

# **Nebraska Probation Report: Predicting Recidivism for Post Release Supervision Releasees**

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## **Introduction**

**Purpose of the Analysis.** The purpose of this report is to document the relationship between routinely collected predictor variables available in the Nebraska Probation database and recidivism for released inmates assigned to post release supervision. The data in this report include 2532 released offenders who were on post release supervision between February 2016 and December 2020.

## **Description of the Sample**

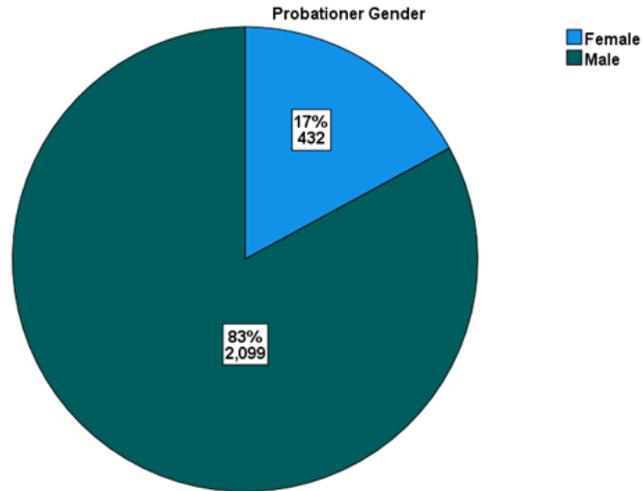
The report begins with a description of the releasees in the sample, the predictor factors available in the database for all 2532 releasees, and a calculation of the recidivism rate for each of the definitions of recidivism that follow.

## **Categorical Variables**

The figures that follow display the categorical factors that describe the releasees in the full sample.

**Gender.** Figure 1 displays the gender classification of the releasees in the sample showing that 83% of the sample were males (1 releasee had no gender designation).

Figure 1: Gender of the Releasees



**Race and Ethnicity.** Figure 2, which displays the ethnic and racial breakdown of the releasees documents that while most were White (59%), there was a substantial number of minorities. Figure 3 collapses race and ethnicity into two classifications because the small number of Native American and Hispanic releasees did not allow a finer breakdown in the statistical tests that appear in the results section of the report.

Figure 2: Full Race and Ethnic Breakdown of the Releases

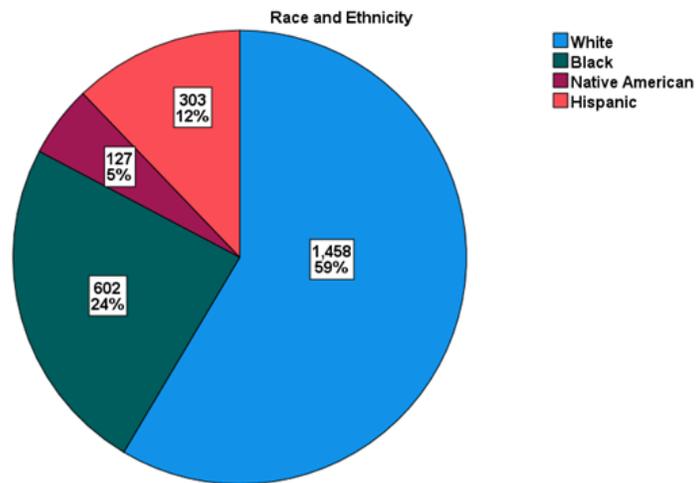
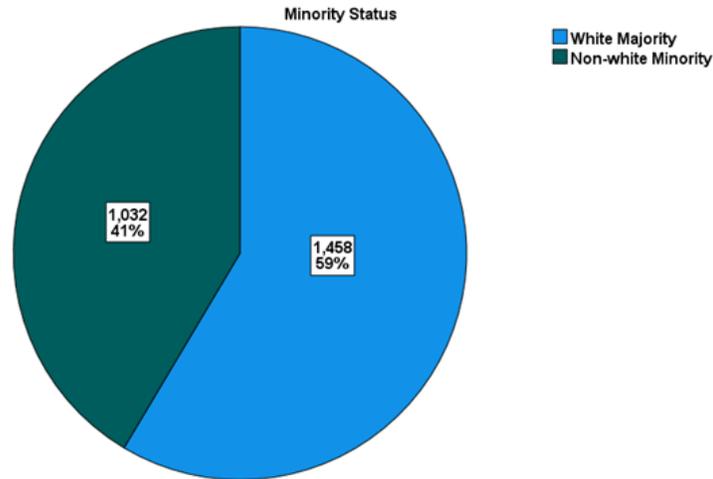
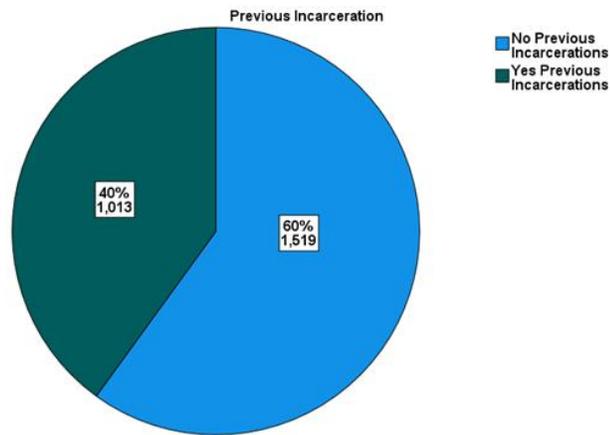


Figure 3: Majority vs. Minority Breakdown of the Releases



**Previous Incarcerations.** As shown in Figure 4 a substantial minority of the releases (40%) had served time in prison previously.

Figure 4: Percent of releases with previous incarcerations



### Continuous Variables

Table 1 presents descriptive statistics (Mean, Median, Standard Deviation, Minimum Score, Maximum score, and number of releases in the full sample) for the predictors of recidivism employed in the analyses that follow. The typical releasee was about 18 years of age at the time of her or his first arrest, scored in the medium high-risk level of the LS/CMI at both

presentence release and time of incarceration, but also showed a decrease of about 1 risk point on the LS/CMI from the time of entering post-release to the latest follow-up LS/CMI. The typical releasee, a White male, attended about 21 percent of potential class sessions (i.e., ameliorative classes such as MRT, Relapse Group, Pre-Treatment and so on)<sup>1</sup>, completed 20% of potential classes, and tested positive for substances on 14% of tests.<sup>2</sup> The average number of sanctions was about 13 with less than 1 custodial sanction (about 1 for every two releasees). The typical releasee had committed between 1 and 2 felonies and had served approximately 13 months in prison. Finally, the median amount of time that elapsed from the incarceration plan until first services in post release was 78 days or about 2 ½ months.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Releasees that did not attend sessions were assigned 0 % for the analyses that follow.

<sup>2</sup> Note: Releasees that did not require tests were assigned 0 % for the analyses that follow.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics for Continuous Predictor Variables

Predictor	Mean	Median	S.D.	Min - Max	N
Age at First Arrest	18.19	16	7.25	8,77	2525
LSCMI Total at PSI	27.88	29	6.98	1,43	1940
LSCMI Total from DCS	29.52	30	6.03	5,42	2033
Reduction in Post-Release LSCMI	1.09	0	5.09	-17,19	1060
Percent of Sessions Attended	.21	0	.32	0,1	2532
Percent of Classes Completed	.20	0	.36	0,1	2532
Percent of Positive Substance Tests	.14	0	.26	0,1	2532
Number of Sanctions	13.38	2	26.51	0,373	2532
Number of Custodial Sanctions	.51	0	1.10	0,8	2532
Number of Felonies	1.37	1	.68	1,6	2528
Days from Release to First Services	125.01	78	142.88	0,1071	1121
Months Served	12.82	8	35.50	0,1133	2528
Days Since Release from Probation	682.43	652	407.92	0,1800	2520

## Recidivism Rates

**Definition of Recidivism.** The research literature in criminal justice offers a diverse set of recidivism measures that vary based upon legal action (arrest vs. conviction), seriousness of crime (misdemeanor vs. felony), type of violation (crime against property vs. crime against persons) and harmfulness of outcomes (violent crimes vs. non-violent crimes). Although the probation database offers the opportunity to examine recidivism using a variety of definitions commonly found in the literature, the current work adopted a modified version of the Nebraska Supreme Court's definition of recidivism. It reads "As applied to adults, recidivism shall mean a final conviction of a Class I or II misdemeanor, a Class IV felony or above, or a Class W misdemeanor based on a violation of state law or an ordinance of any city or village enacted in conformance with state law, within 3 years of being successfully released." (Nebraska Supreme Court Administrative Operations, Article 10, §1-1001). The analyses that follow define recidivism using the offense criteria that the Nebraska Supreme Court identified but they varied both the time elapsing since the release from probation and whether the discharge from probation was a successful release or not. The various versions of the recidivism calculations maximize the number of data points available for the analyses. The resulting definitions are from the largest to the smallest sample sizes:

- a. **All releasees** - examines those releasees who left prison any time before the collection date (May 15, 2021) regardless of whether they successfully completed probation or how many days had elapsed since their release from probation.<sup>3</sup>  
(2525 releasees)

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<sup>3</sup> Successful release from probation means that the trial court judge discharged the releasee after he or she had successfully completed all or most of the probation requirements. The probationer did not fail nor was he or she revoked from probation.

- b. **All successful releasees** - examines those releasees who left prison any time before the collection date (May 15, 2021) who successfully completed probation regardless of how many days have lapsed since their release from probation. (1783 releasees)
- c. **All releasees at least three years out** (“three-year window”) – examines only those releasees who left probation at least three years prior to the data collection date (May 15, 2021) regardless of whether they successfully completed probation or not. (457 releasees)
- d. **All successful releasees at least three years out** (“three-year window”) – examines only those releasees who left probation three years prior to the data collection date (May 15, 2021) and who successfully completed probation. (312 releasees)

**Recidivism rates for all releasees.** As shown in Figure 4 the recidivism rate for all 2525 releasees in the database was 28%.<sup>4</sup> However, perhaps more telling is Figure 5 which shows the results of a logistic regression analysis that predicts recidivism as a function of the number of days since the releasee left probation. It shows a significant effect such that as time moved on, after discharge from probation, more releasees recidivated capping at a predicted value of 56%.

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<sup>4</sup> The full analyses summarized in this report are available from the first author in the form statistical output. All analyses were conducted with SPSS version 27. The data reported here are the property of the Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation (NAOCP). Any release of the data or the statistical analyses requires the permission of (NAOCP)

Figure 4: Recidivism rate for all releasees

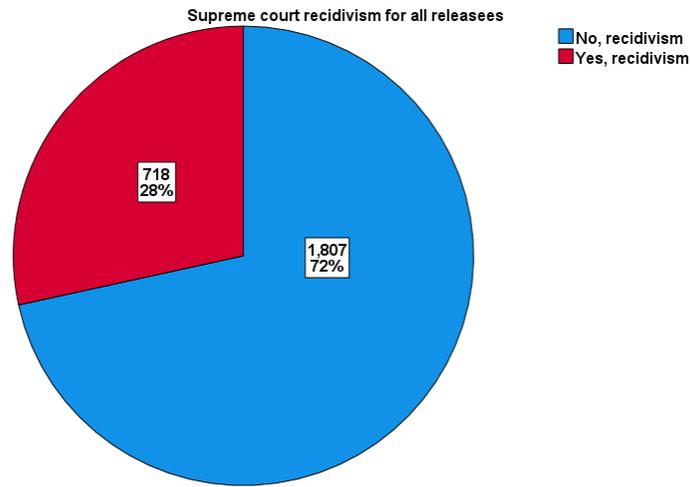
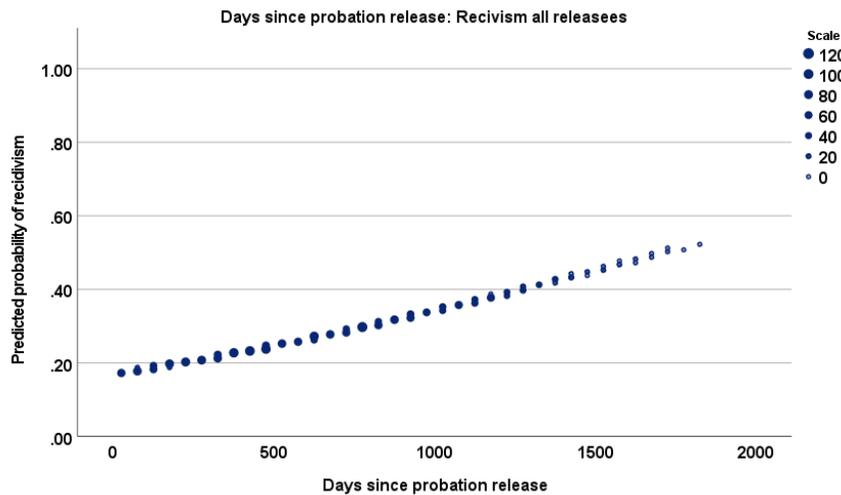


Figure 5: Predicted recidivism as a function of days since discharge from probation for all releasees. [ $Wald_{(1)} = 71.10, p < .001, Odds Ratio = 1.001$ ]



**Recidivism rates for all successful releasees.** Figure 6 shows the recidivism rate for only those releasees who successfully complete probation ( $N = 1783$ ) was 21%. Again, Figure 7 shows the results of a logistic regression analysis that predicts recidivism as a function of the

number of days since the releasee left probation. It shows a significant effect such that as time moved on, more successful probation releasees recidivate capping at a predicted value of 39%.

Figure 6: Recidivism rate for all successful releasees

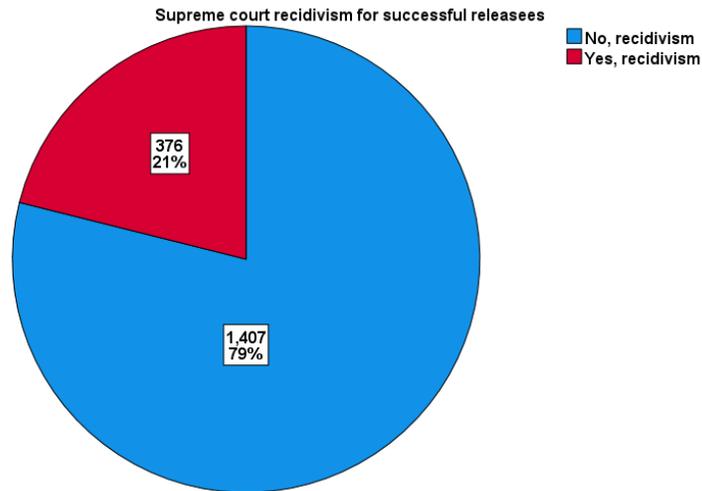
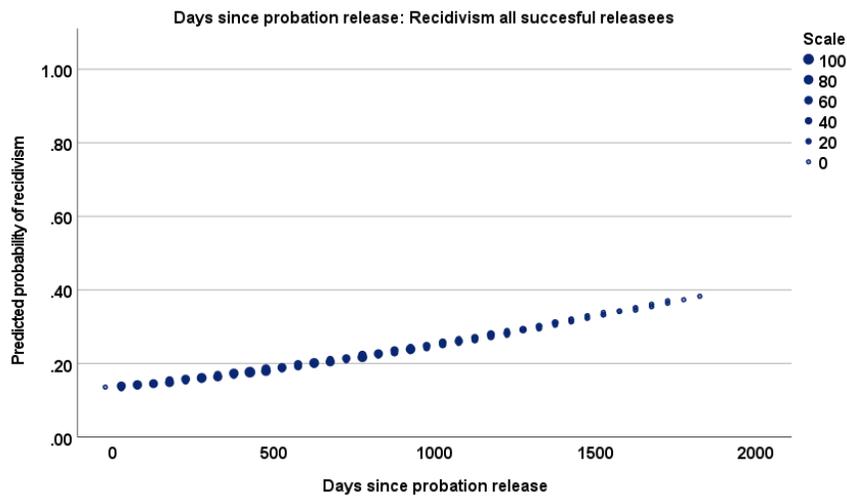


Figure 7: Predicted recidivism as a function of days since discharge from probation for all successful releasees. [ $Wald_{(1)} = 29.03, p < .001, Odds Ratio = 1.001$ ]



**Recidivism rates for all releasees at least three years out of probation.** Figure 8 shows that the recidivism rate for only those releasees (N = 457) who left probation at least three years before the data collection date – the three years plus window - was 39%. The rate reflects the fact that as more time elapses there is a greater likelihood of a releasee to recidivate as shown in Figures 5 and 7 above. Figure 9 displays the results of a logistic regression analysis that predicts recidivism as a function of the number of days since the releasee left probation. *This effect was not significant.* Therefore, the apparent decrease in recidivism is likely a chance fluctuation. It is also possible that the lack of a significant effect is the result of the reduced sample size, which lowers statistical power (i.e., the ability to find a true effect if it exists) and because of the reduction in range of measures. All the releasees in this sample had been out of probation for at least 1095 days. Probation data does not allow multi-level analyses of recidivism for a sample of the same releasees at different days out of probation. That is, the data does not provide information on the same set of probationers at 100, 200, 300 and so on, days out, but instead is a cross section in which each releasee is one data point with a specific number of days since discharge.

