



State of New Jersey
Department of Corrections
State Parole Board
Juvenile Justice Commission
RELEASE OUTCOME 2012
A THREE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DATA UPDATE

New data elements have been added to the Outcome Report 2012 as a result of improved data collection through the Data Mart. The new data elements include the number of disciplinary allegations inmates had during their current sentence, as well as an indicator of an inmates' placement and completion in a halfway house. Additionally, clearer information for counting the manner by which inmates returned to prison was updated with the community supervision variable. This allowed for a better understanding of whether inmates were committing new offenses and returning to prison, or whether they were returned for supervision violations.

OVERALL ADULT FINDINGS

- In 2012, the State of New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC) maintained the same adult recidivism rates from 2011 for rearrest post-release (i.e., 53%), reconviction post-release (40.1%) and reincarceration post-release (31.3%).
- Almost 69% of adult inmates released in 2012 did not return to prison within the three-year follow-up period of analysis utilized in this report.
- Similar with previous years, offenders released to supervision had higher rates of reincarceration, while unsupervised offenders (i.e., max-outs) had higher rates of rearrest and reconviction.
- Males were more likely to be rearrested than females.
- Younger offenders were more likely to be rearrested than older offenders.
- Released inmates with prior arrests, convictions, and reincarcerations maintained substantially higher odds of rearrest, as did those with a higher number of prison discipline allegations.
- Released inmates with a violent index incarceration offense were rearrested the least, while those serving time on a previous community supervision violation were rearrested the most.
- Released inmates (regardless of release type) who served shorter sentences were more likely to be rearrested.

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS OF 2012 RELEASE COHORT

- The adult cohort was composed of 9,934 released inmates: 5,597 supervised releases (56.3%) and 4,337 (43.7%) unsupervised offenders.
- The racial composition of the cohort consisted of black (57.5%), white (27.1%) and Hispanic (14.7%). Only 0.7% of inmates were of "other" race/ethnicity.
- Male releases made up 93.5% of the released cohort while female releases represented 6.5%.
- The mean time served for the adult cohort was 804 days.
- For the index incarceration offense, a drug offense (27.1%) was the most common for adult inmates followed by a violent offense (23%).
- Just over 45% of the adult sample had no prior DOC admission while 21.1% had one prior admission, 24.2% had 2-3 previous admissions, and the remaining 9.5% had 4+ prior DOC admissions.

TOTAL ADULT COHORT RECIDIVISM CHARACTERISTICS

- 53.3% of the cohort was rearrested, representing a similar rate to that of the 2011 cohort. The number of arrests for each released individual ranged from 0-20 rearrests throughout the three-year follow-up period.
- 40.1% of the cohort was reconvicted, which is similar to the 2011 cohort. The number of reconvictions ranged from 0-10 throughout the three-year follow-up period.
- 31.3% of the cohort was reincarcerated during the three-year follow-up period, which is similar to the 2011 cohort. The number of reincarcerations ranged from 0-4 throughout the 36 months follow-up. This number is consistent with the recent praise New Jersey has received from the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law for its prison population reduction.
- For those inmates who were rearrested, the average time between release and rearrest was 396.2 days.
- For those offenders on supervised release who received a technical parole violation in the follow-up period, the average time between release and the date of the parole violation was 294.7 days.

ADULT RELEASE COHORT RECIDIVISM DIFFERENCES

- Compared to supervised releases (46.6% rearrest, 32.2% reconviction), unsupervised releases (62.1% rearrest, 50.3% reconviction) had higher rates of rearrest and reconviction. Supervised offenders had a higher rate of reincarceration (39.3%) compared to unsupervised offenders (21.1%). The results of comparative analyses between supervised and unsupervised offenders may be easily misinterpreted as implying that supervised releases return to prison at higher rates. However, 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.
- A proportionally larger amount of the unsupervised group of released inmates were rearrested within the first year (64.1%) compared to the supervised releases (44.7%).
- Of the full sample who were rearrested during the three-year follow-up period, approximately 55% were rearrested within the first 12-months post-release. This highlights the rapid rate at which recidivism occurs after release.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH ADULT OFFENDER REARREST

- 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.
- Prior arrest history was significantly related to the likelihood of a rearrest. For every additional arrest an offender had on record before the index offense, the odds of rearrest post-release were increased by a factor of 1.1. Offenders with one prior arrest were rearrested 37.8% of the time; if an inmate had two prior arrests, they were arrested 49.2% of the time. Additionally, those with three prior arrests were rearrested at a rate of 51.2% and inmates with four or more prior arrests were rearrested at a rate of 61.3%.

- 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 1.0. As with prior arrest history, this pattern shows an expected ratio of one prior conviction to each subsequent rearrest. The average number of prior convictions for the full sample of offenders was 4.5, indicating the sample of releases had extensive criminal histories. The bivariate results indicated that 47.1% of those with one prior conviction on record were rearrested, 54.8% of those with two prior convictions were rearrested, 55.5% of those with three prior convictions were rearrested, and 63.9% of those with four or more prior convictions were rearrested.
- Prior history of DOC admissions was significantly related to the likelihood of rearrest. For every additional prior state incarceration, the odds of rearrest were increased by a factor of 1.2. The average number of prior DOC admissions for the full sample was 1.2. Twenty one percent of the full sample of released offenders had a minimum of one prior state incarceration and an additional 33.7% had two or more prior state incarceration terms, totaling 54.7% of the sample of inmates. Highlighting the importance of this variable, the results indicate that 57.2% of those with one prior state prison term were rearrested, 61.5% of those with two prior terms, 64.9% of those with three prior terms and 75% of those with four or more prior incarcerations were rearrested.
- Younger offenders were more likely to be rearrested than older offenders; the differences across age were statistically significant. Multivariate statistics indicated that age was inversely related to the odds of rearrest. For every one year age increase, the odds of a new arrest decreased by nearly a factor of one.
- Released inmates with an index incarceration offense of property, weapon, drug, community supervision violation, or “other” crime had an increased probability of a new arrest when compared to violent offenders, with offenders with a community supervision violation as the index offense maintaining the highest odds of rearrest.
- Race/ethnicity was significant in bivariate tests of independence and multivariate regression models. Black offenders had higher odds of rearrest when compared to white and Hispanic offenders. Sixty-three percent of rearrested offenders were black.
- Gender was significantly related to the likelihood of rearrest. Released males were more likely to be rearrested than females, in that males had 1.8 times the odds of rearrest than females within the three-year follow-up period.
- The number of discipline allegations against an inmate while in prison was positively and significantly associated with rearrests. For every additional discipline that an inmate had, the odds of rearrest were increased by a factor of 1.1.

OVERALL JUVENILE FINDINGS

- In 2012, the Juvenile Justice Commission recidivism rate for new adjudications/convictions decreased by 3.9 percentage points as compared to 2011. The rate of new court filings decreased by 3.6 percentage points, while the recidivism rate for new juvenile commitments increased by 0.4 percentage points.
- Approximately 67.2% of juvenile offenders did not return to a juvenile or adult State facility within three years of release from custody.

