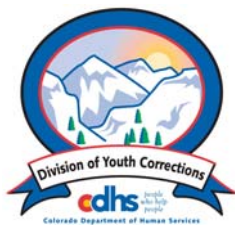


Recidivism Evaluation of Committed Youth Discharged in Fiscal Year 2005-06



Colorado Department of Human Services
Office of Children, Youth and Family Services
Division of Youth Corrections

Working with Colorado Communities to Achieve Justice

January 1, 2008

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Division of Youth Corrections**



January, 2008

<http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc>

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QUICK REFERENCE TABLES

Pre-Discharge Cohort Comparison

	Pre-Discharge Recidivism FY 2004-05 Discharges	Pre-Discharge Recidivism FY 2005-06 Discharges	Direction
Overall Recidivism Rate	• 39.1%	• 38.5%	• - 0.6
Most Serious Felony Filing Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (14.8%) • Property: (23.1%) • Drug: (6.4%) • Weapon: (6.8%) • Other: (18.4%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (8.9%) • Property: (14.3%) • Drug: (6.7%) • Weapon: (8.4%) • Other: (30.7%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 5.9 • - 8.8 • + 0.3 • + 1.6 • + 12.3
Most Serious Misdemeanor Filing Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (13.2%) • Property: (6.8%) • Drug: (0.0%) • Weapon: (0.6%) • Other: (9.9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (11.7%) • Property: (3.9%) • Drug: (0.8%) • Weapon: (0.8%) • Other: (13.7%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 1.5 • - 2.9 • + 0.8 • + 0.2 • + 3.8
Most Serious Felony Filing Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F1: (0.0%) • F2: (0.0%) • F3: (5.2%) • F4: (21.2%) • F5: (22.2%) • F6: (20.9%) • F-Unclass: (0.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F1: (0.3%) • F2: (0.0%) • F3: (6.7%) • F4: (17.9%) • F5: (22.6%) • F6: (20.9%) • F-Unclass: (0.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 0.3 • no chng • + 1.5 • - 3.3 • + 0.4 • no chng • + 0.6
Most Serious Misdemeanor Filing Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M1: (5.5%) • M2: (4.0%) • M3: (18.8%) • M-Unclass: (2.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M1: (8.1%) • M2: (4.5%) • M3: (16.2%) • M-Unclass: (2.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 2.6 • + 0.5 • - 2.6 • no chng
Finding For Most Serious Felony or Misdemeanor Filing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guilty: (64.6%) • No Finding of Guilt: (32.6%) • Deferred: (1.5%) • Other: (1.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guilty: (59.8%) • No Finding of Guilt: (36.6%) • Deferred: (2.5%) • Other: (1.1%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 4.8 • + 4.0 • + 1.0 • - 0.1
Finding For Any Felony or Misdemeanor Filing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guilty: (86.5%) • No Finding of Guilt: (11.1%) • Deferred: (1.2%) • Other: (1.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guilty: (98.9%) • No Finding of Guilt: (1.1%) • Deferred: (0.0%) • Other: (0.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 12.4 • - 10.0 • - 1.2 • - 1.2
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male: (40.1%) • Female: (31.5%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male: (40.1%) • Female: (29.7%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no chng • - 1.8
Ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African-American: (41.8%) • Hispanic: (44.1%) • White: (35.4%) • Other: (23.8%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African-American: (41.6%) • Hispanic: (39.5%) • White: (37.0%) • Other: (33.3%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 0.2 • - 4.6 • + 1.6 • + 9.5
DYC Management Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central: (40.7%) • Northeast: (37.2%) • Southern: (43.1%) • Western: (32.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central: (39.4%) • Northeast: (37.4%) • Southern: (42.3%) • Western: (31.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 1.3 • + 0.2 • - 0.8 • - 0.6
Sentence Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory: (45.3%) • Non-Mandatory: (38.1%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory: (43.5%) • Non-Mandatory: (37.4%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 1.8 • - 0.7

Pre-Discharge Cohort Comparison (continued)

	Pre-Discharge Recidivism FY 2004-05 Discharges	Pre-Discharge Recidivism FY 2005-06 Discharges	Direction
Sentence Type2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Mandatory: (38.6%) • Mandatory: (45.3%) • Repeat: (35.2%) • Violent: (50.0%) • Aggravated: (18.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Mandatory: (37.1%) • Mandatory: (43.5%) • Repeat: (42.9%) • Violent: (20.0%) • Aggravated: (31.3%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 1.5 • - 1.8 • + 7.7 • - 30.0 • + 13.1
Original Commitment Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (38.1%) • Property: (39.7%) • Drug: (33.3%) • Weapon: (23.8%) • Other: (52.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (37.1%) • Property: (38.5%) • Drug: (32.4%) * • Weapon: (25.9%) • Other: (58.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 1.0 • - 1.2 • - 0.9 • + 2.1 • + 6.2
Number of Recommitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None: (25.9%) • One: (75.7%) * • Two or More: (88.9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None: (26.3%) • One: (68.5%) * • Two or More: (92.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 0.4 • - 7.2 • + 3.7
Type of Pre-Discharge Recidivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Commitment Only: (44.9%) • On Parole Only: (41.6%) • Residential Commitment & On Parole: (13.5%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Commitment Only: (49.4%) • On Parole Only: (37.2%) • Residential Commitment & On Parole: (13.4%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 4.5 • - 4.4 • - 0.1
Location of Recidivism On Parole (Pre-Discharge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a DYC facility: (12.8%) • Not in DYC facility: (82.7%) • Both: (4.5%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a DYC facility: (5.5%) • Not in DYC facility: (88.4%) • Both: (6.1%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 7.3 • + 5.7 • + 1.6
Number of Detention Admissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero to Two: (30.8%) • Three or More: (41.4%) * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero to Two: (25.8%) * • Three or More: (42.3%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 5.0 • + 0.9
Number of Prior Adjudications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None: (34.7%) • One: (39.3%) • Two or more: (41.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None: (28.8%) • One: (40.2%) * • Two or more: (42.9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 5.9 • + 0.9 • + 1.3
Age at First Adjudication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14.0 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14.0 years * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no chng
Prior Out-of-Home Placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1 (recidivists) * • 2.3 (non-recidivists) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.6 (recidivists) * • 1.9 (non-recidivists) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 0.5 • -0.4
Commitment Classification (CCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community: (30.9%) • Staff-Secure: (39.7%) * • Secure: (45.4%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community: (36.0%) • Staff-Secure: (41.7%) • Secure: (37.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 5.1 • + 2.0 • - 8.4
Assessed Risk Score (CYO-LSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low: (33.6%) • Medium: (42.6%) • High: (40.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low: (31.0%) • Medium: (38.9%) * • High: (44.9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 2.6 • - 3.7 • + 4.9
Sex Offenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex Offenders: (36.0%) • Non Sex Offenders: (39.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex Offenders: (43.8%) • Non Sex Offenders: (37.7%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 7.8 • - 1.9
Substance Abuse Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention: (36.6%) • Intervention: (40.3%) • Treatment: (38.9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention: (42.2%) • Intervention: (36.2%) • Treatment: (39.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 5.6 • - 4.1 • + 0.1
Number of Escapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.23 (recidivists) • 0.59 (non-recidivists) * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.32 (recidivists) • 0.53 (non-recidivists) * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -0.1 • -0.09

* Indicates group differences are statistically significant for that particular study

Post-Discharge Cohort Comparison

	Post-Discharge Recidivism FY 2004-05 Discharges	Post-Discharge Recidivism FY 2005-06 Discharges	Direction
Overall Recidivism Rate	• 37.9%	• 35.5%	• - 2.4
Most Serious Felony Filing Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (9.6%) • Property: (25.7%) • Drug: (13.3%) • Weapon: (13.3%) • Other: (12.7%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (5.8%) • Property: (18.2%) • Drug: (12.7%) • Weapon: (9.7%) • Other: (25.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 3.8 • - 7.5 • - 0.6 • - 3.6 • + 12.5
Most Serious Misdemeanor Filing Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (8.6%) • Property: (4.8%) • Drug: (0.3%) • Weapon: (1.6%) • Other: (10.1%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (7.9%) • Property: (3.6%) • Drug: (0.9%) • Weapon: (0.6%) • Other: (15.5%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 0.7 • - 1.2 • + 0.6 • - 1.0 • + 5.4
Most Serious Felony Filing Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F1: (0.0%) • F2: (0.3%) • F3: (1.6%) • F4: (16.8%) • F5: (23.8%) • F6: (31.7%) • F-Unclass: (0.3%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F1: (0.0%) • F2: (0.6%) • F3: (3.6%) • F4: (17.9%) • F5: (22.4%) • F6: (26.7%) • F-Unclass: (0.3%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no chng • + 0.3 • + 2.0 • + 1.1 • - 1.4 • - 5.0 • no chng
Most Serious Misdemeanor Filing Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M1: (5.4%) • M2: (6.0%) • M3: (11.7%) • M-Unclass: (2.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M1: (3.6%) • M2: (7.0%) • M3: (12.1%) • M-Unclass: (5.8%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 1.8 • + 1.0 • + 0.4 • + 3.6
Finding For Most Serious Felony or Misdemeanor Filing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guilty: (50.2%) • No Finding of Guilt: (35.9%) • Deferred: (6.3%) • Other: (7.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guilty: (47.0%) • No Finding of Guilt: (38.8%) • Deferred: (4.2%) • Other: (10.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 3.2 • + 2.9 • - 2.1 • + 2.4
Finding For Any Felony or Misdemeanor Filing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guilty: (80.2%) • No Finding of Guilt: (11.2%) • Deferred: (1.0%) • Other: (7.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guilty: (99.4%) • No Finding of Guilt: (0.3%) • Deferred: (0.0%) • Other: (0.3%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 19.2 • - 10.9 • - 1.0 • - 7.3
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male: (40.1%) • Female: (20.7%) * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male: (37.7%) • Female: (23.2%) * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 2.4 • + 2.5
Ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African-American: (44.0%) • Hispanic: (40.2%) • White: (34.7%) • Other: (28.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African-American: (36.1%) • Hispanic: (36.0%) • White: (35.1%) • Other: (33.3%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 7.9 • - 4.2 • + 0.4 • + 4.7
DYC Management Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central: (35.0%) • Northeast: (44.5%) • Southern: (39.9%) • Western: (33.9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central: (34.2%) • Northeast: (37.4%) • Southern: (38.1%) • Western: (32.5%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 0.8 • - 7.1 • - 1.8 • - 1.4
Sentence Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory: (37.6%) • Non-Mandatory: (38.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory: (46.3%) • Non-Mandatory: (33.0%) * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 8.7 • - 5.0
Sentence Type2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Mandatory: (36.9%) • Mandatory: (37.6%) • Repeat: (44.4%) • Violent: (50.0%) • Aggravated: (54.5%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Mandatory: (32.8%) • Mandatory: (46.3%) • Repeat: (40.3%) • Violent: (20.0%) • Aggravated: (12.5%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 4.1 • + 8.7 • - 4.1 • - 30.0 • - 42.0

Post-Discharge Cohort Comparison (continued)

	Post-Discharge Recidivism FY 2004-05 Discharges	Post-Discharge Recidivism FY 2005-06 Discharges	Direction
Original Commitment Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (35.9%) • Property: (40.6%) • Drug: (36.5%) • Weapon: (52.4%) • Other: (32.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (33.5%) • Property: (36.0%) • Drug: (36.5%) • Weapon: (25.9%) • Other: (46.3%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 2.4 • - 4.6 • no chng • - 26.5 • + 14.3
Number of Recommitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None: (35.7%) • One: (42.8%) * • Two or More: (50.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None: (35.2%) • One: (36.4%) • Two or More: (37.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 0.5 • - 6.4 • - 13.0
Parole Adjustment at Discharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor/Unsatisfactory: (45.6%) • Satisfactory/Excellent: (34.4%) • Unknown: (25.9%) * • No Parole: (42.1%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor/Unsatisfactory: (43.9%) • Satisfactory/Excellent: (32.1%) • Unknown: (36.4%) * • No Parole: (33.3%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 1.7 • - 2.3 • + 10.5 • - 8.8
Job/School Status at Discharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Employed or Attending School: (44.2%) * • Employed or in School at Time of Discharge: (35.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Employed or Attending School: (37.4%) • Employed or in School at Time of Discharge: (34.4%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 6.8 • - 1.2
Number of Detention Admissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero to Two: (24.7%) • Three or More: (41.6%) * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero to Two: (27.7%) • Three or More: (37.8%) * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 3.0 • - 3.8
Number of Prior Adjudications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None: (29.8%) • One: (39.7%) * • Two or more: (41.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None: (31.3%) • One: (31.0%) * • Two or more: (41.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 1.5 • - 8.7 • - 0.6
Age at First Adjudication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.9 years * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14.3 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 0.4
Commitment Classification (CCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community: (29.0%) • Staff-Secure: (40.3%) * • Secure: (41.9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community: (36.7%) • Staff-Secure: (37.2%) • Secure: (31.7%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 7.7 • - 3.1 • - 10.2
Assessed Risk Score (CYO-LSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low: (34.0%) • Medium: (43.1%) * • High: (33.5%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low: (31.8%) • Medium: (32.9%) * • High: (43.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 2.2 • - 10.2 • + 9.5
Sex Offenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex Offender: (31.5%) • Non Sex Offenders (38.9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex Offenders: (25.0%) • Non Sex Offenders: (37.0%) * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 6.5 • - 1.9
Substance Abuse Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention: (31.3%) • Intervention: (42.5%) • Treatment: (36.8%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention: (37.0%) • Intervention: (34.3%) • Treatment: (35.9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + 5.7 • - 8.2 • - 0.9
Number of Escapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.00 (recidivists) • 0.74 (non-recidivists) * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.93 (recidivists) • 0.78 (non-recidivists) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - 0.07 • + 0.04

* Indicates group differences are statistically significant for that particular study

Ridge View Section Results

	Ridge View	Other DYC Males	Location
Pre-Discharge Recidivism*	• 31.4%	• 42.1%	Table 21
Post-Discharge Recidivism	• 38.8%	• 36.9%	Table 21
Ethnicity *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African-American: (20.9%) • Hispanic: (41.2%) • White: (32.6%) • Other: (5.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African-American: (15.0%) • Hispanic: (32.0%) • White: (50.6%) • Other: (2.4%) 	Table 19
Age at Commitment	• 16.0	• 15.9	Page 50
Commitment LOS*	• 27.1 months	• 24.4 months	Page 54
Residential LOS*	• 20.3 months	• 17.4 months	Page 54
Commitment Offense *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (32.3%) • Property: (50.5%) • Other: (17.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person: (44.1%) • Property: (38.7%) • Other: (17.2%) 	Figure 16
Commitment Classification (CCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community: (31.1%) • Staff-Secure: (45.8%) • Secure: (23.1%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community: (31.9%) • Staff-Secure: (38.6%) • Secure: (29.5%) 	Figure 17
CYO-LSI Risk Assessment*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Risk (20.0%) • Moderate Risk (51.4%) • High Risk (28.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Risk (33.7%) • Moderate Risk (39.3%) • High Risk (27.0%) 	Figure 18
Number of Prior Adjudications *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None: (15.1 %) • One: (32.3%) • Two or more: (52.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None: (27.7%) • One: (29.2%) • Two or more: (43.1%) 	Figure 19
Number of Detention Admissions *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero to Two: (17.5%) • Three or More: (82.5%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero to Two: (27.9%) • Three or More: (72.1%) 	Figure 20
DYC Management Region and Pre-Discharge Recidivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central: (30.7%) • Northeast: (36.0%) • Southern: (30.4%) • Western: (25.0%) 	N/A	Table 22
DYC Management Region and Post-Discharge Recidivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central: (37.3%) • Northeast: (40.0%) • Southern: (40.6%) • Western: (39.3%) 	N/A	Table 22
Parole Adjustment at Discharge and Post-Discharge Recidivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor/Unsatisfactory: (44.3%) • Satisfactory/Excellent: (35.0%) • Unknown: (75.0%) • No Parole: (60.0%) 	N/A	Table 23
Job/School Status at Discharge and Post-Discharge Recidivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Employed or Attending School: (40.0%) • Employed or in School at Time of Discharge: (37.7%) 	N/A	Table 24
Graduation Status and Pre-Discharge Recidivism *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduated: (27.0%) • Did not Graduate: (48.5%) 	N/A	Table 25
Graduation Status and Post-Discharge Recidivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduated: (37.5%) • Did not Graduate: (44.1%) 	N/A	Table 25
Escapes and Pre-Discharge Recidivism *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.13 (recidivists) • 0.50 (non-recidivists) 	N/A	Page 57

Ridge View Section Results (continued)

	Ridge View	Other DYC Males	Location
Recommitments and Pre-Discharge Recidivism *	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None: (25.1%)• One: (39.4%)• Two or more: (80.0%)	N/A	Page 57

* Indicates group differences are statistically significant for that particular study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Division of Youth Corrections (DYC) submits annual reports of recidivism outcomes on committed youth. The current report is submitted in response to three separate legislative mandates:

- 1) Footnote 84 of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08 Long Bill (HB07-239)
- 2) Section 19-2-411.5, C.R.S, the legislation authorizing the construction and operation of the Ridge View Youth Services Center
- 3) Footnote 85 of the FY 2007-08 Long Bill (HB07-239)

The response to these separate legislative mandates is submitted in this one report because of the similar nature of the requested information.

The Definition of Recidivism

Recidivism is a measure that is often utilized in determining the level of effectiveness for both adult and juvenile justice agencies. Recidivism rates can also communicate the expected level of public safety as offenders are released back into the community. A common goal across justice agencies is to reduce recidivism, so the measure is tracked closely and regularly. Generally speaking, the term “recidivism” refers to the re-occurrence of delinquent or criminal behavior. However, the more specific definition of recidivism utilized by each agency can vary greatly among states and even among justice agencies within a single state. Prior to 1999, the state of Colorado did not have a standardized definition of recidivism used across justice agencies; then, in response to recommendations resulting from a Legislative audit of the criminal justice system, common definitions were established in FY 1999-00. The definitions that were adopted and utilized by DYC for all reports subsequent to the legislative audit are as follows:

Pre-Discharge Recidivism: A filing for a new felony or misdemeanor offense that occurred prior to discharge from NYC.

Post-Discharge Recidivism: A filing for a new felony or misdemeanor offense that occurred within one year following discharge from NYC.

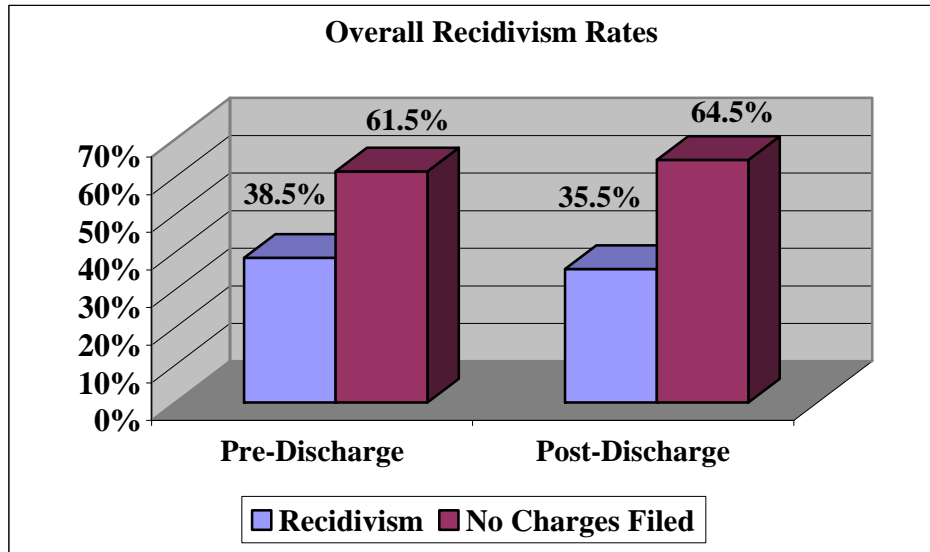
The findings contained in this report are based on an evaluation of youth discharged during FY 2005-06. The term ‘pre-discharge’ is used to identify new offenses filed during the period a youth is on commitment and parole status. For purposes of this report, the period of commitment includes residential out-of-home placement. After a youth leaves residential placement, the period of parole begins. ‘Post-discharge’ recidivism refers to filings for new felony or misdemeanor offenses that occurred up to one year following discharge from the Division.

Like all recidivism studies, NYC’s recidivism study is retrospective in nature. Therefore, each year the recidivism study examines and reports on the recidivism rates of youth that discharged from NYC in the Fiscal Year two years prior. For the current study, the census includes all youth that discharged in FY 2005-06. Because several youth discharged on the last day of FY 2005-06 (June 30, 2006), NYC had to wait until June 30, 2007, to collect recidivism data. This allows each discharged youth a one-year follow-up period. For these reasons, recidivism reports are lagged or retrospective in nature.

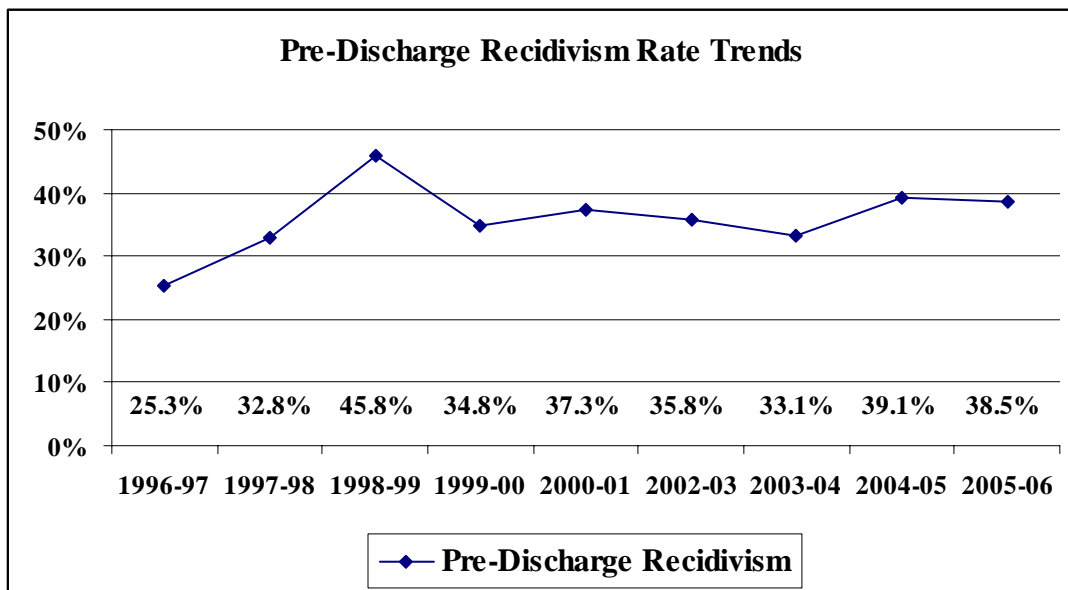
The census for this year’s report includes 929 youth discharged from NYC between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. The current report analyzes pre-discharge and post-discharge recidivism rates using a number of demographic and risk factors (for re-offending) for the entire discharge census, as well as for a sub-group of youth who were placed at the Ridge View facility during their commitment stay (N=325).

Recidivism Results

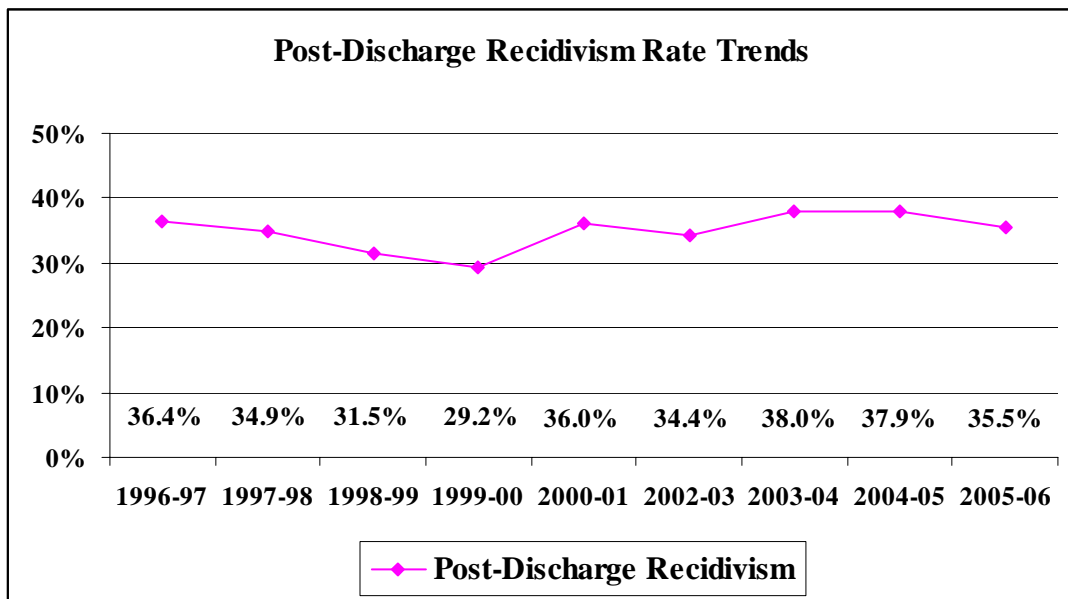
- Thirty-nine percent (38.5%) of youth discharged in FY 2005-06 received a new felony or misdemeanor filing prior to discharge (pre-discharge).
- Thirty-six percent (35.5%) of youth discharged in FY 2005-06 received a new felony or misdemeanor filing within one year following discharge from DYC (post-discharge).



- Trend data show that pre-discharge recidivism rates have remained between 33% and 39% for the past 6 years.



- Post-discharge recidivism rates have remained between 34.4% and 38.0% for the past five years.



- Thirty-seven percent (37.2%) of pre-discharge filings were for offenses that occurred while youth were on parole status. This is down from 41.6% in the previously discharged cohort (FY 2004-05 discharges).
- When looking at pre-discharge recidivism, youth who are committed for “other” offenses (DUIs, trespassing, criminal mischief, and other miscellaneous offenses) are significantly more likely to receive a new filing prior to discharge.
- The number of escapes and recommitments was significantly higher for youth who recidivated (pre-discharge) than for youth who did not.
- Youth who did not have any recommitments during residential placement or parole were significantly less likely to have a new filing for a felony or misdemeanor offense (pre-discharge) than youth that did get recommitted.
- Youth with more prior out-of-home placements were more likely to recidivate pre-discharge than youth with fewer prior placements.
- Age at first adjudication was significantly lower for youth who committed a pre-discharge recidivist act, than for youth that did not.

