

JUVENILE RECIDIVISM 2017



The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) defines recidivism as a return to incarceration within three years of the offender's date of release from a state correctional institution.

This study looks at Juvenile offenders released in 2014 and follows the offender for three years from their release date to determine if the offender returned to incarceration in either a Juvenile or Adult Facility.

2017 Juvenile Recidivism Rate: **32.2%**

- 702 Releases ■ 226 Returns (137 as a juvenile, 89 as an adult)
- 84.3% of juvenile releases had not been incarcerated in an Adult facility within 3 years of their 2014 release from a Juvenile institution

- Of all juveniles released in 2014, 34.3% of males returned to IDOC while only 21.2% of females returned.
- Approximately 38.0% of African American juvenile offenders returned to the Department of Correction, a higher rate than any other major race or ethnicity. Youth whose race was not identified were next highest with a 36.1% recidivism rate, followed by Hispanic youth (34.7%) and white youth (28.2%).
- Approximately 84% of juveniles who recidivated were returned to IDOC for the commission of a new crime, compared to 16% of returns which were for a technical violation of post-release supervision.
- Juvenile offenders whose offense severity level was classified as 'Less Serious' were most likely to return to incarceration.
- Juvenile offenders released in 2014 who were identified as a sex offender returned to IDOC less frequently than the overall rate.
- Only 6.5% of identified juvenile sex offenders released in 2014 returned to IDOC for the commission of a **new** sex offense.

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Recidivism Methodology

The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) defines recidivism as a return to incarceration within three years of the juvenile's date of release from a state correctional institution. The current study analyzed all juvenile releases from an IDOC facility during calendar year 2014 to determine if there were any youths returned to incarceration, in either a juvenile or adult facility, within three years of their respective release date.

It should be noted that, in order to accurately gauge recidivism, IDOC paid particular attention to the chronological order of each return to confinement. Specifically, if a juvenile was returned to a juvenile facility, he/she was counted as a juvenile facility recidivist and not researched any further.

Success Rate Methodology

The rate of success for each student, which was calculated separately from the rate of recidivism, was established by determining if each juvenile released in 2014 was subsequently returned to incarceration *in an adult facility only*. In other words, recommitment to a juvenile facility was not counted as an unsuccessful release in this methodology. Students released from a state correctional facility who remained free of adult incarceration three years after their release were deemed to have successfully re-entered society.

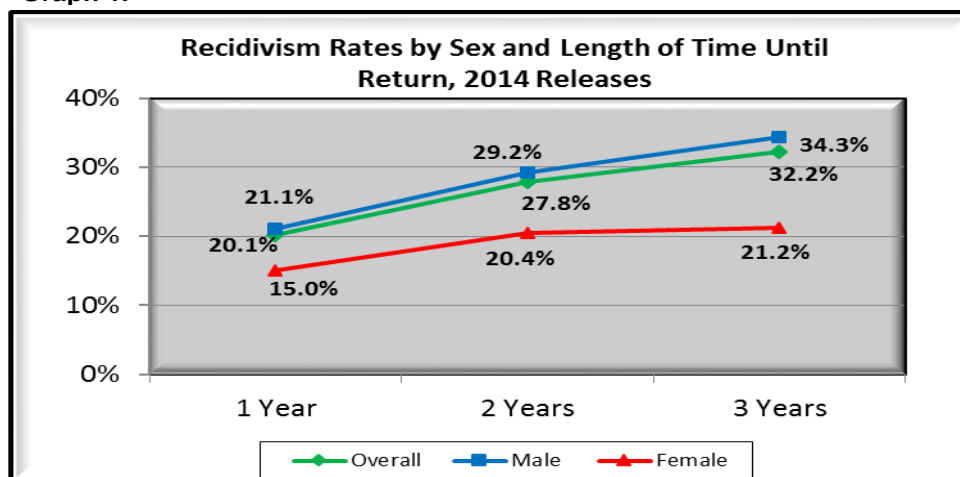
Overall Recidivism Rates

In 2014, the Indiana Department of Correction released 702 students. Of those juveniles released, 32.2% were re-incarcerated with the Indiana Department of Correction within three years of their release date. Table 1 details recidivism rates by the length of time until a student returned to incarceration in either a juvenile or adult facility. The percentage of returns for 2014 releases at the 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year milestones for males and females is illustrated in Graph 1.

Table 1. Number and Percent Returns by Gender, 2014 Releases

	2014 Releases		
	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE
# Released	702	589	113
Recidivism Rates within 1 year of release	20.1%	21.1%	15.0%
Recidivism Rates within 2 years of release	27.8%	29.2%	20.4%
Recidivism Rates within 3 years of release	32.2%	34.3%	22.2%

