

PROGRAMMING THAT REDUCES RECIDIVISM

The Positive Impact of Reentry Service Centers in Illinois



FACILITY	POPULATION	CUSTOMER
Illinois Reentry Service Centers (RSC): Chatham RSC, Chicago Heights RSC, Decatur RSC, East St. Louis RSC, Rockford RSC, West Fulton RSC	State Parolees	Illinois Department of Corrections

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GEO Reentry Services provides comprehensive treatment programs tailored to meet individual participant’s risks and needs. At the foundation of GEO Reentry’s treatment is evidence-based programming designed to address criminogenic needs as identified through the assessment process. The reentry service center model includes the following: Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT), substance abuse treatment, Moral Reconation Therapy® (MRT), anger management skills, and employment readiness. Programming is delivered through group and individual sessions.

WHY IS A REDUCTION IN RECIDIVISM IMPORTANT?

Across the country, states have recognized that the most cost-effective way to enhance public safety is to break the cycle of reincarceration for the thousands of individuals returning home from prisons every year. Nearly every state tracks recidivism rates, sets reduction targets, and implements policies that have been shown to reduce re-offense rates and supervision violations. The benefits of these efforts are clear – communities are safer; the growth in prison populations and related costs are lower; and limited corrections funding can be redirected into efforts that promote long-term public safety. In addition, by providing evidence-based programming to individuals on parole they learn how to change their criminal thinking and behaviors and develop the skills needed to successfully transition to the community as a productive citizen.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Working closely with IDOC, GEO Reentry’s Research Department analyzed parolee data for individuals discharged during 2013 and followed through 2016 to determine the potential impact that programming has on recidivism reduction.^{1*} The study examined two groups: individuals who successfully completed programming over an average length of 170 days at one of the six RSCs and individuals who were managed through traditional parole supervision and did not complete programming at a RSC. The control group was selected based on demographic similarities to the RSC participants, as well as risk level and supervision start date.

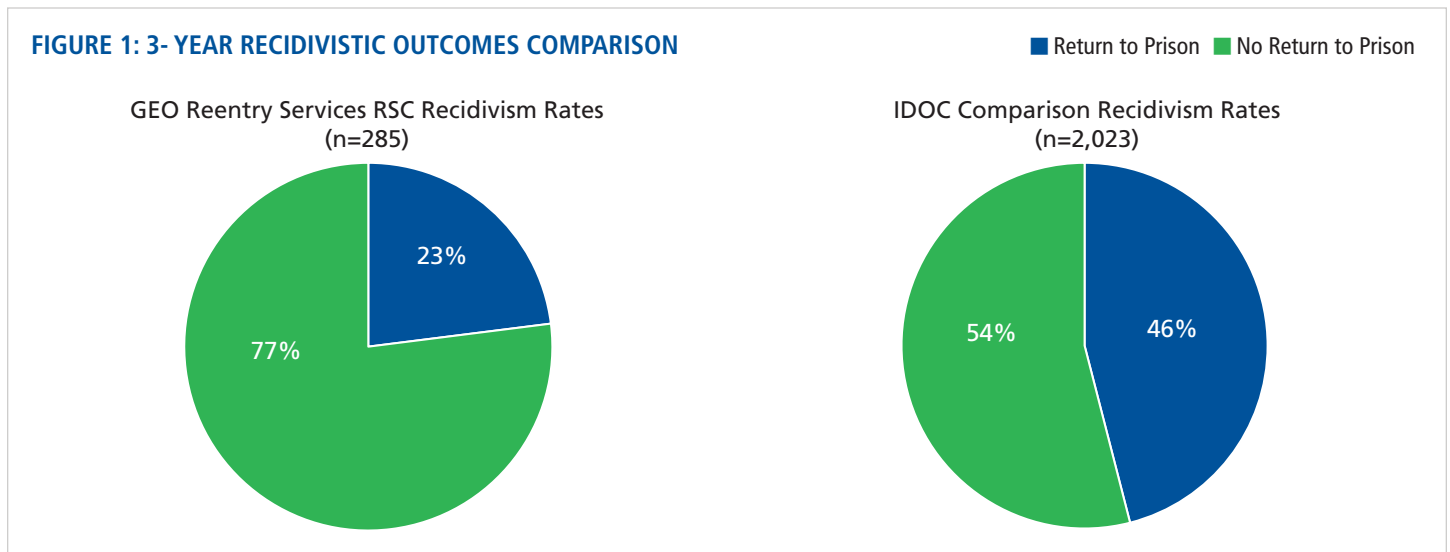


FIGURE 1 illustrates the return rates for new crimes and technical violations was 50% lower for RSC participants compared to IDOC control group.

¹ Fretz, R., Thurston, J., Burch, D. (2019). Day Reporting Centers as a Recidivism Reduction Alternative to Incarceration or Reincarceration. *Journal of Community Corrections*, 28 (4), 11-15.

* The IDOC defines a recidivism event as “a return to prison during that timeframe for either a new offense or a technical violation of parole.”

