California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Recidivism Report for Offenders Released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2016-17

Division of Correctional Policy Research and Internal Oversight

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Executive Summary

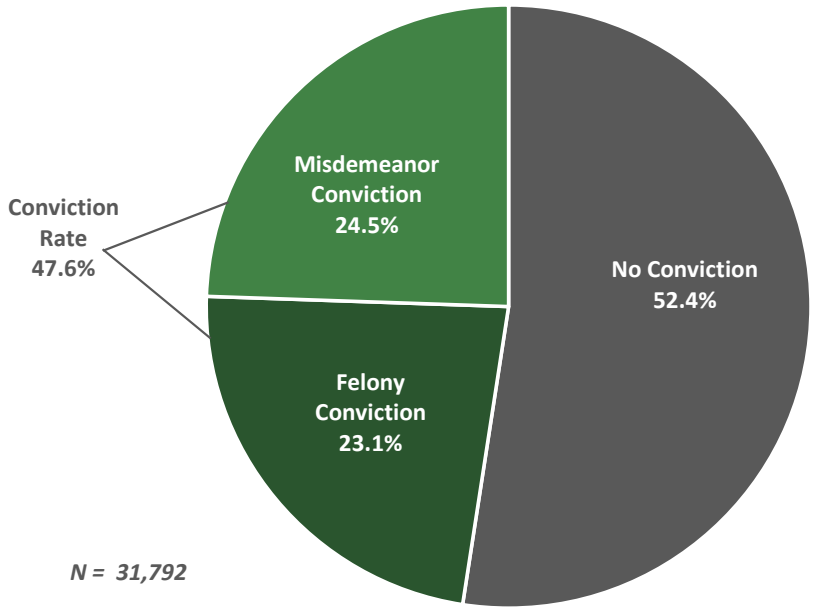
The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) examines recidivism outcomes (arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates) for offenders released from CDCR's adult institutions over a given fiscal year. This report presents recidivism rates for the 31,792 offenders released between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 (Fiscal Year 2016-17). CDCR tracks offenders 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 examining overall recidivism rates and the impact of recent policies and initiatives, this report provides the type and timing of post-release convictions and recidivism rates by offender demographics (e.g., age, race/ethnicity) and characteristics (e.g., sentence type, length of stay).

Recidivism Rates for Offenders Released During Fiscal Year 2016-17

The three-year conviction rate for the 31,792 offenders who comprised the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17 release cohort was 47.6 percent.[1] As shown in Figure A, 52.4 percent of the release cohort (16,669 offenders) had no convictions within three years of their release from prison, 23.1 percent (7,347 offenders) were convicted of a felony offense, and 24.5 percent (7,776 offenders) were convicted of a misdemeanor offense.

Figure A. Three-Year Outcomes for the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohort

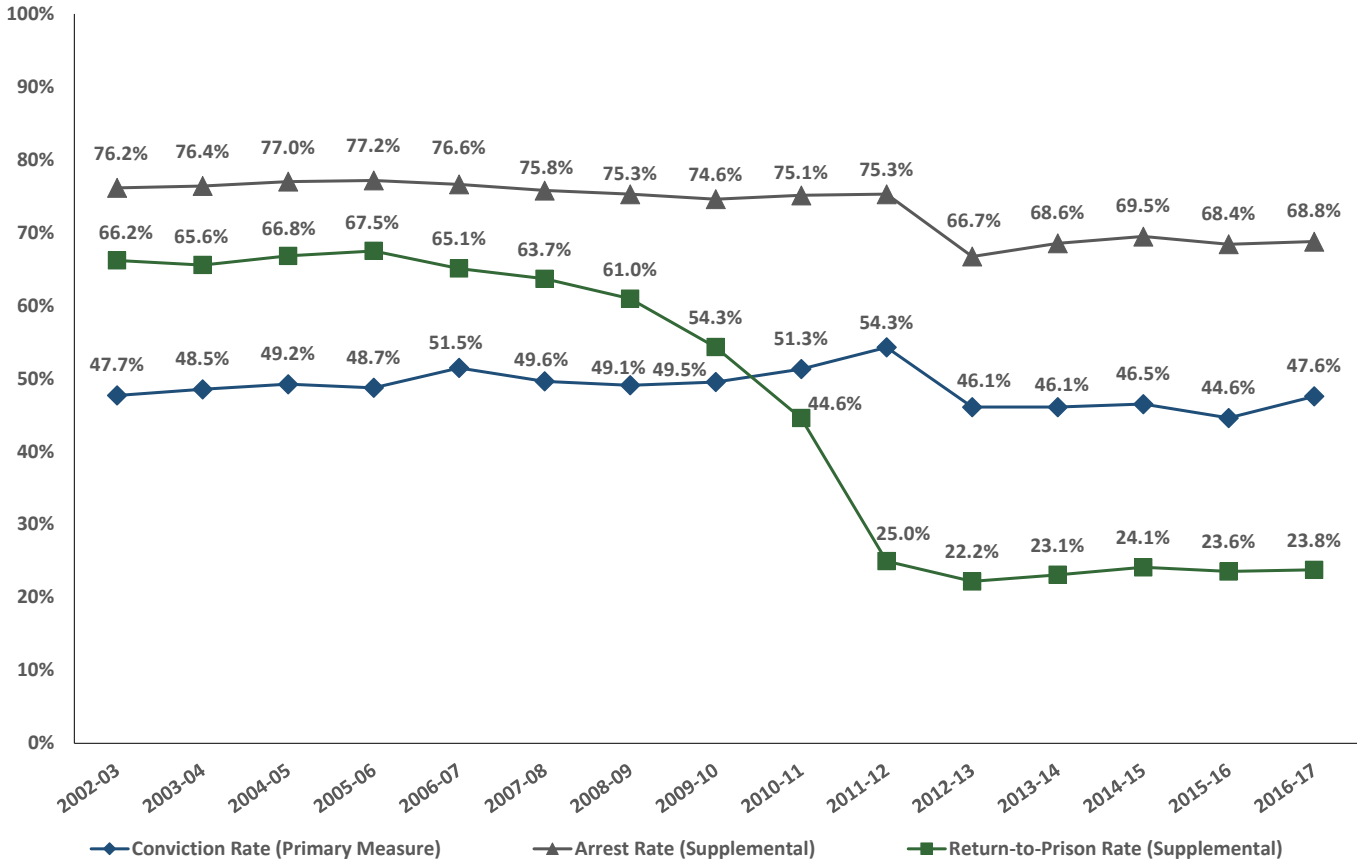


[1] During Fiscal Year 2016-17, a total of 31,975 offenders were released from a CDCR adult institution. Of these offenders, 31,792 offenders had a Department of Justice (DOJ) automated rap sheet. Arrest and conviction data only include the 31,792 offenders with an automated rap sheet, and return-to-prison data include all 31,975 offenders released from prison.

The three-year conviction rate increased by 3.0 percentage points (from 44.6 percent to 47.6 percent) between the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts (Figure B). After reaching a high of 54.3 percent with the FY 2011-12 release cohort and subsequently declining to 46.1 percent with the FY 2012-13 release cohort, the three-year conviction rate has been relatively stable with small fluctuations (increases and decreases). Following a slight increase with the FY 2014-15 release cohort, the three-year conviction rate declined to 44.6 percent with the FY 2015-16 release cohort before reaching the current rate of 47.6 percent.

Arrests and returns to prison, which are supplemental measures of recidivism, also saw slight increases between the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts, as shown in Figure B. The three-year arrest rate increased by less than one percentage point (from 68.4 percent to 68.8 percent), and the three-year return-to-prison rate also increased by less than one percentage point (from 23.6 percent to 23.8 percent). Similar to the conviction rate, the arrest rate has been relatively stable over the reporting years, while the return-to-prison rate has seen substantial decreases due to a sharp decline in the number of offenders returning to prison for parole violations.[2]

Figure B. Three-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates for the Fiscal Year 2002-03 through 2016-17 Release Cohorts



[2] For detailed information regarding the impact of Public Safety Realignment on parole violations, please see Appendix F Correctional Policies and Initiatives.

The recent increases and decreases in the three-year conviction rate illustrate the nature of recidivism rates, which tend to fluctuate due to a number of complex factors, including the implementation of correctional policies and initiatives, and the demographics and characteristics associated with a particular release cohort. The increase observed with the FY 2014-15 release cohort was largely attributed to the resentencing and release of 4,111 drug and property offenders under Proposition 47.[3] Characterized by a high recidivism rate, these offenders influenced the overall three-year conviction rate of the FY 2014-15 release cohort upward (46.5 percent). A much smaller number of Proposition 47 releases in FY 2015-16 and a larger proportion of offenders convicted of crimes against persons, which associated with lower recidivism rates, influenced the three-year conviction downward when it reached the lowest rate (44.6 percent) since reporting began (Figure B).

Some of the recent increase (3.0 percentage points) in the three-year conviction rate between the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts may be attributed to an increase in convictions among offenders released from CDCR to Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS). Between the two fiscal years, the three-year conviction rate for PRCS offenders increased 5.5 percentage points (from 49.0 percent to 54.5 percent).The rate for offenders released to parole slightly increased between FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 (from 39.9 percent to 40.4 percent).

Offenders released to PRCS comprised over half of the release cohort and typically have higher recidivism rates than offenders released to parole.[4] A cohort with a large percentage of offenders characterized by a high rate of recidivism can influence the statewide conviction rate upward. The recent uptick in the conviction rate for PRCS offenders was one factor contributing to the overall increase in the statewide conviction rate.

An examination of the three-year conviction rate by offender demographics (e.g., age, race/ethnicity) and characteristics (e.g., commitment offense category, length of stay) shows general increases among certain groups of offenders, particularly non-serious and non-violent drug and property offenders (Appendix D). The rate increased 5.1 percentage points (from 49.1 percent to 54.2 percent) for non-serious/non-violent offenders, 5.9 percentage points (from 53.3 percent to 59.2 percent) for offenders committed for property crimes, and 4.0 percentage points (from 43.4 percent to 47.4 percent) for offenders committed for drug crimes between the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts (Appendix D).

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[3] The Fiscal Year 2014-15 release cohort had a three-year conviction rate of 46.5 percent, which represented an increase from one year prior. Part of the increase was attributed to the release of 4,111 (ten percent of the total release cohort) drug and property offenders released as a result of Proposition 47. These offenders had a three-year conviction rate of 59.8 percent, which likely influenced the rate upward. Conversely, the FY 2015-16 release cohort had 364 Proposition 47 releases and although there rate was high (52.7 percent), they likely had little influence on the overall conviction rate of 44.6 percent. The Fiscal Year 2015-16 release cohort also had a high proportion of offenders committed to prison for crimes against persons, which are associated with low rates of recidivism. These two factors (fewer Proposition 47 releases and a greater number of offenders committed for crimes against persons) likely contributed to the decline observed between the two fiscal years.

[4] For detailed information, please see Section 3.1. PRCS offenders are comprised of larger percentages of offenders who were committed to prison for drug and property crimes, which are associated with high recidivism rates. A large percentage of offenders released to parole are convicted of crimes against persons, which are associated with low recidivism rates. Crimes against persons tend to be more serious or violent than drug and property crimes and are often associated with lower recidivism rates.

Increases in the three-year conviction rate were far less pronounced among more serious and violent offenders and in some cases decreases were observed between the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts. The three-year conviction rate increased 1.4 percentage points (from 39.8 percent to 41.2 percent) for offenders committed for crimes against persons, 1.9 percentage points (from 47.7 percent to 49.6 percent) for offenders committed for a serious offense, and by less than one percentage point (from 29.4 percent to 29.6 percent) for offenders committed for a violent offense. The three-year conviction rate for offenders sentenced to an indeterminate term (lifers) decreased by 1.3 percentage points (from 3.2 percent to 1.9 percent) between the Fiscal Year 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts (Appendix D).

Overall, the most substantial increases in the three-year conviction rate were concentrated among non-serious and non-violent property and drug offenders.[5] Subtle increases and decreases in the three-year conviction rate were observed among more serious and violent offenders committed to CDCR for crimes against persons. Continued fluctuations in the recidivism rate are expected, as the impacts of Proposition 57 and the COVID-19 pandemic influence post-release outcomes.

Since the passage of Proposition 47, more offenders are convicted of misdemeanor offenses (51.4 percent of all convictions) than felonies after their release from prison (48.6 percent of all convictions).[6] When examining the type of post-release conviction for the 15,123 offenders who were convicted, the largest percentage of offenders were convicted of misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes (21.2 percent), followed by felony crimes against persons (15.7 percent). The type of post-release convictions are relatively similar for offenders released to PRCS and parole, despite the higher overall conviction rate among offenders released to PRCS. Most convictions occur during the first and second year of the three-year follow-up period for each release type.

CDCR will continue to examine the arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates of offenders released from CDCR during each fiscal year. As data pertaining to Proposition 57 and the COVID-19 pandemic become available, CDCR will study these rates to better understand recidivism and the influence of policies and programming on recidivism outcomes.

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[5] When the overall statewide recidivism rate increases or decreases, generally, similar changes are observed in the three-year conviction rate for most categories of demographics and characteristics (Appendix B). A 17.1 percentage point increase in the three-year conviction rate among offenders released to San Diego County was observed between FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 (from 29.9 percent to 47.0 percent). San Diego accounts for seven percent of offenders released from CDCR and although the rate increase appears substantial, the rate was markedly low one year prior (29.9 percent) and had little overall effect on the statewide recidivism rate. When the 2,169 offenders released from San Diego County are removed from the calculation of state's three-year conviction rate, it remains the same at 47.6 percent, indicating minimal effect on the rate.

[6] Proposition 47 reduced penalties for certain non-serious, non-violent property and drug crimes by mandating a misdemeanor sentence instead of a felony. As a result, the number of felony convictions for property and drug crimes has decreased. Conversely, the number of misdemeanor convictions for the same crimes has increased. For more information, please see Appendix F.

Key Findings

Three-Year Recidivism Rates

- The three-year conviction rate for the 31,792 offenders released from CDCR between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 was 47.6 percent, which is an increase of 3.0 percentage points compared to one year before (44.6 percent).
- The increase in the recidivism rate between the last two fiscal years is attributed to several factors, including an increase in the three-year conviction rate among offenders released to PRCS, who comprise over half of the release cohort. The three-year conviction rate for offenders released to PRCS increased by 5.5 percentage points between FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 (from 49.0 percent to 54.5 percent) and by 0.5 percentage points for offenders released to parole (from 39.9 percent to 40.4 percent).
- Supplemental measures of recidivism (arrests and returns to CDCR) saw slight increases between FY 2015-16 and 2016-17: the three-year arrest rate increased from 68.4 percent to 68.8 percent and the three-year return-to-prison rate increased from 23.6 percent to 23.8 percent.
- The most substantial increases in the three-year conviction rate were concentrated among non-serious and non-violent property and drug offenders. Subtle increases (and in some cases, decreases) in the three-year conviction rate, were observed among more serious and violent offenders committed to CDCR for crimes against persons.

Type of Post-Release Conviction

- Of the 31,792 offenders in the Fiscal Year 2016-17 release cohort, 52.4 percent (16,669 offenders) had no convictions, 23.1 percent (7,347 offenders) had a felony conviction, and 24.5 percent (7,776 offenders) had a misdemeanor conviction.
- Approximately half of the 15,123 total convictions were felony convictions (48.6 percent) and 51.4 percent were misdemeanor convictions. The largest percentage of those convicted (21.2 percent or 3,202 offenders) were convicted of misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes.
- The type of post-release conviction is similar for offenders released to PRCS or parole: misdemeanor convictions for misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes comprised the largest percentage of post-release convictions, followed by felony crimes against persons.

Conviction Rates by Offender Demographics and Characteristics

- While offenders ages 18 to 19 years old represent less than one percent of releases, their three-year conviction rate was the highest among all age groups (73.3 percent or 181 offenders). Offenders ages 60 and over had the lowest conviction rate of all age groups (18.3 percent or 193 offenders).

- Non-serious, non-violent offenders had a higher three-year conviction rate at 54.2 percent (9,377 offenders) compared to serious offenders at 49.6 percent (3,600 offenders) and violent offenders at 29.6 percent (2,146 offenders).
- Offenders originally committed for property crimes had the highest three-year conviction rate of all offense categories (59.2 percent or 3,758 offenders), followed by offenders committed for other crimes (51.4 percent or 3,467 offenders), and drug crimes (47.4 percent or 1,452 offenders). Offenders committed for crimes against persons had the lowest conviction rate (41.2 percent or 6,446 offenders) of all categories.
- The three-year conviction rate for non-sex registrants was 49.3 percent (14,142 offenders), while the rate for sex registrants was 31.3 percent (981 offenders).

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION RECIDIVISM REPORT FOR OFFENDERS RELEASED IN FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

1 Introduction

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) presents the Recidivism Report for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17, part of an annual series, which examines recidivism outcomes (arrests, conviction, and return-to-prison rates) for offenders released from CDCR adult institutions over the course of a given fiscal year. This year's report presents recidivism rates for the 31,792 offenders released from CDCR's adult institutions between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 (Fiscal Year 2016-17). Consistent with earlier reports published by CDCR, all offenders released from an adult institution over the course of the fiscal year were followed for three years after the date of their release. The three-year conviction rate is CDCR's primary measure of recidivism, while arrests and returns to prison are provided as supplemental measures of recidivism.

The three-year conviction rate for the 31,792 offenders released in FY 2016-17 was 47.6 percent. Section 2 of this report provides further details regarding the conviction rate and a discussion of supplemental measures of recidivism (arrest and return-to-prison rates). Section 3 presents recidivism rates over time and factors that influence recidivism rates. Section 4 presents the type of post-release conviction (i.e., felony or misdemeanor) and the time until conviction for offenders released in FY 2016-17. Section 5 presents a profile of the FY 2016-17 release cohort and the three-year conviction rate by offender demographics (e.g., age, race/ethnicity) and characteristics (e.g., commitment offense category, length of stay).

Detailed tables providing the demographics and characteristics of the current FY 2016-17 release cohort and their conviction rate by demographics and characteristics are provided in Appendix A and B. Appendix C provides conviction rates by county of release. Appendix D provides a comparison of the recidivism rate by demographics and characteristics for both the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts. Appendix E provides historical recidivism rates for the FY 2002-03 through FY 2016-17 release cohorts and one- and two-year recidivism rates for the upcoming FY 2017-18 and 2018-19 release cohorts. Finally, Appendix F describes recent correctional policies and practices and their influence on post-release outcomes.

