2019

RECIDIVISM REPORT

2019 RELEASE COHORT OUTCOME REPORT
A THREE YEAR FOLLOW UP

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



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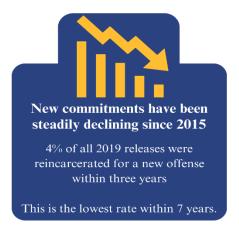
Executive Summary

Releases

- There were 6,963 incarcerated persons (IPs) released from DOC facilities in calendar year 2019.
- Of the total release cohort, 93% identified as male and 7% identified as female.
- Of the male releases, 59% identified as Black/African American.
- Of the female releases, 56% identified as White.
- Of the total release cohort 15% identified as Hispanic/Latino.

Overview

Community supervision violations are a significant contributing factor to reincarceration percentages among males and females who were released from a DOC facility. The overwhelming majority of reincarcerations for both genders stemmed from violations of parole or probation conditions.





Nearly 56% of persons who participated in a vocational education program during their stay of incarceration were employed at any time within three years of release.

Across both genders, releases who participated in vocational education programs had lower rearrests, reconvictions and reincarcerations.



Reoffending events within three years have been steadily declining since 2015

Rearrests decreased by 18% Reconvictions decreased by 42% Reincarcerations decreased by 29%

Criminal History

- Of the total release cohort, 55% had at least one prior DOC admission.
- Conversely, 60% of female releases had no prior commitments compared to 44% of male releases.

Mandatory Minimum Term (MMT)

- Of the total release cohort, 57% served a MMT while 43% of the release cohort did not serve a MMT.
- Among all females who recidivated, approximately 25% served a MMT prior to release while 75% of females who recidivated did not serve a MMT prior to release.
- The majority of males who recidivated (52%) served a MMT whereas 48% of males who recidivated did not serve a MMT prior to release.

Recidivism

- Reincarcerations for new commitments, defined as those released and readmitted on a new criminal conviction, have been consistently decreasing over time from 13% from the 2010 release cohort year to 4% in the 2019 release cohort year.
- Reincarcerations for Technical Parole Violations (TPVs), defined as those released and re-admitted on a parole violation have been steadily increasing over time from 33% from the 2010 release cohort year to 67% in the 2019 release cohort year.
- Of the total release cohort, 25% were readmitted to a DOC facility within three years for any reason including new commitments, technical parole violations or community supervision violations.

Reoffending Events

• Since 2010, there has been a 23% decrease in both reconvictions and reincarcerations for male releases and a 2% decrease in rearrests. Among female releases, there has been a 15% decrease in reconvictions, a 13% decrease in reincarcerations and a 6% decrease in rearrests since 2010.





This report is the result of a legislative mandate instituted by P.L. 2009, c.329, (C.30: 4-91.15). The law enforcement agencies of the New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC) and New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) are tasked by the legislature to compile reports that record and examine annual recidivism. This report is also the result of a legislative mandate instituted by P.L. 2015, c. 144 (C.30: 4-91.15). The DOC and SPB are tasked with measuring the effectiveness of the State's reentry initiatives and programs. This report is the thirteenth in a series of reports that measure overall recidivism levels, describe adult cohort characteristics, and analyze recidivism factors. It is the eighth report that examines reentry programming consistent with P.L. 2015, c. 144 (C.30: 4-91.15).

There are multiple sections to the report. The introduction presents the agencies' mission statements and describes the report methodology. Sections 1 through 4 provide details of the 2019 adult release cohort including cohort demographics, recidivism, and reentry and rehabilitative programming analyses. The adult cohort includes 1) adult releases of the DOC who are supervised by the SPB or Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Intensive Supervision Program upon release and 2) unsupervised adult releases (i.e., max outs) from the DOC.

In New Jersey, the DOC and SPB prepare adult incarcerated persons for transition from prison to the community. Incarcerated persons start preparing for rehabilitation and reentry immediately upon intake into the NJDOC system, wherein incarcerated persons receive a comprehensive plan based on their assessment scores. This plan includes in-prison programs and treatment such as education, vocational classes, anger management, inpatient and outpatient Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), and substance abuse classes, among others, to assist the incarcerated persons with rehabilitation and community reentry.

As noted within the mission statements, the rehabilitation of individuals who will return to society is paramount. The two agencies in this report promote incarcerated person rehabilitation and provide services that boost a successful transition back to the community for adult incarcerated persons. This release outcome report is one tool that measures the effectiveness of New Jersey's reentry initiatives and programs. The success of these agencies is illustrated in our decreasing recidivism percentages, as fewer adult releases are returning to prison for new criminal convictions.

Agency Mission Statements

New Jersey Department of Corrections

The mission of the New Jersey Department of Corrections is to advance public safety and promote successful reintegration in a dignified, safe, secure, gender-informed, and rehabilitative environment supported by a professional, trained, and diverse workforce enhanced by community engagement. The mission is realized by ensuring the safety and security of staff and incarcerated persons, providing the highest quality rehabilitative and reintegration programs guided by gender-informed care and trauma services with the support of community partners.

The Department is responsible for managing a budget of approximately \$1.1 billion and employing approximately 6,600 persons, including almost 4,900 in custody positions, to supervise approximately 13,000 incarcerated persons. The DOC is responsible for nine institutions: eight adult male correctional facilities and one female correctional institution. These facilities collectively house incarcerated persons at minimum, medium, and maximum-security levels. In addition, the Department contracts with various Residential Community Reintegration Programs to provide for the transition of minimum-security incarcerated persons back into the community within 30 months of release.

The Department is committed to providing incarcerated persons with structured learning experiences, both academic and social, which will enhance their return to the community as productive citizens. The DOC's goal is to provide incarcerated persons with the experiences and skills necessary to enter the job market. Comprehensive academic education and career technical training are important elements to a successful transition into society and the workforce. The Department also offers an array of institutional and community-based program opportunities for incarcerated persons, including community labor assistance, library (lending and law) services, and substance abuse treatment. Other specialized services include victim awareness, chaplaincy services, transitional services, Intensive Supervision Program, and ombudsperson services, which is one of many options available to incarcerated persons to seek redress for problems and complaints.

Additionally, the DOC, acting in conjunction with the New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB), provides a continuum of treatment services for individuals as they complete their sentences. Public safety is enhanced through the development, coordination, administration, and delivery of these institutional and community-based programs and services.

New Jersey State Parole Board

The New Jersey Parole Act of 1979 grants the SPB the authority and responsibility to decide which incarcerated persons of the State's and of the counties' correctional institutions shall be granted release on parole and what the conditions of that release will be.

Since 2001, the SPB has been charged with the responsibility of overseeing all of the functions, powers, and duties of the State's sworn parole officers who supervise and monitor parolees. The Parole Act of 1979 created presumptive parole, meaning that when an incarcerated person appears before a Board Panel, the assumption before anything is said or reviewed, is that the incarcerated person has a legitimate expectation of release upon his or her parole eligibility date. The Board must make

appropriate release decisions based on all relevant information. To assist Board members with this important task, the SPB obtains a comprehensive pre-parole package that includes a current psychological evaluation of the incarcerated person as well as a risk and needs assessment tool (the LSI-R) to determine what degree of supervision and what program placement may be appropriate if release is authorized.

The statute further provides, as to offenses committed on or after August 19, 1997, that an adult incarcerated person shall be paroled unless he or she has failed to cooperate in his or her rehabilitation or there is a reasonable expectation that the incarcerated person will violate conditions of parole. This statutory standard implements an important objective of parole--namely, to encourage an incarcerated person to avoid institutional disciplinary infractions and for them to participate in institutional programs while incarcerated. Once an incarcerated person is granted parole release, the Board then has the continuing responsibility of ascertaining and monitoring compliance with the conditions of supervision that have been earlier established by the Board. If the parolee does not comply with the conditions of supervision, the Board has the lawful authority to issue a warrant for the arrest of that parolee. Following an administrative hearing, a Board Panel may either "revoke" the grant of the offender's parole and return the parolee to prison, or modify the offender's parole conditions.

The SPB is committed to a mission of promoting public safety and fostering rehabilitation of offenders by implementing policies that result in effective parole case management. The SPB seeks to accomplish this through the administration of an innovative parole system. The parole system in New Jersey addresses the needs of the community, victims, and offenders through responsible decision-making and supervision processes. The implementation of this system results in effective parole case management and serves to attain the important goals of the SPB, which are to increase public safety and decrease recidivism while promoting successful offender reintegration.

Report Methodology

Sections one through four of this report examine the demographics and outcomes of 6,963 adult incarcerated persons released from DOC custody. Throughout this report, recidivism is defined as the first reincarceration event after release from a DOC facility. Reincarceration events include community supervision violations (including technical parole violations or a violation of another form of supervision), and readmissions due to a new commitment. Data on rearrests and reconvictions after release from a DOC facility are included in this report as supplemental measures of reoffending events. The terms used throughout this report are defined in the table below.

