

JUVENILE RECIDIVISM IN DELAWARE

An Analysis of Youth Released in 2010 through 2014

January 2017

Delaware Criminal Justice Council

Statistical Analysis Center

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Christian Kervick, Executive Director

Statistical Analysis Center

Colonel Thomas F. MacLeish, Director

Analysts

Brie Gannon

Charles Huenke

Jim Salt

Philisa Weidlein-Crist

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Executive Summary

The Juvenile Recidivism in Delaware report is completed by the Statistical Analysis Center for the Division of Youth and Rehabilitative Services (YRS) as well as the state of Delaware's criminal justice community. It is an analysis of youth released in 2010 through 2014 from a YRS Level 5 or Level 4 Secure facility. As required, there were two measures analyzed for this report: re-arrest and re-commitment.

This study focuses on in-state recidivism events following release from a Level 5 or Level 4 juvenile facility. Youth become subjects of this study at the release event in which they are at-risk of re-offending and being re-arrested or re-admitted. Each youth can thus be counted only once as a recidivist after a given release, however, a return to a secure Level 5 or Level 4 facility can mean the youth could be counted as a recidivist in another cohort following his next release. The measure of youth re-arrest for a felony within 12 months was requested by policy makers in October of 1998 in an effort for better cross-jurisdictional comparisons. SAC has retained this measure, in this study, for purposes of comparison to previous reports on juvenile recidivism in Delaware.

Subjects in this study were tracked for re-arrest and re-commitment after their at-risk dates using electronic data stored in the state's criminal justice information system, court, and DOC and YRS record repositories. Offenses counted as recidivism were limited to state felonies, serious misdemeanors, or violations of probation or parole. Excluded as recidivism events are most state motor vehicle offenses, state criminal offenses classified as violations, and all municipal ordinances. A small number of offenses excluded from recidivism counts can result in jail terms, but the general distinction used for exclusion was that only jailable state offenses were counted as recidivism. (Refer to the Table A1 for details.)

For post-release arrests identified, recidivism events were established by offense dates, not actual arrest dates. The intent was to associate recidivism events as closely as possible with an offenders' return to criminal behavior, rather than when authorities became aware of and acted on their behavior. Offenses were not counted as recidivism events if post-release arrest was for offenses that occurred prior to release. Recommitments were based only on YRS or DOC admission dates, regardless of when the underlying offense(s) occurred. Any secure custody readmissions, in detained or sentenced status, and regardless of sentence length, were counted as recommitments.

Considerations

The eighteen month recidivism re-arrest and re-admission rates for the 2010 through 2014 cohorts that were the focus of this study were relatively high. However, the rates are consistent with previous studies conducted by the Center using similar methods and measures. As in any study of this nature, rates could change in either direction if different decisions are made about recidivism measures and methods used to capture and analyze data.

Acknowledgements

The Center's work would not be possible without the efforts of countless individuals in criminal justice agencies throughout the state who contribute to the development and maintenance of the systems that manage law enforcement, court, and correction information.

Introduction

The following report is based on youth released from Youth Rehabilitative Services, hereafter referred to as a YRS, Level 5 or Level 4 facility in calendar years 2010 through 2014. All youth were at-risk at least 12 months and all but 24 youth (in cohort 2012) and four youth (in cohort 2013) were at-risk for 18 months after release. Their “at-risk” dates were calculated using the day the youth was released from a secure juvenile or adult facility, as some youth flow directly from a YRS facility to an adult facility. This report provides information about re-arrests and re-admissions to a secure facility within the first 18 months of release, broken down by facility, type of stay, race, gender and age. Secure facilities include YRS Secure Detention, Level 5 and Level 4 facilities and Adult Secure Detention, Level 5 and Level 4 institutions. (See appendix A2) This study focuses on in-state recidivism events following release from a Level 5 or Level 4 juvenile facility. Youth become subjects of this study at the release event in which they are at-risk of re-offending and being re-arrested or re-admitted. Each youth can thus be counted only once as a recidivist after a given release, however, a return to a secure Level 5 or Level 4 facility can mean the youth could be counted as a recidivist in another cohort following his next release. The measure of youth re-arrest for a felony within 12 months was requested by policy makers in October of 1998 in an effort for better cross-jurisdictional comparisons. SAC has retained this measure, in this study, for purposes of comparison to previous reports on juvenile recidivism in Delaware.

Recidivism Subject and Offense Group Summaries

The demographic makeup of YRS youth cohorts released in 2010 through 2014 is summarized in the following tables and charts. Subjects were not separated by ethnicity for analysis due to the low or near-zero counts for Hispanic and all Other ethnicities. Ethnicity identification is also difficult to determine with confidence due to reliability issues resulting in high rates of conflicting data. Race, gender, age, and offense histories are common parameters in recidivism research, and they are among the factors that appear to have some association with recidivism rates. Characteristics explored in this report are given somewhat cursory analytical attention. Recidivism is influenced by extensive and complex sets of characteristics and circumstances. The limited analyses presented here are intended more to illustrate recidivism variability with just a small number of factors than to support firm conclusions about the influence of those factors.

Table 1 shows summary counts by race and gender for tracked cohorts as released from a YRS Level 5 or Level 4 facility from 2010 through 2014. Males comprised 87.0% of youth released from a YRS facility from 2010 through 2014. Of the youth released across all years, approximately 62.8% were black males. Only 13% of youth released from cohorts 2010 through 2014 were female. Relatively large fluctuations in proportions for female release cohorts are not unexpected given the low numbers of YRS Level 5 and Level 4 releases. Readers should be mindful of small group counts, especially for females, as breakouts of released youth characteristics are presented throughout this report.

Table 1. YRS Level 5 and Level 4 release cohort race and gender counts

	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Black	130	15	217	38	192	32	208	33	185	27
White	67	5	75	16	81	11	80	13	55	4
Total	197	20	292	54	273	43	288	46	240	31

