



# South Carolina Department of Corrections Data Summary

## Recidivism Rates of SCDC FY 2017 Releases

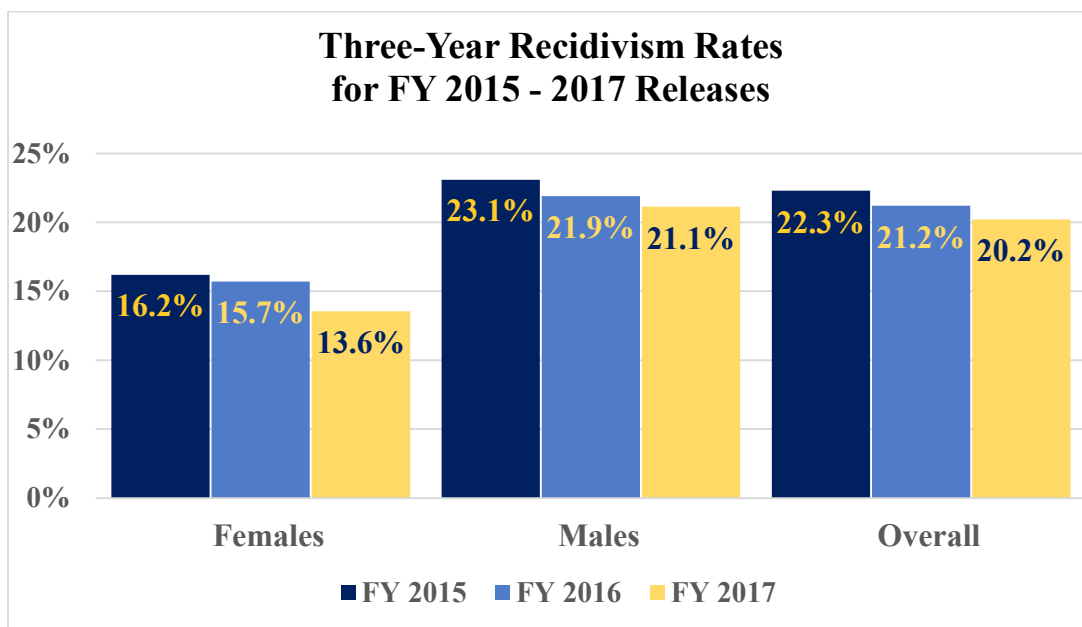
The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) measures recidivism as a return to prison, either for a new conviction or a technical violation of the terms of supervision in the community. Community supervision revocations that do not result in an admission to SCDC are not counted as a recidivist. The jurisdiction of SCDC consists of offenders who have been sentenced to more than 3 months.

An SCDC releasee is considered a "recidivist" when they re-enter SCDC custody within **36 months** of release, but excludes those offenders convicted and returned to prison for a past offense only (an offense that occurred prior to their release). An offender is a releasee when he/she is conditionally released via placement on supervision in the community (probation / parole / community supervision / supervised reentry / intensive supervision) or unconditionally released at the completion of his/her sentence (maxout). Offenders who died, left SCDC for appeals, or whose sentences were remanded are not included in recidivism analysis. Release cohorts are distinguished by the Fiscal Year (FY) during which their release occurred (a fiscal year being July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>). Offenders with multiple releases during the fiscal year are counted once, with the first release during the year being tracked for recidivism.

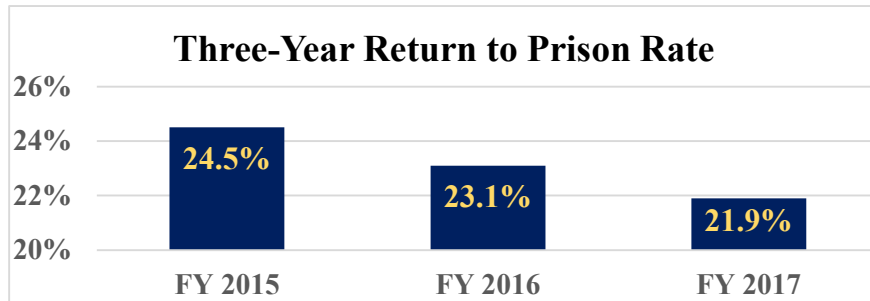
### Overall Recidivism Rate

In FY 2017, there were 9,123 releasees (1,122 females and 8,001 males). Of those releasees, 1,843 (152 females and 1,691 males) recidivated to SCDC within 36 months due to conviction for a crime committed after release and/or supervision revocation for an overall rate of 20.2% (13.6% and 21.1%, respectively).

