Northeast Regional Corrections Center (NERCC)

2002-2004 LSI-R Recidivism Report

Prepared May, 2005

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--Executive Summary--

Process:

- The sample size for this study was 466 NERCC clients who were discharged between the dates of 1/1/2002 and 12/31/2004.
- The 466 NERCC clients are a sub-sample of the entire pool of discharges occurring during the above time frame. This number was obtained by taking the entire pool of discharges and selecting out only the clients who had a then-current LSI-R score relative to their stay at NERCC.
- "A then-current LSI-R score relative to their stay at NERCC" was determined using the following criteria:
    1. If the client received their LSI-R score greater than 18 months prior to their admit date, they were not included in the sample.
    2. If the client received their LSI-R score greater than 90 days after their discharge date, they were not included in the sample.
    3. All clients who had LSI-R scores between the two cutoff dates above were included in the sample.
    4. If a client had more than one "eligible" LSI-R score, the most recent score posted was included.
- To determine recidivism rates, re-offense information was collected on 5/3/2005 using both Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) data as well as the Court Services Tracking System (CSTS) data. Recidivism was defined and reported in several different manners for the purpose of this report. It is important to note, however, that convictions were used as opposed to arrests. Multiple time periods and offense categories are presented distinctly in the report.

Definitions:

- NERCC: Northeast Regional Corrections Center
- LSI-R: Level of Service Inventory-Revised
- F: Felony
- GM: Gross Misdemeanor
- M: Misdemeanor
- VOP: Violation of Probation

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Recommendations and Important Points

Recommendations:

- During the process of selecting "eligible" participants, it was discovered that LSI-R Assessments are not being implemented on a regular basis. (The authors of the LSI-R recommend reassessments every 6 months.) This inconsistency is certainly not limited just to NERCC. In order to obtain larger sample sizes in future studies, and consequentially, greater validity, LSI-R assessments need to be done on a more consistent basis. Not only would this increase the validity of recidivism measures regarding this population, it would also give NERCC a more accurate number/scoring range from which to extract their target population.
- Throughout this study, it is evident that low risk clients are recidivating at a substantially greater rate than the LSI-R would predict. There are several potential reasons for this that will be discussed later in this report. Nevertheless, with the relatively small number of clients in this risk level, valid conclusions cannot ethically be made. Therefore, it is recommended that future low-risk clients continue to be monitored in terms of recidivism in order to determine (or disprove) further continuance of the trends evident in this study.
- In the future it is recommended that the target group statistics reported in this study be used as control data for further recidivism studies pertaining to this specific population.

Points to remember:

- This study is not a recidivism study of the entire population of NERCC. Rather it is a recidivism study focusing solely on those NERCC clients who have/had a LSI-R score relevant to their stay at NERCC. It is not advisable to generalize any of the recidivism rates in this study to the entire NERCC population as it has not been determined that the sample of clients used in this study is representative of the NERCC population as a whole.
- Caution must also be exercised when examining recidivism rates in this study for the combination of years 2002 through 2004. Whenever a sample of several year classes is analyzed for recidivism at the same point in time, it will contain participants with varying degrees of post-discharge time periods. For example, early 2002 discharges have had a significantly greater time frame in which to re-offend than late 2004 discharges. In order to obtain more valid recidivism rates, one must break out each year and compare similar time periods post-discharge (i.e., 6 months, 1 year, etc.).

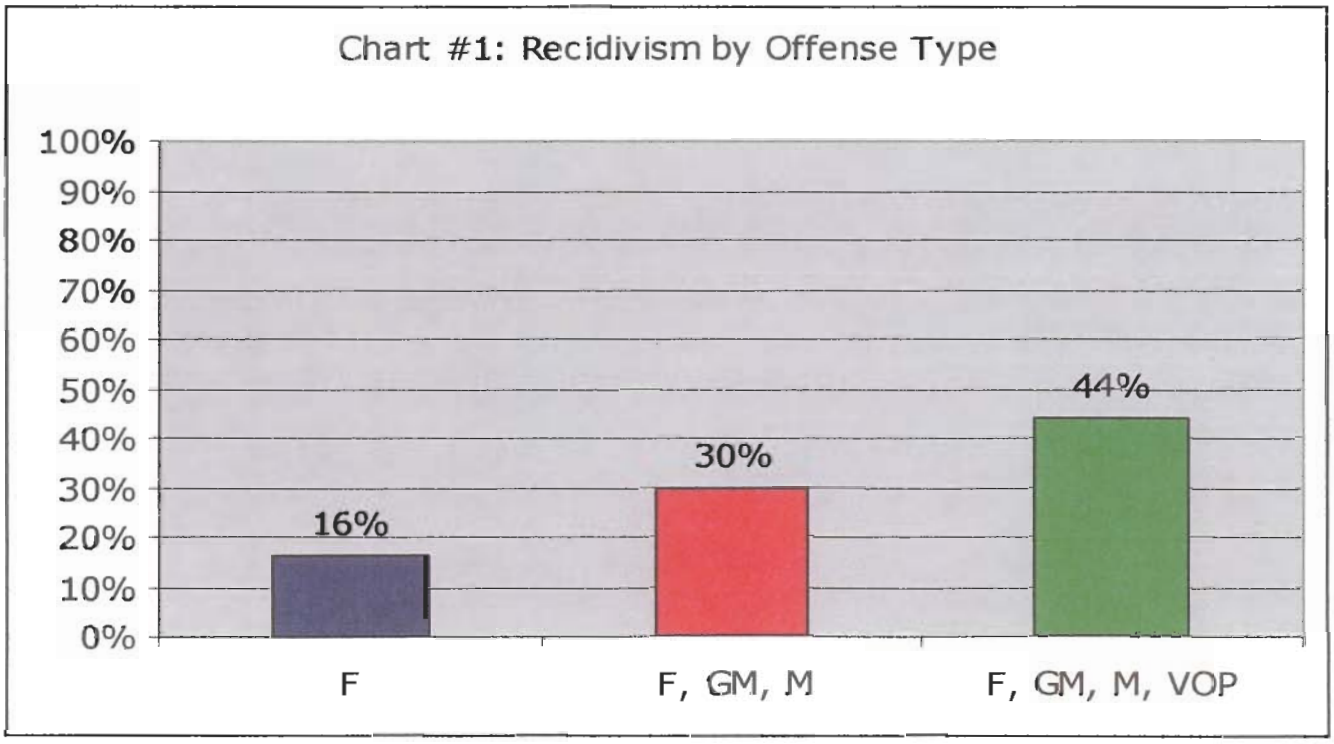
Recidivism for All Years Combined (2002-2004)

