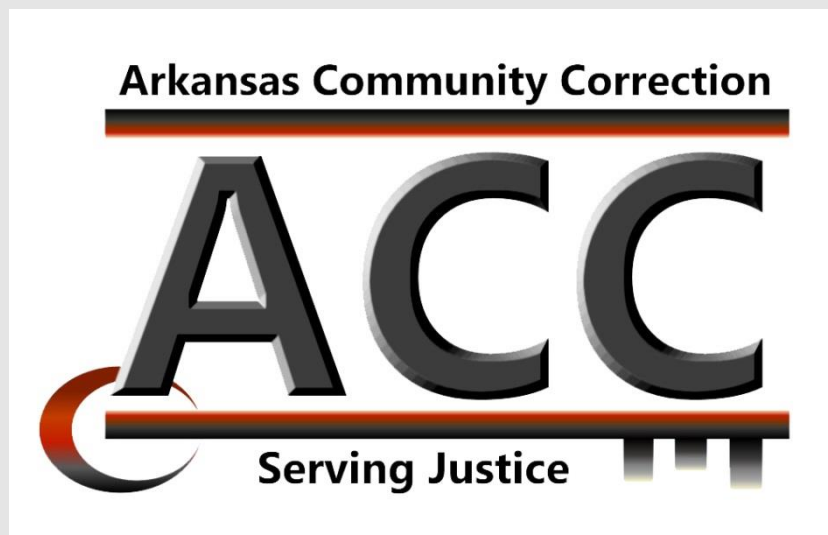


# ARKANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTION CENTERS

Measuring Recidivism - 2014 Releases



December 2018

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# COMMUNITY CORRECTION CENTERS

## Measuring Recidivism - 2014 Releases

### I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) is responsible for the administration of all Community Correction Center (CCC) residential programs in Arkansas. Residential community corrections programs offer an alternative to traditional prison, intended to help reintegrate residents into their communities.

Per Act 1030 of 2013, recidivism is defined as a criminal act that results in the re-arrest, reconviction, or return to incarceration of a person with or without a new sentence during a three-year period following release from custody. For the purpose of this study, reincarceration is defined as a return to CCC or the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC), including any time spent in county jail backup. This study examines the recidivism rate of CCC releases during the calendar year 2014.

Research suggests that an offender's first three years in the community after release represent the period of greatest risk for re-offending. Recidivism rates are calculated utilizing the time frames of six-month, one-year, and three-years.

The intent of this study is not to investigate why recidivism occurs nor to infer causal relationships between certain variables and criminal behavior. Instead, the data provided here should be interpreted as descriptive in nature only of offenders released during 2014. Any conclusions derived are the interpretation of the reader.

## II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Arkansas's Community Correction Centers are community based, American Correctional Association (ACA) accredited, licensed residential treatment facilities that provide supervision and treatment that concentrate on drug and alcohol rehabilitation, relapse prevention, anger management, conflict resolution, life and social skills, job readiness, parenting skills, and employment-related skills. Offenders housed in these facilities are referred to as residents. At CCC, residents experience living in a pro-social, structured environment where treatment addresses the person as a whole, not just the substance use disorder.

CCCs utilize a therapeutic community concept with a highly regulated daily regimen with clearly stated expectations of behavior. Personal treatment plans utilize group and individual activities to address the person's social, educational, familial, and psychological needs. Substance use disorders often erode social functioning and community and family ties; therefore, a major emphasis is placed on reestablishing healthy coping skills and values as well as regaining physical and emotional health.

Residents are assigned jobs that teach responsibility and the importance of work, respect, and self-reliance. Within the therapeutic community, residents focus on changing negative patterns of thought and behavior and building self-efficacy. As a result, participants learn to set goals and think of themselves as primarily responsible for their own change process.

The goal of the therapeutic community is to enable residents to become successful, law-abiding citizens. This goal is addressed through programming designed to change attitudes and behavior, instill hope, and foster emotional growth, including self-management.

In 2014, Arkansas operated five CCCs located throughout the state:

- Central Arkansas CCC (CAC) – Little Rock. Capacity = 150 males
- Northeast Arkansas CCC (NECCC) – Osceola. Capacity = 240 males
- Northwest Arkansas CCC (NWCCC) – Fayetteville. Capacity = 100 females
- Southeast Arkansas CCC (SECCC) – Pine Bluff. Capacity = 350 females

- Southwest Arkansas CCC (SWCCC) – Texarkana. Capacity = 475 males

Generally, candidates for admission to a CCC are offenders with non-violent target offenses with a sentence length of no more than four years (See Appendices A and B for acceptance criteria and target offenses).

Offenders released in 2014 were sentenced to a Community Correction Center (CCC) in one of four ways:

**Judicial Transfer** - Admission criteria to CCC as a judicial transfer is defined by Arkansas Code (§§ 12-27-105, 16-93-1203, and 16-93-1205). The offender is sentenced to ADC with a transfer to incarceration at a CCC where the sentence is four years or less. Act 682 of 2005 (§12-27-127), commonly referred to as the Early Release Act, allows early release of judicially transferred residents by the Parole Board if the resident has been incarcerated at a CCC for a minimum of 270 days and has successfully completed therapeutic programs. Upon completion of confinement at CCC, the resident will either be transferred to community supervision or discharged. Act 682 has been superseded by Act 423 of 2017.

**Probation Plus** - Admission as Probation Plus consists of a term of probation coupled with an additional period of confinement at a CCC. The judge may order the “plus” period of confinement (up to one year) at any point during the probation term. Probation Plus offenders remain under the authority of the court and return to probation once they have completed their confinement.

**Drug Court Treatment** - Offenders participating in a drug court program may be sanctioned by their judge to incarceration of 91 – 365 days for intensive drug treatment at a CCC. Drug court offenders with less than a 91 day sentence were omitted from this study as they were not incarcerated long enough to fully participate in treatment services. Drug court offenders remain under the authority of the court and return to drug court supervision once they have completed their confinement.

**Parole Violator** – Violation of terms and conditions of supervision may result in an offender’s parole violation. Parole violators return to supervision upon approval of the Parole Board.

In 2013, the population of parole violators housed in county jails awaiting transfer to the Arkansas Department of Corrections grew to an all- time high. In an effort to alleviate the county jail back-up of parole violators, ACC implemented a policy change to accept parole violators who met CCC admission criteria. Subsequently, the 2014 releases included, for the first time, parole violators.

## PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of this study includes all CCCs operated by ACC (excluding Technical Violator Centers) in the state and the recidivism trends of offenders who participated in CCC programming.

The data source utilized was ACC’s electronic Offender Management Information System (eOMIS). eOMIS serves as the collection point of data for statewide operations of offender management including offenders in prison and on supervision.

Data were gathered on all releases from Community Correction Centers during the calendar year 2014. Releases are event based and not “resident” based, meaning that one individual may be released and recidivate multiple times during the study period. In such cases, each recidivating event contributed to the overall recidivism rates.

Releases removed from the 2014 study are as follows:

- Offenders transferred to ADC because:
  - offense criteria for CCC was not met;
  - discipline problem; or
  - new charges or new pending felony convictions.
- Offenders who died.

**RECIDIVISM.** Recidivism serves as a significant performance measure for the overall rehabilitation process. This study focuses mainly on reincarceration recidivism. At the time of this writing, arrest data was not available from the Arkansas Crime Information Center.

All criminogenic data were collected for the three-year period following the offender’s release from a Community Correction Center in 2014. Of the total 1590 offenders released, 526 (33.1%) were reconvicted and 574 (36.1%) were reincarcerated within three years of release.

Figure 1 summarizes the 2014 reconviction and reincarceration statistics by breaking the three-year period into three specific groups of time:

- 6 Months – 1 to 180 days
- 1 Year – 1 day to one year
- 3 Years - 1 day to three years

These time period categories are not exclusive. If an offender recidivates within 6 months, he/she is counted in the 1 Year and 3 Years categories also.

There is a notable increase (approximately 20%) in recidivism between Year 1 and Year 3 as shown below.

**Figure 1: 2014 Recidivism Rates by Time**

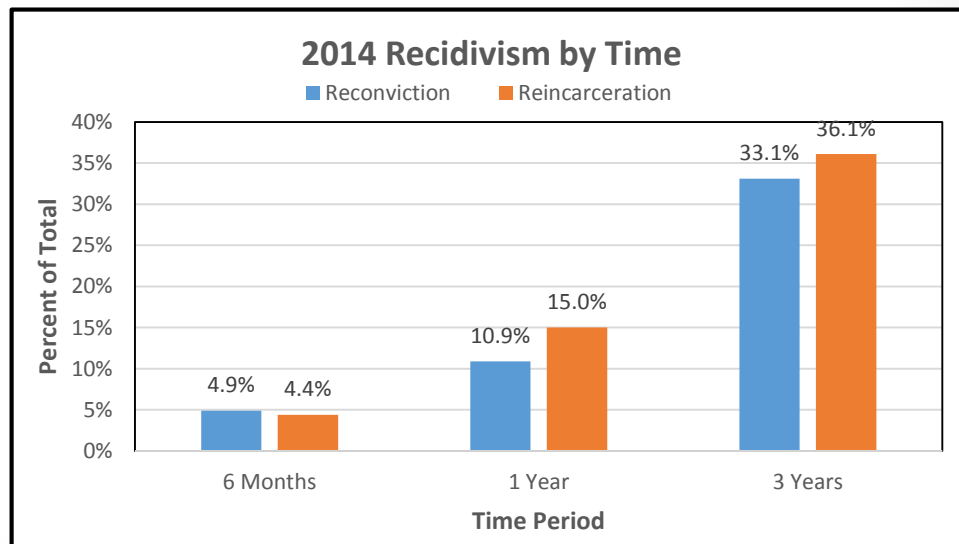
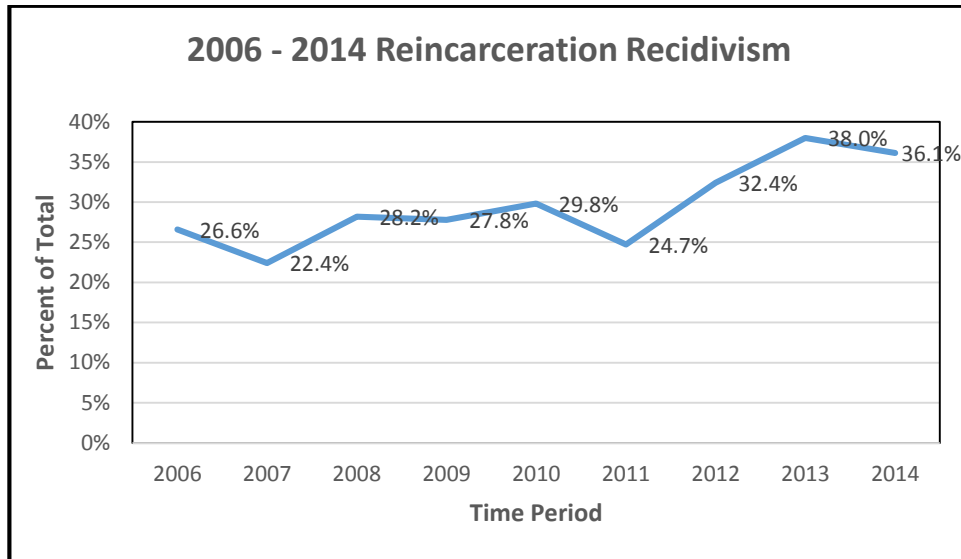




Figure 2 summarizes the reincarceration rate trend for the years 2006 – 2014. The 2014 reincarceration rate decreased 1.9% from that of 2013.

**Figure 2: Reincarceration Recidivism Trend 2006 - 2014**



**RELEASES.**

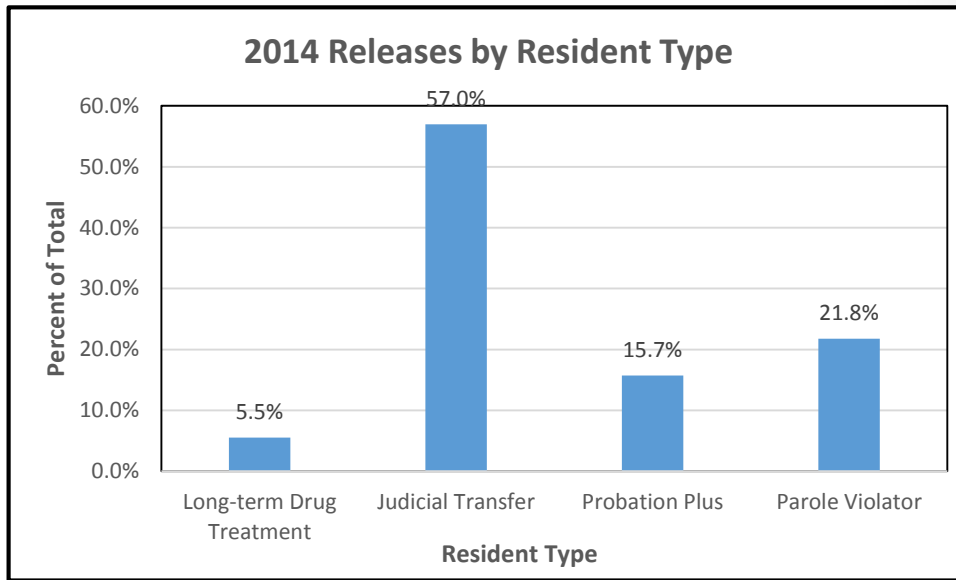
Figure 3 summarizes the offenders released by resident type and releasing CCC with corresponding reincarceration rates.