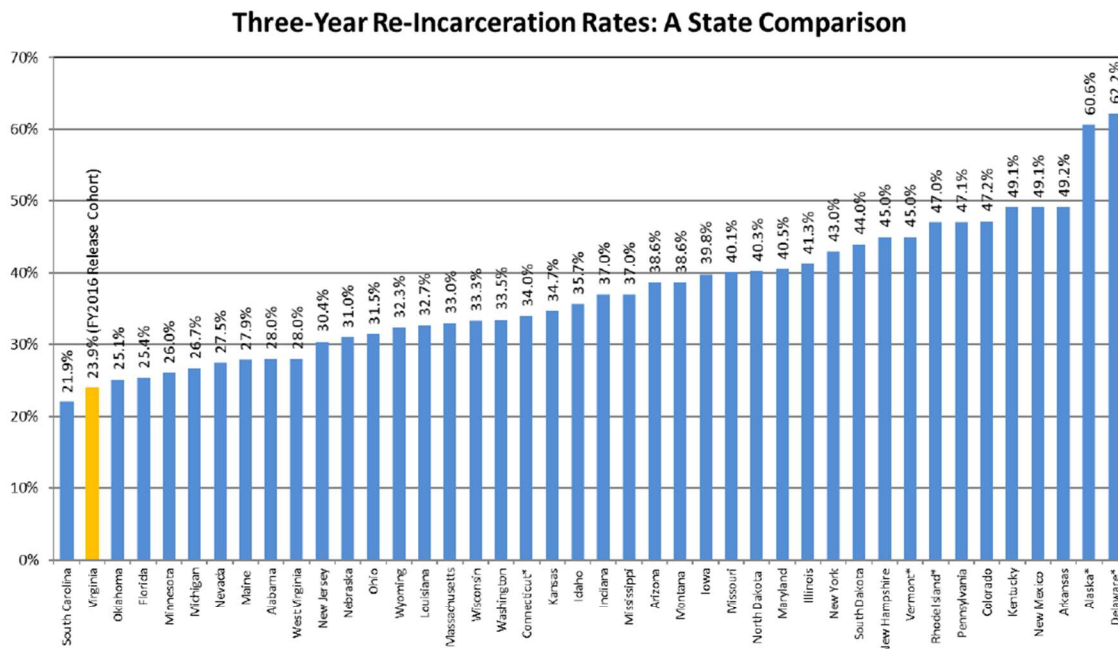
SCDC's recidivism rate has seen a slight yet steady decline in recent years.



In 2016, SCDC modified its recidivism calculation to its current definition from what is now referred to as the total return to prison rate, which includes all releases that return to SCDC within 36 months, including those who return solely for offenses committed prior to their release.



According to a recent study published by the Virginia Department of Corrections, South Carolina has the lowest re-incarceration rate among the 42 states for which three-year re-incarceration rates are publicly available.



† Virginia (VA) waits at least 4 years to compute the 3 year re-incarceration rate to assure all court orders are accounted for. All SR sentences after release are counted as recidivism in VA, including technical violations and sentences for offenses that occurred prior to release. SC computes an additional rate that excludes re-incarcerations for offenses committed prior to the initial incarceration.

