



**California Department of Corrections
And Rehabilitation**

2013 Outcome Evaluation Report

**Office of Research
January 2014**

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CDCR Office of Research

"Providing quality research, data analysis and evaluation to implement evidence-based programs and practices, strengthen policy, inform management decisions and ensure accountability."

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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January 14, 2014

Dear Colleagues:

The mission of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is to protect the public by safely and securely supervising adult and juvenile offenders, providing effective rehabilitation and treatment, and integrating offenders successfully into the community. Consistent with this purpose, we hold ourselves accountable for data-driven policies informed by the latest research on what works in corrections and rehabilitation.

As a part of this commitment, I am pleased to present the fourth in a series of annual reports on the outcomes of inmates released from CDCR correctional institutions. This report features measures of recidivism which we can use to track improvement and compare our performance with that of other states that are similarly situated. As seen in the report, California's recidivism rates have declined again this year.

This report is a tangible result of our commitment to transparency and accountability. My hope is that this information will provide new insights to policy-makers and correctional stakeholders that will be useful in moving the State forward with regard to efforts that increase public safety through the reduction of recidivism.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY BEARD, Ph.D.
Secretary

cc: Diana Toche, Undersecretary (A)
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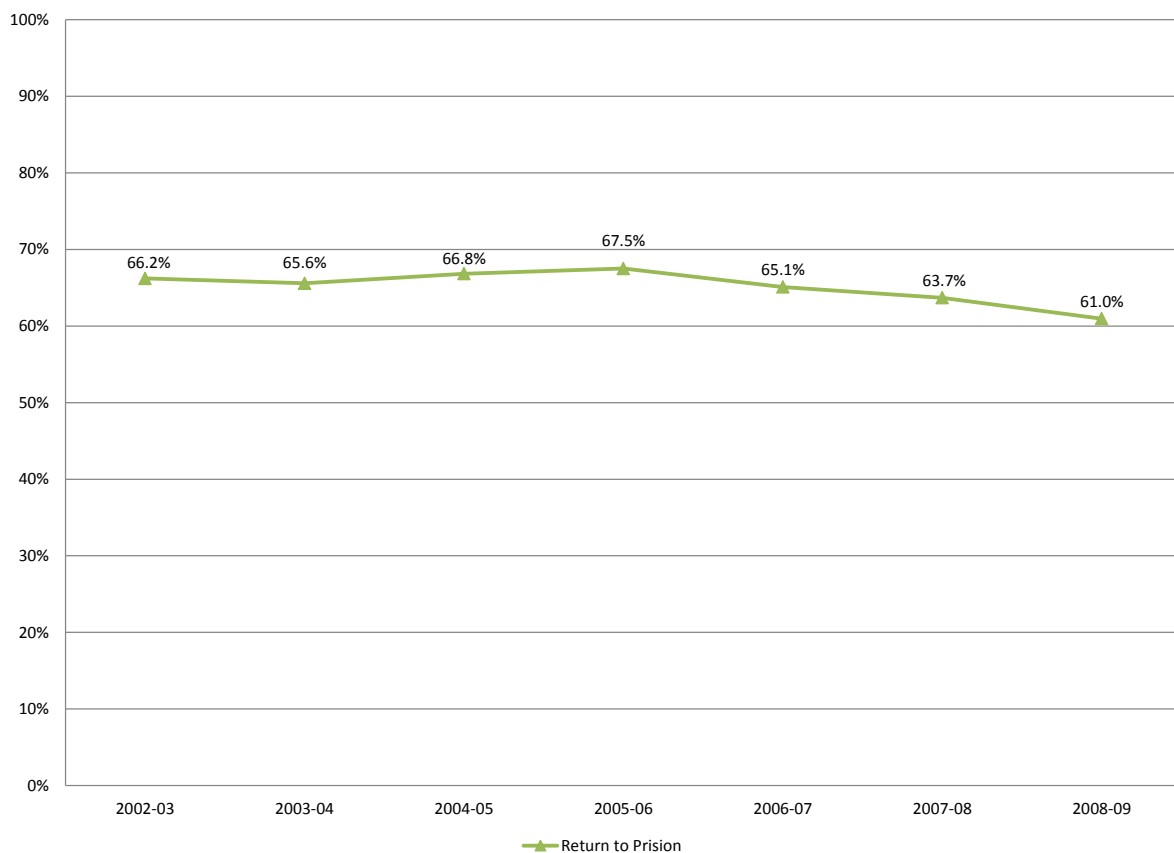
Executive Summary

Introduction

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) measures recidivism by tracking arrests, convictions, and returns to State prison. The CDCR uses the latter measure, returns to prison, as the primary measure of recidivism for the purpose of this report because it is the most reliable measure currently available and is well understood and commonly used by correctional stakeholders. For this report, only the first arrest or conviction episode, as well as the most serious charge within the first arrest or conviction episode, is counted (i.e., if an offender was arrested multiple times, incurring multiple charges each time, only the most serious arrest charge within the first arrest episode is counted in these analyses).

The CDCR has reported recidivism rates for adult felons released from State prison since 1977. Over time, the methodology for reporting recidivism has changed. Commencing with our 2010 report, all felons are tracked for the full three-year follow-up period, regardless of their status on parole or if they have discharged. In addition, recidivism rates are presented based on numerous characteristics (e.g., commitment offense, length-of-stay). Figure 1 below shows that the three-year recidivism rate has been trending downward since fiscal year (FY) 2005-06, with a more notable decline observed between FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09.

Figure 1. Three-Year Recidivism Rates for Returns to Prison for Adult Felons Released Between Fiscal Years 2002-03 and 2008-09

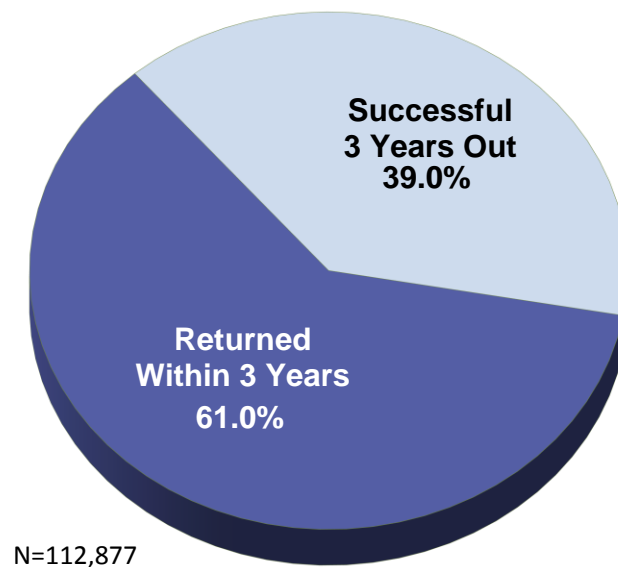


Recidivism Definition

The CDCR measures recidivism by arrests, convictions, and returns to State prison. The CDCR uses the latter measure, returns to prison, as its primary measure of recidivism. Throughout this document, unless otherwise stated, the terms recidivate and recidivism refer to this primary measure. State prison is a measurement of CDCR offenders who “return to prison,” defined as follows:

An individual convicted of a felony¹ and incarcerated in a CDCR adult prison who was released to parole, discharged after being paroled, or directly discharged from CDCR during a defined time period and subsequently returned to prison² during a specified follow-up period.

Figure 2. Three-Year Recidivism Rates for Felons Released from All CDCR Institutions During FY 2008-09



Key Findings

Overall CDCR Recidivism Rates

- The total three-year recidivism rate (returns to State prison) for all felons released during fiscal year (FY) 2008-09 is 61.0 percent (Figure 2).

¹ Due to reporting limitations, civil addicts are excluded.

² This may include individuals who are returned to prison pending revocation, but whose cases are “continued on parole” or dismissed.

- Most felons who recidivate return to prison within a year of release (74.1 percent).

CDCR Inmate Personal Characteristics

- Females have a 48.9 percent recidivism rate, which is 13.5 percentage points lower than that of males.
- Younger felons recidivate at the highest rates. Inmates released at age 24 or younger return to prison at a rate of 67.2 percent.
- Recidivism rates are highest among Native Americans/Alaska Natives (69.9 percent), Black/African Americans (66.1 percent), and Whites (64.0 percent).
- About a quarter of all inmates are paroled to Los Angeles County after release. Of these parolees, 50.4 percent recidivate within three years, which is lower than the statewide average.

CDCR Offender Characteristics

- Inmates committed to prison for property crimes consistently recidivate at a higher rate than those committed for other types of crimes, including crimes against persons, drug crimes, and “other” crimes.
- Inmates committed for more serious crimes do not have higher recidivism rates. For example, inmates released for rape have a lower recidivism rate (52.8 percent) than those who were committed for vehicle theft (72.5 percent).
- Although few in number, inmates released after having served an indeterminate sentence recidivate at a lower rate (11.5 percent) than those who served a determinate sentence (61.0 percent).
- Felons required to register as sex offenders (i.e., sex registrants) recidivate at a higher rate (69.5 percent) when compared to other felons (60.2 percent). Eighty-eight percent of sex registrants who recidivate do so because of a parole violation.
- Inmates designated as serious or violent offenders recidivate at a lower rate (57.8 percent) than those who are not (61.8 percent).
- Inmates classified as requiring mental health services recidivate at a higher rate (69.3 percent) than inmates not in a mental health program (59.3 percent).
- The California Static Risk Assessment (CSRA) performs well at predicting inmate risk for recidivism (i.e., inmates designated as high risk by the CSRA had the highest three-year recidivism rate at 72.3 percent, those designated medium risk had the next highest rate at 53.7 percent, and low risk inmates had the lowest recidivism rates at 38.2 percent).

CDCR Offender Length-of-Stay

- Recidivism rates increase with lengths-of-stay of between two to three years and decrease thereafter. Inmates with a length-of-stay between two and three years recidivate at the highest rate (67.6 percent). Those who served over 15 years in prison recidivate at the lowest rate (34.1 percent).
- There is little variation in the recidivism rate despite the number of prior returns to CDCR custody within the current term. That is, an inmate who returns once on the current term has a recidivism rate similar to that of an inmate who returns twice, three times, four times, etc. on the current term.

Definition of Terms

California Static Risk Assessment (CSRA)

The CSRA is an actuarial tool that utilizes demographic and criminal history data to predict an offender's risk of recidivating at the time they are released from CDCR. Offenders are categorized as low, moderate or high risk of incurring a new criminal conviction.

Cohort

A group of individuals who share a common characteristic, such as all inmates who were released to parole during a given year.

Controlling Crime or Commitment Offense

The most serious offense on the conviction for which the inmate was sentenced to prison on that term.

Correctional Clinical Case Management System (CCCMS)

The CCCMS facilitates mental health care by linking inmate/patients to needed services and providing sustained support while accessing such services. CCCMS services are provided as outpatient services within the general population setting at all institutions.

Determinate Sentencing Law (DSL)

Established by Penal Code Section 1170 in 1976, Determinate Sentencing Law identifies a specified sentence length for convicted felons who are remanded to State prison. Essentially, three specific terms of imprisonment (low, middle, and high) are assigned for crimes, as well as enhancements (specific case factors that allow judges to add time to a sentence). Opportunities to earn "credits" can reduce the length of incarceration.

Enhanced Outpatient Program (EOP)

A mental health services designation applied to a severely mentally ill inmate receiving treatment at a level similar to day treatment services.

First Release

The first release on the current term for felons with new admissions and parole violators returning with a new term (PV-WNT).

Indeterminate Sentencing Law (ISL)

Established by Penal Code Section 1168 in 1917, the Indeterminate Sentencing Law allowed judges to determine a range of time (minimum and maximum) a convicted felon would serve. Different felons convicted for the same crimes could spend varying lengths of time in prison; release depended on many factors, including each prisoner's individual conduct in prison. After the minimum sentence passed, felons were brought to a parole board that would identify the actual date of release. Indeterminate Sentencing was replaced by Determinate Sentencing (Penal Code Section 1170) in 1976. After the implementation of Determinate Sentencing, only individuals with life sentences and third strikers are considered "indeterminately" sentenced, since the parole board determines their release.

Manual California Static Risk Assessment (CSRA)

Inmates who do not have automated criminal history data available from the Department of Justice (DOJ) must have their CSRA score calculated manually. This is done with a review of a paper copy of the inmate's rap sheet. Manual scores calculated in FY 2008-09 are not readily available for some inmates included in this report.

Parole

A period of conditional supervised release following a prison term.

Parole Violation (Law)

A law violation occurs when a parolee commits a crime while on parole and returns to CDCR custody (RTC) by action of the Board of Parole Hearings rather than by prosecution in the courts.

Parole Violation (Technical)

A technical violation occurs when a parolee violates a condition of his/her parole that is not considered a new crime and returns to CDCR custody (RTC).

Parole Violator Returning With a New Term (PV-WNT)

A parolee who receives a court sentence for a new crime committed while under parole supervision and returned to prison.

Registered Sex Offender

An inmate is designated as a registered sex offender if CDCR records show that the inmate has at some point been convicted of an offense that requires registration as a sex offender under Penal Code Section 290. This designation is permanent in CDCR records.

Re-Release

After a return to prison for a parole violation, any subsequent release on the same (current) term is a re-release.

Serious Felony Offenses

Serious felony offenses are specified in Penal Code Section 1192.7(c) and Penal Code Section 1192.8.

Stay

A stay is any period of time an inmate is housed in a CDCR institution. Each time an inmate returns to prison it is considered a new stay, regardless of the reason for returning.

Term

A term is a sentence an inmate receives from a court to be committed to CDCR for a length-of-time. If an inmate is released after serving a term and is later returned to prison for a parole violation, the inmate returns and continues serving the original (current) term. If that inmate returns for committing a new crime, the inmate begins serving a new term.

