



# Comparison of FY2007 & FY2008 SR Release Recidivism Rates by Gender and Other Characteristics

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS & FORECAST UNIT BRIEF

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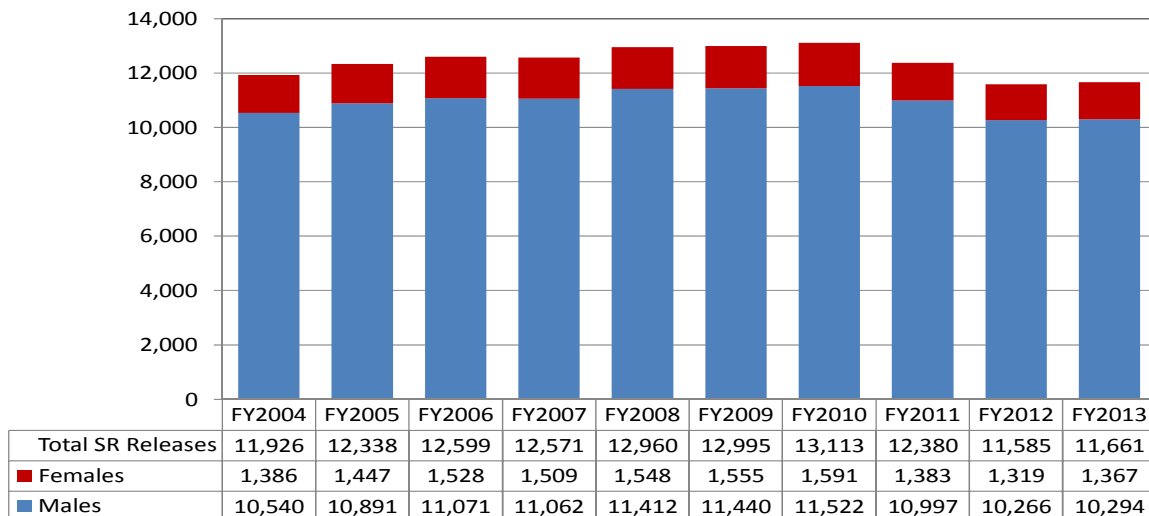
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## Introduction

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) aims to promote public safety and reduce crime by preparing offenders for success through a continuum of services and supervision from the time of the offender's entry into incarceration through his or her transition and reintegration in the community. This research brief compares the recidivism rates of State Responsible (SR)<sup>1</sup> offenders released from incarceration in FY2007 and FY2008, examining the differences between males and females by other characteristics that help to explain recidivism.

## SR Releases by Gender FY2004 – FY2013



<sup>1</sup> "State Responsible" (SR) offenders are felons with sentences of at least one year.

## Re-incarceration Rates

The VADOC calculates its official recidivism rate by looking at who has been re-incarcerated with an SR sentence within three years of their release date. This is a standard measure used by most states nationwide.<sup>2</sup> VADOC only includes SR releases who were at liberty and had the opportunity to recidivate. Those excluded from the analysis include SR releases who died in custody or were transferred to another jurisdiction upon release.

By comparing these re-incarceration rates, it is noted that re-incarceration rates were lower among FY2008 SR Releases than among FY2007 SR Releases. The overall drop in the re-incarceration rate among all SR Releases went from 26.1% in FY2007 to 23.4% in FY2008. One possible explanation for this difference could be that offenders released in FY2008 have different risk factors such as gender, age, crime type, and prior criminal record. To test this theory and determine if the recidivism rate truly declined or if it was a lower risk group who was released, offender demographic, offense, criminal history, and sentencing characteristics are examined in context of their associated recidivism rates for these groups. Then, these characteristics are tested for statistical significance in discerning among recidivists and non-recidivists. If the rate has truly dropped, then it is expected that holding offender gender, age, offense type, prior criminal history, and length of stay constant, there will still be a difference among FY2007 and FY2008 three-year re-incarceration rates. Furthermore, this study will indicate which of the factors tested contribute significantly toward recidivism.

## Demographic Characteristics

In FY2007, 12,361 individuals were released from SR incarceration with the opportunity to recidivate. Of these, 1,488 were women and 10,873 were men. Women represented 12% of all SR Releases that year. The overall three-year re-incarceration rate for FY2007 SR Releases was 26.1%. Males had significantly higher rates than females; 27.2% of males returned to SR incarceration within three years, compared to only 18.2% of females.

