

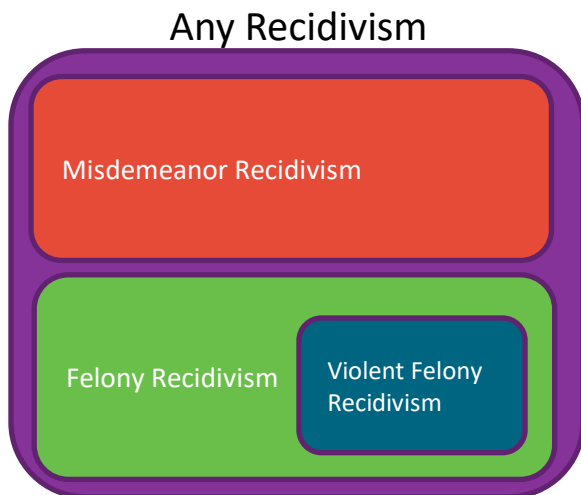
Introduction

One of the goals of the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) is to provide supports and resources to youth so that they can be successful in the community upon their release.¹ One metric to monitor success is recidivism (criminal reoffending). This report provides descriptive information about recidivism rates for youth releasing from JR, disaggregated by gender, racial group, age at release, and their parole status. In addition, analyses of the length of time to recidivism for these disaggregated groups are presented.

Methodology

DCYF researchers identified in administrative records all youth who were released from JR residential facilities in state fiscal year 2017 and 2018. They obtained data on all convictions from the Washington State Center for Court Research. Recidivism was defined as an offense that occurred within 18 months of release from a residential facility, which resulted in a conviction or adjudication. An additional 12 months were allowed for the offense to go through the court process, to determine if a conviction would occur. Recidivism types included any recidivism, misdemeanor, felony and violent felony. All clients with any type of recidivism are included in any recidivism in this report. Researchers identified most serious offenses that occurred in the 18-month follow up period to determine the type of recidivism event with the exception that all youth with a violent felony conviction were also included in the felony recidivism count. In this report, clients with only a misdemeanor offense are included in the misdemeanor recidivism, and are not counted in the felony and violent felony recidivism. Felony recidivism counts all felony recidivism, including violent felony recidivism. Youth with a felony could also have a misdemeanor, but are only included in the felony recidivism category (see Figure 1). For the time to recidivism, the offense that occurred first in time was used.

Figure 1
Relationships Between Types of Recidivism



¹ See page 1 of **The Department of Children, Youth, and Families Strategic Priorities 2021-2026** for more information on the agency's Strategic Plan.

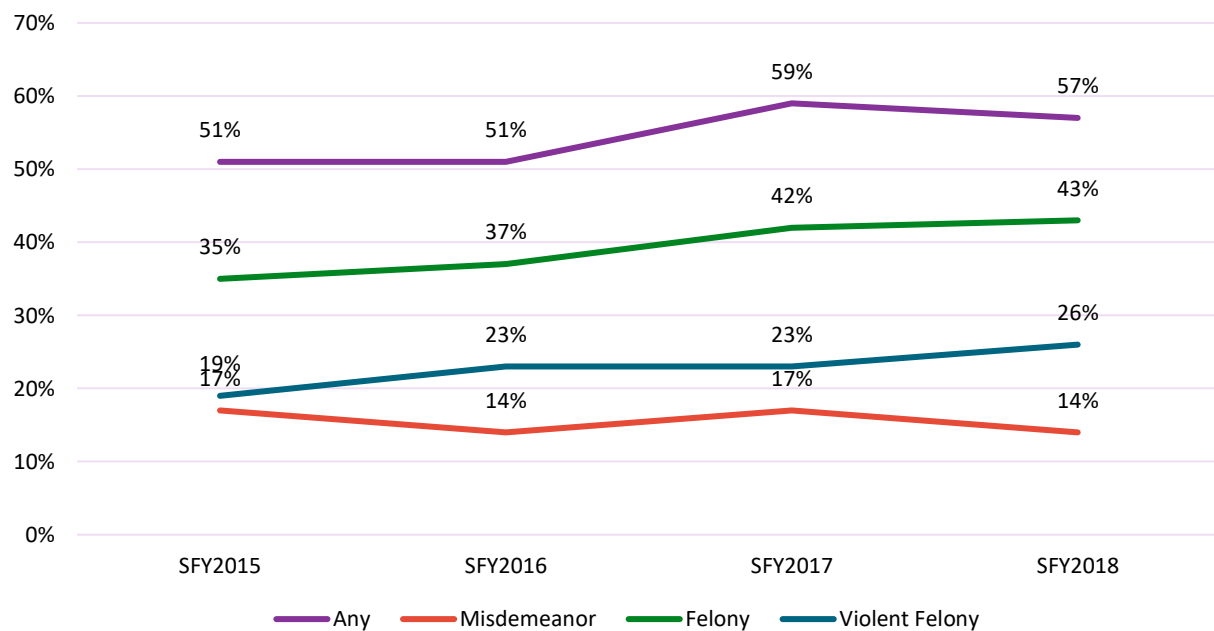
Annual Recidivism Analysis for Youth Leaving Juvenile Rehabilitation (SFY17-18)

