

ARKANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTION CENTERS

Measuring Recidivism

June 2015

Arkansas Community Correction Centers (CCC)

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INTRODUCTION

Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) is responsible for the administration of all Community Correction Centers and supervision programs, including adult probation and parole. Through careful management of offenders in residential settings and in the communities of Arkansas, ACC seeks to identify and treat underlying disorders that may be contributing to the offender's criminal behavior. Community Correction Centers are community based residential settings offering structure, drug/alcohol treatment, behavior modification, educational and vocational programs that include anger management, cognitive skills training, parenting, violence prevention,

Community Correction Centers

Community-based residential settings offering structure, supervision, drug/alcohol treatment, educational and vocational programs, employment counseling, socialization and life skills programs, community work transition and other forms of treatment and programs.

employment counseling, socialization and life skills programs, and community work transition.

Arkansas currently has five CCCs located throughout the state:

- Central Arkansas CCC – Little Rock. Capacity = 150 males
- Northeast Arkansas CCC – Osceola. Capacity = 240 males
- Northwest Arkansas CCC – Fayetteville. Capacity = 100 females
- Southeast Arkansas CCC – Pine Bluff. Capacity = 350 females
- Southwest Arkansas CCC – Texarkana. Capacity = 475 males

Criteria for acceptance to CCCs is set by State Statute (§§Ark. Code Ann 16-93-1202 and 16-93-1202). Admission to a CCC is allowed for offenders who meet the following criteria:

- a. Crime(s) fall(s) within the targeted population
- b. Period of confinement in a CCC does not exceed
 - a. One year for a defendant placed on probation or for whom the court suspended the imposition of sentence, accompanied by assignment to a CCC, or
 - b. One year for referrals by the Parole Board, or
 - c. Two years of a four-year sentence for a commitment to the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) for judicial transfer to the ACC, and
- c. Has not been previously convicted of a violent and/or sex-related felony, disciplined in a jail/correctional institution for violent or sexual misconduct and has no known record of mental disorder(s) that would indicate a propensity for violence, and
- d. Has no pending felony detainer(s) for a non-target offense filed against him or her, and
- e. Does not otherwise pose an undue risk to the safety and security of the community.

Upon acceptance to a CCC, the resident is assessed by treatment staff and a personal treatment plan is developed. Residents receive orientation, participate in self-improvement programs and perform work program assignments. Programs, job assignments, and activities are designed to ensure public safety and address the resident's needs and abilities. Any resident who violates the terms and conditions of confinement at CCC is subject to disciplinary action up to and including transfer/sentence to ADC.

The target group of offenses eligible for CCC include: theft, theft by receiving, hot check violation, residential burglary, commercial burglary, failure to appear, fraudulent use of credit cards, criminal mischief, breaking or entering, drug paraphernalia, driving while intoxicated fourth or subsequent offense, Class C or Class D felonies that are not violent or sexual, Class A and lower controlled substance felonies offenses, and some non-violent and non-sexual Class B felonies, and all other unclassified felonies for which the prescribed limitations do not exceed those mentioned above.

Upon completion of the period of confinement, the resident will either be transferred to the supervision of a Parole/Probation Officer within the community or discharged. Under the provisions of §12-27-127 (Act 682 of 2005), a statutory provision for the release of judicially transferred offenders prior to serving their full term of incarceration, an offender is eligible for release by the Parole Board when he/she has:

- a. Completed at least 270 days in a CCC, excluding jail time credit
- b. Obtained no disciplinary rule violations within the previous 90 days that resulted in loss of class or good time or disciplinary detention
- c. Demonstrated consistent use of modified therapeutic community concepts as determined by the treatment coordinator
- d. Made reasonable progression through status levels as determined by review of input by counselor and duty staff
- e. Is current with master treatment plan objectives
- f. Actively participated in the twelve-step program and satisfactorily demonstrated knowledge of steps one through four, and
- g. Completed the Re-entry/Relapse Prevention Phase of treatment.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of this study was to determine the effect of incarceration within a community correction center on recidivism. The study focuses on the three major aspects of recidivism: 1. re-arrest, 2. re-conviction and 3. re-incarceration.

Recidivism is defined as a criminal act that results in the re-arrest, re-conviction, or return to incarceration of a person with or without a new sentence during a three-year period following release from custody. The population studied includes offenders transferred from an ADC incarceration via Judicial Transfer, offenders sentenced by a court to probation coupled with a period of incarceration (also known as Probation Plus), and some offenders ordered to treatment from a drug court. Also addressed in the study are two special programs, operating out of the Southwest and Southeast Community Correction Centers, designed to meet the needs of offenders with both a mental health diagnosis and a substance use disorder.

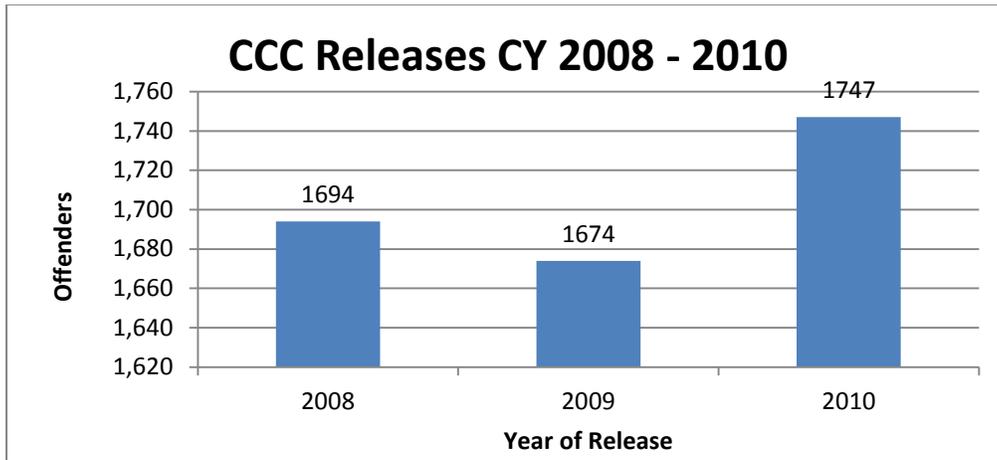
DATA SOURCES

The data sources utilized were ACC's electronic Offender Management Information System (eOMIS) and the Arkansas Crime Information Center's (ACIC) Arkansas Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. ACC personnel are responsible for gathering and entering data on an offender. eOMIS serves as the State's offender management system designed to collect data in support of comprehensive statewide operations of offender management including offenders in prison, on probation, on parole or in any other supervision/incarceration. To ensure data validity, a number of data fields established in eOMIS require mandatory entry. The UCR Program provided data on arrests and is accurate to the extent that arrests are reported.

PROJECT METHODOLOGY

DEMOGRAPHICS. Data were gathered from eOMIS on all releases from Community Correction Centers during the calendar years 2008, 2009 and 2010. Of the 5,115 total releases there were 5,049 unique offenders; 4,983 were released once from CCC and 66 offenders were released twice within the three-year follow-up period. Releases by year are displayed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: CCC Releases by Calendar Year of Release



GROUP CHARACTERISTIC PROFILES. Table 2 summarizes the demographic characteristics of the CCC releases into the following categories: gender, race, education level, age at release, marital status and intake types. Offenders incarcerated at CCC multiple times are counted each time they are released.