Violent Felony Offenses

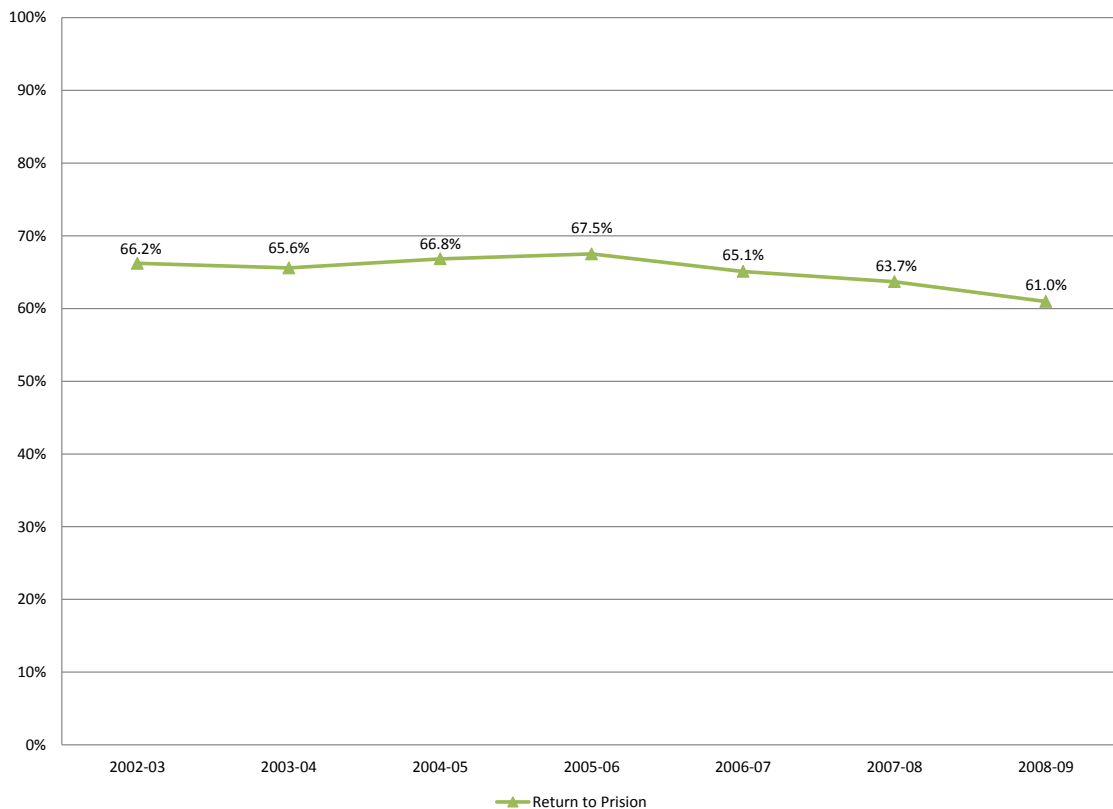
Violent felony offenses are specified in Penal Code Section 667.5(c).

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation 2013 Outcome Evaluation Report

1 Introduction

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is pleased to present the 2013 Outcome Evaluation Report, our fourth in an annual series of reports analyzing recidivism for felons released from California prisons. This report provides information about recidivism to CDCR executives, lawmakers, and other correctional stakeholders who have an interest in the dynamics of reoffending behavior and reducing recidivism. Figure A below shows that the three-year recidivism rate has been trending downward since fiscal year (FY) 2005-06, with a more notable decline observed between FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09.

Figure A. Three-Year Recidivism Rates for Returns to Prison for Felons Released Between Fiscal Years 2002-03 and 2008-09



As with our prior recidivism reports, this report measures recidivism by tracking arrests, convictions, and returns to prison at one-, two-, and three-year intervals.

We continue to focus on the three-year return-to-prison rate as our primary measure of recidivism. This measure, as described in our prior reports, includes offenders released from prison after having served their sentence for a crime, as well as offenders released from prison after having served their term for a parole violation. It also includes all offenders released from prison, whether on parole or discharged from parole during the three-year follow-up period. An offender is counted as a recidivist if he or she is returned to prison, whether for a new crime or for a parole violation, within that three-year period.

We employ an approach that is consistent with that set forth in prior reports so that policymakers and researchers can have year-to-year comparisons. Accordingly, the data associated with this year's cohort will supplement those reported in previous years, providing a progressively fuller picture of trends in recidivism with each successive report.

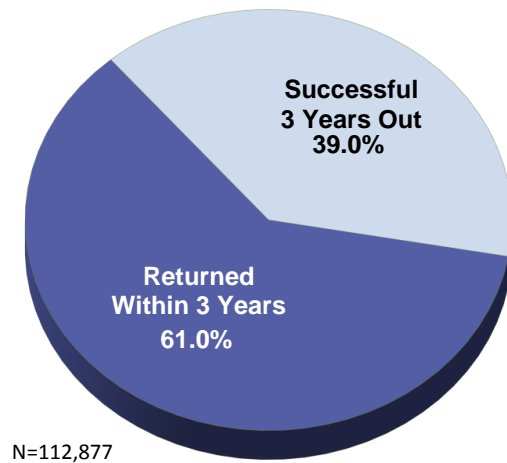
The 112,877 inmates released to parole during Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 had a recidivism rate of 61.0 percent. We are pleased to report that this represents the third year in a row that recidivism rates have declined.

Along with prior years, this report evaluates the success of the California Static Risk Assessment (CSRA) in predicting recidivism. In future reports, we anticipate that we will continue to monitor how changes to California's parole structure impact its recidivism rates.

Assembly Bill (AB) 109, California's Public Safety Realignment Act became law in 2011. This historic "Realignment" legislation requires most offenders be sentenced to, and returned to, county jails rather than State prison. It is important to note that this report is not intended to measure the effect of Realignment on recidivism. We expect that Realignment will have an impact on recidivism, but the full magnitude of its impact will not be evident in this report since it covers offenders released in FY 2008-09, prior to implementation. However, Realignment was in effect for eight months toward the end of the three-year follow-up period and potential impacts are beginning to emerge. Recidivism trends overtime indicate that very few offenders return to custody (RTC) for a parole violation towards the end of their follow-up period. However, the FY 2008-09 cohort drops to nearly zero RTC's once Realignment is implemented. Sound methodology and procedures were followed for these analyses; however, it represents an early stage of post-Realignment recidivism activity and to fully examine Realignment's impact on recidivism, a full three-year follow-up period needs to occur. Therefore, caution should be used when interpreting these findings.

Ultimately, our goal is that this and future reports will continue to spur discussion of the best possible ways for California to reduce recidivism and better protect public safety.

Figure B. Three-Year Recidivism Rates for Felons Released from All CDCR Institutions During FY 2008-09



2 Evaluation Design

2.1 Objectives and Purpose of the Evaluation

This report presents the recidivism rates for CDCR inmates released from prison in FY 2008-09. The report also examines how recidivism rates vary across time and place, by person (personal and offender characteristics), and by incarceration experience (e.g., length-of-stay).

2.2 Primary Definition of Recidivism

Although there are numerous ways to define recidivism (e.g., arrests, convictions, returns to prison), CDCR employs returns to prison as its primary measure of recidivism.

In this report, a recidivist is defined as a convicted felon who was released from CDCR in FY 2008-09 and subsequently returned to CDCR within a three-year follow-up period.

A recidivist is defined as follows:

An individual convicted of a felony¹ and incarcerated in a CDCR adult institution who was released to parole, discharged after being paroled, or directly discharged from CDCR during a defined time period (recidivism cohort) and subsequently returned to prison² during a specified follow-up period (recidivism period).

The recidivism rate is calculated using the ratio of the number of felons in the recidivism cohort who were returned to prison during the recidivism period to the total number of felons in the recidivism cohort, multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Recidivism Rate} = \frac{\text{Number Returned}}{\text{Recidivism Cohort}} \times 100$$

The Appendix presents recidivism rates using re-arrest and reconviction, in addition to returns to prison. Results for each of these measures are available for FYs 2003-04 through 2010-11.

3 Methods

This report presents recidivism rates from a three-year follow-up period for all felons who were released from the Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009 (FY 2008-09). The cohort includes inmates who were released to parole for the first time on their current term and inmates who were directly discharged, as well as inmates who were released to parole on their current term prior to FY 2008-09, returned to prison on this term, and were then re-released during FY 2008-09. Figures, charts, and graphs illustrate the relationship between descriptive variables (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, age at parole) and recidivism rates.

3.1 Data Sources

CDCR Offender-Based Information System (OBIS)

Data were extracted from the CDCR Offender-Based Information System (OBIS) to identify inmates who were released during FY 2008-09, as well as to determine which releases were returned to prison during the three-year follow-up period.

¹ Due to reporting limitations, civil addicts are excluded.

² This may include individuals who are returned to prison pending revocation, but whose cases are “continued on parole” or dismissed.

Department of Justice (DOJ) Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS)

Arrest and conviction data were derived from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS), to compute CSRA recidivism risk scores at the time of release, and to compute the re-arrest and reconviction figures included in the Appendix.

Distributed Data Processing System (DDPS)

Mental health designation data were derived from the Distributed Data Processing System (DDPS).

3.2 Data Limitations

Data quality is of paramount importance with any and all data analyses performed by the CDCR Office of Research. The intent of this report is to provide summary statistical (aggregate) rather than individual-level information.

Overall, the aggregate data are robust in that a large number of records are available for analyses. Within subgroups, however, the data become less robust as the smaller number of records are easily influenced by nuances associated with each case. Consequently, caution must be exercised when interpreting results that involve a small number of cases. Within this analytical framework, recidivism rates are only presented for inmate releases (i.e., denominators) that are greater than or equal to 30.

Recidivism rates are frozen at three years, meaning that after three years the follow-up period is considered to be complete and no further analyses are performed. As such, reported rates may fluctuate slightly for the one- and two-year rates as data used in subsequent reporting years will likely be updated, particularly for the arrests and convictions presented in the Appendix since these data are routinely updated in accordance with criminal justice system processing.

As with all data, as more information becomes known or as the information becomes updated, the analyses are updated accordingly within the parameters specified in this report.

4 Adult Institutions

4.1 Release Cohort Description

About 57 percent of the release cohort was made up of first releases while about 43 percent were re-releases.

Personal Characteristics

A total of 112,877 adult men and women were released from CDCR adult institutions in FY 2008-09 (Table 1). Males outnumbered females approximately nine to one. There was a nearly even distribution of inmates between the ages of 20 and 49 at release, with the exception of ages 25 to 29, which had the highest percentage (20.0 percent). Few inmates were between the age of 18 and 19 (0.6 percent). After 45 to 49 years of age, the number of inmates declined; individuals over age 60 represented 1.5 percent of the cohort. The majority of inmates were Hispanic/Latino (38.3 percent), followed by White (30.8 percent), and Black/African American (26.4 percent). Less than 5 percent were Native American/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or Other.

Offender Characteristics

The top 12 counties receiving the largest number of parolees are presented in Table 1, with the remaining counties grouped into the "All Others" category. The majority of the inmates paroled to Los Angeles County (25.8 percent). Of the remaining large counties in California, the top three that received paroled inmates were San Bernardino (8.5 percent), Orange (7.5 percent), and Riverside (6.4 percent). The bottom three were Santa Clara (3.0 percent), San Joaquin (2.4 percent), and Stanislaus (1.6 percent).

In the previous "2012 Outcome Evaluation Report," Ventura was represented since it had a release population within the top 12 of all county releases. This year, Ventura was replaced by Stanislaus.

About 60 percent of the FY 2008-09 recidivism cohort includes inmates who had served their current term for a property crime or a drug crime. Approximately 25 percent were committed to CDCR for a crime against persons and approximately 13 percent were committed for "other" crimes. Almost all inmates had a determinate sentence.

Re-released
felons made up
about 43 percent
of the recidivism
cohort.

Approximately 8 percent of the release cohort were required to register as a sex offender. About 20 percent of the release cohort were committed for a crime that was considered to be serious and/or violent.

Nearly 84 percent of the release cohort had not been enrolled in any type of mental health treatment program³ while incarcerated at CDCR. Those designated as Enhanced Outpatient Program (EOP) made up 5.9 percent of the release cohort and those assigned to the Correctional Clinical Case Management System (CCCMS) made up 10.6 percent.

When assessed for recidivism risk using the CSRA, 53.6 percent of the inmates released were identified as being at a high risk for being convicted of a new crime, 27.5 percent were medium risk, and 16.6 percent were low risk. CSRA risk scores were not available for 2.3 percent of the cohort.

CDCR Incarceration Experience

More than half (57.5 percent) of the FY 2008-09 cohort inmates served 18 months or less in CDCR institutions. The majority of the cohort (57.1 percent) had no returns to prison on their current term. Those that returned once on their current term made up 17.9 percent of the cohort. Thereafter, the number of returning inmates decreases with each subsequent return.

About one quarter (26.3 percent) of the FY 2008-09 cohort had only one stay in CDCR institutions, 14.5 percent had two stays, and 10.7 percent had three stays. Approximately 15 percent had 10 or more stays ever in a CDCR institution.

Over a quarter of inmates released in FY 2008-09 had never been previously incarcerated at CDCR.

³ The designations of EOP and CCCMS are CDCR designations and do not necessarily reflect a clinical (e.g., Diagnostic and Statistical Manual) mental health diagnosis.

