

# The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009

Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission  
November 2013  
[www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Tom Corbett  
Governor



The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009

Supported by:  
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency  
Subgrant #2009-JG-02-24385

Prepared By:

Justine Fowler .....	Program Analyst
Rebecca Anderson.....	Information Technology Generalist

Juvenile Court Judges' Commission  
601 Commonwealth Ave, Suite 9100  
P.O. Box 62425  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2425  
717.787.6910  
[www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us)

November 2013

---

\*For additional information, contact Justine Fowler at 717.783.7836 or [c-jfowler@pa.gov](mailto:c-jfowler@pa.gov).

## Acknowledgements

---

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is sincerely grateful to the many individuals and organizations who contributed to the completion of this project. This report would not have been possible without their assistance and dedicated involvement.

We would like to share our sincerest gratitude to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), who provided funding for this project through Subgrant #2009-JG-02-24385. In addition, we would also like to thank the Stoneleigh Foundation for providing partial funding for this project through a Fellowship position.

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest appreciation to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), which provided all the criminal court information that was used in this study. Ralph Hunsicker, Barbara Holmes, Andrew Sickler, and John Skocik were especially instrumental in the collection of this data.

We would also like to thank Linda Bender and Tom Green, whose early work and technical assistance laid the framework for this project. We would also like to thank Chris Heberlig for her work on the design of this report. Finally, we wish to acknowledge the staff at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research who assisted in the collection of juvenile court data from PaJCMS.

Finally, a heartfelt appreciation is extended to the many members of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers who offered feedback throughout the entire process of this project. Their insight, interest, spirited discussions, and attention to detail contributed greatly to the success of this report.

# Summary of Key Findings

---

## **Section 1. County-Specific Recidivism Rates and General Findings**

- Approximately 22% of youth released from juvenile court supervision between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2009 recidivated (page 16).
- The average length of time to the juvenile's offense that resulted in a subsequent delinquency adjudication or criminal conviction was 8 months, while the median length of time was 7 months. Approximately 75% of these offenses occurred within 11 months after case closure (page 20).
- The average and median length of time to recidivists' subsequent delinquency adjudication or criminal conviction was 11 months. Almost 60% of recidivists' subsequent delinquency adjudications or criminal convictions were within 12 months after case closure (page 22).
- The more total written allegations a juvenile had in his or her offending history, the more likely he or she was to recidivate. Juveniles with only one total written allegation recidivated at a rate of 14%, while juveniles with two total written allegations re-offended at a rate of 24%. Juveniles with three total written allegations had a 31% recidivism rate, and those who had between four and nine written allegations recidivated at a rate of 40%. Juveniles with ten or more total written allegations recidivated at a rate of 56% (page 28).

## **Section 2. Demographic Variables**

- The younger the juvenile was at the time of his or her first **written allegation**, the more likely he or she was to recidivate. Conversely, the older the juvenile was at the time of his or her first **written allegation**, the less likely he or she was to recidivate (page 33).
- The older the juvenile was at the time of **case closure**, the more likely he or she was to recidivate. Conversely, the younger the juvenile was at the time of **case closure**, the less likely he or she was to recidivate (page 37).
- Males accounted for 51% of the general population of youth in Pennsylvania between 2007 and 2009, though they accounted for 76% of all dispositions that occurred between this time period. Males also accounted for 90% of the recidivist population (page 41).
- Males recidivated at a rate 2.5 times higher than females (26% vs. 10%) (page 42).
- Black juveniles comprised 15% of the general population of youth in Pennsylvania between 2007 and 2009, although they accounted for approximately 44% of all dispositions that occurred between this time period. Black juveniles also accounted for approximately 44% of the recidivist population (pages 44-45).
- White juveniles comprised 82% of the general population of youth in Pennsylvania between 2007 and 2009, although they accounted for only approximately 56% of all dispositions that occurred in this time period. White juveniles also accounted for approximately 56% of the recidivist population (pages 44-45).

## Summary of Key Findings (Continued)

---

- Approximately 2 in 10 (19%) White juvenile offenders recidivated. Approximately 3 in 10 (28%) Black juveniles re-offended (page 46).
- Black males and White males re-offended at the highest rates (34% and 22%, respectively). Black females re-offended at a rate of 13%, followed by Asian males at 12%. Approximately 9% of White females re-offended, while no Asian females recidivated (page 48).
- According to 2007-2009 Census data, approximately 71% of juveniles' parents in the United States were married, while 9% were never married. Conversely, approximately 20% of recidivists' parents were married, while approximately 46% of recidivists' parents were never married (pages 56-58).
- 80% of recidivists were from "disrupted" family situations (e.g., biological parents never married, biological parents separated/divorced, one/both biological parents deceased). Only 20% of recidivists' parents were married (page 55).
- Juveniles with both parents deceased re-offended at the highest rate (32%) among all family status groups (page 59).

### **Section 3. Offense and Disposition Variables**

- Among select offenses analyzed, juveniles who committed the following on their base case<sup>t</sup> recidivated at rates **lower** than the overall average: indecent assault (11%), DUI (13%), retail theft (13%), criminal mischief (17%), harassment/stalking (17%), and weapon on school property (17%) (page 68).
- Among select offenses analyzed, juveniles who committed the following on their base case<sup>t</sup> recidivated at rates **higher** than the overall average: unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (30%), possession with intent to deliver (33%), robbery (33%), and firearm-related offenses (39%) (page 68).
- Person offenders, Property offenders, and Drug offenders all exhibited some degree of offense type specialization when re-offending. Drug offenders exhibited the highest degree of specialization when they recidivated (page 74).
- Juveniles who committed felony offenses recidivated at the highest rate: 25% (page 77).
- The majority of recidivists committed a misdemeanor offense when they recidivated, regardless of the grading of the offense of their base case<sup>t</sup> (page 78).
- Juveniles who had committed a sex offense on their base case<sup>t</sup> recidivated (any type of offense) at a rate of 13% (page 83). Only 1.4% of sex offenders committed another sex offense within two years of their case closing (page 85).

---

<sup>t</sup> See page 5 for a definition of this term.

## Summary of Key Findings (Continued)

---

- Juveniles who committed indecent exposure committed another sex offense at the highest rate (4%) (page 85).
- Juveniles who committed statutory sexual assault recidivated (any type of offense) at the highest rate: 27% (page 83).

### **Section 5. Program and Out-of-Home Service Variables**

- Recidivists were more than 1.5 times more likely to have had a detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience than non-recidivists (53% vs. 30%, respectively) (page 101).
- Juveniles who had no detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience recidivated at a rate half of that of those who had at least one such experience (16% vs. 33%, respectively) (page 101).
- The more dispositional placement episodes a juvenile had, the more likely he or she was to recidivate. Juveniles who had only one dispositional placement episode recidivated at a rate of 32%. Juveniles who had four or more dispositional placement episodes re-offended at a rate of 47% (page 104).

### **Section 6. Serious, Violent, Chronic (SVC), and Child Offenders**

- Approximately 1 in 5 (21%) juveniles with a case closure in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were a serious offender<sup>t</sup>, a violent offender<sup>t</sup>, or a chronic offender<sup>t</sup> (page 116).
- 6% of juveniles with a case closure were serious offenders<sup>t</sup>, and 37% of serious offenders recidivated (page 117).
- 6% of juveniles with a case closure were violent offenders<sup>t</sup>, and 36% of violent offenders recidivated (page 127).
- 14% of juveniles with a case closure were chronic offenders<sup>t</sup>, and 41% of chronic offenders recidivated (page 137).
- Only 0.4% of juveniles with a case closure were serious, violent, AND chronic offenders, though 55% of serious, violent, AND chronic offenders recidivated (page 149).
- About 50% of child offenders<sup>t</sup> were either a serious offender, a violent offender, or a chronic offender. Only 20% of non-child offenders were a serious offender, a violent offender, or a chronic offender (page 155).

---

<sup>t</sup> See page 5 for a definition of this term.

# Table of Contents

---

Introduction.....	1
Methodology.....	3
Definitions.....	5
Findings .....	7
Section 1: County-Specific Recidivism Rates and General Findings .....	7
County-Specific Recidivism Rates .....	8
Baseline Recidivism Rates.....	15
Proportion of Recidivists to Non-Recidivists .....	16
Court of First Recidivating Case.....	17
Juvenile Offenders with Criminal Convictions within Two Years .....	19
Length of Time to Offense of Recidivating Case .....	20
Length of Time to Subsequent Delinquency Adjudication or Criminal Conviction...22	
Recidivism Rates at Six Month Intervals.....	24
Span of Time between First Written Allegation and Case Closure .....	25
Delinquency Adjudication History .....	26
Written Allegation History .....	27
Recidivism Rate by Number of Written Allegations .....	28
Section 2: Demographic Variables .....	30
Age at First Written Allegation.....	32
Recidivism Rate by Age at First Written Allegation .....	33
Age at First Adjudication of Delinquency .....	35
Age at Case Closure.....	36
Recidivism Rate by Age at Case Closure .....	37
Age at Time of Recidivism .....	39
Gender of Recidivists.....	40
Recidivism Rate by Gender .....	42
Race of Recidivists .....	43
Recidivism Rate by Race .....	46
Recidivism Rate by Race and Gender.....	48
Ethnicity of Recidivists.....	50
Recidivism Rate by Ethnicity .....	53
Family Status of Recidivists .....	55
Recidivism Rate by Family Status .....	59
Family Status by Race .....	61
Recidivism Rate by Race and Family Status .....	63
Section 3: Offense and Disposition Variables .....	66
Recidivism Rate by Offense .....	68
Offense Type of Recidivists' Base Case.....	71
Recidivism Rate by Offense Type .....	73
Offense Type Specialization .....	74
Grading of Recidivists' Base Case.....	75

## Table of Contents (Continued)

---

Recidivism Rate by Grading of Base Case .....	77
Change in Offense Severity .....	78
Recidivism Rate by Disposition.....	80
General Recidivism Rate of Sex Offenders .....	83
Sex Offenders Who Committed a Subsequent Sex Offense .....	85
Recidivism Rate and Re-Offending Charge by Sex Offense Type.....	87
Section 4: County Class Size .....	95
Section 5: Program and Out-of-Home Service Variables .....	100
Rate of Receiving Out-of-Home Services .....	101
Recidivism Rate by Out-of-Home Service Type .....	102
Average Number of Out-of-Home Service Episodes.....	103
Combination of Out-of-Home Experiences .....	103
Recidivism Rate by Number of Placement Episodes.....	104
Average Length of Time Per Out-Of-Home Episode .....	106
Total Average Length of Time Spent Out-of-Home.....	107
Recidivism Rate by Total Length of Time Out-of-Home.....	108
Recidivism Rate by Private Service Provider .....	109
Recidivism Rate by Youth Development Center/Youth Forestry Camp .....	113
Section 6: Serious, Violent, Chronic (SVC), and Child Offenders.....	114
Definitions.....	115
Prevalence of Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offenders .....	116
Serious Offenders.....	117
Prevalence of Serious Offenders.....	117
Gender.....	118
Race .....	120
Ethnicity.....	123
Written Allegations.....	125
Age at First Written Allegation .....	126
Age at First Adjudication of Delinquency .....	126
Span of Involvement with the Juvenile Justice System .....	126
Violent Offenders.....	127
Prevalence of Violent Offenders.....	127
Gender.....	128
Race .....	130
Ethnicity.....	133
Written Allegations.....	135
Age at First Written Allegation .....	136
Age at First Adjudication of Delinquency .....	136
Span of Involvement with the Juvenile Justice System .....	136
Chronic Offenders.....	137
Prevalence of Chronic Offenders.....	137



## Table of Contents (Continued)

---

Gender.....	138
Race .....	139
Ethnicity.....	142
Written Allegations.....	144
Age at First Written Allegation .....	145
Age at First Adjudication of Delinquency .....	145
Span of Involvement with the Juvenile Justice System .....	145
Combination Offenders.....	146
Serious and Chronic Offenders.....	146
Violent and Chronic Offenders.....	147
Serious and Violent Offenders.....	148
Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offenders .....	149
Comparison of SVC Findings to Other States .....	152
Child Offenders.....	155
Prevalence of Child Offenders.....	155
Gender.....	156
Race .....	157
Ethnicity.....	160
Written Allegations.....	161
Age at First Written Allegation .....	162
Age at First Adjudication of Delinquency .....	162
Span of Involvement with the Juvenile Justice System .....	162
Child Offenders Who Developed Serious, Violent, and Chronic Careers .....	163
Limitations of Study .....	167
Implications for Future Research.....	168
Appendix.....	169
Appendix A: County and Statewide Recidivism Rates Using an Alternative Definition of Recidivism	
Appendix B: Itemized List of Offenses Used for Analysis of Offense-Specific Recidivism Rates	
Appendix C: Recidivism Rate by Private Service Provider: All Placement Experiences in Juvenile’s History	
Appendix D: Recidivism Rate by Private Service Provider: Most Recent Placement Only	
Appendix E: Recidivism Rate by Youth Development Center (YDC)/Youth Forestry Camp (YFC): All Placement Experiences in Juvenile’s History	
Appendix F: Recidivism Rate by Youth Development Center (YDC)/Youth Forestry Camp (YFC): Most Recent Placement Only	
Appendix G: Definitions of Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offenders	
Appendix H: Measures Used to Test Statistical Significance	

# Introduction

---

The Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) provides leadership, advice, training, and support to enable Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission. The Commission is legislatively empowered to advise juvenile court judges in all matters pertaining to the proper care and maintenance of delinquent and dependent children, employing evidence-based practices whenever possible, and to compile and publish such statistical data as needed for efficient administration of the juvenile courts.

In November 2010, the JCJC unanimously endorsed a comprehensive strategy, known as the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its mission of balanced and restorative justice. The following is the statement purpose of the JJSES:



We dedicate ourselves to working in partnership to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by:

- Employing evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process;
- Collecting and analyzing the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge,
- Striving to continuously improve the quality of our decisions, services and programs.<sup>1</sup>

Key stakeholders concluded that one of the most appropriate ways to evaluate the effectiveness of the JJSES was to examine the recidivism rates of juveniles who have been involved in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. After all, "recidivism is the key statistic in determining whether or not criminal justice interventions, from diversion through incarceration, are making a difference in keeping offenders from committing more crimes."<sup>2</sup> At the initiation of the JJSES, however, there was no systematic mechanism available to track the statewide recidivism rates of juvenile offenders in Pennsylvania within both the criminal and juvenile justice systems once their case closed.<sup>3</sup>

Consequently, the JCJC undertook the current project and developed the methodology and capacity to monitor the statewide recidivism rates of juvenile offenders. The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R), a division of the JCJC, currently collects and maintains delinquency data related to approximately 100,000 juvenile court dispositional records each year through the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS), and has been doing so for over three decades. The JCJC worked closely with the Administrative Office of

---

<sup>1</sup> For more information on Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy, visit: <http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us>.

<sup>2</sup> Virginia Department of Justice. (2005). Juvenile recidivism in Virginia. *DJJ Quarterly*, 3, 1-12.

<sup>3</sup> The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission collects data related to juveniles who re-offend while under supervision. Between the years 2005 and 2012, the annual rate has been 12%-16%.

Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), who collects court data at both the criminal and magisterial district justice levels, for the project.

The current study had two overarching goals. Since the core premise of the JJSES is that recidivism rates can be reduced through the implementation of evidence-based practices, the first goal was to establish a recidivism benchmark against which the JJSES could be measured. The second goal was to examine differences between recidivists and non-recidivists in terms of demographics and other key variables to identify factors associated with recidivism in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system.

After discussions with Temple University Criminal Justice Professor Phil Harris, JCJC staff, and representatives from the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the following definition of recidivism was adopted:

***Recidivism:***

**A subsequent delinquency adjudication or conviction in criminal court for either a misdemeanor or felony offense within two years of case closure.**

The two-year tracking period was selected because there was a consensus that recidivism beyond two years from case closure would be less likely to be related to the services and interventions provided during the period of juvenile court supervision. Additionally, only subsequent adjudications of delinquency and findings of guilt in criminal proceedings<sup>4</sup> were included in the definition of recidivism since these case outcomes require judicial determinations.

The benchmark was developed with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 to provide an accurate measure of pre-JJSES recidivism because the JJSES was not implemented in any jurisdiction until 2010. While full implementation of the JJSES may take years, the data obtained from this report will provide an appropriate baseline to gauge the successfulness of the strategy. In April 2013, the JCJC released *The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles with a 2007 Case Closure*, which detailed the outcomes of youth with a case closed from a juvenile probation department in 2007. The current study expands on this research to include data from cases closed in 2008 and 2009.

After a brief description of the methodology employed, the remainder of this report will describe the results of the study. First, the calculated baseline recidivism rate at both the statewide and the individual county level will be provided. Next, descriptive statistics of juvenile recidivists and non-recidivists will be detailed. Finally, the report will conclude with project limitations and suggestions for future research. For a detailed literature review on juvenile delinquency, refer to *The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles with a 2007 Case Closure*.

---

<sup>4</sup> Findings of guilt included: a *guilty* verdict, a *guilty plea*, and a *nolo contendere* plea.

## Methodology

---

As previously mentioned, the current study had two overarching goals. The first was to establish a recidivism benchmark against which various components of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) could be measured. The second goal was to examine differences between recidivists and non-recidivists in terms of demographics and other key variables. In order to meet these goals, staff members from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's (JCJC) Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) began the data collection process by querying the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) to identify juveniles who were closed from a juvenile probation department in 2007, 2008, or 2009. Juveniles were included in the sample if they had a case that occurred prior to their 2007, 2008, or 2009 closure date that had a valid disposition. Valid dispositions for the purposes of this project were as follows: *informal adjustment, consent decree, probation, placement, probation with day treatment, deferred adjudication, deferred placement, courtesy supervision, other, and warned, counseled, case closed.*<sup>5</sup> The CJJT&R staff then created a base data file that included the juvenile's name, date of birth, State Identification Number (SID), the final (most recent) valid disposition, the date of that disposition, and the date of the 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure. These juveniles formed the base sample for the study.

The CJJT&R staff members then provided this base data file to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC). The AOPC in turn queried their case management systems against the list of juveniles provided by the CJJT&R to determine if the individuals re-offended as adults after their 2007, 2008, or 2009 closure date. A juvenile was matched by: 1.) his or her SID alone, or 2.) two of the following: his or her last name, his or her date of birth, his or her social security number. The AOPC then provided to the staff at the CJJT&R **all** cases subsequent to the 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure date recorded for the listed juveniles, regardless of the length of time that had elapsed. For each case that was provided, the most serious substantiated offense and the disposition for that offense ("offense disposition") were also supplied. In addition, the disposition for the overall case ("case disposition") was provided.

While the AOPC queried their systems to determine if any of the listed juveniles from the base data files had recidivated in the criminal system, staff members from the CJJT&R did the same in the PaJCMS to determine if any of the youth re-offended as juveniles. If the individual recidivated (i.e., had a subsequent delinquency adjudication) in juvenile court after their 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure, the disposition for the **first** recidivating case was recorded, regardless of length of time that elapsed from the closure date. The date of that delinquency adjudication and the offense disposition were also documented.

The AOPC then returned to the CJJT&R a data file that included the aforementioned information (i.e., all subsequent criminal cases recorded for the juveniles, the most serious substantiated offense, the disposition of that offense, and the disposition of the entire case). Next, staff members from the CJJT&R incorporated this data into the base data file. Since some juveniles had multiple subsequent

---

<sup>5</sup> Inquiries have been made about how Pennsylvania's recidivism rates would be affected if juveniles who had a disposition of *dismissed, not substantiated* were included in the base sample, and if *consent decrees* and *accelerated rehabilitative dispositions (ARDs)* were counted as recidivating events (these dispositions do not require a judicial adjudication or determination of guilt). To see recidivism rates using this alternative definition of recidivism, refer to Appendix A.

cases in the criminal court system, staff members from the CJJT&R selected the **first** recidivating incident that occurred, a process similar to the cases retrieved from the PaJCMS. **All re-offense data utilized in this study was drawn from the first recidivating case. That is, if a juvenile has multiple recidivating cases, only statistics related to the first re-offense was captured in this report, unless otherwise noted.** The most serious substantiated offense and its subsequent disposition were also included in the file. Following this, staff members from the CJJT&R incorporated into the base data file the recidivism data that had been extracted from the PaJCMS.

Next, this base data file was reviewed by staff members from the JCJC to identify recidivists and non-recidivists. All juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 who had a subsequent delinquency adjudication or finding of guilt<sup>6</sup> in criminal court for either a felony or misdemeanor offense within two years of their case closure were placed in the “recidivist” sample.

The length of time to recidivism was calculated from the date of the case closure to the date of the delinquency adjudication or finding of guilt in criminal court for the recidivating case (where applicable), except in the instance of juveniles who turned twenty-one in 2007, 2008, or 2009. In Pennsylvania, juvenile court jurisdiction ends at age twenty-one, and as such, these juveniles were tracked two years beyond their twenty-first birthday.

Furthermore, all juveniles who did not recidivate or re-offended, but not by the aforementioned definition (e.g., juveniles who recidivated more than two years after their case closure<sup>7</sup> or juveniles who recidivated only with a summary offense), were placed in the “non-recidivist” sample.

The PaJCMS was also utilized to collect the additional variables that were examined in the current project. These include: demographics, offense and disposition variables, and program and out-of-home service variables. Information related to serious, violent, chronic, and child offenders was also retrieved from the PaJCMS.

---

<sup>6</sup> Findings of guilt included: a *guilty* verdict, a *guilty plea*, and a *nolo contendere* plea.

<sup>7</sup> While including individuals known to have recidivated more than two years after case closure in re-offense figures would undoubtedly increase Pennsylvania’s recidivism rate, doing so would ultimately decrease the ability to link the return to delinquent or criminal behavior to treatment and services received while under juvenile court supervision.

## Definitions

---

**The following terms are used in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system and this report.**

Adjudication of Delinquency: When a juvenile is found by the juvenile court to have broken a law and is in the need of treatment, supervision, or rehabilitation. This is similar to the finding of guilt in criminal court.

Disposition: Defined as an allegation disposed of by the juvenile probation department and/or the court. The term *disposed* means that a definite action/decision has been implemented or that a treatment plan has been decided upon or begun.

Written Allegation: The document that is completed by a law enforcement officer or other person that is necessary to allege a juvenile has committed an act of delinquency. This term is used interchangeably with referral in this report.

Expungement: When a juvenile court record is legally erased as though it never existed.

Youth Level of Service (YLS): A research-based assessment tool designed to determine a child's risk to reoffend and needed services through juvenile probation. The YLS helps the probation officer objectively determine a child's risk of re-offending and the level of needed intervention.

**The following describes the definitions of terms used in this report.**

Recidivated: This term indicates that a juvenile has committed a subsequent felony or misdemeanor offense that has resulted in an adjudication of delinquency or criminal conviction within two years of case closure. This term is used interchangeably with *re-offended* in this report.

Valid Disposition: For the purposes of this report, valid dispositions include: informal adjustment, consent decree, probation, placement, probation with day treatment, deferred adjudication, deferred placement, courtesy supervision, other, and warned, counseled, case closed.

Juvenile's Case Closure: This indicates the **juvenile's** closure from a probation department (not an individual **case** closing). A juvenile could be on supervision for multiple cases at the time of closure, but this term indicates the juvenile's termination from juvenile court supervision.

Base Case: This term indicates the most recent case that had a valid disposition that occurred immediately prior to the juvenile's 2007, 2008, or 2009 close date.

Recidivating Case: The recidivating case is the first case that resulted in an adjudication of delinquency or conviction in criminal court following the juvenile's 2007, 2008, or 2009 close date.

Detention/Shelter: This indicates experiences at a temporary holding facility.

## Definitions (Continued)

---

Dispositional Placement: This indicates experiences at a program utilized as a juvenile court disposition.

Out-of-Home Experience: An out-of-home experience indicates that a juvenile has spent time out-of-home receiving services in either a detention/shelter facility or a placement facility. The term “out-of-home experience” is used to describe, in general, detention/shelter experiences and dispositional placement experiences.

Out-of-Home Episode: An out-of-home episode refers to a specific detention/shelter or placement stay. Juveniles may have multiple out-of-home episodes.

Serious Offender: A juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent at any point in his or her juvenile offending history for one of the following offenses: burglary, theft (felonies only), arson, drug trafficking (manufacture/deliver/possession with intent to deliver), and extortion (theft by extortion).

Violent Offender: A juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent at any point in his or her juvenile offending history for one of the following offenses: homicide or non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, kidnapping, and select firearms/weapons offenses.

Chronic Offender: A juvenile who has four or more previous written allegations for separate incidents that occurred prior to the date of the 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure.

Child Offender: A juvenile who was under the age of 13 as of the date of his or her first adjudication of delinquency.

## Section 1. County-Specific Recidivism Rates and General Findings: Summary of Key Findings

---

- Approximately 22% of youth released from juvenile court supervision between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2009 recidivated (page 16).
- Approximately 56% of recidivists re-offended first in criminal court (page 17).
- The average length of time to the juvenile's offense that resulted in a subsequent delinquency adjudication or criminal conviction was 8 months, while the median length of time was 7 months. Approximately 75% of these offenses occurred within 11 months after case closure (page 20).
- The average and median length of time to recidivists' subsequent delinquency adjudication or criminal conviction was 11 months. Almost 60% of recidivists' subsequent delinquency adjudications or criminal convictions were within 12 months after case closure (page 22).
- Recidivists were involved with the juvenile justice system 9 months longer, on average, than non-recidivists (page 25).
- Recidivists were more likely than non-recidivists to have been adjudicated delinquent at some point prior to the date of their case closure (page 26).
- The more written allegations a juvenile had in his or her offending history, the more likely he or she was to recidivate. Juveniles with only one written allegation in their offending history recidivated at a rate of 14%, while juveniles with two written allegations re-offended at a rate of 24%. Juveniles with three written allegations had a 31% recidivism rate, and those who had between four and nine written allegations recidivated at a rate of 40%. Juveniles with ten or more written allegations in their offending history recidivated at a rate of 56% (page 28).



## Section 1. County-Specific Recidivism Rates and General Findings

### Cautionary Note

It is critically important to note that expunged cases create a significant limitation to this study. In Pennsylvania, when a case is expunged, all of a juvenile’s identifying information pertaining to that case is “erased” and is therefore not available for analysis. Consequently, juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case expungement were omitted from the study’s sample, unless they had a separate case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 that was not expunged.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine how a particular county’s recidivism rate was affected by the number of expungements for a variety of reasons, including that the unit of measurement for the recidivism study was a *juvenile*, while the unit of measurement for an expungement was a *case* (one juvenile may have had several cases expunged).

Arguably, juveniles whose cases are expunged are presumed to be individuals who are considered to be at lower risk to recidivate (i.e., first-time, relatively minor offenders). However, since no risk assessment instruments (e.g., the Youth Level of Service) were being utilized in Pennsylvania prior to 2009, there is no way to determine the actual risk to recidivate of juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure. In general, counties that expunged significant numbers of cases had higher recidivism rates than their counterparts. A possible explanation for this result is that a significant number of lower risk youth were removed from the research sample in these jurisdictions.

Moreover, these recidivism rates do not take into account the specific treatment and services that were provided to juveniles while under supervision. Readers are cautioned, therefore, to make no comparisons between counties due to varying juvenile court policies and practices, including those relating to expungement. Rather, it is our goal to measure whether recidivism rates within each county decline as evidence-based practices are implemented.

**Table 1: County and Statewide Recidivism Rates: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

County	2007 Case Closures			2008 Case Closures			2009 Case Closures			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxxx</sup>
	Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>		
Adams	58	254	26	63	233	3	51	201	1	172	688	30
	23%			27%			25%			25%		
Allegheny	257	1,603	181	469	1,677	363	434	1,473	300	1,160	4,753	844
	16%			28%			29%			24%		
Armstrong	7	49	0	51	275	1	6	30	1	64	354	2
	14%			19%			20%			18%		

**Table 1: County and Statewide Recidivism Rates: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

County	2007 Case Closures			2008 Case Closures			2009 Case Closures			Three –Year Total		
	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxxx</sup>
	Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>		
Beaver	52	301	0	45	294	2	44	252	3	141	847	5
	17%			15%			17%			17%		
Bedford	10	70	0	14	64	0	10	72	0	34	206	0
	14%			22%			14%			17%		
Berks	160	769	158	183	814	79	174	933	39	517	2,516	276
	21%			22%			19%			21%		
Blair	14	149	60	14	82	103	21	77	117	49	308	280
	9%			17%			27%			16%		
Bradford	13	67	0	12	71	5	4	18	5	29	156	10
	19%			17%			22%			19%		
Bucks	167	852	154	172	854	92	153	710	268	492	2,416	514
	20%			20%			22%			20%		
Butler	33	173	97	18	156	47	25	141	23	76	470	167
	19%			12%			18%			16%		
Cambria	64	408	20	54	253	4	53	225	3	171	886	27
	16%			21%			24%			19%		
Cameron	2	10	0	1	7	N/A**	2	9	N/A**	5	26	N/A**
	20%			14%			22%			19%		
Carbon	9	111	0	15	105	2	20	101	0	44	317	2
	8%			14%			20%			14%		
Centre	6	55	11	16	79	3	12	71	14	34	205	28
	11%			20%			17%			17%		
Chester	117	623	38	119	657	N/A**	126	626	N/A**	362	1,906	N/A**
	19%			18%			20%			19%		
Clarion	13	29	36	8	37	2	9	46	1	30	112	39
	45%			22%			20%			27%		
Clearfield	18	72	0	11	55	0	5	43	0	34	170	0
	25%			20%			12%			20%		

**Table 1: County and Statewide Recidivism Rates: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

County	2007 Case Closures			2008 Case Closures			2009 Case Closures			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxxx</sup>
	Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>		
Clinton	0	7	0	5	17	12	15	62	7	20	86	19
	0%			29%			24%			23%		
Columbia	12	70	4	13	72	2	12	83	3	37	225	9
	17%			18%			14%			16%		
Crawford	21	125	0	24	132	3	31	119	4	76	376	7
	17%			18%			26%			20%		
Cumberland	26	89	894	17	83	332	39	125	267	82	297	1,493
	29%			20%			31%			28%		
Dauphin	184	850	13	245	984	23	259	1,001	18	688	2,835	54
	22%			25%			26%			24%		
Delaware	67	298	N/A**	45	283	N/A**	56	235	N/A**	168	816	N/A**
	22%			16%			24%			21%		
Elk	8	37	4	6	28	7	12	36	5	26	101	16
	22%			21%			33%			26%		
Erie	147	708	6	173	718	4	168	780	7	488	2,206	17
	21%			24%			22%			22%		
Fayette	37	280	1	43	261	7	35	246	2	115	787	10
	13%			16%			14%			15%		
Forest	1	3	4	1	7	5	1	12	5	3	22	14
	33%			14%			8%			14%		
Franklin	84	348	4	67	336	21	69	296	27	220	980	52
	24%			20%			23%			22%		
Fulton	1	17	0	2	15	0	1	11	1	4	43	1
	6%			13%			9%			9%		
Greene	3	37	88	4	20	69	5	42	59	12	99	216
	8%			20%			12%			12%		
Huntingdon	12	52	0	8	56	0	8	46	1	28	154	1
	23%			14%			17%			18%		

**Table 1: County and Statewide Recidivism Rates: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

County	2007 Case Closures			2008 Case Closures			2009 Case Closures			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxxx</sup>
	Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>		
Indiana	10	78	1	11	65	19	8	59	14	29	202	34
	13%			17%			14%			14%		
Jefferson	18	73	98	10	52	56	12	46	21	40	171	175
	25%			19%			26%			23%		
Juniata	2	6	12	4	16	13	7	17	6	13	39	31
	33%			25%			41%			33%		
Lackawanna	67	265	102	49	204	124	34	174	116	150	643	342
	25%			24%			20%			23%		
Lancaster	112	398	7	109	441	8	76	412	5	297	1,251	20
	28%			25%			18%			24%		
Lawrence	35	202	1	26	184	6	19	94	4	80	480	11
	17%			14%			20%			17%		
Lebanon	91	301	0	59	258	0	60	226	0	210	785	0
	30%			23%			27%			27%		
Lehigh	86	899	36	109	937	21	151	987	16	346	2,823	73
	10%			12%			15%			12%		
Luzerne	81	390	318	106	630	234	87	506	84	274	1,526	636
	21%			17%			17%			18%		
Lycoming	86	297	74	73	255	20	99	382	14	258	934	108
	29%			29%			26%			28%		
McKean	14	52	91	10	44	27	12	49	17	36	145	135
	27%			23%			24%			25%		
Mercer	31	163	0	15	122	0	27	154	0	73	439	0
	19%			12%			18%			17%		
Mifflin	19	53	19	17	64	8	15	55	4	51	172	31
	36%			27%			27%			30%		
Monroe	22	245	0	39	252	4	30	278	4	91	775	8
	9%			15%			11%			12%		

**Table 1: County and Statewide Recidivism Rates: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

County	2007 Case Closures			2008 Case Closures			2009 Case Closures			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxxx</sup>
	Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>		
Montgomery	223	1,042	117	232	973	41	253	1,003	54	708	3,018	212
	21%			24%			25%			23%		
Montour	5	26	2	5	23	0	6	19	0	16	68	2
	19%			22%			32%			24%		
Northampton	92	566	13	89	485	11	72	424	1	253	1,475	25
	16%			18%			17%			17%		
Northumberland	40	184	53	36	155	7	33	138	5	109	477	65
	22%			23%			24%			23%		
Perry	13	63	3	25	85	32	9	54	27	47	202	62
	21%			29%			17%			23%		
Philadelphia	598	2,098	306	606	2,143	78	809	2,499	96	2,013	6,740	480
	29%			28%			32%			30%		
Pike	10	86	0	9	66	0	14	99	5	33	251	5
	12%			14%			14%			13%		
Potter	4	27	0	5	30	1	2	43	0	11	100	1
	15%			17%			5%			11%		
Schuylkill	39	301	2	47	276	7	32	214	6	118	791	15
	13%			17%			15%			15%		
Snyder	17	63	2	14	59	0	12	39	0	43	161	2
	27%			24%			31%			27%		
Somerset	13	143	5	8	73	11	6	61	6	27	277	22
	9%			11%			10%			10%		
Sullivan	0	6	0	1	8	0	0	2	0	1	16	0
	0%			13%			0%			6%		
Susquehanna	13	57	0	10	43	2	8	61	3	31	161	5
	23%			23%			13%			19%		
Tioga	16	66	8	12	66	6	12	75	4	40	207	18
	24%			18%			16%			19%		

**Table 1: County and Statewide Recidivism Rates: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

County	2007 Case Closures			2008 Case Closures			2009 Case Closures			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxxx</sup>
	Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>		
Union	11	38	10	8	22	11	3	25	7	22	85	28
	18%			36%			12%			26%		
Venango	4	47	18	14	75	17	14	112	26	32	234	61
	9%			19%			13%			14%		
Warren	11	73	1	12	69	3	15	66	7	38	208	11
	15%			17%			23%			18%		
Washington	87	351	4	74	279	8	56	267	4	217	897	16
	25%			27%			21%			24%		
Wayne	15	74	2	12	78	2	8	71	0	35	223	4
	20%			15%			11%			16%		
Westmoreland	74	553	88	100	581	23	101	612	34	275	1,746	145
	13%			17%			17%			16%		
Wyoming	19	68	1	8	59	3	4	45	5	31	172	9
	28%			14%			9%			18%		
York	246	1,012	57	250	1,016	128	241	958	136	737	2,986	321
	24%			25%			25%			25%		
Total:	3,827	18,882	3,250	4,132	18,910	2,122	4,206	18,439	1,912	12,165	56,231	7,284
	20%			22%			23%			22%		

<sup>x</sup> Recidivism is defined as: A subsequent adjudication of delinquency or conviction in criminal court for a misdemeanor or felony offense within two years of case closure. Expunged cases are not included in these figures.

<sup>xx</sup> This figure represents cases closed in 2007 and subsequently expunged. One juvenile may have had multiple cases expunged.

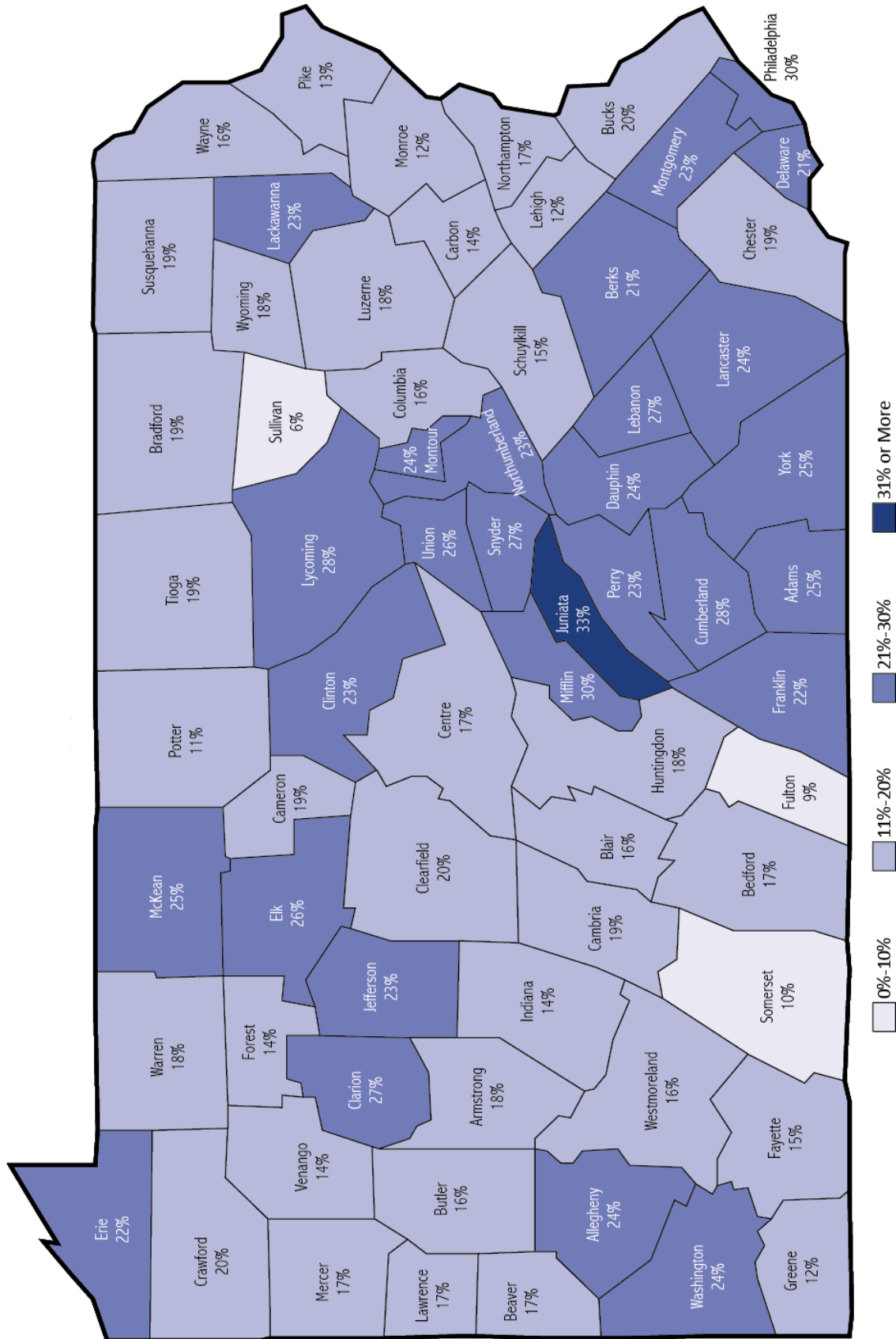
<sup>xxx</sup> This figure represents cases closed in 2008 and subsequently expunged. One juvenile may have had multiple cases expunged.

<sup>xxxx</sup> This figure represents cases closed in 2009 and subsequently expunged. One juvenile may have had multiple cases expunged.

<sup>xxxxx</sup> This figure represents cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 and subsequently expunged. One juvenile may have had multiple cases expunged

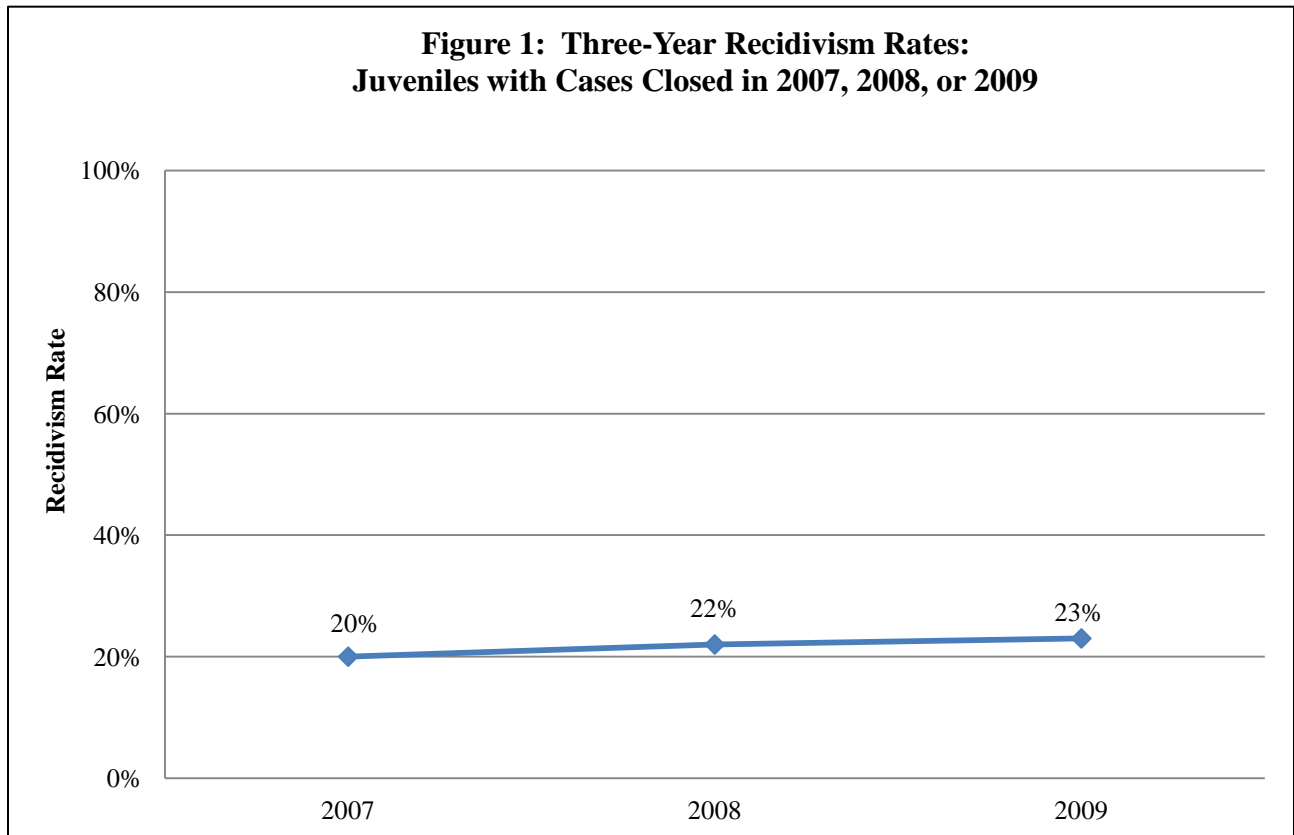
N/A\*\*: This data is currently unavailable.

## Pennsylvania Juvenile Three-Year Average Recidivism Rates by County: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009



## Baseline Recidivism Rates

Across the three-year time period, recidivism rates remained fairly consistent. During the year 2007 in Pennsylvania, 18,882 youth who had been under the supervision of a juvenile probation department had their case closed. Approximately 20% of juveniles, or 3,827, re-offended within two years of case closure. Similarly, during 2008, 18,910 juveniles had a case closed. Ultimately, 4,312 juveniles, or 22% of all juveniles with a case closure, recidivated. Finally, in 2009, 18,439 juveniles had a case closure. Within 2 years of this case closure, 4,206 juveniles re-offended, equating to a 23% recidivism rate (Refer to Table 1 above and Figure 1 below).

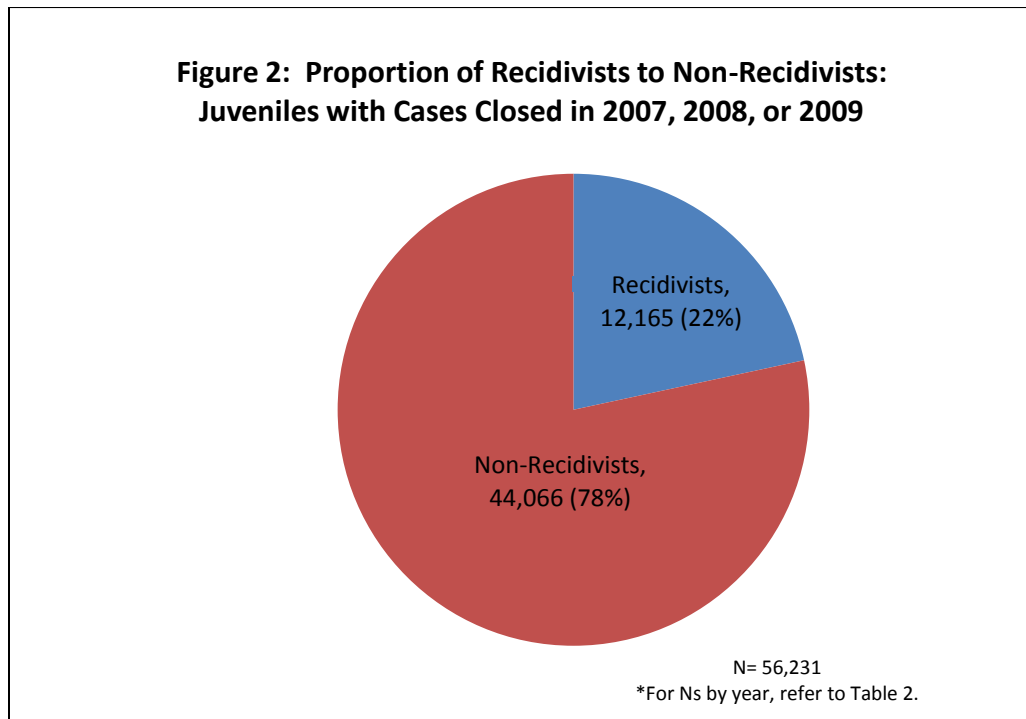




## Proportion of Recidivists to Non-Recidivists

Table 2 below depicts the proportion of recidivists to non-recidivists for cases closed from juvenile probation departments in years 2007, 2008, or 2009. In 2007, 20% (N= 3,827) of juveniles were recidivists, while 80% (N= 15,055) of juveniles were non-recidivists. In 2008, 22% (N= 4,132) of juveniles were recidivists, and 78% (N= 14,778) of juveniles were non-recidivists. Finally, in 2009, 23% (N= 4,206) of juveniles were recidivists, while 77% (N= 14,233) were non-recidivists. The three-year recidivism average was 22% (N= 12,165), meaning 78% (N= 44,066) of juveniles with a case closure did not recidivate within two years (Refer also to Figure 2).

<b>Table 2: Proportion of Recidivists to Non-Recidivists: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>				
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Three-Year Total</b>
<b>Recidivists</b>	3,827	4,132	4,206	12,165
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	15,055	14,778	14,233	44,066
<b>Total</b>	18,882	18,910	18,439	56,231
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	20%	22%	23%	22%
<b>Non-Recidivism Rate</b>	80%	78%	77%	78%



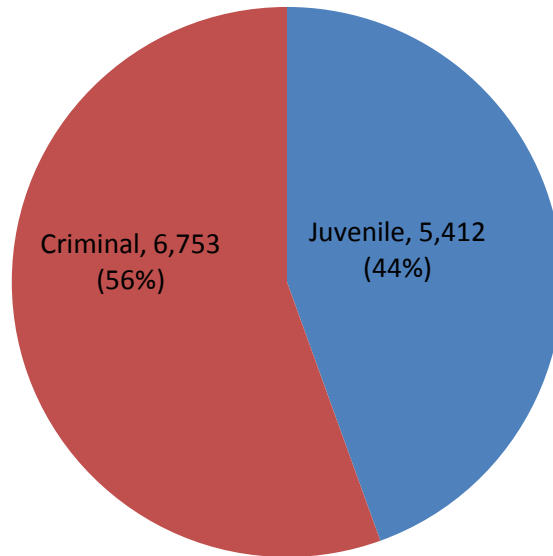
## Court of First Recidivating Case

Across the three years examined, juvenile recidivists were most likely to recidivate first in criminal court (Refer to Table 3 and Figure 3). To illustrate, among juveniles with a 2007 case closure, 54% (N= 2,058) of juvenile re-offenders recidivated first in criminal court, while 46% (N= 1,769) re-offended first in juvenile court. Similarly, among juveniles with a 2008 case closure, 55% (N= 2,259) of juveniles recidivated first in criminal court, while 45% (N= 1,873) recidivated first in juvenile court. Finally, of juveniles with a 2009 case closure, 58% (N= 2,436) recidivated first in criminal court, while 42% (N= 1,770) recidivated first in juvenile court. On average, across the three years examined, 56% (N= 6,753) of re-offenders recidivated first in criminal court, and the remaining 44% (N= 5,412) recidivated first in juvenile court. As described in a later section (refer to page 39), the average age at recidivism was 18 years, which would help to explain the slightly higher percentage of juveniles recidivating first in criminal court.

**Table 3: Court of First Recidivating Case:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Court of First Recidivating Case	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivists	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivists	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivists	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivists
Juvenile	1,769	46%	1,873	45%	1,770	42%	5,412	44%
Criminal	2,058	54%	2,259	55%	2,436	58%	6,753	56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,827</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,132</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,206</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12,165</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Figure 3: Court of First Recidivating Case:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



N= 12,165

\*For Ns by year, refer to Table 3.

## Juvenile Offenders Who Had Criminal Convictions within Two Years of Case Closure

As previously mentioned, all of the recidivism data in this report was based on the juveniles' **first** recidivating case (e.g., a juvenile may have had an adjudication of delinquency 6 months after his case closure AND a criminal conviction 18 months after his case closure. Only data related to the first case that resulted in the adjudication of delinquency was captured in this study). The section above details data related to the court of the first recidivating case. There was also interest, however, in determining how many juveniles, within two years of their case closure, had a conviction in criminal court, even if it was NOT the first recidivating case. The results of this analysis are detailed below (See Table 4).

Among all juveniles with a 2007 case closure, 11% (N=2,123) had a criminal conviction within two years. Additionally, 55% of recidivists **ONLY** had a criminal conviction. In addition, 13% (N= 2,382) of juveniles with a case closure in 2008 had a conviction in criminal court within 2 years. Furthermore, 58% of the recidivist **ONLY** population had a criminal conviction. Finally, of all juveniles with a 2009 case closure, 14% (N= 2,533) re-offended in criminal court within two years. Moreover, 60% of the recidivist **ONLY** population had a conviction in criminal court.

**Table 4: Juvenile Offenders Who Had Criminal Convictions with Two Years of Case Closure: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007	2008	2009	Three-Year Total
<b>Number of Recidivists with a Conviction in Criminal Court within Two Years of Case Closure</b>	2,123	2,382	2,533	7,038
<b>Total Number of Recidivists by Definition</b>	3,827	4,132	4,206	12,165
<b>Total Number of Juveniles with a Case Closed</b>	18,882	18,910	18,439	56,231
<b>Proportion of Juveniles with a Case Closed who had a Conviction in Criminal Court within Two Years of Case Closure<sup>8</sup></b>	11%	13%	14%	13%
<b>Proportion of Recidivists ONLY who had a Conviction in Criminal Court within Two Years of Case Closure</b>	55%	58%	60%	58%

<sup>8</sup> These percentages include all juveniles who had a case closure in 2007, 2008, or 2009, regardless of the juveniles' ages at the time of their case closure. The reader should be cautioned that many of the juveniles were not old enough to be charged as an adult within two years of their case closure, unless they committed a felony at age 14 or older and could be subject to transfer to criminal proceedings if they committed an offense excluded from the definition of "delinquent act" which is subject to original criminal court jurisdiction. The average age of juveniles at the time of their 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure was 17 years, and this was consistent across the three years examined.

