

Probation Violators within the State Responsible Populations

VADOC RESEARCH-STATISTICAL ANALYSIS & FORECAST UNIT JANUARY 2021

Introduction

Probationers serving obligations who do not adhere to the conditions of their probation can be revoked by the courts. These violators may be returned to supervision, sentenced to an alternative sanction such as a Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP), receive a Local Responsible (LR) sentence (less than one year) or receive a State Responsible (SR) sentence (one year or more). Probationers who are convicted of a new crime are referred to as Condition 1 or New Crime Probation Violators. Those who fail to follow any of the other probation conditions (see list at right) are referred to as Technical Probation Violators.

Annually, the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) is legislatively obligated (Item 379 of Chapter 1 of the 2014 Acts of Assembly) to produce a forecast of the SR Offender Populations, including a forecast of Technical Probation Violators. Accordingly, VADOC, as part of the SPSHS Consensus Forecast process, developed a process to discern Technical Violators from New Crime Violators among the SR Inmate population. This report provides information on that process and the violators. Without a conviction for a new crime, a violator cannot be considered a Condition 1 violator. The timing in the judicial process can have an impact on whether the violation is technical or new crime. If a probationer has new charges pending and the conviction comes before the violation hear-

Probation Violation Conditions

Condition 1: Convicted for a new offense

Condition 2: Fail to report any arrest within 3 days to Probation and Parole (P&P) Officer

Condition 3: Fail to maintain employment/report changes in employment

Condition 4: Fail to report as instructed

Condition 5: Fail to allow P&P Officer to visit home or place of employment

Condition 6: Fail to follow instructions and be truthful and cooperative

Condition 7: Use alcoholic beverages to excess

Condition 8: Use, possess, distribute controlled substances or paraphernalia

Condition 9: Use, own, possess, transport or carry firearm

 ${\it Condition~10: Change~residence~or~leave~Commonwealth~of~Virginia}$

 $Condition\ 11: Abscond\ from\ supervision$

Special Conditions: related to the offender or offense may apply

ing, Condition 1 applies. However, if the violation hearing occurs prior to the new crime conviction, there is a technical violation and a new crime conviction but no Condition 1. Since SR inmates must satisfy all sentences and they are not considered SR until the final sentencing event, we look at the totality of the sentences surrounding the violation.

Methodology

Since 2006, VADOC has identified both Technical and New Crime Probation Violators in the SR New Court Commitments (NCC) and SR Confined Populations on an annual basis. First, the VADOC sentence history in the Virginia Corrections Information System (VirginiaCORIS) for three years of SR NCC is examined to identify those new commitments who have probation violation sentences listed. Violators with an accompanying conviction for another offense are labeled New Crime Violators. The remaining are tentatively labeled Technical Violators. This step identified 6,159 Probation Violators (2,872 New Crime; 3,287 Technical) in the FY2018 SR NCC. Inmates who were not on probation when they were sentenced as an SR NCC are labeled Non-Violators throughout this report. Next, Virginia State Police (VSP) criminal histories for these Technical Violators are examined to identify any convictions for additional offenses that had not yet been recorded in VirginiaCORIS. In FY2018, this step identified 622 additional New Crime Violators, leaving 2,665 Technical Violators (3,287 minus 622). Third, the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission (VCSC) Sentencing Revocation Report (SRR) data is analyzed to identify Condition 1 (New Crime) convictions for the remaining 2,665 Technical Violators. This step identified 1,086 additional New Crime Violators, leaving 1,579 Technical Violators.

nical Violators in the FY2018 SR NCC. Finally, VADOC runs the analyses on the previous three years of SR NCC to capture sentence and conviction information not previously in

FY2018 New Court	New Crimes Identified	New C		Techr Viola		Total Vid	olators
Commitments (n=12,068)	number	number	% NCC	number	% NCC	number	% NCC
Step 1 (DOC Data)	2,872	2,872	24%	3,287	27%	6,159	51%
Step 2 (DOC + VSP Data)	622	3,494	29%	2,665	22%	6,159	51%
Step 3 (DOC + VSP + SRR Data)	1,086	4,580	38%	1,579	13%	6,159	51%

the databases. This updated three years of data is sufficient to estimate the Probation Violators in the SR Confined Population because, on average, Probation Violators have entered and exited the SR Confined Population within this time. This step identified 10,333 Probation Violators in the SR Confined Population at the end of May 2020 (8,872 New Crime; 1,461 Technical).