Table 2: CCC Release Statistics

Category	Study Group	
	Offenders	%
Gender		
Female	1639	32.0%
Male	3476	68.0%
Race		
Asian	14	0.3%
Black	992	19.4%
Caucasian	3974	77.7%
Hispanic/Mexican	111	2.2%
NA Indian	18	0.4%
Other	6	0.1%
Highest Level of Education at Release		
Some College/College Graduate	617	12.1%
High School Diploma or Higher	2992	58.5%
Less than High School	1505	29.4%
Unknown	1	0.0%
Age at Release		
Under 20	178	3.5%
20 - 29	2533	49.5%
30 - 39	1231	24.1%
40 - 49	877	17.1%
50 - 59	257	5.0%
60 and Above	39	0.8%
Marital Status at Release		
Divorced	973	19.0%
Married	980	19.2%
Separated	349	6.8%
Single	2485	48.6%
Cohabited	128	2.5%
Widowed	68	1.3%
Other/Unknown	132	2.6%
Intake Type		
Judicial Transfer	4094	80.0%
Probation Plus	813	15.9%
Drug Court Order	208	4.1%
Total Offenders	5115	

ADMISSION TYPE. Judicial Transfers comprise 80.0% of CCC admissions.

Table 3: Releases by Center and Admission Type

Center	Drug Court	Judicial Transfer	Probation Plus	Total
Central AR CCC - Males	21	507	108	636
NE AR CCC - Males	28	744	121	893
NW AR CCC - Females	21	282	42	345
SE AR CCC - Females	85	1034	175	1294
SW AR CCC - Males	53	1527	367	1947
Total Offenders	208	4094	813	5115

LENGTH OF STAY. The average length of stay in a CCC increased by 5 days or 2.0% between 2008 and 2010 (see Table 4). Judicial Transfers stayed longer than Probation Plus residents followed by those referred to a CCC by a Drug Court (see Table 5).

Table 4: Average Length of Stay for CCC Releases by Year of Release

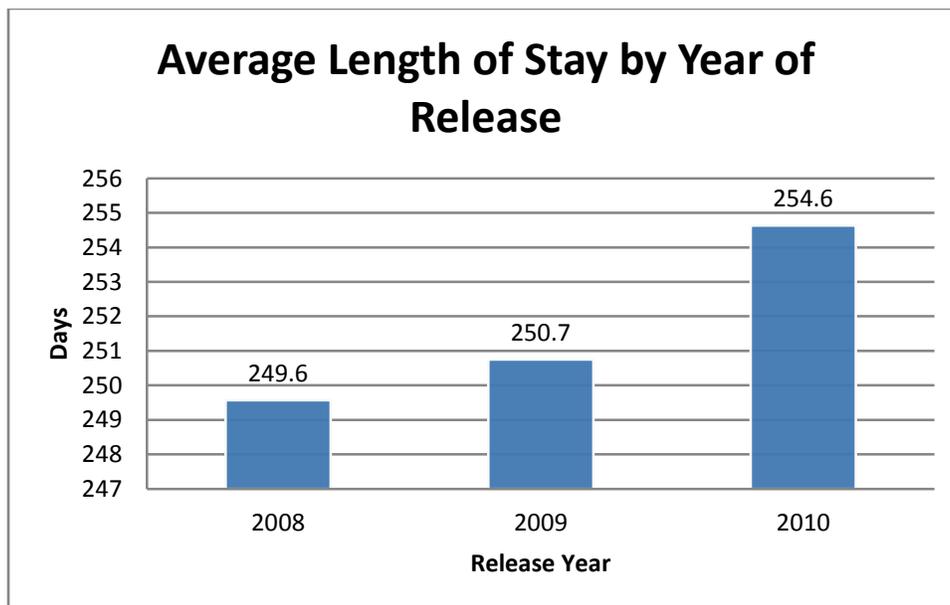
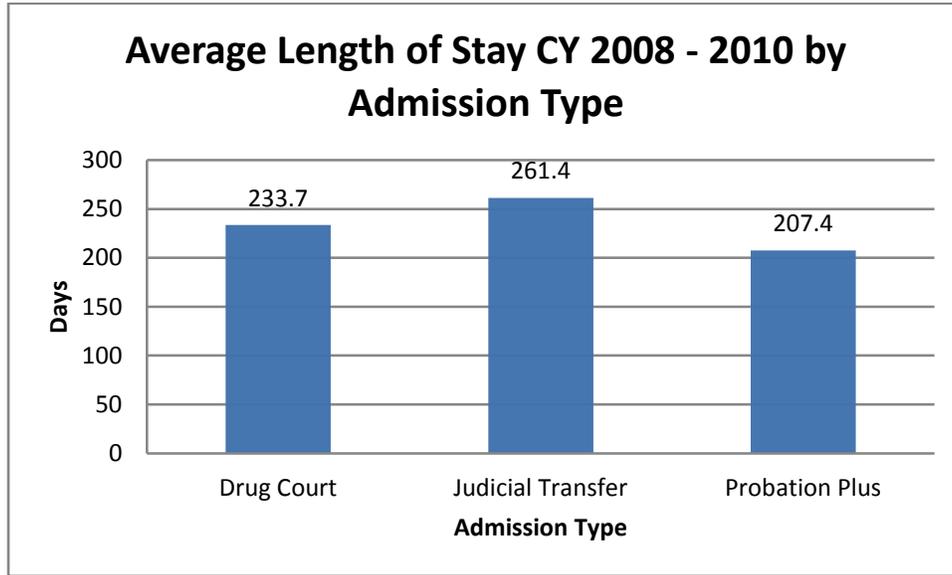
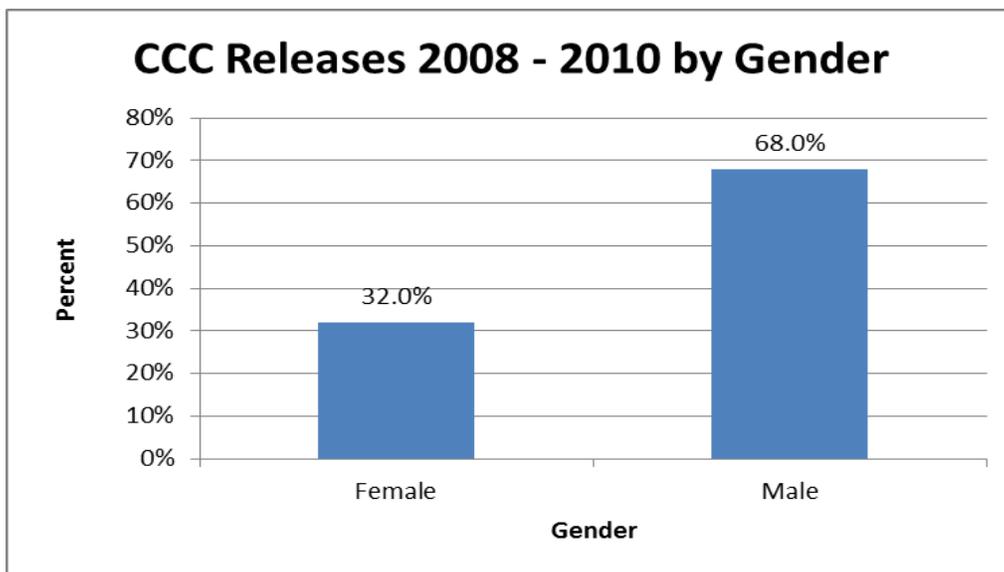