- For all discharges from 2002 to 2004 with a current LSI-R score (N=446), 16% have been convicted of a new felony. Likewise, 30% have been convicted of a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor. Finally 44% have been convicted of any offense (felony, gross misdemeanor, misdemeanor, or violation of probation), with the exclusion of traffic offenses/technical violations.

- When examining these statistics as a whole, it is important to keep in mind that the time origin encompasses a 3-year range from 2002 to 2004. Therefore, while some NERCC residents have been residing in the community for quite some time (i.e., those discharged in early 2002), others have just recently been released back into the community (i.e., those discharged in late 2004). Each of the three year classes will be broken out separately in the subsequent pages of this report. One can then see the disparity between recidivism rates for 2002 clients verses 2004 clients.

Table #1:
Recidivism by Offense Type

N=446	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
F	69	16%
F,GM,M	133	30%
F,GM,M,VOP (all)	195	44%

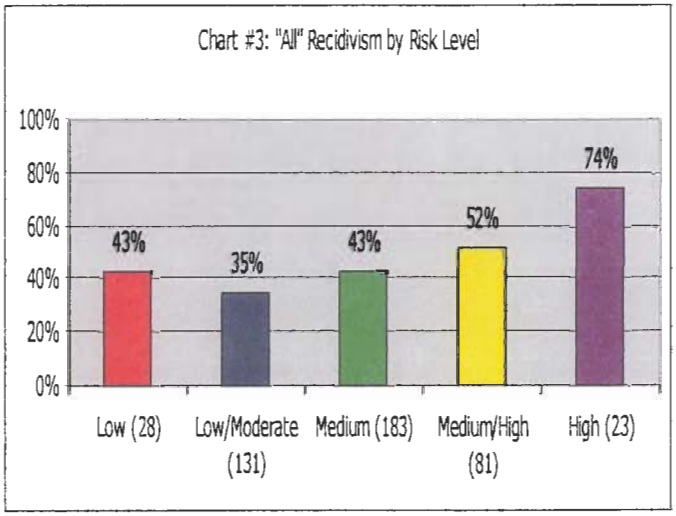


Recidivism by LSI-R Risk Level for All Years Combined (2002-2004)

Table #2: LSI-R Risk Levels			
Scoring Range	**Descriptor**	**Number of NERCC Scores**	**Percent of NERCC Scores**
0-13	Low risk to re-offend	28	6%
14-23	Low/moderate risk to re-offend	131	29%
24-33	Medium risk to re-offend	183	41%
34-40	Medium/high risk to re-offend	81	18%
41-47	High risk to re-offend	23	5%
	Totals:	446	100%

- The LSI-R risk levels above were researched, normed, and published by D.A. Andrews, Ph.D. and James L. Bonta, Ph.D. in 1995. Although Arrowhead Regional Corrections has not begun the process of norming LSI-R risk scores for its specific population and demographics, it is anticipated that this process will be initiated in the near future.

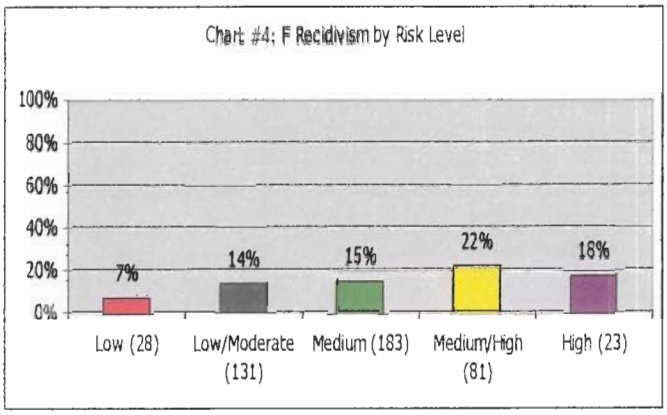
Table #3: "All" Recidivism by Risk Level		
Risk Level	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
Low (28)	12	43%
Low/Moderate (131)	46	35%
Medium (183)	78	43%
Medium/High (81)	42	52%
High (23)	17	74%



- It is interesting to note that low risk offenders (as defined by the LSI-R) over the last three years have recidivated at a similar or higher rate than the low/moderate and medium risk offenders. The following reasons have been hypothesized regarding this occurrence:
  1. Evidence-Based Practice posits that pairing low risk offenders with higher risk offenders generally increases their risk, in essence creating "better" criminals. The fact that low risk residents at NERCC are generally mixed with a higher risk population could facilitate this occurrence.
  2. This trend is <u>not</u> evidenced in felony level only convictions. This suggests that while low risk offenders have recidivated at an abnormally higher rate, they have done so only by committing gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor offense types. It can be concluded that the low risk offenders are not re-offending at the same severity level.
  3. Last, the small sample size of low risk offenders over the last 3 years (N=28) should be considered. This number does not provide a high level of statistical significance.

