



New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT
OF
CORRECTIONS

REINTEGRATION STUDY

BASELINE RATES & OVERALL FINDINGS

Reintegration occurs when an individual returns to their community after a period of incarceration. NHDOC is responsible for implementing and providing of programs, services and individual interventions to people during this period of incarceration. The intent of this overall study and its subsidiary reports is to measure the impact of the programs and services provided by NHDOC based on reintegration rates.

January 2016 – December 2016

Contents

90 Day Study	2
Baseline Population Trends	2
Findings	2
Part 1 – Social Networks & Family Support	4
Summary of Findings.....	4
Part 2 – Economic Support.....	5
Summary of Findings.....	6
Part 3 – Health & Wellness	8
Summary of Findings.....	8
Part 4 – Transitional Planning & Support.....	8
Summary of Findings.....	8
Appendix A: Baseline Population.....	9
Appendix B: Works Cited	9
Appendix C: Recidivism Study.....	11

90 Day Study

This study will seek to establish a baseline trend of reintegration rates for those individuals re-entering the community after a period of incarceration within a NHDOC facility. For the purposes of this study, the reintegration rate is defined as the percentage of a population that successfully remains in the community after a set period of time post-release. In addition to determining the baseline reintegration rate, this study will review four separate areas and programming types that have been identified through established research studies¹ to help improve an individual's chances at a successful reintegration into their community.

This study does not attempt to re-create these established research results. The goal is to identify potential areas within the NHDOC that correspond to this body of research which may impact an individual's ability to reintegrate into the community, and to then measure the impacts of those areas against the observed baseline rates of individuals re-entering the community. While there are many factors that impact an individual's ability to stay within the community, this study will focus on areas that are within the Department's ability to influence.

This study will review the first 90 days post-release for the most recent 12-month period where re-entry and return data is available². This will allow for a more-rapid identification of trends and let NHDOC evaluate the impact of changes within a service or program that may have occurred. These baseline reintegration rates will be used as the basis of comparison for the duration of this study.

Baseline Population Trends

The baseline population for this report was isolated by reviewing the total population of those returning to their community after a period of incarceration. Within this group, certain aspects of release were identified that allowed for an individual's inclusion in the study. These guidelines, which apply equally to each month studied, included:

- First verified release in a given month
 - Subsequent releases in a month are excluded from the study
- Releases to the community such as:
 - Max-out
 - Parole (discretionary or Mandatory)
 - End of Parole Revocation Period

Any individuals not meeting these release criteria, such as individuals who were transferred to another jurisdiction's authority, were omitted from the population used in establishing the baseline rate. See Appendix A for the exact numbers of those released, those excluded, and those included in the baseline each month.

Once the valid releases were identified, the baseline rate was developed by looking first at the number of individuals released from a NHDOC facility during a given month within the 12 month-period of study, then determining the rate of individuals who remained in the community for the first 30, 60 and 90 days post-release. This calculation involved taking the total number of those released, subtracting the number of those who returned during any of the aforementioned periods, and dividing that total by the total number of releases³. This process was completed for each month's releases and for each 30 day-period post-release.

Findings

During the 12 month period assessed (January 2016 – December 2016), a total of 1,603 individuals re-entered the community. Based on this study's guidelines for inclusion 48 re-entries were determined to not be valid for use; this left a total of 1,555 valid releases for review. In all, a total of 89.8% of those individuals included in this study remained in their respective communities after the 90 day post-incarceration period. Baseline trending (seen in Charts 1 through 3) indicates that those released during the latter months reviewed had higher rates of reintegration overall.

¹ See Appendix B for a complete list of research studies referenced.

² Re-Entry and return data for a month is not available until 90 days later. Ex: Complete re-entry data for January is available beginning in April.

³ Ex.: 150 releases – 5 returns in first 30 days = 145 individuals in community, or a 96.7% reintegration rate.