Table 1. Cohort Description

Characteristics	N	%
Total	112,877	100.0
Release Type		
First Release	64,434	57.1
Re-Release	48,443	42.9
Sex		
Male	100,962	89.4
Female	11,915	10.6
Age at Release		
18-19	696	0.6
20-24	14,866	13.2
25-29	22,558	20.0
30-34	18,080	16.0
35-39	16,251	14.4
40-44	15,429	13.7
45-49	13,012	11.5
50-54	7,289	6.5
55-59	3,031	2.7
60 and over	1,665	1.5
Race/Ethnicity		
White	34,803	30.8
Hispanic/Latino	43,286	38.3
Black/African American	29,750	26.4
Asian	703	0.6
Native American/Alaska Native	1,061	0.9
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	139	0.1
Other	3,135	2.8
County of Parole		
Alameda	5,158	4.6
Fresno	4,836	4.3
Kern	4,134	3.7
Los Angeles	29,148	25.8
Orange	8,519	7.5
Riverside	7,266	6.4
Sacramento	6,265	5.6
San Bernardino	9,558	8.5
San Diego	7,148	6.3
San Joaquin	2,679	2.4
Santa Clara	3,425	3.0
Stanislaus	1,818	1.6
All Others	21,653	19.2
None (direct discharge)	1,270	1.1
Commitment Offense		
Crime Against Persons	27,775	24.6
Property Crimes	36,560	32.4
Drug Crimes	34,482	30.5
Other Crimes	14,060	12.5

Table1. Cohort Description (continued)

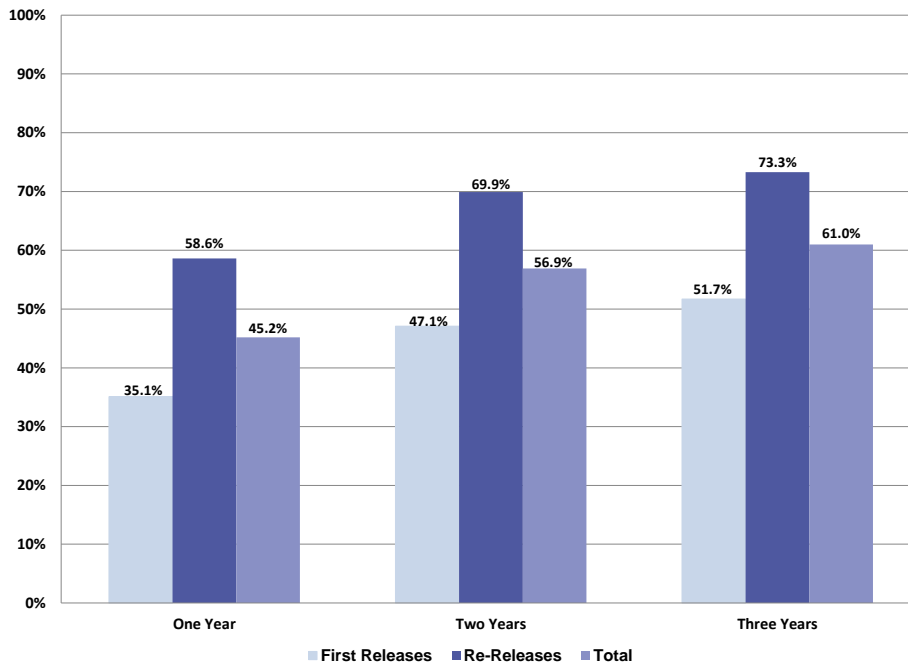
Characteristics	N	%
Sentence Type		
Determinate Sentence Law	112,695	99.8
Indeterminate Sentence Law	182	0.2
Sex Offenders		
Yes	8,942	7.9
No	103,935	92.1
Serious/Violent Offenders		
Yes	22,840	20.2
No	90,037	79.8
Mental Health		
Enhanced Outpatient Program	6,631	5.9
Correctional Clinical Case Management System	11,936	10.6
Crisis Bed	20	0.0
No Mental Health Code	94,216	83.5
Department Mental Health	74	0.1
CSRA Risk Score		
Low	18,768	16.6
Medium	31,024	27.5
High	60,521	53.6
N/A	2,564	2.3
Length of Stay		
0 - 6 months	12,392	11.0
7 - 12 months	32,242	28.6
13 - 18 months	20,237	17.9
19 - 24 months	14,373	12.7
2 - 3 years	15,682	13.9
3 - 4 years	6,861	6.1
4 - 5 years	3,540	3.1
5 - 10 years	5,822	5.2
10 - 15 years	1,373	1.2
15 + years	355	0.3
Prior Returns to Custody		
None	64,434	57.1
1	20,260	17.9
2	11,136	9.9
3	6,896	6.1
4	4,305	3.8
5	2,538	2.2
6	1,529	1.4
7	819	0.7
8	465	0.4
9	253	0.2
10+	242	0.2

Table 1. Cohort Description (continued)

Characteristics	N	%
Number of CDCR Stays Ever		
1	29,719	26.3
2	16,319	14.5
3	12,090	10.7
4	9,596	8.5
5	7,930	7.0
6	6,359	5.6
7	5,367	4.8
8	4,420	3.9
9	3,726	3.3
10	3,054	2.7
11	2,673	2.4
12	2,105	1.9
13	1,724	1.5
14	1,460	1.3
15 +	6,335	5.6

4.2 Overall CDCR Adult Recidivism Rate

Figure 1. Overall Recidivism Rates



Inmates released from CDCR in FY 2008-09 have a 61.0 percent three-year recidivism rate.

Figure 1 and Table 2 show the total three-year recidivism rate for the FY 2008-09 cohort is 61.0 percent. The recidivism rate for re-releases is 21.6 percentage points higher than the rate for first releases. When examining the recidivism rates as time progresses, most inmates who return to prison do so in the first year after release. The overall recidivism rate for the FY 2008-09 cohort is 2.7 percentage points lower than the FY 2007-08 cohort.

Almost 50 percent of inmates who recidivate within three years do so within the first six months.

At one year, this rate increases to almost 75 percent.

Table 2. Overall Recidivism Rates: First releases, Re-Releases, and Total

	Number Released	One Year		Two Years, Cumulative		Three Years, Cumulative	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
First Releases	64,434	22,603	35.1%	30,375	47.1%	33,291	51.7%
Re-Releases	48,443	28,407	58.6%	33,869	69.9%	35,512	73.3%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

4.3 Time to Return

This “Time to Return” section only examines the 68,803 inmates who returned to prison within three years of release (identified previously in Figure 1 and Table 2) to assess how long inmates are in the community before recidivating and returning to prison.

4.3.1 Time to Return for the 68,803 Recidivists

Figure 2. Three-Year Quarterly and Cumulative Rate of Return Post Release

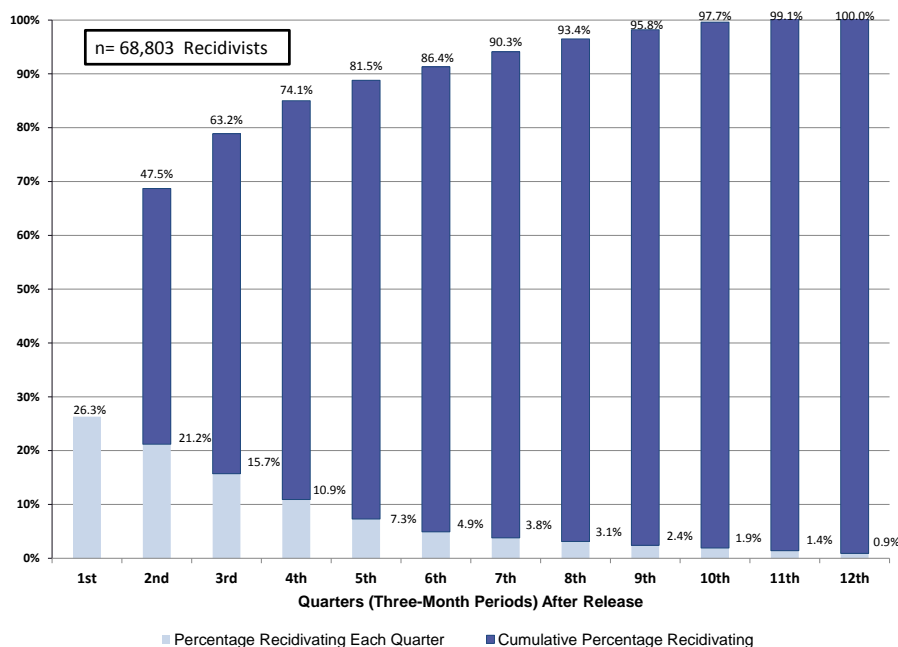


Figure 2 and Table 3 illustrate the percentage of inmates who recidivate during each quarterly (three-month) period, as well as the total percent of inmates who had recidivated through the end of the quarter.

Of the 68,803 inmates who returned to prison, slightly more return during the first quarter as compared to the second quarter (26.3 and 21.2 percent, respectively). Nearly half (47.5 percent) of the inmates released returned to prison after having been in the community for only six months. Altogether, 74.1 percent of the recidivists returned to prison within 12 months of release.

The number of inmates recidivating over time decreases as most recidivists have already returned to prison by the end of the first year. Since this analysis only focuses on those inmates identified as recidivists, and because few individuals returned to prison within the final months of the follow-up period, the 12th quarter represents the final, cumulative results (i.e., 100 percent) of the 68,803 recidivists. Collectively, these results mirror those previously reported for the FY 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08 cohorts.

Table 3. Three-Year Quarterly and Cumulative Rate of Return Post Release

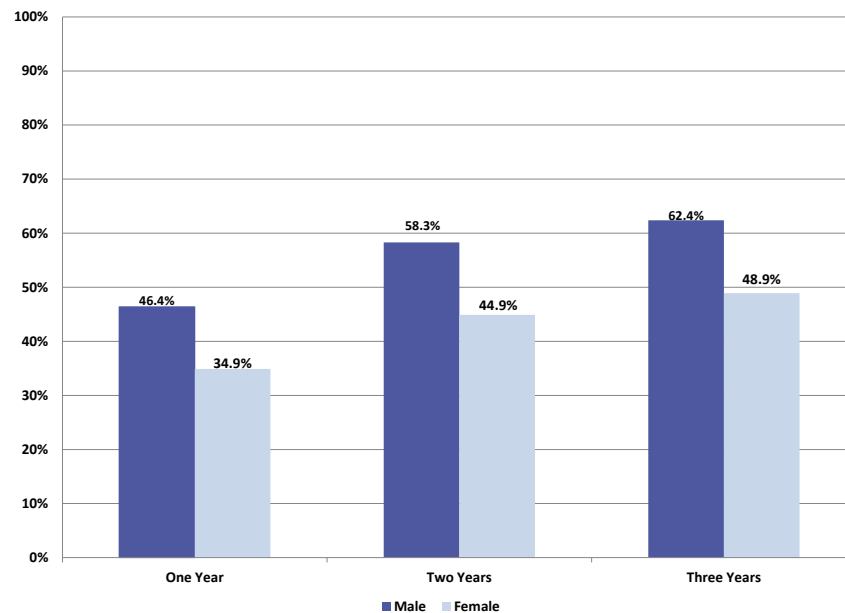
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Percentage of Recidivists	26.3%	21.2%	15.7%	10.9%	7.3%	4.9%	3.8%	3.1%	2.4%	1.9%	1.4%	0.9%
Cumulative Percent	26.3%	47.5%	63.2%	74.1%	81.5%	86.4%	90.3%	93.4%	95.8%	97.7%	99.1%	100.0%

4.4 Recidivism Rate by Demographics

Demographics include the following personal characteristics of felons: gender, age at time of release, race/ethnicity, and county of parole. Research has shown that recidivism varies by some of these demographic factors, and these findings are corroborated by the data provided below.

4.4.1 Gender

Figure 3. Recidivism Rates by Gender



Females
recidivate at a
lower rate than
males.

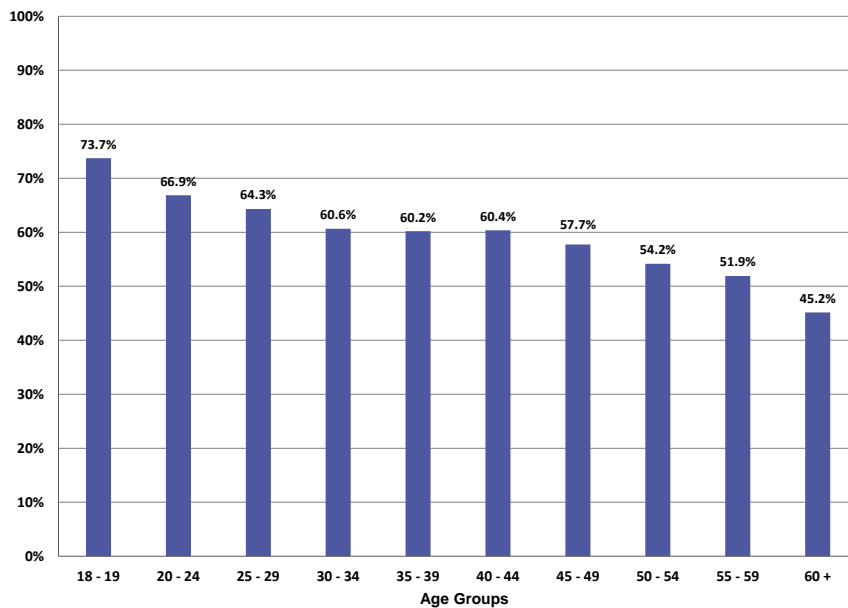
Because males outnumber females almost nine to one in the FY 2008-09 cohort, gender differences in rates of recidivism are masked. It is important, therefore, to examine male and female recidivism rates separately. As shown in Figure 3 and Table 4, recidivism rates are lower for females compared to males. By the end of three years, the recidivism rate for females is 13.5 percentage points lower than that of males. Both males and females experienced a decline in recidivism rates from those reported for the FY 2007-08 cohort.

Table 4. Recidivism Rates by Gender

Gender	Number Released	One Year		Two Years		Three Years	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
Males	100,962	46,857	46.4%	58,892	58.3%	62,975	62.4%
Females	11,915	4,153	34.9%	5,352	44.9%	5,828	48.9%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

4.4.2 Age at Release

Figure 4. Three-Year Recidivism Rates by Age at Release



In general,
recidivism rates
decrease
with age.

The three-year recidivism rate for inmates released in FY 2008-09 declines with age. Felons in the 18 to 19 year-old group have a 73.7 percent recidivism rate and those ages 60 and older have a 45.2 percent recidivism rate (Figure 4 and Table 5). The exception is an increase of 0.2 percentage points from the 35 to 39 year-old age group to the 40 to 44 year-old age group. Thereafter, the declining trend in the recidivism rate resumes.

When compared to the FY 2007-08 cohort, the FY 2008-09 cohort reflects a reduction in recidivism rates across all age groups. The reductions range from 1.3 to 3.7 percentage points. Examination into this finding reveals that the 50 to 54 age group had the greatest overall decrease in three-year recidivism rate (-3.7 percentage points).

