

From 2022 through 2024, the County Chiefs Adult Probation and Parole Officers Association of Pennsylvania received funding through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to forward evidence-based practice objectives of the Pennsylvania Partnership for Criminal Justice Improvement (PPCJI), which intended to improve the effectiveness of probation and parole services among county adult probation and parole departments. One of their primary goals was to reduce recidivism among people who were assessed at moderate and high risk by 15%.



**9,405**

**SUPERVISED  
INDIVIDUALS WHO  
ENTERED  
SUPERVISION  
DURING 2017, 2022,  
AND 2023 IN BERKS,  
DAUPHIN, AND YORK  
COUNTIES WERE  
INCLUDED IN THE  
SAMPLE**



**OVER 50%**

**REDUCTION IN OBSERVED  
RECIDIVISM FOR THOSE  
WHO WERE SCORED AS A  
MODERATE OR HIGH RISK**

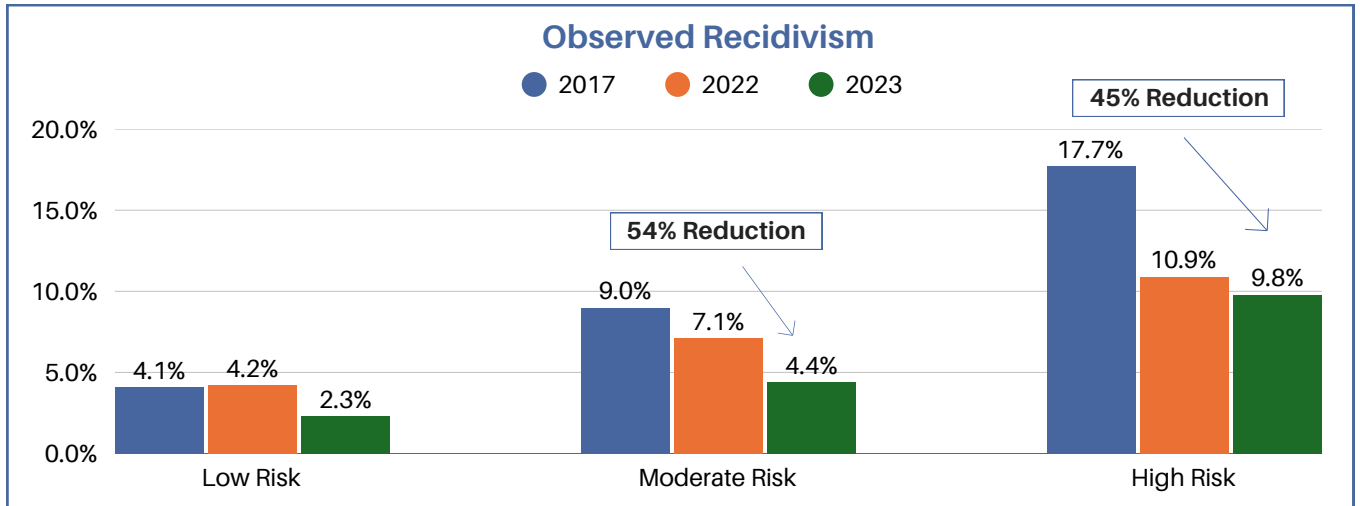
Funding was used to support numerous activities focusing on using validated, actuarial assessments, implementing supervision practices that are effective, conducting effective programming in-house, administering rewards and sanctions, ensuring that programming based in community is effective, and adopting a statewide approach to EBP.

Outcomes were subsequently studied by Drs. Robert Orth and Brandon Vick from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). They looked at rearrest rates among county-supervised individuals in three Pennsylvania counties (Berks, Dauphin, and York) across three different years (2017, 2022, and 2023). These counties were selected due to their associated three-year trend for elevated violent crime rates, county population size, geographical diversity, and early adoption and implementation of the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS). The study measured recidivism 6-months after starting supervision via three analytic methods (observed, predictive, and matched recidivism).

During the three years, each county used the Community Supervision Screening Tool (CSST) and the Community Supervision Tool (CST), both ORAS tools, to assess risk. Even though similar results were found with both tools, this spotlight only focuses on individuals assessed using the CST.

## STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

**Observed Recidivism:** The study examined the recidivism rates, defined as the first instance of rearrest for any criminal offense during the six months following an individual’s entry into county supervision, comparing individuals who entered in 2017, 2022, and 2023.



↓ **OVER 50% REDUCTION OF CHARGE ESCALATION COMPARING 2017 TO 2023**

**Observed Charge Escalation:** The study looked at the percentage of individuals who entered the system with either a misdemeanor or a nonviolent offense and were rearrested for a felony or violent offense, respectively. They found a reduction in charge escalation for people who scored as a moderate or high risk.

**Predictive Recidivism:** The study controlled for independent variables such as race, gender, age, and criminal history (age of first arrest and total arrest) to determine the expected likelihood of a 6-month rearrest. People who scored as high risk in 2023 were found to have a statistically significant reduction in the likelihood of being rearrested than those in 2017 or 2022. Those who scored as a moderate risk in 2023 were also found to be statistically less likely to be rearrested than prior cohorts.

↓ **DECREASED FROM 8.2% IN 2017 TO 3.9% IN 2023 FOR MODERATE RISK DECREASE FROM 15.5% IN 2017 COMPARED TO 7.4% IN 2023 FOR HIGH-RISK**

**INCREASED IMPACT ON THOSE THAT ARE MODERATE OR HIGH RISK**



**Matching Recidivism:** The study also compared two groups of people: one group that scored as low risk and was most likely NOT to receive evidence-based interventions and one group that scored as moderate or high risk and was most likely to receive evidence-based interventions (controlling for county, demographics, and criminal histories). Individuals who scored as moderate or high risk were significantly less likely to be rearrested when controlling for similar characteristics among individuals under supervision.

**Study Outcome:** Observed, predictive, and matched recidivism rates of moderate- and high-risk supervised individuals were **significantly lower** in 2023 versus 2017, suggesting that the PPCJI’s goal of reducing recidivism among these risk groups was achieved.