In FY2008, 12,817 individuals in the study group were released. Of these, 1,544 were women and 11,273 were men. Female SR Releases still represented 12% of total Releases in FY2008. At 23.4%, the overall three year re-incarceration rate for FY2008 SR Releases was significantly lower than the rate for FY2007 SR Releases. Consistent with FY2007 SR Releases, males released in FY2008 had a significantly higher recidivism rate (at 24.2%) compared to that of females (at 17.2%). The recidivism rate dropped by three percent for males and by one percent for females.

### *Race*

The SR Releases in FY2007 were classified in the following racial/ethnic groups: 4,764 offenders (39%) as "White," 7,271 (59%) as "Black," 278 (2%) as "Hispanic," 44 (<1%) as "Asian/Pacific Islander," one (<1%) as "American Indian/Alaska Native," and three (<1%) as "Other." The SR Releases in FY2008 included 5,055 offenders (39%) classified as "White," 7,463 (58%) as "Black," 243 (2%) as "Hispanic," 44 (<1%) as "Asian/Pacific Islander," 8 (<1%) as "American Indian/Alaska Native," and 4 (<1%) as "Other." As race is believed by many to "stand-in" for other socio-economic factors, it has not been used in determining charac-

<sup>2</sup> Delaware and Maryland do not calculate their respective re-incarceration rates. Missouri calculates its re-incarceration rate, but, unlike other states, excludes parole violators. Some states (i.e. Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont) have unified correctional systems, in which all releases from jails are included in the re-incarceration rate.

teristics of recidivism.

### Age at Release

The average age of all SR Releases in FY2007 was 35.7 years compared to 36.1 years among FY2008 SR Releases. Approximately one-quarter of the females and one-third of the males released

**Age Groups as Percent of SR Total Releases**

	FY2007			FY2008		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 30	34.8%	23.2%	33.4%	33.5%	25.5%	32.6%
30-49	55.5%	68.6%	57.1%	55.1%	66.6%	56.5%
50+	9.7%	8.2%	9.5%	11.3%	7.9%	10.9%
<b>Average Age</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>36.1</b>

were under thirty years of age, an age group that includes what some researchers call the “crime prone” years.<sup>3</sup> This difference may contribute to the higher recidivism rates among male SR Releases. However, even among the SR Releases who were under age 30, a smaller portion of females recidivated; 19.7% of females and 30.8% of males in the FY2007 SR Releases and 18.3% of females and 29.0% of males in the FY2008 SR Releases.

The majority of SR Releases were released between 30 and 49 years of age. More than 55% of the males and approximately two-thirds of the females were released in this age bracket. Recidivism rates were lower for this age group than for the younger offenders. Among FY2007 SR Releases, 25.3% of those released between age 30 and 49 recidivated, compared to 29.9% of those released under age 30. Likewise, among the FY2008 SR Releases, 22.6% of those released between age 30 and 49 recidivated, compared to 28.0% of those who were under age 30. This holds true for both males and females. Females released between age 30 and 49 in FY2007 recidivated at 18.6% and among FY2008 SR Releases at 17.9%. Males released between age 30 and 49 in FY2007 recidivated at 26.4% and among FY2008 SR Releases at 23.4%.

Offenders released at age 50 and older have the lowest recidivism rates among the age groups. Among FY2007 SR Releases, 18.1% recidivated and among FY2008 SR Releases, 13.4% recidivated. Comparing females among the FY2007 and FY2008 age 50 and older group, 10.7% and 7.4% recidivated, respectively. Comparing males among the FY2007 and FY2008 age 50 and older group, 18.9% and 13.9% recidivated, respectively.

### Substance Abuse<sup>4</sup>

Among the SR Releases in FY2007, 6,997 (57%) had a history of alcohol abuse and 7,294 offenders (59%) had a history of drug abuse. Female offenders represented 6% of the SR Releases with a history of alcohol abuse and 9% of the SR Releases with a history of drug abuse. Among the SR Releases in FY2008, 7,015 (55%) had a history of alcohol abuse and 7,232 (56%) had a history of drug abuse. Female offenders still represented 6% of those with a history of alcohol abuse and 9% of those with a history of drug abuse.

