Overview

EVALCORP Research & Consulting (EVALCORP) is contracted to enhance Ventura County's evaluation infrastructure to allow for analyses of system-level outcomes stemming from Realignment efforts. The information presented in this Evaluation Brief provides a summary of recidivism metrics by each of the three AB 109 subpopulations, fiscal year cohort groups, and age groups.

The benefit of assessing recidivism by the three AB 109 subpopulations is that the 1170(h)-jail only population provides a built-in comparison group, as this group is not eligible to receive AB 109 services (e.g., Case Management, Substance Use Treatment, Mental Health, and Employment Services) once they are released from custody. The intended expectation of the supervision and service provision is a greater reduction in the likelihood of recidivism among the PROs and 1170(h) MS populations as compared to the 1170(h) jail only population. As such, the recidivism analyses of these subpopulations assesses if the PROs and 1170(h) MS populations have lower recidivism rates compared to 1170(h) jail only population.

To conduct this analysis, EVALCORP obtained updated data extracted from the County's integrated criminal justice data system, Ventura County Justice Information System (VCJIS). Data were provided by the Ventura County Probation and Sheriff's Office IT teams.

Ventura County's Realignment Population

Offenders Released to Supervision

Table 1 presents the total number of AB 109 offenders by subpopulation and fiscal year in which they were released into the community. These data provide an overview of the realignment population and provides trends over time.

Between October 2011 and June 2021, a total of 6,697 offenders were released from prison or jail to local probation supervision (i.e., PROs and 1170(h) MS respectively) or released into the community after serving their jail sentence without any terms of probation (i.e., 1170(h)-jail only). A larger proportion of offenders were classified as PROs, followed by 1170(h) jail only, and 1170(h) MS offenders.

Table 1. Ventura County AB 109 Realignment Offenders by Subpopulation Type and Fiscal Year Released: FY11/12 – FY20/21

Fiscal Year Released	PROs	1170(h) MS	1170(h) Jail Only	AB 109 Total
FY11/12	399	31	46	476
FY12/13	281	89	175	545
FY13/14	309	106	423	838
FY14/15	302	99	381	782
FY15/16	248	119	223	590
FY16/17	317	137	301	755
FY17/18	274	172	265	711
FY18/19[1]	329	149	233	711
FY19/20[1]	313	135	261	709
FY20/21[1]	279	119	182	580
Total	**3,051**	**1,156**	**2,490**	**6,697**

[1] Individuals in these three cohorts do not have a full 36 months of exposure to risk in the community (i.e., in community three years post release) for the recidivism analysis.

Characteristics

Selected characteristics by AB 109 population type are presented in **Table 2** below. This information provides an overall profile depicting the demographics of offenders being released, offense level, top charge for which they were convicted that led to their AB 109 supervision, and prior conviction history.

Table 2. Characteristics of Ventura County AB 109 Offenders by Subpopulation: FY11/12 – FY20/21

Characteristics		PROs (n = 3,051)	1170(h) MS (n = 1,156)	1170(h) Jail Only (n=2,490)	AB 109 Total (n = 6,697)
		Column %	*Column %*	*Column %*	*Column %*
Sex	Male	92%	77%	76%	84%
	Female	8%	23%	24%	16%
Race/ Ethnicity	Hispanic/Latin/Mexican	58%	50%	51%	54%
	White	33%	40%	38%	36%
	African American	7%	6%	7%	7%
	Other	2%	4%	4%	3%
Age at Release	18 - 24	10%	11%	16%	12%
	25 - 34	37%	37%	41%	39%
	35 - 44	29%	30%	25%	28%
	45 or older	25%	21%	18%	21%
	Missing	<1%	…	…	<1%
Offense Level	Felony	91%	92%	84%	88%
	Misdemeanor	9%	8%	15%	11%
	Missing	<1%	…	1%	1%
Top Charge Category	Person	13%	1%	2%	7%
	Weapon	16%	4%	8%	11%
	Property	24%	50%	53%	39%
	Drug	23%	36%	28%	27%
	DUI	7%	1%	2%	4%
	Other	17%	7%	7%	12%
Prior Conviction History		*Mean*	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Mean*
Conviction History	Prior convictions	8.5	9.5	9.0	8.9
	Prior felony convictions	2.5	2.4	1.6	2.1
	Prior misd. convictions	6.0	7.1	7.5	6.7

Recidivism Analyses Methodology

Recidivism analyses were conducted using the Board of State and Community Corrections' (BSCC) definition of recidivism and the "Guidelines for Recidivism Studies, Measuring Criminal Justice Outcomes for Local Programs", which was developed by BSCC researchers.