CHARACTERISTICS OF 2012 JUVENILE RELEASE COHORT

- The juvenile cohort was comprised of 500 releases.
- The race of the juvenile cohort was comprised of 70.2% Black, 19.8% Hispanic, 9.0% White, and 1.0% Asian.
- Male juvenile offenders comprised 94.6% of the release cohort and the female cohort comprised 5.4%.
- The average time served for juvenile cohort was 328 days.
- The majority of the juvenile offenders served sentences for persons offenses (42.5%), followed by violations of probation (22.2%), property offenses (11.1%), weapons offenses (9.7%), and drug offenses (9.5%).

JUVENILE COHORT RECIDIVISM CHARACTERISTICS

- 80.4% of the cohort had a new court filing/arrest, which represents a decrease of 3.6 percentage points from the 2011 release cohort.
- 68.0% of the cohort had a new court filing/arrest that resulted in a new adjudication/conviction, a 3.9 percentage point decrease from the 2011 cohort.
- There was a 0.4 percentage point increase from 2011 in the amount of juveniles who had a new court filing or arrest that resulted in a new commitment to a State facility, totaling only 32.8% of the cohort.
- The average time to re-offend for a new court filing/arrest was 288 days.
- The average time to re-offend for a new adjudication/conviction was 306 days.
- The average time to re-offend for a new commitment to a State facility was 342 days.

DIFFERENCES IN RECIDIVISM ACROSS KEY VARIABLES

- Males were more likely to recidivate (80.5% recidivating vs. 77.8% of females).
- Recidivating youth had accumulated a greater number of total adjudications of delinquency than non-recidivists (6.4 vs. 5.9).
- Recidivating youth were reading at a higher grade level equivalent based on a MAP Reading Test than non-recidivists (5.9 grade level vs. 5.7).
- Recidivating youth scored at the same grade level equivalent based on a MAP Math Test than non-recidivists (5.9 grade level vs. 5.9).
- Recidivating youth had a higher composite score on the Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test (indicating level of functional intelligence) than non-recidivists (83.0 vs. 82.0).
- Recidivating youth had a higher score on the JJC's Initial Classification & Custody Document than non-recidivists (12.9 vs. 11.6).
- Recidivating youth were found to have slightly higher levels of substance abuse need than non-recidivists, based on the JJC's Comprehensive Information Assessment (CIA) (4.3 vs. 4.1).
- With regard to multiple needs, recidivating youth were found to have the same number of staff assessed areas of need than non-recidivists, based on the JJC's CIA (4.6 vs. 4.6).
- Youth receiving special education and/or related services ("classified youth") were more likely to recidivate than other youth (80.9% vs. 79.5%).
- White youth were more likely to recidivate than youth of color (82.2% vs. 80.2%).

- Youth residing in the 15 most densely populated cities were more likely to recidivate compared with other youth (81.0% vs. 79.9%).
- Juveniles committed/admitted on property charges (as their most serious offense) were most likely to recidivate (85.7%), followed by 84.0% for public order, 81.6% for persons, 81.3% for weapons, 76.8% for Violation of Probation, and 74.5% for drug offenses.
- Juveniles committed/admitted on Violation of Probation offenses (as their most serious offense) were most likely to recidivate (95.8%), followed by 93.1% for 4th degree offenses, 82.9% for 1st degree offenses, 82.3% for 3rd degree offenses, 77.8% for disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses (DP/PDP), and 76.3% for 2nd degree offenses.

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 the sixth in a series of reports that measures overall recidivism levels, describes adult and juvenile cohort characteristics, and analyzes recidivism factors.

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. 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 inmates who transition from behinds bars to law abiding citizens and back to their families. Law enforcement agencies such as the DOC, SPB, and JJC continue to prepare inmates 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 all offenders released in 2012 are analyzed. They are divided into three groupings: unsupervised adult releases (i.e., max outs) from the DOC; adult offenders supervised with the New Jersey State Parole Board; 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. Although the DOC typically 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.

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 2017 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 21,000 offenders. The NJDOC 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 NJDOC'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 (e.g., Thinking for a Change [T4C], Successful Transition and Reentry Series [STARS], Cage Your Rage [CYR]), Intensive Supervision Program and ombudsman services, which is one of many options available to offenders to seek redress for problems and complaints.

Additionally, the NJDOC, 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 384 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, transitional programs and day 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 assessments measure progress and direct 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 juvenile 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 each 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

This report examines subsequent criminal activity of adult offenders released from the completion of a maximum sentence with the DOC (n=4,337) or released to supervision by the SPB or the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Intensive Supervision Program (n=5,597) in 2012; this resulted in the review of criminal activity for a total sample of 9,934 adults. This study also examines the release of juveniles (n=500) from the Juvenile Justice Commission in 2012. The subjects were 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 NJDOC provides data on all three levels of criminal activity (i.e., rearrest, reconviction, 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. 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, original index incarceration offense, gender, race/ethnicity, marital status, whether the offender completed a halfway house, disciplinary allegations while incarcerated, education level, and prior criminal history.¹ The SBI number was used to electronically retrieve arrest, conviction and incarceration information for criminal events that occurred within New Jersey both prior and subsequent to their 2012 release. This has allowed researchers to track the number of rearrests, reconstructions, and reincarcerations over the three-year follow-up.

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 2012. For each of the releases initially identified, an additional search was conducted with the assistance of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Department of Law & Public Safety's (DL&PS) Division of Criminal Justice. The AOC (Family Division Statistics) provided recidivism-related data from its Family Automated Case Tracking System database, while the DL&PS, Division of Criminal Justice provided recidivism-related data from the State Police Criminal Case History database.

Note that the average age at release for youth in the study was 18.1. 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

New Jersey Department of Corrections

During calendar year 2012, 9,934 inmates were released from DOC custody. Of the final sample, 5,597 offenders (56.3%) were released as supervised (e.g., under parole, probation, or Intensive Supervision Program supervision) and 4,337 inmates (43.7%) were released as unsupervised (i.e., max-outs). As can be seen in Table 1, of the total sample, 93.5% of inmates were male and 6.5% were female. The racial/ethnic characteristics of the full sample detail that the majority of released inmates were black (57.5%), followed by white (27.1%) and Hispanic (14.7%). An overwhelming majority of inmates self-reported their marital status as "single" (83.4%). More than 50% of inmates were high school graduates or had a High School Equivalency (HSE) degree (58.7%). The average number of arrests on record for inmates, non-inclusive of the offense for which they were released in 2012, was 7.6;² the prior number of arrests on record ranged from 0 to 76. The average number of convictions on record for inmates, non-inclusive of the offense for which they were released in 2012, was lower than arrests at 4.5,³ and prior convictions ranged from 0 to 55.

