



**Research Brief**  
**Baseline Recidivism Rates for FY1998 – FY 2002**

**Overview**

This report was prepared by the Research, Planning and Program Evaluation Unit of the Office of Technology and Information Services. The purpose of this document is to provide DJJ managers with data that will support them during their policy making process. This report will be updated in September of every year.

**Project Staff**

Eugene M. Pond, Statistical Research Analyst  
Ann Watkins, Senior Operations Analyst  
Llewellyn Jenkins, Lead Consultant  
Claus Tjaden, Methodology Consultant  
Doug Engle, Director, Office of Technology and Information Services

**May 28, 2004**

***Planning, Research and Program Evaluation Unit***

Department of Juvenile Justice  
3408 Covington Highway  
Decatur, Georgia 30032  
<http://www.djj.state.ga.us/>

# Table of Contents

<b><u>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</u></b>	<b>2</b>
<b>BASIC FINDINGS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CONCLUSIONS &amp; RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>INTRODUCTION</u></b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>5</b>
RELEASE COHORTS	5
VARIABLES & DATA ANALYSIS	5
<b><u>RESULTS &amp; DISCUSSION</u></b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CHARACTERISTICS THAT AFFECT RECIDIVISM</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>OVERVIEWS OF THE THREE PROGRAMS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>RECIDIVISM TRENDS</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TIME TO FAILURE TRENDS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>STATE RECIDIVISM COMPARISONS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b><u>REFERENCES</u></b>	<b>11</b>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This research brief presents statewide and regional recidivism rates covering five fiscal years (FY98 through FY02). The rates reflect the post-release criminality of 89,464 youthful offenders released from three major DJJ programs (Probation, Short Term, and Commitment) during this period. It also reports some of the findings from a preliminary analysis of the characteristics of released youth that were found to significantly affect the overall or aggregate recidivism rates in the three major programs.

DJJ's definition of a recidivist includes three essential components that is included in the measurement of recidivism:

- It requires a re-adjudication for a new delinquency charge or an adult offense,
- Requires a "standard" three-year follow-up period to determine post-release criminality for released youth and,
- Implies searches of records from DJJ's Juvenile Tracking System and Georgia's Department of Corrections to determine releases with a new conviction for a delinquency charge or an Adult Probation or Adult Prison sentence.

In this study, two measures were used to assess post-release criminality. The first was the "recidivism rate" or the percentage of releases that failed at some point during the 3-year follow-up period. The second measure was the number of days elapsing between a youth's release and a recidivating event, or their "Time-To-Failure" (TTF).

The latter, more process oriented, TTF measure allowed us to examine the proportion of youth failing each month over the various follow-up periods. Inspection of a program's monthly failure rates or the monthly failure rates for youth with particular characteristics can help identify periods of greater risk for youth released from different programs in DJJ's regions.

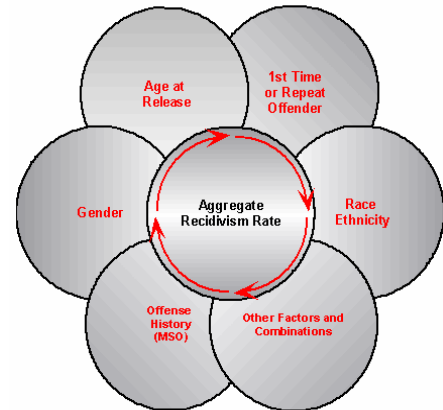
All youth released from a given type of program during the same fiscal year were designated a release cohort. Youth released during FY98 through FY00 were designated a program's "baseline" cohorts.

### Basic Findings

Baseline recidivism rates and average times to failure were found to vary significantly by the type of program release.

- With youth released to probation:
  - 11.7 % failed during their first year after release and were re-adjudicated on the average within 181 days
  - 13.3% failed during their second year after release and were re-adjudicated within 551 days
  - 8.0% failed during their third year after release and were re-adjudicated within 895 days
  - Overall, 33.0% failed within three years and were re-adjudicated on the average within 503 days.
- With youth released from Short Term Programs:
  - 40.0 % failed during their first year after release and were re-adjudicated on the average within 133 days
  - 10.5% failed during their second year after release and were re-adjudicated within 520 days

