

# JUVENILE RECIDIVISM 2020



**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 2017 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.

## 2020 Juvenile Recidivism Rate: **29.0%**

- 666 Releases ■ 193 Returns (140 as a juvenile, 53 as an adult)
- 90.0% of juvenile releases had not been incarcerated in an Adult facility within 3 years of their 2017 release from a Juvenile institution

- Of all juveniles released in 2017 29.7% of males returned to IDOC, while only 24.2% of females returned.
- Approximately 34.9% of the youth with unidentified race returned to the Department of Correction, a higher rate than any other major race or ethnicity. Hispanic youth were next highest with a 30.0% recidivism rate, followed by Caucasian youth (28.6%) and African American youth (27.8%).
- Approximately 95.3% of juveniles who recidivated were returned to IDOC for the commission of a new crime, compared to approx. 4.7% of re-returns which were for a technical violation of post-release supervision.
- Juvenile offenders whose offense severity level was classified as 'Violent' were most likely to return to incarceration.
- Juvenile offenders released in 2017 who were identified as a sex offender, returned to IDOC less frequently than the overall rate.
- Only 9.1% of identified juvenile sex offenders released in 2017 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 2017 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, 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 2017 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.

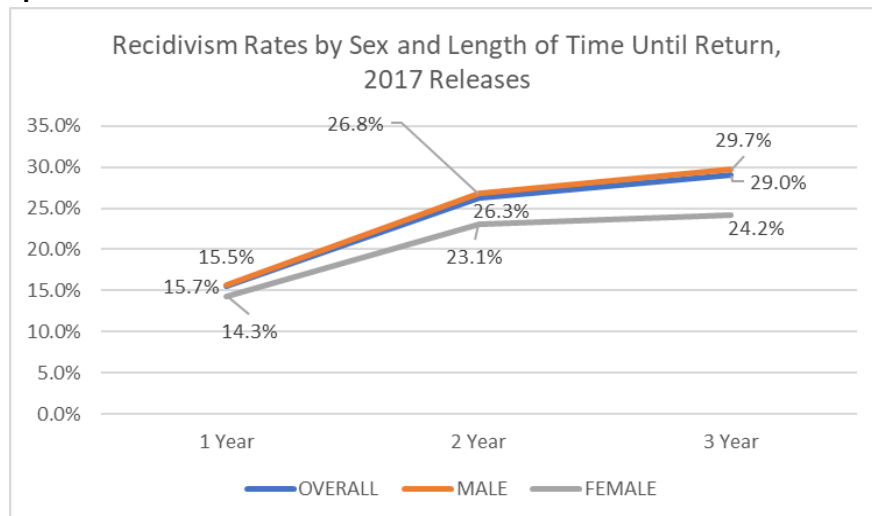
## Overall Recidivism Rates

In 2017, the Indiana Department of Correction released 666 students. Of those juveniles released, 29.0% 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 2017 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, 2017 Releases**

	2017 Releases		
	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE
<b># Released</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Recidivism Rates within 1 year of release</b>	15.5%	15.7%	14.3%
<b>Recidivism Rates within 2 years of release</b>	26.3%	26.8%	23.1%
<b>Recidivism Rates within 3 years of release</b>	<b>29.0%</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>

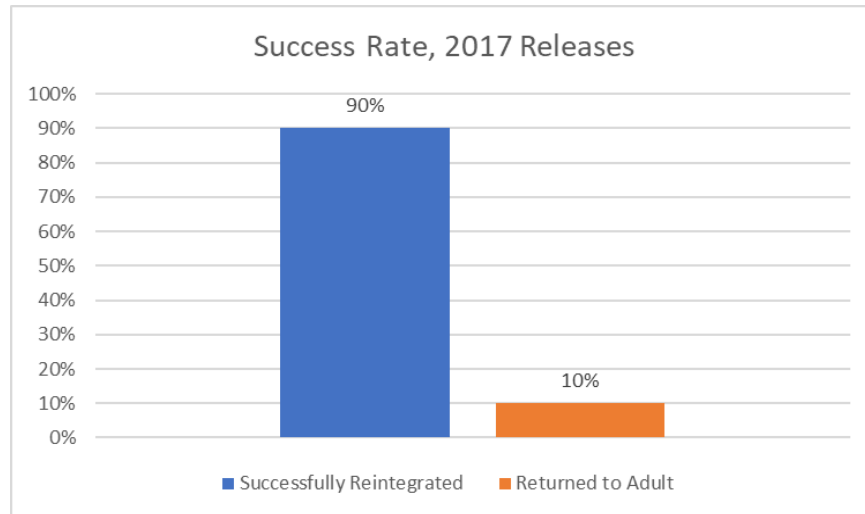
**Graph 1.**



## 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 666 juveniles released in 2017, 90.0% (473) 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

