

Sex Offender Recidivism and SOAR Returns to Prison

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PURPOSE

This memo presents statistics on recidivism and reincarceration rates for convicted sex offenders along with information on returns to prison by inmates that completed the Sex Offender Accountability and Responsibility (SOAR) program. The figures are taken from national and state sources.

NATIONAL FIGURES

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (2003) reports the following figures for sex offenders released from State prisons in 1994:

- 3.5% of released sex offenders were reconvicted for a sex crime within 3 years of release.
- 24% of released sex offenders were reconvicted for a new crime within 3 years of release.
- 38.6% of released sex offenders were reincarcerated within 3 years of release.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2003). *Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from Prison in 1994 (NCJ 198281)*. Washington, DC.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA FIGURES

The North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (2006) reports the following recidivism figures for inmates sentenced under the Fair Sentencing Act (FSA) and Structured Sentencing Act (SSA) and released from prison during fiscal year 2001-2002:

- 27.7% of inmates sentenced under the FSA were reconvicted for any crime within 3 years of release.
- 36.7% of inmates sentenced under the SSA were reconvicted for any crime within 3 years of release.
- 30.2% of inmates sentenced under the FSA were reincarcerated for any crime within 3 years of release.
- 36.4% of inmates sentenced under the SSA were reincarcerated for any crime within 3 years of release.
- 7.8% of inmates that attended the SOAR program were reconvicted within 3 years of release.
- 9.8% of inmates that attended the SOAR program were reincarcerated within 3 years of release.

Below is an excerpt of relevant programs from Appendix B-2: Summary Information for Correction Programs.

Name	n	Criminal Justice Outcomes: Three-Year Follow-Up	
		Reconviction	Reincarceration
SSA Prison Releases	15,629	36.7%	36.4%
SSA Prison Releases: Post Release	1,326	27.2%	29.2%
FSA Prison Releases	1,489	27.7%	30.2%
SOAR	51	7.8%	9.8%

Source: North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission. (2006). *Correctional Program Evaluation: Offenders Placed on Probation or Released from Prison in Fiscal Year 2001/02*. Raleigh, NC.

SOAR PARTICIPANTS' RETURN TO PRISON

Research and Planning performed a preliminary descriptive analysis of inmates that completed the SOAR program and were released from prison. Below is information about those who have returned and a general classification of the reason for that prison re-entry. ***This is not to be confused with the rate of recidivism, nor should rates be computed from this information or compared to other published rates of recidivism.***

- 157 inmates released from prison between January 2000 and December 3, 2005 completed the SOAR program.
- 16 returned to prison at some time after their initial release
 - 9 of these returned due to a violation of the conditions of supervision
 - 5 returned with subsequent non-sexual offenses
 - 2 were reincarcerated for additional sexual offense convictions.