

Defining & Examining Recidivism

(Community-based Aid funded programs)

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2. Definitions of Recidivism
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The Juvenile Justice Institute is charged with evaluating whether Community-based Aid programs are “effective.”

In the statute, recidivism was defined as a key way to measure effectiveness; specifically “whether a youth has moved deeper into the juvenile justice system.”

- **To ensure that the data set permits evaluation of recidivism and other measures, the commission shall work with the Office of Probation Administration, juvenile diversion programs, law enforcement, the courts, and others to compile data that demonstrates whether a youth has moved deeper into the juvenile justice system.**
- **The University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute, shall assist with the development of common definitions, variables, and training required for data collection and reporting into the common data set by juvenile justice programs. The common data set maintained by the commission shall be provided to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute, to assess the effectiveness of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.**

Juveniles:

(1) As applied to juveniles, recidivism shall mean that within 1 year of being successfully released from a probation or problem-solving court program the juvenile has:

(a) an adjudication pursuant to [Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-247\(1\) or \(2\)](#).

(b) for a juvenile 14 years or older, a final conviction for a Class W misdemeanor based on a violation of state traffic laws or ordinances of any city or village enacted in conformance with state law; or

(c) a prosecution and final conviction as an adult for any crimes set forth in subsection [\(A\)](#) above.

(2) For juveniles that age out of the juvenile system within 1 year of program exit and who did not recidivate post-program as juveniles, the adult definition of post-program recidivism, including any drug-related or alcohol-related conviction, shall apply.

§ 1-1001 adopted September 25, 2013.

Recidivism is mentioned no less than seventeen times in Nebraska statute as an outcome.

- is this being done?
- what is the process?

Recidivism in Diversion Programs

Neb. Rev. State § 43-260.03.

Juvenile pretrial diversion program; goals.

The goals of a juvenile pretrial diversion program are:

- (1) To provide eligible juvenile offenders with an alternative program in lieu of adjudication through the juvenile court;
- (2) To reduce recidivism among diverted juvenile offenders;
- (3) To reduce the costs and caseload burdens on the juvenile justice system and the criminal justice system; and
- (4) To promote the collection of restitution to the victim of the juvenile offender's crime.

The Process of Studying Recidivism

Juvenile Diversion Example

- Diversion programs have reported on recidivism (as a long term outcome) for years; however, they were not using a consistent measure across the state.
- For instance:
 - 90% of youth did not reoffend within 6 months of program enrollment.
 - 90% of youth did not reoffend within 9 months of program completion.

- Are programs influencing long term behavior change?

How do we know?

One measure is subsequent law violations.

JJI calculated recidivism using data from Nebraska's JUSTICE system (i.e., cases filed on in JUSTICE)

- Reducing JUSTICE charges to cases (e.g., 5 charges within a single case)
- Then reduce cases to individual youth
- Then match youth to youth who went through a CBA Program
- Then examine whether the new offense happened after completing a CBA program (i.e., if before, might have been what brought the youth to the program)

Table 15: Recidivism Rates by Year for All Youth Enrolled in Diversion

	Total Enrolled	Total Recidivated	Percent
FY2012-2013	2,628	917	34.9%
FY2013-2014	2,594	601	23.2%
FY2014-2015	2,957	286	9.7%
Total	8,179	1,804	22.1%

