

29th Annual

Recidivism Evaluation of the Colorado Division of Youth Services

Regarding Committed Youth

Discharged in Fiscal Years

2016-17,

2017-18,

&

2018-19

July 1, 2021



COLORADO

Division of Youth Services

Office of Children, Youth & Families

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Annually, on July 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 Services (DYS or Division) in the preceding fiscal years. The current publication marks the 29th edition of the annual recidivism report.

YOUTH STUDIED

Recidivism rates were calculated for three unique cohorts of discharged youth who were followed for one, two, and three years post-discharge from DHS. These three cohorts include every youth who discharged from DHS. As every youth who is committed to DHS will eventually be discharged, no youth were excluded from the three cohorts.

The Division defines recidivism as the adjudication or conviction of a new misdemeanor or felony offense within a specified time period.

- Fiscal Year 2018-19: Three hundred ninety-six (396) youth discharged from DHS. Among these discharged youth, 85% were male, and 15% were female. This cohort was used to determine a one-year recidivism rate.
- Fiscal Year 2017-18: Three hundred seventy-seven (377) youth discharged from DHS. Among these discharged youth, 84% were male, and 16% were female. This cohort was used to determine a two-year recidivism rate.
- Fiscal Year 2016-17: Four hundred forty-two (442) youth discharged from DHS. Among these discharged youth, 86% were male, and 14% were female. This cohort was used to determine a three-year recidivism rate.

ANALYSIS COHORT

In an effort to combat the challenges associated with a shrinking population of youth who discharge from DHS annually, three years of data were combined to create a single, larger one-year post-discharge cohort. Specifically, each of the youth in the one-year post-discharge cohort for Fiscal Years (FY) 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 were combined to form a single Analysis Cohort of 1,215 discharges. A total of 21 youth discharged in multiple FYs due to consecutive DHS commitments. Of these 21 youth with multiple discharges, 11 youth were excluded from the Analysis Cohort due to their simultaneous

recidivist and non-recidivist status. Specifically, these 11 youth recidivated within one year of discharge for one of their commitments to DYS, but did not recidivate within one year of discharge for another commitment. Thus, the total number of unique youth included in the Analysis Cohort was 1,183ⁱ. By combining these three cohorts into a single, larger cohort, some of the challenges presented by a shrinking population size were ameliorated and sufficient statistical power was generated in the analyses to detect significant between-groups differences.

- **Analysis Cohort:** One thousand one hundred and eighty-three (1,183) unique youth discharged from DYS between FY 2016-17 and FY 2018-19. Among these unique discharged youth, 85% were male and 15% were female, a ratio that has remained stable over several years. This cohort was followed for one year post-discharge and was used for the majority of the analyses discussed throughout the report.

The Division began measuring and reporting two- and three-year post discharge recidivism rates for youth who discharged during FY 2010-11.

For the first time, the Division observed an across-the-board decline in the one-, two-, and three-year post-discharge recidivism rates (see Figure 3 on page 17 for details).

RECIDIVISM RATES

One-year recidivism rate

For youth who discharged in FY 2018-19, **30.6%** (121 of 396 youth) were guilty of one or more recidivist acts within one year of discharge from DYS.

Two-year recidivism rate

For youth who discharged in FY 2017-18, **54.6%** (206 of 377 youth) were guilty of one or more recidivist acts within two years of discharge from DYS.

Three-year recidivism rate

For youth who discharged in FY 2016-17, **62.9%** (278 of 442 youth) were guilty of one or more recidivist acts within three years of discharge from DYS.

ⁱ For a more detailed description of the Analysis Cohort and how it was comprised, please see the Study Population section on pages 10-12, Table 2 on pages 20-21, and Appendix B on page 54.

Analysis Cohort recidivism rate

For youth in the combined one-year post-discharge Analysis Cohort, **38.7%** (458 of 1,183 total youth) were guilty of one or more recidivist acts within one year of discharge from DYS.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECIDIVISTS

Compared to non-recidivist youth, recidivists in the three discharge cohorts were significantly more likely to be male, have a history of one or more prior escapes, be younger at the time of their first adjudication, have a larger number of prior adjudications, earn a parole rating of Poor to Unsatisfactory at discharge, have more than two secure need factors, lack a program in place at discharge, have one or more parole revocations, be committed to DYS for a felony offense, and have one or more recommitments.

On average, youth in the Analysis Cohort ceased committing new recidivist acts approximately 14 months after discharging from DYS supervision (see pages 38 – 43 for details).

In addition, the majority of recidivist youth were initially committed for a felony offense that fell under the Victim Rights Act (VRA) and *ceased committing new recidivist acts around 14 months after discharging from all DYS supervision, on average.* The majority of recidivist acts observed in the three discharge cohorts were misdemeanor offenses that did not fall under the VRA, illustrating a reduction in the severity of criminal acts from commitment to the end of the follow-up period.

RECENT CHANGES TO THE RESEARCH METHODS IN THE REPORT

For the first time in six years, the number of youth discharged from DYS increased slightly from 377 in FY 2017-18 to 396 in FY 2018-19 (a 5% increase). Despite this slight increase, Colorado has experienced a trend of decline in the number of youth discharged from DYS for more than a decade (see Figure 1 on page 11). The decline in the number of youth discharged from the Division places limitations on the type and quality of analyses that can be performed with confidence and accuracy. Specifically, the sample sizes within the one-, two-, and three-year cohorts examined annually have become so small that they call into question whether or not sufficient statistical power can be generated to detect significant differences between groups. Given the challenges presented by the Division's shrinking population, significant changes have been made to the research methods employed in the analyses with the goal of providing a scientifically rigorous means of addressing and ameliorating these challenges. The most significant change to the methodology was first implemented in the report produced on July 1, 2018, and involved creating a larger census for analysis. In order to obtain a larger census, the one-year post-discharge cohorts from the prior three fiscal years (FY 2016-17, FY 2017-18,

and FY 2018-19) were combined into one, larger cohort of youth who were followed *for one year* for the analyses that follow. Increasing the sample size using this approach preserved the integrity of each cohort, while allowing for more meaningful comparisons both between and within groups. This larger cohort is referred to as the “Analysis Cohort” throughout the report.

A second recent change to the methodology was implemented in the report produced on July 1, 2020, and marked the inaugural report that included *adult misdemeanors* filed in the Denver County Court System (DCC) in the analyses. DCC is the only county court system in the State whose data is not captured by the Judicial Department’s data system, the original source of the data used annually to measure juvenile recidivism in Colorado. Denver County *adult felony* convictions are processed by the Denver District Court, which is a part of the Judicial Department’s data system, and have *always* been included in the analyses. Similarly, Denver Juvenile Court processes juvenile misdemeanor and felony adjudications, therefore *all juvenile adjudications* from Denver have always been included in the analyses. Many former DYS youth included in the multi-year follow-up periods are 18 years of age or older, and thus could have been convicted of an adult misdemeanor in DCC. In March of 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was reached with DCC regarding the sharing of adult misdemeanor conviction data with the Division, and the current annual report marks the second year these data were included in the analyses. The adult misdemeanor convictions filed in DCC were matched by DCC staff to a comprehensive list of the youth in the Analysis Cohort and these matched data were provided to the Division for use in the analyses that follow. The inclusion of adult misdemeanors filed in DCC allows for a more complete examination of juvenile recidivism in Colorado, and eliminates a long-standing limitation to reports produced in prior years.

TYPES OF RECIDIVIST ACTS COMMITTED

Colorado Statute C.R.S., 19-2-203(6) was signed into law on March 7, 2018, and states that the annually mandated recidivism report “...must denote the types of criminal offenses committed, delineating between felonies and misdemeanors and between crimes that are included as a ‘crime’ pursuant to Section 24-4.1-302(1) and other crimes.” In addition to the analysis of the types of recidivist acts (felony or misdemeanor) that has long been included in the recidivism report, 2019 marked the initiation of including an analysis of crimes pursuant to Section 24-4.1-302(1), which are recidivist acts that fall under the Victim Rights Act (VRA). Of the recidivists in the three discharge cohorts followed for one, two, and three years post-discharge, the majority were originally sentenced to DYS on felony adjudications (56.5% felony vs. 43.5% misdemeanor). Of these original commitment offenses, 41.3% were crimes that fell under the VRA. This finding is consistent with the findings described in previous reports, where property crimes (which do not fall under the VRA) were consistently found to be the most common commitment offense. The majority of all recidivist acts committed over each of the follow-up time periods were misdemeanors (52.9%) compared to felonies (47.1%). Relatively few recidivist acts were crimes that fell under the VRA (26.0%).

The majority of recidivists were committed for a felony offense that did not fall under the Victim Rights Act (VRA), while the majority of recidivist acts were misdemeanors. Only 26% of all recidivist acts fell under the VRA (see pages 32 – 36 for details).

CHRONICITY AND DESISTANCE OF RECIDIVIST ACTS

When all recidivist acts captured between FY 2016-17 and FY 2018-19 were examined as a whole, a pattern emerged in which most youth who recidivate do so fairly quickly after discharge, and more than half of these youth only commit one or two recidivist acts over the entire three year follow-up period ($n = 323$; 55.6%). Recidivists in the Analysis Cohort ceased re-offending (achieved criminal desistance) at roughly 14 months, on average ($\mu = 14.3$).

This finding indicates that most recidivists cease from committing new recidivist acts at just over one year after discharging from all DYS supervision. In other words, while some discharged youth do commit a new offense after leaving DYS, the vast majority of recidivists do not continue to commit new crimes over time, and do not have persistent observed future criminal involvement. Those youth with a larger number of recidivist acts, on average, tended to commit the bulk of their recidivist acts within 21 months of discharge, and committed their first recidivist act sooner than youth with fewer recidivist acts. In addition, those youth who committed more recidivist acts, on average, tended to demonstrate a more consistent pattern of re-offending over time. Many recidivist youth committed multiple recidivist acts that occurred on the same day (same-day offenses), and nearly 41% ($n = 236$) of youth committed their last recidivist act on the same day as their first recidivist actⁱⁱ. When same-day offenses were considered to be a single recidivist event, roughly two-thirds of youth committed two or fewer recidivist acts ($n = 384$; 66.1%) (see Figure 15 on page 42).

NATIONAL COMPARISON

Most states do not measure or report on juvenile recidivism regularly. Colorado remains one of the few states to produce an annual report that measures recidivism at one-, two-, and three-years post-discharge. Currently, four states and the District of Columbia define, measure, and report juvenile recidivism utilizing a research methodology similar to Colorado, thus providing five 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 (30.6%) is in the top half of the performance range (19.2% - 46.5%). Idaho (27.3%) and Maryland (19.2%) had rates that were lower

ⁱⁱ Examples of situations where multiple recidivist acts occur on the same day could be a set of two separate offenses occurring on the same day (e.g.: trespassing in two separate locations), but is more frequently an additional charge for the same criminal event for which an individual is found guilty (e.g.: trespassing, possession of burglary tools, theft, and unlawful weapons possession can result in four separate adjudications or convictions for a single criminal event occurring on the same date under the same court case number).

than Colorado. Three additional comparable states that produce annual recidivism rates, the District of Columbia, Florida, and Virginia reported a one-year post recidivism rate of 31.0%, 42.0%, and 46.5%, respectively.

A NOTE ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In the analyses that follow, all youth in the Analysis Cohort, and the individual one-, two-, and three-year post discharge cohorts discharged prior to the onset of the global COVID-19 Pandemic. Specifically, youth in the one-year post discharge cohort discharged from all DYS treatment, services, and supervision between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019, well in advance of the initial detection of COVID-19 in Colorado on March 5, 2020. While the programs, treatment, and services provided to committed youth included in the current report were not affected by the Pandemic, the post-discharge follow-up period(s) were affected for youth who discharged after March 5 in their respective discharge cohort. In other words, youth who were still in the one-, two-, and three-year follow-up period between March and June, 2020 may have experienced much lower proactive policing as well as reduced opportunities to commit certain types of offenses. In an effort to slow the spread of the virus, Governor Jared Polis updated Public Health Order 20-22 on March 19, 2020, which called for the closure of non-essential businesses and public spaces, such as bars, restaurants, gyms, theaters, casinos, businesses providing nonessential personal services, and horse track and off-track betting facilities. In conjunction with Public Health Order 20-22, Governor Polis also issued Executive Order D 2020 017 on March 25, 2020, which enacted a statewide stay-at-home order, which curtailed all non-essential movement within Colorado communities. These and other factors may have contributed to the reduction in recidivism rates presented in this report.

All of the youth studied in the 2021 Annual Recidivism Report discharged from all DYS supervision, treatment, and services *prior to* the first documented case of COVID-19 in Colorado on March 5, 2020.

C.R.S., 19-2-203(6) Details

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS or Department), Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF or Office), Division of Youth Services (DYS or Division) prepares an annual recidivism report on committed youth. The current report marks the 29th year of investigating juvenile recidivism in Colorado, and is submitted in response to C.R.S., 19-2-203(6) (formerly House Bill 18-1010). The educational outcomes requirement is submitted in a separate report.

On or before July 1, 2018, and on or before each July 1 thereafter, the Department of Human Services shall collect recidivism data and calculate the recidivism rates and the educational outcomes for juveniles committed to the custody of the Department who complete their parole sentences and discharge from Department supervision. In collecting the recidivism data, the Department shall include any juvenile adjudication or adult conviction of a criminal offense within three years after parole discharge.

Statute C.R.S., 19-2-203(6) specifies that:

*The report must **denote** the demographic characteristics of the population considered in the report. In reporting on recidivism rates, the report must denote the types of criminal offenses committed, delineating between felonies and misdemeanors and between crimes that are included as a “crime” pursuant to Section 24-4.1-302(1) and other crimes.*

Specific elements can be found on the following pages:

- Demographic characteristics of the population considered in the report: Table 2, pages 20-21;
- Criminal offenses committed (felonies, misdemeanors, and crimes pursuant to Section 24-4.1-302(1), C.R.S): pages 32-36.

DEFINITION OF RECIDIVISMⁱⁱⁱ

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. This allows for a between-states comparison of recidivism data, and conforms to the definition endorsed and recommended by the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators (CJJA, formerly known as the Council of Juvenile Corrections Administrators, or CJCA) [2].

POST-DISCHARGE RECIDIVISM

Post-discharge recidivism refers to new adjudications and convictions that occur within the prescribed follow-up time period(s) *after* a youth has completed all treatment and services and is fully discharged from DYS supervision. DYS supervision includes time spent on parole; thus, the post-discharge follow-up time clock starts after all time on parole has ended. Every youth who is committed to DYS will eventually discharge from all DYS supervision. Post-discharge recidivism is the primary outcome measure utilized by juvenile justice agencies across the nation. It 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 appropriate and effective, and 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 only report a one-year post-discharge recidivism rate. In contrast, DYS tracks youth for three years post-discharge in order to determine whether they have remained crime-free. Tracking youth for three years

ⁱⁱⁱ Please see Appendix E on pages 58 - 59 for a list of DYS Terms and Definitions.

post-discharge provides a more rigorous and comprehensive longitudinal analysis of the overall paradigm of juvenile recidivism in Colorado, as well as the trajectory of outcomes over time.

METHODOLOGY

RECIDIVIST ACT DEFINED

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. Youth are deemed to be recidivists if they commit a new offense that results in a guilty finding for a misdemeanor or felony class charge (adjudication/conviction). Petty offenses are not considered to be recidivist acts, and traffic violations (not to be confused with traffic infractions), are only included in the analyses if they result in a misdemeanor or felony adjudication or conviction. 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.