Findings

Figure 2 is a line graph that shows the changes in recidivism rates by recidivism type—any recidivism, misdemeanor recidivism, felony, and violent felony recidivism. With the exception of misdemeanor recidivism, all other recidivism types increased between SFY15-18.² Misdemeanor recidivism decreased by 3 percentage points over the four state fiscal years of releases, but felony recidivism increased by 8 percentage points, which resulted in a 6 percentage point increase to overall recidivism, or any recidivism.

Figure 2

Changes in Recidivism over time, by Recidivism Type for Clients Released During SFY15-18



Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2021). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2018]. Conviction data provided by Washington State Center for Court Research (September 2021). [2008-2021]

² Goins, A. M. (2020). Annual Recidivism Analysis for Youth Leaving Juvenile Rehabilitation (SFY15-16). *Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability*. Olympia, WA. <https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/JR-RecidivismFY15-16.pdf>

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Table 1 shows the overall rates of recidivism by gender, racial category, age at release and whether or not the youth received parole aftercare if released from JR during state fiscal year (SFY) 2017. The overall recidivism rate was 59%. Of clients who were released in SFY2017, there were several statistically significant differences by subgroup. The most notable finding, is that males, youth of color, those who released prior to age 18, and those who received parole aftercare were significantly more likely to be convicted of a felony or violent felony.

Table 1
Demographics and Recidivism for Clients Released in SFY2017

	Any Recidivism	Misdemeanor Recidivism	Felony Recidivism	Violent Felony Recidivism	Total Releases
	%	%	%	%	N
Total	59%	17%	42%	23%	589
Gender³					
Male	61%*	17%	44%*	25%*	528
Female	48%*	20%	28%*	5%*	61
Racial Group⁴					
Youth of Color	63%*	17%	46%*	30%*	342
White	54%*	18%	36%*	13%*	238
Age at Release					
Under 18	64%*	18%	46%*	26%*	392
Over 18	50%*	16%	34%*	17%*	197
Parole Status					
Parole	67%*	19%	48%*	28%*	301
No Parole	51%*	16%	36%*	18%*	288

*Indicates a statistically significant relationship between the demographic information and the type of recidivism at the p<.05 level.

Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2021). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2018]
Conviction data provided by Washington State Center for Court Research (September 2021).[2008-2021]
WSRDAC/M Reporting Standards: No

³ Gender does not include clients whose gender was unknown.

⁴ Racial group does not include clients whose race or ethnicity was unknown.

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Table 2 shows the rates of recidivism overall and by gender, race, age at release, and whether or not they received parole aftercare for clients who were released from a JR residential facility during state fiscal year SFY2018. The overall recidivism rate was 57%. This means that almost three of every five clients who were released during SFY2018 committed a new offense within 18 months after release, and were adjudicated and convicted within the following 12 months. Although the overall recidivism rate decreased for SFY2018, the rates of both felony and violent felony recidivism increased. More than two out of every five clients that released during SFY 2018 were convicted of a new felony after release. Of clients who were released in SFY2018, there were nine statistically significant differences by subgroup. Males were significantly more likely than females to be convicted of a felony or violent felony, but females were more likely to be convicted of a misdemeanor. Youth of color were more likely than White youth to be convicted of a crime overall but also more likely to be convicted of a felony or a violent felony in SFY2018. The recidivism rate for youth released under age 18 was about 10% higher than youth who were older than 18, but this finding was only significant for felony recidivism events. Youth who received parole services were more likely to be convicted of a felony or violent felony.



