

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

**RELEASE OUTCOME 2010:  
A THREE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP**

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

GARY M. LANIGAN  
*Commissioner*  
*New Jersey Department of Corrections*

JAMES T. PLOUSIS  
*Chairman*  
*New Jersey State Parole Board*

KEVIN M. BROWN  
*Executive Director*  
*New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission*

## **Acknowledgements**

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

**Gary M. Lanigan**

*Commissioner*

**Judi Lang**

*Chief of Staff*

**Kristen M. Zgoba, Ph.D.**

*Supervising Research Scientist I*

**Sabrina Haugebrook, MPA, MS**

*Research Scientist II*

**Laura M. Salerno, Ph.D.**

*Research Scientist II*

### **New Jersey State Parole Board**

**James T. Plousis**

*Chairman*

**David W. Thomas**

*Executive Director*

**Lawrence Gregorio**

*Deputy Executive Director*

**Deborah Mohammed-Spigner, Ph.D.**

*Research Scientist II*

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

**Kevin M. Brown**

*Executive Director*

**Rob Montalbano**

*Interim Deputy Executive Director of Programs*

**John E. Vanloan**

*Administrative Analyst II*

### **New Jersey Office of Information Technology**

**Kevin May**

*Deputy Chief Technology Officer*

**Martina Pastor**

*Data Warehousing Manager*

**Jessica Costanzo**

*OIT Information Architect*

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **OVERALL FINDINGS**

- In 2010, the State of New Jersey maintained the same recidivism rates from 2009 for rearrests and reincarcerations, 53% and 32% respectively. However, there was a minor upward trend in the rate of reconvictions, moving to 42%. This represents a 7.6% increase in the percentage of reconvictions.
- Approximately 68 % of adult offenders did not return to prison within the 3 year analysis of this report.

### **SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS OF 2010 RELEASE COHORT**

- The adult cohort was comprised of 11,388 offenders: 7,078 supervised offenders (62.2%) and 4,310 (37.8%) unsupervised offenders.
- The juvenile cohort was comprised of 696 releases.
- The race of the adult cohort was comprised of 24.2% Caucasian, 58.1% African American, 17.1% Hispanic and .6% other races.
- Male offenders comprised 92.7% of the released cohort and the female cohort comprised 7.3%.
- The median time served for the adult cohort was 521 days, with 50% of the sample serving under 18 months.
- The majority of adult offenders served time for a drug offense (38.7%), followed by a violent offense (26.8%).
- The majority of the sample had no previous NJDOC admission (44%), while 15% had one previous admission, approximately 25% had 2-3 previous admissions and the remaining 16% had 4+ previous NJDOC admissions.

### **TOTAL ADULT COHORT RECIDIVISM CHARACTERISTICS**

- 53.4% of the cohort was rearrested; this is the same rate as with the 2009 release cohort. Numbers ranged from 0- 24 rearrests over the 3 year period.
- 41.8% of the cohort was reconvicted, this is a 7.6% increase from the 2009 release cohort and the number of reconvictions ranged from 0-14.
- 32.0 % of the cohort was reincarcerated, which is identical to the 2009 release cohort. The number of reincarcerations ranged from 0-8.
- For those offenders who were rearrested, the average time to failure was one year (mean=364 days; median= 282 days, sd= 287 days).
- For those parolees who violated parole, the average time to parole violation was just over one year (mean=408 days, median= 334 days, sd= 292 days).
- When examining admission crime, offenders who originally served time for “other” crimes, property crimes and drugs, were rearrested at the highest proportions. The category of “other” crimes included offenses that did not fit into the 5 typologies, such as, crimes against the courts (contempt), traffic offenses, non-violent family offenses, decency offenses, public order and immigration offenses.
- However, drug, property and violent crimes were the crimes upon which offenders were most likely to return to prison.

### **ADULT RELEASE COHORT RECIDIVISM DIFFERENCES**

- Compared to supervised offenders (48% rearrest and 35% reconviction), unsupervised offenders had higher rates of rearrest (63%) and reconviction (53%); however, supervised

offenders had a higher rate of reincarceration (36%) compared to unsupervised offenders (25%). Comparative statistics related to supervised vs. unsupervised offenders may sometimes be misinterpreted because supervised offenders are subject to greater scrutiny than unsupervised offenders and may be returned to prison due to technical violations or other reasons that would not be identified in someone who is not closely supervised.

- Proportionally more of the unsupervised group of offenders are rearrested within the first year, particularly the first six months.
- Of the full sample rearrested, approximately 60% did so by 12 months and 85% by 24 months-this highlights the rapid rate at which recidivism occurs.

### **FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH ADULT OFFENDER RECIDIVISM**

- 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 1.3. Fifteen percent of the full sample of released offenders had a minimum of one prior state incarceration and an additional 40% had two or more prior state incarceration terms, totaling 55% of the sample of inmates. Highlighting the importance of this variable, the results indicate that 57% of those with one prior state prison term were rearrested, 64% of those with two prior terms, 67% of those with three prior terms and 75% of those with four or more prior incarcerations were rearrested ( $\chi^2=1021.85$ ,  $df=4$ ,  $p<.000$ ).
- Younger offenders were more likely to be rearrested; every additional year of age reduced an offender's odds of rearrest by a factor of approximately one.
- On average, offenders who were rearrested served shorter sentences of 655 days, while non-recidivists served 862 days ( $t=11.91$ ,  $df=11,241$ ,  $p<.000$ ).
- Offenders who committed property and "other" crimes at admission had an increased probability of a new arrest when compared to drug offenders, with property crimes maintaining the highest odds of rearrest (1.32). Compared to drug offenders, violent offenders had decreased odds of rearrest.
- Race was significantly predictive of rearrest; compared to Caucasian offenders, African American offenders had 1.20 increased odds of rearrest, while Hispanic and "other" race offenders had decreased odds of rearrest.
- Released males were statistically more likely to be rearrested than females.
- Offender intake Level of Service Inventory Revised (LSI-R) score was positively associated with rearrest, with an offender's odds of a new arrest increasing by a factor of 1.04 for each additional point scored.

### **JUVENILE COHORT RECIDIVISM CHARACTERISTICS**

- 86.1% of the cohort had a new court filing/arrest.
- 71.6% of the cohort had a new court filing/arrest that resulted in a new adjudication/conviction.
- 36.9% of the cohort had a new court filing/arrest that resulted in a new commitment to a State facility.
- The average time to re-offend for a new court filings/arrest was 262 days.
- The average time to re-offend for a new adjudications/conviction was 276 days.
- The average time to re-offend for a new commitment to a State facility was 327 days.

### **FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH JUVENILE RECIDIVISM (New Court Filing/Arrest)**

- Males were more likely to recidivate (87.1% recidivating vs. 72.3% of females).