Figure 8: Recidivism rate for all releasees who have been out of probation for at least 3 years

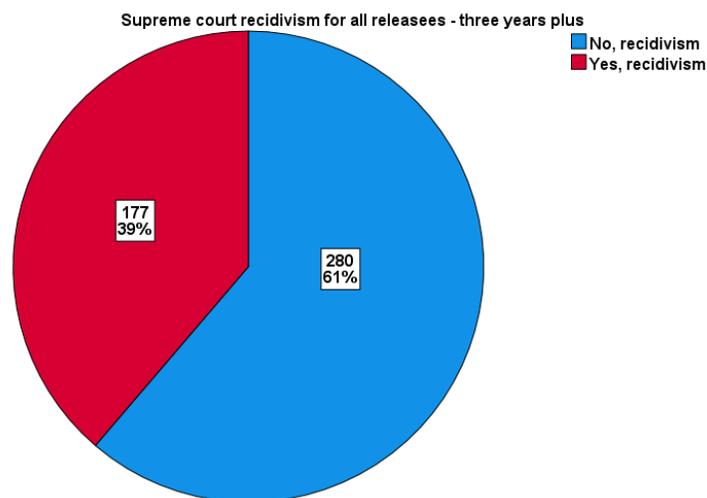
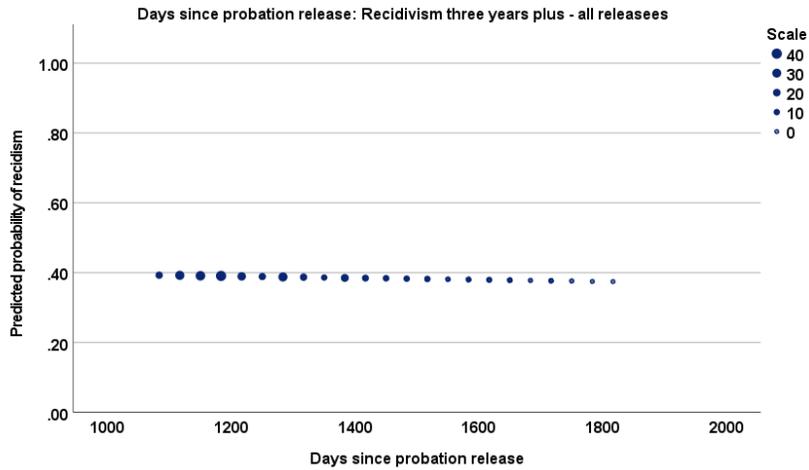


Figure 9: Predicted recidivism as a function of days since release from probation for all releasees who left probation at least three years before the data collection date. [ $Wald_{(1)} = 1.57, p = .21,$  Odds Ratio = .999]



**Recidivism rates for all successful releasees at least three years out of probation.**

Finally, Figure 10 shows that the recidivism rate for only those releasees ( $N = 312$ ) who left probation at least three years before the data collection date and who were successful discharges was 27%. The lower recidivism rate could reflect the effect of probation, increased motivation of releasees who complete probation successfully, or a combination of both types of effects. It is difficult to tease out the explanation without including a comparable (i.e., matched) sample of offenders who were released from prison but who were not in post release supervision. The comparison sample was not available for this analysis. Figure 11 displays the results of a logistic regression analysis that predicts recidivism as a function of the number of days since the releasee left probation. This effect was also not significant, but the analysis has the same limitations as described above for logistic regression depicted in Figure 9.

Figure 10: Recidivism rate for all releasees who successfully left probation at least 3 years prior to the data collection date.

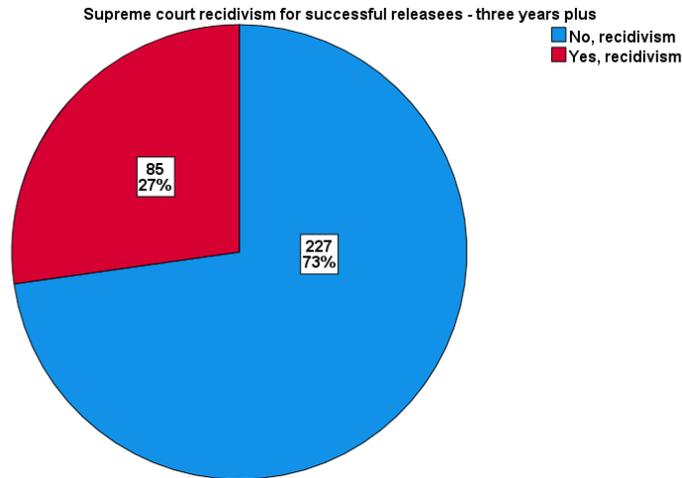
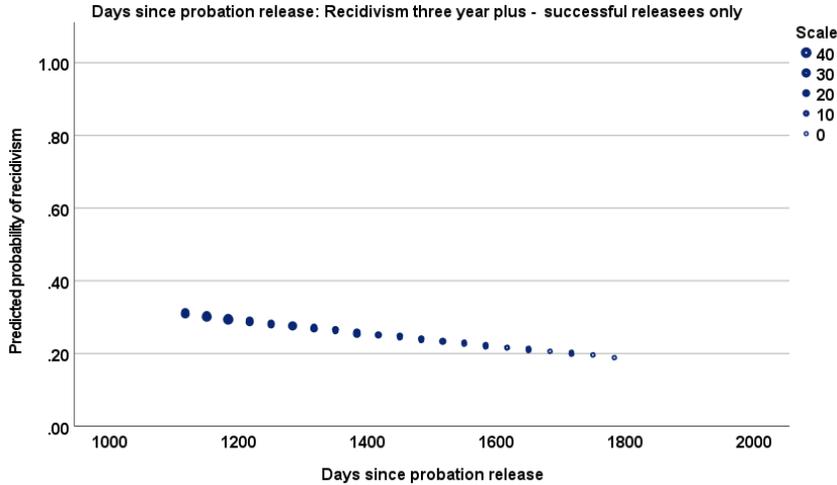


Figure 11: Predicted recidivism as a function of days since release from probation for all releasees who left probation successfully at least three years before the data collection date. [Wald<sub>(1)</sub> = .03, p = .85, Odds Ratio = 1.000]



### Predicting Recidivism

**Method.** The remainder of the results examines the relationships between a series of predictors and recidivism for all four definitions described above. First, we present the univariate relationship between each predictor and recidivism without controlling for all the

other predictors. This is accomplished by looking at the means for the scaled predictors (e.g, age at first arrest) for the group of releasees who recidivated and those who did not recidivate, followed by a logistic regression that predicts recidivism from the individual predictor. For the dichotomous predictors, only the logistic regression results are reported. It is important to note that all analyses controlled for the number of days since the releasee left probation by including that variable as a covariate in all the analyses reported below for each of the samples and definitions of recidivism. The results are reported in the order discussed above. While we report the statistical results for all the predictors, we present graphic depictions only for the significant predictors.

### **Recidivism Unrestricted by Temporal Conditionality**

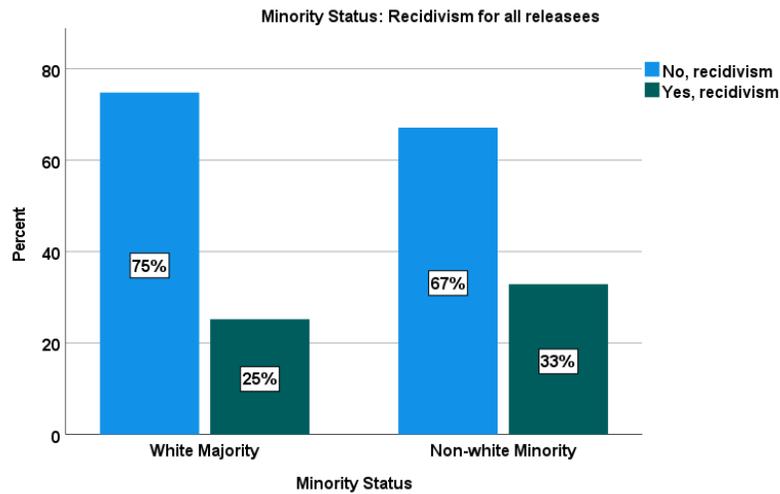
The next set of analyses include all the available data from the full set of releasees unconstrained by the “three-year window” rule. First, the analyses examined the predictor relationships for all releasees and then for only the successful ones.

#### **Predictors of Recidivism for all Releasees – Univariate Analyses**

**Gender.** The effect of the relationship between gender and recidivism was not significant,  $Wald_{(1)} = .096, p = .76, Odds Ratio = 1.038$ .

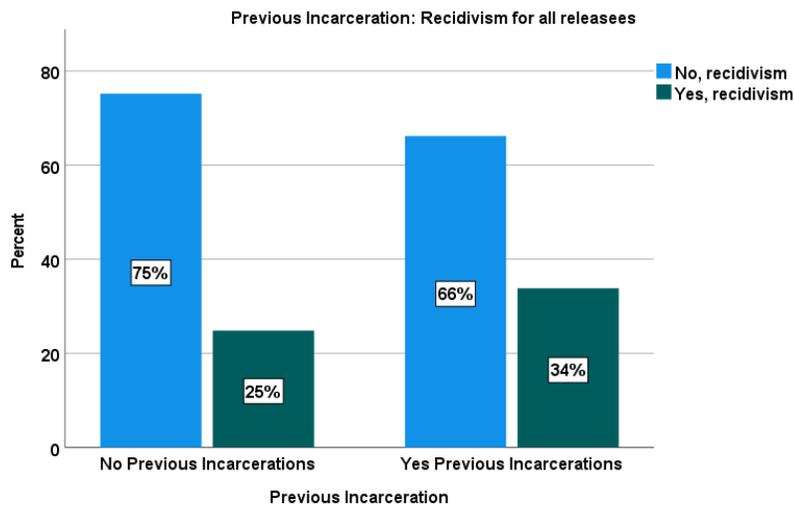
**Minority status.** Figure 12 shows that the Non-white minority releasees were more likely to recidivate than their White majority peers,  $Wald_{(1)} = 68.55, p < .001, Odds Ratio = 1.001$ .

Figure 12: Recidivism for all releases as a function of minority status.



**Previous incarceration.** Figure 13 shows that those releases with at least one prior incarceration were more likely to recidivate,  $Wald_{(1)} = 20.38, p < .001$ , Odds Ratio = 1.001.

Figure 13: Recidivism for all releases as a function of prior incarcerations.



**Age at first arrest.** Figure 14 shows that those releases who recidivated showed an earlier first arrest age than did those who did not,  $F(1,2511) = 26.36, p < .001$ , and Figure 15 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of age at first arrest. The earlier

the age of first arrest the higher is the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 20.38, p < .001$ , Odds Ratio = 1.001.

Figure 14: Age of first arrest for those who did and did not recidivate.

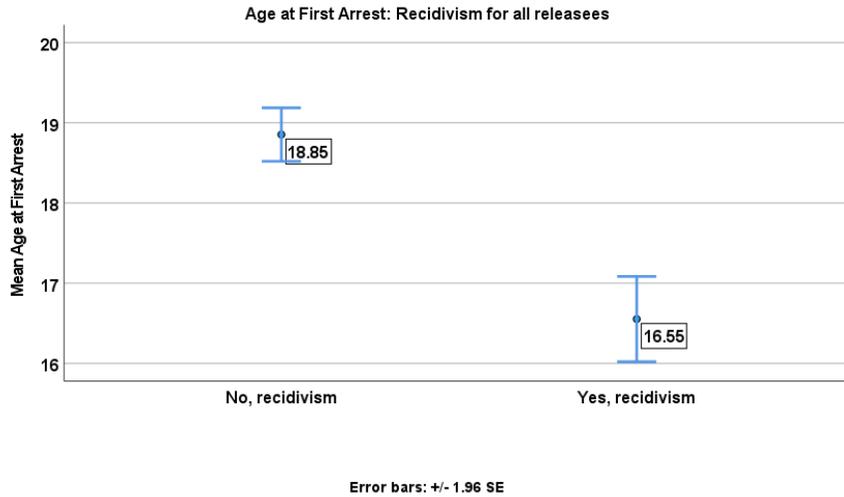
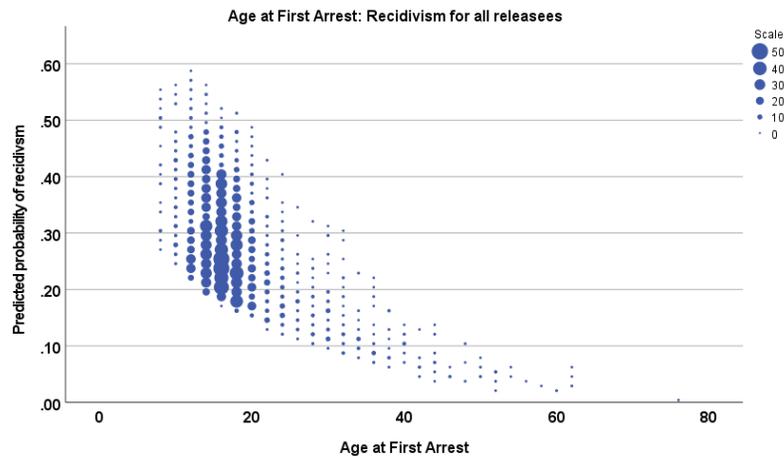


Figure 15: Predicted recidivism as a function of age at first arrest.



**LS/CMI risk at pre-sentence investigation.** The analyses of all the LS/CMI risk scores in this report did not control for the number of days since leaving probation because the LS/CMI predicts recidivism as a standardized assessment tool, normed independent of

the number of days out of probation. As a result of the stand-alone status of the LS/CMI, the multivariate logistic regression that follows did not include LS/CMI scores. Instead, the univariate analyses presented next show the relationships between risk assessed with this standardized instrument and recidivism.

LS/CMI risk data collected at the time of the pre-sentence investigation was available for 1935 releasees. Figure 16 displays that those releasees who recidivated showed higher LS/CMI risk scores than did those who did not,  $t(1195.55) = 7.75, p < .001$ , and Figure 17 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function LS/CMI at the pre-sentence investigation. The higher the risk score, the higher is the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 47.19, p < .001, Odds Ratio = 1.057$ .

Figure 16: LS/CMI risk at pre-sentence investigation for those who did and did not recidivate.

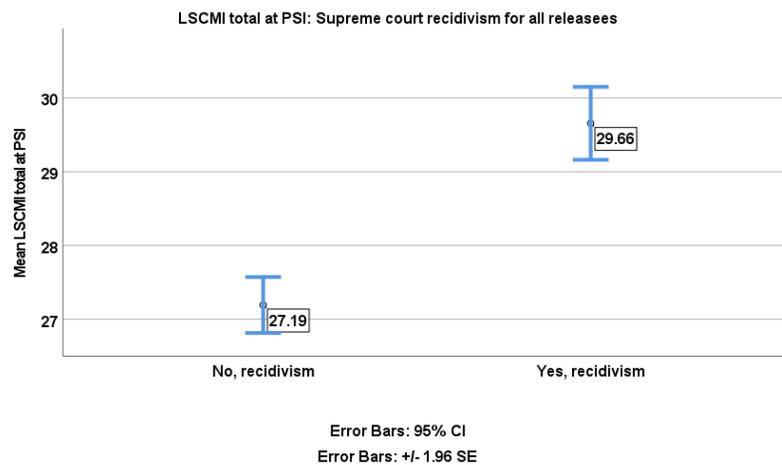
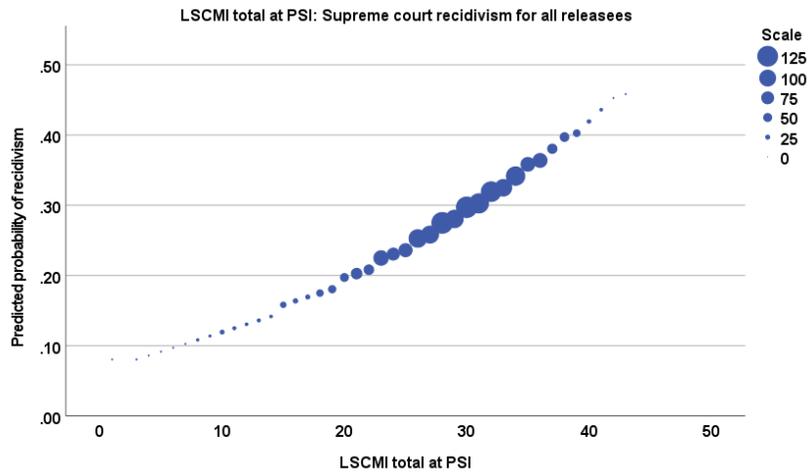


Figure 17: Predicted recidivism as a function of LS/CMI risk at pre-sentence investigation.



**LS/CMI risk collected at the Department of Corrections.** LS/CMI risk data for releasees while they were in the custody of the Department of Corrections was available for 2030 individuals. Figure 18 shows that releasees who recidivated showed higher LS/CMI risk scores than did those who did not,  $t(1373.56) = 7.01, p < .001$ , and Figure 19 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function LS/CMI at the pre-sentence investigation. The higher the risk score, the higher is the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 38.73, p < .001$ , Odds Ratio = 1.057.

Figure 18: LS/CMI risk at pre-sentence investigation for those who did and did not recidivate.

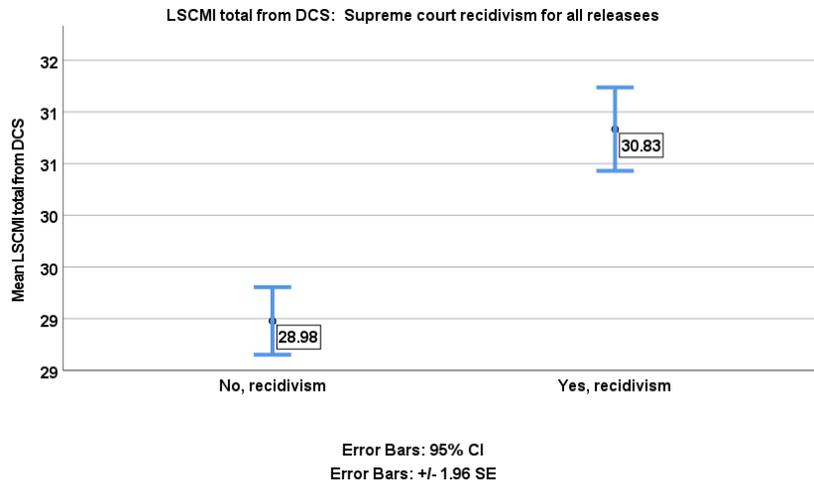
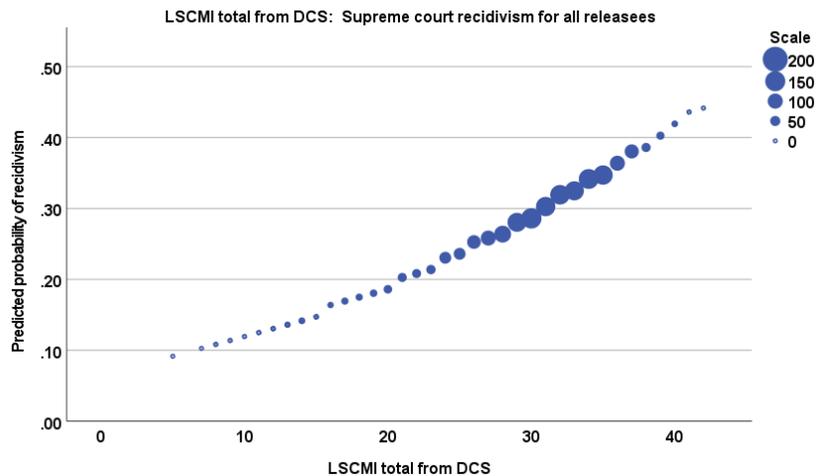


Figure 19: Predicted recidivism as a function of LS/CMI risk at pre-sentence investigation.



**LS/CMI risk during post release supervision.** Initial and follow-up LS/CMI risk data while the releasees were in the post release supervision was available for 1060 individuals. First, Figure 20 shows a significant decrease in risk from beginning to the follow-up testing during post release supervision,  $t(1059) = 7.00, p < .001$ . Figure 21 shows

that the greater was the decrease in risk, the lower was the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 25.81, p < .001, Odds Ratio = .929$ .