**Figure 3: Release Statistics**

Category	Study Group		Reincarceration	
	Releases	%	Residents	%
<b>Resident Type</b>				
Long Term Drug Court	88	5.5%	49	55.7%
Judicial Transfer	906	57.0%	265	29.2%
Probation Plus	250	15.7%	75	30.0%
Parole Violator	346	21.8%	185	53.5%
<b>Releasing Community Correction Center</b>				
Central - Males	193	12.1%	74	38.3%
Northeast - Males	321	20.2%	114	35.5%
Northwest - Females	158	9.9%	39	24.7%
Southeast - Females	298	18.7%	85	28.5%
Southwest - Males	620	39.0%	262	42.3%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1590</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>36.1%</b>

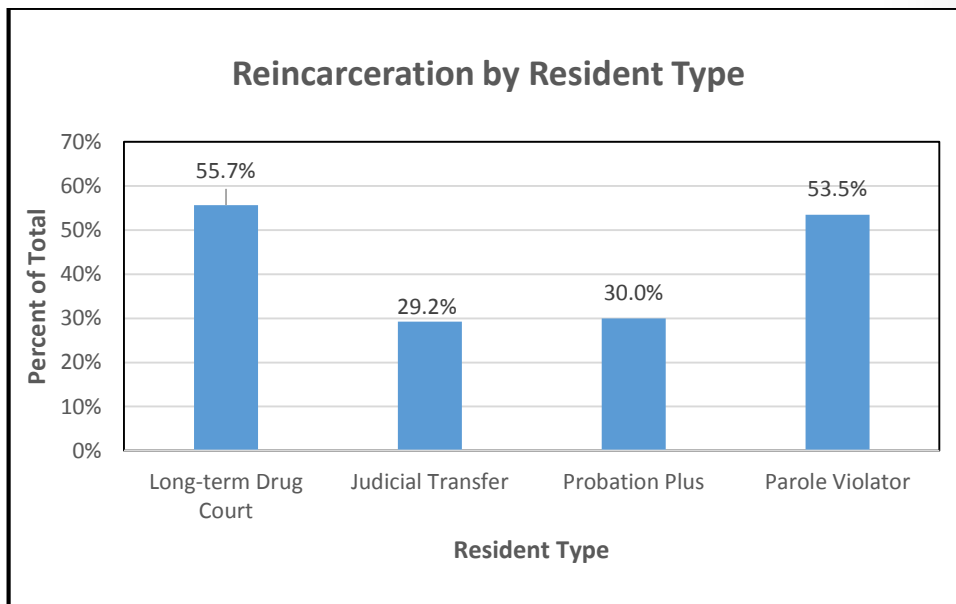
**RESIDENT TYPE:** Figure 4 details the 2014 releases by their resident type: Long-term Drug Treatment, Judicial Transfer, Probation Plus and Parole Violators.

**Figure 4: Releases by Resident Type**



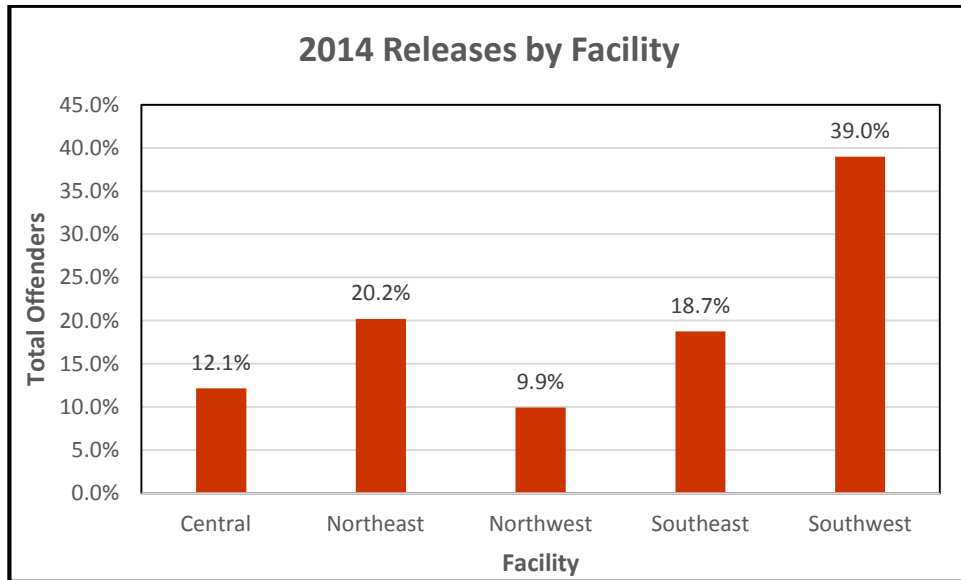
Long-term Drug Court and Parole Violator releases had higher reincarceration rates than Probation Plus and Judicial Transfer.

