



California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

STATEWIDE RECIDIVISM REPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS RELEASED FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION IN FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

Division of Correctional Policy, Research, and Internal Oversight

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Executive Summary

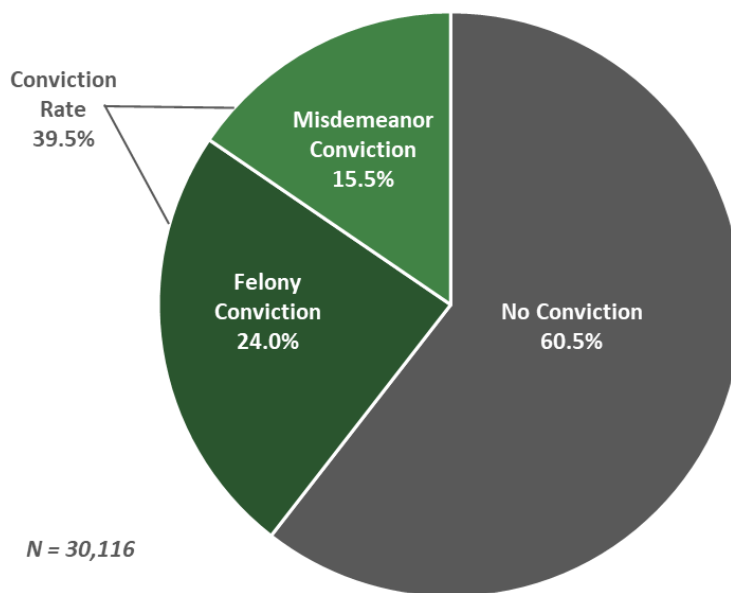
The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) examines recidivism outcomes (arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates) for formerly incarcerated individuals released from CDCR’s adult institutions over a given fiscal year. This report presents recidivism rates for the 30,116 individuals released between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021 (Fiscal Year 2020-21). CDCR tracks individuals 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 demographics (e.g., age, race/ethnicity) and characteristics (e.g., sentence type, length of stay).

Recidivism Rates for Individuals Released During Fiscal Year 2020-21

The three-year conviction rate for the 30,116 individuals who comprise the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 release cohort is 39.5 percent.¹ As shown in Figure A, 60.5 percent of the release cohort (18,230 individuals) successfully completed the three-year follow-up period without a conviction. Within three years of their release from prison, 24.0 percent of the release cohort (7,224 individuals) were convicted of a felony offense, and 15.5 percent (4,662 individuals) were convicted of a misdemeanor offense.²

Figure A. Three-Year Outcomes for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Release Cohort

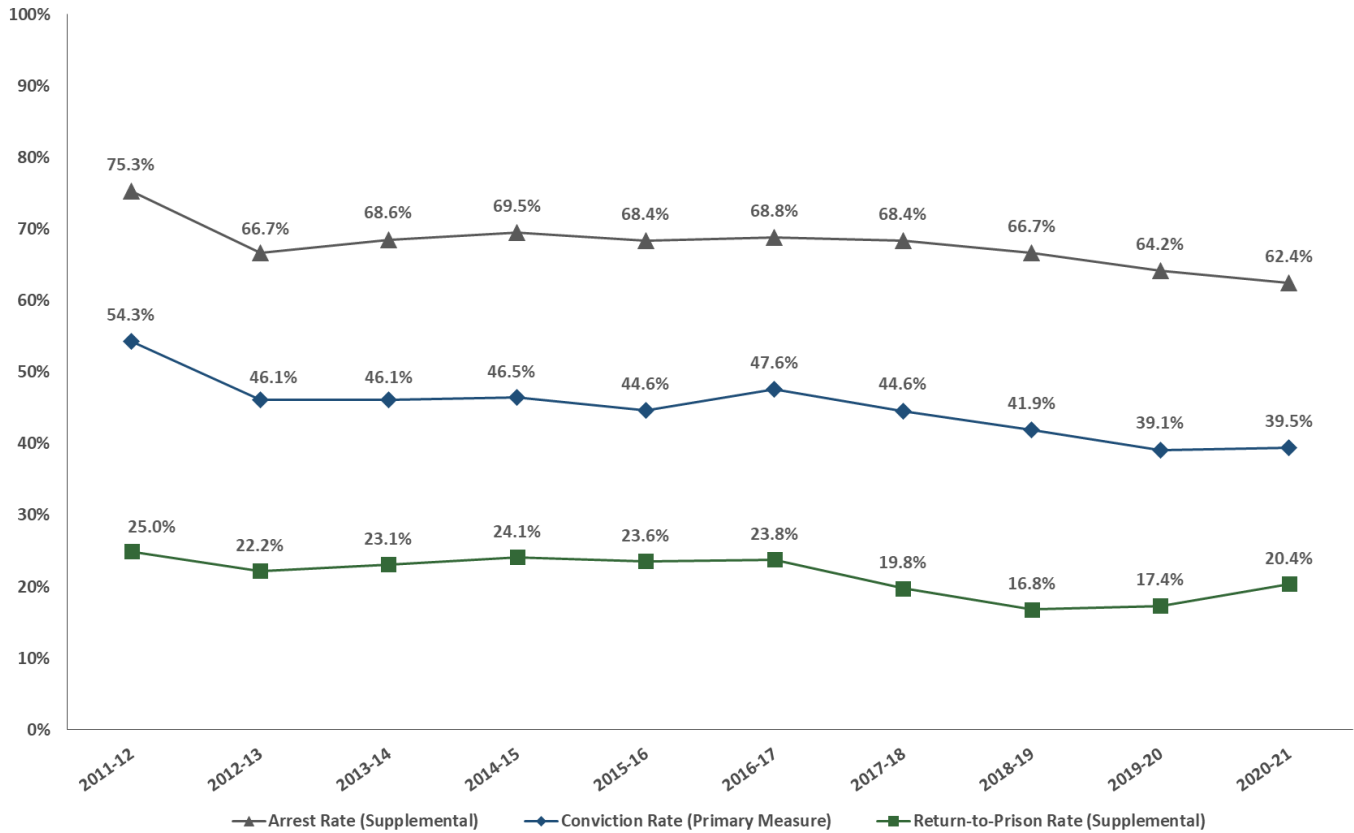


¹ During Fiscal Year 2020-21, a total of 30,655 individuals were released from a CDCR adult institution. Of these individuals, 30,116 individuals had a California Department of Justice (DOJ) automated Record of Arrest and Prosecution (RAP) sheet. Arrest and conviction data only include the 30,116 individuals with an automated RAP sheet and return-to-prison data include all 30,655 individuals released from prison. The return-to-prison rate only includes those returned to CDCR custody and does not include those sentenced to county jail.

² 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.

The three-year conviction rate increased by less than one percentage point (from 39.1 percent to 39.5 percent) between the FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 release cohorts (Figure B). The slight increase follows a period of stability between the FY 2012-13 and 2016-17 release cohorts, followed by a decline between the FY 2017-18 and 2019-20 release cohorts, largely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the three-year conviction rate saw a slight increase with the FY 2020-21 release cohort, the recidivism rate is among the lowest recidivism rates since reporting began.

Figure B. Three-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates for the Fiscal Year 2011-12 through 2020-21 Release Cohorts



Arrests and returns to prison, which are supplemental measures of recidivism, also saw changes between the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts, as shown in Figure B. The three-year arrest rate decreased by 1.8 percentage points (from 64.2 percent to 62.4 percent) and the three-year return-to-prison rate increased by 3.0 percentage points (from 17.4 percent to 20.4 percent). Similar to the conviction rate, the arrest and return-to-prison rate have been relatively stable over reporting years, with the return-to-prison rate stabilizing since the implementation of Public Safety Realignment (Realignment).³ The three-year arrest rate experienced an overall decline beginning with the FY 2017-18 release cohort, while the return-to-prison rate increased for the last two release cohorts (FY 2019-20 and 2020-21). Recidivism rates may stabilize or slightly increase as the COVID-19 pandemic’s immediate effects become less pronounced.

³ The return-to-prison rate saw substantial decreases post-Realignment due to a sharp decline in the number of individuals returned to prison for parole violations. For detailed information regarding the impact of Realignment and the impact on parole violations, see Appendix E Correctional Policies and Initiatives.

Key Findings

Three-Year Recidivism Rates

- The three-year conviction rate for the 30,116 individuals released from CDCR between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, is 39.5 percent, a slight increase of 0.4 percentage points compared to one year prior (39.1 percent).
- Recidivism rates remain at a historical low due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the FY 2016-17 release cohort, the three-year conviction rate has seen a cumulative decline of 8.5 percentage points. Most recently, the rate increased by less than one percentage point, for an overall decline of 8.1 percentage points. The recent increase in the three-year conviction rate could indicate future increases in recidivism rates.
- The COVID-19 pandemic was active for the FY 2020-21 release cohort's one-year period of release and three-year follow-up period. The pandemic caused changes to local policing practices, crime rates, court closures, the transfer of court proceedings to electronic/remote proceedings, and the temporary suspension of intake and transfers to CDCR, which influenced all three measures of recidivism (arrests, convictions, and returns to prison).
- Supplemental measures of recidivism (arrests and returns to CDCR) also saw changes between the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts: the three-year arrest rate decreased from 64.2 percent to 62.4 percent and the three-year return-to-prison rate increased from 17.4 percent to 20.4 percent. The arrest rate has seen four consecutive decreases with the onset of the pandemic. The return-to-prison rate for the FY 2020-21 release cohort marked the second increase since the pandemic began, following two years of decline.

Timing and Type of Post-Release Conviction

- Individuals released from prison typically recidivate in the first year of follow-up; however, the last two cohorts of releases (FY 2019-20 and 2020-21) have larger percentages of individuals convicted during the second year of follow-up. This is likely due to changes to local policing and court proceedings during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Of the 30,116 individuals in the FY 2020-21 release cohort, 60.5 percent (18,230 individuals) completed the follow-up period without a conviction, 24.0 percent (7,224 individuals) have a felony conviction, and 15.5 percent (4,662 individuals) have a misdemeanor conviction.
- More than half (60.8 percent) of the 11,886 total individuals convicted have felony convictions and 39.2 percent have misdemeanor convictions. The largest percentage of those with a conviction were convicted of felony crimes against persons (20.1 percent or 2,384 individuals), followed by felony crimes categorized as "other" (19.8 percent or 2,359 individuals). Recent increases in felony crimes against persons are consistent with increases in the violent crime rates in California and throughout the United States during the reporting period.

Conviction Rates by Demographics and Characteristics

- Individuals released to Post-Release Community Supervision have a substantially higher three-year conviction rate at 48.9 percent compared to individuals under parole supervision (31.7 percent). The difference in rates is largely attributed to the characteristics associated with each group (e.g., individuals released to PRCS are more likely to have been committed for non-serious/non-violent property or drug crimes, which are associated with higher rates of recidivism).
- Individuals committed to CDCR with a violent offense have a lower three-year conviction rate (24.2 percent) than individuals with a serious offense (41.2 percent), and individuals with a non-serious/non-violent offense (48.7 percent).
- Individuals committed to CDCR for property crimes continue to have the highest recidivism rate (49.9 percent) when compared to individuals committed for crimes categorized as “other” (45.1 percent), drug crimes (43.4 percent), and crimes against persons (33.0 percent).
- The three-year conviction rate for non-sex registrants is 41.1 percent and the rate for sex registrants is 24.2 percent. Despite the increase in the overall recidivism rate, the rate for sex registrants (24.2 percent) decreased between the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts.

Conviction Rates by Proposition 57 Credit Earnings

- Approximately half of the individuals released (49.9 percent) earned at least one of three credit earning types (Milestone Completion Credits, Educational Merit Credits, and Rehabilitative Achievement Credits). The percentage of individuals who earned credits decreased by 9.7 percentage points when compared to the FY 2019-20 release cohort (59.6 percent). The decrease in credit earning participation is likely due to the slowdown of in-prison programming during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Data for individuals with enhanced credit earnings under Proposition 57 indicate a lower recidivism rate for those who earn credits. The three-year conviction rate for those with credits is 33.3 percent and the rate for those without credits is 45.6 percent.
- Individuals who only earn one type of credit generally have higher three-year conviction rates than individuals who earn more than one type of credit. Individuals earning only Milestone Completion Credits have a three-year conviction rate of 43.4 percent, followed by those with Educational Merit Credits (23.3 percent), and Rehabilitative Achievement Credits (18.5 percent).
- Individuals who earn both Educational Merit Credits and Rehabilitative Achievement Credits have the lowest rate of all credit earning combinations at 3.0 percent. Those with all three types of credits have a three-year conviction rate of 12.1 percent, which is substantially lower than the rate for individuals with no enhanced credit earnings (45.6 percent).

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

RECIDIVISM REPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS RELEASED IN FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

1 Introduction

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) presents the *Statewide Recidivism Report for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21*, part of an annual series, which examines recidivism outcomes (arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates) for individuals released from CDCR adult institutions over the course of a given fiscal year. This year's report presents recidivism rates for the 30,116 individuals released from CDCR's adult institutions between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021 (FY 2020-21). Consistent with earlier reports published by CDCR, all individuals released from an institution over the course of a fiscal year are 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.⁴

The three-year conviction rate for the 30,116 individuals released in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 is 39.5 percent. Section 2 of this report provides further details and a discussion of the supplemental measures of recidivism (arrest and return-to-prison rates). Section 3 presents recidivism rates over time and influences on recidivism rates (e.g., correctional policies, crime rates). Section 4 presents the type of post-release conviction (i.e., felony or misdemeanor) and the time until conviction for individuals released in FY 2020-21. Section 5 presents a profile of the FY 2020-21 release cohort and the three-year conviction rate by demographics (e.g., age, race/ethnicity) and characteristics (e.g., commitment offense category, length of stay). Section 6 provides data regarding conviction rates and credit earnings under Proposition 57.

Detailed tables providing the demographics, characteristics, and conviction rates for the current FY 2020-21 release cohort are provided in Appendix A. Appendix B provides conviction rates by county of release. Appendix C provides a comparison of the recidivism rate by demographics and characteristics for both the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts. Appendix D provides historical recidivism rates for the FY 2002-03 through FY 2020-21 release cohorts and preliminary one- and two-year recidivism rates for the upcoming FY 2021-22 and 2022-23 release cohorts. Three-year recidivism rates are considered final, while one- and two-year rates are considered preliminary. Finally, Appendix E describes recent correctional policies and practices and their influence on post-release outcomes.

The FY 2020-21 release cohort is the ninth post-Public Safety Realignment (Realignment) cohort and the seventh cohort with individuals released after the implementation of Proposition 47. The FY 2020-21 release cohort is the fourth cohort for which Proposition 57 data related to credit earnings are available. Further recidivism information for subgroups of individuals, including those sentenced to an indeterminate term and those participating in rehabilitative programming, are available through a series of supplemental briefings.⁵ The influence of correctional policies and initiatives on recidivism rates and the type of post-release recidivism will be provided as information becomes available. CDCR will continue to update arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison data as they become available with the goal

⁴ The return-to-prison rate only includes those returned to CDCR custody and does not include those sentenced to county jail. Return-to-custody data are not available for individuals who are not eligible to return to CDCR custody and serve sentences in county jail.

⁵ Supplemental recidivism reports are available on our website at: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/>

of spurring discussion around the best possible ways to reduce recidivism among individuals released from CDCR adult institutions.

2 Statewide Recidivism Rates and Rates by Post-Release Supervision

2.1 Recidivism Rates for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Release Cohort

Figure 1. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Recidivism Rates for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21

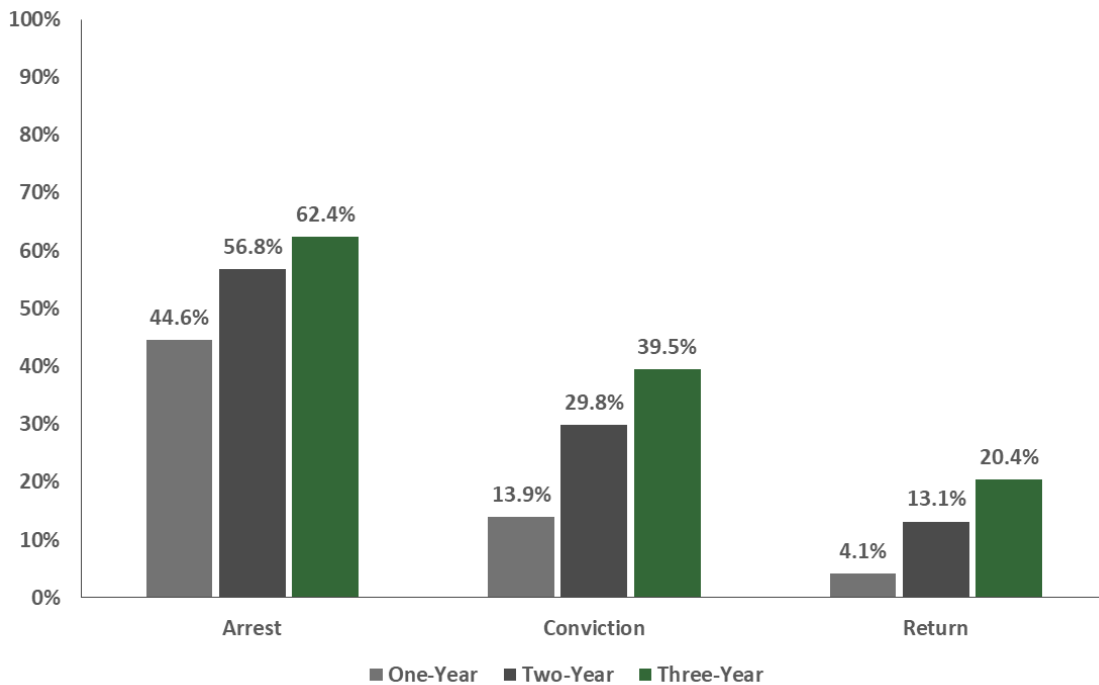


Figure 1 and Table 1 provide one-, two-, and three-year conviction rates (CDCR’s primary measure of recidivism), as well as arrest and return-to-prison rates (CDCR’s supplemental measures of recidivism) for the FY 2020-21 release cohort.⁶ The three-year conviction rate for the 30,116 individuals released from CDCR during FY 2020-21 is 39.5 percent, with 11,886 individuals convicted during the three-year follow-up period.⁷ Over 60 percent of the release cohort (60.5 percent or 18,230 individuals) successfully completed the three-year follow-up period without a conviction. The three-year arrest rate is 62.4 percent and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 20.4 percent.