Figure 1. YRS Level 5 and Level 4 release cohort race and gender proportions

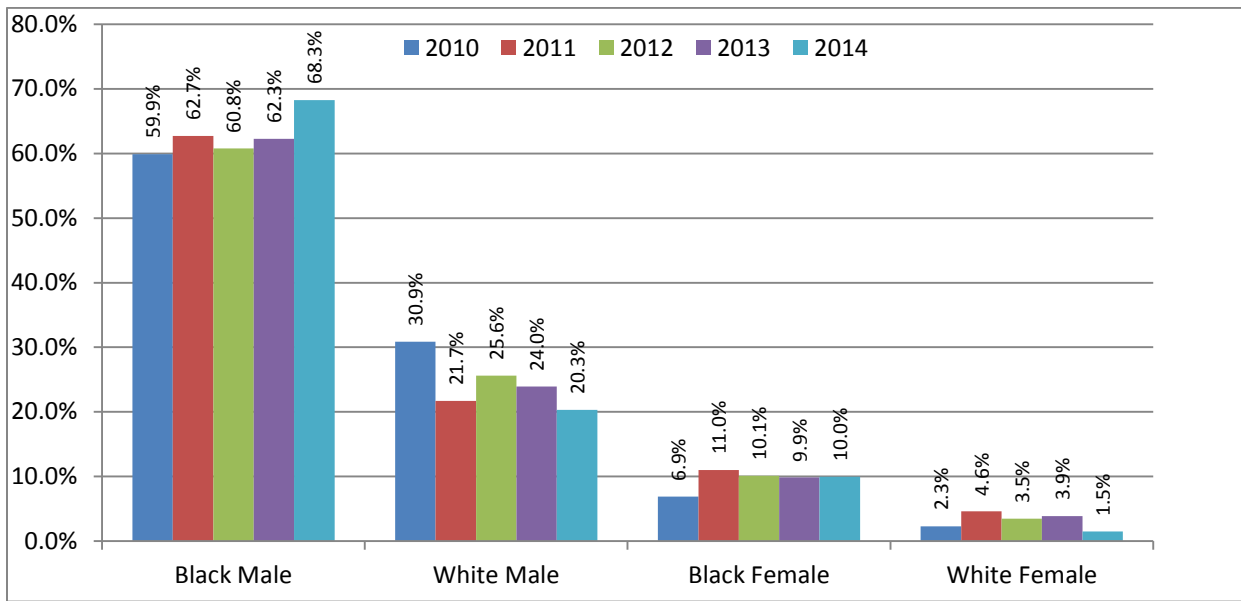


Table 2 shows age of youth by release year. Across all release cohorts, 71.1% of youth released from YRS Level 5 and Level 4 facilities were either between 15 and 17 years of age at release.

Table 2. YRS Level 5 and Level 4 release cohort by age at release

Age at Release	Release Year				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
12	1	0	0	0	1
13	10	8	4	3	1
14	18	19	14	17	18
15	37	55	44	51	32
16	58	87	68	79	68
17	56	107	117	104	90
18	35	69	68	66	54
>=19	2	1	1	10	7
Totals	217	346	316	330	271

Recidivism Methodology and Findings

Measures and Methods

Subjects in this study were tracked for re-arrest and re-commitment after their at-risk dates using electronic data stored in the state's criminal justice information system, court, DOC and YRS record repositories. Offenses counted as recidivism were limited to state felonies, serious misdemeanors, or violations of probation or parole. Excluded as recidivism events are most state motor vehicle offenses, state criminal offenses classified as violations, and all municipal ordinances. A small number of offenses excluded from recidivism counts can result in jail terms, but the general distinction used for exclusion was that only jailable state offenses were counted as recidivism. (Refer to the Table A1 for details.)

For post-release arrests identified, recidivism events were established by offense dates, not actual arrest dates. The intent was to associate recidivism events as closely as possible with an offenders' return to criminal behavior, rather than when authorities became aware of and acted on their behavior. Offenses were not counted as recidivism events if post-release arrest were for offenses that occurred prior to release. Recommitments were based only on YRS or DOC admission dates, regardless of when the underlying offense(s) occurred. Any secure custody readmissions, in detained or sentenced status, and regardless of sentence length, were counted as recommitments.

Re-Arrest and Re-Admission by Stay Type and Facility Flow

The tables in this section are based on the juveniles stay type and facility flow. Stay type refers to the highest charge on the case in which the youth has been sentenced to a facility. Administrative category refers to juveniles who experience an administrative reprimand subsequent to a previous adjudication. Facility flow shows the way the youth moved through the YRS system and which facilities he or she attended. This is important to show the continuum of care as the youth moves through the YRS facilities. For example, "SDL5L4" refers to a juvenile who started in Secure Detention, then entered a Level 5 facility, and lastly flowed to a Level 4 facility with no break in YRS secure custody. A typical stay for a juvenile in this category would be Secure Detention with a direct flow to Ferris School followed by Mowlds Cottage.

Table 3 and Figures 2 through 4 show more than half of youth (57.6%) in a YRS Level 5 or Level 4 facility in the year 2010 were present on a felony offense, with 46.5% present on a felony in 2011, 38.3% in 2012, 52.7% in 2013 and 50.6% in 2014. Of youth sentenced to a YRS Level 5 or Level 4 facility for a felony offense, 39.6% had a facility flow of Secure Detention to Level 5, followed by Level 4. Approximately 46.0% of youth were in custody on misdemeanor offenses. Of all juveniles present for Misdemeanor offenses, 74.6% of them had a facility flow of Secure Detention to a Level 4 (SDL4) facility. VOP offenses accounted for 23.5% of youth stays in a YRS Level 5 or Level 4 facility, with 67.8% of juveniles flowing from Secure Detention directly to a Level 4 facility.

Considering all offense stay types, the majority of youth were held in Secure Detention then flowed directly to a YRS Level 4 facility; 62.2% in 2010, 52.9% in 2011, 58.9% in 2012, 53.3% in 2013 and 60.1% in 2014. The second most common facility flow type for youth was from Secure Detention to YRS Level 5 to Level 4. Direct placement of a juvenile to Level 5 or Level 4 occurs in less than 10% of cases between the years of 2010 and 2014.

Table 3. Youth stay type by facility flow

Stay Type		Facility Flow						SD to Adult	Total
		SDL5L4	SDL5	SDL4	L5L4	L5	L4		
2010	Felony	48	7	61	0	0	9	n/a	125
	Misdemeanor	5	1	44	0	0	3	n/a	53
	VOP	6	0	28	0	0	2	n/a	36
	Misdemeanor and VOP	1	0	2	0	0	0	n/a	3
	Administrative	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0
	Drug Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0
	Totals	60	8	135	0	0	14		217
2011	Felony	72	14	60	1	1	13	n/a	161
	Misdemeanor	12	2	56	2	0	5	n/a	77
	VOP	19	3	60	1	0	5	n/a	88
	Misdemeanor and VOP	0	0	0	2	0	0	n/a	2
	Administrative	0	0	6	0	0	10	n/a	16
	Drug Court	1	0	1	0	0	0	n/a	2
	Totals	104	19	183	6	1	33		346
2012	Felony	45	10	59	0	0	7	n/a	121
	Misdemeanor	9	3	55	0	0	3	n/a	70
	VOP	21	2	55	0	0	2	n/a	80
	Misdemeanor and VOP	6	1	11	0	0	0	n/a	18
	Administrative	0	0	5	0	0	21	n/a	26
	Drug Court	0	0	1	0	0	0	n/a	1
	Totals	81	16	186	0	0	33		316
2013	Felony	66	8	79	1	0	6	16	176
	Misdemeanor	17	1	50	0	1	12	1	82
	VOP	14	3	46	1	0	5	0	69
	Misdemeanor and VOP	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
	Administrative	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	4
	Drug Court	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Totals	97	12	178	2	1	27	17	334
2014	Felony	54	7	69	0	0	0	7	137
	Misdemeanor	7	0	42	0	0	0	0	49
	VOP	24	2	47	0	0	2	0	75
	Misdemeanor and VOP	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Administrative	1	1	5	0	0	2	0	9
	Drug Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Totals	87	10	163	0	0	4	7	271

