

# **Allen County Community Corrections**

## **Community Transitions**

### **Report for Calendar Years 2011-2013**

Jacqueline Wall, Ph.D., Joseph Hansel, Ph.D., & Aaron Kivisto, Ph.D.

Allen County Community Corrections  
201 W. Superior Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
Telephone: 260.449.7252  
<http://allencountycorrections.com>

# **Community Transitions Impact Evaluation**

## **Introduction**

The following report summarizes the major evaluation findings examining the Community Transitions Program (CTP).

The report is designed with the following questions as organizing principles:

1. Who tends to enter the CTP?
2. What types of offenses are committed leading to referral to the CTP?
3. What level of risk do CTP offenders demonstrate?
4. How successful are offenders in completing the CTP?
5. What relationships exist between items 1-4 and program completion?
6. How frequent is recidivism and what form does that recidivism take?
7. What relationships exist between items 1-4 and recidivism?

## **Allen County Community Corrections Description**

The mission of Allen County Community Corrections is to operate a community based program that provides services to offenders, persons charged with a crime or an act of delinquency, persons sentenced to imprisonment, or victims of crime or delinquency to meet the needs of the individual criminal offender, victims of crime and the community at large.

## **Community Transitions Purpose**

The Allen Superior Community Transitions provides returning inmates the tools with which to successfully re-integrate back into the community with the assistance of electronic monitoring, field officers and case management. Offenders work through programming, job search and areas of behavioral change while receiving support from judicial oversight, community/faith-based mentors, and local employers.

## **History of Community Transitions**

In 1999, the Indiana State Legislature passed a law known as the Community Transition Statute. This statute allows each county in the state to develop its own Community Transitions Program to which inmates of the Department of Corrections may be released early to community supervision. It allows each county's judges to determine what level of supervision would be used. This program started operations in 2001.

## **Eligibility for Community Transitions**

Individuals committed to the Indiana Department of Correction may be eligible to participate in the Community Transitions Program except in the following instances:

1. Offenders sentenced to less than one year in the Department of Correction.

2. Offenders for whom warrants, detainers, or pending charges are issued by an agency or court other than the Indiana Department of Correction.
  - a. Individuals with warrants or detainers from an Allen County court for failure to pay child support, with a small claims judgment, or fines and cost *MAY* be eligible if the issuing court agrees to recall the warrant and schedule a court date after the offender is released to Allen County Community Corrections.
  - b. Offenders with warrants or detainers for new felony charges or serious or violent misdemeanor charges for which the offender has not been sentenced will not be eligible for placement on the program.
  - c. An offender with a pending new charge consisting of a traffic offense *MAY* be eligible for placement on the program if the court agrees to recall the warrant or detainer and set a new court date.
3. Offenders who are not residents of the State of Indiana.
4. Individuals with indeterminate life sentences.
5. Individuals sentenced to life without parole or sentenced to death.

The time of release to the Community Transition Program is determined according to sentencing class.

1. An offender convicted of a class D felony as the most serious conviction during the commitment period may begin the Community Transition Program 60 days prior to the offender's earliest projected release date.
2. An offender convicted of a class C felony as the most serious conviction will:
  - a. be eligible for the Community Transition Program 90 days prior to the earliest projected release date.
  - b. if all of the offender's charges fall under I.C. 35-48-4 and/or I.C. 16-42-19, that offender will be eligible to begin the Community Transition Program 120 days prior to the earliest projected release date.
3. An offender convicted of a class A or B felony as the most serious conviction during the commitment will:
  - a. be eligible for the Community Transition Program no more than 120 days prior to the earliest projected release date.
  - b. if all of the offender's charges fall under I.C. 35-48-4 and/or I.C. 16-42-19, the offender will be eligible for the Community Transition Program 180 days prior to the earliest projected release date.

The Community Transition Program requires that the incarcerated offender voluntarily participate with the knowledge and agreement of the program participation conditions.

1. A Class D felony offender who returns a letter of acceptance of the program conditions will be transported to the county in which the offender was sentenced unless the court from the sentencing county requests the transfer of the case to Allen County and the Allen County superior Court approves the transfer.
2. Individuals sentenced to class C, B or A offenses must also return a letter of acceptance but will not be transported unless the Department of Correction receives a letter from the sentencing judge admitting the individual to the Community Transition Program.
3. The offender must agree to return to the county in which the offender was originally sentenced unless the sentencing Court from another county has requested a transfer of the case to Allen County and the Allen Superior Court has approved the transfer of the case to Allen County.
4. The offender must agree to obtain a residence that is not with or near the victim or victims of the violent offense for which they have been convicted.

5. If the offender's expected release date changes as the result of the gain or loss of credit time after notice is sent to each court, the offender may become ineligible for a for a community transition program.
  - a. The loss or gain of credit time shall not automatically cause an offender to be ineligible.
  - b. The referral Manager shall consult with the ReEntry Director who will make a determination on eligibility.
6. An offender who is eligible to be assigned to the Community Transition Program is sentenced by more than one (1) court, the offender must be considered for assignment to the Community Transition Program that the offender is actively serving is located.
7. Before an offender may be assigned to the Community Transition Program, each court that sentenced the offender to a period of imprisonment that the offender is actively serving must agree to the assignment.

### **Preparation of this Evaluation Report**

The information presented in this report examines the programs using three different samples of offenders. The first is those who entered supervision between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2013, the second is comprised of offenders who left supervision between July 15, 2011 and December 31, 2013 and the third consists of offenders who completed the three year follow-up check between July 15, 2011 and December 31, 2013. During this time, a total of 66 offenders entered supervision through the CTP, 58 offenders completed supervision, and 145 offenders completed their 3-year post follow-up recidivism check. The information used to prepare this report was extracted from the Allen County data-base and provided to the evaluators on June 17, 2014. This data was used for the examination of all of the information provided in this report.

