Study of Recidivism, Race, Gender, and Length of Stay

Releases from the Dutchess County Jail

December 2011 - October 2012

November 12, 2013

As part of its ongoing commitment to evidence-based criminal justice policy and practice, Dutchess County utilizes a nationally validated tool, known as the Proxy, to screen and evaluate the level of risk posed to the local community by adult offenders for re-offense of any type.   Proxy surveys are conducted at the time of an offender's incarceration.

Dutchess County began collecting Proxy data in 2011 and is now beginning evaluation of local criminal justice outcomes and practices using that data.   The following analysis is the first of these evaluations and provides demographics for all inmates released from the Dutchess County Jail to Dutchess County communities from December 2011 through October 2012. The analysis shows the relationship between the Proxy score, inmates' average length of stay in jail, and the rate of recidivism up to one year after the inmates' release.   The sample size is 2,144 inmates and the breakdown is explained on the following pages, charts and graphs. The sample only includes inmates released directly from the Dutchess County Jail to Dutchess County communities.   It does not include those sentenced to state prison, housed for another facility or agency while in transit, or on immigration detainers.

The Proxy evaluates an offender's "risk to reoffend" based on a simple, three question format.   Proxy scores range from a lowest risk to reoffend score of 0 to a highest risk score of 6.   Scores do NOT reflect the severity or type of crime. With sufficient proxy data, a local jurisdiction can understand the composition of its entire offender population, the risks posed to the local community, and how best to apply evidence-based criminal justice practices to enhance long-term public safety outcomes.

The 3 data points used to determine risk level of each inmate, based on comparison to national normative data, include:

Current Age: A value of 0, 1, or 2 is assigned based on the offender's age, relative to that of the remainder of the population. A score of 2 = offenders who fall within the first third of the population (youngest), 1=within the middle third of the population, and 0=within the last third of the population (oldest).

AFA: A value of 2, 1, or 0 is assigned based on the offender's age at first arrest (including juvenile arrests). A score of 2 = offenders who fall within the first third of the population (youngest), 1=within the middle third of the population, and 0=within the last third of the population (oldest). The use of offender self-report for age at first arrest is generally reliable. A question such as "How old were you the very first time you ever got into trouble with the law, arrested, ticketed, or given a summons?" will help to elicit this information.

Priors: A value of 2, 1, or 0 is assigned based on the number of times an offender has been arrested (including juvenile arrests). A score of 2 = offenders who fall within the last third of the population (highest number of priors), 1=within the middle third of the population, and 0=within the last third of the population (least number of priors). The use of offender self-report for number of priors may be more reliable than official records.

The scores from each of these three fields are then totaled to provide a proxy score for each offender.

Please note: While the current data sample is sufficient to evaluate and benchmark Dutchess County's incarcerated populations in aggregate; as can be ascertained after review of the current analyses, small sample sizes of various sub-populations will require that additional proxy data are collected over a longer period of time to further guide important criminal justice decisions as well as the application of evidence-based policy and practice throughout Dutchess County. **Accordingly, readers are cautioned from drawing final conclusions beyond the validity of this data sample.**

Aggregate Demographic Data
DCJ Inmates Released to Local Communities
Race and Gender

- **White = 1189 (55% Total Sample)**
  - **Male = 931 (78% of Whites)**
  - **Female = 258 (22% of Whites)**
- **Black = 728 (34% Total Sample)**
  - **Male = 571 (78% of Blacks)**
  - **Female – 157 (22% of Blacks)**
- **Hispanic = 227 (11% Total Sample)**
  - **Male = 185 (81% of Hispanics)**
  - **Female = 42 (19% of Hispanics)**

- **Male = 1687 (79% Total Sample)**
  - **White = 931 (55% of Males)**
  - **Black = 571 (34% of Males)**
  - **Hispanic = 185 (11% of Males)**

- **Female = 457 (21% Total Sample)**
  - **White = 258 (56% of Females)**
  - **Black = 157 (34% of Females)**
  - **Hispanic = 42 (9% of Females)**

