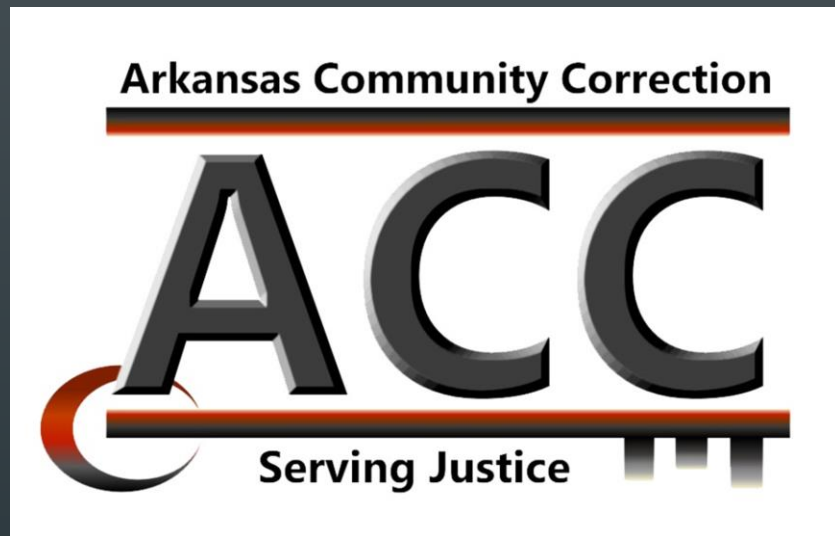


# ARKANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTION CENTERS

Measuring Recidivism CY 2011 - 2013

June 2017



# Arkansas Community Correction Centers (CCC)

Measuring Recidivism CY 2011 - 2013

## I. INTRODUCTION

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.

Arkansas's Community Correction Centers are community based, 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. 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.

For the time period covered by this study, 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

Judges may sentence offenders to a CCC by Judicial Transfer, Probation Plus, or may order a drug court participant to treatment at a CCC. Admission criteria to CCC as a judicial transfer is defined by Arkansas Code (§§ 12-27-105, 16-93-1203, and 16-93-1205). Generally, candidates for admission to a CCC are non-violent offenders sentenced to no more than four years for an offense that is among those defined by law as a “target offense” (see Appendices A and B).

Admission as Probation Plus is 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.

Upon completion of confinement at CCC, the resident will either be transferred to community supervision or discharged. 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.

## STUDY DESCRIPTION

### SCOPE

Per Act 1030 of 2013, recidivism is defined as a criminal act that results in the re-arrest, re-conviction, or return to incarceration of a person with or without a new sentence during a three-year period following release from custody. The study focuses on the three major aspects of recidivism: re-arrest, re-conviction, and re-incarceration.

The scope of this study includes all CCCs operated by ACC (excluding Technical Violator Centers) in the state and studies the effect of CCC programming on recidivism. For that reason, offenders sentenced to CCC by a Drug Court for a 90-day or shorter treatment period were not included. In addition, residents who were transferred to the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) as a result of disciplinary problems were not included. Residents transferred to ADC for new felony convictions or with new charges pending were also excluded.

**DATA SOURCES**

The data sources utilized were ACC’s electronic Offender Management Information System (eOMIS) and the Arkansas Crime Information Center’s (ACIC) Arkansas Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. ACC personnel are responsible for the entry of data on a resident. eOMIS serves as the state’s resident tracking system in support of comprehensive statewide operations of offender management including offenders in prison, on probation, or on parole. The UCR Program provides data on arrests and is accurate to the extent that arrests are reported.

**RELEASES.** Data were gathered from eOMIS on all releases from Community Correction Centers during the calendar years 2011 - 2013. 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.

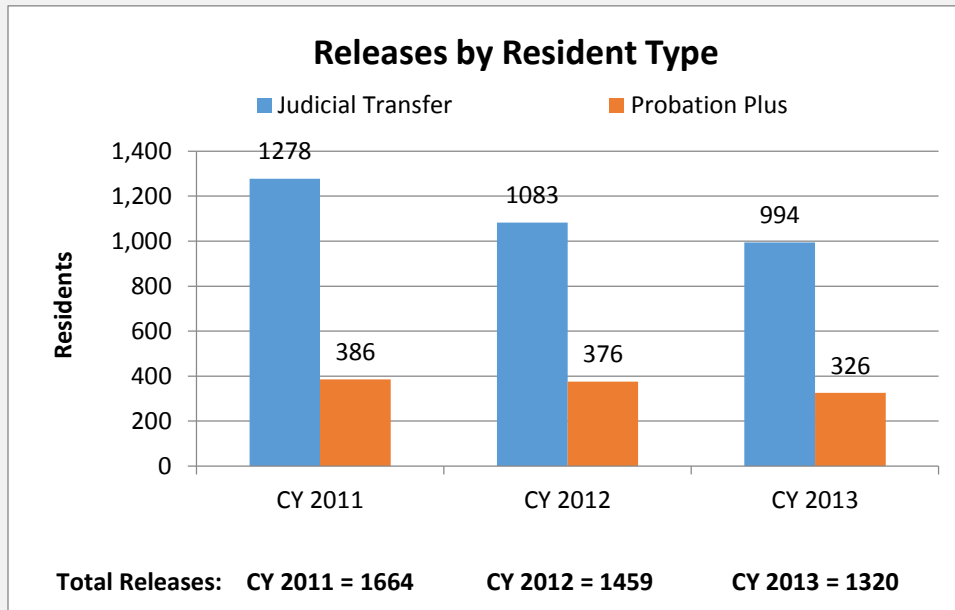
A total of 4,443 releases occurred during the three-year study period; 4,319 residents were released once and 62 residents were released twice. Table 1 summarizes the number of residents released from the Community Correction Centers.

