

Arkansas Department of Community Correction

Parolee Recidivism
FY 2005 through FY 2007



February 2010

Background and Methodology

The Department of Community Correction (DCC) has been measuring recidivism of offenders for several years as a performance measurement of the programs operating under its authority. Recidivism reflects the degree to which individuals under DCC supervision re-offend in a three year period while in the community.

By definition, recidivism occurs when an adult parolee is incarcerated in an ADC prison or DCC community correctional facility (other than a technical violator center) within a 3 year period of time under DCC community supervision.

DCC program evaluation staff refined a structured query language (SQL) program to review the regular parolee or probation plus offender populations for a recidivist event. This allows the entire database to be examined for a recidivist event.

Using this SQL, staff identified a total parolee population of 21,208 offenders who were admitted (had an intake) during the study period, July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2007.

Study Groups and Cohorts

Study Groups

DCC studies individual parolees active in a three-year window of time to determine whether they have been incarcerated. Year boundaries conform to State fiscal years beginning in July and ending in June.

The 2009 parolee study group included parolees who were admitted between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2008. When two or more intakes occurred in the study period, the earliest was chosen.

Intake Cohorts

In addition to race and sex, recidivism findings are analyzed by the year in which the recidivist was first admitted to parolee (had an intake) within the bounds of the three-year period under study. The group in which the parolee's intake occurred is known as his intake cohort. These groupings allow recidivism findings to be analyzed according to known circumstances, such as staffing changes, that could have had an impact on recidivism.

Parolee Intake Cohort Years

Table 1
Study Group by
Fiscal Year of Intake

	Number	Percent
FY 05	7,314	34.5%
FY 06	7,270	34.3%
FY 07	6,624	31.2%
Total	21,208	100%

Recidivism

The overall recidivism rate for the adult parolee population is 26.6%.

Table 2
Parolee Recidivism

	Number	Percent
Total Number of Non-recidivists	15,561	73.4%
Recidivists within 3 Years	5,647	26.6%
Total	21,208	100%

Recidivism by Gender

Table 3
Total Parolees and Recidivists by Gender

	Total Population Number	Percent of Total Population	Number of Recidivists	Percent of Gender Recidivating	Percent of Total Number of Recidivists
Males	18,325	86.4%	5,229	28.5%	92.6%
Females	2,883	13.6%	418	14.5%	7.4%
Total	21,208	100.0%	5,647	26.6%	100.0

Parolee Recidivism by Racial Demographics

Table 4
Parolee Racial Demographics
Number and Percent

	Total Population Number	Percent of Total Population	Number of Recidivists	Percent of Total Recidivists
Asian	59	0.3%	19	0.3%
Black	7,960	37.5%	2,500	44.3%
Cuban	6	>0.0%	1	>0.0%
Hispanic	330	1.6%	63	1.1%
Native American Indian	33	0.2%	4	0.1%
Mexican	32	0.2%	7	0.1%
White	12,769	60.2%	3,051	54.0%
Other and Unknown	19	<0.1%	2	>0.0%
Total	21,208	100.0%	5,647	100.0%

Parolee Recidivism by Cohort Years

Table 5
 Total Number of Parolees and Recidivists
 By Cohort Fiscal Year of Intake

	Number of Parolee's	Percent of Total Parolee's	Number of Recidivists	Percent of Total Recidivists	Percent of FY Intakes Recidivated
FY 05	7,314	34.5%	1,707	30.2%	23.3%
FY 06	7,270	34.3%	2,266	40.1%	32.2%
FY 07	6,624	31.2%	1,674	29.6%	25.3%
Total	21,208	100.0%	5,647	100.0%	26.6%

Parolee Recidivism by Intake Cohort (3 Year Study Period)

Number of Recidivists	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Within 1 st Year	763	518	426	1,707
Between 1 st and 2 nd Year	801	784	681	2,266
Between 2 nd and 3 rd Year	571	604	499	1,674
Total Recidivists	2,135	1,906	1,606	5,647
Total Parolees	7,314	7,270	6,624	21,208
Percent Recidivists (of all Parolees)	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Within 1 st Year	10.4%	7.1%	6.4%	8.0%
Between 1 st and 2 nd Year	11.0%	10.8%	10.3%	10.7%
Between 2 nd and 3 rd Year	7.8%	8.3%	7.5%	7.9%
Total Pct that Recidivated	29.2%	26.2%	24.2%	26.6%

Parolee Recidivism by Intake Cohort

Chart 1
Percent of Recidivists by Fiscal Year of Intake Cohort
By Time between Intake and Incarceration

