

Essex County Sheriff's Department
Massachusetts



One Year
Recidivism
2010

Frank G. Cousins, Jr., Sheriff

Essex County Sheriff's Department Mission Statement

The Essex County Sheriff's Department's top priority is to protect residents in the region from criminal offenders.

This is accomplished by:

- ★ Housing inmates in a secure and fair manner.
- ★ Providing rehabilitation and academic training to offenders while they are incarcerated, so they will not repeat their mistakes once they are released.
- ★ Practicing correctional policies that comply with all local, state and federal laws.
- ★ Using innovative correctional approaches that are in accord with Essex County Sheriff's Department's top mission.
- ★ Informing and educating the public about the Department through the media, tours of the facility and public appearances by the Sheriff, administrators, K-9 Unit, and uniformed personnel.

Research and Statistics Division Mission Statement

The Research and Statistics Division of the Essex County Sheriff's Department strives to remain on the cutting edge of data collection, analysis and presentation. Through diligence, integrity and attention to detail we will provide relevant and highly reliable information.

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Acknowledgments

Our sincere thanks to Sheriff Frank G. Cousins, Jr., Superintendent Michael Marks and Superintendent Joseph Furnari for their continued support. These three men work tirelessly to provide reintegration opportunities to thousands of incarcerated individuals each year, while maintaining the highest work standards for their fellow employees.

Our thanks to the men and women of the ECSD who make it enjoyable to come to work each day. Without their support, our research would not be possible.

The law enforcement community has lost several officers in the past year. We extend our deepest condolences to their families.

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Executive Summary

Sheriff Frank G. Cousins, Jr. and the staff of the Essex County Sheriff's Department (ECSD) operate three correctional facilities. The medium-security facility for men in Lawrence, Massachusetts houses approximately 1,200 inmates. This number includes those inmates awaiting trial (i.e. pre-trial), individuals held for a short period of time, such as overnight or a weekend for local or state police departments (i.e. safe-keeps) and sentenced inmates who do not qualify to be housed in the Department's minimum-security facility.

Each ECSD male inmate, regardless of his length of sentence, begins his incarceration at the Middleton facility. Here he receives his orientation, meets his Reintegration Coordinator and begins preparing for life after incarceration. The Middleton facility maintains *American Correctional Association* accreditation, signifying the facility meets the highest operational and professional standards.

If asked when the ECSD begins preparing inmates for release back to society, staff, supervisors and Sheriff Cousins himself have the same answer: "Reintegration begins day one." Immediately upon sentencing, inmates are enrolled in classes, programs and workshops to prepare them for their release.

The Lawrence Correctional Alternative Center (LCAC) is the Department's minimum-security facility for men. It houses inmates with less serious records as well as those who are approaching the end of their sentences and have earned the privilege of being transferred to the lower-security facility. The facility houses approximately 300 sentenced and 40 pre-trial inmates. As part of the "step-down" process, inmates are encouraged to work their way from the Middleton facility to the LCAC. Once at the LCAC, inmates may wear their own clothes (instead of the ECSD-issued jump suits required in Middleton) and they are allowed contact visits. The facility may seem a bit less "institutional." The LCAC, however, also gives inmates added responsibility. This may include increased programs and class participation, community service or additional work assignments at the facility.

The Women In Transition (WIT) facility is a female minimum-security facility that houses approximately 24 women, and is responsible for another 24 women on electronic monitoring bracelets, all of whom have been transferred from MCI Framingham. Housed in a former nursing home in Salisbury, Massachusetts, the WIT was opened in June of 2001. In 2006 the WIT received *American Correctional Association* accreditation. Assistant Superintendent Kim Murtagh and staff work diligently to maintain this accreditation.

As with the Middleton and LCAC facilities, the WIT is program driven. Offering programs such as *Substance Abuse/Understanding Addiction*, *Self Esteem* and *Errors in Thinking, Criminal /Addictive Thinking*, the WIT is on the forefront of providing very real preparation for release back into society.

This report examines the one-year recidivism rate of inmates released from the Essex County Sheriff's Department in 2010, and factors affecting this rate. Of the 2,168 sentenced inmates who were released in 2010, 982 recidivated, for a one-year recidivism rate of 45.30%.

This is slightly higher than the 2009 rate of 44.61% and lower than the average for the past six years (inclusive of 2010) of 46.93%.

Of the former inmates who were released in 2010 and recidivated within one year, 58% had new arraignments, 29% were found guilty of new crimes and 13% violated parole or probation. As Middleton is the largest facility and houses the more serious offenders, the largest portion of former inmates who recidivated were released from this facility (68%). Twenty-nine percent of those who recidivated were released from the LCAC and 3% from the WIT. The recidivism rate for each facility reflected the type of facility as well: 51.63% at Middleton, 36.54% at the LCAC and 31.78% at the WIT.

Introduction

Purpose

This report includes the one-year recidivism rate for the sentenced inmates released in 2010. For the purposes of this report, an individual has recidivated if, within one year after his or her release, he or she was found guilty of a new charge, had a new arraignment or violated parole or probation. This report also details employment, education, housing, family structure, drug use, program involvement and inmates' opinions of certain aspects of the Essex County Sheriff's Department.

Method

The Re-Entry Exit Interview/Release Plan was given to each inmate several times during his or her incarceration. Only Reintegration Coordinators, each of whom is a trained correctional officer, were allowed to administer 60-day reviews or exit interviews. Each interview was conducted in person. Research and Statistics staff, also trained correctional officers, or supervised college interns administered the *Aftercare Questionnaires*. If an individual who was released during 2010 was re-incarcerated at the ECSD (i.e. had been arrested and incarcerated since his or her release) the interview was done in-person when possible. The interview was done by phone for all other former inmates whom researchers could locate.

Participants

All participants in this study were released from the custody of the ECSD in 2010; 95% were male. Sixty percent were released from the Department's Middleton facility, 35% from the LCAC and 5% from the WIT. *The Re-Entry Exit Interview/Release Plan* was mandatory for all participants who were incarcerated. Inmates were informed that all information was confidential and would not affect their treatment or status before or after release.

Participation in the *Aftercare Questionnaire* was voluntary, as participants were former inmates. The individuals were informed that their participation or refusal to participate, as well as all responses, would not affect their treatment or status as former inmates.

Measures

Recidivism was calculated by dividing the number of former inmates *who recidivated* (n = 982) by the number *who were released* in the 2010 (n = 2,168). This gave us a one-year recidivism rate of 45.30%.

Data Collection

Data on recidivism were obtained by running a Board of Probation on each inmate one year after his or her release. In addition, as a form of self-reporting, the former inmates were asked if they recidivated.

In compiling personal information, researchers used only information from participants who responded. This assured representative figures. All information given by current or former inmates by way of the *Aftercare Questionnaire* or *Re-Entry Exit Interview/Release Plan* was self-reported.

