

Recidivism Report

Offenders
Admitted to the
Lucas County TASC
State Offender Stabilization (SOS)
Project
from
12/9/2002 to 12/23/2003

Prepared
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Introduction

The following is a report of the recidivism of offenders admitted to the Lucas County Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (LC-TASC) State Offender Stabilization (SOS) Project during the period of 12/9/02 through 12/23/03. Offenders served by the LC-TASC SOS program were on parole and at high risk of returning to prison on a new charge or parole violation (PV).

LC-TASC provided descriptive information on all offenders referred to the SOS project including their date of admission to the program. The offenders' recidivism was tracked through arrest/ booking records and sentencing information on file and electronically accessible through the Lucas County Sheriff's Office. The recidivism of all offenders admitted to the LC-TASC SOS project from 12/9/02 through 12/23/03 was tracked to the end of February 2004.

Eighty eight LC-TASC SOS clients were admitted to the LC-TASC SOS project from 12/9/02 through 12/23/03. This report provides descriptive statistics on these 88 clients and their rates of recidivism. A general recidivism rates comparison is made between offenders in the LC-TASC SOS program and a national sample of offenders. Bivariate rather than multivariate analyses were conducted due to the limited number of LC-TASC SOS clients in this study.

LC-TASC SOS Clients' Descriptions

Eighty eight (88) offenders were admitted to the LC-TASC SOS project during the period of 12/9/02 through 12/23/03. Over 97% of the 88 offenders were male. The racial / ethnic backgrounds of the offenders admitted to SOS were as follows:

Table 1: Race and Ethnicity

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	34	38.6%
African American	51	58.0%
Hispanic	<u>3</u>	<u>3.4%</u>
	88	100%

The age of offenders admitted to the LC-TASC SOS project ranged from a low of 21 years to a high of 58 years. The average age of offenders admitted to LC-TASC SOS was 35.7 years. The following shows a breakdown of offenders' ages by 10 year intervals.

Table 2: Age Groups

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
20-29 years	23	26.1%
30-39 years	35	39.8%
40-49 years	27	30.7%
50-59 years	<u>3</u>	<u>3.4%</u>
	88	100%

Overall Recidivism

The tables 3 and 4 the parole violation rates and most serious new charges for the 88 offenders admitted to the LC-TASC SOS project during the period of 12/9/02 through 12/23/03.

Table 3: PVs on LC-TASC SOS Clients

<u>PV</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No	41	46.6%
Yes	<u>47</u>	<u>53.4%</u>
	88	100%

Table 4: Most Serious Charges Resulting in the Arrest of LC-TASC SOS Clients

<u>Most Serious New Charge</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No new charge	54	61.4%
Non-violent misdemeanor	16	18.2%
Violent misdemeanor	7	8.0%%*
Non-violent felony	6	6.8%*
Violent felony	<u>5</u>	<u>5.7%*</u>
	88	100%

* 20.5 % felonies or serious (violent) misdemeanors

It is relevant to note that while 47 (53.4%) of the 88 LC-TASC SOS clients had a PV during the tracking period (see table 3) only 18 (20.5%) of the 88 clients had serious new charges (see table 4). This indicates that most PVs were not the result of serious new charges. Rather, PVs were the result of technical violations and/or non-violent misdemeanor offenses.

Table 5 shows the number and percent of LC-TASC SOS clients who were imprisoned. These clients may have been sentenced to prison on a new charge or as a result of a revocation. A total of 11 (12.5%) of the LC-TASC SOS clients tracked were sent to prison during the tracking period.

Table 5: Return to Prison of LC-TASC SOS Clients

<u>Returned to Prison</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No	77	87.5%
Yes	<u>11</u>	<u>12.5%</u>
	88	100%

Tracking and Reporting Periods

The tracking of recidivism was complete at the end of February of 2004. Since offenders admission dates to LC-TASC SOS varied so too did their tracking periods.

Table 6 shows the tracking periods for LC-TASC SOS clients included in this study.

Table 6: Tracking Periods of LC-TASC SOS Clients

<u>Tracking Period</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
3 months or less	6	6.8%
3 months + to 6 months	27	30.7%
6 months + to 9 months	21	23.9%
9 months + to 12 months	25	28.4%
Over 12 months	<u>9</u>	<u>10.2%</u>
	88	100%

LC-TASC SOS Clients' Recidivism by Tacking Periods

To be most meaningful recidivism needs to be viewed within tracking periods. Recidivism within tracking period will be examined from the following three perspectives: parole violations (PVs), arrests on felonies or violent misdemeanors and revocations/sentences to prison.

