

## Recidivism rates

### Methodology

A release cohort is generated for the target year. This is done by analyzing status and reason codes found in the inmate database. These status and reason codes identify DRC admission and exit dates. For offenders released multiple times in a targeted year the first exit is counted. Offenders released onto Transitional Control are not considered 'released' from DRC until they have completed that phase and moved on to either a Post release control release or an Expiration of Stated Term release. It is this subsequent release date that includes offenders previously released onto Transitional control.

Once a release cohort has been established, calculating recidivism is accomplished in two steps. The first step involves analyzing all subsequent status and reason codes that occurred (on the Offender's current DRC incarceration ID number) after the offender's first release date --- searching for any codes indicating a return to prison.<sup>i</sup> The first of these return dates is identified and classified as a technical violation return.

The second step is to search for subsequent incarcerations for new criminal convictions. This involves searching through all of the offender's linked prison ID numbers, identifying those with an admission date subsequent to the relevant release date. The first of these return dates is identified and classified as a return for a new crime.<sup>ii</sup>

If an offender has multiple return events the first event is counted as the primary recidivism event. Time from prison exit to the primary recidivism event is calculated, allowing for the standardization of yearly recidivism rates. (An offender released on January 1, 2009 will be followed up to December 31, 2009 and only recidivism events that occurred in that timeframe will count towards the One Year Recidivism Rate --- while an offender released on March 15, 2009 will be followed until March 14, 2010 for his or her One Year Rate).

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<sup>i</sup> The one exception is when an offender has been returned to DRC prior to his or her Technical Violation Hearing due to lack of room in the local jail. If an offender is subsequently returned to supervision without a sanction or a parole violation this 'return' is not counted as a recidivism event.

<sup>ii</sup> Some of the new criminal convictions are actually offenders who have violated conditions of their community control. Due to database limitations these violators are indistinguishable from new criminal convictions. (Recent enhancements to the data will allow us to distinguish these violations in the future).