Recidivism rates for offenders serving an indeterminate term (lifers) are available in this report and may be found in Appendix B. Previous reports provided type of conviction data for lifers; this data and further recidivism information for offenders released from CDCR after a review or hearing conducted by the Board of Parole Hearings will be available in a supplemental briefing. Additionally, prior reports included tables regarding participation in Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUDT). These tables and further analysis regarding SUDT will also be available in a supplemental briefing.

In addition to recidivism rates, this report examines the type of recidivism, historical recidivism rates, and recidivism rates by various offender demographics, characteristics, and program participation. The FY 2016-17 release cohort is the fifth post-Public Safety Realignment (Realignment) cohort and the third cohort with offenders released under Proposition 47. Detailed descriptions of each of these policies are provided in Appendix F. Proposition 57 and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will likely impact the recidivism rates of future CDCR recidivism cohorts. The influence of correctional policies and initiatives on recidivism rates and the type of post-release recidivism will continue to be provided as information is available. CDCR will continue to update arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison data as they become available with the goal of spurring discussion around the best possible ways to reduce recidivism among offenders released from CDCR adult institutions.

2 Statewide Recidivism Rates and Rates by Post-Release Supervision

2.1 Recidivism Rates for the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohort

Figure 1. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Recidivism Rates for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17

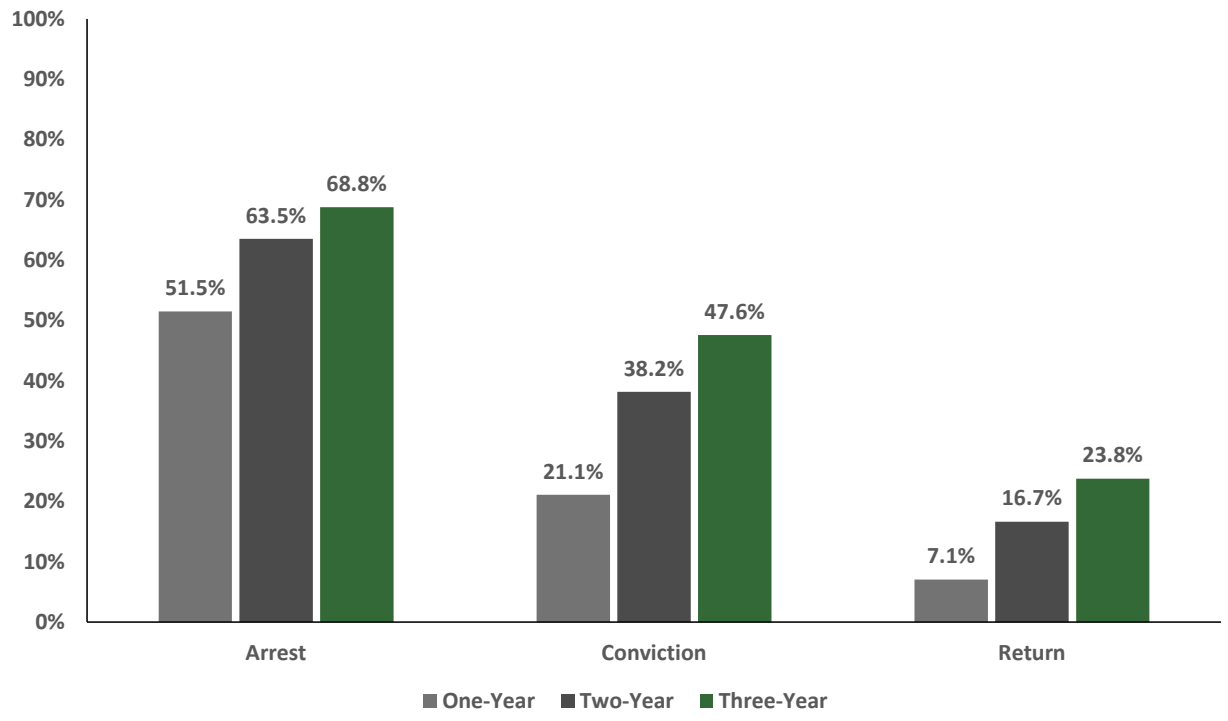


Table 1 provides one-, two-, and three-year arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates for the FY 2016-17 release cohort. CDCR's primary measure of recidivism is the three-year conviction rate, while arrests and returns to prison serve as supplemental measures. The three-year conviction rate for the 31,792 offenders released from CDCR during FY 2016-17 was 47.6 percent with 15,123 offenders convicted during the three-year follow-up period.[7] The three-year arrest rate was 68.8 percent and the three-year return-to-prison rate was 23.8 percent.

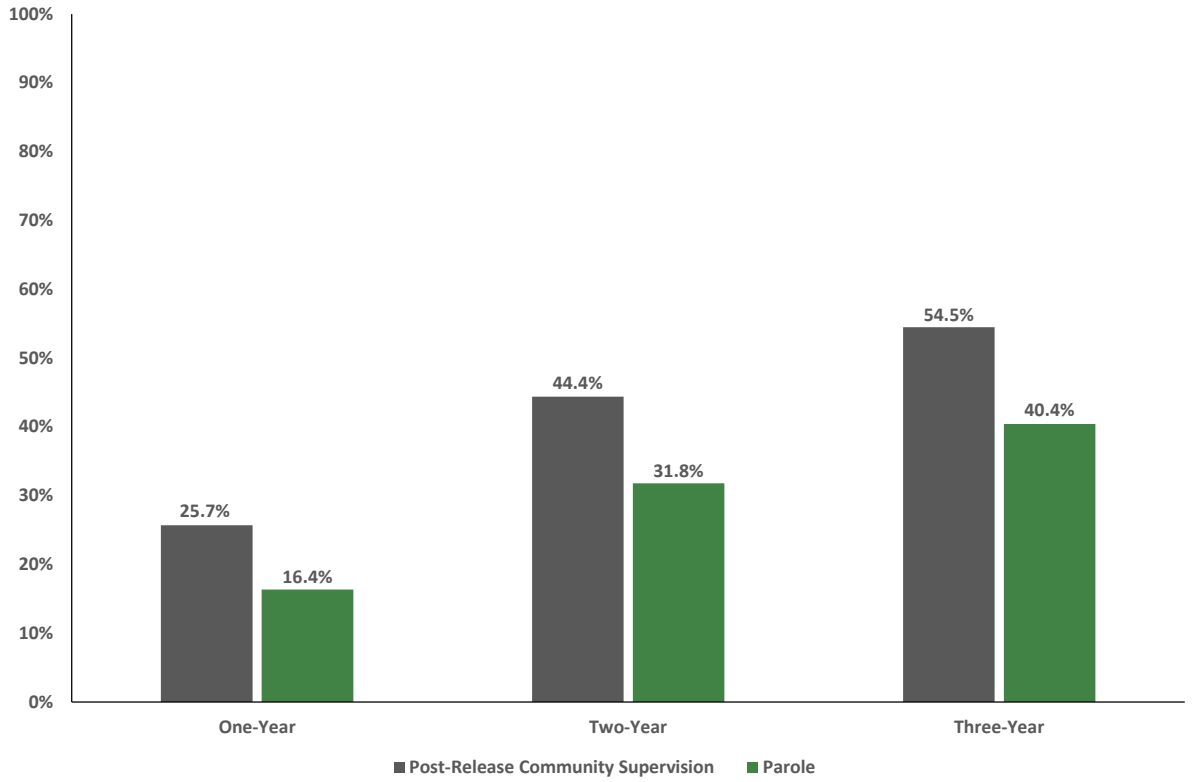
Table 1. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Recidivism Rates for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Recidivism Type	Total	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Arrest	31,792	16,378	51.5%	20,199	63.5%	21,871	68.8%
Conviction	31,792	6,710	21.1%	12,141	38.2%	15,123	47.6%
Return	31,975	2,255	7.1%	5,324	16.7%	7,607	23.8%

[7] During FY 2016-17, a total of 31,975 offenders were released from a CDCR adult institution. Of these offenders, 31,792 offenders had a Department of Justice (DOJ) automated rap sheet. Arrest and conviction data only include the 31,792 offenders with an automated rap sheet and return-to-prison data include all 31,975 offenders released from prison.

2.2 Conviction Rates by Type of Post-Release Supervision

Figure 2. Conviction Rates by Type of Post-Release Supervision for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17



Offenders released from CDCR are released to either Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS) or parole, or are directly discharged from prison. Approximately half of the FY 2016-17 release cohort was released to PRCS (50.9 percent) and half to parole (49.0 percent). Typically, few offenders are directly discharged from prison. Due to Proposition 47, the number of offenders directly discharged from prison increased during FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 (804 and 67 direct discharges, respectively). Only 22 offenders were directly discharged in FY 2016-17, as the immediate effects of Proposition 47 have subsided (Appendix F).

The three-year conviction rate for offenders released to PRCS was 54.5 percent, which is 14.1 percentage points higher than the rate of offenders released to parole (40.4 percent). A rate was not calculated for offenders directly discharged from prison, as under 30 offenders were directly discharged.

Under Realignment, most non-serious and non-violent offenders who are characterized by a higher risk to reoffend, are released to PRCS. 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. 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. Instead, offenders belonging to one group of releases may be compared to offenders in the same group who were 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).

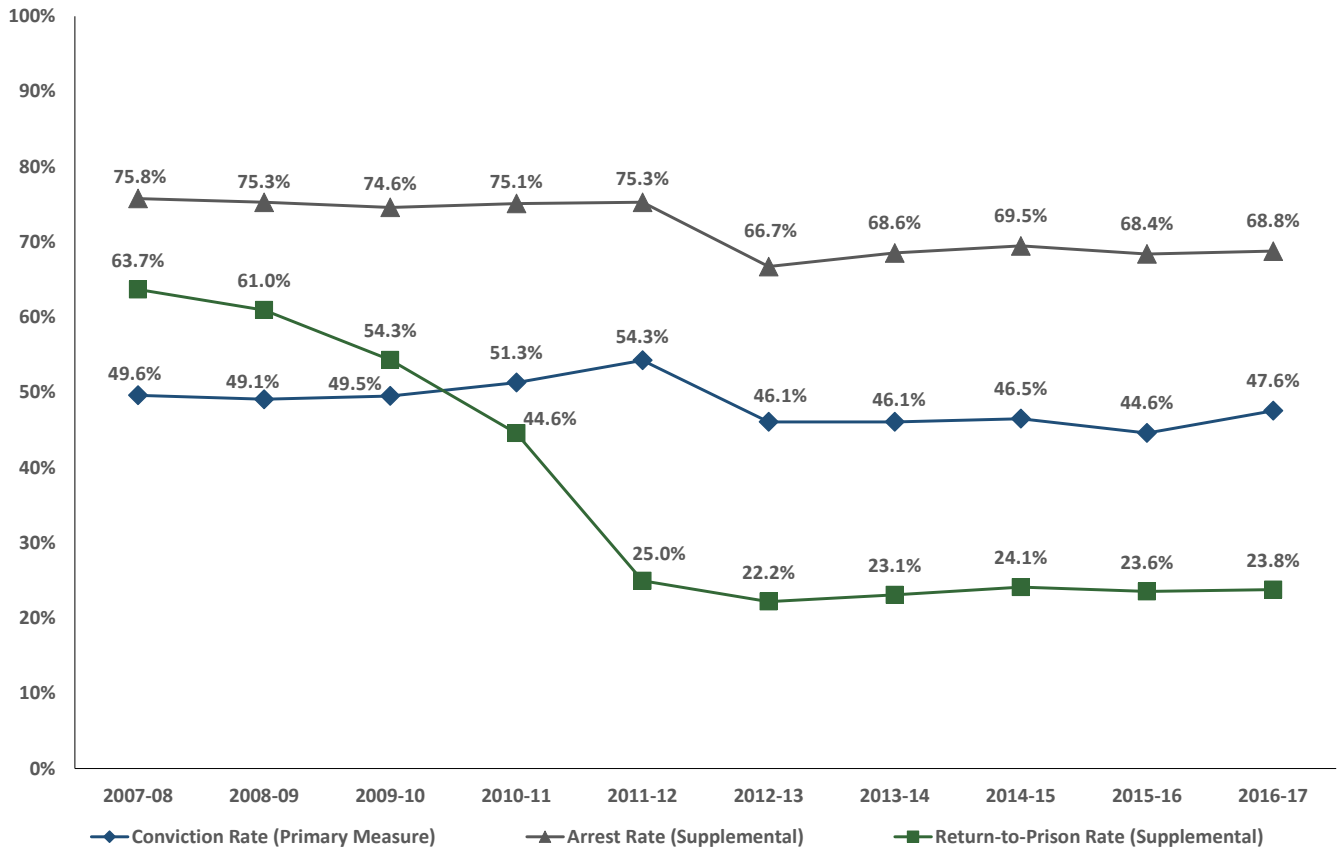
Table 2. Conviction Rates by Post-Release Supervision for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Type of Post-Release Supervision	**Number Released**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**
Post-Release Community Supervision	16,184	4,159	25.7%	7,183	44.4%	8,816	54.5%
Parole	15,586	2,549	16.4%	4,952	31.8%	6,298	40.4%
Directly Discharged	22	2	N/A	6	N/A	9	N/A
Total	**31,792**	**6,710**	**21.1%**	**12,141**	**38.2%**	**15,123**	**47.6%**

3 Recidivism Rates Over Time and Influences on the Statewide Recidivism Rate

Figure 3 shows the three-year arrest, conviction and return-to-prison rates for the FY 2007-08 through 2016-17 release cohorts. In general, the three-year arrest and conviction rates have been stable with small fluctuations. The three-year return-to-prison rate, which saw a series of drastic decreases following the implementation of Realignment, has also seen stability with some fluctuations over the last five cohorts of releases (FY 2011-12 through 2016-17). Detailed tables with one-, two- and three-year arrest, conviction and return-to-prison rates are provided in Appendix E.

Figure 3. Three-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates for Offenders Released in FY 2007-08 through 2016-17



3.1 Changes in the Conviction Rate

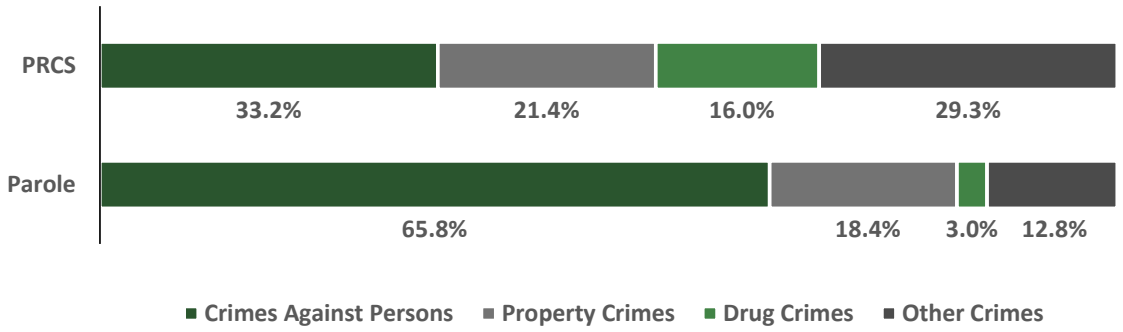
In recent years, the three-year conviction rate has been relatively stable. After reaching a high of 54.3 percent with the FY 2011-12 release cohort, the rate decreased to 46.1 percent with the FY 2012-13 and 2013-14 release cohorts. The rate experienced a small increase (46.5 percent) with the FY 2014-15 release cohort and some of the increase was attributed to the release of 4,111 Proposition 47 drug and property offenders, who are historically associated with higher rates of recidivism (Appendix F). The rate

decreased to 44.6 percent with the FY 2015-16 release cohort, which was comprised of fewer Proposition 47 releases when compared to one year prior.

The three-year conviction rate saw an increase of 3.0 percentage points between the FY 2015-16 release cohort (44.6 percent) and the current FY 2016-17 release cohort (47.6 percent). Although a number of factors contribute to rate fluctuations, some of the recent increase may be attributed to the 5.5 percentage point increase observed in the three-year conviction rate for PRCS releases: from 49.0 percent to 54.5 percent between the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts (Appendix A).

PRCS releases comprise over half of the release cohort and are typically associated with higher rates of recidivism. When a large group of offenders that is characterized by either high or low rates of recidivism comprise a substantial proportion of the total releases, it can have the overall effect of influencing the statewide conviction rate upward or downward. Figure 4 shows a higher proportion of offenders committed for drug and property crimes, which are associated with higher rates of recidivism, are released to PRCS when compared to parole (Section 5 and Appendix B). Conversely, parolees tend to be committed for more serious and violent crimes against persons, which are often associated with lower rates of recidivism. The increase in the three-year conviction rate among PRCS offenders (5.5 percentage points) is notable and likely influenced the overall statewide conviction rate of 47.6 percent upward when compared to one year prior.

Figure 4. Commitment Offense Category for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17 to Post-Release Community Supervision and Parole



3.2 Supplemental Measures of Recidivism: Arrests and Returns to CDCR

Supplemental measures of recidivism (arrests and returns to prison) also saw slight increases between the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts (Figure 3). The three-year arrest rate increased by less than one percentage point (from 68.4 percent to 68.8 percent) and the three-year return-to-prison rate increased by less than a percentage point (from 23.6 percent to 23.8 percent). The increases in the arrest and return-to-prison rates followed small declines observed with the FY 2015-16 release cohort. As shown in Figure 3, both supplemental measures have been relatively stable: the arrest rate has been

just under 70 percent for the last five cohorts of releases and the return-to-prison rate has stabilized to just under 25 percent since the series of drastic decreases that occurred after the implementation of Realignment (Appendix F).

