

Essex County Sheriff's Department

Kevin F. Coppinger, Sheriff



2016 One-Year Recidivism

Proudly serving the communities of Essex County



March 2018

Data Collected: January - December 2017

Inmates Released: January - December 2016

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**Essex County Sheriff's Department
Mission Statement**

The Essex County Sheriff's Department's top priority is to protect residents in the region from criminal offenders. This is accomplished by:

- Housing inmates in a secure and fair manner.
- Practicing correctional policies that comply with all local, state and federal laws.
- Using innovative correctional approaches that are in accord with the mission.
- Informing and educating the public about the department through the media, tours of the facility and public appearances by the sheriff, administrators, K-9 unit and uniformed personnel.
- Providing a professional working environment for the staff, which takes into account at all times their welfare, safety and opportunities for professional advancement.
- Providing rehabilitation and academic training to offenders while they are incarcerated, so they will not repeat their mistakes once they are released.
- Devising and structuring post-release supervision plans for offenders, to assist them in transitioning back into their respective communities.
- Partnering with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in the development of campaigns and programs that fight crime and promote public-safety initiatives.

**Research and Statistics Division
Mission Statement**

The Research and Statistics Division of the Essex County Sheriff's Department strives to remain on the cutting edge of data collection, analysis, and presentation. Through diligence, integrity and attention to detail the division will provide relevant and highly reliable information.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Since becoming Sheriff of Essex County in January 2017, Kevin F. Coppinger has made it clear that the department's focus is on the care and custody of the inmates in the department's charge. Sheriff Coppinger, leading by example, ensures that each inmate receives a high level of initial screening and attention while in the department's custody. With a focus on combatting drugs and providing a high level of substance abuse treatment, Sheriff Coppinger is at the forefront of reintegration. Thank you Sheriff Coppinger.

Thank you to every ECSD employee for the work you do every day. Thank you to Endicott College intern Kendall Fitzpatrick who assisted in data collection.

ECSD OVERVIEW

ECSD serves the 34 communities and 800,000 people of Essex County. ECSD staff operate three correctional facilities, a Civil Process Division and three Offices of Community Corrections, resulting in care of approximately 2,000 inmates at any time. With approximately ten to twelve thousand inmate bookings each year, the department's employees remain dedicated to public safety and care for those individuals in their custody.

Superintendent Aaron Eastman oversees the Middleton medium-security facility for men, which houses approximately 1,200 inmates. This number includes pre-trial inmates, individuals held overnight or a weekend for local or state police departments (i.e. safe-keeps) and sentenced inmates who do not qualify to be housed in the department's minimum-security facility. The Middleton facility also houses both female and male detox units as well as a temporary detainment area for female inmates.

Superintendent Michael Marks oversees the Essex County Pre-release and Re-entry Center (ECPRC), which is ECSD's minimum-security facility for men. Located in Lawrence, it houses inmates with less serious records as well as those who are approaching the end of their sentences and have earned the privilege of being transferred to the lower-security facility. The facility houses sentenced inmates and supervises men on Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP). The ECPRC staff's primary mission is to provide reintegration services for inmates through the "step-down" process, a method that classifies and houses inmates according to their criminal history, risk level, rehabilitation needs and conduct while incarcerated. This is reflected in the recidivism rate for each facility.

Assistant Superintendent Kerri Patterson oversees the Women in Transition (WIT) facility in Salisbury, which is a female minimum-security facility that houses approximately 24 women. The WIT is also responsible for women on the Electronic Monitoring Program. All residents have been transferred from MCI Framingham.

In 2016 the Essex County Sheriff's Department processed 12,237 inmate admittances: 3,114 safekeeps; 7,040 pre-trial inmates and 2,083 sentenced inmates. The average daily population (ADP) from January 1, 2018 to March 14, 2018 (i.e. year-to-date) for each facility is listed below.

	Sent.	Pre-trial	Safekeeps	Fed./State	Male Detox	Fem. Detox	EMP*	Total ADP
Midd.	393	716	13	3	41	25	n/a	1,191
ECPRC	171	n/a	n/a	9	n/a	n/a	39	219
WIT	21	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	n/a	9	31

*EMP: Electronic Monitoring Program (bracelet)

INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE & REPORT DETAILS

This report presents the one-year recidivism rate for sentenced inmates released in 2016. Recidivism is considered by ECSD to be a conviction, new arraignment or probation/parole violation occurring within one year of an inmate's release. This report also details employment, education, housing, family structure, substance use, program involvement and inmates' opinions of certain aspects of the Essex County Sheriff's Department. A predominant goal of the department is to help inmates stay out of jail or prison after their release.

Method

Information for this report was gathered from ECSD's previous information system, Sheriff's Information and Reporting System (SIRS) and the current information system, Offender Management System (OMS) as well as the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS).

Research and Statistics staff administered the *Aftercare Questionnaire* to former inmates one year after release. If an individual who was released during 2016 was re-incarcerated at ECSD (i.e. had been arrested and incarcerated since his or her release) the interview was conducted in-person when feasible. The interview was done by phone for all other former inmates whom researchers could contact. Participation in the *Aftercare Questionnaire* was voluntary. The individuals were informed that their participation or refusal to participate, as well as all responses, would not affect their treatment or status as current or former inmates.

The question may be asked, "How do you know if the participants are telling the truth?" It has been shown, however, that people are most likely to lie only if they do not trust the interviewers (Jourard, 1969). As our researchers are trained professionals calling from a trusted institution with which the participants are familiar, we have a high degree of credibility among respondents. In addition, our researchers ask follow-up questions when necessary to ensure answers are truthful and accurate. Still some respondents may attempt to answer in a way that they feel will be more favorable to researchers. This response bias is further explained on page 21.

Jourard, S. M. (1969) "The effects of experimenters' self-disclosure on subjects' behavior." In T.M. Williams (Ed.) The impact of television: A natural experiment in three communities. Orlando, FL; Academic Press.

The Release Cohort

All participants in this study were released from the custody of ECSD in 2016; 94% were male. Sixty-two percent were released from the department's Middleton facility, 32% from the ECPRC and 6% from the WIT. Of former inmates that recidivated, 68% were released from the Middleton facility, 26% from the ECPRC and 6% from the WIT.

Measures

Recidivism was calculated by dividing the number of former sentenced inmates *who recidivated* (n = 831) by the number *who were released* in 2016 (N = 1,887). This resulted in a one-year recidivism rate of 44.04%.

Data Collection

Data on recidivism were obtained by running a Board of Probation (BOP) on each inmate one year after his or her release. In addition, as a form of self-reporting, the former inmates were asked if they recidivated. A BOP, which is a type of Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI), is a Massachusetts criminal history and court activity report which details arraignments, offenses, court of origin, and parole or probation violation notices or findings. It also includes the overall disposition of each case which could be a conviction, acquittal, continued without a finding (CWOFF), dismissal, probation imposed by a court, or default statuses by a defendant. ECSD's ability to view these data makes the BOP a highly useful resource for determining if a former inmate has recidivated according to the parameters of this report.

In compiling personal information, researchers used only information from participants who responded. This assured representative figures. All information given by current or former inmates by way of the *Aftercare Questionnaire* was self-reported.

On the first business day of each month between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 researchers ran a *Call List* obtained through either SIRS or OMS. The list was comprised of all sentenced inmates who had been released one year earlier (January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016). In addition, an *Active Inmate List* was run each month informing researchers who was in the custody of ECSD. Using these lists, researchers administered the department's *Aftercare Questionnaire* to former inmates; in person to those re-incarcerated at ECSD, and by phone to all others researchers could locate.

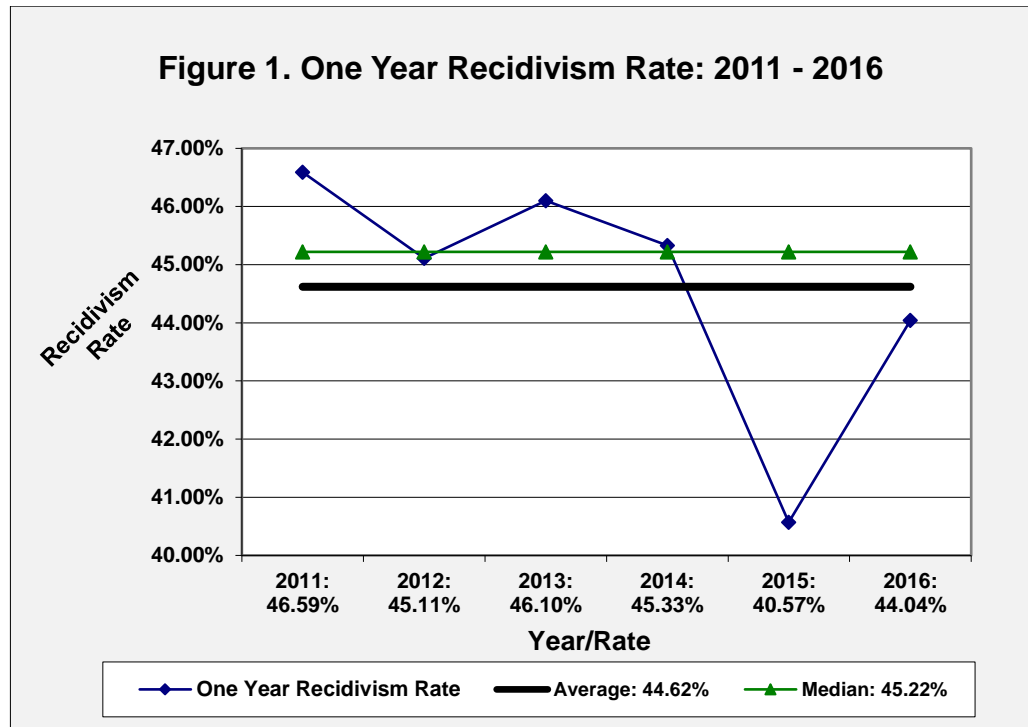
Data Analysis

Data obtained through the *Aftercare Questionnaires* were added to the ECSD Aftercare Questionnaire database, a Microsoft® Access database. Queries were used to extract desired information. Microsoft® Access was also used to compile the *Active Inmate List*. Microsoft® Excel spreadsheets were used to compile statistics and design charts and graphs.

