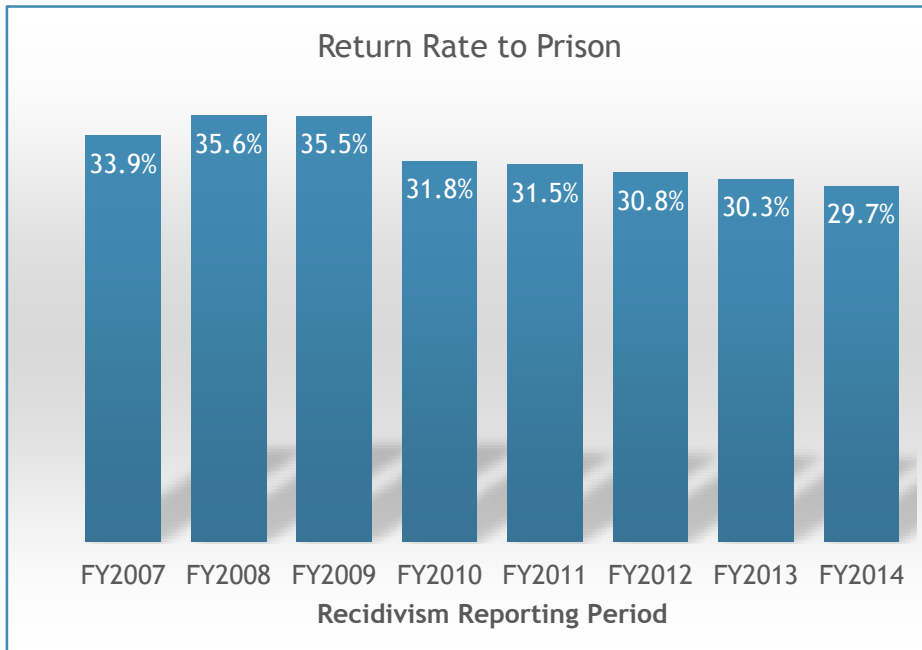


PRISON RECIDIVISM FY2014



TREND

Recidivism rates have steadily declined since FY2009, and dropped below 30% this year. This reduction in recidivism rates is statistically significant at the 99% confidence level.



The reduction in recidivism continues despite an upturn in prison releases in FY2011 (which is the release group represented in the FY2014 recidivism reporting year).



Measuring Recidivism

Recidivism definitions and terms use in this report were developed by The Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) to establish standard performance measures of importance to corrections.

The recidivism rate is the percent of offenders released from prison or work release who returned to prison within three years. The releases tracked are paroles, discharges due to end of sentence, and sex offender releases to special sentence supervision.

The recidivism rate may be further defined by the reason for the prison return: new convictions with sentences to prison; and technical returns (all other reasons).

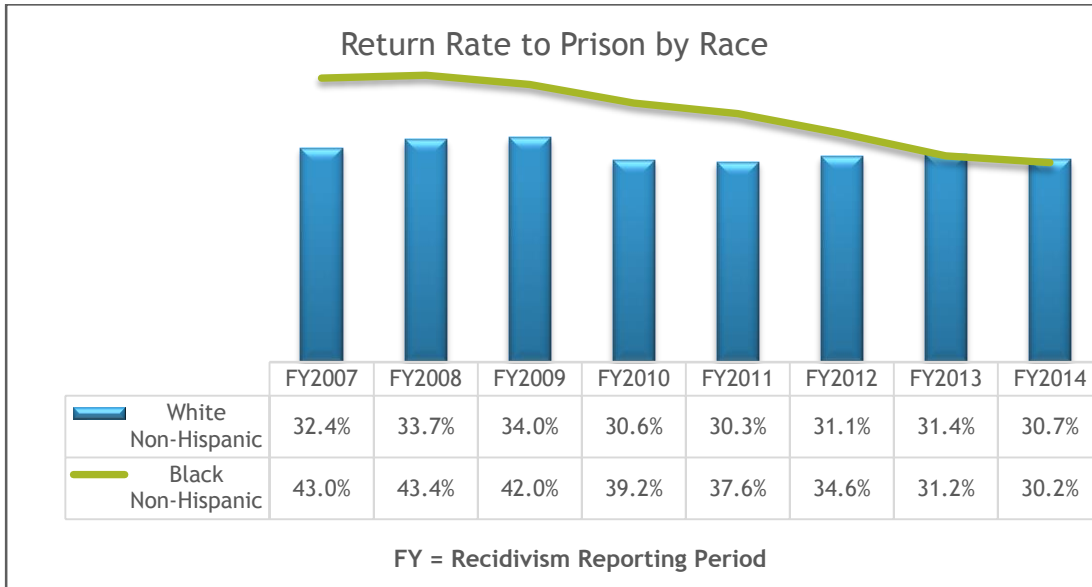
The recidivism reporting year is the conclusion of the three-year tracking period for a release group. The FY2014 reporting year describes recidivism for offenders leaving prison in FY2011.

