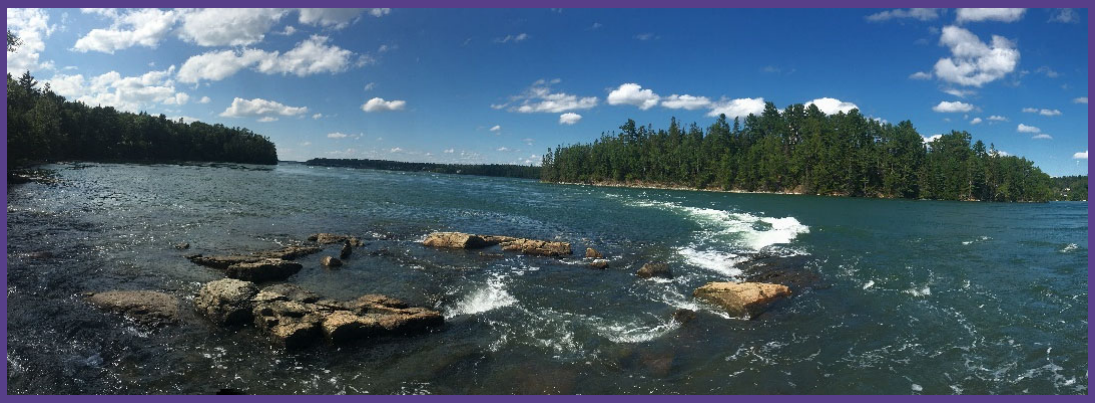

2021 Youth Recidivism

DIVERSION TO DISCHARGE IN MAINE'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

October 2021

CUTLER INSTITUTE
MUSKIE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For nearly two decades, the Maine Department of Corrections has used data to track, analyze, and report on youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The goal of this research is to help assess the success of responses to system-involved youth by identifying which youth return to the justice system; to inform risk reduction efforts to benefit public safety; and to ensure that all Maine youth experience a fair, equitable, and responsive juvenile justice system that contributes to positive youth outcomes.

This summary reflects what is happening with the young people who encounter Maine's juvenile justice system at various points of contact (e.g., diversion, community supervision, commitment).

FOUR SYSTEM RESPONSES TO YOUTH REFERRED TO DJS (2014-2018)

Recidivism Rate **11%** N=5,975	**DIVERSION** These youth have been referred to DOC, which has determined that it is in the best interest of the juvenile, his/her victim(s), and the community to resolve the case without pressing formal charges.
Recidivism Rate **32%** N=1,175	**SUPERVISION** These youth had formal charges brought against them, were adjudicated by a judge, and were subsequently placed under the supervision of DOC within the community.
Return Rate **45%** N=136	**COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION** These youth have been adjudicated, committed to a secure facility, and then released back into the community for additional supervision.
Recidivism Rate **48%** N=250	**DISCHARGE** Discharged youth have been adjudicated, committed to a secure juvenile facility, and subsequently discharged from all supervision.

KEY FINDINGS

Overall Findings

- The majority of youth diverted, supervised, and discharged did not recidivate, and the majority of youth who were released to community reintegration were not returned.
- Each population in this report, when compared to Maine's overall rate, showed disproportionate representation for youth of color.

Diversions

- Approximately 77% of youth referred to Maine DOC from law enforcement were diverted.
- Over time, larger proportions of youth were diverted with misdemeanor and felony offenses. The proportion of youth with misdemeanor offenses who were diverted increased from 54% to 61% over the study period, while the proportion of youth with felony offenses increased from 3% to 5%.
- The vast majority of youth diverted between 2014 and 2018 (89%) did not recidivate within the two years tracking period following diversion. This rate varied by gender; 92% of females did not recidivate while 87% of males did not.
- Among diverted males, while holding other attributes constant, the recidivism rate was higher for youth with non-drug alcohol offenses (14%). Rates were also higher for males with more charges, although rates varied by region. Finally, male recidivism rates varied by type of diversion, but again, those rates varied further by region.
- Among diverted females, while holding other attributes constant, recidivism rates were higher for youth diverted at age 13 or younger (9%), those diverted with personal and "other" offenses (11%), and those with two or more charges (10%). The rate was likewise higher for females diverted with *informal adjustments* (9%).

Supervision

- From 2014 to 2018, the number of youth supervised decreased by 43%, resulting in 142 fewer youth supervised in 2018 compared to 2014.
- Approximately 32% of all supervised youth recidivated within two years of their initial adjudication. This rate varied by gender; 28% of females recidivated while 33% of males did.
- Among males, while holding other attributes constant, recidivism rates were higher for those in Region 2 (43%), youth of color (45%), those assessed as high risk (56%), those supervised for misdemeanor offenses (33%), and those supervised with property offenses (35%).

- Among females, while holding other attributes constant, recidivism rates were higher for those in Region 3 (36%) and those assessed as moderate/high risk (28%). The rate was also higher for the cohort of females supervised in 2014 (37%). Conversely, the rate was very low for females supervised for drug/alcohol offenses (4%).

Community Reintegration

- Between time of commitment and community reintegration, overall youth risks scores decreased by 6.7 points. However, those youth who were initially measured as low-risk averaged a 1.2 point increase in risk score.
- Within one year of community reintegration, 45% of youth were returned to a facility. The majority of youth (51%) returned were returned within two months of release.
- Additionally, youth released between 2016 and 2018 were more likely to be returned than youth released in 2014 or 2015.

Discharge

- The average risk score of discharged youth *prior to commitment* decreased by 15% between 2014 and 2018. This change was driven by a change in the proportion of moderate-risk youth, which increased from 46% to 70% during the study period.
- Approximately 61% of youth were released to community reintegration prior to discharge. Youth with longer sentences were more likely to be released to community reintegration prior to discharge than those with shorter sentences.
- Approximately 48% of discharged youth recidivated within two years of discharge.
- Between 2014 and 2017, the length of time between discharge and recidivating decreased from 10.1 months to 6.3 months.
- While holding other factors constant, recidivism was higher for males (51%), those who were 14 or younger at time of commitment (59%), youth committed with "other" offenses (74%), those assessed as high risk (61%), and youth discharged without prior community reintegration (56%). It was likewise higher for youth discharged in 2017 (61%).

METHODOLOGY & LIMITATIONS

For the purposes of this report, recidivism is defined in terms of adjudication or conviction Following the end of diversion, start of supervision, or date of discharge *for the first time* during the study period (2014 to 2018), youth were tracked for two years to determine if they were subsequently adjudicated (as a youth) or convicted (as an adult) within that time period. Since civil offenses are often violations of administrative rules rather than violations of criminal statue, they are not counted as recidivating offenses in this report unless otherwise stated.

Recidivism data for this study come from two sources. Data for youth who recidivated while still a juvenile come from CORIS, the management information system used by the Department of Corrections (DOC), while data for those who recidivated after the age of 18 come from the Department of Public Safety (DPS). This poses a limitation of the study since the recidivating variables obtained from these two sources are not identical. CORIS records include the date of adjudication, which is used in these cases to denote time of recidivism. DPS records, on the other hand, contain information regarding all arrests that result in convictions, but the conviction date is not present. Thus, arrest date is used in these records to denote time of recidivism.

Another limitation is the inability to track youth across state lines. It is possible that youth with no recidivism record in Maine did, in fact, recidivate elsewhere. Older youth, who became young adults during the tracking period, may have had greater mobility during that period than their younger counterparts; this limitation may disproportionately affect the recidivism rates of older youth. Thus, the actual recidivism rates of all youth, but particularly older youth, are likely to be higher than the rates calculated with existent data.

This report also measures rate of return for youth released to community reintegration. Youth who were reintegrated *for the first time* during the study period (2014 to 2018) were tracked for one year to determine if they were returned to a facility within that one-year window. A one-year timeframe was chosen due to the small number of records available for analysis. A longer timeframe logically requires a longer tracking time, and not enough of the records in the dataset qualified.

Throughout this report, logistic regression was used to determine which attributes (e.g., offense severity, region, risk level, etc.) had an impact on recidivism and return. While it would be possible to simply calculate and compare rates of recidivism for populations of interest (using "crosstabs"), this approach does not recognize known differences between the groups being compared. For instance, comparing the rate of youth from one region with the rate of youth from another may show that the rates are statistically significantly different, but it could be that the youth in one region are predominantly high-risk males while the youth in the other are low-

risk females. Thus, it may appear as though region is associated with recidivism, but gender and risk level are likely better explanations for the difference observed between regions.

Logistic regression, on the other hand, is able to "*control*" for the presence of other known variables by performing multiple comparisons that isolate the impact of each attribute. Once *all of the attributes* have been controlled for, this method gives a predicted rate for each attribute of interest. Throughout these chapters, predicted rates are charted alongside actual rates.

It is important to note that logistic regression is limited to known attributes (i.e., the variables in the dataset). There are more than likely other attributes that impact recidivism (e.g., socio-economic status, household size, etc.) that are not included here. Furthermore, the unknown attributes can create a "spurious" relationship between a known attribute and recidivism. For example, a model could show a relationship between region and recidivism, but if youth in one region are more likely than youth in the other regions to come from low socioeconomic backgrounds, the impact of low socioeconomic status will be expressed through the region variable.

I. DIVERSION

This section of the report examines youth diverted from the Maine Juvenile Justice System *for the first time* from 2014 to 2018. Diversion occurs when a judge reviews the relevant facts and determines that it is not in the best interest of the youth nor those impacted by the offense to press formal charges. There are two types of diversion: *no further action* and *informal adjustments*. Youth given an *informal adjustment* are required to fulfill certain conditions as part of their diversion, such as maintaining regular school attendance or performing community service. *No further action*, as its name implies, does not require any further action (i.e., conditions) on the part of the youth. Youth who are successfully diverted do not continue through the juvenile justice system. They may, however, return to the justice system if they do not fulfill the terms of diversion.

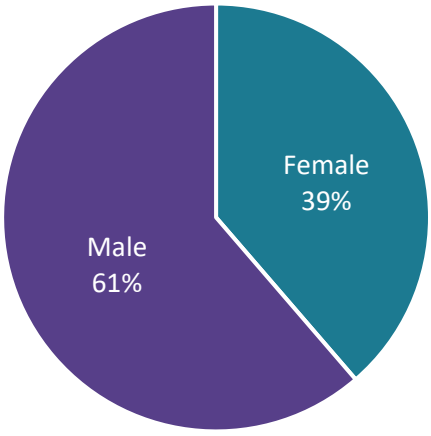
This report will describe the most recent diversion cohort for which recidivism data are available (2018), review trends for all cohorts included in the study (2014 to 2018), and examine recidivism.

2018 COHORT

The 2018 cohort is the most recent cohort for which recidivism data are available. All of this cohort had been tracked for at least one year and 56% had been tracked for two years at the time data were extracted for this analysis.

GENDER

Approximately 61% of the youth diverted in 2018 were male, while the rest (39%) were female.

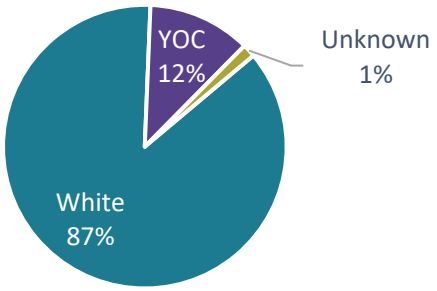


Gender Distribution of 2018 Cohort		
	#	%
Female	391	39%
Male	620	61%
Total	1,011	100%

RACE/ETHNICITY

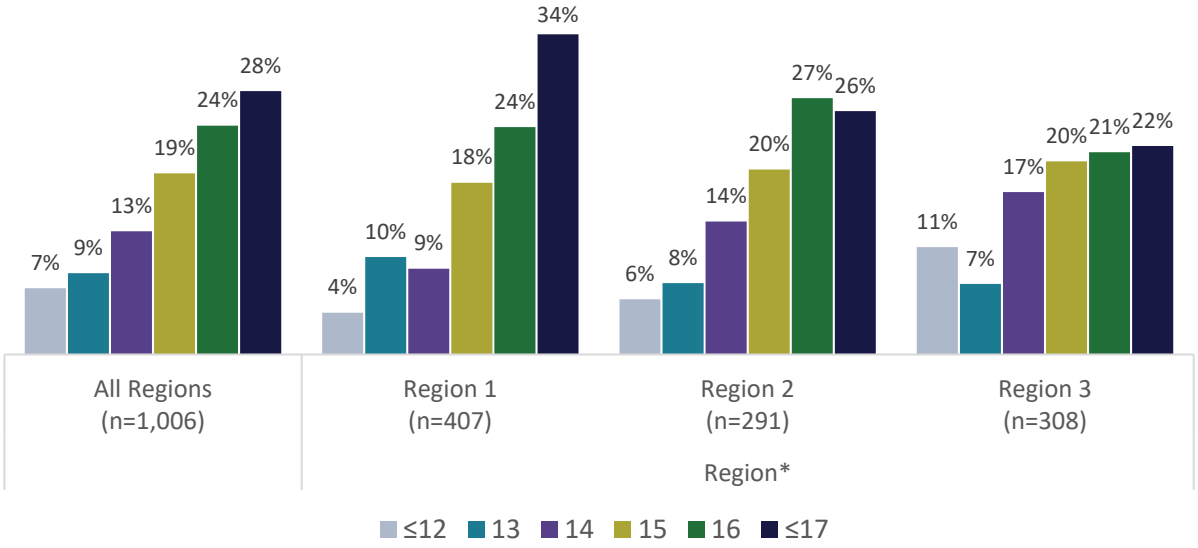
Youth of color made up 12% of youth diverted in 2018, a rate that is disproportionately higher than the percentage of youth of color in Maine's overall youth population for that year (9%).[1] This difference is statistically significant.[2] White youth made up 87% of the cohort, and the remaining 1% had no race/ethnicity recorded.

Racial/Ethnic Distribution of 2018 Cohort		
	#	%
White	877	87%
YOC	119	12%
Unknown	15	1%
Total	1,011	100%



AGE

As age increased, so did the number of youth contained in each age group, with those aged 17 and older making up the largest proportion of the 2018 cohort (28%)[3] and those aged 12 and younger accounting for the smallest proportion (7%). This distribution varied by region.[4] Most noticeably, the distribution across ages in Region 3 does not follow the same upward trajectory observed in the other two regions. Approximately one-fifth (20% to 22%) of Region 3's diverted youth fall into each of the upper three age categories creating a flatter distribution.



* Youth whose region is unknown (n=5) are not included.

[1] Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2020). *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 2014–2018* [Maine, ages 10-17]. Online. Available: https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/

[2] One sided binomial test, p=.001

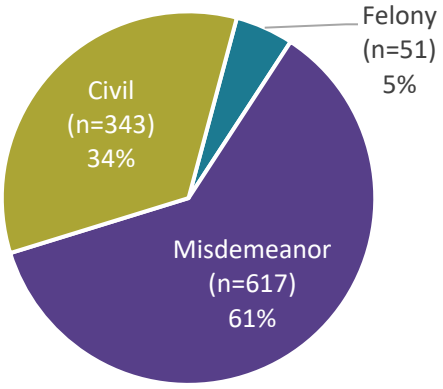
[3] The 17 and older category is primarily composed of 17-year-olds; only 27 youth in the 2018 cohort were older than 17.

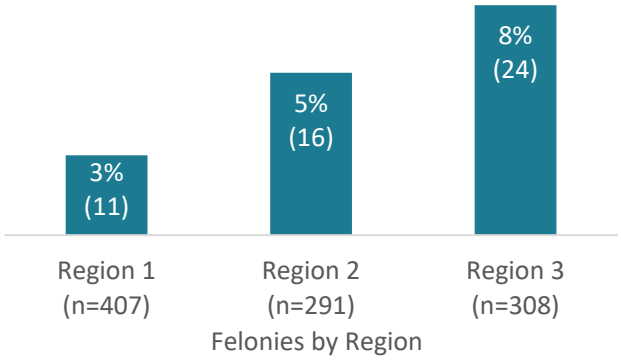
[4] $X^2(10, 1{,}006)=36.293$, $p<.001$, Cramer's V=.134

OFFENSE SEVERITY AND TYPE

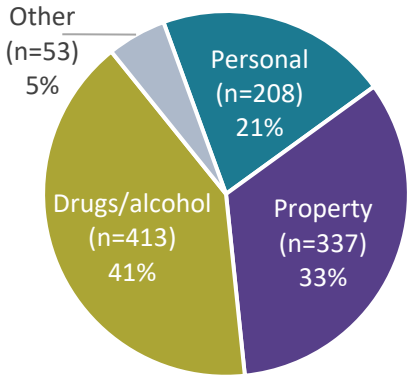
While youth may have had more than one offense at the time of diversion, this analysis focuses on the most serious offense. Seriousness is first determined by offense class (felony, misdemeanor, civil) followed by offense type (personal, property, drug/alcohol, "other").[5] Therefore, if a youth was diverted with both a misdemeanor and civil offense, only the misdemeanor offense is reflected here. Likewise, if a diverted youth had both personal and property offenses, only the personal offense is included here.

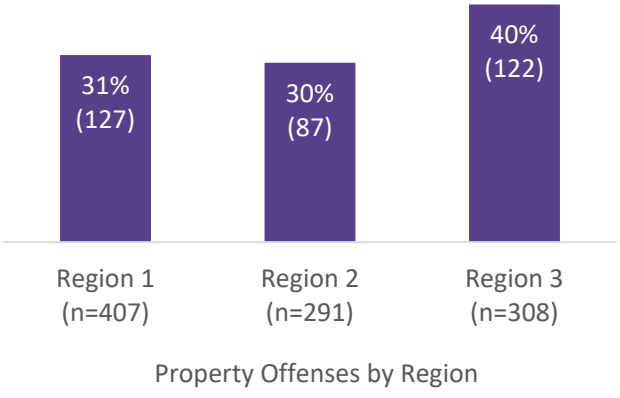
The majority of offenses associated with diversion in 2018 were misdemeanor offenses (61%), followed by civil offenses (34%). Overall, felonies accounted for only 5% of offenses, however, this rate varied by region and ranged from 3% in Region 1 to 8% in Region 3.[6]





Approximately 41% of youth were diverted for drugs/alcohol offenses, 33% for property, 21% for personal, and 5% for "other" offenses. Like felony offenses, the rate of property offenses fluctuated by region with Region 3's property offense rate (40%) being higher than that of Region 1 (31%) and Region 2 (30%).[7]





[5] The majority of "other" offenses in this cohort were disorderly conduct charges; for a list of offenses by offense type, see Appendix C.

[6] $X^2(2, 1{,}006)=9.593$, $p=.008$, Cramer's $V=.098$

[7] $X^2(2, 1{,}006)=7.828$, $p=.020$, Cramer's $V=.088$

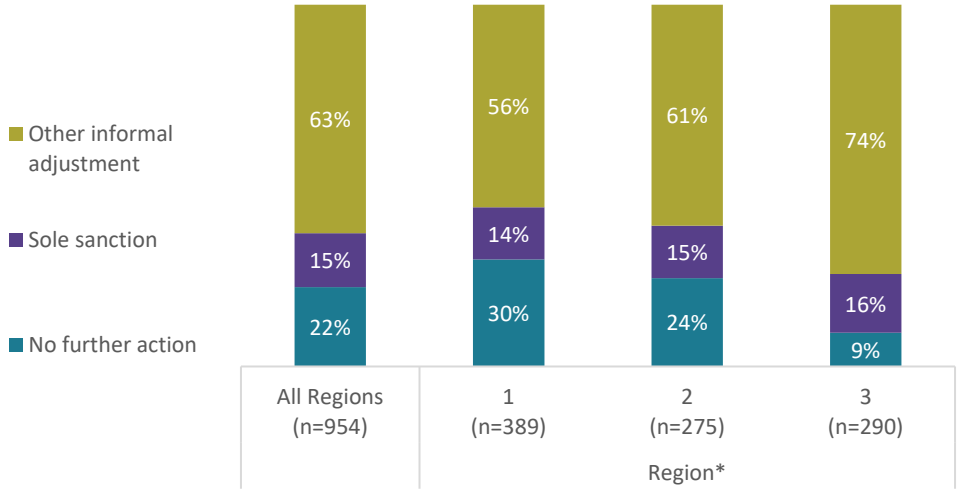
The proportions of youth diverted with each offense type also varied by offense severity. The majority of youth diverted with felony and misdemeanor offenses had property offenses (55% and 50%, respectively), followed by personal offenses (25% and 32%), drugs/alcohol offenses (14% and 10%) and "other" offenses (6% and 8%). Meanwhile, nearly all youth diverted with civil offenses had drugs/alcohol offenses (99.7%).

Felony	**#**	**%**
Personal	13	25%
Property	28	55%
Drugs/Alcohol	7	14%
Other	3	6%
Total	**51**	**100%**
Misdemeanor	#	%
Personal	195	32%
Property	309	50%
Drugs/Alcohol	64	10%
Other	49	8%
Total	**617**	**100%**
Civil	#	%
Drugs/Alcohol	342	99.7%
Other	1	<1%
Total	**342**	**100%**

DIVERSION TYPE[8]

There are two types of diversion—*no further action*, which requires (as its name suggests) no further action on the part of the youth, and *informal adjustments*, which do require some type of action. Informal adjustments can be broken down further, into *sole sanctions*, which require a singular action or behavior on the part of the youth, and *other informal adjustments*, requiring additional action or behavior(s).

The majority of diversions (63%) were *other informal adjustments*, followed by *no further action* (22%) and *sole sanction* (15%). While the proportion of youth diverted with a *sole sanction* did not vary by region, the distribution between *no further action* and *other informal adjustment* did vary. Youth in Regions 1 and 2 were more than twice as likely to be diverted with *no further action* (30% and 24%, respectively) compared to youth in Region 3 (9%).[9]



* Youth whose region is unknown (n=5) are not included.

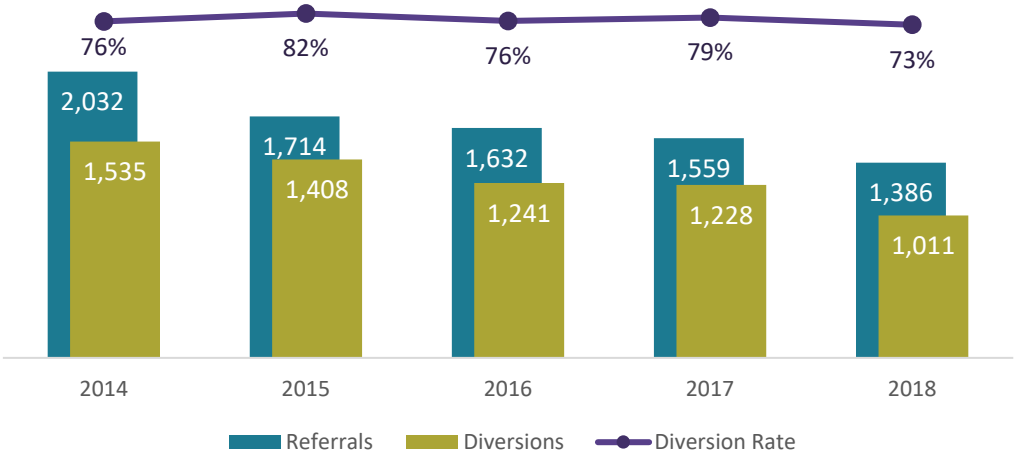
[8] Because type of diversion is not directly captured in CORIS, time from start to end of diversion is used as a proxy. Cases that are resolved in one day are assumed to have no conditions (*no further action*). Cases that are resolved in less than one month are assumed to have had a *sole sanction*. Cases resolved in one to six months are assumed to have had additional conditions (*other informal resolution*). Cases open for six to 12 months (n=52, 5%) are not included here.

[9] $X^2(4, 954)=42.318$, $p>.001$, Cramer's $V=.145$

TRENDS (2014-2018)

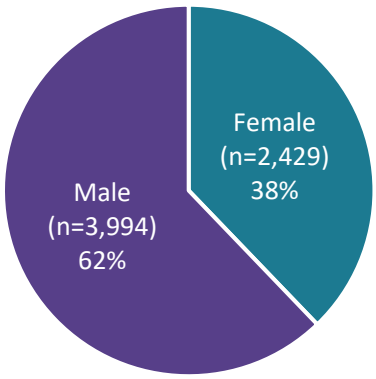
NUMBER OF YOUTH DIVERTED

A total of 6,423 youth completed diversion *for the first time* between 2014 and 2018, which represents 77% of all first-time referrals across the same time period. Thus, only one out of every four youth referred to the juvenile justice system for the first time continues through the juvenile justice system. While the number of youth diverted decreased over the years of the study period, this was due in part to a decrease in the number of youth referred. The rate of referral fluctuated between a high of 82% in 2015 to a low of 73% in 2018.[10, 11]



GENDER

The proportion of diverted youth who were female remained relatively stable over the years of this study, at approximately 38% female.

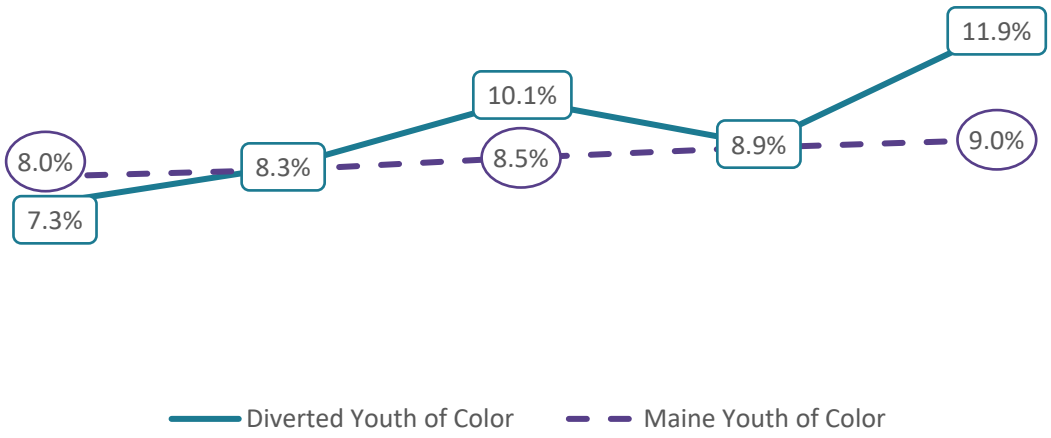


[10] $X^2(4, 8{,}323)=44.652$, $p<.001$, Cramer's $V=.073$

[11] Data for referred youth were not part of the study data but were provided to researchers separately by the DOC. The count is unduplicated and limited to those youth referred *for the first time* between 2014 and 2018.

RACE/ETHNICITY

From 2014 to 2018, the proportion of diverted youth who were youth of color remained relatively stable with an average of 9.1%.[12] This rate was only slightly higher than Maine's overall youth of color rate for the same time period (8.5%).[13] In 2016 and 2018, the difference between overall population rates and diverted rates of youth of color was statistically significant.[14]



Racial/Ethnic Distribution, 2014-2018 Cohorts					
	2014	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**
Youth of Color	110	115	123	108	119
White	1,402	1,275	1,098	1,107	877
Total	1,512	1,390	1,221	1,215	996
% Youth of Color	**7.3%**	**8.3%**	**10.1%**	**8.9%**	**11.9%**

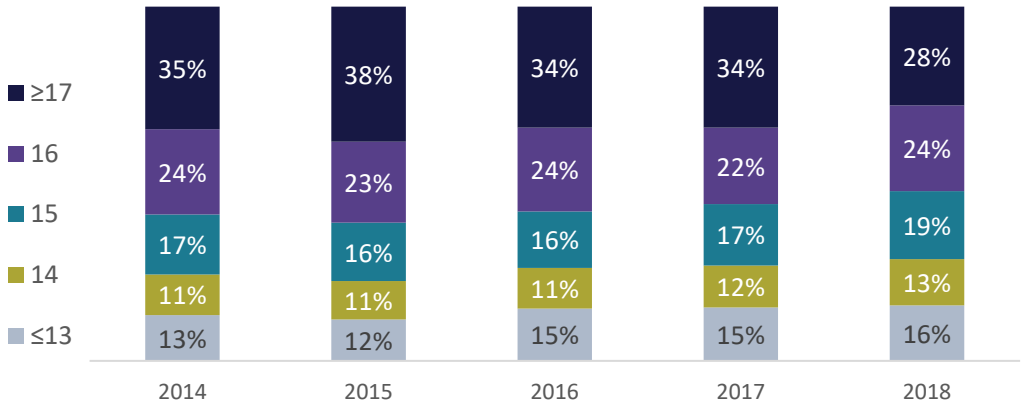
[12] Youth whose race/ethnicity is unknown (n=89, 1.4%) are not included here.

[13] Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2020). *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 2014–2018* [Maine, ages 10-17]. Online. Available: https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/

[14] One-sided binomial test: 2016 p=.031, 2018 p=.001

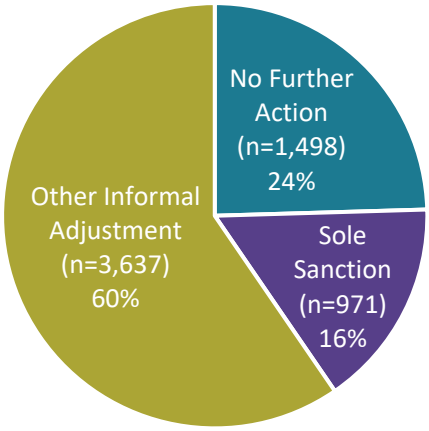
AGE AT DIVERSION

The largest age group across all the years of this study was the oldest group, those aged 17 and older.[15] There were, however, small changes in the distribution over the years. The most notable change occurs in the oldest group. While the 17 and older age group made up 35% of the diverted population in 2014, it made up 28% in 2018. This change was statistically significant.