Figure 2. Number of juveniles by facility flow for youth with a felony offense

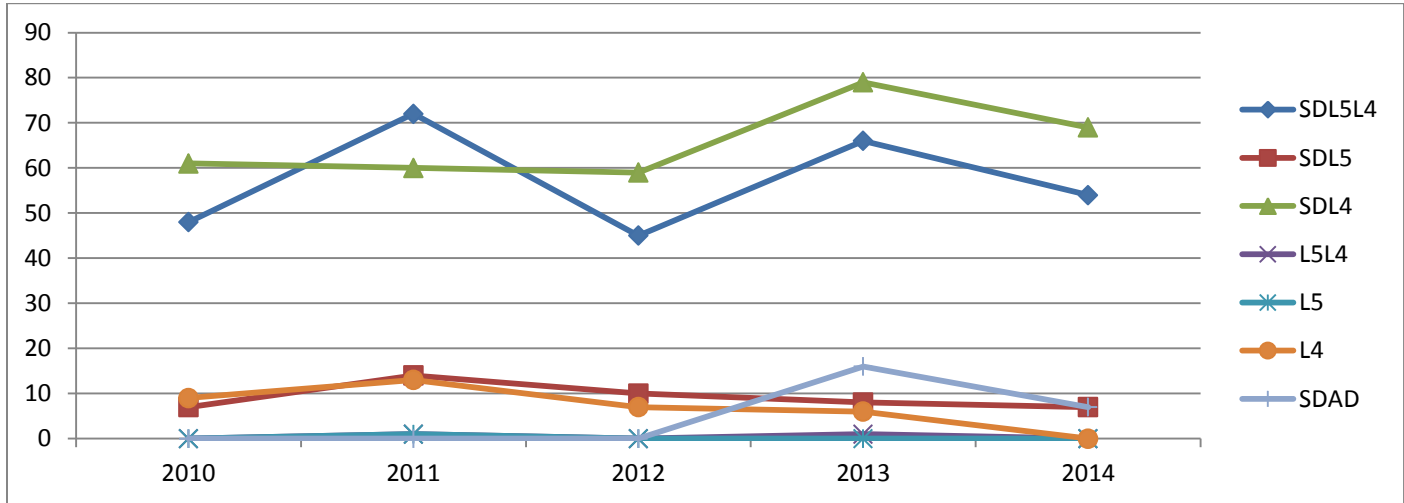


Figure 3. Number of juveniles by facility flow for youth with a misdemeanor offense

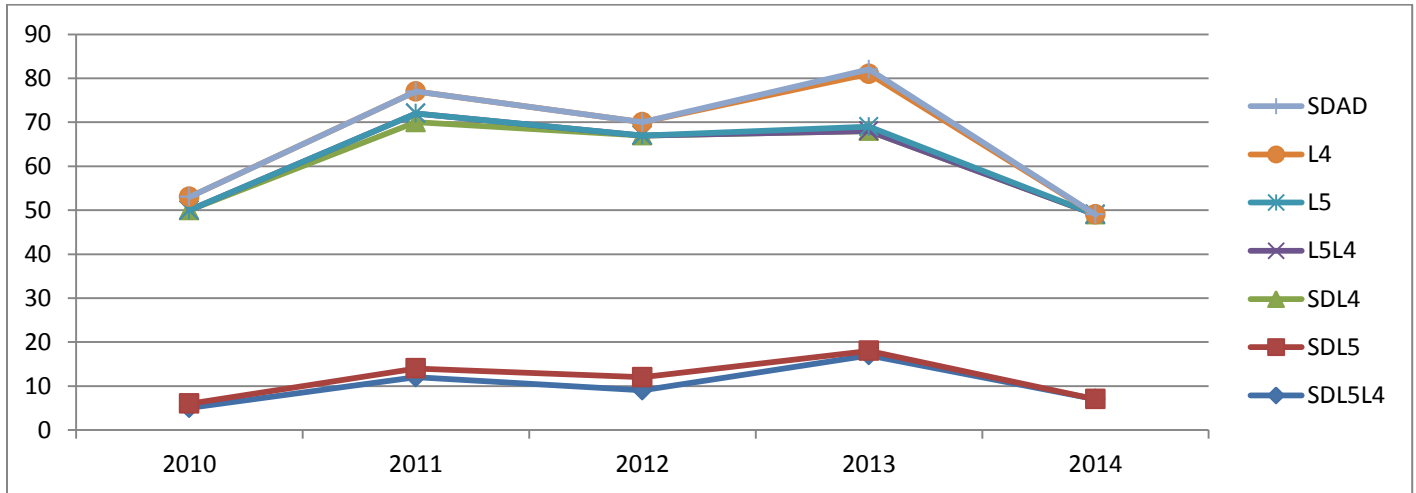
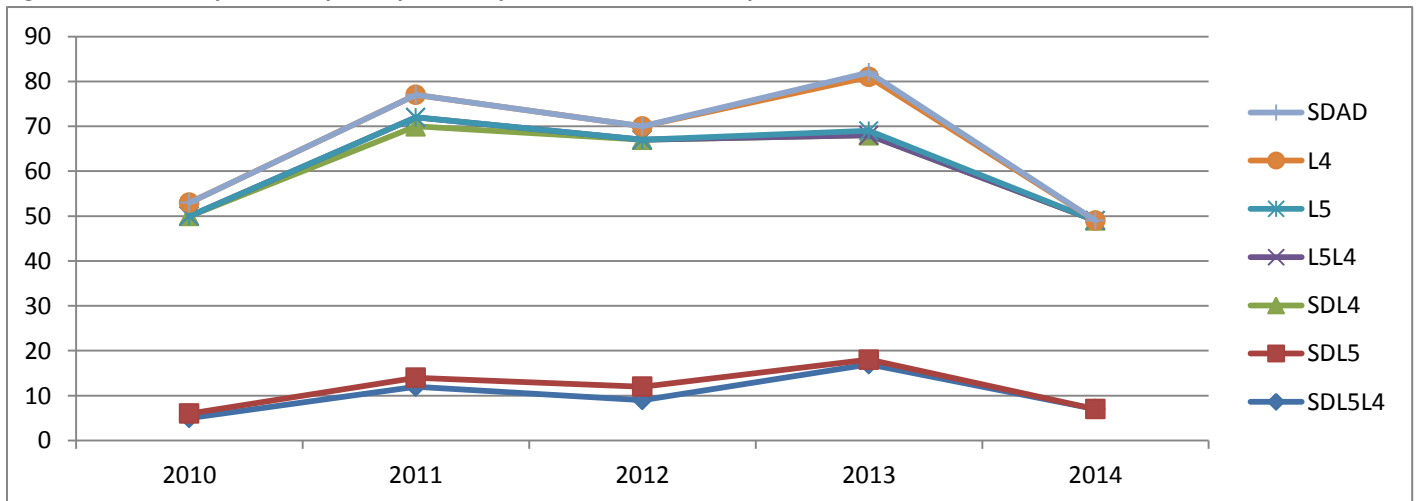


Figure 4. Number of juveniles by facility flow for youth with a violation of probation offense



Tables 4 and 5 portray re-arrest and re-admission by stay type for youth released from a YRS Level 5 or Level 4 facility between the years of 2010 to 2014. Offenses counted as recidivism were state felonies, serious misdemeanors, or violations of probation within the first 18 months after the youth's at-risk date. Re-arrest recidivism measures were completed for felony arrest within 12 months and any arrest within 18 months.

