DJJ Recidivism Rates and Calculation Method

Included in the Department of Corrections' (SCDC) May 24, 2019 letter to the House Legislative Oversight Committee (LOC). This information was provided in response to the following question in LOC's May 16, 2019 letter to the Department of Corrections, "54. Please explain the differences, if any, in how SCDC tracks recidivism and how DJJ tracks recidivism."

In addition to providing the information in this document, SCDC provided the following response:
- SCDC's definition for recidivism corresponds with Association of State Correctional Administrators Performance Based Measure System. SCDC calculates the recidivism for a release group based on the number of inmates who return to SCDC within three years of release for violations of their conditions of release or for new offenses that occur after their release.
- Per the attached document from their web site, DJJ calculates recidivism rates for release groups based on new offense adjudications within one year of release.

DJJ Recidivism Rates

FY 2013/2014 through FY 2015/2016 (Latest Year)

SCDJJ defines its Annual Recidivism Rate as: *Youth who are adjudicated for a new offense within one year of completing Arbitration, Probation, or Commitment.*

To calculate these values, youth records are queried in a given Fiscal Year (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015, for example) that contain:
(1) Case Closure from showing successful completion of Arbitration, or
(2) Probation Requirement Ended, or
(3) Determinate Sentence Complete*, or
(4) Conditional Release Granted*, or
(5) Unconditional Release Granted*

Once members of each group are identified, youth records are queried to see if the identified youth have an adjudication for a new offense within one year of the arbitration, probation, or commitment completion date.

	Recidivism Rates		
	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16
Arbitration	4.8%	5.6%	5.4%
Probation	15.8%	15.0%	15.4%
Commitment	16.6%	16.8%	16.0%

*These dispositions represent a Commitment status.