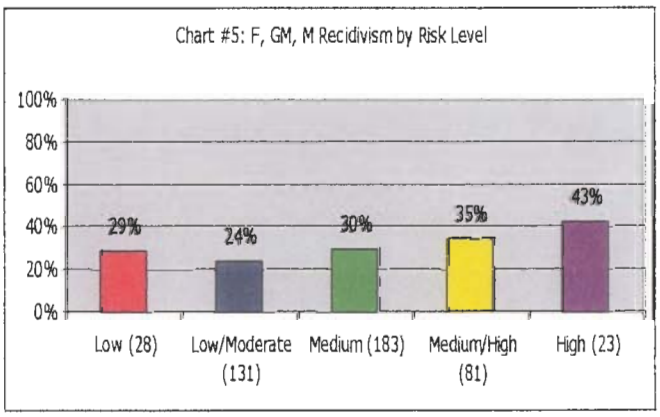
Recidivism by LSI-R Risk Level for All Years Combined (2002-2004) (cont.)

Table #4: F Recidivism by Risk Level		
Risk Level	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
Low (28)	2	7%
Low/Moderate (131)	18	14%
Medium (183)	27	15%
Medium/High (81)	18	22%
High (23)	4	18%



- As stated earlier, when examining felony level recidivism only, low risk clients do, in fact, follow the anticipated trend of recidivating less than any other risk level category.
- It is also interesting to note that the high risk clients recidivated less on a felony level than the medium/high risk clients. It is anticipated that this statistic has the potential to change with the recent incorporation of cognitive-based programming being offered to NERCC's target group of which the medium/high risk clients are a part.

Table #5: F, GM, M Recidivism by Risk Level		
Risk Level	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
Low (28)	8	29%
Low/Moderate (131)	32	24%
Medium (183)	54	30%
Medium/High (81)	28	35%
High (23)	10	43%



- Again here we see the occurrence of low-risk offenders recidivating at nearly the same or higher rate than that of the low/moderate and medium risk offenders.

