Federal Post-Conviction Supervision Outcomes: Rearrests and Revocations

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THE MISSION OF the federal probation and pretrial services system is twofold: (1) protect the community and (2) assist in the fair administration of justice. To protect the community, post-conviction supervision aims to reduce the risk of persons under supervision committing new crimes and to maximize the success of persons under supervision both during and after a period of supervision.[1] Because long-term protection of the community entails individuals' continued desistance from crime beyond the completion of a supervision term, developing long-term behavior change is a key component of effective community supervision.[2]

In 2004, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO), Probation and Pretrial Services Office (PPSO), undertook a strategic effort to become a results-based system. Since then, we have developed a framework that allows apples-to-apples comparisons of observed outcomes over time and across the 94 federal probation and pretrial services districts. This framework allows us to pursue the

system's stated commitment to measure indicators that speak directly and precisely to its goals and to communicate the results. In addition, PPSO provides annual reports to chief and deputy chief probation officers of arrest and revocation rates, and those statistics are placed in the context of national and circuit statistics.

Data presented in this article are based on federal community supervision terms that commenced between October 1, 2011, and September 30, 2022, and outcomes were observed through September 30, 2022.[3] A term of supervision refers to a *continuous period* in which an individual is actively supervised[4] in the federal probation and pretrial services system. Data were assembled from PPSO's internal case management database system (Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System or PACTS)

and other extant data sources (e.g., BOP, FBI criminal history, ATLAS, and OPERA). The study cohort comprises 527,081 individuals serving either a term of probation or a term of supervised release (TSR)[5] and excludes those who were deported, those whose supervision terms began and ended on the same day, those with pending charges, and those otherwise unavailable for supervision. This article examines criminal recidivism of persons under supervision for terms up to 60 months, as well as up to three years for individuals who have completed a term of supervision.

Defining Criminal Recidivism

Criminal recidivism is defined as the *first* arrest for a *serious* criminal offense during supervision and post-supervision. Although individuals may have had multiple arrests during the study time period, only the first arrest was counted as a recidivism event. In addition, individuals may have had multiple arrests on the same day; in that case, the most serious charge was selected, using the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) codes. The NCIC codes are in order of seriousness, and this ordering was used to

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[1] *Guide to Judiciary Policy*, Volume 8, Part E, The Supervision of Federal Individuals (Monograph 109).

[2] Baber, Laura. "Results-based Framework for Post-Conviction Supervision Recidivism Analysis." *Federal Probation* 74(3), 5-10, December 2010. Washington, DC: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

[3] Arrest data were acquired through ATLAS (Access to Law Enforcement Systems) a web-based application used by the probation and pretrial services system to access criminal history information for individuals under supervision. Criminal history records were run through ATLAS from November 18, 2022, through December 22, 2022.

[4] When an individual is physically or legally unavailable for supervision, the case is categorized as inactive in PACTS. An inactive status can also apply to concurrent terms of supervision when a primary active supervision already exists.

[5] There are other types of supervision cases (e.g., parole, military parole), but these cases represent a small percentage of supervision cases and were therefore excluded from the analysis.

select the most serious offense when there were multiple arrests on the same day.

All crimes are considered serious for the probation and pretrial services system, especially those that are committed by persons under community supervision. Nevertheless, the criminal justice system typically classifies a crime as either a felony or misdemeanor based on the level of seriousness. When it comes to identifying the level of seriousness for a crime, states tend to vary in how they report arrests for relatively minor offenses. Such variation has the potential to bias state-by-state comparisons of rearrest rates. Moreover, including these minor offenses in recidivism statistics can inflate arrest rates. Given the variation across states in reporting arrests for minor crimes and the impact of these arrests on arrest rates, only non-minor offenses were counted as recidivistic events. The following offenses were classified as less serious and thus are excluded from the analysis: traffic violations, obstruction of justice, liquor law violations, offenses against public peace, invasion of privacy, and prostitution. Exclusion of minor offenses does not materially understate arrest rates.

Measuring Criminal Recidivism

Three measures of criminal recidivism are examined in this article: overall rearrests, rearrests during supervision, and rearrests post-supervision. Results are presented by PCRA (Post-Conviction Risk Assessment) risk level for each measure.

Overall rearrest rates are measured by the first rearrest for a non-minor criminal offense within five years of starting a term of supervision. This first rearrest could have occurred either during or after supervision. To be included in the analysis, individuals had to have started supervision five years before September 30, 2022.[6] A total of 242,825 individuals met this criterion. The distribution of time until rearrest is reported across the following observation periods: 3, 6, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, and 60 months. The sample for these analyses is individuals who were rearrested within five years of starting supervision (N=64,597).