Term	Definition
Rearrest	An arrest on criminal charges within three years of release regardless of outcome. This term includes violations for releases placed on parole supervision or other forms of supervision (e.g., Intensive Supervision
	Program), if an arrest occurred.
Reconviction	A conviction for a crime within three years of release regardless of whether or not the individual went on to be readmitted to DOC custody.
Reincarceration	A DOC admission subsequent to a conviction for a crime within three years of release, for any reason. This count also includes incarcerated persons released to any form of community supervision who are reincarcerated for a new offense, violation of the terms of any form of community supervision, or both.
Community	A type of reincarceration, defined as a return to DOC custody for community
Supervision	supervised releases for any violation of supervision (e.g., positive drug test,
Violation (CSV)	curfew infraction) within three years of release.
Technical Parole Violation (TPV)	A type of CSV, defined as a return to DOC custody for the violation of the conditions of SPB supervision within three years of release (e.g., absconding, failure to complete an inpatient residential community program). A technical parole violation may include violations of a criminal nature that have not yet been adjudicated (i.e. possession of a firearm, possession/distribution of controlled dangerous substance, etc.).
New Commitment	A type of reincarceration, defined as a return to DOC custody subsequent to conviction for a new crime within three years of release. The individual has been arrested, convicted, and incarcerated for an offense for which he/she has not served a sentence previously. Admissions for a CSV or TPV are not included in this definition.

The above metrics were collected, if applicable, for each person in the 2019 release cohort by tracking reoffending events within the three year follow up period using an individual's State Bureau of Identification (SBI) number. Only events that occurred in New Jersey are included in this report.

There are some releases who have been excluded from the analyses in this report. Specifically, individuals without an SBI number, individuals who were deceased within three years of release, and individuals who were released to other agencies (e.g., released to a law enforcement agency in another state, released to a federal law enforcement agency) are excluded.

In multiple sections, the categorizations of the offense of conviction, or the offense for which incarcerated persons were serving time and released in 2019, were separated consistent with the federal

government's crime types, including violent, weapons, property, drugs, and other crimes. Definitions for each crime type can be found below.

Offense Category	Definition
Violent	Homicide, sexual assault, aggravated and simple assault, robbery, kidnapping, other sex offenses, and other person offenses (e.g. terroristic threats, coercion, larceny from a person, death by auto, and negligent manslaughter). Violent offenses grouped as other sex offenses include criminal sexual attempt, child
	pornography, and endangering the welfare of a child.
Property	Burglary, arson, theft, forgery, embezzlement, and receiving/possessing stolen
	property.
Weapons	Weapon possession and operation.
Drugs	Distribution, manufacture, possession, and use of drugs
Other	Offenses that do not fit into the other typologies, such as crimes against the courts
	(e.g., contempt, failure to appear), traffic offenses and public order offenses.
CSV	Any violation of supervision terms and conditions.

Unless otherwise noted, data were stratified to show comparisons between genders (male and female) and the total release cohort. Additional variables were examined to show comparisons between both gender groups. These variables include but are not limited to release status, release age, time served on sentence, race/ethnicity, offense charges, Residential Community Reintegration Program (RCRP) completion, education level, and prior criminal history. Race categories are defined as Black/African American, White, and Other. The Other race category includes Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Alaskan Natives.

Department of Labor data were collected to analyze employment status of releases during the three-year follow-up period. It is important to note that the demographic characteristics presented, including gender, race, and ethnicity, are based on self-reported information provided by the individuals themselves. All raw counts and proportions related to these demographic factors are a direct reflection of the data as self-reported by the individuals.



Section 1: Release Cohort Demographics

This section will provide a detailed description of the incarcerated persons (IPs) released from New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC) prison facilities.

In calendar year 2019, 6,963 IPs were released. Unless otherwise noted, the analyses will include the full release cohort (N=6,963). Counts may not sum to the cohort total and percentages may not sum to 100% due to missing information.

Release Cohort Demographics

Among the 6,963 IPs released, 6,499 IPs (93%) identified as male and 464 IPs (7%) identified as female. The majority of IPs were aged 30-39 (34%) at release, followed by IPs aged 21-29 (31%). The majority of males (34%) and females (38%) fell within the 30-39 age range at release.

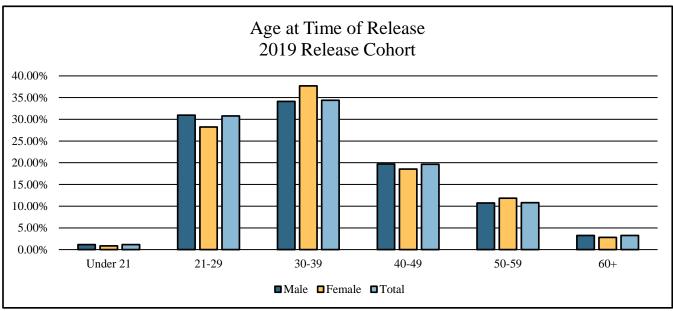


Figure 1. Age at Time of Release 2019 Release Cohort

Fifty-eight percent of the entire release cohort identified as Black/African American. The majority of males identified as Black/African American (59%) while the majority of females (56%) identified as White. Overall, 15% of releases identified as having Hispanic/Latino heritage (Males: 15%, Females: 12%).

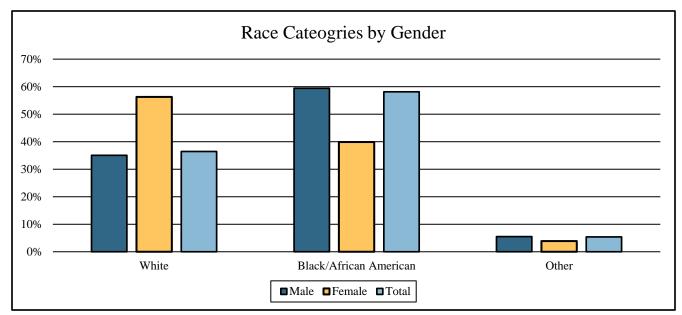


Figure 2. Race Categories by Gender

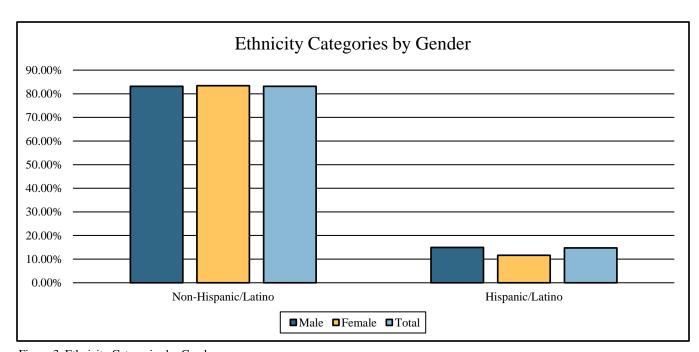


Figure 3. Ethnicity Categories by Gender

Education

At the time of release, the highest level of education was a high school diploma or high school equivalency degree for 62% of releases and approximately 8% of releases had some college education or higher. A higher percentage of female releases had some college education or higher (14%) compared to male releases (8%).

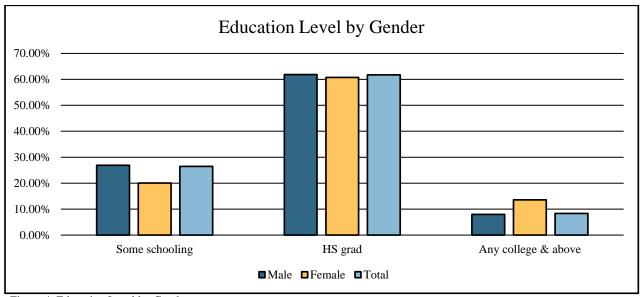


Figure 4. Education Level by Gender

Prior Commitments

Approximately 55% (N=3,807) of released IPs had at least one prior DOC admission. Nearly 56% of male releases had prior commitments compared to 39% of females. Conversely, 60% of female releases had no prior commitments compared to 44% of male releases.

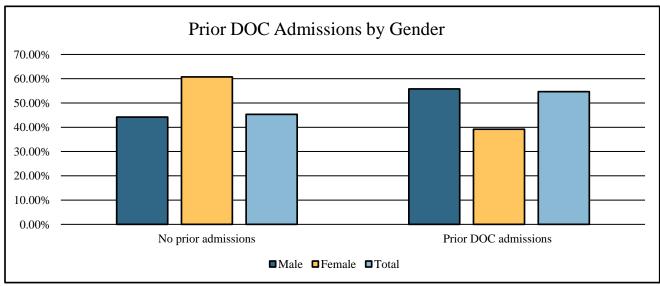


Figure 5. Prior DOC Admissions by Gender

Most Serious Offense

This section analyzes the most serious offense of conviction for which individuals in the release cohort were initially booked and entered prison, categorized by crime type and gender.

Among males, the most common offense of conviction was a violent offense (40%). This was closely followed by drug offenses (22%).

Similar to males, the most common offense of conviction for females was a violent offense (33%). Drug offenses were more prevalent among females (31%) than males as the second-most common offense of conviction.

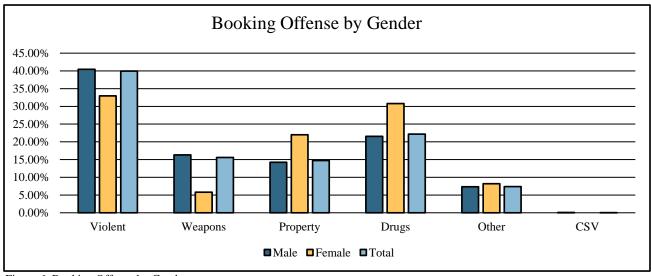


Figure 6. Booking Offense by Gender

The most common offense of conviction in each age grouping was a violent offense. Across all age groupings, the largest disparity in proportions of offense of conviction typologies occurred for releases aged 60 and older. Releases over the age of 60 were previously incarcerated at a percentage of 55% for violent offenses.