- Youth of color (combining African American, Hispanic and “Other” youth of color) were more likely to recidivate than Caucasian youth (87.2% vs. 76.4%).
- Youth residing in the 15 most densely populated cities were more likely to recidivate compared with other youth (88.1% vs. 84.1%).
- Recidivating youth had accumulated a greater number of total adjudications of delinquency than non-recidivists (7.0 vs. 5.2).
- Juveniles committed/admitted on public order charges (as their most serious offense) were most likely to recidivate (90.5%), followed by 90.2% for CDS, 88.6% for Violations of Probation, 87.3% for weapons, 85.6% for property, and 81.7% for persons offenses.
- Juveniles committed/admitted on Violations of Probation and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree offenses (as their most serious offense) were most likely to recidivate (88.6% each), followed by 86.8% for disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons (DP/PDP), 85.6% for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree offenses, 84.3% for 4<sup>th</sup> degree offenses, and 74.6% for 1<sup>st</sup> degree offenses.
- Recidivating youth were reading at a lower grade level equivalent based on a Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) Reading Test than non-recidivists (5.9 grade level vs. 6.6).
- Recidivating youth scored at a lower grade level equivalent based on a MAP Math Test than non-recidivists (6.2 grade level vs. 6.3).
- Youth receiving special education and/or related services (“classified youth”) were more likely to recidivate than other youth (86.6% vs. 85.3%).
- Recidivating youth had a lower composite score on the Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test (indicating level of functional intelligence) than non-recidivists (83.3% vs. 84.0%).
- Recidivating youth had a higher score on the JJC’s Initial Classification & Custody Document than non-recidivists (12.0 vs. 11.8).
- Recidivating youth were found to have higher levels of substance abuse need than non-recidivists, based on the JJC’s Comprehensive Information Assessment (CIA) (4.0 vs. 3.8).
- With regard to multiple needs, recidivating youth were found to have the same number of staff assessed areas of need based on the JJC’s CIA (5.0 vs. 5.0).

## INTRODUCTION

Research suggests that the most critical time for recidivism is during the first few months of release from prison. Recidivism deterrence can be challenging to law enforcement agencies tasked with providing security, enhancing public safety and correcting the past behavior of incarcerated felons. Within the criminal justice system, educators and clinicians provide programs and services in an effort to encourage better outcomes once offenders are released back into the community. Helping these offenders achieve the best outcomes for success beyond the prison walls is vital.

This report tracks the outcome of adults released from the New Jersey Department of Corrections and those placed on supervision 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.” For the adult analysis, recidivism is any rearrest, reconviction, reincarceration and technical violation.

In terms of New Jersey’s incarcerated population, approximately 11,388 adult inmates and 696 juvenile offenders were released in 2010 from State correctional facilities. These groups will be identified throughout the report as supervised (paroled), unsupervised and juvenile cohorts.

This report is a result of a legislative mandate instituted by P.L. 2009, c.329, (C.30: 4-91.15). These aforementioned agencies are tasked by the legislature to compile a series of reports that record and examine recidivism rates. To that end, this report is the fourth in a series of reports that measures overall recidivism levels, describes adult and juvenile cohort characteristics, and analyzes those factors associated with recidivism.

The first sections of the report provide an introduction and the various agencies’ mission statements. Additionally, it provides an extensive review of the methodology and definitions used in this report, as they may significantly vary between agencies.

The following sections address recidivism of the total sample, the supervised and unsupervised adults, the juvenile releases, and the characteristics associated with re-offending. Additionally, 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.

## **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 reentry into society. According to the 2015 budget, the department is responsible for managing \$1 billion and employing approximately 8,000 persons, including more than 5,800 in custody positions, to supervise approximately 23,000 inmates. The NJDOC is responsible for 13 institutions -- 11 adult male 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 offender students 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 students with the experiences and skills necessary to enter and remain current with advanced technology influencing the current and future job market. Comprehensive academic education and career technical training, infused with technology based skills, are important elements to a successful transition into society and the workforce. The department offers an array of institutional and community-based program opportunities for offenders, including community labor assistance, academic and vocational educational programs, recreational programs, library (lending and law) services and substance abuse treatment.

Other specialized services include victim awareness, chaplaincy services, county assistance, quality assurance, liaison to Intensive Supervision Program and ombudsman services,

which is a medium utilized by 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 364 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 assistance and rehabilitative assistance in their communities and never enter a JJC facility or program.

For those who require further contact with the juvenile justice system, a comprehensive classification process, which involves in-depth evaluations and assessments, determines each resident's placement in the JJC's continuum of secure-care facilities, residential community homes, and 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 New Jersey Department of Corrections (n=4,310) and released to supervision by the State Parole Board or the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Intensive Supervision Program (n=7,078) in 2010; this resulted in the review of criminal activity for a total sample of 11,388 adults. This study also examined the release of juveniles (n=696) from the Juvenile Justice Commission in 2010. The subjects were placed into one of the following three categories: the unsupervised cohort (NJDOC), the supervised cohort (SPB) and the juvenile cohort (JJC).

The adults who are excluded from this study are out-of-state releases or offenders who were arrested outside New Jersey, offenders without a State Bureau of Identification (SBI) number, and offenders who were deported or deceased.

In an effort to provide the highest degree of data available for review of recidivism, and beyond that supplied by federal studies, the State of New Jersey has provided data on all three levels of criminal activity as well as violations of supervision. Specifically, the adult release cohort was tracked and measured in the following ways:

1. Rearrest: Measured as the first rearrest on felony charges within the three-year follow-up (1095 days), regardless of disposition. This count would include a new arrest/crime for a parolee. This date is tracked for a review on time to failure.
2. Reconviction: Measured as the first felony reconviction from at least one charge within the three-year follow-up. This count is regardless of whether or not the offender went on to be readmitted to the NJDOC.
3. Reincarceration: Measured as the first New Jersey readmission for an outstanding felony indictment or a technical parole violation regardless of incarceration location within the three-year follow-up period. This is consistent with the 2011 Pew study definition of recidivism.<sup>1</sup>
4. Technical parole violation: Measured as any supervised offender who returns to State prison or county jail within the three-year follow-up for a technical violation of parole condition only (e.g., dirty urine, curfew infraction). An offender with a technical parole violation and an arrest for a new crime will be classified under the “rearrest” category and categorized according to the most serious offense of conviction.

Crime categories were separated consistent with the federal government’s crime types including weapons offenses, drug offenses, property offenses, violent offenses and “other” offenses. The category of “other” crimes included offenses that did not fit into the 5 typologies, such as crimes against the courts (contempt), community supervision violations, and traffic offenses. Due to electronic recording abilities, crime types for the reincarceration present a particular challenge, specifically if an offender returns to prison for a technical parole violation, the reincarceration will appear as the index offense, not the parole violation. Additional variables are included in an effort to determine whether an association with recidivism exists. These variables include supervision level, release age, LSI-R score, time served, original admission offense type, gender, race/ethnicity and prior criminal history. Inmate SBI number was used to electronically retrieve arrest, conviction and incarceration information for criminal events both prior and subsequent to their 2010 release. This has allowed researchers to now track the number of rearrests, reconviction and reincarcerations over the 36 month 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?