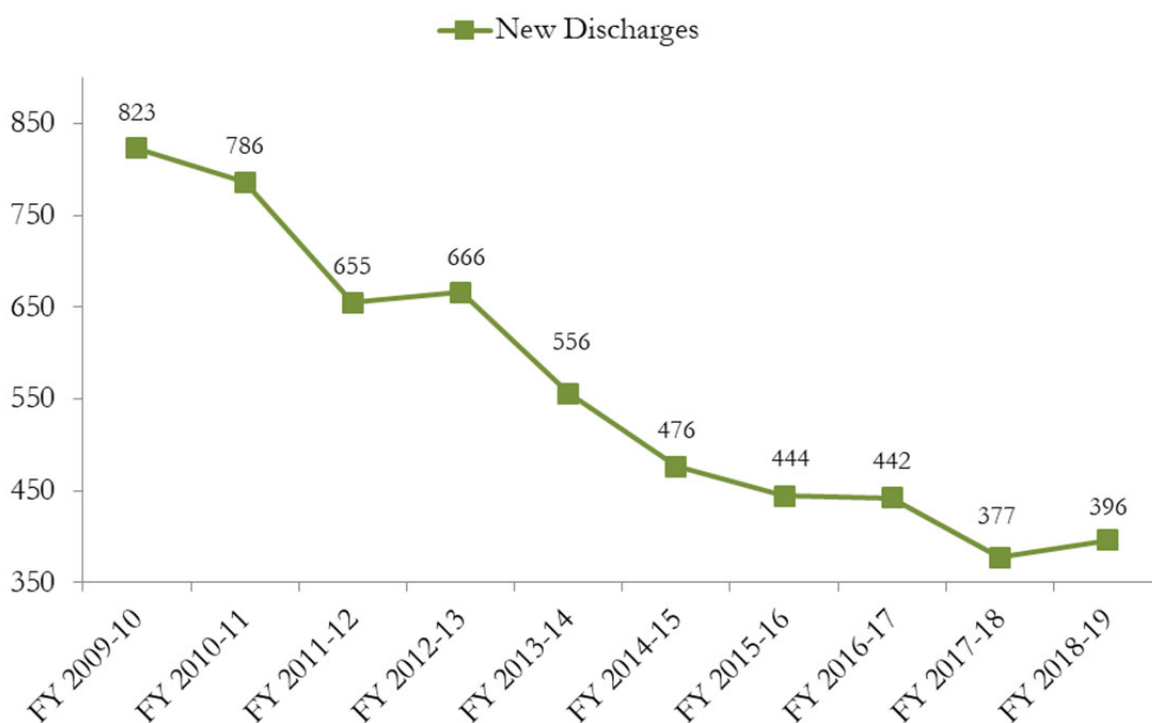
STUDY POPULATION

In FY 2018-19, three hundred ninety-six (396) youth discharged from DYS. These youth were observed for one year after discharge, and a one-year post-discharge recidivism rate was calculated. In FY 2017-18, three hundred seventy-seven (377) youth discharged from DYS. These youth were observed for two years after their discharge, and a two-year post-discharge recidivism rate was calculated. In FY 2016-17, four hundred forty-two (442) youth discharged from DYS. These youth were observed for three years following their discharge, and a three-year post-discharge recidivism rate was calculated. Official court records obtained from the Judicial Department and Denver County Court were used to identify all criminal filings with a finding of guilt for all three discharge cohorts.

An Analysis Cohort was created by first combining each of the *one-year post-discharge cohorts* from three Fiscal Years (FYs 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19) into a single, larger cohort (1,215). A total of 21 youth discharged in more than one FY contained within the Analysis Cohort due to consecutive DYS commitments, bringing the total of unique youth present in the Analysis Cohort to 1,194. Of these 21 youth with multiple commitments and discharges from DYS, 11 were excluded from the Analysis Cohort due to their dual recidivist and non-recidivist status. Specifically, these 11 youth committed a recidivist act within the one-year follow-up period of one of their discharges, but did not commit a recidivist act within the one-year post-discharge follow-up for another discharge from DYS. As these 11 youth can be simultaneously categorized as both recidivists and non-recidivists, their presence in statistical analyses would violate the assumptions of the tests performed to identify significant relationships. For the purposes of the demographic analyses, the remaining ten youth who discharged in more than one fiscal year but were exclusively either recidivists or non-recidivists in both one year post-discharge follow-up periods were retained in the Analysis Cohort, and were only counted once to avoid "double-counting" individual static characteristics (e.g.: sex, race/ethnicity, and age at first adjudication). Thus, the final total of unique youth included in the Analysis Cohort was 1,183. All of the analyses that

follow (excluding the analysis of chronicity and criminal desistance) were conducted on this Analysis Cohort as a means of minimizing the effects of a substantially shrinking population size. Over the past ten years, the population of youth discharged annually from DYS has declined from a high of 823 in FY 2009-10 to a low of 377 in FY 2017-18, a 56.1% reduction (see Figure 1). The number of discharged youth increased slightly for the first time in six years to a total of 396 youth in FY 2018-19. The decrease in population size over time 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 DYS special populations). Increasing the sample size is one accepted means of minimizing these challenges.

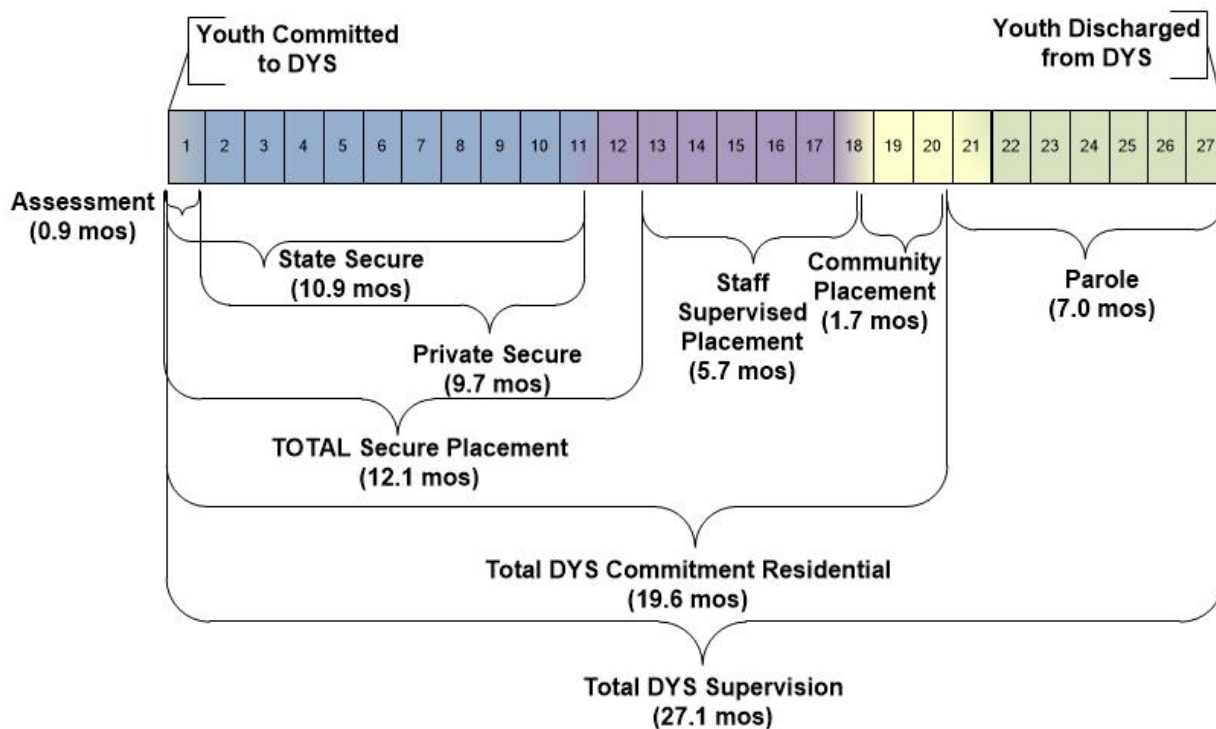
Figure 1: Ten-Year Discharge Population Trends



As Figure 2 illustrates, the average total length of DYS supervision for committed youth was 27.1 months in FY 2018-19. *This total commitment Length of Service (LOS-C&P) begins at the time of commitment to DYS and continues through the end of the parole period, when a youth is officially discharged and all DYS supervision ends.* Although youth spent an average of 19.6 months in residential placement (the sum of all residential placements while committed), *the average length of time spent in state secure youth centers is much shorter (12.1 months).*

Figure 2: DYS Timeline of Care

DYS Commitment Timeline (mos)



Monthly LOS are averages and vary based on individual youth cases.

STUDY DESIGN

A prospective quasi-experimental observational cohort study design with a longitudinal follow-up period measured at three distinct intervals was used in the current analysis. This approach allowed for non-intrusive observation of the natural progression of three cohorts of previously adjudicated delinquent youth in the community after they were discharged from DHS. The Division utilized court data from the Colorado State Judicial Department (Judicial) and Denver County Court (DCC) data to determine whether or not a youth had committed a recidivist act during the follow-up period(s) for each cohort.

Due to several safeguards related to confidentiality and data-sharing, the Division developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) specifically related to this annual study with both the Office of the State Court Administrator and the Denver County Court. These MOUs serve as a data-sharing agreement that grant DHS permission to utilize the adjudication/conviction information provided for purposes of identifying youth who recidivate.

RECORD MATCHING BETWEEN DYS AND JUDICIAL

Matching records provided by the Judicial Department to youth discharged from DYS is a difficult and labor-intensive process that is challenged by an inability of data systems across State agencies to “talk” to one another. In addition, typical matching techniques used in identifying adult offenders are simply not 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. Although DYS client managers ensure that the vast majority of youth discharge with these critical documents in-hand (state issued photo identification or driver’s license, social security number, birth certificate, etc.), these forms of identification are frequently absent from Judicial records. Thus, youth discharged from DYS must be matched to a multitude of Judicial filings using less straightforward means. For this study, youth were matched between these two data systems through a two-step process. This process is both automated and manual, utilizing DYS data for discharged youth during the time period of interest, and seven FYs of filings data provided to DYS by Judicial Department staff. Initially, youth are matched by DYS staff through an algorithm that compares elements of a youth’s name and date of birth. Next, any remaining youth who do not match are identified by hand until all discharged DYS youth are accounted for in the Judicial dataset. 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 are incorrectly matched together. As a fidelity measure, each youth’s commitment case is identified in the Judicial dataset, thus providing great confidence that all youth are being appropriately matched across systems.

RECORD MATCHING BETWEEN DYS AND DENVER COUNTY COURT

In a recent addition, the annual recidivism report now includes DCC data in order to identify adult misdemeanor recidivist acts that are processed through Denver County Court. As a part of the data sharing MOU developed to include these records, DCC performs all records matching between filings data and youth who have discharged from DYS. Upon completion of the matching process, DCC provides a completed list of discharged DYS youth with adult misdemeanor convictions in Denver County Court for inclusion in the analysis ($n = 41$ total youth between FY 2016-17 and 2018-19). Any questions regarding the methods used to perform this matching process should be directed toward DCC.

RECENT METHODOLOGY CHANGES

As mentioned previously, Colorado has experienced more than a decade of decline in the number of youth discharged from DYS (see Figure 1 on page 11). The decline in the number of youth discharged from the Division ($n = 396$ in FY 2018-19) places limitations on the type and quality of analyses that can be performed with confidence and accuracy. Specifically, the sample sizes within the one-, two-, and three-year cohorts examined annually have become so small that they call into question whether or not

sufficient statistical power can be generated to detect significant differences between groups. Given the challenges presented by the Division's shrinking population, significant changes were made to the research methods employed in the analyses with the goal of providing a scientifically rigorous means of addressing and ameliorating these challenges. The most significant change to the methodology was first implemented in the report produced on July 1, 2018, and involved creating a larger census for analysis. In order to obtain a larger census, the one-year post-discharge cohorts from the prior three fiscal years (FY 2016-17, FY 2017-18, and FY 2018-19) were combined into one, larger cohort of youth who were followed *for one year* for the analyses that follow. Increasing the sample size using this approach preserved the integrity of each cohort, while allowing for more meaningful comparisons both between and within groups. This larger cohort is referred to as the "Analysis Cohort" throughout the report.

In addition to the creation of the Analysis Cohort, the Division has pivoted the focus of the analysis of patterns of offending away from identifying a single, most serious recidivist act among discharged youth (who were followed for one year). Instead, the analyses regarding patterns of offending currently includes a more comprehensive measure that examines the *chronicity* of all recidivist acts and *time to criminal desistance* across the one-, two-, and three-year post-discharge cohorts (followed out to three years post-discharge, where applicable). The chronicity of recidivist acts refers to the number and frequency of all recidivist acts that occur over the time period of interest, while time to criminal desistance measures the length of time between discharge and each youth's last recidivist act. Expanding this portion of the analysis to include all recidivist acts committed out to three years post-discharge (rather than limiting the analyses to a single, most serious recidivist act) allows for a more rigorous and nuanced examination of trends in recidivism, and brings the report in-line with more current criminological research [1]. This is the third-annual report to examine chronicity and desistance.

As the new analysis of chronicity and criminal desistance examines all recidivist acts rather than a single, most serious act, all discharged youth in the one-, two-, and three-year post-discharge cohorts were re-matched to the filings data provided by the Judicial Department in September of 2020 to ensure that every filing with a finding of guilt was captured for the current report. Reports published in the previous two years utilized Judicial Department data that was pulled on or around July 15th annually. One limitation of this approach is that it is no longer possible to re-create the recidivism rates from prior years using the current data, as *the filings data provided in September of 2020 are more current and thus contain information that was not yet available in prior years*. In addition, recidivism rates will necessarily be higher using the more recent data than those reported in prior years, as more recidivist acts are detected using these new methods. For example, many filings that were "open" at the time the discharge cohorts were originally matched to the filings data in prior years (an arrest was made, charges were filed, but a formal finding of guilt or innocence was yet to be determined) will now have "closed" with a finding of guilt, and are considered to be recidivist acts. In this way, youth who were correctly identified as non-recidivists in the one-, two-, and three-year cohorts using the most current data available in prior years will now be correctly identified as recidivists within these same cohorts as a result of re-matching with more recent data. In contrast, the benefits of examining the chronicity and criminal desistance of

recidivist acts for trends and patterns of behavior outweigh the known limitations of re-matching youth to include all filings over the three cohorts of interest.

Finally, the current report marks the second year that *adult misdemeanors* filed in the Denver County Court System (DCC) were included in the analyses. DCC is the only county court system in the State whose data is not captured by the Judicial Department's data system, the source of the data used annually to measure juvenile recidivism in Colorado. Denver County adult *felony* convictions are processed by the Denver District Court, which is a part of the Judicial Department's data system, and *these convictions have always been included in the analyses.* Similarly, Denver Juvenile Court processes juvenile misdemeanor and felony adjudications, therefore *all juvenile adjudications from Denver have always been included in the analyses.* Many former DYS youth included in the multi-year follow-up periods are 18 years of age or older, and thus could have been convicted of a misdemeanor in DCC. In March of 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was reached with DCC regarding the sharing of adult misdemeanor conviction data with the Division, and this report marks the inaugural year these data were included in the annual report. The adult misdemeanor convictions filed in DCC were matched by DCC staff to the list of youth in the Analysis Cohort and these matched data were provided to the Division for use in the analyses that follow. The inclusion of adult misdemeanors filed in DCC allows for a more complete analysis of juvenile recidivism in Colorado, and eliminates a long-standing limitation to reports produced in previous years.