Table 5: Average Length of Stay for CCC Releases by Admission Type



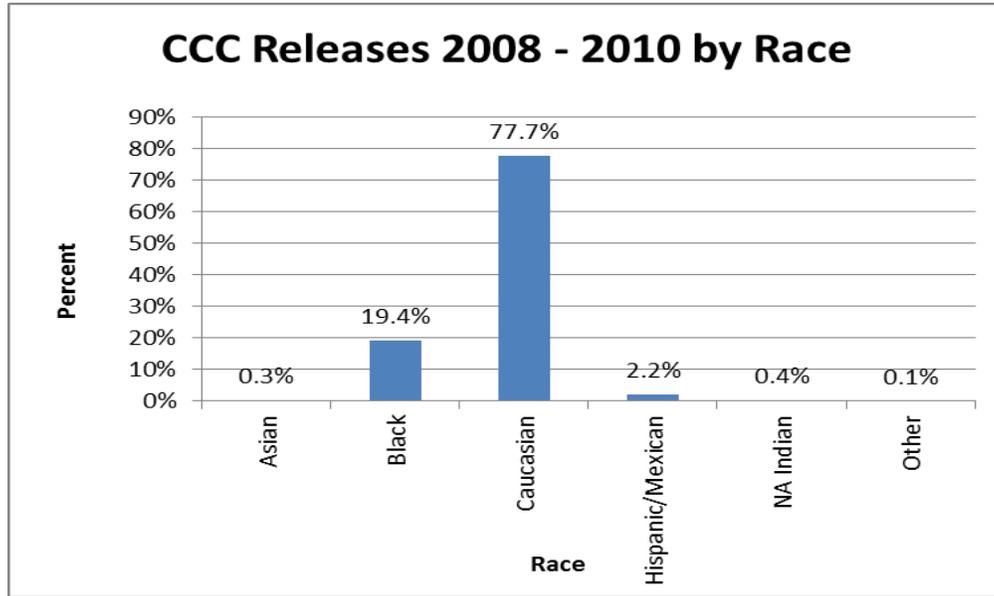
GENDER. Males dominate the releases about two-to-one.

Table 6: CCC Releases by Gender



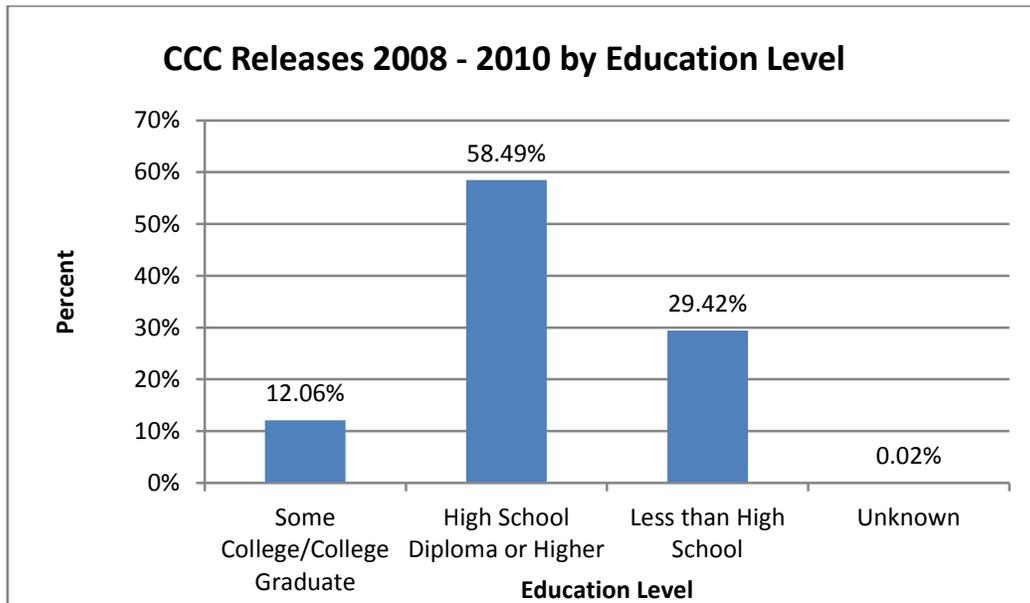
RACE. Whites and Blacks account for 77.7% and 19.4% of releases respectively. Table 7 shows the breakdown of releases by race.

Table 7: CCC Releases by Race



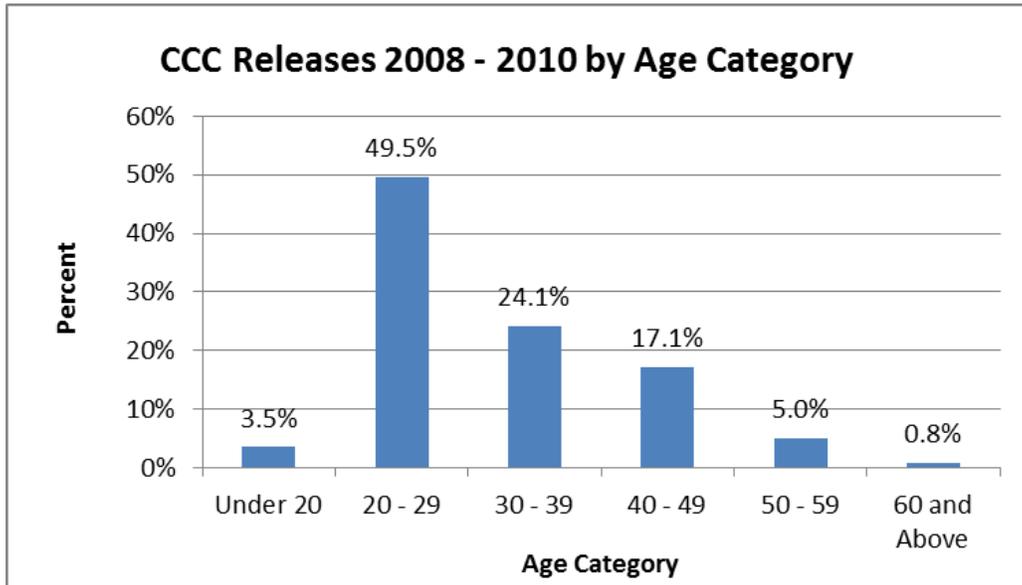
EDUCATION LEVEL. Almost three-fourths of the offenders reported having their GED, high school diploma, or higher education (70.6%). 617 offenders (12%) had attended college or received a Bachelors or Graduate degree. Table 8 summarizes the education level of all offenders released from CCC in CY2008 – 2010.

Table 8: CCC Releases by Education Level



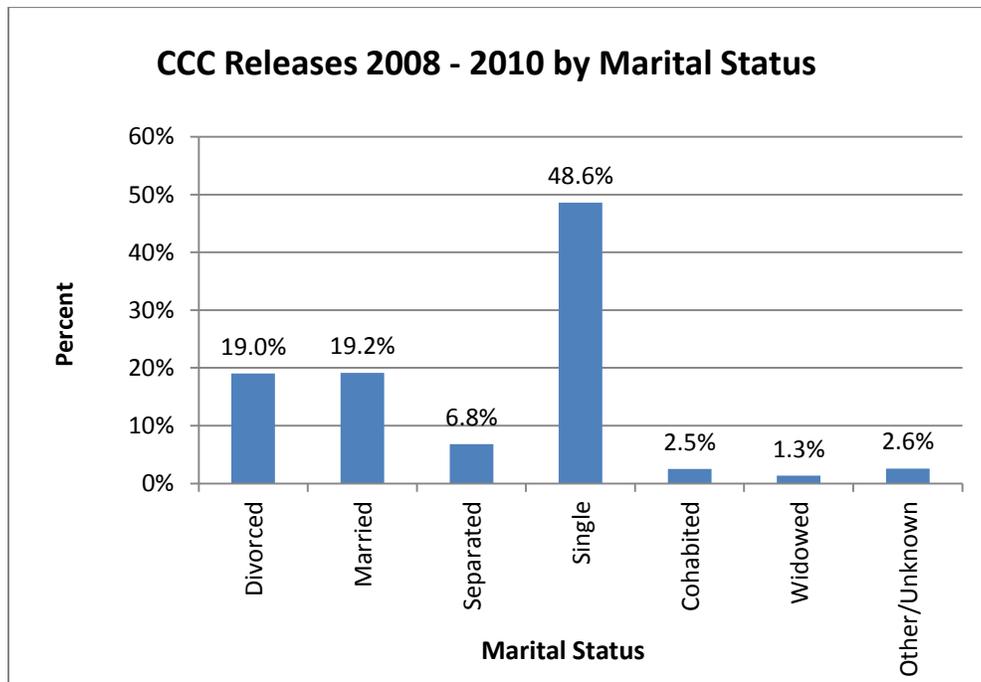
AGE. The majority of offenders were less than forty years of age when released. About one-half (53%) of those released were under 30 years of age. Table 9 details the age categories of all releases from CCC during the study period.

