

Arkansas
Department of Correction
Recidivism Study
Wendy Kelley, Director

Prepared by:

Tiffanye Compton, M.S., Research & Planning Administrator

Jacob M. Laan, M.S., Research Analyst

Brittani McNeal, M.S., Research Analyst

September 2015

Measuring Recidivism - Highlights/Summary

The Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) is a vital part of the criminal justice system and recidivism is one of the most fundamental concepts in criminal justice. Recidivism is the act of reengaging in criminal offending, after being released from a correctional facility. This study examines the recidivism rate of Arkansas' inmates released in 2011 to determine how many of them were re-incarcerated (i.e., a recidivist) within three years of their release.¹

When discussing recidivism rates, there are many factors that influence recidivism that must be considered. For example, recidivism rates vary across age groups, racial/ethnic groups, gender and education levels. Recidivism rates are also affected by employment, housing, transportation, health care, laws, marital status, and parole policies. Not surprisingly, many parolees return to prison shortly after their release to the community and these inmates are also the fastest growing prison admissions group. This study shows that the ADC's overall recidivism rate increased from 43.2% of those inmates released during CY2010 to 48.2% of those inmates released during CY2011; an increase of 5.0% points. The high volume is a reflection of the tremendous growth in the number of parole revocations in the state of Arkansas.

Time frames utilized are six months, one year and three years post-release. Research suggests that three years represent a reliable and consistent ending (validation) point for tracking recidivism, where an inmate's first three years in the community represent the greatest risk for re-offending. Of those released in 2011, 6.4% returned within six months of their release while 48.2% returned within three years (Table 1, pg. 3).

ADC inmates are released either through parole or discharge (i.e., complete their entire sentence). The recidivism rate for inmates released on parole is 48.8% over three years, which is significantly higher than the 20.0% recidivism rate for inmates who discharged their sentence (Table 2, pg. 5).

Of the 6,859 inmates released in 2011, 30.1% violated their parole and received a new sentence while 17.7% of those released violated their parole due to a technical violation (Table 3, pg.6).

Overall, the male and female populations look slightly different. The 2011 recidivism rates for male inmates show a three-year return rate of 49.9% as compared to 34.9% for female inmates (Table 4, pg. 8).

The 2011 recidivism rate demonstrates that 49.4% of Black inmates and 48.6% of White inmates returned to prison three years after release. The recidivism rates for Black and White inmates increased by 6.1% and 4.1% respectively from the previous year (Table 5, pg. 10).

For those released in 2011, inmates between the ages of 25 and 34 demonstrated the highest recidivism rates for both males and females (Table 6a & 6b, pg. 11).

Figure 6 (pg.12) illustrates the return rate of violent vs. non-violent inmates.

Recidivism rates are shown by offense category in Table 7 (pgs. 13 & 14.)

Recidivism rates by county of conviction are shown in Table 8 and Figure 7 (pgs. 15, 16 & 17).

For the 2011 releases, inmates with less than a high school education had the highest recidivism rate as shown in Figure 8 (pg. 18).

¹As a result of data sharing limitation, this study did not explore recidivism rates for released ADC inmates with a new sentence in states other than Arkansas or those who were released from the Arkansas Community Correction.

Arkansas' Recidivism Study (Addendum)

The **2011** Recidivism Study is a continuation of the original **1997-1999** study and of Recidivism Addendums produced in prior years. This addendum was prepared by the Arkansas Department of Correction's Research and Planning Division. This addendum reviews the return rates of inmates released from custody in **CY 2011**, as compared to prior years. The data for this research was obtained from the ADC electronic Offender Management Information System (eOMIS). If an individual was released **January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011**, the data provided reflect returns for a full three-year post release time period. All charts and tables reflect a three-year post release review and are utilized for clarity and ease to the reader.

This study is comprised of a cohort of all inmates released from the ADC in 2011 and categorized into return rates of six (6) months, one (1) year, and three (3) years.

Overall Recidivism Rates

Table 1 shows the overall 10-year trends in ADC recidivism rates. The post-release periods consist of six months, one year and three years, from **2002** through **2011**. In **2011**, there were a total of **6,859** inmates released from ADC. Within six months of release, **6.4%** inmates returned to prison. Within one year, **17.5%** of inmates returned and within three years, **48.2%** had returned to prison. The average three-year recidivism rate for ADC, over the past decade is **43.95%**.

In all tables, the "number of releases" is the number of unduplicated releases in a given year used to generate recidivism rates. **Table 1 does not specify the type of return. It demonstrates an overall return rate, regardless of reason.*