4 Type and Timing of Post-Release Recidivism

4.1 Three-Year Outcomes for All Offenders Released from CDCR During Fiscal Year 2016-17

Figure 5. Three-Year Outcomes for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17

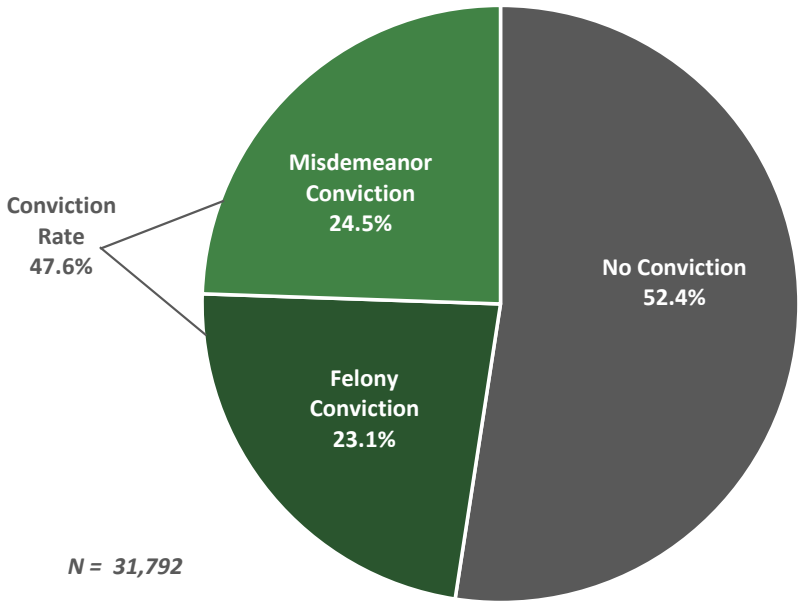


Table 3 shows the type of conviction (i.e., felony or misdemeanor) for the 31,792 offenders released in FY 2016-17.[8] Over half of the release cohort (52.4 percent or 16,669 offenders) had no convictions during the three-year follow-up period and 49.6 percent (15,123 offenders) had a felony or misdemeanor conviction. Of those convicted during the three-year follow-up period, 23.1 percent (7,347 offenders) were convicted of a post-release felony with felony crimes against persons leading all felony conviction type categories. Approximately a quarter of all releases (24.5 percent or 7,776 offenders) were convicted of misdemeanors after their release from CDCR with misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes leading all misdemeanor conviction type categories.

[8] Type of conviction data (i.e., misdemeanor or felony convictions) only include the most serious conviction in the first conviction episode. For instance, if an offender was convicted of a misdemeanor in one conviction episode and subsequently convicted of a felony in another conviction episode, only the misdemeanor conviction is included in this analysis.

Table 3. Three-Year Outcomes for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17

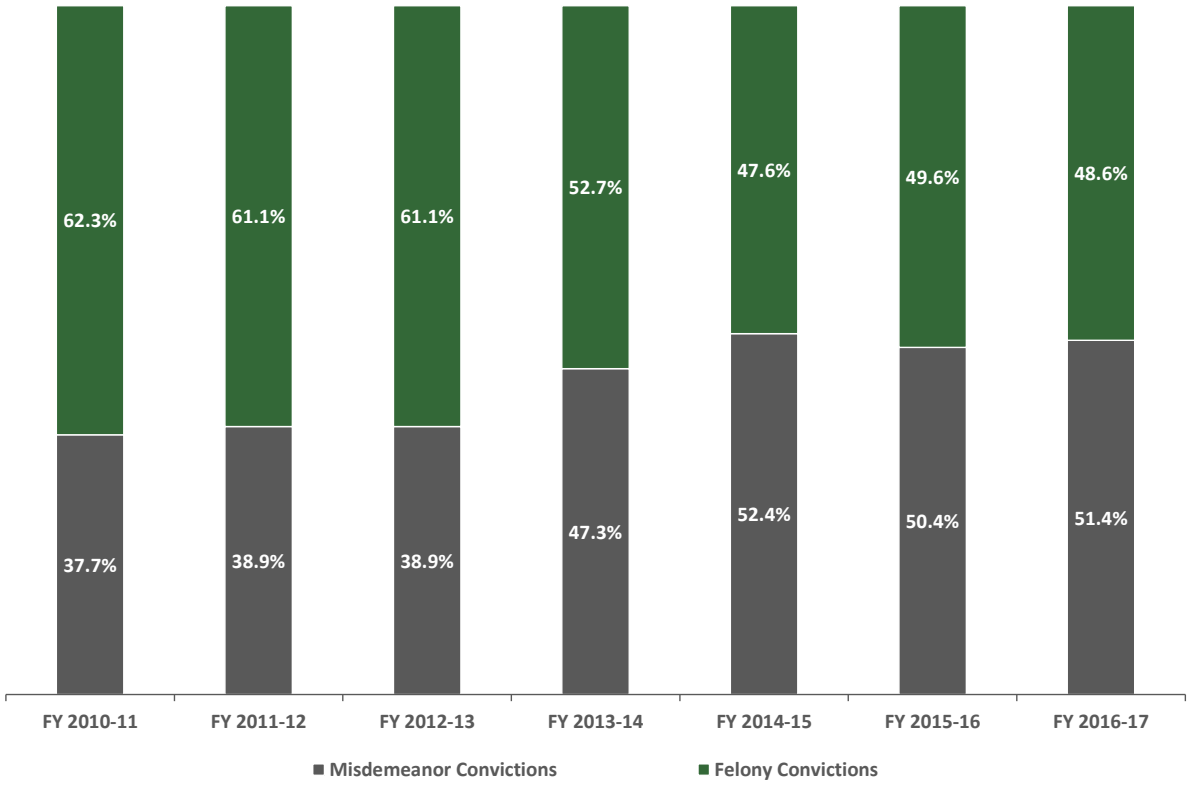
	FY 2016-17	
Type of Conviction	**Number**	**Percent**
No Convictions	**16,669**	**52.4%**
All Felonies	**7,347**	**23.1%**
Felony Crimes Against Persons	2,367	7.4%
Felony Other Crimes	2,193	6.9%
Felony Property Crimes	1,903	6.0%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	884	2.8%
All Misdemeanors	**7,776**	**24.5%**
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	3,202	10.1%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	1,838	5.8%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	1,563	4.9%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	1,173	3.7%
Total	**31,792**	**100.0%**

4.2 Type of Post-Release Conviction for Offenders Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period

This section includes an examination of the 15,123 offenders in the FY 2016-17 release cohort who were convicted during the three-year follow-up period and excludes the 16,669 offenders who completed the three-year follow-up period without a conviction.

More offenders were convicted of misdemeanor offenses (51.4 percent) than felony offenses (48.6 percent), as shown in Figure 6. An increase in misdemeanor convictions and concurrent decline in felony convictions were observed with the FY 2014-15 release cohort and was largely driven by Proposition 47 (Figure 6), which led to an increase in misdemeanors for drug/alcohol crimes and property crimes that were previously categorized as felonies (Appendix F).

Figure 6. Felony and Misdemeanor Convictions for the Fiscal Year 2010-11 through 2016-17 Release Cohorts



As shown in Table 4, misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes led each conviction type with over 20 percent of all convictions. The percentage of convictions for misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes increased one percentage point between the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohort (from 20.2 percent to 21.2 percent of all convictions). Felony crimes against persons followed misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes with 15.7 percent of all convictions, although it was stable between the two fiscal years. Most other conviction types (e.g., misdemeanor property crimes, felony drug/alcohol crimes) were stable between the two release cohorts or saw small decreases.

Table 4. Type of Conviction for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and 2016-17

	FY 2015-16		FY 2016-17	
Type of Conviction	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
All Felonies	**7,471**	**49.6%**	**7,347**	**48.6%**
Felony Crimes Against Persons	2,368	15.7%	2,367	15.7%
Felony Other Crimes	2,196	14.6%	2,193	14.5%
Felony Property Crimes	1,914	12.7%	1,903	12.6%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	993	6.6%	884	5.8%
All Misdemeanors	**7,588**	**50.4%**	**7,776**	**51.4%**
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	3,045	20.2%	3,202	21.2%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	1,842	12.2%	1,838	12.2%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	1,560	10.4%	1,563	10.3%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	1,141	7.6%	1,173	7.8%
Total	**15,059**	**100.0%**	**15,123**	**100.0%**

Type of Post-Release Conviction by Post-Release Supervision Type

The types of post-release conviction for offenders released to PRCS and parole are similar. A slightly higher percentage of offenders for both groups were convicted of misdemeanors (51.2 percent for PRCS offenders and 51.8 percent for parolees) than felonies (48.8 percent for PRCS offenders and 48.2 percent for parolees). The largest proportion of offenders for both groups (PRCS and parole) were convicted of misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes (21.6 percent and 20.6 percent, respectively), followed by felony crimes against persons (14.5 percent and 17.3 percent, respectively).

Although the conviction rate for offenders released to PRCS saw a substantial increase (5.5 percentage points) between FY 2015-16 and 2016-17, the percentage of post-release convictions attributed to each type of conviction was relatively stable. Misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes saw a slight increase (from 20.5 percent to 21.6 percent of all convictions) while all other categories saw very slight increases and decreases between the two fiscal years.

Table 5. Type of Post-Release Conviction for Offenders Released to Post-Release Community Supervision in Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17

Releases to PRCS	FY 2015-16		FY 2016-17	
Type of Conviction	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
All Felonies	**4,305**	**50.3%**	**4,306**	**48.8%**
Felony Crimes Against Persons	1,231	14.4%	1,278	14.5%
Felony Property Crimes	1,165	13.6%	1,180	13.4%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	651	7.6%	595	6.7%
Felony Other Crimes	1,258	14.7%	1,253	14.2%
All Misdemeanors	**4,254**	**49.7%**	**4,510**	**51.2%**
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	993	11.6%	1,060	12.0%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	875	10.2%	923	10.5%
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	1,756	20.5%	1,902	21.6%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	630	7.4%	625	7.1%
Total	**8,559**	**100.0%**	**8,816**	**100.0%**

Table 6. Type of Post-Release Conviction for Offenders Released to Parole in Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17

Releases to Parole	FY 2015-16		FY 2016-17	
Type of Conviction	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
All Felonies	**3,154**	**48.7%**	**3,037**	**48.2%**
Felony Crimes Against Persons	1,131	17.5%	1,087	17.3%
Felony Property Crimes	746	11.5%	722	11.5%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	340	5.3%	288	4.6%
Felony Other Crimes	937	14.5%	940	14.9%
All Misdemeanors	**3,319**	**51.3%**	**3,261**	**51.8%**
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	843	13.0%	777	12.3%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	683	10.6%	639	10.1%
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	1,282	19.8%	1,297	20.6%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	511	7.9%	548	8.7%
Total	**6,473**	**100.0%**	**6,298**	**100.0%**

4.3 Time to Conviction for Offenders Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period

Figure 7. Time Until Conviction for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17 and Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period

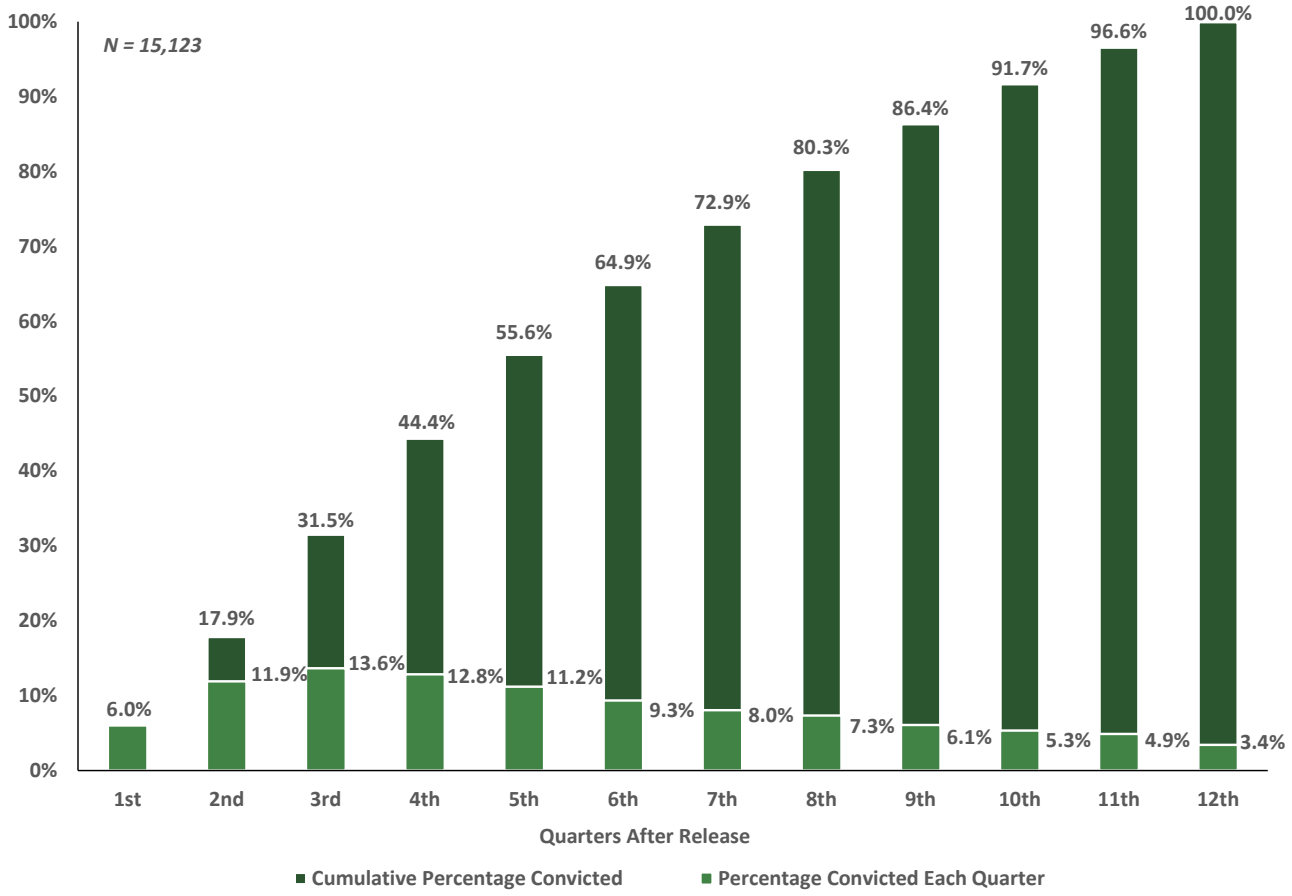


Figure 7 and Table 7 show the percentage and number of offenders who were convicted during each quarter (three-month period) of the three-year follow-up period, as well as the cumulative percentage and number of offenders convicted. Only the 15,123 offenders convicted during the three-year follow-up period are represented in this section to understand how long offenders were in the community before recidivating. The twelfth quarter represents the final, cumulative results (i.e., 100 percent) of the 15,123 offenders that were convicted.

Of the 15,123 offenders convicted during the three-year follow-up period, 44.4 percent were convicted in the first year following their release from CDCR. By year two, 80.3 percent were convicted, and by year three, 100 percent or all 15,123 offenders had been convicted. The largest number of offenders (13.6 percent) were convicted during the third quarter following their release. The fewest number of offenders (3.4 percent) were convicted during the twelfth and final quarter of the follow-up period after their release.

Table 7. Time Until Conviction for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17 and Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period

Quarters After Release	Percentage Convicted	Cumulative Percentage	Number Convicted	Cumulative Number
1	6.0%	6.0%	907	907
2	11.9%	17.9%	1,798	2,705
3	13.6%	31.5%	2,063	4,768
4	12.8%	44.4%	1,942	6,710
5	11.2%	55.6%	1,692	8,402
6	9.3%	64.9%	1,414	9,816
7	8.0%	72.9%	1,216	11,032
8	7.3%	80.3%	1,109	12,141
9	6.1%	86.4%	919	13,060
10	5.3%	91.7%	807	13,867
11	4.9%	96.6%	739	14,606
12	3.4%	100.0%	517	15,123

4.4 Type of Post-Release Arrest and Return-to-Prison

Table 8 shows the type of arrest for the 31,792 offenders released in FY 2016-17. Nearly 10,000 offenders in the release cohort had no arrests during the three-year follow-up period (31.2 percent). Less than one-quarter of the release cohort were arrested for supervision violations (23.2 percent), followed by felonies (22.2 percent), and misdemeanors (19.5 percent). Over ten percent of the release cohort was arrested for misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes (10.6 percent), followed by felony crimes against persons (7.9 percent).

Table 8. Type of Arrest for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17

	FY 2016-17	
Type of Arrest	**Number**	**Percent**
No Arrest	**9,921**	**31.2%**
All Felonies	**7,056**	**22.2%**
Felony Crimes Against Persons	2,524	7.9%
Felony Property Crimes	1,860	5.9%
Felony Other Crimes	1,683	5.3%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	989	3.1%
All Misdemeanors	**6,187**	**19.5%**
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	3,360	10.6%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	1,374	4.3%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	1,135	3.6%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	318	1.0%
Supervision Violations	**7,376**	**23.2%**
Unknown	**1,252**	**3.9%**
Total	**31,792**	**100.0%**

The vast majority of offenders released from CDCR do not return to prison during the three-year follow-up period. Less than one quarter of all releases (23.8 percent or 7,607 offenders) were returned to prison (Table 9). Crimes against persons led all type of return categories (9.0 percent), followed by property crimes (6.2 percent), other crimes (6.1 percent), and drug crimes 2.4 percent. Following the passage of Realignment, very few offenders are eligible to return to prison for parole violations and only 18 offenders released in FY 2016-17 were returned for parole violations.

