their stay of incarceration. Information about these 145 persons can be viewed in Table 26.³

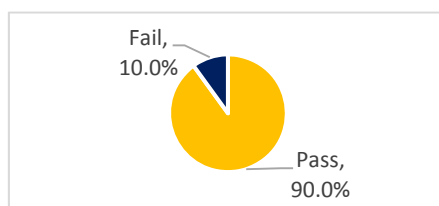
TABLE 26. DESCRIPTIVES OF MANDATORY EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS

	N	Percentage
Race		
<i>White</i>	35	24.1
<i>Black</i>	104	71.7
<i>Other</i>	4	2.8
Ethnicity		
<i>Hispanic/Latino</i>	21	14.5
<i>Non-Hispanic/Latino</i>	123	84.8
Gender		
<i>Male</i>	142	97.9
<i>Female</i>	3	2.1
Offense of Conviction		
<i>Violent</i>	93	64.1
<i>Weapons</i>	11	7.6
<i>Property</i>	11	7.6
<i>Drugs</i>	24	16.6
<i>Other</i>	5	3.4
		Mean (sd), Range
Age at Release (years)	31.4 (8.3), 20-55	
Number of Prior Arrests	5.7 (5.8), 0-33	
Number of Prior Convictions	3.5 (3.8), 0-18	
Number of Prior Incarcerations	1.6 (1.7), 0-8	
Time Served (days)	1331.9 (1252.0), 56-11682	

Incarcerated persons who participated in mandatory education were predominately Black, male, and serving a sentence for a violent offense. The average age was 31 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 3.65 years.

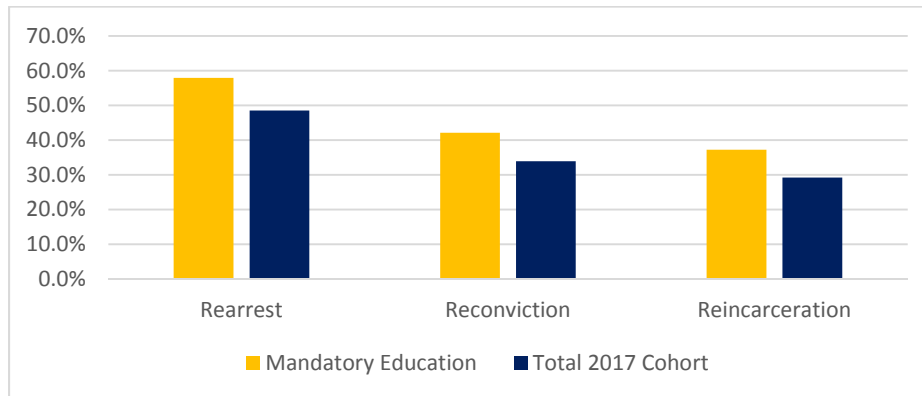
During their stay of incarceration, 40 incarcerated persons who participated in mandatory education programming took the HSE test. Of these, 36 passed and 4 failed, for a pass rate of 90.0%.

FIGURE 20. HSE TEST RESULTS



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

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



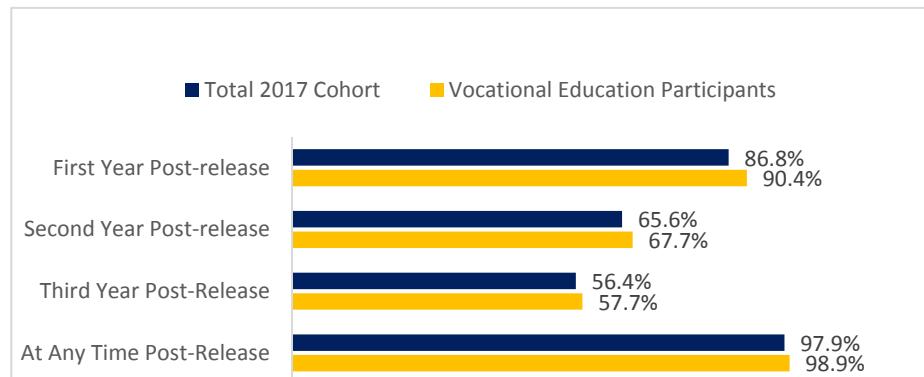
Mandatory education participants had slightly higher rates of recidivism than the 2017 release cohort as a whole (Figure 21). This is likely attributed to incarcerated person age at release. The average incarcerated person was 36 years old at release in 2017 (see Section 3). Mandatory education incarcerated persons were, on average, 4.8 years younger at release than the full cohort. Research indicates that criminality declines with age.^{4,5}

Vocational Education

DOC provides vocational education programs to incarcerated persons at all facilities. There are 23 courses of study which include cabinetmaking, cosmetology/barbering, plumbing, and graphic arts, among others. Of the 2017 releases, 1,357 incarcerated persons completed vocational education programming during their stay of incarceration.