Booking Offense by Age							
Booking Offense	Under 21	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Total
Violent	36%	40%	40%	38%	42%	55%	40%
Weapons	29%	24%	14%	10%	7%	8%	16%
Property	13%	12%	15%	16%	22%	14%	15%
Drugs	10%	18%	24%	28%	21%	16%	22%
Other	13%	6%	7%	9%	8%	8%	7%

Table 1. Booking Offense by Age

Mandatory Minimum and No Early Release Act

Approximately 57% of releases served a mandatory minimum term (MMT). In New Jersey, IPs with a MMT must serve the mandatory minimum portion of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole. This calculation does not include earned credits for commutation, minimum security, or work. Releases sentenced under the "No Early Release Act (NERA)", N.J.S.A. 2C:43-7.2, are mandated to a term of parole supervision upon release.

Among male releases, 58% (N=3,795) served a MMT while 42% (N=2,703) did not serve a MMT prior to release. The majority of female releases (63%, N=294) did not serve a MMT prior to release while 36% of female releases (N=169) did.

Only 17% of releases served a sentence under NERA. Under NERA, IPs who are convicted of enumerated 1st or 2nd degree crimes must serve at least 85% of their sentence before reaching parole eligibility.

Similar percentages were observed among male and female releases who served a sentence under NERA. Seventeen percent (N=1,090) of male releases served a sentence under NERA while 83% of male releases (N=5,409) did not serve a sentence under NERA. For females, 15% (N=60) of releases served a sentence under NERA while 85% of female releases (N=395) did not serve a sentence under NERA.

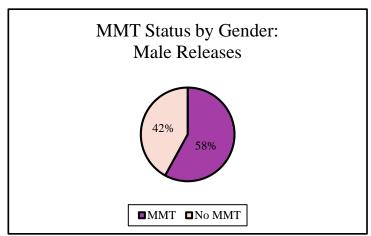


Figure 7. MMT Status by Gender: Male Releases

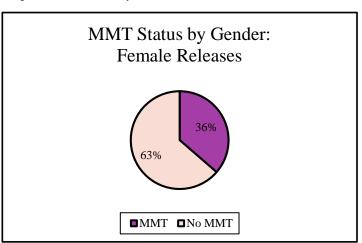


Figure 9. MMT Status by Gender: Female Releases

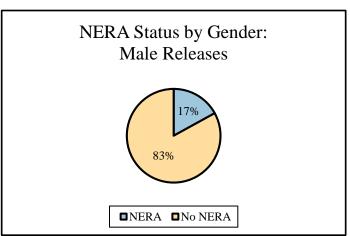


Figure 8. NERA Status by Gender: Male Releases

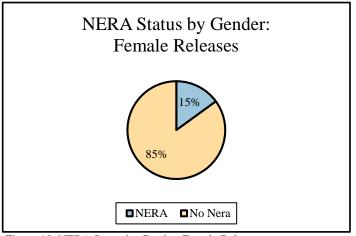
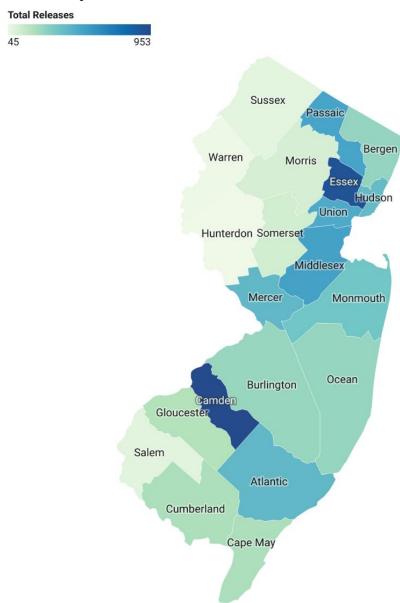


Figure 10. NERA Status by Gender: Female Releases

County of Commitment

The majority of released IPs were committed from Essex County (N=908) and Camden County (N=958). When analyzing the counties of commitment by gender, male releases were primarily committed from Essex and Camden counties; female releases were predominantly committed from counties in the Central (Middlesex, N=45) and Southern (Camden, N=53) regions of the state.

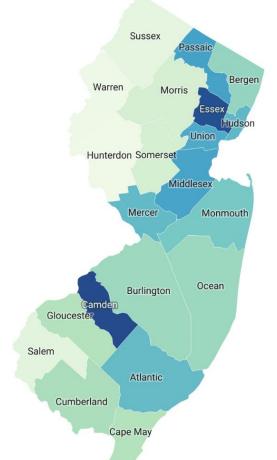
County of Commitment



Map 1. County of Commitment: Total 2019 Cohort

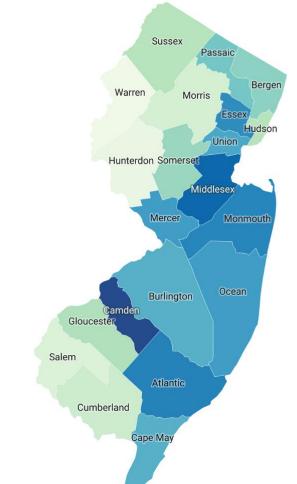
County of Commitment





County of Commitment



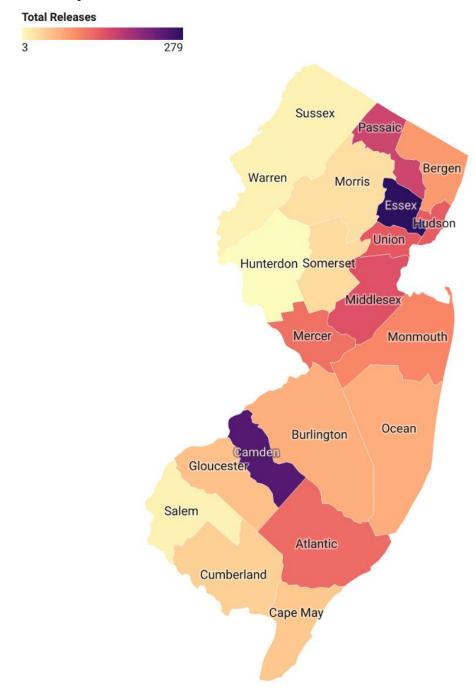


Map 2. County of Commitment: Male Releases

Map 3. County of Commitment: Female Releases

As noted previously, the majority of 2019 releases were admitted for violent offenses. Camden and Essex Counties comprised 28% of violent crime commitments. Additionally, Passaic, Essex, Hudson, Union, and Middlesex Counties collectively accounted for 44% of all violent crime commitments.

County of Commitment: Violent Offenses



Map 4. County of Commitment: Total Releases, Violent Offenses

Mean Time Served

The mean time served in days and years for each gender is shown below. Males released in 2019 served just over 2 years in prison and female releases served just under 2 years or 831 days in prison for their conviction. Across all genders, the mean time served was 2.13 years.

Mean Time Served by Gender				
	Male Female Total			
Mean time served (years)	2.2	1.8	2.1	
Mean time served (days)	1001	831	989.40	

Table 2. Mean Time Served by Gender

Prior Arrests and Convictions

Among the male releases, 67% had less than 10 prior arrests and 72% of females had less than 10 prior arrests. Male and female releases had the same percentage (2%) of 30 or more prior arrests. It is important to note that not all arrests will result in adjudicated convictions.

The majority of releases had less than 10 convictions (Males: 86%, Females 87%). Disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including delays in legal proceedings, may have contributed to the decline in the percentage of convictions across both genders for the 2019 release cohort.

Prior Arrests by Gender						
Arrests	Arrests Male Female Total Releases					
Less than 10	67%	72%	67%			
10-20	26%	21%	26%			
21-30	5%	5%	5%			
31+	2%	2%	2%			

Table 3. Prior Arrests by Gender

Prior Convictions by Gender					
Convictions Male Female Total Releases					
Less than 10	86%	87%	86%		
10 - 20	12%	11%	12%		
21 - 30	1%	1%	1%		
31+	0%	1%	0%		

Table 4. Prior Convictions by Gender



Recidivism: IP Demographics

Of the 6,963 IPs released in 2019, 1,723 (25%) recidivated.

Among the 1,723 individuals who recidivated, 95% were male (N=1,632) while only 5% (N=91) were female.

IPs released at the age of 21 or younger were found to be twice as likely to recidivate within a three-year period compared to those released at the age of 40 or older. Thirty-eight percent of individuals who recidivated were between the ages of 30-39 years. A higher proportion of female IPs recidivated between the ages of 30-39 (49%) compared to male IPs (37%).

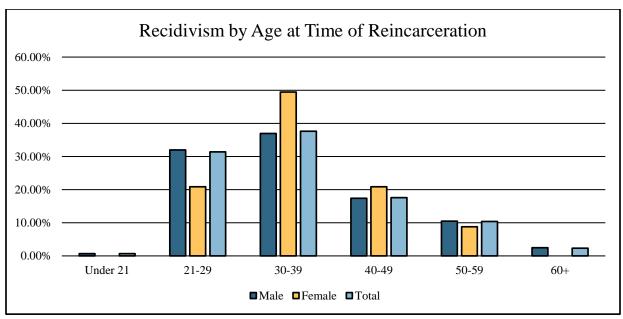


Figure 11. Recidivism by Age at Time of Reincarceration

IPs who served less than one year (39%) in DOC custody recidivated at a greater percentage compared to IPs who served more than one year. When analyzing time served by gender, a larger proportion of female IPs who served less than one year recidivated (66%) compared to their male counterparts (38%).