Table 4 shows that 31.9% of youth present in a YRS Level 5 or Level 4 facility, on a felony offense from 2010 through 2014, were re-arrested for a subsequent felony offense within 12 months of release. Youth in a Level 4 or Level 5 YRS facility on a misdemeanor offense were re-arrested for a felony charge within the first 12 months after release, at a rate of 26.8%. Between 75% and 100% of youth in a YRS facility on a felony, misdemeanor or VOP, were re-arrested within their first eighteen months at risk.

Table 5 shows 18 month at-risk re-admission rates for youth released from a YRS Level 5 or Level 4 facility for 2010 through 2014. It is important to note that a youth could have been released from the Level 5 or 4 facility included in this study during the years noted, however, due to flow their at-risk date may not be prior to the report's analysis. Re-admissions to a juvenile facility for those released during 2010 through 2014 were 47%, 54.9%, 30.7%, 43.9% and 41.7% respectively. Re-admissions to an adult facility within 18 months were 16.6%, 17.6%, 17.7%, 20.3% and 22.1% for the years of 2010 through 2014.

Table 4. Youth re-arrest by stay type

Stay Type		Any Arrest		Felony Arrest		Total at Risk
		18 months	%	first 12 months	%	
2010	Felony	94	75.2%	44	35.2%	125
	Misdemeanor	46	86.8%	20	37.7%	53
	VOP	36	100.0%	19	52.8%	36
	Misdemeanor and VOP	3	100.0%	2	66.7%	3
	Administrative	0	n/a	0	n/a	0
	Drug Court	0	n/a	0	n/a	0
	Totals	179	82.5%	85	39.2%	217
2011	Felony	136	84.5%	80	49.7%	161
	Misdemeanor	64	83.1%	28	36.4%	77
	VOP	75	85.2%	32	36.4%	88
	Misdemeanor and VOP	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	2
	Administrative	12	75.0%	4	25.0%	16
	Drug Court	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	2
	Totals	290	83.8%	144	41.6%	346
2012	Felony	89	73.6%	47	38.8%	121
	Misdemeanor	53	75.7%	19	27.1%	70
	VOP	73	91.3%	36	45.0%	80
	Misdemeanor and VOP	12	66.7%	6	33.3%	18
	Administrative	22	84.6%	12	46.2%	26
	Drug Court	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1
	Totals	249	78.8%	120	38.0%	316
2013	Felony	128	74.4%	34	19.8%	172
	Misdemeanor	62	75.6%	12	14.6%	82
	VOP	55	79.7%	16	23.2%	69
	Misdemeanor and VOP	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	2
	Administrative	4	100.0%	0	0.0%	4
	Drug Court	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	1
	Totals	252	76.4%	62	18.8%	330
2014	Felony	108	78.8%	33	24.1%	137
	Misdemeanor	41	83.7%	9	18.4%	49
	VOP	64	85.3%	15	20.0%	75
	Misdemeanor and VOP	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	1
	Administrative	8	88.9%	3	33.3%	9
	Drug Court	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
	Totals	222	81.9%	61	22.5%	271

Table 5. Youth re-admission by stay type

Stay Type		Juvenile Facility		Adult Facility		Total at Risk
		Re-Admission	%	Re-Admission	%	
2010	Felony	52	41.6%	23	18.4%	125
	Misdemeanor	22	41.5%	10	18.9%	53
	VOP	25	69.4%	3	8.3%	36
	Misdemeanor and VOP	3	100.0%	0	0.0%	3
	Administrative	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
	Drug Court	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
	Totals	102	47.0%	36	16.6%	217
2011	Felony	81	50.3%	34	21.1%	161
	Misdemeanor	42	54.5%	9	11.7%	77
	VOP	57	64.8%	14	15.9%	88
	Misdemeanor and VOP	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	2
	Administrative	9	60.0%	3	20.0%	15
	Drug Court	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	3
	Totals	190	54.9%	61	17.6%	346
2012	Felony	42	34.7%	16	13.2%	121
	Misdemeanor	18	25.7%	14	20.0%	70
	VOP	31	38.8%	18	22.5%	80
	Misdemeanor and VOP	4	22.2%	4	22.2%	18
	Administrative	2	7.7%	4	15.4%	26
	Drug Court	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1
	Totals	97	30.7%	56	17.7%	316
2013	Felony	71	41.3%	40	23.3%	172
	Misdemeanor	37	45.1%	13	15.9%	82
	VOP	33	47.8%	13	18.8%	69
	Misdemeanor and VOP	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	2
	Administrative	2	50.0%	1	25.0%	4
	Drug Court	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	1
	Totals	145	43.9%	67	20.3%	330
2014	Felony	49	35.8%	30	21.9%	137
	Misdemeanor	25	51.0%	8	16.3%	49
	VOP	38	50.7%	19	25.3%	75
	Misdemeanor and VOP	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1
	Administrative	1	11.1%	2	22.2%	9
	Drug Court	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
	Totals	113	41.7%	60	22.1%	271

Figure 5. Re-arrest and re-admission rates by release year for felony stay type

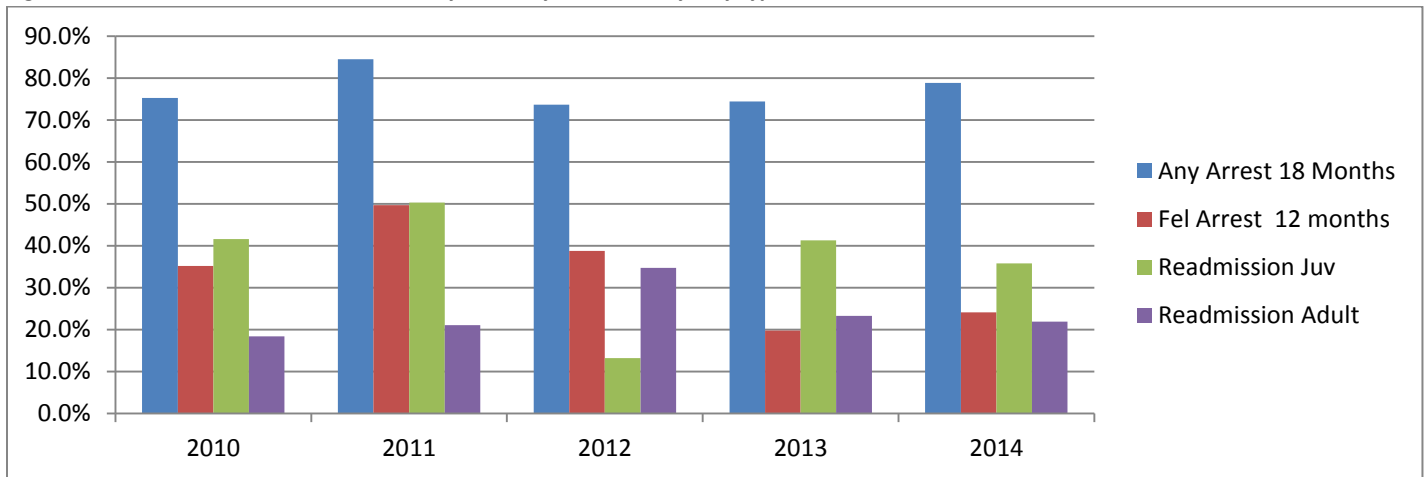


Figure 6. Re-arrest and re-admission rates by release year for misdemeanor stay type

