

# JUVENILE RECIDIVISM 2011



**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 2008 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.

## 2011 Juvenile Recidivism Rate: **36.7%**

■ 1,216 Releases ■ 446 Returns (205 as a juvenile, 241 as an adult)

■ 76.1% of juvenile releases had not been incarcerated in an Adult facility within 3 years of their 2008 release from a Juvenile institution

- Of all juveniles released in 2008, 40.9% of males returned to IDOC, while only 15.8% of females returned.
- Approximately 43.8% of African American juvenile offenders returned to the Department of Correction, a higher rate than any other race or ethnicity.
- Nearly 82% of juveniles who recidivated were returned to IDOC for the commission of a new crime, compared to 18% 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 2008 who were identified as a sex offender, returned to IDOC less frequently than the overall rate.
- Only 13.6% of identified juvenile sex offenders released in 2008 returned to IDOC for the commission of a **new** sex offense.

**TABLE**  
**OF**  
**CONTENTS**

Methodology	1
IDOC Overall Recidivism Rates	2
Success Rate	3
Gender	4
Race	5
Type of Release	6
Type of Return	7
Severity Level	8
Offense Category	9
Age at Release	10
Length of Stay	11
Sex Offenders	12-16



## **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. This particular study followed all students released from IDOC during calendar year 2008 to determine if they returned to incarceration, in either a juvenile or adult facility, within three years of their respective release date.

Chronological order was followed to determine how to accurately assess each student. To that effect, if a juvenile was returned to a juvenile facility, for purposes of the recidivism rate, he/she was counted as a recidivist to a juvenile facility and not researched any further.

## **Success Rate Methodology**

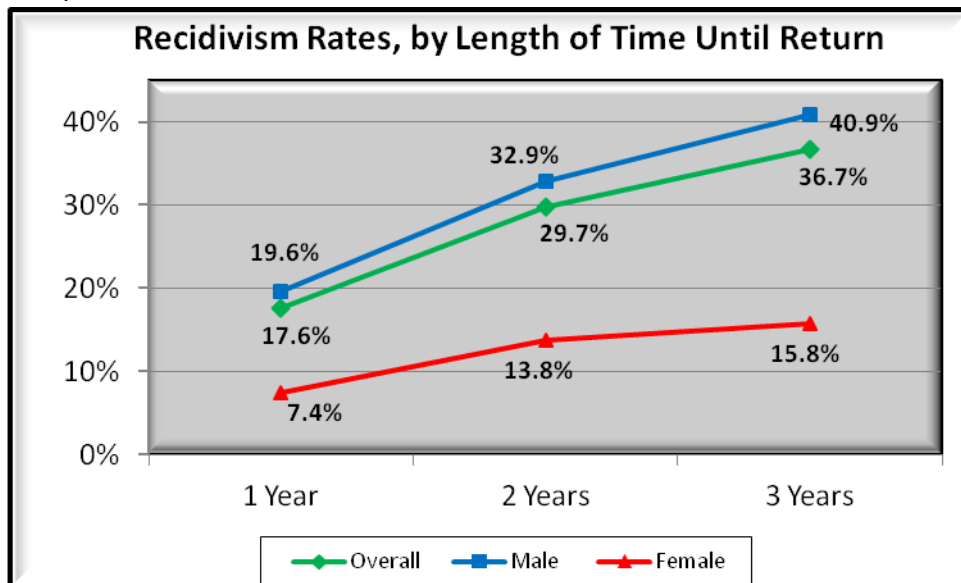
The rate of success for each student is established by determining if each juvenile released in 2008 was subsequently returned to incarceration *in an adult facility only*. Students released from a state correctional facility who remained free of adult incarceration three years after their release, were deemed as successfully re-entering society.

## Overall Recidivism Rates

In 2008, the number of students released from the Indiana Department of Correction was 1,216. Of those juveniles released, 36.7% 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 returns to incarceration in either a juvenile or adult facility.

Table 1	2008 Releases		
	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE
# Released	1,216	1,013	203
Recidivism Rates within 1 year of release	17.6%	19.6%	7.4%
Recidivism Rates within 2 years of release	29.7%	32.9%	13.8%
Recidivism Rates within 3 years of release	36.7%	40.9%	15.8%

