



California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

RECIDIVISM RATES FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
TREATMENT PARTICIPANTS RELEASED FROM THE CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION IN
FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

Division of Correctional Policy Research and Internal Oversight

OFFICE OF RESEARCH | NOVEMBER 2023

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This report would not have been possible without the generous support of others. Specifically, we would like to thank Kendra Jensen, Christine Kavanagh and Yoon (Grace) Chang from the Office of Research for reviewing the report and providing data quality assurance.

Recidivism Rates for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participants Released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2016-17

During the course of their stay at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), offenders may participate in Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUDT). After release, offenders may also receive aftercare treatment. Using the three-year conviction rate as the primary measure of recidivism, this report provides recidivism rates regarding SUDT participation and supplements the Recidivism Report for Offenders Released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2016-17.ⁱ This report also includes recidivism rates by SUDT participation for those who received a COMPAS assessment.

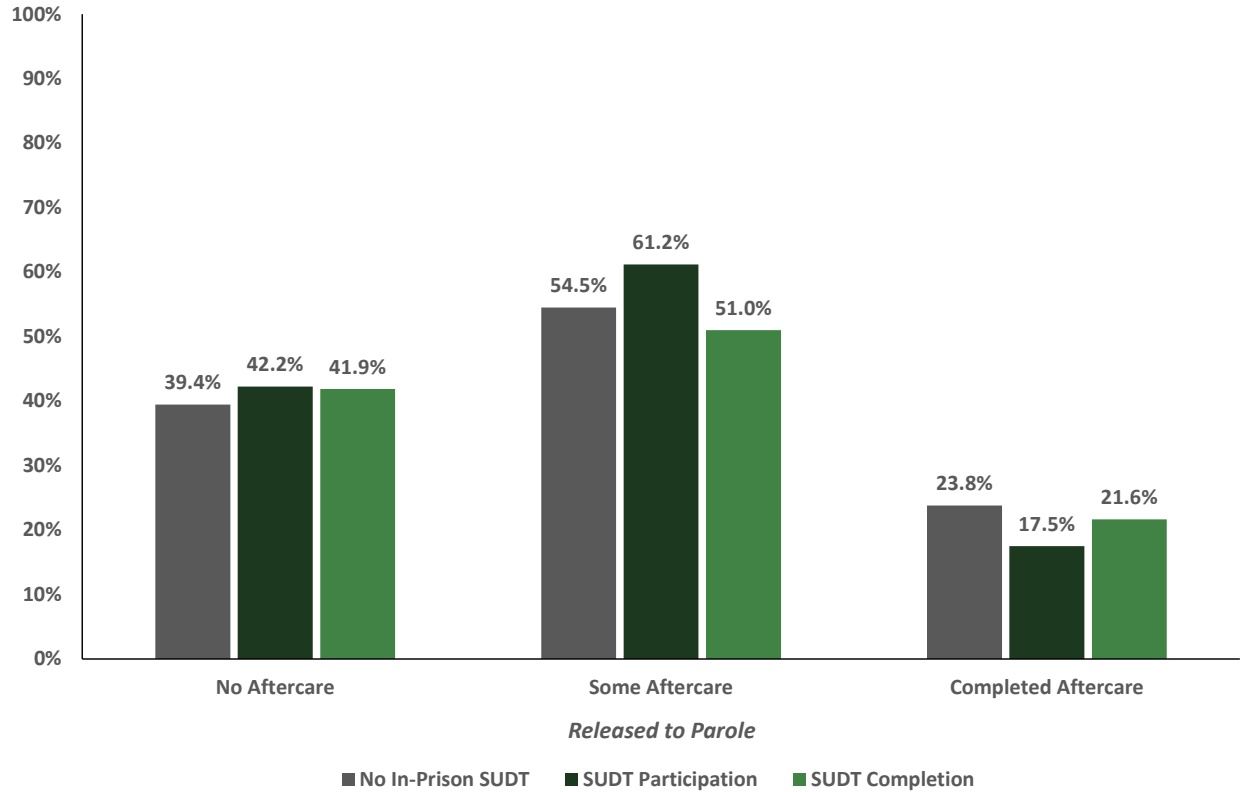
A total of 4,727 offenders participated in or completed in-prison SUDT programs and were released in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17, and 5,185 offenders participated in or completed aftercare. Please note that aftercare data is typically only available for offenders released to parole. Overall, offenders who received in-prison SUDT and completed aftercare have lower rates than offenders who received in-prison SUDT and received some or no aftercare. Please note that offenders in the FY 2016-17 release cohort were released prior to implementation of the Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program in January 2020, which includes comprehensive enhancements to CDCR's Substance Use Disorder Treatment programs.

