# Program Performance Report

## Second Chance Act—Reentry Court Grant Program

*July 2011–June 2012*

**BJA**
**Bureau of Justice Assistance**
**U.S. Department of Justice**

# Second Chance Act— Reentry Court Grant Program

## Program Performance Report (July 2011–June 2012)

In 2007, the Second Chance Act was signed into law. It was created to help break the cycle of criminal recidivism; improve public safety; and help states, units of local government, and American Indian tribes better address the growing population of offenders who return to their communities. The Second Chance Act provides grants to state, local, and tribal governments to promote the safe and successful reintegration of individuals into the community after they are released from incarceration. Second Chance Act grantees are committed to help those in the reentry process by appropriately assessing risk and need and by offering individualized case plans and services.

The goal of the Second Chance Act is to implement reentry programs that do the following:
- Use validated assessment instruments to screen and identify offenders for participation in reentry programs;
- Implement a transition plan for offenders, incorporating both pre- and post-release services;
- Provide treatment services (including substance abuse and mental health) to offenders;
- Offer additional services (including pro-social, educational, vocational, employment, and housing) to offenders;
- Support offenders with case management to monitor reintegration; and
- Reduce recidivism.[1]

In fiscal year (FY) 2009, Congress appropriated $25 million for Second Chance Act grant programs. This initial round of funding was divided among four grant programs—adult mentoring, adult demonstration (hereafter reentry), juvenile mentoring, and juvenile demonstration—and established the National Reentry Resource Center. In FY 2010, Congress appropriated $100 million in Federal funding for the implementation and administration of additional sections authorized by the Second Chance Act. FY 2010 awards were divided among the four existing grant programs noted above, and the legislation authorized four other adult grant programs: the Family-Based Prisoner Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Program, the Targeting Offenders with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Grant Program, the Reentry Court Grant Program, and the Technology Careers Grant Program. In FY 2011, all Second Chance Act grant programs were reappropriated. This report covers four quarters of data collected from July 2011 to June 2012 for the Second Chance Act Reentry Courts grantees.[2]

## Key Findings During the Reporting Period

- Grantees, on average, admitted 49% of those deemed eligible for the reentry court program.
- 755 participants were enrolled in the reentry court program.
- Out of the total number of participants enrolled from April to June 2012, an average of 29% received graduated sanctions and 65% received incentives. On average, each participant appeared before a judge more than twice during the reporting period.
- The average rate by grantee of moderate- and high-risk post-release participants admitted to the program was 96%.
- On average, 8% of participants tested positive for alcohol or drugs at intake.
- Employment services were the most utilized service type, followed by cognitive-based services and substance abuse services.
- The successful completion rate for participants exiting post-release services averaged 53%.

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[1] Recidivism information is not available at this time. Recidivism performance data will be provided once a large enough sample size has been established. In addition, more robust recidivism information will be provided upon the completion of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) outcome evaluation.

