

# **Criminal Recidivism in Alaska, 2008 and 2009**

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## **Acknowledgments**

In 2009, the Alaska Criminal Justice Working Group asked the Alaska Judicial Council and the Institute of Social and Economic Research to establish the basis for an ongoing series of recidivism studies that would enable the state to assess the general status of the criminal justice system over time and the effectiveness of methods to prevent crime and reduce recidivism. The request followed the publication of *Criminal Recidivism in Alaska: 2007* by the Council, and the *Cost of Crime* by ISER in 2009. This report on the recidivism of offenders returning to the community in 2008 and 2009 provides the foundation for future work.

We would like to thank the Alaska Department of Corrections, especially Commissioner Joe Schmidt for his consistent support and cooperation. The Alaska Department of Public Safety, under the guidance of Commissioner Joe Masters, worked to develop improvements that will allow the study to be replicated for future years. The Alaska Mental Health Trust and its director Jeff Jessee were particularly supportive. The Departments of Corrections and Public Safety provided the data for this report. The Department of Corrections, the Mental Health Trust, and the Judicial Council funded the report.

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## Executive Summary

In 2008 and 2009, 22,813 offenders returned to communities in Alaska after their convictions. This report looks at how many of them recidivated -- were rearrested for new offenses, remanded to custody or reconvicted of another crime. Alaska's Criminal Justice Working Group asked the Judicial Council and the Institute of Social and Economic Research to provide recidivism rates as a baseline for assessing trends in the criminal justice system, and as a benchmark against which the effectiveness of new programs to protect the public can be measured. For the first time, recidivism rates for both felons and those originally charged with misdemeanors are provided.

Major findings included:

The more serious the underlying offense, the lower the recidivism rate. Misdemeanants had significantly higher recidivism rates than did felons, and Class C felons had higher rates than other felons.

The highest recidivism rates occurred during the first year after return to the community, with 35% of the misdemeanants and 27% of the felons rearrested within that time. Recidivism rates continued to rise. After two years, 48% of the misdemeanants and 39% of the felons had been rearrested.

Recidivism rates were highest among youthful offenders, males, those with lengthy or more serious prior criminal histories, and Alaska Native and Black offenders.

- Anchorage and Southeast had the highest rates of rearrests and reconvictions. The MatSu area generally had the lowest.
- Offenders who had been convicted of violent and property crimes were the most likely to be reconvicted of a new offense of the same type. Those convicted of drunk driving, drug, and sexual offenses had much lower recidivism rates than other types of offenders.
- The state's efforts to reduce recidivism could be most effective if targeted at less serious offenders, violent and property offenders, youthful and minority offenders, and the Anchorage and Southeast areas of the state.



## Part 1 Introduction

### A. Purpose of report

This study examines the recidivism of all felons and all major (Class A) misdemeanor offenders who returned to the community in 2008 and 2009. It will be used as a baseline to identify trends in criminal recidivism. The study will also be used as a comparison for the outcomes of programs intended to reduce recidivism.

### B. Comparison to 2007 report

In 2007, the Alaska Judicial Council released *Criminal Recidivism in Alaska*,<sup>1</sup> the first general study of recidivism in Alaska. The Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at UAA provided the statistical analysis that showed what factors were most closely associated with the increased or decreased likelihood of recidivism. In 2007, the Council analyzed the recidivism of nearly 2,000 offenders, all of whom were charged with at least one felony in 1999 and convicted of some offense. The report examined offenders who had been out of custody for at least three years.

The present report builds on the 2007 report, providing additional information about recidivism that can be used in conjunction with the Council's prior report. Important differences include:

- The past report showed offenders based on the year that they were charged (1999). The present report includes offenders based on the years in which they returned to the community (2008 and 2009). Examining offenders based on the year they returned to the community is more consistent with national standards for evaluating recidivism.

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<sup>1</sup> *Criminal Recidivism in Alaska*, Alaska Judicial Council, January 2007, available on line at <http://www.ajc.state.ak.us/reports/1-07CriminalRecidivism.pdf>. In the 2007 report the analysis showed that within three years, 66% of all of the offenders had been remanded to custody at least once for new offenses or violations of probation or parole conditions. Property offenders were the most likely to recidivate; sex offenders were least likely. Younger offenders were more likely to return to the criminal justice system, as were indigent offenders, those with prior criminal records, and those with alcohol, drug or mental health problems.

- This report includes many more offenders. The 22,813 offenders in this report were convicted of a felony or Class A misdemeanor. The 2007 report used a representative two-thirds sample (fewer than 2,000) of all offenders charged with a felony and convicted of any offense.
- This is the first Alaskan study that describes the recidivism of offenders charged with and convicted of misdemeanors. This allows the state, for the first time, to assess the different patterns of recidivism between those convicted of felonies and those charged and convicted of misdemeanors.
- The 2007 study followed offenders for three years after they returned to the community. The present study follows offenders for only one or two years after they returned to the community, depending on the available data.
- Because the present report relied entirely on electronic data records, no information about indigency, substance abuse issues, or mental health status was available. In 2007, the Council used paper files to retrieve these data and was able to assess the significant effects that these factors had on recidivism. Because these data were not available electronically for the present report, and because these factors have been shown to have significant effects on recidivism, the Council could not reliably engage in multivariate analysis to assess the effects of other factors that were included in the present report.

### **C. Discussion of data**

There were no statistically significant differences between offenders returned to the community in 2008 and those returned in 2009. The body of this report refers to offenders returned in 2008. Some differences between 2008 and 2009 are reported in footnotes when not discussed in the body of the report. Appendix B contains tables of all of the data used in this report. While some of the rates of recidivism were different from year to year in these analyses, the information was not sufficient to see whether trends were occurring. At least one more year's worth of data (2010) would be needed to see trends for the 2008 group of offenders, and two more years' worth (2010 and 2011) would be needed for the 2009 group of offenders.

### **D. Organization of this report**

Part 2 of the report describes the measures of recidivism and the sources of data. Part 3 provides descriptive data about the offenders. Part 4 summarizes recidivism rates and shows how



soon after return to the community the recidivism occurred. Part 5 analyzes recidivism rates based on the location of the underlying offense. Part 6 associates recidivism with the type of offenders' underlying offenses. Part 7 examines relationships between recidivism and offenders' age, ethnicity, gender, and prior criminal history. Part 8 looks at recidivism by the type and seriousness of offenders' new convictions. Part 9 compares the recidivism of felons and misdemeanants. Part 10 of the report summarizes the findings and includes a discussion of policy implications. Appendix A discusses the methodology used in this report.



## Part 2

### Measures of Recidivism, and Data Sources

#### A. Measures of recidivism

The Council looked at three measures of recidivism for the 2008 and 2009 offenders:

- Rearrests;<sup>2</sup>
- Reconvictions;<sup>3</sup> and
- Remands to incarceration,<sup>4</sup> including remands for new arrests, and for probation and parole violations.

The Council chose to use three measures of recidivism because each measure provided different information. New convictions represented only criminal behavior that was proven in court, whether by a plea from the offender or by a trial. Rearrests and remands to custody showed points at which offenders had new contacts with the justice system, resulting in costs to both the offender and the system. These measures overlapped substantially.

#### B. Data sources

The data sources for the measures of recidivism were standard sources, similar to databases used by all states to report information and carry out statistical analyses.<sup>5</sup> As with other jurisdictions, reports such as this one relied on electronic criminal justice record repositories that probably understated the actual level of rearrests and reconvictions.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Data from Department of Public Safety APSIN system.

<sup>3</sup> Data from Department of Public Safety APSIN system.

<sup>4</sup> Data from the Department of Corrections OTIS and ACOMS systems.

<sup>5</sup> P. Langan and David Levin, "Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994," Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), June 2002, Reference number NCJ 193427. This report served as a model for the Council's 2007 report, and the choice of the data cohort for present report was based on Langan and Levin's model. The 2002 BJS report contained data about recidivism for offenders in other states.

<sup>6</sup> The police agency making the arrest or the court disposing of the case and recording the conviction may not send the notifying document to the APSIN repository. Even if the document is sent, the Department of Public Safety may not be able to match the person in the document to the correct person in the database, or may not enter the new information.

Information was available for the 2008 offenders for rearrests and reconvictions during the first two years after return to the community, and for remands during the first year. Information was available for the 2009 offenders for rearrests and reconvictions during the first year after return to the community.

Remands occurred because of arrest, because an offender violated conditions of release on probation or parole, or because of conviction on a new offense. The data available did not permit the analysis of the reason for the remand.<sup>7</sup> Data for remands during the second year after return to the community for the 2008 felony offenders, and data for remands during the first year after return to the community for the 2009 felony offenders (i.e., data for calendar year 2010) were not available at the time of this report.

The study established a date on which the offender returned to the community for each offender. Some offenders were incarcerated following their sentencing and were released to return to the community after serving the designated portion of their sentence. Others returned directly to the community, either because their sentence was probation or because they had served all of their time prior to the judgment. Recidivism was measured using the date on which the offender first returned to the community.

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<sup>7</sup>There was insufficient information to determine whether the remands were for new offenses or for probation or parole violations.

## **Part 3**

### **Numbers and Characteristics of Offenders Who Returned to Community**

#### **A. Numbers of felons and misdemeanants**

**More than three-quarters of offenders returned to the community were convicted of a misdemeanor as the underlying single most serious offense.**

This study included:

- 11,490 offenders who returned to the community in 2008 including 2,675 felons (23%) and 8,815 misdemeanants (77%).<sup>8</sup>
- 11,323 offenders who returned to the community in 2009 including 2,730 felons (24%) and 8,593 misdemeanants (76%).

#### **B. Characteristics of offenders**

**Offenders were mostly young males with prior criminal histories, including disproportionate numbers of Alaska Natives and Blacks.**

##### **1. Felons**

###### **a. Demographics**

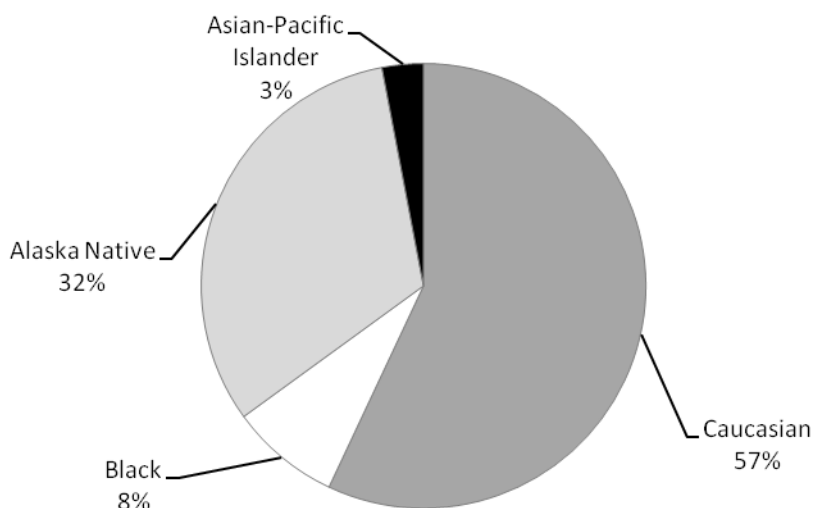
- 80% were male.
- 54% were 34 years old and younger.