\* Unified state, rate includes both state and local responsible inmates

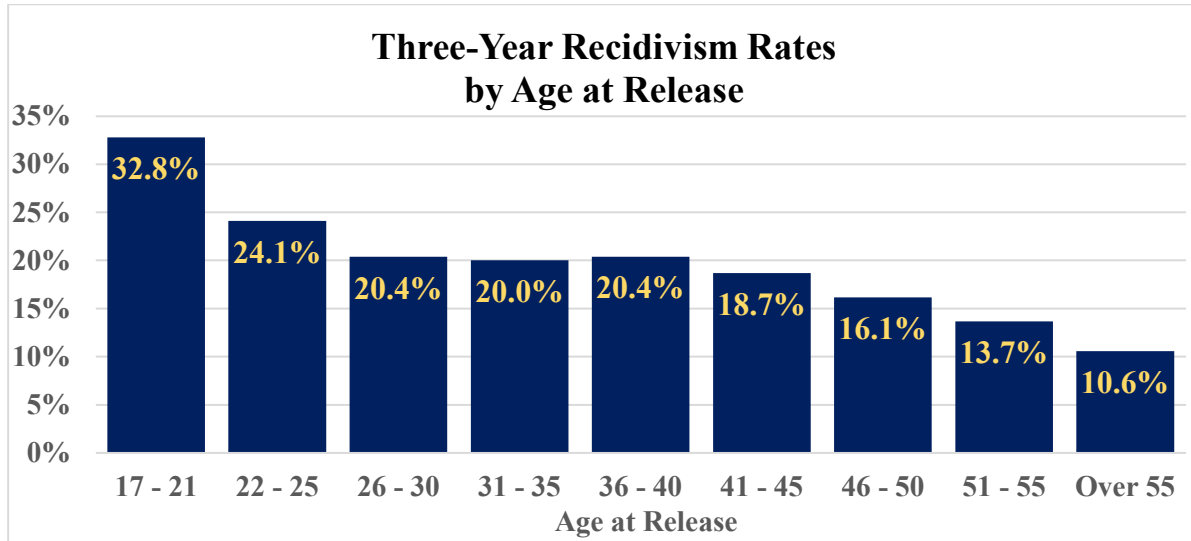
NOTES: Recidivism rates for each state are the most recent three-year re-incarceration rates produced and made publicly available by each state (as of November 30, 2020); please contact each state with any questions about that particular state's recidivism figures; the following states are excluded from this analysis for the reasons given: California's rate excludes parole violations; Georgia only reports re-conviction information; Hawaii only reports re-arrest information; Oregon's rate is based on a six-month release cohort and includes releases from prison and felons released from jails; Tennessee's rate combines re-arrest, re-conviction, and re-incarceration; Texas' rate was calculated separately from seven different populations including both felons and misdemeanants; Utah's rate only includes releases to parole; North Carolina solely produces 2-year follow-up rates.

Source: Virginia Department of Corrections Research-Evaluation Unit  
<https://www.vadoc.virginia.gov/media/1684/vadoc-state-recidivism-comparison-report-2021-04.pdf>