[2] This report is based on self-reported data reported by grantees in the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT). Data are validated through analysis and through data validation rules that are entered into the PMT. Values and "N" sizes for specific reporting periods may change over time as grantees are contacted periodically to validate inaccurate data.
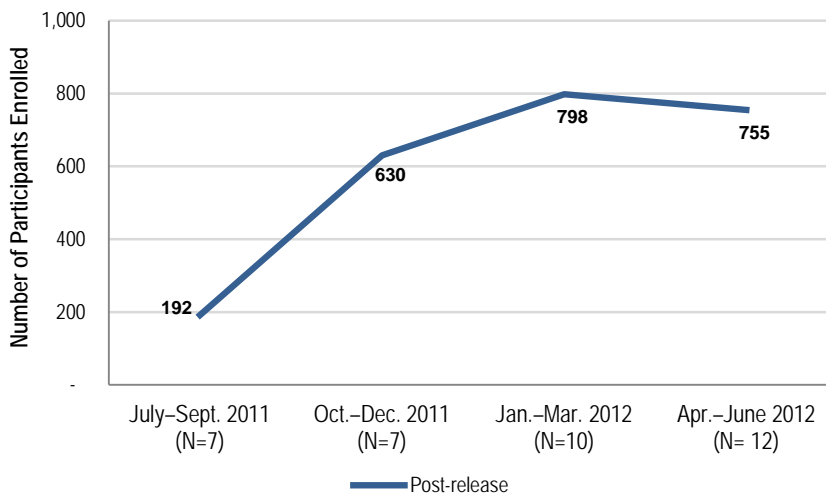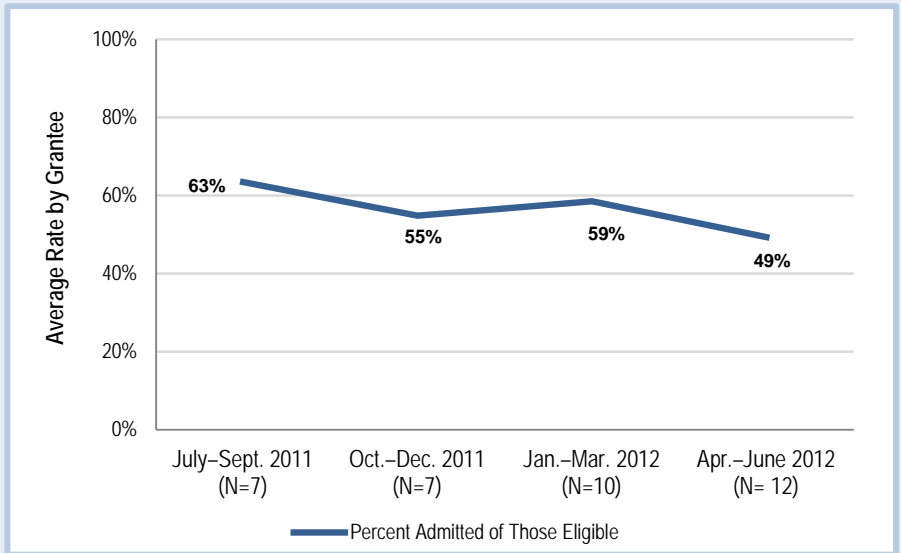
# Key Performance Measures

| Measure | Data Elements Used to Calculate Measure | Definition | Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Program Capacity | A. Number of new participants admitted<br>B. Number of eligible offenders<br><br>% Admitted of Eligible = A/B | Admitted participants compared with the total number who were eligible. | Assesses the intake and screening process—specifically, how many participants the program can serve compared with the need in that area. |
| Percent New Admissions | A. Number of new participants admitted<br>B. Number of participants enrolled in the reentry program<br><br>% New Participants = A/B | Number of new participants admitted divided by the total number of participants enrolled to the reentry program. | Assesses the capacity of the program by tracking the percentage of new participants admitted. |
| Percent Testing Positive at Intake | A. Number of participants with positive tests<br>B. Number of new participants admitted<br><br>% Positive = A/B | Percent of participants who tested positive for alcohol or drugs at intake out of new admissions. | Assesses the target population for existing alcohol or drug use problems. |
| Percent High, Moderate, and Low Risk | A. Number of high risk<br>B. Number of moderate risk<br>C. Number of low risk<br><br>% High Risk = A/(A+B+C)<br>% Moderate Risk = B/(A+B+C)<br>% Low Risk = C/(A+B+C) | Percentage of participants who had a new assessment and their subsequent risk level. | Assesses the target population for percentages of participants who are considered high and moderate risks, the two groups targeted by Second Chance Act funding. |
| Percent of Participants Who Received Graduated Sanctions or Incentives | A. Number of participants who received graduated sanctions<br>B. Number of participants who received incentives<br>C. Total number of participants enrolled<br><br>% Received Sanctions = A/C<br>% Received Incentives= B/C | Percent of who are receiving both graduated sanctions and incentives out of the total number of participants enrolled in the program. | Assessed whether enrolled participants are receiving graduated sanctions and incentives. |
| Percent Who Obtained Employment and Housing | A. Number of participants who obtained employment/housing<br>B. Number of participants who participated in employment/housing services<br><br>% Obtained = A/B | Percent of participants who obtained housing and employment. | Based on research showing that ex-offenders need housing and employment for successful reintegration. |
| Percent Successfully Completing Program | A. Number of successful completers<br>B. Number who failed the program<br>C. Number who failed due to court criminal involvement<br>D. Number who failed due to lack of engagement<br>E. Number who absconded<br>F. Number of other failures<br><br>% Completed = A/(A+B+C+D+E+F) | Percentage of participants who successfully completed the program. | Assesses how many participants have successful reintegrated into society. |