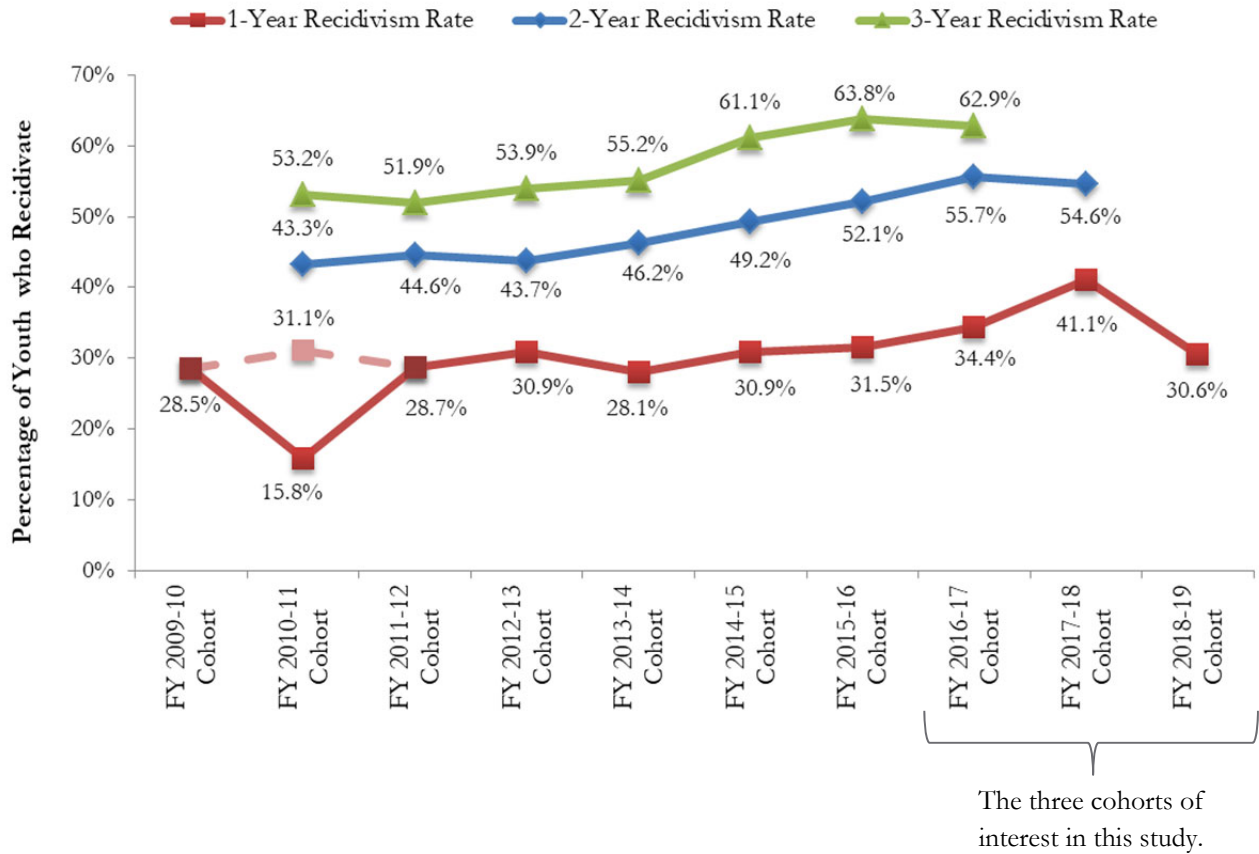
RECIDIVISM RATES

A decade (10 years) of recidivism rates are displayed in Figure 3. For the first time, the Division observed reductions in each of the one-, two-, and three-year recidivism rates, and the first observed reductions in any of the three rates in five years. The one-year post-discharge rate decreased from 41.1% for youth discharged in FY 2017-18 to 30.6% in the current study (a 10.5 percentage point decrease), and is the largest single-year decrease observed since the Division adopted the current definition of recidivism in 2013. This decrease also marks the lowest rate observed since FY13-14 (28.1%). Similarly, the two-year post-discharge recidivism rate declined from 55.7% for youth who discharged in FY 2016-17, to 54.6% in the current year, while the three-year post-discharge recidivism rate decreased from 63.8% to 62.9%.

The current one-year post-discharge rate of 30.6% is very close to the 10-year average rate of 31.6%. For over a decade, the one-year post-discharge recidivism rate has consistently averaged around 31%, with the exception of the data initially reported in FY 2010-11. The recidivism rate of 15.8% originally reported in FY 2010-11 was investigated and found to be a result of a data coding and retrieval error that failed to identify certain filings. The data were subsequently re-pulled from the Judicial system, and the actual one-year post-discharge recidivism rate of 31.1% was revealed. In the spirit of transparency, the rate originally published is preserved in Figure 3.

Two- and three-year post-discharge recidivism rates were initially introduced to the reports published in FY 2014 and FY 2015, respectively, for youth who discharged in FY 2010-11. The two-year post-discharge recidivism rate has averaged 48.7% over eight years of measurement, with a range of 43.3% to 55.7%. The three-year post-discharge recidivism rate averaged 57.4% over seven years of measurement, with a range of 51.9% to 63.8%. In summary, over half of committed youth are convicted or adjudicated on a new felony or misdemeanor offense within three years of discharging from the Division.

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



MULTI-YEAR RECIDIVISM RESULTS

The table that follows (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. Please 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 2018-19 cohort (N = 396)	30.6%	TBD*	TBD*
FY 2017-18 cohort (N = 377)	41.1%	54.6%	TBD*
FY 2016-17 cohort (N = 442)	34.4%	55.7%	62.9%

*Rates TBD; available in forthcoming reports

FY 2018-19 Cohort

The FY 2018-19 discharge cohort ($N = 396$) has currently been tracked for one year following discharge from DYS. The one-year recidivism rate for this cohort was 30.6%. The two- and three-year rates will be reported once the allotted two- and three-year time periods have concluded.

FY 2017-18 Cohort

The FY 2017-18 discharge cohort ($N = 377$) has been tracked for two years following discharge from DYS. The one- and two-year recidivism rates for this cohort were 41.1% and 54.6%, respectively. The three-year recidivism rate will be reported once the allotted three-year time period has concluded.

FY 2016-17 Cohort

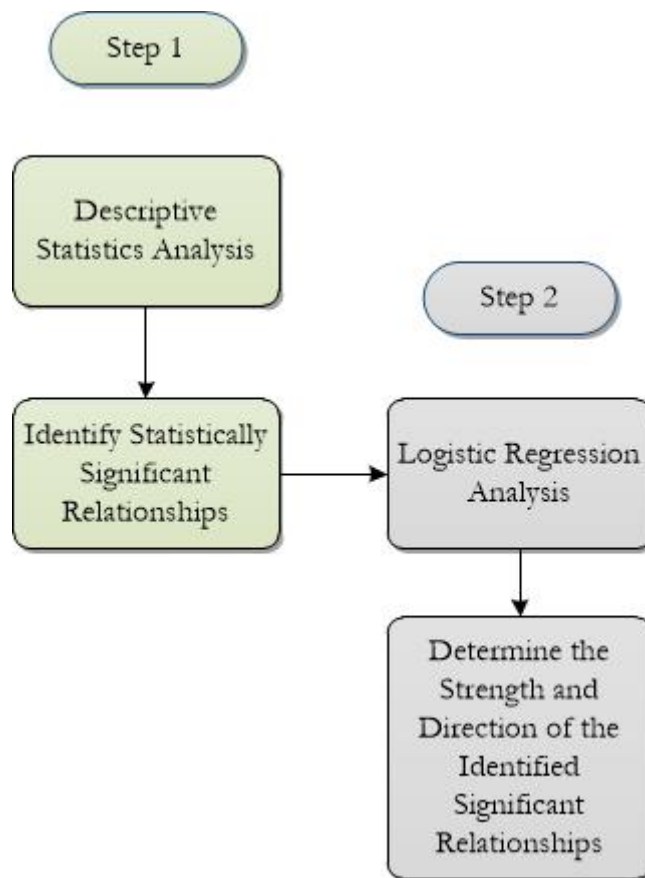
The FY 2016-17 discharge cohort ($N = 442$) has been tracked for three years following discharge from DYS. The one-, two-, and three-year recidivism rates for this cohort were 34.4%, 55.7%, and 62.9%, respectively.

RECIDIVISM ANALYSIS COHORT

Step 1: Descriptive Statistics Analysis

Conducting statistical analysis is a scientific process that must, like all science, adhere to a series of procedures or steps. Each of these steps is guided by the data, and the results of the analyses conducted within each step dictate what additional analyses can be conducted. Simply put, the analysis begins with basic tests of the relationships between a number of independent variables identified by the literature and larger body of juvenile justice research as contributing to recidivism (the dependent variable in this case: being a recidivist). Any variables found to have a significant relationship are thought to create a “model” for accurately predicting an outcome (being a recidivist) based on the data. Next, this model is subjected to more sophisticated analyses in order to test the *strength* and *direction* of any relationships previously identified as being statistically significant (See Figure 4).

Figure 4: Statistical Analysis Steps



Step 1: Descriptive Statistics Analysis

The table that follows (Table 2) details some basic descriptive differences between youth who recidivated and youth who did not recidivate within one year of discharge (FYs 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 discharge cohorts combined into one, larger Analysis Cohort). **Only those youth demographics which demonstrated differences that were statistically significant are displayed in Table 2.** For detailed information on some of the non-significant demographics examined, please refer to Table 3 and Appendix B. Please note that due to rounding, data presented in tables and figures may not sum to 100% throughout the report.

Table 2: Demographic Differences between Non-Recidivists and Recidivists (Analysis Cohort)

	Non-Recidivists		Recidivists		<i>p</i> -value ¹	Effect Size ²	% of Total
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%			
Total (<i>N</i> = 1,183)^{3,4}	725	100%	458	100%			100%
1. Gender							
Male	599	59.6%	406	40.4%	0.005	0.1 (small)	85.0%
Female	126	70.8%	52	29.2%			15.0%
2. Number of Escapes⁵							
None	327	45.1%	143	31.2%	< 0.000	0.1 (small)	39.7%
One or more	398	54.9%	315	68.8%			60.3%
3. Mean Age at First Adjudication							
	15.0		14.8		0.043	N/A	14.9
4. Prior Number of Adjudications							
None	221	30.5%	97	21.2%	< 0.000	0.1 (small)	26.9%
One or more	504	69.5%	361	78.8%			73.1%
5. Parole Rating at Discharge^{6,7}							
Poor to Unsatisfactory	263	39.6%	264	61.0%	< 0.000	-0.2 (small)	48.0%
Satisfactory to Excellent	401	60.4%	169	39.0%			52.0%
6. VRA Commitment Offense							
Non-VRA Offense	376	51.9%	267	58.3%	0.031	N/A	54.4%
VRA Offense	349	48.1%	191	41.7%			45.6%
7. Region							
Central	283	61.5%	177	38.5%	0.002	0.1 (small)	38.9%
Northeast	207	59.7%	140	40.3%			29.3%
Southern	168	69.4%	74	30.6%			20.5%
Western	67	50.0%	67	50.0%			11.3%

(Table continued on following page)

Table 2 (continued): Demographic Differences between Non-Recidivists and Recidivists (Analysis Cohort)

	Non Recidivists		Recidivists		<i>p</i> -value ¹	Effect Size ²	% of Total
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%			
8. Secure Need Factors							
Zero-2 Secure Need Factors	354	49.4%	199	43.4%	0.045	0.1 (small)	47.1%
More than 2 secure Need Factors	362	50.6%	259	56.6%			52.9%
9. Program at Discharge							
No Program	232	32.0%	183	40.0%	0.005	-0.1 (small)	35.1%
Program in Place	493	68.0%	275	60.0%			64.9%
10. Number of Parole Revocations⁷							
Zero	562	84.6%	307	70.9%	< 0.000	0.2 (small)	79.2%
One or More	102	15.4%	126	29.1%			20.8%
11. Commitment Offense Category							
Felony	437	60.3%	249	54.4%	0.045	0.1 (small)	58.0%
Misdemeanor	288	39.7%	209	45.6%			42.0%
12. Number of Recommitments							
No Recommitments	501	69.1%	291	63.5%	0.047	0.1 (small)	66.9%
One or More Recommitments	224	30.9%	167	36.5%			33.1%

¹ $p < 0.05$ (indicates a statistically significant difference between recidivists and non-recidivists).

² An effect size is considered large at 0.5, medium at 0.3, small at 0.1, and weak when below 0.1.

³ Twenty-one youth had more than one discharge date due to consecutive sentences, new commitments, etc. Of these 21 youth, ten were found to be exclusively identified as either a recidivist or a non-recidivist in both discharge years, thus sustaining the assumptions of the tests of statistical significance employed. For the purposes of the demographic analyses, these ten youth were only counted once within the demographics analyses to avoid "double-counting" individual characteristics of recidivists and non-recidivists.

⁴ Eleven of the twenty-one youth who discharged in multiple FYs were excluded from the analysis cohort due to their dual recidivist and non-recidivist status in different discharge years, which violates the assumptions of the tests of statistical significance employed.

⁵ An escape, for the purposes of this study, is defined as a period of time when a youth absconds from a commitment facility, a community placement, or from parole for four hours or longer without permission.

⁶ The Parole Discharge Rating is the level at which the dietic manager determines the youth to be at discharge in regard to parole compliance, which is based on pre-determined criteria.

⁷ Includes youth who went on parole. A total of 86 youth did not go on parole and were excluded from the analyses.

While Table 2 provides detailed information regarding those demographics found to have a significant relationship with recidivist status, it does not represent the total number of demographics examined. A brief overview of some of the demographics examined is provided in Table 3. Each year, a wide variety of demographic variables are examined for possible significant relationships, including those of interest to current policies, initiatives, etc. In the current report, these included *but were not limited to*: the total amount of time youth spent in placements away from their homes or communities (length of service in residential placements), length of service on parole, the commitment offense type, the number of parole

revocations, sex offender status, and whether or not a youth was assessed with either a mental health or a co-occurring disorder at commitment (co-occurring disorder indicates both a mental health and a substance abuse treatment need). None of these variables, nor any of the many additional variables examined, were found to have a significant relationship with recidivist status, or the distribution between groups was too unequal to continue.

Table 3: Demographic Variables Examined for Non-Recidivists and Recidivists (Analysis Cohort)

Differences between Recidivists and Non-Recidivists ¹		
Variables	Significant?	
Gender	Yes	✓
Number of Escapes	Yes	✓
Mean Age at First Adjudication	Yes	✓
Prior Number of Adjudications	Yes	✓
Parole Rating at Discharge	Yes	✓
VRA Commitment Offense	Yes	✓
Region	Yes	✓
Secure Need Factors	Yes	✓
Program at Discharge	Yes	✓
Number of Parole Revocations	Yes	✓
DYS Committing Offense Charge (felony or misdemeanor)	Yes	✓
Number of Recommitments	Yes	✓
Age at Discharge	No	✗
Age at Commitment	No	✗
Length of Service Total Residential Placements	No	✗
Length of Service Parole	No	✗
CJRA Overall Risk Level at Discharge	No	✗
Ethnicity Recoded into 4 Categories	No	✗
Minority/Non-Minority Ethnicity	No	✗
Commitment Offense Type (person, property, or other)	No	✗
Assessed Substance Abuse Treatment Needs	No	✗
Assessed Mental Health Treatment Needs	No	✗
Assessed Co-Occurring Treatment Needs	No	✗

¹ Additional variables were examined for analysis, but were not tested as the distribution of data between groups was too unequal to continue.

Summary of Descriptive Analyses

Demographic Differences Found between Recidivists & Non-Recidivists

An extensive analysis of potentially differential demographic characteristics (variables) was conducted in order to determine which traits best characterized youth who recidivated. In other words, the analysis

that follows attempts to define, in very general terms, significant associations between characteristics identified by the literature to be linked to youth who recidivate when compared to youth who did not recidivate. Generally speaking, an effect size is a statistical tool used with certain tests to illustrate practical or meaningful differences observed, and can be thought of as a measurement of the *amount of impact* an independent variable (youth characteristic) has on a dependent variable (being a recidivist). The 12 characteristics that generated significant findings are shown in Table 2 and are summarized below.

1. Gender

The overwhelming majority of youth in the Analysis Cohort were male (85%), and males have consistently remained around 85% of the DYS population for many years. When examined by gender, the recidivism rate was higher among males (40.4%; $n = 406$) than females (29.2%; $n = 52$). The relationship between gender and recidivism was statistically significant with a small effect size (Phi) ($p = 0.005$; $\Phi = 0.1$). The recidivism rates for both males and females declined from FY 2017-18 (43.4% and 31.5%, respectively). It should be noted that the number of female recidivists in the analysis sample remained very small, despite aggregating three years of one-year cohort data ($n = 52$). This very small sample size excluded the possibility of performing additional within-groups analyses comparing female recidivists to their male counterparts.

2. 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 community placement, or from parole for four hours or longer without permission. More than half (60.3%) of all youth in the Analysis Cohort had an escape at some point prior to discharge. A larger percentage of recidivists (68.8%) had one or more escapes compared to non-recidivists (54.9%). The relationship between having a history of escapes while committed to DYS and recidivism was statistically significant, though the effect size was small ($p < 0.000$, $\Phi = 0.1$).