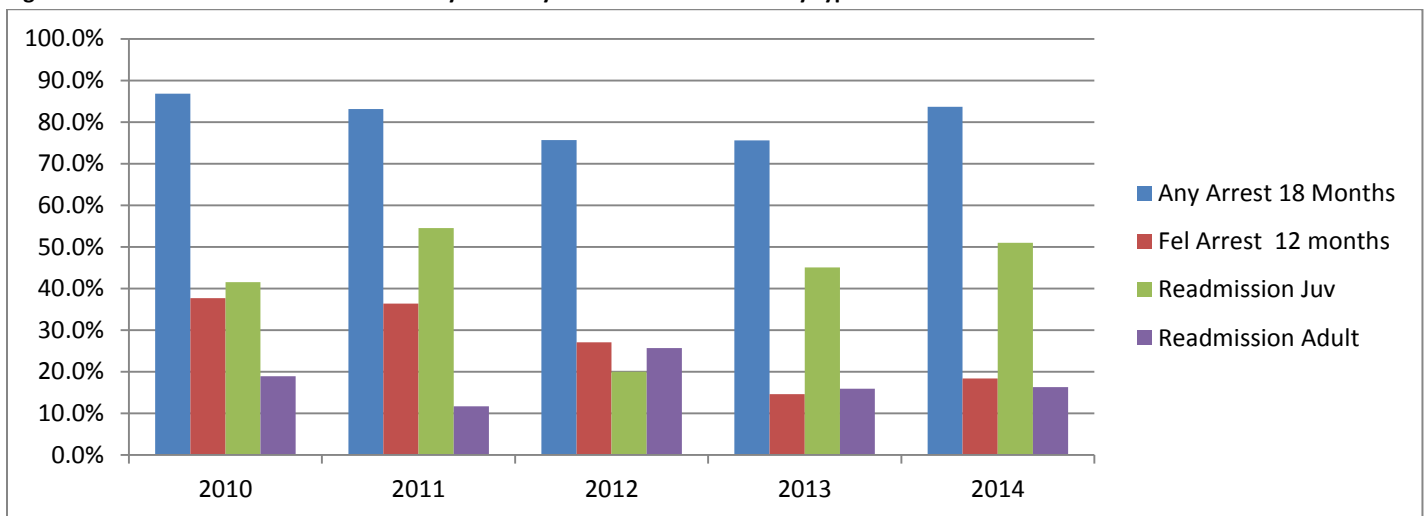
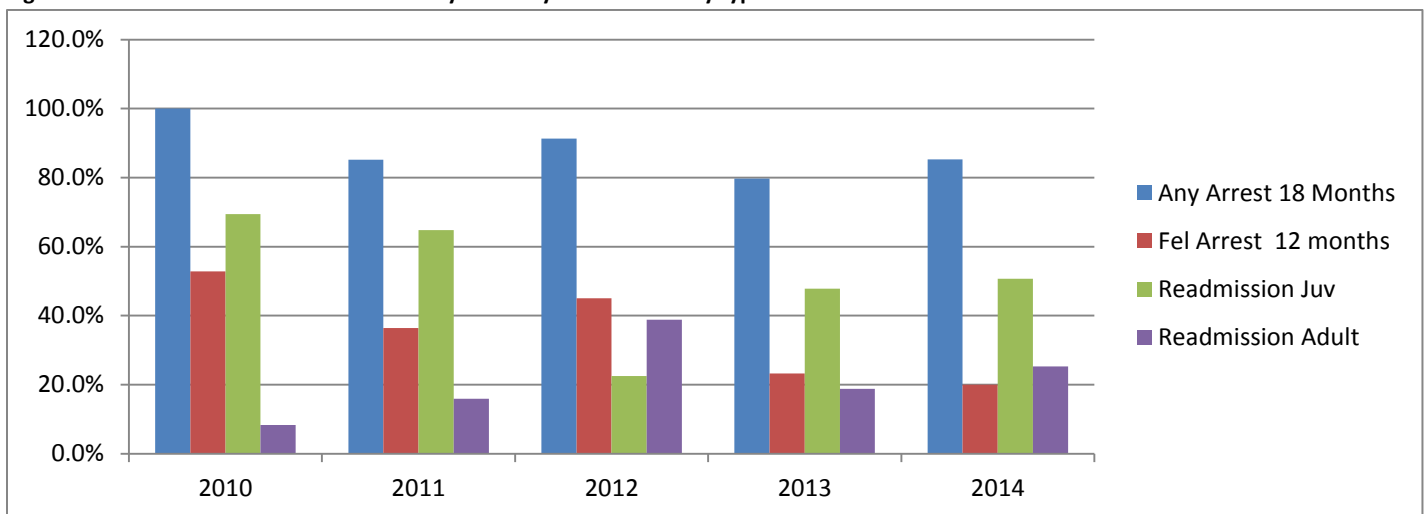


Figure 7. Re-arrest and re-admission rates by release year for VOP stay type



Tables 6 and 7 portray re-arrest and re-admission by facility flow for youth released from a YRS Level 5 or Level 4 facility between the years of 2010 to 2014. Offenses counted as recidivism were state felonies, serious misdemeanors, or violations of probation within the first 18 months after the youth's at-risk date. Re-arrest recidivism measures were completed for felony arrest within 12 months and any arrest within 18 months.

Table 6 shows re-arrest based on the juvenile's facility flow. Facility flow shows the way the youth moved through the YRS system and which facilities he or she attended. For example, "SDL5L4" refers to a juvenile who started in Secure Detention, then entered a Level 5 facility, and lastly flowed to a Level 4 facility with no break in YRS custody. Table 6 shows that 30%-50% of juveniles that were released from a SDL5L4 facility flow, from 2010 through 2014, were re-arrested on a felony charge within 12 months at-risk. Between 80% and 90% of juveniles in the SDL5L4 facility flow were re-arrested on a felony, serious misdemeanor, or VOP within 18 months at risk. For the categories where all juveniles were re-arrested within 18 months, please take note of the small number of youth at-risk in those categories.

Table 7 shows re-admission with respect to the juvenile's facility flow. Of the youth with a facility flow of SDL5L4, 33.3%, 56.7%, 12.3%, 44.3% and 37.9% were re-admitted to a juvenile facility within 18 months of release in cohorts 2010 through 2014 respectively. The same juvenile population, with a facility flow of SDL5L4, was re-admitted to an adult facility at a rate of 28.3%, 19.2%, 12.3%, 28.9% and 35.6% for the respective years of 2010 through 2014. Youth flowing from secure detention to Level 4 represent 57.2% of youth at-risk from 2010 to 2014. Of those youth at-risk and released from a SDL4 facility flow, 64.4% in 2010, 73.5% in 2011, 47.3% in 2012, 64.6% in 2013 and 58.9% in 2014 were re-admitted to either a juvenile or adult facility within 18 months.