On the first business day of each month between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011 researchers ran a *Call List* comprised of all sentenced inmates who had been released one year earlier (January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010). In addition, an *Active Inmate List* was run each month. This list told researchers who was in the custody of the ECSD. Using these lists, researchers administered the Department's *Aftercare Questionnaire* to former inmates: in person to some of those re-incarcerated at the ECSD, and by phone to all others researchers could locate. The *Exit Interview* was given to inmates just prior to their release.

Data Analysis

Data obtained through interviews were put into two separate *Microsoft® Access* databases: *Exit Interviews* were added to the *ANS* (Aftercare Network System), and the *Aftercare Questionnaires* were added to the *Aftercare Questionnaire* database. Queries were used to extract desired information. A *Crystal® Report Writer* program was used to compile the *Active Inmate List*. *Microsoft® Excel* spreadsheets were used to compile statistics and design spreadsheets and charts.

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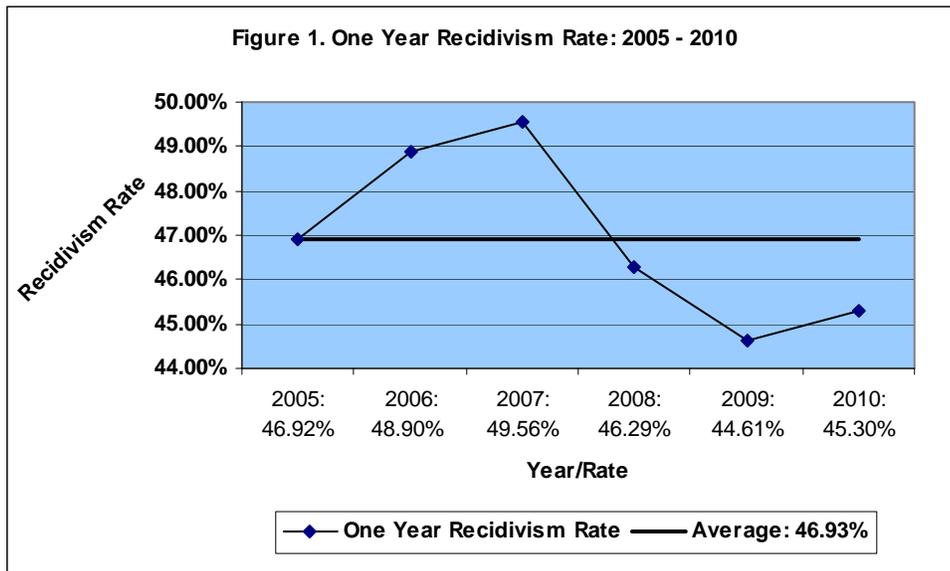
RECIDIVISM

The information contained in this section pertains to data gathered on individuals released from the custody of the Essex County Sheriff's Department during 2010. The information is broken down into monthly indicators showing the way in which the offenders did recidivate. Recidivism is defined as the percentage of individuals who, within one year of release, had new arraignments, were found guilty of new charges, or violated parole or probation.

Recidivism

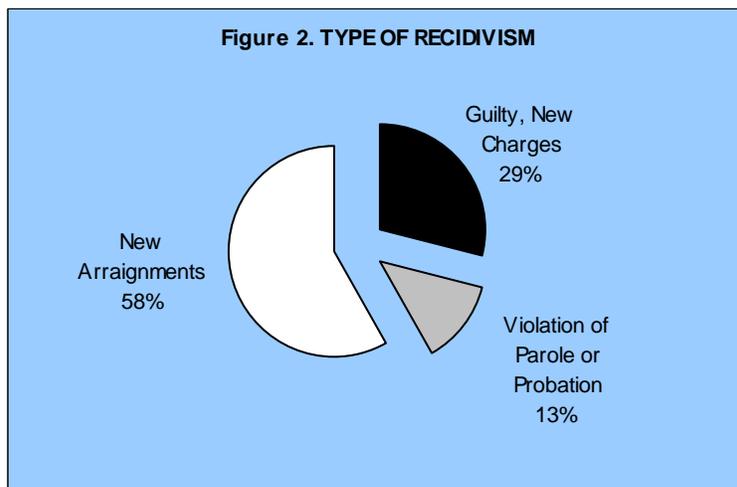
The Essex County Sheriff's Department staff is charged with care and custody of approximately 2,000 inmates. The goal of the ECSD staff is to prepare the inmates for life after incarceration. Working with the inmates, staff focuses on decreasing recidivism...one inmate at a time.

During 2010, 2,168 sentenced inmates were released from the custody of the Essex County Sheriff's Department. Of these former inmates, 982 recidivated; meaning a one-year recidivism rate of 45.30% (see Figure 1).



Recidivism Categories

Of former inmates who recidivated, 58% had new arraignments. Twenty-nine percent were found guilty of new crimes and 13% violated parole or probation (see Figure 2).

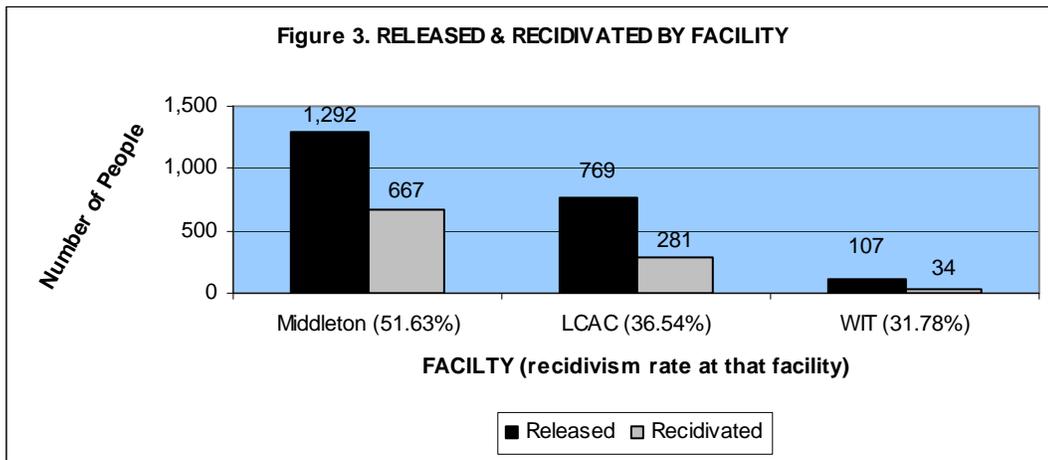


Recidivism

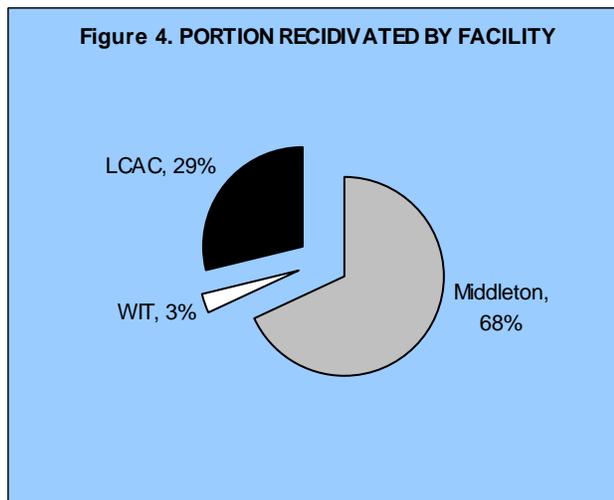
Recidivism by Facility

The ECSD’s three main facilities house different levels of offenders. Middleton’s medium-security complex houses the more serious male offenders as well as those male inmates who do not qualify for the LCAC. Accordingly, its recidivism rate is consistently the highest.