Aggregate Demographic Data
DCJ Inmates Released to Local Communities
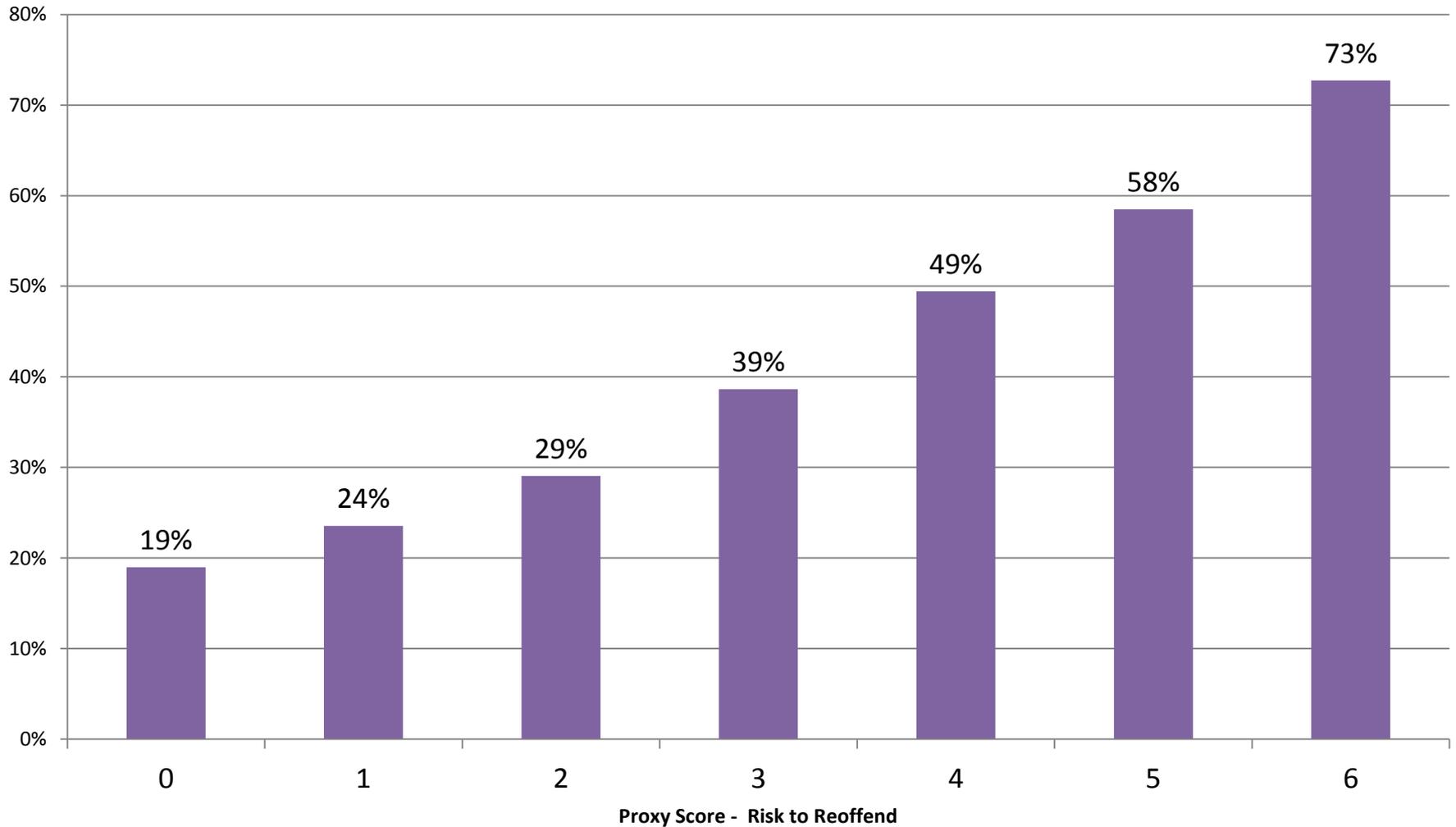# Crime Type, Race and Gender