Table 6. Youth re-arrest by facility flow

Facility Flow		Any Arrest		Felony Arrest		Total at Risk
		18 months	%	first 12 months	%	
2010	SDL5L4	51	85.0	28	46.7	60
	SDL5	5	62.5	2	25.0	8
	SDL4	111	82.2	50	37.0	135
	L5L4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
	L5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
	L4	12	85.7	5	35.7	14
	Totals	179	82.5	85	39.2	217
2011	SDL5L4	87	83.7	55	52.9	104
	SDL5	16	84.2	7	36.8	19
	SDL4	157	84.9	73	39.5	185
	L5L4	4	100.0	2	50.0	4
	L5	1	100.0	0	0.0	1
	L4	26	78.8	7	21.2	33
	Totals	291	84.1	144	41.6	346
2012	SDL5L4	67	82.7	40	49.4	81
	SDL5	11	68.8	4	25.0	16
	SDL4	146	78.5	66	35.5	186
	L5L4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
	L5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
	L4	24	72.7	10	30.3	33
	Totals	248	78.5	120	38.0	316
2013	SDL5L4	80	82.5	28	28.9	97
	SDL5	15	60.0	4	16.0	25
	SDL4	137	77.0	27	15.2	178
	L5L4	1	50.0	0	0.0	2
	L5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
	L4	19	70.4	3	11.1	27
	Totals	252	76.4	62	18.8	330
2014	SDL5L4	78	89.7	27	31.0	87
	SDL5	13	76.5	7	41.2	17
	SDL4	127	77.9	25	15.3	163
	L5L4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
	L5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
	L4	4	100.0	2	50.0	4
	Totals	222	81.9	61	22.5	271

Table 7. Youth re-admission by facility flow

Facility Flow		Juvenile Facility		Adult Facility		Total at Risk
		Re-Admission	%	Re-Admission	%	
2010	SDL5L4	20	33.3	17	28.3	60
	SDL5	1	12.5	5	62.5	8
	SDL4	74	54.8	13	9.6	135
	L5L4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
	L5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
	L4	7	50.0	1	7.1	14
	Totals	102	47.0	36	16.6	217
2011	SDL5L4	59	56.7	20	19.2	104
	SDL5	3	15.8	10	52.6	19
	SDL4	113	61.1	23	12.4	185
	L5L4	0	0.0	2	50.0	4
	L5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
	L4	15	45.5	7	21.2	33
	Totals	190	54.9	62	17.9	346
2012	SDL5L4	40	49.4	10	12.3	81
	SDL5	7	43.8	1	6.3	16
	SDL4	47	25.3	41	22.0	186
	L5L4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
	L5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
	L4	3	9.1	4	12.1	33
	Totals	97	30.7	56	17.7	316
2013	SDL5L4	43	44.3	28	28.9	97
	SDL5	5	20.0	8	32.0	25
	SDL4	88	49.4	27	15.2	178
	L5L4	1	50.0	0	0.0	2
	L5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
	L4	8	29.6	4	14.8	27
	Totals	145	43.9	67	20.3	330
2014	SDL5L4	33	37.9	31	35.6	87
	SDL5	4	23.5	5	29.4	17
	SDL4	73	44.8	23	14.1	163
	L5L4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
	L5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
	L4	3	75.0	1	25.0	4
	Totals	113	41.7	60	22.1	271

Figure 8. Re-arrest and re-admission rates by release year for facility flow of SDL5L4

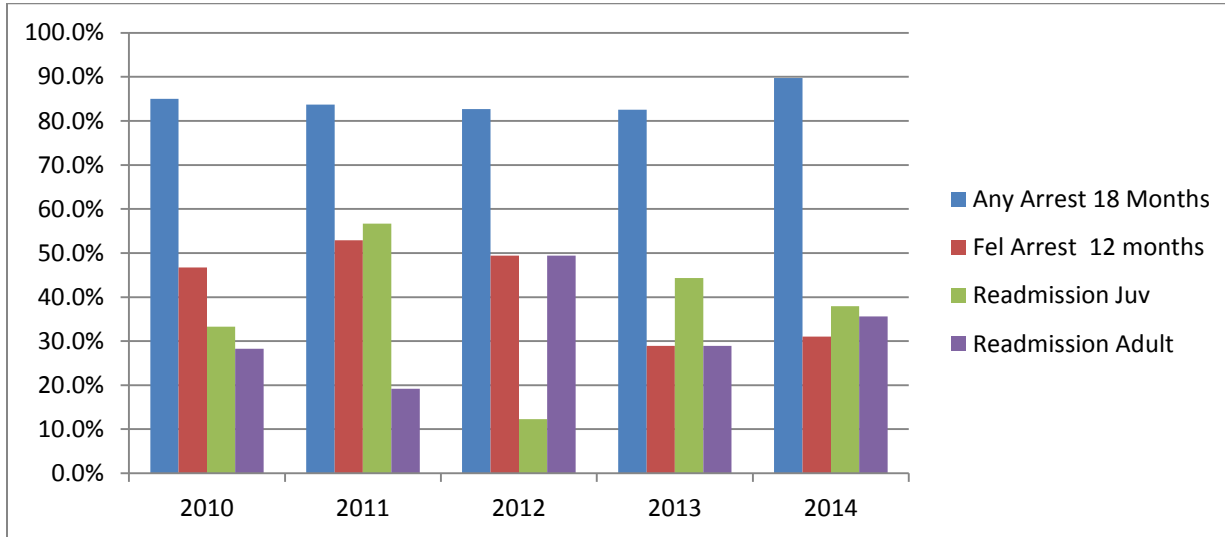
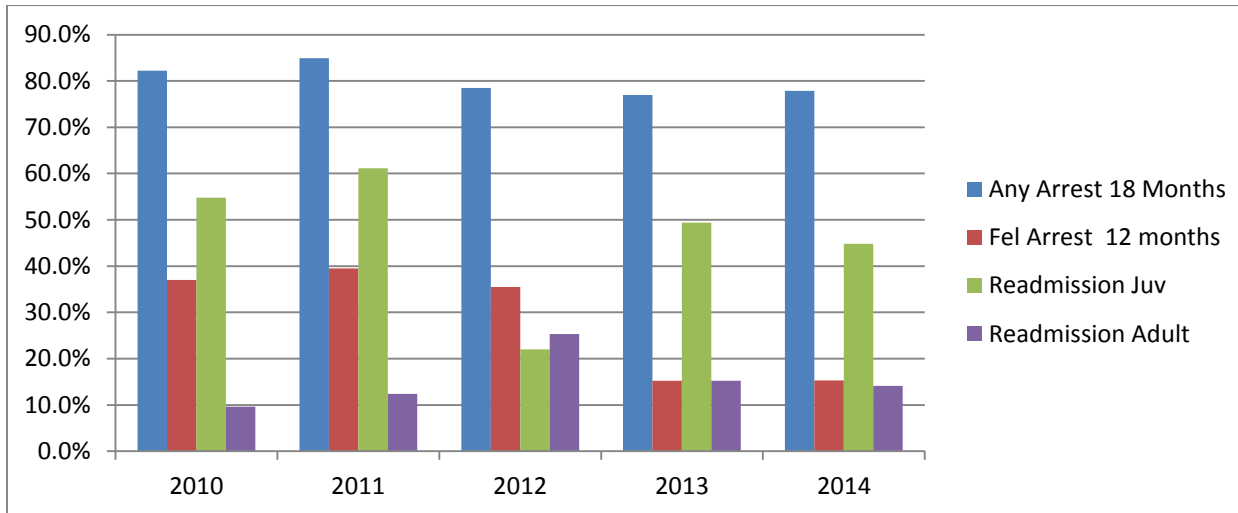