DIVERSION TYPE[16]

Between 2014 and 2018, diversions resulting in *no further action* accounted for 24% of all diversions while *informal adjustments* made up the remaining 76% (16% sole sanction and 60% other informal adjustments).[17]



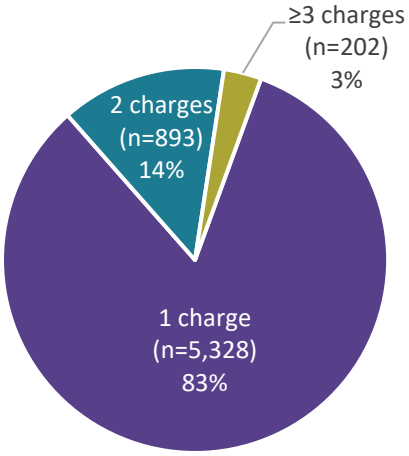
[15] The 17 and older category is mostly composed of 17-year-olds. Those aged 18 and older made up just 4% of diverted youth.

[16] Diversion length is used as a proxy to determine diversion type: Cases resolved in one day are classified as *no further action*, cases resolved within one month are *sole sanctions*, and cases resolved between one and six months are considered *other informal adjustments*. Cases resolved between 6 and 12 months (n=317, 5%) are not included in the percentages presented here. Cases resolved after 12 months (n=11) are excluded from this report.

[17] $X^2(4, 6{,}075)=368.762$, $p<.001$, Cramer's $V=0.174$

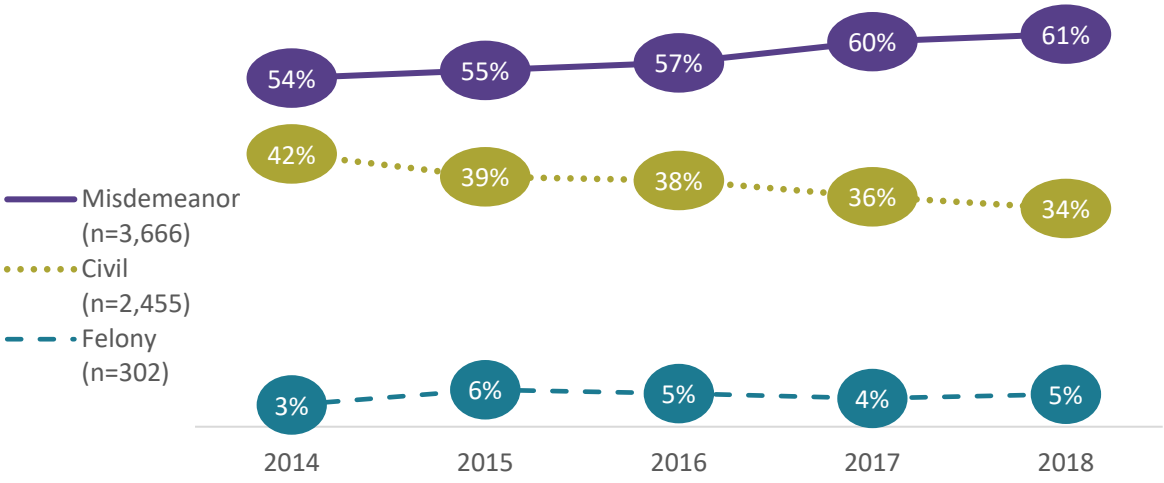
NUMBER OF CHARGES

During the 2014 to 2018 time period, approximately 83% of youth had one charge associated with the offense resulting in diversion, 14% had two charges, and 3% had three or more charges. These proportions held steady across the years of the study. On average, youth had 1.2 charges associated with the diverted offense. This distribution remained relatively steady across the years of the study.



OFFENSE SEVERITY[18]

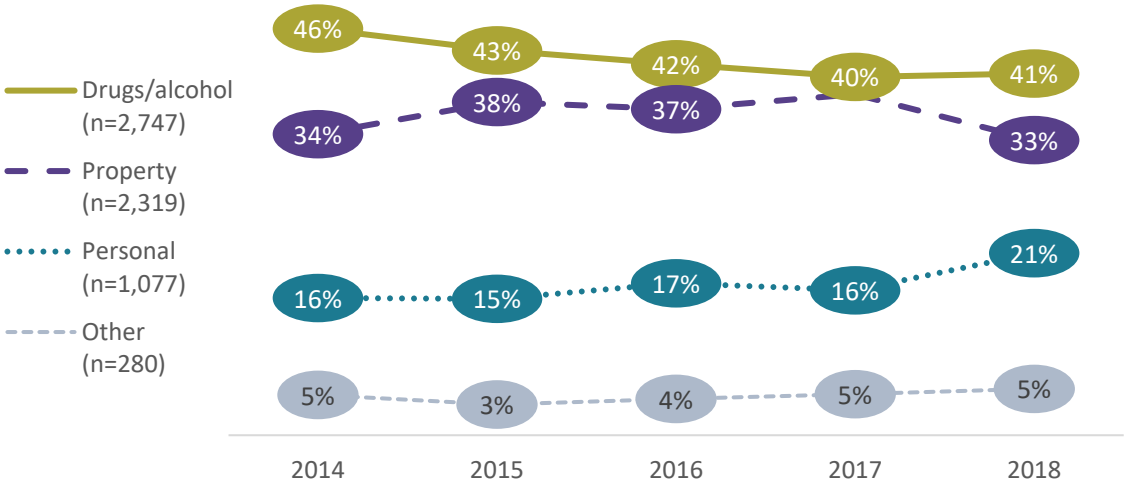
Approximately 57% of youth were diverted for misdemeanor offenses, followed by 38% civil offenses, and felonies made up the remaining 5%. These proportions varied over the years of the study. While 54% of youth were diverted with misdemeanor offenses in 2014, the proportion increased to 61% in 2018. The changes in severity are statistically significant.[19]



[18] Analysis of offense severity focuses on the most serious offense that led to the diversion.
[19] $X^2(2, 6{,}423)=31.423$, $p<.001$, Cramer's $V=0.049$

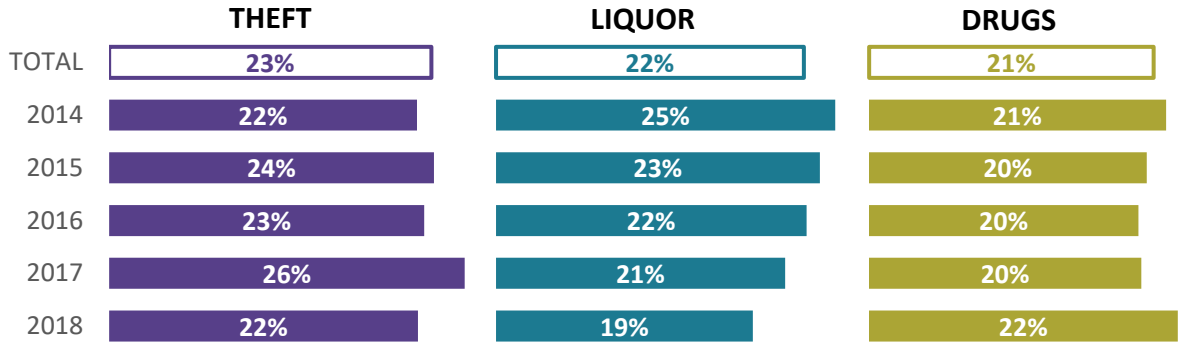
OFFENSE TYPE

Youth with drugs/alcohol offenses made up the largest proportion of diversions (43%), followed by property offenses (36%), 17% for personal offenses, and 4% for "other" offense types.[20] These proportions varied across the years of the study. While 46% of youth diverted in 2014 were diverted with drug/alcohol offenses, the proportion decreased to 41% in 2018. The changes in offense type were statistically significant.[21]



OFFENSE CATEGORIES

Across the years of the study, approximately 23% of the most serious offenses fell under the theft category, followed by liquor (22%), and drugs (21%). While the proportions and order of these categories fluctuated over the years, these three categories always composed the top three.



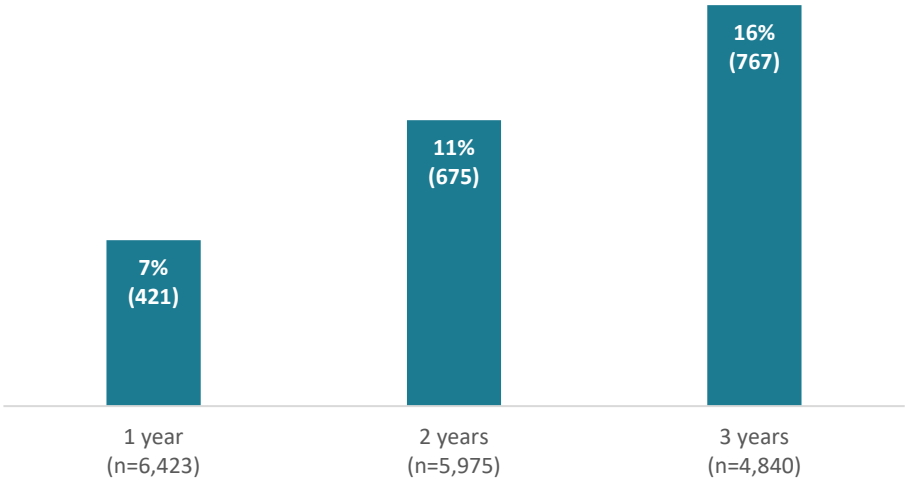
[20] The majority of "other" offenses for the 2014 to 2018 cohorts were disorderly conduct charges. See Appendix C for a list of offenses by offense type.

[21] $X^2(12, 6{,}423)=30.268$, $p=.003$, Cramer's $V=0.040$

RECIDIVISM

RECIDIVISM RATES

Recidivism rates vary depending on the length of time youth were tracked following diversion; typically, as the tracking time increases so do the recidivism rates. The one-year recidivism rate for 2014 to 2018 was 7%, the two-year rate was 11%, and the three-year rate was 16%.

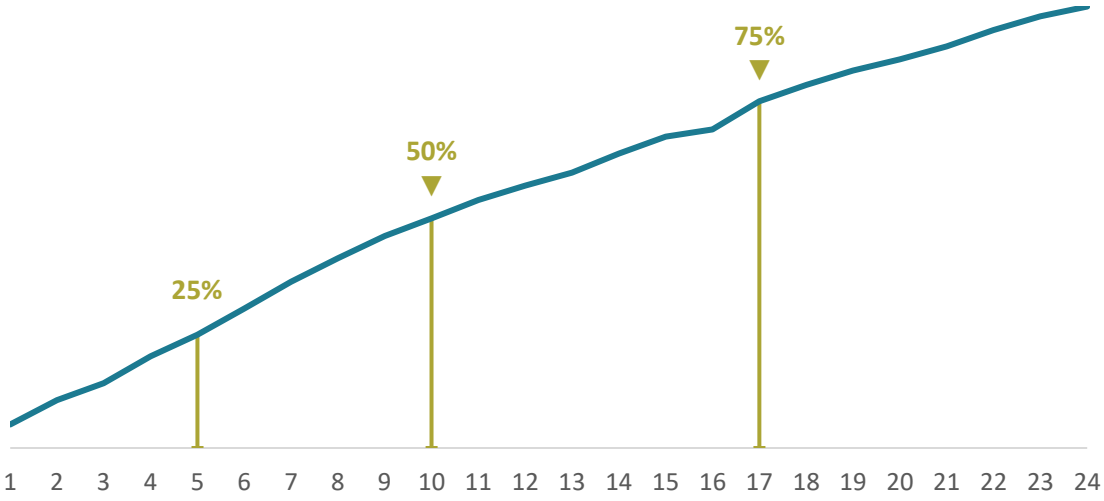


The remainder of this section will focus on the two-year recidivism rate.[22] However, it is important to note that *the vast majority of the diverted youth did not recidivate*—of those tracked for two years, 89% did not recidivate.

[22] A portion of the 2018 cohort (44%) had not been tracked for two full years and could not be included in this analysis. Thus, the overall number of cases examined in this section (n=5,975) is smaller than the number of cases presented in the *Trends* section (6,423).

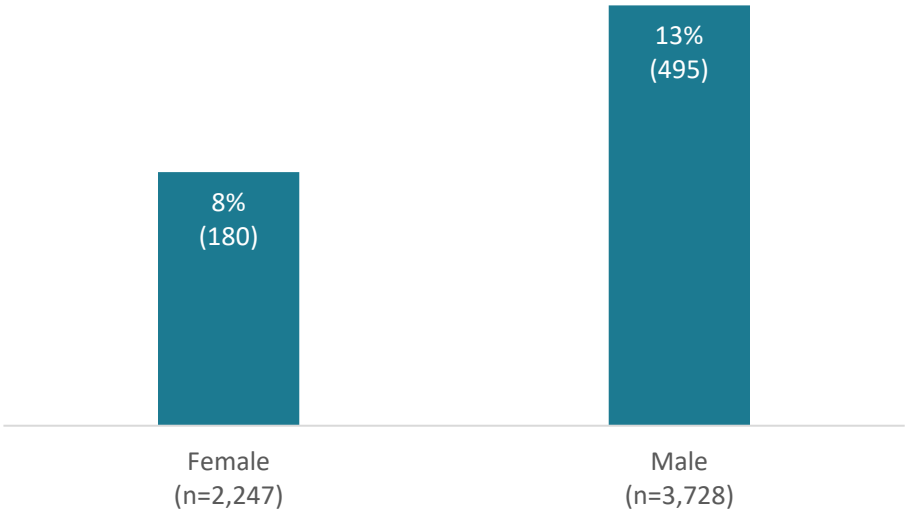
TIME TO RECIDIVATE

Of the 675 diverted youth who recidivated within the two-year tracking period, one-quarter did so within the first five months. By month 10, half of these youth had recidivated and 75% had done so by month 17.



RECIDIVISM BY GENDER

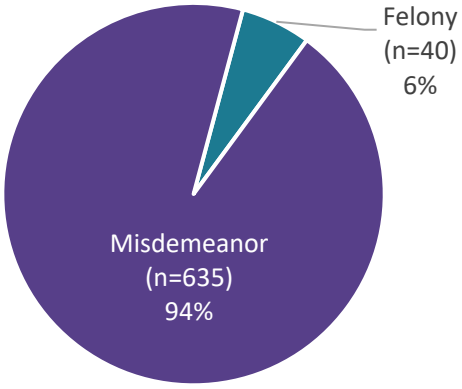
Recidivism rates varied by gender, with approximately 13% of diverted males and 8% of diverted females recidivating.[23]



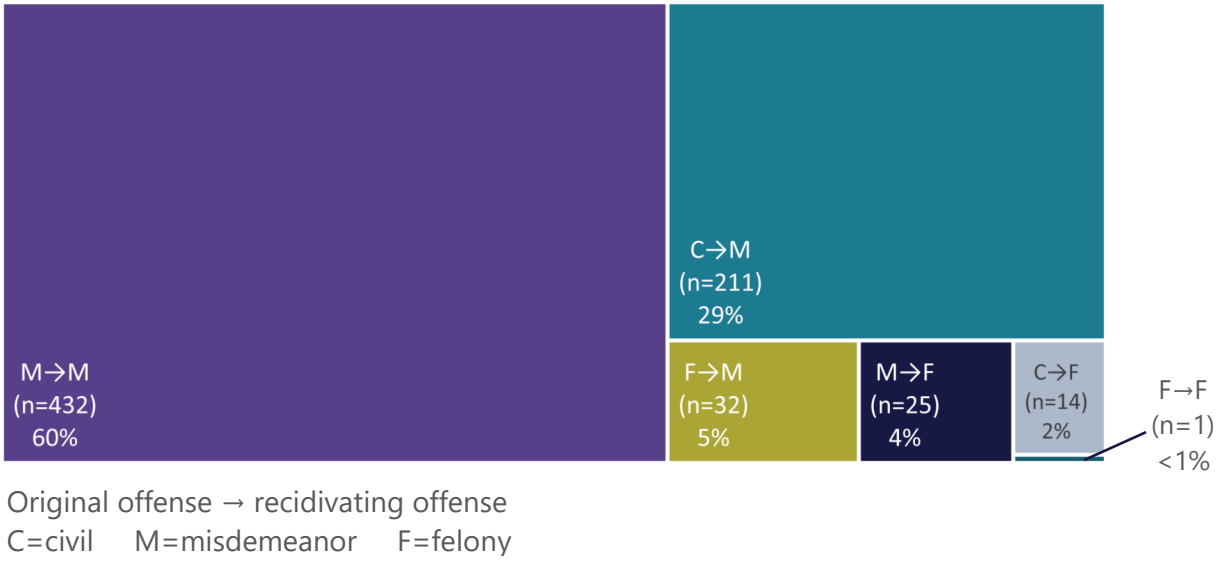
[23] $X^2(1, 5{,}975)=38.815$, $p<.001$, Cramer's $V=0.081$

RECIDIVISM AND OFFENSE SEVERITY

The majority (94%) of diverted youth who recidivated did so with a misdemeanor, while the remaining 6% recidivated with a felony.[24]

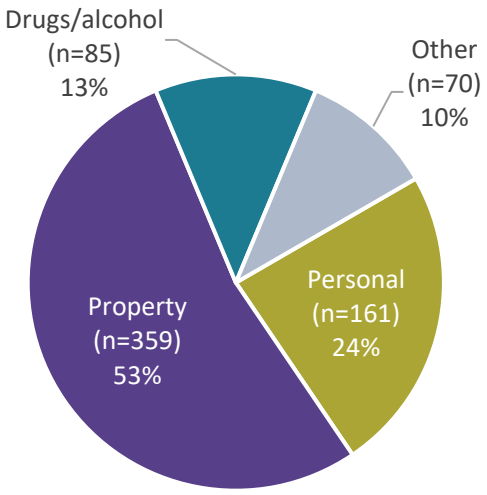


Diverted youth may recidivate with offenses similar to their original offense (i.e., felony, misdemeanor), less severe offenses, or more severe offenses. The majority of youth who recidivated were originally diverted with misdemeanor offenses and likewise recidivated with misdemeanor offenses (60%). Only one youth diverted on a felony charge also recidivated with a felony, accounting for less than 1% of recidivating youth. Thus 61% of youth recidivated with an offense of equal severity to their original offense. Because civil offenses are not counted as recidivism, the only category that reflects a less severe recidivating offense is felony to misdemeanor, which made up approximately 5% of recidivating youth. The remaining 35% of youth who recidivated did so with a more severe offense.



[24] The felony category includes one murder which is technically not a felony since murder is a class of its own.

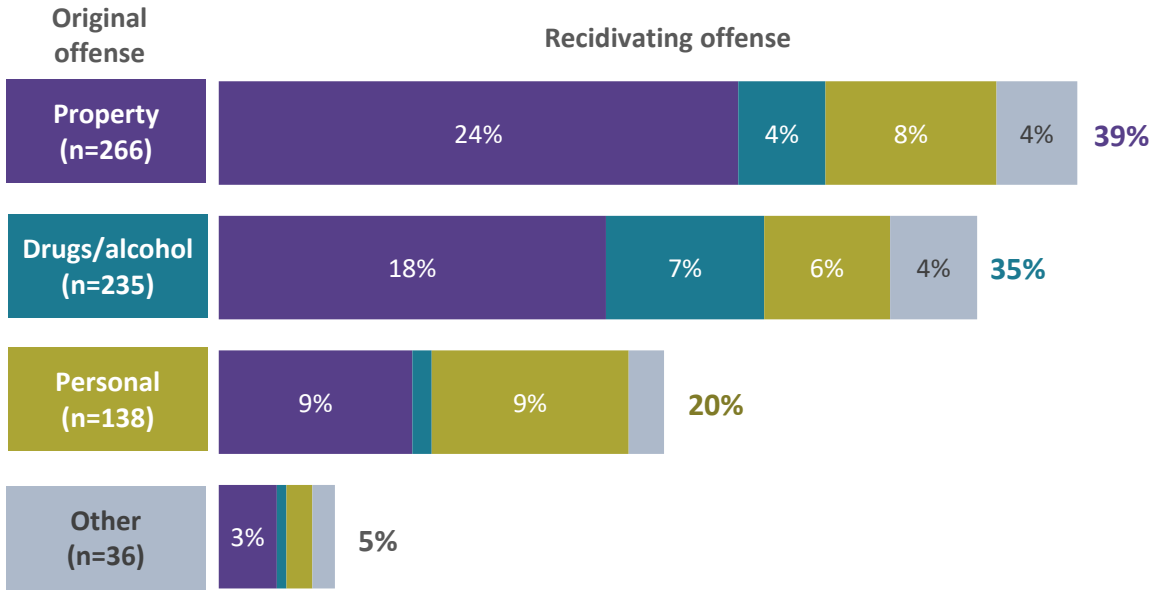
RECIDIVISM AND OFFENSE TYPE



The majority of recidivating offenses were property offenses at 53%, followed by personal offenses at 24%, drugs/alcohol at 13%, and "other" offenses at 10%.

While some diverted youth recidivate with an offense type similar to their original offense type (i.e., personal, property, drug/alcohol, or "other"), others recidivate with offenses that are different. Regardless of the original offense type, the majority of recidivating offenses were still property offenses.

The graph below depicts the change in offense type. The length of each bar depicts the size of the subgroup; therefore, 39% of recidivating youth were diverted with property offenses as indicated by the length of the accompanying bar. Percentages displayed on the graphic represent the proportion of overall recidivism. Thus, 24% of all recidivism was contributed by the *property-to-property* subgroup. An additional 18% of all recidivism was contributed by the *drug/alcohol-to-property* subgroup.



Note: Percentages smaller than 3% are not labeled

ATTRIBUTES ASSOCIATED WITH RECIDIVISM

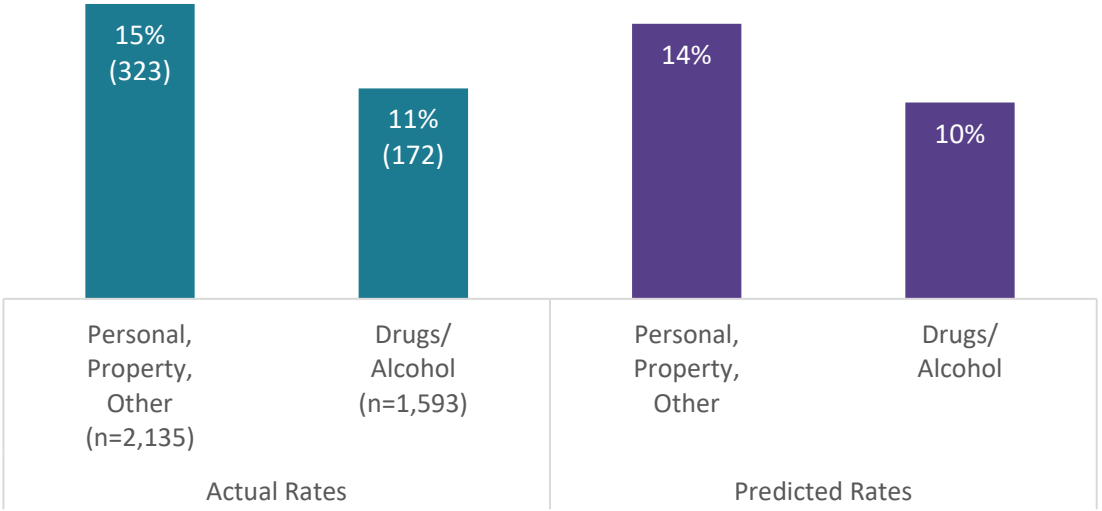
A number of demographic and offense attributes (age, region, offense type, etc.) were explored using logistic regression to determine whether they had an impact on recidivism. The attributes tested using logistic regression were cohort, race/ethnicity, age, region, number of charges, diversion type, offense severity, and offense type. Because initial exploration of these attributes revealed differences between the genders, males and females were analyzed separately.[25]

MALE RECIDIVISM

Overall, 13% of diverted males recidivated, but the rate varied depending on four additional attributes. These attributes—offense type, region, diversion type, and number of charges—were found to predict recidivism within two years following diversion.[26]

Offense Type

Offense type is predictive of recidivism. All other attributes held constant, 14% of males originally diverted with a personal, property, or "other" type of offense are expected to recidivate, compared to 10% of males with a drugs/alcohol offense.



[25] See Appendix A for tables containing actual recidivism rates for each of the attributes tested. Data for all diverted youth is presented in table A1, diverted males in table A2, and diverted females in table A3.

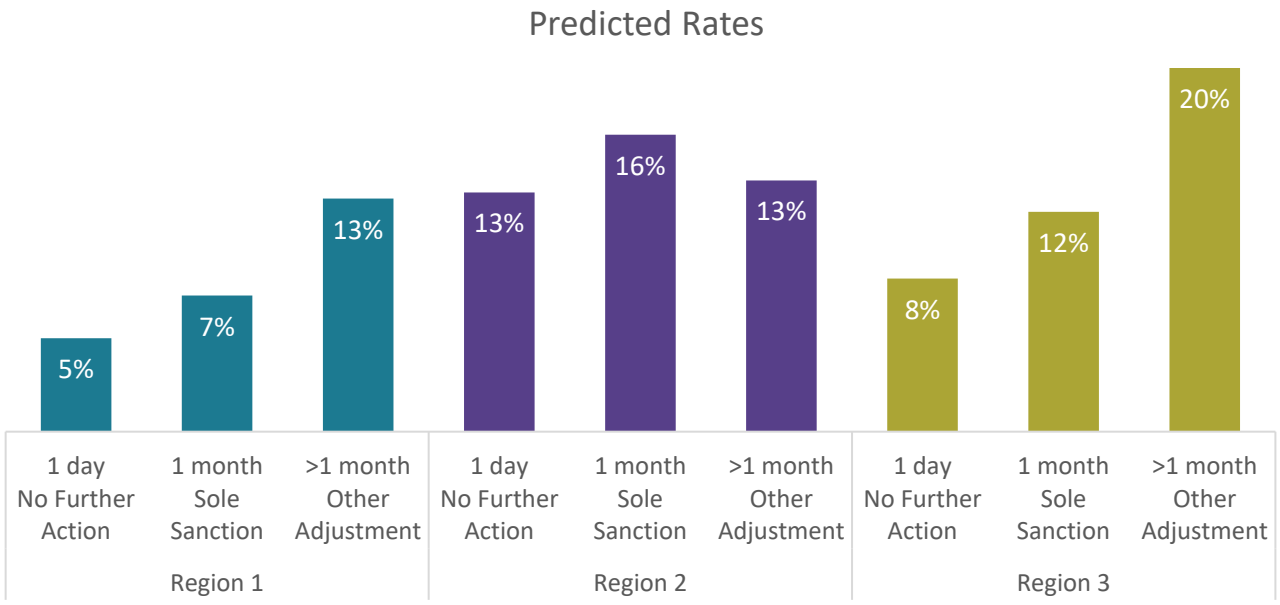
[26] While these attributes predict recidivism, they do not fully predict it. The male logistic regression model is significant at the .001 level, predicts 86.7% of responses correctly, and has a Nagelkerke R Square of .047. Logistic regression results are presented in Appendix B1.

Region and Diversion Type

While region and diversion type are independently predictive of recidivism, there is also an interaction between these attributes, meaning the impact of diversion type on recidivism varies further from region to region. For instance, while males diverted with *no further action* are the least likely to recidivate across all regions, the rates vary by region. All other attributes held constant, only 5% of males in Region 1 and 8% in Region 3 diverted with *no further action* are predicted to recidivate, compared to 13% in Region 2.

Key findings related to region and diversion type include the following:

- Males from Region 1 have the lowest predicted recidivism rates across all three diversion types. All other attributes held constant, approximately 5% of males diverted with *no further action*, 7% diverted with *sole sanction*, and 13% diverted with *other informal adjustments* are predicted to recidivate.
- In Region 3, when all other attributes are held constant, males diverted with *other informal adjustments* are the most likely to recidivate at 20%. This is in sharp contrast to males diverted with *sole sanctions* (12%) and *no further action* (8%) within the region.
- Region 2's predicted recidivism rate fluctuates the least across diversion types, ranging from 13% (*no further action* and *other informal adjustment*) to 16% (*sole sanction*).

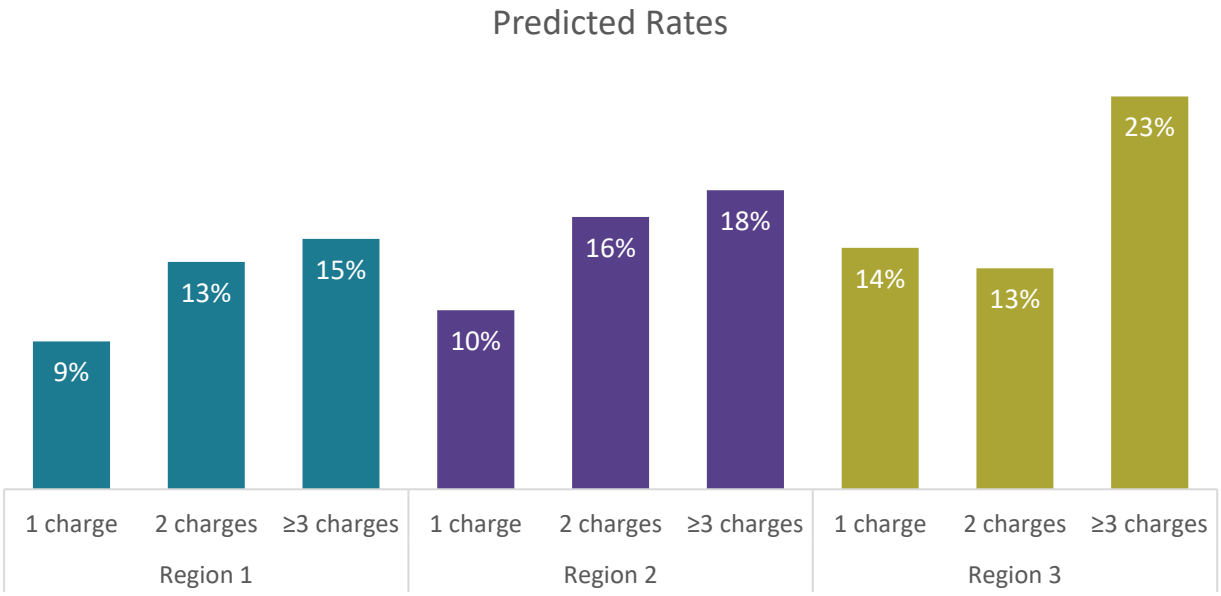


Region and Number of Charges

Controlling for all other attributes, region and the number of charges associated with the original offense are also predictive of recidivism. Like diversion type and region, there is an interaction between these two attributes and thus, the impact of number of charges on recidivism varies by region.