Research in Brief

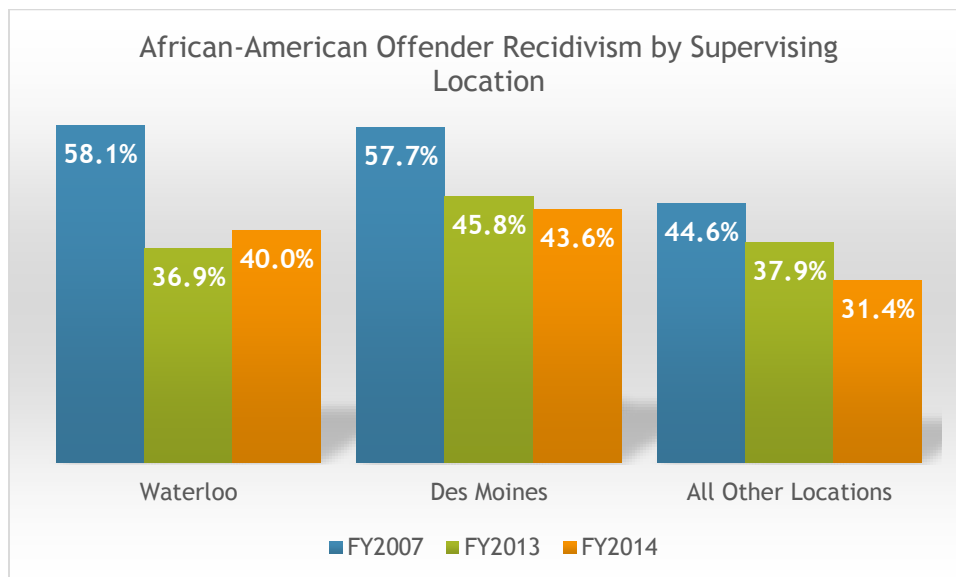
November 2014

RECIDIVISM DOWN FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN OFFENDERS

In the past there was a large disparity in recidivism rates between White and Black offenders, but due to reentry efforts focused specifically on African-American offenders, recidivism rates for this group substantially declined. For the past two recidivism reporting periods, there has been no statistically significant difference in recidivism rates between non-Hispanic Whites and Blacks.



More than half of African-American offenders released to supervision in Iowa are supervised in Des Moines and Waterloo. Reentry efforts focused specifically on this population began in these locations in early 2009, and the results are reflected in the FY2013 reporting year rates (offenders released in FY2010), when rates declined more in these locations than for the rest of the state. For FY2014 the recidivism reductions in Des Moines and Waterloo were maintained, while recidivism rates for African American offenders in other locations declined.