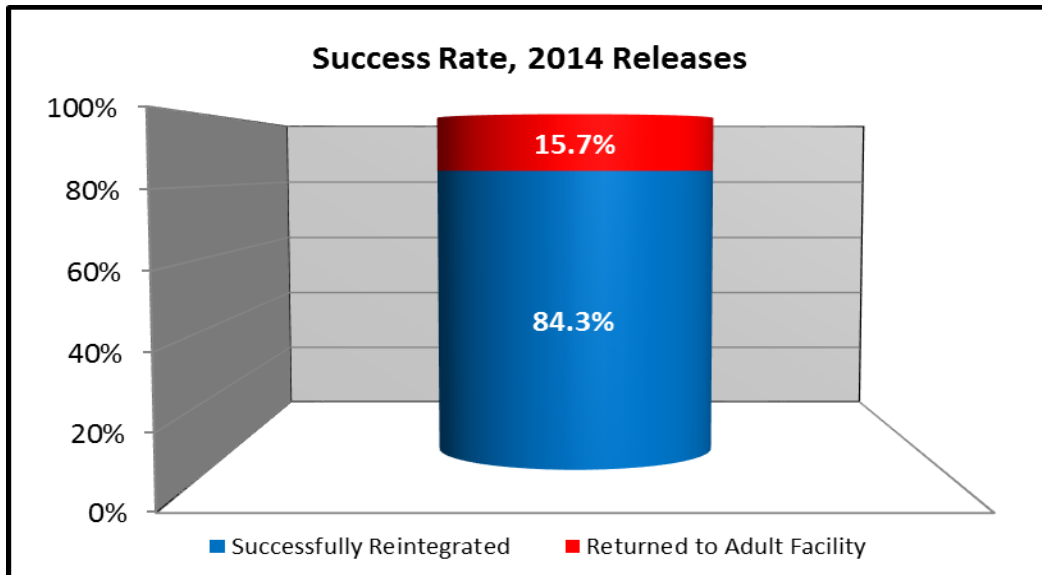
Graph 1.



Success Rate

The ultimate goal for any juvenile who has been released from a juvenile correctional setting is for them to remain crime free and not become incarcerated as an adult. The Indiana Department of Correction is obligated to serve all youth incarcerated in the State of Indiana and prepare them to re-enter their communities in the hope that they will become successful law-abiding citizens. Of the 702 juveniles released in 2014, 84.3% (592) were successfully re-integrated into their communities and were not incarcerated in an adult correctional facility within three years of their release (see Graph 2).

Graph 2.



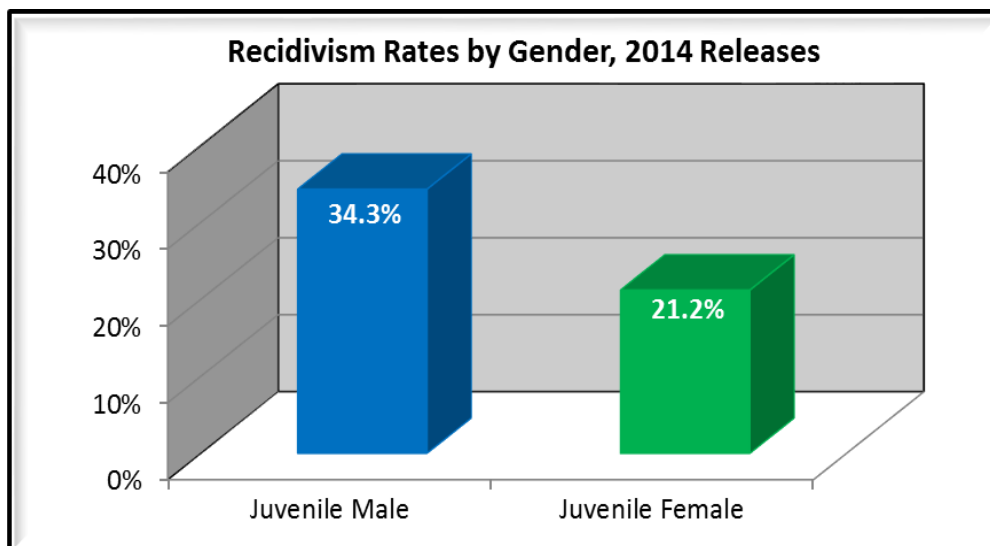
Recidivism Rates by Gender

Similar to previous years, data for 2014 releases indicate a marked difference in the recidivism rates of male and female juveniles (see Table 2). As shown in Graph 3, of those students released in 2014, males (34.3%) were approximately one and a half times more likely to recidivate than females (21.2%). Interestingly, the vast majority of female students who were re-incarcerated with IDOC returned as a juvenile while nearly half of all juvenile male students who recidivated returned to IDOC as an adult.

Table 2. Number and Percent of Returns by Gender, 2014 Releases

	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE
2014 Juvenile Releases	702	589	113
Returned as a Juvenile	137	116	21
Returned as an Adult	89	86	3
Total # Returned	226	202	24
Recidivism Rate	32.2%	34.3%	21.2%

Graph 3.