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<sup>1</sup> Pew Center on the States (2011). *State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America’s Prisons*. Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts.

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 2010. 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 since the average age at release for youth in the study was 17.8 years, many youth turned 18 years of age during the follow-up period. 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

### **NJ Department of Corrections and NJ State Parole Board**

During calendar year 2010, 11,388 inmates were released from the NJDOC. Of the final sample, 7,078 offenders (62.2%) were released as supervised (i.e. under parole supervision) and 4,310 offenders (37.8%) were released as unsupervised (max-outs), completing their sentences while incarcerated. As can be seen in Table 1, of the total sample, 92.7% of offenders were male and 7.3% were female. The racial characteristics of the released offenders (supervised and unsupervised) show that more African American offenders (58.1%) were released, followed by Caucasian inmates (24.2%) and Hispanic offenders (17.1%). Forty-four percent of the total sample did not have a prior correctional history, but the remaining 56% had a minimum of one additional State incarceration. When one looks closer, 56% of the supervised sample had no prior criminal history, while 25% of the unsupervised sample had no prior criminal history ( $p < .000$ ). The most prevalent serious offense that the sample committed was a drug offense (38.7%), followed by a violent felony (26.8%). The average release age of all offenders was 34 years old with the unsupervised sample being statistically older than the supervised sample at 35.92 years ( $p < .000$ ). The median time served for the 2010 release cohort was 521 days. The unsupervised cohort served more time at 562 days, while the supervised sample served 482 days ( $p < .000$ ).

Table 1: 2010 Release Cohort Characteristics			
Variable	Supervised (n=7,078)	Unsupervised (n=4,310)	Total (N=11,388)
<b>Gender*</b>			
Male	6,506	4,050	10,556 (92.7%)
Female	572	260	832 (7.3%)
<b>Race*</b>			
Caucasian	1,795	947	2,742 (24.2%)
African American	3,870	2,714	6,584 (58.1%)
Hispanic	1,334	604	1,938 (17.1%)
Other	48	17	65 (.6%)
<b>Prior History*</b>			
No Prior History	3,980	1,075	5,055 (44.4%)
1 Prior Incarceration	1,075	657	1,732 (15.2%)
2 Prior Incarcerations	727	822	1,549 (13.6%)
3 Prior Incarcerations	575	602	1,177 (10.3%)
4+ Prior Incarcerations	721	1,154	1,875 (16.5%)
<b>Most Serious Offense*</b>			
Violent	1,998	940	2,938 (26.8%)
Weapon	333	250	583 (5.3%)
Property	1,150	914	2,064 (18.8%)
Drugs	2,771	1,469	4,240 (38.7%)
Other	620	506	1,126 (10.3%)
<b>Release Age*</b>	Mean= 33.53 (SD= 10.0)	Mean= 35.92 (SD= 10.1)	Mean= 34.4 (SD 10.15)
<b>Time Served in Days*</b>	Median= 482 (SD= 897)	Median= 567 (SD= 888)	Median= 521 (SD 893.88)

\*p < .000

As displayed in Table 2, 53.4% of the overall sample was rearrested, 41.8% was reconvicted and 32.0 % returned to State incarceration. Of the 7,078 supervised releases, 3,369 (47.6%) were rearrested and 3,709 (52.4%) were not; and of the 4,310 unsupervised releases, 2,717 (63%) were rearrested and 1,593 (37%) were not. This pattern is repeated for reconvictions, as approximately 53% of the unsupervised releases were reconvicted, as compared to 35% of the supervised offenders. Conversely, 36% of the supervised releases were returned to prison, while 25.4% of the unsupervised releases returned to prison. These differences meet statistical significance (p<.000), as more of the unsupervised offenders were rearrested and reconvicted and more supervised offenders returned to prison. It should be noted that differences may be attributable to differences in supervision levels. Comparative statistics related to supervised vs. unsupervised offenders may sometimes be misinterpreted because supervised offenders are subject to greater scrutiny than unsupervised offenders and may be returned to prison due to technical violations or other reasons that would not be identified in someone who is not closely supervised.

Examining the rearrested groups further reveals that for 1,116 (42.4%) of the “Unsupervised and Rearrested” group, the arrest occurred within the first six months, and by 12 months of release the cumulative total rearrested was 1,746 (66.3%). At the six month mark, 28.1% of the “Supervised and Rearrested” group was rearrested, while 1,451 (52.4%) were rearrested within 12 months of their release. This finding meets statistical significance (p<.000),

as proportionally more of the unsupervised group of offenders are rearrested within the first year, particularly the first six months. The median time to failure for rearrest in days for the full sample was under one year. The supervised group had a median time to rearrest of 344 days and the unsupervised had a median of 226 days, this difference met statistical significance (p<.000).

Table 2: 2010 Release Cohort Recidivism Characteristics			
Variable	Supervised (n=7,078)	Unsupervised (n=4,310)	Total (N=11,388)
<b>Rearrest*</b>			
Yes	3,369	2,717	6,086 (53.4%)
No	3,709	1,593	5,302 (46.6%)
<b>Reconviction*</b>			
Yes	2,477	2,285	4,762 (41.8%)
No	4,601	2,025	6,626 (58.2%)
<b>Reincarceration*</b>			
Yes	2,550	1,093	3,643 (32.0 %)
No	4,528	3,217	7,745 (68.0%)
<b>Time to Rearrest*</b>			
06 Months	779	1,116	1,895 (35.1%)
12 Months	672	630	1,302 (24.1%)
18 Months	473	327	800 (14.8%)
24 Months	365	254	619 (11.5%)
30 Months	280	181	461 (8.5%)
36 Months	200	125	325 (6.0%)
<b>Time to Rearrest (Days)*</b>	Median= 344 (SD=290.29)	Median= 226 (SD=276.46)	Median= 282 (SD=286.918)
<b>Time to Parole Violation for Parolees (Days)</b>	Mean= 408, Median= 334 (SD=291.962)	-	-

\*p < .000; frequencies for time to rearrest may not match totals due to missing information