- The majority of youth who received new filings during commitment or parole, or within one year of commitment discharge, received filings on *multiple* charges. Although approximately half, on average, were found guilty on their *most serious* charge (59.7% pre-discharge and 47.9% post-discharge), nearly 100% were found guilty of at least one charge (98.9% pre-discharge and 99.4% post-discharge).
- Males were more likely to receive both a post-discharge filing for a new offense (37.7%) than females (23.2%), as well as a pre-discharge filing (40.1% males; 29.7% females). This finding conflicts with the risk (of re-offending) analysis of males compared to females. The Colorado Young Offender-Level of Supervision Inventory (CYO-LSI) risk assessment results show that females scored higher on risk to re-offend at time of commitment (33.3% of females were assessed as being high risk compared to 27.7% of males).
- Youth who had more prior contacts with the juvenile justice system (prior detention admissions and prior adjudications) were more likely to recidivate both prior to discharge and following discharge, than youth with no prior contacts.
- Risk scores obtained from the CYO-LSI instrument, as a whole, accurately predicted both pre- and post-discharge recidivism, as youth who scored out as high risk were more likely to recidivate (and vice versa for youth who scored out as low risk).
- When looking at sentence type, youth with mandatory sentences were significantly more likely to recidivate post-discharge (46.3%) when compared to youth with non-mandatory sentences (33.0%).
- Youth who obtained a poor or unsatisfactory parole adjustment rating were significantly more likely to recidivate within one year following discharge (43.9%) than youth with a satisfactory to excellent parole adjustment rating (32.1%).
- Sex offenders, or youth receiving sex offense specific treatment, were less likely to recidivate post-discharge (25.0%) than non-sex offenders (37.0%).
- Receiving a pre-discharge filing was significantly related to re-offending after discharge from DYC. Forty-one percent (41.1%) of the youth who received a new filing prior to discharge received a filing within one year after discharge, compared with only 32.0% of youth that did not recidivate prior to discharge. Although it is interesting that over half (58.9%) of the youth who showed an inclination towards future offending (pre-discharge recidivism) did not re-offend following discharge from the Division.

- Looking at time to first offense (survival analysis), results show that 79.1% of youth in the census were most likely to receive their first post-discharge offense within the first 9 months following discharge. The rate of recidivism for this population increased more rapidly (when compared to a constant rate) during months 3, 7 and 12 following discharge.
- Advances in research methodology resulted in less missing data for this year's study. NYC is confident that with more complete data, the analyses yield more accurate results.

Ridge View Youth Services Center

There were some notable differences in males that were placed in the Ridge View program (N=325) when compared with other NYC males discharged during FY 2005-06 (N=466).

- There were higher rates of minority populations served at Ridge View (67.4%) when compared with all other males discharged from NYC during the same time period (49.4%).
- Youth placed at Ridge View were more likely to have been committed for property offenses (50.5%) than other NYC males (38.7%). Juvenile justice research has shown that property offenders recidivate at higher rates than youth who commit person offenses.
- The Ridge View group had more detention admissions and prior adjudications than the comparison group (i.e., more prior contacts with the juvenile justice system).
- Ridge View youth had both a longer commitment LOS (27.1 months) and residential LOS (20.3 months) than other NYC males (24.4 months; 17.4 months).
- All of these factors suggest that youth in the Ridge View group should be at a higher risk for recidivism than youth in the comparison group, which is comprised of all other males discharged from NYC during FY 2005-06.
- Statistically significant differences were found between the two groups for pre-discharge recidivism rates—Ridge View rates were lower in this area. For post-discharge recidivism, no significant differences were found.
- The pre-discharge recidivism rate for the Ridge View group was 31.4% (compared to 42.1% for other NYC males).
- The post-discharge recidivism rate for the Ridge View group was 38.8% (compared to 36.9% for other NYC males).

- Youth that successfully completed the Ridge View program did have significantly lower pre-discharge recidivism rates than youth who did not graduate from the program.
- Ridge View youth with more escapes were more likely to receive a pre-discharge filing. This outcome is consistent with the Arapahoe county D.A. policy of filing on every youth that escapes from custody.
- Survival analysis shows that 84.1% of youth in the Ridge View group were most likely to receive their first post-discharge offense within the first 9 months following discharge. Recidivism rates for this group increased at a higher pace (when compared to a constant rate) during the first 4 months following discharge. After the 4-month mark, the growth rate remained lower than the constant rate, with the exception of month 7.

Substance Abuse Treatment and Recidivism

- This study suggests that most youth (55.2%) in state secure facilities who have *Treatment* or *Intervention level* substance abuse needs are not receiving amounts of treatment that would be considered clinically appropriate. Division improvement in this area is anticipated in the next reporting cycle, as the FY 2006-07 *discharge cohort* will have had partial benefit of the clinical staff approved by the General Assembly starting in that fiscal year.
- With the exception of a couple of factors, recidivism rates by various groupings did not generate findings that were statistically significant. This can be attributed to small sample sizes.
- If the intent of the footnote is to move beyond a reporting function more towards a cause-and-effect approach, then a more sophisticated research design will be necessary. Using complicated sampling procedures and a quasi-experimental design, the causal connection between substance abuse treatment services and reduced recidivism is possible to make.
- The three main recommendations for the Division in this area include augmenting substance abuse assessment, enhancing the collection of this data, and considering substance abuse treatment needs a dynamic risk factor.

INTRODUCTION

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Corrections (DYC), prepares an annual recidivism report on committed youth. The current report is submitted in response to three separate Legislative mandates:

- 1) Footnote 84 of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08 Long Bill (HB07-239)
- 2) Section 19-2-411.5, C.R.S, the legislation authorizing the construction and operation of the Ridge View Youth Services Center
- 3) Footnote 85 of the FY 2007-08 Long Bill (HB07-239)

The current report is submitted in response to Footnote 84.

Footnote 84 reads:

The Division is requested to continue its efforts to provide outcome data on the effectiveness of its programs. The Division is requested to provide to the Joint Budget Committee, by January 1 of each year, an evaluation of Division placements, community placements, and nonresidential placements. The evaluation should include, but not be limited to, the number of juveniles served, length of stay, and recidivism data per placement.

This report is also intended to serve as DYC's annual response to the legislation authorizing the construction and operation of the Ridge View Youth Services Center (RVYSC) facility¹. This legislation specifies that:

Beginning twelve months after the juvenile facility constructed pursuant to this section begins operations, and annually thereafter, the Division of Youth Corrections shall calculate the recidivism rate for juveniles who complete the program offered by the juvenile facility. In calculating the recidivism rate, the division shall include any juvenile who commits a criminal offense, either as a juvenile or as an adult, within three years after leaving the facility. The Division shall report the recidivism rate to the general assembly.

The Division's annual recidivism report has not traditionally been intended to report on outcomes for individual programs or facilities; however, the Ridge View Youth Services Center

¹ Section 19-2-411.5, C.R.S.

(RVYSC) is a unique treatment option for eligible youth. Most youth committed to NYC receive multiple treatment interventions, both residential and non-residential, throughout their commitment. Therefore, collection of recidivism outcomes, while useful for understanding the rate of re-offending during the commitment period and monitoring re-offending behaviors by specific sub-populations, is not generally useful in measuring the performance of individual programs. However, the Ridge View program is intended as a primary placement option for youth, and youth placed in the Ridge View Youth Services Center tend to have longer lengths of stay in their initial placement and are often paroled directly from Ridge View to the community. Since the youth that are placed in the Ridge View facility tend to have fewer alternative treatment programs that could influence re-offending behaviors, it is appropriate to report outcome measures for this facility that may not be as meaningful if the analyses were conducted for other NYC treatment programs.

In addition to the two mandates specified above, this report is also intended to serve as NYC's response to Footnote 85.

Footnote 85 reads:

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department provide a report to the Joint Budget Committee on January 1, 2008 which tracks and compares recidivism rates between those juveniles receiving drug and alcohol treatment and those not receiving treatment, while sentenced to commitment.

Given the similarity of the information requested in these separate legislative mandates, the Division is submitting this single report in response to the Legislative directives.

Recidivism is used as an overall outcome measure for NYC commitment programs. This report is intended to evaluate recidivism results for all youth discharged from NYC during FY 2005-06. The results of this report are divided into three sections:

1) *DYC Recidivism Rates For Youth Discharged* provides recidivism outcomes based on new filings for charges that occurred prior to discharge from DYC (pre-discharge recidivism) as well as recidivism results based on new filings for felony or misdemeanor offenses that occur within one year following discharge from a DYC commitment sentence (post-discharge recidivism);

2) *Ridge View Recidivism Rates For Youth Discharged* examines pre- and post-discharge recidivism rates for youth in the census who were eligible for and placed at RVYSC during their commitment. To ensure consistency in how the Division reports recidivism data, this report is prepared using the standardized definitions (a one-year follow-up period for the Ridge View group); and

3) *Substance Abuse Treatment and Recidivism* provides a response to Footnote 85.

THE RECIDIVISM MEASURE

Like all recidivism studies, DYC's recidivism study is retrospective in nature. Therefore, each year the recidivism study examines and reports on the recidivism rates of youth that discharged from DYC in the Fiscal Year two years prior. For the current study, the census includes all 929 youth that discharged in FY 2005-06. Because several youth discharged on the last day of the FY (June 30, 2006), DYC had to wait until June 30, 2007, to collect recidivism data. This allows each discharged youth, a one-year follow-up period. For these reasons, recidivism reports are lagged or retrospective in nature.

Before providing the results of this year's study, it is important to outline the history surrounding the use of recidivism as an outcome measure in Colorado².

² See the Appendix for a discussion on recidivism in other states across the nation.

Establishment of a Common Definition in Colorado

In Colorado, efforts to establish a common definition of recidivism dates back to the early 1990's. In FY 1990-91, the Office of the State Auditor reviewed various components of Colorado's juvenile justice system. Among numerous other recommendations, the State Auditor's Office recommended to the Legislature that a common definition of recidivism be established. This recommendation eventually resulted in a footnote to the Long Bill that mandated DYC, the Judicial Department, the Division of Criminal Justice, and the Division of Child Welfare to develop a common definition of recidivism.

In 1998, the Office of the State Auditor revisited the standardized definition of recidivism. In its review of the juvenile probation system, the Office of the State Auditor recommended that the definition of recidivism be less restrictive and incorporate juvenile, as well as adult offenders. Based on this recommendation, the Legislature approved a footnote that required the Judicial Branch to consult with the Departments of Human Services, Public Safety, and Corrections to consider a newly revised and common definition of recidivism. A multi-agency committee was formed and a collaborative report was submitted in June 1999. In this report, a two-tiered definition of recidivism was proposed. The first tier focuses on re-offending during supervision (pre-discharge recidivism), while the second tier looks at the rates of re-offending once an individual successfully completes the term of his or her sentence (post-discharge recidivism). The Division of Youth Corrections adopted these definitions of recidivism as outlined by the multi-agency committee. The definitions used in this report are as follows:

Pre-Discharge Recidivism: A filing for a new felony or misdemeanor offense that occurred prior to discharge from the Division of Youth Corrections.

Post-Discharge Recidivism: A filing for a new felony or misdemeanor offense that occurred within one year following discharge from the Division of Youth Corrections.

This report is the ninth to apply the above definition of recidivism to committed youth served by the Division of Youth Corrections. Keep in mind that while these recidivism definitions may be somewhat standardized for the State of Colorado, Colorado is currently the only state that uses District Attorney *filings* as a measure of recidivism³. Therefore, it is not possible to directly compare recidivism rates from DYC to those of other states' juvenile justice agencies.

Varied Interpretations: Colorado's Definition of Recidivism

Although a multi-agency committee was formed and a collective decision was made regarding the adoption of a common definition in Colorado, measures utilized across justice agencies are still not equivalent or comparable. While it was decided that recidivism reporting would use a two-tiered approach and the system reaction measured would be "new filing", over time agencies have changed their definitions to meet their agency's operational goals. In fact, the three Colorado justice agencies (listed below) that regularly report on juvenile recidivism rates, all measure different constructs.

- 1) Division of Youth Corrections (DYC)
- 2) Division of Probation Services (DPS)
- 3) Department of Correction's (DOC) Youthful Offender System (YOS)

DYC reports on new filings for both pre- and post-discharge recidivism. DPS reports on adjudications, convictions, or technical violations for pre-release recidivism, and reports on new filings for post-release recidivism⁴. DOC only reports post-discharge recidivism and measures recidivism as a "return to DOC for either new criminal activity or a technical violation of parole, probation, or non-department community placement"⁵. In addition, DPS and DOC do not track post-discharge/release recidivism rates for youth who were unsuccessful in the pre-discharge stage, while DYC tracks all discharged youth, regardless of pre-discharge "success". In the absence of complete uniformity across Colorado justice agencies, cautious interpretation of recidivism rates is necessary.

³ Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, DJJ Research Quarterly, Volume III, April 2005.

⁴ Division of Probation Services, Colorado Judicial Branch, October 2005.

⁵ Colorado Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis, May 2006.

STUDY METHODOLOGY

The source of data is critical for accurately determining recidivism rates. Since recidivism is defined for both the pre-discharge and post-discharge groups as “a filing for a new felony or misdemeanor offense,” the Division relied upon the Judicial Branch’s Management Information System⁶ for determining whether a recidivist act had occurred. Only those filings (felony and misdemeanor) entered into the Judicial data system are included in these recidivism measures⁷. Traffic, municipal, status, and petty offenses are excluded from this study.

At DYC’s request, the Colorado Judicial Department prepared a data file containing all filings that occurred between July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2007, for all persons under 25 years of age. Filing data is requested as early as July 1, 2001 (four years prior to the first possible discharges) for a particular reason—it allows for the detection of the youth’s commitment charge. By capturing the committing offense, research staff were able to ensure that the appropriate match was being made between the DYC records and the Judicial filing records.

The data received from Judicial contained over 960,000 filings. These filings are then processed in an effort to match the 967,120 filings to the 929 DYC discharged youth. The process of matching files involves a high level match of youths’ last name, first name, and two of the three birth date elements. These matches are further examined for evidence of accurate matches (review of the full name listed by both agencies, plus further checks against the Lexis-Nexis Courtlink system for aliases, etc.). Any method to match files is limited by data entry errors, spelling differences, and multiple aliases. Efforts are made to minimize errors through meticulous spot-checking and manual reviews of cases in the Lexis-Nexis Courtlink system. In the past, due to the highly technical matching process and the complicated algorithm used, DYC relied on programmers to match youth in the DYC data with youth in the Judicial filing data.

⁶ The filing data received from the Judicial Branch comes from the Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) database accessed through ECLIPSE, the interface software used with ICON.

⁷ Adult misdemeanor filings processed by Denver County Court are not captured by the Judicial data system, and therefore are not included in this study. However, Denver county felony filings are captured, because they are processed by Denver District Court, which is part of the Judicial on-line data system. Denver District Court also processes 100% of Denver county juvenile misdemeanor filings. The only filings missing from this report are those from Denver county that were originally filed as *adult* misdemeanor cases.

However, for the past three years, NYC has performed the match in-house, which the Division believes has increased the probability of accurate matches.

This is the second year that Lexis-Nexis Courtlink has been used in the data verification and matching process. Previously, ICON was utilized for these purposes. Because Lexis-Nexis is a highly advanced and comprehensive database, NYC is confident that the accuracy of data used within this report has increased as a result of this change. As more complete data is readily available, this reduces the use of default data.

The matched file was used to evaluate pre-discharge and post-discharge recidivism rates on the same cohort of discharged youth. Three years ago the Division modified the sampling methodology for its annual recidivism report. Before this time, youth for the pre-discharge group were selected independently from the post-discharge group. The methodology change was intended to provide timelier reporting of recidivism data, and to eventually allow for a more accurate evaluation of recidivism trend data over time. This is now the fourth-generation report to include both pre-discharge and post-discharge recidivism rates from the same client census.

DYC RECIDIVISM RATES FOR YOUTH DISCHARGED

The findings contained in this report are based on an evaluation of 929 NYC youth discharged during FY 2005-06. The term ‘pre-discharge’ is used to identify new offenses filed during the period a youth is on commitment status. For purposes of this report, the period of commitment includes both residential out-of-home placement and parole. After a youth leaves residential placement, the period of parole begins. ‘Post-discharge’ recidivism refers to filings for new felony or misdemeanor offenses that occurred up to one year following discharge from the Division.

Pre-Discharge Recidivism: A filing for a new felony or misdemeanor offense that occurred prior to discharge from the Division of Youth Corrections.

Post-Discharge Recidivism: A filing for a new felony or misdemeanor offense that occurred within one year following discharge from the Division of Youth Corrections.

Overall Recidivism Rates for Youth Discharged in FY 2005-06

As indicated in Figure 1, of the 929 youth, 358 (38.5%) had a new misdemeanor or felony offense filed prior to discharge, while 61.5% had no new filing prior to discharge. Follow-up information on new misdemeanor or felony offenses committed within one year following discharge from DYC, resulting in a court filing, and entered into the Judicial Department's data system, was also collected on all 929 youth. Thirty-six percent (35.5%) of youth discharged (N=330) received a new filing for a felony or misdemeanor offense within one year following discharge.

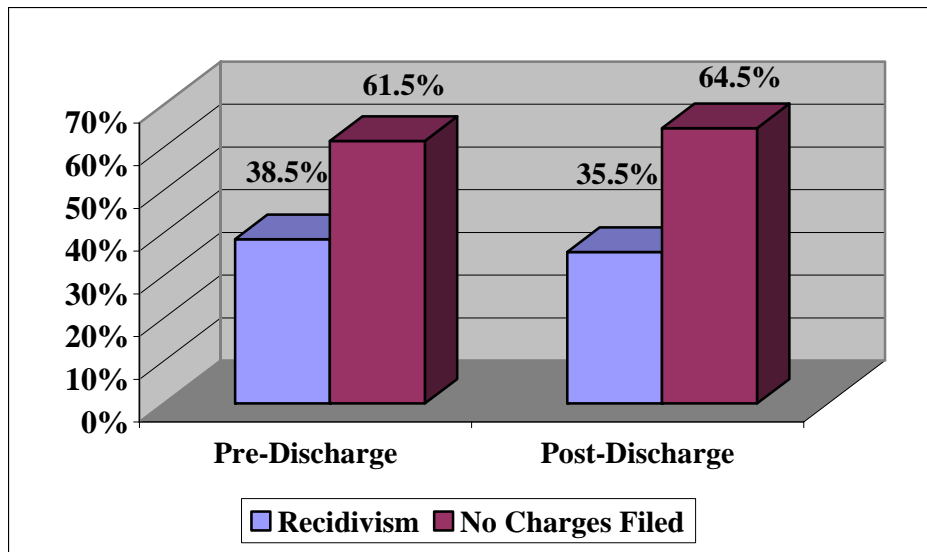


Figure 1: Recidivism Rates of All Juveniles Discharged in FY 2005-06

Recidivism results for this cohort show slightly higher pre-discharge recidivism rates than post-discharge recidivism rates. Youth can be represented in each category, meaning that the same youth could have committed an offense before discharge as well as after their discharge date.

Trends in Recidivism

The following charts outline trends in recidivism rates for the past nine DYC recidivism studies^{8,9}. The pre-discharge recidivism rate decreased with the FY 2005-06 discharges, following the increase seen with the FY 2004-05 discharge cohort. Pre-discharge rates have been between 33% and 39% for the past six years, as shown in Figure 2.

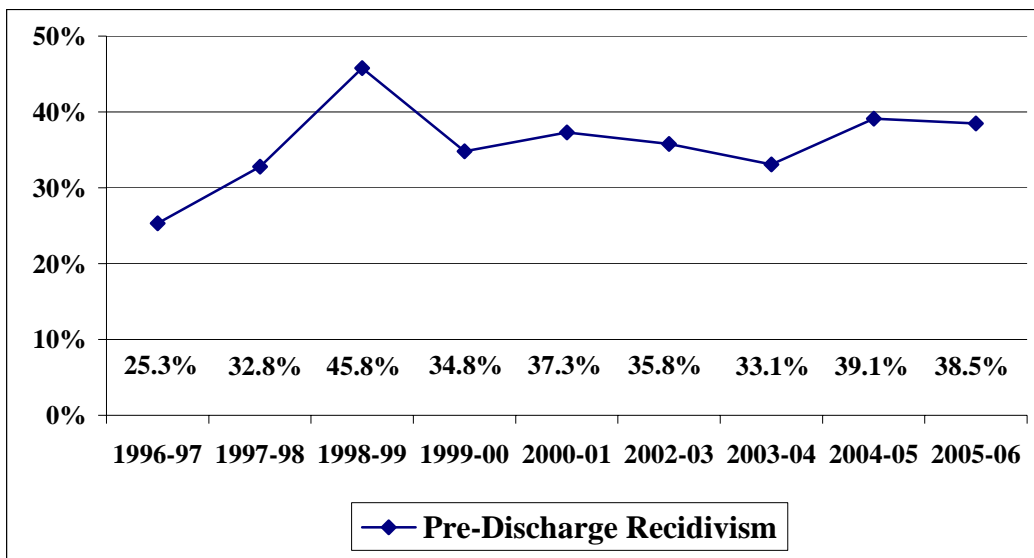


Figure 2: Pre-Discharge Recidivism Rates FY 1996-97 through FY 2005-06

Figure 3 illustrates post-discharge recidivism trends. Post-discharge recidivism rates decreased as compared with the FY 2004-05 discharge cohort, with a 2.4% decrease. This rate is more in line with the post-discharge recidivism rate for the FY 2002-03 discharge cohort. Post-discharge rates have remained between 34.4% and 38.0% for the past five years.

⁸ There is no fiscal year 2001-02 census because of the shift in study methodology to study pre- and post-discharge recidivism rates from the same study sample and increased focus on current recidivism data.

⁹ This is the ninth DYC recidivism study to include Colorado’s common definitions for pre and post-discharge recidivism.

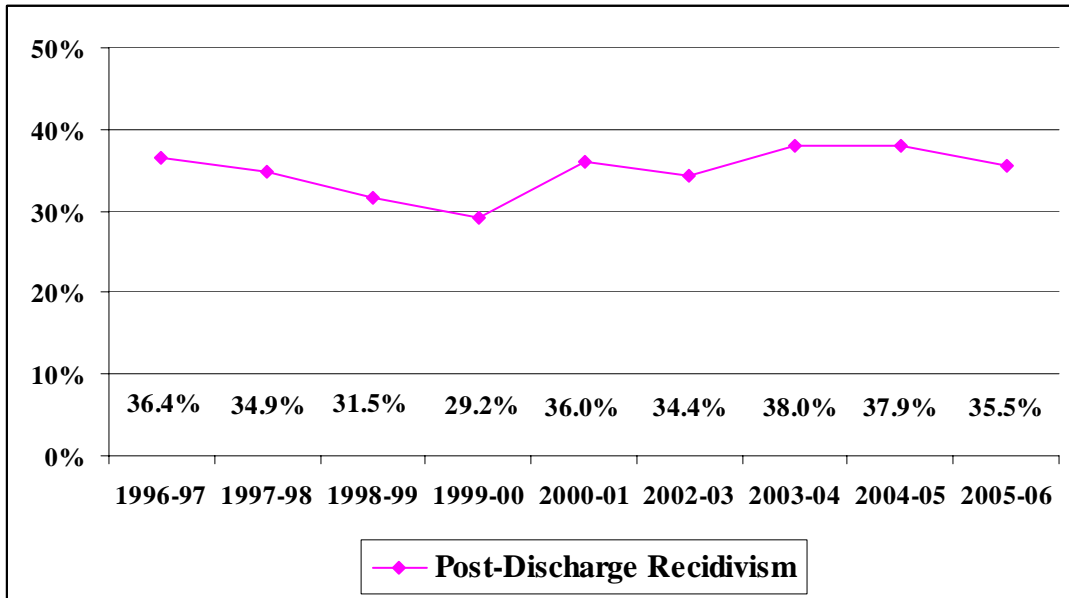


Figure 3: Post-Discharge Recidivism Rates FY 1996-97 through FY 2005-06

Trend data should be cautiously interpreted. It is important to remember that changes have been made with regard to study methodology, including group selection, data collection, and data verification techniques. Additionally, law changes, changes in DYC and the juvenile justice system in Colorado, including the reduction in treatment services available to delinquent, committed, and paroled youth, as a result of the State’s budget issues, make it difficult to attribute change in recidivism rates to any specific cause. For example, mandatory parole legislation was instituted for all youth committed on or after January 1, 1997. Since that time, the length of mandatory parole has been subsequently lowered from 12 months to 9 months, and since lowered to 6 months. In addition, treatment options that were available to committed youth in FY 1999-00 may not be the same as the treatment options available in FY 2005-06. All of these factors could potentially influence recidivism results over time.

Charge Types

The ‘types’ of charges for which youth receive new filings are presented in Table 1. Sixty-nine percent (68.9%) of the youth who received a pre-discharge filing for a new offense had a felony offense for their most serious charge¹⁰.

Over the past few years the percentage of youth filed on for offenses that are considered to be ‘other’ offenses has grown. This may be a result of new laws, changes in the justice system, and potentially stricter enforcement of certain offenses. For example, the legislation requiring the registration of sex offenders was amended a few years ago¹¹. This has resulted in both an increase in recidivism, especially post-discharge recidivism, and increases in the number of miscellaneous other offenses. Six (6) youth in this year’s study (1.8%) are considered to have recidivated post-discharge for the charges of failing to register as a sex offender and failing to provide an address of residence. In prior years, these youth would not have been included as recidivists.

¹⁰ District Attorney’s possess significant discretion in determining whether to file a felony or misdemeanor charge. Research has indicated that persons with previous criminal histories are more likely to receive a felony versus a misdemeanor filing.

¹¹ Section 18-3-412.5, C.R.S.

Table 1: Most Serious Filing (Offense Type)

Offense	Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism	
	Number	Percent of Total Filings	Number	Percent of Total Filings
Person Felony	32	8.9%	19	5.8%
Property Felony	51	14.3%	60	18.2%
Drug Felony	24	6.7%	42	12.7%
Weapon Felony	30	8.4%	32	9.7%
Other ¹² Felony	110	30.7%	83	25.2%
Total Felony Filings	247	69.0%	236	71.5%
Person Misdemeanor	42	11.7%	26	7.9%
Property Misdemeanor	14	3.9%	12	3.6%
Drug Misdemeanor	3	0.8%	3	0.9%
Weapon Misdemeanor	3	0.8%	2	0.6%
Other ¹² Misdemeanor	49	13.7%	51	15.5%
Total Misdemeanor Filings	111	31.0%	94	28.5%
Recidivism Totals	358	100.0%	330	100.0%

Similarly, over the past few years, higher numbers of youth in the census have been filed on for DUI charges. Whether this is a result of more police officers on the street, tougher enforcement, or more youth driving under the influence, the increases in DUI filings and the new sex offender registration requirements have clearly increased the rate of both pre- and post-discharge recidivism.

¹² Other offenses include escapes, DUIs, failure to register as a sex offender, and other miscellaneous offenses.