It is important to know that this report, although looking at factors associated with individual offenders, is designed to assess outcomes at a programmatic level. As a consequence, information provided represents an analysis of offenders under supervision at the three different time points – entry into a community supervision program, exit from community supervision, and at a three-year check on recidivism. It is not designed to follow an offender from entry into supervision through completion and three-year post-supervision follow-up.

It is also important to recognize that this report does not include information on offenders who were not accepted into supervision, and it is crucial to identify that those offenders accepted did not represent a random group of offenders being processed through the Allen County judicial system. In other words, as there is no contrast or control group available to serve as a comparison, it is challenging to claim without uncertainty that the outcomes are exclusively due to the programs implemented. This is especially true for samples seen at completion of supervision and at the three-year recidivism check, as it is not known how representative these samples are. That being said, the information has been examined in comparison to that which has been collected in the past, in an attempt to examine trends over time.

## Summary of Evaluation Findings – Community Transitions Programs

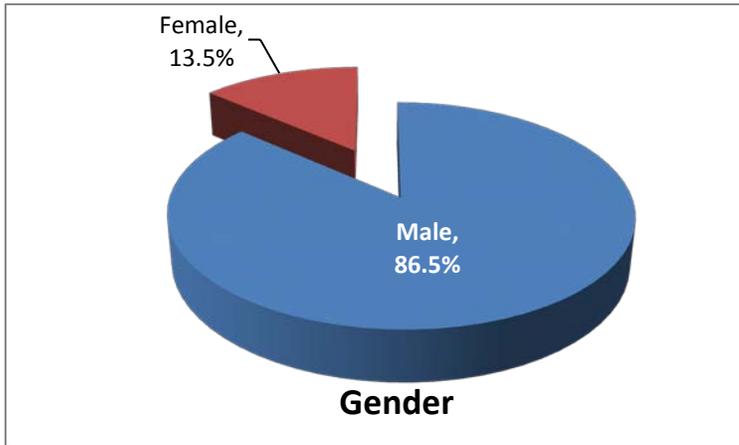
- Offenders entering supervision were on average, 34.5 years of age, with a range of 19.5 to 60.5 years.
- 86.5% of offenders entering supervision were male.
- 37.9% entering supervision were Caucasian, 56.1% were African American, and 6.1% were Latino.
- 71.2% of offenders entering supervision were single, 9.1% were married, 3.0% separated, and 16.7% divorced.
- Offenders reported having 0 to 6 dependent children, with a *median* number of children of 1.
- At entry into supervision, 27.3% of offenders had obtained a high school diploma and 42.4% completed a GED equivalency exam. None had obtained degrees beyond high school and 30.3% had completed less than a high school diploma.
- Of those entering CTP between 2012 and 2013, 34.8% lived in quadrant 4, 24.2% in quadrant 3, 9.1% in quadrant 2, and 31.8% in quadrant 1.
- Nearly 4 of every 5 (78.8%) offenders were charged with Class D Felonies, 1 in 10 (9.1%) with Class C Felonies or Class B Felonies (9.1%). About 1 in 30 (3.0%) were classified with Class A Felony offenses. None were charged with Murder or Misdemeanor offenses.
- For those offenders entering CTP with violence classification ratings (60.6%), 43.9% had ratings that indicated crimes that were violent but had no victim, while 16.7% of these offenders had convictions for violent crimes involving persons.
- About 1 in 3 (34.8%) offenders in the CTP were classified on the IRAS.
- In looking only at those offenders who were rated on the IRAS, 82.6% were found to have High or Very High risk levels. A small percentage (17.4%) of offenders classified on the IRAS demonstrated Moderate Risk of reoffending and none were classified as Low or Low/Moderate risk.
- Regarding program outcomes and the entire sample, 84.5% (49/58) successfully completed the program. The remaining offenders (n=9) were considered unsuccessful for receiving a new arrest, committing technical violations, escaping, or having other completion concerns.

- Given the low number of offenders who were identified in not successfully completing supervision and the small number of those in this phase of the program, results are not deemed to reliably represent those participating in this supervision component and are therefore, not offered.
- Just over half (57.6%) of offenders completing the recidivism check were rearrested on at least one occasion during the three-year period. The offenders who were rearrested were not seen as substantially different from those who were not rearrested.

## Section 1

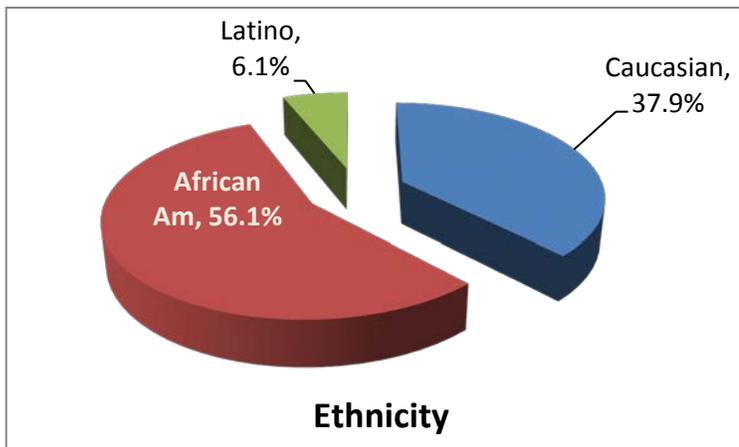
Who tends to enter the CTP?  
2012-2013

## Demographics of those entering the CTP between 2012 and 2013



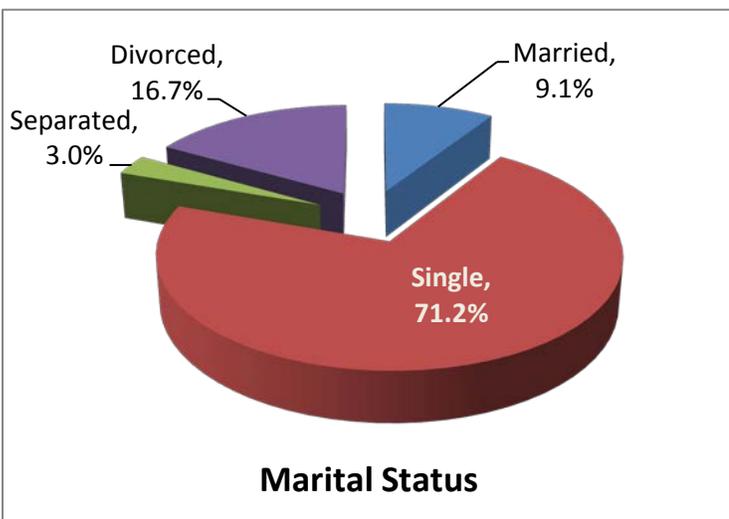
Sixty-six (66) offenders entered the Community Transitions Program between 2012 and 2013.