Table 5. Recidivism Rates by Age Group

Age Groups	Number Released	One Year		Two Years		Three Years	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
18 - 19	696	393	56.5%	491	70.5%	513	73.7%
20 - 24	14,866	7,500	50.5%	9,356	62.9%	9,940	66.9%
25 - 29	22,558	10,731	47.6%	13,591	60.2%	14,509	64.3%
30 - 34	18,080	8,023	44.4%	10,166	56.2%	10,964	60.6%
35 - 39	16,251	7,210	44.4%	9,100	56.0%	9,781	60.2%
40 - 44	15,429	6,913	44.8%	8,684	56.3%	9,313	60.4%
45 - 49	13,012	5,607	43.1%	7,002	53.8%	7,511	57.7%
50 - 54	7,289	2,910	39.9%	3,691	50.6%	3,947	54.2%
55 - 59	3,031	1,161	38.3%	1,457	48.1%	1,573	51.9%
60 +	1,665	562	33.8%	706	42.4%	752	45.2%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

4.4.3 Race/Ethnicity

Figure 5. Three-Year Recidivism Rates by Race/Ethnicity

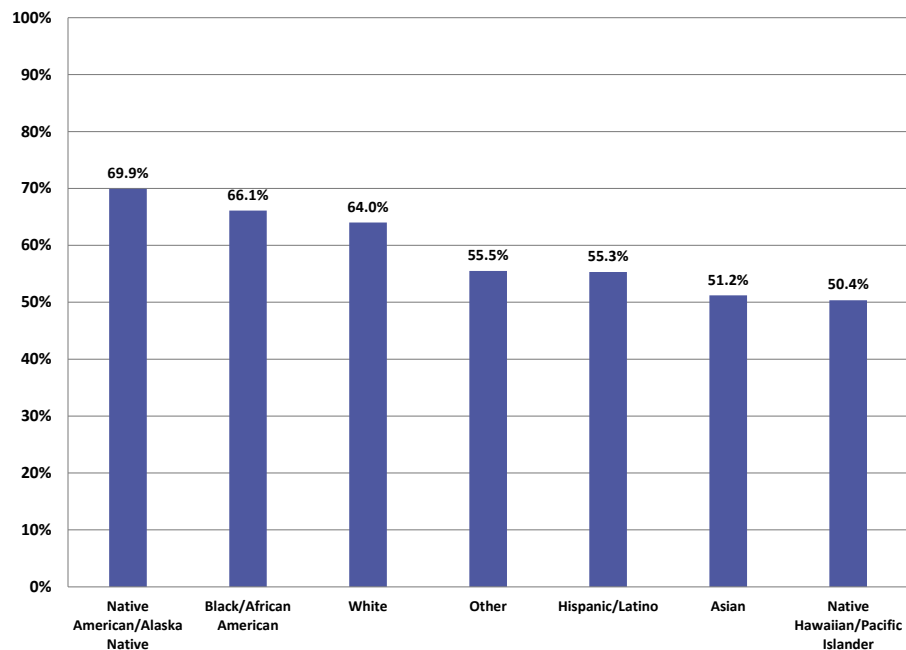


Figure 5 and Table 6 show the three-year recidivism rates are highest among Native American/Alaska Native (69.9 percent), Black/African-American (66.1 percent), and White (64.0 percent) racial/ethnic groups. The recidivism rate for the group “other” is 55.5 percent.

Three-year recidivism rates are highest among Native American/Alaska Native, Black/African-American, and White race/ethnicity groups.

The three-year recidivism rate for Hispanic/Latino (the largest group represented in the cohort) is approximately 9 percentage points lower than that of all other race/ethnic groups combined (55.3 percent versus 64.5 percent).

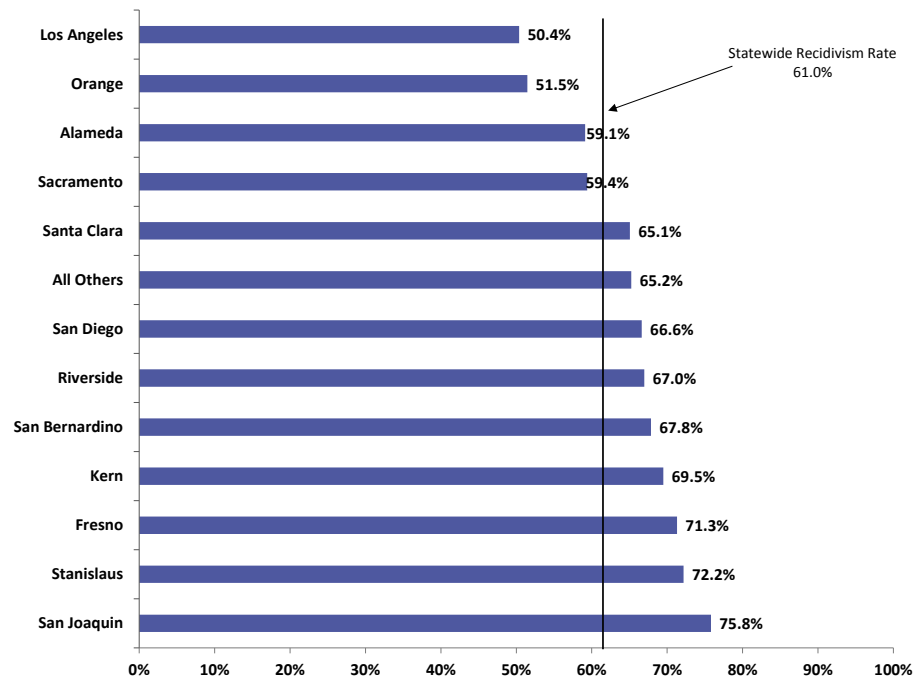
Comparison of the FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09 cohorts shows declines in the three-year recidivism rates for all ethnic groups that range from 1.6 to 6.0 percentage points. Asians had the largest decline in three-year recidivism rates followed by Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and then Black/African American (-6.0, -4.0, and -3.7 percentage points, respectively).

Table 6. Recidivism Rates By Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Number Released	One Year		Two Years		Three Years	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
White	34,803	16,969	48.8%	20,929	60.1%	22,275	64.0%
Hispanic/Latino	43,286	17,466	40.4%	22,323	51.6%	23,946	55.3%
Black/African American	29,750	14,432	48.5%	18,256	61.4%	19,670	66.1%
Asian	703	269	38.3%	333	47.4%	360	51.2%
Native American/Alaska Native	1,061	576	54.3%	703	66.3%	742	69.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	139	56	40.3%	66	47.5%	70	50.4%
Other	3,135	1,242	39.6%	1,634	52.1%	1,740	55.5%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

4.4.4 County of Parole⁴

Figure 6. Three-Year Recidivism Rates by County



Despite the fact that over a quarter of all inmates who were paroled in FY 2008-09 were released into Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County's recidivism rate (50.4 percent) is the lowest of the twelve counties with the largest number of releases (see Figure 6 and Table 7). San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Fresno counties have the highest overall three-year recidivism rates at 75.8 percent, 72.2 percent, and 71.3 percent.

The difference in the recidivism rates between one year and three years varies by county. Los Angeles County has the widest range (20.7 percentage points), with inmates recidivating at a rate of 29.7 percent in the first year and a rate of 50.4 percent by the third year. Alameda County has the narrowest range (10.6 percentage points), with inmates recidivating at a rate of 48.5 percent in the first year and 59.1 percent by the third year.

⁴ Direct discharges are included in the 'All Others' category but do not have a parole county.

Recidivism rates may vary by county due to a number of factors: program availability, local jail overcrowding, level of community support for offenders, cost avoidance, prosecutorial discretion, community characteristics, and variability in law enforcement and Board of Parole Hearings practices.

Minor changes in recidivism rates have occurred since the FY 2007-08 cohort. The overall trend across the 12 counties with the largest number of releases was a reduction in three-year recidivism rates from FY 2007-08 to FY 2008-09. The majority of counties showed a decrease. The decreases range from -0.1 to -3.6 percentage points.

Note that these results represent the county to which the inmates were paroled; however, inmates may not have remained in the county to which they were paroled. In addition, inmates may recidivate in a county other than that of his/her parole. In such cases, the recidivism is still counted in the parole county.

Table 7. Recidivism Rates by County⁵

County of Parole	Number Released	One Year		Two Years		Three Years	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
Alameda	5,158	2,500	48.5%	2,927	56.7%	3,050	59.1%
Fresno	4,836	2,886	59.7%	3,331	68.9%	3,449	71.3%
Kern	4,134	2,154	52.1%	2,699	65.3%	2,873	69.5%
Los Angeles	29,148	8,649	29.7%	12,964	44.5%	14,685	50.4%
Orange	8,519	3,307	38.8%	4,130	48.5%	4,385	51.5%
Riverside	7,266	3,806	52.4%	4,589	63.2%	4,866	67.0%
Sacramento	6,265	2,949	47.1%	3,543	56.6%	3,722	59.4%
San Bernardino	9,558	5,029	52.6%	6,116	64.0%	6,485	67.8%
San Diego	7,148	3,711	51.9%	4,495	62.9%	4,763	66.6%
San Joaquin	2,679	1,688	63.0%	1,968	73.5%	2,031	75.8%
Santa Clara	3,425	1,560	45.5%	2,071	60.5%	2,228	65.1%
Stanislaus	1,818	1,068	58.7%	1,258	69.2%	1,312	72.2%
All Others	22,923	11,703	51.1%	14,153	61.7%	14,954	65.2%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

4.5 Offender Characteristics

Offender characteristics include the categories for the controlling crime of the current term; sentence type; and special classifications of inmates, including registered sex offenders, serious or violent offenders, mental health status, and risk to reoffend, as measured by the CSRA at the time of release.

⁵ Direct discharges are included in the 'All Others' category but do not have a parole county.

At 65.0 percent, inmates committed to CDCR for property crimes have the highest three-year recidivism rate.

4.5.1 Commitment Offense Category

Figure 7. Recidivism Rates by Commitment Offense Category

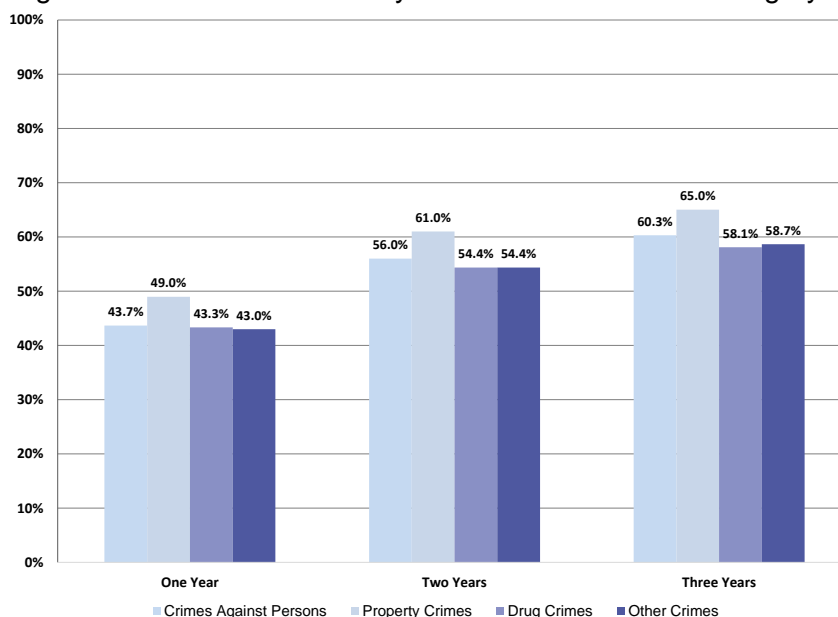


Figure 7 and Table 8 reveal that inmates committed for property crimes have the highest three-year recidivism rate at 65 percent. Nearly half of inmates released with a property crime commitment recidivate within the first year of release and 65.0 percent recidivate within three years of their release. Inmates committed for crimes against persons, drug crimes, or other offenses recidivate at an almost identical lower rate for one year of follow-up. Inmates committed for drug crimes or other offenses recidivate at an almost identical lower rate for two and three years of follow-up, while inmates committed for crimes against person recidivate at a slightly higher rate for two and three years of follow-up.

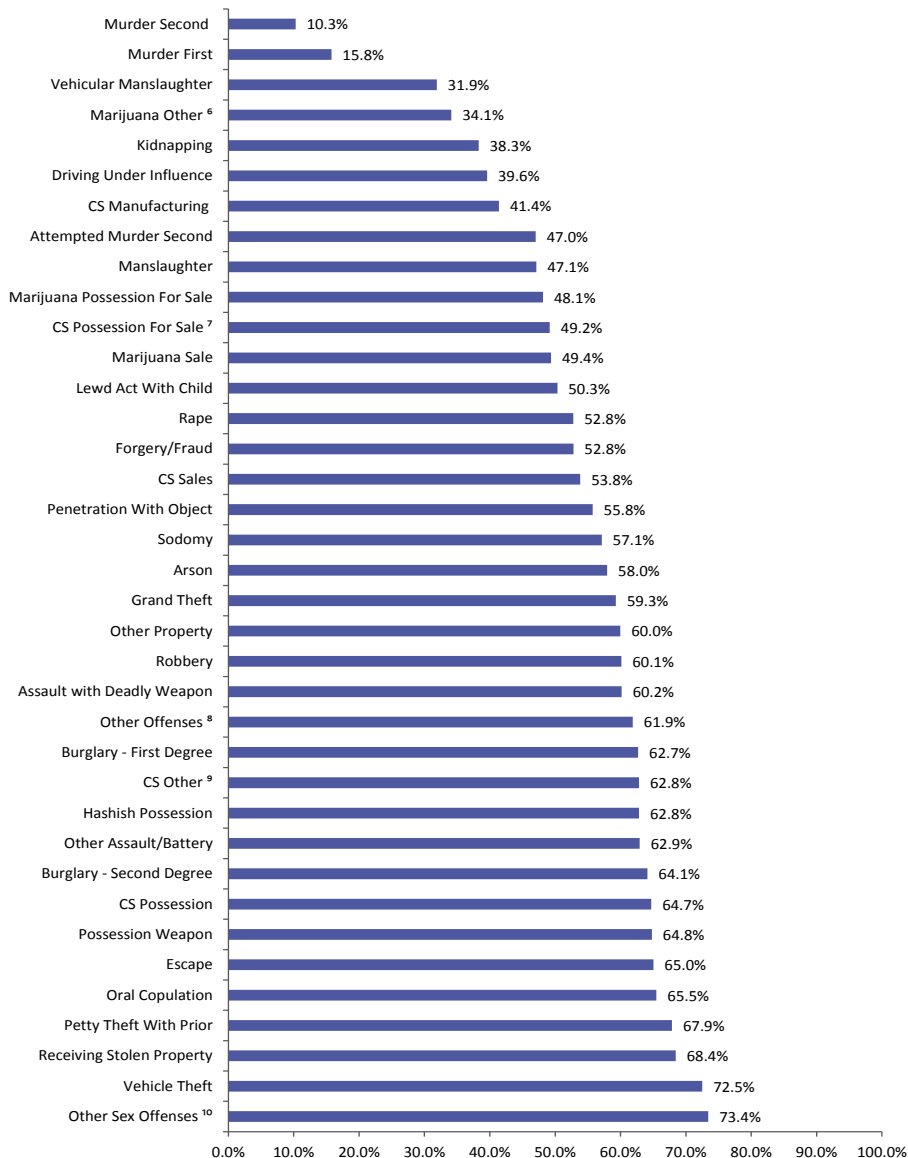
There were slight declines in the three-year recidivism rates for inmates committed for crimes against persons, property crimes, drug crimes, and “other” offenses (2.0, 2.8, 3.4, and 2.2 percentage points, respectively) from the FY 2007-08 cohort to the FY 2008-09 cohort.

