



Department of  
Youth Services



# 2014 Recidivism Report

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An Examination of the Reincarceration Rates of Youth Released  
from Juvenile Correctional Facilities  
of the Ohio Department of Youth Services

**John R. Kasich, Governor**  
**Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor**  
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## Ohio Department of Youth Services Recidivism Rates

Recidivism defined: *The number of youth who are returned to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) or incarcerated in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) within one, two, and three years of release from a DYS correctional facility.*

### Latest DYS Recidivism Rates

#### One-year rate

There were 697 releases of DYS youth from juvenile correctional facilities during 2012. Of these, **26%** either returned to DYS or were admitted to DRC within one year of their release date.

#### Two-year rate

There were 898 releases of DYS youth during 2011. The two-year recidivism rate of these youth was **38%**.

#### Three-year rate

Of the 1,230 DYS youth released during 2010, **45%** recidivated within three years of their release date. This rate dropped for the sixth straight year and has set a new low in each of the last four years.

#### Preventing Recidivism

Examining all youth released from DYS in 2010, 2011, and 2012, a total of 1,749 youth did not recidivate.

The table below shows the trends in recidivism for youth released from the department over the past nine years.

### **DYS Recidivism Rates by Year of Release**

<b>CY</b>	<b>1-year</b>	<b>2-year</b>	<b>3-year</b>
2004	29.5%	44.6%	52.7%
2005	30.0%	43.9%	52.1%
2006	30.4%	43.6%	50.9%
2007	26.7%	40.8%	49.1%
2008	27.5%	40.5%	48.0%
2009	24.2%	39.2%	46.4%
2010	22.7%	37.2%	45.0%
2011	22.8%	38.0%	
2012	26.0%		

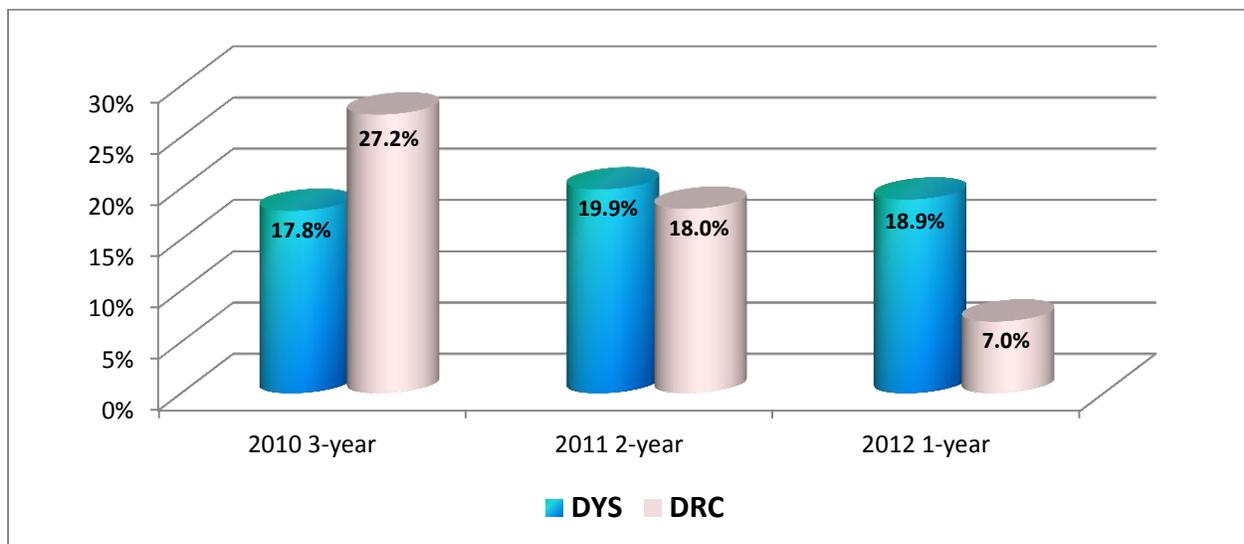


### Returns to DYS versus DRC Admissions

Recidivists under the definition used here either return to the Department of Youth Services (DYS) or are incarcerated in the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (DRC), the adult correctional system in Ohio. During the first year after release, it is much more likely that a youth returns to DYS than get admitted to DRC. The rate of return to DYS levels out, and by the third year, few youth return to DYS and more are admitted to DRC. The age of the youth is likely one of the reasons for this.

Below is a comparison of the rates back to DYS and DRC with the latest percentages for one, two, and three years. Only during the past couple years have we have seen the DRC admission rate higher than the DYS returns during the second year after release.