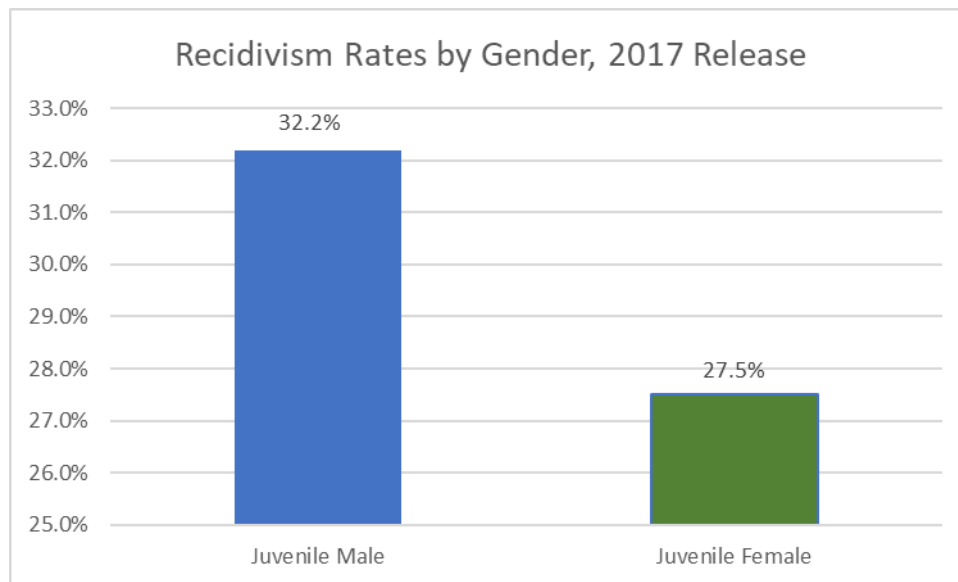
Similar to previous years, data for 2017 releases indicate a marked difference in the recidivism rates of male and female juveniles (see Table 2). As shown in Graph 3, of those students released in 2017, males (32.2%) were more likely to recidivate than females (22.7%). Similar to last year’s study, the vast majority of female students who were re-incarcerated with IDOC returned

as a juvenile while more than half of all juvenile male students who recidivated returned to IDOC as an adult.

**Table 2. Number and Percent of Returns by Gender, 2017 Releases**

	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE
2017 Juvenile Releases	666	575	91
Returned as a Juvenile	140	121	19
Returned as an Adult	53	50	3
Total # Returned	193	171	22
Recidivism Rate	29.0%	32.2%	27.5%

**Graph 3.**



### **Recidivism Rates by Race**

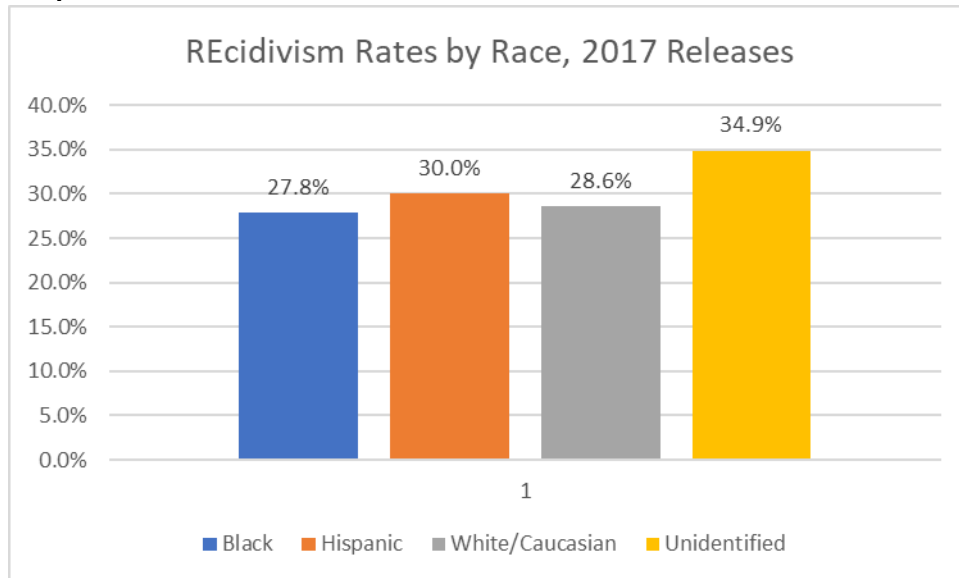
Amongst racial categories, Hispanic youth followed the students with an unidentified race (34.9%) - being those with largest likelihood of recidivating amongst students in the 2017 release cohort – with (30.0%). They were followed by Caucasian students with 28.6% and American students with African descent was 4.3% less in similar comparison to the previous years’ study

(see Table 3). It should be of note that the ‘Unidentified’ category used in Graph 4 below, does not include American Indian, Asian, and Pacific Islander students.