Forty seven (53.4%) of the LC-TASC SOS clients in this study had a PV at some point during their tracking period. Table 7 shows the tacking period during which PVs occurred.

Table 6: PV Violations by Tracking Periods

<u>Tracking Period</u>	PV		<u>Total</u>
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
3 months or less	4 (66.7%)	2 (33.3%)	6 (100%)
3 months + to 6 months	14 (51.9%)	13 (48.1%)	27 (100%)
6 months + to 9 months	11 (52.4%)	10 (47.6%)	21 (100%)
9 months + to 12 months	10 (40.0%)	15 (60.0%)	25 (100%)
Over 12 months	<u>2 (22.2%)</u>	<u>7 (77.8%)</u>	<u>9 (100%)</u>
	41 (46.6%)	47 (53.4%)	88 (100%)

Tables 6, shows that the rate of LC-TASC SOS clients' receiving a PV increased as the length of tracking increased. It is not until LC-TASC SOS clients are tracked for over nine months that the percent of clients who review PVs is greater than the percent of clients who do not receive PVs. Over 50% of the LC-TASC SOS clients tracked for nine months or less did not receive a PV.

The second measure of recidivism is arrest on a new violent misdemeanor or felony charge. Eighteen (20.5%) of the LC-TASC SOS clients were arrested on a serious new charge at some time during their tracking periods. Table 8 shows arrests on a serious new charge by tracking period.

Table 7: Serious New Charge by Tracking Periods

<u>Tracking Period</u>	Serious New Charge*		Total
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
3 months or less	6 (100%)	0 (0%)	6 (100%)
3 months + to 6 months	21 (77.8%)	6 (22.2%)	27 (100%)
6 months + to 9 months	14 (66.7%)	7 (33.3%)	21 (100%)
9 months + to 12 months	21 (84.0%)	4 (16.0%)	25 (100%)
Over 12 months	<u>8 (88.9%)</u>	<u>1 (11.1%)</u>	<u>9 (100%)</u>
	70 (79.5%)	18 (20.5%)	88 (100%)

* Serious new charge refers to a new felony or misdemeanor offense

Table 7 shows limited recidivism of LC-TASC SOS clients on serious new charges. The highest percent of recidivism for any time period occurred in the over six month to nine months period. The recidivism rate for this period was 33.3%. The overall recidivism rate for LC-TASC SOS clients was less than 21%.

It is helpful to also view recidivism on serious new charges cumulatively for the first six months following admission to LC-TASC SOS and for the first year following admission. Six (18.2%) of the 33 clients tracked for six months or less were arrested on a felony or violent misdemeanor. Seventeen (21.5%) of the 79 LC-TASC SOS clients tracked for up to one year were arrested on a felony or violent misdemeanor offense. Later in this report the six month and 12 month arrest rates of LC-TASC SOS clients will be compared to the arrest rates for a national sample of offenders.

The third and final perspective through which recidivism will be examined is prison sentencing on a new charge or prison confinement due to revocation. Eleven

(12.5%) of LC-TASC SOS clients were imprisoned during the tracking period. Table 8 shows the points in the tracking periods when these 11 clients were sent to prison.

Table 8: Revocations/ Sentences to Prison by Tracking Periods

<u>Tracking Period</u>	Prison		Total
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
3 months or less	6 (100%)	0 (0%)	6 (100%)
3 months + to 6 months	26 (96.3%)	1 (3.7%)	27 (100%)
6 months + to 9 months	21 (100%)	0 (0%)	21 (100%)
9 months + to 12 months	20 (80.0%)	5 (20.0%)	25 (100%)
Over 12 months	<u>4 (44.4%)</u>	<u>5 (55.6%)</u>	<u>9 (100%)</u>
	77 (87.5%)	11 (12.5%)	88 (100%)

Tables 8, shows that percent of LC-TASC SOS revoked or sentenced increased as the length of tracking increased. It is relevant to note that clients tracked for over 12 months had the highest rate of imprisonment. During the first six months following LC-TASC SOS was only 1 (3%) of the 33 clients followed for six months or less was imprisoned. In the 12 months following LC-TASC SOS admission 6 (7.6%) of the 79 clients tracked for 12 months were imprisoned.