Table 2: Most Serious Filing (Offense Class)

Offense Class	Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism	
	Number	Percent of Total Filings	Number	Percent of Total Filings
Felony Class 1	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Felony Class 2	0	0.0%	2	0.6%
Felony Class 3	24	6.7%	12	3.6%
Felony Class 4	64	17.9%	59	17.9%
Felony Class 5	81	22.6%	74	22.4%
Felony Class 6	75	20.9%	88	26.7%
Felony Unclassified	2	0.6%	1	0.3%
Total Felony Filings	247	69.0%	236	71.5%
Misdemeanor Class 1	29	8.1%	12	3.6%
Misdemeanor Class 2	16	4.5%	23	7.0%
Misdemeanor Class 3	58	16.2%	40	12.1%
Misdemeanor Unclassified	8	2.2%	19	5.8%
Total Misdemeanor Filings	111	31.0%	94	28.5%
Recidivism Totals	358	100.0%	330	100.0%

Table 2 shows the breakout of most serious filing by offense class. Given the seriousness of the DYC population, it is not surprising that the majority of most serious pre-discharge (69.0%) and post-discharge filings (71.5%) were for felony class offenses. The majority of most serious pre- and post-discharge offenses are felony class 4, 5, and 6.

Filing v. Adjudication

Adjudication on *Most Serious Charge* Filed

It is important to realize that not all filings resulted in a guilty finding. Table 3 shows that sixty percent (59.8%, N=214) of youth were found guilty of their most serious charge prior to discharge, and 47.0 percent (N=155) of youth were found guilty of their *most serious charge* after discharge. The percentage of youth found guilty of their most serious charge has decreased from last years report.

Table 3: Adjudication on *Most Serious Charge* Filed

Finding	Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Guilty Adjudication ¹³	214	59.8%	155	47.0%
No Finding of Guilt ¹⁴	131	36.6%	128	38.8%
Deferred	9	2.5%	14	4.2%
Other ¹⁵	4	1.1%	33	10.0%
Total	358	100.0%	330	100.0%

Adjudication on *Any Charge* Filed

The majority of youth who received new filings prior to discharge, or within one year of discharge, received filings on multiple charges. Although many recidivists were not found guilty of their most serious charge, Table 4 shows that 98.8% of youth were found guilty for at least one charge (pre-discharge) and 99.3% of youth were found guilty of at least one charge (post-discharge). This percentage has increased from last year, unlike the percent of youth found guilty of their most serious charge filed.

Table 4: Adjudication on *Any Charge* Filed

Finding	Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Guilty Adjudication ¹⁵	354	98.9%	328	99.4%
No Finding of Guilt ¹⁶	4	1.1%	1	0.3%
Deferred	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other ¹⁷	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Total	358	100.0%	330	100.0%

There was no missing court finding data for youth in this year's study who received a filing for a new offense. This is down from the two youth last year with no findings associated with their charges. Technological advances and a change in the data validation process (using Lexis-Nexis

¹³ Guilty includes guilty and guilty of a lesser charge.

¹⁴ No finding of guilt includes not guilty, acquitted, charges dismissed, a plea of Nolo contendere, or a not guilty finding.

¹⁵ Other includes cases that are still open, failure to appear, and youth who have multiple finding types.

in place of ICON) have allowed the Division to report on more current recidivism data, and at the same time, overcome limitations on the ability to track case findings. The limitations arise when a youth is discharged near the end of the fiscal year and is filed upon for a new offense near the end of the one-year follow-up period. In those scenarios, the case may still be open when this report is published. However, technological advances have expedited the availability of this data. There are also other scenarios in which case findings can be delayed, including when there are high-profile cases, filings on more serious charges, or if the youth has failed to appear for his or her court date.

Colorado in Context

If the Colorado or DYC definition of recidivism were made more restrictive, to only include guilty findings (or reconvictions, as other agencies use), the recidivism rates for both pre-discharge and post-discharge using this census would be slightly lower (38.1 % pre-discharge and 35.3% post-discharge). In previous years this difference would have been more pronounced, but the percent of youth found guilty of an offense went up dramatically this census, for both types of recidivism (86.5% to 98.9% pre-discharge; 80.2% to 99.4% post-discharge). This illustrates the need to use common definitions of recidivism when comparing Colorado recidivism rates to other states or even across Colorado state agencies.

Figure 4 below helps to illustrate why recidivism rates vary based on the definition of recidivism and why these differing rates cannot be compared. The figure depicts Colorado's juvenile justice filtering process that takes place when a youth's delinquent or criminal behavior is brought to the attention of the justice system. Those states or agencies that use re-arrest to represent recidivism, will have higher recidivism rates than Colorado, which uses new filings to represent recidivism. Each stage of the justice system filters out more and more youth, therefore agencies that use reconviction, re-incarceration, or recommitment will have lower recidivism rates than agencies that utilize re-arrest, new charge, or new filing. For these reasons, it is imperative that system penetration be investigated when recidivism rates are considered.

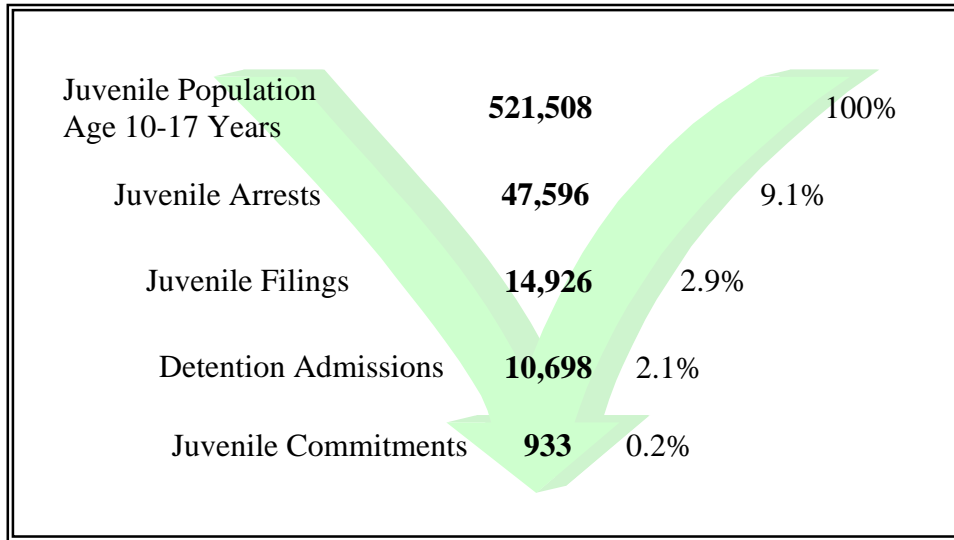


Figure 4: Colorado Juvenile Justice Filtering Process to Commitment FY 2005-06

Demographics

The following demographic data is presented to illustrate differences in recidivism rates by gender, ethnicity, and DYC Management Region. Recidivism results in this section are presented with pre-discharge recidivism results (filings for a new misdemeanor or felony offense during commitment or parole) in the top half of each table, and post-discharge recidivism results (filings for new misdemeanor or felony offenses within one year following discharge) in the bottom half.

Gender

Over the last several years the Division has made efforts to increase the quantity and quality of female-responsive treatment options, including the construction of a facility for female offenders, the Betty K. Marler Youth Services Center, on the campus of the Mount View Youth Services Center. With the increasing female committed population, the Division recognizes the growing need to enhance services in this area. Table 5 shows a breakdown of recidivism results by gender.

Table 5: Recidivism Rates by Gender

Gender	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	474	59.9%	317	40.1%	791	85.1%
Female	97	70.3%	41	29.7%	138	14.9%
Total	571	61.5%	358	38.5%	929	100.0%

Gender	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	493	62.3%	298	37.7%	791	85.1%
Female	106	76.8%	32	23.2%	138	14.9%
Total	599	64.5%	330	35.5%	929	100.0%

Eighty-five percent (85.1%) of the FY 2005-06 discharge census was male and 15% was female. Males (37.7%) were statistically more likely to receive a new filing for a felony or misdemeanor offense within one year following discharge than females (23.2%) (Chi-Square¹⁶=10.764, p<0.01). Males also had higher rates of pre-discharge recidivism (40.1%) when compared with females (29.7%), and these differences were also statistically significant (Chi-Square=5.330, p<0.05). Post-discharge recidivism rates for female offenders (23.2%) were up slightly from the value reported last year for this population (20.7%).

Gender and Commitment Classification (CCI)

Commitment classification is determined for both males and females during the assessment process when a youth is first committed to the Division of Youth Corrections. Commitment classification is decided using the score calculated by the objective Commitment Classification Instrument (CCI), one of the many assessment instruments used at the time of commitment. This score is a composite score based on factors such as the number of prior adjudications, offense type, prior placement history, and age at first adjudication. Figure 5 illustrates how commitment classification is determined using the CCI. Youth committed to the Division are initially placed into one of three security types (secure, staff-supervised, and community). The CCI is the instrument used to guide these placement decisions.

¹⁶ See the Appendix for an explanation of statistical measures used in this report.

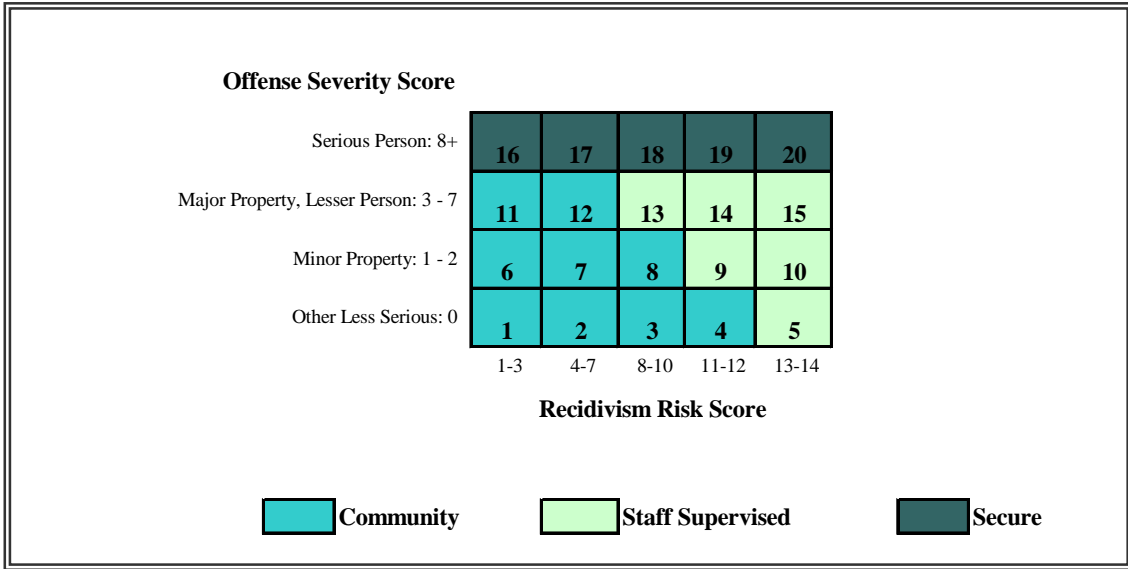


Figure 5: Commitment Classification Instrument (CCI)

Figure 6 shows the differences in commitment classification by gender, and the differences are in the expected direction, given the higher recidivism outcomes exhibited by the males in this census. A higher percentage of males were assessed as needing secure placement (26.8%) when compared with females (22.5%) in the same discharge census, however this difference was not statistically significant.

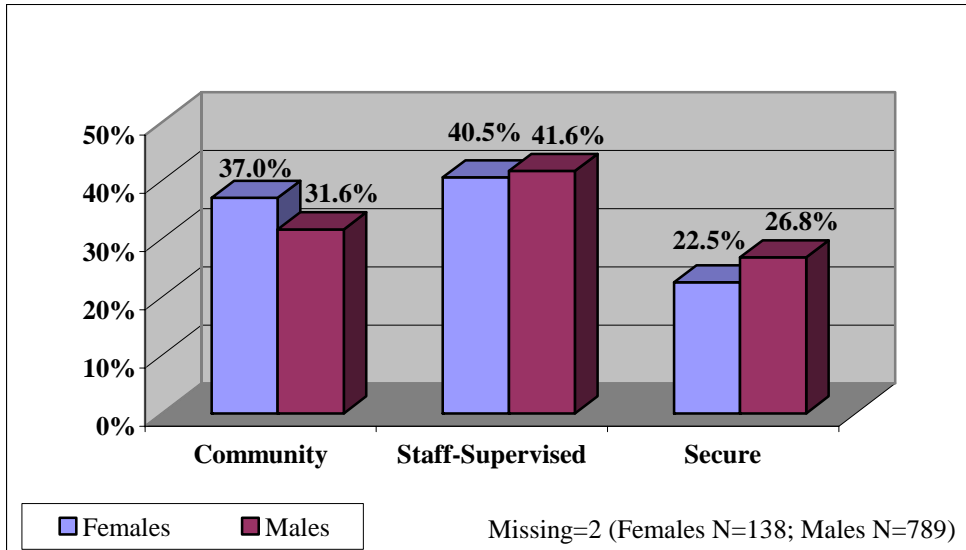


Figure 6: Commitment Classification by Gender (CCI)

Primary Ethnicity

Table 6 shows differences in recidivism rates by primary ethnicity. The ‘other’ category includes Native-American and Asian-American youth, as well as those officially identified as “other.” These categories are not combined because of commonalities among them, but because the numbers of youth in each category are too small when taken alone to make valid statistical comparisons.

Table 6: Recidivism by Primary Ethnicity

Ethnicity	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African-American	97	58.4%	69	41.6%	166	17.8%
Hispanic	188	60.5%	123	39.5%	311	33.5%
Anglo	264	63.0%	155	37.0%	419	45.1%
Other	22	66.7%	11	33.3%	33	3.6%
Total	571	61.5%	358	38.5%	929	100.0%

Ethnicity	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African-American	106	63.9%	60	36.1%	166	17.8%
Hispanic	199	64.0%	112	36.0%	311	33.5%
Anglo	272	64.9%	147	35.1%	419	45.1%
Other	22	66.7%	11	33.3%	33	3.6%
Total	599	64.5%	330	35.5%	929	100.0%

Although African-American youth in the census have slightly higher rates of pre-discharge (41.6%) recidivism and post-discharge (36.1%) recidivism than all the other youth, these differences were not statistically significant¹⁷. The lowest rates of recidivism were noted among youth identified as ‘Other’ (33.3% pre- and post-discharge recidivism alike). Past studies have found these youth to have lower rates of recidivism than the three largest ethnic groups; however, this category is also historically the smallest in number. Results for the youth in the ‘Other’ category should be interpreted cautiously because of the small census size (N=33).

¹⁷ No risk analysis was done on this population because there were no statistically significant differences found in the recidivism analyses.

When comparing recidivism rates between non-Anglo and Anglo youth, there was no significant difference for pre- or post-discharge recidivism. The juvenile justice system has been working on addressing the issue of minority over-representation, also referred to as disproportionate minority confinement. The recidivism results presented above are likely an artifact of local policies and practices, not actual differences in rates of re-offense.

DYC Management Region

DYC has a regionally-based management structure, operating from four management regions in the state. The Central Region¹⁸ consists of four judicial districts and includes the major counties of Denver, Jefferson, Arapahoe, and Douglas. The Northeast Region consists of five judicial districts and includes the major counties of Adams, Boulder, Larimer, and Weld. The Southern Region consists of seven judicial districts and includes the major counties of El Paso and Pueblo. The Western Region consists of the six judicial districts on the western slope including the major county of Mesa.

¹⁸ In July 2003 the Central Region and the Denver Region merged to form one combined Central Region.

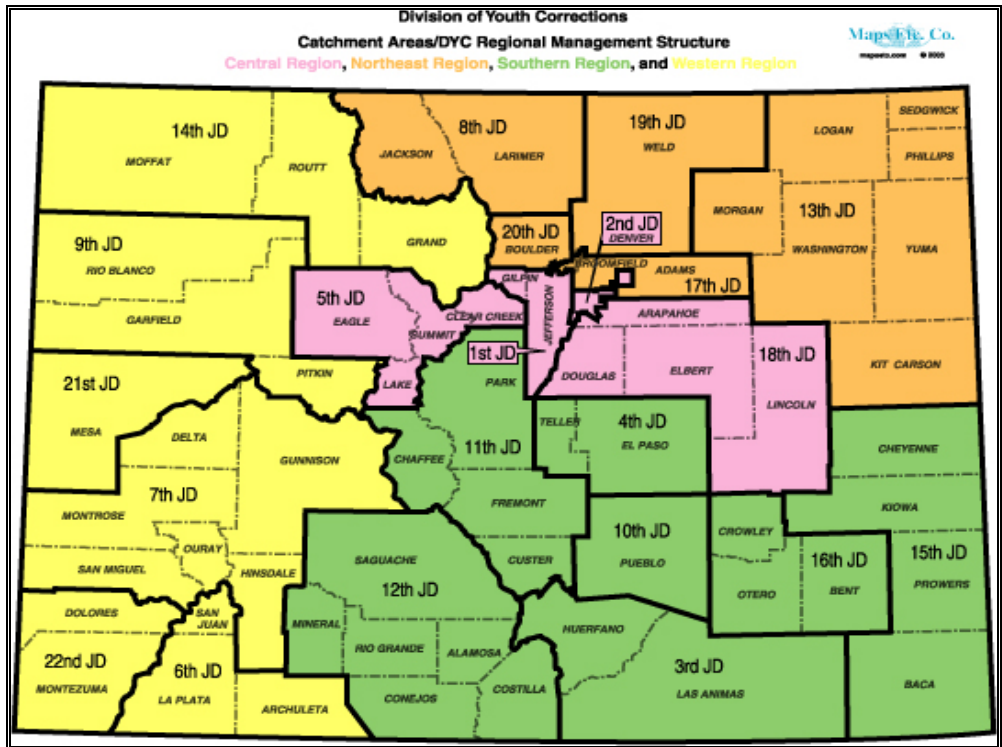


Figure 7: DYC Management Structure

Table 7 shows a breakdown of new offenses filed by DYC management region.

Table 7: Recidivism by DYC Management Region

Region	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Central	243	60.6%	158	39.4%	401	43.2%
Northeast	139	62.6%	83	37.4%	222	23.9%
Southern	109	57.7%	80	42.3%	189	20.3%
Western	80	68.4%	37	31.6%	117	12.6%
Total	571	61.5%	358	38.5%	929	100.0%

Region	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Central	264	65.8%	137	34.2%	401	43.2%
Northeast	139	62.6%	83	37.4%	222	23.9%
Southern	117	61.9%	72	38.1%	189	20.3%
Western	79	67.5%	38	32.5%	117	12.6%
Total	599	64.5%	330	35.5%	929	100.0%

Regional differences in recidivism rates were not found to be statistically significant in this study (both pre- and post-discharge). In past years, however, regional differences have been significant, and the rates shown above do follow the historical trends. As in prior studies, the Western Region had the lowest pre-discharge recidivism rate of the four DYC management regions. Thirty-two percent (31.6%) of youth in the Western region received a new filing for a misdemeanor or felony offense committed prior to discharge, and 32.5 percent received a filing within one year following discharge. The highest rate of pre-discharge recidivism was found in the Southern Region (42.3%), as was the highest rate of post-discharge recidivism (38.1%).

There are a number of potential reasons why regional rates might differ from one another. Enforcement practices could be different and the decision to file on a particular offense is a discretionary practice by District Attorneys that varies across the state. The amount of delinquent or criminal activity that may be accepted or tolerated in a given community may differ across regions. Additionally, there might be more treatment options or resources for youth in highly populated areas like the Central Region that are not as readily available to the other regions.

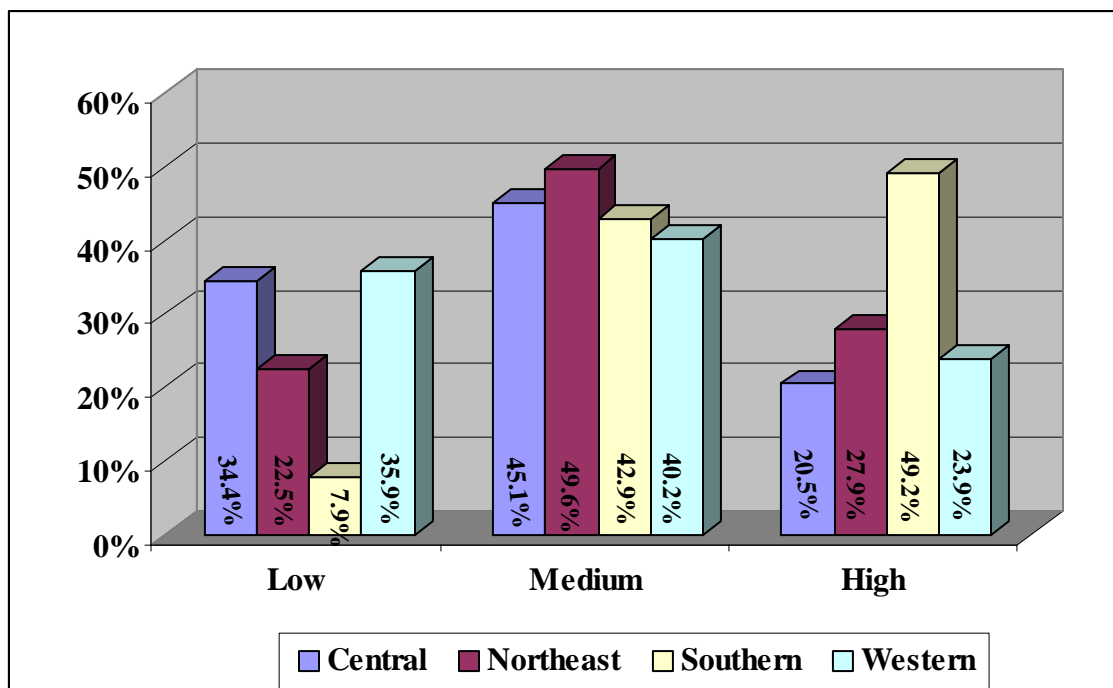


Figure 8: Risk of Re-Offending by Region (CYO-LSI)

Shown in Figure 8, a comparison of risk scores (CYO-LSI) by region illustrates that the Southern Region has the highest percentage of high and medium-risk youth (92.1%) and a low percentage of low-risk youth compared to the other regions. The Northeast Region comes in second with 77.5 percent of youth in the same high and medium-risk category. Lastly, the Central and Western Regions both show fairly high percentages of youth in the medium to high-risk category (65.6% and 64.1%, respectively). When looking across all regions, the risk level differences were found to be significant (Chi-Square=79.680, $p<0.01$).

Utilizing results from the CCI, however, the Western Region is shown as having the highest percentage of youth requiring secure placement (30.8%), with the Northeast coming in second with 27.5% of their population assessed at secure. These findings were also statistically significant (Chi-Square=18.152, $p<0.01$).

Commitment

Commitment data presented in this section illustrates differences in recidivism rates by type of commitment sentence, offense category, and various indicators of successful treatment.

Commitment Sentence Type

Most youth sentenced to NYC commitment receive a non-mandatory sentence length that varies from zero to twenty-four months. Youth with non-mandatory sentences may be referred for Juvenile Parole Board consideration prior to serving their maximum sentence length. Eighty-one percent (80.9%) of the youth discharged in FY 2005-06 were committed under non-mandatory sentences (N=752). Conversely, there were 177 youth who were required to serve a minimum length of stay (LOS) in residential treatment as determined by the court (i.e., mandatory sentences). In rare instances, the minimum LOS could be up to a seven-year commitment sentence for those youth adjudicated on an aggravated mandatory sentence.

Youth serving mandatory sentences have a significantly longer length of stay (average of 26.5 months, including residential placement and parole supervision) than youth serving non-

mandatory sentences (average of 24.7 months)¹⁹. Because of the longer lengths of stay for youth serving mandatory sentences, it is expected that a greater percentage of these youth would receive a new filing prior to discharge from DYC (pre-discharge recidivism), simply because of the longer length of time served in DYC.

Figure 9 shows the differences in LOS between mandatory and non-mandatory sentenced youth. There is no statistical difference between the amounts of time these groups spent on parole status. The average LOS on parole for mandatory sentences was 6.3 months, compared with 6.5 months for youth who received non-mandatory sentences.

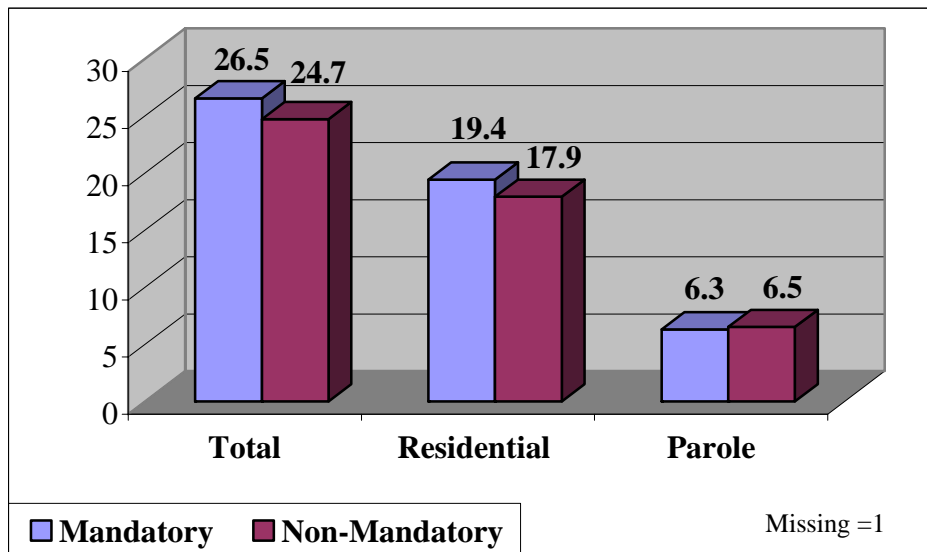


Figure 9: Length of Stay by Commitment Sentence Type

The rates of pre-discharge recidivism were not statistically different. Overall, 37.4% of youth with non-mandatory sentences, and 43.5% of youth with mandatory sentences receiving a new court filing prior to their discharge date. Post-discharge recidivism rates for these youth were statistically significant; youth serving mandatory sentences had a rate of 33.0% for felony or misdemeanor offenses and 46.3% youth serving non-mandatory sentences.

¹⁹ F=4.889, p<0.05

Commitment Offense Type

The Colorado TRAILS data system includes information on the most serious offense for which youth are committed, as it is recorded on the juvenile's mittimus. These offenses have been grouped into general types of commitment offenses for purposes of analyses. Table 8 presents a breakdown of original commitment offense type by recidivism outcomes.

Table 8: Recidivism by Original Committing Offense Type

Offense Type	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Person Offenses	229	62.9%	135	37.1%	364	39.2%
Property Offenses	244	61.5%	153	38.5%	397	42.7%
Drug Offenses	50	67.6%	24	32.4%	74	8.0%
Weapon Offenses	20	74.1%	7	25.9%	27	2.9%
Other ²⁰ Offenses	28	41.8%	39	58.2%	67	7.2%
Total	571	61.5%	358	38.5%	929	100.0%

Offense Type	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Person Offenses	242	66.5%	122	33.5%	364	39.2%
Property Offenses	254	64.0%	143	36.0%	397	42.7%
Drug Offenses	47	63.5%	27	36.5%	74	8.0%
Weapon Offenses	20	74.1%	7	25.9%	27	2.9%
Other ²⁰ Offenses	36	53.7%	31	46.3%	67	7.2%
Total	599	64.5%	330	35.5%	929	100.0%

Differences in the pre-discharge recidivism rates shown by offense type are statistically significant (Chi-Square =14.247, p<0.01). The highest rates of pre-discharge and post-discharge recidivism was seen in youth with an original charge for an 'other' offense (58.2% and 46.3%). However, the sample sizes for each category were relatively small compared to the person and property offense categories.