Figure 20: The reduction in the LS/CMI risk score during post release supervision

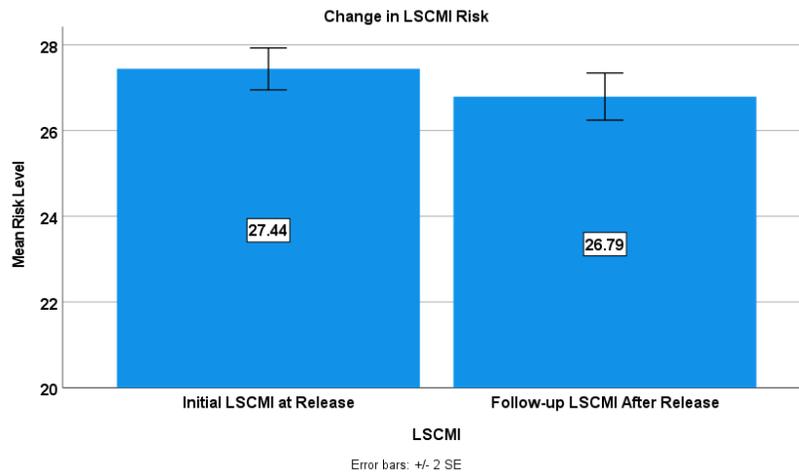
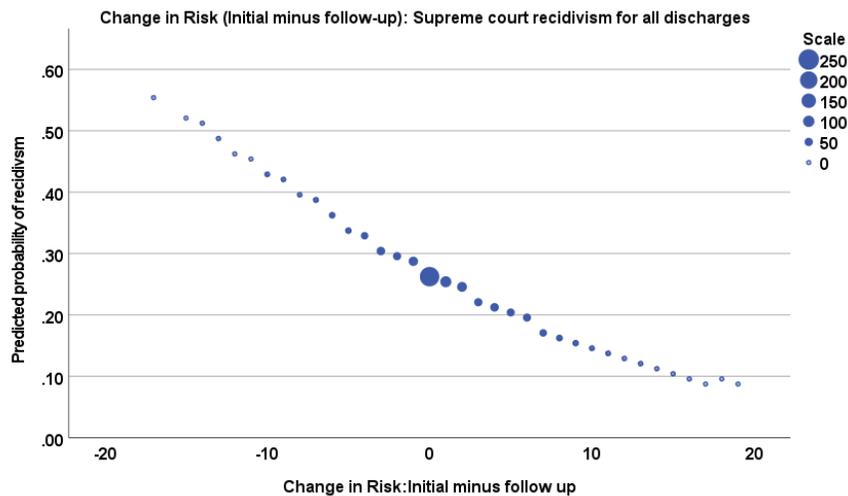


Figure 21: Predicted recidivism as a function of LS/CMI decrease during post release supervision



**Percent of class sessions attended.** Figure 22 shows that those releases who recidivated attended fewer class sessions during post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,2511) = 26.36, p < .001$ , and Figure 15 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the percent of class sessions attended. The fewer the sessions

attended, the higher is the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 20.38, p < .001, Odds Ratio = 1.001$ . Figure 23 includes a regression line for predicted probability of recidivism to make this important relationship apparent. However, again to determine whether this change was a result of the classes themselves, motivation of the releasees, or a combination of both requires a comparison sample of releasees who were not in post release supervision.

Figure 22: Percent of class sessions attended for those who did and did not recidivate.

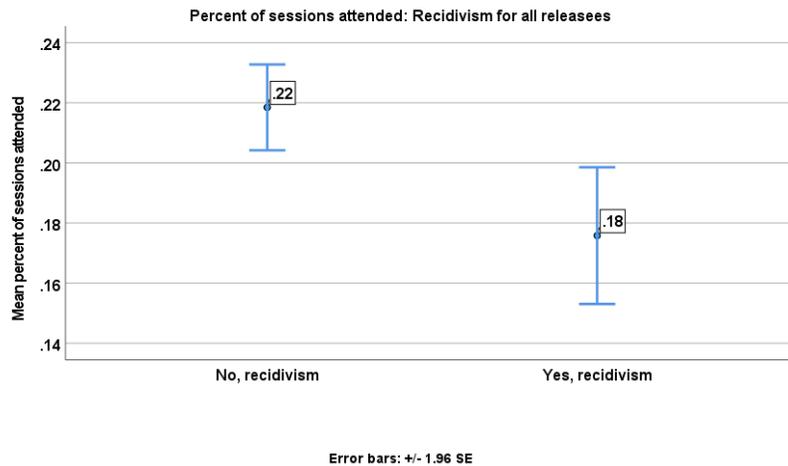
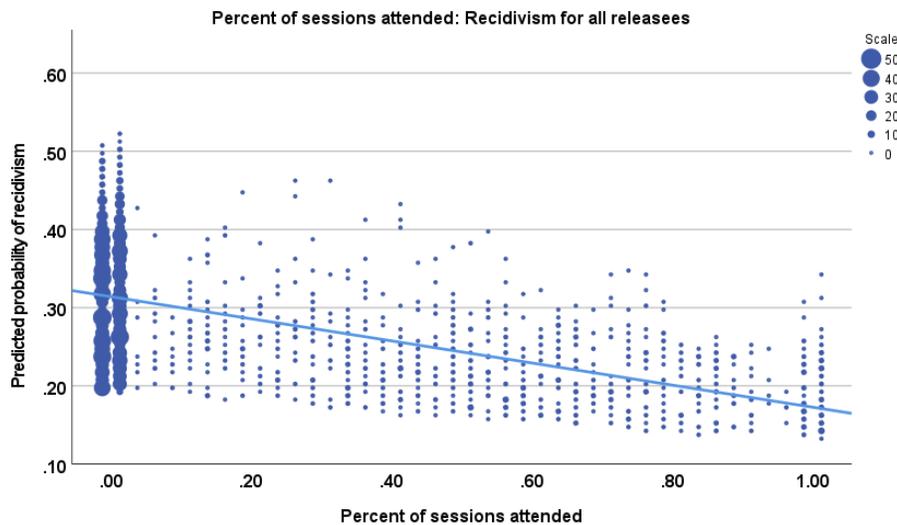


Figure 23: Predicted recidivism as a function of the percent of class sessions attended.



**Percent of classes completed.** Figure 24 shows that those releasees who recidivated completed a smaller percent of classes during post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,2517) = 7.33, p = .007$ , and Figure 24 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the percent of completed classes. The more classes completed, the lower is the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 20.38, p < .001$ , Odds Ratio = 1.001. Figure 25 includes a regression line for predicted probability of recidivism to again make this relationship apparent. However, it is important to remember that to determine whether this change was a result of the classes themselves, motivation of the releasees, or a combination of both requires a comparison sample of releasees who were not in post release supervision.

Figure 24: Percent of classes completed for those who did and did not recidivate.

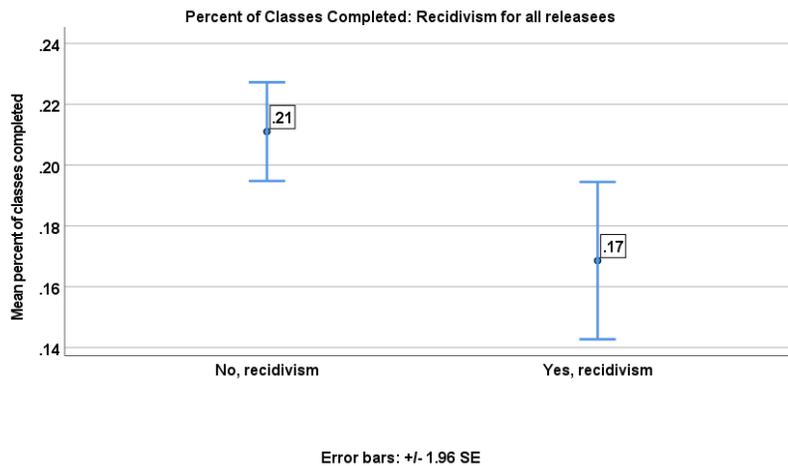
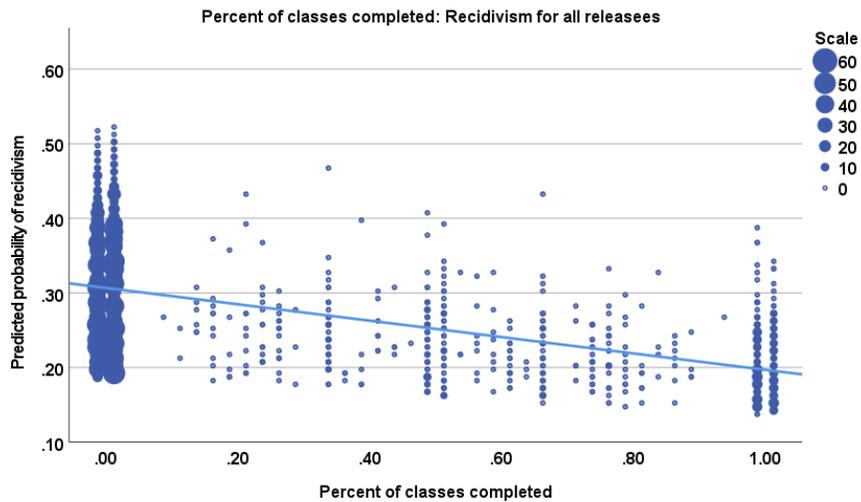


Figure 25: Predicted recidivism as a function of the percent of classes completed.



**Percent of positive substance tests.** Figure 26 shows that those releasees who recidivated exhibited a higher rate of positive substance tests during post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,2517) = 19.25, p < .001$ , and Figure 27 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the percent positive tests. The more positive tests, the higher is the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 18.34, p < .001$ , Odds Ratio = 2.005. Figure 27 includes a regression line for predicted probability of recidivism to make this relationship apparent.

Figure 26: Percent positive drug tests completed for those who did and did not recidivate.

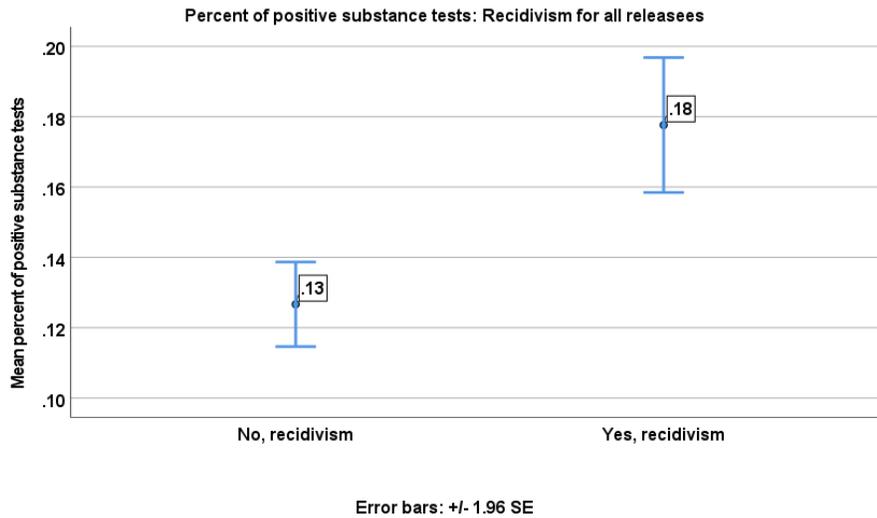
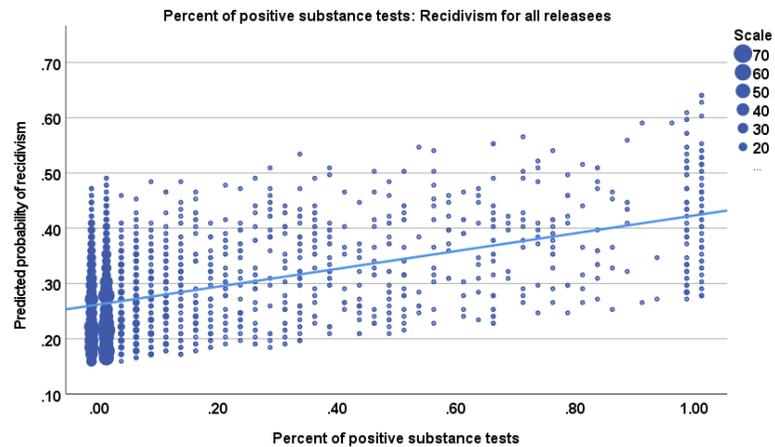


Figure 27: Predicted recidivism as a function of the percent of positive substance tests.



**Total number of sanctions.** Figure 28 shows that those releasees who recidivated received a higher number of sanctions during post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,2517) = 32.83, p < .001$ , and Figure 29 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the total number of sanctions. The greater the number of sanctions, the higher was the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 29.71, p < .001$ , Odds Ratio

= 1.009. Figure 29 includes a regression line for predicted probability of recidivism to make this relationship apparent.

Figure 28: Total number of sanctions for those who did and did not recidivate.

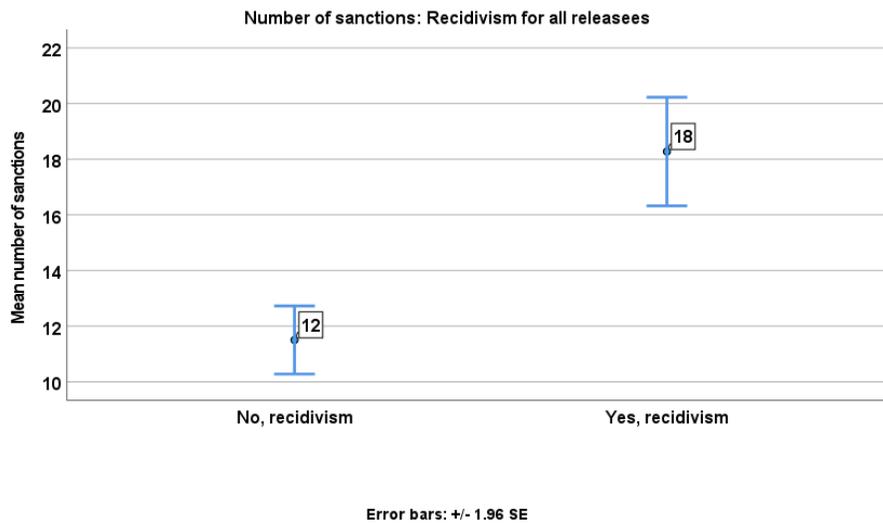
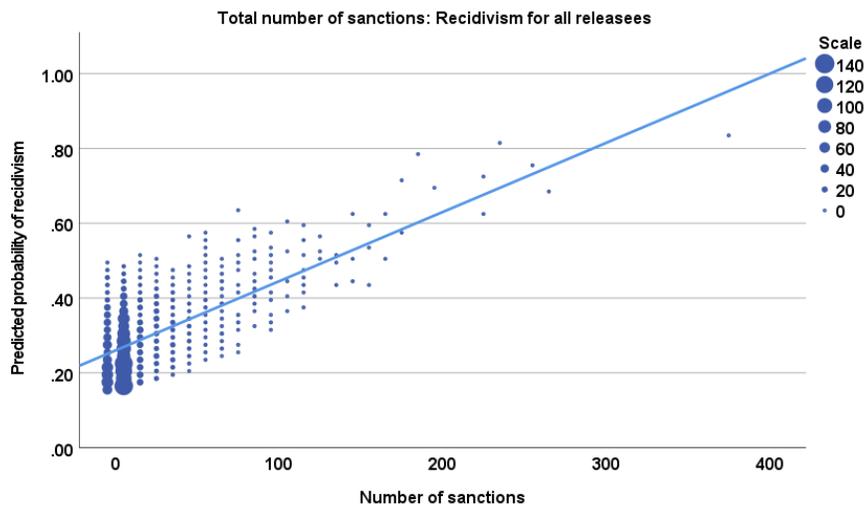


Figure 29: Predicted recidivism as a function of the total number of sanctions.



**Total number of custodial sanctions.** Figure 30 shows that those releasees who recidivated also received a higher number of custodial sanctions during post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,2517) = 36.29, p < .001$ , and Figure 31 shows

the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the number of custodial sanctions. The greater the number of sanctions, the higher was the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 34.93, p < .001, Odds Ratio = 1.252$ . In fact, each additional custodial sanction increased the odds of recidivism by 125%. Figure 21 includes a regression line for predicted probability of recidivism to make this relationship apparent.

Figure 30: Number of custodial sanctions for those who did and did not recidivate.

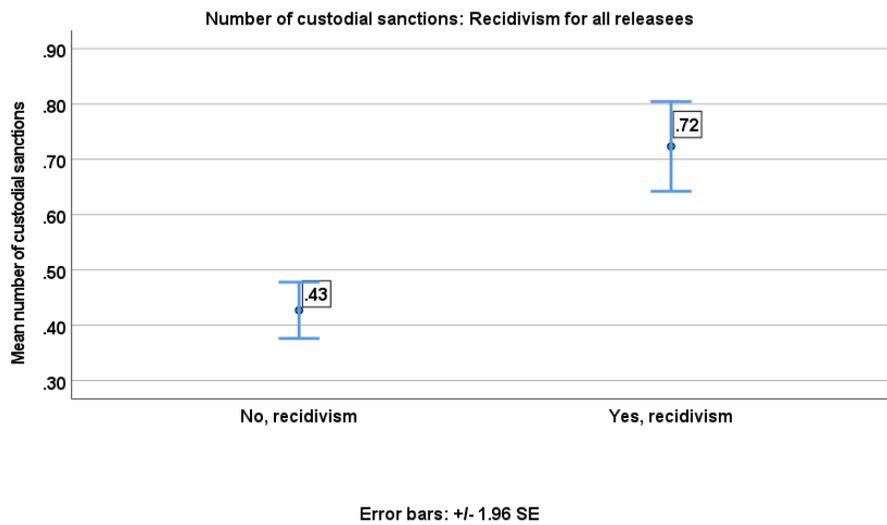
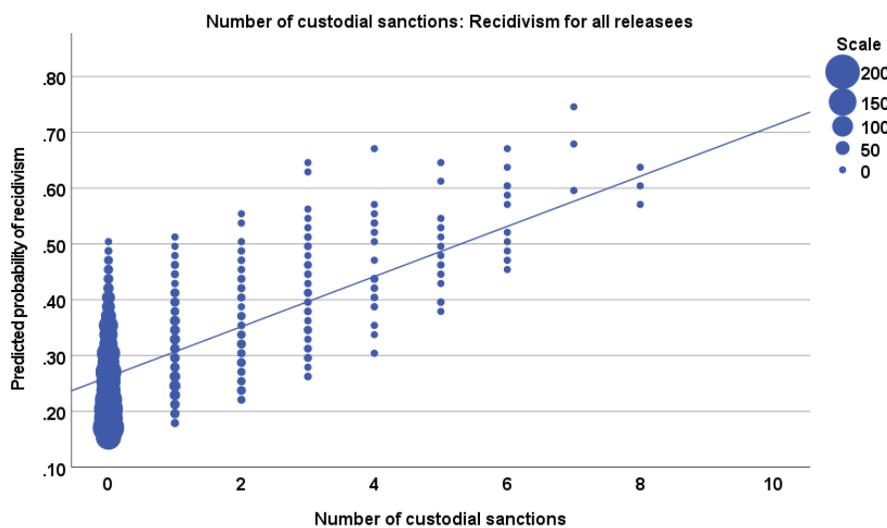


Figure 31: Predicted recidivism as a function of the number of custodial sanctions.



