

# Juvenile Recidivism

Data Science and Analytics

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## Executive summary

**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 2021 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.

2024 Juvenile Recidivism Rate: 32.04%

- 309 Releases
- 99 Returns
- Of all juveniles released in 2021, 35.11% of males returned to IDOC while 14.89% of females returned
- Approximately 41.77% of African American juvenile offenders returned to the Department of Correction, a higher rate than any other major race or ethnicity. Caucasian youth were next highest with a 27.51% recidivism rate, followed by Multi-racial youth 45%).
- Approximately 57.06% of juveniles who recidivated were returned to IDOC for the commission of a new crime, compared to 100% of returns which were for a technical violation of post-release supervision.
- Juvenile offenders whose offense severity level was classified as 'Severity II' were most likely to return to incarceration 32.43%.
- Juvenile offenders released in 2021 who were identified as a sex offender returned to IDOC at a rate of 22.58%.

## 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 2021 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 2021 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.

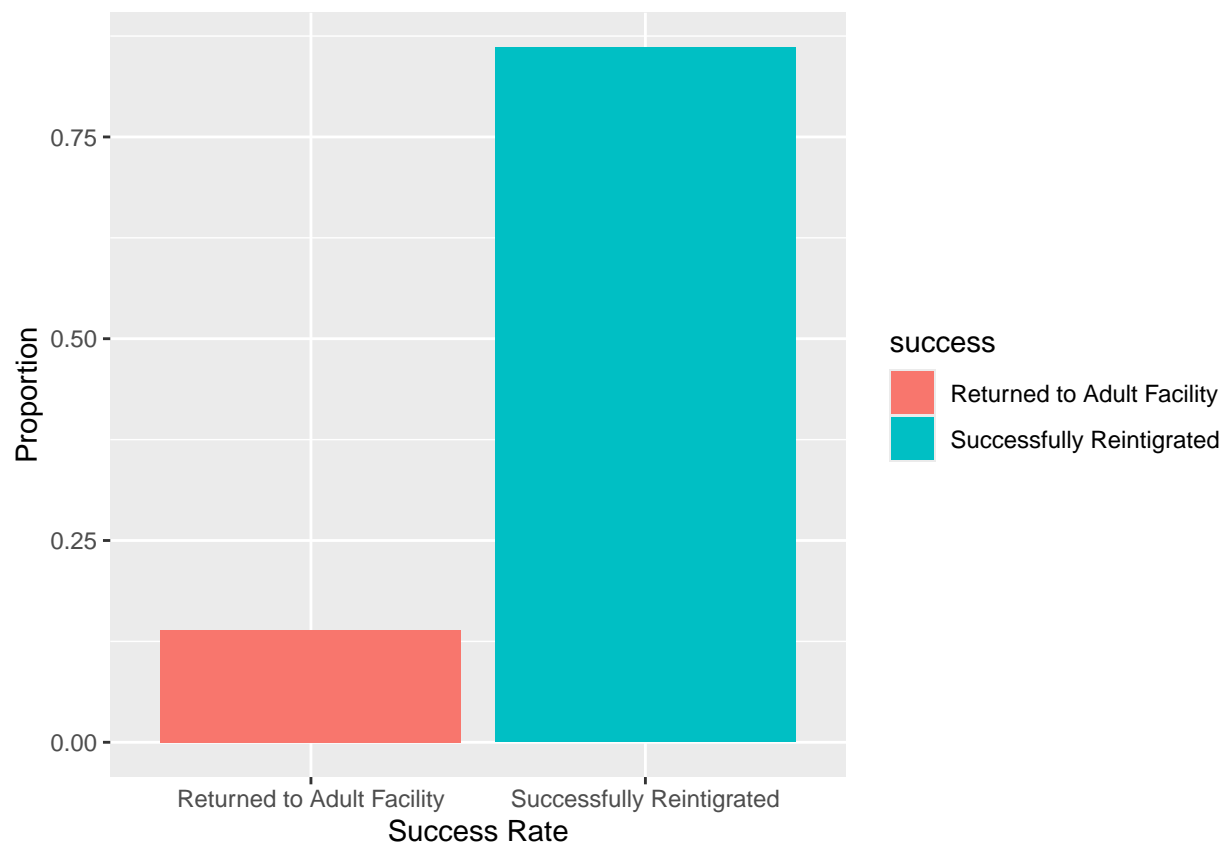


Figure 1: Success Rate

## Overall Recidivism Rates

In 2021, the Indiana Department of Correction released 309 students. Of those juveniles released, 32.04% 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 2021 releases at the 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year milestones for males and females is illustrated in Figure 2

Table 1: Percent returned by Gender, 2021 Releases

Gender	Released	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Female	47	8.5%	12.8%	14.9%
Male	262	19.8%	26.3%	35.1%
Total	309	18.1%	24.3%	32.0%

