

Recidivism Evaluation of the Colorado Division of Youth Corrections

Regarding Committed Youth

Discharged in Fiscal Years

2012-13,

2013-14,

&

2014-15.

January 1, 2017



COLORADO

**Office of Children,
Youth & Families**

Division of Youth Corrections

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Annually, on January 1st, the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS or Department) publishes the results of a comprehensive analysis and review of juvenile recidivism for youth discharged from the Division of Youth Corrections (DYC or Division) in the preceding fiscal years.

YOUTH STUDIED

Recidivism rates were determined for three unique cohorts of discharged youth: one-, two-, and three-years post discharge from DYC. The Division defines recidivism as the adjudication or conviction of a new misdemeanor or felony offense within a specified time period.

- Fiscal Year 2014-15: Four hundred seventy-six (476) youth discharged from DYC. Among these discharged youth, 86% were male, and 14% were female. This cohort was used to determine a one-year recidivism rate.
- Fiscal Year 2013-14: Five hundred fifty-six (556) youth discharged from DYC. Among these discharged youth, 86% were male, and 14% were female. This cohort was used to determine a two-year recidivism rate.
- Fiscal Year 2012-13: Six hundred sixty-six (666) youth discharged from DYC. Among these discharged youth, 87% were male, and 13% were female. This cohort was used to determine a three-year recidivism rate.

RECIDIVISM RATES

One-year recidivism rate

For youth who discharged in FY 2014-15, **30.9%** (147 out of 476 youth) had recidivated within one year of their discharge from DYC.

Males

There were 411 males in the one-year post-discharge cohort. Of these 411 males, 138 had recidivated within the one-year follow-up period (**33.6%**).

Females

There were 65 females in the one-year post-discharge cohort. Of these 65 females, 9 had recidivated within the one-year follow-up period (**13.8%**).

Two-year recidivism rate

For youth who discharged in FY 2013-14, **46.2%** (257 out of 556 youth) were guilty of one or more recidivist acts within two years of their discharge from DYC.

Three-year recidivism rate

For youth who discharged in FY 2012-13, **53.9%** (359 out of 666 youth) were guilty of one or more recidivist acts within three years of their discharge from DYC.

CRIMINOGENIC RISK REDUCTION

Criminogenic risk is defined as the statistical tendency toward future offending. The Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment (CJRA) is a psychosocial evaluation tool used to estimate a youth's future risk of recidivism on a scale (Low, Moderate, or High risk). Youth are evaluated for risk of recidivism at several points, including but not limited to: when they are initially committed to DYC, when they transition onto parole, and upon discharge (when all DYC treatment, services, and supervision have concluded). At the time of commitment, 88.6% of youth in the one-year cohort were categorized as being at a High risk to recidivate, while at the time of discharge only 67.6% of this same cohort remained in the High risk category. These measured reductions in criminogenic risk indicate that services provided to youth during their time with DYC helped to reduce the likelihood of future recidivism.

SPOTLIGHT – YOUTH DRUG OF CHOICE

This study examined the self-reported preference for specific substances prior to commitment (drug of choice) for three cohorts of discharged youth in an effort to determine if substance use preferences were changing over time, particularly after the recreational use of marijuana was legalized in January 2014. The illicit substances examined were tobacco, alcohol, opiates/narcotics, marijuana, cocaine/crack, heroin, barbiturates/sedatives/tranquilizers, amphetamines/stimulants, hallucinogens, and inhalants.

An extensive analysis showed that while marijuana and alcohol remain the two most frequently reported substances of choice among youth with treatment level substance abuse needs, fewer youth are reporting both marijuana and alcohol in this capacity. No significant differences were found between discharge cohorts, by gender, or by comparing youth who recidivate to youth who do not, even after aggregating the data to increase sample sizes within each variable.

NATIONAL COMPARISON

Currently, five states and the District of Columbia define, measure, and report juvenile recidivism utilizing a similar research methodology as Colorado, thus providing six data points for a between-states comparison of recidivism rates. When comparing the one-year post-discharge recidivism rates

between comparable states, Colorado's rate (31%) appears to reside in the middle of the performance range (19% - 45%). The three states with rates lower than Colorado belong to Maryland (19%), Idaho (23%), and Maine (27%).

RIDGE VIEW RECIDIVISM

The Division is mandated in statute to report recidivism rates for males who were placed at Ridge View Youth Services Center (Ridge View). The current report found no statistically significant differences between youth who spent a majority of their commitment sentence at Ridge View and youth who spent the majority of their commitment sentence elsewhere in the DYC system (state secure placements, other contract placements, etc.). The recidivism rate for Ridge View youth did not differ significantly from youth who spent the majority of their commitment sentence at State or contract placements elsewhere in the DYC system.

- *One-year recidivism rate:* Ridge View (32.1%) vs. State/Contract (33.6%)
- *Two-year recidivism rate:* Ridge View (50.4%) vs. State/Contract (46.5%)
- *Three-year recidivism rate:* Ridge View (52.3%) vs. State/Contract (56.4%)

In short, this analysis found that youth served by Ridge View did not have significantly better or worse recidivism outcomes than youth served by other DYC treatment placements.

TIME TO RECIDIVIST OFFENSE

For youth who did eventually recidivate, more than three quarters (76%) did so within the first twelve months (one year). Almost all youth who eventually did recidivate (94% of all youth who recidivated) did so within 24 months (2 years). Males tended to recidivate within a shorter amount of time than females; the average length of time between discharge and recidivist act was 8 months for males, and 10 months for females.

Legislative Request for Information (RFI) Details

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS or Department), Division of Youth Corrections (DYC or Division) prepares an annual recidivism report on committed youth. The current report is submitted in response to one legislative request for information and one statutorily required report:

1) Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Corrections, FY 2016-17, Request for Information (RFI) Item 7; pursuant to the request for information submitted to the Governor by the Colorado Joint Budget Committee. The text of this Legislative Request for Information 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.

2) Section 19-2-411.5 (5), C.R.S. (2016), the legislation authorizing the construction and operation of the Ridge View Youth Services Center. This legislation specifies that:

On an annual basis, the department of human services shall calculate the recidivism rate for committed juveniles in the custody of the department of human services who complete the program offered by the facility. In calculating the recidivism rate, the department of human services 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 department of human services shall report the recidivism rate to the general assembly.

DEFINITION OF RECIDIVISM

The Division defines recidivism as a new adjudication or conviction resulting from a misdemeanor or felony offense at any point within the prescribed follow-up time period(s). In FY 2012-13 this definition was changed from measuring recidivism as a new filing (irrespective of a guilty finding) within the same time parameter(s) in order to more closely conform to the research methodologies utilized by other states who track juvenile recidivism and thus more easily allow for a between-states comparison of the Division's recidivism data.

POST-DISCHARGE RECIDIVISM

Post-discharge recidivism refers to new offenses that occur within the prescribed follow-up time period(s) *after* a youth has completed all treatment and services and is fully discharged from NYC supervision. Post-discharge recidivism is the primary outcome measure utilized by juvenile justice agencies across the nation and serves as a proxy measure for how well youth are able to re-integrate back into the community and remain crime-free upon discharge. Nationally, juvenile justice agencies are using recidivism rates to objectively determine whether treatment and services provided to youth were not only appropriate and effective, but also as a tool to inform policy and practice.

MULTI-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES

The majority of states currently engaged in measuring and reporting juvenile recidivism typically report a one year post-discharge recidivism rate. In contrast, NYC tracks youth for three years post-discharge in order to determine whether they have remained crime-free. Tracking youth out to three years post-discharge provides a more rigorous and comprehensive longitudinal analysis of the overall paradigm of recidivism in Colorado, as well as the trajectory of outcomes over time.

RISK REDUCTION

This report also focuses on risk reduction. While reducing recidivism is the primary function of corrections, reducing a youth's risk to recidivate is an equally important intermediate function of the Division. Whereas recidivism is frequently the primary measure used to gauge outcome success when working with justice system-involved youth, other intermediate measures can also indicate whether youth are better prepared to reintegrate into the community after receiving treatment and services from the Division. These intermediate risk reduction measures demonstrate whether the treatment services

provided to a specific youth have significantly mitigated the factor domains that contribute to the overall actuarial risk the youth presents to public safety in terms of recidivism. When examined in tandem with primary outcome measures (recidivism rates), these intermediate measures (risk reduction) can provide a more holistic view of a juvenile justice agency's success.

METHODOLOGY

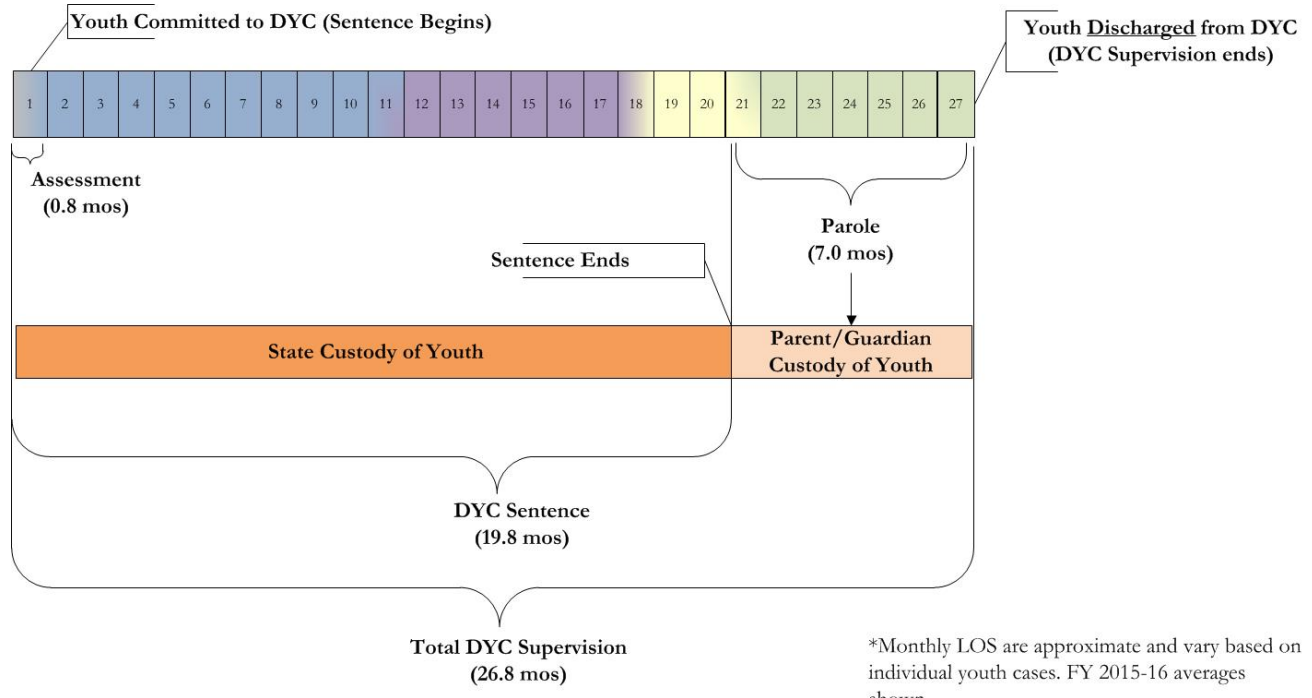
A RECIDIVIST ACT

A recidivist act is defined as a new adjudication or conviction that occurs after a youth has discharged from the supervision of the Division. Within the Criminal Justice System, an *adjudication* refers to a finding of guilt for a delinquent offense involving a defendant under the age of 18, and is analogous to a *conviction* of an adult defendant found guilty of a criminal offense. A youth is deemed a recidivist if they commit a new offense that results in a guilty finding for a misdemeanor or felony class charge (adjudication/conviction). Traffic violations (not to be confused with traffic infractions), and petty offenses are not counted as recidivist acts. The unit of analysis for this study is youth discharged from the Division (rather than the number of recidivist acts), and all information is reported in the aggregate.

STUDY POPULATION

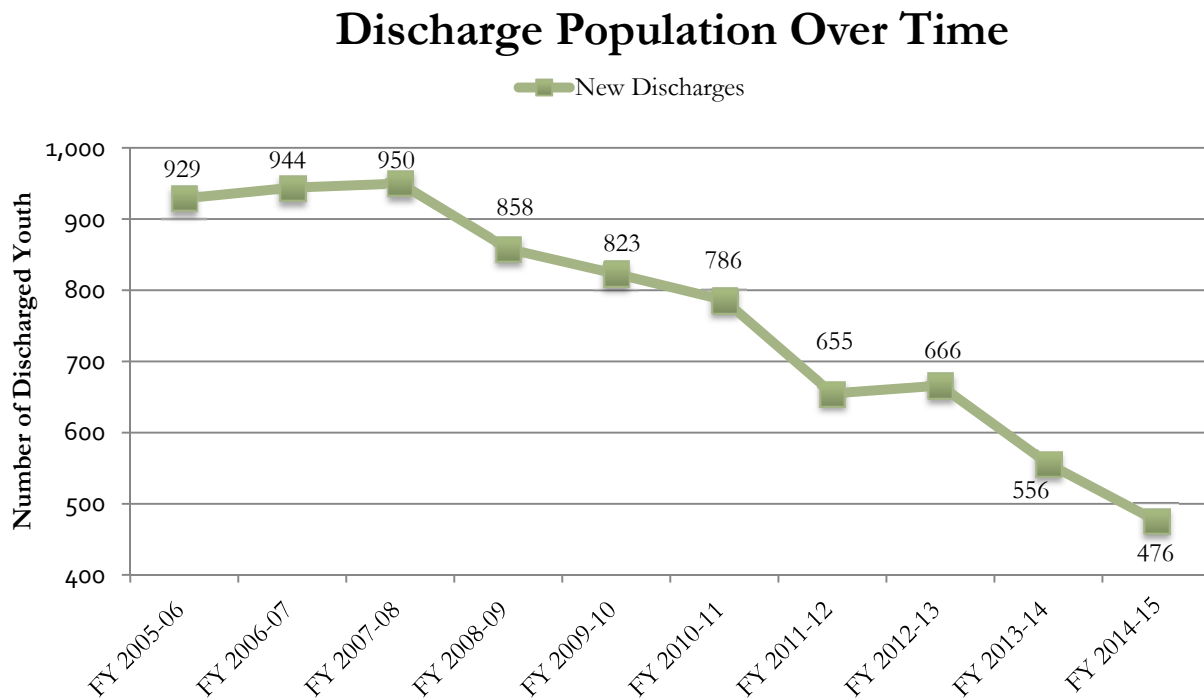
In FY 2014-15, four hundred seventy-six (476) youth discharged from NYC. These youth were observed for one year after discharge, and official adjudication/conviction Judicial records were used to calculate a one-year post-discharge recidivism rate. In FY 2013-14, five hundred fifty-six (556) youth discharged from NYC. These youth were observed for two years after their discharge, and official adjudication/conviction Judicial records were used to calculate a two-year post-discharge recidivism rate. In FY 2012-13, six hundred sixty-six (666) youth discharged from NYC. These youth were observed for three years following their discharge, and official adjudication/conviction Judicial records obtained from the Judicial Branch were used to calculate a three-year post-discharge recidivism rate. As Figure 1 illustrates, the average total length of NYC supervision was 26.8 months in FY 2015-16. This total commitment Length of Service (LOS) begins at the time of commitment to NYC and continues through the parole period until a youth is officially discharged and NYC supervision ends.

Figure 1: NYC Timeline of Care



Over the past ten years, the population of youth discharged from NYC has declined from a high of 950 in FY 2007-08 to a low of 476 in FY 2014-15, a 49.9% reduction (see Figure 2 for details). This kind of decrease in sample size directly impacts the Division’s ability to detect significant differences between groups, particularly when examined in smaller sub-populations (e.g.: males vs. females, by ethnicity, or among our special populations).

Figure 2: Ten-Year Discharge Population Trends



STUDY DESIGN

A prospective quasi-experimental observational cohort study design with a longitudinal follow-up period allowed for non-intrusive observation of the natural progression of three cohorts of previously delinquent youth in the community after they were discharged from NYC, measured at three distinct intervals. The Division utilized Judicial court data from the Colorado State Judicial Department (Judicial) to determine whether or not a youth had committed a recidivist act during the follow-up period for each cohort.

Due to several safeguards related to confidentiality and data-sharing, the Division and the Office of the State Court Administrator developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) specifically related to this annual study. This MOU serves as a data-sharing agreement that grants NYC permission to utilize the adjudication/conviction information (extracted from the Judicial court data system) for purposes of identifying youth who recidivate.

RECORD MATCHING BETWEEN NYC AND JUDICIAL

Matching records from Judicial to youth discharged from NYC is a difficult and labor-intensive process that suffers from an inability of data systems across State agencies to “talk” to one another. Matching techniques used in identifying adult offenders simply aren’t applicable to a juvenile population. Specifically, the typical forms of identification commonly present in the adult population (e.g. driver’s

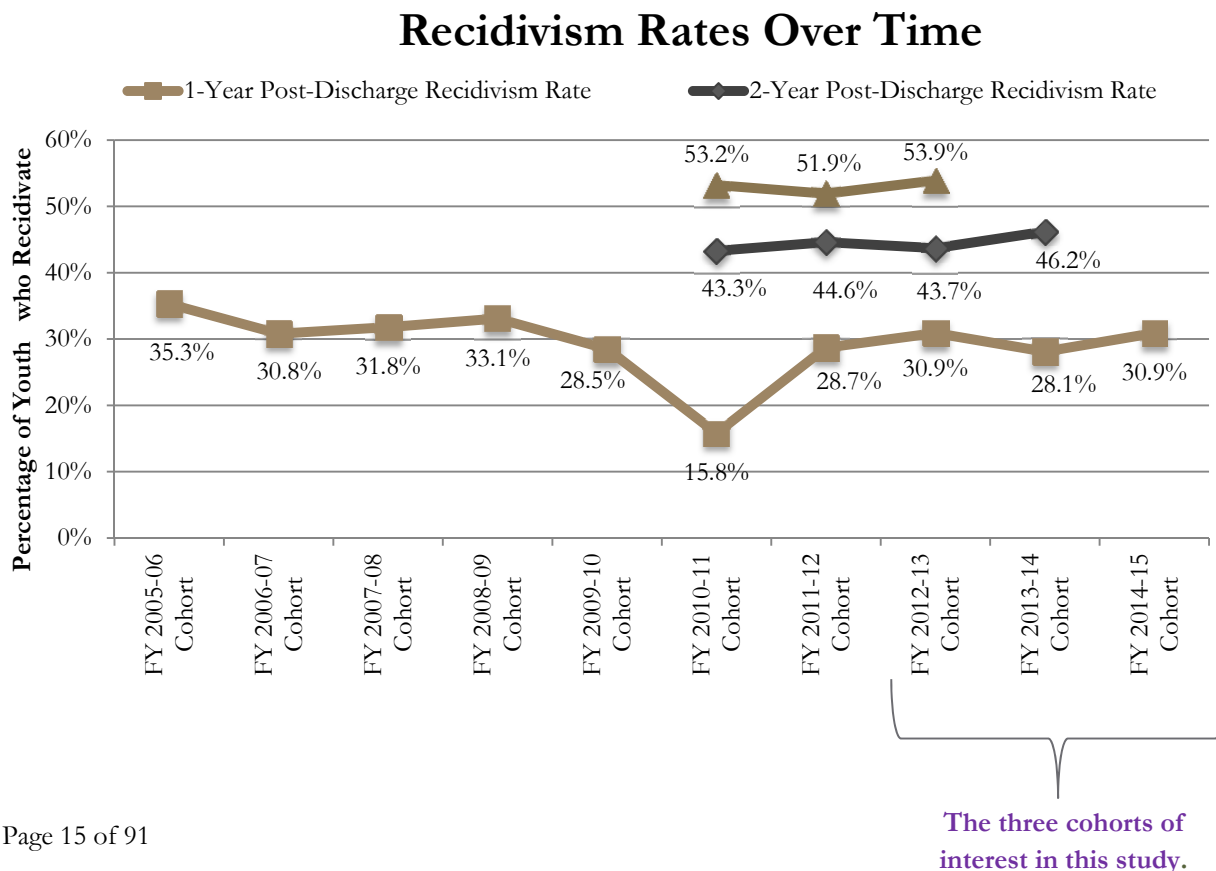
license, social security number, etc.), are often rare or nonexistent for system-involved juveniles. Thus, youth discharged from NYC must be matched to a multitude of Judicial filings using less straightforward means. For this study, youth were matched between the two data systems (NYC discharges and Judicial data) through a two-step process which is both automated and manual. Initially, youth are matched through an algorithm that compares elements of a youth's name, date of birth, and gender. Next, the remaining youth who do not match are identified by hand until all discharged NYC youth are accounted for in the Judicial system database. This hand-matching process is hindered by the vast number of aliases; misspellings; hyphenated names; attempts at intentional misrepresentation of identity; and data entry errors for dates of birth, social security numbers, etc. present in both data sets. Finally, all cases in the analysis data are reviewed to ensure the automated portion of the match did not result in any "false matches" in which two separate youth with similar names and identical dates of birth and genders are incorrectly matched together. As a fidelity measure, each youth's commitment case is found in Judicial's data, thus providing great confidence that all youth are being appropriately matched across both systems.

RECIDIVISM RATES

A decade (10 years) of DYC recidivism rates are displayed in Figure 3. With the exception of the data reported in FY 2010-11, the one-year post-discharge recidivism rate has consistently averaged around 30%. Given this generally consistent historical trend, it is anticipated that recidivism rates will continue to hover around one-third of the total discharge population, barring significant systemic changes regarding the use of front-end discretion in sentencing among adjudicated youth, the increased use of alternatives to incarceration, the quality and efficacy of treatment services delivered, resources available to both clinicians and youth, etc.

Two- and three-year post-discharge recidivism rates are a relatively new addition to the study methodology. The two-year post-discharge recidivism rate has averaged around 44% over four years of measurement, with a range of 43% to 46%. The three-year post-discharge recidivism rate has remained slightly over 50% for the past three years. As a relatively new outcome measure with only three data points currently available, analysis is limited; however, over half of youth were consistently found to recidivate within three years of their discharge from the Division.

Figure 3: Recidivism Trends (One-, Two-, and Three-Years Post-Discharge)



MULTI-YEAR RECIDIVISM RESULTS

The table below (Table 1) reports the recidivism rates across all three cohorts of interest in this study. The three unique cohorts of discharged youth were examined by follow-up period to see how many youth recidivated after one, two, and three years post-discharge. See Table 1 for details on multi-year recidivism rates.