3. Mean Age at First Adjudication

The average age at which youth in the Analysis Cohort were first adjudicated for a delinquent offense was 14.9 years. Recidivists were younger (14.8 years) than their non-recidivist counterparts (15.0 years), and the relationship of age at first adjudication and being a recidivist was significant ($p = 0.043$). This finding is consistent with the literature on juvenile delinquency, which finds that the likelihood of becoming an adult offender is greater among youth who demonstrate an early onset of criminality, are chronic delinquents, and commit violent offenses [1] [3] [4].

4. Prior Number of Adjudications

The majority of youth in the Analysis Cohort had one or more prior adjudications (73.1%). There were fewer recidivists with zero prior adjudications (21.2%) compared to non-recidivists (30.5%), and a larger number of recidivists with one or more prior adjudications (78.8%) compared to non-recidivists

(69.5%). This relationship was statistically significant with a small effect size ($p < 0.000$, $\Phi = 0.1$). Generally speaking, youth with multiple prior adjudications may possess a tolerance or acceptance for a deviant life course or trajectory, which would be consistent with behaviors associated with recidivism, and prior justice system involvement has been found to be predictive of future involvement [1] [3].

5. Parole Rating at Discharge

The Parole Rating at discharge is the level at which the client manager determines the youth to be in regard to parole compliance at discharge (based on pre-determined criteria), with a “Satisfactory” or “Excellent” rating indicating a smooth and successful transition back into the community while on parole. A total of 86 youth did not go on parole prior to discharge and were excluded from the analyses. Some youth may discharge directly to adult corrections, turn 21 prior to parole being granted, be deported, have their sentence terminated by the court, etc. The goal of the Division is that each youth earns either a Satisfactory or Excellent parole rating at discharge. Unfortunately, some youth ultimately discharge from parole with a Poor or Unsatisfactory rating (48.0% in the Analysis Cohort). A Poor or Unsatisfactory parole rating at discharge indicates a high level of non-compliance while on parole; however, the Division relinquishes all supervision and authority over youth once the parole sentence has been served and youth are discharged from the Division.

A closer look at the youth with a Poor to Unsatisfactory rating revealed that recidivists comprised a larger percentage (61.0%) compared to non-recidivists (39.6%), a significant relationship with a small effect size ($p < 0.000$; $\Phi = -0.2$). Conversely, recidivists represented a smaller percentage of youth earning either a Satisfactory or Excellent rating compared to non-recidivists. While 60.4% of non-recidivists earned a Satisfactory or Excellent parole rating, only 39.0% of recidivists earned this same rating.

6. VRA Commitment Offense

Crimes that fall under Colorado’s Victim Rights Act (VRA) can generally be thought of as crimes committed against persons, and typically include specific victims. Examples of these types of crimes include but are not limited to: homicide, assault, sexual assault, kidnapping, and robbery. Please see Appendix C for a complete list of crimes that fall under the Victim Rights Act. The majority of youth in the Analysis Cohort were not committed to DYS for a VRA crime (54.4%), with 45.6% committed for a VRA crime. A smaller percentage of recidivists were committed to DYS for VRA crime (41.7%) compared to non-recidivists (48.1%), a significant relationship ($p = 0.031$). This finding aligns with the literature on offenders who commit property crimes (which do not fall under the VRA) being more likely to recidivate, when compared to offenders who commit crimes against persons [5]. This finding may be counterintuitive to some readers.

7. Region

Colorado is divided into four distinct Regions for purposes of managing client commitment and parole cases in addition to staff organization and oversight: Central, Northeast, Southern, and Western (please

see Appendix D for a detailed map), and represent the area of the state in which youth are served. Like many states, Colorado's youth population varies across the state, and fluctuations in population size, attributes, and resources can drive changes in recidivism rates between Regions. The largest number of youth in the Analysis Cohort fall under the Central and Northeast Regions. Best practices recommend that juvenile offenders are placed and receive services within or close to their home communities, and the Division prioritizes placements based on proximity to family, community or other pro-social supports, as well as assessed treatment needs. When recidivism rates were examined by Region, significant differences emerged. The Southern Region had the lowest recidivism rate of 30.6% and served 20.5% of the population. The Central Region had a recidivism rate of 38.5% and served the largest percentage of the population (38.9%). The Northeast Region had a recidivism rate of 40.3% and served 29.3% of the population, while the Western Region had a recidivism rate of 50% and served the smallest percentage of the population (11.3%). These differences were statistically significant, with a small effect size ($p = 0.002$, $\Phi = 0.1$). Examining Regional differences is a complex and nuanced process; fluctuations in population size, as well as inherent differences in youth demographics, and types of opportunities for offending and apprehension can and do vary across the state. Each of these factors (among others) can drive changes in recidivism rates between Regions, and all outcomes should be interpreted with extreme caution.

8. Secure Need Factors

The majority of youth in the Analysis Cohort had more than two secure need factors (52.9%). Secure need factors refer to certain youth characteristics identified during the DYS assessment process that indicate a need for placement in a secure youth center. Specifically, these secure need factors include scoring in the secure need range on the Commitment Security Level Determination Matrix administered during assessment, having a special sentence (e.g.: aggravated, violent, or repeat offender), having more than one recommitment, having a history of more than two out-of-home placements, and having a history of one or more escapes. The large percentage of youth with a need for secure placement is important to consider, especially in conjunction with the significant decline in the population of youth committed to DYS. While the Division has noted an overall decline in the number of youth committed over the past decade, the number of committed youth who are assessed to require a secure placement has increased. This increase reflects statewide efforts to divert low-risk and low-level juvenile offenders toward alternatives to incarceration. There was a larger percentage of recidivists with more than two secure need factors (56.6%) compared to their non-recidivist counterparts (50.6%), and a smaller percentage of recidivists with zero to 2 secure need factors (43.4%) compared to non-recidivists (49.4%). This relationship was statistically significant, and the strength of the relationship (e.g.: effect size) was small ($p = 0.045$; $\Phi = 0.1$).

9. Program at Discharge

It is the Division's goal to have every youth engaged in either a full- or part-time program at discharge. A youth is considered to have a program in place at discharge if they are either employed, enrolled in school or vocational training, performing community service, parenting, or have other consistent pro-social responsibilities in place. Nearly two-thirds of the youth in the Analysis Cohort had a program in

place at discharge (64.9%). A larger percentage of non-recidivists had a program in place at discharge (68.0%; $n = 493$) compared to recidivists (60.0%; $n = 275$), a significant relationship with a small effect size ($p = 0.005$, $\Phi = -0.1$).

10. Number of Parole Revocations

Juvenile offenders in Colorado have a mandatory minimum parole length of six months. Parole refers to the status of an offender conditionally released from a residential placement at the discretion of the Juvenile Parole Board (JPB). The Colorado JPB is established as a Type-1 transfer board and requires gubernatorial appointment. All rendering of findings during juvenile parole hearings are formed independently from the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services. While on parole, each youth is under the supervision of a parole officer (formerly his or her client manager) and is required to observe the conditions of release set by the Juvenile Parole Board. Parole revocation is an administrative action of the Juvenile Parole Board that removes a youth from parole status in response to a violation of the lawfully required conditions of parole, including the prohibition against the commission of a new offense. A total of 86 youth did not go on parole prior to discharge. Please refer back to Parole Rating at Discharge (#5 in this list) for details on circumstances in which youth might not be paroled. The majority of youth in the Analysis Cohort had zero parole revocations (79.2%). A larger percentage of recidivists had one or more parole revocations (29.1%) compared to non-recidivists (15.4%), a significant relationship with a small effect size ($p < 0.000$, $\Phi = 0.2$).

11. Commitment Offense Category

Generally speaking, youth are committed to DYS for two categories of offenses: felonies, which are considered to be the most severe and often carry more serious consequences, and misdemeanors, which are typically considered to be less severe. The majority of youth in the Analysis Cohort were committed for a felony offense (58.0%). A larger number of non-recidivists were committed for a felony offense (60.3%), compared to recidivists (54.4%), a difference that was statistically significant with a small effect size ($p < 0.045$; $\Phi = 0.1$).

12. Number of Recommitments

The Colorado statute and sentencing requirements make a legal distinction between youth who receive a new commitment to DYS and those who are recommitted to DYS. While these two terms sound similar, they have distinct differences. Commitments are dispositions of juvenile cases resulting in the transfer of legal custody to the Department of Human Services by the court as a result of an adjudicatory hearing on charges of delinquent acts. New commitments are the result of these adjudicatory hearings for youth who are not already committed or is serving their mandatory parole sentence. Conversely, a recommitment corresponds to youth already committed to DYS and serving a commitment sentence and/or released early onto commitment parole who are adjudicated for offenses that occur while still under DYS supervision (prior to discharge). These new charges can result in a recommitment for offenses that occur in a residential placement (such as an assault or an escape), or while in the community on parole (such as theft, robbery, or possession of illicit substances). Nearly

two-thirds of the youth in the Analysis Cohort had no recommitments (66.9%). A larger percentage of recidivists had one or more recommitment (36.5%) compared to non-recidivists (30.9%). This relationship was statistically significant ($p = 0.047$), and the strength of the relationship was small ($\Phi = 0.1$).

Step 2: Logistic Regression Analysis

Logistic regression analysis is a statistical modeling technique that seeks to quantify the degree to which two groups are different based on the characteristics identified during the initial descriptive analysis (step 1). While the initial analysis examined whether or not a significant relationship exists between those characteristics of youth who recidivate and youth who do not recidivate, the analysis that follows attempts to demonstrate the strength and direction of the observed differences. The results of the logistic regression estimate the probability of an event (being a recidivist) occurring, and can be interpreted as the odds of a youth in the population being a recidivist based on the variables present in the model.

A binomial logistic regression model was fit for the 12 variables found to be predictive of recidivism in the descriptive analysis (step 1) in an effort to determine which youth characteristics had the most influence on recidivism when all other variables were held constant. The results of this type of analysis are interpreted in terms of probability using an odds ratio (OR). The greater the odds ratio, the more likely an individual with a particular characteristic is to be a recidivist when taking into account other possible factors. Conversely, the smaller the odds ratio, the less likely an individual with a particular characteristic is to be a recidivist.

Summary of the Logistic Regression

Which Characteristics Were MOST Predictive of Recidivism? (Presented as Odds Ratios)

There were 1,183 youth in the Analysis Cohort, with 458 re-offending (recidivating) within the one-year follow-up period (38.7%). In the analyses that follow, two variables in the model that were found to have a significant relationship with being a recidivist included *only those youth who actually went on parole*: Parole Rating at Discharge, and Parole Revocations ($n = 1,097$). Please see Parole Rating at Discharge on page 24 for a detailed description of youth who do not go on parole. Thus, the sample size for the analyses that follow was 1,097, or 92.7% of the total number of unique youth in the Analysis Cohort. A binomial logistic regression model was created that included each of the 12 individual-level characteristics found to be significant among recidivists described in the previous section: gender, number of escapes, average age at first adjudication, number of prior adjudications, parole rating at discharge, being committed for a VRA offense, Region, number of secure need factors, having a

program in place at discharge, number of parole revocations, commitment offense category, and number of recommitments^{iv}. The 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, 6 of the 12 variables (parole rating at discharge, gender, parole revocations, Region, the number of prior adjudications, and VRA commitment offense) were found to be predictive of recidivism (see Table 4). The significant findings are reported in the pages that follow.

Table 4: Characteristics Predictive of Recidivism (Presented as Odds Ratios)

Characteristics Predictive of Recidivism		
	Recidivists	Odds Ratio*
Parole Rating at Discharge	Poor or Unsatisfactory	2.2
Gender	Male	1.9
Parole Revocations	One or Two	1.6
Region (compared to the most populous Central Region)	Southern Region	-1.5
	Western Region	1.5
Prior Adjudications	One or More Prior Adjudications	1.4
VRA Commitment Offense	VRA Offense	-1.3

*The Odds Ratio represents the odds that an outcome (being a recidivist) will occur given the presence of certain characteristics.

PAROLE RATING AT DISCHARGE

The odds of being a recidivist for youth who discharged with a Satisfactory or Excellent parole rating were 2.2 times lower compared to youth with a Poor or Unsatisfactory rating, controlling for all other variables.^{vi} As is consistent with the results of prior reports and analyses, youth who discharged with either a Satisfactory or Excellent parole rating at discharge had lower odds of being a recidivist compared to youth with a Poor or Unsatisfactory parole rating at discharge. Earning a Satisfactory or Excellent parole rating indicates a higher level of compliance with the conditions of parole, many of which are identified protective factors for juvenile delinquency, such as regular school attendance, avoiding antisocial or criminally involved peers, abstaining from alcohol and other illicit substances, regular employment, and participation in pro-social activities [1]. A Satisfactory or Excellent parole rating also indicates a more successful reintegration and transition back into the community.

^{iv} There was one studentized residual with values greater than two standard deviations kept in the analysis.

^v Linearity of the continuous variable with respect to the logit of the dependent variable was assessed via the Box-Tidwell procedure. A Bonferroni correction was applied using all 17 terms in the model resulting in statistical significance being accepted when $p < .0029$. Based on this assessment, the continuous independent variable was found to be linearly related to the logit of the dependent variable.

^{vi} Satisfactory or Excellent parole rating at discharge compared to Poor or Unsatisfactory: OR = 2.2, CI: 1.6-3.2, $p < 0.000$.

GENDER

In the Analysis Cohort, the odds of being a recidivist were 1.9 times greater for males compared to females, controlling for all other variables. 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 [6] [7] [8].^{vii}

PAROLE REVOCATIONS

For youth with one or two parole revocations, the odds of being a recidivist were 1.6 times greater compared to youth with zero parole revocations, controlling for all other variables. When considered in conjunction with the observed outcomes for youth with Satisfactory or Excellent parole ratings at discharge, youth success and compliance while on parole appears to have a significant impact on whether or not they are identified as a recidivist in the Analysis Cohort. With this in mind, DYS has extensive parole services in place, which include individualized parole plans, direct supervision with a client manager who serves as a liaison between community resources and youth/families, treatment services, and community based services. DYS has also implemented a Parole Practice Framework that allow for targeted responses (e.g.: services, interventions, incentives, and privileges) to youth behaviors exhibited while on parole. This Framework allows for monitoring youth success and compliance while on parole, and includes a menu of responses that correspond to both violation and pro-social behaviors. The Framework includes a series of graduated responses, and standardizes the expectations of parolee behavior, while conforming to best practices for long-term behavior change.^{viii}

REGION

The Central Region serves the largest population of committed youth Statewide ($n = 460$ youth in the Analysis Cohort), and was therefore used as a reference category for the remaining three (3) Regions (Northeast, Southern, and Western). Compared to youth served in the Central Region, youth served in the Southern Region ($n = 242$) demonstrated a 1.5 times reduction in the likelihood of being a recidivist, controlling for all other variables. Conversely, youth served in the Western Region ($n = 134$) had 1.5 times the odds of being a recidivist holding all other variables constant. The relationship between the Central and Northeast Region was non-significant.^{ix}

Like many states, Colorado's youth population in terms of race or ethnicity, offense-specific considerations, and percent urban or rural vary geographically. The youth population varies in terms of demographics between these Regions, and fluctuations in population size, attributes, and resources can

^{vii} Males: OR = 1.86, 95% Confidence Interval (CI): 1.3-2.7, $p = 0.001$.

^{viii} Parole revocations: 1 or 2 revocations: OR = 1.6, CI: 1.1-2.2, $p = 0.011$

^{ix} Compared to the Central Region: Southern OR = 1.5, CI: 1.05-2.16, $p = 0.027$; Western OR = 1.5. CI 1.0-2.3, $p = 0.048$

drive changes in recidivism rates between Regions. In addition, the types of and opportunities to commit certain offenses vary by Region, as does the number and frequency of police contacts or presence. Thus, Regional differences should be interpreted with extreme caution.

NUMBER OF PRIOR ADJUDICATIONS

Youth with a larger number of prior adjudications had increased odds of being a recidivist compared to youth with zero prior adjudications. Among youth with one or more prior adjudications, the odds of being a recidivist increased by a factor of 1.4 compared to youth with zero prior adjudications, controlling for all other variables.^x Again, this variable speaks to prior justice system involvement and its general tie to future criminal behavior.