Key findings related to region and number of charges include the following:

- The predicted recidivism rates of Regions 1 and 2 by number of charges are fairly similar. The largest difference between the two regions was less than three percentage points.
- In each region, males diverted on three or more charges have the highest predicted recidivism rates, ranging from a low of 15% in Region 1 to a high of 23% in Region 3.
- In Region 3, males with two charges are slightly less likely to recidivate (13%) than those with one charge (14%).

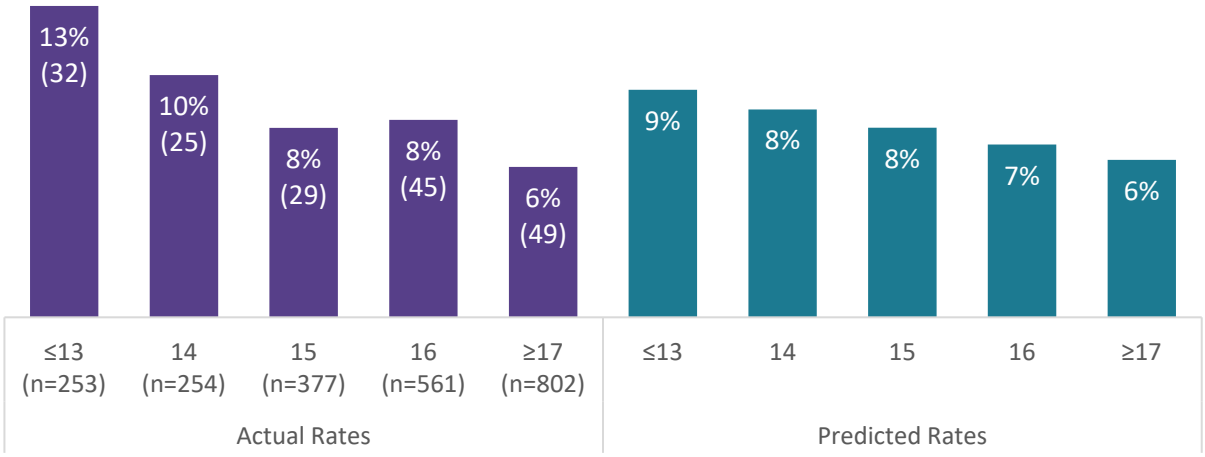


FEMALE RECIDIVISM

Overall, 8% of females recidivated, but the rate varied depending on four additional attributes. These attributes—age at diversion, offense type, number of charges, and diversion type—were found to predict recidivism within two years following diversion.[27]

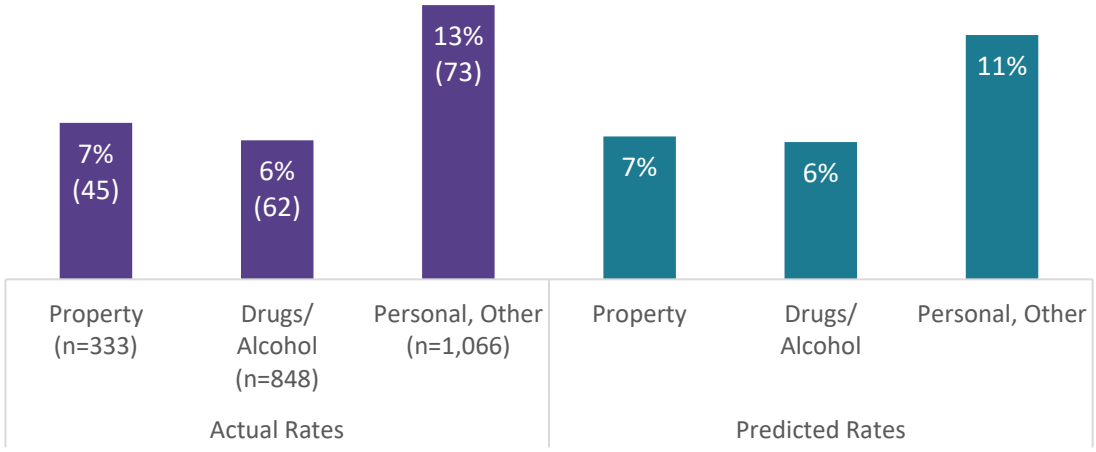
Age at Diversion

Age at diversion is predictive of female recidivism—the younger females are at the time of diversion, the more likely they are to recidivate. Controlling for all other attributes, 9% of female youth aged 13 and younger are predicted to recidivate, which decreases to only 6% by ages 17 and older.



Offense Type

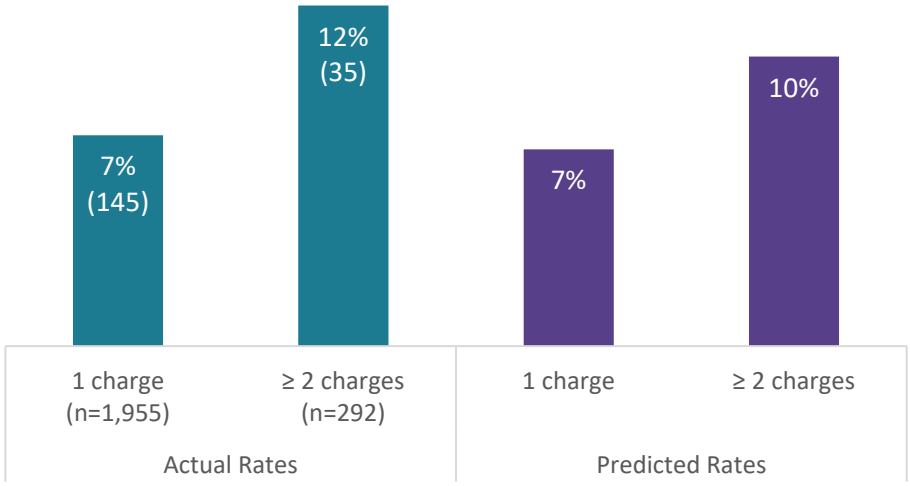
Offense type is also predictive of recidivism. While controlling for all other attributes, 11% of females diverted with a personal or "other" type of offense are predicted to recidivate compared to only 7% of females with personal offenses and 6% of females with drugs/alcohol offenses.



[27] While these attributes predict recidivism, they do not fully predict it. The female logistic regression model is significant at the .001 level, predicts 92.0% of responses correctly, and has a Nagelkerke R Square of .041. Logistic regression results are presented in Appendix B2.

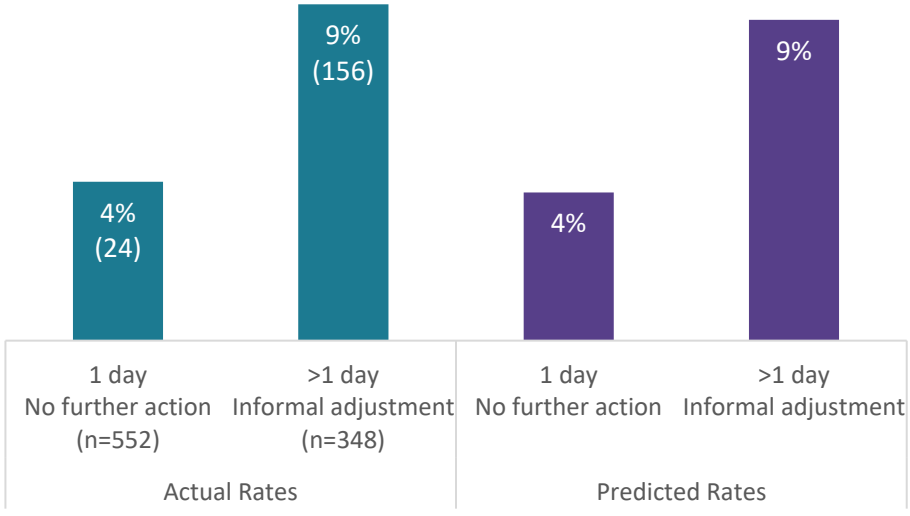
Number of Charges

Additionally, the number of charges associated with the original diversion is predictive of recidivism. All other attributes held constant, 10% of females diverted with two or more charges are predicted to recidivate, compared to only 7% with one charge.



Diversion Type

Diversion type also impacts recidivism. All other attributes held constant, 9% of females diverted with an informal adjustment (*sole sanction* or *other informal adjustment*) are predicted to recidivate while only 4% of females diverted with *no further action are predicted to do so*.



SUMMARY

In summary, diversion type, offense type, and number of charges are predictive of recidivism for both males and females. In addition, region is predictive of male recidivism and age at diversion is predictive of female recidivism. Cohort (diversion year), race/ethnicity, and offense severity were tested as predictors for both males and females but were *not* found to be predictive for either gender.

Some of the findings of this study pose additional research questions. For instance, what is it about diversion with *no further action* that leads to a better outcome—is it the limited level of involvement with the corrections system itself, or is *no further action* a proxy for another attribute not included in the logistic regression model? For instance, we know that the association between diversion type and recidivism exists even when controlling for offense severity, but perhaps this type of diversion is used with youth exhibiting another attribute that was not studied here, such as lack of prior involvement with the juvenile justice system. If so, is it the lack of prior involvement or the limited involvement in the current situation that leads to lower rates of recidivism or (perhaps more likely) both? This could be teased apart by exploring the factors that determine the type of diversion used and including them in future logistic regression models.

The impact of region on recidivism likewise poses additional questions. Rates vary from 5% to 20% depending on diversion type and region and they vary from 9% to 23% depending on number of offenses and region. Do regions have different criteria (beyond the variables tested in this analysis) for determining which type of diversion to use, which in turn impacts recidivism? Or does involvement with the juvenile corrections system trigger additional interventions external to the system in some regions but not in others? If so, can these interventions be identified and copied elsewhere? While this report cannot answer these questions, there is value nevertheless in posing them for thought and discussion. As the overall *non*-recidivism rate for this population demonstrates, the majority of diverted youth (89%) are successfully diverted. Answering the questions posed in this report may further increase this success.

II. SUPERVISED

This section of the report examines youth who began supervision for the first time between 2014 to 2018. In this context, "supervised" refers to youth who had formal charges brought against them, were adjudicated by a judge, and subsequently placed under the supervision of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) within the community, otherwise commonly referred to as probation.

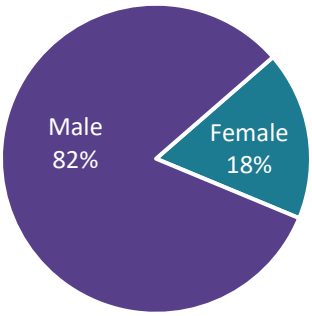
2018 COHORT

The 2018 cohort is the most recent cohort for which recidivism data are available. All of this cohort had been tracked at least one year and 71% had been tracked for two years at the time data was extracted for this analysis.

GENDER

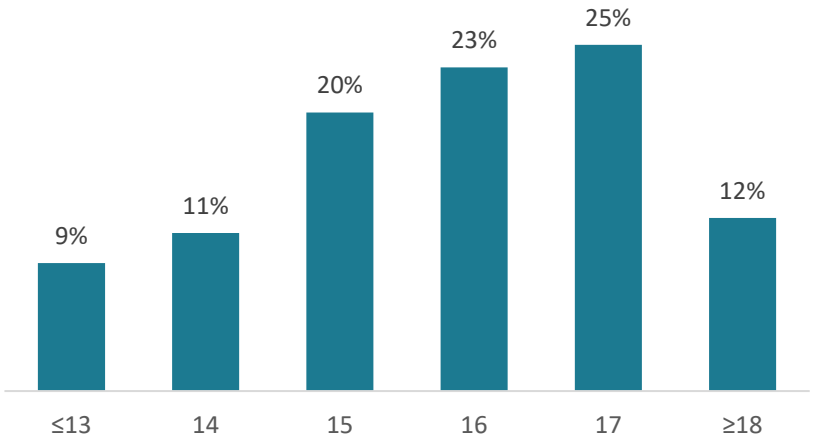
Approximately 82% of the youth in the 2018 cohort were male.

Gender Distribution of 2018 Cohort		
	#	%
Female	33	18%
Male	154	82%
	187	100%



AGE

Youth 17 years of age made up the largest age group of youth in the 2018 cohort at 25%, followed by 16-year-olds (23%), 15-year-olds (20%), youth ages 18 and older (12%),[28] 14-year-olds (11%), and youth ages 13 and younger (9%).



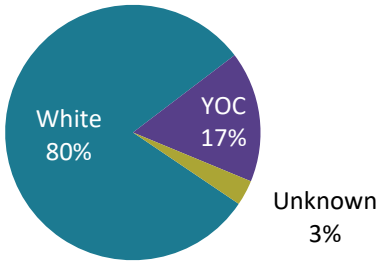
Age Distribution of 2018 Cohort		
	#	%
≤13	17	9%
14	21	11%
15	37	20%
16	43	23%
17	46	25%
≥18	23	12%
	187	100%

[28] While these youth were 18 or older at the time of adjudication, presumably they were 17 years of age or younger at the time of offense and therefore may still be supervised through the Department of Juvenile Services.

RACE/ETHNICITY

White youth made up 80% of the youth supervised, youth of color made up 17%, and no race/ethnicity was recorded for the remaining 3% of youth.

Race/Ethnicity Distribution of 2018 Cohort		
	#	%
White	150	80%
Youth of color	31	17%
Unknown	6	3%
	187	100%



Given that approximately 9.0% of Maine's overall youth population were youth of color in 2018,[29] youth of color are disproportionately represented in this cohort. Achieving proportionate representation within the supervised population in 2018 would have required supervising 16 fewer youth of color.

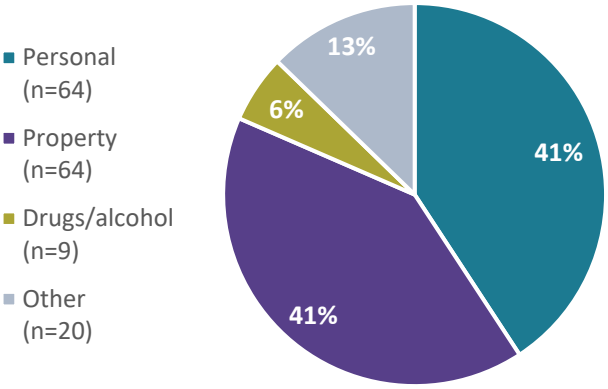
	Actual			Proportionate	
White youth	150	83%		150	91%
Youth of color	**31**	**17%**	→	**15**	**9%**
	181	100%		165	100%

[29] Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2020). *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 2018* [Maine, ages 10-17]. Online. Available: https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/

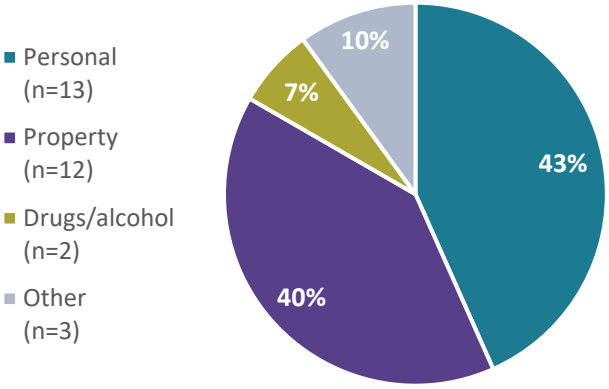
OFFENSE SEVERITY AND TYPE

While youth may have had more than one offense that led to their supervision, this analysis focuses on the most serious offense associated with each supervision. Seriousness is determined first by offense class (felony, misdemeanor, civil) and then by offense type (personal, property, drug/alcohol, "other").[30] Thus, if a youth was supervised with both felony and misdemeanor offenses, only the felony offense is reflected here. If a youth was supervised with both personal and property offenses, only the personal offense is reflected here.

The majority of offenses, 84%, that resulted in supervision in 2018 were **misdemeanor offenses** (n=157). These offenses were evenly split between personal and property offenses, at 41% each; followed by "other" offenses, at 13%; and drug/alcohol offenses, at 6%.



Only 16% of offenses associated with supervision in 2018 were **felony offenses** (n=30). Of these, 43% were personal offenses, 40% were property offense, 10% were "other" offenses, and 7% were drug/alcohol offenses.

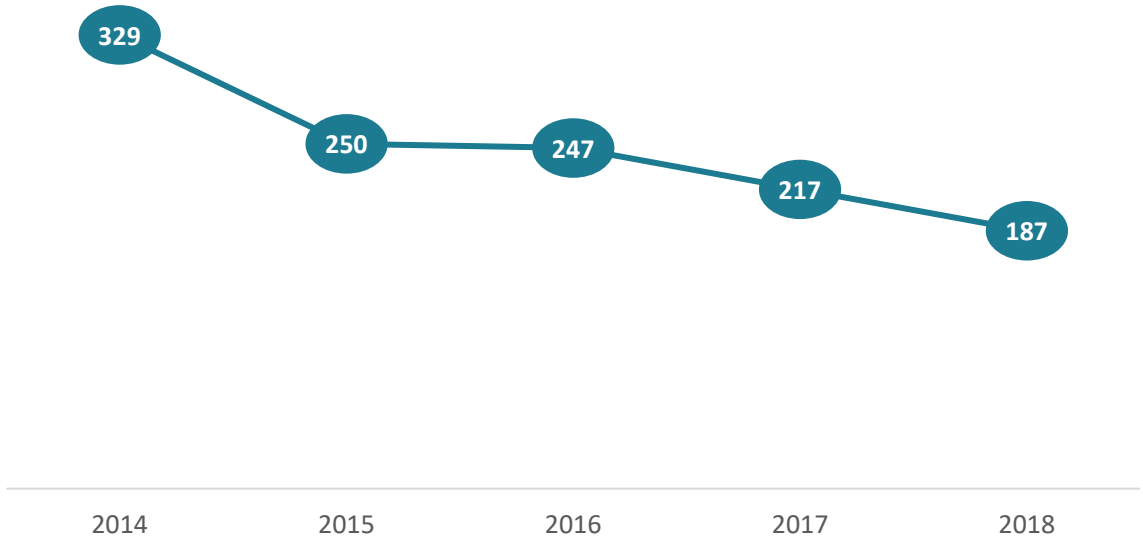


[30] The majority of "other" offenses in this cohort were *disorderly conduct* charges. Please see Appendix C for a list of offenses by offense type.

TRENDS (2014-2018)

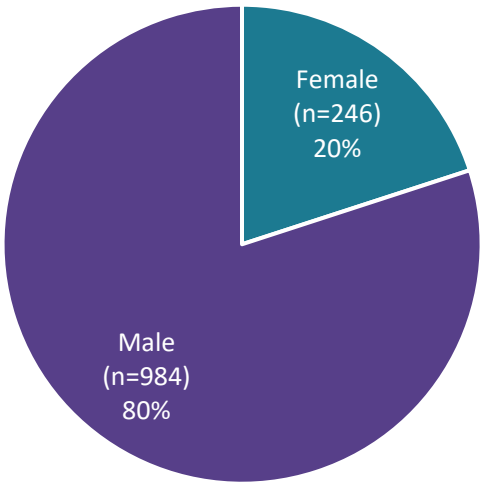
NUMBER OF YOUTH SUPERVISED

From 2014 to 2018, the number of youth supervised decreased by 43%, resulting in 142 fewer youth supervised in 2018 compared to 2014. A total of 1,230 youth were supervised across the study period.



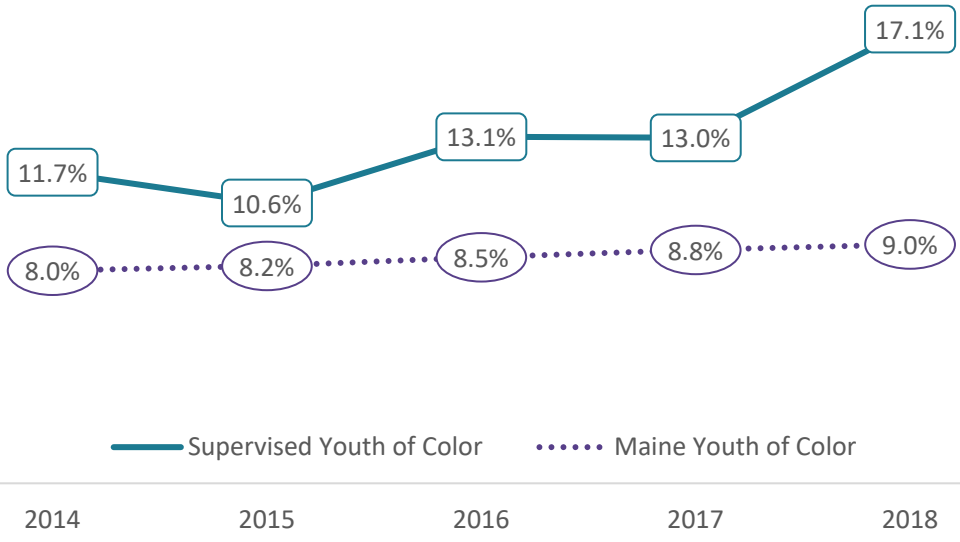
GENDER

The proportion of supervised youth who were female remained relatively stable over the years of the study, at approximately 20%.



RACE/ETHNICITY

Youth of color made up an increasing proportion of Maine's overall youth population, from 8.0% in 2014 to 9.0% in 2018.[31] Among supervised youth, the proportion of youth of color fluctuated, from a low of 10.6% in 2015 to a high of 17.1% in 2018.[32] The difference between overall population rates and supervised rates was statistically significant for every year except 2015.



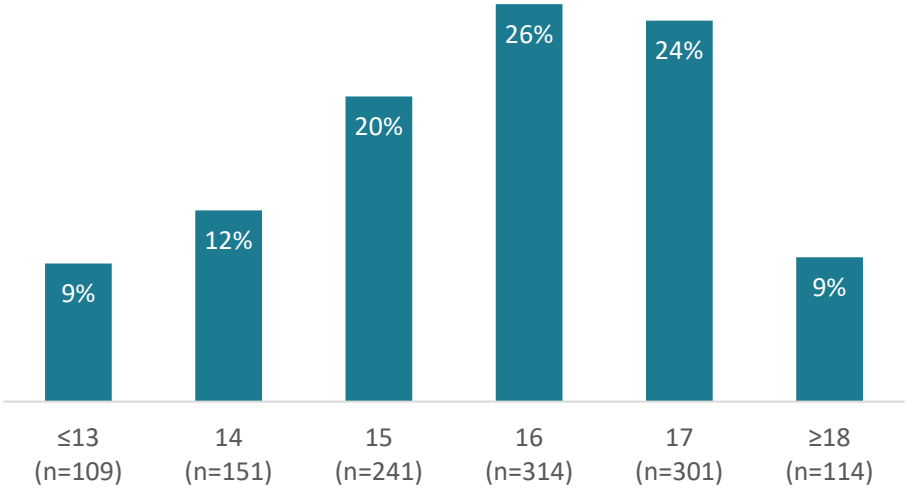
Racial/Ethnic Distribution, 2014-2018 Cohorts					
	2014	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**
Youth of Color	38	26	32	28	31
White	286	220	213	187	150
Total	324	246	245	215	181
% Youth of Color	**11.7%**	**10.6%**	**13.1%**	**13.0%**	**17.1%**

[31] Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2020). *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 2014–2018* [Maine, ages 10-17]. Online. Available: https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/

[32] Youth whose race/ethnicity is unknown (n=19, 1.5%) are not included here.

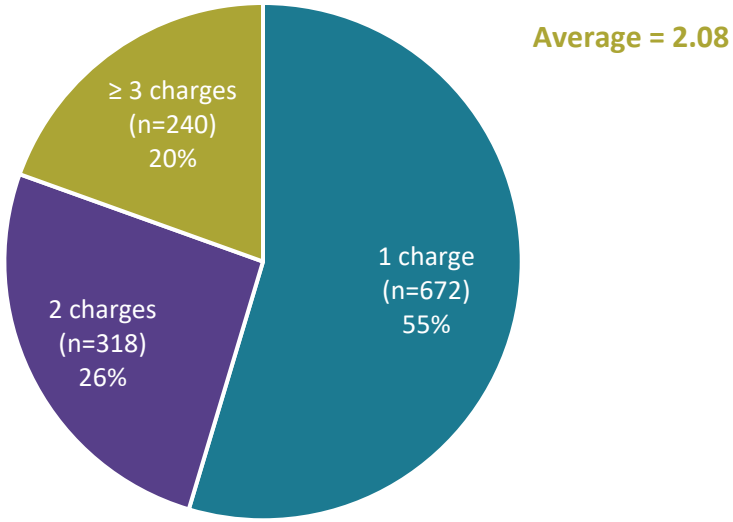
AGE AT SUPERVISION

The mean age at supervision remained stable across the years of the study, at approximately 15.7 years of age (15 years, 8 months).



NUMBER OF CHARGES

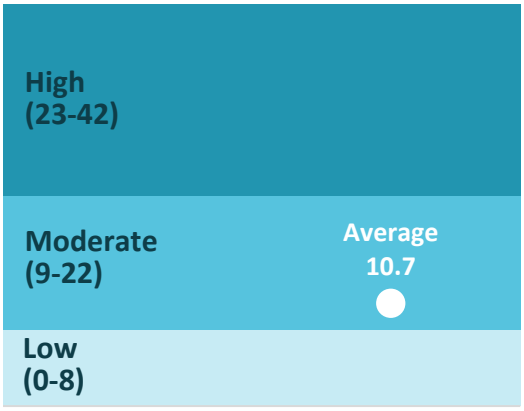
From 2014 to 2018, the average number of charges associated with supervision was 2.08, and this average remained relatively unchanged across the five-year study period. Approximately 55% of youth had one offense, an additional 26% of youth had 2 offenses, and the remaining 20% had three or more offenses associated with supervision.

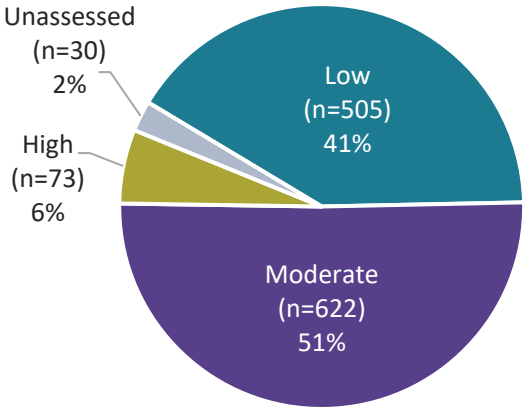


RISK ASSESSMENTS

Maine DOC officials administer the Youth Level of Service–Case Management Inventory (YLS-CMI), a youth-specific tool used to measure risk. Ideally, each supervised youth is given a risk assessment prior to adjudication. Between 2014-2018, risk assessment scores and levels were present in 97.6% of the records analyzed in this study, which represents an improvement from previous years.

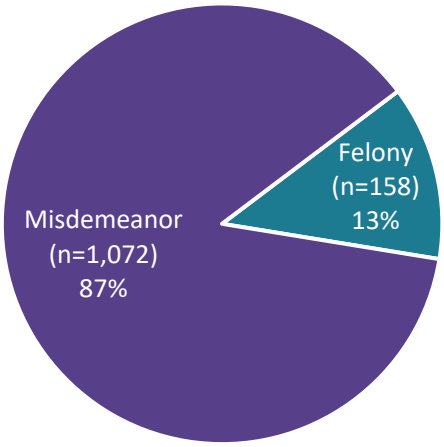
YLS-CMI risk scores remained stable over the years of the study, at an average score of 10.7. Likewise, risk levels were also stable across the study period. At 51%, most youth were moderate risk; another 41% were low risk; and 6% were high risk. The remaining 2% were unassessed.





OFFENSE SEVERITY[33]

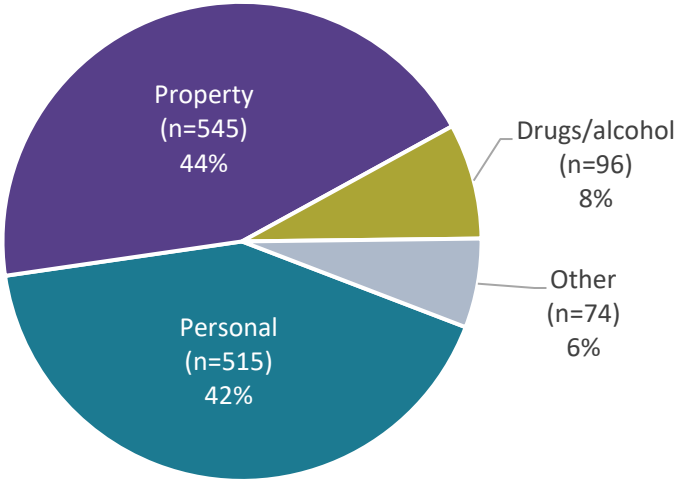
Approximately 87% of supervisions were for misdemeanor offenses, while the remaining 13% were for felonies. While this distribution fluctuated over the years of the study, the changes were not statistically significant.



[33] Analysis of offense severity focuses on the most serious offense that led to supervision.

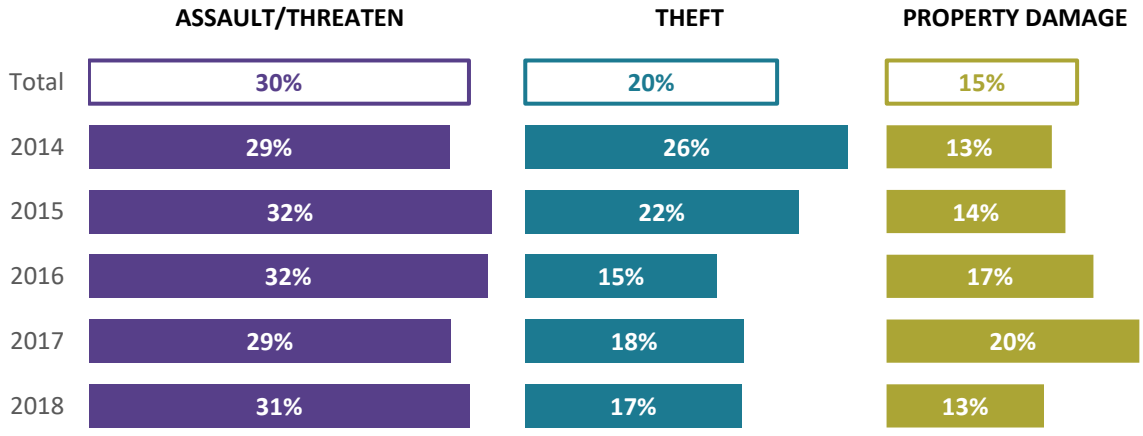
OFFENSE TYPE

Offenses were nearly evenly split between personal and property offenses, at 42% and 44%, respectively. A smaller proportion of supervised offenses were drug and/or alcohol (8%), while the remaining 6% were "other." Except for the "other" category, these distributions did not vary significantly over the years of the study.[34] "Other" offenses increased in 2018 to account for 12% of all offenses, compared to an average of 5% for the previous years.