*Comparison of Rates of Return to DYS and Admissions to DRC*



### Rates and Raw Numbers

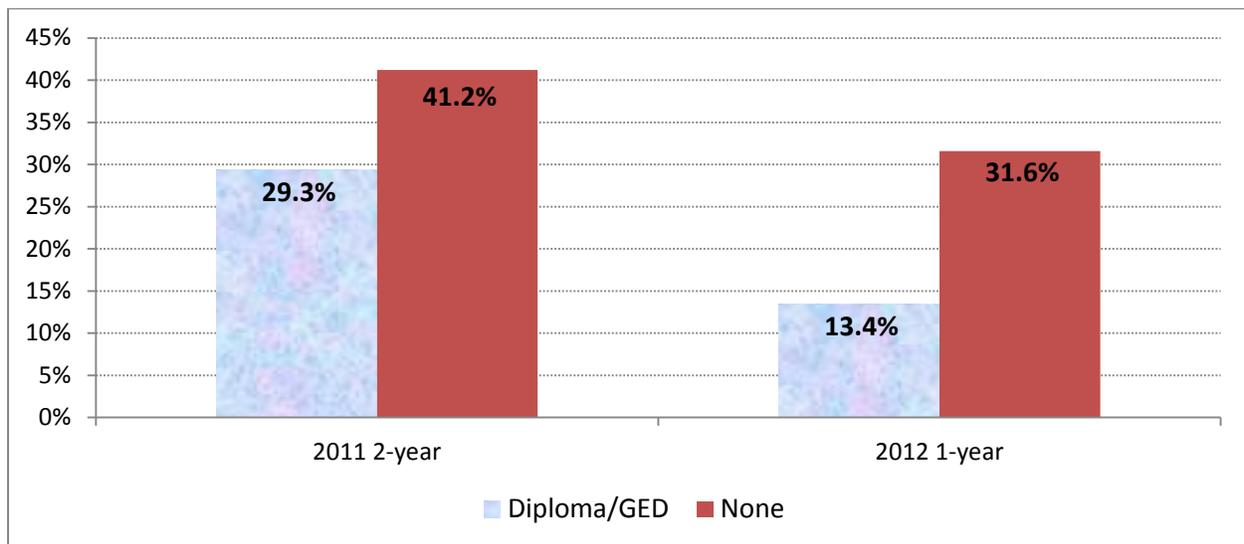
While the decline in recidivism rates over the years is noteworthy, it is also important to note that the total numbers are declining even more. A recidivism rate of 26.0% after one year for the 697 releases in 2012 means that there were 181 recidivists. Four years prior (2008 releases) there was a one-year rate of 27.5% for the 1,903 releases. This equals a total of 523 recidivists. Therefore, the total number of recidivists has gone down substantially, which is even more significant than the decrease in the recidivism rate.

### Recidivism by Education Level

Recidivism by level of education was calculated for the first time last year. Level of education was defined by whether or not the youth had earned a high school diploma or GED by the date of their release. With two years of data available, the results seem clear that education helps prevent recidivism.

There were 216 releases of youth that had earned a diploma or GED during 2012, and the one-year recidivism rate of those youth was 13.4%. This compares favorably to the 481 youth that had not attained this level of education, who had a rate of 31.6%. The difference was not quite as great for youth released during 2011 when comparing their two-year rates, but still clearly different. Those with a diploma or GED upon release had a recidivism rate of 29.3%, compared to 41.2% for those without.

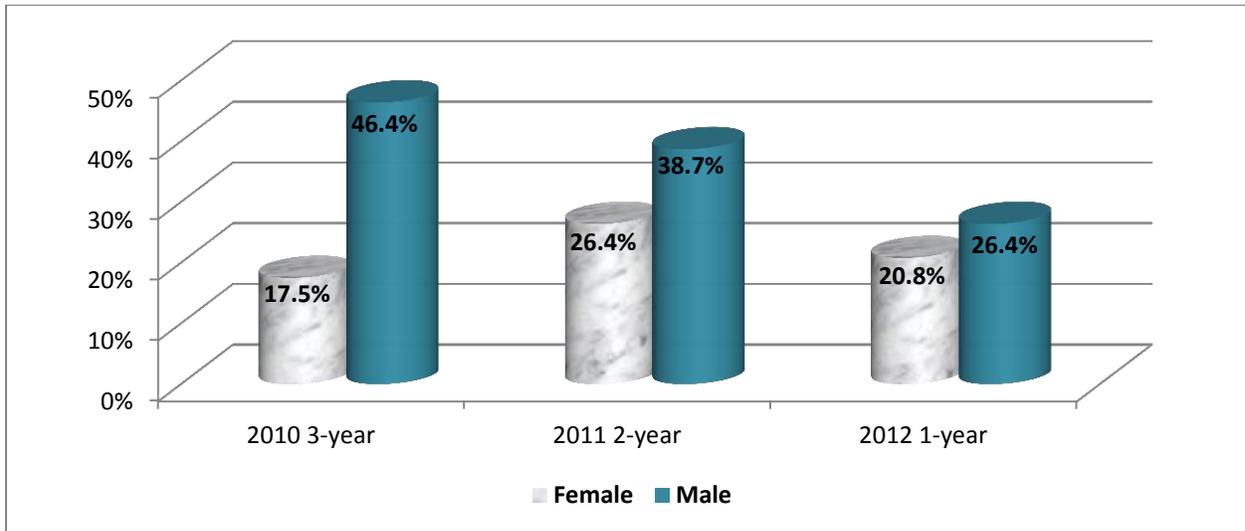
*Comparison of Recidivism Rates by Educational Attainment*