Table 9: CCC Releases by Age Category



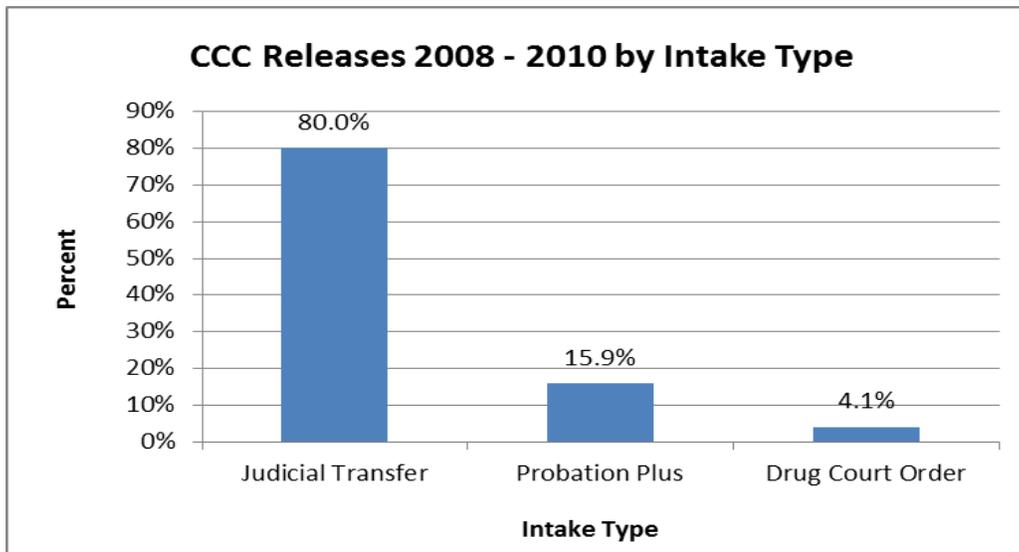
MARITAL STATUS. Approximately half (48.6%) of the offenders were single at the time of release. Table 10 breaks down the marital status of the CCC releases.

Table 10: CCC Releases by Marital Status



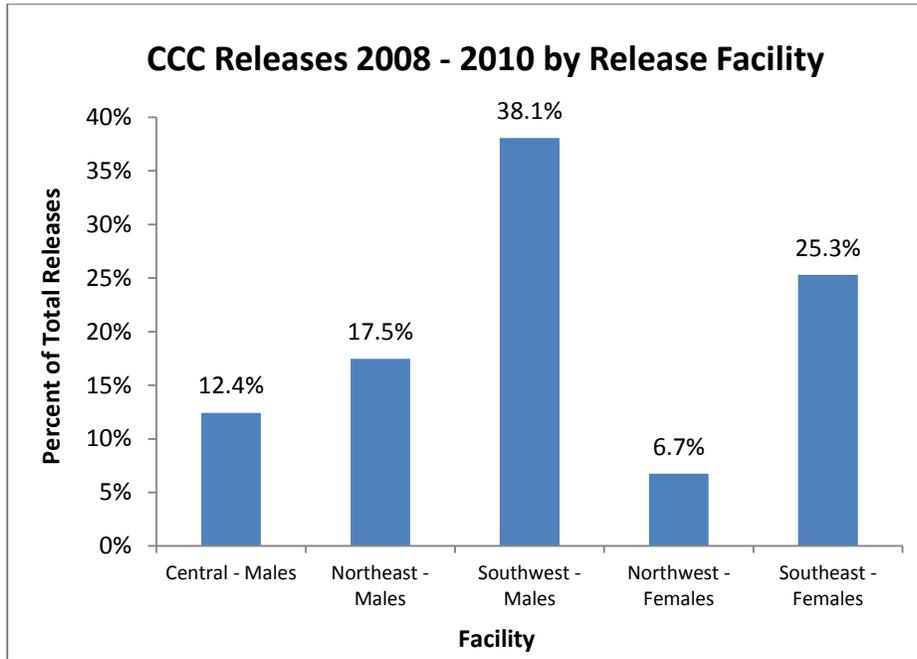
INTAKE TYPE. Eighty percent (80%) of those studied were sent to CCC as a Judicial Transfer from ADC. The remainder were sentenced to CCC as Probation Plus or an order from Drug Court. Probation Plus offenders are sentenced to a term of probation with an additional period of confinement at a CCC as a probation condition. The maximum period of Probation Plus confinement is 12 months. (§ 5-4-304). Table 11 summarizes the percent of releases by intake type.

Table 11: CCC Releases by Intake Type



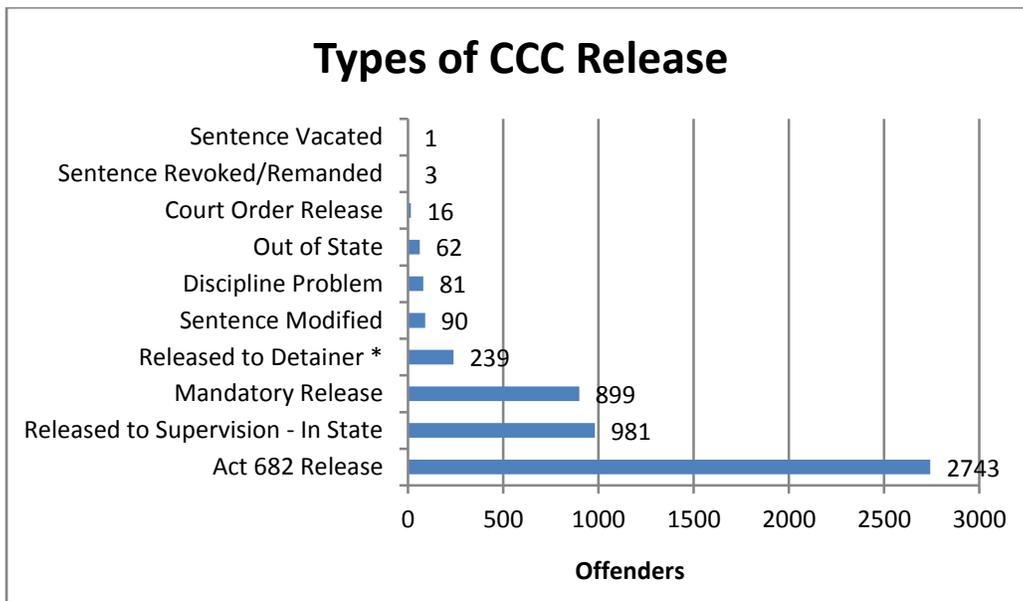
RELEASING FACILITY. The Southwest and Southeast CCCs released the largest percent of males and females respectively. Table 12 details the releases per facility as a percent of total released (5,115).