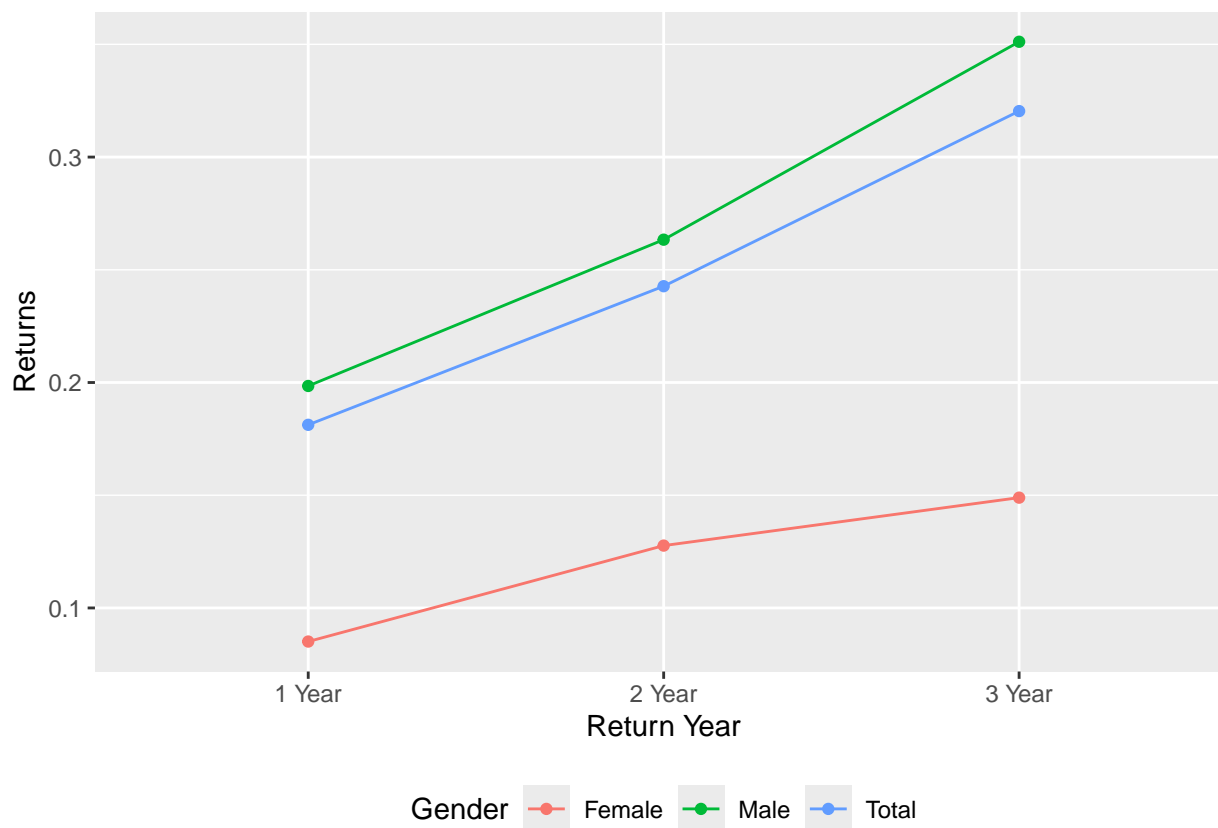


Figure 2: Percent returned by Gender, 2021 Releases

## Recidivism Rates by Race and Ethnicity

Amongst racial categories, juveniles identified as Multiple Races had the highest likelihood of recidivating amongst students in the 2021 release cohort (45%), followed closely by individuals Caucasian with 27.51%.

Table 2: Percent returned by Race, 2021 Releases

Race	Released	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
BLACK	79	20.3%	27.8%	41.8%
MULTIPLE RACES, NOT HISPANIC	20	20.0%	35.0%	45.0%
OTHER	19	10.5%	10.5%	15.8%
PACIFIC ISLANDER	1	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
UNKNOWN	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
WHITE	189	17.5%	22.2%	27.5%
Total	309	18.1%	24.3%	32.0%

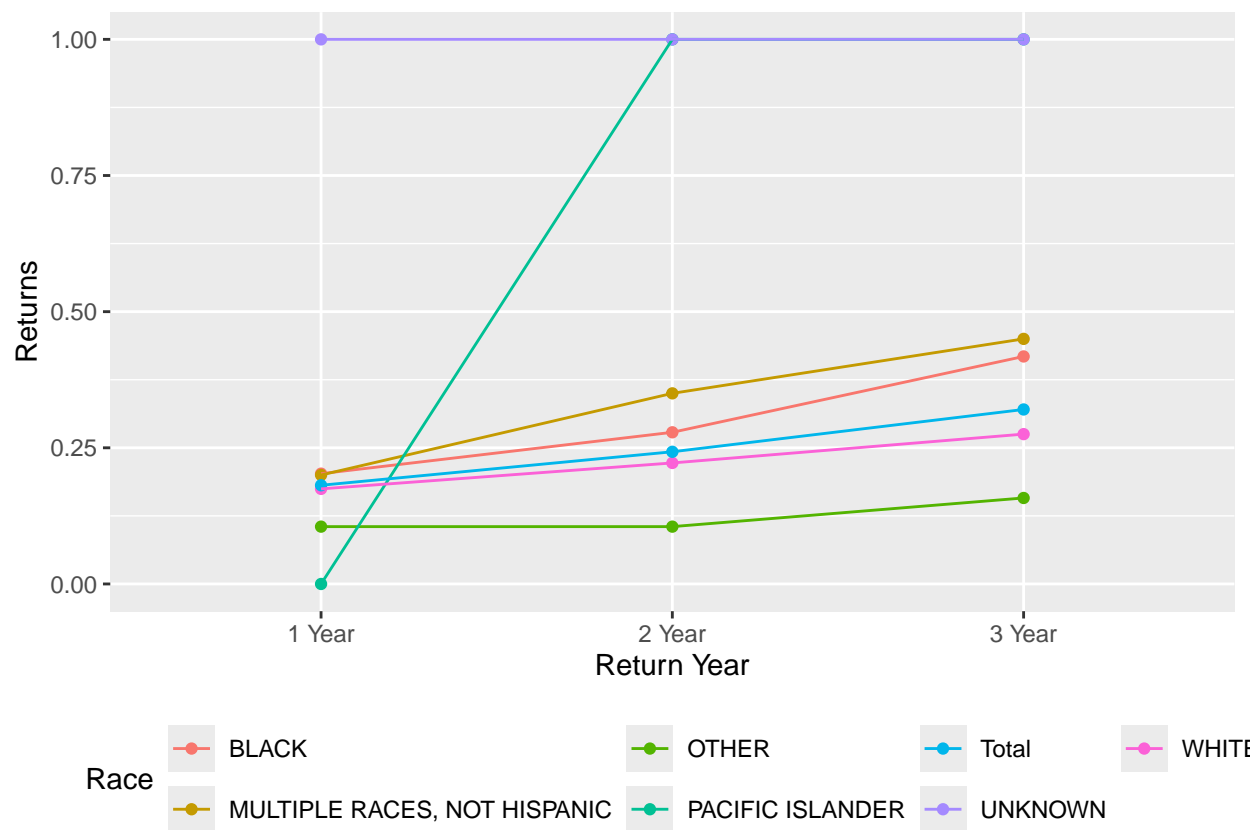


Figure 3: Percent returned by Race, 2021 Releases

## 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 2021 were less likely to recidivate (25%) than those who were discharged (32.13%). Though that result should be interpreted with caution due to the large disparity in number of each release type.