The Lawrence Correctional Alternative Center is a minimum security facility for men. While there are no walls or fences, the facility has increased structure and requires inmates to take on more responsibility. The recidivism rate at the LCAC is lower than the Department’s medium security facility in Middleton. The Women In Transition center in Salisbury is also a minimum-security facility. The recidivism rate for the WIT is consistently the lowest of the Department’s three facilities. The step-down process allows inmates to be housed according to their criminal history, risk level, rehabilitation needs and conduct while incarcerated. This is reflected in the recidivism rates for each facility (see Figure 3).

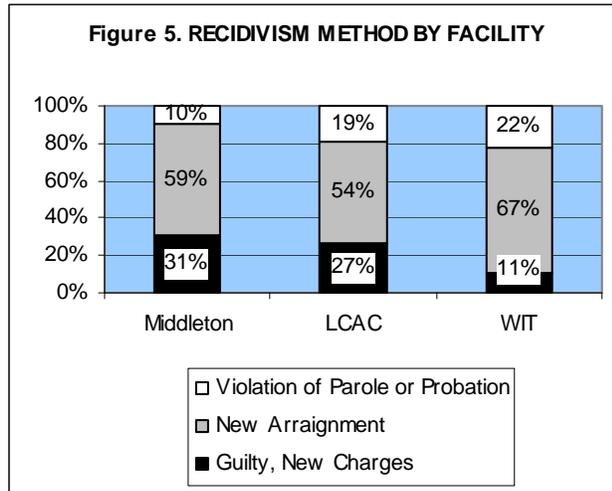


Housing the largest number of inmates and the more serious offenders, the Middleton facility perennially accounts for the largest portion of inmates who recidivate. The LCAC and the WIT house fewer inmates, as well as those convicted of less serious crimes. Accordingly, the LCAC and the WIT facilities account for lower portions of former inmates who recidivated. Of those inmates who recidivated after being released in 2010, 68% were released from Middleton, 29% from the LCAC and 3% from the WIT (see Figure 4).



Recidivism

Of former inmates released from Middleton, the largest portion who recidivated did so by having new arraignments (59%). Almost one third (31%) were found guilty of new crimes and 10% violated parole or probation. The LCAC showed more than half (54%) recidivating by having new arraignments, while the WIT had more than two thirds (67%) violating with new arraignments (see Figure 5).



Note that those who re-offend by having new arraignments or being found guilty of new charges often violate parole or probation because of the new arraignment or new charge. In these cases, we would allow the new arraignment or new guilty finding to “trump” the parole/probation violation. This, therefore, decreases the number of violation of parole/probation findings.

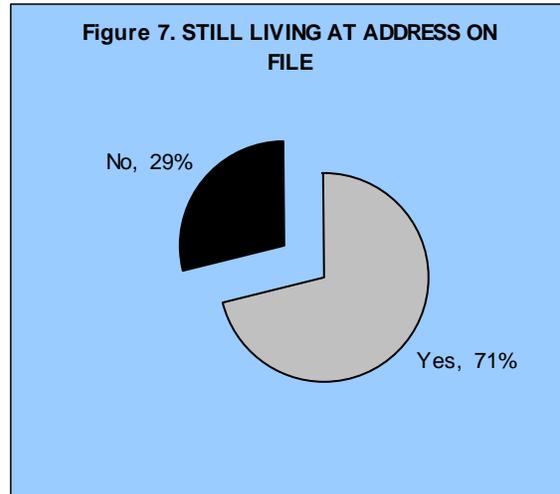
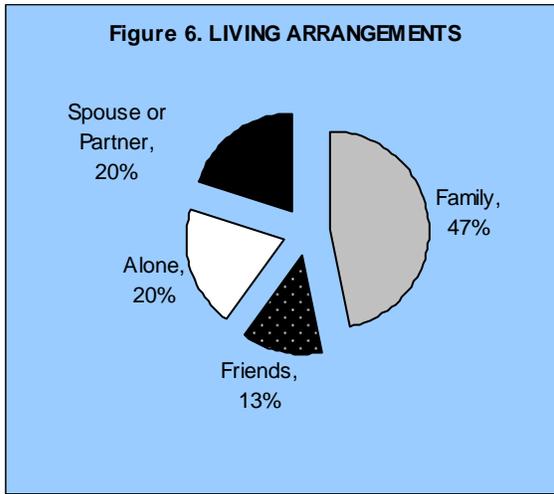
DEMOGRAPHICS

This section covers demographic data obtained through the Department's "Aftercare Questionnaire." The questionnaire was taken on a voluntary basis. Participants were informed that neither their choice to participate nor their responses would affect their pre or post release treatment. The following areas were examined: housing, employment, education, substance abuse, rehabilitation, post release supervision and family information. All participants were released from the custody of the Essex County Sheriff's Department during 2010.

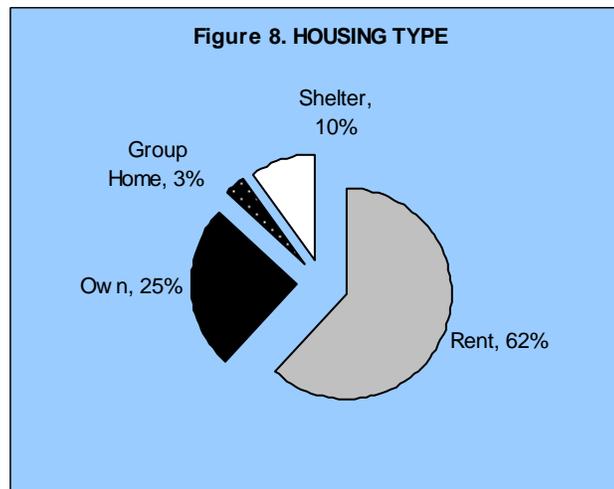
Demographics

Housing

Almost half (47%) of former inmates reported living with family one year after release. One in five (20%) lived with spouses or partners, with this same portion living alone. The remaining 13% lived with friends. (see Figure 6). Seventy-one percent reported living at the same address they were at when released (see Figure 7).