In both release years, male offenders without a history of alcohol abuse had a higher recidivism rate than male offenders with a history of alcohol abuse. Unlike their FY2008 counterparts, female FY2007 SR Releases with a history of alcohol abuse

**Three Year Re-Incarceration Rates By History of Alcohol Abuse**

	FY2007			FY2008		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
No	27.9%	18.1%	26.2%	26.0%	17.2%	24.5%
Yes	26.8%	18.4%	26.1%	22.9%	17.0%	22.4%

<sup>3</sup> According to Jordan Diplock and Darryl Plecas in their 2010 article “Revisiting Age and Crime,” the “crime-prone years” are between the ages of 16 and 24.

<sup>4</sup> Nearly a quarter of the offenders included in this study are missing data on both alcohol and drug usage in VirginiaCORIS, the offender management system used by VADOC. The statistics in this report apply to those offenders whose alcohol and drug usage is reported.

recidivated at a slightly higher rate (18.4%) than those without such a history (18.1%). Considering both genders together, the recidivism rate among offenders with alcohol abuse histories was slightly lower than that of offenders without alcohol abuse histories in both release years. However, these differences were not significant.

Among FY2007 SR Releases, offenders with a history of drug abuse (regardless of gender) had a higher recidivism rate (27.6%) than those without such a history (24.0%). The same was true among the FY2008 SR Releases, in which those with a history of drug abuse had a higher recidivism rate (24.3%) than those without such a history (22.1%).

**Three Year Re-Incarceration Rates By History of Drug Abuse**

	FY2007			FY2008		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
No	25.1%	15.1%	24.0%	22.8%	16.8%	22.1%
Yes	28.7%	20.1%	27.6%	25.3%	17.4%	24.3%

## Criminal History

### *Crime Type*

In each release year, just under a third of the SR Releases in this study had a Violent crime type, around 45% had a Property/Public Order

(PPO) crime type, and around a quarter had a Drug crime type. These rates are the same

**Three-Year Re-Incarceration Rates By Crime Type**

	FY2007			FY2008		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Violent	25.5%	18.8%	25.2%	21.5%	15.7%	21.1%
Property/Public Order	29.6%	19.3%	28.0%	28.1%	17.4%	26.5%
Drug	25.2%	15.9%	23.9%	21.1%	17.8%	20.6%

among males released in each year. There is some difference among the female Releases, however, with 13% of the FY2007 SR Releases and 15% of the FY2008 SR Releases having a Violent crime type, 61% of the FY2007 SR Releases and 55% of the FY2008 SR Releases with a PPO crime type, and 26% of the FY2007 SR Releases and 30% of the FY2008 SR Releases with a Drug crime type.

In FY2007, the crime type with the highest re-incarceration rate was PPO, at 28.0%. This was followed by those with a Violent crime, who recidivated at 25.2%, and Drug offenders, who had a re-incarceration rate of 23.9%. Among female SR Releases in FY2007, PPO offenders had a re-incarceration rate of 19.3%, Violent offenders had a rate of 18.8%, and Drug offenders had a rate of 15.9%.

In FY2008, the crime type with the highest re-incarceration rate was, again, PPO, at 26.5%. This was followed by those with a Violent crime type, who recidivated at 21.1%. Drug offenders had a re-incarceration rate of 20.6%. Unlike FY2007 female SR Releases, their counterparts in FY2008 with a Drug crime type recidivated at the highest rates (17.8%), followed by PPO offenders (at 17.4%) and then Violent offenders (at 15.7%).

### *Most Serious Offense*

The most common Most Serious Offense (MSO) among the SR Releases from both release years was "Larceny/Fraud," representing 27% of FY2007 SR Releases and 25% of FY2008 SR Releases. This offense was also the most common MSO among the male SR Releases in FY2007, with 23% of the male SR Releases having an MSO of "Larceny/Fraud." "Larceny/Fraud" was also the most common MSO among the female SR Releases, accounting for 51% of the female SR Releases. This holds true for both males and females released in

FY2008, accounting for approximately a quarter of male SR Releases and around half of female SR Releases.

Among the males released in FY2007, those with the most prevalent MSO, “Larceny/Fraud,” were re-incarcerated within three years at a rate of 33.6%. The MSO with the highest rate among the males in FY2007 was “Conspiracy,” in which 8 of its 19 SR Releases came back to prison. Among the females released in FY2007, those with the most prevalent MSO, “Larceny/Fraud,” were re-incarcerated within three years at a rate of 19.0%. The MSO with the highest rate among the females in FY2007 was “Burglary/B&E,” at 27.8%.

