

Recidivism in Rhode Island: Past and Present

In years past, the process of generating recidivism statistics was entirely manual; it involved tracking each released inmate in Infacts to determine if s/he returned to prison. The process was extremely labor-intensive and the data collected were rudimentary. Below is a summary of the data generated by the previous recidivism study:

1995 Release Cohort:

- No awaiting trial data were collected as part of the 1995 study.
- Of all the sentenced offenders released in 1995, 34% returned to prison under sentence status within 12 months of release. Fifty percent (50%) had returned within 3 years of release.

Since the Infacts enhancements in August of 2003, our capacity for producing recidivism statistics has dramatically improved. Below is a brief summary of our current recidivism study:

2004 Release Cohort:

- Returns to Awaiting Trial Status: Of the sentenced offenders released in 2004, 46% returned to prison as pretrial detainees within 12 months of release.
 - Average time from release to re-commitment was 3.4 months.
 - 44% of all females released were recommitted and 46% of all males released were recommitted.
 - The majority of offenders are returned to pretrial status because they have committed a new crime (41%) or they have violated probation (30%).
- Returns to Sentence Status: Of the sentenced offenders released in 2004, 30% returned to prison under sentence status within 12 months of release. *Three year follow-up data will not be available until after the close of calendar year 2007.*
 - Average time from release to re-sentencing was 5.5 months.
 - 27% of all females released were re-sentenced and 30% of all males were re-sentenced.
 - The majority of offenders are re-sentenced because they have violated probation (48%) or committed a new crime (42%).
- The Impact of Substance Abuse Programming on Recidivism: We identified 384 offenders who received substance abuse treatment prior to release in 2004. Of this group, only 17% returned to prison under sentence within one year, compared to 30% of the total population. *Although preliminary, these data support the notion that drug treatment may be one of the most effective interventions for reducing recidivism. However, data system limitations prevent analysis of known risk factors (e.g., age at first arrest, criminal history) which could also be impacting an offender's likelihood of success in the community.*

This document was created to summarize the Recidivism Presentation given by the Planning & Research Unit on 10/24/06. If you have questions about the information contained herein, please contact Bree Derrick, Principal Planner in the RIDOC Planning & Research Unit at bree.derrick@doc.ri.gov or 462-1622.