Incarceration history was also explored in this report. The average number of prior DOC admissions on record, again non-inclusive of the offense for which they were released in 2012, was 1.2,⁴ and the prior number of DOC incarcerations ranged from 0 to 9. Additionally, 45.3% of the total sample did not have a prior correctional history, but the remaining 54.7% had a minimum of one additional State incarceration. A closer examination reveals that approximately 58% of the unsupervised sample had no prior DOC incarceration, compared with 28.5% of the supervised sample; this difference represented a statistically significant difference.⁵ The index incarceration offense can be deemed the most serious offense for which the inmate was currently serving time. In this cohort, a drug offense was the largest category of offense for which an inmate was incarcerated in a DOC facility, totaling 27.1%, followed by violent offenses (23%). The average

age of release for inmates was 34.9 years of age,⁶ and unsupervised inmates tended to be approximately two years older than supervised inmates at release.⁷ The average amount of time served for the entire sample was 804 days; unsupervised inmates served significantly less time than supervised inmates.⁸ Finally, 31.8% of the 2012 release cohort attended a halfway house prior to release from prison. Specifically, nearly 34% of supervised releases attended a halfway house while 30% of unsupervised releases attended a halfway house.⁹ Of those inmates who were admitted to a halfway house, 70.9% successfully completed; specifically, 78.5% of supervised offenders completed and 59.4% of unsupervised offenders completed.¹⁰

Table 1. 2012 Release Cohort Characteristics

Variable	Supervised Counts (%) n=5597	Unsupervised Counts (%) n=4337	Total Counts (%) N=9934
Gender***			
Male	5171 (92.4)	4116 (94.9)	9287 (93.5)
Female	426 (7.6)	221 (5.1)	647 (6.5)
Race/Ethnicity***			
White	1606 (28.8)	1075 (24.9)	2681 (27.1)
Black	3052 (54.2)	2668 (61.8)	5693 (57.5)
Hispanic	898 (16.1)	557 (12.9)	1455 (14.7)
Other	54 (1.0)	19 (0.4)	73 (0.7)
Marital Status**			
Single	3694 (82.3)	3121 (84.7)	6815 (83.4)
Married	401 (8.9)	234 (6.3)	635 (7.8)
Divorced	236 (5.3)	184 (5.0)	420 (5.1)
Separated	133 (3.0)	122 (3.3)	255 (3.1)
Widowed	25 (0.6)	25 (0.7)	50 (0.6)
Education Level*			
Some schooling, not a HS graduate	1498 (28.8)	1255 (32.0)	2753 (30.2)
HS graduate/HSE	3095 (59.5)	2260 (57.7)	5355 (58.7)
Some college, not a graduate	427 (8.2)	307 (7.8)	734 (8.0)
Associate's Degree	61 (1.2)	33 (0.8)	94 (1.0)
Bachelor's Degree	65 (1.3)	40 (1.0)	105 (1.2)
Post-graduate	19 (0.4)	9 (0.2)	28 (0.3)
Certificate	34 (0.7)	16 (0.4)	50 (0.5)
Mean Prior Arrests (sd)***	6.5 (6.6)	9.1 (8.2)	7.6 (7.4)
Mean Prior Convictions (sd)***	3.7 (4.0)	5.4 (5.3)	4.5 (4.7)
Mean Prior DOC admissions (sd)***	0.9 (1.3)	1.7 (1.6)	1.2 (1.5)
Prior DOC History***			
No prior admissions	1238 (28.5)	3266 (58.4)	4504 (45.3)
1 prior admission	1123 (25.9)	971 (17.3)	2094 (21.1)
2 prior admissions	792 (18.3)	674 (12.0)	1466 (14.8)
3 prior admissions	552 (12.7)	377 (6.7)	929 (9.4)
4+ prior admissions	632 (14.6)	309 (5.5)	941 (9.5)
Index Incarceration Offense ***			
Violent	1629 (29.1)	650 (15.0)	2279 (23.0)
Weapons	361 (6.5)	466 (10.8)	827 (8.3)
Property	959 (17.2)	673 (15.6)	1632 (16.5)
Drugs	1834 (32.8)	855 (19.8)	2689 (27.1)
Community Supervision Violation	459 (8.2)	1477 (34.2)	1936 (19.5)
Other	347 (6.2)	204 (4.7)	551 (5.6)
Mean Release Age (sd)***	34.1 (10.2)	36.0 (10.3)	34.9 (10.3)
Mean Time Served – Days (sd)**	824.2 (960.9)	777.9 (1032.9)	804 (993.2)
Attended Halfway House***	1882 (33.6)	1275 (29.5)	3157 (31.8)
Completed Halfway House***	1479 (78.5)	758 (59.4)	2237 (70.9)

Notes: * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$

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 halfway house variable only includes those offenders who attended a halfway house.