Table 1. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Recidivism Rates for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21

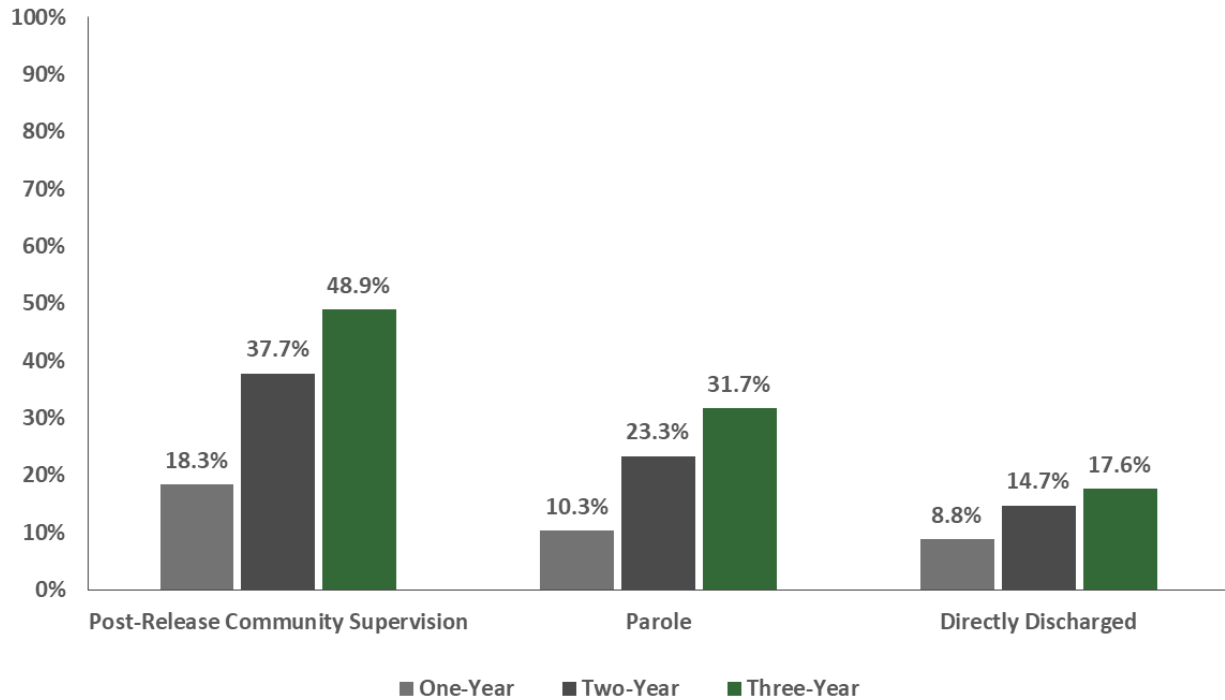
Recidivism Type	Total	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Arrest	30,116	13,426	44.6%	17,093	56.8%	18,807	62.4%
Conviction	30,116	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%
Return	30,655	1,265	4.1%	4,030	13.1%	6,249	20.4%

⁶ The number of individuals arrested, convicted, or returned to prison over the three-year follow-up period is cumulative. Each individual convicted in year one is also included in the total number of individuals convicted in year two. All individuals convicted in year one and two are included in the three-year total. For more information on rate calculations, see Appendix F Evaluation Design.

⁷ During FY 2020-21, a total of 30,655 individuals were released from a CDCR adult institution. Of these individuals, 30,116 had a California DOJ automated Record of Arrest and Prosecution (RAP) sheet. Arrest and conviction data only include the 30,116 individuals with an automated RAP sheet and return-to-prison data include all 30,655 formerly incarcerated individuals.

2.2 Conviction Rates by Type of Post-Release Supervision

Figure 2. Conviction Rates by Type of Post-Release Supervision for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21



Formerly incarcerated individuals released from CDCR are either released to Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS), parole supervision, or are directly discharged from prison. Under half of the FY 2020-21 release cohort were released to PRCS (45.2 percent) and over half to parole supervision (54.7 percent). Only 34 individuals were directly discharged from CDCR.

Typically, higher rates are observed among individuals released to PRCS when compared to individuals under parole supervision. Consistent with changes to post-release supervision following Realignment, individuals with a non-serious/non-violent offense, who are characterized by a higher risk of reoffending, are released to PRCS for supervision at the county level. Conversely, individuals with serious and violent offenses are characterized by a lower risk of reoffending and supervised under parole, which contributes to the differences observed between the two groups (Appendix E).⁸

The three-year conviction rate for individuals released to PRCS is 48.9 percent, which is 17.2 percentage points higher than the rate for individuals under parole supervision (31.7 percent), as shown in Figure 2 and Table 2. The rate for individuals released to PRCS increased 3.5 percentage points between FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 (from 45.4 percent to 48.9 percent), while the rate for those released to parole decreased by one percentage point (from 32.7 percent to 31.7 percent).

⁸ See Section 5.2 Demographics and Characteristics of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Release Cohort for more information and Appendix E for historical information. Individuals with violent offenses consistently recidivate at lower rates (and are more likely to be released to parole supervision) than individuals with non-serious/non-violent offenses (and are more likely to be released to PRCS). Risk scores, age at release and commitment offense category are other characteristics that contribute to the likelihood individuals will recidivate and are discussed in Section 5.2 in greater detail.

CDCR advises against making direct comparisons between individuals released from PRCS, parole supervision, or directly discharged from CDCR, as differences in the demographics and characteristics of the three groups influence recidivism rates. Instead, individuals belonging to one group of releases may be compared to individuals in the same group who were released in a prior fiscal year (e.g., individuals under parole supervision should be compared to other individuals under parole supervision in an earlier fiscal year).

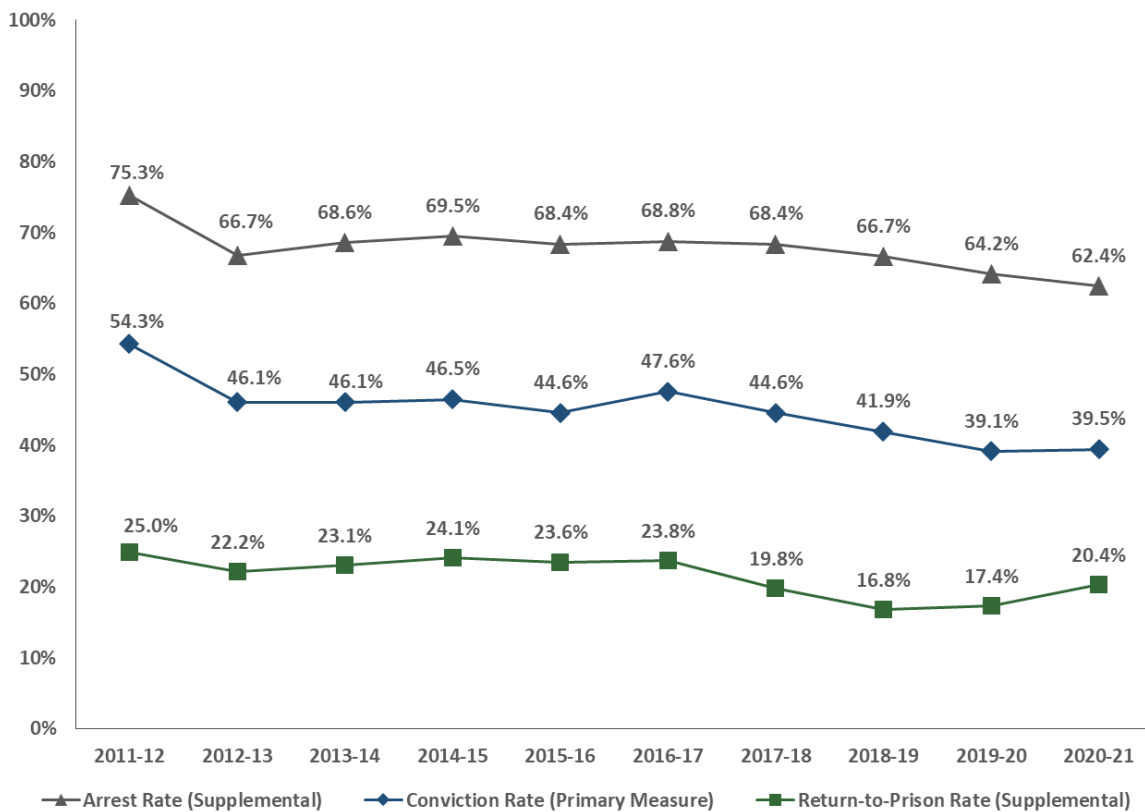
Table 2. Conviction Rates by Type of Post-Release Supervision for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21

Type of Post-Release Supervision	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Post-Release Community Supervision	13,611	2,495	18.3%	5,138	37.7%	6,660	48.9%
Parole	16,471	1,699	10.3%	3,845	23.3%	5,220	31.7%
Directly Discharged	34	3	8.8%	5	14.7%	6	17.6%
Total	30,116	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%

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 2011-12 through 2020-21 release cohorts. Recidivism rates fluctuate due to many complex factors, including the implementation of correctional policies and initiatives, crime rates, and the demographics and characteristics associated with each release cohort. Generally, the three-year arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates are stable with small fluctuations (Figure 3). Beginning with the FY 2017-18 release cohort, a series of decreases are observed in the arrest and conviction rates, consistent with the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic coincided with both the release and three-year follow-up period for the FY 2020-21 release cohort. Sudden changes to local policing practices, crime rates, court closures, the transfer of court proceedings to electronic/remote proceedings, and the temporary suspension of intake and transfers to CDCR are only a few factors that likely influenced all three measures of recidivism (arrests, convictions, and returns to prison).⁹ Detailed tables with one-, two-, and three-year arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates are provided in Appendix D.

Figure 3. Three-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2011-12 through 2020-21



⁹ On March 24, 2020, California’s Governor issued an Executive Order that halted the intake and transfer of people to CDCR and the Division of Juvenile Justice: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/03/24/governor-newsom-issues-executive-order-on-state-prisons-and-juvenile-facilities-in-response-to-the-covid-19-outbreak> The last full suspension of intake was November 25, 2020. CDCR modified intake/movement as needed and more information can be found at: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/covid19/updates/>

3.1 Changes in the Conviction Rate

The COVID-19 pandemic drove the recent decreases in the conviction rate, however, recent increases in recidivism rates indicate a potential return to pre-pandemic levels

Historically, the three-year conviction rate has been relatively stable with small fluctuations. More recently, the rate saw a series of decreases driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 saw a slight uptick (46.5 percent) with the FY 2014-15 release cohort, with some of the increase attributable to Proposition 47 (Appendix E). The rate decreased to 44.6 percent with the FY 2015-16 release cohort, which was comprised of fewer individuals released under Proposition 47 compared to one year prior. The rate then increased to 47.6 percent with the FY 2016-17 release cohort. The rate increase was largely concentrated among individuals released to PRCS, who are typically associated with higher recidivism rates than individuals under parole supervision (Section 2.2).

Following the increase in the rate with the FY 2016-17 release cohort, the three-year conviction rate saw a series of more pronounced decreases. The rate decreased 3.0 percentage points and reached a rate of 44.6 percent with the FY 2017-18 release cohort, which was largely attributed to two factors. First, the three-year conviction rate for individuals under PRCS (54.5 percent with the FY 2016-17 release cohort) decreased 2.8 percentage points with the FY 2017-18 cohort to 51.7 percent, influencing the overall statewide recidivism rate downward. Second, interruptions in arrests and convictions during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic also influenced the rate downward.

The three-year conviction rate for the FY 2018-19 release cohort was 41.9 percent, which marked a 2.7 percentage point decrease from one year prior (44.6 percent). The three-year conviction rate for the FY 2019-20 release cohort of 39.1 percent represented a 2.8 percentage point decrease from one year prior (41.9 percent) and is the lowest rate since recidivism reporting began. Much of the decrease observed with the FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 release cohorts were attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the three-year conviction rate decreased 8.5 percentage points since the FY 2016-17 release cohort. Sudden changes to local policing practices, crime rates, court closures, the transfer of court proceedings to electronic/remote proceedings, and the temporary suspension of intake and transfers to CDCR are only a few COVID-19 related factors that likely influenced all three measures of recidivism (arrests, convictions, and returns to prison) downward.

Between the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts, the conviction rate increased by less than one percentage point (from 39.1 to 39.5 percent as shown in Figure 3). With the FY 2020-21 release cohort's recent increase in the recidivism rate, the overall change in the three-year conviction rate since FY 2016-17 is 8.1 percentage points.¹⁰ Although the rate is among the lowest since recidivism reporting began, the slight increase could indicate the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are waning and rates are stabilizing. As discussed in the following section, the three-year return-to-prison rate saw its first increase since COVID-19 with the previous FY 2019-20 release cohort. In combination with increased violent and property crime rates, waning effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, legislative changes, and recent rate increases, recidivism rates may slowly rise to pre-pandemic levels.

The FY 2017-18 release cohort was the first whose follow-up period was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic only affected the final year of the three-year follow-up period for the FY 2017-

¹⁰ The three-year conviction rate decreased between FY 2016-17 and FY 2019-20, followed by a slight increase (less than one percentage point). The FY 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts are all considered "pandemic-impacted."

18 release cohort and two years of follow-up for the FY 2018-19 cohort. All three years of follow-up for the FY 2019-20 and current FY 2020-21 release cohorts were impacted by COVID-19. The following section discusses changes to the supplemental measures of recidivism (arrests and returns to prison) with consideration to changes in the primary measure of recidivism (convictions) and the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.2 Supplemental Measures of Recidivism: Arrests and Returns to CDCR

The COVID-19 pandemic drove decreases in the arrest and return-to-prison rates, though recent increases in the return-to-prison rate suggest rates are stabilizing and could increase in the future

Similar to the conviction rate, arrest rates have been relatively stable over the years with small fluctuations and a more substantial decline during the COVID-19 pandemic. The three-year arrest rate decreased by 1.8 percentage points (from 64.2 percent to 62.4 percent) between the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts and the current rate of 62.4 percent marks the lowest arrest rate since reporting began (Figure 3). Overall, the three-year arrest rate has decreased 6.4 percentage points since the FY 2016-17 release cohort, consistent with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The three-year return-to-prison rate has been relatively stable following a series of drastic decreases that occurred after the implementation of Realignment with the FY 2011-12 release cohort (Appendix E). Similar to the arrest and conviction rates, the three-year return-to-prison rate decreased between the FY 2016-17 and 2017-18 release cohorts (from 23.8 percent to 19.8 percent) and between the FY 2017-18 and 2018-19 release cohorts (from 19.8 percent to 16.8 percent). These decreases mark a 7.0 percentage point decrease overall and the rate reached its lowest point since reporting began with the FY 2018-19 release cohort. The decreases in the return-to-prison rate were likely influenced by the temporary halt of transfers from county jail to state prison due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹¹

The return-to-prison rate saw its first increase (less than one percentage point) with the previous FY 2019-20 release cohort. Between FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts, the rate increased from 17.4 percent to 20.4 percent. The current rate of 20.4 percent marks a 3.0 percentage point increase and a cumulative 3.6 percentage point increase between the FY 2018-19 and FY 2020-21 release cohorts. Consistent with national trends, California saw increases in its violent crime rate in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, which coincides with the release and three-year follow-up period of the FY 2020-21 release cohort.¹² The FY 2020-21 release cohort also saw an increase in post-release convictions for felony crimes against persons, consistent with the uptick in the violent crime rate as discussed in Section 4. Recidivism rates may stabilize or slightly increase as the immediate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic become less pronounced.¹³

¹¹ On March 24, 2020, California's Governor issued an Executive Order that halted the intake and transfer of people to CDCR and the Division of Juvenile Justice: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/03/24/governor-newsom-issues-executive-order-on-state-prisons-and-juvenile-facilities-in-response-to-the-covid-19-outbreak>. The last full suspension of intake was November 25, 2020. CDCR modified intake/movement as needed and more information can be found at: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/covid19/updates/>

¹² For more information regarding violent and property crime rates, see Table 1 of the Crime in California series or the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program's data releases: <https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2023-06/Crime%20In%20CA%202022f.pdf> and <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/ucr>

¹³ The violent crime rate in California increased between 2019 and 2023, followed by a decrease in 2024. The property crime rate in California increased between 2020 and 2022 and decreased between 2022 and 2024. For more information, see: <https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2023-06/Crime%20In%20CA%202022f.pdf> Uniform Crime Reporting Data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation show an increase in the national violent crime rate in 2019, 2020, and 2022. For more information, see: <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/ucr>

3.3 Preliminary Recidivism Rates

Slight increases in preliminary one- and two-year recidivism rates indicate future increases in all three measures of recidivism

One- and two-year recidivism rates for the FY 2021-22 and 2022-23 release cohorts also suggest increases in future arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates, as all three measures saw increases in the one- and two-year rates (Appendix D).¹⁴ One-year recidivism rates are available for the FY 2021-22 and 2022-23 release cohorts and two-year recidivism rates are available for the FY 2021-22 release cohort. Available data indicate the effects of COVID-19 are waning and future release cohorts will see increases: the two-year arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates increased slightly between the FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 release cohorts, as did the rates between the FY 2021-22 and 2022-23 release cohorts (Appendix D).

One- and two-year data are considered preliminary and will fluctuate until three-year rates are established. Further, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including interruptions to arrest and conviction cycles, the temporary halt of individuals from county jails to state prison, and accelerated releases of some individuals are largely viewed as temporary.

¹⁴ Available data indicate the effects of COVID-19 may wane with future cohorts: the two-year conviction and return-to-prison rates increased slightly between the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts. All three one-year recidivism rates (arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison) increased slightly between the FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 release cohorts (Appendix D).

4 Type and Timing of Post-Release Recidivism

4.1 Three-Year Outcomes for All Individuals Released from CDCR During Fiscal Year 2020-21

Nearly two-thirds of individuals successfully completed the three-year follow-up period

Figure 4. Three-Year Outcomes for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21

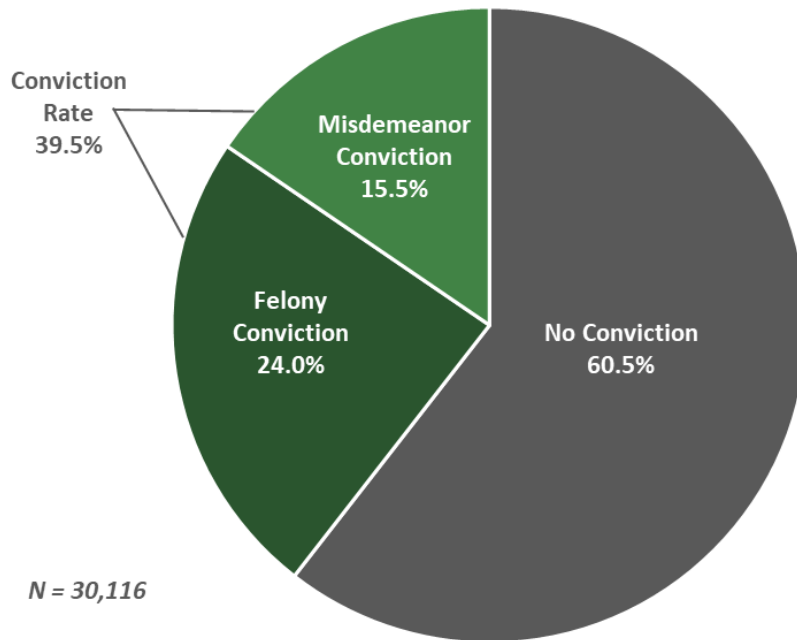


Figure 4 and Table 3 show the type of conviction (i.e., felony or misdemeanor) for the 30,116 individuals released from CDCR in FY 2020-21.¹⁵ Over half of the release cohort (60.5 percent) had no convictions during the three-year follow-up period and 39.5 percent had a felony or misdemeanor conviction. Over 20 percent (24.0 percent) had a felony conviction and 15.5 percent had a misdemeanor conviction. As shown in Table 3, felony crimes against persons leads all felony conviction types, followed by felony crimes categorized as “other.”¹⁶ Misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes leads all misdemeanor conviction types.

¹⁵ Type of conviction data only include the most serious conviction in the first conviction episode. For instance, if an individual was convicted of a misdemeanor in one conviction episode and subsequently convicted of a felony in another conviction episode, only the misdemeanor conviction from the first conviction episode is included in this analysis.

¹⁶ Examples of other felony crimes include carrying a concealed dirk/dagger, evading a peace officer, and felon in possession of a firearm. Other misdemeanor crimes include driving without a license/with a suspended license, presenting false identification or information to a peace officer and contempt of court.

