



California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

# RECIDIVISM REPORT FOR OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION IN FISCAL YEAR 2014-15

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Division of Correctional Policy Research and Internal Oversight

OFFICE OF RESEARCH | JANUARY 2020



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This report would not have been possible without the generous support of others. Specifically, we would like to thank Shelley Buttler, Miguel Lizarde, and Tyler Kirkbride from the Office of Research for providing data quality assurance.

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## Executive Summary

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) tracks offenders released from state prison in the three years following their release. In particular, three outcomes are measured, all of which track recidivism (a person's relapse into criminal behavior): arrests, convictions and returns to prison. Starting with the 2016 report, CDCR transitioned its primary measure of recidivism from the three-year return-to-prison rate to the three-year conviction rate. This change is consistent with the statewide definition of recidivism and provides a broader and more meaningful measure of reoffending behavior. This year's report follows offenders released from state prison between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015 (Fiscal Year 2014-15), two years after the passage of the Public Safety Realignment Act in 2011 and two years prior to the implementation of Proposition 57. The 2019 recidivism rate is 46.5 percent, close to the 46.1 percent of the previous two years.

Much has changed in the Department since Fiscal Year 2014-15: policies and procedures have shifted towards an increasingly behavior-based model in which an offender's behavior drives classification and housing decisions as much as the points-based classification system. These offenders were also released when the Department was just beginning its expansion of rehabilitative programs, following the recession of 2007-2008. Many of the Department's most significant rehabilitation programs were implemented after this cohort was released, including the Innovative Grant Program (2014), the statewide expansion of Arts in Corrections (2017), changes to the classification system to allow increased program access (2017), face-to-face college expansion (2018), and other vocational, academic, and rehabilitative programs. This cohort was also released prior to the passage of Proposition 57 in 2016, under which self-help programs and courses led by community-based organizations more than doubled the number of institutional offerings. The credit-earning opportunities under Proposition 57, combined with an unprecedented number of lifers being found suitable for parole in the past eight years, have given hope and incentive to the offender population to make substantial changes in their lives as returning home becomes more of a possibility.

It is notable that offenders released from prison in Fiscal Year 2014-15 who had been sentenced to an indeterminate (life) term continue to have a very low recidivism rate, even though the number of lifers released to the community is over 4,000 since Fiscal Year 2010-11. Of the 688 offenders sentenced to a life term and released in Fiscal Year 2014-15, 2.3 percent (16 offenders) were convicted of a new crime, the majority of them misdemeanors. These rates speak to the overall success of the Board in fairly evaluating candidates for parole and adequately weighing public safety against an offender's rehabilitation.

Whereas in the previous year, more offenders recidivated by conviction of felony offenses, this year the highest drivers of recidivism are misdemeanor drug and alcohol offenses. Thus, while Realignment led to primarily only serious, violent, and sex offenders being committed to state prison, once released, these offenders recidivated for low-level offenses primarily related to drug and alcohol crimes.

The Department recognizes and suffers from the same devastating effects of the epidemic of addiction facing every other community in California and nationwide, and is taking an aggressive approach by implementing a statewide substance abuse treatment program for offenders expected to begin implementation in 2020. Under the Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment (ISUDT) program, offenders will have increased cognitive behavioral interventions in line with medical standards of care and Medication-Assisted Treatment, where appropriate. The Department is focusing on whole-person care and the recognition that addiction is a treatable disease that leads many to criminal behavior, overdoses, and death. Along with improving the mental and physical health of the offender population, this initiative aims to decrease criminal behavior post-release by expanding available resources, including growing CDCR's partnerships for post-release substance use disorder treatment in the community and increasing access to medical treatment, housing, employment assistance and other community resources.

While the goal is to decrease recidivism across the board, the Department is hopeful that, with increased specialized treatment and credit-earning rehabilitative opportunities, those released from prison do not get re-convicted or create new victims in the communities of California.



## Recidivism Highlights

- Recidivism remained largely flat among offenders released from prison between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. The three-year conviction rate was 46.5 percent, close to the 46.1 percent of the previous two years.
- The slight increase in the three-year conviction rate is largely attributed to the 4,111 property and drug offenders released as a result of Proposition 47, which allowed offenders serving prison sentences for certain felony drug and property offenses to petition the courts for resentencing under new sentencing provisions. Property and drug offenders are consistently associated with higher rates of recidivism, contributing to the recent increase.
- Of the 39,205 offenders released, 53.5 percent (20,970 offenders) had no convictions within three years of their release. Of the 18,235 offenders convicted, 47.6 percent (8,679 offenders) were convicted of felonies and 52.4 percent (9,556 offenders) were convicted of misdemeanors.
- Misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes comprised the largest percentage of all post-release convictions (21.7 percent or 3,950 offenders).
- Of the 688 offenders sentenced to an indeterminate (life) term, 2.3 percent (16 offenders) were convicted of a new crime, the majority of them misdemeanors.
- When offenders who were identified as having a substance abuse treatment need and released to parole completed in-prison Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUDT) and aftercare, their three-year conviction rate was 18.5 percent, compared to offenders with no in-prison SUDT or aftercare (50.1 percent).
- Offenders committed to prison for a violent offense had a three-year conviction rate of 29.1 percent, which is 22.0 percentage points lower than the rate for offenders without a serious or violent offense. The rate for violent offenders decreased 2.1 percentage points compared to the Fiscal Year 2013-14 release cohort's rate of 31.2 percent.
- The three-year conviction rate of females (34.4 percent) was 13 percentage points lower than the rate of male offenders (47.4 percent). The rate for female offenders has decreased 12.4 percentage points since the release of the Fiscal Year 2011-12 cohort.
- The three-year conviction rates of younger age groups were substantially higher than rates for older age groups. Offenders ages 18 and 19 had the highest three-year conviction rate at 70 percent, followed by offenders ages 20 to 24 with a three-year conviction rate of 59 percent. Offenders ages 60 and over had the lowest three-year conviction rate of all age groups at 20.5 percent.

# CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

## RECIDIVISM REPORT FOR OFFENDERS RELEASED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014-15

### 1 Introduction

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) examines recidivism outcomes (arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates) for offenders released from CDCR's adult institutions over the course of a given fiscal year.<sup>1</sup> This report presents recidivism rates for the 39,205 offenders released between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 (Fiscal Year 2014-15) and tracked for three years following the date of their release. The three-year conviction rate is used as CDCR's primary measure of recidivism, while arrests and returns to prison are provided as supplemental measures of recidivism.

In addition to the three-year arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates, this report discusses the impacts of correctional policies influencing the cohort composition, recidivism rates, and type of recidivism for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 release cohort. The FY 2014-15 release cohort is the third post-Public Safety Realignment (Realignment) cohort and the first cohort with offenders released under Proposition 47, which was passed by California voters in November 2014 and reduced penalties for certain non-serious, non-violent property and drug crimes by mandating a misdemeanor sentence instead of a felony. Proposition 47 allowed offenders serving sentences in prison for certain felony offenses to petition the courts for resentencing under new sentencing provisions.

The type of post-release conviction (i.e. misdemeanor or felony) and the time until conviction for offenders released in FY 2014-15 are presented in Section 3. The three-year conviction rate by select offender demographics and characteristics (e.g. sentence type, serious or violent offenses, risk score) are provided in Section 4 and finally, more detailed information regarding recidivism rates and the type of arrest and return-to-prison are provided in Section 5.

In a departure from previous reports, the three-year conviction rates by offender demographics (e.g. age, race/ethnicity) and characteristics (e.g. length of stay) are presented in a separate appendix, "Appendix to the Recidivism Report for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2014-15." Information regarding conviction rates by county of release and a more detailed examination of age and recidivism are also provided in the appendix.

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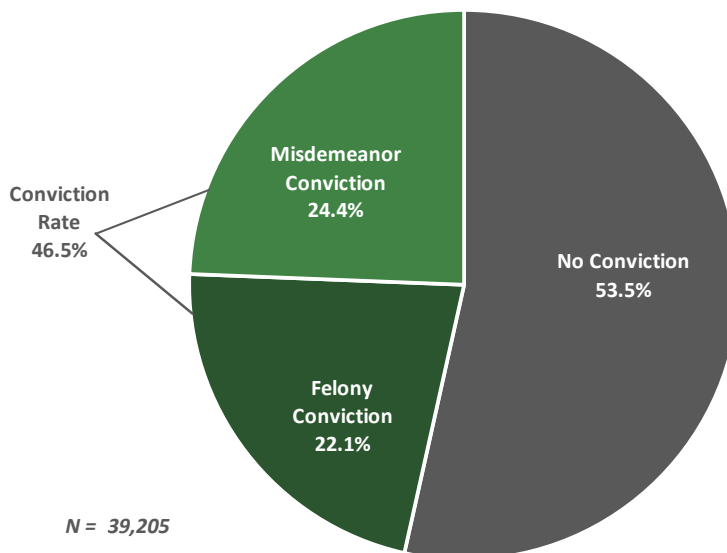
<sup>1</sup> CDCR's Recidivism Report series was previously titled the "Outcome Evaluation" report series. The 2018 Recidivism Report followed the 2017 Outcome Evaluation Report, both of which provide recidivism rates (arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates) for offenders released in a given fiscal year.

## 2 Three-Year Recidivism Rates

### 2.1 Three-Year Conviction Rate for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohort

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, 39,205 offenders were released from a CDCR adult institution and were tracked for three-years following the date of their release.<sup>2</sup> The three-year conviction rate for the FY 2014-15 release cohort was 46.5 percent. Of the 39,205 offenders who comprised the FY 2014-15 release cohort, 53.5 percent of the release cohort (20,970 offenders) had no convictions within three years of their release from prison, 22.1 percent (8,679 offenders) were convicted of a felony offense, and 24.4 percent (9,556 offenders) were convicted of a misdemeanor offense.

Figure 1. Three-Year Conviction Rate for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2014-15

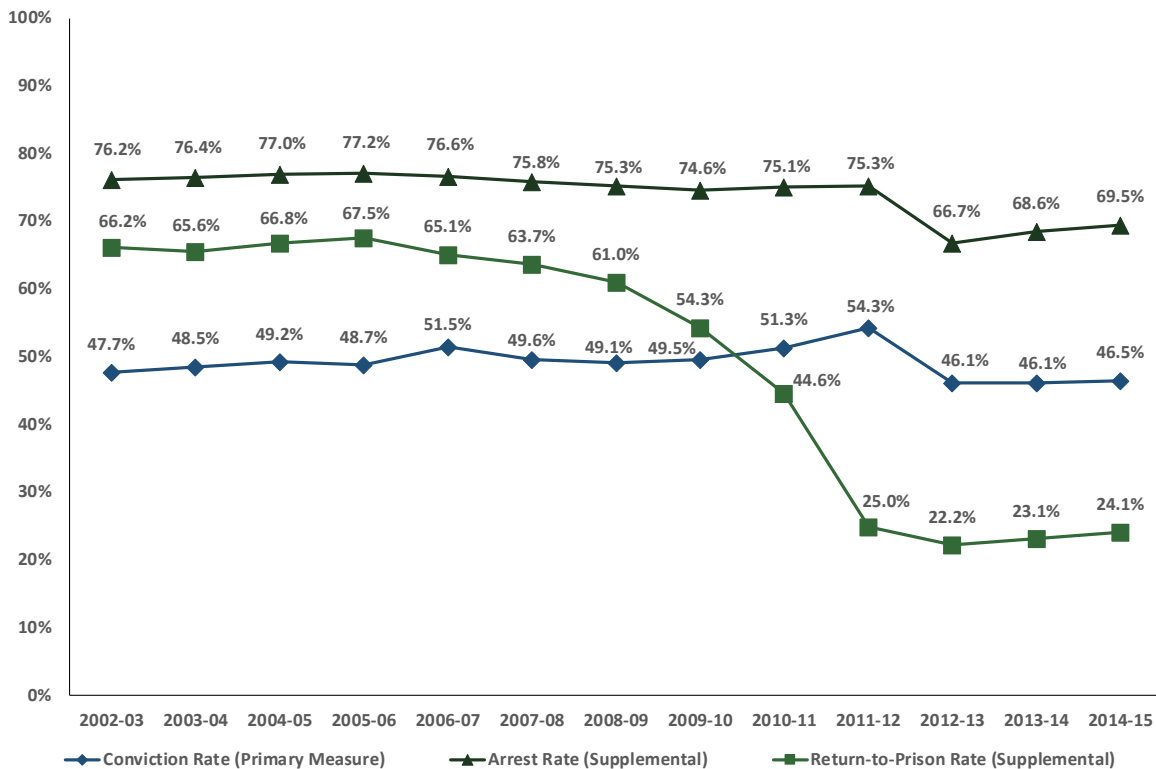


<sup>2</sup> During FY 2014-15, a total of 39,399 offenders were released from a CDCR adult institution. Of these offenders, 39,205 offenders had a Department of Justice (DOJ) automated rap sheet. Arrest and conviction data only include the 39,205 offenders with an automated rap sheet and return-to-prison data include all 39,399 offenders released from prison.

## 2.2 Three-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates for the Fiscal Year 2002-03 through Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohorts

As shown in Figure 2, the three-year conviction rate remained largely flat between the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts. In general, the three-year conviction rate has been relatively stable with small fluctuations (increases and decreases) since CDCR began reporting with the 2002-03 release cohort. After reaching a high of 54.3 percent with the FY 2011-12 release cohort and subsequently declining to a low of 46.1 percent with the FY 2012-13 release cohort, the three-year conviction rate has been markedly stable. The three-year conviction rate was unchanged (46.1 percent) between the FY 2012-13 and 2013-14 release cohorts and increased by 0.4 of a percentage point between the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts, reaching the current rate of 46.5 percent. The slight increase in the three-year conviction rate is largely due to 4,111 drug and property offenders who were resentenced and released from CDCR under Proposition 47 provisions. Offenders committed with drug and property offenses have higher observed rates of recidivism than other groups of offenders.

