

Supplemental Recidivism Rates for Enhanced Alternative Custody Program Participants Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21

Enhanced Alternative Custody Programs

This briefing provides supplemental recidivism rates for individuals who participated in Enhanced Alternative Custody Programs (EACP) and were released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21. EACP consists of both the Male Community Reentry Program (MCRP) and the Female Community Reentry Program (FCRP, formerly named the Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Program, or CCTRP). Individuals are followed for three years after their release from CDCR. The three-year conviction rate serves as the primary measure of recidivism, while arrest and return-to-prison rates are provided as supplemental measures of recidivism.ⁱ

This briefing also provides the type of post-release conviction (i.e., felony or misdemeanor) and an overview of the demographics (e.g., age at release, race/ethnicity) and characteristics (e.g., commitment offense category, length of stay) of EACP participants. In FY 2020-21, a total of 804 individuals released from MCRP and 307 individuals released from FCRP.ⁱⁱ For more information regarding the methodology and limitations of this briefing, refer to the *Statewide Recidivism Report for Individuals Released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2020-21*.ⁱⁱⁱ

Three-Year Recidivism Rates

Male Community Reentry Program

The three-year conviction rate for MCRP participants is 9.5 percentage points lower than all other males released in FY 2020-21.

MCRP participants have substantially lower recidivism rates than males without EACP participation. The three-year arrest rate for the 804 MCRP releases is 55.1 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 30.7 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 16.8 percent (Table 1). The three-year conviction rate of 30.7 percent for MCRP participants is 9.5 percentage points lower than the rate for all other males released from CDCR in FY 2020-21 (40.2 percent excluding MCRP releases). Each of the three measures of recidivism are substantially lower than the overall recidivism rates for other males released in FY 2020-21.^{iv}

When comparing the demographics and characteristics of MCRP participants to the statewide release cohort, MCRP participants generally have longer lengths of stay at CDCR, a lower risk of reoffending, and are more likely to have Proposition 57 credit earnings. MCRP participants are also more likely to be released to parole than Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS) when compared to the statewide cohort (Table 2).^v Consistent with recidivism trends, individuals released to parole from an MCRP have a lower conviction rate (26.5 percent) than those released to PRCS at 38.8 percent.

The number of MCRP participants decreased between FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 (from 1,000 to 804 participants) and the three-year conviction rate increased between the two fiscal years (26.5 percent in FY 2019-20 and 30.7 percent in FY 2020-21).^{vi} The increase in the conviction rate and decrease in participation may be related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The FY 2020-21 statewide release cohort also saw its first increase in the three-year conviction rate since the pandemic and may be indicative of future increases in rates for all individuals released from CDCR, including those who participate in MCRP.

A total of 247 MCRP participants were convicted during the three-year follow-up period, with 63.6 percent convicted of post-release felonies and 36.4 percent convicted of misdemeanors (Table 3). While the percentage of felony convictions is slightly higher than the overall statewide release cohort, this is consistent with statewide and nationwide increases in the violent and property crime rates in the follow-up time frame.^{vii}

Felony other crimes, which include crimes such as evading a peace officer and felon in possession of a firearm, comprise 25.9 percent of all convictions and felony property crimes comprise 18.6 percent.^{viii} Misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes comprise the largest group of misdemeanor convictions at 15.0 percent, followed by misdemeanor crimes against persons as well as property crimes (8.5 percent each).

Female Community Reentry Program

The three-year conviction rate for FCRP participants is 20 percentage points lower than all other females released in FY 2020-21. FCRP participants saw a decrease in all three measures of recidivism, despite increases in rates for non-FCRP participants in FY 2020-21.

FCRP participants have substantially lower recidivism rates than females without EACP participation. The three-year arrest rate for the 307 individuals who were released from an FCRP is 35.2 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 16.3 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 4.9 percent (Table 1). Similar to MCRP releases, recidivism rates for FCRP releases are lower than the rate for all other females in the overall statewide release cohort.^{ix} All three recidivism rates for FCRP releases decreased when compared to one year prior.^x

While females typically have far lower recidivism rates than males, females who participate in FCRP have substantially lower rates than females without FCRP participation. The three-year arrest rate for females with FCRP participation (35.2 percent) is 26.5 percentage points lower than females without FCRP participation (61.7 percent). The three-year conviction rate is 20.1 percentage points lower (16.3 percent for those with FCRP and 36.4 percent for those without) and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 7.1 percentage points lower (4.9 percent for those with FCRP and 12.0 percent for those without).

