

JUVENILE RECIDIVISM 2022



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 2019 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.

2022 Juvenile Recidivism Rate: **20.7%**

- 492 Releases ■ 102 Returns (62 as a juvenile, 40 as an adult)
- 91.9% of juvenile releases had not been incarcerated in an Adult facility within 3 years of their 2019 release from a Juvenile institution.

- Of all juveniles released in 2019, 21.4% of males returned to IDOC while only 17.3% of females returned.
- Approximately 23.2% of Caucasian juvenile offenders returned to the Department of Correction, a higher rate than any other major race or ethnicity. Multi-racial youth were next highest with a 21.9% recidivism rate, followed by Black youth (18.2%).
- Approximately 87.3% of juveniles who recidivated were returned to IDOC for the commission of a new crime, compared to 12.7% 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 (27.3%).
- Juvenile offenders released in 2019 who were identified as a sex offender returned to IDOC at a rate of 23.7%.
- Only 7.9% of identified juvenile sex offenders released in 2015 returned to IDOC for the commission of a **new** sex offense.

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 2019 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, 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 2019 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.

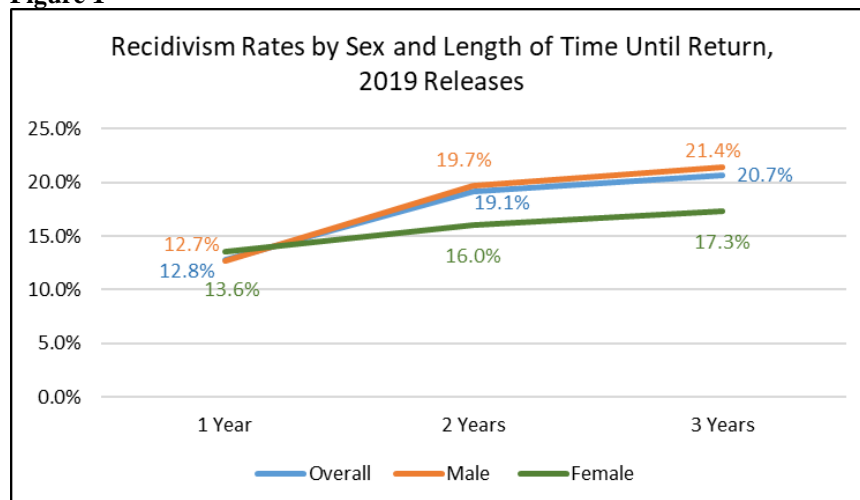
Overall Recidivism Rates

In 2019, the Indiana Department of Correction released 492 students. Of those juveniles released, 20.7% 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 2019 releases at the 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year milestones for males and females is illustrated in Figure 1.

Table 1. Number and Percent Returns by Gender, 2019 Releases

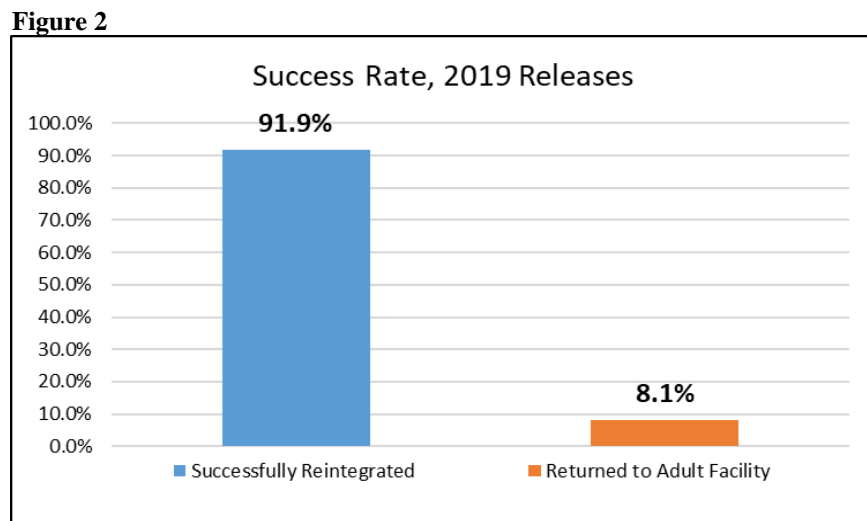
	2019 Releases		
	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE
# Released	492	411	81
Recidivism Rates within 1 year of release	12.8%	12.7%	13.6%
Recidivism Rates within 2 years of release	19.1%	19.7%	16.0%
Recidivism Rates within 3 years of release	20.7%	21.4%	17.3%

Figure 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 492 juveniles released in 2019, 91.9% (390) were successfully re-integrated into their communities and were not incarcerated in an adult correctional facility within three years of their release (Figure 2).