Among the males released in FY2008, those with the most prevalent MSO, “Larceny/Fraud,” were re-incarcerated within three years at a rate of 30.2%. The MSO with the highest rate among the males in FY2008 was “Other Sex Offense,” at 31.4%.<sup>5</sup> Among the females released in FY2008, those with the most prevalent MSO, “Larceny/Fraud,” were re-incarcerated within three years at a rate of just over 18.1%. The MSO with the highest rate among the females in FY2008 was “Burglary/B&E,” at 21.3%.

### **Violent by §17.1-805<sup>6</sup>**

The definition of “violent” as defined by §17.1-805 of the *Code of Virginia* differs from the DOC’s “violent crime type” in two ways. First, this statutory definition has a broader range of offenses considered as violent. Burglary offenses, for instance, are considered “violent” by this statute, but are not included in the DOC’s “violent crime type” because burglary offenses, on average, have shorter sentences than other offenses considered in DOC’s “violent” crime type. Second, this statutory definition of “violent” is not limited to an offender’s current term of incarceration, as DOC crime type is limited in this regard. Once an offender is convicted of an offense defined as “violent” in §17.1-805, he/she is forevermore categorized as “violent by §17.1-805.”

Of the FY2007 SR Releases, 4,719 (38%) were considered “violent” by §17.1-805 of the *Code of Virginia*. This represents 41% of the male SR Releases that year and 19% of the female SR Releases. With a total of 5,972 (47% of all SR Releases), more SR Releases in FY2008 were considered “violent” by statute than in

**Three-Year Re-Incarceration Rates By Most Serious Offense**

	FY2007		FY2008	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Capital Murder	*	*	*	*
First Degree Homicide	20.0%	*	20.4%	*
Second Degree Homicide	18.2%	*	14.3%	*
Manslaughter	22.0%	0.0%	13.6%	0.0%
Abduction	18.6%	*	12.6%	*
Rape/Sexual Assault	23.2%	*	18.5%	*
Robbery	22.8%	17.6%	22.7%	12.7%
Assault	31.1%	23.9%	25.4%	19.8%
Weapons	19.8%	*	17.7%	*
Arson	21.1%	*	27.1%	*
Burglary/B&E	33.6%	27.8%	31.3%	21.3%
Larceny/Fraud	33.6%	19.0%	30.2%	18.1%
Conspiracy	42.1%	*	*	*
Other Sex Offense	27.7%	*	31.4%	*
DUI	18.8%	18.5%	15.1%	9.4%
Habitual Offender	19.8%	7.1%	21.6%	11.1%
Other PPO	21.7%	6.7%	23.1%	5.0%
Drug Sales	23.9%	21.0%	18.9%	11.8%
Drug Possession	25.9%	13.6%	22.4%	20.6%
Not Reported	22.2%	*	12.3%	*

\* Category represents fewer than ten SR Releases, so a re-incarceration rate was not calculated.

<sup>5</sup> The MSO “Other Sex Offense” includes sex offenses other than rape and sexual assault, such as those related to obscenity, pornography, and indecent exposure.

<sup>6</sup> Indicates if an offender has a current or historical conviction in his VADOC sentence history that is considered Violent according to §17.1-805 of the *Code of Virginia*

FY2007. This represents 50% of male SR Releases and 23% of female SR Releases that year.

SR Releases in both FY2007 and FY2008 who were considered “not violent” by §17.1-805 recidivated at a lower rate than their “violent” counterparts. Among FY2007 SR Releases, 33.5% of “violent” males were re-incarcerated, whereas 20.9% of “non-violent” males were re-incarcerated. This compares to 24.0% of the “violent” females recidivating and 16.6% of the “non-violent” females recidivating. Among FY2008 SR Releases, 29.3% of “violent” males were re-incarcerated, whereas 19.1% of “non-violent” males were re-incarcerated. With a re-incarceration rate of 21.4%, the FY2008 female “violent” SR Releases also recidivated at a higher rate than their “non-violent” counterparts, who recidivated at 15.9%. Since this definition of “violent” includes burglaries, and burglary offenders are among the offenders with the highest recidivism rates, the burglary offenders are most likely driving the recidivism rates for those offenders considered “violent” by §17.1-805.