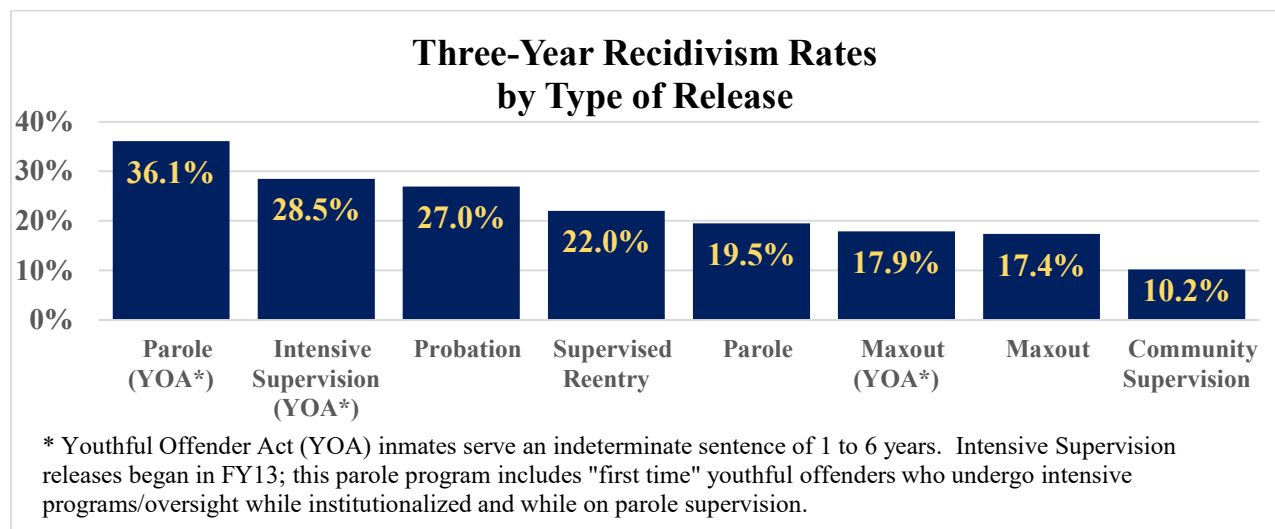
## Recidivism Rates by Offender Groups

Releasees can be grouped by a common factor to analyze recidivism.

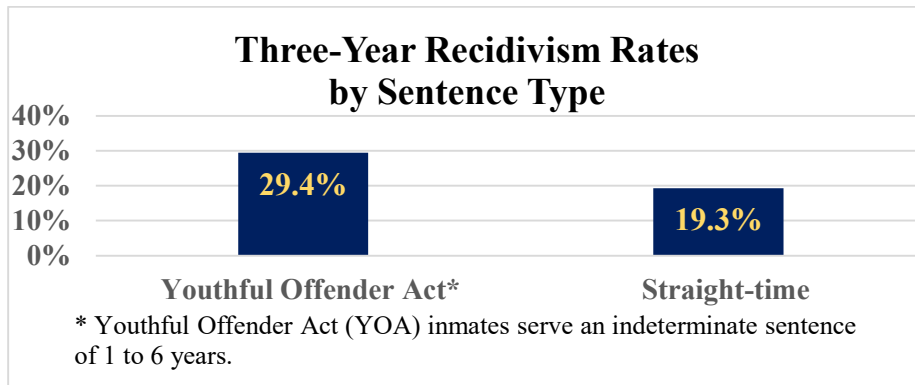
Offenders between age 17 and 21 at time of release are most likely to recidivate; of that group, YOAs recidivated at 36.8% and straight-timers at 26.9%. This age group was significantly higher than other age groups, followed by offenders ages 22 to 25 at a rate of 24.1%.