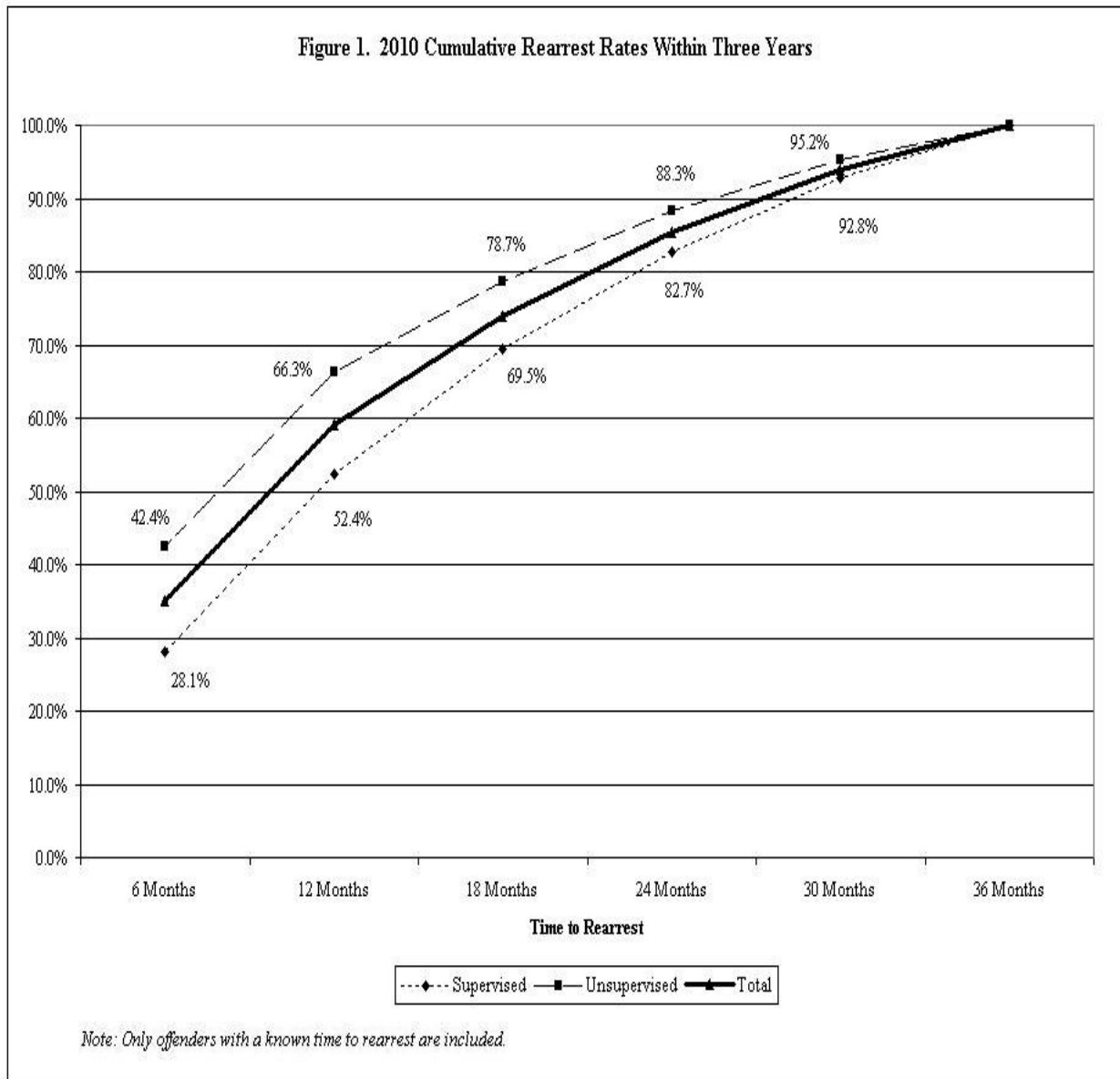
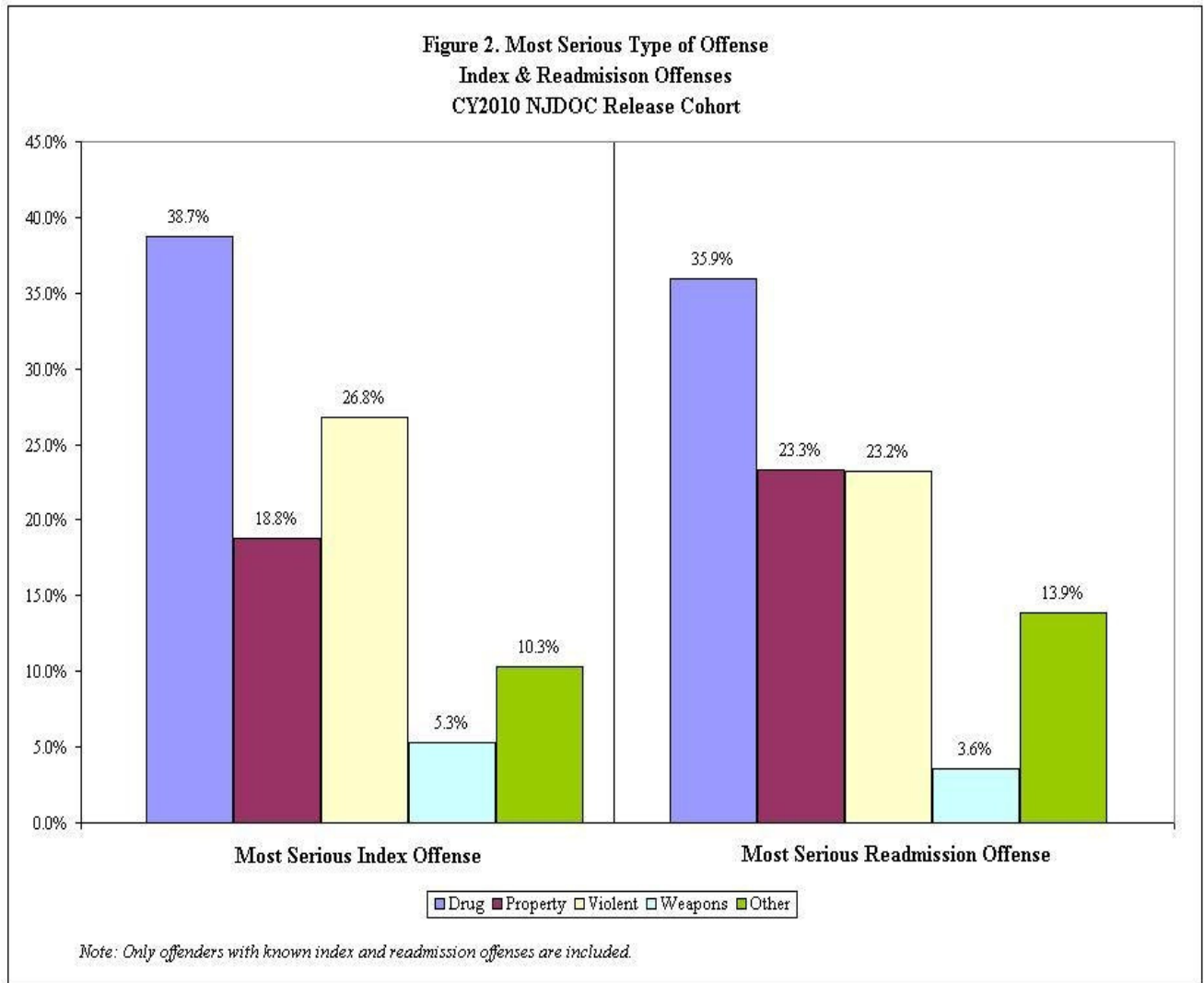


Figure 1 above provides a visual depiction of only those offenders who were rearrested within the follow-up period of three years. It presents the same information in Table 2. Overall, 35.1% of the total sample that were rearrested did so within 6 months of release, while 59.2% were rearrested by the 12 month mark. At 12 months post-release, 66.3% of the unsupervised releases had recidivated and were rearrested compared to 52.4% of those offenders released under supervision. These time intervals highlight how quickly recidivism takes place, and how for each additional year after release the numbers decelerate.