Baseline Rate of Reintegration: 30 Days Post-Release



Chart 1: 0-30 Day Returns

Avg. reintegration rate: 96.8%

Highest rate: 100% (Jul '16)

Lowest rate: 93% (Oct '16)

Trending indicates higher rates of reintegration during the first half of the period reviewed

Baseline Rate of Reintegration: 60 Days Post-Release



Chart 2: 31-60 Day Returns

Avg. reintegration rate: 93.2%, an average decline of 3.6% from the 0-30 day period

Highest rate: 99.2% (Dec '16)

Lowest rate: 86.6% (Aug '16)

Trending indicates higher rate during latter half of sample assessed, a reverse of trending during the previous period reviewed

Baseline Rate of Reintegration: 90 Days Post-Release

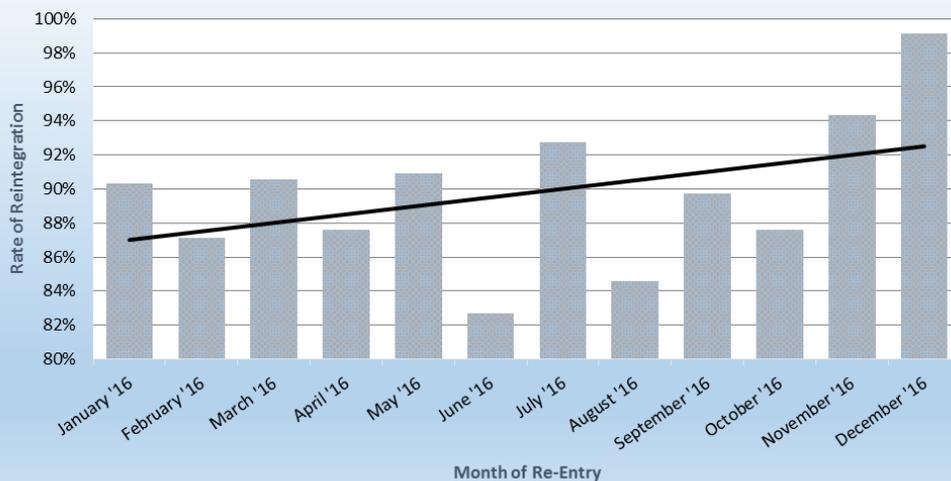


Chart 3: 61-90 Day Returns

Avg. reintegration rate: 89.8%, an average decline of 3.4% from the 31-60 day period

Highest rate: 99.2% (Dec '16)

Lowest rate: 82.7% (Jun '16)

Trending matches the previous period; indicates higher rates of reintegration during the first latter of the period reviewed

Part 1 – Social Networks & Family Support

This section of the Reintegration Study will focus on areas within NHDOC that may impact social networks and family supports for individuals. Based on review of independently published research papers, there were consistent findings that demonstrate strengthening these ties will assist in the reintegration of the individual into society. A sample of this type of research was published by Christian et. al in a *Journal of Criminal Justice* article which indicates that “family can be a crucial link to the outside world” for an individual who has been incarcerated (Christian et. al., 1). Research published by the Minnesota Department of Corrections in 2011 indicates that “[e]ach visit in prison reduced the risk of reconviction,” thereby improving one’s rate of reintegrating back into their community (MNDOC, 18). Strengthening of social bonds is important because individuals released usually need to rely on families and friends for emotional support, transportation, employment opportunities, financial assistance and housing while making the transition back into society.

The baseline reintegration rates are used as the basis of comparison for the duration of this section of the study. Each period’s rate will be compared against the reintegration rates for individuals who meet the following program criteria:

- Visitation:
 - Those who received social visitors during their last 90 days of incarceration
- Family Connections Center:
 - Received FCC Earned Time Credit
 - Were marked as “Completed Successfully” within 12 months of release
 - Participation in the program ended when they were released

Summary of Findings

Visitation: A total of 425 (27.3%) individuals received social visits during their last 90 days of incarceration. This left 72.7% of the total population who did not. Reintegration rates for individuals who received social visits during the last 90 days of incarceration are 2.4% higher than the baseline rates on average.

