

**Parolee Recidivism  
FY 2004 through FY 2006**



**April 2008**

# Background

The Department of Community Correction (DCC) has been measuring incarceration of offenders in a facility for several years as a performance measurement of the programs operating under its authority. This incarceration, referred to as “recidivism,” seeks to determine if individuals under the supervision of DCC offend or re-offend while in the community.

Recidivism is defined as an offender who is returned to incarceration in a prison or community correctional facility. It does not include offenders in a technical violator program operated by DCC.

By definition, offenders under parole have a history that includes incarceration in a prison or community correction center (CCC).

## A Change in the Sampling Methodology

In prior years, the DCC parolee recidivism rate was determined by taking a statistically representative sample of the total parolee population and reviewing each of the sample cases for a recidivist event. This was necessary because of the size of the parolee population (over 19,000 offenders from the previous study). Using a statistical tool to obtain a sample size for the given population, DCC then set the confidence interval (CI) at 99% with a margin of error of +/- 3%.

During the last year, DCC program evaluation staff refined a structured query language (SQL) program to review the entire parolee population for a recidivist event. This allows the entire database to be examined for a recidivist event and eliminates sampling the error rate.

Using this SQL, DCC was able to identify a total parolee population of 19,312 offenders who were admitted at some point of time during the study period (July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2006).

# Study Groups and Intake Cohorts

## **Parole Study Groups**

Each year DCC studies parolees active in a three-year window of time to determine whether they have been re-incarcerated. Year boundaries conform to State fiscal years beginning in July and ending in June.

## **Intake Cohorts**

In addition to race and sex, recidivism findings are analyzed by the year in which the recidivist was first admitted to Parole within the bounds of the three-year period under study. The group in which the parolee's intake is placed is known as his intake cohort. These groupings allow recidivism findings to be analyzed according to known circumstances, such as staffing changes, that could have had an impact on recidivism.

## **2008 Parole Study Group**

The 2007 parole study group included parolees who were admitted between July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2005. In October 2007, e-OMIS was queried for parolees with an intake date falling between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.

The results were combined with the last two cohorts of the previous recidivism study group to make up the new three-year study group. If the parolee appeared in a previous (FY 04 or FY 05) cohort, was re-incarcerated, and released to parole again in FY 06, then the offender remains with the earlier cohort. If, however, the parolee with an intake date in FY 06 had been assigned to the FY 03 cohort, his previous intake falls outside the current three-year window of study and is disregarded. In such case, the parolee is assigned according to his most current intake date.

# Parolee Cohort Years

Table 1  
Total Number of Parolees  
According to Cohort Fiscal Year of Intake or Prison Release

	Number of Parolees	Percent
FY 04	5,887	30.5%
FY 05	6,802	35.2%
FY 06	6,623	34.2%
Total	19,312	100%

# Parolee Recidivism

The overall recidivism rate for the population under study is 23.7%. This represents 4,573 offenders regardless of the length of time between the intake date of the offender and the recidivist event.

Table 2  
Parolee Recidivism

	Number	Percent
Non-recidivist	15,022	77.8%
Recidivists	4,573	23.7%
Total	19,312	100.0%

# Parolee Recidivism by Gender

Table 3  
Total Parolee and Recidivist Populations  
By Gender

	Total Population Number	Percent of Total Population	Number of Recidivists	Percent of Total Number of Recidivists
Males	16,753	86.7%	4,257	93.1%
Females	2,559	13.3%	316	6.9%
Total	19,312	100.0%	4,573	100.0

# Parolee Recidivism by Racial Demographics

Table 4  
Parolee Racial Demographics  
Number and Percent

	Total Population Number	Percent of Total Population	Number of Recidivists	Percent of Total Recidivists
Asian	45	0.2%	12	0.3%
Black	7,287	37.7%	1,985	43.4%
Cuban	7	>0.0%	2	0.0%
Hispanic	225	1.2%	31	0.7%
Native American Indian	31	0.2%	5	0.1%
Mexican	26	0.1%	3	0.1%
White	11,675	60.5%	2,534	55.4%
Other and Unknown	16	0.1%	1	0.0%
Total	19,312	100.0%	4,573	100.0%



# Parolee Recidivism by Cohort Years

Table 5  
Total Number of Parolee and Recidivists  
By Cohort Fiscal Year of Intake or Prison Release

	Number of Parolees	Percent of Total Parolees	Number of Recidivists	Percent of Total Recidivists
FY 04	5,887	30.5%	1,876	41.0%
FY 05	6,802	35.2%	1,776	38.8%
FY 06	6,623	34.3%	921	20.1%
Total	19,312	100.0%	4,573	100.0%

# Parolee Recidivism – Time Between Intake and Reincarceration Event

Table 6  
Number and Percent of Recidivists  
with Amount of Time between Release and Re-incarceration

	Number	Percent
Within 1 Year	1,939	42.4%
Within 2 Years	1,696	37.1%
Within 3 Years	745	16.3%
Within 4 Years	187	4.1%
Longer than 4 Years	6	0.1%
Total	4,573	100.0%

# Parolee Recidivism by Cohort Group

## Number of Recidivists

	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	Total
Within 1 Year	848	663	428	1,939
Within 2 Years	500	725	471	1,696
Within 3 Years	348	375	22	745
Within 4 Years	174	13	-	187
Longer than 4 Years	6	-	-	6
Total Recidivists	1,876	1,776	921	4,573

Total Parolees	5,887	6,802	6,623	19,312
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## Pct Recidivate

Within 1 Year	14.4%	9.7%	6.5%	42.4%
Within 2 Years	8.5%	10.7%	7.1%	37.1%
Within 3 Years	5.9%	5.5%	0.3%	16.3%
Within 4 years	3.0%	0.2%	0.0%	4.1%
Longer than 4 Years	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Total Pct that Recidivate	31.9%	26.1%	13.9%	100.0%

# Parolee Recidivism by Cohort Group within 3 Years of Intake

Chart 1  
Percent of Recidivists by Fiscal Year Cohort Group  
and Time between Release and Re-incarceration