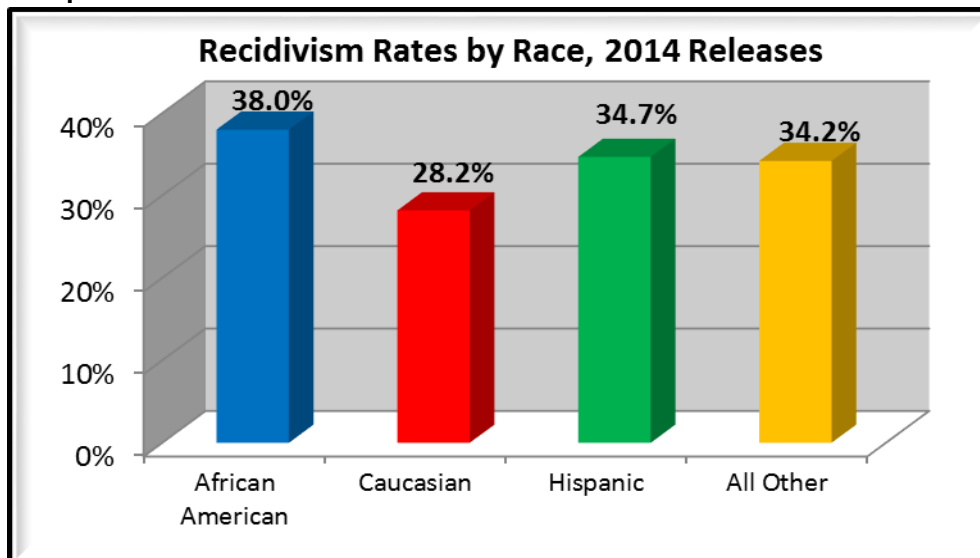
Recidivism Rates by Race

Amongst racial categories, African American students (38.0%) exhibited the largest likelihood of recidivating amongst students in the 2014 release cohort. They were followed by students whose race was unidentified at 36.1% and Hispanic students at 34.75%. Caucasian juveniles rounded out the top four with a return to incarceration at a rate of 28.2% (see Table 3). As used in Graph 4 below, the ‘All Other’ category includes students who are American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and students whose race was unidentified at the time of reporting.

Table 3. Number and Percent of Returns by Race, 2014 Releases

Race	2014 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
African American	229	87	38.0%
American Indian	1	0	0.0%
Asian/Pacific	1	0	0.0%
Caucasian	386	109	28.2%
Hispanic	49	17	34.7%
Unidentified	36	13	36.1%
Total	702	226	32.2%

Graph 4.



Recidivism Rates by Type of Release

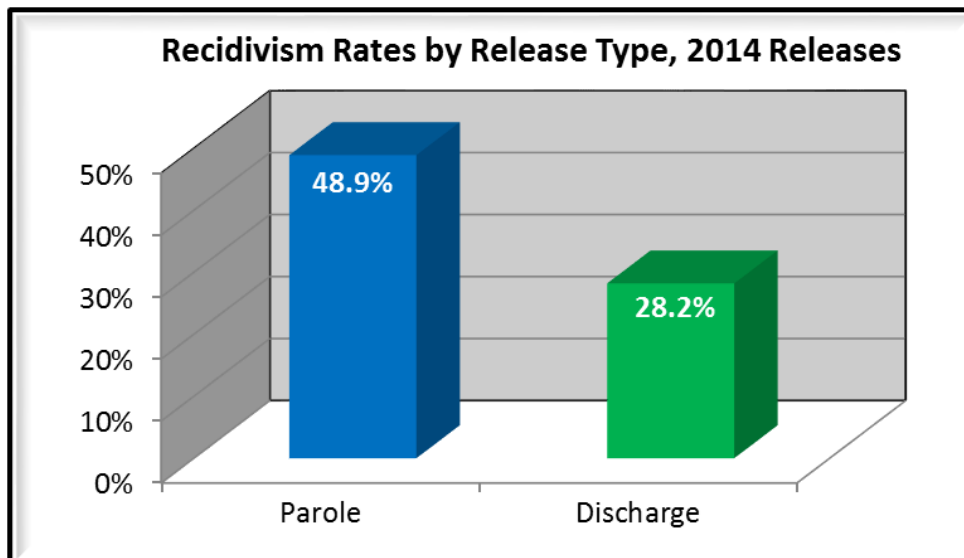
Students who were released to parole in 2014 were more likely to recidivate than those who were discharged from a juvenile facility (see Graph 5). Of the 135 students released to parole in 2014, 48.9% returned to IDOC within three years while only 28.2% of students discharged from incarceration returned within three years (see Table 4).

Anecdotally, this difference may be attributed to the likelihood that students on parole are monitored more closely and must meet certain minimum behavioral requirements while on parole or they risk being re-incarcerated for a parole violation. Juveniles who have been discharged, on the other hand, have no post-release supervision guidelines as they have completed the adjudication requirements imposed by their sentencing court.

Table 4. Number and Percent of Returns by Release Type, 2014 Releases

Release Type	2014 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Parole	135	66	48.9%
Discharge	567	160	28.2%
Total	702	226	32.2

Graph 5.