**Figure 5: Reincarceration by Resident Type**



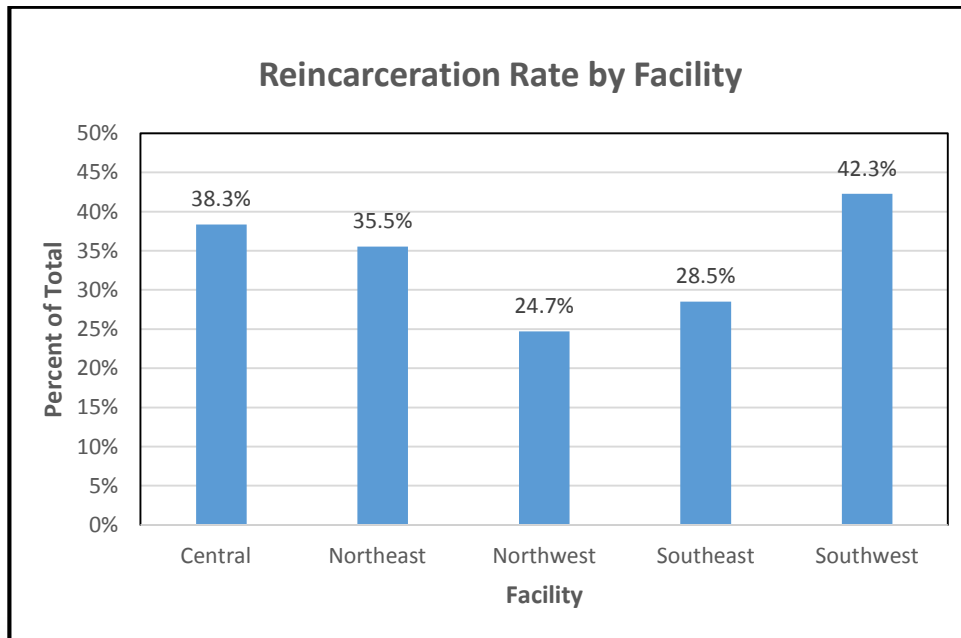
**RELEASING COMMUNITY CORRECTION CENTER:** Southwest CCC has the largest number of releases.

**Figure 6: Releases by Facility**



The female facilities (Northwest and Southeast) had the lowest reincarceration rates. Figure 7 shows the total releases by facility and their corresponding recidivism rates:

**Figure 7: Reincarceration by Facility**



**RELEASE REASON.** Almost half (45.2%) of the offenders released were released under Act 682 and twenty percent (21.3%) were released to probation. Figure 8 summarizes the releases by reason.

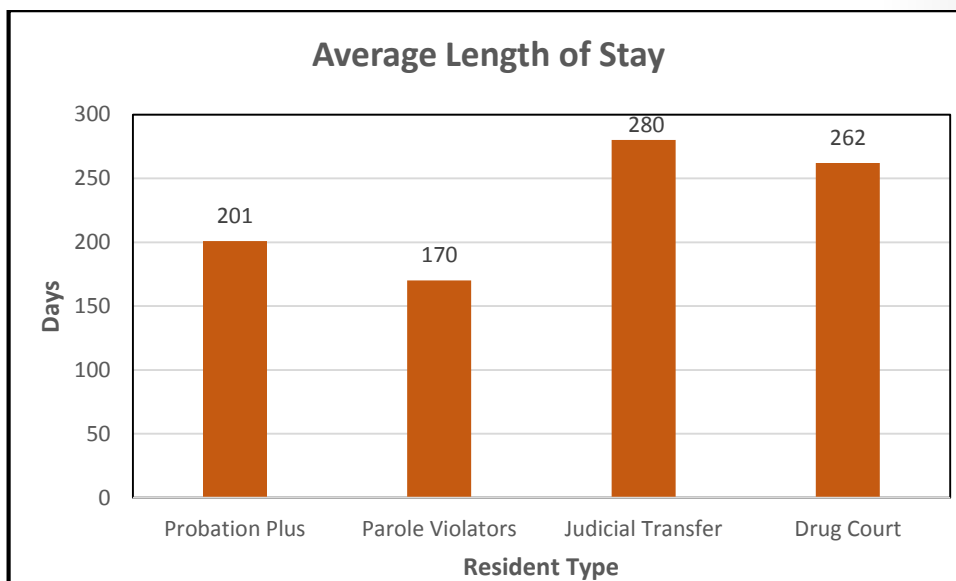
**Figure 8: CCC Releases by Release Reason**

Release Reason	Number of Residents	Percent
Discharged	4	0.3%
Released by Court	7	0.4%
Released to Parole Supervision	523	32.9%
Released to Probation Supervision	338	21.3%
Act 682 Released to Supervision	718	45.2%
Grand Total	1590	100.0%

As illustrated in Figure 9 below, Judicial Transfers will generally average a longer length of stay than Probation Plus due to the nature of the sentencing laws.

The average length of stay of Judicial Transfers increased two days and Probation Plus decreased 32 days from the previous year.

**Figure 9: Average Length of Stay by Resident Type**



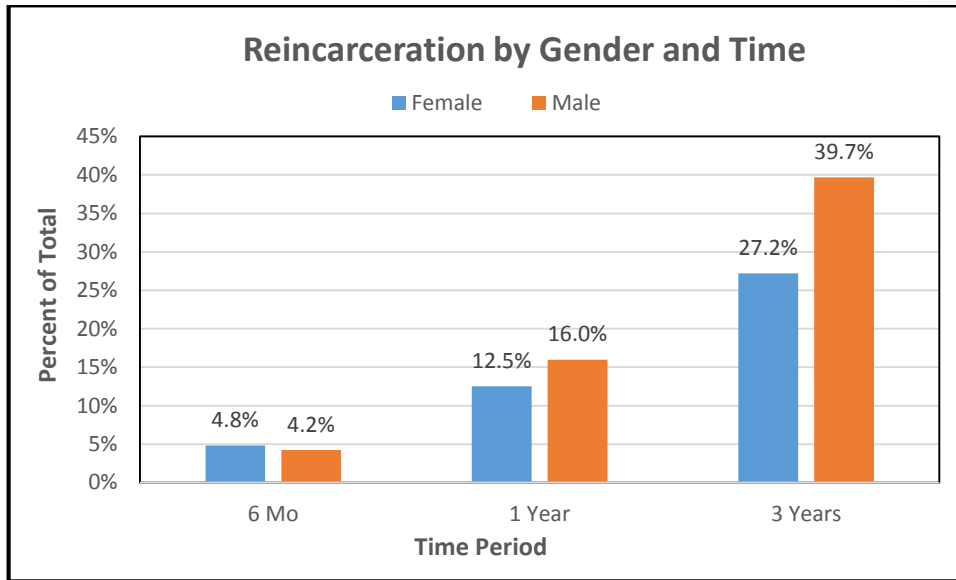
**POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS.** Research has shown that demographic factors such as gender, race, age, education level, and marital status may correlate with recidivism trends. Figure 10 summarizes the demographic characteristics and their corresponding reincarceration rates of the 2014 releases.