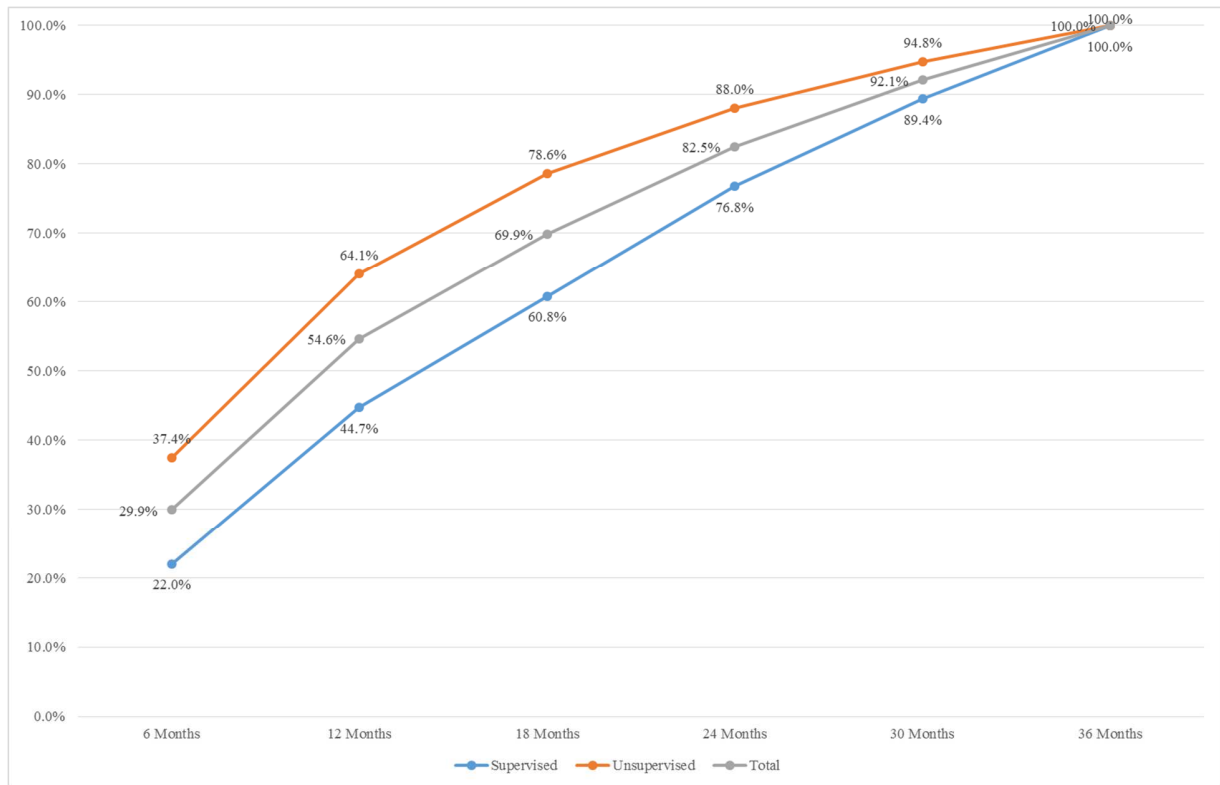
Table 2. 2012 Release Cohort Recidivism

Variable	Supervised Counts (%) n=5597	Unsupervised Counts (%) n=4337	Total Counts (%) N=9934
Rearrest***			
Yes	2607 (46.6)	2692 (62.1)	5299 (53.3)
No	2990 (53.4)	1645 (37.9)	4635 (46.7)
Reconviction ***			
Yes	1801 (32.2)	2181 (50.3)	3982 (40.1)
No	3796 (67.8)	2156 (49.7)	5952 (59.9)
Reincarceration***			
Yes	2199 (39.3)	915 (21.1)	3114 (31.3)
No	3398 (60.7)	3422 (78.9)	6820 (68.7)
Time to Rearrest***			
6 months	574 (22.0)	1008 (37.4)	1582 (29.9)
12 months	593 (22.7)	718 (26.7)	1311 (24.7)
18 months	420 (16.1)	389 (14.5)	809 (15.3)
24 months	416 (16.0)	254 (9.4)	670 (12.6)
30 months	328 (12.6)	182 (6.8)	510 (9.6)
36 months	276 (10.6)	141 (5.2)	417 (7.9)
Mean Time to Rearrest -- Days (sd)***	462.1 (298.7)	332.0 (270.8)	396.2 (292.2)
Mean Time to Parole Violation – Days (sd)	294.7 (262.6)	-	-

Note: *** $p < .001$

As displayed in Table 2, 53.3% of the overall sample was rearrested, 40.1% was reconvicted and 31.3% was reincarcerated in a DOC facility. Of the 5,597 supervised releases, 2,607 (46.6%) were rearrested and 2,990 (53.4%) were not; of the 4,337 unsupervised releases, 2,692 (62.1%) were rearrested and 1,645 (37.9%) were not. This pattern is repeated for reconvictions, as 50.3% of the unsupervised releases were reconvicted compared with 32.2% of the supervised offenders. Conversely, 39.3% of the supervised releases were returned to prison, while 21.1% of the unsupervised releases returned to prison. All of these differences meet statistical significance,¹¹ in that more of the unsupervised offenders at release were rearrested and reconvicted and more supervised offenders at release were returned to prison. It should be noted that these differences 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.

Figure 1. Cumulative Rearrest Percentages by Monthly Interval



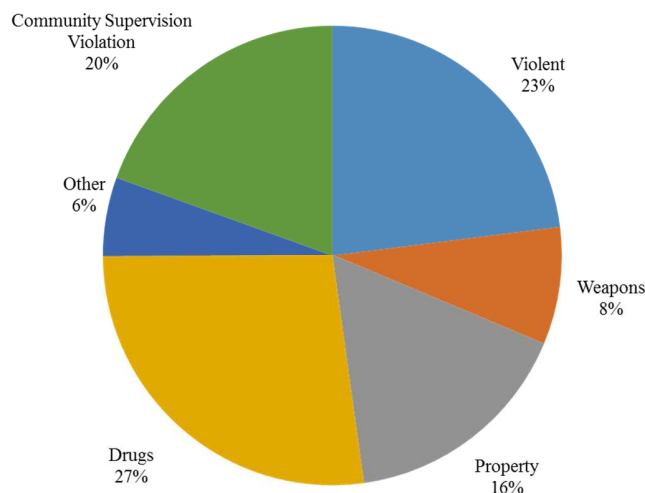
Examining the rearrested groups (Figure 1 and Table 2) further reveals that 1,008 (37.4%) of the unsupervised group were rearrested within the first six months, and 1,726 (64.1%) were rearrested within 12-months post-2012 release. In contrast, at 6-months post-2012 release, 574 (22.0%) of the supervised sample was rearrested, and within 12-months post-2012 release, 1,167 (44.7%) were rearrested. These differences were statistically significant,¹² as proportionally more of the unsupervised sample was rearrested within the first year, particularly the first six months post-release. As demonstrated in Table 2, releases, on average, were rearrested 396.2 days¹³ after release; supervised releases were rearrested later than unsupervised releases (462.1 days¹⁴ vs. 332.0 days¹⁵), and this represented a statistically significant difference. As illustrated in Appendix A, supervised and unsupervised releases have divergent paths after prison. The average length of time in the community for supervised inmates with a technical parole violation on record post-release was 294.7 days.¹⁶

Table 3. Six-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%

Table 3 displays the recidivism percentages for rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration for the 2012 release cohort, as well as the recidivism percentages for the previous five release cohorts. The 2012 release cohort experienced no change in the rates of rearrest, reconviction or reincarceration from the prior 2011 cohort.

Figure 2. Index Incarceration Offense for 2012 Release Cohort



Graphically displayed in Figure 2 above is the overall sample’s index incarceration offense on record; that is, the offense for which they were serving time and were released for in 2012. Based on the New Jersey Criminal Code, offenses were independently identified as belonging to one of six categories including violent, weapons, property, drug, and other offenses. The “other” category is a general category for offenses not captured by the other four main crime types and may include administrative offenses and public order offenses, among others. 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 27% of the 2012 released sample’s index

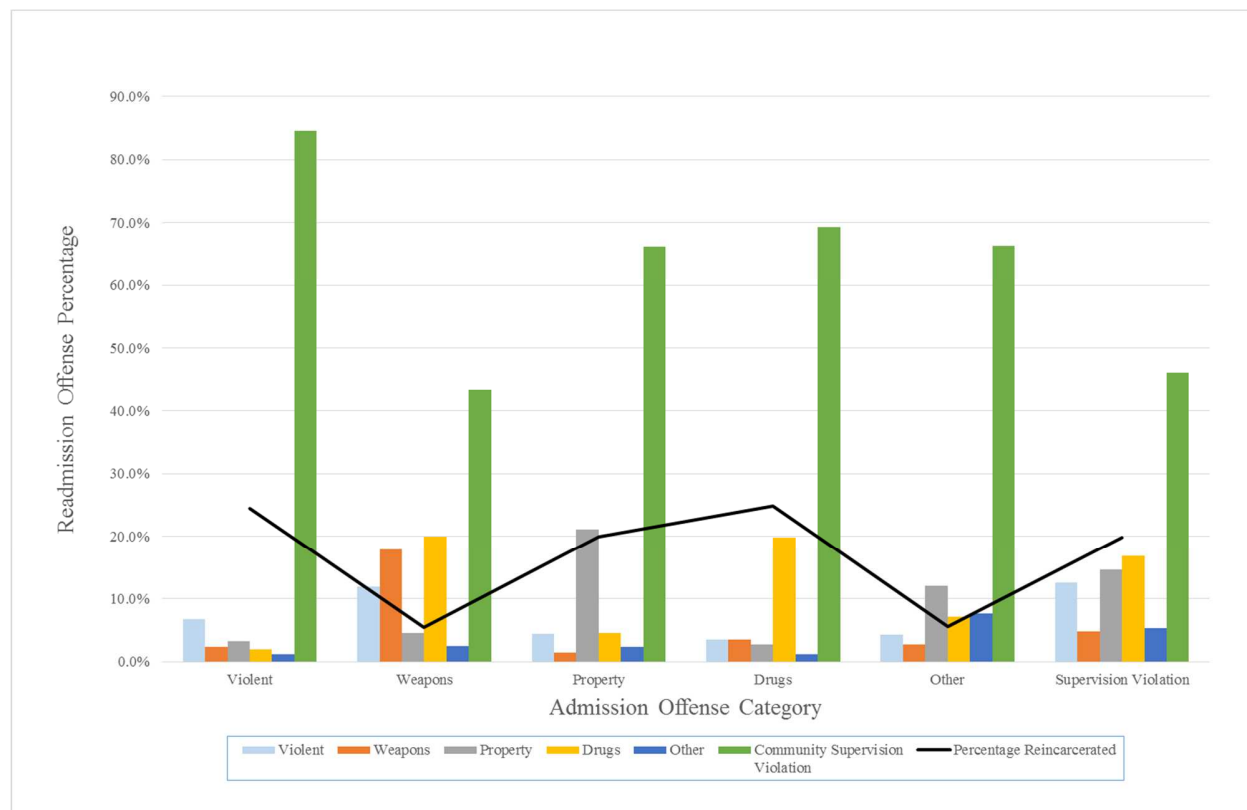
offense on record was a drug offense. This is followed closely by violent offenses (23%) and community supervision violations (20%).