# Graphs of Performance Measures

## Program Capacity

Grantees, on average, admitted 49% of those deemed eligible for the reentry court program from April to June 2012. Grantees are serving a moderate portion of offenders eligible within their target populations.
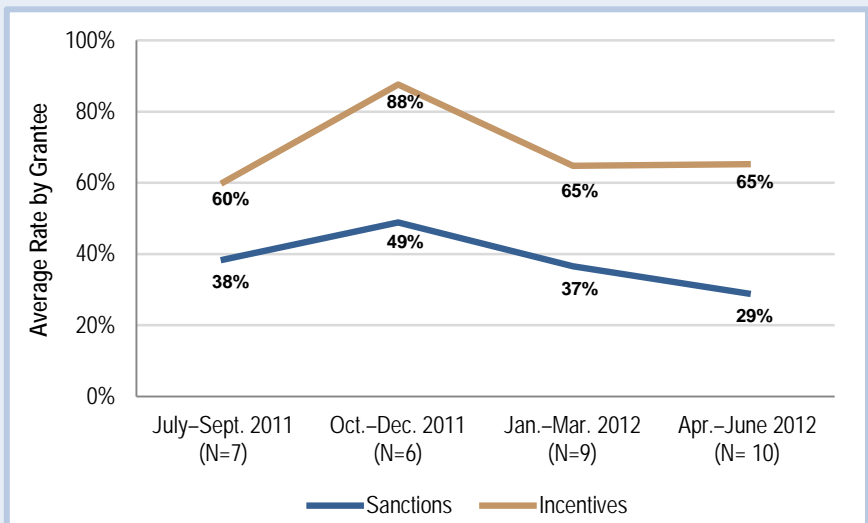
**Average Rate by Grantee**

- 63% (July–Sept. 2011, N=7)
- 55% (Oct.–Dec. 2011, N=7)
- 59% (Jan.–Mar. 2012, N=10)
- 49% (Apr.–June 2012, N=12)

— Percent Admitted of Those Eligible

## Quarterly Participant Enrollment

In this reporting period, 755 participants were enrolled in the reentry court program. Over time, enrollment has increased.
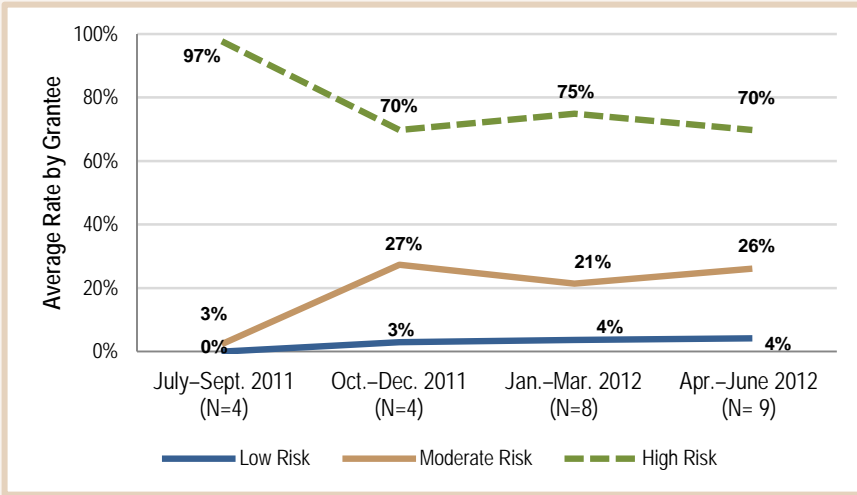
**Number of Participants Enrolled**