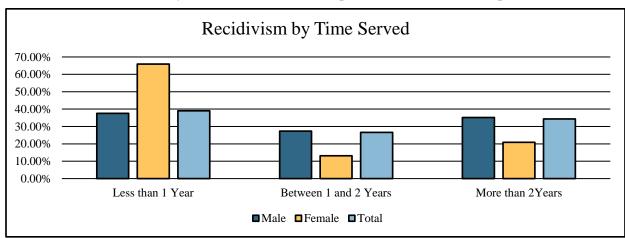


Figure 12. Recidivism by Time Served

Higher recidivism percentages were observed among Black/African American males than any other race. Black/African American males accounted for 63% of males who recidivated within the three-year follow-up period, while 33% were White.

The opposite was observed among females as the majority of females who recidivated following release were White (71%) compared to Black/African American females (27%).

Among the IPs who recidivated, the majority, 85%, identified as Non-Hispanic/Latino, while 12% self-identified as Hispanic/Latino.

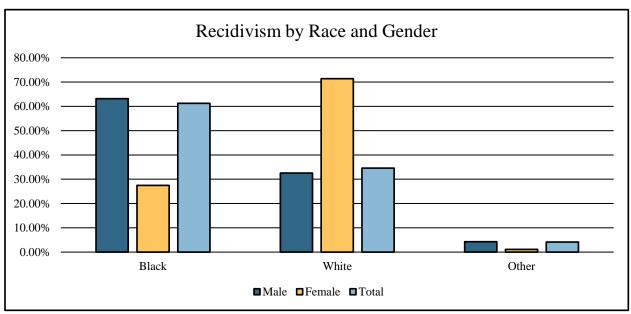


Figure 13. Recidivism by Race and Gender

Gender	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic/Latino
Male	13%	85%
Female	9%	88%
Total	12%	85%

Table 5. Recidivism by Ethnicity and Gender

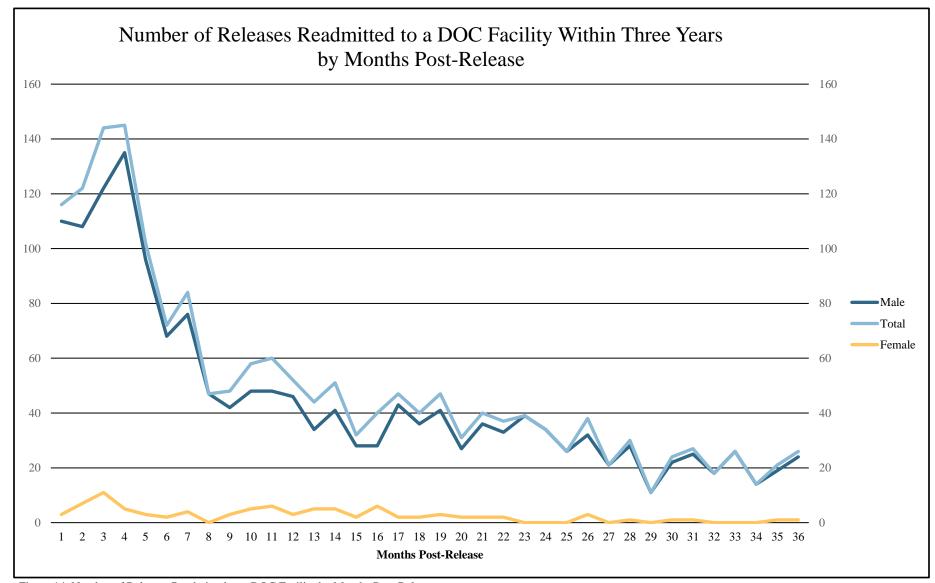


Figure 14. Number of Releases Readmitted to a DOC Facility by Months Post-Release

Among males who recidivated, 84%, were readmitted to DOC custody due to a CSV, followed by 4% who were readmitted for a new commitment for a violent offense.

As for females who recidivated, an even higher proportion, (90%) were readmitted for a CSV violation, followed by other offenses (e.g., crimes against the courts, traffic offenses and public order offenses).

Recidivism by Offense and Gender					
Offense	Male (N=1,632)	Female (N =91)	Total (N=1,723)		
Violent	5%	1%	4%		
Property	3%	2%	3%		
Drugs	3%	2%	3%		
Weapons	4%	1%	4%		
Other	1%	3%	1%		
CSV	84%	90%	84 %		

Table 6. Recidivism by Offense and Gender

Recidivism by MMT and NERA Status

Among all females who recidivated, approximately 25% served a MMT prior to release while 75% of females who recidivated did not serve a MMT prior to release. The opposite was observed for males where the majority of males who recidivated (52%) served a MMT whereas 48% of males who recidivated but did not serve a MMT prior to release.

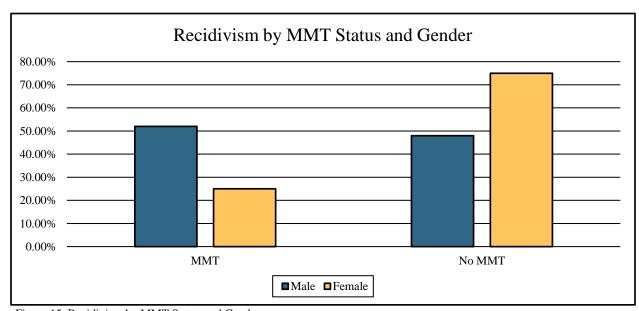


Figure 15. Recidivism by MMT Status and Gender

Recidivism outcomes based on a NERA sentence were similar across both genders. IPs who did not serve a NERA sentence had higher percentages of recidivism than IPs who served a mandatory term under NERA. Twenty-one percent of males who served a NERA sentence prior to release recidivated within three-years post release compared to 79% of males who did not serve a NERA term prior to release. For females, only 16% of IPs who served a NERA sentence recidivated within three-years post release compared to 84% of females who did not serve a NERA sentence.

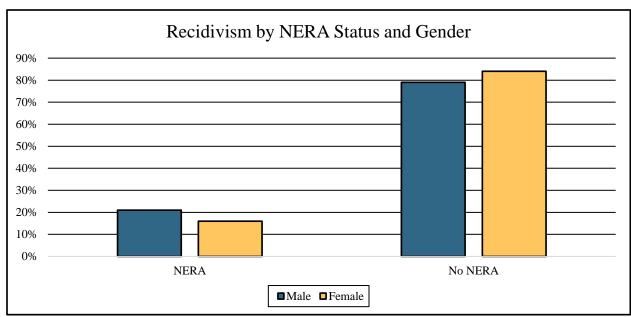
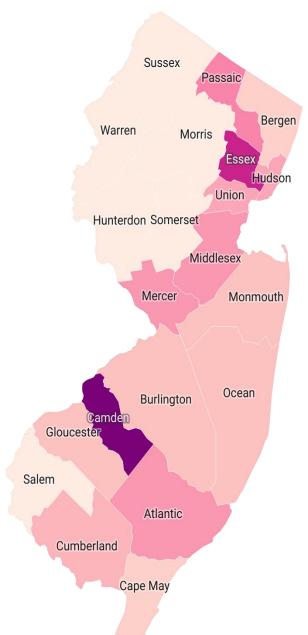


Figure 16. Recidivism by NERA Status and Gender

Recidivism by County of Commitment

Percent of releases who recidivated within 3 years post-release





Map 5. Recidivism by County of Commitment



Section 3: Reoffending Events

This section will examine reoffending trends in rearrests, reconvictions and reincarcerations of IPs released by cohort year. The proportion of individuals being readmitted to a DOC facility within the three-year follow-up period has been steadily declining within the last ten years. This downward trajectory is evidenced by a 29% decrease in the percentage of individuals who recidivated annually between 2010 and 2019. This period also witnessed a concurrent decline in the three-year reoffending events including rearrests and reconviction.

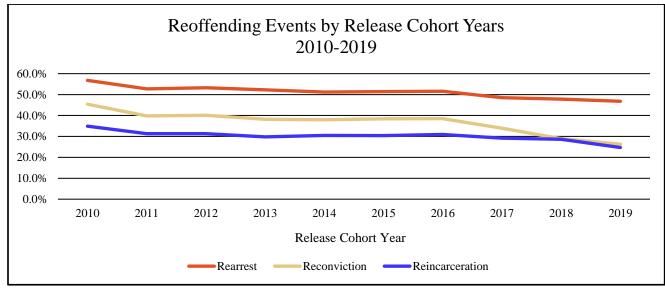


Figure 17. Reoffending Events by Release Cohort Years 2010-2019

Although overall reoffending events have shown a declining trend within the past 10 years, further analysis of the data by gender and all three reoffending measures reveals further insights. In the 2010 release cohort, 37% of female releases were rearrested but by 2019, this percentage had decreased by 6%. A similar pattern was observed for male releases during the same period, with a decline in rearrests.