Table 8. Recidivism Rates by Commitment Offense Category

Offense Categories	Number Released	One Year		Two Years		Three Years	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
Crimes Against Persons	27,775	12,126	43.7%	15,556	56.0%	16,752	60.3%
Property Crimes	36,560	17,903	49.0%	22,303	61.0%	23,768	65.0%
Drug Crimes	34,482	14,938	43.3%	18,743	54.4%	20,034	58.1%
Other Crimes	14,060	6,043	43.0%	7,642	54.4%	8,249	58.7%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

4.5.2 Commitment Offense

Figure 8. Three-Year Recidivism Rates by Commitment Offense



The seriousness of an inmate's commitment crime is often inversely related to his/her recidivism risk.

⁶ "Marijuana Other" offenses include planting, cultivating, harvesting, or processing marijuana; hiring, employing, using a minor in the unlawful transportation, sale, or peddling of marijuana to another minor; furnishing, giving, offering marijuana to a minor.

⁷ CS is an abbreviation for "Controlled Substance."

⁸ "Other Offenses" include false imprisonment, accessory, and malicious harassment.

⁹ "CS Other" offenses include possession of CS in State prison; soliciting, encouraging, inducing a minor to furnish, sell, offer a CS; agreeing, consenting, offering to sell, furnish, and/or transport a CS.

¹⁰ "Other Sex Offenses" include failing to register as a sex offender, unlawful sex with a minor, and indecent exposure.

Figure 8 and Table 9 show the top three highest three-year recidivism rates occur for inmates who were committed to a CDCR adult institution for other sex offenses, vehicle theft, and receiving stolen property (ranging from 68.4 to 73.4 percent). The lowest three recidivism rates occur for inmates committed to CDCR for vehicular manslaughter, first degree murder, and second degree murder (ranging from 10.3 to 31.9 percent). Note that recidivism rates were not calculated for categories with fewer than 30 inmate releases. In general, inmates committed for more serious crimes do not have higher recidivism rates. For example, 72.5 percent of inmates convicted of vehicle theft recidivate within three years, whereas 52.8 percent of inmates convicted of rape recidivate within three years.

There are wide differences in recidivism rates when examining commitment offense. Rates vary by as much as 63.1 percentage points. Second degree murder is the lowest at 10.3 percent and other sex offenses is the highest at 73.4 percent.

Comparison to the FY 2007-08 cohort shows declines in the FY 2008-09 cohort recidivism rates across most of the offenses. The largest overall decline was for kidnapping (-10.1 percentage points) and the largest overall increase was for sodomy (+16.7 percentage points).

Table 9. Recidivism Rates by Commitment Offense¹¹

Offense	Number Released	One Year		Two Years		Three Years	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
Murder Second	107	7	6.5%	9	8.4%	11	10.3%
Murder First	38	2	5.3%	5	13.2%	6	15.8%
Vehicular Manslaughter	279	52	18.6%	73	26.2%	89	31.9%
Marijuana Other ¹²	129	33	25.6%	41	31.8%	44	34.1%
Kidnapping	248	66	26.6%	83	33.5%	95	38.3%
Driving Under Influence	2,870	789	27.5%	1,032	36.0%	1,136	39.6%
Attempted Murder First	12	2	N/A	3	N/A	4	N/A
CS Manufacturing ¹³	430	138	32.1%	166	38.6%	178	41.4%
Attempted Murder Second	334	99	29.6%	144	43.1%	157	47.0%
Manslaughter	520	148	28.5%	217	41.7%	245	47.1%
Marijuana Possession For Sale	1,232	415	33.7%	536	43.5%	593	48.1%
CS Possession For Sale	9,590	3,427	35.7%	4,368	45.5%	4,716	49.2%
Marijuana Sale	474	170	35.9%	220	46.4%	234	49.4%
Lewd Act With Child	2,056	719	35.0%	963	46.8%	1,035	50.3%
Rape	413	157	38.0%	202	48.9%	218	52.8%
Forgery/Fraud	3,239	1,225	37.8%	1,583	48.9%	1,710	52.8%
CS Sales	3,277	1,269	38.7%	1,624	49.6%	1,764	53.8%
Penetration With Object	113	41	36.3%	56	49.6%	63	55.8%
Sodomy	42	16	38.1%	23	54.8%	24	57.1%
Arson	283	126	44.5%	153	54.1%	164	58.0%
Grand Theft	3,763	1,649	43.8%	2,079	55.2%	2,231	59.3%
Other Property	1,451	659	45.4%	813	56.0%	870	60.0%
Robbery	5,554	2,215	39.9%	3,035	54.6%	3,339	60.1%
Assault with Deadly Weapon	6,202	2,631	42.4%	3,442	55.5%	3,731	60.2%
Other Offenses ¹⁴	4,069	1,867	45.9%	2,346	57.7%	2,518	61.9%
Burglary - First Degree	3,380	1,506	44.6%	1,967	58.2%	2,119	62.7%
CS Other ¹⁵	710	338	47.6%	423	59.6%	446	62.8%
Hashish Possession	78	33	42.3%	47	60.3%	49	62.8%
Other Assault/Battery	9,120	4,333	47.5%	5,375	58.9%	5,739	62.9%
Burglary - Second Degree	7,646	3,613	47.3%	4,588	60.0%	4,902	64.1%
CS Possession	18,562	9,115	49.1%	11,318	61.0%	12,010	64.7%
Possession Weapon	6,735	3,205	47.6%	4,045	60.1%	4,364	64.8%
Escape/Abscond	103	56	54.4%	66	64.1%	67	65.0%
Oral Copulation	171	82	48.0%	110	64.3%	112	65.5%
Petty Theft With Prior	5,433	2,834	52.2%	3,481	64.1%	3,688	67.9%
Receiving Stolen Property	4,845	2,567	53.0%	3,122	64.4%	3,316	68.4%
Vehicle Theft	6,803	3,850	56.6%	4,670	68.6%	4,932	72.5%
Other Sex Offenses ¹⁶	2,566	1,556	60.6%	1,816	70.8%	1,884	73.4%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

¹¹ Recidivism rates were not calculated when fewer than 30 inmates were released.

¹² "Marijuana Other" offenses include planting, cultivating, harvesting, or processing marijuana; hiring, employing, using a minor in the unlawful transportation, sale, or peddling of marijuana to another minor; furnishing, giving, offering marijuana to a minor.

¹³ CS is an abbreviation for "Controlled Substance."

¹⁴ "Other Offenses" include false imprisonment, accessory, and malicious harassment.

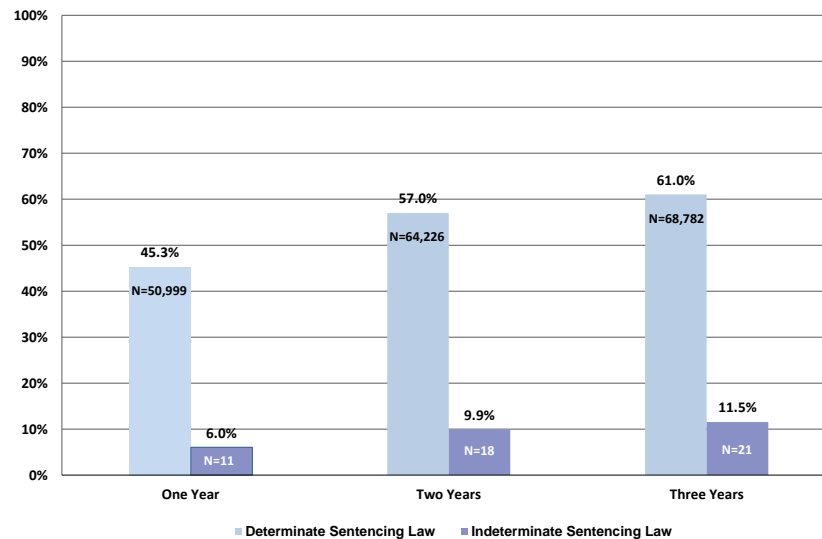
¹⁵ "CS Other" offenses include possession of CS in State prison; soliciting, encouraging, inducing a minor to furnish, sell, offer a CS; agreeing, consenting, offering to sell, furnish, and/or transport a CS.

¹⁶ "Other Sex Offenses" include failing to register as a sex offender, unlawful sex with a minor, and indecent exposure.

Although few in number, inmates released after having served an indeterminate sentence recidivate at a lower rate (11.5 percent) than those who served a determinate sentence (61.0 percent).

4.5.3 Sentence Type

Figure 9. Recidivism Rates by Sentence Type



California's Determinate Sentencing Law¹⁷ had been in effect for over 30 years by the time the inmates in this FY 2008-09 cohort were released. As a result, the vast majority of individuals who were released served a determinate sentence. Only 182 of the 112,877 inmates released during FY 2008-09 served an indeterminate sentence. Generally, inmates serving an indeterminate term are released only after the Board of Parole Hearings has found them to be suitable for parole. This differs from offenders sentenced to a determinate term, who are released once they have served their sentence regardless of their suitability for parole. Those who served an indeterminate sentence are, therefore, less likely to recidivate. In addition, these offenders are more likely to be older than those who served a determinate sentence and age is generally negatively correlated with recidivism (see Section 4.4.2).

Figure 9 and Table 10 show that inmates who were released after having served an indeterminate sentence recidivate at a lower rate than those who served a determinate sentence (11.5 percent versus 61.0 percent, respectively). The FY 2007-08 cohort exhibited the same pattern.

¹⁷ The Uniform Determinative Sentencing Act was enacted by the California Legislature in 1976.

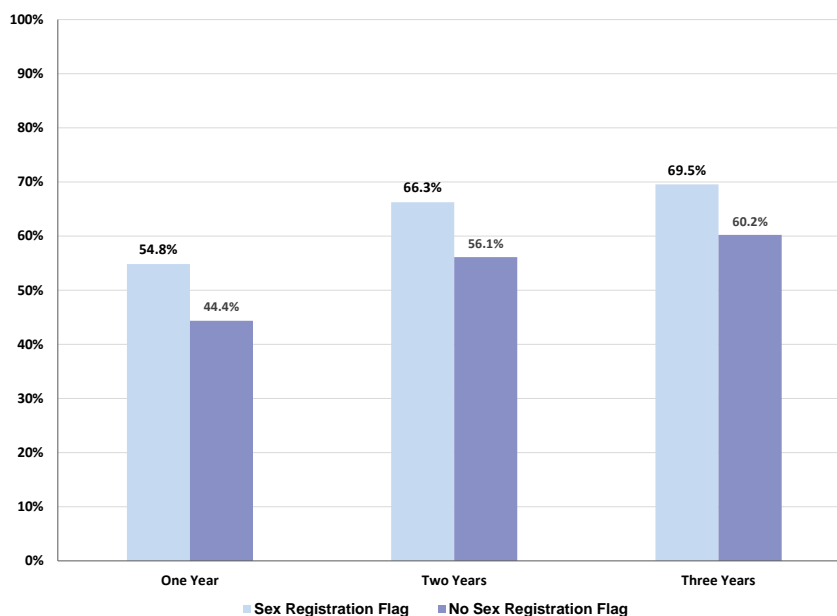
Of the 21 offenders who returned to prison within three years, three were returned pending revocation and were subsequently released and “continued on parole.”

Table 10. Recidivism Rates by Sentence Type¹⁸

Sentence Type	Number Released	One Year		Two Years		Three Years	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
Determinate Sentencing Law	112,695	50,999	45.3%	64,226	57.0%	68,782	61.0%
Indeterminate Sentencing Law	182	11	6.0%	18	9.9%	21	11.5%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

4.5.4 Sex Registrants

Figure 10. Recidivism Rates by Sex Registration Flag



Offenders who are required to register as a sex offender have a higher recidivism rate than those who are not.

Figure 10 and Table 11 show the three-year recidivism rate for offenders required to register as a sex offender (sex registrants) is 9.3 percentage points higher than those who are not.

The three-year recidivism rate increased 0.4 percentage points for sex registrants from FY 2007-08 to FY 2008-09. Conversely, the rate for non-registrants decreased 3.1 percentage points.

Table 11. Recidivism Rates by Sex Registration Flag

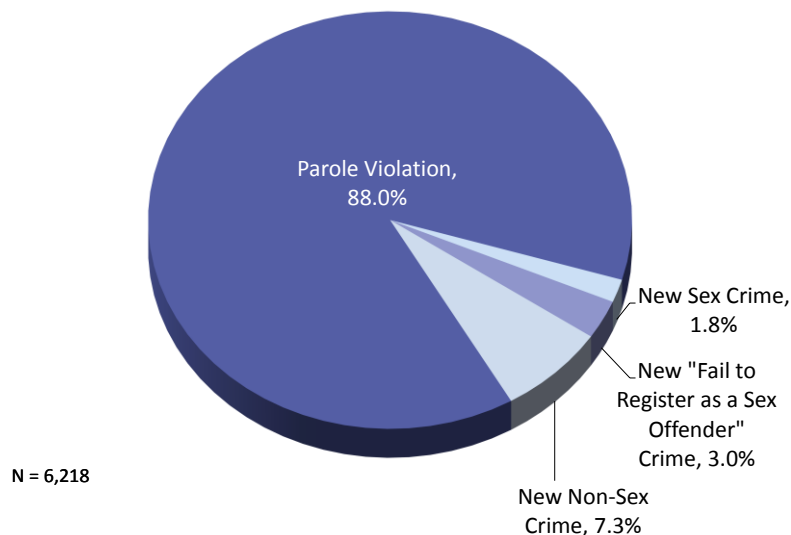
Sex Registration Flag	Number Released	One Year		Two Years		Three Years	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
Yes	8,942	4,904	54.8%	5,925	66.3%	6,218	69.5%
No	103,935	46,106	44.4%	58,319	56.1%	62,585	60.2%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

¹⁸ Recidivism rates were not calculated when fewer than 30 inmates were released.

