

EVALUATION OF OHIO'S RECLAIM PROGRAMS

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INTRODUCTION

In 1993, a House Bill was passed in the State of Ohio that created the Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors (RECLAIM Ohio) Program. The RECLAIM program was designed to divert youth from the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) by keeping them in the community. In order to prevent juveniles from going to DYS, the availability of programming had to be increased at the local level (i.e., county level). RECLAIM funding would thus be used to create and implement local programs to target juvenile criminality and other antisocial behaviors.

Summary of the Previous RECLAIM Evaluation Studies

RECLAIM was piloted in 9 Ohio counties beginning in 1994. Overall, commitment rates across the 9 pilot sites decreased by 43 percent. With this success, DYS implemented RECLAIM in the remaining 79 counties within the state. In an initial evaluation conducted in 1998, it was found that RECLAIM dollars funded a variety of local programs and served a multitude of juvenile offenders (Latessa, Turner, Moon, & Applegate, 1998). This evaluation highlighted two important findings. First, the majority of those participating in RECLAIM funded programs were adjudicated for lower-level offenses. Second, it appeared that the RECLAIM initiative had been instrumental in maintaining and decreasing the number of commitments to DYS facilities from the county courts.

A subsequent evaluation study was conducted in 2005 that addressed some of the limitations of the initial 1998 RECLAIM study (Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005). For example, while recidivism was tracked in the initial study, the follow-up period for tracking recidivism tended to be short in duration and was limited to measures relating to processing in the juvenile justice system. In addition, from 1998 to 2005, the RECLAIM program grew exponentially

across the state, with counties incorporating more programs, as well as a larger variety of programs.

As such, the 2005 RECLAIM Evaluation Study (Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005) updated and extended the initial study in several ways. First, the 2005 study explored the impact RECLAIM funded programs had on recidivism using a 2.5 to 3.5 year follow-up period. Second, measures from both the adult and juvenile system were used. Third, the study compared recidivism rates for juveniles participating in RECLAIM funded programs to the recidivism rates of juveniles sentenced to a community corrections facility (CCF), or DYS facility/aftercare. Finally, this study took steps to investigate specific characteristics of RECLAIM funded programs and CCFs to see how these factors impacted the recidivism rates of youth sentenced to these programs.

The results of the 2005 RECLAIM Evaluation Study have been used to inform decisions about what types of programs to fund; to study the effects of placing lower risk youth in intensive, residential programs; and to understand the need for a common language regarding risk. While this study made great strides toward helping us understand the effectiveness of community programming, the results were limited due to the lack of program measures and a common definition of risk.

The Current Study

Since the previous study, Ohio has implemented a statewide risk assessment system, the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS), and has redesigned the DYS Subsidy Grant database to track individual-level data. With these advancements in mind, the current study updates and extends the previous evaluations of the RECLAIM program in several ways. First, the adoption of the OYAS allows for a common measure of risk to be used across counties, providing an effective way to examine the impact that risk plays in predicting a host of outcomes. Moreover,

because the OYAS provides assessment tools at each stage of the system, it allows for the comparison of youth across levels of care (e.g., community, residential placement, and DYS). Before the initiation of the OYAS tools, Ohio's 88 counties were using 77 different risk assessment tools. This made it almost impossible to compare levels of risk across the state.

Second, the use of a program-level evaluation tool, the Correctional Program Checklist (CPC), allowed for an examination of the programs most served by RECLAIM funding, including several probation departments. Third, rudimentary measures of dosage were collected and used to determine the effect of varying the level of dosage of services by risk level.

DYS contracted with the University of Cincinnati (UC), Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR) to evaluate RECLAIM funded programs, including an evaluation of recidivism rates of the youth served by such programs. The current study was designed to answer the following questions:

1. What is the recidivism rate of youth served by RECLAIM funded programs?
2. What is the recidivism rate of youth served by CCFs?
3. What is the recidivism rate of youth sent to a DYS facility?
4. Are there differences in recidivism rates between the different types of RECLAIM programs?
5. Do the programs and facilities have different recidivism rates by youth risk level?

Currently, DYS provides approximately \$53.7 million to juvenile courts across Ohio to fund local programs (\$30.6 million through RECLAIM, \$16.7 million through the DYS Youth Services Grant, and \$6.4 million through the Targeted RECLAIM Grant). Another \$19.9 million is spent on CCFs and approximately \$105.9 million is spent operating DYS facilities. Given the amount of money spent on community-based programming and CCF and DYS facilities, understanding the answers to the aforementioned questions is imperative. Such questions can

provide substantive information for the development and maintenance of effective correctional interventions for youthful offenders and can also help enhance public safety across the state.

METHODOLOGY

Data for the study were collected through several processes (e.g., in-person interviews and a review of the OYAS/DYS Subsidy Grant database). Once all data were collected, they were analyzed using several different techniques. The methods employed for data collection and analyses, as well as the study participants, are described in this section.

Data

Data: Participants

Participants were included in this study if they were released from a RECLAIM or DYS Subsidy Grant¹ funded program, a CCF, or a DYS institution during fiscal year (FY) 2011. Across all three groups (RECLAIM, CCF, and DYS), a total of 10,679 youths were included in the evaluation. Table 1 shows the distribution of youth across the different placement types.²

Table 1
Distribution of Youth by Placement Type

	N	%
RECLAIM	9,314	87.2
CCF	516	4.8
DYS	849	8.0
Total	10,679	100

Data: Programs

Using the DYS RECLAIM database, specific programs were identified by aggregating data at the county and program levels. There were a total of 634 RECLAIM funded programs and 12 CCFs (DYS facilities were counted as one distinct “program” type). In total, 647 programs were identified (i.e., the total of RECLAIM, CCF, and DYS “programs”).

¹ For ease of interpretation, this group of RECLAIM + Youth Services Grant will be referred to as “RECLAIM youth” throughout the remainder of the report.

² This study represents only those youth who received 100-level series programs. Those who received 200-level programs were not included in the analyses unless they received a 100-level series program also.

While the previous table provided the number of unique youths, Table 2 describes the number of programs and the number of placements within each program during FY2011.³ As illustrated in Table 2, the 647 different programs are distributed fairly evenly with no single program type accounting for more than 11 percent of all programs. When reviewing the number of placements made during FY2011, it appears that diversion and probation programs had the most referrals, with 19.3 and 24.1 percent, respectively. Outside of these two programs, the number of placements made during FY2011 appears to be distributed fairly evenly.

³ Note that total number of placements (N = 16,305) recorded in Table 2 is more than the total number of youth (N = 10,679) recorded in Table 1. Table 1 refers to the number of unique youth placed in a program (RECLAIM, CCF, or DYS) during FY2011, while Table 2 refers to the number of placements made during FY2011. Unique individuals were likely “placed” at multiple programs during FY2011, therefore one individual could have one or more placements made during the 2011 fiscal year.

Table 2
Distribution of Program Types

	Programs		Placements	
	N	%	N	%
Advocacy	2	0.3	2	-
Aftercare/Parole	10	1.6	140	0.9
Alternative Schools	23	3.6	346	2.1
Alternative to Detention	7	1.1	35	0.2
Clinical Assessment	18	2.8	99	0.6
Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention	3	0.5	45	0.3
Day Treatment	15	2.3	127	0.8
DMC	4	0.6	23	0.1
Diversion	49	7.6	3,150	19.3
Drug Test	13	2.0	256	1.6
Education Services	14	2.2	35	0.2
Family Preservation	25	3.9	373	2.3
Information and Awareness	1	0.2	1	-
Intensive Supervision	32	5.0	514	3.2
Law Enforcement Services	1	0.2	17	0.1
Life Skills	6	0.9	10	0.1
Mediation	13	2.0	720	4.4
Mental Health Counseling	39	6.0	928	5.7
Mentors	8	1.2	129	0.8
Monitoring	21	3.3	152	0.9
Parental Support	10	1.6	33	0.2
Physical Stress Challenge	7	1.1	105	0.6
Prevention	6	0.9	68	0.4
Probation	70	10.9	3,924	24.1
Recreation	3	0.5	5	0.0
Residential	52	8.1	552	3.4
Restitution/Community Service	45	7.0	1,224	7.5
Secure Detention	6	0.9	27	0.2
Sex Offender	20	3.1	145	0.9
Shelter Care	2	0.3	4	-
Shoplifter	3	0.5	3	-
Substance Abuse Treatment	28	4.3	449	2.8
Substance Abuse Education	11	1.7	169	1.0
Traffic	2	0.3	2	-
Transportation	4	0.6	17	0.1
Truancy	3	0.5	4	-
Volunteers	1	0.2	2	-
Work Detail	11	1.7	310	1.9
Wrap Around	22	3.4	466	2.9
Youth in Groups	24	3.7	329	2.0
CCF	12	1.6	516	3.2
DYS	1	0.2	849	5.2
Totals	647	100	16,305	100

The following section will give a brief description of each RECLAIM program included in this evaluation report.

Advocacy: Services provided by paid staff or through contractual arrangements to advocate in the best interests of the youth.

Aftercare/Parole: Community supervision of youth following placement in a DYS facility, community corrections facility, or other residential treatment program. Aftercare/parole may be used to supplement parole services.

Alternative Schools: Educational programming provided in a classroom setting for youth who are expelled or suspended from school, or who would benefit from an alternative educational setting. This may include GED preparation.

Clinical Assessment: Psychiatric, psychological, or other assessments provided to youth to assist the court in developing individual treatment plans.

Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention (CBI): An evidence-based CBI residential, day treatment, and/or aftercare treatment curriculum developed and sanctioned by the University of Cincinnati to directly reduce DYS institutional placements.

Day Treatment: Structured non-residential programs that provide a range of services, such as counseling and education, on a daily basis for an extended period of time.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC): DMC assessments and/or programs intended to reduce the overrepresentation of minority youth at various decision points in the juvenile justice system, including arrest, referral to juvenile court, adjudication, probation placement, DYS commitment, and transfer to adult court.

Diversion: Court programs or services provided by the court to youth as an alternative to processing within the juvenile justice system.

Drug Test: The testing of youth for substance use.

Education Services: Services that are provided outside of the classroom setting to improve academic performance, such as tutoring.

Family Preservation: Services provided in the home to strengthen the family unit, prevent youth from being removed from the home or assist youth in reunification with the family unit following out-of-home placement.

Information and Awareness: Short-term programs concerning public awareness of prevention and control of delinquency.

Intensive Supervision: Court-ordered supervision of youth by probation officers that differs from the court's standard level of probation by requiring lower caseload sizes, higher frequency of youth contacts, and supervision of higher risk youth.

Law Enforcement Services: Specially trained police officers/school resource officers who work with delinquent youth or youth at risk of being delinquent.

Life Skills: Programs that teach basic life skills, which include vocational training and employment skills.

Mediation: Programs that facilitate the process of dispute resolution in which a third party intervenes in a conflict and assists in negotiating a consensual and informed agreement.

Mental Health Counseling: Community-based services provided for youth with identified mental health or other adolescent problems. Services may include individual, group, or family counseling.

Mentors: Programs that pair youth with persons who act as role models, teachers, coaches, supporters, motivators, or guides to the youth.

Monitoring: Programs that provide home detention, tracking, and/or electronic monitoring of youth.

Parental Support: Parent effectiveness training to assist parents in areas of communication, discipline, and other related activities.

Physical Stress Challenge: Programs that provide activities that challenge youth to examine their personal limits and to improve group relationships through problem-solving experiences that are contemplative as well as physical.

Prevention: Programs providing services to youth that are at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Probation: Court ordered supervision of youth by probation officers that monitor compliance to the terms and conditions put forth by the court.

Recreation: Structured leisure time activities, such as sports, arts and crafts, and drama that strengthen ties to legitimate non-delinquent activities.

Residential: Youth are placed in a group home, foster care, or rehabilitation center for general treatment services or for substance abuse, sex offender, mental health, or other specialized care and treatment services. Placement must be in facilities which have been certified by a state agency with licensure, certification, or approval authority (e.g., DYS, the Department of Job and Family Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Mental Health, or the Department of Developmental Disabilities).

Restitution/Community Service: Programs in which youth complete service hours in the community to meet a court-ordered number of hours and/or to repay victims for damages. These programs may include service-learning activities (e.g., class work, homework, group discussions, victim empathy exercises, or journaling) to target and change offender behavior.

Secure Detention: Short-term placement in a detention facility that meets DYS standards for detention centers.

Sex Offender: Non-residential treatment services provided to delinquent youth who have been adjudicated for sex offenses.

Shelter Care: The placement of a youth in a shelter care living arrangement. Shelter care facilities must be certified by a state agency with licensure, certification, or approval authority (e.g., DYS, the Department of Job and Family Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Mental Health, or the Department of Developmental Disabilities).

Shoplifter: Specialized programs that provide treatment services to delinquent youth who have been adjudicated for a shoplifting offense.

Substance Abuse Treatment: Non-residential treatment services provided to youth with substance abuse problems.

Substance Abuse Education: Programs that educate youth regarding substance abuse.

Traffic: Specialized programs for youth who have committed traffic offenses, with the goal of educating drivers and preventing future offenses.

Transportation: Transporting youth to community residential and non-residential programs.

Truancy: Interventions for youth who chronically have unexcused absences from school, or services for at-risk youth to prevent unexcused absences.

Volunteers: Recruitment, training, supervision, and retention of non-paid adults who provide services to youth in a volunteer program.

Work Detail: Work for youth who are court ordered to complete community services and/or restitution. Unlike restitution/community service, the purpose of this service is to provide a benefit to the community and/or repay victims, not to change the behavior of the youth.

Wrap Around: Case management and direct services designed to meet the needs of youth and their families.

Youth in Groups: Services provided to youth, and sometimes families, in group intervention sessions.

Procedures for Data Collection

Data were collected at both the individual and program levels. At the individual level, characteristics and outcomes of the youth were collected. Youth data were collected through the OYAS/DYS Subsidy Grant database, the DYS felony adjudication database, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) intake database, the Ohio Community Corrections Information System (CCIS), the DYS intake database, and the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OhLEG) portal.

Procedures for Data Collection: Individual Level

Data on youth included demographic information, as well as specific information regarding delinquency history and subsequent legal outcomes. Each county that receives RECLAIM funding is required to submit an intake form, a measure of risk, and outcomes of the program as part of the funding agreement. Each county submits these data in electronic or paper form and the data are stored in the OYAS/DYS Subsidy Grant database.

While the individual level services are collected through this process, there was no way to extract recidivism measures through the OYAS/DYS Subsidy Grant database. To measure recidivism, data were collected from the five databases identified in the introduction to this section (DYS felony adjudication database, CCIS, DRC intake database, DYS intake database, and OhLEG). From these databases, measures of new criminal behavior and commitments were collected (both at the juvenile and adult levels). The youth were matched across databases using a robust program that allows matches between youth's social security number, DYS ID number, and/or name and date of birth. Entries identified after the RECLAIM, CCF or DYS termination date were considered as a failure and resulted in a measure of recidivism.

Procedures for Data Collection: Program Level

Initial contact was made with each county's Subsidy Grant contact to identify agencies/programs that were funded with RECLAIM dollars. Programs that used RECLAIM funding in some manner (e.g., RECLAIM money was used to fund programming, to fund particular youth referred to programs by the court, and/or to pay individual staff members' salaries) were added to a database and separated by county.

Program level data were then collected on a variety of agencies/programs identified by the Subsidy Grant contact as being RECLAIM funded (e.g., probation agencies, residential facilities, substance abuse programs). In total, 14 programs participated in a CPC evaluation, which included face-to-face interviews with key program staff.

Measures

Measures: Individual Level

As stated previously, the majority of individual level variables were collected through the OYAS/DYS Subsidy Grant database. Measures included demographic indicators such as date of birth, sex, and race. Data related to individuals' juvenile justice involvement and other relevant variables were also collected. Indicators included the following: number of times and amount of time spent in a residential facility, supervision level, number of previous arrests, status of discharge from program(s) or probation/parole, and date of completion for program(s) or probation/parole. Race was gathered as a six-category measure (Black, White, American Indian/Native American, Asian/Other Pacific Islander, Multiracial, Hispanic, and Other), but was collapsed for analysis purposes into white and youth of color.