**Number of committed felonies.** Figure 32 shows that those releasees who recidivated committed a higher number of felonies before post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,2516) = 4.13, p = .042$ , but the effect was small, with both groups committing less than two felonies on average. Figure 33 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the number of felonies committed. The greater the number of felonies, the higher was the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 3.76, p = .052$ , Odds Ratio = 1.133. However, this effect is marginal and did not quite reach the traditional level of statistical significance. Figure 33 includes a regression line for predicted probability of recidivism to make this relationship apparent.

Figure 32: Number of committed felonies for those who did and did not recidivate.

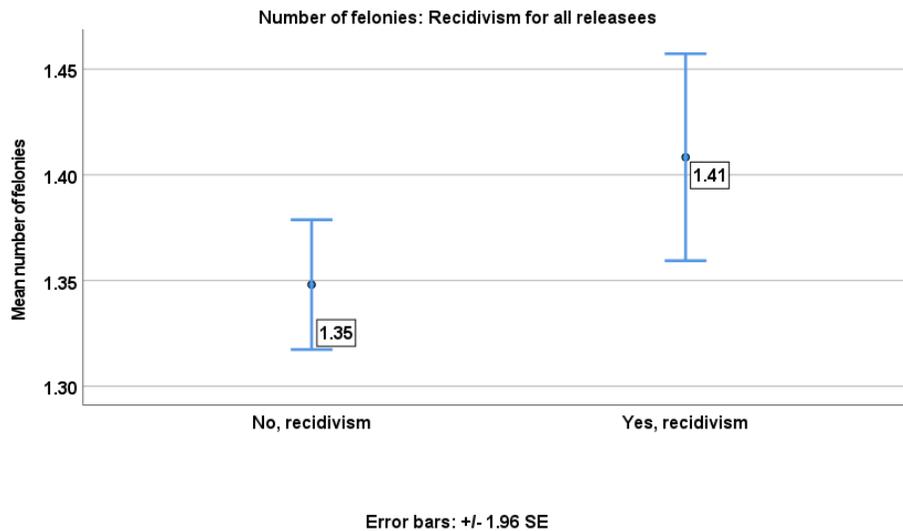
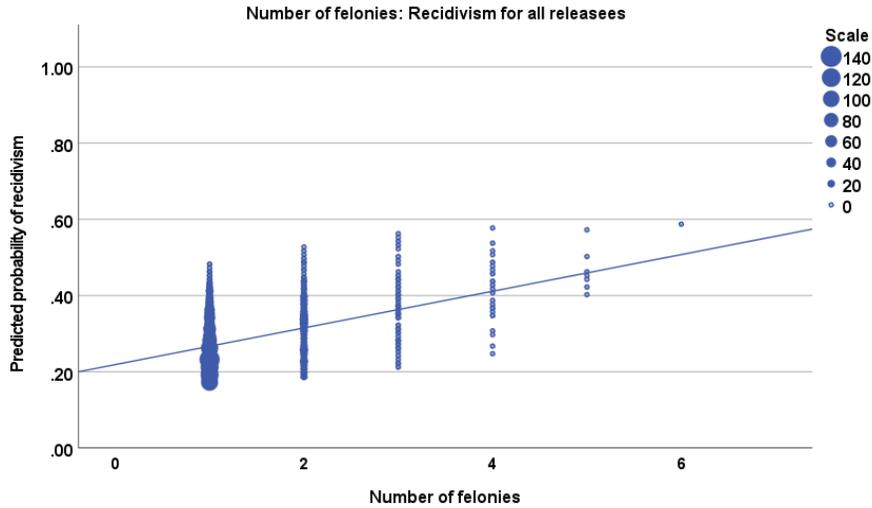


Figure 33: Predicted recidivism as a function of the number of committed felonies.



**Elapsed days from incarceration to first probation services.** The data available for the 1119 releasees who engaged in services during post release supervision showed a surprising effect. As Figure 34 illustrates those releasees who recidivated received services sooner than did those who did not recidivate,  $F(1,1116) = 5.94, p = .015$ . One possible explanation for this unexpected result might be that releasees who received services earlier were the ones who needed them the most and who were, therefore, less motivated to change. Figure 35 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the time between engaging in probation services and recidivism. The graph does show that the longer the time between release and services, the lower is the likelihood of recidivism in this sample,  $Wald_{(1)} = 3.76, p = .052$ , Odds Ratio = 1.133. Figure 35 includes a regression line for predicted probability of recidivism to make this relationship apparent.

Figure 34: Days before starting services for those who did and did not recidivate.

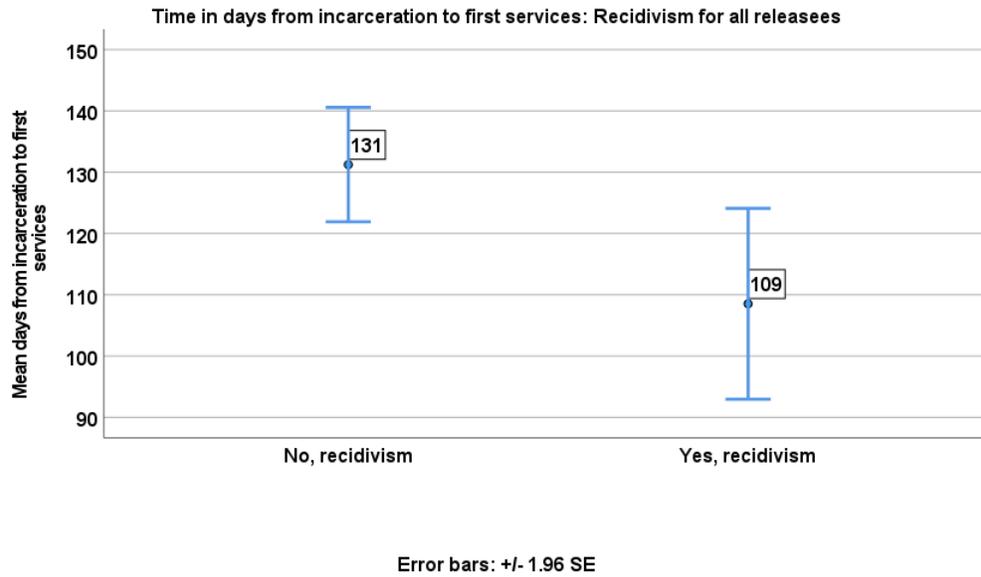
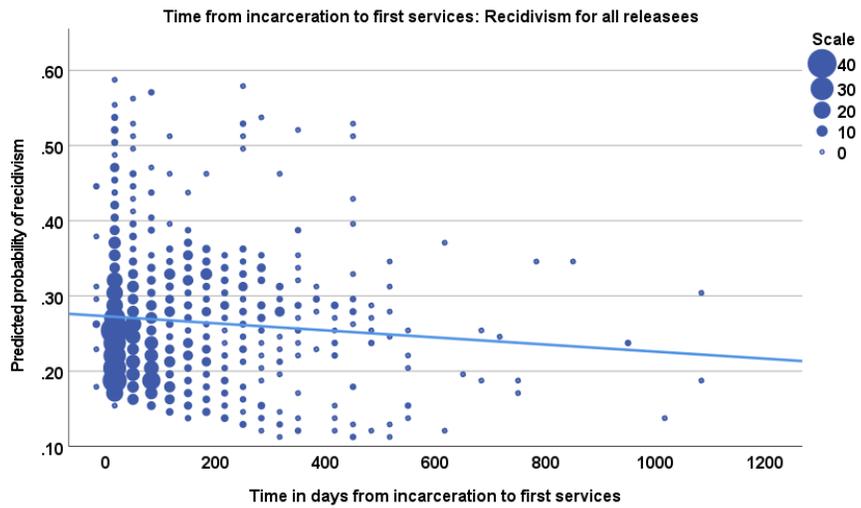


Figure 35: Predicted recidivism as a function of time until engaging in services.



**Summary of the univariate analyses.** In summary, the individual univariate relationships showed that after controlling for the number of days since release from probation, the static (unchanging) factors that significantly predicted an increased risk of recidivism were non-white minority status, younger age at first arrest, greater risk as indicated on the LS/CMI at the time of pre-sentence investigation, as well as while the releasees were serving time in prison, and number of felonies convicted prior to release. These indicators of recidivism are static, not changeable, and out of the control of the releasees or probation at the time the individual enters post release supervision. They are, in fact, moderately strong predictors of recidivism. On the other hand, those releasees who showed a decrease in risk during post release supervision, attended class sessions, completed classes, did not accumulate a large number of positive substance tests, had fewer sanctions overall, and had fewer custodial sanctions were less likely to recidivate after release from probation. These factors are dynamic and within the control of the releasee. They are effective targets of change for the probation system.

### **Predictors of Recidivism for all Releasees – Multivariate Analysis**

**Logistic regression.** To determine the strongest predictors of recidivism, we conducted a multivariate logistic regression analysis, which included the number of days after release from probation as a control factor and which used a forward inclusion method to build the strongest set of predictor variables. Table 2 presents the results of that analysis. It shows that the most significant predictors of recidivism for all releasees, regardless of whether they were successful or not in post release supervision, were (in order of strength of prediction): age at first arrest, minority status, number of custodial sanctions, previous incarcerations, number of class sessions attended during post release supervision, and the number of sanctions. The other factors that

were significant in the univariate analyses dropped out of the model when forced to compete with the included variables in terms of the strength of their predictions.

Most importantly and most interestingly, Figure 36 shows that releasees that attended more classes during post release supervision were less likely to recidivate (controlling for the number of days after release) regardless of whether they had a prior incarceration or not, even though those with prior incarcerations were more likely to recidivate overall. Thus, attending classes served to offset some of the effects of prior criminal history. Again, without a comparison set of data from releasees who did not benefit from post release supervision it is difficult to know how much of this effect is attributable to post release supervision and how much is attributable to selection factors that lead to increased willingness to attend classes. Still the result is a promising one in any case especially because the relationship holds not only with releasees without prior incarcerations – presumably, the more motivated individuals – but also with releasees with prior incarcerations – presumably, the less motivated individuals.<sup>5</sup>

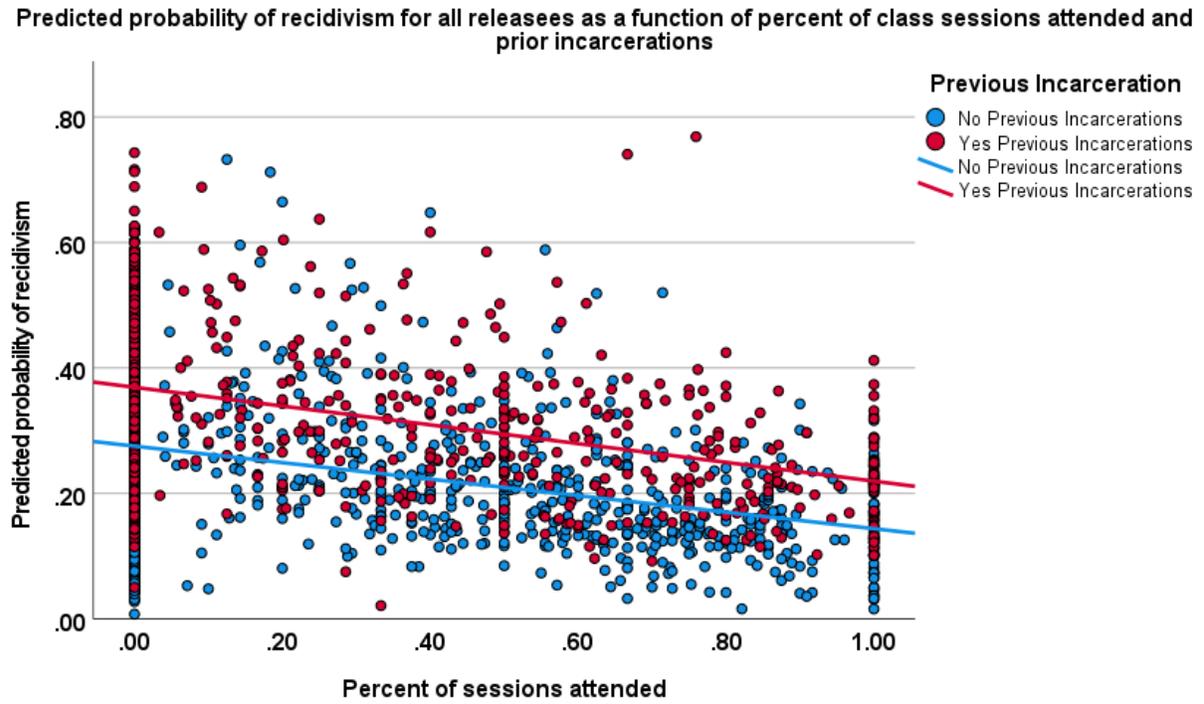
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<sup>5</sup> Note. Predictors with too few observations such as – days lapsed between release and engagement in probation services as well as the LS/CMI risk scores were not included in these analyses so as not to bias or shrink the sample. The model did show a good fit to the data  $\chi^2 = 74.29, p < .001$ .

Table 2: Forward entry multivariate logistic regression model predicting recidivism for all releasees regardless of whether probation release was a success or not

Predictor	B	S.E.	Wald	df	<i>p</i>	<i>Odds Ratio</i>
Included in the Model						
Days from release to first services	.001	.00	57.83	1	<.001	1.00
Age at first arrest	-.05	.01	34.04	1	<.001	.95
Minority status	.32	.09	11.67	1	.001	1.37
Number of custodial sanctions	.16	.05	10.70	1	.001	1.17
Previous incarcerations	.30	.09	9.77	1	.002	1.07
Percent of class sessions attended	-.47	.16	8.27	1	.004	.62
Number of Sanctions	.004	.002	4.70	1	.03	1.00
Constant	-1.00	.20	25.8	1	<.01	.37
Not included in the model						
Percent of positive substance tests	--	--	.89	1	.35	--
Gender	--	--	.92	1	.34	--
Number of felonies	--	--	.65	1	.42	--
Involvement in employment services	--	--	.37	1	.54	--
Percent of classes completed	--	--	.17	1	.68	--

Figure 36. Probability of recidivism for all releases as a function of number of class sessions attended and previous incarcerations.



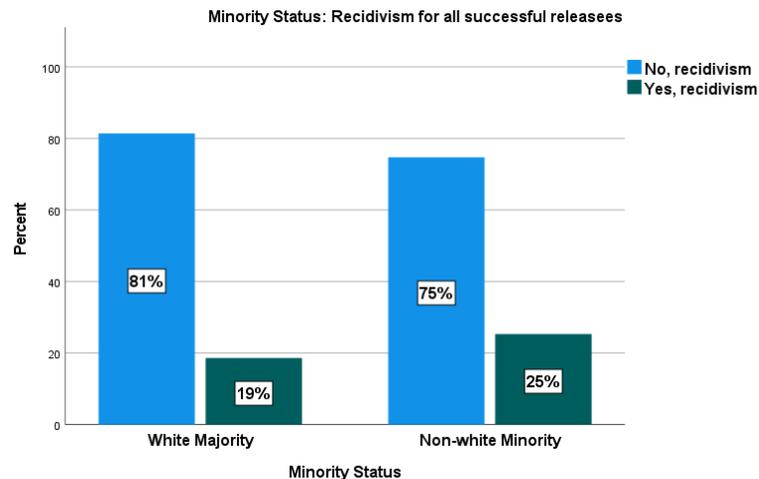
## Predictors of Recidivism for Successful Releasees – Univariate Analyses

The analyses to follow include only those releasees who had successfully completed probation. First, we present the separate univariate analyses, again controlling for the days that have elapsed since leaving probation and then present the results of a full multivariate model.

**Gender.** The effect of the relationship between gender and recidivism was not significant,  $Wald_{(1)} = .117, p = .96, Odds Ratio = .992$ .

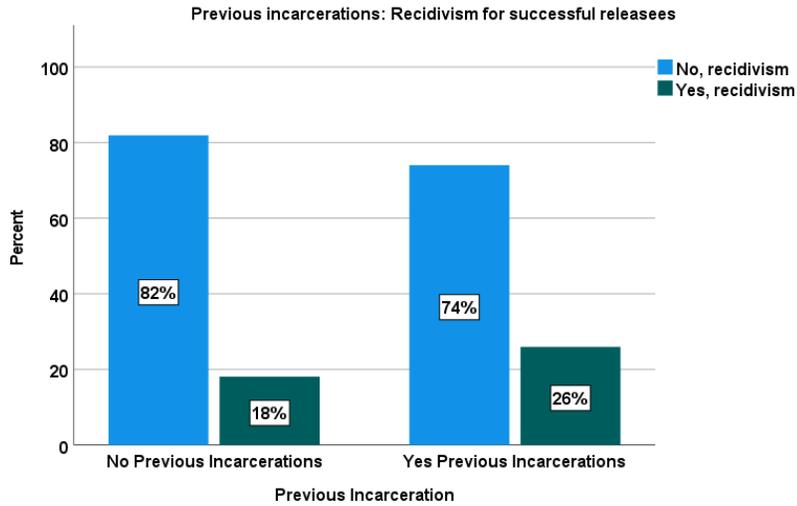
**Minority status.** Figure 37 shows that the Non-white minority releasees were more likely to recidivate than their White majority peers,  $Wald_{(1)} = 226.99, p < .001, Odds Ratio = 1.464$ .

Figure 37: Recidivism for successful releasees as a function of minority status.



**Previous incarceration.** Figure 38 shows that those releasees with at least one prior incarceration were more likely to recidivate,  $Wald_{(1)} = 237.65, p < .001, Odds Ratio = 1.556$ .

Figure 38: Recidivism for all successful releases as a function of prior incarcerations.



**Age at first arrest.** Figure 39 shows that those releasees who recidivated showed a younger first arrest age than did those who did not,  $F(1,1772) = 29.36, p < .09$ , and Figure 40 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of age at first arrest. The earlier the age of first arrest the higher is the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 20.38, p < .001$ , Odds Ratio = 1.001.

Figure 39: Age of first arrest for those who did and did not recidivate.