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<sup>8</sup> Offenders returning to the community after conviction on a misdemeanor could have originally been charged with a misdemeanor, or they could have been charged with a felony reduced to a misdemeanor as the single most serious offense of conviction. Offenders were identified by their single most serious offense of conviction. They could have been convicted of additional offenses.

- 57% were Caucasian; 8% were Black; 32% were Alaska Native; and 3% were Asian-Pacific Islander.

Figure 1: Ethnicity of felons



**b. Level of seriousness of underlying offense**

Nearly two-third of felons had been convicted of a Class C felony as their underlying offense.

Felons who returned to the community had been convicted as follows:

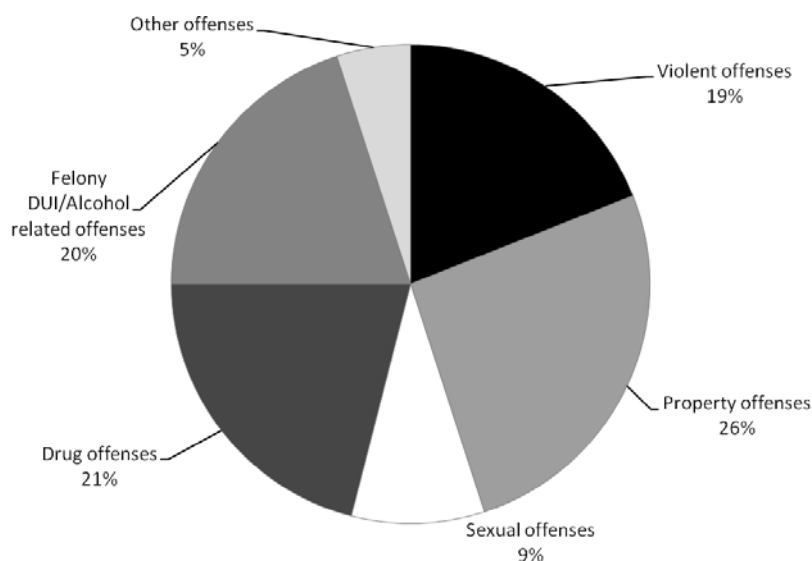
- Unclassified felony<sup>9</sup> 3%
- Class A felony 20%
- Class B felony 15%
- **Class C felony 62%**

<sup>9</sup> Unclassified felonies are the most serious, followed by Class A, B, and C in that order.

**c. Type of underlying offense**

Felons who had committed property offenses<sup>10</sup> were the largest group among returned felons (Figure 2). Slightly lower numbers of returned felons had committed felony driving and other alcohol-related offenses,<sup>11</sup> drug offenses,<sup>12</sup> and violent offenses.<sup>13</sup> Among returned felons, the smallest groups were sexual offenders<sup>14</sup> and those who had committed “other” offenses.<sup>15</sup>

Figure 2: Type of underlying offense of returning felons 2008



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<sup>10</sup> Property offenses in both the DOC and court categories included thefts, arsons, criminal mischief, fraud, and burglary.

<sup>11</sup> The great majority (87%) of the felony alcohol-related offenses were DUIs or refusals. Ten percent were felony failure to stop at the direction of an officer. The remaining few alcohol-related offenses included bootlegging offenses and felony furnishing liquor to a minor offenses.

<sup>12</sup> Felony drug offenses included Misconduct involving drugs in the first degree (Unclassified), second degree (Class A), third degree (Class B), and fourth degree (Class C). Class C offenses included most types of felony possession of drug offenses, and some attempted Class B sales or possessions for sale offenses.

<sup>13</sup> Violent offenses were categorized using the Department of Corrections categories that included homicides, kidnaping, assaults, robberies, stalking, coercion, and similar offenses. This grouping closely resembled that used by the Alaska Court System for person offenses; however the court included sexual offenses as person offenses. In this analysis, as in the DOC reports, those convicted of sexual offenses have a separate category.

<sup>14</sup> The category of felony sexual offenses included all charges of sexual assaults and all sexual abuse of a minor offenses, together with felony indecent exposure, pornography, and similar offenses.

<sup>15</sup> Other offenses included escapes, tampering with witnesses or evidence, weapons, and others.

**d. Prior criminal history**

**When they committed their underlying offense, 80% of felons had a prior criminal record. Twenty percent were first offenders, and had neither prior misdemeanors nor prior felonies. Almost all felons with prior felony records also had prior misdemeanor records.**

When felons committed their underlying offense:

- 45% had only a prior misdemeanor record, including 31% who had one to five misdemeanors and 14% who had six or more misdemeanors;
- 35% had at least one felony including 15% who had two or more felonies.

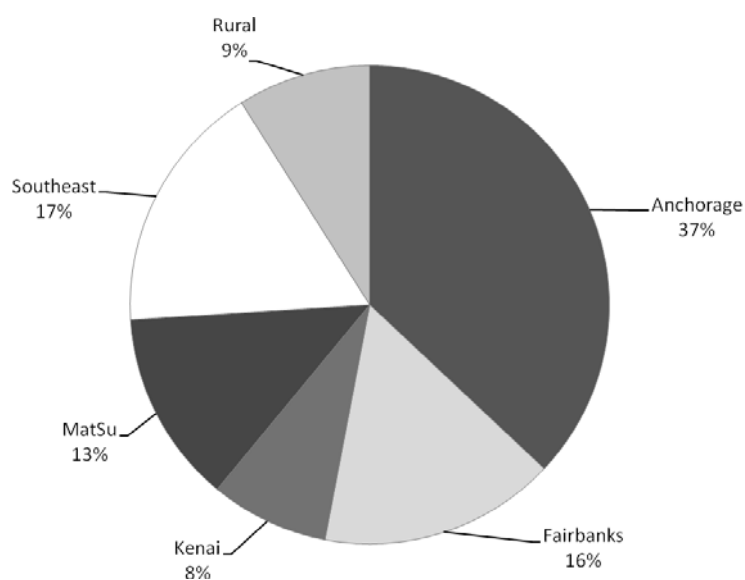


e. **Location of offense**

**Thirty-seven percent of felons returned to the community had been convicted in Anchorage (Figure 3).<sup>16</sup> More than twice as many felons were returned to the community from Anchorage than from any other location in the state.**

Locations were categorized as Anchorage, Fairbanks, Southeast,<sup>17</sup> Mat-Su,<sup>18</sup> Kenai,<sup>19</sup> and Rural.<sup>20</sup>

Figure 3: Locations of returned felons - 2008



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<sup>16</sup> Throughout this report, the location of the court where the case was filed was used to define location according to the definitions in the footnotes that follow. The criminal conduct might have occurred in a different location. For example, a crime committed in Eagle River would have been filed in Anchorage.

<sup>17</sup> All cases filed in First Judicial District courts, including Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Wrangell, and other Southeast locations.

<sup>18</sup> Included Palmer and Wasilla.

<sup>19</sup> Included Soldotna, Seward, Kenai, and Homer.

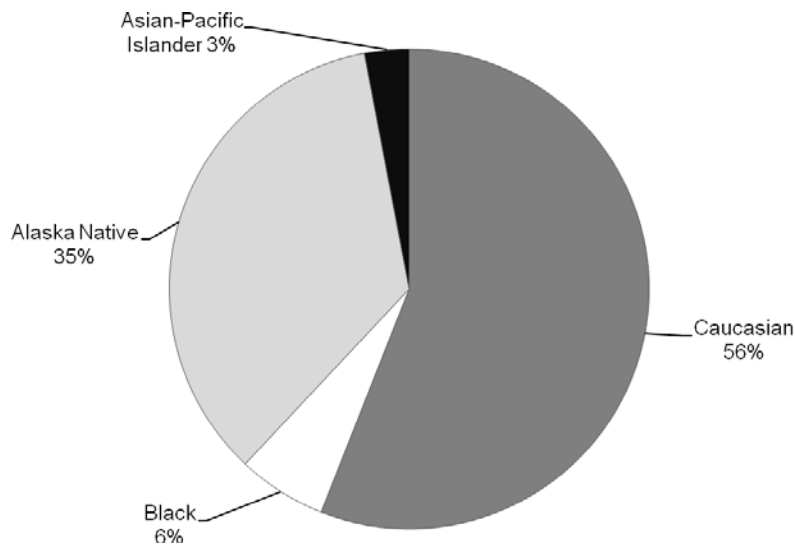
<sup>20</sup> Included Bethel and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Cordova, Dillingham, Kodiak, Valdez, the Alaska Peninsula and all of the Second Judicial District – Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome and the Second District villages.

## 2. Misdemeanants

### a. Demographics

- 77% were male.
- 57% were 34 years old or younger.
- 56% were Caucasian; 35% were Alaska Natives; 6% were Black and 3% were Asian-Pacific Islander (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Ethnicity of 2008 misdemeanants



### b. Level of seriousness of underlying offense

All misdemeanants in this report had been convicted of a Class A misdemeanor as their underlying offense. Misdemeanants convicted of a less serious (Class B) misdemeanor as their underlying offense were not included.<sup>21</sup>

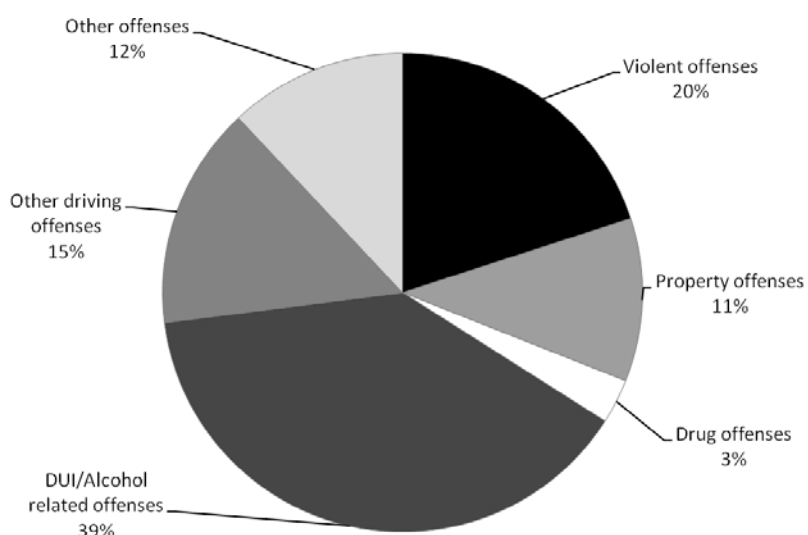
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<sup>21</sup> Class B misdemeanors committed by offenders after they returned to the community were included in the analysis of recidivism.

**c. Type of underlying offense**

Over half of the underlying misdemeanor offenses for those returning to the community were driving-related offenses, the bulk of them driving under the influence (Figure 5). The next largest groups of returned misdemeanants had committed violent offenses,<sup>22</sup> other offenses,<sup>23</sup> and property offenses.<sup>24</sup> Few misdemeanants who returned to the community were drug offenders.

Figure 5: Type of underlying offense of returning misdemeanants 2008



*DUI and other alcohol-related offenses<sup>25</sup>*  
*Other driving offenses<sup>26</sup>*

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<sup>22</sup> Misdemeanor violent offenses included primarily Assaults in the Fourth Degree, harassment, and similar offenses. The very few sexual misdemeanors that involved assault or abuse of a person were characterized as violent. Prostitution misdemeanors were characterized as “other.”

<sup>23</sup> Other misdemeanor offenses included public order offenses such as escape and violating conditions of release, failures to appear for misdemeanor offense hearings, prostitution, disorderly conduct, and weapons offenses.