### Recidivism by Gender

Males have historically had higher rates of recidivism than females, and the gap between the two rates grows from one to three years. For the latest cohort of youth with one-year rates (2012 releases), males had a rate of 26.4% compared to 20.8% for females. The only time the female rate was higher than that of males was the one-year rate for 2011 releases (24.5% compared to 22.7%), but following that cohort out for two years has males (38.7%) passing females (26.4%). The total number of releases of females has only been in the fifties over the past several years.

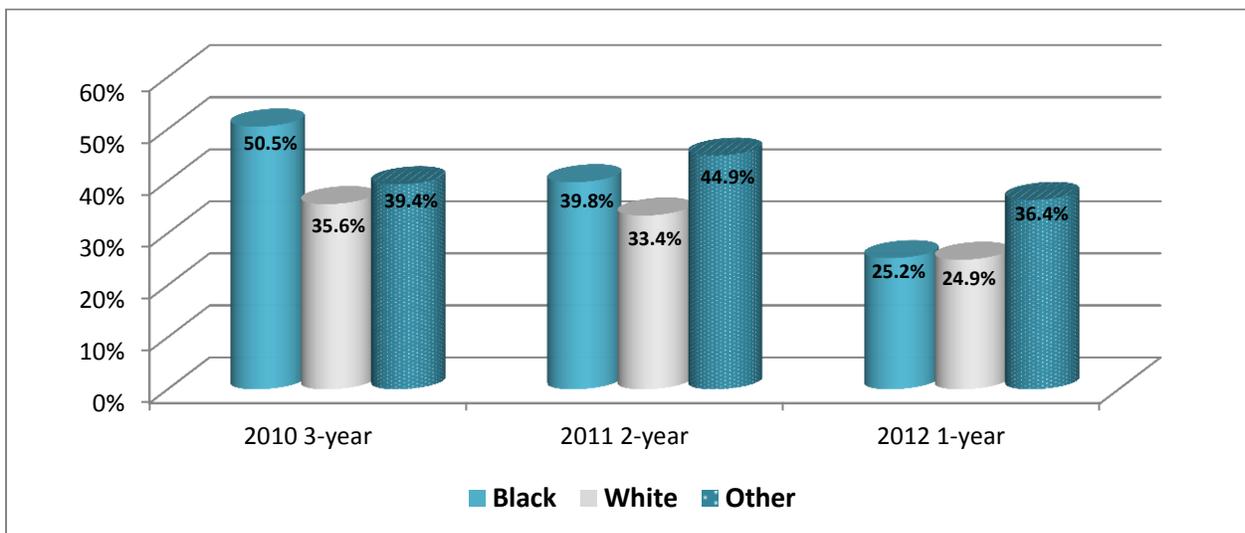
### *Comparison of Recidivism Rates by Gender*



### Recidivism by Race

The one-year recidivism rates for Black/African-American youth and White youth have been very similar the past couple years. The second and third year after release, however, the rates of the Black youth increase much faster than those of White youth. The “Other” race category (primarily biracial and Hispanic youth) tends to fluctuate more, partially because of the smaller number of youth that make up this category.

### *Comparison of Recidivism Rates by Race*



## Methodology

The recidivism rates are based on all DYS releases in a particular calendar year. An individual youth may be released more than once in a year. Recidivism is defined as readmission to DYS or an admission to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), the adult prison system. Readmission to DYS can be either by a new felony commitment or a revocation of parole. The date of admission is then compared to the release date to determine if the youth has recidivated within a one-, two-, or three-year time period. The total number of admissions is divided by the total number of releases to determine the percentage of youth that are recidivists. Youth transferred directly from a DYS facility to DRC are not counted as recidivists in the percentages presented in this report.

## Acknowledgements

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## Contact

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