**Figure 10: Reincarceration by Demographics and Time Period**

Demographic Category	Releases	% of Releases	Reincarceration					
			6 Months	%	1 Year	%	3 Years	%
<b>Gender</b>								
Female	456	28.7%	22	4.8%	57	12.5%	124	27.2%
Male	1134	71.3%	48	4.2%	181	16.0%	450	39.7%
<b>Race</b>								
Asian	9	0.6%	0	0.0%	1	11.1%	1	11.1%
Black	283	17.8%	11	3.9%	44	15.5%	100	35.3%
Caucasian	1239	77.9%	59	4.8%	190	15.3%	456	36.8%
Hispanic/Mexican	47	3.0%	0	0.0%	2	4.3%	15	31.9%
NA Indian	7	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%	2	28.6%
Other	5	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Highest Level of Education at Release</b>								
Some College/College Graduate	182	11.4%	2	1.1%	14	7.7%	38	20.9%
High School Diploma or GED	1006	63.3%	55	5.5%	172	17.1%	392	39.0%
Less than High School	386	24.3%	12	3.1%	49	12.7%	139	36.0%
Unknown	16	1.0%	1	6.3%	3	18.8%	5	31.3%
<b>Age at Release</b>								
Less than 20	28	1.8%	1	3.6%	7	25.0%	16	57.1%
20 - 29	663	41.7%	38	5.7%	124	18.7%	285	43.0%
30 - 39	531	33.4%	24	4.5%	71	13.4%	187	35.2%
40 - 49	247	15.5%	6	2.4%	32	13.0%	70	28.3%
50 - 59	103	6.5%	1	1.0%	4	3.9%	14	13.6%
60 and Above	18	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	11.1%
<b>Marital Status at Release</b>								
Cohabited	34	2.1%	1	2.9%	7	20.6%	14	41.2%
Divorced	283	17.8%	5	1.8%	32	11.3%	82	29.0%
Married	315	19.8%	11	3.5%	35	11.1%	98	31.1%
Separated	114	7.2%	3	2.6%	16	14.0%	42	36.8%
Single	800	50.3%	50	6.3%	143	17.9%	318	39.8%
Widowed	15	0.9%	0	0.0%	1	6.7%	4	26.7%
Other/Unknown	29	1.8%	0	0.0%	4	13.8%	16	55.2%
<b>Total Offenders</b>	<b>1590</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>36.1%</b>

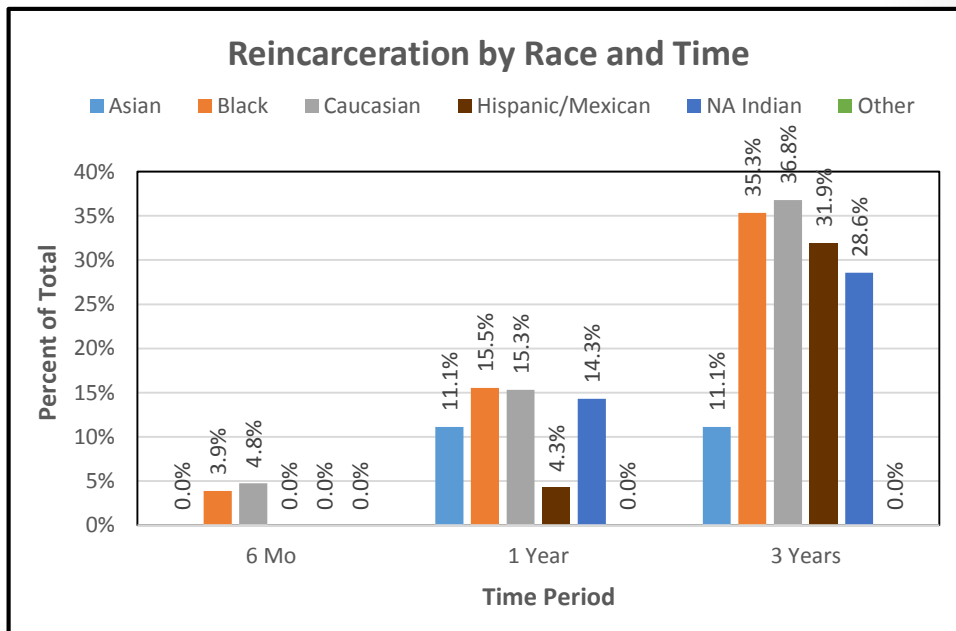
**GENDER.** As in previous years, the rate of reincarceration by males is higher than that of females. Figure 11 displays the recidivism by gender and time.

**Figure 11: Reincarceration by Gender and Time**



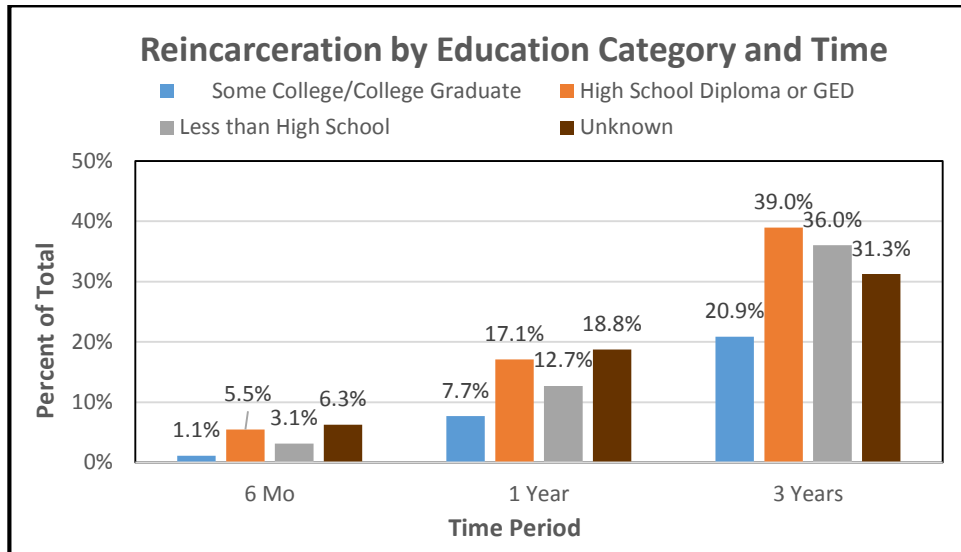
**RACE.** White had higher reincarceration rates than Blacks. Reincarceration rates increased approximately twenty percent (20%) for blacks and whites between year one and three.