To follow the BSCC's guidelines for assessing recidivism, analyses were focused on PROs and 1170(h) MS offenders who were released from custody and began their terms of community supervision between FY11/12 – FY17/18. Recidivism analyses was also conducted on 1170(h) - jail only offenders who were released from custody between FY11/12 – FY17/18. As previously mentioned, the 1170(h) jail only offenders

Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Recidivism Definition Used for Analyses

Conviction of a new felony or misdemeanor committed within three years of release from custody or committed within three years of placement on supervision for a previous criminal conviction. Committed refers to the date of the offense, not the date of the conviction.

served as a proxy comparison group as they did not receive community-based services once they were released from custody.

These "entry cohorts" were used because:

- o individuals within these seven cohorts had the full 36 months of exposure to risk in the community (i.e., in community three years post release), aligning with the BSCC definition of recidivism;

- o they provide stable and valid calculations of recidivism metrics; and,

- o the cohort methodology aligns with the BSCC's research guidelines suggesting that cohort analyses are to be used to measure recidivism.
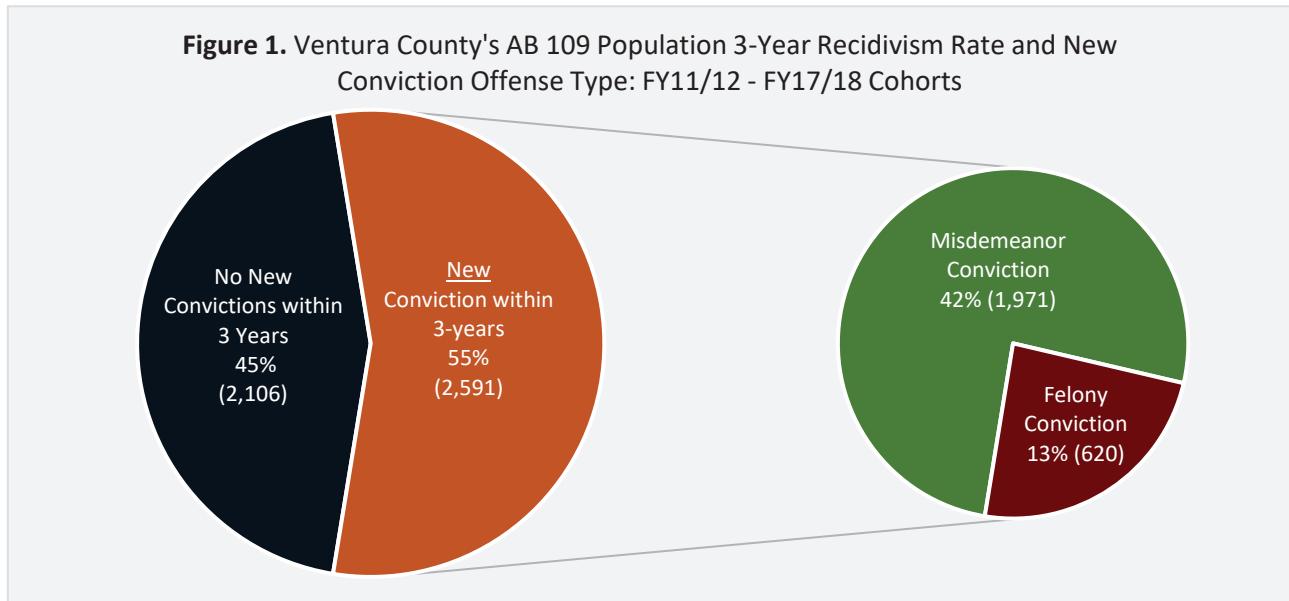
It should be noted that: (1) data regarding new offenses and convictions are available for those occurring in Ventura County; and (2) analyses exclude offenders that were initially released to Ventura County for supervision but were subsequently transferred out of county or abated (i.e., deceased).