RECIDIVISM STATISTICS

During 2016, 1,887 sentenced inmates were released from the custody of the Essex County Sheriff's Department. Of these former inmates, 831 recidivated, resulting in a one-year recidivism rate of 44.04%. The 2016 rate of 44.04% represents an increase of 3.47% from the 2015 rate of 40.57% but is lower than the average for the previous five years (2011-2015) of 44.74%. Note that while 2016's rate of 44.04% is higher than 2015, which was unusually low, it is lower than any other year going back to 2005.

Figure one shows the recidivism rate for years 2011 through 2016, with an average of 44.62%.



Recidivism by Facility

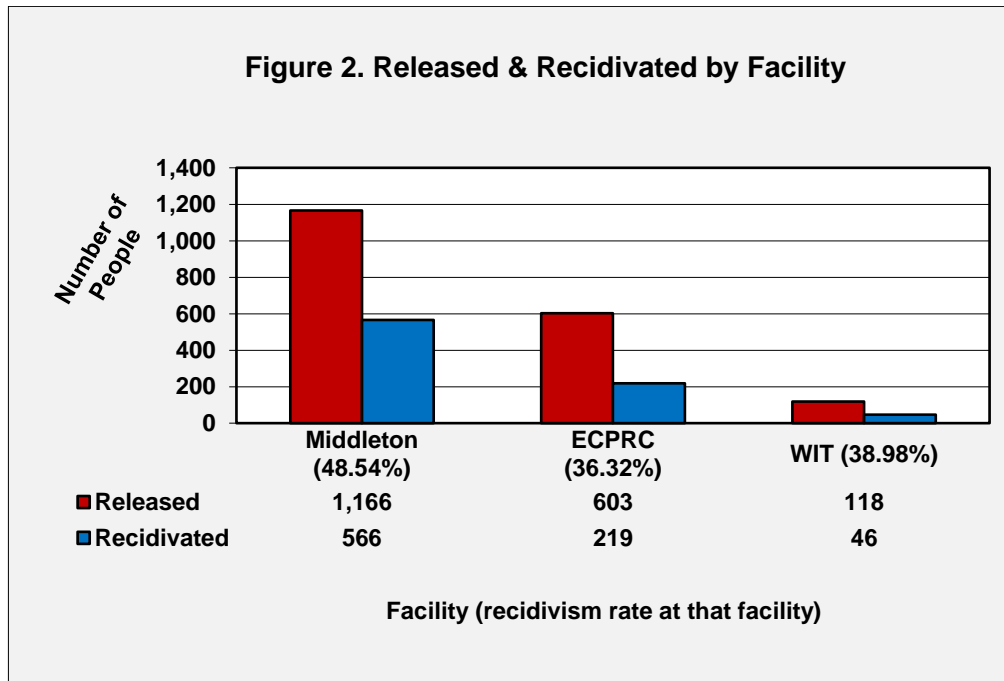
ECSD operates three correctional facilities, each housing a different level of offender. As Middleton is medium-security, it houses the more serious male offenders as well as those male inmates who do not qualify for the ECPRC. Accordingly, it consistently exhibits the highest recidivism rate. The ECPRC is a minimum-security re-entry facility for men. Minimum security means the inmates either have less serious charges than the inmates at the Middleton facility, or they have earned their way to the ECPRC as part of the step-down process. Accordingly, the ECPRC has a lower recidivism rate than Middleton. The Women In Transition center in Salisbury is also a minimum-security re-entry facility. The recidivism rate for the WIT is always lower than Middleton and comparable to the ECPRC.

The recidivism rates by facility are as follows:

Middleton, 48.54%

ECPRC, 36.32%

WIT, 38.98% (see Figure 2).

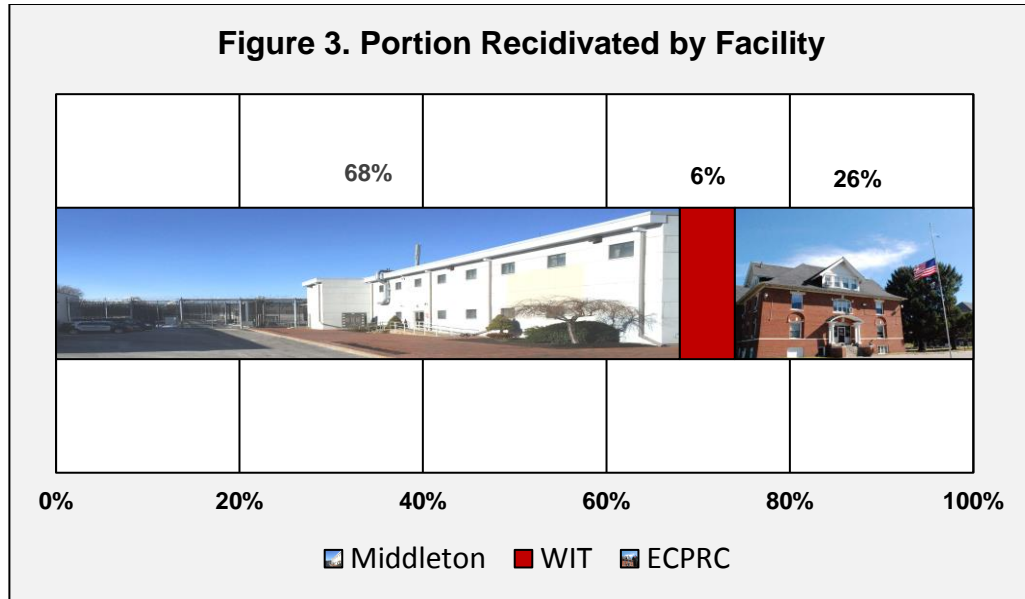


Comparing 2015 and 2016, Table one shows that the recidivism rate of the WIT remained virtually the same (decreasing by only .06%). Middleton, the facility with the largest number of inmates released, had the highest increase in recidivism rate at 3.97%. The ECPRC, the facility with the second highest number of releases, had a slightly smaller increase at 3.20% (see Table 1). These increases ultimately affected the increase in the overall recidivism rate.

Table 1. Recidivism Rate by Facility: 2015 - 2016							
Facility	2015 Releases	2015 Recidivists	2015 Recidivism Rate	2016 Releases	2016 Recidivists	2016 Recidivism Rate	% Change
Middleton	1,243	554	44.57%	1,166	566	48.54%	3.97%
ECPRC	637	211	33.12%	603	219	36.32%	3.20%
WIT	146	57	39.04%	118	46	38.98%	-0.06%

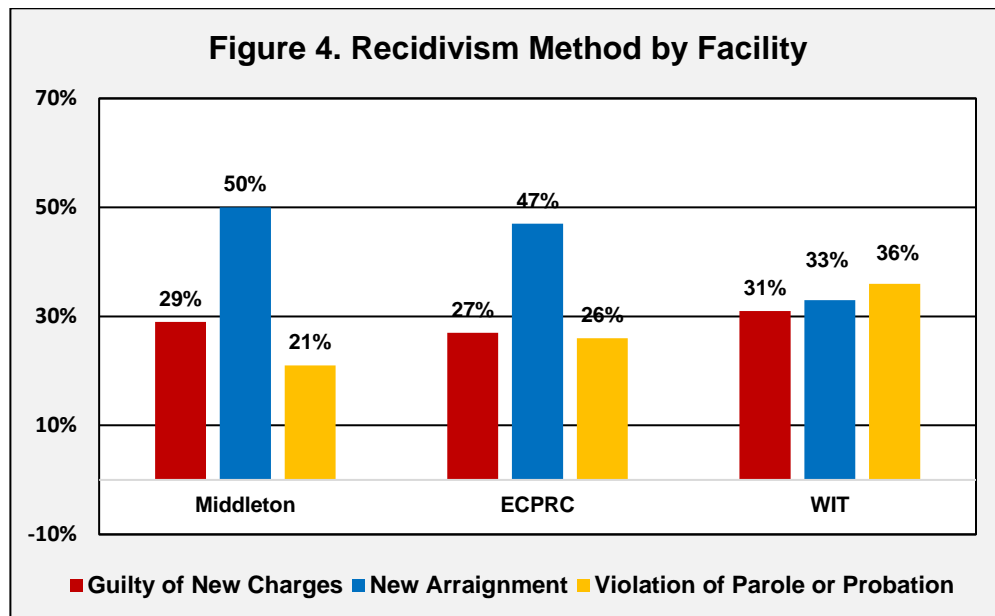
The Middleton facility also accounted for the largest portion of inmates who recidivated. The ECPRC had the second largest portion of inmates who recidivated, and the WIT had the smallest portion.

Of inmates who recidivated after being released in 2016, 68% were released from Middleton, 26% from the ECPRC and 6% from the WIT (see Figure 3).