**Table 1: Release Statistics**

Category	Study Group	
	Releases	%
<b>Resident Type</b>		
Judicial Transfer	3355	75.5%
Probation Plus	1088	24.5%
<b>Releasing Community Correction Center</b>		
Central - Males	582	13.1%
Northeast - Males	943	21.2%
Northwest - Females	359	8.1%
Southeast - Females	965	21.7%
Southwest - Males	1594	35.9%
<b>Total Releases</b>	4443	100.0%

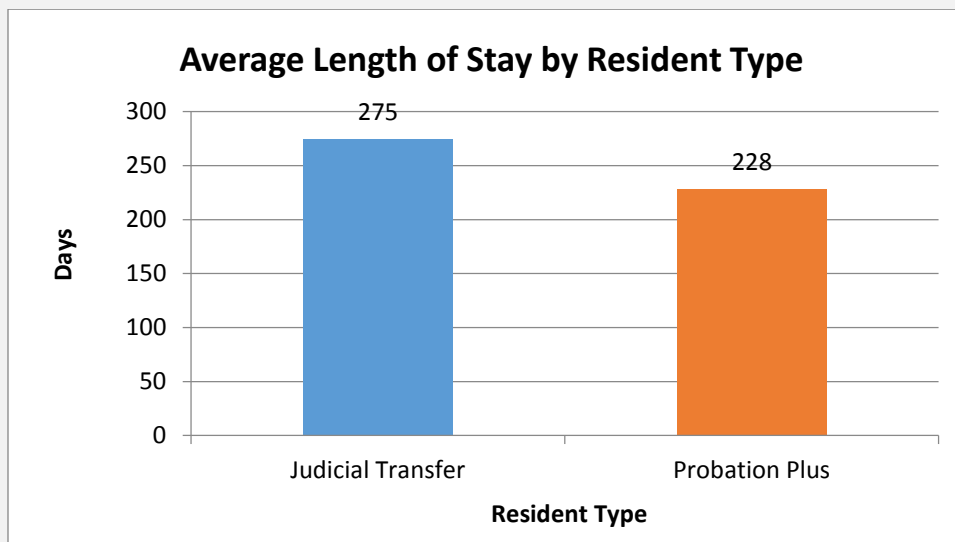
**ANNUAL RELEASES.** Table 2 denotes the number of residents released during each calendar year by resident type.

**Table 2: Releases by Resident Type**



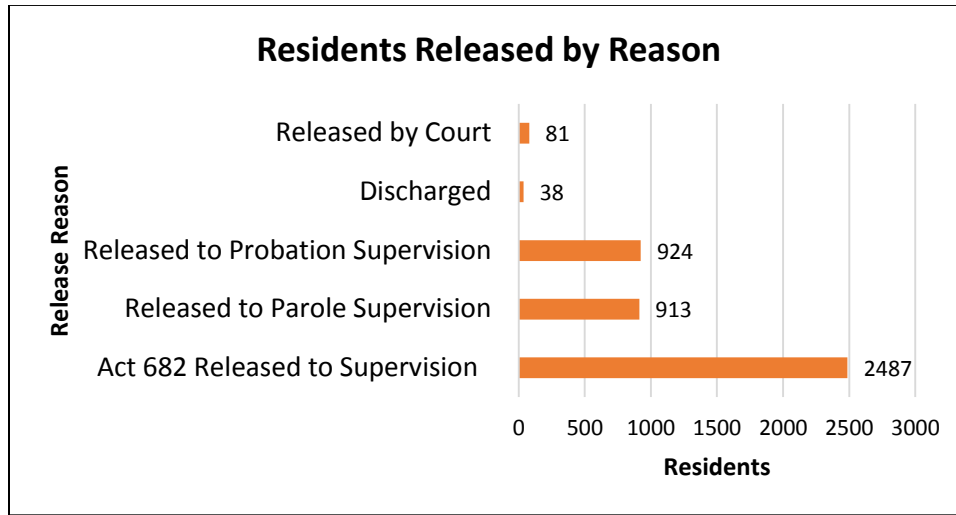
As illustrated in Table 3, Judicial Transfers will generally average a longer length of stay than Probation Plus due to the nature of the sentencing laws.

**Table 3: Average Length of Stay by Resident Type**



**RELEASE TYPE.** More than one-half (56.0%) of the residents released were released under Act 682. Table 4 summarizes the releases by reason.

**Table 4: Releases by Reason**



**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES.** Table 5 summarizes the demographic characteristics of the residents studied by the following categories: gender, race, education level, age at release, and marital status.

**Table 5: Demographic Statistics**

Category	Study Group	
	Releases	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	1324	29.8%
Male	3119	70.2%
<b>Race</b>		
Asian	20	0.5%
Black	728	16.4%
Caucasian	3569	80.3%
Hispanic/Mexican	98	2.2%
NA Indian	23	0.5%
Other	5	0.1%
<b>Highest Level of Education at Release</b>		
High School Diploma or GED	2578	58.0%
Less than High School	1284	28.9%
Some College/College Graduate	553	12.4%
Unknown	28	0.6%
<b>Age at Release</b>		
Under 20	109	2.5%
20 - 29	2119	47.7%
30 - 39	1254	28.2%
40 - 49	659	14.8%
50 - 59	259	5.8%
60 and Above	43	1.0%
<b>Marital Status at Release</b>		
Single	2128	47.9%
Divorced	856	19.3%
Married	838	18.9%
Separated	276	6.2%
Cohabited	155	3.5%
Other/Unknown	120	2.7%
Widowed	70	1.6%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>4443</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## CCC STUDY POPULATION DEMOGRAPHIC OBSERVATIONS

**GENDER.** More than twice as many males as females were represented.

**RACE.** Caucasians account for more than eighty percent (80.3%) with Blacks ranking second at 16.4%. Asian, Hispanic/Mexican, NA Indian, and other races total about three percent (3.2%).