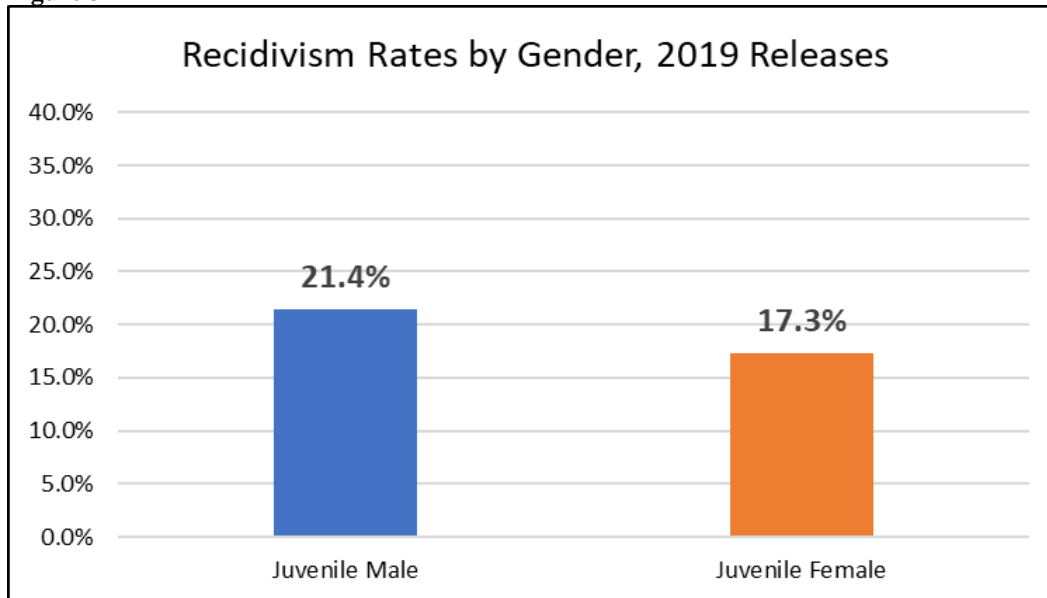
Recidivism Rates by Gender

Similar to previous years, data for 2019 releases indicate a marked difference in the recidivism rates of male and female juveniles (see Table 2). As shown in Figure 3, of those students released in 2019, males were more likely to recidivate (21.4%) than were females (22.7%). Similar to last year’s study, the vast majority of female students who were re-incarcerated with IDOC returned as a juvenile while a substantial percentage of all juvenile male students who recidivated returned to IDOC as an adult (44.3%).

Table 2. Number and Percent of Returns by Gender, 2019 Releases

	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE
2019 Juvenile Releases	492	411	81
Returned as a Juvenile	62	49	13
Returned as an Adult	40	39	1
Total # Returned	102	88	14
Recidivism Rate	20.7%	21.4%	17.3%

Figure 3



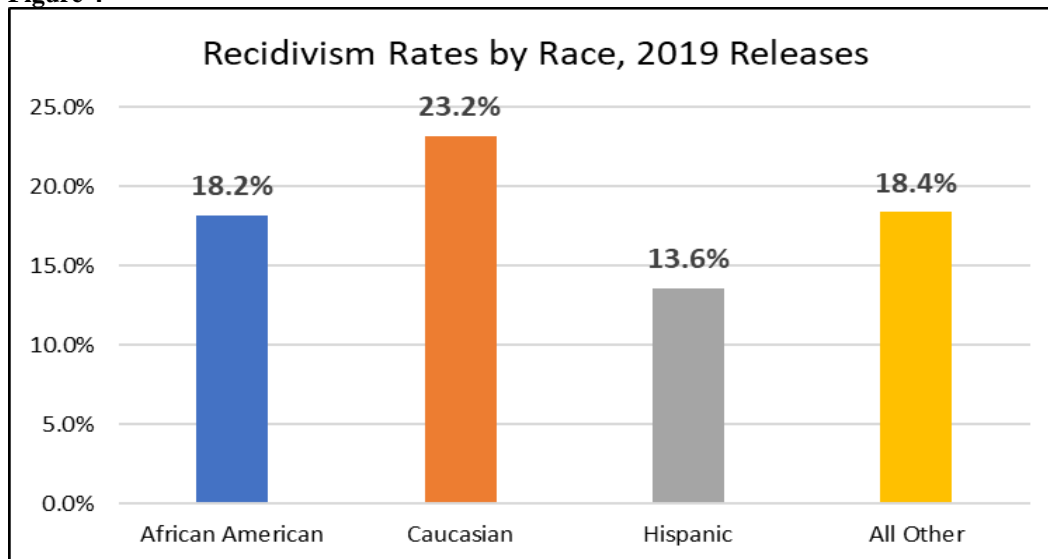
Recidivism Rates by Race and Ethnicity

Amongst racial categories, Caucasian juveniles had the highest likelihood of recidivating amongst students in the 2019 release cohort (23.2%), followed closely by individuals who identified as multiracial with (30.0%). They were followed by individuals whose race was not identified (17.0%) and by African American students (13.6%). Regarding ethnicity, non-Hispanic students’ recidivism rate (21.2%) was higher than that of Hispanic students (13.6%).

