

JUVENILE RECIDIVISM 2018



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 2015 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.

2018 Juvenile Recidivism Rate: **33.3%**

- 688 Releases ■ 229 Returns (145 as a juvenile, 84 as an adult)
- 85.3% of juvenile releases had not been incarcerated in an Adult facility within 3 years of their 2015 release from a Juvenile institution

- Of all juveniles released in 2015, 34.3% of males returned to IDOC while only 27.9% of females returned.
- Approximately 37.0% of African American juvenile offenders returned to the Department of Correction, a higher rate than any other major race or ethnicity. White youth were next highest with a 33.1% recidivism rate, followed by Hispanic youth (25.9%) and youth whose race wasn't identified (24.0%).
- Approximately 96% of juveniles who recidivated were returned to IDOC for the commission of a new crime, compared to 4% of returns which were for a technical violation of post-release supervision.
- Juvenile offenders whose offense severity level was classified as 'Serious' were most likely to return to incarceration.
- Juvenile offenders released in 2015 who were identified as a sex offender returned to IDOC less frequently than the overall rate.
- Only 15.6% of identified juvenile sex offenders released in 2015 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 2015 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, in order 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 2015 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.

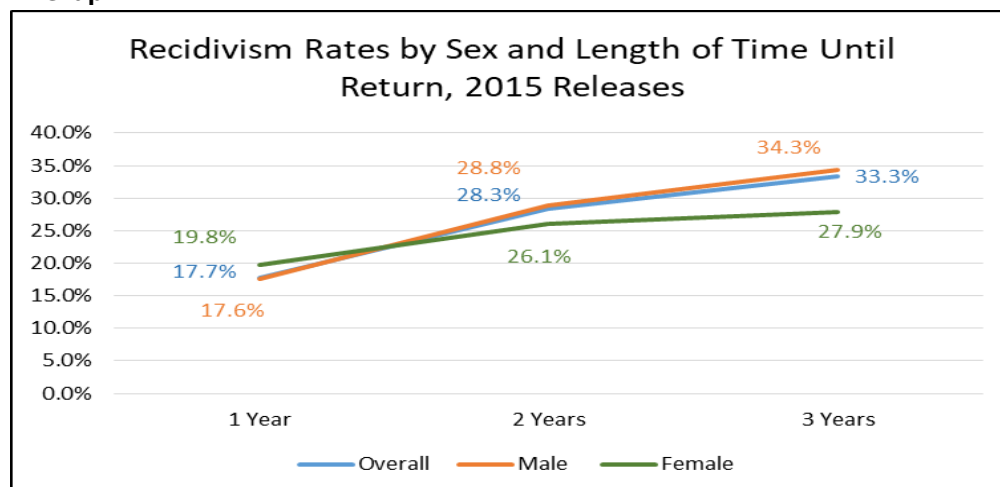
Overall Recidivism Rates

In 2015, the Indiana Department of Correction released 688 students. Of those juveniles released, 33.3% 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 2015 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, 2015 Releases

	2015 Releases		
	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE
# Released	688	577	111
Recidivism Rates within 1 year of release	17.7%	17.6%	19.8%
Recidivism Rates within 2 years of release	28.3%	28.8%	26.1%
Recidivism Rates within 3 years of release	33.3%	34.3%	27.9%

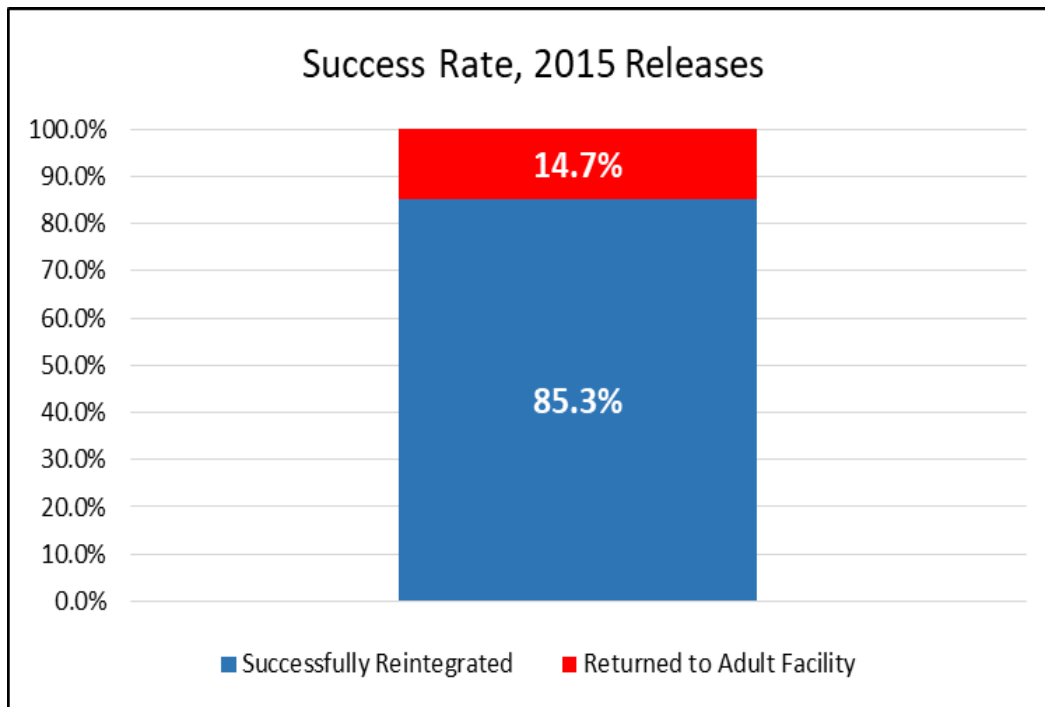
Graph 1.



