

*Lucas County TASC
State Offender Stabilization
(LC-TASC SOS)*

*Prepared
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by
Lois A. Ventura, Ph.D.
Department of Criminal Justice
College of Health and Human Services
University of Toledo*

Introduction

LC-TASC SOS serves offenders referred by Ohio Adult Parole Authority. Some of these offenders have been violated by the Ohio Adult Parole Authority and are placed in LC-TASC SOS as their sanction. Other offenders referred to LC-TASC SOS have been recommended for return to prison by the Ohio Adult Parole Authority Field Officer. For these offenders LC-TASC SOS is truly a “last chance” to avoid return to prison. All offenders referred to LC-TASC SOS are at high risk re-offending and returning to prison.

Most (85%) of the offenders admitted to LC-TASC SOS, during the study period, were on parole for violent felonies¹. Violent felonies include but are not limited to aggravated robbery, felonious assault, rape and murder.

This study examines the recidivism of all offenders admitted to LC-TASC SOS from December 2002 through December 2004. LC-TASC provided descriptive information on offenders. The admission dates were also provided. 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 151 offender admissions to LC-TASC SOS, which are included in the study, represent 123 unduplicated individuals. Sixteen offenders had two or more admissions during the study period. In the analysis, each admission was treated as a separate offender case.

¹ Information on the seriousness of charges for which offender were on parole was only available on SOS offenders admitted in 2003 and 2004.

LC-TASC SOS Offenders' Demographics

One hundred and forty six (96.7%) of the 151 offenders admitted to LC-TASC SOS were men and five (3.3%) were women. The racial / ethnic backgrounds of the offenders admitted to the LC-TASC SOS were as follows:

Table 1: Race and Ethnicity

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	57	37.7%
African American	89	58.9%
Hispanic	<u>5</u>	<u>3.3%</u>
	151	100%

The age of offenders admitted to LC-TASC SOS ranged from a low of 21 years to a high of 58 years. The average age of offenders admitted to LC-TASC SOS was 35.4 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	48	31.8%
30-39 years	52	34.4%
40-49 years	41	27.2%
50-59 years	<u>10</u>	<u>6.6%</u>
	151	100%

Follow-up Period

The follow-up period consisted of the time from LC-TASC SOS admission to the point of the records check for criminal recidivism. All criminal records checks were completed in the last weeks of August 2005. The exact date of the records check was entered in each offender's data file. The average period of follow-up was 643 days (approximately 21 months). The minimum follow-up period was 248 days (over 8 months) and the maximum follow-up period was 989 days (over 32 months). Table 3 shows the tracking periods for all offenders in this study.

Table 3: Tracking Periods for Offenders in LC-TASC SOS

<u>Tracking Period</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
9 months or less	2	1.3%
Over 9 months to 12 months	8	5.3%
Over 12 months to 18 months	40	26.5%
Over 18 months to 24 months	45	29.8%
Over 24 months to 30 months	49	32.5%
Over 30 months	<u>7</u>	<u>4.6%</u>
	151	100%

Operational Definitions of Recidivism

The three measures of recidivism used in this analysis were as follows:

- Arrest on a serious new charge after admission to LC-TASC SOS. A serious charge was operationally defined as a violent misdemeanor, non-violent or violent felony.
- Parole Violation after admission to LC-TASC SOS
- Return to prison, on a parole violation or new charge, after admission to LC-TASC SOS

This study tracked the recidivism of all offenders admitted to LC-TASC SOS from December 2002 through December 2004, regardless of their degree of engagement in the program. It is possible that some offenders, particularly those who recidivated within a few months of admission, may have failed to actively engage in LC-TASC SOS after their admission.

The recidivism of one of the 151 offenders could not be accurately reported because of a lack of unique identifiers. This offender was dropped from the recidivism follow-up analysis. The recidivism follow-up, therefore, includes 150 offenders.