Offenders were on average 34.5 years of age (Standard Deviation [*SD*] = 9.7), with a range of just over 19 years of age (19.5) to just over 60 years of age (60.5). Offenders were largely male (86.5%).

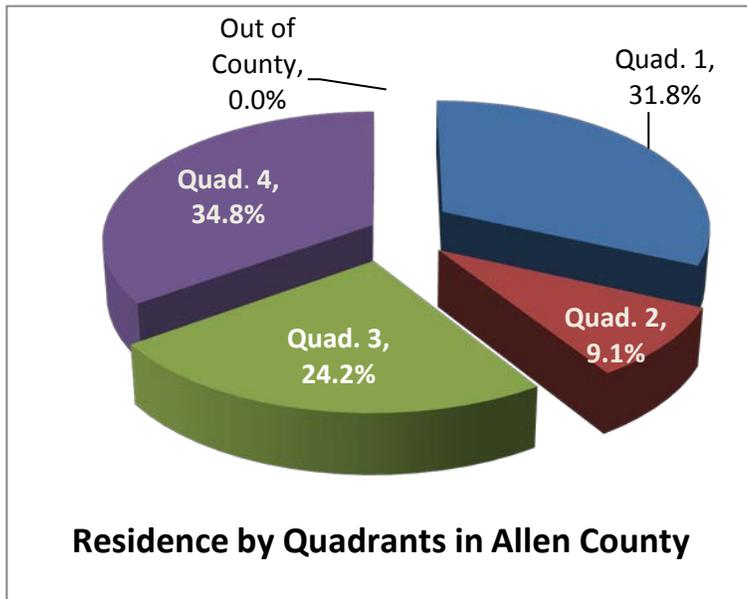


Close to 2 in 5 (37.9%) were Caucasian, more than half were African American (56.1%), less than 1 in 10 Latino (6.1%) and none other ethnicities (e.g., Asian, bi-racial).

More than 7 of every 10 offenders were single (71.2%), with those who were married (9.1%), separated (3.0%), or divorced (16.7%) representing less than one-third of those entering this supervision component. For these offenders, the median number of dependent children reported was 1, with a range of 0-6 children.



Over 2 in 3 (69.7%) of the members of this group of offenders had obtained a high school diploma (27.3%) or a GED (42.4%) equivalency exam, but only 30.3% had attended school for 12 years or more. None of these offenders (0.0%) had obtained degrees beyond a high school diploma. 30.3% reported less than high school completed.



None of the offenders entering the Community Transitions Program between 2012 and 2013 resided outside of Allen County. Two-thirds of all offenders entering the CTP resided in either Quadrant 4 (34.8%) or Quadrant 1 (31.8%). Nearly 1 of every 4 (24.2%) lived in Quadrant 3 and the remainder of the offenders lived in Quadrant 2 (9.1%).

## Mental Health and Substance Abuse Conditions Axis I, Axis II, and Axis V Diagnoses

Offenders entering ACCC programming between 2012 and 2013 were evaluated for mental disorders using the DSM-IV criteria. Of the offenders entering CTP, all data for *primary* and *secondary* conditions on Axis I and Axis II were missing. Axis V scores were also missing for all offenders entering the CTP between 2012 and 2013.

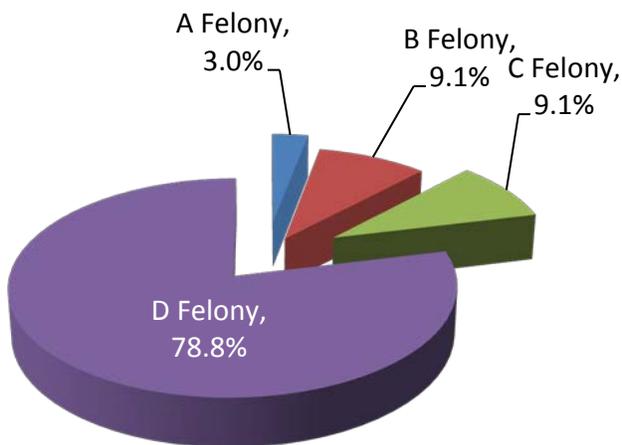
## Section 2

What types of offenses are committed leading to referral to the CTP?

## Types of Offenses Committed

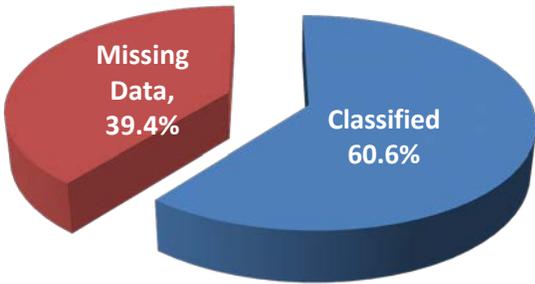
The chart below shows the percent of primary offenses for offenders entering the CTP. The most frequent charges were for property offenses and occurred in almost 1 in 3 offenders (30.3%). The second most frequent offense included those classified as drug offenses, with about 1 of every 4 offenders (24.2%) charged for crimes in this category. The third most frequently noted offense category was driving offenses, with over 1 of every 5 charged (22.7%). Violent offenses were reported for about 1 in 6 (15.2%) of those entering CTP and fewer than 1 in 10 (7.6%) of the primary offenses included convictions of public order offenses. There were no sexual offenses.

