



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

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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 2016-17.¹ This report also includes recidivism rates by SUDT participation for those who received a COMPAS assessment.

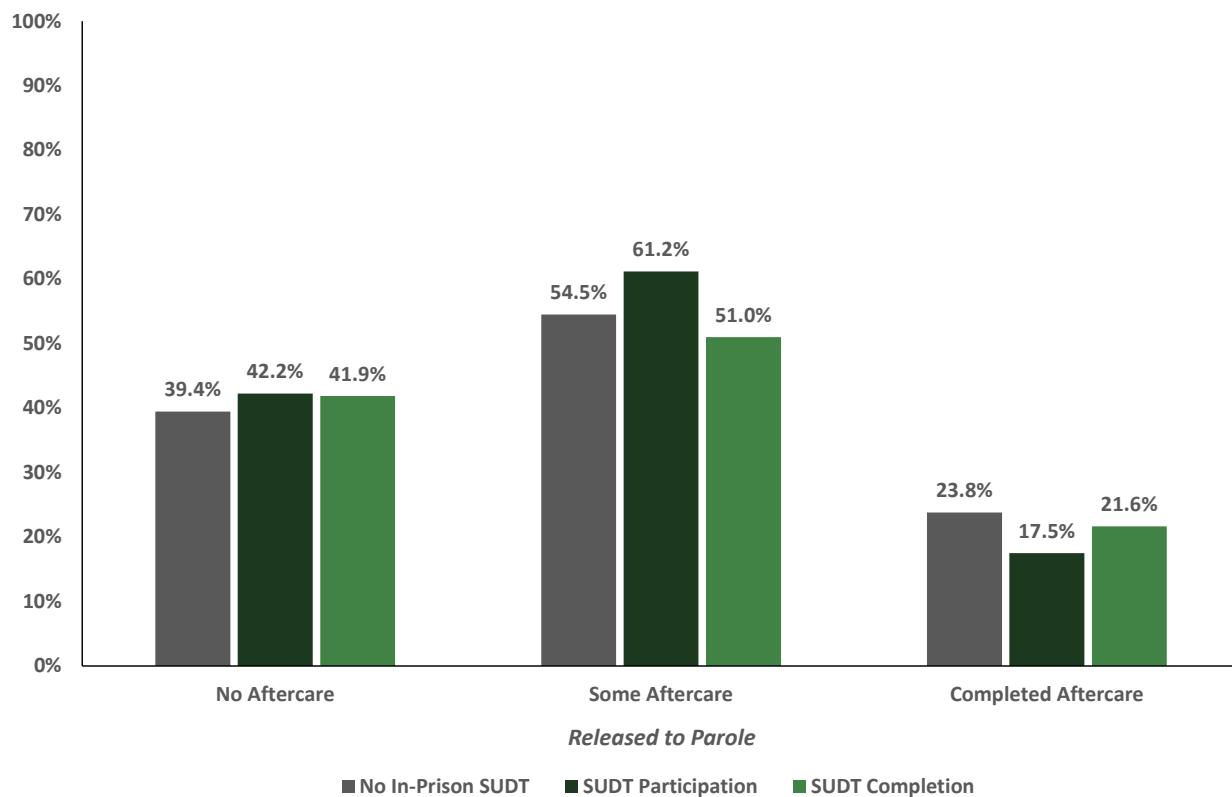
A total of 4,727 offenders participated in or completed in-prison SUDT programs and were released in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17, and 5,185 offenders participated in or completed aftercare. Please note that aftercare data is typically only available for offenders released to parole. Overall, offenders who 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.

Supplemental Recidivism Report for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17:
Substance Use Disorder Treatment

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 |
| 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

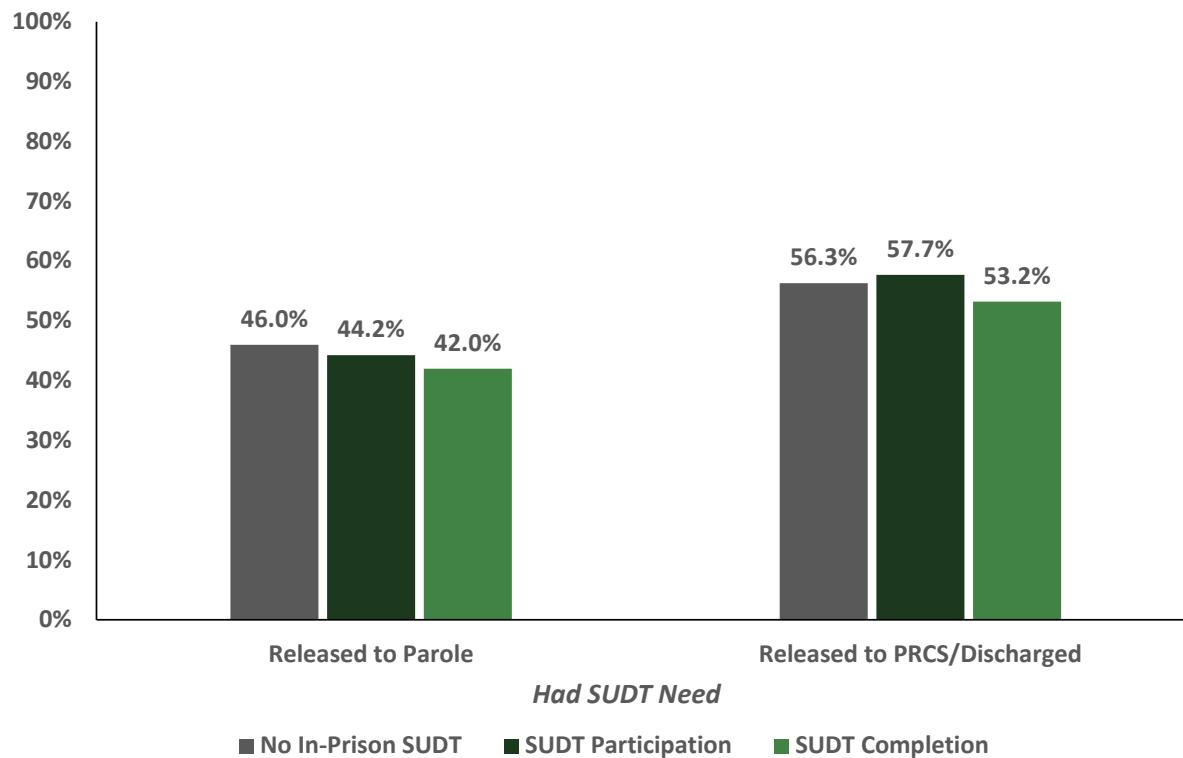
The Correctional Offender Management for Profiling Alternative Sanctions tool (COMPAS) is an assessment tool used to inform decisions regarding offender placement, supervision, and case management. The assessment categorizes offenders as having an unlikely need, a probable need, or a highly probable 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