Arrest on Serious New Charge

A total of **88 (58.7%) of the 150 offenders² in LC-TASC SOS remained free of arrest** on a serious new charge³ during the follow-up period. Only **62 (41.3%) of 150 offenders were arrested** on a serious new charge. Of those 62 offenders arrested on serious new charges, 16 were charged with violent misdemeanors, 29 with non-violent felonies and 17 with violent felonies⁴. In light of the fact that **most (85%) of the offenders admitted to LC-TASC SOS were on parole for a violent felony**, it is relevant to note that **only 17 (11.3%) of the 150 offenders who recidivated were charged with a violent felony.**

During the first 12 months following their LC-TASC SOS admission 45 offenders were arrested on a serious new charge. Twelve months or more after their LC-TASC SOS admission, an additional 17 offenders were arrested on a serious new charge (see Table 4).

Table 4: Arrest on Serious New Charges

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Arrest on Serious New Charge</u>		
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Total</u>
12 months or less	105 (70.0%)	45 (30.0%)	150 (100%)
Over 12 months+ ⁵	88 (58.7%)	62 (41.3%)	150 (100%)

² Recidivism data could not be accurately determined on one offender due to lack of unique identifies. The recidivism tracking will, therefore, consist of 150 rather than 151 offenders

³ A serious charge was operationally defined as an arrest on a violent misdemeanor, non-violent felony or violent felony.

⁴ The charge shown was the most serious one on which the offender was arrested during the follow-up period.

⁵ Only those offenders who were not arrested on a serious new charge during the first 12 months were tracked for arrest on a serious charge after 12 months

Sixty two offenders were arrested on a serious new charge after their admission to LC-TASC SOS. Table 5 shows the specific time period following LC-TASC SOS admission during which the 62 offender were first arrested on a serious new charge.

Table 5 Time Period of First Arrest on a Serious New Charge Following the Date of LC-TASC SOS Admission

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
3 months or less	12	8.0%
Over 3 months to 6 months	17	11.3%
Over 6 months to 9 months	9	6.0%
Over 9 months to 12 months	7	4.7%
Over 12 months to 18 months	10	6.7%
Over 18 months to 24 months	7	4.7%
Over 24 months to 30 months	0	0%
Over 30 months	0	0%
No Arrest	<u>88</u>	<u>58.7%</u>
Total	150	100%

There were no first arrests on serious charges during the period of 24 months or more following LC-TASC SOS admission. This finding suggests that offenders are at highest risk of arrest in the months immediately following LC-TASC SOS admission. Most of the arrests, on serious new charges, occurred within the nine months immediately following admission to LC-TASC SOS.

Arrest of a Parole Violation (PV)

Interpretation of the parole violation data was complicated by the fact that many offenders were referred to LC-TASC SOS as sanctions for parole violations. It is possible that some of the violations that resulted in referrals to LC-TASC SOS may have shown as recidivism on parole violations. This could have occurred if the parole officer violated an offender after notifying LC-TASC SOS of the referral or if the PV was issued because the referred and admitted offender failed to attend the program. Of the three measure of recidivism detailed in the report, the recidivism on parole violations is the least reliable. This report may over project the actual number of parole violations.

A total of 49 (32.7%) of the offenders in LC-TASC SOS did not received a PV at anytime during the follow-up period. Most 101 (67.3%) of offenders were charged with a PV at some time after their admission to LC-TASC SOS. It is important to recognize that while 101 (67.3%) of offenders in LC-TASC SOS had a PV during the follow-up period, only 62 (41.3%) of them had serious new charges. This finding suggests that **many PVs were the result of technical violations rather than serious new charges.**

During the first 12 months following their LC-TASC SOS admission, 92 offenders received a PV. Twelve months or more after their LC-TASC SOS admission, an additional nine offenders were charged with a PV. Please refer to Table 6, which is on the next page.

Table 6: Parole Violations

<u>Time Period</u>	Parole Violation		<u>Total</u>
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
12 months or less	58 (38.4%)	92 (61.3%)	150 (100%)
Over 12 months+	49 (32.7%)	101 (67.3%)	150 (100%)

One hundred and one offenders received a PV after their admission to LC-TASC SOS. Table 7 shows the specific time period following LC-TASC SOS admission during which the 101 offenders were first violated.

