



Department of
Youth Services



2016 Recidivism Report

An Examination of the Reincarceration Rates of Youth Released
from Juvenile Correctional Facilities
of the Ohio Department of Youth Services

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Ohio Department of Youth Services Recidivism Rates

The Recidivism Report is produced annually by the Ohio Department of Youth Services, Office of Quality Assurance and Improvement. This report examines the recidivism rate of DYS's released youth population over a three-year period. While the use of recidivism can be seen as a rehabilitative effort, it is of significant importance to the public. Adjudicated youth under the supervision of DYS will be released back into the community. Thus for DYS, who is charged with ensuring public safety, the recidivism rate is an important measure of youths' reentry into society.

For the purpose of this study, recidivism is defined as the number of youth who are returned to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) or incarcerated in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) within one, two, and three years of release from a DYS correctional facility. Table 1 below shows the recidivism rates for youth released from the agency over the past ten years.

Latest DYS Recidivism Rates

One-Year rate

There were 523 releases of DYS youth from juvenile correctional facilities during 2014. Of these, **19.9%** either returned to DYS or were admitted to DRC within one year of their release date. This is the lowest one-year rate since DYS recidivism has been measured this way.

Two-year rate

In 2013, there were 563 releases of youth from DYS. The two-year recidivism rate of these youth was **39.6%**.

Three-year rate

Of the 697 DYS youth releases during 2012, **46.5%** recidivated within three years of their release date.

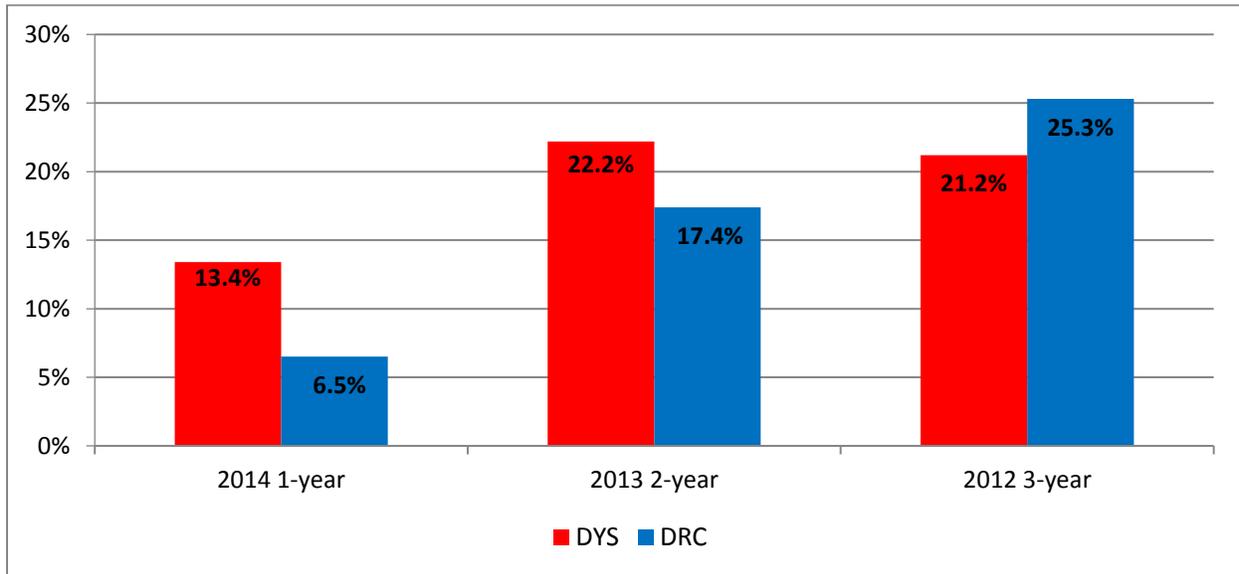
Table 1. DYS Recidivism Rates by Year of Release

