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. A recent study by the IDOC calculated the 2017 recidivism rate for offenders released from IDOC during 2014. This study found that:

- 2017 recidivism rates reached an all-time low. Of those offenders released in 2014, 33.87% were recommitted to the IDOC within three years of their release date, for either a new conviction or a violation of post-release supervision.

- Of all offenders who recidivated, approximately 44.3% returned to IDOC for the commission of a new crime, compared to approximately 55.7% for a technical rule violation of post-release supervision.

- Male offenders had a higher recidivism rate when compared to female offenders. Of male offenders released in 2014, 35.4% returned to the IDOC, versus 25.8% of female releases.

- The recidivism rate for African American offenders continues to decline, falling to a rate of 36.8%. Also decreasing from last year, recidivism rates for Caucasian offenders dropped to 33.5% and Hispanic offenders dropped to 16.6%.

- The younger the offender is at the time he/she is released, the more likely they are to return to the IDOC. Also, offenders serving less than 5 years with IDOC represent approximately 90% of all recidivists.

- Offenders who had zero conduct violations during their incarceration period were 30.0% less likely to recidivate when compared to offenders who had at least one conduct violation.

- Offenders who received visits from family or friends while incarcerated were 10.4% less likely to recidivate compared to those offenders who did not receive any visits.

- Those offenders who participated in a work release program were 37.8% less likely to return to prison when compared to offenders who did not partake in a work release program.