



## Recidivism Among RI Youth Entering Juvenile Justice System, FY17-20: Descriptive Statistics

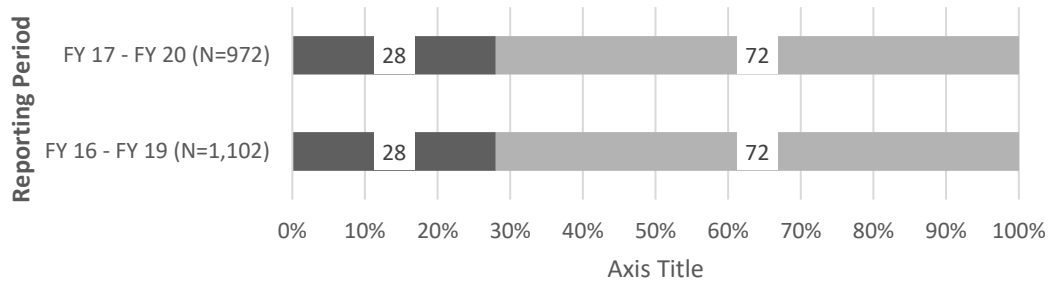
The report below examines recidivism over a four-year period, among RI DCYF youth who were adjudicated in Fiscal Year 2017 – 2020, with up to three years of follow-up. We included cohorts that overlap with the previous reporting period to allow for a full 3-year follow-up time on all previous reportable cohorts. Those that were sentenced to Immediate Temporary Community Placement (TCP/Immediate) or Probation were eligible to recidivate upon the day of their entry adjudication into the cohort. Those youth sentenced to the Rhode Island Training School (RITS) were eligible upon their physical release from the facility. Department of Corrections data, for those youth who were subsequently convicted and incarcerated, is included in the analysis. 972 youth were included in the analysis, of which, 28% recidivated over a three-year period. Compared to our previous analysis (FY 16 – FY 19), this has remained the same, but with a smaller group of youth in that analytic period: 1,102. Additionally, the median number of days to recidivation in this cohort compared to the previous analytic time period has decreased to 292 days from 323 days. Other descriptive characteristics such as gender, race/ethnicity, charge and sentence type, found in Table 1, have similar distributions to the previous reporting period.

In a multivariate model, TCP/Immediate youth had 1.7 times the odds of Probation youth of recidivating, keeping all other variables in the model constant. In comparison to the last reporting period, this odds ratio has increased, and remains statistically significant, indicating that the relationship is not due to chance. Also predictive of recidivation was the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY) performed at time of initial adjudication. Those youth with High SAVRY scores had 5.1 times the odds of recidivation compared to youth with Low SAVRY scores, keeping all other variables in the model constant, which has increased since the last reporting period (Odds Ratio = 5.0). In this model, Black Non-Hispanic youth were 1.9 times the odds of recidivating compared to White Non-Hispanic youth, keeping all other variables in the model constant. This has increased and become statistically significant since the last reporting period. Although Hispanic any race youth do not have a statistically significant odds ratio in the model of recidivating compared to White Non-Hispanic youth, the clinical significance of 1.5 times the odds for these children should not be ignored. The SAVRY assessment is correlated to race/ethnicity suggesting that the two measures are influencing each other.

Figure 2 examines percent recidivation by initial sentence type and SAVRY category. Across all sentence types, as SAVRY scores increase, the percent of those youth recidivate increases. Specifically examining high SAVRY score youth, Probation and RITS youth have a similar recidivation percentage; about 45%. TCP/Immediate children, however, are much higher at 55% that recidivate, perhaps speaking to the differences in programs and services. The trend remains disparate across Moderate and Low scoring SAVRY youth in TCP/Immediate sentences, compared to Probation and RITS sentenced youth.

Figure 4 examines time to recidivation by initial sentence type. In the first year, Probation youth recidivate 16.7% of the time, whereas the other sentence types have higher recidivation percentages; 19.5% for RITS and 26.3% for TCP/Immediate. As we examine across the percent that re-adjudicate within 2 years and 3 years, those youth sentenced to TCP/Immediate are much higher, at 45.6% versus 23.9% for Probation youth and 28.9% for RITS youth.