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 688 juveniles released in 2015, 85.3% (587) 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.



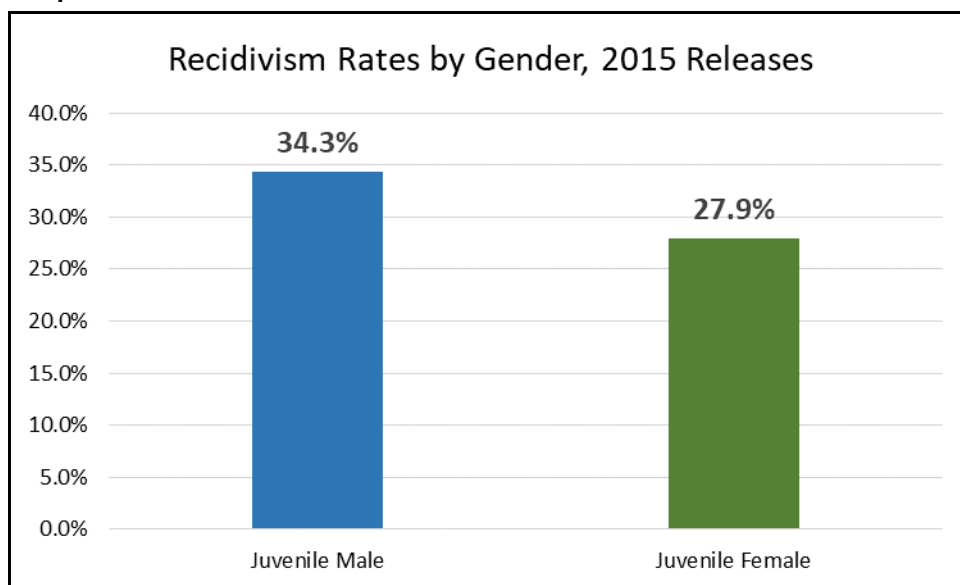
Recidivism Rates by Gender

Similar to previous years, data for 2015 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 2015, males (34.3%) were approximately one and a quarter times more likely to recidivate than females (27.9%). Interestingly, the vast majority of female students who were re-incarcerated with IDOC returned as a juvenile while nearly half of all juvenile male students who recidivated returned to IDOC as an adult.

Table 2. Number and Percent of Returns by Gender, 2015 Releases

	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE
2015 Juvenile Releases	688	577	111
Returned as a Juvenile	145	116	29
Returned as an Adult	84	82	2
Total # Returned	229	198	31
Recidivism Rate	32.2%	34.3%	27.9%

Graph 3.