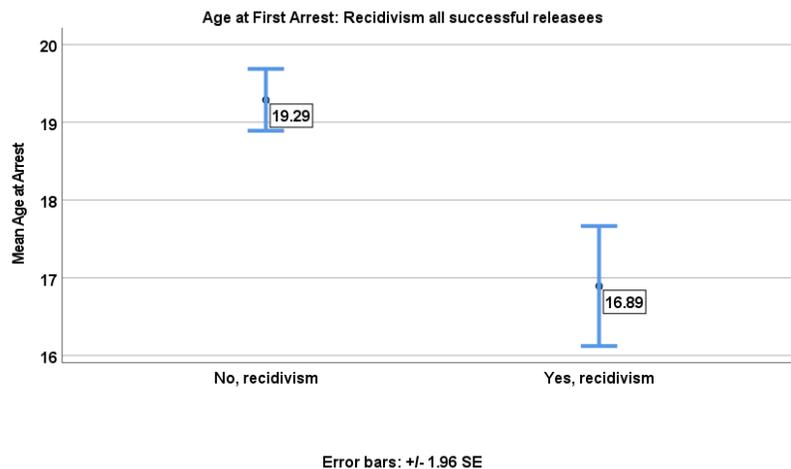
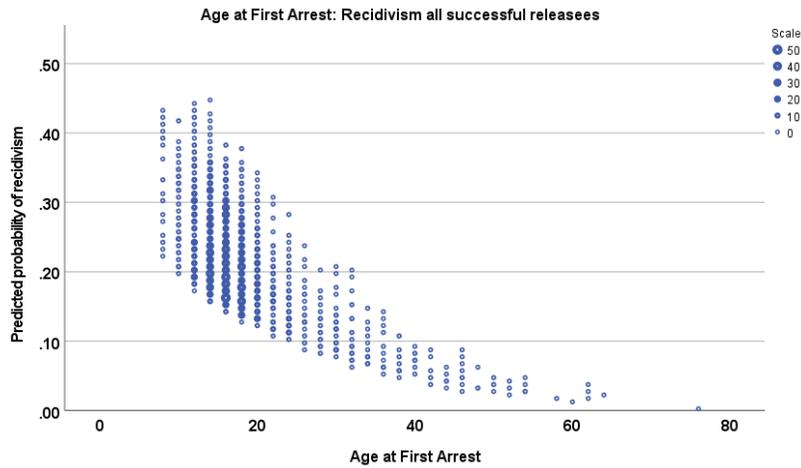


Figure 40: Predicted recidivism as a function of age at first arrest.



**LS/CMI risk at pre-sentence investigation.** LSCMI risk data collected at the time of a pre-sentence investigation was available for 1356 successful releaseses. Figure 41 shows that those releases who recidivated showed higher LS/CMI risk score than did those who did not,  $t(466.05) = 5.38, p < .001$ , and Figure 42 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function LS/CMI at the pre-sentence investigation. The higher the risk score, the higher is the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 21.99, p < .001$ , Odds Ratio = 1.050.

Figure 41: LS/CMI risk at pre-sentence investigation for those who did and did not recidivate.

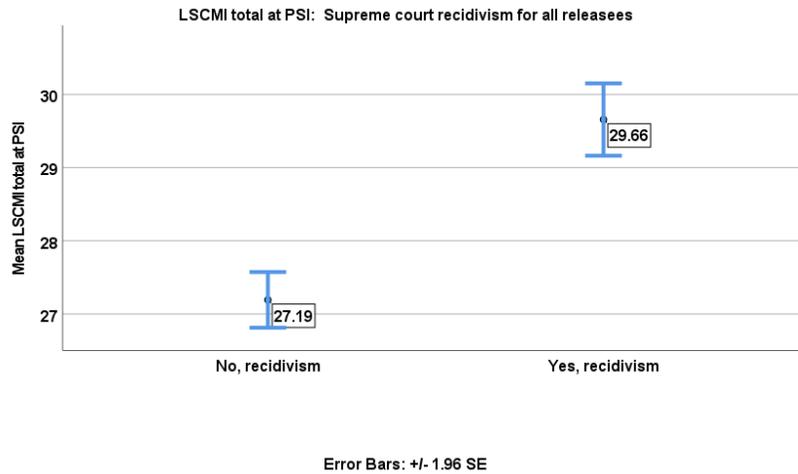
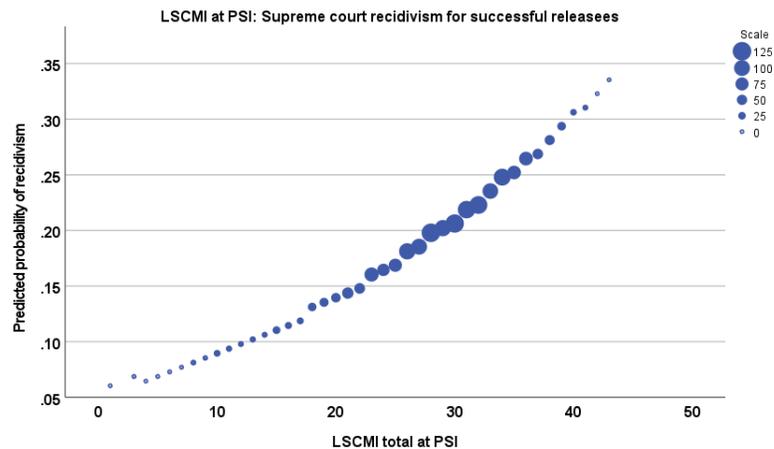


Figure 42: Predicted recidivism as a function of LS/CMI risk at pre-sentence investigation.



**LS/CMI risk from the Department of Corrections.** LS/CMI risk data collected while the offenders were in the custody of the Department of Corrections was available for 2030 successful releasees. Figure 43 documents that those releasees who recidivated showed higher LSCMI risk scores than did those who did not,  $t(618.94) = 5.28, p < .001$ , and Figure 44 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function LS/CMI at the pre-sentence

investigation. The higher the risk score, the higher is the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 20.76, p < .001, Odds Ratio = 1.053$ .

Figure 43: LS/CMI risk at from the Department of Corrections for those who did and did not recidivate.

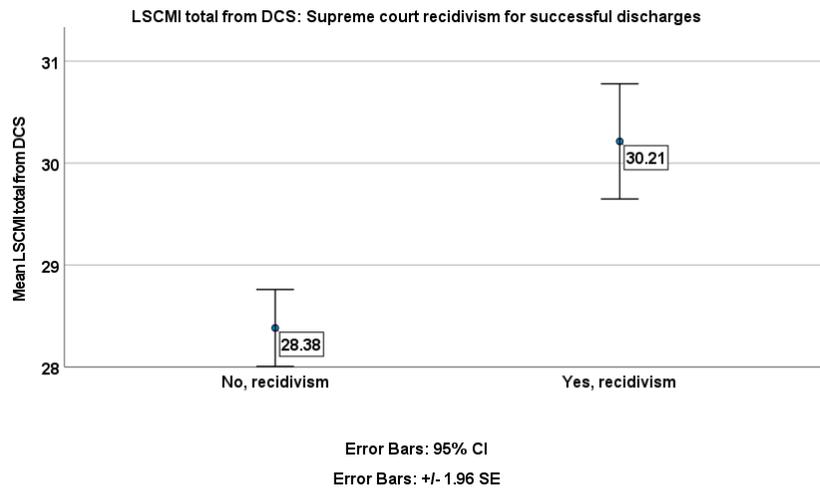
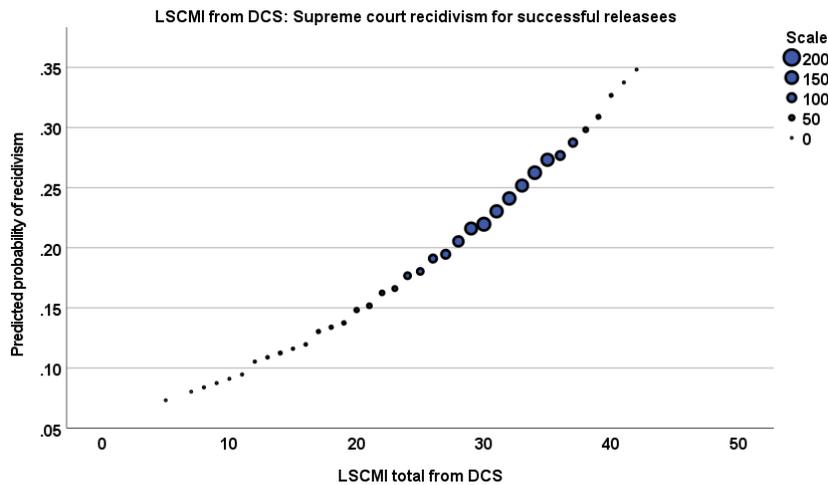


Figure 44: Predicted recidivism as a function of LS/CMI risk from the Department of Corrections.



**LS/CMI risk during post release supervision.** Initial and follow-up LS/CMI risk data collected at the initial testing and at a follow-up, while the successfully released

offenders were in post release supervision, was available for 1060 releaseses. First, Figure 45 shows a significant decrease in risk from the initial testing to the most recent follow-up during post release supervision,  $t(1059) = 7.00, p < .001$ . Figure 46 shows that the greater was the decrease in risk, the lower was the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 7.05, p = .008$ , Odds Ratio = .957.

Figure 45: The reduction in the LS/CMI risk score during post release supervision

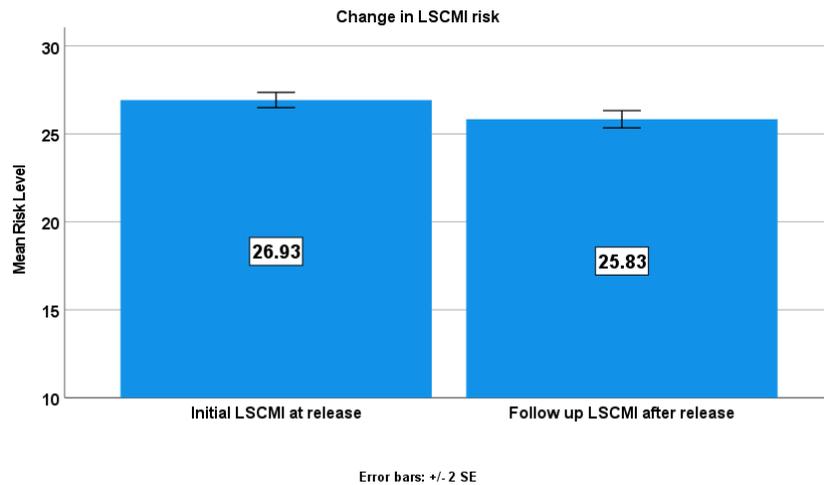
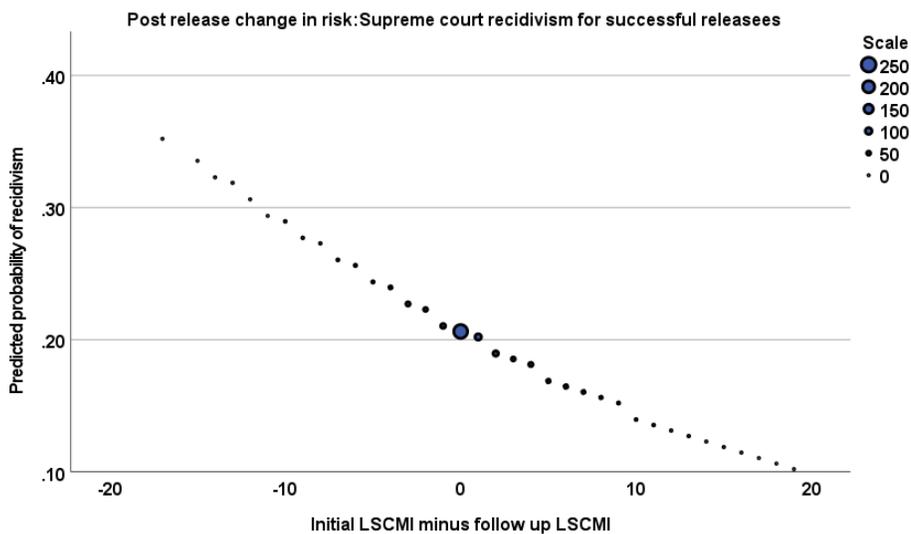


Figure 46: Predicted recidivism as a function of LS/CMI decrease during post release supervision



**Percent of class sessions attended.** Figure 47 shows that those successful releasees who recidivated attended fewer class sessions during post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,1776) = 5.80, p = .016$ , and Figure 48 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the percent of class sessions attended. The fewer the sessions attended, the higher is the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 20.38, p < .001$ , Odds Ratio = 1.001. Figure 48 includes a regression line for predicted probability of recidivism to make this important relationship apparent. However, again to determine whether this change was a result of the classes themselves, motivation of the releasees, or some combination of both requires a comparison sample of releasees who were not in post release supervision.

Figure 47: Percent of class sessions attended for those who did and did not recidivate.

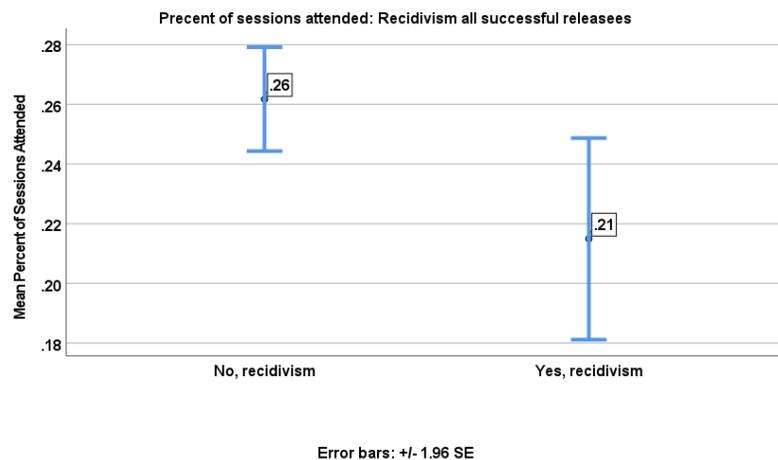
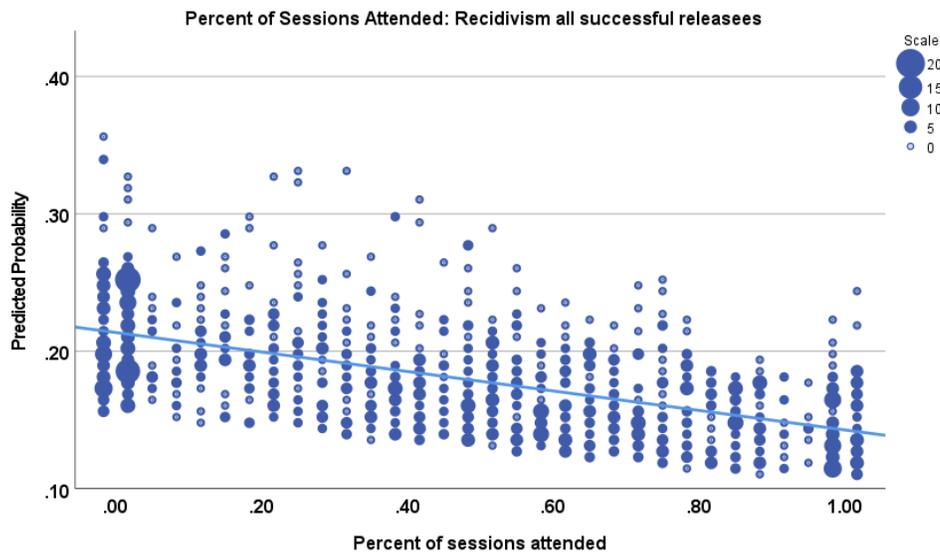


Figure 48: Predicted recidivism as a function of the percent of class sessions attended.



**Percent of classes completed.** Figure 49 shows that those successful releasees who recidivated completed a smaller percent of classes during post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,1776) = 3.78$ ,  $p = .052$ , although the effect was small, not quite reaching traditional levels of significance. Figure 50 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the percent of completed classes. The more classes completed, the lower is the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 3.77$ ,  $p = .052$ , Odds Ratio = .727. Figure 46 includes a regression line for predicted probability of recidivism to again make this relationship apparent. Again, to determine whether this change was a result of the classes themselves, motivation of the releasees, or a combination of both requires a comparison sample of releasees who were not in post release supervision.

Figure 49: Percent of classes completed for those who did and did not recidivate.

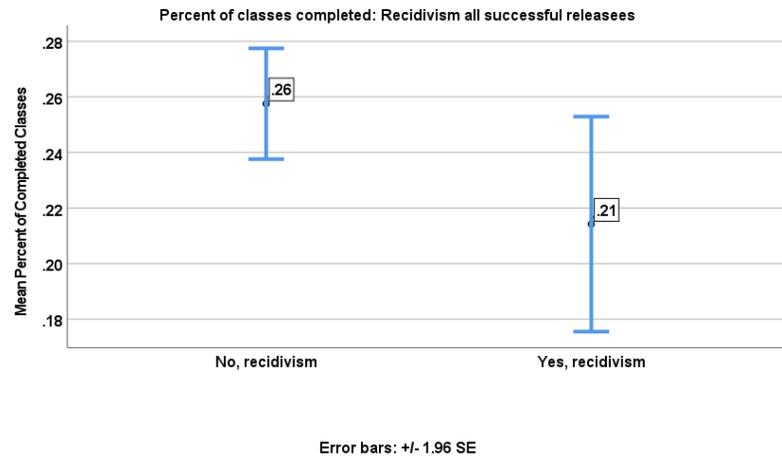
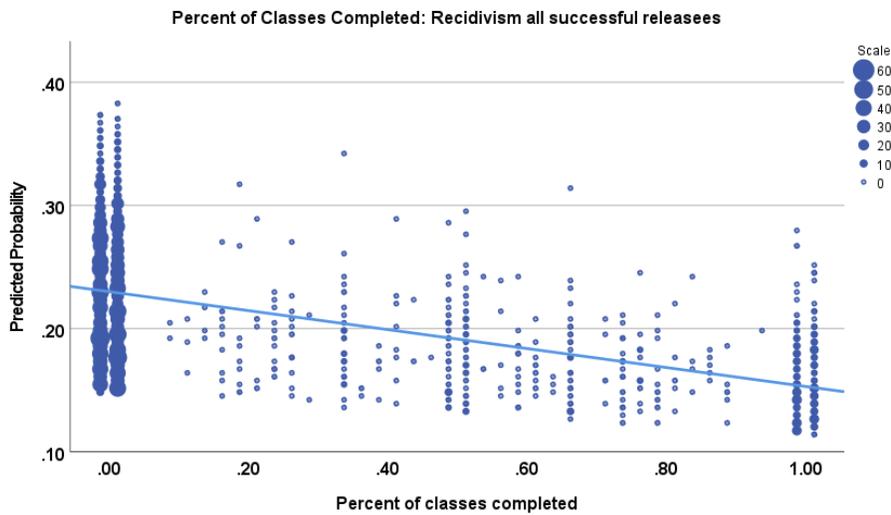


Figure 50: Predicted recidivism as a function of the percent of classes completed.