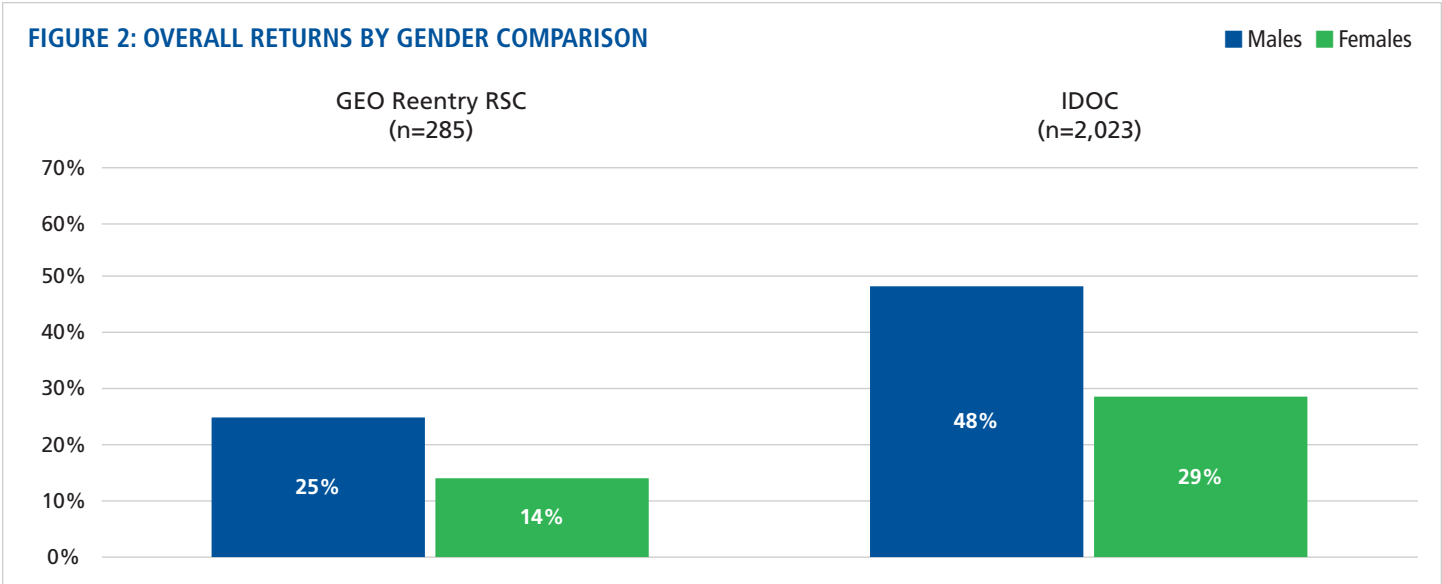


FIGURE 2 breaks down the recidivism rates by gender and revealed that both male and female RSC participants experienced significantly lower levels of recidivism than the control group.

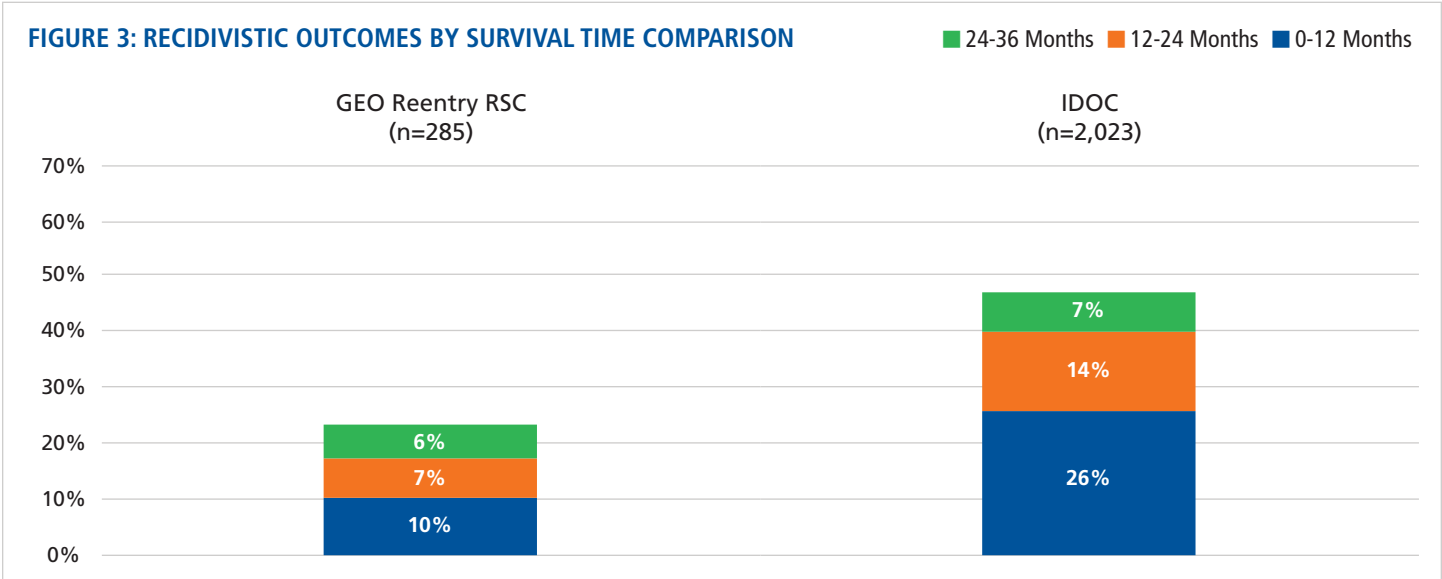


FIGURE 3 shows the 12-, 14-, and 36-month return-to-custody rates which indicated the highest recidivism for both groups took place in the first year. The study found that the control group had a higher recidivism percentage during the first year than the RSC group for all three years.

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