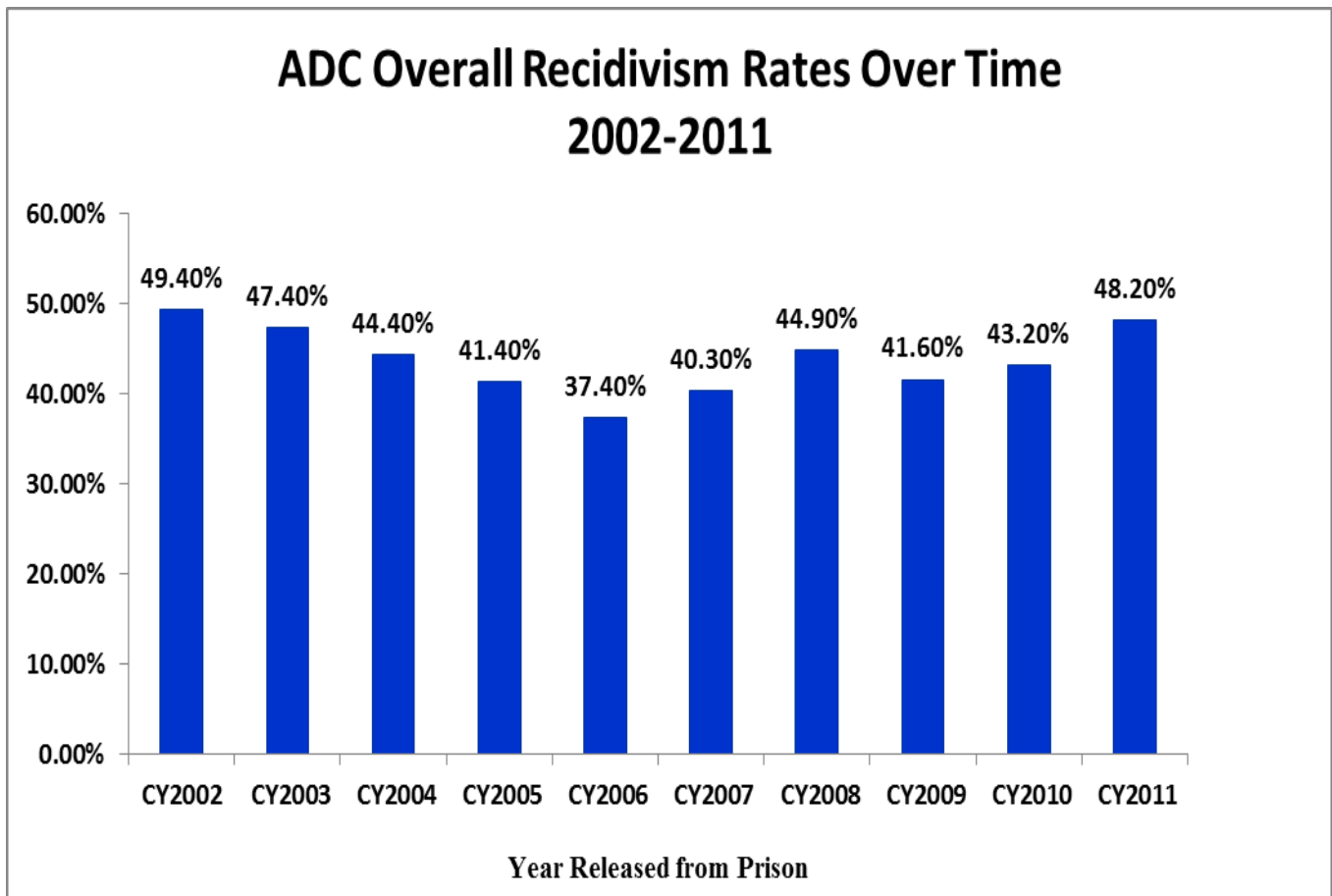
Table 1

Overall Recidivism Rates 2002-2011								
Release	Total Number	% Returned	# Returned	% Returned	# Returned	% Returned	# Returned	Total %
Year	Releases	6 Months	6 Months	1 Year	1 Year	3 Years	3 Years	Returns
2002	6,015	15.1%	911	28.5%	1,716	49.4%	2,969	49.4%
2003	6,135	12.9%	792	25.9%	1,586	47.4%	2,905	47.4%
2004	6,244	11.2%	698	22.1%	1,377	44.4%	2,772	44.4%
2005	5,657	7.4%	418	18.3%	1,036	41.4%	2,344	41.4%
2006	5,505	6.4%	355	17.1%	943	37.4%	2,060	37.4%
2007	5,783	6.2%	359	15.2%	881	40.3%	2,330	40.3%
2008	6,305	7.5%	475	20.2%	1,275	44.9%	2,831	44.9%
2009	6,585	8.3%	547	20.4%	1,343	41.6%	2,742	41.6%
2010	6,198	9.2%	572	19.5%	1,213	43.2%	2,680	43.2%
2011	6,859	6.4%	440	17.5%	1,200	48.2%	3,308	48.2%
Ten Year Average	6,129	9.9%	557	20.50%	1,257	43.95%	2,694	43.95%

Overall Trend

Figure 1 shows the overall trend for recidivism rates of inmates released in 2002-2011.² Since CY02, there have been a number of policy changes that have potentially impacted the ADC overall recidivism trend. This particular figure does not specify the type of return, it only demonstrates an overall return rate, regardless of the reason. Overall, analyses show that ADC recidivism rates have fluctuated since 2002, with the highest rate (49.40%) observed in CY02. Despite year-to-year fluctuations over the past decade, ADC recidivism rates have remained relatively stable, in the 40-50% range, as shown below.

Figure 1



²The Arkansas Department of Correction recidivism rates are calculated by using the number of inmates re-incarcerated in the ADC within three (3) years of release divided by the total number of inmates released.

Recidivism Rates: Release Type

Table 2 demonstrates recidivism rate by type of release. ADC inmates are released back into the community by two ways: (1) parole with supervision, which is granted by the Parole Board and (2) discharge (max flat completion of sentence). Over the past 10 years, ADC inmates have been primarily released on parole. In **2011**, there were **6,719** inmates released by regular parole and **140** inmates discharged. Results indicate that within six months of release in **2011**, **436** inmates or **6.5%** of the inmates released on parole had returned, while only 4 or **2.9%** of the inmates discharged returned with a new sentence. Total returns of parole releases from ADC in **2011** show a **48.8%** return rate, while discharge releases show a **20.0%** return rate within three years.

Table 2

Recidivism Rates By Type of Release 2002-2011								
Year	Type of Release	Total Releases	6 Mths Returns	% Returns	1 Year Returns	% Returns	3 Years Returns	% Returns
2002	Paroled - Regular	5,841	910	15.6%	1,707	29.2%	2,938	50.3%
	Discharge	174	1	0.6%	9	5.2%	31	17.8%
2003	Paroled - Regular	5,958	788	13.2%	1,577	26.5%	2,861	48.0%
	Discharge	177	4	2.3%	9	5.1%	43	24.3%
2004	Paroled - Regular	6,075	693	11.4%	1,368	22.5%	2,735	45.0%
	Discharge	169	5	3.0%	9	5.3%	37	21.9%
2005	Paroled - Regular	5,505	413	7.5%	1,025	18.6%	2,317	42.1%
	Discharge	152	5	3.3%	11	7.2%	27	17.8%
2006	Paroled - Regular	5,358	350	6.5%	931	17.4%	2,020	37.7%
	Discharge	147	5	3.4%	12	8.2%	40	27.2%
2007	Paroled - Regular	5,623	357	6.3%	872	15.5%	2,293	40.8%
	Discharge	160	2	1.3%	9	5.6%	37	23.1%
2008	Paroled - Regular	6,160	469	7.6%	1,262	20.5%	2,808	45.6%
	Discharge	145	6	4.1%	13	9.0%	23	15.9%
2009	Paroled - Regular	6,421	543	8.5%	1329	20.7%	2694	42.0%
	Discharge	164	4	2.4%	15	9.1%	34	20.7%
2010	Paroled-Regular	6,047	568	9.4%	1202	19.9%	2646	43.8%
	Discharge	151	4	2.6%	11	7.3%	34	22.5%
2011	Paroled-Regular	6,719	436	6.5%	1,190	17.7%	3,280	48.8%
	Discharge	140	4	2.9%	10	7.1%	28	20.0%
Total Paroled - Regular		59,707	5,527	9.3%	12,463	20.9%	26,592	44.5%
Total Discharged		1,579	40	2.5%	108	6.8%	334	21.2%

Recidivism Rates: Return Types

Table 3 shows inmates that returned to prison by return type. Return type categories include parole violators with a new sentence (a parolee who acquires a new charge while still under state supervision), a technical parole violator (violation of parole as a result of a technical condition) and discharged-reconviction (a discharged inmate who has been convicted of a new criminal offense after release). Over the past 10 years, inmates who return to ADC after release most often do so on a new sentence.

Table 3

Recidivism By Type Of Return 2002-2011								
Year	Total Releases	Type of Return	6 Mo. Returns	% Returns	1 Year Returns	% Returns	3 Years Returns	% Returns
2002	6015	PV/New Sentence	793	13.2%	1516	25.2%	2549	42.4%
		PV/Technical	113	1.9%	174	2.9%	215	3.6%
		Discharge - Reconviction	5	0.1%	26	0.4%	205	3.4%
2003	6135	PV/New Sentence	785	12.8%	1558	25.4%	2668	43.5%
		Discharge - Reconviction	7	0.1%	28	0.5%	237	3.9%
2004	6244	PV/New Sentence	686	11.0%	1341	21.5%	2535	40.6%
		Discharge - Reconviction	12	0.2%	36	0.6%	237	3.8%
2005		PV/New Sentence	407	7.2%	999	17.7%	2120	37.5%
		Discharge - Reconviction	11	0.2%	37	0.7%	224	4.0%
2006	5505	PV/New Sentence	346	6.3%	918	16.7%	1868	33.9%
		Discharge - Reconviction	9	0.2%	25	0.5%	192	3.5%
2007	5783	PV/New Sentence	352	6.1%	850	14.7%	1708	29.5%
		PV/Technical	1	0.0%	10	0.2%	454	7.9%
		Discharge - Reconviction	6	0.1%	21	0.4%	168	2.9%
2008	6305	PV/New Sentence	345	5.5%	818	13.0%	1732	27.5%
		PV/Technical	122	1.9%	427	6.8%	925	14.7%
		Discharge - Reconviction	8	0.1%	30	0.5%	174	2.8%
2009	6585	PV/New Sentence	403	6.1%	911	13.8%	1665	25.3%
		PV/Technical	138	2.1%	404	6.1%	916	13.9%
		Discharge - Reconviction	6	0.1%	28	0.4%	161	2.4%
2010	6198	PV/New Sentence	445	7.2%	835	13.5%	1700	27.4%
		PV/Technical	123	2.0%	367	5.9%	946	15.3%
		Discharge-Reconviction	4	0.1%	11	0.2%	34	0.5%
2011	6859	PV/New Sentence	293	4.3%	675	9.8%	2,065	30.1%
		PV/Technical	143	2.1%	515	7.5%	1,215	17.7%
		Discharge-Reconviction	4	0.1%	10	0.1%	28	0.4%

Figures 2a, 2b and 2c also illustrate the recidivism rates by return type (parolees and discharges). CY03-06 does not reflect any returning inmates to the ADC with technical violations because they were all being sentenced to the Omega Technical Parole Violators Center. For ADC, a return to prison for a parole violation with a new sentence is the foremost reason inmates return to prison, while a technical violation during on parole is secondary. Even though a new conviction might also have a technical violation attached, the new conviction on most cases will supersede the technical violation, making the new conviction the primary reason for returning to prison.