Most former inmates (62%) reported renting, while 25% reported owning a home or living with a person who owns a home. Thirteen percent lived in group homes or shelters (see Figure 8).



Demographics

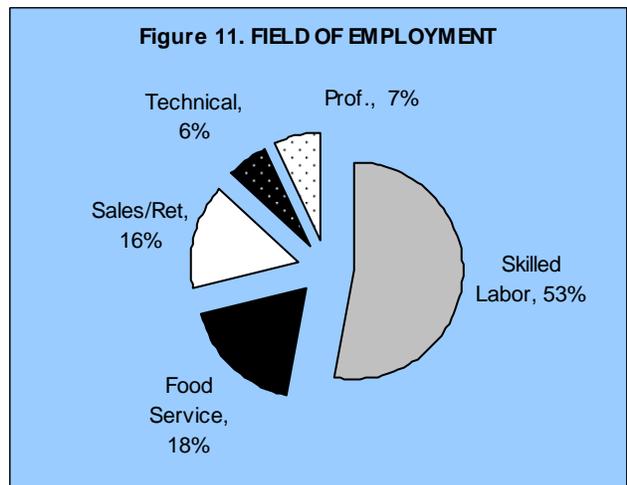
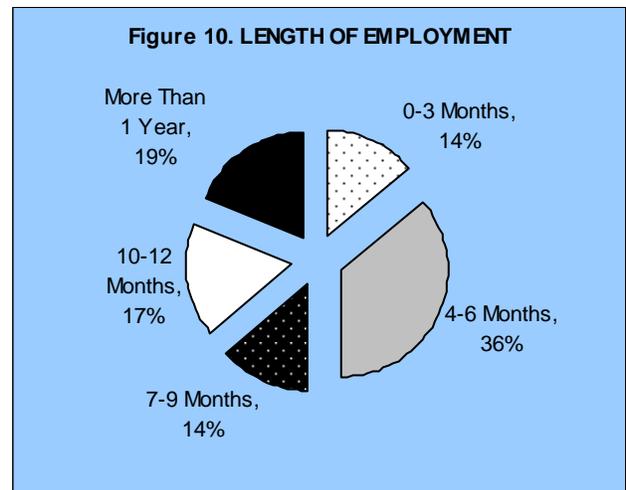
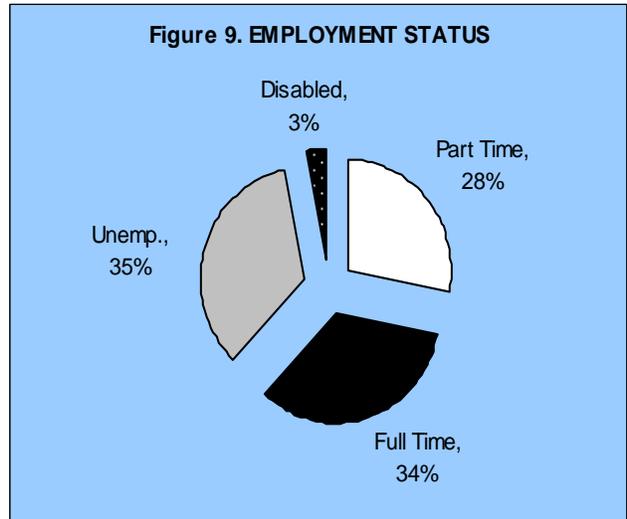
Employment

As the Massachusetts and national economies struggles, former inmates find it difficult to obtain employment. The unemployment rate among former inmates is always significantly higher than the general population. The unemployment rate among former inmates released in 2010 was 35% (see Figure 9). Note that these figures exclude current inmates. As 100% of current inmates are unemployed, including them on this chart would skew results.

While 50% of respondents reported being employed for six months or less, 19% stated they had their jobs for more than one year (see Figure 10). Reporting employment for more than one year indicates the employer held the position for the employee while he or she was incarcerated.

Fifty-three percent of former inmates who found work were employed as skilled laborers. Eighteen percent were in food service, 16% in sales/retail and the remaining 13% were in the professional or technical fields (see Figure 11).

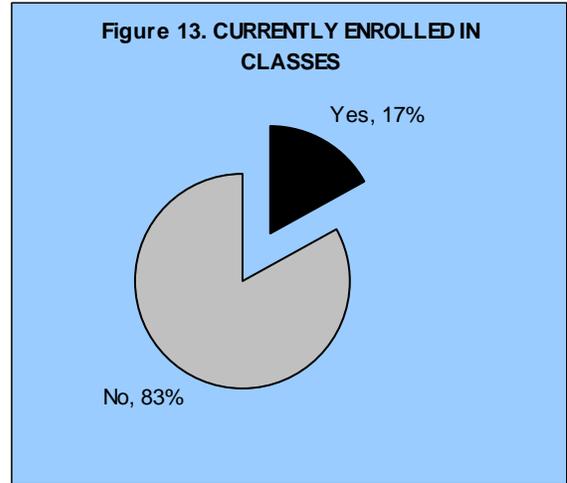
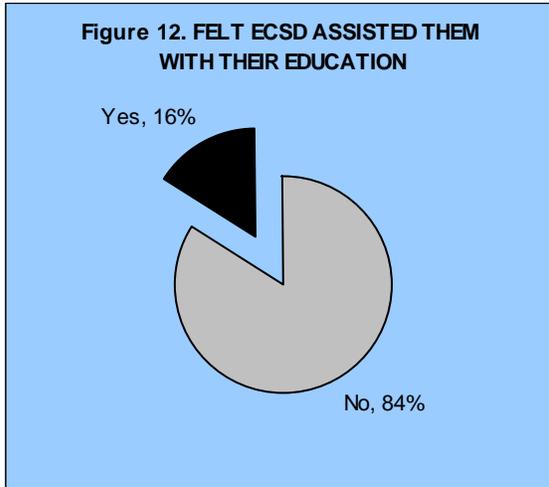
More than two-thirds (69%) earned \$500 or less per week: 22% between zero and \$300; 47% between \$301 and \$500. Twenty percent earned between \$501 and \$750 per week, and only 11% earned \$751 or more per week.



Demographics

Education

Although an emphasis is placed on education, not all inmates participate in classes. Some inmates' sentences are too short for them to enroll. Some already have GEDs, high school diplomas or even advanced degrees. Others cannot participate due to disciplinary issues, and some simply choose not to partake. Still, 16% of former inmates stated that the ECSD helped them with their education (see Figure 12). A similar amount was pursuing education one year after release (see Figure 13).



Almost one in five (19%) of former inmates interviewed had no GED or high school diplomas. While 18% had GEDs, 37% had high school diplomas and another 26% had college experience (see Table 1).