<sup>24</sup> Misdemeanor property offenses included minor thefts, frauds, criminal mischief, trespass, and similar offenses.

<sup>25</sup> Ninety-six percent of the offenses in this category were drunk driving or related offenses. The remainder were furnishing liquor to a minor or misdemeanor bootlegging offenses.

<sup>26</sup> Other driving offenses were primarily driving without a license or while license suspended or revoked. It also included misdemeanor leaving the scene of an accident, failure to stop at the direction of an officer, and other offenses.

**d. Prior criminal history**

**When they committed their underlying offense, 73% of misdemeanants had a prior criminal record. Ninety-eight percent of misdemeanants who had a prior felony record also had a prior misdemeanor record.**

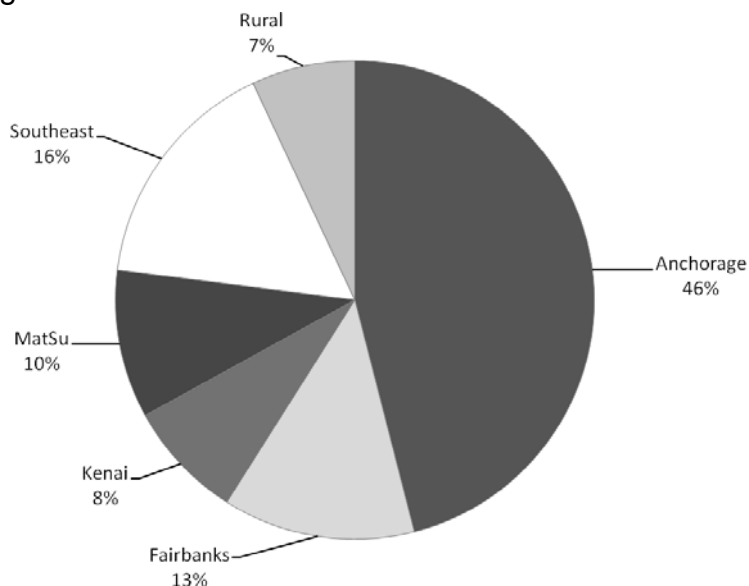
When misdemeanants committed their underlying offense:

- 47% had only a prior misdemeanor record including 33% who had one to five misdemeanors and 14% who had six or more misdemeanors;
- 26% had at least one felony including 10% who had two or more felonies.

**e. Location of offense**

**Forty-six percent of misdemeanants returned to the community had been convicted in Anchorage (Figure 6). More than twice as many misdemeanants were returned to the community from Anchorage than from any other location in the state.**

Figure 6: Location of returned misdemeanants - 2008



**There were differences related to location between the distribution of returned felons and misdemeanants statewide. Anchorage had more of the returned misdemeanants statewide (46%) than returned felons (37%). In contrast, Matsu had more of the returned felons statewide (13%) than returned misdemeanants (10%).**

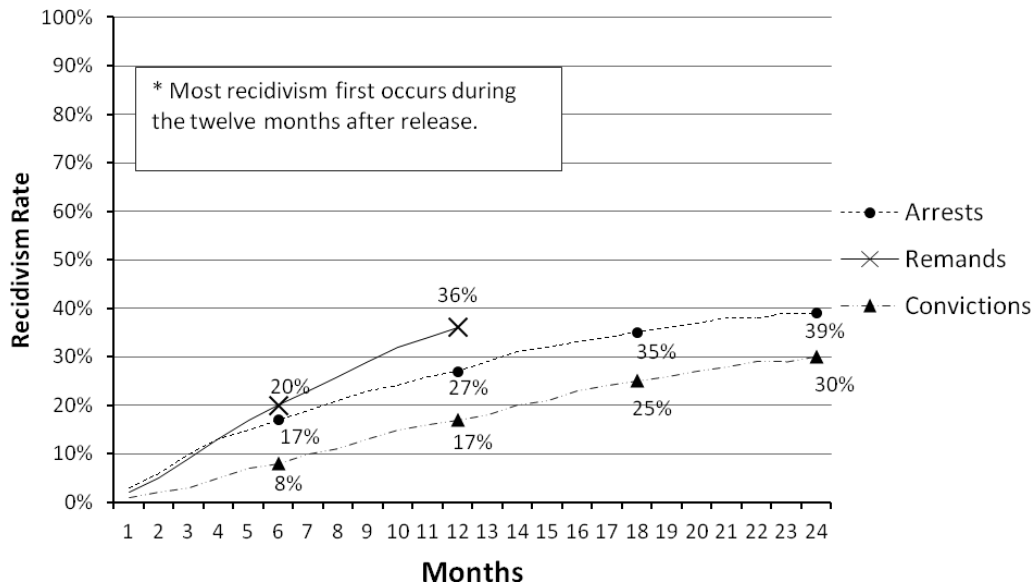
## Part 4 Recidivism Rates and the Timing of Recidivism

Most recidivism occurred within one year after return to the community (Figures 7 and 8).

### A. Felons

- Within six months, 17% of felons were rearrested. Within one year, 27% were rearrested. Within two years, 39% were rearrested.
- The longer a felon was in the community without being re-arrested, the less likely that the felon would ever be re-arrested. These data were consistent with national studies that showed that offenders were most likely to be rearrested for new offenses soon after their release from a previous incarceration.<sup>27</sup>
- Remands to custody were most frequent form of recidivism for felons during the first year. Within six months, 20% of felons were remanded. Within one year, 36% were remanded.
- Within the first year, 17% of felons had a new conviction on either a felony or a misdemeanor. Within two years, 30% had a new conviction.

Figure 7: Months to first arrest, conviction and remand after returning to community felons 2008

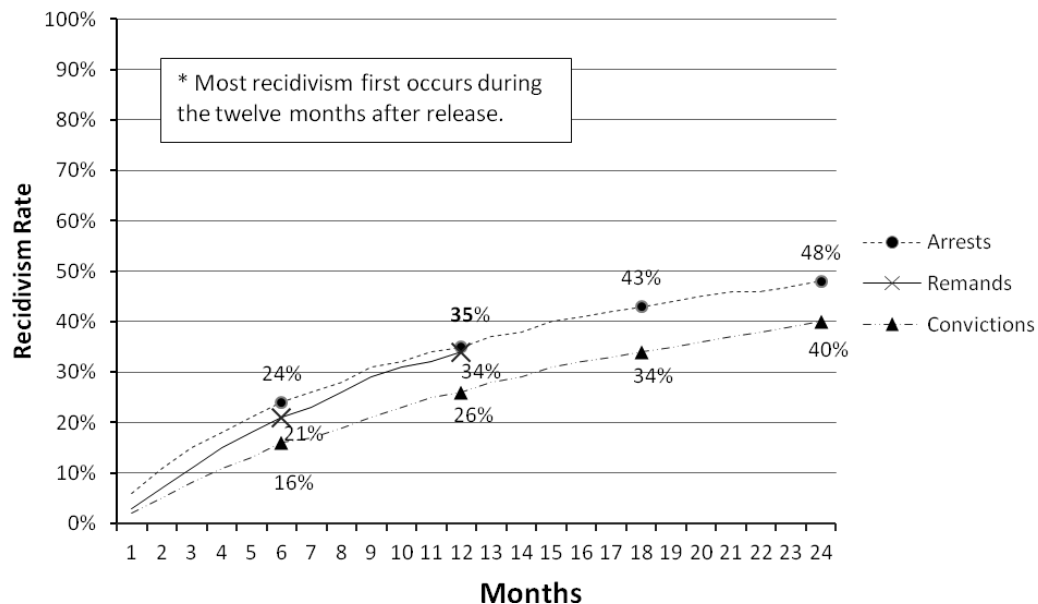


<sup>27</sup> BJS, *supra* note 5.

## B. Misdemeanants

- Nearly one-quarter of misdemeanants were rearrested within six months and 35% were rearrested within one year. Within two years, 48% were rearrested.
- The longer a misdemeanant was in the community without being re-arrested, the less likely that the misdemeanant would ever be re-arrested. These data were consistent with national studies that showed that offenders were most likely to be rearrested for new offenses soon after their release from a previous incarceration.<sup>28</sup>
- Within six months, 21% of misdemeanants were remanded to custody at least once. Within one year, 34% of the 2008 misdemeanants were remanded.
- Within one year, 26% of the 2008 misdemeanants had a new conviction on either a felony or a misdemeanor. Within two years, 40% had a new conviction.

Figure 8: Months to first arrest, conviction and remand after returning to community misdemeanants 2008



<sup>28</sup> BJS, *supra* note 5, at p. 3.

## Part 5

### Relationships Between Recidivism and the Location of the Underlying Offense

#### A. Felons

**Anchorage felons had the highest rates of rearrest and reconviction. MatSu felons had the lowest rate of rearrest. Kenai felons had the highest remand rate.**

- Anchorage felons had the highest rearrest rates. Within one year, 34% of returned Anchorage felons were rearrested. Within two years, 46% were rearrested.
- MatSu felons had the lowest rearrest rates. Within one year, 23% of returned MatSu felons were rearrested. Within two years, 32% were rearrested.
- Felony remand rates showed the greatest variation by location. Kenai felons were remanded at the highest rate (45%) compared to MatSu felons who were remanded at the lowest rate (28%).
- Felony reconviction rates showed the least variation by location. Anchorage felons were reconvicted at the highest rate. Within one year, 20% of Anchorage felons were reconvicted. Within two years, 35% were reconvicted.

There are several possible reasons for the variation in recidivism rates by location. Undoubtedly, there are differences in communities and the various socio-economic factors that might affect crime rates. There could be differences in offender characteristics by location. Variation in the rearrest and reconviction rates might have been due to possible differences in law enforcement practices. Differences in reconvictions could also have been related to differences in the practices of prosecutors, defense counsel, or judges. Differences in felony remands by location could have been related to different practices among probation officers. More information would be needed to explain the variation in recidivism rates by location.

## **B. Misdemeanants**

**Southeast misdemeanants had the highest recidivism rates on most measures. MatSu misdemeanants had the lowest rates.**

- Southeast misdemeanants had the highest rearrest rates. Within one year, 42% of returned Southeast misdemeanants were rearrested. Within two years, 56% were rearrested.
- MatSu misdemeanants had the lowest rearrest rates. Within one year, 29% of returned MatSu misdemeanants were rearrested. Within two years, 41% were rearrested.<sup>29</sup>
- Southeast misdemeanants were remanded at the highest rate (39%) compared to MatSu misdemeanants who were remanded at the lowest rate (27%).
- Misdemeanor reconviction rates showed the least variation by location. Southeast misdemeanants were reconvicted at the highest rate. Within one year, 30% of Southeast misdemeanants were reconvicted. Within two years, 46% were reconvicted.

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<sup>29</sup> Fairbanks misdemeanants who returned in 2008 also had a 41% rearrest rate within two years.



## Part 6

### Relationships Between Recidivism and Seriousness and Type of Underlying Offense

#### A. Felons

##### 1. Seriousness of offense

Generally, recidivism was inversely related to the seriousness of the underlying offense. Class C felons had the highest recidivism while Unclassified felons had substantially lower recidivism.

Rearrest rates within one year, according to seriousness of offense, were:

- Unclassified felons 14%
- Class A felons 25%
- Class B felons 28%
- **Class C felons 30%**

Within two years, rearrest rates were:

- Unclassified felons 21%
- Class A felons 38%
- Class B felons 40%
- **Class C felons 44%**

Similarly, remand rates were inversely related to the seriousness of a felon's underlying offense. Remand rates ranges from 20% for Unclassified felons to 40% for Class C felons.