### Youth Characteristics affecting Recidivism



Program & Youth Characteristics	Number Released	1-Year Rates
<b>Probation</b>	<b>52,937</b>	<b>13.1</b>
Under 14 yrs.	6,704	21.3
14 to 16	30,069	15.9
Over 16 yrs.	16,164	4.4
1st Time Offenders	38,131	11.4
Repeat Offenders	14,809	17.3
Males	38,695	14.3
Females	14,242	9.3
<b>STP (Total)</b>	<b>23,663</b>	<b>39.0</b>
Under 14 yrs.	2,587	56.6
14 to 16	17,285	40.8
Over 16 yrs.	3,791	18.8
1st Time Offenders	9,461	23.6
Repeat Offenders	14,202	49.3
Males	18,625	40.8
Females	5,038	32.3
<b>Commitment</b>	<b>12,857</b>	<b>27.9</b>
Under 14 yrs.	1,645	36.4
14 to 16	7,645	30.3
Over 16 yrs.	3,567	18.8
1st Time Offenders	1,933	16.8
Repeat Offenders	10,925	29.8
Males	10,760	29.4
Females	2,098	20.1

- 5.4% failed during their third year after release and were re-adjudicated within 900 days.
- Overall, 55.9% failed within three years and were re-adjudicated on the average within 280 days.
- With youth released from Commitment programs:
  - 27.5 % failed during their first year after release and were re-adjudicated on the average within 152 days
  - 15.5% failed during their second year after release and were re-adjudicated within 527 days
  - 8.3% failed during their third year after release and were re-adjudicated within 898 days.
  - Overall, 51.3% failed within three years and were re-adjudicated on the average within 386 days.

Programs & Regions	DJJ Region	1-Year Rates	MTTF (Days)	Releases
<i>Probation</i>	1	13.4	184.0	9,386
	2	10.5	203.0	11,666
	3	18.2	177.0	9,416
	4	11.4	182.0	11,791
	5	12.9	190.0	10,670
	<b>State Total</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>186.0</b>	<b>52,929</b>
<i>STP Programs</i>	1	36.2	142.0	3,339
	2	37.0	141.0	3,906
	3	34.8	126.0	6,346
	4	45.1	128.0	5,183
	5	41.5	130.0	4,888
	<b>State Total</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>132.0</b>	<b>23,662</b>
<i>Commitment Programs</i>	1	26.9	154.0	1,855
	2	25.2	160.0	1,677
	3	27.3	130.0	4,250
	4	31.8	149.0	2,298
	5	28.0	142.0	2,752
	<b>State Total</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>144.0</b>	<b>12,832</b>
<i>Total</i>	1	20.3	162.0	14,580
	2	17.9	168.0	17,249
	3	25.4	144.0	20,012
	4	22.9	148.0	19,272
	5	22.8	152.0	18,310
	<b>State Total</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>153.0</b>	<b>89,423</b>

**Conclusions & Recommendations**

- Focusing services on young males (under 14 years), first time or repeat offenders early in their delinquent cycle to reduce the likelihood of recidivism will provide the most return of investment and provide the greatest possibility to influence the system in future years. A study on placements and services provided to this age category and the influence that has on youth would be beneficial to understanding potential service offerings.
- Compare the services offered, environmental changes, youth characteristic changes and legal sentence differences in the fiscal year 2000 to determine what contributed to the reduction in recidivism rates and increase in the time to failure. Identification of these factors and understanding if they are controllable through programming or strategic implementation of services would provide valuable information to the department.
- Provide a study that compares youth, with the same characteristics, which were released on their minimum verses those released on their maximum. Understand the differences that this has on these categories recidivism rate.
- Research the differences in characteristics of youth that were committed and placed home and those that were placed in a YDC. A point of interest to this study would be to understand is the youth placed at home had previously spent time within a YDC placement.
- Additional studies should be undertaken for both legal status and facilities which youth were placed in to determine if family characteristics, education levels, mental health needs, substance abuse problems, household income levels and the level of after-care services and contacts influence recidivism rates.
- Research STP effectiveness on recidivism levels. Compare privatized STP programs to state operated programs in order to identify differences in outcomes of these programs.
- Additional analysis to understand long term effects of services that are provided to youth in custody are required. Identify importance of services, such as alcohol and drug programming or aftercare, including variables for family characteristics and facility comparison.
- Research recidivism rates and time to failure for youth typology groupings for fiscal year 2002 and 2003 (this data is not available for previous fiscal years).
- Develop a program evaluation model that will extend the benefits and value of recidivism studies.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Recidivism, or post-release criminality, is measured in terms of the time elapsing between two events: a *release event* and a *failure or recidivating event*.

States that report recidivism figures vary widely in their definition of what constitutes "release," "recidivism," as well as the length of the measurement or follow-up periods they employ. Their outcomes, however, are generally expressed as a "recidivism rate;" which is simply another way of stating the percentage of releases that failed at some point during the state's designated follow-up period.