Table 3. Number and Percent of Returns by Race and Ethnicity, 2019 Releases

Race	2019 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
African American	159	29	13.6%
American Indian	1	0	0.0%
Asian/Pacific	1	0	0.0%
Caucasian	246	57	23.2%
Multi-Racial	32	7	21.9%
Unidentified	53	9	17.0%
Total	492	102	20.7%
Ethnicity			
Hispanic	44	6	13.6%
Not Hispanic	448	95	21.2%
Unidentified	1	1	100.0%
Total	492	102	20.7%

Figure 4



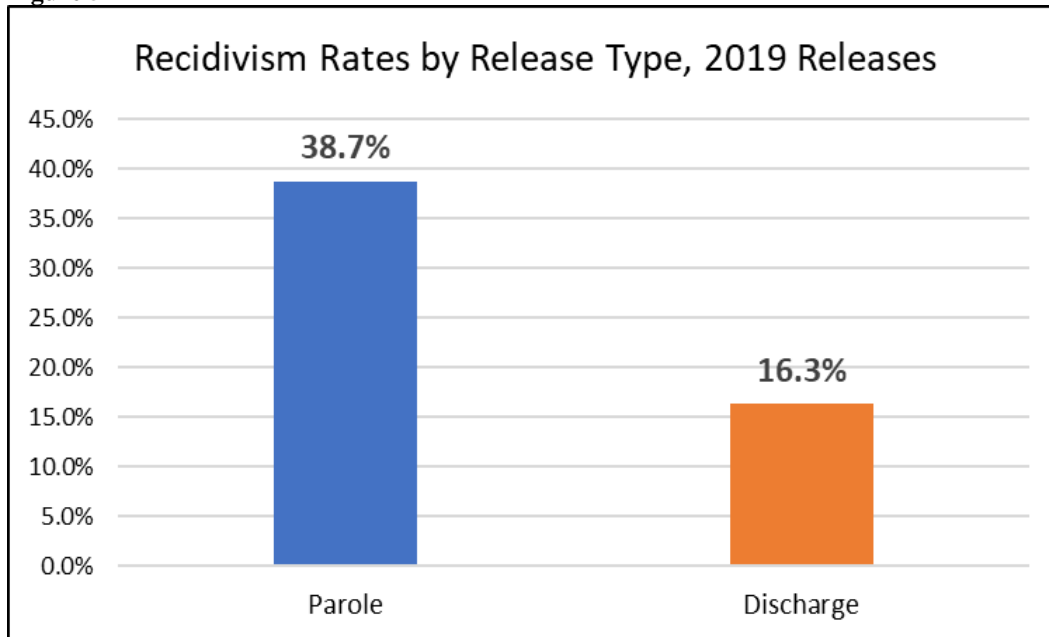
Recidivism Rates by Type of Release

As has been common in many years of this study, students who were released from a juvenile facility to parole in 2019 were more likely to recidivate (38.7%) than those who were discharged (16.3%). Of the 492 students discharged from incarceration in 2019, 65 returned to IDOC within three years, while 36 of the 93 students released to parole returned within three years (see Table 4).

Table 4. Number and Percent of Returns by Release Type, 2019 Releases

Release Type	2019 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Parole	93	36	38.7%
Discharge	399	65	16.3%
Total	492	102	20.7%

Figure 5



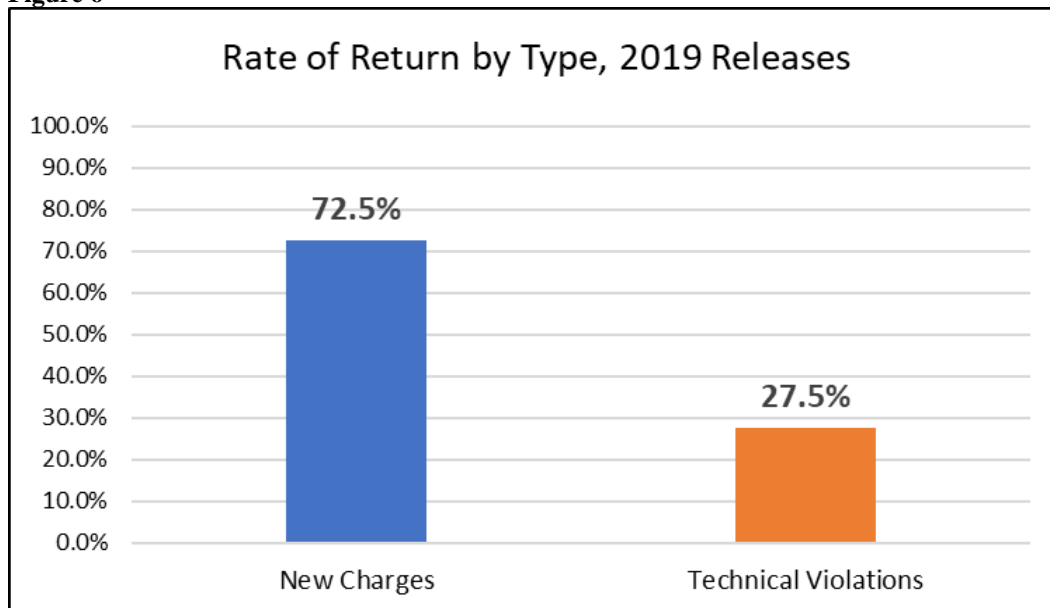
Recidivism Rates by Type of Return

For the 2019 juvenile release cohort, the percentage of students whose returns were due to new charges was significantly larger than for returns due to technical violations (Figure 6). As detailed in Table 5, new charges comprised 72.5% of all juvenile returns while technical violations accounted for only 27.5% of juvenile returns.