OFFENSE CATEGORIES

Approximately 30% of the most serious offenses across the years of the study were assault/threatening, followed by theft at 20%, and property damage at 15%. While the proportions (and order) of these categories fluctuated over the years, these three categories nevertheless remained the top three.

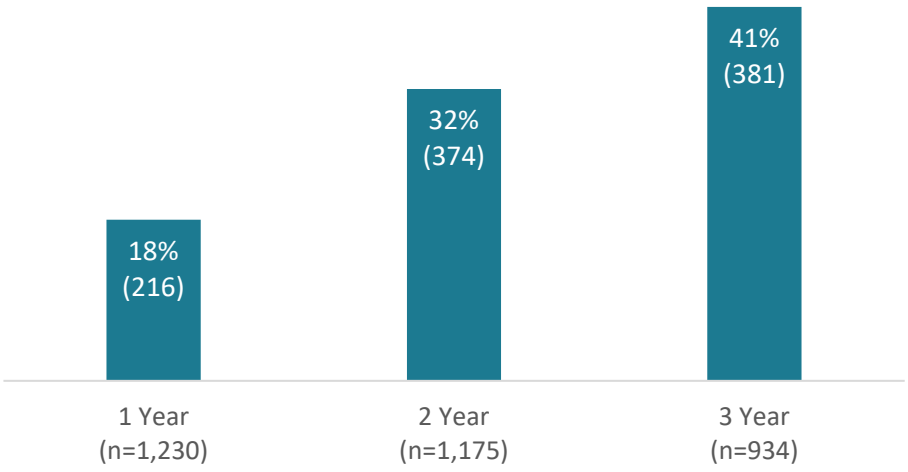


[34] See Appendix C for a list of offenses by offense type, including offenses categorized as "other."

RECIDIVISM

RECIDIVISM RATES

Recidivism rates vary depending on how long youth are tracked following their initial adjudication. Approximately 18% of those tracked for one year recidivated within that year, while 32% of those tracked for two years recidivated, and 41% of those tracked for three years did so.

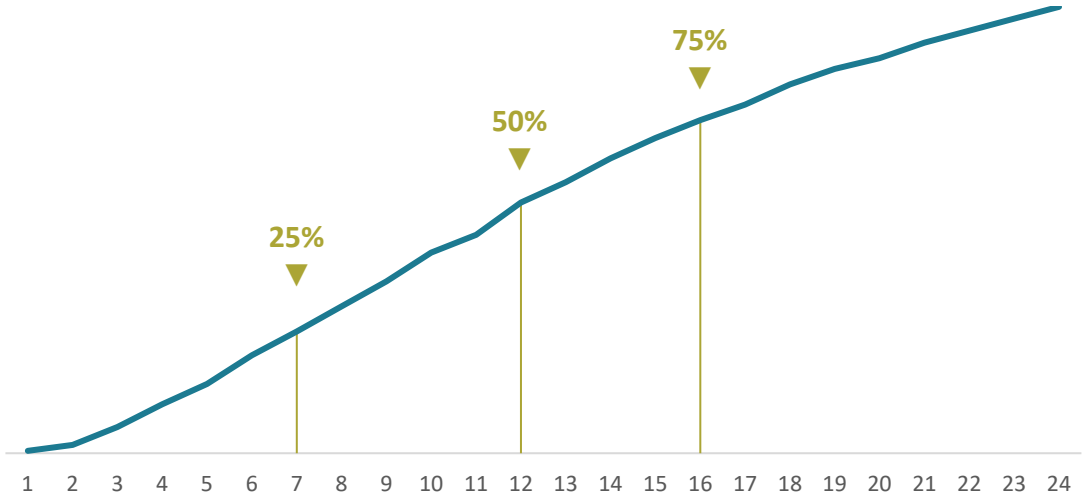


The remainder of this section will focus on youth who were tracked for two years.[35] First, however, it is important to note those who did not recidivate. More than two-thirds (68%) of supervised youth who were tracked for two years did not recidivate.

[35] A portion of the 2018 cohort (29%) had not been tracked for two full years and could not be included in this analysis. Thus, the overall number of cases examined in this section (n=1,230) is smaller than the number of cases presented in the *Trends* section (1,175).

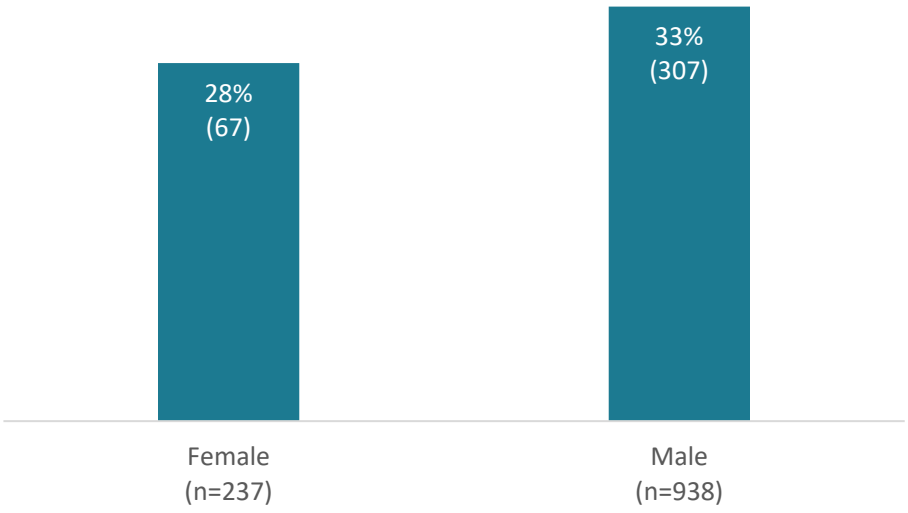
TIME TO RECIDIVATE

One-quarter of supervised youth who recidivated within the two-year tracking period did so within 7 months of supervision. Half of those who recidivated did so within 12 months, and 75% did so within 16 months.



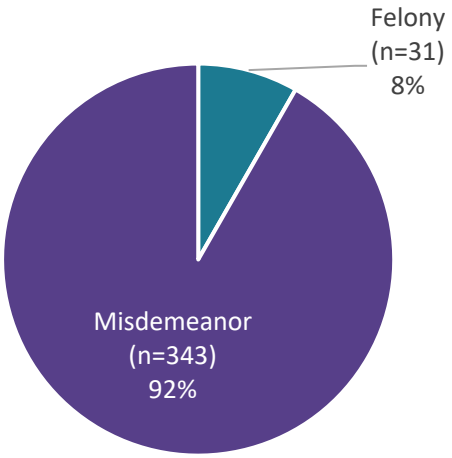
RECIDIVISM BY GENDER

Between 2014 and 2018, approximately 28% of females and 33% of males recidivated. The difference between these rates was *not* statistically significant.



RECIDIVISM AND OFFENSE SEVERITY

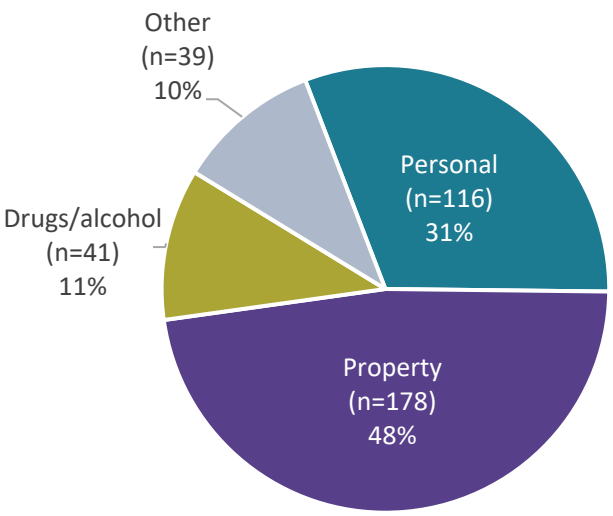
The majority (92%) of supervised youth who recidivated did so with a misdemeanor, while the remaining 8% recidivated with a felony.



Youth who recidivate may reoffend with offenses similar to their original offenses in terms of severity (i.e., misdemeanor or felony), or they may recidivate with offenses that are more or less severe. The majority of supervised youth who recidivated, 84%, originally offended with misdemeanor offenses and likewise recidivated with misdemeanors. A very small proportion of supervised youth who recidivated (2%) originally offended with felonies and likewise recidivated with felonies. Thus, a total of 86% of recidivating youth did not change severity. The remaining 12% of youth who did change severity were nearly evenly split between misdemeanor-to-felony offenders (6%) and felony-to-misdemeanor offenders (7%).

Original offense → recidivating offense
M=misdemeanor F=felony

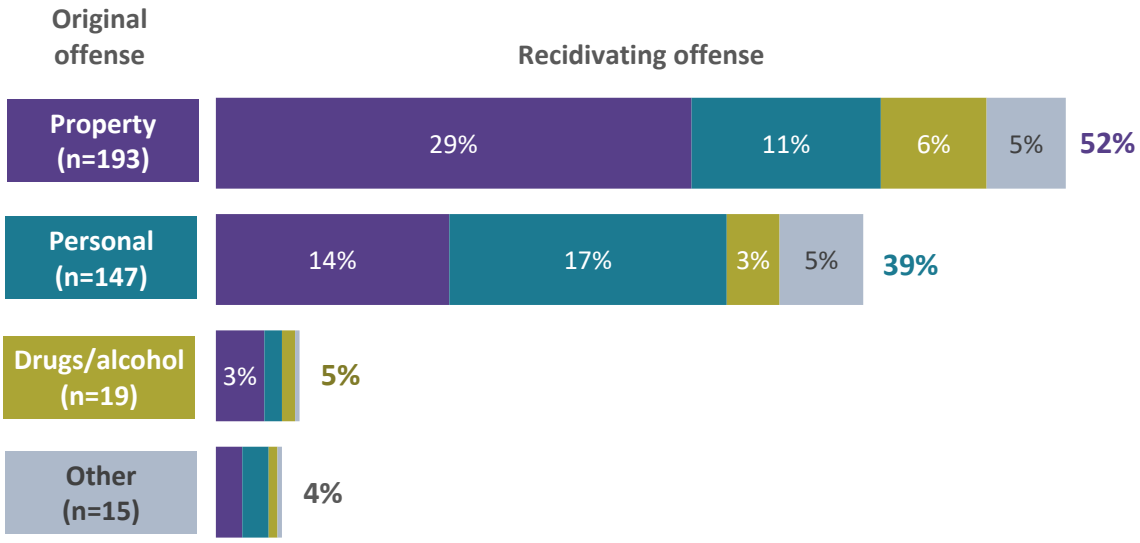
RECIDIVISM AND OFFENSE TYPE



Nearly half of recidivating offenses were property offenses at 48%, followed by personal offenses at 31%, drugs/alcohol at 11%, and "other" offenses at 10%.

While some supervised youth recidivate with an offense type similar to their original offense type (i.e., personal, property, drug/alcohol, or "other"), others recidivate with offenses that are different.

The graph below depicts the change in offense type. The length of each bar depicts the size of the subgroup; therefore, the majority of recidivating youth (52%) were supervised with property offenses as indicated by the length of the accompanying bar. Percentages displayed on the graphic represent the proportion of overall recidivism. Thus, 29% of all recidivism was contributed by the *property-to-property* subgroup. The next largest category was *the personal-to-personal* subgroup at 17%, followed by the *personal-to-property* subgroup at 14%.



Note: Percentages smaller than 3% are not labeled.

ATTRIBUTES ASSOCIATED WITH RECIDIVISM

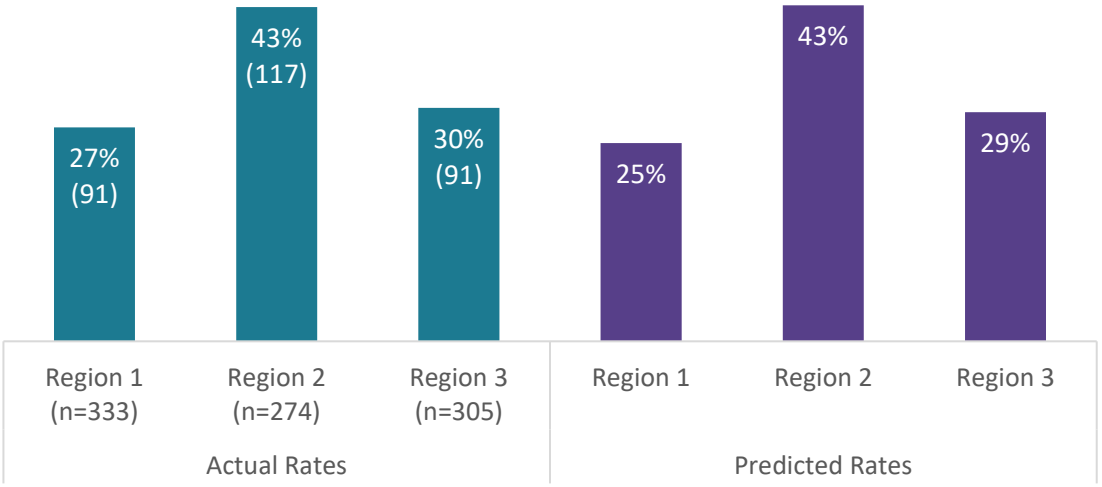
The attributes tested in this study included cohort, gender, race/ethnicity, age at adjudication, offense region, offense type, offense class, YLS-CMI risk level, and number of charges.[36] Because initial exploration of these attributes revealed differences between the genders, males and females were analyzed separately.[37]

MALE RECIDIVISM

Overall, 33% of supervised males recidivated, but the rate varied depending on five attributes.[38] These attributes – region, race/ethnicity, risk level, offense severity, and offense type – were found to predict recidivism within two years of supervision.

Region

Region is predictive of recidivism. All other attributes held constant, males in Region 2 were more likely to recidivate compared to males in Regions 1 and 3. The expected recidivism rate for a male in Region 2 is 43%, compared to 25% and 29% for Regions 1 and 3, respectively.



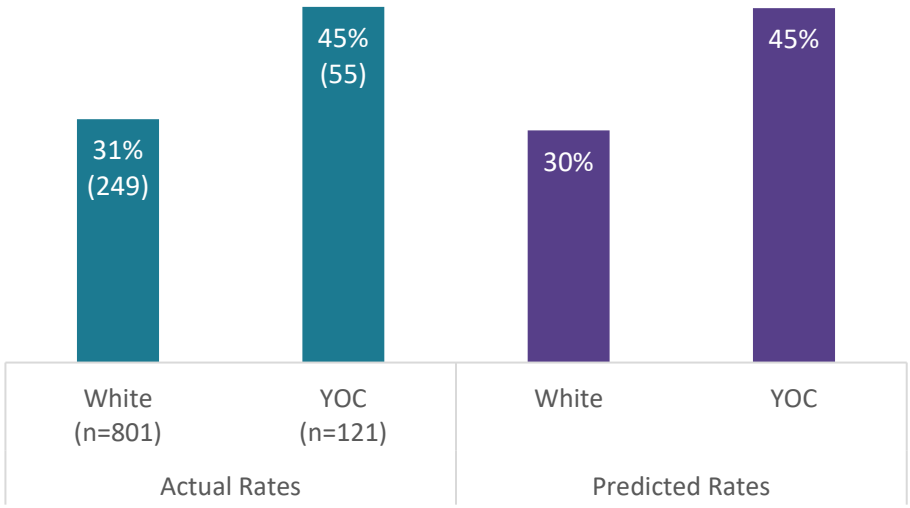
[36] See Appendix A for tables containing actual recidivism rates for each of the attributes tested. Data for all supervised youth is presented in table A4, supervised males in table A5, and supervised females in table A6.

[37] Though there were differences between the genders, the *actual rates of recidivism* were not statistically significantly different; what varied between genders was which other attributes *predicted* the recidivism.

[38] While these attributes predict recidivism, they do not fully predict it. The logistic regression model is significant at the .001 level, predicts 68.7% of the responses correctly, and has a Nagelkerke R Square of .139. Logistic regression results table is presented in Appendix B3.

Race/Ethnicity

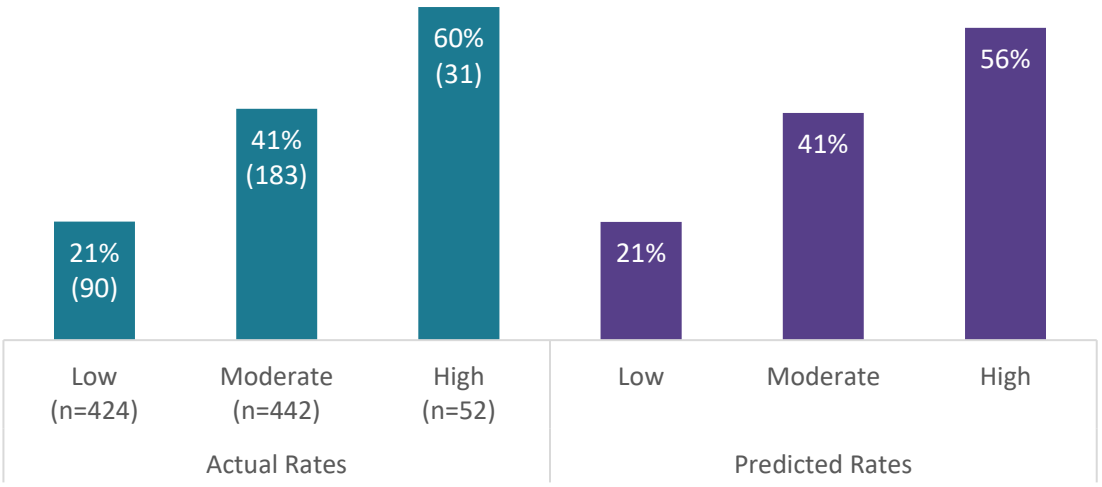
Race/ethnicity is likewise predictive of recidivism. All other variables held constant, 30% of white males are expected to recidivate, compared to 45% of male youth of color.



It is important to note that the absence of relevant variables from the regression model may cause the existent variables to appear to have a direct impact on recidivism when they do not. In the regression model summarized here, race/ethnicity appears to impact recidivism, but if youth of color were more likely than their white counterparts to come from low socioeconomic families—an attribute not captured by the model—the impact of low socioeconomic status will be expressed through the race variable that is present in the model. This creates a "spurious" relationship between race/ethnicity and recidivism. To clarify the relationship between race and recidivism, other variables thought to impact recidivism would need to be added to the regression model. One of the limitations of this study is the unavailability of some of these variables.

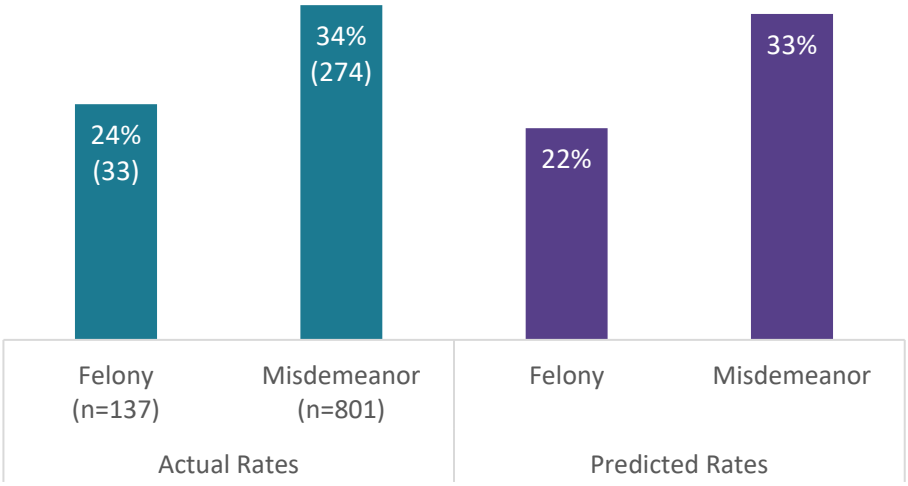
Risk Level

Risk level is predictive of recidivism. All other attributes being held constant, 21% of males assessed as low risk are expected to recidivate, compared to 41% of males assessed as moderate risk and 56% of those assessed as high risk.



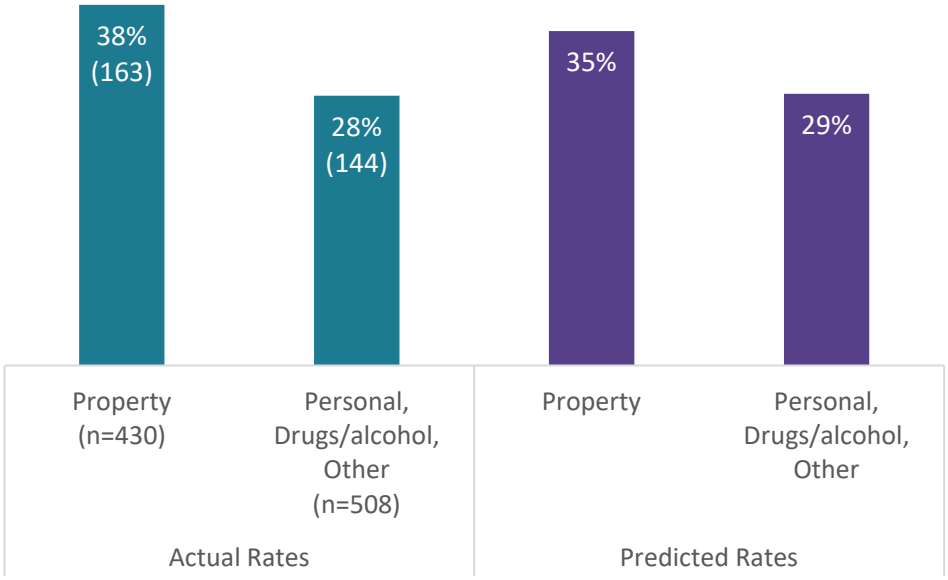
Offense Severity

Offense severity also has an impact on recidivism. All other attributes held constant, males with felony offenses are somewhat surprisingly less likely than males whose most serious offense was a misdemeanor to recidivate. The expected rate for males with felony offenses is 22%, compared to 33% for males with misdemeanors.



Offense Type

Lastly, offense type also influences recidivism. All other attributes held constant, 35% of supervised males whose most serious offense was a property offense are expected to recidivate compared to 29% of males whose most serious offense was a personal, drugs/alcohol, or "other" offense.

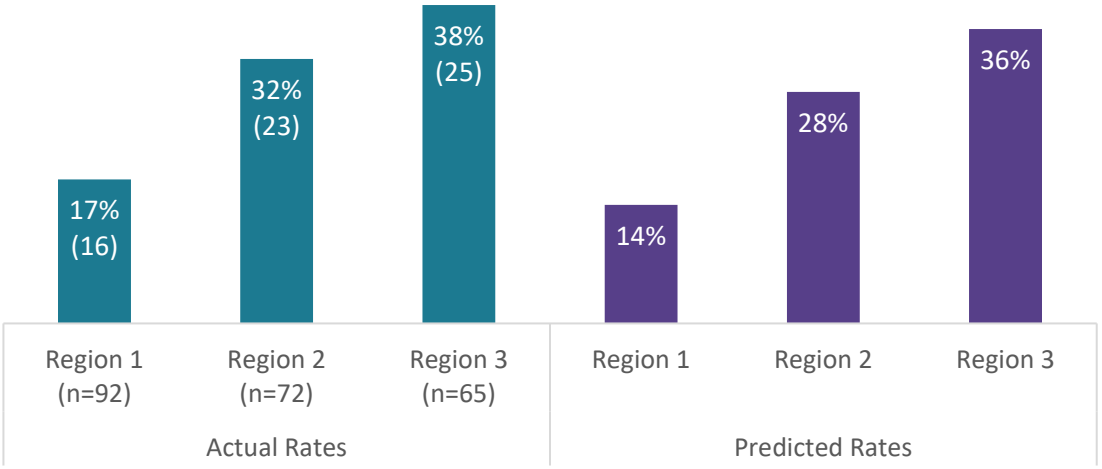


FEMALE RECIDIVISM

Overall, 28% of females recidivated, but the rate varied depending on four attributes. These attributes – region, cohort, risk level, and offense type – were found to predict recidivism within two years of supervision.[39]

Region

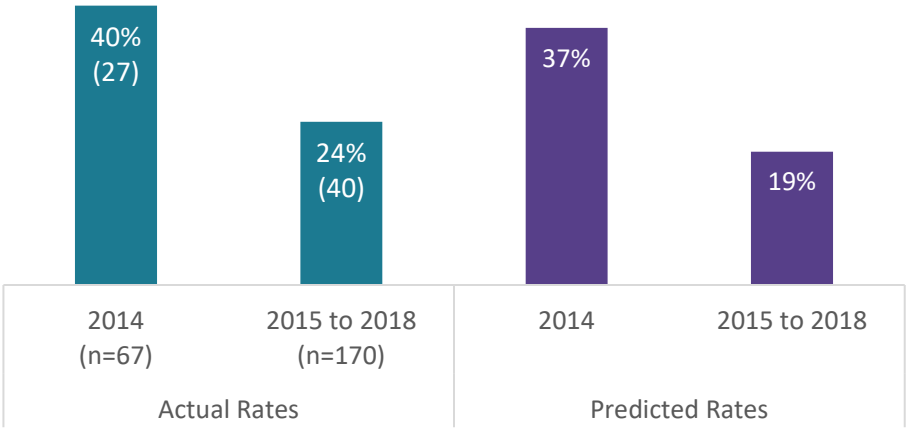
Region is predictive of recidivism. All other attributes held constant, 14% of females from Region 1 can be expected to recidivate compared to twice that rate (28%) from Region 2 and 36% from Region 3.



Cohort

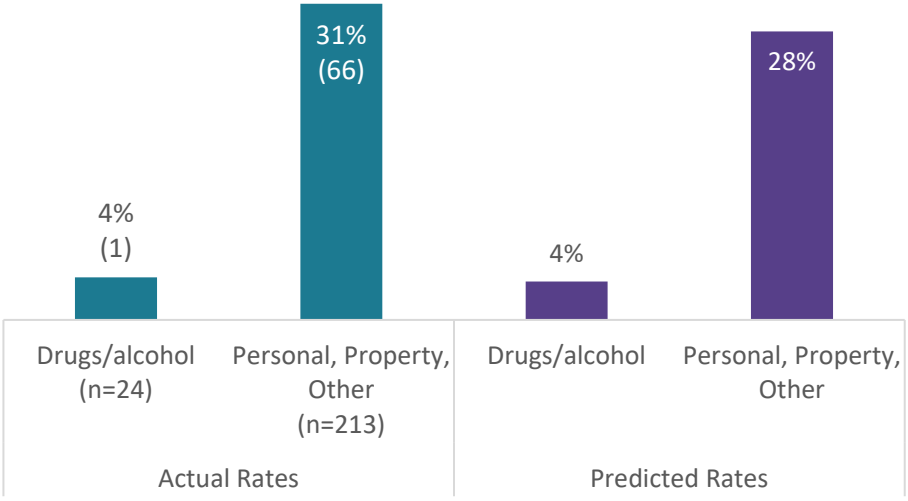
Cohort, or year of supervision, also influences recidivism rates. All other attributes held constant, females supervised in 2014 have an expected recidivism rate twice that of females in the remaining years of the study. The expected rate for 2014 is 37%, compared to a combined rate of 19% for the remaining years. The influence of cohort is especially strong in this study due to the comparatively large size of the 2014 female cohort; a total of 27 females were supervised in 2014, while the average for 2015 to 2018 was 10.

[39] It is important to note that while these characteristics predict recidivism, they do not fully predict it. The logistic regression model is significant at the .001 level, predicts 75.1% of the responses correctly, and has a Nagelkerke R Square of .187. Logistic regression results table is presented in Appendix B4.



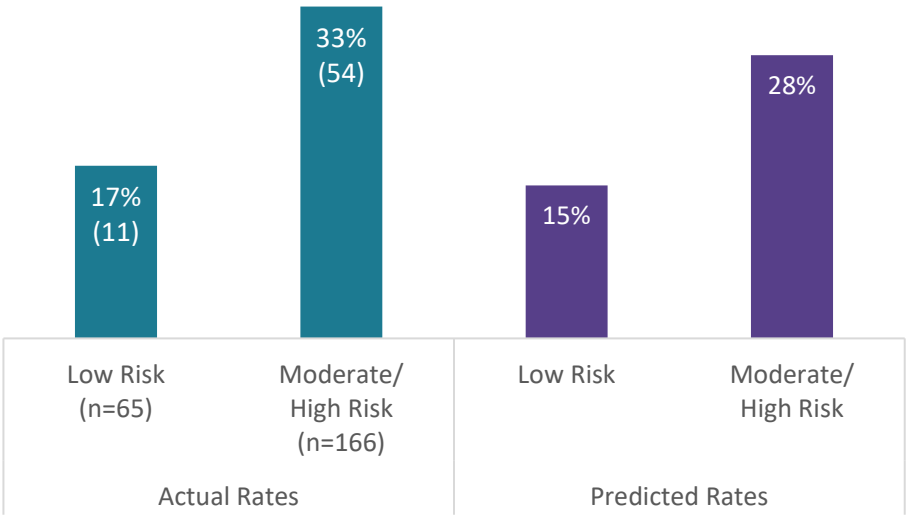
Offense Type

Offense type also influences recidivism. All other attributes held constant, supervised females whose most serious offense was a drug or alcohol offense are much less likely to recidivate. The expected rate for these females was 4%, compared to 28% for females whose most serious offense was a personal, property, or "other" offense.