Table 3: Percent returned by Release type, 2021 Releases

Release Type	Released	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Discharge from DOC	305	18.0%	24.3%	32.1%
Transfer to Parole	4	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Total	309	18.1%	24.3%	32.0%

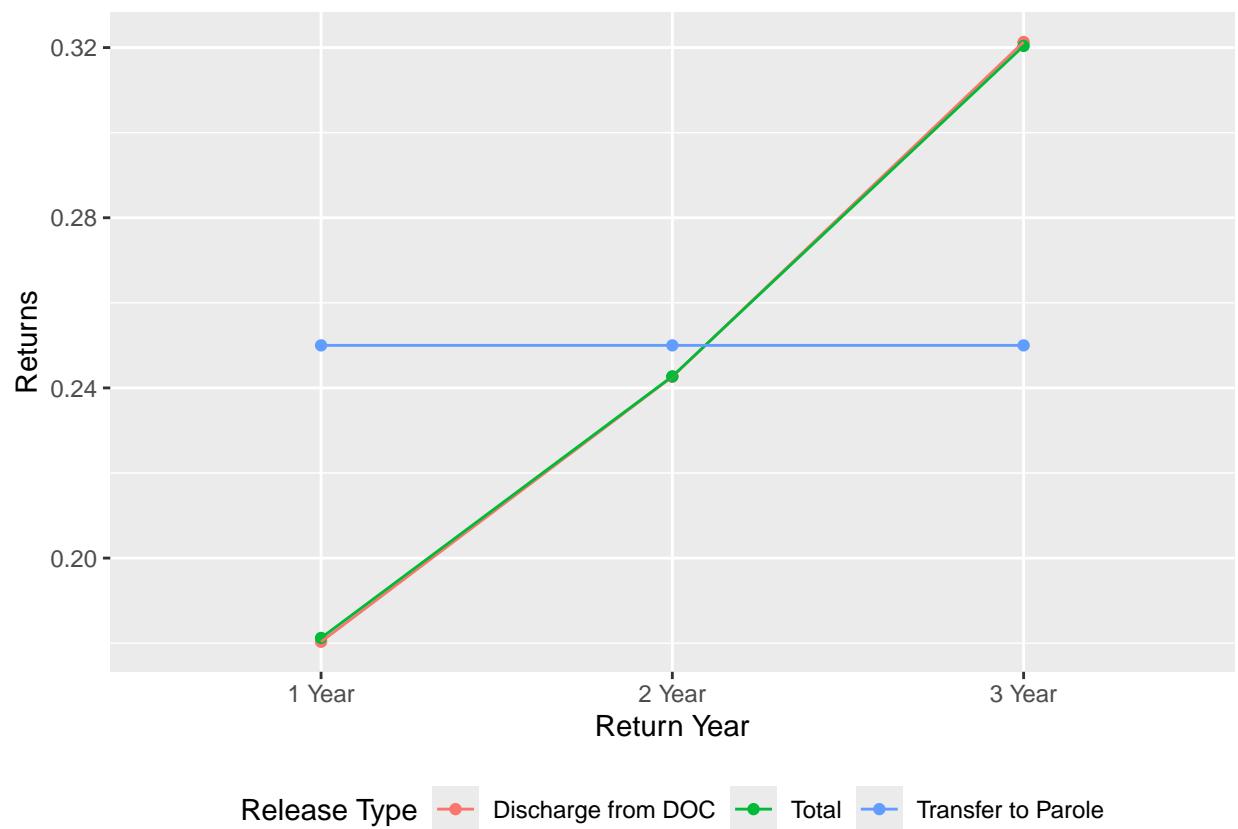


Figure 4: Percent returned by Release type, 2021 Releases

## Recidivism Rates by Type of Return

For the 2021 juvenile release cohort, the percentage of students whose returns were due to new charges was much lower than for returns due to technical violations (Figure 6). However, for this cohort the vast majority of returns were on new charges.

Table 4: Percent returned by Admission type, 2021 Releases

Admission Type	Released	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
New Commit	170	32.9%	44.1%	57.1%
Technical	2	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	309	18.1%	24.3%	32.0%