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Table 2

Demographics and Recidivism for Clients Released in SFY2018

	Any Recidivism	Misdemeanor Recidivism	Felony Recidivism	Violent Felony Recidivism	Total Releases
	%	%	%	%	N
Total	57%	14%	43%	26%	534
Gender ⁵					
Male	57%	13%*	44%*	28%*	488
Female	57%	26%*	30%*	11%*	46
Racial Group ⁶					
Youth of Color	61%	13%	48%*	33%*	319
White	53%	17%	36%*	16%*	199
Age at Release					
Under 18	61%*	15%	46%	28%	336
Over 18	51%*	12%	38%	24%	188
Parole Status					
Parole	62%*	13%	49%*	32%*	288
No Parole	51%*	15%	37%*	20%*	246

* Indicates a statistically significant relationship between the demographic information and the type of recidivism at the p<.05 level.

Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2021). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2018]

Conviction data provided by Washington State Center for Court Research (September 2021).[2008-2021]

WSRDAC/M Reporting Standards: No

Time to Recidivism

To better understand the recidivism trends, we also examined how long youth were in the community before committing a new offense. This is called event history analysis. Figures 3 through 7 show the rate at which youth committed a new offense. The line in these figures represents the percent of youth, at each time point, who did not commit a new offense. Specific event history curves are provided for gender, age at release, racial category and parole status.

⁵ Gender does not include clients whose gender was unknown.

⁶ Racial group does not include clients whose race or ethnicity was unknown.

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Figure 3 is a line graph which shows the percentage of clients released during SFY2017 or SFY2018 who did not recidivate (vertical axis) by the number of days after release (horizontal axis). This graph shows that 25% of youth committed a new offense within 104 days post-release (about 3.4 months). For clients who released during SFY2015-16, 25% of youth had committed a new offense within 132 days.⁷ The difference between the two years is 28 days, indicating that clients are committing new offenses more quickly after release. At the end of 18 months, 59% of clients had committed a new offense that they were later adjudicated for. There were no significant differences in the number of days between release and a new offense between the two state fiscal years.

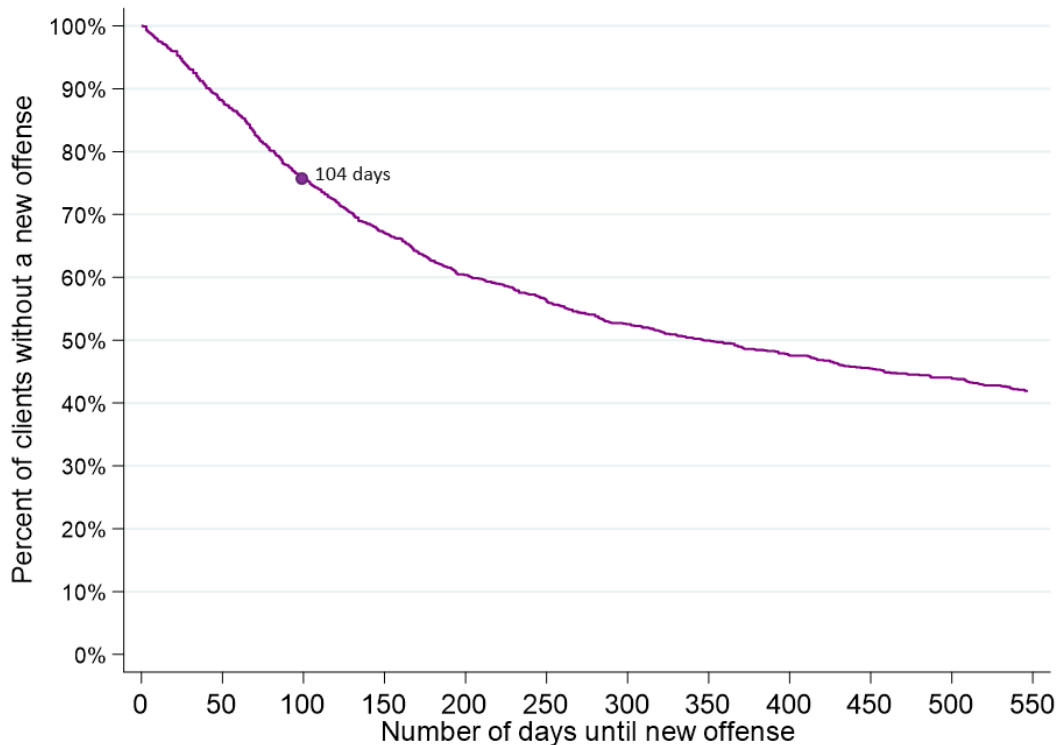
⁷ Goins, A. M. (2020). Annual Recidivism Analysis for Youth Leaving Juvenile Rehabilitation (SFY15-16). *Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability*. Olympia, WA. <https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/JR-RecidivismFY15-16.pdf>