Table 12: CCC Releases by Facility



RELEASE TYPE. A large majority (72.8%) of CCC releases were released to be supervised as a parolee or probationer in the community. Table 13 details the releases by type.

Table 13: CCC Releases by Release Type



PERFORMANCE REVIEW

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

This study focuses on recidivism as a performance measure for success of CCC rehabilitation. All criminogenic data were collected for a three-year period following the offender's release from a Community Correction Center.

RECIDIVISM. Recidivism is an important performance measure for the overall rehabilitation process. This study provides three measures of recidivism: re-arrest, re-conviction, and re-incarceration.

Recidivism is defined as a criminal act that results in the re-arrest, re-conviction, or return to incarceration of a person with or without a new sentence during a three-year period following the person's release from incarceration.¹

Re-arrest is defined as any arrest occurring after release from CCC incarceration and before the end of the three-year follow-up period. Within the data collected, a re-arrest event is triggered by the first arrest date within the follow-up period.

Re-conviction is defined as any conviction occurring after release from CCC incarceration and before the end of the three-year follow-up period.

Re-incarceration is defined as any incarceration at an ADC prison or ACC community correction center or technical violator program occurring after release from CCC incarceration and before the end of the three-year follow-up period.

Offenders transferred to ADC for new felony conviction or new charges pending were not included in re-incarceration statistics. Offenders who died were also excluded as they would not have an opportunity to recidivate.

¹ Arkansas Act 1030 of 2013, pg. 1.

RECIDIVISM RESULTS. Of the 5,115 total releases, 2,625 were re-arrested, 1,477 were re-convicted and 1,462 were re-incarcerated within the three-year follow-up period. Table 14 details recidivism by percent of total releases.

Table 14: CCC Recidivism by Category

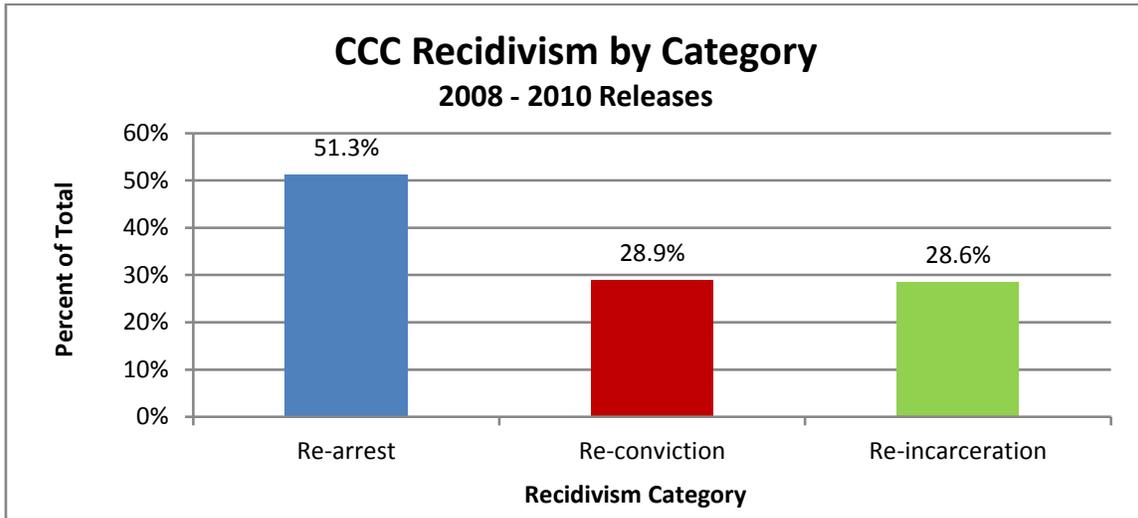


Table 15 summarizes the recidivism by release year cohort. Re-arrest and re-conviction rates vary less than four percent (1.9% and 3.4% respectively) between release years. Re-incarceration rates also had small variations (.4% and 2.0%) between years. For the three-year period, recidivism rates were fairly consistent within each recidivism category.

Table 15: CCC Recidivism by Release Year Cohort

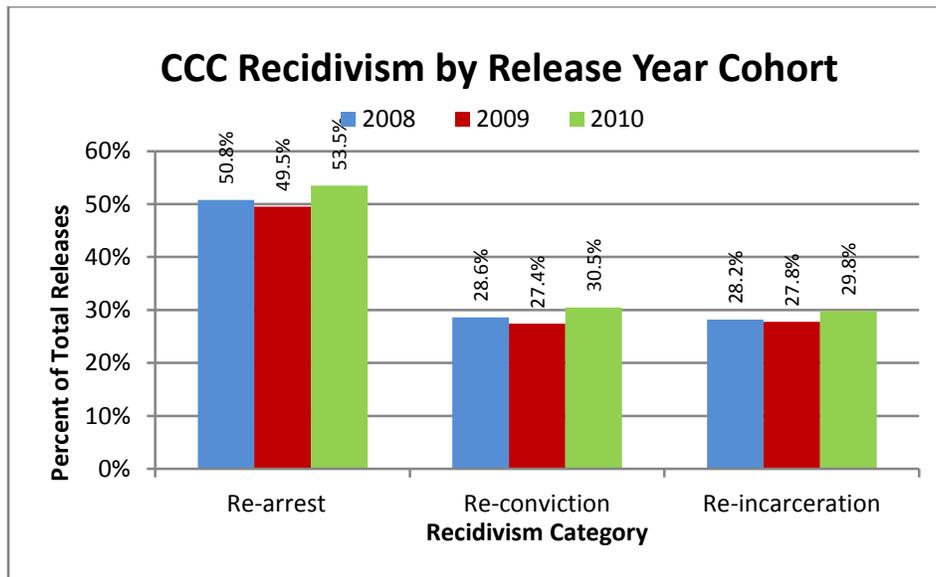


Table 16: Re-incarceration by Facility Type

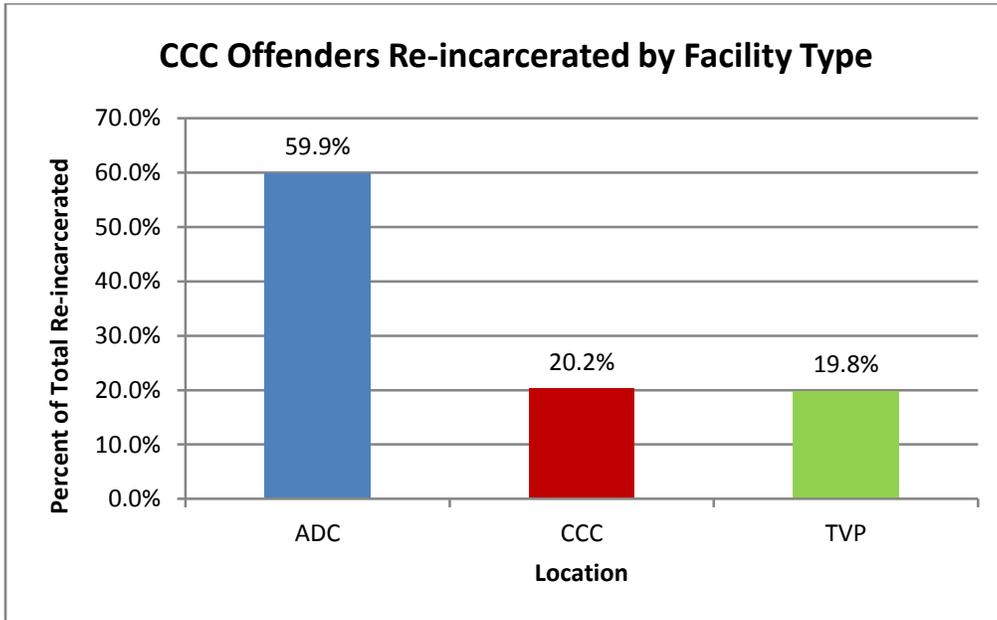


Table 17 details the CY 2008 – 2010 releases by their type of intake: Judicial Transfer, Probation Plus, or Drug Court Order. In the last two release years, offenders ordered to treatment at a CCC by a drug court had higher rates of re-conviction and re-incarceration than the other two admission types.