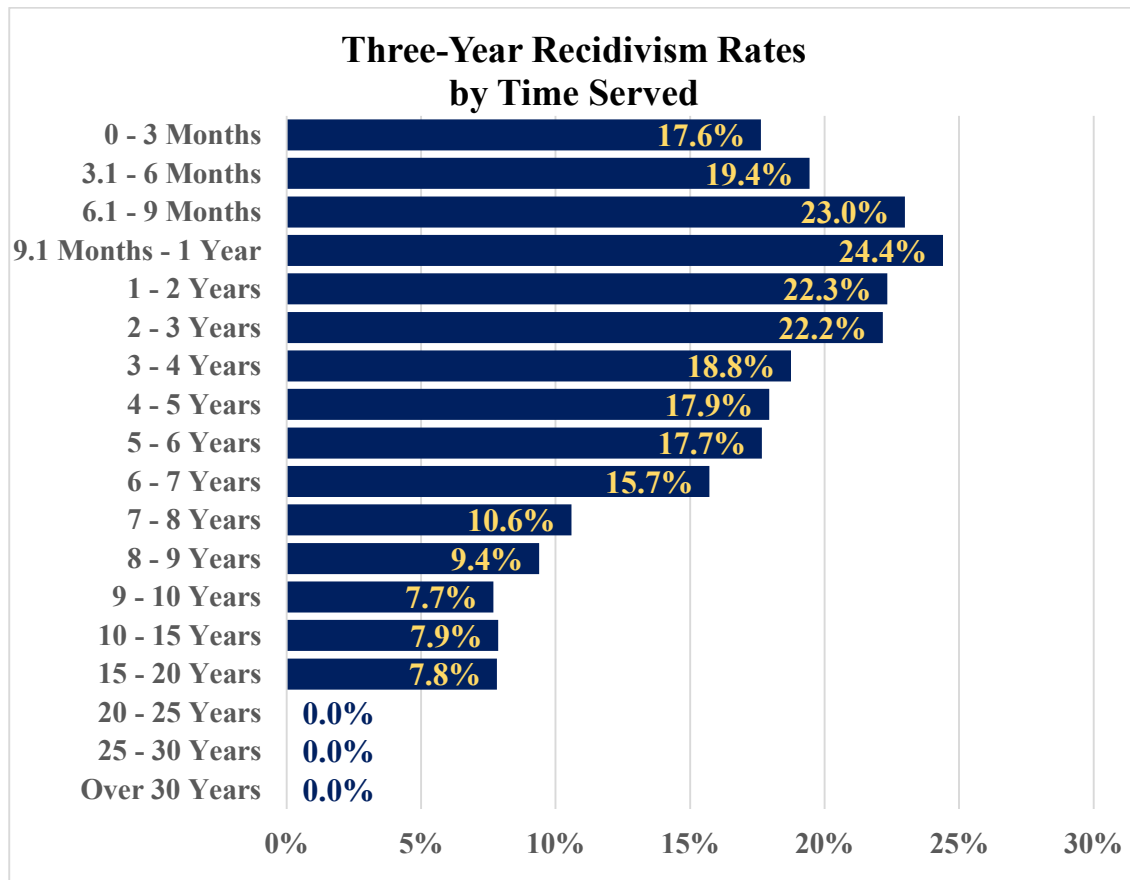
Recidivism rates vary considerably by release type. Offenders convicted of “no parole” offenses and released to community supervision after serving at least 85% of their sentences recidivated at the lowest rate of 10.2%. YOA parolees had the greatest chance of recidivating (36.1%) followed by those released to YOA Intensive Supervision (28.5%). Non-YOA releases with the highest rate of recidivism were those released on probation (27.0%).



While the recidivism rate for inmates sentenced under the Youthful Offender Act (YOA) continues to decline, it remains consistently and significantly higher than straight-timers' rate.