Figure 1. 3-Year Percent Recidivation, by Reporting Period\*



\*See data notes on Table 2

**Table 1. Descriptive Statistics, Entry Cohort from FY17-FY20 (Probation/TCP) & Exit Cohort from FY17-FY20 (RITS), Department of Corrections Data Included<sup>††</sup>**

		N (%)
Gender		
	Male	828 (85)
	Female	144 (15)
Age* (median, min, max)		17 (13, 20)
Race/Ethnicity		<i>[Census Data**]</i>
	White Non-Hispanic	312 (32)    62%
	Black Non-Hispanic	206 (21)    8%
	Hispanic	328 (34)    26%
	Other/Multiracial	80 (8)    4%
	Unknown	46 (5)
Urban Core <sup>†</sup>		
	Yes	570 (59)
	No	351 (36)
	Out of State	51 (5)
Providence <sup>†</sup>		
	Yes	283 (29)
	No	638 (66)
	Out of State	51 (5)
Maximum Charge Type		
	Wayward	284 (29)
	Delinquent	614 (63)
	Other <sup>***</sup>	74 (8)
Number of Charges (median, min, max)		1 (1, 8)
Sentence Type <sup>^</sup>		
	Probation	653 (67)
	TCP Immediate	160 (17)
	RITS Only	159 (16)
Recidivate (Ever)		
	Yes	275 (28)
	No	697 (72)
Days to Recidivation (median, min, max)		292 (14, 1091)
SAVRY Categories (n=850) <sup>&amp;</sup>		
	Low	145 (17)
	Moderate	419 (49)
	High	286 (34)

Data Notes:

Data source: RIC HIST; data are current as of 9/21/2021

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RI DCYF

Data & Evaluation Unit

December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

- Those with missing legal petition numbers were excluded
- A recidivation event must take place greater than 14 days after the original petition number
- Percent presented in the table is a column percent

<sup>††</sup> Adult corrections only include those sentences to the locked facility; adult probation is not included in this analysis

\*Age at entry for Probation & TCP youth; age at exit for RITS youth

\*\*Census estimates for RI Youth

\*\*\*Other includes those charges that are listed as Other, Conspiracy with no severity, blank charges and/or status offenses

<sup>‡</sup> Defined by Case Address

<sup>^</sup> Sentence Type defined by legal petition file in the case of Probation and RITS; those with an indicated movement field of TCP/Immediate throughout the JJ episode were defined as TCP/Immediate; those youth with a movement field defined by TCP after being in the RITS, and no TCP/immediate field were included in RITS; some misclassification among the RITS sentenced youth into those categories may exist. Those with missing sentence information, but a petition number and RITS movement were defined as RITS only.

<sup>&</sup> Staggered roll-out of SAVRY at time of initial adjudication; began with Probation youth in July 2015 and extended to all adjudicated youth by July 2017; a few remaining in the early cohorts are missing a SAVRY

**Table 2. Descriptive Statistics, Stratified by Ever Recidivation, Entry Cohort from FY17-FY20 (Probation/TCP) & Exit Cohort from FY17-FY20 (RITS), Department of Corrections Data Included<sup>††</sup>**

