Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission

August 2016

Quick Facts: Adult Recidivism

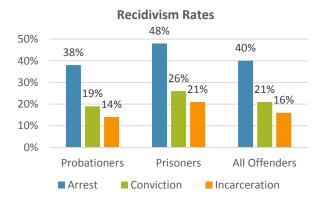
FISCAL YEAR 2013

- → Offenders sentenced under Structured Sentencing who were either placed on supervised probation or were released from a NC prison during FY 2013 with a twoyear follow-up period.
- Criminal justice outcomes examined for all offenders included recidivist arrests, convictions, and incarcerations (state prisons only).
- ⇒ All probationers and only 11% of prisoners were subject to the provisions of the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA).
- ⇒ Interim outcome measures examined for probationers included violations, confinement in response to violation (CRV), and revocation while under supervision.



Offender Profile

- Offenders averaged 32 years of age. The majority were male (78%), 50% were black, 68% were single, 61% were high school dropouts, 43% were employed, and 48% had a substance abuse issue.
- All prisoners had a felony conviction, while the majority of probationers had a misdemeanor conviction (62%).
- Compared to probationers, prisoners tended to have more extensive prior criminal histories and higher recidivism rates.



Probationers

50%

40%

30%

20%

10%

35%

Misdemeanants

- Felons tended to have more extensive prior criminal histories and higher recidivism rates compared to misdemeanants.
- Probationers supervised at the highest levels tended to have higher rates of recidivism and other outcomes compared to probationers supervised at the lowest levels.

Recidivism Rates

39% Arrest 17% Conviction

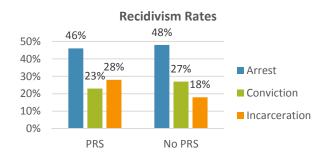
Incarceration

Interim Outcome Measures Supervision Levels Violation **CRV** Revocation L1: most restrictive 86% 19% 39% L2 79% 18% 27% L3 14% 17% 68% L4 8% 8% 56% L5: least restrictive 42% 4% 2%

Felons

Prisoners

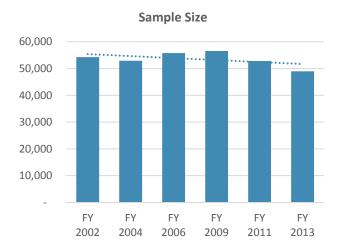
- Most prisoners (69%) were released back to the community without post-release supervision (PRS).
- Prisoners released without PRS had more extensive criminal histories and were slightly more likely to have recidivist arrests and convictions, while prisoners with PRS were more likely to have recidivist incarcerations.



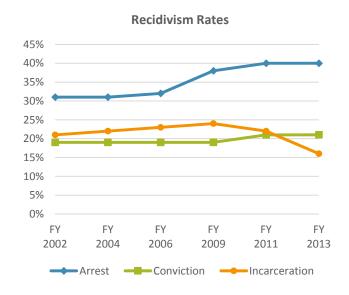
Quick Facts: Adult Recidivism

FISCAL YEAR 2002 - FISCAL YEAR 2013

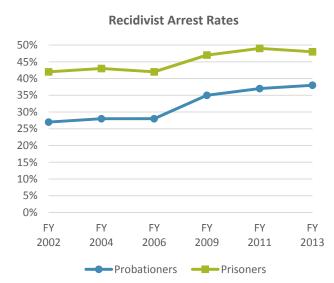
From FY 2002 to FY 2013, the number of offenders in the recidivism sample has decreased by 10%, primarily due to decreases in the probation population.



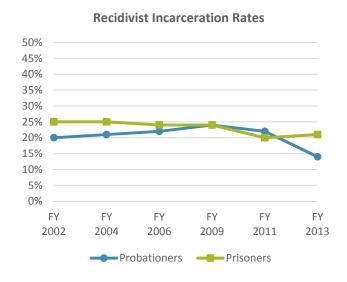
Over time, recidivist arrest rates have increased, primarily due to improved technology and the increase in the fingerprinting of offenders with only a misdemeanor arrest. Recidivist convictions have remained steady, while legislative changes (the JRA) have led to recent decreases in recidivist incarcerations.



Consistent findings over time point to the relative success of probationers compared to prisoners. For probationers, recidivist arrest rates ranged from 27% to 38% compared to 42% to 49% for prisoners from FY 2002 to FY 2013.



The JRA has contributed to a decline in the recidivist incarceration rate in North Carolina, primarily as a result of two changes mandated in the legislation: limiting revocations of probation for technical violations and shifting misdemeanants out of the state prison system and to the local jails.



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2002 - FY 2013 Correctional Program Evaluation Data

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For the NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's *Correctional Program Evaluation: Offenders Placed on Probation or Released from Prison in FY 2013* and all other publications, see the Commission's website: http://www.nccourts.org/Courts/CRS/Councils/spac/.