The same was true for reconviction rates. Within one year, the lowest rate of reconviction was among Unclassified felons who returned in 2009 (3%) and the highest rate was among Class C felons who returned in 2008 (19%). Within two years, 12% of Unclassified felons were reconvicted compared to 34% of Class C felons.

## 2. Type of offense

**Felons convicted of violent, property, and “other” offenses had the highest rates for most types of recidivism, while those convicted of drug and felony driving and other alcohol-related offenses had lower than average recidivism rates. Sexual offenders had substantially lower rates of recidivism.**

- Rearrest rates within one year, according to the type of underlying offense, were:

<b>Violent offenses</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>“Other” offenses</b>	<b>36%</b>
Property offenses	34%
Drug offenses	24%
Felony driving and other alcohol-related offenses	21%
Sexual offenses	18%

- Felons who committed violent and property offenses were remanded at much higher rates than other felons who returned to the community. Fifty percent of violent offenders and 46% of property offenders were remanded. Remand rates for other returned felons were below 40%, with sexual offenders having the lowest remand rate (32%).
- Reconviction rates within one year were much higher for felons who had committed violent, property, and “other” offenses. Within one year, 23% of violent offenders, 22% of property offenders, and 19% of “other” offenders had been reconvicted.<sup>30</sup> Reconviction rates for other returned felons were 14% or lower with sexual offenders having the lowest rate of reconviction (10%). Within two years, 42% of “other” offenders, 38% of violent offenders, and 37% of property offenders were reconvicted. Reconviction rates for other returned felons were 25% or lower with sexual offenders having the lowest rate of reconviction (20%).

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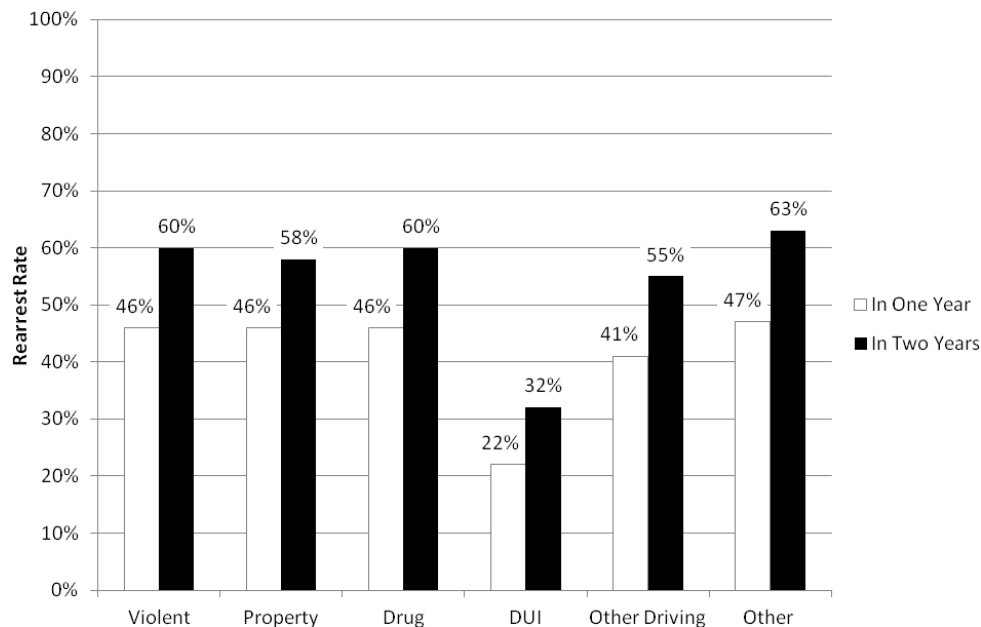
<sup>30</sup> Among felons who returned in 2009, reconviction rates by offense type were nearly the same as in 2008.

## B. Misdemeanants

Misdemeanants who had been convicted of driving while under the influence<sup>31</sup> constituted about 40% of all returning misdemeanants and had the lowest rates of recidivism by all measures. Their rates of recidivism were about *half* those of other misdemeanants (Figure 9).

- Within one year, 22% of misdemeanants who had been convicted of DUI were rearrested. Within two years, 32% were rearrested. Rearrest rates for other misdemeanants were about *twice* as high.

Figure 9: Misdemeanant rearrest rates by type of offense  
2008 and 2009



- Similarly, other misdemeanants were remanded more than twice as often as misdemeanants convicted of DUI. Only 19% of misdemeanants convicted of DUI were remanded. Remand rates for other misdemeanants ranged from 49% for those convicted of “other offenses” to 39% for those convicted of other driving offenses.

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<sup>31</sup> Four percent of the offenses in this category were offenses not related to drunk driving. The other offenses were furnishing liquor to a minor and misdemeanor bootlegging offenses.

- The same pattern was true for reconvictions. Within one year, only 15% of misdemeanants convicted of DUI were reconvicted compared to one-third of all other misdemeanants who were convicted of a new offense within one year. Within two years, 25% of misdemeanants convicted of DUI were convicted of a new offense. In comparison, about one-half of all other misdemeanants were convicted of a new offense within two years.

## Part 7

### Relationships Between Offender Characteristics and Recidivism

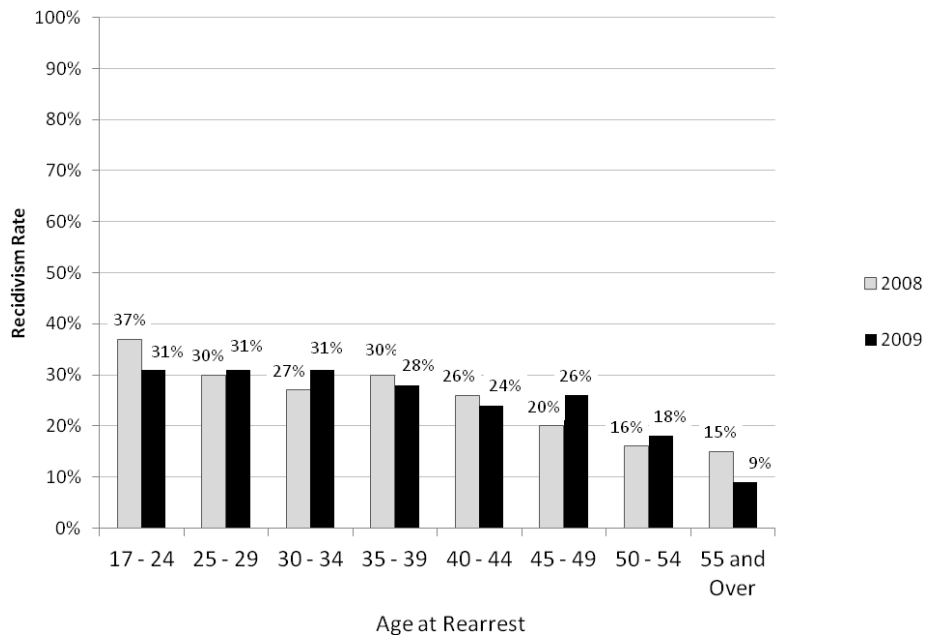
#### A. Felons

##### 1. Age

**Recidivism rates of felons were related to age. In general, the younger the offender, the higher the rate of recidivism (Figure 10).**

- Within one year, 37% of the youngest felons (17 to 24) were rearrested. Within two years, 51% of the youngest offenders were rearrested.
- In contrast, the oldest offenders (55 and over) had the lowest rates of rearrest. Within one year, 15% of the oldest felons were rearrested. Within two years, 21% of the oldest offenders were rearrested.

Figure 10: Rates of felons rearrested within one year by age



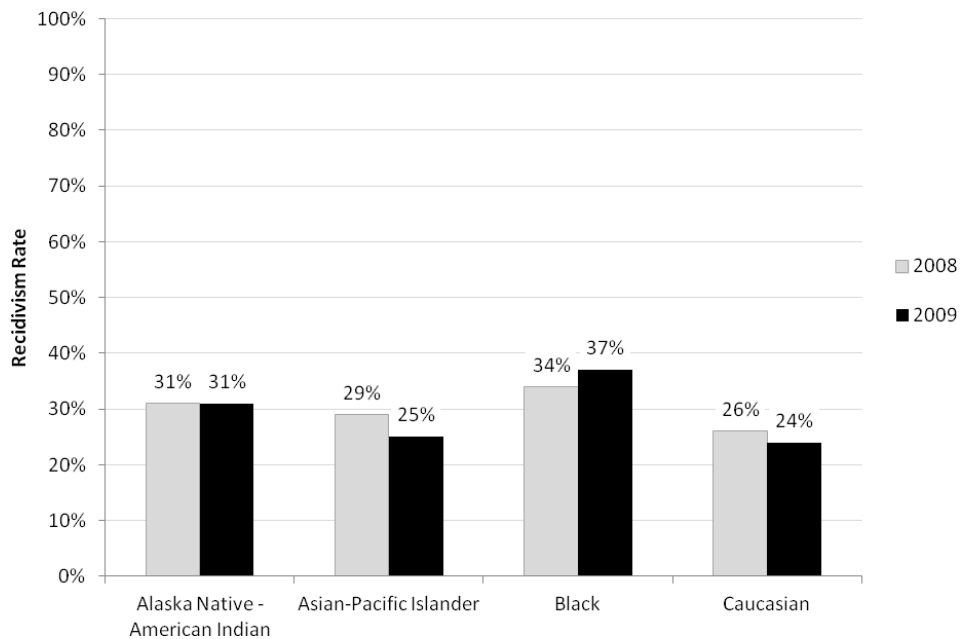
- Remand rates were also related to age. Within one year, the youngest felons (17 to 24) had the highest remand rates (42%) and the oldest felons (55 and over) had the lowest remand rates (25%). At age 45 and older, remand rates dropped substantially.

- Within one year, 25% of the youngest felons (17-24) were reconvicted compared to 9% of those age 50-54 and 7% of those 55 and older. Otherwise, within one year, there was not much variation in rates of reconviction among the various age groups. Within two years, age was much more consistently related to the rate of reconviction. The youngest felons (17 to 24) were reconvicted at the highest rate (43%) and the oldest felons were reconvicted at the lowest rate (12%).

## 2. Ethnicity

**Recidivism rates of felons varied by ethnicity. In general, Blacks and Alaska Natives had higher recidivism rates than Caucasians and Asian-Pacific Islanders (Figure 11).**

Figure 11: Rates of felons rearrested within one year by ethnicity



- Within two years, rearrest rates were:

Alaska Natives	48%
Blacks	47%
Asian-Pacific Islanders	40%
Caucasians	36%

- Alaska Natives and Blacks were remanded at higher rates than Caucasians and Asian-Pacific Islanders. Within one year, 41% percent of the Alaska Native and Black felons were remanded to custody, compared to 27% of Asian-Pacific Islanders and 35% of Caucasians.
- Within one year, there was not much variation in rates of reconviction among the various ethnicities. Within two years, rates of reconviction were higher for Blacks (31%) and Alaska Natives (37%) than Caucasians (28%) or Asian-Pacific Islanders (27%).