Age at release from a RECLAIM program, CCF, or DYS facility was calculated in years between termination date and the youth's date of birth. Based on social control theories, research has suggested that involvement in the criminal justice system at an early age will

increase future criminality. Theorists such as Travis Hirschi (1969), for example, argue that as youth develop ties to social institutions (e.g., school), form close bonds with others, become involved in conventional activities, and adopt societal rules, they are less likely to engage in future delinquency. On the contrary, if the social bonds of adolescents are disrupted (e.g., the youth is placed in a custodial setting or given another criminal justice sanction), those individuals will be less likely to have stakes in conformity. This subsequently explains the youth's willingness to engage in future criminal behavior.

Ultimately, research since Hirschi first proposed age-graded social bonds suggests that even if prisons and/or other criminal justice sanctions can show a short-term impact on crime, the unintended consequences of disrupting potential social bonds may have longer lasting effects on increasing recidivism than prison and other sanctions themselves. In line with this discussion, several analyses were performed to investigate age at release and recidivism rates for RECLAIM youth.

Recidivism was measured as a new felony adjudication as a juvenile/adult or placement in a facility (e.g., new felony adjudications, new commitments to DYS and/or DRC) within 28 months of release from a RECLAIM program, CCF, or DYS facility. The follow-up time varied across youth from 19 to 28 months, with an average of 22.5 months at risk.⁴ To obtain this data, the DYS felony adjudications database was utilized, as well as the CCIS database and the OhLEG database for adult adjudications.

The CCIS database is used to track Community Corrections Act (CCA) program utilization and payment to CCA programs.⁵ CCA programs include probation, intensive supervision, day reporting, community-based correctional facilities, halfway houses, electronic

⁴ While the follow-up period ranged from 19 to 28 months there were no significant differences between RECLAIM, CCF, and DYS youth.

⁵ The CCIS database was developed by DRC to track offenders placed under community supervision.

monitoring, work release, and other residential and non-residential programs. To ensure we had a comprehensive search, the OhLEG database was also used to track adult recidivism. The OhLEG system is a statewide database that is used by law enforcement to track arrests, adjudications, and other adult offender outcomes.

Recidivism was measured in three distinct ways. The first recidivism measure captured any felony adjudication (either juvenile or adult). Youth who appeared in either the DYS felony adjudications database and/or CCIS/OhLEG databases, received a score of 1 on the measure of felony adjudications. In contrast, youth who did not appear in any of the databases received a score of 0.

Data were also collected to measure youths' commitment to a DYS and/or DRC facility. Similar to the previous measure, a "commitment" variable was created, where youth who were committed to either (or both) DYS or DRC received a score of 1 and those who did not receive a commitment to DYS or DRC received a score of 0.

A third measure, "any failure," was created to capture all youth who received either a felony adjudication and/or a DYS/DRC commitment. Consistent with the other two recidivism measures, youth who were adjudicated as a juvenile or adult and/or committed to a DYS/DRC facility after their termination date, were given a score of 1, while those who were not adjudicated or committed were given a score of 0.

An important issue that was raised during the current project centered around program type and the effects a specific program type might have on the juveniles under their watch. In this line, youths' OYAS scores were used to control for risk levels.

Briefly, the OYAS is a 4th generation risk assessment system designed to assist correctional professionals in translating the risk, need, and responsivity (RNR) principles into practice. The OYAS is comprised of 5 unique tools that are used to assess offenders at each stage

of the criminal justice system. Each tool corresponds to a particular point in the system, and as such, should be used at the appropriate stage (diversion, detention, disposition, residential, and reentry). Note, however, that the tools together create a system, and therefore, scores can be meaningfully compared across tools. For example, a score of high on the disposition tool mirrors a score of high on the residential tool. Finally, each tool includes a combination of static and dynamic factors that can be used to create an individualized case plan for youth. For the purposes of this study, the youths' most recent OYAS level of risk⁶ was taken from the OYAS/DYS Subsidy Grant database as their level of risk.

Measures: Program Level

Two measures were used at the program level. First, program recidivism was tracked as the rate or the proportion of recidivists. This measure was calculated using the following formula:

$$P = \frac{n}{N}$$

where n is the number of youths who recidivated and N is the number of youths who were terminated from a RECLAIM program, CCF or DYS facility. This formula was used to calculate a recidivism measure for each program (using the felony adjudications, commitments, and any failure measures discussed in the methods section). Additional analyses were conducted on each program to explore recidivism by risk level.

⁶ In examining the OYAS scores, there were some instances in which the results of the most recent assessment were either not completed or unreliable. In these instances, the assessment conducted just prior to the most recent one was used.

Second, a variety of correctional programs and agencies were evaluated using the CPC. More specifically, the CPC is designed to assess correctional intervention programs,⁷ and is used to ascertain how closely correctional programs meet known principles of effective intervention.

Several recent studies conducted by the University of Cincinnati on both adult and juvenile programs were used to develop and validate the indicators on the CPC.⁸ These studies yielded strong correlations with outcome between overall scores, domain areas, and individual items (Holsinger, 1999; Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2003; Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005a; Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005b).

For this study, a sample of 14 RECLAIM funded programs/agencies were evaluated using the CPC tool. These facilities were chosen based on the number of juveniles served in that particular program and/or the type of service the agency offered. Since the inception of the CPC, the tool has been adapted to work with a variety of correctional agencies, including community supervision agencies (CPC-CSA) and single groups within an agency/program (CPC-GA). For this specific study, the general CPC, as well as the CPC-CSA, and CPC-GA were used, depending on the type of agency being evaluated. For example, when conducting a CPC at a probation department, the CPC-CSA was used. If a domestic violence group was being evaluated, on the other hand, the CPC-GA was conducted. For residential facilities, the general CPC was completed.

All CPC tools are divided into two basic areas: capacity and content. The capacity area is designed to measure whether a correctional program has the capability to deliver evidence-based

⁷ The CPC is modeled after the Correctional Program Assessment Inventory developed by Gendreau and Andrews; however, the CPC includes a number of items not contained in the CPAI. In addition, items that were not found to be positively correlated with recidivism were deleted.

⁸ These studies involved over 40,000 offenders (both adult and juvenile), and over 400 correctional programs, ranging from institutional to community based. All of the studies are available on our website. (www.uc.edu/criminal_justice). A large part of this research involved the identification of program characteristics that were correlated with outcome).

interventions and services to offenders. There are three domains in the capacity area including:

1) *Leadership and Development*, 2) *Staff*, and 3) *Quality Assurance*.

Leadership and Development: This section of the CPC examines the credentials and involvement of the agency director (i.e., the individual responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the agency/program) and other supervisors/managers. For the agency director, this section determines his or her qualifications and experience, and current involvement with the supervisors/managers, staff, and agency stakeholders. Beyond the agency director, the other supervisors and managers are examined concerning their ability to lead the agency. Effective agencies/programs should have a clear mission and should be designed to supervise offenders in an evidence-based way. Lastly, the agency/program should be perceived as both cost effective and sustainable.

Staff: This section of the CPC is concerned with the qualifications, experience, stability, training, supervision, and involvement of the program staff. Staff considered in this section includes all full-time and part-time internal and external providers who conduct groups or provide direct service/treatment to clients. Excluded from this group is support staff, as well as the program director, who is evaluated in the previous section.

Quality Assurance: This section of the CPC centers around the quality assurance and evaluation processes used to monitor how well the agency/program is functioning. Specifically, the type of feedback, assessments used by the program, and evaluations conducted to monitor the agency/program are evaluated during the CPC process.

The content area focuses on the substantive domains of 1) *Offender Assessment* and 2) *Treatment Characteristics*, and the extent to which the program meets the principles of risk, need, responsivity, and treatment.

Offender Assessment: This section of the CPC measures the extent to which offenders are appropriate for the services provided by the agency/program. Additionally, the agency/program should be using proven assessment methods, which are critical to effective treatment programs. Effective programs assess the risk, need, and responsivity of offenders, and then provide services and treatment accordingly. The Offender Assessment domain examines three areas regarding assessment: selection of offenders, the assessment of risk, need, and personal characteristics of the offender, and the manner in which these characteristics are assessed

Treatment Characteristics: This section of the CPC examines whether the agency/program targets criminogenic behaviors, the types of treatment used to target such behaviors, specific treatment procedures, the use of positive reinforcement and punishment, the methods used to train offenders in new prosocial skills, and the provision and quality of aftercare services. Other important elements of effective intervention include matching the offender's risk, needs, and personal characteristics with appropriate treatment programs, treatment intensity, and staff. Finally, the use of relapse prevention

strategies designed to assist the offender in anticipating and coping with problem situations is considered.

There are several limitations to the CPC that should be noted. First, the instrument is based upon an “ideal” program. The criteria have been developed from a large body of research and knowledge that combines best practices from the empirical literature on “what works” in reducing recidivism. Second, as with all applied research, objectivity and reliability are an issue. Although steps are taken to ensure that the information gathered is accurate and reliable, given the nature of the process, decisions about the information and data gathered are invariably made by the assessor(s). Third, the process is time specific. That is, the assessment is based on the program at the time of the assessment. Though changes or modifications may be under development, only those activities and processes that are present at the time of the review are considered for scoring. Fourth, the process does not take into account all “system” issues that can affect the integrity of the program. Lastly, the process does not address why a problem exists within a program.

Despite these limitations, there are a number of advantages to the CPC process. First, the criteria are based on empirically derived principles of effective programs. Second, all of the indicators included in the CPC have been found to be correlated with reductions in recidivism. Third, the process provides a measure of program integrity and quality, something an outcome study alone cannot do. Fourth, the results can be obtained relatively quickly. Fifth, it identifies both the strengths and the weaknesses of a program; it provides the program with an idea of what it is doing that is consistent with the research on effective interventions, as well as those areas that need improvement. Sixth, it provides useful recommendations for program improvement. Finally, it allows for comparisons with other programs that have been assessed using the same

criteria. Furthermore, since program integrity and quality can change over time, it allows a program to reassess its progress.

The general trends from the CPCs conducted on the 14 RECLAIM programs are detailed later in this report along with general recommendations for program improvement.

Analyses

There were two sets of analyses conducted for this report. First, descriptive statistics were calculated for each program type (e.g., race, age, gender). These analyses allowed us to compare various characteristics of youth participating in each program.

Second, bivariate analyses were conducted to investigate the recidivism rates for the different program types for all youth served. Data were subsequently split up by risk level (low, moderate, and high) and the same bivariate analyses were run to explore recidivism rates for the different program types by risk level. Chi-square analyses, as well as analysis of variance (ANOVA) and other bivariate statistical tests, were conducted to explore these relationships. In addition, several multivariate analyses were conducted to examine the relationships between risk level, recidivism, age, and gender.

Finally, predicted probabilities were calculated for each RECLAIM program versus “all other programs.” That is, the probability of youth to reoffend were calculated for those who participated in a specific RECLAIM program and then also calculated for all of those youth who did not receive that particular program. For the present study, predicted probabilities of reoffending for all youths were calculated, controlling for race, risk level, the number of services received, and the duration of services, as well as gender and age at release. Overall, the statistical analyses produced information that can assist in the maintenance and development of sound correctional interventions for juvenile offenders in the state of Ohio.

RESULTS

The results of the study are presented by placement type (RECLAIM, CCF, and DYS). Results are also presented by RECLAIM program type. This section will be presented in three sections. First, demographic characteristics and youth risk levels will be presented. Second, recidivism results based on all youth in each program type, as well as by risk level category will be presented. Finally, program characteristics and outcome data will be presented in section three.

Demographic Characteristics and Risk Levels

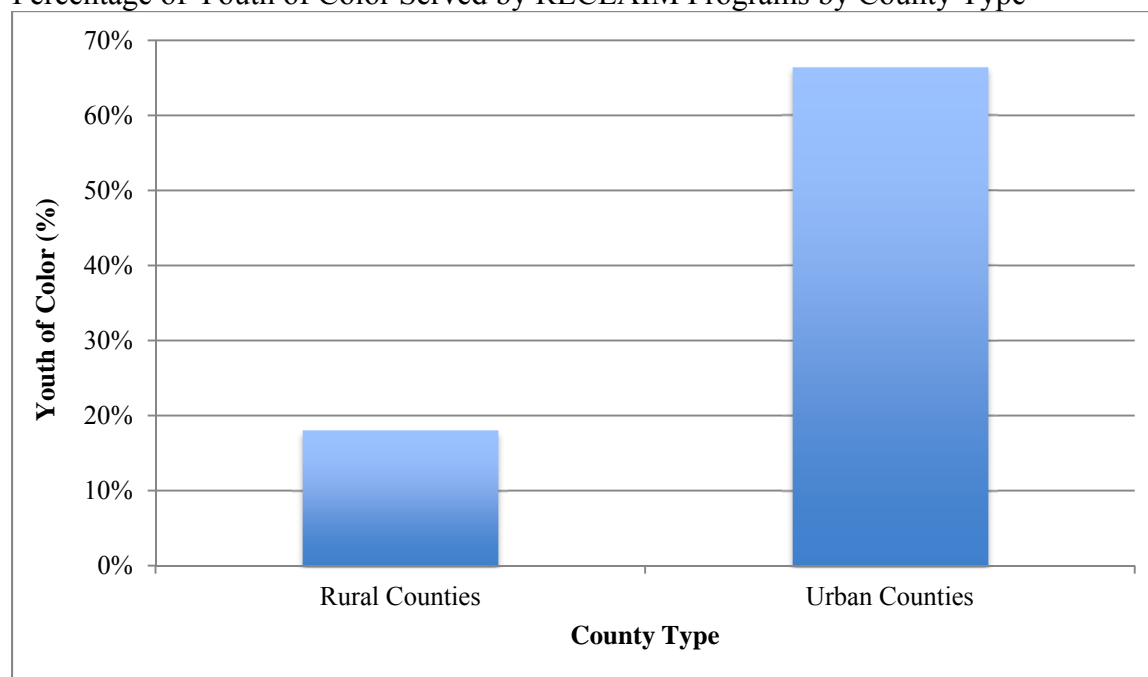
Table 3 presents the demographic data for the youth included in this study by placement type. When examining the table, it is evident that the majority of RECLAIM and CCF youth were white (approximately 71% and 62%, respectively), while the majority of DYS youth were youth of color (approximately 65%). This differential may be more reflective of the racial composition in each county, rather than a targeting of youth based on race. For example, Figure 1 displays the racial composition of youth served through RECLAIM programs by county type. As can be seen, RECLAIM funded programs that served youth in the six largest urban counties (Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery, Cuyahoga, Lucas, and Summit) served a significantly larger percentage of youth of color, compared to the remaining 82 counties during FY2011.

Referring back to Table 3, it is also evident that for all placement types, the majority of youth were male. Finally, the last column in Table 3 indicates that the average age at release was fairly similar for all three program types. On average, youth released from RECLAIM programs were approximately 16 years old, while youth sentenced to CCFs were slightly older at 16.5 years old at release. Finally, those youths sentenced to DYS facilities were on average 17 years old at release.

Table 3
Demographic Characteristics of Youth by Placement Type

	N	% White	% Male	Average Age at Release
RECLAIM	9,314	70.5	67.1	15.9
CCF	516	62.2	92.2	16.5
DYS	849	35.2	94.1	17.2

Figure 1
Percentage of Youth of Color Served by RECLAIM Programs by County Type



Demographic characteristics for each RECLAIM program type were also examined. These results are presented in Table 4.⁹ The number of youth served by each type of RECLAIM program is also presented in this table. As can be seen from Table 4, the percentage of white and non-white youths participating in RECLAIM funded programs tended to vary. More specifically, the range for the percentage of youth served who were white spans from 27 percent for cognitive-behavioral interventions, to 100 percent for truancy programs (based on 4 youth).

⁹The number of youth served by each RECLAIM program might be slightly different than the numbers reported in Table 2 because of missing data on one or more of the demographic characteristics reported in Table 4.

The variable measuring the percentage of males in a program did not vary much. Specifically, it appears from Table 4 that programs were predominately comprised of male participants, with little female participation (e.g., aftercare/parole, day treatment, and secure detention). Other programs were comprised of all male participants (e.g., shoplifter and shelter care programs).

Finally, the last column in Table 4 presents the average age at release for youth participating in each RECLAIM program. As previously discussed, the average age at release for RECLAIM programs, as a whole, was approximately 16 years old. When the RECLAIM programs are divided up by type, the average age continues to center around 16. More specifically, youth were no younger than 14 years of age (e.g., shelter care programs), but no older than 17 years of age (e.g., law enforcement services, life skills).