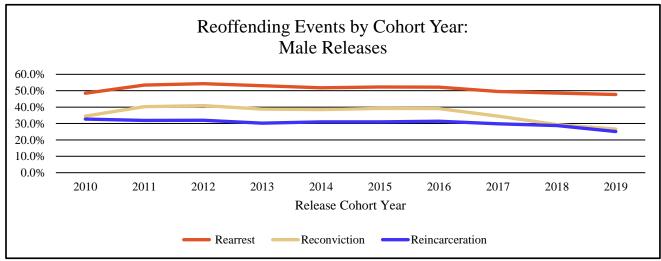


Figure 18. Reoffending Events by Cohort Year: Male Releases

The data reveal a substantial 23% decrease in reconvictions and reincarcerations for male releases over cohort years. A similar positive trend was observed for female releases, with a 15% reduction in reconvictions and a 13% decline in reincarcerations.

As stated in Section 1, temporary pauses in court hearings due to the COVID-19 pandemic may have resulted in the observed decreases in reconvictions.

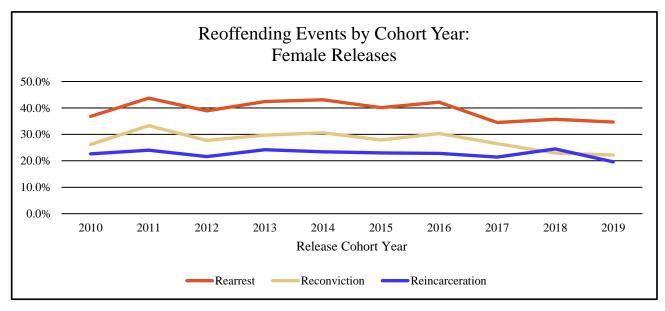


Figure 19. Reoffending Events by Cohort Year: Female Releases

Recidivism Trends

Between 2013 and 2019 cohort years, there was a 17% decrease in recidivism percentages within three years of release for each cohort year. Additionally, this percentage is a 13% reduction in recidivism compared to the 2018 release cohort and represents the lowest recidivism percentage observed over the past seven years.

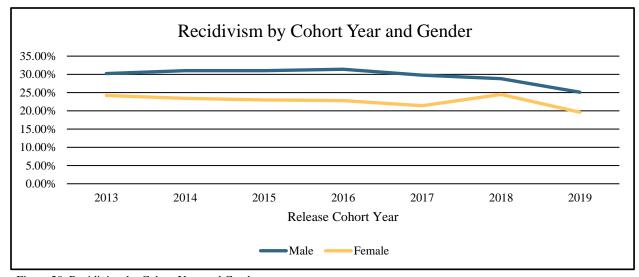


Figure 20. Recidivism by Cohort Year and Gender

Of all persons released in 2019, 25% were readmitted to a DOC facility within three years for any reason including new commitments, technical parole violations or community supervision violations. The majority of readmissions (84%) were for community supervision violations.

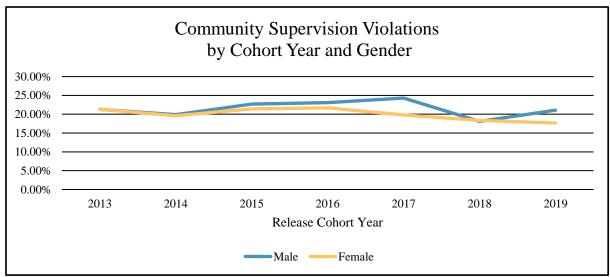


Figure 21. Community Supervision Violations by Cohort Year and Gender

Sixty-one percent of male IPs who returned for a CSV identified as Black/African American and 34% identified as White. The average age of males who returned for a CSV was 36 years old. Additionally, the majority of males who returned for a CSV (40%) served less than 1 year in a DOC facility prior to release, 27% served between 1-2 years, and 34% served more than 2 years prior to release.

Among female IPs who returned for a CSV, 27% identified as Black/African American and 73% identified as White. Similar to males, the average age of a female IP who returned for a CSV was 36 years old. The majority of females (67%) served less than 1 year in a DOC facility prior to release, 13% served between 1-2 years, and 20% served more than 2 years prior to release.

Sixty-four percent of male IPs who returned for a TPV identified as Black/African American and 31% identified as White. The average age for males who returned for a TPV was 37 years old. A greater proportion of males who returned for a TPV served more than 2 years prior to release (40%) followed by males who served between 1-2 years (33%) and less than 1 year (29%).

Female IPs who returned for a TPV were mostly White (68%) and Black/African American (32%). The average age among females was 35 years old. Contrary to males who returned for a TPV, the majority of females who returned for a TPV served less than 1 year prior to release (49%) followed by more than 2 years (32%) and between 1-2 years (19%).

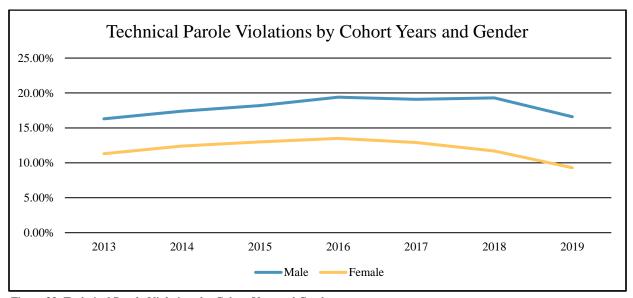


Figure 22. Technical Parole Violations by Cohort Year and Gender

Males who recidivated and were readmitted to a DOC facility for a new commitment were predominately Black/African American (71%) and White (25%). The average age of IPs who were readmitted on a new commitment was 36 years old. For new commitments, most males who returned served more than 2 years prior to release (37%) followed by less than 1 year (34%) and between 1-2 years (29%).

Females who recidivated and were readmitted for a new commitment were mostly White (60%) and Black/African American (30%). Sixty percent of females who returned for a new commitment served less than 1 year at a DOC facility prior to release while 30% served more than 2 years and only 10% served between 1-2 years.

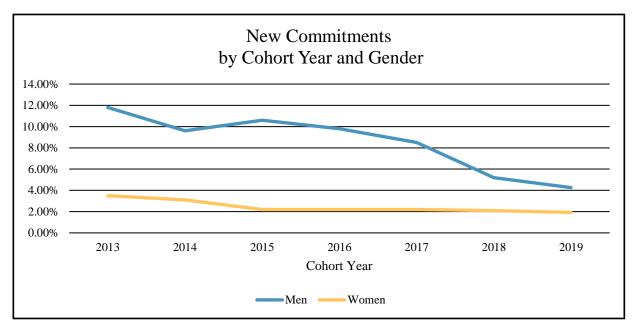


Figure 23. New Commitment by Cohort Year and Gender

Time Until Reincarceration

A steady increase in recidivism events occurred following six months of release within the 2015 to 2019 cohort years. Like prior reports, recidivism events post-release typically peaked within the first 4 months of follow-up. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of IPs were readmitted to a DOC facility within the first year of release.

Recidivism by Cohort Year and Timeframe					
Cohort Years	≤ 6 Months	≤1 Year	≤2 Years	≤3 years	
2015	29%	52%	81%	100%	
2016	31%	56%	84%	100%	
2017	33%	57%	87%	100%	
2018	36%	63%	89%	100%	
2019	39%	58%	84%	100%	

Table 7. Recidivism by Cohort Year and Timeframe

Technical Parole Violations

Among IPs who recidivated, 67% were readmitted for a TPV. Comparatively, in the 2018 release cohort, 66% of IPs who recidivated were readmitted for a TPV. This data reveals an upward trend, indicating that since 2010, the recidivism percentages for TPVs have been steadily increasing. However, it should be noted that the outcomes of the 2019 release cohort, which were examined from the period of January 1, 2019 thru December 31, 2022, were likely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, within the New Jersey Judiciary, restrictions were in place limiting in-person trials and on-location services from March 2020 thru August 2021, creating a backlog of trial court cases. Whereas, the SPB was operational and those parolees who seriously and/or persistently violated parole may have been returned to custody for a TPV.

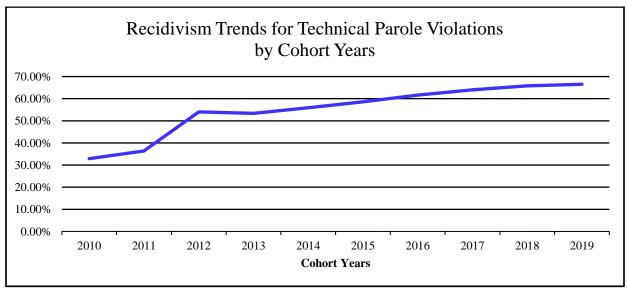


Figure 24. Recidivism Trends for TPVs by Cohort Year

¹ Biryukov, N. (2021, August 2). N.J. courts to fully re-open amid stunning backlogs, broad vacancies [Review of N.J. courts to fully re-open amid stunning backlogs, broad vacancies]. New Jersey Monitor. https://newjerseymonitor.com/briefs/n-j-courts-to-fully-re-open-amid-stunning-backlogs-broad-vacancies/#:~:text=By%3A%20Nikita%20Biryukov%20%2D%20August%202%2C%202021%207%3A00%20am &text=State%20courts%20resumed%20holding%20in,will%20be%20lifted%20starting%20today.

