

Probation Recidivism FY 2004 through FY 2006



July 2008

Arkansas Department of Community Correction

Background and Methodology

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 recidivism study seeks to determine if individuals under the supervision of DCC offend or re-offend while in the community.

By definition, recidivism occurs when an offender is incarcerated in an ADC prison or DCC community correctional facility other than a technical violator center.

In prior years, the DCC probationer recidivism rate was determined by taking a statistically representative sample of the total probation population and manually reviewing each of the sample cases for a recidivist event. This was necessary because of the size of the probationer population (over 28,100 offenders). 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 regular probation and "Probation Plus" offender populations 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 identified a total probation population of 27,174 offenders who were admitted (had an intake) during the study period, July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2006.

Study Groups and Intake Cohorts

Study Groups

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

The 2007 probationer study group included probationers who were admitted between July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2005. In April 2008, e-OMIS was queried for probation with an intake date falling between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. When two or more intakes occurred in the study period, the earliest was chosen.

Intake Cohorts

In addition to race and sex, recidivism findings are analyzed by the year in which the recidivist was first admitted to probation (had an intake) within the bounds of the three-year period under study. The group in which the probationer's intake occurred 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.

Probation Intake Cohort Years

Table 1
Study Group by
Fiscal Year of Intake

	Number	Percent
FY 04	9,066	33.4%
FY 05	8,911	32.8%
FY 06	9,197	33.8%
Total	27,174	100%

Recidivism

The overall recidivism rate for the population under study is 21.7%. This represents 5,909 probationers regardless of the length of time between the intake date and the recidivist event.

Table 2
Probation Recidivism

	Number	Percent
Non-recidivist	21,265	78.3%
Recidivist	5,909	21.7%
Total	27,174	100.0%

Recidivism by Gender

Table 3
Total Probationers and Recidivists by Gender

	Total Population Number	Percent of Total Population	Number of Recidivists	Percent of Total Number of Recidivists
Males	19,294	71.0%	4,769	80.7%
Females	7,877	29.0%	1,140	19.3%
Unknown	3	<0.1%	0	0.0%
Total	27,174	100.0%	5,909	100.0

Probationer Recidivism by Racial Demographics

Table 4
 Probationer Racial Demographics
 Number and Percent

	Total Population Number	Percent of Total Population	Number of Recidivists	Percent of Total Recidivists
Asian	66	0.2%	18	0.3%
Black	7,828	28.8%	1,867	31.6%
Cuban	2	>0.0%	1	0.0%
Hispanic	769	2.8%	103	1.7%
Native American Indian	67	0.3%	9	0.2%
Mexican	39	0.1%	6	0.1%
White	18,312	67.4%	3,895	65.9%
Other and Unknown	91	0.3%	10	0.2%
Total	27,174	100.0%	5,909	100.0%

Probationer Recidivism by Cohort Years

Table 5
 Total Number of Probationers and Recidivists
 By Cohort Fiscal Year of Intake

	Number of Probationers	Percent of Total Probationers	Number of Recidivists	Percent of Total Recidivists
FY 04	9,066	33.4%	2,293	38.8%
FY 05	8,911	32.8%	1,987	33.6%
FY 06	9,197	33.8%	1,629	27.6%
Total	27,174	100.0%	5,909	100.0%

Probationer Recidivism Time Between Intake and Recidivism Event

Table 6
Number and Percent of Recidivists
by Amount of Time between Release and Incarceration

	Number	Percent
Within 1 Year	1,554	26.3%
Within 2 Years	2,486	42.1%
Within 3 Years	1,327	22.5%
More than 3 Years	542	9.2%
Total	5,909	100.0%

Probationer Recidivism by Intake Cohort (Recidivist Event not Limited to Only 3 Years)

Number of Recidivists

	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	Total
Within 1 Year	508	501	545	1,554
Within 2 Years	791	815	880	2,486
Within 3 Years	577	546	204	1,327
Within 4 Years	417	125	-	542
Total Recidivists	2,293	1,987	1,629	5,909
Total Probationers	9,066	8,911	9,197	27,174

Percent Recidivists

Within 1 Year	5.6%	5.7%	5.9%	5.7%
Within 2 Years	8.7%	9.1%	9.6%	9.1%
Within 3 Years	6.4%	6.1%	2.2%	4.9%
Within 4 years	4.6%	1.4%	N/A	2.0%
Total Pct that Recidivated	25.3%	22.3%	17.7%	21.7%

Probationer Recidivism by Intake Cohort within 3 Years of Intake

Chart 1
Percent of Recidivists by Fiscal Year of Intake Cohort
By Time between Release and Incarceration