Table 4
Distribution of Program Types

	N	% White	% Male	Average Age
Advocacy	2	50	50	15.0
Aftercare/Parole	140	27	88	17.2
Alternative Schools	346	79	75	16.2
Alternative to Detention	35	83	56	16.2
Clinical Assessment	99	82	66	16.9
Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention	45	27	91	16.0
Mediation	720	56	64	16.8
Day Treatment	127	38	71	15.5
DMC	23	13	35	15.4
Diversion	3,150	78	60	16.3
Drug Test	256	81	68	16.5
Education Services	35	66	86	16.1
Family Preservation	373	54	69	--
Information and Awareness	1	--	--	16.6
Intensive Supervision	514	70	79	17.0
Law Enforcement Services	17	94	65	17.2
Life Skills	10	60	70	15.1
Mental Health Counseling	928	57	71	16.3
Mentors	129	31	82	16.2
Monitoring	152	72	70	16.8
Parental Support	33	73	70	15.9
Physical Stress Challenge	105	74	63	16.0
Prevention	68	98	66	17.0
Probation	3,924	70	70	16.3
Recreation	5	40	60	14.4
Residential	552	65	73	16.5
Restitution/Community Service	1224	72	71	16.4
Secure Detention	27	88	89	17.0
Sex Offender	145	56	97	16.4
Shelter Care	4	50	100	14.8
Shoplifter	3	100	100	15.3
Substance Abuse Treatment	449	56	77	16.8
Substance Abuse Education	169	83	68	16.1
Traffic	2	50	50	--
Transportation	17	94	82	16.8
Truancy	4	100	100	16.5
Volunteers	2	--	--	--
Work Detail	310	90	64	15.9
Wrap Around	466	31	71	16.0
Youth in Groups	329	71	69	16.5

The next set of analyses were designed to investigate the distribution of youth by risk level across the general placement types (RECLAIM, CCF, and DYS). Table 5 and Figure 2 present this data. As indicated by the results, the majority of youth in RECLAIM programs fell into the moderate risk category (approximately 55%), while programs accepted approximately 26 percent of low risk youth and an even smaller amount of high risk youth (approximately 19%).

When examining the distribution of risk level for the CCFs, the data appear to be more evenly split (compared to the RECLAIM distribution). As can be seen, approximately 29 percent of the youth admitted to a CCF during FY2011 were low risk, while approximately 35 and 36 percent of youth were moderate and high risk, respectively. As expected, youth committed to a DYS facility tended to be high risk (approximately 60%). A handful of DYS youth fell into the moderate risk (approximately 29%) or low risk categories (approximately 11%).

Table 5 and Figure 2 show that community corrections facilities had the highest percentage of low risk youth during FY2011, compared to the other program types (approximately 29%). RECLAIM programs, on the other hand, tended to have more moderate risk youth referred to their programs, compared to CCFs and DYS facilities. Finally and as expected, DYS facilities housed the most high risk youth during FY2011, which is consistent with the previous RECLAIM evaluation study (Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005).

Table 5
Distribution of Risk by Placement Type¹⁰

	N	% Low	% Moderate	% High
RECLAIM	8,580	25.9	55.3	18.8
CCF	510	29.2	35.5	35.3
DYS	796	10.9	29.3	59.8

¹⁰ Risk levels were not available on all youths; therefore, the sample for this chart is lower than the total sample.

Figure 2
 Percentage of Youth in each Category of Risk by Placement Type

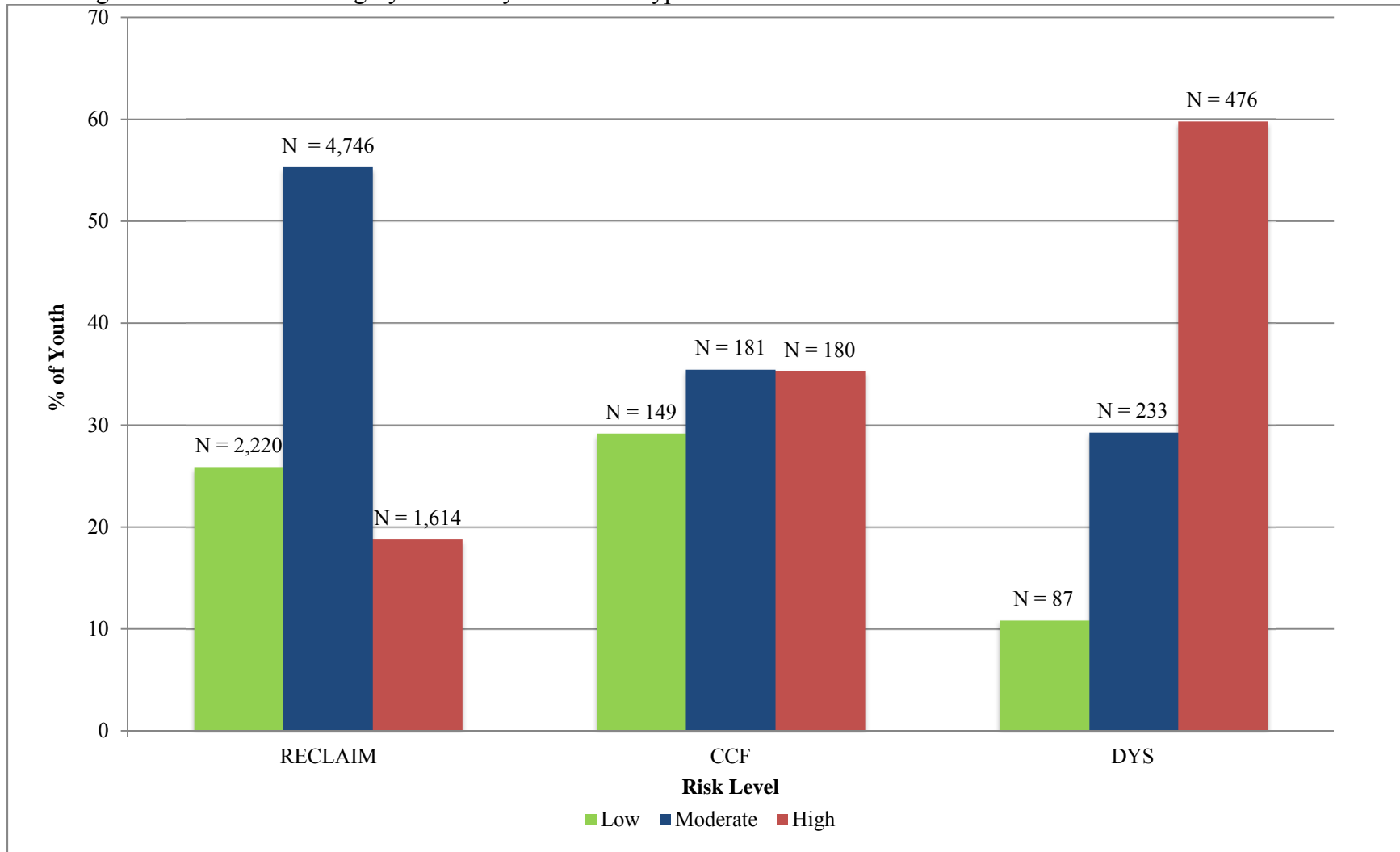


Table 6 presents the distribution of risk by each RECLAIM program type. As can be seen, risk level distributions seem to vary from program to program. In general, it appears that the majority of RECLAIM programs during FY2011 served youth who fell predominantly in the low to moderate risk categories (e.g., diversion, family preservation, mental health counseling). Six programs appeared to have an even split of low to moderate risk youth and high risk youth (advocacy, day treatment, education services, residential programs, secure detention facilities, and traffic programs). Finally, the results indicate that the majority of youth referred to cognitive behavioral intervention programs and aftercare/parole programs were high risk.

Table 6
Distribution of Risk by RECLAIM Program Type

	N	% Low	% Moderate	% High
Advocacy	2	--	50.0	50.0
Aftercare/Parole	140	10.7	33.6	55.7
Alternative Schools	317	18.0	49.8	32.2
Alternatives to Detention	32	15.6	68.8	15.6
Clinical Assessment	99	9.1	59.6	31.3
Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention	44	6.8	31.8	61.4
Day Treatment	106	3.8	46.2	50.0
DMC	17	17.6	52.9	29.4
Diversion	2,898	33.2	59.4	7.4
Drug Test	250	34.4	40.4	25.2
Education Services	35	11.4	37.1	51.4
Family Preservation	348	5.5	51.7	42.8
Information and Awareness	1	--	100	--
Intensive Supervision	503	10.9	49.9	39.2
Law Enforcement Services	14	7.1	64.3	28.6
Life Skills	10	10.0	50.0	40.0
Mediation	590	29.3	54.1	16.6
Mental Health Counseling	899	13.7	50.3	36.0
Mentors	126	9.5	44.4	46.0
Monitoring	147	14.3	42.9	49.9
Parental Support	31	6.5	67.7	25.8
Physical Stress Challenge	103	9.7	69.9	20.4
Prevention	68	5.9	60.3	33.8
Probation	3,739	18.5	58.2	23.3
Recreation	5	20.0	40.0	40.0
Residential	524	6.1	44.1	49.8
Restitution/Community Service	1,167	25.9	50.6	23.6
Secure Detention	26	3.8	46.2	50.0
Sex Offender	141	5.0	55.3	39.7
Shelter Care	4	--	75.0	25.0
Shoplifter	3	33.3	66.7	--
Substance Abuse Treatment	439	7.7	55.1	37.1
Substance Abuse Education	147	36.7	36.7	26.5
Traffic	2	50.0	--	50.0
Transportation	16	6.3	62.5	31.3
Truancy	4	25.0	25.0	50.0
Volunteers	2	50.0	50.0	--
Work Detail	302	19.5	60.3	20.2
Wrap Around	440	9.5	50.2	40.2
Youth in Groups	315	10.8	51.1	38.1

Recidivism Results

The next set of analyses examines the recidivism rates for youth served in the community, placed in a CCF, or committed to DYS. Table 7 provides a review of the three different measures of recidivism used in the study. As noted, approximately 15 percent of youth who were originally terminated from a RECLAIM program received a felony adjudication. In addition, a minimal amount (3%) of this group was committed to a DYS and/or DRC facility after termination. Finally, approximately 16 percent of youth who participated in a RECLAIM funded program recidivated according to either measure.

When examining the CCF distribution, it is evident that youth terminated from a CCF facility recidivated at higher rates than those who were terminated from a RECLAIM-funded program. As Table 7 indicates, approximately 29 percent of those terminated from a CCF facility received felony adjudications after their termination. Another 19 percent of this group was committed to a DYS and/or DRC facility after release. Finally, the “any failure” column in Table 7 shows that almost 40 percent of youth who were terminated from a CCF facility during FY2011 recidivated according to either measure.

Similar to the previous study, youth originally committed to a DYS facility during FY2011 recidivated at the highest rates, compared to RECLAIM and CCF youth. Here, almost 35 percent were adjudicated on felony charges after discharge from a DYS facility. Moreover, approximately 27 percent of this group received a new commitment to a DYS and/or DRC facility. Finally, when examining the “any failure” column in Table 7, results indicate that overall, a little more than half (50.3%) of the DYS youth reoffended after termination.

Table 7
 Recidivism Rates (% of failures) by Placement Type

	N	Felony Adjudication*	Commitment to DYS/DRC*	Any Failure*
RECLAIM	8,580	15.1	3.0	16.3
CCF	510	28.4	18.8	39.0
DYS	796	34.7	26.6	50.3
TOTAL	9,886	17.4	5.4	20.2

*p ≤ .0001

Table 8 presents the relationship between recidivism and a variety of factors examined in the current study. It appears from the table that a variety of additional characteristics can explain some of the variation in recidivism. These relationships held true across all three recidivism measures. For example, those who never successfully completed programming were more likely to reoffend than those youth who did successfully complete a program(s). When examining OYAS risk levels, the table indicates that youth who scored higher on the risk assessment tool were more likely to recidivate than those who scored low to moderate.

Table 8
 Factors Correlated with Recidivism

	Felony Adjudication	Commitment to DYS/DRC	Any Failure
OYAS Risk Levels	.251**	.222**	.297**
Termination (1 = Successful Term)	-.064**	-.082**	-.092**
Length of Stay	.110**	.057**	.121**
Number of RECLAIM Programs	.177**	.073**	.191**

**p ≤ .001

Recall from the previous discussion that Ohio has implemented a statewide risk assessment system, which has given us the ability to compare risk levels across individuals, programs, and counties. As noted in Table 9 and Figures 3 through 5, the recidivism rates for low risk youth served in the community are more than 2 to 4 times lower than low risk youth served in CCF or DYS facilities. These results hold true no matter what recidivism measure is being examined (i.e., felony adjudications, commitments to DYS/DRC, or the combined

indicator). Similarly, moderate risk youth who remained in the community reoffended at significantly lower rates than those placed in a CCF or DYS facilities. As for high risk youth, those served in the community were just slightly less likely to be adjudicated on a new felony, but were significantly less likely to be placed in DYS/DRC for a new offense, compared to those who had been committed to DYS previously.

Table 9
 Recidivism Rates (% of failures) by Risk and Placement Type

	Felony Adjudication*			Commitment to DYS/DRC*			Any Failure*		
	Low	Mod	High	Low	Mod	High	Low	Mod	High
RECLAIM	7	13	34	1	2	10	7	14	37
CCF	16	29	38	8	14	33	20	37	57
DYS	16	31	40	13	19	33	24	43	59