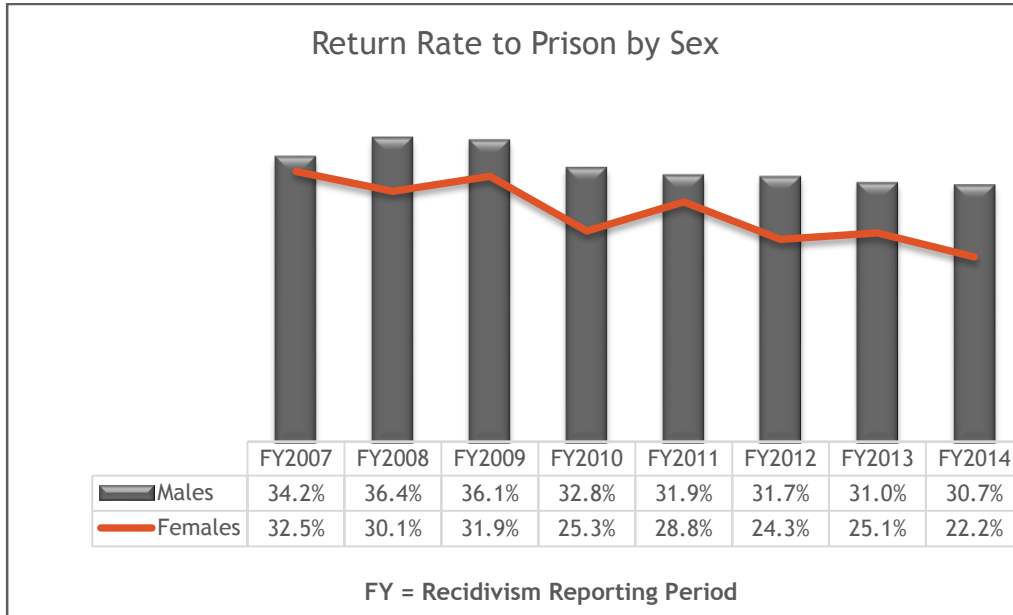


Research in Brief

November 2014

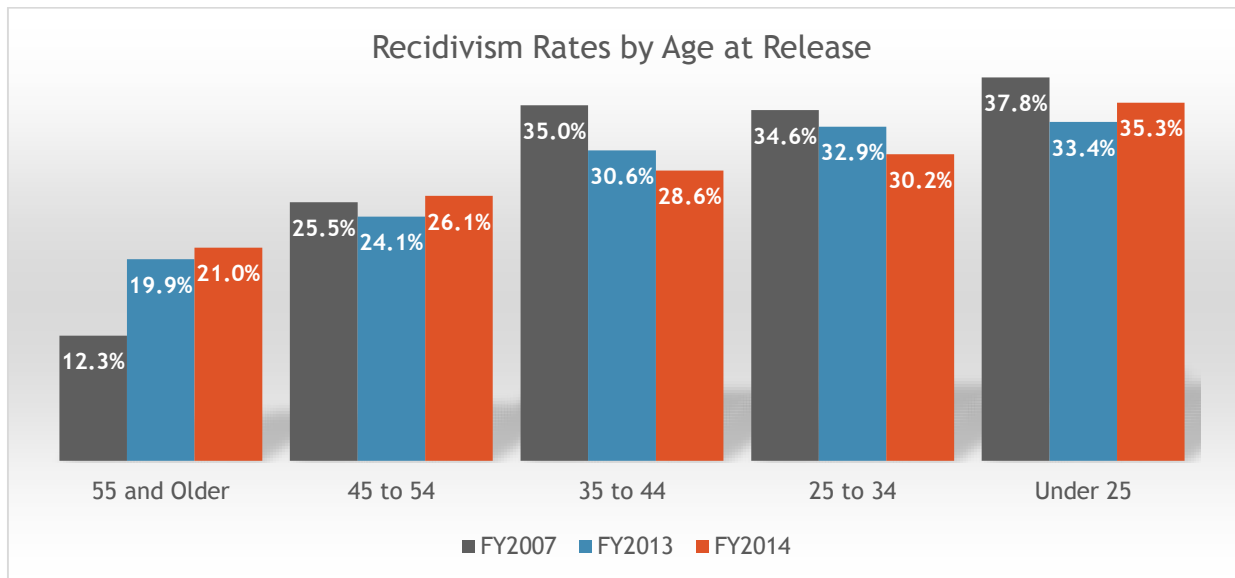
RECIDIVISM DOWN FOR MALE & FEMALE OFFENDERS

Recidivism rates have declined for both male and female offenders, although the declines for women offenders are greater.