VRA COMMITMENT OFFENSE

Youth who were committed for an offence that falls under the Victim Rights Act demonstrated a 1.3 times reduction in the likelihood of being a recidivist compared to youth who were not committed for a VRA offense, holding all other variables constant. Although this finding may be counterintuitive to some readers, it does align with the literature, which has found that offenders who commit property crimes (which do not fall under the VRA) are more likely to recidivate, when compared to offenders who commit crimes against persons [5].^{xi}

Which Characteristics Were Non-Predictive?

When controlling for all other variables, the following characteristics were non-predictive (see Table 5):

- Escapes (while committed)
- Age at first adjudication
- Number of secure need factors
- Having a program in place at discharge
- Commitment offense category (felony or misdemeanor)
- Number of Recommitments

^x Number of prior adjudications: 1 or more adjudications: OR = 1.4, CI: 1.0-2.0, $p = 0.025$.

^{xi} Non-VRA commitment offense: OR = 1.3, CI: 1.0-1.7, $p = 0.043$.

Table 5: Characteristics Not Found to Be Predictive of Recidivism

Characteristics Not Found to Be Predictive of Recidivism	
Escapes (while committed)	Not Predictive
Age at First Adjudication	Not Predictive
Secure Need Factors	Not Predictive
Program in Place at Discharge	Not Predictive
Commitment Offense Category (felony or misdemeanor)	Not Predictive
Number of Recommitments	Not Predictive

A Note on Males vs. Females

Given the small number of females ($n = 178$ total, $n = 52$ recidivists) in the Analysis Cohort, it was not possible to draw additional meaningful predictive comparisons between male and female recidivists and other variables (such as offense type or class, race or ethnicity, etc.), even after aggregating three years of the one-year post-discharge cohorts into one, larger cohort. In general, descriptive terms, females comprised 15% of the total one-year post-discharge population (males = 85%), and had a recidivism rate of 29.2% compared to males who had a recidivism rate of 40.4%.

OFFENSE TYPES

VRA AND OTHER CRIMES

This section of the analysis focuses exclusively on recidivists, and examines both the commitment offense (the offense that resulted in a DYS sentence) as well as the associated recidivist act(s). All recidivists in the one-, two-, and three-year cohorts were included in the analysis, for a total of 581 unique recidivists.^{xiii} Collectively, the 581 unique recidivists in the three discharge cohorts were either adjudicated or convicted for 1,718 recidivist acts over the follow-up periods, or roughly 3 recidivist acts per recidivist ($\mu = 2.9$). Among recidivists, 71% ($n = 414$) committed three or fewer recidivist acts, while a handful of outliers ($n = 9$) committed 10 or more recidivist acts. Further investigation into those recidivists with a large number of recidivist acts revealed a pattern in which most of these youth committed more severe offenses (e.g.: a string of aggravated robberies, violent assaults, murder, controlled substance offenses, aggravated felonies and weapons offenses, etc.) which resulted in a large number of same-day filings for a single court case number (18 same-day filings is the largest outlier). Fortunately, these nine (9) outliers represent just 1.5% of recidivists, and fewer than 1% of all youth who discharged from DYS between FY 2016-17 and FY 2018-19.

Type of Commitment Offenses vs. Recidivist Offenses

The following analysis examines the type of offense for which a youth was committed to DYS and compares it to the recidivist offense(s) that occurred during the follow-up periods. The types of offenses examined delineate between those that fall under the VRA, and other felonies and misdemeanors.

Of the 581 *recidivists* in the three discharge cohorts followed for one, two, and three years post-discharge, the majority were originally sentenced to DYS on felony adjudications: 56.5% felony vs. 43.5% misdemeanor (see Figure 5). Of these same commitment offenses, the majority were crimes that did not fall under the VRA (58.7%; $n = 341$), while 41.3% ($n = 240$) were VRA offenses (see Figure 6). This finding is consistent with those described in previous reports, where property crimes (which do not fall under the VRA) were consistently found to be the most common commitment offense.

^{xiii} The recidivists analyzed in this section are not the same as those in the Analysis Cohort presented in previous sections. The analysis in this section includes all youth identified as recidivists in the one-, two-, and three-year post discharge cohorts, and follows them for *one, two, and three years post-discharge*, respectively. The Analysis Cohort follows all youth who discharged from the Division over three Fiscal Years for *one year post-discharge*, and does not follow youth out to three years post discharge. Thus, data presented in this section will not match previously presented data as it was drawn from a different data set and covered a different period of time. There were four recidivist youth who discharged in more than one year. For these youth, only their most recent commitment and subsequent discharge were included in the analysis.

Figure 5: Commitment Offense for Recidivists: Felonies and Misdemeanors (N= 581)

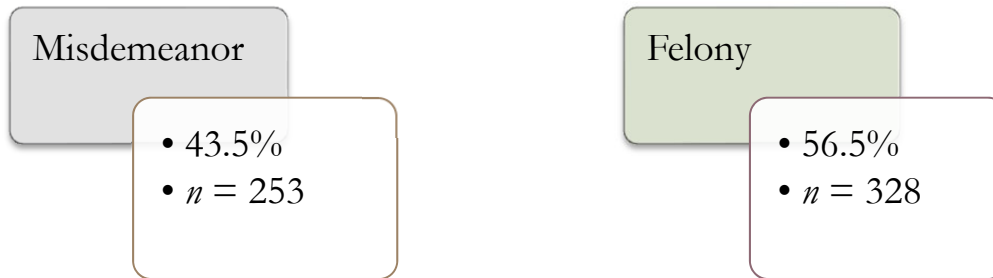
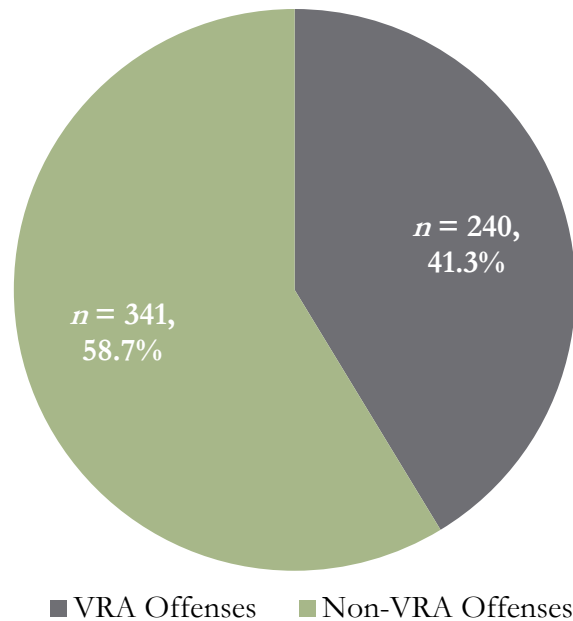


Figure 6: Commitment Offense for Recidivists: VRA and Other Offenses (N= 581)



A further examination of non-VRA commitment offenses ($n = 341$) revealed that the majority (60.1%, $n = 205$) were felony offenses (see Figure 7). Looking specifically at those 240 commitment offenses that fell under the VRA, a slight majority (51.2%) were felonies compared to misdemeanors (48.8%) (see Figure 8).

Figure 7: Commitment Offense for Recidivists: Non-VRA Offenses ($N = 341$)

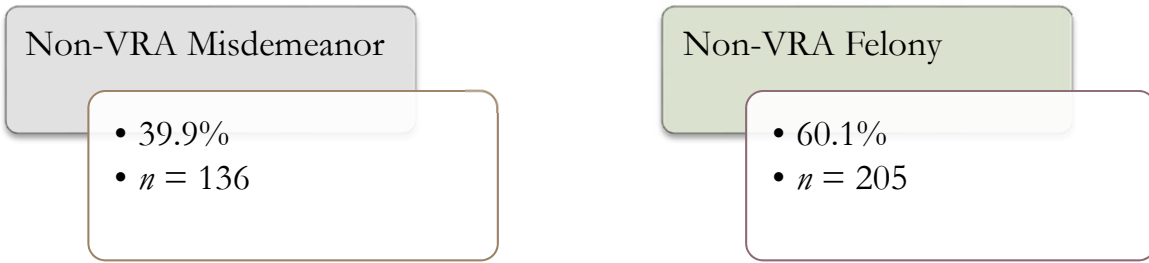
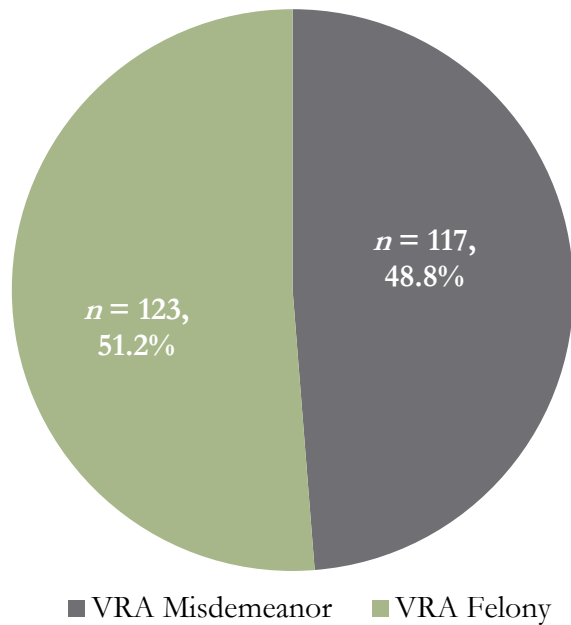


Figure 8: VRA Commitment Offense for Recidivists ($N = 240$)



A single commitment offense was examined for all youth in this report, while recidivists can and do commit multiple recidivist acts. Thus, the number of recidivist acts reported in this section ($n = 1,718$) will naturally be greater than the number of commitment offenses in each category examined. Contrary to what was observed with commitment offenses, the majority of recidivist acts committed over each of the follow-up time periods were misdemeanors (52.9%) compared to felonies (47.1%) (see Figure 9). This finding represents a positive outcome for the Division; among youth who recidivate, the majority reoffend with less serious crimes than their commitment offenses. Generally speaking, misdemeanors are considered to be less serious offenses than felonies.

Among youth who reoffend, the majority of recidivist acts (52.9% misdemeanors) were less serious than commitment offenses (56.5% felonies).

Relatively few recidivist acts were crimes that fell under the VRA (26.0%), with nearly three-quarters (74.0 %) of all recidivist acts being non-VRA offenses (see Figure 10). Looking at those 1,272 recidivist acts that did not fall under the VRA, the majority were misdemeanors (57.0%) compared to felonies (43.0%) (see Figure 11).

Figure 9: Recidivist Acts (N= 1,718)

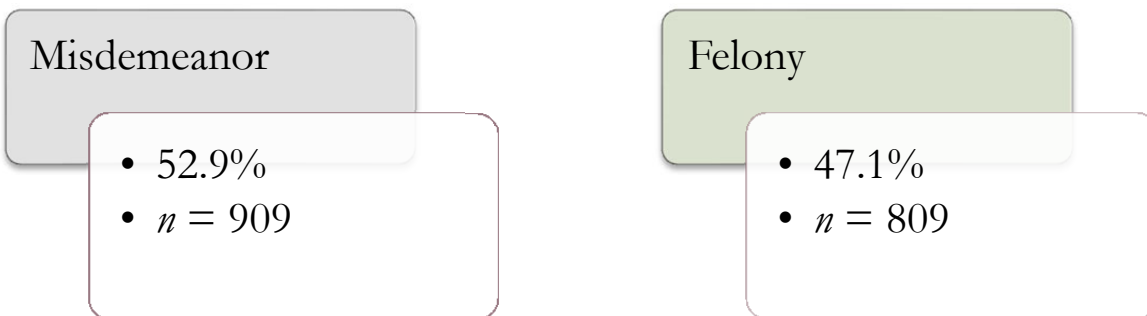


Figure 10: Recidivist Acts: VRA and Other Offenses (N= 1,718)

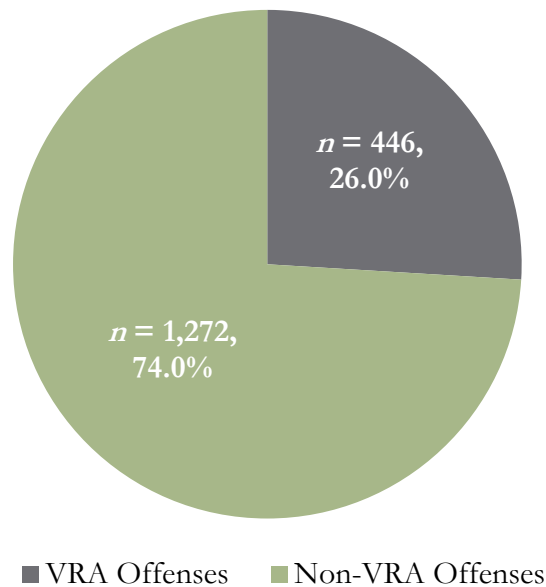
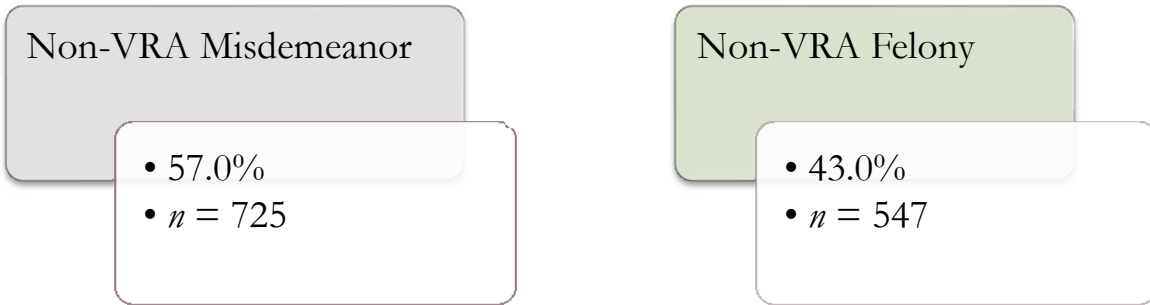
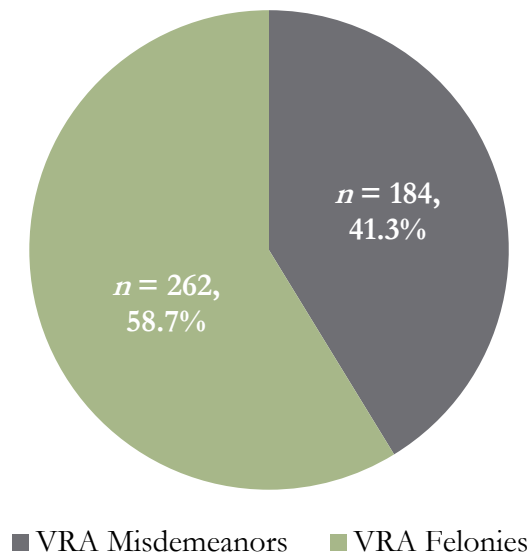


Figure 11: Non-VRA Recidivist Acts ($N = 1,272$)



Looking exclusively at those 446 recidivist acts that fell under the VRA, the majority were felonies (58.7%) compared to misdemeanors (41.3%) (see Figure 12).