Figure 9. Re-arrest and re-admission rates by release year for facility flow of SDL4



Re-Arrest and Re-Admission by Race and Age At Release

Tables 12 and 13 show youth re-arrest and re-admission rates by race for juvenile release cohorts 2010 through 2014. On average, for release cohorts 2010 through 2014, black youth were re-arrested within 18 months at-risk at a rate of 83.5%. White youth had a re-arrest within 18 months at-risk at a rate of 73.1%. On average 34.4% of black youth have a felony arrest within the first 12 months at risk, while 25.6% of white youth are re-arrested on a felony charge. Re-admission rates to a juvenile facility within 18 months at-risk average 47.1% for black youth and 34.8% for white youth across release cohort years of 2010 through 2014. Return rates to an adult facility were 20.2% within an 18 month at-risk period for black youth and 14.9% for white youth. Approximately 68% of at-risk black youth were re-admitted to either a juvenile or adult facility within 18 months of release across cohorts 2010 through 2014. Of white youth released from 2010 through 2014 and at-risk for 18 months, 49.6% were re-admitted to a juvenile or adult facility during that time. Both juvenile and adult facility re-admissions have fluctuated slightly across cohort years 2010 through 2014.

Table 12. Youth re-arrest by race

Race		Any Arrest		Felony Arrest		Total at Risk
		18 months	%	first 12 months	%	
2010	Black	120	82.8	58	40.0	145
	White	59	81.9	27	37.5	72
	Totals	179	82.5	85	39.2	217
2011	Black	223	87.5	112	43.9	255
	White	68	74.7	32	35.2	91
	Totals	291	84.1	144	41.6	346
2012	Black	189	84.4	96	42.9	224
	White	60	65.2	24	26.1	92
	Totals	249	78.8	120	38.0	316
2013	Black	186	77.8	51	21.3	239
	White	66	72.5	11	12.1	91
	Totals	252	76.4	62	18.8	330
2014	Black	180	84.9	51	24.1	212
	White	42	71.2	10	16.9	59
	Totals	222	81.9	61	22.5	271

Table 13. Youth re-admission by race

Race		Juvenile Facility		Adult Facility		Total at Risk
		Re-Admission	%	Re-Admission	%	
2010	Black	75	51.7	23	15.9	145
	White	27	37.5	13	18.1	72
	Totals	102	47.0	36	16.6	217
2011	Black	155	60.8	46	18.0	255
	White	35	38.5	16	17.6	91
	Totals	190	54.9	62	17.9	346
2012	Black	74	33.0	46	20.5	224
	White	23	25.0	10	10.9	92
	Totals	97	30.7	56	17.7	316
2013	Black	111	46.4	51	21.3	239
	White	34	37.4	16	17.6	91
	Totals	145	43.9	67	20.3	330
2014	Black	92	43.4	54	25.5	212
	White	21	35.6	6	10.2	59
	Totals	113	41.7	60	22.1	271

Figure 10. Youth re-arrest and re-admission by race and release cohort

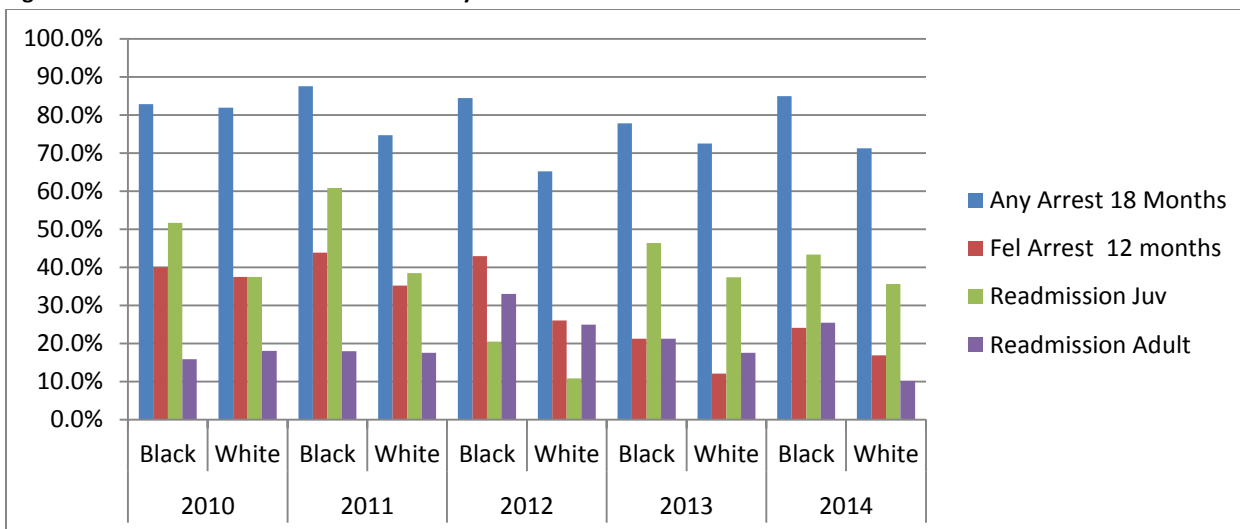


Table 14 shows youth re-arrest by age at time of release from Level 5 or Level 4 juvenile facilities for release cohorts 2010 through 2014. The majority of youth released from a Level 5 or Level 4 juvenile facility are between the ages of 16 and 18. The re-arrest rate for 16-18 year olds at risk for 18 months is 84.5% for the 2010 release cohort, 81.5% for 2011, 75.9% for 2012, 74.9% for 2013 and 80.9% for 2014. The rate for a felony re-arrest within 12 months at-risk, for 16-18 year old youth, in release cohort 2010 through 2014, is 38.2%, 39.3%, 36.8%, 20%, and 23.8% respectively.

Table 15 shows youth re-admission by age at time of release from a juvenile Level 5 or Level 4 facility for release cohorts 2010 through 2014. On average 52.3% of youth age 15 to 17 at time of release from cohorts 2010 through 2014 were re-admitted to a juvenile facility with 18 months at-risk. On average across all release cohorts and all age categories at time of release, 18.9% of youth were re-admitted to an adult facility within 18 months at-risk. Youth, age 17 at time of release, were re-admitted to either a juvenile or an adult facility within 18 months at-risk at a rate of 64.8% for release cohorts 2010 through 2014.

