

JUVENILE RECIDIVISM ANALYSIS – OVERVIEW

Background

This document provides an overview of the proposed juvenile recidivism analysis for Sonoma County, to be completed in the summer/fall of 2022. The purpose of this document is to present the anticipated approach and methodology for review and input from the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council members.

Analysis Questions

- 1) What is the rate of recidivism for youth on supervision, per the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) Unified Recidivism measure?
- 2) How do recidivism outcomes vary across different groups (race/ethnicity, gender, supervision type)?
- 3) For youth who recidivate, what is the amount of time between the end of supervision and the recidivating event, and how does that vary by risk level?

To answer the above questions, two different analyses will be completed:

I. Recidivism Analysis [CPOC Definition]:

- **Defining Recidivism:** The analysis will leverage the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) Unified Recidivism measure for juvenile adopted by the 58 counties in California: *Of those terminated or closed from a juvenile grant of probation in a given time period, provide a count of how many had new true findings / law convictions during their time under supervision.*
 - % of youth who ended supervision between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2022 and had a **new adjudication** during their time on supervision.
 - % of youth who ended supervision between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2022 and had a **new case/referral** during their time on supervision.¹
- **Population:** This analysis will include youth on Wardship, DEOJ, Formal Probation or 654.2(a) who ended supervision between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2022.
- Only recidivating events that occur in the community will be included, and new recidivating events that occur in the adult system will be included as well.
- **Recidivism rates can be stratified** by groups including:
 - Racial/ethnic groups

¹ While new cases/referrals are not part of the official CPOC definition for recidivism, we are including this in order to consider additional cases, such as those diverted.

- Gender (M/F)
- Supervision type
- Risk level
- Age/age category (age at termination)
- Other?
- **Limitations exist in the collection and reporting of demographic data**, particularly with respect to race/ethnicity and gender.

II. Survival Analysis:

- **Analysis technique:** This technique examines the amount of time it takes for a given outcome to occur. In this case, the analysis examines the amount of time until a youth recidivates in the community. If a person never recidivates, they are considered to have “survived” the entire timeframe under analysis. Based in public health research (hence the “survival” terminology), this is a useful approach for comparing outcomes across groups where different individuals have had different periods of time during which an outcome could occur.
- **Two types of recidivating events will be included** in the survival analysis: (1) New cases/referrals, and (2) New adjudications.
 - New recidivating events that occur in the adult system will be included as well.
 - Only recidivating events in the community will be included.
- **Population:** For this analysis, youth who ended supervision (Wardship, DEOJ, Formal Probation, 654.2(a)) between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2019 will be included.
- **Observation period:**
 - The survival analysis will include both a 1 and 2 year observation period for youth who ended supervision between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2019.
 - Time spent in custody (either in Juvenile Hall or MADF) will be excluded from the follow up period. This is the concept of a “community year”. For example, if someone was on Formal Probation and spent 10 days in custody for a violation, when determining whether or not the person recidivated within 1 year from the start of the observation period, we will determine whether there was a recidivating event within 375 days from the end of supervision, not 365.
- **We will compare “survival” rates across assessed risk level.** This will enable us to see whether the assessment tool is working as expected (i.e., lower risk youth are recidivating less often than higher risk youth.)

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o **Sample output:**