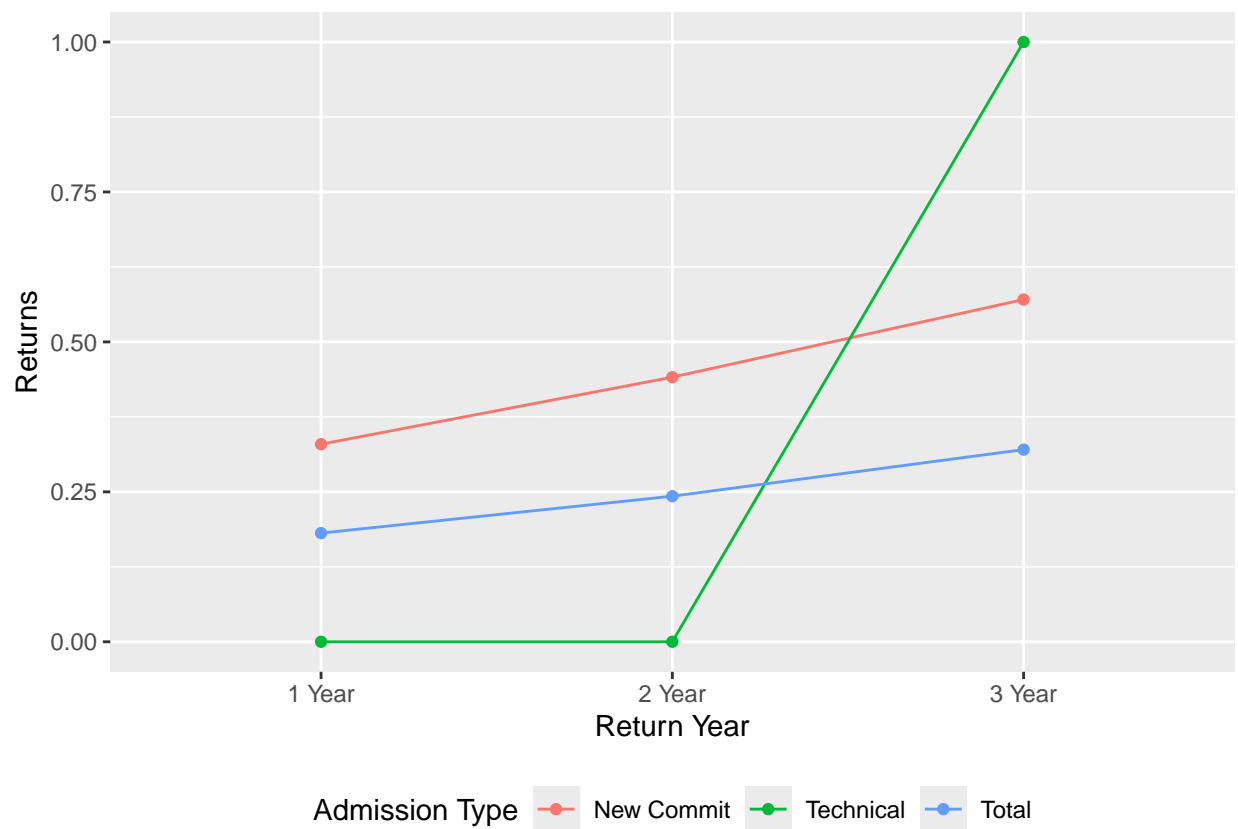


Figure 5: Percent returned by Admission type, 2021 Releases

## Recidivism Rates by Offense Category

There was relatively little difference in recidivism rates between offense categories for students released in 2021, especially amongst the top three (Figure 7). The highest rate of recidivism was among those in the Weapon offense category (50.0%), followed by Other (35.0%).

Table 5: Percent returned by Offense Category, 2021 Releases

Category	Released	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
CONTROL SUB	8	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
OTHER	60	16.7%	23.3%	35.0%
PERSON	111	21.6%	27.0%	34.2%
PROPERTY	71	14.1%	21.1%	25.4%
SEX OFFENSE	31	16.1%	19.4%	22.6%
WEAPON	28	21.4%	32.1%	50.0%
Total	309	18.1%	24.3%	32.0%

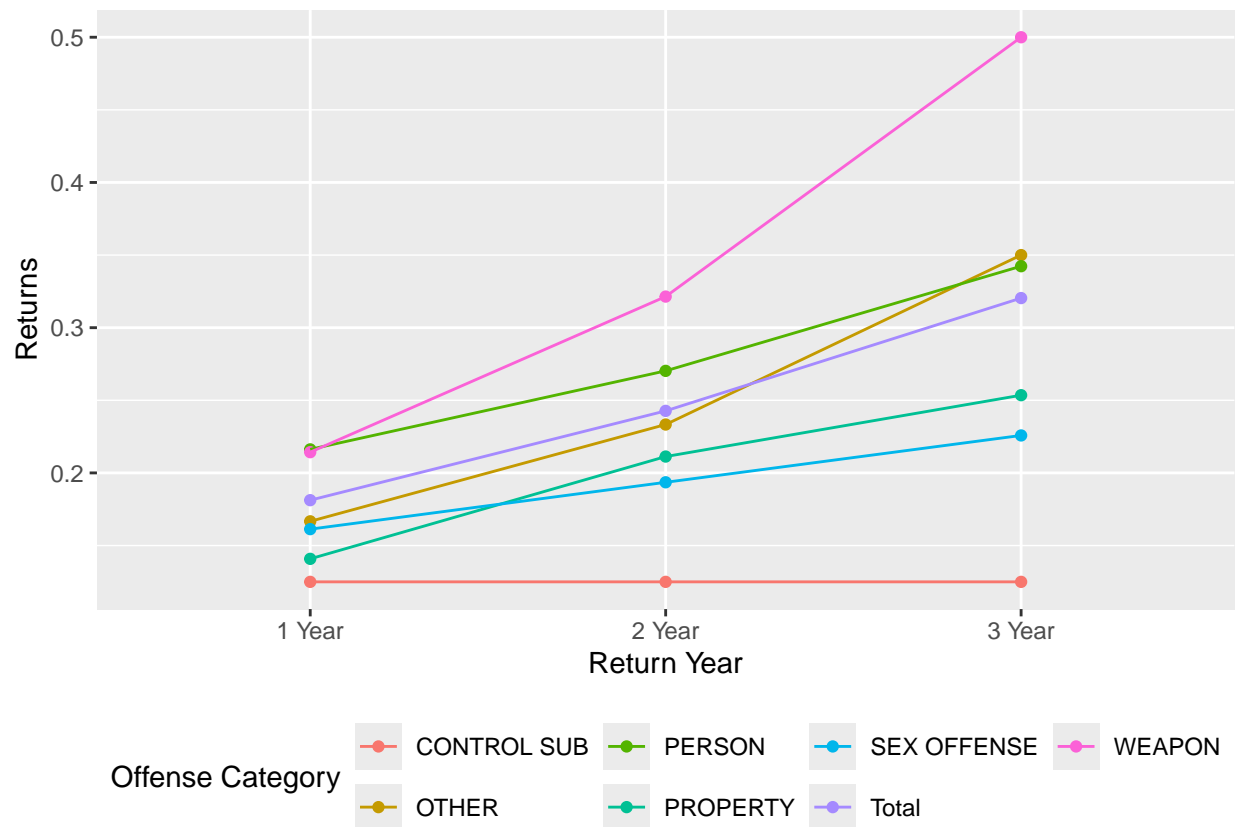


Figure 6: Percent returned by Offense Category, 2021 Releases

## 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 7. The data seem to indicate, as illustrated in Figure 8 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.