Table 1: Recidivism Rates by Discharge Cohort

Youth Discharge Cohort	One-Year Recidivism Rate	Two-Year Recidivism Rate	Three-Year Recidivism Rate
FY 2014-15 cohort (<i>N</i> = 476)	30.9%	TBD*	TBD*
FY 2013-14 cohort (<i>N</i> = 556)	28.1%	46.2%	TBD*
FY 2012-13 cohort (<i>N</i> = 666)	30.9%	43.7%	53.9%

*Rates TBD; available in forthcoming reports

FY 2014-15 Cohort

The FY 2014-15 discharge cohort (*N* = 476) has currently been tracked for one year following discharge from NYC. The one-year recidivism rate for this cohort was 30.9%. The two- and three-year rates will be reported once the allotted two- and three-year time periods have concluded.

FY 2013-14 Cohort

The FY 2013-14 discharge cohort (*N* = 556) has been tracked for two years following discharge from NYC. The one- and two-year recidivism rates for this cohort were 28.1% and 46.2%, respectively. The three-year recidivism rate will be reported once the allotted three-year time period has concluded.

FY 2012-13 Cohort

The FY 2012-13 discharge cohort (*N* = 666) has been tracked for three years following discharge from NYC. The one-, two-, and three-year recidivism rates for this cohort were 30.9%, 43.7%, and 53.9%, respectively.

Adjudications Versus Convictions

As mentioned earlier, when juveniles are found guilty of a criminal offense they are adjudicated, while adults who are found guilty of a criminal act are convicted. As our discharged youth age over the course of the follow-up period, some recidivists are charged as adults. In the one-year post-discharge cohort, nearly 88% of youth who committed a recidivist act received adult criminal charges, while 12% were adjudicated as juveniles. In the two-year post-discharge cohort, roughly 89% of youth who committed a recidivist act received adult criminal charges, while 11% were adjudicated as juveniles. Finally, in the three-year post-discharge cohort, nearly 93% of youth who committed a recidivist act received adult criminal charges, while 7% were adjudicated as juveniles (See Table 2 for details). It should be noted that the majority of youth who discharge from NYC turn 18 during the follow-up period (average age at commitment = 16.8 years; average total Length of Service = 27.1 months), thus making them eligible to receive adult probation or Department of Corrections sentences if found guilty.

Table 2: Adult versus Juvenile Charges

Type of Adjudication	Post-Discharge Recidivism					
	One-Year Cohort		Two-Year Cohort		Three-Year Cohort	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Criminal (Adult)	129	87.8%	228	88.7%	333	92.8%
Delinquency (Juvenile)	18	12.2%	29	11.3%	26	7.2%
Total	147	100.0%	257	100.0%	359	100.0%

ONE-YEAR RECIDIVISM COHORT

Descriptive Statistics

The table that follows (Table 3) details some basic descriptive differences between youth who recidivated and youth who did not recidivate within one year of discharge (FY 2014-15 discharge cohort). Only youth characteristics which demonstrated differences that were statistically significant are displayed in Table 3. For a complete list of characteristics explored please refer to Appendix B.

Table 3: Characteristic Differences between Non-Recidivists and Recidivists FY 2014-15

	% of Non recidivists		% of Recidivists		<i>p</i> -value	% of Total
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%		
Total (N= 476)	329	100%	147	100%		100%
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%		
Gender						
Male	273	83%	138	93.9%	0.01*	86.3%
Female	56	17%	9	6.1%		13.7%
Number of Escapesⁱ						
None	161	48.9%	54	36.7%	0.01*	45.2%
One or more	168	51.1%	93	63.3%		54.8%
Mean Age at First Adjudication	14.8 years		14.3 years		0.01*	14.7 yrs
Mean Age at Commitment	16.9 years		16.6 years		0.02*	16.8 yrs
Prior Number of Adjudications						
None	95	28.9%	25	17.0%	0.01*	25.2%
One	95	28.9%	41	27.9%		28.6%
Two	139	42.2%	81	55.1%		46.2%
Prior Number of Commitments						
None	307	93.3%	136	92.5%	0.03*	93.1%
One	22	6.7%	8	5.4%		6.3%
Two	0	0.0%	3	2.0%		0.6%
Parole Discharge Levelⁱⁱ						
Unsatisfactory	92	28.0%	73	49.7%	0.00*	34.7
Satisfactory	62	18.8%	23	15.6%		17.9
Excellent	147	44.7%	45	30.6%		40.3
Not on Parole at Time of Discharge	28	8.5%	6	4.1%		7.1
CJRA Overall Risk Level at Discharge						
Low	28	8.6%	8	5.4%	0.00*	7.6%
Moderate	91	28.1%	21	14.3%		23.8%
High	205	63.3%	118	80.3%		68.6%

**p* < 0.05 (indicates a statistically significant difference between recidivists and non-recidivists)

ⁱ An escape, for the purposes of this study, is defined as a period of time when a youth absconds from a commitment facility, a contract facility, a community placement, or from parole for four hours or longer without permission.

ⁱⁱ The Parole Discharge Level is the level at which the client manager determines the youth to be at discharge in regard to parole compliance, which is based on pre-determined criteria.

Characteristic Differences between Recidivists vs. Non-Recidivists

An extensive analysis of potentially differential characteristics and variables was conducted in order to determine which traits best characterized the youth who recidivated. In other words, this analysis is aimed to define, in very general terms, what characteristics youth who recidivate were more likely to have in comparison to youth who do not recidivate. The vast majority of characteristics examined did not demonstrate a statistically significant difference between youth who recidivate and youth who do not; the few that did differ significantly are described below.

Gender

Although 86.3% of the total number of youth in the one-year discharge cohort were male, 93.9% of recidivists were male, which indicates that recidivists were significantly more likely to be male than female (93.9% male vs. 6.1% female, $p = 0.01$).

Number of Escapes

An escape, for the purposes of this study, is defined as a period of time when a youth absconds from a commitment facility, a contract facility, a community placement, or from parole for four hours or longer without permission. Although more than half (54.8%) of all youth in the one-year discharge cohort had an escape at some point during their commitment to DYC, recidivists had a significantly greater probability of having an escape than non-recidivists. Sixty-three percent (63.3%) of recidivists had one or more escape sometime during their commitment to DYC. In contrast, 51.1% of non-recidivists had an escape sometime during their commitment to DYC ($p = 0.01$).

Average Age at First Adjudication

The average (mean) age at which youth in the one-year discharge cohort were first adjudicated for a delinquent offense was 14.7 years. Although all youth in this cohort were under 15 years of age at their first adjudication, recidivists were significantly more likely to be younger (14.3 years) than their non-recidivist counterparts (14.8 years) ($p = 0.01$). This finding is consistent with the literature on juvenile delinquency, which finds that continuity of offending from the juvenile into the adult years is higher for people with an early onset of criminality, chronic delinquents, and violent offenders [1] [2].

Average Age at Commitment

The average (mean) age of commitment for youth in the one-year discharge cohort was 16.8 years. Again, while all youth in this cohort were under 17 years of age at the time of their first commitment, recidivists were significantly more likely to be committed at a younger age (16.6 years) when compared to non-recidivists (16.9 years) ($p = 0.02$).

Prior Number of Commitments

The vast majority (93.1%) of youth in the one-year discharge cohort did not have any prior commitments. Interestingly, non-recidivists had a higher probability of having one prior commitment (6.7%) than their recidivist counterparts (5.4%), while recidivists had a higher probability of having two prior commitments (2.0%) than non-recidivists (0.0%) ($p = 0.03$). It should be noted that the sample sizes were small in both the one and two prior commitment categories for both recidivists (8 and 3, respectively) and non-recidivists (22 and 0, respectively). Given these small sample sizes, the results should be interpreted with caution.

Parole Rating at Discharge

The Parole Rating at Discharge is the level at which the client manager determines the youth to be at discharge in regard to parole compliance, which is based on pre-determined criteria. The goal of the Division is that each youth discharges with a Satisfactory or Excellent parole rating. Unfortunately, there is a proportion of youth who discharge from parole Unsatisfactorily, 34.7% in the one-year discharge cohort. An Unsatisfactory parole rating at discharge indicates the need for further treatment; however, the Division relinquishes all supervision and authority over youth once mandatory parole has concluded and youth are discharged from the Division.

A closer look at the 34.7% revealed that recidivists demonstrate a higher probability of earning an Unsatisfactory rating than non-recidivists. Just under half (49.7%) of recidivists were given an Unsatisfactory parole rating at discharge compared to 28.0% of non-recidivists ($p = 0.00$). Similarly, recidivists demonstrated a lower probability of receiving either a Satisfactory or Excellent rating than non-recidivists. While 18.8% of non-recidivists received a Satisfactory parole rating, only 15.6% of recidivist received this rating. Similarly, 44.7% of non-recidivists received an Excellent parole rating compared to only 30.6% of recidivists.

CJRA Overall Risk Level at Discharge

Slightly more than two thirds (67.6%) of all youth in the one-year discharge cohort scored as High risk to recidivate on their discharge Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment (CJRA); recidivists had a higher probability of scoring High risk compared to non-recidivists. Over eighty percent (80.3%) of recidivists scored as High risk on their discharge CJRA compared to 63.3% of non-recidivists ($p = 0.00$).

Which Characteristics were MOST predictive of Recidivism?

Logistic regression analysis is a statistical modeling technique that seeks to quantify the degree to which two groups are different. Whereas the prior analysis looked to see if there was a difference in groups who recidivate, this analysis attempts to show *how much* of a difference exists. The relative risk (or risk ratio), for purposes of this report, can be interpreted as the amount of increased risk for recidivism, when comparing different characteristics found to be predictive of recidivism in descriptive analysis.

Figure 4: Risk Ratios and Meanings

<u>Risk Ratio</u>	<u>0 - 0.9</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.1 - 2.9</u>	<u>3.0+</u>
General Meaning	Decreased Risk	No Decreased or Increased Risk	Increased Risk <i>(Predictive)</i>	Increased Risk <i>(Strongly Predictive)</i>
Meaning for Recidivism Study	Recidivism risk is decreased in relation to comparison group	Recidivism risk is the same for both groups	One group is at increased risk of recidivism in relation to comparison group	One group is at substantially increased risk of recidivism in relation to comparison group

A multivariate logistic regression model was fit for the variables found to be predictive of recidivism in the descriptive analysis in an effort to determine which youth characteristics had the most influence on recidivism when all other differential variables were considered. The results of this type of analysis are interpreted using a risk ratio (RR). The greater the risk ratio, the more likely the individual with a particular characteristic is to recidivate when taking into account other possible recidivism risk factors.

Recidivists

Predictive Characteristics for Recidivists

There were 476 youth in the one-year post-discharge cohort, with 147 re-offending within the one-year follow-up period (30.9%). A multivariate logistic regression model was created that included each of the individual-level characteristics found to be significant among recidivists detailed in the previous section: gender, number of escapes during commitment, age at first adjudication, age at first commitment, number of prior adjudications, parole rating at discharge, and CJRA overall risk level at discharge. This model sought to further examine the relationship between these variables and being a recidivist, with the goal of developing a formula for making predictions about recidivism based on the observed values of the independent variables. In this model, gender, parole rating at discharge, and CJRA overall risk level were all found to be predictive of recidivism.

Gender

In the one-year post-discharge cohort, males had 2.99 times the risk for recidivism compared to females. This finding is consistent with national studies which have repeatedly indicated that males are more at risk for delinquency and criminality than are females, controlling for all other variables [3] [4].ⁱ

Parole Rating at Discharge

Youth who discharged with an Unsatisfactory rating had 0.51 times the risk for recidivism compared to youth who discharged with an Excellent parole rating at discharge, and had 0.26 times the risk of recidivating compared youth who discharged with a Satisfactory parole rating when controlling for all other variables.ⁱⁱ

CJRA Risk (for Recidivism) Level at Discharge

Compared to youth who scored as Low or Moderate risk to recidivate on their discharge CJRA, males who scored as High risk to recidivate were found to have 1.6 times the risk of recidivating within one year when controlling for all other variables.ⁱⁱⁱ CJRA Risk Level at Discharge was not found to be predictive of recidivism.

ⁱ Males: RR = 2.9, 95% Confidence Interval (CI): 1.4-6.4

ⁱⁱ Excellent parole rating at discharge: RR = 0.51, 95% CI: .31-.82; Satisfactory parole rating at discharge: RR = 0.26, 95% CI: .10-.68

ⁱⁱⁱ High risk to recidivate score on discharge CJRA: RR = 1.6, 95% CI: .95-2.7

Non-predictive Characteristics

When controlling for all other variables:

- Escapes were not found to be predictive of recidivism when controlling for all other variables.
- Age at first adjudication was not found to be predictive of recidivism when controlling for all other variables.
- Age at first commitment was not found to be predictive of recidivism when controlling for all other variables.
- The number of prior adjudications was not found to be predictive of recidivism when controlling for all other variables.

A Note on Males vs. Females

Given the small sample size of females ($n = 65$ total, $n = 9$ recidivists) in the one-year post-discharge cohort, it was not possible to draw meaningful predictive comparisons between male and female recidivists. In general, descriptive terms, females comprised 13.7% of the total one-year post-discharge population (males = 86.3%), and had a recidivism rate of 13.8% compared to males who had a recidivism rate of 33.6%. As the number of youth discharged from DYC declines, so will the statistical significance of these smaller sub-populations in subsequent analyses.

Model Fit

When conducting analyses into the significance of certain characteristics present in recidivists, it's equally important to understand how well the model fits, or how well it can predict the dependent variable knowing only the independent variables. In this assessment, the dependent variable was whether youth recidivate or not (a dichotomous yes/no), and the independent variables were those identified as having a statistically significant relationship to youth who recidivate. In order to determine how well the model is able to predict recidivism, an ordinary least squares (OLS) multiple linear

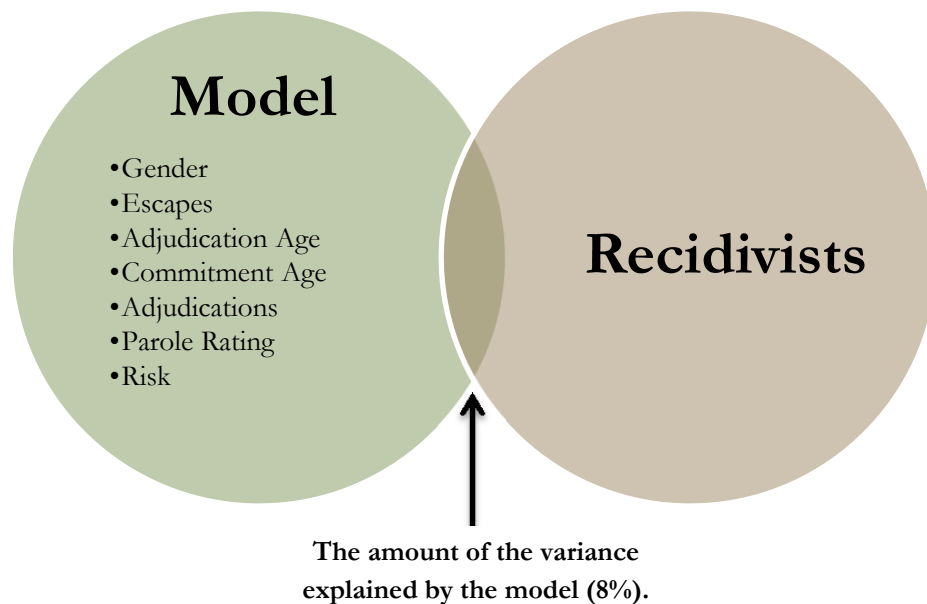
These logistic regression models are based on the most current discharge cohort. Each model is heavily influenced by the individual youth in the particular cohort. Future research would benefit from combining several years of discharge cohorts to accrue a much larger sample size, which would have more statistical power to make predictions, particularly between male and female populations. Models large enough to incorporate more characteristics and more youth would better explain, in general, what factors are most important to predict youth recidivism.

regression was used and included all of the variables identified as significant in the original analysis: Gender, Number of Escapes (Escapes), Age at First Adjudication (Adjudication Age), Age at First Commitment (Commitment Age), Number of Prior Adjudications (Adjudications), Parole Rating at Discharge (Parole Rating), and CJRA Overall Risk Level at Discharge (Risk).

As in the Risk Ratio analysis, males ($b = 0.181$, Beta = 0.134) and individuals who discharged from parole with an Unsatisfactory rating at discharge ($b = 0.266$, Beta = 0.273) were at significantly greater risk for recidivism than were females or those who discharged parole with an Excellent or Satisfactory rating ($p = 0.00$), controlling for all other variables in the model. Surprisingly, scoring as High risk on the discharge CJRA was not significantly associated with a significantly greater risk for recidivism than those who did not score as High risk ($b = 0.86$, Beta = 0.086, $p = 0.09$).

The model had an adjusted R^2 of 0.8, indicating the 7 variables found to be significantly associated with a higher risk of recidivating in the original analysis explain roughly 8% of the variation in recidivism. Given the small percentage of the variance that is explained by the model, it is clear that there are additional, as yet unknown factors that are predictive of recidivism than were included in the model (see Figure 5). Understanding how well a model explains the variance or “fits” a research question, then making data informed adjustments is at the heart of all social science research. Additional exploratory mediational and causal research is required in order to better understand and predict recidivism among this population.

Figure 5: Venn Diagram of the Variance Explained by the Model



COLORADO JUVENILE RISK ASSESSMENT (CJRA)

COLORADO JUVENILE RISK ASSESSMENT (CJRA) RESULTS

The Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment is an actuarial instrument that is utilized by DYC to assist in predicting a youth's risk of recidivism. The CJRA is based on the Washington State Juvenile Court Assessment, which has been shown to be predictive of recidivism in several validation studies, with juvenile probation populations. The CJRA was developed using 12 domains of risk and protective factors and has been shown in validation studies to be a useful tool to identify psychosocial criminogenic domains susceptible to recidivist tendencies in individual youth [5].

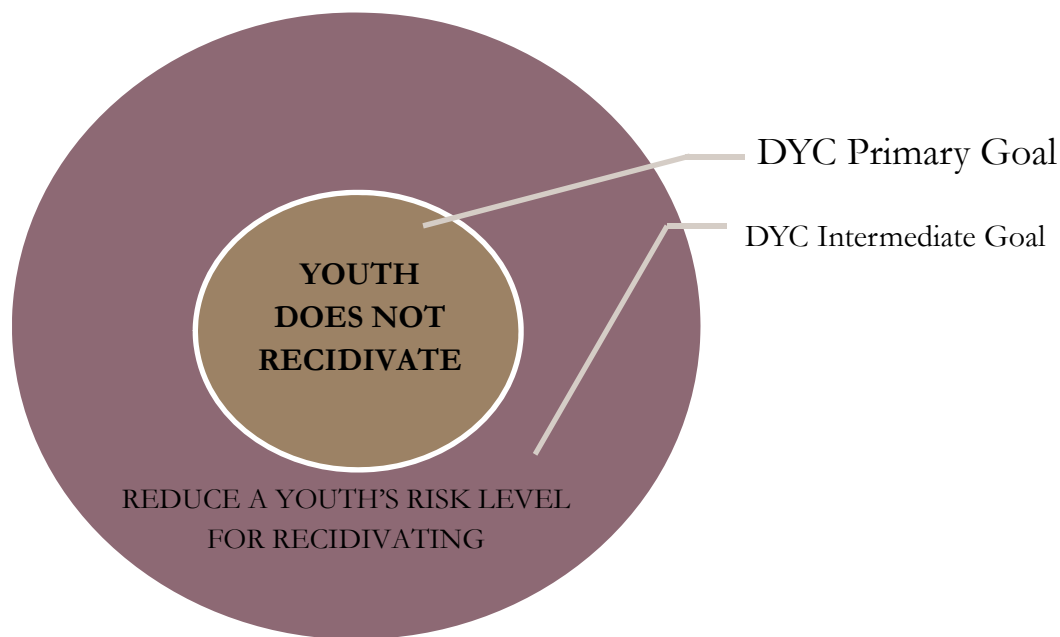
Every youth committed to DYC is assessed for criminogenic risk and protective factors, both from a static and dynamic perspective. Static domains are psychosocial and based on historical data which cannot be improved with treatment (such as criminal history or history of substance abuse). In contrast, dynamic domains are based on a youth's current living and social factors, which can be targeted during commitment with appropriate treatment and services in order to reduce risk (such as attitudes and behaviors).

The CJRA is utilized by DYC to initially assess and periodically re-assess the risk of recidivism for individual youth at specified points in time. For this report, the focus has been narrowed to only those assessments/re-assessments occurring during assessment, prior to parole, and at time of discharge from DYC. Re-assessment of risk and protective factors at critical junctures during a youth's commitment and parole sentence allows assessment staff, client managers, and Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) to accurately gauge a youth's risk of recidivism, and inform treatment decisions based upon a youth's most current needs. The primary goal of DYC is to decrease recidivism among its youth population by targeting criminogenic risk while increasing protective factors before a youth is discharged from the Division.

For most youth, a final CJRA re-assessment is completed upon discharge. This final risk assessment is called a youth's discharge CJRA. Of the 476 youth in the discharge cohort, ninety-one percent (91%; $n = 432$) had a valid discharge CJRA. Valid, in this instance, is defined as an assessment that was completed within 90 days of a youth's discharge date. Among the 44 youth without a valid discharge CJRA, 7 were completed after 90 days of a youth's discharge date, while the remaining 36 were administered within the 90-day time frame, but were incomplete. Youth may refuse to answer some or all of the CJRA questions, thus rendering them incomplete. When this refusal occurs at assessment or prior to parole, staff can simply administer the CJRA at another time (within the specified time frame) when the youth is more amenable to completing the questions. Naturally, this is not possible after a youth has discharged from DYC.

While each youth is assessed several times throughout his/her commitment to NYC, the last CJRA administered is given the most weight in regard to predicting future recidivism. As the instrument measures a youth's risk for recidivism at a specific point in time, the CJRA completed *closest to discharge* best describes a youth's risk trajectory when s/he is preparing to fully integrate back to community life after completing NYC supervision. Furthermore, research indicates that a youth's most recent risk assessment is the most predictive of future re-offending behavior [6].