Table 3. Three-Year Outcomes for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21

Type of Conviction	FY 2020-21	
	Number	Percent
No Convictions	18,230	60.5%
All Felonies	7,224	24.0%
Felony Crimes Against Persons	2,384	7.9%
Felony Property Crimes	1,816	6.0%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	665	2.2%
Felony Other Crimes	2,359	7.8%
All Misdemeanors	4,662	15.5%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	1,424	4.7%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	1,124	3.7%
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	1,585	5.3%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	529	1.8%
Total	30,116	100.0%

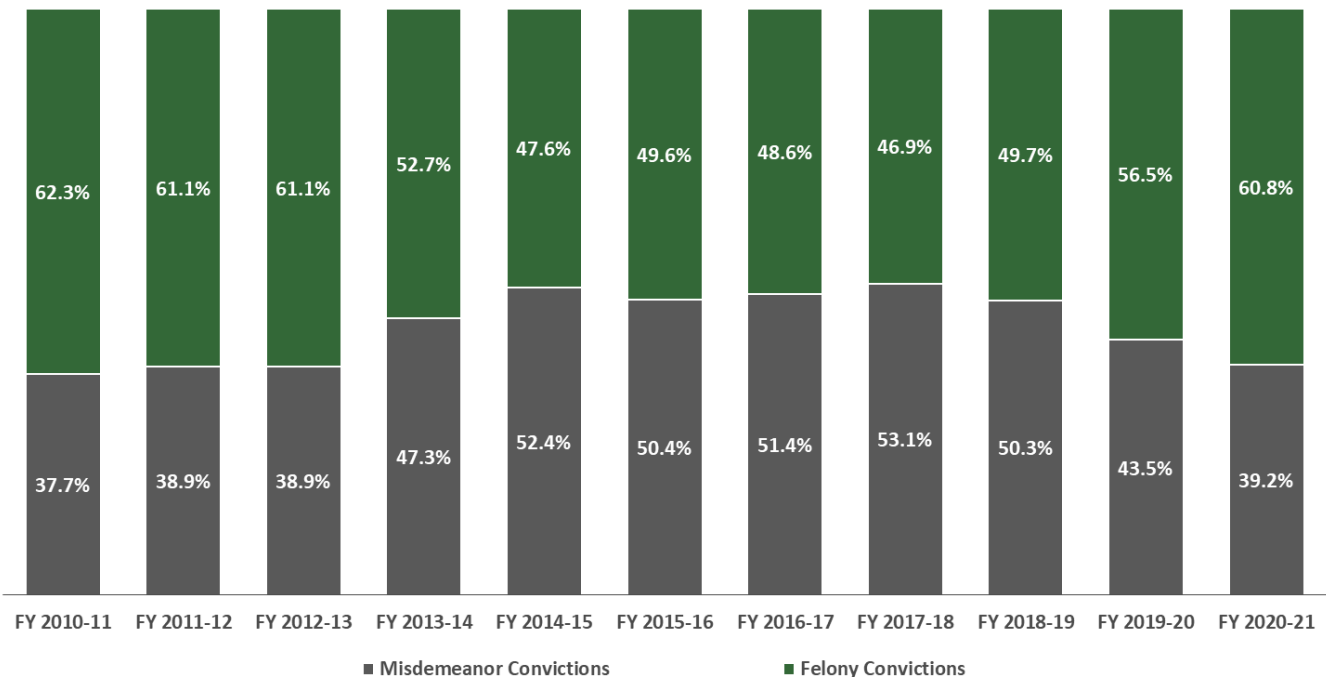
4.2 Type of Post-Release Conviction for Individuals Who Recidivated During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period

Over 60 percent of individuals were convicted of felonies compared to misdemeanors, and three of the four felony categories saw proportional increases in convictions

This section includes a closer examination of the 11,886 individuals with a conviction in the FY 2020-21 release cohort. It excludes the 18,230 individuals who completed the three-year follow-up period without a conviction.

In addition to increases to the conviction and return-to-prison rates, the COVID-19 pandemic and recent increases in violent crime rates also impacted the type of post-release conviction for the FY 2020-21 release cohort. Since the implementation of Proposition 47 with the FY 2014-15 release cohort, the percentage of post-release convictions for misdemeanors increased steadily, while felonies decreased, resulting in a larger percentage of post-release misdemeanor convictions when compared to felony convictions (Figure 5).¹⁷ Both the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts saw an increase in the percentage of individuals convicted of felony crimes against persons, property crimes, and crimes categorized as “other,” resulting in a larger portion of individuals convicted of post-release felonies (60.8 percent of all convictions) compared to misdemeanors (39.2 percent) and a departure from the trends associated with Proposition 47. The increases in these categories are consistent with increases to the violent and property crime rates observed in California and across the United States during this period.

Figure 5. Percentage of Felony and Misdemeanor Post-Release Convictions for the Fiscal Year 2010-11 through Fiscal Year 2020-21 Release Cohorts



As shown in Table 4, felony crimes against persons comprised the largest percentage (20.1 percent) of all post-release conviction types, followed by other felony crimes (19.8 percent). The percentage of

¹⁷ Under Proposition 47, certain felony drug/alcohol and property crimes were reclassified to misdemeanors, causing the percentage of post-release felonies to decrease, followed by subsequent increases in post-release misdemeanors. See Appendix E for more details.

post-release convictions for felony crimes against persons increased 1.3 percentage points (from 18.8 percent of all convictions to 20.1 percent) between the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts. Increases were also observed in other felony crimes (1.9 percentage points) and felony property crimes (1.2 percentage points), while felony drug/alcohol crimes stayed the same (5.6 percent of all convictions).¹⁸

Until the FY 2019-20 release cohort, misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes comprised the largest percentage of post-release conviction types. The percentage of convictions for misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes decreased by 2.2 percentage points with the FY 2020-21 cohort, which follows a 4.2 percentage point decline with the FY 2019-20 cohort. With the exception of misdemeanor property crimes (which increased by less than a percentage point), all other misdemeanor conviction type categories decreased slightly between the two release cohorts (Table 4).

Table 4. Type of Conviction for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21

Type of Conviction	FY 2019-20		FY 2020-21	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All Felonies	7,567	56.5%	7,224	60.8%
Felony Crimes Against Persons	2,523	18.8%	2,384	20.1%
Felony Property Crimes	1,888	14.1%	1,816	15.3%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	755	5.6%	665	5.6%
Felony Other Crimes	2,401	17.9%	2,359	19.8%
All Misdemeanors	5,828	43.5%	4,662	39.2%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	1,744	13.0%	1,424	12.0%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	1,188	8.9%	1,124	9.5%
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	2,073	15.5%	1,585	13.3%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	823	6.1%	529	4.5%
Total	13,395	100.0%	11,886	100.0%

¹⁸ The most common other crimes for the FY 2020-21 release cohort include felon possessing a firearm, evading a peace officer, carrying a concealed weapon/loaded firearm, and possession of a controlled substance while armed.

4.3 Time to Conviction for Individuals Convicted Who Recidivated During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period

Approximately one-third of the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 cohorts were convicted within a year of release, compared to half in previous cohorts, likely resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic

Figure 6. Time Until Conviction for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21 and Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period

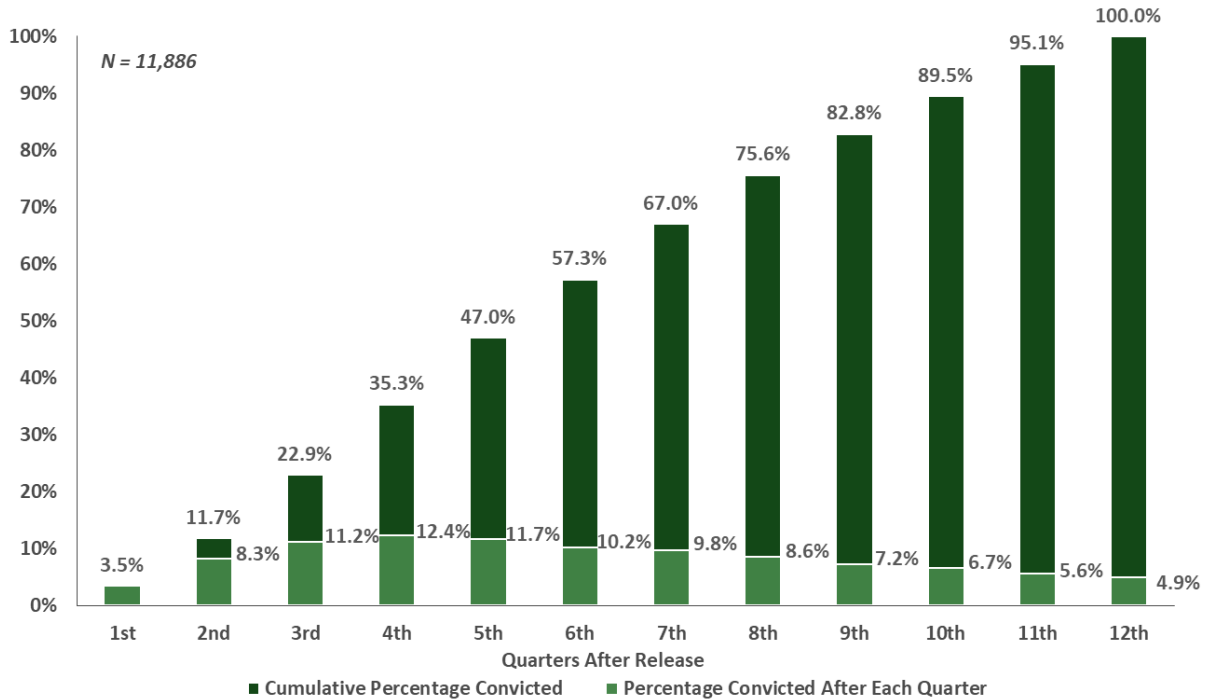


Figure 6 and Table 5 show the percentage and number of individuals who were convicted during each quarter (three-month period) of the three-year follow-up period, as well as the cumulative percentage and number of individuals convicted. Only the 11,886 individuals convicted during the three-year follow-up period are represented in this section to understand how long individuals were in the community before recidivating. The twelfth quarter represents the final, cumulative results (i.e., 100 percent) of the individuals who were convicted.

Of the 11,886 individuals convicted during the three-year follow-up period, 35.3 percent were convicted in the first year following their release from CDCR. By year two, an additional 40.3 percent were convicted, and by year three, the remaining 24.4 percent were convicted. The largest number and percentage of individuals (12.4 percent) were convicted during the fourth quarter following their release. The fewest number of individuals (4.9 percent) were convicted during the twelfth quarter of the follow-up period.

Until the FY 2019-20 release cohort, most individuals were convicted during their first year of post-release follow-up and fewer individuals are convicted during the later quarters of the three-year follow-up period. The FY 2019-20 and current release cohort mark departures from this long-standing trend: only 34.9 percent of individuals in the FY 2019-20 and 35.3 percent of individuals in the FY 2020-21 release cohort were convicted during year one compared to 50.5 percent of the FY 2018-19 release

cohort.¹⁹ The decrease in convictions during the first year of follow-up observed among the FY 2019-20 cohort is attributed to changes to local policing practices, court closures and the transfer of court proceedings to electronic/remote proceedings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 5. Time Until Conviction for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21 and Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period

Quarters After Release	Percentage Convicted	Cumulative Percentage	Number Convicted	Cumulative Number
1	3.5%	3.5%	414	414
2	8.3%	11.7%	982	1,396
3	11.2%	22.9%	1,330	2,726
4	12.4%	35.3%	1,471	4,197
5	11.7%	47.0%	1,390	5,587
6	10.2%	57.3%	1,218	6,805
7	9.8%	67.0%	1,160	7,965
8	8.6%	75.6%	1,023	8,988
9	7.2%	82.8%	857	9,845
10	6.7%	89.5%	791	10,636
11	5.6%	95.1%	668	11,304
12	4.9%	100.0%	582	11,886

¹⁹ For more information regarding the time until conviction for the most recent release cohort, see Section 4.2 of the statewide recidivism reports: [Recidivism - Office of Research](#)

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

Type of Arrest

Post-release felony arrests have increased with the past two release cohorts

Table 6 shows the type of post-release arrest for individuals released in FY 2020-21.²⁰ Over one-third of the release cohort had no arrests during the three-year follow-up period (37.6 percent) and just under two-thirds or 18,807 individuals were arrested during the three-year follow-up period. Over 45 percent (45.8 percent) of those arrests were felonies, 32.4 percent were misdemeanors, and 21.8 percent were supervision violations. The percentage of felony arrests for the FY 2020-21 release cohort increased 4.7 percentage points between the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts (from 41.1 percent to 45.8 percent). Misdemeanor arrests decreased slightly (from 34.1 percent to 32.4 percent of all arrests) as did arrests for supervision violations (from 24.8 percent to 21.8 percent).

The 4.7 percentage point increase in felony arrests observed between FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 follows a 6.7 percentage point increase between FY 2018-19 and 2019-20, resulting in a cumulative 11.4 percentage point increase. While misdemeanor arrests are somewhat stable, arrests for supervision violations have decreased by a total of 10.9 percentage points between the FY 2018-19 and 2020-21 release cohorts.

Felony crimes against persons led all post-release arrests types (17.0 percent of all arrests), followed by misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes (16.0 percent). All four categories of felony arrests increased when comparing the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts, with crimes against persons seeing the largest increase, followed by felony other crimes. As shown in Table 6, misdemeanor crimes against persons was stable between FY 2019-20 and 2020-21, while misdemeanor property crimes increased slightly, and misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes and other crimes saw decreases.

Table 6. Type of Arrest for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21

Type of Arrest	FY 2019-20		FY 2020-21	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All Felonies	9,028	41.1%	8,608	45.8%
Felony Crimes Against Persons	3,254	14.8%	3,192	17.0%
Felony Property Crimes	2,246	10.2%	1,935	10.3%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	1,114	5.1%	1,055	5.6%
Felony Other Crimes	2,414	11.0%	2,426	12.9%
All Misdemeanors	7,495	34.1%	6,102	32.4%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	1,518	6.9%	1,307	6.9%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	1,189	5.4%	1,425	7.6%
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	3,683	16.8%	3,010	16.0%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	1,105	5.0%	360	1.9%
Supervision Violations	5,441	24.8%	4,097	21.8%
Total	21,964	100.0%	18,807	100.0%

²⁰ Type of arrest data only include the most serious arrest in the first arrest episode. For instance, if an individual was arrested for a misdemeanor in one arrest episode and subsequently arrested for a felony in another arrest episode, only the misdemeanor arrest from the first arrest episode is included in this analysis.

Type of Return

Although the return-to-prison rate increased, returns to CDCR for crimes against persons decreased after a series of increases

Although the return-to-prison rate increased for the second consecutive year, most individuals released from CDCR do not return to prison during the three-year follow-up period (79.6 percent). Of the 6,249 individuals who returned to prison, 39.1 percent returned for crimes against persons, 28.4 percent for crimes categorized as “other,” 23.5 percent for property crimes, and 8.8 percent for drug crimes. Following the passage of Realignment, very few individuals are eligible to return to prison for parole violations, with only 15 individuals released in FY 2020-21 returned to CDCR for parole violations (Table 7).

After increasing for the last two cohorts of releases, the percentage of individuals returned for crimes against persons decreased by 3.3 percentage points (from 42.4 percent to 39.1 percent). Returns to prison for drug crimes and parole violations were stable and returns for property crimes and other crimes slightly increased, as shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Type of Return to CDCR for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21

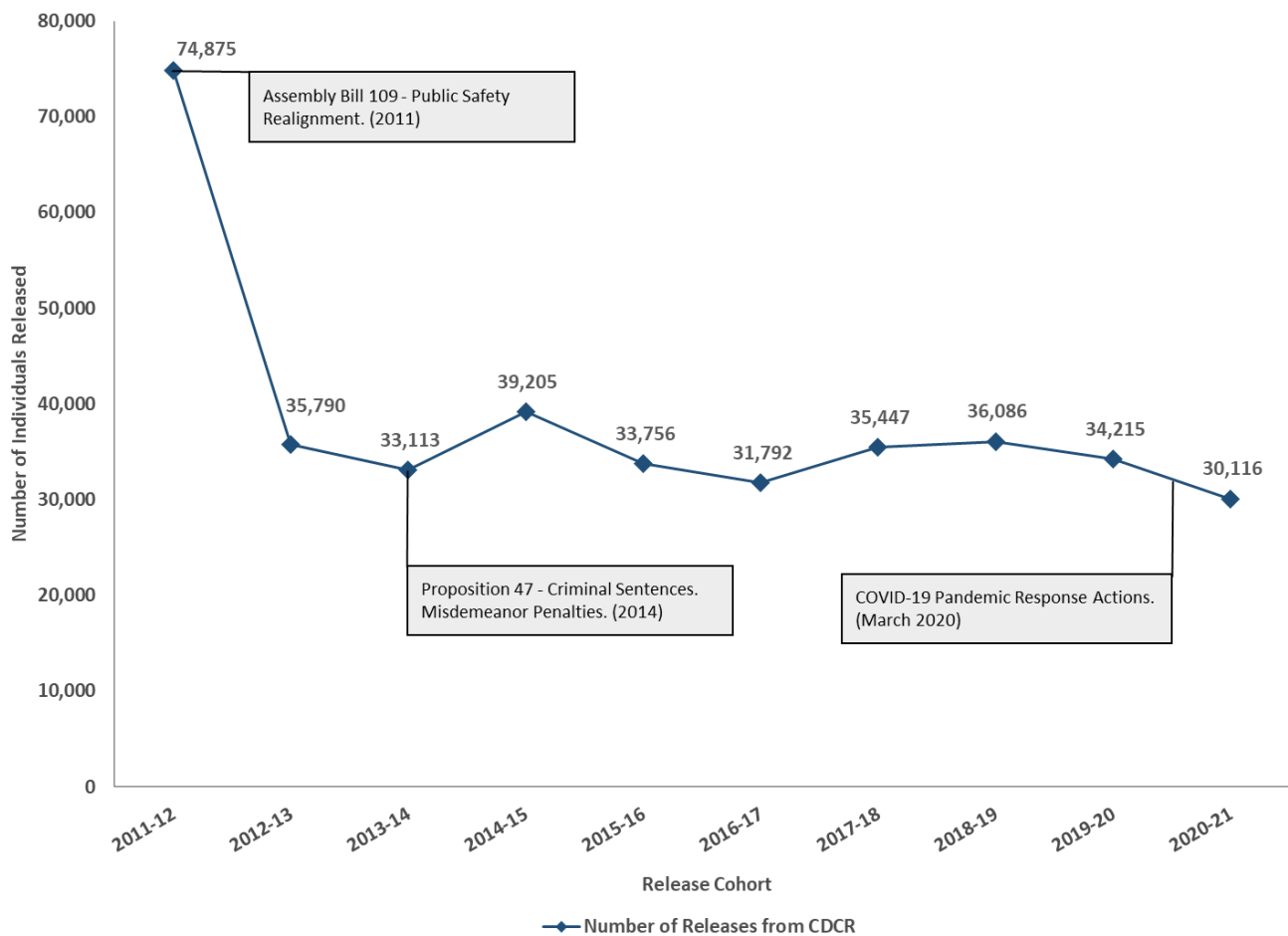
Type of Return	FY 2019-20		FY 2020-21	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Crimes Against Persons	2,536	42.4%	2,445	39.1%
Property Crimes	1,320	22.0%	1,468	23.5%
Drug Crimes	527	8.8%	549	8.8%
Other Crimes	1,590	26.6%	1,772	28.4%
Parole Violations	15	0.3%	15	0.2%
Total	5,988	100.0%	6,249	100.0%

5 Profile of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Release Cohort

This section presents information regarding the size of each release cohort since FY 2011-12 and the major policies and factors that influence CDCR’s release cohorts. This section also presents the composition and conviction rates of CDCR’s FY 2020-21 release cohort in terms of their demographics (e.g., gender, age) and characteristics (e.g., sentence type, length of stay), as well as comparisons to the previous release cohort (FY 2019-20). Demographics and characteristics represent the status at the time of an individual’s release.²¹ Appendix A provides a table of the cohort composition and one-, two-, and three-year conviction rates by demographics and characteristics. Appendix C provides the three-year conviction rates for the FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 release cohorts by demographics and characteristics for comparative purposes.²²

5.1 Number of Individuals Released from CDCR in Fiscal Year 2011-12 through 2020-21

Figure 7. Number of Individuals in the Fiscal Year 2011-12 through Fiscal Year 2020-21 Release Cohorts



²¹ Demographics and characteristics represent an individual’s status at the time of their release (e.g., if an individual is resentenced during a stay at CDCR, the sentence type presented in this report represent their sentence at the time of their release.)

