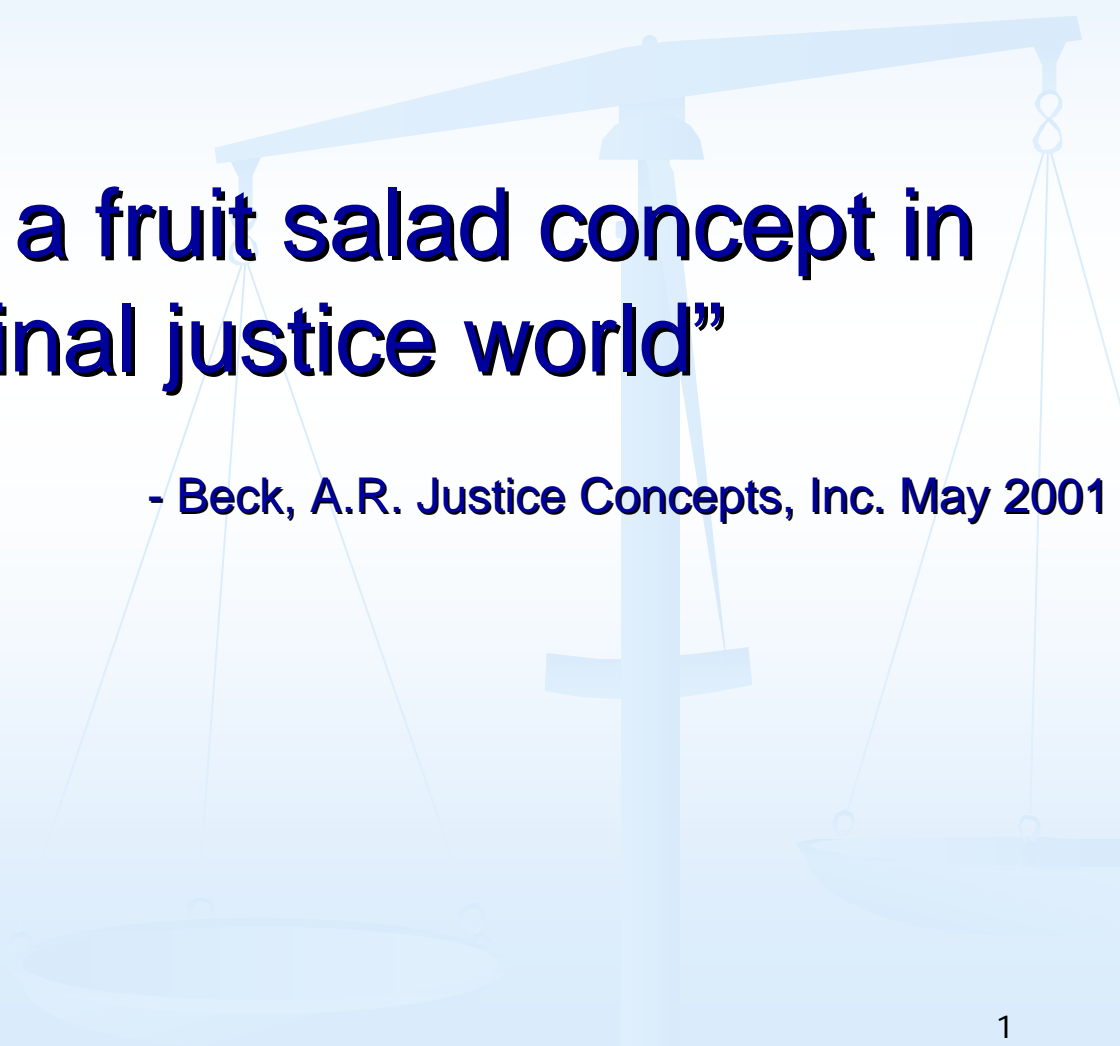


Juvenile Recidivism in Virginia



Lynette B. Greenfield
August 6, 2007





**“Recidivism is a fruit salad concept in
the criminal justice world”**

- Beck, A.R. Justice Concepts, Inc. May 2001

How do we measure reoffending?