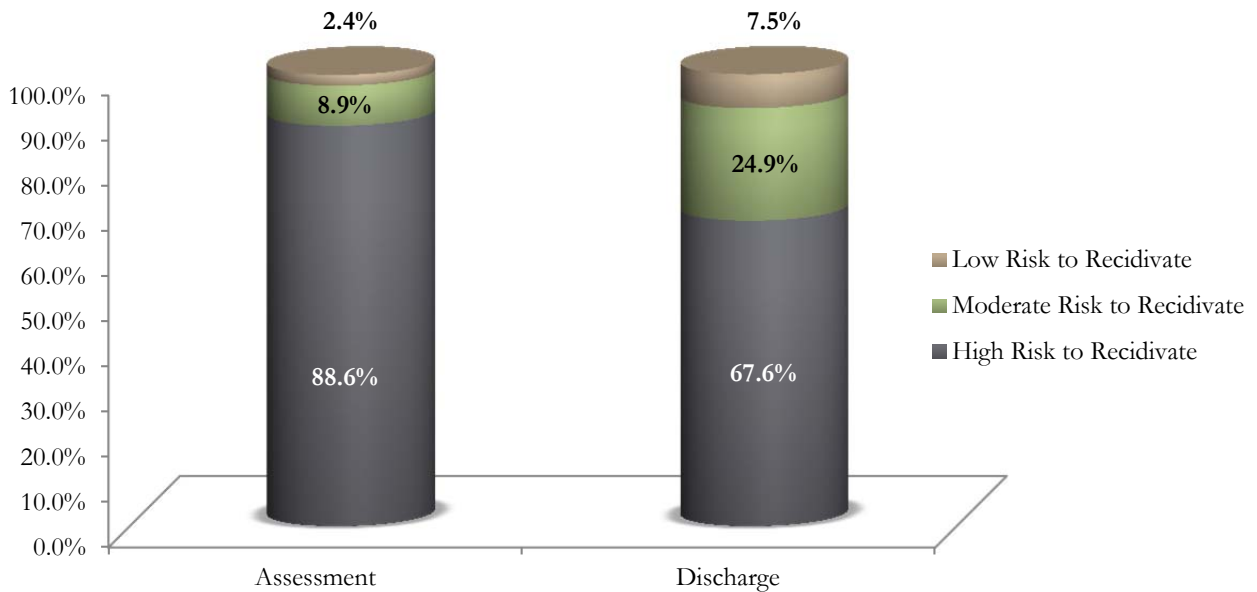
Figure 6: NYC's Goals for Committed Youth



Risk Reduction from Commitment to Discharge

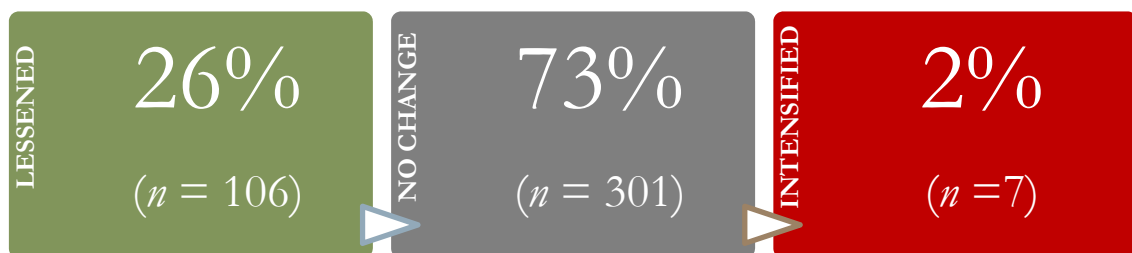
The Division's primary goal is that youth discharged from NYC do not recidivate. In other words, the Division's primary goal is a lag measure, meaning the outcome is unknown until the one-, two-, and three-year post-discharge follow-up periods have passed. Although actual recidivism cannot be determined sooner, there is another measure (intermediate goal) that *can* be quantified while a youth is still serving their commitment sentence—the youth's risk of recidivism. Recidivism risk assessments, like the CJRA, can determine whether a youth's risk of recidivating has been decreased over the course of treatment and services provided during commitment. As adjudicated youth are at increased risk of committing a new offense in the future due to their criminal history, criminogenic risk reduction is critical to overall reductions in recidivism, as criminogenic risk reduction results in a reduction in risk to re-offend [7] [8] [9]. Thus, one of NYC's key intermediate goals is reducing criminogenic risk.

Figure 7: CJRA Overall Risk Level Changes from Assessment to Discharge (FY 2014-15 Discharges)^{iv}



When youth are committed to DYC, the vast majority score as High risk to re-offend in the future. For the FY 2014-15 discharge cohort, 88.6% scored as High risk to recidivate at assessment ($n = 367$), and only 11.4% scored as Low or Moderate risk ($n = 47$). When this same cohort was examined at discharge, however, 67.6% scored as High risk ($n = 280$), and 32.4% scored as Low or Moderate risk ($n = 134$). Only youth with both a valid assessment and discharge CJRA were included in the analysis ($N=414$). The results of the analysis revealed that the one-year post-discharge cohort demonstrated a statistically significant reduction in recidivism risk (re: CJRA levels) from assessment to discharge after receiving treatment and services from DYC ($\chi^2 = 163.1, df = 4, p = 0.00$).

Figure 8: CJRA Risk Level Changes (lessened, no change, intensified) (FY 2014-15 Discharges)^{iv}



^{iv} Due to rounding throughout the report, figures may not total to 100% in all tables.
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The one-year post-discharge cohort experienced a 23.7% ($n = 280$) reduction in High risk to recidivate scores, and even more dramatic gains in the Moderate (179.8%; $n = 103$) and Low risk (212.5%; $n = 31$) scores. Unfortunately, while the percentage of High risk youth was significantly reduced from commitment to discharge, the majority of youth maintained their High risk score at discharge. When examined further (see Figure 8), a proportion of youth (26%) lessened their risk level from NYC commitment to discharge. This reduction includes those who initially scored as High risk at assessment and then scored as Moderate risk at discharge, those who moved from Moderate to Low risk scores, or even those who moved from High to Low risk scores. The largest percent of youth scored as the same risk for recidivism at commitment and discharge (73%). In other words, these youth were committed to NYC with a High risk for recidivism, and discharged with the same High risk. For many of these youth who did not have a change in their risk level, their individual score may actually have decreased, but the change was not sufficient to move them to a lower risk level category. Finally, less than two percent (1.7%, $n = 7$) of youth in the one-year post-discharge cohort experienced an intensified risk level.

This last finding is significant as it relates to the *Do No Harm* philosophy in corrections. The Division strives to reduce risk among its juvenile population, but it is also dedicated to ensuring that lower level offenders are not at an increased risk for recidivism at discharge. As the third box of Figure 8 illustrates, roughly 2% of youth in the one-year cohort ($n = 7$ youth) increased their risk to recidivate between assessment and discharge. Five of these youth were assessed as Moderate risk upon commitment to NYC and scored as High risk to recidivate at discharge, while the remaining two youth were assessed as Low risk at assessment and then scored as Moderate risk at discharge. A substantial body of literature points to the iatrogenic effects of incarcerating lower risk youth as well as with treating Low risk youth with intensive services [10]. As Social Learning Theory suggests, these lower risk youth may learn anti-social skills from High risk youth that they may not have otherwise been exposed to if not incarcerated [10] [11].

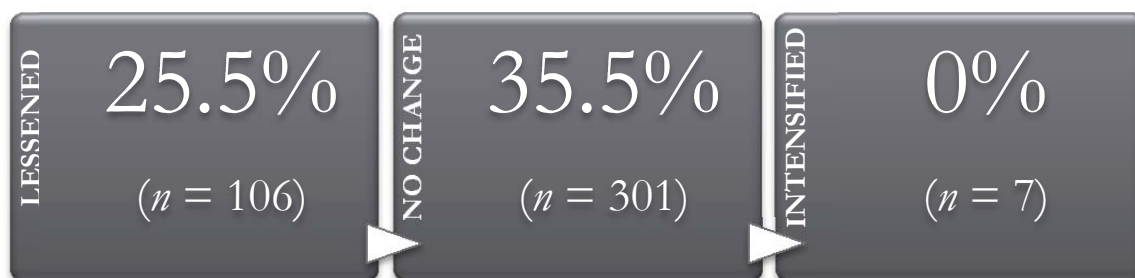
Recidivism Rates by CJRA Risk Level Changes

In general, it can be said that treatment was effective in targeting the risk factors associated with recidivism among those youth whose risk level for recidivism was lessened (meaning decreased from a higher risk to a lower risk). These youth were committed to the Division with a High risk of re-offending and discharged with a Low/Moderate risk of re-offending, while youth who did not have a change in risk level may not have responded as well to treatment. In contrast, treatment was perhaps deleterious to those youth who experienced an intensified (or increased) risk level.

Recidivism rates for the sub-groups with either lessened or maintained risk level scores confirm that the change in risk level itself can have an effect on recidivism. As shown in Figure 9, youth whose risk score was lessened after NYC treatment and services had a recidivism rate of 25.5% one year after discharge (lower than the average rate of 30.9%). Youth with no change in risk score had a higher recidivism rate of 35.5% one year after discharge (higher than the average rate). The seven youth in the

one-year post-discharge cohort who had an aggravated risk score after being committed to DYC had a recidivism rate of 0% one year after discharge. These differences in recidivism rates compared by risk level changes from commitment to discharge differ statistically ($\chi^2 = 7.04, df = 2, p = 0.03$). An investigation into the seven youth with aggravated CJRA risk scores who had not recidivated revealed that six had committed a recidivist act after the one-year post-discharge follow-up period and will be captured in the two-year post-discharge cohort next year. This is consistent with the Time to Recidivist Offense data presented in Figure 26, where 94% of youth who recidivate do so within 24 months of discharge.

Figure 9: Recidivism Rates by CJRA Risk Level Changes (FY 2014-15 Discharges)



Sensitivity of the CJRA

Human behavior is unpredictable by nature, and thus incredibly difficult to predict with accuracy [12]. The use of actuarial risk assessments provides some insight into the probability that those who possess certain characteristics might re-offend in the future [13]. From a research perspective, the “sensitivity” of an assessment tool is a term used to describe the number of cases that are correctly identified by the tool. In this assessment, the term sensitivity is used to describe the proportion of youth in each cohort who recidivated and also scored High risk to recidivate on the CJRA. If the CJRA is sufficiently sensitive, it should correctly identify a large percentage of youth who eventually recidivate as High risk to recidivate.

As shown in Table 4, almost 80% (79.1%) of recidivists in the one-year post-discharge cohort scored as High risk to recidivate on their discharge CJRA. Similarly, 76.8% of recidivists in the two-year post-discharge cohort scored as High risk to recidivate on their discharge CJRA. Finally, 71.1% of recidivists in the three-year post-discharge cohort scored as High risk to recidivate on the discharge CJRA. Comparatively, fewer than 6% of youth who scored as Low risk on the discharge CJRA -- in any cohort -- committed a recidivist act (5.2% from the one-year cohort, 1.3% from the two-year, and 5.3% from the three-year cohort). These findings indicate that the CJRA is sensitive enough to correctly identify between seventy and eighty percent of youth who recidivate. These observed differences between the percentages of High, Moderate, and Low risk level in each individual cohort were not due to chance and were statistically significant.

Table 4: CJRA Discharge Risk Levels for Recidivists

	Percent of Recidivists ^v		
	FY 2014-15 Cohort*	FY 2013-14 Cohort*	FY 2012-13 Cohort*
	One-year	Two-years	Three-years
Discharge CJRA risk level*	%	%	%
High (risk to recidivate)	79.1%	76.8%	71.1%
Moderate (risk to recidivate)	15.7%	21.9%	23.9%
Low (risk to recidivate)	5.2%	1.3%	5.3%
	100%	100%	100%

* $p < .05$ (indicates a statistically significant difference).

Positive Predictive Value of the CJRA

Within the context of this study, the positive predictive value of the CJRA is defined as the proportion of youth who score as High risk who actually go on to recidivate. If the CJRA is accurately assessing youth who are at the highest risk of recidivating, we would expect to see a large proportion of youth with High risk scores eventually recidivate. As shown in Table 5, among the population of youth who scored as High risk to recidivate, 37.8% had recidivated within one year, 52.3% had recidivated within two years, and 59.3% had recidivated within three years. In short, we are seeing a higher rate of recidivism among youth who scored High risk to recidivate compared to youth with Moderate or Low risk scores in each cohort, and the differences are statistically significant. When examined more closely, Table 5 illustrates that Low risk youth in the one-year cohort had a recidivism rate of 22.6%, which is slightly higher than Moderate risk youth. This finding is likely due to the very small sample sizes among recidivists in both the Low ($n = 7$) and Moderate ($n = 21$) risk groups. Caution should always be used when examining sub-populations with very small sample sizes. Generally speaking, the observed higher rates of recidivism among High risk youth indicate that the CJRA is internally valid and is measuring what it is intended to measure: youth who are at greater risk to recidivate in the future. In addition, the CJRA also appears to be externally valid in that it is possible to use the risk scores generated to assist in predicting future recidivism among the Division’s youth population (i.e., predictive validity), and its predictive capacity appears to improve from one-year post discharge to three-years post discharge.

^v Due to rounding, all figures may not total to 100% in all tables.
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Table 5: Recidivism Rates by Discharge CJRA Risk Level

Discharge CJRA Risk Level†	Recidivism Rate		
	FY 2014-15 Cohort*	FY 2013-14 Cohort*	FY 2012-13 Cohort*
	One-year	Two-years	Three-years
	%	%	%
High (risk to recidivate)	37.8%	52.3%	59.3%
Moderate (risk to recidivate)	20.4%	35.0%	44.4%
Low (risk to recidivate)	22.6%	15.8%	38.6%
Total recidivism rate for youth with valid CJRAs	32.4%	45.9%	53.7%

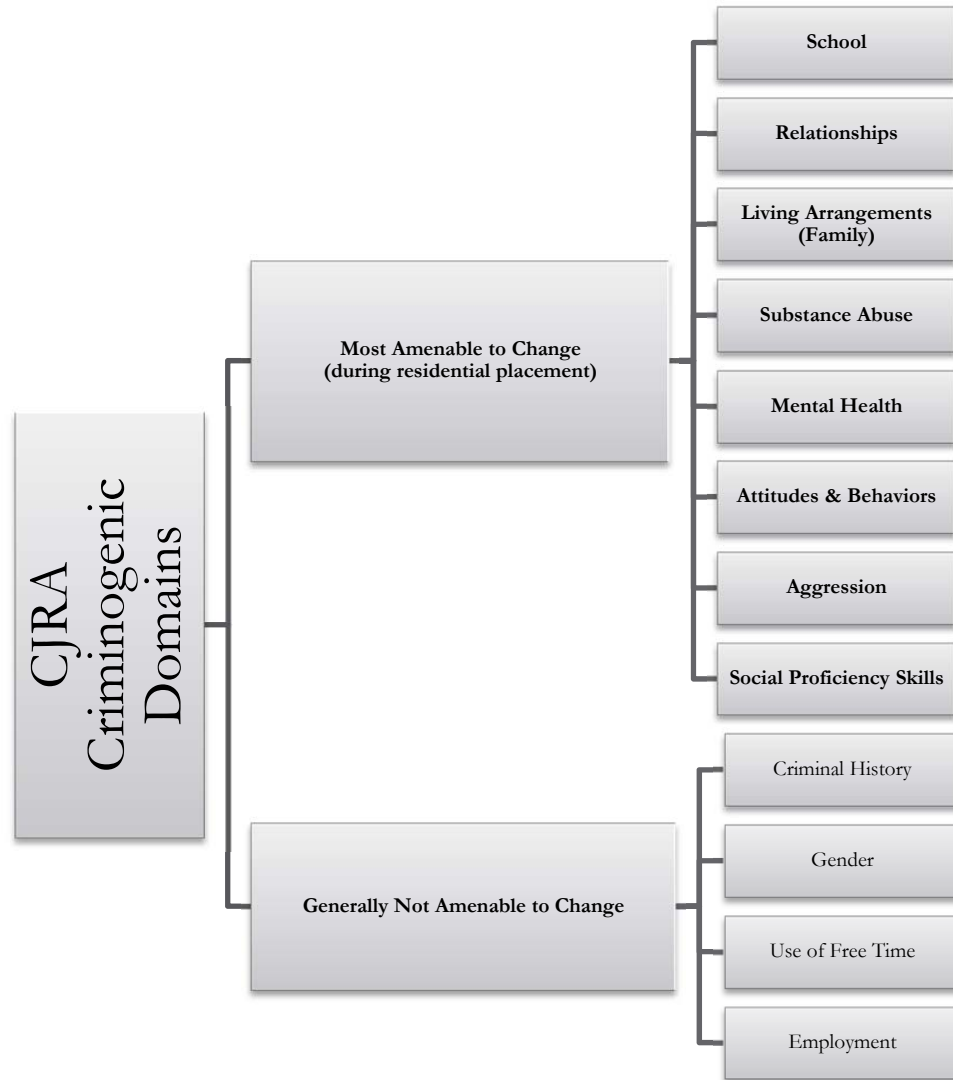
* $p < .05$ (indicates a statistically significant difference).

† Only youth with a valid discharge CJRA are included in this analysis (valid = within 90 days of discharge and a completed assessment).

DOMAIN RISK LEVEL

The prior section focused on the CJRA overall risk level (i.e.: Low, Moderate, High), while the current section will focus on the specific criminogenic domains within the CJRA. In an effort to reduce the overall likelihood of re-offending, youth committed to DYC have treatment plans developed to specifically address their individual criminogenic needs. The CJRA is rooted in the following 12 criminogenic domains:

Figure 10: Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment Domains

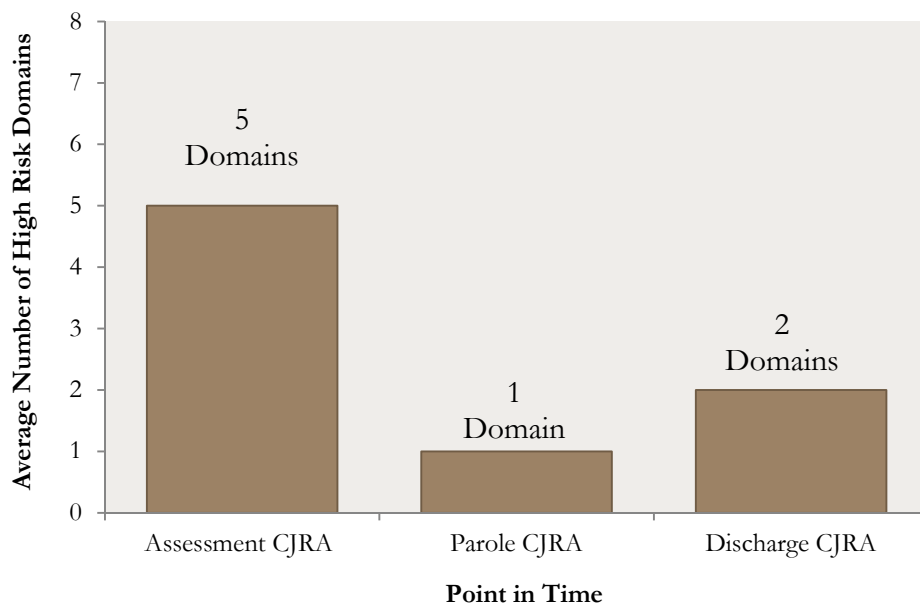


Of the twelve CJRA domains, DYC focuses treatment plans on the eight domains that are most amenable to change during a youth’s commitment sentence (School, Relationships, Living Arrangements (Family), Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Attitudes & Behaviors, Aggression, and Social Proficiency Skills). These eight dynamic domains are pertinent to this analysis as they are the only domains where change can be influenced and measured with consistency through treatment and services. The remaining four domains are generally not amenable to change. Gender and Criminal History are static and cannot be changed. Employment and Use of Free Time are generally not amenable to change while youth are in Secure/Residential placement, but may become so during parole or post-discharge. For a full list of CJRA domain questions please refer to Appendix D.

REDUCTIONS IN RISK FACTORS OVER TIME

The analysis in this section focuses on calculated CJRA risk scores at three measurement periods: initial DYJ assessment, prior to parole commencement, and at time of discharge. On average, youth in the one-year post-discharge cohort were committed to DYJ and assessed as being High risk on 5 of the 8 domains. At time of parole, this average decreases to scoring High risk on only 1 domain, and at the time of discharge rises to scoring High risk on 2 domains (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: Average Number of High Risk CJRA Domains over Time (FY 2014-15 Discharges)



Assessment CJRA

On the assessment CJRA, the most frequent High risk domains included Attitudes & Behaviors (95.9% scored as High risk), Aggression (83.3% scored as High risk), and Social Proficiency Skills (81.4% scored as High risk).

Parole CJRA

On the parole CJRA assessment, the most frequent High risk domains were Relationships (29.7% scored as High risk); Attitudes & Behaviors (28.7% scored as High risk); Aggression (24.9% scored as High risk); and Family (23.7% scored as High risk).

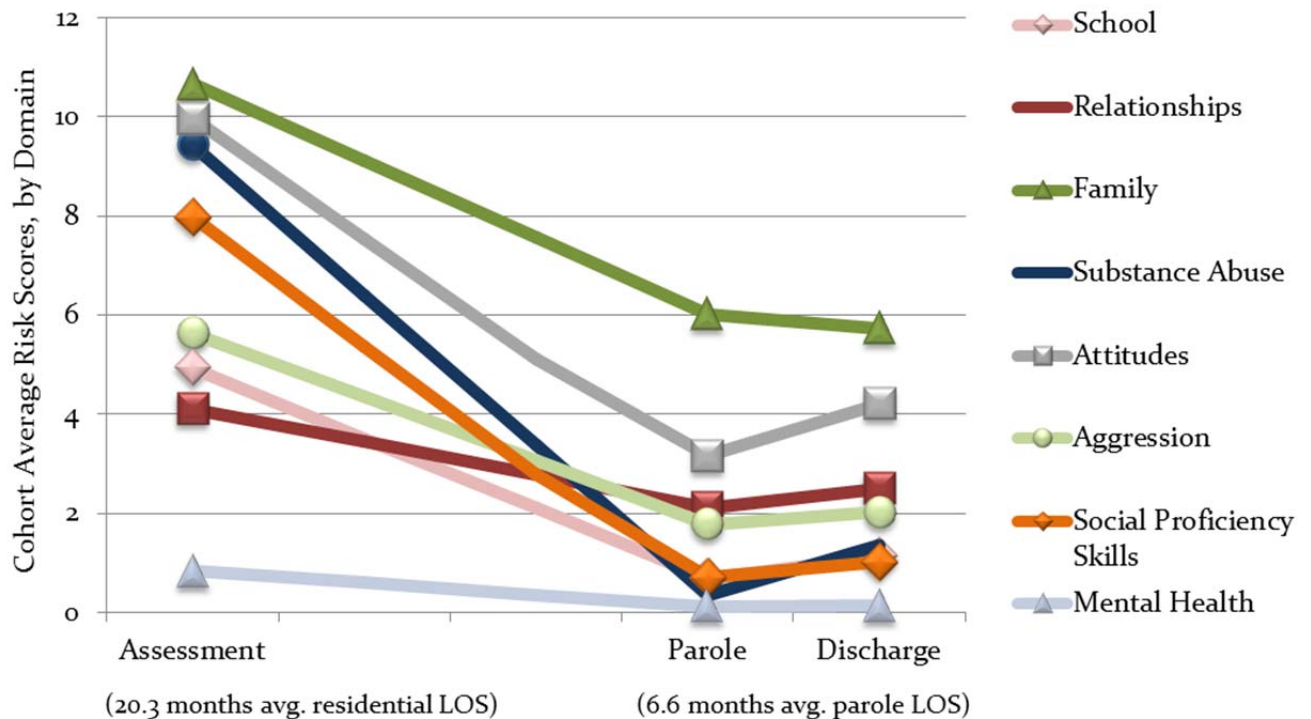
Discharge CJRA

On the discharge CJRA assessment, the most frequent High risk domains were Attitudes & Behaviors (43.5% scored as High risk); Relationships (40.3% scored as High risk); Aggression (32.1% scored as High risk); and Family (31.2% scored as High risk).