- **White = 1189**
  - **Misdemeanor = 679 (57%)**
  - **Non-Violent Felony = 329 (28%)**
  - **Violent Felony = 64 (5%)**
  - **Violation/Lower = 117 (10%)**
- **Black = 728**
  - **Misdemeanor = 449 (62%)**
  - **Non-Violent Felony = 144 (20%)**
  - **Violent Felony = 47 (6%)**
  - **Violation/Lower = 88 (12%)**
- **Hispanic = 227**
  - **Misdemeanor = 142 (63%)**
  - **Non-Violent Felony = 48 (21%)**
  - **Violent Felony = 16 (7%)**
  - **Violation/Lower = 21 (9%)**

- **Male = 1687**
  - **Misdemeanor = 964 (57%)**
  - **Non-Violent Felony = 419 (25%)**
  - **Violent Felony = 106 (6%)**
  - **Violation/Lower = 198 (12%)**
- **Female = 457**
  - **Misdemeanor = 306 (67%)**
  - **Non-Violent Felony = 102 (22%)**
  - **Violent Felony = 21 (5%)**
  - **Violation/Lower = 28 (6%)**

Overall Recidivism by Offense
All Releases and Reincarceration by Crime Type

	# Crime Type	% of All Crime	# Reincarcerated	% Reincarcerated
Misdemeanor	1270	59%	546	43%
Non-Violent Felony	521	24%	225	43%
Violation/Lower	226	11%	92	41%
Violent Felony	127	6%	54	43%

% Recidivism - 12 Months Post-Release by Proxy Score (Risk to Reoffend)

Bar chart showing percent recidivism by Proxy Score:
- 0: 19%
- 1: 24%
- 2: 29%
- 3: 39%
- 4: 49%
- 5: 58%
- 6: 73%

Proxy Score - Risk to Reoffend

Lower risk of recidivism ← → Higher risk of recidivism

Rate of Recidvism by Race and Gender (ALL = 43%)