		Ever Recidivation (N, %)		p-value***
		Yes (275, 28)	No (697, 72)	
Gender	Male	243 (29)	585 (71)	0.0797
	Female	32 (22)	112 (78)	
Age* (mean)		16	17	<0.0001
Race/Ethnicity	White Non-Hispanic	63 (20)	249 (80)	<0.0001
	Black Non-Hispanic	81 (39)	125 (61)	
	Hispanic	111 (34)	217 (66)	
	Other/Multiracial	19 (24)	61 (76)	
	Unknown	1 (2)	45 (98)	
Urban Core <sup>‡</sup>	Yes	193 (34)	377 (66)	<0.0001
	No	73 (21)	278 (79)	
	Out of State	9 (18)	42 (82)	
Providence <sup>‡</sup>	Yes	103 (36)	180 (64)	0.0008
	No	163 (26)	475 (74)	
	Out of State	9 (18)	42 (82)	
Maximum Charge Type	Wayward	175 (29)	439 (72)	0.2546
	Delinquent	85 (30)	199 (70)	
	Other**	15 (20)	59 (80)	
Number of Charges (mean)		1	1	0.1366
Sentence Type <sup>^</sup>	Probation	156 (24)	497 (76)	<0.0001
	TCP Immediate	73 (46)	87 (54)	
	RITS Only	26 (29)	113 (71)	
SAVRY Categories (n=963) <sup>&amp;</sup>	Low	16 (11)	129 (89)	<0.0001
	Moderate	112 (27)	307 (73)	
	High	137 (48)	149 (52)	

Data Notes:

Data source: RIC HIST; data are current as of 9/21/2021

- Those with missing legal petition numbers were excluded

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RI DCYF

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December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

- A recidivation event must take place greater than 14 days after the original petition number

- Percent presented in the table is a column percent

<sup>††</sup> Adult corrections only include those sentences to the locked facility; adult probation is not included in this analysis

\*Age at entry for Probation & TCP youth; age at exit for RITS youth

\*\* Other includes those charges that are listed as Other, Conspiracy with no severity, blank charges and/or status offenses

\*\*\* Chi-square test used, except where cells have a count of <5, then a Fisher's Exact Test was used. Continuous variables, a t-test was performed

<sup>‡</sup> Defined by Case Address

<sup>^</sup> Sentence Type defined by legal petition file in the case of Probation and RITS; those with an indicated movement field of TCP/Immediate throughout the JJ episode were defined as TCP/Immediate; those youth with a movement field defined by TCP after being in the RITS, and no TCP/immediate field were included in RITS; some misclassification among the RITS sentenced youth into those categories may exist. Those with missing sentence information, but a petition number and RITS movement were defined as RITS only.

<sup>&</sup> Staggered roll-out of SAVRY at time of initial adjudication; began with Probation youth in July 2015 and extended to all adjudicated youth by July 2017; a few remaining in the early cohorts are missing a SAVRY

**Table 3. Descriptive Statistics, by SAVRY<sup>&</sup> Category, Entry Cohort from FY16-FY19 (Probation/TCP) & Exit Cohort from FY16-FY19 (RITS), Department of Corrections Data Included<sup>††</sup>**

	SAVRY Categories (N, %)			p-value**
	Low (145, 17)	Moderate (419, 49)	High (286, 34)	
Sentence Type <sup>^</sup>				<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Probation	134 (23)	321 (55)	132 (23)	
TCP Immediate	9 (6)	60 (39)	85 (55)	
RITS Only	2 (2)	38 (34)	69 (63)	
Maximum Charge Type				<b>0.0048</b>
Wayward	33 (13)	123 (49)	95 (38)	
Delinquent	93 (17)	261 (49)	180 (34)	
Other*	19 (29)	35 (54)	11 (17)	
Race/Ethnicity				<b>0.0005</b>
White Non-Hispanic	50 (19)	137 (52)	77 (29)	
Black Non-Hispanic	27 (14)	79 (42)	82 (44)	
Hispanic	45 (15)	153 (52)	98 (33)	
Other/Multiracial	11 (16)	31 (45)	27 (39)	
Unknown	12 (36)	19 (58)	2 (6)	

Data Notes:

Data source: RICHIST; data are current as of 9/21/2021

- Those with missing legal petition numbers were excluded

- A recidivation event must take place greater than 14 days after the original petition number

- Percent presented in the table is a row percent

<sup>††</sup> Adult corrections only include those sentences to the locked facility; adult probation is not included in this analysis