*p ≤ .001

Figure 3
Felony Adjudication Failure Rates by Risk and Placement Type

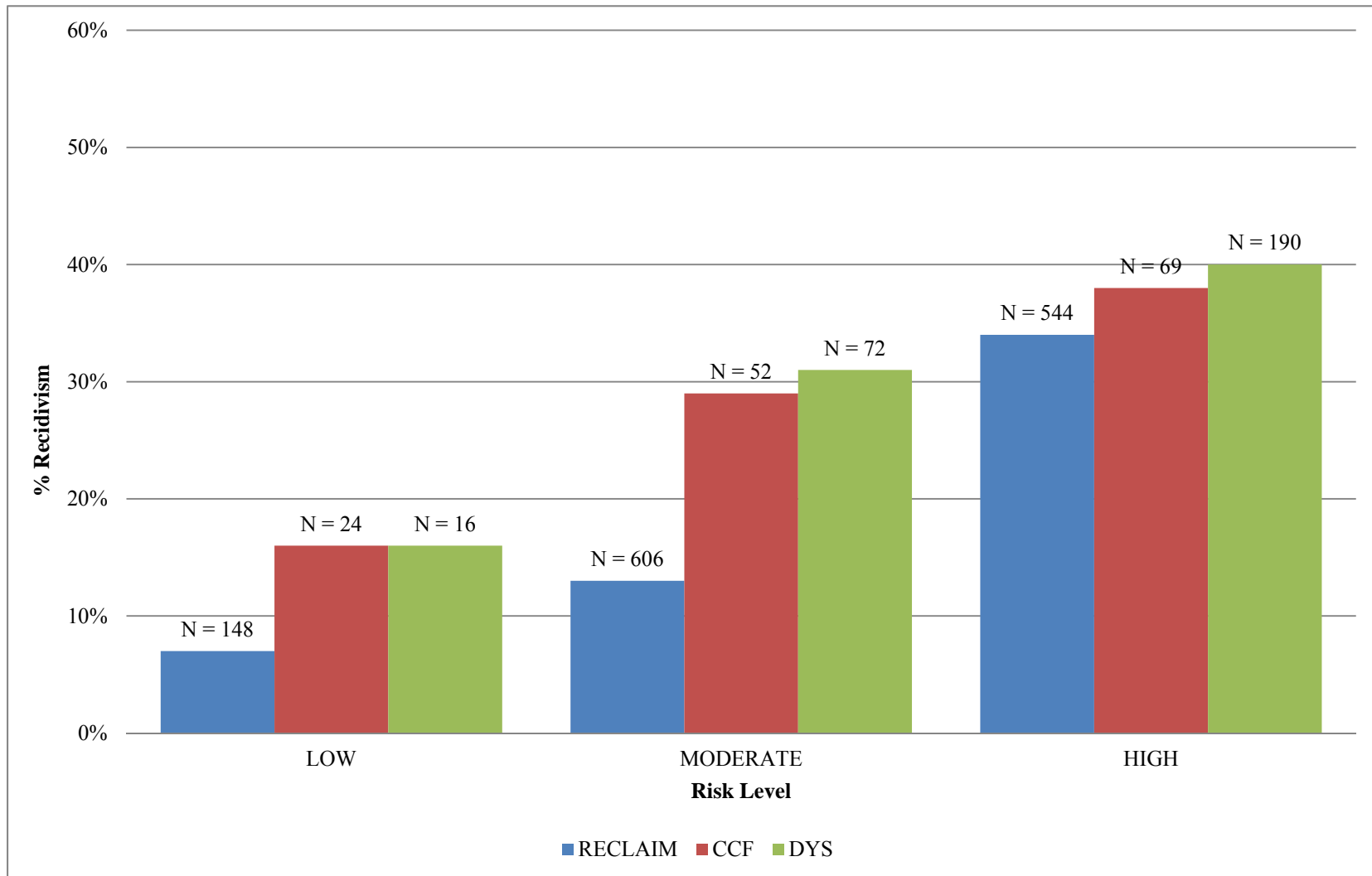


Figure 4
DYS/DRC Commitment Rates by Risk and Placement Type

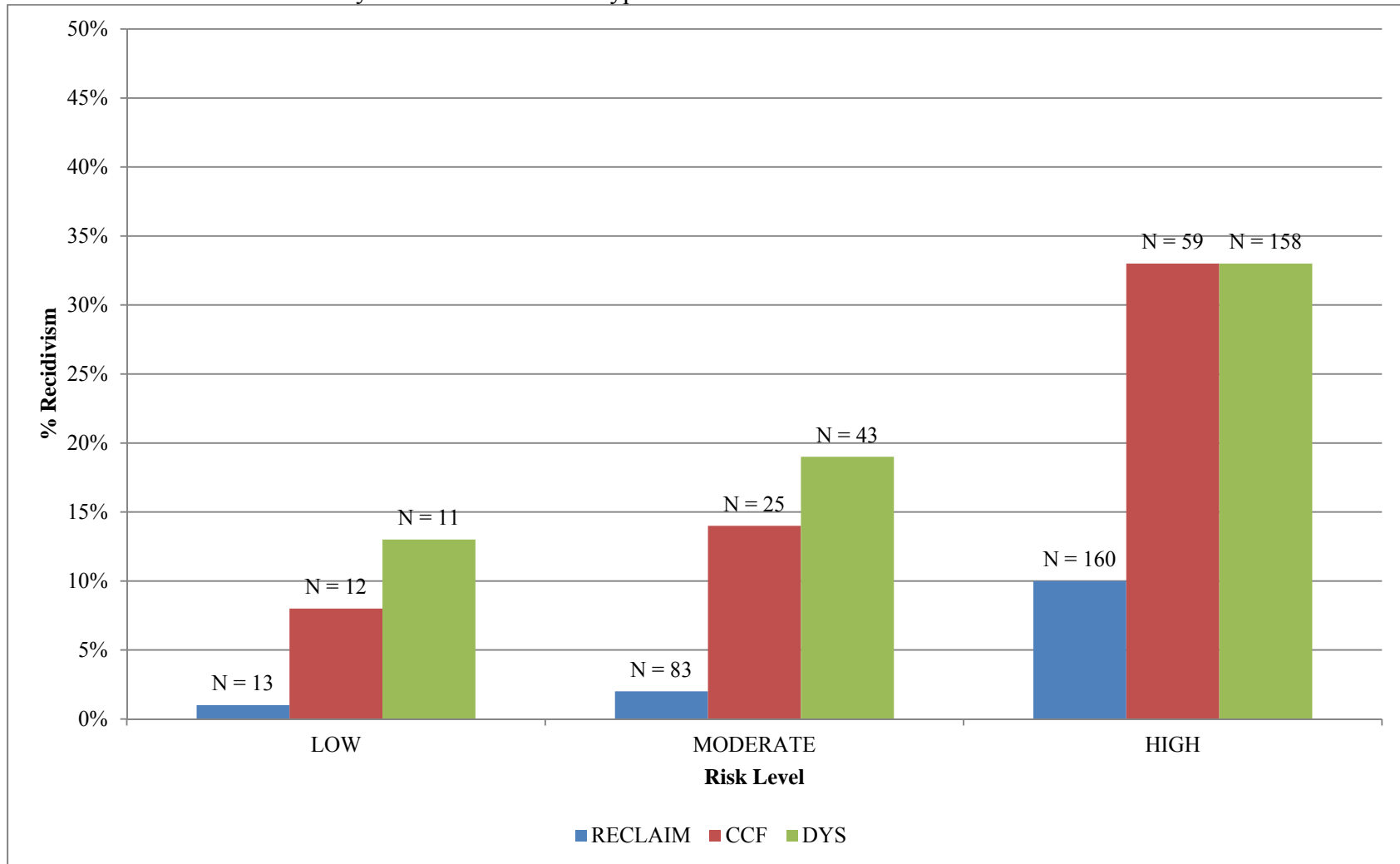
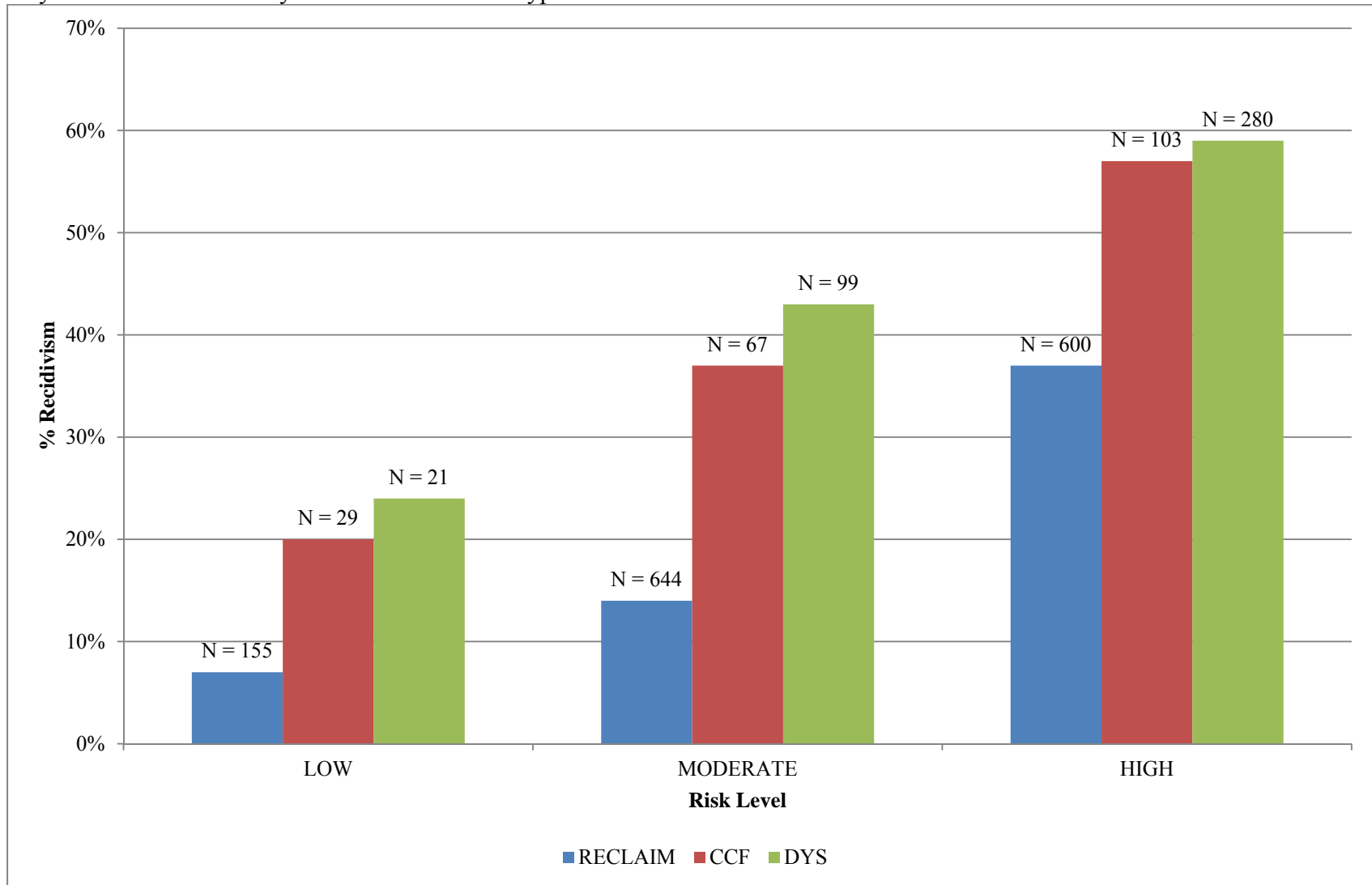
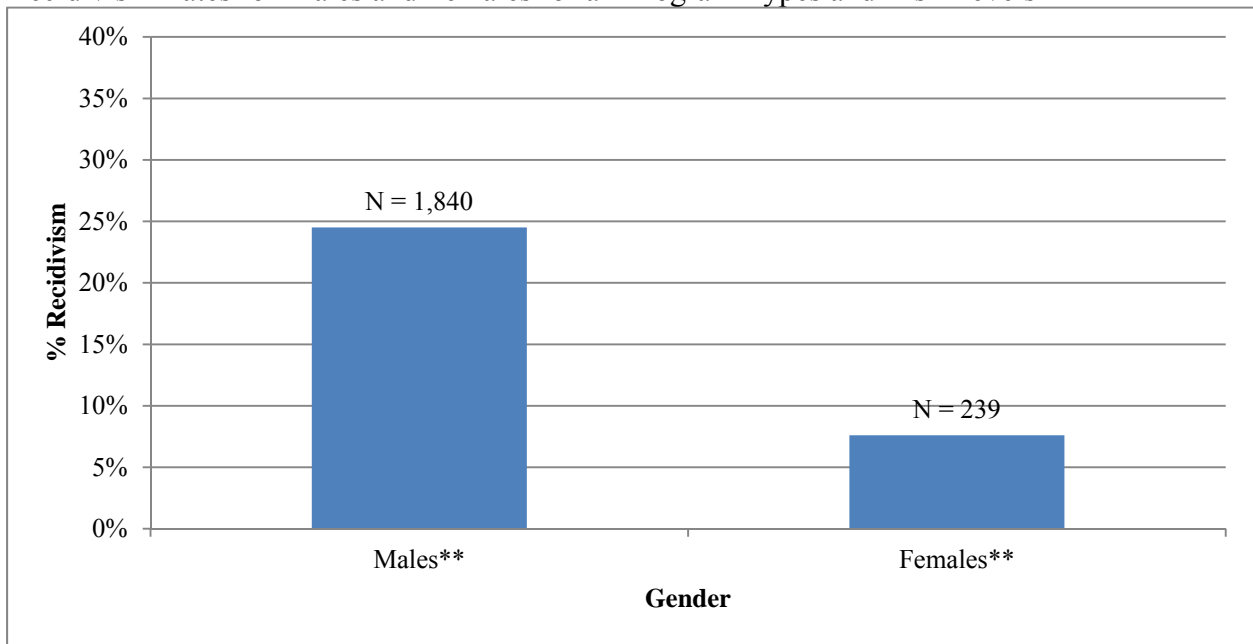


Figure 5
Any Indicator of Failure by Risk and Placement Type



Figures 6 and 7 examine the recidivism rates for males and females across all program types (RECLAIM, CCFs, and DYS). More specifically, Figure 6 examines the recidivism rates for males and females across all program types, as well as across all risk levels. Consistent with the research on gender and crime, Figure 6 indicates that males recidivated at a considerably higher level compared to their female counterparts (approximately 25% versus 8%).

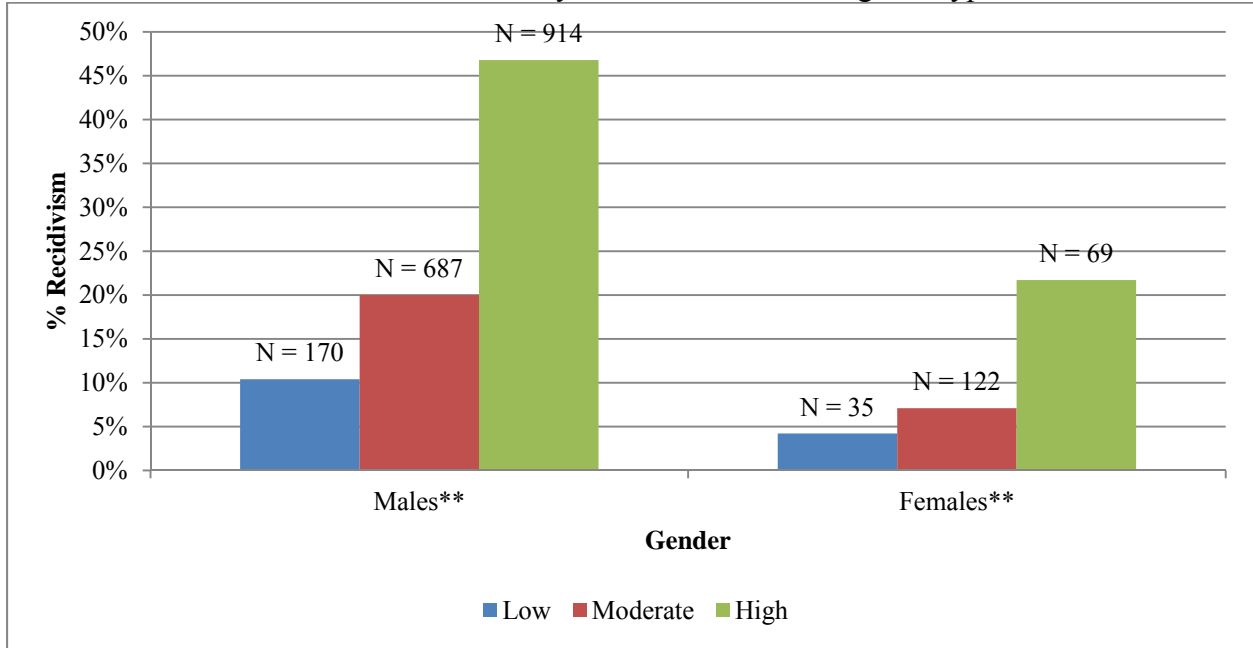
Figure 6
 Recidivism Rates for Males and Females for all Program Types and Risk Levels



** p ≤ .001

Figure 7 examines the recidivism rates for males and females by risk level across all program types. Consistent with research and the findings discussed above, males recidivated at higher rates compared to females across all risk levels. The figure below indicates that at every risk level, males recidivated more than twice as much as their female counterparts at each corresponding level of risk. Figure 7 also confirms that the OYAS is predicting overall risk level accurately, in that low risk youth recidivated at the lowest level, and high risk youth recidivated at the highest level across males and females.

Figure 7
 Recidivism Rates for Males and Females by Risk Level for all Program Types

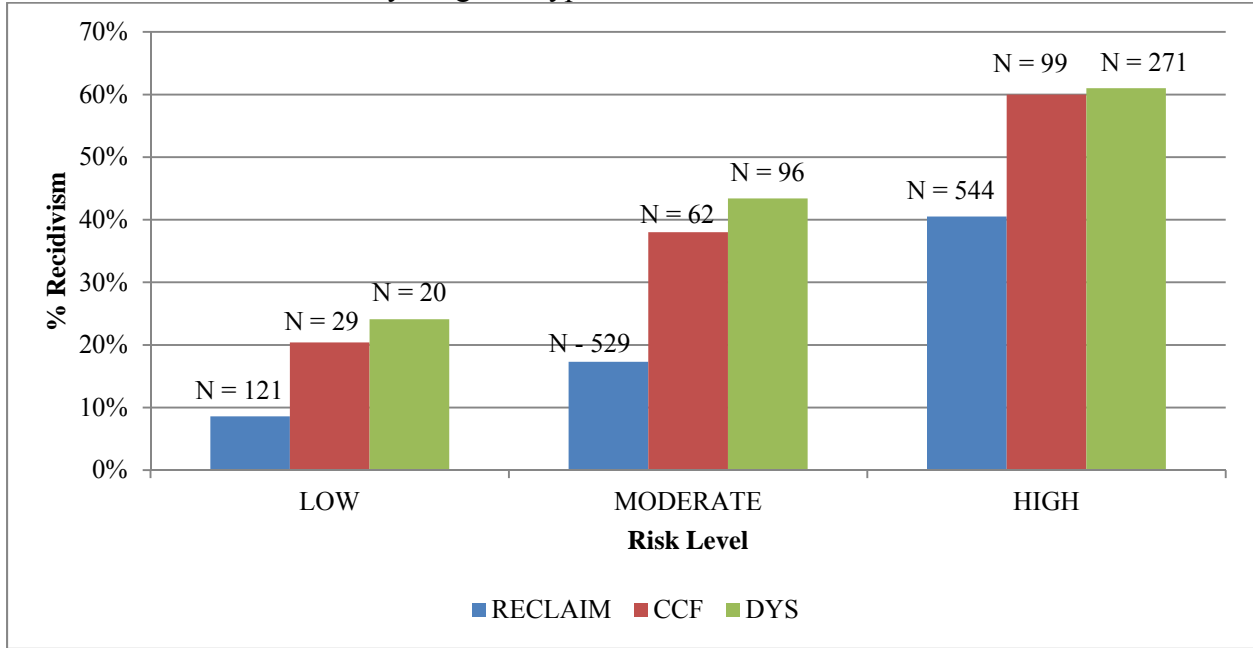


** $p \leq .001$

The gender analyses can be taken one step further by examining recidivism rates for males by program type and risk level.¹¹ Figure 8 displays this relationship below. As would be expected, males who were referred to RECLAIM programs recidivated at the lowest rates, compared to CCF and DYS males. Conversely, males sentenced to a DYS institution recidivated at the highest rates, regardless of risk level. As can be seen in Figure 8, CCF and DYS males recidivated almost twice as much as RECLAIM males at the low and moderate risk levels. At the high risk level, males sentenced to a CCF or DYS facility recidivated at considerably higher rates as well (approximately 41% for RECLAIM youth, compared to 60% and 61% for CCF and DYS youth, respectively).