**Percent of positive substance tests.** Figure 51 shows that those successful releasees who recidivated showed a higher rate of positive substance tests during post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,1776) = 4.41, p = .036$ , and Figure 52 shows the

predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the percent positive tests. The more positive tests, the higher is the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 4.15, p = .042$ , Odds Ratio = 1.602. Figure 52 includes a regression line for predicted probability of recidivism to make this relationship apparent.

Figure 51: Percent positive drug tests completed for those who did and did not recidivate.

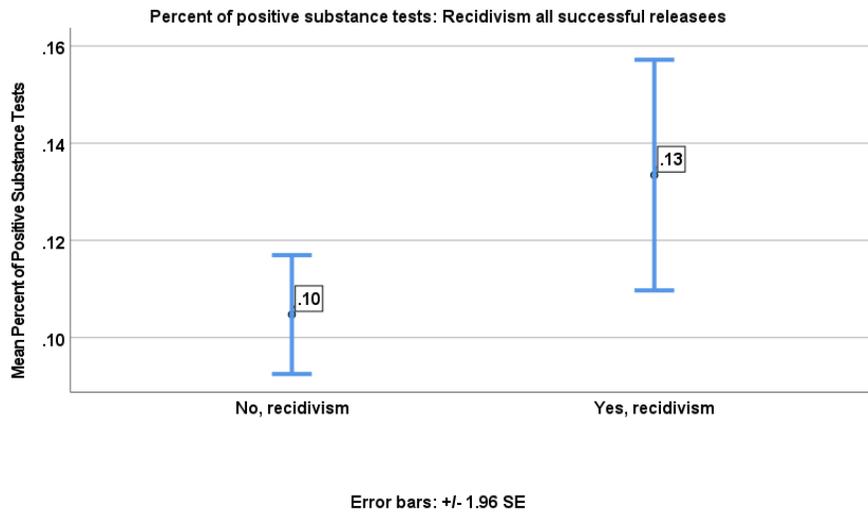
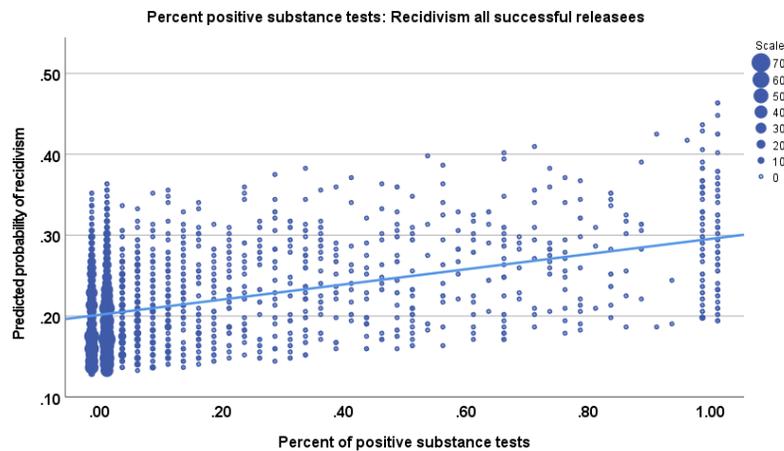


Figure 52: Predicted recidivism as a function of the percent of positive substance tests.



**Total number of sanctions.** Figure 53 shows that those successful releasees who recidivated showed a higher number of total sanctions during post release supervision than

did those who did not,  $F(1,1776) = 10.01, p = .002$ , and Figure 54 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the total number of sanctions. The greater the number of sanctions, the higher was the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 9.76, p = .002$ , Odds Ratio = 1.006. Figure 54 includes a regression line for predicted probability of recidivism to make this relationship apparent.

Figure 53: Total number of sanctions for those who did and did not recidivate.

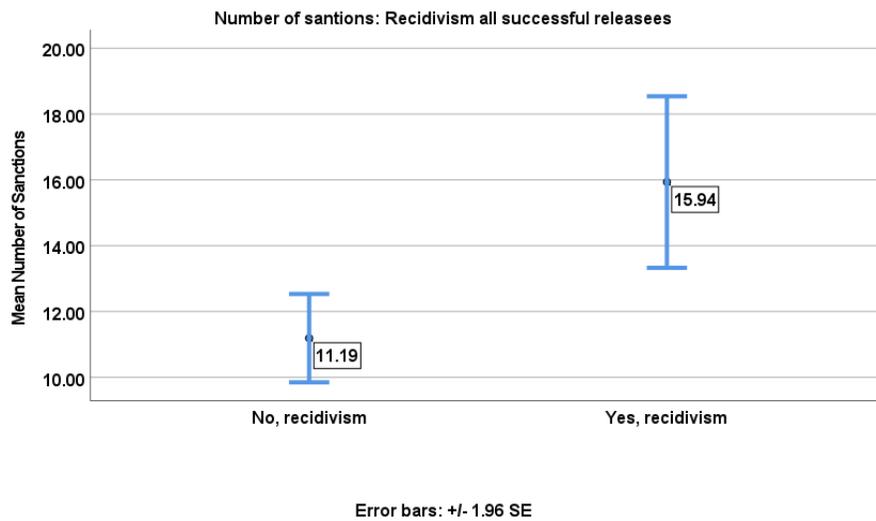
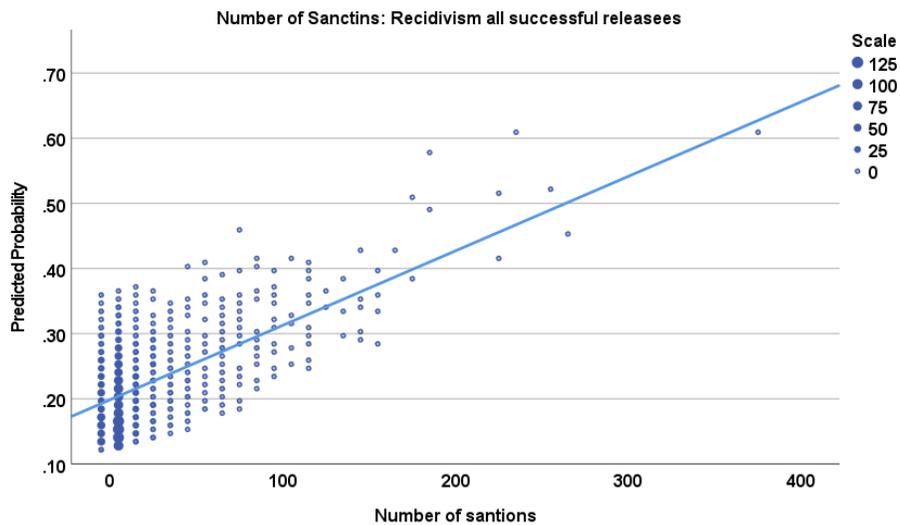


Figure 54: Predicted recidivism as a function of the total number of sanctions.



**Total number of custodial sanctions.** Figure 55 documents that finding that those successful releasees who recidivated received a higher number of custodial sanctions during post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,1776) = 19.00, p < .001$ , and Figure 56 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the number of custodial sanctions. The greater the number of sanctions, the higher was the likelihood of recidivism,  $Wald_{(1)} = 18.51, p < .001$ , Odds Ratio = 1.24. In fact, each additional custodial sanction increased the odds of recidivism by 124%. Figure 56 includes a regression line for predicted probability of recidivism to make this relationship apparent.

Figure 55: Number of custodial sanctions for those who did and did not recidivate.

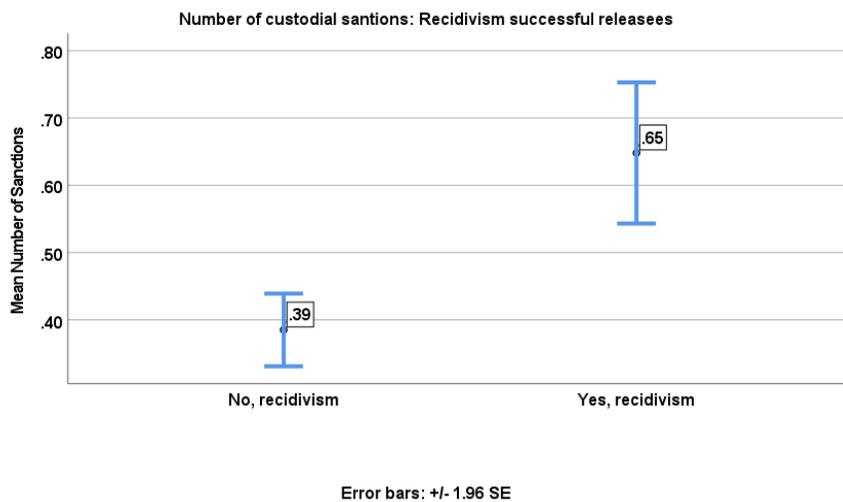
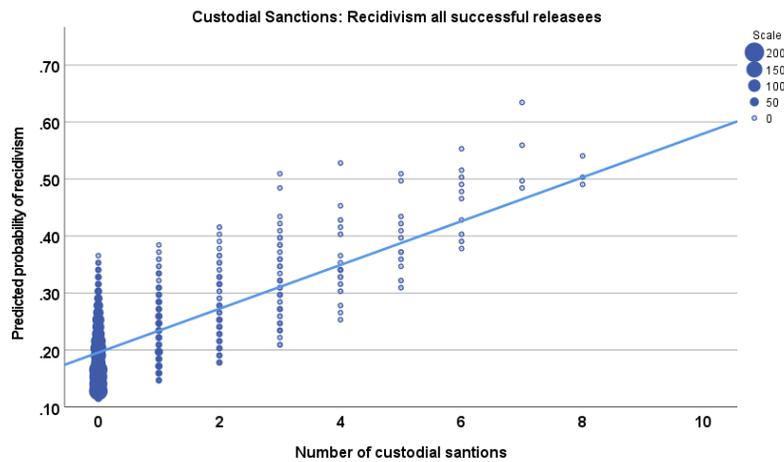


Figure 56: Predicted recidivism as a function of the number of custodial sanctions.



**Number of committed felonies.** The effect of the relationship between number of committed felonies and recidivism was not significant,  $Wald_{(1)} = .796, p = .372$ , Odds Ratio = .923.

**Elapsed days from incarceration release to first probation services.** The effect of the relationship between elapsed days from incarceration to first probation services and recidivism was not significant,  $Wald_{(1)} = 2.666, p = .103$ , Odds Ratio = .999.

**Summary of univariate analyses for successful releaseses.** The results of the individual predictor univariate analyses (controlling for the number of days elapsed since release from probation) for releasees who were successful in probation were almost the same as those for the full sample of releasees. The relationships discussed above for all releasees were the same for the static factors with the exception that the number of felonies committed for the successful releasees was not a significant predictor of recidivism. Similarly, the dynamic predictors and their relationships to recidivism were also almost identical in number and shape of the relationship, except that the surprising relationship between time between release and the first services was no longer a significant factor.

## **Predictors of Recidivism for Successful Releasees – Multivariate Analyses**

**Logistic regression.** As with the full set of releasees, we conducted a multivariate logistic regression analysis, which included the number of days after release from probation as a control factor and which used a forward inclusion method to build the strongest set of predictor variables with only the releasees who were successfully discharged from probation. Table 3 presents the results of that analysis. Comparing Tables 2 and 3 shows that the best predictor model for all releasees was only slightly different than the best predictive model for all *only* successful releasees in that the latter included one fewer dynamic predictor, the total number of sanctions, but still included the number of custodial sanctions as a significant indicator. The only other change was that the strength of the relationships registered a slightly different order in the model but in general offered a similar predictive equation.

Most importantly and most interestingly, Figure 57 again shows that even with only successful releasees, those that attended more classes during post release supervision were less likely to recidivate (controlling for the number of days after release) regardless of whether they had a prior incarceration or not, even though those with prior incarcerations were more likely to recidivate overall. Thus, attending classes, again served to offset some of the effects of prior criminal history even when whittling the sample down to only successful releasees. Again, without a comparison set of data from releasees who did not benefit from post release supervision it is difficult to know how much of this effect is attributable to post release supervision and how much is attributable to selection factors that lead to increased willingness to attend classes. Still as discussed above for the sample of all releasees, the result is a promising one because it holds up not only with releasees without prior incarcerations – presumably, the

more motivated individuals – but also with releasees with prior incarcerations – presumably the less motivated individuals.<sup>6</sup>

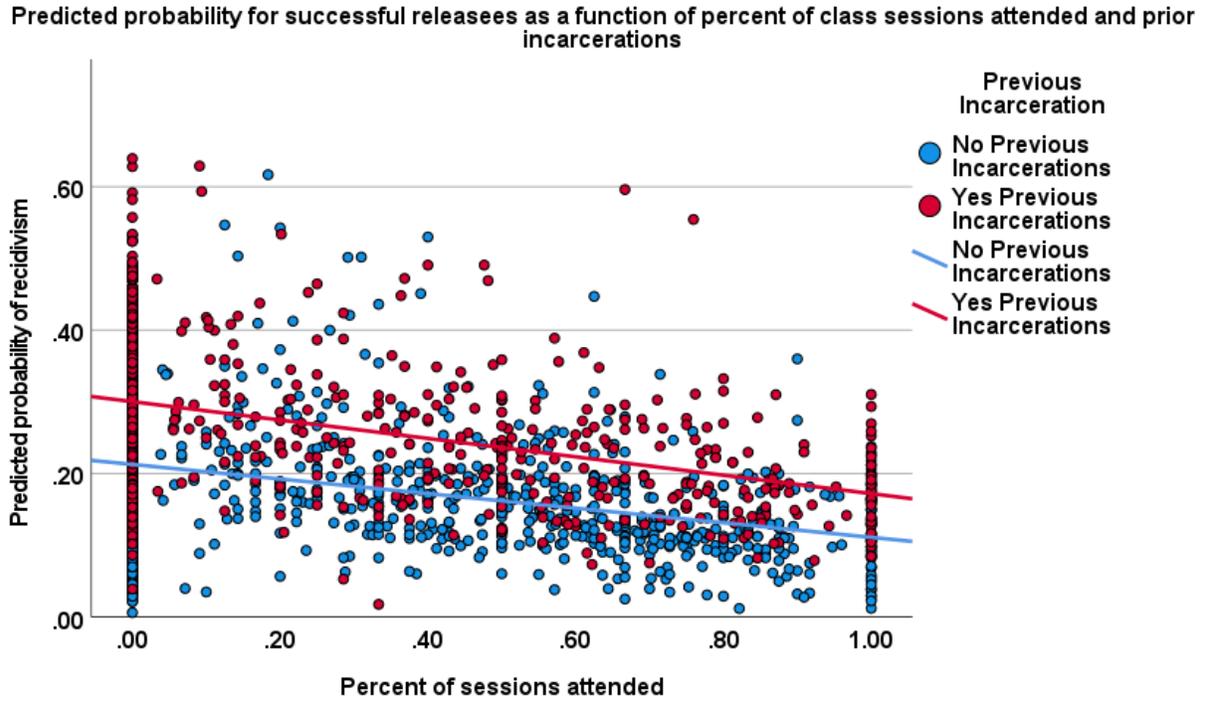
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<sup>6</sup> Note. Again, predictors with too few observations such as – days lapsed between release and engagement in probation services as well as the LS/CMI risk scores were not included in these analyses so as not to bias or shrink the sample. The model did show a good fit to the data  $\chi^2 = 29.47, p < .001$  but not as good a fit as with the all the releasees, which is to be expected with the loss of almost 800 observations.

Table 3: Forward entry multivariate logistic regression model predicting recidivism for releasees who successfully completed probation

Predictor	B	S.E.	Wald	df	<i>p</i>	<i>Odds Ratio</i>
Included in the Model						
Days from release to first services	.001	.00	20.30	1	<.001	1.00
Age at first arrest	-.05	.01	21.10	1	<.001	.95
Number of custodial sanctions	.22	.05	18.40	1	<.001	1.25
Previous incarcerations	.33	.12	7.34	1	.007	1.39
Percent of class sessions attended	-.49	.20	6.08	1	.014	.62
Minority status	.30	.12	5.92	1	.015	1.34
Constant	-1.14	.26	19.02	1	<.01	.32
Not included in the model						
Number of felonies	--	--	2.56	1	.11	--
Gender	--	--	1.44	1	.23	--
Percent of positive substance tests	--	--	.29	1	.59	--
Involvement in employment services	--	--	.19	1	.66	--
Number of sanctions	--	--	.17	1	.733	--
Percent of classes completed	--	--	.006	1	.94	--

Figure 57. Probability of recidivism for releases who successfully completed probation as a function of number of class sessions attended and previous incarcerations.



## **Recidivism Restricted by Temporal Conditionality – Three Year Window**

**Limitations of Three-year Window Analyses.** Next, we report the same set of univariate and multivariate analyses using only those probationers who satisfy the “three-year window”, those who were successfully discharged from probation at least three years prior to the data collection date, May 15, 2021. As described above, restricting the analyses to releasees who meet the requirements of the “three-year window”, namely that they have been out of probation for at least 3 years, greatly reduces not only the successfully released sample ( $N = 312$ , an 88% reduction in available observations) but also the full releasee sample regardless of probation outcome ( $N = 475$ , an 82% reduction). The large reduction in sample size limits the statistical power of the univariate and especially the multivariate models that we used to identify significant predictors of recidivism.

### **Predictors of Recidivism for all Releasees – Univariate Analyses**

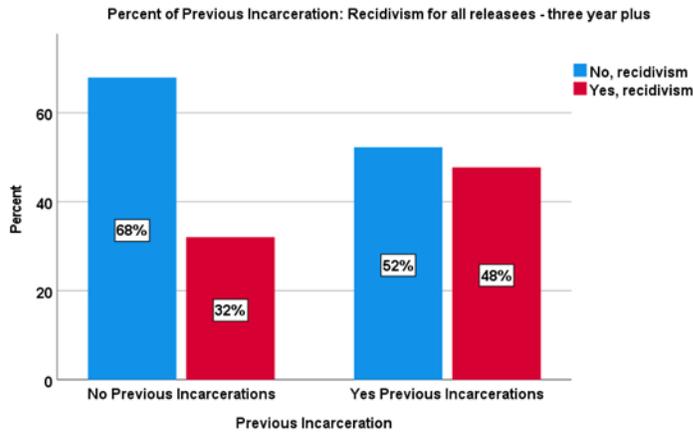
**Results for all releasees with three or more years since leaving probation.** Table 4 displays the results of 15 separate, univariate logistic regression analyses in which the variable in the first column was used to predict recidivism with the data available for all releasees regardless of whether they were successfully discharged from probation. Each row represents a separate analysis for a single predictor, not controlling for any of the other predictors but controlling for the number of days after leaving probation, which was at least 1,095 days (3 times 365). Following the table is a detailed analysis (in graphic form) of the eight significant predictors.