**Table 3. Number and Percent of Returns by Race, 2017 Releases**

Race	2017 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
African American	212	59	27.8%
American Indian	1	1	0.0%
Asian/Pacific	0	0	0.0%
Caucasian	360	103	28.6%
Hispanic	50	15	30.0%
Unidentified	43	15	34.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>29.0%</b>

**Graph 4.**



**Recidivism Rates by Type of Release**

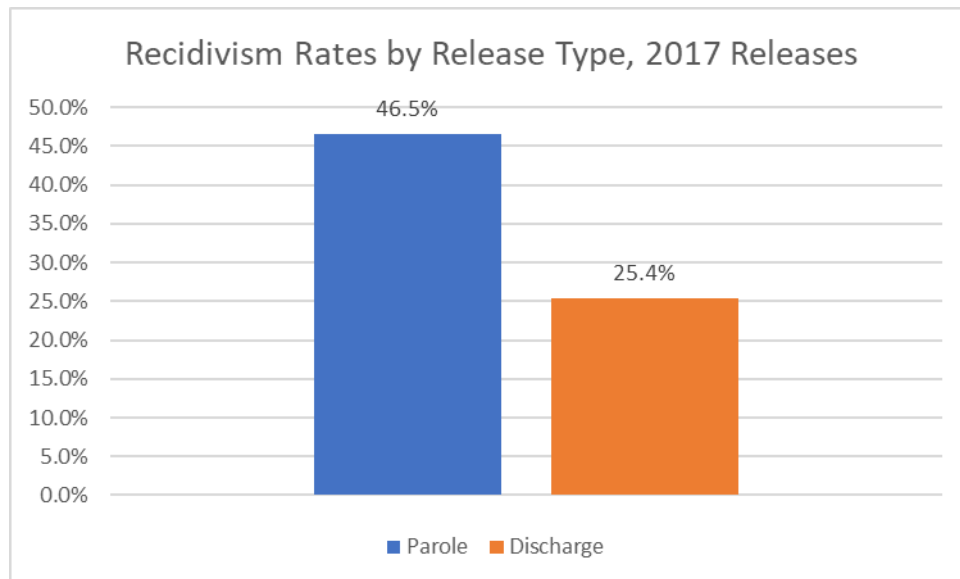
Converse to the recent past report of this study, students who were discharged from a juvenile facility in 2017 were more likely to recidivate than those who were released to parole (see Graph 5). Of the 552 students discharged from incarceration in 2017, 140 returned to IDOC within three years while only 53 of the 114 students released to parole returned within three years (see Table 4).

Being against the grain, this finding needs looking into to understand its causative attributes. However anecdotally, one can infer that this could have been one of the many effects of the COVID-19 lock-down restrictions could have accounted for this result.

**Table 4. Number and Percent of Returns by Release Type, 2017 Releases**

Release Type	2017 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Parole	114	53	46.5%
Discharge	552	140	25.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>29.0%</b>

**Graph 5.**



**Recidivism Rates by Type of Return**

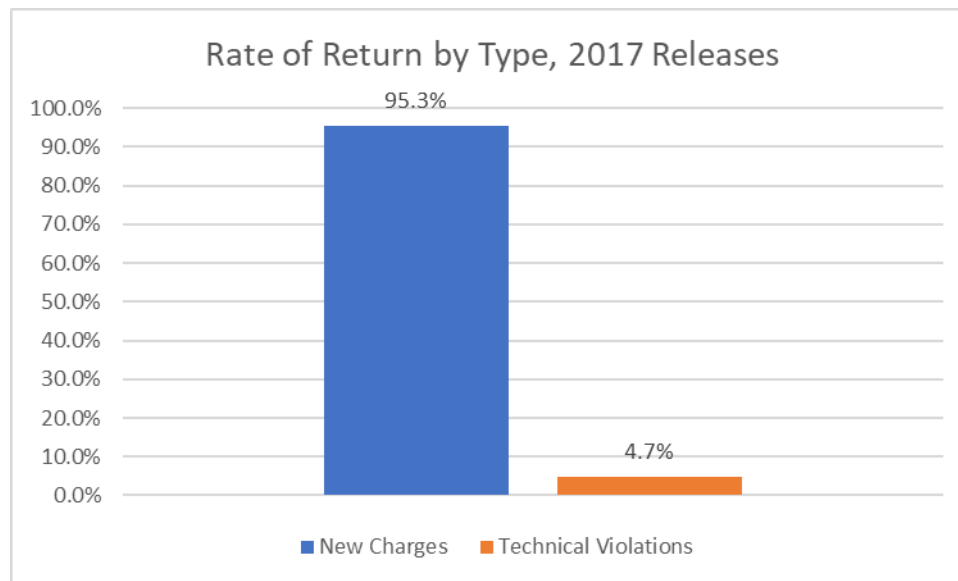
For the 2017 juvenile release cohort, the proportion of returns for new charges was significantly larger than the proportion of returns for technical violations (see Graph 6). As detailed in Table 5, new charges comprised 95.3% of all juvenile returns while technical violations accounted for only 4.7% of juvenile returns.