Primary Offense	%
Violent offenses	15.2
Property offenses	30.3
Drug offenses	24.2
Major driving offenses	22.7
Public order offenses	7.6
Sexual offenses	0.0



The average number of prior Department of Correction (DoC) commitments for those entering CTP was 2.3 ( $SD=1.9$ ), with a range of 0-9. The *Median* number of prior commitments was 2.0.

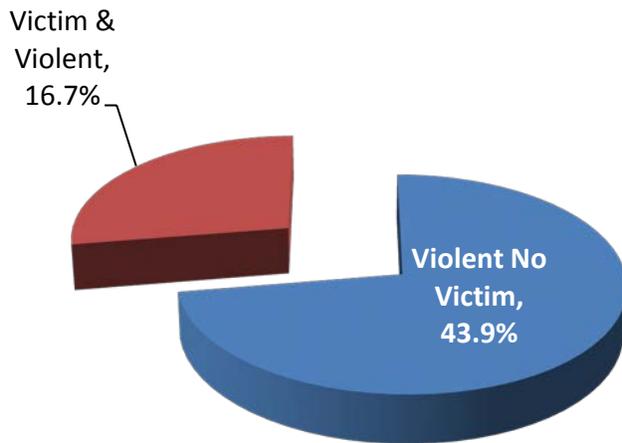
More than three-fourths (78.8%) of the offenders had been charged with Class D Felonies. Nearly 1 in 5 (18.2%) were charged with Class C (9.1%) Felonies or Class B (9.1%) Felonies. The remaining offenders entering the CTP were charged with Class A Felonies (3.0%). No offenders were charged with murder or Misdemeanor offenses.



**Violent Crime Classifications**

Some of the offenders entering CTP were classified as to whether they committed violent crimes. Classifications were done for almost two-thirds of the offenders (60.6%) entering CTP between 2012 and 2013. The remaining offenders (39.4%) were not classified and is shown as missing data.

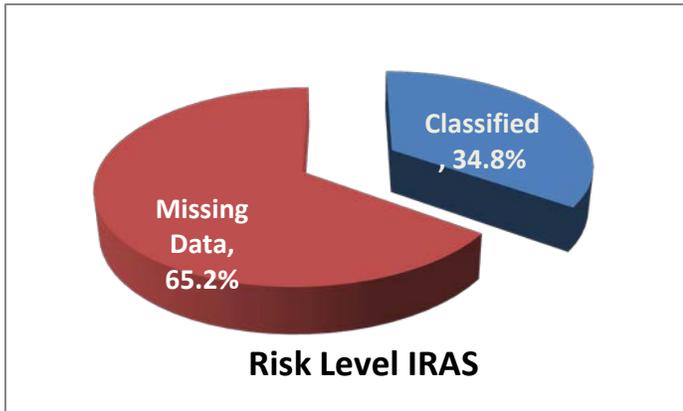
Of those classified, less than half the sample (43.9%) committed violent crimes that involved no victim, whereas just over 1 in 7 offenders in the CTP (16.7%) committed violent crimes against other persons.



**Valid Violent Crime Classifications**

## Section 3

What level of risk do CTP offenders demonstrate?



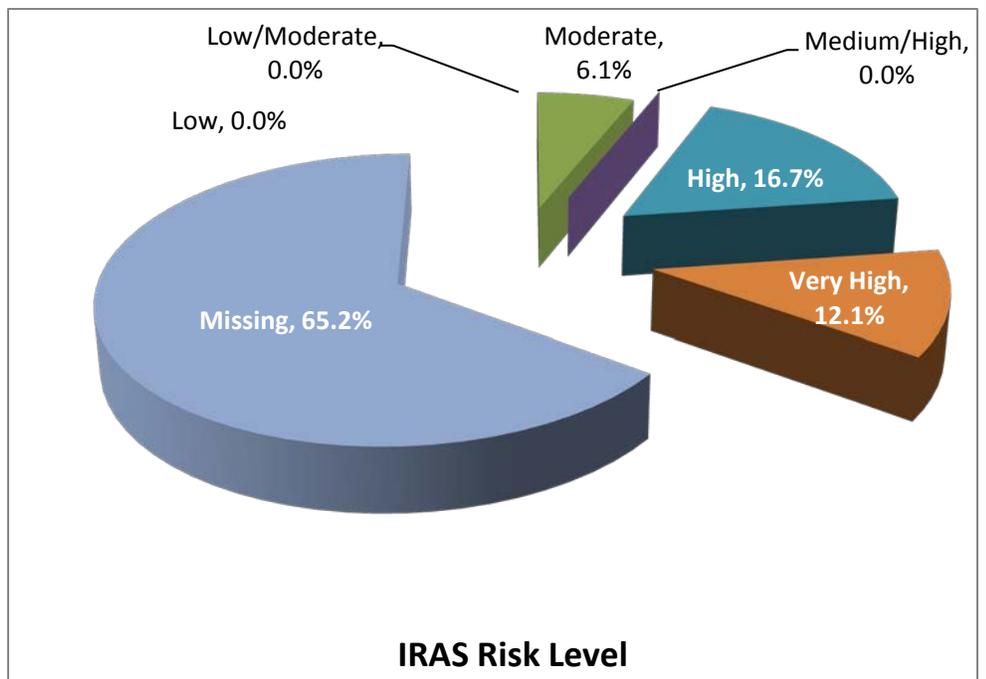
Few CTP offenders were classified on the PCL-R (n=6; 9.1%) or VRAG (n=4; 6.1%) and none were classified on the SORAG or SARA. No further analyses were conducted for these instruments due to the small sample size.