Table 5. Number and Percent of Returns by Return Type, 2019 Releases

Return Type	2019 Releases	
	Number of Recidivists	% of Return
Probation Violation - New	1	2.5%
Probation Violation – Technical	0	0.0%
New Charge	27	67.5%
Parole Violation - New	1	2.5%
Parole Violation - Tech	7	17.5%
Comm. Corr. Violation – New	0	0.0%
Comm. Corr. Violation – Technical	4	10%
Total	40	100.0%
New charges	29	72.5%
Technical violations	11	27.5%

Figure 6



Recidivism Rates by Severity Level¹

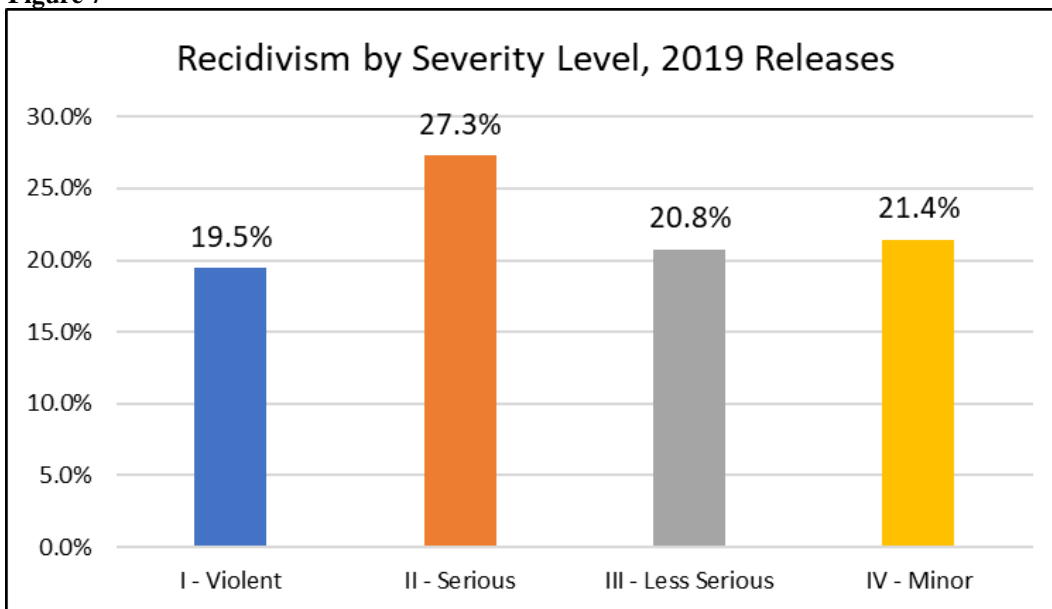
Of students released in 2019, those with a security Level I designation, which indicates the commitment of a “serious” offense, were most likely to return to incarceration (Table 6). This is common trend in this factor over the years of IDOC juvenile recidivism studies. The recidivism rates for all other severity levels were relatively similar.

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

Table 6. Number and Percent of Returns by Severity Level, 2019 Releases

Severity Level	2019 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
I - Violent	257	50	19.5%
II - Serious	44	12	27.3%
III - Less Serious	159	33	20.8%
IV - Minor	28	6	21.4%
Missing	4	1	25.0%
Total	492	102	20.7%

Figure 7



Recidivism Rates by Offense Category²

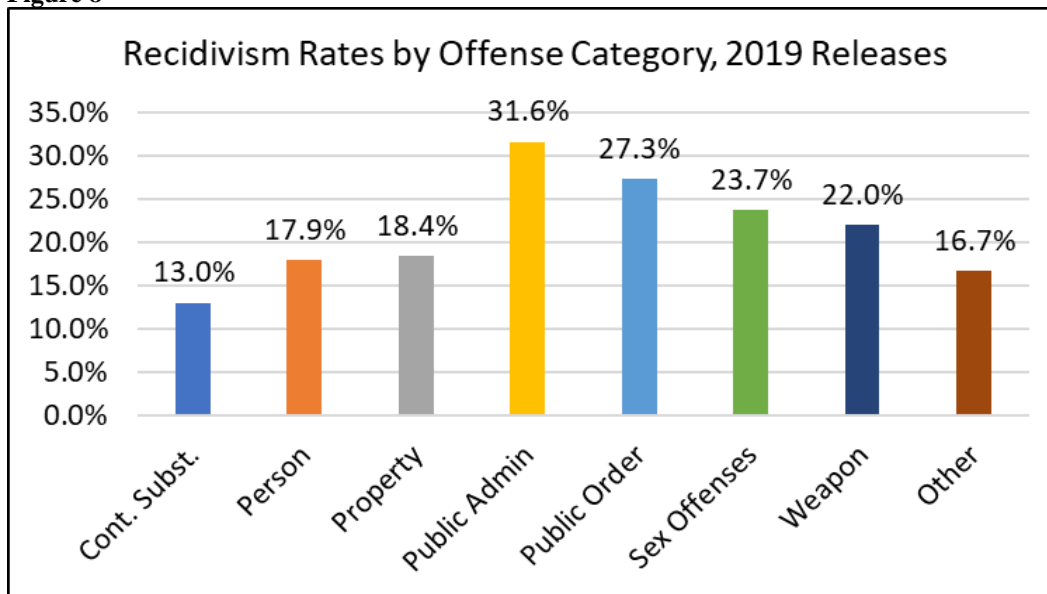
There was relatively little difference in recidivism rates between offense categories for students released in 2019, especially amongst the top three (Figure 8). While the majority of juvenile recidivist were those in the Person and Property offense categories (51.96% of all who recidivated), the highest rate of recidivism was among those in the Public Admin offense category (31.6%), followed by Public Order (27.3%).

