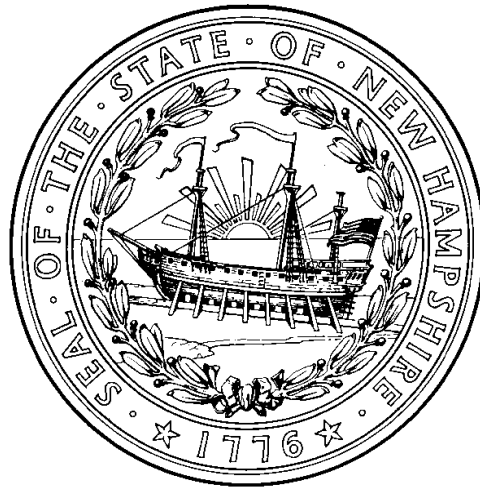


# **Recidivism in New Hampshire**

A Study of Offenders Returned to Prison  
Within Three Years of their Release

FY2007 Cohort



**New Hampshire Department of Corrections**

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August, 2012

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# Executive Summary

This study of recidivism follows inmates released from a New Hampshire state prison between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 (FY2007) for purposes of determining the number and percentage of these offenders who returned to prison within three years of their release. The following is a summary of findings for this cohort of offenders.

- A total of 1,279 offenders were released from a New Hampshire state prison in FY2007.
- Of the 1,279 releases in FY2007, 184 (14.4%) cases were eliminated from the study because they were not a New Hampshire state felony sentenced inmate, or did not otherwise meet the criteria for inclusion in the study.
- The remaining 1,095 offenders constitute the “release cohort,” upon which this study is based.
- Of the FY2007 release cohort, 973 (89%) were male and 122 (11%) were female.
- Of the FY2007 release cohort:
  - 543 (49.6%) had been admitted (booked) as a newly sentenced inmate;
  - 424 (38.7%) had been admitted (booked) due to a parole revocation, and
  - 128 (11.7%) had been admitted (booked) due to a probation revocation.
- Of the FY2007 release cohort:
  - 838 (76.5%) were released on parole;
  - 203 (18.5%) “maxed-out;”<sup>1</sup>
  - 38 (3.4%) were released by court order; and
  - 16 (1.5%) were released by the Parole Board as “violator released.”<sup>2</sup>
- The primary crime categories for which the FY2007 release cohort had been incarcerated:
  - 329 (30.0%) were convicted of a violent crime;
  - 326 (29.8%) were convicted of a property crime;
  - 213 (19.5%) were convicted of a drug-related crime; and
  - 227 (20.7%) were convicted of a crime of public-order.<sup>3</sup>
- Males were more likely to have been convicted of a violent crime (32.5%), and females were more likely to have been convicted of a property crime (40.2%).
- The average age for males at the time of their release was 35.5 years of age, compared to 34.2 years of age for females.
- The overall recidivism rate for offenders released in FY2007 was 47%. The recidivism rate for males was 47.1%, and the recidivism rate for females was 46.7%.
- Half of the offenders released in FY2007 (50.5%) had no prior prison incarcerations. Female offenders were 17% more likely than males to have had no prior prison incarcerations. Male offenders were almost twice as likely as females to have had three or more prior incarcerations.
- Male offenders with no prior prison incarcerations had the lowest rate of recidivism by number of previous prison incarcerations, at 45.6%, compared to a recidivism rate of 58.2% for female offenders with no prior prison incarcerations.
- Offenders between the ages of 20 - 25 at the time of their release had the highest rate of recidivism. The recidivism rate for males in this age range was 54.9%, while the recidivism rate for females in this age range was 66.7%.
- Both male and female offenders convicted of violent crimes had the lowest rate of recidivism, at 34.7% and 38.9%, respectively. Similarly, the highest rate of recidivism for both males and females was for offenders convicted of a crime of public-order at 54.3% and 64.7%, respectively.
- The average length of time offenders who returned to prison were in the community before being returned to prison was 10.6 months, with 50% of all recidivists returning to prison in 7.3 months or less following their release.
- Offenders with multiple incarcerations prior to their release who recidivated returned to prison more rapidly than those with no prior incarcerations.

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<sup>1</sup> “Maxed-out” refers to offenders who were released as a result of having completed the maximum length of their prison sentence.

<sup>2</sup> “Violator released” refers to offenders admitted on a parole violation who have had their parole revocation overturned (reversed) by the NH Parole Board, and are subsequently re-released to the community.

<sup>3</sup> Crimes of Public-Order include crimes such as resisting arrest, driving while intoxicated (DWI), driving after suspension, and being a habitual offender.

## Introduction

This report represents the sixth annual study of recidivism among New Hampshire's prison population. The term "recidivism" refers to the re-incarceration of an offender in the New Hampshire state prison system within three years of their release from prison. This study reports the rates at which offenders released from prison between the dates of July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 (FY2007) returned to prison within three years of their release after having served all or a portion of their state prison sentence for a felony conviction.

Offenders convicted and sentenced to a prison term at a New Hampshire state prison facility are given a "booking status" upon admission that reflects the reason for which they are admitted for incarceration. The booking status is called the "booking type." The booking type is used to differentiate offenders by jurisdiction, as well as the reason for which they are incarcerated.

Booking types for offenders serving a prison sentence for conviction of a felony offense under a NH statute include the following:

- Sentenced ~ inmates admitted under a new state prison sentence
- Parole Revocation ~ inmates admitted to prison due to a violation of parole conditions
- Probation Revocation ~ inmates admitted to prison to serve a prison sentence imposed as a result of a violation of their conditions of probation

The New Hampshire prison system serves a variety of individuals incarcerated for reasons other than a state sentence. These offenders are not included in this study, and include the following:

- County ~ inmates serving a sentence of less than one year who would otherwise be incarcerated at a county house of corrections
- Interstate Compact ~ inmates convicted and sentenced for a crime in a state other than New Hampshire who are serving their sentence in a New Hampshire prison under an interstate compact agreement<sup>4</sup>
- Federal ~ inmates who have been convicted of a federal crime who would otherwise be serving their sentence in a federal facility
- Pre-Trial ~ persons awaiting trial who would otherwise be housed at a county house of corrections or local jail
- Secure psychiatric patients ~ individuals admitted to the Secure Psychiatric Unit (SPU) located at the New Hampshire State Prison in Concord due to a severe mental illness, who are in need of a highly secure environment, and are not serving a criminal sentence

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<sup>4</sup> Interstate Compact is an agreement between states to exchange inmates, primarily for safety reasons.

## **TERMINOLOGY**

Terminologies used in this study that may be unfamiliar to many readers are defined below:

- **Cohort** refers to a group that meets specific criteria for being included in a study. In this case, the “release cohort” consists of all state felony sentenced inmates released from prison between the dates of July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 (FY2007).
- **Recidivist** refers to an offender who was released from prison during the cohort year under study and is returned to prison for reasons related to a new sentence, a parole revocation or a probation revocation.
- **Recidivism rate** refers to the percentage of a cohort, or sub-group, of offenders who are re-incarcerated in the state’s prison system as a result of a new sentence, a parole revocation or a probation revocation, within three years of their release.

## **TIMEFRAME FOR THE STUDY**

Most studies of prisoner recidivism track a cohort of offenders three years past the date of their release. This study represents the findings of the cohort of offenders released from the New Hampshire state prison system in FY2007 (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007), and their rates of return within three years of their release.

## **STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT**

### **Section I ~ All Releases**

This section of the report provides a description of all releases from the New Hampshire State prison system in FY2007. The analysis provided in this section serves to define the offender population that constitutes the release cohort.

### **Section II ~ Demographic Profile of the Release Cohort**

This section of the report provides a demographic profile of offenders who meet the criteria for inclusion in the study of recidivism, referred to as the release cohort. This profile includes a description of the release cohort by booking and release type, gender, age at release, type of crime for which the offender was incarcerated, number of previous incarcerations, and length of stay.

### **Section III ~ Rates of Recidivism**

This section of the report provides an analysis of recidivism rates for the release cohort based upon the same demographic factors as those provided in Section II and includes recidivism rates by booking and release types, gender, age at release, type of crime for which the offender was incarcerated, number of previous incarcerations, and length of stay.

### **Section IV ~ Recidivists: Time Out Before Return**

This section of the report contains an analysis of the length of time offenders who recidivated spent in the community prior to their return to prison to determine if there are differences in the return rates of offenders on the basis of booking type, gender, crime type, age category and number of previous incarcerations.

## SECTION I

### All Releases

There were a total of 1,279 releases from prison in FY2007, representing 1,194 individual offenders. These releases included: state sentenced inmates; offenders admitted for a parole or probation revocation; county and federal inmates; persons awaiting trial; Secure Psychiatric Unit (SPU) patients; and inmates housed under interstate compact.

#### **A. Total Releases by Booking Type**

The term “booking type” refers to the reason for which an inmate is admitted to prison. The largest percentage of releases from prison in FY2007 was for sentenced inmates (44.9%), followed by those released after serving time for a parole revocation (37.8%). Offenders who had been admitted to prison on a probation revocation represented 10.2% of all releases in FY2007.

**Table 1. Total Releases in FY2007, by Booking type**

<b>Booking type</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Sentenced	574	44.9%
Parole Revocation	483	37.8%
Probation Revocation	131	10.2%
Secure Psychiatric Unit (SPU) Patient	11	0.9%
Other Jurisdiction	80	6.3%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1279</b>	<b>100%</b>

A total of 80 offenders (6.3%) were individuals being held for another jurisdiction. These included county and federal inmates, individuals awaiting trial, or inmates housed in a New Hampshire state prison under interstate compact.

#### **B. Total Releases, by Release Type**

The term “release type” refers to the type of release for which an offender is released from prison. Offenders released on parole represented the largest number and percentage of total releases from prison in FY2007 (n=874; 68.3%). The second largest number and percentage of offenders released were individuals released as a result of “maxing out” their sentence (n=211; 16.5%).<sup>5</sup>

The third largest group of offenders released consisted of offenders who were “returned to another jurisdiction” (n=118; 9.2%). An offender may be released to another jurisdiction for reasons including: an outstanding warrant; illegal immigration status; or return to the custody of the jurisdiction for which the prison had agreed to house and care for the offender (e.g. county or federal inmate).

Of the remaining 76 releases, 27 (2.1%) were released as a result of having their parole revocation overturned by the Parole Board (referred to as “violator released”). Forty-one (3.2%) were released by court order. The remaining eight (8) inmates died while incarcerated.

<sup>5</sup> A total of 141 of the 203 (69.5%) offenders who “maxed out” had been released on parole one or more times prior to completing their sentence.

**Table 2. All Releases in FY2007, by Release Type**

<b>Release Type</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Paroled	874	68.3
Maxed Out	211	16.5
Released to Other Jurisdiction	118	9.2
Court Order	41	3.2
Violator Released	27	2.1
Died	8	< 1
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1279</b>	<b>100%</b>

**C. Cases Dropped from the Study**

For purposes of this study, only those offenders admitted to prison to serve a state sentence for a felony conviction, parole revocation or probation revocation were tracked to see if they returned to prison within three years of their release. Therefore, the following cases of prison releases were dropped from the study.