Table 9. Type of Return to CDCR for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17

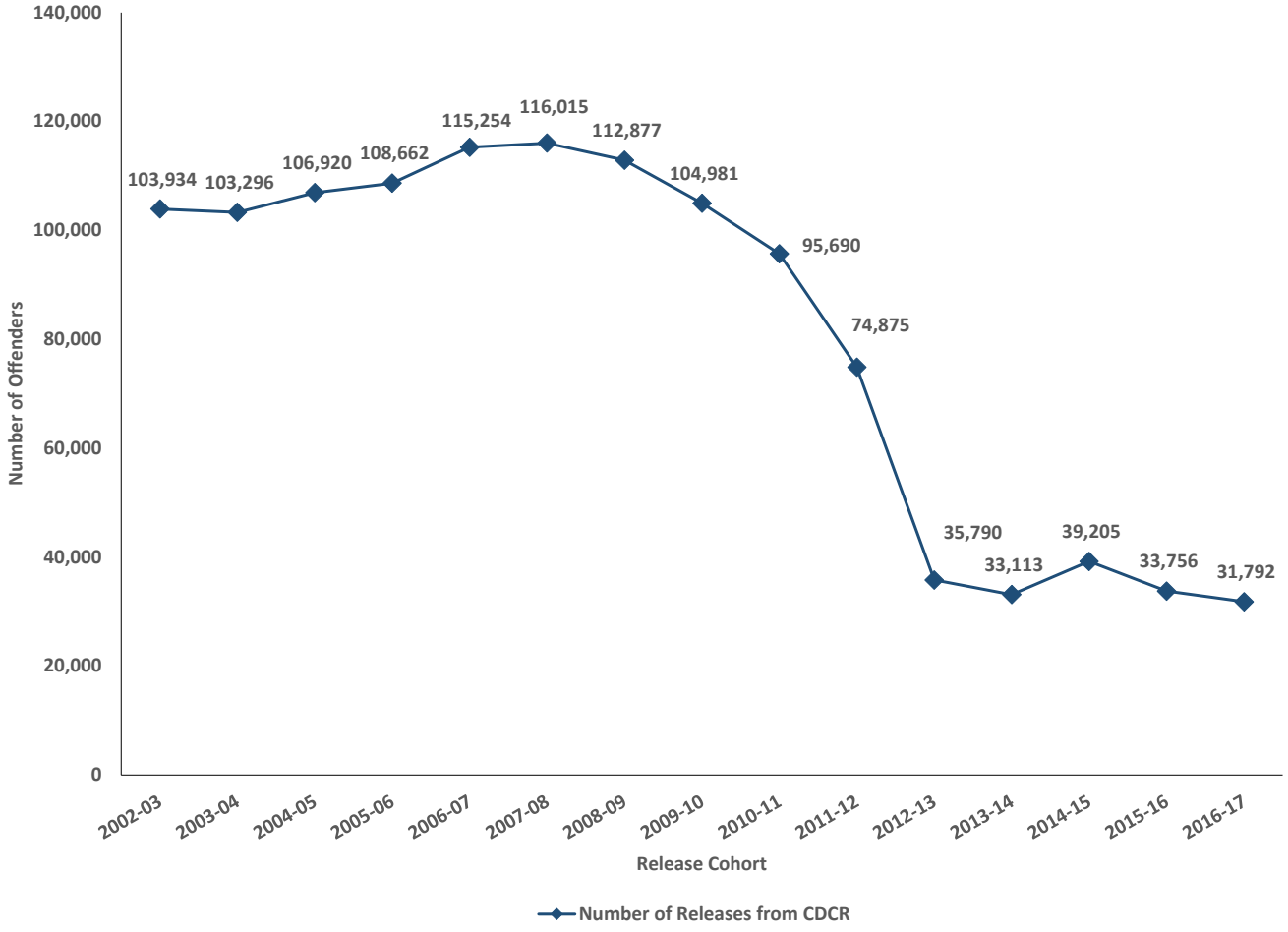
	FY 2016-17	
Type of Return	**Number**	**Percent**
Parole Violations	18	0.1%
Crimes Against Persons	2,882	9.0%
Property Crimes	1,995	6.2%
Drug Crimes	766	2.4%
Other Crimes	1,946	6.1%
No Return to Prison	24,368	76.2%
Total	**31,975**	**100.0%**

5 Profile of the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohort

5.1 Number of Offenders Released in Fiscal Years 2002-03 through 2016-17

In FY 2016-17, 31,792 offenders were released from CDCR adult institutions, and 15,123 of these offenders were reconvicted within three years of their release (47.6 percent). This section presents information regarding the composition and conviction rates of CDCR's FY 2016-17 release cohort in terms of their demographics (e.g., gender, age) and characteristics (e.g., county of release, length of stay), as well as some comparisons to the previous cohort. Appendix A provides a table of the cohort composition and Appendix B provides the one-, two-, and three-year conviction rates by demographics and characteristics. Appendix D provides the three-year conviction rates for the FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 release cohorts by offender demographics and characteristics for comparative purposes.[9]

Figure 8. Number of Offenders in the Fiscal Year 2002-03 through Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohorts



[9] When comparing rates, more variation (greater increases and decreases) is typically observed within small groups of offenders; however, large rate changes within small groups of offenders will have less influence on the statewide rate, whereas small rate changes within large groups of offenders will have greater influence on the rate.

Figure 8 presents the number of offenders released from CDCR during each fiscal year since reporting began with the 2002-03 release cohort.[10] The number of offenders released peaked at 116,015 releases with the FY 2007-08 cohort. The implementation of Realignment in October 2011 primarily contributed to the series of decreases seen between FY 2008-09 and 2013-14, reaching a low of 33,113 offenders released in FY 2013-14. Releases then increased to 39,205 offenders in FY 2014-15, which was largely attributed to the resentencing and release of 4,111 offenders under Proposition 47 (Appendix F). The following year, just 364 of the 33,756 offenders released in FY 2015-16 were resentenced and released due to Proposition 47. During FY 2016-17, releases decreased again to 31,792 offenders as the effect of Proposition 47 waned, with only 60 offenders impacted. The total number of releases is contingent on the population of CDCR's adult institutions and correctional policies at the time, such as Realignment and Proposition 47. CDCR expects the number of releases to fluctuate in future release cohorts, as policies that influence the offender population are modified and implemented.[11]

5.2 Offender Demographics and Characteristics

Gender

As shown in Appendix A, male offenders comprise a much larger proportion of the FY 2016-17 release cohort (93.0 percent) than female offenders (7.0 percent). These percentages have largely stayed constant since Realignment, even as the size of each cohort has changed. The three-year conviction rate for male offenders released in FY 2016-17 was 48.2 percent, while female offenders' conviction rate was 39.0 percent (Appendix B). Historically the conviction rate for female offenders each year is about 10 percentage points lower than the rate for male offenders – with some variation – and this trend continues with the current cohort. Note that the conviction rate for both males and females increased with the FY 2016-17 release cohort. Compared to FY 2015-16, the rate for male offenders increased by 2.9 percentage points, and the rate for female offenders increased by 3.9 percentage points (Appendix D).

Age at Release

Offenders ages 25 to 29 represented the largest number of releases (19.5 percent) in the release cohort. Offenders ages 18 and 19 represented less than one percent of the total release cohort (0.8 percent). In general, younger offenders comprise larger percentages of the release cohort, with 85.3 percent under the age of 50 at the time of their release.

[10] The total number of offenders released in the FY 2011-12 through FY 2016-17 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 with the FY 2011-12 release cohort, the release cohort presented in Figure 8 included all offenders released from prison, regardless of a DOJ automated rap sheet.

[11] More information regarding CDCR's population may be found at: https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/population-reports-2/

Age has a well-documented relationship with recidivism, which is supported by the rate trends in this cohort.[12] Although offenders ages 18 and 19 comprise less than one percent of the release cohort, their three-year conviction rate is the highest among all age groups (73.3 percent). The rate steadily decreases as age increases, with offenders ages 60 and over having the lowest conviction rate of all age groups (18.3 percent). This general trend has persisted with time, making younger offenders some of the most likely to recidivate.

The three-year conviction rate increased for all age groups when compared to the FY 2015-16 release cohort. Offenders ages 40 to 44 saw the largest increase between the two fiscal years, with an increase of 5.0 percentage points. Offenders 18 to 19, 20 to 24, and 55 to 59 saw similar increases in the conviction rate, ranging from 4.2 to 4.9 percentage points.

Race/Ethnicity

In the FY 2016-17 release cohort, the largest portion of offenders are listed as Hispanic/Latino (44.2 percent), followed by White and then Black/African American offenders – each representing about a quarter of the release cohort. Altogether, these three groups consistently comprise over 90 percent of each release cohort. The smaller race/ethnicity categories of the population include Asian/Pacific Islander offenders and American Indian/Alaskan Native offenders, who each represent less than two percent of releases in the current cohort. Offenders not in the aforementioned race/ethnicity groups are categorically included as "Other" and typically comprise less than four percent of each cohort.

Historically, offenders in the American Indian/Alaskan Native category have had relatively higher conviction rates, while those in the Other category have markedly lower rates. This continues to be the case in the FY 2016-17 release cohort, where American Indian/Alaskan Native offenders had the highest three-year conviction rate (57.1 percent). The larger categories of White, Hispanic/Latino, and Black/African American offenders all had similar conviction rates between 47.1 percent and 48.7 percent (Appendix B). Asian/Pacific Islander offenders had a slightly lower rate (43.9 percent) and the rate for offenders in the Other category was 35.5 percent.

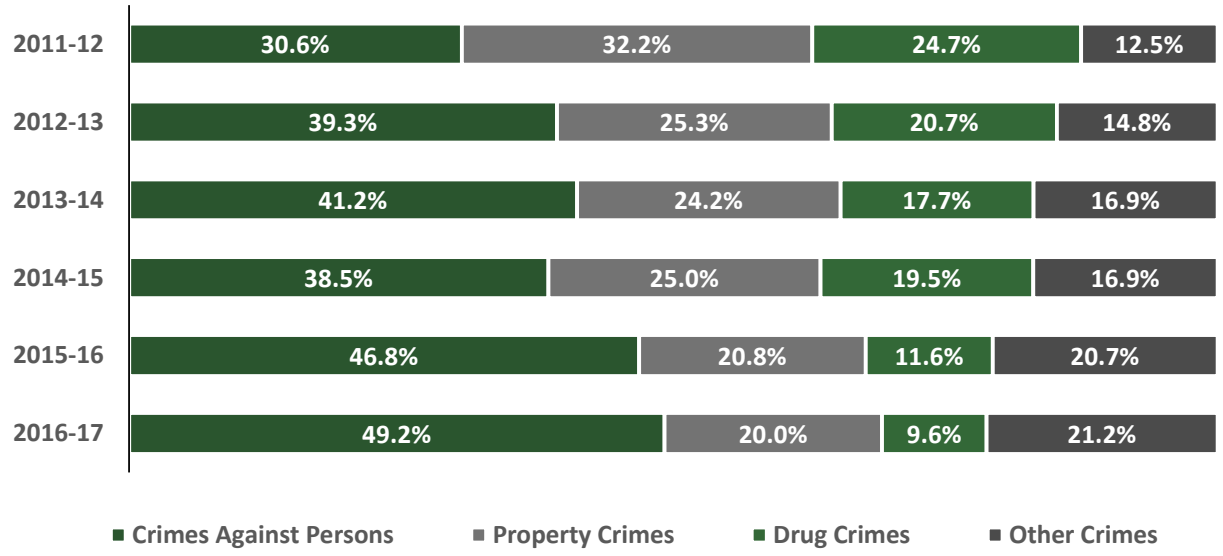
The three-year conviction rate for each race/ethnicity category increased between the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts. The rate among American Indian/Alaskan Native offenders had the greatest increase (7.0 percentage points), while the rate for Hispanic/Latino offenders had the smallest increase (1.2 percentage points). This variation is somewhat expected due to the relative size of each group, as rates associated with smaller groups of offenders are more susceptible to variation than larger groups.

[12] For more information regarding the relationship between age and recidivism, please see Section 7.5 of the "Recidivism Report for Offenders Released from CDCR in Fiscal Year 2015-16", available at: https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/

Commitment Offense Category

Each category (crimes against persons, property crimes, drug crimes, and other crimes) represents the type of offense an offender was committed to prison for prior to their release in FY 2016-17. Nearly half of the FY 2016-17 release cohort (49.2 percent) were committed to prison for crimes against persons, followed by other crimes and property crimes, each representing less than one-quarter of releases. Almost ten percent of the release cohort were committed to prison for drug crimes. As seen in the figure below, the percent of releases for crimes against persons has steadily increased over the past several years and those for drug crimes have steadily decreased (with the exception of FY 2014-15 due to Proposition 47). This illustrates one of the effects of Realignment, which has grown to emphasize incarceration for more serious or violent crimes, while reducing prison overpopulation (Appendix F).

Figure 9. Percentage of Releases by Commitment Offense Category for the Fiscal Year 2011-12 through 2016-17 Release Cohorts



For several years, offenders committed to prison for property crimes have had the highest three-year conviction rate of the commitment offense categories, including the current cohort at 59.2 percent (Appendix B). This was followed by offenders committed for other crimes and drug crimes at 51.4 percent and 47.4 percent, respectively.[13] Offenders committed for crimes against persons had the lowest three-year conviction rate among the commitment offense categories at 41.2 percent. This is regularly the case, as crimes against persons tend to be more serious and have longer sentences, often leading to an older age-at-release and an overall lower likelihood to recidivate.[14]

[13] Other crimes include arson, DUI, escape, possession of a weapon, and other offenses (e.g., false imprisonment, stalking, street gang act).
[14] For more information regarding the relationship between age and recidivism, please see Section 7.5 of the "Recidivism Report for Offenders Released from CDCR in Fiscal Year 2015-16", available at: https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/

When comparing conviction rates by commitment offense category for offenders released in FY 2015-16 and 2016-17, the rate increased for each category (Appendix D). The three-year conviction rate for property crimes increased by 5.9 percentage points, while rates for offenders committed for other crimes and drug crimes increased by 4.1 and 4.0 percentage points, respectively. The conviction rate for crimes against persons had less variation, and increased by 1.4 percentage points. The rates within property and other crime groups specifically had more variation compared to recent years; they also partially account for an increase in the overall rate.

Sentence Type

Most offenders sentenced to prison in California receive a determinate term (their sentence is set to a specific length), and are released after completing their sentence. Generally, offenders sentenced to an indeterminate term (lifers) are released once the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) has found them suitable for release or the court orders their release. Offenders released under Proposition 47 were originally sentenced to serve a CDCR felony sentence in one of the three sentence type categories (determinate, second striker, or indeterminate) prior to its passage. Note that "Proposition 47" is not an actual sentence type, but is included in this section due to the resulting resentence.

Most offenders in the release cohort served a determinate sentence prior to their release in FY 2016-17 (73.4 percent). Nearly a quarter of the release cohort were second strikers sentenced to a determinate term, and 2.2 percent were sentenced to an indeterminate term (lifers). Less than one percent of the release cohort were released under Proposition 47, a large decrease since the first Proposition 47 releases in FY 2014-15, where they comprised about 10 percent of releases. The effect of Proposition 47 on the number of releases has diminished, though it continues to affect new sentences for certain offenses (Appendix F).

Conviction rates are usually similar between offenders who serve a determinate term and second strikers who are also sentenced to a determinate term. In the FY 2016-17 cohort, second strikers had the highest three-year conviction rate among each sentence type (49.5 percent), followed by offenders who served a determinate term (48.3 percent). Lifers have consistently been the lowest recidivating group when it comes to sentence type categories, usually having a conviction rate of under five percent, including in the current cohort (1.9 percent). Offenders released under Proposition 47 had a rate of 48.3 percent.

Between the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts, the three-year conviction rate for offenders who served a determinate term and second strikers increased by 2.9 and 3.8 percentage points, respectively. The conviction rate for lifers decreased by 1.3 percentage points, and by 4.4 percentage points for releases due to Proposition 47. Until the FY 2016-17 release cohort, Proposition 47-related releases have had a relatively high three-year conviction rate compared to other sentence types. The decrease in releases due to Proposition 47 will likely continue in subsequent cohorts, possibly leading to more variation in this group's conviction rate.

Serious/Violent Offense

A majority of the FY 2016-17 release cohort served a term for a non-serious, non-violent offense (54.4 percent). Offenders who served a term for a serious offense or for a violent offense each comprised under a quarter of the release cohort (22.8 percent).[15] Note that all violent offenses are categorized as serious, but not all serious offenses are categorized as violent (offenses under the serious category are non-violent). Over time, offenders committed for violent offenses have steadily comprised a larger portion of each release cohort, while non-serious, non-violent offenses have comprised a smaller portion, though still over 50 percent of releases.

Offenders with a non-serious, non-violent offense had the highest three-year conviction rate among the three categories at 54.2 percent. Offenders with a serious offense had a rate of 49.6 percent and offenders with a violent offense had a rate of 29.6 percent. Historically this trend has persisted, with non-serious, non-violent offenders having the highest recidivism rates in this grouping, while violent offenders have the lowest rates around 30 percent.

The three-year conviction rate for offenders in all three categories increased between the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts. The conviction rate for offenders with a serious offense increased by 1.9 percentage points and the rate for those with a violent offense increased 0.2 percentage points. The three-year conviction rate for offenders with a non-serious, non-violent offense increased by 5.1 percentage points.

County of Release

Nearly 80 percent of the release cohort (79.4 percent) were released to 12 of the 58 California counties. Los Angeles county alone accounts for the most offender releases each year, comprising 28.9 percent of the FY 2016-17 cohort. Less than one percent of the cohort was directly discharged from prison.

Conviction rates by county of release should be interpreted with caution for a number of reasons. Offenders may leave the county to which they are released, or offenders may be released and convicted in a different county. When an offender is convicted in another county, the conviction is still associated with their original county of release (e.g., if an offender is released in Sacramento County and is subsequently convicted in Riverside County, for the purposes of this report, the new conviction is still associated with Sacramento County).

Regarding the 12 counties with the largest number of releases, Kern County had the highest three-year conviction rate (57.2 percent) while Alameda County had the lowest three-year conviction rate (33.3 percent). The three-year conviction rate for the remaining 46 California counties was 46.9 percent, slightly lower than the overall conviction rate (Appendix C).

[15] The definition of a serious felony offense can be found here: https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/parole/serious-offenses-defined/ and the definition of a violent felony offense can be found here: https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/parole/violent-offenses-defined/

When comparing the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts, the three-year conviction rate increased for eight of these counties and decreased for four counties. Among the counties with decreases, Kern County saw the largest decrease (3.0 percentage points). The largest increase in the three-year conviction rate was observed in San Diego County (17.1 percentage points), which had a markedly low rate the previous year. Although it is a relatively large increase, San Diego County had a minimal effect on the overall rate as discussed earlier in the Executive Summary of this report.

Risk Score

The CSRA is a tool used to calculate an offender's risk of conviction for a new offense after release from prison.[16] 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 (43.4 percent) had a score of high-risk, followed by moderate-risk and low-risk, each comprising just over a quarter of releases.

As expected, the three-year conviction rates are consistent with CSRA scoring (high, moderate, and low): offenders with a score of high-risk had a three-year conviction rate of 63.3 percent, followed by moderate-risk offenders (47.3 percent), and low-risk (22.7 percent). These rates are relatively normal for each group, and the difference between each group is consistent when compared to historical data.

When comparing the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts, the three-year conviction rates by risk of conviction increased for all categories. Increases ranged between 1.1 and 3.9 percentage points, with moderate-risk offenders having the greatest increase. This is the most variation seen within these categories in several years, possibly indicating a return to rates that are typically observed in the next release cohort.

Mental Health Designation

Three-quarters of the release cohort (75.5 percent) did not have a mental health designation through CDCR's Mental Health Delivery System (MHDS) at the time of their release. Approximately 20.0 percent of offenders were assigned to the Correctional Clinical Case Management System (CCCMS), followed by 4.2 percent assigned to the Enhanced Outpatient Program (EOP). At the time of their release, less than one percent were assigned to a Mental Health Crisis Bed (MHCB) or Inpatient Care, which are more intensive and usually temporary treatment levels.