Table 17: Recidivism by Intake Type

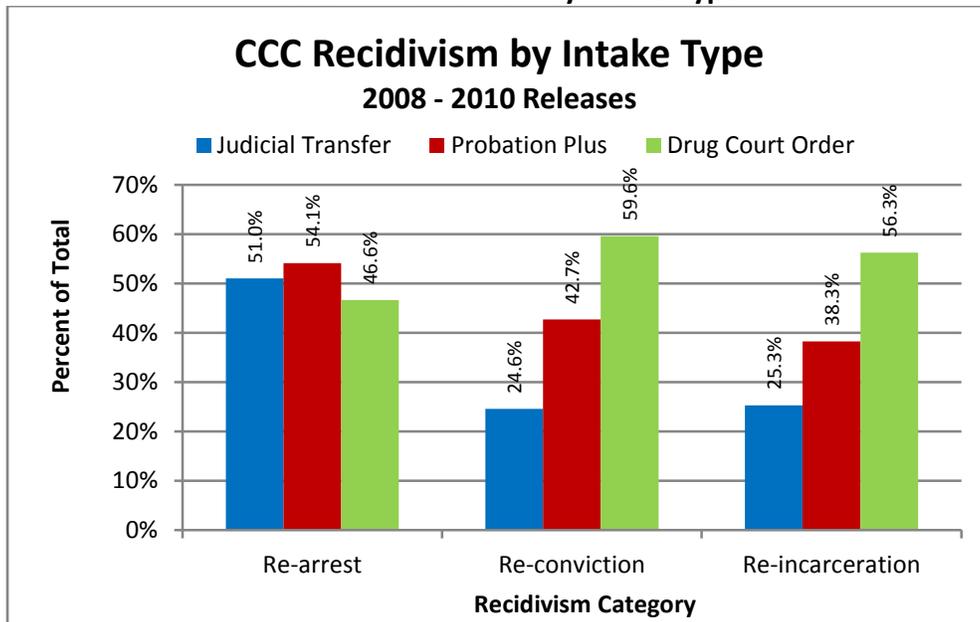
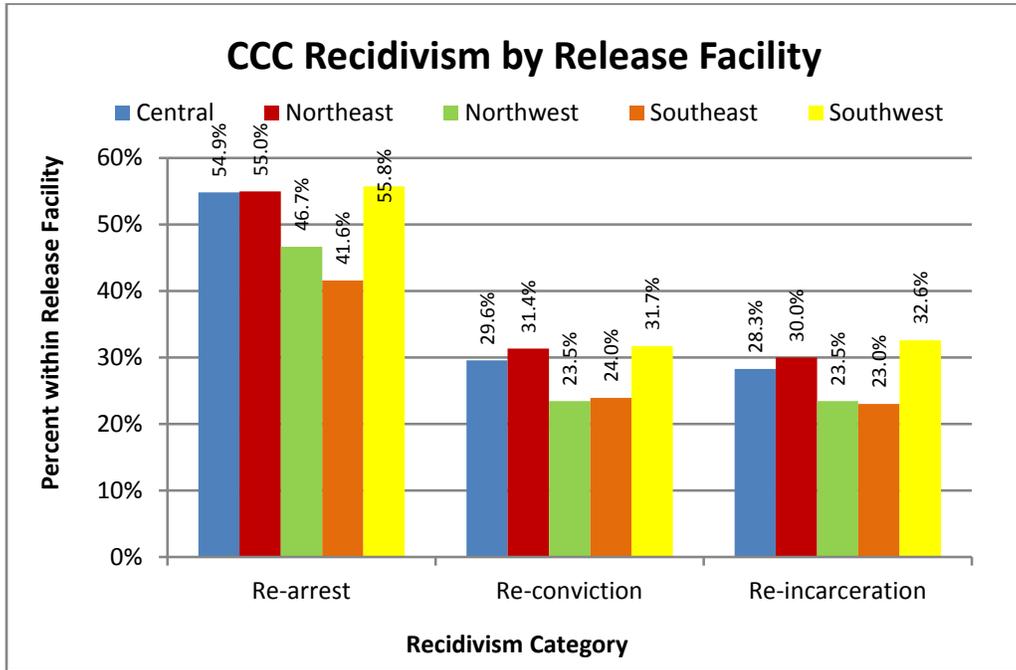


Table 18 shows the recidivism rates by Center and recidivism category.

Table 18: CCC Recidivism Summary by Facility



SPECIAL NEEDS. Two facilities (SW CCC for men and SE CCC for women) operate a Special Needs Program for offenders with a Mental Health diagnosis as well as a substance use disorder. Offenders assigned to these beds receive different programming, including an additional ten hours of treatment per week. Offenders in special needs beds had a lower recidivism rate in each recidivism category, as shown in Table 19, below.

