



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

**RELEASE OUTCOME 2014**  
**A THREE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP**

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<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>REPORT HIGHLIGHTS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>AGENCY MISSION STATEMENTS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>RESULTS: New Jersey Department of Corrections and State Parole Board</b>	<b>14</b>
2014 Release Cohort Characteristics	
2014 Release Cohort Recidivism	
Cumulative Rearrest Percentages by Monthly Interval	
Eight-year Comparison of Recidivism Percentages	
Index Incarceration Offense for 2014 Release Cohort	
Breakdown of Original Booking Offense for Community Supervision Violators	
Reincarceration Rates and Readmission Offenses Grouped by Admission Offense for 2014	
Factors Associated with Rearrest	
Logistic Regression Analysis Predicting Rearrest	
<b>Reentry Programming Analyses</b>	<b>21</b>
Education Programming	
Drug Treatment Programming	
RCRP Releases	
<b>RESULTS: Juvenile Justice Commission</b>	<b>27</b>
Overall Recidivism Rates for Youth Released from JJC Custody in 2014	
Recent Trends in Juvenile Recidivism, 2011 to 2014	
Average Time to Recidivate in Days, 2011-2014	
Recidivism Rates for High School Graduates and Non-Graduates (arrest)	
<b>Rehabilitation and Reentry Programming Analyses</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>40</b>

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## **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

### **OVERALL ADULT RECIDIVISM FINDINGS**

- The adult cohort included 9,108 released inmates: 5,448 supervised releases (59.8%) and 3,660 (40.1%) unsupervised offenders.
- In 2014, the State of New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC) had lower recidivism rates from 2013 for rearrest post-release (i.e., 51.2%), and similar rates of reconviction and reincarceration.
- Approximately 70% of inmates released in 2014 did not return to prison within the three-year follow-up period of analysis utilized in this report.
- The mean time served for the adult cohort was 867 days.
- For the index incarceration offense, a violent offense (24.2%) was the most common for inmates followed by a drug offense (22.9%).
- The offender's release type (i.e., supervised vs. unsupervised) was a significant predictor of whether the offender was rearrested. Unsupervised releases were rearrested and reconvicted more frequently, while supervised releases were reincarcerated more frequently.

### **ADULT REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMMING ANALYSES**

- Recidivism on all measures of follow-up (rearrest, reconviction, reincarceration, and reincarceration for a community supervision violation) was lower for inmates who completed Residential Community Release Programs (RCRPs) compared to those who did not complete a RCRP.
- Rearrests, reconvictions, reincarcerations, and reincarcerations for a community supervision violation were lower for RCRP work release program completers than those who did not complete a RCRP work release program.
- The employment rate within one year of release was higher for inmates who were released from a work house vs. not released from a work house (80.2% vs. 76.1%). This trend was similar for two years post-release.
- Rearrests, reconvictions, reincarcerations, and reincarcerations for a community supervision violation were statistically lower for inmates who completed a drug treatment program in 2014, compared to those who did not.
- Differences in employment rates post-release were found between vocational education participants and non-participants, in that vocational education participants had higher rates of employment at all stages of the follow-up period.
- There were 406 inmates released in 2014 who participated in mandatory education programming while incarcerated. Mean scores on the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) test for this sample increased by almost two grades from the first to the last test taken.
- Inmates within the mandatory education group had an 88% pass rate on the High School Equivalency (HSE) exam.

### **OVERALL JUVENILE FINDINGS**

- In 2014, the Juvenile Justice Commission recidivism rate for all three measures of recidivism continued a downward trend. New court filings decreased by 5.6 percentage points from 2011

new adjudications/convictions decreased by 4.9 percentage points; and new juvenile commitments decreased by 5.3 percentage points.

- Approximately 76.1% of juvenile offenders did not return to a juvenile or adult State facility within three years of release from custody.
- Of those with a high school credential, 82.0% did not return to an adult or juvenile State facility within three years of release from custody.

## **YOUTH CHARACTERISTICS OF 2014 RELEASE COHORT**

- The juvenile cohort was comprised of 377 releases.
- The average age at release from the JJC was 18.4 years.
- The cohort was comprised of 64.7% Black, 23.6% Hispanic, and 11.7% White, or 88.3% minority.
- Males comprised 93.9% of the juvenile release cohort and females comprised 6.1%.
- The average time served in custody for the juvenile cohort was 393 days, which is an increase in the length of stay from 349 days in 2013.
- The majority of youth served sentences for persons offenses (37.7%), followed by violations of probation (VOP) (36.3%), weapons offenses (7.2%), property offenses (7.2%), drug offenses (6.4%) and public order offenses (5.3%).

## **JUVENILE COHORT RECIDIVISM WITHIN THREE YEARS**

- 76.9% of the cohort had a new court filing/arrest.
- 58.9% of the cohort had a new adjudication/conviction.
- 23.9% of the cohort had a new commitment.
- The average time to re-offend for a new court filing/arrest was 302 days.
- The average time to re-offend for a new adjudication/conviction was 289 days.
- The average time to re-offend for a new commitment to a State facility was 311 days.

## **DIFFERENCES IN RECIDIVISM (REARREST) ACROSS KEY VARIABLES**

- Males were more likely to recidivate (78.0% males vs. 60.9% of females).
- Recidivating youth had accumulated a greater number of total adjudications of delinquency in their history than non-recidivists (6.6 vs. 5.1).
- Recidivating youth had slightly higher scores on the JJC's Initial Classification & Custody Document than non-recidivists (12.7 vs. 12.4).
- Youth of color were more likely to recidivate than white youth (79.0% vs. 61.4%).
- Youth residing in the 15 most densely populated cities were more likely to recidivate compared with other youth (81.0% vs. 73.7%).
- Youth committed/admitted on weapons charges (as their most serious offense) were most likely to recidivate (96.3%), followed by drug offenses (87.5%), Violations of Probation (81.8%), public order offenses (75.0%), property offenses (70.4%), and persons offenses (68.3%).
- Youth committed/admitted on disorderly persons/petty disorderly persons offenses (as their most serious offense) were most likely to recidivate (88.9%), followed by 81.8% for Violations

of Probation, 77.1% for 3<sup>rd</sup> degree offenses, 73.5% for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree offenses, 71.4% for 4<sup>th</sup> degree offenses, and 69.0% for 1<sup>st</sup> degree offenses.

## **REHABILITATION AND REENTRY PROGRAMMING ANALYSES**

- Youth who had a GED or high school diploma when leaving the JJC in 2014 were less likely to recidivate than those who did not (70.2% vs. 82.8%).
- 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 33.3% and 27.3% 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 68.4%, as compared to 86.0% 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 (83.9%) than youth who did not participate in a transitional program (72.4%).
- Youth who departed secure care recidivated 34 days sooner than youth departing residential programs (278 vs. 312 days).  
Youth who spent a majority (51% or more) of their time in custody in secure care settings recidivated sooner than youth who spent a majority of their time in residential programs (290 vs. 311 days).

## 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), 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 eighth in a series of reports that measures overall recidivism levels, describes adult and juvenile cohort characteristics and analyzes recidivism factors. It is the second report that examines reentry programming consistent with P.L. 2015, c. 144 (A4008).

The initial sections of the report provide an introduction and the various agencies' mission statements. Moreover, the report provides an extensive review of the methodology and definitions used in this report as they may significantly differ between agencies. The following sections address recidivism of the total sample, the supervised and unsupervised adults, the adjudicated delinquent juvenile releases, and the characteristics associated with reoffending for the overall sample. Furthermore, the factors associated with recidivism are examined, as are any patterns that have developed. An exploration of reentry programming follows. The final section focuses on the conclusions from the collaborating agencies.

In New Jersey, while our incarceration and crime rates have decreased and are trending downward, we attempt to prepare adult inmates and juvenile residents who transition from behind bars to law abiding citizens and back to their families. Law enforcement agencies such as the DOC, SPB, and JJC continue to prepare adult and juvenile offenders for release from prison.

Within the mission statement of each agency, rehabilitation of these offenders who will return to society is paramount. Each of the three agencies in this report promote offender rehabilitation and provide services that will boost a successful transition back to the community for adult and juvenile offenders. The recidivism 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 recidivism rates, as less juveniles are returning to juvenile facilities and less adult offenders are returning to prison.

Offenders start preparing for rehabilitation and reentry immediately upon intake into our system. Inmates 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, lead inmates to better understand their behavior and provide them with skills to assist them once they reenter the community.

For this report, the recidivism levels of offenders released in 2014 are analyzed. They are divided into three groupings: unsupervised adult releases (i.e., max outs) from the DOC; adult offenders supervised by the New Jersey State Parole Board or Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Intensive Supervision Program; and juveniles released from the New Jersey

Juvenile Justice Commission. For the juvenile analysis, recidivism is 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. The JJC measures the recidivism events by analyzing whether youth released from custody are arrested, convicted, or incarcerated for any such new offense. Although the DOC defines recidivism in terms of reincarceration only, for the purposes of this report, the analysis is expanded to also include data on rearrest, reconviction, or reincarceration for a community supervision violation that occurs during the follow-up period.

The report also analyzes factors related to reentry for those adult offenders released in 2014, unless otherwise noted. Specifically, analyses related to Residential Community Release Program (RCRP) participation, drug treatment programming, vocational education and mandatory education are completed.

## **AGENCY MISSION STATEMENTS**

### **New Jersey Department of Corrections**

The mission of the New Jersey Department of Corrections is to protect the public by operating safe, secure and humane correctional facilities. The mission is realized through effective supervision, proper classification, appropriate treatment of offenders, and by providing services that promote successful re-entry into society. According to the 2018 budget, the department is responsible for managing nearly \$1 billion and employing approximately 8,000 persons, including more than 5,800 in custody positions, to supervise approximately 20,000 offenders. The DOC is responsible for 13 institutions-eight adult male correctional facilities, three youth correctional facilities, one women's correctional institution and a central reception/intake unit. These facilities collectively house inmates in minimum, medium and maximum security levels. In addition, the department contracts with various Residential Community Release Program centers to provide for the transition of minimum security inmates 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 the offender 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 offenders, 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 ombudsman 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 offenders 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 places with the New Jersey State Parole Board the authority and responsibility of deciding which inmates 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 Board has been charged with the responsibility of overseeing all of the functions, powers and duties of the State's 374 sworn parole officers who supervise and monitor parolees. The Parole Act of 1979 created presumptive parole, meaning that, when an inmate appears before a Board Panel, the assumption, before anything is said or reviewed, is that the inmate has a legitimate expectation of release on his or her parole eligibility date. It is therefore important that the Board make appropriate release decisions based on all relevant information. To assist Board members in this important task, the Board obtains a comprehensive pre-parole package that includes a current psychological evaluation of the inmate 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 provides, as to offenses committed on or after August 19, 1997, that an adult inmate 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 inmate will violate conditions of parole. This statutory standard implements an important objective of parole---namely, to encourage an inmate to avoid institutional disciplinary infractions and 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 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 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, to increase public safety and decrease recidivism while promoting successful offender reintegration.

