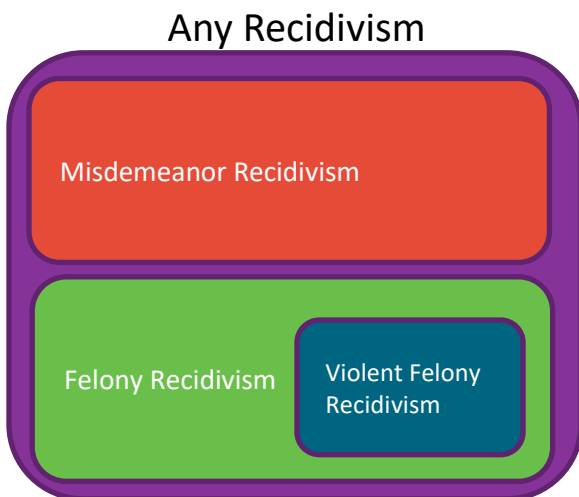


Introduction

One of the goals of the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) is to provide supports and resources to youth so that they can be successful in the community upon their release. One metric to monitor success is recidivism (criminal reoffending). This report provides descriptive information about recidivism rates for youth releasing from JR, broken out by different subpopulations. In addition, analysis of the length of time to recidivism for distinct groups is included.

Figure 1: Relationships Between Types of Recidivism



Methodology

DCYF researchers identified all youth who were released from JR residential facilities in fiscal year 2015 and 2016 in administrative records. They obtained data on all convictions from the Washington State Center for Court Research. Recidivism was defined as an offense that occurred within 18 months of release from a residential facility, which resulted in a conviction or adjudication. An additional 12 months were allowed for the offense to go through the court process, to determine if a conviction would occur. Recidivism types included any recidivism, misdemeanor, felony and violent felony. All clients with any type of recidivism are included in any recidivism in this report. Researchers identified most serious offenses that occurred in the 18-month follow up period to determine the type of recidivism event with the exception that all youth with a violent felony conviction were also included in the felony recidivism count. In this report, clients with only a misdemeanor offense are included in the misdemeanor recidivism, and are not counted in the felony and violent felony recidivism. Felony recidivism counts all felony recidivism, including violent felony recidivism. Youth with a felony could also have a misdemeanor, but are only included in the felony recidivism category (see Figure 1). For the time to recidivism, the offense that occurred first in time was used.



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Findings

Table 1 shows the overall rates of recidivism by gender, race, age at release and whether or not the youth received parole aftercare if released from JR during fiscal year (FY) 2015. The overall recidivism rate was 51%. Of clients who were released in FY2015, there were two statistically significant differences by subgroup. First, male clients were two times more likely than female clients to have a new violent felony conviction. Second, youth of color were also two times more likely than white youth to receive a new violent felony conviction.

Table 1: Demographics and Recidivism for Clients Released in FY2015

	Any Recidivism	Misdemeanor Recidivism	Felony Recidivism	Violent Felony Recidivism	Total Releases
	%	%	%	%	N
Total	51%	17%	35%	19%	611
Gender					
Male	52%	16%	36%	20%*	546
Female	48%	23%	25%	10%*	65
Race					
Youth of Color	53%	15%	38%	25%*	323
White	50%	18%	32%	12%*	287
Age at Release					
Under 18	53%	18%	35%	18%	404
Over 18	48%	14%	34%	20%	207
Parole Status					
Parole	52%	14%	38%	20%	337
No Parole	50%	19%	31%	18%	274

*Indicates a statistically significant relationship between the demographic information and the type of recidivism at the p<.05 level.

Table 2 shows the rates of recidivism overall and by gender, race, age at release, and whether or not they received parole aftercare for clients who were released from a JR residential facility during fiscal year (FY) 2016. The overall recidivism rate was also 51%. Of clients who were released in FY2016, there were 10 statistically significant differences by subgroup. Males were significantly more likely than females to recidivate overall, and more likely to be convicted of a felony or a violent felony. Youth of color were more likely than white youth to be convicted of a crime overall, but also more likely to be convicted of a felony or a violent felony in FY2016. The recidivism rate for youth released under age 18 was about 12% higher than youth who were

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older than 18. Youth who received parole services were more likely to recidivate for a conviction of any offense, a felony or a violent felony. It is important to note that youth who are the highest risk to reoffend are selected for parole.