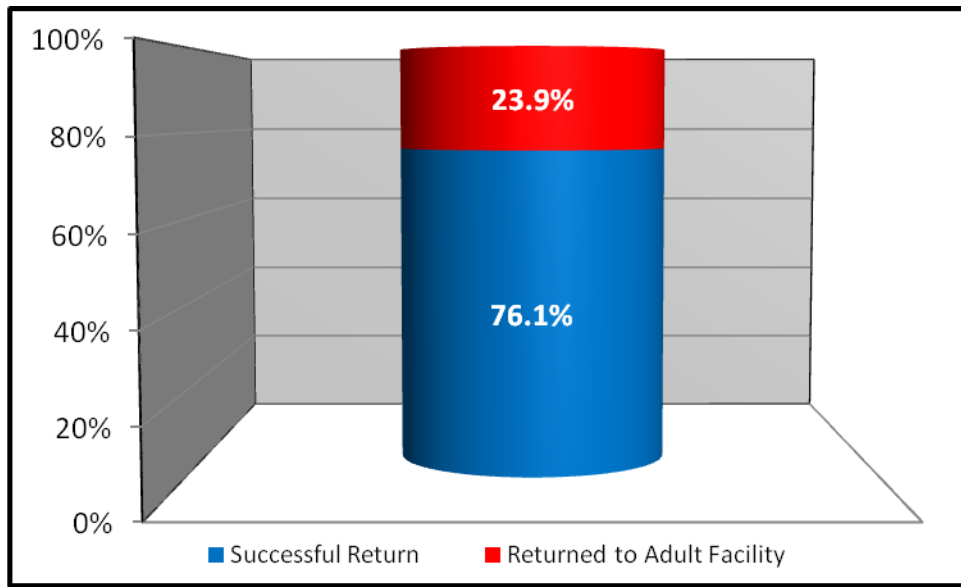
Graph 1



## Success Rate

The ultimate goal of 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 hope that they will become successful law-abiding citizens. Of the 1,216 juveniles released in 2008, 76.1% (925) were successfully re-integrated into their communities and were not incarcerated in an adult correctional facility within three years of their release.

Graph 2

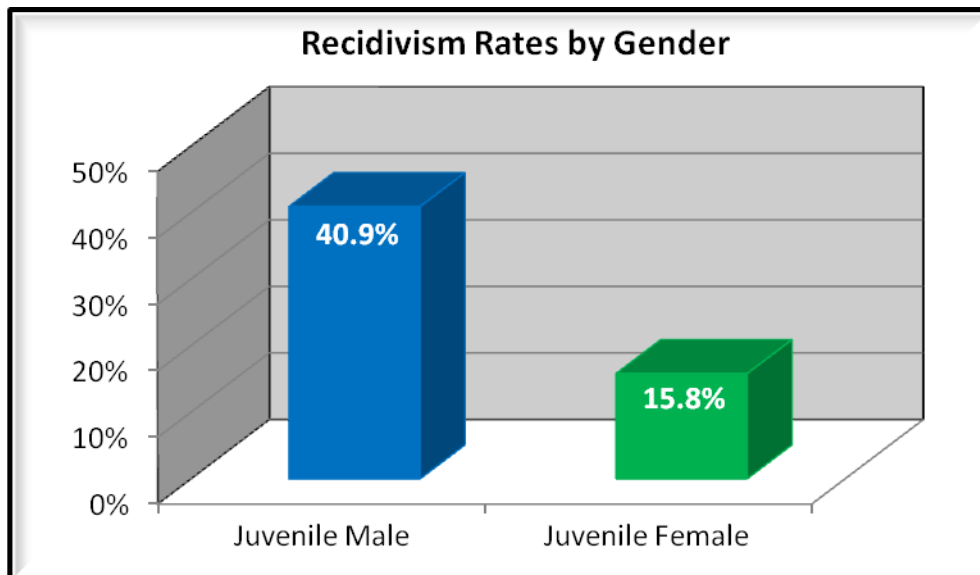


## Recidivism Rates by Gender

The figures in Table 2 indicate that recidivism rates for male and female students are considerably different. Of those students released in 2008, males (40.9%) are almost three times more likely to recidivate, compared to females (15.8%). Interestingly, the majority of female students who were re-incarcerated with IDOC returned as a juvenile, while more than half of all juvenile male students who recidivated, returned to IDOC as an adult.

Table 2	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE
<b>2008 Juvenile Releases</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>Returned as a Juvenile</b>	205	185	20
<b>Returned as an Adult</b>	241	229	12
<b>Total # Returned</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>36.7%</b>	<b>40.9%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>

Graph 3



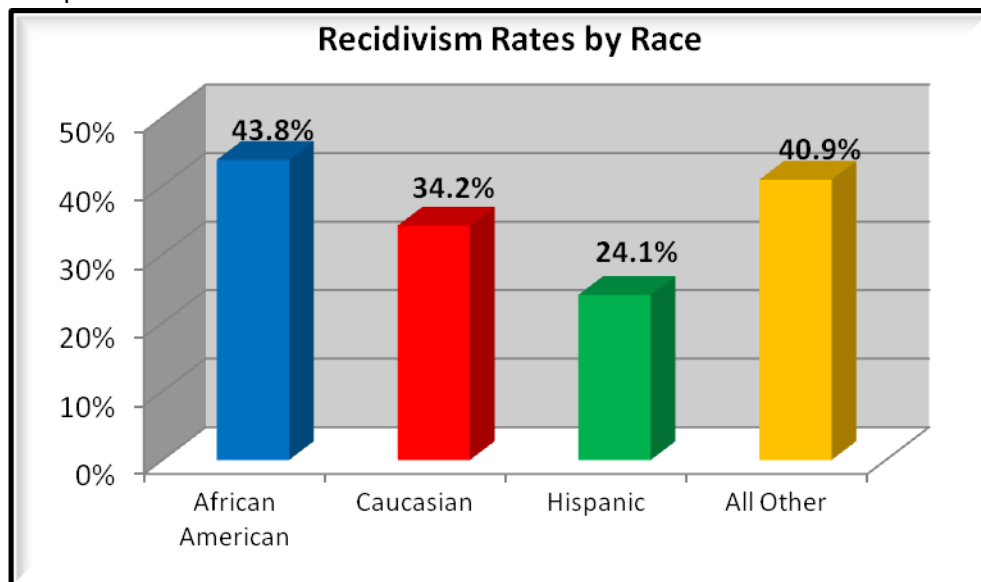
## Recidivism Rates by Race

When analyzing the race of each student released, the recidivism rate for African American students was 43.8%, Caucasian juveniles had a rate of 34.2% and Hispanic juveniles returned to incarceration at a rate of 24.1%. As used in Graph 4 below, the ‘All Other’ category includes students who are American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and students whose race was unidentified at the time of reporting.