Table 6: Percent returned by Release Age, 2021 Releases

Release Age	Released	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
13	5	60.0%	60.0%	60.0%
14	11	36.4%	36.4%	36.4%
15	29	20.7%	31.0%	37.9%
16	54	27.8%	33.3%	38.9%
17	78	26.9%	33.3%	37.2%
18	81	6.2%	12.3%	25.9%
19	39	5.1%	12.8%	23.1%
20	9	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%
21	3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	309	18.1%	24.3%	32.0%

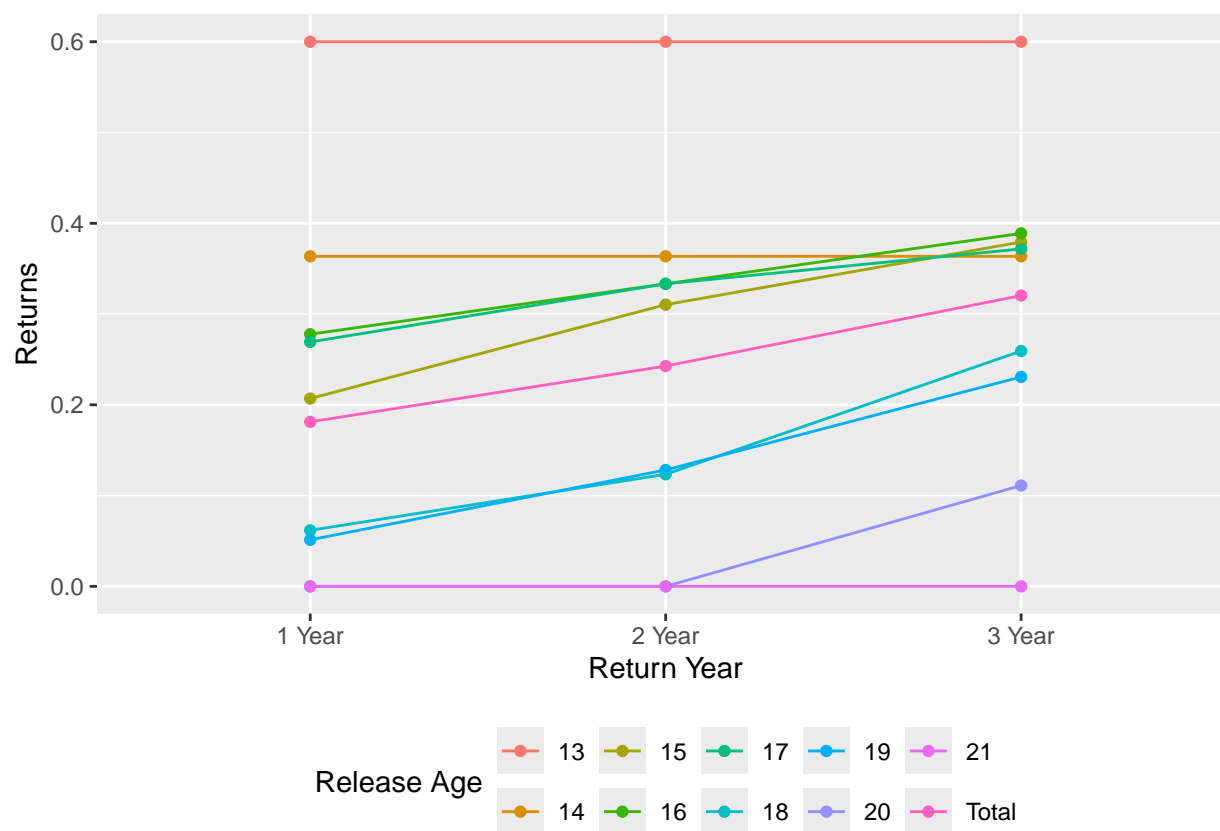


Figure 7: Percent returned by Release Age, 2021 Releases



## Recidivism Rates by Length of Stay

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 - 4 Years), perhaps due to the limited number of releases in those categories.

Table 7: Percent returned by Length of stay, 2021 Releases

Length of Stay	Released	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
< 1 Year	210	20.0%	24.8%	31.4%
1 - 2 Years	72	13.9%	25.0%	34.7%
2 - 3 Years	19	21.1%	26.3%	36.8%
3 - 4 Years	8	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%
Total	309	18.1%	24.3%	32.0%