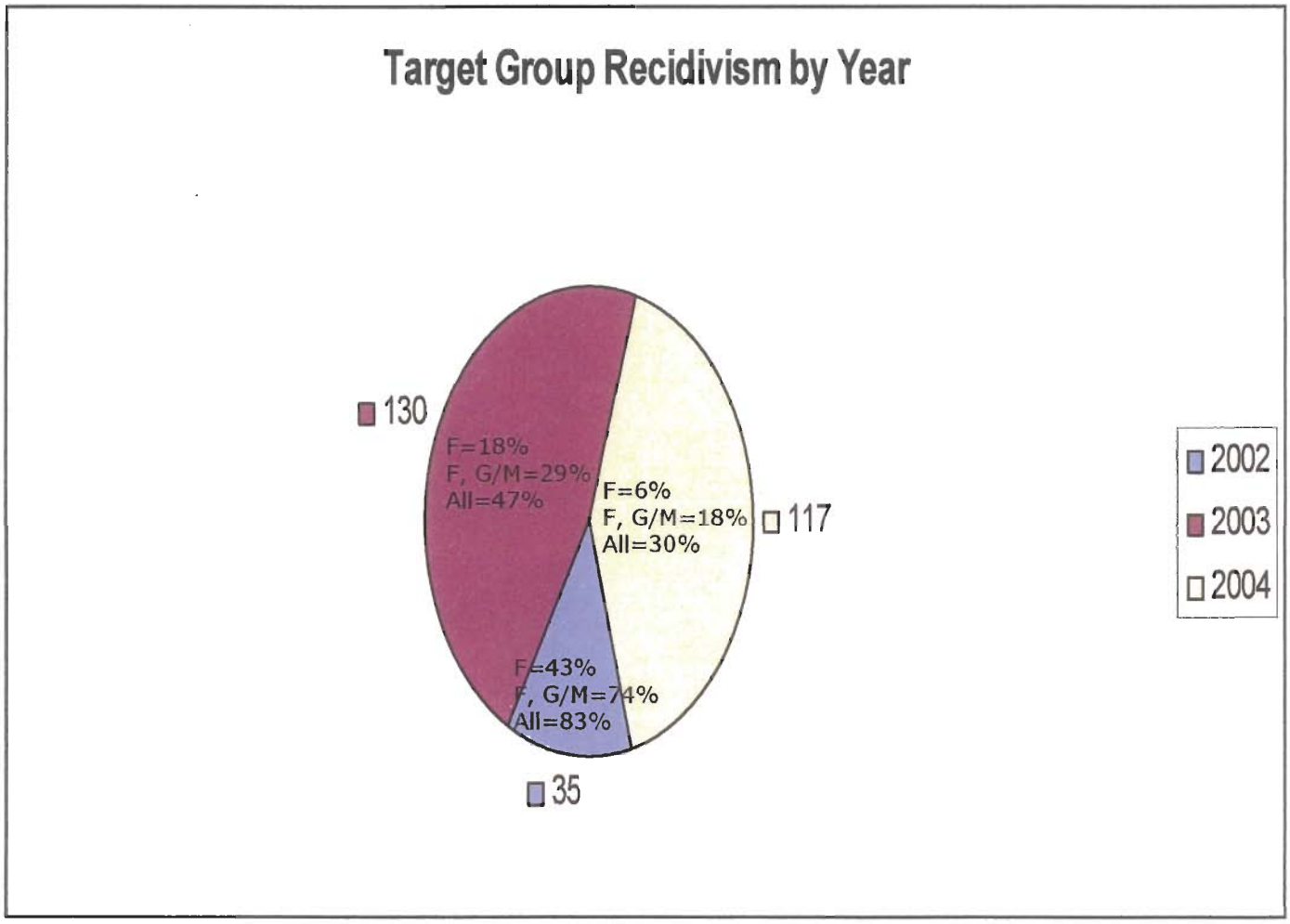
<u>In conclusion...</u>

- An analysis of the recidivism rates of NERCC clients with current LSI-R scores reveals that the LSI-R risk assessment tool generally does demonstrate predictive validity. With the exception of the low-risk classification, a trend can be seen in which those offenders who score higher on the LSI-R are also more prone to be convicted of new crimes upon discharge, as opposed to those who score lower.

Target Group Statistics

- NERCC has identified a target group for specialized services using the LSI-R risk score range of 23-40.
- NERCC has just recently begun to implement the *Cognitive Self Change* curriculum with this target group. The 2002-2004 statistics below will be used as control figures with which to compare future year classes.

Table #6: Target Group Recidivism by Year and Offense Type						
N=288	**F**		**F, GM, M**		**F, GM, M, VOP (all)**	
Year	Number Recidivated	Percent Recidivated	Number Recidivated	Percent Recidivated	Number Recidivated	Percent Recidivated
2002 (35)	15	43%	26	74%	29	83%
2003 (130)	24	18%	38	29%	61	47%
2004 (117)	7	6%	21	18%	35	30%
'02-'04 (288)	46	16%	85	30%	125	43%



NERCC LSI-R Recidivism Broken Out by Year:

2002.....pages 10-11
2003.....pages 12-13
2004.....pages 14-15

Recidivism Broken Out by Year: 2002 (N=58)

- Due to the small sample size (N=58) caution should be exercised when examining these numbers!

Table #7: "All" Recidivism by time period		
Time Period	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
0-6 months	12	21%
1 year	20	34%
2 years	33	57%
3 years	35	60%
Until present	41	71%

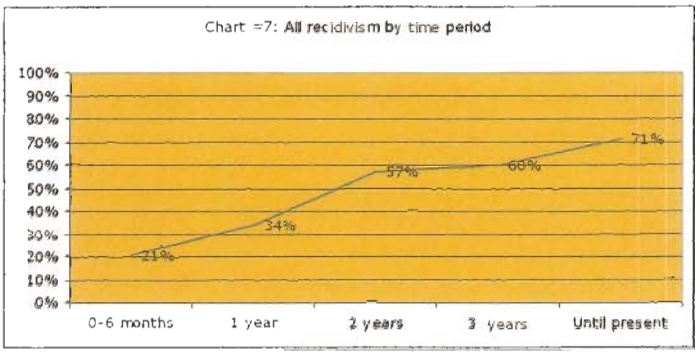
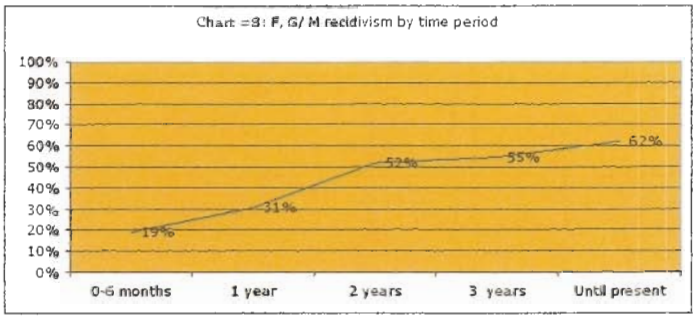


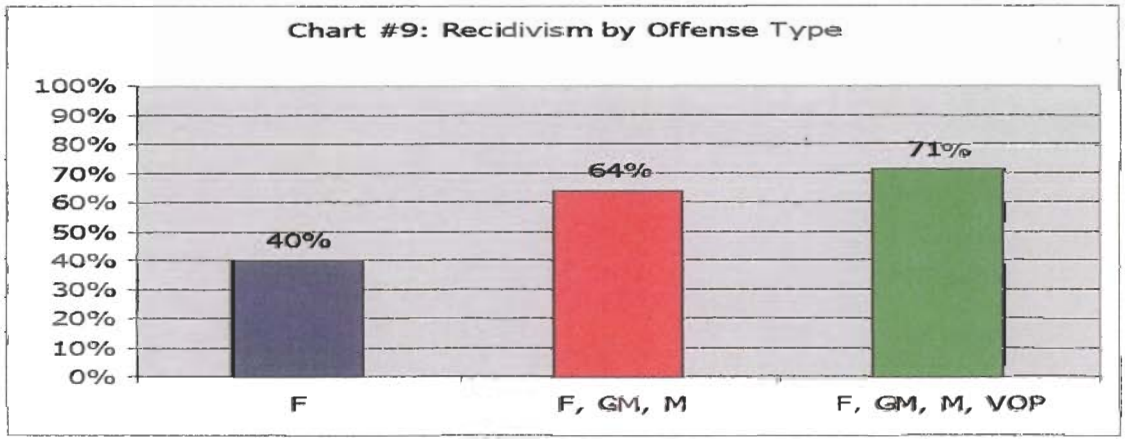
Table #8: F, G/M Recidivism by time period		
Time Period	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
0-6 months	11	19%
1 year	18	31%
2 years	30	52%
3 years	32	55%
Until present	37	64%



- Recidivism by time period has been represented both in terms of all offenses and felony, gross misdemeanor, and misdemeanor only to depict the difference in recidivism rates when one includes VOPs in the definition of recidivism.