Figure 2. Three-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rate for Offenders Released from CDCR during Fiscal Year 2002-03 through Fiscal Year 2014-15



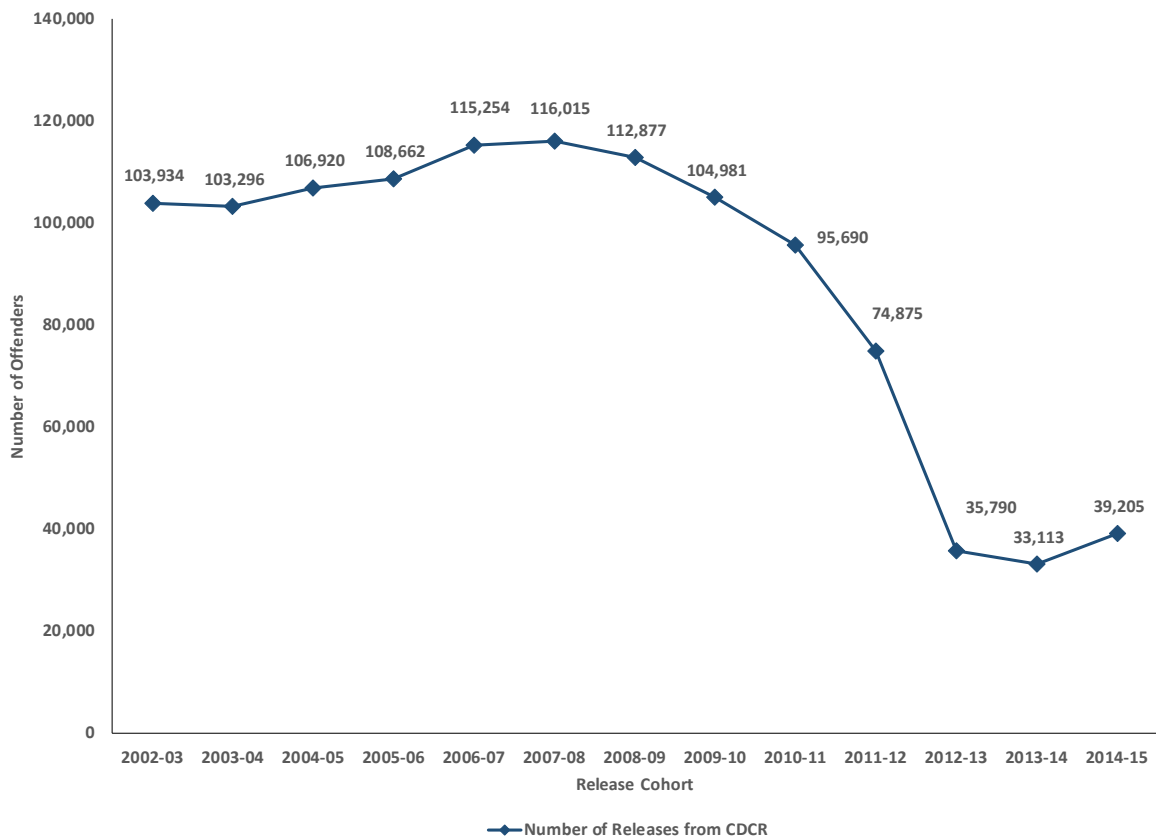
Arrests and returns to prison, which are supplemental measures of recidivism, also saw small increases between the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts. The three-year arrest rate increased by less than a percentage point (from 68.6 percent to 69.5 percent) and the three-year return-to-prison rate increased by one percentage point (from 23.1 percent to 24.1 percent). Similar to convictions, the arrest rate has stayed relatively stable since CDCR began reporting with the FY 2002-03 release cohort. The

three-year return-to-prison rate recently entered a period of stability, beginning with the FY 2011-12 release cohort, after experiencing substantial decreases following the implementation of Realignment in October 2011 (Section 2.4.1).

### 2.3 Description of the Fiscal Year 2002-03 through Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohorts

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, 39,205 offenders were released from a CDCR adult institution and tracked for three years following the date of their release.<sup>3</sup> As shown in Figure 3, the number of offenders released from CDCR peaked with the FY 2007-08 release cohort (116,015 releases) and began to slowly decline with the FY 2008-09 release cohort (112,877 releases). The number of releases began a series of decreases following the implementation of Realignment in October 2011, with 35,790 offenders released in FY 2012-13 and the number of releases reaching a low of 33,113 releases in FY 2013-14. An increase of 6,092 releases between the FY 2013-14 (33,113 releases) and FY 2014-15 (39,205 releases) cohorts indicate the substantial post-Realignment decline in the number of releases has subsided. Additionally, Proposition 47, which passed during the release and follow-up period of the FY 2014-15 release cohort, resulted in the resentencing and release of 4,111 offenders. The number of releases is contingent on the population of CDCR’s adult institutions, as well as a number of correctional policies. CDCR expects the number of releases to fluctuate in future release cohorts, as policies impacting the offender population are modified and implemented.

Figure 3. Number of Offenders in the Fiscal Year 2002-03 through Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohorts



<sup>3</sup> The FY 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts only include offenders with a DOJ automated rap sheet. Prior to transitioning the primary measure of recidivism from the three-year return-to-prison rate to the three-year conviction rate, the release cohort presented in Figure 3 included all offenders released from prison, regardless of a DOJ automated rap sheet.

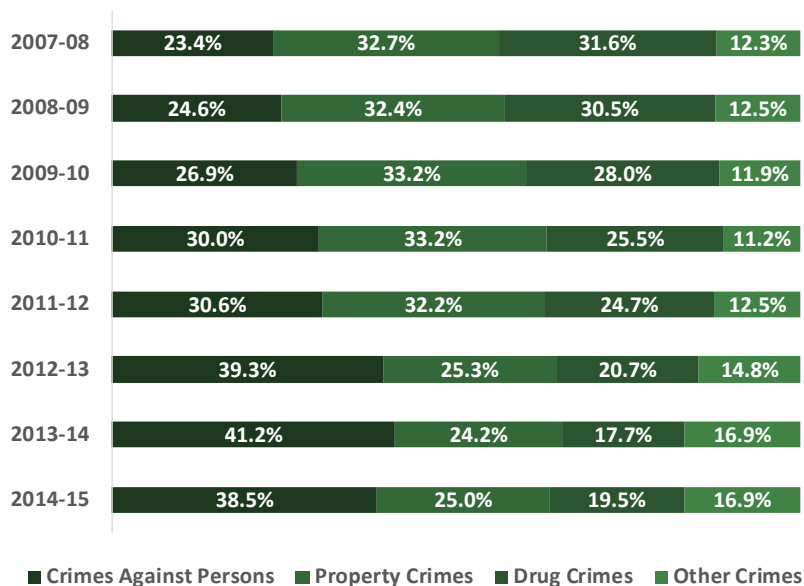
## 2.4 Recidivism Rates and Correctional Policies

### 2.4.1 Realignment

The FY 2014-15 release cohort represents the third group of CDCR offenders whose period of release (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) and three-year follow-up period (ending no later than June 30, 2018) occurred after the implementation of Realignment. Stability in the three-year return-to-prison rate along with changes to the demographics and characteristics of CDCR’s release cohorts, indicate the effects observed in the early years of Realignment have subsided in recent years.

While arrests and convictions remained fairly stable during the early years of Realignment, the three-year return-to-prison rate saw a series of decreases largely due to a decline in returns for parole violations, which were no longer possible for most offenders. As a result, returns to prison for parole violations decreased substantially: over one-third (37.9 percent or 39,747 offenders) of all returns to prison for offenders released in FY 2009-10 were parole violations, while 16 of the 9,505 returns among offenders released in FY 2014-15 were parole violations. The largest decrease in the return-to-prison rate occurred between the FY 2010-11 and 2011-12 cohorts when the rate decreased from 44.6 percent to 25.0 percent. From this point, the return-to-prison rate was consistent, ranging from a low of 22.2 percent with the FY 2012-13 cohort and reaching a rate of 24.1 percent with the current FY 2014-15 cohort, indicating stability in the post-Realignment era.

Figure 4. Percentage of Releases by Commitment Offense Category for the Fiscal Year 2007-08 through Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohorts



As shown in Figure 4, the composition of CDCR’s release cohorts changed with the implementation of Realignment with larger percentages of offenders committed to prison for crimes against persons and smaller percentages committed for property and drug crimes. Crimes against persons, which tend to be

more serious and violent than property and drug crimes, are associated with lower recidivism rates (Sections 4.4 and 4.5). The increase in offenders released from prison who were committed for crimes against persons was one factor that influenced the three-year conviction rate downward (from 54.3 percent to 46.1 percent) between the FY 2011-12 and 2012-13 release cohorts. Similarly, some of the slight increase in the three-year conviction rate for the current FY 2014-15 release cohort may be attributed to the 4,111 Proposition 47 releases who are associated with higher rates of recidivism, thereby influencing the three-year conviction rate upward. More information regarding the three-year return-to-prison rate and the type of return may be found in Section 5 of this report.

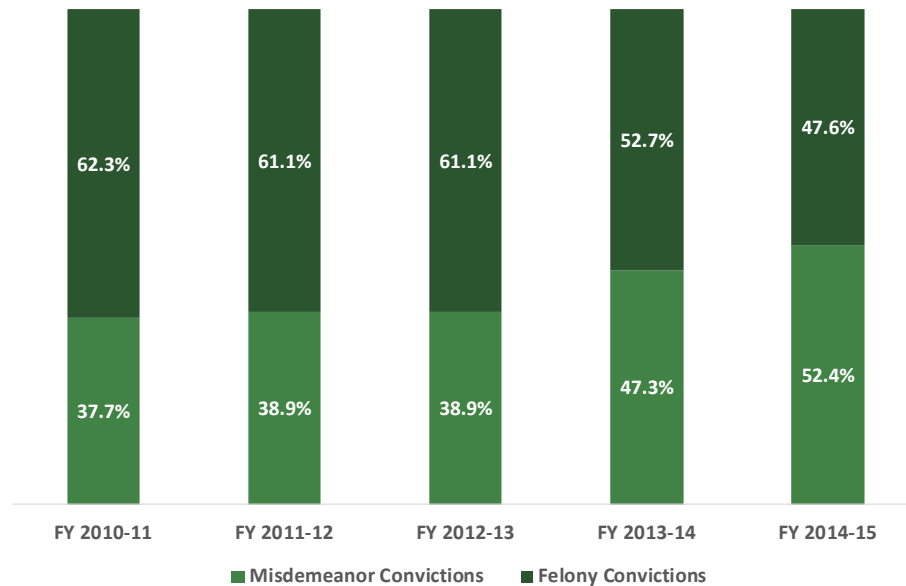
#### 2.4.2 Proposition 47

Proposition 47 was passed by California voters in November 2014 and reduced penalties for certain non-serious, non-violent property and drug crimes by mandating a misdemeanor sentence instead of a felony. It also allowed offenders serving sentences in prison for felony offenses to petition the courts for resentencing under new sentencing provisions. Proposition 47 was implemented in November 2014 during the FY 2014-15 release cohort's period of release (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) and was active during most offenders' three-year follow-up period.

A total of 4,111 offenders, or slightly over 10 percent of the FY 2014-15 release cohort, were resentenced and released from CDCR under Proposition 47 provisions. As detailed in Section 4.2, the three-year conviction rate for the 4,111 offenders released under Proposition 47 was 59.8 percent (2,458 offenders), which is higher than the overall three-year conviction rate of 46.5 percent (18,235 offenders). Offenders committed to CDCR for property and drug crimes, such as those released under Proposition 47, historically have higher recidivism rates than offenders committed for serious/violent offenses such as crimes against persons, contributing to the high rate of conviction observed among Proposition 47 releases.



Figure 5. Percentage of Felony and Misdemeanor Convictions for Offenders Convicted in the Fiscal Year 2010-11 through Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohorts



In addition to resentencing for some offenders, the sentencing provisions of Proposition 47 also had an effect on types of post-release convictions (i.e. felony or misdemeanor). Figure 5 shows the percentage of offenders convicted for felonies and misdemeanors in the last five cohorts (FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15). The percentage of felony and misdemeanor convictions was relatively consistent for the first three years of releases (FY 2010-11 through 2012-13) with felony convictions comprising larger percentages of all post-release convictions than misdemeanors. Consistent with the implementation of Proposition 47, the percentage of felony convictions began to decrease while the percentage of misdemeanor convictions increased. These changes were driven by decreases in post-release convictions for felony drug/alcohol and property crimes and subsequent increases in misdemeanor drug/alcohol and property crimes.

The percentage of offenders convicted of felony crimes within three years of their release from prison decreased from 52.7 percent to 47.6 percent between the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts, while the percentage of offenders convicted of misdemeanor crimes increased from 47.3 percent to 52.4 percent. Convictions for felony drug/alcohol crimes decreased by 6.7 percentage points (from 13.8 percent to 7.1 percent of all post-release convictions) when comparing the FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15 release cohorts (Table 2, Section 3.2). This decrease was preceded by a 7.6 percentage point decrease between the FY 2012-13 and 2013-14. Overall, post-release felony convictions for drug/alcohol crimes have decreased by 14.3 percentage points (from 21.4 percent to 7.1 percent) across the last two release cohorts. Conversely, misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes increased by 5.2 percentage points (from 13.7 percent to 18.9 percent of all post-release convictions) between the FY 2012-13 and 2013-14 release cohorts and 2.8 percentage points (from 18.9 percent to 21.7 percent) between the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts.

Decreases in felony property crimes and increases in misdemeanor property crimes follow a similar pattern to drug/alcohol crimes, although less pronounced. Felony property crimes comprised 15.6 percent of all post-release convictions for the FY 2012-13 release cohort, 13.0 percent for the FY 2013-14 release cohort, and 12.6 percent of all post-release convictions for the FY 2014-15 release cohort. Misdemeanor property crimes increased 1.9 percentage points (from 7.8 percent to 9.7 percent) between the FY 2012-13 and 2013-14 release cohorts and 2.1 percentage points (from 9.7 percent to 11.8 percent) between the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts. Post-release convictions are discussed in greater detail in Section 3.

The effect of Proposition 47 on post-release convictions will likely continue, as many of the felonies for which offenders are convicted (drug/alcohol and property) are now classified as misdemeanors. Although a number of policies and other factors (e.g. crime rates, offender characteristics) influence recidivism rates, the effects of Proposition 47 on the three-year conviction rate may be temporary. Most offenders eligible for resentencing under Proposition 47 were released in FY 2014-15, resulting in the release of a high concentration of property and drug offenders and a subsequent increase in the three-year conviction rate. The percentage of offenders released in FY 2015-16 under Proposition 47 is expected to decrease, thereby having less influence on the three-year conviction rate.