For each period reviewed in this assessment the rates of reintegration were higher among those who received social visits than the baseline population. This represents a measurable level of successful reintegration among those who re-entered the community during the period assessed. The average percentage of those people who received social visits and subsequently remained in the community were as follows:

- **0-30 Days**
 - Overall, 1.3% higher than baseline
 - A total of 98.1% of the individuals who received social visits remained in the community, compared to the 96.8% of the baseline group
 - Six months had 100% reintegration rates
 - Trending indicates that rates were lower toward the end of the period reviewed
- **31-60 Days**
 - Overall, 1.8% higher than baseline
 - A total of 94.8% of the individuals who received social visits remained in the community compared to the 93% of the baseline group
 - Two months still had a 100% reintegration rate
 - Trending shows that rates were still lower toward the end of the period reviewed
- **61-90 Days**
 - Overall, 2.9% higher than baseline
 - A total of 92.3% of the individuals who received social visits remained in the community compared to the 89.3% of the baseline group
 - One month still had a reintegration rate of 100%
 - Trending indicates that rates were higher toward the end of the period reviewed

Family Connection Center Programming: A total of 62 (4%) of the 1,555 individuals participated in FCC programming. Self-reporting data shows that 798 (51.3%) individuals had minor children at the time of their re-entry into the community. This means there were 736 (47.3%) individuals released who potentially could have participated in FCC programming if they met

the requirements. Reintegration rates for individuals who participated in FCC programming are 5.7% higher than the baseline rates on average.

For each period reviewed, the rates of reintegration were higher among those who participated in FCC programming than the baseline population. This represents a measurable level of successful reintegration among those who re-entered the community during the period assessed. The average percentage of those people who participated in FCC programming and subsequently remained in the community were as follows:

- **0-30 Days**
 - Overall, 1.6% higher than baseline
 - A total of 98.4% of the individuals who participated in FCC programming still remained in the community, compared to the 96.8% of the overall group
 - Rates of reintegration of 100% were observed in 11 months
 - Trending indicates that rates were lower toward the end of the period reviewed
- **31-60 Days**
 - Overall, 3.8% higher than baseline
 - A total of 96.7% of the individuals who participated in FCC programming still remained in the community, compared to the 93% of the baseline group overall
 - Eleven months maintained a 100% rate of reintegration
 - Trending indicates that rates were lower toward the end of the period reviewed
- **61-90 Days**
 - Overall, 5.7% higher than baseline
 - A total of 95.1% of the individuals who participated in FCC programming still remained in the community, compared to the 89.3% of the baseline group overall
 - Ten months maintained a 100% reintegration rate
 - Trending indicates that rates were lower toward the end of the period reviewed

Part 2 – Economic Support

This section of the Reintegration Study will focus on areas within NHDOC that may impact economic and educational supports for individuals. Based on a review of independently published research papers, there were findings which demonstrate that strengthening skills and providing education will assist in an individual's reintegration into society. A sample of this type of research was published by the Urban Institute's Justice Police Center in an article which states that "preparation may include achieving a certain level of education before release, developing trades and employment skills to be applied after release, or developing "work-ready" skills that will help an offender look for, secure, and maintain employment" (Lawrence, 12). Further research published in the Journal of Business & Economics Research concludes that offering economic-related skills and programming to incarcerated individuals who desire to participate in them yield results that "consistently indicate a significant reduction in the odds of recidivism" over a three-year period (Hopper, 8).

The baseline reintegration rates are used as the basis of comparison for the duration of this section of the study. Each period's baseline rate will be compared against the reintegration rates for:

- Those who completed at least 26 weeks of employment in an Industries job while incarcerated
 - Weeks of employment do not need to be contiguous
 - May have occurred at any point during incarceration
- Individuals who participated in Education programming:
 - Received Earned Time Credit for completing approved Education programming, or;
 - Marked as actively assigned to an Education job in the offender management system for at least 12 weeks
- Individuals who participated in CTEC programming:
 - Received Earned Time Credit for completing approved CTEC programming, or;
 - Marked as having a record of being in a CTEC job/program for at least 12 weeks

Summary of Findings

Industries: A total of 81 (5.2%) of the 1,555 individuals worked at an Industries job for at least 26 weeks during their period of incarceration. This means that there were an additional 94.8% of people to whom Industries programming could have been extended should they have qualified and chosen to participate.