### *Previous Felony Arrests*

One way to analyze criminal history is to look at the total number of arrests for a felony an offender has had prior to his/her last SR release date (which, in this case, would either be in FY2007 or FY2008).

Among the FY2007 and FY2008 SR Releases, 15-16% had fewer than three felony arrests prior to their SR Release Date. Another 15-17% had either 3 or 4, 19-20% had between 5 and 7, 22% had between 8 and 12, 13-15% had between 13 and 19, and 12-15% had at least 20 prior felony arrests.

**FY2007 SR Releases - Prior Felony Arrests By Re-Incarceration**

	Re-Incarceration				Total
	No		Yes		
Under 3	1,522	84.8%	273	15.2%	1,795
3 to 4	1,463	79.9%	369	20.1%	1,832
5 to 7	1,799	76.0%	568	24.0%	2,367
8 to 12	1,927	71.2%	781	28.8%	2,708
13 to 19	1,240	67.8%	589	32.2%	1,829
20+	1,181	64.5%	649	35.5%	1,830
Total	9,132	73.9%	3,229	26.1%	12,361

Among the FY2007 SR Releases, the re-incarceration rates ranged from 15.2% for those with fewer than three prior felony arrests to 35.5% for those with at least 20 prior felony arrests.

Among the FY2008 SR Releases, the re-incarceration rates ranged from 17.7% for those with fewer than three prior felony arrests to 27.8% for those with 13 to 19 prior felony arrests. (The re-incarceration rate of the FY2008 SR Releases with 20 or more prior felony arrests was actually, slightly lower, at 27.5%.)

**FY2008 SR Releases - Prior Felony Arrests By Re-Incarceration**

	Re-Incarceration				Total
	No		Yes		
Under 3	1,652	82.3%	355	17.7%	2,007
3 to 4	1,740	79.9%	437	20.1%	2,177
5 to 7	1,995	76.6%	611	23.4%	2,606
8 to 12	2,097	75.1%	694	24.9%	2,791
13 to 19	1,220	72.2%	469	27.8%	1,689
20+	1,122	72.5%	425	27.5%	1,547
Total	9,826	76.7%	2,991	23.4%	12,817

Total prior felony arrests were similar between genders in both SR Release fiscal years. At 10.8, males released in FY2007 had a slightly lower average number of prior arrests than their female counterparts, who had an average of 12.8. Among the FY2008 SR Releases, females (with 10.6) also had a slightly higher average than males (with 10.0).

### *Previous Felony Convictions*

Another way to analyze criminal history is to look at the total number of felony convictions for an offender.



Among the FY2007 and FY2008 SR Releases, 20-21% had fewer than two felony convictions prior to their SR Release Date. Another 29-33% had either 2 or 3, 18-19% had either 4 or 5, 16-18% had between 6 and 9, and 11-14% had at least 10 prior felony convictions.

Among the FY2007 SR Releases, the re-incarceration rates ranged from 17.6% for those with fewer than two prior felony convictions to 36.0% for those with at least 10 prior felony convictions. Among the FY2008 SR Releases, the re-incarceration rates ranged from 18.4% for those with fewer than two prior felony convictions to 27.3% for those with at least 10 prior felony convictions.

Total prior felony convictions were similar between genders in both SR Release fiscal years. At 5.2, males released in FY2007 had a slightly lower average number of prior convictions than their female counterparts, who had an average of 6.8. Among the FY2008 SR Releases, males (with 4.7) also had a slightly lower average than females (with 5.1).

#### *Previous SR Incarcerations*

For purposes of this study, a “previous incarceration” indicates any term of SR incarceration an offender had with the VADOC prior to the term for which he or she was released in FY2007 or FY2008. In FY2007, 70% of all SR Releases had no previous incarcerations, compared to 66% of all FY2008 SR Releases. Unlike the criminal history indicators prior felony arrests and prior felony convictions, offenders with more extensive histories of SR incarceration were re-incarcerated at lower rates than those with fewer previous SR incarcerations. Further analysis of the FY2007 and FY2008 SR Releases showed that there was a strong positive correlation between the number of prior SR incarcerations an offender had and the age at which he/she was released. In other words, relatively younger, more crime-prone offenders have fewer prior SR incarcerations than their older counterparts. Given the shorter amount of time that younger offenders have had to serve repeated incarcerations and releases and the role that criminal history has on sentencing recommendations, it is not surprising that the younger, more crime-prone offenders have relatively fewer SR incarcerations than their older counterparts. More than half of the recidivists with no prior SR incarcerations were under the age of 32.