Rearrest – most broad definition looking at first official contact with the justice system

↓
Reconviction – more stringent definition based on a court's determination of a juvenile's guilt

↓
Reincarceration – narrowest definition looking at return to juvenile/adult incarceration

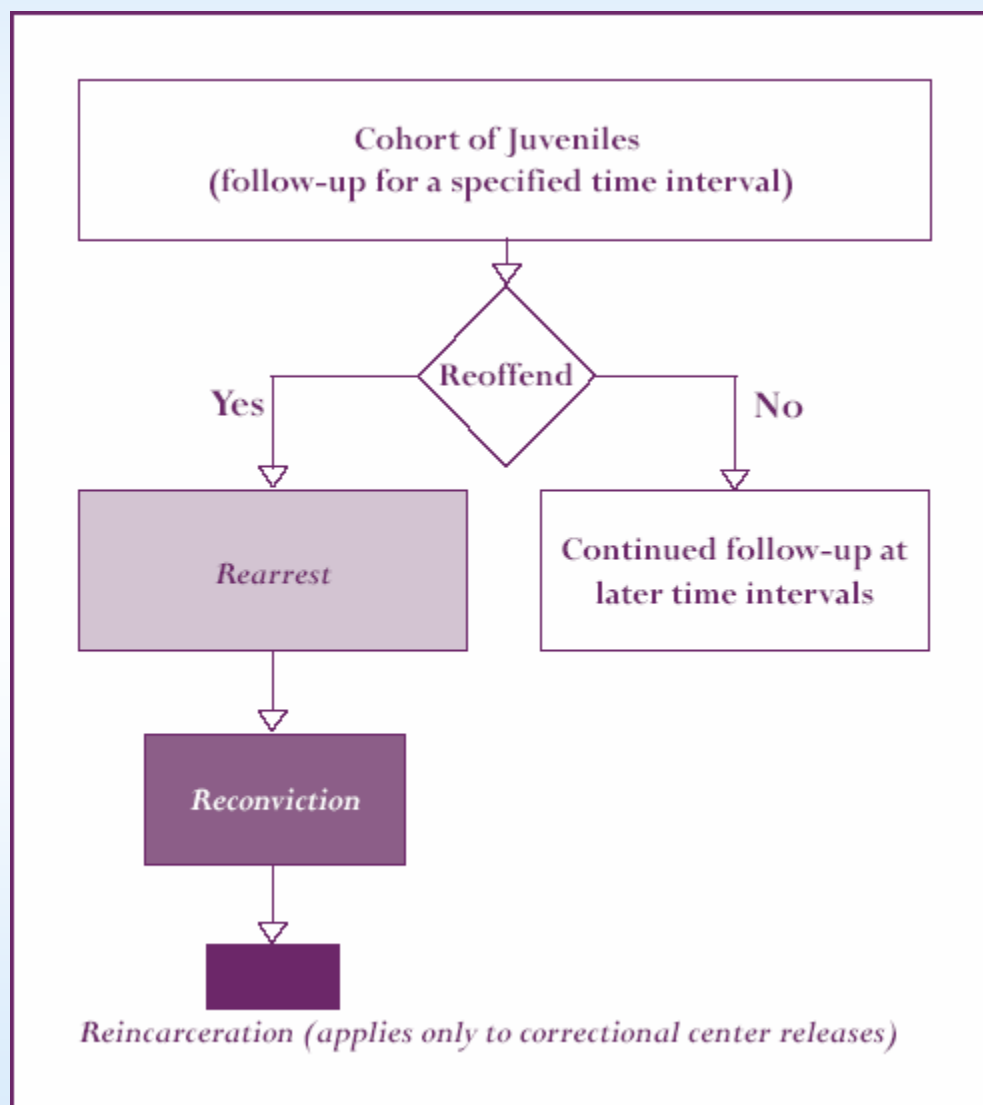
How does Virginia define recidivism?

For the purposes of reporting recidivism rates of juveniles as required by Code of Virginia §2.2-222, the Department will use the following definition:

A recidivist is a person who is found by a court to have committed, after being (a) placed on probation or (b) released from confinement, a delinquent or criminal act other than violation of probation or parole.