#### 2.4.3 Proposition 57 and Other CDCR Initiatives

The FY 2014-15 cohort was released prior to the expansion and implementation of a number of rehabilitative programs. During the three-year follow-up period, CDCR made changes to its classification system allowing for increased program access and expanded vocational, academic, and rehabilitative programs. Additionally, the Department was in the process of developing its Integrated Substance Use Disorder (ISUDT) program, which will include comprehensive enhancements to better treat substance use disorders among California's prison population.

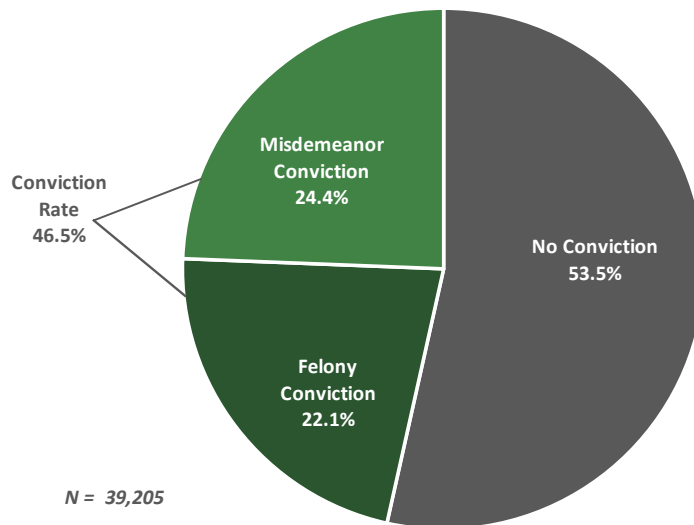
Proposition 57 was passed in November 2016 and allows eligible CDCR offenders to earn credits for good behavior and approved rehabilitative educational achievements. Increased credits may be earned through the Good Conduct and Milestone Completion Programs and two new types of credits were introduced: Rehabilitative Achievement and Educational Merit credits. Proposition 57 also established a parole consideration process for determinately sentenced and indeterminately sentenced non-violent offenders, who serve the full term for their primary criminal offense and demonstrate no current or unreasonable risk to the public. While the FY 2014-15 cohort was released before enhancements to rehabilitative programming and Proposition 57, CDCR will monitor any early impacts Proposition 57 may have on the composition of CDCR's release cohorts, as well as the three-year return-to-prison rate and type of post-release convictions.

### 3 Offender Outcomes and Type of Conviction

#### 3.1 Three-Year Outcomes of All Offenders Released During Fiscal Year 2014-15

This section presents recidivism outcomes for the 39,205 offenders released during FY 2014-15. Supplemental measures of recidivism (arrests and returns to prison) for the FY 2014-15 release cohort are provided in Section 5.1 and type of arrest and type of return data are provided in Sections 5.2 and 5.3.

Figure 6. Three-Year Outcomes for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohort



Of the 39,205 offenders released during FY 2014-15, 53.5 percent (20,970 offenders) had no convictions and 46.5 percent (18,235 offenders) were convicted of either a misdemeanor or felony offense. Over 20 percent of the release cohort (22.1 percent or 8,679 offenders) were convicted of a felony offense and 24.4 percent (9,556 offenders) were convicted of a misdemeanor offense.

For comparative purposes, Table 1 presents the type of conviction for the 33,113 offenders released from CDCR during FY 2013-14 and the 39,205 offenders released during FY 2014-15. While the three-year conviction rate remained relatively stable between the two cohorts of releases, changes were observed in the percentage of offenders convicted of felonies and misdemeanors. The percentage of offenders convicted of felonies decreased by 2.2 percentage points (from 24.3 percent to 22.1 percent) and the percentage of offenders convicted of misdemeanors increased by 2.6 percentage points (from 21.8 percent to 24.4 percent) between the two release cohorts.

The type of felony or misdemeanor offense (e.g. felony crimes against persons, misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes) is also provided in Table 1. The largest percentage of felony convictions were for felony crimes against persons (7.1 percent or 2,788 offenders), which increased by less than a

percentage point (from 6.4 percent to 7.1 percent) between the two release cohorts. Following felony crimes against persons were felony property crimes (5.9 percent or 2,306 offenders) and felony other crimes (5.8 percent or 2,291 offenders). Felony drug/alcohol crimes comprised the smallest percentage of felony convictions (3.3 percent or 1,294 offenders) and decreased by 3.1 percentage points (from 6.4 percent to 3.3 percent) between the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts.

Misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes comprised the largest percentage of all conviction types (10.1 percent or 3,950 offenders) and also saw the largest increase between the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts (from 8.7 percent to 10.1 percent). Misdemeanor property crimes comprised 5.5 percent (2,147 offenders) of all misdemeanor convictions, followed by misdemeanor crimes against persons (5.3 percent or 2,069 offenders) and misdemeanor other crimes (3.5 percent or 1,390 offenders). While the percentage of misdemeanor other crimes was unchanged between the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts at 3.5 percent, misdemeanor property crimes increased by one percentage point and misdemeanor crimes against persons increased by less than a percentage point (0.2 of a percentage point).

Much of the decrease in felony drug/alcohol crimes and increase in misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes can be attributed to the implementation of Proposition 47. The following section isolates only the offenders convicted during the three-year follow-up period, allowing for a more detailed discussion of the impacts of Proposition 47.

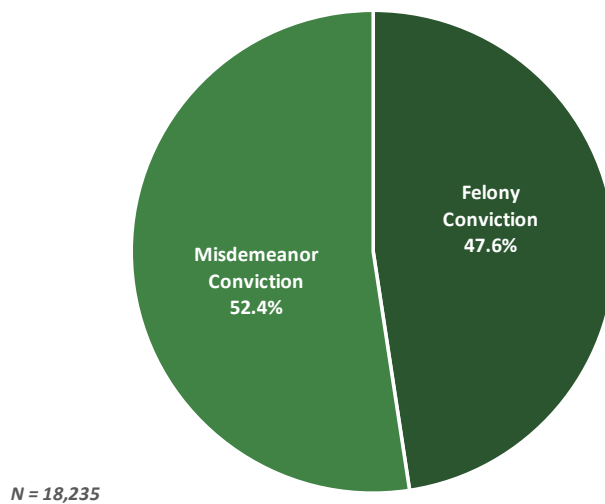
*Table 1. Three-Year Outcomes for the Fiscal Year 2013-14 and Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohorts*

Type of Conviction	FY 2013-14		FY 2014-15	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>No Convictions</b>	<b>17,849</b>	<b>53.9%</b>	<b>20,970</b>	<b>53.5%</b>
<b>All Felonies</b>	<b>8,041</b>	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>8,679</b>	<b>22.1%</b>
Felony Crimes Against Persons	2,121	6.4%	2,788	7.1%
Felony Property Crimes	1,983	6.0%	2,306	5.9%
Felony Other Crimes	1,827	5.5%	2,291	5.8%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	2,110	6.4%	1,294	3.3%
<b>All Misdemeanors</b>	<b>7,223</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>9,556</b>	<b>24.4%</b>
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	2,889	8.7%	3,950	10.1%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	1,483	4.5%	2,147	5.5%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	1,685	5.1%	2,069	5.3%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	1,166	3.5%	1,390	3.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,113</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>39,205</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### 3.2 Type of Conviction for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Offenders Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-up Period

This section includes an examination of the 18,235 offenders in the FY 2014-15 release cohort who were convicted during the three-year follow-up period and excludes the 20,970 offenders who completed the three-year follow-up period without a conviction. Isolating only those offenders convicted during the three-year follow-up period, allows for a better understanding of the type of crimes offenders are convicted for after their releases, and how those convictions change over time.

*Figure 7. Type of Conviction for the 18,235 Offenders Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period*



Of the 18,235 offenders convicted during the three-year follow-up period, 47.6 percent (8,679 offenders) were convicted of a felony offense and 52.4 percent (9,556 offenders) were convicted of a misdemeanor offense. Between the two release cohorts, felony convictions decreased 5.1 percentage points (from 52.7 percent to 47.6 percent) and misdemeanors increased by 5.1 percentage points (from 47.3 percent to 52.4 percent). These Proposition 47 related changes were largely driven by a decrease in post-release convictions for felony drug/alcohol and property crimes and an increase in misdemeanors for the same crimes, as discussed in Section 2.4.2.

The decrease in felony convictions among offenders released in FY 2014-15 was largely driven by a decline in felony drug/alcohol crimes, which decreased 6.7 percentage points between the FY 2013-14 and FY 2013-14 release cohorts. Felony property crimes decreased by less than a percentage point (from 13.0 percent to 12.6 percent). The other two categories of felony offenses increased between the FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15 release cohorts: felony crimes against persons increased from 13.9 percent to 15.3 and felony other crimes increased from 12.0 percent to 12.6 percent of all convictions.

The percentage of offenders convicted of each category of misdemeanor offenses increased between the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts, with the exception of misdemeanor other crimes, which remained stable at 7.6 percent. Misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes saw the largest increase (2.8 percentage points) of all misdemeanor categories, followed by misdemeanor property crimes (2.1 percentage points), and misdemeanor crimes against persons (0.3 of percentage points).

Historically, felony drug/alcohol crimes comprised the largest percentage of all post-release convictions. With the implementation of Proposition 47, drug/alcohol crimes comprised the smallest percentage of post-release felony convictions (7.1 percent) and the largest percentage of post-release misdemeanor convictions (21.7 percent). In general, all other categories of felony and misdemeanor conviction have remained fairly stable between CDCR release cohorts.

Table 2. Type of Conviction for the Fiscal Year 2013-14 and Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohorts

Type of Conviction	FY 2013-14		FY 2014-15	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>All Felonies</b>	<b>8,041</b>	<b>52.7%</b>	<b>8,679</b>	<b>47.6%</b>
Felony Crimes Against Persons	2,121	13.9%	2,788	15.3%
Felony Property Crimes	1,983	13.0%	2,306	12.6%
Felony Other Crimes	1,827	12.0%	2,291	12.6%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	2,110	13.8%	1,294	7.1%
<b>All Misdemeanors</b>	<b>7,223</b>	<b>47.3%</b>	<b>9,556</b>	<b>52.4%</b>
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	2,889	18.9%	3,950	21.7%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	1,483	9.7%	2,147	11.8%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	1,685	11.0%	2,069	11.3%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	1,166	7.6%	1,390	7.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,264</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>18,235</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### 3.3 Time to Conviction for Offenders Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-up Period

Figure 8. Three-Year Quarterly and Cumulative Rate of Conviction for the 18,235 Offenders Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period

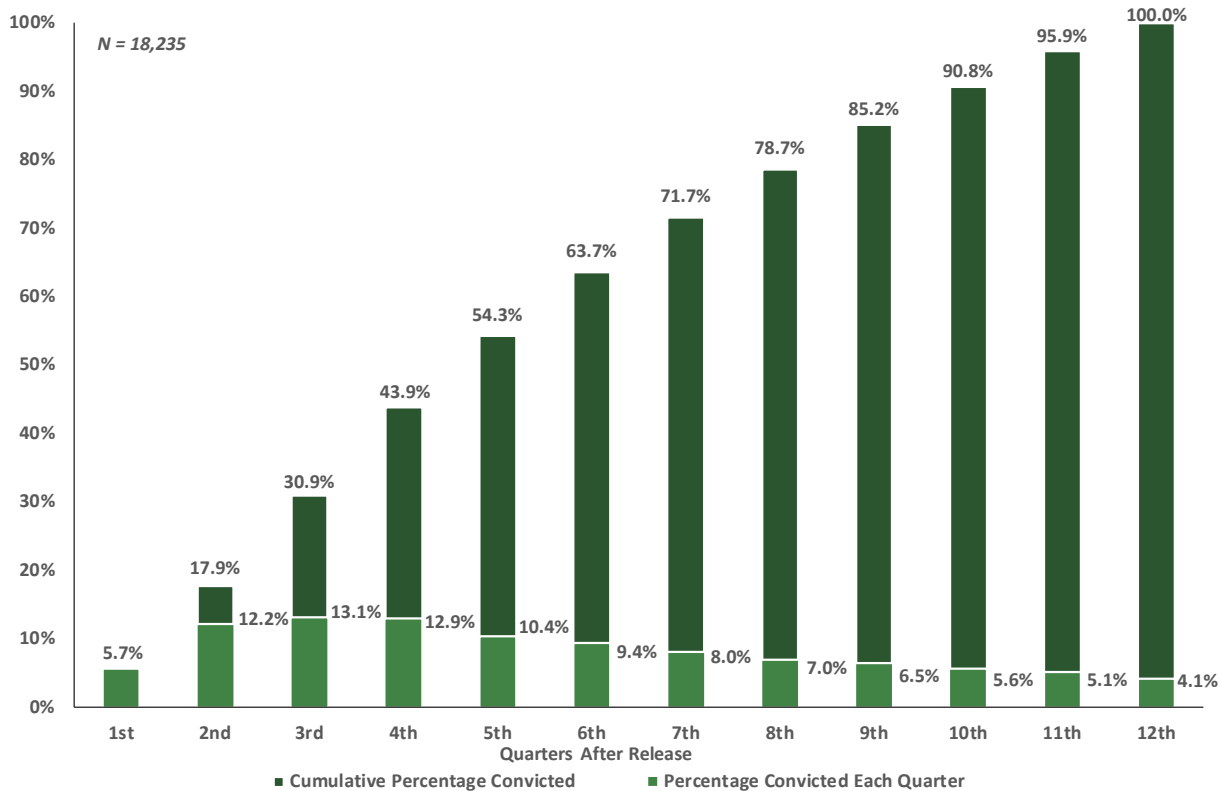


Figure 8 and Table 3 show the percentage and number of offenders who were convicted during each quarter (three-month period) of the three-year follow-up period, as well as the cumulative percentage and number of offenders convicted. Only the 18,235 offenders convicted during the three-year follow-up period are represented in this section to better understand how long offenders were in the community before recidivating. The twelfth quarter represents the final, cumulative results (i.e. 100 percent) of the 18,235 offenders that were convicted.