²² When comparing rates between fiscal years, greater variation (increases and decreases) is typically observed for small groups of individuals. While substantial rate changes for small groups of individuals will have little influence on the statewide rate, even small rate changes for large groups of individuals may have notable influence on the rate.

Figure 7 presents the number of individuals released from CDCR during each fiscal year beginning with the 2011-12 cohort.²³ Following the implementation of Realignment in October 2011, the number of individuals released from CDCR decreased substantially (from 74,875 individuals to 35,790 individuals between the FY 2011-12 and 2012-13 release cohorts).²⁴ Releases increased to 39,205 individuals in FY 2014-15, which was largely attributed to the resentencing and release of 4,111 individuals under Proposition 47 (Appendix E). At this time, the conviction rate saw an increase largely due to the characteristics of the individuals released (e.g., individuals committed for property and drug offenses) under Proposition 47 (Section 3.1 and Appendix E). The following year, only 364 of the 33,756 individuals released in FY 2015-16 were resentenced and released due to Proposition 47, resulting in a decrease in the overall number of individuals released compared to one year earlier.

During FY 2016-17, releases decreased again to 31,792 individuals as the effect of Proposition 47 waned, with only 59 individuals impacted. Releases increased to 35,447 individuals in FY 2017-18, which was the first cohort affected by the implementation of Proposition 57 (Section 6 and Appendix E). The number of releases increased to 36,086 individuals with the FY 2018-19 release cohort, followed by a decrease to 34,215 individuals with the FY 2019-20 release cohort and a decrease to 30,116 individuals with the current FY 2020-21 release cohort due to COVID-19.

The total number of releases is contingent on the population of CDCR's adult institutions and correctional policies at the time, such as Realignment, Proposition 47, and Proposition 57. CDCR expects the number of releases to fluctuate in future release cohorts, as policies that influence the CDCR population are modified and implemented.²⁵

5.2 Demographics and Characteristics of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Release Cohort

Individuals with property and drug crimes saw increases in their three-year conviction rates, which likely contributed to the increase in the statewide recidivism rate, despite making up a smaller proportion of the release cohort than previous years

Gender

Males comprise a much larger proportion of the FY 2020-21 release cohort (28,040 individuals or 93.1 percent) than females (2,076 individuals or 6.9 percent) and are associated with much higher rates of recidivism than females. The three-year conviction rate for males released in FY 2020-21 is 39.9 percent (11,192 individuals), while the conviction rate for females is 33.4 percent or 694 individuals (Appendix A). Historically, the conviction rate for females each year is about ten percentage points lower compared to males with some variation. For the current release cohort, the conviction rate for females is 6.5 percentage points lower compared to the rate for males. Compared to FY 2019-20, the rate for males increased by 0.1 percentage points, and the rate for females increased by 2.5 percentage points (Appendix C).

²³ The total number of individuals released in the FY 2011-12 through FY 2020-21 release cohorts only includes individuals with a California 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, Figure 7 presented in previous reports included all individuals released from prison, regardless of DOJ automated RAP sheets.

²⁴ For historical information regarding the number of releases prior to Realignment, see the Statewide Recidivism Report for Individuals Released in FY 2019-20, available at: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2025/04/Statewide-Recidivism-Report-for-Individuals-Released-in-Fiscal-Year-2019-20.pdf>

²⁵ More information regarding CDCR's population may be found at: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/population-reports-2/>

Age at Release

Age has a well-documented relationship with recidivism, which is supported by the rates observed with the FY 2020-21 cohort.²⁶ Although individuals ages 20 to 24 comprise 8.8 percent of the release cohort, their three-year conviction rate is the highest among all age groups (54.6 percent), followed by individuals ages 18 and 19 with a conviction rate of 52.0 percent. Overall, the rate steadily decreases as age increases, with individuals ages 60 and over having the lowest three-year conviction rate of all age groups (12.7 percent). This general trend has persisted with time, making older individuals some of the least likely to recidivate.

When examined by age at time of release, individuals ages 30 to 34 represent the largest proportion of releases (19.5 percent) in the cohort. The smallest proportion of releases are individuals ages 18 and 19, which represent less than one percent of the total release cohort (0.2 percent). In general, younger individuals comprise larger percentages of the release cohort, with 83.1 percent under the age of 50 at the time of their release.

When compared to the three-year conviction rate for the FY 2019-20 cohort, the rate for individuals ages 18 and 19 decreased by 10.8 percentage points. Because the group is small (less than one percent of the release cohort), the impact on the statewide rate is nominal. The rate increased by 2.7 percentage points for individuals ages 20 to 24 and 1.7 percentage points for ages 25 to 29. For most other groups the rate decreased or increased by less than one percentage point (Appendix C).

Race/Ethnicity

In the FY 2020-21 release cohort, the largest portion of individuals are Hispanic/Latino (45.6 percent), followed by White individuals (24.4 percent), and Black/African American individuals (23.9 percent). Altogether, these three groups consistently comprise over 90 percent of each release cohort. The smaller race/ethnicity categories of the population include Asian, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander individuals, who each represent less than three percent of releases in the current cohort. Individuals not included in the above race/ethnicity groups are categorized as "Other."

Generally, individuals in the American Indian/Alaskan Native category have relatively higher conviction rates. This continues to be the case in the FY 2020-21 release cohort, where American Indian/Alaskan Native individuals have the highest three-year conviction rate at 47.5 percent, followed by White individuals with a rate of 41.7 percent, and Hispanic/Latino individuals with a rate of 40.8 percent. The rate for Pacific Islander individuals is 39.3 percent, Black/African American individuals is 35.9, and Asian individuals is 31.7 percent. Finally, the rate for individuals in the "Other" category is the lowest at 30.6 percent (Appendix A).

The three-year conviction rate among Pacific Islander individuals saw the greatest decrease (3.9 percentage points) between the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts. American Indian/Alaskan Native individuals saw the greatest increase in the three-year conviction rate (2.2 percentage points). The rate for White individuals also increased by 1.8 percentage points and the rate for those categorized as "Other" by 1.6 percentage points (Appendix C).

²⁶ For more information regarding the relationship between age and recidivism, 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/outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/>

County of Release

Nearly 80 percent of the release cohort (77.8 percent) were released to 12 of the 58 California counties with Los Angeles County accounting for 28.4 percent of the FY 2020-21 cohort.²⁷ Individuals released to the remaining counties make up 22.0 percent of the release cohort. Less than one percent of the release cohort was directly discharged from prison and their rates are not associated with a county.

Conviction rates by county of release should be interpreted with caution for several reasons. Individuals may leave the county to which they are released, or individuals may be released and convicted in a different county. When an individual is convicted in another county, the conviction is still associated with their original county of release (e.g., if an individual 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, Stanislaus County has the highest three-year conviction rate (52.5 percent), while Alameda County has the lowest three-year conviction rate (26.7 percent). The three-year conviction rate for the remaining 46 California counties is 41.1 percent, which is higher than the overall conviction rate (39.5 percent) as shown in Appendix B.

When comparing the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts, half of the 12 largest counties saw an increase in the three-year conviction rate. Fresno County has the largest increase (5.8 percentage points), followed by Stanislaus County at 5.1 percentage points and San Diego County at 2.1 percentage points. San Joaquin County has the largest decrease (4.7 percentage points), followed by Santa Clara County at 4.2 percentage points and Orange County at 1.7 percentage points.

Commitment Offense Category

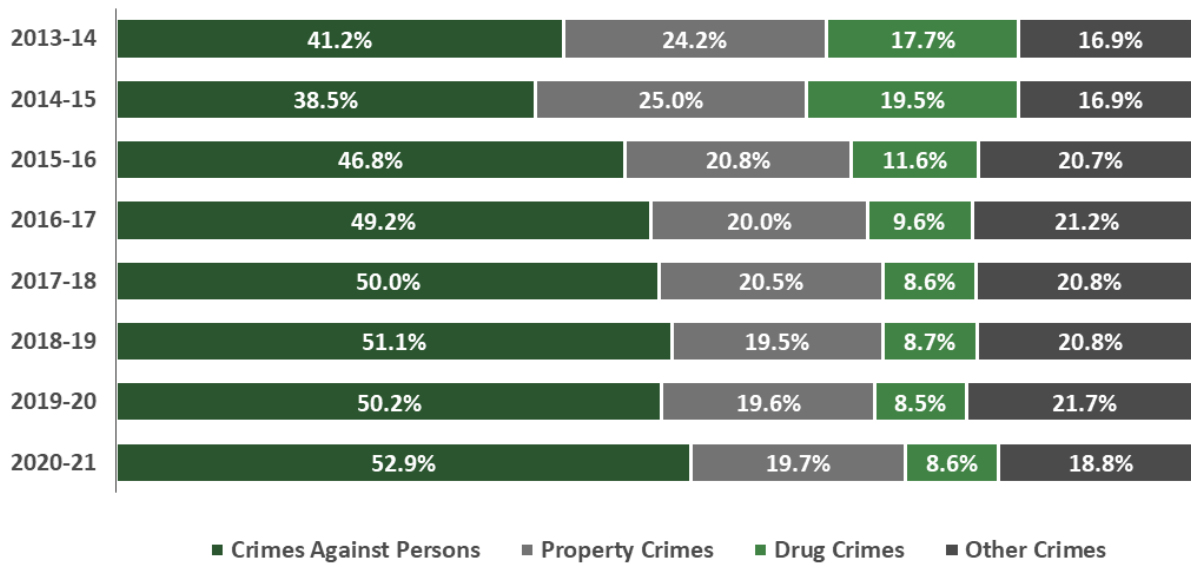
Each commitment offense category (property crimes, drug crimes, crimes against persons and those categorized as “other”) represents the category of offense an individual was committed to prison for prior to their release in FY 2020-21.²⁸ Certain categories are associated with higher or lower rates of recidivism, which may influence changes in the statewide recidivism rate when there are substantial changes to the composition of the cohort.²⁹ As shown in Figure 8, the proportion of individuals committed to CDCR for crimes against persons has steadily increased since the FY 2015-16 release cohort, while the percentage of individuals committed for property and drug offenses have generally decreased, largely due to Realignment (Appendix E). Individuals committed for crimes against persons comprise 52.9 percent of the FY 2020-21 release cohort, followed by property crimes (19.7 percent), other crimes (18.8 percent), and drug crimes (8.6 percent).

²⁷ Los Angeles County also accounts for the most admissions to CDCR each year.

²⁸ Examples of crimes categorized as “other” include driving under the influence, arson, escape, possession of a weapon, criminal threats, and false imprisonment.

²⁹ If the percentage of individuals belonging to a certain commitment offense category (e.g., crimes against persons) increases or comprises a large portion of a release cohort, the statewide recidivism rate could be influenced downward, as these individuals are typically associated with low rates of recidivism. Conversely, if a larger group of individuals committed for property or drug offenses comprises a large portion of a release cohort, the statewide recidivism rate could be influenced upward, as these individuals are typically associated with high rates of recidivism.

Figure 8. Percentage of Releases by Commitment Offense Category for the Fiscal Year 2013-14 through 2020-21 Release Cohorts



For the FY 2020-21 release cohort, individuals committed for property crimes have the highest three-year conviction rate at 49.9 percent. Lower rates are observed for individuals committed for other crimes (45.1 percent), drug crimes (43.4 percent), and crimes against persons (33.0 percent). This trend is consistent with CDCR historical patterns – individuals committed for property crimes generally have the highest rate (around 50 percent). In contrast, individuals committed for crimes against persons generally have the lowest rate (under 40 percent).

When compared to the three-year conviction rate for the FY 2019-20 cohort, each category increased except crimes against persons, which decreased by 1.3 percentage points (Appendix C). The largest increase occurred for individuals committed for drug crimes (3.6 percentage points), followed by other crimes (2.7 percentage points), and property crimes (2.2 percentage points).

Commitment Offense Group

Commitment offense group refers to the general offense an individual was committed to prison for prior to their release in FY 2020-21. Also known as the controlling offense, it is the most serious offense in an individual’s most recent conviction cycle. Data regarding conviction rates by commitment offense are available in Appendix A. Rates vary greatly when analyzed by commitment offense, with a high of 64.2 percent for those committed for vehicle theft and a low of 3.4 percent for those committed for attempted first-degree murder. Note that some categories are associated with very few releases and should be interpreted with caution.

In the FY 2020-21 release cohort, the commitment offenses with the highest three-year conviction rates are vehicle theft, receiving stolen property, and other property crimes (64.2 percent, 59.7 percent, and 54.6 percent, respectively), which are all property crimes. The commitment offenses with the lowest conviction rates are attempted first-degree murder, first-degree murder, and second-degree murder (3.4 percent, 3.6 percent, and 4.2 percent, respectively). Of the 11 offenses associated with the lowest conviction rates in this cohort, all were for crimes against persons (Appendix A).

Sentence Type

Most individuals sentenced to prison in California receive a determinate term (their sentence is set to a specific length) and are generally released after completing their sentence. Individuals sentenced to an indeterminate term (e.g., 25 years to life) are released once the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) has found them suitable for release, or the court orders their release. Under California's Three Strikes Law, a third strike sentence is also an indeterminate sentence.³⁰ Under Proposition 47, certain felony drug/alcohol and property crimes were reclassified to misdemeanors (Appendix E). Proposition 64 authorizes resentencing for eligible marijuana convictions. Note that resentencing under Propositions 47 or 64 are not actual sentence types but are included in this section due to the resulting sentence.³¹

Those who served a determinate term make up over 60 percent of releases and those with a second strike sentence (also a determinate term) comprise an additional 33.6 percent of releases. Consistent with historical trends, those with a determinate second strike term have the highest three-year conviction rate at 43.5 percent, followed by individuals sentenced to a determinate term at 39.4 percent. The rate increased for second strike individuals (1.8 percentage points) and slightly decreased for determinately sentenced individuals (0.2 percentage points) compared to the FY 2019-20 release cohort.

Individuals who serve an indeterminate term at CDCR consistently comprise a small proportion of each release cohort and have the lowest conviction rate when compared to all other sentence types. Additionally, individuals with a third strike (indeterminate term) make up 0.8 percent of releases. Third strike individuals in the FY 2020-21 release cohort have a three-year conviction rate of 4.4 percent, followed by indeterminately sentenced individuals with a conviction rate of 3.6 percent.

Serious/Violent Offense

Individuals originally committed to CDCR for a non-serious/non-violent offense make up 48.0 percent of the FY 2020-21 release cohort, followed by those committed for a violent offense (31.4 percent), and a serious offense (20.6 percent).³² While all violent offenses are also considered serious, not all serious offenses are violent (individuals in the serious category have a non-violent offense).³³ Individuals committed for serious or violent offenses have slowly accounted for larger portions of each release cohort over time, largely due to Realignment (Appendix E). Individuals committed for violent offenses tend to have lower rates of recidivism than those committed for serious offenses or non-serious/non-violent offenses.

In the FY 2020-21 cohort, individuals committed for non-serious/non-violent offenses have the highest three-year conviction rate at 48.7 percent, followed by individuals committed for serious offenses (41.2 percent). Individuals committed for violent offenses have the lowest rate at 24.2 percent, which is generally consistent with historical trends.

³⁰ See the supplemental recidivism report on individuals released through Board of Parole Hearings processes: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/>

³¹ Individuals resentenced are categorized as "Resentenced to Misdemeanor" in applicable tables (Appendices A and C). For more information on Proposition 47, see: <https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/Prop-47-Information.pdf>. For more information on Proposition 64, see: <https://www.courts.ca.gov/prop64.htm>

³² Violent felony offenses are specified in Penal Code section 667.5(c). Serious felony offenses are specified in Penal Code section 1192.7(c) and Penal Code section 1192.8.

³³ For the definition of a serious felony offense, see: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/parole/serious-offenses-defined/>. For the definition of a violent felony offense, see: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/parole/violent-offenses-defined/>

Overall, conviction rates increased for each category except violent offenses when compared to the FY 2019-20 cohort. The rate for individuals committed for non-serious/non-violent offenses increased by 3.3 percentage points and the rate for those committed for serious offenses increased by 0.9 percentage points. The rate for individuals with a violent offense decreased by less than one percentage point (0.8 percentage points).

Risk Score

The California Static Risk Assessment (CSRA) is a tool used to calculate an individual's risk of conviction for a new offense after release from prison.³⁴ Based on criminal history and demographics including age, individuals are designated as having a low, moderate, or high-risk of being convicted of a new offense. Approximately 39.2 percent of individuals in the FY 2020-21 release cohort have a high-risk score according to the CSRA. Low-risk scores account for 33.5 percent of the cohort and moderate-risk scores account for 27.3 percent.

High-risk individuals have the highest three-year conviction rate at 56.4 percent, followed by moderate-risk individuals (41.0 percent) and low-risk individuals (18.4 percent). This trend has been consistent for several years, where high, moderate, and low-risk individuals recidivate at about 60 percent, 40 percent, and 20 percent, respectively.

Compared to FY 2019-20, the conviction rate for each group increased except for low-risk individuals. The three-year conviction rate for individuals with a high-risk score and moderate-risk score increased by 1.5 and 3.0 percentage points, respectively. The rate for individuals with a low-risk score decreased by 1.0 percentage point (Appendix C).

Mental Health Designation

Over three-quarters of individuals in the FY 2020-21 cohort did not have a mental health designation through CDCR's Mental Health Services Delivery System (MHSDS) at the time of their release. Approximately 18 percent of individuals were assigned to the Correctional Clinical Case Management System (CCCMS), the most common and low-level designation, at the time of release. Fewer individuals (4.3 percent total) were assigned to higher-level designations, including Enhanced Outpatient Program (EOP), Mental Health Crisis Bed (MHCB), and Psychiatric Inpatient Program (PIP).

In general, historical trends show that individuals released from CDCR with a mental health designation at release have elevated conviction rates when compared to those without a mental health designation. A similar trend is observed with the FY 2020-21 cohort. Those assigned to PIP have a three-year recidivism rate of 52.4 percent, followed by 46.2 percent for EOP, and 41.6 percent for CCCMS. Individuals with no mental health designation have a rate of 38.6 percent.

Compared to the FY 2019-20 release cohort, the three-year conviction rate increased for individuals assigned to PIP (3.7 percentage points) and the only decrease was for individuals assigned to EOP (less than one percentage point). The rate for individuals without a mental health designation increased by less than one percentage point (Appendix C).