### **New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission**

The New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) is the state agency responsible for providing juvenile rehabilitation and parole services. Established in 1995 by statute, the JJC serves to coordinate services, planning, and policies affecting delinquent youth throughout the state.

From prevention to parole, the JJC is a partner in the entire juvenile justice system, redirecting the lives of young people.

As a partner with communities, the JJC works to identify and address specific issues that face at-risk youth. The JJC awards millions of dollars in state, federal, and private funding each year to communities allowing them to implement programs and services that help at-risk and court-involved youth grow into successful adults. Many youth receive the necessary interventions and rehabilitative assistance in their communities and never enter a JJC facility or program.

For those who require further contact with the juvenile justice system, a comprehensive classification process, which involves in-depth evaluations and assessments, determines each resident's placement in the JJC's continuum of secure-care facilities, residential community homes, and transitional programs. These tools also direct the rehabilitative services each young person receives. Medical needs, education level, mental health diagnosis, substance abuse involvement, suicide risk level, and gang affiliation are also examined and used to guide services. Routine reassessment measures progress and directs adjustments to each resident's placement and programming.

The JJC also oversees juvenile parole and reentry services striving to help youth stay on track after they return home. Each youth leaves the JJC with a structured reentry plan that includes a monitoring schedule, required services, and goals. JJC Parole Officers document each parolee's success with these plans and help youth reconnect with their community through education, work, and mentoring.

The JJC has additional significant responsibilities which include: partnering with counties in implementing juvenile justice reforms designed to improve outcomes for young people and communities; coordinating through County Youth Services Commissions the planning and expansion of local services and interventions; establishing standards for county detention facilities and monitoring compliance; overseeing the implementation of education programs in county detention facilities; and, in partnership with the Governor's Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Committee, monitoring compliance with the core requirements of the federal JJDP Act.

## **METHODOLOGY**

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

#### ***Recidivism Analyses***

This portion of the report examines subsequent criminal activity of adult offenders released from the completion of a maximum sentence with the DOC (n=3,660) or released to supervision by the SPB or the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Intensive Supervision Program (n=5,448) in 2014; this resulted in the review of criminal activity for a total sample of 9,108 adults. This study also later examines the release of juveniles (n=377) from the Juvenile Justice Commission in 2014. The subjects were thus placed into one of the following three categories: the unsupervised cohort (DOC), the supervised cohort (SPB) and the juvenile cohort (JJC).

The adults who are excluded from this study are offenders who were arrested outside of New Jersey, offenders without a State Bureau of Identification (SBI) number, offenders who were deceased, 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).

The DOC provides data on all three levels of criminal activity (i.e., rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration), as well as violations of community supervision:

1. Rearrest: Defined as a rearrest on felony charges within the three-year follow-up (i.e., 1095 days) regardless of outcome. This count includes violations for releases placed on parole or other forms of supervision (e.g., Intensive Supervision Program). The rearrest date is tracked for a review of time to failure.
2. Reconviction: Defined as a felony reconviction within the three-year follow-up (i.e., 1095 days). This count is collected regardless of whether or not the offender went on to be readmitted to the DOC.
3. Reincarceration: Defined as a DOC readmission for a felony conviction within the three-year follow-up period (i.e., 1095 days). This count also includes inmates released to 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 the three-year follow-up for a 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.

The categorizations of the index incarceration offense were separated consistent with the federal government’s crime types, including weapons offenses, drug offenses, property offenses, violent offenses, community supervision violations, and “other” offenses. The category of community supervision violation is included to capture offenders 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). The category of “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.

Additional variables are included in an effort to determine whether an association with recidivism exists. These variables include but are not limited to release type, release age, time served on sentence, index incarceration offense, gender, race/ethnicity, marital status, whether the offender completed a RCRP, disciplinary allegations while incarcerated, education level, and prior criminal history. The SBI number was used to electronically retrieve arrest, conviction and incarceration information for criminal events that occurred within New Jersey both before and after the 2014 release. This has allowed researchers to track the number of rearrests, reconvictions, and reincarcerations over the course of the three-year follow-up.

### ***Reentry Programming Analyses***

This portion of the report examines reentry programming in regards to RCRP participation (i.e., RCRP work program participation, drug treatment house participation), drug

treatment programming, and education programming. Different analyses are completed for each section and sample sizes are specific to each analysis. Unless otherwise noted, the sample of study includes inmates released from a DOC facility in calendar year 2014. Similar to the recidivism analyses, recidivism in this section is defined as a reincarceration as well as a rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration for a community supervision violation.

For all analyses of the DOC 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**

### ***Measures of Recidivism for the Juvenile Cohort***

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.

1. Do youth have a subsequent delinquency court filing or adult arrest for a new offense?
2. Do youth have a subsequent adjudication or conviction for a new offense?
3. 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 2014. 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.

## **RESULTS**

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

#### *Recidivism Analyses*

The full demographics for the 2014 released offenders can be viewed in Table 1. During calendar year 2014, 9,108 inmates were released from the custody of DOC. Of the final sample, 59.8% were supervised releases and 40.2% were released as unsupervised. This is unchanged from the proportions of unsupervised and supervised releases found in the 2013 release cohort.

Of the total sample, the majority of released inmates were male, black and single. Most releases had a high school diploma or higher education level (73.3%). The average release age for all inmates was approximately 35 years of age.

The average number of time served across both cohorts was 867 days; supervised releases served nearly 100 days more time in prison (averaging 907 days) compared with unsupervised releases (averaging 808 days). The majority of inmates (55%) had at least one previous DOC admission and the largest proportion of inmates were serving a sentence for a violent offense, followed by drug-related offenses. Almost 31% of all released offenders in 2014 attended a RCRP and of this number approximately 78% were successful RCRP completions.

**Table 1. 2014 Release Cohort Characteristics**

Variable	Supervised Counts (%) n=5448	Unsupervised Counts (%) n=3660	Total Counts (%) N=9108
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	5059 (92.9)	3441 (94.0)	8500 (93.3)
Female	389 (7.1)	219 (6.0)	608 (6.7)
<b>Race/Ethnicity***</b>			
White	1728 (31.7)	960 (26.3)	2688 (29.5)
Black	2795 (51.3)	2245 (61.4)	5040 (55.4)
Hispanic	870 (16.0)	436 (11.9)	1306 (14.4)
Other	52 (1.0)	14 (0.4)	66 (0.7)
<b>Marital Status***</b>			
Single	3687 (81.0)	2219 (83.8)	5906 (82.0)
Married	452 (9.9)	188 (7.1)	640 (8.9)
Divorced	211 (4.6)	139 (5.2)	350 (4.9)
Separated	186 (4.1)	83 (3.1)	269 (3.7)
Widowed	18 (0.4)	19 (0.7)	37 (0.5)
<b>Education Level***</b>			
Some schooling, not a high school graduate	1281 (24.4)	1057 (30.3)	2338 (26.8)
High school graduate/HSE	3402 (64.9)	2149 (61.5)	5551 (63.6)
Some college and beyond	557 (10.6)	286 (8.2)	843 (9.7)
<b>Mean Prior Arrests (sd)***</b>	6.2 (6.4)	9.4 (8.3)	7.5 (7.4)
<b>Mean Prior Convictions (sd)***</b>	3.6 (4.0)	5.8 (5.4)	4.5 (4.8)
<b>Mean Prior DOC admissions (sd)***</b>	0.82 (1.2)	1.6 (1.5)	1.1 (1.4)
<b>Prior DOC History***</b>			
No prior admissions	3069 (56.3)	1039 (28.4)	4108 (45.1)
1 prior admission	1171 (21.5)	1014 (27.7)	2185 (24.0)
2 prior admissions	632 (11.6)	676 (18.5)	1308 (14.4)
3 prior admissions	353 (6.5)	481 (13.1)	834 (9.2)
4+ prior admissions	223 (4.1)	450 (12.3)	673 (7.4)
<b>Index Incarceration Offense***</b>			
Violent	1760 (32.5)	431 (11.9)	2191 (24.2)
Weapons	392 (7.2)	560 (15.4)	952 (10.5)
Property	822 (15.2)	638 (17.6)	1460 (16.1)
Drugs	1339 (24.7)	731 (20.1)	2070 (22.9)
Community Supervision Violation	834 (15.4)	1035 (28.5)	1869 (20.6)
Other	276 (5.1)	236 (6.5)	512 (5.7)
<b>Mean Release Age (sd)***</b>	34.8 (10.3)	36.4 (10.5)	35.4 (10.4)
<b>Mean Time Served – Days (sd)***</b>	907.0 (1088.9)	807.6 (1167.7)	867.1 (1122.2)
<b>Attended RCRP*</b>	1621 (29.8)	1181 (32.3)	2802 (30.8)
Completed RCRP***	1344 (82.9)	830 (70.3)	2174 (77.6)

Note. \*  $p < .05$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .001$

Percentages may not sum to 100 due to missing information.

Column counts may not sum to supervised and unsupervised totals due to missing information.

HSE is the abbreviation of High School Equivalency.

The completed RCRP variable only includes those offenders who attended a RCRP.