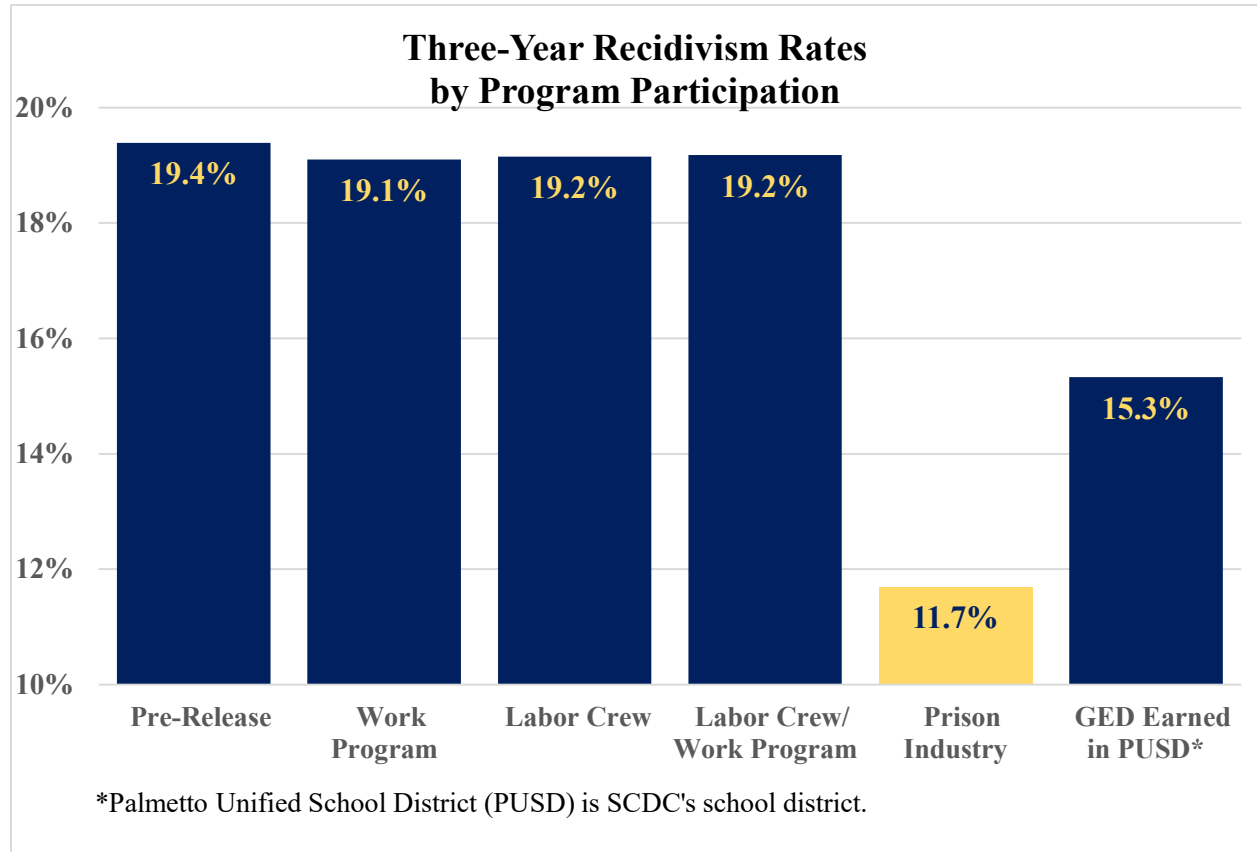


In general, recidivism decreases with longer time served. However, offenders who served 9.1 months to 1 year recidivated at a higher rate (24.4%) than those who served 9 months or less (20.5%).

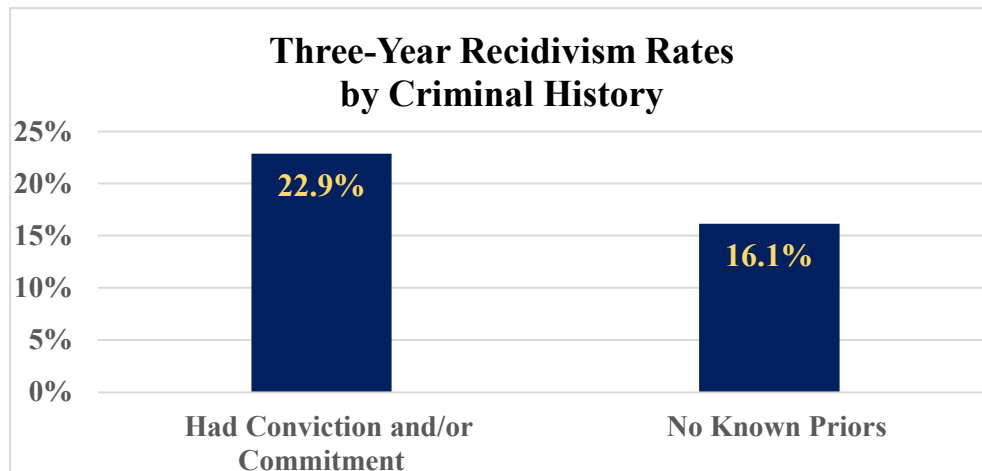


Programming is an integral part of in preparing offenders for re-entry to the community. Offenders who participated in Pre-Release, Work Program, Labor Crew, Prison Industry or GED programming recidivated at a lower rate than SCDC's overall rate of 20.2%. Prison Industry has stood out, year over year, as being vastly lower than other programs.