Of the 18,235 convicted offenders, under one half (43.9 percent or 8,003 offenders) were convicted in the first year. By year two, nearly 80 percent (78.7 percent or 14,355 offenders) were convicted and by year three, 100 percent (18,235 offenders) were convicted. The largest number of offenders (13.1 percent or 2,388 offenders) were convicted during the third quarter following their release and the fewest were convicted in the twelfth and final quarter of their release (4.1 percent or 748 offenders).

*Table 3. Three-Year Quarterly and Cumulative Rate of Conviction for the 18,235 Offenders Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period*

<b>Quarters After Release</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>12th</b>
Percentage Convicted	5.7%	12.2%	13.1%	12.9%	10.4%	9.4%	8.0%	7.0%	6.5%	5.6%	5.1%	4.1%
Cumulative Percentage	5.7%	17.9%	30.9%	43.9%	54.3%	63.7%	71.7%	78.7%	85.2%	90.8%	95.9%	100.0%
Number Convicted	1,035	2,220	2,388	2,360	1,897	1,716	1,462	1,277	1,183	1,017	932	748
Cumulative Number	1,035	3,255	5,643	8,003	9,900	11,616	13,078	14,355	15,538	16,555	17,487	18,235



## 4 Conviction Rates by Selected Demographics and Characteristics

### 4.1 Conviction Rates by Post-Release Supervision

Figure 9. Conviction Rate for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohort by Post-Release Supervision

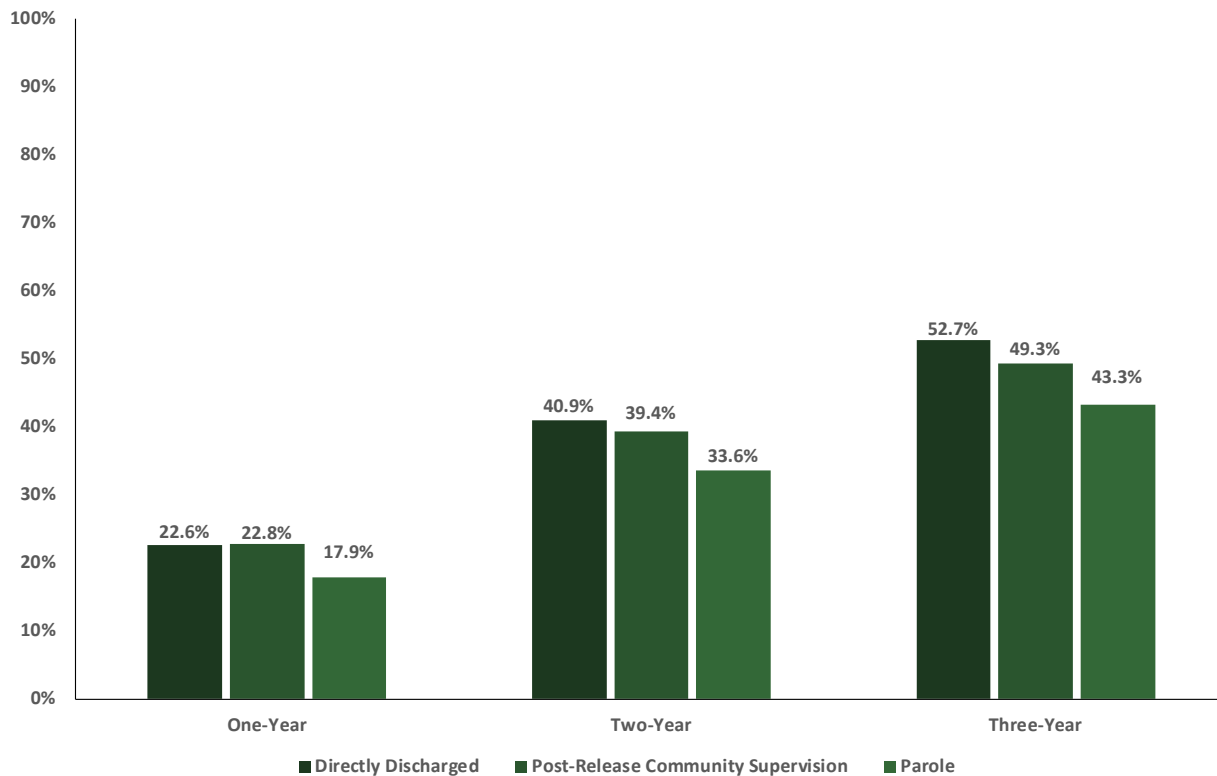


Figure 9 and Table 4 show the three-year conviction rate for direct discharges and offenders released to Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS) or parole. Approximately half of the 39,205 offenders released in FY 2014-15 (49.9 percent or 19,571 offenders) were released to PRCS, 48.0 percent (18,830 offenders) were released to parole, and 2.1 percent (804 offenders) were directly discharged from prison. Offenders directly discharged from prison had the highest three-year conviction rate (52.7 percent or 424 offenders), followed by offenders released to PRCS (49.3 percent or 9,653 offenders), and offenders released to parole (43.3 percent or 8,158 offenders).

Historically, the three-year conviction rate for direct discharges is lower than the rates of offenders released to both PRCS and parole. The three-year conviction rate for offenders directly discharged in the previous fiscal year (FY 2013-14) was 27.6 percent, which is 25.1 percentage points lower than the rate of offenders directly discharged from prison in FY 2014-15 (52.7 percent). Some of the increase in the three-year conviction rate for offenders directly discharged from prison in FY 2014-15 may be attributed to the high concentration of drug and property offenders (who are characterized by higher recidivism rates) released as a result of Proposition 47, as discussed in Section 2.4.2. Of the 804 offenders who

were directly discharged from prison, 88.8 percent (714 offenders) were Proposition 47 releases and 11.2 percent were non-Proposition 47 releases.

With the exception of direct discharges, the three-year conviction rate for offenders released to PRCS and parole remained relatively stable when comparing the FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15 release cohorts: offenders released to PRCS in FY 2013-14 had a rate of 50.4 percent, which was 1.1 percentage points higher than the rate of offenders released to PRCS in FY 2014-15 (49.3 percent). The three-year conviction rate for offenders released to parole in FY 2013-14 was 41.4 percent, which was 1.9 percentage points lower than the rate of offenders released to parole in FY 2014-15 (43.3 percent)

Under Realignment most non-serious and non-violent offenders, who are characterized by a higher risk to reoffend, are released to PRCS, and as a result, their three-year conviction rate tends to be higher than offenders released to parole. In general, CDCR advises against making direct comparisons between offenders released to PRCS, parole, and directly discharged from prison, as the three groups represent substantially different groups and differences in the demographics and characteristics of each group may influence the rate either upward or downward, as was demonstrated with the increased rate observed among direct discharges. Rather, offenders belonging to one group of releases may be compared to offenders in the same group although released during a different fiscal year (e.g. offenders released to parole should be compared to other groups of offenders released to parole in an earlier fiscal year).

*Table 4. Conviction Rates for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohort by Type of Release*

Type of Release	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Directly Discharged	804	182	22.6%	329	40.9%	424	52.7%
Post-Release Community Supervision	19,571	4,458	22.8%	7,702	39.4%	9,653	49.3%
Parole	18,830	3,363	17.9%	6,324	33.6%	8,158	43.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,205</b>	<b>8,003</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>14,355</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>18,235</b>	<b>46.5%</b>

## 4.2 Conviction Rate by Sentence Type

Figure 10. Conviction Rates by Sentence Type

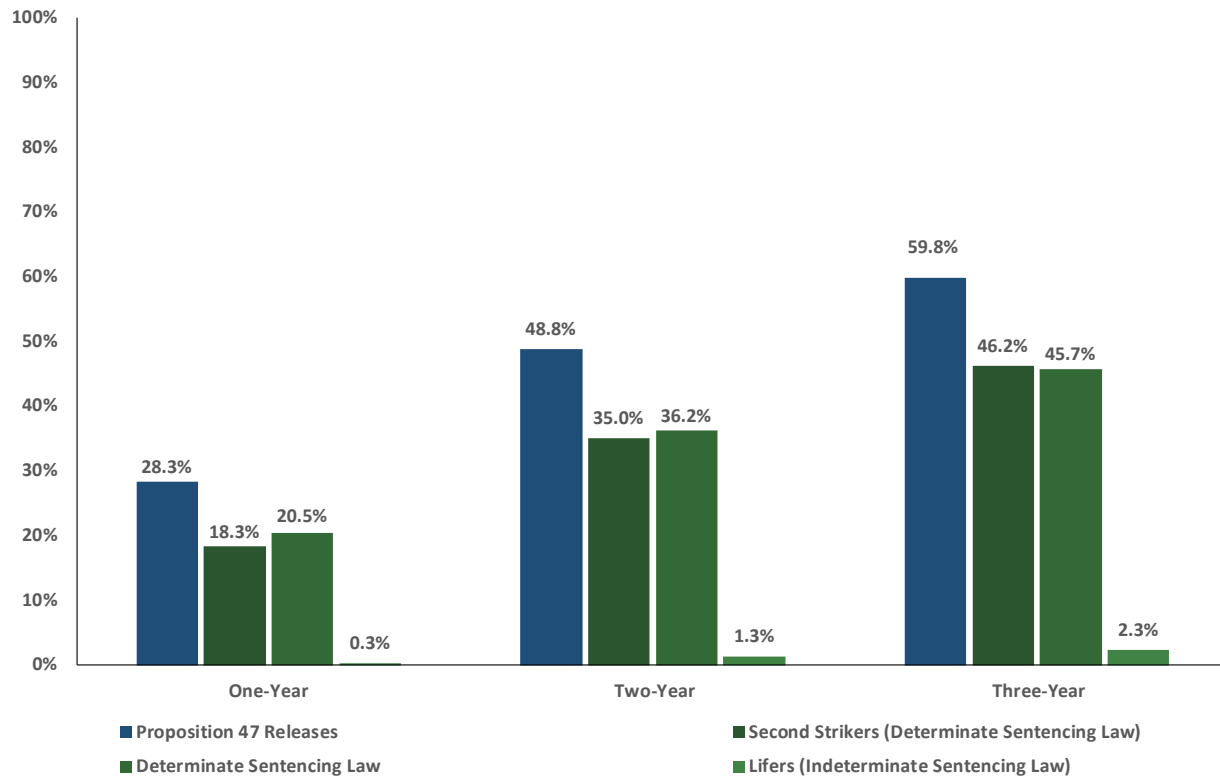


Figure 10 and Table 5 present conviction rates for offenders released under Proposition 47, as well as conviction rates by sentence type, including offenders sentenced under Determinate Sentencing Law (DSL), offenders sentenced under DSL as second strikers, and offenders sentenced under Indeterminate Sentencing Law (ISL). Most offenders sentenced in California serve a determinate term (a specified length) and are released once their sentence is complete. Generally, offenders sentenced to an indeterminate term (lifera) are released once the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) has found them suitable for release or a court orders their release. Offenders released under Proposition 47 were sentenced to serve a CDCR felony sentence in one of the three sentence type categories (determinate, second striker, or indeterminate) prior to its passage.

Most offenders in the FY 2014-15 release cohort served a determinate term (63.5 percent or 24,888 offenders), followed by second strikers who served a determinate term (24.3 percent or 9,518 offenders), and offenders who served an indeterminate term (1.8 percent or 688 offenders). Second strikers who served a determinate term had the highest three-year conviction rate among each sentence type (46.2 percent or 4,395 offenders), followed by offenders who served a determinate term (45.7 percent or 11,366 offenders), and the 688 lifera released in FY 2014-15 (2.3 percent or 16 offenders).

Approximately ten percent of the release cohort (10.5 percent or 4,111 offenders) were released under Proposition 47 and their three-year conviction rate was 59.8 percent (2,458 offenders), which is higher than the overall three-year conviction rate of 46.5 percent (18,235 offenders) and higher than each of the sentence type categories. The higher conviction rate among Proposition 47 releases is generally due to the large concentration of drug and property offenders in this group.

Table 5. Conviction Rates by Sentence Type

Sentence Type	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Second Strikers (Determinate Sentencing Law)	9,518	1,746	18.3%	3,334	35.0%	4,395	46.2%
Determinate Sentencing Law	24,888	5,091	20.5%	9,005	36.2%	11,366	45.7%
Lifers (Indeterminate Sentencing Law)	688	2	0.3%	9	1.3%	16	2.3%
Proposition 47 Releases	4,111	1,164	28.3%	2,007	48.8%	2,458	59.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,205</b>	<b>8,003</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>14,355</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>18,235</b>	<b>46.5%</b>

### 4.3 Conviction Rate for Offenders Sentenced to an Indeterminate Term (Lifers)

In FY 2014-15, 688 offenders were released from CDCR after serving an indeterminate term (lifers). The number of lifers has increased consistently with only 56 lifers released in FY 2007-08. Despite the increase in lifer releases, their three-year conviction rate remains low. Of the 514 lifers released in FY 2013-14, 16 were convicted for a three-year conviction rate of 3.1 percent. The rate further decreased (by 0.8 of a percentage point) with the FY 2014-15 release cohort with a three-year conviction rate of 2.3 percent.

Most offenders who serve an indeterminate term are released from prison when BPH finds them suitable for parole or after the court orders their release from prison. Table 6 shows the number of lifers released by BPH, as well as “Other Releases”, which are comprised of both offenders who were granted parole when BPH was restricted from considering all parole suitability factors by the court, or the court ordered their release. Of the 682 lifers released by BPH, only 2.3 percent (16 offenders) were convicted during the follow-up period. Seven of the convictions were for felony offenses and nine of the convictions were for misdemeanor offenses. None of the six offenders categorized as “Other Releases” were convicted during the three-year follow-up period.