### **3. Gender**

#### **Recidivism rates of male felons were higher than rates for female felons.**

- Within one year, 30% of males and 19% of females were rearrested. Within two years, 43% of males and 30% of females were rearrested.
- Males were remanded to custody at a higher rate than females. Within one year, 38% of males were remanded compared to 30% of females.
- Males were reconvicted of a new offense at higher rates than females. Within one year, 19% of males and 11% of females were reconvicted of a new offense. Within two years, females (24%) were reconvicted at a lower rate than males (33%).

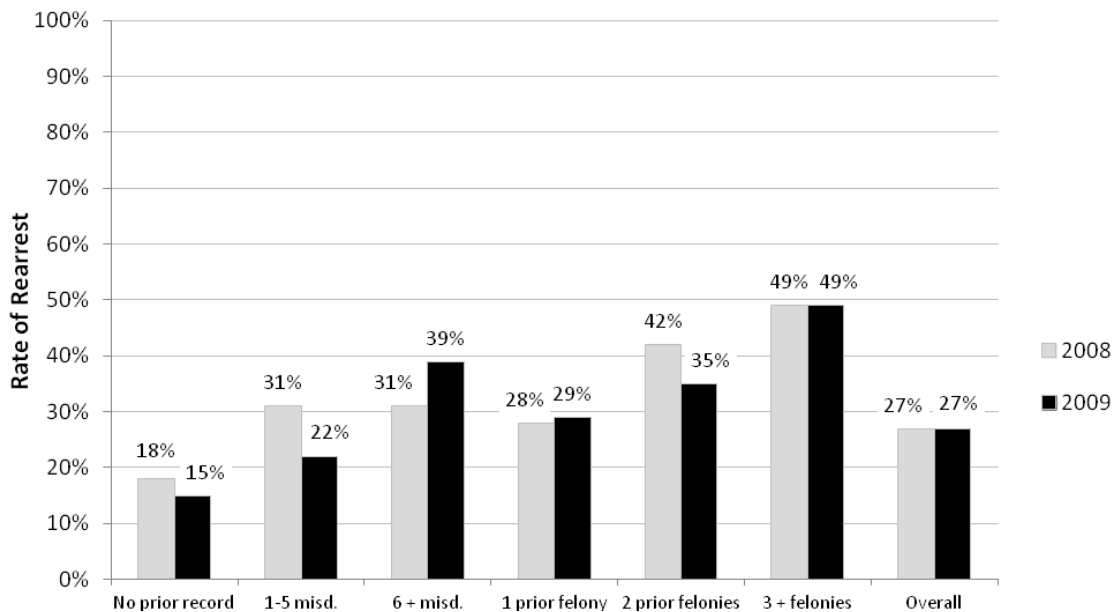
### **4. Prior criminal history**

**The length and seriousness of a felon's prior criminal history predicted a felon's likelihood of recidivism. Felons with no prior criminal history were much less likely to recidivate.**

- Felons who had three or more prior felony convictions before committing their underlying offense had the highest rates of rearrest. Within one year, 49% of these offenders were rearrested. Within two years, 62% were rearrested (Figure 12).
- Within one year, felons with a prior criminal history of numerous misdemeanors were slightly more likely to be rearrested than felons who had one prior felony conviction. The same was true within two years.

- Rearrest rates were much lower for felons who had no prior criminal history before committing their first felony. Within one year, 18% of returned felons with no prior criminal record were rearrested. Within two years, 26% were rearrested.

Figure 12: Rates of felons rearrested within one year by prior criminal history



- Felons with no prior criminal history were the least likely to be remanded to custody. Within one year, 22% were remanded. Felons whose prior record consisted of 1-5 misdemeanors had the next lowest remand rate at 33%. Nearly half of felons with a lengthy prior misdemeanor record or any prior felony record were remanded within one year.
- Felons with no prior criminal history were the least likely to be convicted of a new offense. Within one year, 13% were convicted of a new offense. Within two years, 20% were convicted of a new offense.
- Within one or two years of returning to the community, felons with 1-5 prior misdemeanors or one prior felony had lower rates of reconviction than felons with lengthier misdemeanor or felony histories.
- Felons with three or more prior felony convictions had the highest rates of reconviction. Within two years, 49% were reconvicted of a new offense.



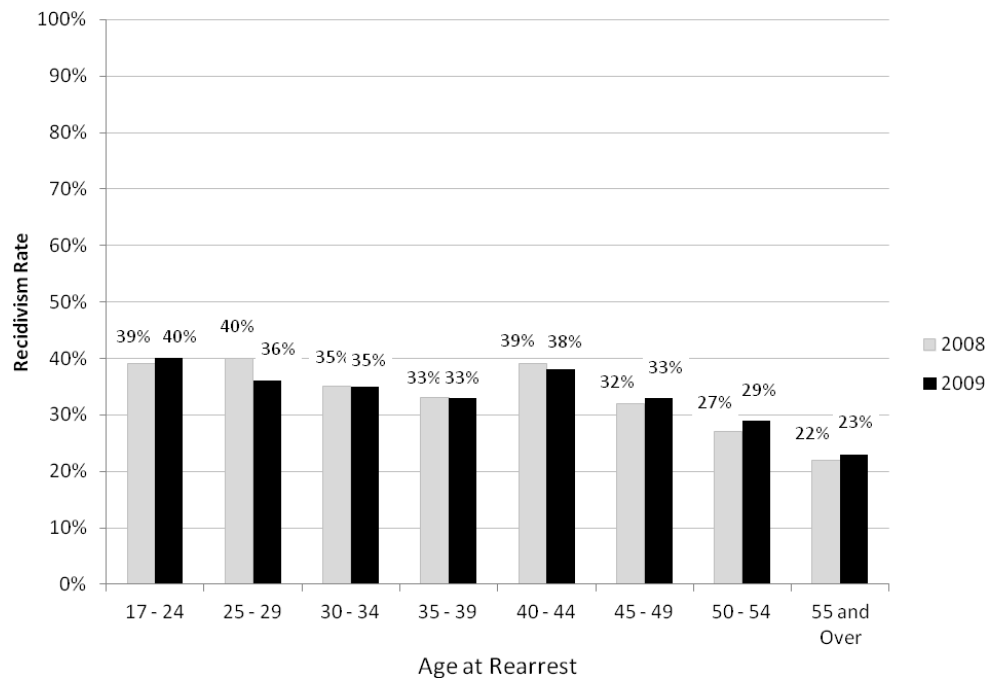
## B. Misdemeanants

### 1. Age

**Recidivism rates of misdemeanants were related to age. In general, the younger the offender, the higher the rate of recidivism (Figure 13). The association between age and recidivism among misdemeanants was much less consistent than it was among felons.**

- Within one year, 39% of the youngest misdemeanants (17-24) were rearrested. Forty percent of the second youngest group of misdemeanants (25-29) were rearrested within one year. Notably, 39% of misdemeanants aged 40-44 were rearrested within one year. Within two years, the same groups had the highest rates of rearrest. Within two years, 53% of the youngest misdemeanants (17-29) were rearrested and 51% of misdemeanants aged 40-44 were rearrested.
- Compared to younger misdemeanants, those aged 50 and older were rearrested considerably less often. Within one year, 22% of those aged 55 and older were rearrested. Within two years, 30% of misdemeanants aged 55 and older were rearrested.

Figure 13: Rates of misdemeanants rearrested within one year by age



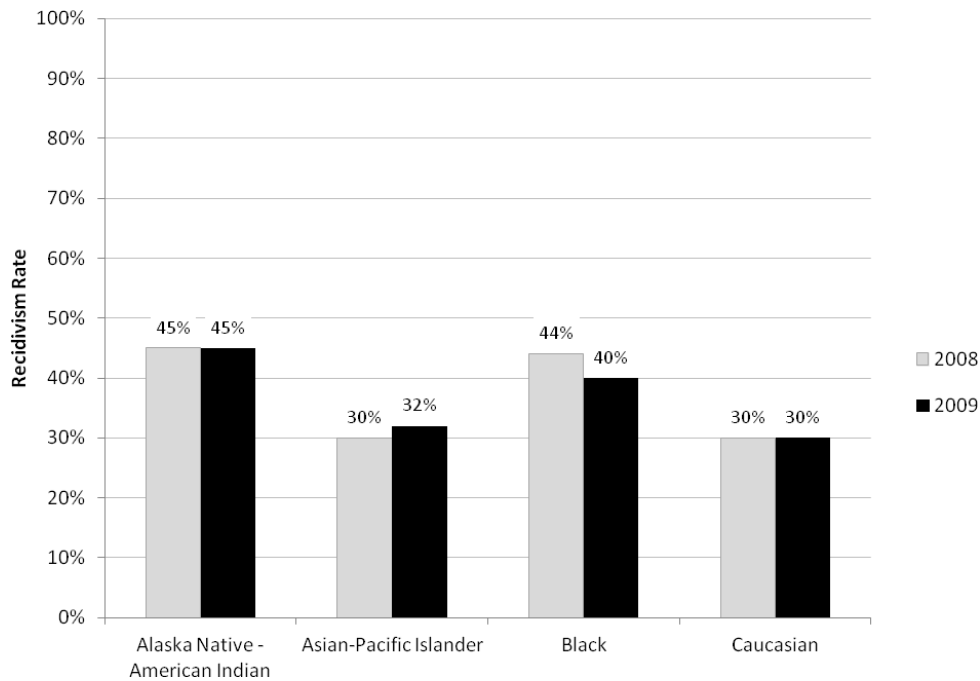
- The groups of misdemeanants with the highest rearrest rates also had the highest rates of remands to custody. Within one year, remand rates for these groups of misdemeanants were 38% for those aged 17-24; 39% for those aged 25-29; and 37% for those aged 40-44. Misdemeanants aged 50 and older had the lowest rates of remand including 21% of those 55 and older.
- The same groups of misdemeanants with the highest rearrest and remand rates also had the highest rates of reconviction. Within one year, 31% of misdemeanants aged 17-24; 30% of those aged 25-29; and 27% of those aged 40-44 were reconvicted. Within two years, reconviction rates were 44% for ages 17-24; 45% for ages 25-29; and 44% for ages 40-44. In contrast, 23% of misdemeanants who were 55 and older were reconvicted within two years.

## **2. Ethnicity**

**Recidivism rates of misdemeanants varied by ethnicity. In general, Alaska Natives and Blacks had higher recidivism rates than Caucasians and Asian-Pacific Islanders (Figure 14).**

- Alaska Natives had the highest rates of rearrest among misdemeanants. Within one year, 45% of Alaska Native misdemeanants were rearrested. Within two years, 60% of Alaska Natives were rearrested.
- In 2008, 44% of Black misdemeanants were rearrested within one year. Within two years, the rearrest rate for Blacks (59%) remained similar to the rearrest rate for Alaska Natives.
- Caucasian and Asian-Pacific Islander misdemeanants had lower rates of rearrest that were similar to each other. Within one year, Caucasian misdemeanants and Asian-Pacific Islander misdemeanants were rearrested at a rate of 30%. Within two years, 41% of Caucasians and 40% of Asian-Pacific Islanders were rearrested.