As can be seen in Table 3 below, when compared to the previous 2009 cohort, the State of New Jersey has maintained the majority of its recidivism rates. The full 2010 release cohort experienced no change in the rates of rearrest or reincarceration, but an increase from 39% to 42% with reconvictions; this represents a 7.6% increase in the percentage of reconvictions. This is a percent change difference and the statistics are computed to maintain methodological consistency with the Pew Center on the States 2011 “State of Recidivism” report.

Release Year	Rearrest	Reconviction	Reincarceration
2007	57%	45%	37%
2008	54%	42%	35%
2009	53%	39%	32%
2010	53%	42%	32%



As graphically displayed in Figure 2 above, a breakdown of offense categories was analyzed. Based on the New Jersey Criminal Code, offenses were broken down into five categories: violent, weapons, property, drug, and other.<sup>1</sup> (The other category is a general category for offenses not captured by the other four main crime types). These offense types are based on the most serious offense that occurred.

The left side of Figure 2 represents the admission offense that led to the offender’s incarceration during the study period (i.e. the “index offense”). These percentages are based on the entire sample of offenders (n=11,388). As depicted in the graph, drug offenses account for

the largest proportion of index offenses at 38.7%, followed by violent offenses (26.8%), property offenses (18.8%), “other” offenses (10.3%), and weapons offenses (5.3%).

The right side of the graph focuses on only recidivists and reports the percentages of crimes for which offenders returned to prison. While focusing on the much smaller pool of recidivists, the pattern is somewhat similar to admission offense. Offenders returned to prison most frequently for drug (35.9%), property offenses (23.3%) and violent offenses (23.2%). Weapon offenses (3.6%) were the offenses that inmates returned to prison for the least. As mentioned previously, however, due to electronic recording abilities, crime types for the reincarceration present a particular challenge, specifically if an offender returns to prison for a technical parole violation, the reincarceration will appear as the index offense, not the parole violation.

### ***Factors Associated with Recidivism***

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. The analysis revealed that for this released population, six factors were associated with rearrest within three years. These factors included prior correctional history, age at release, length of time served, type of committing/admitting offense, race/ethnicity, and intake LSI-R score. The offender’s release type (supervised vs. unsupervised) was a significant predictor on whether the offender was rearrested, with unsupervised releases maintaining statistically higher rearrests. The factors entered in the model explained 17.8% of the variance in the dependent variable of rearrest; furthermore, the model was significant ( $\chi^2=717.9$ ,  $df=13$ ,  $p<.000$ ).

*Prior Correctional History.* 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. Fifteen percent of the full sample of released offenders had a minimum of one prior state incarceration and an additional 40% had two or more prior state incarceration terms, totaling 55% of the sample of inmates. Highlighting the importance of this variable, the results indicate that 57% of those with one prior state prison term were rearrested, 64% of those with two prior terms, 67% of those with three prior terms and 75% of those with four or more prior incarcerations were rearrested ( $\chi^2=1021.85$ ,  $df=4$ ,  $p<.000$ ).

*Age at release.* Younger offenders were more likely to be rearrested than older offenders; the differences across age were statistically significant. Offenders who recidivated were younger than non-recidivists (33.2 years vs. 35.9 years,  $t=14.17$ ,  $df=10,648$   $p<.000$ ). 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 (0.96).

*Length of time served.*<sup>2</sup> Offenders were more likely to be rearrested for a new crime if they served shorter amounts of time. On average, offenders who were rearrested served shorter sentences of 655 days, while non-recidivists served 862 days ( $t=11.91$ ,  $df=11,241$ ,  $p<.000$ ).

*Type of Committing Offense.* The type of instant offense the offender committed was significant in bivariate tests of independence and multivariate regression models predicting a new arrest. Offenders who committed property and “other” crimes had an increased probability of a new arrest when compared to drug offenders, with property crimes maintaining the highest odds of rearrest (1.35). Compared to drug offenders, violent offenders had decreased odds of rearrest.



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Specifically, offenders who committed property (60% rearrest), “other” (61% rearrest) and drug (56% rearrest) offenses were rearrested proportionally more than offenders who committed a weapons (53% rearrest) or violent (42% rearrest) offenses ( $\chi^2=235.75$ ,  $df=4$ ,  $p<.000$ ).

*Race/Ethnicity.* The variable of race/ethnicity was significant in bivariate tests of independence and multivariate regression models. Proportionally, African American offenders were rearrested more, compared to Caucasian and Hispanic offenders ( $\chi^2=265.70$ ,  $df= 3$ ,  $p<.000$ ). In totality, 64% of offenders who were rearrested were African American. Multivariate statistics indicated that race/ethnicity was predictive of rearrest, particularly, compared to Caucasians, African Americans had increased odds of a rearrest of 1.20. Additionally, when compared to Caucasians, Hispanics and “other” races had decreased odds of a rearrest.

*LSI-R Score.* The Level of Services Inventory-Revised is a risk and needs assessment instrument used to measure an offender’s level of recidivism risk. Higher scores on the scale indicate an offender is at increased risk for recidivism. Bivariate tests of independence indicated offenders who recidivated tested higher on the LSI-R measure during intake, with recidivists scoring 23.02 ( $sd=6.63$ ) and non-recidivists scoring 20.38 ( $sd= 7.21$ ) ( $t=-13.64$ ,  $df=4,940$ ,  $p<.000$ ). Multivariate statistics indicated offender intake LSI-R score was positively associated with rearrest, with an offender’s odds of a new arrest increasing by a factor of 1.04 for each additional point scored.