**Table 3. Cases Dropped from Study, by Reason Dropped**

<b>Reason Dropped</b>	<b>Number Dropped</b>	<b>Percent of Releases</b>	<b>Percent of Dropped</b>
Booked for Other Jurisdiction	79	6.2%	42.9%
Released to Other Jurisdiction	13	1.0%	7.1%
Secure Psychiatric Patient (SPU)	31	2.4%	16.8%
Died	8	0.6%	4.3%
Multiple Releases	53	4.1%	28.8%
<b>Total Cases Dropped</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Offenders booked as a county, trial or federal inmate, a secure psychiatric patient (SPU) and inmates housed for other state jurisdictions through the “interstate compact” are not included in this study. In addition, this study does not track the recidivism of inmates released from a New Hampshire prison facility to another jurisdiction (e.g. immigration, US Marshall). Finally, it was determined that 53 of the releases (4.1%) represented a second or third release from prison for the same offender, subsequent to the offender’s initial release in 2007.

A total of 185 releases in FY2007 (14.4%) were dropped from the study. The remaining 1,095 offenders (85.6%) represent the release cohort that is the subject of this study.

## Section II

### DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE RELEASE COHORT

“Release cohort” is the term used to refer to the population released from a state prison in FY2007 after serving time for a felony conviction for purposes of measuring recidivism. The release cohort for purposes of this study consists of the 1,095 offenders released between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 who met the inclusion criteria described in Section I. Section II provides a demographic profile of the release cohort for FY2007 on factors known to be associated with rates of recidivism.

#### A. Release Cohort, by Booking Type

There are four “booking types” for which the offenders represented in this study may be admitted to prison. If an offender is admitted to prison as a result of a new state sentence, they are booked as a “sentenced” inmate. This may or may not be the first time an offender is admitted to prison. It simply means they are being released for the first time from the most recent sentence for which they were incarcerated.

Offenders who have been released from prison to serve the remaining portion of their sentence under supervision in the community may have their parole revoked as a result of violating the conditions of their parole, including being arrested for a new crime. Offenders who return to prison on a parole revocation may be re-released on parole after serving additional prison time as a result of their parole revocation, may be re-released shortly after their return by having their revocation overturned by the Parole Board, or may remain in prison until they have served the balance of their remaining prison sentence (referred to as “maxing out”).

Similarly, offenders may be admitted to prison as a result of having their probation revoked. Offenders admitted to prison on a probation revocation are inmates who have been convicted of a felony offense and given a suspended prison sentence on the condition they comply with the conditions of probation. Probation is similar to parole in that the offender is under supervision in the community.

**Table 4. Release Cohort, by Booking Type**

Booking type	Released	
	#	%
Sentenced	543	49.6
Parole Revocation	424	38.7
Probation Revocation	128	11.7
<b>Total Cohort</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the 1,095 offenders released in FY2007, half (n=543; 49.6 %) had been admitted to prison to begin serving a new felony sentence. Almost 40% (n=424; 38.7%) of the offenders released in FY2007 had been admitted to prison as a result of having their parole revoked (parole revocation). A total of 128 offenders (11.7%) had been admitted to prison on a probation revocation.



## B. Release Cohort, by Release Type

There are four ways an offender may be released from prison. While most offenders released from prison are released on parole, offenders may also be released by an order of the court or by order of the parole board. An offender may also “max out” their sentence, which means they were released from prison as a result of reaching their “maximum sentence date.” The majority of offenders released from prison however, serve time on parole before maxing out.

Permission to be released on parole is granted by the New Hampshire Adult Parole Board. The Parole Board weighs many factors in deciding whether an inmate will be granted parole, including but not limited to the following:

- the offender has reached the minimum parole date;
- the offender has completed treatment (e.g. sex offender, drug and alcohol treatment), or other programs recommended by the DOC or mandated by the court as a condition of parole;
- the offender has been on good behavior;
- the offender has secured a job and an appropriate place to live upon release; and
- testimony received from the victim or representatives of the victim.

Approximately 90% of all offenders admitted to prison in New Hampshire will be released prior to serving the maximum length of their sentence, the majority of whom are granted parole prior to serving their entire prison sentence.

Of the 1,095 offenders released in FY2007, 838 (76.5%) were released from prison to parole supervision. This group represents the largest single group of offenders by release type. The second largest group of offenders by release type (n=203; 18.5%) maxed out, followed by offenders released by court order.

**Table 5. Release Cohort by Release Type**

Release Type	Released	
	#	%
Paroled	838	76.5
Maxed Out	203	18.5
Violator Released	16	1.5
Court Ordered	38	3.4
<b>Total Cohort</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>

A total of 38 offenders were released by court order in FY2007, representing 3.4% of all cohort releases that year. A total of 16 offenders were released as a result of having their parole revocation overturned by the Parole Board (referred to as “violator released”), which represented 1.5% of all releases in FY2007.

### C. Release Cohort, by Booking Type and Release Type

The following tables provide summaries of the release cohort by booking type and release type.

**Table 6a. Releases Summarized by Booking Type (Row Summaries)**

Booking type	Paroled		Maxed Out		Violator Released		Court Order		Total Cohort	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sentenced	463	85.3	52	9.6	0	0.0	28	5.2	543	49.6
Parole Revocation	265	62.5	141	33.3	16	3.8	2	0.5	424	38.7
Probation Revocation	110	85.9	10	7.8	0	0.0	8	6.3	128	11.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>76.5%</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 6a above provides an analysis of releases by booking type and release type, summarized by booking type. This analysis reveals that of the 519 offenders released in FY2007 that had been booked as a sentenced inmate, 85.3% (n=463) were released on parole, 9.6% (n=52) maxed out, and the remaining 28 (5.2%) were released by court order.

Of the 424 offenders released in FY2007 that had been admitted to prison on a parole revocation, 62.5% (n=265) were re-released on parole, 30.3% (n=141) maxed out, 3.8% (n=16) were released as a result of the Parole Board overturning their revocation (referred to as “violator released”), and two (<1%) were released by court order.

Of the 128 offenders released in FY2007 that had been admitted to prison on a probation revocation, 85.9% (n=110) were released on parole; 7.8% (n=10) maxed out, and the remaining 6.3% (n=8) were released by court order.

**Table 6b. Releases Summarized by Release Type (Column Summaries)**

Booking type	Paroled		Maxed Out		Violator Released		Court Order		Total Cohort	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sentenced	463	55.3	52	25.6	0	0.0	28	73.7	543	49.6
Parole Revocation	265	31.6	141	69.5	16	100	2	5.3	424	38.7
Probation Revocation	110	13.1	10	4.9	0	0.0	8	21.1	128	11.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 6b provides a summary of the release cohort by booking type and release type, summarized by release type. This analysis reveals that of the 838 offenders released on parole in FY2007, 55.3% (n=463) were released on parole from their original sentence, 31.6% (n=265) were re-released on parole after

...serving time for a parole revocation, and 13.1% (n=110) were paroled after serving a portion of their sentence for a probation revocation.

Of the 203 offenders released as a result of maxing out their sentence, 25.6% (n=52) served their entire sentence without having been released on parole, 69.5% (n=141) maxed out their sentence after having been returned on a parole violation, and 4.9% (n=10) served their entire sentence after having been admitted on a probation revocation.

All of the 16 offenders released as violator released (100%) had been admitted on a parole violation. Of the 38 offenders released in FY2007 by court order, 73.7% (n=23) were released from their original sentence, 5.3% (n=2) were released by court order from their parole revocation, and 21.1% (n=8) were released from a probation revocation.

**D. Release Cohort, by Age and Gender**

Of the 1,095 offenders released in FY2007, 973 (88.9%) were male, and 122 (11.1%) were female. An analysis of the distribution of age at the time of their release by gender reveals only slight differences between male and female offenders.

The distribution of male and female inmates by age categories reveals few differences between male and female offenders, with one exception. Male offenders over the age of 49 represent 10% of all males released in 2007, while female offenders over the age of 49 represented only 6.6% of females released that year.

**Table 7. Release Cohort by Age at Time of Release and Gender**

Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
17-19	2	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.2
20-25	184	18.9	24	19.7	208	19.0
26-29	171	17.6	18	14.8	189	17.3
30-39	295	30.3	42	34.4	337	30.8
40-49	220	22.6	30	24.6	250	22.8
50-59	81	8.3	8	6.6	89	8.1
60 and older	20	2.1	0	0.0	20	1.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>

The average age of males at the time of their release was 35.5 years, while the average age of females was 34.2 years of age. The youngest male offender released in 2007 was 19 years of age, while the youngest female released in 2007 was 20 years of age. The oldest male released in 2007 was 75 and the oldest female released that year was 54.

**E. Release Cohort, by General Crime Category and Gender**

There are four general crime categories used to organize offenders by the type of crime for which they were incarcerated. They are: violent crimes; property crimes; drug crimes; and public order crimes. Since many offenders are serving more than one sentence for multiple crimes, the crime for which they are reported for these purposes is the crime for which they received the longest sentence.

*Violent Crimes* include crimes such as murder, rape, sexual assault, kidnapping, aggravated assault, and robbery. *Property Crimes* include crimes such as burglary, arson, fraud, theft, and receiving stolen property. *Drug Crimes* include possession, sale, manufacturing and distribution of illegal drugs. *Public Order Crimes* include such crimes as driving under the influence (DUI), habitual offender (e.g. multiple motor vehicle violations, or repeated arrests for driving while intoxicated), and resisting arrest.

An analysis of the distribution of the offenders by the four major crime categories for offenders released in 2007 reveals that male offenders were twice as likely to have been serving a sentence for a violent crime than females (32% vs. 14.8%), whereas females were almost twice as likely to have been serving a sentence for a drug crime (31.1% vs. 18%). Females were also much more likely than males to be serving a sentence for a property crime than males (40.2% vs. 28.5%), whereas males were more likely to have been serving a sentence for a crime of public order (21.6% vs. 13.9%).

**Table 8. Release Cohort by Crime Category and Gender**

Crime Category	Male		Female		Entire Cohort	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Violent	311	32.0	18	14.8	329	30.0
Property	277	28.5	49	40.2	326	29.8
Drug	175	18.0	38	31.1	213	19.5
Public Order	210	21.6	17	13.9	227	20.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>

Overall, 30% percent of offenders released in 2007 were released from a violent crime and 30% were released for a property crime, while the remaining 40% of offenders were almost evenly split between drug crimes (19.5%) and crimes of public-order (20.7%).

**F. Release Cohort by Specific Crime Category and Gender**

While there are some notable differences between males and females with regard to specific crimes for which they were incarcerated, breakdowns by specific crimes for females result in very small numbers, rendering comparisons of males and females by percentages unreliable. A table containing the breakdown of offenders released in FY2007 by specific crime appears in Appendix A. A narrative analysis of these breakdowns appears below.

A total of 311 male offenders were released from a *violent crime* in 2007, representing 32% of all male releases. The greatest percentage of males convicted of a violent crime and released in FY2007 had been convicted of assault and robbery (8.5% and 6.4%), followed by those convicted of felonious sexual assault (5.3%) and aggravated felonious sexual assault (5.1%). Taken together, convictions for assault and robbery accounted for almost 60% (56.6%) of all male offenders released for a violent crime, while males released from a violent sexual crime accounted for 37% of violent offenders released that year.