In both years, male SR Releases were more likely to have previous SR incarcerations than their female counterparts. In FY2007, 30% of male SR Releases and 26% of female SR Releases had at least one previous SR incarceration. In FY2008, 35% of male SR Releases and 28% of female SR Releases had at least one previous SR incarceration. In FY2007, the overall re-incarceration rates were 33.8% for those with no previous SR incarcerations, 7.9% for those with at least one SR incarceration, and 12.7% for those with three or more previous SR incarcerations. In FY2008, the overall re-incarceration rates were 28.7% for those with no previous

**FY2007 SR Releases - Prior Felony Convictions By Re-Incarceration**

	Re-Incarceration				Total
	No		Yes		
Under 2	2,032	82.4%	435	17.6%	2,467
2 to 3	2,773	77.1%	822	22.9%	3,595
4 to 5	1,681	72.6%	633	27.4%	2,314
6 to 9	1,526	68.3%	709	31.7%	2,235
10+	1,120	64.0%	630	36.0%	1,750
Total	9,132	73.9%	3,229	26.1%	12,361

**FY2008 SR Releases - Prior Felony Convictions By Re-Incarceration**

	Re-Incarceration				Total
	No		Yes		
Under 2	2,243	81.6%	505	18.4%	2,748
2 to 3	3,239	76.7%	983	23.3%	4,222
4 to 5	1,803	76.3%	561	23.7%	2,364
6 to 9	1,498	73.1%	551	26.9%	2,049
10+	1,043	72.7%	391	27.3%	1,434
Total	9,826	76.7%	2,991	23.4%	12,817

SR incarcerations, 13.2% for those with at least one SR incarceration, and 18.2% for those with three or more previous SR incarcerations.

Of the male SR Releases in FY2007 with no previous SR incarcerations, 35.4% were re-incarcerated within three years. Their female counterparts were re-incarcerated at a rate of 23.2%. Of the male SR Releases in FY2007 with at least one previous SR incarceration, 8.4% were re-incarcerated within three years. Their female counterparts were re-incarcerated at a rate of 3.9%. Of the male SR Releases in FY2008 with no previous SR incarcerations, 30.1% were re-incarcerated within three years. Their female counterparts were re-incarcerated at a rate of 19.4%. Of the male SR Releases in FY2008 with at least one previous SR incarceration, 13.4% were re-incarcerated within three years. Their female counterparts were re-incarcerated at a rate of 11.4%.

Length of Stay<sup>7</sup>

Slightly over half of the SR Releases had a Total Length of Stay (LOS) of under two years. One-quarter had a Total LOS of two to four years, and around 10% had a Total LOS of four to six years. The remaining 13% of the SR Releases had a Total LOS of six years or more. Males tended to have a higher Total LOS than females. About 50% of male SR Releases in each release year had a Total LOS of under two years, compared to about 63% of female SR Releases in FY2007 and 65% of female SR Releases in FY2008.

Male SR Releases, regardless of Total LOS group, recidivated at a higher rate than their female counterparts. Of the males released in FY2007 with a Total LOS under two years, 28.5% were re-incarcerated within three years, compared to 17.0% of the female SR Releases with a short Total LOS. Of the males released in FY2008 with a Total LOS under two years, 25.2% were re-incarcerated within three years, compared to 17.5% of the female SR Releases with a short Total LOS. With the exception of female SR Releases in FY2008, offenders in both release years with a Total LOS of four years or more tended to re-cidivate at a lower rate than those with a Total LOS of under four years.