Rates of reintegration were higher overall among those individuals who had worked in an Industries job than the rates of the baseline population. This represents a substantial level of success among the 5.2% of those who re-entered the community during the period assessed after having had a job in the Industries program. The average percentage of those people who participated in Industries programming and subsequently remained in the community were as follows:

- **0-30 Days**
 - On average, 3.2% higher than baseline
 - A total of 100% of the individuals who participated in Industries programming remained in the community compared to the 96.8% of the baseline group
 - All months had 100% reintegration rates
- **31-60 Days**
 - On average, 6.8% higher than baseline
 - A total of 100% of the individuals who participated in Industries programming remained in the community compared to the 93% of the baseline group
 - All months still had a 100% reintegration rate
- **61-90 Days**
 - On average, 10.2% higher than baseline
 - A total of 97.5% of the individuals who participated in Industries programming remained in the community compared to the 88.1% of the baseline group
 - Ten months still had a reintegration rate of 100%
 - Trending shows higher overall rates in the latter months reviewed

Education: A total of 85 (5.5%) of the 1,555 individuals were determined to have participated in or completed an Education program. This shows that there were an additional 94.5% of people to whom Education programming could have be extended should they have qualified and chosen to participate.

The rates of reintegration were lower among those individuals who participated in Education programming when compared to the baseline rates. Trending indicates those individuals released during the latter months reviewed experienced higher rates of reintegration than those in the earlier months studied. The average percentages of those people who participated in Education programming and subsequently remained in the community were as follows:

- **0-30 Days**
 - On average, 0.3% lower than baseline
 - A total of 96.5% of the individuals who participated in Education programming still remained in the community, compared to the 96.8% of the overall group
 - Rates of reintegration of 100% were observed in nine (9) months
 - Trending shows that rates were higher toward the end of the period reviewed
- **31-60 Days**
 - On average, 0.2% lower than baseline
 - A total of 92.8% of the individuals who participated in Education programming still remained in the community, compared to the 93% of the baseline group overall
 - Six (6) months had rates lower than the baseline
 - Trending shows that rates were higher toward the end of the period reviewed
- **61-90 Days**
 - On average, 0.3% lower than baseline
 - A total of 89% of the individuals who participated in Education programming still remained in the community, compared to the 89.3% of the baseline group overall
 - Eight (8) months had rates lower than the baseline
 - Trending shows that rates were substantially higher toward the end of the period reviewed

Career & Technical Education Center: A total of 76 (4.9%) of the 1,555 individuals participated in CTEC. This shows that there were an additional 95.1% of people to whom CTEC programming could have been extended should they have qualified and chosen to participate.

The rates of reintegration were lower among those individuals who participated in CTEC programming when compared against the baseline rates. Trending for the CTEC group greater levels of success among the first several months in the periods reviewed. The average percentage of those people who participated in CTEC programming and subsequently remained in the community were as follows:

- **0-30 Days**
 - On average, 0.6% higher than baseline
 - A total of 97.4% of the individuals who participated in CTEC programming still remained in the community, compared to the 96.8% of the overall group
 - Rates of reintegration of 100% were observed in 10 months
 - Trending shows that rates were slightly lower toward the end of the period reviewed
- **31-60 Days**
 - On average, 1% lower than baseline
 - A total of 92% of the individuals who participated in CTEC programming still remained in the community, lower than the 93% of the baseline group overall
 - Four (4) months had rates lower than the baseline rate
 - Trending shows that rates were flat for the periods reviewed
- **61-90 Days**
 - On average, 0.2% lower than baseline
 - A total of 89.1% of the individuals who participated in CTEC programming still remained in the community, lower than the 89.3% of the baseline group overall
 - Five (5) months had rates lower than the baseline rate; Six (6) had reintegration rates of 100%
 - Trending shows that rates were substantially higher toward the end of the period reviewed

Part 3 – Health & Wellness

The goal of this study is to study programs and services that will strengthen the offender’s health in both body and mind.