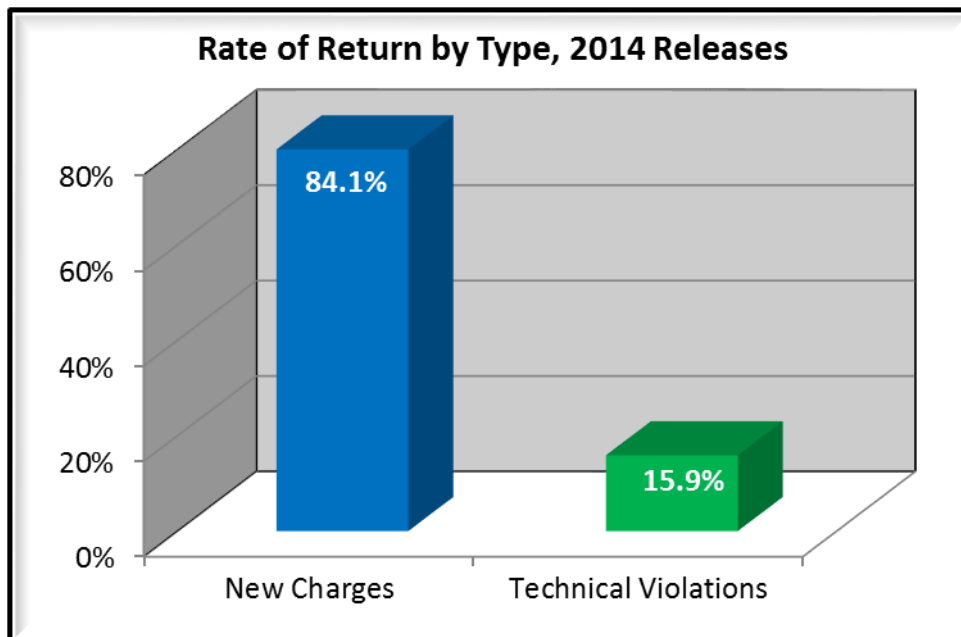
Recidivism Rates by Type of Return

For the 2014 juvenile release cohort, the proportion of returns for new charges was significantly larger than the proportion of returns for technical violations (see Graph 6). As detailed in Table 5, new charges comprised 84.1% of all juvenile returns while technical violations accounted for only 15.9% of juvenile returns.

Table 5. Number and Percent of Returns by Return Type, 2014 Releases

Return Type	2014 Releases	
	Number of Recidivists	% of Return
Probation Violation - New	8	3.5%
Probation Violation – Technical	5	2.2%
New Charge	178	78.8%
Parole Violation - New	2	0.9%
Parole Violation - Tech	29	12.8%
Comm. Corr. Violation – New	2	0.9%
Comm. Corr. Violation – Technical	2	0.9%
Total	226	100.0%
New charges	190	84.1%
Technical violations	36	15.9%

Graph 6.



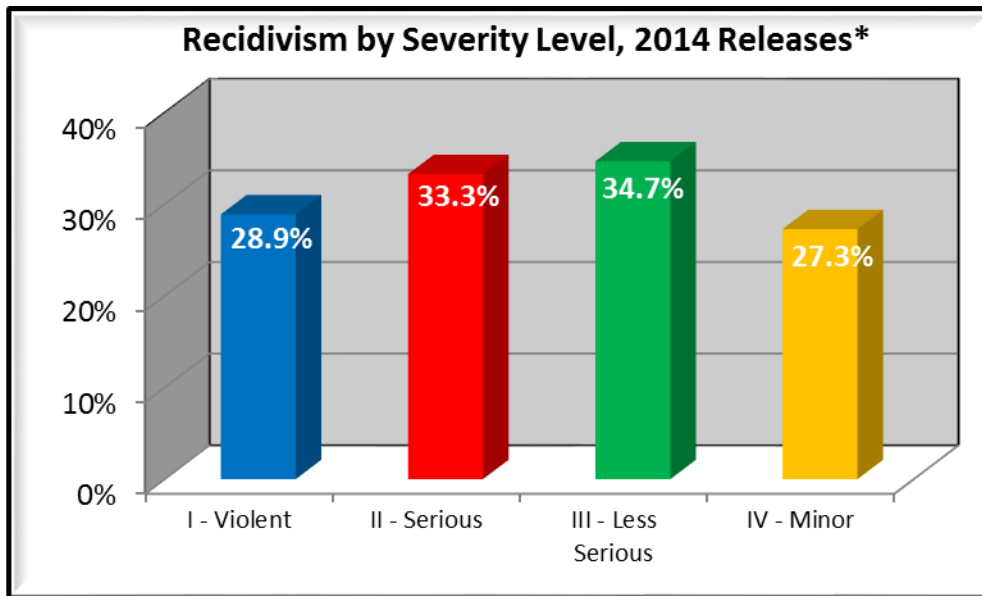
Recidivism Rates by Severity Level¹

Of students released in 2014, those with a security level III designation, which indicates the commitment of a “less serious” offense, were most likely to return to incarceration (see Table 6). The recidivism rates for all severity levels, however, were relatively similar (see Graph 7).²

Table 6. Number and Percent of Returns by Severity Level, 2014 Releases

Severity Level	2014 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
I – Violent	149	43	28.9%
II - Serious	75	25	33.3%
III - Less Serious	400	136	34.7%
IV - Minor	77	21	27.3%
Missing	1	1	100%
Total	702	226	32.2%

Graph 7.



¹ Severity Level is determined by the student’s most serious committing offense.

² Graph 7 omits one record with missing severity level data.