During supervision, rearrest rates are measured by the first rearrest for a non-minor criminal offense during the first three years of a federal term of supervision. Rearrest rates are provided for individuals within 3 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 36 months, 48 months, and 60 months of

commencing a term of supervision. To be included in the tabulations for each observational period, individuals had to be sentenced to a supervision term for at least that observation period before September 30, 2022. For example, 12-month rearrest rates include 436,994 individuals who were sentenced to at least 12 months of supervision before September 30, 2022, but may have been on supervision for less than 12 months due to an arrest or revocation (see Table 1).[7] Similarly, to be included in the 24-months rates, individuals had to be sentenced to at least 24 months of supervision before September 30, 2022, and so on. Arrests are cumulative over each observation period, so if Person A was sentenced to 12 months of federal supervision and was arrested after six months, Person A's arrest would be included in the 3-month, 6-month, and 12-month arrest statistics. In comparison, if Person B was sentenced to three months of supervision and was arrested after one month, then Person B's arrest would be included in

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[7] Individuals' supervision terms ended for a number of reasons other than a rearrest, including successful completion of their supervision term, a technical revocation of their supervision, death, transfer to another district, or some other reason.

the 3-month arrest statistics but not in the 6-month arrest statistics.

Post-supervision rearrest rates are measured by the first rearrest for a non-minor criminal offense within three years after successful completion of a supervision term. The distribution of time until rearrest is provided across the following observation periods: within 3 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, and 36 months. In order for individuals to be included in the tabulations for each of these observation periods, they had to be released from supervision for at least that observation period before September 30, 2022. For example, the 12-month rearrest rate includes 222,708 individuals who could be observed for 12 months post-supervision release: in other words, those who successfully completed supervision before September 30, 2021 (see Table 2). Arrests are cumulative over each observation period.

Defining Revocations

Individuals may be revoked during their supervision for new criminal activity or for a technical violation of the conditions of supervision. Revocation rates are examined using

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TABLE 1.
Individuals Included in Analysis of Rearrests During Supervision

| Time to Rearrest | All* | PCRA Risk-Level | | | |
		Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
Within 3 mos.	475,528	138,230	169,153	113,487	45,467
6 mos.	471,051	136,758	167,905	112,533	44,990
12 mos.	436,994	122,482	158,043	106,755	42,214
18 mos.	372,840	103,724	137,018	90,895	35,606
24 mos.	349,730	95,913	128,898	86,179	33,560
36 mos.	235,287	63,881	89,764	57,796	21,160

* Includes cases with a missing PCRA score.

TABLE 2.
Individuals in Analysis of Rearrests Post-Supervision

| Time to Rearrest | All* | PCRA Risk-Level | | | |
		Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
Within 3 mos.	243,931	103,586	92,071	38,216	8,226
6 mos.	236,994	101,149	89,319	36,808	7,944
12 mos.	222,708	96,043	83,660	34,034	7,302
18 mos.	208,529	91,060	77,952	31,265	6,723
24 mos.	193,290	85,508	71,868	28,365	6,134
36 mos.	162,290	73,147	59,748	23,242	5,059

* Includes cases with a missing PCRA score.

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[6] September 30 marks the end of the federal fiscal year, which begins on October 1.

the following three measures:
- **Overall revocation rate:** revocations for both new criminal activity and technical violations.
- **Revocation for new crimes:** revocations for any new criminal offense, regardless of seriousness.
- **Revocation for technical violations:** revocations for failure to comply with conditions of supervision mandated by the courts. These violations are not criminal offenses in and of themselves (e.g., failure to complete substance use treatment) and therefore do not result in a new arrest.

Similar to tabulations on rearrests during supervision, revocation rates are provided for individuals for the following observation periods: within 3 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, and 36 months. In order for individuals to be included in the tabulations for each of these observation periods, they had to be sentenced to supervision for at least that length of time before the last date they were observed in the data while on supervision (i.e., September 30, 2022).[8] For example, 12-month revocation rates include 437,163 individuals who would have completed at least 12 months of supervision before the last date they were observed in the data according to their supervision sentences imposed by the courts, although they may have been on supervision for less than 12 months because of a new arrest or revocation. Revocations are cumulative over each observation period; therefore, the within-12-month rate includes individuals who were revoked during the "within 3 months" and "within 6 months" observaion periods.

Defining Failure for Any Reason

Because a rearrest and a revocation can overlap during a term of supervision, measures in Tables 1 and 3 are not additive and cannot be summed together as is. Therefore, these events are combined into a single measure that describes a separate supervision outcome (Table 4):
- **Supervision failure for any reason:** the first rearrest or revocation that occurs within the first three years of starting a federal supervision term, regardless of whether both events eventually occur, i.e., where a rearrest leads to a revocation, whichever is observed first. Both events may occur during a supervision

term, i.e., a rearrest may lead to a revocation for a new crime, but it is the first event that is counted as a supervision failure. Any rearrest, regardless of seriousness, constitutes a failure.

As with the rearrest measures, rates for time until supervision failure for any reason are provided over various observation periods: within 3 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, and 36 months.

Unadjusted and Adjusted Rates

Individuals under supervision are clustered in 94 federal districts, each of which has its own rearrest, revocation, and supervision failure rates. Simple tabulations of these rates may vary for each district for many reasons, including compositional differences of the population of individuals being supervised (such as differences in age or risk level) as well as structural differences in supervision (such as treatment programs or policies). This article includes both "unadjusted" and "adjusted" rearrest and revocation rates. The rearrest and revocation rates reported thus far are

unadjusted and refer to the rates of observed events (i.e., rearrest or revocation) that occur within a specified time period.