What methodology is used?



- The DJJ Juvenile Tracking System (JTS) includes information on juvenile intakes, probation placements, and commitments to a Juvenile Correctional Center (JCC)
- In order to create a complete picture of reoffending patterns, DJJ also obtains information on statewide adult arrest, conviction, and incarceration from:
 - Virginia State Police
 - Virginia Department of Corrections
 - State Compensation Board (Jails)
 - Virginia Supreme Court

Where do we measure recidivism?

- Individual JCCs (6)
- Each CSU (35)
- Individual Localities
- Select Programs and Commitment Alternatives
 - Substance Abuse/ Sex Offender Treatment Needs
 - Youth Industries
 - Hanover Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)
 - Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program
 - Virginia Wilderness Institute
 - Halfway Houses
 - Apartment Living Program
 - Post-Dispositional Detention with Programs

How many of our juveniles recidivate?

	JCC Releases					Probation Placements			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004
3 months	9.9%	11.0%	11.0%	9.9%	12.1%	9.3%	10.1%	9.5%	10.1%
6 months	22.4%	24.6%	22.6%	22.7%	24.0%	16.1%	16.5%	15.9%	16.5%
12 months	39.2%	41.0%	43.1%	40.3%	40.4%	26.0%	26.4%	25.7%	25.6%
24 months	58.6%	60.4%	60.8%	58.2%	N/A	39.3%	39.9%	38.0%	N/A
36 months	67.8%	68.9%	69.2%	N/A	N/A	47.7%	47.9%	N/A	N/A

- For both JCC Releases and Probation Placements, the 12-month reconviction rates have remained stable from FY 2003 to FY 2004
- Reconviction rates for Probation Placement have been consistently lower than those for JCC releases

What do our recidivists look like?