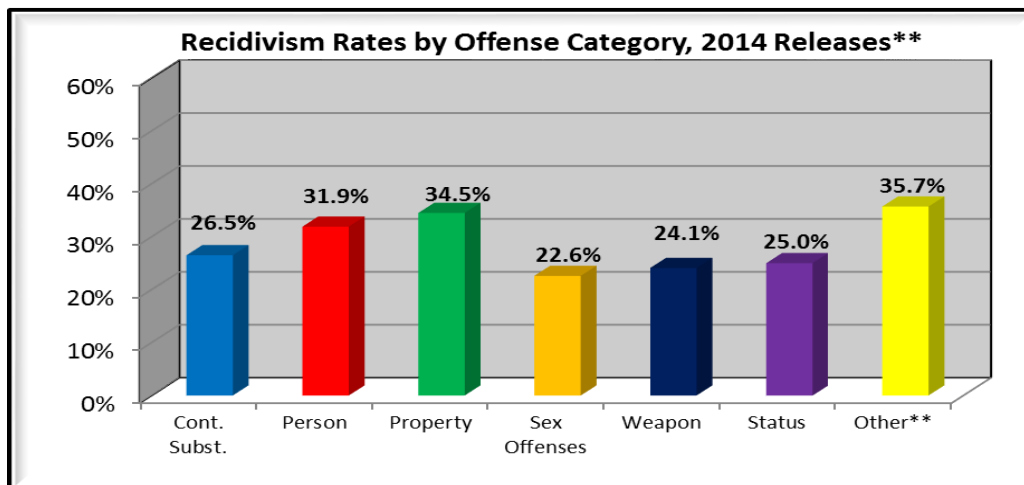
Recidivism Rates by Offense Category³

There was relatively little difference in recidivism rates between offense categories for students released in 2014, especially amongst the top three (see Graph 8). The category with the highest rate returning to the DOC within three years (other, 35.7%) was only marginally higher than the second highest (property, 34.5%) or third highest (person, 31.9%). The remaining categories, in order from highest recidivism rate to lowest, were controlled substances, status, weapon, and sex offenses (see Table 7).

Table 7. Number of Releases, Number of Returns, and Recidivism Rates, 2014 Releases.

Offense Category	2014 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Controlled Substance	83	22	26.5%
Person	160	51	31.9%
Property	261	90	34.5%
Sex Offenses	31	7	22.6%
Weapon	29	7	24.1%
Status	8	2	25.0%
Other ⁴	129	46	35.7%
Missing Data	1	1	100.0%
Total	702	226	32.2%

Graph 8.



³ Offense Category was determined by the student’s most serious committing offense. The present analysis excluded one record with missing offense category data.

⁴ The Other offense category includes offenses such as, but not limited to: resisting law enforcement, driving intoxicated/suspended, non-support child, conspiracy, aiding an offense, attempt to commit a felony, and missing data.

Recidivism Rates by Age at Release

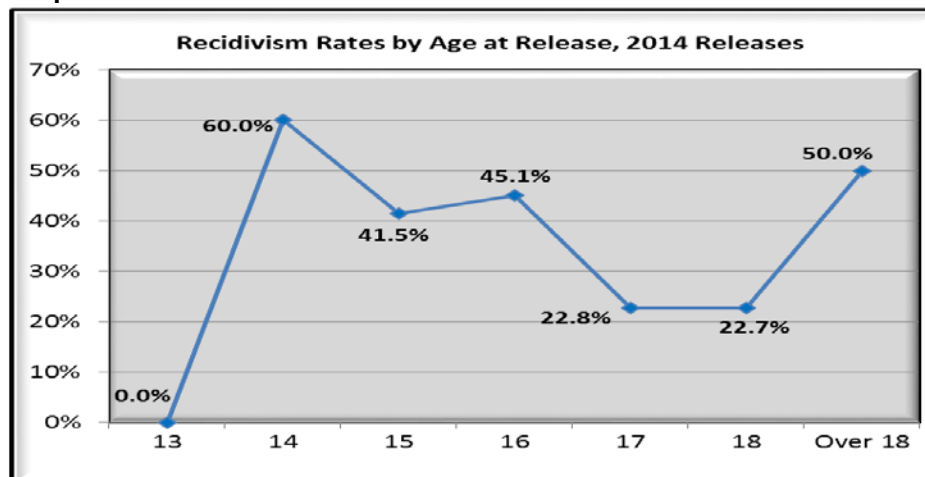
Recidivism rates by the age of each student at the time of their release from IDOC are illustrated in Table 8. The data seem to indicate, as illustrated in Graph 9 below, a relationship between the juvenile’s age at release and the likelihood they will return to incarceration.

Generally speaking, the younger the student is at the time he/she is released, the more likely they are to return to IDOC. Students 17 or 18 at the time of their release were found to have recidivism rates that are lower than the IDOC overall juvenile rate for 2017. Individuals over 18 years old at the time of their release seem to have a somewhat greater chance of returning to IDOC, though this number is quite small (there were only four such releases in 2014) and thus these results should be interpreted with caution.

Table 8. Number and Percent of Returns by Release Age, 2014 Releases

Release Age	2014 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
13	3	0	0.0%
14	20	12	60.0%
15	94	39	41.5%
16	182	82	45.1%
17	267	61	22.8%
18	132	30	22.7%
Over 18	4	2	50.0%
Total	720	226	32.2
Average Age at Release		17.1 Years	

Graph 9.