¹¹ Note, CCF and DYS facilities had too few females in the sample to calculate stable analyses. As such, we could not produce a figure for recidivism rates for females by type of placement and risk level.

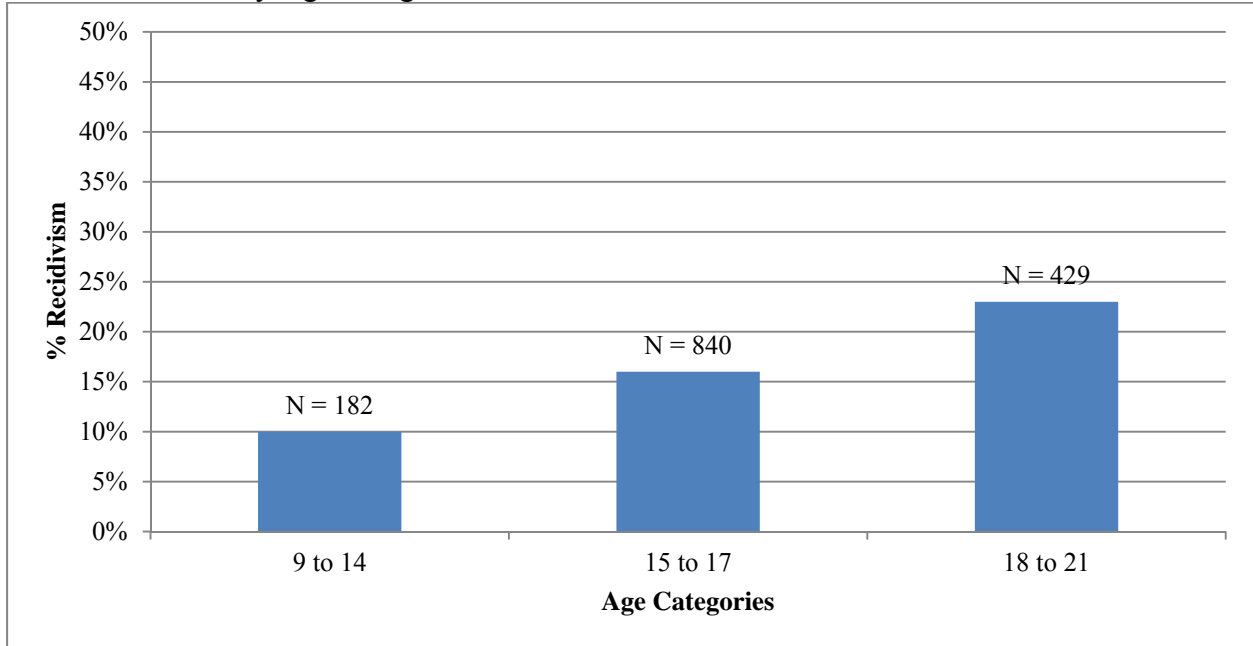
Figure 8
 Recidivism Rates for Males by Program Type and Risk Level



The next set of analyses examines age at release and recidivism rates across RECLAIM youth. RECLAIM programs were designed to serve youth in the community up to age 21. The data indicates that during FY2011, RECLAIM programs served youth between the ages of 9 and 21.

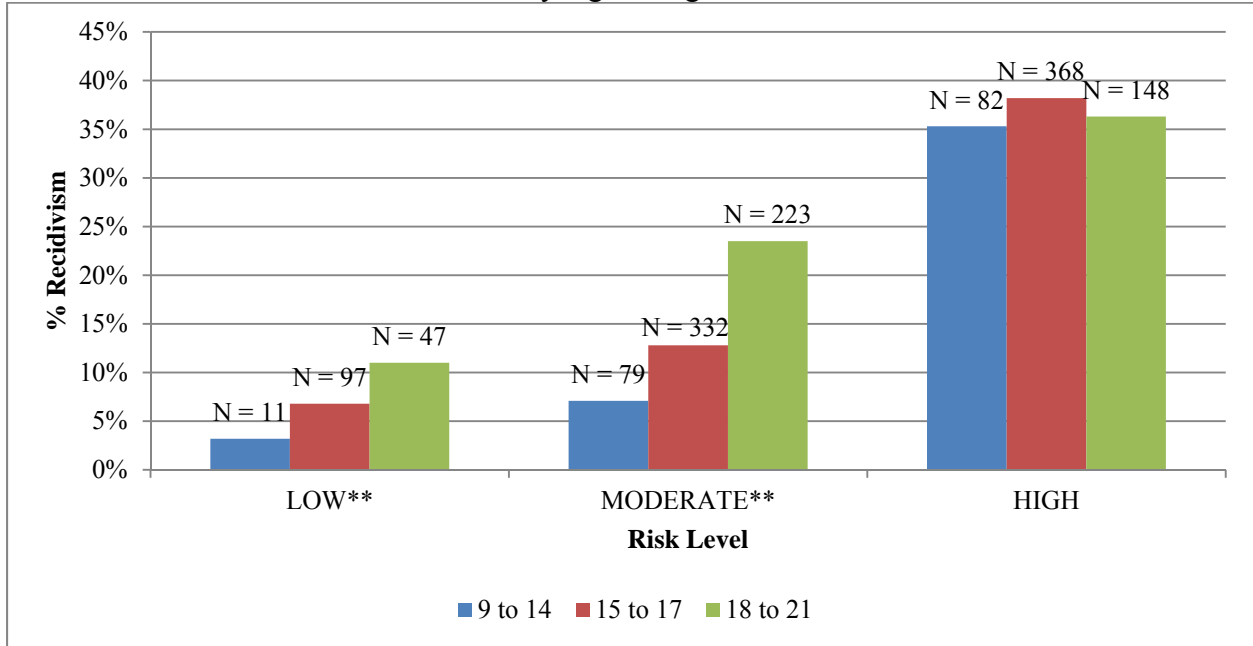
Figure 9 displays the recidivism results for RECLAIM youth by age categories. As can be seen, youth who fell in the 9- to 14-year age group recidivated at considerably lower rates than youth who fell in the 15- to 17-year age group and the 18- to 21-year age group. Ultimately, the results suggest that as youth get older, recidivism rates increase as well.

Figure 9
Recidivism Rates by Age Categories for RECLAIM Youth



Incorporating risk levels, Figure 10 examines the recidivism rates for RECLAIM youth by the same age categories displayed in Figure 9 above. As can be seen, the relationship between age and recidivism remains relatively similar when the level of risk variable is included. For example, youth who were assessed as low and moderate risk and also fell into the oldest age group category (18 to 21) continued to recidivate at higher rates than low and moderate risk youth in younger age categories. For those assessed as high risk, the 15 to 17 year age group recidivated at slightly higher rates than the oldest age group (approximately 38% for the 15- to 17-year old age group, versus 36% for the 18- to 21-year age group); however, across all categories of risk, the youngest age group continued to recidivate at considerably lower rates than the older age groups. Finally it should be noted that across all age groups, youth who were assessed as high risk, reoffended at substantially higher rates compared to their low and moderate risk counterparts.

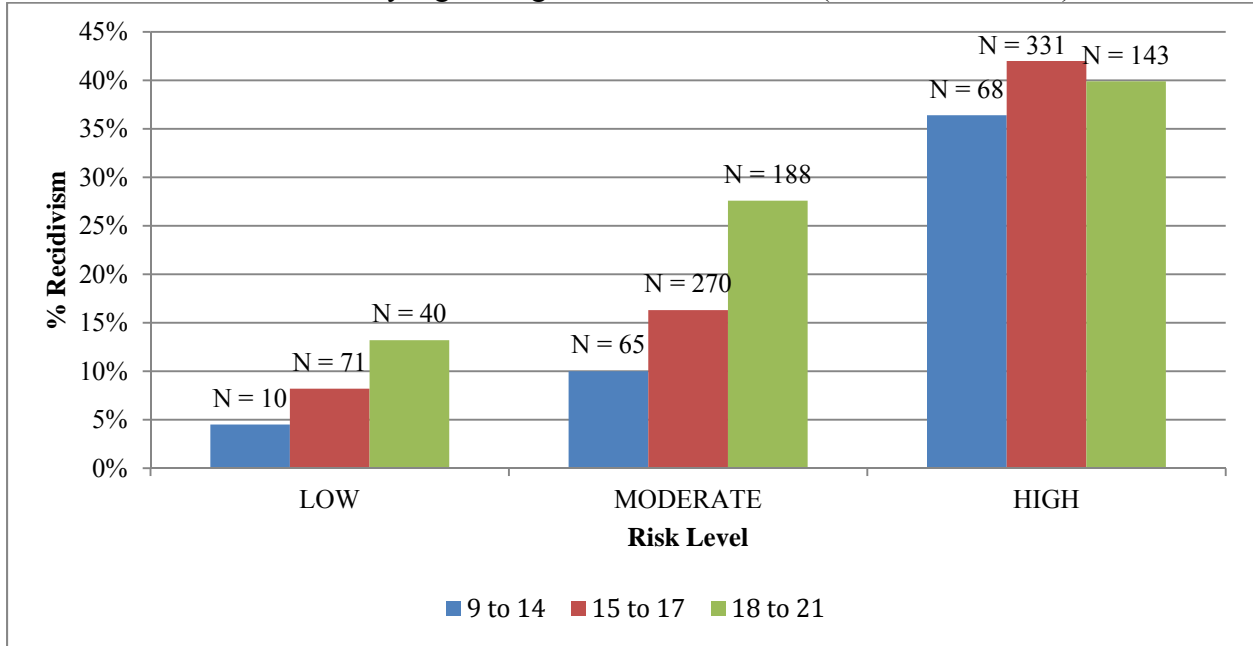
Figure 10
 Recidivism Rates for RECLAIM Youth by Age Categories and Risk Level



** p ≤ .001

Figures 11 and 12 take the above figure one step further and examine the recidivism rates for males and females separately by age category and risk level. As can be seen in Figure 11, the relationship between risk, age group, and recidivism for males is fairly similar to the relationship examined above for both males and females together. For example, at the low and moderate risk levels, male offenders who were ages 18 to 21 at release from a RECLAIM program, recidivated at the highest rates, compared to those who fell in the 9- to 14-year age group and the 15- to 17-year age group. Similar to the above discussion as well, males who were assessed as high risk recidivated at considerably higher levels compared to the low and moderate risk males. In addition, high risk males who were ages 15 to 17 at release, reoffended at slightly higher rates than those in the 18- to 21-year age group. Ultimately, however, across all categories of risk, the youngest age group continued to have reoffense rates that were lower than their older counterparts.

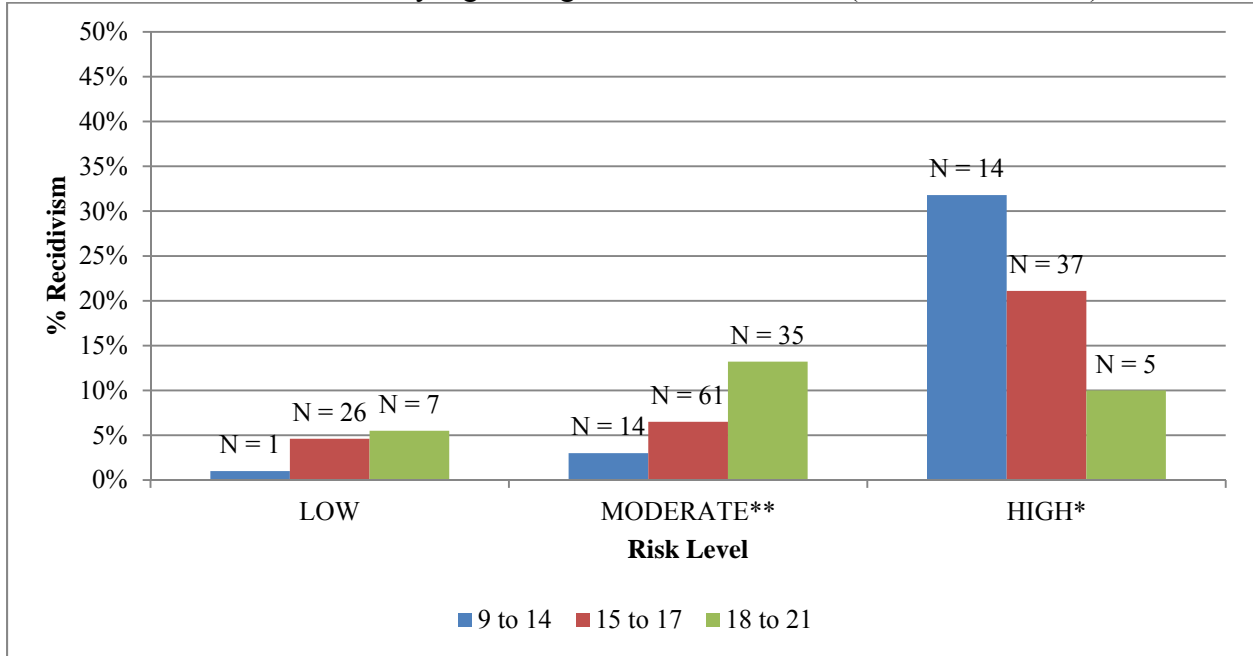
Figure 11
 Recidivism Rates for Males by Age Categories and Risk Level (RECLAIM Youth)



** p ≤ .001

Finally, Figure 12 examines the relationship between risk level, age, and recidivism for females who were released from a RECLAIM program during FY2011. As can be seen below, the relationship between these variables is quite different than it is for males. While older females who were assessed as low or moderate risk reoffended at higher rates than the younger age groups, this relationship appears to be opposite when examining the high risk category. Specifically, females who were high risk and were also between the ages of 9 and 14, reoffended at substantially higher rates compared to females who were between the ages of 15 and 17 and 18 and 21. Perhaps what is most surprising is that females in the high risk category who were between 9 and 14 years of age reoffended more than three times the oldest age group's reoffense rate (approximately 32% versus 10%).

Figure 12
 Recidivism Rates for Females by Age Categories and Risk Level (RECLAIM Youth)



** $p \leq .001$

* $p \leq .05$

All in all, the analyses examining the relationship between age and reoffending lend support to the age-graded social bond perspective. It can be argued here that youth at younger ages tend to recidivate less than their older counterparts because they have strong bonds in place (e.g., parents may be supportive and involved; youth may continue to participate in school; and youth may still have connections with prosocial peers). On the other hand, older youth might have lost touch with these prosocial factors. For instance, as youth get older, they tend to become less engaged with their families; receive expulsions or suspensions from school; and engage with antisocial peers.

As identified in the previous RECLAIM evaluation, it appears that youth who are served in the community do significantly better than youth placed in a CCF or committed to DYS. The next set of analyses will examine the effectiveness of RECLAIM programs in reducing

recidivism. Table 10 shows youth recidivism rates by most recent placement¹² in a RECLAIM program.¹³ The average felony adjudication was 15 percent, while the commitment rate to DYS or DRC was 3 percent, resulting in a 16 percent failure for any reason. However, the recidivism rates ranged considerably across program type, as well as recidivism type. For example, felony adjudications ranged from 5 percent to 38 percent, while commitments ranged from 0 to 12 percent. Similarly, any failure ranged from 8 percent to 36 percent.