**EDUCATION LEVEL.** Almost three-fourths of the residents report having their GED, high school diploma, or higher education (70.4%). Of those, 553 residents had attended college or received a Bachelors or Graduate degree.

**AGE.** The majority of residents were less than forty years of age when released. Almost half (47.7%) were in the 20 – 29 years age bracket.

**MARITAL STATUS.** Three-fourths of the total residents were single (single, divorced, separated, widowed).



## II. RECIDIVISM RESULTS

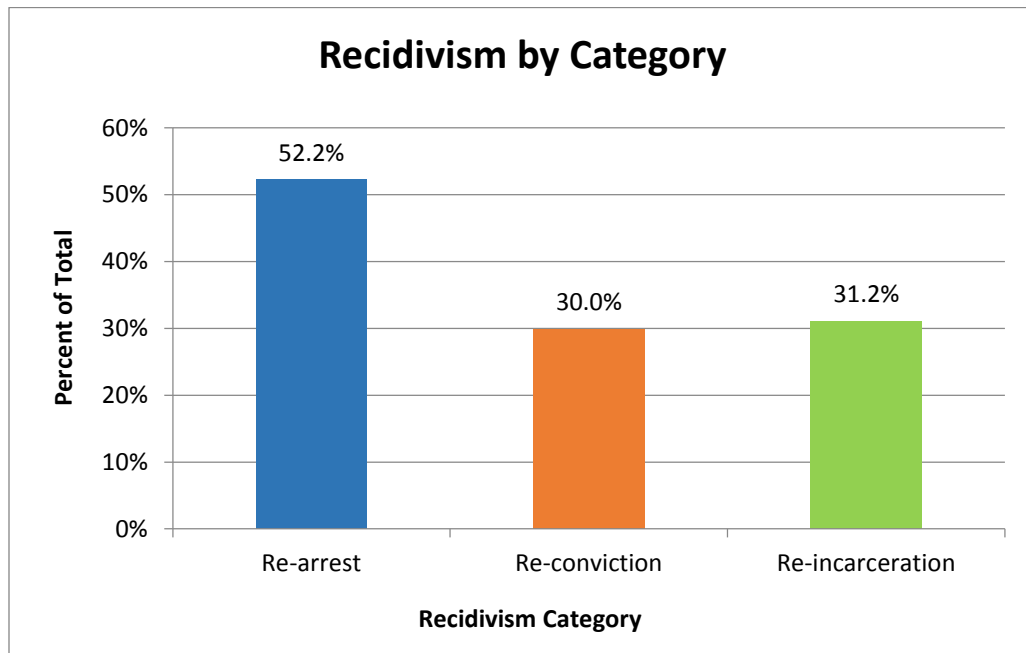
Of the 4,443 residents in the study group, 2,321 were re-arrested; 1,331 were re-convicted; and 1,384 were re-incarcerated within the three-year follow-up period.

**Table 6: Recidivism Statistics**

Category	Total Residents	Re-arrest		Re-conviction		Re-incarceration	
		Residents	%	Residents	%	Residents	%
<b>Resident Type</b>							
Judicial Transfer	3355	1764	52.6%	861	25.7%	981	29.2%
Probation Plus	1088	557	51.2%	470	43.2%	403	37.0%
<b>Releasing Community Correction Center</b>							
Central - Males	582	314	54.0%	179	30.8%	177	30.4%
Northeast - Males	943	528	56.0%	311	33.0%	328	34.8%
Northwest - Females	359	163	45.4%	75	20.9%	83	23.1%
Southeast - Females	965	402	41.7%	244	25.3%	251	26.0%
Southwest - Males	1594	914	57.3%	522	32.7%	545	34.2%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>4443</b>	<b>2321</b>	<b>52.2%</b>	<b>1331</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>1384</b>	<b>31.2%</b>

Table 7 details the overall recidivism rates by percent of total releases from CCC.

**Table 7: Recidivism by Category**



Probation Plus had higher recidivism rates for re-conviction and re-incarceration than Judicial Transfer residents.