Unadjusted rates are appropriate for describing overall patterns of change over time. However, policymakers often seek to understand how outcomes change due to policy and practice, holding constant the influence of external factors that the district cannot necessarily control. For example, the proportion of individuals in the supervised population who are categorized as high risk according to the PCRA varies across districts. Because these individuals, when all things are equal, have a higher likelihood of being rearrested, rearrest rates should vary accordingly across districts. Even if supervision practices help to improve outcomes, such differences in the composition of individuals under supervision from district to district may give the appearance of worse outcomes.

Adjusted rates account for differences in the composition of individuals being supervised across districts. Specifically, the adjusted rate accounts for the following fixed factors:

TABLE 3.
Individuals in Analysis of Revocations[1]

| Time to Revocation | All* | PCRA Risk-level | | | |
		Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
Within 3 mos.	475,561	138,237	169,157	113,491	45,474
6 mos.	471,146	136,778	167,921	112,555	45,010
12 mos.	437,163	122,498	158,088	106,816	42,247
18 mos.	373,105	103,750	137,104	90,992	35,650
24 mos.	350,189	95,967	129,072	86,329	33,626
36 mos.	236,086	63,994	90,134	58,023	21,231

* Includes cases with a missing PCRA score.

[1] The numbers presented in Table 3 are slightly different from the number of individuals included in the rearrest tabulations and reflect slight differences in the selection rules for including individuals in each of the respective analyses. The selection rules are documented in our memo to PPSO on September 6, 2012, titled "Illustration of CDAM Arrest Rate Calculation."

TABLE 4.
Individuals in Analysis of Supervision Failure for Any Reason

| Time to Failure | All* | PCRA Risk-level | | | |
		Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
Within 3 mos.	475,561	138,237	169,157	113,491	45,474
6 mos.	471,146	136,778	167,921	112,555	45,010
12 mos.	437,163	122,498	158,088	106,816	42,247
18 mos.	373,105	103,750	137,104	90,992	35,650
24 mos.	350,189	95,967	129,072	86,329	33,626
36 mos.	236,086	63,994	90,134	58,023	21,231

* Includes cases with a missing PCRA score.

[8] For each of these observation periods, the length of time individuals had to recidivate during the period varied, ranging from one day to the full observation period.

age, sex, race/ethnicity, risk level, and offense mix. The statistical model that generates adjusted rates also includes random effects at the district level, which capture any other variation in outcomes that is constant within district and not due to the fixed factors. Estimates of those random effects provide insight into variation in outcomes between districts that is not due to the fixed factors.[9]

Outcomes

The majority of individuals in the analysis were white (58 percent) and male (83 percent) and had not completed high school (35 percent). On average, individuals were 40.1 years of age at the start of supervision, with ages ranging from less than 21 (1.3 percent)

[9] This approach to estimating adjusted rates was modified from prior years in FY 2021. Therefore, adjusted rates for FY 2021 are not comparable to adjusted rates from prior fiscal years.

to 60 years and older (7 percent). Most individuals were on supervision for drug (41 percent), firearms (17 percent), and white collar (12 percent) offenses. Roughly 87 percent of individuals in the analysis were sentenced to TSR, while the remaining 14 percent were sentenced to probation.

Overall Rearrest Rates

Figure 1 shows that of the 242,825 individuals who could be observed for at least five years, nearly 27 percent were rearrested within five years of the start of their supervision term. Individuals classified as high risk by PCRA had a rearrest rate more than five times greater than individuals in the low-risk category (61 percent versus 11 percent, respectively).

The most common rearrests were for drug offenses (32 percent) and assault (25 percent). The median age at rearrest was 37.1 years old. The trend in overall rearrest rates has declined

over time. As the Appendix shows, the overall rearrest rate declined by 6 percentage points from fiscal year 2012 (30.5 percent) to fiscal year 2016 (24.4 percent) before experiencing a slight increase of 0.5 percentage point in fiscal year 2017 (24.9 percent).

Overall Time to Rearrest

Among individuals who were rearrested within five years of starting a supervision term, the median time until rearrest was 24.2 months. Overall, 28 percent of all invidivals were rearrested during the first 12 months of their supervision term; nearly 22 percent were rearrested between 13 and 24 months; almost 19 percent were rearrested between 25 and 36 months after starting their supervision term; and roughly 32 percent were rearrested between 37 and 60 months after starting their supervision term (Table 5).
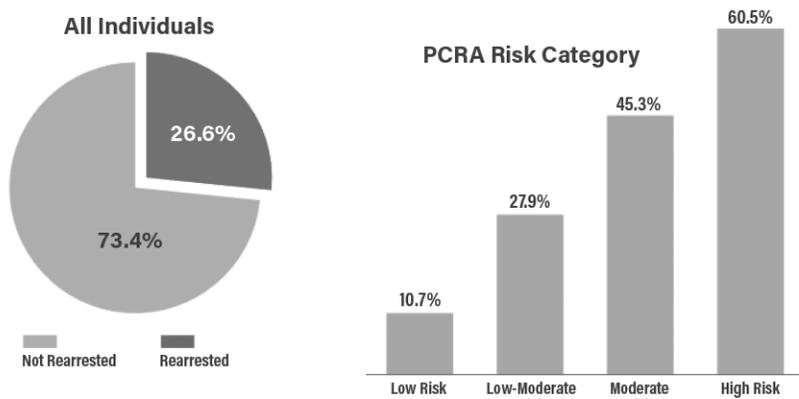
The distribution of time to rearrest is generally consistent across PCRA risk categories, but with some notable variation. Between 3 and 24 months, the proportion of individuals who were rearrested generally increased as the PCRA risk category increased. It is notable that within the first three months, the difference between the high- and low-risk categories was roughly one percentage point (11 percent vs. 10 percent, respectively). As expected, the high-risk PCRA category had the highest proportion of individuals rearrested within 24 months (23 percent) of starting supervision. However, the general trend reverses for those arrested between 25 and 60 months, as rearrest rates for the low PCRA risk category are greater than they are for the high PCRA risk category at the three-year (18 percent vs. 17 percent), four-year (19 percent vs. 13 percent), and five-year marks (17 percent vs. 10 percent) respectively (see Table 5).