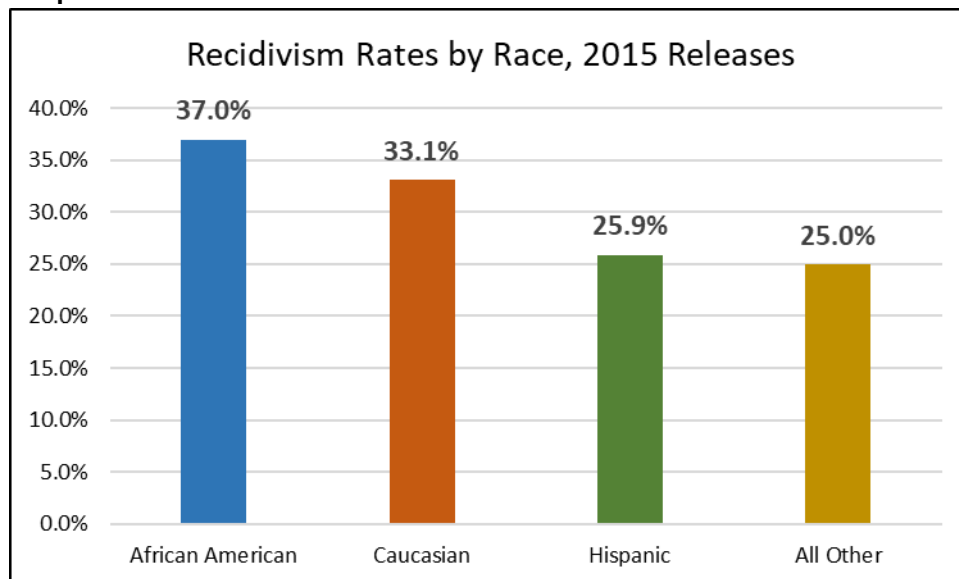
Recidivism Rates by Race

Amongst racial categories, African American students (37.0%) exhibited the largest likelihood of recidivating amongst students in the 2015 release cohort. They were followed by Caucasian student 33.1% and Hispanic students at 25.9%. Juveniles whose race was unidentified juveniles rounded out the top four with a return to incarceration at a rate of 24.0% (see Table 3). As used in Graph 4 below, the ‘All Other’ category includes American Indian, Asian, and Pacific Islander student and students whose race was unidentified at the time of reporting.

Table 3. Number and Percent of Returns by Race, 2015 Releases

Race	2015 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
African American	235	87	37.0%
American Indian	1	0	0.0%
Asian/Pacific	1	1	100.0%
Caucasian	347	115	33.1%
Hispanic	54	14	25.9%
Unidentified	50	12	24.0%
Total	688	226	33.3%

Graph 4.



Recidivism Rates by Type of Release

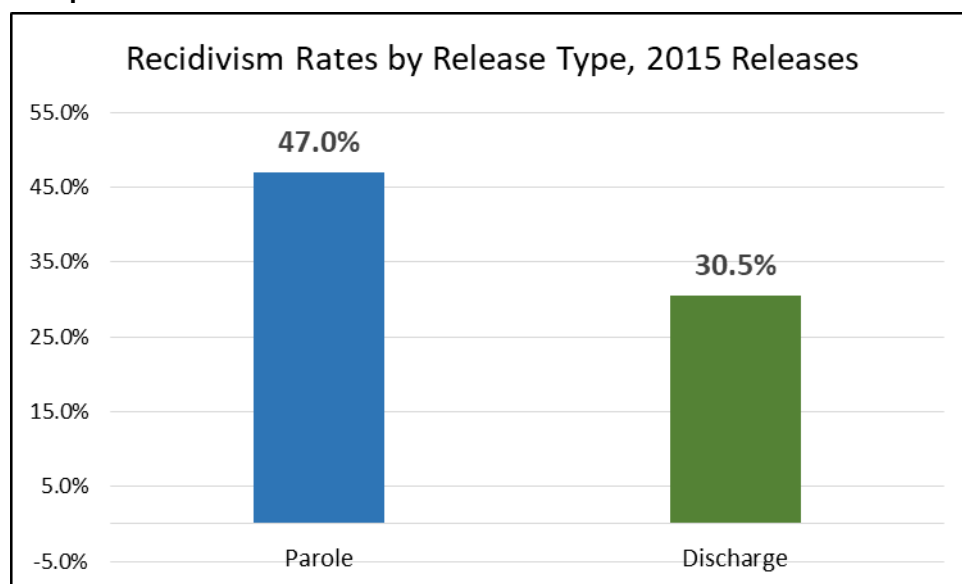
Students who were released to parole in 2015 were more likely to recidivate than those who were discharged from a juvenile facility (see Graph 5). Of the 115 students released to parole in 2015, 47.0% returned to IDOC within three years while only 30.5% of students discharged from incarceration returned within three years (see Table 4).

Anecdotally, this difference may be attributed to the likelihood that students on parole are monitored more closely and must meet certain minimum behavioral requirements while on parole or they risk being re-incarcerated for a parole violation. Juveniles who have been discharged, on the other hand, have no post-release supervision guidelines as they have completed the adjudication requirements imposed by their sentencing court.

Table 4. Number and Percent of Returns by Release Type, 2015 Releases

Release Type	2015 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Parole	115	54	47.0%
Discharge	573	175	30.5%
Total	688	229	33.3%

Graph 5.