IRAS Scores	Mean	SD
<b>Total at entry</b>	28.4	6.2
Criminal History	5.7	1.6
Education, Employment, Finances	4.8	1.1
Family and Social Support	2.1	1.5
Neighborhood Problems	2.1	1.1
Substance Abuse	3.2	1.3
Peer Associations	4.3	1.2
Criminal Attitudes/Behaviors	6.3	2.2

About 1 in 3 (34.8%) offenders in the CTP were classified on the IRAS. Criminal Attitudes/Behaviors had the highest score ( $M=6.3, SD=2.2$ ), followed by Criminal History ( $M=5.7, SD=1.6$ ), Education, Employment, Finances ( $M=4.8, SD=1.1$ ), and Peer Associations ( $M=4.3, SD=1.2$ ). Lower mean scores were found for Substance Abuse ( $M=3.2, SD=1.3$ ), Neighborhood Problems ( $M=2.1, SD=1.1$ ), and Family and Social Support ( $M=2.1, SD=1.5$ ).

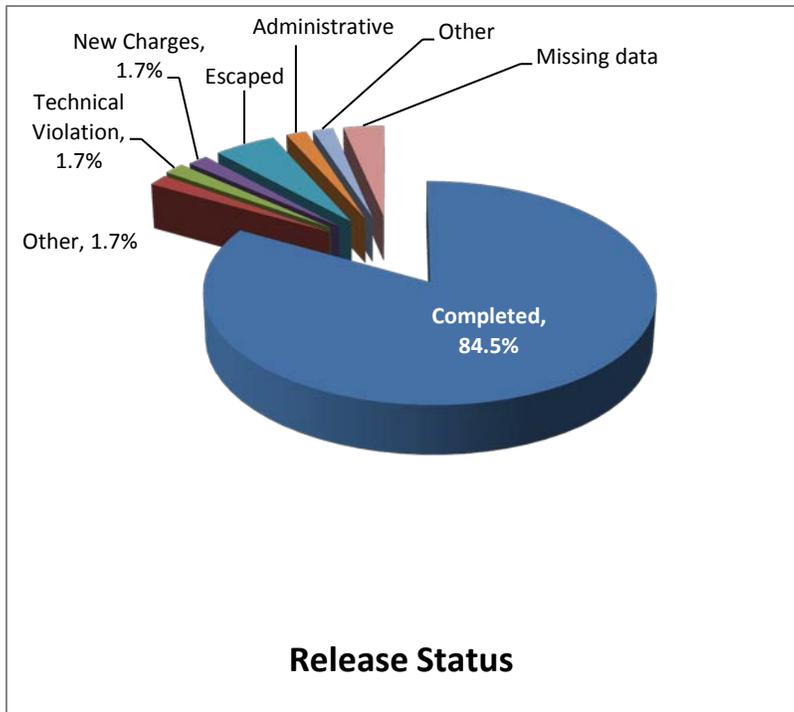
Of all offenders in CTP, 28.8% were considered to be at High Risk or Very High Risk of reoffending. In looking only at those offenders who were rated on the IRAS, 82.6% were found to have High or Very High risk levels.

A small percentage (6.1%) of all offenders were classified on the IRAS as Moderate Risk (or 17.4% of just those offenders receiving IRAS risk levels) and none were classified as Low or Low/Moderate risk.



## Section 4

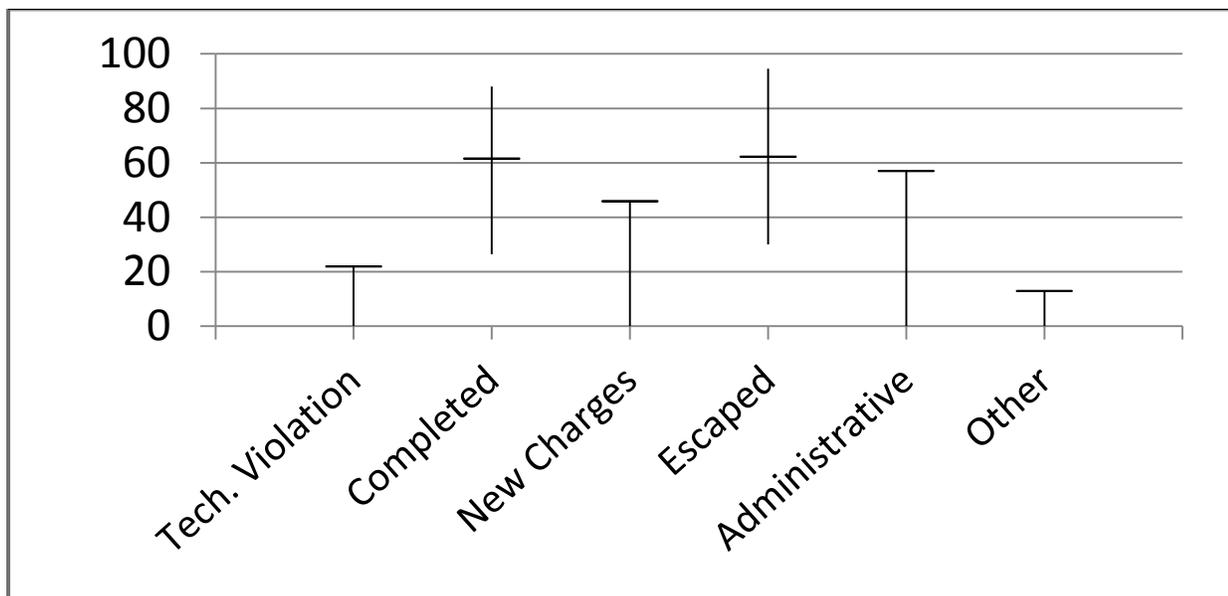
How successful are offenders in completing  
the CTP?



Of the 58 offenders who completed the CTP, 49 (84.5%) were identified as successful. Of the remaining offenders (n=9):

- 1.7% received new charges (n=1)
- 1.7% were classified as other (n=1)
- 1.7% committed technical violations (n=1)
- 5.2% were labeled as escaped (n=3)
- 1.7% were administratively released (n=1)
- 3.4% had missing data (n=2)

Time in program was also calculated for the categories identified above. Horizontal lines represent the mean length of time on program. The vertical lines represent the range encompassing +/- 1 standard deviation. Those in supervision the longest were those who were terminated due to having escaped (62.3 days). Offenders successfully completing supervision (61.6 days) were in supervision longer the remainder of the offenders terminated for other reasons. It should be noted that given the small sample size, these figures may not be accurate representations for all offenders in CTP.