**Table 2. 2014 Release Cohort Recidivism**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Supervised Counts (%) n=5448</b>	<b>Unsupervised Counts (%) n=3660</b>	<b>Total Counts (%) N=9108</b>
<b>Rearrest***</b>			
Yes	2326 (42.7)	2336 (63.8)	4662 (51.2)
No	3122 (57.3)	1324 (36.2)	4446 (48.8)
<b>Reconviction ***</b>			
Yes	1590 (29.2)	1871 (51.1)	3461 (38.0)
No	3858 (70.8)	1789 (48.9)	5647 (62.0)
<b>Reincarceration***</b>			
Yes	2106 (38.7)	671 (18.3)	2777 (30.5)
No	3342 (61.3)	2989 (81.7)	6331 (69.5)
<b>Time to Rearrest***</b>			
6 months	492 (21.2)	906 (38.8)	1398 (30.0)
12 months	502 (21.6)	585 (25.0)	1087 (23.3)
18 months	400 (17.2)	356 (15.2)	756 (16.2)
24 months	388 (16.7)	215 (9.2)	603 (12.9)
30 months	296 (12.7)	153 (6.5)	449 (9.6)
36 months	248 (10.7)	121 (5.2)	369 (7.9)
<b>Mean Time to Rearrest -- Days*** (sd)</b>	468.22 (299.7)	331.74 (273.6)	399.84 (294.9)
<b>Mean Time to Parole Violation – Days<sup>†</sup></b>	370.9 (278.8)		

Note. \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

Table 2 shows the recidivism for the 2014 cohort of releases. During the three year follow-up period, 51.2% of the overall sample was rearrested, 38% were reconvicted and 31% were reincarcerated in a state prison facility. Of the supervised releases, 42.7% were rearrested. Sixty-four percent of the unsupervised releases were rearrested. This pattern is repeated for reconvictions, as 51% of the unsupervised releases were reconvicted compared with 29% of the supervised cohort. Conversely, almost 39% of the supervised releases returned to prison, while 18.3% of the unsupervised releases returned to a state prison facility.

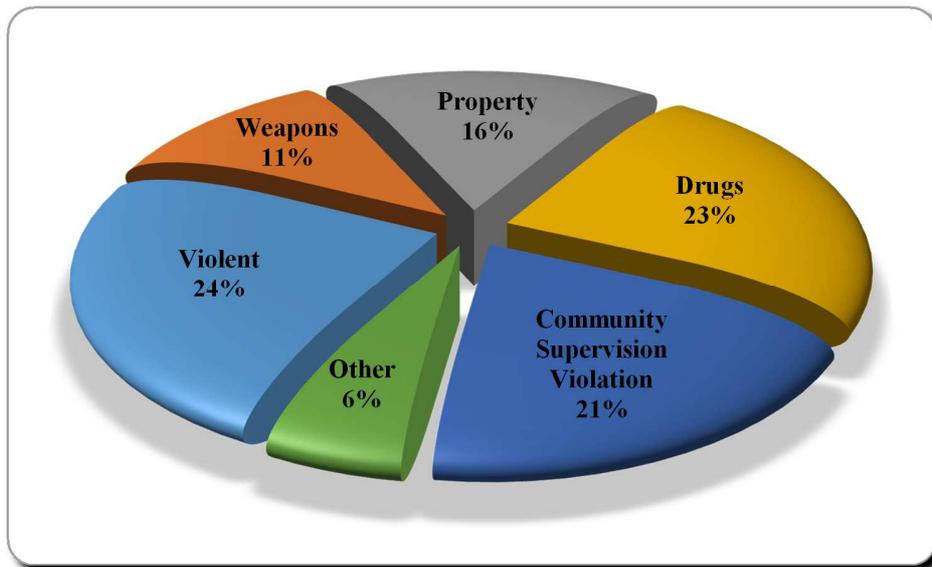
It should be noted that these disparities may be attributable to differences in supervision levels. The results of comparative analyses between supervised and unsupervised offenders may be misinterpreted because supervised offenders are subject to greater scrutiny than unsupervised offenders, and thus may be returned to prison with greater frequency due to technical violations or other reasons that would not occur among an unsupervised population.

**Table 3. Eight-year Comparison of Recidivism Percentages**

Release Year	Rearrest	Reconviction	Reincarceration
2007	57%	45%	37%
2008	54%	42%	35%
2009	53%	39%	32%
2010	53%	42%	32%
2011	53%	40%	31%
2012	53%	40%	31%
2013	52%	38%	30%
2014	51%	38%	31%

Table 3 shows the recidivism percentages for rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration for the 2014 release cohort, along with the recidivism percentages for the previous seven release cohort years. The 2014 release cohort experienced a small decrease in rearrests, reconvictions remained the same and the reincarceration rate rounded up to 31%.

**Figure 1. Index Incarceration Offense for 2014 Release Cohort**



Graphically displayed in Figure 1 is the overall sample’s index incarceration offense on record. This represents the most serious offense category inmates were serving time for before their release in 2014. The offenses were identified as belonging to one of six categories which included violent, weapons, drugs, property, community supervision violations and other offenses. The “other” category is a general category for those offenses that are not captured by the four major crime types; the other category may also include administrative offenses and public order offenses.

Those offenders who returned to prison for a community supervision violation (i.e., technical parole violation, Megan’s Law supervision violation, Intensive Supervision Program violation) are also captured here. The chart above indicates that 24% of the released sample was

serving time for a violent offense. This is followed closely by drug offenses (23%) and community supervision violations (21%).

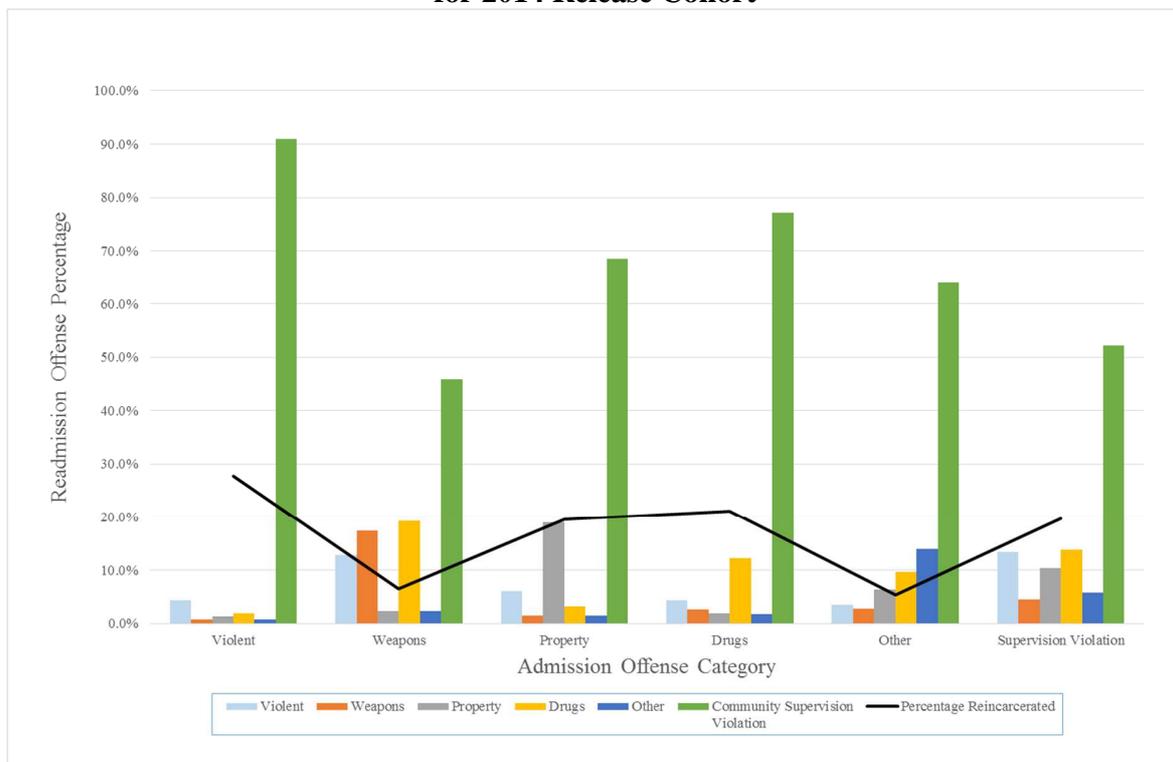
**Table 4. Breakdown of Original Booking Offense for Community Supervision Violators**

Original Booking Offense	n	Percent of Supervision Violators
Violent	700	37.5
Weapons	109	5.8
Property	362	19.4
Drugs	508	27.2
Other	190	7.0
Total	1869	3.2

Note: Original booking offense data were missing for one inmate.

Table 4 further explores the original booking offenses for the 21% of community supervision violators in the pie chart above. The majority of supervision violators originally served sentences for violent and drug offenses (37.5% and 27.2% respectively, totaling 64.7%). Property offenses comprised 19.4% of the sample, while “other” offenses comprised 10.2%. Only a small portion of the original booking offenses for supervision violators were weapon offenses (5.8%).

**Figure 2. Reincarceration Rates and Readmission Offenses Grouped by Admission Offense for 2014 Release Cohort**



Readmission rates, as grouped by admission offense, can be viewed in Figure 2. Of inmates with a return to custody on record within three years post-release, individuals initially serving time

for a violent or drug offense were most likely to return to prison. Specifically, released inmates with a violent index offense were reincarcerated at a rate of 27.7% and released inmates with an index drug offense were reincarcerated at a rate of 21.1%. Released inmates initially serving time for a community supervision violation or property offense were next most likely to return to DOC custody, at rates of 19.7% and 19.6%, respectively. Finally, of those inmates who returned to prison within 36 months, 6.5% initially served time for a weapons offense and 5.4% initially served time for an “other” offense.

The types of readmission offenses, as grouped by the original index incarceration offense, are also presented in Figure 2. Overall, released inmates who were reincarcerated within 36 months were predominately readmitted for community supervision violations, regardless of admission offense.

There was little variation in readmission offenses across categories. However, the second most frequent category for readmission tended to be the same offense type the inmate served time for initially. For example, released inmates who initially served time for violent offenses were most frequently readmitted for violent offenses (after community supervision violations). The same can be said for property, drug and other offenders. The only exception to this rule were inmates serving time for a weapons offense (who tended to be readmitted for drug offenses).

### **Factors Associated with Rearrest**

This outcome study examined differences between those who were and were not rearrested on a number of variables often assumed to contribute to recidivistic behavior. Rearrest was explored in place of other metrics of recidivism, such as reincarceration, to create the most robust analyses. A rearrest signifies an individual’s first contact with the criminal justice system post-release. Additionally, utilizing a reconviction or reincarceration event often leads to smaller sample sizes for analysis due to the time lag created between a release and a reconviction or reincarceration.