³⁴ 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>

Length of Stay

Length of stay refers to the amount of time an individual is incarcerated at CDCR prior to their release in FY 2020-21. Historically, over half of each release cohort spends less than two years in prison. Generally, as the length of stay increases, both the number of people released and the conviction rate for each category decreases (Appendix A).

Approximately 31.4 percent of individuals in the FY 2020-21 release cohort have a stay of less than one year and 26.2 percent have a stay between one and two years. The percentage of individuals in each length of stay category tends to decrease as the length of stay increases, with the exception of individuals with a stay of five to nine years (9.8 percent of the release cohort) and 15 years or more (5.8 percent of the release cohort).

Conviction rates generally decrease as the length of stay increases. Individuals in the FY 2020-21 cohort who spent less than one year in prison have a three-year conviction rate of 48.6 percent, while those who spent 15 years or more have the lowest conviction rate of 7.6 percent. Historically, conviction rates decrease considerably for those who stay for ten years or more (rates below 20 percent). A longer length of stay is most common for violent offenses, leading to an older age at release and an overall lower likelihood of recidivism. Additionally, individuals with shorter lengths of stay may have less availability to participate in in-prison programming, which may influence recidivism.

Compared to the FY 2019-20 release cohort, conviction rates increased for nearly all length of stay categories. Increases in conviction rates ranged between 0.4 and 3.5 percentage points for each category. The largest increase in the rates is observed for individuals with a length of stay of three years at 3.5 percentage points, while the rate decreased slightly (by less than one percentage point) for those with a stay between five and nine years (Appendix C).

Number of CDCR Stays

A stay is defined as any period of time an individual is housed in a CDCR institution.³⁵ The number of stays for an individual is cumulative over their criminal history. Nearly half of the FY 2020-21 release cohort was released after their first stay at CDCR (44.5 percent). As the number of stays increases, the number of individuals in each category generally decreases (Appendix A).

Conviction rates are typically lowest for those with one stay and rates gradually increase as the number of stays increase, with some variation. In the FY 2020-21 release cohort, individuals with one stay have the lowest three-year conviction rate at 30.8 percent and those with 15 or more stays have the highest rate at 50.1 percent. Compared to the previous FY 2019-20 release cohort, the three-year recidivism rate increased for most categories (Appendix C).

³⁵ The total number of stays could include past stays for parole violations. Since the passage of Realignment in 2011, only individuals previously sentenced to a life term (indeterminate sentence) and some sex registrants 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, see Penal Code 3000.0(b)(4). For more information regarding decreases in returns to prison for parole violations, see Section 4.4 Type of Return to Prison.

Sex Registration Requirement

Most individuals in the FY 2020-21 release cohort (90.1 percent) did not have a sex registration requirement (non-sex registrants). The remaining 9.9 percent of individuals were required to register pursuant to California Penal Code 290 (sex registrants).

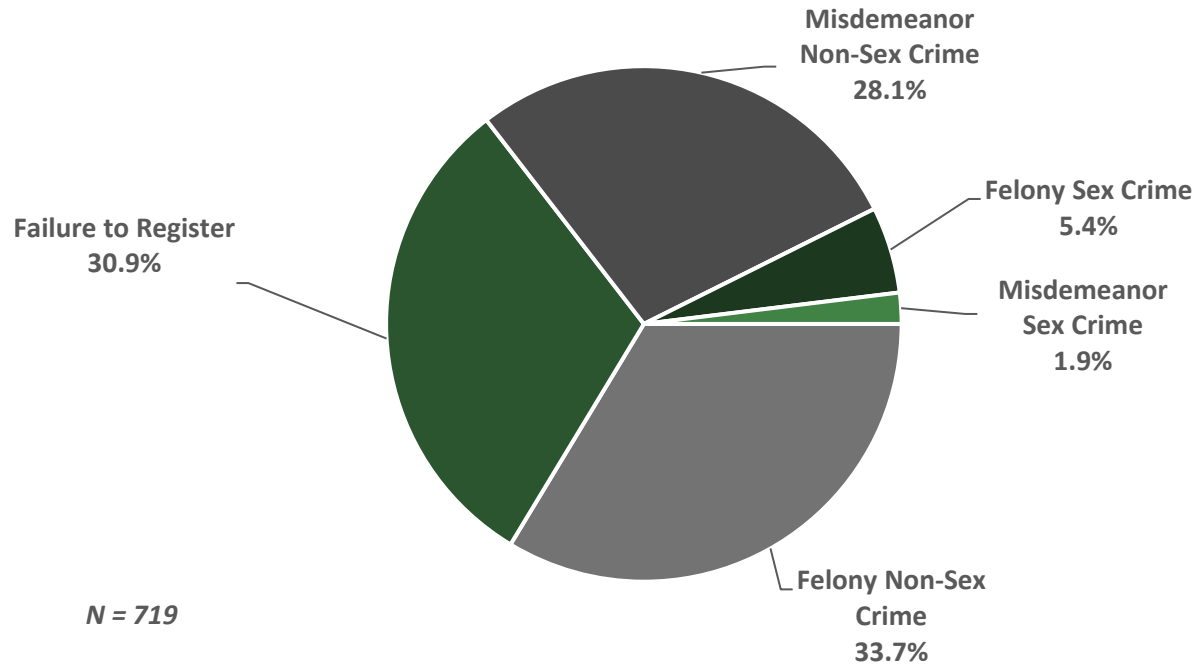
The three-year conviction rate for sex registrants released in FY 2020-21 is 24.2 percent and the rate for non-sex registrants is 41.1 percent. This difference in the rate between these groups is generally consistent with historical trends – sex registrants generally have a lower conviction rate than non-sex registrants. Compared to the FY 2019-20 cohort, the rate for sex registrants decreased by 2.7 percentage points and the rate for non-sex registrants increased by 0.6 percentage points.

As shown in Table 8 and Figure 9, the largest portions of sex registrants who recidivated were convicted of felony non-sex crimes. Regarding those who were convicted, 30.9 percent were convicted for failure to register and 28.1 percent were convicted for misdemeanor non-sex crimes. In addition, relatively few sex registrants were convicted of new sex crimes: 5.4 percent for felony sex crimes and 1.9 percent for misdemeanor sex crimes.

Table 8. Type of Conviction for the 719 Sex Registrants Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period

Reason for Conviction	Convicted	
	Number	Percent
Felony Non-Sex Crime	242	33.7%
Failure to Register	222	30.9%
Misdemeanor Non-Sex Crime	202	28.1%
Felony Sex Crime	39	5.4%
Misdemeanor Sex Crime	14	1.9%
Total	719	100.0%

Figure 9. Type of Conviction for the 719 Sex Registrants Convicted During the Three-Year Follow-Up Period



6 Individuals with Enhanced Credit Earnings Under Proposition 57

Proposition 57 was passed in November 2016 and allows eligible individuals to earn credits for good behavior and approved rehabilitative and educational achievements.³⁶ It increased the amount of credits that may be earned through the Good Conduct Credit (GCC) and Milestone Completion Credit (MCC) Programs; it also added two new types of credits: Rehabilitative Achievement Credit (RAC) and Educational Merit Credit (EMC).³⁷ The FY 2020-21 release cohort is the fourth cohort of individuals who were impacted by the implementation of Proposition 57, which began in May 2017.³⁸ These findings are still considered preliminary. The regulations regarding credit earning (e.g., who earns credit, how much they earn, availability of rehabilitative programs and more) change often and may result in changes in future cohorts.

6.1 Conviction Rates for Individuals with Enhanced Credit Earnings

Individuals with enhanced credit earnings have lower recidivism rates than those without credit earnings

Table 9 displays the conviction rates for individuals who earned any enhanced credits under Proposition 57 during their incarceration (EMC, MCC, or RAC).³⁹ Approximately half of the individuals released (49.9 percent) earned at least one of the three credit earning types (Appendix A). The percentage of individuals who earned credits decreased by 9.7 percentage points when compared to the FY 2019-20 release cohort (59.6 percent). The decrease in credit earning participation is likely due to the slowdown of in-prison programming during the COVID-19 pandemic. The three-year conviction rate for individuals who earned credits (33.3 percent) is 12.3 percentage points lower than the rate for individuals with no enhanced credit earnings (45.6 percent). The rate for individuals with credit earnings decreased by 2.5 percentage points (from 35.8 percent to 33.3 percent) and the rate for those without credits increased 1.6 percentage points (from 44.0 percent to 45.6 percent) between the FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 release cohorts (Appendix C).

Table 9. Conviction Rates by Enhanced Credit Earnings

Any Enhanced Credit Earning	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
No	15,087	2,629	17.4%	5,331	35.3%	6,875	45.6%
Yes	15,029	1,568	10.4%	3,657	24.3%	5,011	33.3%
Total	30,116	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%

³⁶ For more details on Proposition 57 credit earnings, see: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/proposition57/>. Individuals in the FY 2020-21 release cohort were released prior to the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation litigation. For more information, see: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/bph/wp-content/uploads/sites/161/2024/07/Fact-Sheet-CJLF-Litigation-Impact-to-Release-Dates.pdf>

³⁷ In addition to increasing the number of MCCs that could be earned, Proposition 57 expanded the eligibility criteria to include individuals with a violent offense, sex registrants, and indeterminately sentenced individuals. These three groups are oftentimes associated with lower rates of recidivism, and their exclusion from earning MCCs prior to Proposition 57 may contribute to the higher rates observed among MCC earners.

³⁸ RAC and EMC were not implemented until August 2017 and RAC were not regularly earned until October 2017.

³⁹ Milestone Completion Credits are awarded for successful completion of rehabilitative or educational programs designed to prepare participants to find employment upon release. Educational Merit Credits are awarded for completion of high school diploma or equivalency programs, higher education degrees, or the Offender Mentor Certification Program (OMCP). Rehabilitative Achievement Credits are awarded to those who complete specified hours of approved self-help and volunteer public service activities. To learn more about the various types of credit earnings, see: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/proposition57/>.

6.2 Conviction Rates by Credit Earning Types

Individuals earning RACs or a combination of enhanced credits have lower conviction rates than individuals earning only MCCs or EMCs

Table 10 displays conviction rates by enhanced credit type. In previous reports, only three groupings (MCCs, EMCs, and RACs) were provided and individuals could appear in more than one group. Table 10 provides additional detail and individuals no longer appear in more than one group; therefore, the rates provided in Table 10 should not be compared to previous reports.

For individuals who received only one credit type, those who earned MCCs have the highest three-year conviction rate (43.4 percent), followed by those with EMCs (23.3 percent) and those with RACs (18.5 percent). The group of individuals who earned MCCs is much larger than those earning EMCs or RACs. The higher recidivism rates observed among the MCC group can be attributed to multiple factors. The MCC group includes individuals with non-violent offenses and non-sex registrants who were eligible to earn MCCs prior to the passage of Proposition 57. Individuals with less serious offenses generally have higher recidivism rates than individuals with more violent crimes against persons, as discussed in Section 5.2 of this report. Further, programs that award EMCs or RACs often have longer completion times, which limits participation for individuals with shorter lengths of stay (an additional characteristic associated with higher recidivism rates) when compared to programs that award MCCs. Programs that award MCCs oftentimes award smaller increments of credit in comparison to programs that award EMCs or RACs.

In general, individuals who earn more than one credit type have lower rates than individuals with one credit earning type. Individuals who earn EMCs and RACs have the lowest three-year conviction rate at 3.0 percent, followed by those with EMCs, MCCs and RACs (12.1 percent). Individuals who earn RACs and MCCs or EMCs and MCCs also have low rates of recidivism (15.9 percent and 20.2 percent, respectively). These rates may be slightly higher due to the composition of these groups (e.g., individuals with MCCs may be associated with higher rates of recidivism). Finally, all the credit earning combinations presented in Table 10 have lower recidivism rates than those without credit earnings (45.6 percent).

Table 10. Conviction Rates by Enhanced Credit Earning Type for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Release Cohort

Type of Enhanced Credit Earning	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
EMC Only	116	9	7.8%	21	18.1%	27	23.3%
MCC Only	9,471	1,321	13.9%	2,990	31.6%	4,109	43.4%
RAC Only	525	33	6.3%	76	14.5%	97	18.5%
More than One Credit Type:							
EMC and RAC	33	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	3.0%
EMC and MCC	878	50	5.7%	133	15.1%	177	20.2%
RAC and MCC	3,060	130	4.2%	352	11.5%	486	15.9%
EMC, MCC and RAC	946	25	2.6%	85	9.0%	114	12.1%
No Enhanced Credit	15,087	2,629	17.4%	5,331	35.3%	6,875	45.6%
Total	30,116	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%

6.3 Enhanced Credit Earning Methodology

The group of individuals who earned credit includes individuals who earned any EMCs, MCCs, or RACs during their incarceration, even if the credit did not result in a sentence length reduction. This includes non-violent non-sex registrants sentenced to a determinate term who earned MCCs prior to the passage of Proposition 57. Individuals earning EMC, MCC, or RAC may have earned GCC or Extraordinary Conduct Credit (ECC). Individuals who only earned GCC, enhanced GCC (fire camp participants), or ECC are excluded, as these are not awarded for program participation.

Reasons an individual's earned credit may not result in sentence length reduction include:

- Lost credits that became non-restorable due to multiple serious Rules Violation Reports.
- A release date restriction or resentencing that brought the individual's release date too close to apply credits. CDCR requires a minimum number of days to prepare for an individual's release prior to their release date (typically 15 days for non-violent individuals and 60 days for violent individuals or sex registrants).
- Earning too many credits for a specific time period. Up to 84 days may be taken off an individual's sentence for MCC earnings per year starting on the anniversary of their first MCC earning. Additional MCCs roll over to the next year. Up to 40 days may be taken off an individual's sentence for RAC earnings per year starting on the anniversary of their first RAC earning. Additional RACs do not roll over.
- For incarcerated individuals granted release by the Board of Parole Hearings: for individuals with an indeterminate sentence who receive a parole hearing, credits apply to their Minimum Eligible Parole Date, potentially allowing for earlier release. Earned credits do not reduce eligibility release dates for individuals eligible for Youth Parole, Elderly Parole, or Nonviolent Parole.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ For more details on Proposition 57 credit earnings, see: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/proposition57/>

Conclusion and Appendices

This concludes CDCR's examination of the 30,116 individuals released from institutions in Fiscal Year 2020-21. The following sections include detailed data tables regarding the demographics, characteristics, and major correctional policies and initiatives that influence recidivism rates. We invite you to further explore recidivism analyses of subpopulations and program participants through our supplemental recidivism reports, as well as our recidivism dashboard.⁴¹

The Statewide Recidivism Report is developed on an annual basis. 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 individuals released from CDCR institutions.

⁴¹ Statewide recidivism reports, supplemental recidivism reports, and the recidivism dashboard may be found on CDCR's website, available at: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/>

Appendix A: Recidivism Rates by Demographics and Characteristics for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Release Cohort

Table 11. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Conviction Rates by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21

Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	Number Released	Percent of Releases	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
			Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Total	30,116	100.0%	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%
Gender								
Male	28,040	93.1%	3,967	14.1%	8,485	30.3%	11,192	39.9%
Female	2,076	6.9%	230	11.1%	503	24.2%	694	33.4%
Age at Release								
18 and 19	75	0.2%	13	17.3%	30	40.0%	39	52.0%
20 to 24	2,657	8.8%	589	22.2%	1,169	44.0%	1,451	54.6%
25 to 29	5,307	17.6%	953	18.0%	2,008	37.8%	2,601	49.0%
30 to 34	5,881	19.5%	965	16.4%	2,031	34.5%	2,676	45.5%
35 to 39	4,890	16.2%	701	14.3%	1,504	30.8%	2,010	41.1%
40 to 44	3,800	12.6%	427	11.2%	999	26.3%	1,351	35.6%
45 to 49	2,417	8.0%	236	9.8%	497	20.6%	702	29.0%
50 to 54	1,945	6.5%	161	8.3%	392	20.2%	536	27.6%
55 to 59	1,540	5.1%	94	6.1%	218	14.2%	316	20.5%
60 and over	1,604	5.3%	58	3.6%	140	8.7%	204	12.7%

Table 11. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Conviction Rates by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21 (continued)

Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	Number Released	Percent of Releases	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
			Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Total	30,116	100.0%	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%
Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	364	1.2%	64	17.6%	131	36.0%	173	47.5%
White	7,360	24.4%	1,165	15.8%	2,373	32.2%	3,069	41.7%
Hispanic/Latino	13,738	45.6%	2,032	14.8%	4,264	31.0%	5,602	40.8%
Pacific Islander	107	0.4%	10	9.3%	26	24.3%	42	39.3%
Black/African American	7,201	23.9%	797	11.1%	1,869	26.0%	2,584	35.9%
Asian	379	1.3%	44	11.6%	93	24.5%	120	31.7%
Other	967	3.2%	85	8.8%	232	24.0%	296	30.6%
County of Release								
Stanislaus County	655	2.2%	119	18.2%	264	40.3%	344	52.5%
Kern County	1,338	4.4%	260	19.4%	547	40.9%	686	51.3%
Orange County	1,425	4.7%	374	26.2%	594	41.7%	683	47.9%
San Joaquin County	821	2.7%	152	18.5%	286	34.8%	353	43.0%
Riverside County	2,361	7.8%	331	14.0%	724	30.7%	979	41.5%
San Bernardino County	2,303	7.6%	367	15.9%	722	31.4%	945	41.0%
Sacramento County	1,466	4.9%	157	10.7%	430	29.3%	592	40.4%
San Diego County	2,219	7.4%	289	13.0%	681	30.7%	893	40.2%
Fresno County	1,129	3.7%	83	7.4%	275	24.4%	413	36.6%
Los Angeles County	8,540	28.4%	1,005	11.8%	2,195	25.7%	2,927	34.3%
Santa Clara County	584	1.9%	41	7.0%	113	19.3%	173	29.6%
Alameda County	603	2.0%	37	6.1%	102	16.9%	161	26.7%
All Other Counties	6,638	22.0%	979	14.7%	2,050	30.9%	2,731	41.1%
Directly Discharged	34	0.1%	3	8.8%	5	14.7%	6	17.6%

Table 11. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Conviction Rates by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21 (continued)

Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	Number Released	Percent of Releases	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
			Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Total	30,116	100.0%	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%
Commitment Offense Category								
Property Crimes	5,930	19.7%	1,101	18.6%	2,273	38.3%	2,960	49.9%
Other Crimes	5,649	18.8%	928	16.4%	1,944	34.4%	2,545	45.1%
Drug Crimes	2,591	8.6%	405	15.6%	847	32.7%	1,124	43.4%
Crimes Against Persons	15,946	52.9%	1,763	11.1%	3,924	24.6%	5,257	33.0%
Commitment Offense Group								
Crimes Against Persons	15,946	52.9%	1,763	11.1%	3,924	24.6%	5,257	33.0%
Other Assault/Battery	4,039	13.4%	624	15.4%	1,345	33.3%	1,773	43.9%
Other Sex Offenses	755	2.5%	119	15.8%	237	31.4%	302	40.0%
Assault with a Deadly Weapon	3,830	12.7%	510	13.3%	1,125	29.4%	1,498	39.1%
Robbery	3,795	12.6%	441	11.6%	1,012	26.7%	1,340	35.3%
Kidnapping	230	0.8%	12	5.2%	30	13.0%	39	17.0%
Manslaughter	479	1.6%	10	2.1%	43	9.0%	79	16.5%
Rape	220	0.7%	6	2.7%	16	7.3%	30	13.6%
Attempted Murder Second	440	1.5%	15	3.4%	35	8.0%	58	13.2%
Vehicular Manslaughter	227	0.8%	6	2.6%	13	5.7%	26	11.5%
Penetration With Object	49	0.2%	1	2.0%	3	6.1%	5	10.2%
Lewd Act With Child	1,060	3.5%	12	1.1%	49	4.6%	71	6.7%
Oral Copulation	72	0.2%	1	1.4%	1	1.4%	3	4.2%
Murder Second	337	1.1%	3	0.9%	6	1.8%	14	4.2%
Murder First	304	1.0%	2	0.7%	5	1.6%	11	3.6%
Attempted Murder First	87	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	1.1%	3	3.4%
Sodomy	22	0.1%	1	N/A	3	N/A	5	N/A