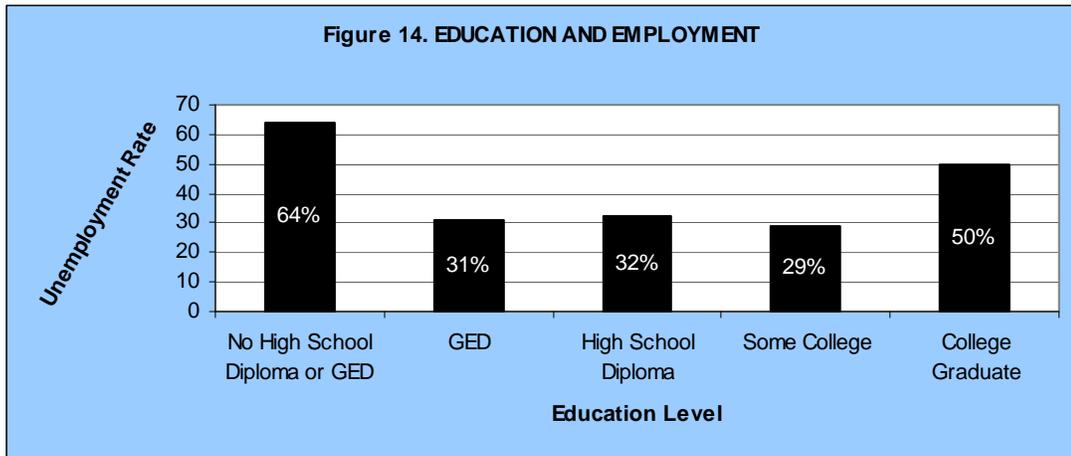
Table 1

Education Levels Among Former Inmates	
Level of Education	%
No HS Diploma or GED	19
GED	18
High School Diploma	37
Some College	19
College Graduate	7

Demographics

Education and Employment

In addition to having the label of “former inmates,” many individuals released from custody have limited education. Education level often affects employment, as illustrated in Figure 14. Former inmates with no high school diplomas or GEDs had an extremely high unemployment rate of 64%. This rate dropped significantly if the individual had a GED or high school diploma (unemployment rates of 31% and 32% respectively). The unemployment rate decreased even more with some college education, dropping to 29%. The 50% unemployment rate among former inmates with college degrees may reflect the job shortage at the managerial level.



Demographics

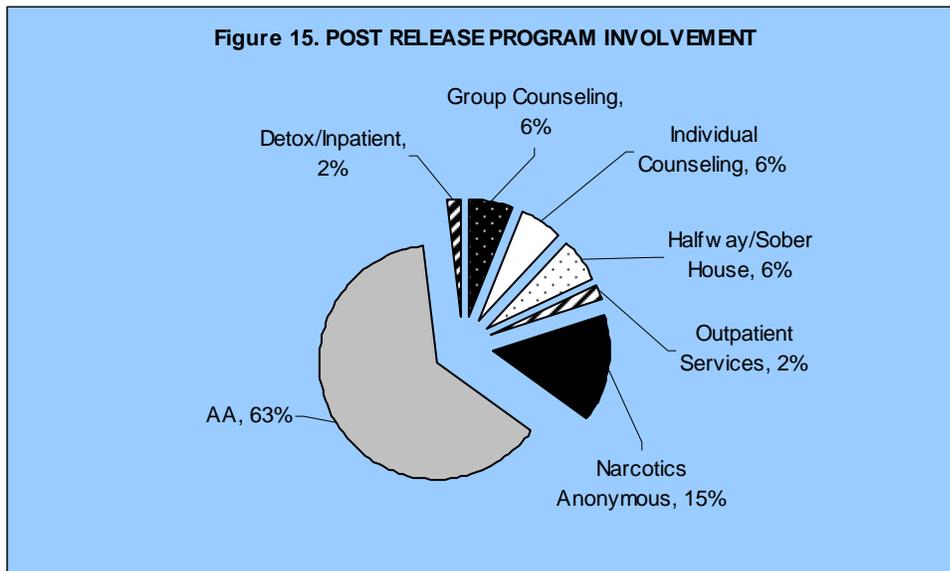
Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is a concern in the incarcerated population. Approximately 85% of ECSD inmates have substance-related issues. The staff of the ECSD realizes the importance of this issue, and offers drug and alcohol classes and counseling. More than three in four inmates (76%) participated in substance abuse programs while at the Essex County Sheriff's Department. One year after release 56% reported being enrolled in a substance abuse program (see table 2).

Table 2

Participation in Substance Abuse Programs Pre/Post Release		
Status	Participated (%)	Did Not Participate (%)
Pre Release	76	24
Post Release	56	44

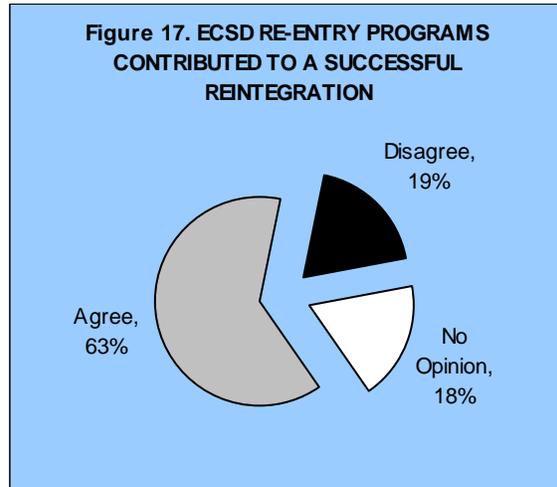
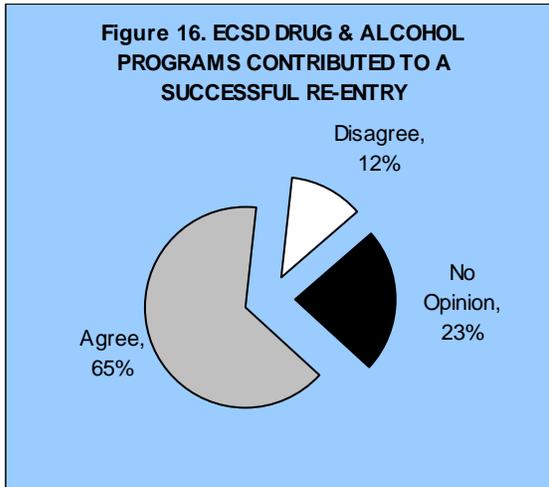
Of former inmates who participated in post-release counseling or programs, AA was attended by the most respondents with 63% attending. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) was attended by 15%. Group counseling, individual counseling and halfway/sober houses each had 6%. Outpatient services and inpatient detoxification each had 2% (see Figure 15).