Table 2: Demographics and Recidivism for Clients Released in FY2016

	Any Recidivism	Misdemeanor Recidivism	Felony Recidivism	Violent Felony Recidivism	Total Releases
	%	%	%	%	N
Total	51%	14%	37%	23%	553
Gender					
Male	53%*	14%	39%*	25%*	487
Female	36%*	18%	18%*	8%*	66
Race					
Youth of Color	58%*	14%	43%*	29%*	316
White	42%*	14%	27%*	14%*	237
Age at Release					
Under 18	55%*	16%	39%	23%	365
Over 18	43%*	10%	32%	21%	188
Parole Status					
Parole	55%*	13%	42%*	28%*	266
No Parole	47%*	16%	31%*	17%*	287

*Indicates a statistically significant relationship between the demographic information and the type of recidivism at the p<.05 level.

There are some common trends across FY2015 and FY2016. Those who are younger, male and youth of color tend to have higher recidivism rates across both years presented. The overall recidivism rate was consistent across the two years, however, the violent felony rate increased slightly in FY2016. DCYF needs to continue tracking these data points in order to identify the changing trends over time.

Time to Recidivism

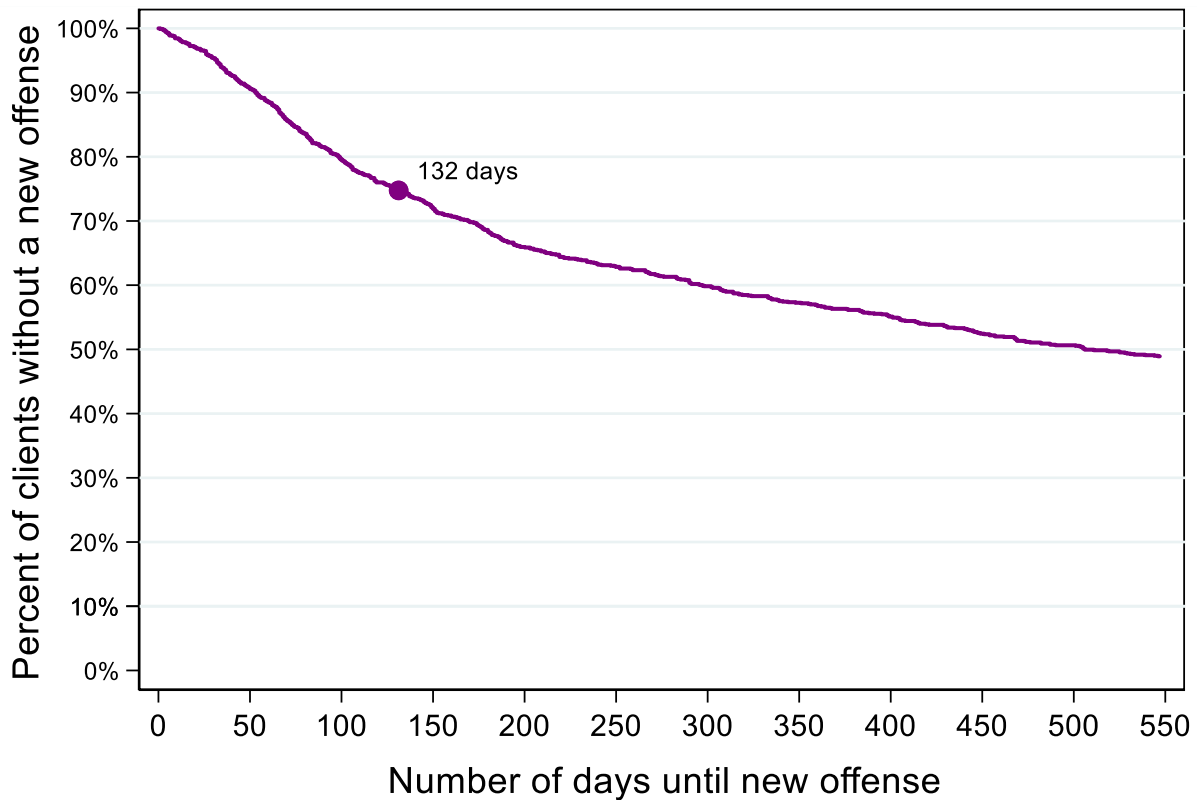
To better understand the recidivism trends, we also examined how long youth were in the community before committing a new offense. This is called “event history analysis.” Figures 2 through 6 show the rate at which youth committed a new offense. The line in these figures

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represents the percent of youth, at each time point, who did not commit a new offense. Specific event history curves are provided for gender, age, race and parole status.