Risk Level

Lastly, risk level has an impact on recidivism. All other attributes held constant, supervised females who were assessed as low risk can be expected to recidivate at half the rate of those assessed at moderate or high risk. These rates are 15% and 28%, respectively. Only a small number and percentage of females were assessed at high risk—a total of 16 for all 5 years of the study or 7%.


17%
(11)
33%
(54)
15%
28%
Low Risk
(n=65)
Moderate/
High Risk
(n=166)
Low Risk
Moderate/
High Risk
Actual Rates
Predicted Rates

SUMMARY

In summary, region, risk level, and offense type are predictive of recidivism for both males and females. Additionally, cohort (year supervision began) is predictive of female recidivism while offense severity and race/ethnicity are predictive of male recidivism. Age at adjudication and number of charges were tested as predictors for both males and females but were not found to be predictive for either gender.

Not surprisingly, the analysis found that supervised males who were assessed as high-risk have the highest predicted rate of recidivism at 56%, while males assessed as low-risk have the lowest likelihood of recidivating at 21%. Interestingly, however, males adjudicated on a felony offense had a similarly low predicted recidivism rate at 22%. This poses a number of research questions. For instance, what is it about males supervised on felony offenses, who presumably have committed a more serious offense, that leads to better outcomes? Do youth supervised with felony offenses have different supervision requirements than youth with misdemeanor offenses? If so, can the lower recidivism rates be attributed to a particular supervision requirements?

Among females, those in the 2014 cohort were the most likely to recidivate (37%), followed closely by females from Region 3 (36%). Females originally adjudicated on a drugs/alcohol offense had the lowest predicted rate of recidivism at only 4%. This poses a question similar to the one posed for the male population—does supervision look different for females with drugs/alcohol offenses compared to the supervision of females with personal, property, or "other" offenses? These questions could be explored more deeply by using logistic regression to analyze the various types of conditions that accompany supervision and thus provide more insight on how best to support supervised youth and encourage better outcomes.

III. COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION

This report section examines youth who were adjudicated and committed to a secure facility (e.g., Long Creek Youth Development Center) *for the first time* and then were released back into the community for additional supervision *for the first time* between 2014 and 2018. This supervision, referred to as community reintegration, is less restrictive than the commitment portion of the sentence and is utilized at the discretion of juvenile facility staff. Community reintegration entails supervision by juvenile community correction officers (JCCOs) and is designed to help youth transition from living within a facility to living amongst the general population. The premise is that youth who apply the skills learned in the facility will remain in the community after being released to community reintegration. Those who do not can be returned to a facility. This cycle may be repeated as many times as necessary until a youth is successful under the terms of his/her release or until the youth is discharged from all formal juvenile supervision.

The terms "released" and "community reintegration" will be used interchangeably throughout this section to refer to these youth. Additionally, any youth who was released and subsequently discharged from all supervision for the first time during the study period is also included in the *Discharged* chapter.

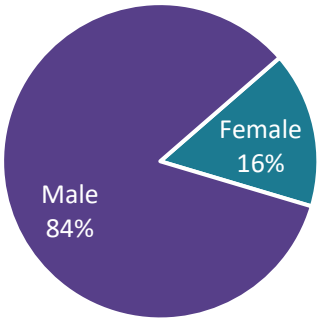
2018 COHORT

The 2018 release cohort comprises youth who were released to community reintegration for the first time during the 2018 calendar year and is the most recent cohort for which return data is available. All of those included in this cohort had been tracked for at least one full year at the time data were extracted for this analysis.

GENDER

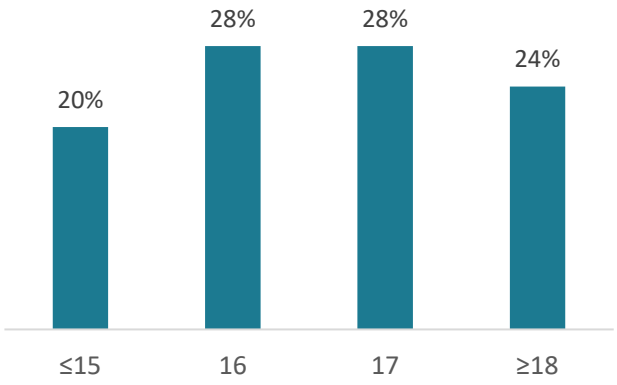
Approximately 84% of the 25 youth released in 2018 were male.

Gender Distribution of 2018 Cohort		
	#	%
Female	4	16%
Male	21	84%
Total	25	100%



AGE

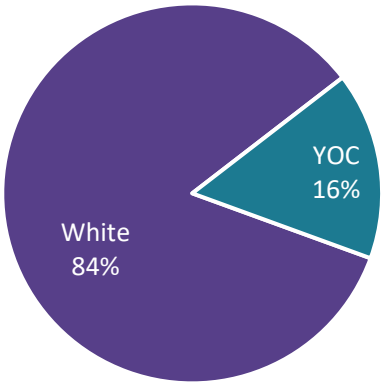
The 2018 cohort of youth released to community reintegration was composed mostly of youth 16 and 17 year of age, at 28% each, followed by youth aged 18 and older (24%). Youth who were aged 15 and younger accounted for 20% of the 2018 cohort.



Age Distribution of 2018 Cohort		
	#	%
≤15	5	20%
16	7	28%
17	7	28%
≥18	6	24%
Total	25	100%

RACE/ETHNICITY

White youth made up 84% of released youth with the remaining 16% being youth of color. Given that approximately 9.0% of Maine's overall youth population were youth of color in 2018,[40] youth of color are disproportionately represented in this cohort.



Racial/Ethnic Distribution of 2018 Cohort		
	#	%
White	21	84%
YOC	4	16%
Total	25	100%

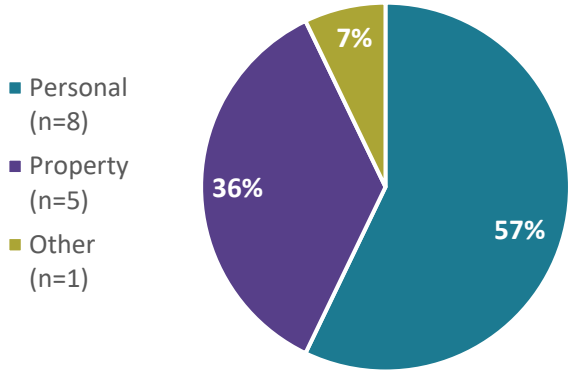
[40] Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2020). *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 2018* [Maine, ages 10-17]. Online. Available: https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/

OFFENSE SEVERITY AND TYPE

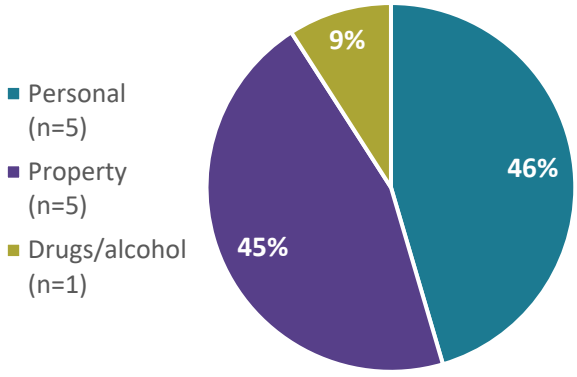
While youth released to community reintegration may have had more than one offense associated with the original commitment, this analysis focuses on the most serious offense. Seriousness is first determined by offense class (felony, misdemeanor, civil) followed by offense type (personal, property, drug/alcohol, "other").[41] Therefore, if a youth was committed and released with both felony and misdemeanor offenses, only the felony offense is reflected here. Likewise, if a released youth had both personal and property offenses, the personal offense is included here.

For the majority (56%) of youth released to community reintegration in 2018, their most serious offense was a misdemeanor; the remaining 44% were committed with felonies (44%).

The majority of offenses, 56%, associated with release to community reintegration in 2018 were **misdemeanor offenses** (n=14). Of these, 57% were personal offenses, 36% were property, and 7% were "other" offenses.



The other 44% of offenses associated with release in 2018 were **felony offenses** (n=11). Of these, 46% were personal offenses, 45% were property, and 9% were drugs/alcohol offenses.

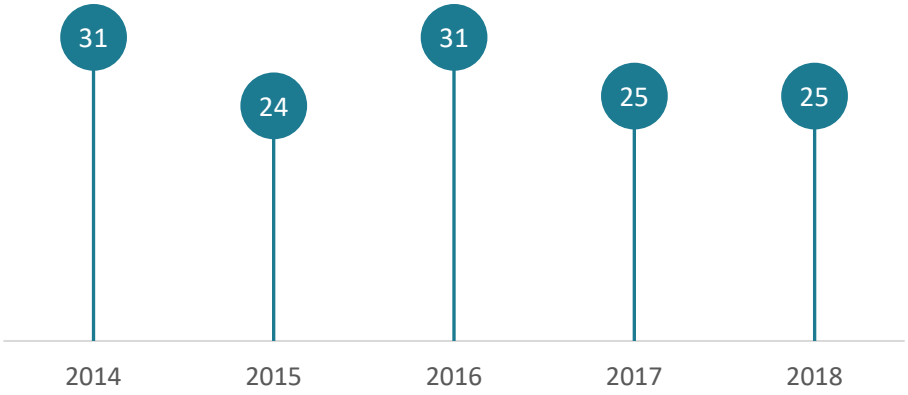


[41] Please see Appendix C for a list of offenses by offense type, including offenses categorized as "other."

TRENDS (2014-2018)

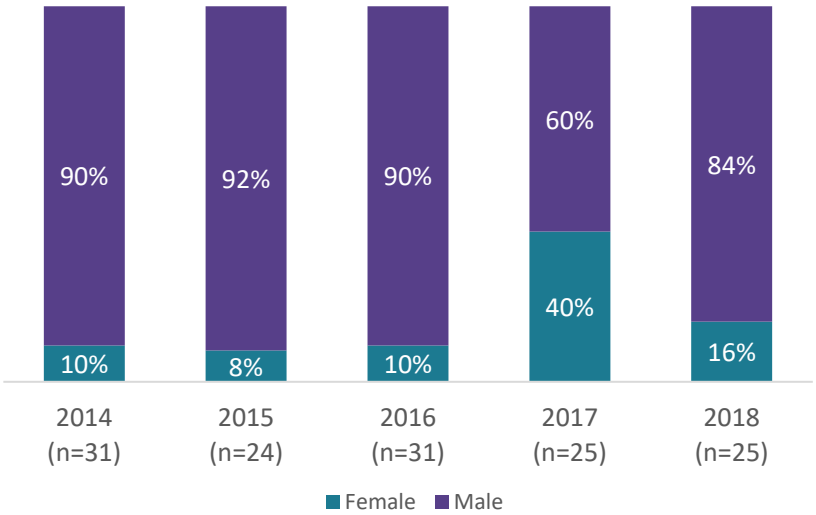
NUMBER OF YOUTH REINTEGRATED

From 2014 to 2018, the number of youth released to community reintegration ranged between 24 and 31. In total, 136 youth were reintegrated.



GENDER

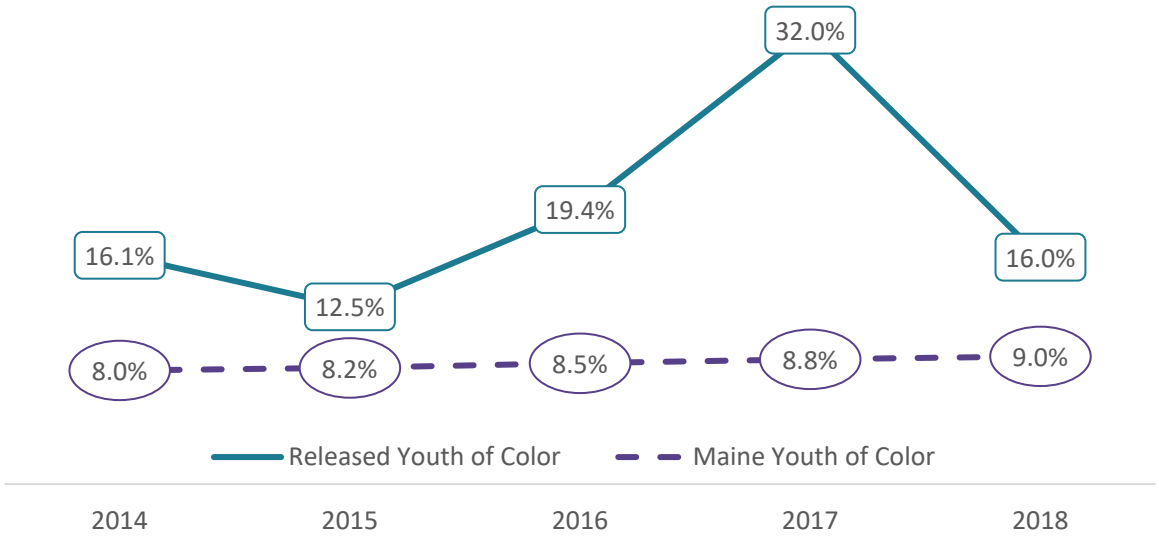
The percentage of youth released who were female remained relatively stable from 2014 to 2016 (9%) but increased for the 2017 to 2018 time period (28%).[42]



[42] $X^2(1, 136)=8.152$, $p=0.004$, Phi=-0.245

RACE/ETHNICITY

While the proportion of youth of color released to community reintegration appears to change drastically from one year to the next, these fluctuations are *not* statistically significant.[43] Between 2014 and 2018, the proportion of released youth who were youth of color averaged 19.1%. This rate is more than twice that of Maine's overall youth of color population, which averaged 8.5% for the same time frame.[44] The difference is statistically significant.[45]



Racial/Ethnic Distribution, 2014-2018 Cohorts					
	2014	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**
Youth of Color	5	3	6	8	4
White	26	21	25	17	21
Total	31	24	31	25	25
% Youth of Color	**16.1%**	**12.5%**	**19.4%**	**32.0%**	**16.0%**

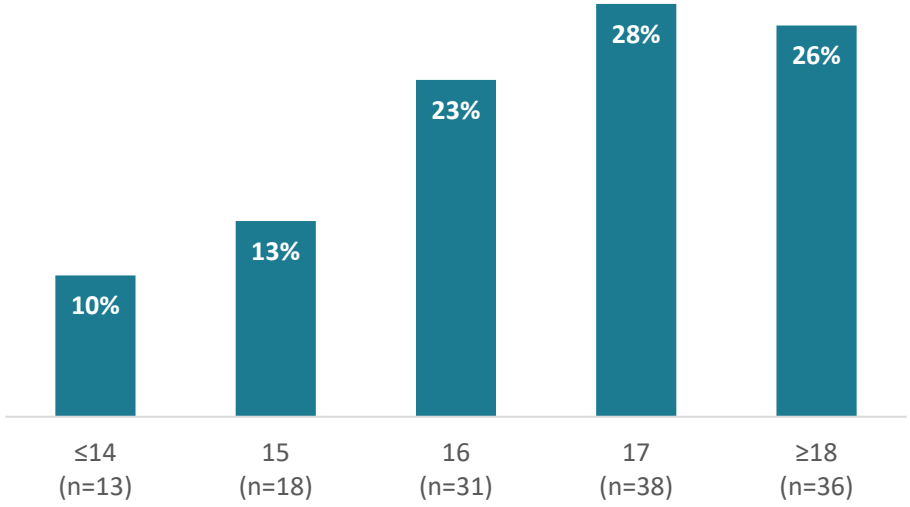
[43] The failure to find significance is due, at least in part, to the small size of the cohorts.

[44] Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2020). *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 2014–2018* [Maine, ages 10-17]. Online. Available: https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/

[45] One-sided binomial test, $p<.001$

AGE AT COMMITMENT

The age at commitment for community reintegrated youth remained stable across the study period and averaged 16.5 years of age (16 years, 6 months).



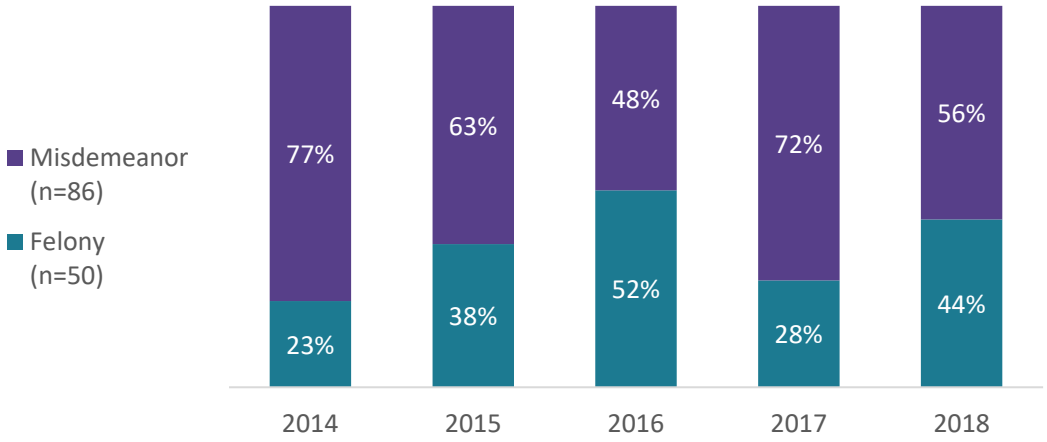
MONTHS COMMITTED

On average, youth were released to community reintegration after 14.9 months of supervision within the facility. However, the average number of months committed per cohort fluctuated throughout the study period, ranging from a high of 17.8 months in 2015 to a low of 12.9 months in 2017.[46]

[46] $t(47)=2.241$, $p=0.030$, $d=0.641$

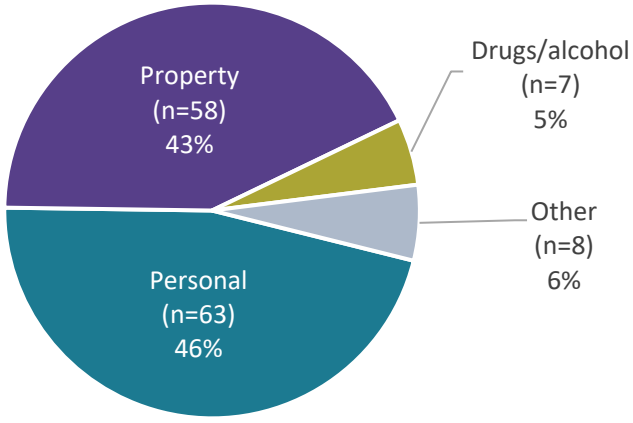
OFFENSE SEVERITY[47]

On average, felonies made up around one-thirds of offense types (37%). However, this rate varied from year to year, ranging from a low of 23% in 2014 to a high of 52% in 2016.[48]



OFFENSE TYPE

Throughout 2014 to 2018, the proportions of youth released for personal, property, drugs/alcohol, and "other" crimes were fairly consistent. The majority of youth released were committed for either personal or property crimes (46% and 43% respectively), 6% for "other" offense types, and 5% for drugs/alcohol offenses.[49]

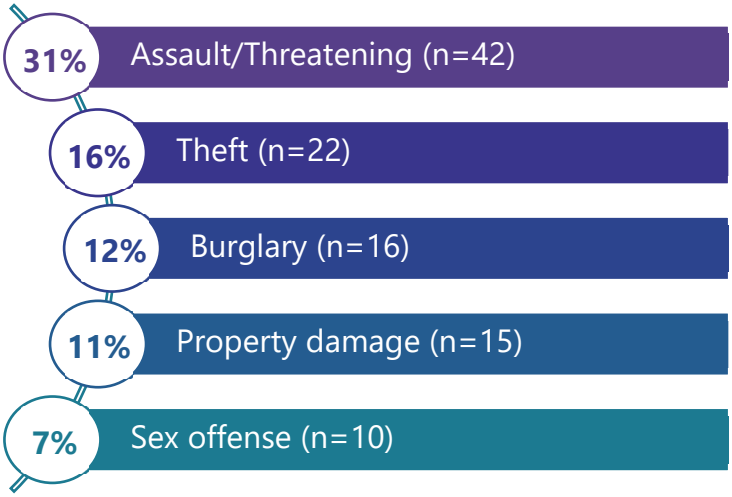


[47] Analysis of offense severity focuses on the most serious offense that led to commitment.
[48] $X^2(1, 62)=5.599$, $p=0.018$, Phi=-0.301
[49] Please see Appendix C for a list of offenses by offense type, including offenses categorized as "other."

OFFENSE CATEGORIES

From 2014 to 2018, the top five offenses across all offense classes for youth released to community reintegration were as follows:

These 5 offenses made up **77%** of all offenses.

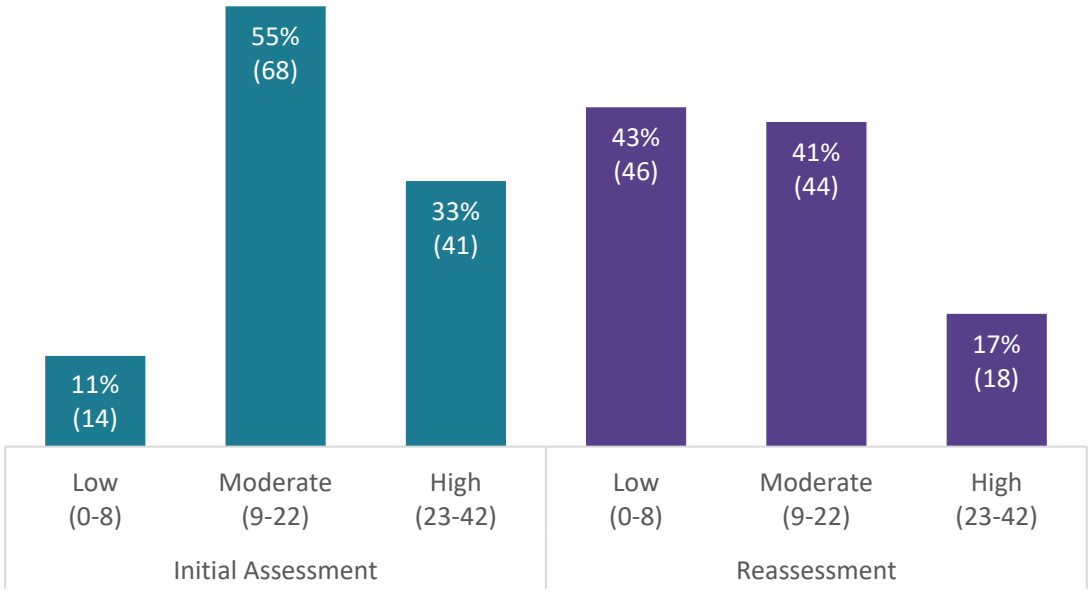


For each year, assault/threatening was the primary offense for which released youth were originally committed and ranged from 26% to 38% of all offenses. However, the remaining top five offense ranks fluctuated from year to year. For instance, theft ranged between the 2nd and 3rd most frequent offense for the 2015 to 2018 cohorts, but none of the youth in the 2014 cohort had a primary theft offense.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

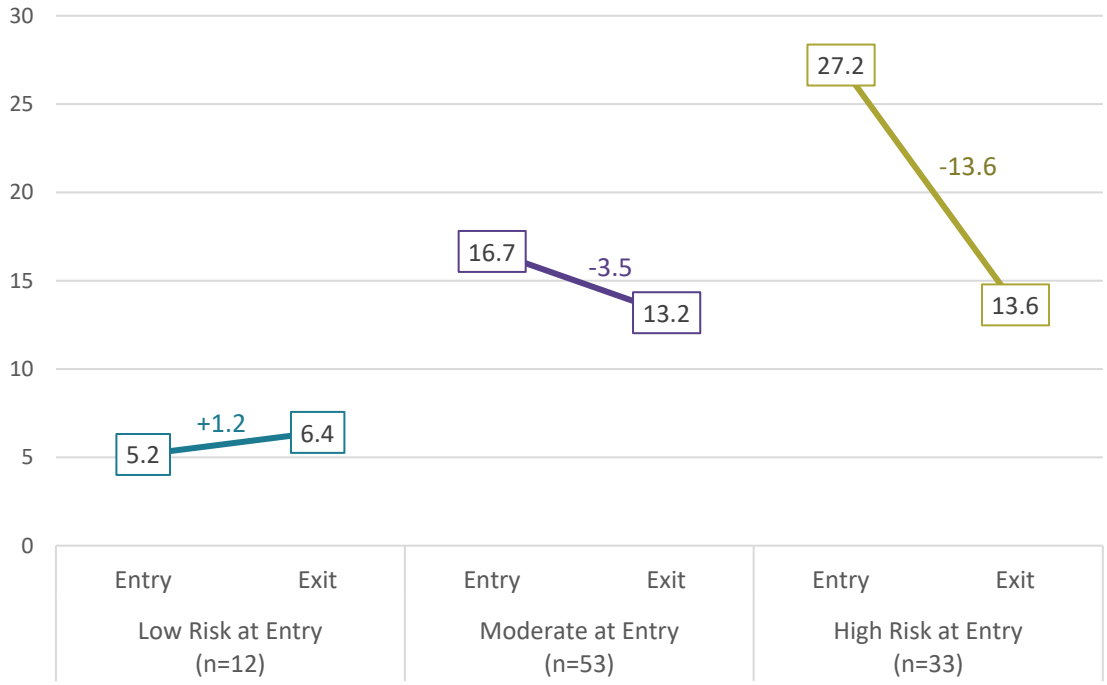
A primary goal of committing youth to juvenile detention is to reduce the likelihood of future criminal behavior. To assess this likelihood, the Maine DOC uses the Youth Level of Service–Case Management Inventory (YLS-CMI) risk assessment instrument. Youth who are released to community reintegration will typically complete a risk assessment prior to commitment (initial assessment) and another following release (reassessment).

At the time of the initial assessment, the majority of youth (55%) were assessed as moderate risk, followed by high risk (33%), and low risk (11%). Upon reassessment, low risk made up the largest group at 43%, followed by moderate at 41%, and high at 17%.[50] The average initial risk assessment score was 19.0, which decreased by 35% to 12.3 points.



[50] Initial assessment findings exclude 13 records (10%) and reassessment findings exclude 28 records (21%) for which risk score is unknown.

Of the 98 released youth given both an initial assessment and reassessment, 76% showed a reduction in risk score. However, the change in score varied significantly depending on the initial risk level, and not every change in score was a decrease.[51] For instance, youth assessed as low risk upon entry averaged a 1.2 point *increase* at reassessment while youth initially assessed at high risk, on average, reduced their risk score by 50% (13.6 points).

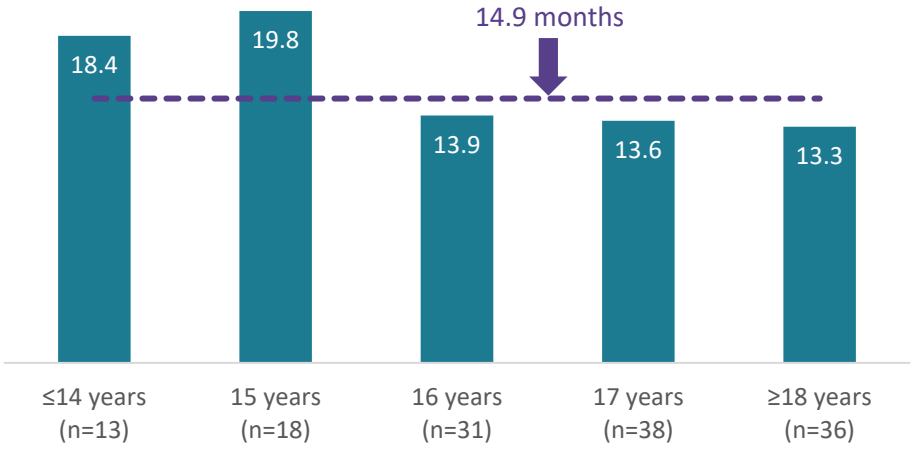


[51] $X^2(2,98)=16.581$, $p=<0.001$, Cramer's $V=0.411$

LENGTH OF STAY

Youth are released to community reintegration as soon as they progress through a series of phases demonstrating that they have achieved behavioral and cognitive goals relevant to each phase.

On average, youth were released to community reintegration at 14.9 months of supervision within a facility. However, this rate changed across age groups. Youth who were aged 16 or older at the time of commitment were released to community reintegration faster than those aged 15 or younger at the time of commitment.[52]

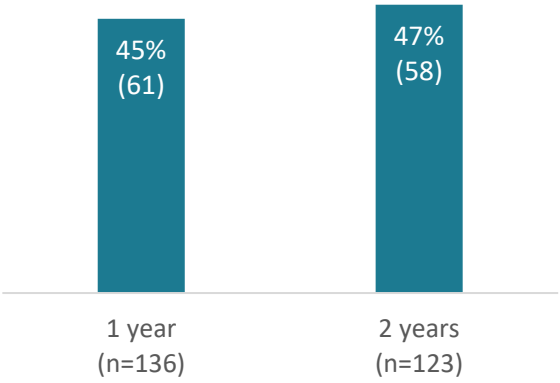


[52] $t(36.2)=2.965$, $p=0.005$, $d=0.800$

RETURNS

RETURN RATES

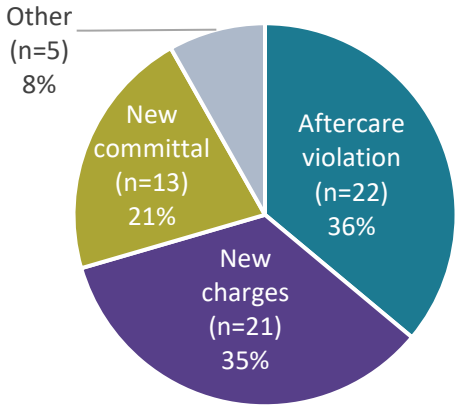
Youth who are released to community reintegration may be returned to a facility if their behavior in the community does not conform to the conditions of their release. The one-year and two-year return rates for youth released between 2014 and 2018 were nearly identical, with 45% of youth being returned within one year and 47% returned within two years following release. All youth returned did so within two years of release.