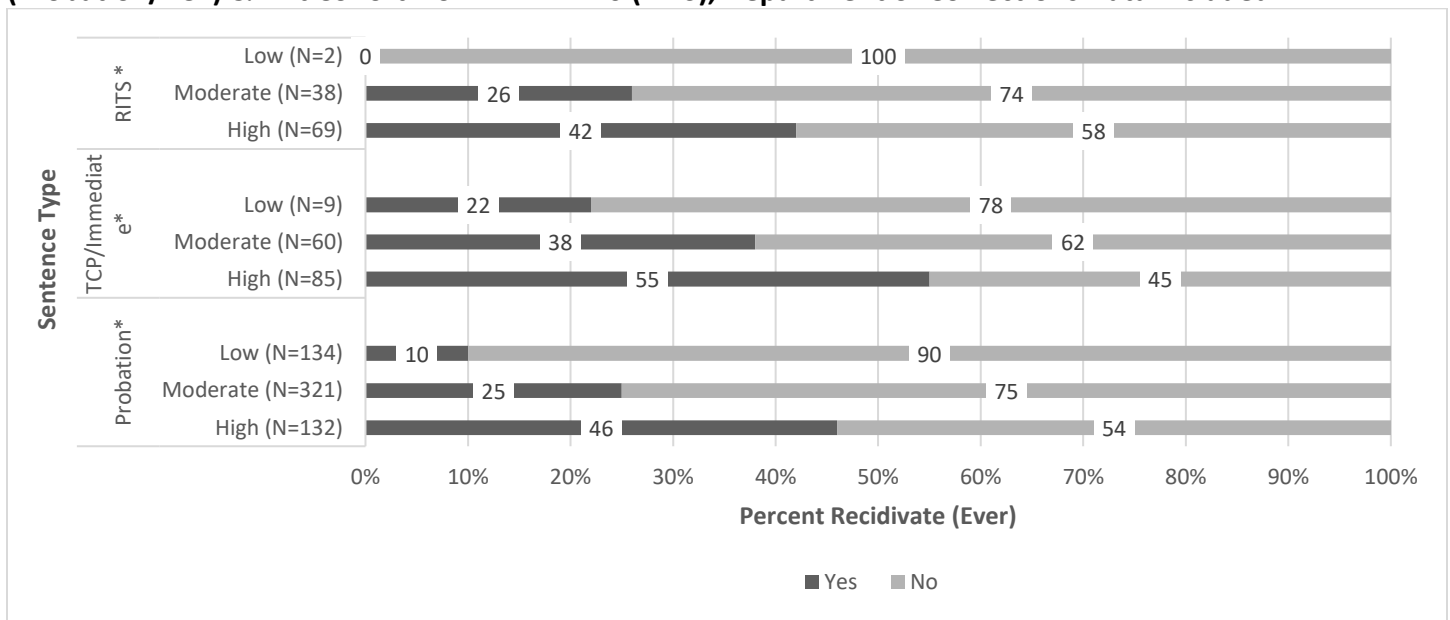
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<sup>^</sup> Sentence Type defined by legal petition file in the case of Probation and RITS; those with an indicated movement field of TCP/Immediate throughout the JJ episode were defined as TCP/Immediate; those youth with a movement field defined by TCP after being in the RITS, and no TCP/immediate field were included in RITS; some misclassification among the RITS sentenced youth into those categories may exist. Those with missing sentence information, but a petition number and RITS movement were defined as RITS only.

<sup>&</sup> Staggered roll-out of SAVRY at time of initial adjudication; began with Probation youth in July 2015 and extended to all adjudicated youth by July 2017; a few remaining in the early cohorts are missing a SAVRY

**Figure 2. Percent Recidivation, by SAVRY<sup>&</sup> Category and Sentence Type, Entry Cohort from FY17-FY20 (Probation/TCP) & Exit Cohort from FY17-FY20 (RITS), Department of Corrections Data Included<sup>†\*\*</sup>**



**Data Notes:**

Data source: RICHIST; data are current as of 9/21/2021

- Those with missing legal petition numbers were excluded

- A recidivation event must take place greater than 14 days after the original petition number