**Table 8: Recidivism by Resident Type**

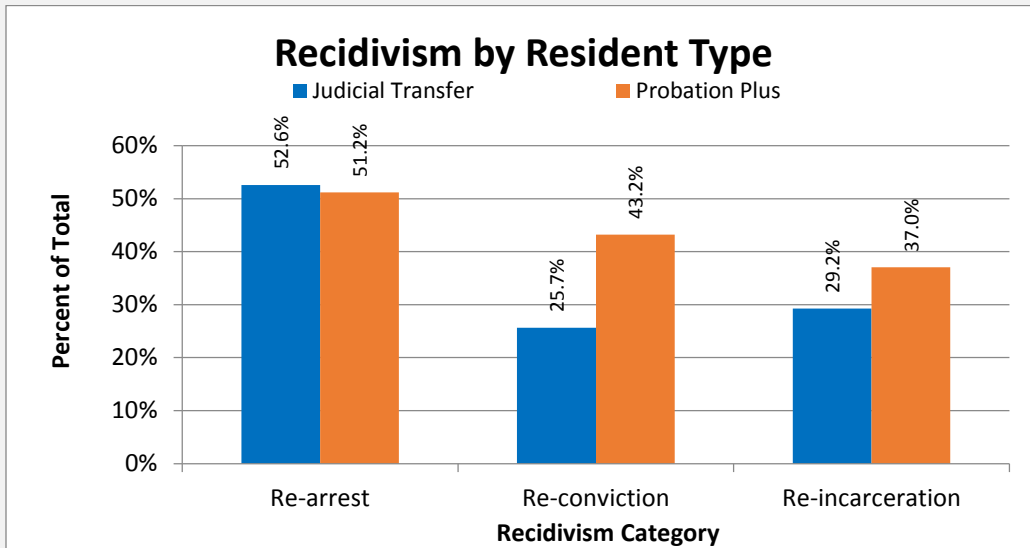
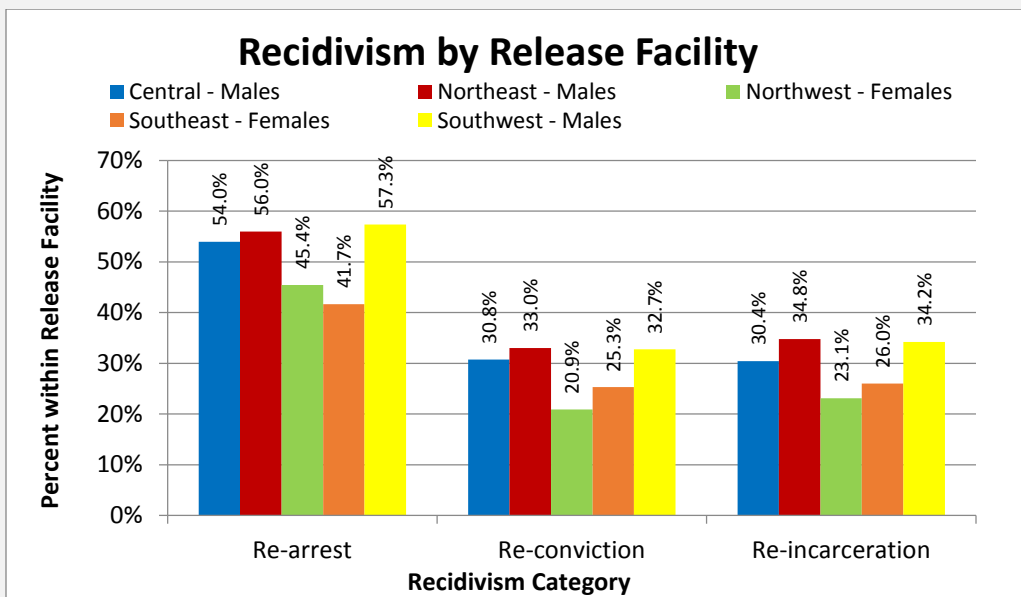


Table 9 shows releases from Community Correction Centers and their corresponding recidivism rates. The female facilities consistently have lower recidivism rates than their male counterparts.

**Table 9: Recidivism Summary by Facility**



**RE-INCARCERATION.** Residents who were re-incarcerated were returned to ADC, the Technical Violator Program (TVP), or CCC.

**Table 10: Re-incarceration by Facility Type**

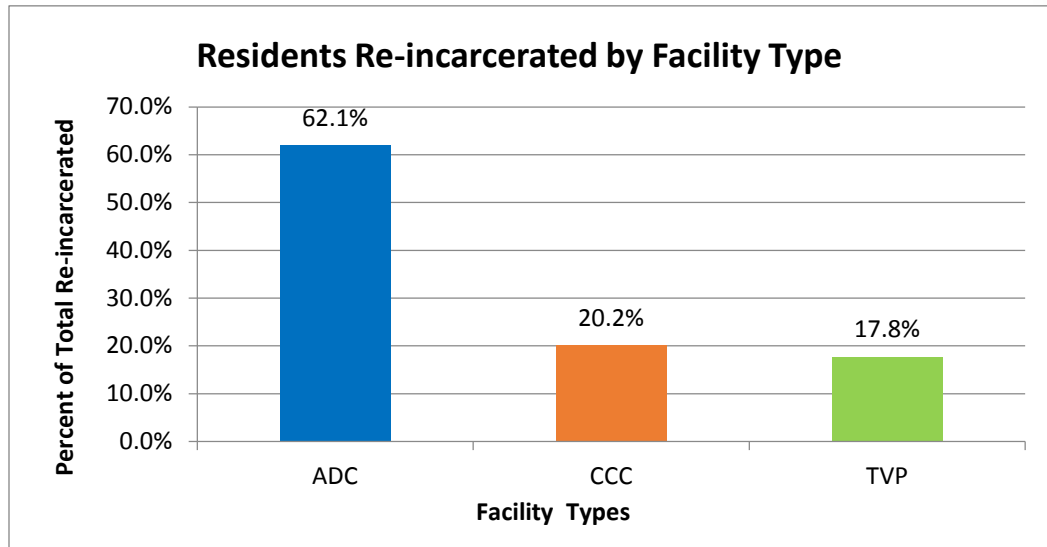
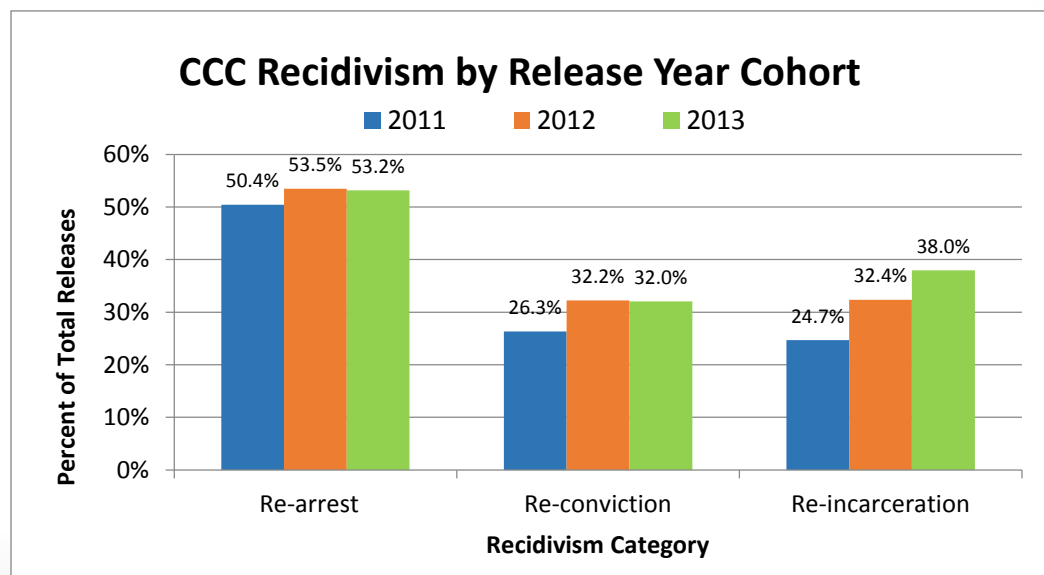