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Figure 3

Clients Released During SFY17-18 Time to Recidivism



Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2021). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2018]
Conviction data provided by Washington State Center for Court Research (September 2021). [2008-2021]

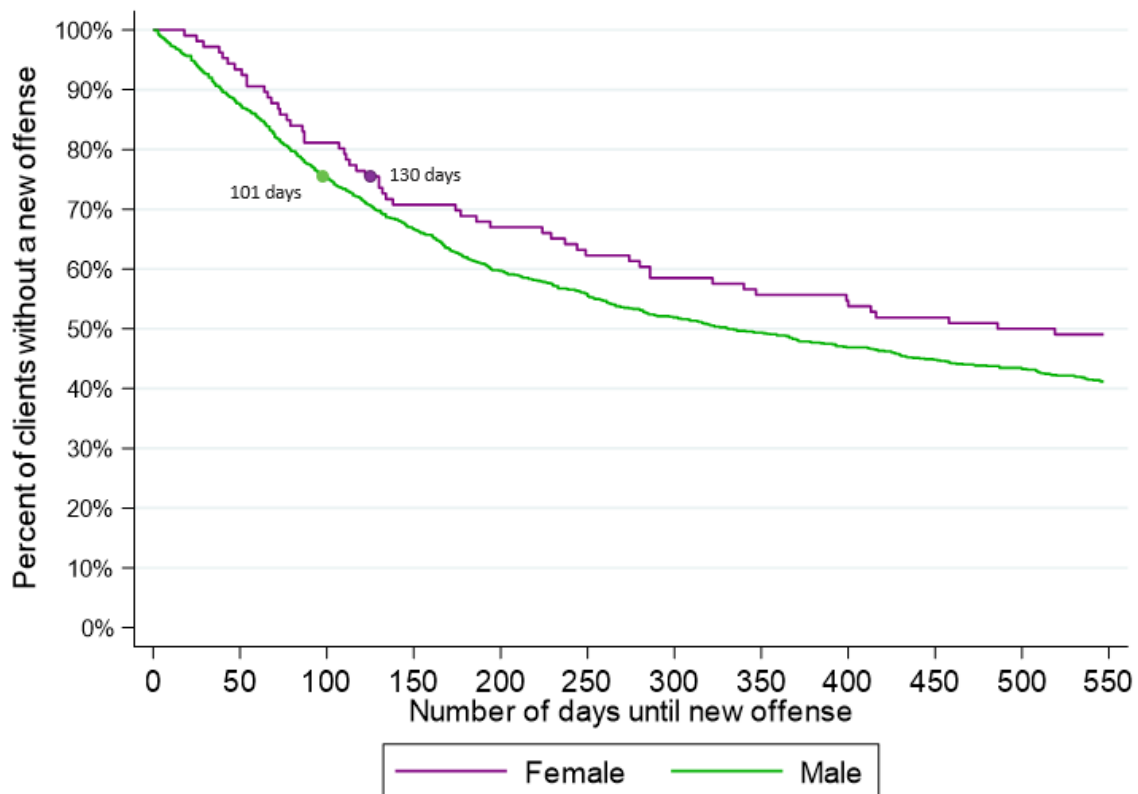
Figure 4 is a line graph showing the differences in client's time to any recidivism by gender. This graph combines the data from both fiscal years. After 130 days post-release, 25% of female clients had received a new conviction, whereas 25% of male clients committed a new offense after 101 days post-release. There were no significant differences in the number of days between release and a new offense for males or females. Although males were significantly more likely to commit a new offense post-release, males and females who did commit a new offense did so on similar time patterns. This is shown in the similarity between the two lines in the graph below. This is a departure from data for clients releasing during SFY2015-16, where male clients committed new offenses more quickly than female clients did after their release.

