



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 2017-18

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 2017-18

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.

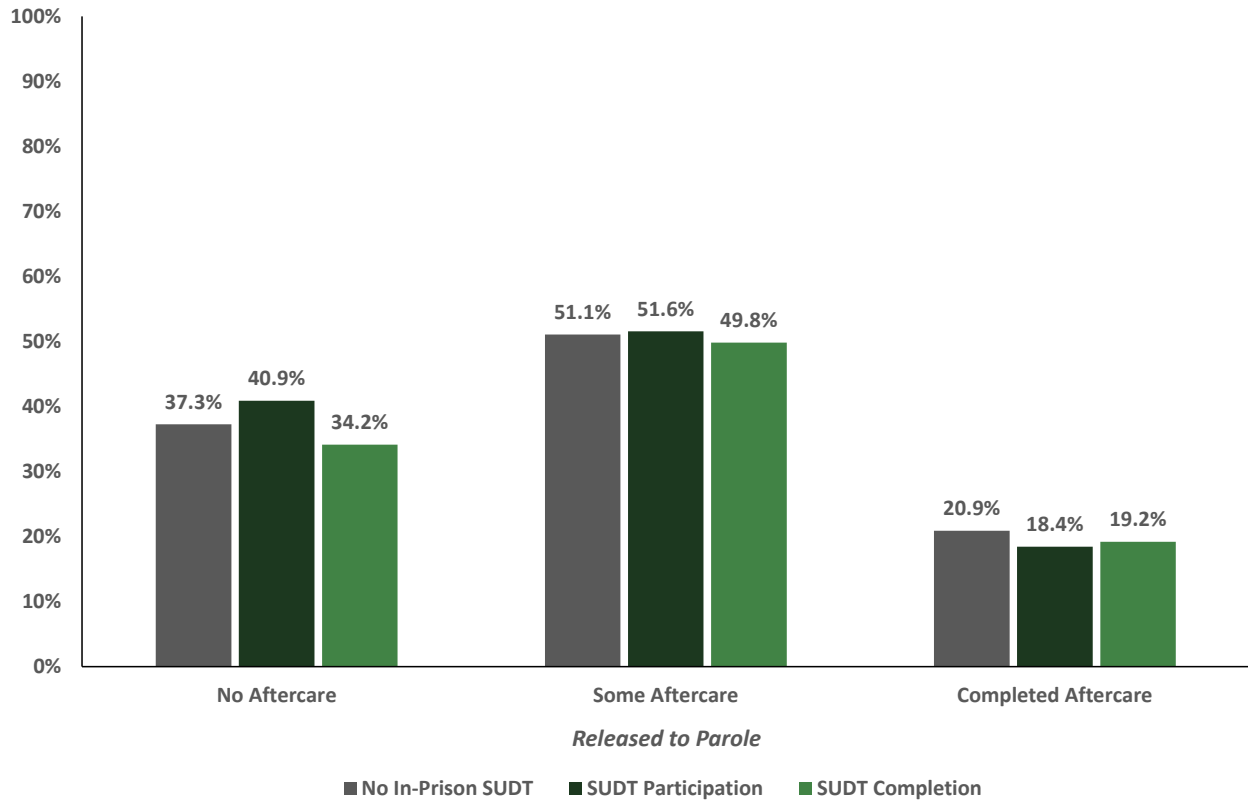
A total of 5,863 offenders participated in or completed in-prison SUDT programs and were released in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18, and 6,915 offenders participated in or completed aftercare. Please note that aftercare data is typically only available for offenders released to parole. Overall, offenders who 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 2017-18 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 seen 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 (18.4 percent). Those with some in-prison SUDT participation and some aftercare had the highest conviction rate (51.6 percent). Rates for parolees with no aftercare typically fall in between the rates of 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	9,179	1,744	19.0%	3,005	32.7%	3,421	37.3%
SUDT Participation	658	144	21.9%	237	36.0%	269	40.9%
SUDT Completion	1,221	192	15.7%	359	29.4%	417	34.2%
Subtotal	11,058	2,080	18.8%	3,601	32.6%	4,107	37.1%
Some Aftercare							
No In-Prison SUDT	3,110	626	20.1%	1,288	41.4%	1,588	51.1%
SUDT Participation	289	51	17.6%	125	43.3%	149	51.6%
SUDT Completion	574	101	17.6%	212	36.9%	286	49.8%
Subtotal	3,973	778	19.6%	1,625	40.9%	2,023	50.9%
Completed Aftercare							
No In-Prison SUDT	2,053	84	4.1%	311	15.1%	429	20.9%
SUDT Participation	206	13	6.3%	28	13.6%	38	18.4%
SUDT Completion	521	17	3.3%	68	13.1%	100	19.2%
Subtotal	2,780	114	4.1%	407	14.6%	567	20.4%
Total	17,811	2,972	16.7%	5,633	31.6%	6,697	37.6%