Offenders who are required to register as a sex offender are more likely to be recommitted to CDCR for a new nonsex crime than for a new sex crime.

4.5.5 Reccommitment Offense for Sex Registrants

Figure 11. Sex Registrant Reccommitment Offense



As seen in Figure 11 and Table 12, 88.0 percent of sex registrants returned to prison for parole violations. In terms of new crimes, the largest proportion returned to CDCR for a new non-sex crime offense (7.3 percent), followed by failing to register as a sex offender (3.0 percent), and finally new sex crimes (1.8 percent).

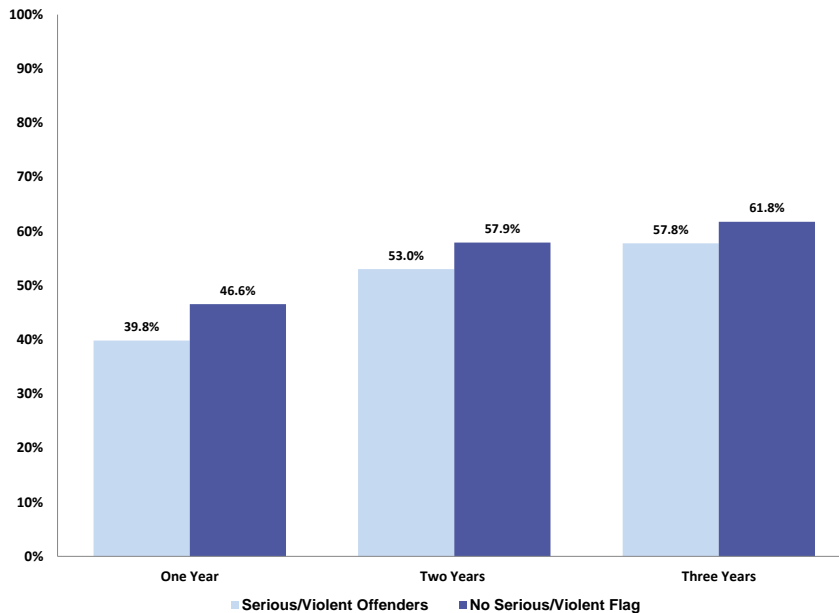
From FY 2007-08 to FY 2008-09, sex registrants who returned for a parole violation increased 1.1 percent. The percent returned for either a new non-sex crime or a new "fail to register as a sex offender" crime decreased by 0.5 percent each. Those who returned for a new sex crime remained fairly constant with a decrease of 0.1 percent.

Table 12. Sex Registrant Reccommitment Offense

Reason for Recidivism	Returned	
	Number Released	Percent
New Sex Crime	111	1.8%
New "Fail to Register as a Sex Offender" Crime	187	3.0%
New Non-Sex Crime	451	7.3%
Parole Violation	5,469	88.0%
TOTAL	6,218	100.0%

4.5.6 Serious or Violent Offenders

Figure 12. Recidivism Rates by Serious/Violent Offender Flag



Inmates identified as being serious/violent recidivate at a rate lower than those without a serious/violent offense.

Figure 12 and Table 13 show that across all three years, serious/violent offenders return to prison at a lower rate than inmates with a non-serious/non-violent offense. Within the first year of release, 46.6 percent of the non-serious/non-violent inmates returned to prison and 39.8 percent of serious/violent offenders returned to prison. By the third year, non-serious/non-violent inmates recidivate at a rate of 61.8 percent and serious/violent offenders recidivate at a rate of 57.8 percent.

When compared to the FY 2007-08 cohort, the FY 2008-09 cohort showed a 2.7 percent decrease for both serious/violent offenders and non-serious/violent offenders at three years of follow-up.

Table 13. Recidivism Rates by Serious/Violent Offender Flag

Serious/Violent Offense	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
Yes	22,840	9,096	39.8%	12,110	53.0%	13,195	57.8%
No	90,037	41,914	46.6%	52,134	57.9%	55,608	61.8%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

Overall, inmates with identified mental health issues recidivate at a higher rate than those without mental health issues.

4.5.7 Mental Health Status

Approximately 16 percent of the felons released from CDCR in FY 2008-09 were designated as either Enhanced Outpatient Program (EOP) or Correctional Clinical Case Management System (CCCMS).¹⁹ The EOP is designed for mentally ill inmates who experience adjustment difficulties in a general population setting, but are not so impaired that they require 24-hour inpatient care. Similar to secure day treatment services in the community, the program includes 10 hours of structured clinical activity per week, individual clinical contacts at least every 2 weeks, and enhanced nursing services. Inmates receiving CCCMS services are housed within the general population and participate on an outpatient basis. Services include individual counseling, crisis intervention, medication review, group therapy, social skills training, clinical discharge and pre-release planning. This is similar to an outpatient program in the community.

Figure 13. Recidivism Rates by Mental Health Status

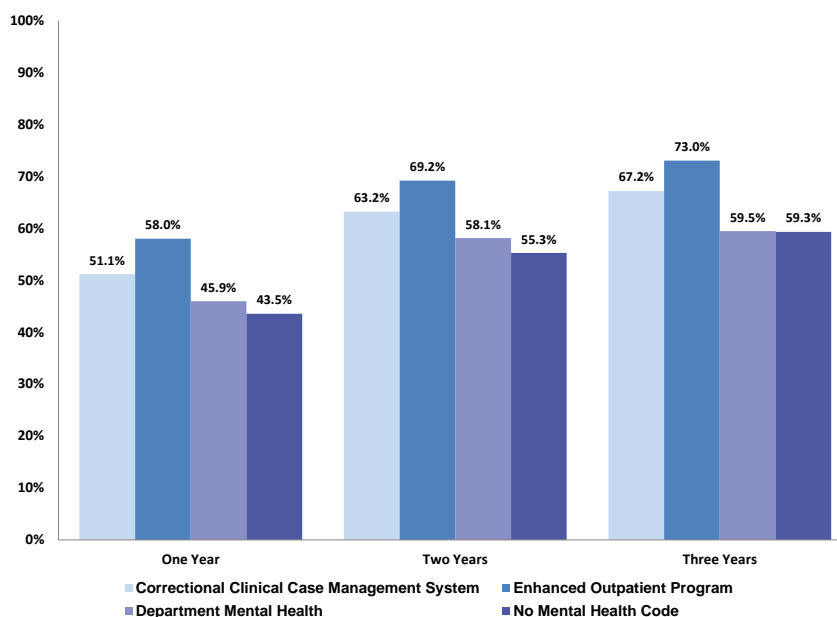


Figure 13 and Table 14 show that inmates with identified mental health issues recidivate at higher rates than those who are not. The recidivism rate is higher for inmates who received mental health treatment services in the CDCR EOP than those who received services in the CCCMS.

¹⁹ The EOP and CCCMS are CDCR designations and do not necessarily reflect a clinical (e.g., Diagnostic and Statistical Manual) mental health diagnosis.

At the end of the three-year follow-up, inmates with an EOP designation recidivated at a higher rate (73.0 percent) than those designated as CCCMS (67.2 percent). In addition, one-year recidivism rates for those served by the EOP are 14.5 percentage points higher than for those who did not have a mental health code designation, and one-year recidivism rates for those served by the CCCMS are 7.6 percentage points higher.

When compared to the FY 2007-08 cohort, recidivism rates by mental health status decreased. Three-year recidivism rates for inmates with EOP and CCCMS designations decreased 3.7 and 3.4 percentage points, respectively.

Table 14. Recidivism Rates by Mental Health Status²⁰

Mental Health Code	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
Enhanced Outpatient Program	6,631	3,846	58.0%	4,587	69.2%	4,843	73.0%
Correctional Clinical Case Management System	11,936	6,105	51.1%	7,544	63.2%	8,020	67.2%
Crisis Bed	20	14	N/A	14	N/A	16	N/A
None/No Mental Health Code	94,216	41,011	43.5%	52,056	55.3%	55,880	59.3%
Department of Mental Health	74	34	45.9%	43	58.1%	44	59.5%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

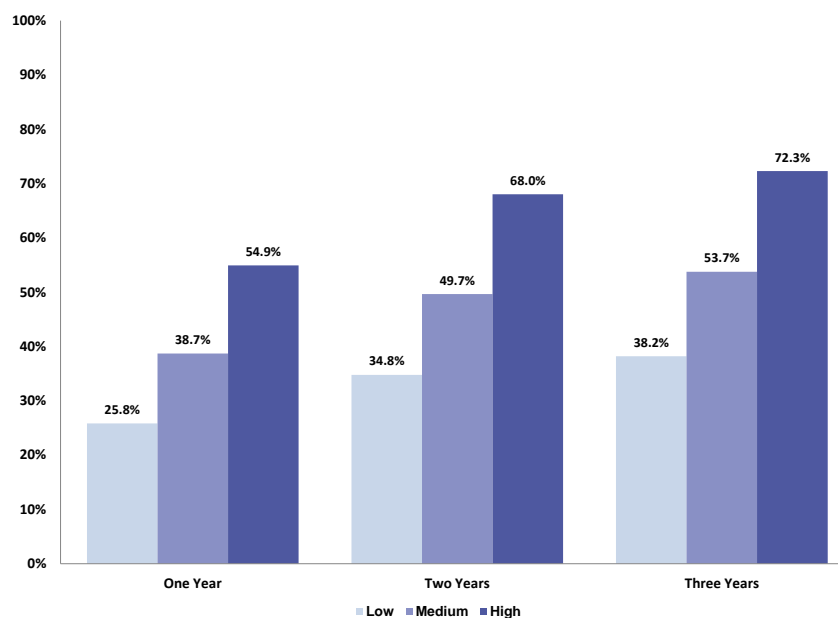
4.5.8 Risk of Recidivism

The CSRA is a tool used to calculate an offender's risk of being convicted of a new offense after release from prison. Based on their criminal history, offenders are designated as having either a low, medium, or high risk of being convicted of a new offense after release, with the high risk being further delineated into three sub-categories (high drug, high property, and high violence). More than half (53.6 percent) of all inmates released from CDCR in FY 2008-09 were designated as being at high-risk to recidivate.

²⁰ Recidivism rates were not calculated when fewer than 30 inmates were released.

Observed
recidivism rates
increase in line
with predicted
recidivism rates,
as determined by
the CSRA.

Figure 14. Recidivism Rates by CSRA Risk Category



As expected, Figure 14 and Table 15 show that the three-year recidivism rate is lowest for those with a low-risk score (38.2 percent), followed by those with a medium-risk score (53.7 percent), and the high-risk inmates have the highest recidivism rate (72.3 percent).

When compared to the FY 2007-08 cohort, the greatest decline in three-year recidivism rates by risk score occurred for inmates with a medium-risk score.

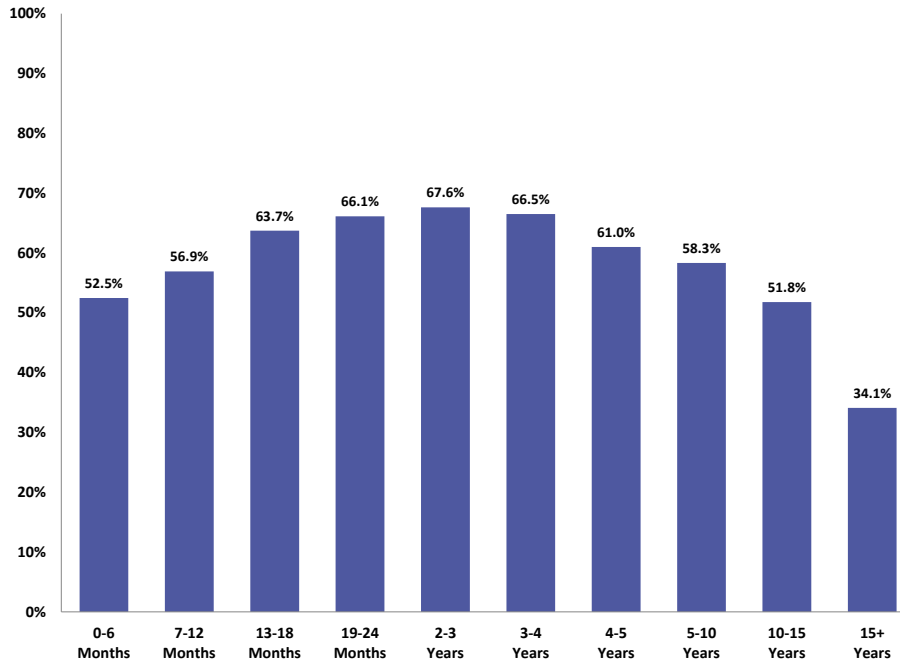
Table 15. Recidivism Rates by CSRA Risk Category²¹

Risk Score Level	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
Low	18,768	4,845	25.8%	6,526	34.8%	7,167	38.2%
Medium	31,024	12,002	38.7%	15,405	49.7%	16,674	53.7%
High	60,521	33,243	54.9%	41,168	68.0%	43,752	72.3%
N/A	2,564	920	35.9%	1,145	44.7%	1,210	47.2%
Total	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

²¹ N/A reflects scores computed manually for inmates whose CII numbers did not match to the DOJ rap sheet data files. Consequently, the CSRA scores for these inmates are currently unavailable.

4.5.9 Length-of-Stay (Current Term)

Figure 15. Recidivism Rates by Length-of-Stay



Recidivism rates peak for inmates who serve 2 to 3 years (67.6 percent) and decline thereafter, which may be attributed to the effects of age.

Figure 15 and Table 16 show that the FY 2008-09 cohort recidivism rate is 52.5 percent for inmates who served 0 to 6 months on their current term. From that point, the recidivism rate increases incrementally until it peaks at 67.6 percent for those who served 2 to 3 years on their current term. Thereafter, the recidivism rate drops steadily as the length-of-stay increases, ending with inmates who served 15 or more years having a recidivism rate of 34.1 percent.