Table 19: Recidivists from the Special Needs Program

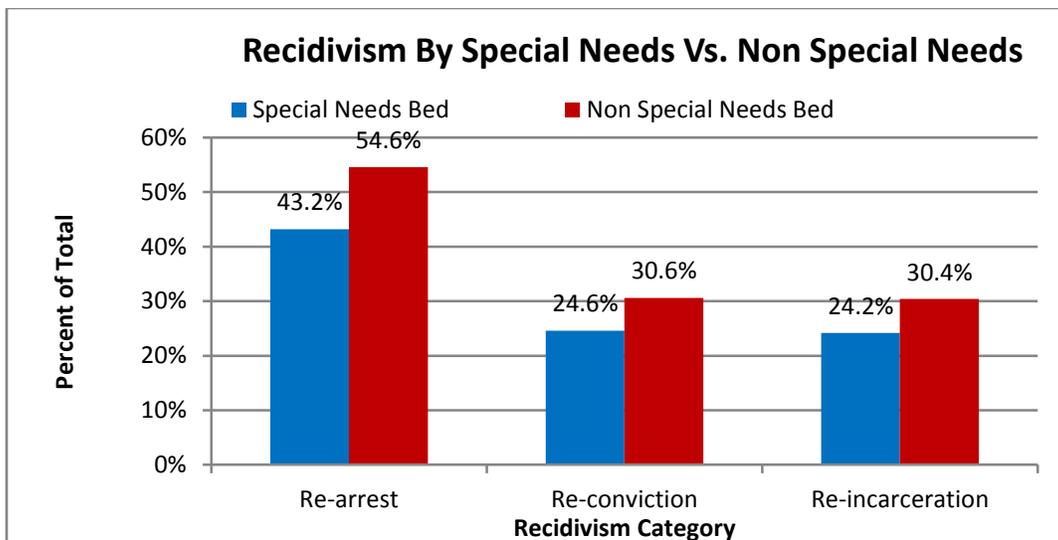


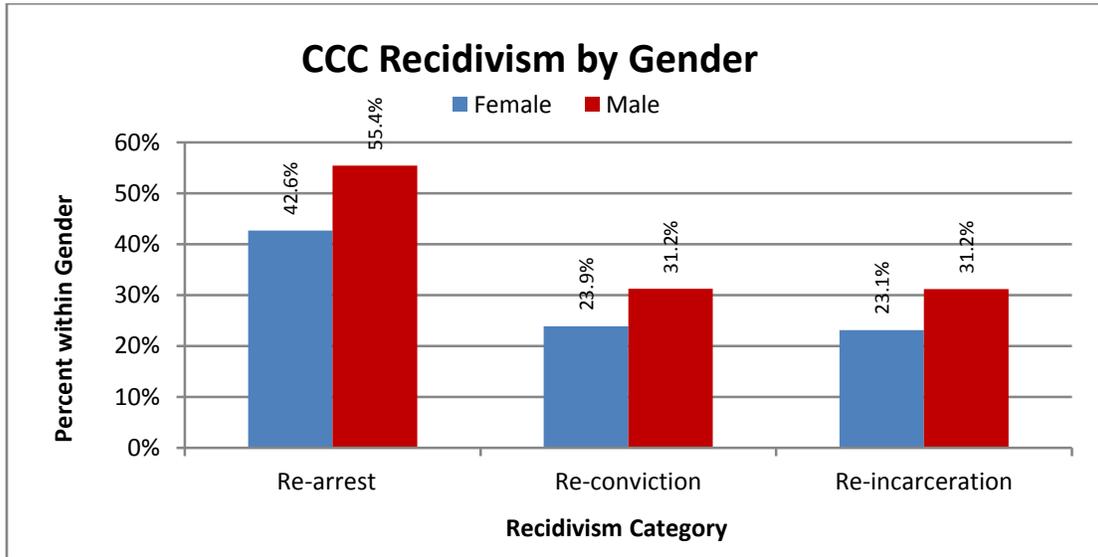
Table 20 summarizes the re-arrest, re-conviction, and re-incarceration recidivism statistics for the three-year follow-up period.

Table 20: CCC Recidivism Statistics

Category	Total Offenders	Re-arrest		Re-conviction		Re-incarceration	
		Offenders	%	Offenders	%	Offenders	%
Gender							
Female	1639	699	42.6%	391	23.9%	379	23.1%
Male	3476	1926	55.4%	1086	31.2%	1083	31.2%
Race							
Asian	14	7	50.0%	7	50.0%	6	42.9%
Black	992	517	52.1%	254	25.6%	243	24.5%
Caucasian	3974	2061	51.9%	1190	29.9%	1183	29.8%
Hispanic/Mexican	111	33	29.7%	22	19.8%	24	21.6%
NA Indian	18	6	33.3%	4	22.2%	6	33.3%
Other	6	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Highest Level of Education at Release							
Some College/College Graduate	617	268	43.4%	128	20.7%	116	18.8%
High School Diploma or Higher	2992	1587	53.0%	934	31.2%	916	30.6%
Less than High School	1505	770	51.2%	415	27.6%	430	28.6%
Unknown	1	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Age at Release							
Under 20	178	122	68.5%	86	48.3%	81	45.5%
20 - 29	2533	1464	57.8%	870	34.3%	856	33.8%
30 - 39	1231	607	49.3%	328	26.6%	326	26.5%
40 - 49	877	350	39.9%	150	17.1%	151	17.2%
50 - 59	257	79	30.7%	39	15.2%	43	16.7%
60 and Above	39	3	7.7%	4	10.3%	5	12.8%
Marital Status at Release							
Divorced	973	464	47.7%	258	26.5%	246	25.3%
Married	980	460	46.9%	260	26.5%	255	26.0%
Separated	349	157	45.0%	93	26.6%	88	25.2%
Single	2485	1386	55.8%	794	32.0%	799	32.2%
Cohabited	128	58	45.3%	24	18.8%	28	21.9%
Widowed	68	29	42.6%	11	16.2%	15	22.1%
Other/Unknown	132	71	53.8%	37	28.0%	31	23.5%
Intake Type							
Judicial Transfer	4094	2088	51.0%	1006	24.6%	1034	25.3%
Probation Plus	813	440	54.1%	347	42.7%	311	38.3%
Drug Court Order	208	97	46.6%	124	59.6%	117	56.3%
Releasing Community Correction Center							
Central - Males	636	349	54.9%	188	29.6%	180	28.3%
Northeast - Males	893	491	55.0%	280	31.4%	268	30.0%
Northwest - Females	345	161	46.7%	81	23.5%	81	23.5%
Southeast - Females	1294	538	41.6%	310	24.0%	298	23.0%
Southwest - Males	1947	1086	55.8%	618	31.7%	635	32.6%
Total Offenders	5115	2625	51.3%	1477	28.9%	1462	28.6%

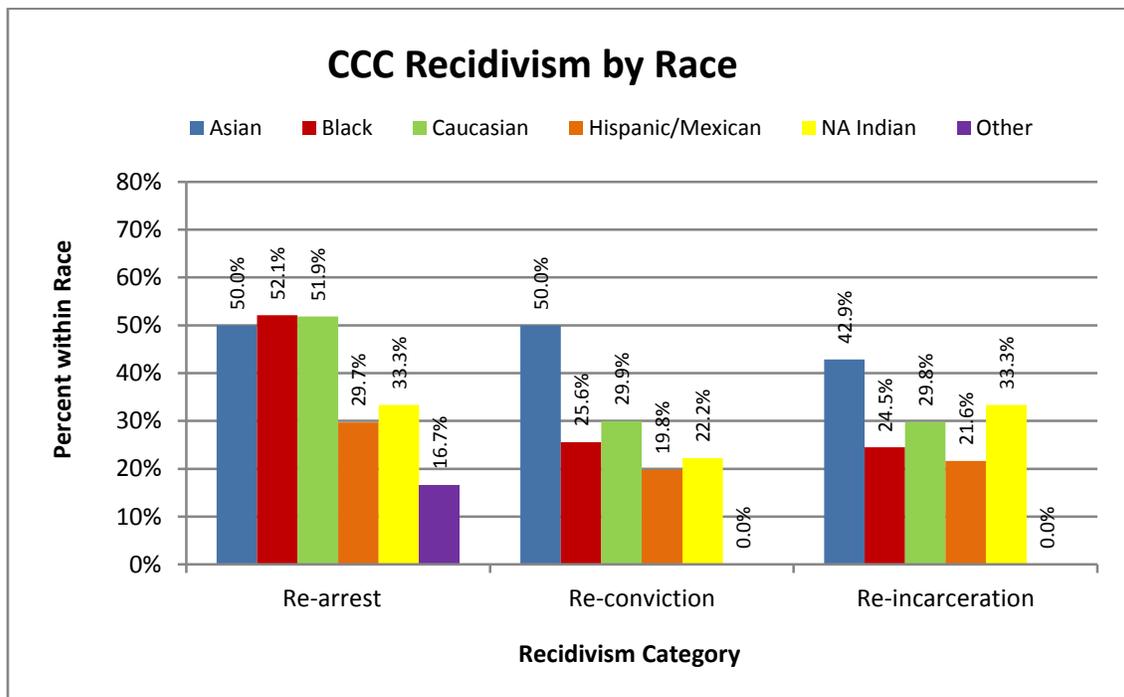
GENDER. Males had higher recidivism rates in each recidivism category than females.