Table 3

Race	2008 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
African American	363	159	43.8%
American Indian	1	0	0.0%
Asian/Pacific	0	0	0.0%
Caucasian	730	250	34.2%
Hispanic	79	19	24.1%
Unidentified	43	18	41.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>36.7%</b>

Graph 4



## Recidivism Rates by Type of Release

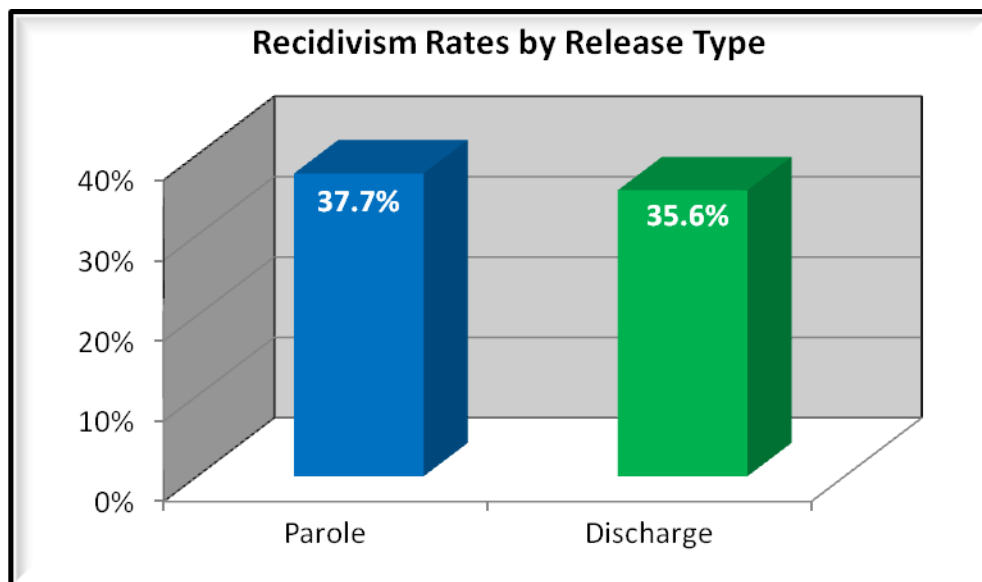
Students who are released to Parole are slightly more likely to recidivate, than those students who are discharged from a juvenile facility. Of the 1,216 students released to Parole in 2008, 37.7% returned to IDOC within three years. Conversely, 35.6% of juvenile students who were discharged from incarceration, returned within three years.

Anecdotally, this difference may be attributed to the likelihood that students on Parole have increased supervision and specific Parole stipulations that must be followed or they risk being re-incarcerated for a Parole violation. To the contrary, those who are discharged have no post-release supervision guidelines, as they have completed the adjudication requirements imposed by their sentencing court.

Table 4

Release Type	2008 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Parole	615	232	37.7%
Discharge	601	214	35.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>36.7%</b>

Graph 5



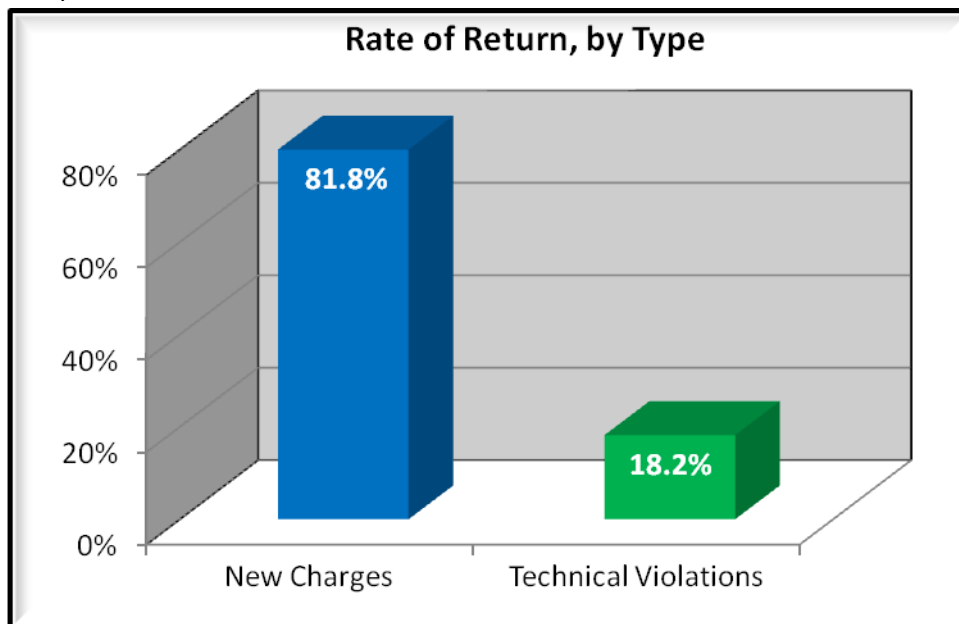


## Recidivism Rates by Type of Return

Table 5 details the percentage of students who returned to IDOC by type of return. For the 2008 juvenile release cohort, the proportion of returns for new charges in comparison to technical violation returns is significant. New charges comprised nearly 81.8% of all returns, opposed to 18.2% of returns for technical violations.