Overall AB 109 Recidivism Rate and New Conviction Offense Type

Ventura County's overall AB 109 population three-year recidivism rate and new conviction offense type (i.e., felony or misdemeanor) for the FY11/12- FY17/18 cohorts are provided in **Figure 1.**
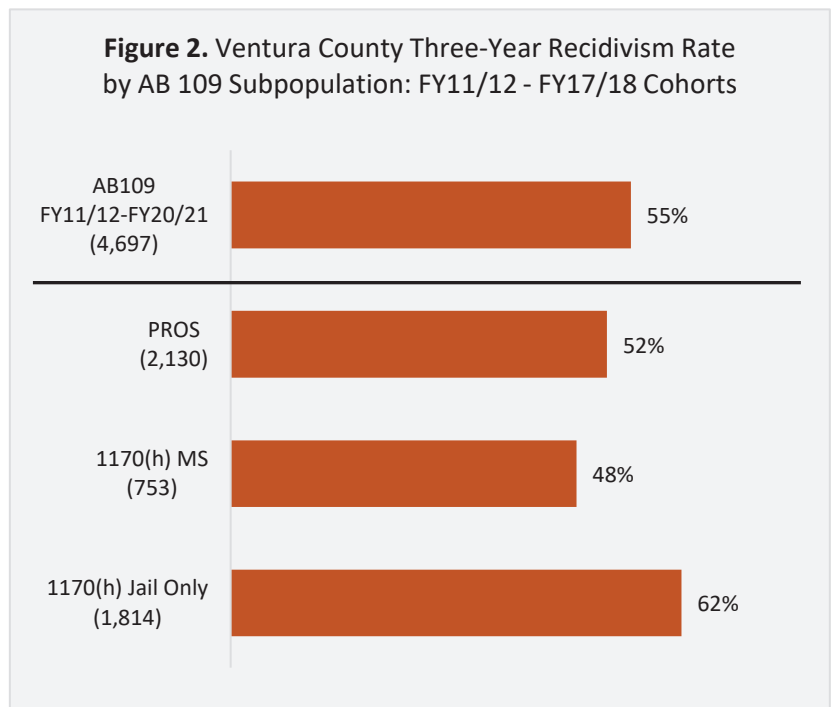
- As shown, 55% (n = 2,591) of the AB 109 populations recidivated within three years of release from custody.

- A higher percentage of offenders committed misdemeanor offenses compared to felonies that resulted in a first new conviction (42% compared to 13%).

Figure 1. Ventura County's AB 109 Population 3-Year Recidivism Rate and New Conviction Offense Type: FY11/12 - FY17/18 Cohorts

No New Convictions within 3 Years 45% (2,106)

New Conviction within 3-years 55% (2,591)

Misdemeanor Conviction 42% (1,971)

Felony Conviction 13% (620)

Recidivism Rates by Subpopulations

Figure 2 provides Ventura County's three-year recidivism rate by AB 109 Subpopulations.

- As shown, 55% of offenders across the three offender subpopulations recidivated within three years of release from custody;

  - Slightly more than half (52%) of PROs recidivated within three years of release from custody;

  - Just over two in five (48%) 1170(h) MS offenders recidivated within three years of release from custody; and

  - About three in five (62%) 1170(h) Jail Only offenders recidivated within three years of release from custody.

Figure 2. Ventura County Three-Year Recidivism Rate by AB 109 Subpopulation: FY11/12 - FY17/18 Cohorts

Subpopulation	Rate
AB109 FY11/12-FY20/21 (4,697)	55%
PROS (2,130)	52%
1170(h) MS (753)	48%
1170(h) Jail Only (1,814)	62%

Offense Level that Resulted in First New Conviction – by Subpopulation

Figure 3 provides the offense type (i.e., felony or misdemeanor) that resulted in the first new conviction by PROs, 1170(h) MS, and 1170(h) Jail Only subpopulations.

Figure 3. Ventura County Three-Year Recidivism Rates By AB 109 Subpopulation and New Conviction Offense Type: FY11/12 - FY17/18 Cohorts