Table 11. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Conviction Rates by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21 (continued)

Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	Number Released	Percent of Releases	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
			Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Total	30,116	100.0%	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%
Commitment Offense Group (continued)								
Property Crimes	5,930	19.7%	1,101	18.6%	2,273	38.3%	2,960	49.9%
Vehicle Theft	1,425	4.7%	366	25.7%	731	51.3%	915	64.2%
Receiving Stolen Property	318	1.1%	73	23.0%	149	46.9%	190	59.7%
Other Property	339	1.1%	74	21.8%	145	42.8%	185	54.6%
Burglary Second	731	2.4%	146	20.0%	307	42.0%	384	52.5%
Grand Theft	458	1.5%	79	17.2%	153	33.4%	212	46.3%
Forgery/Fraud	418	1.4%	72	17.2%	136	32.5%	176	42.1%
Burglary First	2,225	7.4%	289	13.0%	645	29.0%	890	40.0%
Petty Theft With Prior	16	0.1%	2	N/A	7	N/A	8	N/A
Drug Crimes	2,591	8.6%	405	15.6%	847	32.7%	1,124	43.4%
Controlled Substance Other	312	1.0%	67	21.5%	130	41.7%	166	53.2%
Controlled Substance Possession	660	2.2%	121	18.3%	244	37.0%	312	47.3%
Controlled Substance Possession For Sale	1,320	4.4%	188	14.2%	405	30.7%	540	40.9%
Controlled Substance Sales	232	0.8%	23	9.9%	53	22.8%	82	35.3%
Controlled Substance Manufacturing	53	0.2%	6	11.3%	12	22.6%	17	32.1%
Marijuana Other	5	0.0%	0	N/A	1	N/A	4	N/A
Marijuana Possess For Sale	5	0.0%	0	N/A	1	N/A	2	N/A
Marijuana Sale	3	0.0%	0	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A
Hashish Possession	1	0.0%	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A

Table 11. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Conviction Rates by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21 (continued)⁴²

Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	Number Released	Percent of Releases	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
			Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Total	30,116	100.0%	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%
Commitment Offense Group (continued)								
Other Crimes	5,649	18.8%	928	16.4%	1,944	34.4%	2,545	45.1%
Possession of Weapon	3,031	10.1%	581	19.2%	1,200	39.6%	1,548	51.1%
Escape	57	0.2%	16	28.1%	23	40.4%	28	49.1%
Other Offenses	1,494	5.0%	232	15.5%	501	33.5%	647	43.3%
Arson	242	0.8%	37	15.3%	70	28.9%	100	41.3%
Driving Under Influence	825	2.7%	62	7.5%	150	18.2%	222	26.9%
Serious/Violent Offense								
Non-Serious/Non-Violent	14,458	48.0%	2,646	18.3%	5,422	37.5%	7,038	48.7%
Serious	6,199	20.6%	895	14.4%	1,926	31.1%	2,555	41.2%
Violent	9,459	31.4%	656	6.9%	1,640	17.3%	2,293	24.2%
Sentence Type								
Second Strike (Determinate Term)	10,106	33.6%	1,416	14.0%	3,252	32.2%	4,396	43.5%
Determinate Term	18,915	62.8%	2,776	14.7%	5,719	30.2%	7,446	39.4%
Third Strike (Indeterminate Term)	251	0.8%	0	0.0%	3	1.2%	11	4.4%
Indeterminate Term	836	2.8%	5	0.6%	14	1.7%	30	3.6%
Resentenced to Misdemeanor	8	0.0%	0	N/A	0	N/A	3	N/A
CSRA Risk Score								
High	11,800	39.2%	2,619	22.2%	5,252	44.5%	6,656	56.4%
Moderate	8,220	27.3%	1,096	13.3%	2,482	30.2%	3,372	41.0%
Low	10,096	33.5%	482	4.8%	1,254	12.4%	1,858	18.4%

⁴² "Controlled Substance" and "Marijuana Other" offenses include planting, cultivating or processing marijuana, furnishing/giving marijuana to a minor, or employing a minor to transport marijuana. "Controlled Substance Other" offenses include possession of a controlled substance in prison/jail; maintaining place for the use/sale of a controlled substance; or employment of minor to furnish/sell a controlled substance. "Other Offenses" include threatening to commit a crime resulting in death or great bodily injury, participation in a street gang, and stalking. "Other Sex Offenses" include failure to register as a sex offender, indecent exposure, and pimping.

Table 11. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Conviction Rates by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21 (continued)

Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	Number Released	Percent of Releases	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
			Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Total	30,116	100.0%	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%
Mental Health Designation								
Psychiatric Inpatient Program	166	0.6%	29	17.5%	63	38.0%	87	52.4%
Enhanced Outpatient Program	1,118	3.7%	196	17.5%	413	36.9%	516	46.2%
Correctional Clinical Case Management System	5,351	17.8%	766	14.3%	1,687	31.5%	2,224	41.6%
Mental Health Crisis Bed	14	0.0%	4	N/A	5	N/A	7	N/A
No Mental Health Designation	23,467	77.9%	3,202	13.6%	6,820	29.1%	9,052	38.6%
Length of Stay								
Less than 1 year	9,467	31.4%	1,817	19.2%	3,629	38.3%	4,603	48.6%
1 year (12 to 23 months)	7,905	26.2%	1,273	16.1%	2,720	34.4%	3,582	45.3%
2 years (24 to 35 months)	3,540	11.8%	496	14.0%	1,089	30.8%	1,461	41.3%
3 years (36 to 47 months)	1,962	6.5%	243	12.4%	552	28.1%	766	39.0%
4 years (48 to 59 months)	1,219	4.0%	107	8.8%	279	22.9%	399	32.7%
5 to 9 years	2,959	9.8%	198	6.7%	502	17.0%	735	24.8%
10 to 14 years	1,330	4.4%	45	3.4%	141	10.6%	209	15.7%
15 years or more	1,734	5.8%	18	1.0%	76	4.4%	131	7.6%
Number of CDCR Stays								
1 stay	13,407	44.5%	1,386	10.3%	3,054	22.8%	4,134	30.8%
2 stays	5,531	18.4%	955	17.3%	2,007	36.3%	2,592	46.9%
3 stays	2,770	9.2%	510	18.4%	1,059	38.2%	1,343	48.5%
4 stays	1,697	5.6%	273	16.1%	583	34.4%	777	45.8%
5 to 9 stays	4,407	14.6%	658	14.9%	1,460	33.1%	1,945	44.1%
10 to 14 stays	1,550	5.1%	262	16.9%	537	34.6%	717	46.3%
15 stays or more	754	2.5%	153	20.3%	288	38.2%	378	50.1%

Table 11. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Conviction Rates by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21
(continued)

Conviction Rates by Demographics/Characteristics	Number Released	Percent of Releases	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
			Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Total	30,116	100.0%	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%
Sex Registration Requirement								
No	27,142	90.1%	3,942	14.5%	8,460	31.2%	11,167	41.1%
Yes	2,974	9.9%	255	8.6%	528	17.8%	719	24.2%

Appendix B: Conviction Rates by County of Release

Table 12. Conviction Rates by County of Release

County of Release	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Alameda County	603	37	6.1%	102	16.9%	161	26.7%
Alpine County	1	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Amador County	31	1	3.2%	6	19.4%	7	22.6%
Butte County	339	68	20.1%	128	37.8%	162	47.8%
Calaveras County	27	4	N/A	9	N/A	10	N/A
Colusa County	18	5	N/A	11	N/A	11	N/A
Contra Costa County	341	26	7.6%	63	18.5%	87	25.5%
Del Norte County	42	1	2.4%	4	9.5%	8	19.0%
El Dorado County	127	19	15.0%	40	31.5%	53	41.7%
Fresno County	1,129	83	7.4%	275	24.4%	413	36.6%
Glenn County	32	6	18.8%	12	37.5%	14	43.8%
Humboldt County	136	22	16.2%	56	41.2%	68	50.0%
Imperial County	94	6	6.4%	23	24.5%	28	29.8%
Inyo County	16	6	N/A	6	N/A	9	N/A
Kern County	1,338	260	19.4%	547	40.9%	686	51.3%
Kings County	351	45	12.8%	118	33.6%	166	47.3%
Lake County	124	13	10.5%	46	37.1%	63	50.8%
Lassen County	23	5	N/A	8	N/A	13	N/A
Los Angeles County	8,540	1,005	11.8%	2,195	25.7%	2,927	34.3%
Madera County	199	39	19.6%	63	31.7%	82	41.2%
Marin County	36	4	11.1%	11	30.6%	14	38.9%
Mariposa County	12	2	N/A	4	N/A	4	N/A
Mendocino County	93	24	25.8%	41	44.1%	47	50.5%
Merced County	298	39	13.1%	85	28.5%	134	45.0%
Modoc County	17	3	N/A	9	N/A	12	N/A
Mono County	4	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Monterey County	382	86	22.5%	159	41.6%	194	50.8%
Napa County	86	20	23.3%	32	37.2%	39	45.3%
Nevada County	28	1	N/A	6	N/A	8	N/A
Orange County	1,425	374	26.2%	594	41.7%	683	47.9%
Placer County	182	34	18.7%	60	33.0%	74	40.7%
Plumas County	19	1	N/A	2	N/A	3	N/A
Riverside County	2,361	331	14.0%	724	30.7%	979	41.5%
Sacramento County	1,466	157	10.7%	430	29.3%	592	40.4%

Table 12. Conviction Rates by County of Release (continued)

County of Release	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
San Benito County	30	4	13.3%	8	26.7%	10	33.3%
San Bernardino County	2,303	367	15.9%	722	31.4%	945	41.0%
San Diego County	2,219	289	13.0%	681	30.7%	893	40.2%
San Francisco County	231	6	2.6%	23	10.0%	39	16.9%
San Joaquin County	821	152	18.5%	286	34.8%	353	43.0%
San Luis Obispo County	206	39	18.9%	71	34.5%	96	46.6%
San Mateo County	190	12	6.3%	29	15.3%	53	27.9%
Santa Barbara County	336	56	16.7%	116	34.5%	151	44.9%
Santa Clara County	584	41	7.0%	113	19.3%	173	29.6%
Santa Cruz County	119	17	14.3%	38	31.9%	57	47.9%
Shasta County	360	52	14.4%	105	29.2%	146	40.6%
Siskiyou County	54	4	7.4%	7	13.0%	11	20.4%
Solano County	263	29	11.0%	57	21.7%	73	27.8%
Sonoma County	199	21	10.6%	46	23.1%	65	32.7%
Stanislaus County	655	119	18.2%	264	40.3%	344	52.5%
Sutter County	107	24	22.4%	47	43.9%	61	57.0%
Tehama County	134	27	20.1%	59	44.0%	70	52.2%
Trinity County	25	5	N/A	10	N/A	12	N/A
Tulare County	502	84	16.7%	175	34.9%	238	47.4%
Tuolumne County	75	7	9.3%	21	28.0%	26	34.7%
Ventura County	423	60	14.2%	136	32.2%	171	40.4%
Yolo County	171	15	8.8%	40	23.4%	58	33.9%
Yuba County	155	37	23.9%	60	38.7%	84	54.2%
Directly Discharged	34	3	8.8%	5	14.7%	6	17.6%
Total	30,116	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%

*To view a map with three-year conviction rates by county of release, visit the [Recidivism Dashboard](#).

Appendix C: Change in Recidivism Rate by Demographics and Characteristics Between the Fiscal Year 2019-20 and 2020-21 Release Cohorts

Table 13. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21

Cohort Comparison	FY 2019-20 Number Released	FY 2020-21 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2019-20 Number Convicted	FY 2020-21 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2019-20 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2020-21 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Total	34,215	30,116	(4,099)	13,395	11,886	(1,509)	39.1%	39.5%	0.4
Gender									
Male	31,628	28,040	(3,588)	12,595	11,192	(1,403)	39.8%	39.9%	0.1
Female	2,587	2,076	(511)	800	694	(106)	30.9%	33.4%	2.5
Age at Release									
18 and 19	145	75	(70)	91	39	(52)	62.8%	52.0%	(10.8)
20 to 24	3,569	2,657	(912)	1,853	1,451	(402)	51.9%	54.6%	2.7
25 to 29	6,465	5,307	(1,158)	3,060	2,601	(459)	47.3%	49.0%	1.7
30 to 34	6,260	5,881	(379)	2,784	2,676	(108)	44.5%	45.5%	1.0
35 to 39	5,538	4,890	(648)	2,203	2,010	(193)	39.8%	41.1%	1.3
40 to 44	4,038	3,800	(238)	1,433	1,351	(82)	35.5%	35.6%	0.1
45 to 49	2,791	2,417	(374)	825	702	(123)	29.6%	29.0%	(0.6)
50 to 54	2,185	1,945	(240)	580	536	(44)	26.5%	27.6%	1.1
55 to 59	1,732	1,540	(192)	367	316	(51)	21.2%	20.5%	(0.7)
60 and over	1,492	1,604	112	199	204	5	13.3%	12.7%	(0.6)

Table 13. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21 (continued)

Cohort Comparison	FY 2019-20 Number Released	FY 2020-21 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2019-20 Number Convicted	FY 2020-21 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2019-20 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2020-21 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Total	34,215	30,116	(4,099)	13,395	11,886	(1,509)	39.1%	39.5%	0.4
Race/Ethnicity									
American Indian/Alaskan Native	408	364	(44)	185	173	(12)	45.3%	47.5%	2.2
White	8,617	7,360	(1,257)	3,431	3,069	(362)	39.8%	41.7%	1.9
Hispanic/Latino	15,483	13,738	(1,745)	6,302	5,602	(700)	40.7%	40.8%	0.1
Pacific Islander	118	107	(11)	51	42	(9)	43.2%	39.3%	(3.9)
Black/African American	8,151	7,201	(950)	2,991	2,584	(407)	36.7%	35.9%	(0.8)
Asian	415	379	(36)	138	120	(18)	33.3%	31.7%	(1.6)
Other	1,023	967	(56)	297	296	(1)	29.0%	30.6%	1.6
County of Release									
Stanislaus County	627	655	28	297	344	47	47.4%	52.5%	5.1
Kern County	1,415	1,338	(77)	713	686	(27)	50.4%	51.3%	0.9
Orange County	1,593	1,425	(168)	790	683	(107)	49.6%	47.9%	(1.7)
San Joaquin County	851	821	(30)	406	353	(53)	47.7%	43.0%	(4.7)
Riverside County	2,707	2,361	(346)	1,071	979	(92)	39.6%	41.5%	1.9
San Bernardino County	2,775	2,303	(472)	1,164	945	(219)	41.9%	41.0%	(0.9)
Sacramento County	1,673	1,466	(207)	692	592	(100)	41.4%	40.4%	(1.0)
San Diego County	2,367	2,219	(148)	903	893	(10)	38.1%	40.2%	2.1
Fresno County	1,530	1,129	(401)	472	413	(59)	30.8%	36.6%	5.8
Los Angeles County	10,091	8,540	(1,551)	3,627	2,927	(700)	35.9%	34.3%	(1.6)
Santa Clara County	721	584	(137)	244	173	(71)	33.8%	29.6%	(4.2)
Alameda County	699	603	(96)	179	161	(18)	25.6%	26.7%	1.1
All Other Counties	7,153	6,638	(515)	2,837	2,731	(106)	39.7%	41.1%	1.4
Directly Discharged	13	34	21	0	6	6	N/A	17.6%	N/A

Table 13. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21 (continued)

Cohort Comparison	FY 2019-20 Number Released	FY 2020-21 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2019-20 Number Convicted	FY 2020-21 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2019-20 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2020-21 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Total	34,215	30,116	(4,099)	13,395	11,886	(1,509)	39.1%	39.5%	0.4
Commitment Offense Category									
Property Crimes	6,697	5,930	(767)	3,194	2,960	(234)	47.7%	49.9%	2.2
Other Crimes	7,434	5,649	(1,785)	3,153	2,545	(608)	42.4%	45.1%	2.7
Drug Crimes	2,900	2,591	(309)	1,155	1,124	(31)	39.8%	43.4%	3.6
Crimes Against Persons	17,184	15,946	(1,238)	5,893	5,257	(636)	34.3%	33.0%	(1.3)
Commitment Offense Group									
Crimes Against Persons	17,184	15,946	(1,238)	5,893	5,257	(636)	34.3%	33.0%	(1.3)
Other Assault/Battery	5,024	4,039	(985)	2,143	1,773	(370)	42.7%	43.9%	1.2
Other Sex Offenses	982	755	(227)	386	302	(84)	39.3%	40.0%	0.7
Assault with a Deadly Weapon	4,190	3,830	(360)	1,677	1,498	(179)	40.0%	39.1%	(0.9)
Robbery	3,726	3,795	69	1,379	1,340	(39)	37.0%	35.3%	(1.7)
Kidnapping	207	230	23	38	39	1	18.4%	17.0%	(1.4)
Manslaughter	439	479	40	63	79	16	14.4%	16.5%	2.1
Rape	226	220	(6)	18	30	12	8.0%	13.6%	5.6
Attempted Murder Second	363	440	77	66	58	(8)	18.2%	13.2%	(5.0)
Vehicular Manslaughter	190	227	37	18	26	8	9.5%	11.5%	2.0
Penetration With Object	50	49	(1)	4	5	1	8.0%	10.2%	2.2
Lewd Act With Child	931	1,060	129	66	71	5	7.1%	6.7%	(0.4)
Oral Copulation	95	72	(23)	12	3	(9)	12.6%	4.2%	(8.4)
Murder Second	346	337	(9)	7	14	7	2.0%	4.2%	2.2
Murder First	305	304	(1)	5	11	6	1.6%	3.6%	2.0
Attempted Murder First	77	87	10	3	3	0	3.9%	3.4%	(0.5)
Sodomy	33	22	(11)	8	5	(3)	24.2%	N/A	N/A

Table 13. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21 (continued)

Cohort Comparison	FY 2019-20 Number Released	FY 2020-21 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2019-20 Number Convicted	FY 2020-21 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2019-20 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2020-21 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Total	34,215	30,116	(4,099)	13,395	11,886	(1,509)	39.1%	39.5%	0.4
Commitment Offense Group (continued)									
Property Crimes	6,697	5,930	(767)	3,194	2,960	(234)	47.7%	49.9%	2.2
Vehicle Theft	1,580	1,425	(155)	927	915	(12)	58.7%	64.2%	5.5
Receiving Stolen Property	413	318	(95)	223	190	(33)	54.0%	59.7%	5.7
Other Property	435	339	(96)	212	185	(27)	48.7%	54.6%	5.9
Burglary Second	844	731	(113)	411	384	(27)	48.7%	52.5%	3.8
Grand Theft	552	458	(94)	241	212	(29)	43.7%	46.3%	2.6
Forgery/Fraud	535	418	(117)	209	176	(33)	39.1%	42.1%	3.0
Burglary First	2,312	2,225	(87)	961	890	(71)	41.6%	40.0%	(1.6)
Petty Theft With Prior	26	16	(10)	10	8	(2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Drug Crimes	2,900	2,591	(309)	1,155	1,124	(31)	39.8%	43.4%	3.6
Controlled Substance Other	337	312	(25)	162	166	4	48.1%	53.2%	5.1
Controlled Substance Possession	776	660	(116)	335	312	(23)	43.2%	47.3%	4.1
Controlled Substance Possession For Sale	1,509	1,320	(189)	571	540	(31)	37.8%	40.9%	3.1
Controlled Substance Sales	210	232	22	63	82	19	30.0%	35.3%	5.3
Controlled Substance Manufacturing	47	53	6	18	17	(1)	38.3%	32.1%	(6.2)
Marijuana Other	9	5	(4)	4	4	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marijuana Possess For Sale	6	5	(1)	0	2	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marijuana Sale	6	3	(3)	2	1	(1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hashish Possession	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 13. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21 (continued)