Fig. 2a

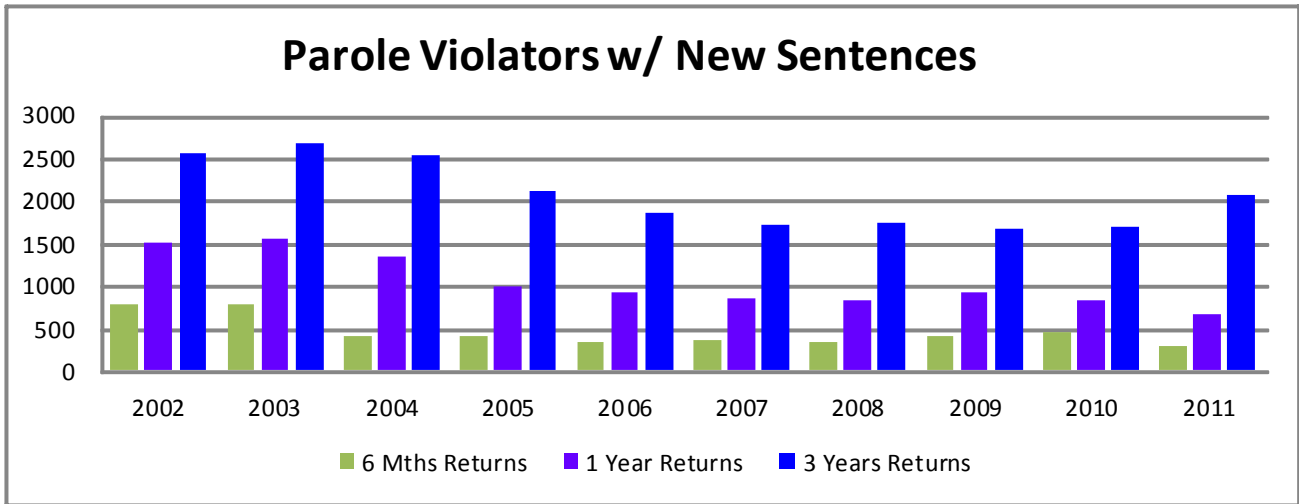


Fig. 2b

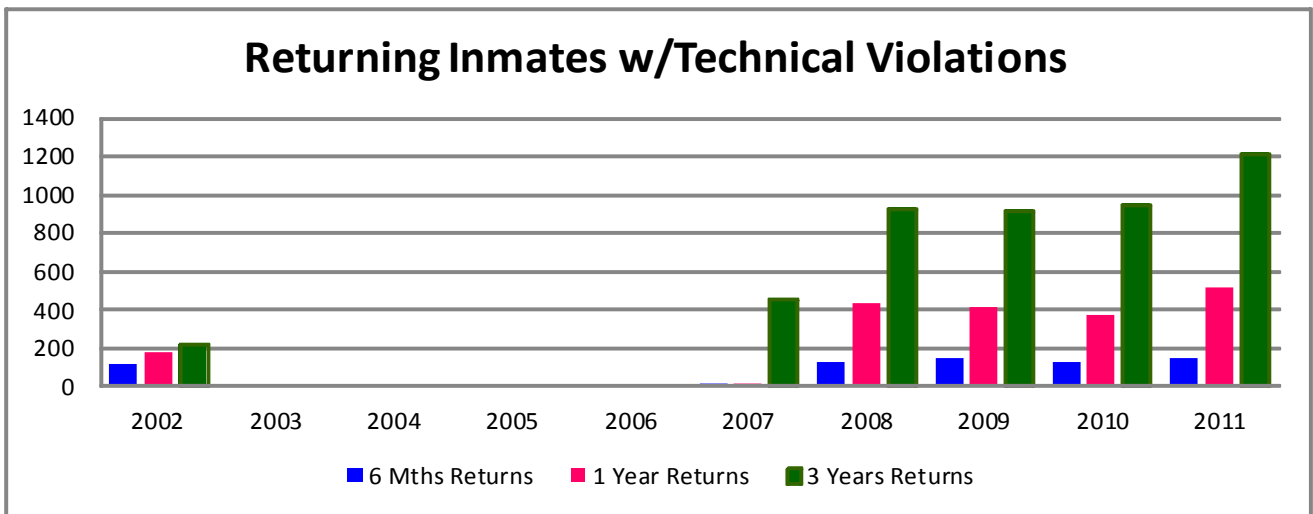
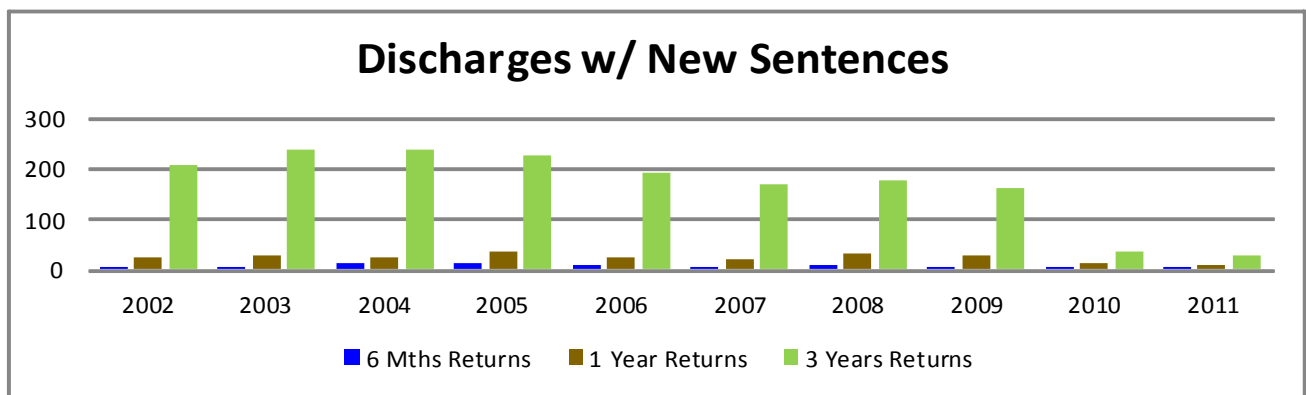


Fig. 2c



Recidivism Rates: Gender

Table 4 and **Figures 3a** and **3b** illustrate recidivism rates by gender. Table 4 shows that increases in releases for both genders have occurred over the past 10 years. Male inmates have consistently returned to prison at a higher rate than female inmates in Arkansas. **49.9%** of male inmates released in 2011 returned to the ADC versus **34.9%** of the female inmates. From six months to one year, data demonstrated equivalent return rates for males and females; however, the three-year recidivism rate shows a significantly larger percentage of males returning to prison as compared to females. While male inmates have demonstrated higher recidivism rates than females overall, recidivism for female inmates has increased over the years. This study found that the upsurge in female incarceration rates in Arkansas is heavily influenced by drug offenses and property crimes.

Table 4

Recidivism Rates By Gender 2002-2011									
Year	Gender	Total Releases	6 month Return	Total % Returns	1 Year Returns	Total % Returns	3 Years Returns	Total % Returns ^a	Total Inmates Not Returning
2002	Female	594	67	11.2%	134	22.6%	242	40.7%	320
	Male	5,421	844	15.6%	1,582	29.2%	2,727	50.3%	2,426
2003	Female	616	54	8.8%	111	18.0%	215	34.9%	401
	Male	5,519	738	13.4%	1,475	26.7%	2,690	48.7%	2,829
2004	Female	551	31	5.6%	56	10.2%	139	25.2%	413
	Male	5,693	667	11.8%	1,321	23.2%	2,633	46.2%	3,060
2005	Female	534	15	2.8%	44	8.2%	123	23.0%	411
	Male	5,124	403	7.9%	992	19.4%	2,221	43.3%	2,903
2006	Female	614	18	2.9%	57	9.3%	137	22.3%	477
	Male	4,891	337	6.9%	886	18.1%	1,923	39.3%	2,968
2007	Female	675	21	3.1%	53	7.9%	158	23.4%	517
	Male	5,783	338	5.8%	828	14.3%	2,172	37.6%	3,611
2008	Female	735	27	3.7%	87	11.8%	211	28.7%	524
	Male	5,570	448	5.0%	1,188	21.3%	2,620	47.0%	2,950
2009	Female	755	41	5.4%	99	13.1%	210	27.8%	545
	Male	5,830	506	8.7%	1,245	21.4%	2,533	43.4%	3,297
2010	Female	687	32	4.7%	74	10.8%	214	31.1	473
	Male	5,511	540	9.8%	1,139	20.7%	2,466	44.7	3,045
2011	Female	760	24	3.2%	93	12.2%	265	34.9%	495
	Male	6,099	416	6.8%	1,107	18.2%	3,043	49.9%	3,056

^a This statistic reflects the percentage of those released, within each gender group, that returned to prison (e.g., of the 760 females released in 2011, 265 or 34.9% returned to prison).