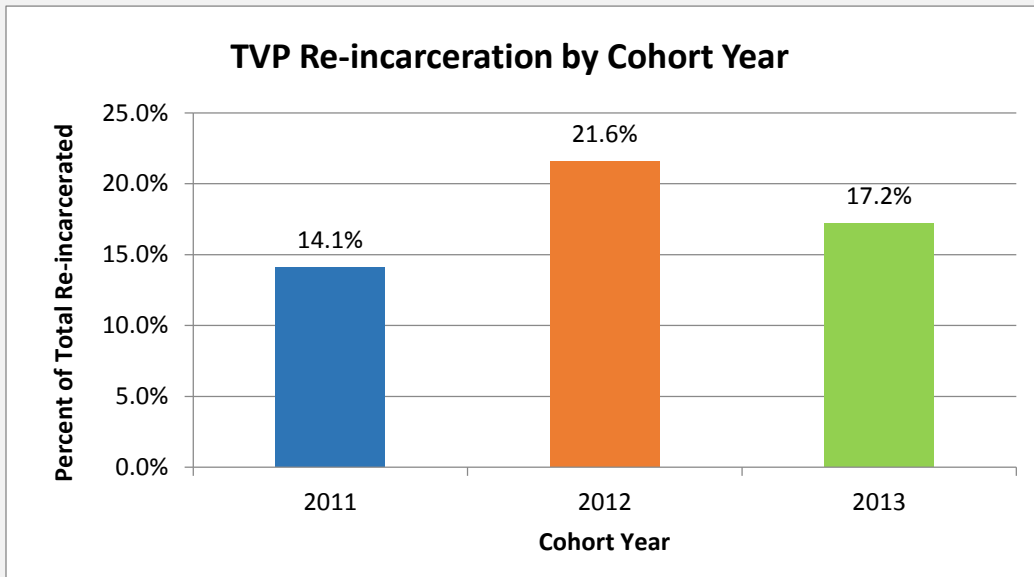
Table 11 summarizes the recidivism by release year cohort. Re-arrest rates varied less than four percent (3.1%) over the three-year study period. Re-convictions realized a 5.9% increase between 2011 and 2012 but remained fairly constant between 2012 and 2013. Re-incarceration rates, however, increased for each successive cohort year.

**Table 11: Recidivism by Release Year Cohort**



A closer look at the re-incarceration rates by the type facility in which residents were re-incarcerated exposes a spike in Technical Violator Program (TVP) incarcerations for the CY2012 release cohort.

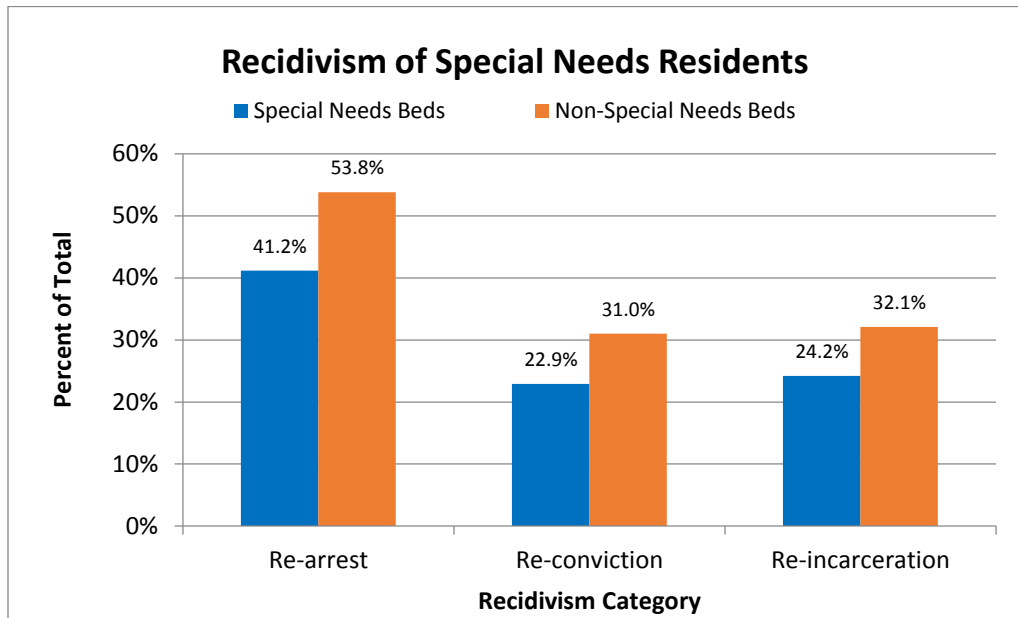
**Table 12: TVP Re-incarceration by Cohort Year**



This spike is one effect of the implementation of Act 570 of 2011. The Act mandated the use of a guide for the imposition of a range of sanctions—including incarceration at a technical violator center—in response to offender non-compliance with supervision conditions. The guide’s use began in July 2011, impacting CCC residents released in CY 2012. While the overall re-incarceration rate rose over each successive year of the study, the incarcerations behind that rise were of a shorter duration than ADC or CCC stays and were of a diversionary nature.