Table 7: Time Period of First Parole Violation Following the Date of LC-TASC SOS Admission

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
3 months or less	46	30.7%
Over 3 months to 6 months	25	16.7%
Over 6 months to 9 months	13	8.7%
Over 9 months to 12 months	8	5.3%
Over 12 months to 18 months	6	4.0%
Over 18 months to 24 months	3	2.0%
Over 24 months to 30 months	0	0%
Over 30 months	0	0%
No Parole Violations	<u>49</u>	<u>32.7%</u>
Total	150	100%

Prison Confinement

A total of **100 (66.7%)** of the 150 offenders admitted to LC-TASC SOS were **not returned or re-sentenced to prison**⁶ at any time during the follow-up period. Fifty (33.3%) of the 150 offenders admitted to LC-TASC SOS were confined in prison on a PV or sentenced to prison on a new charge. During the first 12 months following their LC-TASC SOS admission, 33 offenders returned to prison. Twelve months or more after their LC-TASC SOS⁷ admission, an additional 17 offenders returned to prison (see Table 8).

Table 8: Return to Prison Confinement

<u>Time Period</u>	Return to Prison		<u>Total</u>
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
12 months or less	117 (78.0%)	33 (22.0%)	150 (100%)
Over 12 months+	100 (66.7%)	50 (33.3%)	150 (100%)

Table 9 (next page) shows the specific time period during which the offenders were returned to prison.

⁶ Prison refers to an ODRC institution.

⁷ Only those offenders who were not imprisoned during the first 12 months were tracked for imprisonment after 12 months.

Table 9: Time Period of First Prison Confinement Following the Date of LC-TASC SOS Admission

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
3 months or less	10	6.7%
Over 3 months to 6 months	14	9.3%
Over 6 months to 9 months	9	6.0%
Over 9 months to 12 months	5	3.3%
Over 12 months to 18 months	8	5.3%
Over 18 months to 24 months	2	1.3%
Over 24 months to 30 months	2	1.3%
Over 30 months	0	0%
No Prison Confinement	<u>100</u>	<u>66.7%</u>
Total	150	100%

All of the offenders referred to LC-TASC SOS, were at high risk of recidivism and return to prison; however, two thirds (66.7%) of those offenders were not returned to prison at any time during the follow-up period.

LC-TASC SOS Clients' Recidivism Compared to National Rates

A report issued by the Bureau of Justice Statistic (BJS) in June of 2002 tracked the recidivism of a sample of 272,111 offenders who were released from prisons in 15 states during 1994. BJS reported the percentage of offender recidivism within the first and second year following release. 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 10 shows the recidivism of LC-TASC SOS offenders compared to the recidivism of the national average during analogous time periods. To be as comparable as possible with the BJS recidivism report, the tracking periods shown for LC-TASC SOS offenders' are one year and two years. 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 LC-TASC SOS were not tracked from the point of prison release. They were instead tracked from the point of admission to LC-TASC SOS. **Offenders in LC-TASC SOS actually had more time in the community and therefore more opportunity for recidivism than the offenders in the BJS study.**

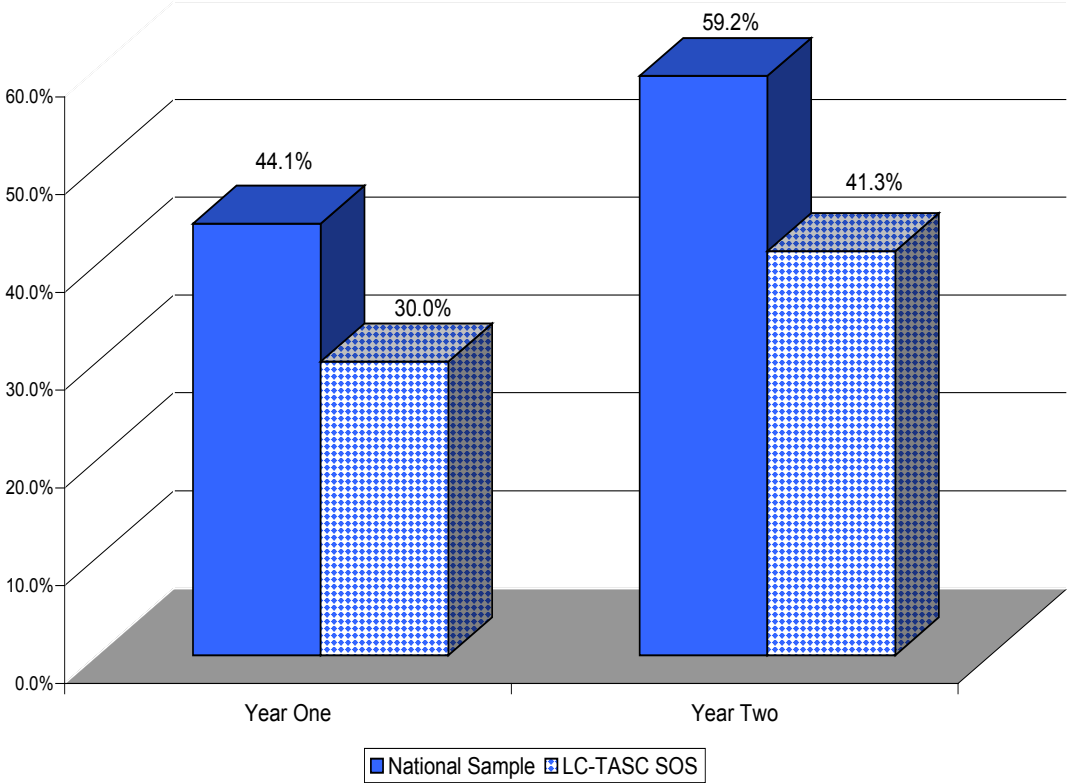
Table 10: Recidivism Rate Comparison: LC-TASC SOS and National Rates