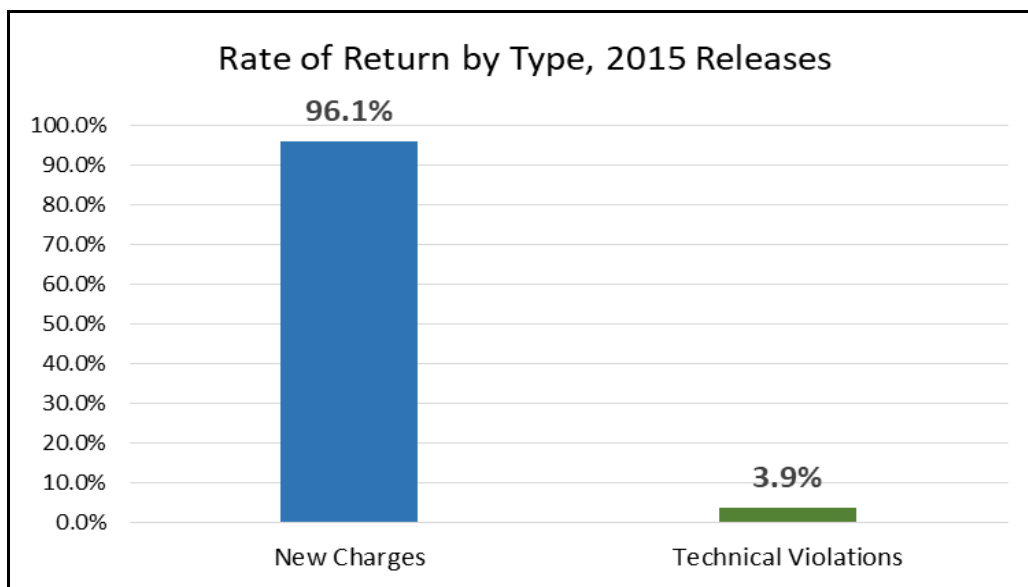
Recidivism Rates by Type of Return

For the 2015 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 96.1% of all juvenile returns while technical violations accounted for only 3.9% of juvenile returns.

Table 5. Number and Percent of Returns by Return Type, 2015 Releases

Return Type	2015 Releases	
	Number of Recidivists	% of Return
Probation Violation - New	6	2.6%
Probation Violation – Technical	5	2.2%
New Charge	212	92.6%
Parole Violation - New	0	0.0%
Parole Violation - Tech	0	0.0%
Comm. Corr. Violation – New	2	0.9%
Comm. Corr. Violation – Technical	4	1.7%
Total	229	100.0%
New charges	220	96.1%
Technical violations	9	3.9%

Graph 6.



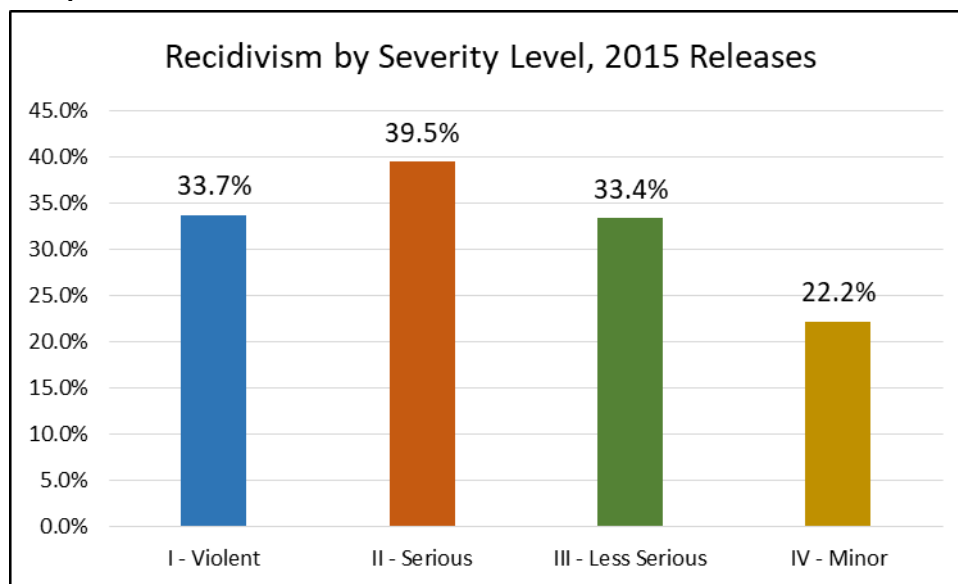
Recidivism Rates by Severity Level¹

Of students released in 2015, those with a security Level II designation, which indicates the commitment of a “serious” offense, were most likely to return to incarceration (see Table 6). The recidivism rates for all severity levels, however, were relatively similar (see Graph 7).²

Table 6. Number and Percent of Returns by Severity Level, 2015 Releases

Severity Level	2015 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
I - Violent	190	64	33.7%
II - Serious	81	32	39.5%
III - Less Serious	350	117	33.4%
IV - Minor	63	14	22.2%
Missing	4	2	50.0%
Total	688	229	33.3%

Graph 7.



¹ Severity Level is determined by the student’s most serious committing offense.

² Graph 7 omits four records with missing severity level data.