	No New Conviction	New Misdemeanor Conviction	New Felony Conviction
AB109 FY11/12 - FY17/18 (4,697)	45%	42%	13%
PROS (2,130)	48%	38%	14%
1170(h) MS (753)	52%	35%	13%
1170(h) Jail Only (1,814)	38%	49%	13%
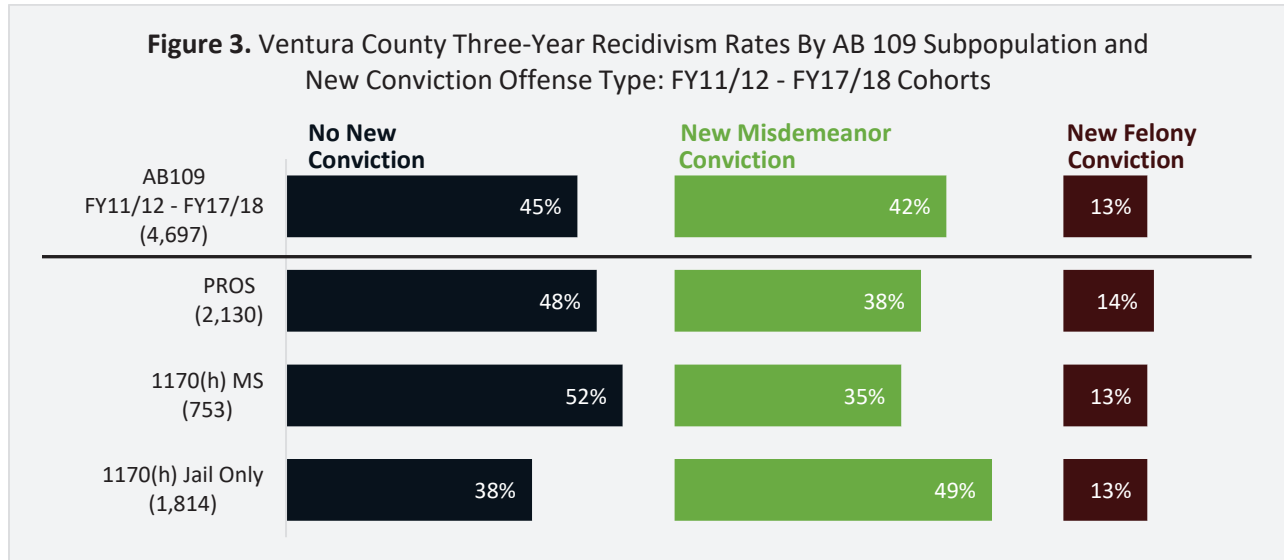
Top Charge Offense Type that Resulted in First New Conviction – by Subpopulation

Table 3 provides the top charge offense category (i.e., drug, property, other, weapon, DUI, or person crime) that resulted in the first new conviction by PROs, 1170(h) MS, and 1170(h) Jail Only subpopulations.

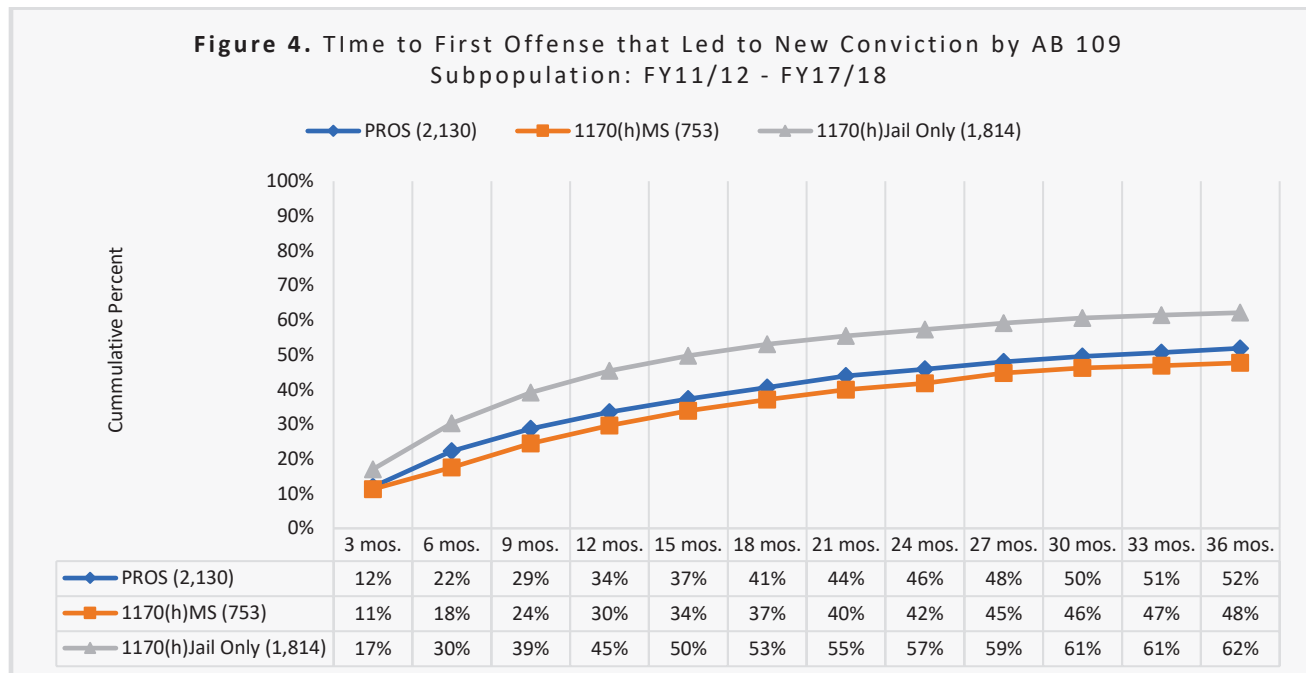**Table 3.** Top Charge Category Offense of First New Conviction by Subpopulation: FY11/12 – FY17/18 Cohorts