² Offense Category was determined by the student’s most serious committing offense. The present analysis excluded four records with missing offense category data.

Table 7. Number of Releases, Number of Returns, and Recidivism Rates, 2019 Releases.

Offense Category	2019 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Controlled Substance	23	3	13.0%
Person	156	28	17.9%
Property	136	25	18.4%
Public Admin	57	18	31.6%
Public Order	22	6	27.3%
Sex Offenses	38	9	23.7%
Weapon	50	11	22.0%
Other ³	6	1	16.7%
Missing Data	4	1	25%
Total	492	102	20.7%

Figure 8



Recidivism Rates by Age at Release

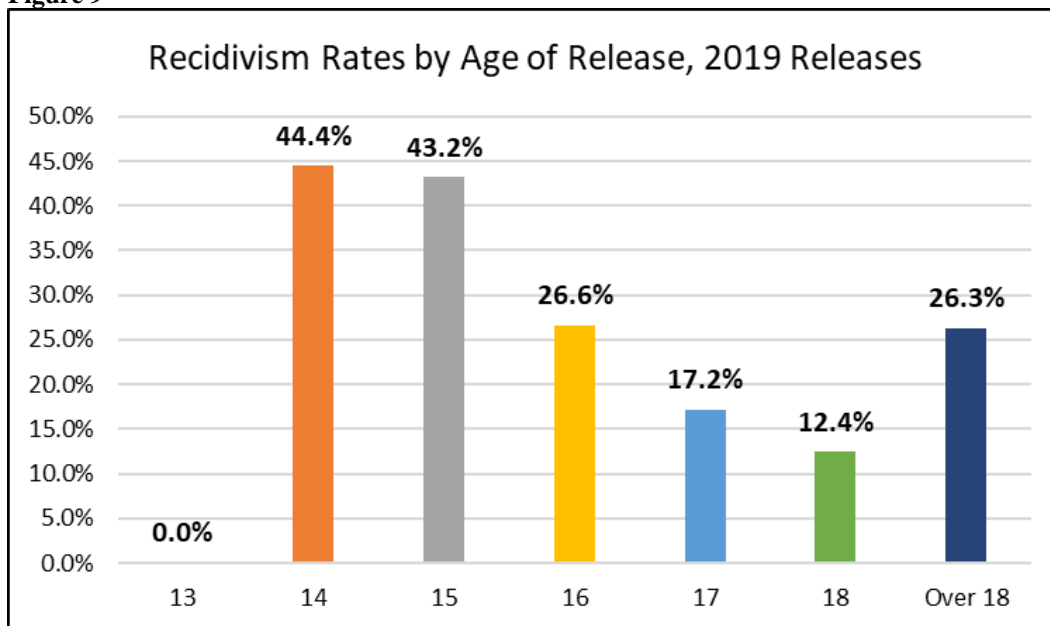
³ The Other offense category includes offenses such as, but not limited to: resisting law enforcement, driving intoxicated/suspended, non-support child, conspiracy, aiding an offense, and attempt to commit a felony.

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 Figure 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, albeit with a small rate spike among students over 18 at the time of release.

Table 8. Number and Percent of Returns by Release Age, 2019 Releases

Release Age	2019 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
12	0	0	0.0%
13	1	0	0.0%
14	9	4	44.4%
15	44	19	43.2%
16	94	25	26.6%
17	163	28	17.2%
18	161	20	12.4%
Over 18	19	5	26.3%
Missing	1	1	100.0%
Total	492	102	20.7%
Average age at release		17.5 years	