Conviction Rates by Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Aftercare Participation

Offenders are categorized into three groups: no in-prison SUDT, some in-prison SUDT participation, and in-prison SUDT completion. Offenders are further categorized as receiving no aftercare, some aftercare, or completing aftercare. In general, offenders who completed aftercare had the lowest three-year conviction rates, regardless of in-prison SUDT participation.

Offenders Released to Parole

Figure 1. Three-Year Conviction Rate for Offenders Released to Parole by Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Aftercare Participation



This section specifically discusses offenders released to CDCR parole supervision. For the purposes of this analysis, conviction rates for offenders released to Parole and Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) are presented separately, as aftercare data are not available for most offenders released to PRCS or those who were directly discharged from prison.

As shown in Figure 1 and Table 1, recidivism rates are generally lower for parolees who complete either in-prison SUDT or aftercare – though completing aftercare seems to have a marked effect with substantially lower rates overall. Parolees who had in-prison SUDT participation and completed aftercare had the lowest three-year conviction rate of all categories (17.5 percent). Those with some in-prison SUDT participation and some aftercare had the highest conviction rate (61.2 percent). Rates for parolees with no aftercare fall in between the rates for those who completed aftercare or had some aftercare.

Table 1. Conviction Rates for Offenders Released to Parole by Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Aftercare Participation

Released to Parole		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participation	Number Released	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
No Aftercare							
No In-Prison SUDT	8,893	1,671	18.8%	2,866	32.2%	3,508	39.4%
SUDT Participation	573	111	19.4%	196	34.2%	242	42.2%
SUDT Completion	1,025	182	17.8%	354	34.5%	429	41.9%
Subtotal	10,491	1,964	18.7%	3,416	32.6%	4,179	39.8%
Some Aftercare							
No In-Prison SUDT	2,450	423	17.3%	1,003	40.9%	1,335	54.5%
SUDT Participation	201	42	20.9%	95	47.3%	123	61.2%
SUDT Completion	355	58	16.3%	131	36.9%	181	51.0%
Subtotal	3,006	523	17.4%	1,229	40.9%	1,639	54.5%
Completed Aftercare							
No In-Prison SUDT	1,610	45	2.8%	249	15.5%	383	23.8%
SUDT Participation	160	2	1.3%	12	7.5%	28	17.5%
SUDT Completion	319	15	4.7%	46	14.4%	69	21.6%
Subtotal	2,089	62	3.0%	307	14.7%	480	23.0%
Total	15,586	2,549	16.4%	4,952	31.8%	6,298	40.4%

Offenders Released to Post Release Community Supervision or Directly Discharged

This section discusses offenders released to PRCS or directly discharged from CDCR. Generally, aftercare information for offenders who are released to PRCS or directly discharged is not captured by CDCR's data system. However, when an offender goes to an Alternative Custody Program, they may participate in an aftercare program prior to their release.ⁱⁱ In these rare cases, aftercare data is available for those offenders even if they were released to PRCS or directly discharged from prison.

As seen in Table 2, the three-year conviction rates for the majority of PRCS/direct discharge releases – whose aftercare participation is unknown – follow a pattern similar to the rates for parolees in terms of in-prison SUDT. Offenders who completed in-prison SUDT had a lower three-year conviction rate (51.8 percent) than those who only participated or did not participate in SUDT.

Regarding offenders whose aftercare data is available, the number of offenders released in each group is often too small to report rates.ⁱⁱⁱ However as a whole, offenders who received some aftercare had a conviction rate of 47.4 percent, and those who completed aftercare had a rate of 36.4 percent.

Table 2. Conviction Rates for Offenders Released to PRCS or Directly Discharged by Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Aftercare Participation

Released to PRCS/Discharged		One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participation	Number Released	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Aftercare Unknown							
No In-Prison SUDT	14,042	3,633	25.9%	6,275	44.7%	7,667	54.6%
SUDT Participation	789	230	29.2%	367	46.5%	453	57.4%
SUDT Completion	1,285	282	21.9%	520	40.5%	666	51.8%
Subtotal	16,116	4,145	25.7%	7,162	44.4%	8,786	54.5%
Some Aftercare							
No In-Prison SUDT	44	7	15.9%	15	34.1%	23	52.3%
SUDT Participation	8	0	N/A	1	N/A	2	N/A
SUDT Completion	5	1	N/A	1	N/A	2	N/A
Subtotal	57	8	14.0%	17	29.8%	27	47.4%
Completed Aftercare							
No In-Prison SUDT	26	6	N/A	7	N/A	8	N/A
SUDT Participation	5	2	N/A	3	N/A	3	N/A
SUDT Completion	2	0	N/A	0	N/A	1	N/A
Subtotal	33	8	24.2%	10	30.3%	12	36.4%
Total	16,206	4,161	25.7%	7,189	44.4%	8,825	54.5%