Table 21: Recidivism by Gender



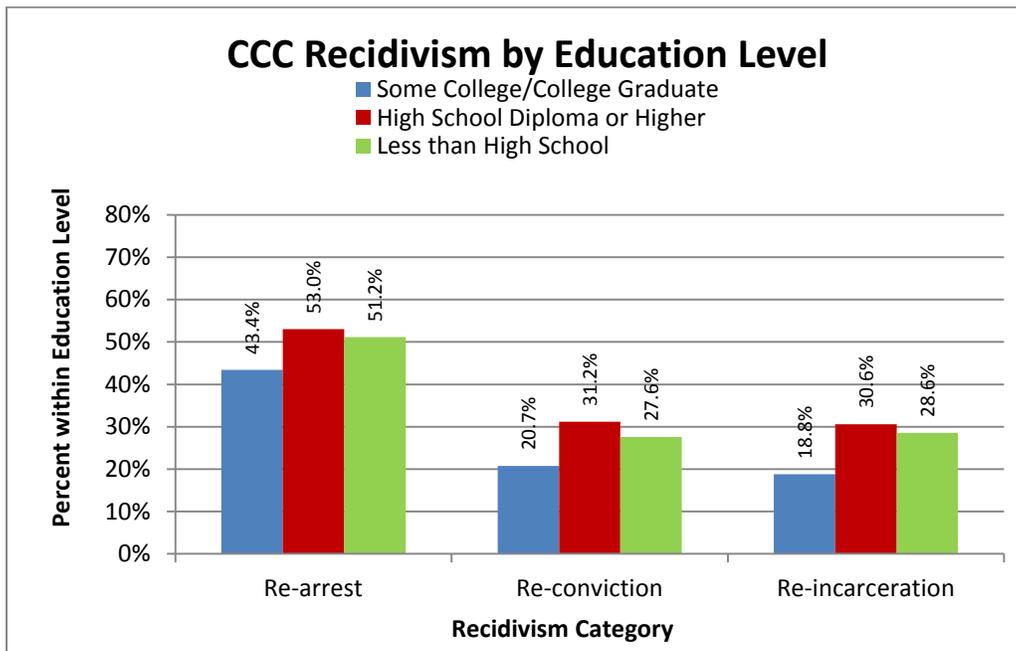
RACE. Caucasians outnumbered Blacks in both re-convictions and re-incarcerations. Table 22 demonstrates recidivism by race.

Table 22: Recidivism by Race



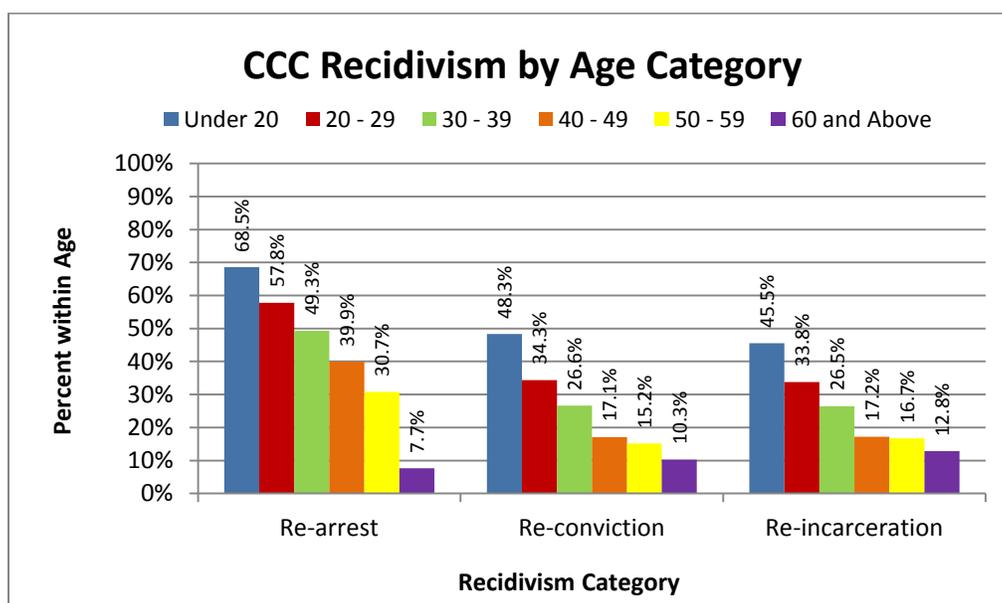
EDUCATION LEVEL. Offenders with some higher education had lower rates in all three recidivism categories. Slightly higher rates were observed among offenders with high school degrees or a GED than offenders without.

Table 23: Recidivism by Education Level



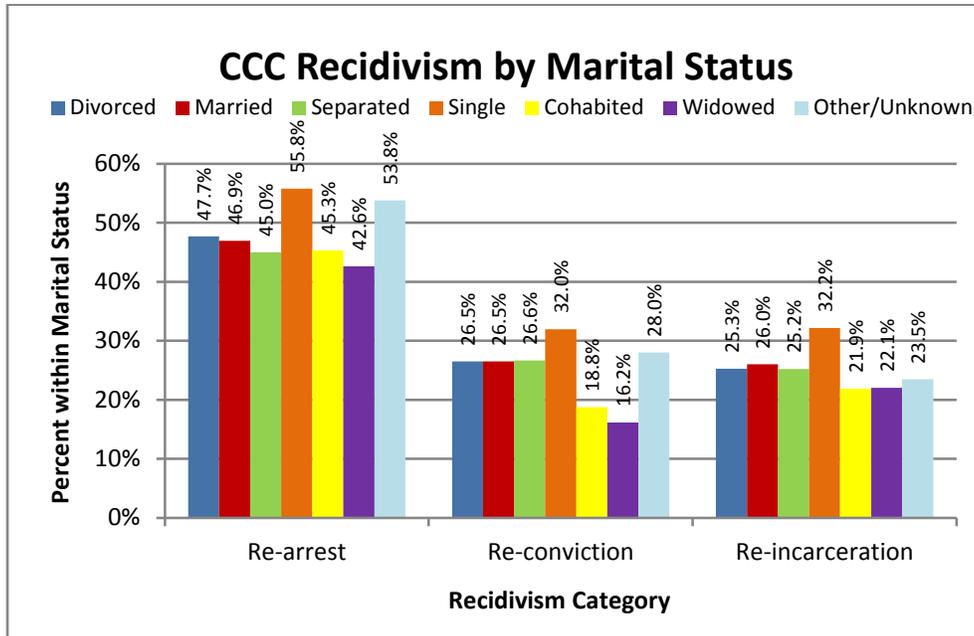
AGE. Offenders under the age of 30 had the highest rates of recidivism. Table 24 details recidivism rates by age category.

Table 24: Recidivism by Age Category



MARITAL STATUS. Single offenders had the highest recidivism rates of all age categories. Table 25 demonstrates the recidivism by marital status.

Table 25: Recidivism by Marital Status



CONCLUSIONS

Arkansas’s Community Correction Centers provide structure, supervision, drug/alcohol treatment, educational and vocational programs to each offender while balancing the need for confinement/treatment with opportunities for offenders to improve their self-worth and become law-abiding citizens. The success of the programs is often dependent on the willingness of the offender to capitalize on the opportunities and desire to improve his or her situation.

The following items were observed as a result of the study.

- 71.4% of releases were not re-incarcerated within the three-year study period.
- Approximately half (56.5%) of the offenders released were released under the provisions of Act 682 after having completed 270 days of programming and after having met treatment targets for release.

- Approximately half (51.3%) of those released were re-arrested for a felony or misdemeanor, however, less than one-third were re-convicted (28.9%).
- The proportion of males returning to incarceration (31.2%) was eight percentage points more than that of females (23.1%). Single males under 30 account for 38.4% of all re-incarcerations. This finding suggests that programming focusing on the motivations and treatment needs of this demographic has the potential for reducing the CCC re-incarceration rate.
- Over the three-year period, re-conviction and re-incarceration rates showed little variation.
- Offenders participating in the Special Needs Programs for dually diagnosed offenders—a group that is usually viewed as higher risk—had lower recidivism rates in all recidivism categories.