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Recidivism</u> ⁸	
	<u>National Average</u>	<u>LC-TASC SOS</u>
1 year	44.1%	30.0%
2 year	59.2%	41.3%

The LC-TASC SOS clients had recidivism rates that were **14.1% below that national average for recidivism within the first year** following prison release and **17.9% below the national average for recidivism within the second year** following release from prison. The chart on the following page illustrates the difference in recidivism rates between offender in LC-TASC SOS and the national sample of offenders.

⁸ Recidivism is defined as arrest on a felony or serious (violent) misdemeanor

Recidivism on Felonies and Serious Misdemeanors



Summary of Key Findings

- ❖ Offenders in LC-TASC SOS had substantially **lower rates of recidivism** (arrests on felonies or serious misdemeanors) **than the national average.**
 - One year after their admission to the LC-TASC SOS only 30% of the offenders 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 **one year recidivism rate for offenders in LC-TASC SOS was 14.1% below the national average.**
 - Two years after admission to LC-TASC SOS, 41.3% of the offenders had been arrested on a felony or serious misdemeanor. During a comparable time period, 59.2% of the offenders in a BJS national sample had been arrested on a felony or serious misdemeanor. The **two year recidivism rate for offenders in LC-TASC SOS was 17.9% below the national average.**

- ❖ Those LC-TASC SOS clients who did recidivate were **charged with less serious offenses** than those which typically resulted in their parole and original referral to LC-TASC SOS .
 - **Most (85%) of the offenders** admitted to LC-TASC SOS were **on parole for a violent felony**.
 - **Only 17 (11.3%) of the offenders in LC-TASC SOS were charged with a violent felony** during the follow-up period.

- ❖ All offenders referred to the LC-TASC SOS were at high risk of recidivism and return to prison; however, after LC-TASC SOS admission, **two-thirds of the 150 offenders sustained in the community and were not returned to prison** at anytime during the follow-up period.

Implications

❖ Cost Savings

- **LC-TASC SOS has contributed to substantial savings for the State of Ohio.** Conservative national estimates place the cost of prison incarceration at \$20,000 per inmate per year⁹. All offenders referred to the LC-TASC SOS were at high risk of recidivism and return to prison; however, after LC-TASC SOS admission 100 (66.7%) of these 150 offenders avoided re-incarceration. If each of these 100 offenders had been returned to prison for just one year, the cost to the State of Ohio would have been at least \$2,000,000.

❖ Promoting Community Safety

- While contributing to reduced incarceration rates, **LC-TASC SOS helped to reduce the re-offending rates of high risk offenders and in doing so increased community safety.** Offenders in LC-TASC SOS had recidivism rates substantially below the national average for offenders released from prison. While most offenders in LC-TASC SOS had a history of conviction on violent felonies, only 11.3% of these offenders were charged with a violent felony during the follow-up period.

⁹ J. Gainsborough and M. Maurer (2002) Sentencing Project Report “Diminished Returns: Crime and Incarceration in the 1990s”