## Section 5

What relationships exist between items 1-4 and program completion?

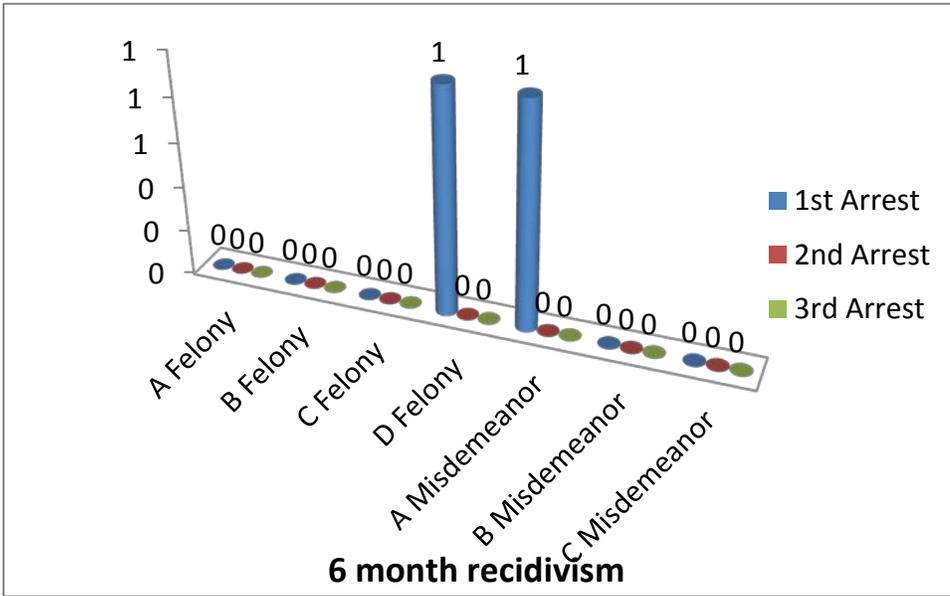
Characteristics of offenders who were identified as completing the Community Transitions program were further examined. This investigation compared characteristics of those who successfully completed their program to those who were terminated for technical violations, those for whom new charges were filed. Given the low number of offenders who were identified in not successfully completing supervision and the small number of those in this phase of the program, results are not deemed to reliably represent those participating in this supervision component and are therefore, not offered.

## Section 6

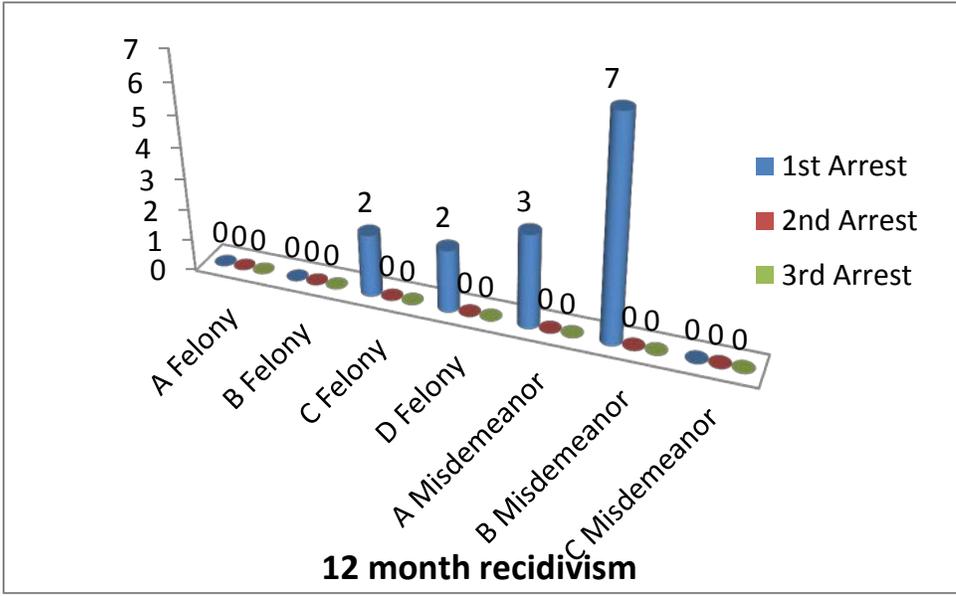
How frequent is recidivism and what form does that recidivism take?

In order to evaluate recent recidivism outcomes, a sample of offenders was comprised of those individuals alive and completing the 3-year recidivism check between July 15, 2011 and December 31, 2013 (N = 33).