## Length of Time to Offense of Recidivating Case<sup>9</sup>

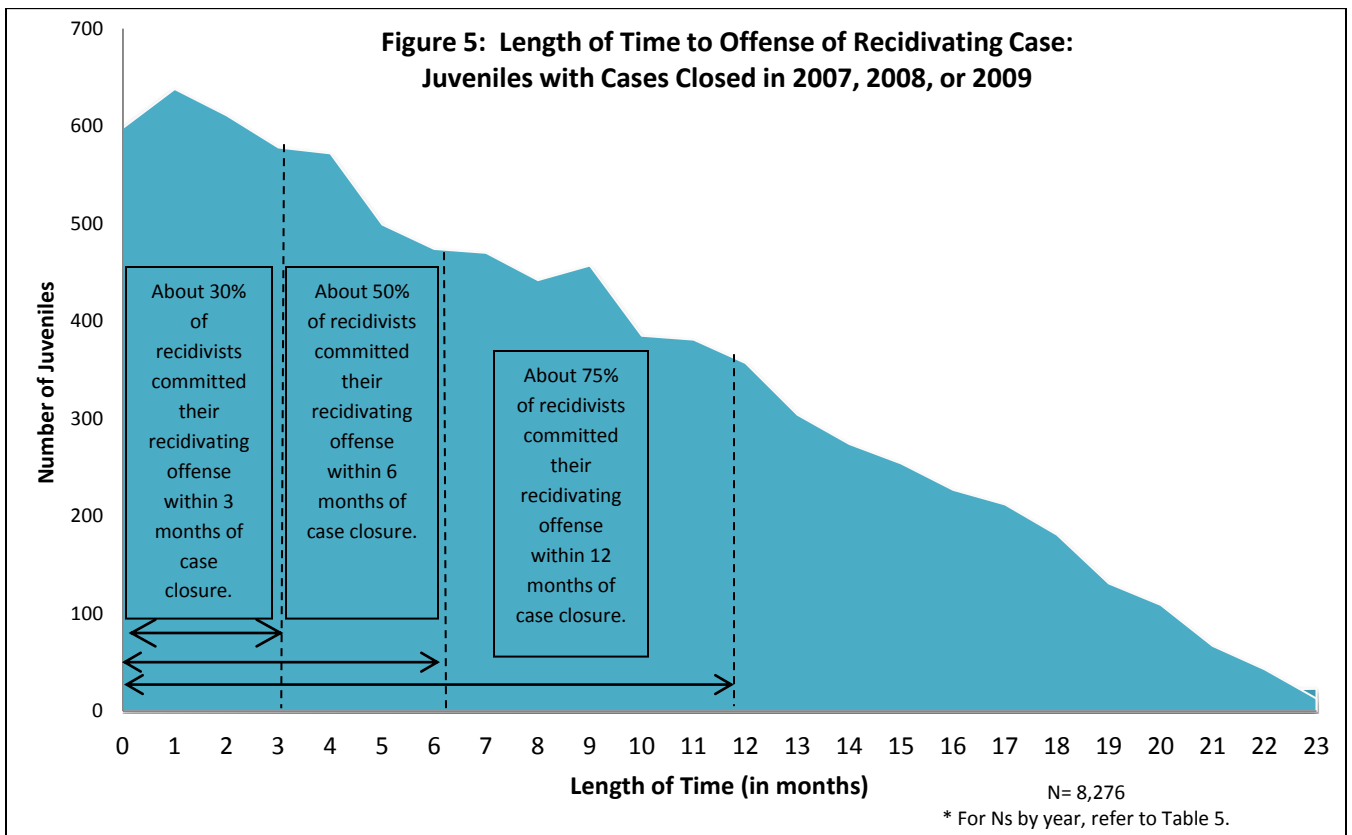
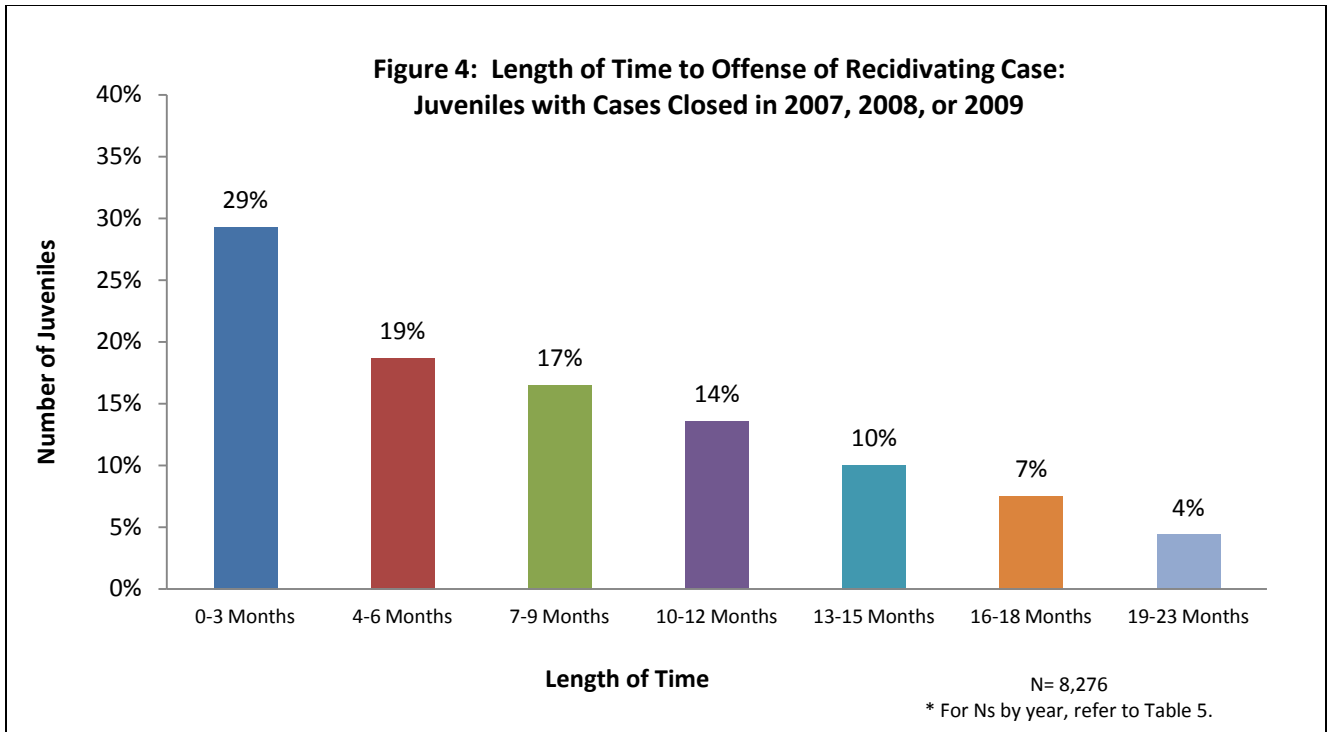
The below analysis examines the length of time that elapsed from the date of the juvenile’s 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure to the date of the first **offense** that resulted in a subsequent adjudication of delinquency or criminal conviction (recidivating case). This analysis allows stakeholders to examine youth’s offending behavior and determine when they are at greatest risk to re-offend. For an analysis on the length of time that elapsed between the date of the juvenile’s 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure and the date of the subsequent **adjudication** of delinquency or criminal **conviction** of the juvenile’s recidivating case, see page 22. This latter analysis is “systems-based” and allows systems professionals to analyze when recidivists are most likely to return to juvenile or criminal court.

The average length of time to the juvenile’s offense that resulted in a subsequent delinquency adjudication or criminal conviction was 8 months. The median length of time to the offense was 7 months. As illustrated by Table 5 and Figures 4 and 5, the most frequent time for the recidivating offense to occur was within the first three months of case closure (29%; N= 2,425). After the first three months, the likelihood of re-offending dropped notably. Approximately 19% (N= 1,545) of recidivists committed their recidivating offense four to six months after case closure, while 17% (N= 1,368) committed their recidivating offense seven to nine months after case closure. Between months ten and twelve, an additional 14% (N= 1,123) committed their recidivating offense, and between months thirteen and fifteen approximately 10% (N= 832) committed their recidivating offense. Finally, 7% (N= 620) of recidivating offenses were committed between months sixteen and eighteen, and only 4% (N= 363) were committed between months nineteen and twenty-three.

Length of Time to Offense	2007		2008		2009		Total	
	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivists	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivists	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivists	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivists
<b>0-3 Months</b>	626	30%	887	30%	912	29%	2,425	29%
<b>4-6 Months</b>	348	17%	580	19%	617	19%	1,545	19%
<b>7-9 Months</b>	335	16%	486	16%	547	17%	1,368	17%
<b>10-12 Months</b>	310	15%	391	13%	422	13%	1,123	14%
<b>13-15 Months</b>	220	11%	292	10%	320	10%	832	10%
<b>16-18 Months</b>	142	7%	236	8%	242	8%	620	7%
<b>19-23 Months</b>	114	5%	117	4%	132	4%	363	4%
<b>Total</b>	2,095		2,989		3,192		8,276	

\*The date of the offense of the recidivating case was unknown for 1,596 juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009. In addition, 2,246 juveniles committed their recidivating offense prior to the date of their 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure.

<sup>9</sup> This data was calculated from the juvenile’s 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure date to the date of the first offense that resulted in a subsequent delinquency adjudication or finding of guilt in criminal court.



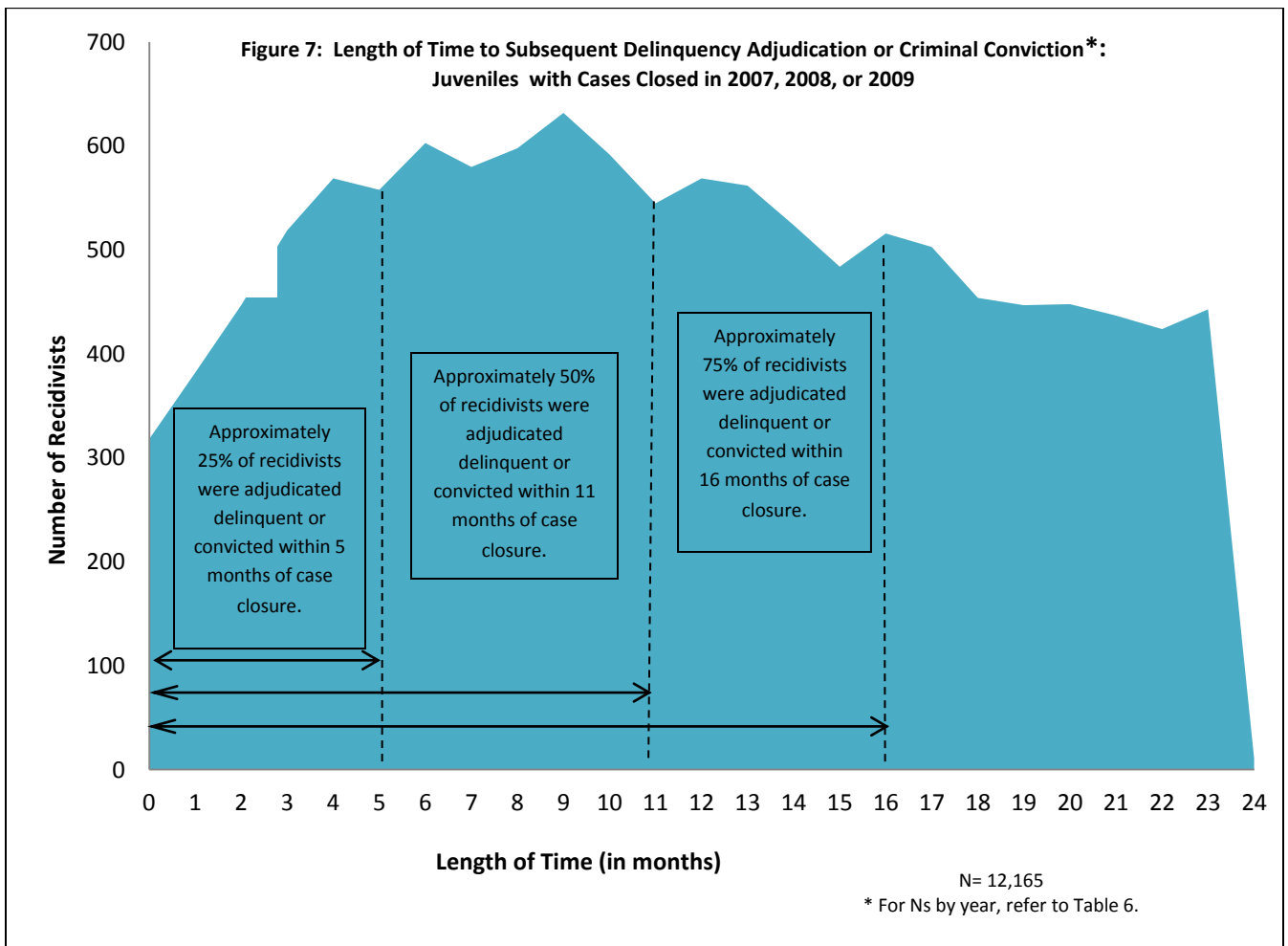
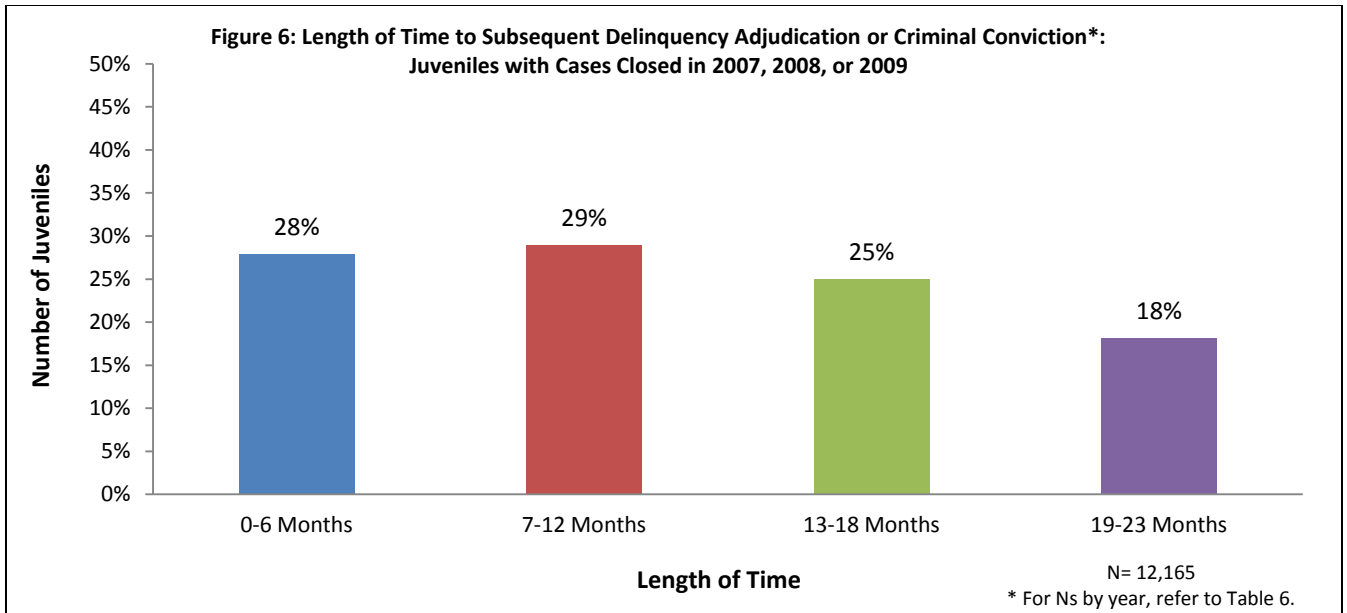
## Length of Time to Subsequent Delinquency Adjudication or Criminal Conviction<sup>10</sup>

The below analysis examines the length of time that elapsed from the date of the juvenile’s 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure to the date of the subsequent **adjudication of delinquency** or **criminal conviction** of the juvenile’s recidivating case. This examination is “systems-based,” and allows systems professionals to analyze when recidivists are most likely to return to juvenile or criminal court. For an analysis on the length of time to the **offense** that resulted in the subsequent adjudication of delinquency or criminal conviction, a measure of the juvenile’s re-offending behavior, see page 25.

The average and median length of time to the juveniles’ subsequent delinquency adjudication or criminal conviction for youth with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was 11 months. As illustrated by Table 6 and Figures 6 and 7, the most frequent time for the subsequent delinquency adjudication or criminal conviction to occur was seven to twelve months after case closure (29%; N= 3,517), followed by zero to six months after case closure (28%; N= 3,394). Within the first year (12 months), more than half (57%; N= 6,911) of recidivists were adjudicated delinquent or convicted in criminal court. Between months thirteen and eighteen, approximately 25% (N= 3,044) of recidivists were adjudicated delinquent or convicted in criminal court, and the remaining 18% (N= 2,210) of recidivists were adjudicated or convicted between months nineteen and twenty-three.

Table 6: Length of Time to Subsequent Delinquency Adjudication or Criminal Conviction: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
Length of Time To Adjudication/ Conviction	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivists	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivists	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivists	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivists
<b>0-6 Months</b>	1,037	27%	1,169	28%	1,188	28%	3,394	28%
<b>7-12 Months</b>	1,117	29%	1,202	29%	1,198	28%	3,517	29%
<b>13-18 Months</b>	949	25%	1,010	24%	1,085	26%	3,044	25%
<b>19-23 Months</b>	724	19%	751	18%	735	17%	2,210	18%
<b>Total</b>	3,827	100%	4,132	100%	4,206	100%	12,165	100%

<sup>10</sup> This data was calculated from the juvenile’s 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure date to the date of the delinquency adjudication or finding of guilt in criminal court for the first recidivating case.





## Recidivism Rates at Six Month Intervals

Among all juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, approximately 6% (N= 3,394) recidivated (i.e., were adjudicated delinquent or convicted in criminal court) within 6 months of their case closure date. One year (12 months) after case closure, approximately 11% (N= 2,154) had recidivated. Approximately 18% (N= 9,955) of all juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 recidivated by month 18. Within two years of case closure, about 22% (N= 12,165) of juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 recidivated (Refer to Table 7).

Table 7: Recidivism Rates at Six Month Intervals: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009												
Length of Time To Adjudication/ Conviction (Recidivism)	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Juveniles Who Recidivated	Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Juveniles Who Recidivated	Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Juveniles Who Recidivated	Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Juveniles Who Recidivated	Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate
<b>6 Months</b>	1,037	18,882	5%	1,169	18,910	6%	1,188	18,439	6%	3,394	56,231	6%
<b>12 Months</b>	2,154	18,882	11%	2,371	18,910	13%	2,386	18,439	13%	6,911	56,231	12%
<b>18 Months</b>	3,103	18,882	16%	3,381	18,910	18%	3,471	18,439	19%	9,955	56,231	18%
<b>24 Months</b>	3,827	18,882	20%	4,132	18,910	22%	4,206	18,439	23%	12,165	56,231	22%

## Span of Time between First Written Allegation and Case Closure<sup>11</sup>

For all youth with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, the average span of time between the juveniles' first written allegation and their case closure date (i.e., span of involvement with the juvenile justice system), calculated from the date of the juveniles' first written allegation in their offending histories to the date of the juveniles' case closure, was 24 months. The median span of involvement was 16 months. Span of involvement with the juvenile justice system is calculated from the date of the juvenile's first written allegation in his or her juvenile offending history to the date of the juvenile's 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure date. **Periods of time in which the youth was NOT active with the juvenile justice system between those two dates are included in these figures as well.**

For all recidivists with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, the average span of time involved with the juvenile justice system was 32 months. The median span of involvement was 26 months. For all non-recidivists with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, the average span of time involved with the juvenile justice system was 23 months. The median span of involvement was 15 months. This indicates that, across all three years examined, recidivists were more likely to spend longer periods of time involved with the juvenile justice system than non-recidivists.

Table 8 below presents the average and median span of involvement with the juvenile justice system for recidivists and non-recidivists broken down by the year the juveniles' cases closed.

Table 8: Span of Time Involved with the Juvenile Justice System*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Average	
	Average Span of Time Involved (in months)	Median Span of Time Involved (in months)	Average Span of Time Involved (in months)	Median Span of Time Involved (in months)	Average Span of Time Involved (in months)	Median Span of Time Involved (in months)	Average Span of Time Involved (in months)	Median Span of Time Involved (in months)
<b>Recidivists</b>	32	25	31	25	33	27	32	26
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	23	14	22	14	23	15	23	14

<sup>11</sup> Except where noted, data from Cameron County is not included in 2007 figures, and data from Delaware County is not included in 2008 figures.

## Delinquency Adjudication History

Among all juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 (N= 55,938), approximately 47% (N= 26,066) of juveniles had at least one adjudication of delinquency in their offending history prior to their case closure. Conversely, 53% (N= 29,872) of juveniles with a case closure in these years had never been adjudicated prior to the date of their case closure.

As shown in Table 9 below, across all three years examined, recidivists were much more likely to have been adjudicated delinquent in their offending history than non-recidivists, and there was a statistically significant relationship between having a delinquency adjudication and being a recidivist ( $\chi^2= 45.083$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>12</sup>. In 2007, 59% (N= 2,238) of recidivists had been adjudicated prior to their case closure date, while only 43% (N= 6,440) of non-recidivists had been adjudicated delinquent. Similarly, in 2008, 60% (N= 2,449) of recidivists had been adjudicated prior to their case closure date, while only 41% (N= 6,034) of non-recidivists had been adjudicated delinquent. Finally, in 2009, 64% (N= 2,679) of recidivists had been adjudicated prior to their case closure date, while only 44% (N= 6,226) of non-recidivists had been adjudicated delinquent.

**Table 9: Delinquency Adjudication History:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Total Number of Juveniles with a History of Adjudication	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closure	Adjudication Rate	Total Number of Juveniles with a History of Adjudication	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closure	Adjudication Rate	Total Number of Juveniles with a History of Adjudication	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closure	Adjudication Rate	Total Number of Juveniles with a History of Adjudication	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closure	Adjudication Rate
<b>Recidivists</b>	2,238	3,825	59%	2,449	4,087	60%	2,679	4,206	64%	7,366	12,118	61%
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	6,440	15,047	43%	6,034	14,540	41%	6,226	14,233	44%	18,700	43,820	43%
<b>Total</b>	8,678	18,872	46%	8,483	18,627	46%	8,905	18,439	48%	26,066	55,938	47%

<sup>12</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

## Written Allegation History<sup>13</sup>

The analysis below examined whether recidivists had more total referrals (i.e., written allegations) to a probation department prior to their case closure date than non-recidivists. As illustrated by Table 10 below, recidivists averaged three written allegations each, while non-recidivists averaged two written allegations each. This was consistent all three years examined.

For juveniles with a case closed in 2007, the range of written allegations for recidivists was 1-21, as was the range for non-recidivists. For juveniles with a case closed in 2008, the range of written allegations for recidivists was 1-21, while the range for non-recidivists was 1-20. Finally, for juveniles with a case closed in 2009, the range of written allegations for recidivists was 1-21, while the range for non-recidivists was 1-17.

**Table 10: Written Allegation History:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Total Number of Juveniles	Total Number of Written Allegations	Average Number of Written Allegations per Juvenile	Total Number of Juveniles	Total Number of Written Allegations	Average Number of Written Allegations per Juvenile	Total Number of Juveniles	Total Number of Written Allegations	Average Number of Written Allegations per Juvenile	Total Number of Juveniles	Total Number of Written Allegations	Average Number of Written Allegations per Juvenile
<b>Recidivists</b>	3,825	10,418	3	4,087	11,143	3	4,206	11,655	3	12,118	33,216	3
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	15,047	27,934	2	14,540	26,046	2	14,233	26,146	2	43,820	80,126	2
<b>Total</b>	18,872	38,352	2	18,627	37,189	2	18,439	37,801	2	55,938	113,342	2

<sup>13</sup> The figures presented include all written allegations that occurred in the juveniles' offending histories up to the date of the juveniles' 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure.

## Recidivism Rate by Total Number of Written Allegations

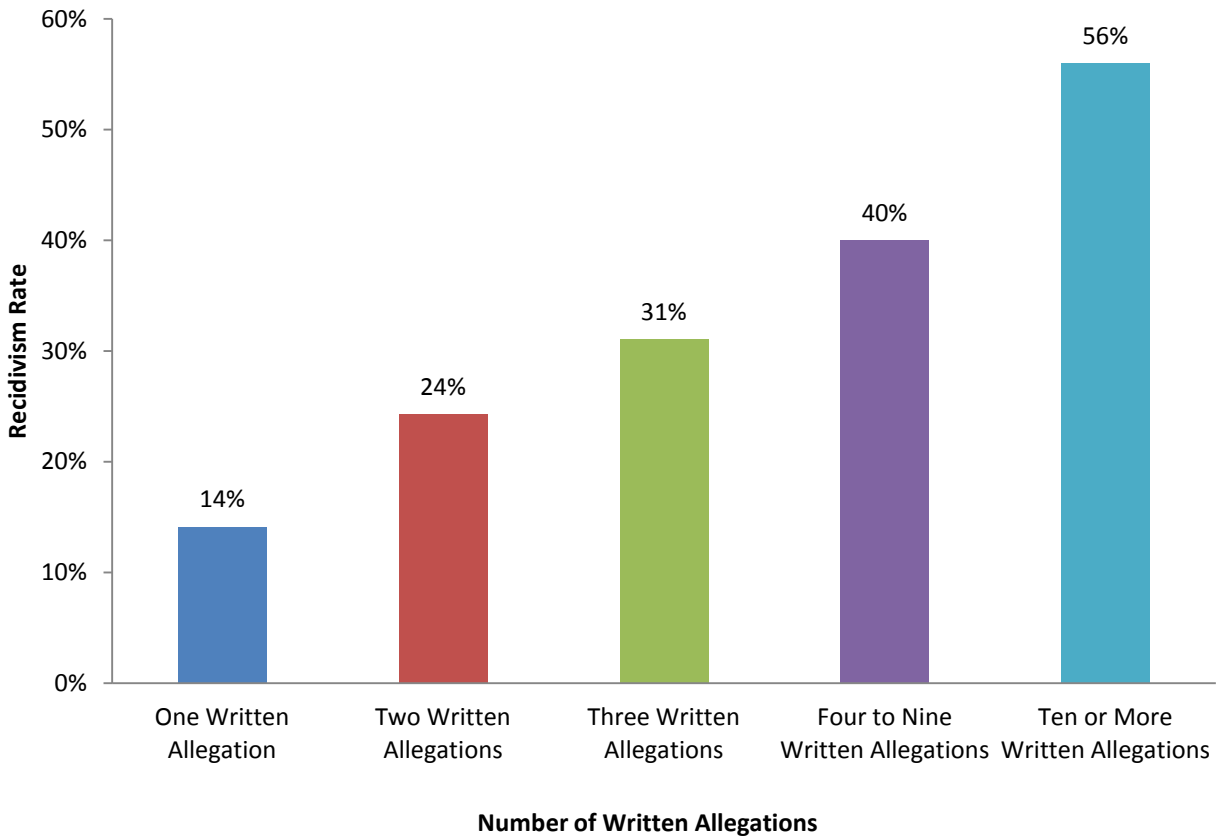
The following analysis was conducted to determine if there was a relationship between the total number of referrals (i.e., written allegations) to a juvenile probation department that an individual had in his or her juvenile offending history and the likelihood of re-offending. The results indicated that there was a statistically significant relationship between the number of total written allegations to a juvenile probation department and the likelihood of recidivating ( $\chi^2= 143.565$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>14</sup>. More specifically, juveniles who had two or more total referrals were significantly more likely to recidivate, while juveniles with only one referral (for the case that closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009) were significantly less likely to recidivate.

As shown in Table 11 and Figure 8 below, as the number of total referrals a youth had to a juvenile probation department increased, so did the likelihood of recidivism. Across the three years examined, juveniles with only one written allegation to a probation department (for the case that closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009) re-offended, on average, at a rate of 14% (N= 4,325). Juveniles with two total written allegations recidivated at a rate of 24% (N= 2,925). Approximately one in three (31%; N= 1,787) juveniles with three total written allegations re-offended, and 40% (N= 2,875) of juveniles with four to nine written allegations recidivated. Juveniles who had ten or more written allegations in their offending history recidivated at a rate of 56% (N= 206).

Table 11: Recidivism Rate by Total Number of Written Allegations: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009																
Total Number of Written Allegations	2007				2008				2009				Three-Year Average			
	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate
<b>One Written Allegation</b>	1,396	8,993	10,389	13%	1,473	8,900	10,373	14%	1,456	8,357	9,813	15%	4,325	26,250	30,575	14%
<b>Two Written Allegations</b>	939	3,048	3,987	24%	988	2,969	3,957	25%	998	3,074	4,072	25%	2,925	9,091	12,016	24%
<b>Three Written Allegations</b>	526	1,362	1,888	28%	608	1,276	1,884	32%	653	1,322	1,975	33%	1,787	3,960	5,747	31%
<b>Four to Nine Written Allegations</b>	904	1,587	2,491	36%	942	1,338	2,280	41%	1,029	1,434	2,463	42%	2,875	4,359	7,234	40%
<b>Ten or More Written Allegations</b>	60	57	117	51%	76	57	133	57%	70	46	116	60%	206	160	366	56%
<b>Total</b>	3,825	15,047	18,872		4,087	14,540	18,627		4,206	14,233	18,439		12,118	43,820	55,938	

<sup>14</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

**Figure 8: Recidivism Rates by Total Number of Written Allegations:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



N= 55,938

\* For Ns of each category by year, refer to Table 11.

## Section 2. Demographic Variables: Summary of Key Findings

---

- Recidivists were, on average, one year younger than non-recidivists at the time of their first written allegation (14 years vs. 15 years, respectively) (page 32).
- The younger the juvenile was at the time of his or her first **written allegation**, the more likely he or she was to recidivate. Conversely, the older the juvenile was at the time of his or her first **written allegation**, the less likely he or she was to recidivate (page 33).
- Recidivists were, on average, one year younger than non-recidivists at the time of their first adjudication of delinquency (15 years vs. 16 years) (page 35).
- The average age at case closure for both recidivists and non-recidivists was 17 years (page 36).
- The older the juvenile was at the time of **case closure**, the more likely he or she was to recidivate. The younger the juvenile was at **case closure**, the less likely he or she was to recidivate (page 37).
- The average and median age of recidivists at the time of recidivism was 18 years (page 39).
- Males accounted for 51% of the general population of youth in Pennsylvania between 2007 and 2009, though they accounted for 76% of all dispositions that occurred between this time period. Males also accounted for 90% of the recidivist population (page 41).
- Males recidivated at a rate 2.5 times higher than females (26% vs. 10%) (page 42).
- Black juveniles comprised 15% of the general population of youth in Pennsylvania between 2007 and 2009, though they accounted for approximately 44% of all dispositions that occurred between this time period. Black juveniles also accounted for approximately 44% of the recidivist population (pages 44-45).
- White juveniles comprised 82% of the general population of youth in Pennsylvania between 2007 and 2009, though they accounted for approximately 56% of all dispositions that occurred in this time period. White juveniles also accounted for approximately 56% of the recidivist population (pages 44-45).
- Approximately 2 in 10 (19%) White juvenile offenders recidivated. Approximately 3 in 10 (28%) Black juveniles re-offended (page 46).
- Black males and White males re-offended at the highest rates (34% and 22%, respectively). Black females re-offended at a rate of 13%, followed by Asian males at 12%. Approximately 9% of White females re-offended, while no Asian females recidivated (page 48).

## **Section 2. Demographic Variables: Summary of Key Findings (Continued)**

---

- Approximately 93% of Pennsylvania’s general population of youth was non-Hispanic between 2007 and 2009, while 7% was Hispanic. Similarly, during this time period, approximately 89% the recidivist population was non-Hispanic, while 11% was Hispanic (pages 51-52).
- Both Hispanic and non-Hispanic youth recidivated at a rate of 22% (page 53).
- According to 2007-2009 Census data, approximately 71% of juveniles’ parents in the United States were married, while 9% were never married. Conversely, approximately 20% of recidivists’ parents were married, while approximately 46% of recidivists’ parents were never married (pages 56-58).
- 80% of recidivists were from “disrupted” family situations (e.g., biological parents never married, biological parents separated/divorced, one/both biological parents deceased). Only 20% of recidivists’ parents were married (page 55).
- Juveniles with both parents deceased re-offended at the highest rate (32%) among all family status groups (page 59).
- White juveniles were most likely to have a family status of separated/divorced (35%). Black juveniles were most likely to have a family status of parents never married (67%). Asian juveniles were most likely to have a family status of married (54%) (page 61).
- Between the three major race groups (White, Black, Asian), Black juvenile offenders were most likely to recidivate, regardless of their family status, compared to White juvenile offenders and Asian juvenile offenders (page 63).
- Within each of the three major race groups (White, Black, Asian), those with a family status of one/both parents deceased recidivated at the highest rate (page 63).



## Section 2. Demographic Variables

### Age<sup>15</sup> at First Written Allegation

Across all three years examined, the average and median age at the time of a juvenile’s first written allegation was 15 years. As shown in Table 12, recidivists were slightly younger than non-recidivists at the time of their first written allegation (14 years vs. 15 years), and this was consistent for 2007, 2008, and 2009 case closures.

<b>Table 12: Age at First Written Allegation *: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>								
Year	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Average Age at First Written Allegation (in years)	Median Age at First Written Allegation (in years)	Average Age at First Written Allegation (in years)	Median Age at First Written Allegation (in years)	Average Age at First Written Allegation (in years)	Median Age at First Written Allegation (in years)	Average Age at First Written Allegation (in years)	Median Age at First Written Allegation (in years)
<b>Recidivists</b>	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15

<sup>15</sup> The age at first written allegation was calculated from the juvenile’s date of birth to the date of his/her first written allegation recorded in the PaJCMS.

## Recidivism Rate by Age at First Written Allegation

The data also illustrated that a significant relationship existed between the age of the juvenile at the time of his or her first written allegation to a juvenile probation department and recidivism ( $\chi^2= 41.796$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>16</sup>. More specifically, juveniles aged twelve or younger at the time of their first written allegation to a juvenile probation department were significantly more likely to recidivate, while those aged sixteen or older at the time of their first written allegation were significantly less likely to re-offend.

In general, as age at the time of the youth's first written allegation to a juvenile probation department increased, the likelihood of recidivism decreased, indicating an inverse relationship between the two variables (Refer to Table 13 and Figure 9).

Age at First Written Allegation	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate
Five <sup>17</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	1	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	1	0%
Six	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	100%	1	1	100%	2	2	100%
Seven	4	9	44%	0	2	0%	3	7	43%	7	18	39%
Eight	6	23	26%	4	14	29%	3	7	43%	13	44	30%
Nine	14	40	35%	11	28	39%	11	28	39%	36	96	38%
Ten	123	411	30%	114	353	32%	119	386	31%	356	1,150	31%
Eleven	206	753	27%	221	750	29%	235	746	32%	662	2,249	29%
Twelve	381	1,449	26%	387	1,363	28%	445	1,521	29%	1,213	4,333	28%
Thirteen	596	2,397	25%	586	2,287	26%	663	2,439	27%	1,845	7,123	26%
Fourteen	727	3,333	22%	811	3,285	25%	795	3,155	25%	2,333	9,773	24%
Fifteen	706	3,469	20%	748	3,517	21%	770	3,465	22%	2,224	10,451	21%
Sixteen	561	3,331	17%	626	3,356	19%	584	3,214	18%	1,771	9,901	18%
Seventeen	434	3,251	13%	501	3,177	16%	507	3,050	17%	1,442	9,478	15%
Eighteen	52	358	15%	55	341	16%	46	327	14%	153	1,026	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,810</b>	<b>18,824</b>		<b>4,065</b>	<b>18,475</b>		<b>4,182</b>	<b>18,346</b>		<b>12,057</b>	<b>55,645</b>	

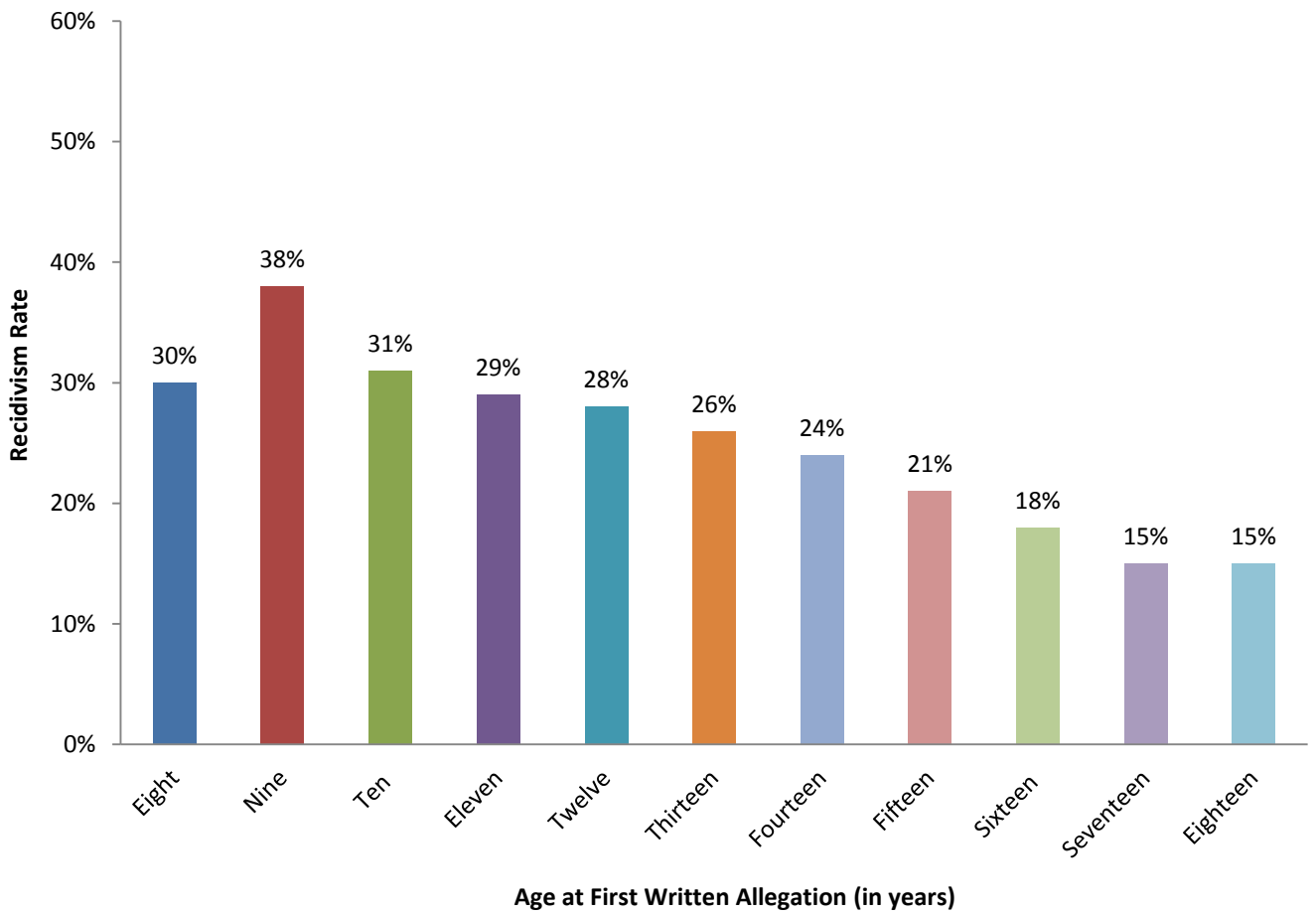
\*The age at first written allegation was unknown for 48 juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 152 juveniles with a case closed in 2008, and 93 juveniles with a case closed in 2009.

N/A: Not applicable. There were no juveniles in this age group who had a written allegation to a probation department for a delinquent act.

<sup>16</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

<sup>17</sup> Even though juveniles cannot be adjudicated delinquent for offenses that occur prior to the age of ten, juvenile probation departments may still receive referrals for delinquent acts allegedly committed by these young youth. In these instances, the juvenile may be referred to another agency, such as Children and Youth Services, and could be adjudicated as a dependent child, as defined by the Pennsylvania Juvenile Act.

**Figure 9: Recidivism Rate by Age at First Written Allegation:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



N=55,645

\* For Ns of each age group, refer to Table 13.

## Age<sup>18</sup> at First Adjudication of Delinquency

Among all juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 who had been adjudicated delinquent at some point in their offending history prior to their case closure date, the average age at the time of their first adjudication of delinquency was 15 years, while the median age at the time of their first adjudication of delinquency was 16 years. As illustrated by Table 14 below, recidivists were generally younger than non-recidivists at the time of their first adjudication of delinquency (15 years vs. 16 years).

Table 14: Age at First Adjudication of Delinquency: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Average	
	Average Age at First Adjudication (in years)	Median Age at First Adjudication (in years)	Average Age at First Adjudication (in years)	Median Age at First Adjudication (in years)	Average Age at First Adjudication (in years)	Median Age at First Adjudication (in years)	Average Age at First Adjudication (in years)	Median Age at First Adjudication (in years)
<b>Recidivists</b>	15	15	14	14	15	15	15	15
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	16	16	15	16	15	16	15	16

<sup>18</sup> Age at first adjudication of delinquency was calculated from the juvenile's date of birth to the date of his or her first adjudication of delinquency recorded in the PaJCMS.

## Age<sup>19</sup> at Case Closure<sup>20</sup>

The average and median age of all juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure was 17 years. The average and median age of recidivists at the time of case closure was 17 years, as was the average and median age of non-recidivists. Approximately three-quarters (73%; N= 41,097) of all juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were between the ages of 15 and 18 at the time of their case closure. Approximately 70% (N= 8,533) of juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure who were recidivists were between the ages of 15 and 18 at closure; similarly, 74% (N= 32,569) of non-recidivists were between these ages (Refer to Table 15).

**Table 15: Age at Case Closure:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Age at Case Closure	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total
Ten	2	33	35	2	26	28	3	30	33	7	89	96
Eleven	10	129	139	11	102	113	19	121	140	40	352	392
Twelve	48	264	312	56	265	321	55	254	309	159	783	942
Thirteen	149	600	749	133	584	717	126	559	685	408	1,743	2,151
Fourteen	280	1,087	1,367	269	1,056	1,325	269	976	1,245	818	3,119	3,937
Fifteen	420	1,717	2,137	501	1,657	2,158	462	1,555	2,017	1,383	4,929	6,312
Sixteen	613	2,327	2,940	582	2,253	2,835	593	2,200	2,793	1,788	6,780	8,568
Seventeen	716	3,277	3,993	717	3,306	4,023	685	3,089	3,774	2,118	9,672	11,790
Eighteen	944	3,853	4,797	1,139	3,738	4,877	1,161	3,597	4,758	3,244	11,188	14,432
Nineteen	383	1,090	1,473	438	1,071	1,509	487	1,068	1,555	1,308	3,229	4,537
Twenty	120	372	492	153	381	534	194	425	619	467	1,178	1,645
Twenty-One	142	306	448	131	339	470	152	359	511	425	1,004	1,429
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,827</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>18,882</b>	<b>4,132</b>	<b>14,778</b>	<b>18,910</b>	<b>4,206</b>	<b>14,233</b>	<b>18,439</b>	<b>12,165</b>	<b>44,066</b>	<b>56,231</b>

<sup>19</sup> Age at case closure was calculated from the juvenile's date of birth to his or her 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure date.

<sup>20</sup> Data from cases closed in Cameron County in 2007 and Delaware County in 2008 are included in these figures.

## Recidivism Rate by Age at Case Closure<sup>21</sup>

As illustrated by Table 16 and Figure 10, in general, across all three years examined, as age at the time of the juvenile's case closure increased, so did the likelihood of recidivism. The exception to this trend, however, was for juveniles aged sixteen and seventeen at the time of their case closure. These individuals had lower recidivism rates than would be expected. That is, as recidivism rates increased steadily as the age at case closure increased, recidivism rates actually decreased for sixteen and seventeen year-olds, then spiked for eighteen, nineteen, twenty, and twenty-one year olds. Individuals aged nineteen, twenty, and twenty-one were most likely to recidivate, and this relationship was statistically significant ( $\chi^2= 19.173$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>22</sup>.

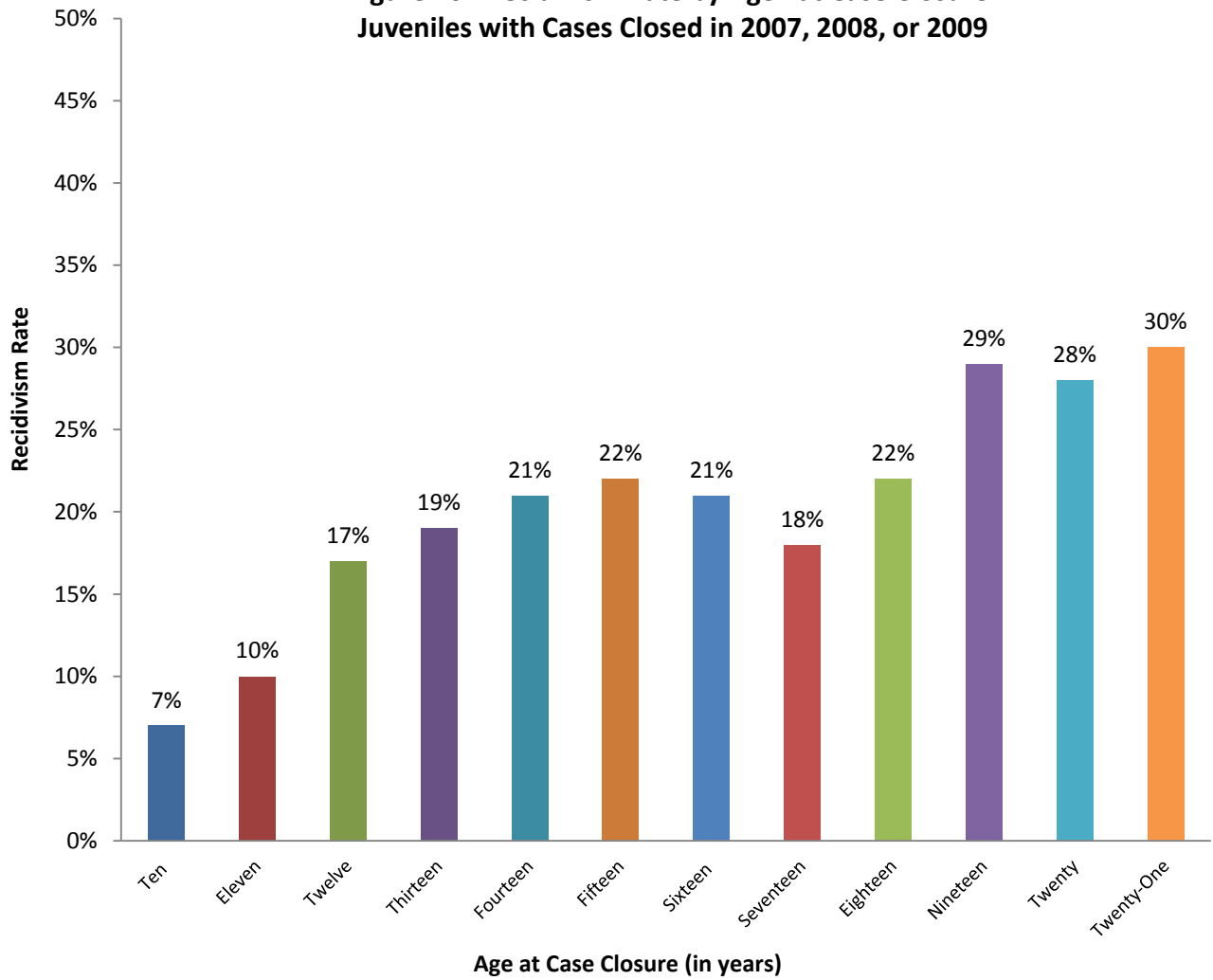
**Table 16: Recidivism Rate by Age at Case Closure:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Age at Case Closure	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate
<b>Ten</b>	2	35	6%	2	28	7%	3	33	9%	7	96	7%
<b>Eleven</b>	10	139	7%	11	113	10%	19	140	14%	40	392	10%
<b>Twelve</b>	48	312	15%	56	321	17%	55	309	18%	159	942	17%
<b>Thirteen</b>	149	749	20%	133	717	19%	126	685	18%	408	2,151	19%
<b>Fourteen</b>	280	1,367	20%	269	1,325	20%	269	1,245	22%	818	3,937	21%
<b>Fifteen</b>	420	2,137	20%	501	2,158	23%	462	2,017	23%	1,383	6,312	22%
<b>Sixteen</b>	613	2,940	21%	582	2,835	21%	593	2,793	21%	1,788	8,568	21%
<b>Seventeen</b>	716	3,993	18%	717	4,023	18%	685	3,774	18%	2,118	11,790	18%
<b>Eighteen</b>	944	4,797	20%	1,139	4,877	23%	1,161	4,758	24%	3,244	14,432	22%
<b>Nineteen</b>	383	1,473	26%	438	1,509	29%	487	1,555	31%	1,308	4,537	29%
<b>Twenty</b>	120	492	24%	153	534	29%	194	619	31%	467	1,645	28%
<b>Twenty-One</b>	142	448	32%	131	470	28%	152	511	30%	425	1,429	30%
<b>Total</b>	3,827	18,882		4,132	18,910		4,206	18,439		12,165	56,231	

<sup>21</sup> Data from cases closed in Cameron County in 2007 and Delaware County in 2008 are included in these figures.

<sup>22</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

**Figure 10: Recidivism Rate by Age\* at Case Closure:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



N= 56,231

\* For Ns of each age group, refer to Table 16.

## Age<sup>23</sup> at Time of Recidivism<sup>24</sup>

The average and median age at the time of re-offense for juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was 18 years.

Furthermore, 80% (N= 9,766) of recidivists were between the ages of sixteen and twenty at the time of recidivism. This rate was consistent across all three years (Refer to Table 17).

Age at Recidivism	2007	2008	2009	Three-Year Total
<b>Ten</b>	0	1	0	1
<b>Eleven</b>	2	2	3	7
<b>Twelve</b>	13	19	24	56
<b>Thirteen</b>	49	40	58	147
<b>Fourteen</b>	139	128	123	390
<b>Fifteen</b>	279	291	272	842
<b>Sixteen</b>	435	490	478	1,403
<b>Seventeen</b>	634	696	653	1,983
<b>Eighteen</b>	737	708	692	2,137
<b>Nineteen</b>	844	993	1,011	2,848
<b>Twenty</b>	416	452	527	1,395
<b>Twenty-One</b>	192	237	253	682
<b>Twenty-Two</b>	86	75	112	273
<b>Twenty-Three</b>	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	3,827	4,132	4,206	12,165

<sup>23</sup>Age at time of recidivism was calculated from the juvenile's date of birth to the date of the adjudication of delinquency or finding of guilt in criminal court for the recidivating case.

<sup>24</sup>Data from cases closed in Cameron County in 2007 and Delaware County in 2008 are included in these figures.