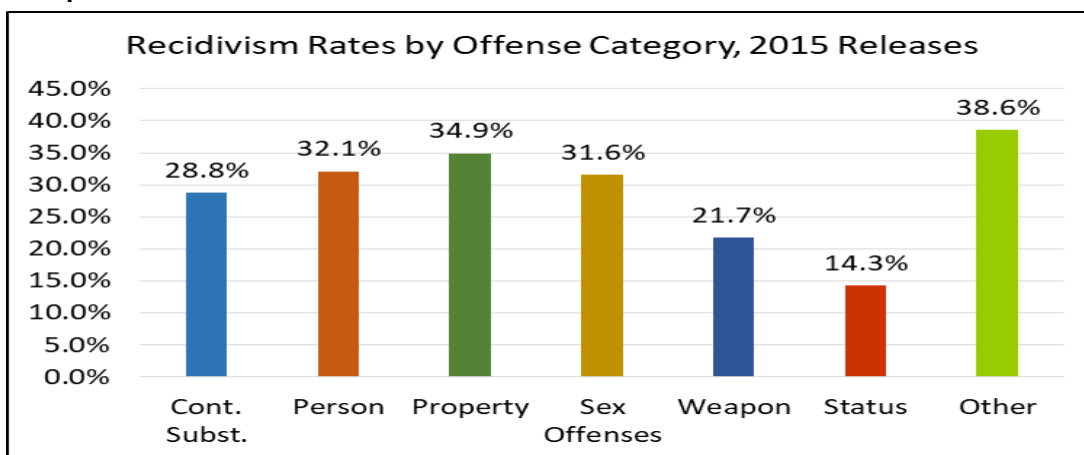
Recidivism Rates by Offense Category³

There was relatively little difference in recidivism rates between offense categories for students released in 2015, especially amongst the top three (see Graph 8). The category with the highest rate returning to the DOC within three years (other, 38.6%) was a bit higher than the second highest (property, 34.9%) or third highest (person, 32.1%). The remaining categories, in order from highest recidivism rate to lowest, were sex offenses, controlled substances, weapon, and status (see Table 7).

Table 7. Number of Releases, Number of Returns, and Recidivism Rates, 2015 Releases.

Offense Category	2015 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Controlled Substance	59	17	28.8%
Person	159	51	32.1%
Property	249	87	34.9%
Sex Offenses	32	10	31.3%
Weapon	46	10	21.7%
Status	7	1	14.3%
Other ⁴	132	51	38.6%
Missing Data	4	2	50.0%
Total	688	229	33.3%

Graph 8.



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

⁴ 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, attempt to commit a felony, and missing data.

Recidivism Rates by Age at Release

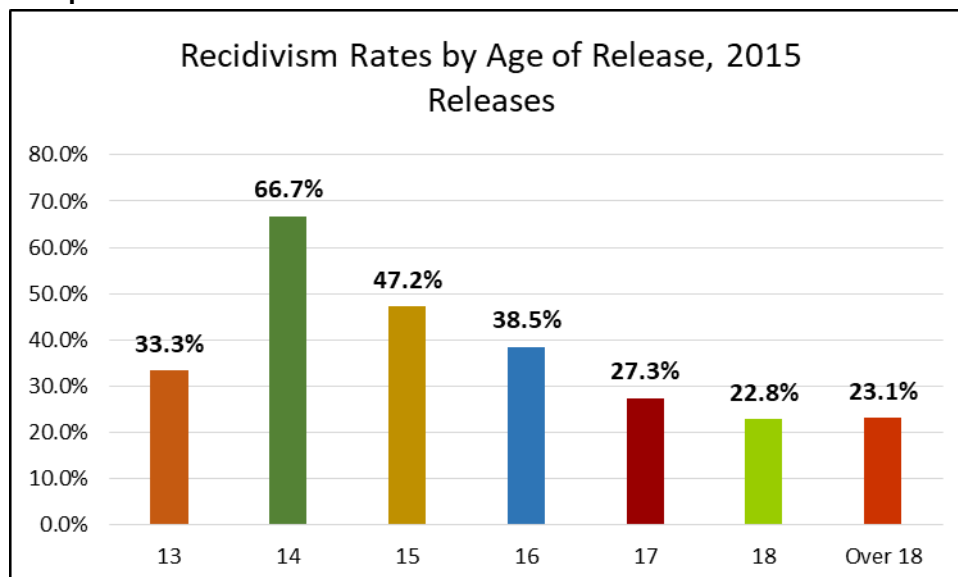
Recidivism rates by the age of each student at the time of their release from IDOC are illustrated in Table 8. The data seem to indicate, as illustrated in Graph 9 below, a relationship between the juvenile’s age at release and the likelihood they will return to incarceration.

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 2018.

Table 8. Number and Percent of Returns by Release Age, 2015 Releases

Release Age	2015 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
13	3	1	33.3%
14	18	12	66.7%
15	89	42	47.2%
16	200	77	38.5%
17	242	66	27.3%
18	123	28	22.8%
Over 18	13	3	23.1%
Total	688	229	33.3%
Average Age at Release		17.1 Years	

Graph 9.