Section 4: Rehabilitation and Reentry Programs

In calendar year 2019, DOC contracted with 16 Residential Community Reintegration Program (RCRP) facilities to serve IPs transitioning from DOC custody to community corrections before being released in the community. RCRPs serve both male and female IPs. Two of the contracted RCRPs were assessment and treatment centers, five were RCRPs with a work release program, and the remaining eight RCRPs utilized drug treatment with a work release component.

RCRP by Program and County			
Name	Program	County	
Albert M. "Bo" Robinson	Assessment Center (Other)	Mercer	
Clinton House	Educational/Vocational/Work Release RCRP	Mercer	
Columbus House	Mental Health RCRP	Mercer	
Comunidad Unida Para Rehabilitación de	Drug Treatment RCRP	Essex	
Adictos (CURA)			
Fenwick House	Drug Treatment RCRP	Passaic	
Fletcher House	Educational/Vocational/Work Release RCRP	Camden	
Garrett House	Drug Treatment RCRP	Camden	
Hope Hall	Drug Treatment RCRP	Camden	
Kintock-Bridgeton 1	Drug Treatment RCRP	Cumberland	
Kintock-Bridgeton 2	Work Release RCRP	Cumberland	
Kintock-Newark	Drug Treatment RCRP	Essex	
Talbot Hall	Assessment Center (Other)	Hudson	
The Harbor	Drug Treatment RCRP	Essex	
Tully House	Drug Treatment RCRP	Essex	
Urban Renewal Corporation 1	Work Release RCRP	Essex	
Urban Renewal Corporation 2	Work Release RCRP	Essex	

Table 8. RCRP by Program and County

Residential Community Reintegration Program

Thirty-nine percent of all releases attended a RCRP and 29% of all releases completed a RCRP. Twenty-one percent of the entire release cohort completed a drug treatment RCRP and 7% completed a work release RCRP. Approximately 6% of releases in the cohort completed an assessment center RCRP.

IPs who participated in and completed any RCRP prior to release to the community experienced lower percentages of rearrests, reconviction, and reincarceration than IPs who did not complete a RCRP. For those IPs who completed a RCRP, most returns to prison within three years were the result of a CSV (88%).

It should be noted that IPs may have attended more than one RCRP prior to release. For example, an IP could complete a drug treatment RCRP and then be transferred to a work release RCRP. Thus, the percentages should not be compared to one another and are displayed to illustrate the differences in recidivism percentages among IPs who have completed a RCRP.

RCRP completion was associated with a decrease in reoffending events (Figures 25 and 26). Releases who attended and completed a work release RCRP prior to release had the lowest percentages of all reoffending events post-release while

RCRP Completers vs. Non-Completers

Rearrest ↓ 21% Reconviction ↓ 13% Reincarceration ↓14%

releases who completed an Assessment Center RCRP had the highest percentages of reoffending events post-release.

The rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration percentages of male releases who completed any RCRP prior to released were 48%, 25% and 21%, respectfully. For female releases who completed any RCRP prior to release, the rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration percentages were 34%, 19% and 16% (Figure 26).

Reoffending Events by RCRP Program Type					
Rearrest Reconviction Reincarceration					
Complete Any RCRP	47%	25%	21%		
Complete Work Release RCRP	39%	19%	13%		
Complete Drug Treatment RCRP	43%	22%	17%		
Complete Assessment Center RCRP	49%	25%	29%		

Table 9. Reoffending events by RCRP Program Type

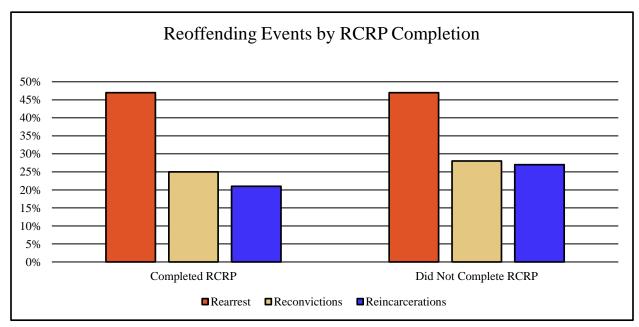


Figure 25. Reoffending Events by RCRP Completion

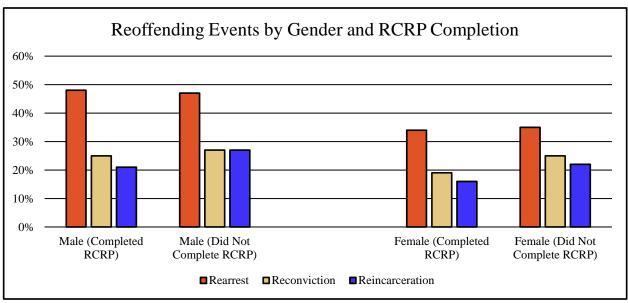


Figure 26. Reoffending Events by Gender and RCRP Completion

The rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration percentages of male releases who participated in a work release RCRP prior to release were 39%, 19% and 13%. There were no reoffending events for female releases who enrolled in a work release RCRP (N=1). Among all releases who participated in a work release RCRP, 39% were rearrested, 19% were reconvicted and 13% were reincarcerated within three-years of release.

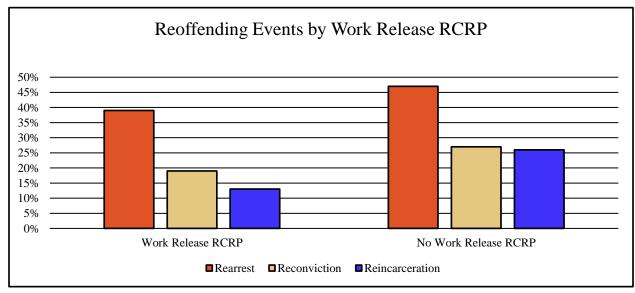


Figure 27. Reoffending Events by Work Release RCRP

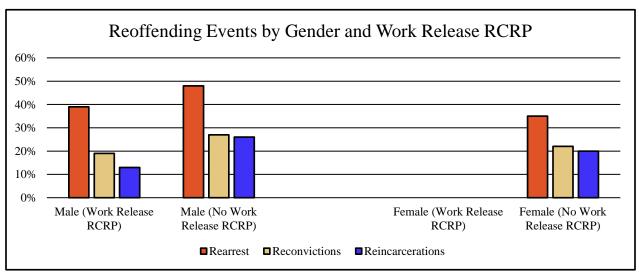


Figure 28. Reoffending Events by Gender and Work Release RCRP

Among all releases who participated in a drug treatment RCRP, 43% were rearrested, 22% were reconvicted and 17% were reincarcerated within three-years of release. The rearrest percentage for releases who participated in a drug treatment RCRP was higher than releases who were rearrested (29%) but did not enroll in a drug treatment RCRP.

The rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration percentages of male releases who participated in a drug treatment RCRP prior to released were 45%, 23% and 18%. For female releases who participated in a drug treatment RCRP, 24% were rearrested, 11% were reconvicted and 9% were reincarcerated within three-years of release.

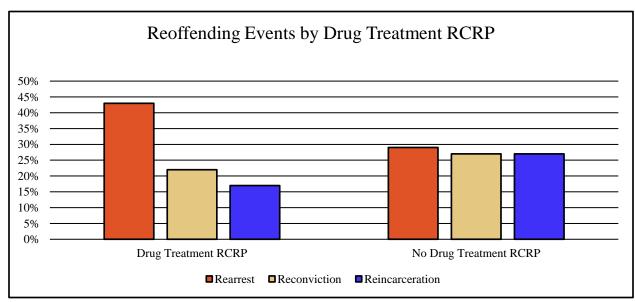


Figure 29. Reoffending Events by Drug Treatment RCRP

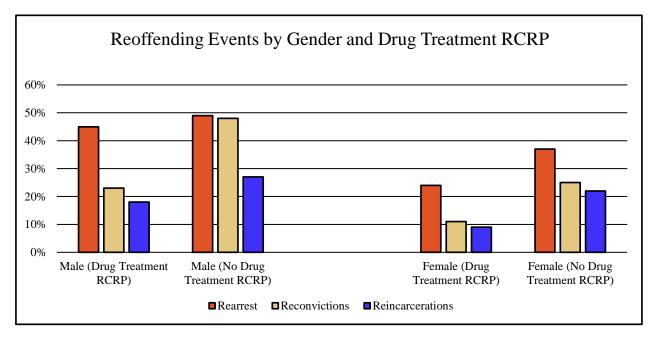


Figure 30. Reoffending Events by Gender and Drug Treatment RCRP

Reoffending events for releases from an assessment center RCRP were similar to releases who were not in an assessment center RCRP. For releases in an assessment RCRP, the rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration percentages were 49%, 25%, and 29%, respectfully. For releases who were not in an assessment RCRP, the rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration percentages were 47%, 26%, and 24% within three-years of release.

The rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration percentages of male releases from an assessment center RCRP were 51%, 36% and 31%. Male releases from an assessment center RCRP had higher percentages of rearrest (51% vs 48%) and reincarcerations (31% vs. 25%) than male IPs who were not in an assessment RCRP within three-years of release. Among female releases from an assessment center RCRP, 39% were rearrested, 17% were reconvicted and 19% were reincarcerated within three-years of release. Female IPs who were in an assessment center RCRP had higher percentages of rearrest (39% vs. 34%) and similar reincarceration percentages (19% vs. 20%) to females who were not in an assessment center RCRP.