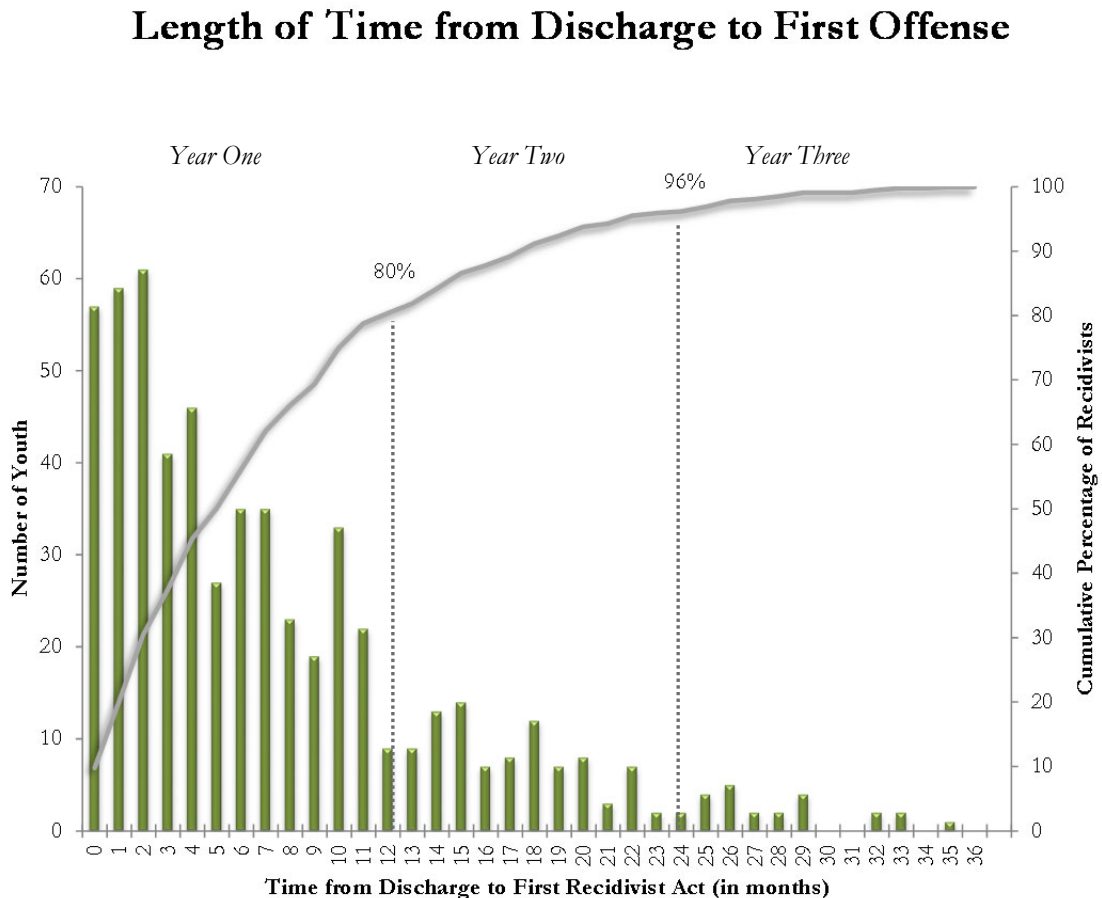
Figure 12: VRA Recidivist Acts ($N = 446$)



TIME TO FIRST RECIDIVIST OFFENSE

Eligible recidivists from all three discharge cohorts (FYs 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19) were included in the analysis of the length of time from discharge to the onset of the first recidivist offense ($N = 581$). As described in the Offense Types section, only the most recent commitment and subsequent discharge were included in the analyses that follow for the six recidivist youth who discharged in more than one year. For youth who committed a recidivist act within the prescribed time periods ($N = 581$), Figure 13 depicts the points in time at which the first new offense occurred. As shown in the histogram, more than three-quarters of youth who recidivated did so within the first year after discharge (80%). At two years post-discharge, nearly all first recidivist acts had occurred (96%). Only 22 recidivists committed their first recidivist act between 25 and 36 months post-discharge. This corresponds to roughly 3.8% of recidivists discharged over three Fiscal Years. Figure 13 illustrates that as time passes, fewer and fewer youth commit their first recidivist act. The literature is robust with findings supporting the desistance from criminal activity, or “aging out” of crime and delinquency. In the figure that follows, only the first recidivist offense was reported among those youth with multiple recidivist offenses.

Figure 13: Time to First Recidivist Act



CHRONICITY OF RECIDIVIST OFFENSES

Time between Discharge and Last Recidivist Act

The following section will examine the totality and frequency of recidivist acts over time. This type of analysis, known as a study of the chronicity of criminal acts, has been generally accepted within the field of criminology as a highly informative and useful tool in identifying and understanding observed patterns of criminality [1] [10]. While a previous section described the amount of time between discharging from DYS and the *first* recidivist act, this section will examine *all* recidivist acts *over time*. More than half of the youth in the analysis ($n = 323$; 55.6%) committed two or fewer recidivist acts during the follow-up time period, and more than two thirds ($n = 414$; 71.3%) committed three or fewer recidivist acts. The total number of recidivist acts committed by individual youth ranged from only one (1) act ($n = 179$) to a high of 23 acts ($n = 1$), with a small sub-set of youth ($n = 9$) committing ten or more recidivist acts (see Table 6).

Table 6: Total Number of Recidivist Acts

Total Number of Recidivist Acts Per Youth			
Number of Recidivist Acts	Number of Youth	Percent of Recidivists	Cumulative Percent
1	179	30.8	30.8
2	144	24.8	55.6
3	91	15.7	71.3
4	55	9.5	80.7
5	39	6.7	87.4
6	28	4.8	92.3
7	20	3.4	95.7
8	9	1.5	97.2
9	7	1.2	98.5
10	3	0.5	99
11	3	0.5	99.5
14	1	0.2	99.7
20	1	0.2	99.8
23	1	0.2	100
Total	581	100	

The field of criminology, or the study of crime, recognizes several leading theories or perspectives, which lend scientific insight into the causes of crime, patterns of crime, and reasons behind deviant behavior. Of these, the Life Course Perspective typically examines the duration, timing, and ordering of significant life events (such as first delinquent act, first incarceration, first job, first marriage, etc.) and

focuses on their consequences for later social development and pathways or trajectories of development [9]. Long-term analyses of life-course events and trajectories generally indicate a strong interconnection between significant childhood events and later experiences in adulthood [9] [10]. In terms of development and behavior change, “social institutions and triggering life events that may modify trajectories include school, work, the military, marriage and parenthood” [9]. Within the field of criminology, the term desistance from criminal acts refers to the time at which individuals cease re-offending and generally resume a crime-free life. From a Life Course Perspective, this can be thought of as a change in trajectory along a deviant or delinquent course toward a more normative trajectory after experiencing certain meaningful life events. Typically, juvenile delinquency peaks during mid-adolescence when youth tend to engage more frequently in high-risk behaviors, and tapers off when individuals reach their mid-20s. A small subset of individuals will demonstrate a continuous pattern of re-offending over their life course, but most will eventually desist as a result of a variety of life events, including intervention, treatment, and increases in the social responsibilities of adulthood. Among the youth in the one-, two-, and three-year post-discharge cohorts, the average length of time to reach desistance from committing new recidivist acts occurred at just over 14 months ($\mu = 14.33$). In other words, *most youth who discharged from DYS between FYs 2016-17 and 2018-19 committed three or fewer recidivist acts, and had ceased committing new recidivist acts at roughly 14 months post-discharge, on average.*

As described in a previous section, the bulk of recidivists committed three or fewer recidivist acts during the follow-up period ($n = 414$; 71.3%), with a handful of outliers who committed ten or more recidivist acts, including one individual who committed a total of 23 recidivist acts. In order to create more comparable sub-groups for the analysis that follows, recidivists were divided into the following categories:

- Individuals who committed one recidivist act ($n = 179$)
- Individuals who committed two recidivist acts ($n = 144$)
- Individuals who committed between three and four recidivist acts ($n = 146$)
- Individuals who committed five or more recidivist acts ($n = 112$)

Among youth with only one recidivist act, the average length of time between discharge from DYS and their recidivist act was under one year ($\mu = 9.3$ months). As expected, the mean length of time from discharge to the last recidivist act increased among youth who had a larger total number of recidivist acts. Youth who committed a total of two recidivist acts experienced an average time to desistance of 13.6 months, roughly 4.4 months longer than youth with only one recidivist act. Among youth with a total number of three recidivist acts had an average time to desistance of 16.1 months, roughly 6.8 months longer than youth with only one recidivist act. Finally, the average time to desistance for youth who committed between five and 23 total recidivist acts was the longest at 21.0 months, roughly 11.8 months longer than youth with only one recidivist act (see Table 7).

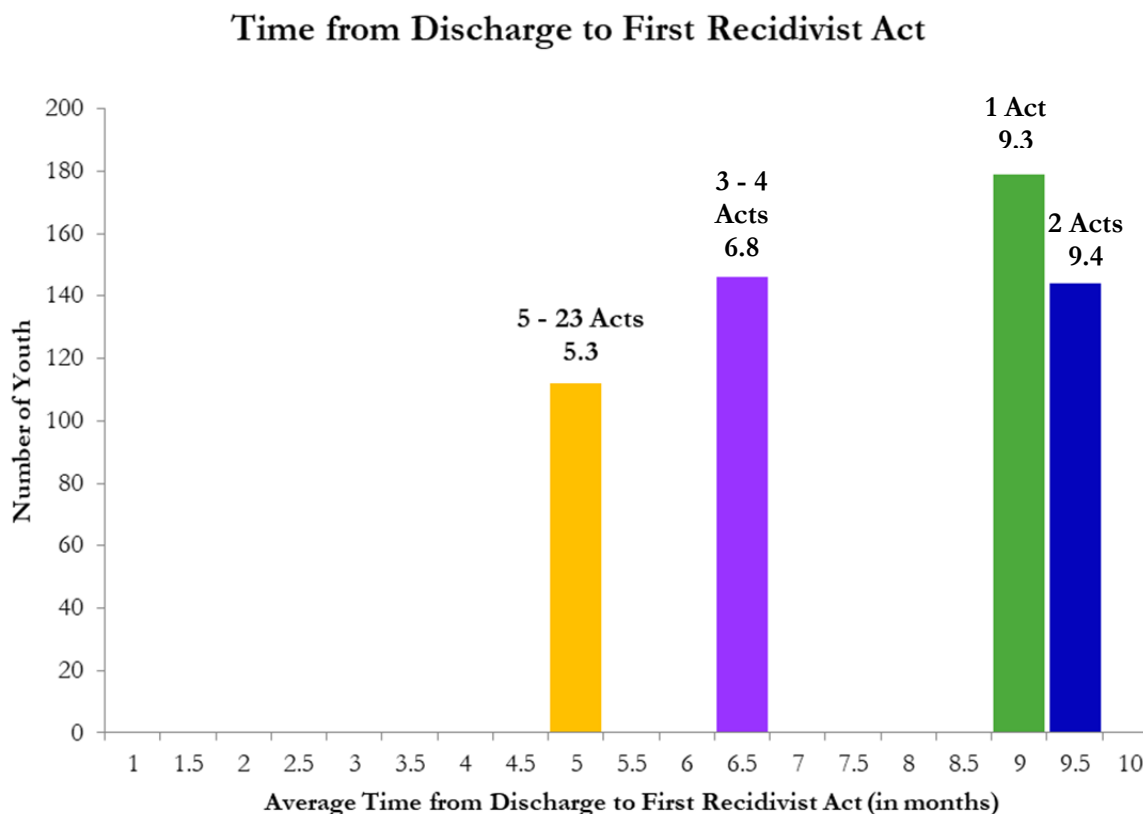
Table 7: Time from Discharge to Last Recidivist Act (in categories)

Average Time To Last Recidivist Act in Months			
Total Number of Recidivist Acts	Time from Discharge to Last Recidivist Act	Increase in Months Compared to Youth with Only One Recidivist Act	Number of Youth
1	9.3	N/A	179
2	13.6	4.4	144
3 - 4	16.1	6.8	146
5 - 23	21.0	11.8	112

While some discharged youth do commit a new offense after leaving DYS, the vast majority of recidivists do not continue to commit new crimes over time, and do not have persistent observed future criminal involvement.

All recidivist acts captured between FY 2016-17 and FY 2018-19 were also examined in terms of the length of time from discharge to the first recidivist act utilizing the four categories of recidivists described in Table 7. In general terms, youth with a larger number of total recidivist acts tended to recidivate sooner compared to youth with fewer recidivist acts. Youth with either only one or two recidivist acts were nearly identical in their average time to their first recidivist acts. Specifically, among the 179 youth who committed only one recidivist act, the first recidivist act occurred, on average, at 9.3 months post-discharge (see Figure 14). Youth who committed two recidivist acts had a slightly longer length of time from discharge to their first act at 9.4 months, roughly three days later than youth with just one recidivist act. Youth with three to four recidivist acts committed their first recidivist act at 6.8 months, approximately 2.5 months sooner than youth with a single recidivist act. Finally, among youth who committed the largest number of recidivist acts (5 to 23 total acts), their time to first recidivist act was 5.3 months, or four months sooner than youth who committed one recidivist act.

Figure 14: Time from Discharge to First Recidivist Act by Group



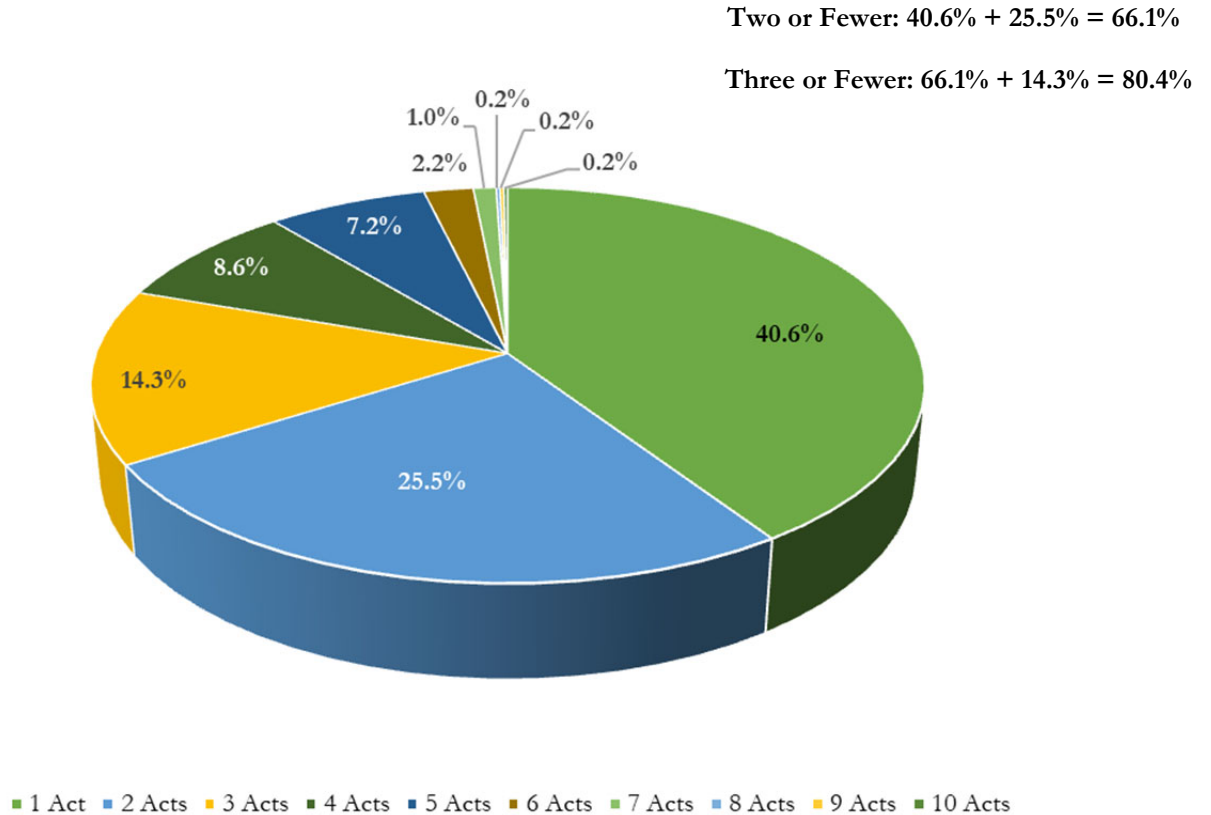
Same-Day Recidivist Acts

While it is not surprising that youth who commit a greater number of recidivist acts experience a longer time from discharge to desistance, an analysis of recidivist acts over time revealed that 40.6% ($n = 236$) of youth with more than one recidivist act, *committed their last recidivist act on the same day as their first recidivist act*. Examples of situations where multiple recidivist acts occur on the same day could be a set of two separate offenses occurring on the same day (e.g.: breaking and entering in two separate locations), but is more frequently an additional charge for the same criminal event for which an individual is found guilty (e.g.: breaking and entering, possession of burglary tools, theft, and unlawful weapons possession can result in four separate adjudications or convictions for a single criminal event occurring on the same date). Recidivist acts sharing an offense date, known as same-day offenses, *were counted as individual and separate recidivist acts for each youth in the previous sections of this report*. The current section will examine the impact of same-day offenses as a measure of chronicity and patterns of criminal desistance.