**SPECIAL NEEDS.** Two facilities, SECCC for women and SWCCC for men, operate a Special Needs Program for residents with a Mental Health diagnosis as well as substance use issues. Five hundred fifty-eight (558) residents were assigned to special needs beds during the three-year study period. Although housed separately, special needs residents receive the same treatment as the general population. Residents in the Special Needs Program had a lower recidivism rate in each recidivism category as shown below.

**Table 13: Recidivism of Special Needs Residents**



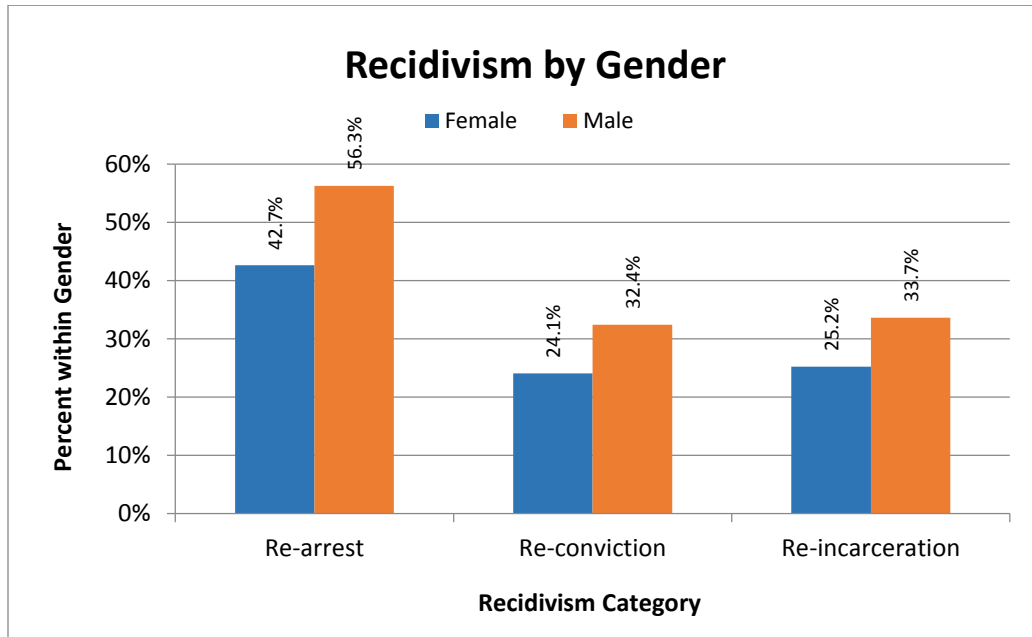
**RECIDIVISM BY DEMOGRAPHICS.** Table 14 summarizes the re-arrest, re-conviction, and re-incarceration statistics for the three-year follow-up period.

**Table 14: Recidivism Statistics**

Category	Total Residents	Re-arrest		Re-conviction		Re-incarceration	
		Residents	%	Offenders	%	Offenders	%
<b>Gender</b>							
Female	1324	565	42.7%	319	24.1%	334	25.2%
Male	3119	1756	56.3%	1012	32.4%	1050	33.7%
<b>Race</b>							
Asian	20	7	35.0%	4	20.0%	3	15.0%
Black	728	372	51.1%	202	27.7%	206	28.3%
Caucasian	3569	1872	52.5%	1090	30.5%	1140	31.9%
Hispanic/Mexican	98	51	52.0%	26	26.5%	28	28.6%
NA Indian	23	15	65.2%	7	30.4%	6	26.1%
Other	5	4	80.0%	2	40.0%	1	20.0%
<b>Highest Level of Education at Release</b>							
Some College/College Graduate	553	238	43.0%	135	24.4%	125	22.6%
High School Diploma or GED	2578	1365	52.9%	797	30.9%	847	32.9%
Less than High School	1284	705	54.9%	390	30.4%	402	31.3%
Unknown	28	13	46.4%	9	32.1%	10	35.7%
<b>Age at Release</b>							
Under 20	109	80	73.4%	50	45.9%	49	45.0%
20 - 29	2119	1259	59.4%	770	36.3%	779	36.8%
30 - 39	1254	629	50.2%	333	26.6%	373	29.7%
40 - 49	659	272	41.3%	140	21.2%	142	21.5%
50 - 59	259	75	29.0%	38	14.7%	38	14.7%
60 and Above	43	6	14.0%	0	0.0%	3	7.0%
<b>Marital Status at Release</b>							
Divorced	856	374	43.7%	208	24.3%	215	25.1%
Married	838	387	46.2%	214	25.5%	236	28.2%
Separated	276	142	51.4%	74	26.8%	76	27.5%
Single	2128	1249	58.7%	751	35.3%	765	35.9%
Cohabited	155	76	49.0%	37	23.9%	37	23.9%
Widowed	70	29	41.4%	10	14.3%	16	22.9%
Other/Unknown	120	64	53.3%	37	30.8%	39	32.5%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>4443</b>	<b>2321</b>	<b>52.2%</b>	<b>1331</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>1384</b>	<b>31.2%</b>