Figure 2 is a line graph which shows the percentage of clients released during FY2015 or FY2016 who did not recidivate (vertical axis) by the number of days after release (horizontal axis). This graph shows that 25% of youth committed a new offense within 132 days post-release (about 4.4 months). The offense rate slowed, until reaching the 51% recidivism rate at 18 months. There were no significant differences between fiscal years in the rate of recidivism over time.

Figure 2: Clients Released During FY15-16 Time to Recidivism



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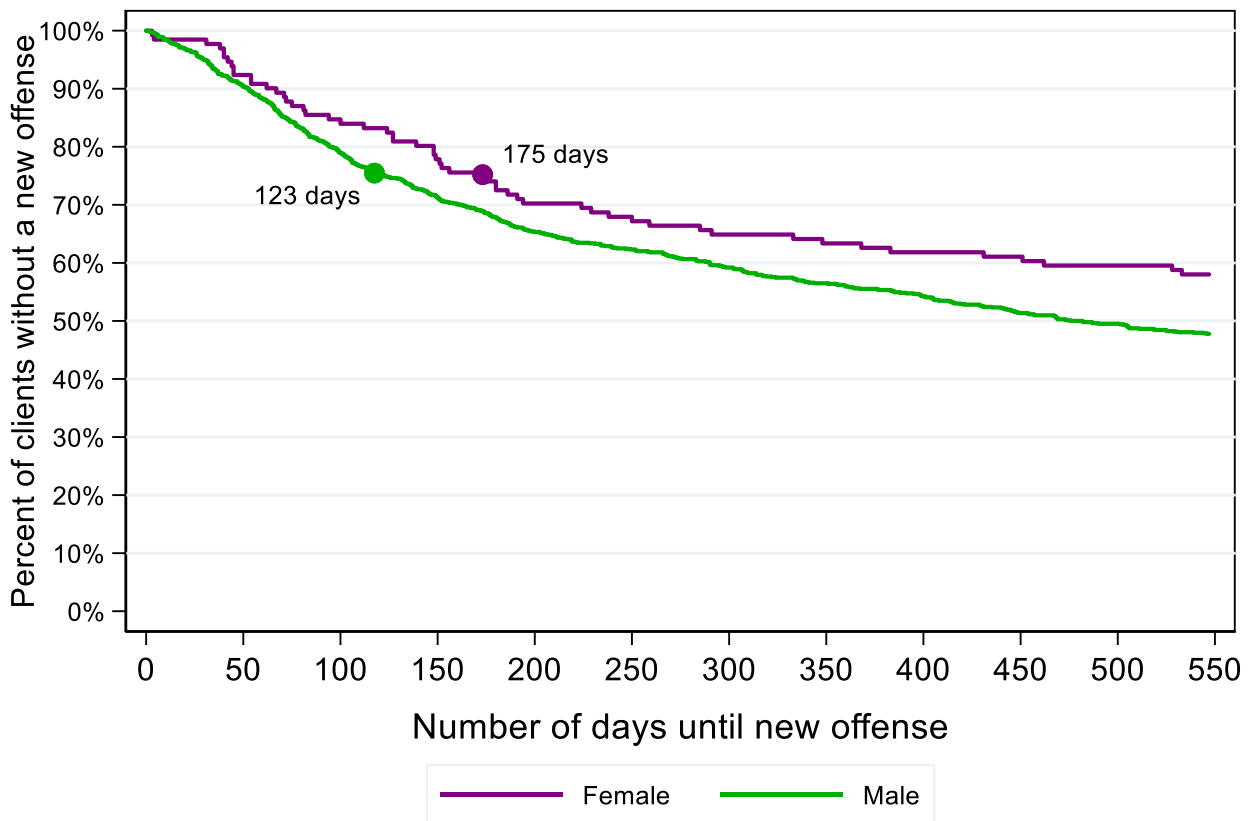
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Figure 3 is a line graph showing the differences in client's time to any recidivism by gender. This graph combines the data from both fiscal years. After 175 days post-release, 25% of female clients had received a new conviction, whereas 25% of male clients committed a new offense after 123 days post-release. There was a statistically significant relationship between clients' time to recidivism and gender, indicating that males recidivate more quickly, as is evident by the divergence of the two lines in Figure 2.