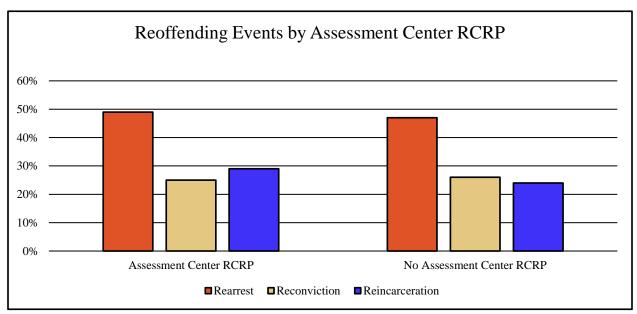


Figure 31. Reoffending Events by Assessment Center RCRP

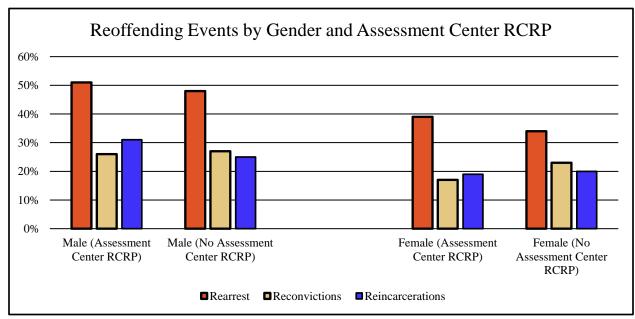


Figure 32. Reoffending Events by Gender and Assessment Center RCRP

Mandatory Education

The DOC provides mandatory education to IPs who do not have a high school diploma or a high school equivalency (HSE) degree.² Students earn credits from their home school districts toward the fulfillment of their high school diplomas.³

IPs who participated in mandatory education (N=491) were predominately Black/African American, male, and serving a sentence for a violent offense. The average age was 33 years old and the majority of IPs had a prior criminal history and nearly one prior DOC admissions. These IPs served an average of 5 years.

During their stay of incarceration, 491 IPs who participated in mandatory education programming took the HSE test. Of these, 424 passed and 67 failed, for a pass percentage of 86% and a fail percentage of 14%.

Mandatory Education Demographics: Race/Ethnicity and Gender				
	N	Percentage		
Race				
White	142	29		
Black/African American	316	64		
Other	33	7		
Ethnicity				
Hispanic/Latino	95	19		
Non-Hispanic/Latino	385	78		
Unknown	11	2		
Gender				
Male	462	94		
Female	29	6		

Mandatory Education Demographics: Criminal History	Mean	Median	Range
Age at Release (years)	33.4	32	21 - 665
Number of Prior Arrests	6	4	0 - 39
Number of Prior Convictions	3	2	0 - 32
Number of Prior Incarcerations	0.8	0	0 - 7
Time Served (days)	1,802.9	1,178	94 – 1,942

Table 10. Mandatory Education Demographics: Race/Ethnicity, Table 11. Mandatory Education Demographics: Criminal History Gender

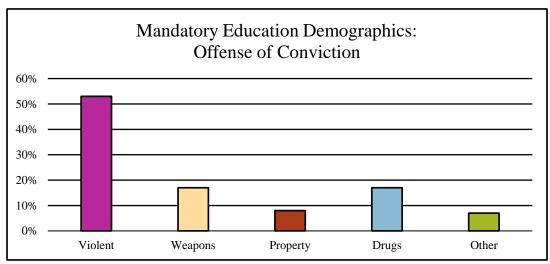


Figure 33. Mandatory Education Demographics: Offense of Conviction

² Under the State Facilities Education Act (SFEA) of 1979 (P.L. 1979, c.207, codified at N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-1 et seq.), all incarcerated persons under the age of 20, as well as those under age 21 with an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP), are provided traditional high school coursework

³ IPs who are over the age of 21 who do not have a high school diploma or HSE and have 18 months or more remaining on their sentence before a mandatory release date are eligible for mandatory education programming to obtain a HSE (P.L. 2009, c.330, codified at N.J.S.A. 30:4-92.1).

The rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration percentages for mandatory education participants were 43%, 24% and 21.6%, respectfully.

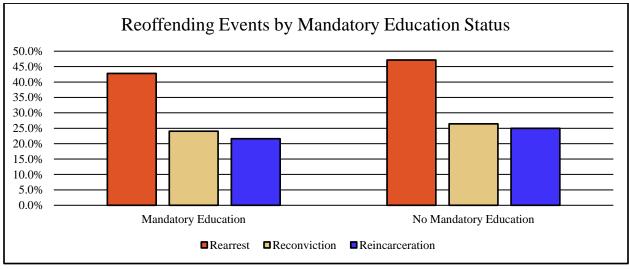


Figure 34. Reoffending Events by Mandatory Education Status

Male releases who did not participate in mandatory education had higher percentages of rearrest, reconviction and reincarcerations than males who participated in mandatory education.

Female releases who did not participate in mandatory education also had higher percentages of reconvictions and reincarcerations however, the proportion of female releases who participated in mandatory education were shown to have a higher percentage of rearrests than the proportion of female releases who did not participate in mandatory education.

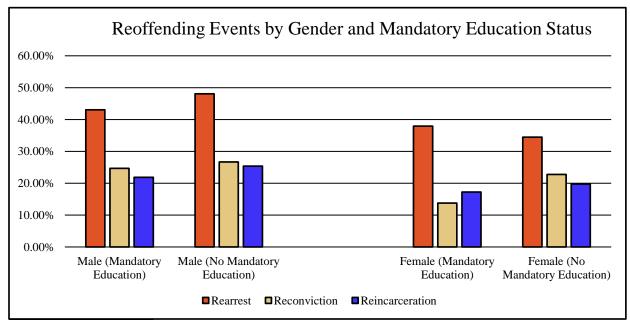


Figure 35. Reoffending Events by Gender and Mandatory Education Status

DOC provides vocational education programs to IPs at all facilities. There are 23 courses of study which include cabinetmaking, cosmetology/barbering, plumbing, and graphic arts, among others. Of the 2019 releases, 1,908 IPs (27%) completed vocational education programming during their stay of incarceration. Nearly 56% of all vocational education participants were employed at any time within three-years of release.

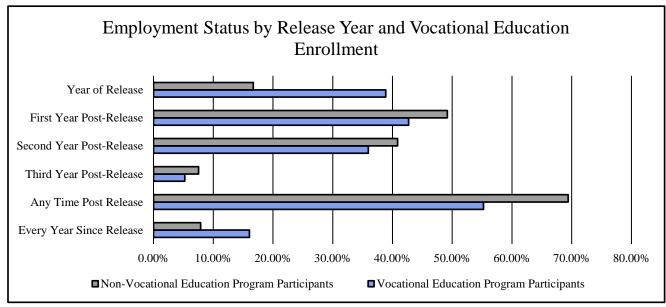


Figure 36. Employment Status by Release Year and Vocational Education Enrollment

Vocational education participants had rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration percentages of 44%, 24% and 22%. Additionally, nearly 83% of vocational education participants were readmitted for a CSV and 15% were readmitted for a new commitment.

Across both genders, releases who did not participate in vocational education had higher percentages of rearrest, reconvictions and reincarcerations.

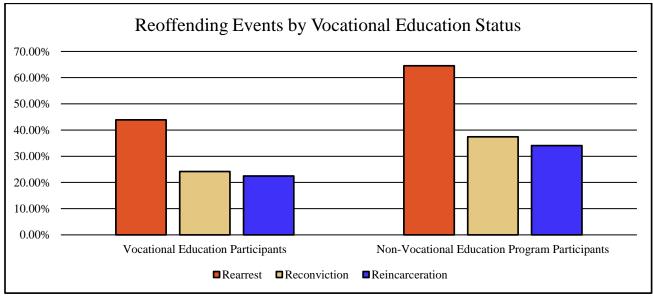


Figure 37. Reoffending Events by Vocational Education Status

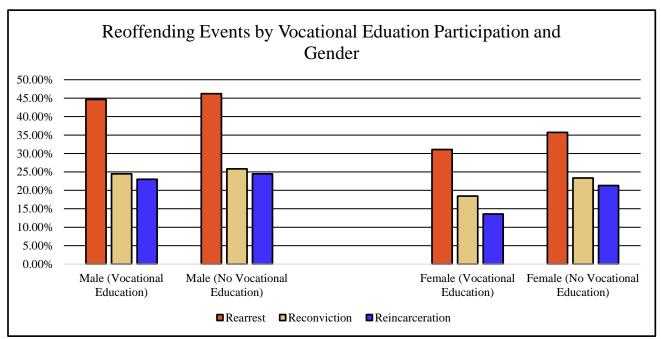


Figure 38. Reoffending Events by Vocational Education Participation and Gender

Psychoeducational Drug Treatment

The DOC provides addiction treatment services to its substance use disorder IP population through programs including Living in Balance (LIB), Engaging the Family (ETF), Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and Gamblers Anonymous (GA).^{4,5,6}

The goals of the programs are to strengthen marriage and family relationships of IPs, enhance the well-being of children of incarcerated parents, and motivate and prepare incarcerated parents to maintain drug and crime free lifestyles. Participation is focused on IPs who will serve the entirety of their sentence behind bars.

Nearly 21% of all IPs released in 2019 participated in psychoeducational drug treatment during their stay of incarceration. Alcoholics Anonymous was the most attended psychoeducational drug treatment program followed by Narcotics Anonymous. Together, AA and NA comprised 80% of all psychoeducational drug treatment participants.