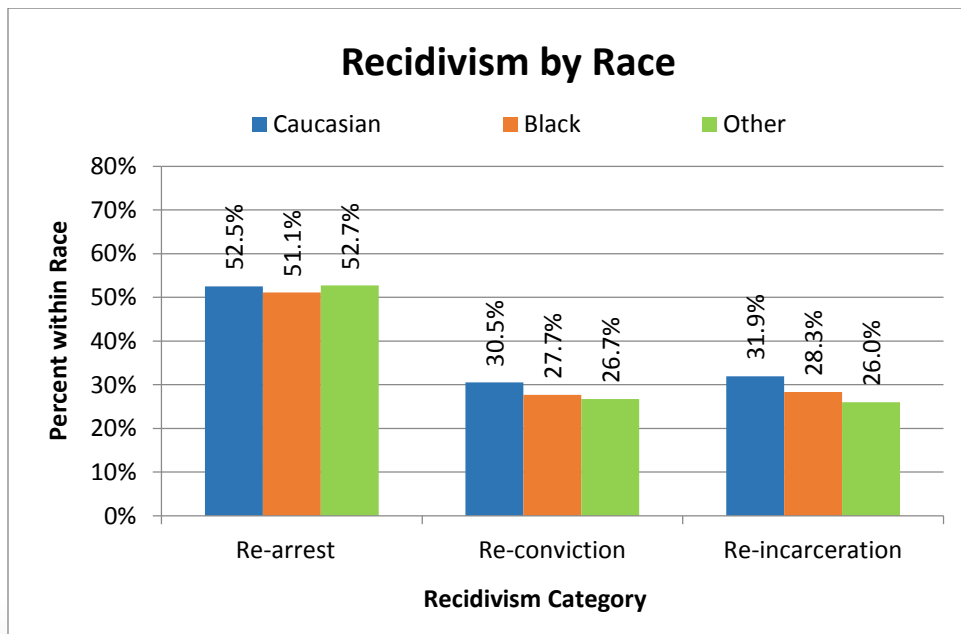
**GENDER.** Males had higher recidivism rates than females in each recidivism category.

**Table 15: Recidivism by Gender**



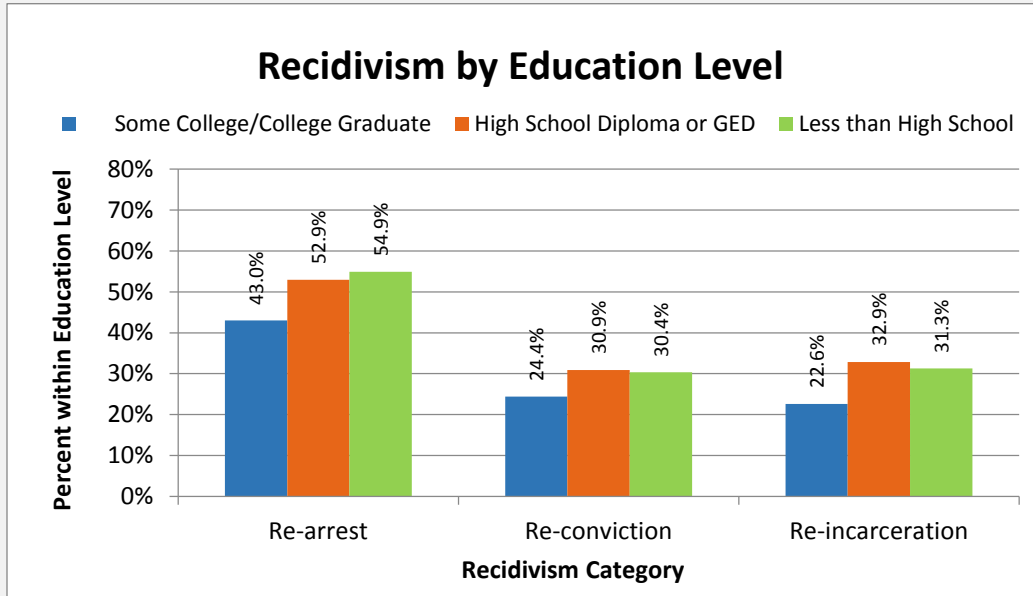
**RACE.** Caucasians recidivated at a slightly higher rate than Blacks in all recidivism categories. Table 16 illustrates recidivism by race.

**Table 16: Recidivism by Race**



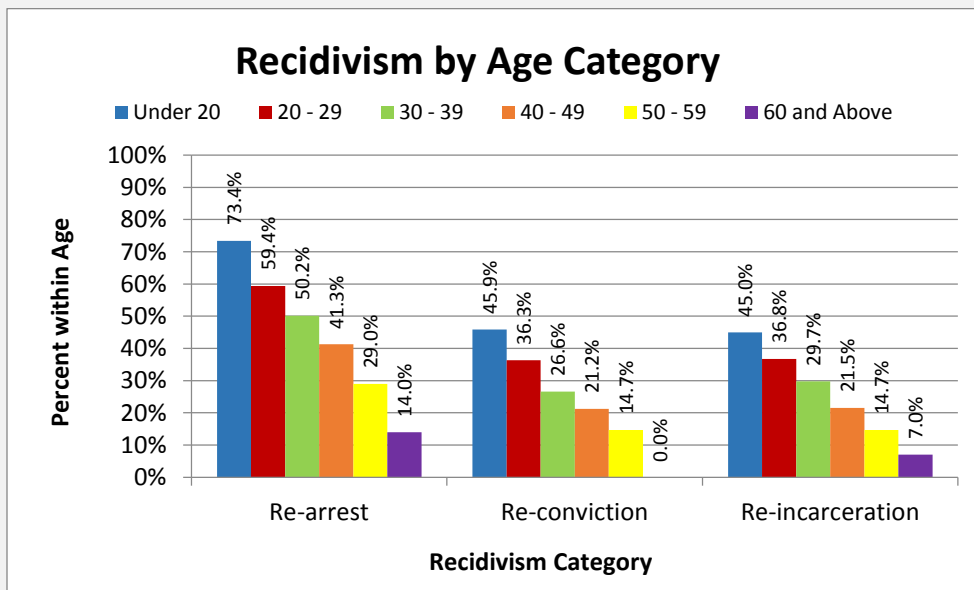
**EDUCATION LEVEL.** Residents reporting previous college attendance had the lowest recidivism rates, while there was very little difference in the re-conviction and re-incarceration percentages between those with a high school diploma or GED and those with less than a high school education.