Figure 14: Rates of misdemeanants rearrested within one year by ethnicity



- Alaska Native and Black misdemeanants were remanded at higher rates than Caucasians and Asian-Pacific Islanders. Within one year, 44% percent of Alaska Natives and 40% of Black misdemeanants were remanded to custody, compared to 30% of Asian-Pacific Islanders and 29% of Caucasians.
- Alaska Native and Black misdemeanants were reconvicted at higher rates than Caucasians and Asian-Pacific Islanders. Within one year, 34% of Alaska Natives and 29% of Blacks were reconvicted. Within two years, 51% of Alaska Natives and 45% of Blacks were reconvicted.
- Caucasian and Asian-Pacific Islander misdemeanants were reconvicted at lower rates. Within one year, 22% of Caucasians and 21% of Asian-Pacific Islanders were reconvicted. Within two years, 34% of Caucasians and 33% of Asian-Pacific Islanders were reconvicted.

### 3. Gender

**Recidivism rates of male misdemeanants were higher than rates for female misdemeanants.**

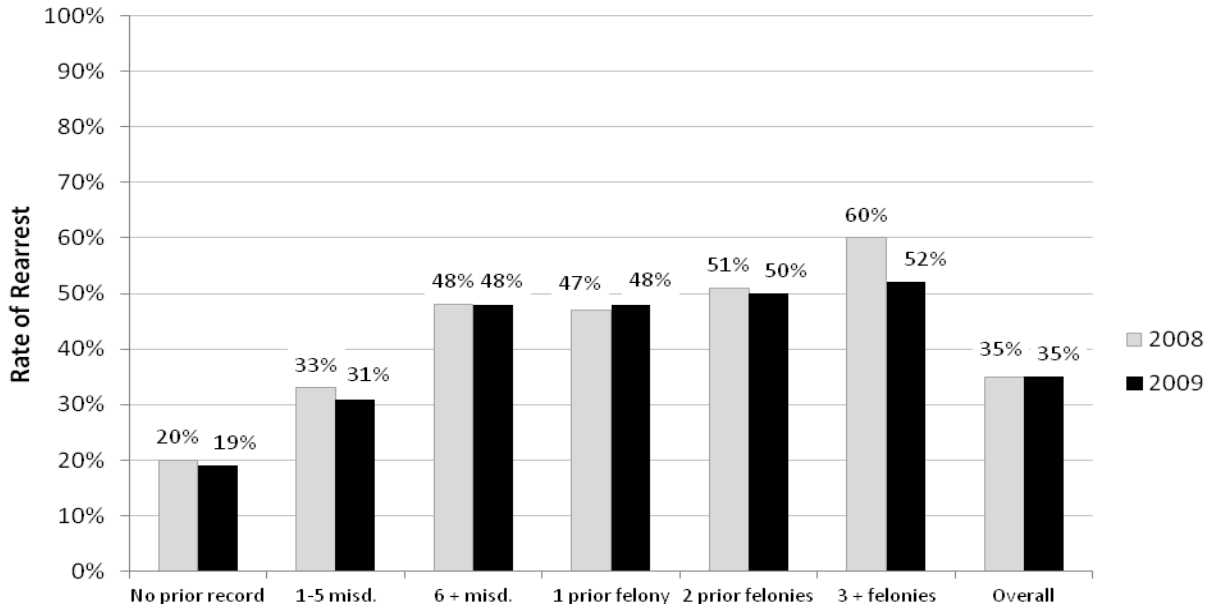
- Within one year, 28% of male and 23% of female misdemeanants were rearrested. Within two years, 50% of males were rearrested compared to 43% of females.
- Gender was related to the likelihood of remands to custody. Within one year, 36% of males were remanded compared to 29% of females.
- Within one year, 28% of male and 23% of female misdemeanants were reconvicted. Within two years, 42% of males and 35% of females were reconvicted.

### 4. Prior criminal history

**The length and seriousness of a misdemeanant's prior criminal history predicted a misdemeanant's likelihood of recidivism. Misdemeanants with lengthy misdemeanor records or any prior felony convictions had the highest recidivism rates. Misdemeanants with no prior criminal history were much less likely to recidivate (Figure 15).**

- Within one year, about half of misdemeanants with more than six prior misdemeanors or any number of prior felonies were rearrested. Within two years, about two-thirds were rearrested.
- Within one year, about one-third of misdemeanants with 1-5 prior misdemeanors were rearrested. Within two years, 45% were rearrested.
- Rearrest rates were much lower for misdemeanants who had no prior criminal history before committing their first misdemeanor. About one-fifth were rearrested. Within two years, 29% were rearrested.

Figure 15: Rates of misdemeanants rearrested within one year by prior criminal history



- Misdemeanants with no prior criminal history were the least likely to be remanded to custody. Within one year, 17% were remanded. Misdemeanants who had 1-5 prior misdemeanors had the next lowest remand rate at 32%. About half of misdemeanants with a lengthy misdemeanor record or any prior felony record were remanded within one year.
- Misdemeanants with no prior criminal history were the least likely to be convicted of a new offense. Within one year, 15% were convicted of a new offense. Within two years, 23% were convicted of a new offense.
- Within one or two years, misdemeanants with 1-5 misdemeanors had lower rates of reconviction than misdemeanants with lengthier misdemeanor or felony records.



## Part 8

### Types and Seriousness of New Convictions

#### A. Felons

**Within two years of return, almost no felons were convicted of a new offense at a more serious level than their underlying offense.<sup>32</sup>**

- Class A felons<sup>33</sup>            0%
- Class B felons                2%
- Class C felons                3%

**One quarter of felons reconvicted after two years were reconvicted of a felony. Three quarters of felons reconvicted after two years were reconvicted of a misdemeanor. Felons convicted of property, “other,” and violent offenses were the most likely to have a new conviction for the same type of offense.**

- About one third of felons convicted of property, “other,” and violent offenses were convicted of the same type of offense within two years. About half of the new property convictions were felonies. Felons whose underlying offense was a “violent” or “other” felony, and who had new convictions for the same type of offense, were much more likely to have a new misdemeanor conviction than a new felony conviction.
- Only one felon convicted of a sex offense was convicted of another sex offense.
- Drug offenders were more likely to have a new conviction for a driving or property offense than they were to have a new conviction for a drug offense.

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<sup>32</sup> Convictions are a more reliable outcome than arrests when analyzing level of offense. Prior studies have shown that felony offenders are often convicted of a lower level of offense than for which they were arrested. *Alaska Felony Process*: 1999, page 93; published 2004; available at <http://www.ajc.state.ak.us/reports/Fel99FullReport.pdf>. Because more serious felony charges likely take longer to resolve, it is possible that analyzing convictions within two years of return may understate the level of recidivism. On the other hand, our prior study followed offenders for three years after return to the community and confirmed that the vast majority of reconvictions, like other forms of recidivism, occur within two years.

<sup>33</sup> It would be impossible for Unclassified felons to commit a more serious level of offense.

## **B. Misdemeanants**

**Within two years of return, 15% of misdemeanants were convicted of a new offense at a more serious level than their underlying offense. Misdemeanants convicted of property and violent offenses were the most likely to have a new conviction for the same type of offense. Drug offenders were the least likely to have a new conviction for the same type of offense.**

- Within two years, 40% of misdemeanants convicted of property offenses and 38% of misdemeanants convicted of violent offenses were reconvicted for the same type of offense.
- Within two years, only 5% of misdemeanants convicted of drug offenses were reconvicted for the same type of offense.

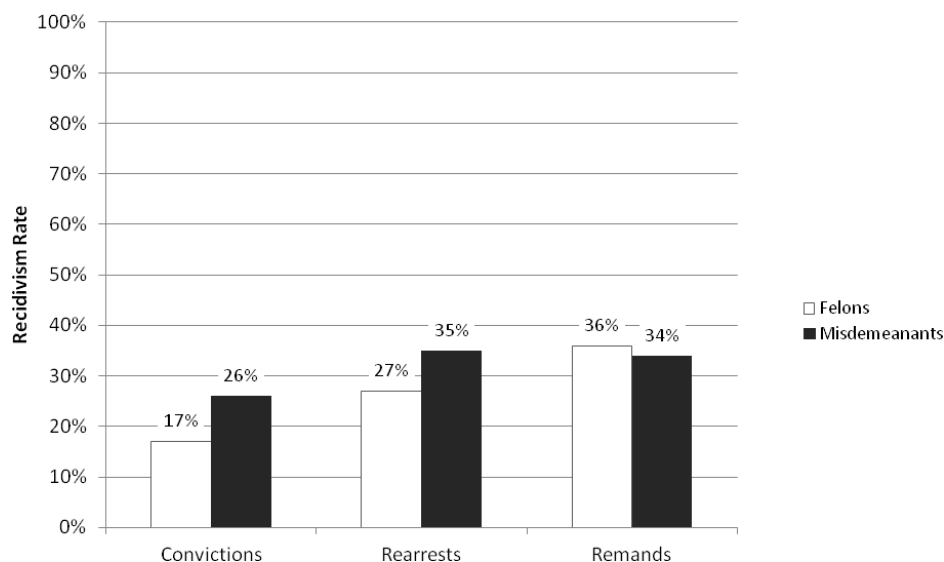


## Part 9

### Comparing Recidivism of Felons and Misdemeanants<sup>34</sup>

- With the exception of remands, felons had *lower* rates of recidivism than misdemeanants (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Comparison of recidivism for 2008 felons and misdemeanants within one year of return to community



- Misdemeanants were rearrested and reconvicted at higher rates than felons.
- Felons were remanded to custody more frequently than they were rearrested.

One hypothesis from these patterns is that the formal probation supervision of felons was responsible for the higher remands and lower rearrests of felons. If this hypothesis is correct, it suggests that probation supervision protects the public by responding to felons' violations before they are rearrested for new offenses.<sup>35</sup> Misdemeanants on probation were not supervised by the Department of Corrections, and might have been more likely to come to the attention of authorities because of new arrests, rather than for other violations of their probation conditions.

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<sup>34</sup> This is the first report on Alaska recidivism that directly compares those returning to the community after conviction on a felony, and those returning to the community after being charged and convicted of a misdemeanor.

<sup>35</sup> All probation conditions included a general condition that the offender abide by all statutes. Commission of a new offense automatically violated this condition. Probation officers and prosecutors had the discretion to file only new charges against the offender, to file only a petition to revoke probation, or to file both.

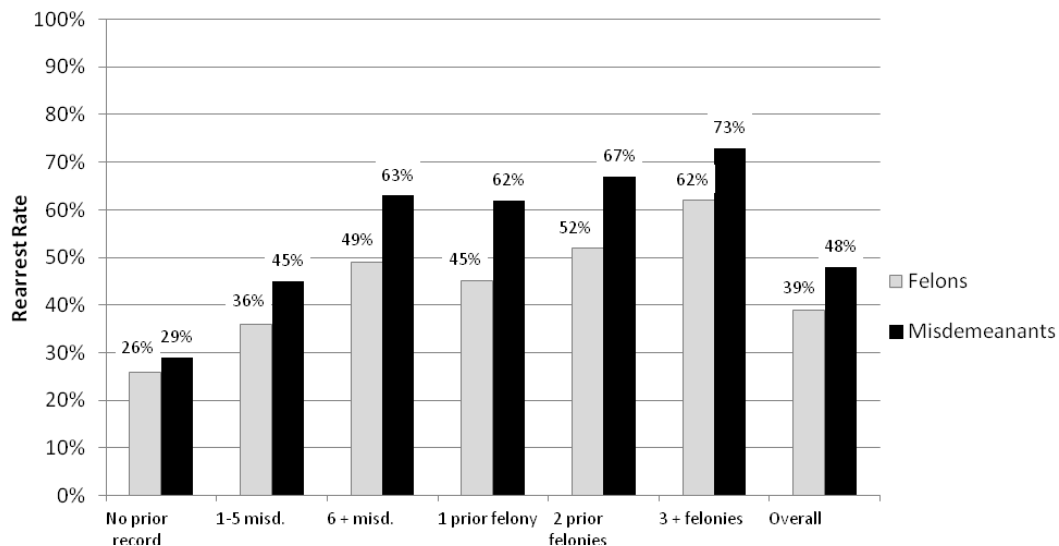
The lower number of rearrests for felons may suggest that public safety benefits from formal probation supervision. This hypothesis would need to be tested with further analysis.