More recent state recidivism reports often include cautionary notes about comparing recidivism rates. There is good reason for this growing practice. While recidivism rates for different programs and release methods can be compared, any differences cannot be automatically attributed to the program/release method. A recidivism rate reflects the aggregate outcome of an involved measurement process. Since recidivism rates are closely related to the length of the follow-up period, longer periods at risk (1-year vs. 2-years or 3-years) typically produce higher levels of failure. Before we can safely compare recidivism rates, we need to ensure that the measurement processes are comparable in terms of:

- The definition of a failure or recidivating event,
- The amount of time allowed for tracking offenders to determine post-release criminality,
- The basic characteristics of the offenders released during a specified period of time and,
- How basic offender characteristics and other factors affected the aggregate rate.

A large number of offender characteristics and criminal history related factors have been identified in other research studies as influencing juvenile and adult recidivism rates. Seven such factors were selected for a preliminary examination in this study:

- Gender
- Race
- Age at release from a program
- first Time or Repeat Offender Status
- Most Serious current offense
- Length of Stay (LOS) in a program,
- Number of prior contacts with the court.

## **PURPOSE**

This report summarizes the findings from a study of the failures and successes of over 89,000 young offenders released from three types of programs over the course of five fiscal years (FY1998 through FY2002). The study had four basic objectives:

1. Determine for fiscal years FY1998 through FY2002, the statewide and regional level 1-year, 2-year and 3-year recidivism rates for release cohorts from three types of programs: Probation, Short Term (STP), and Commitments.
2. Determine the number of days elapsing between the offenders' release dates and the dates their first recidivating event occurred (Time To Failure).
3. Conduct a preliminary study of the relative contribution certain characteristics, such as an offender's age at release, gender, and criminal history had on the three programs' aggregate recidivism rates.
4. Conduct impact evaluations on the three major types of programs.

## METHODOLOGY

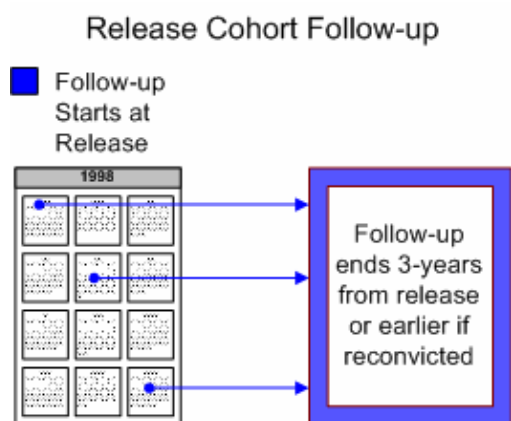
The Department's definition of a recidivist specifies three key features about the measurement of recidivism:

- Requires a re-adjudication for a new delinquency charge or an adult offense,
- Requires a "standard" three-year follow-up period to determine post-release criminality for released youth and,
- Implies dual searches of records from DJJ's Juvenile Tracking System (JTS2000) and Georgia's Department of Corrections to determine releases with a new adjudication for a delinquency charge or an Adult Probation or Adult Prison sentence (see Appendix D for a list of qualifying offenses).

**The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice defines a recidivist as a youthful offender who has been re-adjudicated for a new delinquency charge or an adult offense within three years after release from, or while under an active juvenile court order of Probation, Commitment or a Short**

### Release Cohorts

All youth released from a given type of program during the same fiscal year were designated a release cohort, e.g., the FY98 Probation cohort, the FY02 STP cohort, etc.



Each youth in the FY98 - FY00 cohorts was followed-up for 3-years after their release date (their first day at "risk" in their community + 1,095 days).

For example, all youth released from the three types of programs during the period from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998 (the FY98 cohorts) were tracked until June 30, 2001.

Youth released from the three programs during the period from July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999 (the FY99 cohorts) were tracked until June 30, 2002.

Youth released from the programs during the period from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000 (the FY00 cohorts) were tracked until June 30, 2003.

Only those youth released during FY98 - FY00 could be tracked for a full three years. Youth released from programs during FY01 were tracked for 2-years; those released during FY02 were tracked for 1-year.

Youth released during FY98 through FY00 were designated the "baseline" cohorts and all data from the three fiscal years were merged for statistical comparisons. A total of 56,375 youth were released during the baseline period. During the non-baseline period (FY01 and FY02) a total of 33,089 youth were released.

### Variables & Data Analysis

The initial data sets, five each for the Probation, STP and Commitment release cohorts, contained 42 base variables extracted from DJJ's JTS2000 record system. The base variables represented various youth and offense characteristics, as well as the event dates necessary to calculate the TTF and recidivism measures. All 15 data sets were then merged and frequency counts run on the base variables to determine the extent of missing data elements in the records. Less than 0.05% of the data elements were found to be missing.