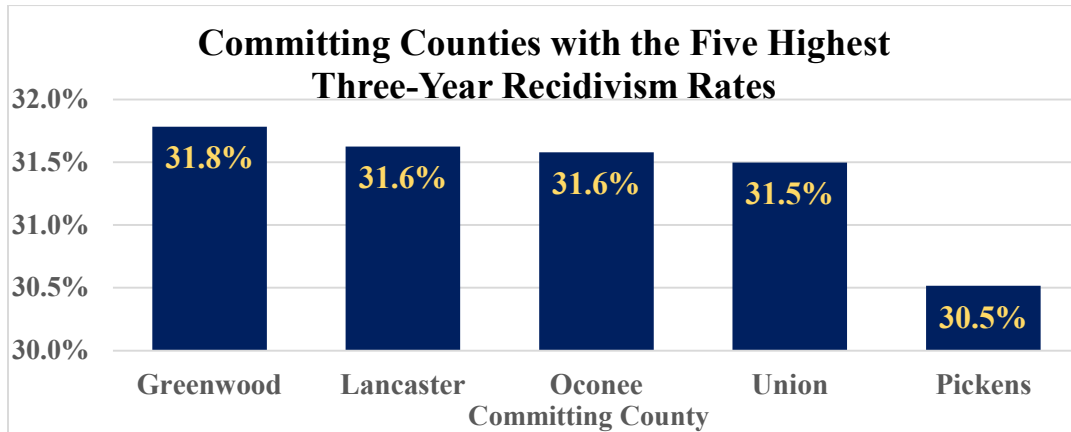
In recent years recidivism for offenders who earned a GED while incarcerated in SCDC has declined, and is now second lowest in this category, behind Prison Industry.



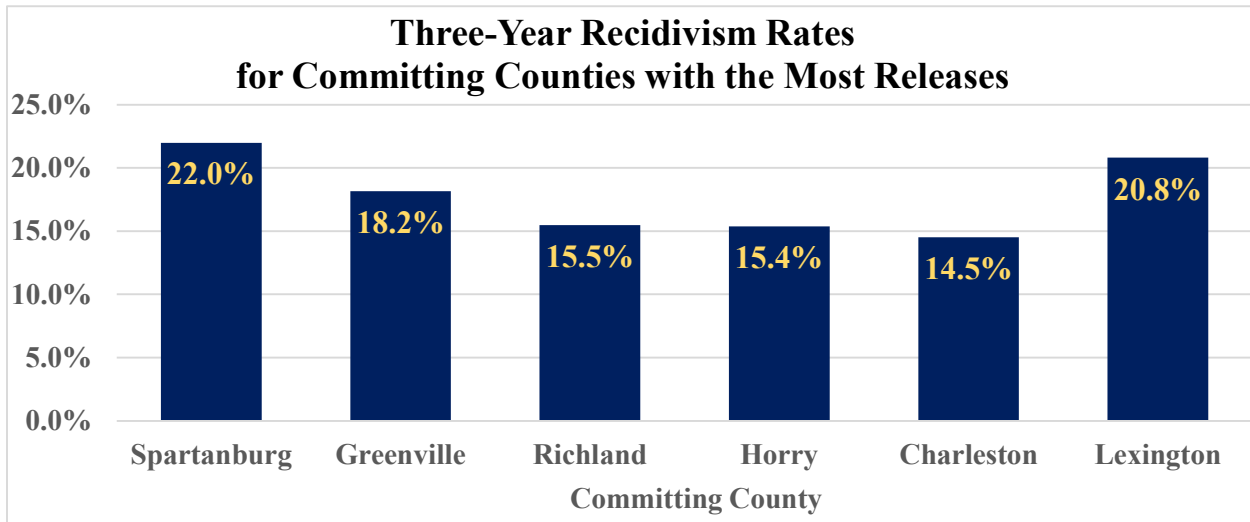
Offenders with prior convictions and/or commitments to SCDC (22.9%) recidivate at a much higher rate than offenders with no known priors (16.1%).