Rearrest Rate by Time on Supervision

The rate of rearrest varied by the length of time that had elapsed since the start of an individual's supervision term. In general, the rate was highest within the first year of starting a supervision term and then decreased in subsequent years. Among all individuals rearrested within five years of starting a term of supervision (n=64,597), a little more than 7 percent were rearrested within the first year, 6 percent in Year 2, 5 percent in Year 3, nearly 5 percent in Year 4, and 4 percent in the fifth year (Table 6). This pattern of rearrest rates declining over time is consistent across PCRA risk categories; however, it is more pronounced for individuals in the high-risk PCRA category. Within

TABLE 5.
Overall Rearrests by Time Until Rearrest and PCRA Risk-Level

		PCRA Risk-level			
Time to Rearrest	All*	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
Within 5 years**	26.6%	10.7%	27.9%	45.3%	60.5%
Within 3 mos.	8.8%	10.2%	7.2%	8.1%	11.1%
3-6 mos.	6.8%	5.6%	5.5%	7.4%	10.0%
6-12 mos.	12.4%	10.4%	11.2%	13.6%	15.5%
12-18 mos.	11.4%	10.3%	11.2%	11.6%	12.4%
18-24 mos.	10.3%	9.6%	10.4%	10.4%	10.8%
24-36 mos.	18.6%	18.0%	19.3%	19.1%	17.0%
36-48 mos.	17.5%	18.9%	19.0%	17.0%	13.3%
48-60 mos.	14.2%	16.9%	16.1%	12.7%	9.9%

* Includes cases with a missing PCRA score.
** Rearrest rates are not cumulative.

FIGURE 1.
Overall Rearrest Rate Within Five Years by PCRA Risk Category

the first year, 22 percent of individuals in the high-risk PCRA category were rearrested, followed by 14 percent in Year 2, 10 percent in Year 3, 8 percent in Year 4, and 6 percent in the fifth year. Table 6 also shows that cumulatively, by Year 3 (the average supervision term), individuals in the high-risk PCRA category have recidivism rates of nearly 47 percent, whereas individuals in the low-risk PCRA category have rates of 7 percent.

Rearrest Rates During Supervision

Among individuals who started probation or a term of supervised release between October 1, 2011, and September 30, 2019, roughly one in five (21 percent) were rearrested within three years of starting their term of supervision (Table 7). The median age at rearrest during supervision was 36.1. As shown in Table 6, overall, 3 percent of individuals were rearrested for a serious offense within three months of starting supervision, 6 percent were rearrested for a serious offense within the first six months; 10 percent were rearrested within 12 months; 13 percent were rearrested within 18 months; 16 percent were rearrested within 24 months; and 21 percent were rearrested within 36 months. At each time point, individuals within higher PCRA risk categories had higher rearrest rates than individuals in the lower risk categories (Table 7). For individuals in the high PCRA risk category, rearrest rates ranged from 7 percent within 3 months to 39 percent within 36 months; for individuals in the low PCRA risk category, rearrest rates ranged from 1 percent within three months to 7 percent within 36 months.

Table 8 (next page) shows that most rearrests during supervision were for drug, violent, and property offenses. For example, of the 3 percent of individuals arrested within three months of beginning their supervision terms (see Table 7), nearly 25 percent were rearrested for a drug offense, 23 percent were rearrested for a violent crime, and approximately 23 percent were rearrested for a property offense. The relative proportion of drug offenses increased with a longer observation period (e.g., from 25 percent for individuals rearrested for a drug offense within 3 months to 31 percent for individuals rearrested for a drug offense within 36 months), as did the relative proportion of violent offenses (from 23 percent for individuals rearrested for a violent offense within 3 months to 28 percent for individuals rearrested for a violent offense

within 36 months). Conversely, the relative proportion of immigration and other offenses declined with a longer observation period (for immigration, from 8 percent for individuals rearrested within 3 months to 4 percent for individuals rearrested within 36 months; and for other offenses, from 14 percent for individuals rearrested within 3 months to 9 percent for individuals rearrested within 36 months). The relative proportion of property offenses (roughly 22 percent), firearms offenses (roughly 5 percent), and escape/ obstruction offenses (roughly 3 percent) was constant across observation periods.