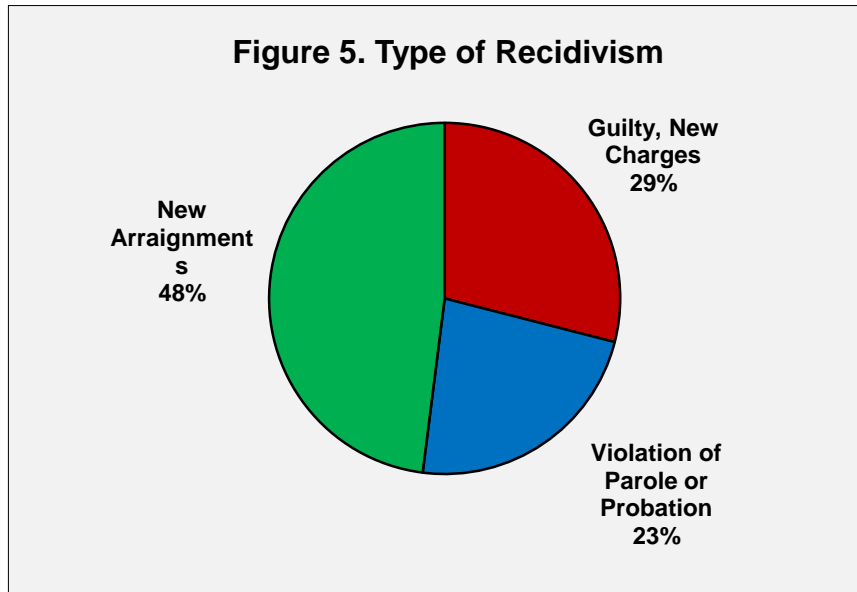


Recidivism Categories

New arraignments were the most common form of recidivism for Middleton and the ECPRC at 50% and 47% respectively, while violation of parole & probation accounted for the largest portion at the WIT with 36%. The percentage found guilty of new charges was comparable across the three facilities: 29% at Middleton, 27% at the ECPRC and 31% at the WIT (see Figure 4).



Of the 831 former inmates who recidivated, 48% had new arraignments, 29% were found guilty of new charges and 23% recidivated by violating parole or probation (see Figure 5). New arraignments routinely account for a high percentage of recidivism as many former inmates have open and unresolved cases, court scheduling issues, dismissal or non-prosecution of charges or continuances without a finding.

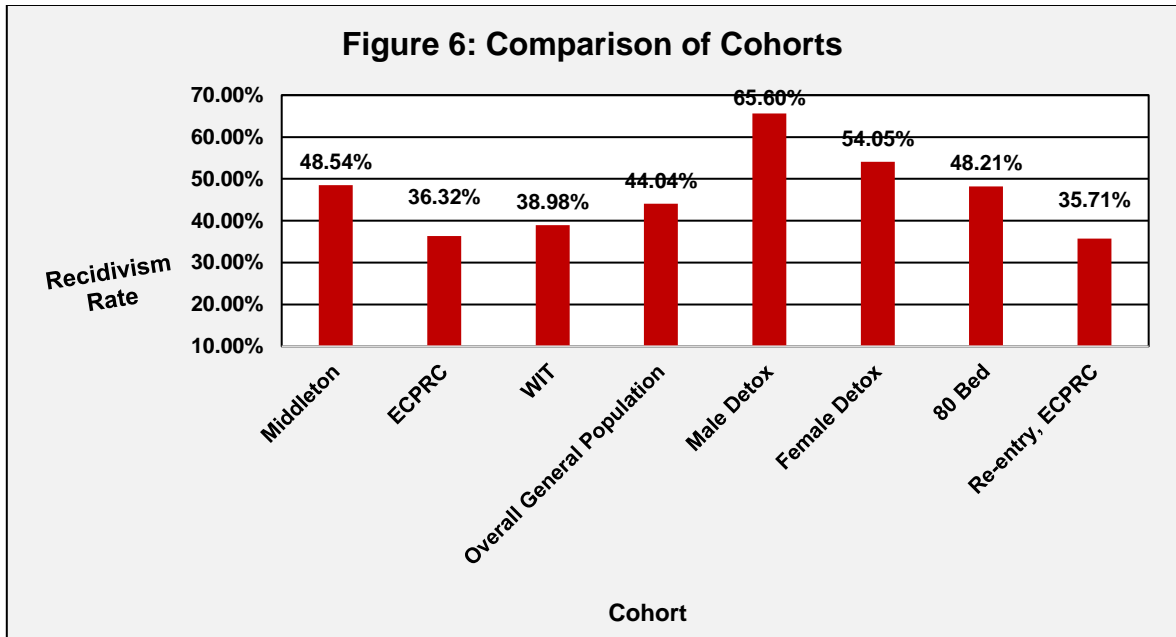


Examining Recidivism by Cohorts

The Male and Female Detox Units at the Middleton facility had the highest recidivism rates with 65.60% and 54.05% respectively. For comparison, ECSD's 80-Bed substance treatment unit at Middleton and the Re-entry/substance treatment unit at the ECPRC were used as **control groups**, as they too provide substance abuse treatment for inmates. While these two units do not offer the level of treatment offered by the detox units, they provide an excellent reference point to see how inmates with different levels of addiction are succeeding after incarceration at the ECSD.

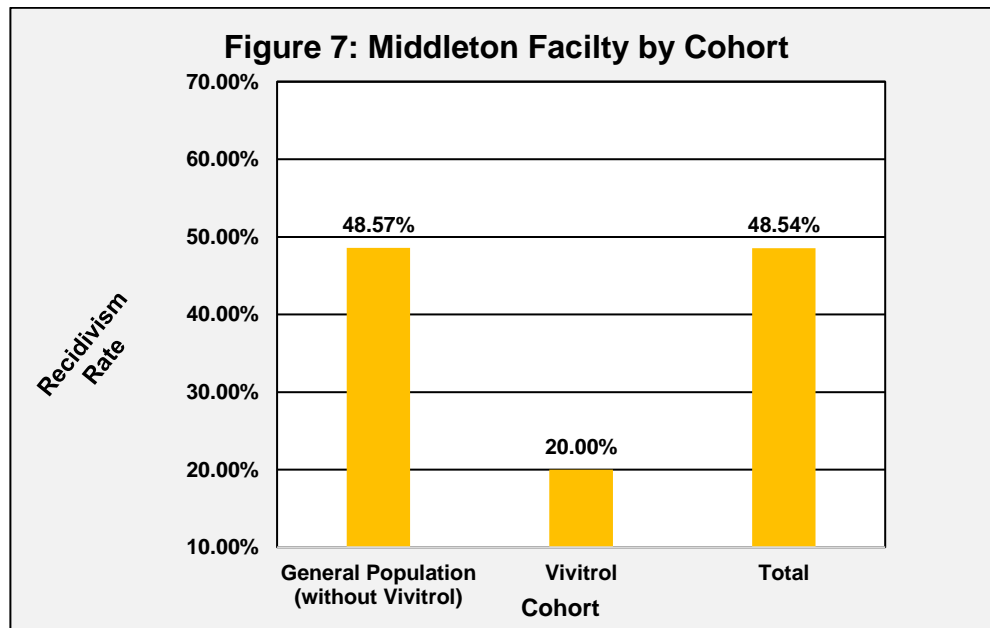
While the 80-Bed Unit's recidivism rate of 48.21% is higher than the general population's rate of 44.40%, it is lower than each of the detox units. This is primarily due to the 80-Bed inmates having less severe substance abuse issues. ECSD's Program Director, Assistant Superintendent Jason Faro, explained that generally detox participants were more recently involved with serious drug use and/or relapse than 80-Bed participants. A.S. Faro further explained that ECPRC's Re-entry Unit participants have been screened and deemed to have a lower risk of relapse, resulting in the lowest recidivism rate, even lower than all three general population facilities.

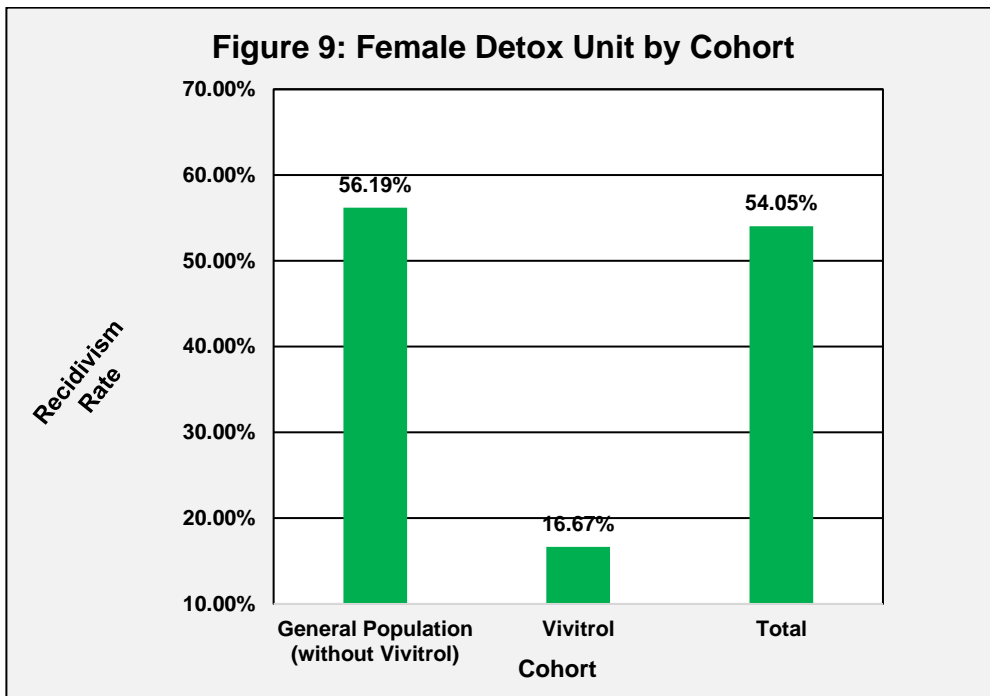
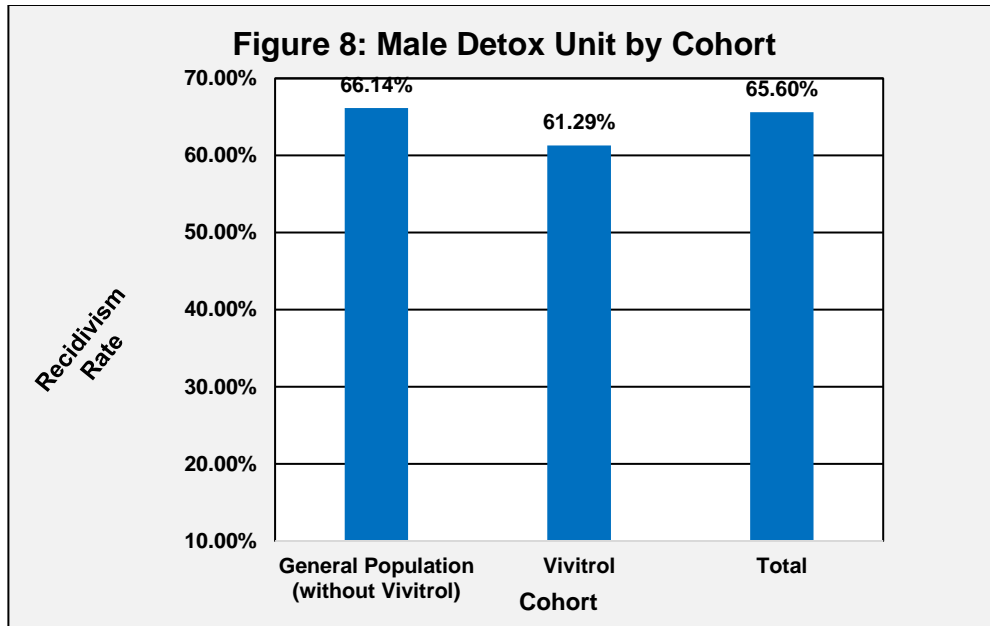
Figure six (see page 11) offers a complete comparison of the eight cohorts examined in this report.