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

Original Booking Offense	n	Percent of Supervision Violators
Violent	664	34.3
Weapons	66	3.4
Property	307	15.9
Drugs	645	33.3
Other	254	13.1
Total	1936	100

Table 4 breaks down the original booking offenses for the 20% of community supervision violators in the pie chart above. As can be seen in this table, the majority of supervision violators originally served sentences for violent and drug offenses (34.3% and 33.3% respectively, totaling 67.6%). Property offenses comprised 15.9% of the sample, while ‘other’ offenses comprised 13.1%. Only a small portion of the original booking offenses for supervision violators were weapon offenses (3.4%).

Figure 3. Reincarceration Rates and Readmission Offenses Grouped by Admission Offense
for 2012 Release Cohort



Readmission rates, as grouped by admission offense, can be viewed in Figure 3. 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 24.4% and released inmates with an index drug offense were reincarcerated at a rate of 24.8%. Released inmates initially serving time for a property offense or community supervision violation were next most likely to return to DOC custody, at rates of 19.9% and 19.8%, respectively. Finally, of those inmates who returned to prison within 36 months, 5.5% initially served time for a weapons offense and 5.6% initially served time for an “other” offense. These differences were found to be statistically significant.¹⁷

The types of readmission offenses, as grouped by the original index incarceration offense, are also presented in Figure 3. 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 and drug offenders. The only exceptions to this rule were weapons offenders (who tended to be readmitted for drug offenses) and “other” offenders (who tended to be readmitted for property offenses). These results were statistically significant.¹⁸

Factors Associated with Rearrest

This outcome study examined differences between those who were and those who 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 to create the most robust of 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 2012, ten factors, out of the thirteen entered into the model, were associated with rearrest within three years. As can be seen in Table 4, these factors included age at release, the number of prior arrests, the number of prior convictions, the number of prior DOC admissions, the number of disciplinary allegations while incarcerated for the current offense, gender, race/ethnicity, release status (supervised vs unsupervised), original admission offense and the amount of time served. Halfway house completion, education level, and marital status were not found to be significant predictors of rearrest. The factors entered in the model explained 23.7% of the variance in the dependent variable of rearrest; furthermore, the model was significant.¹⁹

Gender. Gender was significantly related to the likelihood of rearrest. Specifically, compared to females, males had 1.8 times the odds of rearrest within the three-year follow-up period.²⁰

Race/Ethnicity. The variable of race/ethnicity was significant in bivariate tests of independence and multivariate regression models. Proportionally, black offenders were rearrested more, compared to white and Hispanic offenders.²¹ As could be seen earlier in Table 1, 57.5% of the

sample was comprised of black offenders, and 63% of offenders who were rearrested were black. Multivariate statistics indicated that race/ethnicity was predictive of rearrest, particularly, compared to white offenders, black offenders had increased odds of a rearrest of 1.1. However, when compared to white offenders, Hispanics had decreased odds of a rearrest (.72).

Prior Arrest History. Prior arrest history was significantly related to the likelihood of a rearrest. For every additional prior arrest an inmate had, the odds of rearrest were increased by a factor of 1.1. This shows an expected ratio of one prior arrest to each rearrest. The average number of prior arrests for the full sample of offenders was 7.6,²² indicating the sample of releases had extensive criminal histories. The bivariate results indicated that 37.8% of those with one prior arrest on record were rearrested, 49.2% of those with two prior arrests were rearrested, 51.2% of those with three prior arrests were rearrested, and 61.3% of those with four or more prior arrests were rearrested.²³

Prior Conviction History. 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 1.0. As with prior arrest history, this pattern shows an expected ratio of one prior conviction to each subsequent rearrest. The average number of prior convictions for the full sample of offenders was 4.5,²⁴ indicating the sample of releases had extensive criminal histories. The bivariate results indicated that 47.1% of those with one prior conviction on record were rearrested, 54.8% of those with two prior convictions were rearrested, 55.5% of those with three prior convictions were rearrested, and 63.9% of those with four or more prior convictions were rearrested.²⁵

Prior Correctional History/DOC Admissions. 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 1.2. The average number of prior admissions for the full sample of offenders was 1.2.²⁶ Twenty one percent of the full sample of released offenders had a minimum of one prior state incarceration and an additional 33.7% had two or more prior state incarceration terms, totaling 54.7% of the sample of inmates. Highlighting the importance of this variable as an indicator of continued offending, the results demonstrate that 57.2% of those with one prior state prison term were rearrested, 61.5% of those with two prior terms were rearrested, 64.9% of those with three prior terms were rearrested, and 75.0% of those with four or more prior incarcerations were rearrested.²⁷

Age at release. Younger offenders were more likely to be rearrested than older offenders; the differences across age were statistically significant. Offenders who were rearrested were younger than those who were not rearrested (33.4 years²⁸ vs. 36.6 years^{29,30}). Multivariate statistics indicated that age was inversely related to the odds of rearrest; for every one year increase in age, the offender's odds of a new arrest decreased by a factor of almost one (0.93).

Index Incarceration Offense on Record. The index incarceration offense was significant in bivariate tests of independence and multivariate regression models predicting a new arrest. Offenders who committed property, community supervision offenses, weapon, drug and "other" crimes had an increased probability of a new arrest when compared to violent offenders, with community supervision violations maintaining the highest odds of rearrest (1.7). Specifically,

offenders who committed community supervision violations (65.4% rearrest), property (58.3% rearrest), weapon (58.0% rearrest), “other” (54.6% rearrest) and drug (52.7% rearrest) offenses were rearrested proportionally more than offenders who committed a violent offense (38.4% rearrest).³¹

Release Status. The offender’s release type (supervised vs. unsupervised) was a significant predictor of whether the offender was rearrested, with unsupervised releases maintaining statistically higher odds of rearrest.

Disciplinary Allegations. The number of discipline allegations against an inmate while in prison was positively and significantly associated with rearrests. For every additional discipline that an inmate had, the odds of rearrest were increased by a factor of 1.1.