Fig. 3a

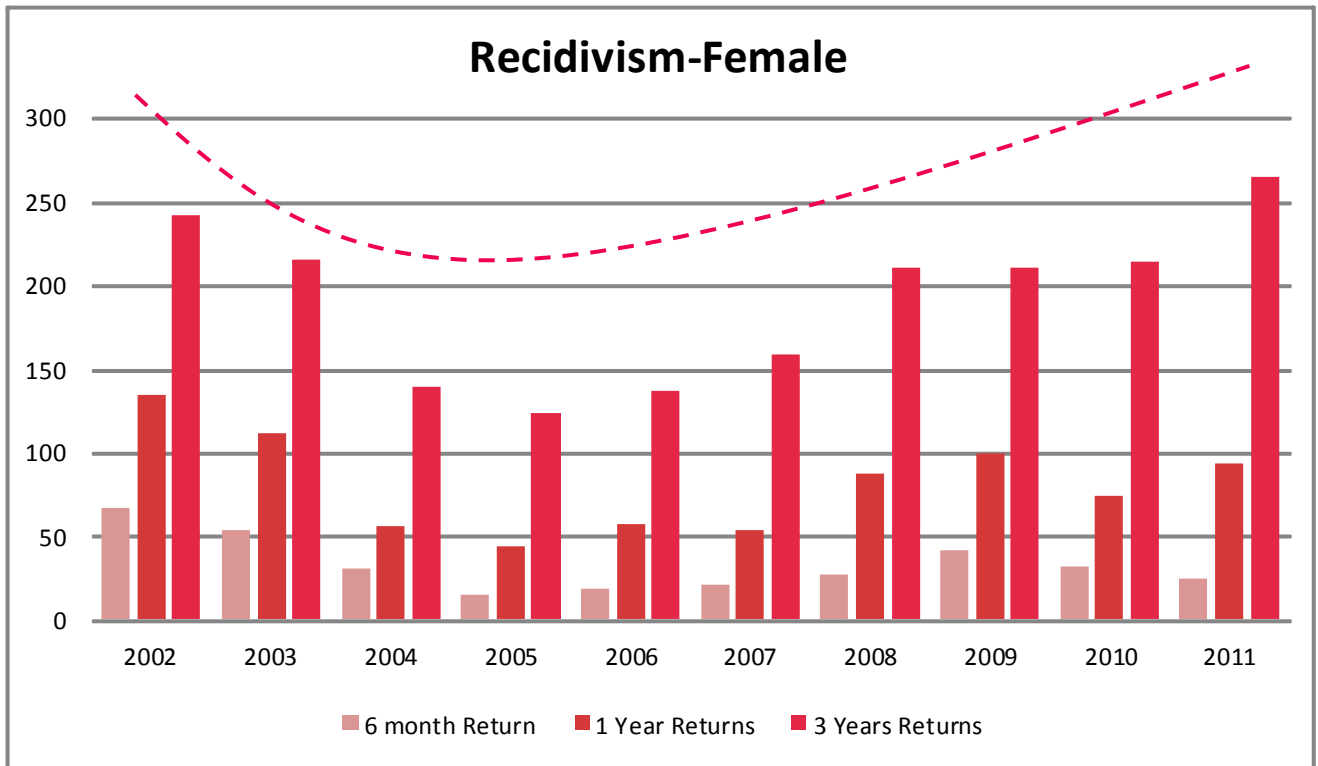
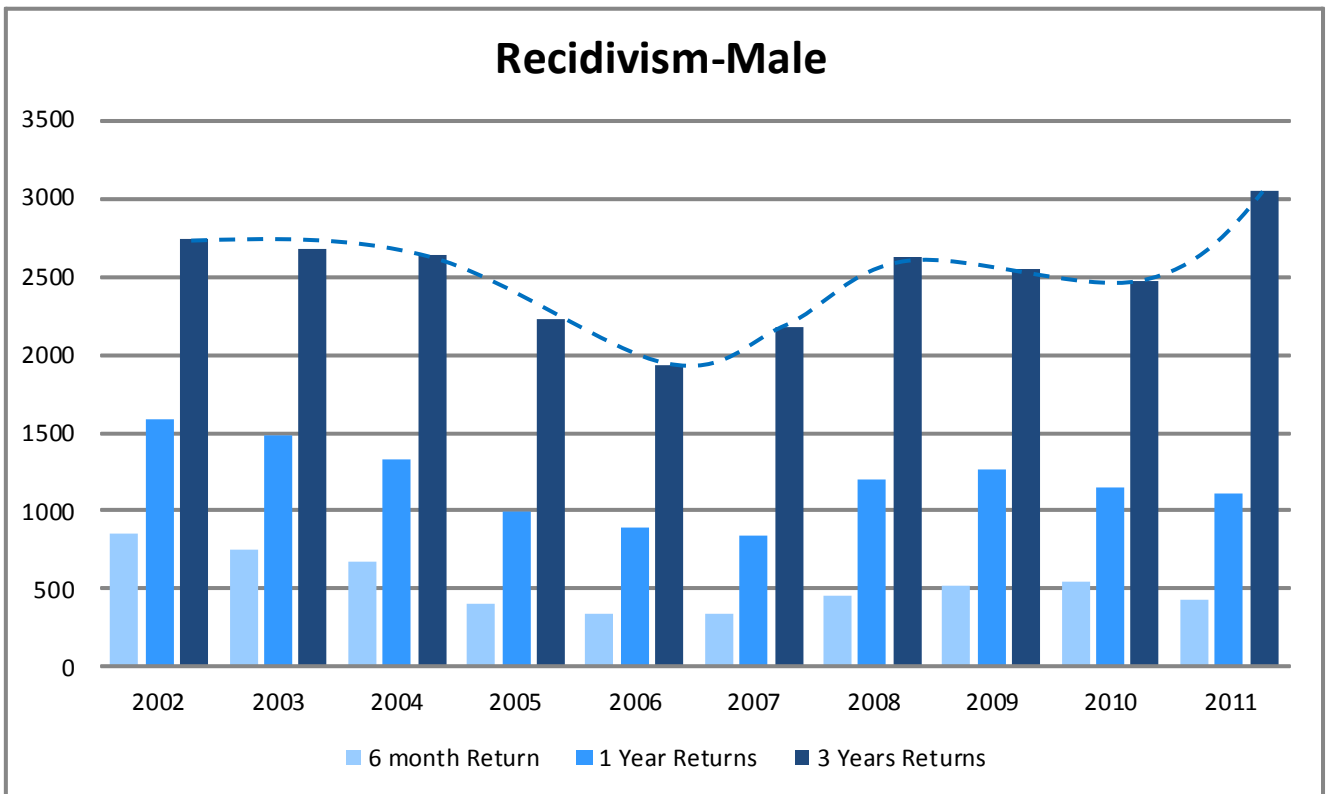


Fig 3b



Recidivism Rates: Race

Table 5 illustrates recidivism rates by race. Recidivism rates were based on five racial groups: Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American Indian. The ADC population consists primarily of Black and White inmates, while Hispanic, Asian, and Native American Indian inmates account for only a small percentage of the overall population. In this report, inmates who reported being Asian and Native American Indian were collapsed into one group, ‘other.’ The trend over the past 10 years shows Black inmates returned to prison at a higher percentage than inmates who were White, Hispanic, or in the ‘other’ category. 49.4% of Black inmates released in 2011 returned to prison within 3 years, compared to 48.6% of White inmates, 28.9% of Hispanic inmates and 48.1% of inmates in the ‘other’ category.