Unlike other populations analyzed in this report, this section will focus on the one-year return rate. A one-year timeframe was chosen due to the small number of records available for analysis. A longer timeframe logically requires a longer tracking time, and not enough of the records in the dataset qualified.

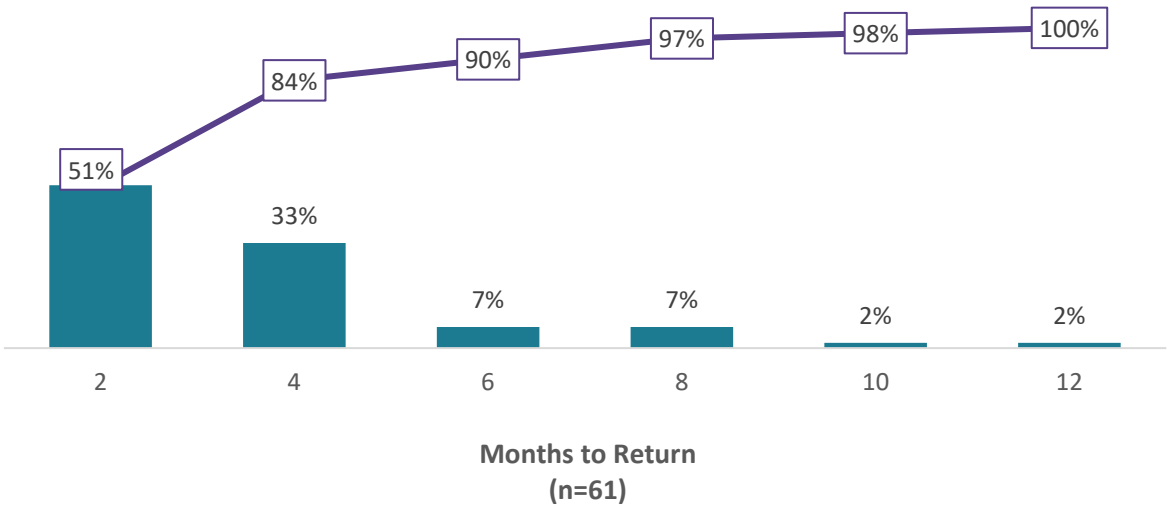
REASON FOR RETURN

Following release to community reintegration, youth can be returned for engaging in new criminal behavior, which can result in new charges or a new committal, or for violating the conditions set forth in their Aftercare agreement. Approximately 56% of youth were returned due to new criminal behavior (depicted as new charges and new committals below) and 36% for Aftercare violations. An additional 8% were returned for "other" reasons.



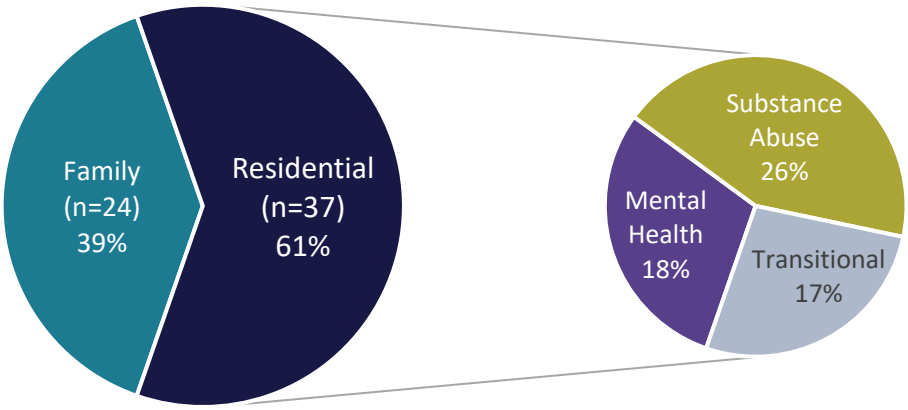
TIME TO RETURN

A little over half (51%) were returned within two months of release. Only 10% of returns occurred after the first six months.



PLACEMENT OF RETURNED YOUTH

Community reintegrated youth are released to either family/caregivers or a residential program. The residential programs fall into three categories: substance abuse, mental health, or transitional programs. Overall, 61% of returned youth were placed in a residential program with 26% placed in a residential substance abuse program, 18% in a mental health program, and 17% in a transitional program. The remaining 39% were placed with family/caregivers.[53]



[53] Placement data was only available for those youth returned to commitment.

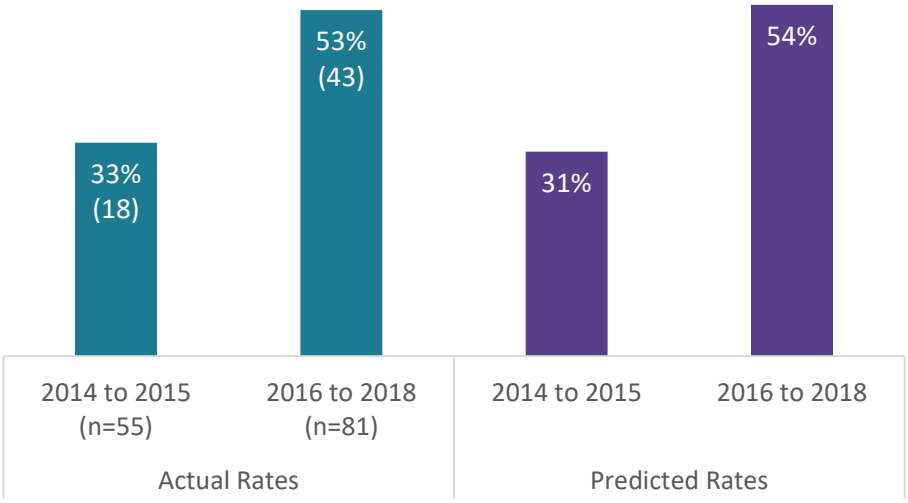
ATTRIBUTES ASSOCIATED WITH RETURN

The attributes tested in this study included cohort, gender, race/ethnicity, age at commitment, age at release, offense region, offense type, and offense class.[54] Of these, cohort, gender, and age at commitment were found to be predictive of return among released youth.[55]

It is important to note that the relatively small number of youth reintegrated during the study period posed a challenge from a research methodological perspective. Regression models require additional cases for each attribute tested. When a model with few cases is tested, it's not clear whether the attributes (offense class, age at release, etc.) are truly non-predictive or whether there are not enough cases to make that determination. This also impacted our ability to run separate analyses for males and females. Lastly, the low number of cases was exacerbated by missing data. To identify attributes associated with return, each case must be "complete," i.e., without missing data. For instance, if a case was missing an initial risk assessment score, it could not be included in the association analysis, decreasing the number of records further. For this reason, risk assessments could not be examined as a predictor for return.

COHORT

The year of release, or cohort, influences return rates. All other attributes being held constant, those released from 2016 to 2018 have an expected return rate (54%) nearly twice that of those released in 2014 and 2015 (31%).

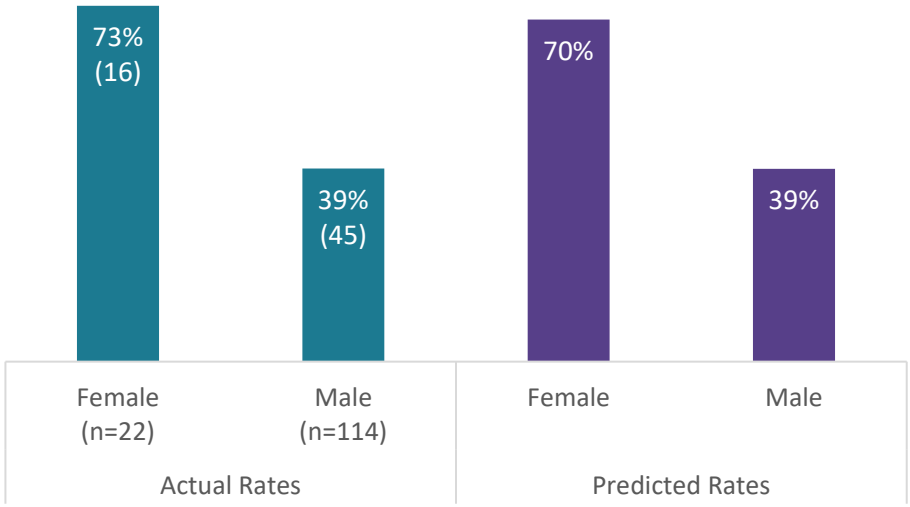


[54] For actual recidivism rates of youth released to community reintegration, see table A7.

[55] While these characteristics predict return, they do not fully predict it. The logistic regression model is significant at the .001 level, predicts 71.3% of the responses correctly, and has a Nagelkerke R Square of .216. Logistic regression results table is presented in Appendix B5.

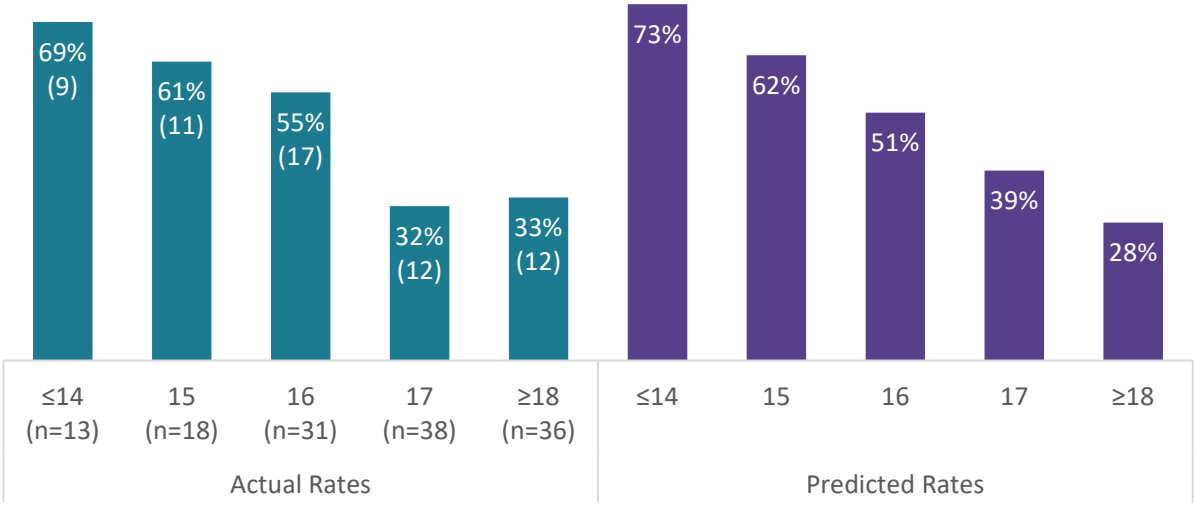
GENDER

Gender also influences return rates. All other attributes being held constant, females are more likely to be returned than males. The expected return rate for females is 70% compared to 39% for males.



AGE AT COMMITMENT

Age at commitment also impacted return – the younger a youth was at the time of commitment, the more likely they were to be returned. Controlling for other attributes, 73% those aged 14 and younger are expected to return while only 28% of those 18 and older are expected to return.



SUMMARY

In summary, cohort (or year of release), gender, and age at commitment are predictive of return. Race/ethnicity, age at release, offense severity, offense type, and region were not found to be associated. However, due to the small number of reintegrated youth included in this study it is unclear if these attributes are truly non-predictive of return or whether there were too few cases to achieve statistical significance. Additionally, the low number of cases prohibited conducting separate analysis by gender.

It is especially interesting that 70% of females are predicted to be returned to a facility when only 32% of females are predicted to recidivate following final discharge from supervision (see *Discharged* chapter of this report). At 39%, a much smaller proportion of males are predicted to be returned to a facility despite a higher predicted rate of recidivism following discharge (51%). Future research might look at the reasons why youth are returned to ascertain if there are differences by gender.

IV. DISCHARGE

This section of the report examines youth who were adjudicated, committed to a secure juvenile facility, and then discharged from all juvenile supervision *for the first time* between 2014 and 2018. Some of the youth presented here were also released to community reintegration for the first time during the study period and thus are also included in the Community Reintegration chapter.

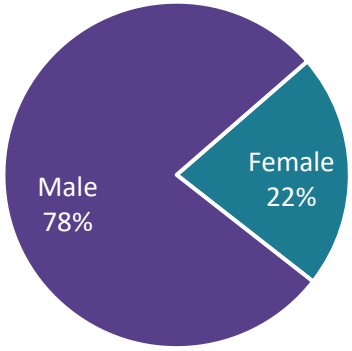
2018 COHORT

The 2018 cohort is the most recent cohort for which recidivism data are available. All of this cohort (n=41) had been tracked for at least one year, and 51% had been tracked for two years at the time data were extracted for this analysis.

GENDER

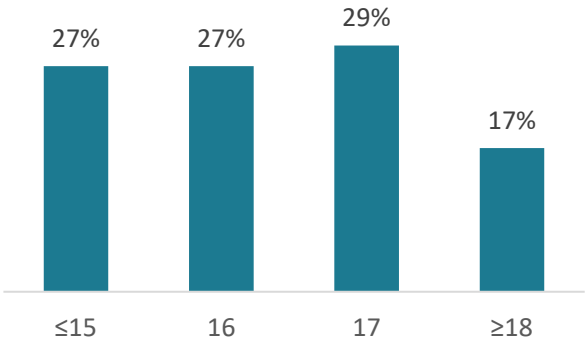
Approximately 78% of the youth discharged in 2018 were male, while the rest (22%) were female.

Gender Distribution of 2018 Cohort		
	#	%
Female	9	22%
Male	32	78%
Total	41	100%



AGE AT COMMITMENT

Youth 17 years of age at the time of commitment made up the largest age group of youth discharged in 2018 at 29%, followed by youth aged 16 and 15 and younger (27% for both age groups). Those aged 18 and older had the smallest proportion across age groups (17%).[56]

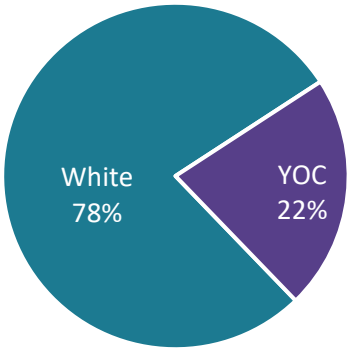


Age Distribution of 2018 Cohort		
	#	%
≤15	11	27%
16	11	27%
17	12	29%
≥18	7	17%
Total	41	100%

RACE/ETHNICITY

Youth of color made up 22% of youth discharged in 2018, a rate that is disproportionately higher than the percentage of youth of color in Maine's overall youth population for that year (9%).[57] To be proportionate to Maine's rate, 3.7 youth of color would have been discharged. This difference is statistically significant.[58]

Racial/Ethnic Distribution of 2018 Cohort		
	#	%
White	32	78%
YOC	9	22%
Total	41	100%



[56] The 18 and older category is primarily composed of 18-year-olds; only one youth in the 2018 cohort was older than 18.

[57] Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2020). *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 2014–2018* [Maine, ages 10-17]. Online. Available: https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/

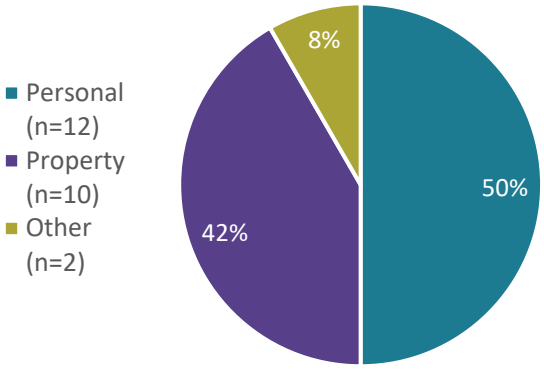
[58] One sided binomial test, p=.008

OFFENSE SEVERITY AND TYPE

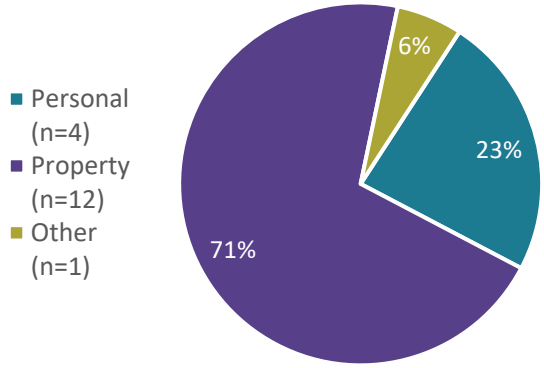
While discharged youth may have had more than one offense associated with the original commitment, this analysis focuses on the most serious offense. Seriousness is first determined by offense class (felony, misdemeanor, civil) followed by offense type (personal, property, drug/alcohol, "other").[59] Therefore, if a youth was committed and discharged with both a misdemeanor and civil offense, only the misdemeanor offense is reflected here. Likewise, if a discharged youth had both personal and property offenses, only the personal offense is included here.

For the majority of youth discharged in 2018, their most serious offense was a misdemeanor (59%); the remaining 41% were committed with felonies.

The majority of offenses, 59%, associated with discharge in 2018 were **misdemeanor offenses** (n=24). Of these, 50% were personal offenses, 42% were property, and 8% were "other" offenses.



The other 41% of offenses associated with discharge in 2018 were **felony offenses** (n=17). Of these, 71% were property, 23% were personal, and 6% were "other" offenses.

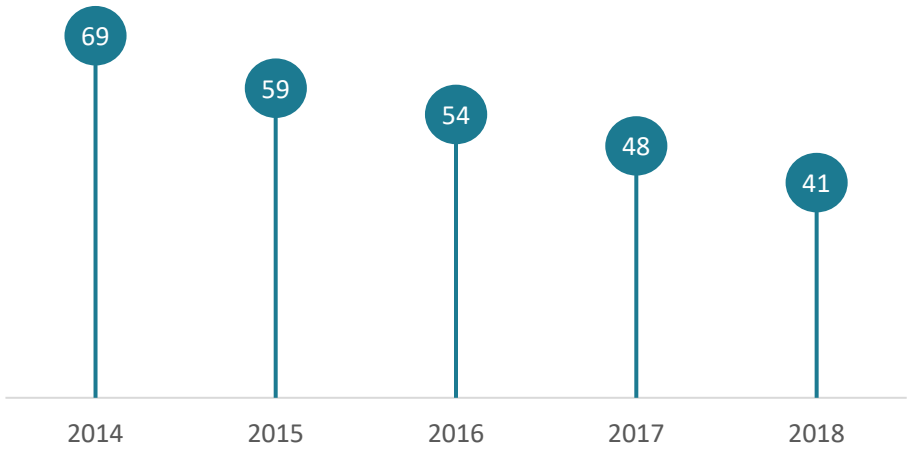


[59] No drugs/alcohol offenses were associated with discharge in 2018; for a list of offenses by offense type, including offenses classified as "other", see Appendix C.

TRENDS (2014-2018)

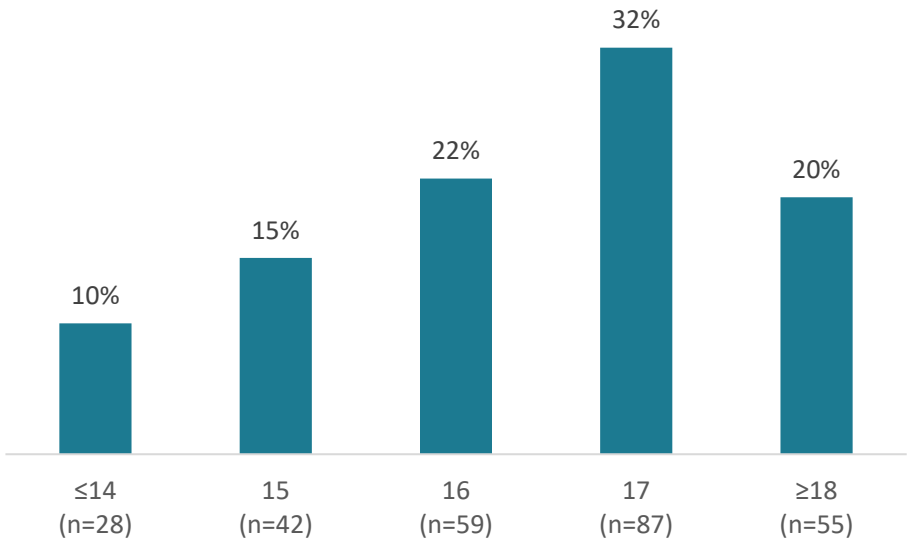
NUMBER OF YOUTH DISCHARGED

Between 2014 and 2018, the number of youth discharged decreased by 41%, resulting in 28 fewer youth discharged in 2018 compared to 2014. In total, 271 youth were discharged during the time period or roughly 54 per year.



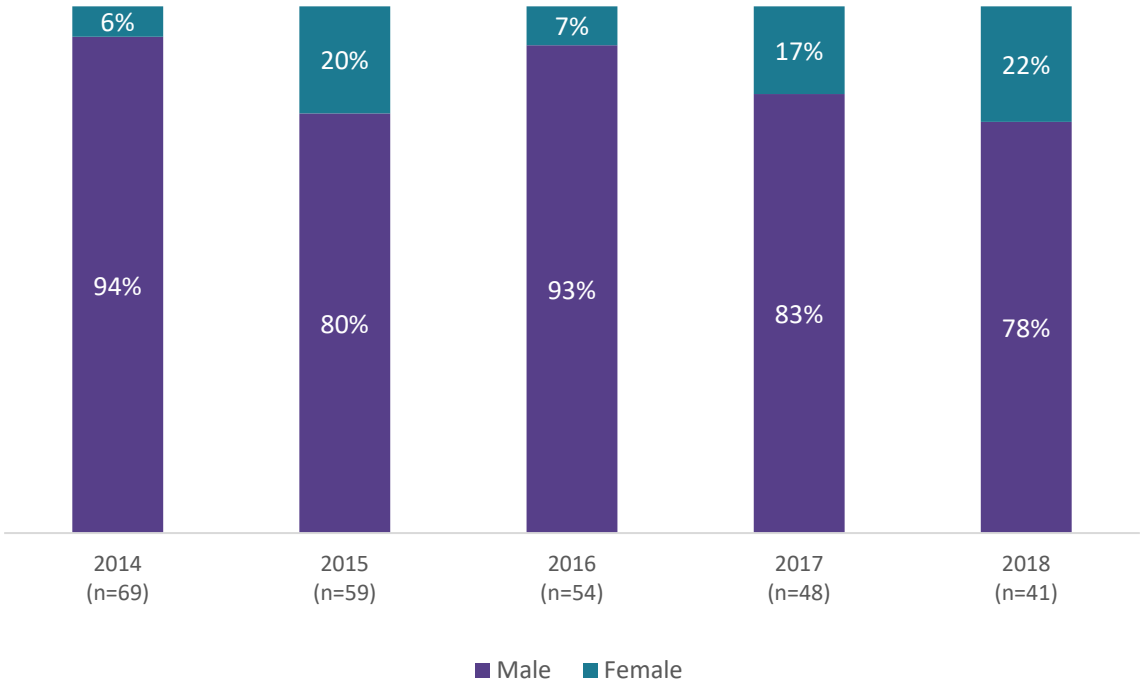
AGE AT COMMITMENT

Between 2014 and 2018, the age of commitment for discharged youth remained stable, averaging 16.4 years of age (16 years, 5 months).



GENDER

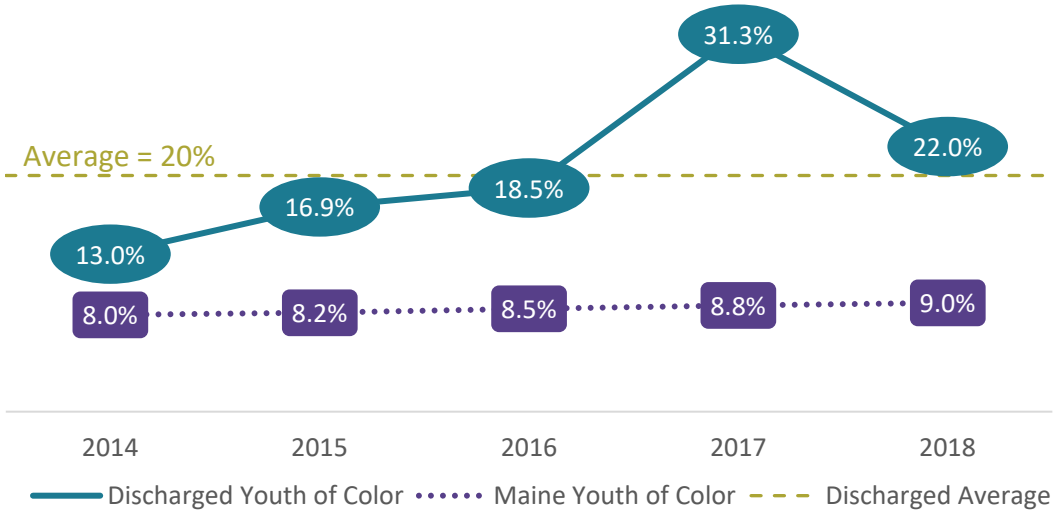
Overall, approximately 14% of discharged youth were female. However, this rate fluctuated across the study period, ranging from 6% in 2014 to 22% in 2018.[60]



[60] $X^2(4, 271)=10.401$, $p=.034$, Cramer's $V=.196$

RACE/ETHNICITY

While the proportion of discharged youth of color appears to increase over the years, only 2017's rate (31%) was found to be statistically significantly different when compared to the other years.[61] Overall, approximately 20% of youth discharged between 2014 and 2018 were youth of color. This rate is over twice that of Maine's overall youth of color population, which averaged 8.5% for the same time period.[62] The difference is statistically significant.[63]



Racial/Ethnic Distribution, 2014-2018 Cohorts					
	2014	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**
YOC	9	10	10	15	9
White	60	49	44	33	32
Total	69	59	54	48	41
% Youth of color	**13%**	**17%**	**19%**	**31%**	**22%**

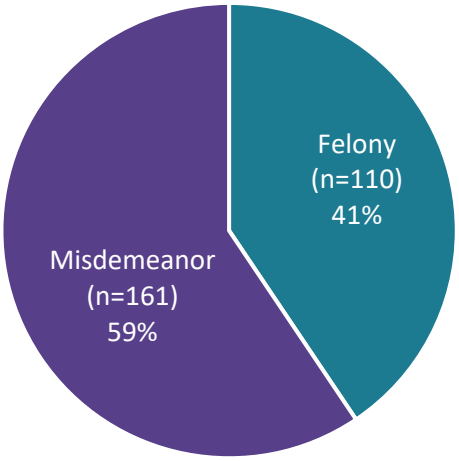
[61] $X^2(1, 271)=5.069$, $p=.024$, Cramer's $V=.137$

[62] Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2020). *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 2014–2018* [Maine, ages 10-17]. Online. Available: https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/

[63] One-sided binomial test: p<.001

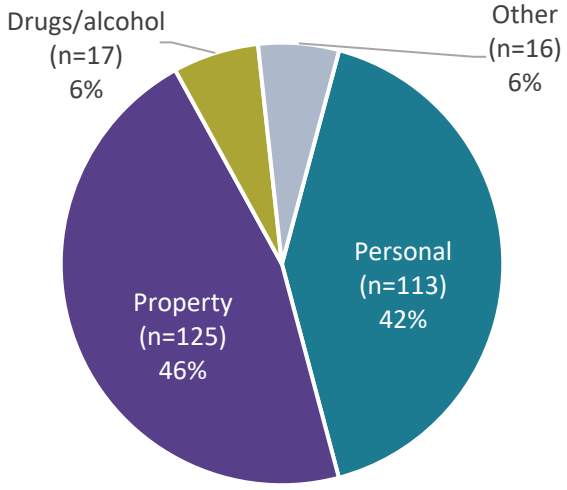
OFFENSE SEVERITY[64]

Approximately 41% of youth discharged were committed with felony offenses and the other 59% with misdemeanor offenses. These proportions remained stable across the years of the study.



OFFENSE TYPE

The majority of discharged youth were committed for either property or personal crimes (46% and 42% respectively). Drugs/alcohol and "other" offenses both accounted for 6% of offenses. These proportions remained relatively constant across the years of the study.[65]



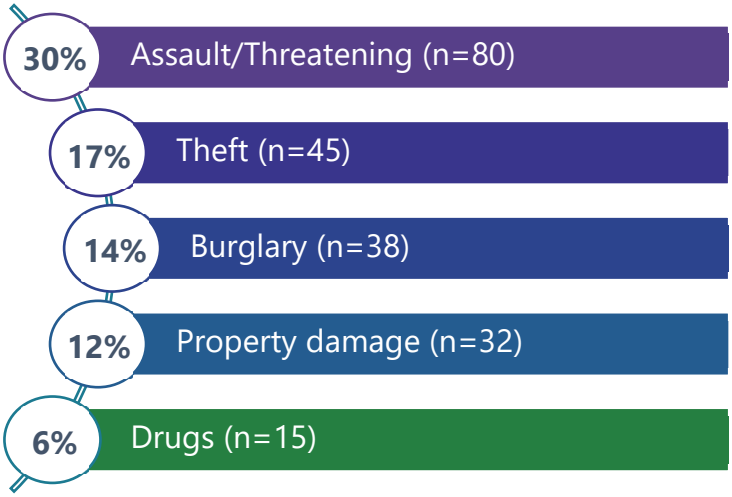
[64] Analysis of offense severity focuses on the most serious offense associated with the original adjudication resulting in commitment.

[65] For a list of offenses by offense type, including "other" offenses, see Appendix C.

