

Defining Juvenile Recidivism

Juvenile recidivism is most commonly defined in three categories:

- Youth who are adjudicated for new offenses while in custody;
- Youth supervised in the community who have a subsequent arrest or adjudication/conviction while on supervision
- Youth discharged from juvenile court jurisdiction (i.e., released from custody or discharged from community supervision) and then have a subsequent arrest, adjudication or conviction

Recidivism reduction is the primary goal of juvenile justice systems and its measurement is a key indicator of system performance. Preventing future re-offending and protecting public safety is a goal shared by all agencies in the justice system. The following are examples of how states across the country, and the District of Columbia, define juvenile recidivism.

Arizona

The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) defines recidivism as a return to custody with ADJC (consists of parole revocations and recommitments) or the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) following the release from a first time commitment.¹

California

The California Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) defines recidivism as a return to DJJ custody, a return or commitment to the Department of Adult Institutions (DAI) custody, an arrest, or conviction within three years of release from DJJ custody.²

Florida

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) defines recidivism as a subsequent adjudication, adjudication withheld or convictions for offenses that occur within 12 months of their release from commitment programs (or within 6 months of release from prevention programs).³

Georgia

Within the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), recidivism is defined by statute as a conviction for a new felony within three years of release from prison.⁴

¹ 2014 ADJC Recidivism Fact Sheet. <http://www.azdic.gov/OfficesPrograms/Research/RecidivismRates2014.pdf> and <http://www.azdic.gov/OfficesPrograms/Research/ResearchHome.asp>

² *State of CA 2016 Juvenile Justice Outcome Evaluation Report*. Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. February 2017. Page 4. http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Juvenile_Justice/docs/2016-Division-of-Juvenile-Justice-Outcome-Evaluation-Report-2-21-2017.pdf

³ *Comprehensive Accountability Report Overview*. Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/static-research-reports/comprehensive-accountability-report>

⁴ GA Council on Criminal Justice Reform_2016 Report, Page 5, Crime and Justice Institute.

Hawaii

An adjudication of guilt in juvenile court or conviction in adult court for a new law violation within 12, 24 or 36 months of discharge from juvenile probation, or final discharge from the custody of the director of the Office of Youth Services⁵.

Indiana

The Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC) defines recidivism as a return to incarceration within three years of the juvenile's date of release from a state correctional institution.⁶

Kentucky

The Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) defines recidivism as re-adjudication post-release from DJJ supervision (or release after a predisposition investigation report if no supervision was given) in juvenile or adult court.⁷

Louisiana

The Louisiana Youth Services, Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) defines a recidivist as a youth who is discharged from juvenile justice custody and later placed back into the care of juvenile justice as a result of a subsequent adjudication or placed into custody with the Adult Corrections System.⁸

Massachusetts

The Department of Youth Services (DYS) defines recidivism as a conviction in the adult system for an offense committed within one year of discharge from DYS.⁹

Oklahoma

The Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) defines recidivism as the occurrence of a new referral or arrest for a criminal offense within a year of completion of services followed by revocation of parole; or placement on informal probation; or by adjudication as a Delinquent or as a Youthful Offender; or by conviction as an adult.¹⁰

⁵ Definition adopted on December 15, 2016 by the Hawaii Juvenile Justice Reform Working Group

⁶ *Juvenile Recidivism 2014*. Indiana Department of Correction. Page 1. <https://www.in.gov/idoc/files/2014JuvRecidivismRpt.pdf>

⁷ CJ "Kentucky Recidivism Analysis", July 2015 CJJ Presentation.

⁸ *2016 Recidivism Report*. Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice. September 2016.

<http://ojj.la.gov/ojj/files/file/Demographics/Recidivism%20Website%20September%202016.pdf>

⁹ *Recidivism Report For Youth Discharged During 2012*. Massachusetts Department of Youth Services Juvenile. Page 7. December 30, 2016.

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dys/dys-recidivism-report-2016.pdf>

¹⁰ *FY 2017-2018 Budget Request*. Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs. Page 24. <https://www.ok.gov/oja/documents/REVISED%20FY%202017-2018%20Budget%20Request%20%28Legislators%29.pdf>

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission defines recidivism as a subsequent delinquency adjudication or conviction in criminal court for either a misdemeanor or felony offense within two years of case closure.¹¹

South Dakota

Recidivism is defined in two ways¹²:

Unified Judicial System. Adjudicated delinquent while on probation or adjudicated delinquent or convicted of a felony in adult court within one year, two years, or three years after discharge from juvenile probation.

Department of Corrections. Within one year, two years, or three years of discharge from the custody of the Department of Corrections, a juvenile commitment or conviction in adult court for a felony resulting in a sentence to the Department of Corrections.

Texas

In the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, recidivism is defined as a return to criminal or delinquent activity after previous criminal or delinquent involvement. There are many different indicators of recidivism. These indicators include rearrests; adjudication, re-adjudication, conviction, or reconviction; incarceration or reincarceration, and revocation.¹³

Washington D.C.

According to the District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, recidivism is defined as a re-conviction within one year of community release.¹⁴

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¹¹ Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges Commission. *Research & Statistics: Recidivism*. <http://www.icjc.pa.gov/Research-Statistics/Pages/Recidivism.aspx>

¹² South Dakota Codified Laws, 26-8D Juvenile Justice- Public Safety Improvement. 26-8D-1. Definitions. http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Statute=26-8D-1&Type=Statute&SearchString=recidivism*&SearchFilter=&SearchOrderBy=Rank%20DESC

¹³ *Statewide Criminal and Juvenile Justice Recidivism and Revocations Rates*. The State of Texas. January 2017, Page 1. http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Documents/Publications/Policy_Report/3138_Stwide_Crim_Just_Recid_Revoc.pdf

¹⁴ *Agency Progress Report 2014*. Government of the District of Columbia DC Youth Rehabilitation Services. Page 10. https://dysr.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dysr/page_content/attachments/REL-088%20DYRS%20Annual%20Report_web%20%28sw%291.15.pdf