Table 5

Recidivism Rates By Race 2002-2011								
Year	Race	Total Releases	6 Month Returns	% Returns	1 Year Returns	% Returns	3 Year Returns	% Returns
2002	Black	2,618	408	15.6%	741	28.3%	1,335	51.0%
	White	3,292	497	15.1%	962	29.2%	1,613	49.0%
	Hispanic	75	5	6.7%	9	12.0%	13	17.3%
	Other	30	0	0.0%	3	10.0%	7	23.3%
2003	Black	2,768	321	11.6%	691	25.0%	1,349	48.7%
	White	3,304	467	14.1%	883	26.7%	1,531	46.3%
	Hispanic	50	4	8.0%	11	22.0%	20	40.0%
	Other	13	0	0.0%	1	7.7%	5	38.5%
2004	Black	2,711	255	9.4%	573	21.1%	1,260	46.5%
	White	3,450	432	12.5%	786	22.8%	1,483	43.0%
	Hispanic	64	10	15.6%	14	21.9%	24	37.5%
	Other	19	1	5.3%	4	21.1%	5	26.3%
2005	Black	2,285	167	7.3%	455	19.9%	1,064	46.6%
	White	3,273	241	7.4%	563	17.2%	1,248	38.1%
	Hispanic	70	6	8.6%	11	15.7%	22	31.4%
	Other	30	4	13.3%	7	23.3%	10	33.3%
2006	Black	2,304	144	6.3%	396	17.2%	925	40.1%
	White	3,064	200	6.5%	533	17.4%	1,102	36.0%
	Hispanic	115	10	8.7%	12	10.4%	29	25.2%
	Other	22	1	4.5%	2	9.1%	4	18.2%
2007	Black	2,374	159	6.7%	403	17.0%	1,057	44.5%
	White	3,216	185	5.8%	453	14.1%	1,223	38.0%
	Hispanic	155	12	7.7%	18	11.6%	34	21.9%
	Other	38	3	7.9%	7	18.4%	16	42.1%
2008	Black	2,607	200	7.7%	535	20.5%	1,235	47.4%
	White	3,419	259	7.6%	702	20.5%	1,524	44.6%
	Hispanic	247	11	4.5%	26	10.5%	53	21.5%
	Other	32	5	15.6%	12	37.5%	19	59.4%
2009	Black	2,641	207	7.8%	509	19.3%	1,128	42.7%
	White	3,694	319	8.6%	795	21.5%	1,553	42.0%
	Hispanic	213	15	7.0%	27	12.7%	41	19.2%
	Other	37	5	13.5%	12	32.4%	20	54.1%
2010	Black	2,540	205	8.1%	464	18.3%	1,101	43.3%
	White	3,402	345	10.1%	711	20.9%	1,513	44.5%
	Hispanic	210	17	8.1%	29	13.8%	46	21.9%
	Other	46	5	10.7%	10	21.7%	20	43.5%
2011	Black	2,656	158	5.9%	431	16.2%	1,311	49.4%
	White	3,924	264	6.7%	728	18.6%	1,906	48.6%
	Hispanic	225	11	4.9%	30	13.3%	65	28.9%
	Other	54	7	13.0%	11	20.4%	26	48.1%

Recidivism Rate: Age

Figure 4a and **Table 6a** illustrate the recidivism rate by age for female inmates, while **Figure 4b** and **Table 6b** illustrate the recidivism rate by age for male inmates for 2011. Results suggest that younger inmates are more likely to recidivate than older inmates. Specifically, male and female inmates between the ages of 25 and 34 had the highest number of inmates who returned to prison three-years after release; however, younger inmates below the age of 25 have the highest percentage of return.

Figure 4a

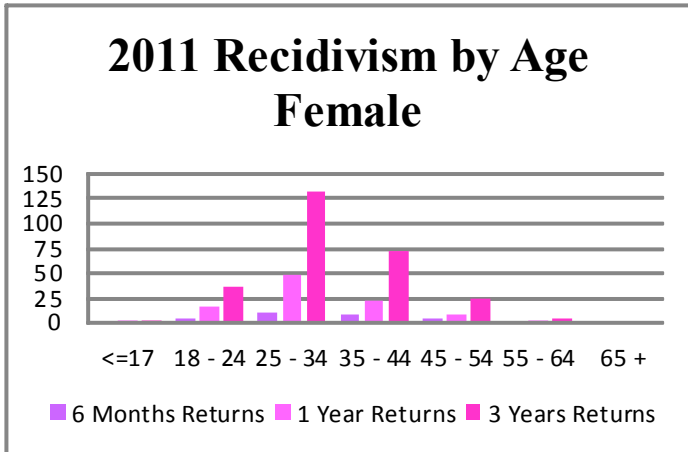


Figure 4b

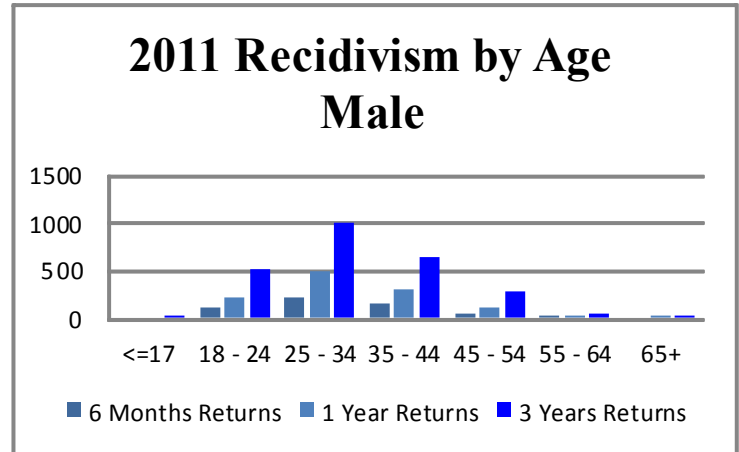


Table 6a

Recidivism by Age (Female)							
Gender	Age	Total Releases	6 Months Returns	1 Year Returns	3 Years Returns	% of Total Returns	% of Age Group Returned
Female	<=17	1	0	1	1	0.38%	100.00%
	18 - 24	82	4	15	35	13.21%	42.68%
	25 - 34	321	9	47	130	49.06%	40.50%
	35 - 44	222	8	22	72	27.17%	32.43%
	45 - 54	115	3	7	24	9.06%	20.87%
	55 - 64	16	0	1	3	1.13%	18.75%
	65+	3	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Total	760	24	93	265	100.00%	

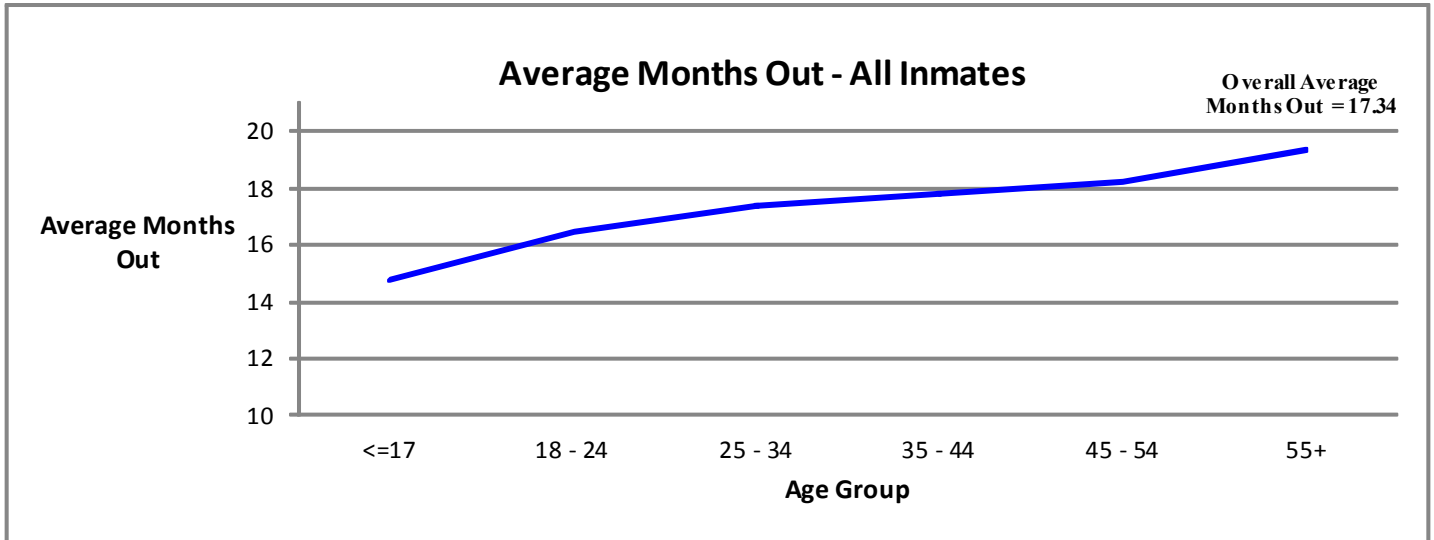
Table 6b

Recidivism by Age (Male)							
Gender	AGE	Total Releases	6 Months Returns	1 Year Returns	3 Years Returns	Total % Returns	% of Age Group Returned
Male	<=17	4	1	1	4	0.13%	100.00%
	18 - 24	920	89	215	545	17.90%	59.24%
	25 - 34	2510	179	503	1350	44.35%	53.78%
	35 - 44	1542	97	258	738	24.25%	47.86%
	45 - 54	895	41	115	352	11.56%	39.33%
	55 - 64	200	8	12	50	1.64%	25.00%
	65+	28	1	3	4	0.13%	14.29%
	Total	6,099	416	1,107	3,043	100%	