Probation Violators in the SR New Court Commitments¹

Since FY2010, Probation Violators have comprised approximately half of the SR NCC (46-51%). New Crime Violators have comprised the bulk of the Probation Violators in the SR NCC (72-84%). Improved efforts at identifying the New Crime Viola-

						Probati	ion Violators			
	Total SR NCC		Total Vio	olators	New	Crime Vi	olators	Tech	nical Vic	olators
				% of		% of	% of		% of	% of
	number	% change	number	NCC	number	NCC	Violators	number	NCC	Violators
FY2010	12,053		5,577	46%	4,667	39%	84%	910	8%	16%
FY2011	11,896	-1%	5,606	47%	4,731	40%	84%	875	7%	16%
FY2012	11,527	-3%	5,485	48%	4,506	39%	82%	979	8%	18%
FY2013	11,777	2%	5,688	48%	4,672	40%	82%	1,016	9%	18%
FY2014	12,460	6%	6,011	48%	4,742	38%	79%	1,269	10%	21%
FY2015	12,311	-1%	6,121	50%	4,678	38%	76%	1,443	12%	24%
FY2016	11,583	-6%	5,786	50%	4,268	37%	74%	1,518	13%	26%
FY2017	11,760	2%	5,985	51%	4,303	37%	72%	1,682	14%	28%
FY2018	12,068	3%	6,159	51%	4,580	38%	74%	1,579	13%	26%

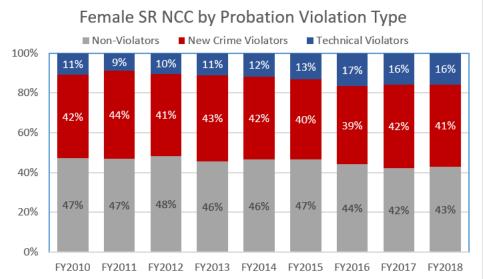
tors by VADOC, VSP and VCSC have played a significant role in achieving these results. The changes in the New Crime vs. Technical Violation distribution has occurred in a period in which the total SR NCC has been declining.

Demographics

As males comprise the largest portion of the SR NCC (85-86%), it follows that the Probation Violator distribution for them would mirror the distribution of the total SR NCC. Among males, Probation Violators have comprised approximately one-half of the male SR NCC (49-50%). New Crime Violators have comprised the bulk of the male Probation Violators (72-75%). In FY2018, 50% of Male NCC were Non-Violators, 37% were New Crime Violators, and 13% were Technical Violators.

The breakdown for females is different than that for males. Among females, Probation Violators have comprised more than half of the female SR NCC (52-58%). The New Crime Violator percentage for females has remained between 70-73%. In FY2018, 43% of Female NCC were Non-Violators, 41% were New Crime Violators, and 16% were Technical Violators.

In FY2018, New Crime Violators were, on average, the same age at the time

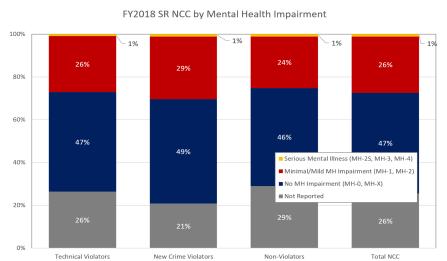


¹FY2018 SR NCC information updated through May 29, 2020

of commitment as the Non-Violators in the SR NCC (35.4 years vs. 35.7 years). Technical Violators, at 36.1 years old, were slightly older. Females, at 36.2 years old, were slightly older than males (35.6). Among males, there was not a large difference in age between the groups, but the Technical Violators were slightly older (Non-Violators=35.6; New Crime Violators=35.3; Technical Violators=36.3). Among females, there was not a large difference in age between the groups, but the Technical Violators were slightly younger (Non-Violators=36.6; New Crime Violators=36.3; Technical Violators=35.2). While 20% of the Non-Violators were under 25 years of age, only 11% of the Probation Violators were under that age. Sixteen percent of the Non-Violators were in the 50 & Over age group, and 12% of the Probation Violators were in this age group.

Mental Health Information

In FY2018, more than one-quarter of the SR NCC (27%) showed evidence of minimal or mild mental health impairment (MH-1 or MH-2). Another 1% had a diagnosis of a serious mental illness (MH-S2, MH-3, or MH-4). A larger percentage of the New Crime Violators (30%) showed some evidence of mental health impairment than either the Technical Violators (27%) or the Non-Violators (25%).