Standard SPSS (*Statistical Package for the Social Sciences*, V.12) routines were used to create 85 additional time interval and grouping variables. Other routines were used to conduct cross-tabulations, Cox regression analyses, and ANOVA (analysis of variance) tests between TTF measures and recidivism rates. The significance level set for rejecting a hypothesis of no difference between event measures (the "null" hypothesis) was set at the 5%-level ( $P = .05$ , two-tailed test).

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

### *Characteristics That Affect Recidivism*

Three exploratory regression analyses confirmed that the seven factors selected prior to the study had a significant effect on recidivism in one or more of the programs. In addition, one geographic factor was found influential: DJJ Region of Residence. However, the relative importance of these factors in accounting for variation in recidivism rates differed slightly according to the program. In general, "Gender," "Length of Stay," "Age at Release," and "First Time Offender" status was the most influential factors across programs.

The most influential factor on recidivism is age at release across all programs. The table presented below demonstrates the difference in recidivism rates and the time to failure, based on an average for all programs. The younger the offender is at the time of release the more likely they will be to recidivate, within a shorter period of time. The difference between the oldest and youngest groupings recidivism rate is 30.2% and 101 days.

Age	Average of 3 Year Recidivism Rate For All Programs	Average of 3 Year Time To Failure For All Programs	Total Number of Youth In Study	Number Of Youth Recidivated
8-13 Years	65.0%	375 Days	10,936	7,108
Between 14 and 16 years	48.5%	370 Days	55,003	26,676
17 years and over	34.8%	476 Days	23,524	8,186

The second most influential factor across all programs is gender. Similar to the table above the information included below provides a view across all programs to the difference between males and females. The information indicates that male's recidivate at a rate 21% higher than females however females that do recidivate fail 69 days sooner than males.

Gender	Average of 3 Year Recidivism Rate For All Programs	Average of 3 Year Time To Failure For All Programs	Total Number of Youth In Study	Number Of Youth Recidivated
Male	51.0%	398 Days	68,085	34,723
Female	29.9%	329 Days	21,379	6,392

The third influential factor is the presence of prior offenses. First time offenders will recidivate at both a lower rate, 20% beneath a repeat offender, and with a longer duration between offenses, 52 days.

Offense History	Average of 3 Year Recidivism Rate For All Programs	Average of 3 Year Time To Failure For All Programs	Total Number of Youth In Study	Number Of Youth Recidivated
Youth's First Recidivating Offense	34.4%	428 Days	49,526	17,037
Repeat Offenses (3 <sup>rd</sup> and after)	54.4%	376 Days	39,938	21,726

Consideration or programmatic assistance provided to youth that exhibit these characteristics at the time of treatment may have the possibility of reducing recidivism for all program types.

Additional characteristics studied included the "Number of prior dispositions," "Race" and the "Most Serious" current offense was found not as influential and not demonstrating a distinct difference between programs. The influences of these factors and others (family characteristics, education levels, substance abuse, and mental health issues) on recidivism need to be examined in more detail in a subsequent report.

In the following, we primarily focus on the 3-year baseline recidivism rates for the major programs. Statewide and regional recidivism rates for the programs are presented in Appendix A. Additional information on the basic characteristics of the FY98 - FY02 release cohorts are presented in Appendix B.