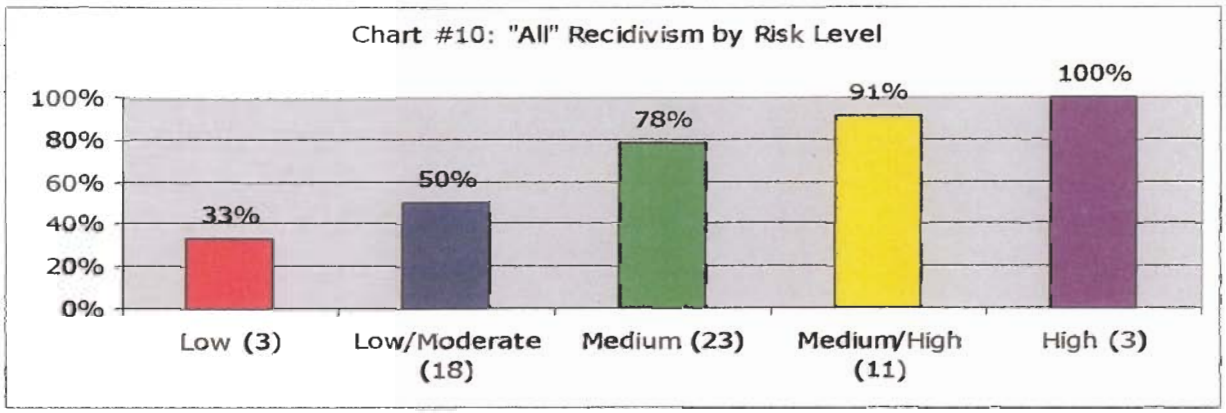
Table #9: Recidivism by offense type		
Offense Type	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
F	23	40%
F,GM,M	37	64%
F,GM,M,VOP (all)	41	71%

This table depicts the highest recidivism rates due to the fact that clients discharged in 2002 have had the most time post-discharge to re-offend!



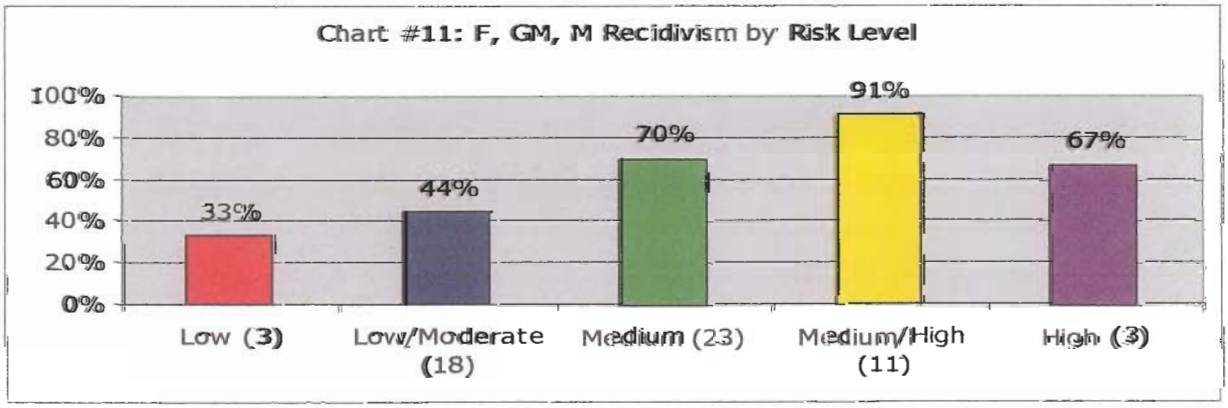
Recidivism Broken Out by Year: 2002 (N=58) (cont.)

Table #10: "All" Recidivism by Risk Level				
Risk Level	**Number of Scores**	**Percent of Scores**	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
Low	3	5%	1	33%
Low/Moderate	18	33%	9	50%
Medium	23	40%	18	78%
Medium/High	11	11%	10	91%
High	3	19%	3	100%



- Again, caution should be exercised when examining these statistics. For example, according to the bar graph above, low risk clients recidivated at 33%. However, taking into account the total number of low risk clients (3), 1 client's recidivism resulted in a 33% rate.

Table #11: F, G/M Recidivism by Risk Level				
Risk Level	**Number of Scores**	**Percent of Scores**	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
Low	3	5%	1	33%
Low/Moderate	18	33%	8	44%
Medium	23	40%	16	70%
Medium/High	11	11%	10	91%
High	3	19%	2	67%



Recidivism Broken Out by Year: 2003 (N=204)

Table #12: "All" Recidivism by time period		
Time Period	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
0-6 months	31	15%
1 year	61	30%
2 years	81	40%
Until present	96	47%

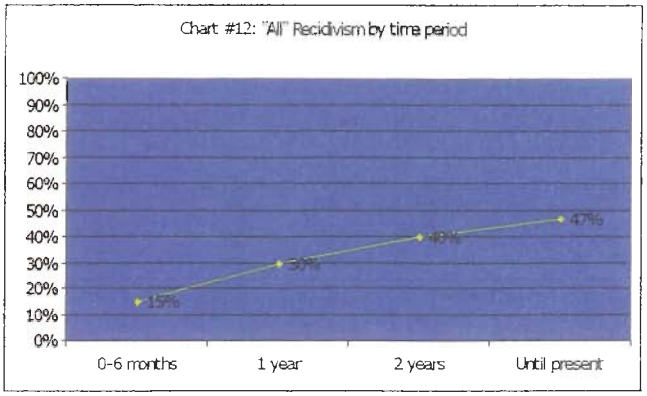


Table #13: F, GM, M Recidivism by time period		
Time Period	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
0-6 months	20	10%
1 year	41	20%
2 years	53	26%
Until present	62	30%

