

Supplemental Recidivism Rates for Individuals with Rehabilitative Program Achievements Released in Fiscal Year 2020-21

Rehabilitative Programs

This briefing provides supplemental recidivism rates for individuals who participated in Rehabilitative Programs and were released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21. Rehabilitative Programs include Academic Education (EDU), Career Technical Education (CTE), and Cognitive Behavioral Programs (CBP). Individuals are followed for three years after their release from CDCR. The three-year conviction rate serves as the primary measure of recidivism, while arrest and return-to-prison rates are provided as supplemental measures of recidivism.ⁱ

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

Three-Year Recidivism Rates

Across all three measures of recidivism (arrests, convictions, and returns to prison), individuals who participate in rehabilitative programs have lower recidivism rates than those who did not participate.

Of the 30,116 individuals released in FY 2020-21, a total of 1,731 individuals earned an academic EDU achievement, 1,751 individuals earned a CTE achievement, and 2,788 individuals earned a CBP achievement.ⁱⁱⁱ An additional 3,081 individuals earned a Transitions (other EDU) achievement.^{iv} A total of 7,306 individuals earned at least one rehabilitative achievement, although individuals can earn multiple achievements.^v

Education

Despite increases in the three-year conviction and return-to-prison rates for the statewide release cohort, the rates for those with an educational achievement decreased compared to one year prior. Those with an educational achievement have markedly lower rates than those without an educational achievement.

The three-year arrest rate for the 1,731 individuals with an academic EDU achievement is 42.2 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 22.4 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 11.3 percent (Table 1). Each of these rates is substantially lower than recidivism rates for those without an academic achievement.^{vi} The three-year conviction rate for all EDU achievements (22.4 percent) is 18.1 percentage points lower than the rate for individuals who did not earn an EDU achievement (40.5 percent).

As shown in Table 2, none of the 14 individuals who earned a bachelor's or master's degree were convicted during the three-year follow-up period. The rate for individuals who earned an associate degree, a high school equivalency, and a high school diploma are 8.3 percent, 24.4 percent, and 33.7 percent, respectively.^{vii} A large group of individuals (3,081 individuals) completed Transitions (other EDU) and have a three-year conviction rate of 38.3 percent.

Career Technical Education

Recidivism rates for individuals with CTE achievements decreased compared to one year prior, and individuals with a CTE achievement continue to recidivate at substantially lower rates than individuals without a CTE achievement.

As shown in Table 1, the three-year arrest rate for the 1,751 individuals with a CTE achievement is 42.9 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 24.4 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 12.6 percent. The rates for those who earned a CTE achievement is lower for all three measures than the rate for those without a CTE achievement.^{viii} The three-year conviction rate for all CTE achievements (24.4 percent) is 16.0 percentage points lower than the rate for those without a CTE achievement (40.4 percent).

Table 3 presents conviction rates for each CTE achievement type. Individuals with transportation achievement have the lowest three-year conviction rate of 17.8 percent, followed by those with a building and construction achievement (21.7 percent), and a business and finance achievement (26.8 percent).

Cognitive Behavioral Programs

Individuals with CBP achievements saw decreases in recidivism rates compared to one year prior. Those who earned an occupational mentor certification program achievement have the lowest three-year conviction rate of all CBP categories at 2.3 percent.

The three-year arrest rate for the 2,788 individuals with a CBP achievement is 48.5 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 28.6 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 14.9 percent.^{ix} Each of these recidivism rates is lower than recidivism rates for those without a CBP achievement. The three-year conviction rate for all CBP achievement (28.6 percent) is 12.0 percentage points lower than the rate for those without a CBP achievement (40.6 percent).

Table 4 provides conviction rates for each CBP achievement type.^x Individuals with an occupational mentor certification program achievement have the lowest three-year conviction rate at 2.3 percent, followed by a victim impact achievement (5.3 percent), and a denial management achievement (7.2 percent).

Type of Conviction

Similar to the statewide release cohort, felony convictions now comprise a larger proportion of post-release convictions when compared to pre-COVID release cohorts.