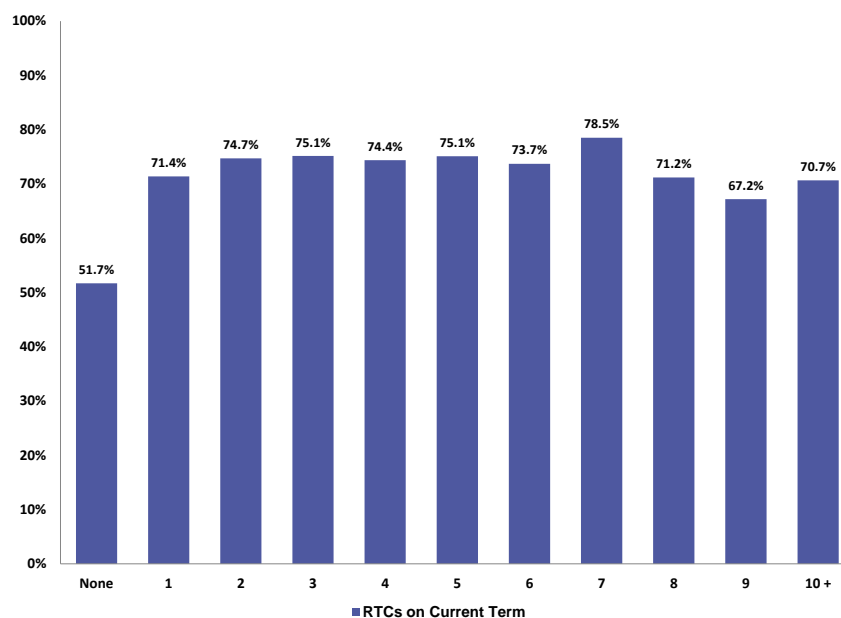
There was a shift from the highest recidivism rate occurring at 19 to 24 months for FY 2007-08 to 2 to 3 years in FY 2008-09. There were declines in all length-of-stay categories from FY 2007-08 to 2008-09, with the slightest decrease occurring for those who stayed 4 to 5 years (-0.2 percentage points). The largest decline was for those who stayed 15+ years (-10.1 percentage points). The FY 2008-09 pattern of an increase up to the peak timeframe and then decreasing is similar to what was seen in FY 2007-08.

Table 16. Recidivism Rates by Length-of-Stay

Length of Stay	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
0-6 Months	12,392	4,717	38.1%	6,065	48.9%	6,501	52.5%
7-12 Months	32,242	13,152	40.8%	17,036	52.8%	18,351	56.9%
13-18 Months	20,237	9,817	48.5%	12,143	60.0%	12,896	63.7%
19-24 Months	14,373	7,188	50.0%	8,885	61.8%	9,502	66.1%
2-3 Years	15,682	8,188	52.2%	9,995	63.7%	10,604	67.6%
3-4 Years	6,861	3,475	50.6%	4,270	62.2%	4,563	66.5%
4-5 Years	3,540	1,536	43.4%	1,982	56.0%	2,159	61.0%
5-10 Years	5,822	2,394	41.1%	3,113	53.5%	3,395	58.3%
10-15 Years	1,373	464	33.8%	646	47.1%	711	51.8%
15+ Years	355	79	22.3%	109	30.7%	121	34.1%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

4.5.10 Number of Returns to CDCR Custody Prior to Release (Current Term Only)

Figure 16. Three-Year Recidivism Rates by Number of Returns to CDCR Custody (RTC) on the Current Term Prior to Release



Re-released inmates who return to CDCR incarceration at least one time during their current term have a recidivism rate similar to inmates who have multiple returns to custody.

Figure 16 and Table 17 show the number of returns to CDCR prison on the current term for inmates released from CDCR during FY 2008-09. The “None” category represents inmates released for the first time (i.e., these individuals have no prior returns for their current term). This category has the lowest recidivism rate at 51.7 percent. There is a large increase of nearly 20 percentage points from no return to prison to one return (71.4 percent).

Moving forward, there is little variation in the recidivism rate within the current term. An inmate who returns once on the current term has a recidivism rate similar to that of an inmate who returns twice, three times, four times, etc. This relationship changes when all stays on all terms are taken into account (see Section 4.5.11, below).

From FY 2007-08 to FY 2008-09, there were minor shifts in the recidivism rates for each number of returns to custody (RTCs), with two increasing and the rest decreasing. The greatest increase was for those who had seven returns, which increased 6.0 percentage points. The greatest decline was for those who had nine returns, which decreased 8.7 percentage points.

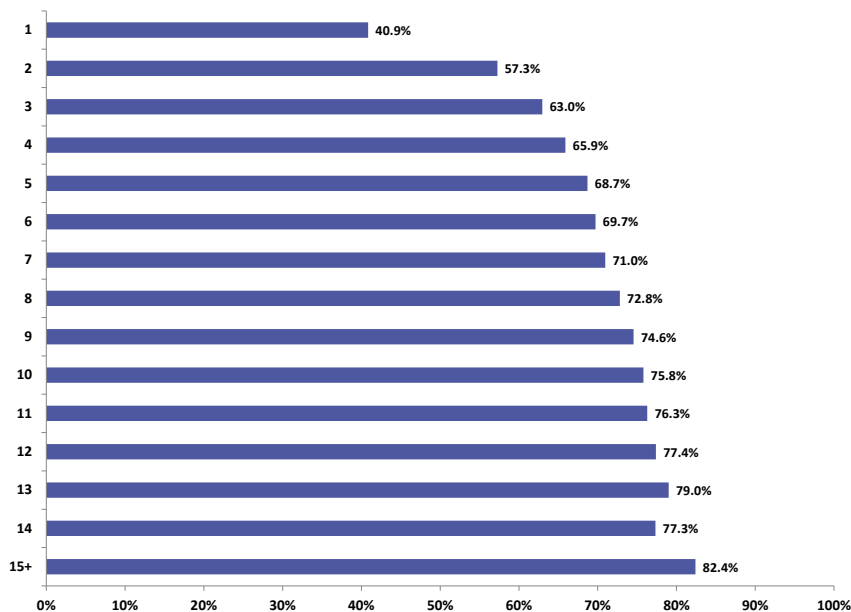
Table 17. Number of Returns to CDCR Custody on Current Term Prior to Release

RTCs on Current Term	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
None	64,434	22,603	35.1%	30,375	47.1%	33,291	51.7%
1	20,260	10,976	54.2%	13,670	67.5%	14,462	71.4%
2	11,136	6,706	60.2%	7,964	71.5%	8,319	74.7%
3	6,896	4,296	62.3%	4,977	72.2%	5,182	75.1%
4	4,305	2,714	63.0%	3,090	71.8%	3,201	74.4%
5	2,538	1,608	63.4%	1,827	72.0%	1,906	75.1%
6	1,529	972	63.6%	1,081	70.7%	1,127	73.7%
7	819	554	67.6%	616	75.2%	643	78.5%
8	465	289	62.2%	322	69.2%	331	71.2%
9	253	150	59.3%	166	65.6%	170	67.2%
10 +	242	142	58.7%	156	64.5%	171	70.7%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

Generally, over an inmate's entire criminal career, recidivism rates increase with each additional stay at a CDCR institution.

4.5.11 Number of CDCR Stays Ever (All Terms Combined)

Figure 17. Three-Year Recidivism Rates by Total Number of Stays Ever



A stay is defined as any period of time an inmate is housed in a CDCR institution. Each time an inmate returns to prison it is considered a new stay, regardless of whether the return represents a new admission, a parole violation with a new term, or a return to prison following a parole violation. The number of stays is cumulative over any number of convictions or terms in an offender's criminal career.

As the number of prior incarcerations in CDCR Adult Institutions increases, so does the likelihood of return to prison (see Figure 17 and Table 18). Examination of prior CDCR stays for inmates released in FY 2008-09 supports this assertion. While there are progressively fewer inmates who return to prison over time, the recidivism rates for those who do return increases with additional stays, from 40.9 percent for inmates who had one (first ever) stay to 82.4 percent for inmates who had 15+ stays. About half of the inmates returned to prison have between one and three CDCR stays, and the greatest increase in the recidivism rates occurs between one and two stays (16.4 percentage point increase).

From FY 2007-08 to FY 2008-09, there were decreases in the recidivism rates for all categories of stays. The decreases ranged from ten stays (-1.0 percentage points) to one stay (-4.0 percentage points). There were no clear trends in the rates based on the number of stays.

Table 18. Recidivism Rates by Total Number of Stays Ever

Stays	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
1	29,719	8,215	27.6%	11,073	37.3%	12,143	40.9%
2	16,319	6,539	40.1%	8,644	53.0%	9,344	57.3%
3	12,090	5,596	46.3%	7,080	58.6%	7,613	63.0%
4	9,596	4,682	48.8%	5,910	61.6%	6,324	65.9%
5	7,930	4,119	51.9%	5,124	64.6%	5,447	68.7%
6	6,359	3,363	52.9%	4,169	65.6%	4,433	69.7%
7	5,367	2,900	54.0%	3,566	66.4%	3,808	71.0%
8	4,420	2,457	55.6%	3,015	68.2%	3,218	72.8%
9	3,726	2,126	57.1%	2,620	70.3%	2,778	74.6%
10	3,054	1,777	58.2%	2,180	71.4%	2,315	75.8%
11	2,673	1,588	59.4%	1,922	71.9%	2,039	76.3%
12	2,105	1,271	60.4%	1,548	73.5%	1,629	77.4%
13	1,724	1,073	62.2%	1,290	74.8%	1,362	79.0%
14	1,460	909	62.3%	1,080	74.0%	1,129	77.3%
15 +	6,335	4,395	69.4%	5,023	79.3%	5,221	82.4%
TOTAL	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%

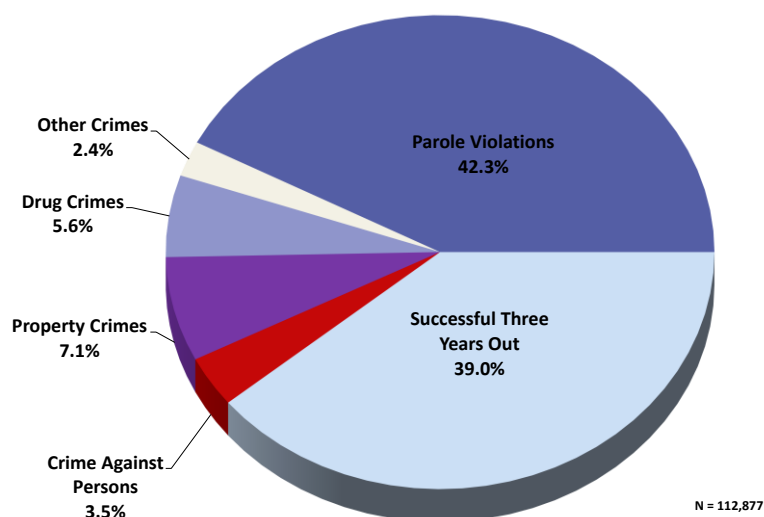
4.6 Type of Return to CDCR

As illustrated in Figure 18, 42.3 percent of the inmates released in FY 2008-09 returned to prison for a parole violation within the three-year follow-up period. About 19 percent of the release cohort returned to CDCR after being convicted of a new criminal offense, the majority of these are for property crimes (7.1 percent).

Over one-third of inmates released in FY 2008-09 were not returned to the CDCR, up 3 percentage points compared to the FY 2007-08 cohort.

Forty-two percent of the inmates released during FY 2008-09 returned for parole violations within the three-year follow-up period.

Figure 18. Three-Year Outcomes for Inmates Released From All CDCR Adult Institutions in FY 2008-09



4.7 Impact of Realignment

Realignment, as established by Assembly Bill 109 was implemented on October 1, 2011 with the intent of reducing the California prison population. This was accomplished, in part, by having parole violators serve their sentence at the county level rather than in prison. When Realignment began, the entire FY 2008-09 cohort had completed more than two years of their three-year follow-up period. A portion of the cohort (33,140) who released on or after October 1, 2008, and had not yet returned to CDCR, were followed for between one day and nine months post-Realignment. As shown previously in figure 2, most offenders recidivate within the first year of release while few offenders recidivate within the third year following release. Therefore, we initially expected that Realignment would have very little impact on recidivism for this cohort.

Figure 19. Number of RTC's by Month

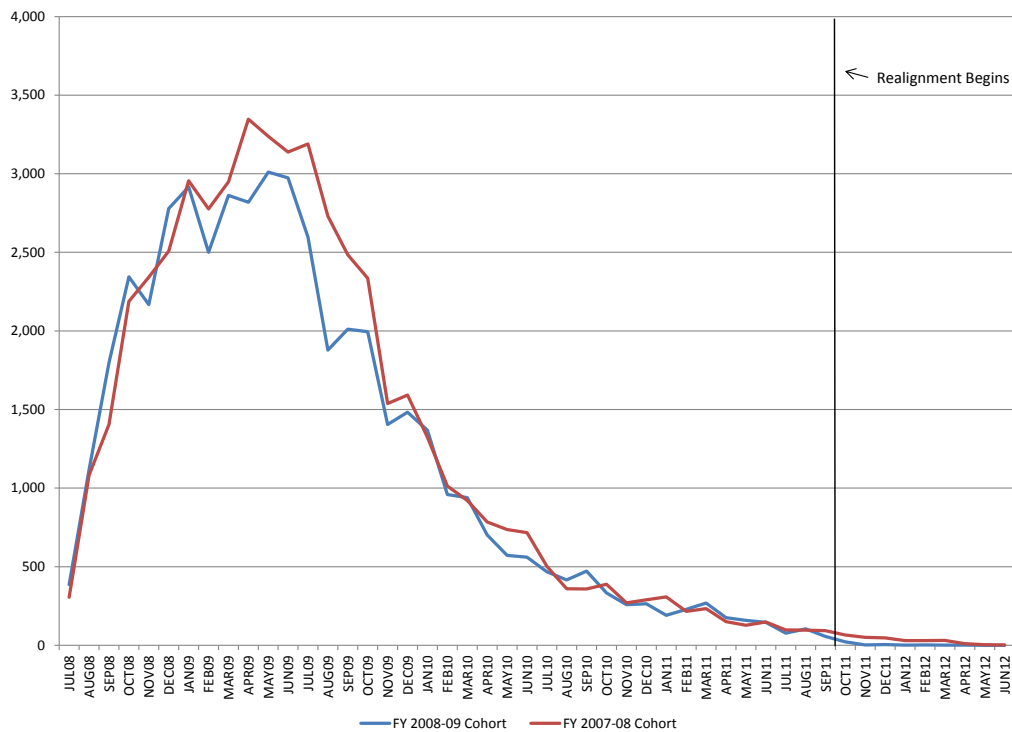
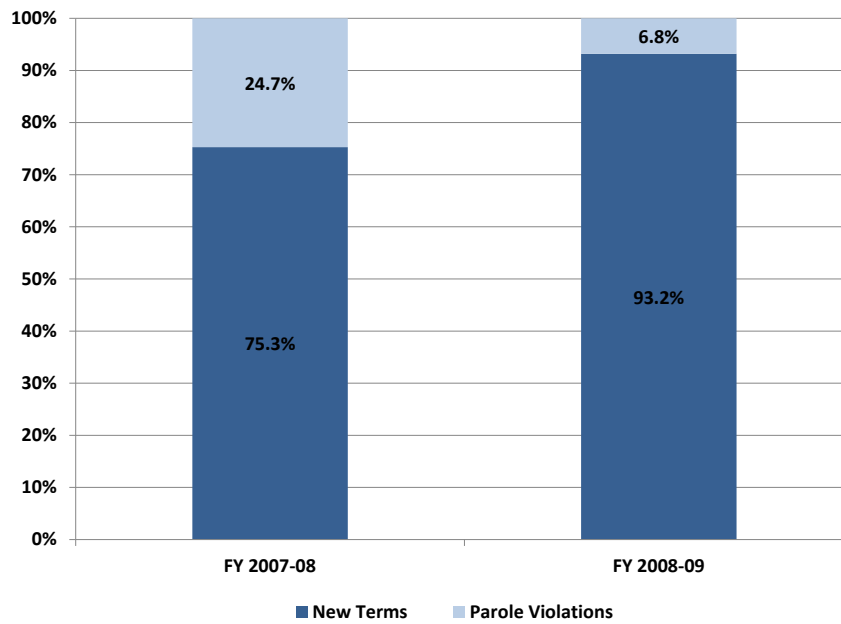