Same-day offenses were identified for individual youth and were counted as a single recidivist act solely for the purposes of clarifying and illustrating patterns of criminal activity in this section of the report. When same-day offenses were re-calculated for individual recidivists, the range for the total number of

recidivist acts committed by individual youth was reduced to a low of one recidivist act ($n = 236$) and a high of ten recidivist acts ($n = 1$). As with the analysis of desistance, a small number of youth committed the largest number of non-same-day recidivist acts, with 64 youth committing five or more recidivist acts. After identifying same-day offenses, almost two-thirds of youth committed two or fewer recidivist acts ($n = 384$; 66.1%), and the vast majority of youth ($n = 467$; 80.4%) committed three or fewer recidivist acts during the follow up time period (see Figure 15).

Figure 15: Percentage of Youth with Non-Same-Day Recidivist Acts



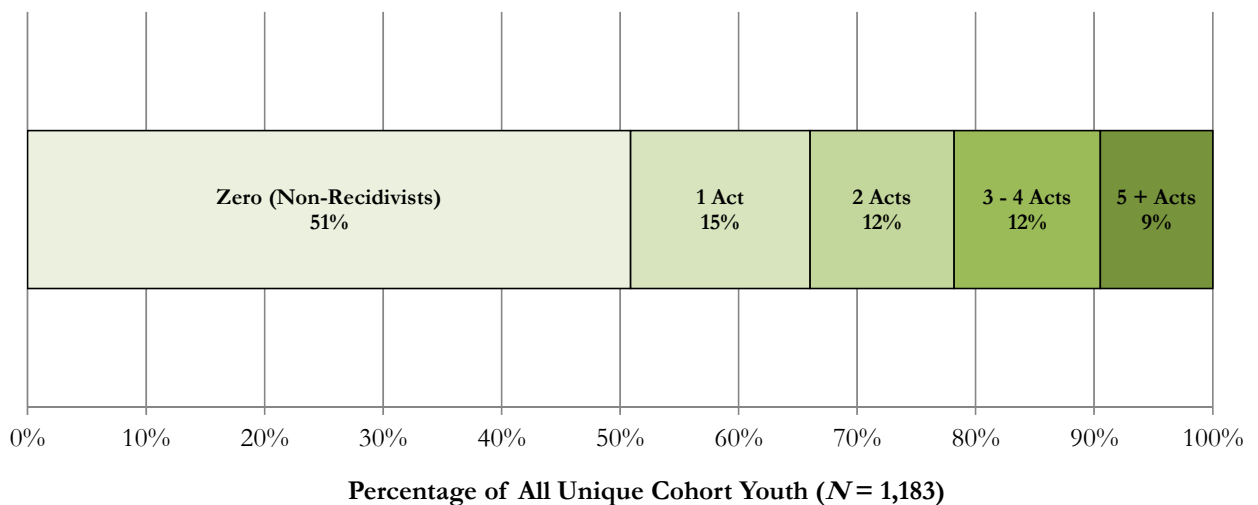
Summary of the Analysis of Chronicity and Criminal Desistance

Youth who recidivated during the one-, two-, and three-year post-discharge follow-up time periods tended to desist from new recidivist acts over time, with an average length of time from discharge to criminal desistance of just over 14 months ($\mu = 14.33$). The majority of youth ($n = 414$; 71.3%) committed three or fewer total recidivist acts during the follow-up period. A very small percentage of recidivists appeared to demonstrate an observable pattern of re-offending consistently throughout the follow-up time period ($n = 9$; 1.5%). When same-day offenses were examined, the vast majority ($n = 467$; 80.4%) committed three or fewer recidivist acts before reaching criminal desistance. This pattern appears to support the theory of youth “aging out” of crime, where criminal involvement peaks in adolescence, and previously delinquent youth tend to desist from consistent criminal involvement as

they mature and take on the increased responsibilities that come with adulthood, such as entering the workforce, getting married, and having children [1].

When examined as a whole, half (51%) of all youth who discharged from the Division over the three Fiscal Years of interest did not recidivate ($n = 602$), with an additional 27% of youth committing two or fewer recidivist acts (see Figure 16). In other words, although some youth did recidivate within the observed follow-up periods, most recidivists did so very quickly upon discharge, tended to commit misdemeanor property offenses rather than VRA crimes against persons, and ceased committing new crimes at around 14 months, on average. Desisting from continued criminal activity over time is a finding that is consistent with the Life Course Perspective, and is well documented within criminological literature [1].

Figure 16: Number of Recidivist Acts by Discharged Youth



While some youth did recidivate, most did so very quickly upon discharge, tended to commit misdemeanor property offenses rather than VRA crimes against persons, and ceased committing new crimes at around 14 months, on average.

NATIONAL COMPARISON

The following section provides a comparison of Colorado’s one-, two-, and three-year post-discharge juvenile recidivism rates to other states utilizing the same definition of recidivism and a similar research methodology in order to achieve 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.^{xiii} The extensive Pew study examined current practices in the data collection, measurement, performance, and reporting of juvenile recidivism data. The results found that executive branch agencies within 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 [11]. 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 few states conducting regular research with rigorous data collection, measurement, performance evaluation, and reporting of juvenile recidivism information.

More recently, the bipartisan Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA) of 2018 was signed into law in December 2018. This bill reauthorized the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) for the first time since 2002, and included a requirement that the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) develop a comprehensive national system for measuring recidivism [12]. This forthcoming national system may include a universal definition and uniform method for data collection; however, individual states currently differ in a number of key factors in terms of defining, measuring, and reporting juvenile recidivism [11]. These differences can complicate between-states comparisons, as outlined in Table 8.

^{xiii} It should be noted that states may have more than one executive branch agency reporting juvenile recidivism data, such as municipalities that serve youth exclusively in their communities, individual facilities or programs within a larger juvenile justice system, etc. In this way, the term “executive branch agencies” is not equivalent to individual states, nor are these terms mutually exclusive.

Table 8: Recidivism Data Collection and Reporting Practices in Juvenile Corrections

Defining Recidivism	
Measures of Reoffending	Number of Agencies ^{1, 2}
Arrest	16
Adjudication or Conviction	28 ³
Commitment (juvenile or adult)	25
Length of Follow-Up	
12 months	21 ³
24 months	15 ³
36 months	19 ³
Follow Offenders into the Adult System	30 ³
Measuring Performance	
Compare to the Previous Year Release Cohorts	32 ³
Compare Rates by Offender Risk	21 ³
Reporting	
At Least Annually	33 ³
Results Released to All Three Branches of Government	21 ³

¹Executive branch agencies should not be confused with individual states

²Sub-categories are not mutually exclusive

³Indicates methods currently used in Colorado

Methods of National Comparison

The comparison process involved an extensive review of currently available juvenile recidivism reports or publications that 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. Data from youth who discharged in FY 2016-17 through FY 2018-19 were used in the national comparison.

Results of National Comparison

Each state identified as a possibility for comparison 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 analysis, definitions of recidivism were matched as closely as possible. Each juvenile correctional system, however, may be structured differently or have population-specific considerations which make it unique.

Table 9 represents the five other states that were identified as methodologically comparable to Colorado in terms of defining and measuring juvenile recidivism. The District of Columbia is not a state, but it regularly reports juvenile recidivism rates that were deemed to be comparable to those used in Colorado and was included with state-level data. Respective recidivism rates are reported for each state in ascending order. Several states, including the District of Columbia, Florida, and Idaho, do not regularly release two- and three-year recidivism rates.

Table 9: National Comparison of Recidivism Rates over Time by Year of Discharge

States with Comparable Juvenile Recidivism Measures			
State	One-Year Recidivism Rate	Two-Year Recidivism Rate	Three-Year Recidivism Rate
Maryland ¹	19.2%	27.6%	N/A
Idaho ^{2,3}	27.3%	N/A	N/A
Colorado	30.6%	54.6%	62.9%
District of Columbia ²	31.0%	N/A	N/A
Florida ^{2,4}	42.0%	N/A	N/A
Virginia	46.5%	64.0%	70.2%

¹Maryland reports reconvictions/adjudications with a two-year lag, thus the reported one-year rate corresponds to committed youth who were released from programs in FY17-18. A three-year rate is not yet available.

²State tracks youth for a one-year follow-up time period.

³State defines "discharge" as the start of parole; the recidivism measurement period includes parole.

⁴State analyzes data on youth who were released from a facility *for the first time* during the time period of interest.

When comparing the one-year post-discharge recidivism rates between comparable states, Colorado’s rate (30.6%) is in the top half of the performance range (19.2% - 46.5%). The two states with rates lower than Colorado are Idaho (27.3%), and Maryland (19.2%).

Last year, Colorado was in the bottom half of the one-year juvenile recidivism rate (41.1%) after Idaho (23.4%) and the District of Columbia (32.2%). It is important to note that Idaho currently defines “discharge” as the start of parole, as their juvenile parole services are handled at the county level rather than by the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections. Thus, youth on parole are considered “discharged” from their agency and are 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.

In addition, many states re-extract filings and adjudication or conviction records each year and re-match them to their list of youth who have discharged in a given FY. Re-matching records increases the accuracy of capturing any youth who had an open case without a finding of guilt at the time the original data was pulled, but has since been adjudicated or convicted, and correctly identifying these youth as

recidivists in the appropriate FY. While this method is more accurate, it effectively re-calculates the one-, two-, and three-year rates produced in prior years. Thus, individual state data presented in Table 9 may not always match data reported in prior years, as they are obtained directly from each state's official data released and reported in the most recent year.


Data from all other states (not shown in Table 9) were sought out and examined when available, but were ultimately excluded because they could not be found; did not report a recidivism rate; or due to significant differences in their population, definition, or measurement of recidivism. For instance, Ohio defines a recidivist act as a "return to the Department of Youth Services (DYS) or incarcerated in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction within one, two, and three years of release from a DHS correctional facility." Using this definition might result in a misinterpretation of the true comparability of this state's recidivism rate and Colorado's. Similarly, other states may serve a very different population than those served in Colorado. For example, some states may only serve youth until they reach the age of majority (17 to 19 years of age, depending on the state), may only serve a specific sub-set of offenders, or may include probation or diversion youth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Resulting from the Current Study

The results derived from this current study indicated that six characteristics were the most predictive of recidivism, for committed youth in Colorado. Those six recidivist characteristics are listed in order of their predictive influence in Table 10 that follows.

Table 10: The Six Most Predictive Characteristics of Juvenile Recidivists

Recidivist Characteristic	Predictive Influence	Odds Ratio	Static or Dynamic
Poor or Unsatisfactory Parole Rating at Discharge		2.2	Dynamic
Male Sex		1.9	Static
One or Two Parole Revocations		1.6	Dynamic
Region — Southern Region		-1.5	N/A
Western Region		1.5	N/A
One or More Prior Adjudications		1.4	Static
VRA Commitment Offense	-1.3	Static	

Three of the six characteristics are static, and as such, are not subject to impact, change or improvement by the Division’s efforts (adjudications prior to commitment; male gender, and being committed for a VRA offense). Conversely, two factors are dynamic and hold the potential for improvement, if targeted by Division services, programming, and initiatives. These two characteristics directly measure a youth’s success or compliance while on parole. Factored together, the earning a Poor or Unsatisfactory parole rating at discharge and the number of parole revocations place youth at greater risk for recidivism, and are variables that can be addressed with transitional services and treatment. Finally, one factor, Region of the State in which a youth was served, is not applicable to a static or dynamic classification. These areas hold great potential for impacting recidivism rates and deserve special attention.

What can the Division do, or what is already being done, in relation to these three areas?

Where can the greatest “bang for the buck” be made as it relates to potential recidivism reduction?

Poor or Unsatisfactory Parole Rating at Discharge and Parole Revocations

The results of this study indicated that youth with a Poor or Unsatisfactory parole rating at time of discharge were more than twice as likely to recidivate as youth with a satisfactory to excellent parole rating. Similarly, youth who have had their parole revoked were 1.6 times as likely to recidivate compared to youth who had no parole revocations. These two factors clearly point to the importance

of the parole transition period and the overall community re-integration process. Successful and smooth community re-entry is key to preventing recidivism. The Division already operates under the notion that “Transition planning begins at Assessment,” and strives to identify, invite and maintain the participation of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals and other important members in the parole planning process: the youth, their family, clinical staff, education staff, client manager/parole officer, parole board, community ties, mentors, program staff, etc. This proactive approach puts parole planning front and center, as a priority for all parties involved.

Another important element to highlight is the Division’s efforts over the last three fiscal years to implement a more advanced Parole Practice Framework that allows for targeted responses (e.g.: services, interventions, incentives and privileges) to youth behavior exhibited while on parole. This allows for monitoring youth success and compliance while on parole, and includes a menu of responses that coincide with both violation behavior and positive behavior. To guide Parole Officers in the use of graduated responses during community supervision, examples of potential behaviors and responses have been created. Behaviors and responses are categorized together, with positive behavior eliciting positive responses and violation behavior eliciting violation responses. The Parole Practice framework standardizes the expectations of parolee behavior and conforms to best practices for long-term behavior change.

How a youth adjusts to living in the community has been a consistent predictor of recidivism for nearly two decades. The results of many years of analyses, including the current analysis, have pointed to the importance of this parole adjustment period (and rating thereof) in predicting future recidivism. Currently, the Division’s client managers/parole officers 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 30-60 days into parole), youth flagged as “adjusting” Poor or Unsatisfactorily to the parole period could potentially have certain services bolstered or new services put in place to improve the re-entry process. These additional services or interventions may impact future discharge ratings and ultimately, the likelihood of future offending.

Region of the State in which Committed Youth are Served

The DYS youth population varies across each of the four Regions, and fluctuations in population size, attributes, and resources can drive changes in recidivism rates between Regions. Thus, Regional differences should be interpreted with caution.

As the Central Region serves the largest population of committed youth Statewide, it served as a reference category for the remaining three Regions. Compared to youth committed in the Central Region, youth committed in the Southern Region were 1.5 times less likely to be a recidivist, and youth committed in the Western Region were 1.5 times more likely to be a recidivist. The relationship between the Central and Northeast Region was non-significant. Keeping in mind that each Region of the state has a slightly different population in terms of race or ethnicity, offense-specific considerations, and opportunities to commit specific offenses, the Division is committed to monitoring regional

differences from year-to-year. If consistent trends arise, investigations that may inform successful programming, treatment, and services offered to committed and paroled youth could prove beneficial.

The True Recidivism Rate is Unknown

Recidivism is defined by Colorado’s youth services system as a new felony or misdemeanor conviction or adjudication for an offense committed within a specified follow-up time period. Given this definition, recidivism rates are close estimates. 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) Offenses Committed in Other States Not Captured

This study only uses data for offenses committed within the state of Colorado; 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, obtaining highly confidential data annually from 49 states, most of which do not measure juvenile recidivism regularly, is simply not possible at this time.

2) Offenses While on Parole Status are Measured Separately

Offenses committed while youth are serving their parole sentence are not considered to be recidivist acts because they did not occur *after the youth fully discharged from the Division’s supervision*. While youth are on parole status, they remain under the supervision of the Division, and the recidivism clock does not start until all DYS supervision has completely ended. Offenses committed on parole are considered to be pre-discharge recidivism. Pre-discharge recidivism rates are measured and reported internally, but are not presented in the current report.

3) Time-at-Risk (actual increases)

Time-at-risk increases when follow-up periods are extended (such as the two- and three-year follow-up periods). 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.

^{xiv} Please refer to reports published in prior years for a list of long-standing limitations and recommendations.

Further, as time passes and youth gain a longer distance from the services and treatment they received during their commitment to DYS, the less of an impact those protective factors have compared to more current and potentially negative peer or social influences.