Nearly 99% 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 2017 release cohort as a whole (Figure 22). Note that these rates do not include releases with missing data (Vocational Education Participants: N=607; 2017 Release Cohort: N=3,793)

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



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

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

SECTION 6: REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMS

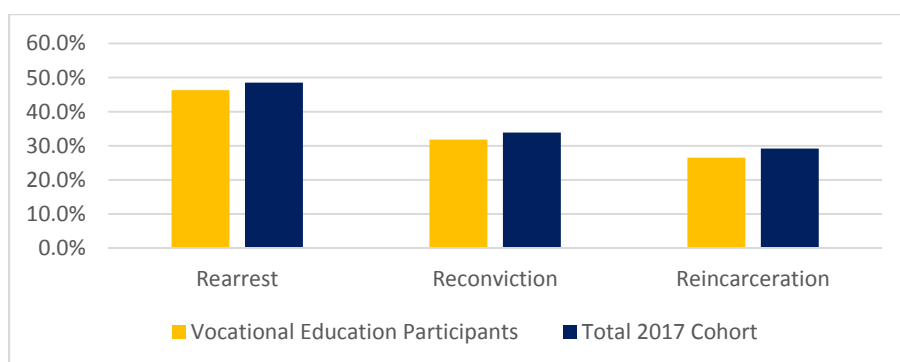
Income Range	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
	Vocational Education	2017 Cohort	Vocational Education	2017 Cohort	Vocational Education	2017 Cohort
\$0	36.3%	38.8%	25.4%	30.3%	25.4%	32.4%
Under \$10,000	62.1%	58.7%	67.5%	61.7%	61.7%	56.2%
\$10,000-\$19,999	1.5%	2.3%	6.5%	7.4%	12.0%	10.2%
\$20,000-\$29,999	0.1%	0.2%	0.6%	0.6%	0.9%	1.1%
\$30,000-\$39,999	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
\$40,000 +	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%

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

Of those incarcerated persons who were employed post-release, nearly 99% had an income level of under \$20,000 (Table 27). Income levels were similar across vocational education participation and the full 2017 release cohort, though a greater proportion of vocational education participants reported income in the \$10,000-\$19,999 range compared to the entire 2017 release cohort.

In analyzing recidivism, vocational education participants had slightly lower 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than the full 2017 cohort. In examining reincarceration further, 73% of vocational education participants were readmitted for a community supervision violation and 27% were readmitted for a new commitment.

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



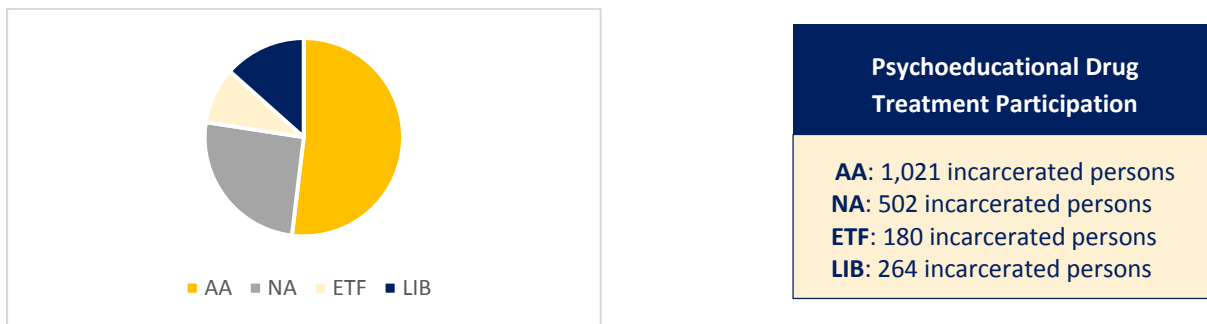
Psychoeducational Drug Treatment

The DOC provides addiction treatment services to its substance use disorder offender population through programs including Living in Balance, Engaging the Family, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and Gamblers Anonymous. Living in Balance (LIB) is a research-based, psychoeducational program 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 seven DOC facilities. Alcoholics Anonymous is available in all DOC facilities, Narcotics Anonymous is available in two facilities, and Gamblers Anonymous is available in one facility.