Category	Percentage Returned
Hispanic Female	33%
Black Female	35%
Female	38%
White Female	40%
Hispanic	41%
White	42%
Hispanic Male	43%
White Male	43%
Black	44%
Male	44%
Black Male	47%
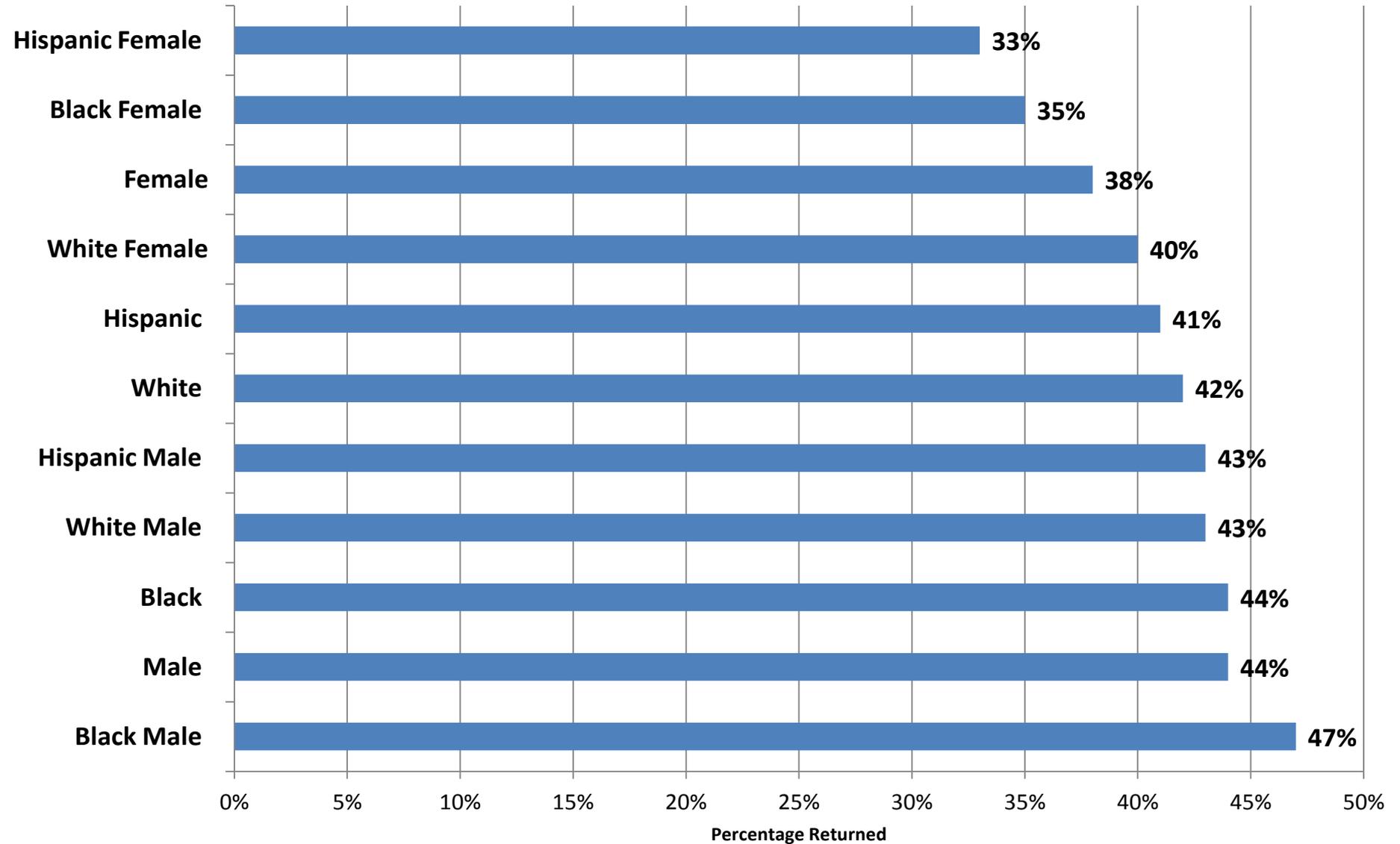
Average Length of Stay By Proxy Score (Risk to Reoffend)

