

# DCJ Juvenile Diversion FY 2015-2016 Recidivism Rate

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Created by Colorado state statute, the DCJ Juvenile Diversion grant program is intended to prevent further involvement of juveniles into the formal justice system. By keeping youth at home or in their communities, these programs allow youth to avoid incarceration and exposure to offenders with more serious delinquent behavior. Additionally, the programs are intended to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors among youth served.

## Definition of Recidivism

The criteria used for recidivism is a filing or filings for a new offense (felony, misdemeanor, or juvenile delinquency) either while the juvenile was in the program or up to one year after they exited the program.

## Methodology

In order to calculate the recidivism rate for individuals who had completed Diversion programming during the 2015-16 fiscal year, OMNI worked with DCJ's Research staff to obtain data from the ICON/Eclipse database. ICON/Eclipse is the current case management system for trial courts in Colorado, and includes offense-related information (including type and number of offense(s) and filing date(s), the variables critical for this analysis) for all district and county-level courts in the state of Colorado (with the exception of the Denver County Court which is obtained separately). OMNI provided DCJ with a data set including juveniles' first and last names, date of birth, and race/ethnicity. DCJ research staff then matched the diversion data with ICON data to provide information on whether individuals had recidivated.

## Results

This recidivism data set included individuals who were accepted into the Diversion program, had successfully or unsuccessfully completed a Diversion program during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and had been exited from the program for at least 1 year as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Individuals with missing or 'neutral' outcomes (n=11) such as having chosen court, moved to a different area, or been transferred, are not included. The total sample size for this subset of youth was 1221 individuals.

Of all youth who had been exited from a Diversion program for at least one year, 15.9 percent of youth had recidivated during their participation in Diversion and/or within the one year after their participation. Of those who had exited Diversion *successfully*, 13.4 percent of youth had recidivated during their participation in Diversion and/or within the one year after their participation. Of those who exited Diversion *unsuccessfully*, 30.8% of youth had recidivated during their participation in Diversion and/or within the one year after their participation. Table 1, below, displays recidivism by exit status differentiating between the timing of offenses (rate of recidivism for after Diversion programming, and during and/or after Diversion). Similarly, tables 2 and 3 display the recidivism results by exit status and timing of offense by gender and race/ethnicity.

**Table 1: 1 Year Recidivism by Exit Status**

Did youth recidivate during Diversion or within 1 year after Diversion?	Total Sample Size (n)	Post Program		During and/or Post Program	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>All Youth</b>	1221	13.3%	86.7%	15.9%	84.1%
<b>Exit Status</b>					
<b>Successful Exit</b>	1049	11.3%	88.7%	13.4%	86.6%
<b>Unsuccessful Exit</b> (noncompliance, new or original charges filed)	172	25.6%	74.4%	30.8%	69.2%

**Table 2: 1 Year Recidivism by Gender and Exit Status**

Did youth recidivate during Diversion or within 1 year after Diversion?	Gender	Total Sample Size (n)	Post Program		During and/or Post Program	
			Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>All Exit Statuses</b>	Male	791	14.7%	85.3%	17.8%	82.2%
	Female	430	10.9%	89.1%	12.3%	87.7%
<b>Successful</b>	Male	669	12.7%	87.3%	15.4%	84.6%
	Female	380	8.9%	91.1%	10.0%	90.0%
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	Male	122	25.4%	74.6%	31.1%	68.9%
	Female	50	26.0%	74.4%	30.0%	70.0%

**Table 3: 1 Year Recidivism by Race/Ethnicity and Exit Status**

Did youth recidivate during Diversion or within 1 year after Diversion?	Race/Ethnicity	Total Sample Size (n)	Post Program		During and/or Post Program	
			Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>All Exit Statuses</b>	White (Non-Hispanic)	665	12.9%	87.1%	15.2%	84.8%
	Hispanic/Latino	334	12.9%	87.1%	15.0%	85.0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	18	11.1%	88.9%	16.7%	83.3%
	Native American	19	5.3%	94.7%	5.3%	94.7%
	Black/African American	49	22.4%	77.6%	26.5%	73.5%
	Multi-Racial	48	10.4%	89.6%	14.6%	85.4%
	Other	7	14.3%	85.7%	14.3%	85.7%
	<b>Successful</b>	White (Non-Hispanic)	583	11.1%	88.9%	12.9%
Hispanic/Latino		286	10.5%	89.5%	11.9%	88.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander		17	11.8%	88.2%	17.6%	82.4%
Native American		14	7.1%	92.9%	7.1%	92.9%
Black/African American		35	20.0%	80.0%	25.7%	74.3%

Did youth recidivate during Diversion or within 1 year after Diversion?

Unsuccessful

Race/Ethnicity	Total Sample Size (n)	Post Program		During and/or Post Program	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
Multi-Racial	40	7.5%	92.5%	10.0%	90.0%
Other	7	14.3%	85.7%	14.3%	85.7%
White (Non-Hispanic)	82	25.6%	74.4%	31.7%	68.3%
Hispanic/Latino	48	27.1%	72.9%	33.3%	66.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	--	--	--	--
Native American	5	0.0%	100.0%	0%	100.0%
Black/African American	14	28.6%	71.4%	28.6%	71.4%
Multi-Racial	8	25.0%	75.0%	37.5%	62.5%
Other	0	--	--	--	--