As noted above, females convicted of violent crimes represented only 14.8% of the crimes for which females were released in 2007. While this proportion is half that of male offenders, it represents a 20% increase from the previous cohort year.<sup>6</sup> In addition, whereas males were more likely to have been convicted of assault, female violent offenders were more likely to have been convicted of robbery (7.4%

<sup>6</sup> The proportion of female offenders released in FY2006 that had been convicted of a violent crime was 12.3%.

vs. 5%). Female offenders were over seven times less likely than male offenders to have been convicted of a sexual offense (1.6% vs. 11.8%).

As cited earlier, within the general crime category of *property crimes*, females were much more likely than males to have been incarcerated for a property crime (40.2% vs. 28.5%). The largest percentages of property crimes for which all offenders released for a property crime had been convicted were larceny, theft, and receiving stolen property (38.7%) and burglary (34.4%). Females were almost half as likely as males to be convicted of burglary (5.7% vs. 10.8%), but about three times more likely to have been convicted of fraud (15.6% vs. 4.4%). Females were also almost 70% more likely than males to have been convicted of larceny, theft and receiving stolen property (18% and 10.7%).

With regard to *drug-related crimes*, females released in FY2007 were almost twice as likely as males to have been incarcerated for a drug-related crime (31% vs. 18%). Females released in FY2007 for a conviction of drug possession represented almost one-quarter of all females released that year, compared to only 11% of males. Females were only slightly more likely than males to have been convicted of drug sales (8.2% vs. 7.1%).

With regard to *crimes of public-order*, males were 50% more likely than females to have been serving time for a crime of public order (21.6% vs. 13.9%). Twelve percent of all males released in FY2007 had been convicted for being a “habitual offender,” compared to 7.4% of females. An additional 9.4% of males and 6.6% of females were released from “other public order” offenses, such as resisting arrest.

**G. Release Cohort by Gender and Number of Previous Incarcerations**

This portion of the report provides an analysis of the release cohort by number of previous incarcerations. The number of previous incarcerations refers to the number of times an offender was incarcerated in the New Hampshire state prison system prior to the booking for which they were released in 2007. The number of previous incarcerations for these offenders, therefore, does not include prior incarcerations in the state’s county house of corrections, and/or local or state facility outside of New Hampshire.

Of the 1,095 offenders released in FY2007, half (n=553; 50.5%) had no previous prison incarcerations in the state’s prison system. One-fourth (25.5%) of the offenders released had only one prior prison incarceration, and less than 15% (12.7%) had two prior incarcerations in the state prison system. Slightly over 10% of those released in 2007 had three or more prior incarcerations.

**Table 9. Release Cohort by Gender and Number of Previous Prison Incarcerations**

Number of Previous Prison Incarcerations	Male		Female		Total Cohort	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>0</b>	482	49.5	71	58.2	553	50.5%
<b>1</b>	251	25.8	28	23.0	279	25.5%
<b>2</b>	124	12.7	15	12.3	139	12.7%
<b>3 or more</b>	116	11.9	8	6.6	124	11.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>

Females were almost 20% more likely than males to have had no prior prison incarcerations, and about half as likely as males to have had more than three prior incarcerations. Aside from these two rather

significant differences, the number of previous prison incarcerations among males and females approach parity.

#### H. Release Cohort by Length of Stay

The length of stay refers to the length of time an offender was incarcerated from the date they were admitted to prison to the date of their release. The primary factor affecting an offender's length of stay is the crime for which they have been convicted and the resulting prison sentence.

Violent crimes tend to have longer sentences, as do multiple convictions. Shorter lengths of stay are associated with less severe crimes, but may also be affected by a court-ordered release, and credit applied for time served in county corrections while awaiting trial. In addition, admissions for parole revocations are also associated with shorter lengths of stay.

Tables 10 and 11 below provide an analysis for the average lengths of stay for offenders released in FY2007 according to their booking type, in months and years. The tables also provide an analysis of the minimum and maximum lengths of stay for each booking type, the median length of stay, and the standard deviation for the group (as a measure of dispersion).

**Table 10. Length of Stay by Booking Type (in months)**

Booking type	Mean	Min.	Max.	Median	Std. Dev.
Sentence	32.7	0.30	236.0	21.4	34.472
Parole Revocation	12.4	0.26	174.4	8.2	14.876
Probation Revocation	22.2	1.34	96.4	14.7	18.901
<b>Combined</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>236.0</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>10.720</b>

The average length of stay for sentenced offenders released in 2007 was 32.7 months (2.7 years). However, 50% of sentenced offenders spent 21.4 months (1.8 years) or less in prison prior to their release. The longest length of stay for a sentenced offender released that year was 236 months (19.7 years). Offenders admitted on a parole violation stayed an average of 12.4 months. However, 50% of these offenders stayed eight months or less.

**Table 11. Length of Stay, by Booking Type (in years)**

Booking type	Mean	Min.	Max.	Median	Std. Dev.
Sentence	2.7	0.02	19.7	1.8	2.873
Parole Revocation	1.03	0.02	14.5	0.7	1.240
Probation Revocation	1.9	0.11	8.0	1.2	1.575
<b>Combined</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.893</b>

Probation violators tend to have longer lengths of stay than offenders admitted on a parole revocation since a probation revocation results in the imposition of the prison sentence for which they were under

probation. The average length of stay for offenders admitted on a probation revocation was 22.2 months (1.9 years). However, 50% of these offenders were released within 14.7 months (1.2 years). The longest length of stay for an offender released from a probation revocation was 96.4 months (8.0 years).

Tables 12 and 13 below provide an analysis of length of stay by booking type and gender for offenders released in FY2007. Caution should be exercised when interpreting differences in lengths of stay by gender. As noted earlier, lengths of stay are largely driven by the type of crime for which the offender has been convicted. Males released in FY2007 were more likely than females to have been convicted of a violent crime which draw longer sentences, while females were more likely to have been convicted of a property or drug-related crime, which tend to draw shorter sentences than violent crimes.

**Table 12. Length of Stay by Booking Type and Gender (in months)**

Booking Type	Males			Females		
	Mean	Median	Max	Mean	Median	Max
Sentenced	34.9	23.7	236.0	12.9	11.0	65.0
Parole Revocation	12.7	8.2	174.4	9.7	7.6	67.3
Probation Revocation	23.7	15.0	96.4	15.4	12.8	35.9
<b>Combined</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>236.0</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>67.3</b>

The average length of stay for sentenced males released in FY2007 was 34.9 months (2.9 years), while the average length of stay for sentenced females released in FY2007 was less than half that at 12.9 months (1.1 years). The average length of stay for male offenders admitted on a parole revocation was just over one year (12.7 months), while the average length of stay for females admitted on a parole violation was 9.7 months ~ about 23% less than that of males. Differences in the length of stay for males and females admitted for a probation revocation were similarly disparate, with males serving an average of 23.7 months compared to 15.4 months for women. Median lengths of stay, however, reveal slightly less disparity between the two sexes.

**Table 13. Length of Stay by Booking Type and Gender (in years)**

Booking type	Males			Females		
	Mean	Median	Max	Mean	Median	Max
Sentenced	2.9	2.0	19.7	1.1	.9	5.4
Parole Revocation	1.1	.7	14.5	.8	.6	5.6
Probation Revocation	2.0	1.3	8.0	1.3	1.0	3.0
<b>Combined</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>.8</b>	<b>5.6</b>

An analysis of median lengths of stay provide a better measure of “average” length of stay, since it represents the “50% mark” for length of stay and is therefore not influenced by statistical outliers. Overall, the median length of stay for females was almost 40% less than that of males. For offenders booked for a parole revocation, the median length of stay was only 7% less for females, whereas the length of stay for female sentenced offenders was almost 55% less than their male peers, and 14% less than for those serving a probation revocation.

## SUMMARY

### Section II: Demographic Profile of The Release Cohort

- The release cohort for FY2007 is comprised of 1,095 individuals, representing 85.6% of all offenders released from the NH state prison system between the dates of July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007.
- Eighty-nine percent of the release cohort was male (n=973), and 11% were female (n=122).
- Slightly less than 50% of the release cohort had been booked as sentenced inmates (49.6%), and slightly less than 40% (38.7%) had been booked on a parole revocation. The remaining 11% were released from a probation revocation.
- Of the 1,095 offenders released in FY2007, over three quarters (76.5%) were released on parole (n=838).
- A total of 203 offenders (18.5%) maxed out their sentence. Of these, 69.5% had served time on parole prior to returning to prison and maxing out their sentence.
- The average age of male offenders at the time of their release was 35.5 years of age, and the average age of females at the time of their release 34.2 years of age.
- Males were only slightly more likely than females to be in their twenties at the time of their release, whereas females were slightly more likely to be in their thirties at the time of their release. Male offenders over the age of 49 represented 10.4% of all male releases, while females over the age of 49 represented only 6.6% of all female releases.
- Male offenders released in FY2007 were over twice as likely as females to have been serving time for a violent crime, while females were twice as likely to have been convicted of a drug crime, and almost 40% more likely than males to have been convicted of a property crime.
- Half of all offenders released in FY2007 (n=553) had no prior prison incarcerations previous to the prison stay for which they were released. Females were 17% more likely than males to have had no prior prison incarceration, and males were almost twice as likely to have had three or more prior prison incarcerations.
- The average length of stay for offenders released in FY2007 was one year. However, 50% of offenders released in FY2007 served only 9.4 months or less.
- Sentenced offenders had an average length of stay of 2.7 years, while offenders booked on a parole revocation had an average length of stay of one year, and offenders booked on a probation revocation had an average length of stay of two years.
- The average length of stay for female offenders was, on average, almost half that of males.



**SECTION III**  
**Rates of Recidivism**

This section of the report provides an analysis of the recidivism rates of offenders released in FY2007. Of the 1,095 offenders released in FY2007, a total of 515 returned to prison within three years of their release, representing an overall recidivism rate of 47.0%. This represents a decline in the overall recidivism rate of 3.7% from the previous cohort year.<sup>7</sup>

**A. Recidivism Rates by Booking Type**

Recidivism rates for offenders vary by booking type, with the lowest recidivism rate observed for offenders released from their initial sentence. Sentenced inmates had a recidivism rate of 44%, while those who had been booked on a parole violation prior to their release in 2007 had a recidivism rate of 49.1%. Offenders with the highest recidivism rate by booking type were offenders who had been admitted on a probation revocation.

**Table 14. Recidivism Rates by Booking Type**

Booking type	Released		Returned		% of Recidivists
	#	%	#	%	
Sentenced	543	49.6	238	43.8	46.2
Parole Revocation	424	38.7	208	49.1	40.3
Probation Revocation	128	11.7	69	53.9	13.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>47.0%</b>	

**B. Recidivism Rates by Release Type**

As mentioned in Section II, offenders released on parole represent the largest proportion of offenders released from prison. Of the 838 offenders released to parole supervision in 2007, 463 returned to prison within three years of their release, representing a recidivism rate of 55.3%.

**Table 15. Recidivism Rates by Release Type**

Release Type	Released		Returned		% of Recidivists
	#	%	#	%	
Paroled	838	76.5	463	55.3	89.9
Maxed Out	203	18.5	29	14.3	5.6
Violator Released	16	1.5	12	75.0	2.3
Court Order	38	3.5	11	28.9	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>47.0%</b>	

<sup>7</sup> The overall recidivism rate for the FY2006 cohort year was 48.8%.