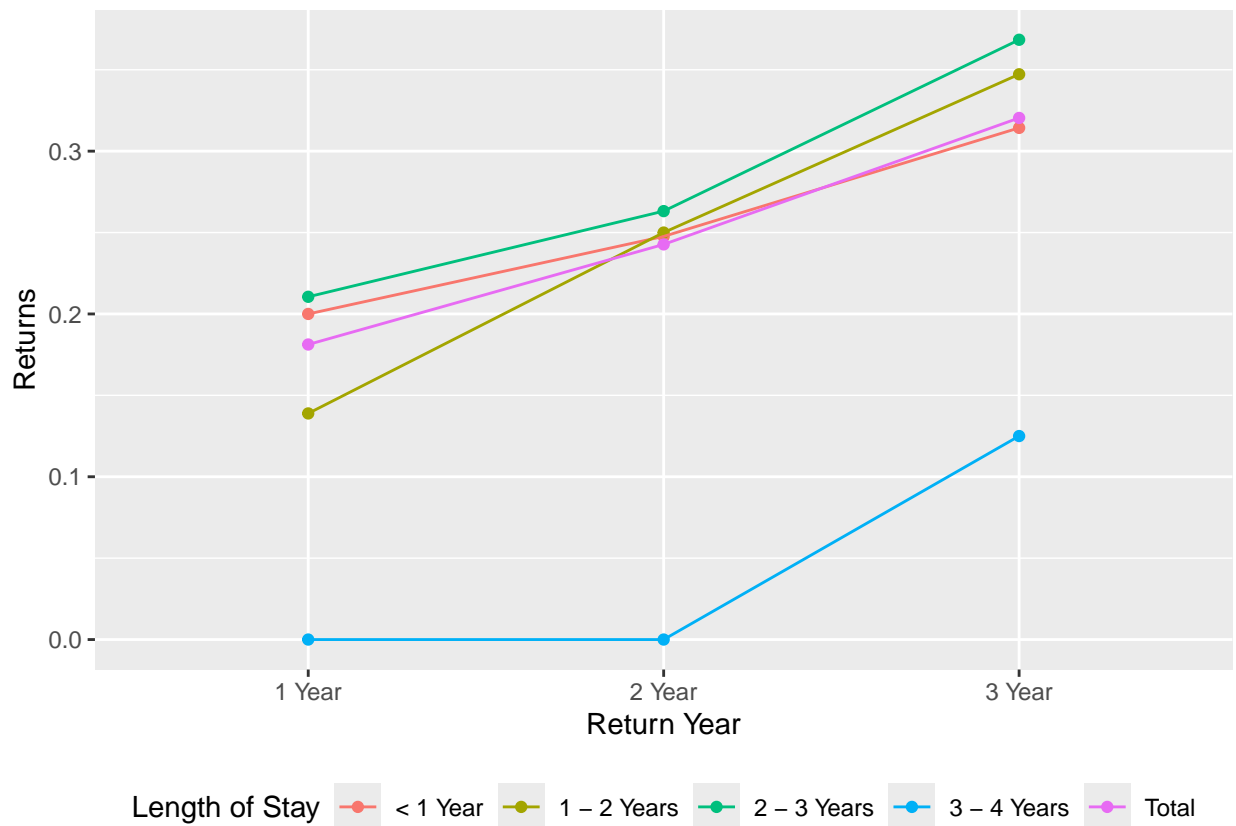


Figure 8: Percent returned by Length of stay, 2021 Releases

# Recidivism Rates for Students Adjudicated for a Sex Offense

## Race

Recidivism rates by the race of juveniles adjudicated for a sex offense are detailed in Table 9. White students exhibited the largest percentage of returns in the 2021 release cohort (24.0%). It should be noted that release counts for all other groups were very small and that, while Figure 10 illustrates rate comparisons, these should be interpreted with caution (and should not be used to generalize to the population).

Table 8: Percent Sex Offender returned by Race, 2021 Releases

Race	Released	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
BLACK	5	0.0%	20.0%	20.0%
OTHER	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
WHITE	25	20.0%	20.0%	24.0%
Total	31	16.1%	19.4%	22.6%

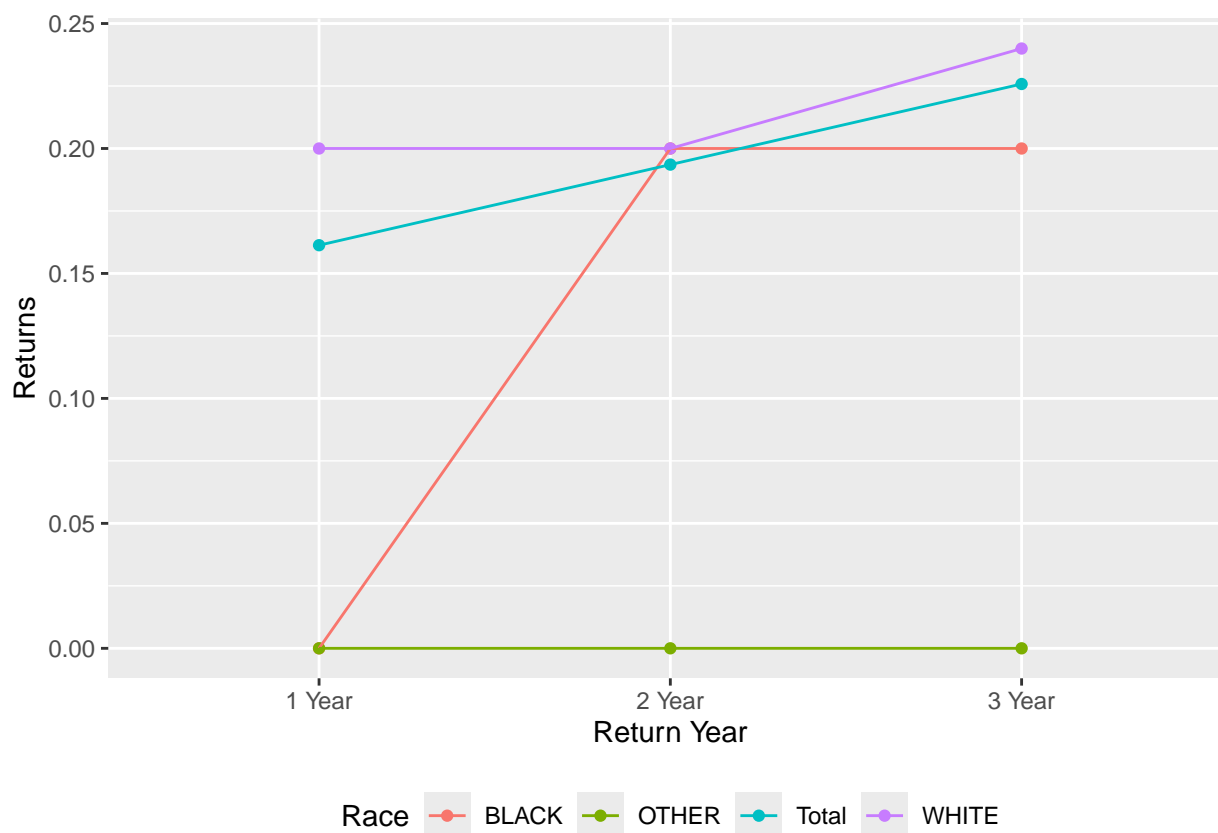


Figure 9: Percent Sex Offenders returned by Race, 2021 Releases

## Type of Release

The opposite pattern observed among the 2021 cohort in general is present among students adjudicated for a sex offense—namely, individuals released to parole are more likely to recidivate than those discharged.