Lower risk of recidivism ⟷ Higher risk of recidivism

Christensen, 2013

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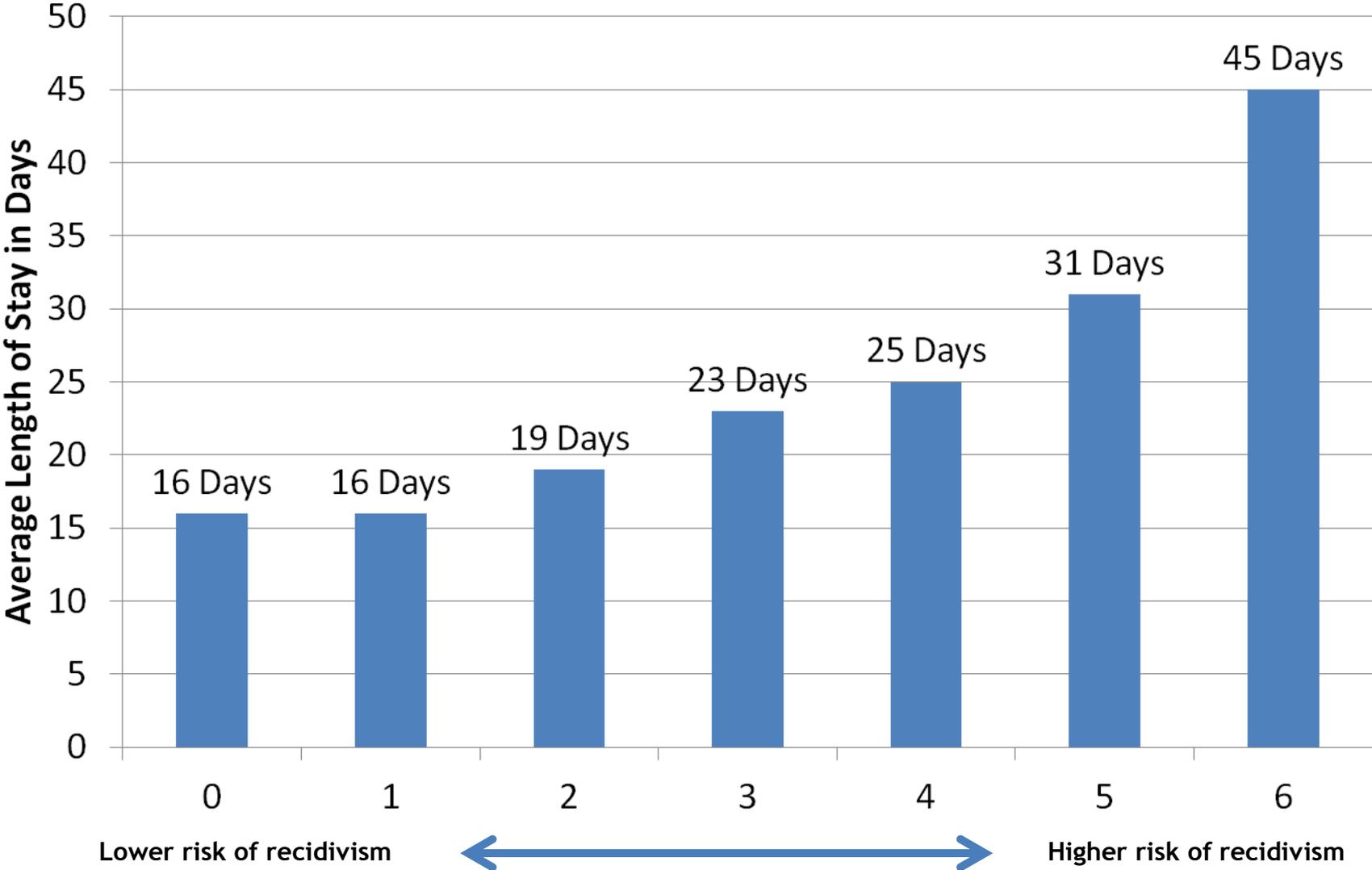