Offenders released on parole represented 76.5% of all releases, but 89.9% of all returns. While offenders released as a result of the Parole Board over-turning their parole revocation (Violators Released) had a higher recidivism rate (75%) than those “paroled,” they represented less than 3% of all recidivists for the 2007 cohort year.

Offenders with the lowest rate of recidivism, at 14.3%, were offenders who were released as a result of having “maxed out” their sentence. This group represented 18.5% of all releases in 2007, but less than 6% of all prison returns. The group with the second lowest rate of recidivism was offenders released by court order. With a recidivism rate of 28.9%, this group represented only 2.1% of recidivists for the cohort year.

### C. Recidivism Rates by Age and Gender

Historically, age and gender have been significant predictors of recidivism, with males typically exhibiting higher recidivism rates than females, and rates of recidivism declining with age. While recidivism rates for females in the most recent years was higher than that for males, the recidivism rate for female offenders among the 2007 cohort has returned to being less than males.

The recidivism rate for males released from prison in 2007 was 47.1%, while the recidivism rate for females was 46.7%. The recidivism rate for both sexes released in 2007 was less than the previous cohort year. The recidivism rate for males went from 48.8% for the 2006 cohort year to 47.1% for the 2007 cohort year ~ representing a 2% decline, while the recidivism rate for females went from a historic high of 51.9% to 46.7% ~ representing a 10% decline.

**Table 16. Recidivism Rates by Age and Gender**

Age	Males				Females				Entire Cohort			
	Released		Returned		Released		Returned		Released		Returned	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
17-19	2	0.2	2	100	0	0.0	-	-	2	0.2	2	100
20-25	184	18.9	101	54.9	24	19.7	16	66.7	208	19.0	117	56.3
26-29	171	17.6	74	43.3	18	14.8	11	61.1	189	17.3	85	45.0
30-39	295	30.3	160	54.2	42	34.4	18	42.9	337	30.8	178	52.8
40-49	220	22.6	87	39.5	30	24.6	10	33.3	250	22.8	97	38.8
50-59	81	8.3	29	35.8	8	6.6	2	25.0	89	8.1	31	34.8
60 and over	20	2.1	5	25.0	0	0.0	-	-	20	1.8	5	25.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>47.0%</b>

With regard to age, males ages 20-25 and 30-39 exhibited the highest rates of recidivism, at 54.9% and 54.2%, respectively, while females in their early twenties and late twenties exhibited the highest rates of recidivism overall by age and gender, with a (combined) recidivism rate of 64.3%. Taken together, males in their early twenties and those in their thirties represented almost 50% of all males released in 2007. However, these two age groups represented almost 57% of all male recidivists. Similarly, females in their twenties (ages 20-29), represented only 35% of all females released in 2007, but represented over 47% of all female recidivists.

Recidivism rates for both males and females declined with age, with a steady and precipitous decline occurring among offenders 40 years of age and older.

#### D. Recidivism Rates by Crime Category

An analysis of recidivism rates for offenders by crime category reveals that offenders convicted of violent crimes are the least likely to recidivate, with a recidivism rate of only 35%, while the combined recidivism rate for offenders in the remaining three crime categories was 52.4%. As Table 17 below indicates, each of the three remaining crime categories have recidivism rates higher than the overall average for the entire cohort.

**Table 17. Recidivism Rates by Crime Category**

Crime Category	Total Released		Total Returned		% of all Recidivists
	#	%	#	%	
Violent	329	30.0	115	35.0	22.3
Property	326	29.8	168	51.5	32.6
Drug	213	19.5	107	50.2	20.8
Public Order	227	20.7	125	55.1	24.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>47.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Offenders convicted of a crime of public order had the highest recidivism rate, at 55.1%, followed by offenders convicted of a property crime, at 51.5% and those convicted of a drug crime at 50.2%.

#### E. Recidivism Rates by Crime Category and Gender

An analysis of recidivism rates by crime category and gender reveals similar patterns in recidivism across the four crime categories. The lower recidivism rate for violent offenders hold true for both males and females, and both experienced highest rate of recidivism in the category of crimes of public order.

Male offenders convicted of a violent crime represented 32% of all male offenders released in 2007. With a recidivism rate of 34.7%, this group represented only 23.5% of all male recidivists. Similarly, female offenders convicted of a violent crime represented 14.8% of all females released in 2007, but with a recidivism rate of 38.9% represented only 12% of all female recidivists.

**Table 18. Recidivism Rates by Crime Category and Gender**

Crime Type	Males				Females				Total Cohort			
	Released		Returned		Released		Returned		Released		Returned	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Violent	311	32.0%	108	34.7%	18	14.8%	7	38.9%	329	30.0%	115	35.0%
Property	277	28.5%	145	52.4%	49	40.2%	23	46.9%	326	29.8%	168	51.5%
Drug	175	18.0%	91	52.3%	38	31.1%	16	42.1%	213	19.5%	107	50.2%
Public Order	210	21.6%	114	54.3%	17	13.9%	11	64.7%	227	20.7%	125	55.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>47.0%</b>

Conversely, male offenders convicted of a crime of public order represented 21.6% of all males released in 2007, with a recidivism rate of 54.3% they represented 24.8% of all male recidivists. The over-representation of offenders convicted of a crime of public order among recidivists is particularly striking

among the female offender population. Females convicted of a crime of public order represented 13.9% of female offenders released in 2007, but 19.3% of female recidivists.

There was also less disparity in the recidivism rates among males convicted of property and drug crimes, with rates between the two almost the same, at 52.3% vs. 52%, respectively, when compared to that of females among these two crime groups. Recidivism rates for female offenders convicted of property crimes was 11% higher than females convicted drug crimes (46.9% vs. 42.1%, respectively).

The recidivism rates for males and females by crime category for this cohort diverge significantly from the recidivism rates by crime category among the 2006 recidivism cohort. In 2006, recidivism rates were the highest for males convicted of a property crime (57.2%), followed by those convicted of a drug crime (48.1%). For females, the highest recidivism rate by crime category for those released in 2006 was for drug crimes (54.8%), followed by females convicted of a violent crime (53.8%). Among the total 2006 cohort, offenders convicted of property and drug crimes were the only two groups for which recidivism rates were higher than the statewide average of 48.8%.

## **F. Recidivism Rates by Specific Crime and Gender**

With regard to recidivism rates by specific crimes, among the crimes for which offenders had highest rates of recidivism at 58% were fraud and other public order crimes (57.6%), followed by robbery, sale of drugs, and DWI/habitual offenders at approximately 53%.<sup>8</sup> Other crimes for which offenders had a recidivism rate of 50% or higher were burglary, aggravated assault, and larceny, theft and receiving stolen property. A table containing recidivism rates by specific crime and gender appears in Appendix B.

The highest rates of recidivism for males was 61%, for offenders convicted of fraud, followed by 56% for crime of “other public order,” 55% for sale of drugs, and 53% for robbery and DWI/habitual offender. The lowest rates of recidivism of 25% or less, were for homicide, felonious sexual assault (FSA), aggravated FSA, and “other sexual offense.”

Due to the small number of females represented in the cohort when broken down by specific crime, recidivism rates for females are less reliable. Among the specific crimes for which females exhibited highest recidivism rates were: other public order crimes (75%), robbery and DWI/habitual offender (57%), and fraud (53%). There were three crime categories for which the recidivism rate was zero, and included homicide, other property, and felonious sexual assault for which only one offender was released and did not return to prison.

When comparing male and female recidivism rates, we find that when it comes to violent crimes, both males and females convicted of robbery are more likely to return to prison than offenders convicted of other violent crimes. However, as noted earlier, while offenders convicted of violent crimes represent one third of the offenders released, they represent less than a quarter (22%) of recidivists.

Comparing male and female rates of recidivism for property crimes reveals that while both male and female offenders convicted of fraud had above average rates of recidivism, recidivism rates were also above average for males convicted of burglary, larceny, theft and receiving stolen property, but lower than average for females convicted of these crimes. Similarly, male offenders convicted of drug crimes had higher than average rates of recidivism, while females convicted of drug crimes had lower than average rates of recidivism ~ despite the fact that females were almost twice as likely to be serving time for a drug crime than males.

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<sup>8</sup> The two crime categories of statutory rape and kidnapping had recidivism rates of 100%, but represented only one individual in each of the two categories.

Offenders convicted of crimes of public order had the highest overall rate of recidivism by crime category. While this was true for both males and females, for females the rate of recidivism for these crimes was 65% compared to 54% for males.

### G. Recidivism Rates by Number of Prior Prison Incarcerations

The number of prior prison incarcerations is often a predictor of whether or not an offender will return to prison. Of the 1,095 offenders released in 2007, 553 (50.5%) had no prior prison incarcerations previous to the incarceration for which they were released in 2007. Whereas in past years, offenders with no prior prison incarcerations had markedly lower rates of recidivism rates than offenders with previous incarcerations, this is not the case for this particular cohort year.

**Table 19. Recidivism Rates by Number of Previous Prison Incarcerations**

Number of Previous Incarcerations	Total Cohort		Total Returns		% of all Recidivists
	#	%	#	%	
0	553	50.5	256	46.3	49.7
1	279	25.5	129	46.2	25.0
2	139	12.7	61	43.9	11.8
3 or more	124	11.3	69	55.6	13.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>47.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Offenders with the lowest rate of recidivism, by number of previous prison incarcerations, were offenders with two prior incarcerations, at 43.9%. However, this group represented only 13% of all releases in 2007, and just under 12% of all returns. Recidivism rates for offenders with no prior incarcerations were almost equal to that of those with one prior incarceration. The only group with a recidivism rate above the average was those offenders with three or more prior incarcerations, with a return rate of 55.6%.

An analysis of recidivism rates by gender and number of previous incarcerations reveals that male recidivism rates were more consistent with past studies of recidivism, exhibiting recidivism rates that tend to increase with the number of previous incarcerations. Males with no prior prison incarcerations had a recidivism rate of 45.6%, compared to a recidivism rate of 53.4% for males with three or more prior incarcerations.

**Table 20. Recidivism Rates by Gender and Number of Previous Incarcerations**

Number of Previous Incarcerations	Males				Females			
	Released		Returned		Released		Returned	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0	482	49.5%	220	45.6%	71	58.2%	36	50.7%
1	251	25.8%	118	47.0%	28	23.0%	11	39.3%
2	124	12.7%	58	46.8%	15	12.3%	3	20.0%
3 or more	116	11.9%	62	53.4%	8	6.6%	7	87.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>46.7%</b>

As previously mentioned, the relatively small number of female offenders in the study results in percentages that are less stable than those of males in the study. While female offenders with no prior

incarcerations represented 58% of all females released in 2007, with a recidivism rate of 51% they represented 63% of the females that return to prison within three years. Females with the highest rate of recidivism by number of previous incarcerations were those with three or more prior incarcerations ~ with a recidivism rate of 87.5%. While small in number, at only eight, they represented only 7% of the females released in 2007, but 12% of the female recidivists. Females with one or two prior incarcerations represented 35% of the females released in 2007, and only 24% of female recidivists.

## H. Recidivism and Average Length of Stay

This subsection of the report compares differences in the average lengths of stay of offenders for recidivists vs. non-recidivists.

As noted in Section II, the average length of stay for offenders varies by booking type, with offenders who were released from a sentence in FY2007 having (on average) the longest lengths of stay, followed by offenders admitted to prison on a probation revocation. Parole violators had (on average) the shortest lengths of stay overall. An analysis of lengths of stay for recidivists vs. non-recidivists, by gender, is provided below.