Summary of Findings

The data for the programs in this section are currently under further review. This will allow for a better assessment of the programs as they relate to their potential impact(s) on reintegration. Data for this section will be available in a future iteration of this report.

Part 4 – Transitional Planning & Support

The goal of this study is to study programs and services that assist the offender with preparing for reintegration and successful independent living within the community.

Summary of Findings

The data for the programs in this section are currently under further review. This will allow for a better assessment of the programs as they relate to their potential impact(s) on reintegration. Data for this section will be available in a future iteration of this report.

Appendix A: Baseline Population

The baseline for this period (January 2016 – December 2016) is as follows:

	Total Monthly Re-Entries	Excluded Re-Entries	Valid Releases	30-Day Rate	Individuals Returned to Facility	60-Day Rate	Individuals Returned to Facility	90-Day Rate	Individuals Returned to Facility
Jan '16	130	6	124	98.4%	2	96.0%	3	90.3%	7
Feb '16	138	6	132	95.5%	6	91.7%	5	87.1%	6
Mar '16	132	5	127	96.9%	4	94.5%	3	90.6%	5
Apr '16	134	5	129	96.9%	4	89.9%	9	87.6%	3
May '16	149	6	143	96.5%	5	95.1%	2	90.9%	6
Jun '16	129	2	127	97.6%	3	89.0%	11	82.7%	8
Jul '16	141	3	138	100.0%	0	95.7%	6	92.8%	4
Aug '16	140	4	136	94.9%	7	86.8%	11	84.6%	3
Sep '16	141	5	136	96.3%	5	94.1%	3	89.7%	6
Oct '16	126	5	121	93%	8	91.7%	2	87.6%	5
Nov '16	125	1	124	96.0%	5	94.4%	2	94.4%	0
Dec '16	118	0	118	99.2%	1	99.2%	0	99.2%	0
Total & Averages	1603	48	1555	96.8%	50	93.2%	57	89.8%	53

Appendix B: Works Cited

Christian, Johnna et. al. "Social and economic implications of family connections to prisoners." *Journal of Criminal Justice*, Edition 34 (2006)

Minnesota Department of Corrections. "The Effects Of Prison Visitation On Offender Recidivism." Minnesota DOC (Nov. 2011)

Tahamont, Sarah. "Essays on the Effects of Correctional Policies on Prison Misconduct". UC Berkley, *Public Policy Doctoral Dissertation* (2013)

Family Communication Center, NHDOC. "FCC: The Practice." <https://www.nh.gov/nhdoc/fcc/>

Policy and Procedure Directives, NHDOC. "NHDOC PPD 7.09:I – Purpose"

Martinez, Damian. "Family Connections and Prisoner Reentry." *Prisoner Reentry: A Twenty-First Century Imperative* Conference, Arizona State University (2009)

Lutze, Faith E. et. al. "Washington State Correctional Industries: An outcome evaluation of its effect on institutional behavior, employment, and recidivism." *Washington State University*. (Dec. 2015)

Lawrence, Sarah, et. al. "The Practice and Promise of Prison Programming." *Urban Institute, Justice Policy Center* (May 2002)

Correctional Industries, NHDOC. <https://www.nh.gov/nhdoc/divisions/correctional/>

Policy and Procedure Directives, NHDOC. "NHDOC PPD 7.15:IV-E – Facility-designated work areas"

Policy and Procedure Directives, NHDOC. "NHDOC PPD 5.11:IV-A.1 – Education Programs"

Policy and Procedure Directives, NHDOC. "NHDOC PPD 5.11:IV-A.2 – Vocational Programs"

Hopper, Jeffrey D. "Benefits of Inmate Employment Programs: Evidence From the Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program". Transylvania University, USA. *Journal of Business & Economics Research*, Vol. 11, No. 5. (May 2013)