Top Charge Category	PROs Column #	PROs Column %	1170(h) MS Column #	1170(h) MS Column %	1170(h) Jail Only Column #	1170(h) Jail Only Column %	FY11/12-FY20/21 Column #	FY11/12-FY20/21 Column %
No New Convictions	1,025	48%	394	52%	687	38%	2,106	45%
▪ Person Offense	83	4%	19	3%	49	3%	151	3%
▪ Weapon Offense	62	3%	22	3%	59	3%	143	3%
▪ Property Offense	189	9%	94	12%	311	17%	594	13%
▪ Drug Offense	416	20%	150	20%	522	29%	1,088	23%
▪ DUI Offense	90	4%	20	3%	51	3%	161	3%
▪ Other Offense	265	12%	54	7%	135	7%	454	10%
Total	**2,130**	**100%**	**753**	**100%**	**1,814**	**100%**	**4,697**	**100%**

Recidivism Analyses by Time to Re-Offense

To provide more in-depth analyses of recidivism, time to re-offense was calculated by: (1) offender subpopulation, (2) entry cohort, and (3) age at supervision start date. Information by each of these categories is provided below.

Time to First New Offense by Subpopulation

- As shown in **Figure 4**, at 36 months, 62% of the 1170(h) Jail Only offenders had committed a new offense that resulted in a conviction, compared to 52% of PROs, and 48% of 1170(h) MS offenders.

- Within 12 months of being released from custody, nearly 45% of the 1170(h) Jail Only offenders had recidivated, compared to one third (34%) of PROs and 30% of the 1170(h) MS offenders.

Figure 4. TIme to First Offense that Led to New Conviction by AB 109 Subpopulation: FY11/12 - FY17/18

	3 mos.	6 mos.	9 mos.	12 mos.	15 mos.	18 mos.	21 mos.	24 mos.	27 mos.	30 mos.	33 mos.	36 mos.
PROS (2,130)	12%	22%	29%	34%	37%	41%	44%	46%	48%	50%	51%	52%
1170(h)MS (753)	11%	18%	24%	30%	34%	37%	40%	42%	45%	46%	47%	48%
1170(h)Jail Only (1,814)	17%	30%	39%	45%	50%	53%	55%	57%	59%	61%	61%	62%

Time to First New Offense by Entry Cohort

- **Table 4** indicates that across all three subpopulations, the FY12/13 and the FY15/16 entry cohorts had a lower recidivism rate at 36 months.

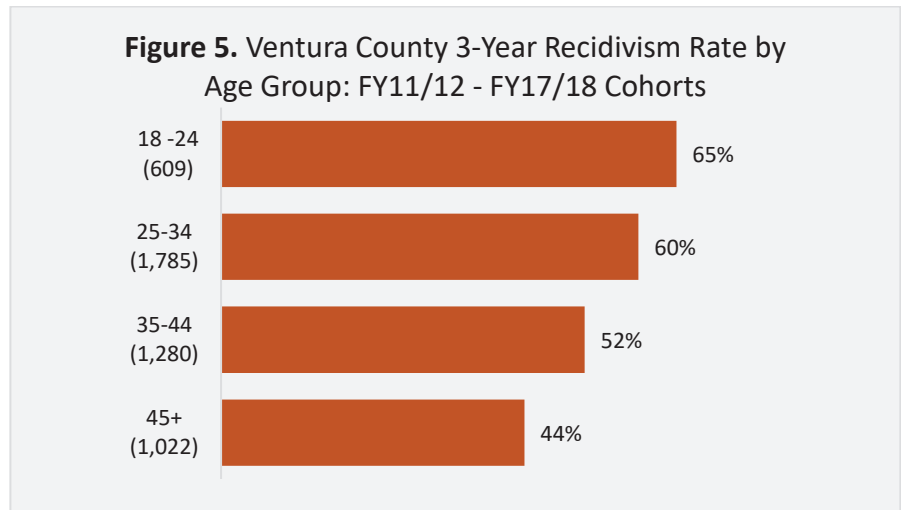**Table 4.** Time to First Arrest that Led to a New Conviction by Entry Cohort: FY11/12- FY17/18