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This report indicates that the difference in the amount of time it takes for male and female clients to commit new offenses is getting smaller.

Figure 4

Clients Released During SFY17-18 Time to Recidivism by Gender⁸



Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2021). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2018]
Conviction data provided by Washington State Center for Court Research (September 2021). [2008-2021]

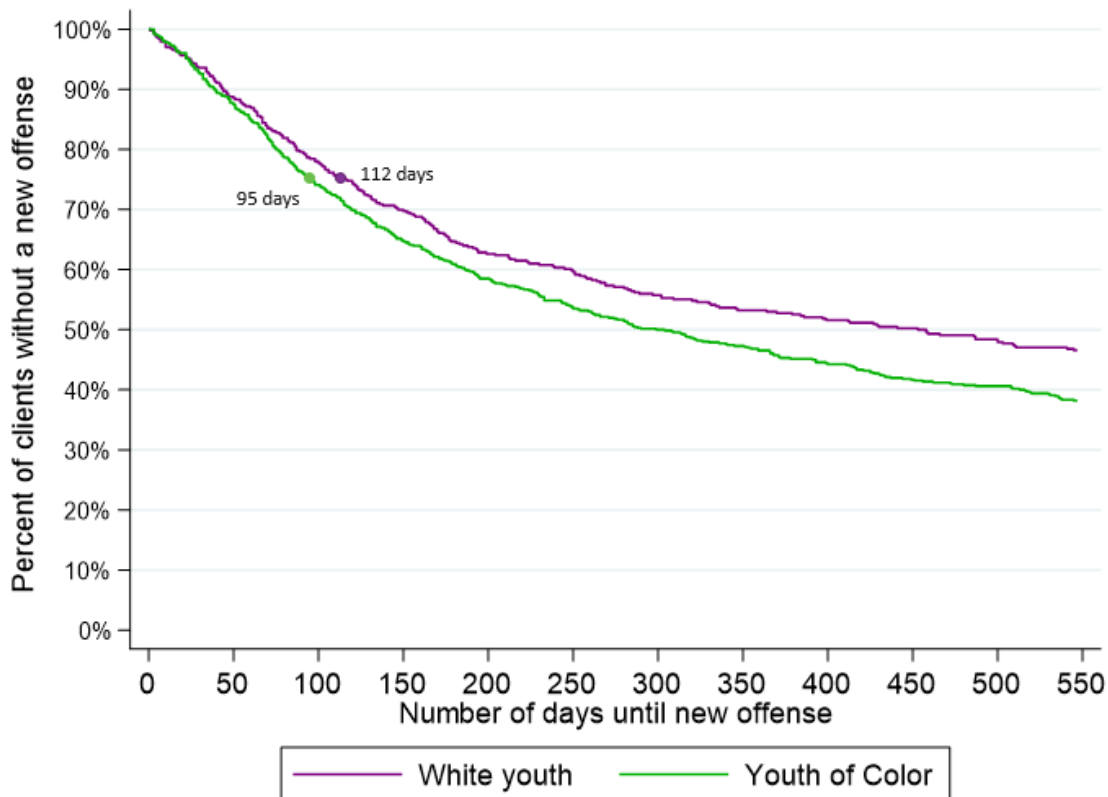
⁸ Gender does not include clients whose gender was unknown.

