

# Arkansas Department of Community Correction

## Probation Recidivism FY 2005 through FY 2007

February 2010



# Background and Methodology

The Department of Community Correction (DCC) has been measuring recidivism of offenders for several years as a performance measurement of the programs operating under its authority. Recidivism reflects the degree to which individuals under DCC supervision re-offend in a three year period while in the community.

By definition, recidivism occurs when an adult probationer is incarcerated in an ADC prison or DCC community correctional facility (other than a technical violator center) within a 3 year period of time under DCC community supervision.

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.

Using this SQL, staff identified a total probation population of 27,383 offenders who were admitted (had an intake) during the study period, July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2007.

# Study Groups and 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 2010 probationer study group included probationers who were admitted between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2007. 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 05 | 9,043  | 33.0%   |
| FY 06 | 9,340  | 34.1%   |
| FY 07 | 9,000  | 32.9%   |
| Total | 27,383 | 100%    |

# Recidivism

The overall recidivism rate for the adult probation population is 20.9%.

Table 2  
Probation Recidivism

|                                 | Number | Percent |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Total Number of Non-recidivists | 21,644 | 79.0%   |
| Recidivists within 3 Years      | 5,739  | 21.0%   |
| Total                           | 27,383 | 100%    |

# 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   | 19,511                  | 71.3%                       | 4,616                 | 80.4%                                  |
| Females | 7,869                   | 28.7%                       | 1,123                 | 19.6%                                  |
| Unknown | 3                       | <0.1%                       | 0                     | 0.0%                                   |
| Total   | 27,383                  | 100.0%                      | 5,739                 | 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                  | 72                      | 0.3%                        | 17                    | 0.3%                         |
| Black                  | 7,965                   | 29.1%                       | 1,815                 | 31.6%                        |
| Hispanic               | 904                     | 3.3%                        | 127                   | 2.2%                         |
| Native American Indian | 78                      | 0.3%                        | 15                    | 0.3%                         |
| Mexican                | 47                      | 0.2%                        | 6                     | 0.1%                         |
| White                  | 18,237                  | 66.6%                       | 3,752                 | 65.4%                        |
| Other and Unknown      | 80                      | 0.3%                        | 7                     | 0.1%                         |
| Total                  | 27,383                  | 100.0%                      | 5,739                 | 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 | Percent of FY Intakes Recidivated |
|-------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| FY 05 | 9,043                  | 33.0%                         | 1,904                 | 33.2%                        | 21.1%                             |
| FY 06 | 9,340                  | 34.1%                         | 2,028                 | 35.3%                        | 21.7%                             |
| FY 07 | 9,000                  | 32.9%                         | 1,807                 | 31.5%                        | 20.1%                             |
| Total | 27,383                 | 100.0%                        | 5,739                 | 100.0%                       | 21.0%                             |



# Probationer Recidivism by Intake Cohort (3 Year Study Period)

| <b>Number of Recidivists</b>                     | <b>FY 05</b> | <b>FY 06</b> | <b>FY 07</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Within 1 <sup>st</sup> Year                      | 528          | 571          | 504          | 1,603        |
| Between 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year | 820          | 894          | 786          | 2,500        |
| Between 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year | 556          | 563          | 517          | 1,636        |
| <b>Total Recidivists</b>                         | <b>1,904</b> | <b>2,028</b> | <b>1,807</b> | <b>5,739</b> |

|                           |              |              |              |               |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Total Probationers</b> | <b>9,043</b> | <b>9,340</b> | <b>9,000</b> | <b>27,383</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|

| <b>Percent Recidivists<br/>(of all Probationers)</b> | <b>FY 05</b> | <b>FY 06</b> | <b>FY 07</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Within 1 <sup>st</sup> Year                          | 5.8%         | 6.1%         | 5.6%         | 5.9%         |
| Between 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year     | 9.1%         | 9.6%         | 8.7%         | 9.1%         |
| Between 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year     | 6.1%         | 6.0%         | 5.7%         | 6.0%         |
| <b>Total Pct that Recidivated</b>                    | <b>21.1%</b> | <b>21.7%</b> | <b>20.1%</b> | <b>21.0%</b> |

# Probationer Recidivism by Intake Cohort

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