A total of 50 FCRP participants were convicted during the three-year follow-up period, with 52.0 percent of those convictions for felonies and 48.0 percent for misdemeanors. Misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes leads all conviction type categories with 24.0 percent of all convictions, followed by felony property crimes (22.0 percent of all convictions) and felony crimes against persons (14.0 percent of all convictions).

Table 1. Three-Year Recidivism Rates for Individuals Released from Male and Female Community Reentry Programs in Fiscal Year 2020-21

Three-Year Recidivism Rates	MCRP			FCRP		
	Total Released	Number Recidivated	Recidivism Rate	Total Released	Number Recidivated	Recidivism Rate
Arrest	804	443	55.1%	307	108	35.2%
Conviction	804	247	30.7%	307	50	16.3%
Return-to-Prison	808	136	16.8%	307	15	4.9%

Table 2. Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released from Male and Female Community Reentry Programs in Fiscal Year 2020-21

Demographics and Characteristics	MCRP		FCRP	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	804	100.0%	307	100.0%
Gender				
Male	804	100.0%	0	0.0%
Female	0	0.0%	307	100.0%
Age at Release				
20 to 24	49	6.1%	12	3.9%
25 to 29	109	13.6%	58	18.9%
30 to 34	168	20.9%	61	19.9%
35 to 39	137	17.0%	55	17.9%
40 to 44	130	16.2%	38	12.4%
45 to 49	74	9.2%	33	10.7%
50 to 54	64	8.0%	21	6.8%
55 to 59	39	4.9%	16	5.2%
60 and over	34	4.2%	13	4.2%
Race/Ethnicity				
Hispanic/Latino	330	41.0%	103	33.6%
Black/African American	273	34.0%	76	24.8%
White	164	20.4%	109	35.5%
Asian	11	1.4%	7	2.3%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	8	1.0%	6	2.0%
Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Other	18	2.2%	5	1.6%
Commitment Offense Category				
Crimes Against Persons	444	55.2%	188	61.2%
Property Crimes	164	20.4%	67	21.8%
Other Crimes	111	13.8%	32	10.4%
Drug Crimes	85	10.6%	20	6.5%

Table 2. Demographics and Characteristics for Individuals Released from Male and Female Community Reentry Programs in Fiscal Year 2020-21 (continued)

Demographics and Characteristics	MCRP		FCRP	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	804	100.0%	307	100.0%
Sentence Type*				
Determinate Term	478	59.5%	214	69.7%
Second Strike	325	40.4%	91	29.6%
Indeterminate Term	1	0.1%	2	0.7%
Type of Post-Release Supervision				
Parole	528	65.7%	246	80.1%
Post-Release Community Supervision	276	34.3%	61	19.9%
Serious/Violent Offense				
Non-Serious/Non-Violent	278	34.6%	61	19.9%
Violent	405	50.4%	195	63.5%
Serious	121	15.0%	51	16.6%
CSRA Risk Score				
Low	313	38.9%	205	66.8%
Moderate	332	41.3%	67	21.8%
High	159	19.8%	35	11.4%
Length of Stay				
Less than 1 year	114	14.2%	6	2.0%
1 year (12 to 23 months)	233	29.0%	112	36.5%
2 years (24 to 35 months)	109	13.6%	69	22.5%
3 years (36 to 47 months)	53	6.6%	40	13.0%
4 years (48 to 59 months)	51	6.3%	7	2.3%
5 to 9 years	132	16.4%	52	16.9%
10 to 14 years	71	8.8%	14	4.6%
15 years or more	41	5.1%	7	2.3%
Proposition 57 Credit Earned				
Yes	697	86.7%	296	96.4%
No	107	13.3%	11	3.6%

Three individuals served consecutive terms, the first an indeterminate term and the last a determinate term, making them eligible for EACP placement. These are displayed as having an indeterminate term.