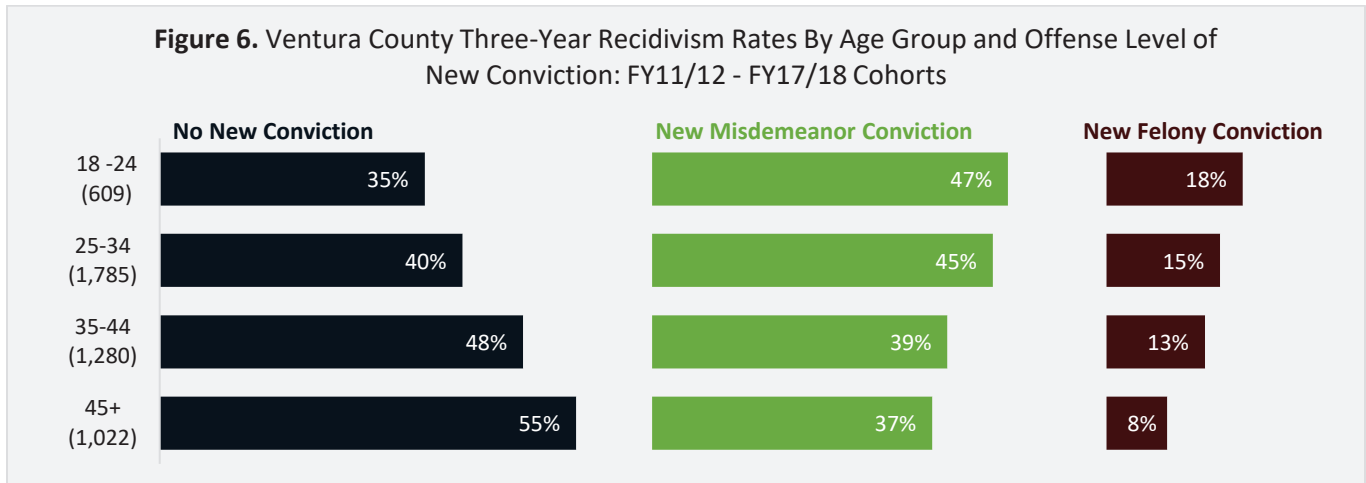| Cohort	N	Cumulative Recidivism Rate over 36 months											
		3 mos.	6 mos.	9 mos.	12 mos.	15 mos.	18 mos.	21 mos.	24 mos.	27 mos.	30 mos.	33 mos.	36 mos.
FY 11/12	476	15%	27%	33%	38%	42%	44%	48%	50%	53%	56%	57%	60%
FY 12/13	545	13%	22%	29%	33%	37%	40%	43%	45%	47%	49%	51%	52%
FY 13/14	838	12%	24%	32%	38%	43%	47%	50%	52%	54%	56%	57%	58%
FY 14/15	782	14%	25%	33%	38%	42%	45%	49%	51%	53%	54%	55%	55%
FY 15/16	590	11%	21%	29%	35%	39%	42%	45%	48%	51%	53%	53%	54%
FY 16/17	755	16%	27%	34%	39%	44%	47%	49%	51%	54%	54%	55%	56%
FY 17/18	711	15%	25%	33%	39%	42%	45%	48%	49%	50%	50%	51%	51%

Three-Year Recidivism Rate by Age Group

Ventura County's three-year AB 109 recidivism rate by age group is provided in **Figure 5.**

- As shown, younger offenders (i.e., ages 18-24 and 25-34) recidivated within three years of release from custody at a higher rate than older offenders (i.e., 35-44 and 45 and older).

Figure 5. Ventura County 3-Year Recidivism Rate by Age Group: FY11/12 - FY17/18 Cohorts

Age Group	Rate
18 -24 (609)	65%
25-34 (1,785)	60%
35-44 (1,280)	52%
45+ (1,022)	44%

First New Conviction by Age Group and Offense Type

Table 6 provides the recidivism rate for the first new conviction by offense type (i.e., felony or misdemeanor) across age groups.