Return Type	2008 Releases	
	Number of Recidivists	% of Return
Probation Violation	10	2.2%
New Charge	356	79.8%
Parole Violation - New	9	2.0%
Parole Violation - Tech	69	15.5%
Community Transition Program-Violation	2	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
New charges	365	81.8%
Technical violations	81	18.2%

Graph 6



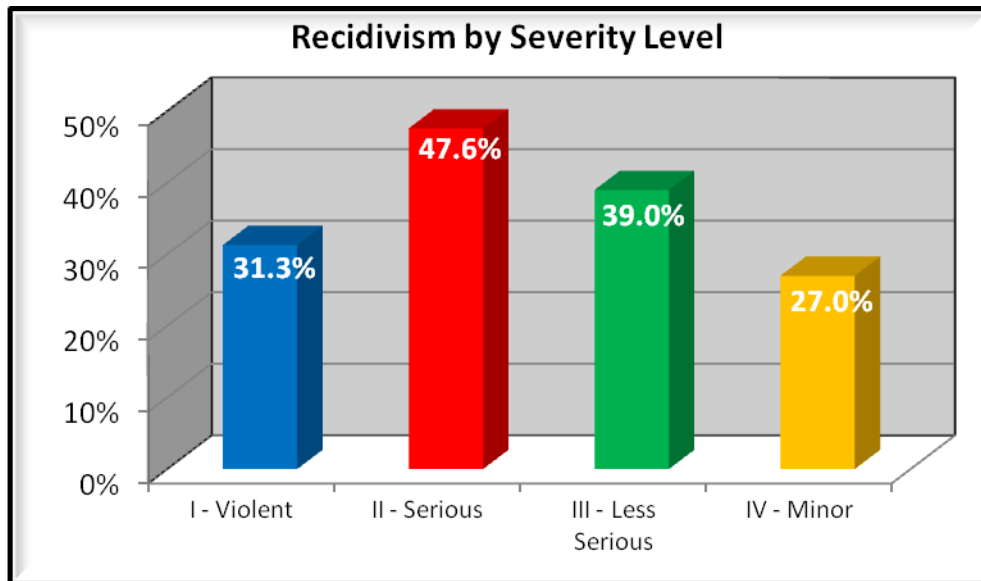
### Recidivism Rates by Severity Level\*

When comparing students released in 2008 by the severity level of their most serious committing offense, students with a severity level II, “serious” offense, were most likely to return to incarceration.

Table 6

Severity Level	2008 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
I - Violent	246	77	31.3%
II - Serious	105	50	47.6%
III - Less Serious	713	278	39.0%
IV - Minor	152	41	27.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>36.7%</b>

Graph 7



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

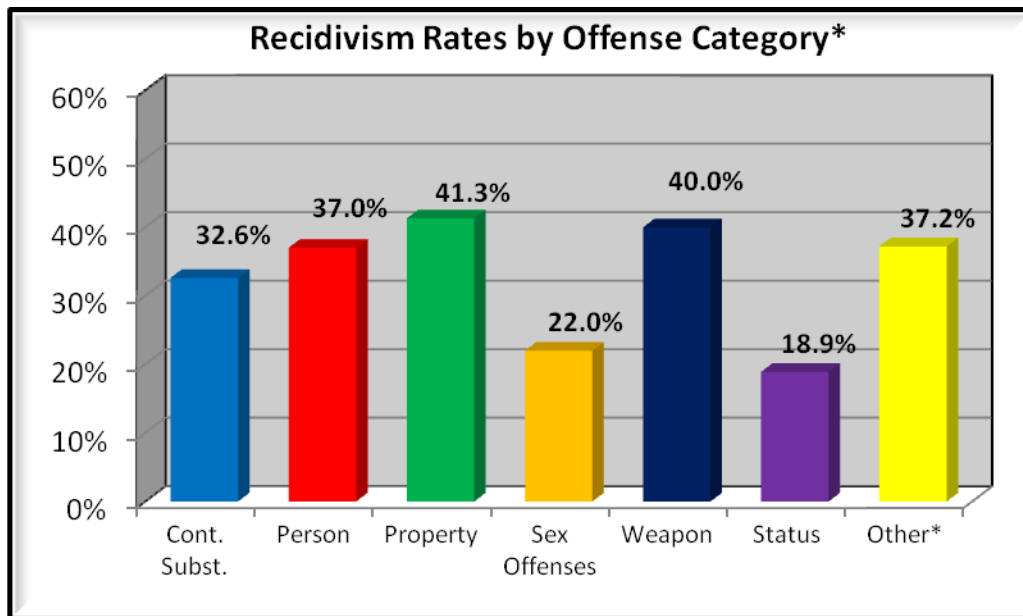
### Recidivism Rates by Offense Category\*

Approximately 41% of students released in 2008, whose most serious offense was either weapons-related or involved a crime against a person, were re-incarcerated within three years of their release. Recidivism rates for the remaining categories ranked as follows: property, weapon, other offenses (as defined below Graph 8), person, controlled substance offenses, sex offenses, and lastly, status offenses.