Figure 9



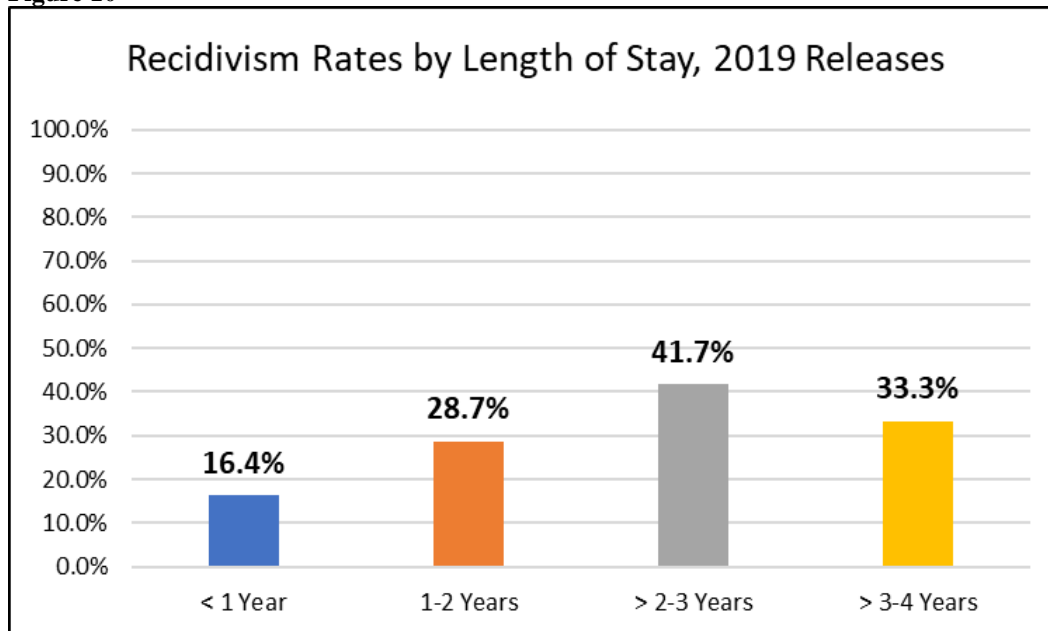
Recidivism Rates by Length of Stay⁴

In general, the longer students were incarcerated in an IDOC facility, the higher their likelihood of recidivating within three years. This trend is less observable in the higher end of stays (> 3 years), perhaps due to the limited number of releases in those categories.

Table 9. Number and Percent of Returns by Length of Stay, 2019 Releases

Length of Stay	2019 Releases	Number Returned	Recidivism Rate
< 1 year	354	58	16.4%
1 - 2 years	108	31	28.7%
> 2 - 3 years	24	10	41.7%
> 3 - 4 years	3	1	33.3%
> 4 years	0	0	0.0%
Missing	3	2	66.7%
Total	492	102	20.7%
Average length of stay		407 Days	

Figure 10



⁴ Length of stay was calculated by finding the difference between a student’s intake date and release date.

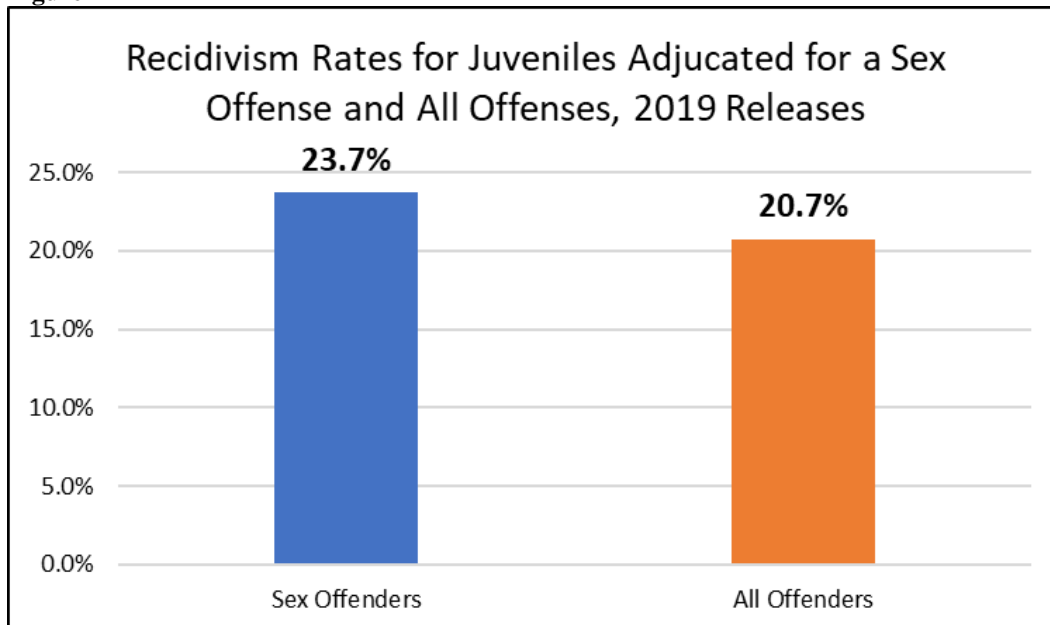
Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense⁵

Figure 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 higher rate of recidivism than juveniles adjudicated for all offense types. This is a deviation from the overwhelming trend throughout the years of IDOC juvenile recidivism studies. Return rates were based upon return for **any** new offense or technical violation, not just sex offenses.

Table 10. Number and Percent of Returns for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students by Gender, 2019 Releases

Gender	2019 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Female	1	0	0.0%
Male	37	9	24.3 %
Total	38	9	23.7%

Figure 11



⁵ 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 2019 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.