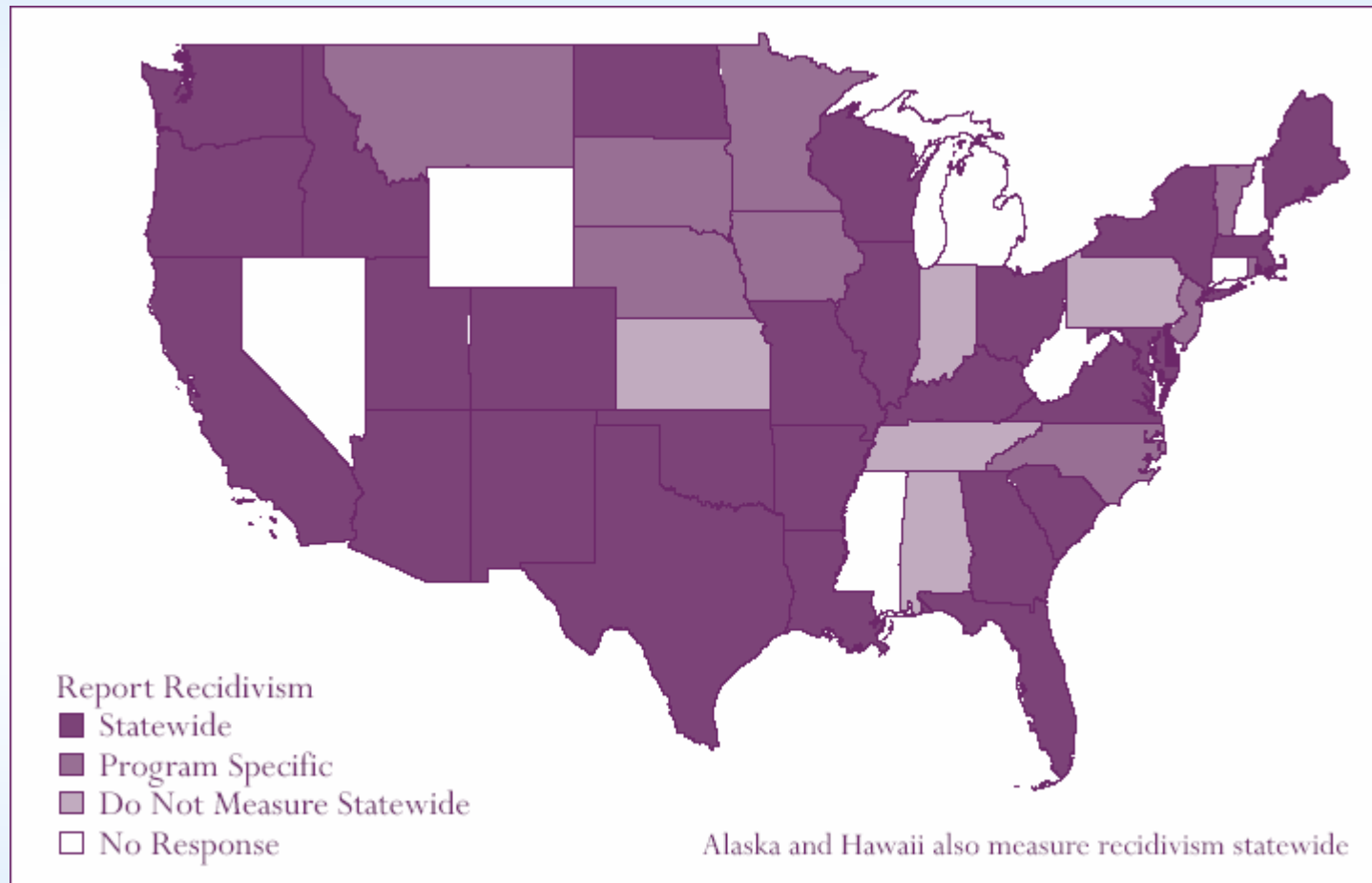
FY2004 Releases

12-Month Reconviction Rates

Demographics	JCC Releases			Probation Placements		
	Total	Reconvictions		Total	Reconvictions	
Sex						
Male	991	414	41.8%	5,729	1,595	27.8%
Female	98	26	26.5%	1,933	366	18.9%
Race						
Black	691	293	42.4%	3,190	990	31.0%
White	354	138	39.0%	3,736	814	21.8%
Hispanic	29	7	24.1%	510	114	22.4%
Other	15	2	13.3%	226	43	19.0%
Age						
Under 12	0	0	0.0%	123	14	11.4%
12	2	1	50.0%	258	57	22.1%
13	6	4	66.7%	615	171	27.8%
14	39	17	43.6%	1,185	315	26.6%
15	98	47	48.0%	1,624	430	26.5%
16	215	94	43.7%	1,820	471	25.9%
17	308	129	41.9%	1,791	451	25.2%
18 or older	421	148	35.2%	246	52	21.1%
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,089</i>	<i>440</i>	<i>40.4%</i>	<i>7,662</i>	<i>1,961</i>	<i>25.6%</i>

- Sex
 - Males had higher reconviction rates for both JCC releases and probation placements
- Race
 - Black juveniles had the highest reconviction rates for both JCC releases and probation placements
- Age
 - For JCC releases, those who were 15 years old at the time of release had higher reconviction rates than *most* other age groups
 - For probation placements, 13 year olds had the highest reconviction rates

How does VA fit into the national perspective?



Data published in April 2005

- It is probably unwise and inadvisable to look at the juvenile recidivism rate for one state and compare it to the rate in another state – the populations, juvenile justice statutes, and measurement needs of each state are too different.

What questions need to be considered when looking at another state's recidivism rates?

- What is the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction?
- What is the year reported for the cohort (or group) measured?
- What is the length of the follow-up period?
- Is a longitudinal cohort used?
- What types of offenses are included when evaluating juvenile recidivism?
- Are reoffenses tracked into the adult justice system?
- What types of reoffenses are officially reported?

Why can't we compare rates?