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 (50.3 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 36.2 percent, and those who completed aftercare had a rate of 34.4 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	15,124	4,116	27.2%	6,802	45.0%	7,818	51.7%
SUDT Participation	889	264	29.7%	409	46.0%	497	55.9%
SUDT Completion	1,461	343	23.5%	624	42.7%	735	50.3%
Subtotal	17,474	4,723	27.0%	7,835	44.8%	9,050	51.8%
Some Aftercare							
No In-Prison SUDT	57	9	15.8%	19	33.3%	21	36.8%
SUDT Participation	3	1	N/A	2	N/A	2	N/A
SUDT Completion	9	2	N/A	2	N/A	2	N/A
Subtotal	69	12	17.4%	23	33.3%	25	36.2%
Completed Aftercare							
No In-Prison SUDT	61	7	11.5%	17	27.9%	21	34.4%
SUDT Participation	19	4	N/A	10	N/A	10	N/A
SUDT Completion	13	1	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A
Subtotal	93	12	12.9%	28	30.1%	32	34.4%
Total	17,636	4,747	26.9%	7,886	44.7%	9,107	51.6%

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 2017-18 by in-prison SUDT treatment need based on the COMPAS. Notably, over half of offenders released (59.4 percent) were identified to have a treatment need according to the COMPAS.

Table 3. Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2017-18 by Substance Use Treatment Need

COMPAS Indication	Number Released	Percent of Total
Had SUDT Need	21,057	59.4%
No SUDT Need	12,880	36.3%
No Assessment	1,510	4.3%
Total	35,447	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