Figure 6. Ventura County Three-Year Recidivism Rates By Age Group and Offense Level of New Conviction: FY11/12 - FY17/18 Cohorts

Age Group	No New Conviction	New Misdemeanor Conviction	New Felony Conviction
18 -24 (609)	35%	47%	18%
25-34 (1,785)	40%	45%	15%
35-44 (1,280)	48%	39%	13%
45+ (1,022)	55%	37%	8%

Top Charge Offense Category that Resulted in First New Conviction – by Age Group
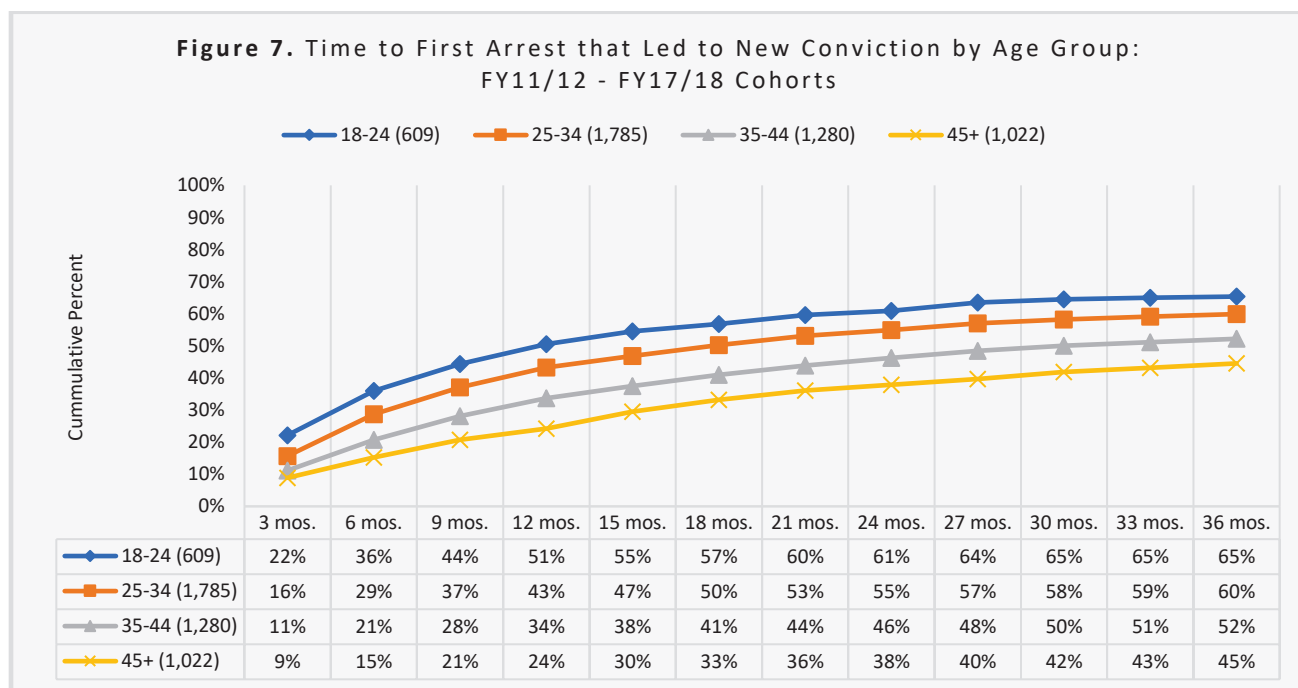
Figure 5 provides the top charge offense type (i.e., drug, property, other, weapon, DUI, or person crime) that resulted in the first new conviction by age group.

Table 5. Top Charge Category Offense of First New Conviction by Age Group: FY11/12 – FY17/18 Cohorts

Top Charge Category	18-24 Column #	18-24 Column %	25-34 Column #	25-34 Column %	35-44 Column #	35-44 Column %	45+ Column #	45+ Column %
No New Convictions	211	35%	716	40%	612	48%	567	55%
▪ Person Offense	22	4%	81	5%	33	3%	15	1%
▪ Weapon Offense	35	6%	58	3%	30	2%	20	2%
▪ Property Offense	98	16%	232	13%	166	13%	97	9%
▪ Drug Offense	133	22%	465	26%	295	23%	195	19%
▪ DUI Offense	19	3%	62	3%	40	3%	40	4%
▪ Other Offense	91	15%	171	10%	104	8%	88	9%
Total	**609**	**100%**	**1,785**	**100%**	**1,280**	**100%**	**1,022**	**100%**

Time to First New Offense by Age Group

▪ **Figure 7** indicates that younger offenders (i.e., 18–24 year-olds and 25-34 year-olds) tend to recidivate sooner compared to older age groups (i.e., 35-44 and 45 and older).