## Gender

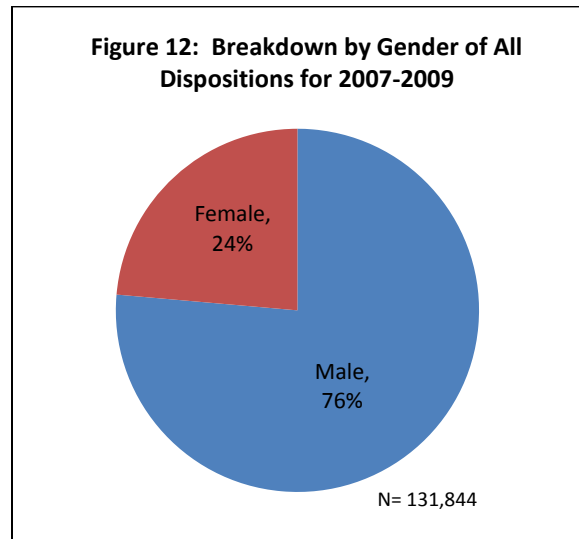
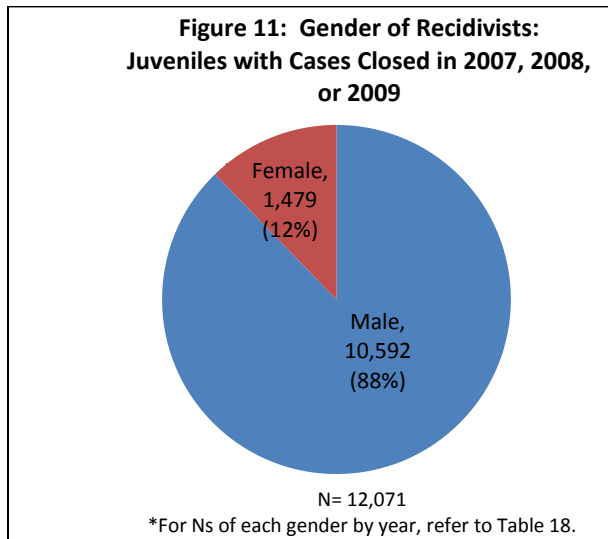
### *Gender of Recidivists*

Table 18 and Figure 11 below depict the breakdown of the gender of recidivists for juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009. As illustrated, males accounted for approximately 88% (N= 10,592) of the recidivist population for these three years, while females accounted for only 12% (N= 1,479). In other words, approximately 9 out of 10 recidivists were male. This trend was consistent across the three years analyzed. For example, among juveniles with a 2007 case closure who were recidivists, 89% (N= 3,396) were male and 11% (N= 427) were female. Among juveniles with a 2008 case closure who were recidivists, 88% (N= 3,568) were male and 12% (N= 506) were female. Finally, among juveniles with a case closure in 2009 who were recidivists, 87% (N= 3,628) were male and 13% (N= 546) were female.

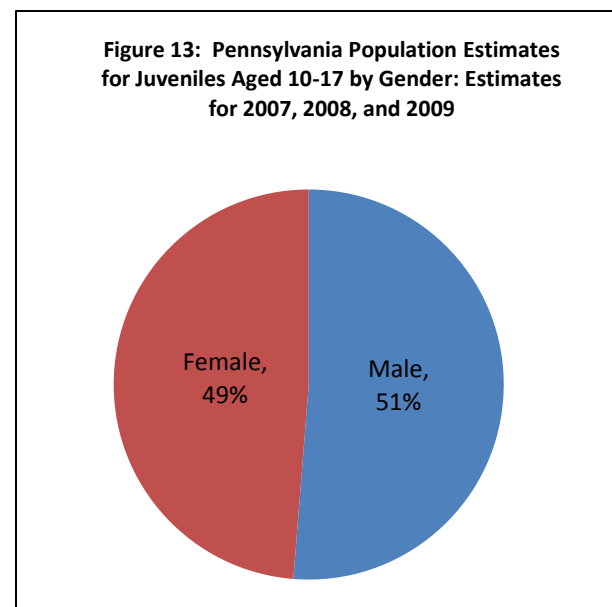
Table 18: Gender of Recidivists: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
Gender	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population
<b>Male</b>	3,396	89%	3,568	88%	3,628	87%	10,592	88%
<b>Female</b>	427	11%	506	12%	546	13%	1,479	12%
<b>Total</b>	3,823		4,074		4,174		12,071	

\*The gender of 2 recidivists with a case closed in 2007, 13 recidivists with a case closed in 2008, and 32 recidivists with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

Figure 12 presents the average breakdown by gender of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009 in Pennsylvania. As illustrated, males accounted for approximately 76% of all dispositions that occurred in this time period, while females accounted for 24% of all dispositions. This indicates that males accounted for a higher proportion of the recidivist population than would be expected given the total percentage of dispositions that occurred in the same time period. Similarly, females accounted for a smaller percentage than would be expected. These differences were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>25</sup>.



Furthermore, data published by the Census Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control<sup>26</sup> indicates that males were over-represented in both the juvenile justice system and the recidivist population. As illustrated in Figure 13, approximately 51% of the general population of juveniles aged 10-17 in Pennsylvania were male in 2007, 2008, and 2009, while approximately 49% of the population was female. Of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009, males accounted for 76%, while females accounted for only 24%. Similarly, approximately 88% of recidivists were male, while only 12% were female. These differences were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>27</sup>.



<sup>25</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

<sup>26</sup> Source: Center for Disease Control. *Bridged-Race Population Estimates: 1990-2012*. Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/bridged-race-population.html>.

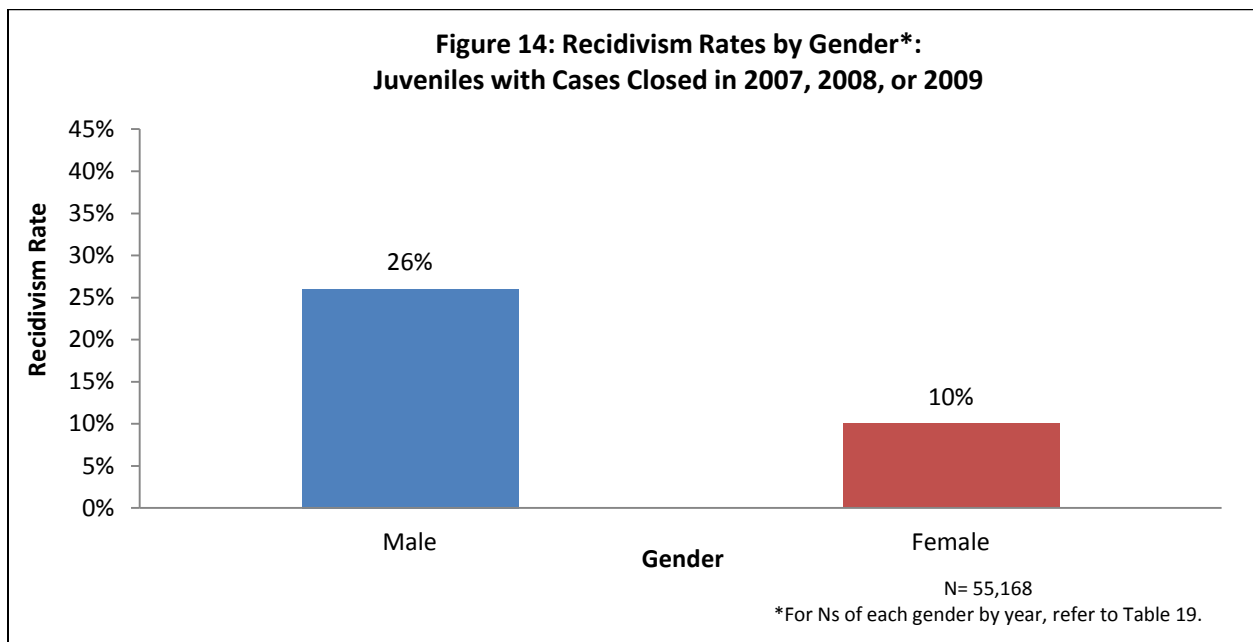
<sup>27</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

### Recidivism Rate by Gender

Table 19 and Figure 14 below display the recidivism rates of males and females for juveniles who had cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009. There was a significant relationship between gender and re-offending ( $\chi^2= 50.046$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>28</sup>. Across all three years analyzed, males were significantly more likely to recidivate while females were significantly less likely to recidivate. Indeed, males recidivated at a rate approximately 2.5 times higher than that of females. For example, of juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 24% (N= 3,396) of males recidivated, while 9% (N= 427) of females recidivated. Similarly, of juveniles with a case closed in 2008, 26% (N= 3,568) of males re-offended, while 11% (N= 506) of females re-offended. Finally, 27% (N= 3,628) of males with a case closed in 2009 re-offended, while 11% (N= 546) of females recidivated.

Table 19: Recidivism Rate by Gender*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009												
	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Recidivists</b>	3,396	427	3,823	3,568	506	4,074	3,628	546	4,174	10,592	1,479	12,071
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	10,765	4,261	15,026	10,015	4,142	14,157	9,710	4,204	13,914	30,490	12,607	43,097
<b>Total</b>	14,161	4,688	18,849	13,583	4,648	18,231	13,338	4,750	18,088	41,082	14,086	55,168
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	24%	9%		26%	11%		27%	11%		26%	10%	

\*The gender of 23 juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 396 juveniles with case closed in 2008, and 351 juveniles with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.



<sup>28</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

## Race

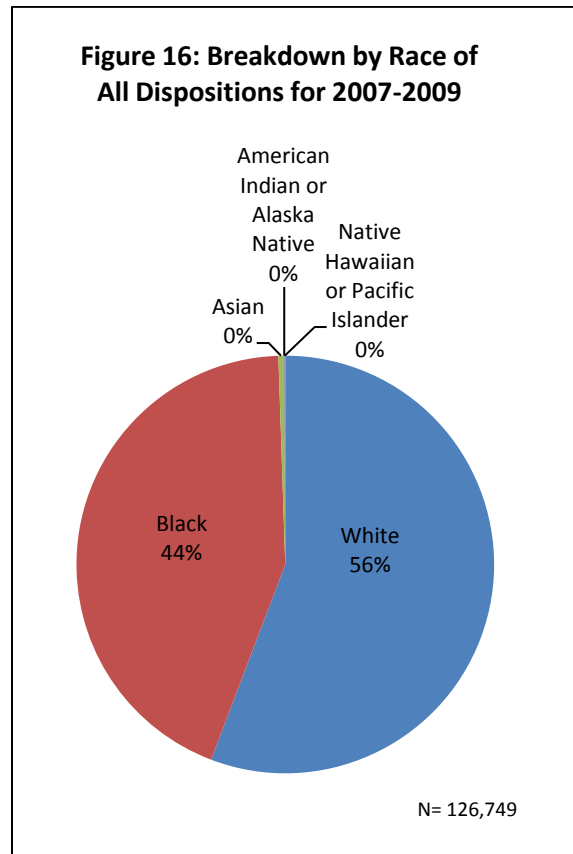
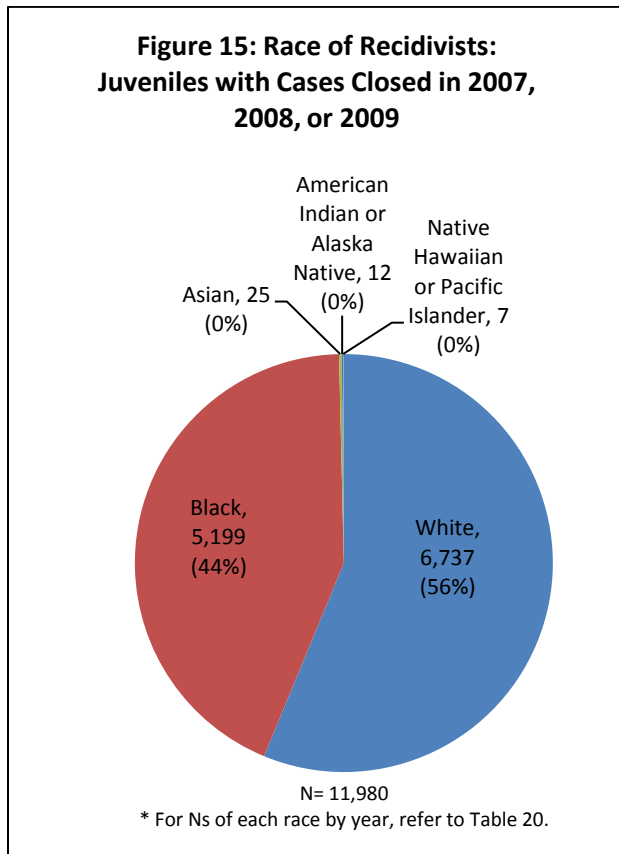
### *Race of Recidivists*

As shown in Table 20 and Figure 15, White offenders accounted for approximately 56% (N= 6,737) of juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure who ultimately became recidivists. Black juveniles accounted for 43% (N= 5,199) of the recidivist population. Asian offenders, American Indian or Alaska Native offenders, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juvenile offenders accounted for less than 1% (N= 44) of the recidivist population.

Table 20: Race of Recidivists*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
Race	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population
<b>White</b>	2,302	60%	2,290	57%	2,145	52%	6,737	56%
<b>Black</b>	1,494	39%	1,733	43%	1,972	48%	5,199	43%
<b>Asian</b>	6	0%	8	0%	11	0%	25	0%
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	2	0%	6	0%	4	0%	12	0%
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	2	0%	4	0%	1	0%	7	0%
<b>Total</b>	3,806	100%	4,041	100%	4,133	100%	11,980	100%

\*The race of 19 recidivists with a case closed in 2007, 46 recidivists with a case closed in 2008, and 73 recidivists with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

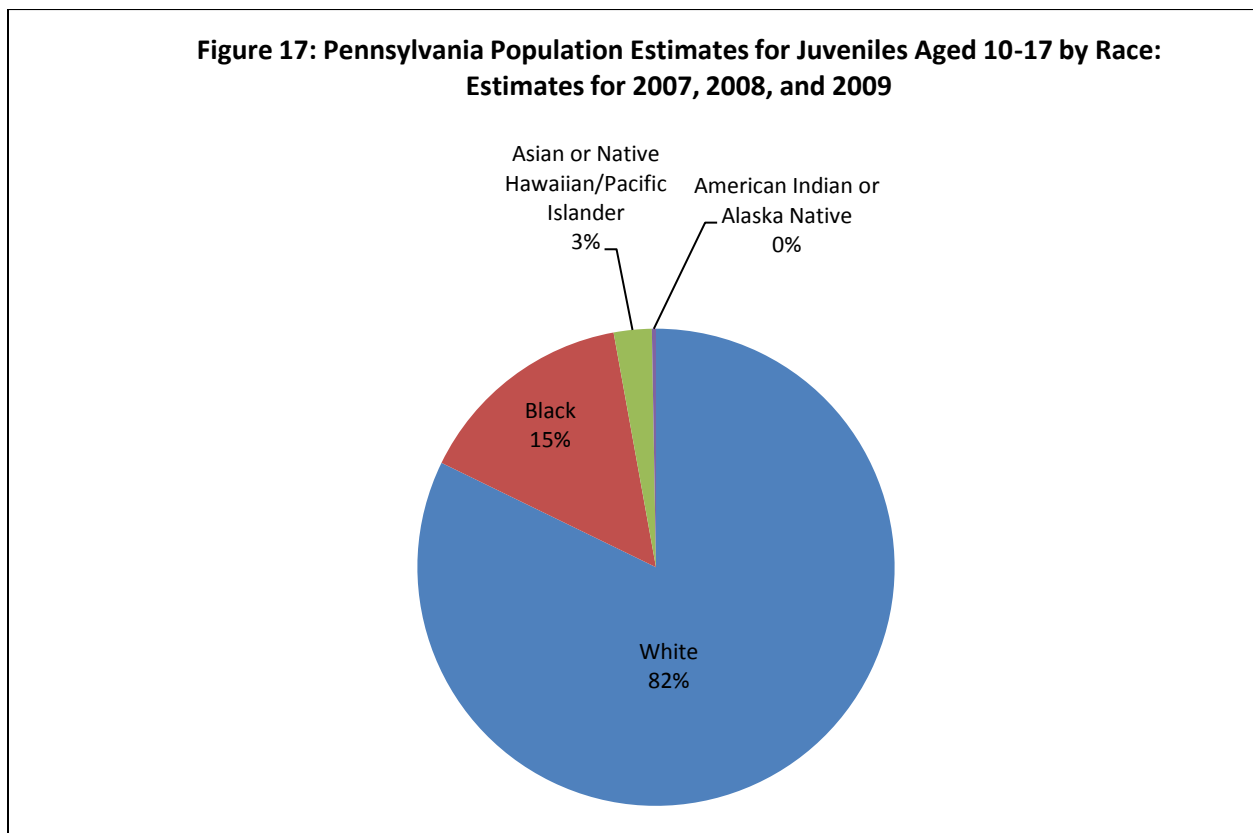
Figure 16 presents the average breakdown by race of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009. On average, White juveniles accounted for 56% of all dispositions that occurred in this time period, while Black juveniles accounted for approximately 44% of all dispositions. Asian offenders, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander accounted for less than 1% of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009. This indicates that all races comprised the recidivist population at rates that would be expected given the breakdown of dispositions that had occurred, and there were no statistical differences between the two populations<sup>29</sup>.



<sup>29</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

Figure 17 below presents information from the Census Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control<sup>30</sup> on the race of the general population of juveniles aged 10-17 in Pennsylvania during 2007, 2008, and 2009. This data helps to exemplify that Black juveniles were disproportionately involved in the juvenile justice system in Pennsylvania during this time period, and these differences were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>31</sup>. To illustrate, 44% of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009 in Pennsylvania were for Black juvenile offenders. Similarly, 44% of recidivists were Black. According to the Census Bureau information, however, only 15% of the general population of juveniles in Pennsylvania aged 10-17 was Black.

The remaining races displayed below were under-represented in the juvenile justice system, and these differences were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>32</sup>. White juveniles accounted for 82% of the general population of youth aged 10-17 in Pennsylvania, but accounted for only 56% of dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009, as well as 56% of the recidivist population. Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian or Alaska Native juveniles accounted for approximately 3% of the general population of youth aged 10-17 in Pennsylvania, but accounted for less than 1% of dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009 and the recidivist population.



<sup>30</sup> Source: Center for Disease Control. *Bridged-Race Population Estimates: 1990-2012*. Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/bridged-race-population.html>.

<sup>31</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

<sup>32</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

### Recidivism Rate by Race

Table 21 and Figure 18 below present the recidivism rates of each race of juveniles who had cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009. The majority (99%; N= 54,671) of offenders who had a case closed in these years were either Black or White. There was a statistically significant relationship between race and the likelihood of recidivating ( $\chi^2= 26.934$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>33</sup>. Specifically, Black juveniles were significantly more likely to recidivate, while White juveniles were significantly less likely to recidivate. There were, however, no significant differences for any other races, which included Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juveniles.

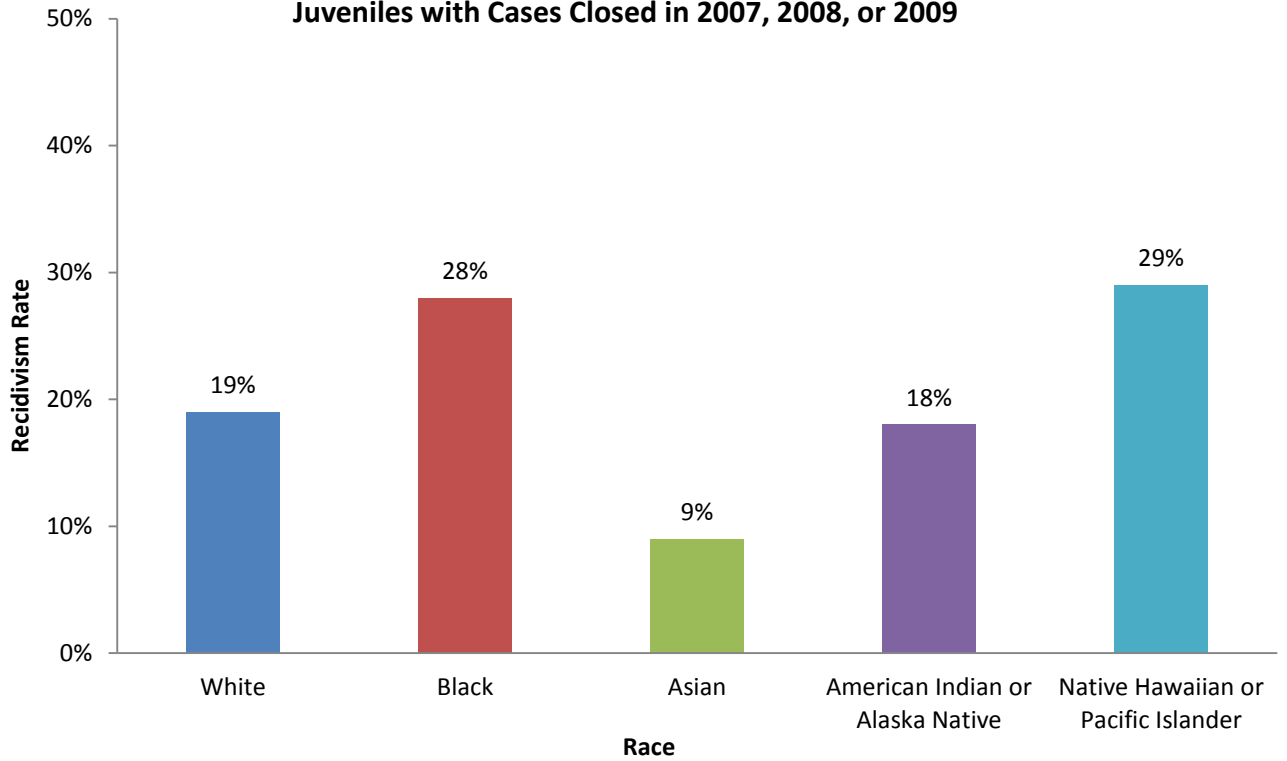
Juvenile offenders who had identified their race as Black recidivated at the highest rate (28%; N=5,199) across the three years examined. Juveniles who identified as White recidivated at the next highest rate: 19% (N= 6,737). Juvenile offenders who identified as Asian recidivated at a rate of 9% (N= 25), while American Indian or Alaska Native juvenile offenders recidivated at a rate of 18% (N= 12). Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juvenile offenders recidivated at a rate of 29% (N= 7), though there were only twenty-four juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 who had identified as this race. This small sample should be kept in mind when evaluating their recidivism rates.

Table 21: Recidivism Rate by Race*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009												
Race	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Recidivism Rate
White	2,302	12,545	18%	2,290	12,023	19%	2,145	11,385	19%	6,737	35,953	19%
Black	1,494	6,042	25%	1,733	6,050	29%	1,972	6,626	30%	5,199	18,718	28%
Asian	6	83	7%	8	83	10%	11	107	10%	25	273	9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	14	14%	6	26	23%	4	27	15%	12	67	18%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2	9	22%	4	13	31%	1	2	50%	7	24	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,806</b>	<b>18,693</b>		<b>4,041</b>	<b>18,195</b>		<b>4,133</b>	<b>18,147</b>		<b>11,980</b>	<b>55,035</b>	

\*The race of 179 juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 432 juveniles with a case closed in 2008, and 292 juveniles with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

<sup>33</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

**Figure 18: Recidivism Rate by Race\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



N= 55,035

\*For Ns of each race by year, refer to Table 21.



## Recidivism Rate by Race and Gender<sup>34</sup>

Table 22 and Figure 19 below present recidivism rates by race and gender. Black males (34%; N= 4,560) had the highest recidivism rate, and this relationship was statistically significant ( $\chi^2= 95.731$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>35</sup>. White males had a recidivism rate of 22% (N=5,888). Black females re-offended at a rate of 13% (N= 637), and approximately 9% (N= 823) of White females recidivated. Both Black females and White females re-offended at rates significantly lower than would be expected ( $\chi^2= 95.731$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>36</sup>. Finally, Asian males re-offended at a rate of 12% (N= 25), while no Asian females re-offended.

Table 22: Recidivism Rate by Race and Gender*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009												
Race & Gender	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Recidivism Rate
<b>Black Male</b>	1,339	4,437	30%	1,505	4,383	34%	1,716	4,758	36%	4,560	13,578	34%
<b>White Male</b>	2,032	9,524	21%	2,008	8,828	23%	1,848	8,308	22%	5,888	26,660	22%
<b>Black Female</b>	155	1,605	10%	227	1,596	14%	255	1,821	14%	637	5,022	13%
<b>Asian Male</b>	6	73	8%	8	57	14%	11	85	13%	25	215	12%
<b>White Female</b>	270	3,021	9%	271	2,895	9%	282	2,825	10%	823	8,741	9%
<b>Asian Female</b>	0	10	0%	0	23	0%	0	20	0%	0	53	0%
<b>Total</b>	3,802	18,670		4,019	17,782		4,112	17,817		11,933	54,269	

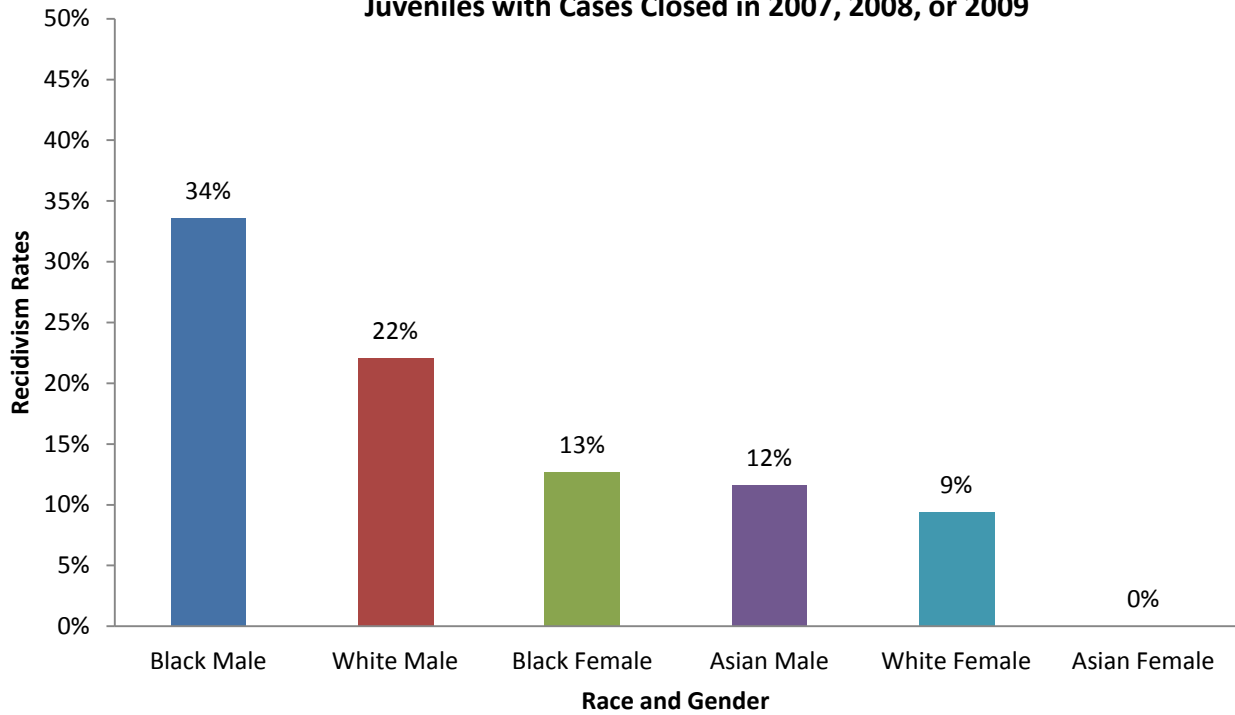
\*The race or gender of 202 juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 845 juveniles with a case closed in 2008, and 622 juveniles with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

<sup>34</sup> Due to the small number of American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juveniles, they were excluded from this analysis.

<sup>35</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

<sup>36</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

**Figure 19: Recidivism Rate by Race and Gender:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



N= 54,269

\*For Ns by year, refer to Table 22.

## Ethnicity

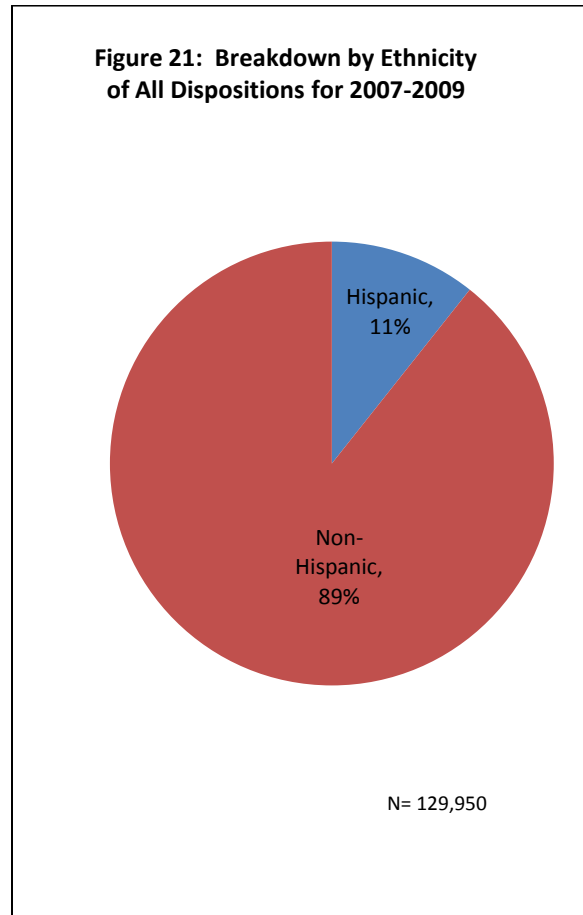
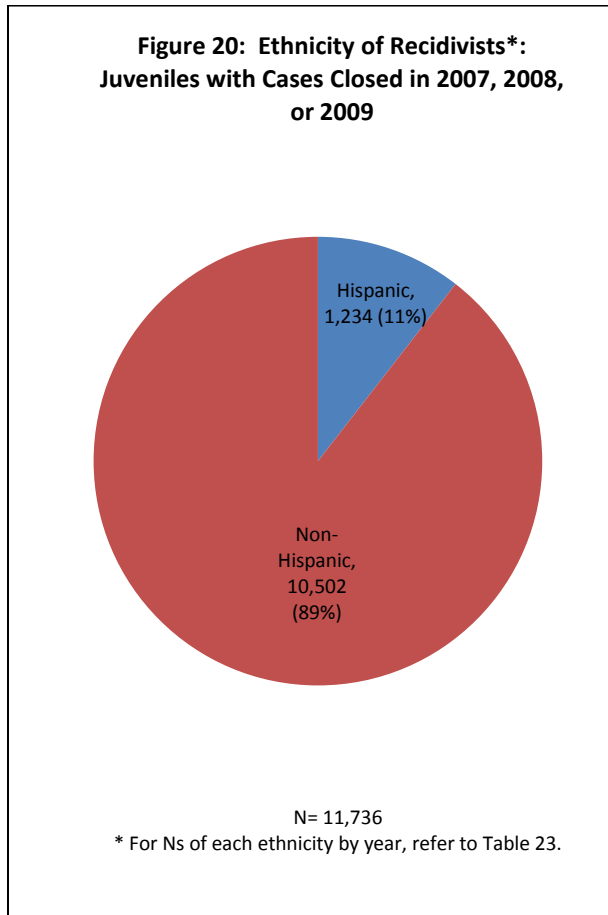
### *Ethnicity of Recidivists*

The majority of juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 who were recidivists were non-Hispanic (89%; N= 10,502). That is, about nine out of ten recidivists were non-Hispanic. Only about one in ten (11%) recidivists was Hispanic (See Table 23 and Figure 20). This was consistent across all three years examined.

Table 23: Ethnicity of Recidivists*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Average	
Ethnicity	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population
<b>Hispanic</b>	373	10%	399	10%	462	12%	1,234	11%
<b>Non-Hispanic</b>	3,407	90%	3,558	90%	3,537	88%	10,502	89%
<b>Total</b>	3,780		3,957		3,999		11,736	

\*The ethnicity of 45 recidivists with a case closed in 2007, 130 recidivists with a case closed in 2008, and 207 recidivists with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

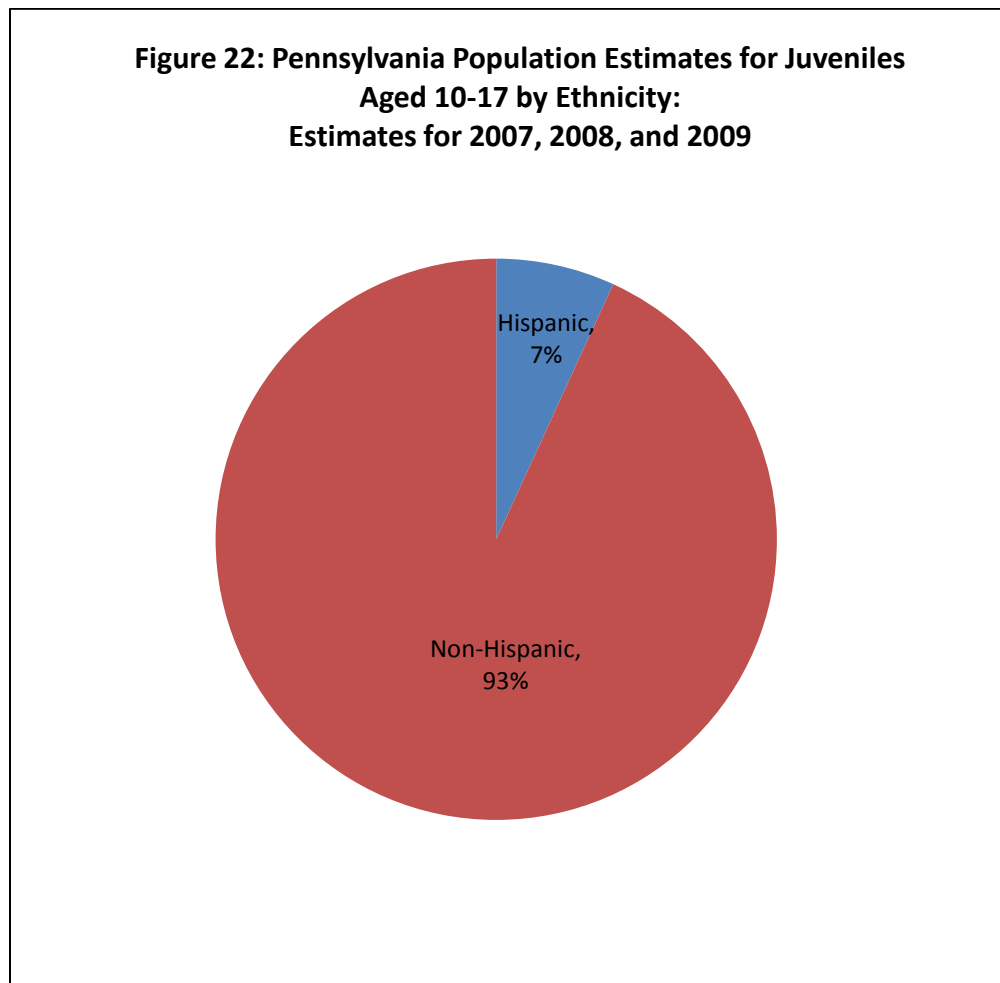
Figure 21 presents the average breakdown by ethnicity of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009. Non-Hispanic youth accounted for 89% of all dispositions within that this period, while Hispanic youth accounted for 11%. This is the same exact breakdown of the recidivist population, indicating that non-Hispanic youth and Hispanic youth recidivated at rates that would be expected given the proportion of dispositions that occurred these years. There were no statistical differences between the two samples<sup>37</sup>.



<sup>37</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

Figure 22 below presents information from the Census Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control<sup>38</sup> on the ethnicity of the general population of juveniles aged 10-17 in Pennsylvania during 2007, 2008, and 2009. As illustrated, approximately 93% of youth in Pennsylvania were non-Hispanic, while 7% were Hispanic. As shown above (Figures 20 and 21), 11% of dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009 were for Hispanic offenders and 11% of recidivists were Hispanic. This demonstrates that Hispanic youth were over-represented in the juvenile justice system, and this difference was significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>39</sup>.

In addition, non-Hispanic offenders were slightly under-represented in the juvenile justice system. While 93% of the general population of youth aged 10-17 in Pennsylvania were non-Hispanic in 2007, 2008, and 2009, only 89% of dispositions that occurred between this time period were for non-Hispanic offenders, and only 89% of recidivists were non-Hispanic.



<sup>38</sup> Source: Center for Disease Control. *Bridged-Race Population Estimates: 1990-2012*. Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/bridged-race-population.html>.

<sup>39</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

### Recidivism Rate by Ethnicity

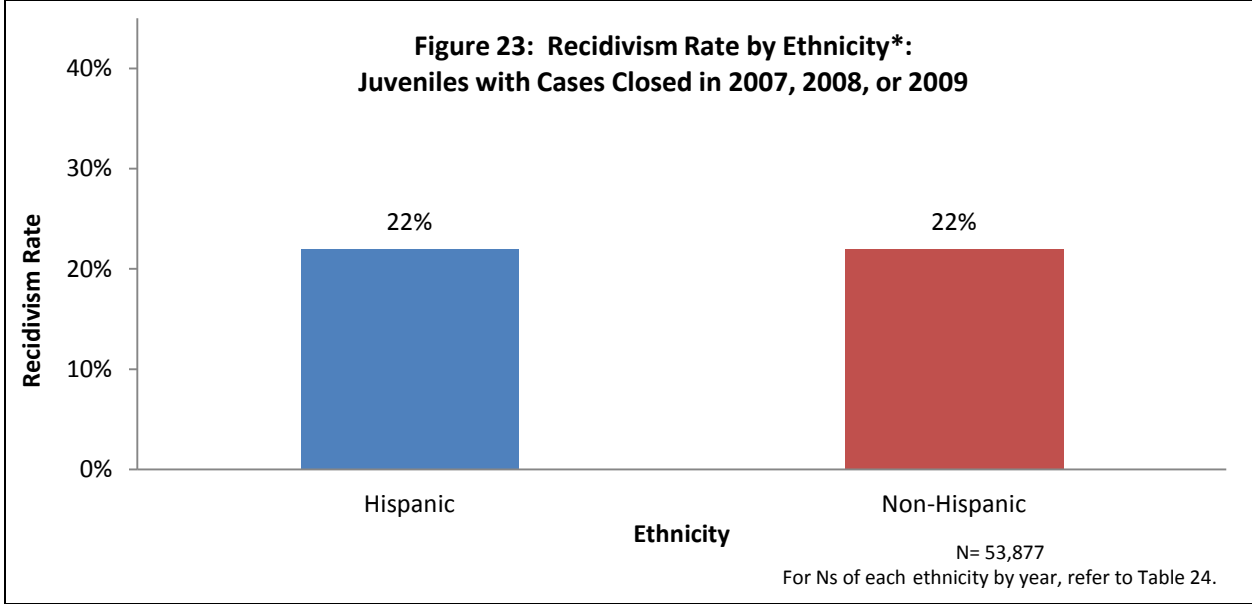
Across the three years examined, the recidivism rates of Hispanic offenders and non-Hispanic offenders were almost identical. To illustrate, 21% (N= 373) of Hispanic juveniles with a 2007 case closure recidivated, while 20% (N= 3,407) of non-Hispanic offenders with a case closed in this year recidivated. In addition, 21% (N= 399) of Hispanic offenders with a case closed in 2008 re-offended, while 22% (N= 3,558) of non-Hispanic offenders with a case closed in this year recidivated. Finally, 22% (N= 462) of Hispanic juveniles with a case closed in 2009 recidivated within two years of case closure, while 23% (N= 3,588) of non-Hispanic offenders did (Refer to Table 24 and Figure 23). The three-year average recidivism rate for both Hispanic and non-Hispanic youth was 22%. There were no statistically significant differences between likelihood of recidivating among Hispanic and non-Hispanic offenders<sup>40</sup>.

**Table 24: Recidivism Rate by Ethnicity\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Total
<b>Recidivists</b>	373	3,407	3,780	399	3,558	3,957	462	3,588	4,050	1,234	10,553	11,787
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	1,401	13,368	14,769	1,462	12,281	13,743	1,621	11,957	13,578	4,484	37,606	42,090
<b>Total</b>	1,774	16,775	18,549	1,861	15,839	17,700	2,083	15,545	17,628	5,718	48,159	53,877
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	21%	20%		21%	22%		22%	23%		22%	22%	

\*The ethnicity of 323 juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 927 juveniles with a case closed in 2008, and 811 juveniles with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

<sup>40</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.



## Family Status

### *Family Status of Recidivists*

The following is an analysis of the relationship between juveniles' family statuses and recidivism. Family status captures the "status" of the **biological** parents of the juvenile. The following statistics were collected at the time of referral to the probation department prior to the juvenile's case closure in 2007, 2008, or 2009, not at the time of the recidivating offense.

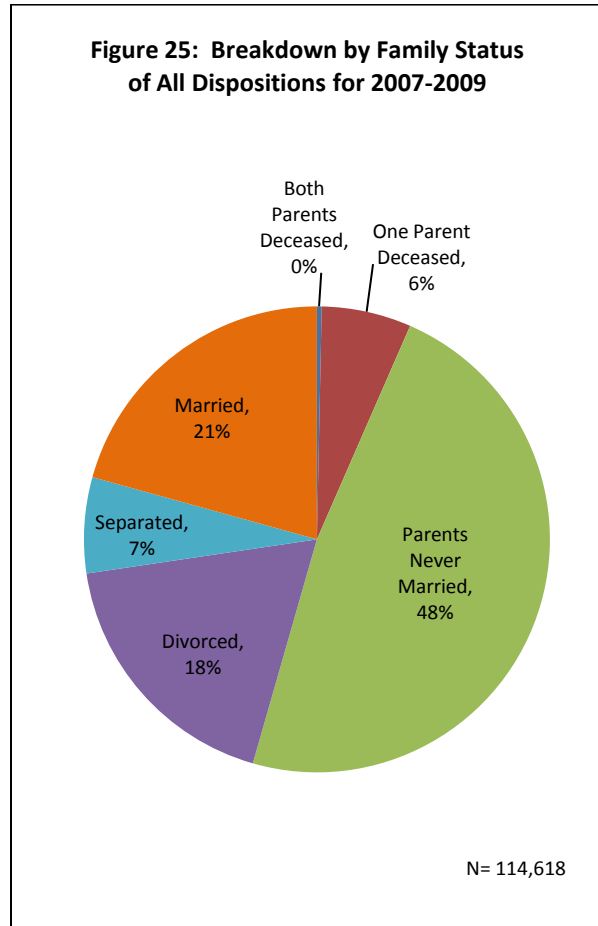
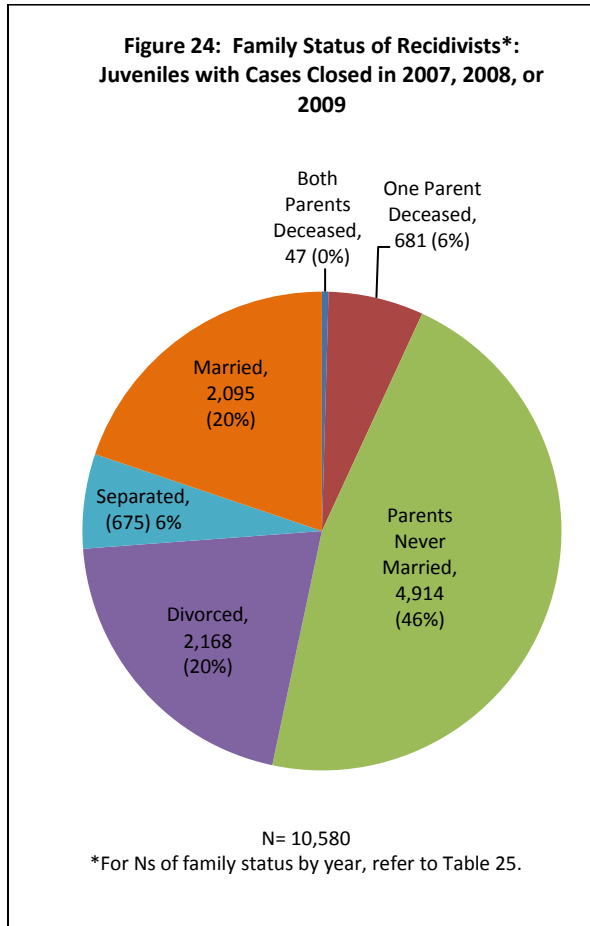
Across the three years examined, it was discovered that almost half (46%; N= 4,914) of recidivists' biological parents were never married. An additional 37% (N= 3,571) of recidivists were from family situations in which one (6%; N= 681) or both (<1%; N= 47) of their biological parents were deceased, their biological parents were divorced (20%; N= 2,168), or their biological parents were separated (6%; N= 675). Approximately 20% (N= 2,095) of recidivists' parents were married (Refer to Table 25 and Figure 24).

Table 25: Family Status of Recidivists*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
Family Status	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population	Number of Recidivists	Percentage of Recidivist Population
<b>Both Parents Deceased</b>	18	1%	12	0%	17	0%	47	0%
<b>One Parent Deceased</b>	189	6%	236	7%	256	7%	681	6%
<b>Parents Never Married</b>	1,388	43%	1,656	47%	1,870	49%	4,914	46%
<b>Divorced</b>	763	23%	709	20%	696	18%	2,168	20%
<b>Separated</b>	206	6%	225	6%	244	6%	675	6%
<b>Married</b>	692	21%	697	20%	706	19%	2,095	20%
<b>Total</b>	3,256		3,535		3,789		10,580	

\* The family status of 569 recidivists with a case closed in 2007, 552 juveniles with a case closed in 2008, and 417 juveniles with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.



Figure 25 presents the average breakdown by family status of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009. Juveniles whose biological parents were separated, divorced, or never married were significantly more likely to be recidivists than would be expected given the percentage of dispositions they accounted for in this time period, while juveniles whose parents were married were significantly less likely to be recidivists ( $p < 0.05$ )<sup>41</sup>. There were no statistical differences between the two samples for juveniles with one or both parents deceased.



<sup>41</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

Figure 26 below illustrates the family status of all juveniles aged 9-17 in the United States in the years 2007, 2008, and 2009. These figures, drawn from the United States Census Bureau's data<sup>42</sup>, were published in 2010. Though these figures are not Pennsylvania-specific,<sup>43</sup> they serve as a suitable comparison against which to evaluate how both the delinquency and recidivist populations in the Commonwealth compared to the general population of youth aged 9-17.

As shown, the majority (71%) of juveniles' parents in the United States were married. In addition, about 13% of juveniles' parents were divorced, 9% were never married, and 5% were separated. Approximately 2% of juveniles aged 9-17 had a parent who was deceased.<sup>44</sup>

Figure 26 demonstrates that juveniles with certain family statuses were over-represented in the juvenile justice system, and all these differences were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>45</sup>. For example, as shown in Figure 25 on page 56, approximately 48% of juvenile court dispositions in 2007-2009 were for juveniles whose parents were never married. Similarly, approximately 46% of recidivists' parents were never married (See Figure 24). According to the Census data, however, only 9% of the general population of juveniles' parents were never married. Similarly, about 20% of recidivists and 18% of dispositions in 2007-2009 were from juveniles whose parents were divorced, while the Census data indicates that only 13% of the general population of juveniles' parents were divorced. In addition, about 6% of recidivists' parents were separated, and 7% of all juvenile court dispositions were for juveniles whose parents were separated. According to Census data, however, only 5% of the general population of juveniles' parents were separated. Finally, approximately 6% of recidivists and 6% of juveniles who had dispositions in 2007-2009 had one parent deceased. Only 2% of juveniles in the general population aged 9-17 had one parent deceased.

---

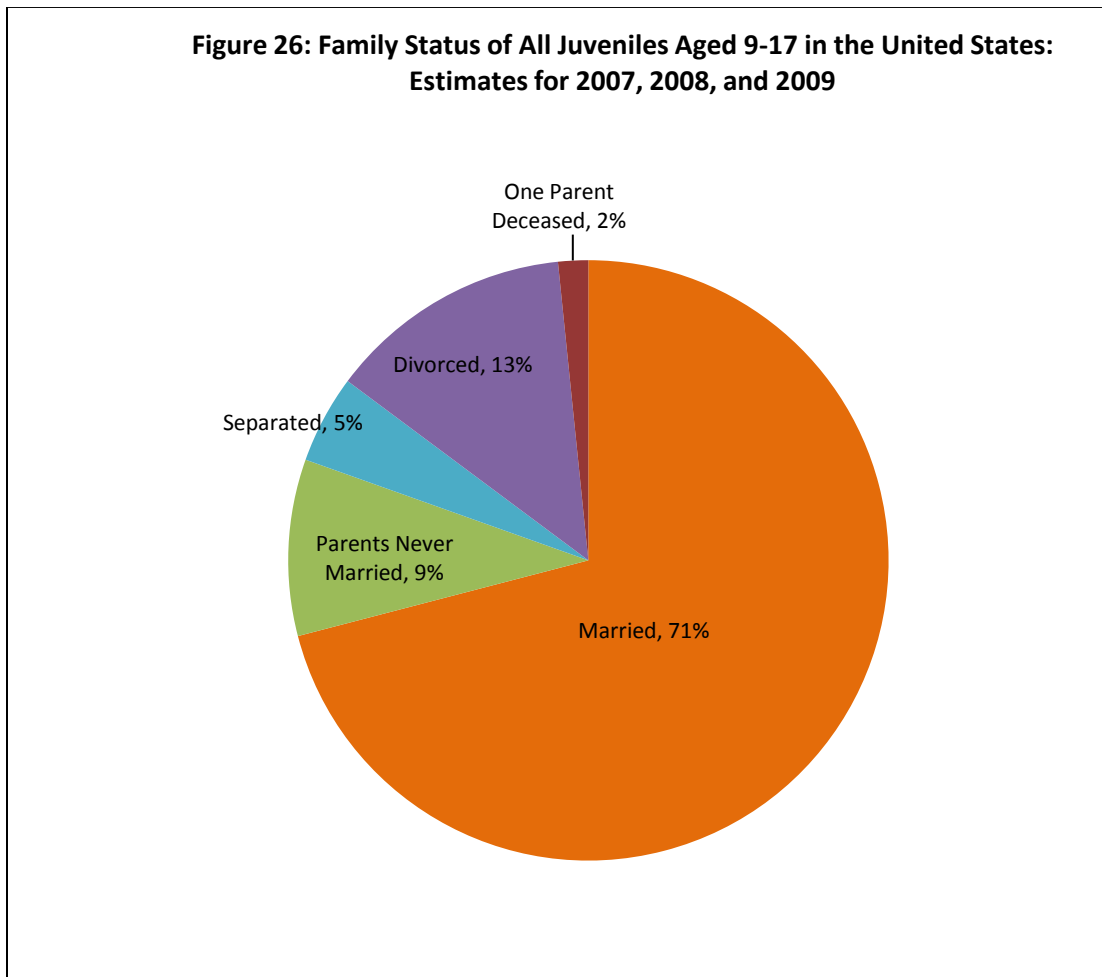
<sup>42</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey, 2007, 2008, and 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplements*. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/families/data/cps.html>

<sup>43</sup> This data is not available at the state level.

<sup>44</sup> Data is not available on the number of juveniles with both parents deceased.

<sup>45</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

Juveniles whose parents were married were under-represented in both the juvenile justice population and the recidivist population, and these differences were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>46</sup>. Approximately 71% of the parents of the general population of juveniles were married. Only 21% of the parents of juveniles who had a disposition in 2007-2009 were married. Similarly, only 20% of recidivists' parents were married.



<sup>46</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

### Recidivism Rate by Family Status

The recidivism rates of each family status are presented in Table 26 and Figure 27 below. On average, across the three years examined, juveniles with both biological parents deceased recidivated at the highest rate of 32% (N= 47), and juveniles with one biological parent deceased recidivated at a rate of 26% (N= 681). Additionally, there was a significant relationship between juveniles with one or both biological parents deceased and recidivism ( $\chi^2= 14.022$ ;  $p<0.01$ )<sup>47</sup>. Juveniles who had these family statuses were significantly more likely to re-offend than would be expected.

Juvenile offenders whose biological parents were never married re-offended at a rate of 26% (N= 4,914). Juveniles whose biological parents were divorced (N= 2,168) or separated (N= 675) recidivated at a rate of 20% each. Juveniles whose biological parents were married re-offended at the lowest rate: 17% (N= 2,095).