**Table 21. Lengths of Stay (LOS) for Males, Non-Recidivists vs. Recidivists**

Booking Type	Male Non-Recidivists		Male Recidivists		% Difference	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
<b>Sentenced</b>	40.54	27.60	27.45	19.44	32%	30%
<b>Parole Revocation</b>	14.00	8.37	11.32	8.03	19%	4%
<b>Probation Revocation</b>	26.26	15.93	21.96	14.01	16%	12%

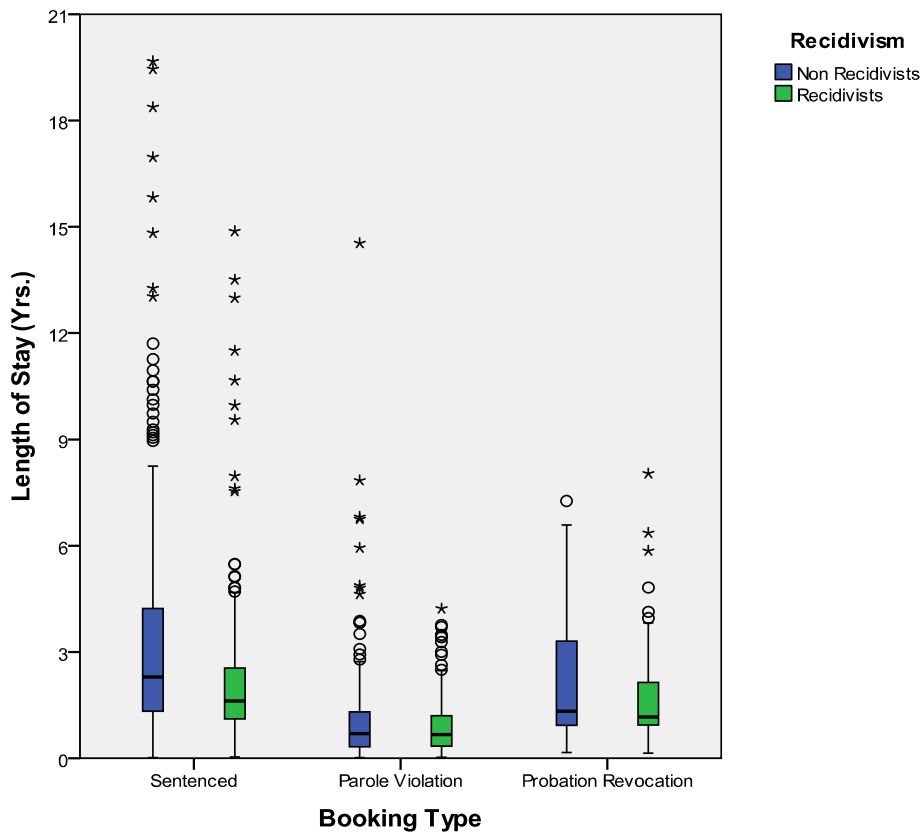
For male offenders released from a sentence in FY 2007, the average length of stay for non-recidivists was 40.5 months vs. 27.6 months for recidivists ~ a difference in means of 32%. The median length of stay for sentenced inmates who did not recidivate was 27.6 months vs. 19.4 months for 50% of sentenced offenders who returned to prison ~ a difference of 30.3%. Regardless of the measure of center used, sentenced inmates that were recidivists spent, on average, between 30 to 32% less time in prison than did their non-recidivist peers.

Male offenders released from prison from a parole revocation who did not recidivate had an average length of stay of 14 months vs. 8.4 months for their recidivating peers ~ a difference of 19%. However, the median length of stay for offenders admitted on a parole revocation that did not recidivate was 4% less than the median length of stay for offenders released from parole that did recidivate (8.4 months vs. 8 months).

For offenders released from a probation revocation, non-recidivists spent an average of 26.3 months in prison compared to 22 months for their peers who returned ~ a difference of 16%. The median length of stay for probation violators who did not return to prison was 15.9 months compared to 14 months for probation violators who did recidivate ~ a difference of 12%. Regardless of the measure of average length of stay, in both cases offenders admitted on a probation revocation that did not recidivate spent between 16 and 12 percent more time in prison than did their peers who did recidivate.

The diagram below utilizes box plots to graph the length of stay by booking type for male recidivists and non-recidivists. The box plot for non-recidivists appears on the left and recidivists to the right.

**Graph 1. Lengths of Stay (LOS) for Males, Non-Recidivists vs. Recidivists**



The shaded center of the box plot represents the length of stay for the middle 50% of inmates, while the upper and lower tails of the box plot represent the range of the remaining 20% of cases that lie below and above the middle 50%. The dots that appear above the upper tail represent “outliers,” which are individual lengths of stay that were much longer than the majority of offenders in that group ~ representing the 5% remaining cases that occupy the extreme. The horizontal line in the shaded area of the boxplot represents the 50% of cases point (median).

As the diagram above illustrates, non-recidivists released from a sentence had a wider range of lengths of stay than did recidivists. The diagram also illustrates how this is less true for the other booking types, as demonstrated by the size of the boxplot. Another important point illustrated by the diagram above is the fact that the majority of offenders have relatively short lengths of prison stay, with only a small percentage of offenders released each year having spent more than three years in prison.

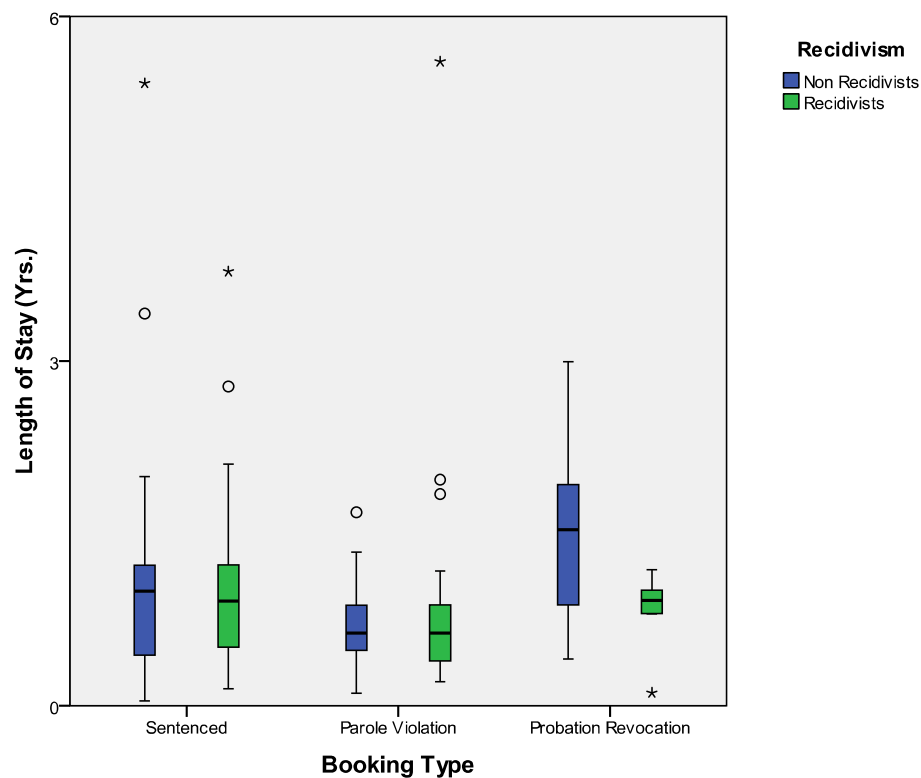
**Table 22. Lengths of Stay (LOS) in Months for Females, Non-Recidivists vs. Recidivists**

Booking Type	Female Non-Recidivists		Female Recidivists		% Difference	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
<b>Sentenced</b>	13.2	11.95	12.65	10.92	4%	9%
<b>Parole Revocation</b>	8.14	7.57	11.41	7.57	-40%	0%
<b>Probation Revocation</b>	17.78	18.38	9.99	10.98	44%	40%

An analysis of differences in the average lengths of stay for recidivist and non-recidivist female offenders released from a sentence in FY2007 suggests that female offenders who return to prison, on average, had a length of stay that was about 4% shorter than their non-recidivating peers ~ with 50% of recidivists spending 9% less time in prison before being released from their sentence.

Female offenders released from a parole violation are the only population, by booking type and gender, for whom recidivists spend, on average, more time in prison than their non-recidivist peers. This difference appears to be driven by one case in which the offender spent almost 6 years in prison before being released in 2007 from their parole revocation. Given the small number of females released each year, statistics including percentages, means and medians are less stable than that of males for which the number of cases is much higher. This is also evinced by the fact that while the difference in means for recidivist and non-recidivist females released from a parole violation was 40%, the difference in the median length of stay for these offenders was nil (zero percent).

**Graph 2. Lengths of Stay for Females, Non-Recidivists vs. Recidivists**



Female recidivists released from a probation revocation had a mean length of stay in prison that was 44% less than that of their non-recidivating peers, and a median length of stay that was 40% less. Without more detailed analysis, such as the use of multiple regression models, it is difficult to explain the reason(s) behind the pattern of differences observed in lengths of prison stay between recidivists and non-recidivists.



## SUMMARY

### **Section III: Recidivism Rates of FY2007 Cohort**

- The overall recidivism rate for offenders released in FY2007 was 47%. The recidivism rate for males was 47.1%, while the recidivism rate for females was 46.7%.
- Recidivism rates by booking type are summarized as follows:
  - Sentenced ~ 43.8% recidivism rate, representing 46.2% of all prison returns
  - Parole Revocations ~ 49.1% recidivism rate, representing 40.3% of all returns
  - Probation Revocations ~ 53.9% recidivism rate, representing 13.4% of all returns
- Recidivism rates by release type are summarized as follows:
  - Paroled ~ 55.3% recidivism rate, representing 89.9% of all returns
  - Maxed Out ~ 14.3% recidivism rate, representing 5.6% of all returns
  - Violator Released ~ 75% recidivism rate, representing 2.3% of all returns
  - Court Ordered ~ 28.9% recidivism rate, representing 2.1 % of all returns
- Male offenders ages 20-25 at the time of their release had the highest recidivism rate by age category, at 54.9%, followed by those ages 30-39, at 54.2%.
- Female offenders ages 20-25 also had the highest rate of recidivism, at 66.7% (n=16 of 24), followed by women in their late 20's, at 61.1% (n=11 of 18).
- Males convicted of a violent crime had the lowest recidivism rates by crime category, at 34.7%, however this was largely due to lower recidivism rates for sex offenders (22.6%).
- The highest rate of recidivism for males was for offenders convicted of a crime of public order, at 54.3%, followed by those convicted of a property crime, at 52.4%.
- The lowest recidivism rate by crime category for females was also for those convicted of a violent crime, at 38.9%.
- Also similar to males, the highest recidivism rate for females by crime category was for those convicted of a crime of public order, at 64.7%, followed by those convicted of a property crime, at 46.9%.
- Male offenders with no prior incarcerations had the lowest recidivism rate by number of previous prison incarcerations, at 45.6%, while male offenders with three or more prior incarcerations had the highest rate of recidivism by number of prior prison incarceration, at 53.4%.
- Recidivism rates for females was the lowest for females with two prior incarcerations (20%), and the highest for those with three or more prior incarcerations, at 87.5%, followed by those with no prior incarcerations, at 50.7%.
- The lowest recidivism rates were found among the following demographic groups:

<u>Demographic Factor</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Recidivism Rate</u>
Booking Type	Sentenced Inmates	43.8%
Release Type	Maxed Out	14.3%
Gender	Female Offenders	46.7%
Age	Offenders age 60 and older	25.0%
Crime Category	Violent Offenders	35.0%
No. of Previous Incarcerations	Two (2) Prior Incarcerations	43.9%

## SECTION IV

### **Recidivists: Time Out Before Return to Prison**

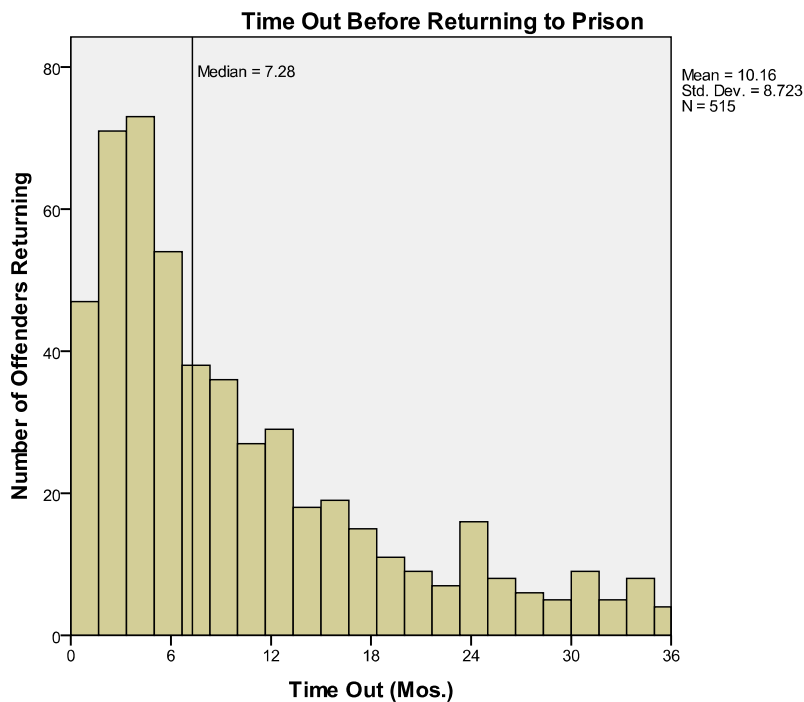
#### **A. Time Out Before Return to Prison**

This section of the report provides an analysis of the length of time offenders who returned to prison (recidivists) spent in the community prior to being returned to prison.

A total of 515 offenders returned to prison within three years of their release. The average (mean) length of time offenders spent in the community prior to returning to prison was 10.2 months, while the median length of time offenders spent in the community before returning to prison was 7.3 months. The median refers to the fifty percent mark. This means that the first 50% of offenders that returned to prison within three years returned within 7.3 months of their release.

The graph below illustrates the number of recidivists that returned to prison within three years of their release, by length of time they spent in the community prior to their return to prison.

**Graph 3. Time Out Before Return to Prison**



This graph illustrates that offenders are at greatest risk of returning to prison within the first six months following their release from prison, with the likelihood of returning to prison decreasing over time. The vertical line to the right of the 6 month mark on the graph indicates the median amount of time recidivists spent in the community prior to returning to prison, which was 7.28 months.

Table 23 below provides a more detailed analysis of differences in the lengths of time recidivists spent in the community prior to their return, by gender. This analysis reveals that female recidivists, on average, return to prison at a slightly faster rate than their male counterparts.

**Table 23. Time Out Before Return to Prison by Gender (in months)**

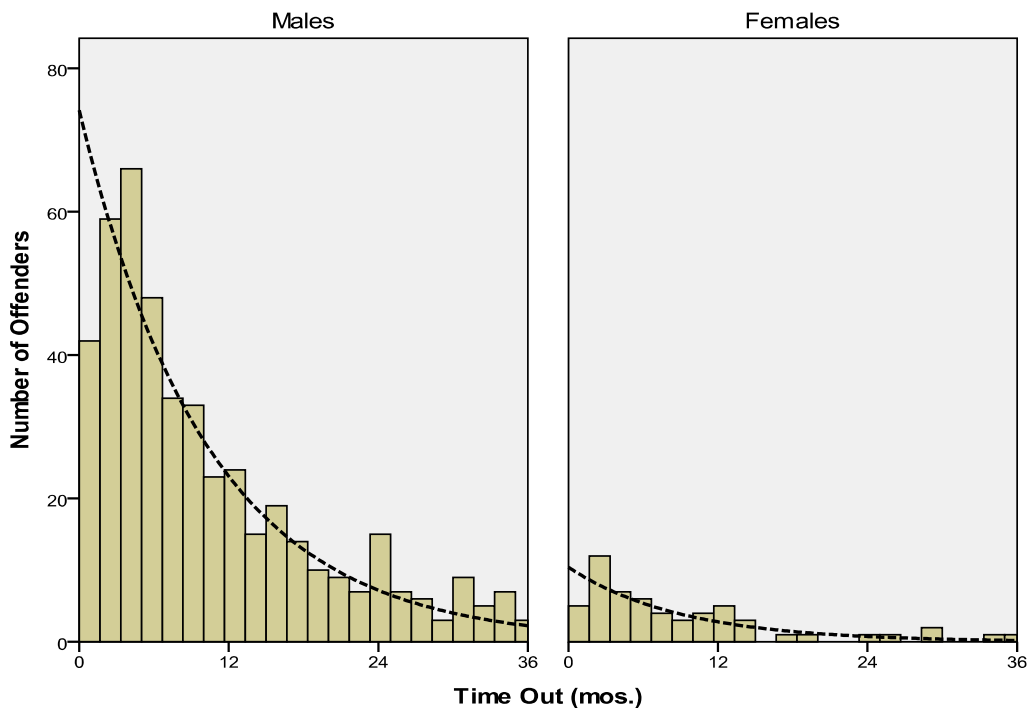
	N	Mean	10% of Returns	25% of Returns	50% of Returns	75% of Returns	90% of Returns
<b>Males</b>	458	10.3	1.7	3.5	7.3	15.0	24.2
<b>Females</b>	57	9.1	1.7	3.1	6.0	12.4	24.0
<b>Combined</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>24.1</b>

For females, the average length of time out in the community before returning to prison was 9.1 months, while the average length of time out for male offenders was over a month greater, at 10.3 months. Ten percent of all recidivists, regardless of gender, returned to prison in just under two months (1.7 months).

Twenty-five percent of females recidivists returned in just over three months, while 25% percent of male recidivists returned in three and a half months. Fifty percent of female recidivists returned to prison within six months of their release, compared to 7.3 months for their male counterparts.

While it took 15 months for 75% of male recidivists to have been returned to prison, 75% of female recidivists had returned in slightly more than one year (12.4 months). Male and female recidivists again approach parity in the amount of time spent out in the community prior to returning to prison, with 90% percent of all recidivists having returned to prison within about two years of their release.

**Graph 4. Time Out Before Return to Prison for Male and Female Offenders**



The graph above provides a visual display of differences in the number and rate at which male and female recidivists released in FY2007 returned to prison.

## B. Time Out Before Return to Prison, by Booking Type

An analysis of time out of prison before return to prison by booking type reveals that offenders admitted on a parole violation returned to prison much sooner than offenders released from a sentence or probation violation.

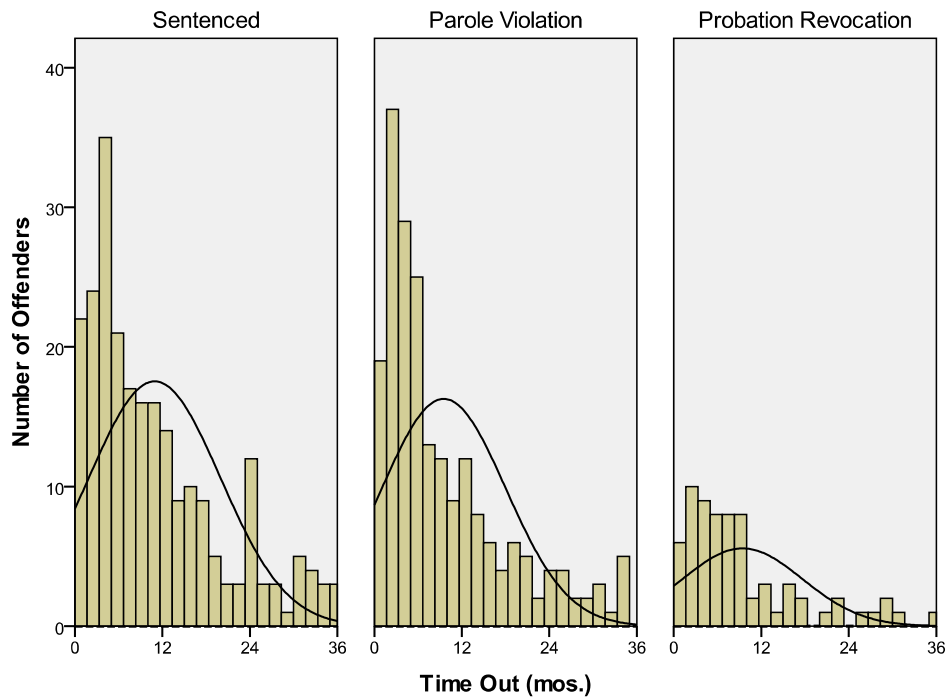
**Table 24. Time Out Before Return to Prison by Booking Type (in months)**

Booking Type	N	Mean	10% of Returns	25% of Returns	50% of Returns	75% of Returns	90% of Returns
<b>Sentenced</b>	238	10.9	1.7	3.8	8.4	15.8	24.6
<b>Parole Revocation</b>	208	9.5	1.7	3.2	6.3	13.4	23.5
<b>Probation Revocation</b>	69	9.4	1.7	3.4	7.3	12.6	22.9
<b>Combined</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>24.1</b>

Of the 515 offenders released in 2007 that returned to prison, those released from their initial sentence spent an average of almost 11 months in the community before returning to prison, compared to an average of approximately 9.5 months among those released from a probation or parole violation.

Offenders released from a parole violation in 2007 that recidivated returned to prison the quickest, with 50% of recidivists from this group returning within 6.3 months. Offenders released from a probation revocation returned at a slightly slower rate, with 50% of recidivists from this group returning within 7.3 months of their release.

**Graph 5. Time Out Before Return to Prison, by Booking Type**



The graph above provides a visual illustration of the number of offenders that returned to prison over time, by the booking type from which they were released in 2007.