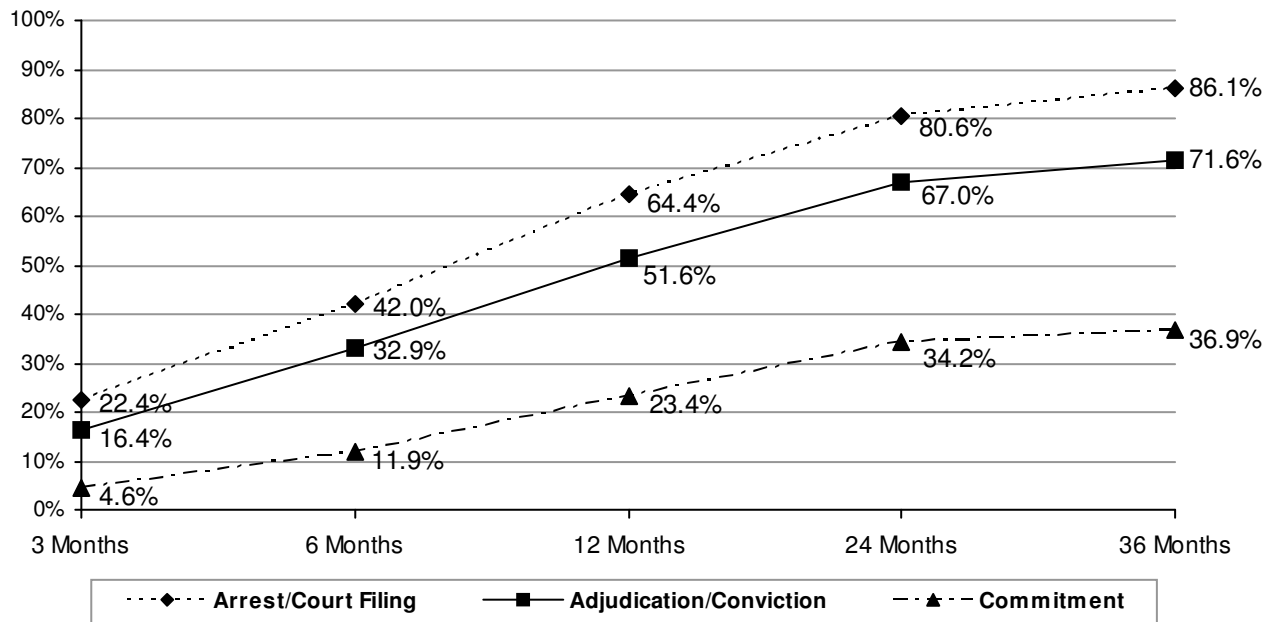
**Juvenile Justice Commission**

The reporting of results begins with a focus on an examination of the overall recidivism rates for youth released from JJC custody in 2010. As shown in Figure 3, the rate of recidivism increased over time through the three-year period for each of the three measures, although there is a noticeable tapering off beyond 24 months. By one year following release, 64.4% of the youth released in 2010 had a new court filing/arrest. In addition, more than one-half (51.6%) committed a new offense resulting in an adjudication/conviction, while 23.4% 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 (80.6%) had a new court filing/arrest, 67.0% had a new adjudication/conviction, and 34.2% had a new commitment to a State facility. By three full years after release more than eight in ten youth had new court filings/arrests (86.1%), 71.6% had new adjudications/convictions, and 36.9% had new commitments, representing 257 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, 262 days;
- for those with a new adjudication/conviction, 276 days; and
- for those with a new commitment, 327 days.

Figure 3. Overall Recidivism Rates for Youth Released from JJC Custody in 2010



In other words, it took (on average) about eight months for youth with new court filings/arrests to re-offend, and almost nine months for those with new adjudications/convictions to re-offend. Further, those with a new commitment took more than nine months to re-offend.

A closer look at *recidivists only* (i.e., those who re-offended within three years) revealed that a large share of recidivating youth re-offended within six months of release, with a disproportionate share doing so within one year. Specifically, with regard to youth with a new court filing/arrest, 48.7% recidivated within six months, and 74.8% within the first year. In

addition, 46.0% of youth with a new adjudication/conviction re-offended within six months, and 72.1% did so within the first year. Finally, 32.3% of those who received a new commitment re-offended within six months, while 63.4% did so within the first year.

A substantial proportion of the *recidivists* re-offended shortly after release, i.e., within three months of release. Specifically, among the recidivists, 26.0% of those with a new court filing/arrest, 22.9% of those with a new adjudication/conviction, and 12.5% of those with a new commitment re-offended within three months of their release from JJC custody.

**Recent Trends in Juvenile Recidivism**

As part of the analysis, a comparison was made with previous years’ findings with regard to the three measures of juvenile recidivism. As indicated in the table below, new court filings/arrests changed only slightly over the three year period. With regard to new adjudications/convictions, the rate remained basically unchanged from 2008 to 2009. However over a three year period a decrease of adjudications/convictions was demonstrated. Finally, with regard to new commitments, some improvement is indicated between 2008 to 2009 (-4%). From 2009 to 2010, the rate increased from 34.7% to 36.9% (+2.2.%). Over time, the rate at which youth have received new commitments has declined.

Recent Trend in Juvenile Recidivism 2008 to 2010			
<i>Release Year</i>	<i>Court Filing/Arrest</i>	<i>Adjudication/Conviction</i>	<i>Commitment</i>
2008	85.0%	73.3%	38.7%
2009	84.8%	73.4%	34.7%
2010	86.1%	71.6%	36.9%

The JJC also determined 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, in order to explore potential trends. The chart below demonstrates that the average time for a juvenile to recidivate in days increased across all three measures from 2008 to 2009 with the greatest increase being in the average number of days that it took for those youth receiving new commitments (+33 days for new court filings/arrests; +32 days for new adjudications/convictions/ and +61 for new commitments.) Conversely, all three measures showed decreases in the length of time to recidivate from 2009 to 2010, although the decreases were not as large as the previous increases (-7 for new court filings/arrests; -12 days for new adjudications/convictions; -15 days for new commitments). Overall, the difference in average days increased over the three years measured (2008-2010) in this report. Juveniles remained successful in the community for a increase of 26 additional days for those with new court filings/arrests; an additional 20 days for those with new adjudication/convictions; and an additional 46 days for those with new commitments.

Average Time To Recidivate In Days			
Release Year	Court Filings/Arrest	Adjudication/Conviction	Commitment
2008	236	256	281
2009	269	288	342
2010	262	276	327

### ***Recidivism by Offender Status***

Small to moderate differences were found between committed and probationer youth with regard to their likelihood of recidivating. Committed youth were more likely to receive a new court filing/arrest within the three-year period (committed = 86.5%; probationer = 85.2%). Committed youth were also somewhat more likely to re-offend and receive an adjudication/conviction (72.9% vs. 69.2%). Finally, committed youth were more likely to re-offend and receive a new commitment (38.1% vs. 34.8%).

With regard to the time it took to recidivate, probationer youth took somewhat longer than committed youth to re-offend for new court filings/arrests (268 days vs. 259 days), and it took probationers slightly longer to re-offend for adjudications/convictions (297 days vs. 265 days). Committed youth, on the other hand, took longer to re-offend for new commitments (340 days vs. 304 days).

### ***Factors Associated with Recidivism***

This recidivism study examined differences between those who did and those who did not recidivate in terms of a limited number of factors (i.e., variables) available for examination. The analysis of bivariate relationships revealed that for the released population examined in this report, among the variables having substantial portions of both committed and probationer youth data available, six factors were associated at a statistically significant level with recidivism within three years (on one or more of the three measures). These factors included gender, race/ethnicity, municipality of residence, number of total adjudications of delinquency, type of committing/admitting offense, and degree of committing/admitting offense. There are two other factors: Reading and Math Proficiencies that indicate differences between recidivists and non-recidivists, however these differences did not reach the level to be statistically significant or the results were mixed. Additionally, Education Classification Status indicates some recidivating differences between those who are educationally classified vs. those who are not classified that are described below.

*Gender.* Released males were substantially more likely to have recidivated than females; the difference was statistically significant for each of the three measures. The recidivism rate for males was substantially higher for new court filings/arrests within three years of release (87.1% vs. 72.3%,  $p = .005$ ); for new adjudications/convictions (72.7% vs. 55.3%,  $p = .011$ ); and for new commitments (38.7% vs. 12.8%,  $p = .000$ ) (move footnote 3 to here).