During Supervision Rearrest Rates Over Time

The trend in rearrest rates during supervision was relatively constant until fiscal year 2016 but has been increasing since (Appendix). The three-year rearrest rate remained steady around 20 percent between fiscal years 2012 and 2016 and then increased steadily to 23.2 percent by fiscal year 2019.

Post-Supervision Rearrest Rates

Roughly one in eight individuals (13 percent) were rearrested within three years after successfully completing a term of supervision (Table 9, next page). The median age at rearrest post-supervision was 38.7. Among all individuals arrested within three years of successfully completing their term of supervision, 5 percent were rearrested within the first 12 months, 9 percent were rearrested within 24 months, and 13 percent were rearrested within 36 months Table 9). As was the case with rearrest during supervision, individuals in the higher PCRA risk categories had higher rearrest rates postsupervision in each observation period.

Most post-supervision rearrests were for drug, violent, and property offenses (Table 10). As shown in Table 10, of the more than 1 percent of individuals who were rearrested within three months of completing their term of supervision (see Table 9), 30 percent were rearrested for a drug offense, 29 percent were rearrested for a violent crime, and 24 percent were rearrested for a property offense.

TABLE 6.
Cumulative Rearrest Rates Over Time by PCRA Risk-Level

| Time to Rearrest* | All** | PCRA Risk-level | | | |
		Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
Within 3 mos.	2.3%	1.1%	2.0%	3.7%	6.7%
6 mos.	4.1%	1.7%	3.6%	7.0%	12.8%
12 mos.	7.4%	2.8%	6.7%	13.2%	22.1%
18 mos.	10.5%	3.9%	9.8%	18.5%	29.6%
24 mos.	13.2%	4.9%	12.7%	23.2%	36.2%
36 mos.	18.2%	6.9%	18.1%	31.8%	46.5%
48 mos.	22.8%	8.9%	23.4%	39.5%	54.6%
60 mos.	26.6%	10.7%	27.9%	45.3%	60.5%

* Rearrest statistics include individuals who could potentially be observed for 5 years (i.e., their supervision start date was at least five years prior to September 30, 2022).
** Includes cases with a missing PCRA score.

TABLE 7.
Overall Rearrests by Time Until Rearrest and PCRA Risk-Level

| Time to Rearrest | All* | PCRA Risk-level | | | |
		Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
Within 3 mos.	3.1%	1.1%	2.2%	4.1%	7.3%
6 mos.	5.7%	1.7%	4.2%	8.2%	14.3%
12 mos.	10.0%	2.7%	7.8%	15.0%	23.6%
18 mos.	13.2%	3.8%	11.0%	20.2%	29.0%
24 mos.	16.2%	4.9%	14.1%	24.4%	33.0%
36 mos.	20.9%	7.2%	19.8%	31.0%	38.6%

* Includes cases with a missing PCRA score.

Unlike the rearrest offenses during supervision, the post-supervision rearrest rates for each offense type were consistent across each observation period (Table 10, next page).

Rearrest Rates Post-Supervision Over Time

The trend in post-supervision rearrest rates slightly declined between fiscal years 2012 and 2017 but increased among cases received in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 (Appendix). The three-year post-supervision rearrest rate declined from 14 percent in fiscal year 2012 to more than 11 percent in fiscal year 2017. It then increased to 12 percent by fiscal year 2019.

Overall Revocation Rates

Nearly one quarter of individuals (23 percent) were revoked for either a technical violation or new crime within three years (Table 11, next page). This rate is a slight increase from the overall revocation rate reported in fiscal year 2021 (22.5 percent). The median time to revocation was 15.3 months, and the median age at revocation was 35.2. Within six months, 4 percent of individuals were revoked; within

another six months, the overall revocation rates more than doubled to 9 percent. Annual revocation rates were highest in Years 1 and 2 (9.1 percent and 8.8 percent, respectively). Only an additional 5 percent of individuals were revoked in Year 3 (for a 36-month rate of 23 percent). This pattern was consistent for individuals in all PCRA risk categories and was most pronounced for individuals in the higher risk categories (Table 11, next page).

As shown in Tables 12 and 13 (next page), overall revocation rates for technical violations and new crimes[10] were comparable (11.8 percent and 11.3 percent, respectively). The tables show that, overall, individuals had comparable revocation rates for technical violations and for new crimes for all observation periods and by risk level. The median time to technical violation was 13.2 months, and the median age at technical violation was 35.6. The median time to new crime was 19.2 months, and the median age at new crime was 34.8.

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[10] Revocations for new crimes included arrests for minor and non-minor offenses.

Revocation Rates Over Time

Revocation rates were steady for cases received in fiscal years 2017 through 2019, after a period in which they had been increasing (Appendix). The three-year revocation rate remained steady around 21 percent between fiscal years 2012 and 2014, then began to steadily increase to around 25 percent in fiscal year 2017, and remained constant around 25 percent through fiscal year 2019.

Supervision Failure Rates

As shown in Table 14, one in three individuals (35 percent) failed (i.e., was rearrested or revoked) within three years of starting a term of supervision. This rate is an increase from the supervision failure rate reported in fiscal year 2021 (34 percent). Failure rates are highest within the first 12 months of supervision (17 percent) and decline within each following year (11 percent in 24 months and 7 percent in 36 months for failure rates of 28 percent and 35 percent, respectively). Individuals in the high-risk PCRA category failed at a higher rate than individuals in the lower risk PCRA categories across all observation periods.