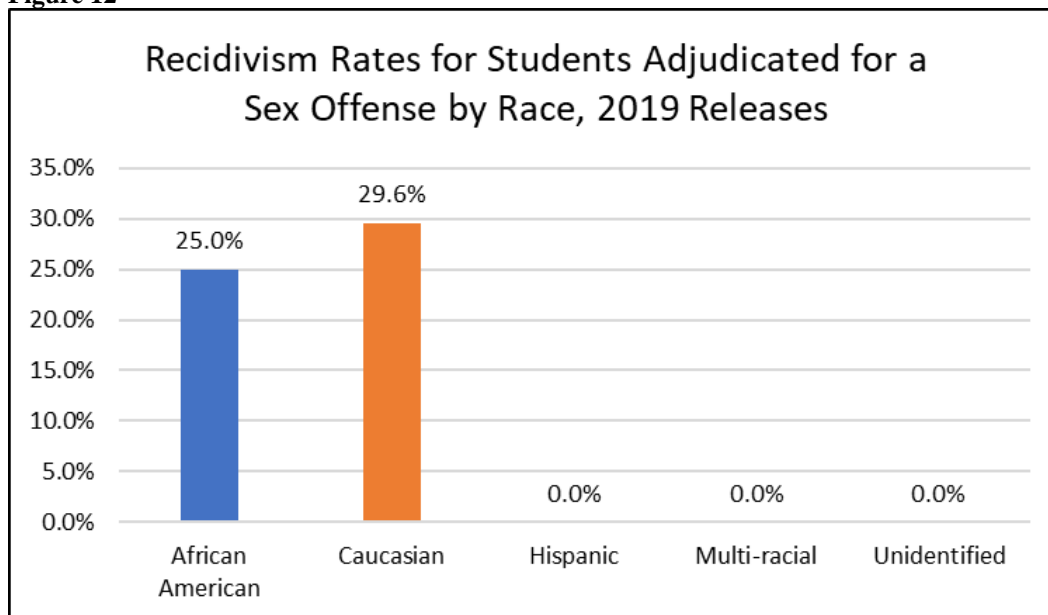
Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by Race

Recidivism rates by the race of juveniles adjudicated for a sex offense are detailed in Table 11. Caucasian students exhibited the largest percentage of returns in the 2019 release cohort (30.8%). It should be noted that release counts for all other groups were very small and that, while Figure 12 illustrates rate comparisons, these should be interpreted with caution (and should not be used to generalize to the population).

Table 11. Number and Percent of Returns for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students by Race, 2019 Releases

Race	2019 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
African American	4	1	25.0%
Caucasian	27	8	30.8%
Hispanic	4	0	0.0%
Multi-racial	1	0	0.0%
Unidentified	2	0	0.0%
Total	38	9	23.7%

Figure 12



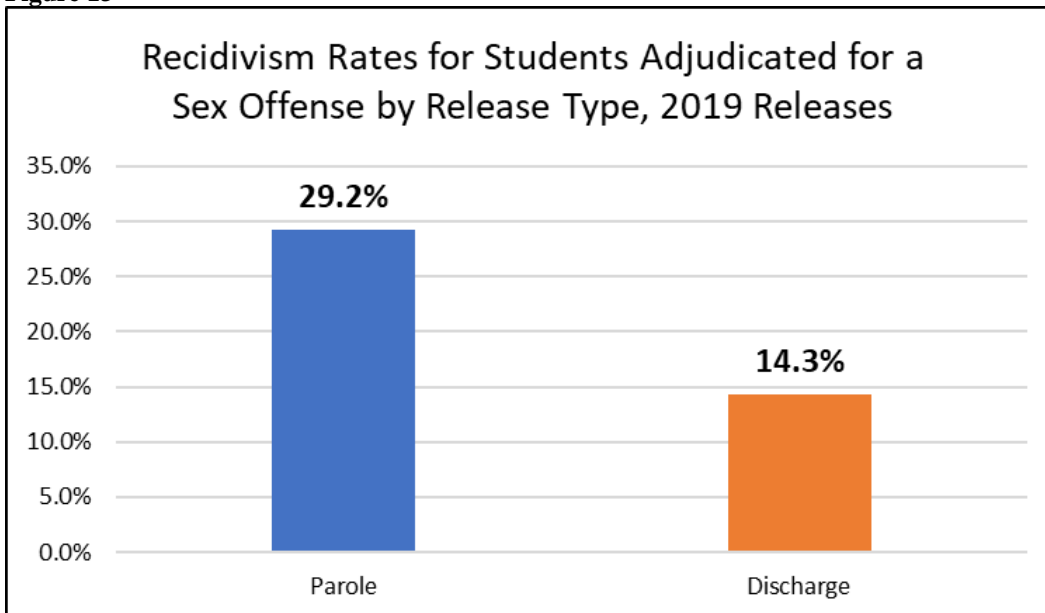
Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by Type of Release

The same pattern observed among the 2019 cohort in general is present among students adjudicated for a sex offense—namely, individuals released to parole are more likely to recidivate (29.2%) than those discharged (14.3%).

Table 12. Number and Percent of Returns for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students by Release Type, 2019 Releases

Release Type	2019 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Parole	24	7	29.2%
Discharge	14	2	14.3%
Total	38	9	23.7%