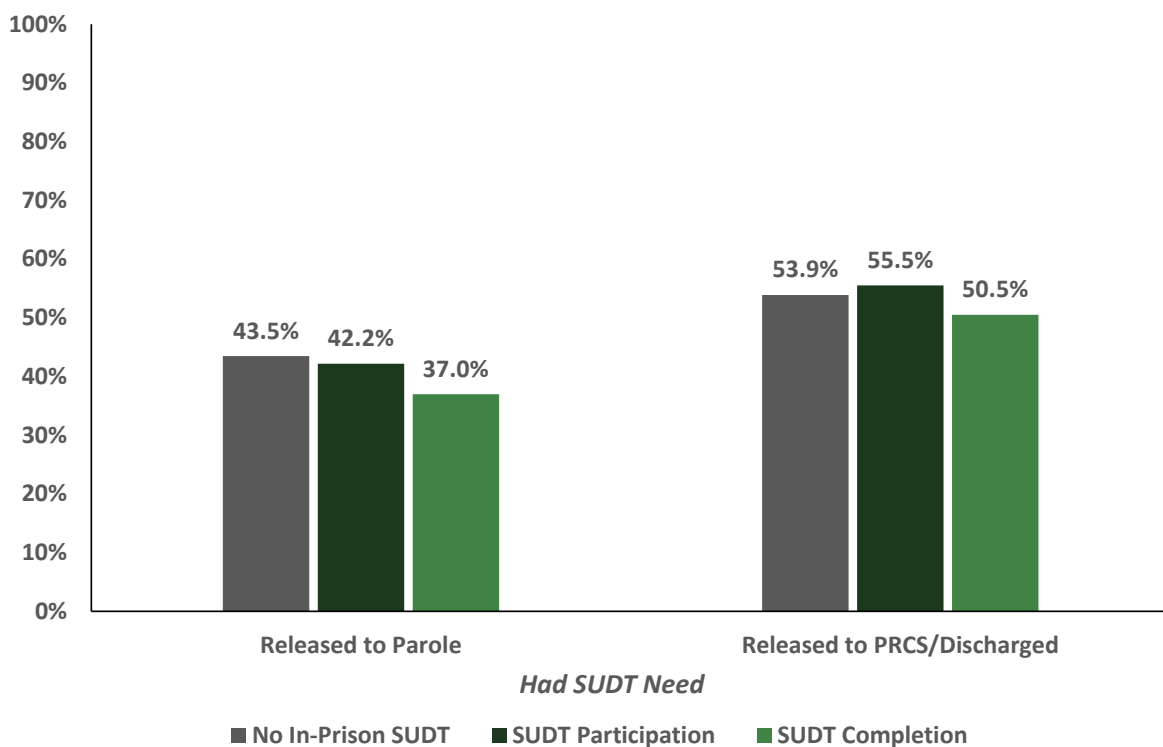


Figure 3 and Table 4 present conviction rates for offenders with a treatment need by release type and SUDT participation. Of the 21,057 offenders identified as having a treatment need by the COMPAS, offenders who were released to parole and completed SUDT treatment had the lowest three-year conviction rate (37.0 percent). Offenders who completed SUDT treatment in either release type (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	7,500	1,550	20.7%	2,796	37.3%	3,260	43.5%
SUDT Participation	723	133	18.4%	266	36.8%	305	42.2%
SUDT Completion	1,555	232	14.9%	458	29.5%	575	37.0%
Subtotal	9,778	1,915	19.6%	3,520	36.0%	4,140	42.3%
Released to PRCS/Discharged							
No In-Prison SUDT	9,276	2,659	28.7%	4,356	47.0%	4,997	53.9%
SUDT Participation	746	217	29.1%	341	45.7%	414	55.5%
SUDT Completion	1,257	287	22.8%	540	43.0%	635	50.5%
Subtotal	11,279	3,163	28.0%	5,237	46.4%	6,046	53.6%
Total with Need Identified	21,057	5,078	24.1%	8,757	41.6%	10,186	48.4%

Offenders with No Substance Use Disorder Treatment Need

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

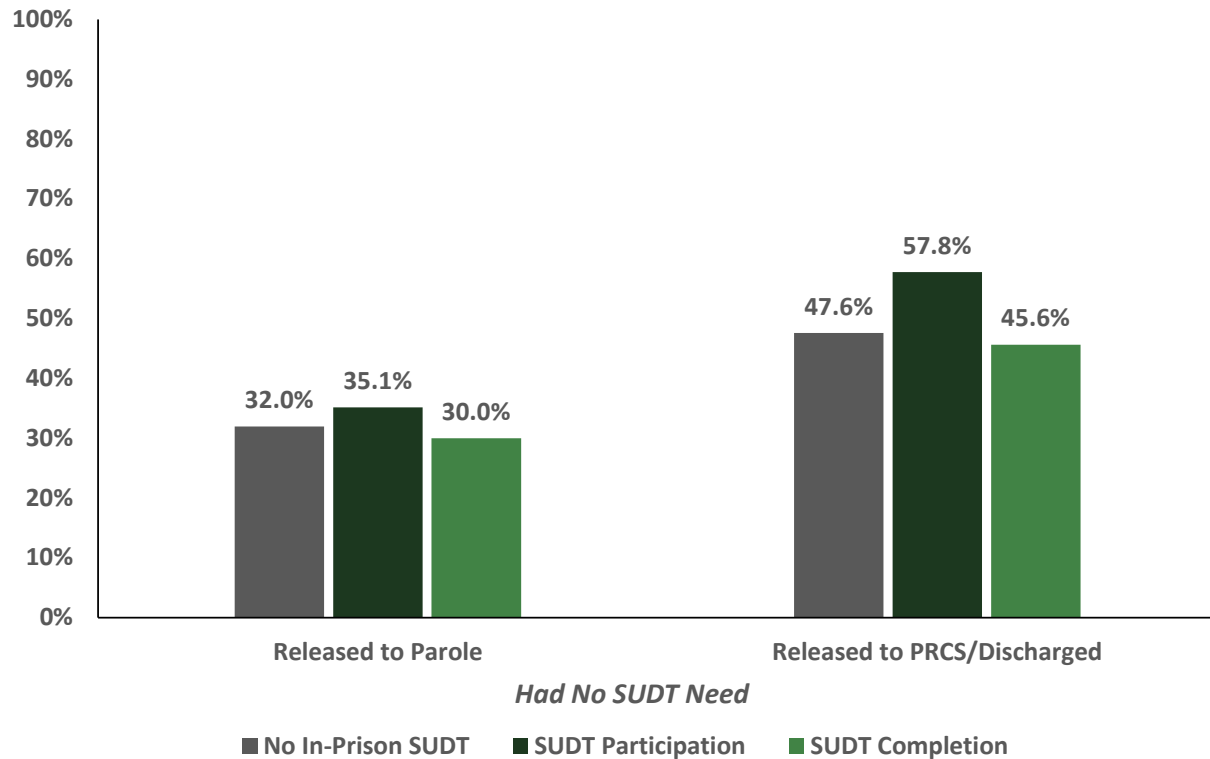


Figure 4 and Table 5 present conviction rates for offenders with no treatment need by release type and SUDT participation. Offenders without a treatment need generally had lower recidivism rates when compared to those with a treatment need. Parolees who completed in-prison SUDT had the lowest three-year conviction rate (30.0 percent), while PRCS releases/direct discharges with only some SUDT participation had the highest rate (57.8 percent).