As shown in the Appendix, failure rates have increased in recent years. The failure rate was constant at roughly 32 percent from fiscal years 2012 to 2014, at which point it began to increase by an average of 0.9 percentage points each year. By fiscal year 2019 the failure rate was 37.4 percent.

Variation Across Federal Districts

As shown in Figure 2, adjusted overall rearrest rates varied from a minimum of 6.2 percent to a maximum of 45.1 percent. Two districts had adjusted rearrest rates below 10 percent, and three had adjusted rearrest rates above 40 percent. The 25th percentile of adjusted rearrest rates was 24.0 percent and the 75th percentile was 30.8 percent.

As shown in Figure 3, adjusted three-year rearrest rates during supervision varied from a minimum of 4 percent to a maximum of 40 percent. Four districts had adjusted rearrest rates below 10 percent, and another seven had adjusted rearrest rates above 30 percent. The 25th percentile of adjusted rearrest rates was 17 percent, and the 75th percentile was 26 percent.

As shown in Figure 4, adjusted revocation rates varied from a minimum of 7 percent to a maximum of 55 percent. Three districts had adjusted revocation rates below 10 percent, and another seven had adjusted revocation

TABLE 8.
Rearrests During Supervision by Offense and Time Until Rearrest

Offense	Time Until Rearrest					
	Within 3 mos.	6 mos.	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.
Drugs	24.5%	26.9%	28.9%	29.9%	30.4%	31.4%
Violence	23.0%	25.0%	26.5%	27.0%	27.3%	27.9%
Property	22.6%	22.6%	21.8%	21.8%	21.5%	21.0%
Immigration	8.2%	6.3%	5.0%	4.4%	4.1%	3.6%
Firearms	4.8%	5.2%	5.4%	5.2%	5.2%	4.9%
Unknown	9.5%	6.5%	5.1%	4.6%	4.4%	4.2%
Escape/Obstruction	3.4%	3.4%	3.2%	3.1%	3.0%	2.7%
Other	2.0%	2.2%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.4%
Sex Offense	2.1%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%

TABLE 9.
Post-Supervision Rearrests by Time Until Rearrest and PCRA Risk-Level

Time to Rearrest	All*	PCRA Risk-level			
		Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
Within 3 mos.	1.3%	0.5%	1.4%	2.7%	3.8%
6 mos.	2.7%	1.0%	2.9%	5.5%	7.5%
12 mos.	5.2%	1.9%	6.0%	10.6%	14.1%
18 mos.	7.4%	2.8%	8.6%	15.1%	19.7%
24 mos.	9.3%	3.6%	11.1%	18.9%	24.5%
36 mos.	12.7%	5.1%	15.6%	25.3%	31.4%

* Includes cases with a missing PCRA score.

rates above 40 percent. The 25th percentile of adjusted revocation rates was 17 percent and the 75th percentile was 30 percent.

As shown in Figure 5, adjusted failure rates varied from a minimum of 12 percent to a maximum of 64 percent. Three districts had adjusted failure rates below 20 percent, and another six had adjusted failure rates above 50 percent. The 25th percentile of adjusted failure rates was 31 percent, and the 75th percentile was 41 percent.

Conclusions

One goal of federal supervision is to protect the public by minimizing individuals' involvement in criminal activities during and after supervision. This article provides tabulations for criminal recidivism (defined as the first arrest for a non-minor offense) during federal supervision and after the successful completion of supervision. The tabulations show that about 10 percent of individuals on supervision are rearrested after the first year, and on average about 5 percent are rearrested per year after the first year—a little more than 16 percent within the second year and almost 21 percent within three years of commencing supervision. Almost 5 percent of individuals who completed supervision are rearrested within one year, 9 percent are rearrested within two years, and nearly 13 percent are rearrested within three years of completing supervision. For rearrests both during and after supervision, the recidivistic events are most often drug, violent, and property offenses.

Another goal of federal supervision is to maximize successful supervision. Accordingly, this article provides data on revocations for new criminal activity and technical violations of conditions of supervision. Very few individuals (roughly 4 percent) have a revocation within the first six months of supervision, but at one year, revocation rates more than doubled to 9 percent, and within two years about 18 percent were revoked. Within three years, revocation rates reached 23 percent. Not surprisingly, as with the rearrest tabulations, most revocations for new crimes are for drug, property, and violent offenses.

Finally, this article shows evidence that both rearrest rates and revocation rates have been falling over time, conditional on changes in the composition of supervision populations. Conversely, unadjusted statistics that do not control for this changing mix show that rearrest and revocation rates have remained relatively steady.