State	Upper Age*	Year of Release**	Follow-up Period	Cohort Followed	Offenses Included	Systems Researched	Reoffense Type	Rate
Missouri	16	FY03	12 months post parole release	NO	Delinquent	Juvenile only	Reincarceration	9.0%
Virginia	17	FY03	12 months	YES	Delinquent/Criminal	Juvenile & Adult	Rearrest Reconviction Reincarceration	49.4% 37.6% 17.2%
Hawaii	17	FY96-98	24 months	YES	ALL	Juvenile & Adult	Rearrest Reconviction Reincarceration	77.7% 51.4% 25.1%

*Upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction according to the OJJDP website

**Applies only to cohort studies; otherwise refers to study year

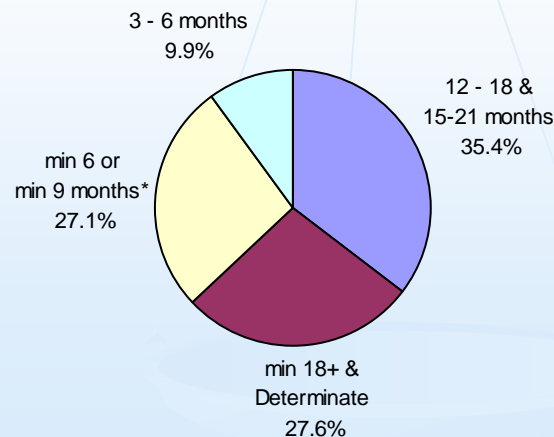
- Comparisons may be impossible because of different methodologies used in different states
 - Missouri defines recidivism as any subsequent commitment to their secure juvenile correctional facilities within 12-months of parole release. (Using similar criteria, Virginia's rate for FY2003 was 10.1%)
 - Hawaii considers all offenses during a 24-month period which lends itself to a much higher rate



What does this all mean as we try to tailor programs for kids?

What do our JCC releases look like in FY2004?

- 39% of releases were 18 or older
- 64% of releases were black
- 37% had an “other felony” (category C on the DAI) as their most serious committing offense
- Treatment Needs
 - 84% had either mandatory or recommended anger management
 - 68% had either mandatory or recommended substance abuse
 - 9% had either mandatory or recommended sex offender
- 35% of juveniles had an assigned LOS of 12-18 or 15-21 months. The average actual LOS for this group was 11.54 months.



* includes groups of 6-9, 6-12, 9-12, and 9-15

What do our probation placements look like in FY2004?

- 24% of placements were 16 or 17
- 49% of placements were white
- 25% had an “other class one misdemeanor” (category E on the DAI) as their most serious committing offense

How do we operationalize recidivism?

How does recidivism fit into DJJ's strategic plan?

- **Goal # 1: Reducing recidivism of youth involved with DJJ to strengthen community safety.**
 - **Outcome Measures:**
 - Recidivism rate for juveniles released from a JCC.
 - Recidivism rate for juveniles placed on probation supervision.
- **Goal # 2: Improve successful community functioning of youth involved with DJJ.**
- **Goal # 3: Divert from DJJ those youth who are more appropriately served by other partners.**
 - **Outcome Measures**
 - Reduce re-offense rates for juveniles diverted from DJJ.
- **Goal # 4: Build effective partnerships to improve outcomes for youth and communities.**
- **Goal # 5: Attract, develop, and retain a highly proficient work force.**

What are some examples from the CSU plans to reduce recidivism?

- Review and modify probation/parole standards impacting recidivism
- Identify needed resources and gaps in services/programs
 - Monthly recidivism tracking form
 - Youth/parent surveys for recidivists as well as non-recidivists
- Develop services/programs for youth suspended/expelled from school
- Utilize measured interventions in response to technical violations
- Review supervision planning process ensuring that necessary services reach juveniles in a timely fashion
- Utilize an effective and approved risk instrument to assess youth on probation as well as those committed
 - Focus on identified juvenile risk factors through timely service provision, case management, and periodic re-assessment
- Maintain monthly contact with parents of committed juveniles to prepare for successful transition back to the community
- Review all parole cases scheduled for JCC release & initiate service acquisition process including assessing need for halfway house placement
- Increase supervision contact requirements
- Fully implement staff recruitment & retention plan

Questions/Comments?