**Figure 12: Reincarceration by Race and Time**



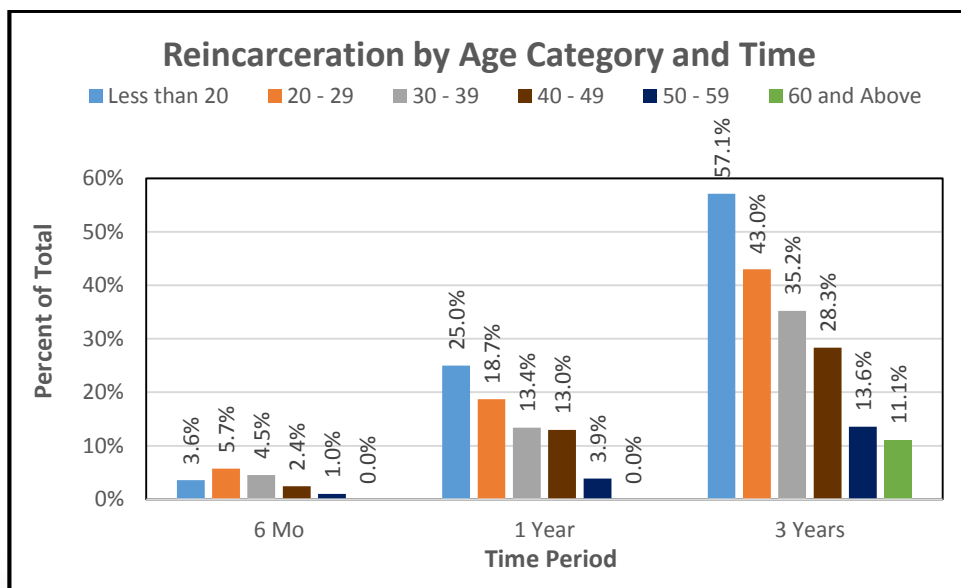
**EDUCATION LEVEL.** Unlike the 2010 – 2013 study, offenders with at least some college education had lower reincarceration rates than those with no college.

**Figure 13: Reincarceration by Education Category and Time**



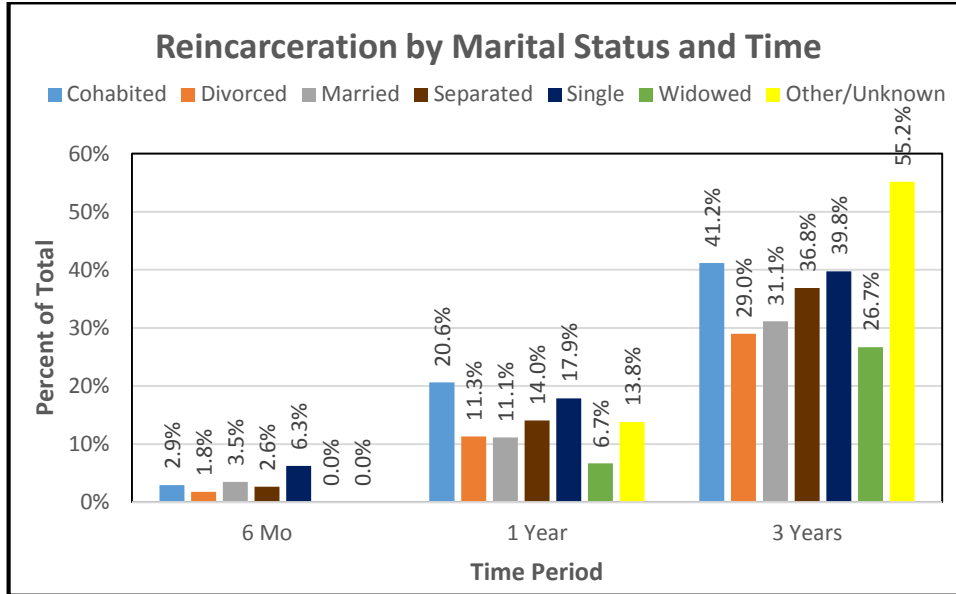
**AGE.** Consistent with the 2010 – 2013 study, the majority of recidivist were less than thirty years of age. Reincarceration rates more than doubled for offenders age 39 and younger between 1 Year and 3 Years. Figure 14 details the reincarceration rates by age category.

**Figure 14: Reincarceration by Age Category and Time**



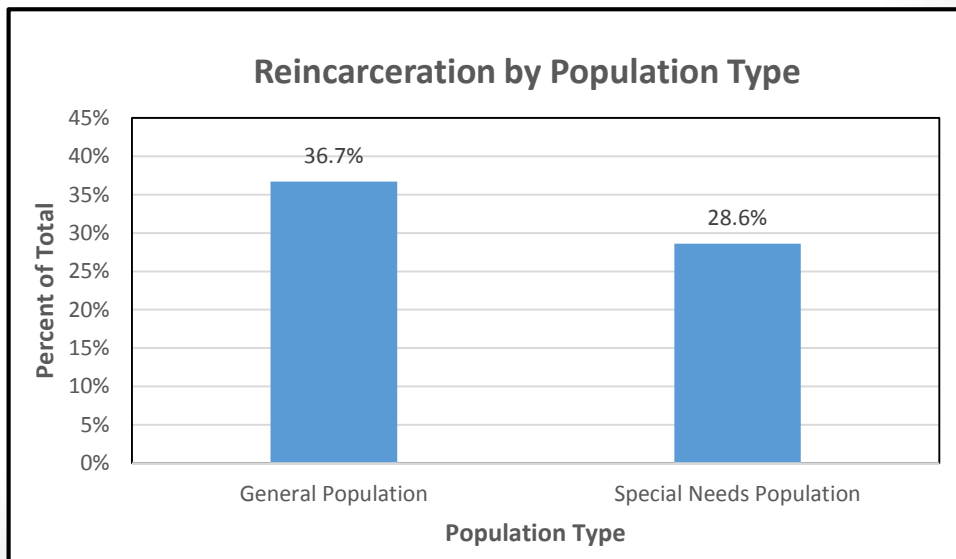
**MARTIAL STATUS.** Excluding the Unknown, single offenders had the highest recidivism rates of all age categories. Figure 15 demonstrates recidivism by marital status.