Table 9: Percent Sex Offender returned by Type of release, 2021 Releases

Release Type	Released	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Discharge from DOC	28	14.3%	17.9%	21.4%
Transfer to Parole	3	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Total	31	16.1%	19.4%	22.6%

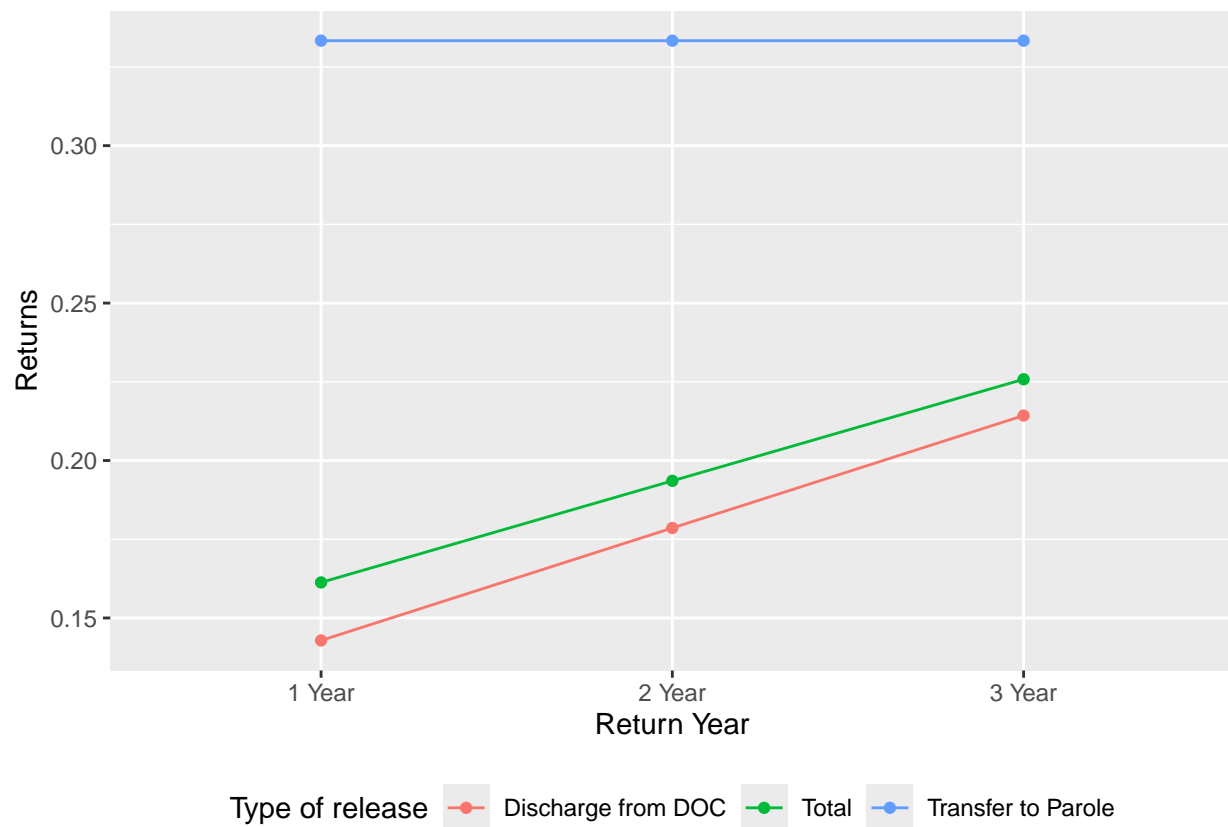


Figure 10: Percent Sex Offenders returned by type of release, 2021 Releases

## Type of Return

Students adjudicated for a sex offense who were released in 2021 were re-incarcerated for new commitments at a rate higher than juveniles adjudicated for a sex offense who were returned for a new offense. Again, the low count limits generalizability of estimates observed here.

Table 10: Percent Sex Offender returned by admission type, 2021 Releases

Admission Type	Released	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Missing	21	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
New Commit	10	50.0%	60.0%	70.0%
Total	31	16.1%	19.4%	22.6%

