## Department of Community Correction



Arkansas Early Release
(Act 682 of 2005)
Recidivism and Offender Status
October 2006

## Background on the Early Release Act (682 of 2005)

Act 682 of 2005, commonly referred to as the Early Release Act, allows the Arkansas Parole Board to release inmates under the following conditions:

The offender was judicially transferred to the Department of Community Correction (DCC);

The offender has been incarcerated for a minimum of 270 days; and The offender has participated and successfully completed the therapeutic programs operated within a community corrections center (CCC).

In adopting this law, the legislative intent was to provide an incentive for offenders to become active participants in their therapeutic rehabilitation and to make more efficient use of the resources of the state.

The first releases under Act 682 from the Department of Community Correction CCC's were in August of 2005. Between August 2005 and August 2006, the Parole Board approved 692 releases under the release criteria. These offenders were released prior to their minimum release date. The time between the early release date and the minimum release date generates available bed space in a CCC. This reduction in the center's census is subsequently seen in lower county jail backup.

## Recidivism for Released Offenders

There were 682 offenders who met the Act 682 release criteria. The overall recidivism rate for the offenders released in the first year of the program is just under 5%. There were 26 offenders (76.5% of all recidivists') who were released under Act 682 who were re-admitted as a technical violator, most of them re-admitted to DCC (24 of the 26). New felony crime convictions accounted for 23.5% of the recidivists.

Table 1
Number of Offenders Released Under Act 682
and the Number Of Recidivists' with Reason for Recidivism and
Location of Incarceration

	Number	Percent		
Number of Unique Offenders Released Under the 682 Program	692			
Number of Recidivists	34	4.9%		
Reason for Recidivism				
Technical Violation	26	76.5%		
New Crime	8	23.5%		
Location of Incarceration				
DCC	24	70.6%		
ADC	10	29.4%		

## Offender Supervision Status as of August 31, 2006

Approximately 88% of the offenders released under Act 682 are still active cases. Of the offenders released, 61% were under active direct supervision (422 offenders), most at a medium supervision level. Unsupervised offenders accounted for 19.1% of the Act 682 offenders.

Table 2
Supervision Status for Offenders Released Under Act 682
(as of August 31, 2006)

Status	Maximum Supervision	Medium Supervision	Minimum Supervision	Annual Reporting	Unassigned	Total
Active – Direct Supervision	4	342	54	1	21	422
Active – Electronic Monitoring	0	2	0	0	0	2
Out to Other State	0	3	1	0	2	6
Absconded	1	21	0	0	15	37
Unsupervised	2	60	45	3	22	132
Incarcerated	1	4			6	11
Subtotal	8	432	100	4	66	610
Closed	1	53	16	1	11	82
Total	9	485	116	5	77	692