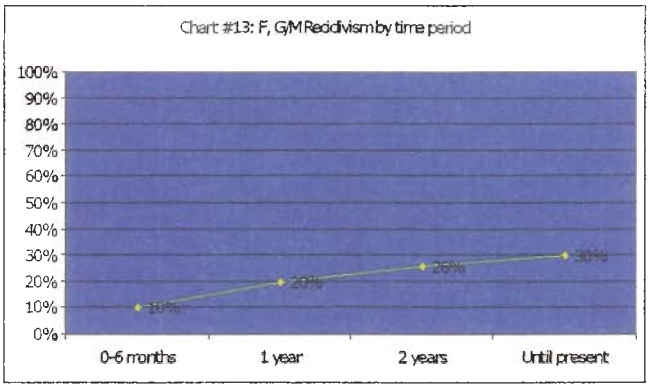
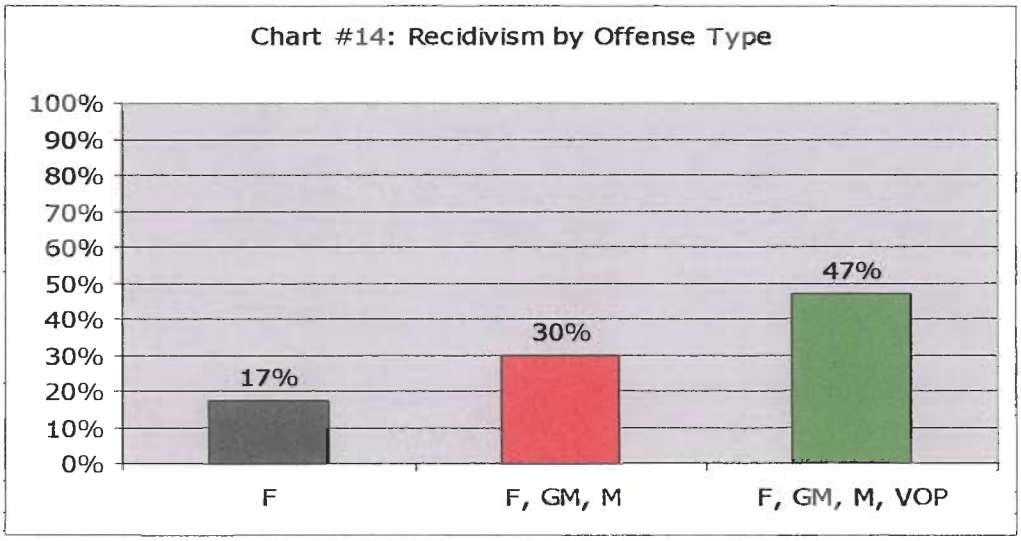


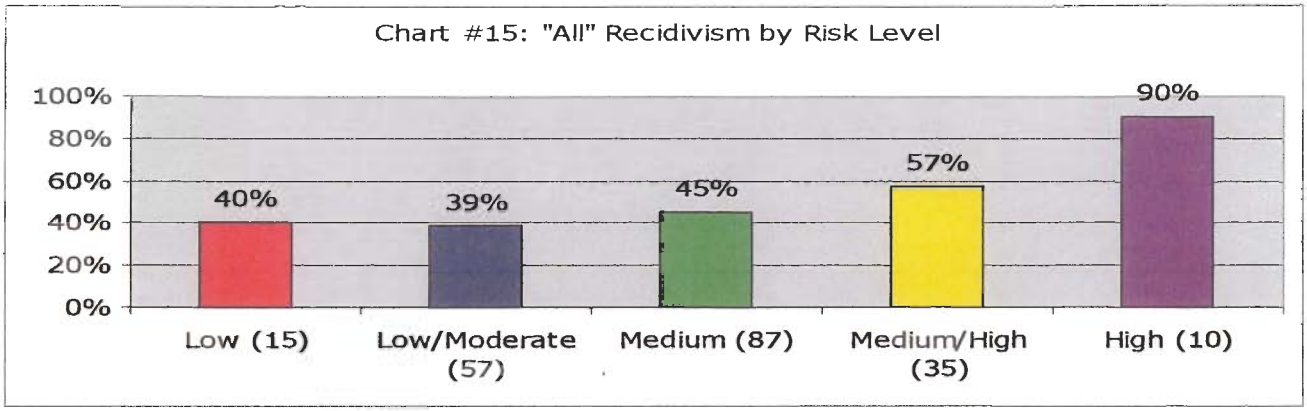
Table #14: Recidivism by offense type		
Offense Type	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
F	34	17%
F,GM,M	62	30%
F,GM,M,VOP (all)	96	47%

When compared to 2002 recidivism rates, 2003's are much lower. This may again be attributed to lesser time post-discharge.