## Overviews of the Three Programs

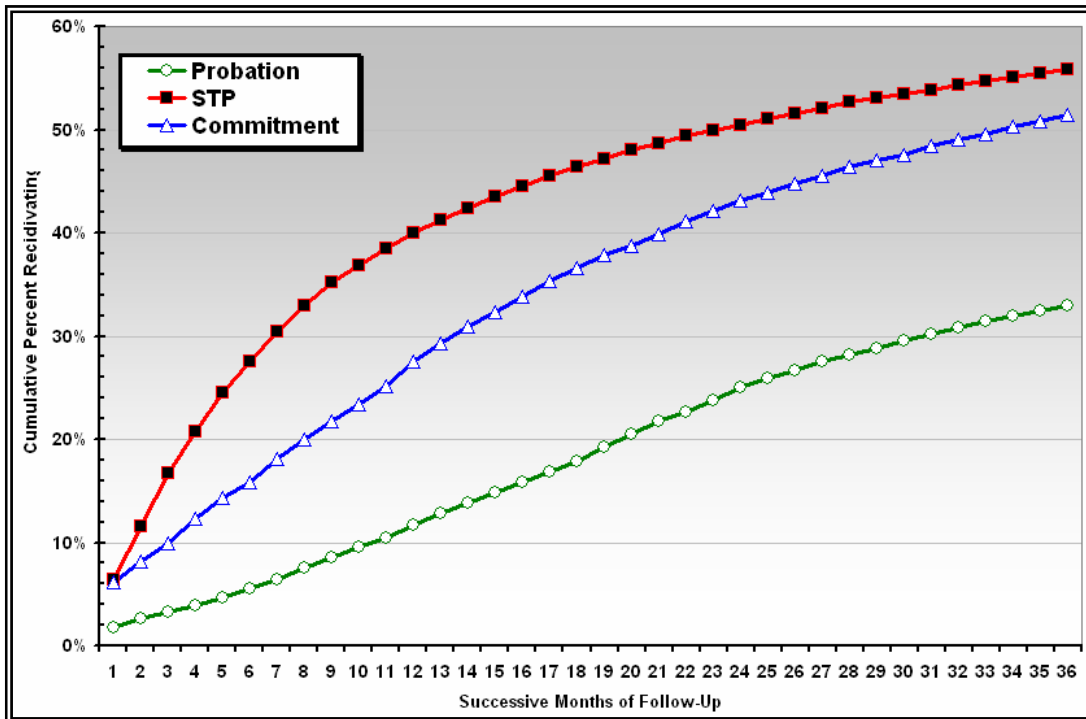
In Figure 1 and the adjacent table, we can see that the 3-year recidivism rates for the major programs differed widely. Releases from Short-Term programs had the highest 3-year recidivism rate (55.9%); followed by releases from the Commitment programs (51.3%), and then the Probation cohorts (33%).

The most striking feature about Figure 1 is the large difference in the programs' 1-year rates. Most differences between the programs at the end of 3-years arose during the first twelve months after release.

Statewide Baseline Program Data

Types of Programs		MTTF (Days)	3-Year Rates
Probation	Mean	503	33.0%
	N	33,625	
STP Total	Mean	280	55.9%
	N	15,015	
Commitment Total	Mean	386	51.4%
	N	7,729	
State Baseline Program Total	Mean	403	41.6%
	N	56,369	

N=Releases



### 1<sup>st</sup> 12 Months (0-12)

Probation:	11.7%
STP:	40.0%
Commitment:	27.5%

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 12 Months (12-24)

Probation:	25.0%
STP:	50.5%
Commitment:	43.1%

### 3<sup>rd</sup> 12 Months (24-36)

Probation:	33.0%
STP:	55.9%
Commitment:	51.4%

**Figure 1. Cumulative Failures in the Major Programs during the Baseline Period.**

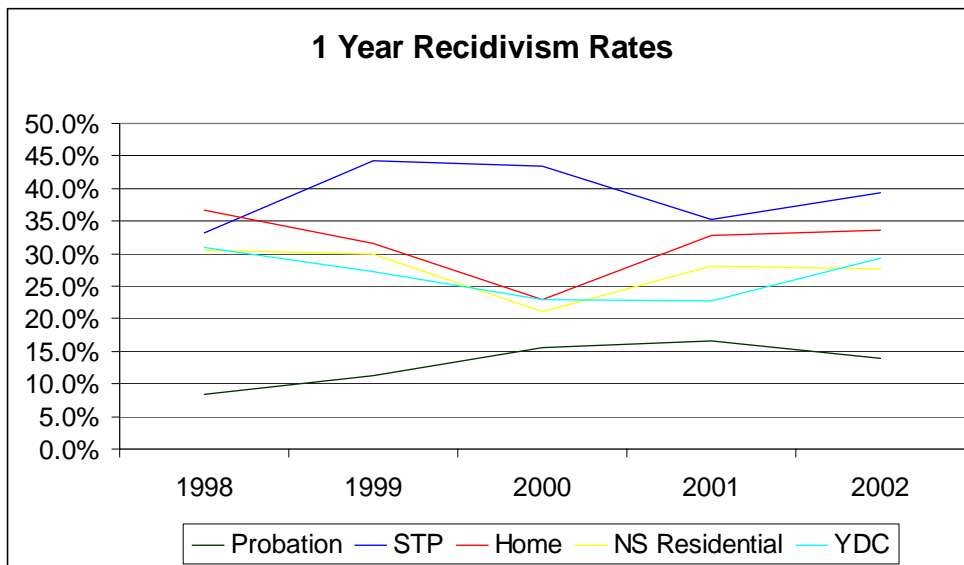
For example, the failure rate for STP releases during their first year was 40%. However, nearly three-quarters (72%) of the youth that eventually failed in three-years, did so within the first 12-months after release. Releases from Commitment programs experienced a first-year failure rate of 27.5% and somewhat over half (53.5%) of the program's recidivists failed within 12-months. In contrast, the Probation cohorts' 12-month failure rate was 11.7% and 35% of the program's recidivists re-offended within this period.