### C. Time Out Before Return to Prison, by Crime Category

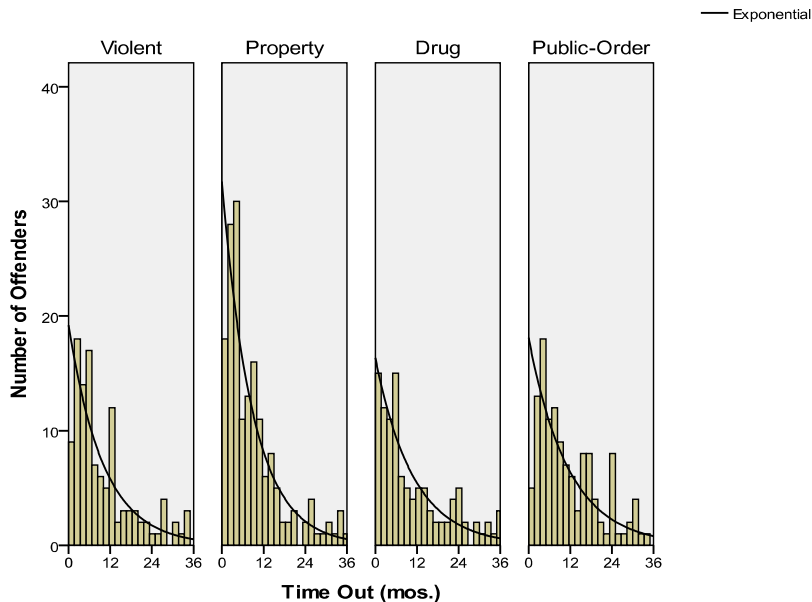
The table below provides an analysis of the amount of time spent in the community on the part of recidivists prior to returning to prison, by crime type. These data indicate that offenders released from serving time for a property offense spent, on average, the shortest amount of time in the community prior to returning to prison ~ at 8.8 months, compared to averages of more than 10 months in the community among offenders released from prison for violent, drug or public order crimes.

**Table 25. Time Out Before Return to Prison, by Crime Category (in months)**

Crime Category	N	Mean	10% of Returns	25% of Returns	50% of Returns	75% of Returns	90% of Returns
<b>Violent</b>	115	10.0	1.7	3.4	6.5	13.1	24.4
<b>Property</b>	168	8.8	1.5	3.3	6.3	11.5	20.7
<b>Drug</b>	107	10.9	1.4	3.2	7.0	16.3	26.0
<b>Public Order</b>	125	11.5	2.6	4.4	9.0	16.9	24.0
<b>Combined</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>24.1</b>

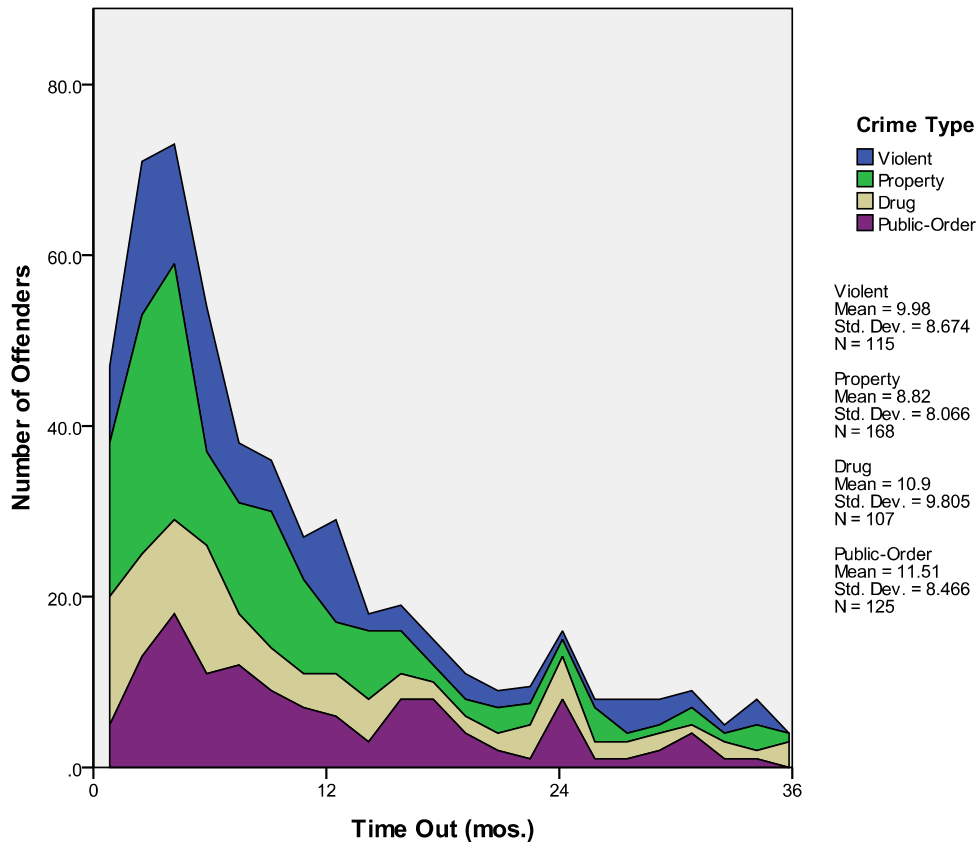
While offenders released from a drug offense in 2007 returned slightly more quickly than offenders released from a property crime, this was only true for the first 25% of returning drug offenders. Offenders released from a violent crime that recidivated spent the second shortest amount of time in the community prior to their return. Offenders convicted of a crime of public order returned at the slowest rate of all recidivists, spending more time in the community prior to returning to prison than offenders within the other three crime groups.

**Graph 6. Time Out Before Return to Prison, by Crime Category**



As the graph above reveals, offenders released from serving time for a property crime returned to prison faster and in greater numbers than did offenders released for other crimes.

**Graph 7. Time Out Before Return to Prison, by Crime Category**



The graph above illustrates the total number and rate at which offenders return to prison, and points to the fact that offenders are at the greatest risk of recidivating in the first 6-10 months following their release, with risk peaking again at two years out.

**D. Time Out Before Return to Prison by Age at Release**

An analysis of time out of prison before return by age of offenders at time of release reveals interesting differences in the rate at which recidivists of different ages return to prison. While the youngest offenders ~ those ages 17-19 ~ returned at the slowest rate, spending an average of 13.2 months in the community before returning to prison, this group consisted of only two individuals. Similarly, the oldest offenders (those 60 yrs of age and older) exhibited the fastest rate of return, spending an average of only 6.5 months in the community before returning to prison ~ but represented only five offenders.

The two age groups of any significant size that exhibited notably shorter lengths of time spent in the community before returning to prison were offenders 50-59 years of age, followed by those in their earlier twenties. While offenders in their fifties at the time of their release had a recidivism rate of only 34.8%, offenders in their early twenties had a recidivism rate of 56.3% ~ the highest recidivism rate, by age.

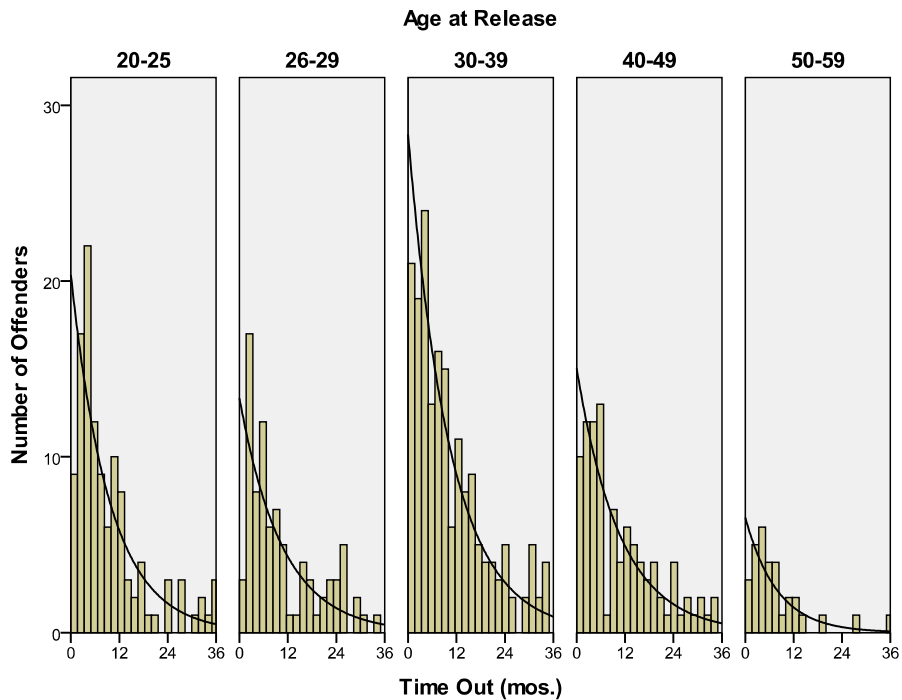
Offenders 26-29, 30-39 and 40-49 years of age returned to prison at approximately the same rate, spending an average of about 10.5 months in the community prior to their return to prison, and with 90% of recidivists returning within approximately two years of their release.

**Table 26. Time Out Before Return to Prison, by Age at Release**

Age at Release	N	Mean	10% of Returns	25% of Returns	50% of Returns	75% of Returns	90% of Returns
17 - 19	2	13.2	1.9	1.9	13.2	-	-
20 - 25	117	9.6	1.7	3.4	6.3	12.8	23.7
26 - 29	85	10.6	2.2	3.4	7.0	16.9	25.3
30 - 39	178	10.5	1.5	3.7	8.0	15.2	24.2
40 - 49	97	10.8	1.6	3.4	8.4	16.6	24.6
50 - 59	31	7.9	1.4	2.3	6.3	10.6	27.6
60 and over	5	6.5	< 1	2.1	7.8	10.2	17.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>24.1</b>

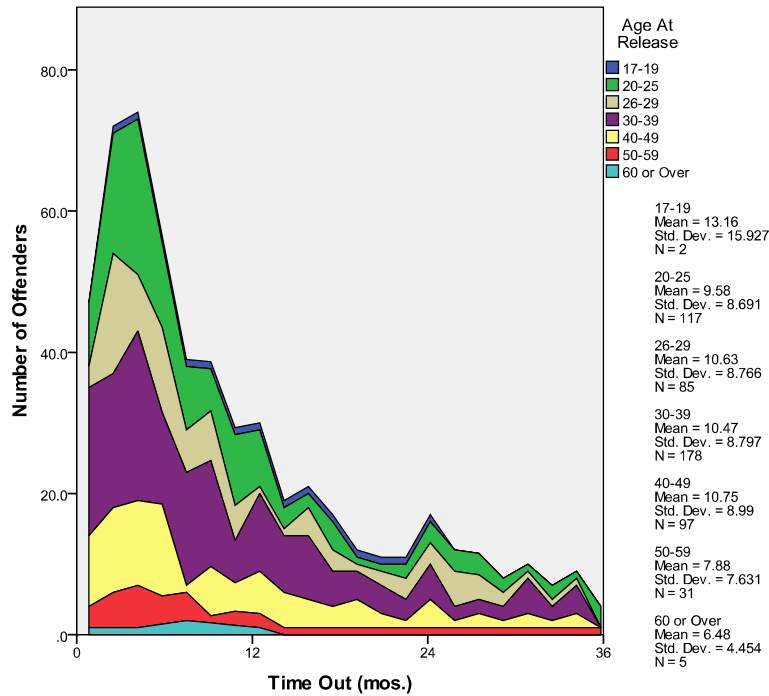
The histogram below serves to illustrate the data from the chart above, for the age categories of 20-26 through 50-59 years of age.

**Graph 8. Time Out Before Return to Prison, by Age at Release**



The graph below also illustrates the number of offenders that return to prison over time, by age category. Similarly, this graph clearly illustrates that offenders who return to prison are at the greatest risk of returning within the first six months following their release, with offenders ages 20-25 and 30-39 returning in greater numbers than offenders in the other age categories.