Vivitrol® (Naltrexone) is a medication used to manage addiction by decreasing the craving for opioids and alcohol. In 2016, Vivitrol was provided to the general population of ECSD's Middleton facility as well as the Male and Female Detox Units. With each of the three groups, Vivitrol recipients had a lower recidivism rate than those who did not receive Vivitrol. Note, however, that the Vivitrol sample sizes for Middleton and the Female Detox Unit were quite small at five and six respectively, compared to the Male Detox Unit Vivitrol sample size of 62.

Figures seven through nine show the Middleton facility, Male Detox Unit and Female Detox Unit, detailing the recidivism rate for each cohort within each facility or unit.





The programs at ECSD are working. Staff are placing inmates with the most serious substance abuse issues in the most intense treatment programs. It is reasonable to expect that the recidivism rates will be higher for these more-intense programs.

Table two lists all the cohorts studied and their recidivism rates.

Table 2. Recidivism Rates by Cohort	
Cohort	Recidivism Rate
General Population	
Middleton	
General (without Vivitrol)	48.57%
Vivitrol (n=5)	20.00%
Total	48.54%
ECPRC (No inmates received Vivitrol)	36.32%
WIT (No inmates received Vivitrol)	38.98%
Overall General Population	44.04%
Male Detox	
General (without Vivitrol)	66.14%
Vivitrol (n=62)	61.29%
Total	65.60%
Female Detox	
General (without Vivitrol)	56.19%
Vivitrol (n=6)	16.67%
Total	54.05%
80-Bed (No inmates received Vivitrol)	48.21%
Re-entry at ECPRC (No inmates received Vivitrol)	35.71%

Spotlight on Male & Female Detox Units

The Male and Female Detox Units serve as pre-emptive measures, most often allowing individuals to receive treatment and move forward with their lives as an alternative to incarceration. With this process, individuals are remanded to the Essex County Sheriff's Department's Detox Unit by the presiding judge. Upon completion of the 28-day treatment program, they may be able to dispose of their cases and utilize non-custodial tools as opposed to traditional incarceration. People who successfully complete the program may be recommended to continue with services such as probation, employment counseling, day reporting at an Office of Community Corrections, drug testing, electronic monitoring or sober houses.

In order to be remanded to the 28-day Detox Unit, an individual must meet certain standards. He or she must be alleged to have committed a quality of life crime and cannot be deemed as either a sexual or violent offender. Eligible candidates for the units include individuals who have violated probation, tested positive for opiates, have other drugs or alcohol in their urine, shown clear signs of addiction, or have had numerous low-level offenses. The person must be invested in receiving help at no cost to themselves.

Individualized care includes all aspects of well-being; physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual. Respect for others and the rehabilitation process, personal hygiene and accountability are expected from all participants. The design of the facility is based on efficiency and effectiveness:

- 42 beds in a medical/detoxification environment
- Medical treatment
- Programming components
- Initial court-ordered confinement for treatment followed by a court appearance to further consider the offender's pre-trial status
- Post-release care plan

The **2016 statistics for the Male & Female Detox Units**, listed below, show the success of the detox program.

	Male (opened 12/7/15)	Female (opened 7/5/16)
Released from unit	653	176
Bailed or extradited	7	2
Program Failures	82	35
Successfully Completed	564	139
Success Rate (%)	564/646* = 87%	139/174* = 80%

*Bailed or extradited are not included as they did not fail or succeed.

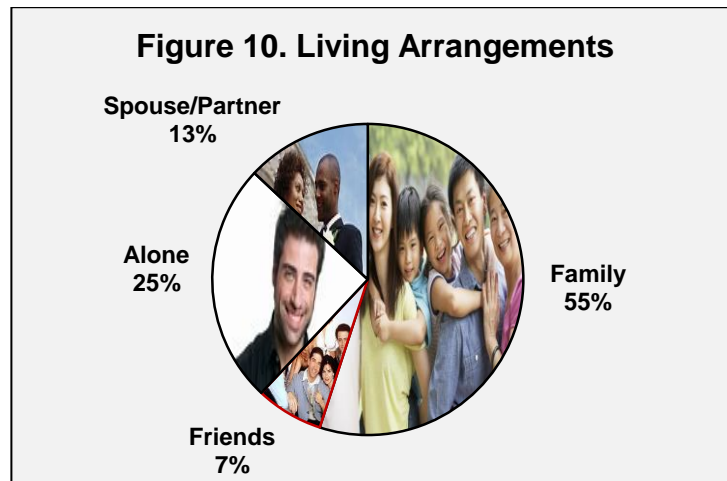
DEMOGRAPHICS

Section Overview

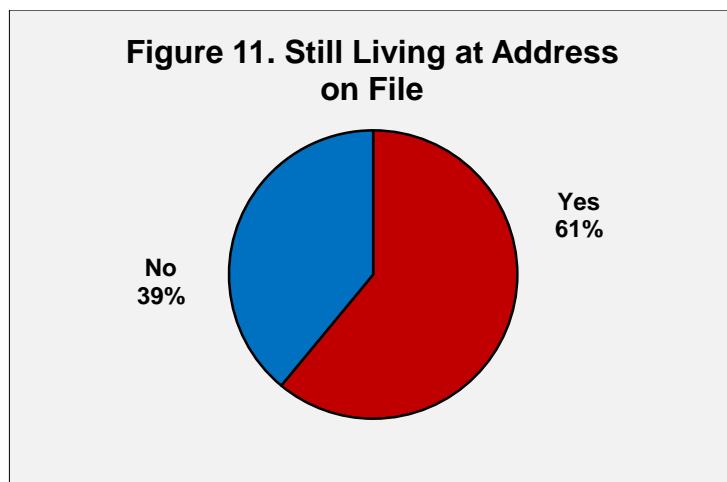
This section covers demographic data obtained through ECSD's *Aftercare Questionnaire*. Current and former inmates that took the questionnaire did so on a voluntary basis. Participants were informed that neither their choice to participate nor their responses would affect their pre or post-release treatment. Housing, employment, education, substance abuse, rehabilitation, post-release supervision and family dynamics were examined. All participants were released from the custody of the Essex County Sheriff's Department during 2016.

Housing

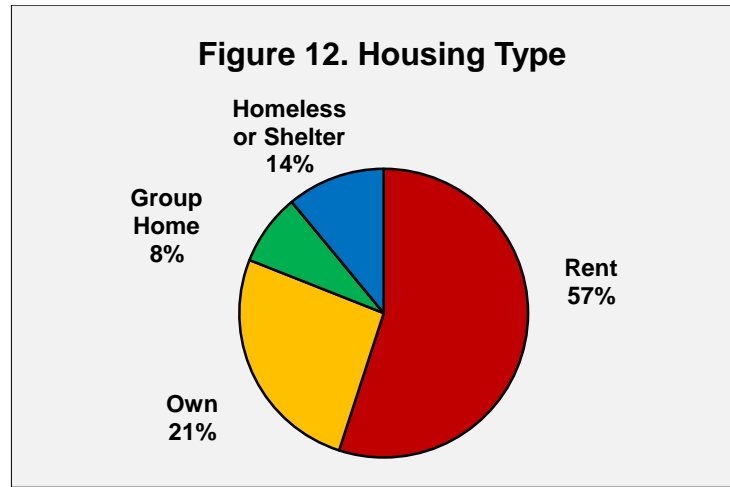
More than half of respondents (55%) were living with family one year after their release. One quarter lived alone and the remaining 20% lived with a spouse or partner (13%) or friends (7%, see Figure 10).



Sixty-one percent reported living at the same address they were at when released (see Figure 11).