The analysis revealed that for the population released in 2014, ten factors, out of the eleven entered into the model, were associated with rearrest within three years. As can be seen in Appendix B, these factors included gender, race/ethnicity, age at release, release status (supervised vs unsupervised), the number of prior convictions, the number of prior DOC admissions, original admission offense, the amount of time served, the number of disciplinary allegations while incarcerated for the current offense, and completion of an RCRP. Educational attainment in and of itself was not found to be a predictor of rearrest, though attainment of a college degree was a significant predictor in the analysis. The factors entered in the model explained 23.9% of the variance in the dependent variable of rearrest; furthermore, the model was significant ( $\chi^2(19)=1709.89, p<.001$ ).

*Gender.* Gender was significantly related to the likelihood of rearrest. Specifically, compared to females, males had 1.4 times the odds of rearrest within the three-year follow-up period ( $p\leq.001$ ).

*Race/Ethnicity.* The variable of race/ethnicity was significant in bivariate tests of independence and multivariate regression models. Proportionally, black inmates were rearrested more compared

to white and Hispanic inmates ( $\chi^2(3)=163.27, p<.001$ ). Multivariate statistics indicated that race/ethnicity was predictive of rearrest; compared to white releases, black releases had increased odds of a rearrest of 1.2. However, when compared to white releases, Hispanic releases had decreased odds of a rearrest (.76).

*Age at release.* Younger inmates were more likely to be rearrested than older inmates; the differences across age were statistically significant. Inmates who were rearrested were younger than those who were not rearrested ( $M=33.8$  years,  $sd= 9.7$  vs.  $M=37.2$  years,  $sd= 10.8$ ,  $t(8904.8)=15.80, p<.001$ ). Multivariate statistics indicated that age was inversely related to the odds of rearrest; for every one year increase in age, the inmate's odds of a new arrest decreased by a factor of almost one (0.93).

*Release Status.* The inmate's release type (supervised vs. unsupervised) was a significant predictor of whether the inmate was rearrested, with supervised releases maintaining statistically lower odds of rearrest (.60).

*Prior Conviction History.* The average number of prior convictions for the full sample of inmates was 4.5 ( $sd= 4.8$ ), indicating the sample of releases had extensive criminal histories, and approximately 82% of inmates who were rearrested had a previous conviction on record. Prior conviction history was significantly related to the likelihood of a rearrest. For every additional prior conviction an inmate had, the odds of rearrest were increased by a factor of 1.1. This pattern shows an expected ratio of one prior conviction to each subsequent rearrest.

*Prior Correctional History/DOC Admissions.* The average number of prior admissions for the full sample of inmates was 1.1 ( $sd= 1.4$ ). Highlighting the importance of this variable as an indicator of continued offending, bivariate results demonstrate that 56.7% of those with one prior state prison term were rearrested, 57.6% of those with two prior terms were rearrested, 62.8% of those with three prior terms were rearrested, and 71.8% of those with four or more prior incarcerations were rearrested ( $\chi^2(4)=398.13, p<.001$ ). Prior correctional history was significantly related to the likelihood of rearrest. For every additional prior state incarceration, the odds of rearrest were increased by a factor of 1.1.

*Index Incarceration Offense on Record.* The index incarceration offense was significant in bivariate tests of independence and multivariate regression models predicting a new arrest. Inmates serving time for weapons, property, drug, "other", and community supervision offenses had an increased probability of a new arrest when compared to violent offenders, with community supervision violations maintaining the highest odds of rearrest (2.2). Specifically, inmates who committed community supervision violations (65% rearrest), property (57.7% rearrest), weapon (53.8% rearrest), "other" (51.8% rearrest) and drug (50.9% rearrest) offenses were rearrested proportionally more than inmates who committed a violent offense (34.1% rearrest,  $\chi^2(5)=424.89, p<.001$ ).

*Time Served.* Time served was significantly associated with rearrest patterns. Compared to those who served sentences up to one year, inmates who served sentences of two years or more had decreased odds of a rearrest by a factor of .87.

*Disciplinary Allegations.* The number of disciplinary allegations against an inmate while in prison was positively and significantly associated with rearrest. For every discipline that an inmate had on record for the current incarceration, the odds of rearrest were increased by a factor of approximately 1.0.

*Education Level.* Although education level was not a significant predictor of rearrest in and of itself, it is worth noting that inmates with an educational attainment of a college degree or higher were significantly less likely to have an arrest within three years than those with an 8<sup>th</sup> grade or less education ( $p \leq .05$ ).

*RCRP Completion.* Finally, inmates who attended and completed an RCRP were significantly less likely to have a rearrest in the follow up period compared with those who did not attend or complete RCRP programs ( $p \leq .05$ ).

## **REHABILITATION, REENTRY AND TREATMENT INITIATIVES AT DOC**

DOC offers rehabilitation, re-entry and treatment initiatives at DOC facilities and contracted RCRPs to include education, vocational training, work release, and drug treatment programming.

Taking into account that different inmates will fair differently based on factors discussed above, when assessing overall program effectiveness, the DOC uses three key factors to determine which programs and services allow the offender to achieve the best results. First, the department examines how facility-based programs and services compare to a nationally recognized evidence-based practice research on “what works.” Second, there is a continual examination of internal data on those released offenders that return to DOC custody. Third, the department examines the inmate’s progress with practicing skills they developed from programming. Finally, inmates are provided an opportunity to express which departmental programs they believe best assisted them with achieving their fullest potential and their recommendations for program improvement by completing feedback surveys.

### **Education**

Vocational, adult mandatory and youthful offenders education programming are offered at DOC facilities. Analyses of each program are presented below.

#### **Adult Mandatory Education**

Under N.J.S.A. 30:4-92.1 (P.L. 2009, c.330) inmates who are over the age of 21 who do not have a high school diploma or high school equivalency degree (HSE) and have 18 months or more remaining on their sentence before a mandatory release date are eligible for mandatory education programming to obtain an HSE. Adult mandatory education programming is available at all 13 facility locations.

Data related to inmate Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) scores and High School Equivalency (HSE) obtainment were examined.

There were 406 inmates who participated in mandatory education from the 2014 release cohort. Note: Implementation of N.J.S.A. 30:4-92.1 occurred as a series of incremental stages and participation in educational services increased from 2013 to 2016. The group’s mean score for the first TABE test on record for the booking was 5.8 (sd=2.8). The mean score for the last TABE test on record was 7.4 (sd=3.9). A significant improvement in average scores was noted between the first test and the last test ( $t(267)=-6.42, p<.001$ ).

Of the 406 inmates who participated in mandatory education and released in 2014, 34.2% took a HSE exam while incarcerated. Of those who took an exam, 88% passed.

Recidivism information for the cohort of released inmates who participated in mandatory education is found below (Table 5).

**Table 5. Recidivism Details for Mandatory Education Participation**

	Mandatory Education Participants n=406		No Mandatory Education n=8,703	
	Mean (sd)	Percent	Mean (sd)	Percent
Number of Rearrests**	1.7 (2.1)	62.6	1.3 (2.1)	50.6
Number of Reconvictions**	0.8 (1.1)	47.5	0.7 (1.2)	37.6
Number of Reincarcerations	0.3 (0.5)	32.5	0.3 (0.5)	30.4
Number of Reincarcerations for a Community Supervision Violation	0.3 (0.5)	27.8	0.3 (0.5)	31.3

Note. \*\* $p<.01$  in  $t$ -tests of significance. Number of Reincarcerations for a Community Supervision Violation includes only those inmates who were placed on supervision at release.

### Youthful Offenders Education

DOC provides education programming for youthful offenders as required by the State Facilities Education Act. The State Facilities Education Act (SFEA) of 1979 (N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-1 et seq.) was enacted for the purpose of providing a thorough and efficient education to all eligible students in State facilities. All youth offenders 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. Youth students are mandated to attend such coursework until they reach an ineligible age. SFEA programming is available at three DOC locations: Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility, Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, and Edna Mahan Correctional Facility.

One hundred seven (107) inmates who were released in 2014 were eligible for SFEA programming. The mean first TABE test on record for the index booking within the cohort was 5.6 (sd=3.4). The mean score for the last TABE test on record was 5.37 (sd=4.1). A significant improvement was not noted in average scores was noted between the first test and the last test ( $t(88)=.52, n.s.$ ).

Of the 107 SFEA inmates released in 2014, 52 (49.0%) had a high school diploma or higher education level listed on record at the time of release.

Table 6 presents the recidivism information for the cohort of released inmates who participated in SFEA programming. The percentages of SFEA inmates who were rearrested, reconvicted, and reincarcerated were found to be 73%, 58%, and 55%, respectively. Approximately 45% of SFEA inmates were returned to prison for a community supervision violation. SFEA inmates are a distinct group who cannot be compared to the general population of inmates on measures of recidivism because of their age.

**Table 6. Recidivism Details for SFEA Inmates**

	Mean (sd), Range	Percent
Number of Rearrests	1.8 (1.8), 0-9	72.9
Number of Reconvictions	0.9 (1.1), 0-5	57.9
Number of Reincarcerations	0.6 (0.6), 0-2	55.1
Number of Reincarcerations for a Community Supervision Violation	0.5 (.6), 0-2	44.9

*Note.* Number of Reincarcerations for a Community Supervision Violation includes only those inmates who were placed on supervision at release.

#### Vocational Education

DOC provides vocational education programs to inmates at all facilities. There are 23 courses of study which include cabinetmaking, cosmetology/barbering, plumbing, and graphic arts, among others.

Recidivism for inmates who participated in vocational education (n=1,228; 13.5% of all releases) was examined (Table 7). Differences between vocational education participants and non-participants were noted for rearrests, reconvictions, and reincarcerations. The average number of rearrests was 1.4 (sd=2.2) for those releases who did not progress through a vocational education program; this represented a statistically significant difference from the vocational education participants ( $t(1777.02)=5.9, p<.001$ ). The average number of reconvictions on record were found to be lower for vocational education participants vs. non-participants ( $M=0.5$  vocational education,  $M=0.7$  non-vocational education ( $t(1955.26)=8.6, p<.001$ )). A lower percentage of vocational education participants were reincarcerated compared to non-participants. There were no differences between the groups for a return to prison for a community supervision violation.

**Table 7. Recidivism Details for Vocational Education Inmates**

	Vocational Education Participants n=1,228		Non-Participants n=7,881	
	Mean (sd)	Percent	Mean (sd)	Percent
Number of Rearrests***	1.1 (1.9)	44.3	1.4 (2.2)	52.3
Number of Reconvictions***	0.5 (0.9)	28.4	0.7 (1.2)	39.5
Number of Reincarcerations***	0.3 (0.5)	26.9	0.3 (0.5)	31.0
Number of Reincarcerations for a Community Supervision Violation	0.3 (0.5)	28.8	0.3 (0.5)	27.8

Note. \*\*\* $p < .001$  in  $t$ -tests of significance.