²⁰ Includes escapes, DUIs, failure to register as a sex offender, and other miscellaneous offenses.

Number of Escapes

The NYC TRAILS database tracks the number of times a youth escapes from residential placement. The term “escape”, however, rarely means an escape from a secure placement. In fact, the NYC policy defines an escapee as a juvenile who has left a facility’s custody without proper authorization, *or* a juvenile who has not returned to a facility within four hours of the prescribed time from any *authorized leave* (i.e., work passes, appointment passes, etc.). Youth with more escapes were more likely to have received a new filing for a felony or misdemeanor offense prior to discharge from NYC, but not within one year following discharge from NYC²¹.

Pre-release recidivism rates were investigated further because youth who escape from placement are often charged with an ‘escape’ offense that may be their only pre-discharge filing. Of the 236 pre-discharge recidivists having escaped 1 or more times, only 91 (38.6%) had pre-discharge filings for an escape. Not all youth who are reported as escapees are filed upon, and there are several explanations as to why this is the case. First, many escapes are simply youth who returned to the treatment program on their own, yet still long enough after their prescribed return time to count as an escape under NYC policy. Second, many youth on deferred sentences are filed on for the deferred offense, not the most recent escape. And lastly, there may be other charge types or codes used by judicial in lieu of technical “escape” charges.

Number of Rec commitments

The NYC TRAILS data system also tracks the number of times a committed youth receives an additional commitment sentence while they are still fulfilling a sentence to NYC. Since all commitments are the product of another charge being filed against the youth, either before²² or during their commitment, it is expected that recommitted youth will have higher rates of pre-discharge recidivism than youth that have no commitments.

²¹ Pre-discharge (F=109.896, p<0.01)

²² A youth could receive a commitment for an offense that occurred prior to their current commitment date. A commitment occurs whenever a youth currently serving a commitment sentence is committed to NYC for another offense, regardless of the date of the offense.

Table 9: Recidivism by Number of Recommitments

Number of Recommitments	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	509	73.7%	182	26.3%	691	74.4%
One	58	31.5%	126	68.5%	184	19.8%
Two or More	4	7.4%	50	92.6%	54	5.8%
Total	571	61.5%	358	38.5%	929	100.0%

Number of Recommitments	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	448	64.8%	243	35.2%	691	74.4%
One	117	63.6%	67	36.4%	184	19.8%
Two or More	34	63.0%	20	37.0%	54	5.8%
Total	599	64.5%	330	35.5%	929	100.0%

Table 9 displays the rate recidivism by number of recommitments. The majority of youth committed to DYC never receive a recommitment sentence (74.4%). Nonetheless, the pre-discharge recidivism rate for recommitment youth is much higher than the rate for youth that do not have any recommitments (Chi-Square=179.670, $p < 0.01$). Youth with recommitments had a slightly higher rate of post-discharge recidivism than youth with no recommitments, however, this relationship was not statistically significant.

Parole

Parole data presented in this section examines the recidivist acts that occur when youth are on parole status (pre-discharge recidivism). This includes a breakdown of pre-discharge recidivism into residential placement recidivism and parole recidivism, a breakdown of where parole offenses occurred (in a DYC facility or in the community), and an analysis of time to first parole offense (i.e., how soon youth recidivate after parole begins).

Additionally, post-discharge recidivism rates are compared using two indicators of successful parole completion. It would be counter-intuitive to analyze these for pre-discharge recidivism, because the offense would have occurred prior to the youth's completion of their parole sentence.

Mandatory Parole

Fifty-one percent (37.2% plus 13.4%) of youth that received a filing for a new felony or misdemeanor offense prior to discharge from the Division committed at least one of their offenses while on parole status, and sixty-three percent (49.4% plus 13.4%) committed at least one offense prior to beginning parole (see Table 10—note that the third category listed represents youth who were in both groups). Thirteen percent (or 48 youth) received new filings for multiple offenses that occurred both in residential commitment and while on parole status. All 929 youth in this census, and last year’s census, were required to serve at least 6 months of parole under mandatory parole legislation. Prior cohorts of discharges, however, were subject to longer mandatory parole periods, ranging from 9 to 12 months. The average LOS on parole for the census was 6.4 months. This is almost one full month shorter than last year’s parole LOS of 7.1 months, which translates to less time in the community for the cohort studied here. In comparison to last year’s cohort, new offenses in residential commitment went up, and new offenses on parole went down.

Table 10: Type of Pre-Discharge Recidivism

	Number	Percent
New Offenses In Residential Commitment Only ²³	177	49.4%
New Offenses On Parole Only	133	37.2%
New Offenses Residential Commitment and Parole	48	13.4%
Pre-Discharge Recidivism Totals	358	100.0%

Revisiting the topic of re-offending while on parole status, it is important to note where the offenses on parole are occurring. While on parole status, most youth are out in the community working towards reintegration, and this is called “non-residential parole”. There are, however, instances in which a youth is on parole status, but is confined to a residential facility, and this is called “residential parole”. After investigating the 181 youth who received new filings while on parole status (133 plus 48), it is apparent that most offenses occurred while the youth was in the community (88.4%), as opposed to within a DYC facility (5.5%); six percent (6.1%) of those

²³ “In Residential Placement Only” includes 11 youth that did not parole but discharged directly into adult corrections from residential placement, those that turned 21 years of age in placement, and youth who escaped placement.

parole recidivists were filed on for multiple offenses during their parole period, and the offenses occurred both within the facility and within the community (see Table 11).

Table 11: Location Where Pre-Discharge Recidivist Acts Occurred On Parole

	Number	Percent
In a DYC Facility	10	5.5%
Not in a DYC Facility	160	88.4%
Both	11	6.1%
Parole Recidivism Totals	181	100.0%

Time to First Parole Offense

Also, important to investigate is the length of time between parole start date and first parole offense. Of the 181 youth that recidivated while on parole status, 28 (15.5%) committed their first parole offense by the end of the first month of parole. Figure 10 helps to illustrate the number of youth that recidivate each month after starting parole. Sixty percent (59.6%) of youth that recidivate on parole status do so by the end of the fourth month of parole. This figure jumps to 87.8% by the end of month six. Results from this analysis indicate that increasing the intensity of supervision and programming within the first six months of parole could potentially reduce the number of early parole recidivists.

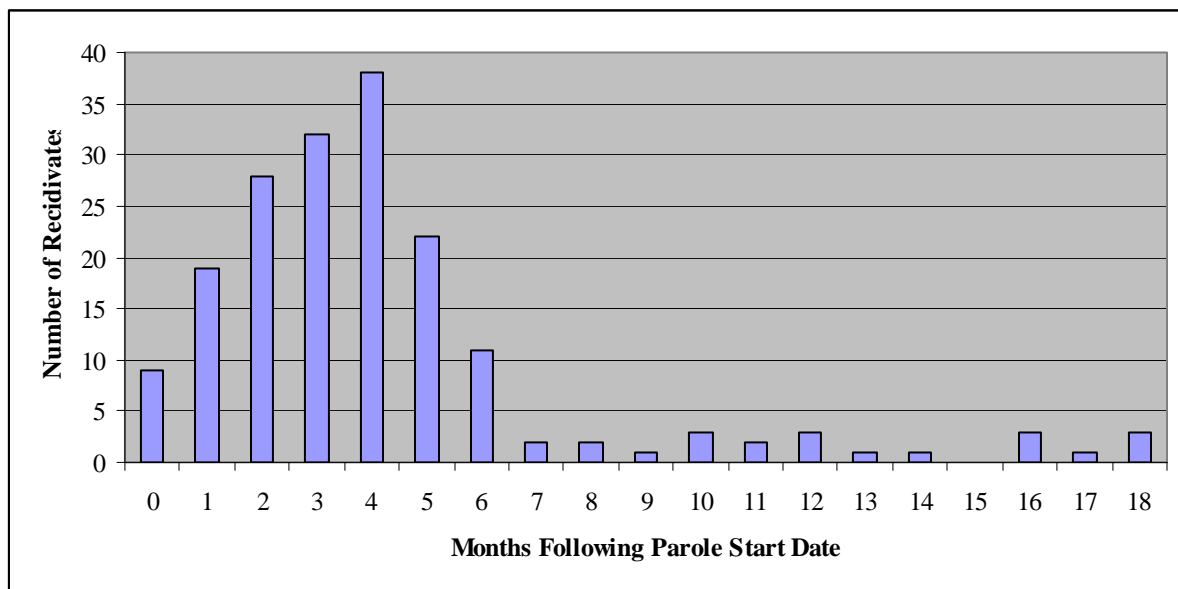


Figure 10: Time to First Parole Offense

The Division recently identified transition services as a priority and increased the resources available to youth on parole. In fiscal year 2005-06 the State Legislature allowed DYC some flexibility to spend up to 10% of its residential funding on transition services for youth returning to the community. This new effort is referred to as the Continuum of Care Initiative. The Division identified a sample of youth who could potentially benefit from increased services on parole and began utilizing the funding flexibility allowed by the Legislature to increase transition services to youth. Pre-discharge recidivism outcomes for these youth were positive, however post-discharge results are not yet available, due to the one-year follow up period. For more details on the Continuum of Care Initiative, see the report released to Legislature on November 1, 2007.

Parole Adjustment at Time of Discharge (Post-discharge only)

When a youth is discharged from DYC they receive a parole adjustment rating. This rating is used to describe a youth's performance while on parole transitioning back into the community. It is used as an outcome measure for DYC that reflects the youth's ability to adapt to life in a community setting. It is expected that youth who successfully reintegrate into community settings would be less likely to receive a new filing for a post-discharge offense than youth who received a less than satisfactory adjustment rating. Table 12 shows post-discharge recidivism rates²⁴ by parole adjustment rating at the time of discharge from DYC.

Table 12: Post-Discharge Recidivism by Parole Adjustment Rating at Discharge

Parole Adjustment at Discharge	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Satisfactory/Excellent	415	67.9%	196	32.1%	611	65.8%
Poor/Unsatisfactory	147	56.1%	115	43.9%	262	28.2%
No Parole	30	66.7%	15	33.3%	45	4.8%
Unknown	7	63.6%	4	36.4%	11	1.2%
Total	599	64.5%	330	35.5%	929	100.0%

²⁴ Pre-discharge recidivism rates were not analyzed for this factor because parole adjustments are not available until the youth is discharged from DYC.

Sixty-six percent (65.8%) of discharged youth received a satisfactory or better parole adjustment rating at the time of discharge from the Division of Youth Corrections. Youth who received a poor or unsatisfactory parole adjustment rating were more likely to have received a new filing for a felony or misdemeanor offense post-discharge (43.9%) than youth who received a satisfactory or better rating (32.1%) (Chi-Square=11.277, p<0.05). This finding suggests that parole officers (client managers) are accurately identifying those youth who are having difficulty transitioning to the community. These youth are more likely to receive a new filing within one year following their discharge date. This finding also suggests that some youth could benefit from a longer time on parole. For those youth that are eligible for extended parole, determined by their committing offense, an extension order may be obtained.

Job/School Status at Time of Discharge

This study also investigated recidivism rates for youth that were gainfully employed or enrolled in school at the time of parole discharge, another measure of successful reintegration into the community. It is expected that youth who were enrolled in school or employed at the time of discharge from DYC would have lower rates of recidivism than youth that were not enrolled in school or employed. Post-discharge recidivism rates²⁵ are shown in Table 13 below.

Table 13: Post-Discharge Recidivism by Job/School Status at Discharge

Job/School Status at Discharge	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Not Employed or Attending School	154	62.6%	92	37.4%	246	26.8%
Employed or in School at Time of Discharge	440	65.6%	231	34.4%	671	73.2%
Total	594	64.8%	323	35.2%	917	100.0%

(Missing Data: N=12)

While not statistically significant, youth that were employed or attending school at the time of discharge were less likely to have received a filing for a new felony or misdemeanor offense within one year following discharge. These and other dynamic protective factors are targeted by the Division in an attempt to mitigate a youth's risk to re-offend after discharging. Being

employed or enrolled in school is an indication of “buying into” a pro-social lifestyle. While this is only one element of a pro-social lifestyle, in past years it has been significantly associated with lower post-discharge recidivism rates.

Risk of Re-Offending

During the first thirty days of commitment to NYC, youth undergo a battery of assessments to determine placement needs, treatment needs, and to evaluate the risk the youth poses to himself (i.e. suicide risk) and the community (i.e. public safety). This recidivism study examined a number of factors that have traditionally been shown to increase the risk of re-offending. These factors include: number of prior out-of-home placements, number of prior detentions, number of prior adjudications, age at first adjudication, number of prior commitments, and risk scores (for re-offending).

This section will show the significant findings for the risk factors studied, when looking at pre-discharge and post-discharge recidivism.

Prior Out-of-Home Placements

Out-of-home placements can include inpatient mental health or substance abuse treatment facilities, Child Welfare placements, as well as any prior NYC placements. In prior recidivism studies, youth with more prior out-of-home placements were found to have higher rates of recidivism prior to discharge as well as within one year following discharge.

In this year’s study, analyses of variance (ANOVA²⁶) on prior placement history shows that youth who received a pre-discharge filing for a felony or misdemeanor offense had, on average a significantly higher number of prior placements (2.6) as compared with youth that did not receive a new filing (1.9 prior placements)²⁷. The post-release recidivism differences were not statistically significant; youth that did receive a filing for a new offense within a year of

²⁵ Pre-discharge recidivism rates were not analyzed for this factor because employment and school status at the time of discharge are not known prior to the youth being discharged from NYC.

²⁶ See the Appendix for an explanation of statistical measures used in this report.

²⁷ F=15.946, p<0.01

discharge had 2.0 prior placements, compared with 2.3 for youth that did not recidivate after their discharge from NYC.

Prior Detention Admissions

The number of detention admissions prior to commitment for this census ranged from zero to nineteen prior detention admissions. On average, all committed youth discharged in FY 2005-06 had 4.6 detention admissions prior to their commitment. Statistically, youth who received a filing for a new felony or misdemeanor offense, prior to discharge, were more likely to also have had more detention admissions than youth who did not receive a filing. This result was significant at the $p < 0.01$ significance level ($F = 19.612$).

A categorical look at the number of detention admissions by pre-discharge recidivism (see Table 14) shows that only 25.8% of youth with less than three prior detention admissions received a new filing for a felony or misdemeanor offense prior to discharge. Youth with three or more detention admissions were much more likely to receive a filing (42.3%) for a pre-discharge offense (Chi-Square=18.862, $p < 0.01$). A similar pattern was seen in the post-discharge recidivism analysis. Twenty-eight percent (27.7%) of youth with less than three detention admissions recidivated after discharge, compared with 37.8% with three or more admissions. Those results were statistically significant as well (Chi-Square=7.384, $p < 0.01$).

Table 14: Recidivism by Number of Detention Admissions

Number of Detention Admits	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Zero to Two	158	74.2%	55	25.8%	213	22.9%
Three or More	413	57.7%	303	42.3%	716	77.1%
Total	571	61.5%	358	38.5%	929	100.0%

Number of Detention Admits	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Zero to Two	154	72.3%	59	27.7%	213	22.9%
Three or More	445	62.2%	271	37.8%	716	77.1%
Total	599	64.5%	330	35.5%	929	100.0%

Using these results, a decision maker in a facility could identify a youth with four prior detention admissions (i.e. more than two) as being at greater risk of committing another delinquent act while in placement or on parole, and within in a year post-discharge.

Prior Adjudications

Table 15 shows pre-discharge and post-discharge recidivism rates by the number of prior adjudications for youth discharged in FY 2005-06. Since the number of prior adjudications is a measure of previous involvement in the juvenile justice system, it is expected that youth with more prior adjudications would have higher recidivism rates.

Table 15: Recidivism by Number of Prior Adjudications

Number of Prior Adjudications	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	166	71.2%	67	28.8%	233	25.1%
One	168	59.8%	113	40.2%	281	30.2%
Two or more	237	57.1%	178	42.9%	415	44.7%
Total	571	61.5%	358	38.5%	929	100.0%

Number of Prior Adjudications	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	160	68.7%	73	31.3%	233	25.1%
One	194	69.0%	87	31.0%	281	30.2%
Two or more	245	59.0%	170	41.0%	415	44.7%
Total	599	64.5%	330	35.5%	929	100.0%

Forty-five percent (44.7%) of the youth in this study had two or more delinquency adjudications before their commitment to the Division of Youth Corrections. Both the pattern of pre-discharge and post-discharge recidivism rates show the expected result, youth with no prior adjudications were less likely to recidivate. This finding was statistically significant for pre-discharge recidivism (Chi-Square=13.068, p<0.01) and post-discharge recidivism (Chi-Square=9.705, p<0.01)

The significant group variance for post-discharge results is expected as juvenile justice research shows an elevated risk of future offending for youth with a history of delinquent activity

(Andrews and Bonta p.165)²⁸. Youth with multiple prior adjudications are re-offending after discharge at significantly higher rates than youth that had not been adjudicated for any delinquent acts prior to this commitment.

Age at First Adjudication

Another primary risk factor for recidivism is the age at the time of the youth's first adjudication. Juvenile justice research has shown that youth who become involved with the criminal justice system at younger ages are more likely to recidivate than youth who are older at the time of their first contact with the system (Andrews and Bonta p.165)²⁸. The average age at time of first adjudication is shown in Figure 11.

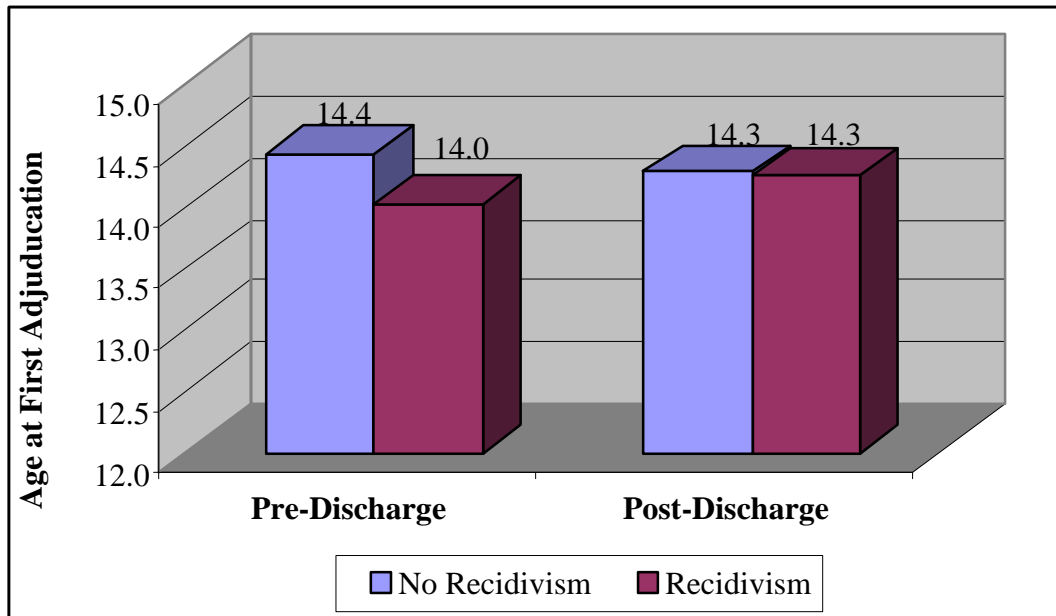


Figure 11: Age at First Adjudication

Looking at both pre-discharge and post-discharge recidivism, difference in age at first adjudication between recidivists and non-recidivists was very small. The pre-discharge difference was statistically significant (Chi-Square =25.763, $p < 0.01$).

²⁸ Andrews, D.A., and Bonta, J. (1994). *The Psychology of Criminal Conduct*. Cincinnati, OH: Anderson Publishing

Commitment Classification (CCI) and Assessed Risk Score (CYO-LSI)

The objective Commitment Classification Instrument (CCI) and the Colorado Young Offender – Level of Supervision Inventory (CYO-LSI) are two of many assessment instruments used at the time of commitment. The CCI calculates placement needs using the combined risk score and severity of the offense for which the youth was committed. The classification score is a composite score based on factors such as the number of prior adjudications, offense type, prior placement history, and age at first adjudication (see Figure 5).

Table 16: Recidivism by Commitment Classification (CCI)

Commitment Classification	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Community	192	64.0%	108	36.0%	300	32.4%
Staff-Secure	224	58.3%	160	41.7%	384	41.4%
Secure	153	63.0%	90	37.0%	243	26.2%
Total	569	61.4%	358	38.6%	927	100.0%

Commitment Classification	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Community	190	63.3%	110	36.7%	300	32.4%
Staff-Secure	241	62.8%	143	37.2%	384	41.4%
Secure	166	68.3%	77	31.7%	243	26.2%
Total	597	64.4%	330	35.6%	927	100.0%

(Missing Data: N=2)

The pre-discharge recidivism results presented in Table 16 appear to validate the classification scores obtained by the CCI. Youth assessed as having a need for community placement were less likely to receive a new filing for an offense prior to discharge (36.0%) when compared with youth assessed as needing staff-secure (41.7%) or secure (37.0%) level placements. Youth assessed as having a need for staff secure placement were more likely to receive a new filing for an offense one year after discharge (37.2%) when compared with youth assessed as needing community (36.7%) or secure (31.7%) level placement. None of these findings were statistically significant.

The commitment classification factors that were evident at the time of commitment, when the CCI is currently administered, were factors that predicted pre-discharge recidivism and post-discharge recidivism by initial placement score. These results, combined with the results of the analysis on number of prior adjudications, continue to lend support to the importance of identifying specific risk factors through the use of scientific risk assessment instruments, as the assessment results are indeed predictive of the likelihood to re-offend.

Results from the CYO-LSI risk instrument (Table 17) showed risk level to be statistically significantly related to both pre-discharge and post-discharge recidivism. Overall, client with a high assessed risk score, were more likely to recidivate than those with medium or low ratings (pre-discharge recidivism, Chi-Square=10.406, $p < 0.01$ and post-discharge recidivism, Chi-Square=9.179, $p < 0.05$).

Table 17: Recidivism by Assessed Risk Score (CYO-LSI)

Risk of Re-offending	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Low	169	69.0%	76	31.0%	245	26.4%
Medium	256	61.1%	163	38.9%	419	45.1%
High	146	55.1%	119	44.9%	265	28.5%
Total	571	61.5%	358	38.5%	929	100.0%

Risk of Re-offending	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Low	167	68.2%	78	31.8%	245	26.4%
Medium	281	67.1%	138	32.9%	419	45.1%
High	151	57.0%	114	43.0%	265	28.5%
Total	599	64.5%	330	35.5%	929	100.0%

Starting fiscal year 2006-07, DYC adopted a more advanced, fourth generation risk assessment instrument that assesses criminogenic risk and need of DYC youth. As of July 1, 2007, the CYO-LSI risk assessment was discontinued, and the CJRA (Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment) replaced it. While the CYO-LSI instrument consistently and accurately predicted risk for re-offense, the CJRA will be able to mimic these achievements and provide DYC with more data to

target specific risk and protective factors, case-plan more effectively, and show youth progress over the course of their commitment.

Comparison of Pre-Discharge and Post-Discharge Recidivism Rates

The sampling methodology for this report allows comparisons of post-discharge recidivism rates by pre-discharge recidivism. The results of this analysis are shown in Table 18.

Table 18: Post-Discharge Recidivism by Pre-Discharge Recidivism

	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Pre-Discharge Recidivism	388	68.0%	183	32.0%	571	61.5%
Pre-Discharge Recidivism	211	58.9%	147	41.1%	358	38.5%
Total	599	64.5%	330	35.5%	929	100.0%

Youth in the census who received a new filing during residential placement or parole were, as expected, also more likely to have recidivated following discharge (Chi-Square=7.803, p<0.01). While this is not surprising, it is interesting to note that 58.9% of the youth who received a filing for a new offense during residential placement or parole did not receive a new filing within a year following discharge.

These findings may be an artifact of the supervision that a youth receives while in residential placement and while on parole, and the likelihood that they will be caught re-offending. However, it may also reflect the successful treatment and reintegration back into their communities of youth who had previously been filed upon for a pre-discharge offense. One possible explanation is the influence of case planning and the provision of appropriate surveillance and treatment services. To the extent that these services ameliorate risk factors and augment protective factors, the probability of re-offense will be markedly different for a youth upon discharge as compared to when that youth was originally committed.

Time to First Post-Discharge Filing

Looking at the length of time between discharge and first offense, it is evident that this cohort of youth did not recidivate at a constant rate. Figure 12 shows the actual number of youth who recidivated each month after discharge (blue line), and a depiction of what a constant rate of recidivism would look like (red line). If youth were to recidivate at a constant rate, 27 to 28 youth would recidivate each month. However, Figure 12 illustrates that 43 youth recidivated between 6 and 7 months, and 17 youth recidivated between 9 and 10 months.

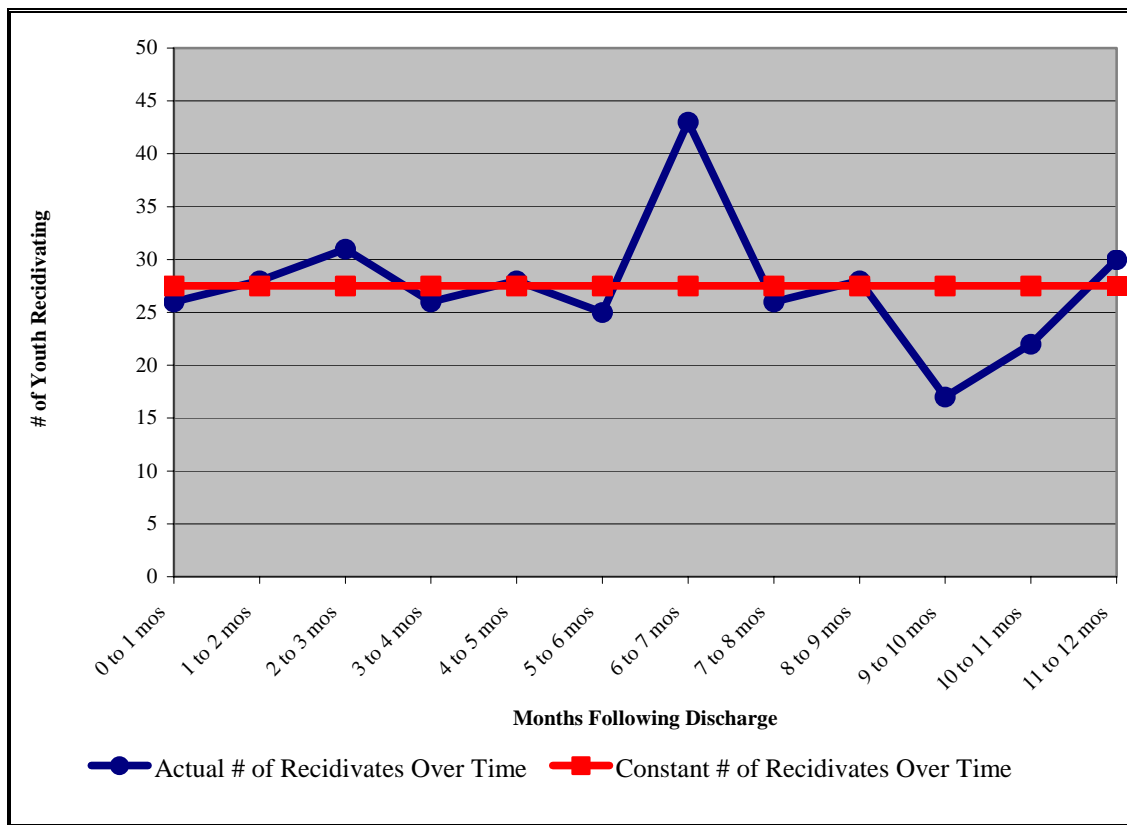


Figure 12: Time to First Post-Discharge Offense

Figure 13 shows the variation in actual rate from the constant rate. The bars show the amount of variation from the constant rate. Any number above “0” shows an increased variation from the constant rate. A number below “0” shows a decreased variation from the constant rate. Similar to

Figure 12, Figure 13 confirms the fact that a high rate of youth recidivated in month 7, and a low rate of youth recidivated in months 10 and 11 following discharge.