Conviction Rates by Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participation and Substance Use Treatment Need

The Correctional Offender Management for Profiling Alternative Sanctions tool (COMPAS) is an assessment tool used to inform decisions regarding offender placement, supervision, and case management. The assessment categorizes offenders as having an unlikely need, a probable need, or a highly probable need for services and treatment in areas such as substance use, criminal thinking, and education. In some cases (e.g., when an offender has a short prison stay), an offender may not receive an assessment. Table 3 presents the number of offenders released in FY 2016-17 by in-prison SUDT treatment need based on the COMPAS. Notably, over half of offenders released (57.8 percent) were identified to have a treatment need according to the COMPAS.

Table 3. Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17 by Substance Use Treatment Need

COMPAS Indication	Number Released	Percent of Total
Had SUDT Need	18,372	57.8%
No SUDT Need	11,797	37.1%
No Assessment	1,623	5.1%
Total	31,792	100.0%

Offenders with a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Need

Figure 3. Conviction Rates for Offenders with a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Need by Participation

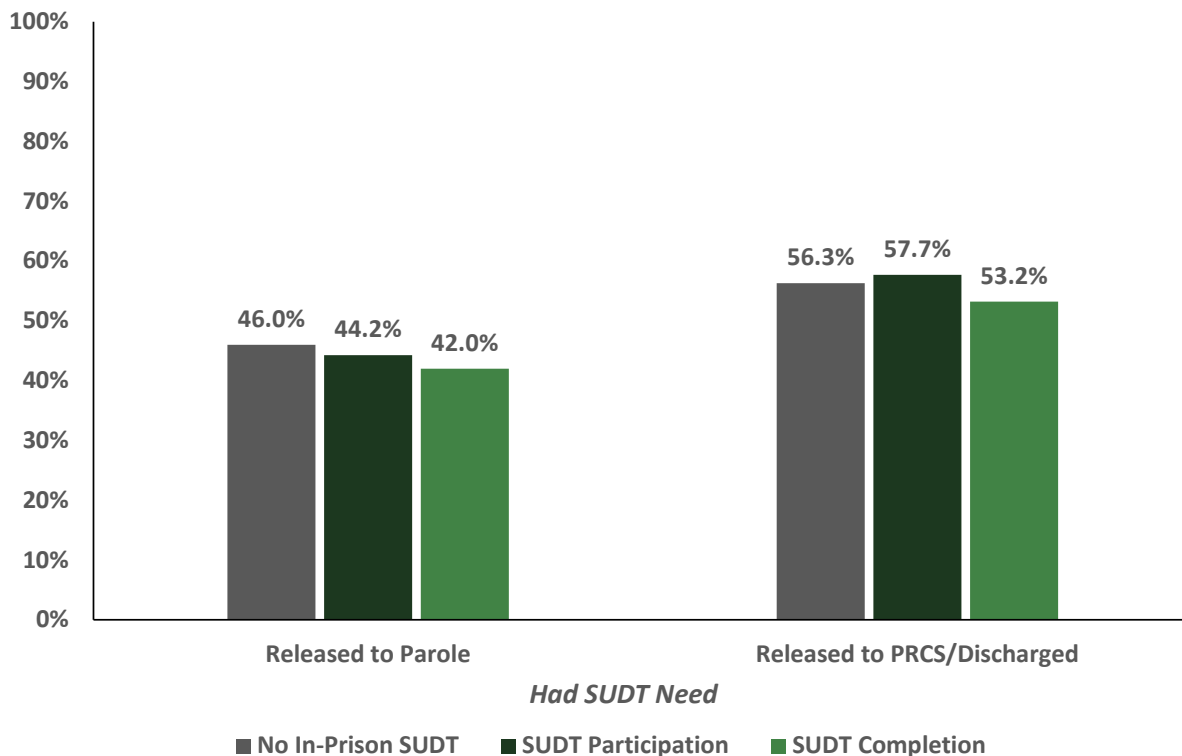


Figure 3 and Table 4 present conviction rates for offenders with a treatment need by release type and SUDT participation. Of the 18,372 offenders identified as having a treatment need by the COMPAS, offenders who were released to parole and completed SUDT treatment had the lowest three-year conviction rate (42.0 percent). Offenders with a need and SUDT completion in either release type category (parole or PRCS/directly discharged) had lower rates when compared to those with only some or no participation.

