



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Lt. Governor

MARCUS O. HICKS, ESQ.
Commissioner

September 21, 2020

Frank W. Haines
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer
Office of Legislative Services
State House Annex, P.O. Box 068
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0068

Dear Mr. Haines:

Please find the Department of Corrections' follow-up responses to questions raised by members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee based on the Budget Hearing on September 10, 2020:

Senator Testa:

Question: *Under the early release program, how many inmates were released early over the county prosecutor's objections?*

Response: Over 3,400 offenders were considered for the Emergency Medical Home Confinement (EMHC) program. Of those, 2,988 offenders were denied and 418 offenders were approved. The Department received prosecutor objection letters for 208 of those approved offenders (49.7%). Of those 208 offenders that the Department received prosecutor objection letters, it should be noted that 72 offenders were initially denied but the Department decided to later approve them for the EMHC when additional information was submitted upon appeal for reconsideration.

Senator Singleton:

Question: *What is the overall recidivism rate for inmates in Residential Community Release Programs versus inmates in State correctional facilities?*

Response: The most recent data available is from the 2015 Recidivism Release report, completed in August 2019, which examines the recidivism of all releases (9,017 persons) in calendar year 2015 for a period of three years post-release. Approximately 30% of all 2015 releases were reincarcerated within three (3) years.

As noted in the 2015 Recidivism Release report, approximately 26% (or 2,343 persons) of all releases in calendar year 2015 completed a Residential Community Release Program (RCRP). Recidivism rates of RCRP completers and non-completers are displayed in Table 1. The “Completed RCRP” group includes persons who completed RCRP programming. The “Did Not Complete RCRP” group includes persons who never attended a RCRP as well as persons who attended a RCRP but did not complete programming and were subsequently sent back to an institution prior to release. The “2015 Release Cohort” group includes all persons (i.e., both RCRP completers and non-completers) who were released in 2015.

Table 1. Recidivism Rates of RCRP Completers, Non-Completers, and Full Release Cohort			
	Completed RCRP	Did Not Complete RCRP	2015 Release Cohort
Reincarceration	24.9%	32.3%	30.4%

Should you have the need for additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Marcus O. Hicks, Esq.
Commissioner

GTA:rw

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- Michelle Ricci, Deputy Commissioner
- Gary T. Alpert, Assistant Commissioner
- Melinda Haley, Esq. Assistant Commissioner
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