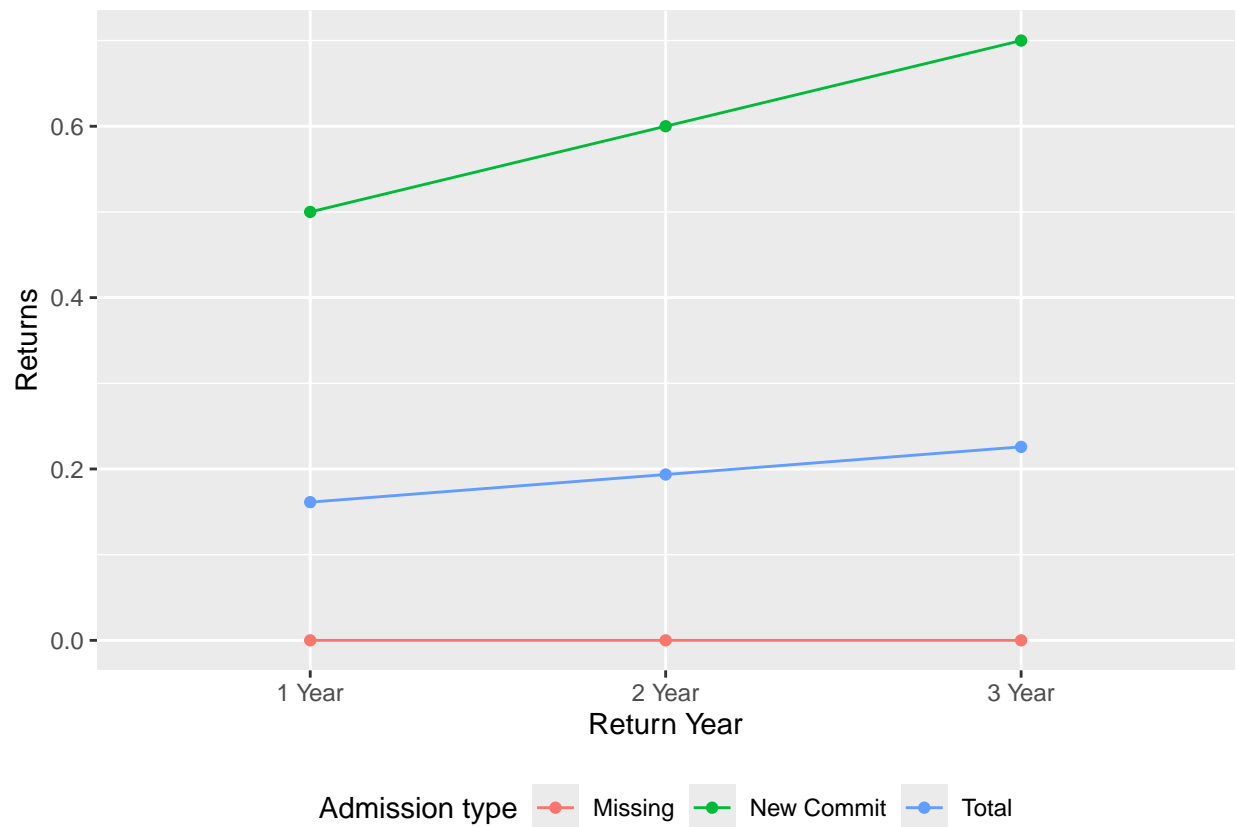


Figure 11: Percent Sex Offenders returned by admission type, 2021 Releases

## New Sex Offense

Data indicate that students adjudicated for a sex offense in the 2021 cohort returned to IDOC due to a new sex offense at a relatively high rate (see Table 12). This deviates from one of the most common trends observed throughout the years of IDOC juvenile recidivism studies. As illustrated in Figure 13, 62.5% of all students adjudicated for a sex offense who were released in 2021 returned to IDOC due to a conviction for a new sex offense.

Table 11: Percent Sex Offender returned by New Offense type, 2021 Releases

New Offense type	Released	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
OTHER	22	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%
PERSON	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
SEX OFFENSE	8	37.5%	50.0%	62.5%
Total	31	16.1%	19.4%	22.6%

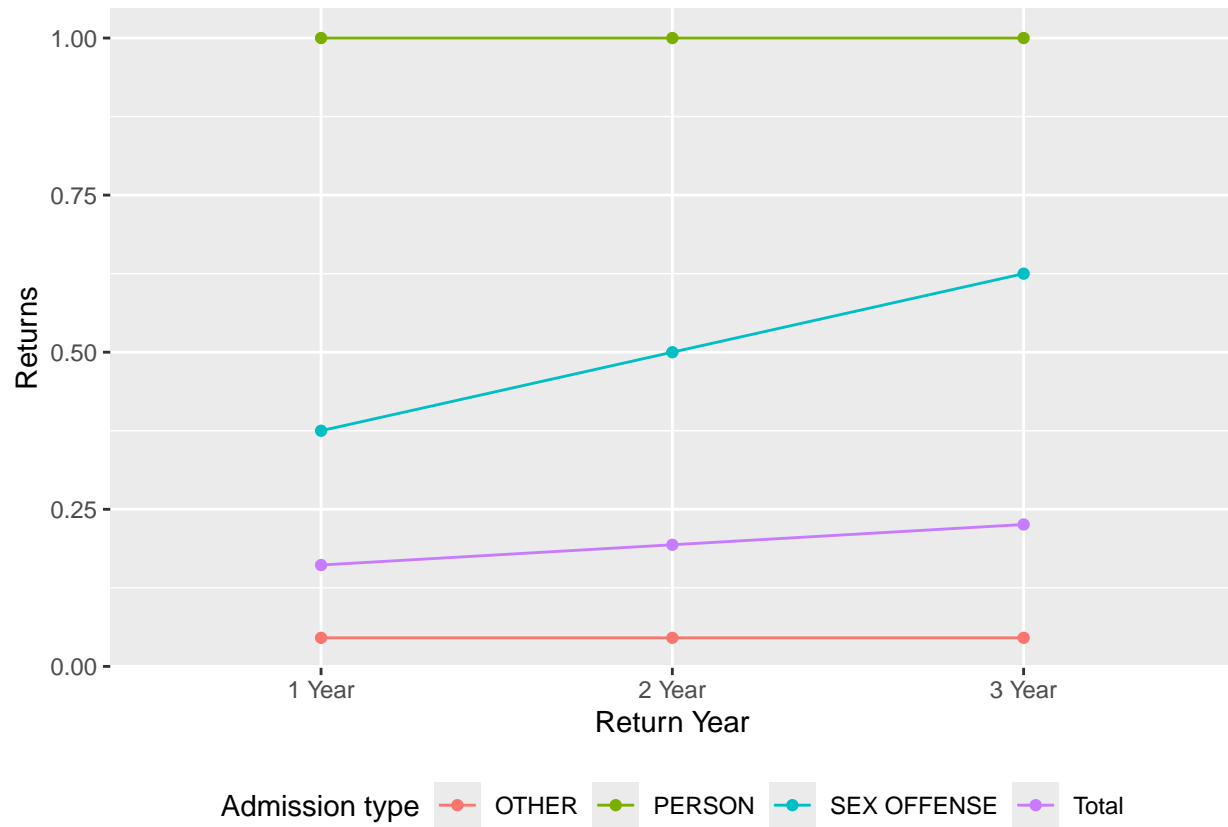


Figure 12: Percent Sex Offenders returned by New Offense type, 2021 Releases