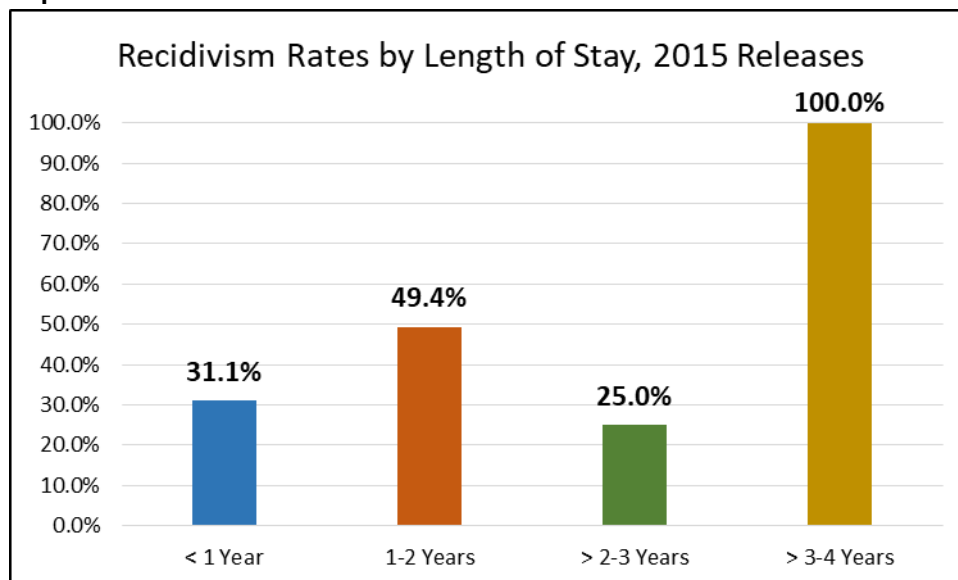
Recidivism Rates by Length of Stay⁵

Students who were incarcerated between one and two years had recidivism rates higher than the 2018 overall juvenile recidivism rate of 33.3%. Conversely, students who were with IDOC for less than one-year, (approximately 87% of all releases), exhibited return rates slightly lower than the overall recidivism rate (see Table 9 and Graph 10).

Table 9. Number and Percent of Returns by Length of Stay, 2015 Releases

Length of Stay	2015 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
< 1 year	598	186	31.1%
1 - 2 years	81	40	49.4%
> 2 - 3 years	8	2	25.0%
> 3 - 4 years	1	1	100.0%
> 4 years	0	0	0.0%
Total	688	229	33.3%
Average Length of Stay		233.7 Days	

Graph 10.



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

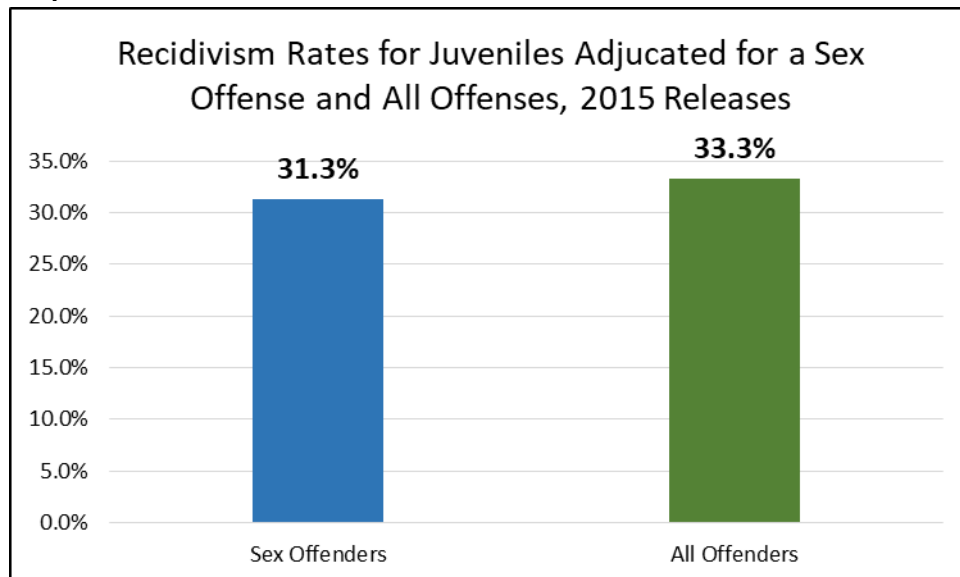
Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense⁶

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 2015 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, 2015 Releases

Gender	2015 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Female	0	0	0.0%
Male	32	10	31.3%
Total	32	10	31.3%

Graph 11.