*Table 6. Type of Conviction for Offenders Released by the Board of Parole Hearings and Other Releases*

	Board of Parole Hearings (BPH)		Other Releases		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total Released</b>	682	100.0%	6	100.0%	688	100.0%
<b>Type of Conviction</b>						
Felony Crimes Against Persons	3	0.4%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%
Felony Other Crimes	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	3	0.4%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	4	0.6%	0	0.0%	4	0.6%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
<b>Total Convicted</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

#### 4.4 Conviction Rates by Commitment Offense Category

Figure 11. Conviction Rates by Commitment Offense Category

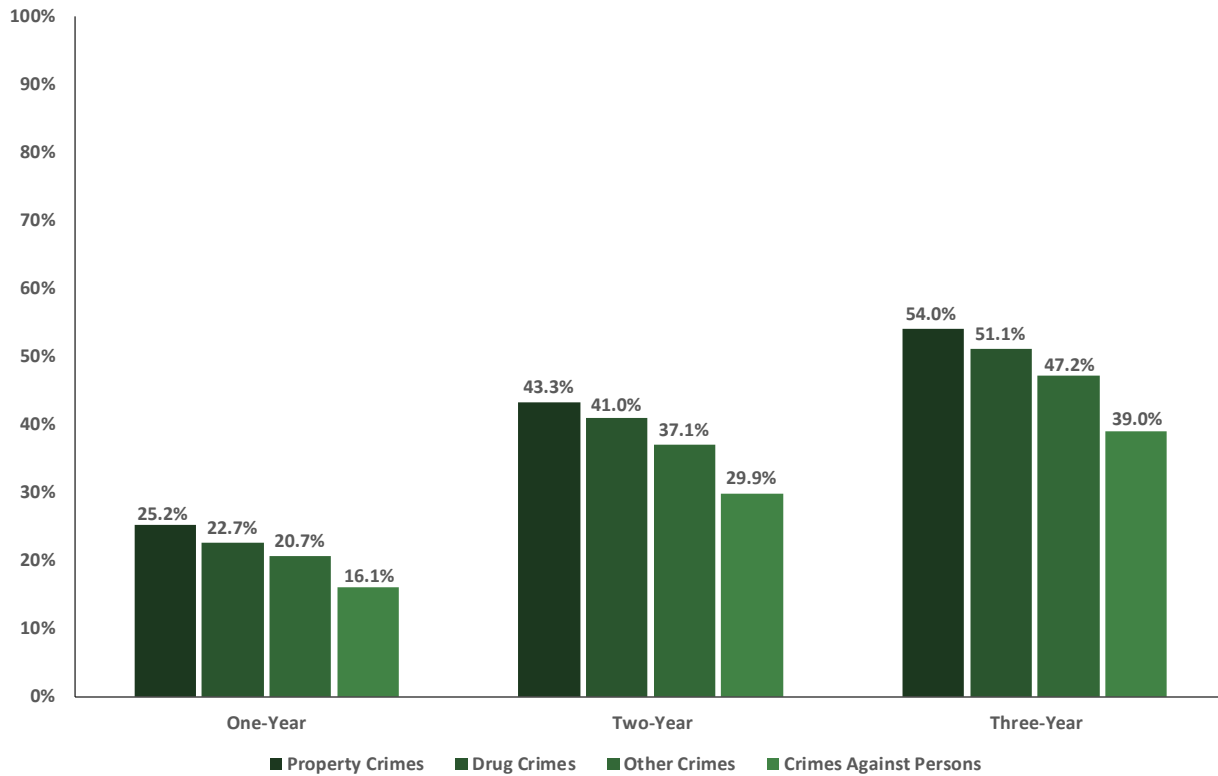


Figure 11 and Table 7 present conviction rates by commitment offense category. Each category (property crimes, drug crimes, other crimes, and crimes against persons) represents the category of offense an offender was committed to prison for prior to their release in FY 2014-15.

Offenders committed to prison for property crimes comprised 25.0 percent (9,801 offenders) of the FY 2014-15 release cohort and had the highest three-year conviction rate (54.0 percent or 5,296 offenders) among all commitment offense categories. The rate for offenders committing property crimes was followed by offenders committed to prison for drug crimes (51.1 percent or 3,918 offenders), and other crimes (47.2 percent or 3,133 offenders).<sup>4</sup> Offenders committed for crimes against persons comprised the largest percentage of the release cohort (38.5 percent or 15,106 offenders) and had the lowest three-year conviction rate among all commitment offense categories at 39.0 percent (5,888 offenders).

<sup>4</sup> Other crimes include arson, DUI, escape, possession of a weapon and other offenses (e.g. false imprisonment, stalking, street gang act).

Table 7. Conviction Rates by Commitment Offense Category

Commitment Offense Category	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Property Crimes	9,801	2,470	25.2%	4,239	43.3%	5,296	54.0%
Drug Crimes	7,661	1,736	22.7%	3,139	41.0%	3,918	51.1%
Other Crimes	6,637	1,372	20.7%	2,460	37.1%	3,133	47.2%
Crimes Against Persons	15,106	2,425	16.1%	4,517	29.9%	5,888	39.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,205</b>	<b>8,003</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>14,355</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>18,235</b>	<b>46.5%</b>

#### 4.5 Conviction Rates by Serious and Violent Offenses

Figure 12. Conviction Rates for Offenders with a Serious or Violent Offense

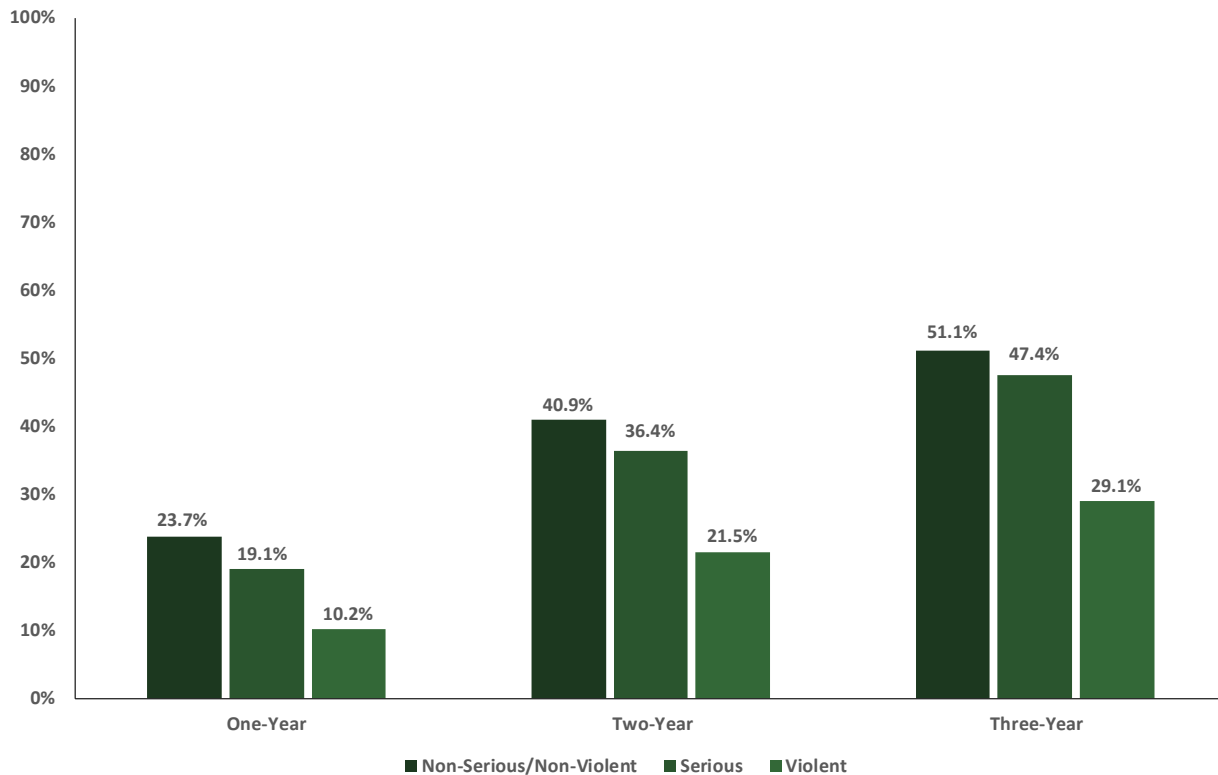


Figure 12 and Table 8 present conviction rates for offenders in the FY 2014-15 release cohort who were committed to prison for a serious offense, a violent offense, or a non-serious/non-violent offense. Most offenders in the release cohort did not have a serious or violent offense (62.0 percent or 24,313 offenders). Slightly over 20 percent (20.6 percent or 8,076 offenders) had a serious offense and 17.4 percent (6,816 offenders) had a violent offense.

Offenders without a serious or violent offense had the highest three-year conviction rate among the three categories at 51.1 percent (12,421 offenders). Offenders with a serious offense had a rate of 47.4 percent (3,832 offenders) and offenders with a violent offense had a rate of 29.1 percent (1,982 offenders).

Table 8. Conviction Rates for Offenders with a Serious or Violent Offense

Serious/Violent Offense	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Serious	8,076	1,540	19.1%	2,938	36.4%	3,832	47.4%
Violent	6,816	692	10.2%	1,463	21.5%	1,982	29.1%
Non-Serious/Non-Violent	24,313	5,771	23.7%	9,954	40.9%	12,421	51.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,205</b>	<b>8,003</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>14,355</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>18,235</b>	<b>46.5%</b>



#### 4.6 Conviction Rate by Risk of Conviction

Figure 13. Conviction Rates by Risk of Conviction

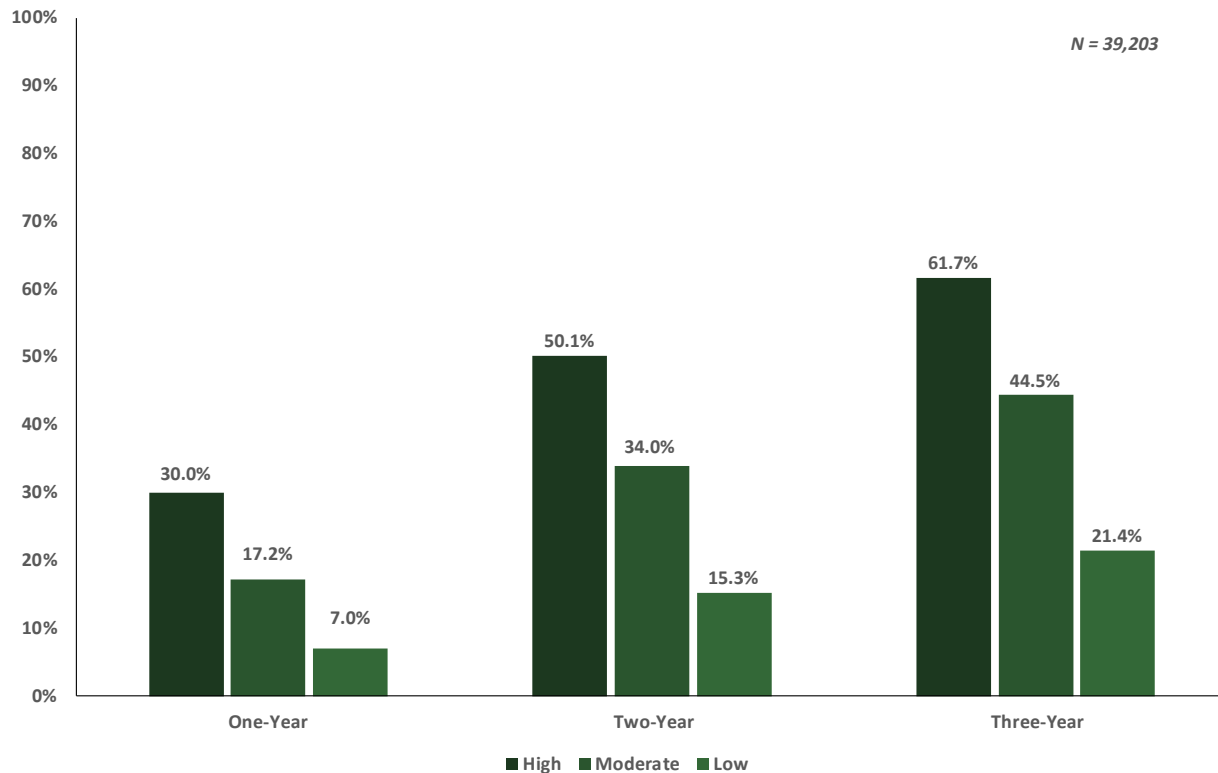


Figure 13 and Table 9 show conviction rates by California Static Risk Assessment (CSRA) score. The CSRA is a tool used to calculate an offender’s risk of conviction for a new offense after release from prison. Based on criminal history and demographics, including age, offenders are designated as having a low, moderate, or high risk of being convicted of a new offense. Slightly under half of the release cohort (44.9 percent or 17,619 offenders) had a score of high risk, followed by moderate risk (30.3 percent or 11,882 offenders), and low risk (24.7 percent or 9,702 offenders). At the time of their release, a CSRA score had not been calculated for two offenders.

The three-year conviction rates are consistent with CSRA scoring (high, medium, and low risk): offenders with a score of high risk had a three-year conviction rate of 61.7 percent (10,868 offenders), followed by moderate risk offenders (44.5 percent or 5,288 offenders), and low risk (21.4 percent or 2,079 offenders). Of the two offenders without a CSRA score, neither were convicted during the three-year follow-up period.