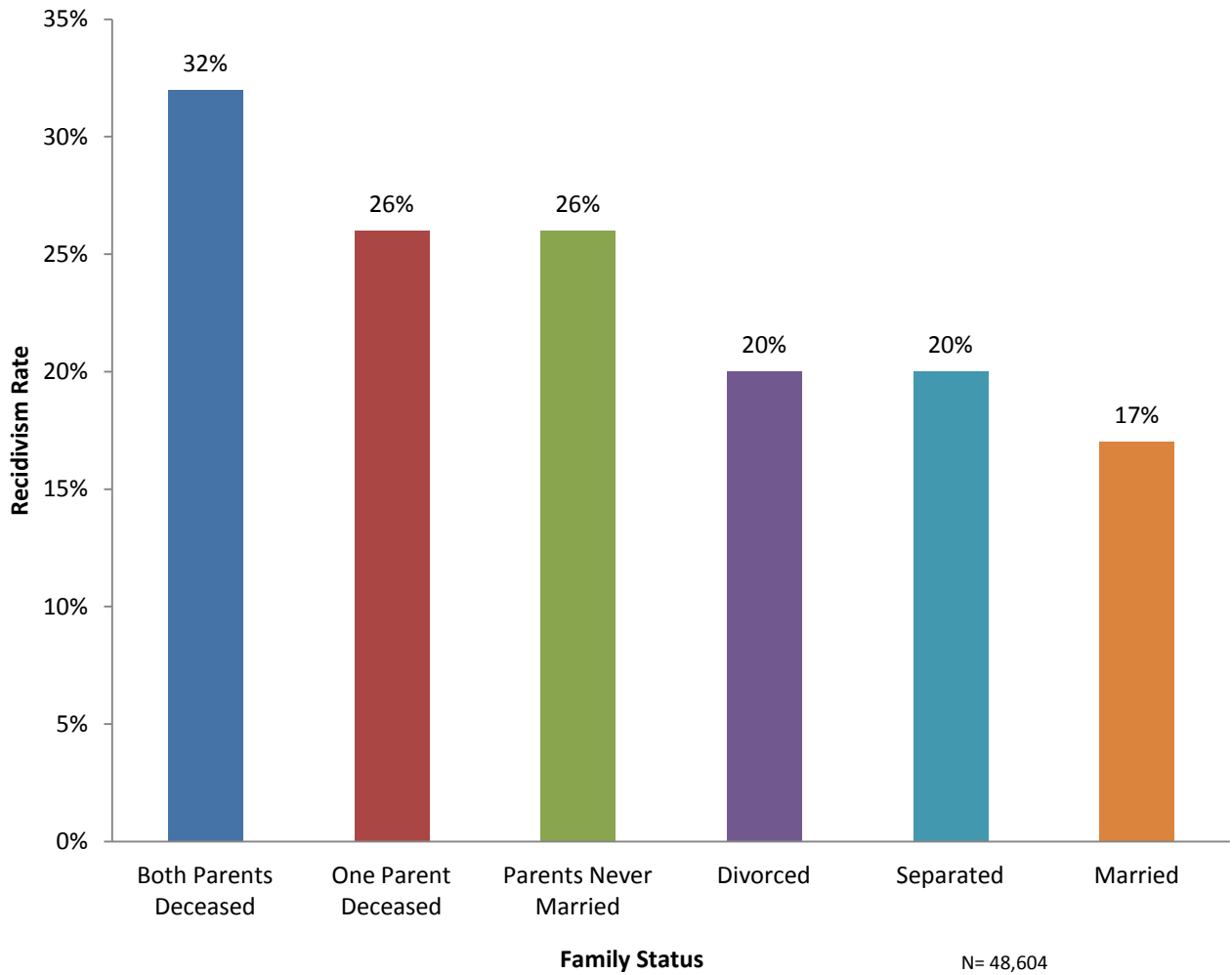
**Table 26: Recidivism Rate by Family Status\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Family Status	2007				2008				2009				Three-Year Total			
	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate
<b>Both Parents Deceased</b>	18	25	43	42%	12	39	51	24%	17	35	52	33%	47	99	146	32%
<b>One Parent Deceased</b>	189	625	814	23%	236	652	888	27%	256	712	968	26%	681	1,989	2,670	26%
<b>Parents Never Married</b>	1,388	4,644	6,032	23%	1,656	4,541	6,197	27%	1,870	5,139	7,009	27%	4,914	14,324	19,238	26%
<b>Divorced</b>	763	3,046	3,809	20%	709	2,853	3,562	20%	696	2,723	3,419	20%	2,168	8,622	10,790	20%
<b>Separated</b>	206	914	1,120	18%	225	908	1,133	20%	244	865	1,109	22%	675	2,687	3,362	20%
<b>Married</b>	692	3,769	4,461	16%	697	3,397	4,094	17%	706	3,137	3,843	18%	2,095	10,303	12,398	17%
<b>Total</b>	3,256	13,023	16,279		3,535	12,390	15,925		3,789	12,611	16,400		10,580	38,024	48,604	

\*The family status of 2,593 juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2,702 juveniles with a case closed in 2008, and 2,039 juveniles with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

<sup>47</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

**Figure 27: Recidivism Rate by Family Status\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



## Race and Family Status<sup>48</sup>

### Family Status by Race

As illustrated by Table 27 and Figure 28 below, among juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, White youth's parents were most likely to be separated or divorced (36%; N= 11,347). Approximately 32% (N= 10,169) of parents of White juveniles were married, while approximately 26% (N= 8,093) of parents of White juveniles were never married. Only 6% (N=1,753) of White juveniles' parents were deceased (one parent or both parents).

Among juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, the majority of Black youth's parents were never married (67%; N=10,873). Approximately 15% (N= 2,516) of Black juveniles' parents were separated/divorced, and 12% (N=1,927) of Black juveniles' parents were married. About 6% (N= 1,014) of Black juveniles' parents were deceased (one parent or both parents) (See Table 27 and Figure 28).

Among youth with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, approximately 54% (N= 132) of Asian juveniles' parents were married. Approximately 24% (N= 58) of Asian youth's parents were separated/divorced, and about 18% (N= 44) of their parents were never married. Approximately 4% (N= 10) of Asian youth's parents were deceased (one parent or both parents) (Refer to Table 27 and Figure 28).

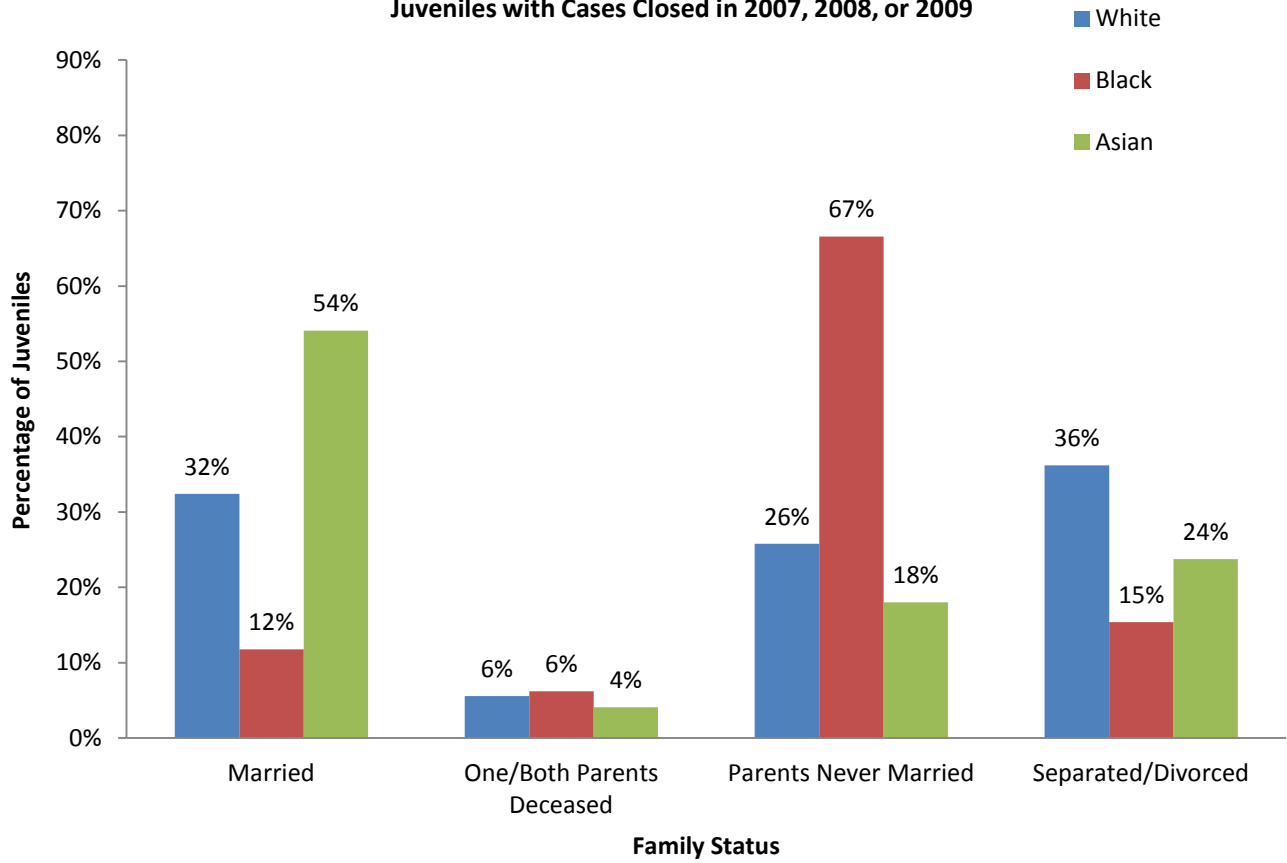
**Table 27: Family Status by Race\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Family Status	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	White	Black	Asian	White	Black	Asian	White	Black	Asian	White	Black	Asian
<b>One/Both Parents Deceased</b>	5% (N=555)	6% (N=296)	1% (N=1)	6% (N=578)	6% (N=331)	4% (N=3)	6% (N=620)	7% (N=387)	6% (N=6)	6% (N=1,753)	6% (N=1,014)	4% (N=10)
<b>Parents Never Married</b>	24% (N=2,612)	65% (N=3,361)	16% (N=12)	25% (N=2,593)	67% (N=3,495)	17% (N=12)	28% (N=2,888)	68% (N=4,017)	21% (N=20)	26% (N=8,093)	67% (N=10,873)	18% (N=44)
<b>Separated/Divorced</b>	37% (N=4,035)	16% (N=842)	22% (N=17)	36% (N=3,746)	15% (N=810)	28% (N=20)	35% (N=3,566)	15% (N=864)	22% (N=21)	36% (N=11,347)	15% (N=2,516)	24% (N=58)
<b>Married</b>	34% (N=3,745)	13% (N=649)	61% (N=46)	33% (N=3,353)	12% (N=619)	51% (N=36)	30% (N=3,071)	11% (N=659)	55% (N=50)	32% (N=10,169)	12% (N=1,927)	54% (N=132)
<b>Total</b>	10,947	5,148	76	10,270	5,255	71	10,145	5,927	97	31,362	16,330	244

\*The race or family status of 2,701 juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 3,031 juveniles with a case closed in 2008, and 2,270 juveniles with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

<sup>48</sup> Due to the small number of cases for certain family status groups, the following were combined into one: 1.) one parent deceased and both parents deceased and 2.) separated and divorced. In addition, due to the small number of American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juveniles in the total sample, they were excluded from this analysis.

**Figure 28: Family Status by Race:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



N= 47,936  
\*For Ns by year, refer to Table 27.

### *Recidivism Rate by Race and Family Status*

Among White juvenile offenders with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, those with one or both parents deceased recidivated at the highest rate: 22% (N= 391). White offenders whose parents were never married re-offended at a rate of 21% (N= 1,732), and those whose parents were separated/divorced re-offended at a rate of 19% (N= 2,167). White juveniles with parents who were married recidivated at the lowest rate among White offenders: 15% (N= 1,572). Refer to Table 28 and Figure 29.

Among Black offenders with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, those whose parents were deceased (one parent or both parents) recidivated at the highest rate: 32% (N= 328). Black juvenile offenders with parents who were never married re-offended at the next highest rate: 29% (N= 3,139). Black juveniles whose parents were separated/divorced or married re-offended at a rate of 25% each (N= 622 and N= 473, respectively). See Table 28 and Figure 29.

As shown in Table 28 and Figure 29, among Asian offenders with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, those with one or both parents deceased recidivated at the highest rate: 20% (N= 2). Asian juveniles whose parents were separated/divorced recidivated at a rate of 12% (N= 7), followed by Asian juveniles whose parents were married (11%; N= 14). Among the 44 Asian youth whose parents were never married, no offenders recidivated.

Between the three major race groups (White, Black, Asian), Black juvenile offenders were most likely to recidivate, regardless of their family status, compared to White juvenile offenders and Asian juvenile offenders. In addition, there was a statistically significant relationship between some race and family status groups and the likelihood of recidivating. More specifically, Black juveniles whose parents were never married were significantly more likely to recidivate than would expected, and White juveniles whose parents were married were significantly less likely to recidivate ( $\chi^2= 31.509$ ;  $p<0.01$ )<sup>49</sup>.

Within each race group, juveniles with a family status of one or both parents deceased re-offended at the highest rates.

---

<sup>49</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

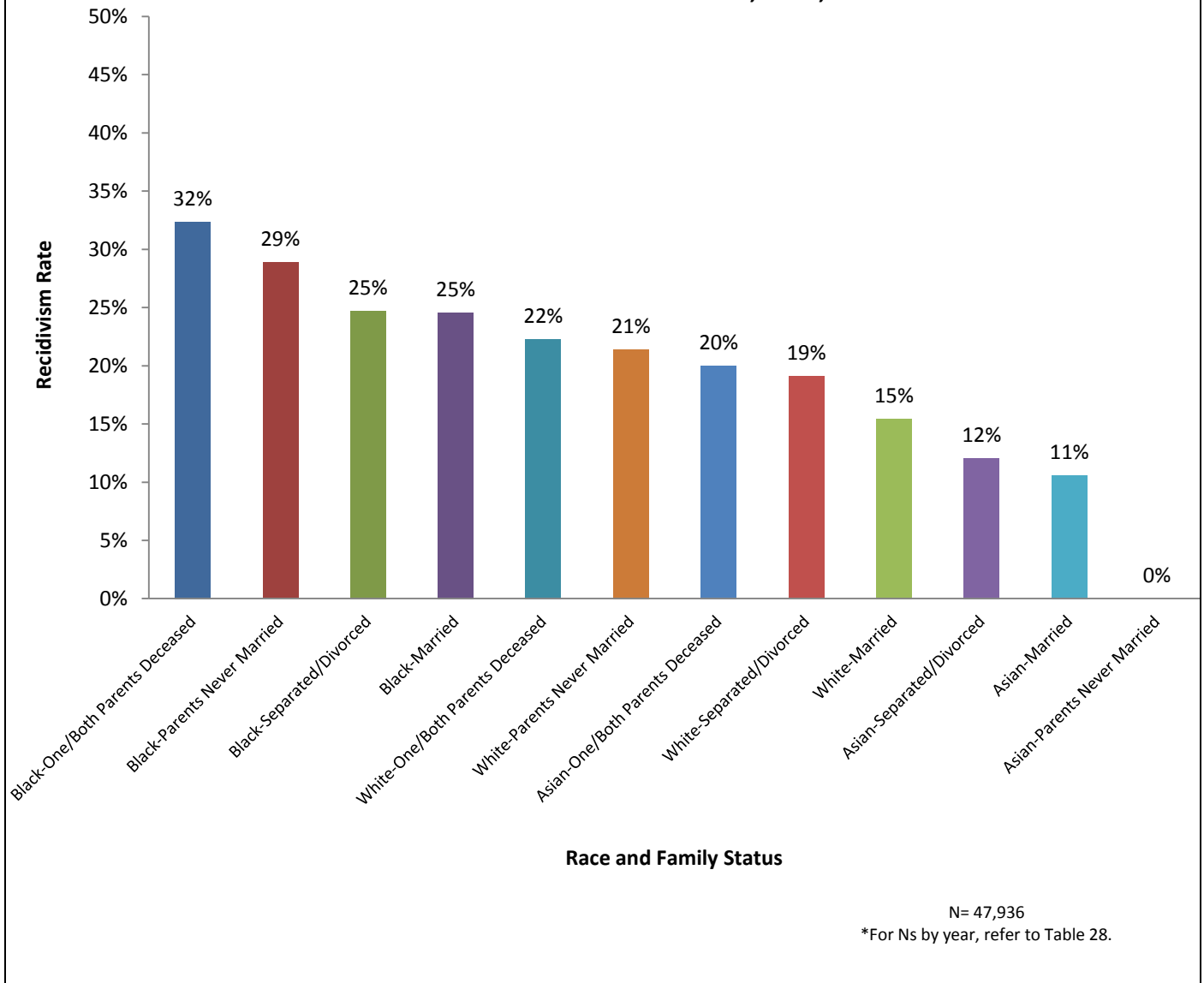


**Table 28: Recidivism Rate by Race and Family Status\*:  
Juviles with Case Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Race and Family Status	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juviles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juviles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juviles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juviles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate
<b>Black-One/ Both Parents Deceased</b>	89	296	30%	112	331	34%	127	387	33%	328	1,014	32%
<b>Black-Parents Never Married</b>	846	3,361	25%	1052	3495	30%	1,241	4,017	31%	3,139	10,873	29%
<b>Black-Separated/ Divorced</b>	198	842	24%	198	810	24%	226	864	26%	622	2,516	25%
<b>Black-Married</b>	130	649	20%	159	619	26%	184	659	28%	473	1,927	25%
<b>White-One/ Both Parents Deceased</b>	118	555	21%	132	578	23%	141	620	23%	391	1,753	22%
<b>White-Parents Never Married</b>	533	2,612	20%	590	2593	23%	609	2,888	21%	1,732	8,093	21%
<b>Asian-One/ Both Parents Deceased</b>	0	1	0%	1	3	33%	1	6	17%	2	10	20%
<b>White-Separated/ Divorced</b>	764	4,035	19%	718	3746	19%	685	3,566	19%	2,167	11,347	19%
<b>White-Married</b>	555	3,745	15%	521	3353	16%	496	3,071	16%	1,572	10,169	15%
<b>Asian-Separated/ Divorced</b>	1	17	6%	2	20	10%	4	21	19%	7	58	12%
<b>Asian-Married</b>	5	46	11%	3	36	8%	6	50	12%	14	132	11%
<b>Asian Parents Never Married</b>	0	12	0%	0	12	0%		20	0%	0	44	0%
<b>Total</b>	3239	16,171		3488	15596		3,720	16,169		10,447	47,936	

\*The race or family status of 2,701 juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 3,031 juveniles with a case closed in 2008, and 2,270 juveniles with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

**Figure 29: Recidivism Rate by Race and Family Status\*:  
 Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



### Section 3. Offense and Disposition Variables: Summary of Key Findings

---

- Among select offenses analyzed, juveniles who committed the following on their base case recidivated at rates **lower** than the overall average: indecent assault (11%), DUI (13%), retail theft (13%), criminal mischief (17%), harassment/stalking (17%), and weapon on school property (17%) (page 68).
- Among select offenses analyzed, juveniles who committed the following on their base case recidivated at rates **higher** than the overall average: unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (30%), possession with intent to deliver (33%), robbery (33%), and firearm-related offenses (39%) (page 68).
- Approximately 34% of recidivists had committed Other offenses on their base case, 26% had committed Property offenses, and 22% had committed Person offenses. About 18% of juveniles committed Drug offenses on their base case (page 71).
- Recidivism rates did not vary significantly between the four offense type groups. Drug offenders recidivated at a rate of 23%, Other offenders at 22%, Property offenders at 21%, and Person offenders at 20% (page 73).
- Person offenders, Property offenders, and Drug offenders all exhibited some degree of offense type specialization when re-offending. Drug offenders exhibited the highest degree of specialization when they recidivated (page 74).
- Approximately 54% of recidivists had committed misdemeanor offenses on their base case, while 23% had committed ungraded/summary offenses. In addition, 23% had committed felony offenses (page 75).
- Juveniles who committed felony offenses on their base case recidivated at the highest rate: 25%. Approximately 21% of juveniles who had committed ungraded/summary offenses recidivated, while 20% of juveniles who committed misdemeanor offenses re-offended (page 77).
- The majority of recidivists committed a misdemeanor offense when they recidivated, regardless of the grading of the offense of their base case (page 78).
- Juveniles who had more formal dispositions on their base case (e.g., *placement* and *formal probation*) recidivated at higher rates than juveniles who had less formal dispositions on their base case (e.g., *informal adjustment* and *consent decree*) (page 80).

### **Section 3. Offense and Disposition Variables: Summary of Key Findings (Continued)**

---

- Juveniles who committed a sex offense on their base case recidivated (any type of offense) at a rate of 13% (page 83). Approximately 1.4% of sex offenders committed another sex offense within two years of their case closing (page 85).
- Juveniles who committed indecent exposure committed another sex offense at the highest rate (4%) (page 85).
- Juveniles who had committed statutory sexual assault recidivated (any type of offense) at the highest rate (27%) (page 83).

## Section 3. Offense<sup>50</sup> and Disposition<sup>51</sup> Variables

---

### Recidivism Rate by Offense Committed on Base Case

Table 29 and Figure 30 below display the recidivism rates of 23 select offenses. Only offenses committed by 100 or more juveniles each year were included in the analysis. These 23 offenses accounted for approximately 90% of offenses committed by all juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009.

Juveniles who committed the following offenses recidivated at a rate considerably **lower** (5 or more percentage points) than the three-year average of 22%:

- **Indecent assault:** 11%
- **DUI:** 13%
- **Retail theft<sup>52</sup>:** 13%
- **Criminal mischief:** 17%
- **Harassment/stalking:** 17%
- **Weapon on school property:** 17%

Juveniles who committed the following offenses recidivated at a rate considerably **higher** (5 or more percentage points) than the three-year average of 22%:

- **Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle:** 30%
- **Possession with intent to deliver:** 33%
- **Robbery:** 33%
- **Firearm-related offenses:** 39%

---

<sup>50</sup> Data in the following sections was based on the most serious *substantiated* offense of the juvenile's base and recidivating case. The *base* case (vs. the *recidivating* case) is the case that occurred most recent to (immediately prior to) the juvenile's 2007, 2008, or 2009 close date that had a valid disposition. The *recidivating* case is the first case that resulted in an adjudication of delinquency or conviction in criminal court following the juvenile's 2007, 2008, or 2009 close date.

<sup>51</sup> Due to differences in methodology, the reader is cautioned to not compare the outcomes presented in this section to the outcomes presented in *The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles with a 2007 Case Closure*. In the current report, data in this section is based on the case that occurred immediately prior to the juveniles' case closure from a probation department. In the previous report, data from this section was based on the first case in the juveniles' offending histories.

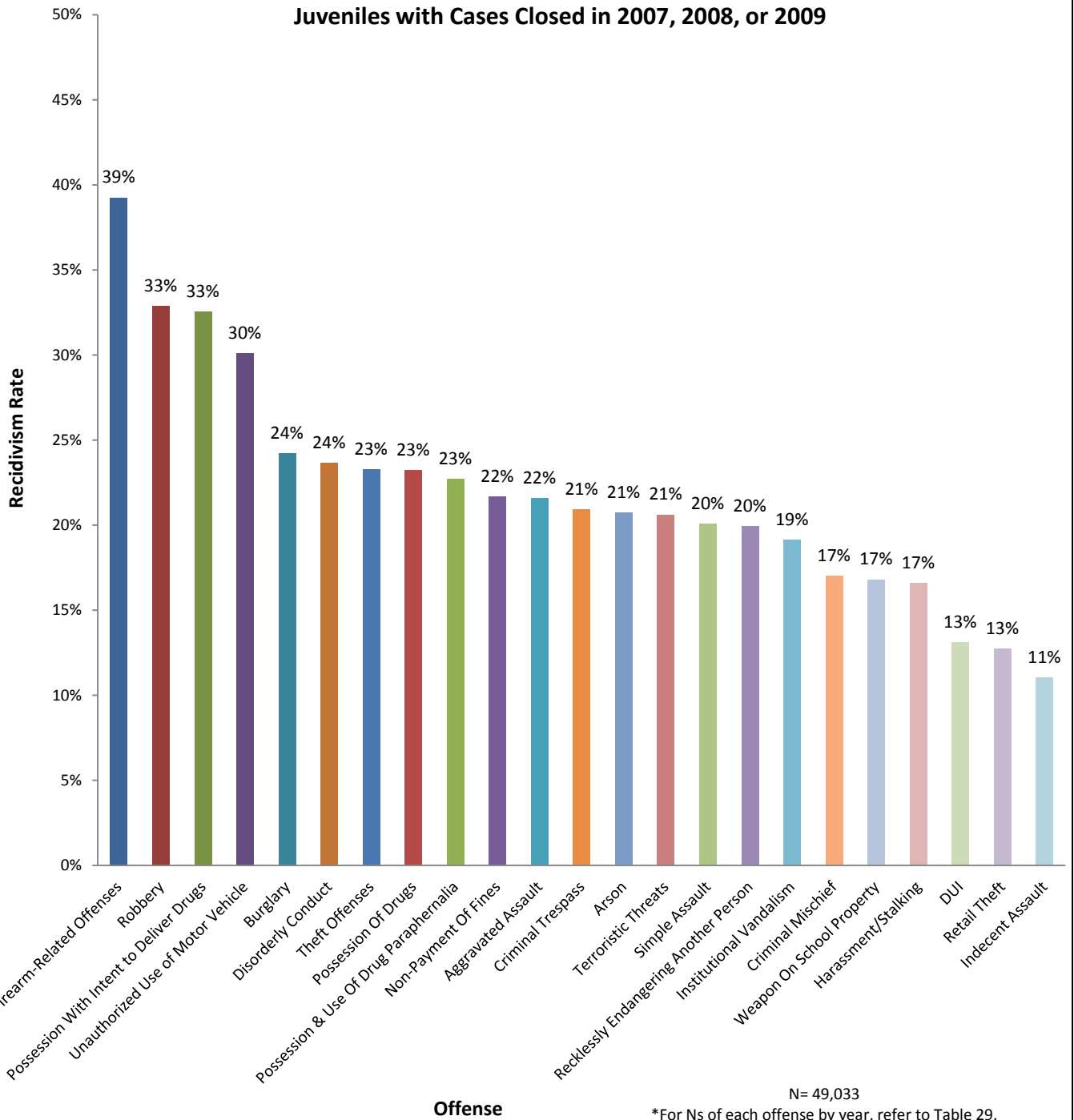
<sup>52</sup> Misdemeanor or felony retail theft only.

**Table 29: Recidivism Rates of Select Offenses:  
Juviles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Offense Committed on Base Case <sup>53</sup>	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Total Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Total Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Total Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Total Number of Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate
<b>Firearm-Related Offenses</b>	55	162	34%	62	161	39%	71	156	46%	188	479	39%
<b>Robbery</b>	115	392	29%	129	370	35%	153	445	34%	397	1,207	33%
<b>Possession With Intent To Deliver Drugs</b>	133	492	27%	154	469	33%	180	474	38%	467	1,435	33%
<b>Unauthorized Use Of Motor Vehicle</b>	71	253	28%	67	242	28%	86	249	35%	224	744	30%
<b>Burglary</b>	148	637	23%	138	600	23%	149	558	27%	435	1,795	24%
<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	163	745	22%	162	660	25%	171	692	25%	496	2,097	24%
<b>Theft Offenses</b>	471	2139	22%	465	2,027	23%	493	1,971	25%	1,429	6,137	23%
<b>Possession Of Drugs</b>	374	1717	22%	416	1,764	24%	410	1,685	24%	1,200	5,166	23%
<b>Possession &amp; Use Of Drug Paraphernalia</b>	116	537	22%	122	526	23%	123	527	23%	361	1,590	23%
<b>Non-Payment Of Fines</b>	669	3165	21%	714	3,277	22%	664	3,002	22%	2,047	9,444	22%
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	124	690	18%	162	725	22%	191	795	24%	477	2,210	22%
<b>Criminal Trespass</b>	81	397	20%	112	462	24%	78	437	18%	271	1,296	21%
<b>Arson</b>	17	84	20%	18	90	20%	21	96	22%	56	270	21%
<b>Terroristic Threats</b>	82	414	20%	77	422	18%	106	449	24%	265	1,285	21%
<b>Simple Assault</b>	366	1815	20%	363	1,828	20%	376	1,865	20%	1,105	5,508	20%
<b>Recklessly Endangering Another Person</b>	33	190	17%	28	131	21%	35	161	22%	96	482	20%
<b>Institutional Vandalism</b>	27	145	19%	17	100	17%	28	131	21%	72	376	19%
<b>Criminal Mischief</b>	105	654	16%	99	559	18%	106	611	17%	310	1,824	17%
<b>Weapon On School Property</b>	73	555	13%	96	521	18%	103	542	19%	272	1,618	17%
<b>Harassment/Stalking</b>	36	274	13%	59	284	21%	45	285	16%	140	843	17%
<b>DUI</b>	36	331	11%	47	290	16%	35	278	13%	118	899	13%
<b>Retail Theft</b>	37	448	8%	70	530	13%	98	633	15%	205	1,611	13%
<b>Indecent Assault</b>	24	233	10%	29	258	11%	26	226	12%	79	717	11%
<b>Total</b>	3,356	16,469		3,606	16,296		3,748	16,268		10,710	49,033	

<sup>53</sup> To view the exact crimes that fall into each offense category, refer to Appendix B.

**Figure 30: Recidivism Rate of Select Offenses:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



## Offense Type

The proceeding analyses were based on the type of offense the juveniles had committed on their base case. Offense type is broken down into four different groups: Person, Property, Drug, and Other<sup>54</sup>. These analyses were conducted to determine if the type of offense a juvenile committed was related to re-offending.

### *Offense Type of Recidivists' Base Case*

As illustrated in Table 30 and Figure 31 below, among juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, the majority of recidivists had committed Other (34%; N= 4,034) and Property (26%; N=3,062) offenses on their base cases. In addition, about one in five (22%; N= 2,701) recidivists had committed Person offenses, and 18% (N= 2,208) had committed Drug offenses.

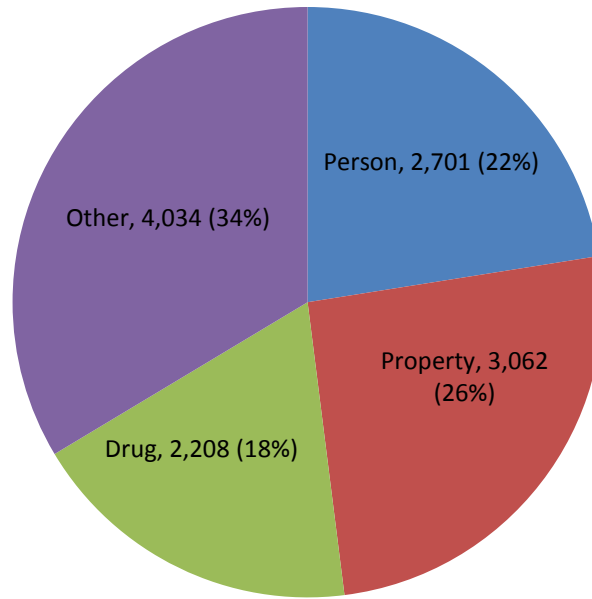
Table 30: Type of Offense Committed on Base Case by Recidivists*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
Offense Type Committed On Base Case	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Juveniles	Percentage of All Cases Closed	Number of Juveniles	Percentage of All Cases Closed	Number of Juveniles	Percentage of All Cases Closed	Number of Juveniles	Percentage of All Cases Closed
Person	826	22%	894	22%	981	23%	2,701	22%
Property	980	26%	1,008	25%	1,074	26%	3,062	26%
Drug	682	18%	765	19%	761	18%	2,208	18%
Other	1,290	34%	1,384	34%	1,360	33%	4,034	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,778</b>		<b>4,051</b>		<b>4,176</b>		<b>12,005</b>	

\*The type of offense committed on the base case of 47 recidivists with a 2007 case closure, 36 recidivists with a 2008 case closure, and 30 recidivists with a 2009 case closure was not reported in the PaJCMS.

<sup>54</sup> The category of Other includes such offenses as nonpayment of fines, criminal coercion, indecent exposure, perjury, providing false statements to an officer, possession of a firearm by a minor, and city or local ordinance violations.



**Figure 31: Type of Offense Committed by Recidivists on Base Case:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



N= 12,005  
\*For Ns of each offense type by year, refer to Table 30.

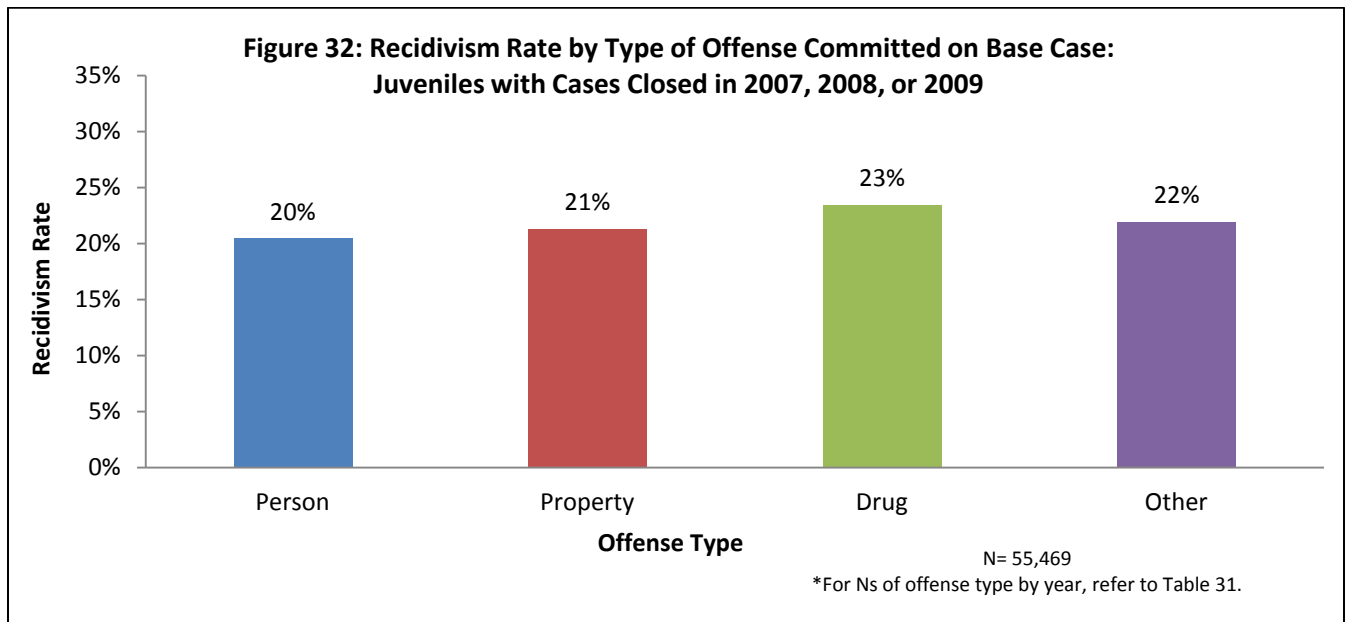
### Recidivism Rate by Offense Type

The re-offense rates between each offense type group (Person, Property, Drug, and Other) did not vary significantly across the three years examined. Generally, the range of recidivism rates between offense type groups was within three percentage points.

Drug offenders recidivated at the highest rate (23%; N= 2,208), followed by Other offenders, who recidivated at a rate of 22% (N= 4,034). Property offenders reoffended at a rate of 21% (N= 3,062), and Person offenders recidivated at the lowest rate: 20% (N= 2,701) (Refer to Table 31 and Figure 32).

Table 31: Recidivism Rate by Type of Offense Committed on Base Case*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009												
Offense Type Committed On Base Case	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate
Person	826	4,332	19%	894	4,335	21%	981	4,560	22%	2,701	13,227	20%
Property	980	4,871	20%	1,008	4,730	21%	1,074	4,780	22%	3,062	14,381	21%
Drug	682	3,217	21%	765	3,162	24%	761	3,053	25%	2,208	9,432	23%
Other	1,290	6,251	21%	1,384	6,241	22%	1,360	5,937	23%	4,034	18,429	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,778</b>	<b>18,671</b>		<b>4,051</b>	<b>18,468</b>		<b>4,176</b>	<b>18,330</b>		<b>12,005</b>	<b>55,469</b>	

\*The type of offense committed on the base case of 201 juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 159 juveniles with a case closed in 2008, and 109 juveniles with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.



### Offense Type Specialization

The following analysis examined the degree of specialization, or propensity to commit the same types of crime, that existed for juveniles with 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closures who were recidivists. In Table 32 below, the highlighted cells indicate the number and percentage of juveniles who committed the same type of offense on their recidivating case as their base case.

The results indicated that some degree of specialization existed among juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure. More specifically, Person offenders, Property offenders, and Drug offenders appeared most likely to return to the same types of crimes when they re-offended, or exhibit offense type specialization. To illustrate, 35% (N= 933) of juveniles who committed a Person offense committed another Person offense when they re-offended. Approximately 26% (N= 706) of Person offenders committed a Drug offense when they recidivated, 23% (N= 614) committed a Property offense, and only 17% (N= 446) committed an Other offense.

Similarly, 38% (N=1,158) of juveniles who committed a Property offense on their base case committed another Property offense when they recidivated. Furthermore, 30% (N= 921) of Property offenders committed a Drug offense when they recidivated, 19% (N= 580) committed a Person offense, and only 13% (N= 399) committed an Other offense.

Juvenile offenders who had committed Drug offenses exhibited the highest degree of specialization across the three years examined. Approximately 54% (N= 1,186) of Drug offenders committed another Drug offense when they recidivated. An additional 19% (N= 424) committed a Property offense, 15% (N= 323) committed a Person offense, and 12% (N= 273) committed an Other offense.

Juvenile offenders who had committed Other offenses were most likely to commit Property (30%; N= 1,228) and Drug (28%; N= 1,118) offenses when they recidivated. An additional 25% (N= 993) committed Person offenses, while only 17% (N= 689) committed another Other offense.

Offense Type Committed on Base Case	Offense Type of First Recidivating Case				
	Person	Property	Drug	Other	Total
Person	35% (N= 933)	23% (N= 614)	26% (N= 706)	17% (N= 446)	2,699
Property	19% (N= 580)	38% (N= 1,158)	30% (N= 921)	13% (N= 399)	3,058
Drug	15% (N= 323)	19% (N= 424)	54% (N= 1,186)	12% (N= 273)	2,206
Other	25% (N= 993)	30% (N= 1,228)	28% (N= 1,118)	17% (N= 689)	4,028
<b>Total</b>	2,829	3,424	3,931	1,807	11,991

\*The offense type committed on either the base case or the first recidivating case was unknown for 127 recidivists with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure.

## Grading of Offense

The proceeding analyses were based on the grading of the offenses juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 had committed on their base case. Grading of offenses is broken down into three different groups for the purposes of this study: ungraded/summary<sup>55</sup>, misdemeanor, and felony. These analyses were conducted to determine if the grading of the offense that the juvenile committed was related to re-offending

### *Grading of Recidivists' Base Case*

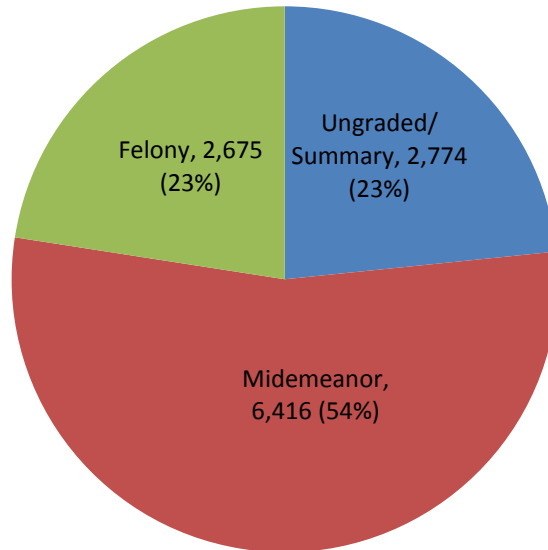
Across the three years examined, the majority (54%; N= 6,416) of recidivists had committed a misdemeanor offense on their base case. An additional 23% (N= 2,774) had committed an ungraded/summary offense, and 23% (N= 2,675) had committed a felony offense (Refer to Table 33 and Figure 33).

Table 33: Grading of Offenses Committed by Recidivists on Base Case*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
Grading of Base Case	Number of Juveniles	Percentage of All Cases Closed	Number of Juveniles	Percentage of All Cases Closed	Number of Juveniles	Percentage of All Cases Closed	Number of Juveniles	Percentage of All Cases Closed
Ungraded/Summary	895	24%	965	24%	914	22%	2,774	23%
Misdemeanor	2,014	54%	2,168	54%	2,234	54%	6,416	54%
Felony	812	22%	881	22%	982	24%	2,675	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,721</b>		<b>4,014</b>		<b>4,130</b>		<b>11,865</b>	

\*The grade of the most serious substantiated offense of the base case of 104 recidivists with a case closed in 2007, 73 recidivists with a case closed in 2008, and 76 recidivists with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

<sup>55</sup> Ungraded and summary offenses include: failure to pay fines and costs, violations of probation, violations of a court order, and dependency referrals.

**Figure 33: Grading of Offenses Committed by Recidivists on Base Case\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



N=11,865

\* For Ns of each grading category by year, refer to Table 33.

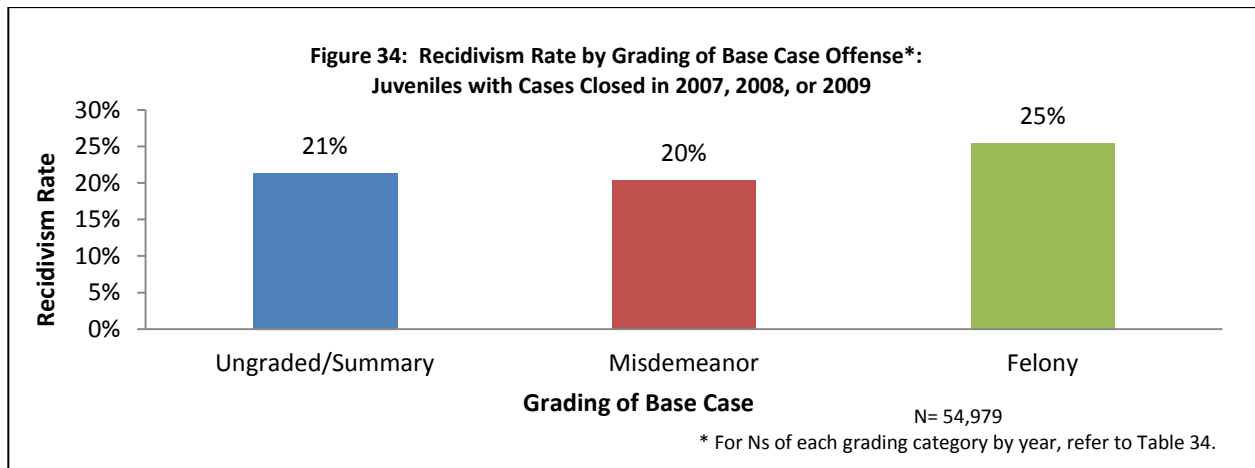
*Recidivism Rate by Grading of Base Case*

As shown in Table 34 and Figure 34, across the three years examined, juveniles who had committed felony offenses were most likely to recidivate, and there was a statistically significant relationship between committing a felony offense and recidivating ( $\chi^2= 79.556$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>56</sup>. Approximately one in four (25%; N= 2,675) felony offenders re-offended within two years of their case closure date. Ungraded/summary offenders re-offended at a rate of 21% (N= 2,774), while misdemeanor offenders recidivated at the lowest rate: 20% (N= 6,416).

**Table 34: Recidivism Rate by Grading of Base Case\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Grading of Base Case	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate
<b>Ungraded/Summary</b>	895	4,357	21%	965	4,456	22%	914	4,169	22%	2,774	12,982	21%
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	2,014	10,622	19%	2,168	10,406	21%	2,234	10,473	21%	6,416	31,501	20%
<b>Felony</b>	812	3,489	23%	881	3,452	26%	982	3,555	28%	2,675	10,496	25%
<b>Total</b>	3,721	18,468		4,014	18,314		4,130	18,197		11,865	54,979	

\*The grade of the most serious substantiated offense of the base case of 404 juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 313 juveniles with a case closed in 2008, and 242 juveniles with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

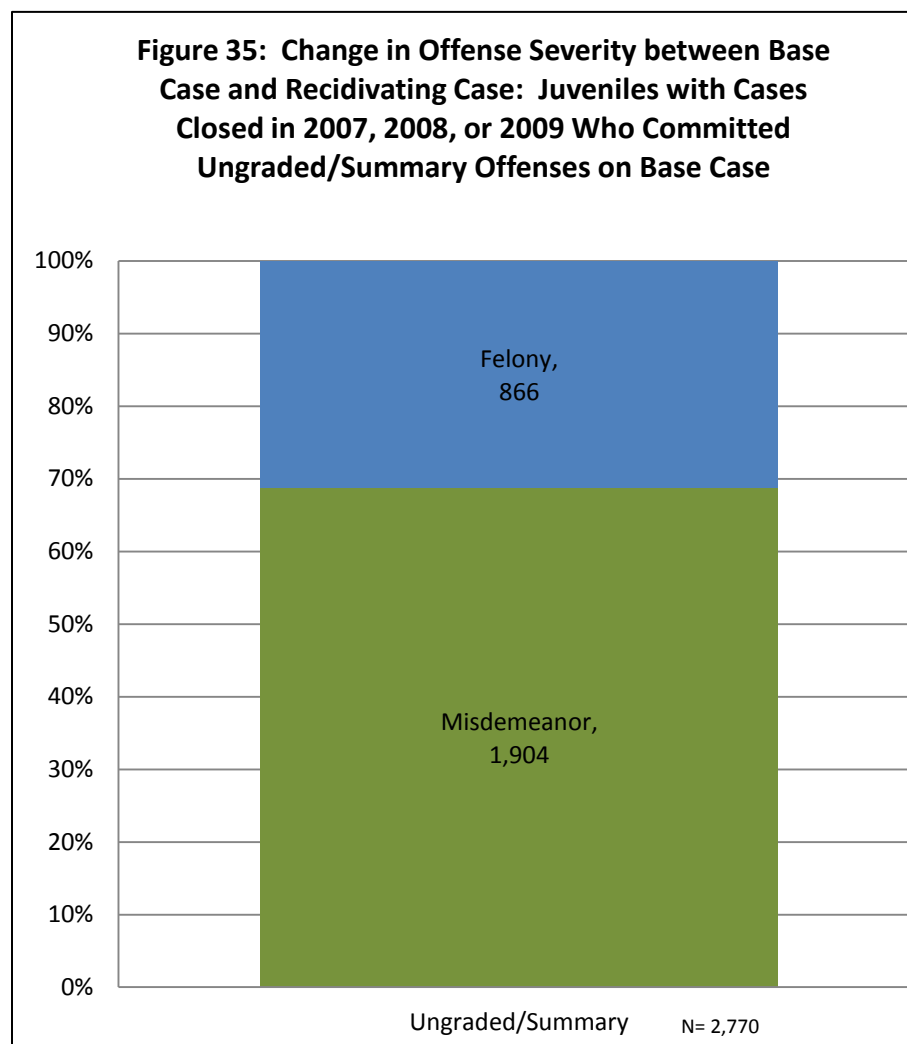


<sup>56</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

### Change in Offense Severity

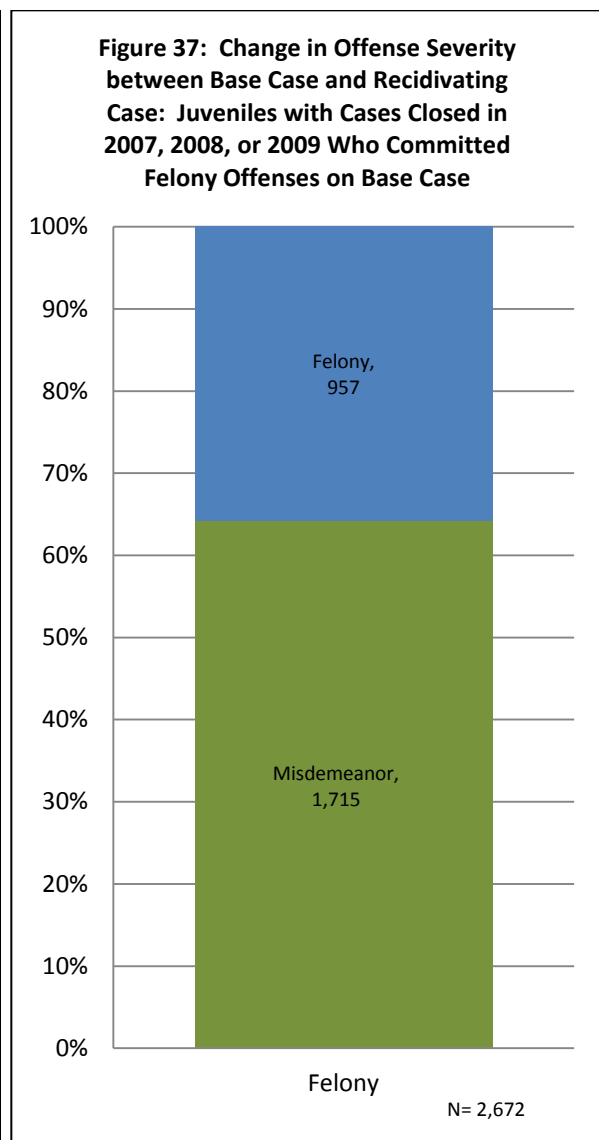
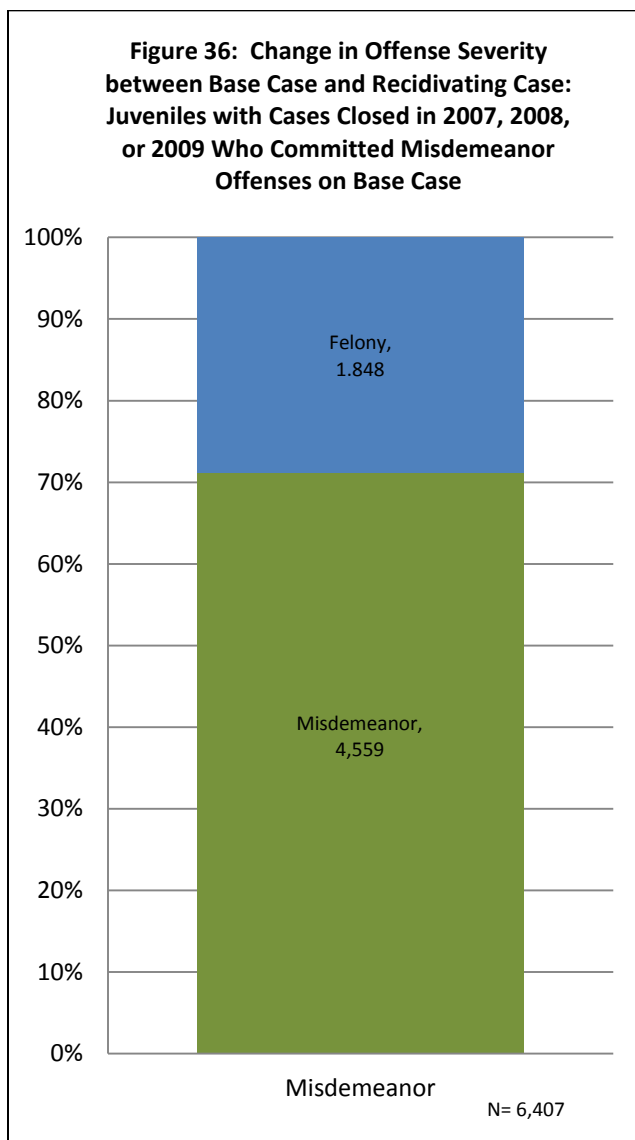
An analysis was also conducted to determine the change in offense severity from the grading of the most serious substantiated offense of the base case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 (ungraded/summary, misdemeanor, felony) to the most serious substantiated offense of the first recidivating case (misdemeanor or felony).