**Table 17: Recidivism by Education Level**



**AGE.** The youngest residents (under the age of 30) had the highest rates of recidivism. Table 18 details recidivism rates by age category.

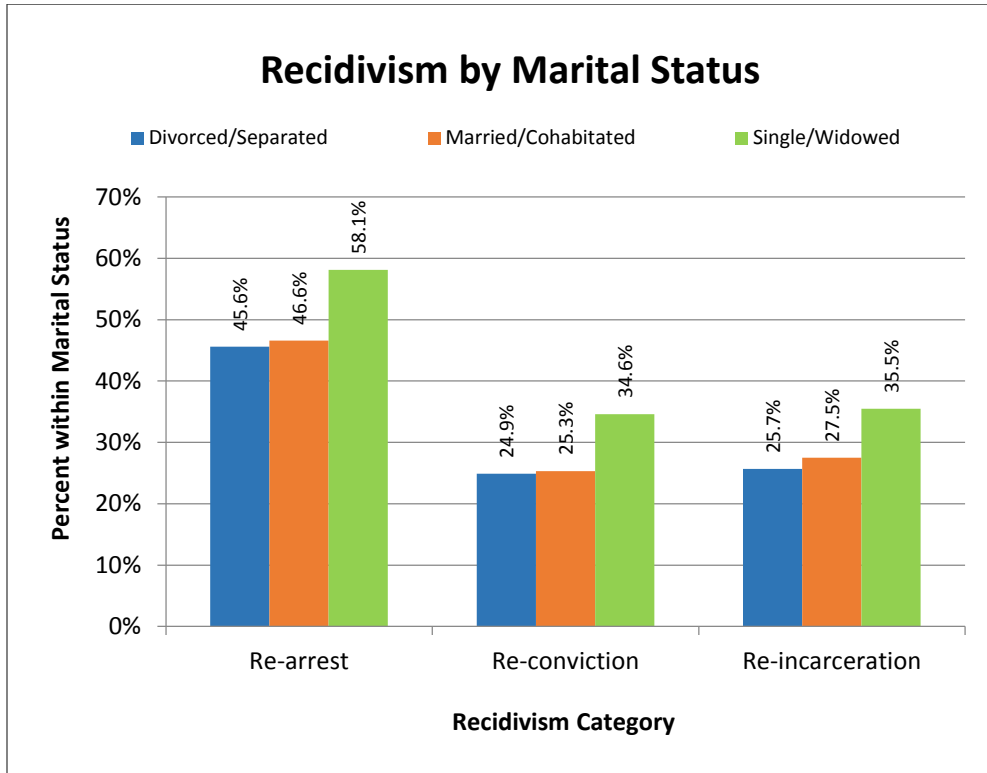
**Table 18: Recidivism by Age Category**





**MARTIAL STATUS.** Single residents had the highest recidivism rates of all marital categories. Table 19 illustrates recidivism by marital status.

**Table 19: Recidivism by Marital Status**



**CONCLUSIONS** Generally speaking, CCC residents are non-violent offenders with an underlying substance use disorder contributing to their criminal justice system involvement. Arkansas's Community Correction Centers were established to provide a treatment alternative to traditional prison incarceration for drug-involved offenders.

CCCs provide structure, supervision, treatment, and educational and vocational programs to each resident enabling improvements in self-worth and law-abiding behavior. Success depends on the willingness of the resident to capitalize on the opportunities provided and on the desire for self-improvement.

The following highlights notable findings from this study and provide some comparisons with the previous study of CCC recidivism that encompassed CY2008 – CY2010 releases.

- Residents dually diagnosed with a substance use disorder and a mental health disorder had lower recidivism rates in all categories.
- Youthful, male residents (less than 30 years of age) tended to be re-arrested, re-convicted and re-incarcerated more often.
- Males tended to recidivate more than females.
- Probation Plus residents had higher recidivism rates than Judicial Transfer residents in all recidivism categories. Probation Plus residents had a median age of 27 years, which is three years younger than Judicial Transfers. The youthfulness of this group may contribute to their increased rate of recidivism.
- 52.2% of the residents in the study group were re-arrested within three years of release from a CCC. This rate is similar to the re-arrest rate from the previous study of CY2008 – CY2010 residents (51.3%).
- 30.0% of the residents in the study group were re-convicted. This rate is similar to the re-conviction rate from the previous study (28.9%).
- 31.2% of the residents in the study group were re-incarcerated. Of those, more than half were re-incarcerated at ADC (62.1%). The remaining re-incarcerated residents were either returned to a CCC (20.2%) or were sent to a Technical Violator Program (17.8%).

## 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.