Supplemental Recidivism Report for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17:
Substance Use Disorder Treatment

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

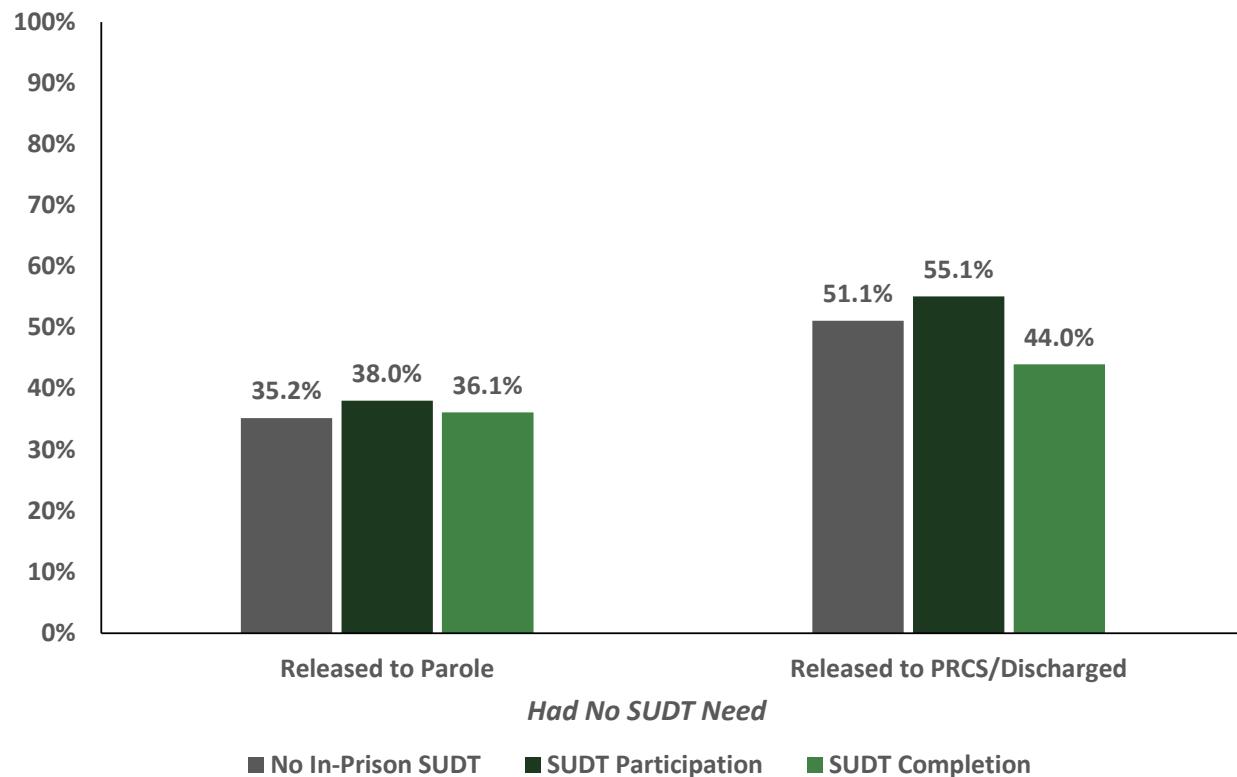


Figure 4 and Table 5 present conviction rates for offenders with no treatment need by release type and SUDT participation. Offenders without a treatment need generally had lower recidivism rates when compared to those with a treatment need. Parolees with no in-prison SUDT participation had the lowest 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.

Supplemental Recidivism Report for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17:
Substance Use Disorder Treatment

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

| Had No SUDT Need | 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 | 6,531 | 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

Supplemental Recidivism Report for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17:
Substance Use Disorder Treatment

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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