Number of Reincarcerations for a Community Supervision Violation includes only those inmates who were placed on supervision at release.

Employment rates for all inmates post-release were stratified by vocational education participation (Table 8). Statistically significant differences in the employment rates were found between the vocational education and non-vocational education groups during the one-, two- and three-year follow-up intervals. Overall, 95% of inmates who participated in vocational education were employed at any time during the three-year follow up period compared with 94% of inmates who did not receive vocational education (this did not represent a statistically significant difference). The results of this analysis suggest that the majority of inmates are able to find employment within three years of release, but this employment is typically not consistent across the years.

**Table 7. Vocational Education and Post-Release Employment**

	Vocational Education Sample n=618	No Vocational Education n=3,540
Employed at Any Time Within Year One**	81.4%	75.5%
Employed at Any Time Within Year Two*	67.2%	62.1%
Employed at Any Time Within Year Three*	64.1%	59.4%
Employed at Any Time Within Three Years	95.1%	93.9%

Note. \*  $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$

### **Drug Treatment**

The DOC provides addiction treatment services to its substance use disorder offender population. The DOC has made significant changes to drug treatment services since the 2014 cohort was released which will be reflected in future reports. Licensed drug treatment programs are now available at eight Residential Community Release Program (RCRP) facilities (i.e., CURA Inc., Fenwick House, Garrett House, The Harbor, Hope Hall, Kintock-Bridgeton, Kintock-Newark, and Tully House) 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. Living in Balance (LIB) is a research-based, psycho-educational

program which provides treatment sessions for persons who abuse or are addicted to alcohol and other drugs of abuse. 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 inmates 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 inmates, enhance the well-being of children of incarcerated fathers, and motivate and prepare incarcerated fathers to maintain drug free and crime free lifestyles. Participation is focused on inmates 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.

Recidivism for the group of individuals who participated in drug programming (n=3,054) was examined (Table 9). Inmates who participated in drug programming or successfully completed a drug treatment RCRP were statistically different from those who did not on rearrest ( $\chi^2(1)=6.64, p=.01$ ), reconviction ( $\chi^2(1)=13.95, p<.001$ ), and reincarceration outcomes ( $\chi^2(1)=19.27, p<.001$ ), in that their rates of recidivism were lower than non-participants on these measures.

**Table 8. 2014 Release Cohort Drug Program Participants and Recidivism**

	<b>Drug Programming Participants</b> n= 3,054	<b>Non-Participants</b> n=6,055
Rearrested**	49.3%	52.1%
Reconvicted***	35.3%	39.3%
Reincarcerated***	27.5%	32.0%
Reincarcerated for a Community Supervision Violation	27.8%	28.0%

Note. \*\* $p<.01$ ; \*\*\* $p<.001$ .

Non-participants were defined as inmates who attended a drug treatment RCRP and were returned to a DOC facility (i.e. non-completers) or DOC inmates who never attended a drug treatment RCRP or participated in any drug treatment programming.

Drug treatment RCRPs in operation in 2014 included CURA Inc., Fenwick, Hope Hall, Harbor House, Kintock-Bridgeton, Garrett House, and Tully House.

Reincarcerated for a Community Supervision Violation includes only those inmates who were placed on supervision at release.

## **NJDOC RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY RELEASE PROGRAMS**

DOC currently has 15 RCRP facilities which serve both male and female inmates. Of these facilities, one is a special needs program, two are assessment centers, four are work release programs, and eight are correctional treatment programs with a work release component.

Of the 9,109 inmates who were released in the year 2014, 2,802 (30.8%) were admitted to a RCRP and 2,174 (23.9%) of the full release cohort completed a RCRP. Approximately 78% of those admitted to an RCRP completed an RCRP.

Criminal histories of all inmates within this sample were followed for 36-months post-release. All four measures of recidivism were lower for inmates who completed RCRPs in 2014 compared to those who did not complete a RCRP. Recidivism details are set forth in Table 10 below.

**Table 9. RCRP Completion and Recidivism**

	<b>RCRP Program Participants n= 2,174</b>	<b>Non-Participants n=6,935</b>
Rearrested***	47.7%	52.3%
Reconvicted***	33.4%	39.4%
Reincarcerated***	22.8%	32.9%
Reincarcerated for a Community Supervision Violation***	20.5%	30.4%

Note.\*\*\* $p < .001$ .

Non-participants were defined as inmates who attended a RCRP and were returned to a DOC facility (i.e. non-completers) or DOC inmates who never attended a RCRP.

There were 15 RCRP facilities in 2014. They included Talbot Hall, Bo Robinson, Columbus House, CURA Inc., Fenwick, Garrett House, Harbor House, Hope Hall, Kintock-Bridgeton, Kintock-Newark, Tully House, Clinton House, Fletcher House, Urban Renewal 1 and Urban Renewal 2.

Reincarcerated for a Community Supervision Violation includes only those inmates who were placed on supervision at release.

Work Release Programs

The four work release programs that were operating in 2014 included Clinton House, Fletcher House, Urban Renewal 1 (male only) and Urban Renewal 2 (female only). Recidivism within 36-months of release was examined for inmates participating in work release programs (see Table 11). Recidivism on every measure of follow-up (rearrest, reconviction, reincarceration, reincarceration for a community supervision violation) was lower for inmates who completed a work program in 2014 compared to those who did not complete a work program.

**Table 10. Work Release and Recidivism**

	<b>Work Program Completers n= 412</b>	<b>Non-Completers n=8,697</b>
Rearrested***	41.0%	51.7%
Reconvicted***	26.5%	38.5%
Reincarcerated***	14.8%	31.2%
Reincarcerated for a Community Supervision Violation***	14.9%	28.5%

\*\*\* $p < .001$ .

Reincarcerated for a Community Supervision Violation includes only those inmates who were placed on supervision at release.

In addition, income data for inmates within the 2014 cohort were requested of the Department of Labor (DOL). Data were available for 4,158 inmates. No statistically significant

differences between work releases and non-work releases were found, indicating that work releases and non-work releases maintained similar levels of employment within the three-year follow-up period.

**Table 11. Work Release and Employment Rates**

	<b>Work Release n=248</b>	<b>No Work Release n=3,910</b>
Employed at Any Time Within Year One	80.2%	76.1%
Employed at Any Time Within Year Two	65.7%	62.7%
Employed at Any Time Within Year Three	58.9%	60.1%
Employed at Any Time Within Three Years	91.5%	94.2%

*Correctional Treatment Programs with a Work Release Component*

Eight of the current contracted RCRP facilities are correctional treatment programs with a work release component. In these facilities, drug treatment is provided for three months and continues throughout an inmate’s participation in the work release component. One of these facilities is specialized to serve special needs inmates with mental health issues only.

In 2014, the eight correctional treatment programs with a work release component were CURA Inc., Fenwick, Garrett House, Harbor House, Hope Hall, Kintock-Bridgeton, Kintock-Newark, and Tully House. Recidivism within 36-months of release was examined for inmates participating in correctional treatment programs with a work release component (see Table 13). All measures of recidivism (i.e., rearrest, reconviction, reincarceration, and reincarceration for a community supervision violation) were statistically lower for inmates who completed these facilities in 2014 compared to those who did not participate or complete these facilities.

**Table 12. Correctional Treatment Programs with a Work Release Component and Recidivism**

	<b>Drug Treatment House Completers n= 1,536</b>	<b>Non-Completers n=7,573</b>
Rearrested**	47.7%	51.9%
Reconvicted***	33.6%	38.9%
Reincarcerated***	20.6%	32.5%
Reincarcerated for a Community Supervision Violation***	20.2%	29.5%

Note. \*\* $p < .01$ ; \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

**Juvenile Justice Commission**

***2014 Release Cohort: Youth Characteristics***

The 2014 cohort was comprised of 377 youth released from JJC facilities. All juveniles were released from a committed (67.1%) or a probationer status (32.9%). More than a third (41.4%) of the cohort left from secure care (100% of those were committed youth), 56.8% left

from residential programs (45.3% were committed and 54.7% were probationers), and 1.9% left from day programs (100% probationers). The average length of stay in custody was 393 days, which was an increase of 44 days from 2013. The average length of stay was 347 days for youth departing residential programs (an increase of 20 days from 2013), 466 days for youth departing secure care (up almost 70 days from 2013), and 168 days for youth departing day programs (an increase of 20 days from 2013).

Of the youth released, 93.9% were males and 6.1% were females. The average age at release was 18.4 years. The racial breakdown of the cohort was 64.7% Black, 23.6% Hispanic, 11.7% White (or 11.7% White and 88.3% non-White). The majority of the youth served sentences for persons offenses (37.7%), followed by violations of probation (VOP) (36.3%), weapons offenses (7.2%), property offenses (7.2%), drug offenses (6.4%), and public order offenses (5.3%).