Cohort Comparison	FY 2019-20 Number Released	FY 2020-21 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2019-20 Number Convicted	FY 2020-21 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2019-20 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2020-21 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Total	34,215	30,116	(4,099)	13,395	11,886	(1,509)	39.1%	39.5%	0.4
Commitment Offense Group (continued)									
Other Crimes	7,434	5,649	(1,785)	3,153	2,545	(608)	42.4%	45.1%	2.7
Possession of Weapon	4,042	3,031	(1,011)	1,907	1,548	(359)	47.2%	51.1%	3.9
Escape	84	57	(27)	37	28	(9)	44.0%	49.1%	5.1
Other Offenses	1,975	1,494	(481)	863	647	(216)	43.7%	43.3%	(0.4)
Arson	318	242	(76)	120	100	(20)	37.7%	41.3%	3.6
Driving Under Influence	1,015	825	(190)	226	222	(4)	22.3%	26.9%	4.6
Serious/Violent Offense									
Non-Serious/Non-Violent	18,358	14,458	(3,900)	8,338	7,038	(1,300)	45.4%	48.7%	3.3
Serious	7,160	6,199	(961)	2,883	2,555	(328)	40.3%	41.2%	0.9
Violent	8,697	9,459	762	2,174	2,293	119	25.0%	24.2%	(0.8)
Sentence Type									
Second Strike (Determinate Term)	9,210	10,106	896	3,843	4,396	553	41.7%	43.5%	1.8
Determinate Term	24,016	18,915	(5,101)	9,521	7,446	(2,075)	39.6%	39.4%	(0.2)
Third Strike (Indeterminate Term)	157	251	94	7	11	4	4.5%	4.4%	(0.1)
Indeterminate Term	820	836	16	22	30	8	2.7%	3.6%	0.9
Resentenced to Misdemeanor	12	8	(4)	2	3	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
CSRA Risk Score									
High	14,083	11,800	(2,283)	7,738	6,656	(1,082)	54.9%	56.4%	1.5
Moderate	9,444	8,220	(1,224)	3,588	3,372	(216)	38.0%	41.0%	3.0
Low	10,688	10,096	(592)	2,069	1,858	(211)	19.4%	18.4%	(1.0)

Table 13. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21 (continued)

Cohort Comparison	FY 2019-20 Number Released	FY 2020-21 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2019-20 Number Convicted	FY 2020-21 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2019-20 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2020-21 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Total	34,215	30,116	(4,099)	13,395	11,886	(1,509)	39.1%	39.5%	0.4
Mental Health Designation									
Psychiatric Inpatient Program	156	166	10	76	87	11	48.7%	52.4%	3.7
Enhanced Outpatient Program	1,175	1,118	(57)	548	516	(32)	46.6%	46.2%	(0.4)
Correctional Clinical Case Management System	6,135	5,351	(784)	2,545	2,224	(321)	41.5%	41.6%	0.1
Mental Health Crisis Bed	27	14	(13)	14	7	(7)	N/A	N/A	N/A
No Mental Health Designation	26,722	23,467	(3,255)	10,212	9,052	(1,160)	38.2%	38.6%	0.4
Length of Stay									
Less than 1 year	13,474	9,467	(4,007)	6,137	4,603	(1,534)	45.5%	48.6%	3.1
1 year (12 to 23 months)	8,525	7,905	(620)	3,715	3,582	(133)	43.6%	45.3%	1.7
2 years (24 to 35 months)	3,752	3,540	(212)	1,531	1,461	(70)	40.8%	41.3%	0.5
3 years (36 to 47 months)	1,841	1,962	121	653	766	113	35.5%	39.0%	3.5
4 years (48 to 59 months)	1,167	1,219	52	367	399	32	31.4%	32.7%	1.3
5 to 9 years	2,781	2,959	178	709	735	26	25.5%	24.8%	(0.7)
10 to 14 years	1,137	1,330	193	172	209	37	15.1%	15.7%	0.6
15 years or more	1,538	1,734	196	111	131	20	7.2%	7.6%	0.4
Number of CDCR Stays									
1 stay	16,459	13,407	(3,052)	5,391	4,134	(1,257)	32.8%	30.8%	(2.0)
2 stays	5,808	5,531	(277)	2,672	2,592	(80)	46.0%	46.9%	0.9
3 stays	2,785	2,770	(15)	1,266	1,343	77	45.5%	48.5%	3.0
4 stays	1,774	1,697	(77)	784	777	(7)	44.2%	45.8%	1.6
5 to 9 stays	4,798	4,407	(391)	2,112	1,945	(167)	44.0%	44.1%	0.1
10 to 14 stays	1,718	1,550	(168)	763	717	(46)	44.4%	46.3%	1.9
15 stays or more	873	754	(119)	407	378	(29)	46.6%	50.1%	3.5

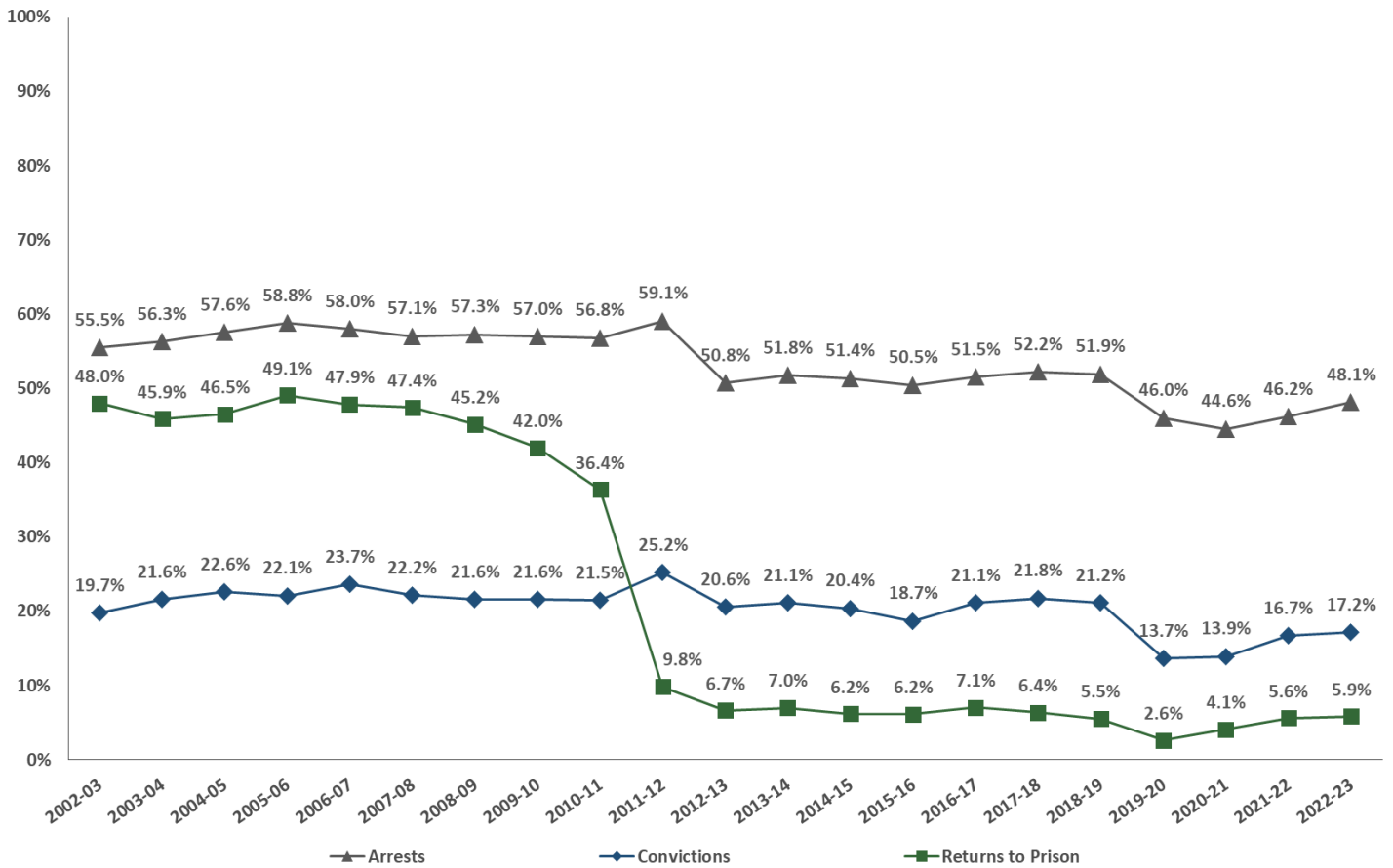
Table 13. Three-Year Conviction Rate by Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21
(continued)

Cohort Comparison	FY 2019-20 Number Released	FY 2020-21 Number Released	Number Released Difference	FY 2019-20 Number Convicted	FY 2020-21 Number Convicted	Number Convicted Difference	FY 2019-20 Three-Year Conviction Rate	FY 2020-21 Three-Year Conviction Rate	Three-Year Rate Difference
Total	34,215	30,116	(4,099)	13,395	11,886	(1,509)	39.1%	39.5%	0.4
Sex Registration Requirement									
No	30,923	27,142	(3,781)	12,509	11,167	(1,342)	40.5%	41.1%	0.6
Yes	3,292	2,974	(318)	886	719	(167)	26.9%	24.2%	(2.7)

Appendix D: Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2002-03 through 2022-23

Appendix E provides CDCR’s primary measure of recidivism (convictions), as well as supplemental measures of recidivism (arrests and convictions) in one-, two-, and three-year intervals, when available, for individuals released from CDCR institutions between FY 2002-03 and 2020-21.⁴³ Two-year rates are provided for individuals released between FY 2002-03 through 2021-22 and one-year rates for individuals released between FY 2002-03 and 2022-23.⁴⁴

Figure 10. One-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates by Fiscal Year



⁴³ Arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison data were extracted on July 31, 2024, to minimize the effects of any lag time associated with data entry into the state’s system.

⁴⁴ Recidivism rates are fixed at three years, meaning the three-year follow-up period is complete and no further analyses are performed. One-year and two-year rates may fluctuate slightly, as the data used in subsequent reporting years will likely change, particularly for arrests and convictions, since these data are routinely updated in accordance with criminal justice processing.

Figure 11. Two-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates by Fiscal Year

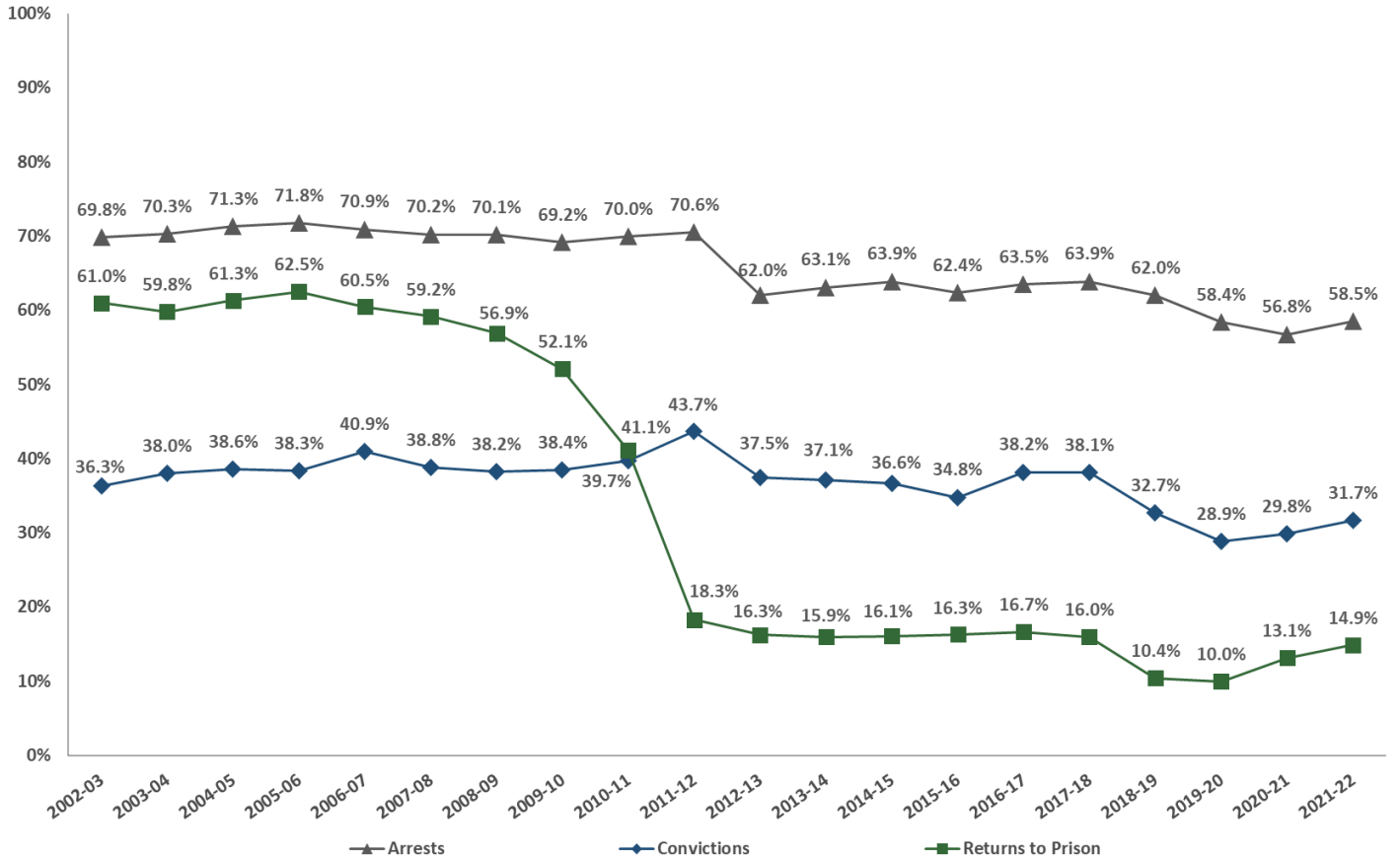


Figure 12. Three-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates by Fiscal Year

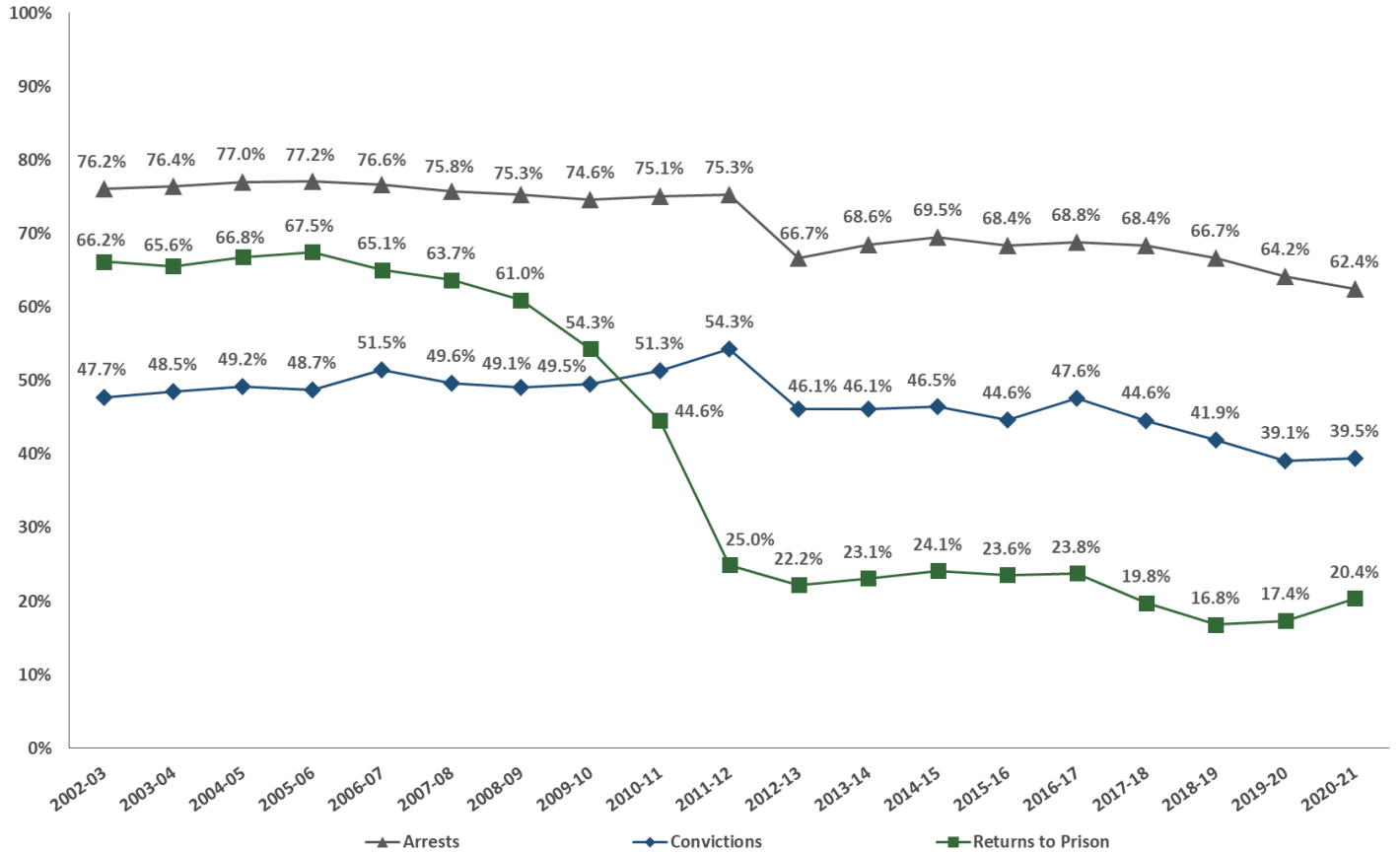


Table 14. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Arrest Rates by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		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	35,447	18,514	52.2%	22,645	63.9%	24,247	68.4%
2018-19	36,086	18,741	51.9%	22,378	62.0%	24,064	66.7%
2019-20	34,215	15,750	46.0%	19,968	58.4%	21,964	64.2%
2020-21	30,116	13,426	44.6%	17,093	56.8%	18,807	62.4%
2021-22	28,905	13,359	46.2%	16,901	58.5%	N/A	N/A
2022-23	28,654	13,786	48.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