⁴ Living in Balance (LIB) is a research-based, psychoeducational program that provides treatment sessions for persons who abuse or are addicted to alcohol and other drugs. Participation is dependent on sentence length and RCRP eligibility.

⁵ LIB programs are available in all DOC facilities. The Engaging the Family (ETF) program engages the spouse/committed partner and children of incarcerated persons as allies in the rehabilitation process.

⁶ ETF is available in seven DOC facilities. Alcoholics Anonymous is available in all DOC facilities, Narcotics Anonymous is available in two facilities, and Gamblers Anonymous is available in one facility.

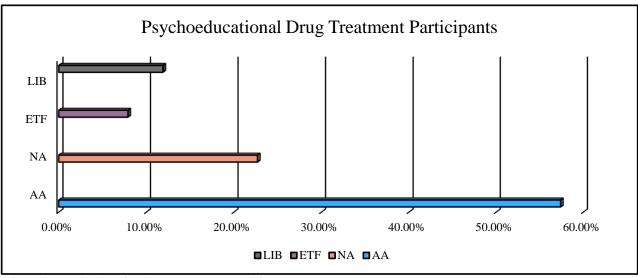


Figure 39. Psychoeducational Drug Treatment Participants

The rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration percentages for psychoeducational drug treatment participants were 46%, 24% and 26%. When exploring recidivism percentages further, 10% of psychoeducational drug treatment participants were readmitted for a new commitment and 89% were readmitted for a CSV.

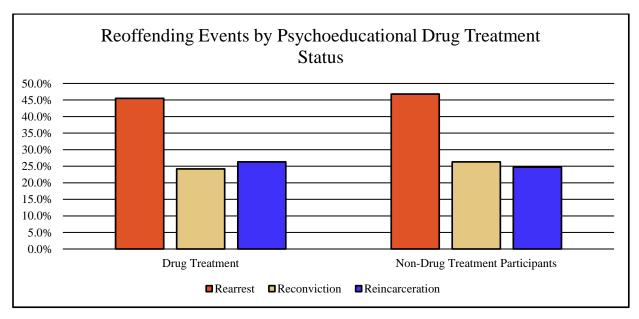


Figure 40. Reoffending Events by Psychoeducational Drug Treatment Status

Rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration percentages varied across treatment participation and gender. Rearrest, and reconviction percentages among male releases who did not participate in a drug treatment program had higher reoffending percentages (48% and 27%) than male releases who participated in a drug treatment program (44% and 23%) however, male drug treatment participants had slightly higher reincarceration percentages than non-participants (26% vs. 25%). The opposite was observed among female releases. Female releases who participated in a drug treatment program had higher percentages of rearrests (37%) and reincarceration (23%) than non-participants (34% and 18%).

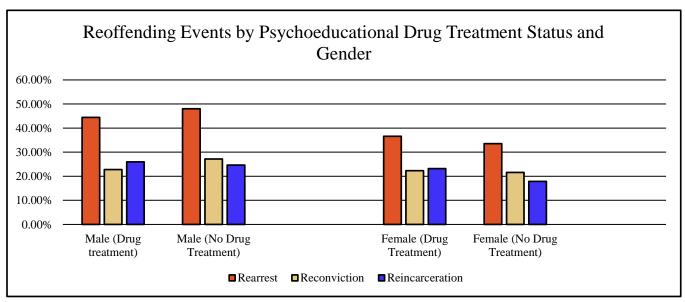


Figure 41. Reoffending Events by Psychoeducational Drug Treatment Status and Gender



This report is the thirteenth in a series of reports measuring various outcomes relative to New Jersey's adult offender populations and meets a legislative mandate. To this end, the New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC) and the New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) examined the recidivism of a select cohort of adult releases from the custody of DOC in calendar year 2019. In addition to measuring overall recidivism levels, this report describes adult cohort characteristics between male and female releases.

For this iteration of the report, recidivism is defined as the first reincarceration event after release from a DOC facility. Data on rearrests and reconvictions after release from a DOC facility are included in this report as supplemental measures of reoffending. A three-year follow-up period was utilized for all analyses including reincarcerations due to community supervision violations and new commitments.

For the 2019 cohort, 25% of releases recidivated, 47% were rearrested, and 26% were reconvicted within three-years of release. Overall, these percentages are lower than national estimates. However, it should be noted that the outcomes of the 2019 release cohort, which were examined from the period of January 1, 2019 thru December 31, 2022, were likely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, within the New Jersey Judiciary, restrictions were in place limiting in-person trials and on-location services from March 2020 thru August 2021, creating a backlog of trial court cases. The extent of the pandemic's effect on recidivism post-release remains unknown until post-release outcomes of future release cohorts are analyzed.

The data suggest that efforts to support and provide resources for individuals during their reintegration process may be yielding positive results, though there is room for further improvement, particularly in the immediate months following release. The initial six months following release are critical for the successful reintegration of individuals who have recently been incarcerated. Research suggests that the transition from the highly structured environment of prison to the freedom of society can be overwhelming, leading some individuals to revert to criminal behavior or violate the conditions of their parole. Approximately 58% of releases recidivated within the first 12 months of release.

Demographic patterns observed among individuals who recidivated highlight the disproportionate representation of males and the increased vulnerability to recidivate among those released at a younger age, particularly those under 24 years old. Additionally, the data suggests that the 30-39 age group may represent a critical period during which a significant portion of recidivism occurs.

⁷ Lahdon, T. (2023, November 27). Justice matters Newsletter BJA. Bureau of Justice. https://bja.ojp.gov/news/justice-matters/desk-bja-november-

 $^{2023 \#: \}sim : text = A\% 20 U.S.\% 20 Department\% 20 of\% 20 Justice, formerly\% 20 in carcerated\% 20 people\% 20 were\% 20 rearrested \% 20 people\% 20 were\% 20 rearrested \% 20 people\% 20 were\% 20 rearrested \% 20 people\% 20 were\% 20 people\% 20 were\% 20 people\% 20 people\%$

⁸ Biryukov, N. (2021, August 2). N.J. courts to fully re-open amid stunning backlogs, broad vacancies [Review of N.J. courts to fully re-open amid stunning backlogs, broad vacancies]. New Jersey Monitor. https://newjerseymonitor.com/briefs/n-j-courts-to-fully-re-open-amid-stunning-backlogs-broad-vacancies/#:~:text=By%3A%20Nikita%20Biryukov%20%2D%20August%202%2C%202021%207%3A00%20am &text=State%20courts%20resumed%20holding%20in,will%20be%20lifted%20starting%20today.

⁹ Haney,C (2001,November 30). The Psychological Impact of Incarceration: Implications for Post-Prison Adjustment. https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/psychological-impact-incarceration-implications-post-prison-adjustment-0.

This report also highlights the prevalence of community supervision violations as a significant contributing factor to recidivism among both males and females who were previously released from a DOC facility. While violent offenses accounted for a smaller portion of reincarcerations for males, the overwhelming majority of reincarcerations for both genders stemmed from violations of parole or probation conditions. This underscores the importance of tailoring rehabilitation programs, support services, and reentry strategies to address the specific needs and circumstances of different gender groups who are under supervision at release.

The DOC aims to not only protect the public by operating safe, secure and humane correctional facilities, but also provide proper classification, appropriate treatment of incarcerated persons and offer programs in the areas of education, behavior modification and substance use treatment that promote successful reentry into society. Specifically, the Department has provided those in DOC custody with licensed substance use disorder treatment and other programming to prevent substance use and relapse. The DOC has worked closely with the Department of Human Services to tailor licensing standards to a correctional setting, thus providing incarcerated persons with the same treatment opportunities available in the community. Licensed drug treatment programs are available at eight RCRP facilities, and, after an extensive planning and renovation process, Mid-State Correctional Facility reopened in April 2017 as the first licensed, clinically driven drug treatment prison operated by the DOC.

The Department has also continued its efforts to provide educational services to those in custody with great success. While completing their sentences, large numbers of incarcerated persons are earning their high school and equivalency diplomas and associate degrees. The Department offers a wide range of vocational programming and has issued increasing numbers of industry-based vocational certificates so that incarcerated persons are better prepared for meaningful employment once released. Finally, as IPs complete their sentences and prepare to return to the community, they receive assistance in obtaining necessary identification documents. Assistance is also provided in such areas as family reunification and linkages to housing as well as other important resources.

In this regard, the results of the present analyses support the missions of the New Jersey Department of Corrections. Residential Community Reintegration Program completion was related to decreased percentages of recidivism post-release. Incarcerated persons who participated in psychoeducational drug treatment programming had lower percentages of rearrest and reconviction after release. Further, vocational education participants experienced decreases in rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration compared non-vocational education participants. The DOC will continue to examine these data to ensure that the Department is making a positive difference in the lives of incarcerated persons as they prepare for reentry, resulting in improved public safety in communities throughout New Jersey and beyond.

Appendix



Figures

- Figure 1. Age at Time of Release 2019 Release Cohort
- Figure 2. Race Categories by Gender
- Figure 3. Ethnicity Categories by Gender
- Figure 4. Education Level by Gender
- Figure 5. Prior DOC Admissions by Gender
- Figure 6. Booking Offense by Gender
- Figure 7. MMT Status by Gender: Male Releases
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