Figure 3: Clients Released During FY15-16 Time to Recidivism by Gender



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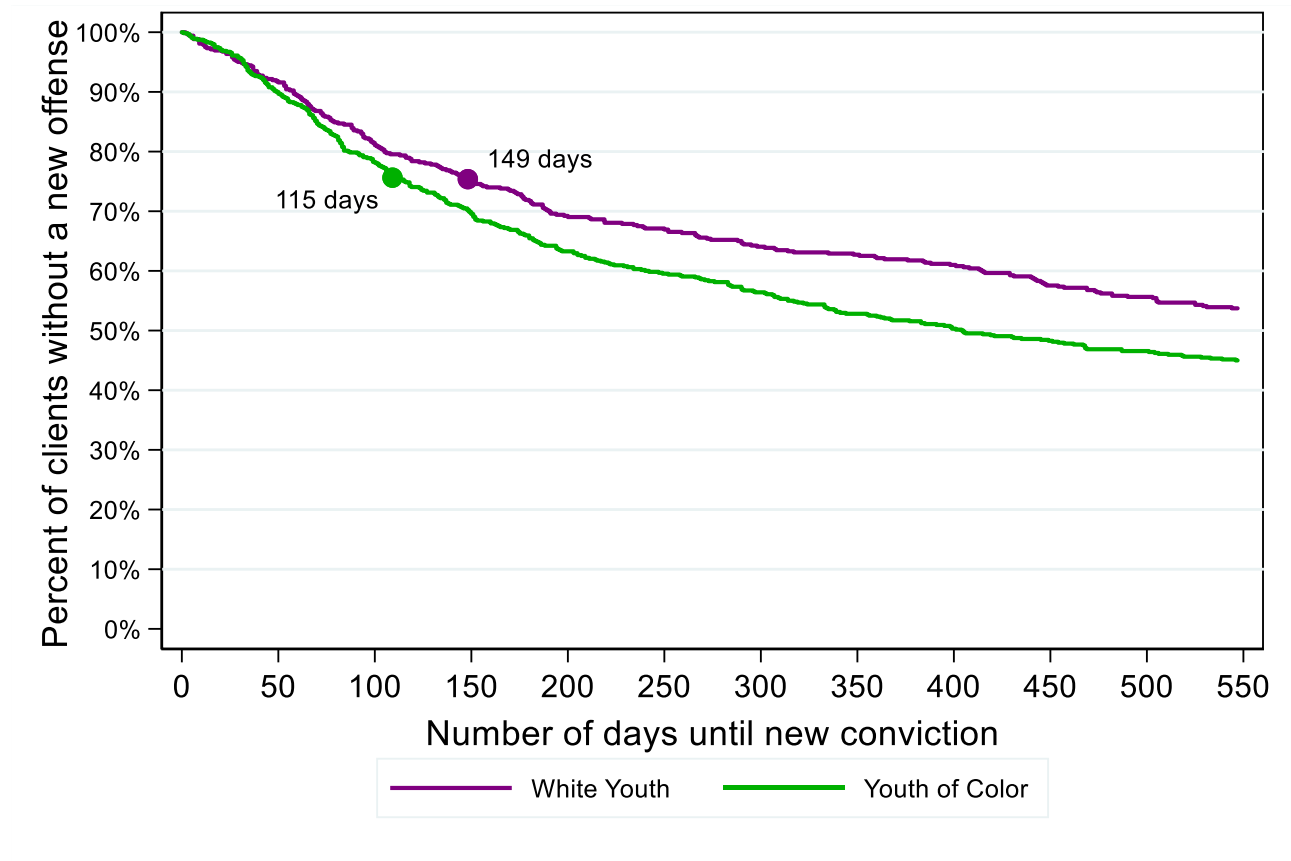
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Figure 4 is a line graph that shows the differences in client's time to any recidivism by race. This graph combines the data from both fiscal years. After 115 days post-release, 25% of youth of color committed a new offense. Twenty-five percent of white clients had committed a new offense after 149 days post-release. There was a statistically significant relationship between the time to recidivism and race, indicating that youth of color recidivated at a quicker rate.