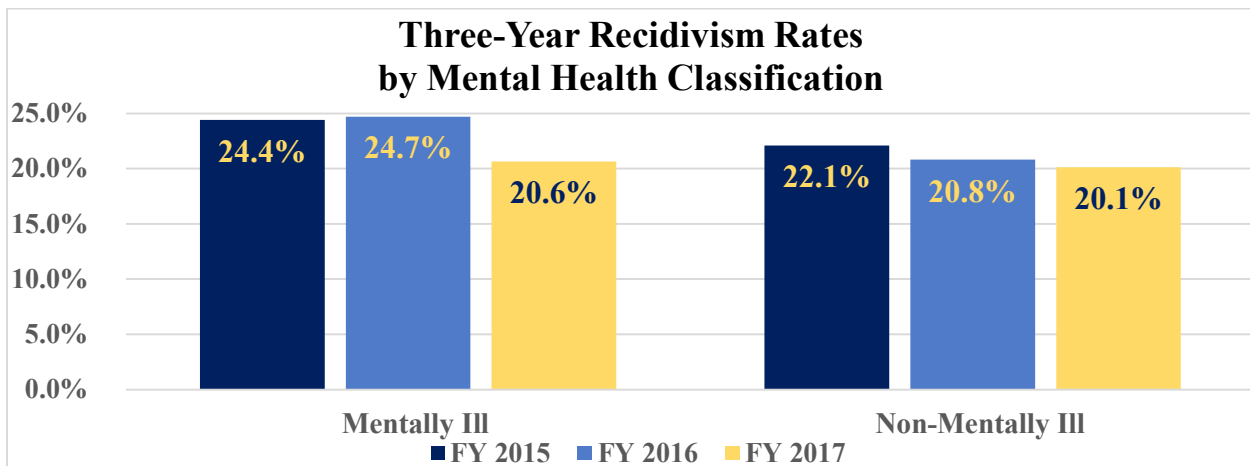
The five counties with the highest recidivism rates are all between 30% and 32%.



The six counties with the highest number of releases have recidivism rates between 14.5% and 22%.



For many years releasees classified as mentally ill at time of release recidivated at a moderately higher rate than those classified as non-mentally ill. However, FY 2017 releasees classified as mentally ill recidivated at a markedly lower rate (20.6%) than those in FY 2016 (24.7%), which is in line with their non-mentally ill counterparts (20.1%).



**Three-Year Recidivism Rates  
by Most Serious Offense (MSO) Category**

<b>MSO Category</b>	<b>Releasees</b>	<b>Recidivism</b>
Dangerous Drugs	1,976	16.85%
Burglary	1,389	24.77%
Larceny	803	27.90%
Assault	792	19.32%
Robbery	631	16.64%
Family Offense	584	18.84%
Traffic Offense	513	14.81%
Weapon Offense	346	20.52%
Fraudulent Activity	309	16.83%
Stolen Vehicle	301	32.56%
Sex Offenses	216	27.78%
Obstructing Police	206	19.42%
Sexual Assault	203	17.24%
Forgery/Counterfeiting	173	21.39%
Homicide	170	2.94%
Kidnapping	88	12.50%
Stolen Property	88	25.00%
Accessory to Felony	65	12.31%
Arson	40	12.50%
Damaged Property	36	27.78%
Flight/Escape	34	29.41%
Criminal Conspiracy	32	18.75%
Invasion	28	28.57%
Property Crime	24	29.17%
Smuggling	23	26.09%
Public Peace	11	9.09%
Conservation	8	0.00%
Crime Against Person	7	28.57%
Possession of Tools	7	42.86%
Obscene Material	5	0.00%
Obstructing Justice	3	33.33%
Commercialized Sex	2	0.00%
Extortion	2	0.00%
Habitual Offender	2	0.00%
Computer Crimes	1	0.00%
Embezzlement	1	0.00%
Gambling	1	0.00%
License Violation	1	0.00%
Misprison to Felony	1	0.00%
Tax Revenue	1	0.00%