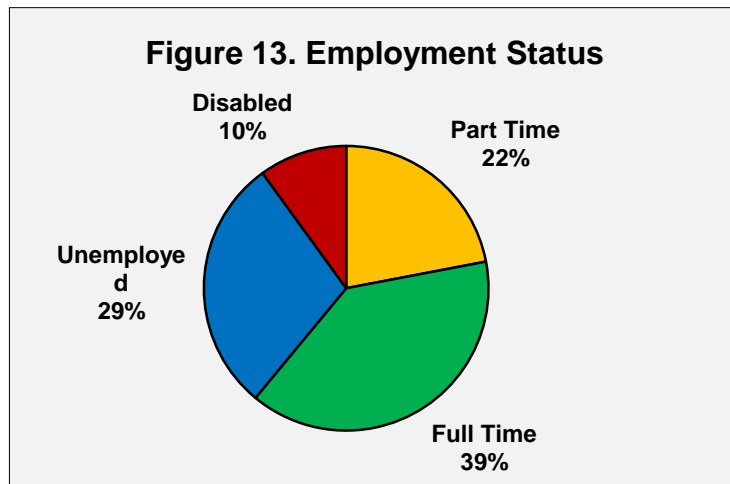
Fifty-seven percent of questionnaire participants reported renting and 21% reported owning a home or living with a person who owned a home. Fourteen percent stated they were homeless or living in shelters and 8% lived in group homes (see Figure 12).



As researchers cannot readily contact former inmates who are homeless, this cohort may be under-represented. This limited access may not only affect data obtained on living arrangements but also on other factors such as employment, income and sobriety. This limited access to homeless former inmates, however, is offset by contacting relatives to obtain data on these individuals.

Employment

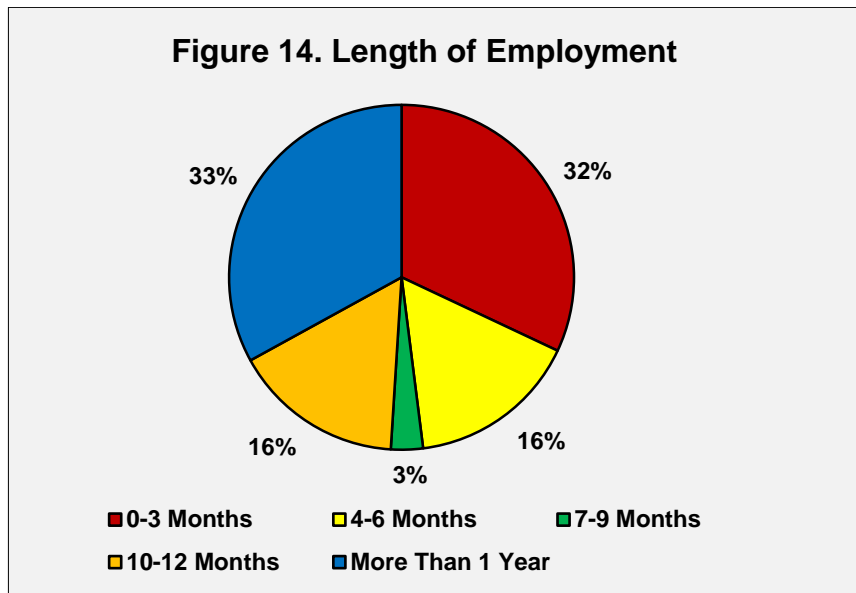
The unemployment rate for inmates released in 2016 was 29% (see Figure 13). People in ECSD's custody at the time of the study were excluded from these figures, as 100% of them are unemployed and their inclusion would skew results.



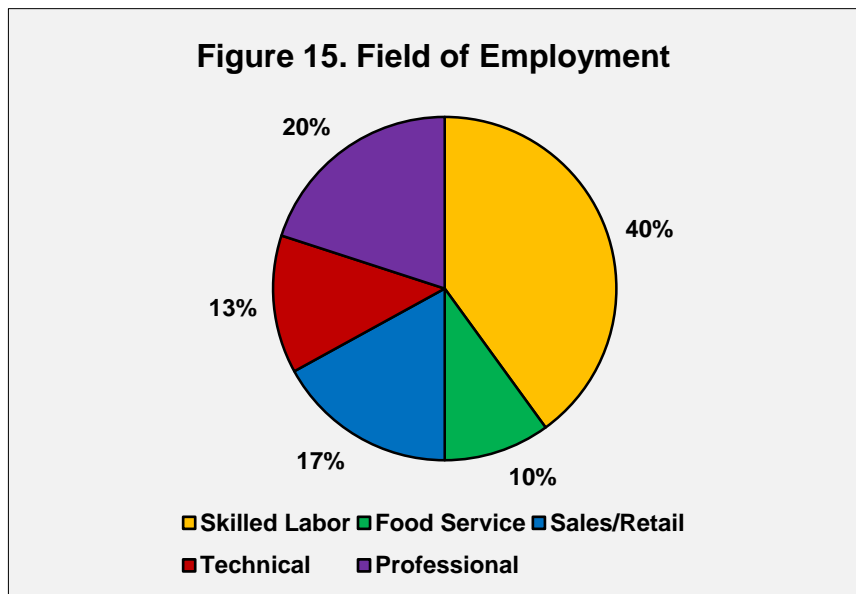
It could be argued that respondents who are incarcerated *should* be included in the unemployment rate (as they are not gainfully employed outside of the jail). Including respondents who were

incarcerated increased the unemployment rate to 58%. This is explained in detail in table Four, page 20.

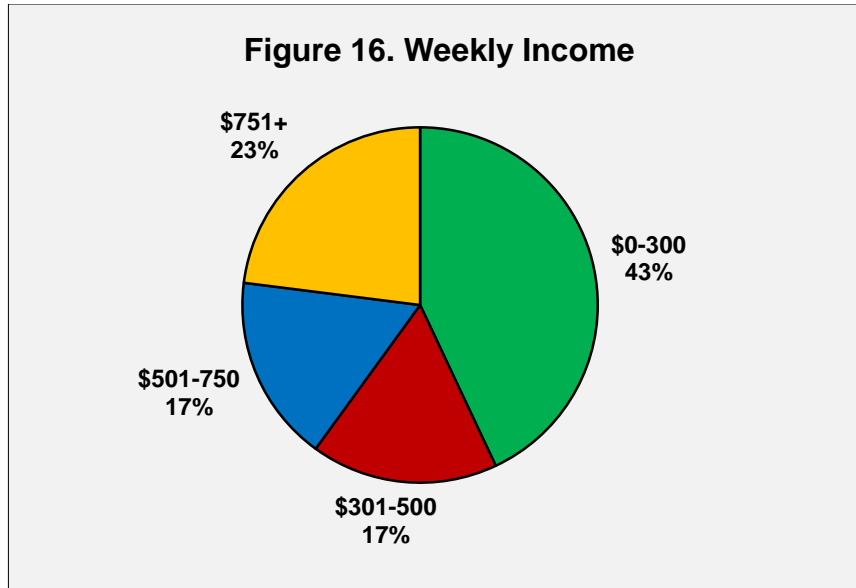
Of former inmates who were employed, 33% reported holding their positions for more than a year. Employment reported for more than one year is indicative of an employer holding a position for an employee during incarceration. A combined 19% had been employed between seven and 12 months and a combined 48% had been employed for six months or less (see Figure 14).



Of former inmates who were employed, 40% worked as skilled laborers. Twenty percent worked in a professional capacity while 17% were in sales/retail, 13% were in the technical field and 10% were in the food industry (see Figure 15).

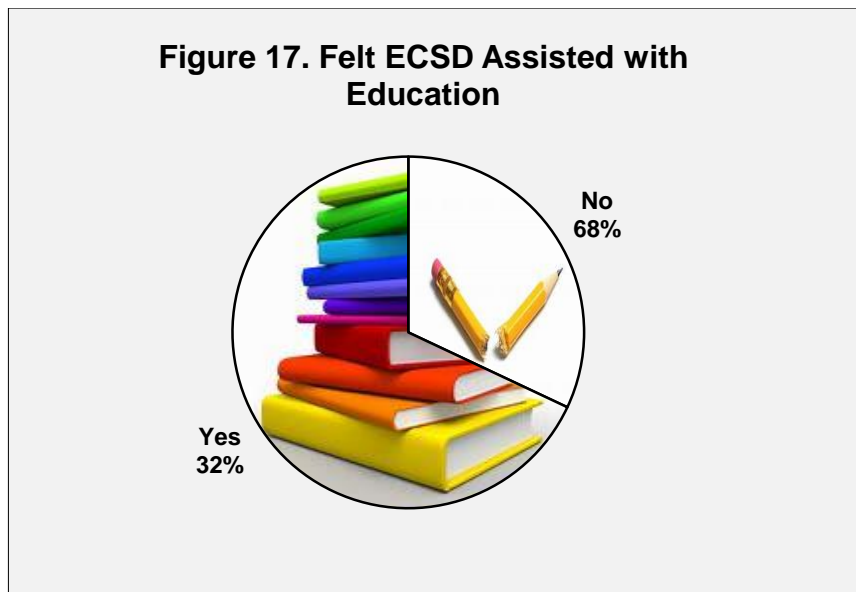


A combined 60% earned \$500 or less per week and 17% earned between \$501 and \$750 per week. Only 23% earned \$751 or higher per week (see Figure 16).

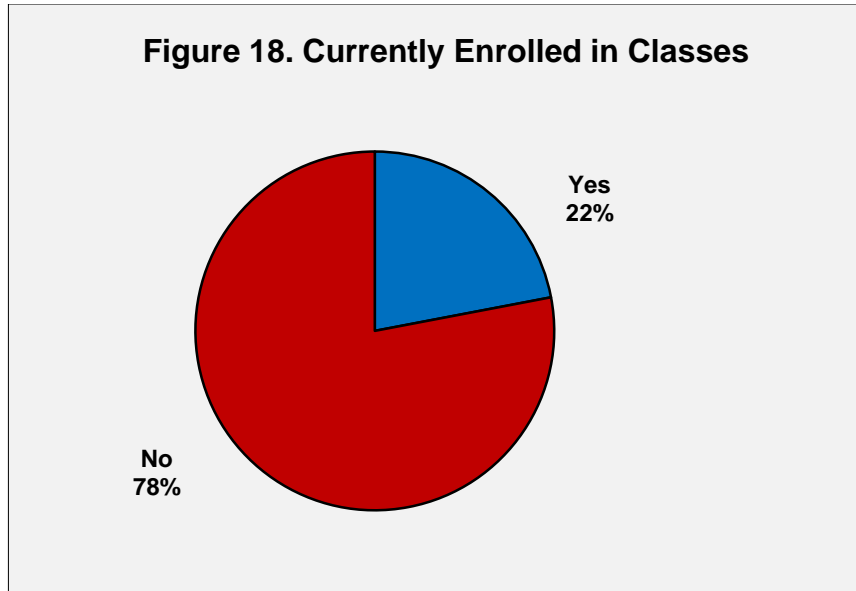


Education

Education is very important to the success of former inmates. Inmates are encouraged to take part in the various classes and programs offered at ECSD. Sixty-eight percent of respondents stated that ECSD assisted them with their education (see Figure 17).