CY	1-year	2-year	3-year
2005	30.0%	43.9%	52.1%
2006	30.4%	43.6%	50.9%
2007	26.7%	40.8%	49.1%
2008	27.5%	40.5%	48.0%
2009	24.2%	39.2%	46.4%
2010	22.7%	37.2%	45.0%
2011	22.9%	38.1%	47.2%
2012	26.0%	39.0%	46.5%
2013	24.7%	39.6%	
2014	19.9%		

Returns to DYS Versus DRC Admissions

Recidivists under the definition used here either return to the Department of Youth Services (DYS) or are incarcerated in the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), the adult correctional system in Ohio. As can be seen in Figure 1 below, during the first year after release it is much more likely that a youth returns to DYS than for them to be admitted to DRC. The rate of admission to DRC increases the second year after release. By the third year, very few additional youth return to DYS and more are admitted to DRC. The average age of youth at release is nearly 18 years old, so many of them have aged out of DYS by this time.

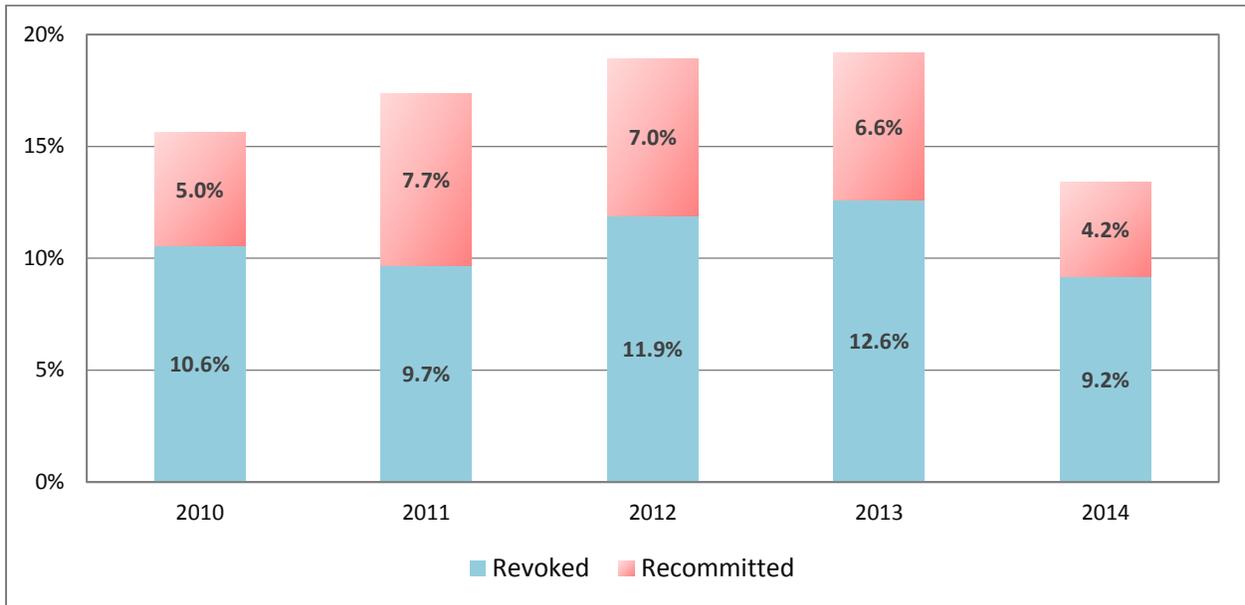
Figure 1. Comparison of Rates of Return to DYS and Admissions to DRC



Revocations and Recommitments to DYS

As mentioned above, a youth is most likely to recidivate to DYS within the first year after release. The rate of returning to DYS for the 2014 release cohort was the lowest since recidivism has been measured this way by the department. Both the percentage that had their parole revoked and the percentage of youth recommitted to DYS hit a low mark. This is displayed in Figure 2, which demonstrates this breakdown for the past five one-year rates. The 9.2% revocation of parole rate for the 2014 releases breaks the previous low of 9.7% (for 2011 releases). This one-year revocation rate is less than half the rate of 18.5% for 2003 releases. The 4.2% of 2014 releases recommitted within one year breaks the previous low of 5.0% for 2010 releases.