Fiscal Year	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		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	35,447	7,719	21.8%	13,519	38.1%	15,804	44.6%
2018-19	36,086	7,633	21.2%	11,800	32.7%	15,129	41.9%
2019-20	34,215	4,676	13.7%	9,874	28.9%	13,395	39.1%
2020-21	30,116	4,197	13.9%	8,988	29.8%	11,886	39.5%
2021-22	28,905	4,826	16.7%	9,157	31.7%	N/A	N/A
2022-23	28,654	4,927	17.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 16. One-, Two-, and Three-Year Return-to-Prison Rates by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		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	35,821	2,285	6.4%	5,721	16.0%	7,086	19.8%
2018-19	36,420	2,021	5.5%	3,799	10.4%	6,126	16.8%
2019-20	34,493	911	2.6%	3,440	10.0%	5,988	17.4%
2020-21	30,655	1,265	4.1%	4,030	13.1%	6,249	20.4%
2021-22	29,865	1,677	5.6%	4,437	14.9%	N/A	N/A
2022-23	28,988	1,702	5.9%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 17. Three-Year Success Rates (Arrests, Convictions, and Returns to Prison)

Fiscal Year	Non-Arrest Rates			Non-Conviction Rates			Non-Return Rates		
	Number Released	No Arrest	Success Rate	Number Released	No Conviction	Success Rate	Number Released	No Return	Success Rate
2002-03	99,482	23,717	23.8%	99,482	52,039	52.3%	103,934	35,124	33.8%
2003-04	99,635	23,500	23.6%	99,635	51,285	51.5%	103,296	35,562	34.4%
2004-05	103,647	23,828	23.0%	103,647	52,621	50.8%	106,920	35,476	33.2%
2005-06	105,974	24,188	22.8%	105,974	54,324	51.3%	108,662	35,312	32.5%
2006-07	112,665	26,335	23.4%	112,665	54,685	48.5%	115,254	40,236	34.9%
2007-08	113,888	27,579	24.2%	113,888	57,363	50.4%	116,015	42,130	36.3%
2008-09	110,356	27,276	24.7%	110,356	56,181	50.9%	112,877	44,074	39.0%
2009-10	103,867	26,372	25.4%	103,867	52,411	50.5%	104,981	47,959	45.7%
2010-11	94,888	23,604	24.9%	94,888	46,199	48.7%	95,690	53,029	55.4%
2011-12	74,875	18,504	24.7%	74,875	34,231	45.7%	75,733	56,825	75.0%
2012-13	35,790	11,905	33.3%	35,790	19,294	53.9%	36,527	28,417	77.8%
2013-14	33,113	10,413	31.4%	33,113	17,849	53.9%	33,449	25,723	76.9%
2014-15	39,205	11,966	30.5%	39,205	20,970	53.5%	39,399	29,894	75.9%
2015-16	33,756	10,662	31.6%	33,756	18,697	55.4%	33,861	25,885	76.4%
2016-17	31,792	9,921	31.2%	31,792	16,669	52.4%	31,975	24,368	76.2%
2017-18	35,447	11,200	31.6%	35,447	19,643	55.4%	35,821	28,735	80.2%
2018-19	36,086	12,022	33.3%	36,086	20,957	58.1%	36,420	30,294	83.2%
2019-20	34,215	12,251	35.8%	34,215	20,820	60.9%	34,493	28,505	82.6%
2020-21	30,116	11,309	37.6%	30,116	18,230	60.5%	30,655	24,406	79.6%

Appendix E: Correctional Policies and Initiatives

The following section describes recent correctional policies and initiatives and their influence on post-release outcomes. 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.

Realignment

Assembly Bill (AB) 109, California's Public Safety Realignment Act (Realignment) became law on October 1, 2011. Realignment required certain individuals be sentenced to and serve parole revocations in county jails, rather than state prison. Realignment changed the parole revocation process so that only individuals previously sentenced to a life term (indeterminate term) and some sex registrants can be revoked to prison.⁴⁵

Realignment also changed the state's system of post-release supervision. Prior to Realignment, most individuals released from CDCR were released to parole and supervised by parole agents. Most non-serious, non-violent, and non-sex registrants are released to Post-Release Community Supervision, which is administered by county probation departments; whereas most high-risk sex registrants, individuals who served an indeterminate sentence, and individuals committed for a serious or violent crime are released to parole and supervised by parole agents.

The FY 2020-21 release cohort represents the ninth cohort of individuals whose period of release (July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021) and three-year follow-up period (ending no later than June 30, 2024) occurred after the implementation of Realignment. Realignment had some pronounced effects on CDCR's population, including a large drop in the number of individuals admitted to and released from prison each fiscal year, the composition (e.g., demographics and characteristics) of those individuals, and substantial decreases in one of CDCR's supplemental measures of recidivism: the three-year return-to-prison rate.

As shown in Figure 13, over half (52.9 percent) of the FY 2020-21 release cohort was committed to CDCR for crimes against persons, which tend to be more serious and violent than drug and property crimes. The percentage of individuals committed for crimes against persons has steadily increased since the implementation of Realignment (26.9 percent of the FY 2009-10 release cohort).

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, as shown in Figure 14.⁴⁶ As a result, CDCR changed its primary measure of recidivism from the three-year return-to-prison rate to the three-year conviction rate, to provide a more meaningful measure of recidivism, beginning with the FY 2011-12 release cohort.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ 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, see Penal Code 3000.0(b)(4). For more information regarding decreases in returns to prison for parole violations, see Section 4.4.

⁴⁶ With the exception of individuals previously sentenced to a life term (indeterminate term) and some sex registrants. 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, see Penal Code 3000.0(b)(4). For more information regarding decreases in returns to prison for parole violations, see Section 4.4 Type of Return to Prison.

⁴⁷ For more information regarding Realignment's impact on recidivism and the change in recidivism measures, please see the Statewide Recidivism Report for Individuals Released in Fiscal Year 2011-12: [2016 Outcome Evaluation Report](#)

Figure 13. Percentage of Releases by Commitment Offense Category for the Fiscal Year 2009-10 through Fiscal Year 2020-21 Release Cohorts

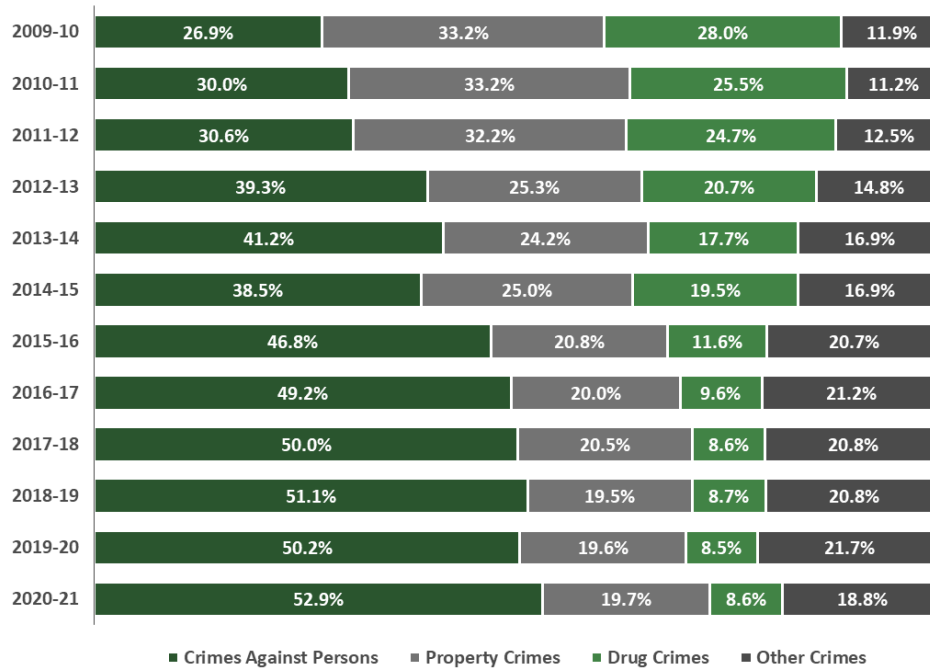
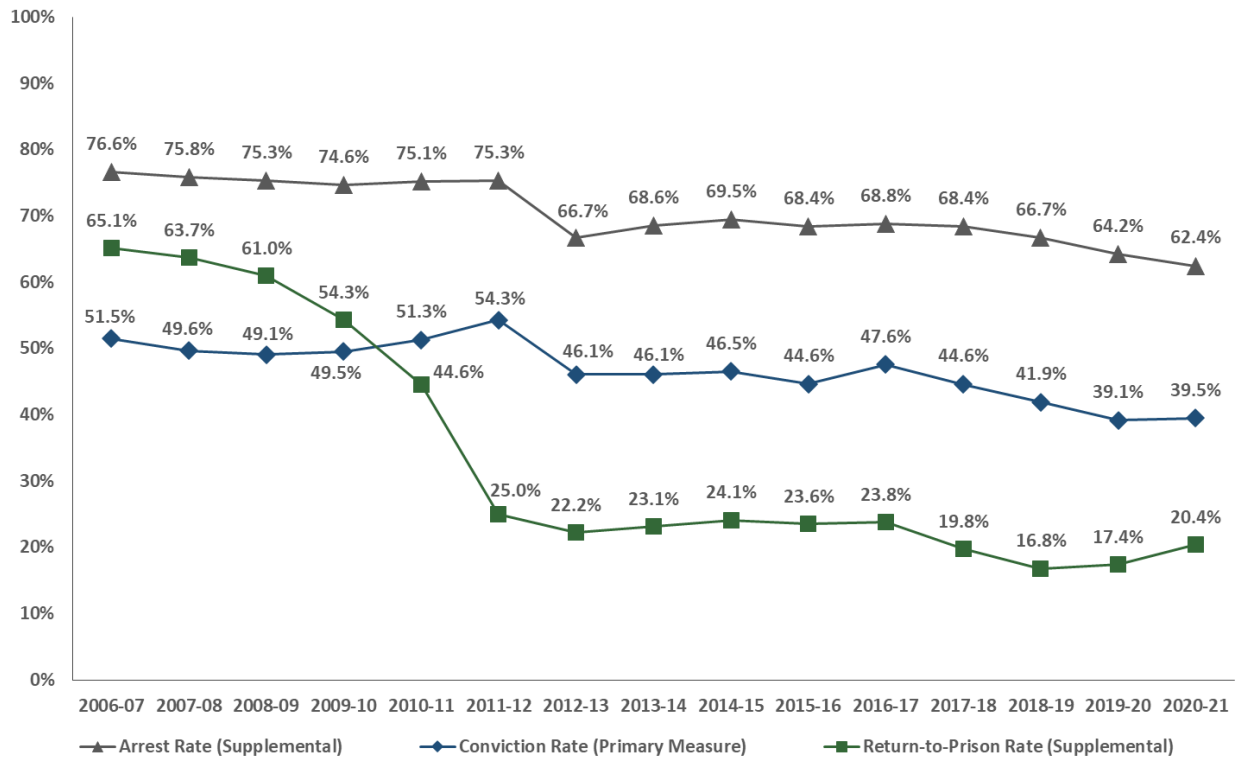


Figure 14. Three-Year Arrest, Conviction, and Return-to-Prison Rates for Individuals Released in Fiscal Years 2006-07 through 2020-21



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 individuals serving sentences in prison for felony offenses to petition the courts for resentencing under new sentencing provisions.⁴⁸ Proposition 47 was implemented in November 2014 prior to the FY 2020-21 release cohort's period of release (July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021) and was active during all of the cohort's three-year follow-up period.

Most individuals eligible under Proposition 47 provisions were resentenced and released during FY 2014-15, shortly after the measure was passed. Eight individuals belonging to the FY 2020-21 release cohort were released under Proposition 47. Individuals committed to CDCR for non-serious/non-violent property and drug crimes, such as those released under Proposition 47, historically have higher recidivism rates than individuals committed for violent offenses (e.g., crimes against persons). 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 individuals, the sentencing provisions of Proposition 47 affected post-release conviction types (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 (decreased 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 changes 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 have stabilized. Future cohorts may see stability with small fluctuations in terms of the percentage of felony and misdemeanor convictions.

Prior to the passage of Proposition 47, more individuals were convicted of post-release felonies than misdemeanors. With decreases in felony drug/alcohol and property crimes and subsequent increases in misdemeanors for the same categories as a result of Proposition 47, misdemeanor convictions began comprising a larger percentage of total convictions. However, felony convictions comprised a larger percentage of total convictions for the current FY 2020-21 release cohort, as discussed in Section 4 of this report.

Proposition 57

Proposition 57 was passed in November 2016 and allows eligible CDCR individuals to earn credits for good behavior and approved rehabilitative and educational achievements.⁴⁹ Proposition 57 increased the amount of credits that may be earned through the Good Conduct Credit (GCC), and Milestone Completion Credit (MCC) Programs, and includes two new types of credits: Rehabilitative Achievement Credit (RAC) and Educational Merit Credit (EMC). Proposition 57 also established a parole consideration process for determinately sentenced and indeterminately sentenced nonviolent individuals who serve

⁴⁸ More information regarding Proposition 47 may be found at: <https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/Prop-47-Information.pdf>

⁴⁹ More information regarding Proposition 57 and changes to credit earnings may be found at: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/proposition57/>. Individuals in the FY 2020-21 release cohort were released prior to the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation litigation. For more information, see: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/bph/wp-content/uploads/sites/161/2024/07/Fact-Sheet-CJLF-Litigation-Impact-to-Release-Dates.pdf>.

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

As parole consideration criteria expanded, and time credits can affect an incarcerated individual's release date, Proposition 57 may primarily impact the number of individuals released in each cohort. As described in Section 6.3, credit earnings may not always affect an individual's release date. However, participating in programming and earning enhanced credits appears to positively impact recidivism rates for participants. Thus, enhanced credits can serve as an incentive for individuals to complete in-prison programming and potentially improve outcomes.

Since implementation in May 2017, many changes have been made to the regulations regarding credit earning. That includes which individuals earn credit, how many credits they earn, availability of rehabilitative programs, and more. Further changes may alter the effects of Proposition 57 seen in future cohorts. CDCR will continue to monitor the impacts Proposition 57 may have on the composition of CDCR's release cohorts, as well as the three-year conviction rate and post-release conviction type.

Appendix F: 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.”⁵⁰ The definition also allows for supplemental measures of recidivism including new arrests, returns to custody, criminal filings, or supervision violations. In earlier 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 began using the three-year conviction rate as the primary measure of recidivism.⁵¹

The three-year conviction rate is defined as follows:

“An individual convicted of a felony and incarcerated in a CDCR institution who was released to parole, released to Post-Release Community Supervision, or directly discharged during Fiscal Year 2020-21 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 individuals in the release cohort who were convicted during the follow-up period to the total number of individuals 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 2020-21. Preliminary one-year and two-year rates are available for the FY 2021-22 release cohort and one-year rates are available for the FY 2022-23 release cohort.

Methods

This report provides conviction rates at one-, two-, and three-year intervals for individuals released from CDCR’s Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021 (FY 2020-21). The release cohort includes: 1) individuals who were directly discharged from CDCR; 2) individuals who were released to parole or PRCS for the first time on their current term; and 3) individuals who were released to parole on their current term prior to FY 2020-21, returned to prison on this term and were then re-released during FY 2020-21. Convictions are further examined according to demographics (e.g., gender and age) and characteristics (e.g., commitment offense and sentence type).

⁵⁰ Section 3027 of California Penal Code required the Board of State and Community Corrections to develop a statewide definition of recidivism.

⁵¹ 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 individuals were released from CDCR. Each report provides recidivism rates (arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates) for individuals released in a given fiscal year, with this current report providing rates for individuals released in FY 2020-21.

Data Sources

Data were extracted from CDCR's Strategic Oversight Management System (SOMS), CDCR's system of record, to identify individuals released between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, and to determine which released individuals returned to state prison during the three-year follow-up period.⁵² Arrest and conviction data were obtained from the California DOJ's Criminal Justice Information System and the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System. The return-to-prison data only include those returned to CDCR custody and does not include those sentenced to county jail. Return-to-custody data are not available for individuals who are not eligible to return to CDCR custody and serve sentences in county jail.

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, recidivism rates are only presented for release groups (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 Appendix E 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.

⁵² In March 2025, the Strategic Offender Management System was renamed to the Strategic Oversight Management System.

Appendix G: 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 individual'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 individual 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 individuals 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 individual committed prior to their release from CDCR in Fiscal Year 2020-21.

Commitment Offense Group

Categorizes the commitment offense into 38 specific offense groups, which correspond to one of four commitment offense categories (property crimes, drug crimes, other crimes, and crimes against persons).

Controlling Crime or Commitment Offense

The most serious offense for which the individual 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 individuals/patients to needed services and providing sustained support while accessing such services. CCCMS services are provided to 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 individual's needs in areas such as substance abuse, criminal thinking, and education. Individuals 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 individual is released. Conviction rates by county should be interpreted with caution as individuals 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 individuals who 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 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 care, but more intensive than CCCMS. The 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).

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 individual would serve. Different individuals convicted for the same crimes could spend varying lengths of time in prison; release depended on many factors, including each individual’s conduct in prison. After the minimum sentence passed, individuals 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 individuals with a third strike are considered “indeterminately” sentenced since the parole board determines their release.

Length of Stay

The length of time an individual 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)

Individuals who do not have automated criminal history data from the California Department of Justice (DOJ) must have their CSRA score calculated manually. Calculations are completed with a review of a paper copy of the individual’s Record of Arrest and Prosecution or RAP sheet.

Mental Health Crisis Bed (MHCB)

A mental health service designation for patients that provides short-term treatment (usually less than ten 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 individuals released from CDCR were placed on state parole supervision after their release. After Public Safety Realignment, most serious or violent individuals, high-risk sex offenders, and individuals released after serving a life term are released to CDCR parole supervision, and most non-serious, non-violent, non-sex registrants are released to county supervision.

Parole Violation (Law or Technical)

A parole 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 is returned to prison. Realignment changed the parole revocation process so that only individuals previously sentenced to a life term (indeterminate term) and some sex registrants 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 individual 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 individuals released from CDCR were placed on state parole supervision after their release. After Public Safety Realignment, most non-serious, non-violent, and non-sex registrants 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 individuals serving sentences in prison for felony offenses to petition the courts for resentencing under new misdemeanor provisions. It also allowed individuals 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 individuals eligible for parole consideration and allowed for parole consideration after an individual 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 aged 14 and over should be sentenced as adults for specific offenses.

Psychiatric Inpatient Program

A mental health services designation for 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.

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.

Release Type

Release type refers to the type of release an individual 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 2020-21 and subsequently returned to prison within three years of their release date.

Second Strike Sentence

A determinate sentence served by an individual 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 individual is categorized under, such as determinate sentences (including individuals with a second strike) and indeterminate sentences (including individuals with a third strike, life with or without the possibility of parole, and condemned individuals). For the purposes of this report, individuals are categorized as sentenced under Determinate Sentencing Law, Indeterminate Sentencing Law, Second Strike Individuals, or individuals Resentenced to a Misdemeanor. Proposition 47 and 64 changed some offenses from felonies to misdemeanors and some marijuana offenses, which affected the sentence type of some individuals.

Serious Felony Offenses

Serious felony offenses are specified in Penal Code section 1192.7(c) and Penal Code section 1192.8.

Sex Registrant

An individual is designated a sex registrant if CDCR records show that the individual has at some point been convicted of an offense that requires registration as a sex offender under Penal Code section 290.

Stay

A stay is any period of time an individual is housed in a CDCR institution. Each time an individual returns to prison, it is considered a new stay, regardless of the reason for returning.

Term

A term is a sentence an individual receives from a court to be committed to CDCR for a length of time. If an individual is released after serving a term and is later returned to prison for a parole violation, the individual returns and continues serving the original (current) term. If that individual returns for committing a new crime, the individual 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**