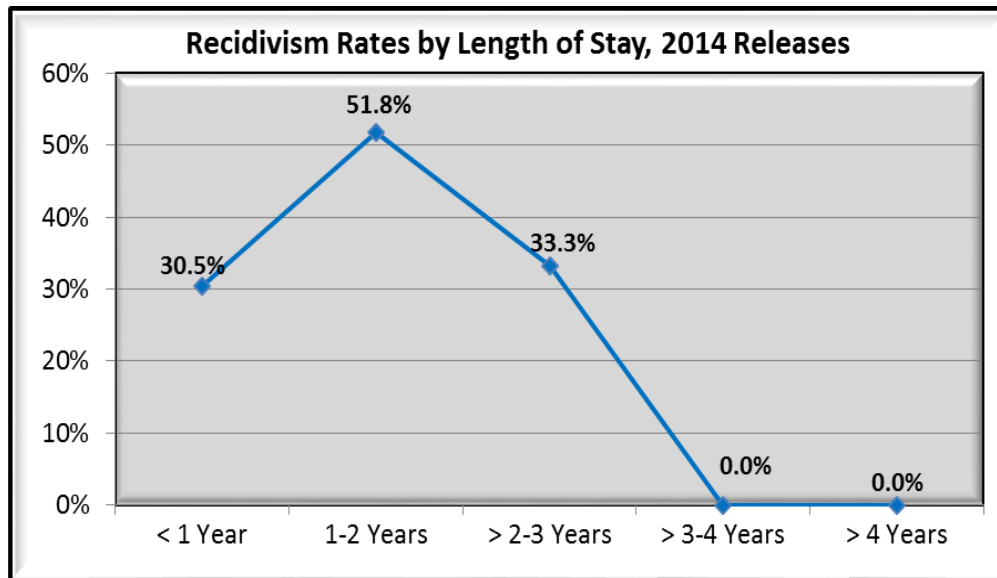
Recidivism Rates by Length of Stay⁵

Students who were incarcerated between one and two years had recidivism rates higher than the 2017 overall juvenile recidivism rate of 32.2%. Conversely, students who were with IDOC for less than one-year, (approximately 93% of all releases), exhibited return rates slightly lower than the overall recidivism rate (see Table 9 and Graph 10).

Table 9. Number and Percent of Returns by Length of Stay, 2014 Releases

Length of Stay	2014 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
< 1 year	642	196	30.5%
1 - 2 years	56	29	51.8%
> 2 - 3 years	3	1	33.3%
> 3 - 4 years	1	0	0.0%
> 4 years	0	0	0.0%
Total	702	223	32.2%
Average Length of Stay	216.4 Days		

Graph 10.



⁵ Length of stay was calculated by finding the difference between a student’s intake date and release date.

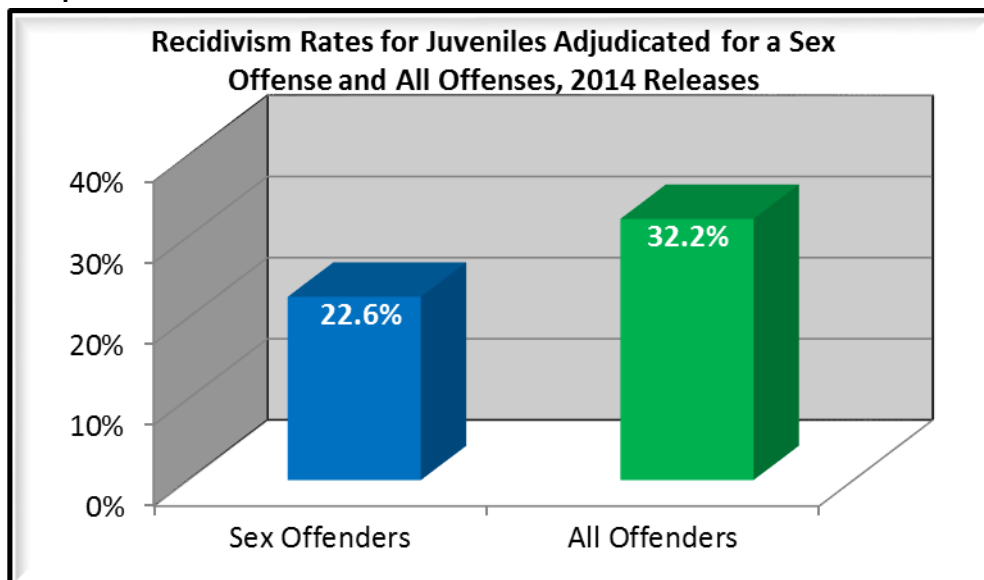
Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense⁶

Graph 11 illustrates the disparity between recidivism rates for students identified with at least one sex crime and IDOC juvenile population as a whole. Specifically, juveniles who were adjudicated for a sex offense had a lower rate of return than juveniles adjudicated for all offense types. Return rates were based upon return for **any** new offense or technical violation, not just sex offenses. In the 2014 cohort, there were no juvenile female sex offenders released or returned (see Table 10).

Table 10. Number and Percent of Returns for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students by Gender, 2014 Releases

Gender	2014 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Female	0	0	0.0%
Male	31	7	22.6%
Total	31	7	22.6%

Graph 11.



⁶ For the purposes of this study, students adjudicated for a sex offense included any juvenile having least one adjudication for any of the following during the commitment period resulting in their 2014 release: rape, child molesting, child exploitation, child seduction, child solicitation, criminal deviate conduct, incest, sexual battery, sexual misconduct with a minor, or vicarious sexual gratification.

