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ICON Data Download



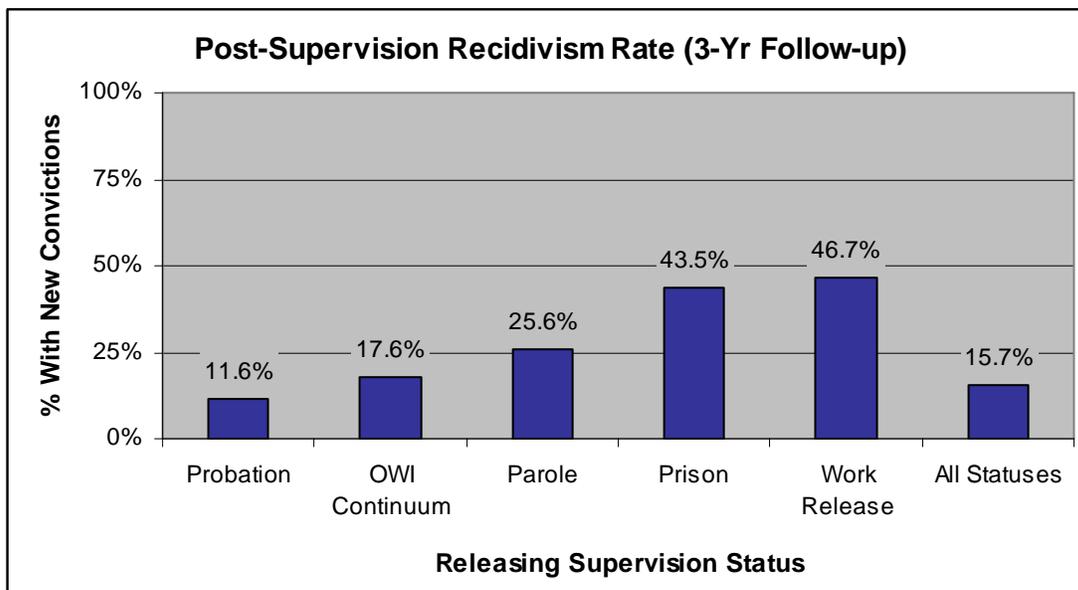
A New Way to Look at Offender Recidivism

Traditionally, recidivism is studied from the point when an offender first has an opportunity to reoffend, which is usually when he or she is admitted to community-based corrections supervision. However, an offender beginning supervision has not had an opportunity to complete treatment interventions that would potentially lower their risk of reoffending.

In the field of medicine, the effectiveness of a therapy is evaluated only after all sessions are completed. Likewise, to gauge the effectiveness of evidence-based practices in Iowa, it makes sense to take a look at recidivism beginning with the day the offender is discharged from all correctional supervision – the post-supervision recidivism rate.

Data for this analysis was provided from the Iowa Justice Data Warehouse – and takes advantage of the link between ICON and ICIS (the court database) to readily track offender recidivism.

The chart shows post-supervision recidivism rates for 14,252 offenders exiting the corrections system during FY2003. Each offender was tracked for three years and those with new convictions for an aggravated misdemeanor or felony were noted. Recidivism rates are grouped by final release status. For example, *prison* only includes offenders who discharged their sentences in prison and received no further supervision upon release. Likewise, *work release* does not include offenders who received paroles following that placement.



Future issues of the ICON Data Download will explore post-supervision recidivism rates in more detail.

ICON **prison** data for FY2003 are incomplete, because information was in the process of being converted from the old mainframe database that ICON replaced. Data for all other supervision statuses are complete.