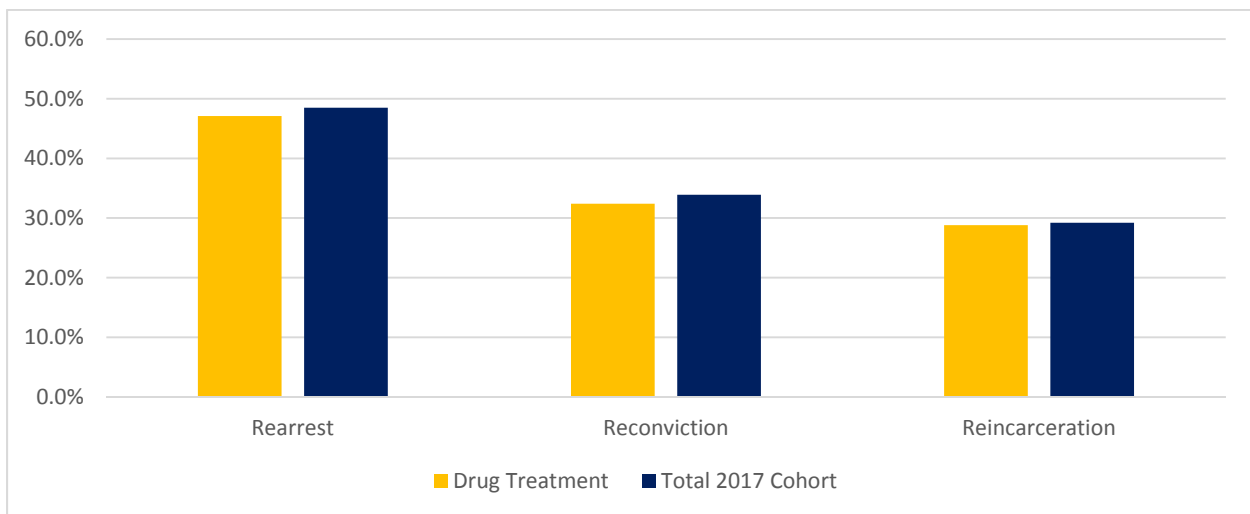
Nearly 19% of all incarcerated persons released in 2017 participated in psychoeducational drug treatment during their stay of incarceration. Alcoholics Anonymous was the most attended psychoeducational drug treatment program followed by NA. Together, AA and NA comprised 82% of all psychoeducational drug treatment participation.

FIGURE 24. PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL DRUG TREATMENT PARTICIPATION



In analyzing recidivism, psychoeducational drug treatment participants had slightly lower 3-year rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than the full 2017 cohort (Figure 25). In exploring reincarceration rates further, 15.4% of psychoeducational drug treatment participants were readmitted for a new commitment and 84.6% were readmitted for a community supervision violation.

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



CONCLUSION

This report is the eleventh in a series of reports measuring various outcomes relative to New Jersey's adult offender populations and meets a legislative mandate. To this end, the New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC) and the New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) examined the recidivism of a select cohort of adult offenders released from the custody of DOC in calendar year 2017. In addition to measuring overall recidivism levels, this report describes adult cohort characteristics and analyzes those factors associated with recidivism.

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

The 3-year recidivism rates of adult incarcerated persons released in 2017 were similar to those of incarcerated persons released in prior cohorts. For the 2017 cohort, 48.5% were rearrested, 33.9% were reconvicted, and 29.2% 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.¹ This finding is similar in prior BJS reports.^{2,3} 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.⁴ 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.

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 54% of releases with a rearrest event are rearrested within the first 12 months of release. After this one-year mark, rearrest rates drop significantly. These rates are consistent with

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

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

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

⁴ 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>

national trends,^{5,6} but are concerning nonetheless. The DOC is firmly committed to providing incarcerated persons in its custody with programming and resources that will place them in a better position to succeed at the completion of their sentences. The DOC aims to not only protect the 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 99% 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.

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

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