OFFENSE CATEGORIES

From 2014 to 2018, the top five offenses across all offense classes for discharged youth were as follows:

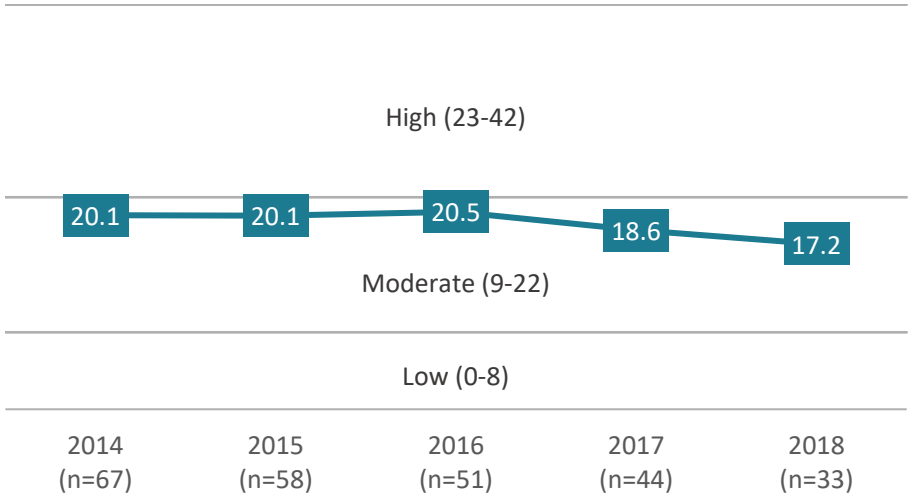
These 5 offenses made up **77%** of all offenses.



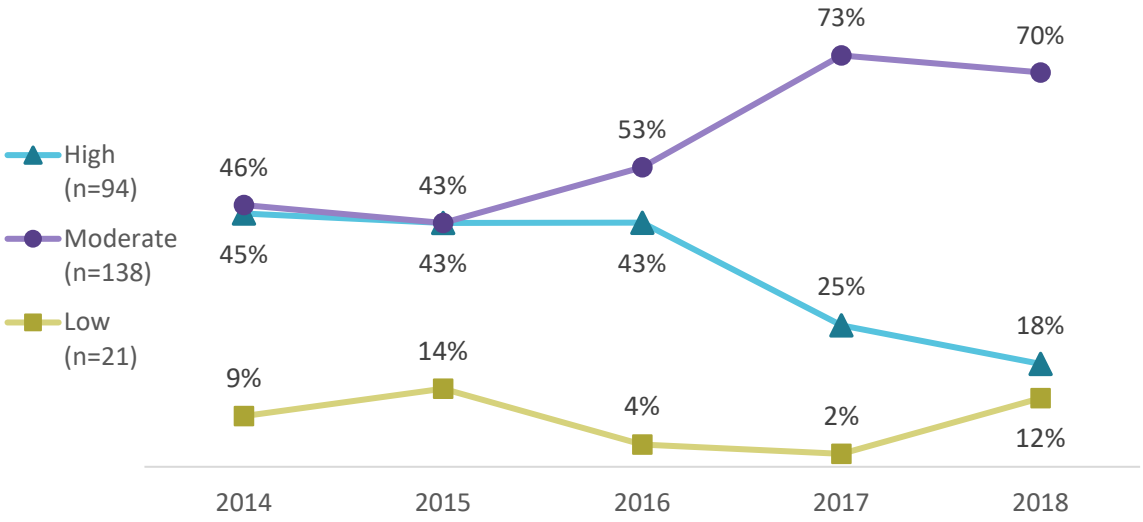
For each year, *assault/threatening* was the leading offense for which released youth were originally committed and ranged from 20% to 38% of all offenses. *Theft*, *burglary*, and *property damage* were likewise in the top five offenses for each individual year, although their positions in the top five varied from year to year. *Drugs* was in the top five for two of the five years.

PRE-COMMITMENT RISK ASSESSMENTS

Prior to commitment in a secure facility, Maine DOC officials administer the Youth Level of Service-Case Management Inventory (YLS-CMI), a youth-specific risk assessment, to each youth.[66] The average risk score across all the years of the study was 19.5 (moderate risk), but the score varied over the years of the study from a high of 20.5 in 2016 to a low of 17.2 in 2018. This 2.9 point difference represents a 15% decrease and is statistically significant.[67]



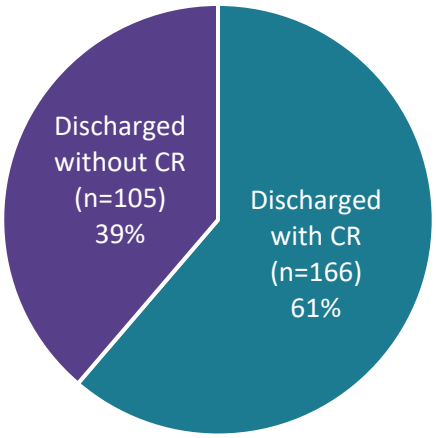
The reduction in average risk score was driven by the widening gap between the proportion of high risk and moderate risk youth. In 2014, these proportions were nearly identical (45% and 46%), but by 2018 moderate risk youth accounted for 70% of the committed population while only 18% where high risk.[68]



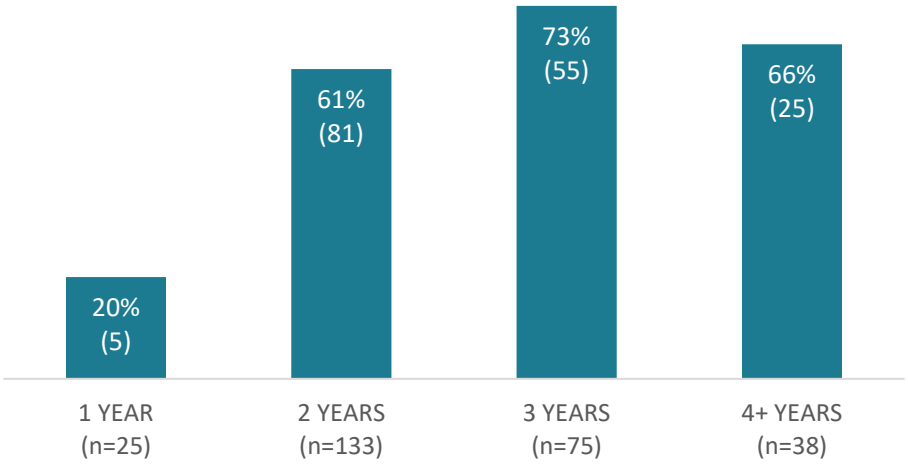
[66] Risk assessment data were missing for 18 discharged youth (6.6%).
[67] $t(81.245)=-2.083$, $p=.040$, $d=-.404$
[68] $X^2(4, 232)=12.866$, $p=.012$, Cramer's $V=.235$

YOUTH RELEASED TO COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION

Prior to discharge, committed youth may be released back into the community under a less restrictive form of supervision. This stepdown in supervision, called community reintegration (CR), is meant to help youth transition between facility life and life amongst the general population. On average, 61% of discharged youth had been released to community reintegration. This rate was steady across the study period.



However, the rate of discharged youth who were released to community reintegration varied by length of supervision.[69] Youth who were sentenced to supervision for 1 year or less were much less likely (20%) to be discharged with community reintegration than youth sentenced to 2 years (61%), 3 years (73%), or 4 or more years (66%).

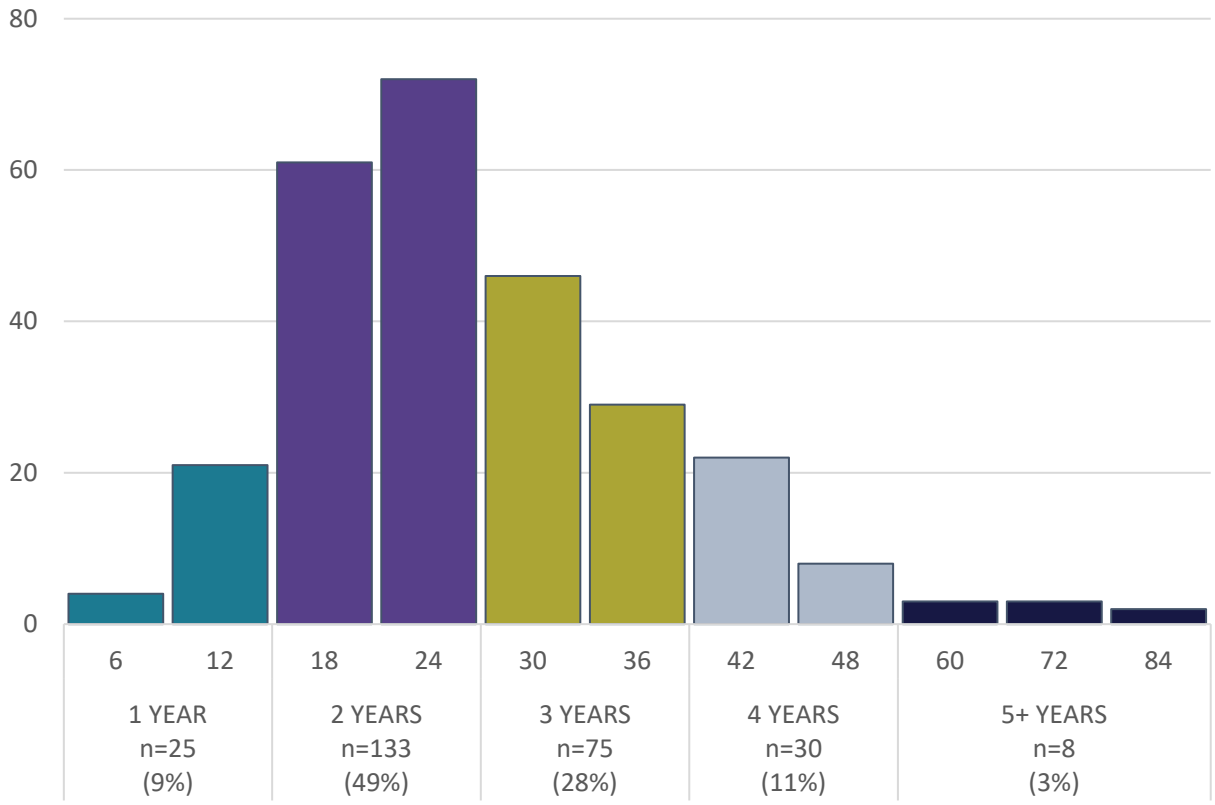


Youth Discharged with CR by Length of Supervision

[69] While years to discharge predict release to community reintegration, it does not fully predict it. The logistic regression model is significant at the .001 level, predicts 66.8%% of the responses correctly, and has a Nagelkerke *R* Square of .110. Logistic regression results are presented in Appendix B6.

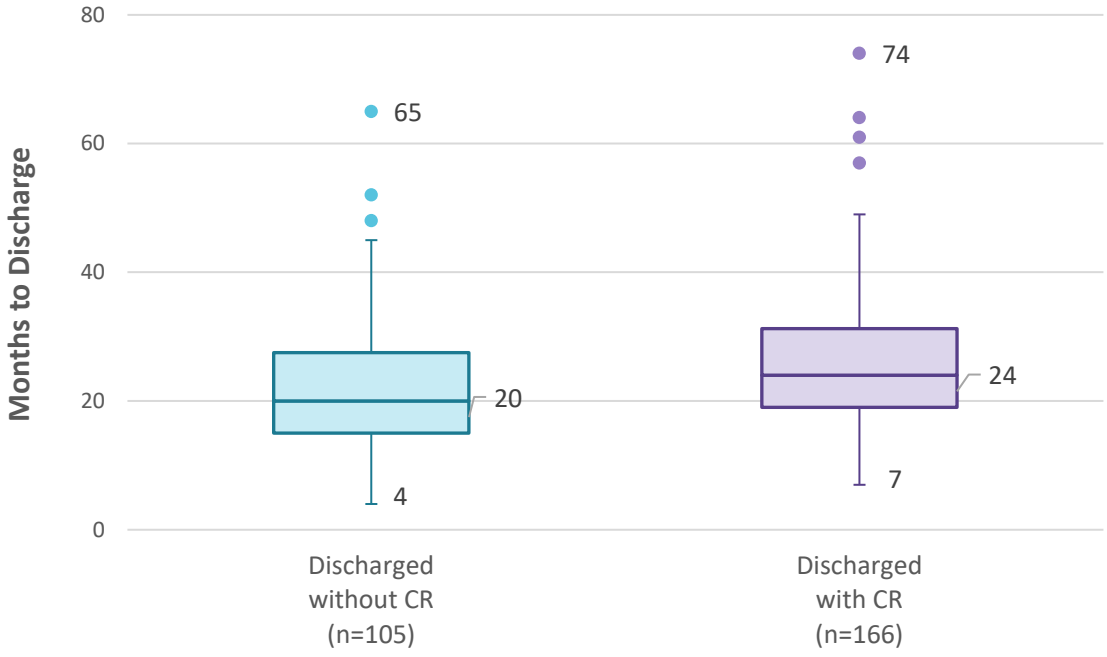
LENGTH OF SUPERVISION

Approximately 58% of discharged youth were supervised (from commitment to discharge) for two years or less, 28% for three years, and the remaining 14% were supervised for four to seven years. The average length of supervision for youth was 24.5 months, or slightly over 2 years, and remained steady throughout the study period.



Between 2014 and 2018, the length of supervision for discharged youth not released to community reintegration averaged 21.9 months from commitment to discharge, which is significantly lower than the average for youth who were discharged with community reintegration, at 26.2 months.[70] There were, however, outliers pulling both averages upward, and when distributions are skewed a better measurement of central tendency is the median, or middle value. For discharged youth not released to community reintegration, the median was 20 months, meaning half of these youth were discharged before 20 months and half were discharged after. The median for youth discharged with community reintegration was 24 months.

The box and whisker plot below depicts the ranges of those discharged with and without community reintegration. With the exception of a few outliers, those who were discharged without community reintegration were supervised a total of 4 to 45 months, while those who were discharged with community reintegration were supervised a total of 7 to 49 months. The graphic likewise depicts quartiles, signified by the boxes and whiskers, as well as outliers, signified by dots.

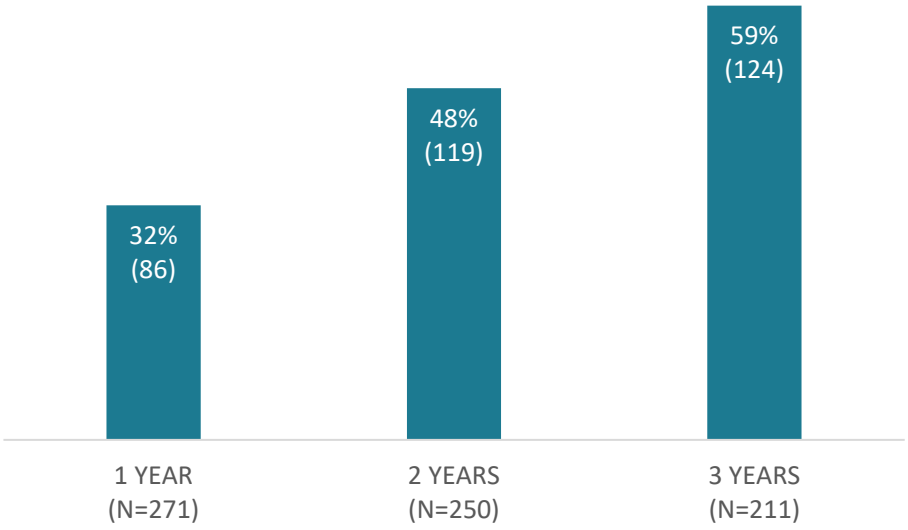


[70] $t(269)=-3.096$, $p=0.002$, $d=-.386$

RECIDIVISM

RECIDIVISM RATES

Recidivism rates vary depending on the length of time youth were tracked following discharge – the rate increases as the length of time tracked increases. Between 2014 and 2018, the one-year recidivism rate was 32%, the two-year rate was 48%, and the three-year rate was 59%.

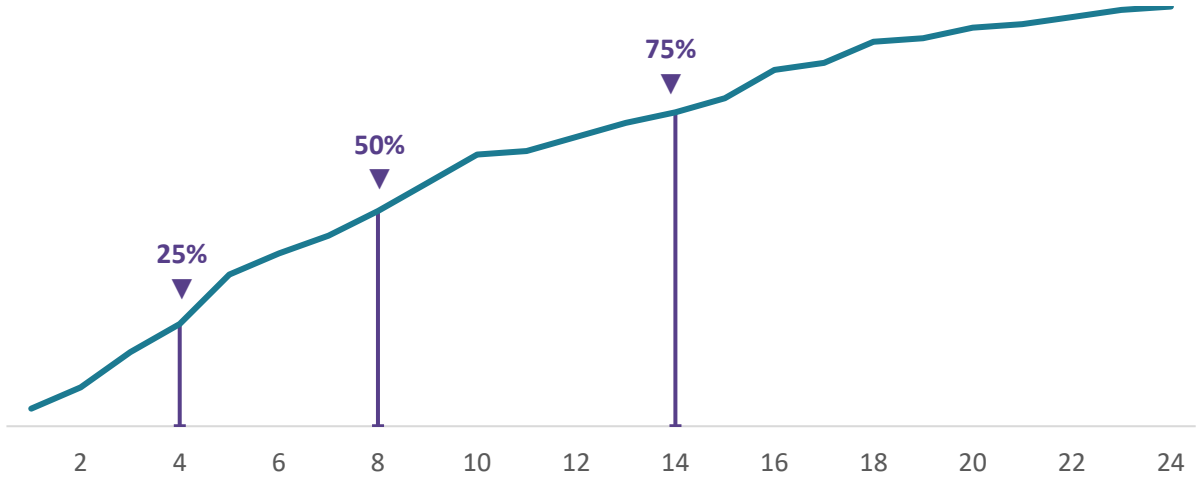


The remainder of this section will focus on the two-year recidivism rate.[71]

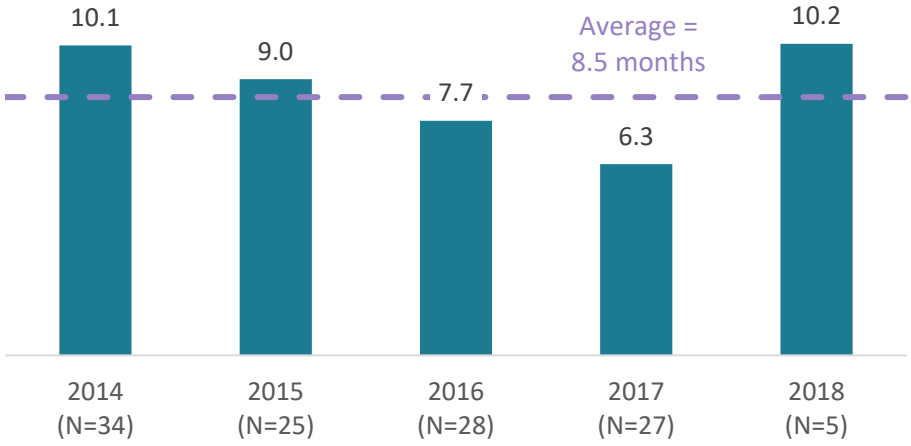
[71] A portion of the 2018 cohort (51%) had not been tracked for two full years and could not be included in this analysis. Thus, the overall number of cases examined in this section (n=250) is smaller than the number of cases presented in the *Trends* section (n=271).

TIME TO RECIDIVATE

Of the 250 discharged youth who were tracked for two years and recidivated within the two-year tracking period (n=119), the majority did so by month eight and 75% recidivated by month 14. Only 8% of recidivating youth did so after 18 months.



Between 2014 and 2017, the average length of time to recidivate decreased by 38% (or 3.9 months), ranging from 10.1 months in 2014 to 6.3 months in 2017. This decrease was statistically significant.[72, 73]

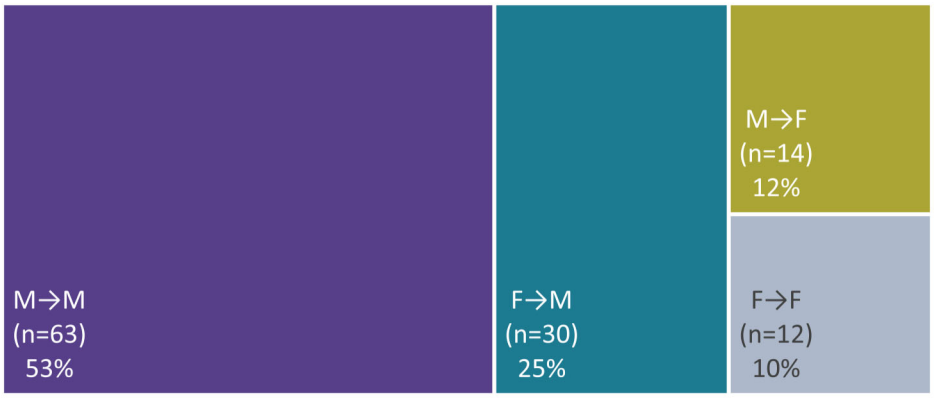


[72] $t(56.267)=2.931$, $p=.005$, $d=.718$

[73] While time to recidivate for the 2018 cohort is included in the chart, the cohort included too few youth who had been tracked for two years (n=5) to compare them against other cohorts.

RECIDIVISM AND OFFENSE SEVERITY

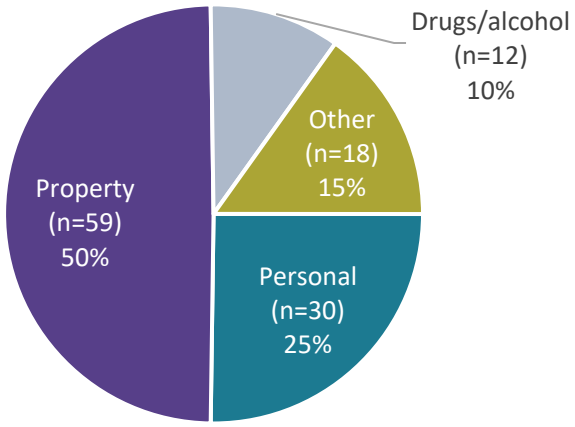
Discharged youth may recidivate with offenses similar to their original offense (i.e., felony, misdemeanor), less severe offenses, or more severe offenses. The majority of youth who recidivated were originally committed and discharged with misdemeanor offenses and likewise recidivated with misdemeanor offenses (53%). Additionally, 10% of recidivating youth who originally offended with a felony also recidivated with a felony; therefore, approximately 63% of recidivating youth did not change severity. One-quarter (25%) of discharged youth who recidivated did so with a less severe offense (felony-to-misdemeanor). The remaining 12% (misdemeanor-to-felony) recidivated with a more severe offense.



Original offense → recidivating offense
M=misdemeanor F=felony

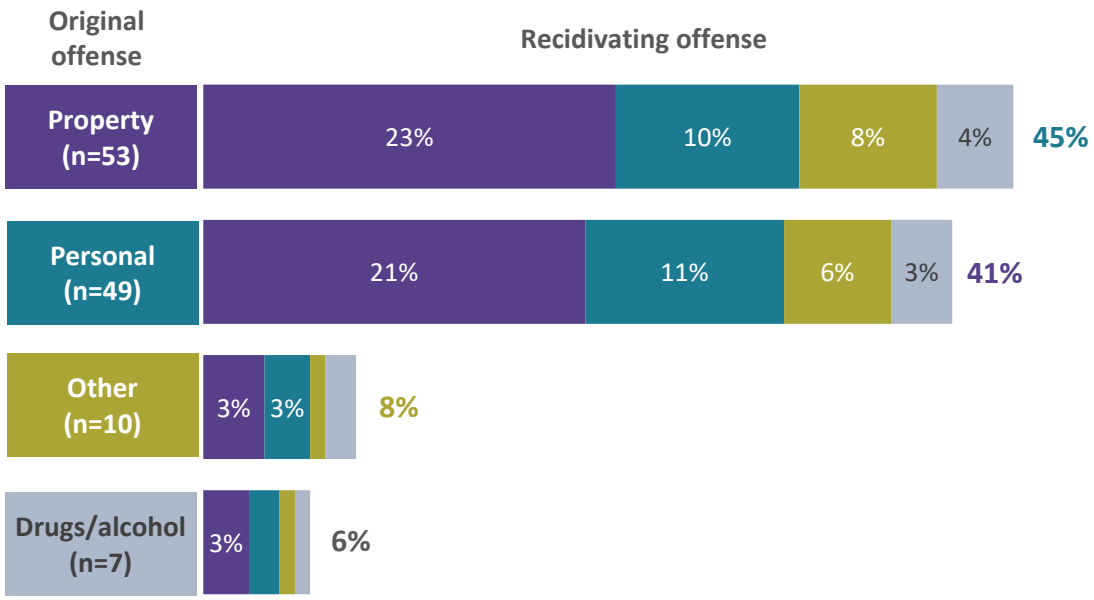
RECIDIVISM AND OFFENSE TYPE

The majority of recidivating offenses were property offenses at 50%, followed by personal offenses at 25%, "other" offenses at 15%, and drugs/alcohol at 10%.



While some discharged youth recidivate with an offense type similar to their original offense type (i.e., personal, property, drug/alcohol, or "other"), others recidivate with offenses that are different. Regardless of the original offense type, property offenses accounted for the largest proportion of recidivating offenses.

The graph below depicts the change in offense type. The length of each bar depicts the size of the subgroup; therefore, 45% of recidivating youth were diverted with property offenses as indicated by the length of the accompanying bar. Percentages displayed on the graphic represent the proportion of overall recidivism. Thus, 23% of all recidivism was contributed by the *property-to-property* subgroup. An additional 21% of all recidivism was contributed by the *personal-to-property* subgroup.



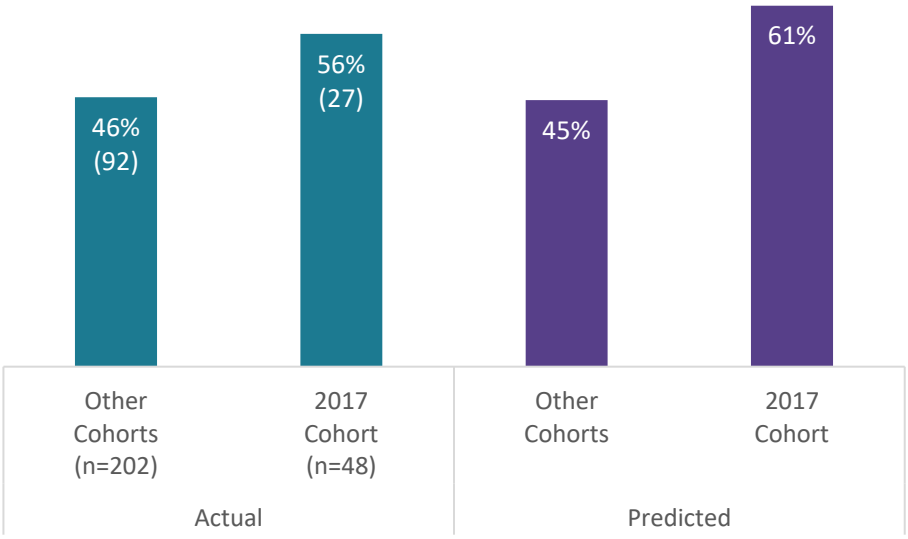
Note: Percentages smaller than 3% are not labeled.

ATTRIBUTES ASSOCIATED WITH RECIDIVISM

The attributes tested in this study were cohort, gender, race/ethnicity, age at commitment, age at discharge, region, offense severity, offense type, risk level, prior release to community reintegration, and length of supervision.[74] Six of these attributes—cohort, gender, prior release to community reintegration, offense type, risk level, and age at commitment—were found to be predictive of recidivism among discharged youth.[75]

COHORT

Cohort, or the year of discharge, is predictive of recidivism. All other attributes held constant, youth discharged in 2017 are more likely to recidivate, with 61% expected to recidivate, compared to 45% of youth discharged in other years (2014–2016 and 2018).

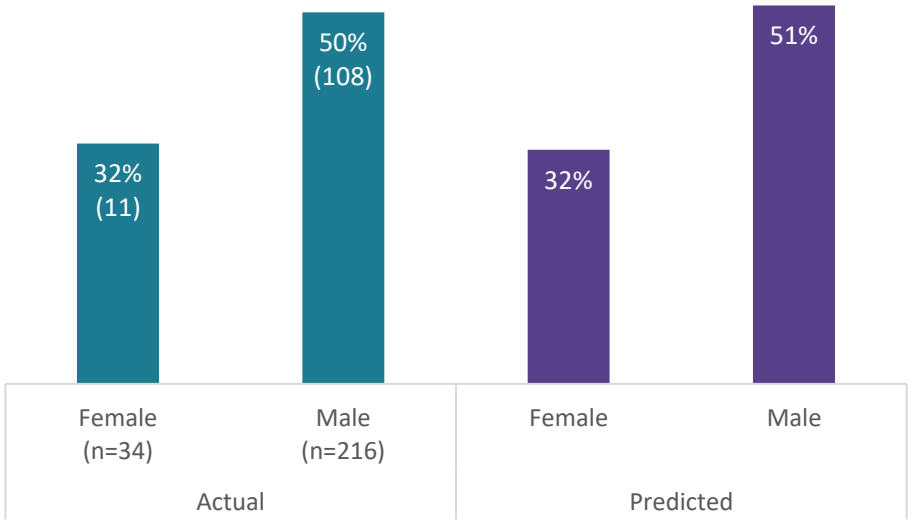


[74] Due to the low number of discharged females tracked for two years (n=34), males and females could not be analyzed separately.

[75] While these characteristics predict recidivism, they do not fully predict it. The logistic regression model is significant at the .001 level, predicts 61.7% of the responses correctly, and has a Nagelkerke R Square of .132. Logistic regression results are presented in Appendix B7.