It was discovered that regardless of the grading of the offense of the base case, the majority of recidivists committed misdemeanor offenses when they re-offended. For instance, as illustrated in Figure 35, 69% (N=1,904) of juveniles who committed an ungraded/summary offense on their base case committed a misdemeanor on their recidivating case. Approximately 31% (N= 866) of recidivists committed a felony when they recidivated.



Similarly, 71% (N= 4,559) of juveniles who had committed a misdemeanor offense on their base case committed another misdemeanor offense on their first recidivating case, while 29% (N= 1,848) committed a felony offense. This indicates that approximately 70% of misdemeanor offenders remained the same in terms of offense severity, while 30% of misdemeanor offenders increased in offense severity (See Figure 36).

Finally, as illustrated in Figure 37, approximately 64% (N= 1,715) of juveniles who committed felony offenses on their base case committed a misdemeanor offense on their recidivating case (decreased in severity), while 36% (N= 957) committed another felony offense on their recidivating case (remained the same in terms of offense severity). The change in offense severity was unknown for 269 recidivists.





## Recidivism Rate by Final (Most Recent) Disposition on Base Case

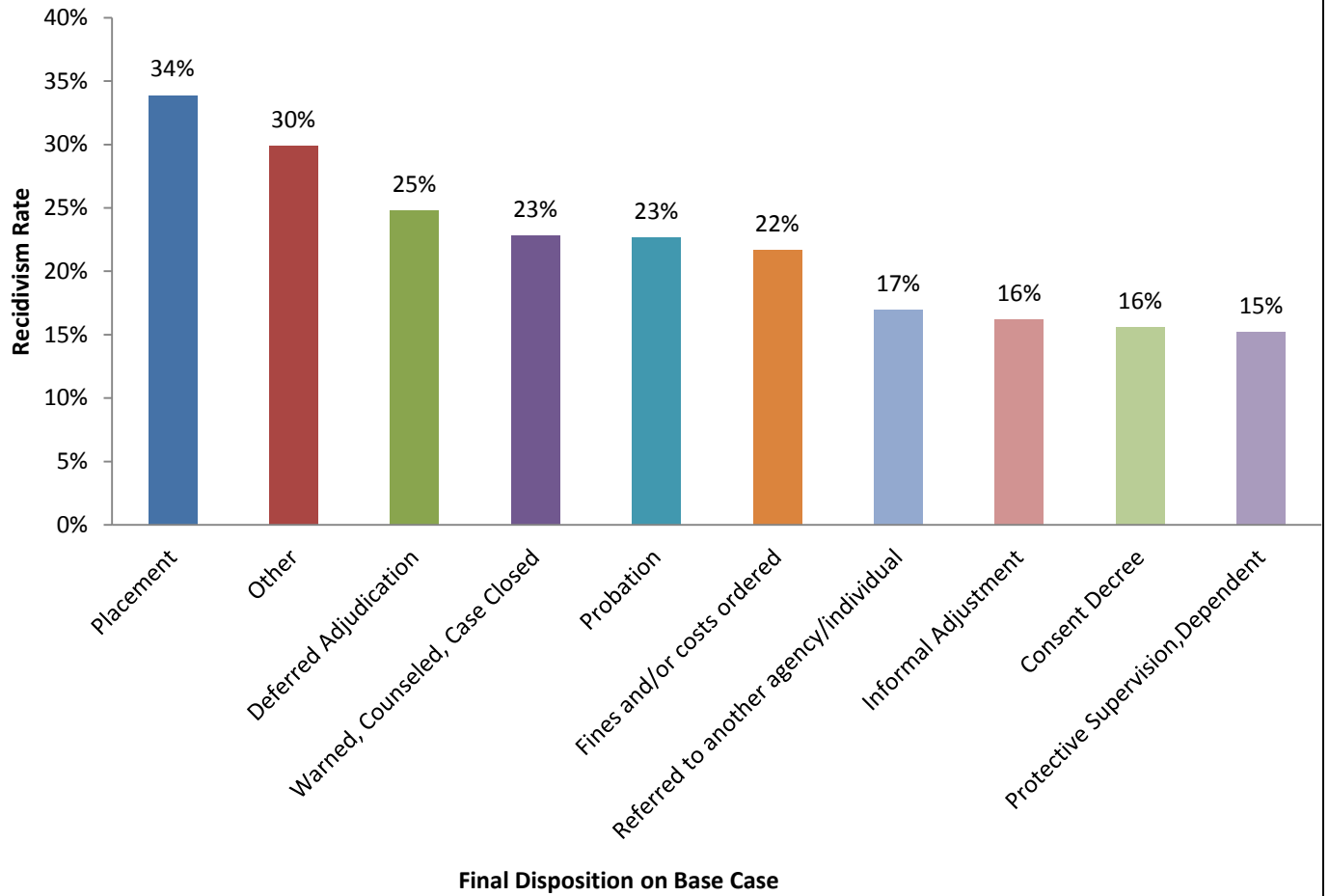
As illustrated by Table 35 and Figure 38 below, it was discovered that juveniles with more formal dispositions on their base case had higher recidivism rates than juveniles with less formal dispositions. For example, 34% (N= 2,203) of juveniles who had a disposition of *placement* recidivated. Approximately 30% (N= 428) of juveniles with a final disposition of *other* re-offended, while 25% (N= 617) of juveniles with a final disposition of *deferred adjudication* re-offended. In addition, 23% (N= 1,167) of juveniles with a final disposition of *warned, counseled, case closed* and 23% (N= 3,068) of juveniles with a *probation* disposition recidivated. Approximately 17% (N= 80) of juveniles with a final disposition of *referred to another agency/individual* recidivated, and juveniles with a final dispositions of *informal adjustment* (N= 1,569) and *consent decree* (N= 1,612) recidivated at a rate of 16% each. Juveniles with the disposition of *protective supervision, dependent* re-offended at the lowest rate: 15% (N= 43).

**Table 35: Recidivism Rate by Final (Most Recent) Disposition on Base Case\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Final (Most Recent) Disposition On Base Case	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed With Disposition	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed With Disposition	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed With Disposition	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Case Closed With Disposition	Recidivism Rate
<b>Placement</b>	648	2,099	31%	695	2,083	33%	860	2,318	37%	2,203	6,500	34%
<b>Other</b>	141	517	27%	152	490	31%	135	423	32%	428	1,430	30%
<b>Deferred Adjudication</b>	196	803	24%	187	800	23%	234	883	27%	617	2,486	25%
<b>Warned, Counseled, Case Closed</b>	354	1750	20%	409	1,663	25%	404	1,702	24%	1,167	5,115	23%
<b>Probation</b>	1,038	4,715	22%	980	4,367	22%	1,050	4,458	24%	3,068	13,540	23%
<b>Fines and/or costs ordered</b>	420	1,912	22%	439	2,062	21%	398	1,816	22%	1,257	5,790	22%
<b>Referred to another agency/individual</b>	31	172	18%	28	177	16%	21	123	17%	80	472	17%
<b>Informal Adjustment</b>	448	3,182	14%	593	3,427	17%	528	3,090	17%	1,569	9,699	16%
<b>Consent Decree</b>	502	3,488	14%	560	3,369	17%	550	3,483	16%	1,612	10,340	16%
<b>Protective Supervision, Dependent</b>	14	104	13%	18	92	20%	11	86	13%	43	282	15%
<b>Total</b>	3,792	18,742		4,061	18,530		4,191	18,382		12,044	55,654	

\*Due to data migration, the final (most recent) disposition of the base case was unknown for 284 juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure.

**Figure 38: Recidivism Rate by Final (Most Recent) Disposition on Base Case:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



N= 55,654

\*For Ns of each disposition by year, refer to Table 35.

\*\*Note: When examining the variable of most recent disposition, the last disposition before the base case was closed was used. In some instances, the most recent disposition before the base case closure was listed as *change of placement* or *continuation of placement*. These dispositions were changed to *placement*. In the instances when the most recent disposition before the base case closure was listed as *continuance of previous disposition*, the PaJCMS was queried to determine what the previous valid disposition was, and that valid disposition was used in the study. Due to data migration, however, some previous dispositions were unknown.

In addition, in some counties when a juvenile was in placement and subsequently received aftercare services from a probation department, a disposition of *probation* was entered in the PaJCMS following the *placement* disposition. Since the final disposition in the PaJCMS was *probation*, this was the disposition used in the study, not *placement*. A total of 524 non-recidivists and 320 recidivists had a disposition of *placement* on their 2007, 2008, or 2009 base case, though the final disposition listed in the PaJCMS for these juveniles was *probation*. If these 844 juveniles were included in the *placement* disposition category, *placement* recidivism rates would remain at 34%. Furthermore, those who had a placement on their base case were significantly more likely to recidivate ( $\chi^2= 20.602$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>57</sup>.

---

<sup>57</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

## Sex Offender Recidivism Analysis

### General Recidivism Rate of Sex Offenders

Across the three years examined, 1,342 juveniles under supervision for committing a sex offense<sup>58</sup> on their base case were closed from a juvenile probation department in Pennsylvania. Ultimately, 175 of juveniles re-offended (for both sex offenses and non-sex offenses) within two years of that case closing. This equates to a 13% recidivism rate. Depending on the type of sex offense committed, however, recidivism rates range from 11% (aggravated indecent assault) to 27% (statutory sexual assault) (See Table 36 and Figure 39).

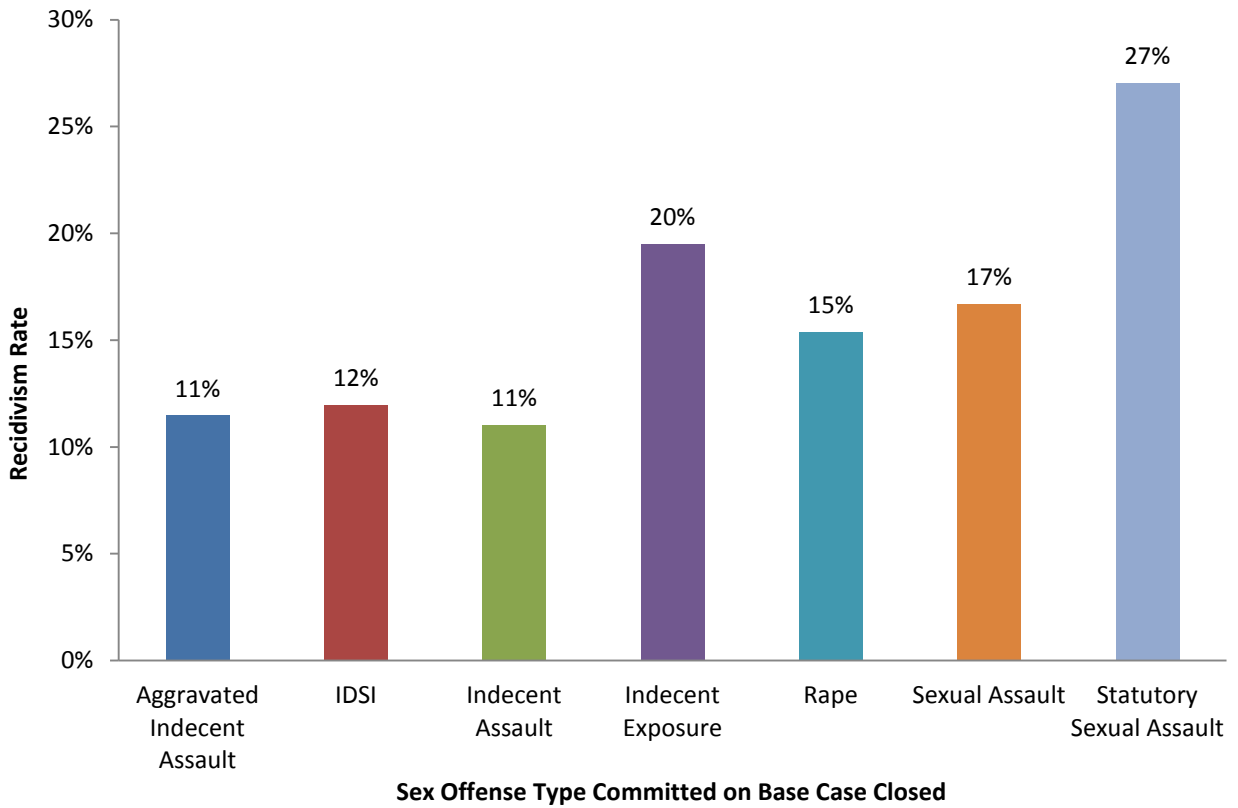
**Table 36: General Recidivism Rate\* by Sex Offense Committed on Base Case: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Sex Offense Committed on Base Case	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Total Number of Sex Offenders with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Sex Offenders with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Sex Offenders with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Sex Offenders with Case Closed	Recidivism Rate
Aggravated Indecent Assault	6	39	15%	4	27	15%	1	30	3%	11	96	11%
IDS	7	61	11%	7	59	12%	8	64	13%	22	184	12%
Indecent Assault	24	233	10%	29	258	11%	26	226	12%	79	717	11%
Indecent Exposure	8	36	22%	9	37	24%	7	50	14%	24	123	20%
Rape	7	46	15%	5	43	12%	10	54	19%	22	143	15%
Sexual Assault	2	12	17%	2	14	14%	3	16	19%	7	42	17%
Statutory Sexual Assault	2	8	25%	2	13	15%	6	16	38%	10	37	27%
<b>Total</b>	56	435	13%	58	451	13%	61	456	13%	175	1,342	13%

\*This rate includes both sex offenses and non-sex offenses.

<sup>58</sup> Sex offenses include the following: aggravated indecent assault, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse (IDS), indecent assault, indecent exposure, rape, sexual assault, and statutory sexual assault.

**Figure 39: Recidivism Rate by Sex Offense\* Type  
Committed on Base Case:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



N= 1,342

\*For Ns of each sex offense group by year, refer to Table 36.

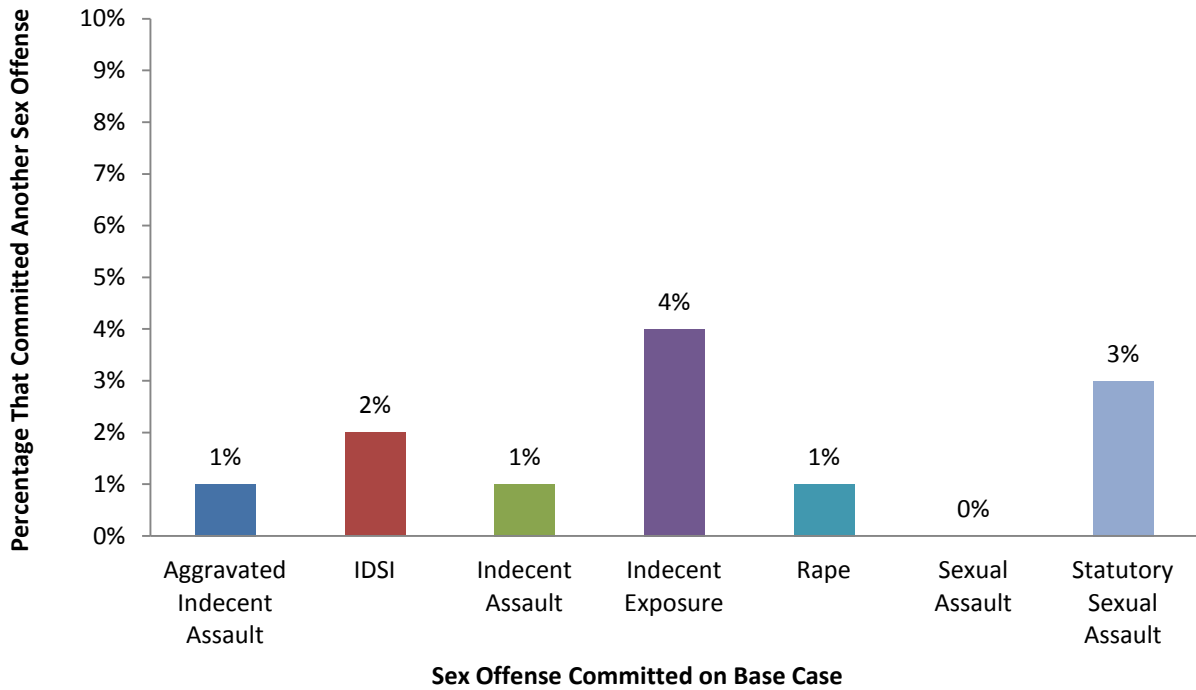
## Sex Offenders who Committed a Subsequent Sex Offense<sup>59</sup>

The following table (Table 37) depicts the proportion of all juvenile sex offenders (categorized by the most serious substantiated sex offense of their base case closure) who committed another sex offense within two years of their case closure. Of the 1,342 juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 who had committed a sex offense, only 19 individuals (or 1.4% of all sex offenders with a case closed) committed another sex offense within two years. Individuals who committed indecent exposure were most likely to commit a subsequent offense, while no juveniles who committed a sexual assault committed a subsequent sex offense within two years (See also Figure 40).

Table 37: Sex Offenders Who Committed Subsequent Sex Offenses: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009												
Sex Offense Committed On Base Case	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Juveniles Who Committed Sex Offense on Base Case	Number of Juveniles Who Committed a Subsequent Sex Offense	Recidivism Rate	Number of Juveniles Who Committed Sex Offense on Base Case	Number of Juveniles Who Committed a Subsequent Sex Offense	Recidivism Rate	Number of Juveniles Who Committed Sex Offense on Base Case	Number of Juveniles Who Committed a Subsequent Sex Offense	Recidivism Rate	Number of Juveniles Who Committed Sex Offense on Base Case	Number of Juveniles Who Committed a Subsequent Sex Offense	Recidivism Rate
<b>Aggravated Indecent Assault</b>	39	1	3%	27	0	0%	30	0	0%	96	1	1%
<b>IDSI</b>	61	1	2%	59	3	5%	64	0	0%	184	4	2%
<b>Indecent Assault</b>	233	0	0%	258	5	2%	226	2	1%	717	7	1%
<b>Indecent Exposure</b>	36	3	8%	37	2	5%	50	0	0%	123	5	4%
<b>Rape</b>	46	0	0%	43	0	0%	54	1	2%	143	1	1%
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	12	0	0%	14	0	0%	16	0	0%	42	0	0%
<b>Statutory Sexual Assault</b>	8	0	0%	13	0	0%	16	1	6%	37	1	3%
<b>Total</b>	435	5	1.1%	451	10	2.2%	456	4	1%	1,342	19	1.4%

<sup>59</sup> In this section, any subsequent sex offense that a juvenile committed within two years of case closure was included in the analysis, even if it was not the first recidivating case that occurred. This differs from the remainder of the report in which only the first recidivating case was included in the analyses.

**Figure 40: Subsequent Sex Offenders\* by Sex Offense Type Committed on 2007, 2008, or 2009 Base Case**



N= 1,342

\*For Ns of each sex offense group by year, refer to Table 37.

*Recidivism Rates and Re-Offending Charge by Sex Offense Type*

The following is an analysis of recidivism rates by each sex offense type: aggravated indecent assault, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse (IDSI), indecent assault, indecent exposure, rape, sexual assault, and statutory sexual assault. Additionally, the most serious, substantiated offense of the juvenile’s recidivating case is presented. Offenses in bold type with an asterisk (\*) denote subsequent sex offenses.

**Aggravated Indecent Assault**

Between 2007 and 2009, a total of 96 juveniles who had committed aggravated indecent assault had their case closed from a juvenile probation department. Eleven of these juveniles committed another offense within two years, resulting in an 11% recidivism rate (see Table 38).

<b>Table 38: Aggravated Indecent Assault Recidivism Rate: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>				
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Three-Year Total</b>
<b>Recidivists</b>	6	4	1	11
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	33	23	29	85
<b>Total</b>	39	27	30	96
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	15%	15%	3%	11%

As illustrated by Table 39, one of the eleven recidivists committed another sex offense.

<b>Table 39: Most Serious Substantiated Offense of Recidivating Case for Juveniles who Committed Aggravated Indecent Assault on 2007, 2008, or 2009 Base Case</b>	
<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>
Accidents Involving Damage	1
Aggravated Assault	1
Disorderly Conduct	1
DUI	1
False Identification To Law Enforcement	1
Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia	1
Possession Of Marijuana	1
Possession Of Weapon On School Property	2
<b>Rape*</b>	<b>1</b>
Simple Assault	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>



**Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse (IDSI)**

A total of 184 juveniles who had committed IDSI on their base case were closed from a juvenile probation department between 2007 and 2009. Twenty-two (12%) of those individuals committed another offense within two years (Refer to Table 40).

<b>Table 40: IDSI Recidivism Rate: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>				
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Three-Year Total</b>
<b>Recidivists</b>	7	7	8	22
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	54	52	56	162
<b>Total</b>	61	59	64	184
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	11%	12%	13%	12%

Of those twenty-two recidivists, four committed another sex offense within two years (See Table 41).

<b>Table 41: Most Serious Substantiated Offense of Recidivating Case for Juveniles who Committed IDSI on 2007, 2008, or 2009 Base Case</b>	
<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>
Aggravated Assault	1
<b>Aggravated Indecent Assault*</b>	1
Burglary	1
Disorderly Conduct	2
<b>IDSI*</b>	1
Possession Of Controlled Substance	1
Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia	1
Possession Of Marijuana	5
<b>Rape*</b>	1
Robbery	1
<b>Sexual Assault*</b>	1
Simple Assault	1
Theft	4
Unauthorized Use Of Motor Vehicle	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

## **Indecent Assault**

Of the 717 juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 who had committed indecent assault, approximately 11% (N= 79) re-offended within two years (See Table 42).

<b>Table 42: Indecent Assault Recidivism Rate: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>				
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Three-Year Total</b>
<b>Recidivists</b>	24	29	26	79
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	209	229	200	638
<b>Total</b>	233	258	226	717
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	10%	11%	12%	11%

As illustrated in Table 43 below, of those 79 recidivists, 7 committed another sex offense.

<b>Table 43: Most Serious Substantiated Offense of Recidivating Case for Juveniles who Committed Indecent Assault on 2007, 2008, or 2009 Base Case*</b>	
<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>
Aggravated Assault	1
<b>Aggravated Indecent Assault*</b>	1
Burglary	2
Crime Of Violence With Intent To Terrorize	1
Criminal Mischief	2
Criminal Trespass	7
Disorderly Conduct	2
DUI	2
False Identification To Law Enforcement	1
Firearms Carried Without A License	2
Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude Police	1
Harassment	1
<b>IDS*</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Indecent Assault*</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Indecent Exposure*</b>	<b>1</b>
Misbrand Of A Controlled Substance	1
Obstructing Law Function	1
Possession Of Marijuana	4
Possession Of Controlled Substance	4
Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia	3
Possession Of Obscene Materials	1
Possession Of Prohibited Weapons	3
Possession With Intent To Deliver	2
Provide Firearm To Minor	1
Retail Theft	2
Robbery	2
Possessing Or Selling Of Child Porn	1
Simple Assault	11
<b>Statutory Sexual Assault*</b>	<b>1</b>
Theft	10
Unauthorized Use Of A Motor Vehicle	1
Unsworn Falsification To Authorities	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>

\*The offense committed on the first recidivating case was unknown for 2 juveniles.

## Indecent Exposure<sup>60</sup>

Between 2007 and 2009, a total of 123 juveniles who had committed indecent exposure had their case closed from a juvenile probation department. Twenty-four of these juveniles committed another offense within two years, equating to a 20% recidivism rate (See Table 44).

<b>Table 44: Indecent Exposure Recidivism Rate: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>				
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Three-Year Total</b>
<b>Recidivists</b>	8	9	7	24
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	28	28	43	99
<b>Total</b>	36	37	50	123
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	22%	24%	14%	20%

Furthermore, five juveniles who committed an indecent exposure on their base case committed another sex offense on their recidivating case (Refer to Table 45).

<b>Table 45: Most Serious Substantiated Offense of Recidivating Case for Juveniles who Committed Indecent Exposure on 2007, 2008, or 2009 Base Case</b>	
<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>
Burglary	6
Criminal Mischief	1
DUI	1
<b>Indecent Assault*</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Indecent Exposure*</b>	<b>2</b>
Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia	1
Possession Of Marijuana	1
Possession With Intent To Deliver	1
Robbery	2
Simple Assault	2
<b>Statutory Sexual Assault*</b>	<b>1</b>
Terroristic Threats	1
Theft	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

<sup>60</sup> Of the 123 juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 whose most serious **substantiated** offense was indecent exposure, the most serious **alleged** offense for 90 of these juveniles was also indecent exposure. The most serious alleged offense for the remaining juveniles was as follows: indecent assault (N= 8), IDSI (N= 8), rape (N= 3), aggravated indecent assault (N= 2), aggravated assault (N= 1), making of child pornography (N= 1), possession of weapon on school property (N= 1), and terroristic threats (N= 1). The most serious alleged offense was unknown for 8 juveniles.

## Rape

A total of 143 juveniles who had committed rape on their base case were closed from a juvenile probation department between 2007 and 2009. Twenty-two (15%) of those individuals committed another offense within two years (Refer to Table 46).

<b>Table 46: Rape Recidivism Rate: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>				
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Three-Year Total</b>
<b>Recidivists</b>	7	5	10	22
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	39	38	44	121
<b>Total</b>	46	43	54	143
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	15%	12%	19%	15%

In addition, as shown in Table 47, only one of the twenty-two recidivists committed another sex offense within two years of case closure.

<b>Table 47: Most Serious Substantiated Offense of Recidivating Case for Juveniles who Committed Rape on 2007, 2008, or 2009 Base Case</b>	
<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>
Criminal Trespass	1
Disorderly Conduct	1
DUI	1
<b>IDSIS*</b>	<b>1</b>
Possession Of A Controlled Substance	2
Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia	1
Possession Of Marijuana	2
Possession With Intent To Deliver	2
Robbery	1
Simple Assault	3
Terroristic Threats	1
Theft	4
Unauthorized Use Of A Motor Vehicle	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

## Sexual Assault

As shown in Table 48 below, 42 juveniles who had been charged with a sexual assault had a case closed from a juvenile probation department in 2007, 2008, or 2009. Seven (17%) of juveniles recidivated.

<b>Table 48: Sexual Assault Recidivism Rate: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>				
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Three-Year Total</b>
<b>Recidivists</b>	2	2	3	7
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	10	12	13	35
<b>Total</b>	12	14	16	42
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	17%	14%	19%	17%

Furthermore, none of the recidivists committed another sex offense when they re-offended (See Table 49).

<b>Table 49: Most Serious Substantiated Offense of Recidivating Case for Juveniles who Committed Sexual Assault on 2007, 2008, or 2009 Base Case</b>	
<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>
False Reports To Law Enforcement	1
Firearms Without License	1
Possession Of A Controlled Substance	1
Possession Of Marijuana	2
Simple Assault	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

## Statutory Sexual Assault

As illustrated by Table 50, 37 juveniles who had committed statutory sexual assault had their case closed. Approximately 27% (N= 10) of these individuals recidivated within two years.

<b>Table 50: Statutory Sexual Assault Recidivism Rate: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>				
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Three-Year Total</b>
<b>Recidivists</b>	2	2	6	10
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	6	11	10	27
<b>Total</b>	8	13	16	37
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	25%	15%	38%	27%

Of the ten juveniles who recidivated, only one committed another sex offense (See Table 51).

<b>Table 51: Most Serious Substantiated Offense of Recidivating Case for Juveniles who Committed Statutory Sexual Assault on 2007, 2008, or 2009 Base Case</b>	
<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>
Aggravated Assault	1
Burglary	1
Possession Of A Controlled Substance	1
Interference In The Custody Of Children	1
Possession Of Marijuana	1
Simple Assault	1
<b>Statutory Sexual Assault*</b>	<b>1</b>
Theft	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

## Section 4. County Class Size

### Cautionary Note

It is critically important to note that expunged cases create a significant limitation to this study. In Pennsylvania, when a case is expunged, all of a juvenile's identifying information pertaining to that case is "erased" and is therefore not available for analysis. Consequently, juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case expungement were omitted from the study's sample, unless they had a separate case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 that was not expunged.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine how a particular county's recidivism rate was affected by the number of expungements for a variety of reasons, including that the unit of measurement for the recidivism study was a *juvenile*, while the unit of measurement for an expungement was a *case* (one juvenile may have had several cases from 2007, 2008, or 2009 expunged).

Arguably, juveniles whose cases are expunged are presumed to be individuals who are considered to be at lower risk to recidivate (i.e., first-time, relatively minor offenders). However, since no risk assessment instruments (e.g., the Youth Level of Service) were being utilized in Pennsylvania prior to 2009, there is no way to determine the actual risk levels of juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure. In general, counties that expunged significant numbers of cases had higher recidivism rates than their counterparts. A possible explanation for this result is that a significant number of lower risk youth were removed from the research sample in these jurisdictions.

Moreover, these recidivism rates do not take into account the specific treatment and services that were provided to juveniles while under supervision. Readers are cautioned, therefore, to make no comparisons between counties due to varying juvenile court policies and practices, including those relating to expungement. Rather, it is our goal to measure whether recidivism rates within each county decline as evidence-based practices are implemented.

### **Recidivism Rate by County Class Size**

In this section, Pennsylvania's 67 counties were broken down by class size in order to 1.) analyze the recidivism rates of similar-sized counties, and 2.) determine if recidivism rates varied between class sizes. Pennsylvania's 67 counties are broken down into 9 different classes (1, 2, 2A, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8) based on population sizes, with Class 1 (i.e., Philadelphia County) being the largest class and Class 8 being the smallest class. Counties' three-year average recidivism rate is displayed in the tables below. For recidivism rates by each year examined (i.e., 2007, 2008, and 2009), refer to Table 1 found on pages 8-13.

Philadelphia County is the only county in Class 1. Philadelphia's average recidivism rate for juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was 30% (Refer to Table 52).

County	Average Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>x</sup>
Philadelphia	30%	2,013	6,740	480
<b>Total</b>	30%	2,013	6,740	480



Similar to Philadelphia County, Allegheny County is the only county in Class 2. As shown in Table 53, Allegheny County's average recidivism rate was 24%.

<b>Table 53: Class 2 County</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>Average Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>	<b>Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>	<b>Number of Expunged Cases<sup>x</sup></b>
<b>Allegheny</b>	24%	1,160	4,753	844
<b>Total</b>	24%	1,160	4,753	844

Table 54 presents the recidivism rates of Class 2A counties. The average recidivism rate for Class 2A counties was 22%.

<b>Table 54: Class 2A Counties</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>Average Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>	<b>Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>	<b>Number of Expunged Cases<sup>x</sup></b>
<b>Bucks</b>	20%	492	2,416	514
<b>Delaware</b>	21%	168	816	N/A**
<b>Montgomery</b>	23%	708	3,018	212
<b>Total</b>	22%	1,368	6,250	726

The recidivism rates of Class 3 counties are provided in Table 55 below. The average recidivism rate for Class 3 counties was 20%.

<b>Table 55: Class 3 Counties</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>Average Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>	<b>Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>	<b>Number of Expunged Cases<sup>x</sup></b>
<b>Berks</b>	21%	517	2,516	276
<b>Chester</b>	19%	362	1,906	N/A**
<b>Cumberland</b>	28%	82	297	1,493
<b>Dauphin</b>	24%	688	2,835	54
<b>Erie</b>	22%	488	2,206	17
<b>Lackawanna</b>	23%	150	643	342
<b>Lancaster</b>	24%	297	1,251	20
<b>Lehigh</b>	12%	346	2,823	73
<b>Luzerne</b>	18%	274	1,526	636
<b>Northampton</b>	17%	253	1,475	25
<b>Westmoreland</b>	16%	275	1,746	145
<b>York</b>	25%	737	2,986	321
<b>Total</b>	20%	4,469	22,210	3,402

Class 4 counties' recidivism rates are presented below, and the average recidivism rate of this class size was 17% (see Table 56).

<b>Table 56: Class 4 Counties</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>Average Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>	<b>Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>	<b>Number of Expunged Cases<sup>x</sup></b>
<b>Beaver</b>	17%	141	847	5
<b>Butler</b>	16%	76	470	167
<b>Cambria</b>	19%	171	886	27
<b>Fayette</b>	15%	115	787	10
<b>Monroe</b>	12%	91	775	8
<b>Schuylkill</b>	15%	118	791	15
<b>Washington</b>	24%	217	897	16
<b>Total</b>	17%	929	5,453	248

Table 57 presents the recidivism rates of Class 5 counties. The average recidivism rate for Class 5 counties was 23%.

<b>Table 57: Class 5 Counties</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>Average Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>	<b>Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>	<b>Number of Expunged Cases<sup>x</sup></b>
<b>Adams</b>	25%	172	688	30
<b>Blair</b>	16%	49	308	280
<b>Centre</b>	17%	34	205	28
<b>Franklin</b>	22%	220	980	52
<b>Lawrence</b>	17%	80	480	11
<b>Lebanon</b>	27%	210	785	0
<b>Lycoming</b>	28%	258	934	108
<b>Mercer</b>	17%	73	439	0
<b>Northumberland</b>	23%	109	477	65
<b>Total</b>	23%	1,205	5,296	574

Class 6 counties' recidivism rates are presented below, and the average recidivism rate of this class size was 18% (see Table 58).

<b>Table 58: Class 6 Counties</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>Average Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>	<b>Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>	<b>Number of Expunged Cases<sup>x</sup></b>
<b>Armstrong</b>	18%	64	354	2
<b>Bedford</b>	17%	34	206	0
<b>Bradford</b>	19%	29	156	10
<b>Carbon</b>	14%	44	317	2
<b>Clarion</b>	27%	30	112	39
<b>Clearfield</b>	20%	34	170	0
<b>Clinton</b>	23%	20	86	19
<b>Columbia</b>	16%	37	225	9
<b>Crawford</b>	20%	76	376	7
<b>Elk</b>	26%	26	101	16
<b>Greene</b>	12%	12	99	216
<b>Huntingdon</b>	18%	28	154	1
<b>Indiana</b>	14%	29	202	34
<b>Jefferson</b>	23%	40	171	175
<b>McKean</b>	25%	36	145	135
<b>Mifflin</b>	30%	51	172	31
<b>Pike</b>	13%	33	251	5
<b>Somerset</b>	10%	27	277	22
<b>Susquehanna</b>	19%	31	161	5
<b>Tioga</b>	19%	40	207	18
<b>Venango</b>	14%	32	234	61
<b>Warren</b>	18%	38	208	11
<b>Wayne</b>	16%	35	223	4
<b>Total</b>	18%	826	4,607	822

The recidivism rates of Class 7 counties are provided in Table 59. The average recidivism rate for Class 7 counties was 24%.

<b>Table 59: Class 7 Counties</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>Average Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>	<b>Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>	<b>Number of Expunged Cases<sup>x</sup></b>
<b>Juniata</b>	33%	13	39	31
<b>Perry</b>	23%	47	202	62
<b>Snyder</b>	27%	43	161	2
<b>Union</b>	26%	22	85	28
<b>Wyoming</b>	18%	31	172	9
<b>Total</b>	24%	156	659	132

The following Table (Table 60) displays Class 8 recidivism rates. The average recidivism rate for Class 8 counties was 12%.

<b>Table 60: Class 8 Counties</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>Average Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>Number of Recidivists</b>	<b>Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>	<b>Number of Expunged Cases<sup>x</sup></b>
<b>Cameron</b>	19%	5	26	N/A**
<b>Forest</b>	14%	3	22	14
<b>Fulton</b>	9%	4	43	1
<b>Montour</b>	12%	91	775	8
<b>Potter</b>	11%	11	100	1
<b>Sullivan</b>	6%	1	16	0
<b>Total</b>	12%	115	982	24

## Section 5. Program and Out-of-Home Service Variables: Summary of Key Findings

---

- Recidivists were more than 1.5 times more likely to have had a detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience than non-recidivists (53% vs. 30%, respectively) (page 101).
- Juveniles who had no detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience recidivated at a rate half of that of those who had at least such experience (16% vs. 33%, respectively) (page 101).
- Approximately 28% of youth who had only a detention/shelter facility experience recidivated, while 29% of youth who had only a dispositional placement experience recidivated. Youth who had experiences at detention/shelter facilities AND placement facilities recidivated at the highest rate: 38% (page 102).
- Recidivists averaged four detention/shelter or dispositional placement episodes each, while non-recidivists averaged only three (page 103).
- Among juveniles who had at least one detention/shelter or dispositional placement episode, 52% had experienced only one service type (e.g., detention/shelter only, dispositional placement only) in their juvenile offending career. The remaining 47% had experienced a detention/shelter experience AND a dispositional placement experience (page 103).
- The more dispositional placement episodes a juvenile had, the more likely he or she was to recidivate. Juveniles who had only one dispositional placement episode recidivated at a rate of 32%. Juveniles who had four or more dispositional placement episodes re-offended at a rate of 47% (page 104).
- Recidivists' average length of stay per detention/shelter episode was slightly longer than non-recidivists' (18 days vs. 16 days, respectively). Conversely, non-recidivists' average length of stay per dispositional placement episode was slightly longer than recidivists' (187 days vs. 177 days) (page 106).
- On average, recidivists spent more combined time out-of-home (in detention/shelter facilities or dispositional placement facilities) than non-recidivists (290 days vs. 226 days) (page 107).
- Juveniles who spent longer periods of time out-of-home had higher recidivism rates than those who spent shorter periods of time out-of-home. For example, juveniles who spent 90 days or less out-of-home re-offended at a rate of 28%, while juveniles who spent a year or longer out-of-home re-offended at a rate of 40% (page 108).

## Section 5. Program and Out-of-Home Service Variables

Below is an analysis of juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure who ever received an out-of-home service<sup>61</sup> (detention/shelter or dispositional placement<sup>62</sup>) at any point in their history of involvement with the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system prior to their case closure date. To complete the analyses found on page 101 to 108, the case histories of all juveniles in the study's sample were examined to determine if any records of *ever* receiving an out-of-home service existed. All detention/shelter and dispositional placement episodes were included in the analysis, regardless of the year(s) the episode occurred.

### Overall Rate of Receiving Out-of-Home Services

As illustrated by Table 61, among juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, approximately 35% (N= 19,562) had at least one detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience. In addition, recidivists were more likely than non-recidivists to have had a detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience (53% vs. 30%, respectively). Finally, juveniles who had at least one detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience recidivated at a rate twice that of juveniles who had no out-of-home experience (16% vs. 33%, respectively), and there was a statistically significant relationship between having a detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience and recidivating ( $\chi^2= 143.700$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>63</sup>. Juveniles who had such an experience were significantly more likely to re-offend.

**\*\*The reader is cautioned that, based on this analysis alone, a causal link cannot necessarily be established between a detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience and recidivism. That is, it cannot be concluded that the out-of-home event increased the juvenile's likelihood of recidivism. In general, those juvenile who are placed outside of the home tend to be higher risk to recidivate than their counterparts who are not placed outside of the home.\*\***

**Table 61: Overall Rate of Receiving Out-of-Home Services:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007				2008				2009				Three-Year Total			
	No Out-of-Home Service	Out-of-Home Service	Total	Rate of Receiving Services	No Out-of-Home Service	Out-of-Home Service	Total	Rate of Receiving Services	No Out-of-Home Service	Out-of-Home Service	Total	Rate of Receiving Services	No Out-of-Home Service	Out-of-Home Service	Total	Rate of Receiving Services
<b>Recidivists</b>	1,821	2,004	3,825	52%	1,966	2,121	4,087	52%	1,859	2,347	4,206	56%	5,646	6,472	12,118	53%
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	10,307	4,740	15,047	32%	10,526	4,014	14,540	28%	9,897	4,336	14,233	30%	30,730	13,090	43,820	30%
<b>Total</b>	12,128	6,744	18,872	36%	12,492	6,135	18,627	33%	11,756	6,683	18,439	36%	36,376	19,562	55,938	35%
<b>Recidivism Rates</b>	15%	30%			16%	35%			16%	35%			16%	33%		

<sup>61</sup> The term out-of-home service is used to describe, in general, experiences in either detention/shelter facilities or placement facilities.

<sup>62</sup> Out-of-home experiences are categorized into one of two groups: 1.) detention/shelter and 2.) dispositional placement. The former group indicates experiences at temporary holding facilities, while the latter indicates experiences at programs utilized as a juvenile court disposition.

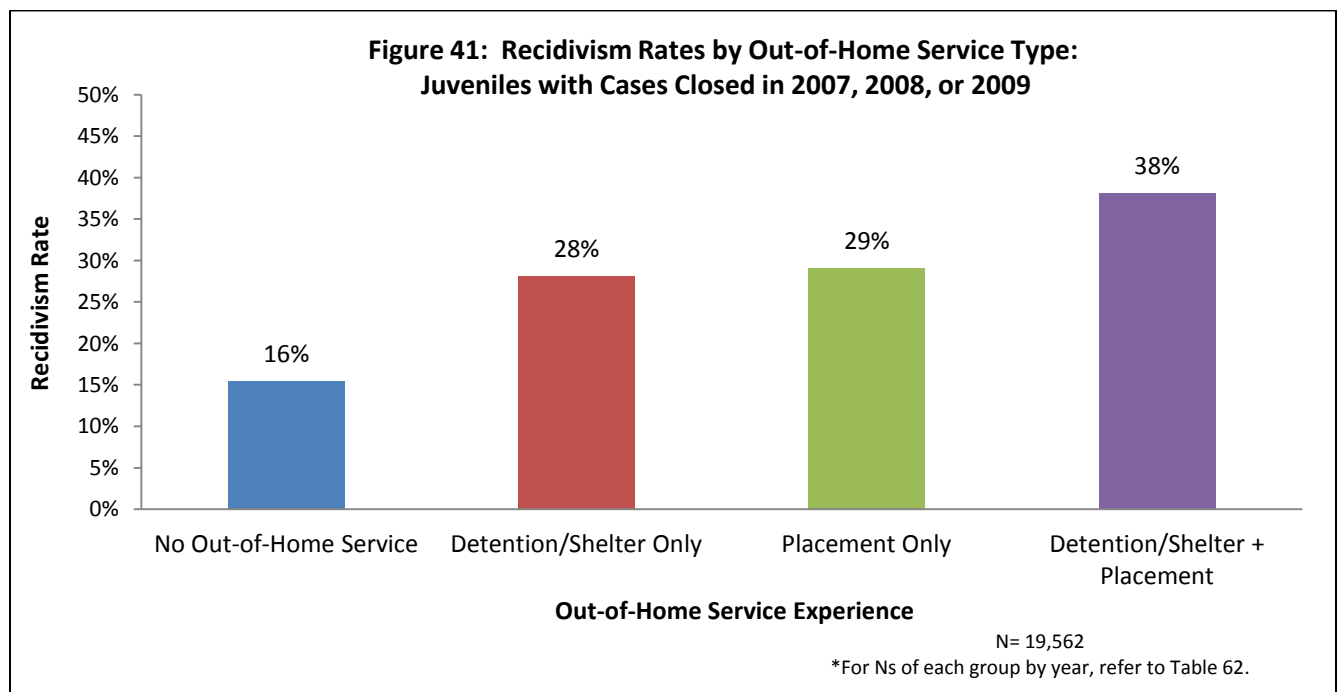
<sup>63</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

## Overall Recidivism Rate by Out-of-Home Service Type

As displayed below (Table 62 and Figure 41), only 16% (N= 5,646) of juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure who had no detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience recidivated. Youth who ever had an out-of-home experience at a detention or shelter facility only re-offended at a rate of 28% (N= 2,016). Similarly, approximately three out of ten (29%; N= 876) juveniles who had an out-of-home experience at a placement facility only re-offended. Juveniles who ever had an experience at a detention/shelter facility AND a placement facility re-offended at the highest rate: 38% (N= 3,580).

**Table 62: Recidivism Rate by Out-of-Home Service Type:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Out-of-Home Service Type	2007				2008				2009				Three-Year Total			
	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate
No Out-of-Home Service	1,821	10,307	12,128	15%	1,966	10,526	12,492	16%	1,859	9,897	11,756	16%	5,646	30,730	36,376	16%
Detention/Shelter Only	760	2,177	2,937	26%	593	1,400	1,993	30%	663	1,574	2,237	30%	2,016	5,151	7,167	28%
Placement Only	305	770	1,075	28%	294	676	970	30%	277	693	970	29%	876	2,139	3,015	29%
Detention/Shelter + Placement	939	1,793	2,732	34%	1,234	1,938	3,172	39%	1,407	2,069	3,476	40%	3,580	5,800	9,380	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,825</b>	<b>15,047</b>	<b>18,872</b>		<b>4,087</b>	<b>14,540</b>	<b>18,627</b>		<b>4,206</b>	<b>14,233</b>	<b>18,439</b>		<b>12,118</b>	<b>43,820</b>	<b>55,938</b>	



### Average Number of Out-of-Home Service Episodes

Among the 6,744 juveniles with a 2007 case closure who had at least one detention/shelter or placement episode, the average number of out-of-home service episodes was 3, while the range of out-of-home episodes was 1 to 48. Both recidivists and non-recidivists averaged 3 out-of-home service episodes each.

Similarly, among the 6,135 juveniles with a 2008 case closure who had at least detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience, the average number of out-of-home episodes was 3, while the range of out-of-home episodes was 1 to 39. Recidivists averaged 4 out-of-home episodes, while non-recidivists averaged 3 episodes.

Finally, among the 6,683 juveniles with a 2009 case closure who had at least one detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience, the average number of out-of-home episodes was 3, while the range of out-of-home episodes was 1 to 28. Recidivists averaged 4 out-of-home episodes, while non-recidivists averaged 3 episodes.

### Combination of Out-of-Home Experiences

Among the 6,744 juveniles with a case closed in 2007 who had at least one detention/shelter or dispositional placement episode, 4,012 (59%) had experienced only one service type (e.g., detention/shelter only, placement only) in their juvenile offending career. An additional 41% (N= 2,732) had a detention/shelter experience AND a placement experience.

In addition, among the 6,135 juveniles with a case closed in 2008 who had at least one detention/shelter episode or dispositional placement episode, 2,963 (48%) had experienced only one service type (e.g., detention/shelter only, placement only) in their juvenile offending career. An additional 52% (N= 3,172) had experienced a detention/shelter experience AND a placement experience.

Finally, among the 6,683 juveniles with a case closed in 2009 who had at least one detention/shelter or dispositional placement episode, 3,207 (48%) had experienced only one service type (e.g., detention/shelter only, placement only) in their juvenile offending career. An additional 52% (N= 3,476) had experienced a detention/shelter experience AND a dispositional placement experience.



## Recidivism Rate by Number of Dispositional Placement<sup>64</sup> Episodes in Juvenile Offending History

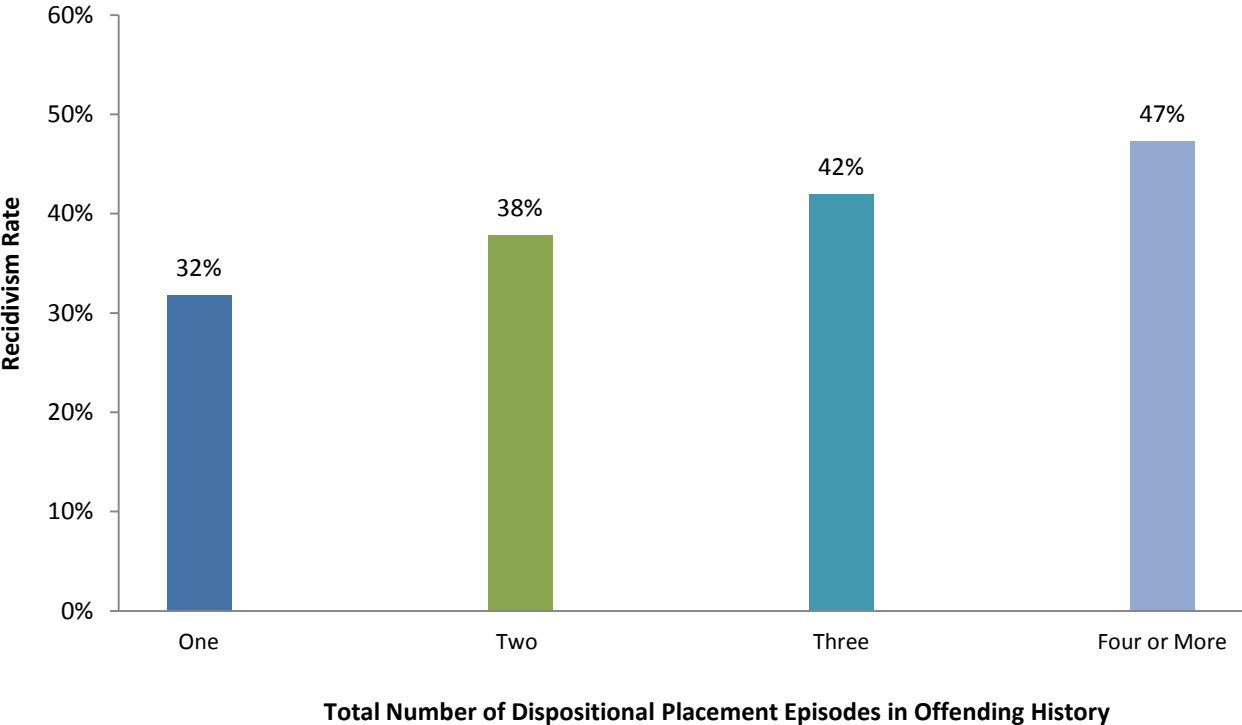
Across the three years examined, as the total number of dispositional placement episodes in a juvenile's offense history increased, so did the likelihood of recidivism. For example, on average, juveniles who had only one dispositional placement episode recidivated at a rate of 32% (N= 2,171). Juveniles who had two dispositional placement episodes re-offended at a rate of 38% (N= 1,102), while juveniles with three dispositional placement episodes recidivated at a rate of 42% (N= 566). Juveniles with four or more dispositional placement episodes in their offending history recidivated at a rate of 47% (N= 617) (Refer to Table 63 and Figure 42).

**Table 63: Recidivism Rate by Total Number of Placement Episodes in Juvenile Offending History:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Number of Placement Episodes	2007				2008				2009				Three-Year Total			
	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate
<b>One</b>	651	1,550	2,201	30%	728	1,537	2,265	32%	792	1,566	2,358	34%	2,171	4,653	6,824	32%
<b>Two</b>	310	565	875	35%	380	589	969	39%	412	660	1,072	38%	1,102	1,814	2,916	38%
<b>Three</b>	140	237	377	37%	195	261	456	43%	231	286	517	45%	566	784	1,350	42%
<b>Four or More</b>	143	211	354	40%	225	227	452	50%	249	250	499	50%	617	688	1,305	47%
<b>Total</b>	1,244	2,563	3,807		1,528	2,614	4,142		1,684	2,762	4,446		4,456	7,939	12,395	1,244

<sup>64</sup> These figures include only dispositional placement episodes. No detention/shelter episodes are included in these statistics.

**Figure 42: Recidivism Rate by Total Number of Dispositional Placement Episodes in Juvenile Offending History: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



N= 12,395

\*For Ns of each group by year, refer to Table 63.

Average Length of Time (in days) Per Out-of-Home Episode<sup>65</sup>

The below analysis examines how long, on average, each out-of-home episode (detention/shelter or dispositional placement) lasted for juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 who had an out-of-home experience. For an analysis on the total length of time juveniles spent out-of-home receiving services, refer to page 107.

Across the three years, each detention/shelter episode lasted, on average, approximately 17 days for all juveniles with a case closure. Recidivists spent approximately 18 days in detention/shelter, per episode, while non-recidivists spent approximately 16 days in detention/shelter, per episode (Refer to Table 64).

In addition, dispositional placement episodes were approximately 184 days (roughly 6 months) for all juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure. Dispositional placement episodes lasted approximately 10 days longer, on average, for non-recidivists than recidivists (187 days vs. 177 days, respectively) (Refer to Table 64).

**Table 64: Average Length of Time (in days) Per Out-of-Home Episode\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Out-of-Home Type	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Both Populations	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Both Populations	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Both Populations	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Both Populations
<b>Detention/Shelter</b>	19	15	16	17	16	16	17	17	17	18	16	17
<b>Placement</b>	178	182	181	176	186	182	178	193	187	177	187	184

<sup>65</sup> These figures represent how long each out-of-home episode lasted, on average. One juvenile may have had multiple out-of-home service episodes, and each episode was counted uniquely for these statistics.