- **Recidivism was inversely related to level of the underlying offense. As the seriousness of the underlying offense decreased, rearrest and reconviction rates increased.**<sup>36</sup>

Figure 17: Rearrests and reconvictions by level of offense		
	Rearrests within two years	Reconvictions within two years
Unclassified felons	21%	12%
Class A felons	38%	26%
Class B felons	49%	29%
Class C felons	44%	34%
<b>A Misdemeanants</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>40%</b>

- **Misdemeanants with lengthy or serious prior criminal histories were rearrested and reconvicted at much higher rates than felons with similar criminal records. Differences between felon and misdemeanor rearrest and reconviction rates were smaller for offenders who had no prior criminal record or only a minor misdemeanor record (Figure 17).**

Figure 18: Comparison of rearrest rates for 2008 felons and misdemeanants within two years



<sup>36</sup> It is likely that offenders who committed the most serious underlying offenses were returned to the community when they were much older than offenders who committed less serious offenses. Increased age was associated with lower recidivism. The Council’s 2007 study of recidivism showed however, that age and seriousness of offense were independently associated with recidivism. *Supra*, note 1, at 12.

- **Misdemeanants were more likely than felons to be convicted of a more serious new offense than the underlying offense. Within two years, 15% of misdemeanants were convicted of a more serious offense compared to none of the Class A felons, 2% of Class B felons, and 3% of Class C felons.**
- **Misdemeanants who committed a violent or property offense were more likely to be reconvicted of the same type of offense than felons who committed violent or property offenses. Felons who committed a drug offense were more likely to be reconvicted of the same type of offense than misdemeanants who committed a drug offense (Figure 19).**

Figure 19: Percentage of offenders who had a new conviction for the same type of offense		
Type of Underlying Offense	Felons	Misdemeanants
Violent	29%	38%
Property	34%	40%
Drug	15%	5%



## Part 10

### Summary of Findings and Policy Implications

#### A. Summary of findings

Major findings included:

##### 1. General

- There were no significant differences between the offenders who returned to the community in 2008 and 2009.
- The highest rates of recidivism among felons and misdemeanants occurred during the first year after return to the community.
- Misdemeanants were rearrested and reconvicted at higher rates than felons. Thirty-five percent of misdemeanants were rearrested within the first year of returning to the community. In comparison, 27% of felons were rearrested within the first year of returning to the community.
- Within two years of returning to the community, 48% of the misdemeanants and 39% of the felons were rearrested.
- Unlike misdemeanants, felons were remanded to custody more frequently than they were rearrested. Misdemeanants and felons were remanded at similar rates. About one-third were remanded within one year of their return to the community.

##### 2. Location

- Anchorage had the highest rate of felony rearrests and the second highest rate of misdemeanor rearrest. Southeast had the highest rate of misdemeanor rearrest and the second highest rate of felony rearrest. MatSu felons and misdemeanants had relatively lower recidivism rates than most places in the state.

### **3. Seriousness of offense**

- Recidivism was inversely related to level offense. Unclassified felons had the lowest rearrests and reconvictions; misdemeanants had the highest.
- Misdemeanants were more likely than felons to be convicted of a new offense that was more serious than their underlying offense.

### **4. Type of offense**

- Felons who had committed violent, “other,” and property offenses had much higher rearrest and reconviction rates. These felons were also the most likely to be reconvicted of the same type of offense as their underlying offense.
- Felons who had committed drug, driving while under the influence, and sexual offenses had much lower rearrest and reconviction rates.
- Misdemeanants who had been convicted of driving while under the influence, were rearrested, remanded, and reconvicted at much lower rates than other misdemeanants. Their recidivism was similar to the recidivism of felons convicted of driving offenses.

### **5. Offender characteristics**

- Misdemeanants who committed property and violent offenses were the most likely to be reconvicted of the same type of offense as their underlying offense. Misdemeanants who committed drug offenses were the least likely to be reconvicted of the same type of offense.
- The length and seriousness of an offender’s prior criminal history was associated with increased recidivism.
- For felons and misdemeanants, differences were found for all types of recidivism based on gender, ethnicity and age. Specifically:
- Males were more likely to recidivate than females.
- Younger offenders, under the age of 34 years, were more likely to recidivate than older offenders. The exceptions were misdemeanants from ages 40 through 44, who were about

as likely as the younger offenders to be rearrested, reconvicted and remanded to custody within the first and second years after returning to the community.

- Alaska Natives and Blacks were more likely to be rearrested, reconvicted, or remanded to custody than were Caucasians or Asian-Pacific-Islanders.

## **B. Policy implications**

In 2007, we observed:

If all offenders received life sentences, there would be no recidivism. This would maximize public safety but would exact prohibitive social and economic costs. Policymakers need to make decisions on how best to use available resources to promote public safety. Prison is the most expensive choice. Can the criminal justice system increase public safety, have fewer crimes and fewer victims, and save money at the same time? Information about recidivism helps policymakers answer these questions and make effective decisions.<sup>37</sup>

This report provides information to Alaskan policy-makers and administrators about the offenders for whom present approaches appear to be effective, and about those for whom more attention may be most useful. In a nutshell:

- **Focus on deterring recidivism by less serious offenders.** Efforts to deter recidivism among more serious offenders have been more effective than they have been among less serious offenders. More effective policies are needed for misdemeanants in particular, and also for Class C felons. Not only are misdemeanants more likely to recidivate than felons, they are more likely than felons to commit a more serious offense than their underlying offense.
- **Among felons, focus on the recidivism of offenders who commit violent, property, and “other” felonies.** These felons had the highest recidivism rates and were the most likely to commit a new offense that was the same type as their underlying offense.
- **Recidivism for sex offenders, DUI, and felony drug offenders is relatively low.** Particularly when resources are limited, further efforts to reduce overall recidivism may be more useful if focused on other offenders.

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<sup>37</sup> *Criminal Recidivism in Alaska* at 14, *supra* note 1.

- **More attention is needed for youthful offenders, Alaska Natives, and Blacks, and those who have prior criminal records.**
- **Focus on finding reasons for higher recidivism in Anchorage and Southeast.** Differences in recidivism rates among locations might be related to differences in resources, law enforcement, and socioeconomic factors. Comparative analysis of MatSu, where recidivism is lower, could be instructive.



# **Appendix A**

## **Methodology**



## Methodology

### A. Data sources

Data for this study came from two sources. The Department of Corrections (DOC) provided the initial dataset that included inmates released from institutions in calendar years 2008 and 2009. The dataset contained 398,811 records of all releases for all reasons during those two years. People were released from DOC institutions after arrest and bail, after serving a sentence, on temporary releases for court hearings or medical needs, and many other reasons.

From the complete dataset provided by DOC, we created two datasets – one for 2008 and one for 2009 – showing only one record for each individual released after a conviction and sentence for a felony or a Class A misdemeanor, with the date of the first release during the calendar year. We did not include people released following initial arrest or remands on bail, or for probation or parole violations. The 2008 dataset from DOC contained 10,022 records. The 2009 dataset from DOC contained 10,097 records.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) matched the DOC datasets with their files. DPS provided all available arrest and disposition information, and demographic information – date of birth, gender, and ethnicity – for people in the DOC datasets. DPS also provided information for an additional group of people who were convicted in 2008 and 2009 but who were not incarcerated following conviction and who returned directly to the community. The initial DPS dataset contained 717,397 records.

From the DOC and DPS datasets, we created final datasets for 2008 and 2009. Each dataset contained one record per person. From the large DPS dataset we determined the arrest and disposition charges associated with the release date (from DOC) and location of arrest corresponding to these charges. We also used the DPS dataset to calculate prior misdemeanor and prior felony convictions for each person. We used information from both DOC and DPS files to determine the class and type of charge and which of the disposed charges was the single most serious (SMS).<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Municipal offenses were coded as 'MN' in the DPS dataset. We recoded many of these as Class A Misdemeanors 'MA,' based on the exact type of offense. Type of charge was not coded the same way by DPS and DOC. We used the DOC type of charge information because it corresponded to earlier studies. Type of charge was not systematically coded in DOC data, but recoding corrected any anomalies.

## B. Outcome data

Two of the three outcome variables, re-arrest and re-conviction, came from the DPS dataset. We determined which arrest and which conviction were the first following release from DOC or return to the community after a conviction; determined which was of the charges was the single most serious; and the number of days between the return to the community and the first re-arrest or re-conviction.

For information about remands to custody, the third outcome measure, we returned to the DOC dataset, and determined the first date of entry back into a DOC institution following the initial return to the community, and the number of days from return to remand. We also requested remand data from DOC for those offenders who were in the DPS dataset but missing from the original DOC dataset because they had not been incarcerated after their underlying conviction.

## C. Analysis

- The 2008 DOC/DPS combined dataset contained 11,584 records, of which 11,490 contained enough information to be used in the analysis.<sup>39</sup>
- The 2009 DOC/DPS combined dataset contained 11,459 records, of which 11,323 contained enough information to be used in the analysis.

We used the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for data processing and analysis. Analysis for this study consisted of bivariate descriptive statistics. We did not do survival or other multi-variate analyses for this study because we did not have information about socio-economic status, substance abuse or mental health. Earlier studies on felony sentencing<sup>40</sup> and recidivism<sup>41</sup> indicated that these were strongly associated with criminal justice outcomes. Omitting them from a multi-variate analysis would lead to biased conclusions.

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<sup>39</sup> For any particular analysis, some of the offenders may have been missing essential data and would not have been included in that analysis, even though they were included in other analyses. For example, an offender could have been missing information about a demographic variable such as ethnicity, or about prior criminal history. Most information was available for most offenders in the study, and the missing information was not sufficient to make any statistical difference in a dataset this large.

<sup>40</sup> *Alaska Felony Process*, pp. 275-281, *supra* note 32.

<sup>41</sup> *Criminal Recidivism in Alaska*, at 12 *supra*, note 1.