Twenty-two percent of former inmates were pursuing education one year after their release (see Figure 18).



Twenty-two percent of respondents reported having at least some college. Thirty-one percent reported having received high school diplomas and 23% had GEDs or HiSet certification. Twenty-four percent reported having no high school diploma, GED or HiSet certification (see Table 3).

Table 3. Education Levels Among Former Inmates	
Level of Education	%
No HS Diploma, GED or HiSet	24
GED or HiSet	23
High School Diploma	31
Some College	16
College Graduate	6

Education and Employment

Looking at only former inmates that were not incarcerated one year after release, respondents with no high school diplomas, GEDs or HiSet certification had an unemployment rate of 57%. The unemployment rate for those with high school diplomas or equivalent was quite lower at 29%. Those with college experience were lower still at 16%. The overall unemployment rate for former inmates not incarcerated one year after release was 29% (see Table 4, page 20).

Table four also shows the unemployment rate for all respondents, including those who were incarcerated at the time of their interviews. As expected, these rates are significantly higher than the rates of only inmates not incarcerated one year after release.

Table 4. Education & Unemployment Rates

Education	Unemployment Rate (%) Only Those Not Incarcerated	Unemployment Rate (%) All Respondents
No HS Diploma, GED or HiSet	57	76
HS Diploma, GED or HiSet	29	54
College experience	16	48
Overall	29	58

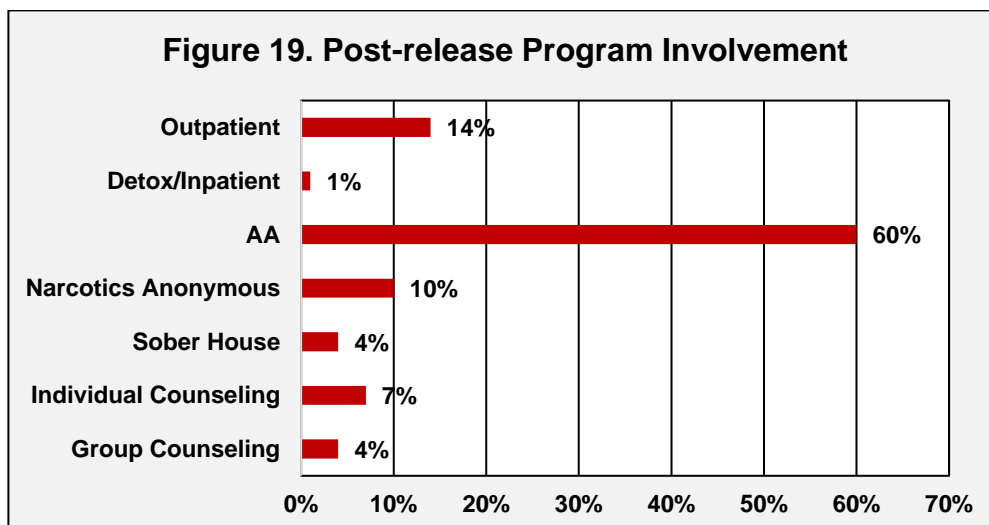
Substance Abuse

Substance abuse continues to be a major issue among the inmate population. Numerous drug and alcohol programs are offered to offenders while they are incarcerated, with 77% of inmates released in 2016 participating in substance abuse programs prior to their release. Upon release from ECSD, inmates may participate in outside programs through referral, court mandate or personal choice. One year after release, more than half (51%) stated they had participated in a substance abuse treatment program after release (see Table 5).

Table 5. Participation in Substance Abuse Programs Pre/Post-release

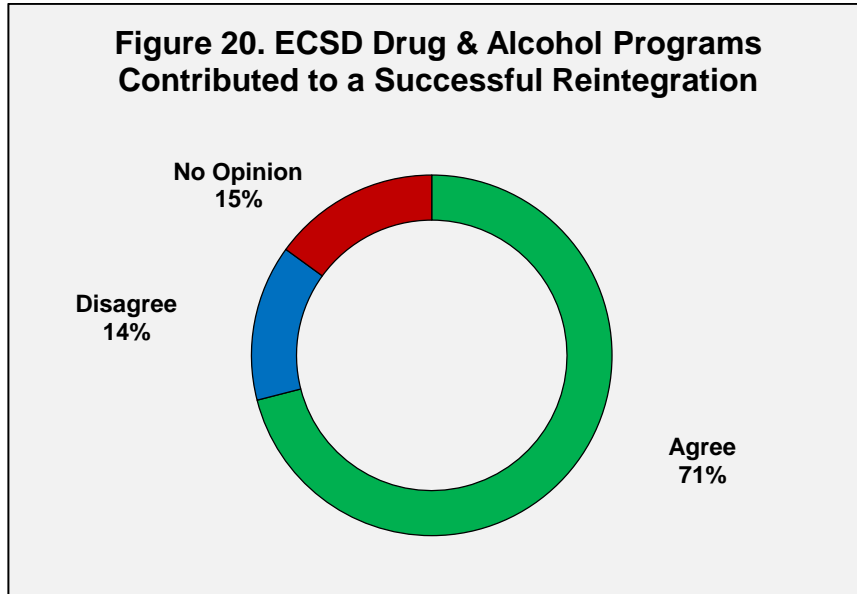
Status	Participated (%)	Did Not Participate (%)
In Custody	77	23
Post Release	51	49

Of former inmates who participated in post-release counseling, treatment or programs, a large portion (60%) attended Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). The next largest group attended outpatient treatment (14%) with all other treatment options receiving 10% or less (see Figure 19).

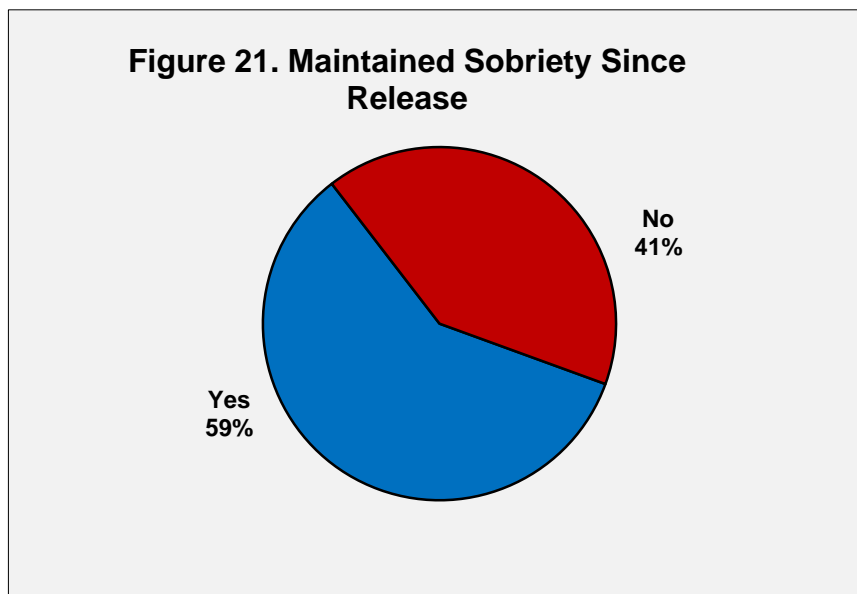


Rehabilitation Programs

Most former inmates interviewed (71%) felt that the department's drug and alcohol treatment programs contributed to a successful reintegration (see Figure 20).

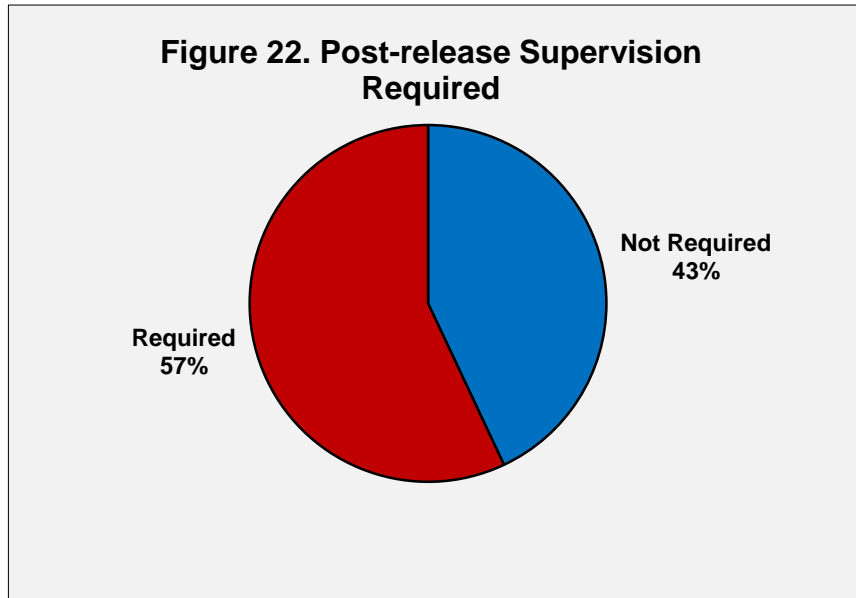


Fifty-nine percent of respondents stated that they had maintained sobriety since their release (see Figure 21). This may reflect some bias, as former inmates may attempt to put themselves in the best possible light. This type of "response bias" is also called social desirability or faking good. The high rate of former inmates that state they have remained sober also reflects, however, the success of the programs taken while incarcerated at ECSD and after release. As noted previously, this figure may also reflect researchers' limited ability to contact homeless individuals, some of whom may not have maintained sobriety.