- 192 (July–Sept. 2011, N=7)
- 630 (Oct.–Dec. 2011, N=7)
- 798 (Jan.–Mar. 2012, N=10)
- 755 (Apr.–June 2012, N=12)

— Post-release

## Reentry Court Characteristics

Out of the total number of participants enrolled from April to June 2012, an average of 29% received graduated sanctions and 65% received incentives. On average, each participant appeared before a judge more than twice during the reporting period (not shown).
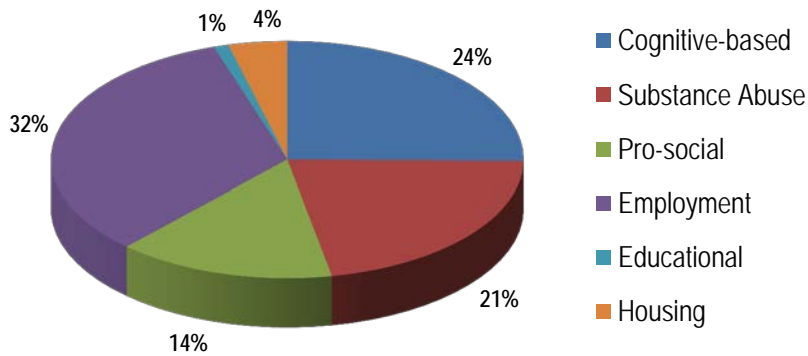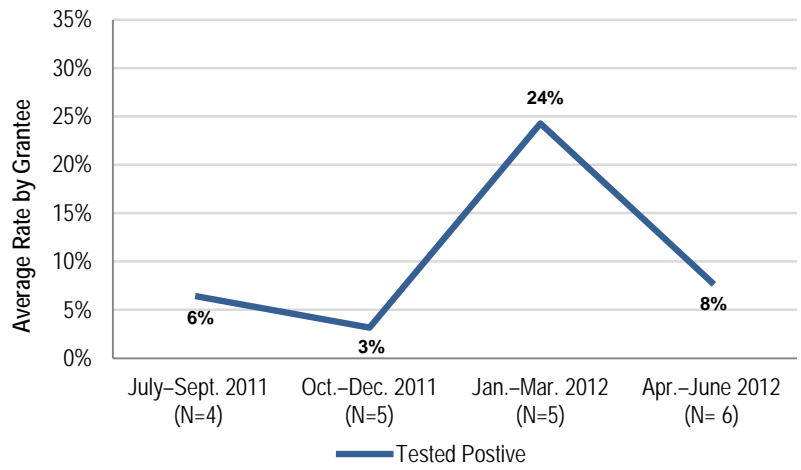
**Average Rate by Grantee**

Incentives:
- 60% (July–Sept. 2011, N=7)
- 88% (Oct.–Dec. 2011, N=6)
- 65% (Jan.–Mar. 2012, N=9)
- 65% (Apr.–June 2012, N=10)

Sanctions:
- 38% (July–Sept. 2011, N=7)
- 49% (Oct.–Dec. 2011, N=6)
- 37% (Jan.–Mar. 2012, N=9)
- 29% (Apr.–June 2012, N=10)

— Sanctions  — Incentives

## Risk Assessment Level

From April to June 2012, the average rate by grantee of moderate- and high-risk participants admitted to the program was 96%. The percentage of low-risk participants admitted to the program remained low.