Average Months Out

Figure 5 illustrates the average months out for inmates released in 2011 by age category. On average, recidivists spent 17 months in the community before returning to prison. Additionally, older inmates were found to remain in the community longer on average than younger inmates. The average months out, however, is comparable for inmates between the ages of 18 and 44 years.

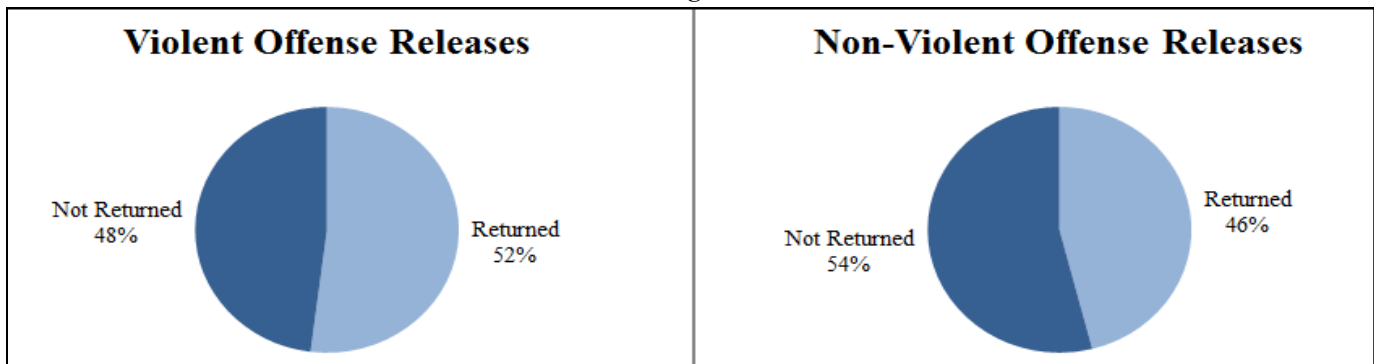
Figure 5



Recidivism Rates: Violent vs. Non-Violent Offenses

Figure 6 illustrates the recidivism rate for inmates convicted of violent crimes as compared to those convicted of non-violent crimes. The most frequently identified non-violent crimes involve drug trafficking, drug possession, theft, hot checks, forgery and non-support (see Table 7, pgs. 13 –14). Of the 6,859 inmates that were released in 2011, 2,439 had committed a violent offense and 4,420 committed a non-violent offense. **1,258 (52%)** of the 2,439 inmates who committed a violent offense returned within three years and **2,050 (46%)** of the 4,420 inmates committed for a non-violent offense returned within three years.

Figure 6



Recidivism Rates: Primary Offense

Table 7, on the following pages, reflects the return rates as a result of the type of offense for a selected period of time. A variety of offenses were analyzed in order to understand the breadth and depth of recidivism rates by offense and the return to prison within the three-year time frame. For clarity, Table 7 denotes the offense category, the actual number of releases/returns for 2011, and the actual numbers and percentages of returns within three years for each category.

Table 7³
Recidivism Rates By Offense Category-2011

Offense Category	No. Releases	Ret w/in 3 yrs	% Returned
0101 - Capital Murder	1	0	0.0%
0102 - Murder-1st Degree	27	14	51.9%
0103 - Murder-2nd Degree	39	15	38.5%
0104 - Manslaughter	54	28	51.9%
0105 - Negligent Homicide	20	2	10.0%
0201 - Kidnapping	38	20	52.6%
0202 - False Imprisonment-1st Degree	35	23	65.7%
0204 - Permanent Detention	1	0	0.0%
0301 - Robbery	498	297	59.6%
0302 - Aggravated Robbery	133	57	42.9%
0401 - Battery-1st Degree	149	69	46.3%
0402 - Battery-2nd Degree	358	203	56.7%
0403 - Aggravated Assault	288	172	59.7%
0404 - Terroristic Threatening	166	89	53.6%
0405 - Terroristic Act	27	16	59.3%
0406 - Agg. Assault On Corr. Employee	6	2	33.3%
0407 - Battery 3rd Deg. (Enhanced)	2	1	50.0%
0408 - Intro. Cont. Subs. Body/Another	2	0	0.0%
0501 - Rape	70	22	31.4%
0502 - Carnal Abuse-1st Degree	10	3	30.0%
0503 - Carnal Abuse-2nd Degree	1	1	100.0%
0504 - Sexual Abuse-1st Degree	48	22	45.8%
0505 - Violation Of A Minor-1st Dg	2	0	0.0%
0507 - Exposing One To HIV	2	0	0.0%
0510 - Carnal Abuse-3rd Degree	6	3	50.0%
0511 - Sexual Solicitation Of A Child	1	0	0.0%
0513 - Sexual Assault	185	76	41.1%
0634 - Violation of Protect Order	3	1	33.3%
0658 - Residential Burglary	713	451	63.3%
0659 - Commercial Burglary	282	173	61.3%
0701 - Incest	4	2	50.0%
0702 - Domestic Battering-1st Degree	21	9	42.9%
0703 - Domestic Battering-2nd Degree	48	12	25.0%
0704 - Agg. Aslt On Family/Household	30	19	63.3%
0705 - Non-Support	47	18	38.3%
0707 - Interference With Custody	3	1	33.3%
0708 - Domestic Battering-3rd Degree	93	54	58.1%
0801 - Endanger Welfare Minor-1st Dg	15	6	40.0%
0802 - Endanger Welfare Of Incompet. 1st Degree	1	1	100.0%
0804- Engage Child in Sex Expct. Condt.	2	0	0.0%
0805 - Trans. Distr.Mat. Deplctg Chil	1	0	0.0%
0810 - Sexual Solicitation Of A Child	3	1	33.3%
0813 - Dist/Poss/View Sex Explicit	6	2	33.3%
0814 - Computer Child Pornography	9	2	22.2%
0828 - Expose Child to Chem Substance	9	3	33.3%
0830 - Sexual Indecency With A Child	23	9	39.1%
0901 - Abuse Of Adults	6	0	0.0%
1001 - Theft Of Property	698	372	53.3%
1002 - Theft Of Services	1	1	100.0%
1004 - Theft By Receiving	260	119	45.8%
1005 - Theft Of Leased Property	5	3	50.0%
1006 - Theft Of Public Benefits	6	2	33.3%
1046 - Internet Stalk.- Child Fel. C	1	1	100.0%
1048 - Internet Stalk.- Child Fel. B	16	5	31.3%

³Highlighted rows in Table 7 illustrate the grouping of offenses into a crime category (e.g., theft, murder, drug crime, etc.)