Alcohol Usage

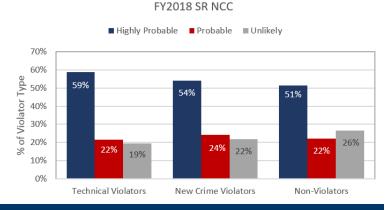
Among the 7,702 FY2018 SR NCC who had alcohol usage information reported in a Pre-Sentencing Investigation (PSI) Report, 1,119 (15%) reported using alcohol heavily while another 15% (1,146) reported moderate use. Fewer than one-third (2,450) reported using alcohol only occasionally. The remaining six percent reported using alcohol in the prior year, but the frequency of use was not reported. Of the 3,063 New Crime Violators with alcohol usage information reported, almost one-third reported heavy use (16%) or moderate use (15%). Of the 934 Technical Violators with alcohol usage information reported, 14% reported heavy use and 16% reported moderate use.

Drug Usage

Among the 7,702 FY2018 SR NCC who had drug usage information reported in a Pre-Sentencing Investigation (PSI) Report, 2,852 (37%) reported using drugs heavily while another 1,052 (14%) reported moderate use. Another 12% (934) reported using drugs only occasionally while 861 (11%) reported using drugs in the prior year, but the frequency of use was not reported. Of the 3,063 New Crime Violators with drug usage information reported, 41% reported heavy use while another 15% reported moderate use. Of the 934 Technical Violators with drug usage information reported, 40% reported heavy use while another 17% reported moderate use.

Substance Abuse Needs

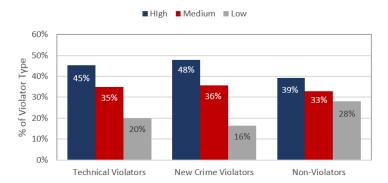
Prior to being sentenced to a term of SR incarceration, 69% of the FY2018 SR NCC (8,342 of 12,068) had been scored on the COMPAS Substance Abuse Needs scale. Of these 8,342 offenders, more than one-half (54%) scored "Highly Probable" and another 23% scored "Probable". A larger percentage of the Technical Violators (59%) scored "Highly Probable" than the New Crime Violators (54%) or the Non-Violators (51%).



Risk of Recidivism

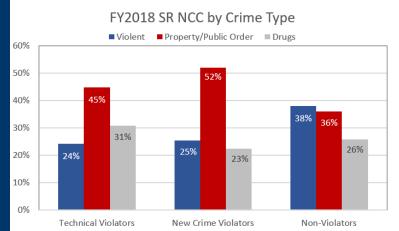
Prior to being sentenced to an SR term of incarceration, 70% of the FY2018 SR NCC (8,455 of 12,068) had a COMPAS Risk Assessment completed. Of these 8,455 offenders, almost one-half (45%) were scored as having a "High" risk of recidivism, and more than one-third (35%) were scored as having a "Medium" risk of recidivism. Only 20% of the Technical Violators and 16% of the New Crime Violators had been scored as having a "Low" risk of recidivism.

COMPAS Risk of Recidivism FY2018 SR NCC



Most Serious Offense²

In FY2018, fewer than one-third (34%) of the SR NCC had a Violent Most Serious Offense (MSO) for this term of incarceration while almost two-thirds had a Property/Public Order or Drug MSO (41% and 25%, respectively). However,



the MSO breakdown differed greatly between the Probation Violators and Non-Violators and between the New Crime Violators and Technical Violators. Among the Non-Violators, 42% of the offenders had a Violent MSO, 32% had a Property/Public Order MSO while more than one-quarter (26%) had a Drug MSO. Probation Violators were markedly not as violent as the Non-Violators (Violent=27%; Property/ Public Order=49%; Drugs=25%). Among the Probation Violators, the same percentage of New Crime Violators and Technical Violators had a Violent MSO (27% each). A larger proportion of the New Crime Violators (51%) had a Property/

Public Order MSO than the Technical Violators (42%). A larger proportion of the Technical Violators (31%) had a Drug MSO than did the New Crime Violators (23%).

Total Sentence

Total Sentence is the length of time imposed on an inmate for all offenses for which he is convicted. This figure excludes any time suspended by the courts. For the FY2018 SR NCC, the average Total Sentence was just over four years (51.1 months). However, the median (middle) Total Sentence was just over two years (26.6 months), meaning one-half of the SR NCC had a Total Sentence below this figure.