Table 7

Offense Category*	2008 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Controlled Substance	95	31	32.6%
Person	262	97	37.0%
Property	484	200	41.3%
Sex Offenses	100	22	22.0%
Weapon	15	6	40.0%
Status	37	7	18.9%
Other**	223	83	37.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>36.7%</b>

Graph 8



\* Offense Category is determined by the student’s most serious committing offense.

\*\* Other - 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.

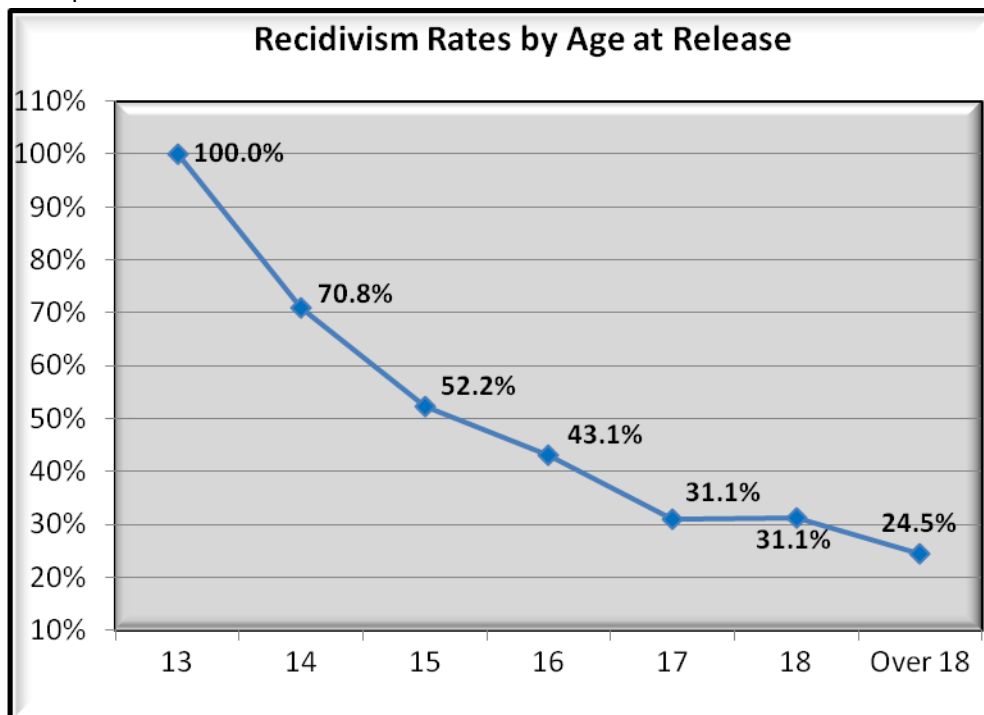
## Recidivism Rates by Age at Release

Recidivism rates by the age of each student at the time of their release from IDOC are illustrated in Table 8. It is clearly evident, as highlighted below in Graph 9, that the age of a student and the rate at which they return to incarceration are directly correlated. 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 their release were found to have recidivism rates that are lower than the IDOC overall juvenile rate for 2011.

Table 8

Release Age	2008 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
13	2	2	100.0%
14	24	17	70.8%
15	115	60	52.2%
16	299	129	43.1%
17	428	133	31.1%
18	299	93	31.1%
Over 18	49	12	24.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>36.7%</b>
<b>Average Age at Release</b>		<b>17.3 Years</b>	

Graph 9



The mission of the Division of Youth Services is focused on community protection, accountability, beliefs that foster responsible community living and competency development.

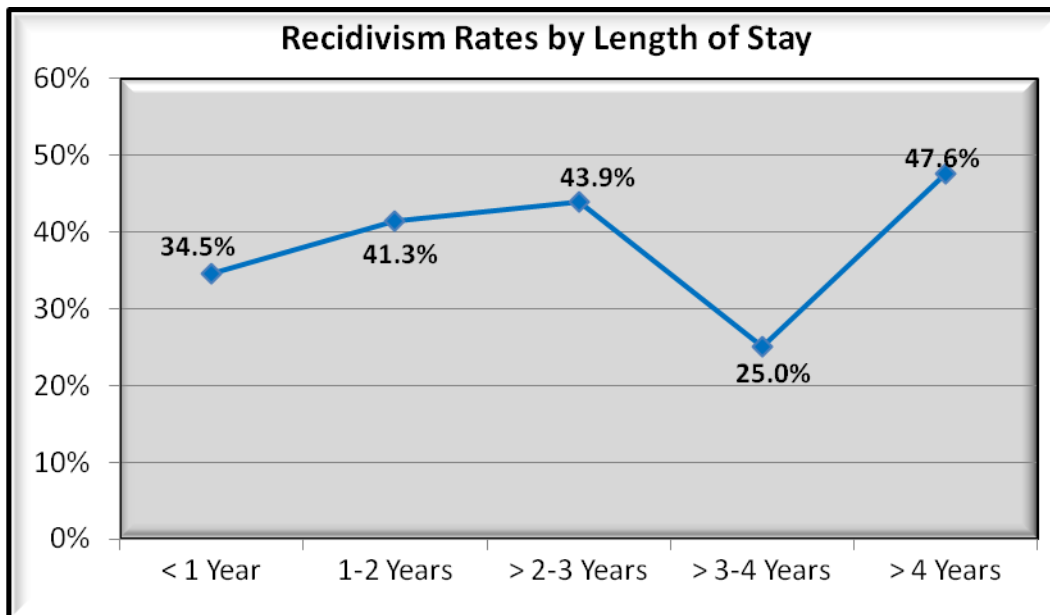
### Recidivism Rates by Length of Stay\*

