Recidivism of Adult Offenders in North Carolina

NORTH CAROLINA SENTENCING AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION

PRESENTATION TO THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MARCH 9, 2017
2016 Adult Recidivism Report

Sample Description
- All offenders either placed on probation or released from prison in FY 2013

Follow-Up Period
- Fixed two-year follow-up

Criminal Justice Outcome Measures
- Arrests, convictions, and incarcerations (in state prison only) during follow-up
- Supplemental information on interim outcome measures for probationers
FY 2013 Sample

KEY FINDINGS
Sample Profile

Probation Entries & Prison Releases
N=48,976

Probation Entries
72% (n=35,103)

Prison Releases
28% (n=13,873)
Prisoners had more extensive prior criminal histories than probationers

**Prior Criminal Justice Contacts**

- **Probationers**
  - Arrest: 77%
  - Probation Admission: 53%
  - Probation Revocation: 33%
  - Incarceration: 27%

- **Prisoners**
  - Arrest: 94%
  - Probation Admission: 87%
  - Probation Revocation: 58%
  - Incarceration: 57%

- **Total**
  - Arrest: 82%
  - Probation Admission: 63%
  - Probation Revocation: 40%
  - Incarceration: 35%
Prisoners had higher recidivism rates than probationers

Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up

- **Probationers**
  - Recidivist Arrest: 38%
  - Recidivist Conviction: 19%
  - Recidivist Incarceration: 14%

- **Prisoners**
  - Recidivist Arrest: 48%
  - Recidivist Conviction: 26%
  - Recidivist Incarceration: 21%

- **Total**
  - Recidivist Arrest: 40%
  - Recidivist Conviction: 21%
  - Recidivist Incarceration: 16%
Although higher than previous years, recidivist arrest rates have been stable over the past few years.
Recidivist incarceration rates have decreased as a result of the JRA

Recidivist Incarceration Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Probationers</th>
<th>Prisoners</th>
<th>All Offenders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2002</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2004</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2006</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2009</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2011</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2013</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prison Releases

KEY FINDINGS
Very few prisoners (11%) were subject to the provisions of the JRA.

Prison Releases
N=13,873

- Post-Release Supervision
  31% (n=4,307)

- No Post-Release Supervision
  69% (n=9,566)
Prisoners released without PRS had more extensive prior criminal histories than those with PRS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior Criminal Justice Contacts</th>
<th>PRS</th>
<th>No PRS</th>
<th>All Prisoners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrest</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation Admission</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation Revocation</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incarceration</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prisoners with PRS had slightly lower recidivist arrest and conviction rates, but higher recidivist incarceration rates, than those without PRS.
Probation Entries

KEY FINDINGS
All probationers were subject to the provisions of the JRA

Probation Entries
N=31,832

Misdemeanants
62% (n=19,711)

Felons
38% (n=12,121)
Recidivist arrest rates indicate probationers were assigned to appropriate supervision levels.

Recidivist Arrest Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up

- **Level 1** (most restrictive): 60%
- **Level 2**: 47%
- **Level 3**: 35%
- **Level 4**: 24%
- **Level 5** (least restrictive): 13%

Overall recidivism rate: 37%
While violation rates have increased, revocation rates and recidivist incarceration rates have decreased as intended by the JRA.
CRV Offenders

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS
The majority of CRV offenders were assessed at the highest risk levels, while the majority of felony probationers were assessed at the moderate risk level.
When controlling for risk, CRV offenders had lower recidivist arrest rates than similar felony probationers.

Recidivist Arrest Rates: Two Year Follow-Up

- **Extreme Risk**
  - CRV Offenders: 48%
  - Felony Probation Entries: 57%

- **High Risk**
  - CRV Offenders: 44%
  - Felony Probation Entries: 49%

- **Moderate Risk**
  - CRV Offenders: 41%
  - Felony Probation Entries: 42%

- **Total**
  - CRV Offenders: 45%
  - Felony Probation Entries: 46%
Conclusions

Statewide recidivism rates have generally been consistent over the past decade.

Consistent findings over time point to the relative success of probationers compared to prisoners.

JRA has contributed to a decline in recidivist incarceration rate due to limits to revocations of probation and shifting misdemeanants out of prison.

Risk assessments are a valuable tool in predicting recidivism.

Expansion of PRS under JRA will have increasing importance in criminal justice system.

SPAC recidivism studies are limited by lack of statewide automated jail data.
Contact Us

SENTENCING AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION
919-890-1470 | WWW.NCSPAC.ORG