A total of 1,396 individuals with a rehabilitative program achievement were convicted during the three-year follow-up period. Over half of those convicted (61.2 percent) were convicted of felonies and 38.8 percent were convicted of misdemeanors (Table 5). Felony other crimes (21.7 percent of all convictions) led the felony type of conviction category and misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes (13.3 percent of all convictions) led the misdemeanor conviction category. The percentages presented in Table 5 are consistent with trends found in the FY 2020-21 statewide release cohort, as well as a rise in the violent and property crime rates observed in California and across the United States during the follow-up period.^{xi}

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

Arrest Rates

Rehabilitative Program Achievements	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Arrested	Arrest Rate	Number Arrested	Arrest Rate	Number Arrested	Arrest Rate
Academic Educational Achievement	1,731	403	23.3%	602	34.8%	730	42.2%
Career Technical Education Achievement	1,751	421	24.0%	643	36.7%	751	42.9%
Cognitive Behavioral Programs Achievement	2,788	810	29.1%	1,174	42.1%	1,351	48.5%

Conviction Rates

Rehabilitative Program Achievements	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Academic Educational Achievement	1,731	93	5.4%	267	15.4%	387	22.4%
Career Technical Education Achievement	1,751	115	6.6%	295	16.8%	428	24.4%
Cognitive Behavioral Programs Achievement	2,788	212	7.6%	529	19.0%	798	28.6%

Return-to-Prison Rates

Rehabilitative Program Achievements	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Returned	Return Rate	Number Returned	Return Rate	Number Returned	Return Rate
Academic Educational Achievement	1,740	23	1.3%	105	6.0%	196	11.3%
Career Technical Education Achievement	1,763	39	2.2%	144	8.2%	223	12.6%
Cognitive Behavioral Programs Achievement	2,805	63	2.2%	230	8.2%	418	14.9%

*Individuals may receive more than one type of achievement.

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

Academic Educational Achievement	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
High School Equivalency	1,277	75	5.9%	210	16.4%	311	24.4%
High School Diploma	166	14	8.4%	39	23.5%	56	33.7%
Associate Degree	348	8	2.3%	25	7.2%	29	8.3%
Bachelor's Degree	10	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Master's Degree	4	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
All Academic Educational Achievements	1,731	93	5.4%	267	15.4%	387	22.4%
No Educational Achievement Completed During Incarceration	28,385	4,104	14.5%	8,721	30.7%	11,499	40.5%

Other Educational Achievement	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Transitions	3,081	397	12.9%	880	28.6%	1,181	38.3%

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

Career Technical Education Achievement (CTE)	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Building and Construction	874	45	5.1%	121	13.8%	190	21.7%
Business and Finance	906	71	7.8%	175	19.3%	243	26.8%
Manufacturing	12	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Transportation	90	5	5.6%	15	16.7%	16	17.8%
All CTE Achievements	1,751	115	6.6%	295	16.8%	428	24.4%
No CTE Achievement Completed During Incarceration	28,365	4,082	14.4%	8,693	30.6%	11,458	40.4%

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

Cognitive Behavioral Programs Achievement (CBP)	Number Released	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Anger Management	1,362	99	7.3%	248	18.2%	377	27.7%
Criminal Thinking	1,381	107	7.7%	249	18.0%	375	27.2%
Denial Management	222	2	0.9%	9	4.1%	16	7.2%
Family Relationships	686	45	6.6%	99	14.4%	160	23.3%
Occupational Mentor Certification Program	44	1	2.3%	1	2.3%	1	2.3%
Substance Use Disorder Treatment	1,717	114	6.6%	304	17.7%	472	27.5%
Victim Impact	243	0	0.0%	7	2.9%	13	5.3%
All CBP Achievements	2,788	212	7.6%	529	19.0%	798	28.6%
No CBP Achievement Completed During Incarceration	27,328	3,985	14.6%	8,459	31.0%	11,088	40.6%

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

Type of Conviction	Number	Percent
All Felonies	854	61.2%
Felony Crimes Against Persons	299	21.4%
Felony Property Crimes	181	13.0%
Felony Drug/Alcohol Crimes	71	5.1%
Felony Other Crimes	303	21.7%
All Misdemeanors	542	38.8%
Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons	163	11.7%
Misdemeanor Property Crimes	119	8.5%
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol Crimes	186	13.3%
Misdemeanor Other Crimes	74	5.3%
Total	1,396	100.0%