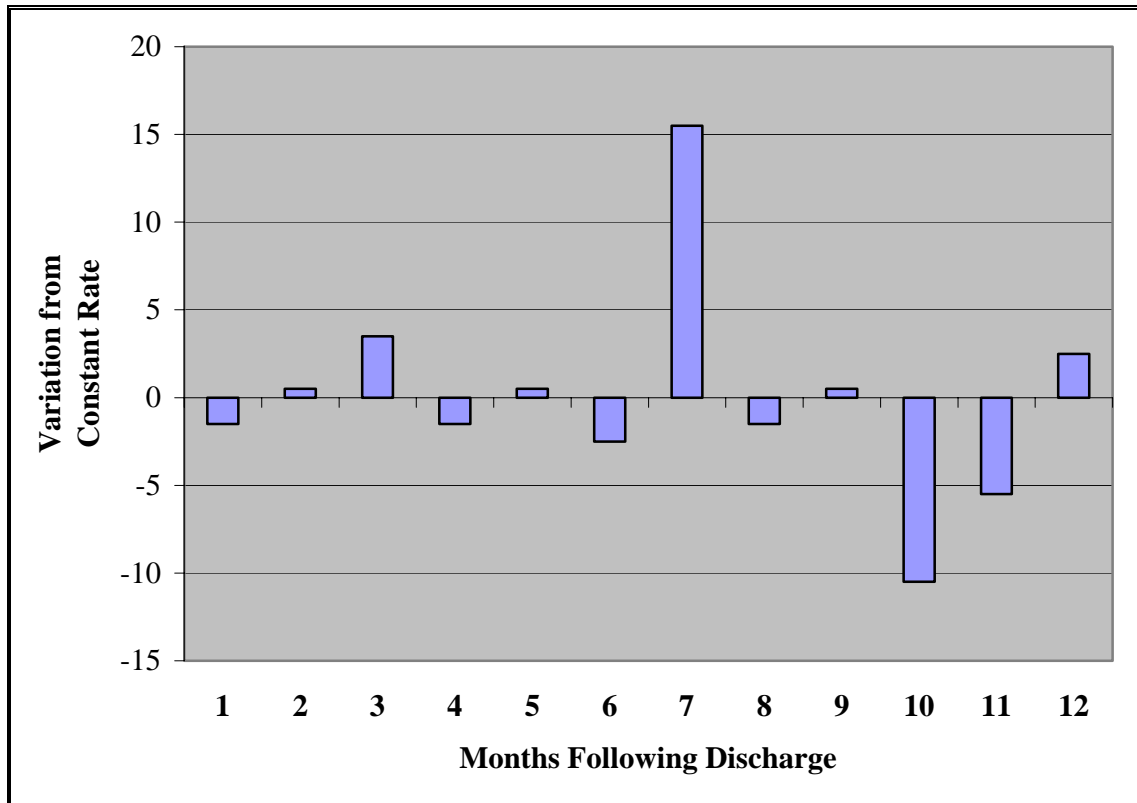


Figure 13: Survival Analysis/Variation from Constant Rate

A survival analysis of time to first offense (Figure 14) shows that, of the 330 youth that recidivated within one year following discharge, 49.7% of youth that received a new filing for a felony or misdemeanor offense committed that offense within the first 6 months after their discharge date. Eighty-four percent (84.2%) committed their first offense within 10 months following discharge. The average amount of time following the discharge date to the first post-discharge filing was 5.9 months (178 days). Last year’s cohort of recidivists averaged 5.1 months (155 days) time to their first new filing.

The red line in Figure 14 depicts a *constant* linear growth rate in recidivism over one year. In other words, the red line shows graphically what it would look like if all youth in this cohort were to recidivate at an equal rate from the day of discharge to the last day of the follow up period. The blue line shows the *actual* growth in the recidivism rate from the day of discharge

through one year following discharge. This analysis shows that youth in this census appear to recidivate at an expedited rate from six months to ten months following discharge. At all other times, the rate of recidivism closely mirrors the constant rate.

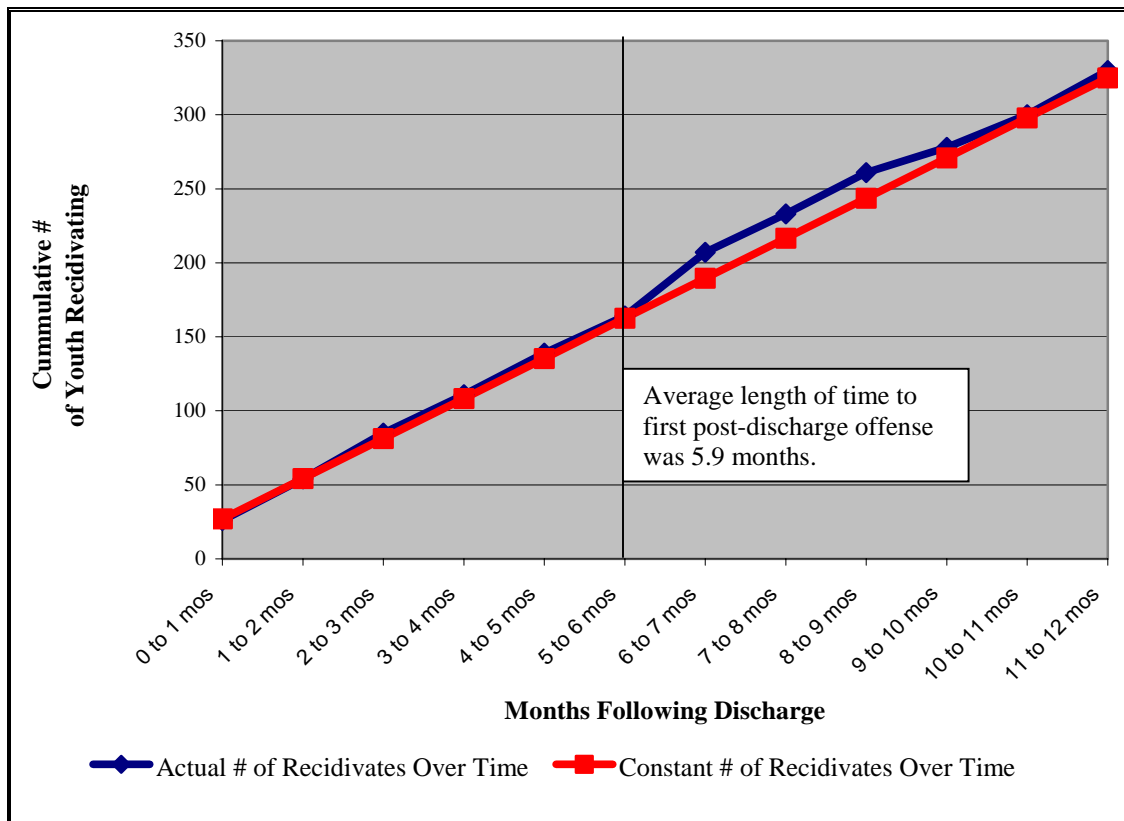


Figure 14: Time to First Post-Discharge Offense (Survival Analysis)

Each of these analyses indicate that the highest percentage of youth in this recidivist population (youth who received filings for new offenses) recidivate around month 7 following discharge. Rates also peaked during months 3 and 12 (see Figures 12 and 13). Rates of recidivism fell most dramatically in months 10 and 11. Last year’s cohort of recidivists were shown to recidivate at expedited rates in the first three months following discharge. The FY 2005-06 cohort of recidivists did not follow this pattern.

Special Populations

Sex Offenders

Contrary to popular belief, sex offenders tend to recidivate at much lower levels than other types of offenders. The differences in pre-discharge recidivism rates between sex offenders and non-sex offenders for this cohort of discharges were not significant, however post-discharge rates were (Chi-Square=6.199, $p < .01$). Table 18-2 shows that sex offenders in this cohort recidivated at much lower rates (25.0%) than non-sex offenders (37.0%), following discharge from NYC.

Table 18-2: Recidivism by Sex Offender Status

	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex Offender	63	56.2%	49	43.8%	112	12.1%
Non-Sex Offender	508	62.3%	308	37.7%	816	87.9%
Total	571	61.5%	357	38.5%	928	100.0%

	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex Offender	84	75.0%	28	25.0%	112	12.1%
Non-Sex Offender	514	63.0%	302	37.0%	816	87.9%
Total	598	64.5%	330	35.5%	928	100.0%

(Missing Data: N=1)

In the previous year's study, there was no statistical difference in the pre- or post-discharge rates of sex offenders and non-sex offenders.

Substance Abusers

The following table illustrates recidivism rates by the three levels of substance abuse treatment, "Prevention", "Intervention", and "Treatment". Section 3 of this report, titled "Substance Abuse Treatment and Recidivism", is found on page 67 and provides the main analysis with the Division's conclusions.

Table 18-3: Recidivism by Substance Abuse Level

	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Prevention	78	57.8%	57	42.2%	135	14.6%
Intervention	169	63.8%	96	36.2%	265	28.7%
Treatment	319	61.0%	204	39.0%	523	56.7%
Total	566	61.5%	357	38.5%	923	100.0%

	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Prevention	85	63.0%	50	37.0%	135	14.6%
Intervention	174	65.7%	91	34.3%	265	28.7%
Treatment	335	64.1%	188	35.9%	523	56.7%
Total	594	64.5%	329	35.5%	923	100.0%

(Missing Data: N=6)

The recidivism rate differences between the three levels of substance abuse needs are not statistically significant. In other words, the difference is not meaningful, but due to chance.

Female Offenders

Recidivism trends for the female population have been inconsistent over the past 9 years. As shown in Figure 14-2, post-discharge rates for females have varied, while the recidivism rates of the male population have remained somewhat stable. When looking at special populations, it is important to remember that these are small populations, and small populations are very difficult to predict and show meaningful results. This can explain the variation in female recidivism rates over the years. It is also important to note that females and males differ significantly in their post-discharge recidivism rates—males having significantly higher rates. Research in this area indicates that males are at greater risk of recidivating.

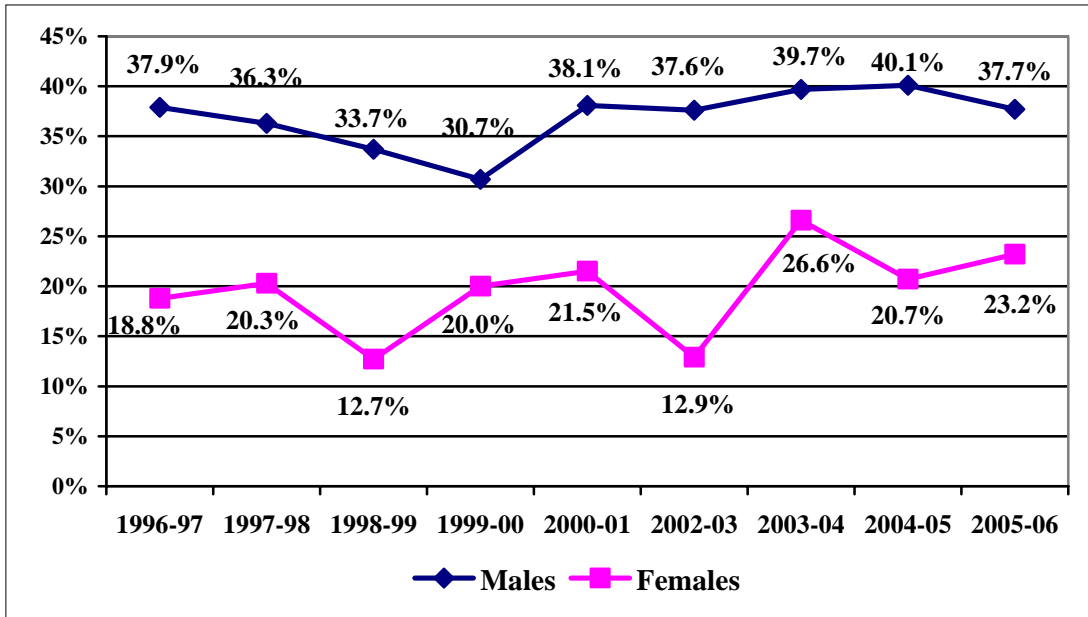


Figure 14-2: Post-discharge Recidivism Trends by Gender

RIDGE VIEW RECIDIVISM RATES FOR YOUTH DISCHARGED

Ridge View Youth Services Center is a unique treatment option for eligible youth. The Ridge View program is intended as a primary placement option for certain youth, and those youth placed in Ridge View Youth Services Center (RVYSC) tend to have longer lengths of stay in their initial placement and are often paroled directly from Ridge View to the community. Aside from this exception, most youth committed to DYC experience multiple placements, throughout their commitment. Therefore, collection of recidivism outcomes, is not generally useful in measuring the performance of individual programs. However, since the youth that are placed at the Ridge View facility tend to have fewer placements that could influence re-offending behaviors it is appropriate to report outcome measures for this facility that may not be as meaningful if the analyses were conducted for other DYC treatment programs. The Division's annual recidivism report does not report on outcomes for any other individual programs or facilities.

This next section will look at a sub-group of youth that were discharged from the Division in FY 2005-06. These are youth who were placed at the Ridge View Youth Services Center (RVYSC) for at least a ninety-day length of stay during their commitment. This section will provide a program description for Ridge View and also compare the Ridge View group with a comparison group of males from the FY 2005-06 discharge census that were not placed at RVYSC. Finally, some recidivism outcome measures will be reported for the youth who were treated at the Ridge View Youth Services Center.

Historical Background

During the 1997 Legislative Session, the General Assembly authorized the Division of Youth Corrections to contract for the design, construction and operation of a 500-bed juvenile facility in the Denver metro area. The goal of the project was to create an academically driven program, within a state-of-the art facility, to serve committed male offenders. The project was designed to

use a positive peer culture for youth management and a staff-supervised environment for security, rather than a traditional fenced-in, secure structure. This was to emphasize a campus environment and to stress the overall academic mission of the program.

The original impetus for the Ridge View project was a sharp increase in the need for commitment beds, which often resulted in placement of youth in out-of-state facilities. DYC determined that the target population for such a facility would be best managed in the previously described staff-supervised environment. The primary goals stated in the original project description were “gaining control of anti-social behavior, developing new pro-social behavior, and assuring the development of academic, vocational, social and life skills in committed youth.”

The size of the facility, up to 500 beds, dictated that the program would have to serve a large proportion of the youth being committed to DYC. For this reason, the original concept of the facility called for the design of a campus and a program for male committed youth, representing a moderate level security risk, when compared to the DYC male population as a whole. As a result, it was acknowledged that the program would not be appropriate for all DYC youth; particularly those requiring treatment for sexual offenses, severe mental health needs, or those requiring a more secure placement²⁹.

DYC used the “design, build, and operate” model so that the private contractor awarded the bid to operate this model program could participate actively in the design and construction processes. This ensured that the resulting design and construction of the facility was tailored to specific program needs. Additionally, the State gained the advantage of using private sector construction timeframes and costs. While this model did reduce the flexibility of the resulting facility to some extent, it also maximized the functionality of its intended use.

²⁹ In prior years, youth with substance abuse needs were also excluded from Ridge View, however recent expansion in treatment programming allows Ridge View to accommodate youth with substance abuse needs.

The Ridge View Program

The Rite of Passage organization operates the Ridge View Youth Services Center program under the terms of a contract with the Division, and within the framework of a positive peer culture. This framework recognizes the strengths and potential of all youth in the program, and relies on the strong peer normative environment as a mechanism for control and positive influences on youth behavior. The program focuses on long-term behavior change in youth, rather than just immediate control while in the facility. It uses peer group influence, staff role modeling, and skill development as the primary mechanisms to affect such change. To ensure compliance with state standards for correctional care, DYC staff closely monitors program operations.

The focus of the Ridge View program is skill building through academics, vocational training, and athletics, combined with positive peer and staff interactions and counseling opportunities. A unique feature of the program is that the facility holds a charter with Denver Public Schools (DPS), allowing students to graduate with a diploma from a DPS high school, rather than an alternative school. In addition, Ridge View students who have earned sufficient privileges can compete with other area high schools in various sports. Numerous athletic programs are offered including, football, soccer, baseball, wrestling, cross-country, cycling, rugby, track and field, etc. Ridge View students are referred to as "student athletes" as opposed to "clients". The focus on athletics supports the positive peer culture maintained at Ridge View while developing teamwork and camaraderie.

There is also a focus on family integration on the Ridge View campus. Approved family members are encouraged to participate in scheduled family visits. Family visits occur every three weeks on a rotating schedule. Students are allowed to make a brief phone call to approved family members once a week. The amount of phone minutes is based on the student's status. In addition, family members are encouraged to attend monthly staffings to review their son's progress with the DYC Client Manager and Ridge View staff present. Ridge View also offers the Family After-Care Support and Transition (FAST) group to involved family members. The FAST group meets two times per month, which focuses on youth and their families.

The core of individual youth case plans is the VALIDATE model, with each letter representing an area every student must work on. This model is depicted in Figure 15.

V	- Vocational Training
A	- Athletics
L	- Life Skills
I	- Individual Graduation Plan
D	- Demonstrated Behavioral Changes
A	- Aftercare
T	- Treatment
E	- Education

Figure 15: Ridge View “VALIDATE” Model

In order to officially “validate,” or graduate, from the Ridge View program, each of the above VALIDATE components must be completed. The youth’s peer group and staff must affirm that the youth has fulfilled each requirement. Once these areas have been completed, and the youth has maintained a RAM status for four consecutive months, he is eligible to officially graduate from the program. Most case plans are designed so that a youth’s graduation date closely coincides with his parole date. However, youth do not always go onto parole after graduation. Some move to other step-down community placements, while others remain at Ridge View until parole, or until another placement is made.

Comparing the Ridge View Youth with Other NYC Males

The Ridge View youth is a sub-group of the entire discharge population studied in the section on NYC recidivism results. Youth were selected to the Ridge View group if they were discharged from NYC during the State FY 2005-06 and had at least a 90-day length of stay (LOS) at Ridge View Youth Services Center during their commitment. The RYVSC group consists of 325 males discharged from NYC in FY 2005-06.

The comparison group for the Ridge View group includes 466 other DYC males that were (either never placed at RVYSC, or had less than a 90 day length of stay at Ridge View) discharged from DYC during FY 2005-06. The next section looks at how this group compares to the Ridge View group on a variety of demographic characteristics as well as on some risk factors for re-offending.

Youth Served by Ridge View Youth Services Center

Demographic Characteristics

Ethnicity

Table 19 shows differences in the ethnic distribution of youth discharged from the DYC during FY 2005-06 who were served by the Ridge View program and all other males discharged during the same time period.

Table 19: Ethnic Differences between Ridge View and Other DYC Males

Ethnicity	Ridge View Youth (N=325)	DYC Males (N=466)	TOTAL (N=791)
Anglo	32.6%	50.6%	43.2%
African American	20.9%	15.0%	17.4%
Hispanic	41.2%	32.0%	35.8%
Other ³⁰	5.2%	2.4%	3.5%

There were higher rates of minority populations in the Ridge View group when compared with other DYC males. These results were statistically significant (Chi-Square=27.257, $p < 0.01$); however, since there were no differences in pre-discharge or post-discharge recidivism attributed to ethnicity (when ethnicity is broken down into 4 groups) in the larger census of all youth discharged in FY 2005-06, this finding is not expected to influence the comparison of recidivism rates between the Ridge View group and other DYC males. As expected, there were no significant recidivism differences by ethnic group for either of these groups.

³⁰ This category includes Native American and Asian American youth as well as those officially identified as “other.” These categories are not combined because of commonalities among them, but because the numbers of youth in each category are too small when taken alone to make valid statistical comparisons.

Age

The average age at commitment for youth placed at Ridge View was 16.0 years; this is slightly older than the overall average age at commitment for other DYC males (15.9 years). However, the average age at the time youth were admitted to the Ridge View program was somewhat older at 16.8 years. The difference between age at commitment and age at admission to Ridge View can be mostly explained by the fact that all youth committed to the Division are required to participate in an assessment period of up to 30 days in a secure, State-operated facility prior to any other placement.

The majority of youth were 16 (32.6%), or 17 (36.9%) years of age at the time of first placement in Ridge View Youth Services Center. Table 20 shows the distribution of these youth, by age at time of placement.

Table 20: Age at Placement in Ridge View³¹

Age	Number Placed	Percent
14	11	3.4%
15	60	18.5%
16	106	32.6%
17	120	36.9%
18	27	8.3%
19	1	0.3%
Total	325	100.0%

³¹ Represents age at time of placement in Ridge View, rather than age at the time of commitment. Because of the delay between commitment and Ridge View placement, no comparison can be made with age at commitment for other DYC males.

Risk Profiles of Youth

Eligibility restrictions based on type of offense, mental health needs and other factors related to youths' risk and need levels could potentially lead to some differences between youth placed in Ridge View and the overall DYC male population.

Offense Types

As Figure 16 indicates, more than half (50.5%) of Ridge View youth were committed for property offenses, compared with 38.7% of the males in other DYC placements. Similarly, 32.3% of Ridge View youth were committed for person offenses, compared with 44.1% of other DYC males. These differences between groups were statistically significant (Chi-Square=20.183, $p < 0.01$).

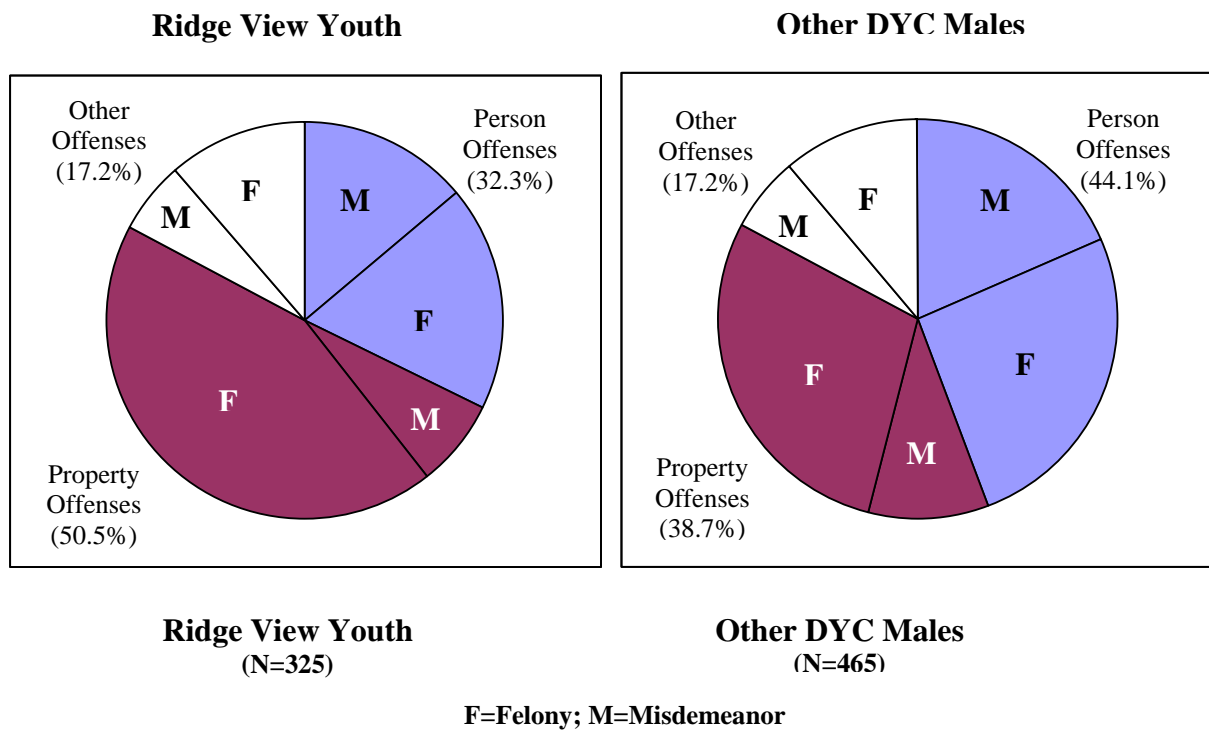


Figure 16: Type of Offense Males Discharged

Since property offenders tend to recidivate at higher levels than other offenders it would be expected that youth in the Ridge View group might have a higher risk of offending than other DYC males.

Risk of Re-offense

To be eligible for Ridge View placement, youth generally need to be in the low to moderate risk level with little or no mental health treatment needs, and not requiring sex offense specific treatment. These requirements, however, do not translate directly into a significantly lower risk population being served. For example, sex offenders tend to rank low on most risk of re-offense scales, and therefore since these youth are not eligible for placement at Ridge View this could result in higher risk youth being placed at RVYSC.

One of the many assessment instruments used at the time of commitment is the objective Commitment Classification Instrument (CCI). Placement needs are calculated by the CCI using the combined risk of re-offense and severity of the offense for which the youth was committed. The classification score is based on factors such as the number of prior adjudications, offense type, prior placement history, and age at first adjudication (See Figure 5). Figure 17 shows the differences in classification between youth discharged in FY 2005-06 that were placed in Ridge View and other DYC males discharged during that same time period. According to the CCI results, DYC males require more secure placement as compared to Ridge View youth.³²

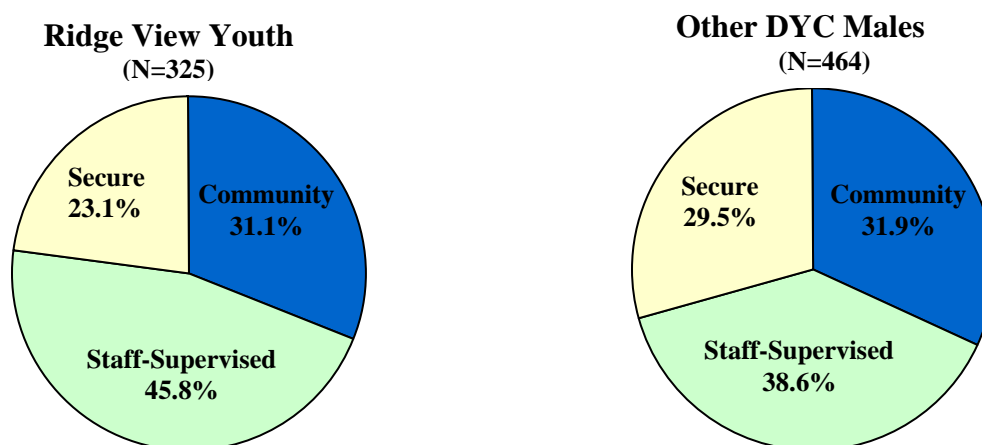


Figure 17: CCI Commitment Classification Scores Males Discharged

³² These results were not statistically significant.