Figure 2. Returns to DYS after One Year by Revocation or Recommitment



Rates and Raw Numbers

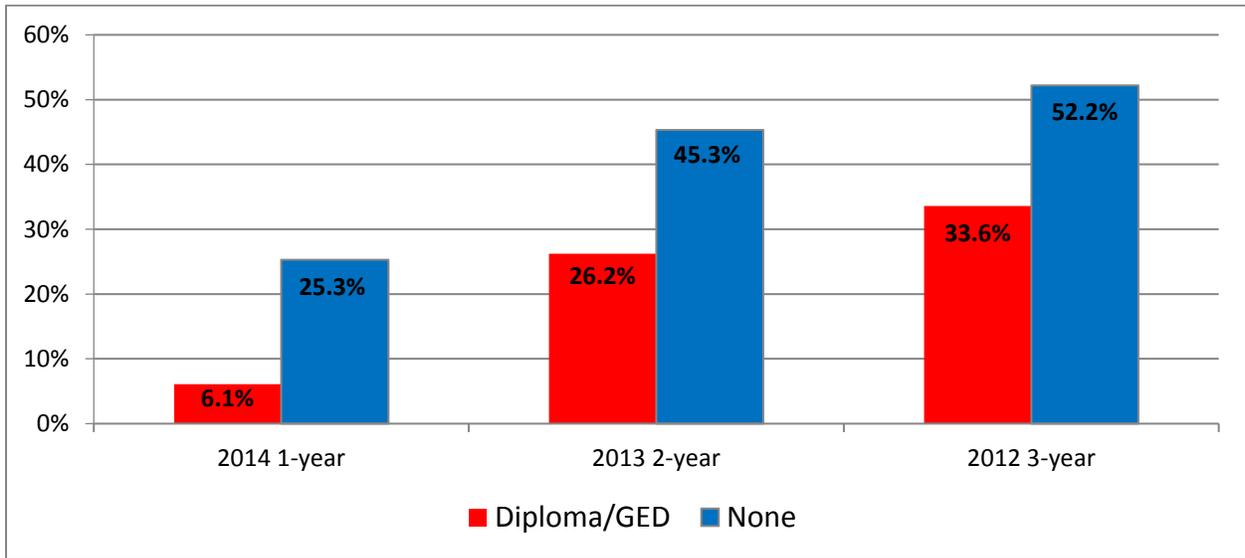
While it is illuminating to track the changes in recidivism rates, it is also important to note that the *total number* of recidivist youth is declining substantially. The recidivism rate of 19.9% after one year for the 523 releases in 2014 means that there were 104 recidivists. Five years prior (2009 releases) there was a one-year rate of 24.2%. For the 1,630 releases that year, that equaled a total of 395 recidivists. So the total number of recidivists after one-year has dropped from 395 to only 104 over the past five years.

Recidivism by Education Level

Recidivism rates by level of education have now been collected for four years, and the results have been consistent. Level of education is defined by whether or not a youth has earned a high school diploma or GED by the date of their release.

The first three years of measuring the one-year recidivism rate for those with a diploma or GED was in the 13% range, while youth without that level of educational attainment had at least double that rate. The one-year rate for the educated youth dropped to 6.1% for the 2014 release cohort, while the youth without that educational attainment level had a rate over four times higher. These rates, as well as those after two and three years, are displayed in Figure 3.