The large proportion of youth that fail within a year of their release is not a surprising finding. Recidivism studies typically report this pattern of early returns in the recidivism process. There are relatively few studies that have used testable corrective action plans to address the early return problem.

The high proportion of youth failing so soon after release should focus our efforts on specifying the periods of risk in particular communities for different types of offenders, starting from the first day they are released. Time-to-failure (TTF) measures and survival analysis procedures can be used to identify periods of higher risk in specific communities or regions for particular types of youth. Several graphical illustrations of applying survival analysis procedures to identify gender-specific periods of risk following release from probation in DJJ's five regions are presented in Appendix C.

## Recidivism Trends

The diagram below presents recidivism rates with a 1 year follow up period. The placements that are included are Probation, STP, Commitment At Home, Commitment in Non-Secure Residential, and Commitment in YDC.



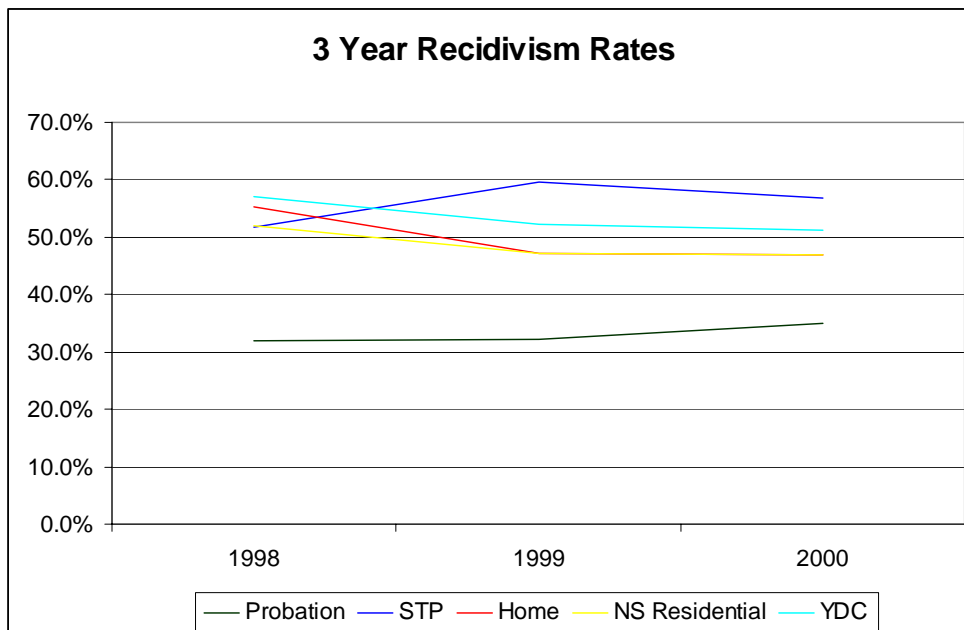
### Recid Change 98-00; 2000;

Probation:	7.2%	15.6%
STP:	10.3%	43.4%
CMT Home:	-13.7%	23.0%
CMT Residential:	-9.5%	21.1%
CMT YDC:	-8.1%	22.9%

### Recid Change 00-02; 2002;

Probation:	-1.7%	13.9%
STP:	-4.0%	39.4%
CMT Home:	10.6%	33.6%
CMT Residential:	6.6%	27.7%
CMT YDC:	6.5%	29.4%

The diagram below presents recidivism rates with a 3 year follow up period. The placements that are included are Probation, STP, Commitment At Home, Commitment in Non-Secure Residential, and Commitment in YDC.



### Recid Change 98-00; 2000;

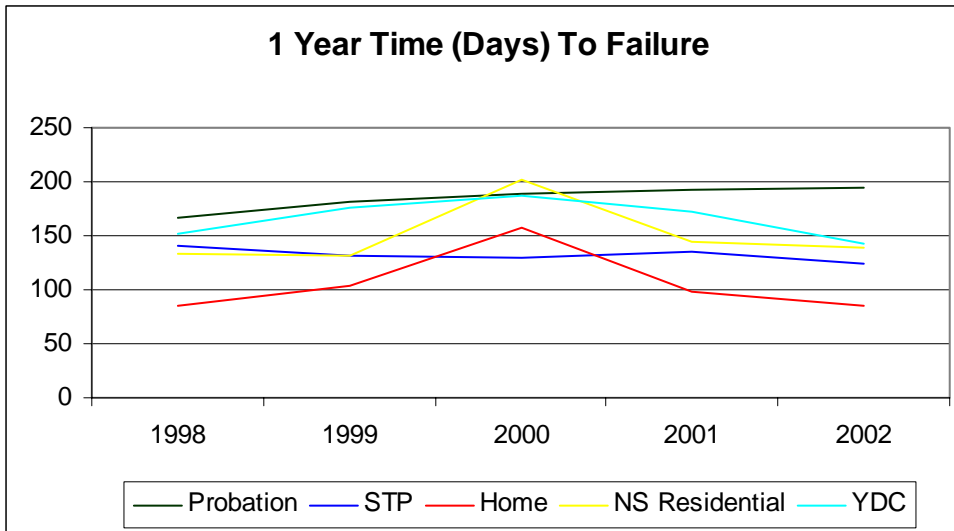
Probation:	3.0%	35.0%
STP:	4.9%	56.7%
CMT Home:	-8.4%	46.9%
CMT Residential:	-5.2%	46.9%
CMT YDC:	-5.9%	51.2%