Program of Studies. *State of New Hampshire Department of Corrections: Corrections Special School District*

Davis, Lois M. et. al. "How Effective is Correctional Education, and Where Do We Go from Here?" Bureau of Justice Assistance and RAND Corporation. (2014)

Gordon, Howard R. D. et. al. "The Impact of Career and Technical Education Programs on Adult Offenders: Learning Behind Bars" *The Journal of Correctional Education*, Vol. 54, No. 4 (December 2003) pp. 200-209

Appendix C: Recidivism Study

NH DOC 2015/2016 Recidivism Study - ALL -

10-1-2015 to 09-30-2016 Releases

From reports generated on 1/5/2017

	Fac Rel	Non-Fac Rel	Total Releases	Not Counted	Initial Rel/ COHORT	0-3 Months	
						# Rec	% Rec
January							
Release to Parole	107	8	115	18	97	8	8.25
Release to Probation	5	4	9	1	8	0	0
Release / Other	6	0	6	4	2	0	0
Total Releases	118	12	130	23	107	8	7.48

February							
Release to Parole	120	5	125	23	102	8	7.84
Release to Probation	4	2	6	0	6	0	0
Release / Other	7	0	7	3	4	0	0
Total Releases	131	7	138	26	112	8	7.14

March							
Release to Parole	112	4	116	13	103	8	7.77
Release to Probation	5	3	8	0	8	0	0
Release / Other	8	0	8	4	4	0	0
Total Releases	125	7	132	17	115	8	6.96

April							
Release to Parole	107	8	115	12	103	7	6.8
Release to Probation	8	2	10	0	10	1	10
Release / Other	9	0	9	3	6	0	0
Total Releases	124	10	134	15	119	8	6.72

May							
Release to Parole	123	5	128	19	109	7	6.42
Release to Probation	11	2	13	1	12	0	0
Release / Other	8	0	8	3	5	0	0
Total Releases	142	7	149	23	126	7	5.56

June							
Release to Parole	110	4	114	15	99	8	8.08
Release to Probation	9	2	11	0	11	0	0

Release / Other	4	0	4	2	2	0	0
Total Releases	123	6	129	17	112	8	7.14

July

Release to Parole	110	7	117	14	103	5	4.85
Release to Probation	14	1	15	1	14	0	0
Release / Other	7	2	9	3	6	0	0
Total Releases	131	10	141	18	123	5	4.07

August

Release to Parole	116	10	126	33	93	4	4.3
Release to Probation	6	1	7	1	6	0	0
Release / Other	7	0	7	4	3	0	0
Total Releases	129	11	140	38	102	4	3.92

September

Release to Parole	121	4	125	29	96	6	6.25
Release to Probation	3	1	4	0	4	0	0
Release / Other	10	2	12	5	7	0	0
Total Releases	134	7	141	34	107	6	5.61

October

Release to Parole	102	8	110	23	87	7	8.05
Release to Probation	7	0	7	3	4	0	0
Release / Other	9	0	9	3	6	0	0
Total Releases	118	8	126	29	97	7	7.22

November

Release to Parole	108	10	118	30	88	7	7.95
Release to Probation	2	1	3	2	1	0	0
Release / Other	4	0	4	1	3	0	0
Total Releases	114	11	125	33	92	7	7.61

December

Release to Parole	104	2	106	33	73	6	8.22
Release to Probation	8	1	9	3	6	0	0
Release / Other	3	0	3	0	3	0	0
Total Releases	115	3	118	36	82	6	7.32

GRAND TOTALS

Total Releases	1504	99	1603	309	1294	82	6.34
-----------------------	-------------	-----------	-------------	------------	-------------	-----------	-------------

Footnotes:

1. Releases from Facility will not include Transfer Out totals.
2. The COHORT numbers will not be finalized until the first year is completed and all releases/returns have been reviewed for accuracy.
3. Time range values will not be populated until the end date for that specific range.
4. Totals will update until the entire study is complete.