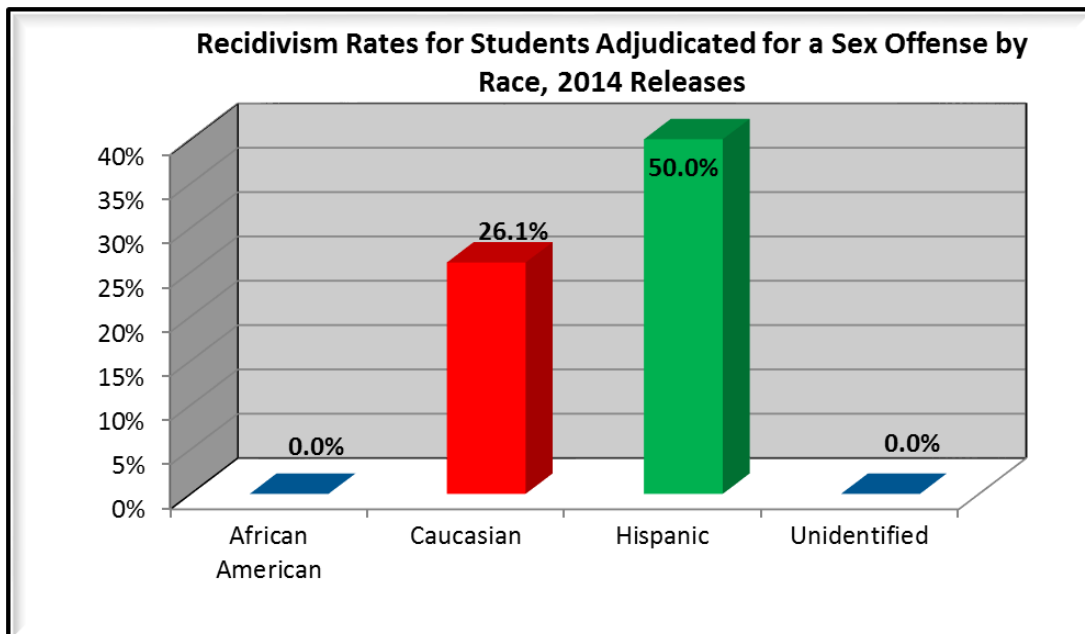
Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by Race

Recidivism rates by the race of juveniles adjudicated for a sex offense are detailed in Table 11. Hispanic students exhibited the largest percentage of returns in the 2014 release cohort at 50.0 %, followed by white students at 26.1 percent. No juveniles adjudicated for a sex offense from any other race category returned to IDOC within three years (see Graph 12). Note that the number of releases and returns are very small, so these percentages should be interpreted with caution.

Table 11. Number and Percent of Returns for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students by Race, 2014 Releases

Race	2014 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
African American	5	0	0.0%
Caucasian	23	6	26.1%
Hispanic	2	1	50.0%
Unidentified	1	0	0.0%
Total	31	7	22.6%

Graph 12.



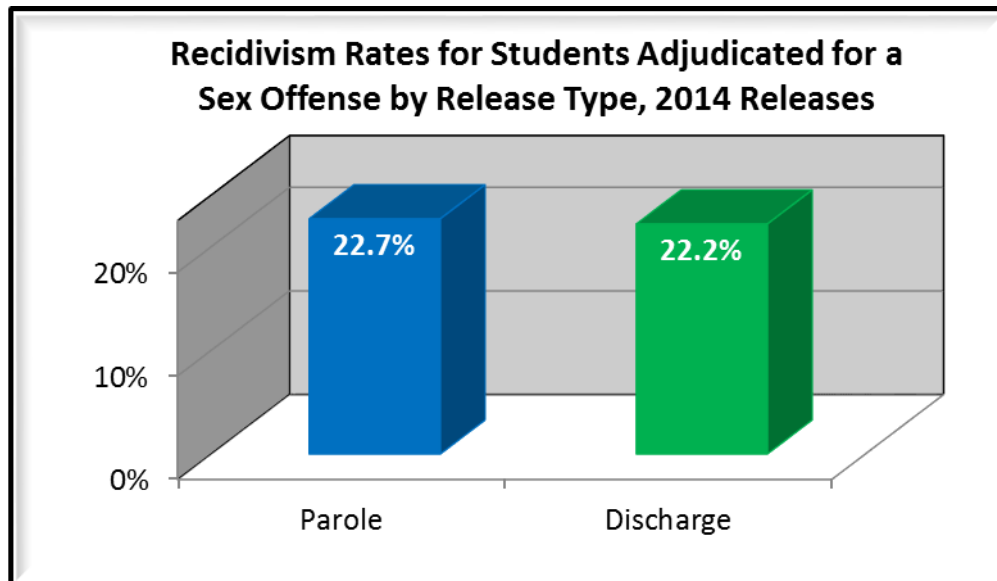
Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by Type of Release

There was very little difference in recidivism rates between students adjudicated for sex offenses who were released to parole versus those who were discharged. Sex offense-adjudicated students who were discharged from supervision in 2014 were only slightly less likely to return to incarceration than those who were released to parole (22.2 % compared to 22.7%; see Table 12 and Graph 13).

Table 12. Number and Percent of Returns for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students by Release Type, 2014 Releases

Release Type	2014 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Parole	22	5	22.7%
Discharge	9	2	22.2%
Total	31	7	22.6

Graph 13.