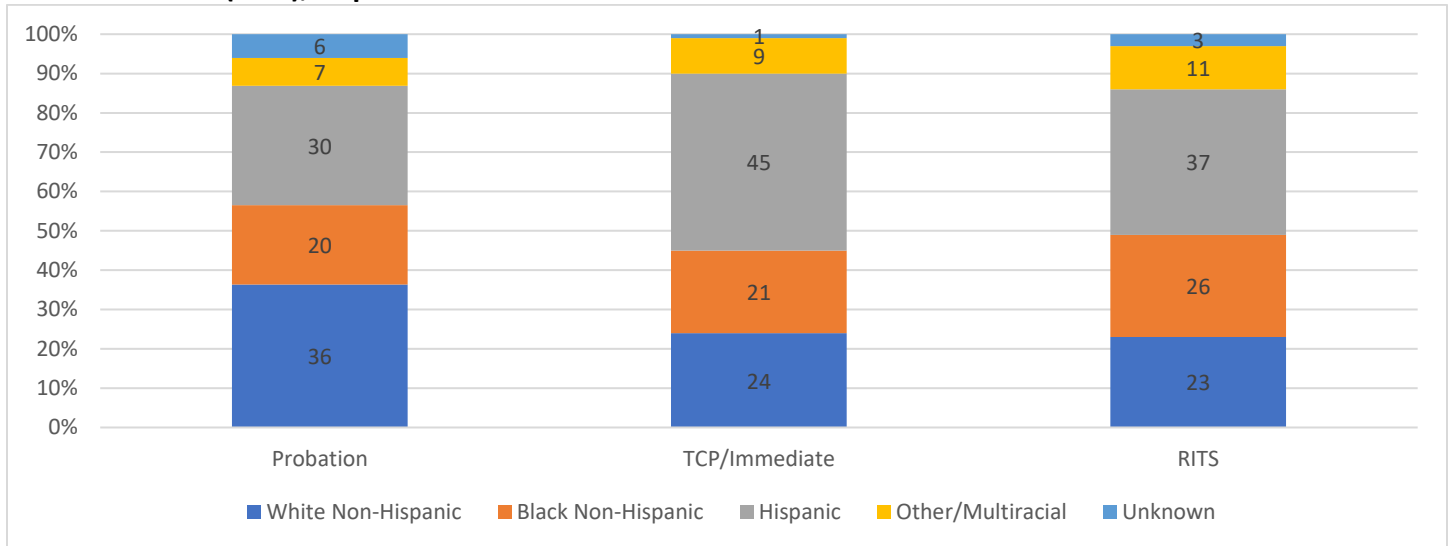
† Adult corrections only include those sentences to the locked facility; adult probation is not included in this analysis

\*Statistically significant relationship (p <0.05)

\*\*Chi-square test used, except where cells have a count of <5, then a Fisher's Exact Test was used

^ Sentence Type defined by legal petition file in the case of Probation and RITS; those with an indicated movement field of TCP/Immediate throughout the JJ episode were defined as TCP/Immediate; those youth with a movement field defined by TCP after being in the RITS, and no TCP/immediate field were included in RITS; some misclassification among the RITS sentenced youth into those categories may exist. Those with missing sentence information, but a petition number and RITS movement were defined as RITS only.

**Figure 3. Race and Ethnicity, by Sentence Type, Entry Cohort from FY17-FY20 (Probation/TCP) & Exit Cohort from FY17-FY20 (RITS), Department of Corrections Data Included<sup>†,\*\*,\*\*</sup>**



**Data Notes:**

Data source: RICHIST; data are current as of 9/21/2021

- Those with missing legal petition numbers were excluded

- A recidivation event must take place greater than 14 days after the original petition number

<sup>†</sup> Adult corrections only include those sentences to the locked facility; adult probation is not included in this analysis

\*Statistically significant relationship ( $p < 0.05$ )

\*\*Chi-square test used, except where cells have a count of  $< 5$ , then a Fisher's Exact Test was used

<sup>^</sup> Sentence Type defined by legal petition file in the case of Probation and RITS; those with an indicated movement field of TCP/Immediate throughout the JJ episode were defined as TCP/Immediate; those youth with a movement field defined by TCP after being in the RITS, and no TCP/immediate field were included in RITS; some misclassification among the RITS sentenced youth into those categories may exist. Those with missing sentence information, but a petition number and RITS movement were defined as RITS only.