In the FY2018 SR NCC, the New Crime Violators had a shorter average Total Sentence than the Non-Violators (49.1 vs. 59.7 months), and the Technical Violators had a much shorter average Total Sentence (25.0 months) than both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators. The median Total Sentences for both the New Crime Violators

FY2018 SR NCC Average Sentence Length By Violation Type and Most Serious Offense									
	Technical	New Crime	Non-	Total					
	Violators	Violators	Violators	NCC					
Violent									
Mean	29.7	78.3	97.9	84.9					
Median	19.0	43.0	48.0	40.0					
Property/Pub	olic Order								
Mean	23.5	39.0	34.3	35.0					
Median	18.0	30.0	24.0	24.0					
Drugs									
Mean	23.4	39.7	40.3	37.4					
Median	18.0	25.1	24.0	24.0					
Overall									
Mean	25.0	49.1	59.7	51.1					
Median	18.0	30.7	27.0	26.6					

²Most Serious Offense (MSO) for this term of SR incarceration (based on VADOC Statistical Analysis & Forecast Unit offense hierarchy). For Probation Violators, this may or may not be the MSO for which the offender was on probation.

tors and the Non-Violators were below the averages for each, indicating outliers (inmates with extremely long Total Sentences) are influencing the averages. However, the median for the New Crime Violators was longer than the median for the Non-Violators (30.7 vs. 27.0 months). As for the Technical Violators, the median Total Sentence was much shorter (18.0 months), meaning one-half of the Technical Violators are being sentenced to one and one-half years or shorter.

These differences in Total Sentence are much more noticeable when looking at the Probation Violators by MSO. New Crime Violators with a Violent MSO have an average Total Sentence that is more than four years longer than the average for the Technical Violators (78.3 vs. 29.7 months). However, their average is almost two full years shorter than the average Total Sentence for the Non-Violators with a Violent MSO (77.0 vs. 97.9 months). While much shorter than the average Total Sentences, the medians follow a similar pattern for these groups. The median Total Sentence for the Technical Violators with a Violent MSO is 19.0 months, meaning half of this group has a sentence at or below this length.

Among the FY2018 SR NCC with a Property/Public Order MSO, the New Crime Violators have a longer average Total Sentence (39.0 months) than both the Non-Violators (34.3 months) and the Technical Violators (23.5 months). Among the offenders with a Drug MSO, the Non-Violators and New Crime Violators have similar average Total Sentences (40.3 months and 39.7 months, respectively) while the Technical Violators have an shorter Total Sentence (23.4 months).

Expected SR Length of Stay

Expected SR Length of Stay (SRLOS) is a measure of how long an inmate will be State Responsible and occupy an SR

bed (either in a VADOC facility or a local/regional jail). This measure is the difference between an inmate's New Commitment Date (final date of sentencing) and Expected Good Time Release Date (based on Total Sentence and good time earning rate). It excludes any Local Responsible time the inmate spent in jail prior to sentencing. As SRLOS measures how long an inmate will be SR, the Statistical Analysis & Forecast Unit uses SRLOS in its forecast simulation model.

The FY2018 SR NCC had an average Expected SRLOS of 37.8 months and a median of 17.4 months, meaning one-half of these inmates will be released in less than one and a half years after becoming SR. More than six in ten (62%) of the SR NCC are expected to be re-

FY2018 SR NCC Average Expected SR Length of Stay (SRLOS) By Violation Type and Most Serious Offense									
	Technical New Crime Non- T								
	Violators	Violators	Violators	NCC					
Violent									
Mean	21.3	59.8	77.7	66.5					
Median	12.8	29.2	31.5	27.5					
Property/Public Or	rder								
Mean	15.1	26.5	23.8	23.8					
Median	12.2	18.1	13.5	15.1					
Drugs									
Mean	15.5	27.3	29.5	26.5					
Median	10.8	16.3	16.4	15.1					
Overall									
Mean	16.7	35.1	45.6	37.8					
Median	11.9	19.4	18.2	17.4					

leased within two years of becoming SR, meaning many of these inmates will be released before they can be brought into a VADOC facility and may not receive needed re-entry programming and services.

The New Crime Violators had a shorter average Expected SRLOS than the Non-Violators (35.1 vs. 45.6 months), and the Technical Violators had a much shorter average Expected SRLOS (16.7 months) than both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators. The median for both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators were below the averages for each, indicating outliers are influencing the averages. The median for the New Crime Violators was longer than the median for the Non-Violators (19.4 vs. 18.2 months). As for the Technical Violators, the median Expected SRLOS was much shorter (11.9 months), meaning one-half of the Technical Violators are expected to be released in just under one year.

