



Rhode Island Department of Corrections

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Planning & Research Unit



2004 Recidivism Study: Three-year Follow Up

October 2010

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.

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.

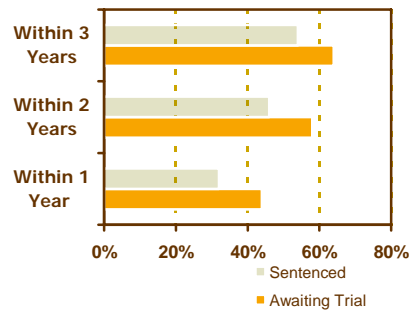
Two-thirds of those released had served time for a nonviolent (42%) or drug-related crime (24%).

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.

Figure 1. Recidivism rates at years 1-3.



Forty-six percent (46%) of females and 55% of males were recommitted within 3 years, not a statistically significant difference based on sex of the offender.

The majority (90%) of released offenders have probation following release. Not surprisingly, nearly half (48%) of all sentenced commitments are for probation violations (30% technical, 62% new charge, 8% undetermined).

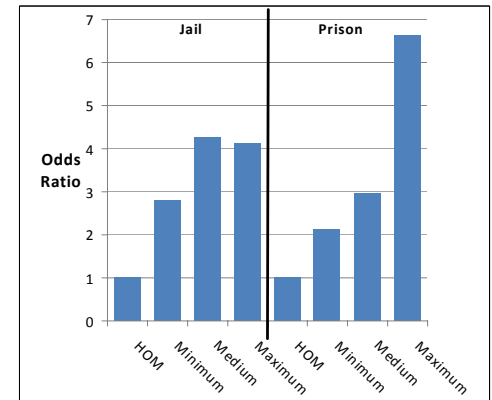
Fifty-seven percent (57%) of "prison" offenders (i.e., released after serving greater than 1 year) returned, compared to 53% of "jail" offenders (i.e., those serving 1 year or less).

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.

Figure 2. Custody level and likelihood of recommitment.



Non-violent offenders had a greater likelihood of return than their counterparts.

African-Americans had higher recidivism rates than Whites and Hispanics.

Both age and education were negatively correlated to recidivism rates.

Time in the Community

The following variables were correlated to time spent in the community post-release: custody level at release, offense type, and offender age.

Compared to those released from home confinement, offenders released from medium or maximum custody levels were 45% less likely to remain in the community for 6 months.

Non-violent and young offenders were less likely to remain in the community, for at least 6 months, compared to others.