

Supplemental Recidivism Rates for Individuals with Rehabilitative Program Achievements Released in Fiscal Year 2019-20

Rehabilitative Programs

This briefing provides supplemental recidivism rates for individuals who participated in Rehabilitative Programs and were released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20. Rehabilitative Programs include Academic Education (EDU), Career Technical Education (CTE), and Cognitive Behavioral Programs (CBP). Individuals are followed for three years after their release from CDCR. The three-year conviction rate serves as the primary measure of recidivism, while arrest and return-to-prison rates are provided as supplemental measures of recidivism.ⁱ

This briefing also provides the type of post-release conviction (i.e., felony or misdemeanor) and an overview of the demographics (e.g., age at release, race/ethnicity) and characteristics (e.g., commitment offense category, length of stay) of individuals with a Rehabilitative Program achievement. For more information regarding the methodology and limitations of this briefing, please refer to the *Statewide Recidivism Report for Individuals Released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2019-20*.ⁱⁱ

Summary of Findings

Of the 34,215 individuals released in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20, a total of 2,113 individuals earned an academic EDU achievement, 2,026 individuals earned a CTE achievement, and 6,509 individuals earned a CBP achievement.ⁱⁱⁱ An additional 6,873 individuals earned a Transitions (other EDU) achievement.^{iv} A total of 12,850 individuals earned at least one rehabilitative achievement, although individuals can earn multiple achievements.^v The three-year recidivism rates for individuals who earned a EDU, CTE, or CBP achievement are lower than the rates for those without an achievement.

Research shows education and employment may have a positive impact on post-release recidivism and the rates presented in this briefing support existing research. Across all three measures of recidivism (arrests, convictions, and returns to prison) individuals who participate in rehabilitative programs have lower rates of recidivism than those who do not participate.

Three-Year Recidivism Rates

Education

The three-year arrest rate for the 2,113 individuals with an academic EDU achievement is 49.3 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 27.7 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 13.7 percent (Table 1). Each of these rates is substantially lower than recidivism rates for those without an academic achievement.^{vi} The three-year conviction rate for all EDU achievements (27.7 percent) is 12.2 percentage points lower than the rate for individuals who did not earn an EDU achievement (39.9 percent).

None of the 19 individuals who earned a bachelor's or master's degree were convicted during the three-year follow-up period. The rate for the 303 individuals who earned an associate degree is 5.6 percent and the rate for those with a General Educational Development (GED) is 29.7 percent (Table 2). The rate for individuals who earned a high school equivalency is 33.3 percent and the rate for individuals who

earned a high school diploma is 36.1 percent. A large group of individuals (6,873) completed Transitions (other EDU) and have a three-year conviction rate of 36.9 percent.

Career Technical Education

As shown in Table 1, the three-year arrest rate for the 2,026 individuals with a CTE achievement is 50.5 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 26.0 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 12.7 percent. The rates for those who earned a CTE achievement is lower for all three measures than the rate for those without a CTE achievement.^{vii} The three-year conviction rate for those with any CTE achievement (26.0 percent) is 14 percentage points lower than the rate for those without a CTE achievement (40.0 percent).

Table 3 presents conviction rates for each CTE achievement type. Individuals with a building and construction achievement had a three-year conviction rate of 23.3 percent, followed by those with a transportation achievement (24.1 percent), and a business and finance achievement (27.9 percent).

Cognitive Behavioral Programs

The three-year arrest rate for the 6,509 individuals with a CBP achievement is 58.2 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 35.1 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 16.6 percent.^{viii} Each of these recidivism rates is lower than recidivism rates for those without a CBP achievement. The three-year conviction rate for each CBP achievement type is lower than the rate of those without a CBP achievement (40.1 percent).

Table 4 provides conviction rates for each CBP achievement type. Individuals with denial management have the lowest three-year conviction rate at 3.6 percent, followed by victim impact (3.8 percent), and the occupational mentor certification program (8.8 percent).