4) Judicial Process Delays Affect Recidivism Rates

A recidivist act, as described in the methodology section of this analysis, 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, various court proceedings (hearings, trials, etc.) and then being found guilty by the court. This process can take a substantial amount of time, and due to several possible delays, many filings remain open when the data used to create this report is extracted from the Judicial 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 extracted for analysis. Findings (i.e., guilty, not guilty) can come days, months, or even years following a filing, particularly among more serious alleged offenses. 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, and a finding is necessary to determine whether or not a youth recidivated. Although these youth are not identified as recidivists in the current report, Judicial and DCC filings data are re-matched to each youth in the Analysis Cohort each year, and any cases that have closed with a finding of guilt will be identified and attributed to these youth in the corresponding follow-up period.

For the current report, pulling the court data in September rather than July allowed for more time to pass after the close of the FY, which resulted in more time for open cases to close before beginning the analysis. When data is more complete, more adjudications and convictions are captured, and this in turn increases recidivism rates.

APPENDIX A – Works Cited

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APPENDIX B – Non-Significant Findings – Analysis Cohort

NON-SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RECIDIVISTS AND NON-RECIDIVISTS

	Non recidivists		Recidivists		p-value ¹	Total
	n	%	n	%		
Age at Discharge	19.1		19.1		0.39	19.1
Age at Commitment	16.8		16.8		0.31	16.8
Length of Service Total Residential Placements	19.8		20.5		0.20	20.1
Length of Service Parole²						
Less than 6 Months	239	36.2%	164	38.1%	0.53	36.9%
More than 6 Months	422	63.8%	267	61.9%		63.1%
CJRA Overall Risk Level at Discharge³						
Not High	216	33.3%	117	28.4%	0.10	31.4%
High	433	66.7%	295	71.6%		68.6%
Ethnicity Recoded into 4 Categories						
Black	142	19.6%	85	18.6%	0.70	19.2%
Hispanic/Latino	315	43.4%	189	41.3%		36.3%
Other	12	1.7%	10	2.2%		1.9%
White	256	35.5%	174	38.0%		36.3%
Minority/Non-Minority Ethnicity						
White	256	35.3%	174	38.0%	0.35	36.3%
Non-White	469	64.7%	284	62.0%		63.7%
Commitment Offense Type						
Person Offense	356	49.1%	195	42.6%	0.07	46.6%
Property Offense	213	29.4%	160	31.5%		31.5%
Other Offense	156	21.5%	103	21.9%		21.9%
Assessed Substance Abuse Treatment Need⁴						
No Treatment Need	194	27.1%	108	23.6%	0.18	25.7%
Treatment Need	522	72.9%	350	76.4%		74.3%
Assessed Mental Health Treatment Need⁵						
No formal mental health intervention required at commitment	319	44.9%	222	49.0%	0.17	46.5%
Formal mental health intervention required at commitment	392	55.1%	231	50.4%		53.5%
Assessed Co-Occurring Treatment Needs⁶						
No co-occurring disorder at commitment	419	58.9%	268	59.2%	0.94	59.0%
Co-occurring disorder at commitment	292	41.1%	185	40.8%		41.0%
Prior Out-of-Home Placements						
One or Fewer Out-of-Home Placements	395	54.5%	237	51.7%	0.36	53.4%
Two or More Out-of-Home Placements	330	45.5%	221	48.3%		46.6%

¹ $p < 0.05$ (indicates a statistically significant difference between recidivists and non-recidivists).

² Only youth who actually went on parole were included in the analysis. Youth may discharge directly to adult corrections, turn 21 prior to parole being granted, be deported, have their sentences terminated by the court, etc. A total of 86 youth did not go on parole and were excluded from the analyses.

³ Only valid CJRAs administered at discharge were included in the analysis. A discharge CJRA is considered to be valid if it is both complete and was administered within 90 days of discharge. A total of 1,061 youth in the Analysis Cohort had a valid discharge CJRA (90%).

⁴ Only youth who completed a substance abuse treatment needs assessment at the time of commitment were included in the analysis. A total of 1,174 youth in the Analysis Cohort had a valid substance abuse treatment needs assessment (99%). Nine youth within the Analysis Cohort received a concurrent sentence to the Department of Corrections or the Youthful Offender System and thus did not undergo a DYS assessment.

⁵ Only valid CCAR Overall Problem Severity scores administered at assessment are included in the analysis. A total of 1,164 youth had a valid score at assessment (98%).

⁶ Only Youth with both a valid CCAR Overall Problem Severity score and a completed substance abuse treatment needs assessment at the time of commitment were included in the analysis. A total of 1,164 (98%) unique youth had valid and complete scores.

Additional variables were examined for analysis, but were not tested as the distribution of data between groups was either nonlinear or too unequal to continue. These variables included, *but were not limited to*: placement at discharge, length of service in state secure placement, and sex-offense specific treatment need status.

CRIMES THAT FALL UNDER COLORADO'S VICTIM RIGHTS ACT

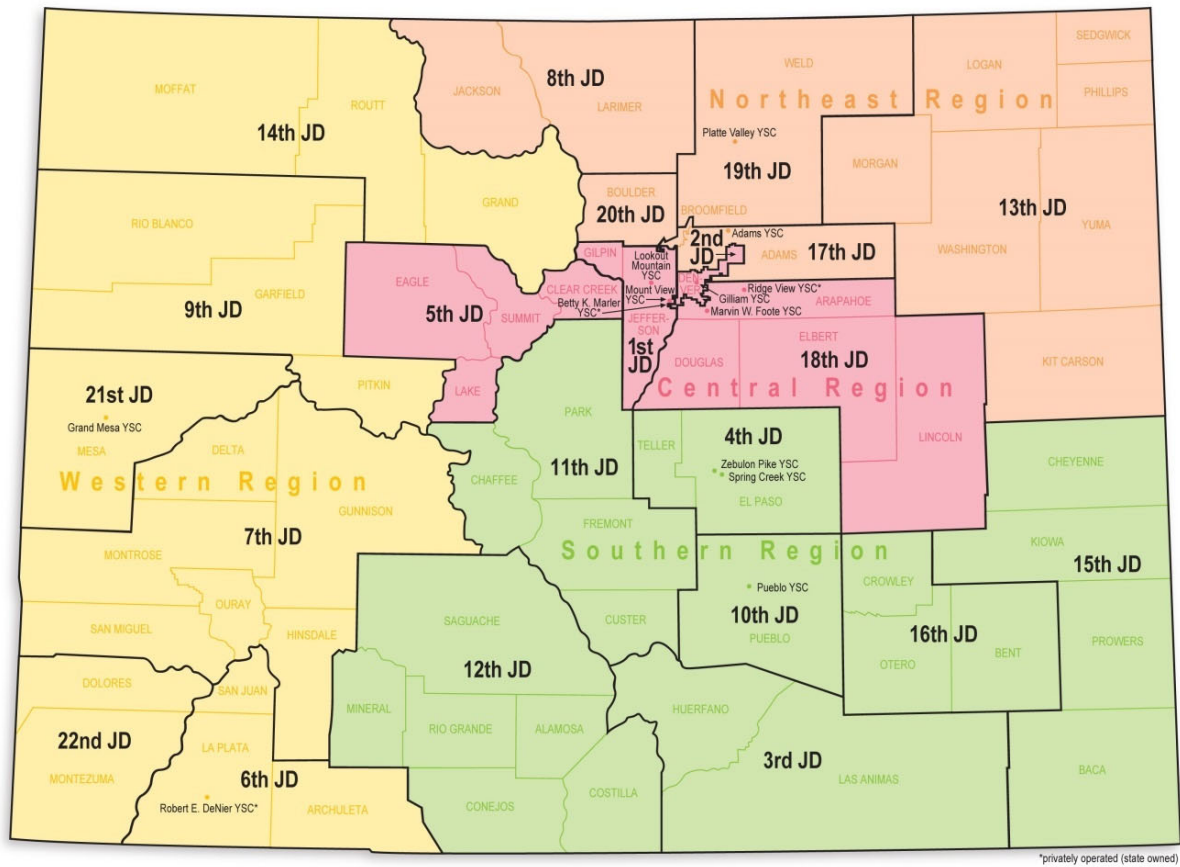
- Murder in the first degree, in violation of section 18-3-102;
- Murder in the second degree, in violation of section 18-3-103;
- Manslaughter, in violation of section 18-3-104;
- Criminally negligent homicide, in violation of section 18-3-105;
- Vehicular homicide, in violation of section 18-3-106;
- Assault in the first degree, in violation of section 18-3-202;
- Assault in the second degree, in violation of section 18-3-203;
- Assault in the third degree, in violation of section 18-3-204;
- Vehicular assault, in violation of section 18-3-205;
- Menacing, in violation of section 18-3-206;
- First degree kidnapping, in violation of section 18-3-301;
- Second degree kidnapping, in violation of section 18-3-302;
- (I) Sexual assault, in violation of section 18-3-402;
- (II) Sexual assault in the first degree, in violation of section 18-3-402, as it existed prior to July 1, 2000;
- Sexual assault in the second degree, in violation of section 18-3-403, as it existed prior to July 1, 2000;
- (I) Unlawful sexual contact, in violation of section 18-3-404; or
- (II) Sexual assault in the third degree, in violation of section 18-3-404, as it existed prior to July 1, 2000;
- Sexual assault on a child, in violation of section 18-3-405;
- Sexual assault on a child by one in a position of trust, in violation of section 18-3-405.3;
- Sexual assault on a client by a psychotherapist, in violation of section 18-3-405.5;
- Invasion of privacy for sexual gratification, in violation of section 18-3-405.6;
- Robbery, in violation of section 18-4-301;
- Aggravated robbery, in violation of section 18-4-302;
- Aggravated robbery of controlled substances, in violation of section 18-4-303;
- Incest, in violation of section 18-6-301;
- Aggravated incest, in violation of section 18-6-302;
- Child abuse, in violation of section 18-6-401;
- Sexual exploitation of children, in violation of section 18-6-403;
- Crimes against at-risk adults or at-risk juveniles, in violation of section 18-6.5-103;

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- Any crime identified by law enforcement prior to the filing of charges as domestic violence, as defined in section 18-6-800.3;
- An act identified by a district attorney in a formal criminal charge as domestic violence, as defined in section 18-6-800.3;
- Any crime, the underlying factual basis of which has been found by the court on the record to include an act of domestic violence, as defined in section 18-6-800.3, pursuant to section 18-6-801;
- Stalking, in violation of section 18-3-602 or 18-9-111;
- A bias-motivated crime, in violation of section 18-9-121;
- Careless driving, in violation of section 42-4-1402, that results in the death of another person;
- Failure to stop at the scene of an accident, in violation of section 42-4-1601, where the accident results in the death or serious bodily injury of another person;
- Any criminal attempt, as described in section 18-2-101, any conspiracy, as described in section 18-2-201, any criminal solicitation, as described in section 18-2-301, and any accessory to a crime, as described in section 18-8-105, involving any of the crimes specified in 24-4.1-302(1);
- Intimidating a witness or a victim, in violation of section 18-8-704;
- Retaliation against a witness or victim, in violation of section 18-8-706, Retaliation against a judge, in violation of section 18-8-615, Retaliation against a juror, in violation of section 18-8-706.5;
- Retaliation against a prosecutor, in violation of section 18-8-616;
- Aggravated intimidation of a witness or a victim, in violation of section 18-8-705;
- Tampering with a witness or victim, in violation of section 18-8-707;
- Indecent exposure, in violation of section 18-7-302; or
- Violation of a protection order issued under section 18-1-1001, against a person charged with committing sexual assault, in violation of section 18-3-402, sexual assault on a child, in violation of section 18-3-405, sexual assault on a child by one in a position of trust, in violation of section 18-3-405.3, sexual assault on a client by a psychotherapist, in violation of section 18-3-405.5, or stalking in violation of section 18-3-602;
- Human trafficking, in violation of section 18-3-503 or 18-3-504;
- First degree burglary, in violation of section 18-4-202;
- Child prostitution, in violation of section 18-7-40; Soliciting for child prostitution, in violation of section 18-7-402; Procurement of a child for sexual exploitation, in violation of section 18-6-404; Pimping of a child, in violation of section 18-7-405; Inducement of child prostitution, in violation of section 18-7-405.5; or Patronizing a prostituted child, in violation of section 18-7-406.
- Posting a private image for harassment in violation of section 18-7-107 or posting a private image for pecuniary gain in violation of section 18-7-108;

Last Updated: January 2018

APPENDIX D – Division of Youth Services Statewide Map with Regions



APPENDIX E – Terms and Definitions

Disclaimer: *These definitions are provided for quick reference purposes only. Please refer to the Colorado Revised Statutes for more complete definitions of legal categories and conditions.*

Adjudication - The result of an adjudicatory hearing in which the court determines that it has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt that a juvenile has committed a delinquent act, or that a juvenile has pleaded guilty to committing a delinquent act.

Assessment - Youth committed to DYS are assessed to determine a youth's classification and risk level, as well as needs for appropriate services, placement and program referral.

Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment (CJRA) - An assessment tool used to determine risk of recidivism. The comprehensive, empirically validated risk assessment allows the Division to identify and respond to the criminogenic factors directly contributing to youth offending behavior.

Commitment - Commitments are dispositions of juvenile cases resulting in the transfer of legal custody to the Department of Human Services by the court as a result of an adjudicatory hearing on charges of delinquent acts committed by the youth.

Community Residential Placement - DYS contracts with a number of private vendors to provide community-based programs to youth presenting the lowest risk of re-offending and youth transitioning from more secure programs.

Discharge - Time at which youth have completed their commitment and are no longer under the supervision and custody of the Division; most often directly following the completion of the parole period.

Length of Service: Commitment (LOS-C) - All commitment LOS figures are measured in months and are calculated for those discharged youth who spent time in the residential program for which LOS is reported (e.g., assessment, secure, staff secure, and community programs). LOS-C figures should be interpreted with caution. LOS-C is the sum of all residential placement time youth experience over the course of their commitment, but does not equate to time spent in state secure youth centers. LOS-C is the aggregate of time spent in all program types and levels.

Length of Service: Commitment & Parole (LOS-C&P) - The average amount of time in DYS custody and under DYS supervision (sentence start date to discharge date, including parole time), for all youth discharged from DYS during the reporting period, not including escape time.

Length of Service: Parole (LOS-P) - The average amount of time spent on parole status. Parole LOS is measured in months and is based on discharged youth.

Length of Service: State Secure (LOS-SS) - The amount of time spent in a state secure commitment youth center during the reporting period. All commitment LOS figures are measured in months and are based on discharged youth.

New Commitment - Commitment of youth who were not previously committed, or who were previously committed but had been discharged from DYS.

Other Residential - Placements include Job Corps, Group Homes, Hospitalization, etc.

Parole - The status of an offender conditionally released from a residential setting by discretion of the Juvenile Parole Board. Colorado juvenile offenders have a mandatory minimum parole length of 6 months. While on parole a youth is placed under the supervision of a parole officer and is required to observe conditions of release set by the parole officer and the Juvenile Parole Board.

Parole Revocation - The administrative action of the Juvenile Parole Board, which removes a youth from parole status in response to a violation of lawfully required conditions of parole, including the prohibition against commission of a new offense.

Parole Suspension - The administrative action of the Juvenile Parole Board, which removes a youth from parole status in response to a violation of lawfully required conditions of parole, including the prohibition against commission of a new offense. Reconsideration of parole must occur within 90 days on a date determined by the Juvenile Parole Board.

Prior Adjudications - Adjudications that occurred prior to the current detention or current commitment sentence.

Recidivism - An adjudication or conviction for a new felony or misdemeanor offense that occurred within one, two, or three years following discharge from the Division of Youth Services.

Regional Management Structure - Decentralized DYS management structure comprised of four geographic regions in the state.

Residential Programs - Programs that provide 24-hour care.

Secure Residential Youth Center - A youth center with physical security features such as locked doors, sally-ports, and correctional fencing.

Staff-Supervised Residential Program - Privately owned and operated, staff-supervised programs provide 24-hour line of sight supervision of youth.

Youthful Offender System (YOS) - a maximum security prison in Pueblo, Colorado, that houses male and female offenders between ages 14–25. Inmates at YOS have all been convicted of a felony (for crimes committed when youth were between 14 – 19 years old) and sentenced as adults (prior to their 21st birthday) to the state's Department of Corrections system.

YTD - Year to Date

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

Data Management & Analysis

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<https://cdhs.colorado.gov/about-cdhs/news/cdhs-publications-and-reports>