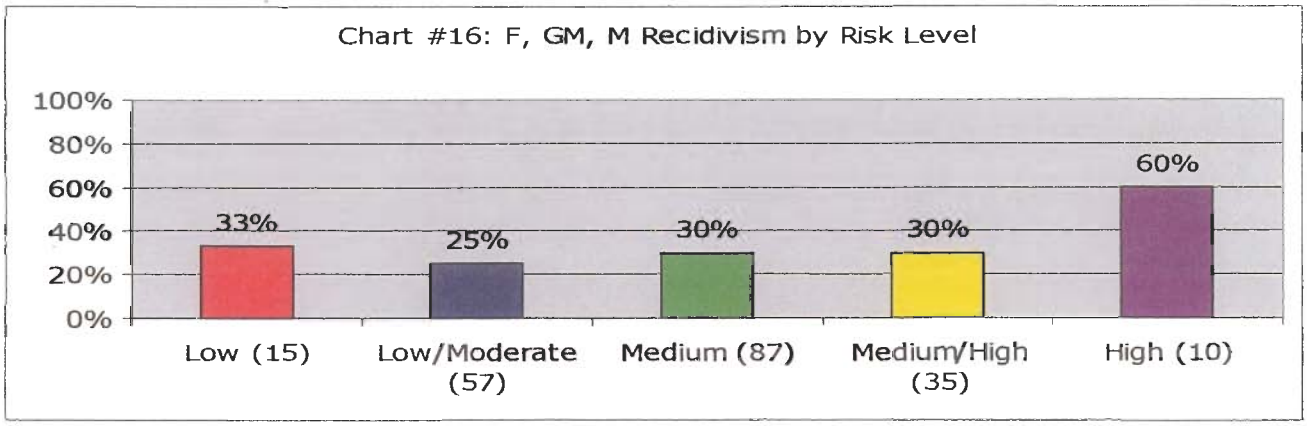
Recidivism Broken Out by Year: 2003 (N=204) (cont.)

Table #15: "All" Recidivism by Risk Level				
Risk Level	**Number of Scores**	**Percent of Scores**	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
Low	15	7%	6	40%
Low/Moderate	57	28%	22	39%
Medium	87	43%	39	45%
Medium/High	35	17%	20	57%
High	10	5%	9	90%



- One can see the dramatic increase in recidivism which is in direct correlation with the increase in risk level. Again, however, this increase is not evidenced in the low risk classification. In addition, the increase is not quite as pronounced in the chart below which disregards violations of probation.

Table #16: F, GM, M Recidivism by Risk Level				
Risk Level	**Number of Scores**	**Percent of Scores**	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
Low	15	7%	5	33%
Low/Moderate	57	28%	14	25%
Medium	87	43%	26	30%
Medium/High	35	17%	11	30%
High	10	5%	6	60%



Recidivism Broken Out by Year: 2004 (N=184)

Table #17: "All" Recidivism by time period		
Time Period	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
0-6 months	28	15%
1 year	43	23%
Until present	58	32%

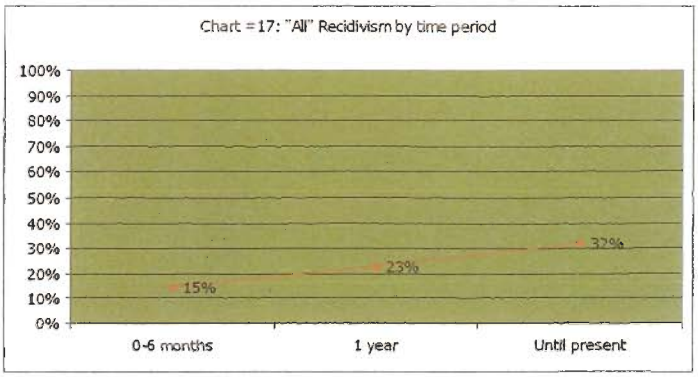


Table #18: F, GM, M Recidivism by time period		
Time Period	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
0-6 months	19	10%
1 year	23	13%
Until present	34	18%

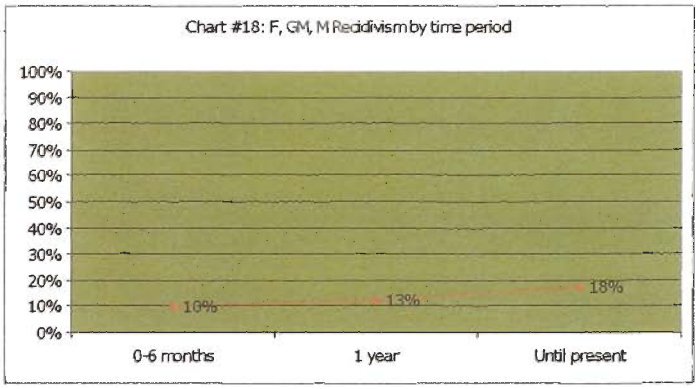
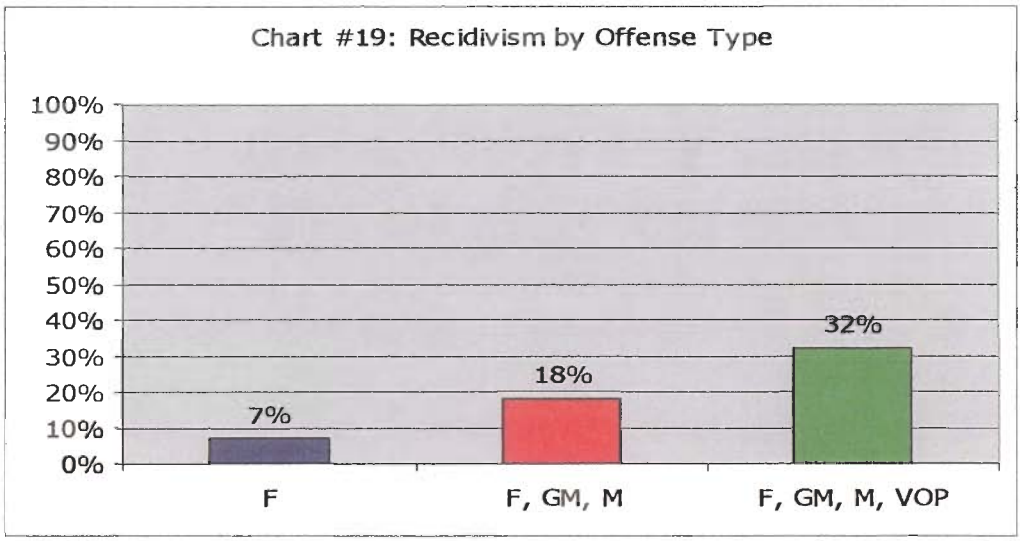