Figure 7. Time to First Arrest that Led to New Conviction by Age Group: FY11/12 - FY17/18 Cohorts

	3 mos.	6 mos.	9 mos.	12 mos.	15 mos.	18 mos.	21 mos.	24 mos.	27 mos.	30 mos.	33 mos.	36 mos.
18-24 (609)	22%	36%	44%	51%	55%	57%	60%	61%	64%	65%	65%	65%
25-34 (1,785)	16%	29%	37%	43%	47%	50%	53%	55%	57%	58%	59%	60%
35-44 (1,280)	11%	21%	28%	34%	38%	41%	44%	46%	48%	50%	51%	52%
45+ (1,022)	9%	15%	21%	24%	30%	33%	36%	38%	40%	42%	43%	45%

Regression Analyses

We modeled the relationship between recidivism within 3 years of release and subpopulation (PROS, 1170(h) MS, 1170(h) jail only) while adjusting for the contribution to recidivism of offender demographics, current charge level, current top charge category, felony and misdemeanor conviction history (note about logistic regression)[1]. After controlling for the contribution of these factors, the regression model revealed that PROS offenders were about 6% less likely than 1170(h) jail only offenders to recidivate within 3 years. Offenders released to mandatory supervision were about 11% less likely than 1170(h) jail only offenders. Additionally, the model revealed that offenders:

- with a current misdemeanor had about a 10% higher chance of recidivating than those with a current felony;
- with current top property and weapon offenses were more likely to recidivate than those with other offense types;
- with three or more prior felony convictions had an 8% higher chance of recidivating than those with two or fewer felony convictions;

The accumulation of misdemeanor convictions was the strongest predictor of recidivism across all Subgroups. Specifically, offenders with one misdemeanor had an 18% higher chance of recidivating than those with no prior misdemeanor convictions. Similarly, those with two or three misdemeanor convictions and four or more convictions had a 29% and 45% higher chance, respectively, of recidivating in three years. The detailed regression may be found in appendix A.

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[1] The regression model isolates the unique contribution of each variable of interest (e.g., demographic, criminal history variables, subgroup membership). This allows us to understand the unique contribution that Subgroup membership makes to 3-year recidivism.

Appendix A

Regression Analyses

Regression Analysis Methodology Overview

Table 1A (on the next page) depicts the results of an ordinary least squares (OLS) multivariate regression analysis that relates three-year recidivism to a set of factors: sentence type (PROS, 1170MS, and 1170 jail only), current charge information, criminal justice history, and demographic information.

A multivariate analysis is a statistical tool that allows us to model the net association of these factors with offenders' probability of recidivating in 36 months. The coefficient values (b) are an estimate of the net increase or decrease in probability of recidivating that is associated with each factor.

By way of example, the regression model estimates that offenders with a '3+ Prior Felonies' have a 0.08 (8%) higher probability of recidivating than offenders who had 2 or fewer prior felonies in their history. Offenders sentenced to 1170MS had on average an estimated 0.11 (11%) lower probability of recidivating than offenders who had a 1170 Straight Sentence.

The *p- value* is a probability that allows to determine whether the values of b are statistically different, for instance, whether 1170 MS offenders really have a lower probability of recidivism than 1170 Straight offenders. By convention, probabilities of less than 0.05 imply real difference. The Confidence Interval (CI) gives us insight into how exact the estimate of b is.

Table A1: Ordinary Least Squares Regression of 3-Year Recidivism

	b	95% CI	p
Sentence Type (Reference = 1170(h) Jail Only)			
PROS	-0.06	-0.09:-0.02	0.00
1170(h)MS	-0.11	-0.15:-0.07	0.00
Race/Ethnicity (Reference = White, Non-Hispanic)			
White, Hispanic	0.01	-0.01:0.04	0.02
Black	-0.01	-0.06:0.05	0.80
Other	-0.02	-0.09:0.06	0.66
Female	-0.04	-0.08:-0.00	0.03
Age in Years (Centered at 24)	-0.01	-0.01:-0.01	0.00
Current Misdemeanor	0.10	0.06:-0.14	0.00
		.	
Charge Category (Reference = Property)			
Person	-0.11	-0.16:-0.05	0.00
Weapon	-0.02	-0.07:0.03	0.45
Drug	-0.06	-0.10:-0.03	0.00
Other Offense	-0.08	-0.12:-0.03	0.00
3+ Felony Prior Felonies	0.08	0.05:0.11	0.00
Prior Misdemeanor Convictions (Reference = 0)			
1 Misdemeanor	0.18	0.12:0.23	0.00
2 or 3 Misdemeanors	0.29	0.25:0.34	0.00
4+ Misdemeanors	0.45	0.42:0.49	0.00
Model Constant	0.33	0.28:0.38	0.00
R^2	0.19		

Definition Key

b = an estimate of the net increase or decrease in probability of recidivating that is associated with each factor.

95% CI = level of confidence that the findings fall within the true population range.

P = probability that allows to determine whether the values of b are statistically different.