In cases where offenders did not receive an assessment, those who were released to PRCS had a three-year conviction rate of 49.3 percent, which is generally consistent with other PRCS releases. The rate for the relatively small group of parolees with no assessment was 18.8 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	6,778	898	13.2%	1,797	26.5%	2,166	32.0%
SUDT Participation	430	75	17.4%	124	28.8%	151	35.1%
SUDT Completion	761	78	10.2%	181	23.8%	228	30.0%
Subtotal	7,969	1,051	13.2%	2,102	26.4%	2,545	31.9%
Released to PRCS/Discharged							
No In-Prison SUDT	4,533	1,100	24.3%	1,862	41.1%	2,156	47.6%
SUDT Participation	161	52	32.3%	78	48.4%	93	57.8%
SUDT Completion	217	56	25.8%	84	38.7%	99	45.6%
Subtotal	4,911	1,208	24.6%	2,024	41.2%	2,348	47.8%
No Assessment							
Released to Parole	64	6	9.4%	11	17.2%	12	18.8%
Released to PRCS/Discharged	1,446	376	26.0%	625	43.2%	713	49.3%
Subtotal	1,510	382	25.3%	636	42.1%	725	48.0%
Total with No Need Identified	14,390	2,641	18.4%	4,762	33.1%	5,618	39.0%

Comparison of the Fiscal Year 2016-17 and 2017-18 Release Cohorts

When compared to the previous fiscal year, the statewide conviction rate decreased by 3.0 percentage points to 44.6 percent.^{iv} Table 6 presents the three-year conviction rate by SUDT and aftercare participation for both the FY 2016-17 and 2017-18 release cohorts for comparative purposes. Please note that releases to parole and PRCS/directly discharged are combined in this table.

Overall, the rates for most groups of offenders decreased between the two fiscal years. The largest decrease (8.1 percentage points) occurred in the group that had the highest rate in FY 2016-17 (some aftercare, some SUDT participation). Conversely, the only increase between FY 2016-17 and 2017-18 was for offenders who had some SUDT participation and completed aftercare, which previously had the lowest rate.^v

Table 6. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Aftercare Participation for Offenders Released in Fiscal Year 2016-17 and Fiscal Year 2017-18

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Participation	FY 2016-17 Number Released	FY 2017-18 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2016-17 Number Convicted	FY 2017-18 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2016-17 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2017-18 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
No Aftercare									
No In-Prison SUDT	8,893	9,179	286	3,508	3,421	(87)	39.4%	37.3%	(2.1)
SUDT Participation	573	658	85	242	269	27	42.2%	40.9%	(1.3)
SUDT Completion	1,025	1,221	196	429	417	(12)	41.9%	34.2%	(7.7)
Some Aftercare									
No In-Prison SUDT	2,494	3,167	673	1,358	1,609	251	54.5%	50.8%	(3.7)
SUDT Participation	209	292	83	125	151	26	59.8%	51.7%	(8.1)
SUDT Completion	360	583	223	183	288	105	50.8%	49.4%	(1.4)
Completed Aftercare									
No In-Prison SUDT	1,636	2,114	478	391	450	59	23.9%	21.3%	(2.6)
SUDT Participation	165	225	60	31	48	17	18.8%	21.3%	2.5
SUDT Completion	321	534	213	70	101	31	21.8%	18.9%	(2.9)
Aftercare Unknown									
No In-Prison SUDT	14,042	15,124	1,082	7,667	7,818	151	54.6%	51.7%	(2.9)
SUDT Participation	789	889	100	453	497	44	57.4%	55.9%	(1.5)
SUDT Completion	1,285	1,461	176	666	735	69	51.8%	50.3%	(1.5)

Notes

ⁱ Also referred to as the statewide report. Detailed information regarding the evaluation design, methodology, data limitations and more may be found in 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, 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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