Type of Conviction

A total of 3,016 individuals with a rehabilitative program achievement were convicted during the three-year follow-up period. Over half (57.3 percent) were convicted of felonies and 42.7 percent were convicted of misdemeanors (Table 5). Felony crimes against persons (20.7 percent of all convictions) led the felony type of conviction category and misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes (15.5 percent of all convictions) led the misdemeanor conviction category. The percentages presented in Table 5 are consistent with the FY 2019-20 statewide release cohort, as well as a rise in the violent and property crime rates observed in California and across the United States during the period of release for participants.^{ix}

*Table 1. Arrest, Conviction and Return-to-Prison Rates for Individuals with Rehabilitative Program Achievements During Incarceration**

Arrest Rates

Rehabilitative Program Achievements	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Arrested	Arrest Rate	Number Arrested	Arrest Rate	Number Arrested	Arrest Rate
Academic Educational Achievement	2,113	626	29.6%	899	42.5%	1,041	49.3%
Career Technical Education Achievement	2,026	615	30.4%	857	42.3%	1,024	50.5%
Cognitive Behavioral Programs Achievement	6,509	2,538	39.0%	3,384	52.0%	3,789	58.2%

Conviction Rates

Rehabilitative Program Achievements	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Academic Educational Achievement	2,113	162	7.7%	414	19.6%	585	27.7%
Career Technical Education Achievement	2,026	141	7.0%	372	18.4%	526	26.0%
Cognitive Behavioral Programs Achievement	6,509	724	11.1%	1,628	25.0%	2,286	35.1%

Return-to-Prison Rates

Rehabilitative Program Achievements	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Returned	Return Rate	Number Returned	Return Rate	Number Returned	Return Rate
Academic Educational Achievement	2,122	36	1.7%	158	7.4%	291	13.7%
Career Technical Education Achievement	2,038	29	1.4%	152	7.5%	259	12.7%
Cognitive Behavioral Programs Achievement	6,557	156	2.4%	622	9.5%	1,091	16.6%

*Individuals may receive more than one type of achievement.

Table 2. Conviction Rates for Individuals with an Academic Educational Achievement

Academic Educational Achievement	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
GED	1,557	123	7.9%	330	21.2%	462	29.7%
High School Equivalency	117	8	6.8%	20	17.1%	39	33.3%
High School Diploma	191	29	15.2%	55	28.8%	69	36.1%
Associate Degree	303	4	1.3%	11	3.6%	17	5.6%
Bachelor's Degree	11	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Master's Degree	8	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
All Academic Educational Achievements	2,113	162	7.7%	414	19.6%	585	27.7%
No Educational Achievement Completed During Incarceration	32,102	4,514	14.1%	9,460	29.5%	12,810	39.9%

Other Educational Achievement	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Transitions	6,873	852	12.4%	1,843	26.8%	2,534	36.9%

Table 3. Conviction Rates for Individuals with a Career Technical Education Achievement

Career Technical Education Achievement (CTE)	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Building and Construction	965	60	6.2%	156	16.2%	225	23.3%
Business and Finance	1,102	83	7.5%	215	19.5%	307	27.9%
Manufacturing	11	0	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A
Transportation	79	4	5.1%	16	20.3%	19	24.1%
All CTE Achievements	2,026	141	7.0%	372	18.4%	526	26.0%
No CTE Achievement Completed During Incarceration	32,189	4,535	14.1%	9,502	29.5%	12,869	40.0%

Table 4. Conviction Rates for Individuals with a Cognitive Behavioral Program Achievement

Cognitive Behavioral Programs Achievement (CBP)	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Anger Management	3,367	335	9.9%	771	22.9%	1,114	33.1%
Criminal Thinking	3,551	372	10.5%	864	24.3%	1,226	34.5%
Denial Management	192	1	0.5%	4	2.1%	7	3.6%
Family Relationships	1,557	133	8.5%	317	20.4%	468	30.1%
Occupational Mentor Certification Program	34	0	0.0%	1	2.9%	3	8.8%
Substance Use Disorder Treatment	3,984	423	10.6%	963	24.2%	1,352	33.9%
Victim Impact	235	0	0.0%	5	2.1%	9	3.8%
All CBP Achievements	6,509	724	11.1%	1,628	25.0%	2,286	35.1%
No CBP Achievement Completed During Incarceration	27,706	3,952	14.3%	8,246	29.8%	11,109	40.1%

Table 5. Type of Post-Release Conviction for Individuals with a Rehabilitative Program Achievement

Type of Conviction	Number	Percent
All Felonies	1,728	57.3%
Felony Crimes Against Persons	625	20.7%
Felony Property Crimes	374	12.4%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	170	5.6%
Felony Other Crimes	559	18.5%
All Misdemeanors	1,288	42.7%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	364	12.1%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	250	8.3%
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	466	15.5%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	208	6.9%
Total	3,016	100.0%

Table 6. Demographics and Characteristics of Individuals with Rehabilitative Program Achievements