*Race/Ethnicity.* Released African American youth were most likely to have had a new court filing/arrest (88.1%), followed by Hispanic youth (84.0%), Caucasian youth (76.4%), and Other youth (75.0%). This difference in new court filings/arrests across race/ethnicity shows statistical significance ( $p = .043$ ). Again African American youth were most likely to have received a new adjudication/conviction (74.5%), followed by Hispanic youth (68.0%), Caucasian youth (58.3%), and Other youth (50.0%). The difference is also statistically significant ( $p = .018$ ). Finally, the difference for new commitments across race/ethnicity demonstrated a total of 75.0% of youth categorized as Other receiving a new commitment ( $p = .015$ ), followed by 39.6% of African American youth, 32.8% of Hispanic youth, and 23.6% of Caucasian youth. It should be noted that the Other pertains to a total of 4 juveniles, with 75% representing 3 juveniles.

As part of the analysis, race/ethnicity was recoded into “minority” and “nonminority” categories (with Caucasian the sole race/ethnicity category coded as nonminority). Those categorized as minority (i.e., youth of color) were more likely to have recidivated, with the differences also reaching statistical significance for all three measures. Minority youth were more likely to have had a new court filing/arrest (87.2% vs. 76.4%,  $p=.012$ ); a new adjudication/conviction (73.1% vs. 58.3%,  $p=.009$ ); and a new commitment (38.5% vs. 23.6%,  $p=.013$ ).

*Municipality of Residence.* Released youth were categorized as residing in one of the fifteen most densely populated New Jersey cities (the Urban 15 areas), or not.<sup>4</sup> Statistically significant differences were found for new commitments. 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 (88.1% vs. 84.1%,  $p=.129$ ); new adjudications/convictions (73.3% vs. 69.9%,  $p=.325$ ); and new commitments (41.3% vs. 32.7%,  $p=.019$ ).

*Number of Adjudications.* The average number of adjudications of delinquency accumulated by the time of commitment/admission to the JJC (both prior and current adjudications) for the released population was 6.7. The measure for new adjudications/convictions was more statistically significant than the other two measures. The average number for youth who experienced a new court filing/arrest within three years of release was higher than for those who did not (7.0 vs. 5.2,  $p=.052$ ). The same was true for new adjudications/convictions (7.2 vs. 5.5,  $p=.007$ ), and for new commitments (7.2 vs. 6.5,  $p=.197$ ).

*Type of Offense.* Youth committed/admitted to the JJC for public order offenses were most likely to have had a new court filing/arrest within three years (90.5%), followed by those entering with CDS offenses (90.2%), Violation of Probation, VOPs (88.6%), weapons offenses (87.3%), property offenses (85.6%), and then persons offenses (81.7%):  $p=.331$ . For new adjudications/convictions, the highest rate was for CDS offenses (81.5%), followed by public order offenses (76.2%), VOPs (74.3%), property offenses (73.1%), weapons offenses (69.1%), and, finally, persons offenses (65.1%):  $p=.041$ . Finally, for new commitments, the highest rate was for property offenses (46.2%), followed by CDS offenses (42.4%), VOPs (37.1%), weapons offenses (34.5%), persons offenses (32.8%), and then public order offenses (28.6%):  $p=.191$ .

*Degree of Offense.* Youth committed/admitted to the JJC for 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and VOP (which have no designated degree) offenses were most likely to have had a new court filing/arrest within three years (88.6%), followed by those entering with disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses (DP/PDP) (86.8%), 2<sup>nd</sup> degree offenses (85.6%), 4<sup>th</sup> degree offenses (84.3%) and finally, 1<sup>st</sup> degree (74.6%). The difference in new court filing/arrest by degree of offense was not statistically significant ( $p=.145$ ). For new adjudications/convictions, the highest rate was for youth with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree offenses (78.2%), followed by DP/PDP offenses (76.3%), VOPs (74.7%), 4<sup>th</sup> degree (70.6%), 2<sup>nd</sup> degree offenses (66.1%) and then 1<sup>st</sup> degree offenses (58.2%). The difference is statistically significant ( $p=.011$ ). Finally, for new commitments, youth with 4<sup>th</sup> degree offenses had the highest recidivism rate (43.1%), followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> degree offenses (43.0%), VOPs (37.3%), 2<sup>nd</sup> degree (31.7%), DP/PDP offenses (31.6%), and 1<sup>st</sup> degree offenses (31.3%). The difference in new commitments was not statistically significant ( $p=.238$ ).

*Reading Proficiency (Grade Level Equivalency).* The MAP 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 6.0. Statistically significant differences were not found for all three measures. For new court filings/arrests, the average grade level for recidivists was lower (5.9 vs. 6.6,  $p=.246$ ). The same was true for new adjudications/convictions (6.0 vs. 6.1,  $p=.779$ ). For new commitments the grade level for recidivists was higher (6.4 vs. 5.8,  $p=.514$ ).

*Math Proficiency (Grade Level Equivalency).* The MAP 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 6.2. Statistically significant differences, again, were not found for all three measures. For new court filings/arrests, the average grade level for recidivists was lower (6.2 vs. 6.3,  $p=.638$ ). For new adjudications/convictions the average grade level for both were the same (6.2 vs. 6.2,  $p=.793$ ). For new commitments the grade level for recidivists was higher (6.6 vs. 5.9,  $p=.263$ ).

*Education Classification Status (Special Education).* For the overall released youth population, 51.7% were classified to special education, while the remaining 48.3% received regular education activities. For new court filings/arrests, 86.6% of the educationally classified youth recidivated compared with 85.3% of those not classified. For new adjudications/convictions, 72.8% of the educationally classified youth recidivated compared with 70.3% of those not classified. Finally, for new commitments, 39.8% of the educationally classified youth recidivated compared with 33.9% of those not classified.

Finally, in addition to the recidivism analyses, 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 and needs. 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 more highly on the JJC's Initial Classification & Custody Document (ICCD) which guides placement decisions and serves as a broad measure of risk for subsequent behavior problems. The average ICCD score for recidivists was 12.3, compared with 11.8 for non-recidivists ( $p=.285$ ).
- Recidivists were found to have higher need scores than non-recidivists regarding substance abuse, 4.0 vs. 3.8; educational/vocational, 3.5 vs. 3.3; and attitudes/behaviors, 1.8 vs. 1.5. On the contrary; non-recidivists had higher need scores than recidivists regarding family/household, 3.8 vs. 3.6. In the areas of peers/role models and medical/physical health, both recidivists and non-recidivists were the same. 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. None of the remaining need areas were found to have a statistically significant relationship with new court filings/arrests.
- Recidivists and non-recidivists were found to have the same number of staff assessed areas of need based on the CIA (5.0 vs. 5.0,  $p=019$ ).
- Recidivists had a somewhat lower composite score of functional intelligence than non-recidivists (83.3 vs. 83.5,  $p=.028$ ), based on the Kaufman Brief Intelligence

Test (KBIT). The average score for the released population on the KBIT was 83.3. Test results indicated that the JJC youth typically functioned well below the average range in terms of intelligence.