**Table 5. Number and Percent of Returns by Return Type, 2017 Releases**

Return Type	2017 Releases	
	Number of Recidivists	% of Return
Probation Violation - New	2	1.0%
Probation Violation – Technical	5	2.6%
New Charge	182	94.3%
Parole Violation - New	0	0.0%
Parole Violation - Tech	0	0.0%
Comm. Corr. Violation – New	0	0.0%
omm. Corr. Violation – Technical	4	2.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
New charges	184	95.3%
Technical violations	9	4.7%

**Graph 6.**



### **Recidivism Rates by Severity Level<sup>1</sup>**

Of students released in 2017, those with a security Level I designation, which indicates the commitment of a “violent” offense, were most likely to return to incarceration (see Table 6).

This is a change from what was seen last year with “serious” offense being those with the most

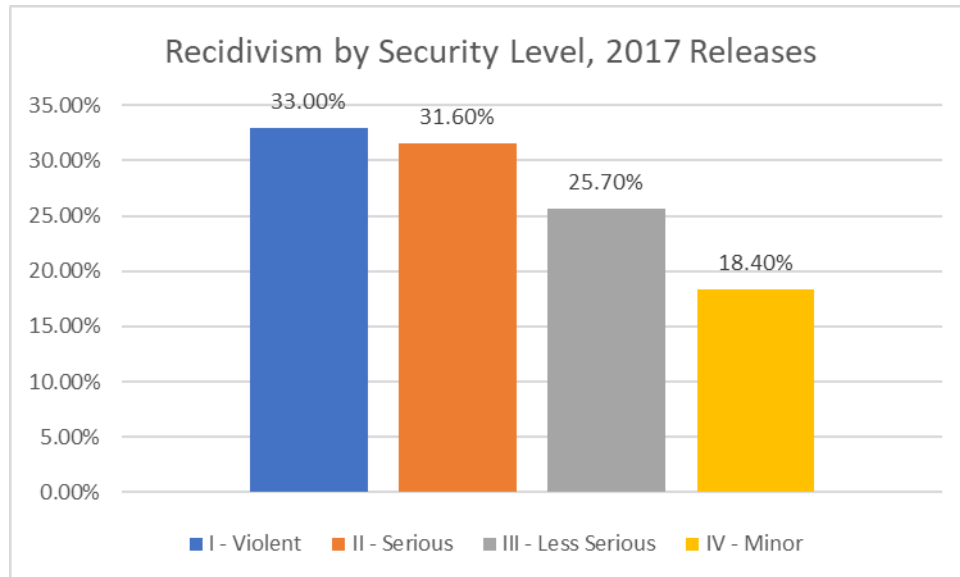
<sup>1</sup> Severity Level is determined by the student’s most serious committing offense.

likelihood of return. The recidivism rates for all other severity levels were relatively similar (see Graph 7).<sup>2</sup>

**Table 6. Number and Percent of Returns by Severity Level, 2017 Releases**

Severity Level	2017 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
I - Violent	297	98	33.0%
II - Serious	57	18	31.6%
III - Less Serious	272	70	25.7%
IV - Minor	38	7	18.4%
Missing	2	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>29.0%</b>

**Graph 7.**



### **Recidivism Rates by Offense Category<sup>3</sup>**

There was relatively little difference in recidivism rates between offense categories for students released in 2017, especially amongst the top three (see Graph 8). The category with the highest rate returning to the DOC within three years (property, 34.8%) was a marginally higher than the

<sup>2</sup> Graph 7 omits four records with missing severity level data.