## Observations

- In both 1 and 3 year follow up periods recidivism rates for probation and STP have increased.
- In both 1 and 3 year follow up period's recidivism rates for Commitment at home, Residential and YDC have decreased.

## Time to Failure Trends

The diagram below presents the time between the release of a youth from a program and their recidivating event with a 1 year follow up period. The placements that are included are Probation, STP, Commitment At Home, Commitment in Non-Secure Residential, and Commitment in YDC.



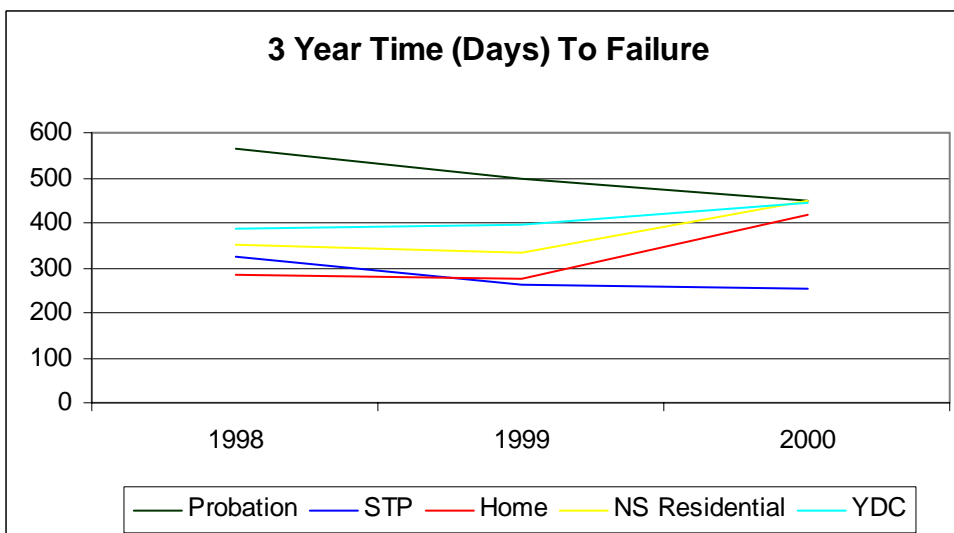
### TTF Change 98-00; 2000;

Probation:	13.5%	189.26
STP:	-8.3%	129.19
CMT Home:	86.6%	157.73
CMT Residential:	51.1%	202.45
CMT YDC:	23.8%	186.93

### TTF Change 00-02; 2002;

Probation:	2.9%	194.84
STP:	-4.4%	123.5
CMT Home:	-45.7%	85.57
CMT Residential:	-31.6%	138.41
CMT YDC:	-23.4%	143.18

The diagram below presents the time between the release of a youth from a program and their recidivating event with a 3 year follow up period. The placements that are included are Probation, STP, Commitment At Home, Commitment in Non-Secure Residential, and Commitment in YDC.



### TTF Change 98-00; 2000;

Probation:	-21.0%	447.14
STP:	-21.7%	254.35
CMT Home:	46.7%	417.51
CMT Residential:	28.0%	447.41
CMT YDC:	15.1%	444.79

## Observations

- In both 1 and 3 year follow up periods recidivism rates for Commitment at home and non-secure residential have increased.
- In both 1 and 3 year follow up period's recidivism rates for STP have decreased.
- Time to failure in probation is increasing in the 1 year follow-up however it is decreasing over 3 years.
- Time to failure in YDC is decreasing in the 1 year follow-up however it is increasing over 3 years.

## State Recidivism Comparisons

Surprisingly, relatively few states report measuring juvenile recidivism. According to a fairly recent survey (1999) of juvenile justice agencies conducted by the Bureau of Data and Research of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, only twenty-six states reported they used some method to assess juvenile recidivism. As noted previously, those states that do report recidivism figures also vary widely in their definition of what constitutes "release," "recidivism," as well as the length of the measurement or follow-up periods employed in calculating their recidivism rates, as shown below.