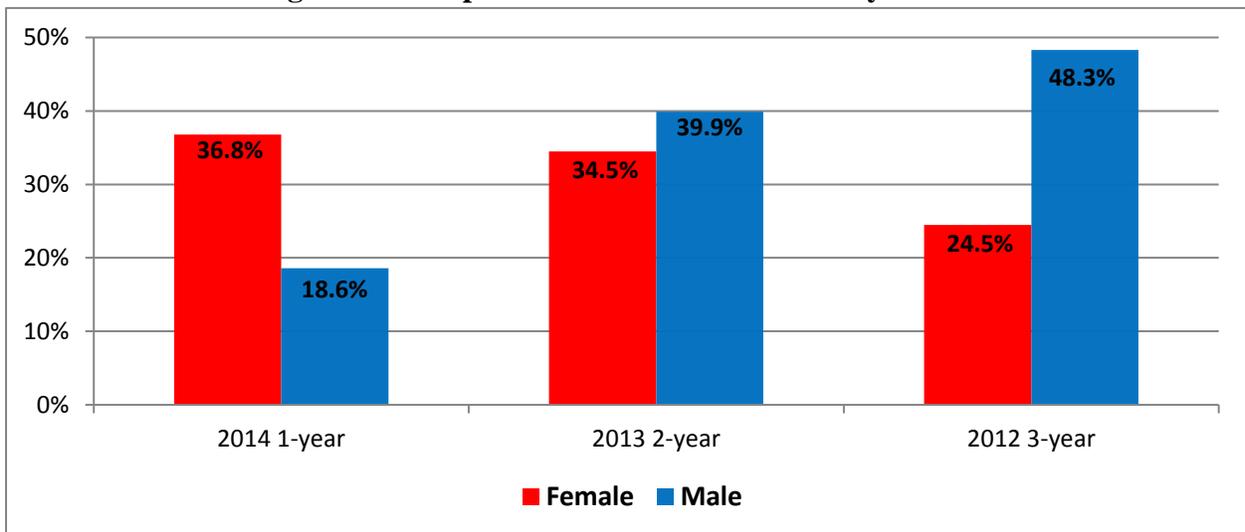
Figure 3. Comparison of Recidivism Rates by Diploma/GED Attainment



Recidivism by Gender

Males have historically had higher rates of recidivism than females. However, for the last two cohorts of youth with one-year rates (2013 and 2014 releases), females had a higher rate than males. In fact, the one-year female rate for those released in 2014 is higher than recent two- and three-year rates for females. The last two years of rates for females, though, are based on very few releases (29 and 38, respectively). With the decreasing population now in DYS, the number of females released is unlikely to provide reliable rates. The rates for males have consistently been higher than those for females after two and three years. This is primarily because not as many females are admitted to DRC during the time youth are tracked for this analysis, and DRC admissions are where the rates increase during the second and third year after release. The recidivism percentages by gender for three years can be seen in Figure 4.

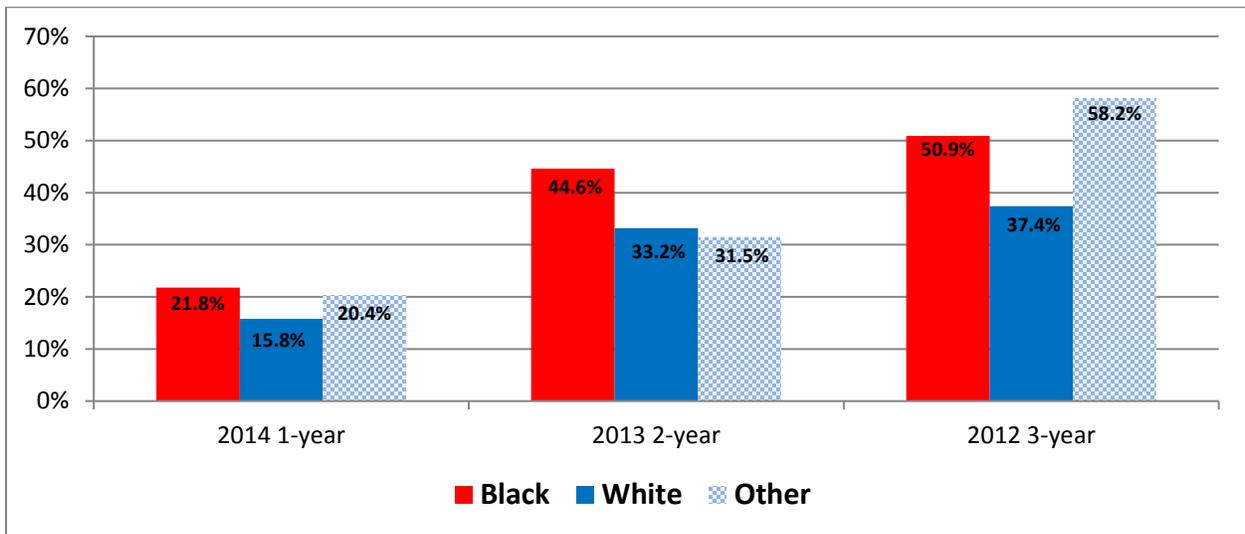
Figure 4. Comparison of Recidivism Rates by Gender