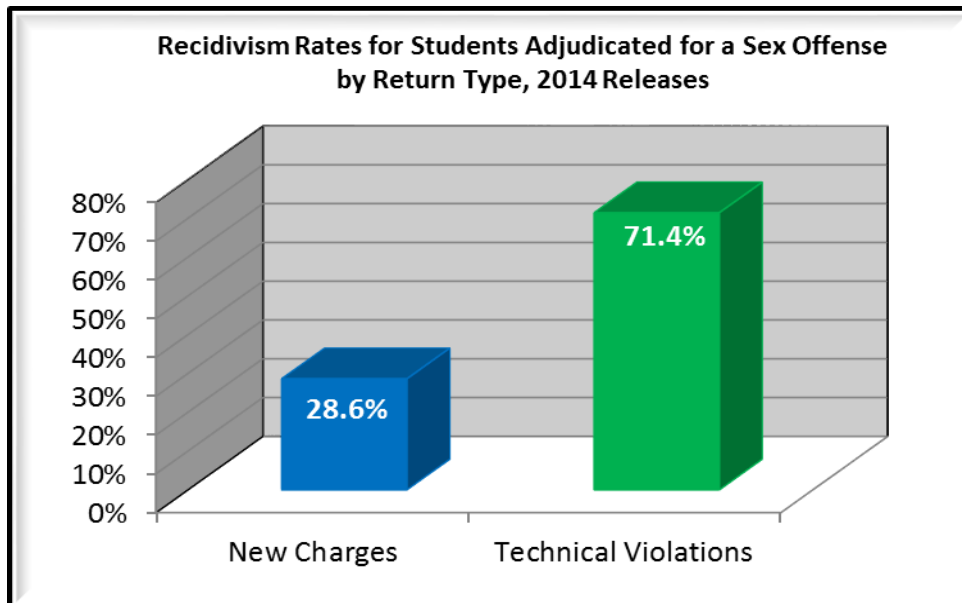
Recidivism Rates for Juveniles Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by Type of Return

Students adjudicated for a sex offense who were released in 2014 were re-incarcerated for technical violations a much higher rate than those juveniles adjudicated for a sex offense who were returned for a new offense (see Table 13 and Graph 14).

Table 13. Number and Percent of Returns for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students by Return Type, 2014 Releases

Return Type	Number of Recidivists	% of Return
Probation Violation – New	0	0.0%
Probation Violation – Technical Violation	0	0.0%
New Charge	2	28.6%
Parole Violation - New	0	0.0%
Parole Violation – Technical Violation	5	71.4%
Recommit – Probation Violation	0	0.0%
Total	7	100.0%
New Charges	2	28.6%
Technical Violations	5	71.4%

Graph 14.



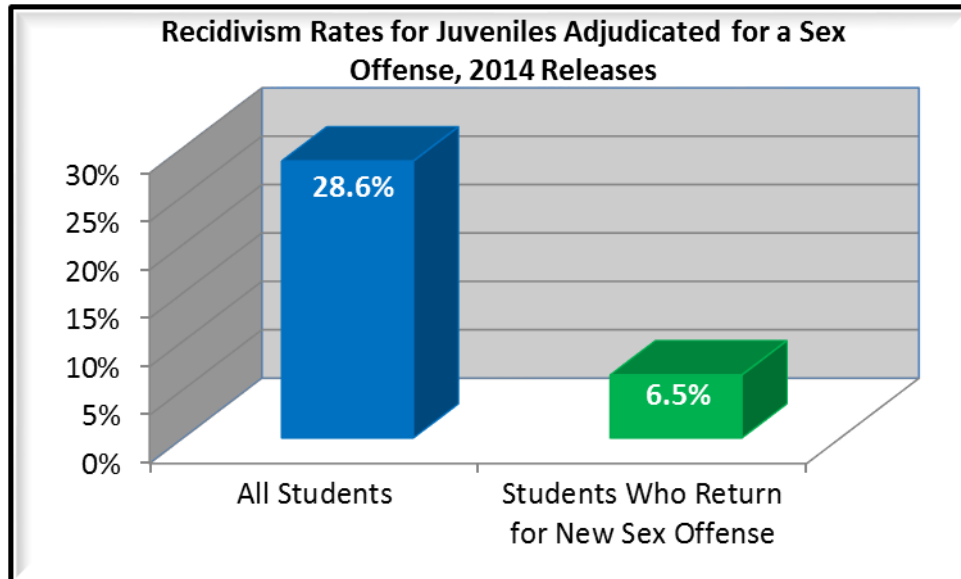
Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by New Sex Offense

Data indicate that students adjudicated for a sex offense rarely return to IDOC due to a **new** sex offense (see Table 14). As illustrated in Graph 15, only 6.5% of all students adjudicated for a sex offense who were released in 2014 returned to IDOC due to a conviction for a new sex offense.

Table 14. Recidivism Rates for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students, 2014 Releases

Identified Sex Offender Returns	Releases
Sex Offenders Released	31
Sex Offenders Returned	7
Sex Offenders Returned for New Sex Offense	2
Recidivism Rate	28.6%
New Sex Offense Recidivism Rate	6.5%

Graph 15





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This report may be found at:

<http://www.in.gov/idoc/files/2017JuvRecidivismRpt.pdf>



DIVISION of YOUTH SERVICES

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Our DYS mission is focused on community protection, accountability, beliefs that foster responsible community living and competency development.