Recidivating Act			
Group Studied	Referral or Arrest	Juvenile Adjudication or Adult conviction	Juvenile Commitment or Adult Sentence
First-time offenders	Alaska(3), Florida, Maryland <sup>1</sup> , Virginia	Florida, Georgia	Florida(2), South Carolina(5)
Youth discharged From juvenile justice programs	California, Delaware(3), Florida, Maryland, Mass(3), NY, Texas, Ohio(4), Oregon <sup>1</sup> , South Dakota(3)	Delaware(3), Colorado, Florida, Idaho(3), Maine(3), Maryland, Mass(3), New York, Washington	Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Mass(3),(5), Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina(5), Tenn(3), Texas

<sup>1</sup> juvenile re-referral only

<sup>2</sup> juvenile program or transfer to adult court

<sup>3</sup> in process, no rates available

<sup>4</sup> combined measure of rearrest, readjudication, commitment, conviction, or crime-related death

<sup>5</sup> adult probation or incarceration only

State Reported Recidivism Rates by Program Type			
Program Type, State, Year		Follow-Up	
		1-yr.	3-yrs.
Probation	Florida, FY01	28%	
	Florida, FY02	29%	
	Texas, 96	16%	37%
	Georgia, FY98	8%	32%
	Georgia, FY99	11%	32%
	Georgia, FY00	16%	35%
	Georgia, FY01	17%	
	Georgia, FY02	14%	
Commitment	Florida, FY98	33%	
	Oregon, 00	30%	
	Maine, 98	28%	
	Texas, 99	37%	
	Texas, 03	32%	
	Georgia, FY98	32%	55%
	Georgia, FY99	29%	50%
	Georgia, FY00	22%	49%
	Georgia, FY01	27%	
	Georgia, FY02	30%	
Short-Term, "Boot-Camp"	Indiana, 96-99	35%	
	New Jersey, 01	25%	
	Colorado, 02	22%	
	Georgia, FY98	33%	52%
	Georgia, FY99	44%	60%
	Georgia, FY00	43%	57%
	Georgia, FY01	35%	
	Georgia, FY02	39%	

The state recidivism rates reported as outcomes from different types of programs shown in the sidebar, use a definition of recidivism that is comparable to the one used by Georgia's Department of Juvenile Justice.<sup>1</sup> However, programmatic differences will be present within individual programs for the comparison of differing states.

The standard follow-up period was most often just one year in duration. Rates based upon a one-year follow-up period provide quick turn-around for yearly reporting, as well as addressing the important *initial phase* of the recidivism process. That is, the majority of youth that will recidivate sometime during a three year follow-up period usually do so within their first year after release. However, two or three year follow-up periods are better suited to capturing changes in "treatment" effects that may not have fully manifested themselves within a year.

**Probation.** Georgia's one year recidivism rate for youth placed on probation in FY98 is lower than the rate reported by Texas in 1996 and in close accord with its 3-year rate. Georgia's probation recidivism rates for FY01 and FY02 are 11% to 15% lower than the rates reported by Florida's DJJ for the same period. Based upon the limited comparative data we have at present, Georgia's 1-year and 3-year recidivism rates for youth placed on probation during the FY98-FY02 period do not appear to be particularly high.

**Commitment Programs.** Georgia's one year recidivism rates for youth released from the FY98 through FY02 Commitment cohorts are quite comparable to the rates reported by four other states during the same time frame: Florida, Oregon, Maine, and Texas. Based upon the somewhat larger number of state reports we have at present, it appears that Georgia's 1-year recidivism rate for Commitment program releases may be fairly "typical."

**Short-Term Programs.** Releases from DJJ's STP programs experienced appreciably higher one year recidivism rates than releases from the three comparison programs (10% to 17% higher). Based upon the limited comparative data we have at present, Georgia's one and three year recidivism rates for youth released from STP during the FY98-FY02 period appear to have been high. However, the most recent 1-year recidivism rates for STP releases remain significantly higher than those reported for any other DJJ program.

## REFERENCES

---

1

Florida DJJ, *2000 Outcome Evaluation Report*.

Florida DJJ, *2004 Outcome Evaluation Report*, February 15, 2004.

Florida DJJ, *National Comparisons from State Recidivism Studies*, Management Report No: 99-13, October 1999.

*Multi-Site Evaluation of Boot Camp Programs, Final Report*. NCJRS Document No: 192011, January 17, 2002.

Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council, *Three-Year Recidivism Rate for Juvenile Offenders Released from the Texas Youth Commission (TYC)*, 2002.