Total Average Length of Time (in days) Spent Out-of-Home<sup>66</sup>

In contrast to the previous section in which the length of time each individual detention/shelter or dispositional placement episode lasted, this section details the total length of time that juveniles in the sample spent out-of-the home.

In the previous section, the results indicated that detention/shelter episodes were slightly longer for recidivists than they were for non-recidivists. Conversely, dispositional placement episodes lasted slightly longer for non-recidivists than recidivists (See page 106).

The following analysis demonstrates, however, that recidivists spent a longer amount of time, on average, out-of-home than did non-recidivists. In fact, recidivists spent about two months longer (64 days) than non-recidivists receiving out-of-home services (290 days vs. 226 days, respectively). Recidivists spent a total of 48 days in detention/shelter facilities, while non-recidivists spent only 35 total days in detention/shelter facilities. Similarly, recidivists spent about a month longer in placement facilities than did non-recidivists (361 days vs. 326 days, respectively) (See Table 65).

Since recidivists average one more out-of-home episode than non-recidivists, it is logical that recidivists would spend more days out-of-home than non-recidivists, even if individual episodes were lengthier for non-recidivists.

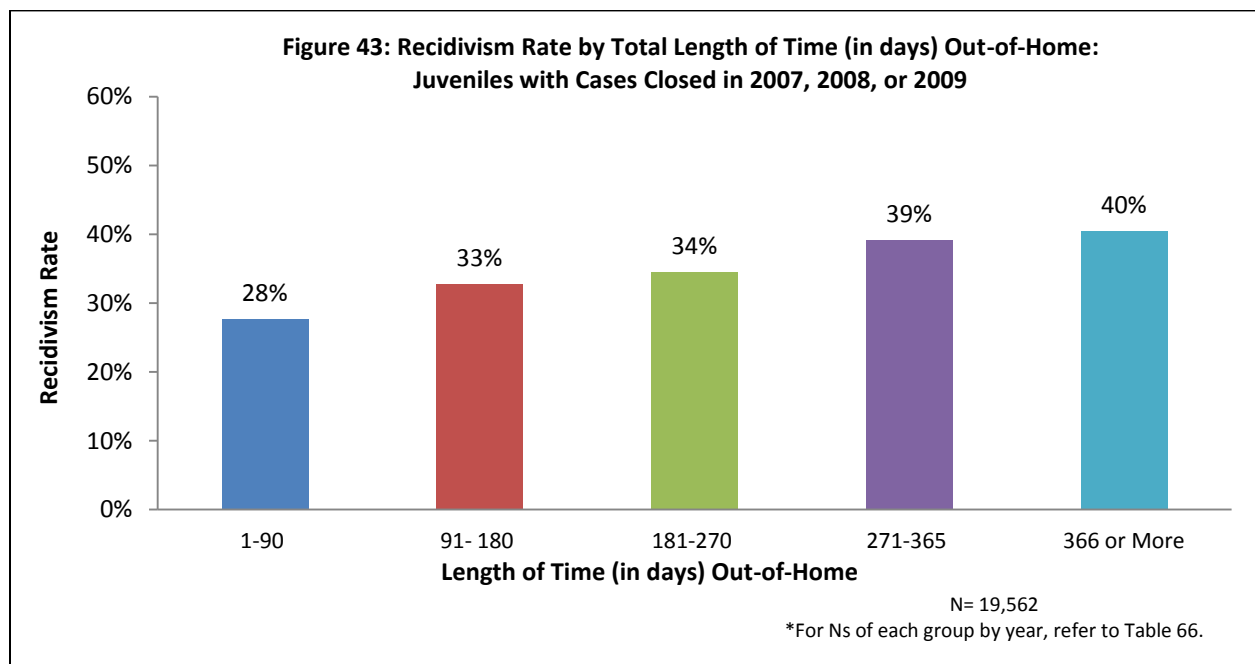
Table 65: Total Length of Time (in days) Spent Out-of-Home*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009												
Out-of-Home Type	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Both Populations	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Both Populations	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Both Populations	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Both Populations
Detention/Shelter	49	31	36	48	35	40	48	37	41	48	35	39
Placement	347	310	322	367	323	339	367	343	352	361	326	338
Overall Average	256	194	212	306	240	263	305	250	269	290	226	248

<sup>66</sup> \*These figures represent the total length of time each juvenile spent receiving out-of-home services.

## Recidivism Rate by Total Length of Time (in days) Out-of-Home

Generally, across the three years examined, juveniles who spent more time out-of-home had the highest recidivism rates. To illustrate, juveniles who spent a combined total of 90 days or less out-of-home had the lowest recidivism rate: 28% (N= 2,381). Those who spent 91-180 days out-of-home had a recidivism rate of 33% (N= 773), and those who spent 181-270 days out-of-home had a recidivism rate of 34% (N= 686). Finally, juveniles who spent 271-365 days out-of-home re-offended at a rate of 39% (N= 659), while juveniles spent more than a year (366 or more days) out-of-home re-offended at a rate of 40% (N= 1,973) (Refer to Table 66 and Figure 43).

Table 66: Recidivism Rate by Total Length of Time (in days) Out-of-Home: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009																
Total Length of Time (in days)	2007				2008				2009				Three-Year Total			
	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Non-Recidivists	Total	Recidivism Rate
1-90	882	2,571	3,453	26%	706	1,748	2,454	29%	793	1,926	2,719	29%	2,381	6,245	8,626	28%
91- 180	226	518	744	30%	273	530	803	34%	274	544	818	33%	773	1,592	2,365	33%
181-270	199	486	685	29%	231	417	648	36%	256	404	660	39%	686	1,307	1,993	34%
271-365	184	302	486	38%	225	338	563	40%	250	388	638	39%	659	1,028	1,687	39%
366 or More	513	863	1,376	37%	686	981	1,667	41%	774	1,074	1,848	42%	1,973	2,918	4,891	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>4,740</b>	<b>6,744</b>		<b>2,121</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>6,135</b>		<b>2,347</b>	<b>4,336</b>	<b>6,683</b>		<b>6,472</b>	<b>13,090</b>	<b>19,562</b>	



## Recidivism Rate by Private Service Provider

### Methodology

The following Table (Table 67) presents recidivism rates for private sector service providers that provided placement services to juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009. Two separate and distinct recidivism rates are provided for each of the providers.

The first rate provided incorporates **all placement experiences** that a juvenile had during his or her involvement with the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. To complete this analysis, the case histories of all juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure were examined to determine which providers provided out-of-home services to the juveniles in the samples. If a juvenile received multiple out-of-home services over the history of his/her involvement with the juvenile justice system leading up to his/her 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure, all facilities were included in the analysis.

For example, if Carl received out-of-home services from Provider A in 2002 and Provider B in 2004, and Carl recidivated within two years of his case closure, he was counted as a recidivist for **both** Provider A and Provider B. Furthermore, juveniles were tracked two years beyond their case closure to determine if they were a recidivist, NOT two years beyond their service end date (discharge) from the facility. For example, if John was released from Provider A in 2005, but his case did not close until 2007, he was tracked from 2007 until 2009 (not 2005 to 2007) to determine if he re-offended.

With this approach, all service providers that provided placement services to the juvenile are affected by his/her outcomes (i.e., recidivism or no recidivism), regardless of the length of time the juvenile was at the program or if the juvenile fully completed the program.

The second rate provided uses a significantly different methodology. First, these figures incorporate data on the juvenile's **last placement experience** prior to case closure only. For example, John received out-of-home services from Provider C in 2003 then was transferred to Provider D in 2004. In 2005, Carl was discharged from the program at Provider D and then returned home. If Carl ultimately recidivated, he was counted as a recidivist for only Provider D, since this was the last program from which he was discharged.

In addition, in this analysis, juveniles were tracked for recidivism two years beyond their release date (service end date) from the facility, not their case closure date. In the previous example, if Carl was released from Provider D in 2005, but his case did not close until 2008, he was tracked for recidivism from 2005 until 2007, not 2008 until 2010.

With this approach, the recidivism rate is presented only for the program that provided the most recent placement experience prior to case closure.

Because of the effects of small sample sizes, facilities were only included in this analysis if 10 or more juveniles from the sample of cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 had been placed there. If

there were less than ten juveniles placed there in each year (i.e., 2007, 2008, or 2009), the provider was not included in the Table.

Table 67 presents only the three-year average for each of the providers. To view the total number of juveniles who had a placement experience at each of the programs and the number of recidivists by year, refer to Appendix C and Appendix D.

Recidivism rates for publicly-run placement facilities (i.e., Youth Development Centers and Youth Forestry Camps) are provided in the next section.

**Cautionary Note**

The reader is cautioned to not rely solely on recidivism rates to evaluate the quality of the services provided by the agencies or programs listed. There are a variety of factors that contribute to recidivism both during placement and during post-placement supervision. In addition, there were no risk assessment instruments being utilized in Pennsylvania prior to 2009 to determine the risk levels of youth who were placed at each facility. Furthermore as detailed previously (see page 8), juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case expungement were not included in these figures. Finally, a number of agencies offer a variety of treatment services and may offer these services at multiple locations. The recidivism rates presented below cannot be broken down by specific treatment programs within these agencies or by specific program sites.

<b>Table 67: Average Recidivism Rate by Private Service Provider: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>						
Facility Name	Recidivism Rates Based on <b>All</b> Placement Experiences In Juvenile's History: 2007, 2008, or 2009 Case Closures			Recidivism Rates Based on <b>Most Recent</b> Placement Only: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009		
	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009	Average Recidivism Rate based on Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009	Average Recidivism Rate based on Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009
<b>Abraxas Foundation</b>	742	1,798	41%	329	1,125	29%
<b>Act I</b>	36	118	31%	20	77	26%
<b>Act II</b>	95	188	51%	45	128	35%
<b>Adelphoi Village</b>	205	646	32%	57	330	17%
<b>Alternative Rehabilitation Communities</b>	187	437	43%	71	226	31%
<b>Appalachian Youth Services</b>	11	48	23%	3	37	8%
<b>Auberle Home (Boys)</b>	97	196	49%	30	81	37%
<b>Bethesda Children's Home</b>	27	76	36%	10	38	26%
<b>CICTP (Perseus House Program-Erie)</b>	78	203	38%	23	71	32%
<b>Clearbrook Lodge</b>	72	231	31%	26	129	20%
<b>Clearvision Female Residential Program</b>	13	73	18%	5	43	12%
<b>Community Service Foundation</b>	126	353	36%	40	159	25%
<b>Concern</b>	109	221	49%	52	127	41%
<b>Diakon</b>	81	197	41%	37	127	29%
<b>Gateway Rehab Center</b>	50	112	45%	23	62	37%
<b>George Jr. Republic</b>	445	987	45%	110	453	24%
<b>Glen Mills Schools</b>	486	1,082	45%	238	800	30%
<b>Harborcreek School For Boys</b>	97	252	38%	29	90	32%
<b>Hermitage House</b>	41	158	26%	20	111	18%
<b>Impact Project</b>	26	72	36%	10	38	26%
<b>Keystone Adolescent</b>	64	160	40%	33	111	30%
<b>Kid's Peace</b>	24	107	22%	9	45	20%
<b>Laurel Youth Services</b>	31	121	26%	6	54	11%
<b>Luzerne County Residential Child Care-Secure</b>	27	74	36%	9	40	23%



**Table 67: Average Recidivism Rate by Private Service Provider:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 (Continued)**

Facility Name	Recidivism Rates Based on <b>All</b> Placement Experiences in Juvenile's History: 2007, 2008, or 2009 Case Closures			Recidivism Rates Based on <b>Most Recent</b> Placement Only: 2007, 2008, or 2009 Case Closures		
	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009	Average Recidivism Rate based on Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009	Average Recidivism Rate based on Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009
<b>Manos</b>	84	192	44%	36	123	29%
<b>Mars Home For Youth</b>	13	79	16%	1	44	2%
<b>Mid-Atlantic Youth Services/ West PA Child Care</b>	21	88	24%	8	50	16%
<b>New Life Youth Services</b>	72	126	57%	11	50	22%
<b>Northampton County Juvenile Justice Center</b>	45	130	35%	20	84	24%
<b>Northwestern</b>	524	1,280	41%	229	740	31%
<b>Outside/In Program</b>	73	142	51%	34	87	39%
<b>Paradise School</b>	51	97	53%	18	48	38%
<b>Pathways Adolescent Center</b>	24	78	31%	14	59	24%
<b>Perseus House</b>	50	168	30%	25	96	26%
<b>Priorities Responsibility Enhancement Program</b>	118	247	48%	79	188	42%
<b>Pyramid Healthcare</b>	68	199	34%	29	112	26%
<b>St. Gabriel's Hall System</b>	121	295	41%	38	168	23%
<b>St. Michael's School For Boys</b>	37	106	35%	8	57	14%
<b>Summit Academy</b>	361	741	49%	127	403	32%
<b>Susquehanna House</b>	42	93	45%	15	52	29%
<b>Today, Inc.</b>	143	345	41%	51	189	27%
<b>Tressler Lutheran Services Associates, Inc.</b>	52	150	35%	23	67	34%
<b>Vision Quest, Inc.</b>	580	1,504	39%	188	663	28%
<b>Youth Services, Inc.</b>	488	1,398	35%	170	789	22%

## Recidivism Rate by Youth Development Center (YDC)/Youth Forestry Camp (YFC)

Separate analyses were conducted to examine the outcomes of youth whose cases were closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 and who had ever been placed at a publically-run Youth Development Center (YDC) or Youth Forestry Camp (YFC) in Pennsylvania. As with the private provider recidivism rates presented in the previous section, two separate and distinct recidivism rates are provided for each of the facilities (for a detailed description of the two methodologies employed, see pages 109-110). Table 68 below only presents three-year averages. To view the total number of juveniles who had a placement experience at each of the facilities and the number of recidivists by year, refer to Appendix E and Appendix F.

Table 68: Average Recidivism Rate by Youth Development Center (YDC)/Youth Forestry Camp (YFC): Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009						
Facility Name	Recidivism Rates Based on <b>All</b> Placement Experiences In Juvenile's History: 2007, 2008, or 2009 Case Closures			Recidivism Rates Based on <b>Most Recent</b> Placement Only: 2007, 2008, or 2009 Case Closures		
	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009	Average Recidivism Rate based on Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009	Average Recidivism Rate based on Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009
Cresson Secure	53	114	46%	35	71	49%
North Central Secure At Danville	53	131	40%	29	83	35%
South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit	36	75	48%	26	53	49%
YDC Loysville	202	390	52%	77	234	33%
YDC New Castle	152	348	44%	61	191	32%
YFC #2 (Hickory Run)	106	230	46%	61	179	34%
YFC #3 (Trough Creek)	154	385	40%	60	232	26%

## Section 6. Serious, Violent, and Chronic (SVC) and Child Offender Analysis: Summary of Key Findings

---

- Approximately 1 in 5 (21%) juveniles with a case closure in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was a serious offender, a violent offender, or a chronic offender (page 116). Recidivists were more likely than non-recidivists to be a serious offender, a violent offender, or a chronic offender (36% vs. 17%, respectively) (page 116).
- 6% of juveniles with a case closure were serious offenders, and 37% of serious offenders recidivated (page 117).
- 6% of juveniles with a case closure were violent offenders, and 36% of violent offenders recidivated (page 127).
- 14% of juveniles with a case closure were chronic offenders, and 41% of chronic offenders recidivated (page 137).
- 9% of Asian offenders were serious offenders, 6% of White offenders were serious offenders, and 6% of Black offenders were serious offenders (page 122).
- 11% of Black offenders were violent offenders, 6% of Asian offenders were violent offenders, and 3% of White offenders were violent offenders (page 132).
- 18% of Black offenders were chronic offenders, 12% of White offenders were chronic offenders, and 7% of Asian offenders were chronic offenders (page 141).
- Only 0.4% of juveniles with a case closure were serious, violent, AND chronic offenders, though 55% of serious, violent, AND chronic offenders recidivated (page 149).
- Approximately 3% of juveniles with a case closure were child offenders, and 33% of child offenders recidivated (page 155).
- About 50% of child offenders were either a serious offender, a violent offender, or a chronic offender. Only 20% of non-child offenders were a serious offender, a violent offender, or a chronic offender (page 163).
- 16% of child offenders were serious offenders (versus 5% of non-child offenders) (page 163).
- 17% of child offenders were violent offenders (versus 5% of non-child offenders) (page 164).
- 37% of child offenders were chronic offenders (versus 13% of non-child offenders) (page 165).
- 2% of child offenders were serious, violent, and chronic offenders (versus 0.3% of non-child offenders) (page 166).

## Section 6. Serious, Violent, Chronic (SVC) and Child Offender Analysis

---

In an effort to better understand Pennsylvania's delinquent population, an examination was undertaken to: 1.) calculate the prevalence of serious, violent, and/or chronic (SVC) offenders among all juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, 2.) determine if juveniles who were serious, violent, and/or chronic offenders were ultimately recidivists/non-recidivists by the current study's definition, and 3.) analyze certain demographics and other variables related to the SVC offender populations. Similar analyses were also conducted to examine child offenders within the population case closures that occurred in 2007, 2008, or 2009.

The definitions of serious offenders, violent offenders, chronic offenders, and child offenders are as follows:<sup>67</sup>

Serious Offender: a juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent at any point in his or her juvenile offending history for one of the following offenses: burglary, theft (felonies only), arson, drug trafficking (manufacture/deliver/possession with intent to deliver), and extortion (theft by extortion).

Violent Offender: a juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent at any point in his or her juvenile offending history for one of the following offenses: homicide or non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, kidnapping, and select firearms/weapons offenses.

Chronic Offender: a juvenile who has four or more previous written allegations for separate incidents that occurred prior to the date of the 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure.

Child Offender: a juvenile who was under the age of 13 as of the date of his or her first adjudication of delinquency.

---

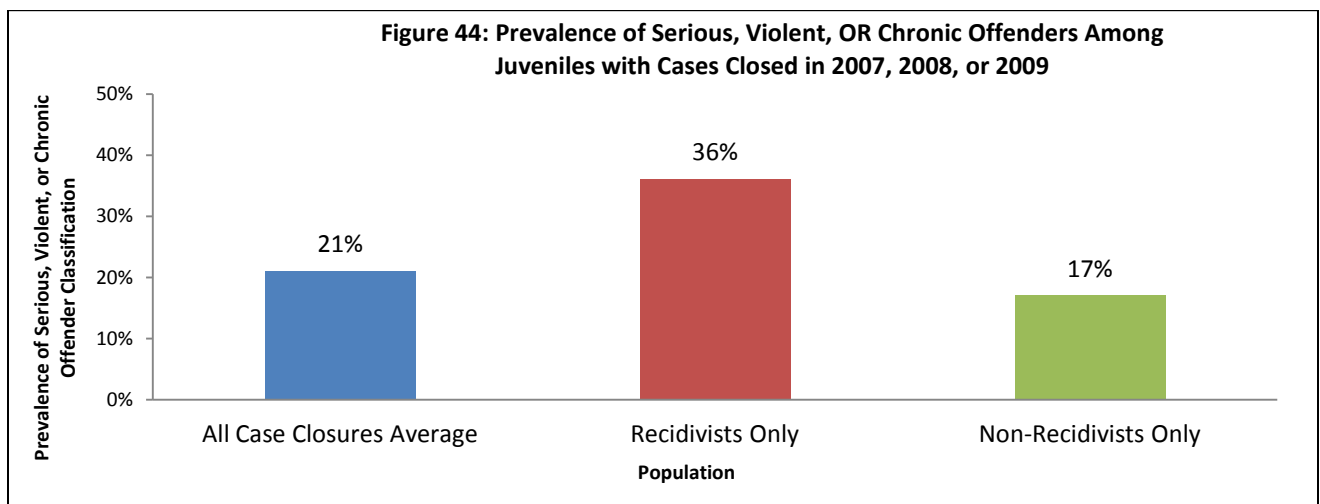
<sup>67</sup> To view the exact crimes codes utilized to define serious and violent offenses, refer to Appendix G.

## Prevalence of Serious, Violent, and/or Chronic Offenders

Among all juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, approximately 21% (N= 11,575) met the definition of a serious offender, a violent offender, or a chronic offender. This means that the majority (80%) of offenders with a case closed in these years did NOT meet the definition of such offender.

In addition, recidivists were more likely than non-recidivists to be a serious offender, a violent offender, or a chronic offender. To illustrate, on average, 36% (N= 4,308) of recidivists with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 met such a definition, while only 17% (7,267) of non-recidivists did. Refer to Table 69 and Figure 44.

Table 69: Prevalence of Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offenders: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009												
	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Average		
	Number of NO Serious, Violent, or Chronic Classification	Number of Serious, Violent, OR Chronic Classification	Percentage of Population Who Were a Serious, Violent, or Chronic Offender	Number of NO Serious, Violent, or Chronic Classification	Number of Serious, Violent, OR Chronic Classification	Percentage of Population Who Were a Serious, Violent, or Chronic Offender	Number of NO Serious, Violent, or Chronic Classification	Number of Serious, Violent, OR Chronic Classification	Percentage of Population Who Were a Serious, Violent, or Chronic Offender	Number of NO Serious, Violent, or Chronic Classification	Number of Serious, Violent, OR Chronic Classification	Percentage of Population Who Were a Serious, Violent, or Chronic Offender
<b>Recidivists</b>	2,430	1,395	36%	2,702	1,385	34%	2,678	1,528	35%	7,810	4,308	36%
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	12,449	2,598	17%	12,305	2,235	15%	11,799	2,434	15%	36,553	7,267	17%
<b>Total</b>	14,789	3,993	21%	15,007	3,620	19%	14,477	3,962	21%	44,273	11,575	21%
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	16%	35%		18%	38%		18%	39%		18%	37%	



## Serious Offenders

### *Prevalence of Serious Offenders*

Of all 55,938 juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, approximately 6% (N= 3,213) were serious offenders (Refer to Table 70). Approximately 10% (N= 1,173) of the recidivist population were serious offenders, while only 5% (2,040) of the non-recidivist population were serious offenders. These figures were consistent across all three years analyzed. In addition, 37% (N= 1,173) of all serious offenders were recidivists, and this relationship was significant ( $\chi^2= 20.986$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>68</sup>.

**Table 70: Prevalence of Serious Offenders:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Serious Offenders	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Serious Offenders	Number of Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Serious Offenders	Number of Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Serious Offenders	Number of Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Serious Offenders
<b>Recidivists</b>	373	3,825	10%	375	4,087	9%	425	4,206	10%	1,173	12,118	10%
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	713	15,047	5%	651	14,540	4%	676	14,233	5%	2,040	43,820	5%
<b>Total of Combined Populations</b>	1,086	18,872	6%	1,026	18,627	6%	1,101	18,439	6%	3,213	55,938	6%
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	34%			37%			39%			37%		

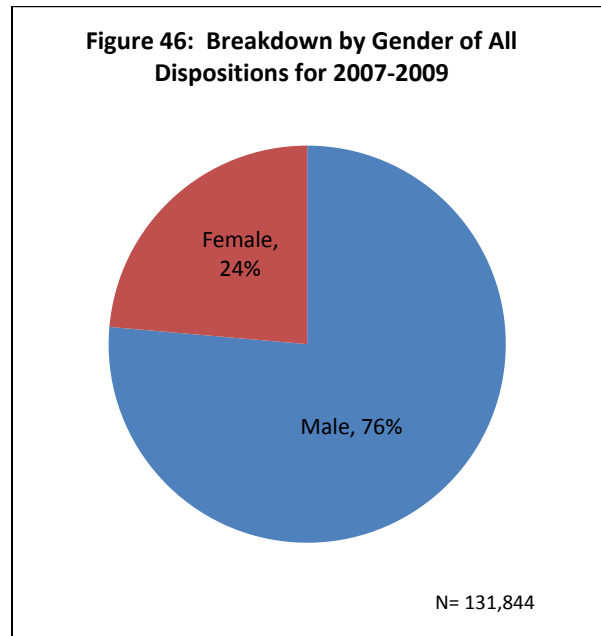
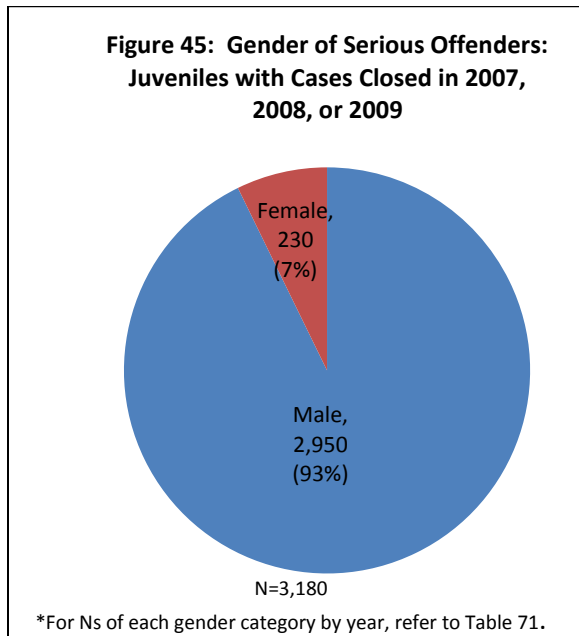
<sup>68</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

*Gender*

As illustrated by Table 71 and Figure 45 below, 93% (N= 2,950) of serious juvenile offenders were male. Only 7% (N= 230) of serious offenders were female. In comparison to all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009 (See Figure 46), males were more likely to comprise the serious offender population than would be expected (93% vs. 76%), and this difference was statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>69</sup>.

Table 71: Gender of Serious Offenders*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
Gender	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Serious Offenders	Percentage of All Serious Offenders	Number of Serious Offenders	Percentage of All Serious Offenders	Number of Serious Offenders	Percentage of All Serious Offenders	Number of Serious Offenders	Percentage of All Serious Offenders
Male	1,010	93%	946	93%	994	92%	2,950	93%
Female	76	7%	68	7%	86	8%	230	7%
Total	1,086		1,014		1,080		3,180	

\*The gender of 12 serious offenders with a case closed in 2008 and 21 serious offenders with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.



<sup>69</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

Furthermore, approximately 7% (N= 2,950) of all male juvenile offenders with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were serious offenders, while only 2% (N= 230) of females with cases closed in this time period were serious offenders (See Table 72).

**Table 72: Prevalence of Serious Offenders within Gender Groups:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Serious Offenders</b>	1,010	76	1,086	946	68	1,014	994	86	1,080	2,950	230	3,180
<b>Non-Serious Offenders</b>	13,151	4,612	17,763	12,637	4,580	17,217	12,344	4,664	17,008	38,132	13,856	51,988
<b>Total</b>	14,161	4,688	18,849	13,583	4,648	18,231	13,338	4,750	18,088	41,082	14,086	55,168
<b>Percentage Who Were Serious Offenders</b>	7%	2%		7%	1%		7%	2%		7%	2%	

\*The gender of 33 serious offenders and 737 non-serious offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.



*Race*

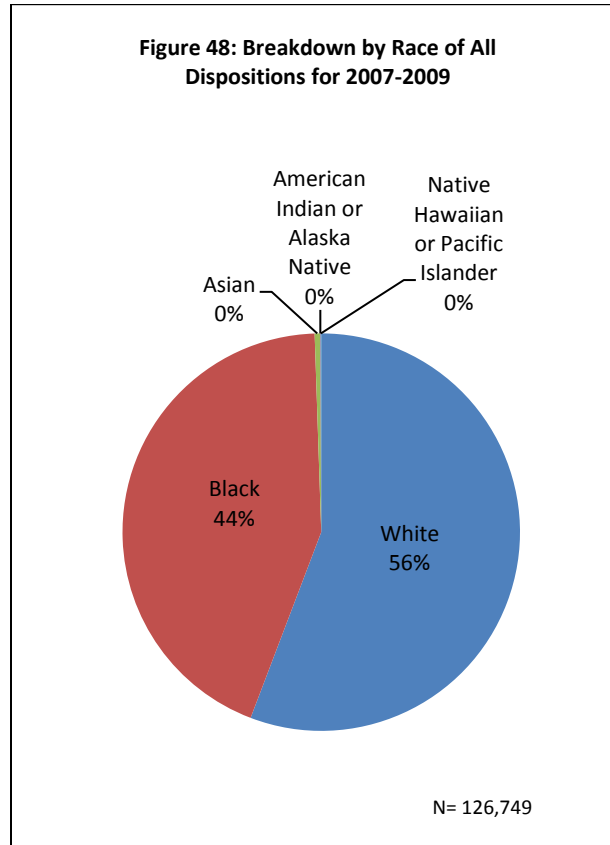
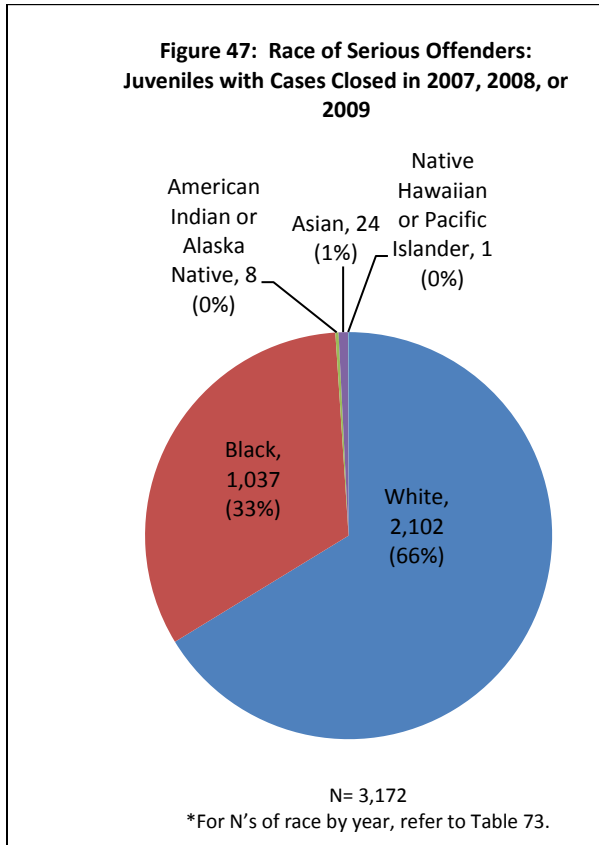
White juvenile offenders and Black juvenile offenders accounted for approximately 99% (N= 3,139) of all serious offenders. This was consistent across all three years examined (refer to Table 73 and Figure 47 below). Approximately 1% (N= 24) of serious offenders were Asian. American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juveniles accounted for less than 1% (N= 9) of the serious offender population (Refer to Table 73 and Figure 47).

**Table 73: Race of Serious Offenders\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Race	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Serious Offenders	Percentage of All Serious Offenders	Number of Serious Offenders	Percentage of All Serious Offenders	Number of Serious Offenders	Percentage of All Serious Offenders	Number of Serious Offenders	Percentage of All Serious Offenders
<b>White</b>	716	67%	688	68%	698	64%	2,102	66%
<b>Black</b>	353	33%	311	31%	373	34%	1,037	33%
<b>Asian</b>	4	0%	8	1%	12	1%	24	1%
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	2	0%	4	0%	2	0%	8	0%
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	N/A	N/A	1	0%	N/A	N/A	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	1,075		1,012		1,085		3,172	

\*The race of 11 serious offenders with a case closed in 2007, 14 serious offenders with a case closed in 2008, and 16 serious offenders with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

In addition, White offenders were more likely to be serious offenders than would be expected given the proportion of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009 (66% vs. 56%), and this difference was statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ). Black offenders and Asian offenders were less likely to be serious offenders than would be expected (33% vs. 44% and 1% vs. 0%, respectively), and these difference were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>70</sup>. American Indian or Alaska Native juveniles and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juveniles comprised the serious offender population at rates that would be expected given the proportion of dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009 (Refer to Figures 47 and 48).



<sup>70</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

As illustrated by Table 74 below, 12% (N= 8) of all American Indian or Alaska Native juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were serious offenders. Similarly, 9% (N= 24) of Asian offenders with a case closed in this time period were serious offenders. Approximately 6% (N= 2,102) of White juvenile offenders and 6% (N= 1,037) of Black juvenile offenders were serious offenders. Only one (4%) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juvenile with a case closed in this time period was a serious offender.

**Table 74: Prevalence of Serious Offenders within Race Groups:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Race	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Serious Offenders	Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Serious Offenders	Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Serious Offenders	Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Serious Offenders
<b>White</b>	716	12,545	6%	688	12,023	6%	698	11,385	6%	2,102	35,953	6%
<b>Black</b>	353	6,042	6%	311	6,050	5%	373	6,626	6%	1,037	18,718	6%
<b>Asian</b>	4	83	5%	8	83	10%	12	107	11%	24	273	9%
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	2	14	14%	4	26	15%	2	27	7%	8	67	12%
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	0	9	0%	1	13	8%	0	2	0%	1	24	4%
<b>Total</b>	1,075	18,693		1,012	18,195		1,085	18,147		3,172	55,035	

\*The race of 41 serious offenders and 862 non-serious offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

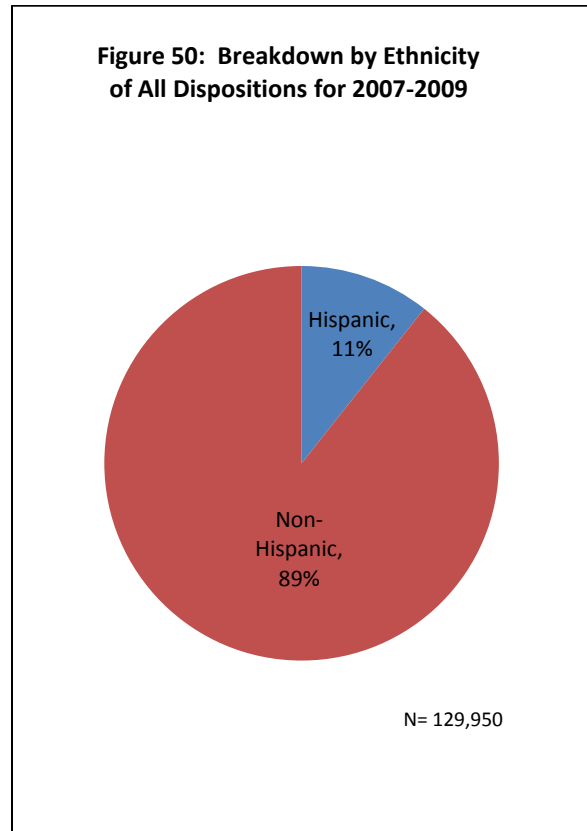
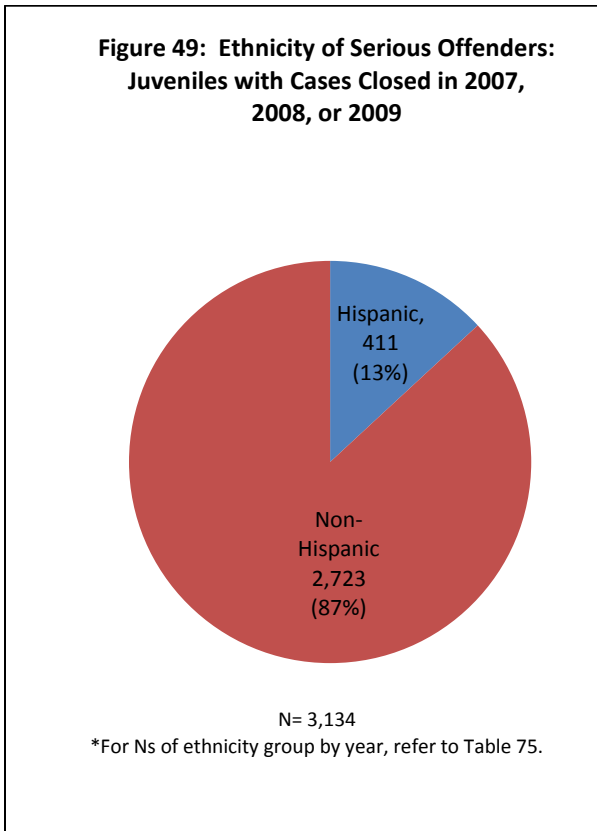
## Ethnicity

As illustrated by Table 75 and Figure 49 below, the majority (87%; N= 2,723) of serious offenders were non-Hispanic. Approximately 13% (N= 411) of serious offenders were Hispanic. This was consistent across all three years examined.

<b>Table 75: Ethnicity of Serious Offenders*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>								
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>2007</b>		<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>Three-Year Total</b>	
	Number of Serious Offenders	Percentage of All Serious Offenders	Number of Serious Offenders	Percentage of All Serious Offenders	Number of Serious Offenders	Percentage of All Serious Offenders	Number of Serious Offenders	Percentage of All Serious Offenders
<b>Hispanic</b>	138	13%	120	12%	153	14%	411	13%
<b>Non-Hispanic</b>	942	87%	877	88%	904	86%	2,723	87%
<b>Total</b>	1,080		997		1,057		3,134	

\*The ethnicity of 6 serious offenders with a case closed in 2007, 29 serious offenders with a case closed in 2008, and 44 serious offenders with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

Figure 50 below depicts the breakdown of dispositions by ethnicity that occurred between 2007 and 2009. As illustrated, within this time period, approximately 89% of all dispositions were for non-Hispanic juvenile offenders, while approximately 11% of all dispositions were for Hispanic offenders. Conversely, 87% (N= 2,723) of serious offenders were Non-Hispanic, and 13% of serious offender were Hispanic. Hispanic offenders were more likely to be serious offenders than would be expected, while non-Hispanic offenders were less likely to be serious offenders, and these differences were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>71</sup>.



<sup>71</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

In addition, approximately 7% (N= 411) of the Hispanic juvenile offender population with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were serious offenders. Similarly, approximately 6% (N= 2,723) of the non-Hispanic juvenile offender population with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were serious offenders (See Table 76).

**Table 76: Prevalence of Serious Offenders within Ethnicity Groups: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Ethnicity	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Serious Offenders	Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Serious Offenders	Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Serious Offenders	Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Serious Offenders
Hispanic	138	1,774	8%	120	1,859	6%	153	2,083	7%	411	5,716	7%
Non-Hispanic	942	16,775	6%	877	15,839	6%	904	15,545	6%	2,723	48,159	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>18,549</b>		<b>997</b>	<b>17,698</b>		<b>1,057</b>	<b>17,628</b>		<b>3,134</b>	<b>53,875</b>	

\*The ethnicity of 79 serious offenders and 1,984 non-serious offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

### *Written Allegations*<sup>72</sup>

Of all serious offenders with a case closed in 2007, the average number of total written allegations per offender was 4. For non-serious offenders with a case closed in 2007, the average number of total written allegations was 2. In addition, of all serious juvenile offenders with a case closed in 2008, the average number of total written allegations per juvenile was 3, while the average number of total written allegations for non-serious offenders was 2. Finally, of all serious offenders with a case closed in 2009, the average number of total written allegations was 3, while the average number of total written allegations for non-serious offenders was 2. This indicates that across the three years examined, serious offenders averaged one more referral to a probation department than their non-serious juvenile offender counterparts.

<sup>72</sup> The figures presented include all written allegations that occurred in the juveniles' offending histories up to the juveniles' case closure date in 2007, 2008, or 2009.

### *Age at First Written Allegation*

Among all serious offenders with a case closed in 2007, the average age of the juveniles at the time of their first written allegation was 14 years. For non-serious offenders with a case closed in the same year, the average age at the time of the juveniles' first written allegation was 14 years. Similarly, for all serious juvenile offenders with a case closed in 2008, the average age at the juveniles' first written allegation was 15 years, while the average age of non-serious offenders with a case closed in 2008 was 14 years. Finally, among all serious offenders with a case closed in 2009, the average age at the time of the juveniles' first written allegation was 14 years, while the average age at the time of the first written allegation for non-serious juvenile offenders was 15 years. This indicates that serious offenders began offending approximately one year earlier than non-serious offenders.

### *Age at First Adjudication of Delinquency*

The average age at the time of the juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency for all serious offenders with a case closed in 2007 was 16 years, while the average age of all non-serious offenders with a case closed in this year was also 16 years. For both serious and non-serious juvenile offenders with a case closed in 2008, the average age at the juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency was 15 years. Lastly, among all serious and non-serious offenders with a case closed in 2009, the average age at the time of the juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency was 15 years. In summary, serious offenders and non-serious offenders did not differ in age at the time of their first adjudication of delinquency.

### *Span of Time between First Written Allegation and Case Closure (Span of Involvement)*

Span of involvement with the juvenile justice system is calculated from the date of the juvenile's first written allegation in his or her juvenile offending history to the date of the juvenile's 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure date. **Periods of time in which the youth was NOT active with the juvenile justice system between those two dates are included in these figures as well.**

Serious offenders with a case closed in 2007 spent an average of 41 months involved with the juvenile justice system, as calculated from the date of the juvenile's first written allegation to the date of the juvenile's 2007 case closure. Non-serious offenders with a case closed in this year spent, on average, only 23 months involved with the juvenile justice system. Serious offenders with a case closed in 2008 spent, on average, 40 months involved with the juvenile justice system, while non-serious offenders spent 23 months involved with the juvenile justice system. Similarly, serious offenders with a case closed in 2009 spent approximately 42 months involved with the juvenile justice system. Non-serious offenders with a case closed in 2009 spent, on average, 24 months involved with the juvenile justice system. The data indicates that, across the three years examined, serious offenders spent approximately 1.5 more years (18 months) involved with the juvenile justice system than did non-serious offenders.

## Violent Offenders

### *Prevalence of Violent Offenders*

As illustrated by Table 77 below, approximately 6% (N= 3,200) of offenders with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were violent offenders. In addition, approximately 10% (N= 1,165) of recidivists were violent offenders, while 5% (N= 2,035) of non-recidivists were violent offenders. The average recidivism rate of juveniles who had been identified as violent offenders was 36%, and there was a statistically significant relationship between being a violent offender and recidivating ( $\chi^2= 18.883$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>73</sup>.

<b>Table 77: Prevalence of Violent Offenders: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>												
	<b>2007</b>			<b>2008</b>			<b>2009</b>			<b>Three-Year Total</b>		
<b>Violent Offenders</b>	Number of Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Violent Offenders	Number of Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Violent Offenders	Number of Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Violent Offenders	Number of Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Violent Offenders
<b>Recidivists</b>	328	3,825	9%	385	4,087	9%	452	4,206	11%	1,165	12,118	10%
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	739	15,047	5%	588	14,540	4%	708	14,233	5%	2,035	43,820	5%
<b>Total of Combined Populations</b>	1,067	18,872	6%	973	18,627	5%	1,160	18,439	6%	3,200	55,938	6%
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	31%			40%			39%			36%		

<sup>73</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.



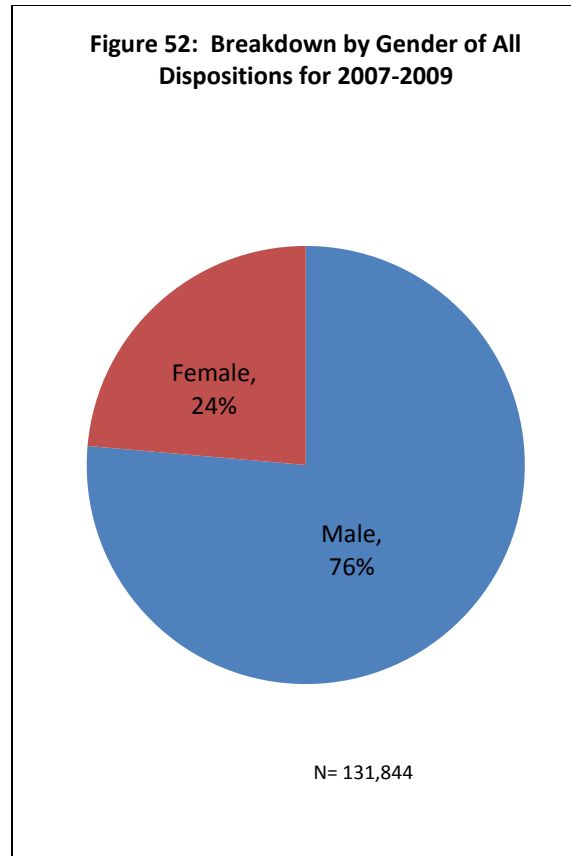
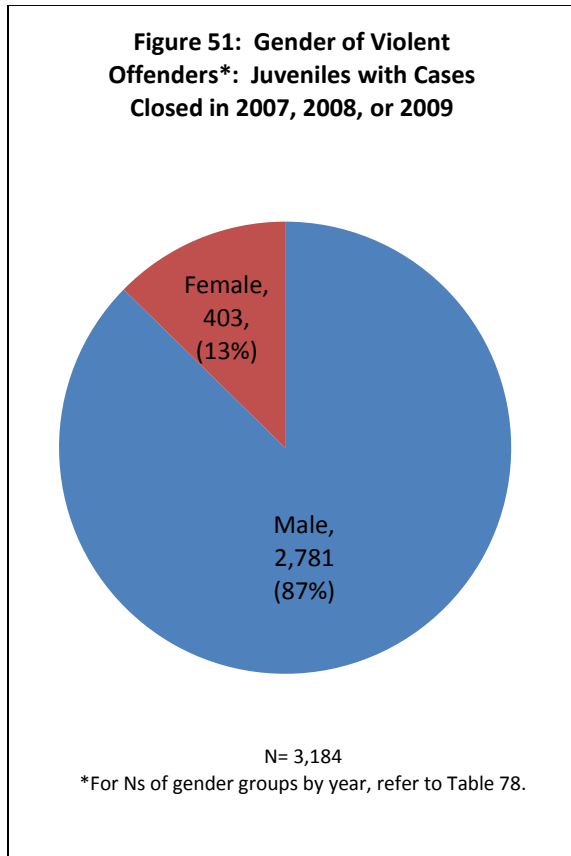
*Gender*

As shown in Table 78 and Figure 51 below, across the three years examined, the majority of violent offenders (87%; N= 2,781) were male. Only 13% (N= 403) of violent offenders were female.

<b>Figure 78: Gender of Violent Offenders*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>								
	<b>2007</b>		<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>Three-Year Total</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Number of Violent Offenders	Percentage of All Violent Offenders	Number of Violent Offenders	Percentage of All Violent Offenders	Number of Violent Offenders	Percentage of All Violent Offenders	Number of Violent Offenders	Percentage of All Violent Offenders
<b>Male</b>	925	87%	848	88%	1,008	88%	2,781	87%
<b>Female</b>	141	13%	120	12%	142	12%	403	13%
<b>Total</b>	1,066		968		1,150		3,184	

\*The gender of 1 violent offender with a case closed in 2007, 5 violent offenders with a case closed in 2008, and 10 violent offenders with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

Figure 52 presents the breakdown by gender of all dispositions that occurred between 2007-2009. Males accounted for 76% of all dispositions that occurred in this time period, though, as shown in Figure 51, males accounted for 87% of all violent offenders. This indicates that males comprised the violent offender population at rates higher than would be expected, and this difference was statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ). Conversely, females comprised a smaller proportion of the violent offender population than would be expected given the percentage of all dispositions they accounted for between 2007 and 2009, and this difference was statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>74</sup>.



<sup>74</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

Furthermore, approximately 7% (N= 2,781) of males with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were violent offenders, while 3% (N= 403) of females with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were violent offenders (Refer to Table 79).

**Table 79: Prevalence of Violent Offenders Within Gender Groups\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Violent Offenders</b>	925	141	1,066	848	120	968	1,008	142	1,150	2,781	403	3,184
<b>Non-Violent Offenders</b>	13,236	4,547	17,783	12,735	4,528	17,263	12,330	4,608	16,938	38,301	13,683	51,984
<b>Total</b>	14,161	4,688	18,849	13,583	4,648	18,231	13,338	4,750	18,088	41,082	14,086	55,168
<b>Percentage Who Were Violent Offenders</b>	7%	3%		6%	3%		8%	3%		7%	3%	

\*The gender of 16 violent offenders and 754 non-violent offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

### Race

The overwhelming majority (99%; N= 3,159) of violent offenders were either Black or White. Asian offenders accounted for approximately 1% (N= 17) of violent offenders. American Indian or Alaska Native juveniles and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juveniles accounted for less than 1% (N= 3) of the violent offender population (See Table 80 and Figure 53).

**Table 80: Race of Violent Offenders\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

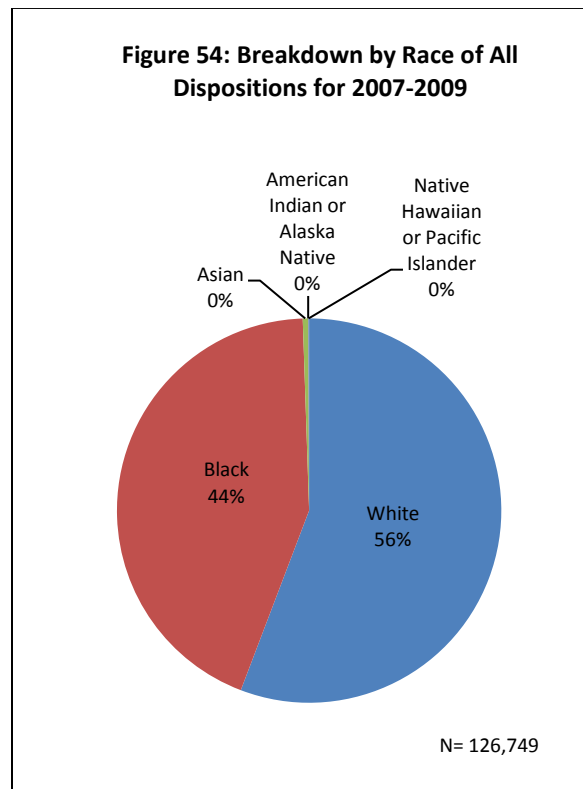
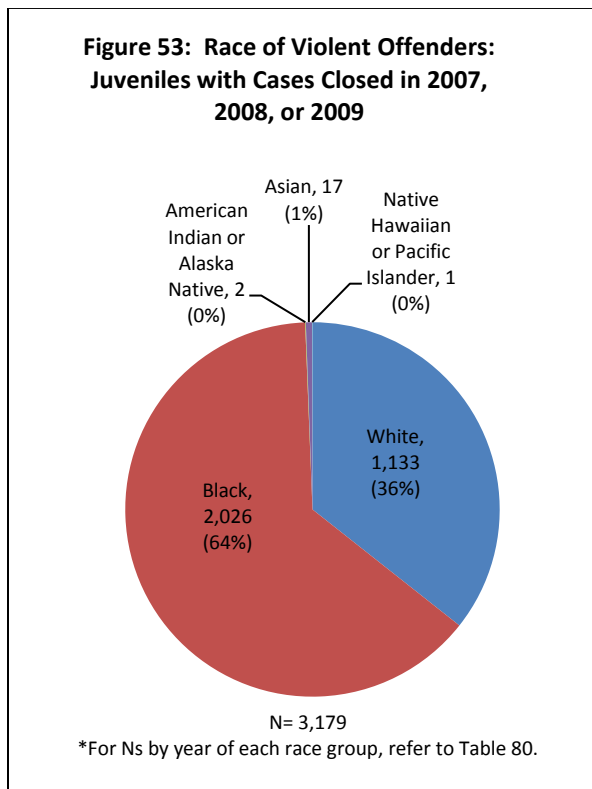
Race	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Violent Offenders	Percentage of All Violent Offenders	Number of Violent Offenders	Percentage of All Violent Offenders	Number of Violent Offenders	Percentage of All Violent Offenders	Number of Violent Offenders	Percentage of All Violent Offenders
<b>White</b>	406	38%	330	34%	397	34%	1,133	36%
<b>Black</b>	648	61%	627	65%	751	65%	2,026	63%
<b>Asian</b>	5	0%	7	1%	5	0%	17	1%
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	0	0%	1	0%	1	0%	2	0%
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	1,059		966		1,154		3,179	

\*The race of 8 violent offenders with a case closed in 2007, 7 violent offenders with a case closed in 2008, and 6 violent offenders with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

Figure 54 below presents the breakdown by race of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009. As illustrated, Black offenders accounted for 44% of all dispositions that occurred in this time period. Approximately 64% of the violent offender population, however, was Black juveniles, indicating that they comprised the violent offender population at higher rates than would be expected. This difference was statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>75</sup>.