## CONCLUSION

This report is the fourth 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 (NJDOC), the New Jersey State Parole Board (NJSPB) 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 2010. In addition to measuring overall recidivism levels, this report describes adult and juvenile cohort characteristics, as well as analyzes those factors associated with recidivism. Both supervised (NJSPB) and unsupervised (NJDOC) releases were examined.

The NJDOC 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 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." For the adult analysis, recidivism was tracked on rearrest, reconviction, reincarceration and technical violations. All analyses presented the overall recidivism rates up to 36 months post release.

For adult offenders in 2010, the State of New Jersey maintained the same recidivism rates from 2009 for both rearrests and reincarcerations, 53% and 32% respectively. However, there was a minor upward trend in the rate of reconvictions, moving to 42%. This represents a 7.6% increase in the percentage of reconvictions. The time to recidivism for the supervised, unsupervised and total samples is consistent with previous years. Despite the minor upward trend in reconvictions in the current sample, the rates identified for the 2010 release cohort are lower than national estimates. A recent Bureau of Justice Statistics report followed inmates released in 30 states in 2005.<sup>2</sup> 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 offender return due to a technical parole violation. This places New Jersey below the estimates for these 30 states.

For this report, 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, 86.1% of the youth released resulted in a court filing/arrest, 71.6% resulted in a re-offense leading to an adjudication/conviction, and 36.9% resulted in a re-offense leading to a new commitment to the JJC or to State prison. An examination of juvenile recidivism rates over a three year period (2008 to 2010) for adjudication/conviction generally remained stable. The three year period showed slightly mixed results in court filing/arrests and new commitments in 2010.

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

To provide context for the 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 extent of identified personal, family and community/neighborhood risk factors faced by youth placed with the JJC underscores the challenges to achieving sustained, successful reintegration back to the community.

What is clear from the findings is that many youth begin to re-offend in the early months after their release from custody. Specifically, by the time youth had been released for three months, 22.4% of the released youth had a new court filing/arrest, 16.4% re-offended and were subsequently adjudicated/convicted, and 4.6% re-offended and were subsequently committed. With regard to all three measures it took recidivating youth longer to re-offend in 2010 than in 2008. On the contrary; it took recidivating youth longer to re-offend in 2009 than in 2010.

In addition to investigating recidivism by release type and time to failure, demographic and incarceration variables were measured to identify which factors are associated with recidivism, and if related, their level of influence. For the adult cohort, several variables were found to be associated with recidivism. These variables include age at release, race/ethnicity, gender, prior correctional history, length of time served, type of committing/admitting offense, and intake LSI-R score. In criminological research, age is considered a significant contributor to recidivism in that offenders tend to age out of crime; this expected trend was followed in the current cohort. Results of statistical analyses indicate that the recidivists in the current sample were younger than those offenders who did not recidivate. Race was also found to be associated with recidivism, in that African-Americans were more likely to have a rearrest within the 36 month follow-up when compared with Caucasian, Hispanic, and “other” offenders, both proportionally within and between groups. The majority of offenders with a rearrest had at least one prior state commitment, and those offenders who served shorter sentences were more likely to recidivate. Offenders who committed property and “other” crimes at admission had an increased probability of a new arrest when compared to drug offenders, with property crimes maintaining the highest odds of rearrest. Finally, an offender’s LSI-R score proved to predict rearrest, and showed a positive correlation: as an offender’s risk score increased, so did the odds of a rearrest.

Within the NJDOC cohort, there were differences between those who did recidivate and those who did not. Approximately 68% of offenders did not return to prison within the 3 year analysis of this report. These offenders have likely returned to their communities as productive citizens and this is worth noting. The programs that the NJDOC offers to inmates are substantial in size and value, including academic and certification courses. Data collection on these types of courses, as well as the over 1,000 classes offered, is in its early phases.

The JJC study also examined differences between those who did and those who did not recidivate within three years of release. In the overall analysis of bivariate relationships, six factors were identified as being significantly associated with recidivism as measured by new court filings/arrests. They included: gender (males recidivated at higher rates); race/ethnicity (minority youth (i.e., youth of color) recidivated at a higher rate than Caucasian youth; municipality of residence (those residing in the 15 most populated municipalities recidivated at higher rates than those who resided elsewhere); number of delinquency adjudications (those having a greater number of prior and current delinquency adjudications) recidivated at higher rates); type of offense (those with public order offenses at admission/commitment were the most



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likely to recidivate); and degree of offense (those with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree along with Violation of Probation offenses at admission/commitment had the highest rate of recidivism).

As policymakers galvanize attention toward proven program approaches to reduce criminogenic behavior, the NJDOC, SPB and JJC will adhere to their mission statements and continue the efforts to keep both adult and juvenile offenders from returning to a life behind bars. Commitment to this goal ensures safer communities and provides a benchmark for future success. As these three agencies move forward with safeguarding the public, they will continue to cultivate programs which will continue the downward trend of recidivism. Since most offenders in prison will return to the community, law enforcement professionals and educators will continue to assist these offenders while they are incarcerated to prepare for life upon reentry.

**Notes**

1. These definitions follow the NJ Criminal Codes Parts 1 through 5 (except Weapons and Drug Offenses-defined in Part 5 Crimes against Public Order, Health and Decency) and are extracted for the study purposes. Violent crimes involve Danger to a Person (which includes Criminal Homicide, Cloning, Assault, Reckless Endangering and Threats, Kidnapping, Sexual Offenses, Robbery, Arson and Bias Crimes). Property crimes include Offenses against Property (which includes Criminal Mischief & Other Property Destruction, Burglary & Criminal Intrusion, Theft, Forgery & Fraudulent Practices and Disturbance/Desecration of Human Remains). Weapons offenses are violations of restriction on the possession, use, sales or trafficking, manufacturing, import and export of deadly weapons (firearms and their ammunition, silencers, explosives and certain knives). Drug offenses are violations of restrictions on the possession, manufacture, or distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substances (drugs classified as having a potential for abuse). This also includes Anti-Drug Profiteering, Drug Dealer Liability, and Drug Paraphernalia crimes.

2. Length of Time Served - means the time an inmate served in custody from the Date of Sentence (or Probable Cause Hearing if the original admission was a Technical Parole Violation) until the date of release to the community either at maximum custodial term or to Parole supervision. This represents the time that the inmate was the responsibility of NJ-DOC regardless of his or her custodial location.

3. For purposes of this report, statistical significance is identified as achieving a significance level on relevant tests of .05 or beyond.

4. The Urban 15 municipalities are Bayonne, Camden, Clifton, Toms River Twp., East Orange, Elizabeth, Irvington, Jersey City, Newark, Passaic, Paterson and Trenton, Union City, Vineland, and Woodbridge Twp.