Three-Year Re-Incarceration Rates By Total LOS

	FY2007		FY2008	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 2 Years	28.5%	17.0%	25.2%	17.5%
2 to 4 Years	29.0%	21.6%	26.1%	16.2%
4 to 6 Years	22.4%	20.2%	20.7%	15.9%
6 Years or More	23.3%	14.3%	19.7%	19.1%

Release Type

In FY2007, 10,848 offenders (88%) were released on direct discharge, 1,137 (9%) were released on mandatory parole, 153 (1%) were released on discretionary parole, and 223 (2%) were released for another reason.<sup>8</sup> In FY2008, 11,368 offenders (89%) were released on direct discharge, 1,044 (8%) were released on mandatory parole, 209 (2%) were released on discretionary parole, and 196 (2%) were released for another reason. A larger proportion (10%) of the FY2007 male SR Releases were released on parole (mandatory or discretionary) than their female counterparts (at 5%). This could be attributed to more males receiving longer, parole-eligible sentences for more serious, violent offenses.

Among the FY2007 SR Releases with direct discharge (the largest release type), 27.9% of the males were re-incarcerated within three years, while 18.0% of their female counterparts recidivated. Among the FY2008 SR

<sup>7</sup> Total LOS is the total amount of time an offender was incarcerated, including any time the offender was incarcerated prior to sentencing.  
<sup>8</sup> The "Direct Discharge" category is an artifact of the legacy data system. Typically, about 87-88% of those categorized as having a release type of "Direct Discharge" have a community supervision obligation following release. Other reasons for release include Court Order and Pardon/Commutation.



direct discharge Releases, 24.8% of the males recidivated and 17.4% of the females recidivated.

## Influences on Recidivism Rates

To explore which offender characteristics significantly impacted Virginia's three-year re-incarceration rates, logistical regressions were performed.<sup>9</sup> While holding offender gender, age, history of drug use, prior felony arrests and convictions, and most serious offense types constant, there was a significant decrease in the three-year SR re-incarceration rate among the FY2007 and FY2008 SR Releases. In other words, FY2008 SR Releases recidivated at significantly lower rates and this reduction was not due to differences in gender, age, history of drug use, prior felony arrests and convictions, or most serious offense types among the release groups.

To look at what is driving recidivism, male and female models were developed to compare recidivists to non-recidivists. When male SR Releases were tested, the model showed that offenders released in FY2007, nonviolent offenders, younger offenders without prior SR incarcerations, those with relatively more prior felony arrests and convictions, and those with a history of drug abuse were more likely to be re-incarcerated within three years. When female SR Releases were tested, the model showed that younger offenders and those with relatively more prior felony arrests and convictions were significantly more likely to be re-incarcerated within three years.

## Summary

- ◆ The VADOC aims to promote public safety and reduce crime by preparing offenders for success through a continuum of services and supervision from the time of the offender's entry into incarceration through his or her transition and reintegration in the community.
- ◆ The overall three year re-incarceration rate for FY2007 SR Releases was 26.1%. Males had significantly higher rates than females; 27.2% of males returned to SR incarceration within 3 years compared to only 18.2% of females.
- ◆ At 23.4%, the overall three year re-incarceration rate for FY2008 SR Releases was significantly lower than the rate for FY2007 SR Releases. Consistent with FY2007 SR Releases, males released in FY2008 had significantly higher recidivism rates than females; 24.2% compared to 17.2% of females. The recidivism rate dropped in FY2008 by three percentage points for males and one percentage point for females.
- ◆ SR Releases with a most serious offense related to property/public order (PPO) tended to recidivate at a higher rate than violent offenders or drug offenders.
- ◆ Offenders with more prior felony arrests and convictions were re-incarcerated at a higher rate than those with fewer prior felony arrests and convictions.
- ◆ In both release years, offenders who were considered "violent" by §17.1-805 of the *Code of Virginia* recidivated at a higher rate than their "non-violent" counterparts.
- ◆ Overall, offenders with a Total LOS under four years tended to recidivate at a higher rate than those with a Total LOS of over four years.

<sup>9</sup> In this study, a p-value of <0.05 indicates statistical significance.

## Summary (Continued . . .)

- ◆ FY2008 SR Releases recidivated at significantly lower rates than FY2007 SR Releases, and this reduction was not due to differences in gender, age, history of drug use, prior criminal history or most serious offense types among the release groups.
- ◆ When male SR Releases were tested, the model showed that offenders released in FY2007, younger offenders without prior SR incarcerations, those with relatively more prior felony arrests and convictions, nonviolent offenders, and those with a history of drug abuse were more likely to be re-incarcerated within three years.
- ◆ When female SR Releases were tested, the model showed that younger offenders and those with relatively more prior felony arrests and convictions were significantly more likely to be re-incarcerated within three years.

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