Table 9. Conviction Rates by Risk of Conviction

CSRA Score	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
High	17,619	5,283	30.0%	8,830	50.1%	10,868	61.7%
Moderate	11,882	2,043	17.2%	4,041	34.0%	5,288	44.5%
Low	9,702	677	7.0%	1,484	15.3%	2,079	21.4%
N/A	2	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,205</b>	<b>8,003</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>14,355</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>18,235</b>	<b>46.5%</b>

#### 4.7 Conviction Rates by In-Prison and Community-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Figure 14. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participation

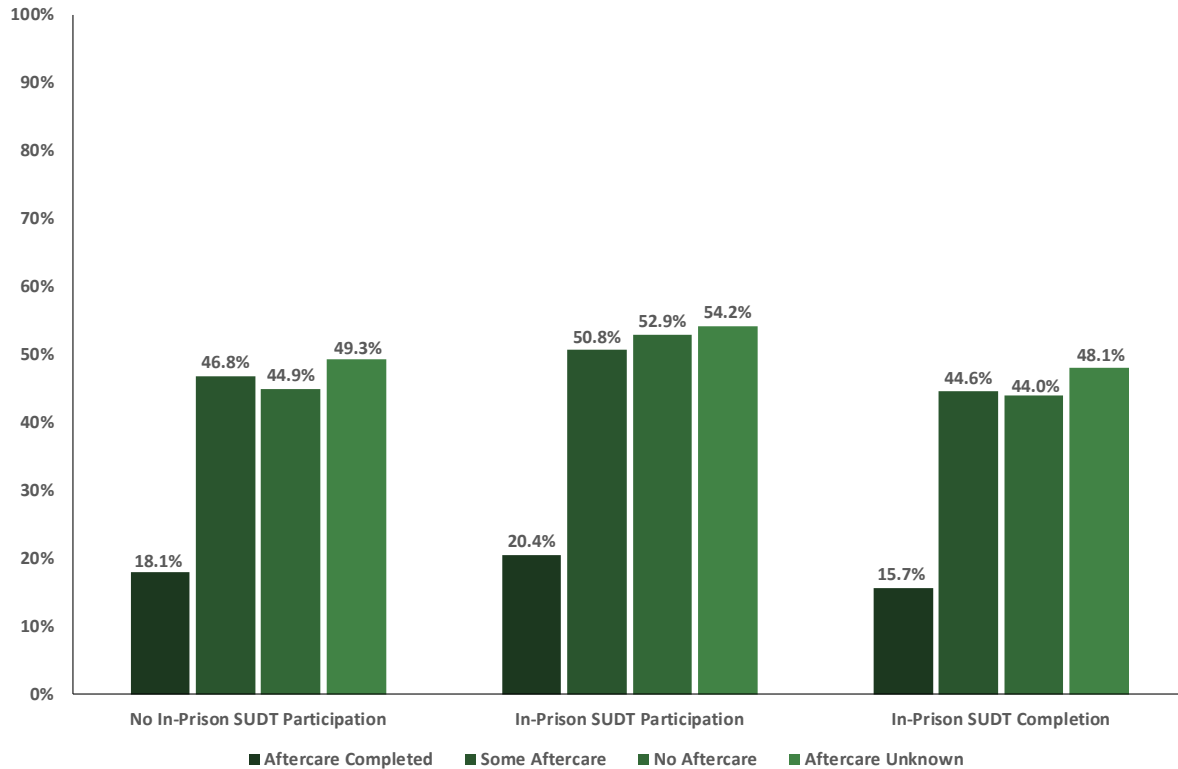


Figure 14 and Table 10 present conviction rates by in-prison Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUDT) and aftercare programs, which provide post-release SUDT services in the community. Aftercare program data are only provided for offenders released to parole. Although offenders released to PRCS or directly discharged from CDCR may receive aftercare services after their release from CDCR, those services are not captured by CDCR’s data system and are not reflected in the data presented in this report. Please note that offenders in the FY 2014-15 release cohort were released prior to implementation of the ISUDT program, which includes comprehensive enhancements to CDCR’s SUDT programs.

With regard to in-prison and community-based SUDT, offenders are categorized in three ways: no in-prison SUDT, some in-prison SUDT participation, and in-prison SUDT completion. Depending on their release to either parole or PRCS offenders are further categorized as receiving no aftercare, some aftercare, or completing aftercare (offenders released to parole), or the status of aftercare is unknown (offenders released to PRCS). Across each of the three in-prison SUDT categories (no SUDT, participation, or completion) offenders who completed in-prison SUDT had the lowest three-year conviction rates overall, regardless of aftercare. Offenders who completed in-prison SUDT (regardless of aftercare) had a three-year conviction rate of 43.8 percent (1,065 offenders), followed by offenders without in-prison SUDT with a rate of 46.3 percent (15,843 offenders), and offenders with in-prison

SUDT participation with a rate of 51.6 percent (1,327 offenders). The three-year conviction rate for the 204 offenders who completed in-prison SUDT and aftercare (15.7 percent or 32 offenders) is the lowest across each combination of in-prison SUDT and aftercare as presented in Table 10. Offenders with no in-prison SUDT who completed aftercare and offenders with some in-prison SUDT who completed aftercare are also characterized by lower recidivism rates (18.1 percent and 20.4 percent, respectively).

Rates for parolees who received no aftercare or some aftercare are fairly consistent across the three categories of in-prison SUDT participation (no SUDT, participation, and completion). Rates range from a high of 52.9 percent among offenders who received some in-prison SUDT and no aftercare and a low of 44.0 percent among offenders who completed in-prison SUDT and received no aftercare. Overall, recidivism rates are lower for parolees who either complete in-prison SUDT or aftercare and are the lowest when offenders complete both in-prison SUDT and aftercare.

Rates for PRCS offenders and direct discharges, whose aftercare status is unknown, follow a similar pattern to those released to parole in terms of in-prison SUDT. Offenders who completed in-prison SUDT had the lowest three-year conviction rate among PRCS offenders (48.1 percent or 620 offenders), followed by no in-prison SUDT (49.3 percent or 8,695 offenders), and offenders who received some in-prison SUDT (54.2 percent or 729 offenders).

Table 10. Conviction Rates by Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participation

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participation	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
<b>No In-Prison SUDT Participation</b>							
No Aftercare (Parole)	12,655	2,565	20.3%	4,565	36.1%	5,688	44.9%
Some Aftercare (Parole)	2,611	385	14.7%	869	33.3%	1,223	46.8%
Completed Aftercare (Parole)	1,313	28	2.1%	132	10.1%	237	18.1%
Aftercare Unknown (PRCS)	17,627	4,033	22.9%	6,949	39.4%	8,695	49.3%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>34,206</b>	<b>7,011</b>	<b>20.5%</b>	<b>12,515</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>15,843</b>	<b>46.3%</b>
<b>In-Prison SUDT Participation</b>							
No Aftercare (Parole)	841	202	24.0%	349	41.5%	445	52.9%
Some Aftercare (Parole)	246	40	16.3%	91	37.0%	125	50.8%
Completed Aftercare (Parole)	137	7	5.1%	18	13.1%	28	20.4%
Aftercare Unknown (PRCS)	1,346	329	24.4%	579	43.0%	729	54.2%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>22.5%</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>40.4%</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>51.6%</b>
<b>In-Prison SUDT Completion</b>							
No Aftercare (Parole)	696	112	16.1%	233	33.5%	306	44.0%
Some Aftercare (Parole)	240	33	13.8%	75	31.3%	107	44.6%
Completed Aftercare (Parole)	204	1	0.5%	15	7.4%	32	15.7%
Aftercare Unknown (PRCS)	1,289	268	20.8%	480	37.2%	620	48.1%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>17.0%</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>33.1%</b>	<b>1,065</b>	<b>43.8%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,205</b>	<b>8,003</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>14,355</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>18,235</b>	<b>46.5%</b>

#### 4.8 Conviction Rate by Participation in Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment Programming

Table 11 presents conviction rates for offenders released to parole and PRCS by in-prison SUDT participation and treatment need, which is based on the Correctional Offender Management for Profiling Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) tool. The COMPAS is used to inform decisions regarding placement, supervision and case management. The needs assessment categorizes offenders as having no need, a probable need, or a highly probable need for services and treatment in areas such as substance use, criminal thinking, and education. It should be noted that rates provided in Table 11 are not provided by participation in aftercare and that the status of aftercare treatment for offenders released to PRCS is unknown. Please note that offenders in the FY 2014-15 release cohort were released prior to implementation of the ISUDT program, which includes comprehensive enhancements to CDCR's SUDT programs.

Of the 20,130 offenders assessed with the COMPAS and shown to have a treatment need, 8.7 percent (1,752 offenders) received some in-prison SUDT and 7.7 percent (1,555 offenders) completed SUDT. Offenders who completed treatment, regardless of their release to parole or PRCS, had a lower three-year conviction rate than offenders who only participated in treatment or did not receive in-prison SUDT treatment. The rate for parolees who completed in-prison SUDT and had a treatment need was 42.9 percent (270 offenders) and the rate for PRCS offenders was 40.0 percent (370 offenders). Offenders with a treatment need who did not receive in-prison SUDT had higher three-year conviction rates: 47.8 percent (3,662 offenders) for those released to parole and 42.7 percent (3,913 offenders) for those released to PRCS. Offenders with some in-prison SUDT had the highest three-year conviction rates for offenders with a treatment need (46.6 percent or 472 offenders for those released to PRCS and 51.7 percent or 382 offenders for released to parole).

Of the 19,075 offenders without a SUDT treatment need or a COMPAS assessment, 5,692 offenders did not have a COMPAS assessment and 13,383 offenders did not show a need for SUDT treatment. Offenders released to parole who completed in-prison SUDT had the lowest three-year conviction rate (34.4 percent or 173 offenders) among offenders without a COMPAS assessment or offenders without a treatment need. This rate was followed by offenders released to parole that did not receive in-prison SUDT (39.2 percent or 3,457 offenders), and offenders released to parole that received some in-prison SUDT (45.3 percent or 214 offenders). With regard to offenders without a treatment need and released to PRCS or directly discharged from CDCR, offenders with no in-prison SUDT had the lowest three-year conviction rate (56.2 percent or 4,811 offenders), followed by offenders who completed SUDT (67.9 percent or 252 offenders), and offenders with some in-prison SUDT (74.9 percent or 259 offenders).

Table 11. Conviction Rates by Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participation and Substance Use Treatment Need

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participation and Need	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
<b>Had SUDT Need (as indicated by the COMPAS)</b>							
<b>No In-Prison SUDT</b>							
Released to Parole	7,664	1,609	21.0%	2,863	37.4%	3,662	47.8%
Released to PRCS/Discharged	9,159	1,544	16.9%	2,858	31.2%	3,913	42.7%
<b>In-Prison SUDT Participation</b>							
Released to Parole	739	153	20.7%	288	39.0%	382	51.7%
Released to PRCS/Discharged	1,013	183	18.1%	356	35.1%	472	46.6%
<b>In-Prison SUDT Completion</b>							
Released to Parole	629	93	14.8%	201	32.0%	270	42.9%
Released to PRCS/Discharged	926	133	14.4%	255	27.5%	370	40.0%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>20,130</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>6,821</b>	<b>33.9%</b>	<b>9,069</b>	<b>45.1%</b>
<b>No SUDT Need/No Assessment</b>							
<b>No In-Prison SUDT</b>							
Released to Parole	8,823	1,360	15.4%	2,682	30.4%	3,457	39.2%
Released to PRCS/Discharged	8,560	2,498	29.2%	4,112	48.0%	4,811	56.2%
<b>In-Prison SUDT Participation</b>							
Released to Parole	472	95	20.1%	168	35.6%	214	45.3%
Released to PRCS/Discharged	346	147	42.5%	225	65.0%	259	74.9%
<b>In-Prison SUDT Completion</b>							
Released to Parole	503	53	10.5%	122	24.3%	173	34.4%
Released to PRCS/Discharged	371	135	36.4%	225	60.6%	252	67.9%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>19,075</b>	<b>4,288</b>	<b>22.5%</b>	<b>7,534</b>	<b>39.5%</b>	<b>9,166</b>	<b>48.1%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,205</b>	<b>8,003</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>14,355</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>18,235</b>	<b>46.5%</b>

#### 4.9 Conviction Rates by Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Treatment Need (Offenders Released to Parole Only)

Table 12 shows conviction rates for the 9,032 offenders released to parole with a SUDT treatment need, as identified by the COMPAS. Rates are provided by in-prison SUDT and aftercare participation. Data do not include offenders released to PRCS (whose aftercare status is unknown), offenders released to parole that did not receive a COMPAS assessment, or offenders released to parole without a treatment need, as indicated by the COMPAS.

Offenders released to parole with an identified treatment need had the lowest three-year conviction rate when they completed both in-prison SUDT and aftercare (18.5 percent or 20 offenders). This rate was followed by the rate of offenders released to parole who received no in-prison SUDT, but completed aftercare (20.0 percent or 129 offenders), and offenders who received some in-prison SUDT and completed aftercare (22.5 percent or 18 offenders).

For offenders released to parole with an identified treatment need, rates were highest among offenders who received some in-prison SUDT and some aftercare (56.8 percent or 83 offenders), followed by offenders with some in-prison SUDT and no aftercare (54.8 percent or 281 offenders), and offenders with no in-prison SUDT and some aftercare (51.2 percent or 672 offenders).

Overall, the 629 offenders released to parole with an identified treatment need who completed in-prison SUDT (regardless of aftercare) had the lowest three-year conviction rate (42.9 percent or 270 offenders), followed by offenders with no in-prison SUDT, regardless of aftercare (47.8 percent or 3,662 offenders). The highest three-year conviction rate (51.7 percent or 382 offenders) was observed for offenders released to parole with an identified treatment need that only received some in-prison SUDT (regardless of aftercare).

Table 12. Conviction Rates for Offenders Released to Parole with a Substance Abuse Treatment Need by Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participation

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participation and Need (Parole Only)	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
<b>No In-Prison SUDT Participation</b>							
No Aftercare	5,705	1,363	23.9%	2,309	40.5%	2,861	50.1%
Some Aftercare	1,313	231	17.6%	484	36.9%	672	51.2%
Completed Aftercare	646	15	2.3%	70	10.8%	129	20.0%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7,664</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>37.4%</b>	<b>3,662</b>	<b>47.8%</b>
<b>In-Prison SUDT Participation</b>							
No Aftercare	513	122	23.8%	217	42.3%	281	54.8%
Some Aftercare	146	29	19.9%	60	41.1%	83	56.8%
Completed Aftercare	80	2	2.5%	11	13.8%	18	22.5%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>39.0%</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>51.7%</b>
<b>In-Prison SUDT Completion</b>							
No Aftercare	366	71	19.4%	142	38.8%	179	48.9%
Some Aftercare	155	21	13.5%	48	31.0%	71	45.8%
Completed Aftercare	108	1	0.9%	11	10.2%	20	18.5%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>32.0%</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>42.9%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,032</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>20.5%</b>	<b>3,352</b>	<b>37.1%</b>	<b>4,314</b>	<b>47.8%</b>



## 5 Primary and Supplemental Measures of Recidivism Over Time

### 5.1 Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates Over Time

The following tables and figures present supplemental recidivism measures (arrests and returns to prison), as well as CDCR's primary measure of recidivism (convictions), in one-, two-, and three-year intervals, when available, for adult offenders released from CDCR adult institutions between FY 2002-03 and 2016-17. One-year rates are provided for offenders released from CDCR in FY 2002-03 through FY 2016-17 and provide the most years of comparative data.<sup>5</sup> Two-year rates are provided for offenders released from CDCR between FY 2002-03 through 2015-16 and three-year rates are provided for offenders released between FY 2002-03 and 2014-15.<sup>6</sup> Although three-year recidivism rates provide the most comprehensive picture of reoffending among CDCR offenders, one- and two-year rates present the most recent data available and offer insight into trends associated with the three-year recidivism rates of future cohorts.