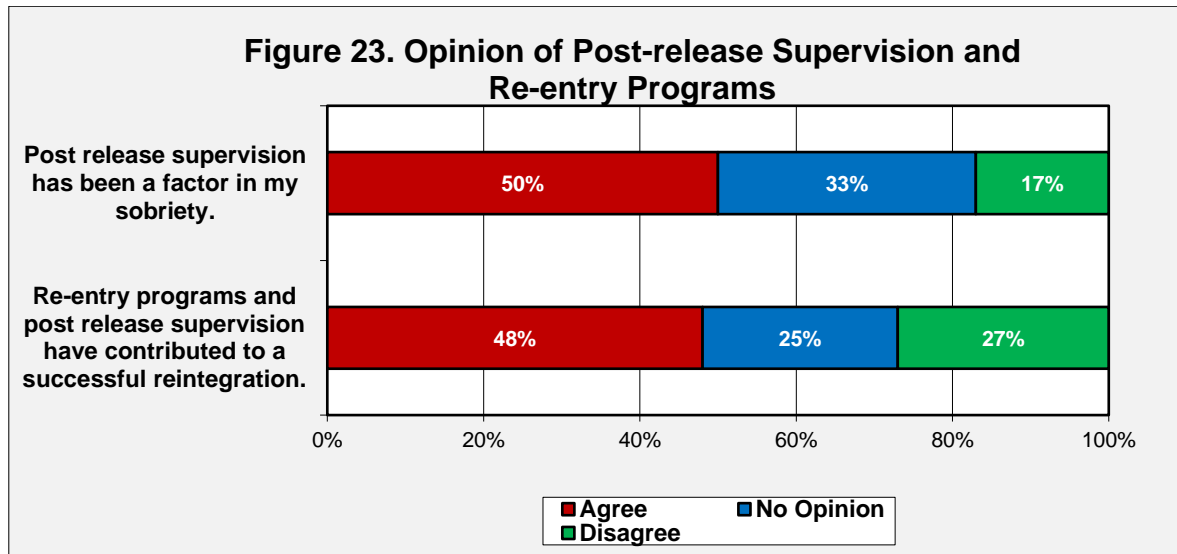


Post-release Supervision

Fifty-seven percent of the inmates released in 2016 were required to be on parole or probation (see Figure 22). This post-release supervision adds much-needed accountability for former inmates.

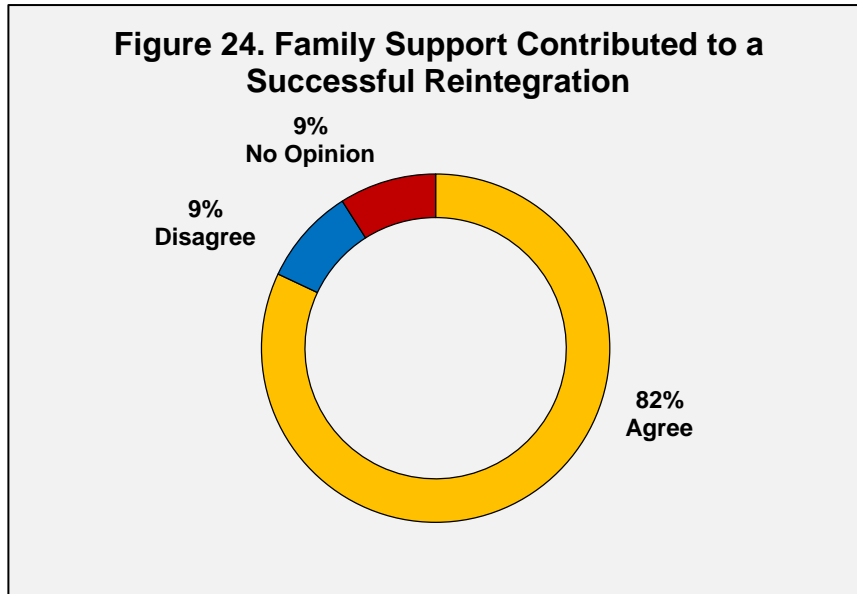


Of former inmates who were required to have post-release supervision, 50% felt that it had been a factor in maintaining their sobriety. Forty-eight percent felt that the combination of post-release supervision *and* ECSD's Re-entry programs were helpful (see Figure 23).

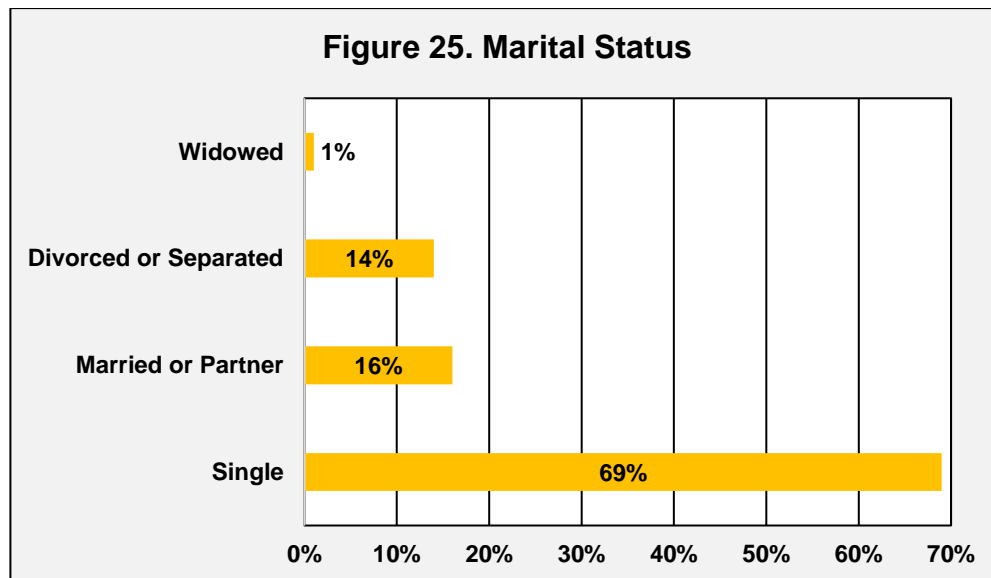


Family Status

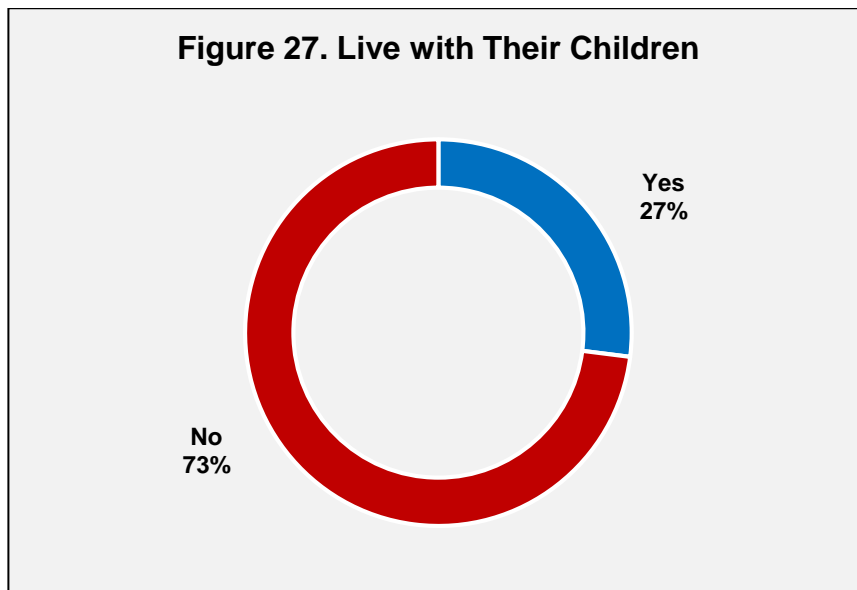
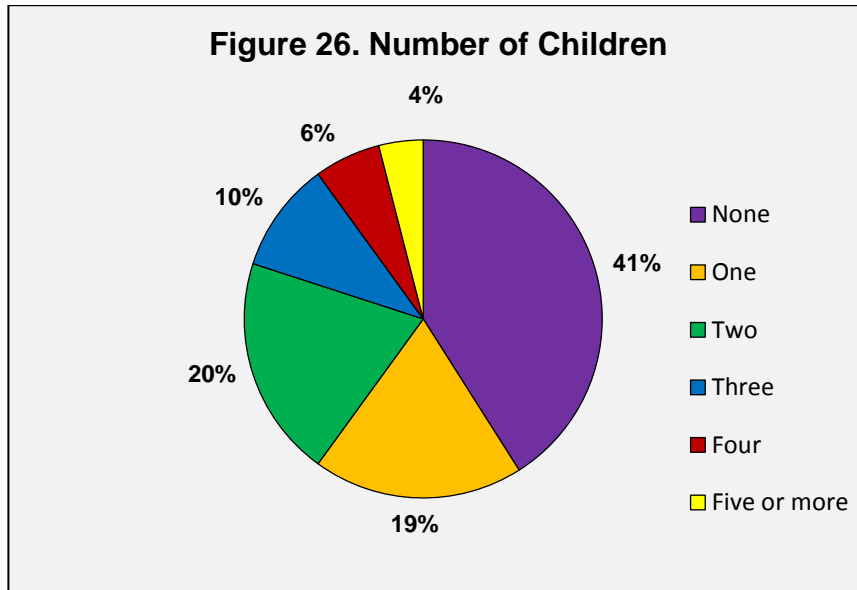
Eighty-two percent of respondents felt that family support contributed to a successful re-entry (see Figure 24). As family is the primary source of support for most former inmates, ECSD staff encourages inmates to stay connected to loved ones.