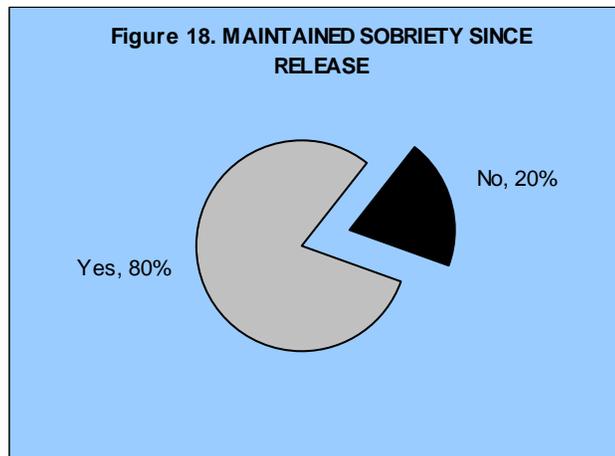
Demographics

Rehabilitation Programs

The ECSD staff's commitment to helping inmates with substance abuse issues is evident in inmates' feelings toward these programs. Sixty-five percent of former inmates interviewed felt the ECSD's drug and alcohol programs contributed to a successful reintegration (see Figure 16). Almost two-thirds (63%) felt that the Department's Re-Entry programs contributed to a successful reintegration (see Figure 17).



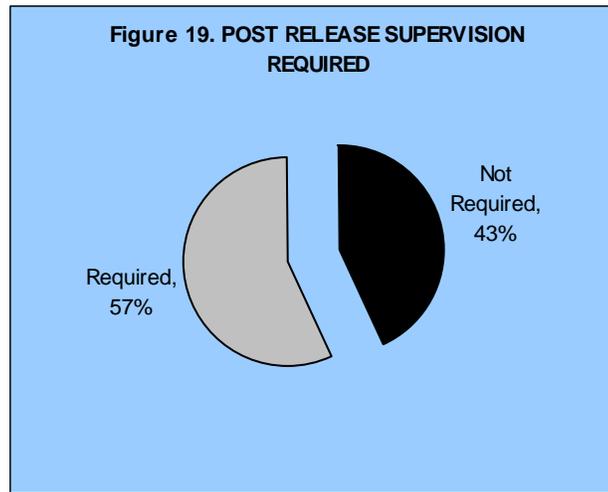
Eighty percent of respondents stated they had maintained sobriety since their release (see Figure 18). Researchers must take this figure with *two* grains of salt. One: some of the former inmates who may have returned to alcohol or drugs may not be readily available to be interviewed. Two: despite diligence on behalf of the researchers, respondents may not be totally truthful when asked about substance abuse. Often times the inmate does not want to look as though he "let down" those who were trying to help him



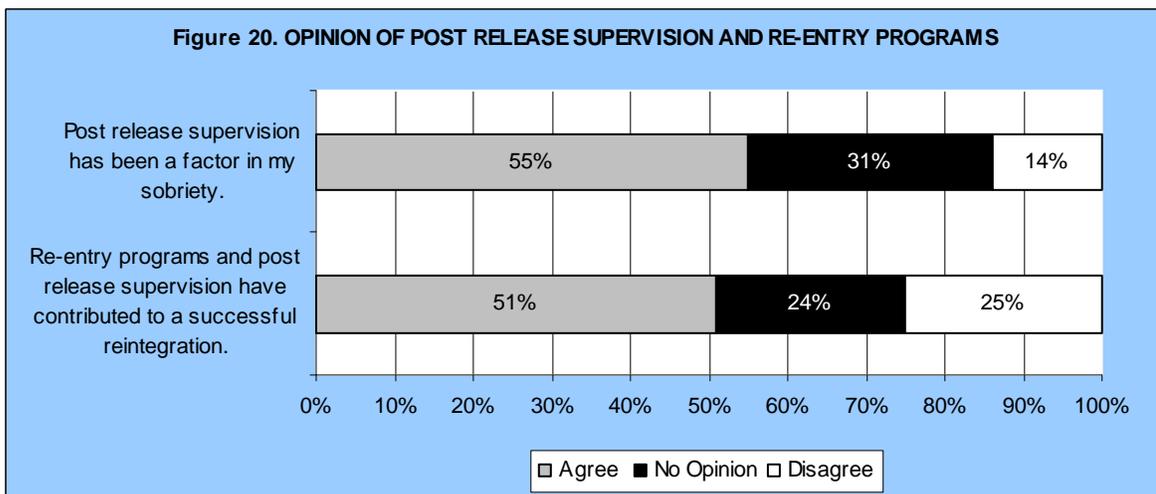
Demographics

Post Release Supervision

Parole and probation provide the structure needed to help former inmates succeed. This post release supervision allows the former inmates to reintegrate into society, but still have the structure and supervision to help them succeed. Of the inmates released in 2010, 57% were required to be on parole or probation (see Figure 19).



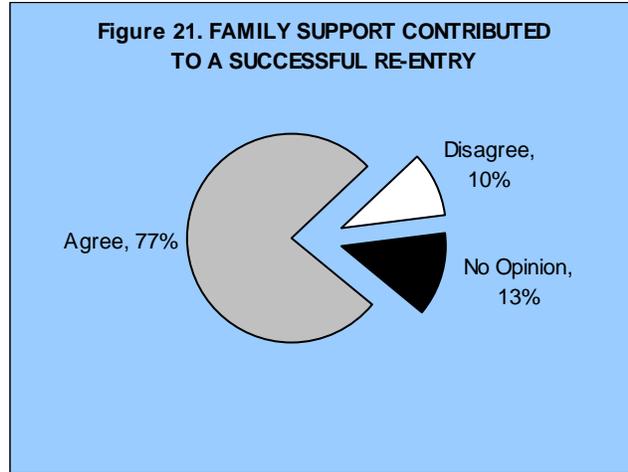
More than half (55%) of former inmates interviewed felt that post release supervision was helping them maintain sobriety. Fifty-one percent felt the combination of post release supervision and the Department's re-entry programs were helpful (see Figure 20).