## Positive Drug and Alcohol Tests at Intake

Fifty percent of grantees reported giving bioassays to test for alcohol or drugs at intake (not shown). On average, 8% of participants tested positive at intake in the most recent reporting period.
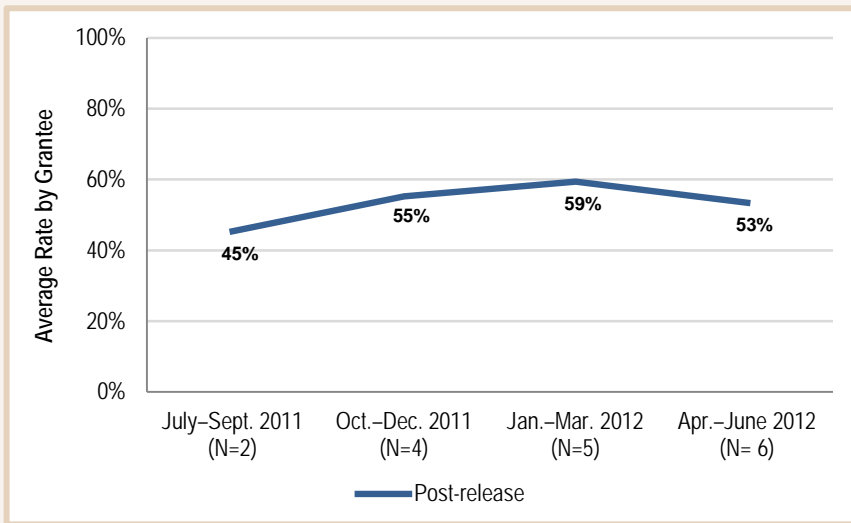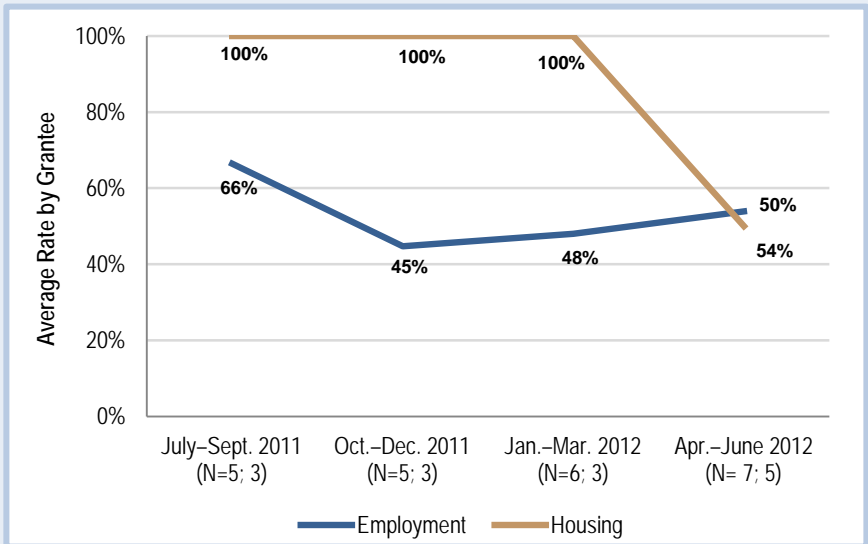


## Post-release Services Utilized Most Often[3]

From April to June 2012, employment services were the most utilized service type, followed by cognitive-based services and substance abuse services.



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[3] Pro-social services can include programs such as anger and stress management, faith-based services, family counseling services, life skills training, and any other type of structured activities. Each individual may receive one or more services.

## Post-release Services Outcomes[4]

In April to June 2012, 164 participants were enrolled in post-release employment services and 20 in housing services (not shown). Out of the total number enrolled in services, the average participant employment rate across grantees was 50% and the average participant housing rate was 54%.



## Successful Completion Rate

From April to June 2012, 69 participants completed the program requirements. The successful completion rate for participants exiting post-release services averaged 53%.



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[4] Participants who did not find employment/housing in this reporting period may have either obtained those service outcomes in a prior reporting period and are still enrolled in services or are seeking employment/housing. It should also be noted that grantees have reported difficulty in tracking outcomes for participants who are referred out to services. Thus, data are only collected on participants who are directly provided with services.