In general, time has shown offenders with a mental health designation tend to have higher conviction rates compared to offenders without a mental health designation. Offenders assigned to MHCB had the highest three-year conviction rate at 60.0 percent, followed by offenders assigned to EOP (54.8 percent). The rate for offenders assigned to Inpatient Care and CCCMS were slightly lower at 52.5 percent and 51.0 percent, respectively. Offenders released without an assignment to CDCR's mental

[16] More information regarding the CSRA and its development may be found at: https://cpb-us-e2.wpmucdn.com/sites.uci.edu/dist/0/1149/files/2013/12/Development-of-the-CSRA-Recidivism-Risk-Prediction-in-the-CDCR.pdf

health delivery system at the time of their release had the lowest three-year conviction rate of 46.2 percent.

Between the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts, the three-year conviction rate for each mental health category increased except for those in Inpatient Care. Conviction rate increases ranged between 0.9 and 2.5 percentage points, where the rate for offenders in Inpatient Care decreased by 10.8 percentage points. Although Inpatient Care releases have increased over time, the rate for this group varies easily due to its small size (usually less than 100 offenders). The rate for offenders with no mental health designation at the time of their release increased by 3.0 percentage points compared to the previous cohort. As the majority, the rate for offenders with no mental health designation trends just below the overall rate.

Length of Stay

Offenders with shorter lengths of stay tend to comprise a larger portion of the cohort. Approximately 65.4 percent of the FY 2016-17 release cohort had a length of stay of less than two years at a CDCR prison. More specifically, offenders with a stay of 7 to 12 months comprised the largest portion of releases (25.6 percent) and offenders with a stay of 10 to 15 years comprised a smaller percentage of releases (2.9 percent).

Offenders with shorter lengths of stay have consistently had higher recidivism rates when compared to those with longer stays. In the FY 2016-17 release cohort, offenders with a stay of six months or less had the highest three-year conviction rate at 55.6 percent. Offenders with a length of stay of 15 years or more had the lowest three-year conviction rate (10.5 percent) among all length of stay categories. In other words, data shows that in general, offenders released after a longer stay in prison were less likely to recidivate. Historically, conviction rates decrease considerably for offenders with a length of stay of four years or more (rates below 40 percent), and again for those who stay for 10 years or more (rates below 25 percent), and finally are lowest for offenders with a stay of 15 years or more.

When comparing the three-year conviction rate by length of stay for offenders released in FY 2015-16 and 2016-17, the rate increased for eight categories and decreased for two. Offenders with a length of stay of 13 to 18 months saw the largest increase between the two release cohorts, but increases overall varied from 0.6 to 5.5 percentage points in each category. Offenders with a length of stay of 5 to 10 years had a larger decrease of 2.6 percentage points.

Number of CDCR Stays

A stay is defined as any period of time an offender is housed in an adult institution.[17] The number of stays is cumulative over any number of convictions or terms in an offender's criminal history. Almost half of the FY 2016-17 release cohort (47.7 percent) were released after their first CDCR stay. As the number of CDCR stays increases, the number of offenders in each category decreases, with the exception of 15 or more stays (3.1 percent).

In general, the three-year conviction rate is lowest for those with one stay and gradually increases as the number of stays increases. There are some exceptions in a few categories where small decreases are observed. Offenders with one CDCR stay had the lowest three-year conviction rate at 40.0 percent. In the FY 2016-17 cohort, the three-year conviction rate is highest for offenders with 13 stays at CDCR (65.5 percent).

Commitment Offense

Each commitment offense represents the offense an offender was committed to prison for prior to their release in FY 2016-17. Also known as the controlling offense, it is the most serious offense in an offender's current sentence. As shown in Appendix B, the three-year conviction rates by commitment offense varied greatly, ranging from 71.1 percent to 1.4 percent. Conviction rates are only calculated for the 35 offenses in which 30 or more releases are associated. Data associated with commitment offenses should be interpreted with caution, as many of the categories are associated with very few releases (e.g., only one offender was originally committed for hashish possession).

In the FY 2016-17 cohort, offenders committed for vehicle theft, escape, and other property offenses had the highest three-year conviction rates (71.1 percent, 70.2 percent, and 63.2 percent, respectively). Meanwhile, offenders with a commitment offense of second-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder, and first-degree murder had the lowest three-year conviction rates (2.6 percent, 1.4 percent, and 1.4 percent, respectively). Of the 10 offenses with the highest conviction rates, six were property offenses, two were drug offenses and two were other offenses. All 10 offenses with the lowest rates calculated were crimes against persons.

Sex Registration Requirement

Most offenders in the FY 2016-17 release cohort (90.1 percent) did not have a sex registration requirement (non-sex registrants). The other 9.9 percent (3,133 offenders) were required to register as sex offenders pursuant to California Penal Code 290 (sex registrants).

[17] The total number of stays could include past stays for parole violations. Please note that since the passage of Realignment in 2011, only offenders previously sentenced to a life term (lifers) and some sex offenders serve parole violations in state prison. Penal Code section 3000.08 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 3000.0(b)(4). For more information regarding decreases to returns to prison for parole violations, please see Section 4.3 Type of Return to Prison.

According to historical data, the conviction rate for sex registrants is regularly at least 15 percentage points lower than the rate for non-sex registrants. In other words, sex offenders consistently recidivate at lower rates than non-sex offenders.[18] In the FY 2016-17 cohort, the three-year conviction rate for sex registrants was 31.3 percent (981 offenders), while the rate for non-sex registrants was 49.3 percent. When compared to the FY 2015-16 release cohort, the rate for sex registrants increased by 0.8 percentage points, while the rate for non-sex registrants increased by 3.1 percentage points.

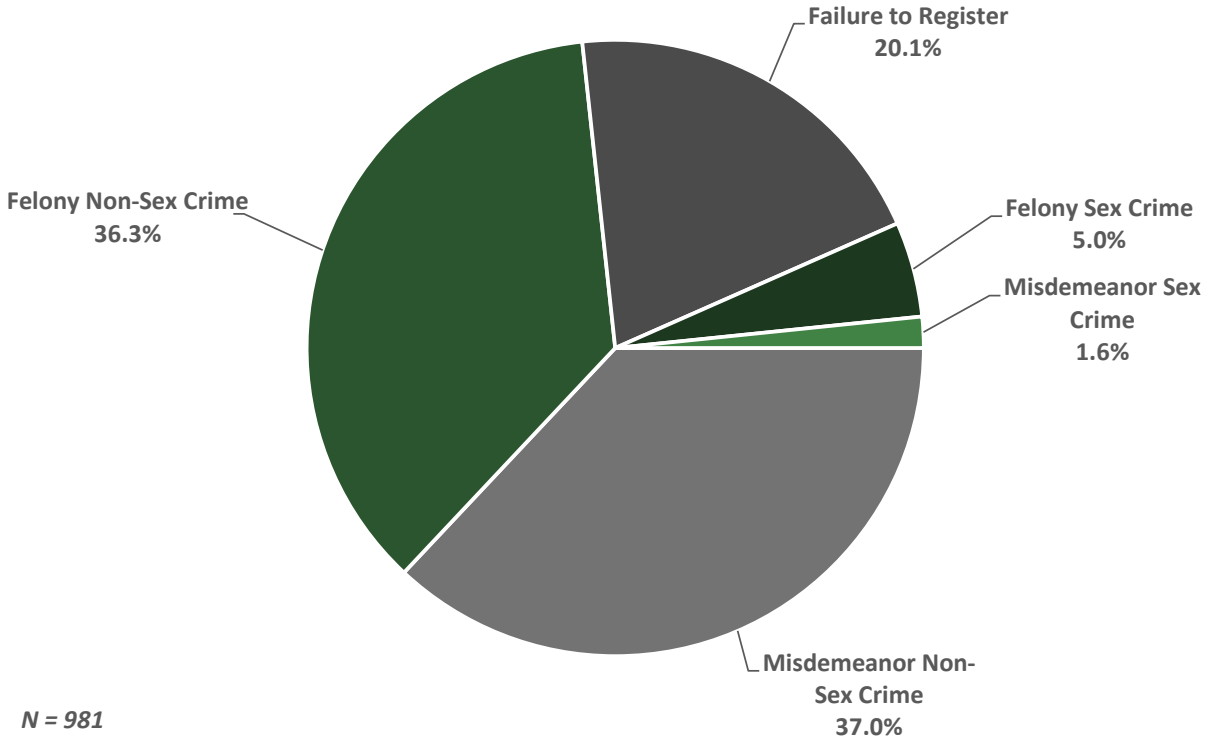
Of the sex registrants convicted, the largest portions were convicted of new non-sex crimes (misdemeanor or felony). About 20 percent were convicted for failure to register as a sex offender, and relatively few were convicted of new sex crimes: 5.0 percent were convicted of felony sex crimes and 1.6 percent were convicted of misdemeanor sex crimes.

Table 10. Type of Conviction for the 981 Sex Registrants Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period

	Convicted	
Reason for Conviction	**Number**	**Percent**
Misdemeanor Non-Sex Crime	363	37.0%
Felony Non-Sex Crime	356	36.3%
Failure to Register	197	20.1%
Felony Sex Crime	49	5.0%
Misdemeanor Sex Crime	16	1.6%
Total	**981**	**100.0%**

[18] For more information regarding recidivism trends associated with sex offenders and those receiving treatment through the Sex Offender Management Program, please see the reports available at: https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/sex-offender-treatment-program/

Figure 10. Type of Conviction for the 981 Sex Registrants Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period



Appendix A: Demographics and Characteristics of the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohorts

Table 11. Demographics and Characteristics of the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohort

Demographics and Characteristics	Number	Percent
Total	31,792	100.0%
Gender		
Male	29,551	93.0%
Female	2,241	7.0%
Age at Release		
18 to 19	247	0.8%
20 to 24	4,441	14.0%
25 to 29	6,191	19.5%
30 to 34	5,502	17.3%
35 to 39	4,863	15.3%
40 to 44	3,185	10.0%
45 to 49	2,679	8.4%
50 to 54	2,153	6.8%
55 to 59	1,477	4.6%
60 and over	1,054	3.3%
Race/Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latino	14,055	44.2%
White	8,206	25.8%
Black/African American	7,696	24.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	460	1.4%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	361	1.1%
Other	1,014	3.2%
Commitment Offense Category		
Crimes Against Persons	15,642	49.2%
Other Crimes	6,744	21.2%
Property Crimes	6,345	20.0%
Drug Crimes	3,061	9.6%

Table 11. Demographics and Characteristics of the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohort (continued)

Demographics and Characteristics	Number	Percent
Sentence Type		
Determinate Term	23,342	73.4%
Second Strikers	7,689	24.2%
Lifers (Indeterminate Term)	701	2.2%
Proposition 47 Releases	60	0.2%
Type of Post-Release Supervision		
Parole	15,586	49.0%
Post-Release Community Supervision	16,184	50.9%
Directly Discharged	22	0.1%
Serious/Violent Offense		
Non-Serious/Non-Violent	17,292	54.4%
Serious	7,253	22.8%
Violent	7,247	22.8%
County of Release		
Los Angeles County	9,184	28.9%
San Bernardino County	2,887	9.1%
Riverside County	2,306	7.3%
San Diego County	2,169	6.8%
Sacramento County	1,573	4.9%
Orange County	1,561	4.9%
Fresno County	1,459	4.6%
Kern County	1,201	3.8%
San Joaquin County	835	2.6%
Santa Clara County	765	2.4%
Alameda County	747	2.3%
Stanislaus County	577	1.8%
All Other Counties	6,506	20.5%
Directly Discharged	22	0.1%
Sex Registration Requirement		
No	28,659	90.1%
Yes	3,133	9.9%
CSRA Risk Score		
High	13,795	43.4%
Moderate	9,204	29.0%
Low	8,793	27.7%

Table 11. Demographics and Characteristics of the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohort (continued)

Demographics and Characteristics	Number	Percent
Mental Health Designation		
Correctional Clinical Case Management System	6,347	20.0%
Enhanced Outpatient Program	1,334	4.2%
Mental Health Crisis Bed	40	0.1%
Inpatient	80	0.3%
No Mental Health Designation	23,991	75.5%
Length of Stay		
0 to 6 Months	4,879	15.3%
7 to 12 Months	8,150	25.6%
13 to 18 Months	4,814	15.1%
19 to 24 Months	2,981	9.4%
2 to 3 Years	3,353	10.5%
3 to 4 Years	1,864	5.9%
4 to 5 Years	1,213	3.8%
5 to 10 Years	2,550	8.0%
10 to 15 Years	907	2.9%
15 Years or more	1,081	3.4%
Number of CDCR Stays		
1	15,162	47.7%
2	4,646	14.6%
3	2,295	7.2%
4	1,680	5.3%
5	1,430	4.5%
6	1,220	3.8%
7	956	3.0%
8	851	2.7%
9	693	2.2%
10	552	1.7%
11	442	1.4%
12	345	1.1%
13	281	0.9%
14	245	0.8%
15 or more	994	3.1%

Appendix B: Recidivism Rates by Demographics and Characteristics for the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohort

Table 12. One-, Two- and Three-Year Conviction Rates for Offenders Released in the Fiscal Year 2016-17 by Demographics and Characteristics

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	**Number Released**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**
Total	31,792	6,710	21.1%	12,141	38.2%	15,123	47.6%
Gender							
Male	29,551	6,356	21.5%	11,472	38.8%	14,248	48.2%
Female	2,241	354	15.8%	669	29.9%	875	39.0%
Age at Release							
18 to 19	247	111	44.9%	157	63.6%	181	73.3%
20 to 24	4,441	1,352	30.4%	2,289	51.5%	2,753	62.0%
25 to 29	6,191	1,523	24.6%	2,741	44.3%	3,329	53.8%
30 to 34	5,502	1,309	23.8%	2,304	41.9%	2,864	52.1%
35 to 39	4,863	967	19.9%	1,820	37.4%	2,281	46.9%
40 to 44	3,185	553	17.4%	1,044	32.8%	1,330	41.8%
45 to 49	2,679	383	14.3%	740	27.6%	990	37.0%
50 to 54	2,153	288	13.4%	571	26.5%	754	35.0%
55 to 59	1,477	170	11.5%	333	22.5%	448	30.3%
60 and over	1,054	54	5.1%	142	13.5%	193	18.3%

Table 12. One-, Two- and Three-Year Conviction Rates for Offenders Released in the Fiscal Year 2016-17 by Demographics and Characteristics (continued)

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	**Number Released**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**
Race/Ethnicity							
American Indian/Alaskan Native	361	89	24.7%	161	44.6%	206	57.1%
White	8,206	1,822	22.2%	3,226	39.3%	3,996	48.7%
Hispanic/Latino	14,055	3,158	22.5%	5,490	39.1%	6,735	47.9%
Black/African American	7,696	1,394	18.1%	2,823	36.7%	3,624	47.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	460	89	19.3%	158	34.3%	202	43.9%
Other	1,014	158	15.6%	283	27.9%	360	35.5%
Commitment Offense Category							
Property Crimes	6,345	1,859	29.3%	3,131	49.3%	3,758	59.2%
Other Crimes	6,744	1,550	23.0%	2,755	40.9%	3,467	51.4%
Drug Crimes	3,061	594	19.4%	1,122	36.7%	1,452	47.4%
Crimes Against Persons	15,642	2,707	17.3%	5,133	32.8%	6,446	41.2%
Sentence Type							
Second Strikers	7,689	1,620	21.1%	3,019	39.3%	3,808	49.5%
Proposition 47 Releases	60	14	23.3%	25	41.7%	29	48.3%
Determinate Term	23,342	5,076	21.7%	9,091	38.9%	11,273	48.3%
Lifers (Indeterminate Term)	701	0	0.0%	6	0.9%	13	1.9%
Type of Post-Release Supervision							
Post-Release Community Supervision	16,184	4,159	25.7%	7,183	44.4%	8,816	54.5%
Parole	15,586	2,549	16.4%	4,952	31.8%	6,298	40.4%
Directly Discharged	22	2	N/A	6	N/A	9	N/A

Table 12. One-, Two- and Three-Year Conviction Rates for Offenders Released in the Fiscal Year 2016-17 by Demographics and Characteristics (continued)

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	**Number Released**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**
Serious/Violent Offense							
Serious	7,253	1,552	21.4%	2,886	39.8%	3,600	49.6%
Violent	7,247	745	10.3%	1,622	22.4%	2,146	29.6%
Non-Serious/Non-Violent	17,292	4,413	25.5%	7,633	44.1%	9,377	54.2%
County of Release							
Kern County	1,201	354	29.5%	574	47.8%	687	57.2%
Orange County	1,561	476	30.5%	726	46.5%	847	54.3%
Stanislaus County	577	136	23.6%	243	42.1%	309	53.6%
Santa Clara County	765	188	24.6%	330	43.1%	388	50.7%
Sacramento County	1,573	378	24.0%	634	40.3%	795	50.5%
San Joaquin County	835	205	24.6%	348	41.7%	417	49.9%
San Diego County	2,169	385	17.8%	785	36.2%	1,019	47.0%
All Other Counties	6,506	1,325	20.4%	2,415	37.1%	3,052	46.9%
San Bernardino County	2,887	493	17.1%	1,072	37.1%	1,349	46.7%
Los Angeles County	9,184	1,979	21.5%	3,465	37.7%	4,263	46.4%
Fresno County	1,459	249	17.1%	526	36.1%	677	46.4%
Riverside County	2,306	473	20.5%	847	36.7%	1,062	46.1%
Alameda County	747	67	9.0%	170	22.8%	249	33.3%
Directly Discharged	22	2	N/A	6	N/A	9	N/A

Table 12. One-, Two- and Three-Year Conviction Rates for Offenders Released in the Fiscal Year 2016-17 by Demographics and Characteristics (continued)