LC-TASC SOS Clients' Recidivism Compared to National Rates

A report issued by Bureau of Justice Statistic (BJS) in June of 2002 showed the recidivism of a sample of 272,111 offenders who were release from prisons in 15 states during 1994. BJS reported the percent of offender recidivism within the first six months following release from prison and the percent of offender recidivism within the first year following release. Two and three year recidivism rates were also reported. At the end of three years 67.5% of the offenders in the BJS study had recidivated; however, most of the offender recidivism occurred within the first year following release from prison. The operational definition for recidivism used in the BJS study was arrest on a felony or serious misdemeanor.

Table 9 show the recidivism of LC-TASC SOS clients compared to the recidivism of the national average during comparable time periods.¹ To be as comparable as possible with the BJS recidivism report, the tracking periods shown for LC-TASC SOS clients six months or less and one year or less. These periods are then compared to similar BJS follow-up periods.

It is important to note that unlike offenders in the BJS study, offenders in the LC-TASC SOS program were not tracked from the point of prison release. They were instead tracked from the point of admission to the LC-TASC SOS program. The LC-TASC SOS clients actually had more time in the community and therefore more opportunity for recidivism than the offenders in the BJS study.

¹ The time period comparisons are similar but not identical. The BJS (2002) study tracked all offenders for three years and then reported the within six month and within one year recidivism of all those offenders. The LC-TASC SOS six month and one year periods reflects only those offenders admitted to the LC-TASC SOS program within the six months and within the one year prior to the tracking date. It should be noted that as more LC-TASC SOS clients are tracked for longer periods of time recidivism rates could increase.

Table 9: Recidivism Rate Comparison: LC-TASC SOS and National Rates

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Recidivism*</u>	
	<u>National Average</u>	<u>LC-TASC SOS</u>
Within 6 months	29.9%	18.2%
Within 1 year	44.1%	21.5%

*Recidivism is defined as arrest on a felony or serious (violent) misdemeanor

Table 9 shows that within comparable time intervals using similar definitions of recidivism, LC-TASC SOS clients had recidivism rates substantially below the national average. Only 18.2% of the LC-TASC SOS clients tracked for six months of less had been arrested on a new felony or serious (violent) misdemeanor. In the national study 29.9% of the sample had been arrested on a new felony or serious (violent) misdemeanor within six months of their release from prison. Within one year of their admission to the LC-TASC SOS program only 21.5% of clients been arrested on a felony or serious misdemeanor while during a comparable time period 44.1% of the national sample had been arrested on similar charges.

The imprisonment rates of LC-TASC SOS clients tracked for one year up was 7.6%. The prison return rate for the national sample within the first year after prison release was 10.4%.

It is relevant to note that a substantial percent of LC-TASC SOS clients were in groups recognized by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (2002) as high recidivism risks. BJS reports that men have a higher rate of arrest and return to prison than women released from prison.

Over 97% of the offenders in the LC-TASC SOS program were men. BJS reports that blacks released from prison had a higher rate of arrest and return to prison than whites released from prison. Fifty eight percent (58%) of offenders in the LC-TASC SOS program were black. Offenders referred to the LC-TASC SOS program had histories of substance abuse. Drug offenders released from prison have higher recidivism rates than violent offenders who are released from prison.

LC-TASC SOS served offenders in groups that are considered among the highest risks for recidivism. Additionally, offenders were usually referred to Lucas County LC-TASC SOS as a “last chance” to avoid parole violation or revocation. In spite of serving such a high risk population, LC-TASC SOS clients had arrest rates on felonies and serious misdemeanors that were substantially below the national average and return to prison rates consistent with the national average.

Summary of Key Findings

- ❖ The LC-TASC SOS project served offenders who were among the highest risks for recidivism.

- ❖ While most of the LC-TASC SOS clients tracked had a PV, the majority of these PVs were based on technical violations and/or non-violent misdemeanor offenses rather than serious new charges. Forty-seven (53.4%) of the 88 clients tracked had a PV; however, only 18 (20.5%) of the 88 clients tracked had an arrest on a felony or serious misdemeanor.

- ❖ Offenders admitted to the LC-TASC SOS program had substantially lower rates of recidivism (arrests on felonies or serious misdemeanors) than the national average. Within one year of their admission to the LC-TASC SOS program only 21.5% of clients been arrested on a felony or serious misdemeanor. During a comparable time period, 44.1% of the offenders in a BJS national sample had been arrested on a felony or serious misdemeanor.

- ❖ The imprisonment rate for LC-TASC SOS clients was slightly lower than the national average. The national average for offenders returned to prison within one year of release is 10.4%. Less than 8% of the LC-TASC SOS clients tracked for one year of less were imprisoned.