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Figure 5 is a line graph that shows the differences in client's time to any recidivism by racial group. This graph combines the data from both fiscal years. After 95 days post-release, 25% of youth of color committed a new offense. Twenty-five percent of white clients had committed a new offense after 112 days post-release. There was a statistically significant relationship between the time to recidivism and racial group, indicating that youth of color committed a new offense in fewer days post-release than White youth.

Figure 5

Client's Released During SFY17-18 Time to Recidivism by Racial Group⁹



Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2021). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2018]
Conviction data provided by Washington State Center for Court Research (September 2021). [2008-2021]

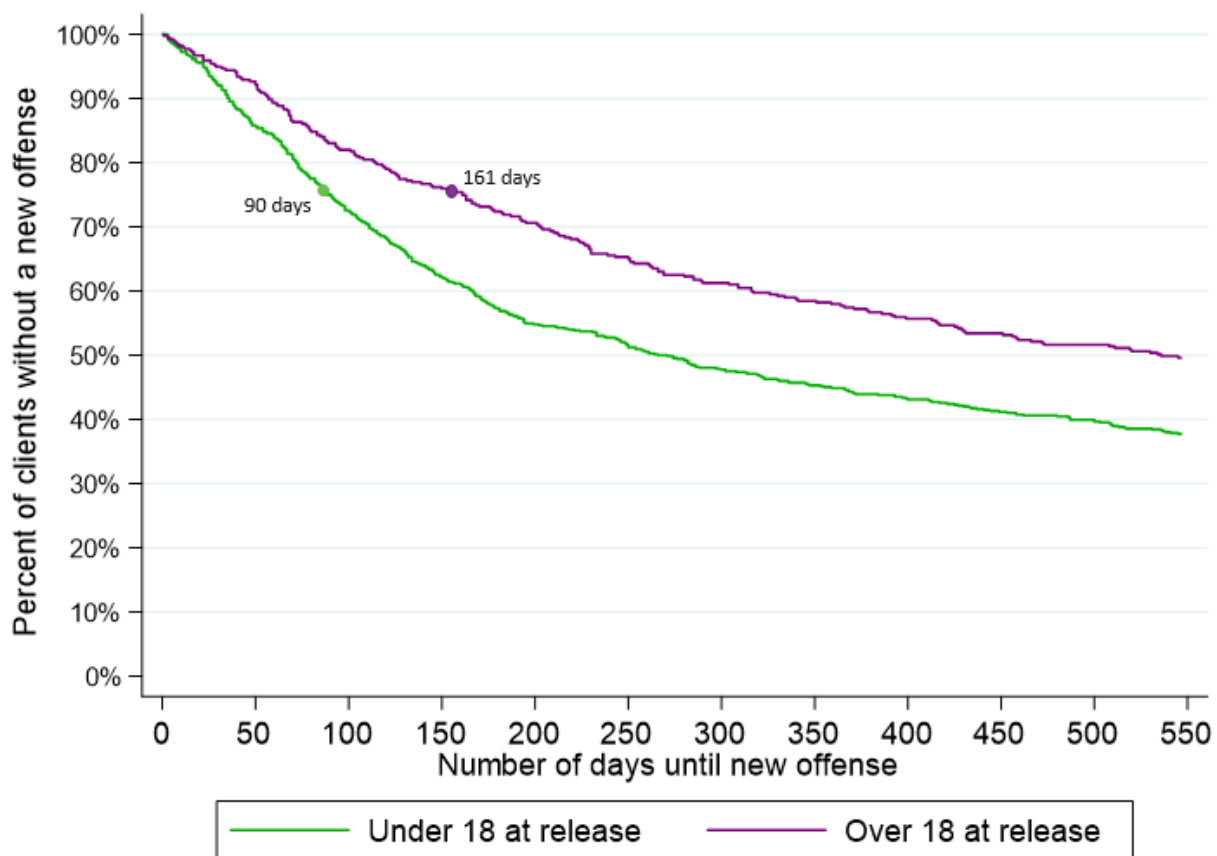
⁹ Racial group does not include clients whose race or ethnicity was unknown.