Table 7—Continued

Offense Category	No. Releases	Ret w/in 3 yrs	% Returned
1101 - Forgery	221	101	45.7%
1102 - Defrauding Secured Creditors	1	0	0.0%
1104 - Fraudulent Use Of Credit Card	22	11	50.0%
1113 - Hot Check Violation	73	28	38.4%
1118 - Financial Identity Fraud	4	0	0.0%
1202 - Impair Oper. Of Vital Pub.Facil	1	0	0.0%
1203 - Arson	17	10	58.8%
1204 - Reckless Burning	2	0	0.0%
1205 - Criminal Mischief-1st Degree	38	22	57.9%
1207 - Criminal Mischief 2nd Degree	5	2	40.0%
1301 - Burglary	5	3	60.0%
1302 - Breaking And Entering	82	45	54.9%
1351 - Poss. Cont. Sub. Sched III =>200g<400g	1	1	100.0%
1602 - Witness Bribery	1	0	0.0%
1603 - Intimidating A Witness	2	2	100.0%
1601 - Perjury	1	0	0.0%
1604 - Tampering With Physical Evid.	18	10	55.6%
1612 - Retaliation Against Informant	2	1	50.0%
1702 - Hindering Apprehension or Proc.	14	2	14.3%
1703- Aiding Consumption Of Offense	1	0	0.0%
1706 - Escape-2nd Degree	4	2	50.0%
1711 - Furnishing Prohib. Articles	22	10	45.5%
1712 - Failure To Appear	91	45	49.5%
1713 - Fleeing	62	28	45.2%
1715 - Filing A False Report	3	2	66.7%
1718 - Absconding	1	0	0.0%
1720 - Fail To Register Child/Sex Off	59	15	25.4%
1722 - Escape-3rd Degree	1	1	100.0%
2001 - Fail. To Keep Records Dist. Drg.	94	27	28.7%
2202 - Advertise Drug Paraphernalia	467	187	40.0%
2203 - Manu/Delv/Poss Control Subs.	874	295	33.8%
2214 - Poss W/I To Manufacture	5	1	20.0%
2215 - Possession Of Ephedrine	1	0	0.0%
2300 - DWI Offenses	5	1	20.0%
2301 - Viol Of Omb DWI Act 4th Offense	49	12	24.5%
2707 - Stalking	2	0	0.0%
2901 - Poss. Firearm Certain Person	38	12	31.6%
2902 - Criminal Use Prohibited Weapon	7	5	71.4%
2912- Possession of Defaced Firearm	1	0	0.0%
3001 - Criminal Attempt	26	7	26.9
3002 - Criminal Solicitation	1	0	0.0%
3003 - Criminal Conspiracy	39	11	28.2%
6302 Securities Fraud	1	0	0.0%
6503 - Fail To Stop Acc. W/Inj/Death	7	3	42.9%
6505 - Duty To Give Info & Render Aid	1	0	0.0%
6536 - Alter/Change Engine or Other Nbr.	1	0	0.0%
8001 - Discharge Firearm From Vehicle	5	2	40.0%
8002- Engage In Viol. Crim. Group Act	1	1	100.0%
8004- Simul. Poss of Drugs/Firearm	5	3	60.0%
Total	6,859	3,308	48.2%

Recidivism Rates: County of Conviction

Table 8 shows three-year recidivism rates by county of conviction that represent where the released inmates were convicted before commitment to ADC. Results show that inmates who returned to prison within three years of release were commonly convicted in rural and less populated areas. Additionally, these counties had the fewest number of inmates who were released but more than half of the inmates returned within three years. There were also counties that had a high recidivism rate based on the number of releases. **Figure 7**, following the table below, shows the three-year return rate of all 75 Arkansas counties.

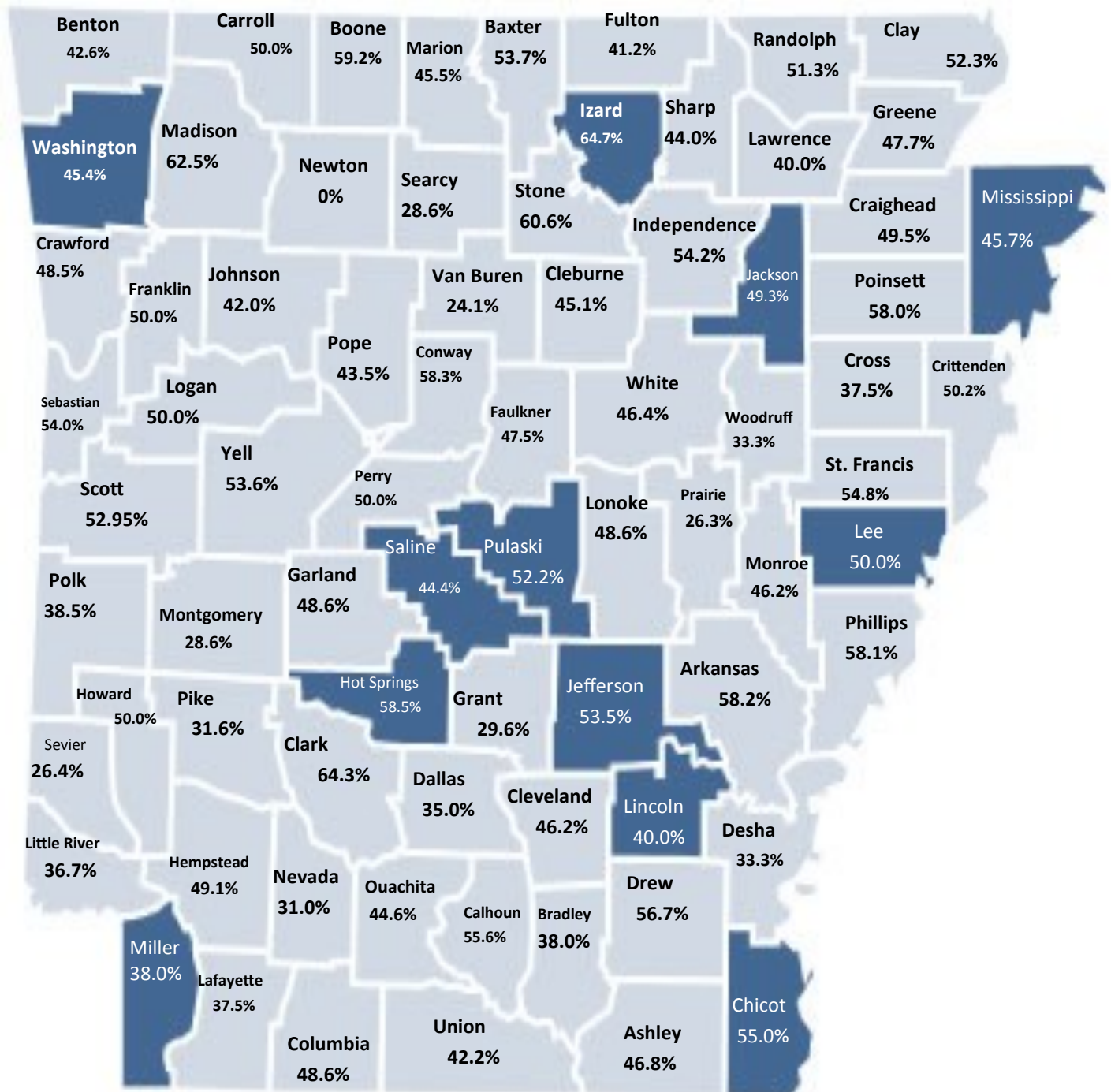
Table 8			
3-Year Recidivism Rates By County of Conviction-2011			
County	No. Releases	Ret w/in 3 Years	% Returned
Arkansas	55	32	58.2%
Ashley	62	29	46.8%
Baxter	54	29	53.7%
Benton	340	145	42.6%
Boone	71	42	59.2%
Bradley	29	11	38.0%
Calhoun	9	5	55.6%
Carroll	36	18	50.0%
Chicot	40	22	55.0%
Clark	42	27	64.3%
Clay	44	23	52.3%
Cleburne	51	23	45.1%
Cleveland	13	6	46.2%
Columbia	35	17	48.6%
Conway	24	14	58.3%
Craighead	184	91	49.5%
Crawford	171	83	48.5%
Crittenden	279	140	50.2%
Cross	24	9	37.5%
Dallas	20	7	35.0%
Desha	33	11	33.3%
Drew	67	38	56.7%
Faulkner	158	75	47.5%
Franklin	40	20	50.0%
Fulton	17	7	41.2%
Garland	177	86	48.6%
Grant	27	8	29.6%
Greene	86	41	47.7%
Hempstead	55	27	49.1%
Hot Springs	82	48	58.5%
Howard	68	34	50.0%
Independence	72	39	54.2%