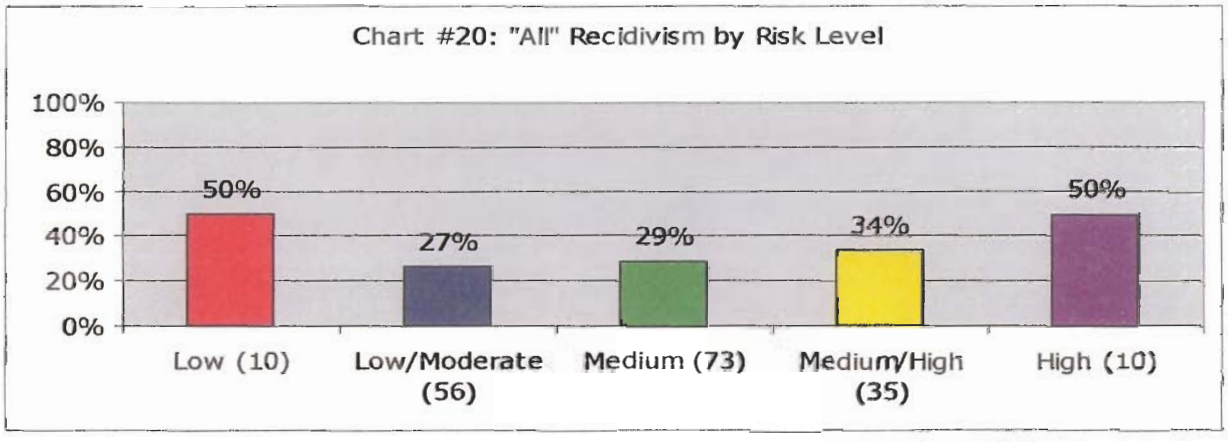
Table #19: Recidivism by offense type		
Offense Type	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
F	12	7%
F,GM,M	34	18%
F,GM,M,VOP (all)	58	32%

Again, one can see the recidivism rates decrease in 2004 most likely due to the increasingly shorter post-discharge time period.



Recidivism Broken Out by Year: 2004 (N=184) (cont.)

Table #20: "All" Recidivism by Risk Level				
Risk Level	**Number of Scores**	**Percent of Scores**	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
Low	10	5%	5	50%
Low/Moderate	56	30%	15	27%
Medium	73	40%	21	29%
Medium/High	35	19%	12	34%
High	10	5%	5	50%



- One more time the pattern continues in which low risk clients are recidivating at a much higher rate than anticipated. In the above chart pertaining to "all" recidivism, they actually recidivated at the same rate as the high risk clients!

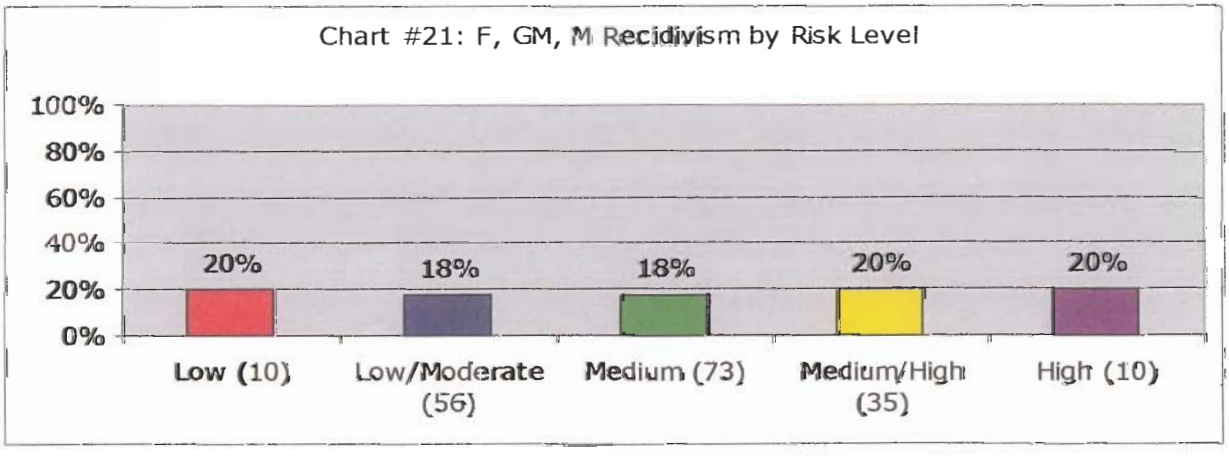



Table #21: F, GM, M Recidivism by Risk Level				
Risk Level	**Number of Scores**	**Percent of Scores**	**Number Recidivated**	**Percent Recidivated**
Low	10	5%	2	20%
Low/Moderate	56	30%	10	18%
Medium	73	40%	13	18%
Medium/High	35	19%	7	20%
High	10	5%	2	20%