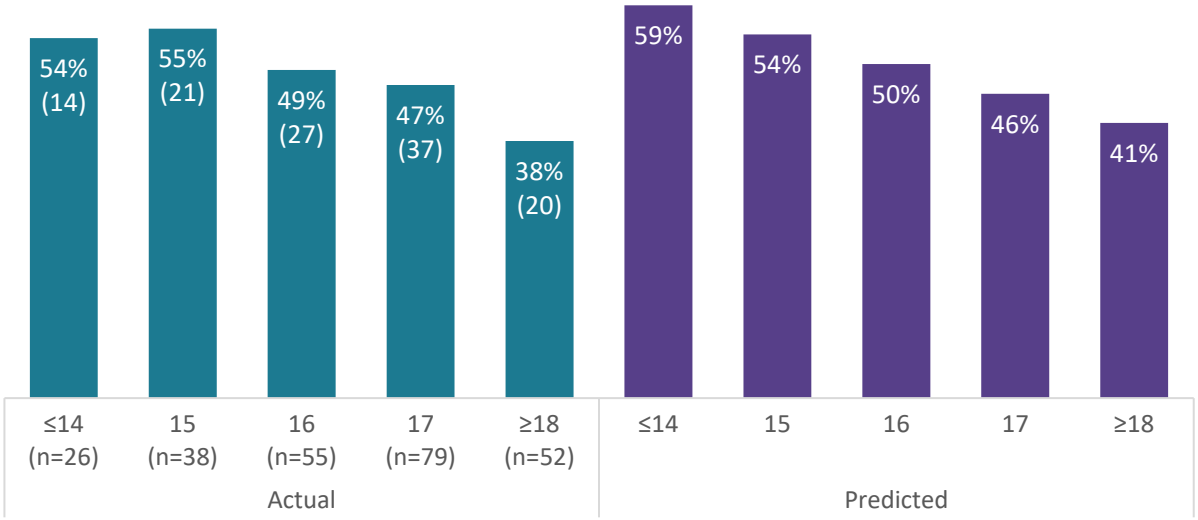
GENDER

Gender is also predictive of recidivism. While controlling for all other attributes, 51% of discharged males are expected to recidivate compared to only 32% of females.



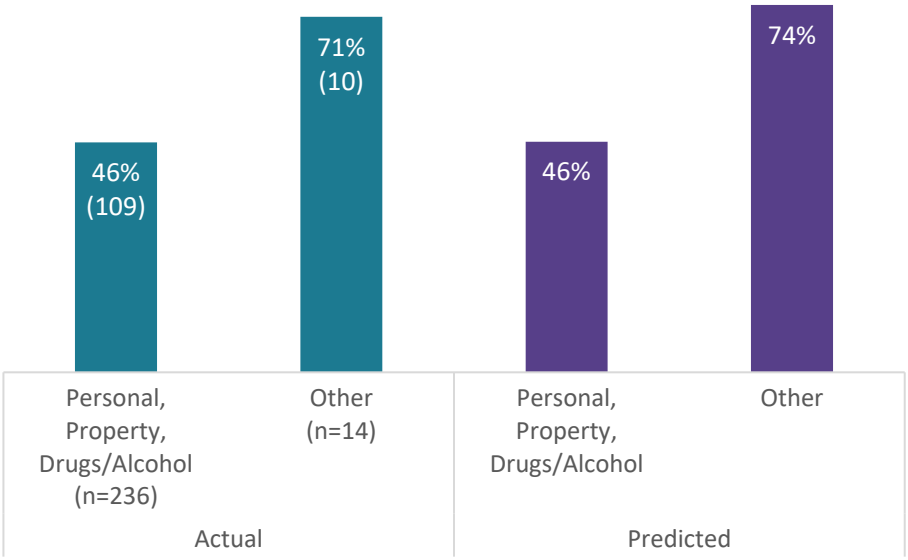
AGE AT COMMITMENT

Age at commitment impacted recidivism – the younger a youth was at the time of commitment, the more likely they were to recidivate following discharge. Holding all other attributes constant, 59% of those aged 14 and younger at the time of commitment are expected to recidivate, which decreases to 41% by age 18 and older.



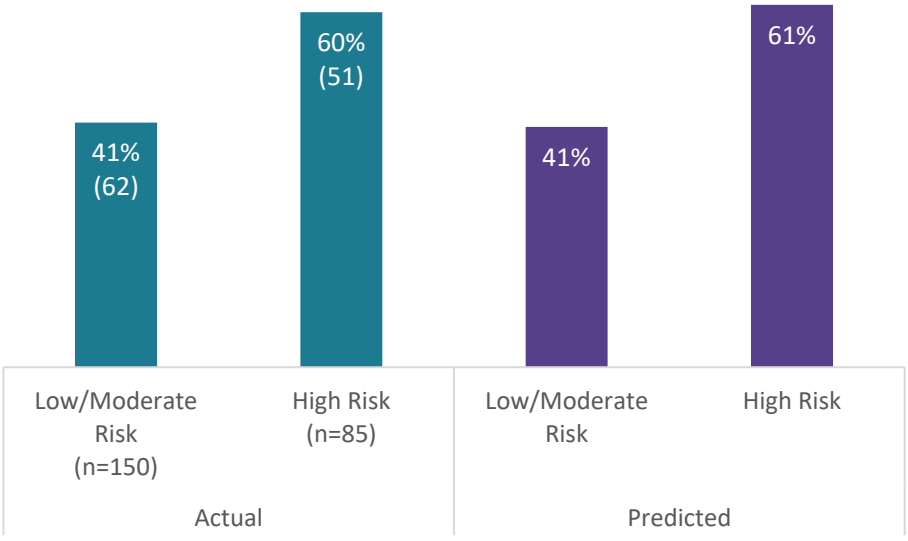
OFFENSE TYPE

Offense type is predictive of recidivism. All other attributes held constant, 74% of discharged youth originally committed with "other" offenses are predicted to recidivate, compared to only 46% of youth committed with a personal, property, or drugs/alcohol offenses.[76]



RISK LEVEL

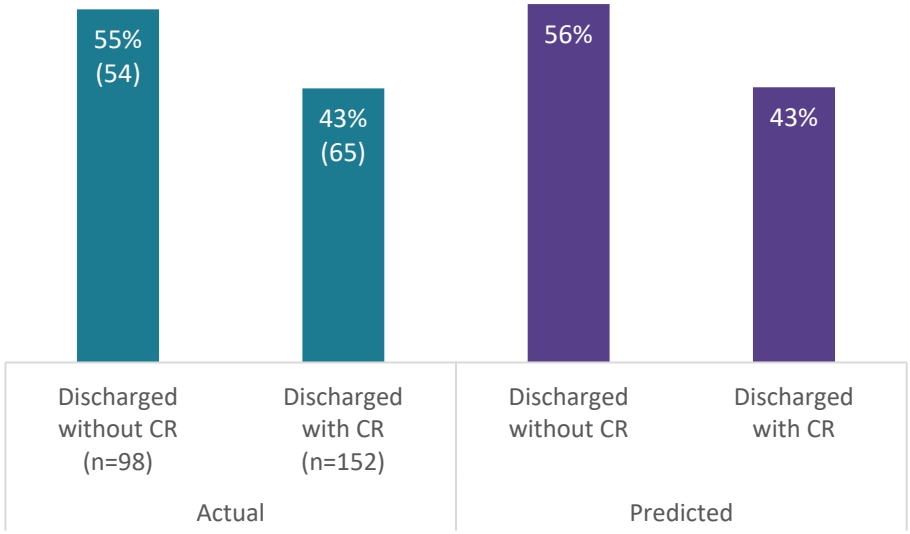
Risk level also impacts recidivism, with high-risk youth being more likely to recidivate than their lower-risk counterparts. Controlling for all other attributes, 41% of discharged youth who measured at low or moderate risk are predicted to recidivate while 61% of high risk youth are predicted to recidivate.



[76] The majority of "other" offenses for discharged youth who recidivated were *disorderly conduct* and *violating condition of release* charges.

RELEASE TO COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION

Lastly, release to community reintegration is associated with recidivism. All other attributes held constant, 56% of youth discharged without community reintegration are expected to recidivate, compared to 43% of youth discharged with community reintegration.



SUMMARY

In summary, the analysis found that the following groups were more likely to recidivate:

- youth originally committed for an "other" offense (74%),
- those discharged in 2017 (61%),
- those assessed as being high-risk (61%),
- those aged 14 and younger at the time of commitment (59%),
- those discharged without community reintegration (56%), and
- males (51%).

Age at discharge, region, offense severity, and length of supervision were also tested but were not found to be predictive of recidivism.

Over the study period, the number of youth discharged from a facility decreased substantially (41%), reflecting a reduction in the number of youth committed. While this is aligned with DOC's mission to deliver treatment in the least restrictive setting possible, the shift toward committing a lower-risk population is not. At the beginning of the study period, moderate- and high-risk youth were represented in nearly equal proportions (46% and 45%, respectively). By the end of the study period, only 18% of discharged youth were high risk and 70% were moderate risk. Furthermore, the analysis done in the *Community Reintegration* chapter of this report shows that commitment results in very modest improvements in risk score for moderate-risk youth (-3.5 points) compared to high-risk youth (-13.6 points).

APPENDIX A – RECIDIVISM & RETURN RATES

A1. Two-Year Recidivism Rates, Diverted Youth

	Total Youth	Recidivating Youth	% Recidivating
Gender			
Female	2,247	180	8%
Male	3,728	495	13%
Race/Ethnicity			
White	5,365	590	11%
YOC	525	75	14%
Age at Diversion			
≤13	816	101	12%
14	690	107	16%
15	1,002	129	13%
16	1,385	147	11%
≥17	2,082	191	9%
Cohort *(year diversion ended)*			
2014	1,535	173	11%
2015	1,408	166	12%
2016	1,241	144	12%
2017	1,228	143	12%
2018	563	49	9%
Diversion Type			
No further action	1,393	95	7%
Sole sanction	904	94	10%
Other informal adjustment (including >6 months)	3,678	486	13%
Offense Severity			
Felony	283	32	11%
Misdemeanor	3,390	432	13%
Civil	2,302	211	9%
Offense Type			
Personal	981	138	14%
Property	2,179	266	12%
Drugs/alcohol	2,563	235	9%
Other	252	36	14%

A1. continued

	Total Youth	Recidivating Youth	% Recidivating
Number of Charges			
1 charge	4,953	513	10%
2 charges	835	127	15%
≥3 charges	187	35	19%
Region			
Region 1	2,328	199	9%
Region 2	1,895	230	12%
Region 3	1,719	243	14%

A2. Two-Year Recidivism Rates, Diverted Youth, Males

	Total Youth	Recidivating Youth	% Recidivating
Gender			
Male	3,728	495	13%
Race/Ethnicity			
White	3,337	435	13%
Youth of color	338	55	16%
Age at Diversion			
≤13	563	69	12%
14	436	82	19%
15	625	100	16%
16	824	102	12%
≥17	1,280	142	11%
Cohort *(year diversion ended)*			
2014	926	125	13%
2015	884	119	13%
2016	775	112	14%
2017	789	103	13%
2018	354	36	10%
Diversion Type			
No further action	841	71	8%
Sole sanction	556	62	11%
Other informal adjustment (including >6 months)	2,331	362	16%
Offense Severity			
Felony	203	26	13%
Misdemeanor	2,099	313	15%
Civil	1,426	156	11%
Offense Type			
Personal	648	93	14%
Property	1,331	204	15%
Drugs/alcohol	1,593	172	11%
Other	156	26	17%
Number of Charges			
1 charge	2,998	368	12%
2 charges	591	96	16%
≥3 charges	139	31	22%
Region			
Region 1	1,447	142	10%
Region 2	1,181	167	14%
Region 3	1,081	184	17%

A2. continued

	Total Youth	Recidivating Youth	% Recidivating
Region by Diversion Type			
Region 1			
No further action	412	17	4%
Sole sanction	213	16	8%
Other informal adjustment (including >6 months)	822	109	13%
Region 2			
No further action	343	44	13%
Sole sanction	180	28	16%
Other informal adjustment (including >6 months)	658	95	14%
Region 3			
No further action	83	10	12%
Sole sanction	161	17	11%
Other informal adjustment (including >6 months)	837	157	19%
Region by Number of Charges			
Region 1			
1 charge	1,198	101	8%
2 charges	211	34	16%
≥3 charges	38	7	18%
Region 2			
1 charge	924	122	13%
2 charges	217	37	17%
≥3 charges	40	8	20%
Region 3			
1 charge	864	145	17%
2 charges	156	23	15%
≥3 charges	61	16	26%

A3. Two-Year Recidivism Rates, Diverted Youth, Females

	Total Youth	Recidivating Youth	% Recidivating
Gender			
Female	2,247	180	8%
Race/Ethnicity			
White	2,028	155	8%
Youth of color	187	20	11%
Age at Diversion			
≤13	253	32	13%
14	254	25	10%
15	377	29	8%
16	561	45	8%
≥17	802	49	6%
Cohort *(year diversion ended)*			
2014	609	48	8%
2015	524	47	9%
2016	466	32	7%
2017	439	40	9%
2018	209	13	6%
Diversion Type			
No further action	552	24	4%
Sole sanction	348	32	9%
Other informal adjustment (including >6 months)	1,347	124	9%
Offense Severity			
Felony	80	6	8%
Misdemeanor	1,291	119	9%
Civil	876	55	6%
Offense Type			
Personal	333	45	14%
Property	848	62	7%
Drugs/alcohol	970	63	6%
Other	96	10	10%
Number of Charges			
1 charge	1,955	145	7%
2 charges	244	31	13%
≥3 charges	48	4	8%
Region			
Region 1	881	57	6%
Region 2	714	63	9%
Region 3	638	59	9%

A4. Two-Year Recidivism Rates, Supervised Youth

	Total Youth	Recidivating Youth	% Recidivating
Gender			
Female	237	67	28%
Male	938	307	33%
Race/Ethnicity			
White	1,012	309	31%
Youth of color	146	62	42%
Age at Adjudication			
≤13	104	29	28%
14	146	58	40%
15	231	77	33%
16	299	87	29%
17	286	99	35%
≥18	109	24	22%
Cohort *(year supervision began)*			
2014	329	117	36%
2015	250	78	31%
2016	247	77	31%
2017	217	64	29%
2018	132	38	29%
Offense Severity			
Felony	151	35	23%
Misdemeanor	1,024	339	33%
Offense Type			
Personal	492	147	30%
Property	519	193	37%
Drugs/alcohol	93	19	20%
Other	71	15	21%
YLS-CMI Risk Level			
Low	489	101	21%
Moderate	592	232	39%
High	68	36	53%
Number of Charges			
1 charge	640	164	26%
2 charges	305	104	34%
≥3 charges	230	106	46%
Region			
Region 1	425	107	25%
Region 2	346	140	40%
Region 3	370	116	31%

A5. Two-Year Recidivism Rates, Supervised Youth, Male

	Total Youth	Recidivating Youth	% Recidivating
Gender			
Male	938	307	33%
Race/Ethnicity			
White	801	249	31%
Youth of color	121	55	45%
Age at Adjudication			
≤13	84	24	29%
14	116	44	38%
15	180	60	33%
16	237	74	31%
17	230	83	36%
≥18	91	22	24%
Cohort *(year supervision began)*			
2014	262	90	34%
2015	188	64	34%
2016	202	66	33%
2017	178	56	31%
2018	108	31	29%
Offense Severity			
Felony	137	33	24%
Misdemeanor	801	274	34%
Offense Type			
Personal	386	116	30%
Property	430	163	38%
Drugs/alcohol	69	18	26%
Other	53	10	19%
YLS-CMI Risk Level			
Low	424	90	21%
Moderate	442	183	41%
High	52	31	60%
Number of Charges			
1 charge	495	134	27%
2 charges	246	80	33%
≥3 charges	197	93	47%
Region			
Region 1	333	91	27%
Region 2	274	117	43%
Region 3	305	91	30%

A6. Two-Year Recidivism Rates, Supervised Youth, Female

	Total Youth	Recidivating Youth	% Recidivating
Gender			
Female	237	67	28%
Race/Ethnicity			
White	211	60	28%
Youth of color	25	7	28%
Age at Adjudication			
≤13	20	5	25%
14	30	14	47%
15	51	17	33%
16	62	13	21%
17	56	16	29%
≥18	18	2	11%
Cohort *(year supervision began)*			
2014	67	27	40%
2015	62	14	23%
2016	45	11	24%
2017	39	8	21%
2018	24	7	29%
Offense Severity			
Felony	14	2	14%
Misdemeanor	223	65	29%
Offense Type			
Personal	106	31	29%
Property	89	30	34%
Drugs/alcohol	24	1	4%
Other	18	5	28%
YLS-CMI Risk Level			
Low	65	11	17%
Moderate	150	49	33%
High	16	5	31%
Number of Charges			
1 charge	145	30	21%
2 charges	59	24	41%
≥3 charges	33	13	39%
Region			
Region 1	92	16	17%
Region 2	72	23	32%
Region 3	65	25	38%

A7. One-Year Return Rates, Reintegrated Youth

	Total Youth	Returned Youth	% Returned
Gender			
Female	22	16	73%
Male	114	45	39%
Race/Ethnicity			
White	110	51	46%
Youth of color	26	10	38%
Age at Commitment			
≤14	13	9	69%
15	18	11	61%
16	31	17	55%
17	38	12	32%
≥18	36	12	33%
Cohort *(year released to CR)*			
2014	31	11	35%
2015	24	7	29%
2016	31	16	52%
2017	25	16	64%
2018	25	11	44%
Offense Severity			
Felony	50	20	40%
Misdemeanor	86	41	48%
Offense Type			
Personal	63	30	48%
Property	58	25	43%
Drugs/alcohol	7	1	14%
Other	8	5	63%
Age at Release			
≤16	21	15	71%
17	35	18	51%
18	41	16	39%
≥19	39	12	31%
Region			
Region 1	63	30	48%
Region 2	32	17	53%
Region 3	41	14	34%

A8. Two-Year Recidivism Rates, Discharged Youth

	Total Youth	Recidivating Youth	% Recidivating
Gender			
Female	34	11	32%
Male	216	108	50%
Race/Ethnicity			
White	200	95	48%
YOC	50	24	48%
Age at Commitment			
≤14	26	14	54%
15	38	21	55%
16	55	27	49%
17	79	37	47%
≥18	52	20	38%
Cohort *(year discharged)*			
2014	69	34	49%
2015	59	25	42%
2016	54	28	52%
2017	48	27	56%
2018	20	5	25%
Offense Severity			
Felony	99	42	42%
Misdemeanor	151	77	51%
Offense Type			
Personal	104	49	47%
Property	115	53	46%
Drugs/alcohol	17	7	41%
Other	14	10	71%
Pre-Commitment Risk Score			
Low	20	8	40%
Moderate	126	52	41%
High	85	51	60%
Very high	4	2	50%
Prior Release to CR			
No	98	54	55%
Yes	152	65	43%
Age at Discharge			
≤17	18	7	39%
18	83	44	53%
19	80	41	51%
20	41	15	37%
21	28	12	43%

A8. continued

	Total Youth	Recidivating Youth	% Recidivating
Length of Supervision			
1 year	24	15	63%
2 years	119	51	43%
3 years	73	32	44%
4+ years	34	21	62%
Region			
Region 1	117	56	48%
Region 2	65	29	45%
Region 3	68	34	50%

APPENDIX B – LOGISTIC REGRESSION

B1. Logistic Regression for Two-Year Recidivism, Diverted Youth, Male

Independent Variables	ß	s.e.	Sig.	Exp(ß)
No further action	-0.996	0.214	0.000*	0.369
Sole sanction	-0.595	0.196	0.002*	0.552
Felony	-0.431	0.227	0.057	0.650
Drugs/alcohol	-0.383	0.103	0.000*	0.682
Region 2	0.086	0.149	0.563	1.090
Region 3	0.553	0.132	0.000*	1.739
Charge count -2	0.483	0.151	0.001*	1.621
Charge count – 3 or more	0.595	0.219	0.007*	1.814
No further action by Region 2 (interactions)	0.940	0.291	0.001*	2.560
Sole sanction by Region 2 (interactions)	0.791	0.306	0.010*	2.205
Charge count -2 by Region 3 (interactions)	-0.586	0.286	0.040*	0.556
Constant	-1.856	0.112	0.000	0.156

* Indicates statistical significance at the .05 level
Model $\chi^2(11)=96.919$, $p<.001$
Nagelkerke $R^2=.047$
n=3,728

Note: The dependent variable in this analysis is *two-year recidivism* where 0=no and 1=yes.

B2. Logistic Regression for Two-Year Recidivism, Diverted Youth, Female

Independent Variables	ß	s.e.	Sig.	Exp(ß)
No further action	-0.823	0.227	0.000*	0.439
Property	-0.589	0.200	0.003*	0.555
Drugs/alcohol	-0.632	0.204	0.002*	0.532
Charge count – 2 or more	0.422	0.203	0.038*	1.524
Age at diversion (continuous)	-0.100	0.049	0.043*	0.905
Constant	-0.344	0.746	0.644	0.709

* Indicates statistical significance at the .05 level
Model $\chi^2(5)=39.812$, $p<.001$
Nagelkerke $R^2=.041$
n=2,247

Note: The dependent variable in this analysis is *two-year recidivism* where 0=no and 1=yes.

B3. Logistic Regression for Two-Year Recidivism, Supervised Youth, Male

Independent Variables	ß	s.e.	Sig.	Exp(ß)
Youth of color	0.665	0.219	0.002*	1.944
Felony	-0.593	0.241	0.014*	0.553
Property	0.305	0.153	0.047*	1.357
Region 1	-0.797	0.186	0.000*	0.451
Region 3	-0.586	0.187	0.002*	0.556
Moderate risk	0.938	0.160	0.000*	2.554
High risk	1.553	0.329	0.000*	4.724
Charge count	0.039	0.029	0.176	1.040
Constant	-1.054	0.184	0.000	0.349

* Indicates statistical significance at the .05 level
Model $\chi^2(8)=92.987$, $p<.001$
Nagelkerke $R^2=0.139$
n=884

Note: The dependent variable in this analysis is *male two-year recidivism* where 0=no and 1=yes.

B4. Logistic Regression for Two-Year Recidivism, Supervised Youth, Female

Independent Variables	ß	s.e.	Sig.	Exp(ß)
Region 2	0.843	0.395	0.033*	2.323
Region 3	1.194	0.404	0.003*	3.302
Low risk	-0.779	0.397	0.050*	0.459
Drugs/alcohol	-2.315	1.049	0.027*	0.099
2014 cohort	0.907	0.339	0.007*	2.477
Constant	-1.579	0.334	0.000	0.206

* Indicates statistical significance at the .05 level
Model $\chi^2(5)=31.348$, $p<.001$
Nagelkerke $R^2=0.187$
n=225

Note: The dependent variable in this analysis is *female two-year recidivism* where 0=no and 1=yes.

B5. Logistic Regression for One-Year Return to Facility, Reintegrated Youth

Independent Variables	ß	s.e.	Sig.	Exp(ß)
2016–2018 cohort	0.939	0.398	0.018*	2.557
Male	-1.274	0.546	0.020*	0.280
Age at commitment *(continuous)*	-0.480	0.148	0.001*	0.619
Constant	8.221	2.466	0.001	3717.504

* Indicates statistical significance at the .05 level
Model $\chi^2(3)=24.000$, $p<.001$
Nagelkerke $R^2=0.216$
n=136

Note: The dependent variable in this analysis is *one-year return to a facility* where 0=no and 1=yes.

B6. Logistic Regression for Youth Released to CR, Discharged Youth

Independent Variables	ß	s.e.	Sig.	Exp(ß)
Years to discharge – 2 years	1.829	0.531	0.001*	6.231
Years to discharge – 3 years	2.398	0.564	0.000*	11.000
Years to discharge – 4 or more years	2.040	0.606	0.001*	7.692
Constant	-1.386	0.500	0.006	0.250

* Indicates statistical significance at the .05 level
Model $\chi^2(3)=23.003$, $p<.001$
Nagelkerke $R^2=.110$
n=271

Note: The dependent variable in this analysis is *released to community reintegration* where 0=no and 1=yes.

B7. Logistic Regression for Two-Year Recidivism, Discharged Youth

Independent Variables	ß	s.e.	Sig.	Exp(ß)
Male	0.813	0.413	0.049*	2.255
2017 Cohort	0.646	0.361	0.074*	1.908
Released to CR	-0.522	0.284	0.066*	0.593
Other offense type	1.183	0.627	0.059*	3.263
High risk	0.837	0.292	0.004*	2.310
Age at commitment	-0.178	0.102	0.082*	0.837
Constant	1.964	1.745	0.260	7.128

* Indicates statistical significance at the .10 level
Model $\chi^2(6)=24.456$, $p<.001$
Nagelkerke $R^2=.132$
n=235

Note: The dependent variable in this analysis is *two-year recidivism* where 0=no and 1=yes.

APPENDIX C – OFFENSE DESCRIPTIONS

Personal

- Aggravated assault
- Assault
- Assault on an emergency medical care provider
- Assault on an officer
- Criminal threatening
- Criminal threatening w/ dangerous weapon
- Criminal use of disabling chemicals
- Criminal use of explosives
- Criminal use of laser pointer
- Dissemination of sexually explicit material
- Domestic violence reckless conduct
- Domestic violence assault
- Domestic violence assault, priors DV
- Domestic violence criminal threatening
- Domestic violence criminal threatening, prior DV
- Domestic violence terrorizing
- Gross sexual assault
- Harassment
- Harassment by telephone
- Manslaughter
- Murder
- Possess sexual explicit material of minor under 12
- Possess sexually explicit material of minor
- Possession of sexually explicit material
- Protective order from harassment violation
- Reckless conduct
- Refusing to submit to arrest or detention
- Refusing to submit to arrest or detention, physical force
- Robbery
- Sexual misconduct with a child under 14 years
- Solicitation of child by computer
- Stalking-serious inconvenience/ emotional distress
- Terrorizing
- Unlawful sexual contact
- Unlawful sexual touching
- Violating protection from abuse order
- Violation of privacy
- Violation of protective order
- Visual sexual aggression against a child

Property

- Aggravated criminal invasion computer privacy
- Aggravated criminal mischief
- Arson
- Burglary
- Burglary of a motor vehicle
- Criminal invasion of computer privacy
- Criminal mischief
- Criminal trespass
- Desecration and defacement
- Interfering with railroad
- Misuse of identification
- Negotiate a worthless instrument
- Theft by deception
- Theft by receiving stolen property
- Theft by unauthorized taking or transfer
- Theft by unauthorized use of property
- Theft of lost, mislaid, or misdelivered property
- Theft of services

Theft, unauthorized taking or transfer
Trespass by motor vehicle

Drugs/Alcohol

Aggravated furnishing of schedule W drug
Aggravated furnishing of schedule Z drug
Aggravated furnishing of scheduled drugs
Aggravated trafficking or furnish of scheduled drugs
Aggravated trafficking in scheduled drugs, priors
Aggravated trafficking of schedule W drug
Aggravated trafficking of schedule Z drugs
Aggravated trafficking of scheduled drugs
Aggravated trafficking scheduled drugs-bus/school
Aggravated trafficking scheduled Y or Z drug
Allow minor to possess or consume liquor
Allowing minor to consume liquor
Allowing minor to possess liquor
Cultivating marijuana
Furnishing liquor to a minor
Hunting under influence of liquor or drugs
Illegal possession of liquor by minor
Illegal transportation of drugs by minor
Illegal transportation of liquor by minor
Illegal transportation of liquor within the state
Marijuana: under 18 years of age
Marijuana: under 21 years of age
Minor consuming liquor
Minor having liquor on person
Minor possessing liquor
Minor purchasing liquor
Minor transporting liquor
Operating under the influence
OUI
OUI (alcohol)
OUI (alcohol), 1 prior
OUI (drugs or combo)
OUI (drugs or combo)-no test
Possessing marijuana
Possession of drug paraphernalia
Possession of marijuana
Possession of marijuana, up to 1 1/4 oz
Sale and use of drug paraphernalia
Stealing drugs
Transportation of drugs by minor
Unlawful furnishing scheduled drug
Unlawful possession of hydrocodone
Unlawful possession of oxycodone
Unlawful possession of scheduled drugs
Unlawful trafficking in scheduled drugs
Unlawfully furnishing scheduled drugs
Use of drug paraphernalia

Other

Carrying concealed weapon
Criminal attempt
Criminal conspiracy
Criminal use of electronic weapon
Cruelty to animals
Disorderly conduct
Disorderly conduct, fighting
Disorderly conduct, funeral
Disorderly conduct, loud noise, private place
Disorderly conduct, loud unreasonable noise
Disorderly conduct, offensive words and gestures
Dissemination of child pornography
Driving to endanger
Eluding an officer

- Entering on railroad track
- Escape
- Fail to provide correct name, address, DOB
- Failing to stop motor vehicle for officer
- Failure to control or report a dangerous fire
- False public alarm or report
- Falsifying physical evidence
- Forgery
- Hindering apprehension or prosecution
- Hunt or possess wild turkey during closed season
- Illegal deposit or possession with intent to sell
- Illegal possession of firearm
- Indecent conduct
- Invasion of computer privacy
- Minor having false identification
- Misuse of E-9-1-1 system
- Obstructing government administration
- Obstructing report of crime
- Operating beyond license restriction
- Operating without license
- Permitting unlawful use of vehicle
- Place tattoo on person under 18
- Possessing butyl or isobutyl nitrite
- Possessing firearm near school
- Possessing forged motor vehicle document
- Possession of false ID card
- Possession of firearm by prohibited person
- Possession or distribution of dangerous knives
- Purchase liquor-minor
- Reckless violation of protective order
- Refusing to submit to arrest or detention, refuse to stop
- Solicitation
- Tampering with a witness or informant
- Tampering with public records or information
- Theft, unauthorized taking transfer
- Threatening display of weapon
- Trafficking in dangerous knives
- Trafficking in prison contraband
- Unauthorized dissemination of private images
- Unlawfully permitting operation
- Unsworn falsification
- Violating condition of release

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The Muskie School of Public Service is Maine's distinguished public policy school, combining an extensive applied research and technical assistance portfolio with rigorous undergraduate and graduate degree programs in geography-anthropology; policy, planning, and management (MPPM); and public health (MPH). The school is nationally recognized for applying innovative knowledge to critical issues in the fields of sustainable development and health and human service policy and management, and is home to the Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy.

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About the Maine Statistical Analysis Center

The Maine Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) informs policy development and improvement of practice in Maine's criminal and juvenile justice systems. A partnership between the University of Southern Maine Muskie School of Public Service and the Maine Department of Corrections, SAC collaborates with numerous community-based and governmental agencies. SAC conducts applied research, evaluates programs and new initiatives, and provides technical assistance, consultation, and organizational development services. The Maine Statistical Analysis Center is funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and supported by the Justice Research Statistics Association.

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