Conversely, White offenders accounted for 56% of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009, but only 36% of the violent offender population, indicating that White offenders represented a smaller proportion of the violent offender population than would be expected. This difference was statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>76</sup>.

Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juveniles accounted for approximately 1% of the violent offender population as well as all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009.



<sup>75</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

<sup>76</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

As illustrated by Table 81 below, 11% (N= 2,026) of all Black juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were violent offenders. In addition, 6% (N= 17) of Asian juveniles with a case closed in this period were violent offenders. Approximately 4% (N= 1) of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juvenile offenders were violent offenders. In addition, 3% (N= 1,133) of White offenders and 3% (N= 2) of American Indian or Alaska Native juvenile offenders were violent offenders.

**Table 81: Prevalence of Violent Offenders within Race Groups\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Race	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Violent Offenders	Violent Offender	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Violent Offenders	Violent Offender	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Violent Offenders	Violent Offender	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Violent Offenders
White	406	12,545	3%	330	12,023	3%	397	11,385	3%	1,133	35,953	3%
Black	648	6,042	11%	627	6,050	10%	751	6,626	11%	2,026	18,718	11%
Asian	5	83	6%	7	83	8%	5	107	5%	17	273	6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	14	0%	1	26	4%	1	27	4%	2	67	3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	9	0%	1	13	8%	0	2	0%	1	24	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,059</b>	<b>18,693</b>		<b>966</b>	<b>18,195</b>		<b>1,154</b>	<b>18,147</b>		<b>3,179</b>	<b>55,035</b>	

\*The race of 21 violent offenders and 882 non-violent offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

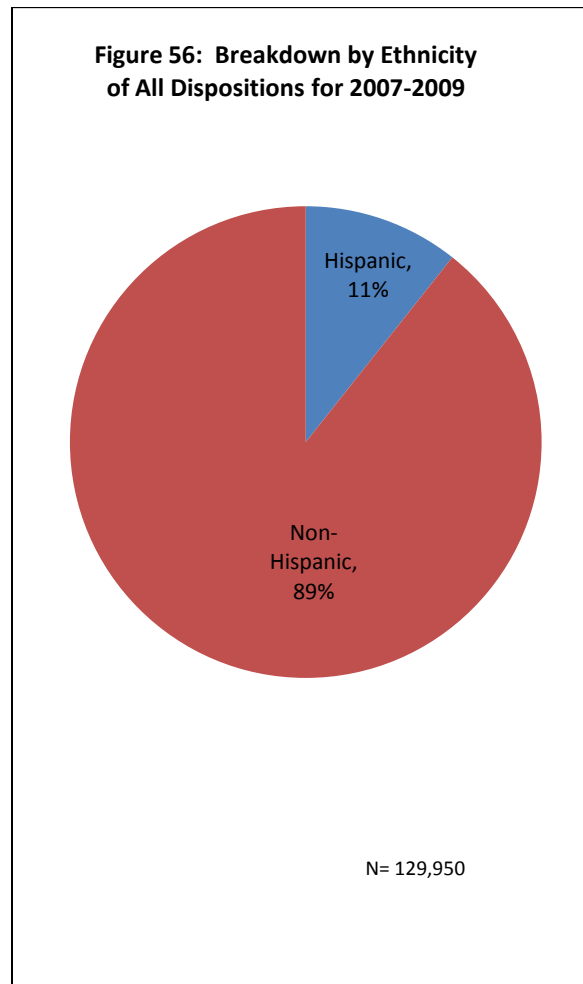
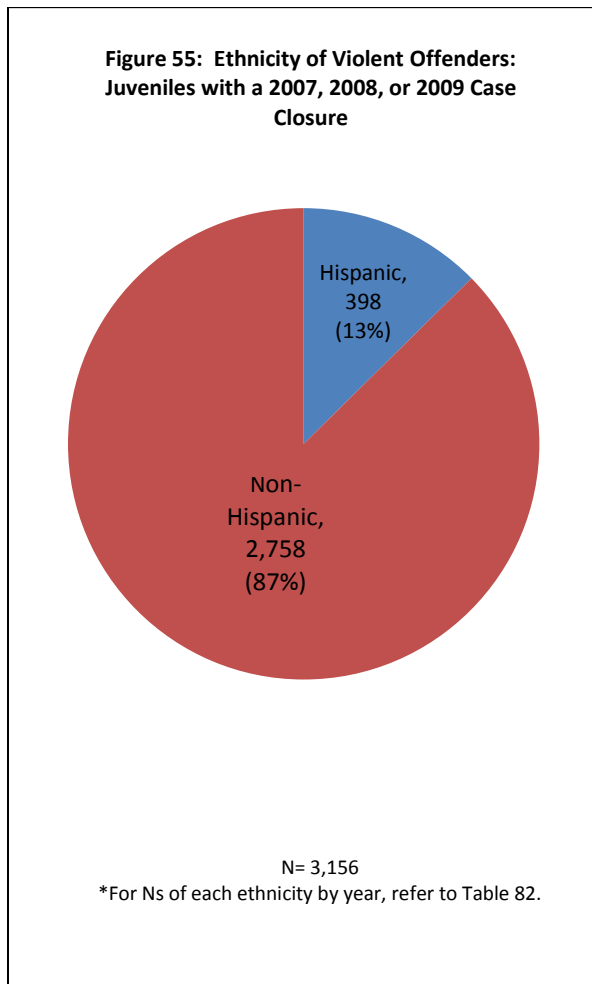
*Ethnicity*

Approximately 13% (N= 398) of violent offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were Hispanic, while 87% (N= 2,758) were non-Hispanic (Refer to Table 82 and Figure 55).

<b>Table 82: Ethnicity of Violent Offenders*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>								
	<b>2007</b>		<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>Three-Year Total</b>	
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of Violent Offenders</b>	<b>Percentage of All Violent Offenders</b>	<b>Number of Violent Offenders</b>	<b>Percentage of All Violent Offenders</b>	<b>Number of Violent Offenders</b>	<b>Percentage of All Violent Offenders</b>	<b>Number of Violent Offenders</b>	<b>Percentage of All Violent Offenders</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	144	14%	110	11%	144	13%	398	13%
<b>Non-Hispanic</b>	918	86%	847	89%	993	87%	2,758	87%
<b>Total</b>	1,062		957		1,137		3,156	

\*The ethnicity of 5 violent offenders with a case closed in 2007, 16 violent offenders with a case closed in 2008, and 23 violent offenders with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

Figure 56 presents the breakdown by ethnicity of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009. As shown, non-Hispanic juveniles accounted for 89% of all dispositions that occurred in this time period, while Hispanic offenders accounted for 11%. Non-Hispanic juveniles accounted for 87% of the violent offender population, while Hispanic offenders accounted for 13% of this population, indicating that Hispanic offenders were over-represented in the violent offender population, and non-Hispanic offenders were under-represented in the violent offender population. These differences were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>77</sup>.



<sup>77</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

Additionally, approximately 7% (N= 398) of all Hispanic offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were violent offenders, while 6% (2,758) of non-Hispanic offenders with a case closed in this time period were violent offenders (See Table 83).

**Table 83: Prevalence of Violent Offenders within Ethnicity Groups: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Ethnicity	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Violent Offenders	Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Violent Offenders	Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Violent Offenders	Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Violent Offenders
<b>Hispanic</b>	144	1,774	8%	110	1,859	6%	144	2,083	7%	398	5,716	7%
<b>Non-Hispanic</b>	918	16,775	5%	847	15,839	5%	993	15,545	6%	2,758	48,159	6%
<b>Total</b>	1,062	18,549		957	17,698		1,137	17,628		3,156	53,875	

\*The ethnicity of 44 violent offenders and 2,019 non-violent offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

### *Written Allegations*<sup>78</sup>

Of all violent offenders with a case closed in 2007, the average number of total written allegations per offender was 3. For non-violent offenders with a case closed in 2007, the average number of total written allegations was 2. In addition, of all violent juvenile offenders with a case closed in 2008, the average number of total written allegations per juvenile was 3, while the average number of total written allegations for non-violent offenders was 2. Finally, of all violent offenders with a case closed in 2009, the average number of total written allegations was 3, while the average number of total written allegations for non-violent offenders was 2. This indicates that across the three years examined, violent offenders averaged one more referral to a probation department than their non-violent juvenile offender counterparts.

<sup>78</sup> The figures presented include all written allegations that occurred in the juveniles' offending histories up to the juveniles' case closure date in 2007, 2008, or 2009.



### *Age at First Written Allegation*

Among all violent offenders with a case closed in 2007, the average age of the juveniles at the time of their first written allegation was 14 years. For non-violent offenders with a case closed in the same year, the average age at the time of the juveniles' first written allegation was 15 years. Similarly, for all violent juvenile offenders with a case closed in 2008, the average age at the juveniles' first written allegation was 14 years, while the average age of non-violent offenders with a case closed in 2008 was 15 years. Finally, among all violent offenders with a case closed in 2009, the average age of the juveniles' first written allegation was 14 years, while the average age at the time of the first written allegation for non-violent juvenile offenders was 15 years. This indicates that violent offenders began offending approximately one year earlier than non-violent offenders.

### *Age at First Adjudication of Delinquency*

The average age at the time of the juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency for all violent offenders with a case closed in 2007 was 15 years, while the average age of all non-violent offenders with a case closed in this year was 16 years. For both violent and non-violent juvenile offenders with a case closed in 2008, the average age at the juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency was 15 years. Lastly, among all violent offenders with a case closed in 2009, the average age at the time of the juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency was 14 years, while the average age for non-violent offenders for 15 years. In summary, violent offenders were approximately one year younger than non-violent offenders at the time of their first adjudication of delinquency.

### *Span of Time between First Written Allegation and Case Closure (Span of Involvement)*

Span of involvement with the juvenile justice system is calculated from the date of the juvenile's first written allegation in his or her juvenile offending history to the date of the juvenile's 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure date. **Periods of time in which the youth was NOT active with the juvenile justice system between those two dates are included in these figures as well.**

Violent offenders with a case closed in 2007 spent an average of 46 months involved with the juvenile justice system, as calculated from the date of the juvenile's first written allegation to the date of the juvenile's 2007 case closure. Non-violent offenders with a case closed in this year spent, on average, only 23 months involved with the juvenile justice system. Violent offenders with a case closed in 2008 spent, on average, 44 months involved with the juvenile justice system, while non-violent offenders spent 23 months involved with the juvenile justice system. Similarly, violent offenders with a case closed in 2009 spent approximately 44 months involved with the juvenile justice system. Non-violent offenders with a case closed in 2009 spent, on average, 24 months involved with the juvenile justice system. The data indicates that, across the three years examined, violent offenders spent almost two more years (21 months) involved with the juvenile justice system than did non-violent offenders.

## Chronic Offenders

### *Prevalence of Chronic Offenders*

As shown in Table 84 below, approximately 14% (N= 7,600) of all juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were chronic offenders. Approximately 25% (N= 3,081) of recidivists were chronic offenders, while only 10% (N= 4,519) of non-recidivists from this time period were chronic offenders. On average, juveniles identified as chronic offenders prior to their case closure re-offended at a rate of 41%, and there was a statistically significant relationship between being a chronic offender and being a recidivist ( $\chi^2= 79.556$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>79</sup>.

**Table 84: Prevalence of Chronic Offenders:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Chronic Offenders	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Chronic Offenders	Number of Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Chronic Offenders	Number of Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Chronic Offenders	Number of Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Chronic Offenders
<b>Recidivists</b>	964	3,825	25%	1,018	4,087	25%	1,099	4,206	26%	3,081	12,118	25%
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	1,644	15,047	11%	1,395	14,540	10%	1,480	14,233	10%	4,519	43,820	10%
<b>Total of Combined Populations</b>	2,608	18,872	14%	2,413	18,627	13%	2,579	18,439	14%	7,600	55,938	14%
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	37%			42%			43%			41%		

<sup>79</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

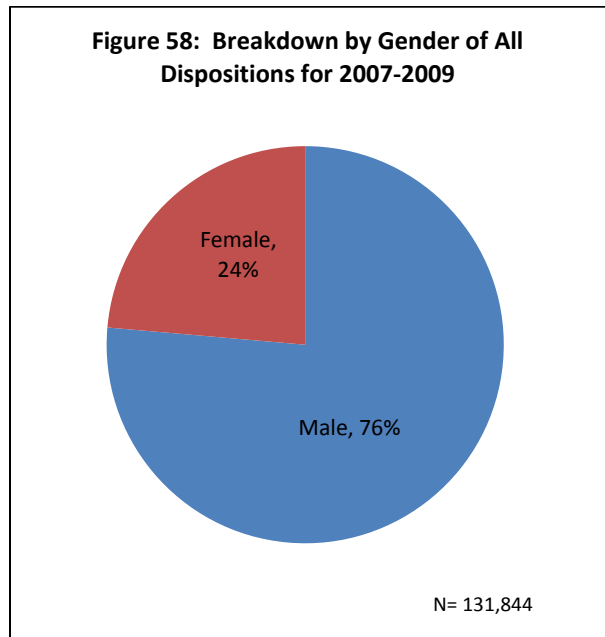
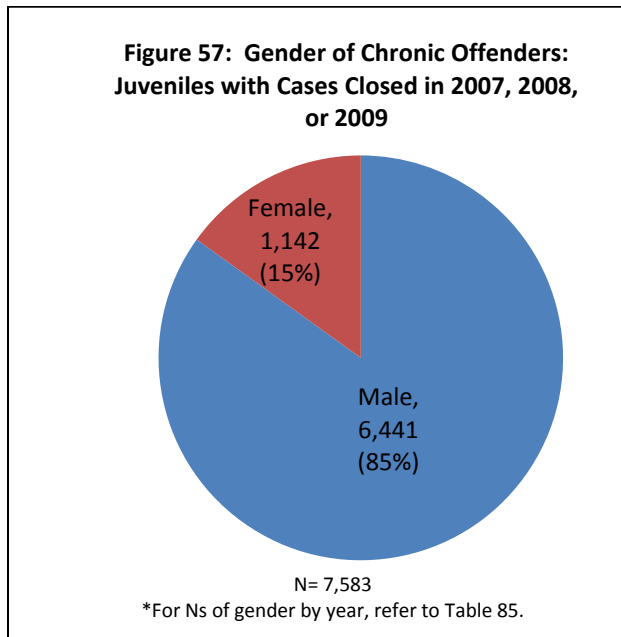
*Gender*

As shown in Table 85 and Figure 57, approximately 85% (N= 6,441) of chronic offenders cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were male, while 15% (N= 1,142) were female.

Table 85: Gender of Chronic Offenders*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
Gender	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Chronic Offenders	Percentage of All Chronic Offenders	Number of Chronic Offenders	Percentage of All Chronic Offenders	Number of Chronic Offenders	Percentage of All Chronic Offenders	Number of Chronic Offenders	Percentage of All Chronic Offenders
Male	2,215	85%	2,040	85%	2,186	85%	6,441	85%
Female	392	15%	365	15%	385	15%	1,142	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,607</b>		<b>2,405</b>		<b>2,571</b>		<b>7,583</b>	

\*The gender of 1 chronic offender with a case closed in 2007, 8 chronic offenders with a case closed in 2008, and 8 chronic offenders with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

As shown in Figure 58, approximately 76% of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009 were for male offenders. However, approximately 85% of the chronic offender population was male, indicating that they comprise the chronic offender population at rates higher than would be expected. Conversely, females comprised a smaller proportion of the chronic offender population than would be expected (15% vs. 24%, respectively). These differences were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>80</sup>.



<sup>80</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

As illustrated by Table 86 below, approximately 16% (N= 6,441) of all males with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were chronic offenders. In addition, approximately 8% (N= 1,142) of all females with a case closed in this time period were chronic offenders.

**Table 86: Prevalence of Chronic Offenders within Gender Groups\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Chronic Offenders</b>	2,215	392	2,607	2,040	365	2,405	2,186	385	2,571	6,441	1,142	7,583
<b>Non-Chronic Offenders</b>	11,946	4,296	16,242	11,543	4,283	15,826	11,152	4,365	15,517	34,641	12,944	47,585
<b>Total</b>	14,161	4,688	18,849	13,583	4,648	18,231	13,338	4,750	18,088	41,082	14,086	55,168
<b>Percentage Who Were Chronic Offenders</b>	16%	8%		15%	8%		16%	8%		16%	8%	

\*The gender of 17 chronic offenders and 753 non-chronic offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMs.

### *Race*

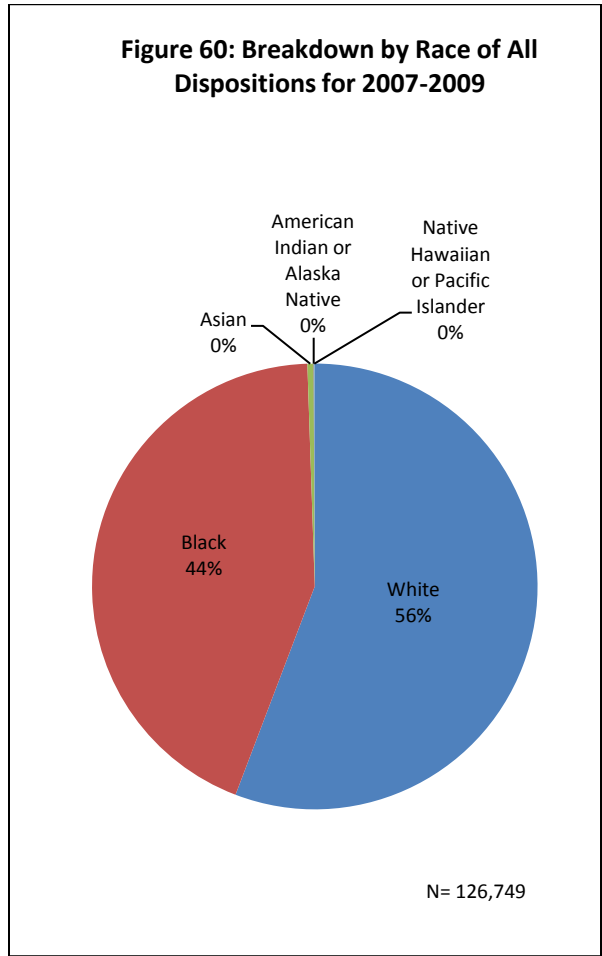
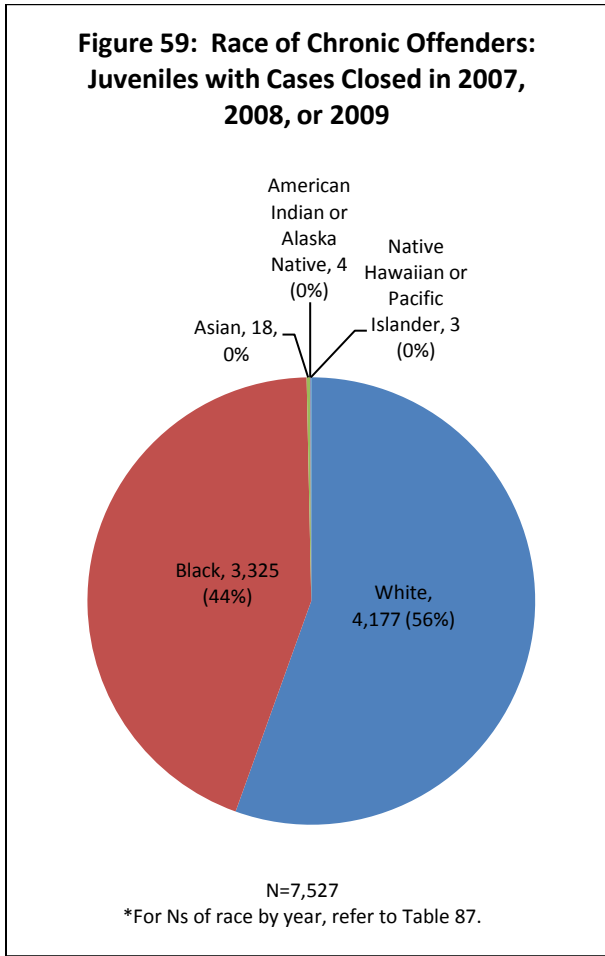
As demonstrated by Table 87 and Figure 59 below, the overwhelming majority (more than 99%) of chronic offenders were White and Black. Asian offenders, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juveniles accounted for less than 1% (N= 25) of the chronic offender population.

**Table 87: Race of Chronic Offenders\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Race	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Chronic Offenders	Percentage of All Chronic Offenders	Number of Chronic Offenders	Percentage of All Chronic Offenders	Number of Chronic Offenders	Percentage of All Chronic Offenders	Number of Chronic Offenders	Percentage of All Chronic Offenders
<b>White</b>	1,519	59%	1,300	55%	1,358	53%	4,177	55%
<b>Black</b>	1,066	41%	1,061	45%	1,198	47%	3,325	44%
<b>Asian</b>	5	0%	7	0%	6	0%	18	0%
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	1	0%	3	0%	0	0%	4	0%
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	1	0%	2	0%	0	0%	3	0%
<b>Total</b>	2,592		2,373		2,562		7,527	

\*The race of 16 chronic offenders with a case closed in 2007, 40 chronic offenders with a case closed in 2008, and 17 chronic offenders with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

Figure 60 below illustrates the proportion of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009 that each race accounted for. Comparing the proportions from Figure 59 to Figure 60, the breakdown of chronic offenders by race is what would be expected given the percentage of dispositions each race accounted for in this time period. There were no statistically differences between the two populations.



Approximately 18% (N= 3,325) of all Black juvenile offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were chronic offenders. In addition, approximately 13% (N= 3) of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juveniles were chronic offenders, while 12% (N= 4,177) of White juvenile offenders were chronic offenders. Finally, approximately 7% (N= 18) of Asian offenders were chronic offenders, and 6% (N= 4) of American Indian or Alaska Native juveniles were chronic offenders (Refer to Table 88).

**Table 88: Prevalence of Chronic Offenders within Race Groups\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Race	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Chronic Offenders	Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Chronic Offenders	Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Chronic Offenders	Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Chronic Offenders
<b>White</b>	1,519	12,545	12%	1,300	12,023	11%	1,358	11,385	12%	4,177	35,953	12%
<b>Black</b>	1,066	6,042	18%	1,061	6,050	18%	1,198	6,626	18%	3,325	18,718	18%
<b>Asian</b>	5	83	6%	7	83	8%	6	107	6%	18	273	7%
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	1	14	7%	3	26	12%	0	27	0%	4	67	6%
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	1	9	11%	2	13	15%	0	2	0%	3	24	13%
<b>Total</b>	2,592	18,693		2,373	18,195		2,562	18,147		7,527	55,035	

\*The race of 73 chronic offenders and 830 non-chronic offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

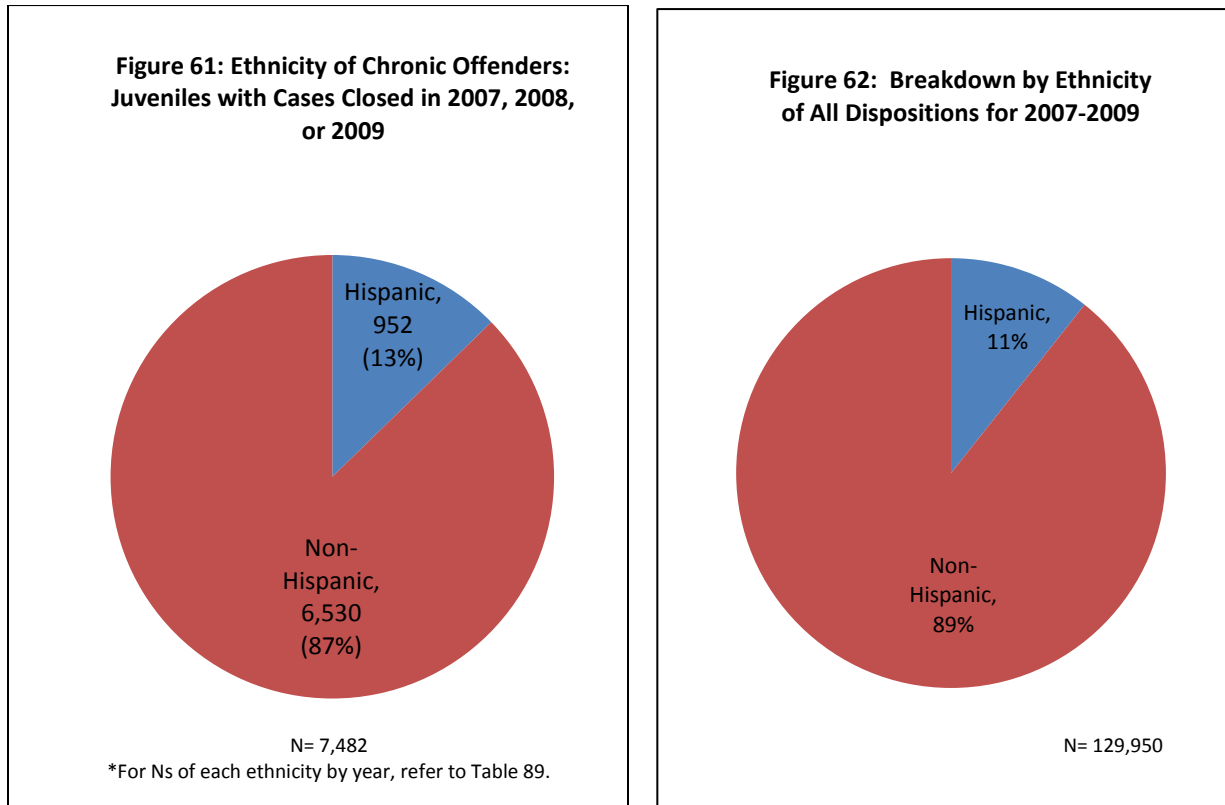
## Ethnicity

Hispanic juvenile offenders accounted for approximately 13% (N= 952) of the chronic offender population, while non-Hispanic juvenile offenders accounted for 87% (N= 6,530) of the chronic offender population (See Table 89 and Figure 61).

<b>Table 89: Ethnicity of Chronic Offenders*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>								
	<b>2007</b>		<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>Three-Year Total</b>	
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Number of Chronic Offenders	Percentage of All Chronic Offenders	Number of Chronic Offenders	Percentage of All Chronic Offenders	Number of Chronic Offenders	Percentage of All Chronic Offenders	Number of Chronic Offenders	Percentage of All Chronic Offenders
<b>Hispanic</b>	302	12%	288	12%	362	14%	952	13%
<b>Non-Hispanic</b>	2,293	88%	2,069	88%	2,168	86%	6,530	87%
<b>Total</b>	2,595		2,357		2,530		7,482	

\*The ethnicity of 13 chronic offenders with a case closed in 2007, 56 chronic offenders with a case closed in 2008, and 49 chronic offenders with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

As illustrated by Figure 62, approximately 89% of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009 were for non-Hispanic offenders, while 11% of all dispositions were for Hispanic offenders. Conversely, as illustrated by Figure 61, approximately 87% of chronic offenders were non-Hispanic, while 13% of chronic offenders were Hispanic. This indicates that non-Hispanic juveniles were under-represented as chronic offenders, while Hispanic juveniles were over-represented as chronic offenders. These differences were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>81</sup>.



<sup>81</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.



Across the three years examined, approximately 17% (N= 952) of Hispanic offenders were chronic offenders, while approximately 14% (N= 6,530) of non-Hispanic offenders were chronic offenders (Refer to Table 90).

**Table 90: Prevalence of Chronic Offenders within Ethnicity Groups\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Ethnicity	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Chronic Offenders	Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Chronic Offenders	Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Chronic Offenders	Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Chronic Offenders
Hispanic	302	1,774	17%	288	1,859	15%	362	2,083	17%	952	5,716	17%
Non-Hispanic	2,293	16,775	14%	2,069	15,839	13%	2,168	15,545	14%	6,530	48,159	14%
<b>Total</b>	2,595	18,549		2,357	17,698		2,530	17,628		7,482	53,875	

\*The ethnicity of 118 chronic offenders and 1,945 non-chronic offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

### *Written Allegations*<sup>82</sup>

Of all chronic offenders with a case closed in 2007, the average number of total written allegations per offender was 5. For non-chronic offenders with a case closed in 2007, the average number of total written allegations was 1. In addition, of all chronic juvenile offenders with a case closed in 2008, the average number of total written allegations per juvenile was 5, while the average number of total written allegations for non-chronic offenders was 1. Finally, of all chronic offenders with a case closed in 2009, the average number of total written allegations was 5, while the average number of total written allegations for non-chronic offenders was 2. This indicates that across the three years examined, chronic offenders averaged approximately four more referrals to a probation department than their non-chronic juvenile offender counterparts.

<sup>82</sup> The figures presented include all written allegations that occurred in the juveniles' offending histories up to the juveniles' case closure date in 2007, 2008, or 2009.

### *Age at First Written Allegation*

Among all chronic offenders with a case closed in 2007, the average age of the juveniles at the time of their first written allegation was 13 years. For non-chronic offenders with a case closed in the same year, the average age at the time of the juveniles' first written allegation was 15 years. Similarly, for all chronic juvenile offenders with a case closed in 2008, the average age at the juveniles' first written allegation was 13 years, while the average age of non-chronic offenders with a case closed in 2008 was 15 years. Finally, among all chronic offenders with a case closed in 2009, the average age of the juveniles' first written allegation was 13 years, while the average age at the time of the first written allegation for non-chronic juvenile offenders was 15 years. This indicates that chronic offenders began offending approximately two years earlier than non-chronic offenders.

### *Age at First Adjudication of Delinquency*

The average age at the time of the juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency for all chronic offenders with a case closed in 2007 was 15 years, while the average age of all non-chronic offenders with a case closed in this year was 16 years. For chronic offenders with a case closed in 2008, the average age at the juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency was 15 years, while the average age at the time of non-chronic juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency was 16 years. Lastly, among all chronic offenders with a case closed in 2009, the average age at the time of the juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency was 15 years, while the average age for non-chronic offenders for 16 years. In summary, chronic offenders were approximately one year younger than non-chronic offenders at the time of their first adjudication of delinquency.

### *Span of Time between First Written Allegation and Case Closure (Span of Involvement)*

Span of involvement with the juvenile justice system is calculated from the date of the juvenile's first written allegation in his or her juvenile offending history to the date of the juvenile's 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure date. **Periods of time in which the youth was NOT active with the juvenile justice system between those two dates are included in these figures as well.**

Chronic offenders with a case closed in 2007 spent an average of 53 months involved with the juvenile justice system, as calculated from the date of the juvenile's first written allegation to the date of the juvenile's 2007 case closure. Non-chronic offenders with a case closed in this year spent, on average, only 20 months involved with the juvenile justice system. Chronic offenders with a case closed in 2008 spent, on average, 53 months involved with the juvenile justice system, while non-chronic offenders spent 20 months involved with the juvenile justice system. Similarly, chronic offenders with a case closed in 2009 spent approximately 54 months involved with the juvenile justice system. Non-chronic offenders with a case closed in 2009 spent, on average, 21 months involved with the juvenile justice system. The data indicates that, across the three years examined, chronic offenders spent almost three more years (33 months) involved with the juvenile justice system than did non-chronic offenders.

## Combination Offenders

Not surprisingly, many juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 met more than one offender classification. The following sections illustrate the breakdown of: chronic and serious offenders, chronic and violent offenders, violent and serious offenders, and serious, violent, and chronic offenders.

### *Serious and Chronic Offenders*

Approximately 2% (N= 1,202) of juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were serious and chronic offenders. Approximately 5% (N= 599) of recidivists from this time period were serious and chronic, while 1% (N= 603) of non-recidivists were serious and chronic. Across the three years examined, the recidivism rate of serious and chronic offenders was 50%, and there was a statistically significant relationship between being a serious and chronic offender and re-offending ( $\chi^2= 46.206$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>83</sup>. Refer to Table 91. Finally, 37% of serious offenders were chronic offenders, and 16% of chronic offenders were serious offenders.

**Table 91: Prevalence of Serious and Chronic Offenders:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Serious & Chronic	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Serious & Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Serious & Chronic Offenders	Number of Serious & Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Serious & Chronic Offenders	Number of Serious & Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Serious & Chronic Offenders	Number of Serious & Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Serious & Chronic Offenders
<b>Recidivists</b>	201	3,825	5%	193	4,087	5%	205	4,206	5%	599	12,118	5%
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	229	15,047	2%	178	14,540	1%	196	14,233	1%	603	43,820	1%
<b>Total of Combined Populations</b>	430	18,872	2%	371	18,627	2%	401	18,439	2%	1,202	55,938	2%
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	47%			52%			51%			50%		

<sup>83</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

### *Violent and Chronic Offenders*

Approximately 2% (N= 1,224) of juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were violent and chronic offenders. Approximately 5% (N= 581) of recidivists from this time period were violent and chronic, while 1% (N= 643) of non-recidivists were violent and chronic. Across the three years examined, the average recidivism rate of violent and chronic offenders was 47%, and the relationship between being a violent and chronic offender and being a recidivist was statistically significant ( $\chi^2= 52.012$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>84</sup>. See Table 92. Finally, 38% of violent offenders were chronic offenders, and 16% of chronic offenders were violent offenders.

**Table 92: Prevalence of Violent and Chronic Offenders:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Violent & Chronic	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Violent & Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Violent & Chronic Offenders	Number of Violent & Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Violent & Chronic Offenders	Number of Violent & Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Violent & Chronic Offenders	Number of Violent & Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Violent & Chronic Offenders
<b>Recidivists</b>	169	3,825	4%	185	4,087	5%	227	4,206	5%	581	12,118	5%
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	245	15,047	2%	192	14,540	1%	206	14,233	1%	643	43,820	1%
<b>Total of Combined Populations</b>	414	18,872	2%	377	18,627	2%	433	18,439	2%	1,224	55,938	2%
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	41%			49%			52%			47%		

<sup>84</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

*Serious and Violent Offenders*

Approximately 0.6% (N= 319) of juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were serious and violent offenders. Approximately 1% (N= 147) of recidivists from this time period were serious and violent, while 0.4% (N= 172) of non-recidivists were serious and violent. Across the three years examined, the average recidivism rate of serious and violent offenders was 46%. See Table 93. In addition, there was a statistically significant relationship between being a serious and violent offender and recidivating ( $\chi^2= 674.224$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>85</sup>. Finally, 10% of serious offenders were violent offenders, and 10% of violent offenders were serious offenders.

**Table 93: Prevalence of Serious and Violent Offenders:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
Serious & Violent	Number of Serious & Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Serious & Violent Offenders	Number of Serious & Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Serious & Violent Offenders	Number of Serious & Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Serious & Violent Offenders	Number of Serious & Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Serious & Violent Offenders
	<b>Recidivists</b>	44	3,825	1%	40	4,087	1%	63	4,206	1%	147	12,118
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	64	15,047	0.4%	53	14,540	0.4%	55	14,233	0.4%	172	43,820	0.4%
<b>Total of Combined Populations</b>	108	18,872	0.6%	93	18,627	0.5%	118	18,439	0.6%	319	55,938	0.6%
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	41%			43%			53%			46%		

<sup>85</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

*Serious, Violent, and Chronic (SVC) Offenders*

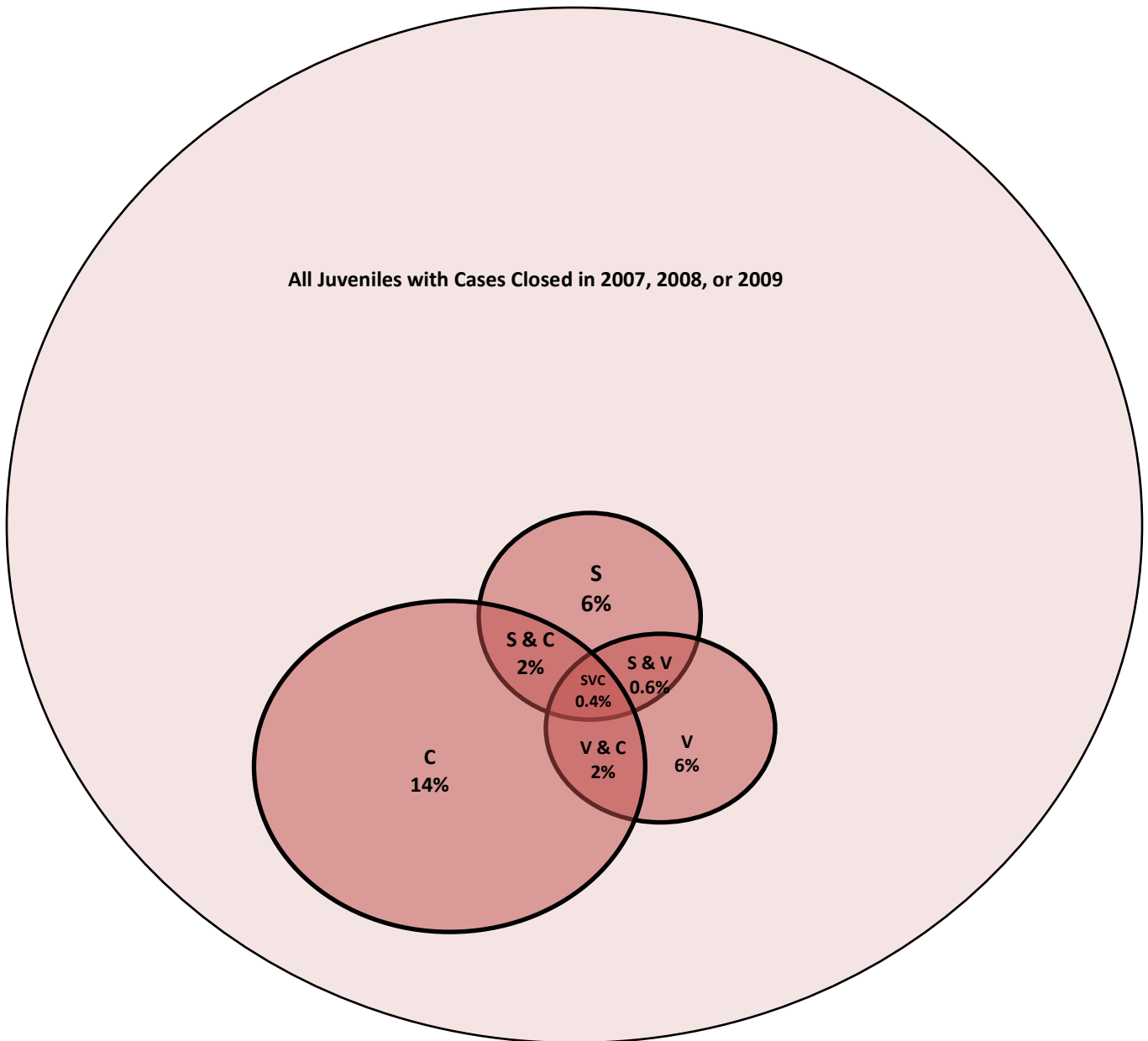
As illustrated in Table 94, approximately 0.4% (N= 200) of juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were serious, violent, and chronic offenders. Approximately 1% (N= 109) of recidivists from this time period were serious, violent, and chronic, while 0.2% (N= 91) of non-recidivists were serious, violent, and chronic. Across the three years examined, the average recidivism rate of serious, violent, and chronic offenders was 55%, and the relationship between being a serious, violent, and chronic offender and re-offending was statistically significant ( $\chi^2=575.646$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>86</sup>.

**Table 94: Prevalence of Serious, Violent, and Chronic (SVC) Offenders: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Serious, Violent, & Chronic (SVC)	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of SVC Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were SVC Offenders	Number of SVC Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were SVC Offenders	Number of SVC Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were SVC Offenders	Number of SVC Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were SVC Offenders
<b>Recidivists</b>	37	3,825	1%	23	4,087	1%	49	4,206	1%	109	12,118	1%
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	40	15,047	0.3%	26	14,540	0.2%	25	14,233	0.2%	91	43,820	0.2%
<b>Total of Combined Populations</b>	77	18,872	0.4%	49	18,627	0.3%	74	18,439	0.4%	200	55,938	0.4%
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	48%			47%			66%			55%		

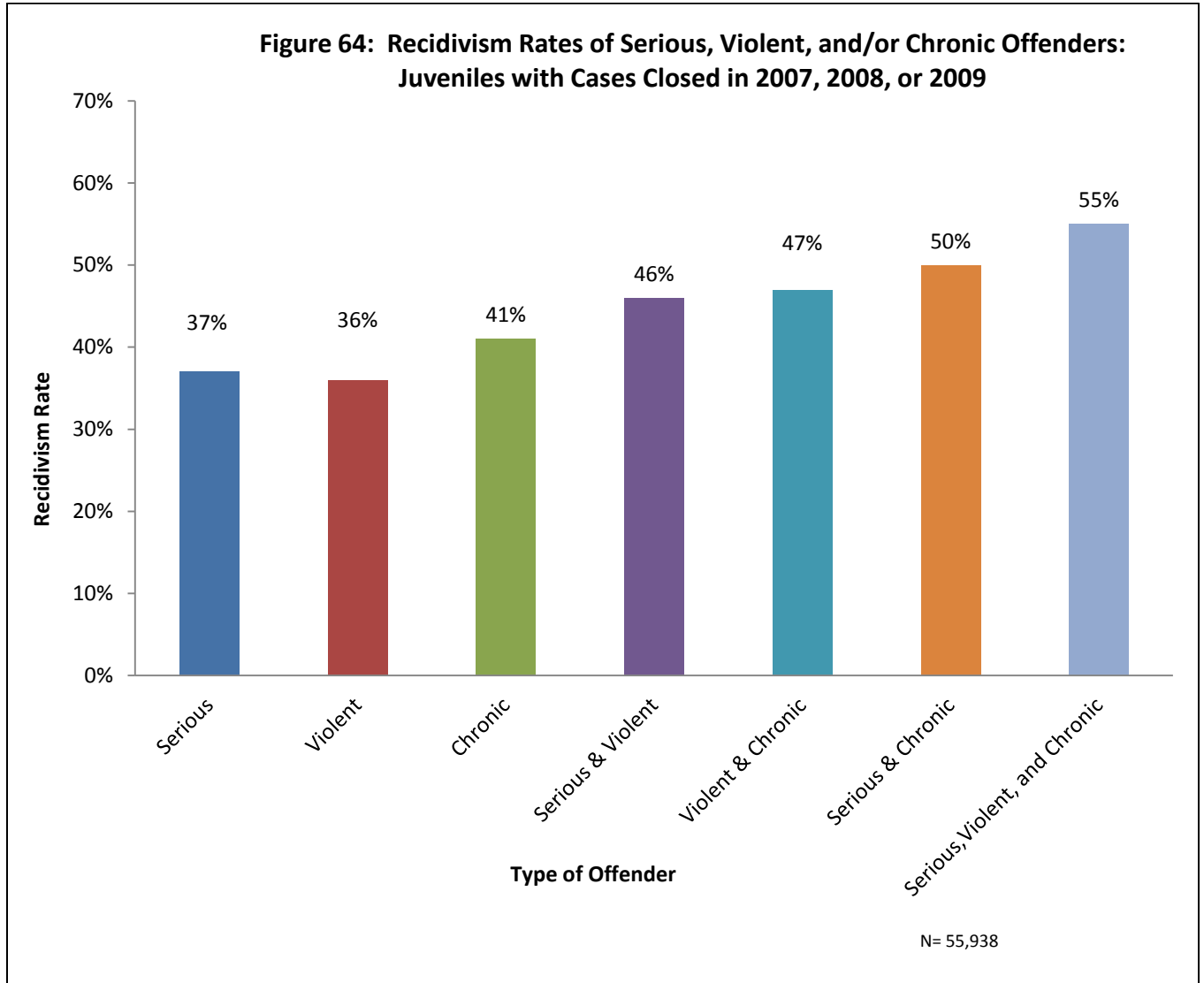
<sup>86</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

**Figure 63: Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offenders in Pennsylvania:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**



S= Serious	S & V= Serious and Violent	SVC= Serious, Violent, and Chronic
V= Violent	S & C= Serious and Chronic	
C= Chronic	V & C= Violent and Chronic	

Figure 64 below presents the recidivism rates of serious, violent, and/or chronic offenders in one snapshot. Again, recidivism rates ranged anywhere from 36% (violent offenders) to 55% (serious, violent, and chronic offenders).





## Comparison of Pennsylvania’s SVC Offender Results to Other States

Pennsylvania was not the first state to examine serious, violent, and chronic (SVC) offender patterns among their delinquent population. For example, in 1998, Howard Snyder conducted a similar analysis in Maricopa County, Arizona. In addition, Mike Baglivio conducted a SVC offender analysis in Florida. Below is a comparison of Pennsylvania’s findings to Arizona’s and Florida’s results.

### *Snyder’s Maricopa County, Arizona, Study*

As previously mentioned, Howard Snyder conducted a SVC offender analysis in Maricopa County, Arizona, in 1998. Snyder (1998) used data from all individuals born between 1962 and 1977 who had a referral to juvenile court in Maricopa County before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. In addition, these juveniles attained the age of 18 during the years 1980-1995 and were aged 18 or older at the time of the study. Snyder (1998) generated a sample of 151,209 delinquent juveniles to examine who were serious, violent, and/or chronic offenders. To view the definitions that Snyder (1998) employed in his study, refer to Appendix G.

Table 95 below illustrates the outcomes of Pennsylvania’s analysis, Snyder’s (1998) analysis, and Baglivio’s (2012) analysis.

<b>Table 95: Comparison of State Serious, Violent, and Chronic (SVC) Offender Analyses</b>			
	<b>Pennsylvania Fowler (2012)</b>	<b>Maricopa County, Arizona Snyder (1998)</b>	<b>Florida Baglivio (2012)</b>
<b>Non-Serious, Non-Violent, Non-Chronic Offenders</b>	79%	64%	46%
<b>Serious Offenders</b>	6%	30%	52%
<b>Violent Offenders</b>	6%	8%	29%
<b>Chronic Offenders</b>	14%	15%	15%
<b>Serious, Violent &amp; Chronic Offenders</b>	0.4%	3%	9%
<b>Chronic Offenders + Violent Offenders</b>	16%	29%	N/A
<b>Serious Offenders + Chronic Offenders</b>	37%	35%	N/A
<b>Violent Offenders + Chronic Offenders</b>	38%	53%	N/A

Snyder (1998) concluded that 64% of the delinquent population in his sample were non-serious, non-violent, and non-chronic offenders. In addition, within his population samples, 30% of juveniles had committed serious offenses, 8% had committed violent offenses, 15% were chronic offenders, and 3% were serious, violent, and chronic offenders.<sup>87</sup> Finally, Snyder's (1998) research revealed that 29% of chronic offenders were also violent offenders, 35% of serious offenders were also chronic offenders, and 53% of violent offenders were also chronic offenders. As illustrated above, in the current study there were a higher percentage of juveniles who were non-serious, non-violent, and non-chronic than in Arizona (79% vs. 64%). In addition, in the current study there were a lower percentage of chronic offenders (14%) and serious offenders and violent offenders (6% each) than in Arizona (15%, 30% and 8%, respectively), as well as fewer serious, violent, and chronic offenders (0.4% vs. 3%). Furthermore, Pennsylvania had a lower percentage of chronic offenders who were also violent offenders (16% vs. 29%) and violent offenders who were also chronic offenders (39% vs. 53%) than Arizona. On the other hand, Pennsylvania had a larger proportion of serious offenders who were also chronic offenders than did Arizona (40% vs. 35%).

Many of these differences can be explained by both the methodology and operationalization of variables used in each study. For example, Snyder (1998) used *referrals* to the juvenile court in his operationalization of serious and violent offenders, while Pennsylvania used *delinquency adjudications* for such definitions.

In addition, all juveniles in Snyder's (1998) study were aged 18 or older, and thus their juvenile offending "careers" were over (since the juvenile court no longer had jurisdiction). In the current study, juvenile offenders were between the ages of 10 and 21, and many still have the potential to be involved with the juvenile justice system for several more years, thus increasing the probability of becoming a serious, violent, or chronic offender. For example, if a 14-year old in the current study's sample fell in the non-serious, non-violent, non-chronic offender category, but he commits a robbery at the age of 16, the non-serious, non-violent, non-chronic offender figure presented previously would decrease, while the violent offender figure would increase.

Furthermore, the only sex offense included in Pennsylvania's definition of violent offender was rape, whereas Snyder's (1998) study included all violent sexual assaults. Furthermore, Pennsylvania included certain firearms/weapons offenses in the definition of violent offender, while Arizona included these offenses in their definition of serious offender.

### *Baglivio's Florida Analysis*

Michael Baglivio of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice also completed a SVC offender analysis for Florida. Baglivio examined 72,750 youth who were referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice in FY 09-10 to determine which percentage were classifiable as serious, violent, chronic, or SVC offenders. The definitions that Baglivio used to operationalize these offenders can be found in Appendix F. Like the current study, not all of the youth in Baglivio's sample had reached the age of majority (18 years) in the Florida juvenile justice system. Therefore, the results of his study are not necessarily comparable to Snyder's (1998) findings either; juveniles

---

<sup>87</sup> It is inappropriate to sum these percentages because some individual offenders are represented in multiple categories.

who were under the age of majority still have the potential to become a serious, violent, chronic, or SVC offender if they have not already.

Baglivio concluded that 46% of juveniles with a referral in FY 09-10 were non-serious, non-violent, and non-chronic. This percentage was lower than both Pennsylvania's rate (79%) and Arizona's rate (64%). In addition, there were more serious and violent offenders in Florida (52% and 29%, respectively) than in Pennsylvania (6% and 6%, respectively) and Arizona (8% and 15%, respectively). Furthermore, Pennsylvania also had the lowest percentage of chronic offenders (14%) compared to Arizona (15%) and Florida (15%).

The differences between Pennsylvania's and Florida's rates can be attributed to the methodology and operationalization of variables used in each study, as well as differences in how the juvenile justice systems operate in both states. First, Baglivio's pool of youth to examine included all juveniles with a delinquency referral in FY 09-10, whereas Pennsylvania examined juveniles with case closures in 2007, 2008, or 2009 who had a valid disposition<sup>88</sup>. In addition, Baglivio counted *adjudications* in his operationalization of chronic offenders, while Pennsylvania counted *referrals* (written allegations) for alleged delinquent acts that juveniles had to probation departments.

Third, Baglivio used an adjudication of delinquency for *any* felony offense on a juvenile's record to categorize serious offenders, while Pennsylvania used an adjudication of delinquency for *select* offenses to categorize serious offenders (refer to page 180 for a list of serious offenses). Additionally, Baglivio's categories of offenders were not mutually exclusive; certain offenses caused a juvenile to be classified as more than one offender type. For example, in Florida, if a juvenile is adjudicated delinquent for murder, he/she is categorized as a serious offender and a violent offender. In Pennsylvania, there is no overlap between the offenses that trigger a juvenile to be classified as a serious offender or a violent offender.

Finally, Florida's juvenile justice system employs a civil citation system in which law enforcement officers are able to issue a citation rather than a formal complaint for certain minor misdemeanor delinquent acts committed by juveniles. Civil citations divert these low-risk youth at the time of arrest, avoiding processing in the court and juvenile justice system. The end result in Florida is that only more serious youthful offenders, or those more likely to be serious offenders, violent offenders, or chronic offenders, are referred to the juvenile justice system. No such diversion program currently exists in Pennsylvania.

---

<sup>88</sup> Refer to page 5 for a list of valid dispositions.

## Child Offenders

Like serious, violent, and/or chronic offenders, *child offenders* are another area of interest within the juvenile justice literature. Child offenders are juveniles who are under the age of 13 as of the date of their first adjudication of delinquency. Literature has consistently demonstrated that the younger a juvenile is when he or she begins offending, the more severe his or her offending career will be. Child offenders not only begin their delinquent careers at an early age, but their offenses are severe enough to warrant an adjudication of delinquency. The following is an examination of child offenders in Pennsylvania.

### *Prevalence of Child Offenders*

As illustrated in Table 96 below, approximately 3% (N= 1,449) of all juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were child offenders. About 4% (N= 473) of recidivists were child offenders, while 2% (N= 976) of non-recidivists were child offenders. Finally, about one in three (33%) child offenders recidivated.