*Time Served.*³² Time served was significantly associated with rearrest patterns. Compared to those who served sentences over two years, inmates who served sentences under one year and from one to two years had increased odds of rearrest (1.2 for both).

Juvenile Justice Commission

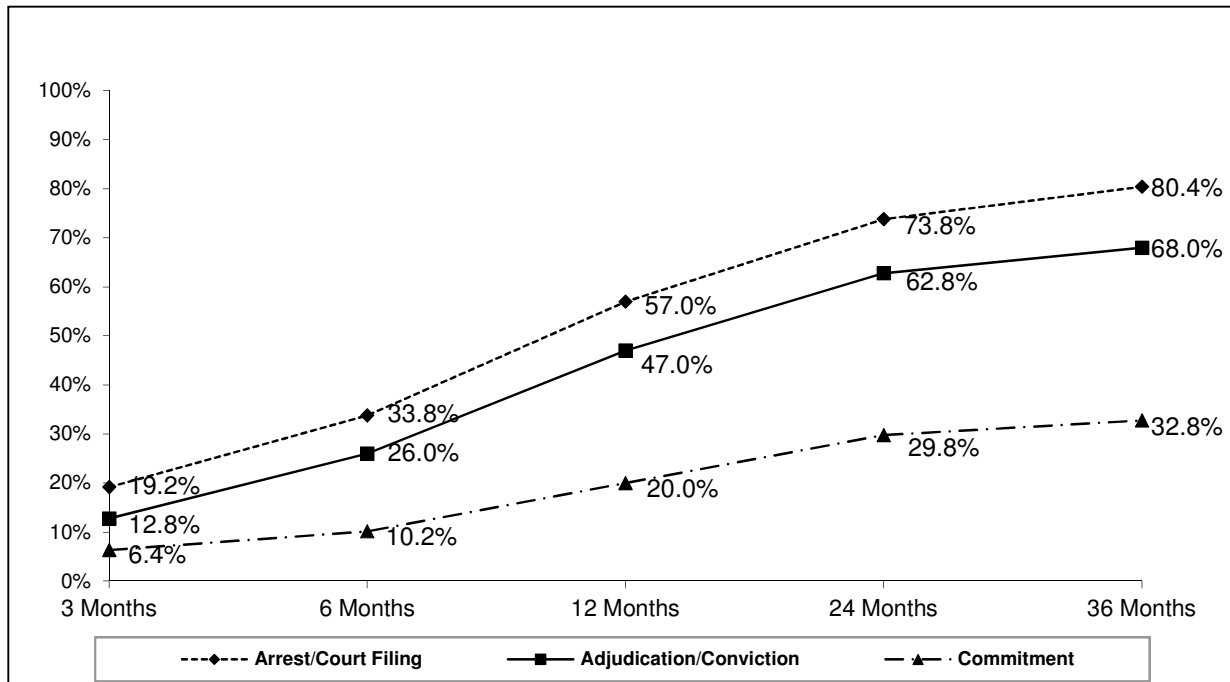
The reporting of results begins with a focus on an examination of the overall recidivism rates for youth released from JJC custody in 2012. As shown in Figure 4, the rate of recidivism increased over time through the three-year period for each of the three measures, although there is a noticeable tapering off beyond 24 months. By one year following release, 57.0% of the youth released in 2012 had a new court filing/arrest. In addition, less than one-half (47.0%) committed a new offense resulting in an adjudication/conviction, while 20.0% re-offended resulting in a new commitment to a State facility. At two years following release, recidivism rates had increased considerably: more than three-quarters (73.8%) had a new court filing/arrest, 62.8% had a new adjudication/conviction, and 29.8% had a new commitment to a State facility.

By three years after release more than eight in ten youth had new court filings/arrests (80.4%), 68.0% had new adjudications/convictions, and 32.8% had new commitments, representing 164 of the 500 youth.

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

- for those with a new court filing/arrest, 288 days;
- for those with a new adjudication/conviction, 306 days; and
- for those with a new commitment, 342 days.

Figure 4. Overall Recidivism Rates for Youth Released from JJC Custody in 2012



In other words, it took approximately nine months for youth with new court filings/arrests to re-offend, and almost ten months for those with new adjudications/convictions to re-offend. Further, those with a new commitment took more than eleven months to re-offend.

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. As indicated in the table below, new court filings/arrests have varied slightly over time, with a 3.6 percentage point decrease from 2011 to 2012. New adjudications/convictions have also decreased 3.9 percentage points, resulting in a lower recidivism date for the past year. Most importantly, the data demonstrates that over time there has been a decrease in the percentage of juvenile offenders recidivating and returning to the system with a new commitment. While youth returned to State custody for a new offense remained relatively flat from 2011 to 2012 (up by 0.4 percentage points) as compared to 2010, this measure of recidivism has decreased by 4.1 percentage points. This positive change means that of the youth in the 2012 cohort, 67.2% were able to be maintained in the community.

Table 5. Recent Trend in Juvenile Recidivism, 2009 to 2012

Release Year	Court Filing/Arrest	Adjudication/Conviction	Commitment
2009	84.8%	73.4%	34.7%
2010	86.1%	71.6%	36.9%
2011	84.0%	71.9%	32.4%
2012	80.4%	68.0%	32.8%

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. The table below demonstrates that juveniles remained successful in the community longer in 2012 than in 2011 on all three measures of recidivism.

Table 6. Average Time to Recidivate In Days, 2009 to 2012

Release Year	Court Filings/Arrest	Adjudication/Conviction	Commitment
2009	269	288	342
2010	262	276	327
2011	272	282	304
2012	288	306	342

Differences in Recidivism Across Key Variables

Offender Status. Small to moderate differences were found between committed and probationer youth with regard to their likelihood of recidivating. Probationer youth were more likely to receive a new court filing/arrest within the three-year period (probationer = 84.1%; committed = 78.7%). Probationer youth were also more likely to re-offend and receive an adjudication/conviction (71.3% vs. 66.5%). Finally, probationer youth were more likely to re-offend and receive a new commitment (38.9% vs. 30.0%).

With regard to the time it took to recidivate, committed youth took longer than probationer youth to re-offend for new court filings/arrests (334 days vs. 272 days), new adjudications/convictions (330 days vs. 277 days), and new commitments (347 days vs. 339 days).

Gender. In regards to new court filings/arrests, 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 (80.5% vs. 77.8%), higher for new adjudications/convictions (68.3% vs. 63.0%), and for new commitments (33.0% vs. 29.6%).

Race/Ethnicity. Released White youth were most likely to have had a new court filing/arrest (82.2%), followed by Black youth (80.3%), Asian youth (80.0%), and Hispanic youth (79.8%). Again White youth were most likely to have received a new adjudication/conviction (73.3%), followed by Black youth (67.8%), Hispanic youth (66.7%), and Asian youth (60.0%). Finally, Hispanic youth were more likely to have received a new commitment (35.4%) followed by Black youth (33.0%), and White youth (28.9%). (Asian youth did not recidivate on the commitment measure).

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). Nonminority youth were more likely to have had a new court filing/arrest (82.2% vs. 80.2%); and a new adjudication/conviction (73.3% vs. 67.5%), while minority youth were more likely to have a new commitment (33.2% vs. 28.9%).