Conversely, when looking at the results from the risk assessment used by DYC, the CYO-LSI, a statistically significant difference did result when comparing Ridge View youth with other DYC males (Chi-Square=19.310, $p < 0.01$). In other words, the results of the CYO-LSI show that there were more moderate risk level youth in the Ridge View group than in DYC male population.

Figure 18 displays these results.

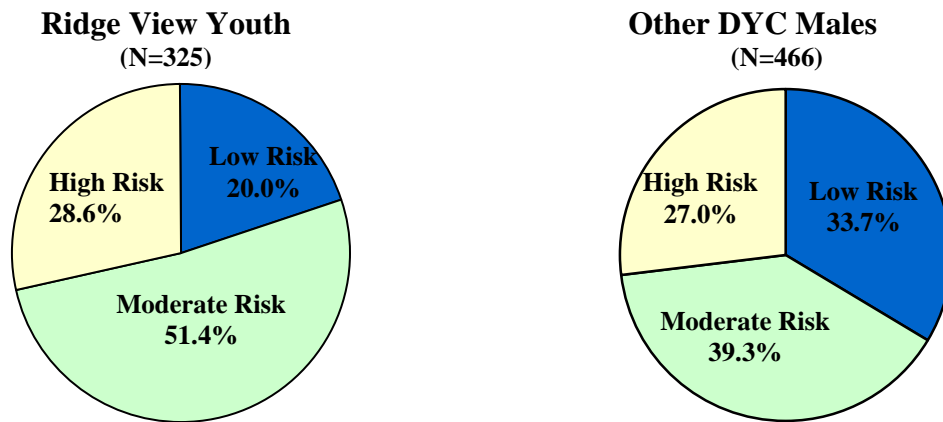


Figure 18: CYO-LSI Scores Males Discharged

Another estimation of risk is prior involvement in the juvenile justice system. Figure 19 shows a higher proportion of Ridge View youth had two or more prior adjudications than the remaining DYC male population, indicating an elevated risk of re-offending. Conversely, a lower proportion of Ridge View youth had either none or one prior adjudication before their commitment (Chi-Square=17.793, $p < 0.01$).

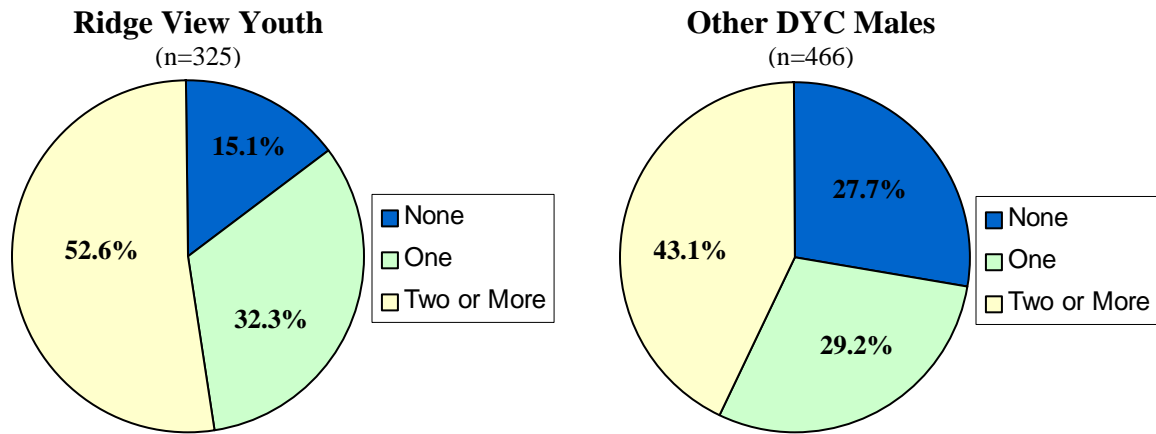


Figure 19: Number of Prior Adjudications Males Discharged

Similarly, Figure 20 shows a higher percentage of Ridge View Youth had more than two prior detention admissions than other NYC males (Chi-square=11.381, $p < 0.01$)

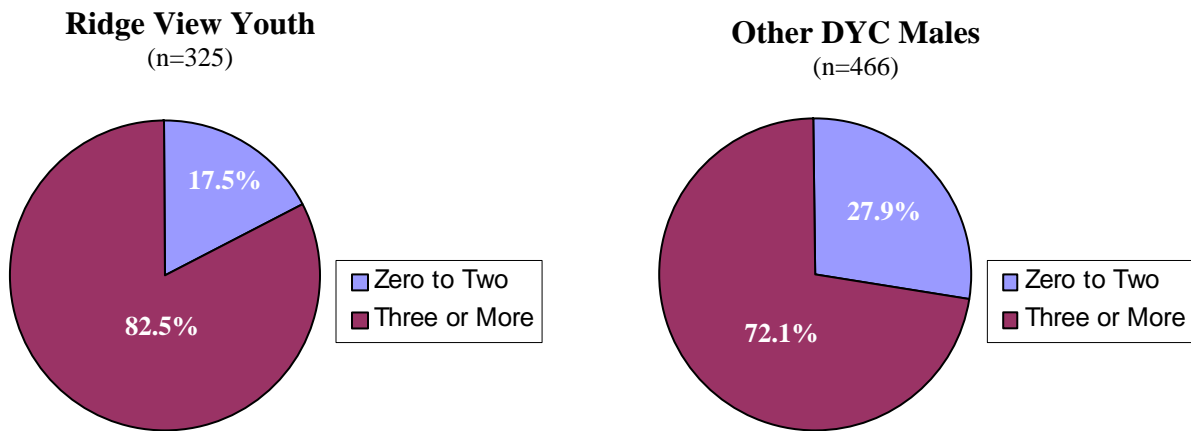


Figure 20: Number of Prior Detention Admissions Males Discharged

Length of Stay (LOS)

Youth placed at RVYSC had a slightly longer average total commitment LOS (27.1 months; median=25.8 months) than other DYC males (24.4 months; median = 23.7 months) discharged between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006³³. Total commitment length of stay includes time spent in a residential placement and time spent on mandatory parole. All youth in these groups were subject to the mandatory parole statutes and would have been required to spend a minimum of six months on parole status, in the community, prior to discharge from the Division. When looking at residential LOS only for both groups, the same results appear. Youth in the Ridge View cohort have a longer residential LOS (20.3 months) than other DYC males (17.4 months)³⁴.

Ridge View Recidivism Results

This section reports recidivism and other outcome information for the 325 youth discharged from the Division of Youth Corrections between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006, who were placed at Ridge View Youth Services Center (RVYSC) during their commitment to the Division. The Ridge View youth are compared to all other males discharged from DYC during this same time period that did not spend time at RVYSC (N=466). The term ‘pre-discharge’ is used to identify offenses filed during residential placement and/or parole. The term ‘post-discharge’ refers to offenses filed within one year after the youth was discharged from DYC. Table 21 illustrates differences in pre-discharge and post-discharge recidivism rates for the Ridge View group and the comparison group.

Of the 325 youth in the RVYSC group, 31.4 percent (N=102) had a new misdemeanor or felony offense filed prior to discharge³⁵. In comparison, 42.1 percent (N=196) of males in the comparison group had a new filing for a misdemeanor or felony offense prior to discharge from the Division. Conversely, youth in the Ridge View group had higher rates of post-discharge recidivism (38.8%) compared with other males discharged from DYC during FY 2005-06

³³ These differences were statistically significant (F=14.4, p<0.01)

³⁴ These differences were statistically significant (F=21.5, p<0.01)

³⁵ Filings on offenses that occurred prior to a youth’s admission to the RVYSC facility are not included in these analyses. If the program had not served a youth prior to the time the recidivist act occurred, the program in question could not have prevented it.

(36.9%). Overall, the recidivism rates for Ridge View youth were lower than for other DYC males for pre-discharge recidivism and higher for post-discharge.

Table 21: Recidivism Rates of Males Discharged

	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ridge View	223	68.6%	102	31.4%	325	41.1%
Other DYC Males	270	57.9%	196	42.1%	466	58.9%
Total	493	62.3%	298	37.7%	791	100.0%

	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ridge View	199	61.2%	126	38.8%	325	41.1%
Other DYC Males	294	63.1%	172	36.9%	466	58.9%
Total	493	62.3%	298	37.7%	791	100.0%

Only the pre-discharge recidivism comparison was statistically significant (Chi-Square=9.293, $p < 0.01$). The following sub-sections will only show the analyses where results for the Ridge View group were significantly different by specific factors for risk of re-offending. Analyses were conducted on all factors identified in the primary recidivism study, however, very few showed significant differences for the Ridge View group.

DYC Management Region

DYC has a regionally based management structure, operating from four management regions in the state (See Figure 7). The Central Region³⁶ consists of four judicial districts and includes the major counties of Denver, Jefferson, Arapahoe, and Douglas. The Northeast Region consists of five judicial districts and includes the major counties of Adams, Boulder, Larimer, and Weld. The Southern Region consists of seven judicial districts and includes the major counties of El Paso and Pueblo. The Western Region consists of the six judicial districts on the western slope including the major county of Mesa. Unlike most DYC placements, which are generally contracted separately for each management region, Ridge View Youth Services Center treats

³⁶ In July 2003 the Central Region and the Denver Region merged to form one combined Central Region.

youth from all four regions. Table 22 shows a breakdown of new offenses during and after commitment by DYC management region.

Table 22: Recidivism by DYC Management Region Ridge View Youth Discharged

Region	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Central	106	69.3%	47	30.7%	153	47.1%
Northeast	48	64.0%	27	36.0%	75	23.1%
Southern	48	69.6%	21	30.4%	69	21.2%
Western	21	75.0%	7	25.0%	28	8.6%
Total	223	68.6%	102	31.4%	325	100.0%

Region	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Central	96	62.7%	57	37.3%	153	47.1%
Northeast	45	60.0%	30	40.0%	75	23.1%
Southern	41	59.4%	28	40.6%	69	21.2%
Western	17	60.7%	11	39.3%	28	8.6%
Total	199	61.2%	126	38.8%	325	100.0%

Many results of this analysis are similar to the results for the main recidivism study. The highest pre-discharge rate was found in the Northeast region (36.0%), while the highest post-discharge recidivism rate was found in the Southern region (40.6%). The Western region had the lowest rates of pre-discharge recidivism (25.0%) and the Central region had the lowest post-discharge recidivism rate (37.3%). The differences in the rate of pre-discharge and post-discharge filings were not statistically significant.

Number of Escapes

The DYC TRAILS database tracks the number of times a youth escapes from residential placement during commitment. DYC policy defines an escapee as a juvenile who has left a facility's custody without proper authorization, or a juvenile who has not returned to a facility within four hours of the prescribed time from any authorized leave.

The Ridge View and DYC male groups had similar average number of escapes (0.70 for the Ridge View group and 0.84 for the DYC male group). Ridge View youth with more escapes were more likely to have received a new filing for a felony or misdemeanor offense prior to discharge from DYC³⁷. This relationship did not hold true for post-discharge recidivism. It is important to note that the District Attorney's Office in Arapahoe County, where Ridge View is located, has a policy of always filing charges on escapes. This could artificially increase the pre-discharge recidivism rates for youth who escape from the RVYSC facility when compared with other DYC males who might have escapes in other jurisdictions.

Risk of Re-offending

The only risk factor³⁸ to significantly influence recidivism for Ridge View youth were escapes and number of recommitments—and these were only significant in predicting pre-discharge recidivism. This finding, however, may be a product of circular reasoning. When a youth escapes from Ridge View it is highly likely, if not guaranteed, that the escape charge will be filed on and in turn they will most likely be recommitted. In that scenario, an escape *is* technically pre-discharge recidivism.

The overall lack of significant findings could be an indicator of treatment success. It would be expected that a youth group that shows more risk factors than the comparison group (more non-Anglo youth, more property offenders, more prior detention admissions, more prior adjudications) would be more likely to recidivate. The fact that this is not the case, suggests that there have been some intervening measures during commitment that has kept these youth from receiving a filing for a new offense.

Parole Adjustment at Time of Discharge (Post-discharge only)

When a youth is discharged from DYC they receive a parole adjustment rating. This rating is used to describe a youth's performance while on parole transitioning back into the community, and is used as an outcome measure for DYC that reflects the youth's ability to adapt to life in a community setting. It is expected that youth who successfully reintegrate into community settings would be less likely to receive a new filing for a post-discharge offense than youth who

³⁷ Pre-discharge recidivism by number of escapes (F=24.025, p<0.01).

received a less than satisfactory adjustment rating. Table 23 shows post-discharge recidivism rates³⁹ by parole adjustment rating at the time of discharge from DYC for Ridge View juveniles.

Table 23: Post-Discharge Recidivism by Parole Adjustment Rating at Discharge Ridge View Youth Discharged

Parole Adjustment at Discharge	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Satisfactory/Excellent	145	65.0%	78	35.0%	223	68.6%
Poor/Unsatisfactory	49	55.7%	39	44.3%	88	27.1%
No Parole	4	40.0%	6	60.0%	10	3.1%
Unknown	1	25.0%	3	75.0%	4	1.2%
Total	199	61.2%	126	38.8%	325	100.0%

Over sixty-nine percent (68.6%) of discharged youth received a satisfactory or better parole adjustment rating at the time of discharge from the Division of Youth Corrections. While not statistically significant, youth who received a poor or unsatisfactory parole adjustment rating were more likely to have received a new filing for a felony or misdemeanor offense post-discharge (44.3%) than youth who received a satisfactory or better rating (35.0%)

Job/School Status at Time of Discharge

This study also investigated recidivism rates for youth that were gainfully employed or enrolled in school at the time of parole discharge, another measure of successful reintegration into the community. It is expected that youth who were going to school or employed at the time of discharge from DYC would have lower rates of recidivism than youth that were not in school or employed. Post-discharge recidivism rates⁴⁰ are shown in the table below.

³⁸ the factors examine included number of escapes, number of recommitments, prior out of home placements, age at first adjudication, CYO-LSI risk score, CCI score

³⁹ Pre-discharge recidivism rates were not analyzed for this factor because parole adjustments are not available until the youth is discharged from DYC commitment status.

⁴⁰ Pre-discharge recidivism rates were not analyzed for this factor because employment and school status at the time of discharge are not known prior to the youth being discharged from DYC commitment status.

Table 24: Post-Discharge Recidivism by Job/School Status at Discharge Ridge View Youth Discharged

Job/School Status at Discharge	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Not Employed or Attending School	48	60.0%	32	40.0%	80	25.1%
Employed or in School at Time of Discharge	149	62.3%	90	37.7%	239	74.9%
Total	197	61.8%	122	38.2%	319	100.0%

(Missing Data: N=6)

As expected, youth that were employed or attending school at the time of discharge were less likely to have received a filing for a new felony or misdemeanor offense within one year following discharge. Like the general DYC population, this relationship is not statistically significant for Ridge View youth.

Ridge View Graduation

In order to officially graduate from the Ridge View program, each of the components of the VALIDATE model must be completed, and the youth’s peer group and staff must formally agree that the youth has fulfilled all of the graduation requirements. Once these have been completed, and the youth has maintained a RAM status for four consecutive months, he officially validates the program and participates in a graduation ceremony.

Table 25: Recidivism by Successful Completion of the Ridge View Program, Ridge View Youth Discharged

Completion Status	No Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Pre-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Graduated	187	73.0%	69	27.0%	256	79.0%
Did Not Graduate	35	51.5%	33	48.5%	68	21.0%
Total	222	68.5%	102	31.5%	324	100.0%

Completion Status	No Post-Discharge Recidivism		Post-Discharge Recidivism		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Number	Percent
Graduated	160	62.5%	96	37.5%	256	79.0%
Did Not Graduate	38	55.9%	30	44.1%	68	21.0%
Total	198	61.1%	126	38.9%	324	100.0%

(Missing Data: N=1)

Table 25 shows the differences in pre-discharge recidivism for youth that officially graduated from the Ridge View program compared with youth who left for other reasons⁴¹.

Youth that graduated from the Ridge View program had lower rates of new filing for a recidivist act both prior to discharge (27.0%) and following discharge from NYC (37.5%) than youth who did not fully complete the program (48.5% and 44.1%, respectively). The comparison for pre-discharge recidivism rates was statistically significant (Chi-Square=11.596, p<0.01).

Time to First Post-Discharge Filing

Looking at time to first offense, it is evident that Ridge View youth do not recidivate at a constant rate following discharge. Figure 21 shows the *actual* number of youth who recidivated each month after discharge (blue line), and a depiction of what a *constant* rate of recidivism would look like (red line).

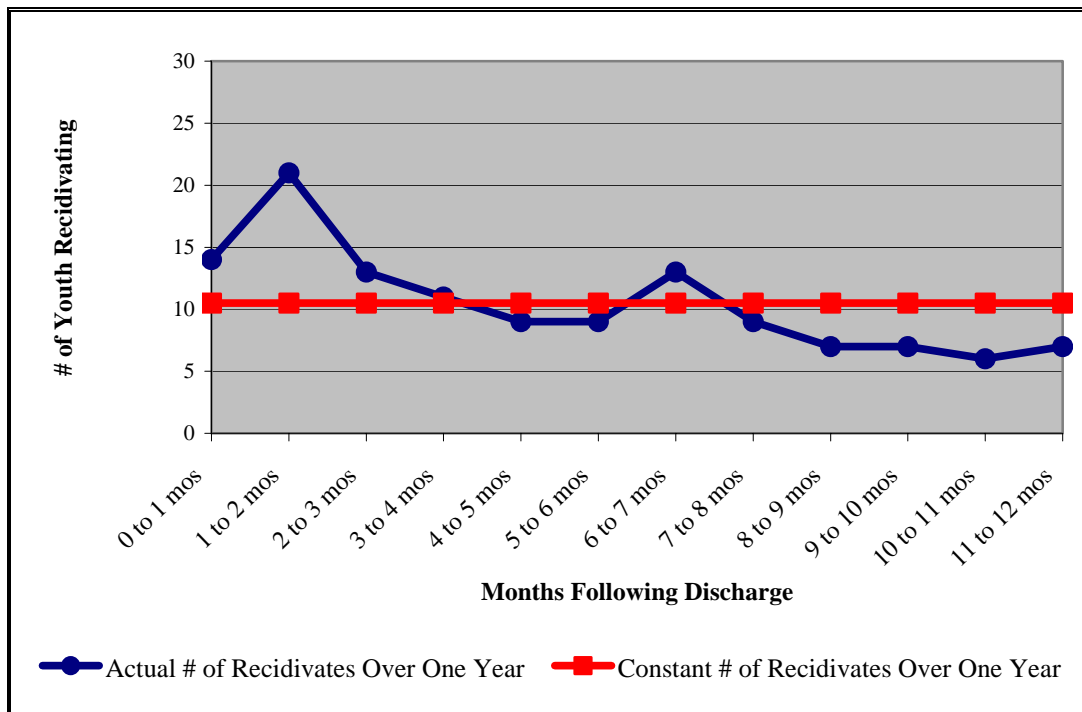


Figure 21: Time to First Post-Discharge Offense Ridge View Youth Discharged

⁴¹ Youth who did not graduate may have completed the program, but did not fulfill the requirements for validation. Other types of release include medical release, escapes, client manager referrals to another program, youth paroled prior to completion of the program, or program failures. Ridge View staff views all releases that did not validate to be unsuccessful in the program.

Figure 22 shows the variation in actual rate from the constant rate shown in Figure 21. The bars show variation from the constant rate. Any number above “0” shows the number of youth above the constant monthly new recidivists. A number below “0” is the number of youth below the monthly constant recidivists. For the first 4 months of the follow-up period every month has more new post-discharge offenders than the constant number. However, starting at 5 months the actual numbers are below the constant, with the exception of month 7. This illustrates the reduction in the number of youth committing their first offense post-discharge during these times.

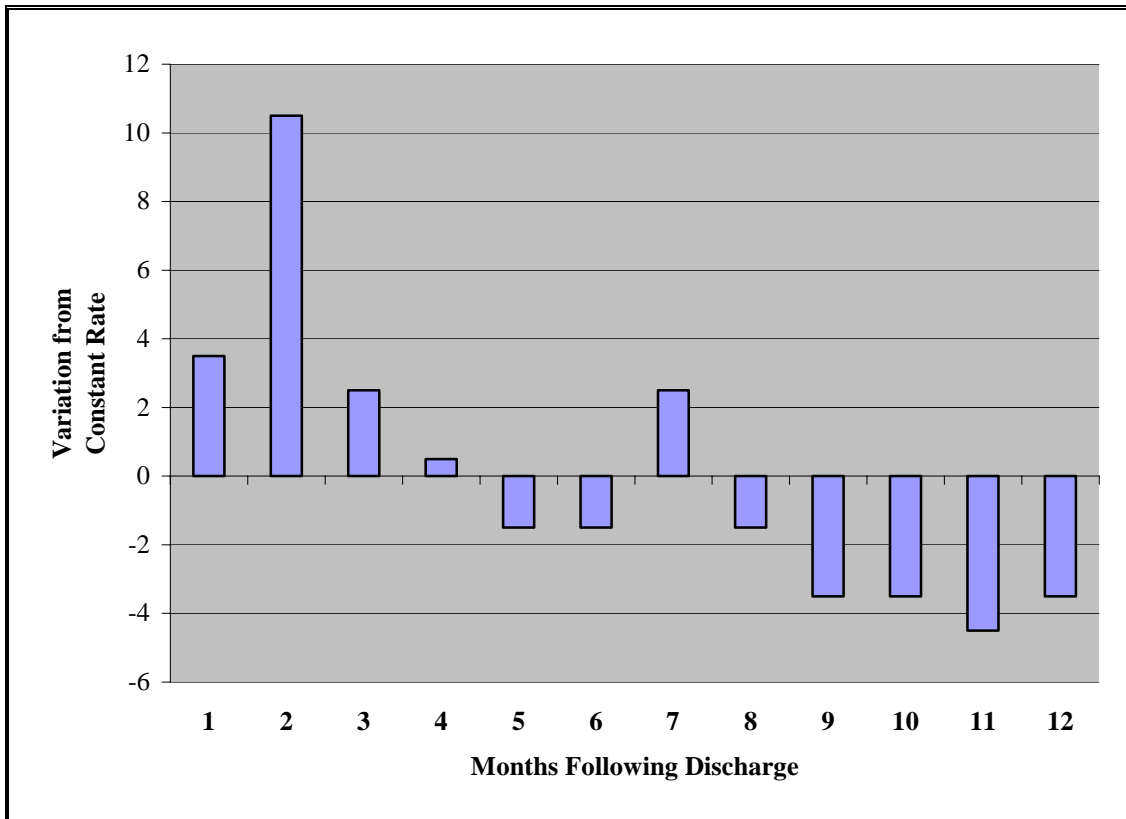


Figure 22: Survival Analysis/Variation from Constant Rate Ridge View Youth Discharged

Another analysis of time to first offense (Figure 22) shows that, of the 126 Ridge View youth that recidivated within one year following discharge, 54.0% of youth that received a new filing for a felony or misdemeanor offense committed that offense within the first 5 months after their discharge date. Eighty-four percent (84.1%) committed their first offense within 9 months following discharge. The average amount of time following discharge date to the first post-discharge filing was 5.8 months (175 days). Last year's cohort of Ridge View recidivists averaged 5.0 months (151 days) to first post-discharge filing.

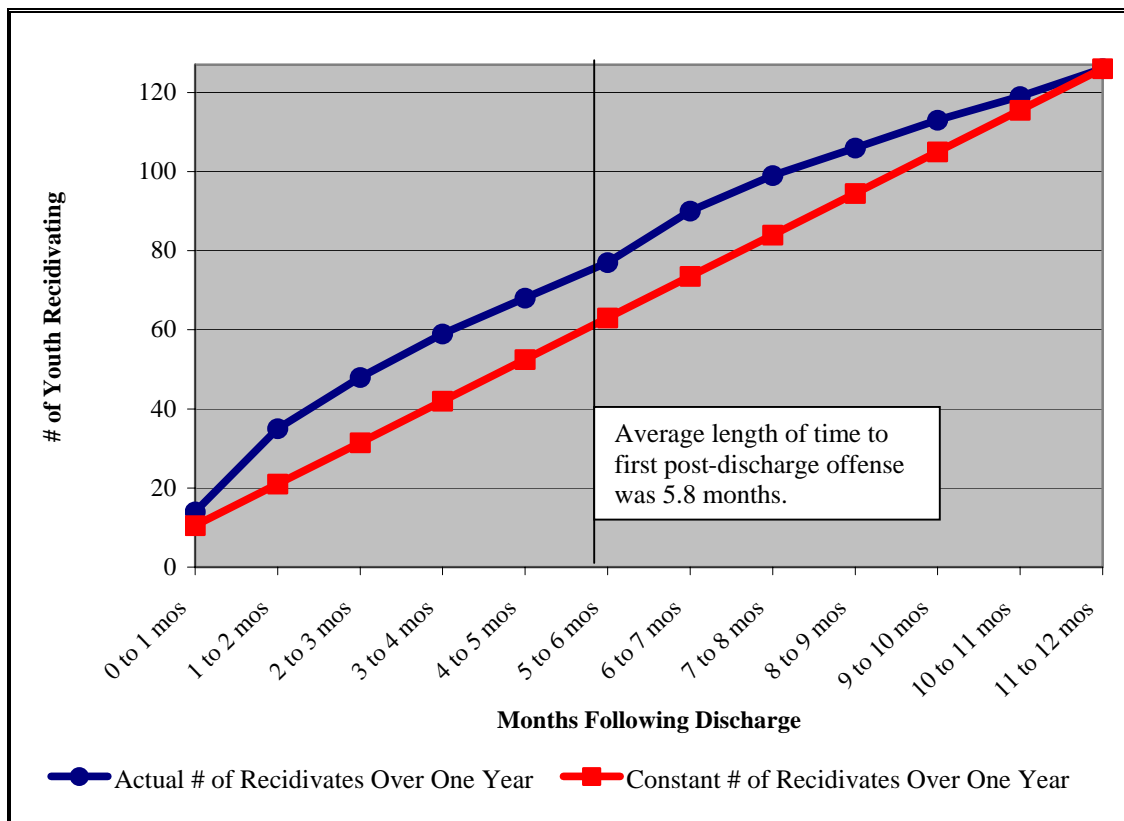


Figure 23: Time to First Post-Discharge Offense (Survival Analysis) Ridge View Youth Discharged

The red line in Figure 23 depicts a *constant* linear growth rate in recidivism over one year. The blue line shows graphically what it would look like if all youth in this cohort were to recidivate at an equal rate from the day of discharge to the last day of the follow up period. The blue line shows the *actual* growth in recidivism rate from the day of discharge through one year following discharge. This analysis shows that youth in this group appear to recidivate at an increasing rate from discharge to four months following discharge, and again at seven months. This pattern is

consistent with the FY 2004-05 cohort of Ridge View recidivists, which showed an increased number of youth recidivating within the first five months.