Table 8 - Continued

3-Year Recidivism Rates By County of Conviction-2011

County	No. Releases	Ret w/in 3 yrs	% Returned
Izard	17	11	64.7%
Jackson	67	33	49.3%
Jefferson	172	92	53.5%
Johnson	81	34	42.0%
Lafayette	32	12	37.5%
Lawrence	43	17	40.0%
Lee	12	6	50.0%
Lincoln	5	2	40.0%
Little River	49	18	36.7%
Logan	30	15	50.0%
Lonoke	185	90	48.6%
Madison	16	10	62.5%
Marion	22	10	45.5%
Miller	179	68	38.0%
Mississippi	151	69	45.7%
Monroe	39	18	46.2%
Montgomery	7	2	28.6%
Nevada	29	9	31.0%
Newton	10	0	0.0%
Ouachita	65	29	44.6%
Perry	10	5	50.0%
Phillips	43	25	58.1%
Pike	19	6	31.6%
Poinsett	50	29	58.0%
Polk	13	5	38.5%
Pope	177	77	43.5%
Prairie	19	5	26.3%
Pulaski	1,010	527	52.2%
Randolph	39	20	51.3%
St. Francis	62	34	54.8%
Saline	144	64	44.4%
Scott	17	9	52.9%
Searcy	7	2	28.6%
Sebastian	573	310	54.1%
Sevier	72	19	26.4%
Sharp	25	11	44.0%
Stone	33	20	60.6%
Union	128	54	42.2%
Van Buren	29	7	24.1%
Washington	527	239	45.4%
White	151	70	46.4%
Woodruff	3	1	33.3%
Yell	28	15	53.6%
Unknown	4	2	50.0%
Total	6,859	3,308	48.2%

Figure 7 : 3-Year Re-incarceration Rate by County in Arkansas

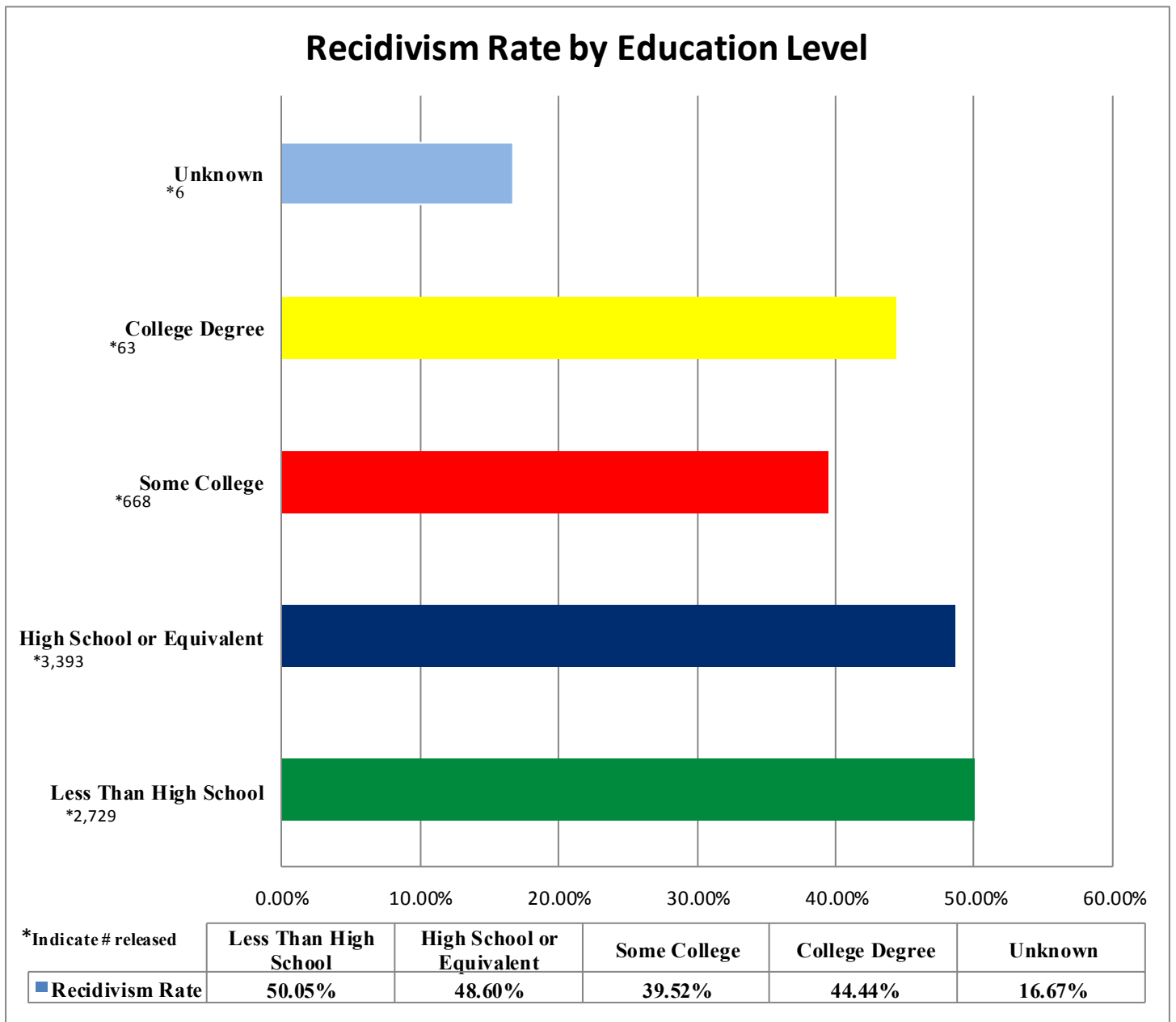


* The counties that are a shade darker represent counties in which ADC facilities are located.

Recidivism Rates: Education Level

Figure 8 illustrates recidivism rates by education level of inmates released in 2011. As it applies to inmates leaving correctional facilities, greater educational attainment has been associated with lower recidivism rates. The results of this study shows that inmates with less than a high school education had the highest recidivism rate (50.05%), while inmates with some college education had a lower recidivism rate (39.52%). Marginally higher recidivism rates are noted among inmates with less than a high school diploma or GED than inmates with a high school education or higher.

Figure 8



Conclusion

Research has consistently shown that there are certain characteristics common among those who recidivate. The goal of this study was to provide insight on the factors that contribute to the recidivism rate in Arkansas. There were a total of 6,859 inmates released in 2011 and 3,308 inmates returned within three years of release. On average, these individuals spent 17 months in the community before returning to prison.

In addition to demographic characteristics that are common among recidivists, these inmates also tended to have the same types of criminal backgrounds. Research has shown that inmates who commit a violent offense are more likely to recidivate. Consistent with this research, this study found that ADC inmates whose original conviction was for a violent offense returned to prison at a higher percentage (52%) than non-violent offenders (46%) within three years of release.

Lastly, prior research has shown that there are some community-level characteristics that affect the likelihood of recidivism for inmates. This study tapped into characteristics of the community by examining recidivism rates by county of conviction. Inmates who returned to prison within three years of release most often did so pursuant to an original conviction in counties that were rural and less densely populated; however, there were also highly populated counties that exhibited high recidivism rates.

Overall, the results of this study confirm that inmates released back into the community exhibit certain attributes that may increase the probability of recidivism. For these inmates, the reintegration process can be more difficult as a result of both individual and community characteristics. Inmates, especially parolees, are likely to return to the same impoverished neighborhoods that substantially increase criminal opportunities, limit educational, vocational, and social support services, and attenuate personal support networks. This study also found that parole violators returned to prison most often due to a new sentence (63%), as compared to parolees returning on a technical violation (37%)⁴.

At some point, nearly 87% of all prisoners will return to their communities. Re-entry, a vital component of any successful reintegration process, can include all the activities and programming conducted to prepare inmates to return to society as law-abiding citizens. The success of any program is often dependent upon the willingness of the inmates to capitalize on the opportunities afforded them and their desire to improve their situation; however, some will inevitably end up back in prison. This report demonstrates the importance, and in some cases, large effects of certain factors on re-incarceration rates. These factors must be accounted for when measuring and comparing recidivism rates.

In an effort to reduce recidivism rates, the Arkansas Department of Correction provides various treatment programs, work opportunities, educational programs, and vocational training all while providing for public safety and carrying out the mandates of the courts. However, it is important to note that the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders is a process dependent on collaboration and efforts by all justice system stakeholders.

⁴ These percentages are based on the total number of parole violators ($n = 3280$, see Table 2, p. 5).