Table 4: Univariate Predictors of Recidivism for all releasees who were released from probation at least three years before the data collection date (May 15, 2021)

Predictor	B	S.E.	Wald	df	<i>p</i>	<i>Odds Ratio</i>
Individual Predictors Controlling for Days Since Probation Discharge						
Gender	.11	.28	.16	1	.69	1.12
Minority status	.33	.21	2.61	1	.11	1.39
Previous incarcerations	.66	.21	10.29	1	.001	1.93
Age at first arrest	-.05	.02	8.99	1	.003	.95
LS/CMI at pre-sentence investigation	.06	.02	10.33	1	.001	1.07
LS/CMI from Department of Corrections	.04	.02	3.33	1	.07	1.04
Reduction in LS/CMI– post release supervision	-.10	.04	7.66	1	.006	.91
Percent of class sessions attended	-.37	.62	.36	1	.55	.69
Percent of classes completed	.004	.53	.00	1	.99	1.00
Percent of positive substance tests	1.29	.35	13.31	1	< .001	3.64
Number of sanctions	.01	.01	6.98	1	.008	1.01
Number of custodial sanctions	.34	.12	7.60	1	.006	1.41
Number of felonies	.30	.12	5.92	1	.02	1.35
Involvement with employment services	.23	.68	.12	1	.73	1.26
Days from release to first services	.002	.001	2.20	1	.14	1.00

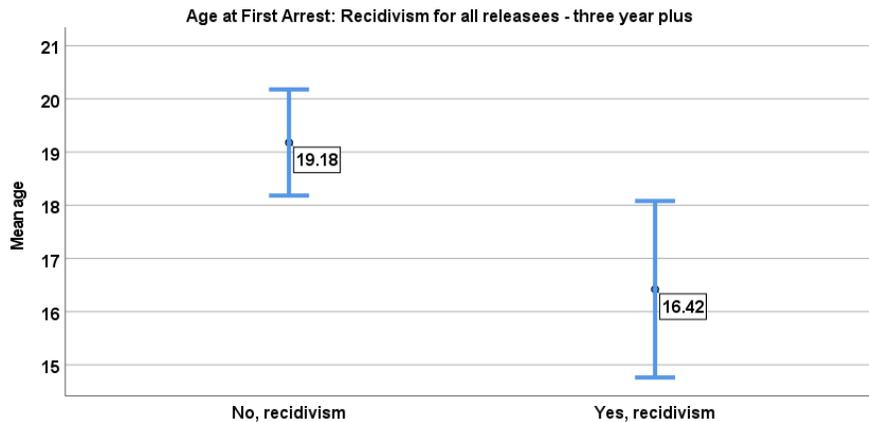
**Previous incarcerations.** Figure 58 shows that those releases with at least one prior incarceration were more likely to recidivate.

Figure 58: Three-year window recidivism for all releases as a function of prior incarcerations.



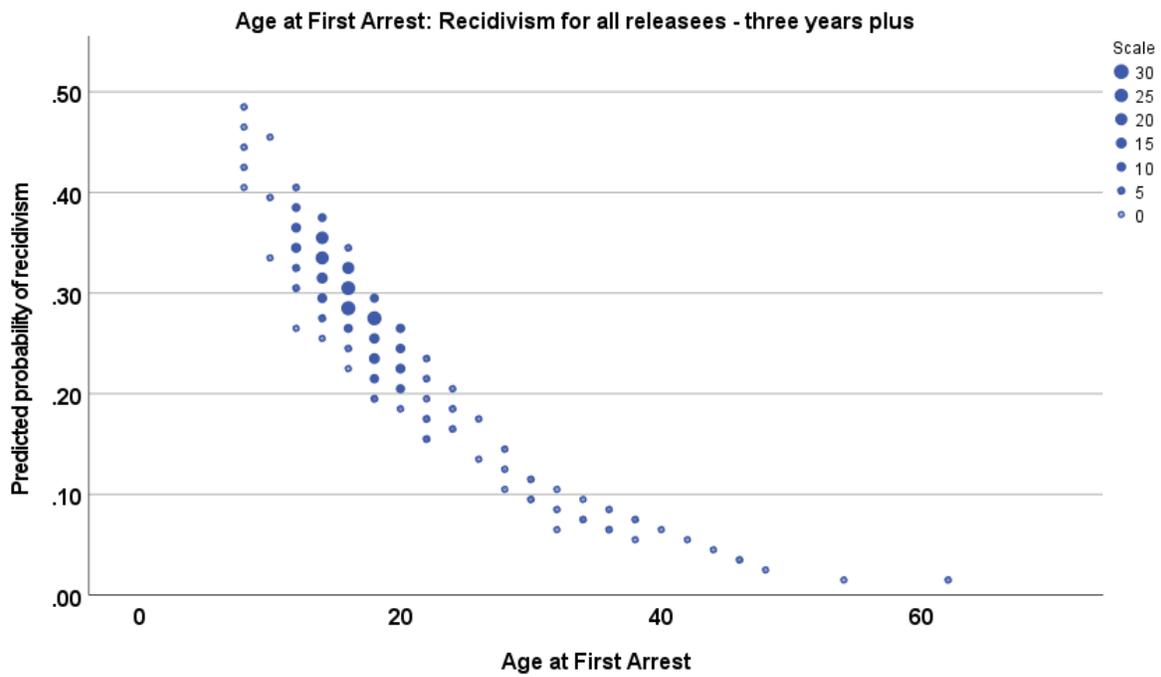
**Age at first arrest.** Figure 59 shows that those releases who recidivated showed an earlier first arrest age than did those who did not,  $F(1,279) = 7.78, p = .006$ , and Figure 60 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of age at first arrest. The earlier the age of first arrest the higher is the likelihood of recidivism.

Figure 59: Age of first arrest for those who did and did not recidivate.



Error bars: +/- 1.96 SE

Figure 60: Predicted recidivism as a function of age at first arrest.



**LS/CMI risk at pre-sentence investigation.** Figure 61 shows that those releasees who recidivated scored higher on the LS/CMI risk assessment than did those who did not,  $t(299) = 3.32, p = .001$ , and Figure 62 shows the predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the LS/CMI at the pre-sentence investigation. The higher the risk score, the higher is the likelihood of recidivism.

Figure 61: LS/CMI risk at pre-sentence investigation for those who did and did not recidivate.

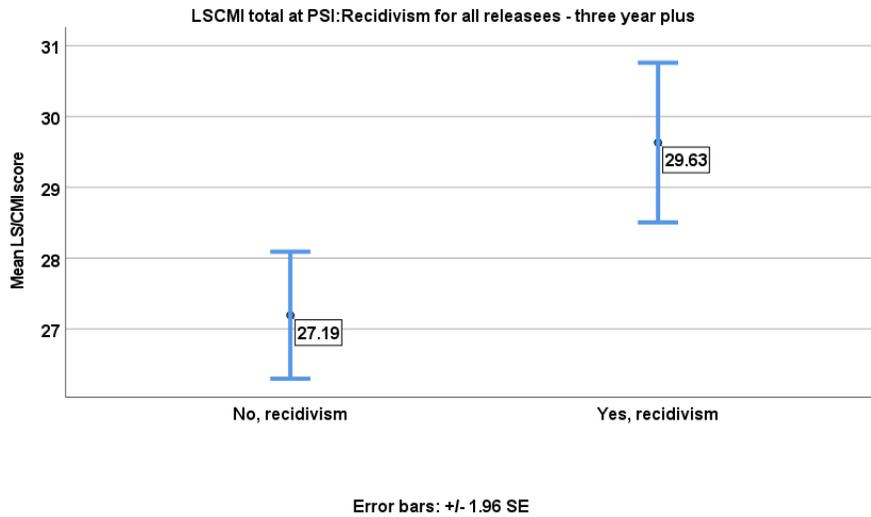
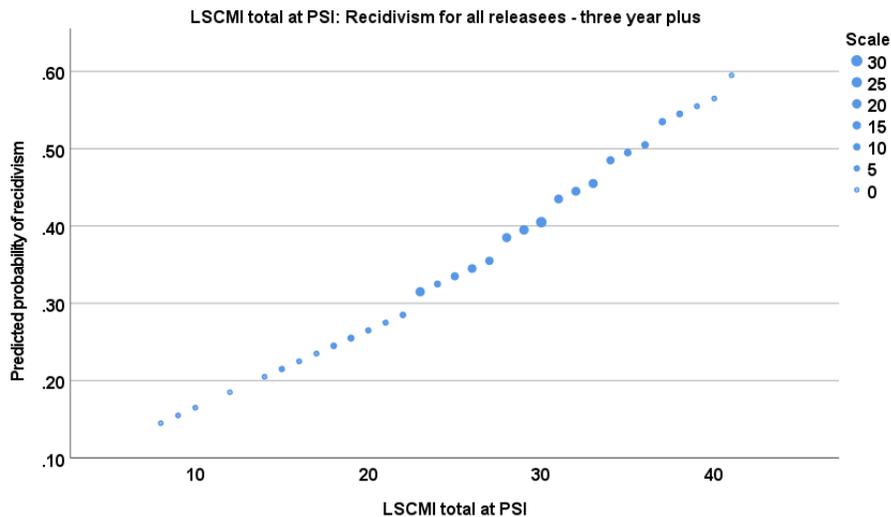


Figure 62: Predicted recidivism as a function of LS/CMI risk at pre-sentence investigation.



**LS/CMI risk during post release supervision.** First, Figure 63 shows a there was no significant decrease in risk from beginning to the follow-up testing during post release supervision,  $t(1059) = 7.00, p < .001$ . However, Figure 64 shows that the greater was the decrease in risk, the lower was the likelihood of recidivism.

Figure 63: No significant reduction in the LS/CMI risk score during post release supervision for “three-year window” releasees,  $F(1,125) = 3.36, p = .07$ .

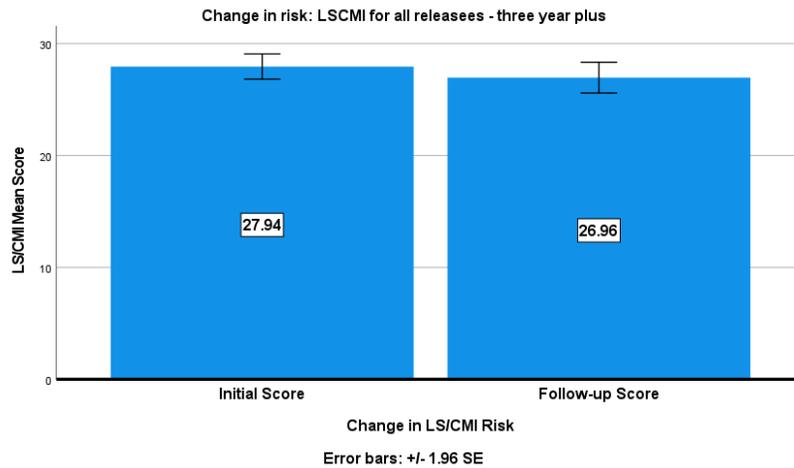
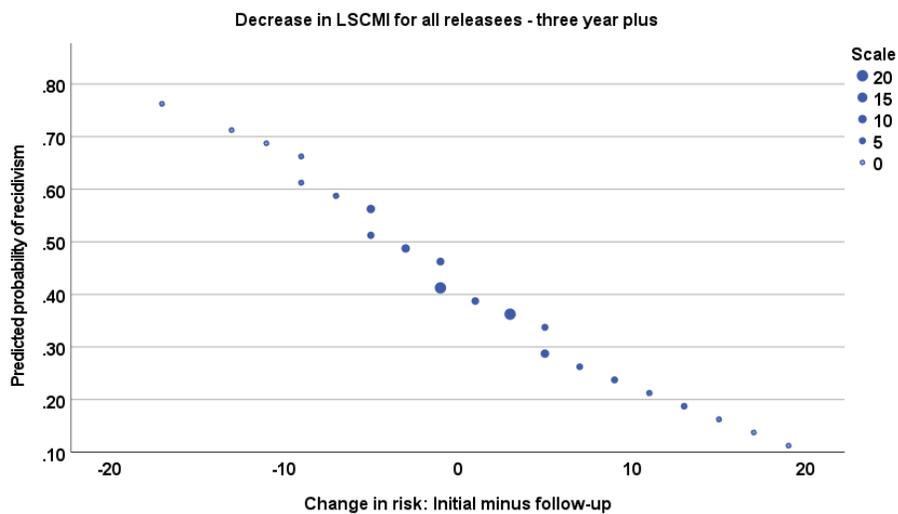


Figure 64: Predicted recidivism as a function of LS/CMI decrease during post release supervision



**Percent of positive substance tests.** Figure 65 shows that those releasees who recidivated exhibited a higher rate of positive substance tests during post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,410) = 14.49, p < .001$ , and Figure 66 shows the predicted

probability of recidivism as a function of the percent positive tests. The more positive tests, the higher is the likelihood of recidivism.

Figure 65: Percent positive drug tests completed for those who did and did not recidivate.

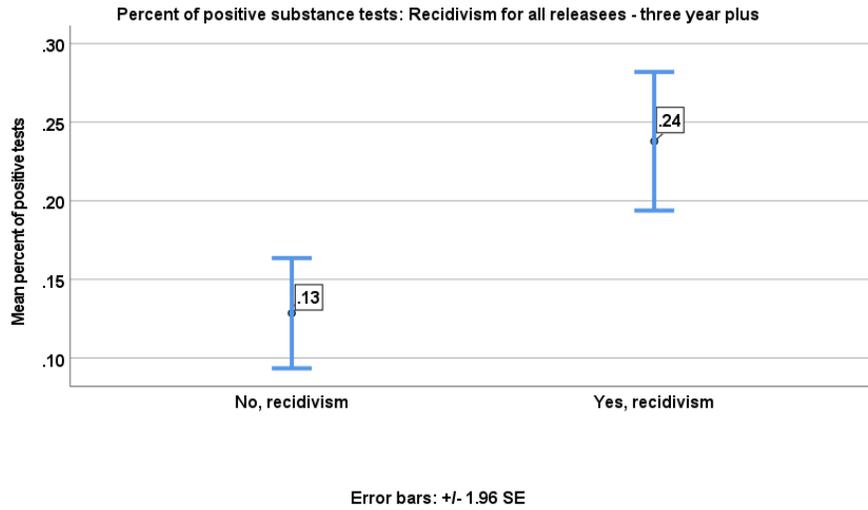
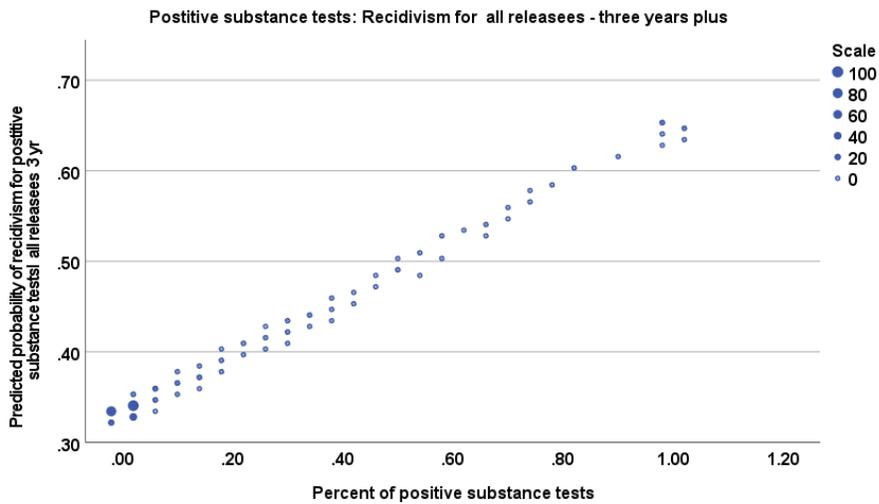


Figure 66: Predicted recidivism as a function of the percent of positive substance tests.



**Total number of sanctions.** Figure 67 shows that those releasees who recidivated received a higher number of sanctions during post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,410) = 8.33, p = .004$ , and Figure 68 shows the predicted probability of

recidivism as a function of the total number of sanctions. The greater the number of sanctions, the higher was the likelihood of recidivism.

Figure 67: Total number of sanctions for those who did and did not recidivate.

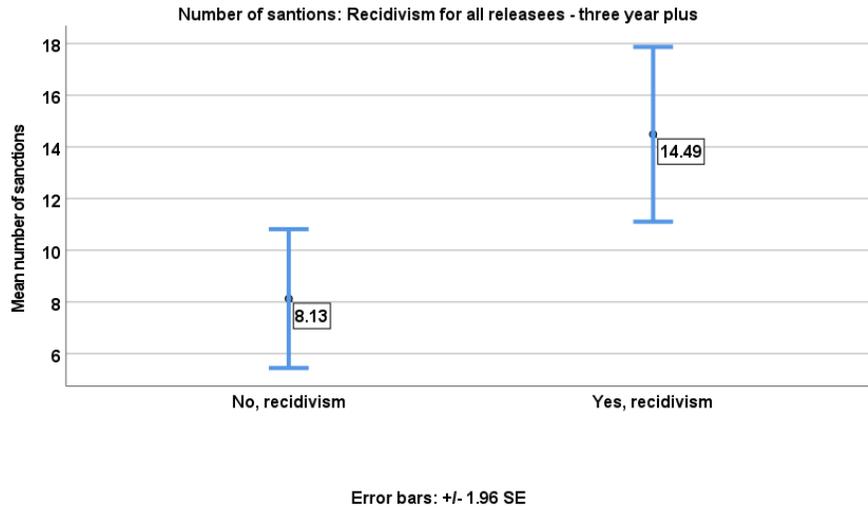
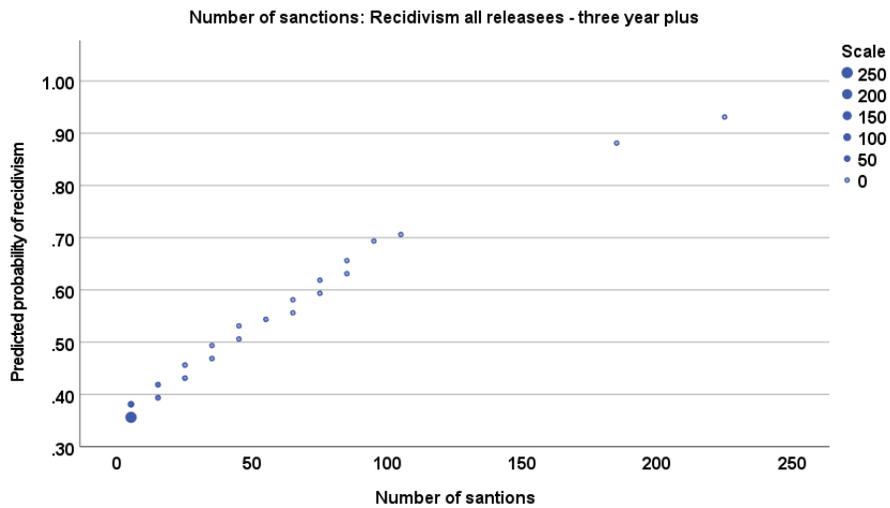


Figure 68: Predicted recidivism as a function of the total number of sanctions.