Table 4. Conviction Rates for Offenders with a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Need by Participation

Had SUDT Need (as indicated by the COMPAS)	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Released to Parole							
No In-Prison SUDT	6,337	1,252	19.8%	2,314	36.5%	2,913	46.0%
SUDT Participation	608	111	18.3%	208	34.2%	269	44.2%
SUDT Completion	1,112	175	15.7%	368	33.1%	467	42.0%
Subtotal	8,057	1,538	19.1%	2,890	35.9%	3,649	45.3%
Released to PRCS/Discharged							
No In-Prison SUDT	8,586	2,304	26.8%	3,968	46.2%	4,831	56.3%
SUDT Participation	650	185	28.5%	295	45.4%	375	57.7%
SUDT Completion	1,079	241	22.3%	454	42.1%	574	53.2%
Subtotal	10,315	2,730	26.5%	4,717	45.7%	5,780	56.0%
Total with Need Identified	18,372	4,268	23.2%	7,607	41.4%	9,429	51.3%

Offenders with No Substance Use Disorder Treatment Need

Figure 4. Conviction Rates for Offenders with No Substance Use Disorder Treatment Need by Participation

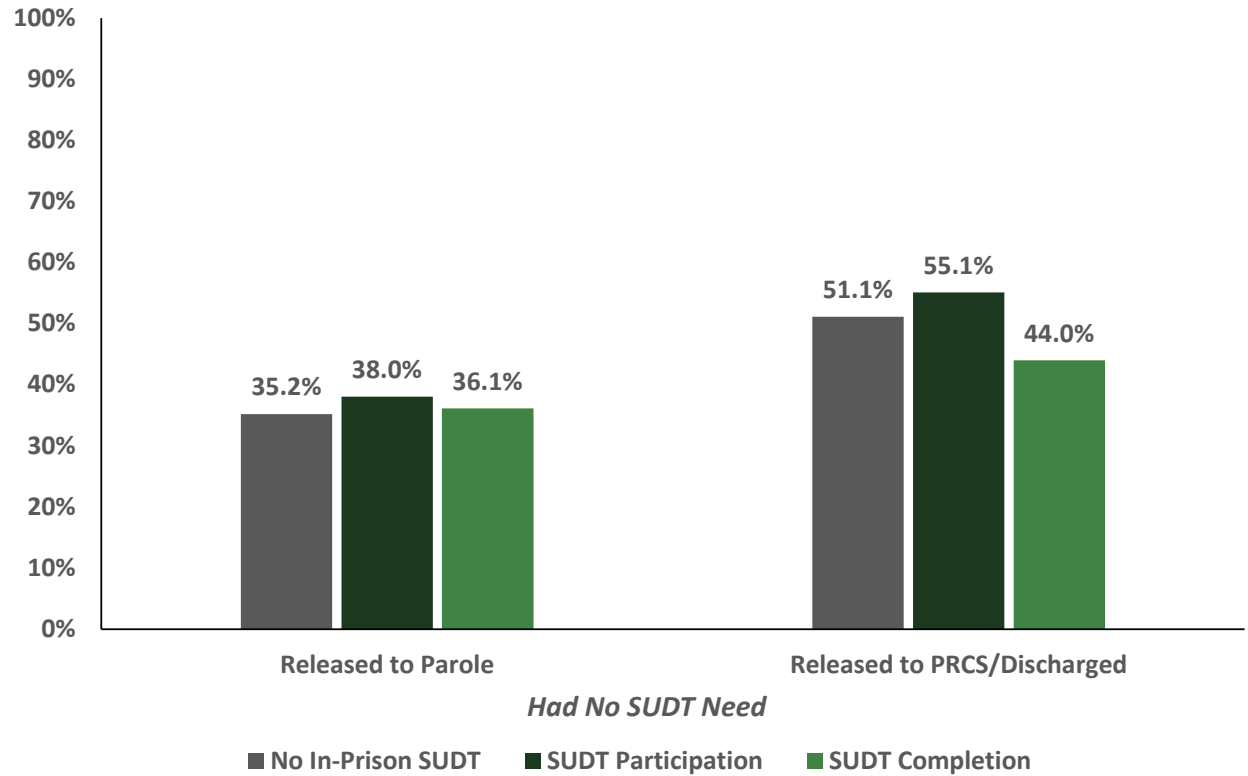


Figure 4 and Table 5 present conviction rates for offenders with no treatment need by release type and SUDT participation. Offenders without a treatment need generally had lower recidivism rates when compared to those with a treatment need. Parolees with no in-prison SUDT participation had the lowest three-year conviction rate (35.2 percent), while PRCS releases/direct discharges with some SUDT participation had the highest rate (55.1 percent).