**Figure 15: Reincarceration by Marital Status and Time**



**SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM.** In 2014, Southwest and Southeast CCCs operated a Special Needs Program for offenders with a mental health diagnosis as well as substance use disorder. Offenders in this program are segregated from the general population and receive an additional ten hours of treatment per week.

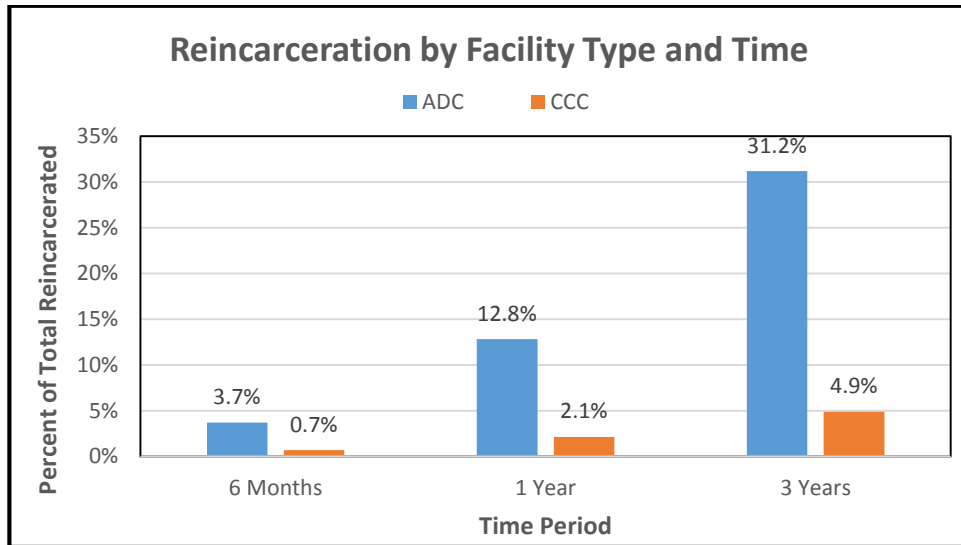
**Figure 16: Reincarceration by Population Type**





**REINCARCERATION FACILITY TYPE.** Offenders who were reincarcerated were returned to ADC or CCC, the majority being sent to ADC.

**Figure 17: Reincarceration by Facility Type and Time**



**OFFENSES.** Additional in 2014 is an analysis of recidivism by offense. This is not necessarily the intake offense, but instead, represents all offenses active at the time of release (i.e., sentences in which the imposed date was less than the offender’s release date). The offenses may include both prior sentences still active and any new offense that may have been imposed while the offender was incarcerated at CCC.

The offenses included represent unique offenses, not unique offenders who may have been incarcerated for multiple offenses. For example, an offender who had a Theft of Property and a Hot Check offense would be counted once under each offense. An offender who had the same offenses multiple times (ex: three separate counts of Breaking or Entering) was only counted once under Breaking or Entering.

The reader should use caution when considering the following offense table. Since offenders may be charged with multiple offenses, reported rates should not be interpreted as direct relationships. Therefore, the rates do not represent the recidivism pattern for any specific offense. The 1,590 offenders released from CCC in 2014 had active sentences representing a total of 3,745 offenses.

In order to examine comparable recidivism rates as they vary by offense, offenses represented by fewer than 20 offenders are omitted from the figures below. In addition, the offenses Habitual Offender and Probation Revocation were removed from the table as these offenses are directly associated with other criminogenic activity (64.3% and 34.7% recidivism respectively).

**Figure 18: Reincarceration by Offense and Time**

Offense	Number of Offenders	% 6 Months	% 1 Year	% 3 Years
Poss. Firearm Certain Pers	34	14.7%	32.4%	61.8%
Theft by Receiving (Credit/Debit Card)	13	15.4%	61.5%	61.5%
Man/Del/Poss C/S Schd. I-V	11	9.1%	9.1%	54.5%
Commercial Burglary	80	2.5%	25.0%	52.5%
Theft of Property >= \$5,000 < \$25,000	42	4.8%	28.6%	52.4%
Failure To Appear	70	5.7%	20.0%	51.4%
Hot Check Violation	27	7.4%	18.5%	48.1%
Poss W Purpose Del Meth Cocaine < 2g	23	4.3%	34.8%	47.8%
Residential Burglary	215	5.1%	21.9%	47.4%
Theft By Receiving	56	8.9%	21.4%	46.4%
Criminal Mischief - 1st Deg	24	4.2%	25.0%	45.8%
Theft of Property (Credit/Debit Card)	22	0.0%	18.2%	45.5%
Breaking And Entering	172	5.8%	22.1%	44.8%
Theft Of Property	216	6.0%	20.4%	44.4%
Forgery	200	4.5%	21.5%	44.0%
Furnish. Prohibited Art.	23	13.0%	26.1%	43.5%
Criminal Conspiracy	29	6.9%	17.2%	41.4%
Manufacture Methamphetamine < 2g	10	10.0%	10.0%	40.0%
Theft of Property (Firearm) < \$2,500	10	0.0%	10.0%	40.0%
Poss Drug Paraphernalia Meth Cocaine	171	6.4%	17.5%	39.8%
Theft of Property >= \$1,000 < \$5,000	124	6.5%	16.9%	39.5%
Deliver Meth Cocaine < 2g	38	0.0%	7.9%	39.5%
Fraud Etc Drug Paraphern.	152	6.6%	16.4%	39.5%
Poss Cont Sub Sched I,II Meth Cocaine < 2g	203	4.9%	17.7%	39.4%
Criminal Attempt	23	8.7%	13.0%	39.1%
Poss Cont Sub Sched I,II Excluding Meth Cocaine < 2g	45	11.1%	15.6%	37.8%
Criminal Mischief - 1st Degree (Damage > \$1,000 <= \$5,000)	14	0.0%	21.4%	35.7%
Poss W Purp Del Meth Cocaine => 2g< 10g	23	8.7%	17.4%	34.8%
Man.Delv.Poss Cont Subs	287	4.2%	13.9%	33.4%
Fraud Use Of Credit Card	21	9.5%	19.0%	33.3%
Man/Del/Poss C/S Scd I-III	30	10.0%	16.7%	33.3%
Theft by Receiving > \$1,000 <= \$5,000	27	3.7%	22.2%	33.3%
Poss Drug Paraphernalia Man Meth Cocaine	51	3.9%	19.6%	31.4%
Accomplices	13	15.4%	30.8%	30.8%
Non-Support	13	7.7%	7.7%	30.8%
Tamper With Phys.Evid.	10	20.0%	30.0%	30.0%
Del Cont Sub Sched I,II Ex Meth Cocaine < 2g	18	0.0%	11.1%	27.8%
Man/Del/Poss Marij. <10	11	0.0%	0.0%	27.3%
Poss Cont Sub Sched I,II Meth Cocaine => 2g < 10g	22	0.0%	4.5%	27.3%
Viol Of DWI 4th Offense	38	2.6%	7.9%	23.7%
Poss W Purp Del Cont Sub Sched VI > 14g < 4 oz	29	3.4%	10.3%	20.7%
Deliver Meth Cocaine => 2g < 10g	15	6.7%	20.0%	20.0%
Deliver Controlled Substance Sche III < 28g	11	9.1%	18.2%	18.2%
Poss W Purp Del Cont Sub Sched VI => 4 oz < 25 lbs	29	0.0%	3.4%	13.8%
Deliver Controlled Substance Sched V >14g < 4oz	24	4.2%	8.3%	12.5%
Poss Drug Paraphernalia Man Cont Sub	53	3.8%	3.8%	11.3%