Students who were incarcerated between one and two years, had a recidivism rate higher than the 2011 overall juvenile recidivism rate of 36.7%. Conversely, students who were with IDOC for less than one-year, (approximately 66% of all releases), demonstrated return rates lower than the overall recidivism rate. However, it is interesting to note that those who stayed for extended periods of time (over 4 years) had the highest recidivism rates.

Table 9

Length of Stay	2008 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
< 1 year	794	274	34.5%
1 - 2 years	283	117	41.3%
> 2 - 3 years	82	36	43.9%
> 3 - 4 years	36	9	25.0%
> 4 years	21	10	47.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>36.7%</b>
<b>Average Length of Stay</b>		<b>394 Days</b>	

Graph 10



\* Length of Stay is calculated by taking the difference between a student’s intake date and release date.

## Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense\*

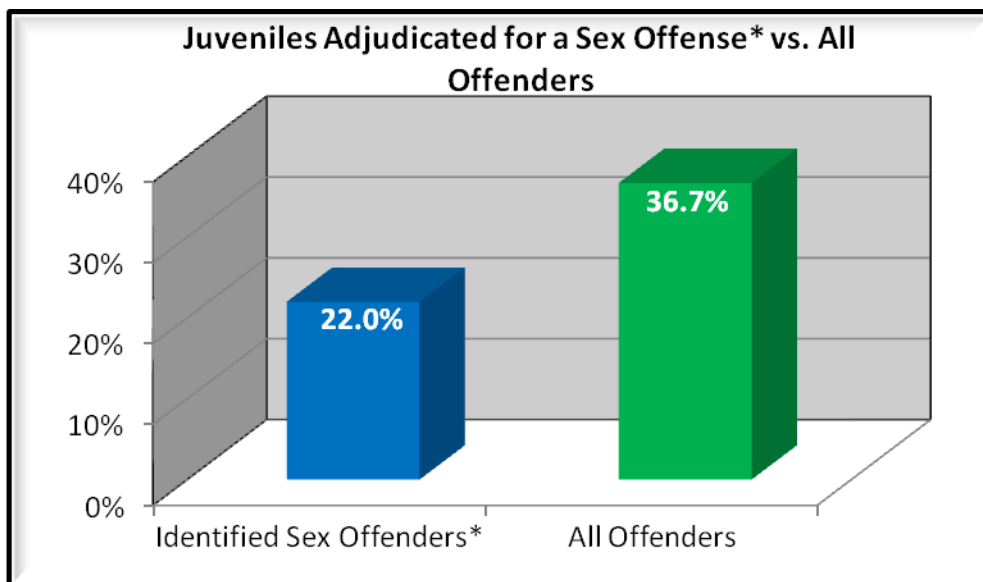
Graph 11 illustrates the disparity of recidivism rates for students identified with at least one sex crime, versus the entire IDOC juvenile population. Those juveniles identified as having been adjudicated for a sex offense have a lower rate of return than the total IDOC juvenile population. Return rates are based upon return for **any** new offense or technical violation.

\*Identified students adjudicated for a sex offense were determined to have at least one adjudication for any of the following during the commitment period resulting in their 2008 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.

Table 10

Gender	2008 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Female	1	0	0.0%
Male	99	22	22.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22.0%</b>

Graph 11



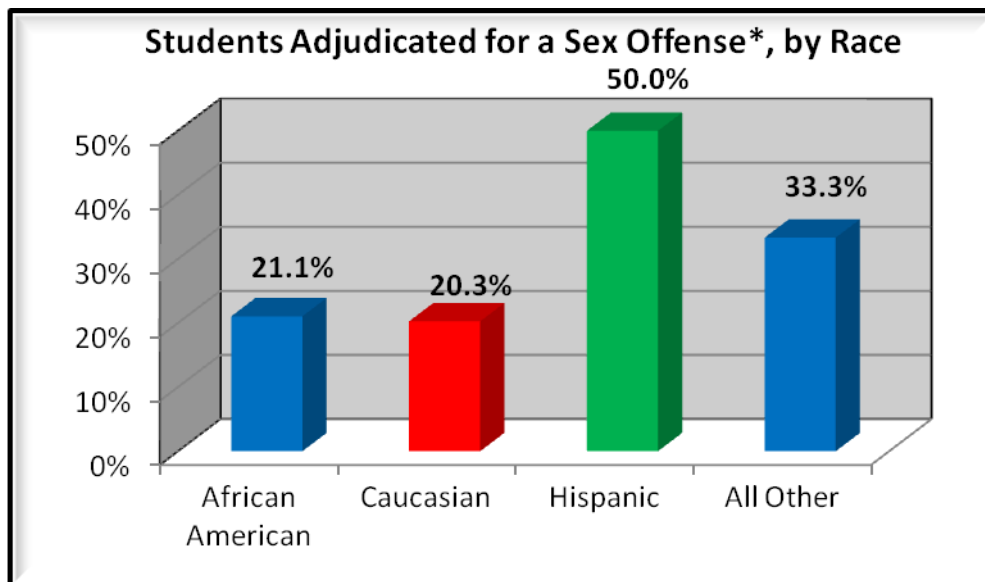
## Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense\* by Race