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	**Number Released**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**
CSRA Risk Score							
High	13,795	4,324	31.3%	7,323	53.1%	8,774	63.6%
Moderate	9,204	1,712	18.6%	3,356	36.5%	4,353	47.3%
Low	8,793	674	7.7%	1,462	16.6%	1,996	22.7%
Mental Health Designation							
Mental Health Crisis Bed	40	14	35.0%	24	60.0%	24	60.0%
Enhanced Outpatient Program	1,334	327	24.5%	579	43.4%	731	54.8%
Inpatient	80	14	17.5%	33	41.3%	42	52.5%
Correctional Clinical Case Management System	6,347	1,417	22.3%	2,606	41.1%	3,238	51.0%
No Mental Health Designation	23,991	4,938	20.6%	8,899	37.1%	11,088	46.2%
Length of Stay							
0 to 6 Months	4,879	1,333	27.3%	2,235	45.8%	2,711	55.6%
7 to 12 Months	8,150	2,091	25.7%	3,657	44.9%	4,469	54.8%
13 to 18 Months	4,814	1,179	24.5%	2,089	43.4%	2,543	52.8%
19 to 24 Months	2,981	683	22.9%	1,232	41.3%	1,555	52.2%
2 to 3 Years	3,353	652	19.4%	1,232	36.7%	1,575	47.0%
3 to 4 Years	1,864	307	16.5%	613	32.9%	799	42.9%
4 to 5 Years	1,213	153	12.6%	333	27.5%	428	35.3%
5 to 10 Years	2,550	239	9.4%	525	20.6%	718	28.2%
10 to 15 Years	907	54	6.0%	144	15.9%	212	23.4%
15 Years or more	1,081	19	1.8%	81	7.5%	113	10.5%

Table 12. One-, Two- and Three-Year Conviction Rates for Offenders Released in the Fiscal Year 2016-17 by Demographics and Characteristics (continued)

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	**Number Released**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**
Number of CDCR Stays							
1	15,162	2,634	17.4%	4,798	31.6%	6,063	40.0%
2	4,646	1,087	23.4%	1,960	42.2%	2,403	51.7%
3	2,295	548	23.9%	967	42.1%	1,190	51.9%
4	1,680	383	22.8%	697	41.5%	871	51.8%
5	1,430	355	24.8%	639	44.7%	791	55.3%
6	1,220	307	25.2%	562	46.1%	680	55.7%
7	956	241	25.2%	456	47.7%	556	58.2%
8	851	223	26.2%	396	46.5%	485	57.0%
9	693	160	23.1%	292	42.1%	374	54.0%
10	552	145	26.3%	267	48.4%	328	59.4%
11	442	105	23.8%	196	44.3%	256	57.9%
12	345	88	25.5%	169	49.0%	208	60.3%
13	281	88	31.3%	151	53.7%	184	65.5%
14	245	63	25.7%	119	48.6%	153	62.4%
15 or more	994	283	28.5%	472	47.5%	581	58.5%

Table 12. One-, Two- and Three-Year Conviction Rates for Offenders Released in the Fiscal Year 2016-17 by Demographics and Characteristics (continued)

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	**Number Released**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**
Commitment Offense							
Vehicle Theft	1,461	562	38.5%	892	61.1%	1,039	71.1%
Escape	104	37	35.6%	58	55.8%	73	70.2%
Other Property	321	96	29.9%	165	51.4%	203	63.2%
Burglary Second	796	252	31.7%	428	53.8%	502	63.1%
Receiving Stolen Property	389	118	30.3%	192	49.4%	236	60.7%
Possession Weapon	3,665	1,020	27.8%	1,733	47.3%	2,129	58.1%
Petty Theft With Prior	49	15	30.6%	25	51.0%	27	55.1%
Controlled Substance Other	306	82	26.8%	141	46.1%	166	54.2%
Burglary First	2,416	590	24.4%	1,048	43.4%	1,296	53.6%
Controlled Substance Possession	615	145	23.6%	254	41.3%	325	52.8%
Grand Theft	402	106	26.4%	178	44.3%	211	52.5%
Other Assault/Battery	4,851	1,146	23.6%	2,047	42.2%	2,510	51.7%
Other Offenses	1,777	358	20.1%	672	37.8%	860	48.4%
Forgery/Fraud	511	120	23.5%	203	39.7%	244	47.7%
Controlled Substance Possession For Sale	1,665	300	18.0%	589	35.4%	772	46.4%
Arson	180	35	19.4%	66	36.7%	83	46.1%
Assault with a Deadly Weapon	3,779	729	19.3%	1,406	37.2%	1,725	45.6%
Robbery	3,219	546	17.0%	1,112	34.5%	1,441	44.8%
Other Sex Offenses	1,009	205	20.3%	359	35.6%	451	44.7%
Controlled Substance Sales	260	44	16.9%	83	31.9%	111	42.7%
Marijuana Sale	40	8	20.0%	14	35.0%	17	42.5%
Marijuana Possess For Sale	89	7	7.9%	23	25.8%	36	40.4%
Driving Under Influence	1,018	100	9.8%	226	22.2%	322	31.6%

Table 12. One-, Two- and Three-Year Conviction Rates for Offenders Released in the Fiscal Year 2016-17 by Demographics and Characteristics (continued)

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	**Number Released**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**	**Number Convicted**	**Conviction Rate**
Commitment Offense (continued)							
Attempted Murder Second	287	16	5.6%	48	16.7%	71	24.7%
Controlled Substance Manufacturing	59	6	10.2%	11	18.6%	14	23.7%
Kidnapping	165	12	7.3%	23	13.9%	34	20.6%
Manslaughter	331	16	4.8%	43	13.0%	66	19.9%
Oral Copulation	63	2	3.2%	9	14.3%	11	17.5%
Penetration With Object	61	2	3.3%	6	9.8%	9	14.8%
Rape	194	9	4.6%	17	8.8%	28	14.4%
Vehicular Manslaughter	130	5	3.8%	10	7.7%	15	11.5%
Lewd Act With Child	904	18	2.0%	46	5.1%	70	7.7%
Murder Second	343	0	0.0%	5	1.5%	9	2.6%
Attempted Murder First	71	0	0.0%	1	1.4%	1	1.4%
Murder First	219	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.4%
Hashish Possession	1	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Marijuana Other	26	2	N/A	7	N/A	11	N/A
Sodomy	16	1	N/A	1	N/A	2	N/A
Sex Registration Requirement							
No	28,659	6,308	22.0%	11,384	39.7%	14,142	49.3%
Yes	3,133	402	12.8%	757	24.2%	981	31.3%

Appendix C: Conviction Rates by County of Release

Table 13. Conviction Rates by County of Release

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
County of Release	Number Released	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Alameda County	747	67	9.0%	170	22.8%	249	33.3%
Alpine County	0	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Amador County	30	6	20.0%	11	36.7%	17	56.7%
Butte County	299	54	18.1%	111	37.1%	141	47.2%
Calaveras County	27	6	N/A	13	N/A	16	N/A
Colusa County	21	3	N/A	7	N/A	10	N/A
Contra Costa County	406	48	11.8%	112	27.6%	154	37.9%
Del Norte County	44	6	13.6%	15	34.1%	17	38.6%
El Dorado County	97	12	12.4%	28	28.9%	37	38.1%
Fresno County	1,459	249	17.1%	526	36.1%	677	46.4%
Glenn County	32	6	18.8%	11	34.4%	17	53.1%
Humboldt County	125	33	26.4%	62	49.6%	82	65.6%
Imperial County	123	30	24.4%	42	34.1%	54	43.9%
Inyo County	11	3	N/A	4	N/A	5	N/A
Kern County	1,201	354	29.5%	574	47.8%	687	57.2%
Kings County	324	55	17.0%	122	37.7%	161	49.7%
Lake County	121	26	21.5%	44	36.4%	51	42.1%
Lassen County	26	8	N/A	14	N/A	17	N/A
Los Angeles County	9,184	1,979	21.5%	3,465	37.7%	4,263	46.4%
Madera County	136	27	19.9%	48	35.3%	68	50.0%
Marin County	46	8	17.4%	15	32.6%	19	41.3%
Mariposa County	13	3	N/A	7	N/A	7	N/A
Mendocino County	124	34	27.4%	53	42.7%	68	54.8%
Merced County	277	51	18.4%	104	37.5%	128	46.2%
Modoc County	6	1	N/A	2	N/A	3	N/A
Mono County	3	1	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A
Monterey County	369	100	27.1%	156	42.3%	194	52.6%
Napa County	69	10	14.5%	19	27.5%	22	31.9%
Nevada County	25	4	N/A	11	N/A	13	N/A
Orange County	1,561	476	30.5%	726	46.5%	847	54.3%
Placer County	189	37	19.6%	65	34.4%	90	47.6%
Plumas County	23	4	N/A	5	N/A	7	N/A
Riverside County	2,306	473	20.5%	847	36.7%	1,062	46.1%
Sacramento County	1,573	378	24.0%	634	40.3%	795	50.5%

Table 13. Conviction Rates by County of Release (continued)

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
County of Release	Number Released	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
San Benito County	33	7	21.2%	14	42.4%	17	51.5%
San Bernardino County	2,887	493	17.1%	1,072	37.1%	1,349	46.7%
San Diego County	2,169	385	17.8%	785	36.2%	1,019	47.0%
San Francisco County	343	25	7.3%	57	16.6%	83	24.2%
San Joaquin County	835	205	24.6%	348	41.7%	417	49.9%
San Luis Obispo County	163	41	25.2%	78	47.9%	89	54.6%
San Mateo County	222	48	21.6%	80	36.0%	95	42.8%
Santa Barbara County	258	70	27.1%	111	43.0%	133	51.6%
Santa Clara County	765	188	24.6%	330	43.1%	388	50.7%
Santa Cruz County	108	27	25.0%	41	38.0%	51	47.2%
Shasta County	307	73	23.8%	135	44.0%	161	52.4%
Sierra County	1	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Siskiyou County	48	5	10.4%	13	27.1%	17	35.4%
Solano County	287	50	17.4%	100	34.8%	134	46.7%
Sonoma County	244	53	21.7%	87	35.7%	105	43.0%
Stanislaus County	577	136	23.6%	243	42.1%	309	53.6%
Sutter County	123	17	13.8%	37	30.1%	47	38.2%
Tehama County	98	23	23.5%	47	48.0%	56	57.1%
Trinity County	12	2	N/A	4	N/A	5	N/A
Tulare County	453	108	23.8%	189	41.7%	238	52.5%
Tuolumne County	58	10	17.2%	18	31.0%	27	46.6%
Ventura County	505	146	28.9%	235	46.5%	277	54.9%
Yolo County	170	29	17.1%	53	31.2%	70	41.2%
Yuba County	107	15	14.0%	34	31.8%	48	44.9%
Directly Discharged	22	2	N/A	6	N/A	9	N/A
Total	**31,792**	**6,710**	**21.1%**	**12,141**	**38.2%**	**15,123**	**47.6%**

Figure 11. Map of Three-Year Conviction Rates by County of Release

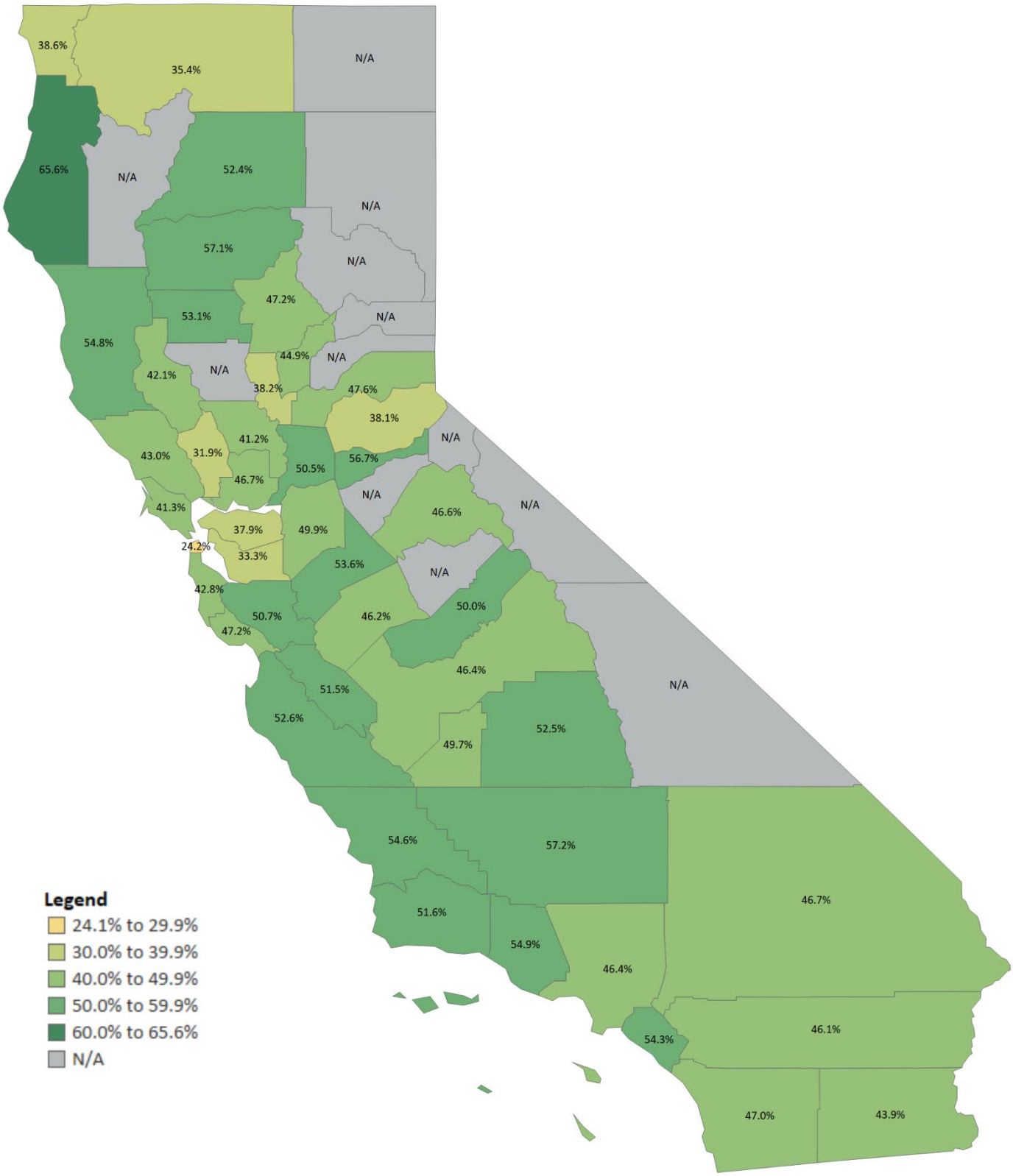


*Table 13 (pages 39 and 40) provides a list of each California County, the number of releases to each county, and one-, two-, and three-year conviction rates.

Appendix D: Change in Recidivism Rate by Demographics and Characteristics Between the Fiscal Year 2015-16 and 2016-17 Release Cohorts

Table 14. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Offender Demographics and Characteristics for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and Fiscal Year 2016-17

	FY 2015-16 Number Released	FY 2016-17 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2015-16 Number Convicted	FY 2016-17 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2015-16 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2016-17 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Total	33,756	31,792	(1,964)	15,059	15,123	64	44.6%	47.6%	3.0
Gender									
Male	31,414	29,551	(1,863)	14,238	14,248	10	45.3%	48.2%	2.9
Female	2,342	2,241	(101)	821	875	54	35.1%	39.0%	3.9
Age at Release									
18 to 19	278	247	(31)	192	181	(11)	69.1%	73.3%	4.2
20 to 24	4,769	4,441	(328)	2,751	2,753	2	57.7%	62.0%	4.3
25 to 29	6,307	6,191	(116)	3,286	3,329	43	52.1%	53.8%	1.7
30 to 34	5,955	5,502	(453)	2,953	2,864	(89)	49.6%	52.1%	2.5
35 to 39	4,898	4,863	(35)	2,163	2,281	118	44.2%	46.9%	2.7
40 to 44	3,419	3,185	(234)	1,259	1,330	71	36.8%	41.8%	5.0
45 to 49	2,995	2,679	(316)	1,070	990	(80)	35.7%	37.0%	1.3
50 to 54	2,531	2,153	(378)	814	754	(60)	32.2%	35.0%	2.8
55 to 59	1,529	1,477	(52)	389	448	59	25.4%	30.3%	4.9
60 and over	1,075	1,054	(21)	182	193	11	16.9%	18.3%	1.4

Table 14. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Offender Demographics and Characteristics for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and Fiscal Year 2016-17 (continued)

	FY 2015-16 Number Released	FY 2016-17 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2015-16 Number Convicted	FY 2016-17 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2015-16 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2016-17 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Race/Ethnicity									
American Indian/Alaskan Native	391	361	(30)	196	206	10	50.1%	57.1%	7.0
White	8,804	8,206	(598)	3,905	3,996	91	44.4%	48.7%	4.3
Hispanic/Latino	14,421	14,055	(366)	6,739	6,735	(4)	46.7%	47.9%	1.2
Black/African American	8,319	7,696	(623)	3,567	3,624	57	42.9%	47.1%	4.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	493	460	(33)	201	202	1	40.8%	43.9%	3.1
Other	1,328	1,014	(314)	451	360	(91)	34.0%	35.5%	1.5
Commitment Offense Category									
Property Crimes	7,035	6,345	(690)	3,751	3,758	7	53.3%	59.2%	5.9
Other Crimes	6,975	6,744	(231)	3,301	3,467	166	47.3%	51.4%	4.1
Drug Crimes	3,932	3,061	(871)	1,707	1,452	(255)	43.4%	47.4%	4.0
Crimes Against Persons	15,814	15,642	(172)	6,300	6,446	146	39.8%	41.2%	1.4
Sentence Type									
Determinate Term	23,761	23,342	(419)	10,777	11,273	496	45.4%	48.3%	2.9
Second Strikers	8,908	7,689	(1,219)	4,067	3,808	(259)	45.7%	49.5%	3.8
Lifers (Indeterminate Term)	723	701	(22)	23	13	(10)	3.2%	1.9%	(1.3)
Proposition 47 Releases	364	60	(304)	192	29	(163)	52.7%	48.3%	(4.4)
Type of Post-Release Supervision									
Post-Release Community Supervision	17,465	16,184	(1,281)	8,559	8,816	257	49.0%	54.5%	5.5
Parole	16,224	15,586	(638)	6,473	6,298	(175)	39.9%	40.4%	0.5
Directly Discharged	67	22	(45)	27	9	(18)	40.3%	N/A	N/A

Table 14. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Offender Demographics and Characteristics for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and Fiscal Year 2016-17 (continued)