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.³³ 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. 79.9%) and new commitments (35.9% vs. 30.1%). For new adjudications/convictions, the rates were the same (68.0%).

Number of Adjudications. The average number of adjudications of delinquency accumulated by youth as of the time of commitment/admission to the JJC (both prior and current adjudications) was 6.3. 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. 5.9). The same was true for new adjudications/convictions (6.4 vs. 6.1), and for new commitments (6.3 vs. 6.2).

Type of Offense. Youth committed/admitted to the JJC for property offenses were most likely to have had a new court filing/arrest within three years (85.7%), followed by those entering with public order offenses (84.0%), persons offenses (81.6%), weapons offenses (81.3%), Violations of Probation (VOPs, 76.8%), and then drug offenses (74.5%). For new adjudications/convictions, the highest rate was for public order offenses (80.0%), followed by property offenses (71.4%), weapons offenses (70.8%), persons offenses (67.5%), drug offenses (66.0%), and finally VOPs (64.3%). Finally, for new commitments, the highest rate was for public order offenses (48.0%), followed by property offenses (42.9%), weapons offenses (39.6%), drug offenses (38.3%), persons offenses (29.2%), and then VOPs (25.9%).

Degree of Offense. Youth committed/admitted to the JJC for VOPs (which have no designated degree) were most likely to have had a new court filing/arrest within three years (95.8%), followed by those entering with 4th degree offenses (93.1%), 1st degree offenses (82.9%), 3rd degree offenses (82.3%), disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses (DP/PDP) (77.8%), and finally, 2nd degree offenses (76.3%). For new adjudications/convictions, the highest rate was for youth with 4th degree offenses (86.2%), followed by VOPs (83.3%), DP/PDP offenses (72.2%), 3rd degree offenses (70.8%), 1st degree offenses (68.3%), and then 2nd degree offenses (61.9%). Finally, for new commitments, youth with 4th degree offenses had the highest recidivism rate (48.3%), followed by DP/PDP offenses (44.4%), VOPs (41.7%), 3rd degree offenses (40.0%), 1st degree offenses (28.0%), and 2nd degree offenses (27.1%).

Reading Proficiency (Grade Level Equivalency). The MAP (Measurement of Academic Progress) Reading Test is a standardized assessment tool used as an indicator of preparedness for NJ high school proficiency exams. It is considered to be one of several available ways to assess academic achievement. The average grade level equivalent for Reading based on the MAP Test was 5.9. For new court filing/arrest, the average grade level for recidivists was higher than non-recidivists

(5.9 vs. 5.7). The same was true for adjudication/conviction (6.1 vs. 5.4), and commitments (6.3 vs. 5.7).

Math Proficiency (Grade Level Equivalency). The MAP (Measurement of Academic Progress) Math Test also serves as an indicator of preparedness, here with regard to the area of Math proficiency. The average grade level equivalent for Math based on the MAP Test was 5.9. Average Math MAP test scores were higher for youth who experienced a new adjudication/conviction within three years of release than for those who did not (6.0 vs. 5.7). The same was true for commitments, with recidivists having higher Math scores than non-recidivists (6.0 vs. 5.8). As for new court filings/arrests, the average grade level for recidivists and non-recidivists was the same (5.9 vs. 5.9).

Education Classification Status (Special Education). For the overall released youth population, 50.7% were classified to special education, while the remaining 49.3% received regular education activities. For new court filings/arrests, 80.9% of the educationally classified youth recidivated compared with 79.5% of those not classified. For new adjudications/convictions, 70.5% of the educationally classified youth recidivated compared with 65.2% of those not classified. Finally, for new commitments, 35.1% of the educationally classified youth recidivated compared with 29.9% of those not classified.

Additional Factors.

Finally, several additional characteristics of released juveniles were examined, with a primary concern for their relationship *with the new court filings/arrests measure*. The focus of the further analysis was on areas of youths' functioning, needs, and prior delinquency and placement history. For these additional variables, data is 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 12.9, compared with 11.6 for non-recidivists.
- 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, 4.3 vs. 4.1, and peers/role models, 3.9 vs. 3.6. In the educational/vocational (4.1) and family/household (4.0) areas, scores were the same for recidivists and non-recidivists.
- Recidivists were found to have the same number of staff assessed areas of need (moderate or higher) than the non-recidivists based on the CIA (4.6).

- Recidivists had a somewhat higher composite score of functional intelligence than non-recidivists (83.0 vs. 82.0), based on the Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test (KBIT). The average score for the released population on the KBIT was 82.8. Test results indicated that the JJC youth typically functioned well below the average range in terms of intelligence.

CONCLUSION

This report is the sixth 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 2012. 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 (CJAC). For the adult analysis, the analysis is expanded beyond the usual recidivism measure of reincarceration to also include data on rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration for a community supervision violation 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 2012, the State of New Jersey maintained the same rates from 2011 for rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration post-release (i.e., 53%, 40%, and 31%, respectively). Approximately 69% of adult inmates released in 2012 did not return to prison within the three-year follow-up period. Overall, these rates are consistent with prior annual findings and are lower 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 inmates experienced a return to prison, defined as an arrest that resulted in a conviction with a disposition of a prison sentence or return to imprisonment due to a technical parole violation.³⁴ The 2012 estimates presented in this report again place New Jersey well below the estimates for the 30 states included in the BJS study.

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.³⁵ 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.

The results of the analyses for the adult sample also emphasize the speed at which offenders are rearrested once released into the community. The average time offenders spend in the community prior to a first arrest post-release is slightly more than one year, suggesting that nearly half of all arrests occur within the first 12 months of release (specifically, 54.6%). After this one-year mark, rearrest rates drop significantly, with only 28% of offenders arrested during the second year post-release and 18% during the third year post-release. These results support the findings of the 2014 BJS report, as more than half (i.e., 56.7%) of offenders who were rearrested within the sample of 30 states were rearrested within the first year of release.³⁶

The present analyses also explored the demographic and incarceration variables associated with recidivism. For the adult cohort, several variables were predictive of recidivism: release age; gender; race/ethnicity; index offense on record; release status (i.e., supervised vs. unsupervised); arrest and conviction history; DOC admission history; time served; and disciplinary allegations. In criminological research, age is consistently considered a significant predictor of recidivism in that offenders tend to age out of crime; this expected trend was supported within the current cohort as older offenders at release were less likely to be rearrested in the follow-up period. Race was also found to be associated with recidivism, in that black offenders were more likely to have a rearrest and Hispanic offenders were less likely to have a rearrest when compared with other racial/ethnic offender designations. The majority of offenders with a rearrest had prior arrests, convictions, and DOC admissions, and as the number of offender arrests, convictions, and incarcerations on record increased, so did the likelihood of rearrest post-release. The most frequent incarceration offense on record for this 2012 cohort was a drug offense, though being incarcerated for a community supervision violation increased the likelihood for rearrest more so than other index offenses. Individuals who served a prison term of less than two years were at an increased likelihood of rearrest when compared to individuals who served a prison term of two years or more. Overall, supervised offenders were less likely to be rearrested. Finally, the number of disciplinary allegations against an inmate while incarcerated was positively and significantly associated with rearrests. This is an important finding as it supports the results of other analyses included within this report which indicate that offenders with lengthy prior criminal histories have higher rates of rearrest post-release. However, this predictor includes all alleged disciplinary allegations, not simply those disciplines that were eventually substantiated and resulted in an infraction. This predictor is a new addition to the analyses and has not been studied in prior years; the variable will be explored further in future years when data are available to categorize allegations by alleged and substantiated incidents.