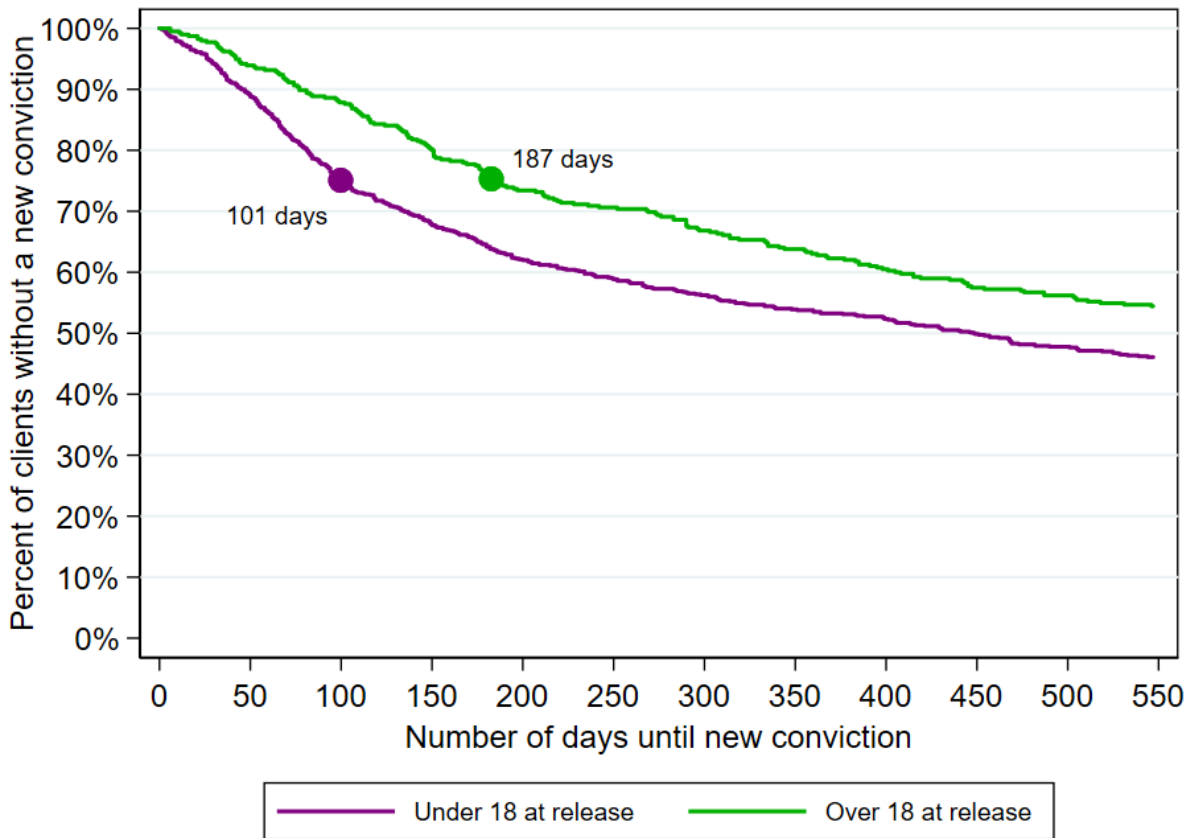
Figure 4: Client's Released During FY15-16 Time to Recidivism by Race Group



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Figure 5 is a line graph that shows the differences in client's time to any recidivism by age group. These clients are represented as either over age 18 at the time of release or under age 18 at the time of release. After 101 days post-release, 25% of clients under age 18 committed a new offense. On average, clients over age 18 at the time of their release took longer to recidivate—25% of clients that released over age 18 had a new conviction by 187 days. There was a statistically significant relationship between the age group at release; clients under age 18 at the time of release recidivated more quickly.