Figure 19 shows the number of RTCs by month for the FY 2008-09 cohort as well as RTCs from last year's FY 2007-08 cohort (dates only correspond to the FY 2008-09 releases) for comparison. Recidivism trends overtime indicate that very few offenders return to custody for a parole violation towards the end of their follow-up period. However, the FY 2008-09 cohort drops to nearly zero RTCs once Realignment is implemented.

Figure 20 further illustrates the point by showing the returns to CDCR for the FY 2008-09 cohort post-Realignment where most offenders are returned for new terms with few returning for parole violations. For comparison purposes we also examined the FY 2007-08 cohort at the end of their three-year follow-up period. While the majority of returns are still for new terms, this percentage is nearly 18 points lower than that found for the FY 2008-09 cohort, thereby illustrating the impact of Realignment on this small number of offenders. This preliminary analysis shows a clear impact of Realignment on RTCs.

Sound methodology and procedures were followed for these analyses; however, the findings presented here represent an early stage of post-Realignment recidivism activity and to fully examine Realignment's impact on recidivism, a full three-year follow-up period needs to occur. Therefore, caution should be used when interpreting these findings.

Figure 20. Returns to CDCR by Type: Post-Realignment (FY 2008-09) and a Similar Timeframe in FY 2007-08

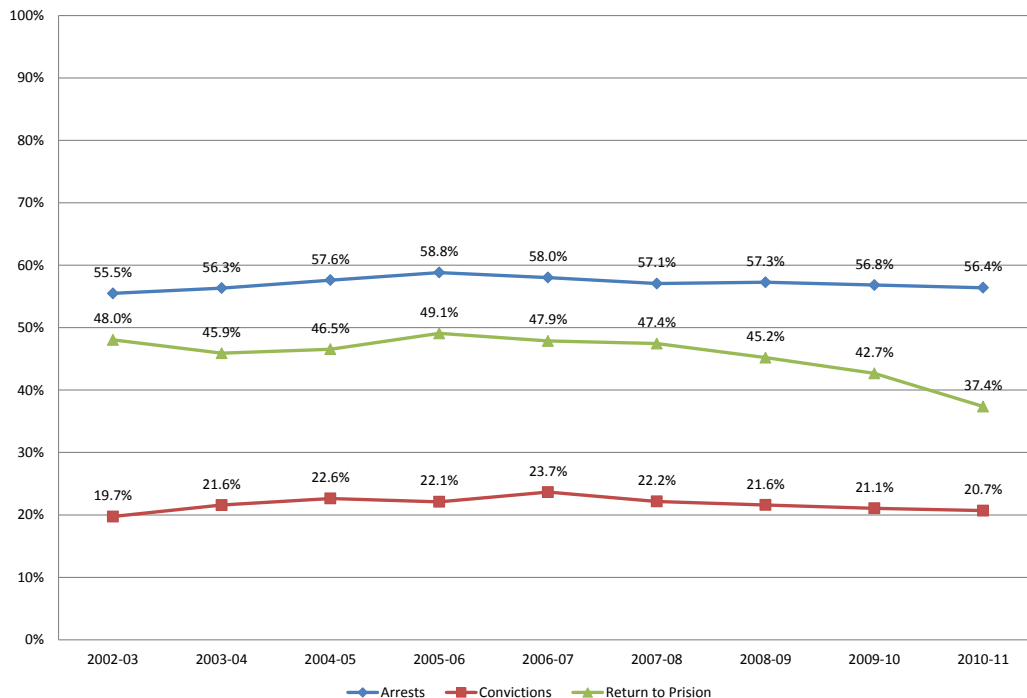


Appendix

One-, Two- and Three-Year Recidivism Rates for Arrests, Convictions, and Returns to Prison for Adult Felons Released Between FYs 2002-03 and 2010-11

Presented in the three figures and tables below are recidivism rates for up to nine years for adult felons released from CDCR by arrests, convictions, and returns to prison. Shown first are the one-year recidivism rates for all adult felon releases from FY 2002-03 through FY 2010-11.¹ This figure provides the most years of comparative data. While one year of follow-up is the shortest time frame presented, it is a good indicator of recidivism (as indicated previously in this report) since almost 75 percent of felons who recidivate do so within the first year of release. To provide as complete a picture as possible, these one-year rates are followed by two- and three-year recidivism rates.²

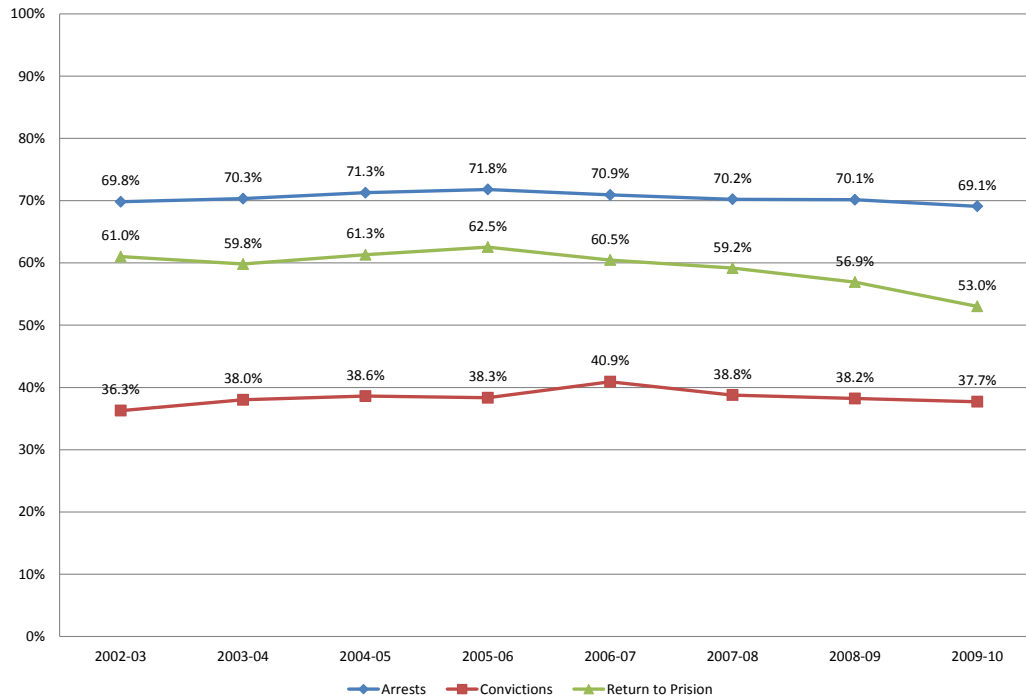
One-Year Recidivism Rates by FY



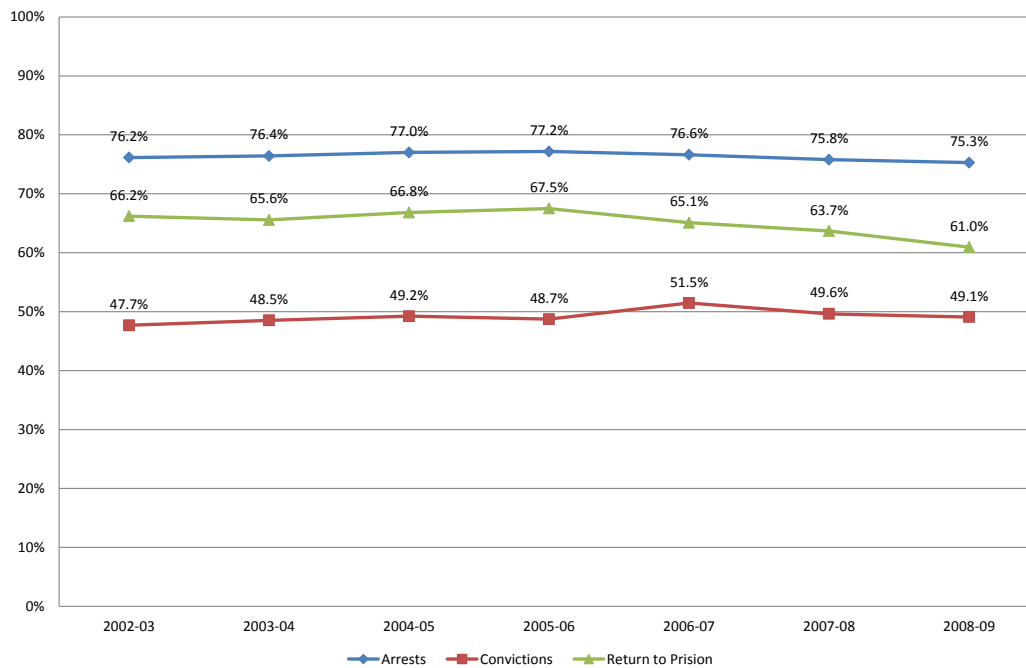
¹ The data contained in these charts and tables were extracted in August 2013 to minimize the effects of the time lag in data entry into state systems.

² Recidivism rates are "frozen" at three years, meaning that after three years the follow-up period is considered to be completed and no further analyses are performed. As such, reported rates may fluctuate slightly for the one- and two-year rates as data used in subsequent reporting years will likely increase, particularly for "arrests" and "convictions" since these data are routinely updated in accordance with criminal justice system processing.

Two-Year Recidivism Rates by FY



Three-Year Recidivism Rates by FY



January 2014

		Arrests [^]					
		One Year		Two Years		Three Years	
Fiscal Year*	Number Released	Number Arrested	Recidivism Rate	Number Arrested	Recidivism Rate	Number Arrested	Recidivism Rate
2002-03	99,482	55,204	55.5%	69,449	69.8%	75,765	76.2%
2003-04	99,635	56,127	56.3%	70,070	70.3%	76,135	76.4%
2004-05	103,647	59,703	57.6%	73,881	71.3%	79,819	77.0%
2005-06	105,974	62,331	58.8%	76,079	71.8%	81,786	77.2%
2006-07	112,665	65,369	58.0%	79,893	70.9%	86,330	76.6%
2007-08	113,888	64,981	57.1%	79,978	70.2%	86,309	75.8%
2008-09	110,356	63,193	57.3%	77,412	70.1%	83,080	75.3%
2009-10	102,083	58,000	56.8%	70,533	69.1%	N/A	N/A
2010-11	94,214	53,125	56.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

		Convictions [^]					
		One Year		Two Years		Three Years	
Fiscal Year*	Number Released	Number Convicted	Recidivism Rate	Number Convicted	Recidivism Rate	Number Convicted	Recidivism Rate
2002-03	99,482	19,643	19.7%	36,087	36.3%	47,443	47.7%
2003-04	99,635	21,509	21.6%	37,881	38.0%	48,350	48.5%
2004-05	103,647	23,464	22.6%	40,022	38.6%	51,026	49.2%
2005-06	105,974	23,428	22.1%	40,635	38.3%	51,650	48.7%
2006-07	112,665	26,657	23.7%	46,106	40.9%	57,980	51.5%
2007-08	113,888	25,233	22.2%	44,164	38.8%	56,525	49.6%
2008-09	110,356	23,831	21.6%	42,181	38.2%	54,175	49.1%
2009-10	102,083	21,504	21.1%	38,496	37.7%	N/A	N/A
2010-11	94,214	19,496	20.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

		Returns to Prison					
		One Year		Two Years		Three Years	
Fiscal Year*	Number Released	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
2002-03	103,934	49,924	48.0%	63,415	61.0%	68,810	66.2%
2003-04	103,296	47,423	45.9%	61,788	59.8%	67,734	65.6%
2004-05	106,920	49,761	46.5%	65,559	61.3%	71,444	66.8%
2005-06	108,662	53,330	49.1%	67,958	62.5%	73,350	67.5%
2006-07	115,254	55,167	47.9%	69,691	60.5%	75,018	65.1%
2007-08	116,015	55,049	47.4%	68,643	59.2%	73,885	63.7%
2008-09	112,877	51,010	45.2%	64,244	56.9%	68,803	61.0%
2009-10	105,538	45,032	42.7%	55,954	53.0%	N/A	N/A
2010-11	98,553	36,820	37.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

[^] Rates for "arrests" and "convictions" only include those felons where an automated criminal history record was available from the Department of Justice. These records are necessary to measure recidivism by arrest and conviction. Total numbers released for these measures are therefore smaller than those used to compute "returns to prison."

* FY's that do not yet have enough follow-up time to capture recidivism behavior reported as "N/A."

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Office of Research, Research and Evaluation Branch
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