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

Demographics and Characteristics	Number	Percent
Total	7,306	100.0%
Gender		
Male	6,807	93.2%
Female	499	6.8%
Age at Release		
18 and 19	5	0.1%
20 to 24	470	6.4%
25 to 29	1,213	16.6%
30 to 34	1,442	19.7%
35 to 39	1,167	16.0%
40 to 44	889	12.2%
45 to 49	644	8.8%
50 to 54	565	7.7%
55 to 59	438	6.0%
60 and over	473	6.5%
Race/Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latino	3,239	44.3%
Black/African American	1,845	25.3%
White	1,707	23.4%
Asian	105	1.4%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	86	1.2%
Pacific Islander	25	0.3%
Other	299	4.1%
Commitment Offense Category		
Crimes Against Persons	5,071	69.4%
Property Crimes	997	13.6%
Other Crimes	799	10.9%
Drug Crimes	439	6.0%
Sentence Type		
Determinate Term	3,969	54.3%
Second Strike (Determinate Term)	2,713	37.1%
Indeterminate Term	523	7.2%
Third Strike (Indeterminate Term)	99	1.4%
Resentenced to Misdemeanor	2	0.0%

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

Demographics and Characteristics	Number	Percent
Total	7,306	100.0%
Type of Post-Release Supervision		
Parole	5,587	76.5%
Post-Release Community Supervision	1,704	23.3%
Directly Discharged	15	0.2%
Serious/Violent Offense		
Non-Serious/Non-Violent	1,871	25.6%
Serious	1,328	18.2%
Violent	4,107	56.2%
Sex Registration Requirement		
No	6,306	86.3%
Yes	1,000	13.7%
CSRA Risk Score		
Low	3,353	45.9%
Moderate	1,735	23.7%
High	2,218	30.4%
Mental Health Designation		
Correctional Clinical Case Management System	1,441	19.7%
Enhanced Outpatient Program	168	2.3%
Psychiatric Inpatient Program	9	0.1%
Mental Health Crisis Bed	1	0.0%
No Mental Health Designation	5,687	77.8%
Length of Stay		
Less than 1 year	199	2.7%
1 year (12 to 23 months)	1,202	16.5%
2 years (24 to 35 months)	1,221	16.7%
3 years (36 to 47 months)	842	11.5%
4 years (48 to 59 months)	607	8.3%
5 to 9 years	1,543	21.1%
10 to 14 years	768	10.5%
15 years or more	924	12.6%

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

ⁱⁱ See Appendix 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/>.

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

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

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

^{vi} The three-year arrest rate for individuals without an EDU achievement and released in the FY 2020-21 statewide release cohort is 63.7 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 40.5 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 20.9 percent. For those with an EDU achievement, the three-year arrest rate (42.2 percent) is 21.5 percentage points lower than those without an EDU achievement, the conviction rate (22.4 percent) is 18.1 percentage points lower, and the return-to-prison rate (11.3 percent) is 9.6 percentage points lower than individuals without an EDU academic achievement.

^{vii} In prior reports, GED was reported as a separate category. All individuals completing a GED and released in FY 2020-21 are now included in the "High School Equivalency" category.

^{viii} The three-year arrest rate for individuals without a CTE achievement and released in the FY 2020-21 statewide release cohort is 63.7 percent, the three-year conviction rate is 40.4 percent, and the three-year return-to-prison rate is 20.9 percent. For those with a CTE achievement, the three-year arrest rate (42.9 percent) is 20.8 percentage points lower than those without a CTE achievement, the conviction rate (24.4 percent) is 16.0 percentage points lower, and the return-to-prison rate (12.6 percent) is 8.3 percentage points lower than individuals without a CTE achievement.

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

^x Of the 1,717 individuals who completed Substance Use Disorder Treatment, 19 individuals completed Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment (ISUDT), which was implemented in 2020. As more individuals complete ISUDT in future reporting years, SUDT will be reported as ISUDT accordingly.

^{xi} 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/>.