Figure 5: Clients Released During FY15-16 Time to Recidivism by Age Group



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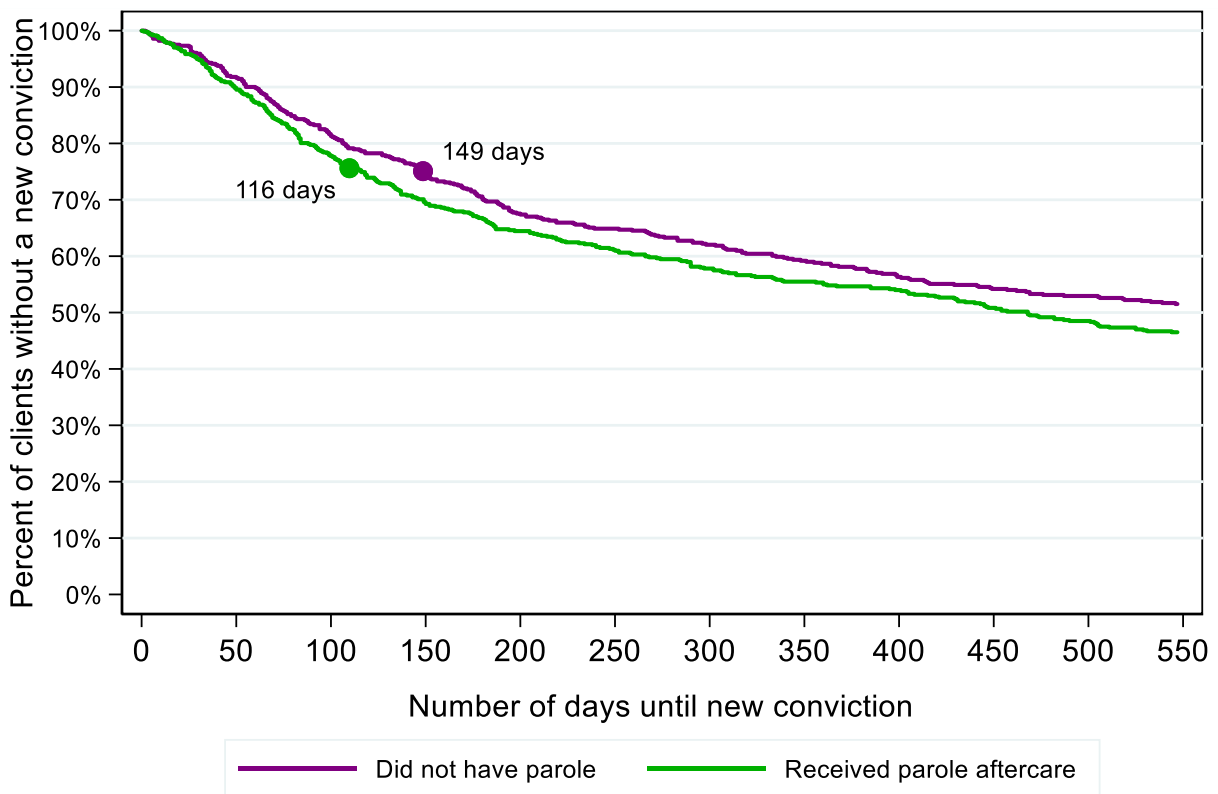
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Figure 6 is a line graph showing the difference in clients' time to recidivism by whether or not they received parole aftercare. After 149 days post-release, 25% of clients without parole aftercare committed a new offense. Twenty-five percent of clients who received parole aftercare committed a new offense after 116 days. There was not a statistically significant relationship between receiving parole aftercare and committing a new offense, so while clients who received parole recidivated at a higher frequency, the rate of recidivism between the two groups was similar.

Figure 6: Clients Released During FY15-16 Time to Recidivism by Parole Status



For more information, contact Juvenile Justice Analyst Alexandra Goins at OIAA@dcyf.wa.gov.