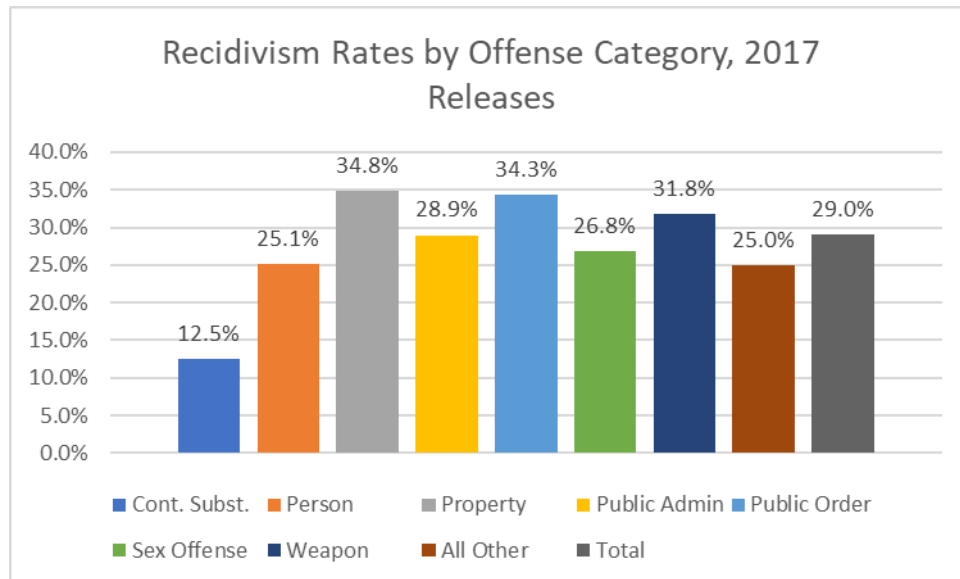
<sup>3</sup> Offense Category was determined by the student’s most serious committing offense. The present analysis excluded four records with missing offense category data.

second highest (public order, 34.3%) or third highest (weapon, 31.8%). The remaining categories, in order from highest recidivism rate to lowest, were public admin, sex offence, person, all other and controlled substances. (see Table 7).

**Table 7. Number of Releases, Number of Returns, and Recidivism Rates, 2017 Releases.**

Offense Category	2017 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Controlled Substance	40	5	12.5%
Person	203	51	25.1%
Property	221	77	34.8%
Public Admin	76	22	28.9%
Public Order	35	2	34.3%
Sex Offenses	41	11	26.8%
Weapon	44	14	31.8%
Other <sup>4</sup>	4	1	25.0%
Missing Data	2	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>29.0%</b>

**Graph 8.**



<sup>4</sup> 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, and attempt to commit a felony.

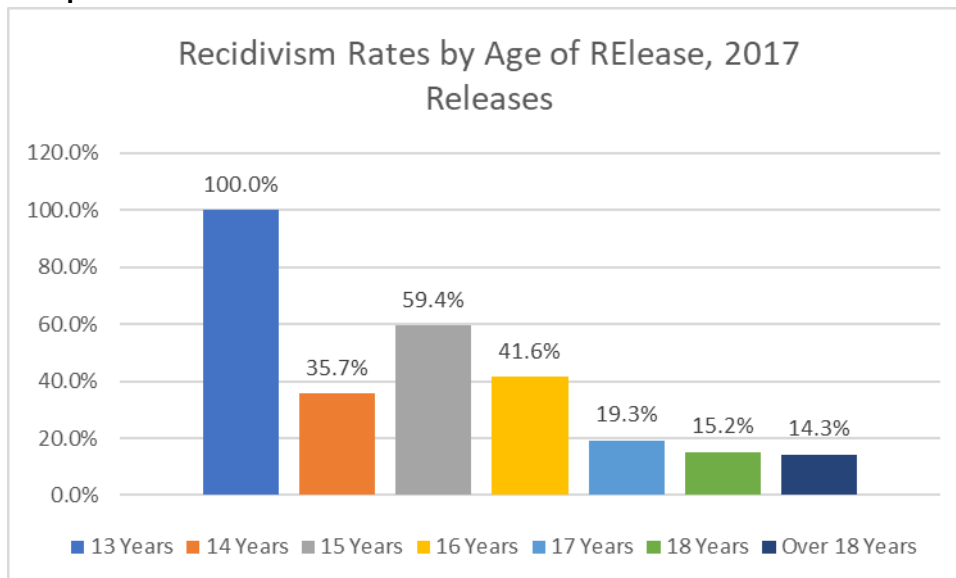
## Recidivism Rates by Age at Release

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, 18, or over 18 at the time of release were found to have recidivism rates that are lower than the IDOC overall juvenile rate for 2020.

**Table 8. Number and Percent of Returns by Release Age, 2017 Releases**

Release Age	2017 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
12	0	0	00.0%
13	4	4	100.0%
14	14	5	35.7%
15	69	41	59.4%
16	173	72	41.6%
17	228	44	19.3%
18	171	26	15.2%
Over 18	7	1	14.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>29.0%</b>
<b>Average Age at Release</b>		<b>17 Years</b>	

**Graph 9.**



The mission of the Division of Youth Services is focused on community protection, accountability, beliefs that foster responsible community living and competency development.

