

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Recidivism Report: Executive Summary

Cohort Descriptive Information

In fiscal year 2023, 37,044 unique individuals had a termination from probation (regular or intensive supervision). Of these, 35,449 were on probation for an adult case and 1,595 were on probation for a juvenile delinquency case. Individuals terminated from probation who also participated in an intensive program account for 1,666 (4.7%) adults and 92 (5.8%) juveniles. The population of probationers terminated in fiscal year 2023 is generally reflective of the active adult probation population described in the annual report, where approximately 25% of the population is female, most are Caucasian, and individuals between the ages of 25 and 39 years make up about half of the population. The majority (44.3%) of adults are assessed as low risk at the start of probation, 24.6% are considered moderate risk, and 16.1% are high risk. For juveniles, 39.2% are classified as low risk, 29.3% as moderate risk, and 15.0% as high risk. The remainder (15.1% of adults and 16.5% of juveniles) do not have risk data available.

Outcomes

Most adults and juveniles completed probation successfully and remained crime free for at least one-year following termination. This is true even if they had a pre-release recidivism event. Recidivism for Colorado probation is now defined using two components: pre-release and post-release. Pre-release recidivism is defined as a new deferred agreement, adjudication, or conviction while under probation supervision. Post-release recidivism is defined as a new deferred agreement, adjudication, or conviction one-, two-, and three-years' post-release from probation regardless of whether that release is considered successful. Rates included in this summary include both individuals who were only on regular probation and those who participated in an intensive program during their supervision. For more detailed breakouts of recidivism rates by program, please see the full fiscal year 2024 recidivism report.

Pre-Release Recidivism

Pre-release recidivism occurred in 18.5% of adult terminations and 16.6% of juvenile terminations in fiscal year 2023. Of note, pre-release recidivism did not automatically lead to an unsuccessful termination from probation—9.5% of adults and 8.0% of juveniles had pre-release recidivism events and completed probation successfully. Rates of pre-release recidivism were substantially higher for individuals who terminated from probation unsuccessfully. Pre-release recidivism events occurred for 34.4% of adults and 29.6% of juveniles who were terminated from probation due to technical violations. Pre-release recidivism rates are highest for high risk adults and juveniles (36.9% and 35.6%, respectively). Pre-release recidivism rates are lowest for low risk adults and juveniles (10.3% and 11.2%, respectively).

Post-Release Recidivism

Overall post-release recidivism rates within the first year are below 11% for those who successfully complete probation—5.1% for adults and 10.3% for juveniles. Rates of post-release recidivism are higher for individuals who unsuccessfully terminate from probation. Post-release recidivism rates for adults are highest for individuals who were terminated from probation for technical violations at 19.3%. For juveniles, post-release recidivism rates are highest for those who terminated for new crimes at 17.9%. Post-release recidivism in year 2 for the cohort terminated in fiscal year 2022 decreased from rates of year 1 recidivism. The same is true for the termination cohort from 2021, with another decrease from year 2 to year 3. One-year post-release recidivism rate are highest for high risk adults and juveniles (17.9% and 18.8%, respectively). These rates are lowest for low risk adults and juveniles (4.7% and 8.6%, respectively).

Placement for Negative Terminations

When a probationer is unsuccessful on probation, a new sentence is often entered on the case once probation is terminated. Due to the timing of the study, new criminal cases have approximately one year to reach resolution to be included in the study. As a result, just under half of all cases terminated from probation for technical violations, new crimes, or absconding did not have a new sentence entered. When a new sentence was entered, adults were commonly sentenced to jail (43.7 %). Juveniles were most commonly sentenced to jail or juvenile detention (30.2%), followed by DYS (19.3%).

Terminations by Risk Level

Like pre- and post-release recidivism, termination rates are closely associated with risk level. Low risk probationers are much more likely to terminate successfully compared to medium or high risk probationers. Successful terminations occur in 84.0% of low risk adult probationers, 58.2% of moderate risk, and 30.6% of high risk. For juveniles, 85.0% of low risk, 69.0% of moderate risk, and 47.7% of high risk probationers terminated successfully.

Length of Stay

Length of stay on probation was defined as the number of months that elapsed from the initial sentence to probation to the termination date. The median length of stay on probation for adult probationers is 17.97 months and for juveniles is 12.58. Length of stay was longer for individuals with pre-release recidivism compared to those without. For adults, those without pre-release recidivism had a median length of stay of 17.18 months compared to 23.98 for those who did. For juveniles, those without pre-release recidivism had a median length of stay of 11.99 months compared to 21.39 for those with pre-release recidivism.

Conclusions

Most probationers successfully complete probation in around 18 months for adults and 12.5 months for juveniles and remain crime free following release. Pre-release recidivism was not uncommon and has increased for adults but decreased for juveniles from the previous fiscal year (18.5% of adults and 16.6% of juveniles). The adult rate more closely resembles the pre-release recidivism rate for the fiscal year 2021 termination cohort (17.6%), while the juvenile rate has decreased over two years. Both adults and juveniles are likely to successfully complete probation supervision (64.3% and 73.5%, respectively). Successful terminations are more common in lower risk probationers (84.0% for adults and 85% for juveniles) compared to higher risk probationers (30.6% for adults and 47.7% for juveniles). Post-release recidivism within one year of discharge from probation in fiscal year 2023 occurred for 8.7% of adults and 11.0% of juveniles.

To access the full technical report, please visit the [Colorado Division of Probation Services Reports and Data](#) website and navigate to the FY24 Recidivism Report.