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, 80.4% of the youth released had a court filing/arrest, 68.0% had a new offense leading to an adjudication/conviction, and 32.8% 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 (2009-2012) indicates recidivism rates have decreased for all three measures. New court filings/arrests have decreased by 4.4 percentage points, new adjudications/convictions have decreased by 5.4 percentage points, and new commitments have

decreased by 1.9 percentage points. Similarly, over the four-year period the number of days youth remained successfully in the community prior to recidivating has increased for all three measures.

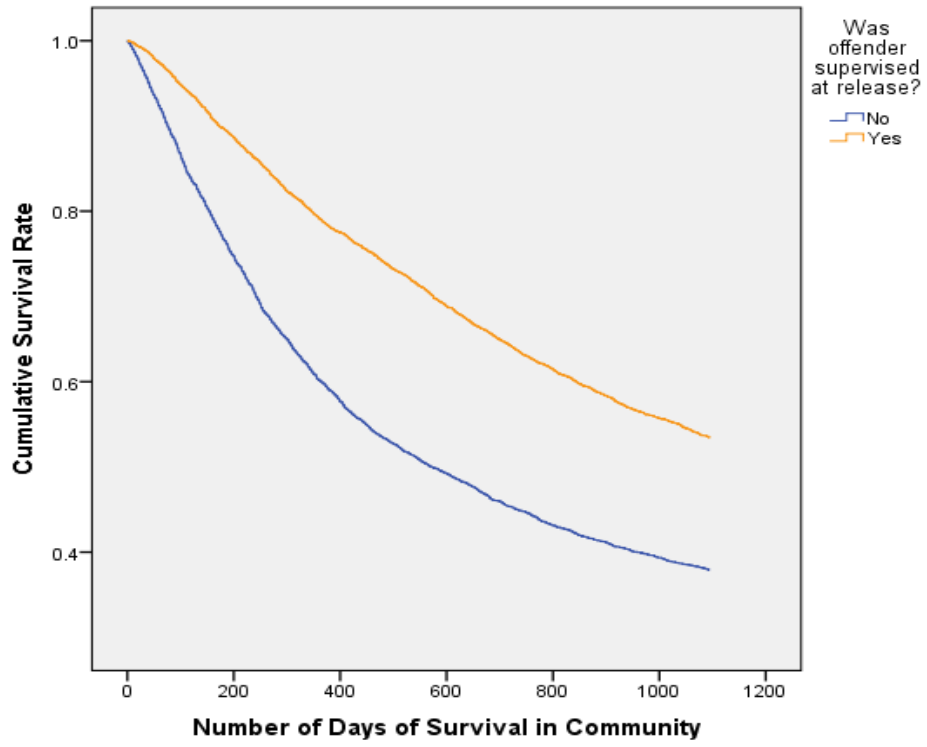
To provide context for these results, it is worth noting that the juvenile justice literature reports that juveniles placed in State correctional programs across the country return to offending and to the correctional system at high rates, and often very quickly. The 2014 publication by the Pew Charitable 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 500 individuals released from the JJC’s care in 2012, the JJC serves a total population of more than 20,000 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. This data demonstrates that the JJC’s efforts, including parole services, Juvenile Detention and Alternatives Initiative and 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

Cox Regression Survival Plot for Days to Rearrest



Appendix B

Logistic Regression Analysis Predicting Adult Rearrest

Predictor Variable	B	ExpB	Significance
Gender (Reference: Female)	.563	1.8	.000
Prior Arrest History	.076	1.1	.000
Prior Conviction History	.039	1.0	.010
Prior Incarceration History	.197	1.2	.000
Release Age	-0.08	0.9	.000
Admission Offense (Reference: Violent)			.000
Weapon Offense	.428	1.5	.000
Property Offense	.483	1.6	.000
Drug Offense	.294	1.3	.000
Other Offense	.512	1.7	.000
Supervision Violation Offense	.517	1.7	.000
Race (Reference: White)			.000
Black	.119	1.1	.039
Hispanic	-.331	.72	.000
Other	-.217	.81	.447
Release Status (Reference: No Supervision)	-.292	0.75	.000
Time Served: (Reference: 2+ years)			.037
Up to 1 Year	.146	1.2	.029
1-2 Years	.152	1.2	.022
Disciplinary Allegations	.063	1.1	.000
Education Level (Reference: Some schooling, not a HS graduate)			.146
HS graduate/HSE	-.072	.931	.173
College graduate and above	-.160	.852	.065
Completed Halfway House (Reference: No)	.001	.999	.983
Marital Status (Reference: Never Married)	-.025	.975	.649

ENDNOTES

¹ The NJDOC has begun phasing out the completion of the LSI-R for eventual adoption and full implementation of an alternative nationally validated risk assessment. As such, the 2012 release cohort did not maintain sufficient numbers to justify inclusion among the other variables. This will change as we proceed with a new risk assessment.

² $sd= 7.4$; median=6.0.

³ $sd= 4.7$; median=3.0.

⁴ $sd= 1.5$; median=1.0.

⁵ $p\leq.001$.

⁶ $sd= 10.3$; median=33.0.

⁷ $p\leq.001$.

⁸ $p\leq.01$.

⁹ $p\leq.000$.

¹⁰ $p\leq.000$.

¹¹ $p\leq.001$.

¹² $p\leq.000$.

¹³ $sd= 292.2$.

¹⁴ $sd= 298.7$.

¹⁵ $sd= 270.8$.

¹⁶ $sd= 262.6$.

¹⁷ $\chi^2=89.45$, $df=5$, $p<.001$.

¹⁸ $\chi^2=704.35$, $df= 25$, $p<.001$.

¹⁹ $\chi^2=1770.01$, $df= 21$, $p\leq.001$.

²⁰ $p\leq.001$.

²¹ $\chi^2=177.67$, $df= 3$, $p\leq.001$.

²² $sd= 7.4$.

²³ $\chi^2=703.54$, $df = 4$, $p\leq.001$.

²⁴ $sd= 4.7$.

²⁵ $\chi^2 =704.62$, $df = 4$, $p\leq.001$.

²⁶ $sd= 1.5$.

²⁷ $\chi^2 =512.6$, $df = 4$, $p\leq.001$.

²⁸ $sd= 9.56$.

²⁹ $sd= 9.6$.

³⁰ $t=15.38$, $df= 9,332.8$ $p\leq.001$.

³¹ $\chi^2=343.10$, $df=5$, $p\leq.001$.

³² The amount of time served by the inmates in the sample was originally a continuous variable counted in days. However, this variable had a range of 13,000 days indicating there was a great deal of skewness (also demonstrated by the mean, median and the standard deviation). The variability was negatively effecting the model and was therefore modified. This variable was subsequently categorized into three groups of moderately equivalent sample sizes- under one year, from one year to two years and over two years.

³³ 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.

³⁴ 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.

³⁵ 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>

³⁶ 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.