DISCUSSION

Recidivism Results

Before discussing the results presented within this report, it is important to realize that any analysis of recidivism rates must be approached cautiously. Policy-makers and juvenile justice practitioners often refer to recidivism as if it were a constant, universal concept. In reality, recidivism is an amorphous concept that is dependent upon its underpinning assumptions. A marked departure from any of these assumptions will result in outcome measures that are significantly disparate. There is a brief discussion of those assumptions that have the greatest potential for influencing recidivism rates⁴² included as an appendix to this report.

DYC Recidivism

Overall, thirty-nine percent (38.5%) of the youth discharged in FY 2005-06 received a new filing for an offense that occurred prior to discharge, and thirty-six (35.5%) received a new filing for an offense within one year after their discharge from DYC. Pre-discharge recidivism rates have remained between 33% and 39% for the past six years. Post-discharge recidivism rates have remained between 34% and 38% for the past five years.

Criminogenic Risk Factors

Research has established and reaffirmed that there are a number of factors that strongly correlate to persistent and/or chronic delinquent behaviors. These criminogenic risk factors consist of a host of social, environmental, ecological, psychological and gender-based influences. The Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment is rooted in the following 11 criminogenic domains: 1) Criminal History; 2) Gender; 3) School; 4) Use of Free Time; 5) Employment; 6) Relationships; 7) Living Arrangements; 8) Substance Abuse; 9) Mental Health; 10) Attitudes and Behaviors; and 12) Skills.

⁴² Altering the definition of recidivism can influence wholesale changes in outcome results. This discussion assumes that the definition of recidivism remains constant.

Although a number of criminogenic risk factors are static and not amendable to treatment interventions (Gender, Criminal History, etc.), the vast majority of these factors are dynamic in nature (Mental Health, Substance Abuse, etc.). These more dynamic risk factors are relevant to prevention and rehabilitation in that they suggest promising intermediate objectives of programming, which when achieved should be followed by a concomitant reduction in delinquent behaviors. The following therapeutic targets (or immediate objectives) have been linked (through a meta-analysis of various research studies) to reduced recidivism⁴³:

1. Changing Anti-Social Attitudes, Feelings, and Peer Associations
2. Familial Communication, Monitoring, and Supervision
3. Child Protection
4. Identification/Association with Pro-Social Role-Models
5. Increasing Cognitive Skills (Self-Control, Self-Management, Problem-Solving, Recognizing Risky Situations, etc.)
6. Replacing the skills of lying, stealing and aggression with pro-social alternatives
7. Reducing Chemical Dependency
8. Shifting internal reward structures towards non-criminal alternatives
9. Providing the chronically psychiatrically troubled with a low-pressure, sheltered living arrangement.
10. Addressing client motivation and background stressors
11. Developing individualized case plans that address other attributes associated with delinquent conduct.

⁴³ Andrews, D.A., Zinger, I., Hoge, R.D., Bonta, J., Gendreau, P., & Cullen, F.T. (1990). Does Correctional Treatment Work? A psychologically informed meta-analysis, *Criminology*, 28, 369-404.

Traditional (Static) Risk Factors and Their Ability to Predict Recidivism

The risk factors that have traditionally and consistently been shown to increase the likelihood of re-offending (number of prior out-of-home placements, number of prior adjudications, number of prior detention admissions, and age at first adjudication) are static factors. All of these factors were analyzed in this report, and for the most part, they do significantly predict the likelihood of re-offending. For pre-discharge, the risk factors shown to impact recidivism were gender, prior detention admissions, prior adjudications, age at first adjudication, and prior out-of-home placements. For post-discharge, the risk factors shown to impact recidivism were gender, prior detention admissions, and prior adjudications.

Because most of the traditional risk factors analyzed were shown to increase the likelihood of recidivism, it is important that the Division continue to target those criminogenic risk factors in an attempt to mitigate those specific risks for NYC youth.

Other Factors and Their Ability to Predict Recidivism

Also analyzed, in conjunction with the traditional (static) risk factors, were other factors that tend to impact recidivism rates. Many of these other factors are dynamic in nature and are targeted by the Division. These factors analyzed include risk score (CYO-LSI), commitment classification score (CCI), original commitment offense, ethnicity, NYC management region, substance abuse level, number of escapes, number of recommitments, employment/school status at discharge, parole adjustment at discharge, and sex offender status. In addition, pre-discharge recidivism was investigated for its impact on post-discharge recidivism. Looking at pre-discharge recidivism, analyses show that original commitment offense, recommitments, CYO-LSI risk level, and escapes all had a significant impact on rates. Looking at post-discharge recidivism, the factors shown to impact rates were CYO-LSI risk level, sentence type, parole adjustment rating, pre-discharge recidivism, and sex offender status.

Ridge View Recidivism

Pre-Discharge recidivism rates for Ridge View youth were statistically lower than the rates of other NYC males discharged in FY 2005-06, however there was no difference when looking at Post-Discharge rates. Where there were differences in the Ridge View group compared with other NYC males on risk factors for re-offending, the Ridge View youth generally scored significantly higher. Ridge View youth had more prior adjudications, more detention admissions, and more property offenders than the comparison group. Other NYC males were shown to need more secure placements (CCI) and had less moderate risk youth (CYO-LSI).

Also of significance were the higher rates of minority populations served at Ridge View (67.4%) when compared with all other males discharged during FY 2005-06 (49.4%). Youth placed at Ridge View were also more likely to have been committed for a property offense (50.5%) than other males (38.7%). Juvenile justice research has shown that property offenders recidivate at higher rates than youth who commit person offenses. Therefore, it would be expected that these youth would also have higher rates of recidivism than the comparison group. For post-discharge recidivism, this turned out to be true, but not statistically significantly. A higher percentage of Ridge View youth recidivated (38.8%) compared to other NYC males (36.9%). Conversely, youth in the Ridge View group had slightly lower rates of pre-discharge recidivism compared with other males discharged from NYC during FY 2005-06, and this was statistically significant. Of the 325 youth in the RYVSC group, 102 (31.4%) had a new misdemeanor or felony offense filed prior to discharge. In comparison, 42.1% (N=196) of males in the comparison group had a new filing for a misdemeanor or felony offense prior to discharge from the Division.

In addition, youth that successfully completed the Ridge View program did have significantly lower pre-discharge recidivism rates than youth who did not graduate from the program.

Overall, the recidivism rates for Ridge View youth were lower than for other NYC males for pre-discharge recidivism and higher for post-discharge, however only the pre-discharge results were statistically significant.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT AND RECIDIVISM

The juvenile justice research community has long accepted the relationship between substance abuse and delinquency. Numerous studies have evidenced a significant correlation between early onset and chronic substance abuse with an increased probability for engaging in socially deviant activities and associating with delinquent peers⁴⁴.

In an attempt to stop the cycle of continued substance use and delinquency, juvenile justice agencies have actively sought out resources to address this criminogenic need. Often, the need for substance abuse services outstrips the resources available for this effort. As a result, juvenile justice systems are required to ration this finite resource; dedicating these limited resources to those youth who evidence the highest need.

This rationing process has led some policy-makers to question the success rates for youth who undergo substance abuse treatment compared to those youth who do not receive these services. Recidivism rates are typically used as one measurement of success, which is the focus of FY 2007-08 Long Bill footnote 85, which states:

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department provide a report to the Joint Budget Committee on January 1, 2008 which tracks and compares recidivism rates between those juveniles receiving drug and alcohol treatment and those not receiving treatment, while sentenced to commitment.

⁴⁴ Zhang, Wieczorek, and Welte, "The Impact of Age of Onset of Substance Use on Delinquency" (Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Vol. 34, No. 2, 253-268 (1997))

Background:

Youth newly committed to the Division of Youth Corrections (DYC) are placed at one of the four DYC Assessment Centers across Colorado, and in compliance with the Colorado Children's Code (19-2-922, C.R.S.), receive a comprehensive evaluation necessary to begin initial understanding of the youth's needs regarding placement and treatment.

Screening for substance abuse is conducted on all youth as part of the overall assessment process. The Substance Use Survey (SUS) provides ratings on specific scales across drug use involvement, disruption, and mental health adjustment. Particularly important are the involvement and disruption scale scores that are used to determine level of treatment. The Involvement scale measures the lifetime use pattern of 19 different drugs (including alcohol). Disruption is considered the best measure of drug abuse and dependence. These scales provide the clinician with the ability to discern the degree of severity of the individual's drug-use pattern.

The evaluator, a Certified Addiction Counselor (CAC II or CAC III) is responsible for scoring and interpreting the results and determining if the youth falls into one of three categories: **Prevention, Intervention, or Treatment level**. This is accomplished by evaluating the responses on drug use involvement, drug use disruption, and psychological problems. The overall score, completed by the clinician, indicates level of treatment. Low scores indicate *Prevention level*; medium scores indicate *Intervention level*; while higher scores are reflective of *Treatment level* needs.

The Adolescent Self-Assessment Profile (ASAP) is administered to youth who meet the *Treatment level* criteria. This is a self-report, multivariate instrument that scores the major risk and problem areas caused by substance abuse in the youth's life. The scales are similar to the Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment in that they measure risks associated with family, peer involvement, school adjustment problems, attitude, anti-social behavior, psychological issues and more specific scales related to substance abuse. Treatment planning related issues can be extrapolated from this data.

Prevention level services are for individuals who have not established a pattern of drug or alcohol use, or who may indicate an increased risk for developing a use or abuse pattern. Prevention strategies should be multi-faceted and include community involvement, family, peers and the individual. There is no prescribed level of intensity for prevention services. The more comprehensive the exposure is to multi-media and multi-modal curriculum, based on the holistic wellness model, the better.

The goal in serving *Prevention level* youth is to maintain and strengthen the resiliency and protective factors in the youth's life. Helpful interventions include encouraging family visits, physical exercise, sports, health classes related to healthy sexuality, and skill building classes based on the Cognitive Behavioral Treatment model. Skills taught and incorporated into all daily activities should focus on communication skills, problem solving, and decision-making.

Intervention level is referred to a level of service for individuals who have established some pattern of use, but who do not indicate signs and symptoms of drug/alcohol disruption. *Intervention level* treatment planning is aimed at moving the youth toward the healthy, protective factors in his/her life, and away from the perils of high-risk substance abuse behaviors and attitudes. These youth are at risk due to environmental factors, (i.e., family or gang) and/or genetic predisposition to abuse of substances. During individual treatment planning and family therapy, youth are encouraged to discuss feelings related to substance abuse in their own family and their choices and limitations within the family environment. Mental health, gang related issues, parenting skills, and healthy sexuality are some of the related issues addressed on an individual basis and during group treatment. Cognitive behavioral treatment and motivational groups are used for both *Intervention* and *Treatment level* youth.

Treatment level services are for individuals whose substance use pattern has begun to cause disruptive effects on life functioning. The pattern of use is clear and there are identifiable symptoms resulting from this use pattern. The goal of individualized treatment is to assist the youth in gaining skills necessary to combat substance abuse behaviors and identify the relationship between substance abuse and criminal conduct. Youth are referred for groups that use curriculum written specifically for this population utilizing the cognitive behavioral

treatment approach. Transition services focus on relapse prevention, community support systems, aftercare classes, and a specific transition plan to support the youth during parole.

Treatment Intensity: For purposes of developing analytical units for this report, the Division developed four general categories that were based on clinical practice and judgment.

Minimal Intensity: At this level, the youth received substance abuse assessment and/or evaluation. Some limited substance abuse services may have been delivered, but the intensity, interval, or continuity of services were not sufficient to reach the clinical threshold of *Low Level* of treatment

Low Intensity of Treatment Services: Low level of services is defined as the client receiving up to four sessions of treatment services monthly.

Moderate Intensity of Treatment Services: This level is defined as those youth receiving from 5-10 sessions monthly.

High Intensity of Treatment Services: High Intensity of treatment is defined as those receiving 11 or more sessions monthly.

It is important to note that there were *Treatment level* youth who received substance abuse services, but were not included in the data set because they did not meet the standard of receiving a continuous dose of treatment for at least six months in one facility. Substance abusing youth in the NYC system receive a range of services beyond the specific substance abuse data that was collected for this report. An example of this is the *Thinking for a Change* (National Institute of Corrections) cognitive behavioral curriculum, offered to all youth in the facilities. This curriculum is provided through a large number of staff including educators, line staff, and youth counselors. Other services youth receive but not collected in this data are gang awareness, psycho-education, parenting, healthy sexuality, grief and loss, economic literacy, trauma

treatment services, and the daily skills utilizing role-playing. Where appropriate, youth are also receiving sex offender services and mental health treatment. Informal individual sessions occur between line staff and youth throughout the day but are often not documented as treatment at all.

Substance Abuse Treatment Funding in State Facilities:

Prior to the General Assembly approving the Division's decision item to add clinical staff to its State Secure facilities, the overwhelming funding source for the provision of substance abuse services came from federal grant dollars. Staffing of these additional state-funded clinical positions were not fully deployed until FY 2006-07. Consequently, none of the youth in this *discharge cohort* were able to benefit from the addition of clinical staff and the majority of their services were provided through grant dollars. The FY 2006-07 *discharge cohort* will be the first cohort that would have been substantively impacted by the provision of additional clinical services⁴⁵.

During FY 2003-04, the Division of Youth Corrections received funding from two outside sources to assist in the substance abuse service needs of youth. During FY 2004-05, the federal Bureau of Justice did not release any funding. In federal FY 2005-06, DYC was able to receive a large portion of the available funds to the state.

⁴⁵ Even in next year's discharge cohort, services will only have been provided for a portion of the youth's total residential period.

Source of Funding	FY 2003-04	FY 2004-05	FY 2005-06
1. CDHS-ADAD	\$49,900	\$49,000	\$49,000
2. Bureau of Justice Administration- Residential Substance abuse Treatment and Transition (RSAT)	\$402,652	\$0	\$131,671
Total	\$452,552	\$49,000	\$181,571

The following is the breakdown of where the RSAT funding was allocated within NYC State-operated programs. RSAT funds available through the Bureau of Justice Administration and managed by the Division of Criminal Justice, allowed for the hiring of Certified Addictions Counselors who provided quality and enhanced treatment to youth assessed at *Treatment level*. Services included individual, group and transition programs. These were in addition to transition services through the ADAD funds. In FY 2004-05, the RSAT funds were not appropriated, but did return in a more modest amount in FY 2005-06.

Facility	Fed FY 2003-04	Fed FY 2004-05	Fed FY 2005-06
Lookout Mountain Youth Services Center (LETTS)	\$225,067	\$0	\$0
Zebulon Pike Youth Services Center (ZETTS)	\$103,660	\$0	\$0
Betty K. Marler Youth Services Center (GETTS)	\$ 73,925	\$0	\$131,671
Total	\$ 402,652	\$0	\$131,671

The ADAD funding is utilized to contract with outside community providers to enter State-operated facilities and provide transition group services to youth. In many cases, upon release

to parole status the youth are linked with the same agency to continue transition and community reintegration.

Criminogenic Risk Factors:

The Division of Youth Corrections has embarked upon an initiative to redesign its assessment and classification services, with the goal of developing a comprehensive, state-of-the-art assessment, diagnostic and classification system that is founded in evidence based theory and principles.

Effective June 2006, every youth who is committed to the Division is assessed for actuarial risk using the Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment Instrument (CJRA). The CJRA is a fourth generation risk instrument that was development by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP). This instrument measures criminogenic risk, needs and protective factors both from a static and dynamic perspective. Currently, this instrument is being utilized by 8 states nationwide and efforts are continually underway to improve its predictive and case-planning components. The CJRA replaces the Colorado Young Offender Level of Service Inventory (CYO-LSI) that the Division had utilized for over a decade. Unlike the CYO-LSI, the CJRA also incorporates protective factors scales that are valuable when developing case-plans and referring youth to specific residential placements. Additionally, the CJRA has a built-in pre-screen, which is a 27-item questionnaire that can be quickly utilized in making screening decisions.

For the FY 2005-06 *discharge cohort*, none of the youth were initially assessed using the CJRA. The CYO-LSI was still the instrument the Division used to determine risk; as such, any discussion of risk (or risk levels) is in reference to the scores generated from the CYO-LSI. The CYO-LSI is an 84-item risk assessment with the following cut-point scores designating risk level:

Risk Category	Scoring Range
Low Risk	0 to 30
Medium Risk	31 to 41
High Risk	42 to 84

Sampling Protocols:

One of the significant challenges in responding to this footnote request is that the Division's information management system (TRAILS) only collects substance abuse treatment data while the youth resides in one of the eleven State-Secure facilities. The TRAILS system is currently not designed to track those substance abuse treatment services that a youth receives while residing in a Contract Placement. Moreover, the TRAILS system does not have a ready mechanism for tracking those community-based treatment services that a youth receives while on parole. Advances are continually being made to augment the collection of treatment data within TRAILS; however, it makes retrospective studies of this type difficult to conduct because that level or type of data did not previously exist in the data system.

Another limitation of solely relying upon State Secure treatment data is that youth committed to DYC typically serve a proportion of their residential stay in both a State-Secure and a Contract placement. For purposes of this analysis, the Division had developed Length of Stay (LOS) criteria for designating whether a youth had largely served their commitment period in a State Secure or Contract Placement. The threshold for being considered a *State-Secure Youth* was established at having stayed at least 180 consecutive days in any of Colorado's state secure commitment facilities. Youth with State-Secure LOS periods less than 180 days were categorized as being youth served primarily by Contract Providers⁴⁶.

⁴⁶ The designation of having been primarily served either by a State Secure or Contract Provider is somewhat arbitrary. Moreover, it is certainly possible for a youth to spend over 180 days in a State-Secure facility; as well spending a protracted period of time with a Contract Provider. Clearly, these designations do not represent distinct sub-populations. However, for purposes of identifying a practical research cohort, such methodological limitations were required.

Description of Cohort Groups:

In FY 2005-06, DYC had a *total discharge cohort* of 929 youth. Of this discharged cohort, 788 youth were assessed as having either *Intervention* or *Treatment level* substance abuse treatment needs (84.8 %). This distribution of substance abuse treatment needs closely approximates the reported distribution of the overall commitment population in the same Fiscal Year (86.3%)⁴⁷.

Narrowing the sample to only those youth with *Intervention* or *Treatment level* substance abuse needs, approximately 32% of these youth met the aforementioned criteria of being designated a *state secure youth* (N=252). At the time of commitment, 64.3% of this sub-population was assessed as being *Intervention level*, while 35.7% were assessed at the more intensive *Treatment level* (N=90). The *Prevention level* youth were removed from the population so that a “pure treatment” group could be created for purposes of this analysis.

Next, focusing on the intensity of treatment service delivered, clinical data records indicate that the majority of this very specific population received only a minimal level of substance abuse treatment services (N=139). This finding should not suggest that no substance abuse services were provided to these 139 youth. At a minimum, each youth committed to the Division is given a substance abuse assessment and/or evaluation. Furthermore, it may be possible that many of these youth received a notable amount of substance abuse services, but that the intensity, interval, or continuity of services were not sufficient to reach the clinical threshold of *Low Level* of treatment⁴⁸.

It is evident the *Intervention level* youth in this cohort received a higher level of service than the *Treatment level* youth. One explanation is the issue of not having a current mechanism to document re-assessment of treatment level. Staff discover once the youth is placed with them on the unit that the initial assessment level is not accurate (much of what is initially assessed is self-report) and the youth are re-assessed and determined to be *Treatment level*. It is entirely likely youth who received a higher level of services were re-assessed as *Treatment level*. There are

⁴⁷ FY 2006-07 Management Reference Manual, The Colorado Division of Youth Corrections, January 2008.

⁴⁸ Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, Rule 15.218.2.c; March 2006.

also the youth who are assessed at *Treatment level* and receive most of their substance abuse treatment at a contract facility and therefore were not able to be counted among this treatment cohort.

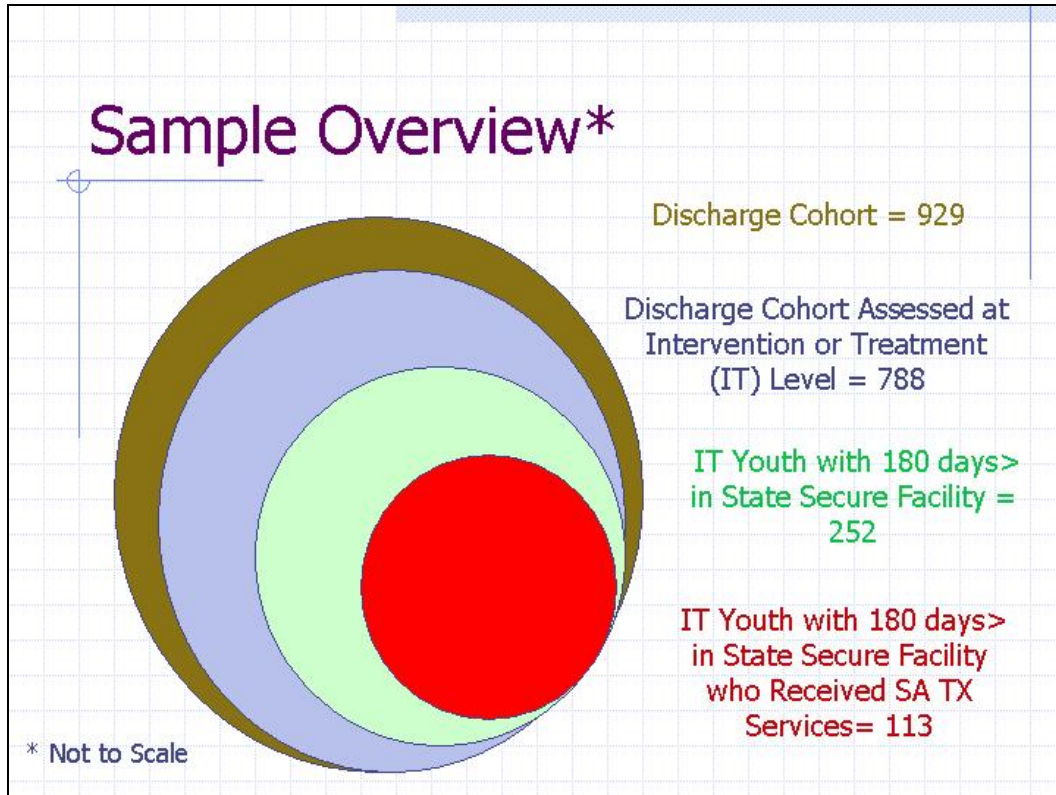


Figure 24: Description of Cohort Groups

Of the 113 state-secure committed youth that met clinical standards related to having received substance abuse treatment, records indicate that 63 youth received *Low level* treatment (55.8%), 46 had a *Moderate level* of Treatment (40.7%), and only 4 reached the most intensive *High level* of treatment (3.5%). For purposes of analysis, this service intensity group was analyzed according to their level of assessed substance abuse treatment needs.

Table 26: Treatment Level by Service Intensity

	Service Intensity				
Treatment Level	Minimal Intensity	Low Intensity	Moderate Intensity	High Intensity	Treatment Total*
Intervention	78	43	37	4	84
Treatment	61	20	9	0	29
Total	139	63	46	4	113

*Treatment Total does not include Minimal Intensity

Contrary to what was expected, the *Intervention level* group appeared to receive a proportionately larger amount of treatment services compared to the *Treatment level* group. Of the 84 youth in the *Intervention cohort*, 41 received *moderate to high intensity* services (48.8%). Statistics for the *Treatment cohort* indicate that only 31% (or 9 of 29 youth) received moderate to high intensity services (with actually no treatment youth receiving high intensity treatment).

In addition to evaluating *Treatment level* and *Service Intensity*, the Division also sought to account for the influence of overall risk. Although, research has long established a linkage between substance abuse and delinquency, there are a number of other factors that either aggravate or mitigate a youth’s overall probability for re-offending. Predicting risk is a complicated process involving a myriad of factors. Factors (other than substance abuse) include: Criminal History, School, Use of Free Time, Employment, Relationships, Family/Living Arrangements, Mental Health, Attitudes and Behaviors, and Skills.

Moreover, the existence of substance abuse problems is not a sufficient condition for predicting recidivism. There are youth in the system that possess serious substance abuse problems, yet do not present a high probability of re-offending. Likewise, there are youth with no indication of substance abuse problems but present a serious public safety concern. The key connection is the extent that substance abuse was evident or was a contributing factor when the delinquent act occurred. Based on risk level (as determined by the CYO-LSI) and treatment need, the *secure cohort* sample yielded (N=252) the following distribution:

Table 27: Treatment Level by CYO-LSI Risk Category

	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	Total
Intervention	23	57	82	162
Treatment	26	42	22	90
Total	49	99	104	252

As the table indicates, the highest percentage of high-risk youth was found at the *Intervention level* (N=82 or 50.6%). From a proportional perspective, the *Treatment level* category had approximately one-half of youth in the high-risk category (N=22 or 24.4%) as compared to the *Intervention* category. This finding re-affirms the contention that although substance abuse is considered a significant factor in predicting recidivism, this factor by itself, is not necessarily a reliable predictor of risk because of incidence of other criminogenic factors.

Lastly, in describing the sample, a cross tabulation analysis was conducted on *service intensity* and *risk level*.

Table 28: CYO-LSI Risk Category by Service Intensity

	Minimal Intensity	Low Intensity	Moderate Intensity	High Intensity	Total
Low Risk	31	12	6	0	49
Medium Risk	56	24	17	2	99
High Risk	52	27	23	2	104
Total	139	63	46	4	252

When comparing *service intensity* by *risk level*, the distributions appear to fall in more predictable directions. *Moderate* to *High Intensity* treatment services are being provided in larger proportions to the more risky populations. 12.2% of the *Low Risk* youth received *Moderate* to *High intensity* services compared to *Medium* and *High Risk* youth that received these services 19.2% and 24.0%, respectively. Likewise, 63.3% of *Low Risk* youth received *Minimal Intensity* services, while 50% of the *High Risk* youth received the *Minimal* level of treatment provision.

Statistical Findings:

An important introduction into interpreting these findings is that the *secure cohort* of youth was found to have a statistically higher incidence of pre-discharge recidivism ($p < 0.05$) when compared to the Total Discharge population. However, statistical differences were not found between the *secure cohort* and the *secure treatment cohort* that received substance abuse services.

Table 29: Pre-Discharge Rates by Cohort Group

	Pre-Discharge Recidivism
Total Discharge Cohort (n = 929)	38.5%
*Secure Cohort (n = 252)	53.2%
*Secure TX Cohort (n = 113)	51.3%

*Significantly higher than the Total Discharge Cohort

A potential explanation as why the secure population may have a higher rate of pre-discharge recidivism is that youth residing in these facilities are typically those youth who have been deemed either by the Courts or the Division as presenting a greater risk to public safety. State Secure beds represent the “deepest-end” bed for the Division. These beds are typically reserved for those youth who have already failed in a community placement or who’s determined risk would not permit a community placement.