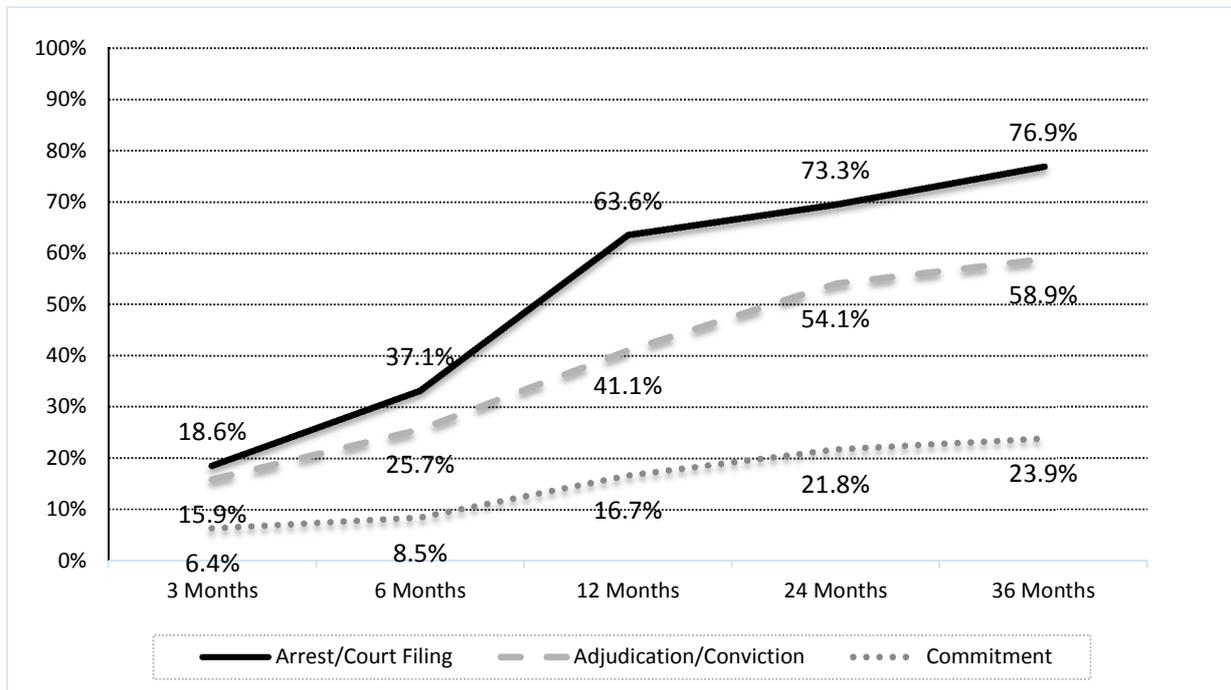
### ***2014 Release Cohort Recidivism Rates***

The reporting of results begins with a focus on an examination of the overall recidivism rates for youth released from JJC custody in 2014. 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, 63.6% of the youth released in 2014 had a new court filing/arrest. In addition, less than half (41.1%) committed a new offense resulting in an adjudication/conviction, while 16.7% re-offended resulting in a new commitment to a State facility. At two years following release, recidivism rates had increased: almost three-quarters (73.3%) had a new court filing/arrest, 54.1% had a new adjudication/conviction, and 21.8% had a new commitment to a State facility. By three years after release, slightly more than three quarters of the youth had new court filings/arrests (76.9%), 58.9% had new adjudications/convictions, and 23.9% had new commitments, representing 90 of the 377 youth.

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, 301 days (10.0 months);
- for those with a new adjudication/conviction, 289 days (9.6 months); and
- for those with a new commitment, 311 days (10.3 months).

**Figure 3. Overall Recidivism Rates for Youth Released from JJC Custody in 2014**



**Recent Trends in Juvenile Recidivism**

As part of the analysis, a comparison was made with the previous years’ findings with regard to the three measures of juvenile recidivism.<sup>1</sup> As indicated in the table below, new court filings/arrests have decreased over time, down 5.6 percentage points since 2011. New adjudications/convictions have decreased by 12.1 percentage points since 2011. And, most importantly, the data demonstrate that over time there has been a decrease in the percentage of youth recidivating and returning to the system with a new commitment. This is down 8.7 percentage points from 2011. This positive change means that of the youth in the 2014 cohort, 76.1% were maintained in the community.

**Table 14. Recent Trends in Juvenile Recidivism, 2011 to 2014-REVISED**

Release Year	Court Filing/Arrest	Adjudication/Conviction	Commitment
2011	82.5% <sup>+</sup>	71.0% <sup>+</sup>	32.6% <sup>+</sup>
2012	78.9% <sup>+</sup>	67.7% <sup>+</sup>	33.1% <sup>+</sup>
2013	78.9%	67.6%	30.2%
2014	76.9%	58.9%	23.9%

<sup>1</sup> In 2017, the JJC hired a Manager for the Research and Evaluation Unit. During the first year, the Manager revisited all data and analyses that were reported while the unit was without a manager. The multi-year tables have been adjusted and revised based on that rigorous review of past reports. All data with a plus (+) denotes updated analyses based on the Manager’s review.

The JJC also examined changes in the time it took for youth to re-offend, measured in days from the date of a youth’s release to the date of re-offense. Since 2011, time to recidivate for court filing/arrest has increased (a positive finding), while time to recidivate for adjudication/conviction and new commitments has decreased, as seen in Table 15.

**Table 15. Average Time To Recidivate In Days, 2011 to 2014-REVISED**

Release Year	Court Filings/Arrest	Adjudication/Conviction	Commitment
2011	286 <sup>+</sup>	301 <sup>+</sup>	335 <sup>+</sup>
2012	310 <sup>+</sup>	326 <sup>+</sup>	333 <sup>+</sup>
2013	277	288	308
2014	301	289	311

***Differences in Recidivism: Youth Characteristics***

This recidivism study examined differences between those who did and those who did not recidivate in terms of a limited number of youth characteristics available for examination. The analysis of bivariate relationships revealed that for the released population examined in this report, among the variables having substantial portions of both committed and probationer youth data available, six factors were associated at a statistically significant level with recidivism within three years (on one or more of the three measures).

*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 (78.0% vs. 60.9%),<sup>2</sup> for new adjudications/convictions (60.7% vs. 30.4%\*),<sup>3</sup> and for new commitments (25.1% vs. 4.3%\*).\*<sup>4</sup>

*Race/Ethnicity.* Released Black youth were most likely to have had a new court filing/arrest (82.4%), followed by Hispanic youth (69.7%), and White youth (61.4%).\*<sup>5</sup> Again, Black youth were most likely to have received a new adjudication/conviction (63.1%), followed by White youth (52.3%), and Hispanic youth (50.6%).\*<sup>6</sup> Finally, Black youth were more likely to have received a new commitment (27.0%) followed by Hispanic youth (20.2%), and White youth (13.6%).\*<sup>7</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 (79.0% vs. 61.4%\*),<sup>8</sup> a new adjudication/conviction (59.8% vs. 52.3%),<sup>9</sup> as well as a new commitment (25.2% vs. 13.6%)\*<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> X<sup>2</sup>=3.556, df=1, p=.059.

<sup>3</sup> Statistically significant relationships are identified using an \*. X<sup>2</sup>=8.19, df=1, p=.004.

<sup>4</sup> X<sup>2</sup>=5.138, df=1, p=.023.

<sup>5</sup> X<sup>2</sup>=12.732, df=2, p=.002.

<sup>6</sup> X<sup>2</sup>=5.144, df=2, p=.076.

<sup>7</sup> X<sup>2</sup>=4.543, df=2, p=.103.

<sup>8</sup> X<sup>2</sup>=6.794, df=1, p=.009.

<sup>9</sup> X<sup>2</sup>=0.900, df=1, p=.343.

<sup>10</sup> X<sup>2</sup>=2.872, df=1, p=.090.

*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>11</sup> Those residing in the Urban 15 areas were more likely than those in non-Urban 15 areas to have recidivated based on new court filings/arrests (81.0% vs. 73.7%).<sup>12</sup> Additionally, youth residing in the Urban 15 areas were more likely to have a new adjudication/conviction, (65.5% vs. 53.6%\*)<sup>13</sup> and a new commitment (30.4% vs. 18.7%\*).<sup>14</sup> When honing in on the six most densely populated New Jersey cities,<sup>15</sup> the relationship between recidivism and residence becomes more pronounced. Those residing in the Urban 6 areas were more likely than those in any other areas to have recidivated based on new court filings/arrests (82.4% vs. 73.6%\*).<sup>16</sup> Additionally, youth residing in the Urban 6 areas were more likely to have a new adjudication/conviction (68.3% vs. 53.2%\*)<sup>17</sup> and a new commitment (33.1% vs. 18.3%\*).<sup>18</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 6.1. 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 (6.4 vs. 5.1\*).<sup>19</sup> The same was true for new adjudications/convictions (6.6 vs. 5.4\*),<sup>20</sup> and for new commitments (6.3 vs. 6.0).<sup>21</sup>

*Type of Offense.* Youth committed/admitted to the JJC for weapon offenses were most likely to have had a new court filing/arrest within three years (96.3%), followed by those entering with drug offenses (87.5%), Violations of Probation (VOPs, 81.8%), public order (75.0%), property offenses (70.4%), and then persons offenses (68.3%).\*<sup>22</sup> For new adjudications/convictions, the highest rate was for weapon offenses (74.1%), followed by VOPs (67.2%), drug offenses (66.7%), public order offenses (65.0%), property offenses (55.6%), and finally persons offenses (46.5%).\*<sup>23</sup> Finally, for new commitments, the highest rate was for weapon offenses (33.3%), followed by VOPs (28.5%), public order offenses (25.0%), property offenses (18.5%), and then person offenses (18.3%).<sup>24</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

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<sup>11</sup> The Urban 15 Cities are as follows: Bayonne City, Camden City, Clifton City, East Orange City, Elizabeth City, Irvington Town, Jersey City, Newark City, Passaic City, Paterson City, Toms River Township, Trenton City, Union City, Vineland and Woodbridge Township.

<sup>12</sup>  $X^2=2.772$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.096$ .

<sup>13</sup>  $X^2=5.436$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.020$ .

<sup>14</sup>  $X^2=7.011$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.008$ .

<sup>15</sup> The six most densely populated cities are: Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson and Trenton.

<sup>16</sup>  $X^2=3.842$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.050$ .

<sup>17</sup>  $X^2=8.356$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.004$ .

<sup>18</sup>  $X^2=10.669$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.001$ .

<sup>19</sup>  $F=6.477$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.011$ .

<sup>20</sup>  $F=7.851$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.005$ .

<sup>21</sup>  $F=0.233$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.630$ .

<sup>22</sup>  $X^2=15.650$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.008$ .

<sup>23</sup>  $X^2=16.502$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.006$ .

<sup>24</sup>  $X^2=5.796$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.327$ .

three years (88.9%), followed by those entering with VOPs (which have no designated degree) (81.8%), 3<sup>rd</sup> degree offenses (77.1%), 2<sup>nd</sup> degree offense (73.5%), 4<sup>th</sup> degree offenses (71.4%), and finally 1<sup>st</sup> degree offenses (69.0%).<sup>25</sup> For new adjudications/convictions, the highest rate was for youth with DP/PDP offenses (77.8%), followed by VOPs (67.2%), followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> degree offenses (64.6%), 2<sup>nd</sup> degree offenses (52.9%), 4<sup>th</sup> degree offenses (50.0%) and then 1<sup>st</sup> degree offenses (41.4%).\*<sup>26</sup> Finally, for new commitments, youth with DP/PDP offenses had the highest recidivism rate (27.8%), followed by VOPs (25.8%), 2<sup>nd</sup> degree offenses (23.5%), 3<sup>rd</sup> degree offenses (22.9%), 4<sup>th</sup> degree offenses (21.4%), and 1<sup>st</sup> degree offenses (13.8%).<sup>27</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.