**Table 4. Recidivation Sentence Type, by First Sentence Type, Entry Cohort from FY17-FY20 (Probation/TCP) & Exit Cohort from FY17-FY20 (RITS), Department of Corrections Data Included<sup>††</sup>**

	Sentence Type*, Where Youth Recidivates (N, %)	p-value**
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	Probation (90, 33)	RITS (156, 57)	Adult Corrections*** (29, 11)	
First Sentence Type <sup>^</sup>				<b>0.0003</b>
Probation	68 (44)	75 (48)	13 (8)	
TCP Immediate	15 (21)	50 (69)	8 (11)	
RITS	7 (15)	31 (67)	8 (17)	

Data Notes:

Data source: RICHIST; data are current as of 9/21/2021

- Those with missing legal petition numbers were excluded

- A recidivation event must take place greater than 14 days after the original petition number

- Percent presented in the table is a row percent

\*Legal window definition of sentence type; those sentenced to the RITS at time of Recidivation may have served at a TCP facility

\*\*Chi-square test used, except where cells have a count of <5, then a Fisher's Exact Test was used. Continuous variables, a t-test was performed

<sup>^</sup> Sentence Type defined by legal petition file in the case of Probation and RITS; those with an indicated movement field of TCP/Immediate throughout the JJ episode were defined as TCP/Immediate; those youth with a movement field defined by TCP after being in the RITS, and no TCP/immediate field were included in RITS; some misclassification among the RITS sentenced youth into those categories may exist. Those with missing sentence information, but a petition number and RITS movement were defined as RITS only.

‡‡, \*\*\*Adult corrections only include those sentences to the locked facility; adult probation is not included in this analysis

**Table 5. Factors Associated with Ever Recidivation Entry Cohort from FY17-FY20 (Probation/TCP) & Exit Cohort from FY17-FY20 (RITS), Department of Corrections Data Included<sup>†</sup> (N=850 Multivariate Model<sup>††</sup>)**

	Adjusted Odds Ratio	95% Confidence Interval	Sig Difference
<b>Race/Ethnicity (as compared to White Non-Hispanic)</b>			
Black Non-Hispanic	1.948	(1.186, 3.201)	*
Hispanic	1.460	(0.928, 2.296)	
Other/Multiracial	0.950	(0.482, 1.872)	
<b>Age at Entry (Continuous Age)</b>	0.637	(0.562, 0.722)	**
<b>SAVRY Category (as compared to Low)</b>			
Moderate	2.461	(1.369, 4.426)	*
High	5.144	(2.787, 9.493)	**
<b>First Sentence Type<sup>^</sup> (as compared to Probation)</b>			
TCP/Immediate	1.684	(1.114, 2.545)	*
RITS Only	1.069	(0.650, 1.758)	
<b>Urban Core<sup>##</sup> (as compared to Not Urban Core)</b>			
Yes	1.376	(0.919, 2.061)	
Out of State	0.611	(0.254, 1.473)	

Data Notes:

Data source: RIC HIST; data are current as of 9/21/2021

- Logistic regression was performed; all variables in model are shown

- Those with missing legal petition numbers were excluded

- A recidivation event must take place greater than 14 days after the original petition number

<sup>†</sup> Adult corrections only include those sentences to the locked facility; adult probation is not included in this analysis