Table 10
Recidivism Rates by RECLAIM Program Type (most recent placement)

	N	Felony Adjudication (%)	Commitment to DYS/DRC (%)	Any Failure (%)
Aftercare/Parole	102	28	12	36
Alternative Schools	189	19	2	20
Day Treatment	60	27	7	30
Diversion	2,482	5	1	5
Drug Test	142	8	1	8
Family Preservation	223	18	6	21
Intensive Supervision	392	22	5	23
Mediation	580	11	1	11
Mental Health Counseling	549	22	7	25
Mentors	58	38	7	38
Monitoring	59	27	5	29
Probation	3,098	16	3	17
Residential	317	29	6	32
Restitution/Community Service	692	13	2	14
Sex Offender	92	11	5	15
Substance Abuse Treatment	277	24	5	27
Work Detail	173	8	0	8
Wrap Around	259	17	5	20
Youth Intervention Groups	315	30	5	33
Total Placements	--	15	3	16

Table 11 and Figures 13, 14, and 15 provide the recidivism rates for the different risk levels across RECLAIM program type. In examining Table 11, it should be noted that the majority of programs showed significant differences between recidivism rates for low, moderate,

¹² “Most recent placement” was measured by the last RECLAIM program youth participated in during FY2011

¹³ Programs that were not “treatment oriented” and/or had fewer than 50 terminations during FY2011 were not included in subsequent analyses.

and high risk youth. These results indicate that there are some programs that should avoid serving either low risk or high risk youth, as identified by significantly higher recidivism rates than the average.

A handful of RECLAIM programs appear to increase recidivism for low risk youth. Specifically, three programs yielded recidivism rates that were significantly higher than the average for low risk youth: residential and substance abuse treatment programs, as well as day treatment programs, although this was based on a very small number of youth (N = 2). For youths who were assessed at the moderate level on the OYAS, two programs appear to be troublesome for reducing recidivism; aftercare/parole programs yielded recidivism rates that were more than twice the average recidivism rate, while mentoring programs were slightly less than twice the 18.1 average reoffense rate for moderate risk youth.

Several RECLAIM programs appear to be inappropriate for high risk offenders as well. While many programs' reoffense rates hovered around the average recidivism rate (approximately 36%), four programs were considerably higher. Specifically, mental health counseling (50.0%), mentors (55.0%), and monitoring (52.9%), as well as youth intervention groups (60.8%), stood out. There could be a number of reasons why these programs have higher recidivism rates (e.g., youth were not receiving enough hours in these programs to be effective or the programs would work better if they were paired with other RECLAIM programs and treatment), and thus, should be studied further to determine why this type of treatment/programming appears to be ineffective.

Table 11

Any Indicator of Recidivism by Risk Level for Most Recent RECLAIM Program Type

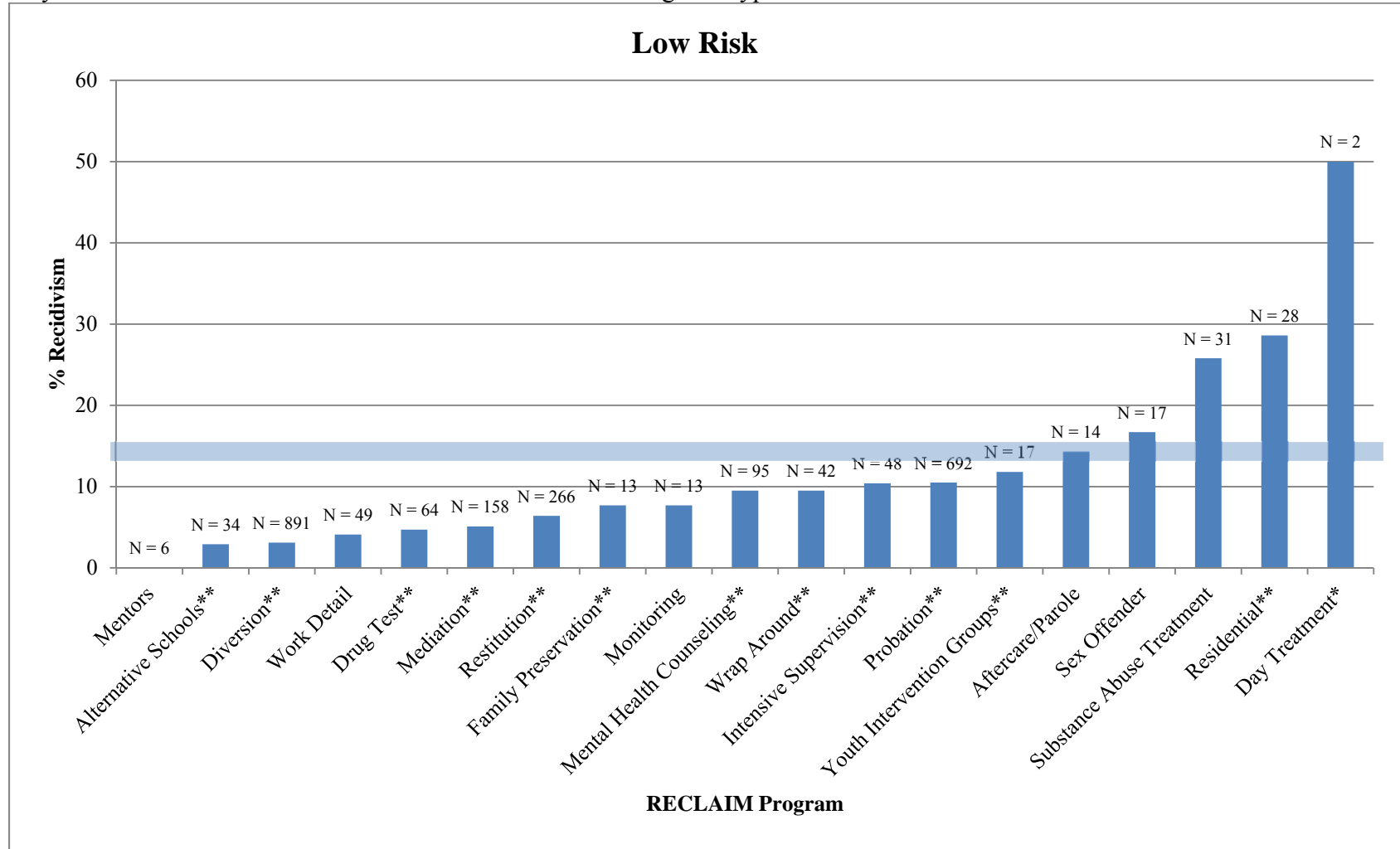
	Low Risk		Moderate Risk		High Risk	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Aftercare/Parole	14	14.3	39	48.7	49	32.7
Alternative Schools**	34	2.9	89	15.7	44	38.6
Day Treatment*	2	50.0	31	19.4	27	40.7
Diversion**	891	3.1	1273	5.3	73	19.2
Drug Test**	64	4.7	56	5.4	19	26.3
Family Preservation**	13	7.7	108	12.0	79	39.2
Intensive Supervision**	48	10.4	194	20.1	140	32.9
Mediation**	158	5.1	251	11.6	43	37.2
Mental Health Counseling**	95	9.5	263	16.3	170	50.0
Mentors	6	0	32	34.4	20	55.0
Monitoring	13	7.7	29	24.1	17	52.9
Probation**	692	10.5	2,176	15.5	872	35.0
Residential**	28	28.6	151	21.2	138	43.5
Restitution/Community Service**	266	6.4	334	14.1	92	33.7
Sex Offender	6	16.7	57	17.5	29	10.3
Substance Abuse Treatment	31	25.8	159	22.6	87	34.5
Work Detail	49	4.1	107	7.5	17	17.6
Wrap Around**	42	9.5	135	14.8	82	32.9
Youth Intervention Groups**	17	11.8	82	23.2	51	60.8
Average Recidivism	-	11.4	-	18.1	-	35.9

** p ≤ .001

* p ≤ .01

Figure 13

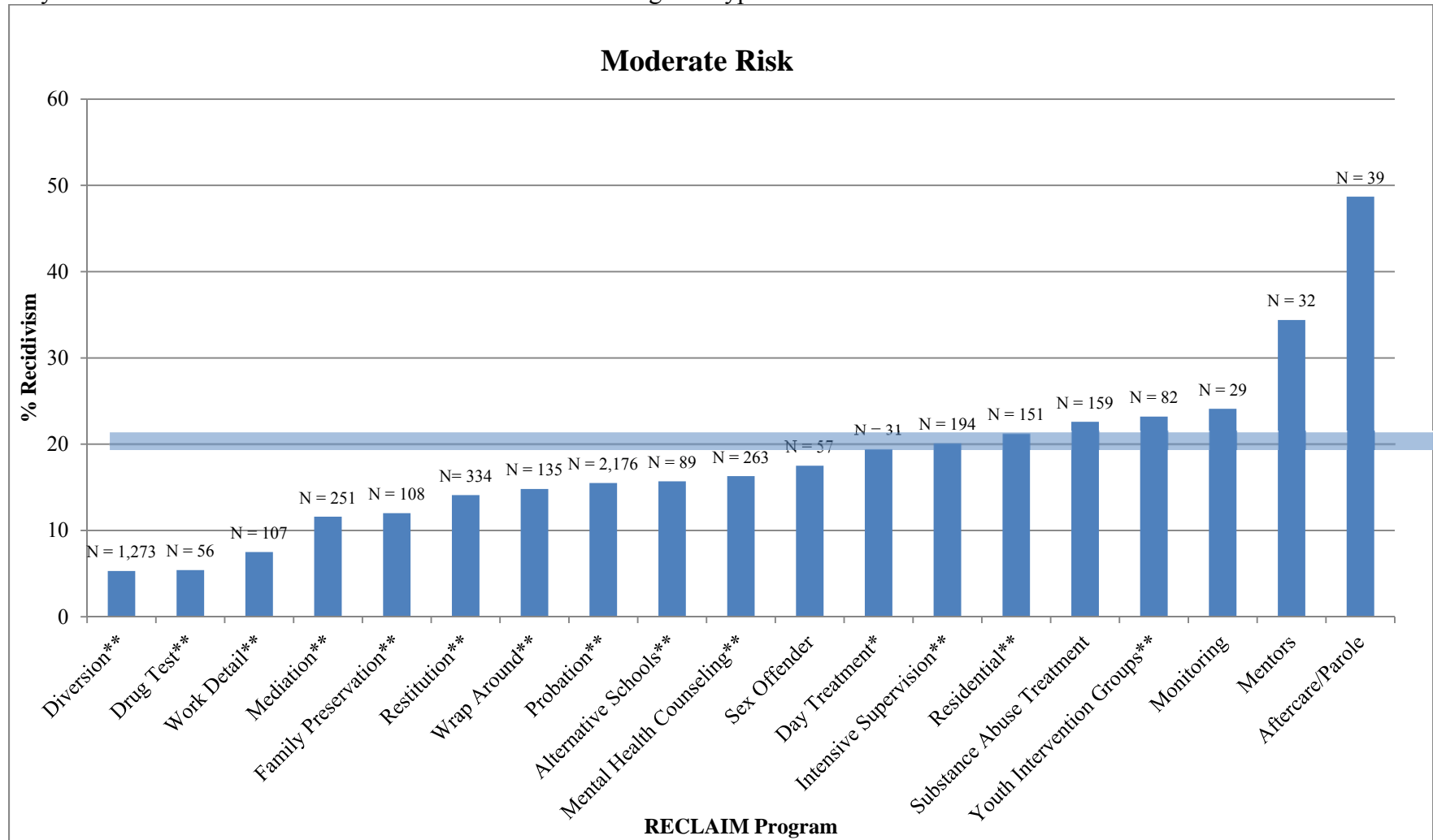
Any Indicator of Recidivism for Most Recent RECLAIM Program Type: Low Risk



** p < .001

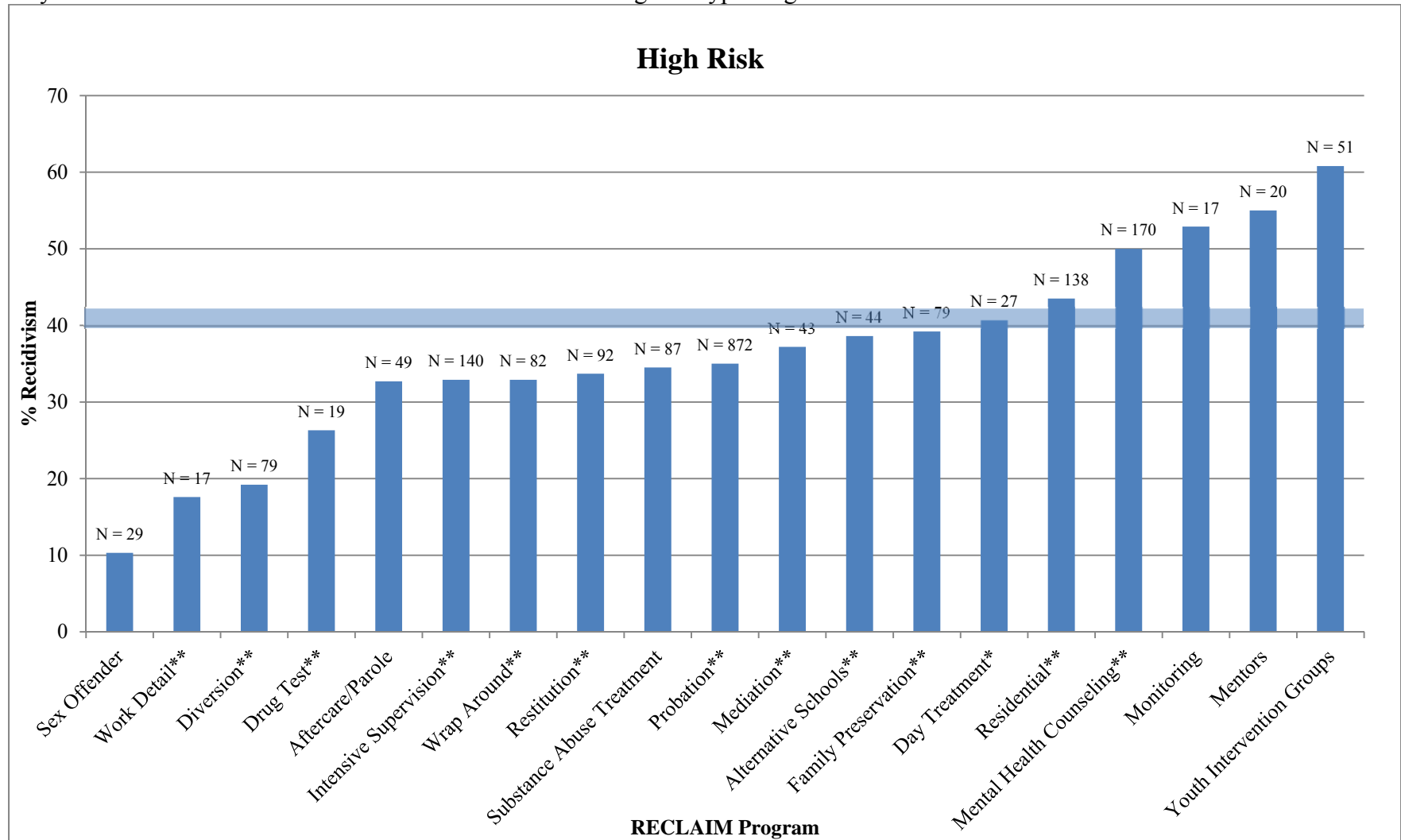
* p < .01

Figure 14
 Any Indicator of Recidivism for Most Recent RECLAIM Program Type: Moderate Risk



** p ≤ .001
 * p ≤ .01

Figure 15
 Any Indicator of Recidivism for Most Recent RECLAIM Program Type: High Risk



** p ≤ .001
 * p ≤ .01

Table 12 presents recidivism rates for the different risk levels by total number of months in programs. Note that total number of months was calculated for each program the youth participated in, regardless of if the time he/she was in one program overlapped with the time of another program. For example, a youth might have been referred to two RECLAIM programs, both of which occurred during the same three-month period. Months in programs was calculated as six months, allowing us to capture dosage for each unique program the youth was involved in.