	FY 2015-16 Number Released	FY 2016-17 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2015-16 Number Convicted	FY 2016-17 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2015-16 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2016-17 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Serious/Violent Offense									
Serious	8,031	7,253	(778)	3,832	3,600	(232)	47.7%	49.6%	1.9
Violent	7,125	7,247	122	2,096	2,146	50	29.4%	29.6%	0.2
Non-Serious/Non-Violent	18,600	17,292	(1,308)	9,131	9,377	246	49.1%	54.2%	5.1
County of Release									
Kern County	1,293	1,201	(92)	778	687	(91)	60.2%	57.2%	(3.0)
Orange County	1,584	1,561	(23)	849	847	(2)	53.6%	54.3%	0.7
Stanislaus County	551	577	26	279	309	30	50.6%	53.6%	3.0
Santa Clara County	843	765	(78)	429	388	(41)	50.9%	50.7%	(0.2)
Sacramento County	1,687	1,573	(114)	815	795	(20)	48.3%	50.5%	2.2
San Joaquin County	826	835	9	416	417	1	50.4%	49.9%	(0.5)
San Diego County	2,392	2,169	(223)	715	1,019	304	29.9%	47.0%	17.1
All Other Counties	6,773	6,506	(267)	3,002	3,052	50	44.3%	46.9%	2.6
San Bernardino County	3,145	2,887	(258)	1,308	1,349	41	41.6%	46.7%	5.1
Los Angeles County	9,744	9,184	(560)	4,334	4,263	(71)	44.5%	46.4%	1.9
Fresno County	1,549	1,459	(90)	753	677	(76)	48.6%	46.4%	(2.2)
Riverside County	2,526	2,306	(220)	1,128	1,062	(66)	44.7%	46.1%	1.4
Alameda County	776	747	(29)	226	249	23	29.1%	33.3%	4.2
Directly Discharged	67	22	(45)	27	9	(18)	40.3%	N/A	N/A

Table 14. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Offender Demographics and Characteristics for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and Fiscal Year 2016-17 (continued)

	FY 2015-16 Number Released	FY 2016-17 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2015-16 Number Convicted	FY 2016-17 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2015-16 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2016-17 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
CSRA Risk Score									
High	14,560	13,795	(765)	8,785	8,774	(11)	60.3%	63.6%	3.3
Moderate	9,745	9,204	(541)	4,228	4,353	125	43.4%	47.3%	3.9
Low	9,451	8,793	(658)	2,046	1,996	(50)	21.6%	22.7%	1.1
Mental Health Designation									
Mental Health Crisis Bed	66	40	(26)	39	24	(15)	59.1%	60.0%	0.9
Enhanced Outpatient Program	1,308	1,334	26	691	731	40	52.8%	54.8%	2.0
Inpatient	30	80	50	19	42	23	63.3%	52.5%	(10.8)
Correctional Clinical Case Management System	6,416	6,347	(69)	3,113	3,238	125	48.5%	51.0%	2.5
No Mental Health Designation	25,936	23,991	(1,945)	11,197	11,088	(109)	43.2%	46.2%	3.0
Length of Stay									
0 to 6 Months	4,698	4,879	181	2,416	2,711	295	51.4%	55.6%	4.2
7 to 12 Months	8,095	8,150	55	4,176	4,469	293	51.6%	54.8%	3.2
13 to 18 Months	5,237	4,814	(423)	2,478	2,543	65	47.3%	52.8%	5.5
19 to 24 Months	3,547	2,981	(566)	1,689	1,555	(134)	47.6%	52.2%	4.6
2 to 3 Years	3,797	3,353	(444)	1,755	1,575	(180)	46.2%	47.0%	0.8
3 to 4 Years	2,056	1,864	(192)	870	799	(71)	42.3%	42.9%	0.6
4 to 5 Years	1,472	1,213	(259)	480	428	(52)	32.6%	35.3%	2.7
5 to 10 Years	2,780	2,550	(230)	855	718	(137)	30.8%	28.2%	(2.6)
10 to 15 Years	964	907	(57)	234	212	(22)	24.3%	23.4%	(0.9)
15 Years or more	1,110	1,081	(29)	106	113	7	9.5%	10.5%	1.0

Table 14. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Offender Demographics and Characteristics for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and Fiscal Year 2016-17 (continued)

	FY 2015-16 Number Released	FY 2016-17 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2015-16 Number Convicted	FY 2016-17 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2015-16 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2016-17 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Number of CDCR Stays									
1	15,608	15,162	(446)	5,895	6,063	168	37.8%	40.0%	2.2
2	4,660	4,646	(14)	2,216	2,403	187	47.6%	51.7%	4.1
3	2,556	2,295	(261)	1,204	1,190	(14)	47.1%	51.9%	4.8
4	1,935	1,680	(255)	957	871	(86)	49.5%	51.8%	2.3
5	1,587	1,430	(157)	762	791	29	48.0%	55.3%	7.3
6	1,274	1,220	(54)	644	680	36	50.5%	55.7%	5.2
7	1,048	956	(92)	567	556	(11)	54.1%	58.2%	4.1
8	946	851	(95)	532	485	(47)	56.2%	57.0%	0.8
9	785	693	(92)	432	374	(58)	55.0%	54.0%	(1.0)
10	648	552	(96)	351	328	(23)	54.2%	59.4%	5.2
11	524	442	(82)	271	256	(15)	51.7%	57.9%	6.2
12	464	345	(119)	248	208	(40)	53.4%	60.3%	6.9
13	337	281	(56)	181	184	3	53.7%	65.5%	11.8
14	292	245	(47)	164	153	(11)	56.2%	62.4%	6.2
15 or more	1,092	994	(98)	635	581	(54)	58.2%	58.5%	0.3

Table 14. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Offender Demographics and Characteristics for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and Fiscal Year 2016-17 (continued)

	FY 2015-16 Number Released	FY 2016-17 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2015-16 Number Convicted	FY 2016-17 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2015-16 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2016-17 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Commitment Offense									
Vehicle Theft	1,440	1,461	21	934	1,039	105	64.9%	71.1%	6.2
Escape	131	104	(27)	75	73	(2)	57.3%	70.2%	12.9
Other Property	303	321	18	163	203	40	53.8%	63.2%	9.4
Burglary Second	1,051	796	(255)	567	502	(65)	53.9%	63.1%	9.2
Receiving Stolen Property	470	389	(81)	271	236	(35)	57.7%	60.7%	3.0
Possession of Weapon	3,768	3,665	(103)	1,978	2,129	151	52.5%	58.1%	5.6
Petty Theft With Prior	99	49	(50)	44	27	(17)	44.4%	55.1%	10.7
Controlled Substance Other	307	306	(1)	145	166	21	47.2%	54.2%	7.0
Burglary First	2,726	2,416	(310)	1,345	1,296	(49)	49.3%	53.6%	4.3
Controlled Substance Possession	882	615	(267)	467	325	(142)	52.9%	52.8%	(0.1)
Grand Theft	467	402	-65	214	211	-3	45.8%	52.5%	6.7
Other Assault/Battery	4,968	4,851	(117)	2,458	2,510	52	49.5%	51.7%	2.2
Other Offenses	1,771	1,777	6	842	860	18	47.5%	48.4%	0.9
Forgery/Fraud	479	511	32	213	244	31	44.5%	47.7%	3.2
Controlled Substance Possession For Sale	1,931	1,665	(266)	810	772	(38)	41.9%	46.4%	4.5
Arson	190	180	(10)	90	83	(7)	47.4%	46.1%	(1.3)
Assault with a Deadly Weapon	3,714	3,779	65	1,643	1,725	82	44.2%	45.6%	1.4
Robbery	3,176	3,219	43	1,401	1,441	40	44.1%	44.8%	0.7
Other Sex Offenses	1,044	1,009	(35)	449	451	2	43.0%	44.7%	1.7
Controlled Substance Sales	477	260	(217)	163	111	(52)	34.2%	42.7%	8.5
Marijuana Sale	74	40	(34)	30	17	(13)	40.5%	42.5%	2.0
Marijuana Possess For Sale	156	89	(67)	65	36	(29)	41.7%	40.4%	(1.3)
Driving Under Influence	1,115	1,018	(97)	316	322	6	28.3%	31.6%	3.3

Table 14. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Offender Demographics and Characteristics for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and Fiscal Year 2016-17 (continued)

	FY 2015-16 Number Released	FY 2016-17 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2015-16 Number Convicted	FY 2016-17 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2015-16 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2016-17 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Commitment Offense (continued)									
Attempted Murder Second	249	287	38	59	71	12	23.7%	24.7%	1.0
Controlled Substance Manufacturing	57	59	2	10	14	4	17.5%	23.7%	6.2
Kidnapping	182	165	(17)	41	34	(7)	22.5%	20.6%	(1.9)
Manslaughter	317	331	14	62	66	4	19.6%	19.9%	0.3
Oral Copulation	63	63	0	15	11	(4)	23.8%	17.5%	(6.3)
Penetration With Object	64	61	(3)	8	9	1	12.5%	14.8%	2.3
Rape	202	194	(8)	33	28	(5)	16.3%	14.4%	(1.9)
Vehicular Manslaughter	162	130	(32)	14	15	1	8.6%	11.5%	2.9
Lewd Act With Child	998	904	(94)	93	70	(23)	9.3%	7.7%	(1.6)
Murder Second	372	343	(29)	11	9	(2)	3.0%	2.6%	(0.4)
Attempted Murder First	56	71	15	2	1	(1)	3.6%	1.4%	(2.2)
Murder First	222	219	(3)	8	3	(5)	3.6%	1.4%	(2.2)
Hashish Possession	2	1	(1)	1	0	(1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marijuana Other	46	26	(20)	16	11	(5)	34.8%	N/A	N/A
Sodomy	25	16	(9)	3	2	(1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sex Registration Requirement									
No	30,429	28,659	(1,770)	14,043	14,142	99	46.2%	49.3%	3.1
Yes	3,327	3,133	(194)	1,016	981	(35)	30.5%	31.3%	0.8

Appendix E: Arrest, Conviction and Return-to-Prison Rates for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2002-03 through 2016-17

Figure 12. One-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates by Fiscal Year

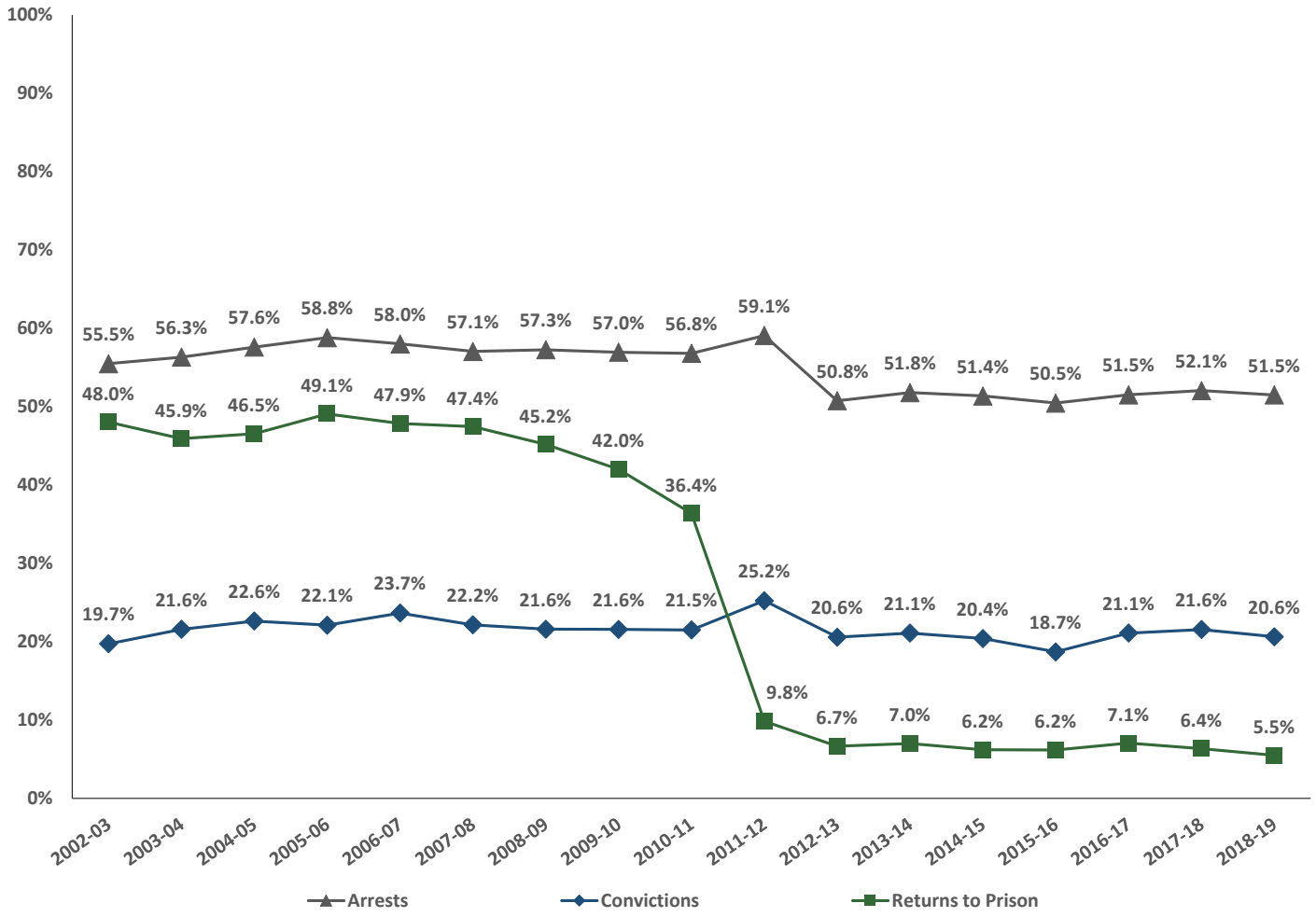


Figure 13. Two-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates by Fiscal Year

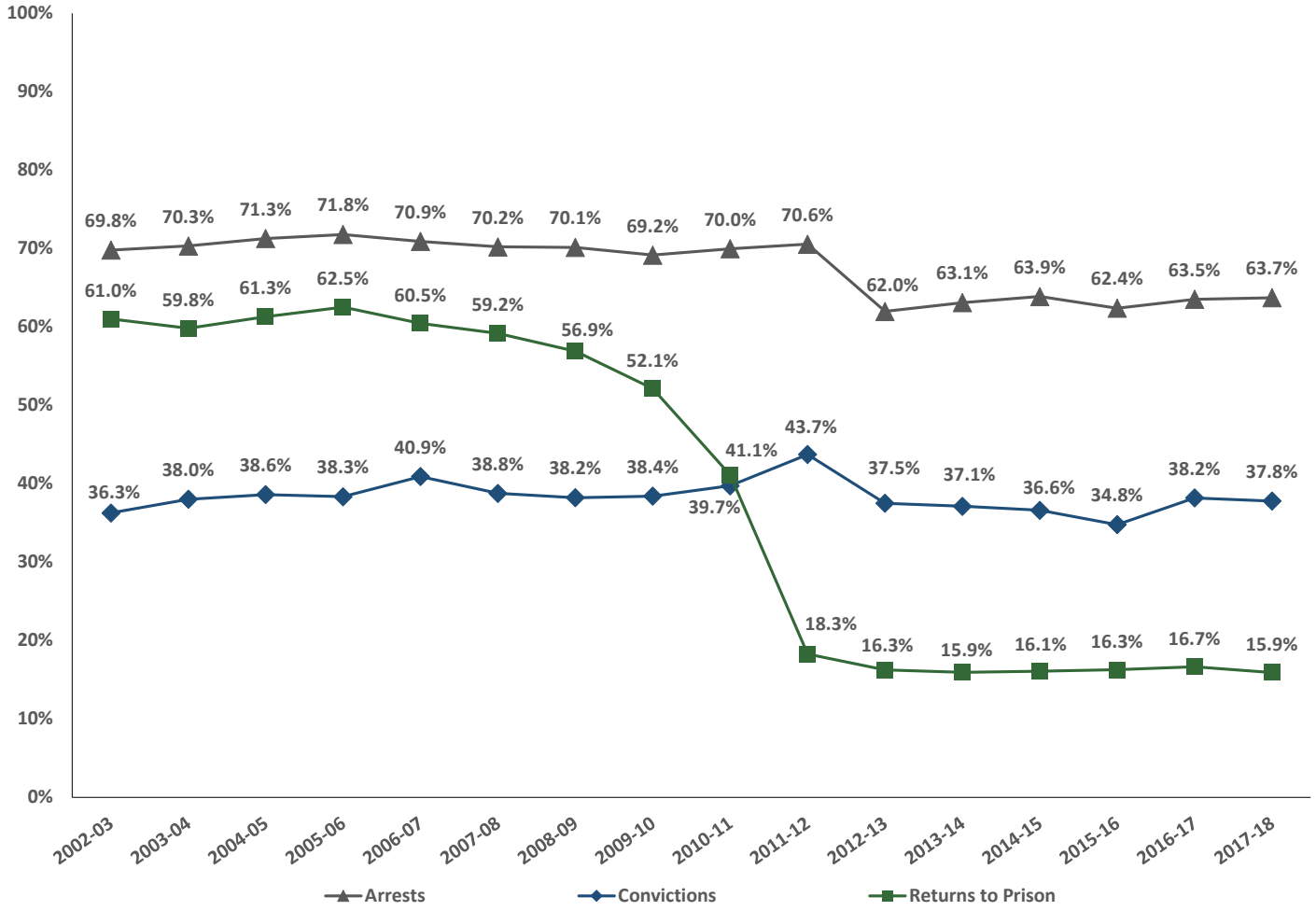


Figure 14. Three-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates by Fiscal Year