RECIDIVISM DOWN FOR OFFENDERS AGED 25 TO 44

Recidivism rates have declined for offenders aged 25 to 34 as well as those aged 35 to 44. Offenders in these age groups make up the majority of releases (61.1%). While it is still true that old offenders have lower recidivism rates than younger offenders, recidivism rates for offenders age 55 and older have increased.

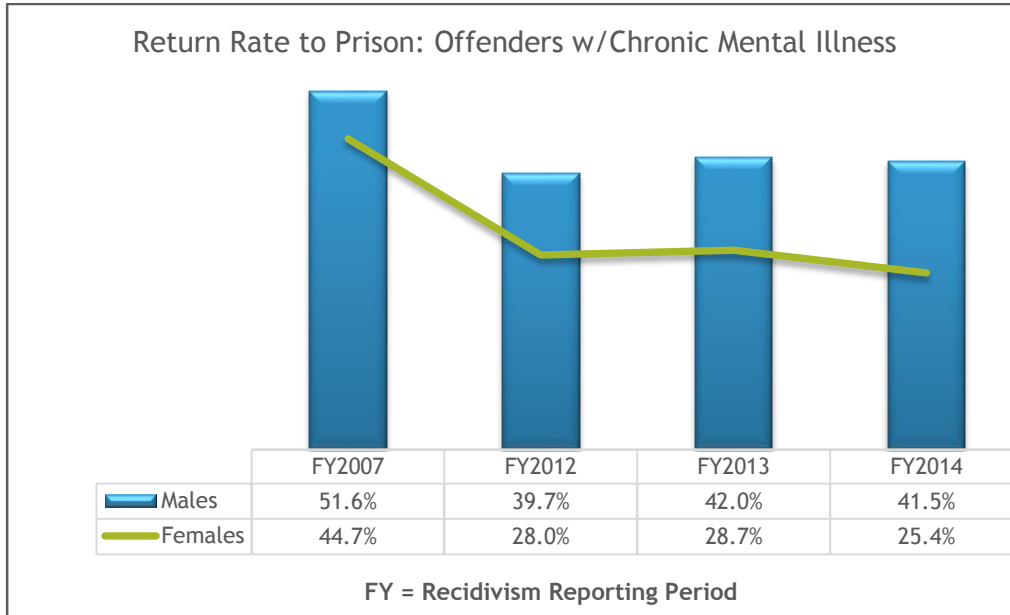


Research in Brief

November 2014

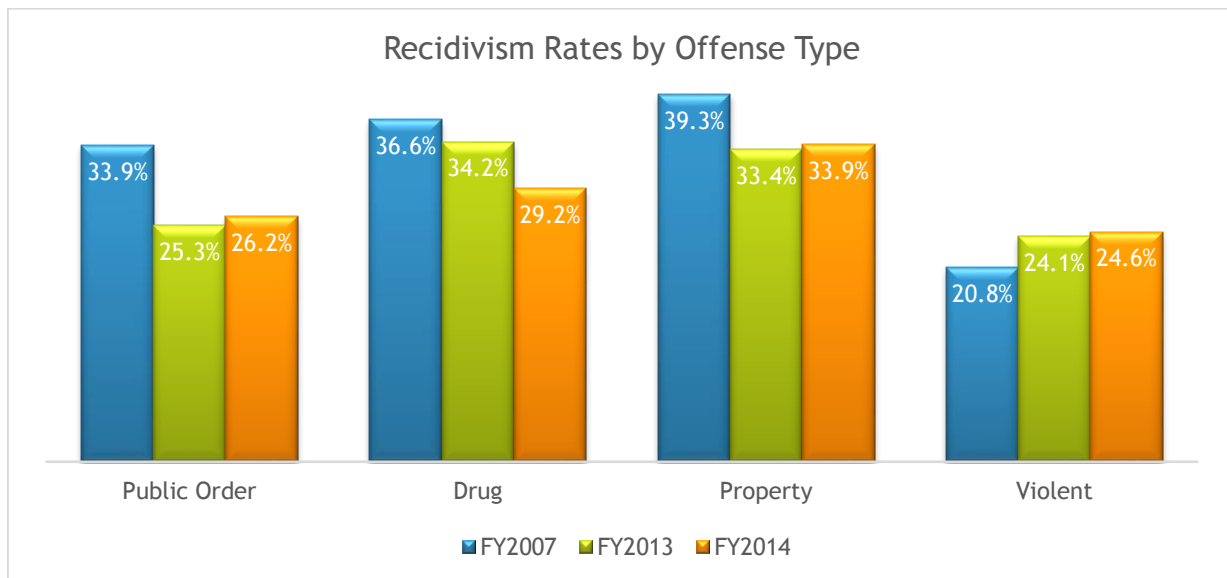
RECIDIVISM DOWN FOR MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS

Recidivism rates for all mentally ill offenders are lower compared with the FY2007 reporting year. Recidivism rates for female offenders with chronic mental illness further declined in FY2014.



RECIDIVISM DOWN FOR PUBLIC ORDER, DRUG & PROPERTY OFFENDERS

Recidivism rates have declined for all types of offenses except violent crime, which slightly increased. Violent crime comprises just 24% of prison releases, and recidivism rates for this group remain the lowest.

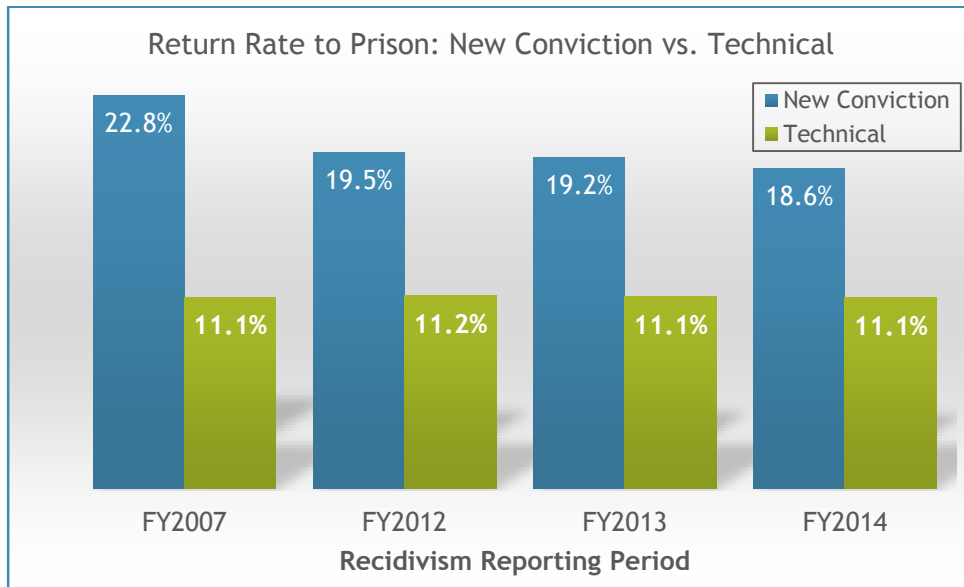


Research in Brief

November 2014

RECIDIVISM: NEW CONVICTIONS VS. TECHNICAL RETURNS

The previous sections document the reduction in recidivism rates is seen across a wide range of offender characteristics (race, sex, age, mental illness) and by offense type. While analysis is not available for every reporting year, available data show the *type* of recidivism that appears to have declined is return to prison due to new conviction. The rate of return to prison for technical reasons appears to have remained stable.



This reduction is not only in the rate, but in numbers as well. The FY2007 reporting year tracked 3,533 releases and found 807 returned to prison due to new conviction. The FY2014 reporting year tracked 3,917 offenders—384 *more* releases—and found 728 (or 79 *fewer* offenders) returned to prison due to new conviction.