Table 6: Mean Cohort Domain Scores for CJRA Dynamic Risk Domains (FY 2014-15 Discharges)

Domain (higher score = more at risk)	Domain Total Total Possible Score	Cohort Domain Mean			<i>p-value</i>
		Assessment	Parole	Discharge	
School	22	4.4	0.6	1.2	0
Relationships	8	4	2.2	2.5	0
Family	34	10.6	6.1	5.6	0
Substance Abuse	24	9.8	0.6	1.7	0
Mental Health	4	0.7	0.1	0.2	0
Attitudes	23	9.8	3.1	4.3	0
Aggression	13	5.5	1.9	2.2	0
Social Proficiency Skills	18	7.7	0.6	0.8	0

Figure 12: Change in Individual CJRA Domain Risk Scores over Time (FY 2014-15 Discharges)



As shown in Table 6 and Figure 12, all eight domains most amenable to change demonstrated statistically significant reductions in risk from assessment to discharge for the one-year post-discharge cohort of youth.

It is important to note the increase in risk scores between parole and discharge for specific domains. The increase in risk scores during this period of time helps to illustrate the difficulties associated with transitioning youth back into their natural communities, the effects of exposure to anti-social or delinquent influences, or negative life experiences in general. Understanding these risks, it is anticipated that some portion of the domain risk reductions achieved between assessment and parole will not be maintained when youth leave the structured and predictable setting of residential commitment and return to their community on parole. Generally speaking, youth in the one-year post-discharge cohort demonstrated significant reductions in risk across all eight of the dynamic domains during their time with DYC.

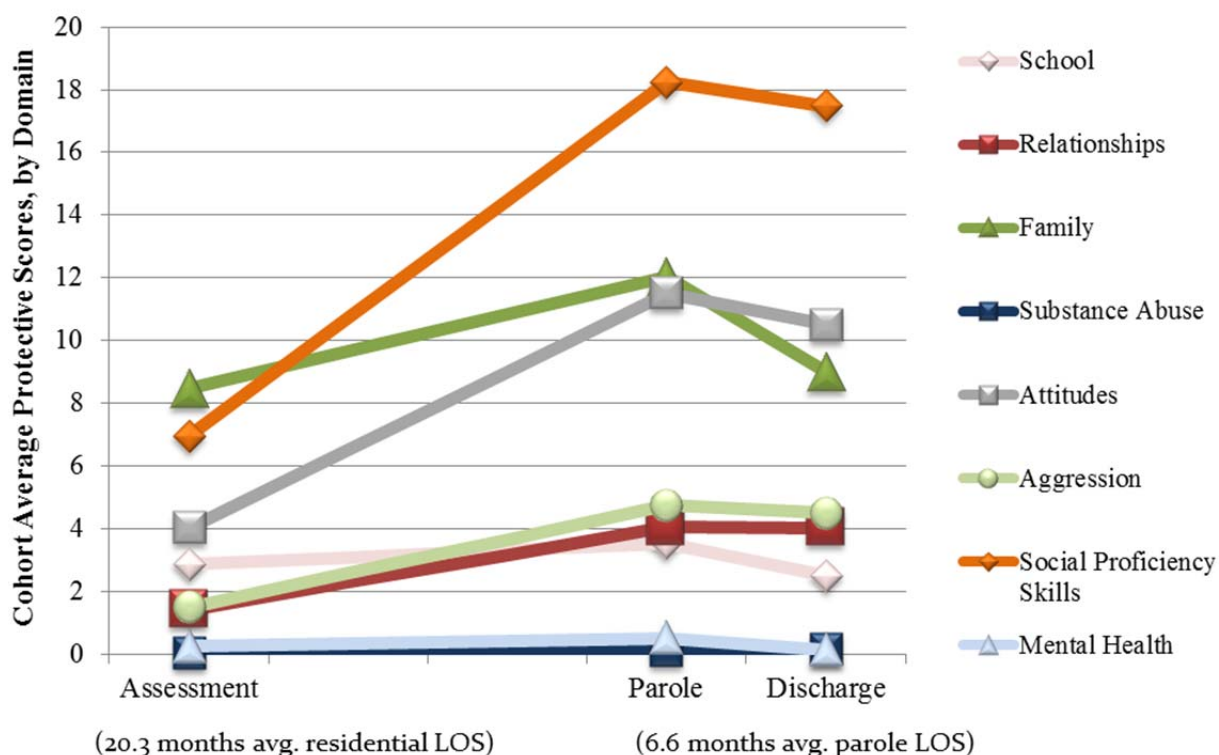
INCREASES IN PROTECTIVE FACTORS OVER TIME

Although the literature clearly indicates that the greatest reductions in recidivism are achieved by focusing on risk, there is a growing body of literature that indicates the saliency of asset-building as part of a recidivism risk reduction strategy [14]. With this body of research in mind, both DYC and the CJRA track a youth’s progress in domains found to be protective against future recidivism.

Table 7: Mean Cohort Domain Scores for CJRA Dynamic Protective Domains (FY 2014-15 Discharges)

Domain	Domain Total	Cohort Domain Mean			
(higher score = more protective tendencies)	Total Possible Score	Assessment	Parole	Discharge	<i>p-value</i>
School	17	2.9	3.6	2.5	<i>0.21</i>
Relationships	10	1.4	4.1	4.1	<i>0</i>
Family	23	8.5	12	9	<i>0.07</i>
Substance Abuse	2	0	0.1	0.2	<i>0</i>
Mental Health	3	0.3	0.5	0.1	<i>0.01</i>
Attitudes	18	4	11.5	10.5	<i>0</i>
Aggression	8	1.5	4.7	4.5	<i>0</i>
Social Proficiency Skills	28	7	18.2	17.5	<i>0</i>

Figure 13: Change in Individual CJRA Domain Protective Scores over Time (FY 2014-15 Discharges)



Five of eight domains demonstrated significant increases in protective factor scores, as shown in Figure 13, from the time of assessment to the time of discharge. These five domains were: Relationships, Substance Abuse, Attitudes and Behaviors, Aggression, and Skills. The three domains that did not show significant improvement in protective factors were School, Family, and Mental Health.

School

As shown in Table 7 and Figure 13, protective factor scores (on average) in the School domain did not change significantly from assessment (cohort mean 2.9) to discharge (2.5). Other studies have illustrated that the juvenile delinquent population struggles with both staying in school and performing at grade level across subjects [15] [16], which might also be reflected in the data. The total possible protective score for the School domain is 17 points (the higher the point value, the more protective tendencies a youth has); however, NYC youth on average only scored 2.9 at assessment and 2.5 at discharge. Although a small increase in protective School factors is seen on the Parole CJRA Assessment (cohort mean 3.6), which is likely due to NYC schooling oversight, those gains seem to be lost once a youth goes on parole and is no longer under NYC educational jurisdiction.

Family

While protective factor scores in the Family (Living Arrangements) domain increased slightly between assessment (cohort mean 8.5) to discharge (cohort mean 9), these changes were not statistically significant. It is important to note that the majority of youth who discharge from NYC return to their parents or guardians' home, which renders the lack of significant gains on this domain particularly sobering. In an effort to maximize family involvement, NYC Client Managers and Multi-Disciplinary Teams encourage ongoing family engagement throughout the commitment process, including the inviting family members to attend treatment plan meetings and certain therapy sessions. In general, family dynamics are complex and difficult to change, even with professional help [15]. Youth discharging from NYC face numerous challenges surrounding successful reintegration with their family, neighborhood, and community, which can include parental attitudes that are tolerant of deviance and crime, family disorganization, socio-economic struggles, and substance abuse. Youth in the one-year discharge cohort did demonstrate a statistically significant increase in protective factor scores on the Family domain between assessment and parole, which may be attributable to the ongoing "wrap-around" services offered to NYC clients (family counselling, etc.). After a youth discharges and these services are no longer delivered, protective factor scores decline on the Family domain.

Mental Health

Although changes in the average domain scores on the Mental Health domain were statistically significant, the scores were in the wrong direction, indicating a loss in mental health protective factors. Positive outcomes would demonstrate an increase in protective factor scores at discharge relative to assessment; however, protective factor scores (on average) in the Mental Health domain were significantly lower at discharge than assessment. It should be noted that this outcome is likely an artifact of the simplicity of the questions which comprise the dynamic Mental Health domain on the CJRA. The Division is aware that the entirety of the domain is comprised of three questions; (1) current use of ADHD medication (regardless of whether the youth has a diagnosis of ADHD), (2) attendance at mental health treatment (regardless of whether the youth has a mental health issue), and (3) current mental health medication use (regardless of whether the youth has a mental health issue). Since medication adherence and access to mental health care for this population once they return to the community is already a known human service barrier, it is not surprising that youth continue to score poorly on the Mental Health domain upon discharge [17] [18].

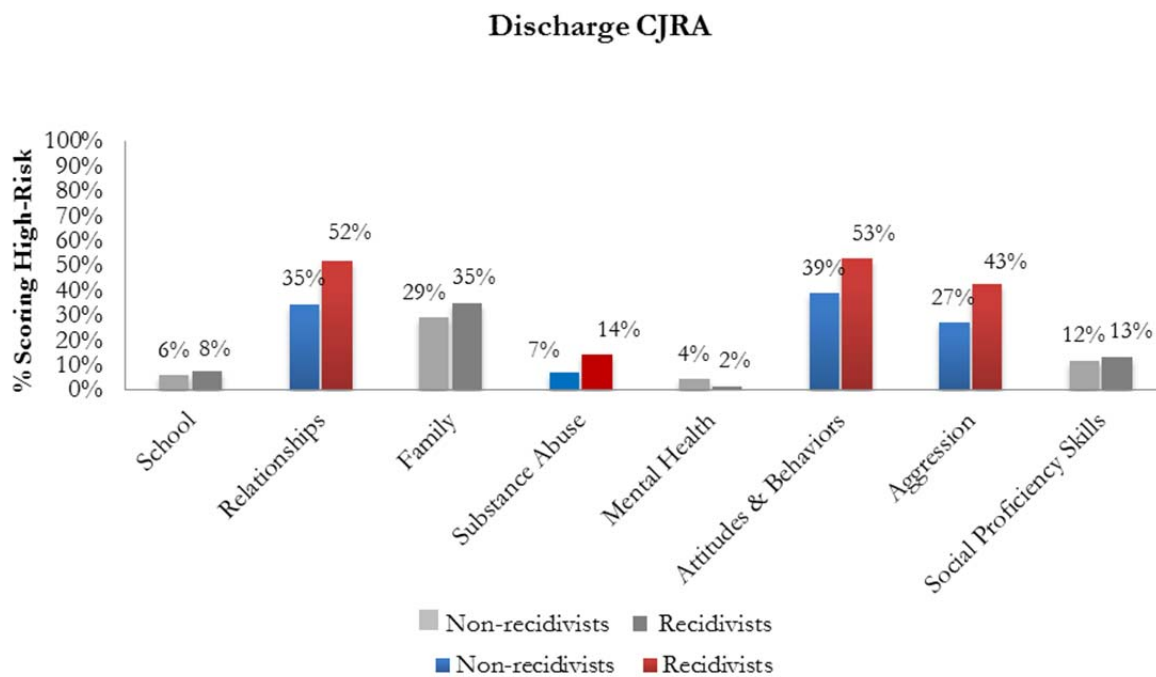
Another explanation is that NYC staff learn more about a youth by the time they discharge than they knew at assessment, and since many mental health issues are not readily apparent, it is only over time that the youth's mental health needs become evident. Nonetheless, mental health and assessment of mental health needs may be a topic that needs more examination in the future. For a full list of CJRA domain questions please refer to Appendix D.

CJRA DOMAIN RISK FOR NON-RECIDIVISTS VS RECIDIVISTS

In this section of the report the analysis will focus on the relationship between individual criminogenic risk factors (i.e. CJRA domains) and rates of recidivism for youth who scored High vs. Not High risk (Low or Moderate risk) on each domain. For each domain, the percentage of recidivists who scored High risk was compared to the percentage of non-recidivists who were High risk, with the goal of determining if certain domains were more characteristic of future recidivism over the course of commitment. The shading in Figure 14 is intended to help demonstrate which domains were statistically significant. Only the domains that demonstrated a statistically significant difference between the percentage of non-recidivists and recidivists who scored High risk in that domain appear in color. As the CJRA administered closest to discharge (e.g.: the discharge CJRA) is considered to be the most valid for predicting who is at the greatest risk for recidivating, the analysis was limited to between groups differences in the risk scores on this discharge CJRA.

Discharge CJRA

Figure 14: Percentage of Non-Recidivists vs. Recidivists Who Scored High Risk on Their Discharge CJRA, by Domain



On the discharge CJRA, Figure 14 shows the percentage of non-recidivists who scored High risk in each CJRA domain versus the percentage of recidivists who scored High risk in each CJRA domain. It is informative to identify those domains on which youth scored High risk at discharge and the characteristics of those who ultimately went on to recidivate. These differences help to decode some of the reasons for subsequent criminogenic behavior within the population.

Relationships

It is important to remember that the discharge CJRA happens after a youth has been on parole in the community for at least six months. This allows for time for youth to regress to anti-social peers and social networks, which can influence the increase in the percentage of youth who score High risk in this domain from the parole CJRA to the discharge CJRA. Peer group influence is perhaps at its strongest during the teenage years when adolescents are seeking to define themselves, and the Relationships domain is an indicator of to what degree a youth's relationships place him/her at risk for recidivism. On the discharge CJRA evaluation 52% of youth who ultimately went on to recidivate scored High risk on the Relationships domain compared to 35% of those who did not recidivate ($\chi^2 = 11.66$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.01$).

Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is a pervasive problem, particularly among juvenile populations, and among those with an early onset of alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use. The Alcohol and Drugs domain of the discharge CJRA measures current substance use as a risk factor for recidivism. When youth are on parole awaiting discharge from DYC, random or periodic urine analyses to test for the presence of illicit substances may be required, with the expectation that youth remain sober and abide by the law as a condition of parole. Thus, given the threat of being caught violating parole and receiving a parole revocation, one would expect the current Alcohol and Drug use reported on the discharge CJRA to be quite low. Conversely, once a youth has discharged and no longer faces the same consequences for substance use, it would not be surprising for youth with a history of substance abuse to re-engage in substance use behavior with peers. On the discharge CJRA evaluation, 14.2% of youth who ultimately went on to recidivate scored as High risk on the Alcohol and Drugs domain, compared to 7.1% of those who did not recidivate ($\chi^2 = 5.26$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.02$).

Attitudes and Behaviors

The same concept described for the Relationships domain is true for the Attitudes and Behaviors domain. Many youth relapse back into formerly established behaviors when they re-enter their homes, neighborhoods, and are surrounded by members of their community. Often times a youth returning home will be confronted with the same anti-social behaviors or attitudes that are tolerant of crime or delinquency that they espoused prior to commitment. Unfortunately, at this stage in the youth's commitment many of the therapeutic advances made while in residential placement are in jeopardy of being reduced. On the discharge CJRA evaluation, 53% of youth who ultimately went on to recidivate scored High risk on the Attitudes and Behaviors domain compared to 39% of those who did not recidivate ($\chi^2 = 7.29$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.01$).

Aggression

On the discharge CJRA evaluation 43% of youth who ultimately went on to recidivate scored High risk on the Aggression domain compared to 27% of those who did not ultimately recidivate ($\chi^2 = 9.85$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.01$). It has long been established that incarcerated offenders tend score higher on assessments of aggression than the general population. Youth who are committed to NYC have typically experienced an array of aggression and complex trauma in their lives, whether it was witnessed in their neighborhoods, schools, or even at home. Past experiences with violence and complex trauma can lead to aggressive reactions to stress or other confrontations.

Consistently Predictive CJRA Domains: Aggression, Attitudes & Behavior, and Relationships

Discharged youth scoring High risk on the CJRA Aggression domain have proven **for 8 consecutive years** to be at statistically higher risk of recidivating, while discharged youth scoring High risk on the Attitudes & Behavior and the Relationships domains have proven for 7 of 8 consecutive years to be at statistically higher risk of recidivating (see Figure 15).

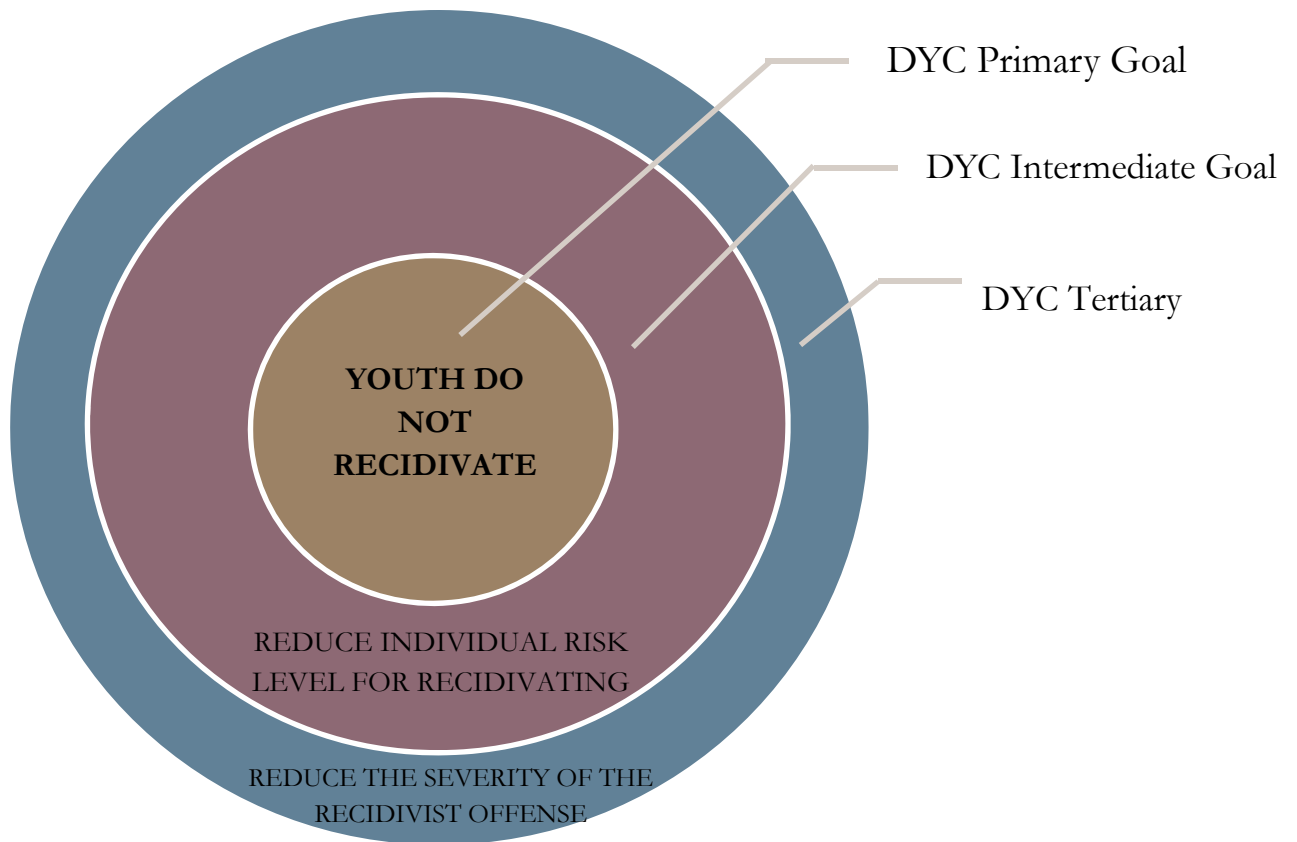
Figure 15: Consistently Predictive CJRA Domains



RISK REDUCTION - OFFENSES

As stated previously, NYC's primary goal is that youth do not go on to recidivate after treatment, while the Division's intermediate goal is to reduce our youth's *risk* of recidivating. Given that a large portion of NYC youth do, in fact, recidivate after discharging, an additional means by which to measure youth progress made while in treatment with NYC is to examine the individual recidivist offense severity in comparison to the NYC committing offense (see Figure 16). Reducing the severity of a recidivist act can be thought of as the Division's tertiary goal. Although it is not ideal, the reality is that for many youth treated at NYC, committing a less severe offense can be considered an achievement.

Figure 16: NYC Goals



OFFENSE SEVERITY

This section of the report examines a youth's committing offense (the offense that resulted in their DYC sentence) compared to his/her most serious recidivist offense (the offense after discharge from DYC). Although youth who re-offend still present a threat to the community, this threat can be considered lessened if their recidivist offense is less severe than their original offense that resulted in commitment.

Severity of Committing Offenses vs. Recidivist Offenses

The following analysis examines the most serious offense type for which a youth was committed to DYC (committing offense) and compares it to the most serious recidivist offense that occurs during the one-year follow-up period (recidivist offense).

Figure 17: Original Committing Offense Severity of Recidivists (FY 2014-15 Discharges, $N = 147$)

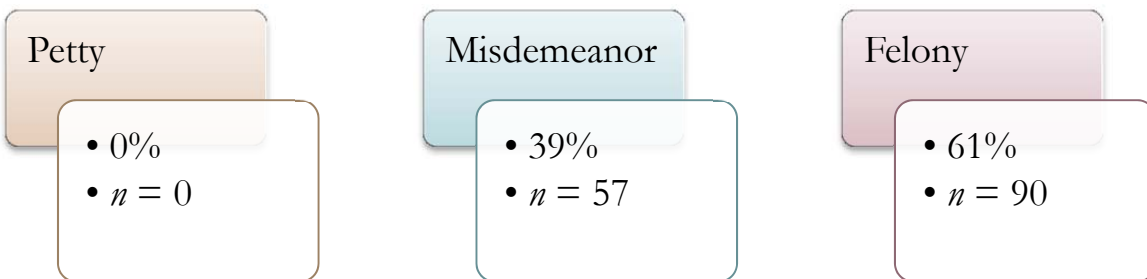
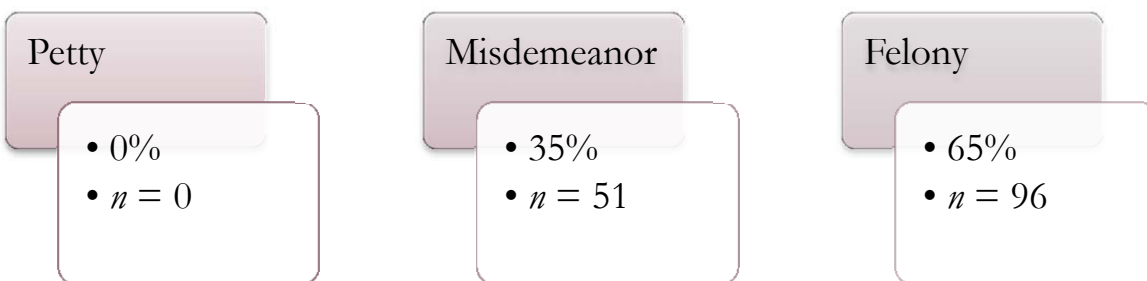


Figure 18: Recidivist Offense Severity (FY 2014-15 Discharges, $N = 147$)



Of the 147 clients discharged from DYC in FY 2014-15 that recidivated during the one-year follow-up period, the majority were originally sentenced to DYC on felony adjudications (61% felony vs. 39% misdemeanor). The same is true for recidivist offenses; the most common recidivist offense severity was also a felony (65% felony vs. 35% misdemeanor); however, in order to truly examine offense severity, we need to consider the class of felony and misdemeanor for which an individual was adjudicated or convicted.