Figure 13



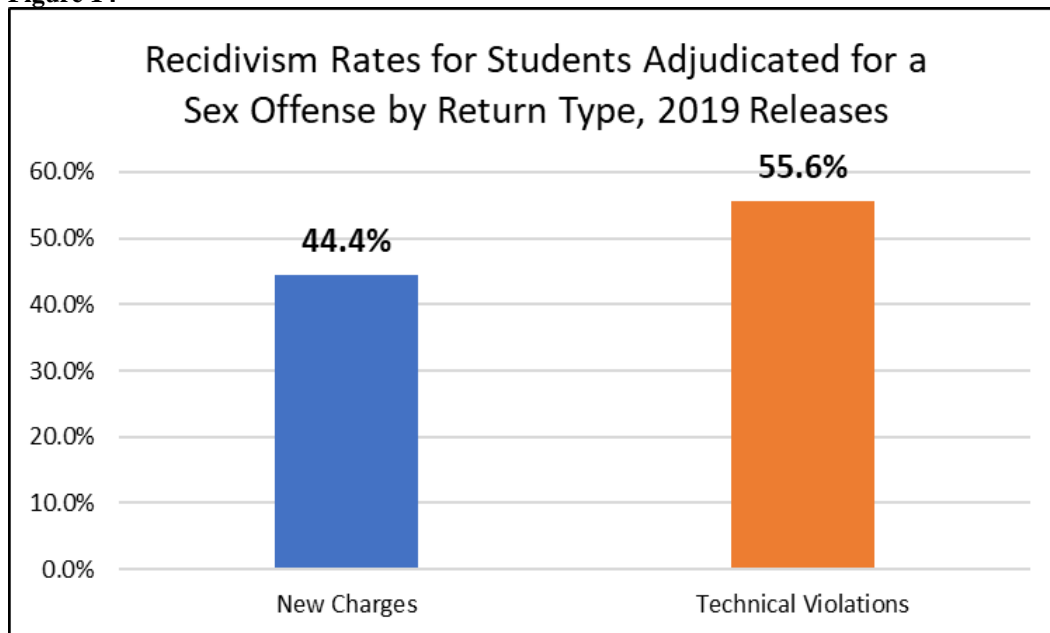
Recidivism Rates for Juveniles Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by Type of Return

Students adjudicated for a sex offense who were released in 2019 were re-incarcerated for technical violations at a rate comparable to juveniles adjudicated for a sex offense who were returned for a new offense (55.6% and 44.4%, respectively). Again, the low count limits generalizability of estimates observed here.

Table 13. Number and Percent of Returns for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students by Return Type, 2019 Releases

Return Type	Number of Recidivists	% of Return
Probation Violation – New	0	0.0%
Probation Violation – Technical Violation	0	0.0%
New Charge	4	44.4%
Parole Violation - New	0	0.0%
Parole Violation – Technical Violation	5	55.6%
Recommit – Probation Violation	0	0.0%
Total	9	100.0%
New Charges	4	44.4%
Technical Violations	5	55.6%

Figure 14



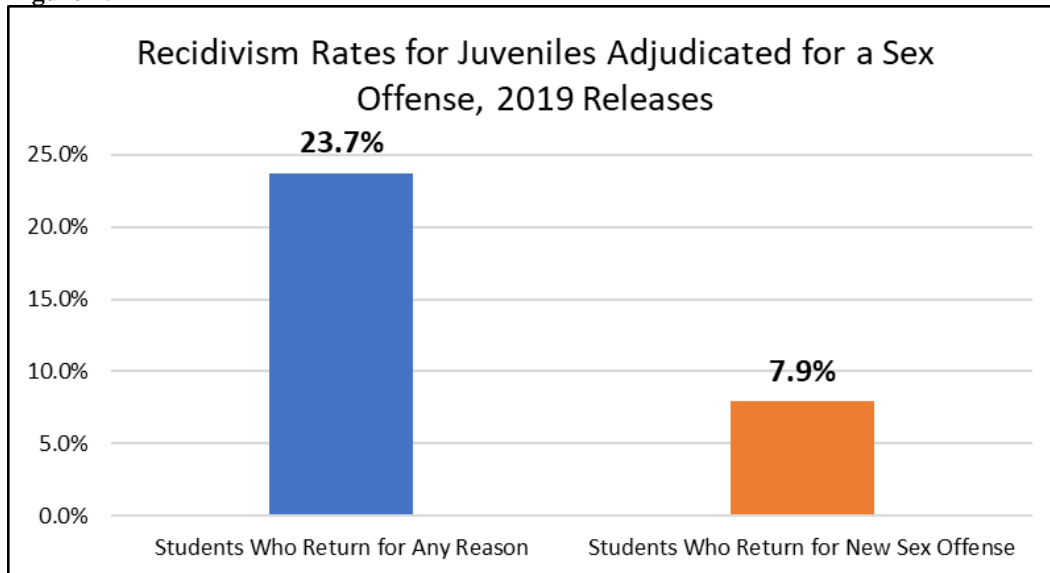
Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense by New Sex Offense

Data indicate that students adjudicated for a sex offense in the 2019 cohort rarely return to IDOC due to a **new** sex offense (see Table 14). This is one of the most common trends observed throughout the years of IDOC juvenile recidivism studies. As illustrated in Figure 15, only 7.9% of all students adjudicated for a sex offense who were released in 2019 returned to IDOC due to a conviction for a new sex offense.

Table 14. Recidivism Rates for Sex Offense-Adjudicated Students, 2019 Releases

Identified Sex Offender Returns	Releases
Sex Offenders Released	38
Sex Offenders Returned	9
Sex Offenders Returned for New Sex Offense	3
Recidivism Rate	23.7%
New Sex Offense Recidivism Rate	7.9%

Figure 15



Recidivism Data
for
Juveniles and Adult Recidivists.