**Table 96: Prevalence of Child Offenders:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Child Offenders	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Child Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Child Offenders	Number of Child Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Child Offenders	Number of Child Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Child Offenders	Number of Child Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Percent of Population Who Were Child Offenders
<b>Recidivists</b>	109	3,825	3%	180	4,087	4%	184	4,206	4%	473	12,118	4%
<b>Non-Recidivists</b>	268	15,047	2%	339	14,540	2%	369	14,233	3%	976	43,820	2%
<b>Total of Combined Populations</b>	377	18,872	2%	519	18,627	3%	553	18,439	3%	1,449	55,938	3%
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	29%			35%			33%			33%		

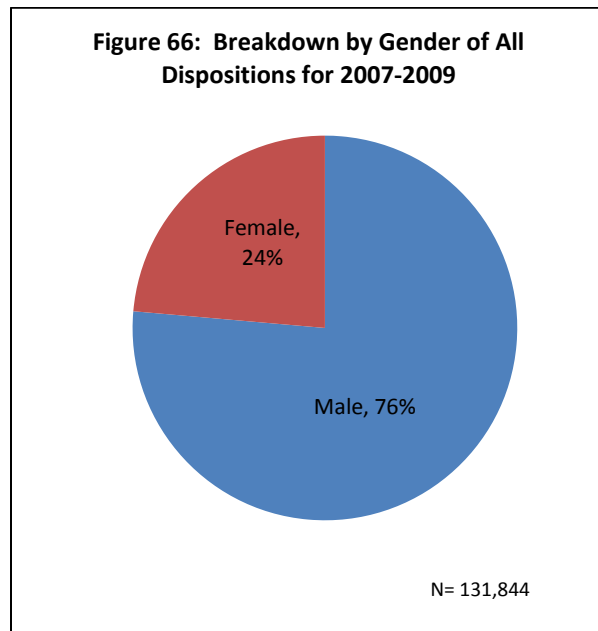
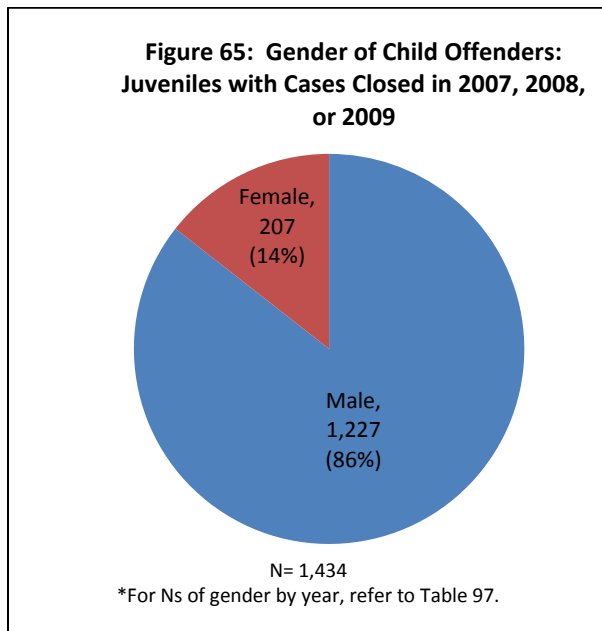
## Gender

Males accounted for approximately 86% (N= 1,227) of the child offender population. Females comprised only 14% (N= 207) of the child offender population (Refer to Table 97 and Figure 65).

Table 97: Gender of Child Offenders*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
Gender	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Child Offenders	Percentage of All Child Offenders	Number of Child Offenders	Percentage of All Child Offenders	Number of Child Offenders	Percentage of All Child Offenders	Number of Child Offenders	Percentage of All Child Offenders
Male	315	84%	447	87%	465	86%	1,227	86%
Female	62	16%	69	13%	76	14%	207	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>377</b>		<b>516</b>		<b>541</b>		<b>1,434</b>	

\* The gender of 3 child offenders with a case closed in 2008 and 12 child offenders with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

Figure 66 presents the breakdown by gender of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009. As illustrated, males accounted for a greater proportion of the child offender population than would be expected given the total number of dispositions occurred in this time period (86% vs. 76%). Females, on the other hand, accounted for a smaller proportion of the child offender population than would be expected (14% vs. 24%). These differences were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>89</sup>.



<sup>89</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

As illustrated by Table 98, 3% (N= 1,227) of males with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were child offenders, while 1% (N= 207) of females were child offenders.

**Table 98: Prevalence of Child Offenders within Each Gender Group\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Child Offenders</b>	315	62	377	447	69	516	465	76	541	1,227	207	1,434
<b>Non-Child Offenders</b>	13,846	4,626	18,063	13,136	4,579	17,715	12,873	4,674	17,547	39,855	13,879	53,734
<b>Total</b>	14,161	4,688	18,849	13,583	4,648	18,231	13,338	4,750	18,088	41,082	14,086	55,168
<b>Percentage Who Were Child Offenders</b>	2%	1%		3%	1%		3%	1%		3%	1%	

\*The gender of 15 child offenders and 755 non-child offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

### Race

White offenders and Black offenders accounted for approximately 99% (N= 1,416) of juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure who were child offenders. Asian offenders and American Indian or Alaska Native juveniles accounted for approximately 1% (N= 13) of the child offender population. There were no Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander child offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 (See Table 99 and Figure 67).

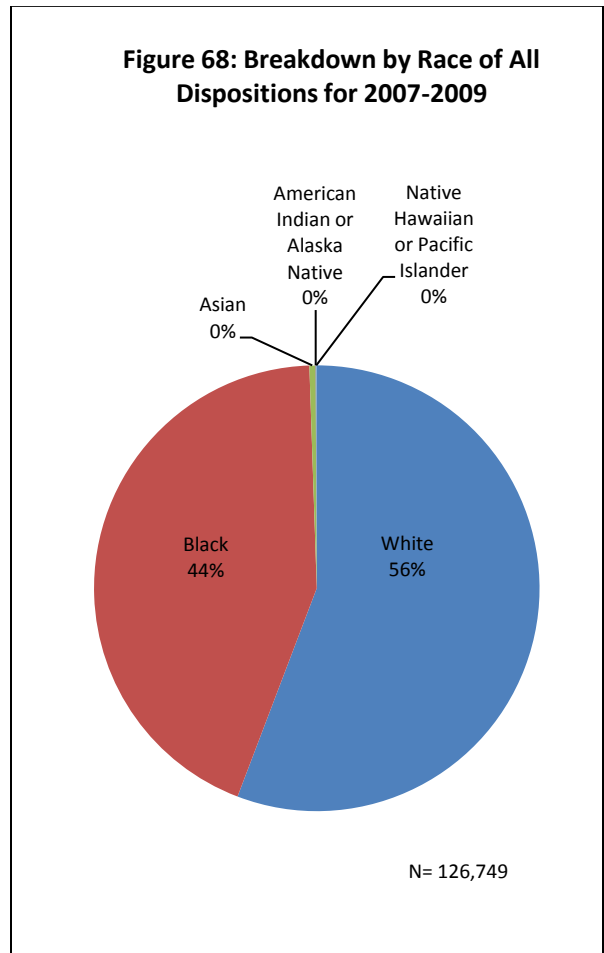
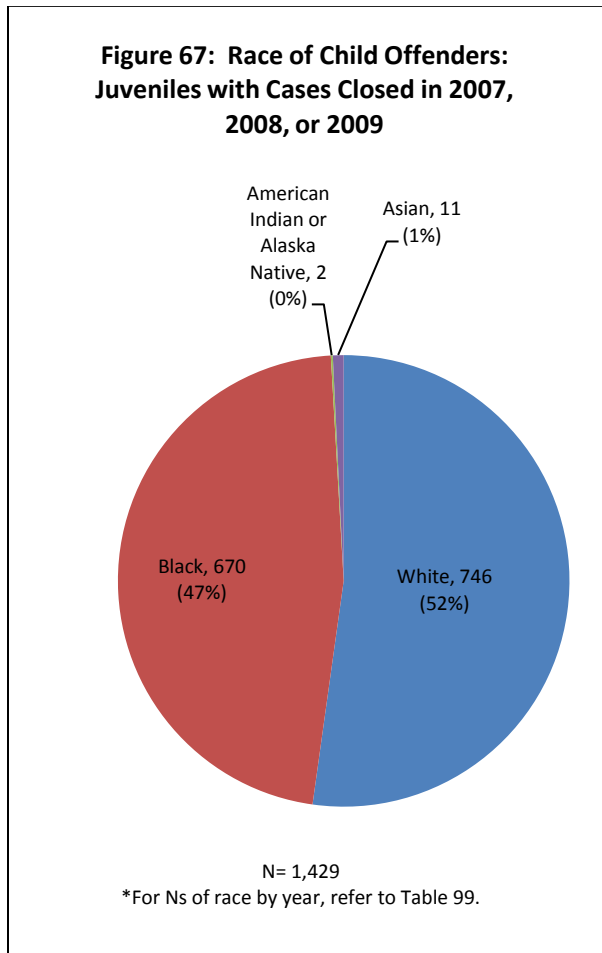
**Table 99: Race of Child Offenders\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Race	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Child Offenders	Percentage of All Child Offenders	Number of Child Offenders	Percentage of All Child Offenders	Number of Child Offenders	Percentage of All Child Offenders	Number of Child Offenders	Percentage of All Child Offenders
<b>White</b>	184	50%	256	50%	306	56%	746	52%
<b>Black</b>	184	50%	255	50%	231	42%	670	47%
<b>Asian</b>	3	1%	3	1%	5	1%	11	1%
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	0	0%	0	0%	2	0%	2	0%
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	371		514		544		1,429	

\*The race of 6 child offenders with a case closed in 2007, 5 child offenders with a case closed in 2008, and 9 child offenders with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

In comparison to the breakdown of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009 (Refer to Figure 68), White juveniles comprised less of the child offender population than would be expected (52% vs. 56%). Conversely, Black juvenile offenders comprised a higher proportion of the child offender population than would be expected (47% vs. 44%). These differences were statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ )<sup>90</sup>.

Asian juvenile offenders and American Indian or Alaska Native juveniles accounted for roughly the same proportion of the child offender population as the proportion of all dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009.



<sup>90</sup> The Test of Difference between Proportions was used to test for statistical differences between the two samples. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

Furthermore, approximately 4% (N= 670) of Black juveniles and 4% (N= 11) of Asian juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were child offenders. Approximately 3% (N= 2) of American Indian or Alaska Native juveniles were child offenders, while 2% (N= 746) of White juvenile offenders were child offenders. There were no Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander juveniles with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 who were child offenders (Refer to Table 100).

**Table 100: Prevalence of Child Offenders within Race Groups\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Race	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Child Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Child Offenders	Child Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Child Offenders	Child Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Child Offenders	Child Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Child Offenders
White	184	12,545	1%	256	12,023	2%	306	11,385	3%	746	35,953	2%
Black	184	6,042	3%	255	6,050	4%	231	6,626	3%	670	18,718	4%
Asian	3	83	4%	3	83	4%	5	107	5%	11	273	4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	14	0%	0	26	0%	2	27	7%	2	67	3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	9	0%	0	13	0%	0	2	0%	0	24	0%
<b>Total</b>	371	18,693		514	18,195		544	18,147		1,429	55,035	

\*The race of 20 child offenders and 883 non-child offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.



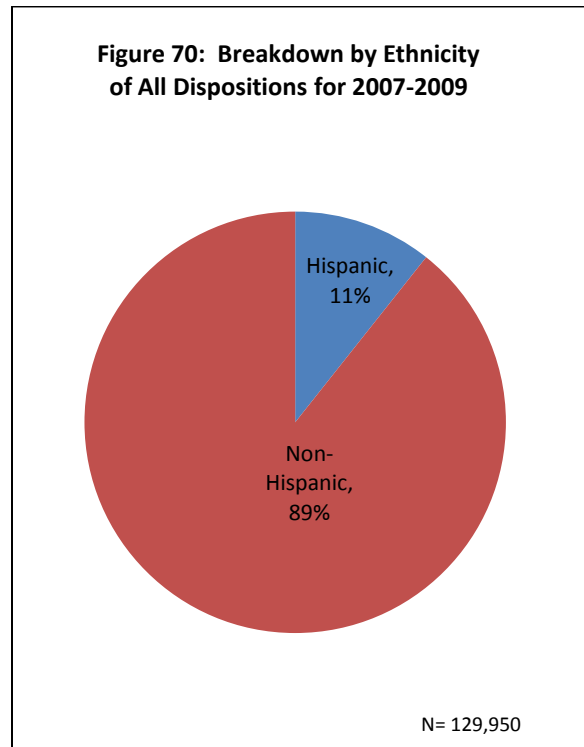
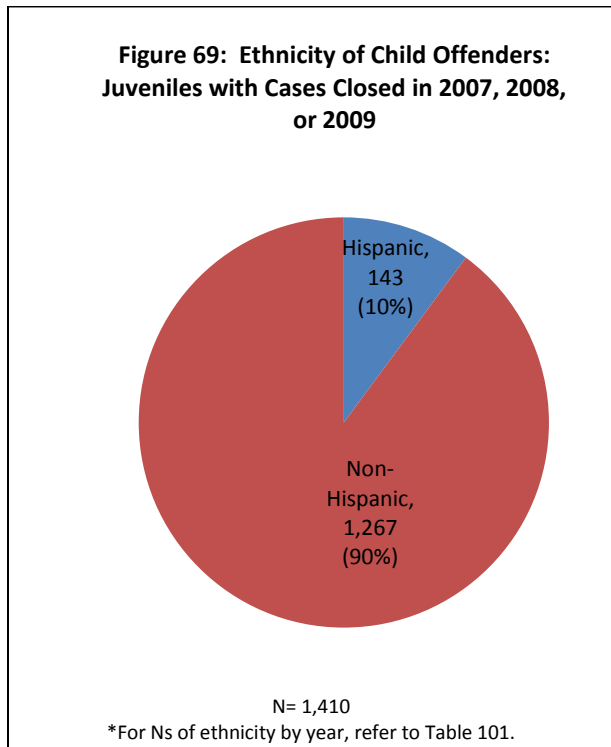
*Ethnicity*

As illustrated by Table 101 and Figure 69, approximately 90% (N= 1,267) of child offenders were non-Hispanic, while 10% (N= 143) were Hispanic.

Table 101: Ethnicity of Child Offenders*: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009								
Ethnicity	2007		2008		2009		Three-Year Total	
	Number of Child Offenders	Percentage of All Child Offenders	Number of Child Offenders	Percentage of All Child Offenders	Number of Child Offenders	Percentage of All Child Offenders	Number of Child Offenders	Percentage of All Child Offenders
Hispanic	42	11%	42	8%	59	11%	143	10%
Non-Hispanic	327	89%	462	92%	478	89%	1,267	90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>369</b>		<b>504</b>		<b>537</b>		<b>1,410</b>	

\*The ethnicity of 8 child offenders with a case closed in 2007, 15 child offenders with a case closed in 2008, and 16 child offenders with a case closed in 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

Hispanic youth and non-Hispanic youth comprised approximately the same percentage of the child offender population that would be expected given the total percentage of dispositions that occurred between 2007 and 2009 (Refer to Figure 70). There were no statistically significant differences between the two populations.



Across the three years examined, approximately 3% (N= 143) of Hispanic juveniles with a case closed were child offenders. Similarly, approximately 3% (N= 1,267) of non-Hispanic juveniles with a case closed were child offenders (Refer to Table 102).

**Table 102: Prevalence of Child Offenders within Ethnicity Groups\*:  
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

Ethnicity	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Child Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Child Offenders	Child Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Child Offenders	Child Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Child Offenders	Child Offenders	Total Number of Juvenile Offenders with Case Closed	Percentage Who Were Child Offenders
<b>Hispanic</b>	42	1,774	2%	42	1,859	2%	59	2,083	3%	143	5,716	3%
<b>Non-Hispanic</b>	327	16,775	2%	462	15,839	3%	478	15,545	3%	1,267	48,159	3%
<b>Total</b>	369	18,549		504	17,698		537	17,628		1,410	53,875	

\*The ethnicity of 39 child offenders and 2,024 non-child offenders with a case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 was not reported in the PaJCMS.

### *Written Allegations<sup>91</sup>*

Of all child offenders with a case closed in 2007, the average number of total written allegations per offender was 3. For non-child offenders with a case closed in 2007, the average number of total written allegations was 2. In addition, of all child juvenile offenders with a case closed in 2008, the average number of total written allegations per juvenile was 4, while the average number of total written allegations for non-child offenders was 2. Finally, of all child offenders with a case closed in 2009, the average number of total written allegations was 4, while the average number of total written allegations for non-child offenders was 2. This indicates that across the three years examined, child offenders averaged approximately two more referrals to a probation department than their non-child offender counterparts.

<sup>91</sup> The figures presented include all written allegations that occurred in the juveniles' offending histories up to the juveniles' case closure date in 2007, 2008, or 2009.

### *Age at First Written Allegation*

Among all child offenders with a case closed in 2007, the average age of the juveniles at the time of their first written allegation was 11 years. Among non-child offenders with a case closed in the same year, the average age at the time of the juveniles' first written allegation was 15 years. Similarly, among all child juvenile offenders with a case closed in 2008, the average age at the juveniles' first written allegation was 11 years, while the average age of non-child offenders with a case closed in 2008 was 15 years. Finally, among all child offenders with a case closed in 2009, the average age of the juveniles' first written allegation was 11 years, while the average age at the time of the first written allegation for non-child offenders was 15 years. This indicates that child offenders began offending approximately four years earlier than non-child offenders.

### *Age at First Adjudication of Delinquency*

The average age at the time of the juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency for all child offenders with a case closed in 2007 was 12 years, while the average age of all non-child offenders with a case closed in this year was 16 years. Among child offenders with a case closed in 2008, the average age at the juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency was 12 years, while the average age at the time of non-child offenders' first adjudication of delinquency was 16 years. Lastly, among all child offenders with a case closed in 2009, the average age at the time of the juveniles' first adjudication of delinquency was 12 years, while the average age for non-child offenders for 16 years. In summary, child offenders were approximately four years younger than non-child offenders at the time of their first adjudication of delinquency.

### *Span of Time between First Written Allegation and Case Closure (Span of Involvement)*

Span of involvement with the juvenile justice system is calculated from the date of the juvenile's first written allegation in his or her juvenile offending history to the date of the juvenile's 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure date. **Periods of time in which the youth was NOT active with the juvenile justice system between those two dates are included in these figures as well.**

Child offenders with a case closed in 2007 spent an average of 48 months involved with the juvenile justice system, as calculated from the date of the juvenile's first written allegation to the date of the juvenile's 2007 case closure. Non-child offenders with a case closed in this year spent, on average, only 24 months involved with the juvenile justice system. Child offenders with a case closed in 2008 spent, on average, 53 months involved with the juvenile justice system, while non-child offenders spent approximately 23 months involved with the juvenile justice system. Similarly, child offenders with a case closed in 2009 spent approximately 54 months involved with the juvenile justice system. Non-child offenders with a case closed in 2009 spent, on average, 25 months involved with the juvenile justice system. The data indicates that, across the three years examined, child offenders spent more than two years (28 months) longer involved with the juvenile justice system than did non-child offenders.

## Child Offenders Who Developed SVC Careers

The following analyses were conducted to determine whether juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure who were identified as child offenders were more likely to be serious, violent, and/or chronic offenders than were non-child offenders. The results indicated that approximately 50% (N= 719) of child offenders were either a serious offender, a violent offender, or a chronic offender, while only 20% (N= 10,753) of non-child offenders were a serious offender, a violent offender, or a chronic offender.

### *Serious Offender Careers*

As illustrated by Table 103, of all youth with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009, approximately 16% (N= 236) of juveniles identified as child offenders were serious offenders, while only 5% (N= 2,977) of non-child offenders were serious offenders. In addition, child offenders were significantly more likely to be serious offenders, while non-child offenders were significantly less likely to be serious offenders ( $\chi^2= 95.694$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>92</sup>.

**Table 103: Percentage of Child Offenders and Non-Child Offenders Who Were Serious Offenders: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate	Number of Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate	Number of Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate	Number of Serious Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate
<b>Child Offenders</b>	57	377	15%	94	519	18%	85	553	15%	236	1,449	16%
<b>Non-Child Offenders</b>	1,029	18,495	6%	932	18,108	5%	1,016	17,886	6%	2,977	54,489	5%
<b>Total</b>	1,086	18,872		1,026	18,627		1,101	18,439		3,213	55,938	

<sup>92</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

*Violent Offender Careers*

Similarly, approximately 17% (N= 240) of juveniles identified as child offenders were violent offenders, while only 5% (N= 2,960) of non-child offenders were violent offenders (See Table 104). In addition, child offenders were significantly more likely to be violent offenders, while non-child offenders were significantly less likely to be violent offenders ( $\chi^2= 99.275$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>93</sup>.

**Table 104: Percentage of Child Offenders and Non-Child Offenders Who Were Violent Offenders: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate	Number of Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate	Number of Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate	Number of Violent Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate
<b>Child Offenders</b>	63	377	17%	84	519	16%	93	553	17%	240	1,449	17%
<b>Non-Child Offenders</b>	1,004	18,495	5%	889	18,108	5%	1,067	17,886	6%	2,960	54,489	5%
<b>Total</b>	1,067	18,872		973	18,627		1,160	18,439		3,200	55,938	

<sup>93</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

### Chronic Offender Careers

In addition, approximately 37% (N= 536) of juveniles with cases closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 who were child offenders were also chronic offenders, while only 13% (N= 7,064) of non-child offenders were chronic offenders (Refer to Table 105). In addition, child offenders were significantly more likely to be chronic offenders, while non-child offenders were significantly less likely to be chronic offenders ( $\chi^2= 301.204$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>94</sup>.

**Table 105: Percentage of Child Offenders and Non-Child Offenders Who Were Chronic Offenders: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009**

	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate	Number of Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate	Number of Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate	Number of Chronic Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate
<b>Child Offenders</b>	116	377	31%	214	519	41%	206	553	37%	536	1,449	37%
<b>Non-Child Offenders</b>	2,492	18,495	13%	2,199	18,108	12%	2,373	17,886	13%	7,064	54,489	13%
<b>Total</b>	2,608	18,872		2,413	18,627		2,579	18,439		7,600	55,938	

<sup>94</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

*Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offender Careers*

Finally, child offenders were more likely than non-child offenders to be serious, violent, and chronic offenders. As shown in Table 106, across the three years examined, 2% (N= 31) of juveniles who were identified as child offenders were also serious, violent, and chronic offenders. Only 0.3% (N=169) of non-child offenders were serious, violent, and chronic offenders, and non-child offenders were significantly less likely than child offenders to be serious, violent, and chronic offenders ( $\chi^2= 13.466$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>95</sup>.

<b>Table 106: Percentage of Child Offenders and Non-Child Offenders Who Were SVC Offenders: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>												
	<b>2007</b>			<b>2008</b>			<b>2009</b>			<b>Three-Year Total</b>		
	Number of SVC Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate	Number of SVC Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate	Number of SVC Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate	Number of SVC Offenders	Total Number of Juveniles in Population	Rate
<b>Child Offenders</b>	7	377	2%	9	519	2%	15	553	3%	31	1,449	2%
<b>Non-Child Offenders</b>	70	18,495	0.4%	40	18,108	0.2%	59	17,886	0%	169	54,489	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	77	18,872		49	18,627		74	18,439		200	55,938	

<sup>95</sup> The Chi-Square Test of Independence was used to test for a statistically significant relationship between these variables. For more information on this test, please see Appendix H.

## Limitations of Study

---

As detailed earlier, it is critically important to note that expunged cases create a significant limitation to this study. In Pennsylvania, when a case is expunged, all of a juvenile's identifying information pertaining to that case is "erased" and is therefore not available for analysis. Consequently, juveniles with a case expungement from 2007, 2008, or 2009 were omitted from the study's sample, unless they had a separate case closed that was not expunged.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine how a particular county's recidivism rate was affected by the number of expungements for a variety of reasons, including that the unit of measurement for the recidivism study was a *juvenile*, while the unit of measurement for an expungement was a *case* (one juvenile may have had several cases expunged).

Arguably, juveniles whose cases are expunged are presumed to be individuals who are considered to be at lower risk to recidivate (i.e., first-time, relatively minor offenders). However, since no risk assessment instruments (e.g., the Youth Level of Service) were being utilized in Pennsylvania prior to 2009, there is no way to determine the actual risk to recidivate of juveniles with case closures in 2007, 2008, or 2009<sup>96</sup>. In general, counties that expunged significant numbers of cases had higher recidivism rates than their counterparts. A possible explanation for this result is that a significant number of lower risk youth were removed from the research sample in these jurisdictions.

Moreover, these recidivism rates do not take into account the specific treatment and services that were provided to juveniles while under supervision. Readers are cautioned, therefore, to make no comparisons between counties due to varying juvenile court policies and practices, including those relating to expungement. Rather, it is our goal to measure whether recidivism rates within each county decline as evidence-based practices are implemented.

An additional limitation of this study involved a methodological issue. Since only Pennsylvania-based case management systems were queried for recidivating events, re-offending that occurred in other states or jurisdictions was not captured in the analysis. Other states that have conducted similar recidivism analyses, however, have only used case management systems unique to their state, so this is a common limitation to recidivism research.

Finally, the recidivism rates of the specific facilities in Section 5 do not take into account the provision or quality of post-placement supervision and services, the risk levels of juveniles who had received services at each facility, or the impact of case expungements for juveniles who may have been placed at these facilities. Finally, a number of agencies offer a variety of treatment services and may offer these services at multiple locations. The recidivism rates presented in Section 5 cannot be broken down by specific treatment programs within these agencies or by specific program sites.

---

<sup>96</sup> The Youth Level of Service (YLS) is used to determine a juvenile's risk to recidivate, strengths, and criminogenic needs by evaluating his or her responses to several domain areas (e.g., prior and current offenses, education, substance abuse, family, personality/behavior, peers, leisure/recreation, and attitudes/orientation). Based on the results of the YLS, probation officers can then develop a case plan that targets specific areas of risk and need unique to each juvenile.



## Implications for Future Research

---

Though a significant amount of information was ascertained from this research, there are several ways in which this knowledge base could be expanded in future studies. As with any research project, only data that is collected can be analyzed and, in this instance, data analysis was limited to what was available in the PaJCMS and the AOPC's case management systems. Several areas that were highlighted in the literature as being significant predictors of recidivism were not reliably obtainable in any of the case management systems utilized for this study. These variables included participation in in-home services, involvement with the child welfare system<sup>97</sup> and involvement with gangs<sup>98</sup>. The systematic collection and analysis of these data elements would enhance future recidivism studies.

In addition, there are several pieces of data that have been historically collected at the time of case closure that would assist in predicting future re-offending. These data elements include violations of probation, the commission of new offenses while under probation supervision, employment and educational status, and the unsuccessful completion of programs or dispositions. In 2007, 2008, and 2009, some counties reported these data elements in the PaJCMS, while others submitted hard copies of these figures to the CJJT&R. As such, this information was incomplete in the PaJCMS. The PaJCMS currently has the capacity to collect all of this data, though not all counties utilize it. The systematic collection and analysis of these data elements would enhance future recidivism studies.

Finally, as part of Pennsylvania's JJSES, 65 of 67 counties<sup>99</sup> have been trained to use the Youth Level of Service (YLS). This tool is used to determine a juvenile's risk to recidivate, strengths, and criminogenic needs by evaluating his or her responses to several domain areas. As a condition of participation in the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's FY'13-'14 Grant-in-Aid Program, a strategy to implement the YLS will be required. The PaJCMS has begun tracking the YLS scores of juveniles who were administered the instrument and, in the future, analyses will be conducted on the association between youths' overall YLS risk categorization and their recidivism rates. Furthermore, in addition to capturing risk scores, the PaJCMS also captures data related to the specific domains of the YLS that are known to be strong predictors of recidivism but are currently missing from the case management system. These domains include substance abuse, family, personality/behavior, peers, leisure/recreation, and attitudes/orientation. The other two domains of the YLS, prior and current offenses and education, are already available in the PaJCMS. Future studies will also include analyses of the relationship between these domains and recidivism rates.

---

<sup>97</sup> The PaJCMS has the capability to capture involvement with the child welfare system, though this function is not utilized consistently across the state.

<sup>98</sup> The PaJCMS has recently begun collecting gang affiliation information. This data was not available for 2007, 2008, and 2009 case closures, however.

<sup>99</sup> Elk and Monroe Counties were not trained on the use of YLS.

## Appendix A: County and Statewide Recidivism Rates Using an Alternative Definition of Recidivism

Inquiries were made about how recidivism rates would be impacted if the definition of recidivism was expanded, specifically to include particular instances which did not involve a judicial adjudication or determination of guilt. The following are recidivism rates using an alternative definition of recidivism in which: 1.) *dismissed, not substantiated* was included as a valid disposition, thereby including juveniles with this disposition in the base sample of youth analyzed, and 2.) *consent decrees* and *accelerated rehabilitative dispositions (ARDs)* were valid recidivating events, thus increasing the possibility of recidivism. As illustrated below, using this alternative definition of recidivism increased recidivism rates by only 2%.

**\*\*Please refer to page 8 for a detailed discussion on the impact that expunged cases have on calculating recidivism rates.\*\***

**Alternative County and Statewide Recidivism Rates for Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009:  
Rates with *Dismissed Not Substantiated, Consent Decrees, and  
Accelerated Rehabilitative Dispositions (ARDs)* Included**

County	Actual Recidivism Rate	Alternative Recidivism Rate	Alternative Number of Juveniles Who Had Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009	3-Year Number of Recidivists by Alternative Definition	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>x</sup>
Adams	25%	27%	706	189	30
Allegheny	24%	27%	5,498	1,466	844
Armstrong	18%	20%	371	74	2
Beaver	17%	22%	941	206	5
Bedford	17%	19%	211	40	0
Berks	21%	25%	2,551	630	276
Blair	16%	18%	327	59	280
Bradford	19%	20%	161	33	10
Bucks	20%	20%	2,436	496	514
Butler	16%	18%	474	83	167
Cambria	19%	21%	971	203	27
Cameron	19%	19%	26	5	N/A**
Carbon	14%	17%	318	54	2
Centre	17%	18%	205	36	28
Chester	19%	20%	1,947	384	N/A**
Clarion	27%	31%	121	38	39
Clearfield	20%	20%	171	34	0
Clinton	23%	22%	89	20	19
Columbia	16%	17%	225	39	9
Crawford	20%	22%	386	83	7
Cumberland	28%	31%	302	95	1,493
Dauphin	24%	26%	2,983	790	54
Delaware	21%	22%	817	176	N/A**
Elk	26%	28%	101	28	16
Erie	22%	24%	2,221	537	17
Fayette	15%	23%	795	179	10
Forest	14%	21%	24	5	14

County	Actual Recidivism Rate	Alternative Recidivism Rate	Alternative Number of Juveniles Who Had Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009	3-Year Number of Recidivists by Alternative Definition	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>x</sup>
Franklin	22%	26%	992	253	52
Fulton	9%	16%	44	7	1
Greene	12%	15%	100	15	216
Huntingdon	18%	21%	160	34	1
Indiana	14%	18%	209	38	34
Jefferson	23%	25%	173	44	175
Juniata	33%	31%	42	13	31
Lackawanna	23%	25%	659	167	342
Lancaster	24%	24%	1,259	304	20
Lawrence	17%	21%	487	101	11
Lebanon	27%	27%	792	214	0
Lehigh	12%	14%	2,872	416	73
Luzerne	18%	21%	1,592	331	636
Lycoming	28%	31%	945	293	108
McKean	25%	25%	146	36	135
Mercer	17%	19%	448	83	0
Mifflin	30%	30%	183	55	31
Monroe	12%	13%	798	106	8
Montgomery	23%	26%	3,078	807	212
Montour	24%	24%	71	17	2
Northampton	17%	20%	1,507	295	25
Northumberland	23%	26%	480	124	65
Perry	23%	25%	204	50	62
Philadelphia	30%	30%	8,515	2,590	480
Pike	13%	14%	254	35	5
Potter	11%	12%	102	12	1
Schuylkill	15%	16%	797	131	15
Snyder	27%	28%	162	46	2
Somerset	10%	12%	279	34	22
Sullivan	6%	13%	16	2	0
Susquehanna	19%	20%	161	33	5
Tioga	19%	21%	210	44	18
Union	26%	27%	85	23	28
Venango	14%	15%	258	39	61
Warren	18%	19%	215	41	11
Washington	24%	26%	919	240	16
Wayne	16%	16%	224	36	4
Westmoreland	16%	19%	1,839	350	145
Wyoming	18%	21%	177	37	9
York	25%	27%	2,996	800	321
<b>Total:</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>59,828</b>	<b>14,278</b>	<b>7,284</b>

<sup>x</sup>This figure represents the number of cases that were closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 and subsequently expunged. One juvenile may have had multiple expunged cases. Expunged cases are not included in recidivism rates.

N/A\*\*: The total number of expunged cases in Cameron, Chester, and Delaware Counties is unavailable.

**Appendix B: Itemized List of Offenses Used for Analysis of Offense-Specific Recidivism Rates**

<b>Itemized List of Offenses Used for Analysis of Offense-Specific Recidivism Rates</b>	
<b>Offense Category</b>	<b>List Of Offenses Included</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	Aggravated Assault
<b>Arson</b>	Arson: Attempt
	Arson : Conspiracy
	Arson And Related Offenses
<b>Burglary</b>	Burglary
	Burglary: Attempt
	Burglary: Conspiracy
<b>Criminal Mischief</b>	Criminal Mischief
<b>Criminal Trespass</b>	Criminal Trespass
<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	Disorderly Conduct
<b>DUI</b>	DUI
<b>Firearm-Related Offenses</b>	Firearm: Delivery And Loaded
	Loaded Firearm In Philadelphia
	Firearms Carried Without A License
	Sale And Use Of Air Rifles
	Sale Or Transfer Of Firearms
	Unlawful Possession, Use, Or Sale Of Firearms
<b>Harassment/Stalking</b>	Harassment/Stalking
	Harassment/Stalking By Communication
<b>Indecent Assault</b>	Indecent Assault
<b>Institutional Vandalism</b>	Institutional Vandalism
<b>Non-Payment Of Fines</b>	Non-Payment Of Fines
<b>Possession And Use Of Drug Paraphernalia</b>	Drug Paraphernalia
	Use/Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia

<b>Offense Category</b>	<b>List Of Offenses Included</b>
<b>Possession Of Drugs</b>	Drug Possession/Use Of: Amphetamines, Barbituates, Cocaine, Heroin, Marijuana, Other Hallucinogens, And Other Prohibited Drugs
	Possession Of: Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroine, Other Schedule I & II Drugs, Other Schedule V Drug
	Possession Of A Controlled Substance
	Purchase Of A Controlled Substance By An Unauthorized Person
<b>Possession With Intent To Deliver To Drugs</b>	Drug Distribution Of: Heroin/Methadone, Cocaine, Marijuana, And Other Prohibited Drugs
	Drug Possession/Delivery Of: Amphetamines, Barbituates, Cocaine, Heroin/Methadone, Marijuana, Other Hallucinogens, And Other Schedule I & II Drugs
	Drug Sales Of: Amphetamines, Cocaine, Marijuana, Other Prohibited Drugs, Other Schedule I & II Drugs
	Manufacture/Deliver/Possession With Intent To Deliver: Cocaine, Designer Drugs, Marijuana, Other Schedule V Drugs
	Possession With Intent To Deliver: Controlled Substance, Marijuana
<b>Recklessly Endangering Another Person</b>	Recklessly Endangering Another Person
<b>Retail Theft</b>	Retail Theft (Misdemeanor or Felony only)
<b>Robbery</b>	Robbery
	Robbery Of Motor Vehicle
	Robbery: Conspiracy
<b>Simple Assault</b>	Simple Assault
<b>Terroristic Threats</b>	Terroristic Threats

Offense Category	List Of Offenses Included
<b>Theft Offenses</b>	Theft
	Theft : Attempt
	Theft : Conspiracy
	Theft By Deception
	Theft By Extortion
	Theft By Receiving Stolen Property
	Theft From Motor Vehicle
	Theft Of Leased Property
	Theft Of Lost Or Mislaid Property
	Theft Of Services
<b>Unauthorized Use Of Motor Vehicle</b>	Unauthorized Use Of Motor Vehicle
<b>Weapon On School Property</b>	Weapon On School Property

**Appendix C: Recidivism Rate by Private Service Provider: All Placement Experiences in Juveniles's History**

Recidivism Rate by Private Service Provider: All Placement Experiences In Juvenile's History: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009												
Facility Name	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles	Recidivism Rate
<b>Abraxas Foundation</b>	188	473	40%	275	628	44%	279	697	40%	742	1,798	41%
<b>Act I</b>	12	37	32%	10	41	24%	14	40	35%	36	118	31%
<b>Act II</b>	25	51	49%	27	51	53%	43	86	50%	95	188	51%
<b>Adelphoi Village</b>	48	169	28%	67	222	30%	90	255	35%	205	646	32%
<b>Alternative Rehabilitation Communities</b>	42	109	39%	60	148	41%	85	180	47%	187	437	43%
<b>Appalachian Youth Services</b>	0	13	0%	2	14	14%	9	21	43%	11	48	23%
<b>Auberle Home (Boys)</b>	23	59	39%	32	62	52%	42	75	56%	97	196	49%
<b>Bethesda Children's Home</b>	8	24	33%	8	23	35%	11	29	38%	27	76	36%
<b>CICTP (Perseus House Program-Erie)</b>	27	73	37%	29	66	44%	22	64	34%	78	203	38%
<b>Clearbrook Lodge</b>	25	73	34%	10	59	17%	37	99	37%	72	231	31%
<b>Clearvision Female Residential Program</b>	4	17	24%	3	18	17%	6	38	16%	13	73	18%
<b>Community Service Foundation</b>	38	117	32%	41	114	36%	47	122	39%	126	353	36%
<b>Concern</b>	29	67	43%	39	72	54%	41	82	50%	109	221	49%
<b>Diakon</b>	5	18	28%	30	58	52%	46	121	38%	81	197	41%
<b>Gateway Rehab Center</b>	11	34	32%	25	49	51%	14	29	48%	50	112	45%
<b>George Jr. Republic</b>	100	261	38%	153	333	46%	192	393	49%	445	987	45%
<b>Glen Mills Schools</b>	115	281	41%	160	352	45%	211	449	47%	486	1,082	45%
<b>Harborcreek School For Boys</b>	29	86	34%	36	90	40%	32	76	42%	97	252	38%
<b>Hermitage House</b>	9	34	26%	14	58	24%	18	66	27%	41	158	26%
<b>Impact Project</b>	8	22	36%	9	22	41%	9	28	32%	26	72	36%
<b>Keystone Adolescent</b>	19	45	42%	20	50	40%	25	65	38%	64	160	40%
<b>Kid's Peace</b>	3	29	10%	9	37	24%	12	41	29%	24	107	22%
<b>Laurel Youth Services</b>	9	33	27%	6	31	19%	16	57	28%	31	121	26%
<b>Luzerne County Residential Child Care-Secure</b>	6	20	30%	8	23	35%	13	31	42%	27	74	36%

**Recidivism Rate by Private Service Provider: All Placement Experiences In Juvenile's History:  
Juvenciles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 (Continued)**

Facility Name	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Total Number of Juvenciles	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juvenciles	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juvenciles	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juvenciles	Recidivism Rate
<b>Manos</b>	32	71	45%	22	53	42%	30	68	44%	84	192	44%
<b>Mars Home For Youth</b>	1	19	5%	7	34	21%	5	26	19%	13	79	16%
<b>Mid-Atlantic Youth Services/West PA Child Care</b>	3	16	19%	4	22	18%	14	50	28%	21	88	24%
<b>New Life Youth Services</b>	17	34	50%	18	39	46%	37	53	70%	72	126	57%
<b>Northampton County Juvenile Justice Center</b>	9	38	24%	18	44	41%	18	48	38%	45	130	35%
<b>Northwestern</b>	147	352	42%	165	408	40%	212	520	41%	524	1,280	41%
<b>Outside/In Program</b>	21	40	53%	20	38	53%	32	64	50%	73	142	51%
<b>Paradise School</b>	11	27	41%	15	29	52%	25	41	61%	51	97	53%
<b>Pathways Adolescent Center</b>	9	20	45%	8	31	26%	7	27	26%	24	78	31%
<b>Perseus House</b>	14	44	32%	19	62	31%	17	62	27%	50	168	30%
<b>Priorities Responsibility Enhancement Program</b>	21	52	40%	45	87	52%	52	108	48%	118	247	48%
<b>Pyramid Healthcare</b>	16	49	33%	20	62	32%	32	88	36%	68	199	34%
<b>St. Gabriel's Hall System</b>	20	51	39%	49	122	40%	52	122	43%	121	295	41%
<b>St. Michael's School For Boys</b>	10	31	32%	9	32	28%	18	43	42%	37	106	35%
<b>Summit Academy</b>	58	163	36%	139	266	52%	164	312	53%	361	741	49%
<b>Susquehanna House</b>	15	25	60%	9	25	36%	18	43	42%	42	93	45%
<b>Today, Inc.</b>	36	89	40%	43	112	38%	64	144	44%	143	345	41%
<b>Tressler Lutheran Services Associates, Inc.</b>	21	67	31%	15	47	32%	16	36	44%	52	150	35%
<b>Vision Quest, Inc.</b>	172	502	34%	215	544	40%	193	458	42%	580	1,504	39%
<b>White Deer Run</b>	8	19	42%	6	13	46%	6	12	50%	20	44	45%
<b>Youth Services, Inc.</b>	134	423	32%	183	503	36%	171	472	36%	488	1,398	35%



## Appendix D: Recidivism Rate by Private Service Provider: Most Recent Placement Only

Recidivism Rate by Private Service Provider: Most Recent Placement Only: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009												
Facility Name	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juveniles	Recidivism Rate
<b>Abraxas Foundation</b>	91	332	27%	150	391	38%	88	402	22%	329	1125	29%
<b>Act I</b>	5	26	19%	7	28	25%	8	23	35%	20	77	26%
<b>Act II</b>	9	41	22%	15	34	44%	21	53	40%	45	128	35%
<b>Adelphoi Village</b>	12	99	12%	24	102	24%	21	129	16%	57	330	17%
<b>Alternative Rehabilitation Communities</b>	22	77	29%	22	64	34%	27	85	32%	71	226	31%
<b>Appalachian Youth Services</b>	2	10	20%		12	0%	1	15	7%	3	37	8%
<b>Auberle Home (Boys)</b>	4	18	22%	7	23	30%	19	40	48%	30	81	37%
<b>Bethesda Children's Home</b>	4	14	29%	2	10	20%	4	14	29%	10	38	26%
<b>CICTP (Perseus House Program-Erie)</b>	8	23	35%	9	22	41%	6	26	23%	23	71	32%
<b>Clearbrook Lodge</b>	10	47	21%	5	31	16%	11	51	22%	26	129	20%
<b>Clearvision Female Residential Program</b>		13	0%	2	11	18%	3	19	16%	5	43	12%
<b>Community Service Foundation</b>	15	62	24%	15	47	32%	10	50	20%	40	159	25%
<b>Concern</b>	16	41	39%	20	38	53%	16	48	33%	52	127	41%
<b>Diakon</b>	4	13	31%	16	41	39%	17	73	23%	37	127	29%
<b>Gateway Rehab Center</b>	7	24	29%	12	23	52%	4	15	27%	23	62	37%
<b>George Jr. Republic</b>	29	141	21%	41	142	29%	40	170	24%	110	453	24%
<b>Glen Mills Schools</b>	64	227	28%	92	267	34%	82	306	27%	238	800	30%
<b>Harborcreek School For Boys</b>	13	38	34%	5	26	19%	11	26	42%	29	90	32%
<b>Hermitage House</b>	5	27	19%	8	39	21%	7	45	16%	20	111	18%
<b>Impact Project</b>	1	12	8%	5	11	45%	4	15	27%	10	38	26%
<b>Keystone Adolescent</b>	4	35	11%	14	38	37%	15	38	39%	33	111	30%
<b>Kid's Peace</b>	3	15	20%	4	18	22%	2	12	17%	9	45	20%
<b>Laurel Youth Services</b>	1	14	7%	2	19	11%	3	21	14%	6	54	11%
<b>Luzerne County Residential Child Care-Secure</b>		13	0%	4	14	29%	5	13	38%	9	40	23%
<b>Manos</b>	10	50	20%	14	33	42%	12	40	30%	36	123	29%
<b>Mars Home For Youth</b>		11	0%	1	21	5%		12	0%	1	44	2%
<b>Mid-Atlantic Youth Services/West PA Child Care</b>	2	11	18%	2	10	20%	4	29	14%	8	50	16%
<b>New Life Youth Services</b>	1	14	7%	6	18	33%	4	18	22%	11	50	22%
<b>Northampton County Juvenile Justice Center</b>	5	28	18%	9	30	30%	6	26	23%	20	84	24%

**Recidivism Rate by Private Service Provider: Most Recent Placement Only:  
Juviles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 (Continued)**

Facility Name	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Total Number of Juviles	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juviles	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juviles	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Total Number of Juviles	Recidivism Rate
<b>Northwestern</b>	63	231	27%	89	241	37%	77	268	29%	229	740	31%
<b>Outside/In Program</b>	6	24	25%	14	23	61%	14	40	35%	34	87	39%
<b>Paradise School</b>	6	18	33%	6	17	35%	6	13	46%	18	48	38%
<b>Pathways Adolescent Center</b>	4	16	25%	6	23	26%	4	20	20%	14	59	24%
<b>Perseus House</b>	9	32	28%	10	36	28%	6	28	21%	25	96	26%
<b>Priorities Responsibility Enhancement Program</b>	16	44	36%	37	68	54%	26	76	34%	79	188	42%
<b>Pyramid Healthcare</b>	4	20	20%	12	39	31%	13	53	25%	29	112	26%
<b>St. Gabriel's Hall System</b>	4	39	10%	19	66	29%	15	63	24%	38	168	23%
<b>St. Michael's School For Boys</b>	4	19	21%	1	17	6%	3	21	14%	8	57	14%
<b>Summit Academy</b>	22	93	24%	49	140	35%	56	170	33%	127	403	32%
<b>Susquehanna House</b>	5	17	29%	4	15	27%	6	20	30%	15	52	29%
<b>Today, Inc.</b>	12	56	21%	20	61	33%	19	72	26%	51	189	27%
<b>Tressler Lutheran Services Associates, Inc.</b>	10	35	29%	6	19	32%	7	13	54%	23	67	34%
<b>Vision Quest, Inc.</b>	57	242	24%	72	220	33%	59	201	29%	188	663	28%
<b>Youth Services, Inc.</b>	39	273	14%	77	267	29%	54	249	22%	170	789	22%

**Appendix E: Recidivism Rate by Youth Development Center (YDC)/Youth Forestry Camp (YFC): All Placement Experiences in Juveniles's History**

<b>Recidivism Rate by Youth Development Center (YDC)/Youth Forestry Camp (YFC): All Placement Experiences in Juvenile's History: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009</b>												
Facility Name	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Case Closure	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Case Closure	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Case Closure	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Case Closure	Recidivism Rate
<b>Cresson Secure</b>	15	32	47%	20	41	49%	18	41	44%	53	114	46%
<b>North Central Secure At Danville</b>	11	38	29%	24	44	55%	18	49	37%	53	131	40%
<b>South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit</b>	6	18	33%	13	25	52%	17	32	53%	36	75	48%
<b>YDC Loysville</b>	56	118	47%	78	140	56%	68	132	52%	202	390	52%
<b>YDC New Castle</b>	41	103	40%	68	140	50%	43	105	41%	152	348	44%
<b>YFC #2 (Hickory Run)</b>	36	86	42%	35	76	46%	35	68	51%	106	230	46%
<b>YFC #3 (Trough Creek)</b>	39	96	41%	63	161	39%	52	128	41%	154	385	40%

**Appendix F: Recidivism Rate by Youth Development Center (YDC)/Youth Forestry Camp (YFC): Most Recent Placement Only**

Recidivism Rate by Youth Development Center (YDC)/Youth Forestry Camp (YFC): Most Recent Placement Only: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009												
Facility Name	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Case Closure	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Case Closure	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Case Closure	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Case Closure	Recidivism Rate
Cresson Secure	10	22	45%	14	26	54%	11	23	48%	35	71	49%
North Central Secure At Danville	4	22	18%	13	26	50%	12	35	34%	29	83	35%
South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit	7	14	50%	11	17	65%	8	22	36%	26	53	49%
YDC Loysville	22	78	28%	35	80	44%	20	76	26%	77	234	33%
YDC New Castle	12	62	19%	36	69	53%	13	60	22%	61	191	32%
YFC #2 (Hickory Run)	16	71	23%	28	62	45%	17	46	37%	61	179	34%
YFC #3 (Trough Creek)	13	58	22%	29	94	31%	18	80	23%	60	232	26%

## Appendix G: Definitions of Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offenders

Pennsylvania's Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offense Charge Codes			
Type of Offender	Serious Offenses	Violent Offenses	Chronic Offender
<b>Definition</b>	<p>Juveniles who were ever adjudicated delinquent for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Burglary</b> (18 Pa. C.S. §3502);</li> <li>• <b>Felony Thefts</b> (18 Pa. C.S. §3921-3927);</li> <li>• <b>Arson</b> (18 Pa. C.S. §3301); and</li> <li>• <b>Manufacture/ Deliver/ Possession with Intent to Deliver Drugs</b> (35 Pa. C.S. §780-113A30)</li> </ul>	<p>Juveniles who were ever adjudicated delinquent for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Murder</b> (18 Pa. C.S. §2501, 18 Pa. C.S. §2502);</li> <li>• <b>Non-Negligent Manslaughter</b> (18 Pa. C.S. §2503);</li> <li>• <b>Rape</b> (18 Pa. C.S. §3121);</li> <li>• <b>Robbery</b> (18 Pa. C.S. §3701, 18 Pa. C.S. §3702);</li> <li>• <b>Aggravated Assault</b> (18 Pa. C.S. §2702);</li> <li>• <b>Kidnapping</b> (18 Pa. C.S. §2901); and</li> <li>• <b>Weapons Offenses</b> (excluding weapon on school property; 18 Pa. C.S. §2716, 5122, 6103, 6105, 6106, 6108, 6110, or 6110.1)</li> </ul>	<p>Four or more written allegations for separate incidents that occurred up to the date of the juvenile's case closure</p>

### Snyder's (1998) Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offender Definitions

Type of Offender	Serious Offenders	Violent Offenders	Chronic Offenders
Definition	Juvenile offenders who had a referral for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burglary;</li> <li>• Serious Larceny;</li> <li>• Motor Vehicle Theft;</li> <li>• Arson;</li> <li>• Weapon Offenses; or</li> <li>• Drug Trafficking</li> </ul>	Juvenile offenders who had a referral for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Murder or Non-Negligent Manslaughter;</li> <li>• Kidnapping;</li> <li>• Violent Sexual Assault;</li> <li>• Robbery; or</li> <li>• Aggravated Assault</li> </ul>	Juvenile offenders who had four or more court referrals

### Baglivio's (2012) Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offender Definitions

Type of Offender	Serious Offenders	Violent Offenders	Chronic Offenders
Definition	Juvenile offenders who were adjudicated delinquent or had adjudication withheld for a felony offense	Juvenile offenders who were adjudicated delinquent or had adjudication withheld for a firearm/weapon offense OR an against-person felony	Juvenile offenders who had four or more adjudications of delinquency or adjudications withheld for misdemeanor or felony offenses

## **Appendix H: Measures Used to Test Statistical Significance**

**Chi-Square Test of Independence:** This test is used to determine if there is a statistically significant (not due to chance) relationship or association between two nominal (categorical) variables from a single population (e.g., is there a significant relationship between gender and recidivism?).

**Test of Difference between Proportions:** This test is used to determine if there is statistically significant (not due to chance) difference between two proportions drawn from independent samples (e.g., is the proportion of males aged 10-17 involved with the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system significantly different from the proportion of males aged 10-17 residing in Pennsylvania in a given year?).