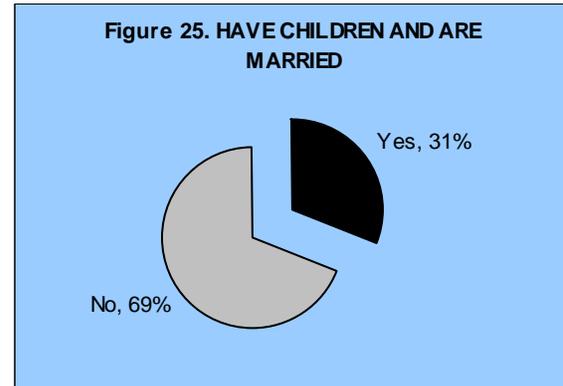
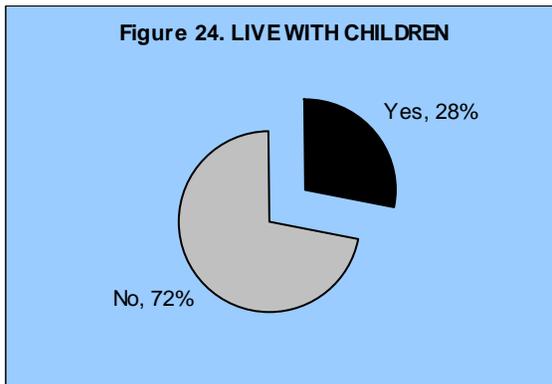
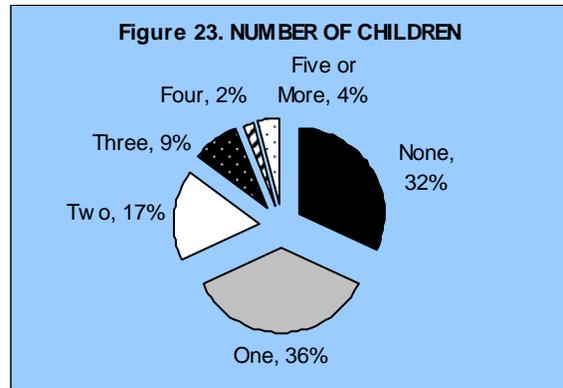
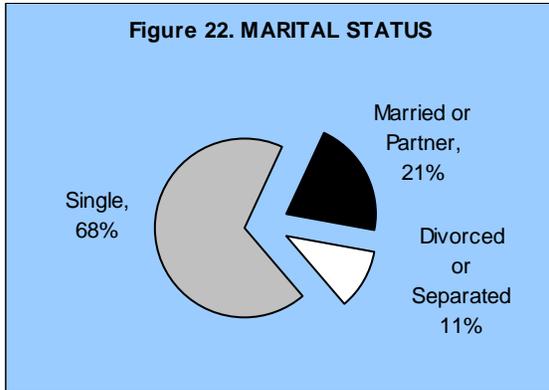
Demographics

Family Status

Family is important to current and former inmates. Family offers the stability needed for an ex-offender to get his or her life back on track. The ECSD staff encourages families to stay in contact while their loved ones are incarcerated, and be there for the individuals upon release. Clearly, family is important to the incarcerated individual: 77% stated that family support contributed to a successful re-entry (see Figure 21).



Former inmates may rely on family support, but most remained single (see Figure 22). While 68% had at least one child (see Figure 23), only 28% reported living with their children (see Figure 24). Of those former inmates who had children, only 31% were married (see Figure 25).





RE-ENTRY EXIT INTERVIEW RELEASE PLAN

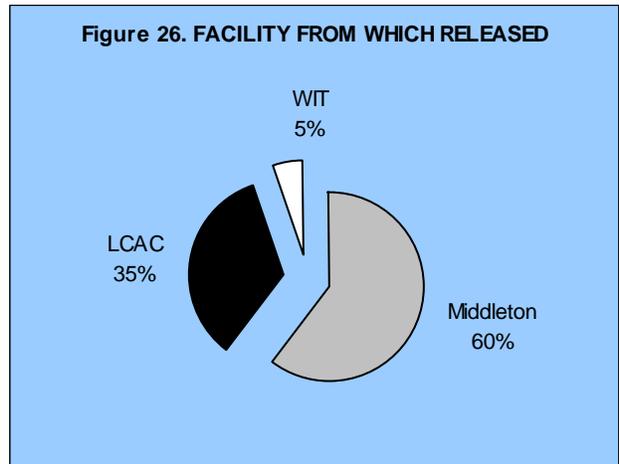
The inmates who took part in the Exit Interviews (just prior to release) are not necessarily the same people who took part in the Aftercare Questionnaire (one year after release). Therefore, the results shown in the “Exit Interview” section may be different than those in the “Demographics” section. The information contained in this section was obtained through the Department’s “Re-Entry Exit Interview/Release Plan,” administered to the inmates just prior to their release. Participation was mandatory. However, the inmates were informed that their responses would not affect their pre or post release treatment. The following areas were examined: facility from which released, offenses for which incarcerated, cities to which released, post-release supervision, drug of choice, education level and program involvement. All participants were released from the custody of the Essex County Sheriff’s Department during 2010.

Re-entry/Exit Interview Release Plan

The Department’s Reintegration Coordinators assist inmates in preparing for their release. Each sentenced inmate meets with his or her Reintegration Coordinator every 60 days and again just before release. A schedule of programs, classes, and treatment are planned for the inmate to help him or her succeed after incarceration. Before his or her release, each inmate is required to complete a *Re-entry/Exit Interview and Release Plan*. In addition to helping the inmate prepare to leave, the *Re-entry/Exit Interview and Release Plan* helps staff obtain useful information about each inmate

Facility from Which Released

Most inmates are held at the Middleton facility. Accordingly, the largest portion of the inmate population is *released* from Middleton each year. In 2010, 60% were released from the Middleton facility (see Figure 26).



Offenses for which Incarcerated

Assault and battery and drug related charges were the predominant offenses for which people were incarcerated, with 20% and 14% respectively. Ten percent were incarcerated for OUI; usually subsequent offenses (see Table 3). Although there are numerous charges listed, most inmates have substance abuse issues: he or she was under the influence while committing a crime; was committing a crime to get money for drugs; or was involved in buying or selling drugs.

** Other Offenses include those with less than 1% response.*

Table 3

Offenses for Which Incarcerated	
Offense	(%)
Assault and Battery	20
Drug Related Charges	14
OUI	10
Driving After (Revoke/Suspension)	8
Burglary/Larceny	8
Breaking and Entering	5
Violation of Parole/Probation	5
Non-Payment of Child Support	5
Abuse Prevention Act/Stalking	5
Other	4
Firearms Violations	3
Receiving Stolen Property	3
Motor Vehicle Violations	2
Contempt of Court	2
Sex Offenses	2
Destruction of Property	2
Threat/Attempt to Commit a Crime	1
Leaving Scene of Property Damage	<u>1</u>

Re-entry Exit Interview Release Plan

Cities to Which Released

Of inmates interviewed just prior to release, 74% were going to live in Essex County. The largest portions went to Lawrence or Lynn, with 14% each. Haverhill followed closely, with 13% of former ECSD inmates residing there (see Table 4).

Table 4

Communities to Which Released	
City	(%)
Amesbury	2
Beverly	3
Danvers	1
Gloucester	2
Haverhill	13
Lawrence	14
Lynn	14
Methuen	2
Peabody	5
Salem	6
Salisbury	2
Saugus	2
Other Communities in Essex County	8
Out of Essex County	26

Re-entry/Exit Interview Release Plan

Substance Use

Among those former inmates who stated they used drugs or alcohol, alcohol continued to be the primary choice, with 45%. While 22% chose marijuana, 20% stated that heroin was their drug of choice. Nine percent chose cocaine or crack, 2% chose prescription drugs and 2% chose other substances (see Table 5).