When examining Table 12, the results indicate that low and moderate risk youth had lower recidivism rates when they were involved in programming for 0 to 3 months. Conversely, but consistent with the extant literature, high risk youth were more successful when they were involved in programming for 13 months or more. On average, high risk youth, whose dosage level exceeded one year, had recidivism rates that were approximately 8.5 percent lower than those who were involved in programming for less than 13 months. In short, low and moderate risk youth were more successful with less programming, but high risk youth were more successful with more programming.

Table 12
Percent Recidivism (Any Indicator) by Total Number of Months in Programs
(RECLAIM Youth)

	0 to 3 months	4 to 12 months	13+ months
Low Risk**	5.1	8.6	12.5
Moderate Risk**	10.3	12.5	19.0
High Risk	42.2	37.6	34.5

** p ≤ .001

Table 13 presents recidivism rates for youth at different risk levels by number of RECLAIM services. As can be seen, low risk youth who participated in just one RECLAIM program had recidivism rates (approximately 6%), compared to moderate risk and high risk youth (approximately 11% and 33% respectively). Results were similar for both moderate and high risk youth, in that the fewer number of services one was referred to the better the results. In

short, it appears that youth who participated in one to three programs were more successful upon release than those who were placed in four or more programs. This is probably because youth who “failed” the programs were given multiple opportunities.

Table 13
Percent Recidivism (any indicator) by Number of RECLAIM Services

	1	2 to 3	4 or More
Low Risk*	6.2	8.7	11.1
Moderate Risk**	10.6	13.8	23.6
High Risk*	32.7	36.2	41.8

** $p \leq .001$

* $p \leq .05$

Table 14 presents the recidivism rates for the different risk levels by completion status. Note that for these analyses, youth were included in the “successful completion” category if they successfully completed *any* RECLAIM program. For example, a youth might have been referred to three different RECLAIM programs but only successfully completed two out of three programs. In this instance, the youth would be included in the successful completion category. If he did not successfully complete any of the three programs, he would be placed in the unsuccessful category. As can be seen from Table 14 below, regardless of risk level, those youth who successfully completed a RECLAIM program(s) were less likely to recidivate than those who did not successfully complete a RECLAIM program. For instance, moderate risk youth who completed the program(s) unsuccessfully, were almost twice as likely to recidivate than those who successfully finished the program(s).

Table 14
Percent Recidivism by Completion Status (RECLAIM Youth)

	Successful Completion	Unsuccessful Completion
Low Risk**	6.3	13.7
Moderate Risk**	12.6	21.2
High Risk*	36.0	43.1

** $p \leq .001$

* $p \leq .01$

Finally, Table 15 and Figures 16, 17, and 18 present the results for the probability that youth engaged in a specific program will reoffend. Predicted probabilities allowed us to compare and contrast specific RECLAIM programs versus “all other programs” and the impact they could have on future criminal behavior for all youth in the study. Table 15 shows the likelihood of reoffending in the future if they participated in a particular RECLAIM program versus those youth who did not participate in that RECLAIM program. Each likelihood was calculated controlling for race, risk level, the number of services received, and the duration of services, as well as gender and age at release (i.e., these variables were held constant). For Figures 16, 17, and 18, the difference between the RECLAIM group and the “all other programs” group were calculated for each risk level, yielding the difference between the two groups. This difference corresponds with the amount of recidivism that was either reduced (the bars below 0) or increased (the bars above 0) by participating in a specific RECLAIM program.

Results for the low risk youth indicate that some programs might be beneficial for low risk youth to participate in (e.g., substance abuse education, mentoring programs, and/or diversion programs); however, only diversion programs reached significance. Other RECLAIM programs appear to be problematic for low risk youth. For example, Figure 16 indicates that low risk youth who were referred to probation have a 3 percent greater likelihood of reoffending compared to youth who participated in any other programs. In addition, Figure 16 also indicates that low risk youth who were referred to a residential facility and/or substance abuse treatment, have a greater likelihood of reoffending in the future, compared to their counterparts (17% and 25%, respectively).

For moderate risk youth, Figure 17 indicates that several programs did no better or worse than all other programs. For instance, alternative school programs, day treatment programs, and

substance abuse education programs all fell at the 0% line. This indicates that youth who were referred to these RECLAIM programs are as likely as those youths in all other programs to reoffend in the future. Two programs reached statistical significance and “favored” the moderate risk RECLAIM youth. More specifically, youth who were diverted from the system or were drug tested during their time on community supervision are less likely to reoffend in the future, compared to those who participated in all other programs (7% and 8% *less* likely to reoffend, respectively). Other programs, while not reaching statistical significance, appear to be promising for the future (e.g., mentors, restitution/community service). Also important for moderate risk offenders, several programs stood out as potentially increasing reoffense rates in forthcoming years. For example, youth who were referred to aftercare/parole are 13 percent more likely to reoffend in the future, compared to those who participated in all other programs.

A handful of programs reached statistical significance for high risk RECLAIM offenders as well. For example, Figure 18 indicates that diversion, probation, and sex offender programs are likely to keep youth out of trouble in the future, compared to youth who participated in all other programs. More specifically, for instance, youth referred to sex offender treatment are 28 percent *less* likely to reoffend, compared to their counterparts. On the other hand, high risk youth who were referred to mental health programs, “youth in groups” strategies, as well as residential facilities, recidivated at higher rates than the youth participating in all other programs, on average. When examining Figure 18, the results indicate that high risk youth who were referred to mental health counseling, for example, are 10 percent more likely to reoffend compared to youth who participated in all other programs.

The diversion program appears to be significant for all levels of risk. That is, it appears that youths who were diverted from the system at all risk levels are less likely to recidivate in the

future compared to youths who participated in all other programs. Also important, the results indicate that youth who were referred to residential treatment are more likely to reoffend in the future, compared to youth who participated in all other programs. This relationship remains significant regardless of risk level. For moderate and high risk youths, the “youth in groups” category was significantly related to future recidivism. For example, moderate risk juveniles, who were referred to “youth in groups” programs, have a 7% greater chance of recidivating in the future, compared to youth who participated in all other programs. Similarly, high risk youth who were referred to “youth in groups” programs are 23% more likely to recidivate in the future. While this relationship failed to reach significant for low risk youth, Figure 16 indicates that it did not have promising effects for this population either (i.e., low risk youth in “youth in groups” programs are 3% more likely to reoffend, compared to youth who participated in all other programs).

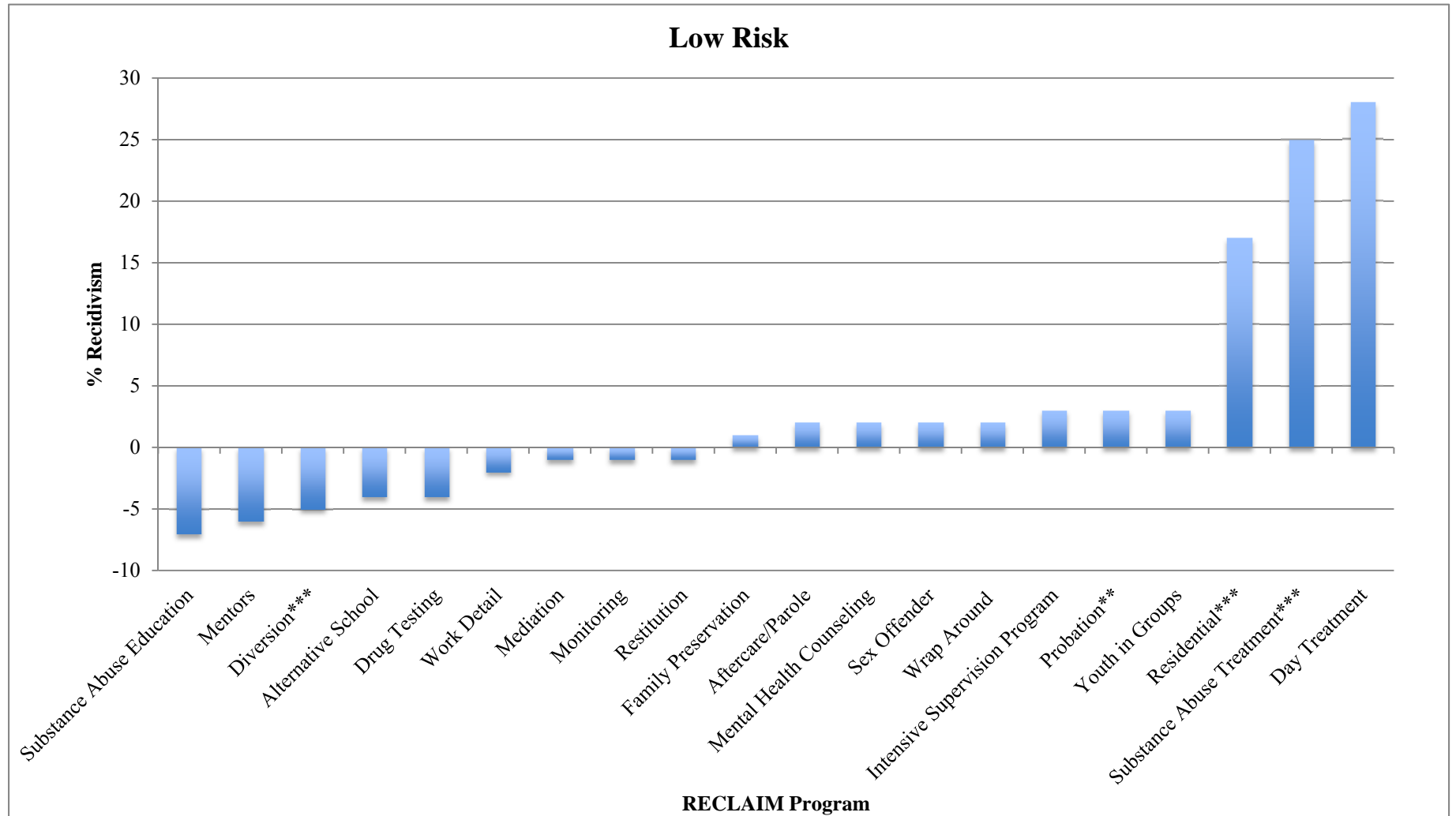
	Low Risk (%)	Moderate Risk (%)	High Risk (%)
Aftercare/Parole	8	24***	29
All Other Programs	6	11***	37
Alternative School	2	11	31
All Other Programs	6	11	37
Day Treatment	34	11	36
All Other Programs	6	11	37
Diversion	3***	6***	22*
All Other Programs	8***	13***	37*
Drug Testing	2	3*	15
All Other Programs	6	11*	27
Family Preservation	6	9	36
All Other Programs	7	10	37
Intensive Supervision Program	9	13	35
All Other Programs	6	11	37
Mediation	5	12	34
All Other Programs	6	11	37
Mental Health Counseling	8	10	36**
All Other Programs	6	11	26**
Mentors	0	18	48
All Other Programs	6	11	37
Monitoring	5	14	48
All Other Programs	6	11	36
Probation	8**	11	33**
All Other Programs	5**	10	39**
Residential	23***	17*	46*
All Other Programs	6***	11*	36*
Restitution/Community Service	5	9	33
All Other Programs	6	11	37
Sex Offender	8	10	10**
All Other Programs	6	11	38**
Substance Abuse Treatment	38***	13	32
All Other Programs	13***	11	37
Substance Abuse Education	0	11	17
All Other Programs	7	11	33
Work Detail	4	11	16
All Other Programs	6	6	37
Wrap Around	8	13	31
All Other Programs	6	12	37
Youth in Groups	9	18*	59***
All Other Programs	6	11*	36***

*** p ≤ .001

** p ≤ .01

* p ≤ .05

Figure 16
 Predicted Probabilities for Recidivism—Low Risk Youth



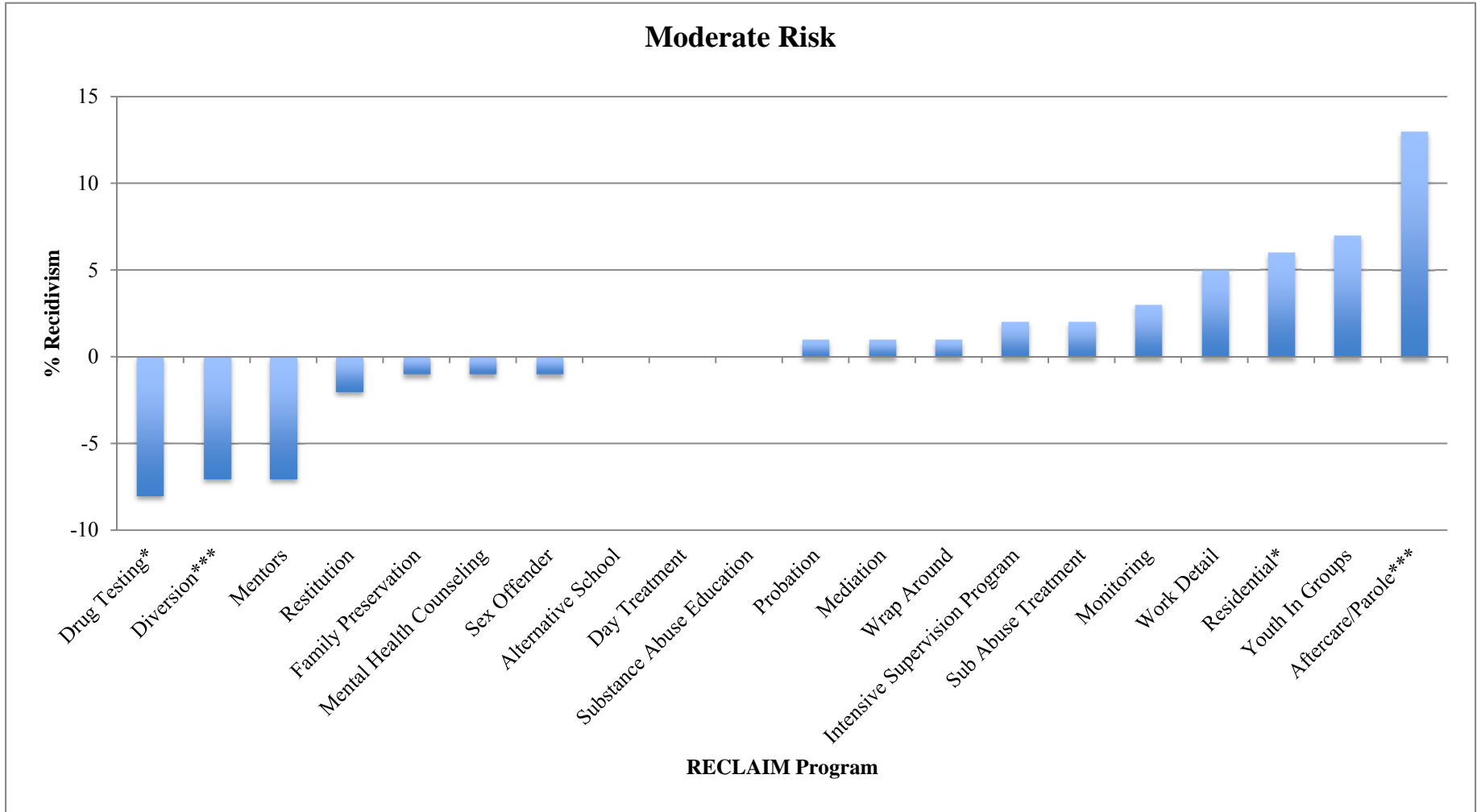
Controlling for race, risk level, number of services received, duration of services, gender, & age at release

