

## *Sex Offender Recidivism and SOAR Returns to Prison*

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### **PURPOSE**

This memo presents statistics on recidivism and reincarceration rates for convicted sex offenders along with information on returns to prison by inmates that completed the Sex Offender Accountability and Responsibility (SOAR) program. The figures are taken from national and state sources.

### **SOAR PARTICIPATION AND RETURNS TO PRISON**

Research and Planning performed a preliminary descriptive analysis of inmates that completed the SOAR program and were released from prison. Below is information about those who have returned and a general classification of the reason for that prison re-entry. ***This is not to be confused with the rate of recidivism, nor should rates be computed from this information or compared to other published rates of recidivism.***

- 217 inmates released from prison between January 01, 2000 and June 30, 2008 completed the SOAR program.
- 36 returned to prison at some time after their initial release
  - 14 of these returned due to a violation of the conditions of supervision
  - 17 returned with subsequent non-sexual offenses
  - 5 were reincarcerated for additional sexual offense convictions.

### **STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA FIGURES**

The North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (2008) reports the following recidivism figures for inmates who were released from prison during fiscal year 2003-2004 and had been assigned to the SOAR program:

- 8.1% of inmates that attended the SOAR program were reconvicted within 3 years of release.
- 13.5% of inmates that attended the SOAR program were reincarcerated within 3 years of release.

Source: North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission. (2008). *Correctional Program Evaluation: Offenders Placed on Probation or Released from Prison in Fiscal Year 2003/04*. Raleigh, NC.

### **NATIONAL FIGURES**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (2003) reports the following figures for sex offenders released from State prisons in 1994:

- 3.5% of released sex offenders were reconvicted for a sex crime within 3 years of release.
- 24% of released sex offenders were reconvicted for a new crime within 3 years of release.
- 38.6% of released sex offenders were reincarcerated within 3 years of release.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2003). *Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from Prison in 1994 (NCJ 198281)*. Washington, DC.