## **Appendix B**

### **Tables**



Table 1: Offender and offense characteristics				
Demographics				
	Felons		Misdemeanants	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Male	80%	80%	77%	77%
Caucasian	57%	57%	56%	54%
Black	8%	8%	6%	6%
Alaska Native	32%	32%	35%	37%
Asian-Pacific Islander	3%	3%	3%	3%
% who were 34 years or younger	54%	56%	57%	57%
Level of offense				
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Felony unclassified	3%	3%	---	---
Felony A	20%	19%	---	---
Felony B	15%	15%	---	---
Felony C	62%	63%	---	---
Class A misdemeanor	---	---	100%	100%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Type of underlying offense				
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Violent	19%	19%	20%	22%
Property	26%	26%	11%	9%
Sex	9%	8%	---	---
Drug	21%	20%	3%	2%
DUI	20%	21%	39%	42%
Other misdemeanor driving	---	---	15%	14%
Other	5%	6%	12%	11%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Criminal history				
	2008	2009	2008	2009
No prior record	20%	21%	27%	26%
1 - 5 misdemeanors	31%	29%	33%	34%
6 or more misdemeanors	14%	14%	14%	14%
1 prior felony*	20%	20%	16%	16%
2 prior felonies*	8%	9%	6%	6%
3 or more prior felonies*	7%	7%	4%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Location				
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Anchorage	37%	39%	46%	45%
Fairbanks	16%	15%	13%	14%
Kenai	8%	9%	8%	8%
MatSu	13%	14%	10%	10%
Southeast	17%	16%	16%	17%
Rural	9%	7%	7%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

	Felons		Misdemeanants	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	Rearrests within one year	27%	27%	35%
Reconvictions within one year	17%	16%	26%	24%
Remands within one year	36%	N/A*	34%	N/A*
Rearrests within two years	39%	too early for data**	48%	too early for data**
Reconvictions within two years	30%	too early for data**	40%	too early for data**
Remands within two years	N/A*	too early for data**	N/A*	too early for data**

\* Data were not available at the time of the report.

\*\* The data for these categories will not be available until the end of calendar 2011.

	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
Anchorage	34%	33%	46%	37%	36%	51%
Fairbanks	24%	27%	38%	30%	32%	41%
Kenai	27%	23%	39%	33%	32%	44%
MatSu	23%	21%	32%	29%	27%	41%
Southeast	28%	28%	46%	42%	41%	56%
Rural	22%	24%	35%	33%	33%	45%
Overall rearrests	27%	27%	39%	35%	35%	48%

	Felons	Misdemeanants
	2008	2008
	Anchorage	39%
Fairbanks	38%	28%
Kenai	45%	33%
MatSu	28%	27%
Southeast	37%	39%
Rural	37%	34%
Overall remands	36%	34%

	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
Anchorage	20%	20%	35%	27%	24%	41%
Fairbanks	14%	16%	27%	23%	24%	37%
Kenai	16%	13%	32%	25%	22%	38%
MatSu	15%	12%	27%	22%	17%	35%
Southeast	17%	18%	33%	30%	29%	46%
Rural	13%	13%	27%	23%	23%	38%
Overall reconvictions	17%	16%	30%	26%	24%	40%



Table 6: Rearrests by level of offense						
	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
Felony unclassified	14%	11%	21%	---	---	---
Felony A	25%	24%	38%	---	---	---
Felony B	28%	30%	40%	---	---	---
Felony C	30%	29%	44%	---	---	---
Overall felony rearrests	27%	27%	39%	---	---	---
Class A misdemeanor	---	---	---	35%	35%	48%

Table 7: Remands by level of offense		
	Felons	Misdemeanants
	2008	2008
Felony unclassified	20%	---
Felony A	32%	---
Felony B	38%	---
Felony C	40%	---
Overall felony remands	36%	---
Class A misdemeanor	---	34%

Table 8: Reconvictions by level of offense						
	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
Felony unclassified	7%	3%	12%	---	---	---
Felony A	15%	14%	26%	---	---	---
Felony B	16%	16%	29%	---	---	---
Felony C	19%	18%	34%	---	---	---
Overall felony reconvictions	17%	16%	30%	---	---	---
Class A misdemeanor	---	---	---	26%	24%	40%

Table 9: Rearrests by type of underlying offense						
	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
Violent	36%	29%	50%	46%	44%	60%
Property	34%	33%	46%	46%	49%	58%
Sex	18%	19%	32%	---	---	---
Drug	24%	25%	35%	46%	45%	60%
DUI	21%	26%	36%	22%	22%	32%
Other misdemeanor driving	---	---	---	41%	39%	55%
Other	36%	33%	49%	47%	48%	63%
Overall rearrests	27%	27%	39%	35%	35%	48%

	Felons		Misdemeanants	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Violent	50%	44%	44%	44%
Property	46%	43%	43%	43%
Sex	32%	---	---	---
Drug	35%	44%	44%	44%
DUI	36%	19%	19%	19%
Other misdemeanor driving	---	39%	39%	39%
Other	37%	49%	49%	49%
Overall remands	36%	34%	34%	34%

	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
Violent	23%	17%	38%	34%	31%	50%
Property	22%	21%	37%	34%	36%	50%
Sex	10%	10%	20%	---	---	---
Drug	14%	13%	25%	33%	38%	51%
DUI	11%	16%	25%	15%	13%	25%
Other misdemeanor driving	---	---	---	30%	24%	47%
Other	19%	19%	42%	35%	35%	53%
Overall reconvictions	17%	16%	30%	26%	24%	40%

	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
17 through 24	37%	31%	51%	39%	40%	53%
25 through 29	30%	31%	46%	40%	36%	53%
30 through 34	27%	31%	41%	35%	35%	48%
35 through 39	30%	28%	42%	33%	33%	46%
40 through 44	26%	24%	37%	39%	38%	51%
45 through 49	20%	26%	34%	32%	33%	44%
50 through 54	16%	18%	24%	27%	29%	38%
55 and over	15%	9%	21%	22%	23%	30%
Overall rearrests	27%	27%	39%	35%	35%	48%

	Felons	Misdemeanants
	2008	2008
17 through 24	42%	38%
25 through 29	41%	39%
30 through 34	37%	35%
35 through 39	36%	32%
40 through 44	36%	37%
45 through 49	32%	31%
50 through 54	27%	24%
55 and over	25%	21%
Overall remands	36%	34%

	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
17 through 24	25%	18%	43%	31%	28%	44%
25 through 29	18%	20%	35%	30%	25%	45%
30 through 34	17%	18%	31%	26%	23%	40%
35 through 39	16%	16%	31%	24%	22%	37%
40 through 44	14%	14%	26%	27%	26%	44%
45 through 49	15%	17%	24%	23%	23%	36%
50 through 54	9%	8%	17%	20%	20%	32%
55 and over	7%	3%	12%	15%	16%	23%
Overall reconvictions	17%	16%	30%	26%	24%	40%

	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
Alaska Native/American Indian	31%	31%	48%	45%	45%	60%
Asian-Pacific Islander	29%	25%	40%	30%	32%	40%
Black	34%	37%	47%	44%	40%	59%
Caucasian	26%	24%	36%	30%	30%	41%
Overall rearrests	27%	27%	39%	35%	35%	48%

	Felons	Misdemeanants
	2008	2008
Alaska Native/American Indian	41%	44%
Asian-Pacific Islander	27%	30%
Black	41%	40%
Caucasian	35%	29%
Overall remands	36%	34%

	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
Alaska Native/Amer. Indian	19%	20%	37%	34%	33%	51%
Asian-Pacific Islander	18%	13%	27%	21%	19%	33%
Black	20%	22%	31%	29%	26%	45%
Caucasian	16%	14%	28%	22%	19%	34%
Overall reconvictions	17%	16%	30%	26%	24%	40%

	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
Male	30%	30%	43%	37%	37%	50%
Female	19%	17%	30%	31%	28%	43%
Overall rearrests	27%	27%	39%	35%	35%	48%

	Felons	Misdemeanants
	2008	2008
Male	38%	36%
Female	30%	29%
Overall remands	36%	34%

	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
Male	19%	18%	33%	28%	26%	42%
Female	11%	10%	24%	23%	18%	35%
Overall reconvictions	17%	16%	30%	26%	24%	40%

	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
No prior record	18%	15%	26%	20%	19%	29%
1-5 misdemeanors	31%	22%	36%	33%	31%	45%
6 or more misdemeanors	31%	39%	49%	48%	48%	63%
1 prior felony	28%	29%	45%	47%	48%	62%
2 prior felonies	42%	35%	52%	51%	50%	67%
3 or more prior felonies	49%	49%	62%	60%	52%	73%
Overall	27%	27%	39%	35%	35%	48%

Table 22: Reconvictions by prior criminal history						
	Felons			Misdemeanants		
	Within one year		Within two years	Within one year		Within two years
	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008
No prior record	13%	6%	20%	15%	12%	23%
1-5 misdemeanors	15%	14%	27%	24%	21%	38%
6 or more misdemeanors	19%	23%	38%	37%	35%	55%
1 prior felony	17%	16%	33%	35%	33%	52%
2 prior felonies	24%	25%	42%	36%	36%	56%
3 or more prior felonies	26%	35%	49%	39%	38%	61%
Overall	17%	16%	30%	26%	24%	40%

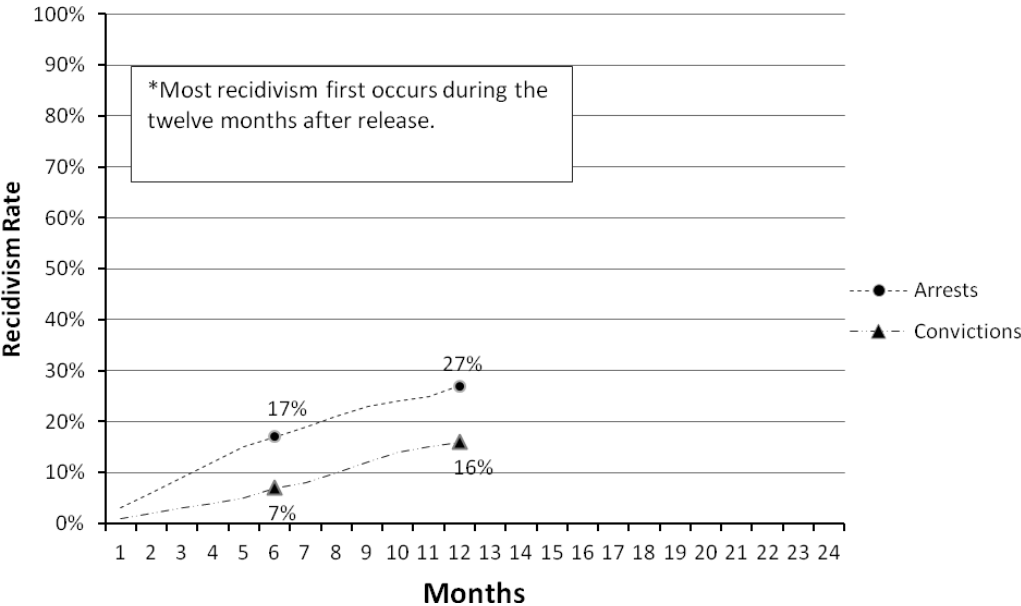
Table 23: Remands by prior criminal history		
	Felons	Misdemeanants
	2008	2008
No prior record	22%	17%
1-5 misdemeanors	33%	32%
6 or more misdemeanors	47%	47%
1 prior felony	42%	47%
2 prior felonies	48%	48%
3 or more prior felonies	47%	54%
Overall	36%	34%

Table 24: Reconvictions within two years for more serious level of offense	
	2008
Unclassified	0%
Felony A	0%
Felony B	2%
Felony C	3%
<b>Misdemeanor A</b>	<b>15%</b>

Table 25: Reconvictions within two years for same type of offense		
	Felons	Misdemeanants
	2008	2008
Violent	29%	38%
Property	34%	40%
Drug	15%	5%
Sex	2%	---
Other	34%	26%
DUI	27%	31%
Other misdemeanor driving	18%	35%

Appendix B – Graphs 1 and 2

Graph 1; Months to first arrest and conviction after returning to community felons 2009



Graph 2: Months to first arrest and conviction after returning to community misdemeanants 2009