Recidivism Related to Program Completion

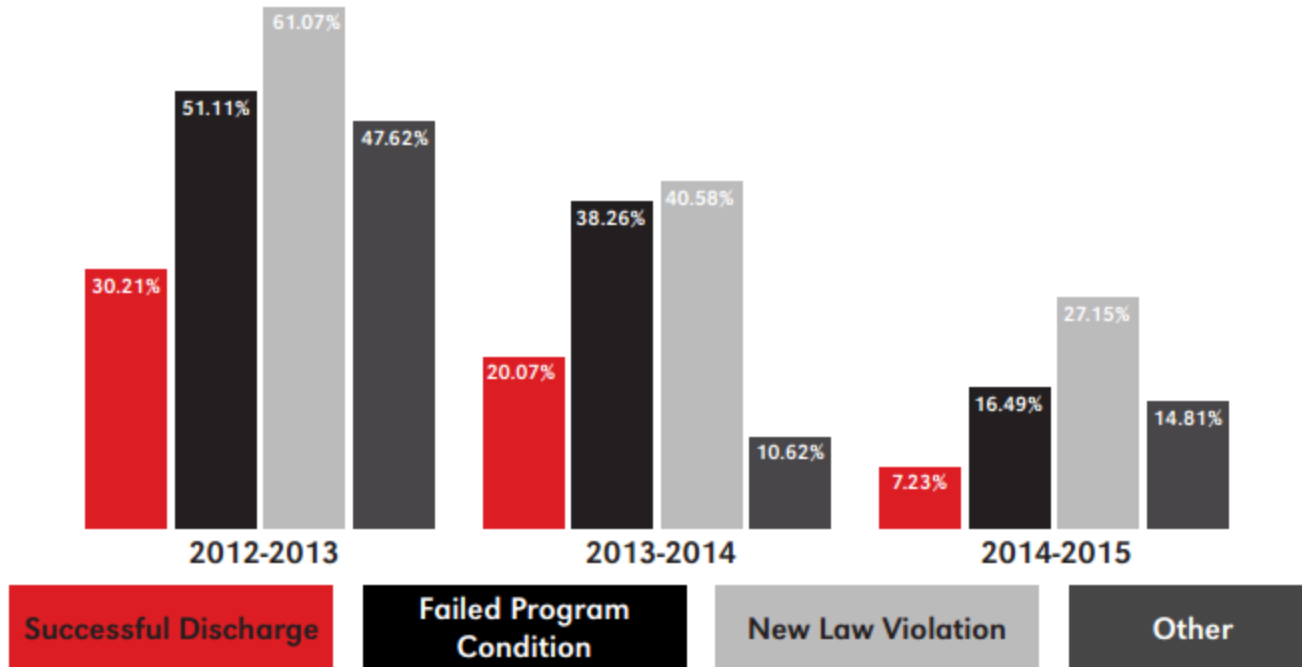


Table 18: Recidivism Rate (R.R.) by Discharge Reason and County for 2012-2013

	Successfully Discharged		Failed Program Conditions		New Law Violation		Other	
	<i>N</i>	R.R.	<i>N</i>	R.R.	<i>N</i>	R.R.	<i>N</i>	R.R.
Adams County	27	40.7%	5	60.0%	2	50.0%	0	0.0%
Antelope County	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
Boone County	2	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Box Butte County	4	25.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Buffalo County	78	32.1%	9	33.3%	3	100.0%	0	0.0%
Butler County	9	22.2%	2	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Chase County	3	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Cheyenne County	7	42.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Clay County	2	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Colfax County	32	21.9%	3	66.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Cuming County	14	35.7%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
Dakota County	19	15.8%	2	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Deuel County	8	12.5%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Dodge County	25	28.0%	1	100.0%	3	33.3%	0	0.0%
Douglas County	544	31.6%	133	56.4%	10	50.0%	0	0.0%
Dundy County	3	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Fillmore County	3	33.3%	2	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Furnas County	5	60.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Gage County	11	27.3%	2	0.0%	9	33.3%	0	0.0%
Hall County	137	37.2%	27	51.9%	26	69.2%	0	0.0%
Hitchcock County	6	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Jefferson County	2	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
Keith County	13	23.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Kimball County	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
Lancaster County	394	36.0%	76	50.0%	46	63.0%	31	64.5%
Lincoln County	49	28.6%	4	0.0%	7	42.9%	1	0.0%
Madison County	59	30.5%	8	62.5%	5	40.0%	4	0.0%
Merrick County	17	17.6%	2	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Otoe County	58	25.9%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%

Beyond a simple count

- Number of times a youth recidivates
- Seriousness of new offense
- Same as the first offense
- Time to new offense

1. New law violations while the youth is enrolled
2. Case filed* in JUSTICE
3. Youth Adjudicated to Probation
4. Youth Placed in Detention
 - Number of times in detention
 - Offenses in detention
5. Youth Committed to YRTC
 - Number of commitments
 - Offenses related to commitment
6. Youth filed in Adult system
7. Adult County Jail
8. State Penitentiary



Current Analysis:

All CBA Programs Currently
Entering Data into JCMS

- Evaluating 20 types of programs
(this analysis does not include mental health, incentive program, cross over, or mediation)
- **JCMS:** 10,814 youth referred to a program from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016*
- **JUSTICE:** 94,138 charges in JUSTICE from July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016

In JUSTICE

- 337,360 total charges
 - Removed cases dismissed or dropped (79,043)
 - Reduce to 94,138 for time frame of interest (July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016)
- Reduce charges to 27,077 cases
- Reduce to 17,539 youth electronically (using exact match first name, last name, dob)

- However, cannot stop there
- Electronic matching files will not capture names misspelled or incorrect DOB –
- 552 errors in 17,539 individual records.
Consequently, electronic matching could under-estimate recidivism in as many as 3% of youth.

- Once found exact matches, then use probabilistic software to find “likely” matches based on first name, last name, dob
- Example:
 - Lindse^ey Wylie AND Lindsa^ay Wylie
 - 2/4/02 AND 2/3/02

- Access to sealed records
 - AOC estimates that 25-30% of juvenile records are sealed
- Which offenses “count”
 - “cat at large” ?
 - “park after hours” ?
- How long after participating do we wish to examine recidivism?
 - 1 to 3 years?
 - longer?

Next Steps

- Moving beyond records in JUSTICE, and examining youth on probation, detention, YRTCs, adult system
- Additional research to help inform why programs vary on outcomes.

- Scores (YLS)
 - Risk level of the youth
- Youth Characteristics
 - SES, gender, geography
- Program level variables
 - Staff training, turn over, skill level
 - Please provide your feedback
- Activities & Objectives
 - What is the underlying program model (surveillance vs. therapeutic)

- Recidivism at the individual level allows us to build models that predict recidivism.
- This in turn allows us to help programs examine whether they can find more effective models
- Eventually we want to overlay
 - Individual, program and community level variables

Questions?