Recidivism rates by the race of identified juvenile sex offenses are detailed in Table 11. 50% of Hispanic students adjudicated for a sex offense were re-incarcerated within three years of release, representing the highest rate of return for any race of students adjudicated for a sex offense. In comparison, African American students adjudicated for a sex offense were returned to the institutional custody of IDOC approximately 21.1% of the time.

Table 11

Race	2008 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
African American	19	4	21.1%
Caucasian	74	15	20.3%
Hispanic	4	2	50.0%
Unidentified	3	1	33.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22.0%</b>

Graph 12



\* Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense - Students with at least one adjudication for Rape, Child Molesting, Child Exploitation, Child Seduction, Child Solicitation, Criminal Deviate Conduct, Incest, Sexual Battery, Sexual Misconduct with a Minor, or Vicarious Sexual Gratification during the commitment period ending in 2008.

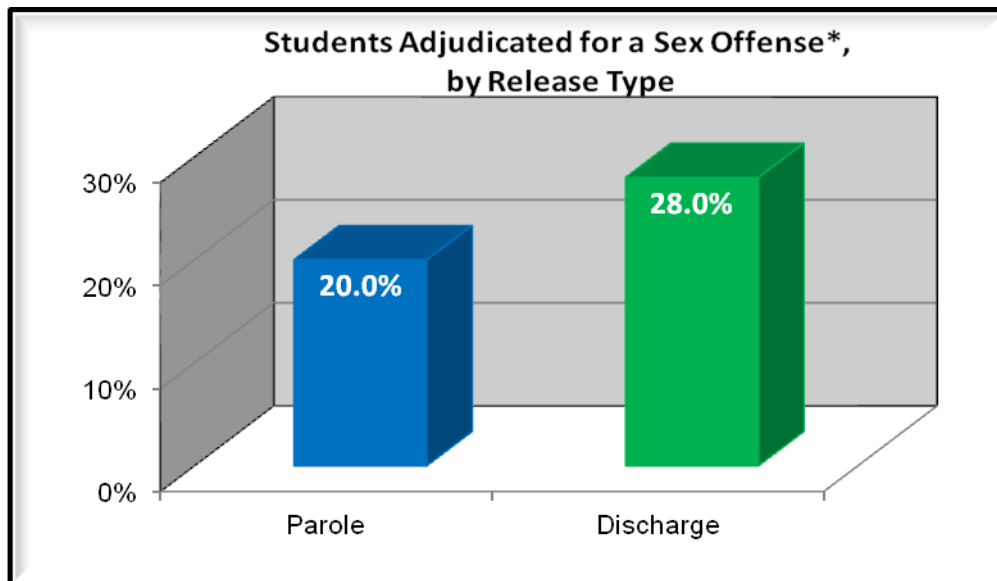
## Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense\* by Type of Release

The graph below displays the comparison of recidivism rates for students adjudicated for a sex offense, by type of release. Identified students adjudicated for a sex offense discharged from supervision were found to return to incarceration at a higher rate, 28.0%, than those students adjudicated for a sex offense who were released to parole, 20.0%. This disparity is most likely attributed to the fact that students discharged without aftercare do not have resources to properly transition into society.

Table 12

Release Type	2008 Releases	# Returned	Recidivism Rate
Parole	75	15	20.0%
Discharge	25	7	28.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22.0%</b>

Graph 13



\* Juveniles Adjudicated for a Sex Offense- Students with at least one adjudication for Rape, Child Molesting, Child Exploitation, Child Seduction, Child Solicitation, Criminal Deviate Conduct, Incest, Sexual Battery, Sexual Misconduct with a Minor, or Vicarious Sexual Gratification during the commitment period ending in 2008.



