Introduction
This report explores the recidivism rates for prisoners released from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) during calendar year 2004. For a full description of study methodology, please see Recidivism Study: Two-Year Post Release Report.

Definition of a Recidivist:
- An offender who was released from sentence at RIDOC, and
- Who was returned to RIDOC as a sentenced inmate (unless otherwise noted).

The Release Cohort
There were 3105 offenders released in CY04, accounting for 3324 distinct release events. The majority of offenders in the release group were white (56%), male (88%), and averaged 33 years of age.

Two-thirds of those released had served time for a nonviolent (42%) or drug-related crime (24%).

The median length of sentence was 152 days, or about 5 months. As a result of the relatively short sentences, the most common manner of release was expiration of sentence (83%). Sentenced offenders are released from all facilities and from Home Confinement.

Readmissions
At 3 years post-release, 54% of offenders have returned to RIDOC with a new sentence and 64% have returned as awaiting trial detainees.

Summary of Findings
- Of the release cohort, a total of 32% returned under sentence within 1 year, 46% by 2 years and 54% within 3 years of release.
- Offenders released from higher security levels were more likely to recidivate than those from community-based or minimum security levels.
- Offenders with higher levels of education were less likely to return to prison.
- Non-violent offenders had the greatest likelihood of recidivating and spent the least amount of time in the community, compared to other offenders.
- Completion of institutional drug treatment had no impact on likelihood of recidivism or time spent in the community.

Correlates of Readmission
The following variables were significantly correlated to recommitment rates: custody level at release, offense type, offender education level, age, and race.

Offenders, regardless of time served, were more likely to return if they left from a medium or maximum facility versus a minimum or community-based security.

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