⁶ 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 2015 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.

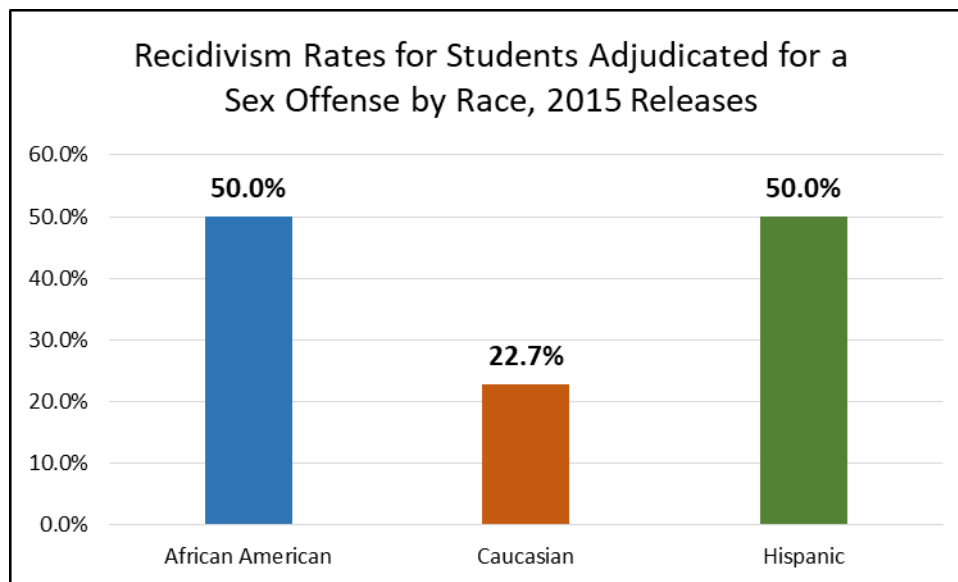
Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by Race

Recidivism rates by the race of juveniles adjudicated for a sex offense are detailed in Table 11. African American and Hispanic students exhibited the largest percentage of returns in the 2015 release cohort at 50.0 %, followed by white students at 22.7 percent (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, 2015 Releases

Race	2015 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
African American	6	3	50.0%
Caucasian	22	5	22.7%
Hispanic	4	2	50.0%
Unidentified	0	0	0.0%
Total	32	10	31.3%

Graph 12.



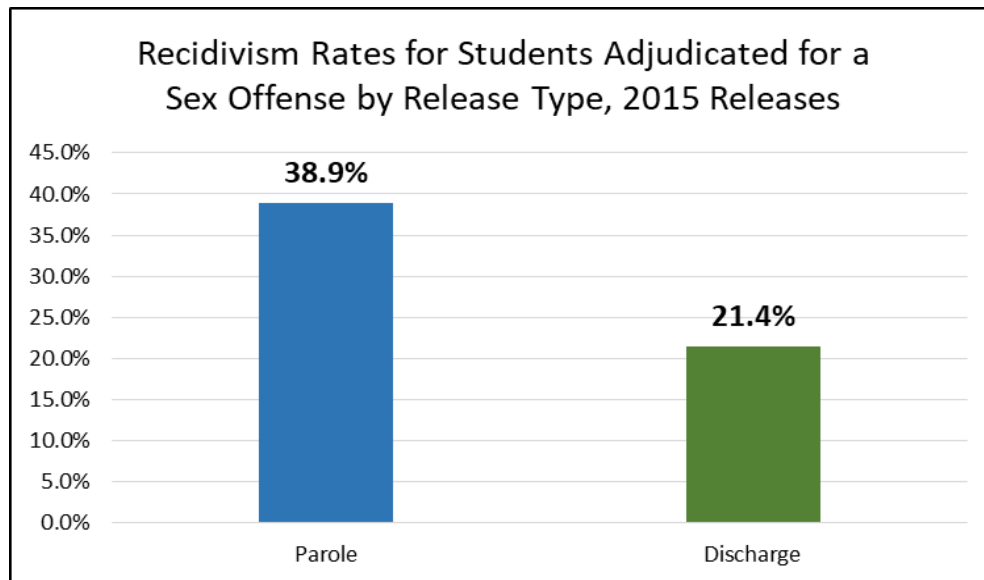
Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by Type of Release

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. Sex offense-adjudicated students who were discharged from supervision in 2015 recidivated at a rate of 21.4% while 38.9% of those released to parole came back to the DOC (see Table 12 and Graph 13).

Table 12. Number and Percent of Returns for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students by Release Type, 2015 Releases

Release Type	2015 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Parole	18	7	38.9
Discharge	14	3	21.4%
Total	32	10	31.3%

Graph 13.