Housing Out, Average Length of Stay, Risk to Reoffend
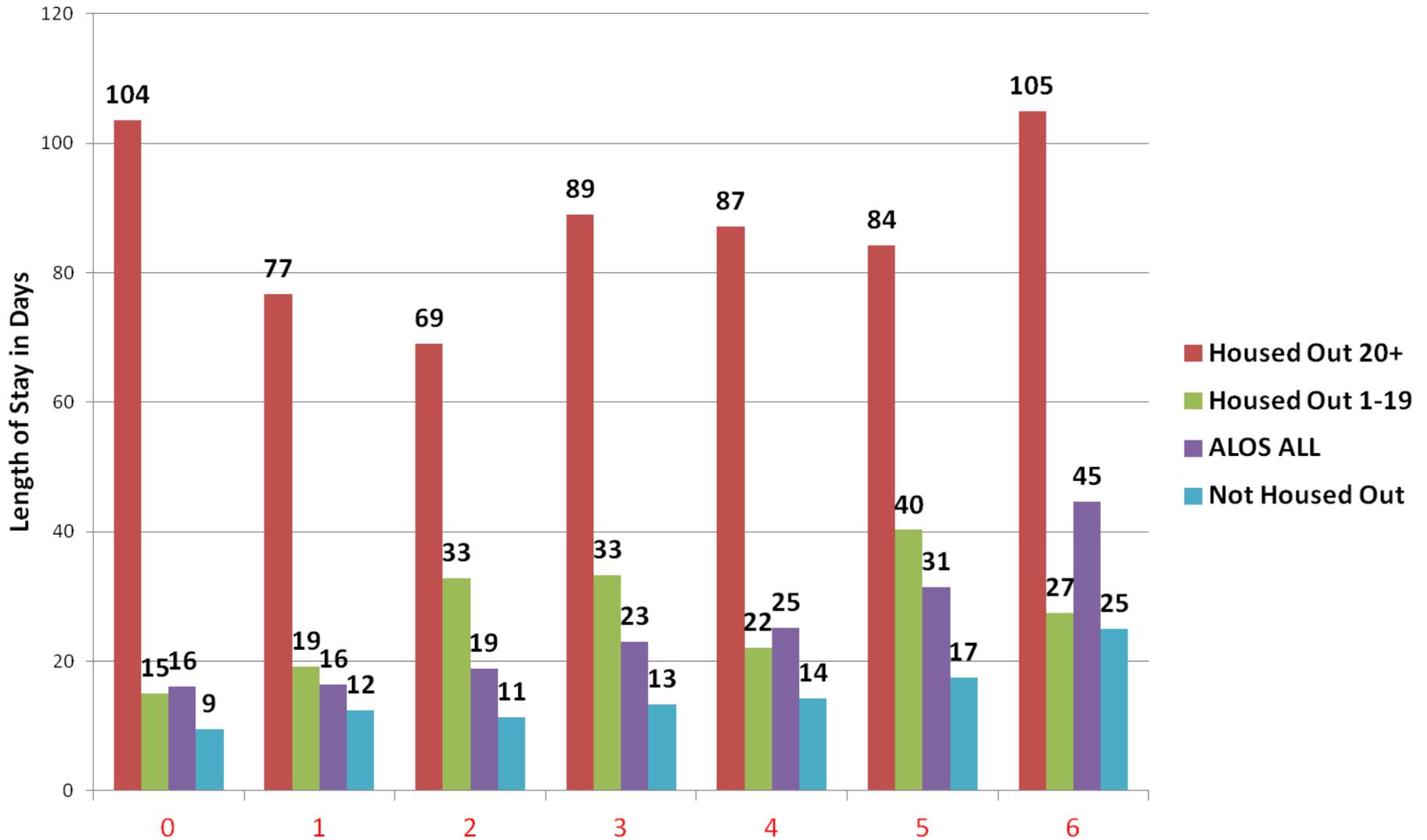
Average Length of Stay (ALOS) Comparison by Race and Gender
Overall ALOS =24