Types of Committing Offenses vs. Recidivist Offenses

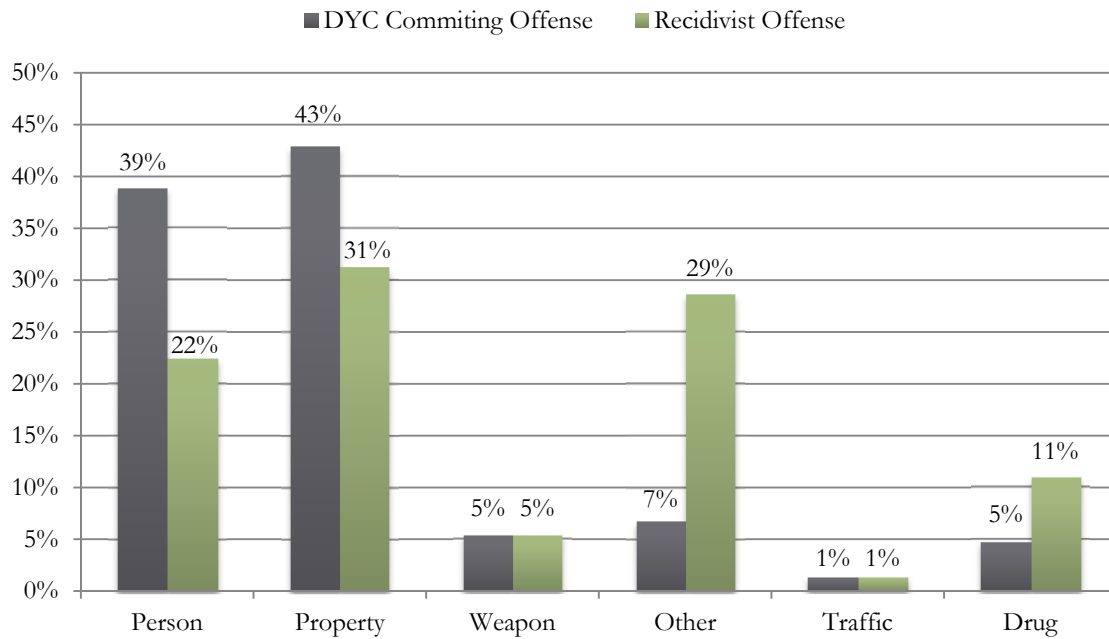
There are several different categories of which offenses are classified; person, property, weapon, traffic, drug, and other. Person offenses involve harm to another person and are considered the most severe type of offense. Property offenses involve the theft or destruction of property, while weapon offenses are violations of statutes or regulations that control deadly weapons. Drug offenses can include the manufacture, sale, or possession of specific quantities of illicit substances, or prescription medications without a valid prescription. Traffic offenses, not to be confused with traffic violations, include things like driving under restraint, driving while ability impaired, and vehicular eluding. Other offenses among the one-year post-discharge cohort included: accessory to crime, escape, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, impersonation/false reporting, forgery, obstructing a peace officer, obstructing government operations, resisting arrest, failure to register as a sex offender, violating a protection order, identity theft for financial gain, fishing without a license, and violation of a parole order.

Among recidivists in the one-year post-discharge cohort, as shown in Figure 19, the most common types of committing offense were person offenses (39%) and property offenses (43%). Property offenses were the most common DYC committing offense type.

The most common types of recidivist offenses were also property (31%) and person (22%) offenses. It should be noted that the proportion of recidivist offenses that were of person offenses (22%) was 44% lower than the proportion of DYC committing offenses that were person offenses (39%). A similar reduction was noted between commitment and recidivist property offenses: 43% of commitment offenses were property offenses, but only 31% of recidivist offenses were property offenses, a 28% reduction. Offenses classified as other include possession of contraband, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, driving under restraint, driving after revocation/prohibition, false reporting (information or identification), resisting arrest, vehicular eluding, escape, sex offender registration offenses, financial crimes/identity theft, obstruction, and violations of protection orders. Traffic offenses include driving under the influence and driving while intoxicated (see Figure 19).

For youth who had more than one recidivist offense, their most severe offense was selected for this analysis (as defined by the severity class). In the event a youth had more than one recidivist offense with the same severity class, the first occurring of those offenses was selected.

Figure 19: Types of Committing Offenses vs. Recidivist Offenses^{vi}



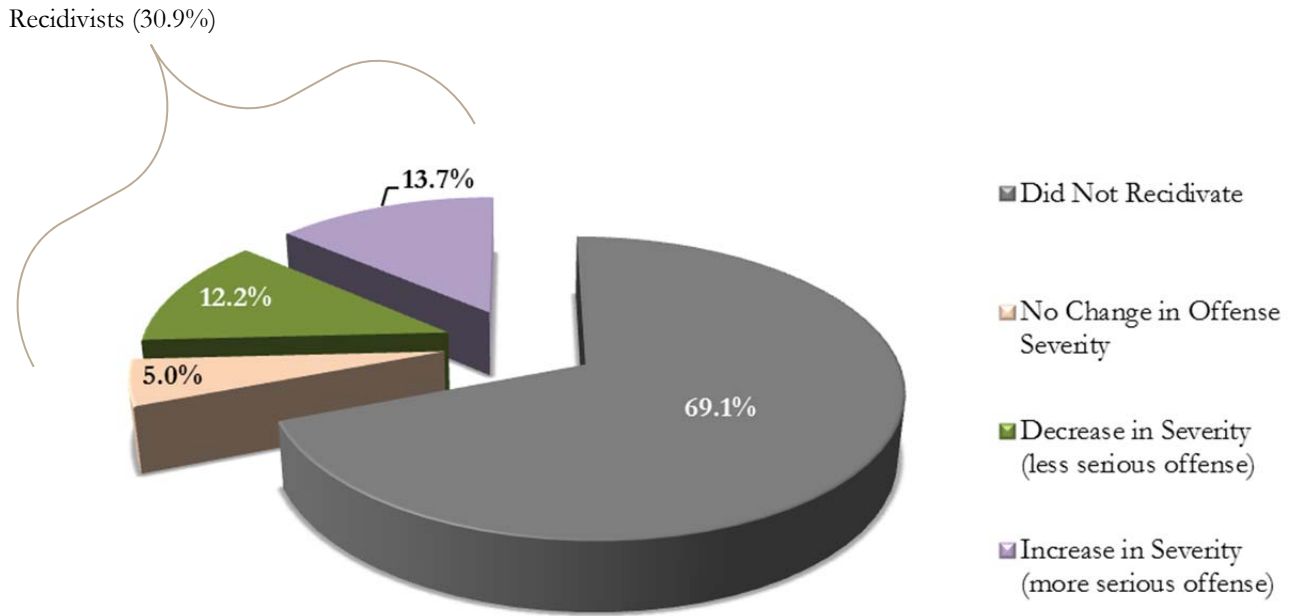
Offense Severity Reduction

As shown in Figure 20, of the 476 total discharges, sixty-nine percent (69.1%; $n = 329$) did not recidivate in the twelve months following discharge, while the remaining 30.9% did recidivate. Five percent (5%; $n = 24$) of the one-year post-discharge cohort re-offended with the same level as the original committing offense. Twelve percent (12.2%; $n = 58$) of youth re-offended with a lesser offense. The remaining fourteen percent exhibited more serious criminal behaviors following discharge (13.7%; $n = 65$).

Viewed from this perspective, the Division was successful in reducing the level of criminal behavior for 86.3% of youth discharged in FY 2014-15 (those who did not recidivate, had a decrease in offense severity, or no change; 69.1% + 17.2%).

^{vi} Due to rounding, all figures may not total to 100% in all tables.
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Figure 20: Offense Severity Risk Reduction



INVESTIGATIVE SPOTLIGHT

SELF-REPORTED DRUG OF CHOICE OVER TIME

Substance abuse is an increasing challenge facing the criminal justice system, with a substantial number of juvenile offenders reporting frequent substance use or dependency [19] [20]. Of particular interest among those studying corrections is how substance use and abuse patterns are changing over time among our population. Any changes in the substance abuse treatment needs of youth directly impact the Division's ability to effectively treat and address the needs of our population.

Changes in Drug Preference over Time

This section examined self-reported substance use preferences across all three cohorts of discharged youth for changes in patterns of substance use over time. Self-reported drug of choice data was utilized, in part, to provide a baseline to assess whether any changes in professed preference for any substance can be detected since the recreational use of marijuana was legalized in calendar year 2014. Data for this portion of the analysis was obtained from substance abuse screening and assessment results collected for committed youth who discharged between FY 2012-13 and FY 2014-15. Three years of drug of choice data were aggregated in order to provide larger sample sizes in each individual substance category. The Division utilized both the Substance Use Survey (SUS-1a) screening tool and the Adolescent Self-Assessment Profile (ASAP) assessment tool for committed youth to measure substance use within the population. 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 treatment categories: Prevention, Intervention, or Treatment level (PII). The overall score indicates level of treatment, where low scores indicate the Prevention level; medium scores indicate the Intervention level; and higher scores are reflective of the Treatment level needs. Drug of choice data is available in Trails for youth with Treatment level substance abuse treatment needs (See Appendix E for more detailed information on DYC's substance abuse screening and assessment process).

Table 8: Drug of Choice Data over Time (“Treatment” Level Youth)

	(n = 306) FY 2012-13 Discharge Cohort		(n = 221) FY 2013-14 Discharge Cohort		(n = 203) FY 2014-15 Discharge Cohort		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Marijuana	157	77.3%	177	80.1%	217	70.9%	TOP 4
Alcohol	90	44.3%	118	53.4%	138	45.1%	
Cocaine	20	9.9%	26	11.8%	28	9.2%	
Amphetamines	17	8.4%	21	9.5%	23	7.5%	
Ecstasy	8	3.9%	8	3.6%	20	6.5%	
Prescription	11	5.4%	13	5.9%	9	2.9%	
Hallucinogens	2	11.1%	9	4.1%	13	4.2%	
Nicotine	8	3.9%	10	4.5%	13	4.2%	
Opiates	9	4.4%	15	6.8%	11	3.6%	
Other	13	6.4%	6	2.7%	7	2.3%	
Inhalants	1	0.5%	3	1.4%	3	1.0%	
Barbiturates	4	2.0%	4	1.8%	0	0.0%	

Marijuana and Alcohol were the most frequently reported drugs of choice, with marijuana outstripping alcohol by a wide margin. The top four most frequently reported drugs of choice (Marijuana, Alcohol, Cocaine, and Amphetamines) are highlighted in Table 8. Roughly three-quarters of youth with Treatment level substance abuse needs in the three-year post-discharge cohort reported marijuana as their drug of choice, while 80.1% of youth in the two-year cohort reported marijuana as their drug of choice. It appears as though there was a reduction in preference for marijuana in the one-year post-discharge cohort, with 70.9% of youth with Treatment level substance abuse needs indicating marijuana was their drug of choice. A similar pattern of increase and then reduction in reporting alcohol as the drug of choice was also found. A total of 44.3% of youth with Treatment level substance abuse needs reported alcohol as their drug of choice in the three-year post-discharge cohort, followed by 53.4% in the two-year post-discharge cohort, and 45.1% in the one-year post-discharge cohort.

There were no statistically significant findings between groups on any substance when examined by recidivist status, by gender, by cohort year, or when all three cohorts were aggregated to increase the sample sizes for each individual substance. Recidivists were no more likely to prefer any specific substance than non-recidivists, including marijuana.

NATIONAL COMPARISON

The following section provides a comparison of Colorado’s one-, two-, and three-year post-discharge juvenile recidivism rates to other states with the goal of gaining a better understanding of how the State compares nationally. A 2013 study of how juvenile recidivism is measured and reported in the United States conducted by the Pew Charitable Trusts surveyed executive branch agencies responsible for juvenile state commitment facilities in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. This extensive study examined current practices in the data collection, measurement, performance, and reporting of juvenile recidivism data. The results found that individual states utilize very different definitions and methods to study juvenile recidivism, and revealed a need for more policy-relevant data collection and reporting practices [21]. Specifically, approximately one in four states does not regularly collect and report juvenile recidivism data, and fewer than half use measures that provide a comprehensive picture of youth reoffending. In this context, a comprehensive measure of youth reoffending refers to comparing youth to previous cohorts, following youth through adult corrections and probation, and tracking youth beyond the juvenile parole period (e.g.: utilizing a longitudinal research design). Using these terms as defined by the Pew study, Colorado is one of the few states conducting regular research with rigorous data collection, measurement, performance evaluation, and reporting of juvenile recidivism information.

Currently, individual states differ in a number of key factors in terms of defining, measuring, and reporting juvenile recidivism [22]. These differences can complicate between-states comparisons, as outlined in Table 9.

Table 9: Data Collection and Reporting Practices in Juvenile Corrections

Defining Recidivism	
Measures of Reoffending	Number of Agencies¹
Arrest	16
Adjudication or Conviction	28 ²
Commitment (juvenile or adult)	25
Length of Follow-Up	
12 months	21 ²
24 months	15 ²
36 months	19 ²
Follow Offenders into the Adult System	
	30 ²
Measuring Performance	
Compare to the Previous Year Release Cohorts	32 ²
Compare Rates by Offender Risk	21 ²
Reporting	
At Least Annually	33 ²
All three Branches of Government	21 ²

¹*Sub-categories are not mutually exclusive*

²*Indicates methods currently used in Colorado*

Methods of National Comparison

This process involved an extensive review of available juvenile recidivism reports which conveyed each state's juvenile recidivism rates and research methodology. A state was considered ideal for comparison if it met the following conditions: 1) utilized a similar methodology to that of Colorado, 2) had a similar definition of a recidivist act, 3) reported on multiple years of recidivism, and 4) maintained consistency in how recidivism measures were reported in the most recent years.

Results of National Comparison

Each state identified as a possibly comparable state varied in its definition of recidivism, the time period used to capture recidivism, and in the overall availability of data on recidivism rates. It is important to acknowledge that for the purposes of this report, definitions of recidivism were matched as closely as possible; however, each juvenile correctional system may be structured differently or have population-specific considerations which make it unique.

Table 10 represents the six states that were identified as methodologically comparable to Colorado in terms of defining juvenile recidivism. Respective recidivism rates are reported by state in ascending order.

Table 10: National Comparison

States with Comparable Juvenile Recidivism Measures			
State	One-Year Recidivism Rate	Two-Year Recidivism Rate	Three-Year Recidivism Rate
Maryland	19.10%	31.90%	40.40%
Idaho ^{1,2}	23.00%	N/A	N/A
Maine	26.70%	30.80%	N/A
Colorado	30.90%	46.20%	53.90%
District of Columbia ¹	36.00%	N/A	N/A
Virginia	44.00%	63.30%	73.40%
Florida ¹	45.00%	N/A	N/A

¹State only tracks youth for a one-year follow-up time period.

²State defines "discharge" as the start of parole; the recidivism measurement period includes parole.

Of the seven comparable states, Colorado’s rate of 31% (30.9%) appears to be the fourth lowest juvenile recidivism rate, as well as the median rate. The three lowest one-year recidivism rates belong to Maryland (19.1%), Idaho (23.0%), and Maine (26.7%).

Last year, Colorado also had the fourth lowest one-year juvenile recidivism rate (28%) after Maine (13%), Louisiana (20%), and Maryland (21%). It is important to note that in comparison to last year, Louisiana has been removed from the list of comparable states due to significant changes in research methodology and design. Currently, Louisiana defines recidivism as a new adjudication or conviction *and subsequent reentry into either the juvenile justice or adult corrections system*. These changes are significant and make state-to-state comparisons neither appropriate nor worthwhile. In addition, Idaho currently defines “discharge” as the start of parole, as their juvenile parole services are handled at the county level rather than the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections. Thus, youth on parole are considered “discharged” from their agency and currently included in their recidivism data collection process. While this difference in when the one-year post-discharge recidivism follow-up period begins clearly differs from Colorado’s, it was determined that there were sufficient similarities and adequate rigorous design elements to warrant keeping Idaho among the pool of states with similar research methodologies.

Idaho had the greatest change in recidivism rates, from reporting a 30% rate in FY 2013-14 to reporting a rate of 23% in FY 2014-15. Discussions with researchers in the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections revealed both the methodological differences and similarities identified in this year’s report. Maine did not explicate or hypothesize in their report regarding the large change in their rate from last year to this year (13% and 27%, respectively). Finally, Maine reported a 0% increase in recidivism rate from year one to year two. Again, an explanation for this unlikely finding could not be identified in Maine’s literature. The other states were mostly consistent in their comparability and had similar ranking order and recidivism rates reported for this year.

Data from all other states (not shown in Table 10) were searched for and examined, but ultimately excluded because they either could not be found, did not report recidivism rate, or because of differences in their definition or measurement of recidivism. For instance, Ohio defines a recidivist act as “a return to the Department of Youth Services (DYS)” or any juvenile “incarcerated in the adult correctional system.” Using this definition might result in a misinterpretation of the true comparability of this state’s recidivism rate and Colorado’s.

As another example, Missouri defines a recidivist as a youth who either returned to the Division of Youth Services (DYS) or became involved in the adult correctional system within a specified time period after release from DHS [24]. Defining recidivism as a return to either the juvenile or adult system may omit some offenses which could result in a finding of guilt and include any number of intermediate sanctions, such as substance abuse treatment, anger management classes, etc. that fall short of returning to custody. Colorado includes all guilty adjudications and convictions as recidivist acts. Given these differences, a true and meaningful comparison of recidivism rates cannot be made between Missouri and Colorado. These examples illustrate the importance of using caution when making state-to-state comparisons of recidivism rates.

RIDGE VIEW RECIDIVISM SECTION

This section, which is mandated in the statute as follows, reports recidivism and other outcome measures for youth discharged from DYC who were placed at Ridge View Youth Services Center (RVYSC).

Section 19-2-411.5(5), C.R.S., the legislation authorizing the construction and operation of the Ridge View Youth Services Center, specifies that:

On an annual basis, the department of human services shall calculate the recidivism rate for committed juveniles in the custody of the department of human services who complete the program offered by the facility. In calculating the recidivism rate, the department of human services 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 department of human services shall report the recidivism rate to the general assembly.

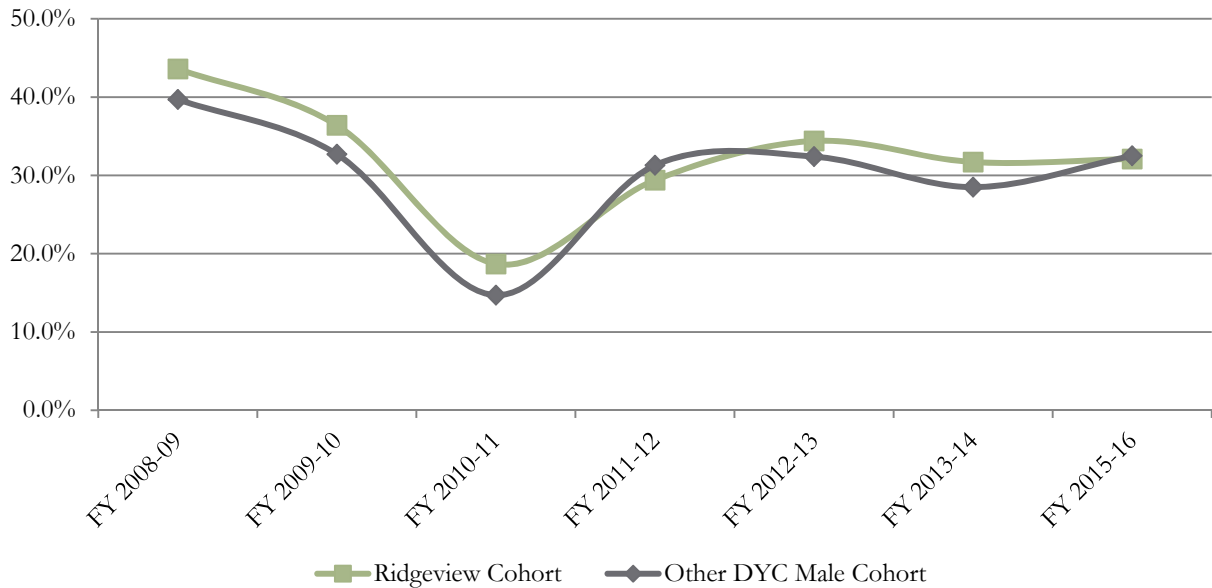
With the notable exception of the first study (conducted over 15 years ago), there have been no observed statistical differences on any outcome measures between youth who completed the majority of their total residential commitment period at Ridge View and those who did not (see Table 11 and Figure 21).