- Recidivists were found to score higher on the JJC's Initial Classification & Custody Document (ICCD) which guides placement decisions and serves as a broad measure of prior delinquency and placement history. The average ICCD score for recidivists was 12.7, compared with 12.4 for non-recidivists.<sup>28</sup>
- The Comprehensive Informational Assessment tool assesses levels of need on eight separate life domains along with an overall assessment of total need. 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 four of these needs areas and recidivism. Recidivists were found to have higher need scores than non-recidivists regarding substance abuse, 5.2 vs. 3.7,\*<sup>29</sup> education/vocation, 4.1 vs. 3.3<sup>30</sup> peers/role models, 4.0 vs. 3.5,\*<sup>31</sup> and use of time/leisure 2.3 vs. 1.5.<sup>32</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

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<sup>25</sup>  $X^2=6.221$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.285$ .

<sup>26</sup>  $X^2=16.453$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.006$ .

<sup>27</sup>  $X^2=5.062$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=.408$ .

<sup>28</sup>  $F=0.160$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.690$ .

<sup>29</sup>  $F=13.541$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>30</sup>  $F=16.700$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

<sup>31</sup>  $F=6.665$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.010$ .

<sup>32</sup>  $F=18.772$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.000$ .

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 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 cohort, 7.2% of the youth received sex offender treatment. Of that subgroup, 40.7% received the treatment in a residential program and 59.3% received that treatment in a secure care environment. The recidivism rate for those in secure care receiving sex offender treatment was 33.3% and 27.3% for those receiving sex offender treatment in a residential setting.<sup>33</sup> The number of cases in each of these populations is very small (n=16 for secure and n=11) for residential sex offender programs.

*Substance Abuse Treatment.* Of the entire cohort, 34.7% 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, 71.0% received the majority of their treatment in a residential setting and 29.0% 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 receive 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 68.4%, as compared to 86.0% for those receiving the majority of their intensive substance abuse treatment in a residential setting.\*<sup>34</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 or 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.

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<sup>33</sup> F=0.287, df=1, p=0.597.

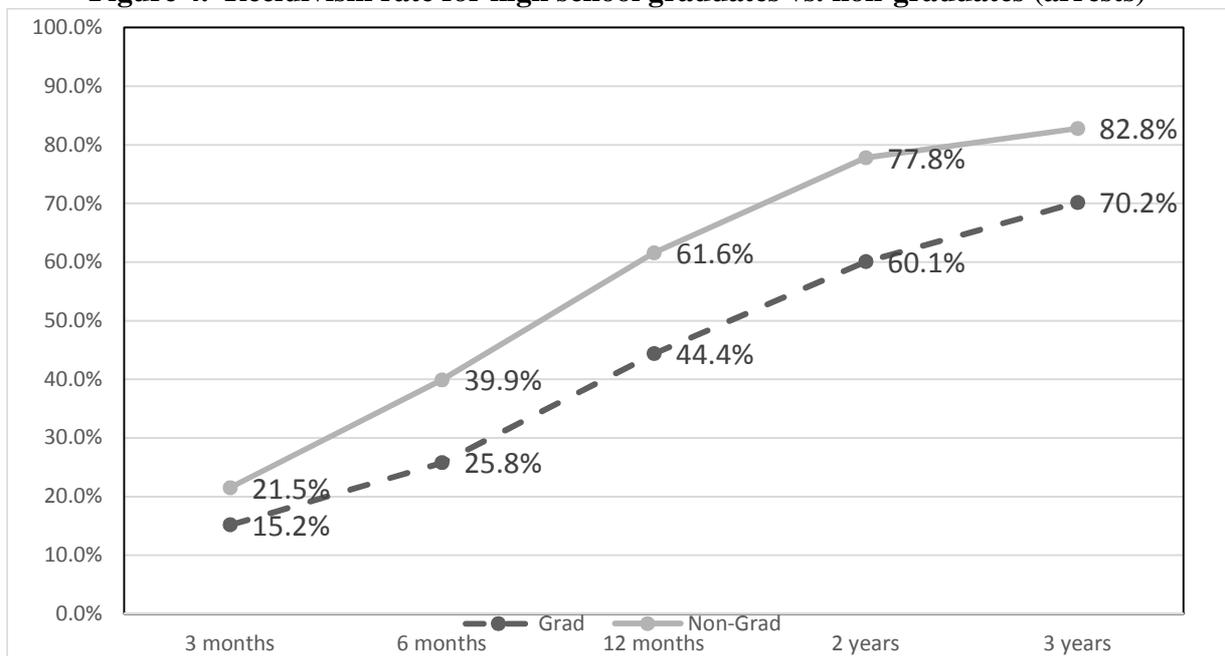
<sup>34</sup> X<sup>2</sup>=6.511, df=1, p=.039.

By 2014, these transitional programs had taken root in three locations. At Essex Residential, 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 2014, Vineland Preparatory Academy also had a transitional component which served kids from Camden and Cumberland counties. In the 2014 cohort, 39.5% of the youth participated in these programs. Youth participating in a transitional program had a higher recidivism rate (83.9%) than youth who did not participate in a transitional program (72.4%\*<sup>35</sup>). As the transitional programs continue to expand and achieve full implementation, the goal is to see better outcomes for youth participating in the fully implemented transitional programs.

*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. Additionally, while 19.6% of youth entering the JJC had their GED or diploma prior to intake, 47.3% had their GED or 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 in 2014 were less likely to be arrested (Figure 4, 70.2% vs. 82.8%\*<sup>36</sup>). In addition, kids with a high school credential were less likely to be adjudicated (Figure 5, 53.4% vs. 63.6%\*<sup>37</sup>) or committed (Figure 6, 18.0% vs. 28.8%\*<sup>38</sup>) within three years than those who did not have a high school credential.

**Figure 4. Recidivism rate for high school graduates vs. non-graduates (arrests)**



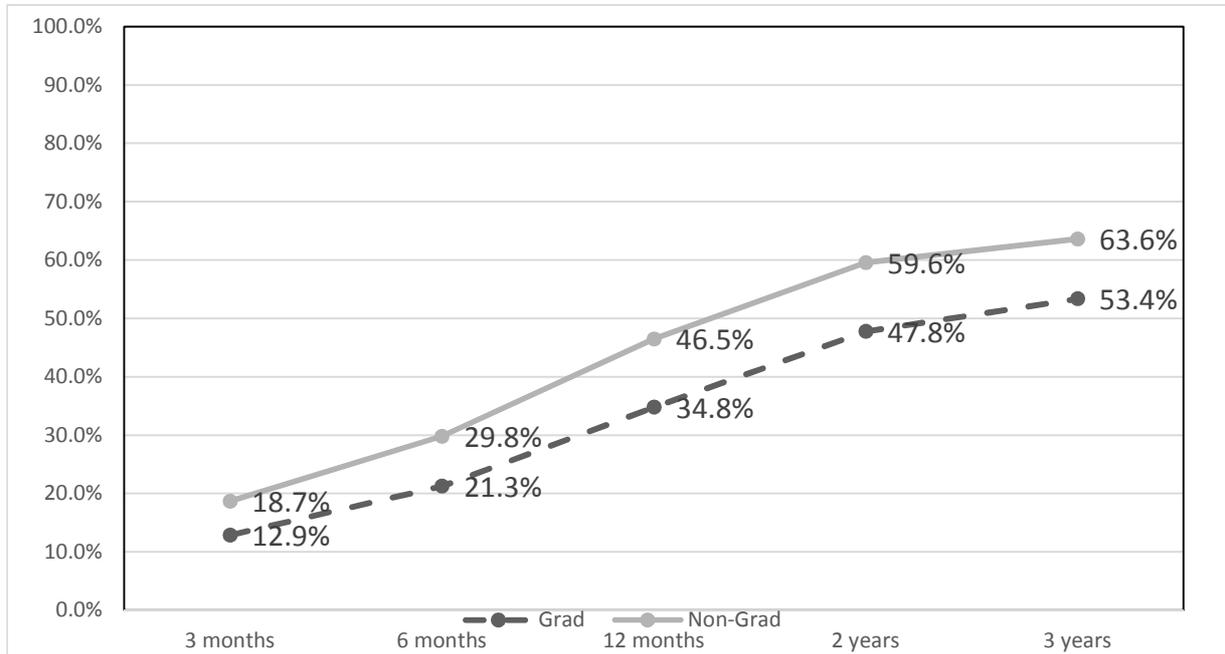
<sup>35</sup>  $X^2=6.742$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.009$ .

<sup>36</sup>  $X^2=8.372$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p.004$ .

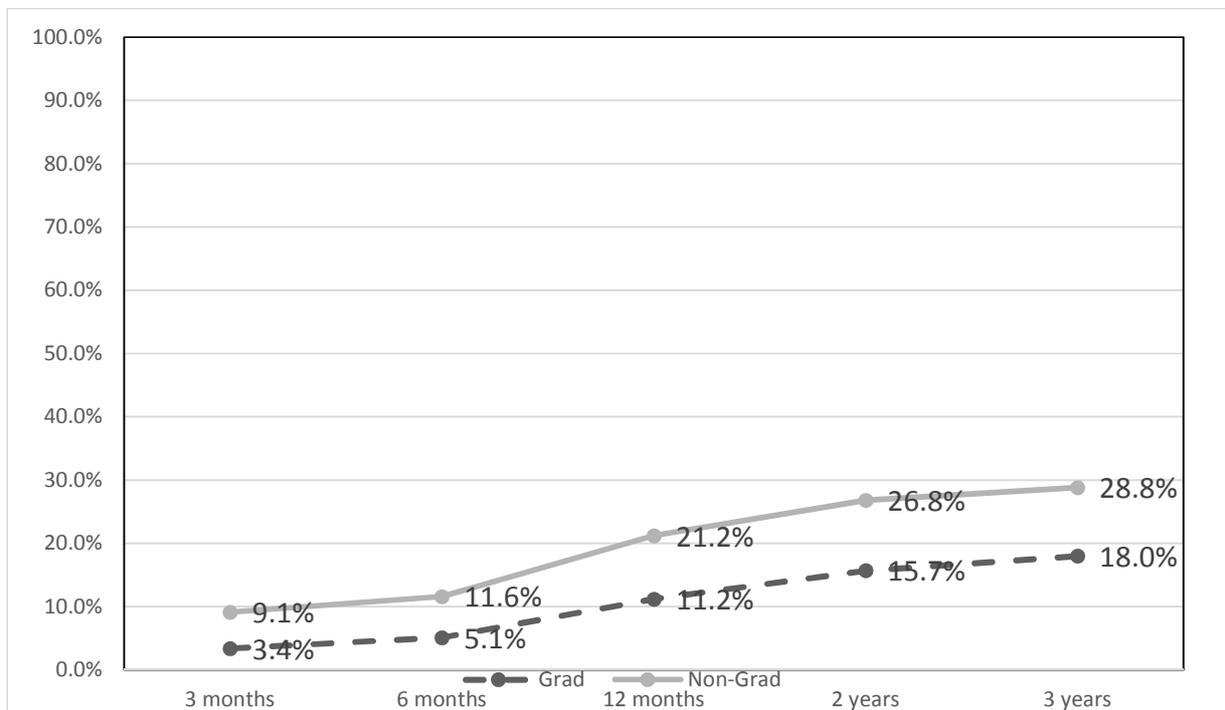
<sup>37</sup>  $X^2=4.077$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p.043$ .