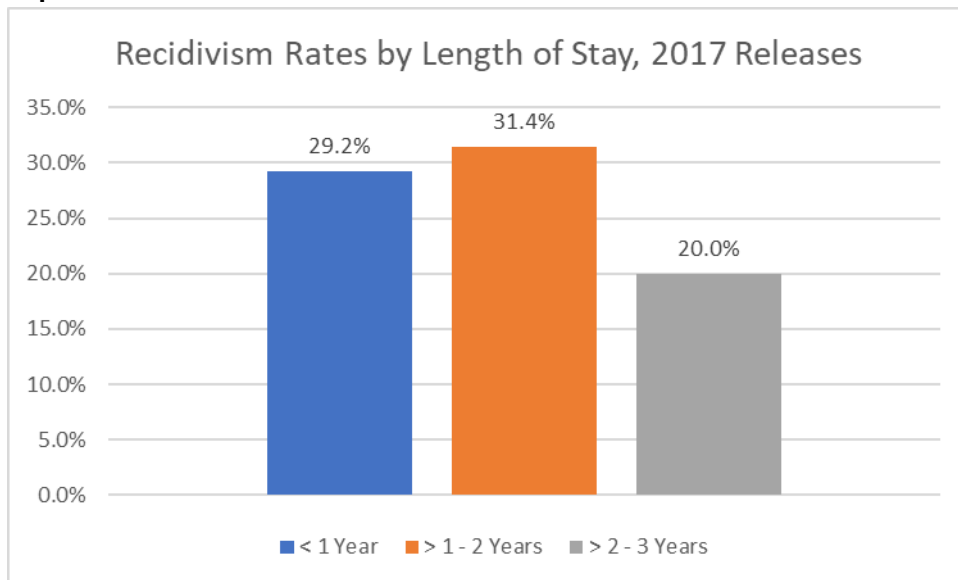
## Recidivism Rates by Length of Stay<sup>5</sup>

Students who were incarcerated between six and nine months had recidivism rates higher than the 2020 overall juvenile recidivism rate of 29.0%. Conversely, students who were with IDOC for one-year or more, (approximately 14% of all releases), exhibited average return rates that are slightly lower than the overall recidivism rate (see Table 9 and Graph 10).

**Table 9. Number and Percent of Returns by Length of Stay, 2017 Releases**

Length of Stay	2017 Releases	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
< 1 year	576	168	29.2%
1 - 2 years	70	22	40.0%
> 2 - 3 years	15	3	29.4%
> 3 - 4 years	4	0	0.0%
> 4 years	1	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>29.6%</b>
<b>Average Length of Stay</b>		<b>252 Days</b>	

**Graph 10.**



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

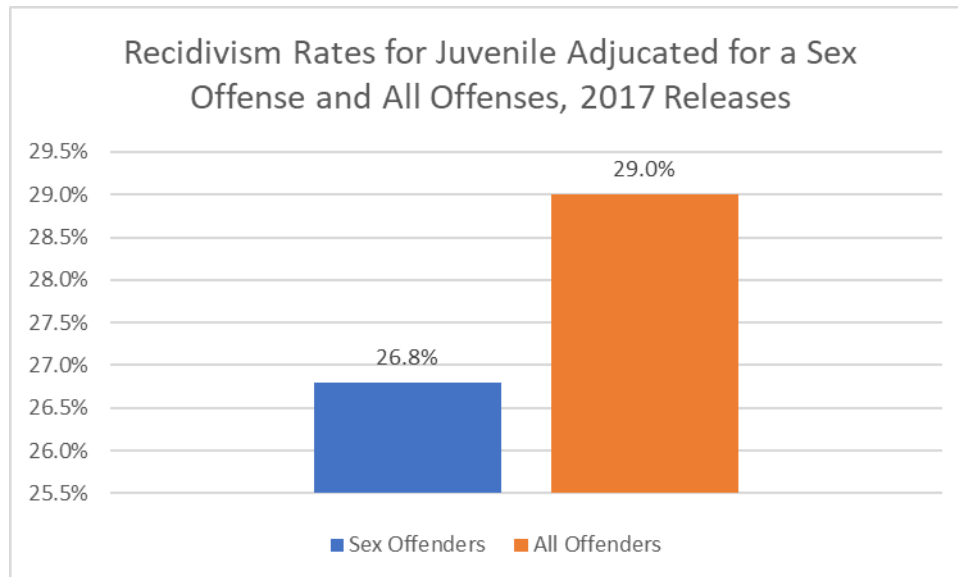
## Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense<sup>6</sup>

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 slightly lower rate of recidivism 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 2017 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, 2017 Releases**

Gender	2017 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Female	1	0	0.0%
Male	40	11	27.5 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>26.8%</b>

**Graph 11.**



<sup>6</sup> 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 2017 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.