**Graph 9. Time Out Before Return to Prison, by Age at Release**



It is important to note that trends in the amount of time spent in the community (time out) do not appear to vary dramatically by age of the offender, as each age category experienced spikes in the number returning at similar intervals of time segments subsequent to their release.

**E. Time Out Before Return to Prison by Number of Prior Prison Incarcerations**

An analysis of the amount of time recidivists spend out in the community prior to their return to prison, by number of previous prison incarcerations, reveals that offenders with two or more prior prison incarcerations come back more quickly than those with no prior incarcerations, with offenders with two prior incarcerations coming back more quickly.

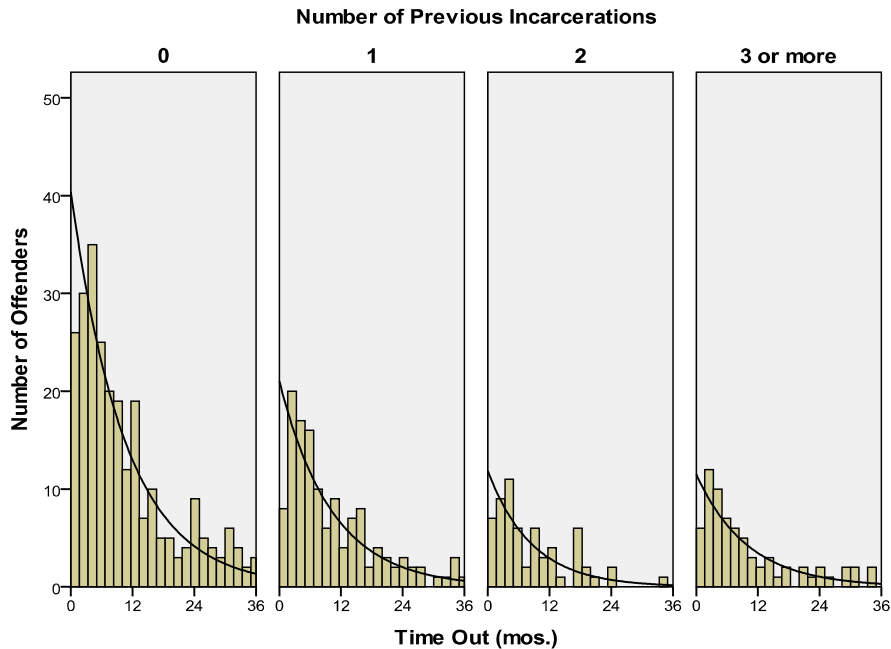
**Table 27. Time Out Before Return to Prison, by Number of Previous Incarcerations**

Number of Previous Incarcerations	N	Mean	10% of Returns	25% of Returns	50% of Returns	75% of Returns	90% of Returns
0	256	10.6	1.6	3.5	7.5	14.8	25.6
1	129	10.2	2.1	3.9	7.3	15.0	23.8
2	61	8.6	1.5	3.0	5.7	12.7	18.7
3 or more	69	10.0	2.1	3.1	6.6	14.6	26.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>24.1</b>



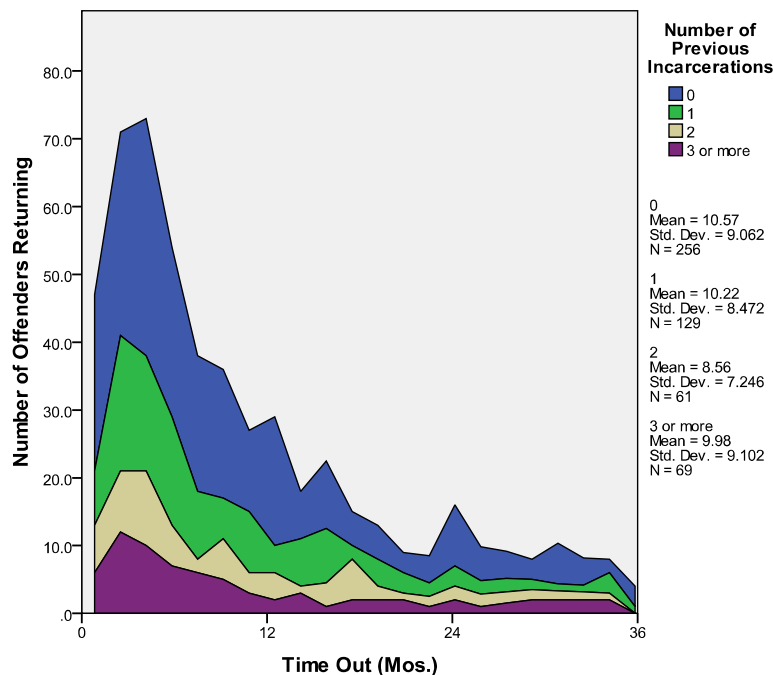
While offenders with no prior prison incarcerations that recidivate tend to spend more time in the community prior to their return, this group represents 50% of all offenders that return to prison.

**Graph 10. Time Out Before Return to Prison, by Number of Prior Prison Incarcerations**



The graph above and the graph below illustrate the number of offenders that returned to prison by number of prior prison incarcerations. Both graphs demonstrate the volume of offenders by number of previous incarcerations and the rate at which recidivists returned to prison by length of time spent in the community following their release.

**Graph 11. Time Out Before Return to Prison by Number of Previous Incarcerations**



## SUMMARY

### **Section IV**

#### **Recidivists: Time Out Before Return to Prison**

- The average amount of time spent in the community on the part of recidivists before returning to prison was 10.16 months. Ten percent of recidivists returned within 1.7 months, 50% returned within 7.3 months, and 90% of those that returned came back in 24 months (two years).
- An analysis of time recidivists spend in the community prior to returning to prison indicates that offenders are at greatest risk of returning to prison the first three to six months after their release.
- The length of time female recidivists spent in the community prior to returning to prison was 9.1 months ~ slightly less than one month less than the average length of time male recidivists spent in the community prior to their return. Fifty percent of female recidivists returned to prison within six months, compared to 7.3 months for males.
- Offenders returning to prison after being released from a parole or probation revocation returned at a faster rate than those released from a sentence. On average, probationers and parolees released in 2007 returned one month sooner than those released from a sentence.
- Offenders admitted to prison for a property crime that recidivated spent the least amount of time in the community before returning to prison ~ spending an average of 8.8 months in the community prior to their return, compared to more than 10 months for the other crime categories.
- Recidivists released from crimes of public order spent, on average, the most amount of time in the community prior to their return, at 11.5 months, with 50% returning within nine months compared to 7.3 months for offenders overall.
- Recidivists in the age categories of 20-25 and 50-59 returned at the fastest rate, spending an average of 9.6 months and 7.9 months in the community, respectively, prior to their return.
- Offenders with no prior prison incarcerations that recidivated spent the greatest amount of time in the community before returning to prison, with average length of time in the community of 10.6 months, with 50% returning within 7.5 months, and 90% returning in over two years.
- Offenders with two prior prison incarceration that recidivated spent the least amount of time in the community prior to returning to prison, spending an average length of time in the community of 8.6 months, with 50% returning within 5.7 months and 75% returning in just over one year.

# **APPENDICES**

## **APPENDIX A**

FY2007 COHORT  
RELEASES BY CRIME AND GENDER

## **APPENDIX B**

FY2007 COHORT  
RECIDIVISM RATES BY CRIME AND GENDER

## Appendix A

### FY2007 Cohort Releases by Specific Crime and Gender

Specific Crime	Male		Female		Entire Cohort		
	#	%	#	%	#	% of Total	% w/in Crime Category
<b>Violent</b>							
Assault	83	8.5	3	2.5	86	7.9	26.1
Aggravated Assault	31	3.2	3	2.5	34	3.1	10.3
Robbery	62	6.4	9	7.4	71	6.5	21.6
Felonious Sexual Assault	52	5.3	2	1.6	54	4.9	16.4
Aggravated FSA*	50	5.1		0	50	4.6	15.2
Other Sexual Offense	12	1.2		0	12	1.1	3.6
Statutory Rape	1	0.1		0	1	0.1	0.3
Kidnapping	1	0.1		0	1	0.1	0.3
Homicide	19	2.0	1	0.8	20	1.8	6.1
<b>Total Violent</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Property Crime</b>							
Burglary	105	10.8	7	5.7	112	10.2	34.4
Larceny/Theft/Receiving Stolen Property	104	10.7	22	18	126	11.5	38.7
Fraud	43	4.4	19	15.6	62	5.7	19.0
Other Property	25	2.6	1	0.8	26	2.4	8.0
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Drug</b>							
Drug Sale	69	7.1	10	8.2	79	7.2	37.1
Drug Possession	105	10.9	28	23	134	12.2	62.9
<b>Total Drug Crime</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Public Order</b>							
Habitual Offender	119	12.2	9	7.4	128	11.7	56.4
Other Public Order	91	9.4	8	6.6	99	9	43.6
<b>Total Public Order</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100%</b>	

\* FSA = Felonious Sexual Assault

## Appendix B

### FY2007 Cohort Recidivism Rates by Crime and Gender

Crime Category	Males				Females				Total Cohort			
	Released		Returned		Released		Returned		Released		Returned	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Violent</b>												
Assault	83	8.5	28	33.7	3	2.5	1	33.3	86	7.9	29	33.7
Aggravated Assault	31	3.2	16	51.6	3	2.5	1	33.3	34	3.1	17	50.0
Robbery	62	6.4	33	53.2	9	7.4	5	55.6	71	6.5	38	53.5
Felonious Sexual Assault (FSA)	52	5.3	10	19.2	2	1.6	0	0.0	54	4.9	10	18.5
Aggravated FSA	50	5.1	12	24.0		0.0			50	4.6	12	24.0
Other Sexual Offense	12	1.2	3	25.0		0.0			12	1.1	3	25.0
Statutory Rape	1	0.1	1	100.0		0.0			1	0.1	1	100.0
Kidnapping	1	0.1	1	100.0		0.0			1	0.1	1	100.0
Homicide	19	2.0	4	21.1	1	0.8	0	0.0	20	1.8	4	20.0
<b>Total Violent</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>35.0</b>
<b>Property</b>												
Burglary	105	10.8	55	52.4	7	5.7	3	42.9	112	10.2	58	51.8
Larceny/Theft Receiving Stolen Property	104	10.7	56	53.8	22	18.0	10	45.5	126	11.5	66	52.4
Fraud	43	4.4	26	60.5	19	15.6	10	52.6	62	5.7	36	58.1
Other Property	25	2.6	8	32.0	1	0.8	0	0.0	26	2.4	8	30.8
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>51.5</b>
<b>Drug</b>												
Sale	69	7.1	38	55.1	10	8.2	3	30.0	79	7.2	41	53.2
Possession	105	10.9	53	50.5	28	23.0	13	46.4	133	12.2	66	49.3
<b>Total Drug</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>50.7</b>
<b>Public-Order</b>												
DWI/Hab.Off.	119	12.2	63	52.9	9	7.4	5	55.6	128	11.7	68	53.1
Other Public Order	91	9.4	51	56.0	8	6.6	6	75.0	99	9.0	57	57.6
<b>Total Public Order</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>55.1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>47.0</b>