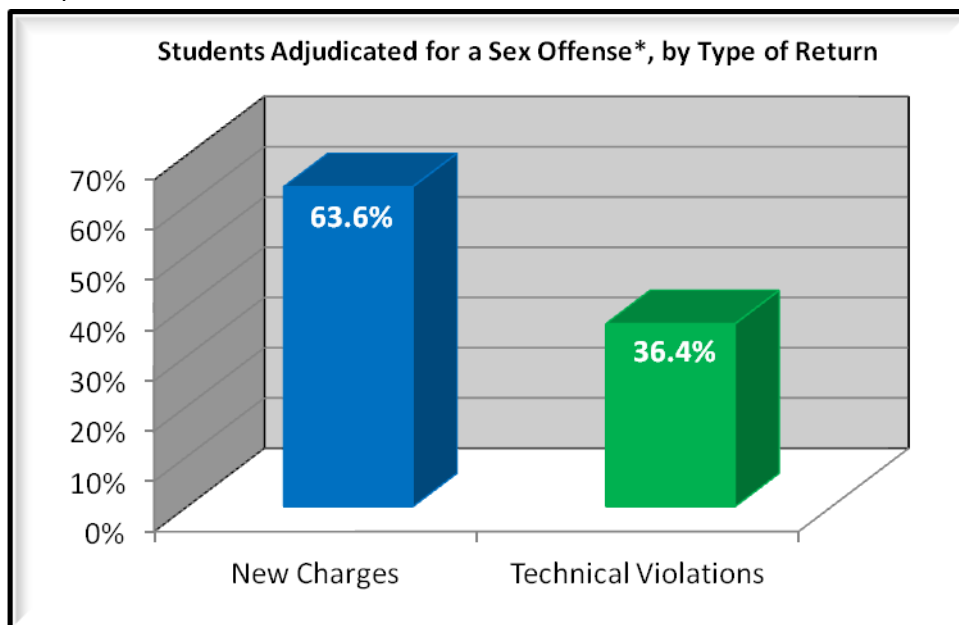
## Recidivism Rates for Juveniles Adjudicated for a Sex Offense\* by Type of Return

Students adjudicated for a sex offense released in 2008 are re-incarcerated for new charges at a higher rate than those juveniles adjudicated for a sex offense who were returned for a technical violation. However, the difference between these populations is so minimal, due to the small population sizes, that no conclusions can be drawn from this data.

Table 13

Return Type	2008 Releases	
	Number of Recidivists	% of Return
Probation Violation	0	0.0%
New Charge	13	59.1%
Parole Violation - New	1	4.5%
Parole Violation - Tech	8	36.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
New Charges	14	63.6%
Technical Violations	8	36.4%

Graph 14



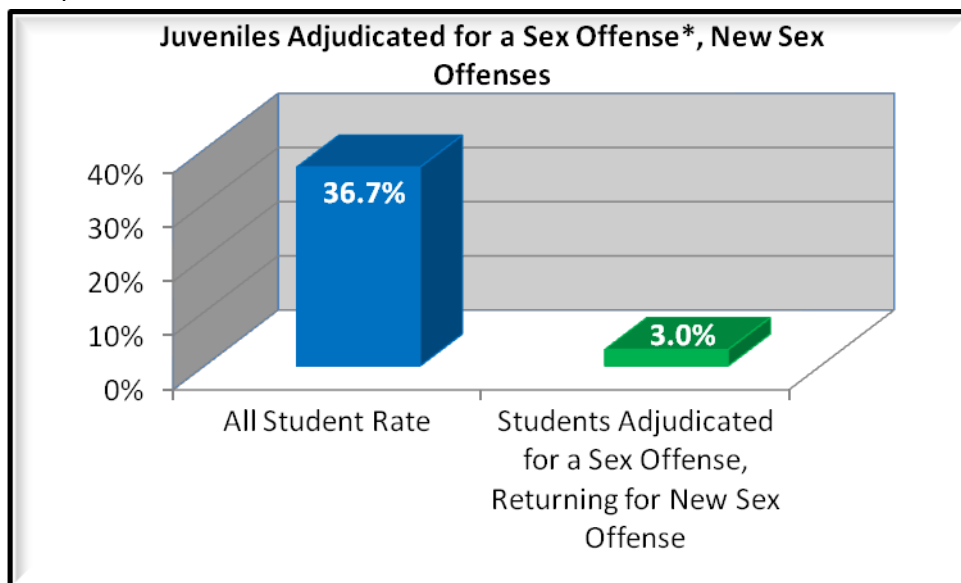
\* Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense - Students with at least one adjudication for Rape, Child Molesting, Child Exploitation, Child Seduction, Child Solicitation, Criminal Deviate Conduct, Incest, Sexual Battery, Sexual Misconduct with a Minor, or Vicarious Sexual Gratification during the commitment period ending in 2008.

## Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense\* by New Sex Offense

The percentage of students adjudicated for a sex offense that return to incarceration within three years of their release for a **new** identified sex offense is significantly low. Graph 15 shows that 3.0% of all students adjudicated for a sex offense who were released in 2008, returned to the Indiana Department of Correction for the conviction of a new sex offense.

Identified Sex Offender Returns	2008 Releases
Sex Offenders Released	100
Sex Offenders Returned	22
Sex Offenders Returned for New Sex Offense	3
<b>% of Returns</b>	<b>13.6%</b>
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>3.0%</b>

Graph 15



\* Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense - Students with at least one adjudication for Rape, Child Molesting, Child Exploitation, Child Seduction, Child Solicitation, Criminal Deviate Conduct, Incest, Sexual Battery, Sexual Misconduct with a Minor, or Vicarious Sexual Gratification during the commitment period ending in 2008.



**INDIANA DEPARTMENT of CORRECTION**  
Indiana Government Center South, Room E334  
302 W. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Prepared by:  
Sarah Schelle, Research Analyst  
(317) 232-2249  
[sschelle@idoc.in.gov](mailto:sschelle@idoc.in.gov)

This report may be found at:  
<http://www.in.gov/idoc/files/2011JuvRecidivismRpt.pdf>



## DIVISION of YOUTH SERVICES

### MISSION STATEMENT:

Our DYS mission is focused on community protection, accountability, beliefs that foster responsible community living and competency development.