Table 11: One Year Recidivism Comparison between Ridge View and Other DYC Male Cohorts

Discharge Fiscal Year	Ridgeview Cohort		Other DYC Males Cohort		Between Groups Change*
	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	
FY 2008-09	43.6%	314	39.7%	446	3.9%
FY 2009-10	36.4%	236	32.7%	364	3.7%
FY 2010-11	18.7%	198	14.7%	394	4.0%
FY 2011-12	29.4%	163	31.3%	332	-1.9%
FY 2012-13	34.4%	131	32.4%	336	2.0%
FY 2013-14	31.7%	123	28.5%	284	3.2%
FY 2014-15	32.1%	84	32.5%	255	-0.4%

** None of the between groups differences were found to be statistically significant in any previous year*

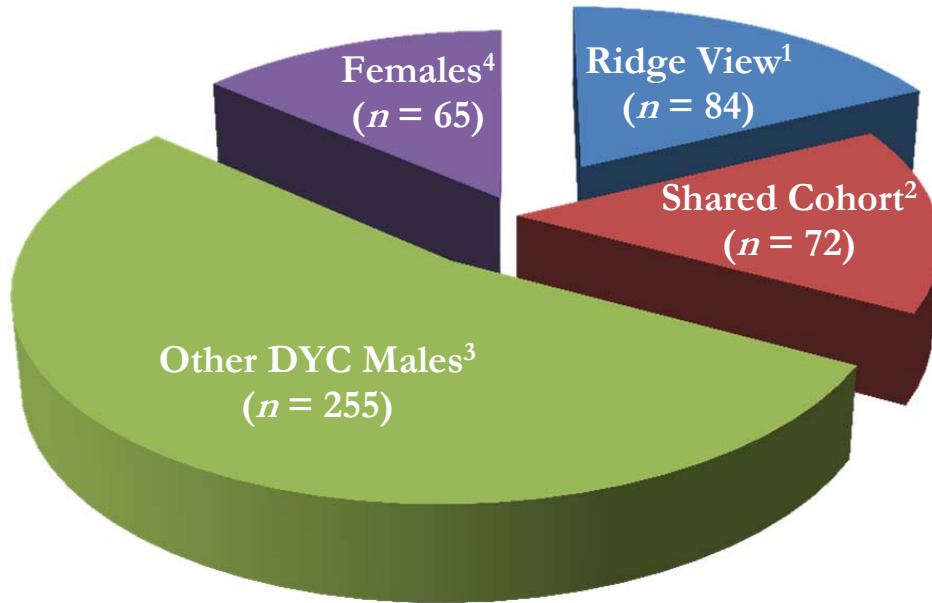
Figure 21: Ridge View and Other NYC Males One-Year Recidivism Rates over Time



Youth committed to NYC will experience multiple placements during their commitment sentence, particularly due to changes in the level of security warranted as youth “step down” toward less secure placements on their journey toward reintegration with the community. Given the mobility of NYC committed youth, it is necessary to clearly define what juveniles “*who complete the program offered by the facility [Ridge View]*” actually means. For the purposes of this analysis, “Ridge View youth” shall be defined as youth who spent at least 90 days of their commitment to the Division at RYVSC, and who stayed at RYVSC for at least two-thirds (66%) of their total residential commitment period. Since youth are frequently moved between facilities, this method allows for comparisons between the outcomes of youth who spent “the majority” of their residential commitment sentence at RYVSC versus different facilities/programs. The criteria for, and breakdown of, the three placement cohorts utilized in the analysis is illustrated in Figure 22.

Figure 22: Ridge View Cohort Methodology for FY 2014-15 Discharges ($N = 476$)

Recidivism Study: Cohort Groups



Ridge View¹: Spent at least 90 days at Ridge View AND Spent at least 66% of total residential commitment at Ridge View

Shared Cohort²: Spent at least 90 days at Ridge View BUT DID NOT spend 66% of total residential commitment at Ridge View

Other DYC Males³: Males who resided in a commitment placement, but spent FEWER than 90 days at Ridge View

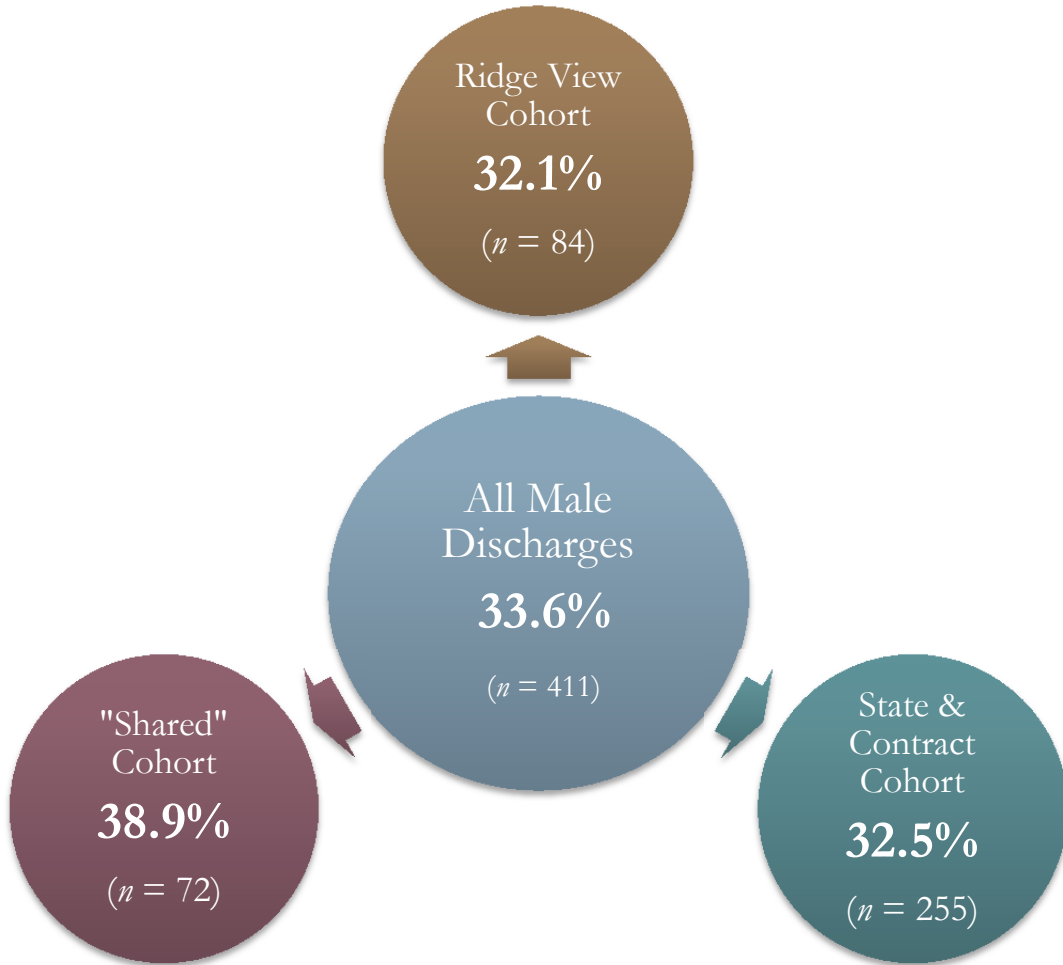
Females⁴: Ridge View is a male only facility: Females are NOT INCLUDED in the analysis

FY 2014-15 DISCHARGES: PLACEMENT COHORT RECIDIVISM COMPARISONS

The Ridge View cohort was compared with all other males discharged from NYC during this same time period who did not spend time at RYVSC as well as to a shared group of males who spent 90 days or more at RYVSC, but did not stay at the program for at least 66% of their total residential length of service (LOS).

Although the one-year post-discharge RYVSC cohort indicated a slightly lower rate of recidivism compared to all males who discharged from NYC, these differences were not found to be statistically significant. In fact, no statistical differences in rates of recidivism one year after discharge were found between any of the three placement cohorts. As shown in Figure 23, 33.6% of all male discharges recidivated within one year (regardless of the facility at which they spent the majority of their time). When results are broken out by placement cohort; 32.1% of youth who spent the majority of their commitment sentence at Ridge View had recidivated at one-year post-discharge, 32.5% of youth who spent the majority of their residential sentence in State and Contract Placements had recidivated, and 38.9% of the “Shared” cohort had recidivated.

Figure 23: Recidivism Rates by Ridge View Cohort



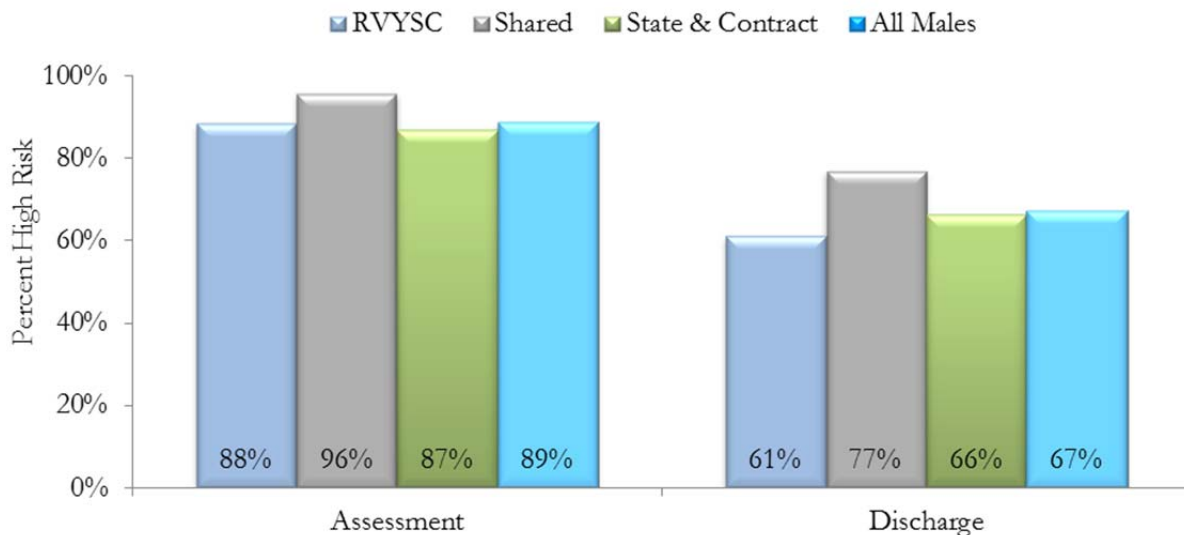
FY 2014-15 Discharge Cohort Differences

As described previously, the rates of recidivism between the three placement cohorts did not differ significantly; however, it is also important to examine whether there were differences in potential *risk* for recidivism between youth who composed the placement cohorts.

Risk for Recidivism by Placement Cohort over the Commitment Period

Based on the proportion of High risk CJRA levels at assessment and discharge, there were no significant differences in terms of individual risk for recidivism for the one-year post-discharge cohort, regardless of youth placement. This lack of significant differences in *risk* for recidivism bolsters the previous finding that there were no significant differences in *actual* recidivism found between the three placement cohorts. Only those youth with two valid CJRA scores were included in the analyses. As shown in Figure 24, no statistically significant differences were found in the risk for recidivism among any of the placement cohorts on either assessment or discharge CJRA scores. The shared cohort had a slightly higher percentage of youth scoring as High risk for recidivism at both assessment and discharge compared to the Ridge View or the State and Contract youth.

Figure 24: Risk for Recidivism by Cohort over the Commitment Period



Recidivism Rates over Time, by Placement Cohort

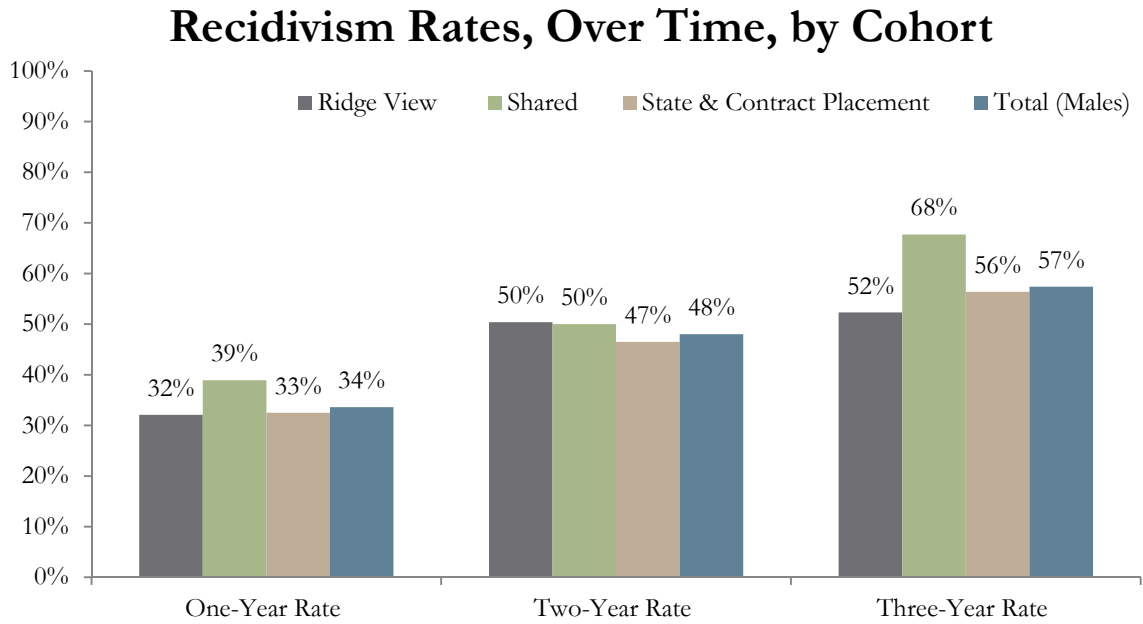
Recidivism rates over time were not found to differ statistically between the three placement cohorts. In other words, the location where a youth spent the majority of his commitment sentence did not appear to have an effect on recidivism among males. Please refer to Table 12 and Figure 25 for details.

Although the one-year post-discharge RVYSC cohort indicated a slightly lower rate of recidivism compared to the other placement cohorts, these differences were not found to be statistically significant. In fact, no significant differences in rates of recidivism were found between the three placement cohorts at either the one-, two-, or three-year post-discharge follow-ups (see Figure 25 for details). Despite the lack of significant findings for this comparison, it appears as though youth in the shared cohort (youth who spent at least 90 days at Ridge View, but who did not spend at least 66% of their total residential LOS at Ridge View) demonstrated higher rates of recidivism in both the one- and three-year post-discharge follow-up periods when compared to youth in the other two cohorts. This may indicate that youth who experience a greater number of placements (are moved more frequently between facilities) struggle more with recidivism upon discharge, or it could simply mean that youth at a higher risk for recidivism require more placements to receive appropriate treatment and services [25].

Table 12: Ridge View Recidivism Rates across Discharge Cohorts

Recidivism Rates	Cohort	Ridge View	Shared	State & Contract Placement	TOTAL (All Males)
One-Year Rate	FY 2014-15 discharges	32.1%	38.9%	32.5%	33.6%
Two-Year Rate	FY 2013-14 discharges	50.4%	50.0%	46.5%	48.0%
Three-Year Rate	FY 2012-13 discharges	52.3%	67.7%	56.4%	57.4%

Figure 25: Comparison of Recidivism Rates over Time

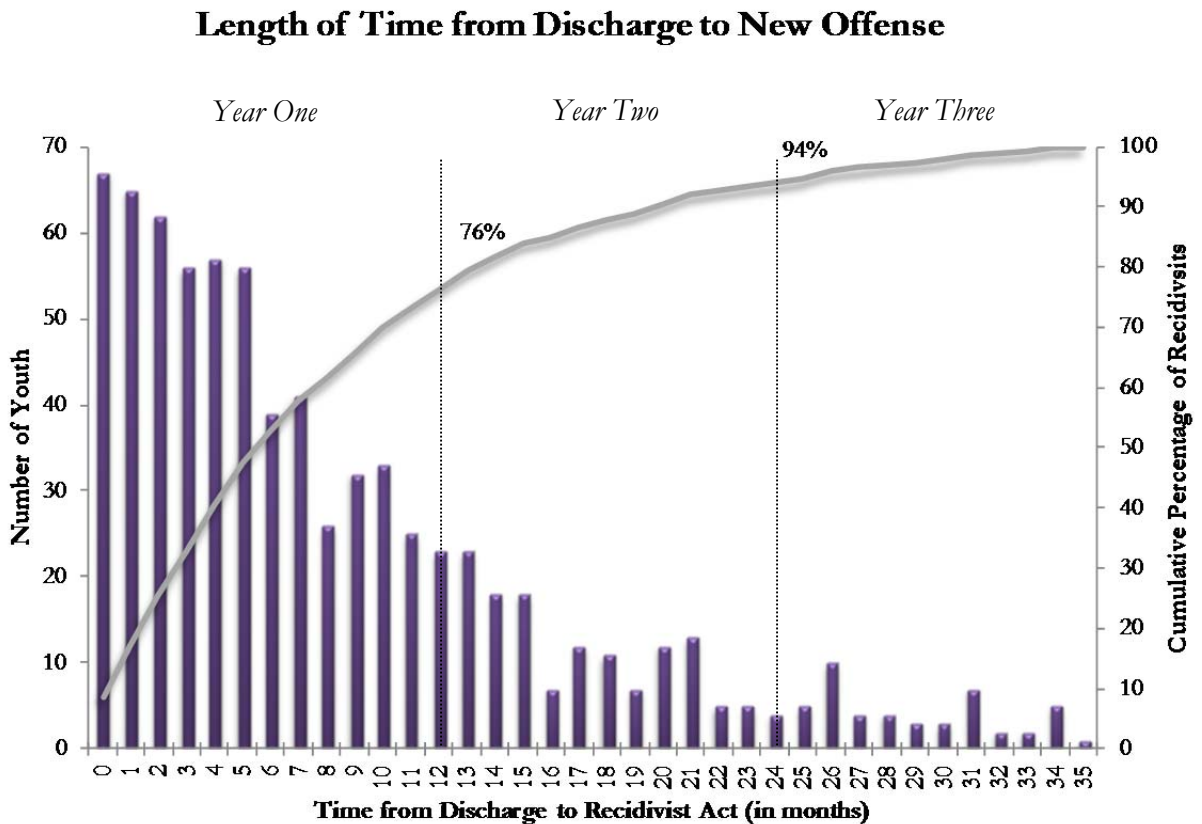


TIME TO RECIDIVIST OFFENSE

TIME TO NEW OFFENSE

Youth from all three discharge cohorts (FY 2012-13, FY 2013-14, and FY 2014-15) were included in the time to new offense analysis ($N = 1,698$). For youth who committed a recidivist act within the prescribed time period ($n = 763$), Figure 26 depicts the points in time when the new offenses occurred. As shown in the histogram, more than three quarters of youth who recidivated did so within the first year after discharge (76%). By two years after discharge almost all youth who did recidivate had done so (94%). The graph illustrates that as time progresses, fewer and fewer youth commit new offenses. The literature is robust with findings supporting the desistance from criminal activity, or “aging out” of crime and delinquency. Interestingly, the age at which a youth discharged from DYC was not found to be statistically significant in terms of recidivism. In the current analysis, among youth with multiple recidivist offenses, only the first offense was used.

Figure 26: Time to Recidivist Act



Time to New Offense, by Gender

Although there were observed differences in the amount of time from discharge to the first recidivist act were found between males and females, these results were non-significant. Males tended to recidivate within a shorter amount of time than females. The average length of time between discharge and recidivist act for males was 8.3 months and for females was 9.6 months ($F = 1.8, df = 1, p = 0.19$). These differences are apparent when viewed as the trajectory of females and males presented in the graphs below.

Figure 27: Time to Recidivist Act for Females

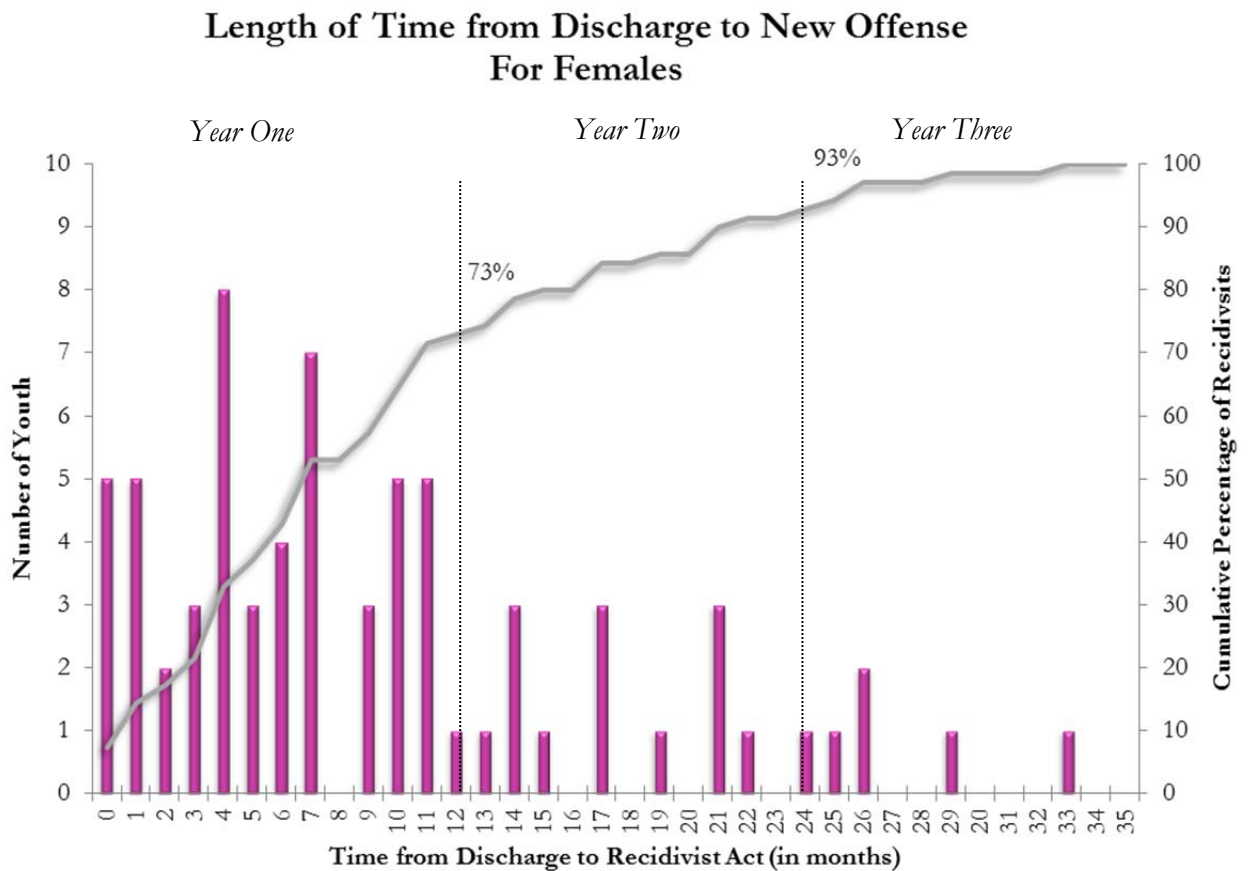
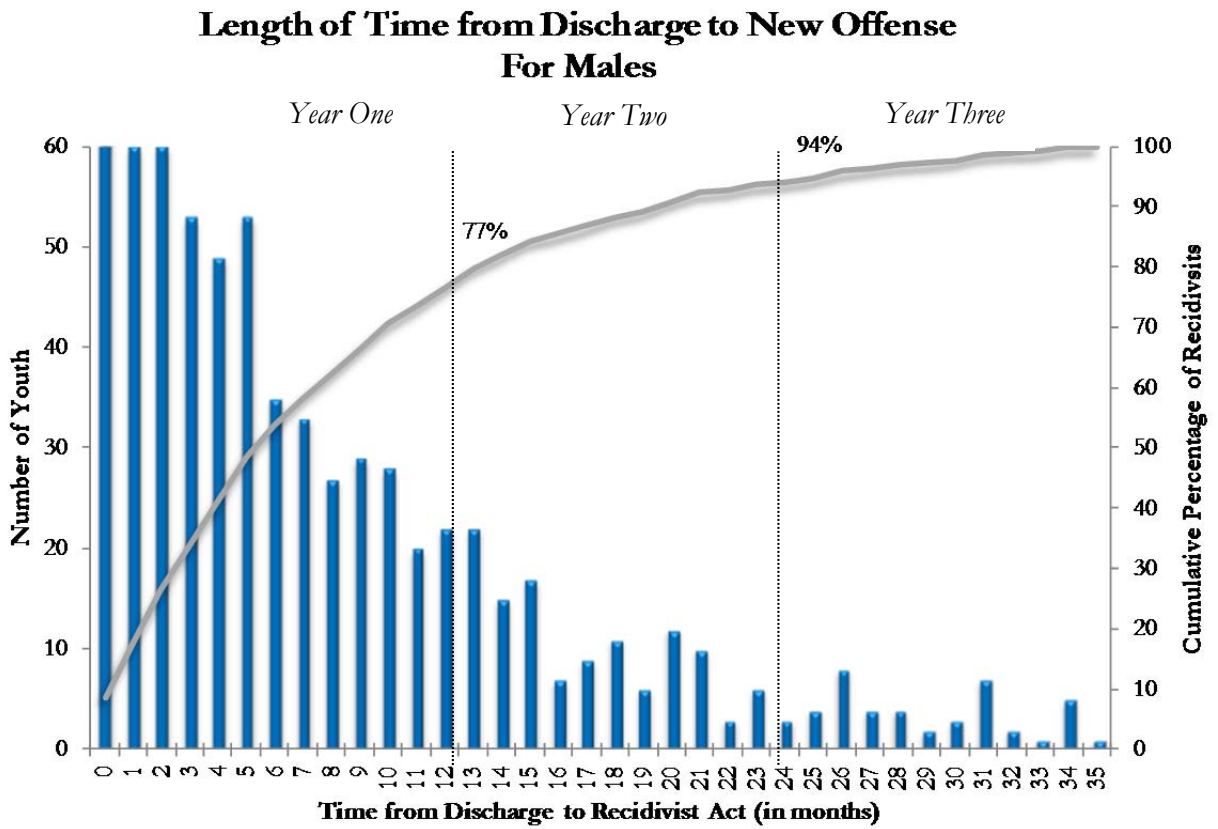


Figure 28: Time to Recidivist Act for Males



The True Recidivism Rate is Unknown

Recidivism is defined by Colorado's youth corrections system as a new felony/misdemeanor conviction/adjudication for an offense committed within a specified follow-up time period. Given this definition, recidivism rates are, at best, merely an estimate. The rates reported are as close to the true rate as is currently possible; however, they are still an underestimate. Several challenges exist that reduce the accuracy of these estimates.