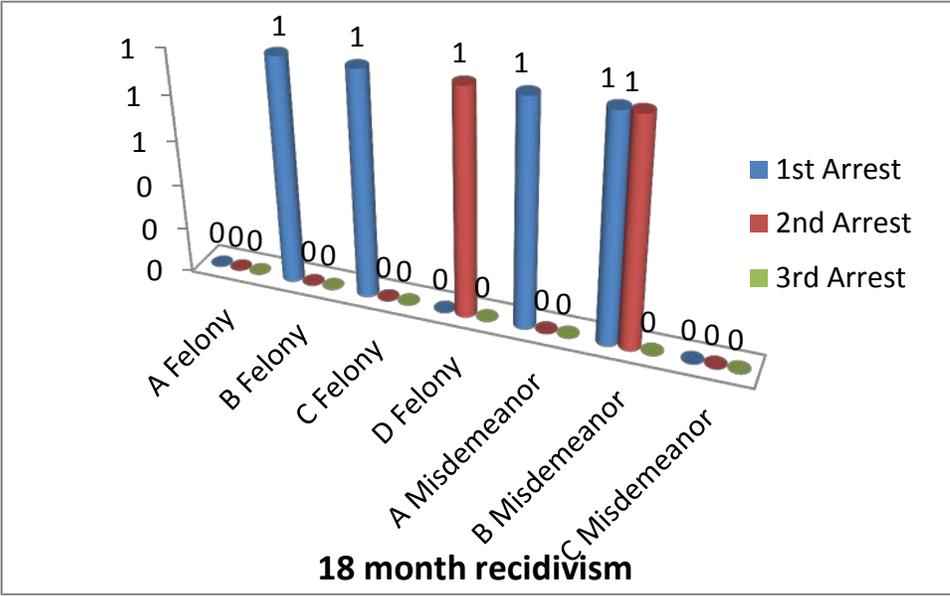
- The sample examined for recidivism was largely male (87.9%), African American (45.5%) or Caucasian (36.4%) (Hispanic/Latino offenders made up 15.2% of the sample and persons identified as bi-racial, 2.0%), averaged 34.0 years of age at entry into CTP ( $SD = 9.1$ ), and were not married (married=15.2%, single 66.7%, separated 6.1% and divorced 12.1%). The average number of dependent children for those in this sample was 1.4 ( $SD = 1.6$ ; Range =0-5), with a *Median* of 1 and a range of 0-17).
- The average number of years of education completed was 10.9 ( $SD = 1.5$ ; Range=9-16; n=31); however, over 3 in 4 (75.8%) of these offenders were high school graduates (30.3%) or had completed a high school equivalency diploma (45.5%).
- Thirteen (39.3%) of these 33 offenders had a mental health diagnosis on Axis I of the DSM-IV; most all of these diagnoses were related to substances (e.g., alcohol or illicit drugs). One of these 13 offenders was diagnosed with antisocial behavior. The other 60.6% did not have a diagnosis listed. Six (18.2%) of these 33 offenders had an Axis II diagnosis; all were given an antisocial personality disorder. However, 81.8% did not have a diagnosis listed.
- On average, this group had 2.3 prior commitments ( $SD = 2.9$ , *Median* number of prior commitments = 2; Range = 0-17).
- Offense types at intake were for this group of offenders included Class A Felony offenses (6.1%), Class B Felony offenses (30.3%), Class C Felony offenses (21.1%) and Class D Felony offenses (42.4%).
- A minority of these offenders were classified using the PCL-R (n=12). On those receiving this risk classification, 83.3% (n=10) were identified as low risk and 16.7% (n=2) as high risk. 63.6% (n=21) of sample did not have data recorded using the PCL-R risk classification. Hare PCL-R risk scores on these 12 offenders averaged 17.8 ( $SD = 6.3$ ; *Median* = 16.5; Range = 7-29). An exceptional minority of this group of offenders was assessed with the V-RAG, SORAG, SARA, and/or IRAS scales.
- These offenders were on program an average of 87.1 days (*Median* = 79.0;  $SD = 42.9$ ; range = 5 to 178). More than 4 in 5 (81.8%) were listed as completing supervision in a satisfactory fashion, while 18.2% were not.
- Just over half (57.6%) of offenders completing the recidivism check were rearrested on at least one occasion during the three-year period. Of those completing this 3-year post program recidivism check, the majority of offenders were rearrested once (33.3%), but 15.2% were rearrested twice. Almost 1 in 10 (9.1%) were arrested three times. Regarding timing of arrests, there were 2 arrested within 6 months, 7 within 6-12 months, 5 in 12-18 months, 6 within 18-24 months, 6 within 24-30 months, and 4 within 30-36 months.



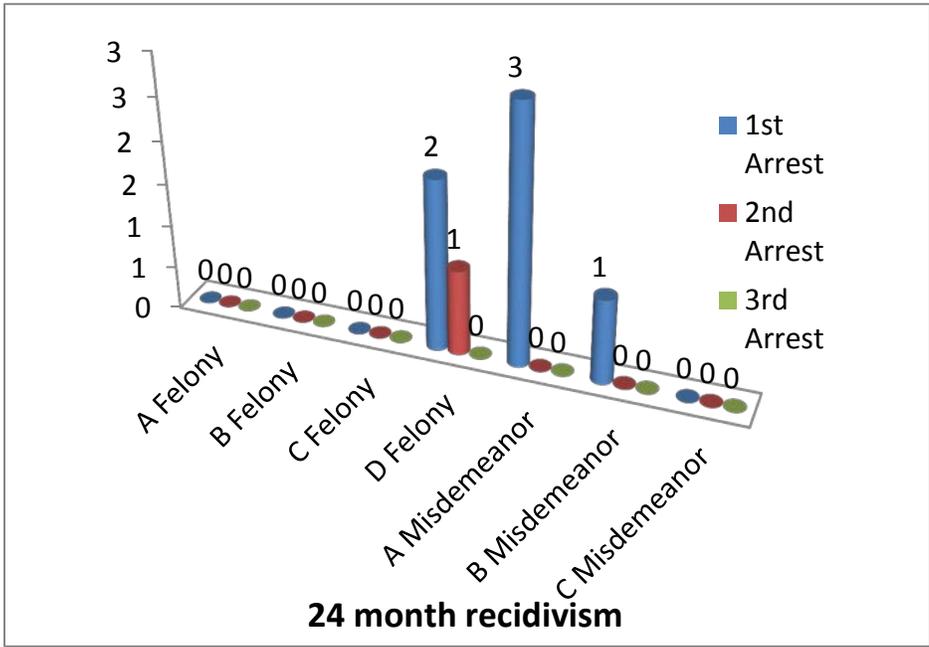
At a six-month recidivism check, 1 offender had been arrested for a Class D Felony. Of recidivism at the misdemeanor level, 1 was arrested for a Class A Misdemeanor offense.