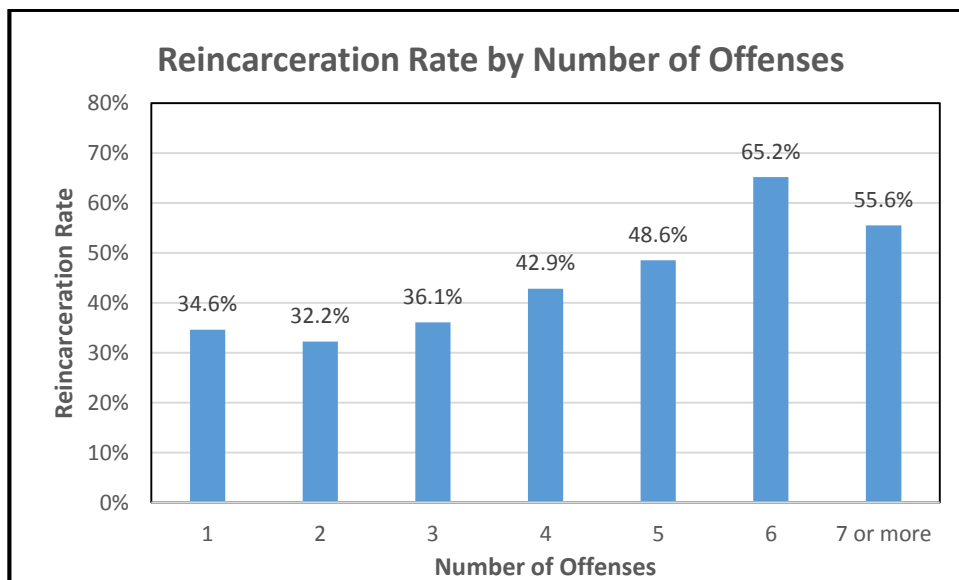
Of the 1590 offenders in the study, 1588 had convictions for more than one offense. Figure 33 demonstrates the number of offenders by unique offense count.

**Figure 19: Number of Unique Offenses by Offender Count**

Number of Offenses	Number of Offenders
1	442
2	580
3	310
4	147
5	70
6	23
7	12
8	4
10	1
11	1

Figure 20 below represents the reincarceration rate where the number of offenders are greater than twenty. When the reincarceration rate is analyzed against the number of unique offense convictions, the data presents an almost linear progression that suggests a correlation between offending variety and recidivism.

**Figure 20: Reincarceration Rate by Number of Offenses**



### III. HIGHLIGHTS

Arkansas's Community Correction Centers provide structure, supervision, drug/alcohol treatment, educational and vocational programs to each offender while balancing the need for personal accountability with opportunities for offenders to improve their self-worth and become law-abiding citizens. The success of the programs is often dependent on the willingness of the offender to capitalize on the opportunities and have a desire to improve their situation.

The following items were observed as a result of the study of 1590 offenders released in 2014:

- Reincarcerations decreased from 38.0% to 36.1% in the 2014 study. Parole violators, not included in the previous study, had an overall reincarceration rate of 53.5% and represented approximately 20% of the total releases and 32.3% of the reincarcerations.
- The majority of the releases (57%) were judicial transfers to CCC.
- Males consistently have higher reincarceration rates than females.
- Whites represent the majority of the population and have higher recidivism rates than other racial categories.
- Offenders less than thirty years of age have higher recidivism rates than their older peers. Recidivism rates consistently decrease as offender age increases.
- Although Long-term Drug Court offenders had an average length of stay (262 days) similar to that of Judicial Transfers (280 days), the reincarceration rate of Long-term Drug Court almost doubled that of Judicial Transfers.
- Recidivism rates of offenders in the Special Needs Program, who receive an additional ten hours of treatment per week, had a lower incarceration rate than the general population.

## Appendix A

**ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA.** Criteria for acceptance to CCCs is set forth by §§Ark. Code Ann. 12-27-105, 16-93-1203, and 16-93-1205. Admission to CCC is allowed for offenders who meet the following criteria established by §16-93-1202:

- a. Crime(s) fall(s) within the targeted population
- b. Period of confinement in a CCC does not exceed:
  - a. One year for a defendant placed on probation or for whom the court suspended the imposition of sentence, accompanied by assignment to a CCC, or
  - b. One year for referrals by the Parole Board, or
  - c. Two years for a commitment to the Arkansas Department of Correction for judicial transfer to the ACC, and
- c. Has not been previously convicted of a violent and/or sex-related felony, disciplined in a jail/correctional institution for violent or sexual misconduct and has no known record of mental disorder(s) that would indicate a propensity for violence, and
- d. Has no pending felony detainer(s) for a non-target offense filed against him or her, and
- e. Does not otherwise pose an undue risk to the safety and security of the community.

## Appendix B

**TARGET OFFENSES.** The target group of offenses eligible for CCC includes:

- Theft
- Theft by Receiving
- Hot Check Violation
- Residential Burglary
- Commercial Burglary
- Failure to Appear
- Fraudulent Use of Credit Cards
- Criminal Mischief
- Breaking or Entering
- Drug Paraphernalia
- Driving While Intoxicated Fourth or Subsequent Offense
- All other Class C or Class D felonies that are not violent or sexual
- Class A and Class B controlled substance felonies
- All other unclassified felonies for which the prescribed limitations do not exceed those mentioned in Appendix A.