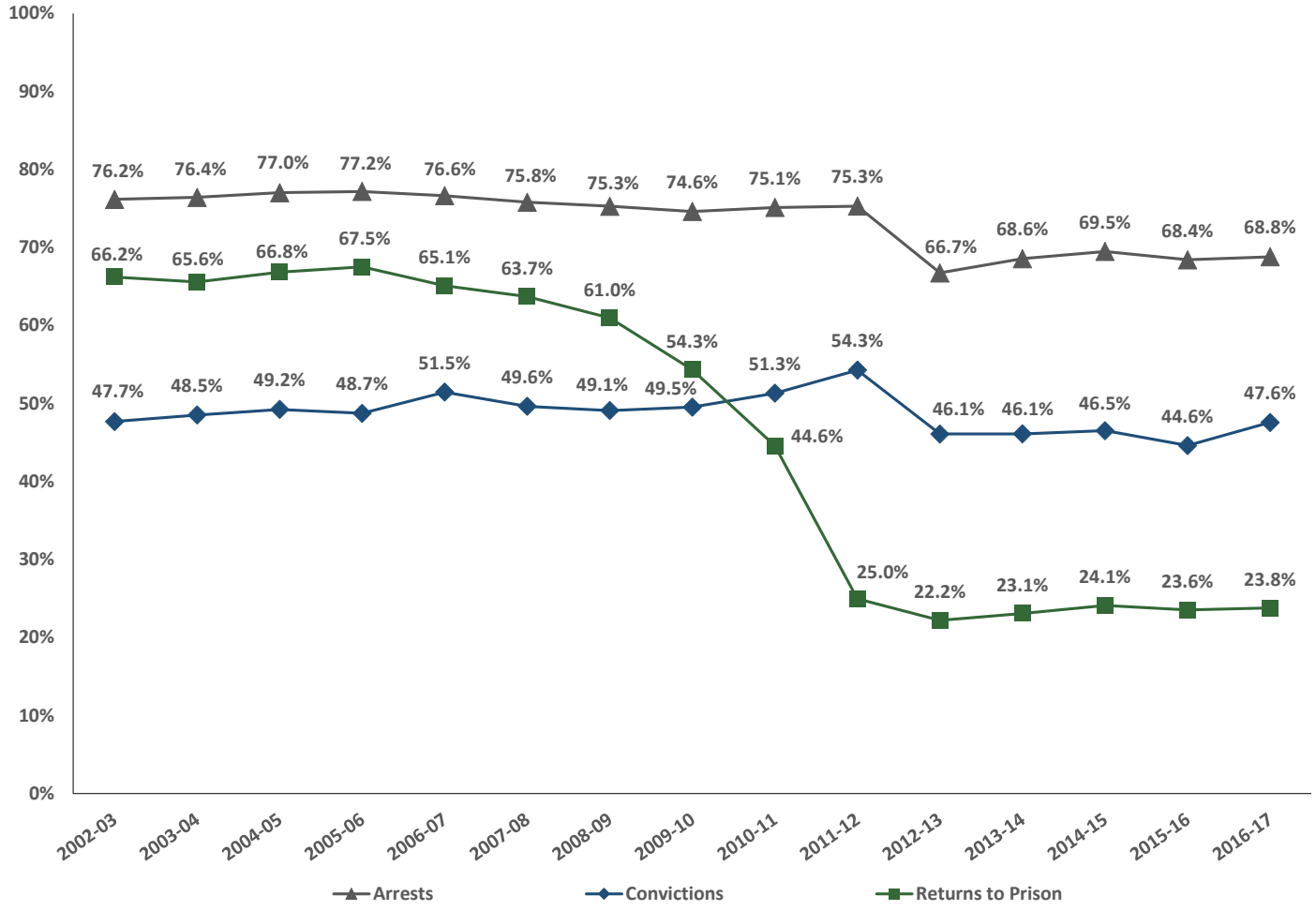


Table 15. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Arrest Rates by Fiscal Year

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Fiscal Year	Number Released	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	33,756	17,034	50.5%	21,061	62.4%	23,094	68.4%
2016-17	31,792	16,378	51.5%	20,199	63.5%	21,871	68.8%
2017-18	35,521	18,489	52.1%	22,635	63.7%	N/A	N/A
2018-19	36,391	18,740	51.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 16. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Conviction Rates by Fiscal Year

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Fiscal Year	Number Released	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	33,756	6,312	18.7%	11,743	34.8%	15,059	44.6%
2016-17	31,792	6,710	21.1%	12,141	38.2%	15,123	47.6%
2017-18	35,521	7,659	21.6%	13,423	37.8%	N/A	N/A
2018-19	36,391	7,508	20.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 17. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Return-to-Prison Rates by Fiscal Year

		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Fiscal Year	Number Released	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	33,861	2,091	6.2%	5,512	16.3%	7,976	23.6%
2016-17	31,975	2,255	7.1%	5,324	16.7%	7,607	23.8%
2017-18	35,899	2,284	6.4%	5,718	15.9%	N/A	N/A
2018-19	36,748	2,020	5.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Appendix F: Correctional Policies and Initiatives

The following section describes recent correctional policies and practices and their influence on post-release outcomes. CDCR has also expanded rehabilitative programs and changed its classification system to allow for increased program access. At the time of this report's development, California's local facilities and State prisons also accelerated the release of some offenders due to the COVID-19 pandemic.[19] Although it takes time to examine both the temporary and lasting impacts of correctional policies on CDCR's population, CDCR will continue to provide this information as it becomes available.

Public Safety Realignment

Assembly Bill (AB) 109, California's Public Safety Realignment Act (Realignment) became law on October 1, 2011. Realignment required certain offenders be sentenced to and serve parole revocations in county jails, rather than state prison. Realignment changed the parole revocation process so that only offenders previously sentenced to a life term (lifers) and some sex offenders can be revoked to prison.[20]

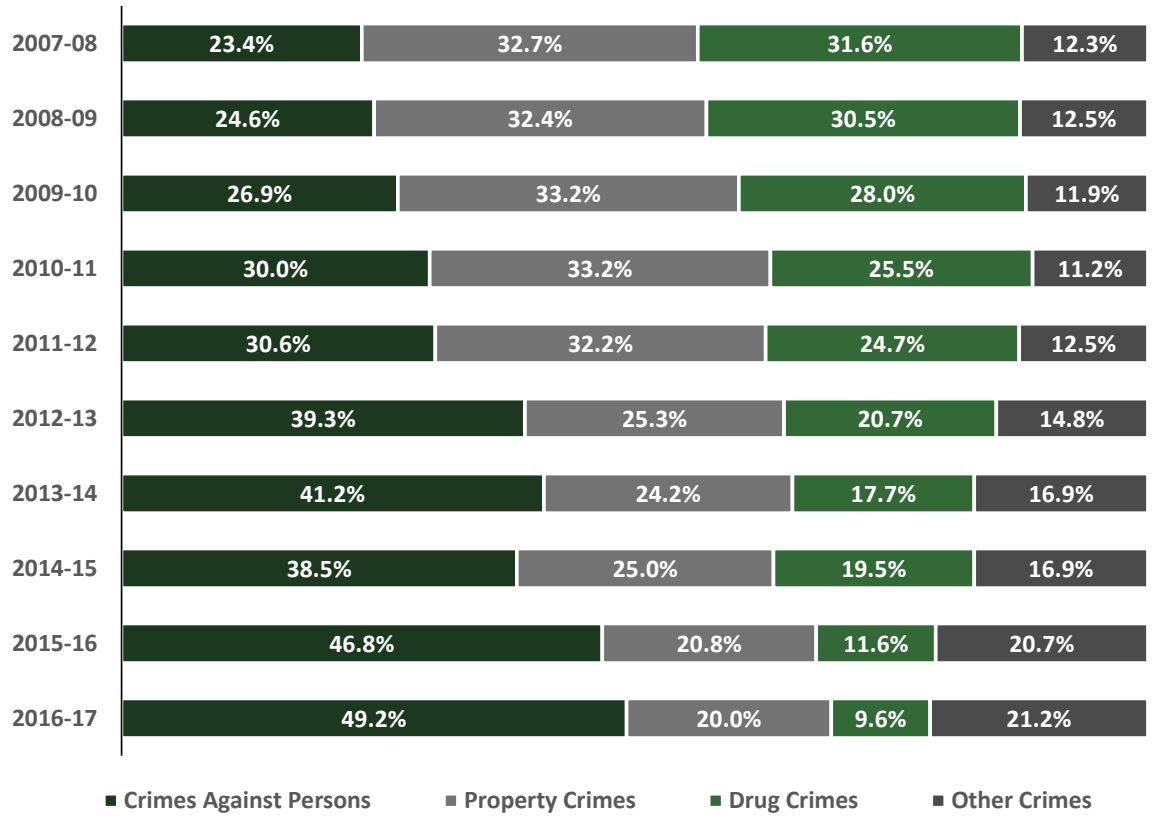
Realignment also changed the state's system of post-release supervision. Prior to Realignment, most offenders released from CDCR were released to parole and supervised by parole agents. Most non-serious, non-violent, and non-sex registrant offenders are released to Post-Release Community Supervision, which is administered by county probation departments; whereas most high-risk sex offenders, lifers, and offenders committing a serious or violent crime are released to parole and supervised by parole agents.

The FY 2016-17 release cohort represents the fifth cohort of CDCR offenders whose period of release (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) and three-year follow-up period (ending no later than June 30, 2020) occurred after the implementation of Realignment. Realignment had some pronounced effects on CDCR's population, including a large drop in the number of offenders admitted to and released from prison each fiscal year, the composition (e.g., demographics and characteristics) of those offenders, and substantial decreases in one of CDCR's supplemental measures of recidivism: the three-year return-to-prison rate.

[19] For more information regarding COVID-19, releases, and departmental updates may be found at: https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/covid19/

[20] Penal Code section 3000.08 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 3000.0(b)(4). For more information regarding decreases to returns to prison for parole violations, please see Appendix E Type of Return to Prison.

Figure 15. Percentage of Releases by Commitment Offense Category for the Fiscal Year 2007-08 through Fiscal Year 2016-17 Release Cohorts



After Realignment, the arrest and conviction rates for CDCR releases remained fairly stable with minor fluctuations. In contrast, the return-to-prison rate saw a series of substantial decreases, attributed to a decrease in parole violations.[21] The small fluctuations observed over the last four release cohorts and the recent decrease observed among the current FY 2016-17 release cohort indicate stability in the return-to-prison rate.

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.[22] Proposition 47 was implemented in November 2014

[21] With the exception of offenders previously sentenced to a life term (lifers) and some sex offenders. Penal Code section 3000.08 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 3000.0(b)(4). For more information regarding decreases to returns to prison for parole violations, please see Section 4.3 Type of Return to Prison.

[22] More information regarding Proposition 47 may be found at: https://www.courts.ca.gov/prop47.htm

prior to the 2016-17 release cohort's period of release (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) and was active during all of the cohort's three-year follow-up period.

Most offenders eligible under Proposition 47 provisions were resentenced and released during FY 2014-15, shortly after the measure was passed. Fifty-nine offenders belonging to the FY 2016-17 release cohort were released under Proposition 47. 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 (e.g., crimes against persons). Higher conviction rates were observed among Proposition 47 releases in recent cohorts and may have had the effect of influencing the recidivism rate upward. Proposition 47's influence on the three-year conviction rate has waned as the number of Proposition 47 releases has sharply declined since FY 2014-15.

In addition to resentencing for some offenders, the sentencing provisions of Proposition 47 affected the types of post-release convictions (i.e., felony or misdemeanor). Specifically, the percentage of post-release convictions for felony drug/alcohol crimes decreased and the percentage of misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes increased. The most substantial decreases in post-release convictions for felony drug/alcohol crimes occurred between the FY 2012-13 and 2013-14 release cohorts (increased 7.6 percentage points) and FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 release cohorts (increased 6.7 percentage points).A similar pattern, though less pronounced, was observed among felony and misdemeanor property crimes that fell under Proposition 47 guidelines. Recent increases in misdemeanor drug/alcohol and property crimes have been gradual since the FY 2014-15 release cohort and indicate the immediate effects of Proposition 47 on post-release convictions has stabilized. Future cohorts may see stability with small fluctuations in terms of the percentage of felony and misdemeanor convictions.

Proposition 57 and Other Correctional Policies and Initiatives

The FY 2016-17 cohort was released before the expansion and implementation of several 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, CDCR was in the process of developing the Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment (ISUDT) program, which will include comprehensive enhancements to 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.[23] Proposition 57 increased the amount of credits that may be earned through the Good Conduct Credit (GCC), and Milestone Completion Credit (MCC) Programs, and also added two new types of credits: Rehabilitative Achievement Credit (RAC) and Educational Merit Credits (EMC). Proposition 57 also established a parole consideration process for determinately sentenced and indeterminately sentenced non-violent

[23] More information regarding Proposition 57 and changes to credit earnings may be found at: https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/proposition57/

offenders, who serve the full term for their primary criminal offense and demonstrate no current or unreasonable risk to the public.

While the FY 2016-17 cohort was released before enhancements and full implementation of 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.

Appendix G: Evaluation Design

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."[24] 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.[25]

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, released to Post-Release Community Supervision, or directly discharged during Fiscal Year 2016-17 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.

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

Appendix E 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 2016-17. One-year and two-year rates are available for the FY 2017-18 release cohort and one-year rates are available for the FY 2018-19 release cohort.

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, 2016 and June 30, 2017 (FY 2016-17). The release cohort includes: 1) offenders who were directly discharged from CDCR; 2) offenders who were

[24] Section 3027 of California Penal Code required the Board of State and Community Corrections to develop a state-wide definition of recidivism.

[25] CDCR's Recidivism Report series was previously titled the "Outcome Evaluation" report series. The 2018 Recidivism Report followed the 2017 Outcome Evaluation Report. Previous reports were referenced by the calendar year in which they were published (i.e., 2017, 2018). Commencing with the Recidivism Report for Offenders Released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in FY 2014-15, the report title references the fiscal year in which offenders were released from CDCR. All of these reports provide recidivism rates (arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates) for offenders released in a given fiscal year, with this current report providing rates for offenders released in FY 2016-17.

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 2016-17, returned to prison on this term and were then re-released during FY 2016-17. Convictions are further examined according to offender demographics (e.g., gender and age) and offender characteristics (e.g., commitment offense and sentence type).

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, 2016 and June 30, 2017 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.

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) 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 Section 4 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.

Appendix H: 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 a validated risk assessment tool that utilizes demographic and criminal history data to predict an offender's risk of conviction at the time they are released from CDCR. The tool produces a risk number value that will predict the likelihood that an offender will incur a conviction within a three-year period after release from CDCR. Risk categories designated by the CSRA include low, moderate, and high (high includes high-risk drug, high-risk property and high-risk violence).

Cohort

A group of individuals who share a common characteristic, such as all offenders who were released during a given fiscal year.

Commitment Offense Category

Refers to the category of offense (property crimes, drug crimes, other crimes, and crimes against persons) that an offender committed prior to their release from in Fiscal Year 2016-17.

Controlling Crime or Commitment Offense

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

Conviction

A judgment, 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 to inmate-patients whose condition is relatively stable and whose symptoms are largely controlled in an outpatient setting with the general population at all institutions.

Correctional Offender Management for Profiling Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS)

The COMPAS is a tool utilized to determine an offender's need in areas such as substance abuse, criminal thinking, and education. Offenders are categorized as having no need, a probable need, or a highly probable need for services and treatment.

County of Release

The county to which an offender is released. Conviction rates by county should be interpreted with caution as offenders may leave the county to which they are released and may be convicted in a county other than their county of release.

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**.**

Direct Discharge

A direct discharge is a release status for offenders that are released directly from prison and do not receive parole supervision or Post-Release Community Supervision.

Enhanced Outpatient Program (EOP)

A mental health services designation for mentally disordered inmate-patients receiving treatment at a level similar to day treatment services for patients who have shown an inability to function in the General Population. EOP provides a setting that is less restrictive than inpatient, but more intensive than CCCMS. The inmate-patients assigned to the EOP level of care do not require nursing care and are often transitioning from inpatient care and or may have a serious mental illness that is of long duration with moderate to severe and persistent functional impairment(s).

Gender

Gender is utilized to distinguish between data reported for males and females.

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 to identify the actual release date. 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.

Inpatient Care

A mental health services designation for inmate patients whose conditions cannot successfully be treated in an outpatient setting or through short-term Mental Health Crisis Bed placement. Patients may require acute or intermediate levels of care, available at some prisons and State Hospitals.

Lifer

A lifer is a term used to refer to an offender sentenced under Indeterminate Sentencing Law to an indeterminate term. A lifer may or may not be eligible for parole.

Length of Stay

The length of time an offender spends in prison during a prison term. Typical lengths of stay range from zero to six months up to 15 years or more.

Manual California Static Risk Assessment (CSRA)

Offenders who do not have automated criminal history data from the Department of Justice (DOJ) must have their CSRA score calculated manually. Calculations are completed with a review of a paper copy of the offender's rap sheet.

Mental Health Crisis Bed (MHCB)

A mental health service designation for inmate patients that provides short-term treatment (usually less than 10 days) for severe episodes of psychiatric distress or mental disorder.

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 or Technical)

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. 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.

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. Realignment changed the parole revocation process so that only offenders

previously sentenced to a life term (lifers) and some sex offenders can be revoked to prison. The vast majority of parole violations are served in county jail.

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 released to PRCS.

Proposition 47

Proposition 47, The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, was passed on November 5, 2014 and reclassified certain theft and drug offenses from felonies to misdemeanors. Proposition 47 also allowed offenders serving sentences in prison for felony offenses to petition the courts for resentencing under new misdemeanor provisions. It also allowed offenders who completed their sentences for felony convictions to apply to reclassify those convictions to misdemeanors.

Proposition 57

Proposition 57, the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016 was passed into law on November 8, 2016. Proposition 57 increased the number of non-violent offenders eligible for parole consideration and allowed for parole consideration after an offender served the full term of their sentences for the primary offense. Proposition 57 also authorized CDCR to award sentence credits for rehabilitation, good behavior, or educational achievements. Proposition 57 also allows juvenile court judges the authority to determine whether juveniles age 14 and over should be sentenced as adults for specific offenses.

Race/Ethnicity

The race/ethnicity categories are used to describe specific sub-populations of CDCR. The categories CDCR use for reporting include American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latino, White, Black/African American, Asian/Pacific Islander and Other.

Recidivism

Conviction of a new felony or misdemeanor committed within three years of release from custody. Convictions are CDCR's primary measure of recidivism.

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.

Release Type

Release type refers to the type of release an offender is categorized under and includes direct discharge, parole or PRCS.

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 2015-16 and subsequently returned to prison within three years of their release date.

Second Strikers

An inmate who has a prior serious or violent felony conviction pled and proven in court and who is convicted of any new offense, which results in the new term being doubled.

Sentence Type

The type of sentence an offender is categorized under, such as determinate sentences (including second strikers) and indeterminate sentencing (including third strikers, lifers and condemned inmates). For the purposes of this report, offenders are categorized as sentenced under Determinate Sentencing Law, Indeterminate Sentencing Law (Lifers), Second Strike Offenders, or Proposition 47 Releases. Proposition 47 changed some offenses from felonies to misdemeanors, which affected the sentence type of some offenders.

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.

Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUDT)

The SUDT refers to treatment programs offered in the prison or aftercare setting for substance use.

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
Office of Research