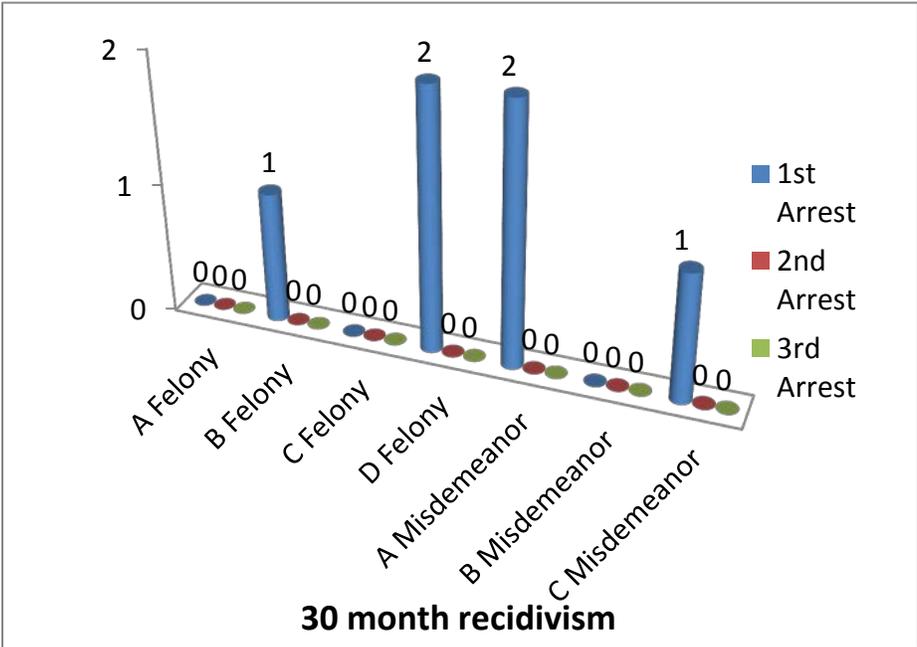
At a 12-month recidivism check (6-12 months post release), 2 offenders had been arrested for a Class D Felony offense and 2 for a Class C Felony. Of recidivism at the misdemeanor level, 3 were arrested for Class A Misdemeanors and 7 for B Misdemeanor offenses.



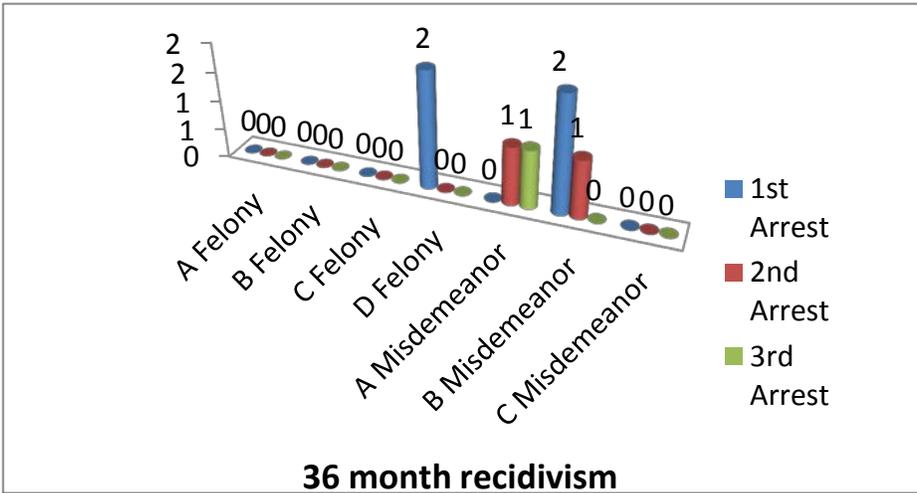
At an 18-month recidivism check (12-18 months post release), 1 offender had been arrested for a Class D Felony, 1 for a Class C Felony, and 1 for a Class B Felony offense. Of recidivism at the misdemeanor level, 1 was arrested for Class A Misdemeanors and 2



offenders for Class B Misdemeanor offenses. At a 24-month recidivism check (18-24 months post release), 3 offenders had been arrested for a Class D Felony offense. Of recidivism at the misdemeanor level, 3 were arrested for Class A Misdemeanors, and 1 for a Class B Misdemeanor offense.



At a 30-month recidivism check (24-30 months post release), 2 offenders had been arrested for a Class D Felony and 1 for a Class B Felony offense. Of recidivism at the misdemeanor level, 2 were arrested for Class A Misdemeanors and 1 for a Class C Misdemeanor offense.



At a 36-month recidivism check (30-36 months post release), 2 offenders had been arrested for a Class D Felony. Of recidivism at the misdemeanor level, 2 were arrested for Class A, and 3 for Class B Misdemeanor offenses.

## Section 7

What relationships exist between items 1-4  
and recidivism?

The following summarizes analysis of relationships between recidivism and other variables under investigation.

Characteristics of these offenders are presented below. Some caution is suggested in the interpretation of these findings, as there may be other unmeasured factors present that influence results. In addition, when compared to the larger population of offenders who are and will move through the CTP, the representativeness of these offenders is not established.

- There were no statistically significant bivariate relationships between the following variables and recidivism: age, gender, race/ethnicity, marital status, level of education or years of education completed, number of dependent children, presence of a mental health diagnosis, risk level categorization, number of total days on the program or actual release status.
- Although there was no statistical significance when looking at the four quadrants separately, further examination found that the odds for those offenders who lived in quadrants 3 and 4 at entry into supervision were 2.8 times higher than those offenders who lived in quadrants 1 and 2. Sixty-eight percent of those living in quadrants 3 and 4 were rearrested (n= 25), whereas 50% of those living in quadrants 1 and 2 were arrested during the 36-month, post-program time frame.

## References

- American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4<sup>th</sup> ed., text revision). Washington, DC: Author.
- Kessler, R.C., Berglund, P., Demler, O., Jin, R., Merikangas, K.R., & Walters, E.E. (2005). Lifetime prevalence and age-of-onset distributions of DSM-IV disorders in the national comorbidity survey replication. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 62 (6), 593-602.