The majority of former inmates (69%) remained single while almost equal percentages were married/living with partner (16%) or divorced/separated (14%, see Figure 25).



A combined 59% of former inmates had at least one child, including a combined 20% having at least three children (see Figure 26). A large majority (73%) reported living with their children (see Figure 27).



Offenses for Which Incarcerated

Of sentenced inmates released in 2016, straight assault and assault & battery (A&B) accounted for almost one-in-five (19%) of offenses for which inmates were sentenced to ECSD. Accounting for the remaining top five offenses were drug related crimes (16%), burglary/larceny (12%), motor vehicle related (10%) and breaking & entering (6%, see Table 6, page 25). Drug offenses and OUIs accounted for a combined 21% of offenses, illustrating that substance abuse is prevalent among sentenced inmates.

Table 6. Offenses for Which Incarcerated	
Offense	(%)
Assault/A&B	19
Drug Related	16
Burglary/Larceny	12
Motor Vehicle Related	10
Breaking & Entering	6
Abuse Prevention Act/Restraining Order/209A Violations	5
OUI	5
Receiving Stolen Property	3
Firearms/Weapons	2
Sex Crimes	2
Resisting Arrest	2
Threat/Attempt to Commit a Crime	2
Destruction of Property	2
Shoplifting	2
Non-payment of Child Support	1
Fraud/Bribery/Forgery	1
Other*	10
*"Other" includes offenses with less than 1% response.	

Communities to Which Released

Lawrence, Lynn and Haverhill perennially receive the most people released by ECSD. This trend continued for inmates released in 2016: 17% went to Lawrence, 13% to Lynn and 12% to Haverhill. Seventy-four percent remained in Essex County and 94% remained in Massachusetts (see table 7).

Table 7. Communities to Which Released	
City	(%)
Lawrence	17
Lynn	13
Haverhill	12
Methuen	5
Salem	5
Peabody	4
Gloucester	3
Amesbury	2
Beverly	2
Danvers	1
Salisbury	2
Saugus	1
Other Communities in Essex County	7
Out of Essex County	20
Out of Massachusetts	6

CONCLUSION

As a departure from previous recidivism reports, this report focuses solely on recidivism rates of numerous cohorts and the status, activities and opinions of former inmates one year after their release. While prior reports had included inmate information at the time of release, we believe information on what inmates are doing post-release will be more relevant and useful.

Defining Recidivism

The one-year recidivism rate reflects the success of sentenced inmates that have been released. Simply put: how many former inmates remained out of the criminal justice system? The lower the recidivism rate, the higher the success rate. In order to fully appreciate the recidivism rate, one may ask two questions:

Q1: What period is being examined?

A: This is a one-year recidivism report specifically examining the 1,887 sentenced inmates released in 2016, one year after they have been released.

Q2: What is the definition being used?

A: The answer to this question may be different depending on the agency conducting the study. The Essex County Sheriff's Department has a broad definition of recidivism, including:

- Being found guilty of a new crime;
- Having a new arraignment;
- Violating parole or probation.

This rather wide definition means that ECSD's recidivism rate is higher than if the department used a narrower definition, perhaps not including "technical violations" (i.e. violating parole or probation) or not including new arraignments (Some would argue that just because a person has been arraigned, they did not necessarily recidivate). We believe that the current definition, used by ECSD since 2005, allows researchers to utilize a conservative/pragmatic approach while including all types of recidivism. By using the same definition for the past 14 studies, researchers have been able to accurately measure the one-year recidivism rate in a consistent manner.

2016 Recidivism Rate

The 2016 one-year recidivism rate of 44.04% is higher than the 2015 rate of 40.57% (see Figure 1). When looking at this 3.47% difference, one must consider three points:

- 1) The 2015 rate of 40.57% was unusually low; the lowest since the department began tracking recidivism in 2005.
- 2) The sample size (n) for each facility is relatively small. Therefore, it does not take many additional inmates to recidivate in order to increase the overall recidivism rate. Let us use the 1,887 total sentenced inmates released in 2016 and compare the 2015 and 2016

recidivism rates. The 2016 rate of 44.04% means 831 people recidivated. Applying the 2015 rate of 40.57% to the 2016 released population of 1,887, we would have had 766 people that recidivated, a difference of 65 people or approximately only five per month.

- 3) Using the *Bell Curve*, the 2016 rate of 44.04% is well within the *normal distribution* of recidivism rates from 2005 to 2016. The theory of the Bell Curve is that in a normal distribution of measurements (e.g. batting averages, heights or in this case ECSD's recidivism rates) 68% of the measurements will be within one *standard deviation* (SD) of the average.

The SD is calculated based on the distribution and the average of the measurements obtained. With an average of 45.78% and an SD of 2.21% (2005 – 2016), one SD would range from 43.57% to 47.99% with 2016's rate of 44.04% falling within that range. This tells us that 2016's recidivism rate is not unusually high or low.

Recidivism by Facility

As the Middleton facility is the largest of the three facilities and houses more serious offenders, it once again accounted for the highest number of inmates released (1,166), the highest number that recidivated (566) and the highest recidivism rate (48.54%, see Figures 2 & 3 and Table 1).

Released Cohorts

Examining eight cohorts, with three of them broken down by Vivitrol recipients & non-Vivitrol recipients, we found that the Male and Female Detox Units had the highest recidivism rates with 65.60% and 54.05% respectively (see Figure 6). This is to be expected as the department is placing inmates with the most serious substance abuse issues on these units. As this report illustrates, substance abuse dramatically affects recidivism.

The Male Detox Unit had a sizable Vivitrol recipient sample with 62. The Vivitrol recipients' recidivism rate of 61.29% was lower than that of the general population on this unit (i.e. those who did not receive Vivitrol) of 66.14% (see Figure 8).

Both Male and Female Detox Units were quite successful in 2016. The male unit released 653 inmates, 87% of whom successfully completed the program. The female unit released 176 inmates, 80% of whom successfully completed the program. Combined, both detox units released 829 inmates, 86% of whom successfully completed the program (see page 14).

Housing

Most former inmates had stable housing, with 55% living with family and 61% returning to the same address they had before incarceration (see Figures 10 & 11).

Employment

The unemployment rate among former inmates was 29%. Of those former inmates who were employed, one-third had their jobs for more than one year, indicating that their employers held their jobs for them while they were incarcerated. Forty-eight percent had their jobs for a relatively short period (six months or less). Most respondents worked as laborers (see Figures 13 – 15).

Education

Approximately one-third (32%) of former inmates felt that ECSD helped them with their education (see Figure 17). It seems that education affected the unemployment rate among former inmates, as those with no high school diploma, GED or HiSet had an unemployment rate of 57%, those with a high school diploma or equivalent had an unemployment rate of 29% and those with college experience had a rate of 16% (see Table 4). This sample did not include inmates incarcerated at the time of the interview, as this would have skewed the results.

Substance Abuse

As with all law enforcement and correctional agencies in the United States, ECSD continues to fight the battle against opioids. The department provides many programs to inmates. Seventy-seven percent of respondents stated they participated in treatment while at ECSD, with 71% stating the treatment contributed to a successful reintegration. Fifty-on percent participated in treatment after release with 60% of them taking part in AA. Fifty-nine percent of respondents stated they had maintained sobriety since release (see Table 5 & Figures 19-21).

Post-release Supervision

Fifty-seven percent stated they were required to be on parole or probation and 50% of these inmates felt it was a factor in their sobriety (see Figures 22 & 23).

Offenses for Which Incarcerated

Drug-related offenses at 16% and OUIs at 5% accounted for more than one-fifth of offenses for which inmates were incarcerated (see Table 6), demonstrating that substance abuse is a major contributing factor in inmates' lives.

Communities to Which Released

Of sentenced inmates released in 2016, 74% remained in Essex County, with Lawrence, Lynn and Haverhill once again receiving the largest portions at 17%, 13% and 12% respectively (see Table 7).

The Essex County Sheriff's department not only provides excellent educational classes, programs, psychological treatment and medical care for inmates, but also continues to find innovative methods to serve the inmate population.

Examples of ECSD's inmate-focused initiatives include:

- Receiving the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant to help support the detox program;
- Obtaining a Second Chance Act Technology Training Grant to prepare inmates at the ECPRC to work in the telecommunications field;
- Partnering with agencies such as ROCA and United Teen Equality Center (UTEC) to provide outstanding occupational training, job placement and post-release support for people in the department's custody;
- Work Release and Community Service Programs that allow ECPRC and WIT inmates to give back to the community while increasing inmates' self-worth;
- Being founding members of the Massachusetts contingent of the HOPE project, focused on swift yet reasonable sanctions for people who violate probation;
- A focus on substance abuse treatment that includes
 - o A Male Detox Unit with over 1,400 men referred to the program since its inception in December 2015
 - o A Female Detox Unit with over 600 women referred to the program since its inception in July 2016
 - o Group counseling
 - o Peer support
 - o Vivitrol treatment
 - o Treatment and Recovery of Addictions in Corrections (TRAC)
 - o The Essex County Re-entry Center (ECRC) at the ECPRC
 - o AA & NA
 - o Substance Abuse/Understanding Addiction Program
 - o Partnering with the Lynn Drug Court to help offenders lead productive and drug-free lives.

The data presented in this report were collected primarily between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. Follow-up data collection went into February 2018 to allow the author to capture as much relevant data as possible. Extending the data collection period enhanced the reliability of the findings.

Based on the 2016 data examined in this report, Sheriff Coppinger, his management team and ECSD staff are doing an outstanding job addressing inmate care and treatment in respect to recidivism. Sheriff Coppinger has revitalized the Essex County Sheriff's Department and this shows in the care and custody of inmates.