*** $p \leq .001$

** $p \leq .01$

* $p \leq .05$

Figure 17
 Predicted Probabilities for Recidivism—Moderate Risk Youth



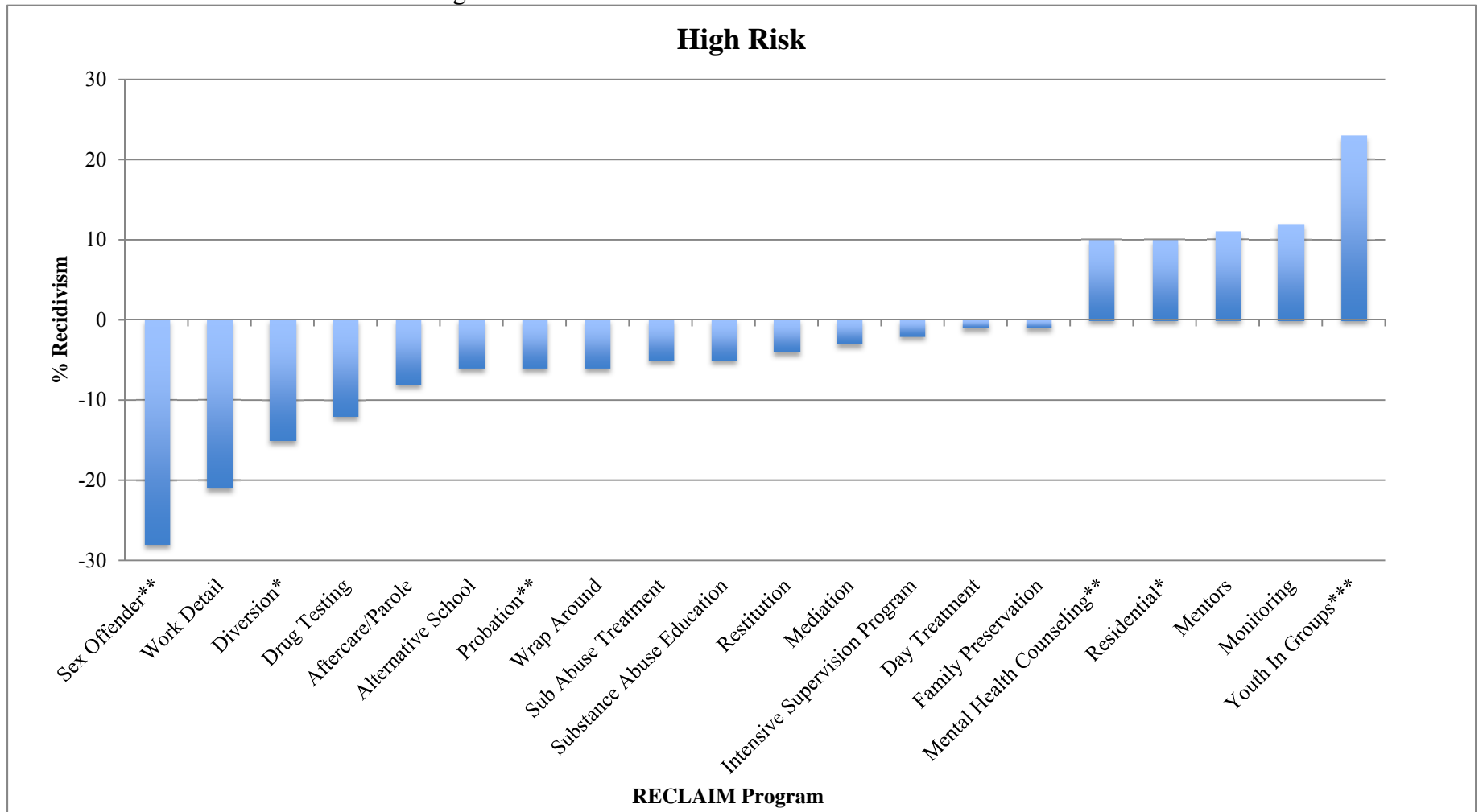
Controlling for race, risk level, number of services received, duration of services, gender, & age at release

*** $p \leq .001$

** $p \leq .01$

* $p \leq .05$

Figure 18
 Predicted Probabilities for Recidivism—High Risk Youth



Controlling for race, risk level, number of services received, duration of services, gender, & age at release

*** $p \leq .001$

** $p \leq .01$

* $p \leq .05$

Program Factors and Outcome

The first set of analyses in this report examined the relationship between program type and recidivism. More specifically, the data examined whether a program type was more successful at reducing recidivism than another (i.e., what was the recidivism rate of youth served by RECLAIM funded programs, CCFs, and DYS facilities?). These analyses were further broken down to determine if the programs/facilities had different recidivism rates by youth risk-level.

This section will move beyond program type as an explanation of effectiveness and consider specific characteristics of the RECLAIM programs to predict recidivism. Here, results from the CPC interviews were examined to get a better understanding of program characteristics.

Program Factors and Outcome: CPC Results

The following section will present the overall results from the CPC interviews that took place across the state of Ohio at various correctional agencies. Again, the CPC assessment has been adapted for different correctional entities (e.g., residential facilities, community supervision agencies, and specific groups within a program/agency) across the criminal justice system. Regardless of type of agency, however, all of the CPC adaptations cover two basic areas: capacity and content.

Strengths

- The agency/program directors were professionally trained in a helping profession and had a significant role in selecting agency staff.
- Staff were knowledgeable about the agency's/program's goals and mission statement.
- There was a collaborative process with all stakeholders. The agency/program had good relationships with partners and key stakeholders in the community.

- The majority of staff members were trained in a helping profession and had adequate experience in programs with youth involved in the criminal justice system.
- Staff are selected and promoted based on skills and values, such as strong support for offender treatment and change, empathy, fairness, and their ability to be non-confrontational but firm. Additionally, staff demonstrated good problem solving skills and were able to use prior experiences and training to perform their job duties.
- Many agencies/programs that served special populations (e.g., sex offenders) used specialized assessments tools to identify this type of population's risk/needs (e.g., J-SOAP).
- The vast majority of supervisors and staff supported the use of evidence-based practices.
- Ethical guidelines dictated staff boundaries and interactions with offenders.
- Many of the agencies/programs had established relationships with community providers to deliver services to offenders.

Overall Recommendations

While the agencies/programs had many strengths, there were some areas that would be beneficial for them to address as they move forward serving youth. The following is a general overview of the major recommendations we took away from all of the CPC evaluations:

- Delivery of evidence-based practices: Agencies/programs should require the use of evidence based practices (EBP) when working with community partners and have measurable performance indicators for all service providers. Agencies/programs should ensure that youth criminogenic needs are being targeted and prioritized. Furthermore, criminogenic factors should be addressed using cognitive behavioral interventions.
- Need to be active in promoting EBP: Agencies/programs should leverage their influence on local providers to deliver EBP. There should be an action or strategic plan in place concerning the implementation of EBP. The plan should organize and prioritize the agency/programs' planning activities in regards to implementing EBP throughout the department. Formal performance measures for every community partner should be monitored regularly to ensure alignment with the plan (i.e., performance evaluations). In addition, the management team should ensure that staff, service providers, and community partners are aware of EBP or what key indicators the management team is monitoring. The management team then needs to look at how the department, service providers, and community providers are performing, be

willing to make decisions, and be willing to challenge status quo and ineffective practices.

- Training: Training based on evidence-based practices was significantly lacking from a majority of the agencies/programs we visited. Thus, the agencies/programs would benefit implementing training efforts to ensure that program staff are trained in EBP. Staff should receive formal training on EBP and at least 40 hours of ongoing training per year. Appropriate topics include effective interventions, training in assessment instruments, anger management, dual-diagnosis, substance abuse, cognitive behavioral interventions, and core correctional practices (anti-criminal modeling and reinforcement, effective disapproval, skill building, effective use of authority, cognitive restructuring, and relationship building).
- Formal evaluations: It appeared that a formal evaluation process was missing from a lot of the agencies/programs that were evaluated. Thus, it is recommended that agencies/programs implement at minimum, an annual performance evaluation that includes direct practice skills. This evaluation should focus on the interactions that staff have with clients and should include the observation of direct services with feedback provided. The evaluation should also assess topics such as effective use of authority, effective reinforcement and disapproval, problem solving and decision-making skills, modeling and communication skills.
- Adoption of a risk/needs assessment: The majority of the agencies/programs that were assessed during the CPC process did not use a validated, standardized and objective risk assessment instrument. It is suggested that agencies/programs incorporate a tool to objectively measure risk and need factors. There are several options for assessment. For example, the OYAS provides a composite risk score that can be used for targeting criminogenic needs. The agencies/programs should use the assessment on all offenders that come into the program, as well as ensure that the results from this assessment are shared with local service providers.
- Intensity of services and reassessment: Because the agencies/programs do not assess risk on all offenders, they were unable to provide more intensive services for higher risk clients. The agencies/programs would benefit from adopting a structured risk assessment and use it to determine contact standards, dosage levels or days in treatment, amount and type of services, etc. A triage process could be developed where lower risk offenders receive referrals to community programs, a list of support services, and crises intervention, while higher risk offenders receive case management services intended to track participation in programs, additional referrals, higher levels of support, and additional contacts. To gauge youth's progress in the program or group, the agency should reassess each client at set intervals (i.e., every 12 months or as circumstances arise).
- Treatment modalities: There were a mix of treatment modalities being used by the agencies/programs. The agencies/programs, as well as the other agencies/programs providing services to youth should utilize approaches and interventions that have

been deemed effective in changing offender behavior. Examples of evidence based treatment models include radical behavioral treatment, social learning techniques, cognitive behavioral therapy, and/or any strategy that focuses on addressing criminogenic needs and that utilizes a structured intervention to address those needs. There should be an emphasis on cognitive restructuring and structured skill building (e.g., teaching offenders prosocial skills to replace antisocial skills), including the use of modeling and role play. Moreover, graduated rehearsal should be used to teach participants skills in increasingly difficult situations.

- Matching services: At the time of the CPC evaluations, it appeared that youths received the same programming regardless of their risk and/or responsivity factors. There was no process in place to ensure that participants were assigned to programs or services that matched their risk, need, and responsivity factors. Agencies/programs would benefit from considering risk, need, and responsivity factors when assigning participants to programs. For example, a youth with identified mental health problems should be matched to a specialized provider that is able to address these problems, or a low functioning individual should be placed in a highly structured program.
- Completion criteria: Agencies/programs should develop clearly outlined completion criteria that the youth must complete before they have successfully completed the program or group. Termination should be defined by progress in acquiring prosocial behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs, and not engaging in other illegal behavior. The agency/program should delineate “successful” completion from “unsuccessful” completion.
- Incentives and rewards: Agencies/programs would benefit from adopting a set process of incentives/rewards to encourage client participation and motivation. Positive progress should be continually identified and discussed with the offender. It is strongly encouraged that agencies/programs identify a variety of rewards (e.g., tokens, tangible items, reinforcing activities, and/or social rewards) to incorporate into their program. Examples include praise, indirect praise, earning privileges, awards, certificates of completion, points/tokens, food, clothes, gift certifications, reduction in supervision level/time, reduced drug tests, etc. Rewards should outweigh punishers by a ratio of at least 4:1. Staff should be trained on the use of rewards so that the procedure by which juveniles are reinforced is immediate, seen as valuable for shaping behavior, consistently applied, and individualized.
- Risk prevention plans: Agencies/programs should routinely work with offenders to develop and rehearse risk prevention plans. Plans should be individualized to the client and should include strategies and scripts for responding to risky situations, people, and places.
- Quality control and measuring performance: Agencies/programs should ensure that there are quality control elements defined, collected, and measured on a regular basis. The agency should identify key performance measures (i.e., reduction of risk scores,

reduction of criminogenic needs, gains in employment/school attendance and performance, reduced substance use, etc.). Additionally, the agency/program should report data to staff and community service providers. Finally, the agency/program should have a management audit system in place to monitor their performance in meeting their mission and goals.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study set out to replicate the 2005 study with several improvements over the original methodology. First, and foremost, this study used the results of a validated state-wide risk assessment to allow for cross county/system comparisons of youth. Second, the data allowed for the study to separate out the number of placements a youth had and the number of youths served through RECLAIM funding. Third, the inclusion of the OYAS/DYS Subsidy Grant database provided the ability to examine, at least rudimentarily, dosage measures.

As for those youth served across the system, several trends were identified by comparing the current sample (FY2011) to the sample examined in the 2005 report (FY2002 sample). First, it appears from the FY2011 data that more youth of color are being served in the community through RECLAIM programming (compared to FY2002); however, it appears that youth of color continue to be overrepresented in CCFs and DYS facilities (which is similar to the findings in the 2005 report). More specifically, RECLAIM programming in the community does not appear to have had a significant impact on the deeper penetration of youth of color in Ohio's CCF and DYS institutions. CCF and DYS institutions continued to experience a higher concentration of youth of color during FY2011, despite RECLAIM programs serving a greater proportion of youth of color during the same time period. Second, the average age at release for both the current sample and the FY2002 sample were very similar.

Third, similar to the original study, the results provided significant support for the risk principle—suggesting that low and moderate risk youth are best served in community

placements. In fact, low risk youth who were placed in a CCF were 3 times more likely to recidivate, while those who were committed to DYS were 3.5 times more likely to reoffend. For moderate risk youth, the same trend was observed. Those youth who were placed in a CCF were 3 times more likely to recidivate and those placed in DYS were 3.1 times more likely to recidivate. As for high risk youth, RECLAIM youth were adjudicated on a felony at a slightly lower rate, but those RECLAIM youth who were served in the community were placed in DYS or DRC at significantly lower rates than youth who were released from a CCF or DYS facility.¹⁴

Based on these findings, it should be noted that a majority of RECLAIM funded programs for low risk youth demonstrated higher recidivism rates than the state-wide average. Specifically, more intensive programs like day treatment, substance abuse treatment, mentors, and residential services were found to have significantly higher recidivism rates than diversion and prevention-based programs. For high risk youth, most of the programs fell within a similar range.

Limitations of Current Research

Several limitations of this study must be considered when interpreting the results and ultimately implementing the findings. First, the study included both RECLAIM and Targeted RECLAIM youth, as we were unable to separate the two groups for analyses. Second, there was no comparison group available for this study. While this study was able to isolate youths who went to each program, it was not possible to determine which youth received services that were not RECLAIM funded. In order to conduct an experimental or quasi-experimental design, it would be necessary to know what non-funded RECLAIM services were provided to youth.

¹⁴ Note, youth with felony offenses were examined for this study. As such, any youth who participated in a RECLAIM program and also committed a new felony offense could potentially end up in a CCF or DYS/DRC facility. In this sense, it is easier to get revoked back to a CCF or DYS facility, but not a DRC facility.

Third, this study used felony offenses and re-incarceration as its measure of recidivism. While it would be ideal to have captured any criminal behavior, including misdemeanors, the protection of arrest records for youth created significant barriers to getting the required data. Fourth, the time period was relatively short (less than 2 years). While it is desired to have a longer follow-up period, the availability of reliable OYAS data made it necessary to select a sample from 2011 which in turn shortened the follow-up period. Fifth, this study did not explore the decisions made to place a youth in RECLAIM versus a CCF or DYS facility and is unable to determine why youth were placed in such settings. Finally, we were unable to break out specific programs or agencies from each of the RECLAIM program types to examine recidivism rates for these individual entities. As such, some agencies might be more or less effective than others. For example, while residential or “youth intervention group” program types did not do well in reducing recidivism for high risk youth overall, there may in fact be specific programs that fall within these program categories that are effective and did reduce recidivism.

Implications for Policy and Research

This study, being a replication of the 2005 study, has once again found strong support for the risk principle. It is highly recommended that the legislature, court teams, probation agencies, and community providers continue to adopt decision-making practices that are based on a validated measure of the risk and needs of the youth being served. In addition to the risk principle, this study begins to unpack several other key items.

First, in concert with advancements in the field regarding amount of treatment necessary to change behavior, this study found support that the length and density of a program is important in determining its effects. For example, higher risk youth appeared to respond better to a higher “dose” of treatment but receiving that dose across multiple programs was

problematic. For lower risk youth, the higher “dose” they received, the greater likelihood of recidivating. It may be important to unpack the effects of dosage, duration, and density across community and residential services.

Second, experimental or quasi-experimental studies should be conducted focusing on several RECLAIM funded programs. One of the benefits of conducting a state-wide evaluation is the ability to examine the effects of RECLAIM funded programming across a range of settings; however, one of the limitations is the ability to explore specific types of treatment and their effectiveness. It is recommended that future research begin to explore this through the use of a comparison group study.

Third, the state has adopted the OYAS and has asked that counties use the assessment to guide decisions. This study provides additional support for the state to continue supporting the use and in some instances tying the use of the OYAS to funding.

Fourth, a study should be conducted in which the OYAS is revalidated using field-assessed youth. The original validation study was conducted with UC researchers who were highly trained and supervised. It would be highly beneficial to conduct a revalidation study using data collected from juvenile justice staff.

Finally, Ohio has made significant changes over the past 5 years. It is clear in the data that the number of youth receiving deeper end placements has significantly decreased. It may be beneficial to explore the impact of these changes on the youth in Ohio and to fully understand how the changes have affected Ohio’s juvenile justice footprint.

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