Category	Average # of Days in Jail
ALOS Black Female	17
ALOS White Female	17
ALOS Female	18
ALOS Black	23
ALOS Black Male	24
ALOS White	24
ALOS Hispanic Female	25
ALOS Male	26
ALOS White Male	27
ALOS Hispanic	29
ALOS Hispanic Male	30

Average # of Days in Jail
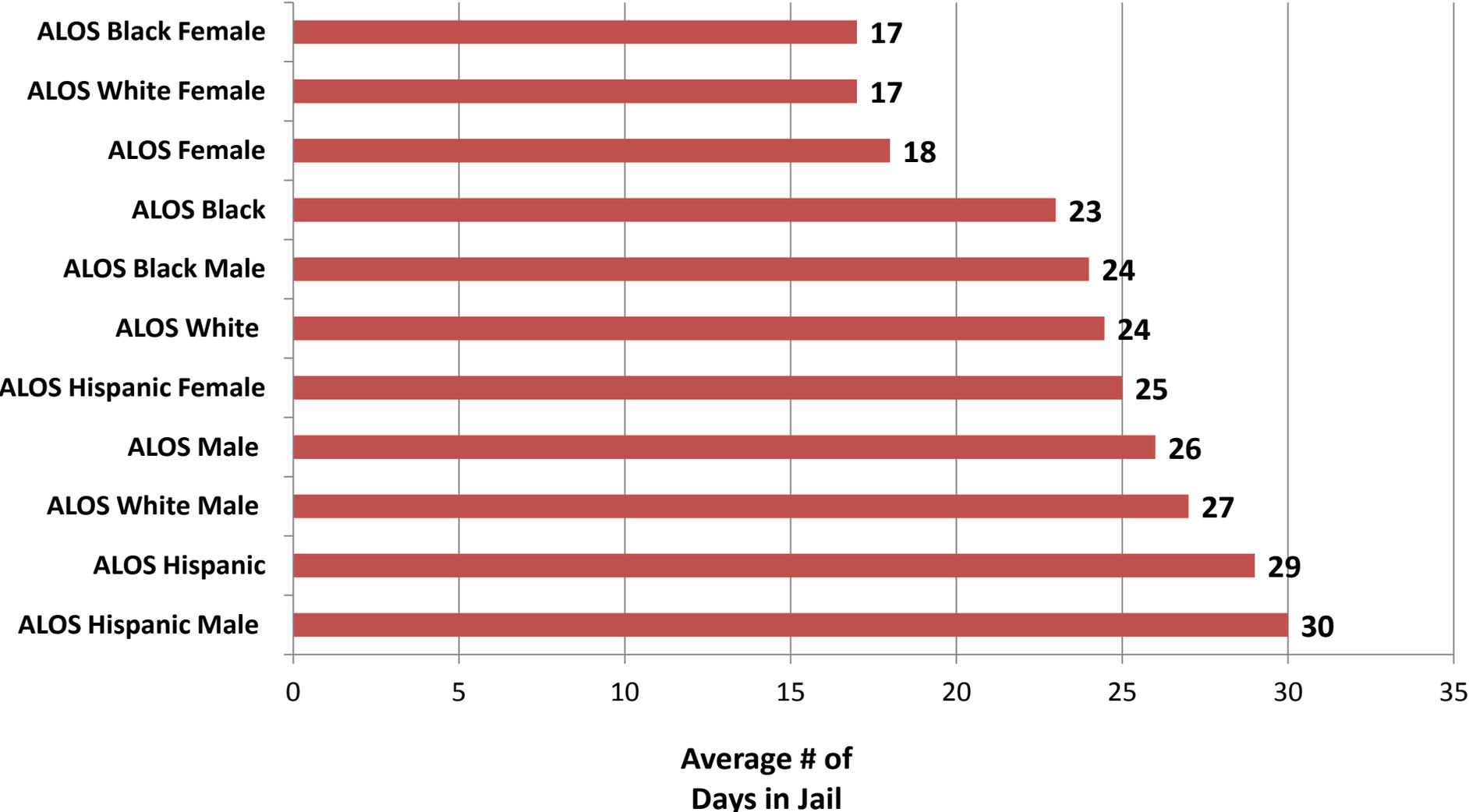
Future Research/Planning Considerations

- Evaluate Average Length of Stay in Jail by Jurisdiction, Crime Type, Race, Gender, etc. to Inform Future Jail Sizing Analyses
- Review System Process by Jurisdiction, Crime Type, Race, Gender, etc. to Identify Opportunities for Efficiency
- Query and Evaluate Existing Programs and Services to Determine Adherence to Evidence-Based Practice
- Review and Evaluate Programmatic Assignments by Risk and Need System-Wide
- Evaluate System Outcomes for Existing Interventions and Strategies for their Effect on Long-term Public Safety within Dutchess County
- Identify Gaps and/or Duplications in Service/Resource to Accommodate/Advance Desired Long-Term Public Safety Outcomes

APPENDIX A: Releases by Proxy Score (Risk to Reoffend), Days Housed Outside DC Jail and Reincarceration

Proxy Score	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	ALL
Housed Out 20+ Days	8	13	31	46	87	67	24	276
Housed Out 1-19 Days	1	9	20	29	51	32	8	150
Not Housed Out	107	203	245	347	477	272	67	1718
Total	116	225	296	422	615	371	99	2144
# Reincarcerated	22	53	86	163	304	217	72	917
% Recidivism	19%	24%	29%	39%	49%	58%	73%	43%

Lower risk of recidivism ⟵⟶ Higher risk of recidivism