1) Denver County Cases Not Included

The Denver County Court System is the only county court system in the State whose data is not captured by the Judicial Department's data system; therefore, adult misdemeanor convictions processed by Denver County Court are not included in this study. Many former DYC youth included in the multi-year follow-up periods are over 18 years of age, and thus would fall under this "gap" in reported cases. Denver County adult felony convictions are captured in the data collection process, because they are processed by the Denver District Court, which is a part of the Judicial Department's data system. Denver Juvenile Court processes juvenile misdemeanor and felony adjudications, thus juvenile adjudications from Denver are included.

2) Youth Discharged to the Department of Corrections/Adult Corrections Not Included as Recidivists

For all intents and purposes, youth who are discharged from DYC directly to the adult correctional system would be considered recidivists by most people's standards. Most of these youth are transferred to the Department of Corrections (DOC) because they commit offenses while at DYC (which is captured as pre-discharge recidivism not post-discharge recidivism); however, due to the restrictions of the methodology in the current recidivism study that defines a recidivist act as within a defined time period post-discharge, the youth who are discharged directly to DOC do not have the same opportunities to commit recidivist acts as do youth who are discharged to the community. The only way a youth who is discharged to DOC can be considered a recidivist, using the current definition, is if he/she is charged with an offense while at an adult correctional facility. This limitation will be experienced by any state defining juvenile recidivism using the same methodology as Colorado.

3) Offenses Committed in Other States Not Captured

This study only uses data from the Colorado Judicial System; therefore, if a youth commits an offense in another state, it remains undetected and is not included in the analysis. While it would be more accurate

to include offenses committed in other states, the reality of obtaining highly confidential data from 49 states is simply not feasible.

4) Offenses While on Parole Status are Not Considered Recidivist Offenses

Offenses committed while a youth is on parole status are not considered to be recidivist acts because they did not occur *after the youth fully discharged from the Division*. While a youth is on parole status, he/she remains under the supervision of the Division, and the recidivism clock starts once NYC supervision has ended.

5) Time-at-Risk (actual increases)

Time-at-risk increases when follow-up periods are extended. Increased time-at-risk results in “net widening,” during which more re-offending behavior is detected, and results in increased recidivism rates. For example, in a one-year follow-up period, a youth has 365 days at-risk, or one year’s opportunity to re-offend. Similarly, in a two-year follow-up period, that same youth has twice as much time-at-risk, thus doubling the opportunity to re-offend (730 days). It has been demonstrated that with increased time-at-risk, an increased number of youth recidivate.

6) Judicial Process Delays Erroneously Decrease Recidivism Rates

A recidivist act, as described in the methodology section of this report, is determined by a guilty finding leading to a new adjudication or conviction. The Judicial process involved in obtaining a guilty finding includes committing an offense, being arrested, having the offense filed in court, (hearings, trials, etc.) and then a guilty finding in court. This process can take a substantial amount of time, and due to several possible Judicial delays, many filings remain open when the data used to create this report is extracted from Judicial’s database. This means that a youth may ultimately be guilty of a new offense but the verdict has not been determined at the time when the data is pulled for analysis. Filing charge findings (i.e., guilty, not guilty) can come days, months, or even years following a filing. Youth who had open cases with missing findings during the one-year follow-up period are not considered to be recidivists---as the definition of recidivism is a new adjudication or conviction (therefore, a finding is necessary to determine whether or not a youth recidivated). Although these youth are not captured as recidivists in year-one, they will most likely be captured with extended follow-up periods. When data is more complete, more adjudications and convictions are captured, and this in turn increases recidivism rates.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Misclassification Bias

Many of the analyses in this report are based on the one-year recidivism cohort, or the most recent DYC discharge cohort. Naturally, the Division wants to know information on the most recently discharged youth; however, many of the youth who are identified as non-recidivists after one year ultimately do recidivate in the subsequent two or three years. This means that for many of the analyses they are labeled as “non-recidivists” when in fact they will be “recidivists.” One possible solution to this problem, which will generate more meaningful results, is to focus the report on the three-year post-discharge cohort rather than the one-year post-discharge cohort. It has been demonstrated that most of the youth who will eventually recidivate have done so within three years. This means there would be more confidence, and much less misclassification of those classified as “recidivists” and “non-recidivists.” Having less misclassification allows for more accurate comparisons and better results.

Discharge Assessments

When youth are committed to DYC, they undergo a battery of assessments. These assessments help to formulate the youth’s treatment plan while they are committed. It is recommended that the Division also re-assess youth on more of the evaluations so that treatment progress can be measured. Currently, the CJRA is the only re-assessment given at discharge.

Unified Statewide Data Systems

The single largest barrier to in-depth, criminological research surrounding juvenile recidivism in Colorado is the lack of data systems that can “talk” to one another. The current process has been streamlined and automated as the data allows, but still relies on weeks or months of “hand matching” Judicial records to youth in the discharge cohort. Infrastructure that allowed for unique identifiers or links between DYC, Judicial, DOC, etc. would greatly assist in the process, allowing for the bulk of time spent producing the report to be focused on the actual analysis rather than on the exhaustive data cleaning and matching process.

Parole Rating at Discharge

The results of multiple analyses, in this study and in several previous studies, have pointed to the importance of this rating in predicting future recidivism. While currently the Division’s client managers assign this rating to youth upon discharge, if a similar rating system could be implemented earlier in the

parole process (perhaps mid-way through parole, or even 60-90 days into parole), youth flagged as “adjusting” unsatisfactorily to the parole period could potentially have certain services bolstered or new services put in place. These additional services or interventions may impact future discharge ratings and ultimately, the likelihood of future offending.

High Risk on the Aggression, Attitudes & Behavior, and Relationships Domains (CJRA)

Discharged youth scoring High risk on the CJRA Aggression domain have proven **for 8 consecutive years** to be at statistically higher risk of recidivating, while discharged youth scoring High risk on the Attitudes & Behavior and the Relationships domains have proven for 7 of 8 consecutive years to be at statistically higher risk of recidivating. The Division should strive to provide increased treatment services to those deemed High risk on these domains at Assessment and at time of Parole. While NYC already strives to match aggression-reduction therapy to youth, and work with youth to identify triggers and build appropriate coping skills, this domain (Aggression) has proven to be a consistent red flag for future offending. Similarly, the Division currently works with youth to augment prosocial attitudes, behaviors, and relationships while striving to bolster skills and competencies to mitigate the effects of negative influences and thought processes, given their consistent association with future offending. It is recommended that the Division focus on these treatment need areas and ensure that those youth exhibiting a High risk domain levels are receiving the appropriate treatment, modality, dosage, and frequency of services for these concerns.

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APPENDIX B – Non-Significant Findings

FACTORS TESTED BUT FOUND NOT TO DIFFER STATISTICALLY BETWEEN
 RECIDIVISTS AND NON-RECIDIVISTS (FY 2014-15 DISCHARGE COHORT)

	Non recidivists		Recidivists		P- value	Total	
	n	%	n	%			
Mean age at discharge	19.2 years		19.0 years		0.17	19.1 yrs	
Mean Length of residential commitment	20.0 months		20.8 months		0.43	20.3 mo	
Mean Length of parole	6.5 months		7.0 months		0.07	6.6 mo	
Mean Length of detention	18.2 days		25.2 days		0.053	20.4 days	
Mean number of prior out-of-home placements	2.2		2.3		0.83	2.2	
DYC Region							
	Central	140	42.6%	53	36.1%	0.43	40.5%
	Northeast	98	29.8%	50	34.0%		31.1%
	Southern	50	15.2%	28	19.0%		16.4%
	Western	41	12.5%	16	10.9%		12.0%
Primary Race/Ethnicity							
	White	136	41.3%	54	36.7%	0.47	39.9%
	Black/African American	57	17.3%	32	28.1%		18.7%
	Hispanic	118	35.9%	57	38.8%		36.8%
	Asian/ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	4	1.2%	1	0.7%		1.1%
	American Indian/Alaska Native	9	2.7%	3	2.0%		2.5%
	Other	5	1.5%	0	0.0%		1.1%
Minority/Non-Minority Ethnicity							
	White	136	41.3%	54	38.7%	0.34	39.9%
	Non-White	193	58.7%	93	63.3%		60.1%
DYC Committing Offense Charge							
	Felony	199	60.5%	90	61.2%	0.88	60.7%
	Misdemeanor	130	39.5%	57	38.8%		39.3%
	Petty	0	100.0%	0	100.0%		0.0%
DYC Committing Offense Type							
	Person	139	42.2%	57	38.8%	0.69	41.2%
	Property	120	36.5%	63	42.9%		38.4%
	Drug	23	7.0%	7	4.8%		6.3%
	Weapon	21	6.4%	8	5.4%		6.1%
	Other	24	7.3%	10	6.8%		7.1%
	Traffic	2	0.6%	2	1.4%		0.8%

	Non recidivists		Recidivists		P- value	Total
	n	%	n	%		
Mental Health						
No formal mental health intervention required at commitment	157	47.7%	70	47.6%	0.98	47.7%
Formal mental health intervention required at commitment	172	52.3%	77	52.4%		52.3%
Drug and Alcohol Treatment Level at NYC Commitment						
Treatment	241	73.3%	104	70.7%	0.67	72.5%
Intervention	56	17.0%	30	20.4%		18.1%
Prevention	32	9.7%	13	8.8%		9.5%
Employment/School Enrollment at Discharge						
Full-time Program	220	66.9%	95	64.6%	0.19	66.2%
Part-time Program	40	12.2%	12	8.2%		10.9%
No Program	69	21.0%	40	27.2%		22.9%
Original Security Level						
Secure	95	28.9%	34	23.1%	0.19	27.1%
Staff-Supervised	122	37.1%	67	45.6%		39.7%
Community	112	34.0%	46	31.3%		33.2%
Sex Offender						
Not Sex Offender	287	87.2%	129	87.4%	0.87	87.40%
Sex Offender	42	12.8%	18	12.2%		12.60%
Discharge Placement						
Home	250	4.7%	113	85.6%	0.33	81.0%
Adult Jail/Adult Corrections	43	13.6%	16	12.1%		13.2%
Group Living	5	1.6%	0	0.0%		1.1%
Escape	1	0.3%	0	0.0%		0.2%
Other	15	4.7%	2	1.5%		3.8%
Data not available	2	0.6%	1	0.8%		0.7%

APPENDIX C – Additional Information Requested in RFI

Information provided in Appendix C addresses the outstanding requests outlined in the legislative request for information. Those outstanding requests include: (1) the number of juveniles served and (2) the length of stay. The third request, (3) recidivism data per placement, was addressed in the body of this report.

ALL CLIENTS POPULATION DATA

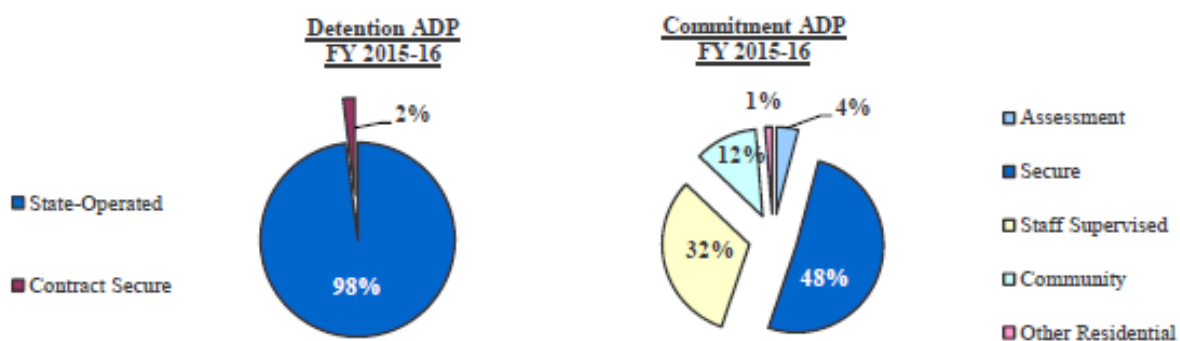
Fiscal Year 2015-2016

DETAINED YOUTH	Clients Served¹	New Admits	ADP	LOS
State-Operated	3,723	6,369	269.6	15.5 days
Contract Secure	105	141	5.3	14.0 days
Total Detained	3,808	6,510	275.0	15.4 days

COMMITTED YOUTH	Clients Served¹	New Commitments	ADP	LOS
Assessment	417		28.4	0.8 month
Secure	953		353.9	9.7 months
Staff Supervised	518		221.0	7.3 months
Community	267		80.7	2.6 months
Other Residential ²	41		8.8	0.1 month
Total Residential	1,362	387	692.9	19.8 months

PAROLED YOUTH	Clients Served¹	New Intakes	ADP	LOS
Total Paroled	690	412	246.3	7.0 months

STATEWIDE TOTAL	Clients Served¹	ADP	LOS
STATEWIDE TOTAL	5,143	1,214.2	26.8 months



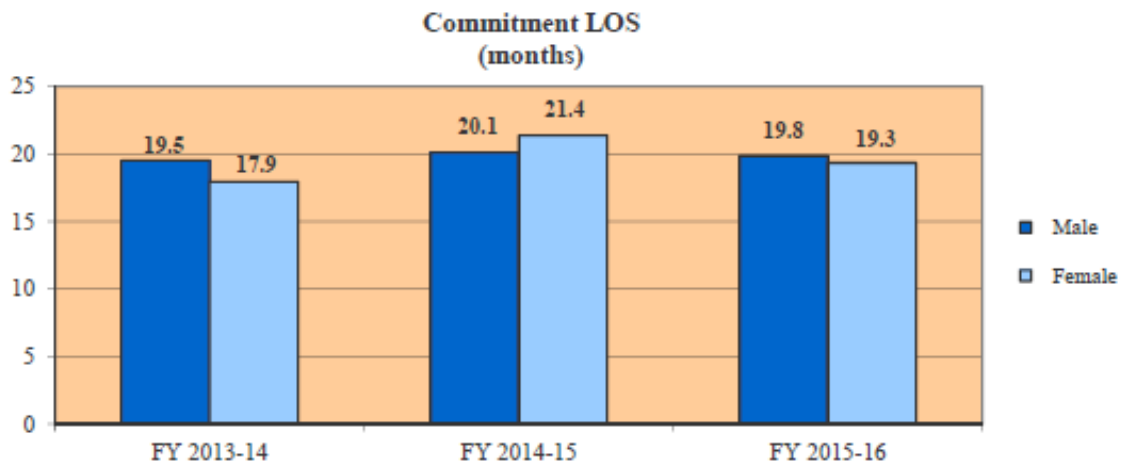
¹Clients Served is an unduplicated count. Categorical totals are not a sum of individual program counts and are not available for all categories.

²Other Residential includes Group Homes, Job Corps, Hospitalizations, Shelter Care, etc.

NOTE: Throughout the Reference Manual, category sums may vary slightly from given totals due to rounding differences.

**COMMITMENT POPULATION
LENGTH OF SERVICE (LOS) TRENDS**

	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16
GENDER			
Male	19.5	20.1	19.8
Female	17.9	21.4	19.3
TOTAL Commitment LOS (months)	19.3	20.3	19.8
ETHNICITY			
Anglo-American	18.9	20.8	20.0
African-American	23.1	21.5	21.2
Hispanic/Latino	18.2	18.5	18.6
Native American	18.9	30.1	27.2
Asian-American	16.1	21.5	30.4
Other	20.1	14.6	12.0
AGE¹			
11 Years	2.0	N/A	N/A
12 Years	38.5	35.9	52.4
13 Years	26.9	27.5	26.4
14 Years	23.9	26.7	25.0
15 Years	21.3	23.6	22.8
16 Years	20.1	20.9	19.7
17 Years	17.4	18.0	17.7
18 Years	17.3	17.5	18.5
19 Years	11.0	13.9	13.9



¹ Refers to Age at Commitment.

COMMITMENT POPULATION
CLIENTS SERVED & ADP BY PROGRAM
Fiscal Year 2015-2016

	Clients Served ¹	ADP
Assessment		
<i>State Operated</i>		
Grand Mesa YSC	45	3.5
Mount View YSC	375	24.8
Platte Valley YSC ²	64	0.10
Spring Creek YSC ²	44	0.05
Total Assessment	417	28.4
Secure		
<i>State Operated</i>		
Adams YSC ³	N/A	0.1
Gilliam YSC ³	N/A	0.3
Grand Mesa YSC	89	34.5
Lookout Mountain YSC	245	137.5
Marvin W. Foote YSC ³	N/A	0.6
Mount View YSC	484	25.3
Platte Valley YSC	193	41.7
Pueblo YSC ³	N/A	0.5
Spring Creek YSC	119	27.9
Zebulon Pike YSC	69	37.8
<i>Subtotal State Operated</i>	<i>869</i>	<i>306.2</i>
<i>Privately Operated</i>		
Betty K. Marler Center	72	35.4
Robert Denier YSC	32	12.4
<i>Subtotal Privately Operated</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>47.8</i>
Total Secure	953	353.9
Staff-Supervised (Contract)		
Alternative Homes for Youth	40	14.4
Devereux Cleo Wallace	6	1.4
Gateway Residential-Delta	7	3.0
Hilltop Residential Youth Services	19	5.0
Jefferson Hills Aurora	113	46.4
Ridgeview YSC	301	133.8
Robert A Brown Center	4	1.1
Southern Peaks	11	3.6
Third Way Center - Lowry	51	12.3
Total Staff-Supervised (Contract)	518	221.0

¹Clients Served is an unduplicated count. Categorical totals are not a sum of individual program counts and are not available for all categories.

²Not assessment facilities, but hold youth who are en route to the Front Range Assessment Center at Mount View.

³Detention-only facilities periodically and briefly serve committed youth in certain instances.

COMMITMENT POPULATION
CLIENTS SERVED & ADP BY PROGRAM
Fiscal Year 2015-2016

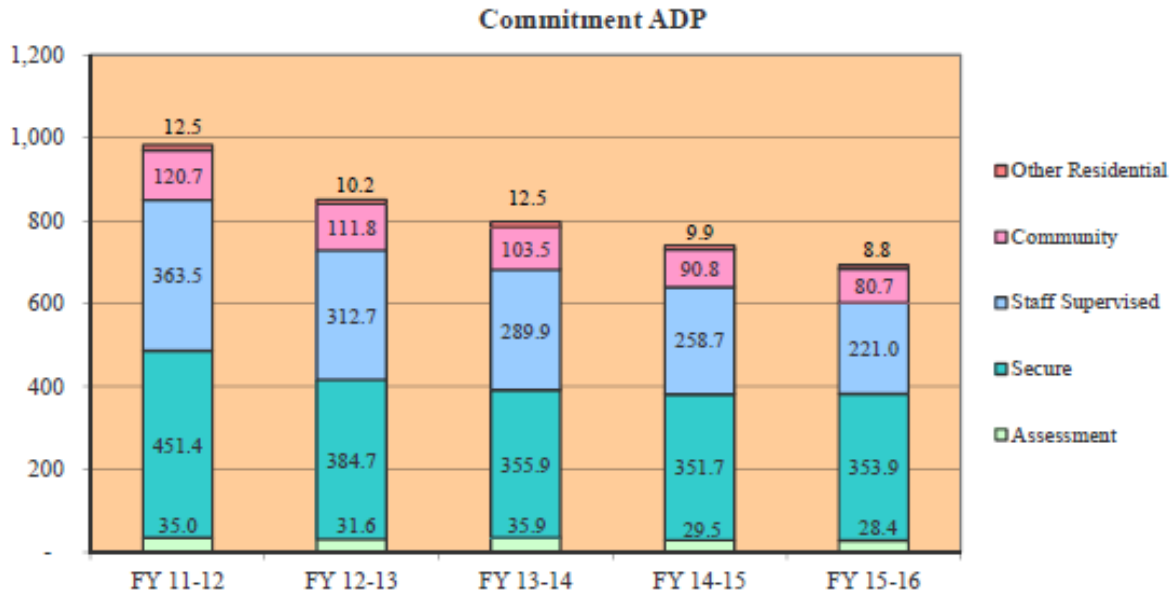
	Clients Served ¹	ADP
Community (Contract)		
Attention Homes Chase House	1	0.02
Community Corrections and Work Release	2	0.1
Dale House Project	29	9.4
Denver Area Youth Services	10	2.5
Gateway Residential Program - Grand Junction	2	0.4
Griffith Centers for Children Inc.	22	6.4
Job Corps	13	2.8
Kids Crossing	13	3.9
Maple Star Colorado	1	0.4
Mesa County Community Corrections	4	0.9
Mt. Evans Qualifying House	23	7.2
Reflections for Youth (RFY) Grismore	1	0.2
Rocky Mountain Youth Center	3	0.4
Savio House	3	1.2
Synergy	14	4.7
Third Way Center	11	2.6
Third Way Center - Pontiac	30	7.0
Third Way Center - York	22	5.9
Third Way Center - Lincoln	24	7.3
Turning Point Center - Prospect	11	3.2
Turning Point - Mathews St.	31	7.9
Whimspire Child Placement Agency	4	1.3
Youthtrack Work and Learn	25	5.2
Total Community (Contract)	267	80.7
Other Residential		
Job Corps Program (Federally Funded)	N/A	2.6
Shelter Care (Short Term)	N/A	0.2
Immigration Detention Facility	N/A	0.1
Hospital	N/A	0.1
Residential Programs (MH, DA, Work)	N/A	2.6
Mental Health Institutes/Facilities	N/A	0.6
Total Other Residential	41	8.8
STATEWIDE COMMITMENT	1,362	692.9

¹Clients Served is an unduplicated count. Categorical totals are not a sum of individual program counts.