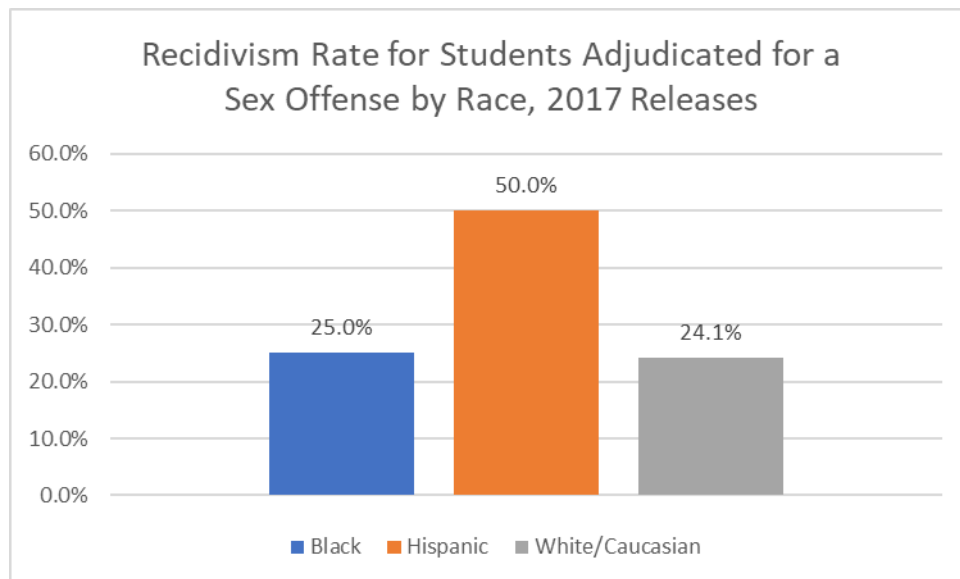
## Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by Race

Recidivism rates by the race of juveniles adjudicated for a sex offense are detailed in Table 11. Caucasian and Hispanic students exhibited the largest percentage of returns in the 2017 release cohort at 24.1 % and 50.0 % respectively. It should be noted, though, that there were far few African American and Hispanic students released than there were white students; see Graph 12 for rate comparison). 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, 2017 Releases**

Race	2017 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
African American	4	1	25.0%
Caucasian	29	7	24.1%
Hispanic	6	3	50.0%
Unidentified	2	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>26.8%</b>

**Graph 12.**



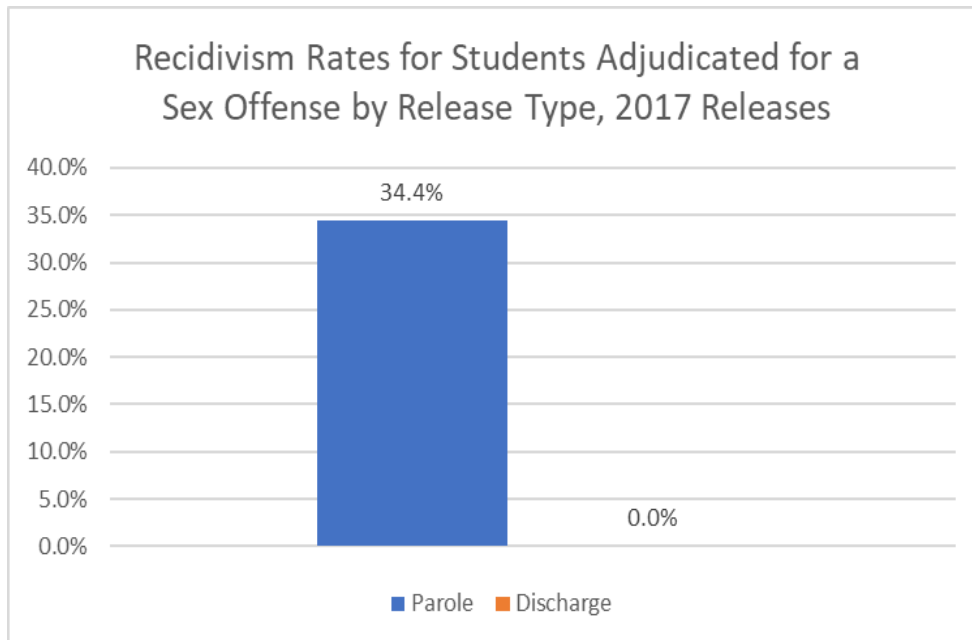
## Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by Type of Release

More so than in years past, there was a fairly significant difference in sex offender recidivism rates between students released to parole and those who were discharged; however, this study reveals that only those released to parole recidivated. Sex offense-adjudicated students who were released to parole recidivated at a rate of 34.4% (see Table 12 and Graph 13).