Demographics and Characteristics	Number	Percent
Total	12,850	100.0%
Gender		
Male	11,749	91.4%
Female	1,101	8.6%
Age at Release		
18 and 19	23	0.2%
20 to 24	1,098	8.5%
25 to 29	2,277	17.7%
30 to 34	2,347	18.3%
35 to 39	2,145	16.7%
40 to 44	1,586	12.3%
45 to 49	1,149	8.9%
50 to 54	869	6.8%
55 to 59	722	5.6%
60 and over	634	4.9%
Race/Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latino	5,527	43.0%
Black/African American	3,289	25.6%
White	3,240	25.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	177	1.4%
Asian	145	1.1%
Pacific Islander	37	0.3%
Other	435	3.4%
Commitment Offense Category		
Crimes Against Persons	7,629	59.4%
Property Crimes	2,210	17.2%
Other Crimes	2,016	15.7%
Drug Crimes	995	7.7%
Sentence Type		
Determinate Term	7,795	60.7%
Second Strike (Determinate Term)	4,472	34.8%
Indeterminate Term	492	3.8%
Third Strike (Indeterminate Term)	88	0.7%
Resentenced to Misdemeanor	3	0.0%

Table 6. Demographics and Characteristics of Individuals with Rehabilitative Program Achievements (continued)

Demographics and Characteristics	Number	Percent
Total	12,850	100.0%
Type of Post-Release Supervision		
Parole	7,907	61.5%
Post-Release Community Supervision	4,938	38.4%
Directly Discharged	5	0.0%
Serious/Violent Offense		
Non-Serious/Non-Violent	5,377	41.8%
Serious	2,565	20.0%
Violent	4,908	38.2%
Sex Registration Requirement		
No	11,132	86.6%
Yes	1,718	13.4%
CSRA Risk Score		
Low	4,730	36.8%
Moderate	3,435	26.7%
High	4,685	36.5%
Mental Health Designation		
Correctional Clinical Case Management System	2,781	21.6%
Enhanced Outpatient Program	328	2.6%
Psychiatric Inpatient Program	16	0.1%
Mental Health Crisis Bed	7	0.1%
No Mental Health Designation	9,718	75.6%
Length of Stay		
Less than 1 year	2,114	16.5%
1 year (12 to 23 months)	3,523	27.4%
2 years (24 to 35 months)	1,964	15.3%
3 years (36 to 47 months)	1,122	8.7%
4 years (48 to 59 months)	739	5.8%
5 to 9 years	1,763	13.7%
10 to 14 years	721	5.6%
15 years or more	904	7.0%

ⁱ For more information regarding primary and supplemental measures of recidivism, see the Statewide Recidivism Report series, available at: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/>.

ⁱⁱ See Appendix H Evaluation Design of the *Statewide Recidivism Report for Individuals Released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2019-20*: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Individuals may earn more than one type of reentry achievement (e.g., an EDU and CTE achievement) and multiple achievements within the same reentry achievement category (e.g., a high school diploma and associate degree).

^{iv} Transitions is a non-academic educational achievement type (other educational achievement). Those completing Transitions have been excluded from the overall recidivism rate calculations for the EDU category.

^v Note that each of the categories only include some of the rehabilitative programming offered by CDCR and do not represent a comprehensive list of rehabilitative programs.

^{vi} The three-year arrest rate for individuals without an EDU achievement and released in the FY 2019-20 statewide release cohort is 65.2 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 39.9 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 17.6 percent. For those with an EDU achievement the three-year arrest rate (49.3 percent) is 15.9 percentage points lower than those without an EDU achievement, the conviction rate (27.7 percent) is 12.2 percentage points lower, and the return-to-prison rate (13.7 percent) is 3.9 percentage points lower than other than individuals without an EDU academic achievement.

^{vii} The three-year arrest rate for individuals without a CTE achievement and released in the FY 2019-20 statewide release cohort is 65.1 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 40.0 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 17.7 percent. For those with a CTE achievement the three-year arrest rate (50.5 percent) is 14.5 percentage points lower than those without a CTE achievement, the conviction rate (26.0 percent) is 14.0 percentage points lower, and the return-to-prison rate (12.7 percent) is 4.9 percentage points lower than other than individuals without a CTE achievement.

^{viii} The FY 2018-19 supplemental report included a small group of individuals who participated in the CBP/Sex Offenders program. This program was a pilot and not adopted as a formal program under the structure in place during the reporting period. Therefore, this program is no longer included in this report.

^{ix} For more information regarding crime rates and their impact on recidivism rates and the type of post-release recidivism, see the Executive Summary and Section 4.4 of the *Statewide Recidivism Report for Individuals Released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2019-20*: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/>