In cases where offenders did not receive an assessment, those who were released to PRCS had a three-year conviction rate of 53.9 percent, which is generally consistent with other PRCS releases. The rate for the relatively small group of parolees with no assessment was 16.5 percent.

Table 5. Conviction Rates for Offenders with No Substance Use Disorder Treatment Need, by Participation

	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Had No SUDT Need							
Released to Parole							
No In-Prison SUDT	6,531	884	13.5%	1,793	27.5%	2,299	35.2%
SUDT Participation	326	44	13.5%	95	29.1%	124	38.0%
SUDT Completion	587	80	13.6%	163	27.8%	212	36.1%
Subtotal	7,444	1,008	13.5%	2,051	27.6%	2,635	35.4%
Released to PRCS/Discharged							
No In-Prison SUDT	4,008	958	23.9%	1,660	41.4%	2,049	51.1%
SUDT Participation	138	46	33.3%	71	51.4%	76	55.1%
SUDT Completion	207	41	19.8%	64	30.9%	91	44.0%
Subtotal	4,353	1,045	24.0%	1,795	41.2%	2,216	50.9%
No Assessment							
Released to Parole	85	3	3.5%	11	12.9%	14	16.5%
Released to PRCS/Discharged	1,538	386	25.1%	677	44.0%	829	53.9%
Subtotal	1,623	389	24.0%	688	42.4%	843	51.9%
Total with No Need Identified	13,420	2,442	18.2%	4,534	33.8%	5,694	42.4%

Comparison of the Fiscal Year 2015-16 and 2016-17 Release Cohorts

When compared to the previous fiscal year, the statewide conviction rate increased by 3.0 percentage points to 47.6 percent.^{iv} Table 6 presents the three-year conviction rate by SUDT and aftercare participation for both the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 release cohorts for comparative purposes. Please note that releases to parole and PRCS/discharged are combined in this table.

Overall, the rates for offenders who received no aftercare decreased slightly between the two fiscal years, regardless of SUDT participation. The rate for offenders who received some aftercare or completed aftercare generally increased. Finally, the rate for offenders whose aftercare treatment is unknown increased, except for those who completed an in-prison SUDT program.^v

Table 6. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Aftercare Participation for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and Fiscal Year 2016-17

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participation	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
No Aftercare									
No In-Prison SUDT	10,116	8,893	(1,223)	4,108	3,508	(600)	40.6%	39.4%	(1.2)
SUDT Participation	637	573	(64)	292	242	(50)	45.8%	42.2%	(3.6)
SUDT Completion	837	1,025	188	358	429	71	42.8%	41.9%	(0.9)
Some Aftercare									
No In-Prison SUDT	2,485	2,494	9	1,176	1,358	182	47.3%	54.5%	7.2
SUDT Participation	250	209	(41)	110	125	15	44.0%	59.8%	15.8
SUDT Completion	328	360	32	147	183	36	44.8%	50.8%	6.0
Completed Aftercare									
No In-Prison SUDT	1,272	1,636	364	247	391	144	19.4%	23.9%	4.5
SUDT Participation	165	165	0	24	31	7	14.5%	18.8%	4.3
SUDT Completion	224	321	97	45	70	25	20.1%	21.8%	1.7
Aftercare Unknown									
No In-Prison SUDT	15,013	14,042	(971)	7,314	7,667	353	48.7%	54.6%	5.9
SUDT Participation	1,088	789	(299)	542	453	(89)	49.8%	57.4%	7.6
SUDT Completion	1,341	1,285	(56)	696	666	(30)	51.9%	51.8%	(0.1)

Notes

ⁱ Also referred to as the statewide report. Detailed information regarding the evaluation design, methodology, data limitations and more may be found in Appendix G: Evaluation Design of the statewide report, available here:

<https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/>

ⁱⁱ CDCR has determined that offenders in this group may receive the same program treatment regardless of release type.

ⁱⁱⁱ Rates are not calculated for release groups smaller than 30 offenders. For more information on data limitations and methodology, see Appendix G: Evaluation Design of the statewide report.

^{iv} For more information on the statewide recidivism rate's year-to-year changes, please see the Recidivism Report series: www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/

^v 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 have less influence on the statewide rate.



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