A higher pre-discharge recidivism rate may also be indicative of the cause for the youth’s secure placement. As previously mentioned, youth who fail in a community placement are typically transferred to a state secure bed. It could have been that the pre-recidivist act occurred prior to the youth placement in a secure bed⁴⁹.

In terms of post-discharge recidivism rates, analysis of the differing populations did not generate statistically significant findings. Approximately over a third of the population who had discharged had a new felony or misdemeanor filing with a year of discharge.

⁴⁹ Because of the complicated task of determining the temporal ordering of recidivism events and youth placements, this type of cause-effect analysis is not available in this report.

Table 30: Post-Discharge Rates by Cohort Group

	Post-Discharge Recidivism
Total Discharge Cohort (n = 929)	35.5%
Secure Cohort (n = 252)	36.5%
Secure TX Cohort (n = 113)	30.1%

Interestingly, although the *secure* and *secure treatment cohorts* evidenced statistically significant differences with pre-discharge recidivism when compared to the *total discharge cohort*, these statistical differences seem to disappear when measuring post-discharge recidivism. One possible explanation is that those youth who spend a larger proportion of their commitment stay in a state secure placement may initially present elevated levels of risk during their residential commitment period, but through the provision of treatment services, their risk levels are reduced to what might be expected from the total discharge population as a whole.

Recidivism By Treatment Level:

This report did not generate statistically significant findings relating to *Treatment level*. In fact, the group that evidenced the highest overall rate of pre- and post-discharge recidivism was the youth assessed at the *Prevention level*.

Table 31: Pre- and Post-Discharge Recidivism Rates by Treatment Level

	Pre-Discharge Recidivism	Post-Discharge Recidivism
Prevention	42.4%	37.0%
Intervention	36.2%	34.3%
Treatment	39.0%	35.9%
Total Discharge	38.5%	35.5%

(N= 929)

When analyzing these results by cohort, it was determined that the baseline recidivism rates were typically higher for the *secure cohort* when compared to the entire discharged population. (Graphics of the findings are presented on the following page; Figures 25 and 26).

Treatment Level by Cohort: Pre-Discharge Recidivism

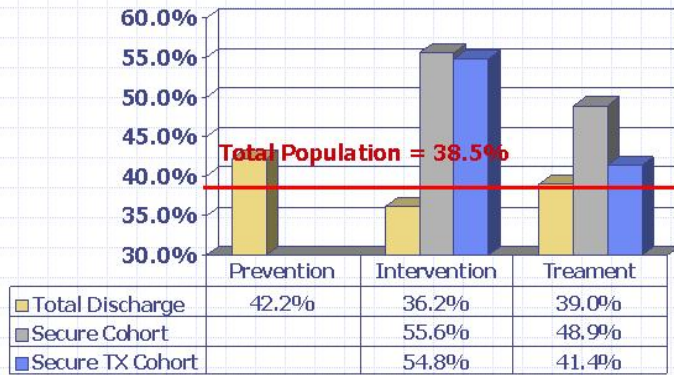


Figure 25: Pre-Discharge Recidivism By Treatment Level

Treatment Level by Cohort: Post-Discharge Recidivism

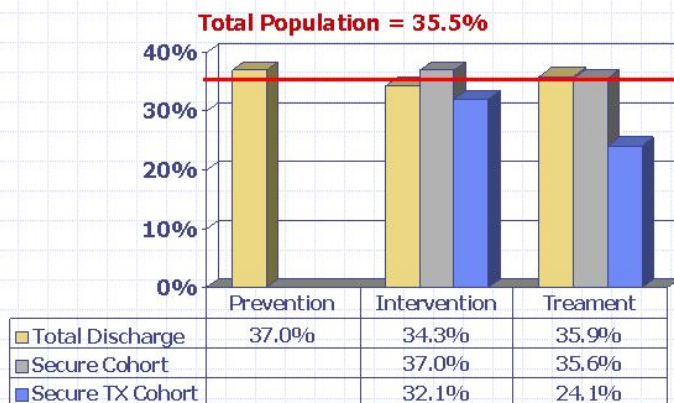


Figure 26: Post-Discharge Recidivism By Treatment Level

Given higher pre-discharge recidivism base rates associated with the secure populations, it expected that the *Intervention* and *Treatment level* groups found within the secure populations would also evidence higher rates. Statistically, this was found to be true. There did not exist a statistically significant difference between the *secure cohort* from the *secure treatment cohort*. Again, this finding is suggestive that it may not be the treatment levels that are generating differential outcomes, but something else associated with a youth being in a secure facility that is impacting the *secure cohorts* similarly⁵⁰.

The post-discharge results by assessed *Treatment level* and *discharge cohort* did not produce statistically significant findings. It appears that these cohorts did not substantially differ from one another in their post-discharge outcomes; indicating potentially, that overall risk is somewhat normalized after a youth discharges the NYC system.

The aforementioned finding may present some partial evidence for the efficacy of treatment in state facilities; whereby the provision of treatment reduces the youth's criminogenic risk factor in the area of substance abuse. The reduction in overall risk is then equated with lower post-discharge recidivism rates. Although, the rates of recidivism for the *secure cohort* is roughly the approximate of the *total discharge cohort*, a compelling argument could be made that the rates of post-discharge should have been significantly higher given the high pre-discharge recidivism rates. Moreover, as previous NYC recidivism studies have concluded, one of the strongest predictors of post-discharge recidivism is having had a pre-discharge recidivist filing. Albeit not statistically significant, it should be noted that the *secure treatment cohort* had lower rates of recidivism (both pre- and post-discharge) when compared to the sample of state *secure cohort* who had received only minimal services.

⁵⁰ A potential explanation as to why the secure population may have a higher rate of pre-discharge recidivism is that youth residing in these facilities are typically those youth who have been deemed either by the Courts or the Division as presenting a greater risk to public safety. State Secure beds represent the "deepest-end" bed for the Division. These beds are typically reserved for those youth who have already failed in a community placement or who's determined risk would not permit a community placement

Recidivism By Service Intensity:

Analyzing recidivism rates by level of service intensity is a confounding research endeavor. The difficulty stems from the highly touted “best practice” of directing the most intensive treatment services to the greatest at-risk population. If a high-risk youth is later found to have committed a recidivist act, is this act presumed to be the result of poor or inadequate treatment, or a predictable outcome given the abundant and demonstrable evidence that the youth would likely re-offend. Unfortunately, without a carefully constructed research design, answering such questions would lack scientific objectivity⁵¹. Given the confounding nature of this type of analysis, perhaps it is reasonable to expect that the results of this report did not track in a linear or predictable manner.

Table 32: Recidivism Outcomes by Treatment Service Intensity Levels

	Pre-Discharge Recidivism	Post-Discharge Recidivism
Minimal	54.7%	41.7%
Low Intensity	46.0%	28.6%
Moderate Intensity	60.9%	26.1%
High Intensity	25.0%	100.0%

Also, contributing to these fractured results is the relatively small sample size in these categories. For example, of the 252 youth in the *secure cohort*, only 4 youth received *High Intensity* services. The fact that only 1 of 4 of these youth received a pre-discharge filing and that all 4 received a post-discharge filing may not necessarily generate useful conclusions; as the ability to generalize these results to a larger population is unsupported.

⁵¹ The development of control groups or quasi-experimental groups would involve an outlay of expenditures presumed to exceed the intent of this Long Bill Footnote. The Division is considering lower-cost options that although may not be as methodically solid as more advanced research designs, may provide some insight into the efficacy of treatment services.

Recidivism by Risk Category:

The pre- and post-discharge recidivism rates for the *total discharge cohort* were found to be statistically significant by CYO-LSI risk grouping (i.e., Low, Medium and High Risk).

Additionally, the recidivism rates for these groupings fell according to predicted outcomes.

Those youth who scored low on the CYO-LSI had the lowest rates of recidivism, while youth who scored high on this instrument evidenced the highest rates.

Table 33: Pre-Discharge Recidivism Rates by Risk Category

	Low	Medium	High
Total Discharge Cohort (n = 929)	31.0%	38.9%	44.9%
Secure Cohort (n = 252)	38.8%	56.6%	53.2%
Secure TX Cohort (n = 113)	33.3%	48.8%	59.6%

Table 34: Post-Discharge Recidivism Rates by Risk Category

	Low	Medium	High
Total Discharge Cohort (n = 929)	31.8%	32.9%	43.0%
Secure Cohort (n = 252)	25.6%	37.4%	36.5%
Secure TX Cohort (n = 113)	27.8%	27.9%	32.8%

When analyzing the *secure cohort*, it was determined that although the differences in CYO-LSI risk categories were also statistically significant, the scores among risk categories were not as logically consistent. For example, youth in the *secure cohort* that scored out as medium-risk had higher rates of recidivism than those who had scored high on the instrument. This lack of ordinal consistency for risk scores may again be a product of how youth are referred to state secure placements. It may have been that the medium-risk youth may be in secure placement as the result of a pre-discharge filing. Loading secure facilities with youth that may have picked up a recidivist act certainly skews the sample; thus reducing the usefulness of comparing recidivism rates by risk categories.

Interestingly, ordinal consistency returns with the *secure treatment cohort*. This consistency is mostly profoundly observed with the pre-discharge recidivism measure. Statistics indicated that approximately 1 of 3 youth in the low risk category had a pre-discharge filing. This statistic

increased precipitously for the medium and high-risk categories whereby observed recidivism rates were 1 in 2 and 6 and 10, respectively.

Risk and Substance Abuse Treatment Level:

As indicated in last year’s report, the Division is utilizing a matrix approach to reporting recidivism rates for its substance abusing population. This matrix uses a dual axis. The vertical axis is risk, while the horizontal is substance abuse treatment level (a graphical description of this approach is offered in Figure 27).

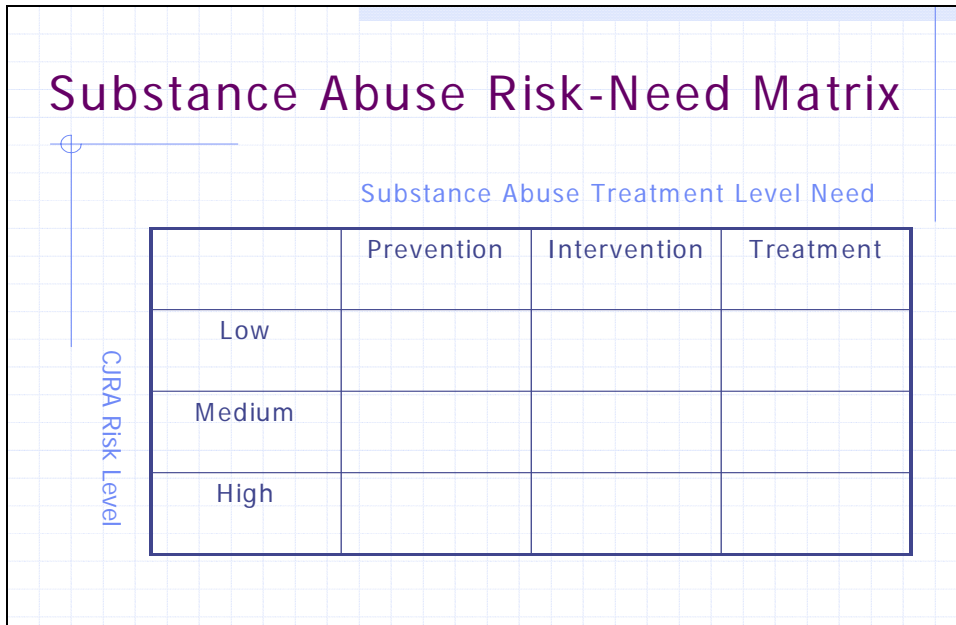


Figure 27: The Substance Abuse Risk-Need Matrix

The use of this matrix is considered a superior approach because generalized criminogenic risk is controlled and factored into the analysis. As data is collected, it will be possible to establish baseline performance levels; as well as thoughtfully constructed performance targets and recidivism goals.

An important note is that prevention rates are available only for the total discharge population. As previously discussed in the cohort description, the prevention youth were removed from the population so that a “pure treatment” group could be created for purposes of this analysis.

Table 35: Pre-Discharge Recidivism Rates by Risk and Treatment Level

TX Level	Intervention			Treatment		
Risk Level	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Total Discharge	29.8%	38.1%	41.8%	30.1%	36.1%	45.6%
Secure Cohort	47.8%	57.9%	56.1%	30.8%	54.8%	59.1%
Secure TX Cohort	45.5%	48.4%	61.9%	14.3%	50.0%	50.0%

Table 36: Post-Discharge Recidivism Rates by Risk and Treatment Level

TX Level	Intervention			Treatment		
Risk Level	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Total Discharge	29.8%	34.1%	41.8%	32.9%	30.7%	43.2%
Secure Cohort	30.4%	31.6%	42.7%	23.1%	45.2%	31.8%
Secure TX Cohort	36.4%	29.0%	33.3%	14.3%	25.0%	30.0%

Results from this report indicate that actuarial risk was a stronger predictor of recidivism than was the assessed level of substance abuse treatment needs. This finding was not surprising given that actuarial risk instruments incorporate substance abuse issues as well as a host of other empirically verified factors⁵². However, what was somewhat surprising was that substance abuse treatment level did not appear to substantially increase the Division’s ability in determining which sub-population would be more likely to recidivate. Perhaps, this finding highlights the complexity of the committed population and the need to adopt a multi-factor analysis when determining treatment efficacy.

⁵² Criminal History, School, Use of Free Time, Employment, Relationships, Living Arrangements, Mental Health, Attitudes and Behaviors, Skills, etc.

Conclusions:

Scarcity of Substance Abuse Treatment in State Secure Facilities:

An accounting of the services received by the *secure treatment cohort* clearly indicates that less than half (N=113) of the applicable cohort group (N=252) received more than a minimal intensity of services. Moreover only 4 youth (or 1.6%) of the applicable cohort received services that meet the high intensity level. Although, these results may be somewhat skewed because of the definitional criteria used for this report (e.g., intensity, interval, duration, etc.), it clearly suggests that most youth in state secure facilities who have *Treatment or Intervention level* substance abuse needs are not receiving amounts of treatment that would be considered clinically appropriate. It is anticipated that the Division will evidence improvement in this area in the next reporting cycle; as the FY 2006-07 *discharge cohort* will have had partial benefit of the clinical staff that was approved by the General Assembly starting in that fiscal year.

Small Sample Sizes did not Generate Statistically Significant Findings:

With the exception of a couple of notable factors (risk scores, differences between the *secure cohort* and the *total discharge cohort*, etc.), recidivism rates by various groupings did not generate findings that were statistically significant. Researchers and evaluators use statistical significance as the gold standard. It is only through this relatively high threshold that findings are determined to be important and meaningful; and not the result of coincidence or chance. Although in several instances, trend data did not necessarily follow anticipated or desired outcomes, it is not recommended that conclusions be necessarily drawn, as the statistical results were not found to be significant.

Risk Scores Appears to be the Dominate Predictor of Recidivism:

Although, not necessarily surprising, risk scores were found to be a reliable and accurate predictor of both pre- and post-discharge recidivism. Coupling the results of the risk assessment with other factors (i.e., service intensity and treatment level) did not generate either statistically meaningful or logically consistent results. With the Division's commitment to the CJRA, it is anticipated that even greater levels of prediction can be obtained compared to using the CYO-LSI. Previous validation and reliability studies conducted throughout the country have wholly been supportive of the CJRA. It is anticipated that similar studies conducted within Colorado will generate similar findings.

Causal Results will necessitate a More Sophisticated Research Design:

The scope and design of the research study is sufficient to address the questions posed by FY 2007-08 Long Bill footnote 85:

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department provide a report to the Joint Budget Committee on January 1, 2008 which tracks and compares recidivism rates between those juveniles receiving drug and alcohol treatment and those not receiving treatment, while sentenced to commitment.

However, if the intent of the footnote is to move beyond a reporting function more towards a cause-and-effect approach, then a more sophisticated research design will be necessary. Given the Division's mandate to treat all youth who present substance abuse needs, it may not be possible to establish a strict control group. However, it is possible, through the use of complicated sampling procedures and matched-group pairings to arrive at quasi-experimental groupings that may assist in making a causal connection between the provision of substance abuse treatment services and reduced recidivism. Moving towards this type of research design will also involve a greater dedication of research/evaluation resources.

Recommendations:

Augment and Enhance Substance Abuse Assessment:

As mentioned throughout this report, the Division primarily groups substance abuse treatment needs into 3 overall categories: Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment. Although, these basic categories provide a general understanding of the overall treatment needs of youth, they have a limited ability to distinguish specialized and individualized treatment differences.

Good practice is to offer different levels and kinds of treatment to different levels of both criminal conduct and substance abuse risk. This approach argues for placing clients with higher levels of past criminal conduct and higher levels of substance abuse disruption into a more concentrated and intense treatment model. Currently, NYC does not assess for severity *within* the “*Treatment level*.”

It is anticipated that with the additional clinical staff within NYC facilities, more youth will receive individual treatment appropriate to their severity and needs. The Division is in the beginning phase of providing a more comprehensive package of treatment services to include assessment, re-assessment, and to match services to youth instead of matching youth to services. In FY 06-07, an initiative was launched providing Certified Addiction Counselor classes to staff. With this ongoing initiative, as well as the addition of clinical staff that started in FY06-07, the Division expects to improve the staff to youth ratio to an optimal clinical level.

Consider Substance Abuse Treatments Needs as a Dynamic Risk Factor:

Upon the first 30 days of commitment, a youth is assigned a substance abuse treatment level. For as long that the youth is committed, that assessed treatment level does not change. For example, a youth may initially be assessed as *Prevention level*, but because of recently obtained information (self-disclosure, positive urinalysis test, etc), the youth is now being treated as if s/he were *Treatment level*. Even though this youth has recognizable substance abuse treatment needs

and is being treated for these needs accordingly, that youth's official substance abuse treatment need designation is still *Prevention level*.

Clearly, substance abuse treatments needs can change. A youth can disclose information in which s/he was initially reluctant to divulge, a youth may develop a substance abuse problem when there was no prior indication, and lastly, a youth may have made progress on their substance abuse issues as the result of treatment services received while committed. In order to capture the fluid and ever-changing degree of substance abuse treatment needs, it's advisable that the Division develop protocols to allow this designation to be updated; as well as maintaining all historical records and prior designations.

Enhance the Collection of Substance Abuse Treatment Data:

The Division should continue to augment and enhance the TRAILS data system to allow for a more comprehensive collection of substance abuse data. Although, there are a number of endemic challenges associated with the collection and storage of private substance abuse data (i.e., Privacy Laws, HIPAA mandates, 42 C.F.R., etc.), it is recommended that the Division continue to make gains in this area because of the associated value of using this type of data for programming and treatment.

APPENDIX

Limitations of Recidivism Research

Definitional Issues

The Definition of Recidivism Varies Across the Nation

Throughout the United States, recidivism is a measure that is often utilized in determining the level of effectiveness of justice agencies and determining the level of public safety that can be expected as offenders are released back into the community. Because a common goal to reduce recidivism exists across justice agencies, the measure seems reasonable and is tracked closely and regularly by most justice agencies. However, due to the varying definitions of recidivism, applying and comparing the outcome measure is an imperfect science. Generally speaking, the term “recidivism” refers to the re-occurrence of delinquent or criminal behavior. However, the more specific definition of recidivism utilized by each agency can vary greatly among states and even among justice agencies within a single state. In the next few paragraphs, the use of varied definitions of recidivism across the U.S. will be explained.

Recidivism Definition Components

Before describing the definitional differences across the nation, it is important to note that recidivism is a multi-faceted concept. The definition has two main components: 1) the type of system reaction to the delinquent behavior that constitutes “recidivism”, and 2) the length of the follow-up period, or how long the youth are tracked in the community after being released from the agency. The type of system reaction refers to whether recidivism is defined as re-referral, re-arrest, a new charge, a new filing, reconviction, reconviction and return to custody or supervision, re-incarceration, or recommitment. The length of follow-up is typically 12 to 36 months, with the norm being 12 months. Other important components of the recidivism definition include the type of offense that lead up to the system reaction (delinquent, criminal, felony, misdemeanor, petty, etc.), the systems researched in the follow-up period (juvenile, adult, both), and if a cohort is followed, when that cohort was released from the agency. With the understanding that recidivism is a multi-component concept, it becomes apparent that the

meaning of the measure differs from venue to venue, with each agency using varied combinations of the concept.

A Glimpse Across the Nation

According to a study conducted by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (VDJJ)⁵³, twenty-seven states currently measure juvenile recidivism rates statewide. As expected, with the concept of recidivism open for broad interpretation, few states utilize a common definition. This being said, there are some definitional components that are utilized more frequently than others by the states. The most common definitions utilized are reconviction, with 13 of the 27 states (48%) using this definition component, re-incarceration (41%), re-arrest (33%), and recommitment (11%). The least common definitions include re-referral, new filing, and reconviction and return to custody or supervision, with only one state subscribing to each (Maryland, Colorado, and Louisiana, respectively). Eight states do not restrict themselves to one measure of recidivism, but instead report on two or more of the measures mentioned above.

It is apparent from the summary above that recidivism is an exceedingly fluid concept. In the absence of a standardized definition for recidivism, meaningful comparison across states and agencies is simply not possible. Similar to comparing apples and oranges, recidivism cannot be compared unless the outcome measures are equivalent. The same is true for analyzing historical recidivism trends within an agency or system—without definitional consistency across time, there is no mechanism for meaningful analyses.

Methodological Issues

Population Shifts

In the juvenile justice system, the concept of risk is invariably connected to the probability of re-offending; as such, an “at-risk youth” is a youth who presents a greater than average chance of committing a criminal act. If a juvenile justice agency suddenly realizes a significant realignment of the risk potential of its population, then that realignment can result in differing recidivism

⁵³ Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, DJJ Research Quarterly, Volume III, April 2005

rates when all other factors are held constant. For example, if a certain juvenile justice program or project is eliminated because of budget constraints, then youth who would have been directed to that program are then re-directed to other programs. This process, which most often directs youth deeper into the juvenile justice system, has occurred in Colorado. For example, the Community Accountability Program, as well as other programs designed to intervene with youth at earlier stages of the juvenile justice system, have been eliminated or seriously impacted because of State budget cuts. These programs were designed to provide alternatives to DYC detention and commitment sentences. The lack of capacity for delinquent youth in a community placement drives these youth into the DYC population, creating a need for increased treatment services, and overcrowding state-run commitment facilities. The process of shifting delinquent populations into other programs which may not be adequately prepared to treat these youth, or alternatively provide more treatment than is required, can both positively and negatively impact recidivism rates.

Information Technology Advances

Most juvenile and criminal justice agencies rely upon official records to determine recidivism rates. To the extent that these official records are considered accurate and complete, each agency is able to determine their respective rates of recidivism. It should be noted that the completeness and accuracy of official records have been questioned in the past. In response to these concerns, Colorado has devoted significant resources to updating its criminal and juvenile justice information systems⁵⁴. An unexpected consequence of updating these information systems is that recidivism rates may begin to increase in the future. These rates of recidivism are not necessarily increasing as a result of actual spikes in criminal behavior, but possibly because of the increased reliability and accuracy of matching offenders between data systems⁵⁵.

⁵⁴ Marked improvements have been made to the Judicial Department's data system (ICON/ECLIPSE) as well as to the Department of Human Services' data system (TRAILS).

⁵⁵ Conversely, less than accurate information systems may net lower recidivism rates because of errors associated with data entry or software inconsistencies.

Policy Variations

The juvenile justice system can be viewed as an intricate network of decision points that is generally governed by statute, policy, or administrative regulation, but where key decision-makers are allowed considerable discretion. Clearly, one of the key decision-makers in the juvenile justice system is the District Attorney. The District Attorney (DA) has considerable discretion in whether a Delinquency Petition is filed with the Court. A DA may choose not to file on a case because the case is considered to be without significant merit or because appropriate alternatives exist that can otherwise effectively discharge the case (e.g., a Diversion Program). Because of this discretion, there exist significant differences in filing practices throughout the State. In some jurisdictions, the DA may choose to file upon the majority of cases and allow the judicial process to determine the relative merits of a case. In other jurisdictions, in an attempt to manage the limited resources of the DA's Office or the Court, a DA may only file on those cases where the merits of a case have undergone careful examination. In either scenario, it is policy, not necessarily criminal activity that determines a filing; which in turn influences recidivism data and rates in Colorado.

Actual Change in Criminal Behavior

Lastly, changes in the recidivism rate can be the result of actual changes in criminal behavior. As research advances juvenile justice programming, it is generally believed that these advances will eventually result in better short-term and long-term outcomes. Quantitative evidence of these enhanced outcomes may require years to be realized. Until causal links can be firmly established in data, claims that actual criminal behavior patterns have changed (either positively or negatively) should be made cautiously. This is not to suggest that annual recidivism rates should be ignored. Recidivism rates provide a basic barometer in how the system is reacting. Minimally, changes in recidivism rates should prompt policy-makers to question whether actual behavioral changes have occurred or whether the fluctuation in rates is an artifact of some other change occurring elsewhere in the juvenile justice system.

A Note Regarding Statistical Significance

Evaluation studies often reveal differences between groups. To this end this report uses two common statistical computations to identify differences in recidivism rates.

Most of the analyses in this report look at differences between categorical groups of youth. For example 'Gender' is a categorical measure. Youth can be in one of two groups, either male or female. To examine differences in categorical factors statisticians use a measure called Chi-Square.

Another statistical measure used in this report is an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). ANOVA's are used to determine differences in the means, or average amounts, of interval or ratio level data. This means that for each number in a series the scale is the same, or each number is exactly the same distance from the previous and subsequent number in the series. Age is a good example of ratio level or continuous data. From the time you are born your age continues to increase at a constant rate, and the difference between any two ages can be identified and measured to any fraction (ratio) of time. Prior adjudications is an example of interval level data. The difference between one and three prior adjudications is the same as the difference between 12 and 14 prior adjudications, but an individual could never have only a part (or fraction) of an adjudication. The numbers can only increase at regular whole intervals.

Differences identified between groups may be the result of some noteworthy impact, or they simply could have occurred because of random chance. Throughout this study, findings are included with their statistical significance. If it is highly unlikely that a finding (such as a difference between two groups) happened due to chance, it is said that the finding is statistically significant. Significance is measured through interpretation of a "p" value. Two "p" values are reported here ($p < 0.05$ and $p < 0.01$). A "p" value less than 0.05 would mean there is less than a 5% chance that the finding is random (due to chance, rather than the existence of a real relationship or cause). A "p" value less than 0.01 would mean there is less than a 1% chance that the finding is random. Social Science research traditionally accepts findings at the $p < 0.05$ level or lower as being sufficiently significant to accept those findings as valid and true. Throughout this report, the term "significant" is used only to describe findings that are significant at the

$p < 0.05$ level or lower. Results that are not statistically significant may provide some initial insight into differences between groups, but should not necessarily dictate changes in policy or decision-making processes.

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