Table 3. Type of Post-Release Conviction for Individuals Released from Male and Female Community Reentry Programs in Fiscal Year 2020-21

Type of Conviction	MCRP		FCRP	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All Felonies	157	63.6%	26	52.0%
Felony Crimes Against Persons	38	15.4%	7	14.0%
Felony Property Crimes	46	18.6%	11	22.0%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	9	3.6%	5	10.0%
Felony Other Crimes	64	25.9%	3	6.0%
All Misdemeanors	90	36.4%	24	48.0%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	21	8.5%	3	6.0%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	21	8.5%	6	12.0%
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	37	15.0%	12	24.0%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	11	4.5%	3	6.0%
Total	247	100.0%	50	100.0%

Notes

ⁱ For more information regarding primary and supplemental measures of recidivism, see the Statewide Recidivism Report series, available at: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/>. For more information regarding EACP, MCRP, or FCRP, see: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/rehabilitation/pre-release-community-programs/>

ⁱⁱ During Fiscal Year 2020-21, a total of 808 individuals were released from an MCRP and 307 individuals were released from an FCRP. Of these individuals, 804 MCRP participants and all 307 FCRP participants had a California Department of Justice (DOJ) automated Record of Arrest and Prosecution (RAP) sheet. Arrest and conviction data only include individuals with an automated RAP sheet and return-to-prison data include all individuals released from an MCRP or FCRP in FY 2020-21. The EACP release groups do not include individuals who participated in an MCRP or FCRP but were released from a different facility. For many programs, fewer participants participated in FY 2020-21 when compared to earlier fiscal years due to interruptions in programming consistent with the COVID-19 pandemic.

ⁱⁱⁱ See Appendix F Evaluation Design of the *Statewide Recidivism Report for Individuals Released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2020-21*: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/>

^{iv} The three-year arrest rate for males excluding MCRP releases in the FY 2020-21 statewide release cohort is 63.0 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 40.2 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 21.2 percent. MCRP's three-year arrest rate (55.1 percent) is 7.9 percentage points lower than other males in the statewide release cohort, the conviction rate (30.7 percent) is 9.5 percentage points lower, and the return-to-prison rate (16.8 percent) is 4.4 percentage points lower than other males in the statewide release cohort. See the Statewide Recidivism Report series, as well as the Recidivism Dashboard for more information regarding the statewide release cohort.

^v Overall, the MCRP release group is associated with demographics and characteristics that are typically associated with lower rates of recidivism (e.g., longer lengths of stay, a higher percentage of individuals committed for violent offenses and a lower risk of reoffending, more enhanced credit earnings). When a large percentage of individuals characterized by a high/low tendency to recidivate, it may influence the rate for that group upward/downward. For more information, see Section 5.2 of the *Statewide Recidivism Report for Individuals Released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2020-21*: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/>

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

^{vii} For more information regarding crime rates and their impact on recidivism rates and the type of post-release recidivism, see the Executive Summary and Section 4 of the *Statewide Recidivism Report for Individuals Released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2020-21*: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/offender-outcomes-characteristics/offender-recidivism/>

^{viii} Examples of other felony crimes include carrying a concealed dirk/dagger, evading a peace officer, and felon in possession of a firearm. Examples of 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.

^{ix} The three-year arrest rate for females in the FY 2020-21 statewide release cohort (excluding FCRP releases) is 61.7 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 36.4 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 12.0 percent. FCRP's three-year arrest rate (35.2 percent) is 26.5 percentage points lower than other females in the statewide release cohort, the conviction rate (16.3 percent) is 20.1 percentage points lower, and the return-to-prison rate (4.9 percent) is 7.1 percentage points lower than other females in the statewide release cohort. See the Statewide Recidivism Report series, as well as the Recidivism Dashboard for more information regarding the statewide release cohort.

^x The three-year arrest rate decreased 8.7 percentage points (from 43.9 percent to 35.2 percent), the three-year conviction rate decreased 2.0 percentage points (from 18.3 percent to 16.3 percent), and the three-year return-to-prison rate decreased 3.3 percentage points (from 8.2 percent to 4.9 percent).