#### Arrests

Following 10 years of relative stability, the three-year arrest rate saw an 8.6 percentage point decline (from 75.3 percent to 66.7 percent) between the FY 2011-12 and 2012-13 release cohorts. Following this decline, the three-year arrest rate has seen two small increases: the FY 2013-14 release cohort's three-year arrest rate was 68.6 percent and the FY 2014-15 release cohort's three-year arrest rate was 69.5 percent, which represent increases of 1.9 percentage points and 0.9 percentage points, respectively. Despite recent increases, the three-year arrest rate stands at much lower levels than when CDCR first began reporting with the FY 2002-03 release cohort. Prior to the 8.6 percentage point decline that occurred between the FY 2011-12 and 2012-13 release cohorts, the three-year arrest rate ranged from a high of 77.2 percent with the FY 2005-06 release cohort and a low of 74.6 percent with the FY 2009-10 release cohort.

#### Convictions

In general, the three-year conviction rate has remained relatively stable over the last 13 cohorts of releases (FY 2002-03 through 2014-15), although more pronounced fluctuations have occurred since the release of the FY 2011-12 release cohort when the rate peaked at 54.3 percent. Following the FY 2011-12 release cohort's three-year conviction rate of 54.3 percent, the three-year conviction rate decreased 8.2 percentage points reaching 46.1 percent with the FY 2012-13 release cohort, which was the largest decrease observed since CDCR began reporting. The rate was stable for the following two releases of cohorts: the FY 2013-14 release cohort had a three-year conviction rate of 46.1 percent and the FY

<sup>5</sup> Return-to-prison data were extracted in February 2019 and arrest and conviction data were extracted in July 2019 to minimize the effects of any lag time of data entry into the State's system.

<sup>6</sup> Supplemental recidivism rates are "frozen" at three years, meaning the three-year follow-up period is complete and no further analyses are performed. One-year and two-year rates may fluctuate slightly, as the 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 processing.

2014-15 release cohort had a rate of 46.5 percent. Prior to the recent fluctuations, the three-year conviction rate was very stable, ranging from a low of 47.7 percent with the FY 2002-03 release cohort and a high of 51.5 percent with the FY 2006-07 release cohort. Of the 13 release cohorts reported, the FY 2011-12 release cohort had the highest three-year conviction rate (54.3 percent) and the FY 2012-13 and 2013-14 release cohorts had the lowest conviction rate (46.1 percent).

### Returns to Prison

Of the three measures of recidivism (arrests, convictions, and returns to prison), the three-year return-to-prison rate experienced the most substantial changes since reporting began with the FY 2002-03 release cohort. Most of the change is directly attributed to decreases in returns to prison for parole violations, as a result of Realignment. Between the FY 2002-03 and 2007-08 release cohorts, the three-year return-to-prison rate was stable, reaching a high of 67.5 percent with the FY 2005-06 release cohort and a low of 63.7 percent with the FY 2007-08 release cohort, which was the last pre-Realignment cohort. From this point, the three-year return-to-prison rate began a series of decreases, reaching 22.2 percent with the FY 2012-13 release cohort. Following this decline, the three-year conviction rate saw two small increases: reaching 23.1 percent with the FY 2013-14 release cohort and 24.1 percent with the FY 2014-15 release cohort.

Figure 15. One-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates by Fiscal Year

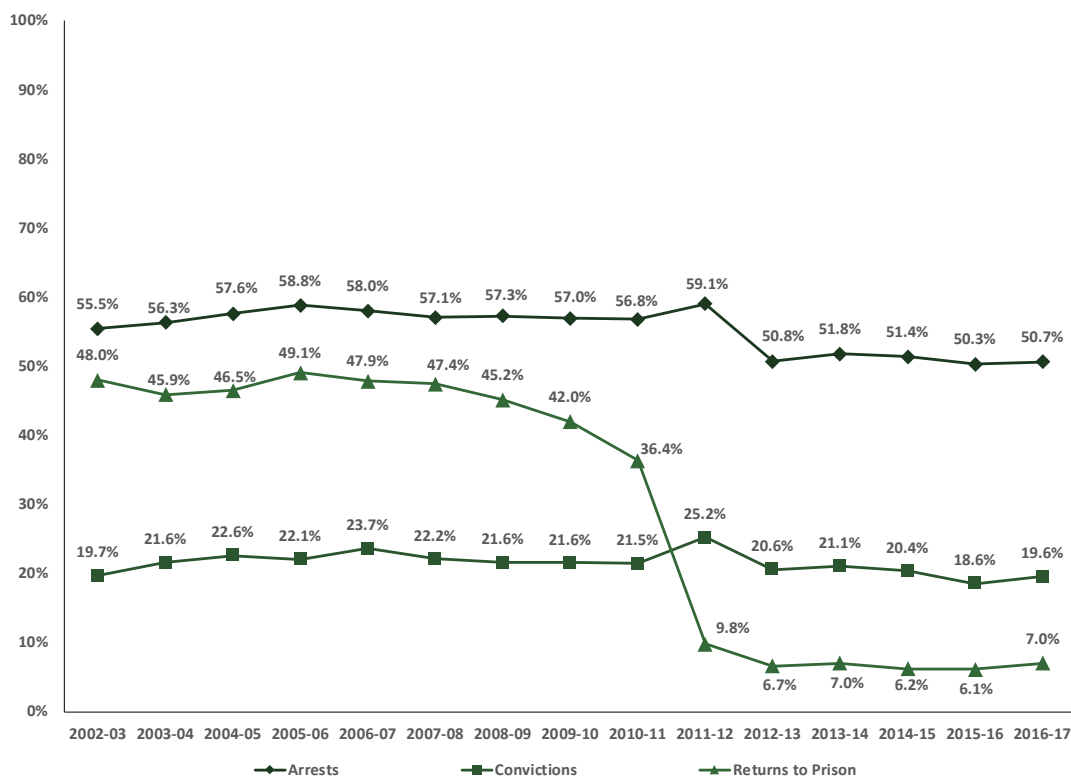


Figure 16. Two-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates by Fiscal Year

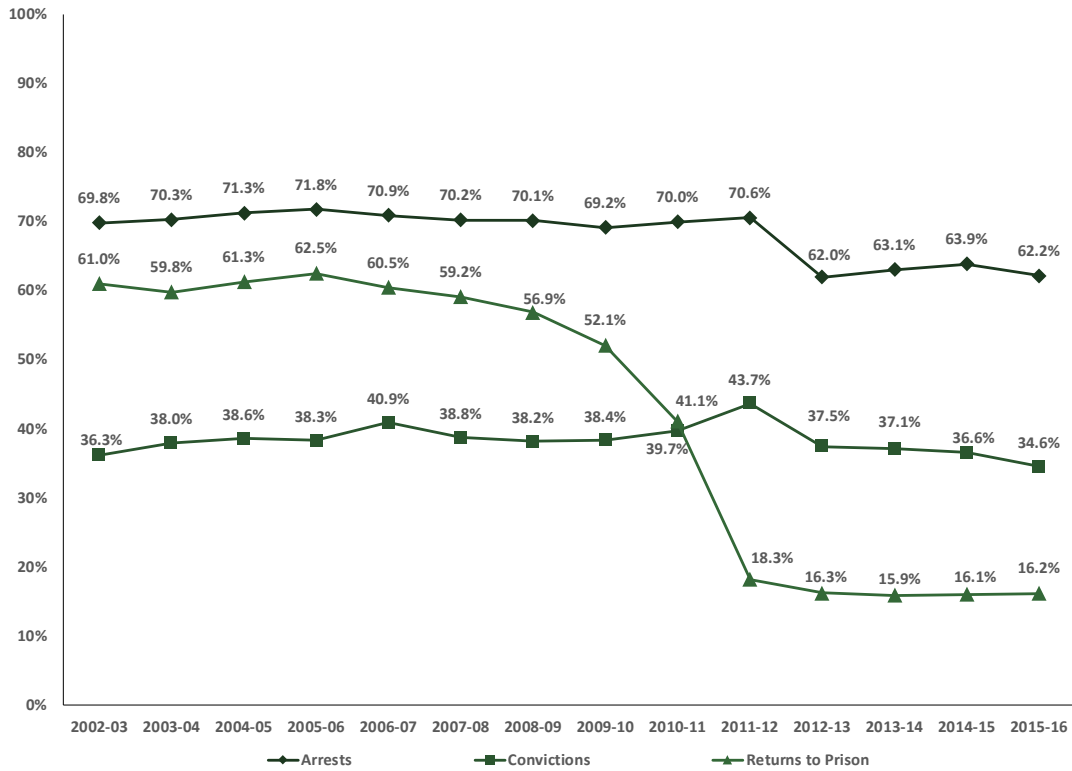
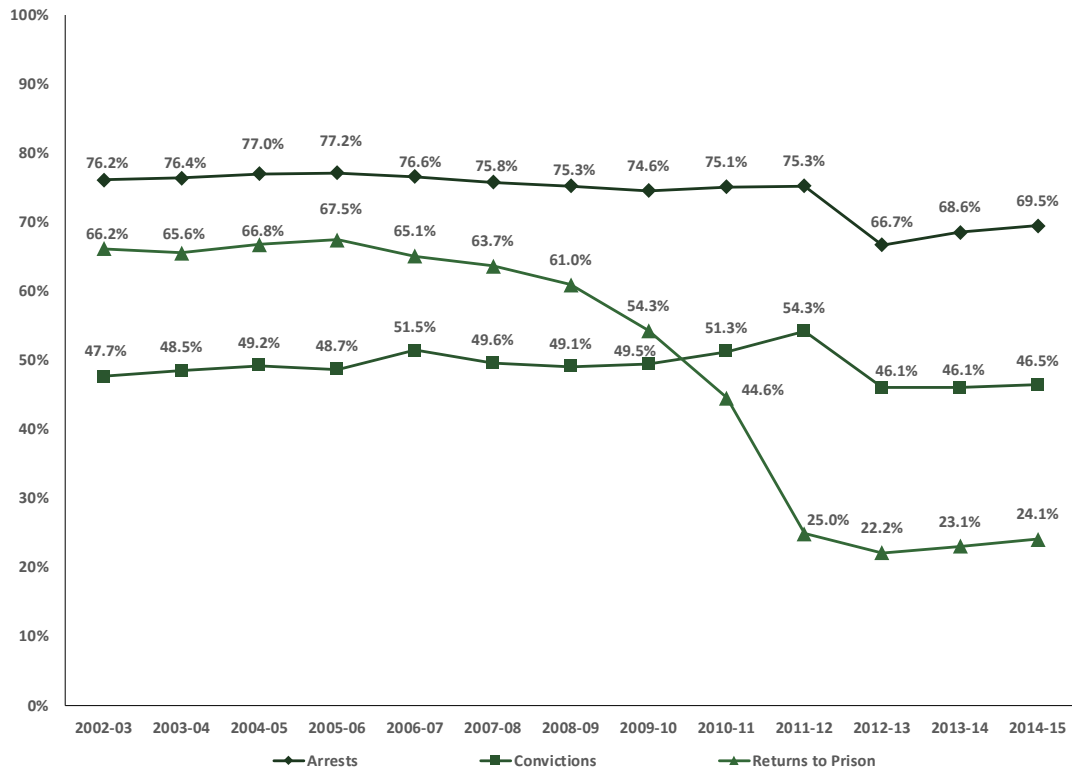


Figure 17. Three-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates by Fiscal Year



Primary and Supplemental Recidivism Rates: Arrests, Convictions, and Returns to Prison  
(continued)

Table 13. Arrest Rates for the Fiscal Year 2002-03 through Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohorts

Fiscal Year	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Arrested	Arrest Rate	Number Arrested	Arrest Rate	Number Arrested	Arrest 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	103,867	59,159	57.0%	71,837	69.2%	77,495	74.6%
2010-11	94,888	53,911	56.8%	66,399	70.0%	71,284	75.1%
2011-12	74,875	44,236	59.1%	52,829	70.6%	56,371	75.3%
2012-13	35,790	18,165	50.8%	22,184	62.0%	23,885	66.7%
2013-14	33,113	17,153	51.8%	20,893	63.1%	22,700	68.6%
2014-15	39,205	20,142	51.4%	25,047	63.9%	27,239	69.5%
2015-16	33,802	17,011	50.3%	21,017	62.2%	N/A	N/A
2016-17	31,924	16,174	50.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 14. Conviction Rates for the Fiscal Year 2002-03 through Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohorts

Fiscal Year	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction 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	103,867	22,410	21.6%	39,908	38.4%	51,456	49.5%
2010-11	94,888	20,403	21.5%	37,710	39.7%	48,689	51.3%
2011-12	74,875	18,894	25.2%	32,746	43.7%	40,644	54.3%
2012-13	35,790	7,363	20.6%	13,423	37.5%	16,496	46.1%
2013-14	33,113	6,990	21.1%	12,295	37.1%	15,264	46.1%
2014-15	39,205	8,003	20.4%	14,355	36.6%	18,235	46.5%
2015-16	33,802	6,282	18.6%	11,679	34.6%	N/A	N/A
2016-17	31,924	6,253	19.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 15. Return-to-Prison Rates for the Fiscal Year 2002-03 through Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohorts

Fiscal Year	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Returned	Return Rate	Number Returned	Return Rate	Number Returned	Return 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	104,981	44,104	42.0%	54,713	52.1%	57,022	54.3%
2010-11	95,690	34,810	36.4%	39,331	41.1%	42,661	44.6%
2011-12	75,733	7,456	9.8%	13,843	18.3%	18,908	25.0%
2012-13	36,527	2,435	6.7%	5,937	16.3%	8,110	22.2%
2013-14	33,449	2,348	7.0%	5,334	15.9%	7,726	23.1%
2014-15	39,399	2,447	6.2%	6,336	16.1%	9,505	24.1%
2015-16	33,921	2,086	6.1%	5,505	16.2%	N/A	N/A
2016-17	32,129	2,257	7.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## 5.2 Type of Arrest for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohort

Table 16 shows the type of arrest for the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts. Data represent the most serious offense in the first arrest cycle. At the time of this report, the type of arrest for some offenders was unknown.