<sup>##</sup>Total N=972

<sup>##</sup>Urban Core defined by case address

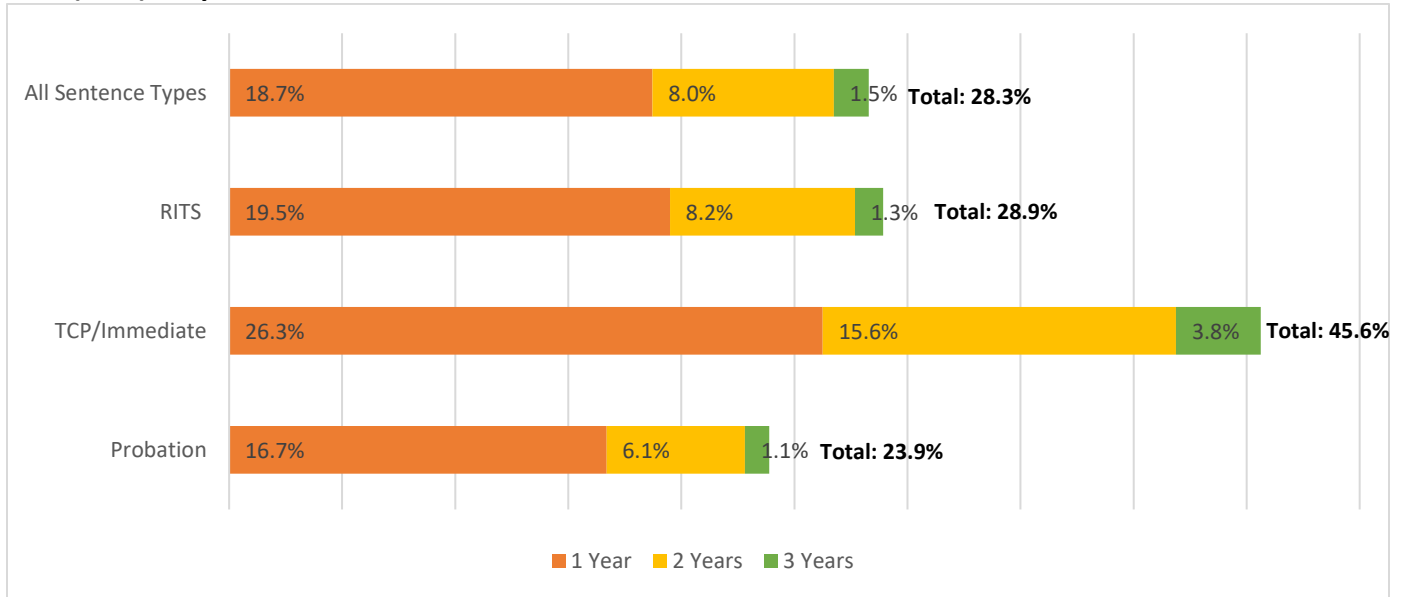
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\* p-value <0.05

\*\* p-value <0.0001



**Figure 4. Time to Recidivation, Entry Cohort from FY17-FY20 (Probation/TCP) & Exit Cohort from FY17-FY20(RITS), Department of Corrections Data Included †**



**Data Notes:**

Data source: RICHIST; data are current as of 9/21/21

- Those with missing legal petition numbers were excluded

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† Adult corrections only include those sentences to the locked facility; adult probation is not included in this analysis

**Summary and Action Steps**

- Recidivation differences among key groups continues to widen; use this report to inform policy and programming
  - What in our programs is working and what in our programs aren't, when thinking about preventing our youth from getting deeper into the justice system? What is our program not doing in terms of meeting youth's needs?
 

Particularly high risk of recidivating youth:

    - Black Non-Hispanic
    - Hispanic any race
    - High SAVRY scoring
    - Urban Core
  - What can we intervene with? Different programs? Police trainings to limit arrests? Raise the age of kids in JJ care? Education investment?
  - TCP/Immediate youth increasingly recidivating at higher rates, where RITS youth look more like Probation youth – why? What needs is this program not meeting?
- How will COVID-19 arrest, and incarceration trends impact this report in later years?
  - Emphasis on decreasing arrests and decreasing incarceration/detainment due to COVID-19 concerns. Will this trend hold? What if it does not?