**Table 12. Number and Percent of Returns for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students by Release Type, 2017 Releases**

Release Type	2017 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Parole	32	11	34.4%
Discharge	9	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>26.8%</b>

**Graph 13.**





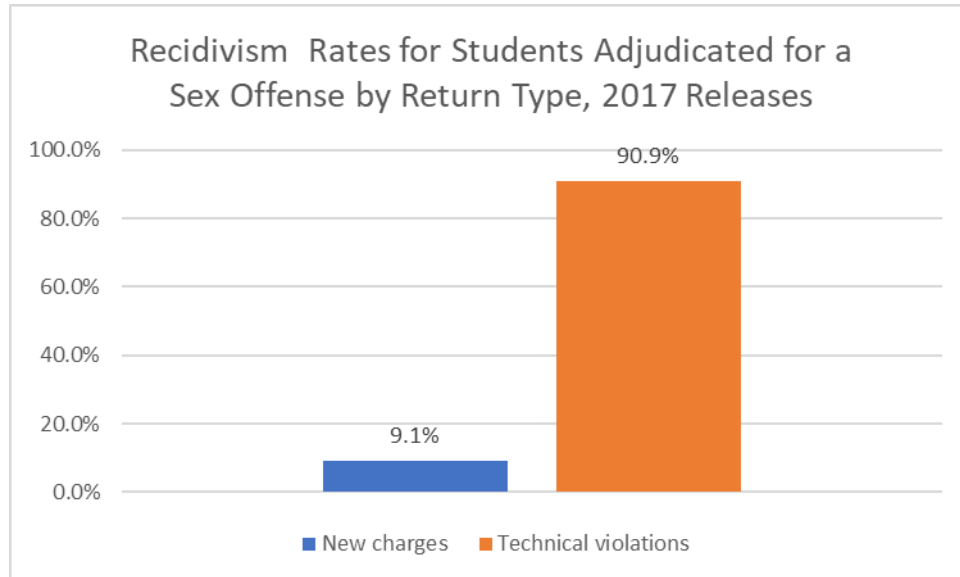
## Recidivism Rates for Juveniles Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by Type of Return

Students adjudicated for a sex offense who were released in 2017 were re-incarcerated for technical violations at the same rate as 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, 2017 Releases**

Return Type	Number of Recidivists	% of Return
Probation Violation – New	0	0.0%
Probation Violation – Technical Violation	0	0.0%
New Charge	1	9.1%
Parole Violation - New	0	0.0%
Parole Violation – Technical Violation	10	90.9%
Recommit – Probation Violation	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
New Charges	1	9.1%
Technical Violations	10	90.9%

**Graph 14.**



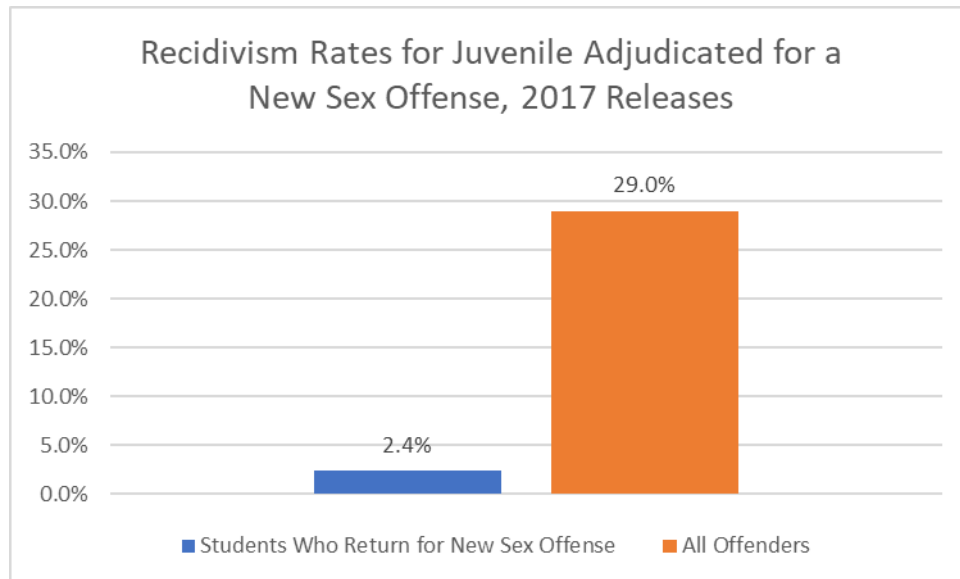
## Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by New Sex Offense

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 13.6% of all students adjudicated for a sex offense who were released in 2017 returned to IDOC due to a conviction for a new sex offense.

**Table 14. Recidivism Rates for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students, 2017 Releases**

Identified Sex Offender Returns	Releases
Sex Offenders Released	41
Sex Offenders Returned	11
Sex Offenders Returned for New Sex Offense	1
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>9.1%</b>
<b>New Sex Offense Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>2.4%</b>

**Graph 15.**





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This report may be found at:

<http://www.in.gov/idoc/files/2020JuvRecidivismRpt.pdf>



## DIVISION of YOUTH SERVICES

### MISSION STATEMENT:

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