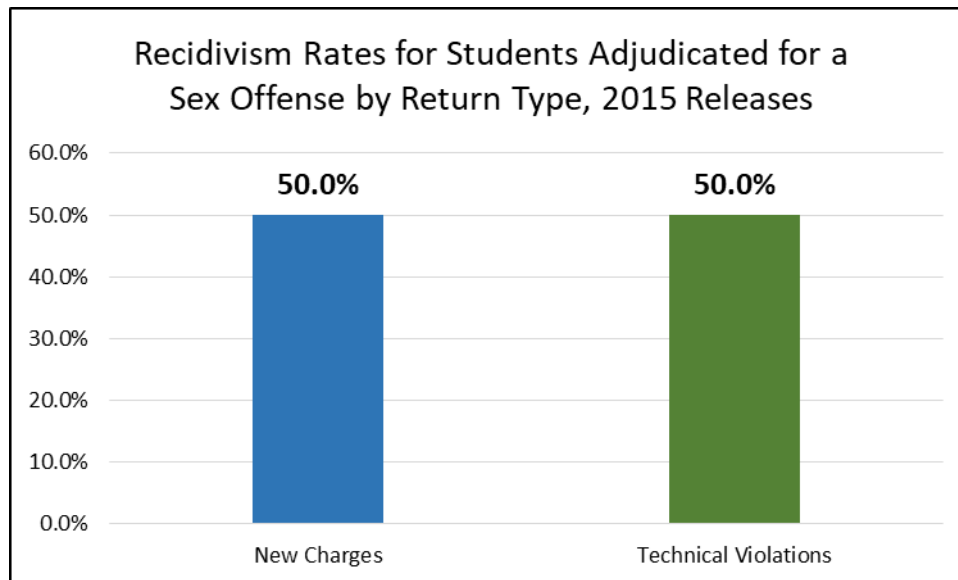
Recidivism Rates for Juveniles Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by Type of Return

Students adjudicated for a sex offense who were released in 2015 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, 2015 Releases

Return Type	Number of Recidivists	% of Return
Probation Violation – New	0	0.0%
Probation Violation – Technical Violation	0	0.0%
New Charge	5	50.0%
Parole Violation - New	0	0.0%
Parole Violation – Technical Violation	5	50.0%
Recommit – Probation Violation	0	0.0%
Total	10	100.0%
New Charges	6	60.0%
Technical Violations	5	50.0%

Graph 14.



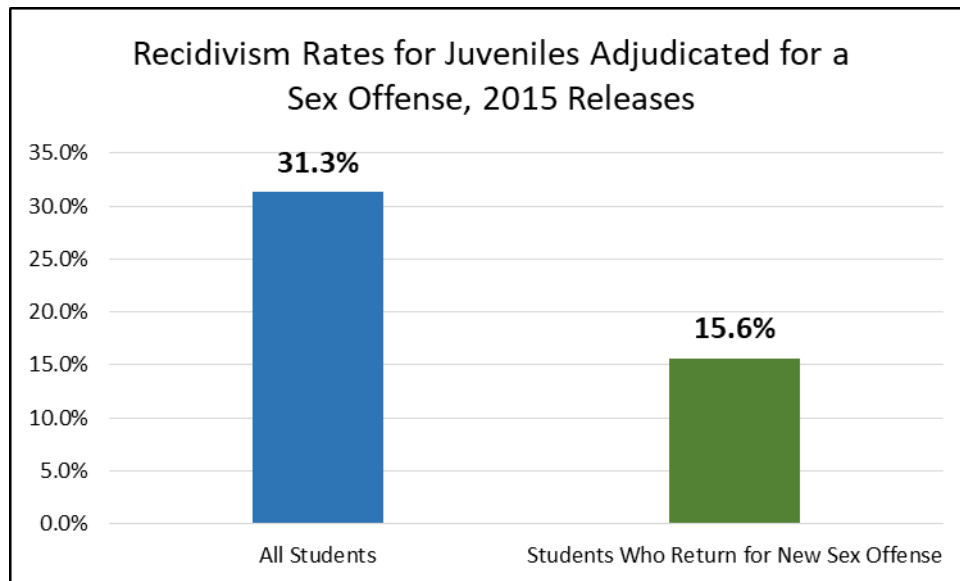
Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by New Sex Offense

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 15.6% of all students adjudicated for a sex offense who were released in 2015 returned to IDOC due to a conviction for a new sex offense.

Table 14. Recidivism Rates for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students, 2015 Releases

Identified Sex Offender Returns	Releases
Sex Offenders Released	32
Sex Offenders Returned	10
Sex Offenders Returned for New Sex Offense	5
Recidivism Rate	31.3%
New Sex Offense Recidivism Rate	15.6%

Graph 15.





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This report may be found at:

<http://www.in.gov/idoc/files/2018JuvRecidivismRpt.pdf>



DIVISION of YOUTH SERVICES

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