Table 14. Youth re-arrest by age at release

Age at Release		Any Arrest		Felony Arrest		Total at Risk
		18 months	%	first 12 months	%	
2010	<=13	11	100.0	6	54.5	11
	14	16	88.9	8	44.4	18
	15	27	73.0	15	40.5	37
	16	48	82.8	25	43.1	58
	17	46	82.1	16	28.6	56
	18	31	88.6	15	42.9	35
	19	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
	Totals	179	82.5	85	39.2	217
2011	13	7	87.5	5	62.5	8
	14	18	94.7	10	52.6	19
	15	48	87.3	25	45.5	55
	16	76	87.4	34	39.1	87
	17	92	86.0	44	41.1	107
	18	49	71.0	26	37.7	69
	19	1	100.0	0	0.0	1
	Totals	291	84.1	144	41.6	346
2012	13	4	100.0	0	0.0	4
	14	10	71.4	2	14.3	14
	15	41	93.2	20	45.5	44
	16	57	83.8	21	30.9	68
	17	91	77.8	52	44.4	117
	18	45	66.2	24	35.3	68
	19	1	100.0	1	100.0	1
	Totals	249	78.8	120	38.0	316
2013	13	3	100.0	0	0.0	3
	14	14	82.4	4	23.5	17
	15	43	84.3	7	13.7	51
	16	64	81.0	15	19.0	79
	17	77	74.0	22	21.2	104
	18	46	69.7	13	19.7	66
	19	5	50.0	1	10.0	10
	Totals	252	76.4	62	18.8	330
2014	13	2	100.0	0	0.0	2
	14	15	83.3	4	22.2	18
	15	28	87.5	3	9.4	32
	16	49	72.1	9	13.2	68
	17	77	85.6	24	26.7	90
	18	46	85.2	17	31.5	54
	19	5	71.4	4	57.1	7
	Totals	222	81.9	61	22.5	271

Table 15. Youth re-admission by age at release

Age at Release		Juvenile Facility		Adult Facility		Total at Risk
		Re-Admission	%	Re-Admission	%	
2010	12	1	100.0	0	0.0	1
	13	8	80.0	0	0.0	10
	14	12	66.7	0	0.0	18
	15	24	64.9	0	0.0	37
	16	36	62.1	0	0.0	58
	17	20	35.7	14	25.0	56
	18	1	2.9	21	60.0	35
	19	0	0.0	1	50.0	2
	Totals	102	47.0	36	16.6	217
2011	13	6	75.0	0	0.0	8
	14	16	84.2	0	0.0	19
	15	41	74.5	0	0.0	55
	16	68	78.2	1	1.1	87
	17	57	53.3	25	23.4	107
	18	2	2.9	35	50.7	69
	19	0	0.0	1	100.0	1
	Totals	190	54.9	62	17.9	346
2012	13	2	50.0	0	0.0	4
	14	6	42.9	0	0.0	14
	15	23	52.3	0	0.0	44
	16	18	26.5	6	8.8	68
	17	7	6.0	57	48.7	117
	18	0	0.0	33	48.5	68
	19	0	0.0	1	100.0	1
	Totals	56	17.7	97	30.7	316
2013	13	2	66.7	0	0.0	3
	14	14	82.4	0	0.0	17
	15	37	72.5	1	2.0	51
	16	50	63.3	3	3.8	79
	17	37	35.6	30	28.8	104
	18	5	7.6	27	40.9	66
	19	0	0.0	6	60.0	10
	Totals	145	43.9	67	20.3	330
2014	13	1	50.0	0	0.0	2
	14	13	72.2	0	0.0	18
	15	20	62.5	0	0.0	32
	16	37	54.4	0	0.0	68
	17	38	42.2	22	24.4	90
	18	4	7.4	35	64.8	54
	19	0	0.0	3	42.9	7
	Totals	113	41.7	60	22.1	271

Conclusions and Limitations

This study provides an overview of juvenile recidivism in Delaware. The Center tracked youth released from a Level 4 or Level 5 secure facility in the years 2010 through 2014 for 18 months at-risk. Youth were tracked for both re-arrest and re-admission recidivism measures. Offense dates were used to determine re-arrest events, to most closely represent returns to criminal behavior. For the re-commitment measure, recidivism was identified by the date of first re-admission to a Level 5, Level 4 or secure adult facility, whether in detained or sentenced status, and for any length of time.

The Center captured race, gender and release age for each study subject as they were recorded in the state's information system, with some manual review to resolve obvious data conflicts. (Ethnicity was not studied due to low Hispanic subject counts and issues with inconsistent system data on ethnicity.)

Limited analyses of race, gender, release age, and stay types show sometimes large differences in re-arrest recidivism for those groupings. Conclusions should be drawn carefully though, as more in-depth analyses should be conducted, and some group sizes were small even when five cohort years were combined.

Readers should exercise caution when comparing recidivism rates in this report to findings in other studies. With the lack of standards in measures and methods existing in recidivism research, rate differences can lead to misleading conclusions about offender behavior and rehabilitation efforts. Analyzing recidivism is challenging, as it is a complex, multifaceted problem. This study, while providing some rich data about the subject, raises far more questions than the Center was able to explore given the study's time, resource, and data limitations along with the focus of the Center's mission. For example, this study did not examine those juveniles who did not recidivate, yet key understandings for addressing recidivism may lie in understanding this population. It is important to remember that this study did not examine the complexities of youth offender behavior.

Recidivism is only one type of measure needed to determine whether a package of sanctions and interventions was successful in deterring an individual from future offending. Large differences in recidivism rates alone are not likely to provide reliable indicators of the quality or effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts, either in absolute or relative terms. Recidivism and desistance are essentially all or none measures-either a person continues to reoffend or they do not. However, rehabilitation is a gradual, non-linear process with progress occurring in incremental steps. Examination of recidivism then should also include appropriate study of rehabilitation efforts to understand progress youth are making on the path toward no longer recidivating.

Recidivism Offenses

Most offenses of relevance in this study, whether related to pre-release or recidivism follow-up, are identified in Titles 11, 16, 21, or 31 of the Delaware Code. In measuring re-arrest and recidivism, the Center used only what it refers to as serious criminal offenses. In addition to probation or parole violations, selected offenses are identified in the Delaware Code as felonies or misdemeanors with incarceration as a possible (or mandatory) sanction. In a small number of cases, Delaware arrests and detentions of subjects held as fugitives for others jurisdictions were also counted as recidivism. Offenses/events used in re-arrest recidivism measures are summarized in Table A1.

Table A1. Arrest or conviction events counted as recidivism

Delaware Code references	Offenses or events counted in re-arrest or reconviction recidivism measures
Title 11	Any criminal felony or misdemeanor punishable by incarceration; Violation of probation (§ 4334) or parole (§ 4352); Arrest prior to requisition (§ 2513)
Title 16	Felony or misdemeanor drug offenses identified in Chapter 47
Title 21	Driving after judgment prohibited (§ 2810); Driving under the influence (§ 4177); Disregarding the signal of a police vehicle, felony only (§ 4103); Leaving the scene of an accident (Chapter 42); Theft, unauthorized use, or damage of vehicles (Chapter 67)
Title 31	Abusing, neglecting, exploiting, or mistreating an impaired adult (Chapter 39)

Table A2. Definitions of YRS Levels

Level V- Secure confinement- lock/secured perimeter
Level IV- Secure confinement, lock/staff secured facility
Level III- Intensive Probation Supervision
Level II- Low Level Probation
Level I- Administrative Probation