Recidivism by Race

The one-year recidivism rates for Black/African-American youth was higher than that for White youth when looking at 2014 releases. The one-year rates over the years have sometimes been very close to the same, but in the second and third year after release the rates of the Black youth consistently increased more than those of White youth. The “Other” race category (consisting mostly of Hispanic and mixed-race youth) tends to fluctuate more from year to year. The latest recidivism percentages by race are presented in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Comparison of Recidivism Rates by Race



Recidivism by County

Of Ohio’s 88 counties, there were 57 that had at least one youth released from DYS during 2014. The number of youth releases for those 57 counties and the numbers of those releases that recidivated within one year of release are listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2. 2014 Releases and One-year Recidivists by County

County	Released	DYS Revoked	DYS Recommitted	DRC Admission
Adams	2			
Allen	4			1
Ashland	2			
Ashtabula	6			
Athens	3			
Belmont	1			
Butler	6			
Champaign	2	1		
Clark	11	2		2
Clinton	1			
Coshocton	2			
Cuyahoga	110	4	7	7
Defiance	2	1		
Delaware	1			
Erie	2			
Fairfield	1			
Franklin	94	8	5	6
Fulton	5	2		
Gallia	2	1		1
Greene	10	1		2
Guernsey	1			
Hamilton	36	8	2	2
Hancock	2			
Highland	8	1		1
Hocking	1			
Jefferson	7		1	
Knox	2	1		
Lake	4			1
Lawrence	2	1		
Licking	13	3		1
Lorain	23	4		1
Lucas	17	1	2	1
Mahoning	13			
Marion	3			
Medina	5			1
Miami	1			

County	Released	DYS Revoked	DYS Recommitted	DRC Admission
Montgomery	26	2		2
Muskingum	7			1
Ottawa	1			
Paulding	2			
Pickaway	5			1
Pike	1			
Portage	4	1		
Richland	3			
Ross	3			
Sandusky	5	1		
Scioto	2			
Seneca	1			
Stark	16	3	2	1
Summit	12	1		2
Trumbull	9	1	1	
Tuscarawas	6		1	
Vinton	1			
Washington	10		1	
Wayne	1			
Williams	2			
Wood	1			

Methodology

The recidivism rates are based on all DYS releases in a particular calendar year. An individual youth may be released more than once in a year. Recidivism is defined as readmission to DYS or an admission to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), the adult prison system. Readmission to DYS can be either by a new felony commitment or a revocation of parole. The date of admission is then compared to the release date to determine if the youth has recidivated within a one-, two-, or three-year time period. The total number of admissions is divided by the total number of releases to determine the percentage of youth that are recidivists. Youth transferred directly from a DYS facility to DRC are not counted as recidivists in the percentages presented in this report.

Acknowledgements

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Contact

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