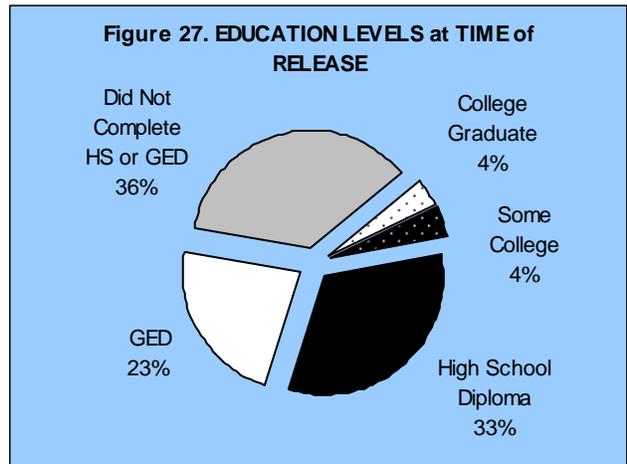
Table 5

Substance of Choice Among Inmates	
Drug of Choice	(%)
Alcohol	45
Marijuana	22
Heroin	20
Cocaine/Crack	9
Prescription	2
Other	2

**Other* includes categories with less than 1% response.

Education

At the time of their Exit Interviews, 36% of the inmates did not have GEDs or high school diplomas. Thirty-three percent had high school diplomas, 23% had GEDs and 8% had college experience. A comparison of pre-release and post-release education levels is available in Table six on page 18.



Re-entry/Exit Interview Release Plan

The portion of former inmates without high school diplomas decreased from 36% at time of release to 19% one year post release. The portion with GEDs decreased from 23% at exit to 18% post release. The portion with high school diplomas increased from 33% at exit to 37% post release. The percentage with college experience also rose (8% at exit and 26% post release; see Table 6). These data indicate that former inmates *may* be pursuing education.

Table 6

Education Levels at Time of Release and One Year Post Release		
Education	Exit Interview (%)	One Year Post Release (%)
No HS Diploma or GED	36	19
GED	23	18
High School Diploma	33	37
Some College	4	19
College Graduate	4	7

Program Involvement

Programs, educational classes, support groups and life skills classes are key to inmates' rehabilitation and preparation for release. The ECSD offers numerous options to inmates. Of all programs offered by the Department, the ECRC (Essex County Recovery Center) is attended by the most inmates. TRAC (Treatment and Recovery of Addictions in Corrections), which focuses on recovery and behavioral change, is also well attended (see Table 7).

Table 7

Program Involvement		
Program	Participation	
	Rate (%)	Completion Rate (%)
ECRC	28	52
TRAC	26	62
GED	15	85
Alternatives To Violence	9	48
AA	8	n/a
Other	6	n/a
Print Shop/Work	3	n/a
Life Skills	2	n/a
Barber Shop	2	n/a
English for Speakers of Other Languages	1	n/a

Conclusion

In 2005 the Essex County Sheriff's Department's one year recidivism rate was 46.92%. At approximately this same time, both U.S. and Massachusetts economies began to struggle. Over the next several years, and indeed at present, we have seen extreme economic difficulties.

It would make sense that the ECSD recidivism rate would follow economic trends: as times get tougher, more former inmates commit crime. In fact, as the economy worsened from 2005 to 2006 and into 2007, the one year recidivism rate *did* increase...but only slightly. The rate went from 46.92% in 2005 to 48.90% in 2006 and 49.56% in 2007 (see Figure one on page two). However, the one year recidivism rate then *dropped* in 2008, to 46.29%; and again in 2009 to 44.61%. Even the slight increase to 45.30% in 2010 is below the recidivism rate for years 2005 through 2008.

Three observations can be made regarding these data:

- 1) As bad as the economy gets, it may only have a limited effect on former inmates' willingness to commit crime. Still, former inmates are more apt than the general public to commit crime. The downturn in the economy, therefore, may exacerbate their willingness to re-offend.
- 2) Data indicate that the staff at the ECSD may be playing a key role in influencing former inmates' behavior. The persistence of correctional officers, program instructors and senior staff has produced positive results. By encouraging inmates to better themselves through education and counseling, ECSD employees are improving inmates' chances of success while decreasing the chance that they will recidivate. This is evidenced by the limited fluctuation in the recidivism rate in spite of the poor economy.
- 3) Looking at Figure one, we see that the 2005 one year recidivism rate is virtually the same as the six year average (46.92% and 46.93% respectively). The rate then increases, above the average, for two years before dropping below the average for two years. It then increases slightly – back toward the average again. This phenomenon of the numbers increasing and decreasing while staying near the average is known as the *migration toward the mean*. This property states that over time numbers often will center around, or move toward, the average. We often see this in sports. A baseball player may have an exceptionally high batting average one year, only to have a low batting average the next year.

Essex County Sheriff's Department's Recidivism by the Numbers:

- The one year recidivism rate six year average is 46.93%.
- The one year recidivism rate for 2010 is 45.30%.
- Of former inmates who recidivated, 58% had new arraignments while 29% were found guilty of new charges and 13% violated parole or probation.
- Of the Department's three facilities, Middleton had the highest recidivism rate with 51.63%, followed by the LCAC with 36.54% and the WIT with 31.78%.
- Forty-seven percent of former inmates lived with family, 20% lived with a spouse or partner, 20% lived alone and 13% with friends.

- Family was important, as 77% felt family support helped them with reintegration.
- Most (68%) were single, 21% were married or had a partner and 11% were divorced or separated.
- Sixty-eight percent had at least one child. Twenty-eight percent lived with their children and 31% who reported having children were married.
- The top three offenses for which the inmates were incarcerated were assault and battery (20%), drug-related charges (14%) and OUI (usually subsequent offenses; 10%).
- Among former inmates who declared a drug of choice, 45% chose alcohol, followed by marijuana with 22% and heroin with 20%. The remaining 13% was comprised of cocaine/crack, prescription drugs or other substances.

The data presented in this report were collected primarily between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011. Data collection went into January 2012 to allow researchers to capture as much relevant data and obtain as large a sample size as possible. Extending the data collection period for an additional month only enhanced the reliability of the findings.

Based on the findings presented in this report, one can conclude that Sheriff Frank G. Cousins, Jr. and the staff of the Essex County Sheriff's Department, have done an outstanding job of staying true to the Department's *Mission Statement* (see page i). The second tenant of the *Mission Statement*, in particular, is supported by the findings of this report. **Sheriff Cousins and staff continue to provide, "...rehabilitation and academic training to offenders while they are incarcerated, so they will not repeat their mistakes once they are released.**