<sup>38</sup>  $X^2=6.063$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p.014$ .

**Figure 5. Recidivism rate for high school graduates vs. non-graduates (convictions)**



**Figure 6. Recidivism rate for high school graduates vs. non-graduates (commitments)**



*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.

Youth departing residential programs had slightly lower rates of rearrest/court filings within three years (76.6%) than youth departing secure settings (77.3%).<sup>39</sup> Moreover, youth who departed secure settings recidivated 34 days sooner than youth departing residential settings (278 vs. 312 days).<sup>40</sup> The average number of days until arrest for those six kids departing day programs was 470 days. Similarly, youth who spent a majority (51% or more) of their time in custody in secure care recidivated sooner than youth who spent a majority of their time in residential programs (290 vs. 311 days).<sup>41</sup>

## CONCLUSION

This report is the eighth 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 2014. In addition to measuring overall recidivism levels, this report describes adult and juvenile cohort characteristics and analyzes those factors associated with recidivism. Both supervised (SPB) and unsupervised (DOC) releases were examined in the analyses.

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 (CJCA). 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 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.

For adult offenders in 2014, the State of New Jersey had a lower rate from 2013 for rearrest, and maintained similar rates of reconvictions and reincarceration post-release. Approximately 70% of adult inmates released in 2014 did not return to prison within the three-year follow-up period. Overall, these rates are better than national estimates. A 2014 Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) report analyzing recidivism rates in 30 states found that after a three-year period, 67.8% of inmates were rearrested and 45.2% were reconvicted. Further, 49.7% of

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<sup>39</sup>  $X^2=0.023$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.879$ .

<sup>40</sup>  $F=1.942$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p=.145$ .

<sup>41</sup>  $F=0.501$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=.480$ .

inmates experienced a return to prison.<sup>42</sup> A more recent report exploring recidivism within nine years of release also concluded that 68% of releases were rearrested within a three-year time frame.<sup>43</sup> The recidivism outcomes presented in this report again place New Jersey well below the estimates for the 30 states included in both 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 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>44</sup> The results of the present analyses 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 highlight the continued difficulty many inmates face upon re-entry, particularly within 12 months. Nearly 53% 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>45</sup> but are concerning nonetheless. The DOC is firmly committed to providing inmates in its custody with programming and resources that will place them in a better position to succeed at the completion of their sentences. The Department aims to not only protect the public by operating safe, secure and humane correctional facilities, but also providing proper classification, appropriate treatment of inmates and offering 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 inmates with the same treatment opportunities available in the community. Licensed drug treatment programs are now available at eight Residential Community Release Program 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 inmates 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 inmates 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

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<sup>42</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>43</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>44</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>

<sup>45</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.

provided in such areas as family reunification and linkage to housing as well as other important resources.

In this regard, the results of the present analyses support the missions of the DOC. RCRP participation is related to decreased rates of recidivism post-release. RCRP work release participation is related to increased rates of employment in the short-term (i.e., within 12 months of release). Inmates who participate in drug programming have lower rates of recidivism after release and participation in vocational education is related to decreased counts of rearrests, reconvictions, and reincarcerations. Vocational education participation is related to higher employment rates within 3 years following release. Finally, TABE scores significantly improve between the first and last tests for those who are included in mandatory education coursework. The DOC will continue to examine these data to ensure that the Department is making a positive difference in the lives of inmates as they prepare for reentry, resulting in improved public safety in communities throughout New Jersey and beyond.

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, 76.9% of the youth released had a court filing/arrest, 58.9% had a new offense leading to an adjudication/conviction, and 23.9% 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 four-year period (2011-2014) indicates recidivism rates have decreased for all three measures. New court filings/arrests have decreased by 5.6 percentage points, new adjudications/convictions have decreased by 4.9 percentage points, and new commitments have decreased by 5.3 percentage points. It is important to note that when examined by secure environment versus residential stays, youth participating in residential programs were generally more successful following release to the community.

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.

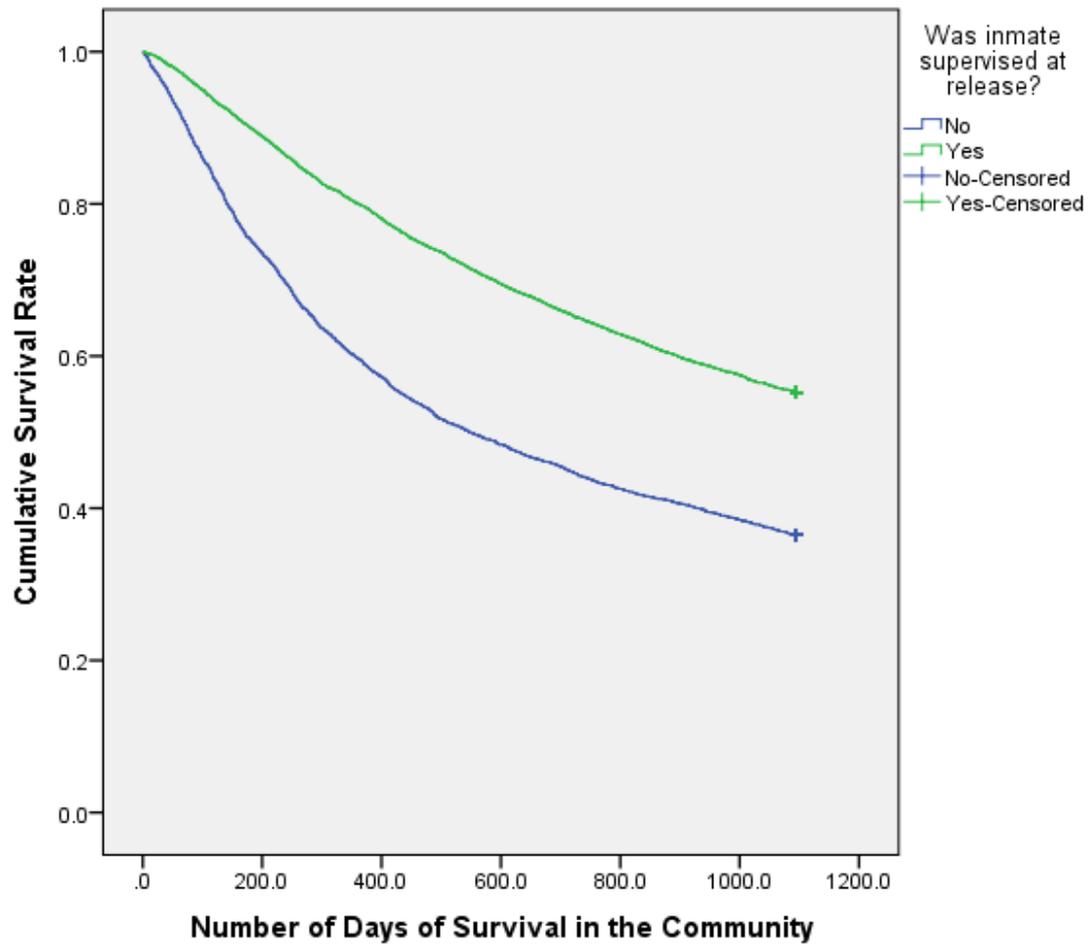
The extent of identified personal, family and community/neighborhood risk factors faced by youth placed with the JJC underscore the challenges to achieving sustained, successful reintegration back to the community. The JJC continues to work to strengthen communities and families.

It is important to note that all juveniles leaving JJC custody 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 solely on the 377 individuals released from the JJC's care in 2014, the JJC serves a total population of more than 15,000 annually including youth served

through its Office of Local Programs and Services, and its secure and residential programs. 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 and 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.

## Appendix A

### Kaplan-Meier Survival Curves for Days of Survival in Community Before a Rearrest Event



## Appendix B

### Logistic Regression Analysis Predicting Adult Rearrest

Predictor Variable	B	ExpB	Significance
<b>Gender (Reference: Female)</b>	.372	1.5	.000
<b>Prior Conviction History</b>	.137	1.1	.000
<b>Prior Incarceration History</b>	.136	1.1	.000
<b>Release Age</b>	-.071	0.9	.000
<b>Admission Offense (Reference: Violent)</b>			.000
Weapons Offense	.380	1.5	.000
Property Offense	.629	1.9	.000
Drug Offense	.394	1.5	.000
Other Offense	.403	1.5	.000
Community Supervision Violation	.790	2.2	.000
<b>Race (Reference: White)</b>			.000
Black	.184	1.2	.001
Hispanic	-.273	.76	.001
Other	-.840	.43	.015
<b>Release Status (Reference: No Supervision)</b>	-.517	.60	.000
<b>Time Served: (Reference: Up to 1 Year)</b>			.042
1-2 Years	.006	1.0	.928
2+ Years	-.140	.87	.034
<b>Disciplinary Allegations</b>	.031	1.0	.000
<b>Education Level (Reference: Some schooling, not a HS graduate)</b>			.055
HS graduate/HSE	-.073	.93	.190
College graduate and above	-.221	.80	.017
<b>Completed RCRP (Reference: No)</b>	-.132	.88	.027