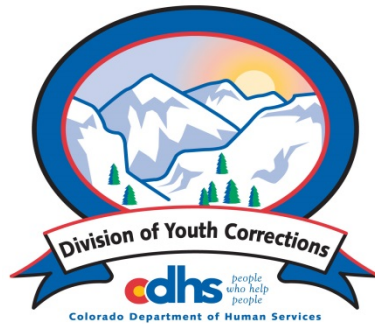
²Due to relatively few youth referred to these types of placements, the Other Residential subtotal may not be the sum of individual placements; this is typically the result of rounding errors and the method by which ADP is calculated.

**COMMITMENT POPULATION TRENDS
BY PROGRAM TYPE**

	FY 2011-12	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	FY 2013-14	FY 2015-16
Assessment	35.0	31.6	35.9	29.5	28.4
Secure	451.4	384.7	355.9	351.7	353.9
Staff Supervised	363.5	312.7	289.9	258.7	221.0
Community	120.7	111.8	103.5	90.8	80.7
Other Residential ¹	12.5	10.2	12.5	9.9	8.8
Total Commitment ADP	983.1	851.0	797.6	740.7	692.9



¹Other Residential includes Group Homes, Job Corps, Hospitalizations, Shelter Care, etc.



Manual for the
Colorado Division of Youth Corrections

Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment

Based on:
**Washington State
Juvenile Court Assessment
Manual Version 2.1**

This document has been edited to reflect institutions, agencies, and legal definitions appropriate to the Division of Youth Corrections (DYC) in Colorado but otherwise remains as written by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

June 1, 2006

3B. Current School Status

Item	Factoid	Static		Dynamic	
		Risk	Protective	Risk	Protective
<i>List items in the following section only if the youth has been enrolled in school during the last six months.</i>					
1. Youth's current school enrollment status, regardless of attendance:	Graduated/GED				2
	Enrolled full-time				2
	Enrolled part-time				1
	Suspended			3	
	Dropped out			3	
	Expelled			3	
2. Type of school in which youth is enrolled:	Enrolled at <u>School Name</u> , <u>school type</u>				0
3. Youth believes there is value in getting an education:	Believes getting education is of value				1
	Somewhat believes education is of value			1	
	Does not believe education is of value			2	
4. Youth believes school provides an encouraging environment for him or her:	Believes school is encouraging				1
	Somewhat believes school is encouraging			1	
	Does not believe school is encouraging			2	
5. Teachers, staff, or coaches the youth likes or feels comfortable talking with:	Not close to any adult at school			0	
	Close to 1 adult at school				1
	Close to 2 adults at school				2
	Close to 3 adults at school				2
	Close to 4 or more adults at school				2
6. Youth's involvement in school activities during most recent term:	Involved in 2 or more school activities				2
	Involved in 1 school activity				1
	Not involved in any school activities			1	
	Not interested in school activities			2	
7. Youth's conduct in the most recent term:	Recognition for good school behavior				2
	No problems with school conduct				1
	School problems reported by teachers			1	
	School problem calls to parents			2	
	School problem calls to police			3	
8. Number of expulsions and suspensions in the most recent term:	No recent expel/suspend				1
	1 recent expel/suspend			1	
	2 or 3 recent expel/suspend			2	
	Over 3 recent expel/suspend			3	
9. Youth's attendance in the most recent term:	Good attendance; few excused absences				2
	No unexcused absences				1
	Some partial-day unexcused absences			1	
	Some full-day unexcused absences			2	
	Truancy petition/equivalent or withdrawn			3	

Item	Factoid	Static		Dynamic	
		Risk	Protective	Risk	Protective
10. Youth's academic performance in the most recent school term:	Grades: mostly As				3
	Grades: mostly As and Bs				2
	Grades: mostly Bs and Cs, no Fs				1
	Grades: mostly Cs and Ds, some Fs			1	
	Grades: Some Ds and mostly Fs			2	
11. Interviewer's assessment of likelihood the youth will stay in and graduate from high school or an equivalent vocational school:	Assessed as very likely to graduate				1
	Assessed as uncertain to graduate			1	
	Assessed as not likely to graduate			2	
Maximum		0	0	22	17
Lower 33%				0-3	
Middle				4-6	
Upper 33%				7-22	

6B. Current Relationships

Item	Factoid	Static		Dynamic	
		Risk	Protective	Risk	Protective
1. Current positive adult non-family relationships not connected to school or employment:	No current positive adult relationships			0	
	1 positive current adult relationship				1
	2 positive current adult relationships				2
	3 or more current positive adult relationships				3
2. Current pro-social community ties:	No pro-social community ties			0	
	Some pro-social community ties				1
	Strong pro-social community ties				2
3. Current friends/companions youth actually spends time with:	No consistent friends or companions			1	
	Only pro-social friends				1
	Pro-social and anti-social friends			1	
	Only anti-social friends			2	
	Gang member/associate			3	
4. Currently in a "romantic," intimate, or sexual relationship:	Not romantically involved			0	
	Romantically involved: pro-social person				1
	Romantically involved: anti-social person			1	
5. Currently admires/emulates anti-social peers:	Does not admire anti-social peers				1
	Somewhat admires anti-social peers			1	
	Admires, emulates anti-social peers			2	
6. Current resistance to anti-social peer influence:	Does not associate with anti-social peers				2
	Usually resists anti-social peer influence				1
	Rarely resists anti-social peer influence			1	
	Leads anti-social peers			2	
Maximum		0	0	8	10
Lower 33%				0-0	
Middle				1-2	
Upper 33%				3-8	

7B. Current Living Arrangements

Item	Factoid	Static		Dynamic	
		Risk	Protective	Risk	Protective
1. Youth is currently living with: <i>(Sum protective factors for a maximum of 4 points)</i> :	Living Alone			0	
	Transient living			1	
	Biological mother				2
	Biological father				2
	Non-biological mother				1
	Non-biological father				1
	Older sibling(s)				0
	Younger sibling(s)				0
	Grandparent(s)				0
	Other relative(s)				0
	Long-term parental partner(s)				0
	Short-term parental partner(s)				0
	Youth's romantic partner				0
	Youth's child				0
	Foster/group home				0
Youth's friends				0	
2. Annual combined income of youth and family:	Annual income under \$15,000			2	
	Annual income \$15,000 to \$34,999			1	
	Annual income \$35,000 to \$49,999				1
	Annual income \$50,000 and over				2
3. Jail/imprisonment history of persons who are currently involved with the household: <i>One point for a maximum of 3 points</i>	No jail/imprisonment in current family				1
	Current mother/female caretaker jail/imprisonment			1	
	Current father/male caretaker jail/imprisonment			1	
	Current older sibling jail/imprisonment			1	
	Current younger sibling jail/imprisonment			1	
	Current other family member jail/imprisonment			1	
4. Problem history of parents who are currently involved with the household: <i>Score one point per problem up to a maximum of 3 points, but print all problems checked.</i>	No current parent problems				1
	Current parent alcohol problem			1	
	Current parent drugs problem			1	
	Current parent mental health problem			1	
	Current parent physical health problem			1	
	Current parent employment problem			1	
5. Problem history of siblings who are currently involved with the household: <i>Score one point per problem up to a maximum of 3 points, but print all problems checked.</i>	No siblings in household			0	
	No current sibling problems				1
	Current sibling alcohol problem			1	
	Current sibling drug problem			1	
	Current sibling mental health problem			1	
	Current sibling physical health problem			1	
	Current sibling employment problem			1	
6. Support network for family:	No family support network			0	
	Some family support network				1
	Strong family support network				2

Item	Factoid	Static		Dynamic	
		Risk	Protective	Risk	Protective
7. Family willingness to help support of youth:	Family willing to support youth				1
	Family inconsistently supports youth			1	
	Family not willingness to support youth			2	
	Family hostile, berating, belittling of youth			3	
8. Family provides opportunities for youth to participate in family activities and decisions:	No opportunities for family involvement			2	
	Some opportunities for family involvement			1	
	Opportunities for family involvement				1
9. Youth has run away or been kicked out of home:	No run away/kicked out				1
	Run away/kicked out			1	
	Currently a runaway/kicked out			2	
10. Family member(s) youth feels close to or has good relation with: <i>Score one point per member up to a maximum of 3 points</i>	Not close to family members			1	
	Close to mother/female caretaker				1
	Close to father/male caretaker				1
	Close to male sibling				1
	Close to female sibling				1
	Close to extended family				1
11. Level of conflict between parents, between youth and parents, among siblings:	Some family conflict: well managed				1
	Family verbal intimidation, arguments			1	
	Family threats of physical abuse			2	
	Domestic violence: physical/sexual abuse			3	
12. Parental supervision:	Consistent good parental supervision				1
	Sporadic parental supervision			1	
	Inadequate parental supervision			2	
13. Parental authority and control:	Usually follows family rules				1
	Sometimes follows family rules			1	
	Consistently disobeys family/is hostile			2	
14. Consistent appropriate punishment for bad behavior:	Consistently appropriate punishment				1
	Consistently overly severe punishment			1	
	Consistently insufficient punishment			1	
	Inconsistent or erratic punishment			2	
15. Consistent appropriate rewards for good behavior:	Consistently appropriate rewards				1
	Consistently overly indulgent/overly protective			1	
	Consistently insufficient rewards			1	
	Inconsistent or erratic rewards			2	
16. Parental characterization of youth's anti-social behavior:	Parents disapprove of youth's anti-social behavior				1
	Parents minimize/excuse youth's anti-social behavior			1	
	Youth's anti-social behavior ok with parents			2	
	Parents proud of youth's anti-social behavior			3	
Maximum		0	0	34	23
Lower 33%				0-4	
Middle				5-8	
Upper 33%				9-34	

8B. Current Alcohol and Drugs

Item	Factoid	Static		Dynamic	
		Risk	Protective	Risk	Protective
1. Alcohol use: <i>Sum points for a maximum of 11 points.</i>	No current alcohol use		0		
	Current alcohol use not disrupting functioning			1	
	Alcohol disrupts education			2	
	Alcohol causes family conflict			2	
	Alcohol interferes with pro-social friendships			2	
	Alcohol causes health problems			2	
	Alcohol contributes criminal behavior			3	
2. Current drug use: <i>Sum points for a maximum of 12 points.</i>	No current drug use		0		
	Current drug use not disrupting functioning			2	
	Drug use disrupts education			2	
	Drug use causes family conflict			2	
	Drug use interferes pro-social friendships			2	
	Drug use causes health problems last			2	
	Drug contributes criminal behavior			4	
3. Type of drugs currently used. (<i>Not scored, information only</i>)	Current drug use: <i>List all yes's</i>				
	Marijuana/Hashish			0	
	Amphetamines			0	
	Cocaine (coke)			0	
	Cocaine (crack/rock)			0	
	Heroin			0	
	Inhalants			0	
	Barbiturates			0	
	Tranquilizers/sedatives			0	
	Hallucinogens			0	
	Phencyclidine			0	
	Other opiates			0	
	Other Drugs (List in Comment)			0	
4. Alcohol/drug treatment program participation:	Alcohol/drug treatment not warranted				0
	Currently need alcohol/drug treatment			1	
	Currently attending alcohol/drug treatment				1
	Successfully completed alcohol/drug treatment				2
Maximum		0	0	24	2
Lower 33%				0-2	
Middle				3-5	
Upper 33%				6-24	

9B. Current Mental Health: For Initial Assessment “current” is within the past 6 months, for Re-Assessments and Final Assessments, “current” is within the past 4 weeks.

Item	Factoid	Static		Dynamic	
		Risk	Protective	Risk	Protective
1. Current suicide ideation:	No recent thoughts of suicide				0
	Recent serious thoughts of suicide			0	
	Recently planned suicide			0	
	Recently attempted suicide			0	
2. Currently diagnosed with ADD/ADHD:	No ADD/ADHD diagnosis				0
	No ADD/ADHD medication currently prescribed			0	
	Currently taking ADD/ADHD medication				1
	ADD/ADHD medication currently prescribed, but not taking			1	
3. Mental health treatment currently prescribed, excluding ADD/ADHD treatment:	No current mental health problem				0
	No mental health treatment currently prescribed			0	
	Attending mental health treatment				1
	Mental health treatment prescribed but not attending			1	
4. Mental health medication currently prescribed excluding ADD/ADHD medication:	No current mental health problem				0
	No mental health medication currently prescribed			0	
	Currently taking mental health medication				1
	Mental health medication currently prescribed, but not taking			1	
5. Mental health problems currently interfere with working with the youth:	No current mental health problem				0
	Mental health does not interfere in work with youth			0	
	Mental health interferes in work with youth			1	
Maximum		0	0	4	3
Lower 33%				0-0	
Middle				1-1	
Upper 33%				2-4	

10. Attitudes/Behaviors

Item	Factoid	Static		Dynamic	
		Risk	Protective	Risk	Protective
1. Primary emotion when committing last crime(s) within the last 6 months:	During crime: nervous, afraid, worried, uncertain				1
	During crime: excited, or stimulated			1	
	During crime: unconcerned or indifferent			1	
	During crime: confident/bragging			1	
2. Primary purpose for committing crime(s) within the last 6 months: <i>(Item not scored, is for information only)</i>	Crime purpose: Anger			0	
	Crime purpose: Revenge			0	
	Crime purpose: Impulse			0	
	Crime purpose: Sexual desire			0	
	Crime purpose: Money, material gain, drugs			0	
	Crime purpose: Excitement, amusement			0	
3. Optimism:	Crime purpose: status, acceptance, attention			0	
	High aspirations: sense of purpose, commitment to better life				2
	Normal aspirations: some sense of purpose				1
	Low aspirations: little sense of purpose or plans for better life			1	
4. Impulsive; acts before thinking:	Believes nothing matters: he or she will be dead before long			2	
	Uses self-control: usually thinks before acting				2
	Uses some self-control: sometimes thinks before acting				1
	Impulsive: often acts before thinking			1	
5. Belief in control over anti-social behavior:	Highly impulsive: usually acts before thinking			2	
	Believes can stop anti-social behavior				2
	Somewhat believes can stop anti-social behavior			1	
6. Empathy, remorse, sympathy, or feelings for the victim(s) of criminal behavior:	Believes cannot stop anti-social behavior			2	
	Has empathy for his or her victim(s)				2
	Has some empathy for victim(s)				1
7. Respect for property of others:	Does not have empathy for victim(s)			2	
	Respects property of others				2
	Respects personal, not publicly accessible, property			1	
	Conditional respect for personal property:			2	
	No respect for personal/public property			3	

8. Respect for authority figures:	Respects most authority figures				2
	Does not respect authority figures			1	
	Resents most authority figures			2	
	Defies/hostile toward most authority figures			3	
9. Attitude toward pro-social rules/conventions in society:	Believes pro-social rules apply				2
	Believes pro-social rules sometimes apply			1	
	Does not believe pro-social rules apply			2	
	Resents or is defiant toward rules			3	
10. Accepts responsibility for anti-social behavior:	Accepts responsibility for behavior				2
	Minimizes, denies, justifies, excuses, or blames others for own behavior			1	
	Accepts own anti-social behavior as okay			2	
	Proud of own anti-social behavior			3	
11. Youth's belief in successfully meeting conditions of NYC commitment or other court supervision:	Believes will be successful under supervision				1
	Unsure of success under supervision			1	
	Does not believe will be successful under supervision			2	
Maximum		0	0	23	18
Lower 33%				0-1	
Middle				2-3	
Upper 33%				4-23	

11. Aggression

Item	Factoid	Static		Dynamic	
		Risk	Protective	Risk	Protective
1. Tolerance for frustration:	Rarely gets upset/temper tantrums				2
	Sometimes gets upset/temper tantrums			1	
	Often gets upset/temper tantrums			2	
2. Hostile interpretation of actions and intentions of others in a common non-confrontational setting:	Primarily positive view of intentions of others				2
	Primarily negative view of intentions of others			1	
	Primarily hostile view of intentions of others			2	
3. Belief in yelling and verbal aggression to resolve a disagreement or conflict:	Believes verbal aggression is rarely appropriate				2
	Believes verbal aggression is sometimes appropriate			1	
	Believes verbal aggression is often appropriate			2	
4. Belief in fighting and physical aggression to resolve a disagreement or conflict:	Believes physical aggression is never appropriate				2
	Believes physical aggression is rarely appropriate				1
	Believes physical aggression is sometimes appropriate			2	
	Believes physical aggression is often appropriate			3	
5. Reports/evidence of violence not included in criminal history (Maximum of 2 points)	No reports of violence outside of criminal history				0
	Violent destruction of property			1	
	Violent outbursts, displays of temper, uncontrolled anger indicating potential for harm			1	
	Deliberately inflicted physical pain			1	
	Used/threatened with a weapon			1	
	Fire starting reports			1	
6. Reports/evidence of sexual aggression not included in criminal history (Maximum of 2 points)	Animal cruelty reports			1	
	No reports of sexual aggression outside of criminal history				0
	Reports of aggressive sex			1	
	Reports of sex for power			1	
	Reports of young sex partners			1	
	Reports of child sex			1	
Reports of voyeurism			1		
Reports of exposure			1		
Maximum		0	0	13	8
Lower 33%				0-0	
Middle				1-2	
Upper 33%				3-13	

12. Skills

Item	Factoid	Static		Dynamic	
		Risk	Protective	Risk	Protective
1. Consequential thinking:	Does not understand about consequences of actions			1	
	Understands about consequences to actions				1
	Identifies consequences of actions				2
	Good consequential thinking and acting				3
2. Goal setting:	Does not set any goals			2	
	Sets unrealistic goals			1	
	Sets somewhat realistic goals				1
	Sets realistic goals				2
3. Problem-solving:	Cannot identify problem behaviors			1	
	Identifies problem behaviors				1
	Thinks of solutions for problem behaviors				2
	Applies appropriate solutions to problem behaviors				3
4. Situational perception:	Cannot analyze the situation for use of a pro-social skill			1	
	Does not choose the best pro-social skill				1
	Chooses best skill but not best time and place				2
	Selects the best time and place for best skill				3
5. Dealing with others:	Lacks basic social skills in dealing with others			1	
	Lacks advanced skills in dealing with others				1
	Sometimes uses advanced social skills in dealing with others				2
	Often uses advanced social skills in dealing with others				3
6. Dealing with difficult situations:	Lacks skills in dealing with difficult situations			2	
	Rarely uses skills in dealing with difficult situations			1	
	Sometimes uses skills in dealing with difficult situations				1
	Often uses skills in dealing with difficult situations				2
7. Dealing with feelings/emotions:	Lacks skills in dealing with feelings/emotions			2	
	Rarely uses skills in dealing with feelings/emotions			1	
	Sometimes uses skills in dealing with feelings/emotions				1
	Often uses skills in dealing with feelings/emotions				2
8. Monitoring of internal triggers (distorted thoughts) that can lead to trouble:	Cannot identify internal triggers			2	
	Identifies internal triggers				1
	Actively monitors/controls internal triggers				2

Item	Factoid	Static		Dynamic	
		Risk	Protective	Risk	Protective
9. Monitoring of external triggers (events or situations) that can lead to trouble:	Cannot identify external triggers			2	
	Identifies external triggers				1
	Actively monitors/controls external triggers				2
10. Control of impulsive behaviors that get youth into trouble:	Never a problem with impulsive behavior				3
	Lacks techniques to control impulsive behavior			2	
	Knows techniques to control impulsive behavior				1
	Uses techniques to control impulsive behavior				2
11. Control of aggression:	Never a problem with aggression				3
	Lacks alternatives to aggression			2	
	Rarely uses alternatives to aggression			1	
	Sometimes uses alternatives to aggression				1
	Often uses alternatives to aggression				2
Maximum		0	0	18	28
Lower 33%				0-0	
Middle				1-2	
Upper 33%				3-18	

APPENDIX E– DYC Substance Abuse Treatment Screening & Assessment Overview

The process described below is relevant to the three discharge cohorts examined within this report (FY 2014-15, FY 2013-14, and FY 2012-13 discharges). Processes as well as screening and assessment tools have since changed, and therefore with subsequent DYC commitment populations the instruments described below will no longer be applicable.

Youth newly committed to the Division of Youth Corrections (DYC) are placed at one of the two DYC Assessment Centers and 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)^{vii} 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; and higher scores are reflective of Treatment level needs.

The Adolescent Self-Assessment Profile (ASAP)^{viii} 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

^{vii}Wanberg, K. W. (1991). *The Substance Abuse Survey 1A (SUS 1A)*. Arvada, CO: Center for Addictions Research and Evaluation.

^{viii}Wanberg, K.W. (1998). *The Adolescent Self Assessment Profile II (ASAP II)*. Arvada, CO: Center for Addictions Research and Evaluation.

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 youth are 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 resulting from 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 to 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.

Any questions concerning the data presented in this report may be directed to:

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Division of Youth Corrections
4255 S. Knox Court
Denver, CO 80236

or

Sally.Lasko@state.co.us

Colorado Department of Human Services
Division of Youth Corrections



<http://www.colorado.gov/cdhs/dyc>