**Total number of custodial sanctions.** Figure 69 shows that those releasees who recidivated also received a higher number of custodial sanctions during post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,410) = 8.50, p = .004$ , and Figure 70 shows the

predicted probability of recidivism as a function of the number of custodial sanctions. The greater the number of sanctions, the higher was the likelihood of recidivism.

Figure 69: Number of custodial sanctions for those who did and did not recidivate.

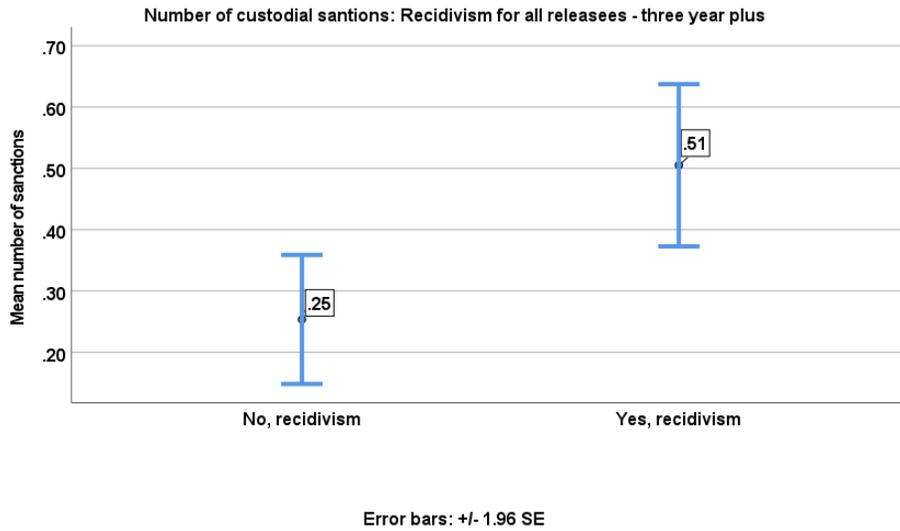
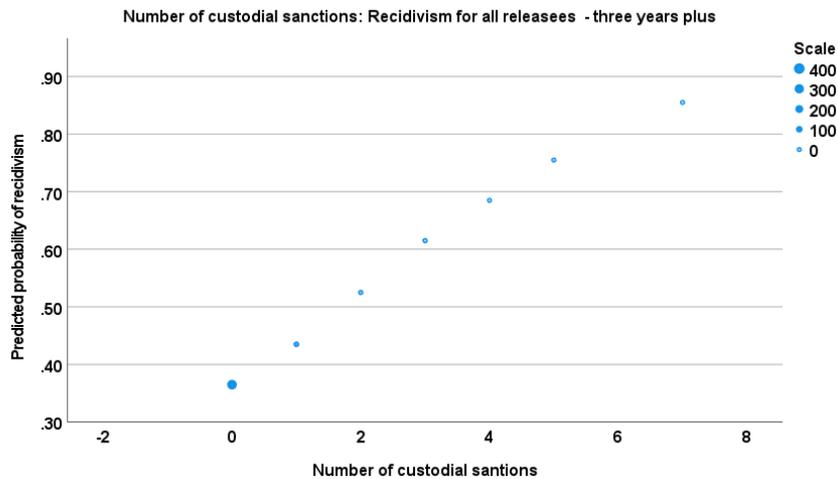


Figure 70: Predicted recidivism as a function of the number of custodial sanctions.



**Number of committed felonies.** Figure 71 shows that those releasees who recidivated committed a higher number of felonies before post release supervision than did those who did not,  $F(1,410) = 6.14, p = .014$ , but the effect was small with both groups committing less than two felonies on average. Figure 72 shows the predicted probability of

recidivism as a function of the number of felonies committed. The greater the number of felonies, the higher was the likelihood of recidivism.

Figure 71: Number of committed felonies for those who did and did not recidivate.

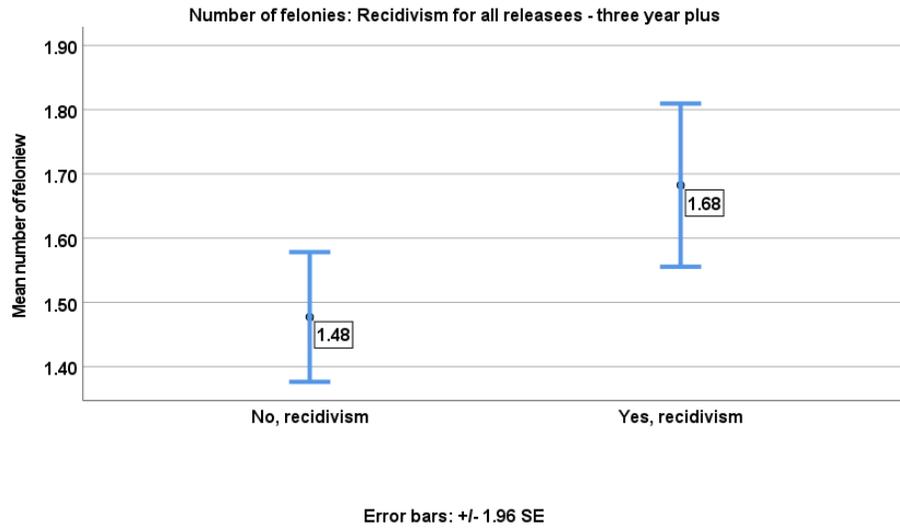
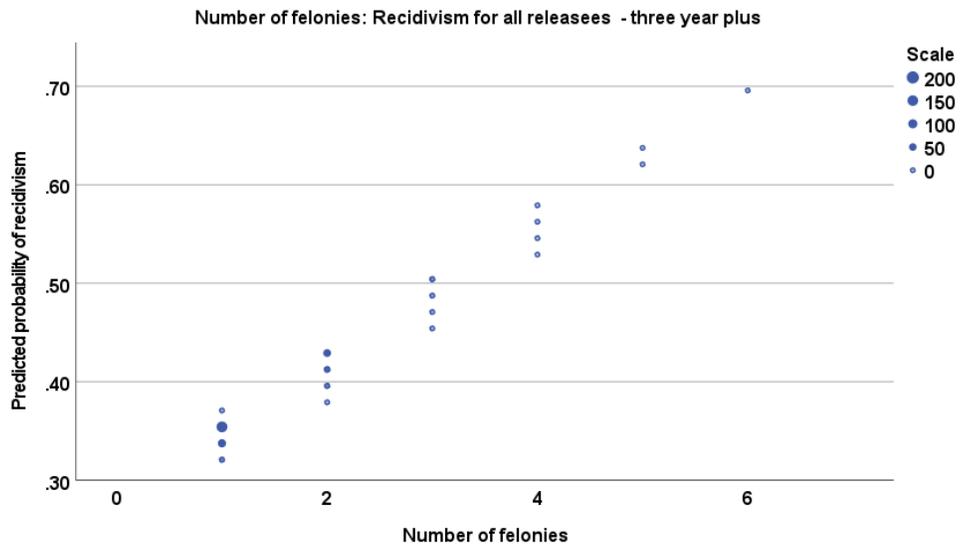


Figure 72: Predicted recidivism as a function of the number of committed felonies.



## **Predictors of Recidivism for all Releasees – Multivariate Analysis**

**Logistic regression.** As with the subsets of the other releasees, we conducted a multivariate logistic regression analysis, which included the number of days after release from probation as a control factor and which used a forward inclusion method to build the strongest set of predictor variables with only the releasees who were released from probation three or more years before the data collection date (May 15, 2021). Table 5 presents the results of that analysis. Table 5 shows that even with a substantial reduction in power, four variables continued to be significant predictors of recidivism during the “three-year window” for all releasees regardless of whether they successfully completed probation. They were age at first arrest, percent of positive substance tests, number of custodial sanctions, and whether the releasee had previously served time in prison. In other words, the releasees most likely to recidivate were those who were arrested for the first time at a young age, who had already served time in prison, who received custodial sanctions and who accumulated a large number of positive substance tests.

It is notable that with the 82% reduction in sample size several of the original dynamic predictors dropped out of the set of the predictor variables, including percent of class sessions attended and percent of classes completed. The combination of reduced power and restricted range of observations eliminated many of the dynamic factors.

Table 5: Forward entry multivariate logistic regression model predicting recidivism for releaseses who completed probation at least three years before the data collection date (May 15, 2021)

Predictor	B	S.E.	Wald	df	<i>p</i>	<i>Odds Ratio</i>
Included in the Model						
Days from release to first services	.00	.001	.04	1	.834	1.00
Age at first arrest	-.05	.02	6.26	1	.012	.95
Percent of positive substance tests	.89	.37	5.26	1	.022	2.35
Number of custodial sanctions	.27	.12	4.78	1	.029	1.31
Previous incarcerations	.46	.22	4.55	1	.033	1.58
Constant	-.26	.94	.08	1	.779	.77
Not included in the model						
Number of felonies	--	--	2.58	1	.108	--
Minority status	--	--	2.13	1	.144	--
Number of sanctions	--	--	.86	1	.353	--
Percent of class sessions attended	--	--	.31	1	.580	--
Involvement in employment services	--	--	.007	1	.933	--
Percent of classes completed	--	--	.004	1	.95	--
Gender	--	--	.003	1	.96	--

## **Predictors of Recidivism for Successful Releasees – Univariate Analysis**

Finally, to complete the analyses we turn to the smallest number of post supervision releasees, those who completed probation successfully at least three years before the data collection date (May 15, 2021).

**Results for releasees with three or more years since leaving probation with a successful discharge.** Table 6 displays the results of 15 separate, univariate logistic regression analyses in which the variable in the first column was used to predict recidivism with the data available for all releasees who were successfully discharged from probation at least three years before May 15, 2021. Each row represents a separate analysis for a single predictor, not controlling for any of the other predictors but controlling for the number of days after leaving probation, which was at least 1,095 days (3 times 365). The only significant predictor for this data analysis with no more than 312 releasees was the age of the releasee at first arrest. The number of observations for some of the factors were much less than 312 because of missing data for some of the predictors.

Table 6: Univariate Predictors of Recidivism for releasees who were successfully released from probation at least three years before the data collection date (May 15, 2021)

Predictor	B	S.E.	Wald	df	<i>p</i>	<i>Odds Ratio</i>
Successful Releasees (N = 312)						
Gender	-.02	.36	.003	1	.96	.98
Minority status	-.06	.28	.04	1	.84	.94
Previous incarcerations	.43	.27	2.47	1	.12	1.54
Age at first arrest	-.08	.03	7.00	1	.008	.92
LS/CMI at pre-sentence investigation	.03	.03	1.37	1	.24	1.03
LS/CMI from Department of Corrections	-.01	.03	.02	1	.90	1.00
Reduction in LS/CMI– post release supervision	-.07	.04	3.05	1	.08	.94
Percent of class sessions attended	-.54	.78	.49	1	.49	.58
Percent of classes completed	-.17	.65	.07	1	.79	.84
Percent of positive substance tests	.68	.46	2.22	1	.14	1.97
Number of sanctions	.01	.01	1.70	1	.19	1.01
Number of custodial sanctions	.11	.15	.54	1	.47	1.11
Number of felonies	.10	.17	.38	1	.54	1.11
Involvement with employment services	.97	1.01	.92	1	.34	2.64
Days from release to first services	.001	.002	.23	1	.63	1.00

## **Predictors of Recidivism for Successful Releasees – Multivariate Analysis**

As with the subsets of the other releasees, we conducted a multivariate logistic regression analysis, which included the number of days after release from probation as a control factor and which used a forward inclusion method to build the strongest set of predictor variables with only the releasees who were successfully discharged from probation three or more years before the data collection date (May 15, 2021). Table 7 presents the results of that analysis, which again only produced a single significant predictor – the age of first arrest for the releasee. With only 282 releasees (down from 2525 individuals discharged from post release supervision since 2016 – a drop of 89%) with ranged restrictions on all the variables in the model, it is not that surprising that only one of the strongest predictors in the data set retained a significant relationship with recidivism. In fact, the model itself was not a good fit to the data with a non-significant solution,  $\chi^2 = 1.11$ ,  $p = .29$ .

Figures 73 and 74 display the significant relationships between age at first arrest and recidivism for the 282 releasees who were successfully discharged from probation at least three years prior to May 15, 2021.

Table 6: Multivariate logistic regression for all releasees who successfully left probation at least three years before data collection date (May 15, 2021) Table X: Multivariate logistic regression for all releases

Predictor	B	S.E.	Wald	df	<i>p</i>	<i>Odds Ratio</i>
Included in the Model						
Age at first arrest	-.08	.03	7.00	1	.008	.92
Days from release to first services	-.001	.001	.847	1	.357	.999
Constant	1.45	1.21	1.24	1	.233	4.25
Not included in the model						
Number of sanctions	--	--	2.44	1	.118	--
Percent of positive substance tests	--	--	1.45	1	.229	--
Previous incarcerations	--	--	1.35	1	.245	--
Number of custodial sanctions	--	--	1.28	1	.258	--
Involvement in employment services	--	--	1.13	1	.289	--
Percent of class sessions attended	--	--	.34	1	.560	--
Number of felonies	--	--	.16	1	.686	--
Minority status	--	--	.05	1	.829	--
Percent of classes completed	--	--	.009	1	.924	--
Gender	--	--	.001	1	.975	--

Figure 73. Age of first arrest for those who did and did not recidivate,  $F(1,280) = 7.91, p = .005$ .

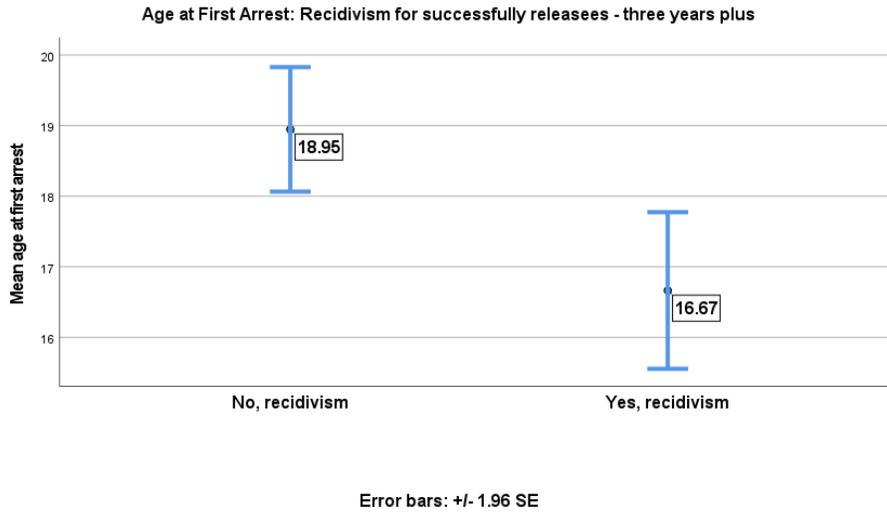
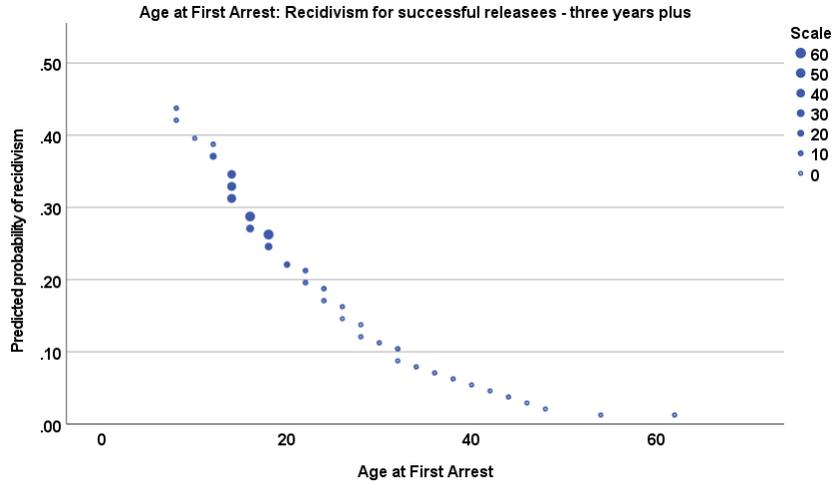


Figure 74: Predicted recidivism as a function of age at first arrest.



## **Executive Summary and Conclusion**

### **Executive Summary.**

This project analyzed data that Nebraska probation collected from 2532 individuals who completed post release supervision on or before May 15, 2021 with the purpose of calculating rates of recidivism as defined under the Nebraska Supreme Court offense definition of recidivism. Recidivism rates for all releasees, successful releases, releasees out of probation for at least 3 years, and successful releasees out of probation for at least 3 years were 28%, 21%, 39% and 27%, respectively. Analyses identified and scaled the significant predictors of recidivism both one at a time, and using a multivariate approach for each of the above definitions.

The most robust set of analyses with the least restricted range of measures (i.e., for all releasees controlling for the time that they had left post release supervision) found that that the most significant predictors of recidivism were (in order of strength of prediction): age at first arrest, minority status, number of custodial sanctions, previous incarcerations, number of class sessions attended during post release supervision, and the number of sanctions. Most importantly and most interestingly, releasees that attended more classes during post release supervision were less likely to recidivate (controlling for the number of days after release) regardless of whether they had a prior incarceration or not, even though those with prior incarcerations were more likely to recidivate overall. Thus, attending classes served to offset some of the effects of prior criminal history. One interpretation of these findings is that post release supervision protects against recidivism, and another is that releasees who attend class sessions are more motivated to prevent themselves from recidivating. While the answer is likely the combined influence of both factors, it is difficult to know how much of this effect is

attributable to post release supervision and how much is attributable to selection factors that lead to increased willingness to attend classes. Still the result is a promising one, in any case, especially because the relationship holds not only with releasees without prior incarcerations – presumably the more motivated individuals – but also with releasees with prior incarcerations – presumably the less motivated individuals. Future work with more post release supervision clients that includes a matched set of releasees who did not participate in post release supervision will be able to probe deeper into this relationship.

**Conclusion.** Recidivism following post release supervision in Nebraska is a predictable outcome of community corrections. These initial data suggest that post release supervision can offset some of the effects of youthful arrest and previous incarceration. Additional data and analyses could explain more about this process for clients who successfully and unsuccessfully serve out their post release supervisions after serving time in prison.