Table 16. Type of Arrest for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2013-14 and Fiscal Year 2014-15

Type of Arrest	FY 2013-14		FY 2014-15	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>No Arrest</b>	<b>10,413</b>	<b>31.4%</b>	<b>11,966</b>	<b>30.5%</b>
<b>All Felonies</b>	<b>8,425</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>9,066</b>	<b>23.1%</b>
Felony Crimes Against Persons	2,464	7.4%	3,077	7.8%
Felony Property Crimes	2,017	6.1%	2,368	6.0%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	2,530	7.6%	1,805	4.6%
Felony Other Crimes	1,414	4.3%	1,816	4.6%
<b>All Misdemeanors</b>	<b>5,201</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>7,816</b>	<b>19.9%</b>
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	2,655	8.0%	4,204	10.7%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	1,236	3.7%	1,567	4.0%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	910	2.7%	1,526	3.9%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	400	1.2%	519	1.3%
<b>Supervision Violations</b>	<b>7,235</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>8,187</b>	<b>20.9%</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>1,839</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,113</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>39,205</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Less than one-third (30.5 percent or 11,966 offenders) of the FY 2014-15 release cohort completed the three-year follow-up period without an arrest. The percentage of offenders with no arrests in the FY 2014-15 release cohort (30.5 percent) decreased slightly (0.9 of a percentage point) when compared to the percentage of offenders with no arrests in the FY 2013-14 release cohort (31.4 percent or 10,413 offenders). Less than a quarter of the FY 2014-15 release cohort (23.1 percent or 9,066 offenders) were arrested for felony crimes and 19.9 percent (7,816 offenders) were arrested for misdemeanors. The percentage of felony arrests decreased (from 25.4 percent to 23.1 percent) when comparing the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts, while misdemeanor crimes increased slightly (from 15.7 percent to 19.9 percent). Arrests for supervision violations remained stable between the two release cohorts with 21.8 percent of the FY 2013-14 release cohort and 20.9 percent in the FY 2014-15 release cohort arrested for supervision violations. The percentage of arrests that were unknown were also similar: 5.6 percent of arrests were unknown for the FY 2013-14 release cohort and 5.5 percent were unknown for the FY 2014-15 release cohort.

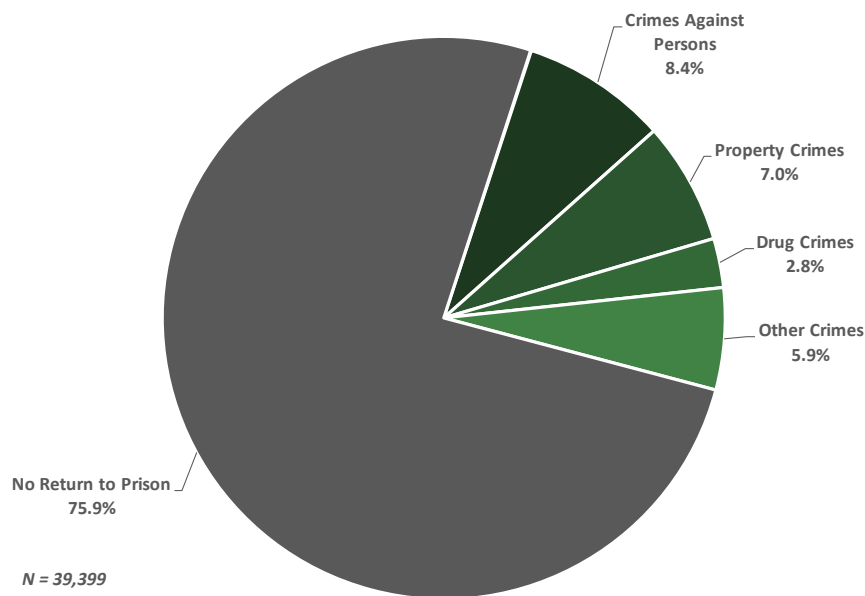
When comparing arrests for the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts, the largest decrease in arrests was observed among felony drug/alcohol crimes. Conversely, the largest increase in arrests was observed among misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes. Between the two release cohorts, felony drug/alcohol crimes decreased by three percentage points, from 7.6 percent to 4.6 percent, while misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes increased by 2.7 percentage points, from 8.0 percent to 10.7 percent. For other types of crimes (crimes against persons, property crimes, and other crimes), the difference

between the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts were subtle: misdemeanor property crimes increased by 1.2 percent (from 2.7 percent to 3.9 percent), while each other type of crime increased or decreased by less than one percentage point.

### 5.3 Type of Return-to-Prison for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohort

The type of return to prison section includes all of the 39,399 offenders released from CDCR during FY 2014-15, while arrest and conviction sections only include the 39,205 offenders with an automated DOJ rap sheet. Prior to the 2016 Recidivism Report, the three-year return-to-prison rate was CDCR’s primary measure of recidivism. Commencing with the 2016 Recidivism Report, CDCR transitioned its primary measure of recidivism from the three-year return-to-prison rate to the three-year conviction rate. Therefore, type of return data is provided for the FY 2008-09 through FY 2014-15 release cohort for comparative purposes (Table 17).

Figure 18. Type of Return for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohort



Over three quarters of the FY 2014-15 release cohort (75.9 percent or 29,894 offenders) completed the three-year follow-up period without returning to prison and 24.1 percent (9,505 offenders) were returned to prison. The three-year return-to-prison rate increased between the FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts (from 23.1 percent to 24.1 percent), however, the proportion of offenders returned for each category remained stable. The largest percentage of offenders in both cohorts were returned to prison for crimes against persons, with 7.7 percent of the FY 2013-14 release cohort returning to prison for crimes against persons and 8.4 percent of the FY 2014-15 release cohort returning for crimes against persons. The percentage of offenders returning to prison for property crimes also increased slightly (from 6.4 percent to 7.0 percent) between the two release cohorts, as did the percentage of offenders returning for other crimes (from 5.2 percent to 5.9 percent). Offenders returning to prison for drug crimes decreased by one percentage point between FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15 release cohorts (from 3.8 percent to 2.8 percent) and the number of offenders returned for parole violations was the same: 16 offenders were returned in each release cohort for parole violations.



Post-Realignment, only offenders previously sentenced to a life term and some sex offenders are returned to prison for parole violations, resulting in substantial decreases in the percentage of offenders returned to prison for parole violations.<sup>7</sup> Nearly half of the FY 2008-09 release cohort (42.3 percent or 47,793 offenders) were returned to prison for parole violations and only 16 offenders belonging to the FY 2014-15 release cohort were returned to prison for parole violations. The decrease in returns to prison for parole violations largely drove the decline in the three-year return-to-prison rate, which started experiencing large decreases with the FY 2008-09 release cohort. In addition to drastic decreases in parole violations, Realignment also impacted the percentage of offenders returning to prison for crimes against persons, which comprised only 3.5 percent of all returns to prison among FY 2008-09 releases and 8.4 percent of FY 2014-15 releases. The percentage of offenders returned to prison for crimes against persons has slowly increased since Realignment, as crimes against persons tend to be more serious and violent than other commitment offense categories and are more likely to require a prison sentence.

Table 17. Type of Return for the Fiscal Year 2008-09 through Fiscal Year 2014-15 Release Cohorts

Type of Return	FY 2008-09		FY 2009-10		FY 2010-11		FY 2011-12		FY 2012-13		FY 2013-14		FY 2014-15	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Parole Violations	47,793	42.3%	39,747	37.9%	29,028	30.3%	3,126	4.1%	8	0.0%	16	0.0%	16	0.0%
Crimes Against Persons	3,925	3.5%	3,771	3.6%	3,834	4.0%	5,247	6.9%	2,527	6.9%	2,570	7.7%	3,304	8.4%
Property Crimes	8,055	7.1%	6,541	6.2%	4,520	4.7%	4,238	5.6%	2,249	6.2%	2,125	6.4%	2,766	7.0%
Drug Crimes	6,299	5.6%	4,730	4.5%	3,279	3.4%	3,278	4.3%	1,815	5.0%	1,271	3.8%	1,113	2.8%
Other Crimes	2,731	2.4%	2,233	2.1%	2,000	2.1%	3,019	4.0%	1,511	4.1%	1,744	5.2%	2,306	5.9%
No Return to Prison	44,074	39.0%	47,959	45.7%	53,029	55.4%	56,825	75.0%	28,417	77.8%	25,723	76.9%	29,894	75.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,877</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>104,981</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>95,690</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>75,733</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>36,527</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>33,449</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>39,399</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>7</sup> Penal Code section 3000.8 remands persons on parole pursuant to section 3000.0, subdivision (b), paragraph (4) to the custody of CDCR. For more information regarding specific sex offenses, please see Penal Code section 3000.0(b)(4).

## 6 Evaluation Design

### 6.1 Definitions

The State of California defines recidivism as “conviction of a new felony or misdemeanor committed within three years of release from custody or committed within three years of placement on supervision for a previous criminal conviction.”<sup>8</sup> The definition also allows for supplemental measures of recidivism including: new arrests, returns to custody, criminal filings, or supervision violations. In prior reports, CDCR used a supplemental measure, the three-year return-to-prison rate, as the primary measure of recidivism. Commencing with the 2016 Outcome Evaluation Report, CDCR implemented the State of California’s definition of recidivism and used the three-year conviction rate as the primary measure of recidivism.<sup>9</sup>

The three-year conviction rate is defined as follows:

“An individual convicted of a felony and incarcerated in a CDCR adult institution who was released to parole, discharged after being paroled, or directly discharged during Fiscal Year 2014-15 and subsequently convicted of a felony or misdemeanor offense within three years of their release date.”

The conviction rate is calculated using the ratio of the number of offenders in the release cohort who were convicted during the follow-up period, to the total number of offenders in the release cohort, multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Conviction Rate} = \frac{\text{Number Convicted}}{\text{Release Cohort}} \times 100$$

Section 5 of this report provides supplemental recidivism rates using arrest and return-to-prison data for year-to-year comparisons. Three-year rates for each of the supplemental measures are available from FY 2002-03 through 2014-15. One-year and two-year rates are available for the FY 2015-16 release cohort and one-year rates are available for the FY 2016-17 release cohort.

### 6.2 Methods

This report provides conviction rates at one-, two-, and three-year intervals for offenders released from CDCR’s Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 (FY 2014-15). The release cohort includes: 1) offenders who were directly discharged from CDCR; 2) offenders who were released to parole or PRCS for the first time on their current term; and 3) offenders who were released to parole on their current term prior to FY 2014-15, returned to prison on this term, and were then

<sup>8</sup> Section 3027 of California Penal Code required the Board of State and Community Corrections to develop a state-wide definition of recidivism.

<sup>9</sup> CDCR’s Recidivism Report series was previously titled the “Outcome Evaluation Report” series. The 2018 Recidivism Report follows the 2017 Outcome Evaluation Report, both of which provide recidivism rates (arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison) rates for offenders released during a given fiscal year.

re-released during FY 2014-15. Convictions are further examined according to offender demographics (e.g. gender and age) and offender characteristics (e.g. commitment offense and sentence type).

### 6.3 Data Sources

Data were extracted from CDCR's Strategic Offender Management System (SOMS), CDCR's system of record, to identify offenders released between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 and to determine which released offenders returned to state prison during the three-year follow-up period. Arrest and conviction data were obtained from DOJ's Criminal Justice Information System and the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System.

### 6.4 Data Limitations

Data quality is important with all analyses performed by CDCR's Office of Research. The intent of this report is to provide summary (aggregate) information, rather than individual information. The aggregate data are strong when a large number of records (releases) are available for analysis, but are less robust as subgroups are influenced by nuances associated with each case. Therefore, caution should be exercised when interpreting results associated with fewer records. As such, conviction rates are only presented for offender releases (i.e. denominators) that are equal to or greater than 30.

Conviction rates are fixed at three years, meaning the follow-up period is considered complete and no further analyses are performed. Arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison data presented in the appendices of this report may see slight fluctuations, particularly as the one-year and two-year rates are updated in subsequent reporting years. These data are routinely updated in accordance with criminal justice system processing. As data become available, subsequent reports will be updated.

## 7 Definition of Terms

### **Arrest**

Taking a person into custody, in a case and in the manner authorized by the law, California Penal Code (PC) section 834.

### **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 conviction 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 offenders who were released during a given fiscal year.

### **Controlling Crime or Commitment Offense**

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

### **Conviction**

A judgement, based either on the verdict of a jury or a judicial officer or on the guilty plea of the defendant, that the defendant is guilty.

### **Correctional Clinical Case Management System (CCCMS)**

The CCCMS facilitates mental health care by linking offenders/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 1977, 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 offender 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 1977. 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)**

Offenders 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 offender's rap sheet. Manual scores calculated in FY 2008-09 are not readily available for some offenders included in this report.

### **Parole**

A period of conditional supervised release following a prison term. Prior to Public Safety Realignment, almost all offenders released from CDCR were placed on state parole supervision after their release. After Public Safety Realignment, most serious or violent offenders, high-risk sex offenders, and offenders released after serving a life term are released to CDCR parole supervision and most non-serious, non-violent, non-sex registrant offenders are released to county supervision.

### **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.

### **Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS)**

Post Release Community Supervision is a form of supervision provided to an offender who has been released from a CDCR institution to the jurisdiction of a county agency, pursuant to the Post Release Community Supervision Act of 2011. Prior to Public Safety Realignment, almost all offenders released from CDCR were placed on state parole supervision after their release. After Public Safety Realignment, most non-serious, non-violent, and non-sex registrant offenders are release to PRCS.

### **Recidivism**

Conviction of a new felony or misdemeanor committed within three years of release from custody or committed within three years of placement on supervision for a previous criminal conviction.

### **Registered Sex Offender**

An offender is designated as a registered sex offender if CDCR records show that the offender 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.

### **Return-to-Prison**

An individual convicted of a felony and incarcerated in a CDCR adult institution who was released to parole, discharged after being paroled, or directly discharged during FY 2013-14 and subsequently returned to prison within three years of their release date.

### **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 offender is housed in a CDCR institution. Each time an offender returns to prison it is considered a new stay, regardless of the reason for returning.

**Term**

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

**Violent Felony Offense**

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



**California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
Division of Correctional Policy Research and Internal Oversight  
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