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Figure 6 is a line graph that shows the differences in client's time to any recidivism by age group. These clients are represented as either over age 18 at the time of release or under age 18 at the time of release. After 90 days post-release, 25% of clients under age 18 committed a new offense. On average, clients over age 18 at the time of their release took longer to recidivate—25% of clients that released over age 18 had a new conviction by 161 days. There was a statistically significant relationship between the age group at release; clients under age 18 at the time of release had fewer days between release and a new offense.

Figure 6

Clients Released During SFY17-18 Time to Recidivism by Age at Release



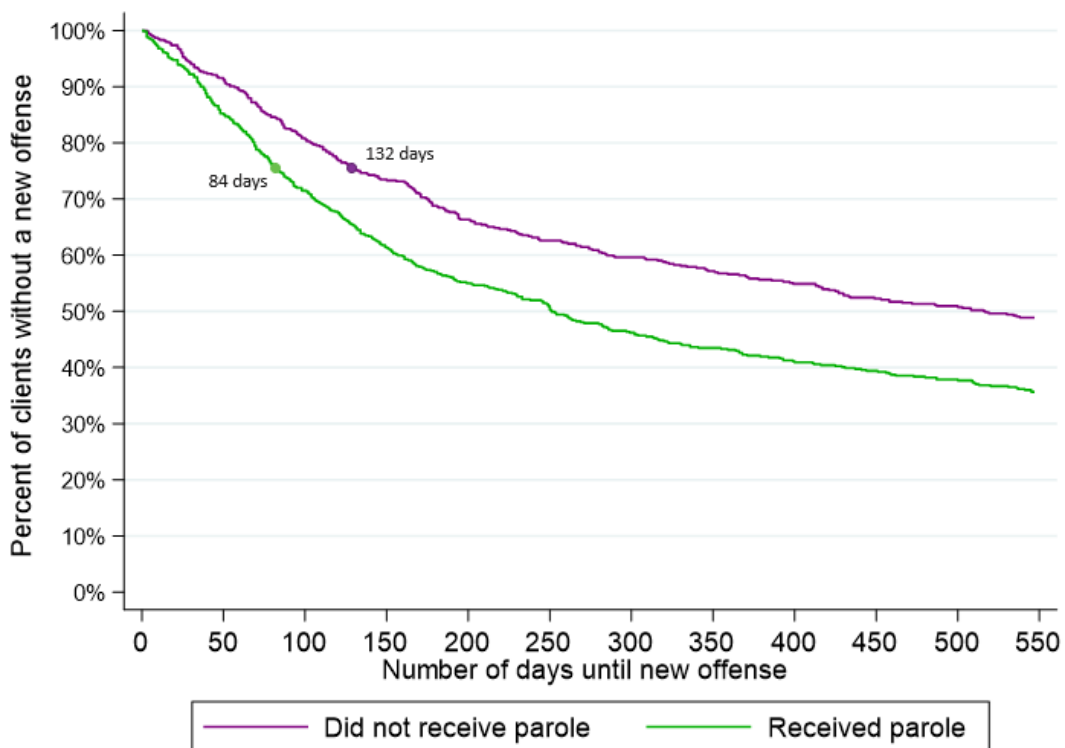
Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2021). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2018]
Conviction data provided by Washington State Center for Court Research (September 2021). [2008-2021]

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Figure 7 is a line graph showing the difference in clients' time to recidivism by whether or not they received parole aftercare. After 132 days post-release, 25% of clients without parole aftercare committed a new offense. Twenty-five percent of clients who received parole aftercare committed a new offense within 84 days of release. There was a statistically significant difference between the numbers of days from release to committing a new offense based on whether or not a client received parole aftercare. Clients who received parole aftercare had significantly fewer days between release and a new offense than clients who did not receive parole aftercare.

Figure 7

Clients Released During SFY17-18 Time to Recidivism by Parole Status



Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2021). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2018]
Conviction data provided by Washington State Center for Court Research (September 2021). [2008-2021]

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Contact oiaa@dcyf.wa.gov with questions.



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