TABLE 10.
Post-Supervision Rearrests by Offense and Time Until Rearrest

Offense	Time Until Rearrest					
	Within 3 mos.	6 mos.	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.
Drugs	30.3%	30.7%	31.7%	32.2%	32.1%	32.3%
Violence	29.0%	29.5%	29.5%	29.1%	29.0%	28.5%
Property	24.4%	24.0%	23.4%	23.5%	23.7%	24.1%
Escape/Obstruction	3.2%	3.3%	3.1%	3.0%	2.9%	3.0%
Other	2.6%	2.6%	2.7%	2.7%	2.9%	2.9%
Immigration	3.1%	3.0%	2.8%	2.6%	2.7%	2.5%
Unknown	3.1%	2.8%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Firearms	3.1%	2.9%	2.9%	3.1%	2.9%	2.8%
Sex Offense	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%

TABLE 11.
Overall Revocations by Time Until Revocation and PCRA Risk-Level

Time to Revocation	All*	PCRA Risk-level			
		Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
Within 3 mos.	0.9%	0.2%	0.3%	0.8%	2.5%
6 mos.	3.6%	0.6%	1.6%	4.4%	11.3%
12 mos.	9.1%	1.4%	5.1%	13.3%	28.1%
18 mos.	13.8%	2.2%	8.8%	21.1%	40.4%
24 mos.	17.9%	3.1%	12.5%	27.7%	48.5%
36 mos.	23.1%	5.0%	18.7%	35.9%	56.3%

* Includes cases with a missing PCRA score.

TABLE 12.
Revocations for New Crimes by Time Until Revocation and PCRA Risk-Level

Time to Revocation	All*	PCRA Risk-level			
		Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
Within 3 mos.	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%
6 mos.	0.8%	0.1%	0.4%	1.1%	2.7%
12 mos.	3.0%	0.3%	1.7%	4.5%	9.5%
18 mos.	5.3%	0.7%	3.4%	8.4%	16.0%
24 mos.	7.6%	1.1%	5.3%	12.1%	21.0%
36 mos.	11.3%	2.1%	9.1%	18.0%	28.1%

* Includes cases with a missing PCRA score.

TABLE 13.
Revocations for Technical Violations by Time Until Revocation and PCRA Risk-Level

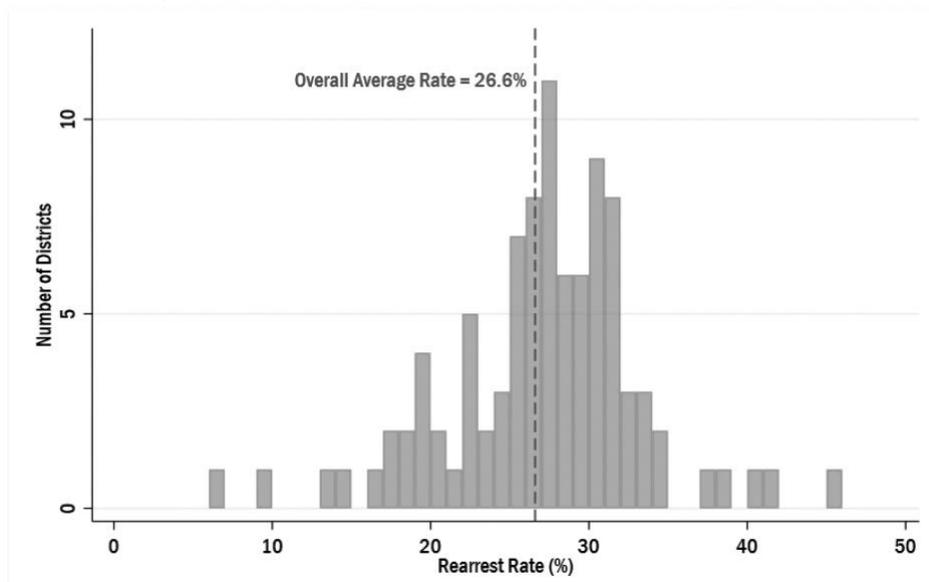| Time to Revocation	All*	PCRA Risk-level			
		Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
Within 3 mos.	0.8%	0.2%	0.3%	0.7%	2.1%
6 mos.	2.7%	0.5%	1.3%	3.3%	8.6%
12 mos.	6.1%	1.0%	3.5%	8.8%	18.6%
18 mos.	8.5%	1.5%	5.4%	12.7%	24.5%
24 mos.	10.3%	2.0%	7.2%	15.5%	27.5%
36 mos.	11.8%	2.9%	9.5%	17.9%	28.2%

* Includes cases with a missing PCRA score.

TABLE 14.
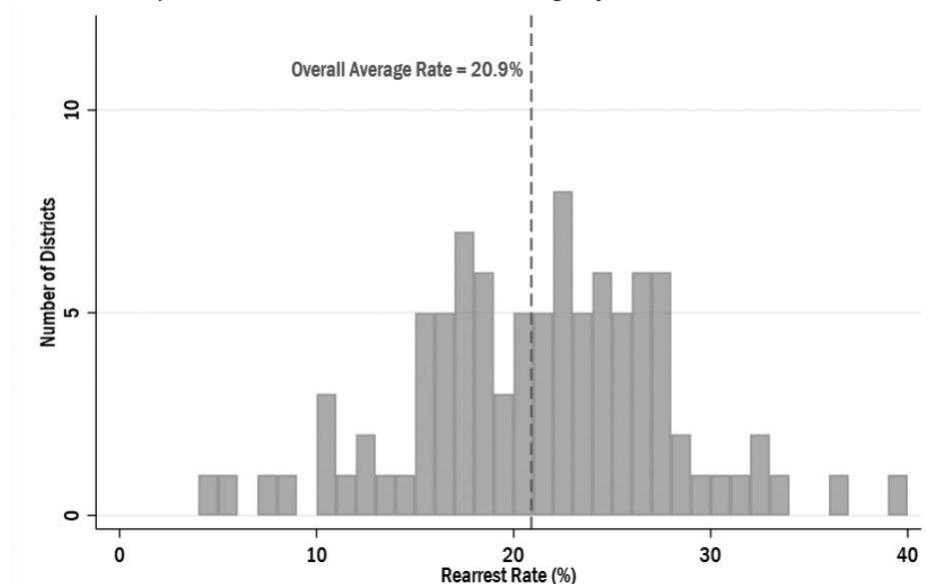**Supervision Failure Rates During Supervision by Time Until Failure and PCRA Risk-Level**

