

# Programming Reduces Recidivism

**FACILITY:** Kern County DRC

**POPULATION:** Felony Probationers, Community Supervision, County Parolees

**CUSTOMER:** Kern County Probation

## PROGRAM SUMMARY:

GEO Reentry Services provides comprehensive treatment programs in a non-residential setting 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 non-residential reentry model includes the following: Cognitive

Behavioral Treatment (CBT), substance abuse treatment, life skills training, anger management skills, and family relationship reconciliation. Programming is delivered through group and individual sessions.

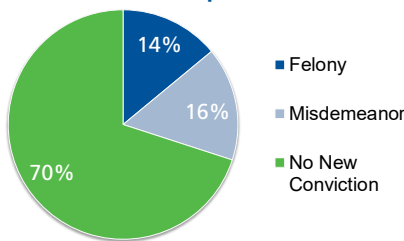
## WHY IS A REDUCTION IN RECIDIVISM IMPORTANT?

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 while incarcerated they learn how to change their criminal thinking and behaviors and develop the skills needed to successfully transition and return to the community as a productive citizen.

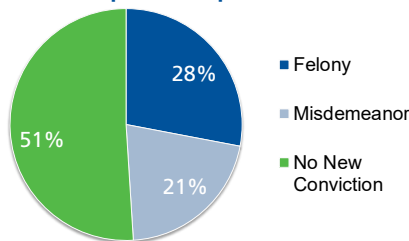
## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

According to a report conducted by the County Probation’s Research, Analysis and Data Unit in November 2013, the Kern County DRC is producing positive results in reducing recidivism. The study examined three groups: program graduates, participants who remained in the program for at least 90 days, and a control group of probationers who did not receive treatment. The control group was selected based on their demographic similarities to the DRC participants, as well as risk level and supervision start date. Researchers studied data over two years. Here is what they found:

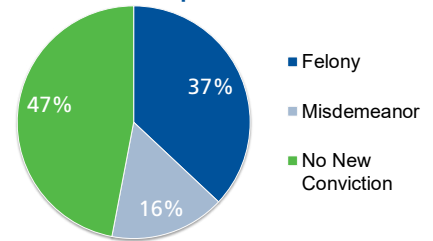
**DRC Graduate Group Recidivism Rates**



**DRC Participant Group Recidivism Rates**



**Control Group Recidivism Rates**



- There was a significant reduction in recidivism for probationers who participated in DRC programming. In fact, 70% of graduates did not recidivate, compared to 51% of participants, and 47% of offenders in the control group.
- Among DRC participants and graduates, there was a reduction in the severity of recidivism as well. The study found the felony rate for the graduate group was only 14% versus 28% for participants and 37% for the control group. In short, DRC graduates are nearly three times less likely to commit a felony than those that do not go through the program.