Time to Failure	All*	PCRA Risk-level			
		Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
Within 3 mos.	3.9%	1.2%	2.5%	4.8%	9.5%
6 mos.	8.6%	2.2%	5.5%	11.8%	23.5%
12 mos.	16.7%	3.8%	11.6%	24.7%	44.1%
18 mos.	22.7%	5.5%	17.1%	34.5%	56.3%
24 mos.	27.8%	7.2%	22.2%	42.0%	64.1%
36 mos.	34.6%	10.5%	30.8%	51.8%	71.3%

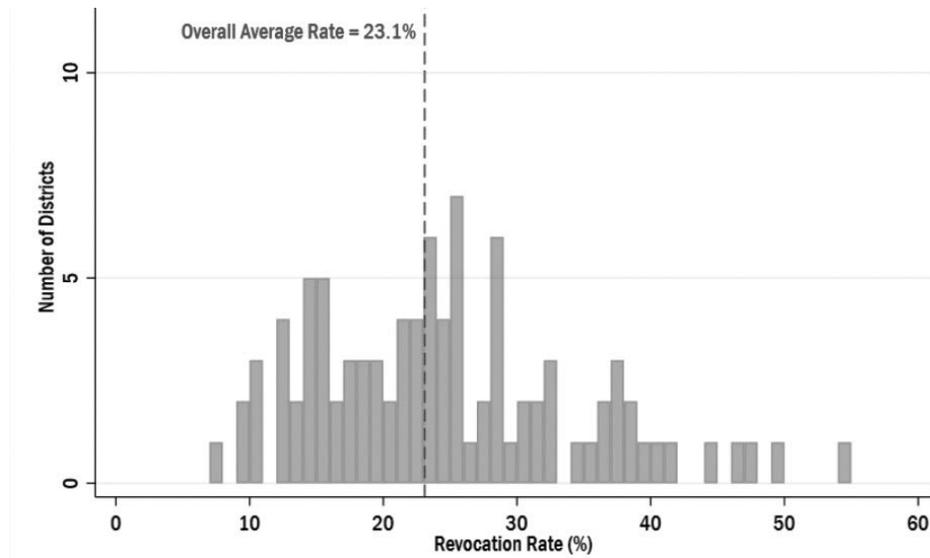* Includes cases with a missing PCRA score.

FIGURE 2.
Variation in Adjusted Overall Rearrest Rates Across Federal Districts
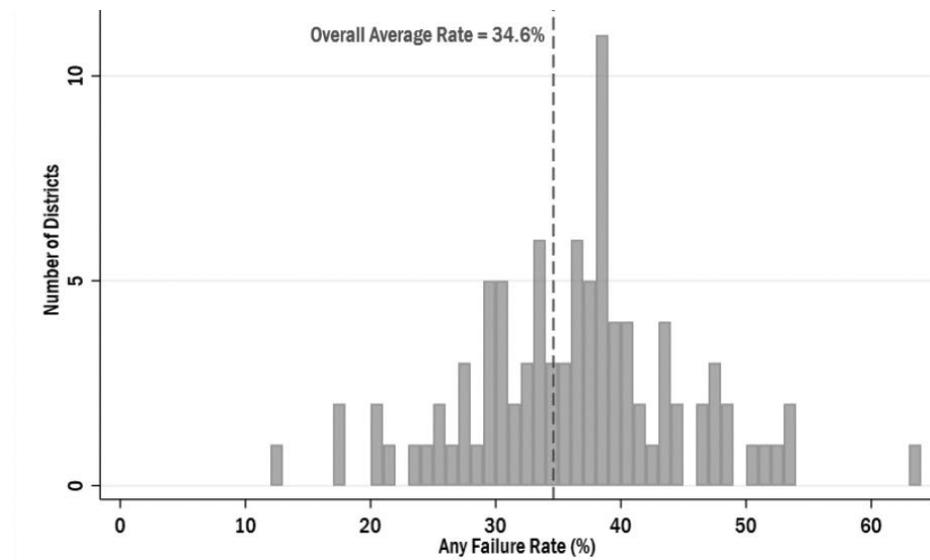

FIGURE 3.
Variation in Adjusted Three-Year Rearrest Rate During Supervision Across Federal Districts

FIGURE 4.
Variation in Adjusted Revocation Rates Across Federal Districts

FIGURE 5.
Variation in Adjusted Failure Rates Across Federal Districts

Appendix. Outcome Rates Over Time