These differences in Expected SRLOS are much more noticeable when looking at the Probation Violators by MSO. New Crime Violators with a Violent MSO have an average Expected SRLOS that is almost three times longer than the average for the Technical Violators (59.8 vs. 21.3 months), but their average is almost one and one-half years shorter than

the average Expected SRLOS for the Non-Violators with a Violent MSO (59.8 vs. 77.7 months). While much shorter than the average Expected SRLOS, the medians follow a similar pattern for these groups. The median Total Sentence for the Technical Violators with a Violent MSO is just over one year (12.8 months), meaning one-half of this group is expected to be released within this timeframe after becoming SR.

Among the FY2018 SR NCC with a Property/Public Order MSO, the New Crime Violators have a longer average Expected SRLOS (26.5 months) than both the Non-Violators (23.8 months) and the Technical Violators (15.1 months). Among the inmates with a Drug MSO, the Non-Violators have a longer average Expected SRLOS (29.5 months) than the New Crime Violators (27.3 months) and the Technical Violators (15.5 months). Again, while shorter than the averages, the median Expected SRLOS for these groups follows a similar pattern. The median for the Technical Violators with a Property/Public Order MSO is just over one year (12.2 months). Those Technical Violators with a Drug MSO also have a median Expected SRLOS of less than one year (10.8 months).

Prior SR Incarcerations³

More than one-half (51%) of the FY2018 SR NCC were serving their first term of SR incarceration, with almost another one-quarter (23%) serving their second term. However, the differences in incarceration history between the Probation Violators and the Non-Violators are quite stark. Over two-thirds (68%) of the Non-Violators had not served a prior term of SR incarceration while more than one-third of the New Crime Violators and the Technical Violators had not served a

FY2018 SR NCC by Probation Violation Type & Prior SR Incarcerations

	Tech	Technical		Crime	Non-			
	Viola	Violators		tors	Viola	tors	Total NCC	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Zero Prior	529	34%	1,611	35%	4,030	68%	6,170	51%
One Prior	502	32%	1,394	30%	899	15%	2,795	23%
Two Prior	264	17%	789	17%	490	8%	1,543	13%
Three Prior	145	9%	386	8%	259	4%	790	7%
Four or More Prior	139	9%	400	9%	231	4%	770	6%
Total	1,579		4,580		5,909		12,068	

prior term of SR incarceration (35% and 34%, respectively). Only 15% of the Non-Violators had served one prior term of SR incarceration, but almost one-third of the New Crime Violators and the Technical Violators had served one prior term (30% and 32%, respectively. The percentages of New Crime Violators and Technical Violators who had served two prior terms of SR incarceration (17% for each) were double the percentage for the Non-Violators (8%). The percentages of New Crime Violators and Technical Violators who had served three prior and four or more prior terms of SR incarceration were twice the percentages for the Non-Violators.

Probation Violators in the SR Confined Population⁴

On June 30, 2018, there were 35,792 inmates in the SR Confined Population. Of those, 15,215 (43%) were identified as Probation Violators in VADOC's analysis of the SR NCC. Of these Probation Violators, 13,338 were New Crime Violators; the remaining 1,877 were Technical Violators.

Demographics

Similar to the SR NCC, males comprise the largest percentage (92%) of the SR Confined Population. While this is true among all three groups, females make up a larger proportion of the Technical Violators (15%) than they do of the other groups (9% of New Crime Violators; 7% of Non-Violators). Probation Violators were almost two years younger, on average, than the Non-Violators in the SR Confined Population (38.6 years vs. 40.5 years), but there were noticeable differences between age groups. Twenty-one percent of the New Crime Violators were under 30 years of age, compared to

³For this analysis, prior terms of SR incarcerations means an inmate has multiple TermId numbers in VirginiaCORIS; each TermId prior to the one the inmate is currently serving is counted as a prior incarceration; this is not to be considered the number of total number of times an inmate has been incarcerated because inmates released to parole can be released and returned to incarceration on the same TermId multiple times.

⁴Inmates serving an SR term of incarceration on June 30, 2018 as identified in VirginiaCORIS by VADOC; all data updated through May 29, 2020

25% of the Technical Violators and 24% of the Non-Violators. More than one-quarter (28%) of the Non-Violators were between the ages of 30 and 39, but well over one-third of the New Crime Violators and Technical Violators were in this age group (38% and 37%, respectively). The higher average age for

SR Confined Population by Violation Type & Current Age

	Techr		New Crime				Total SR		
Age on	Viola	tors	Viola	tors	Non-Vi	olators	Confined		
June 30, 2018	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	
Under 30	478	25%	2,768	21%	4,853	24%	8,099	23%	
30 to 39	703	37%	5,054	38%	5,821	28%	11,578	32%	
40 to 49	408	22%	3,114	23%	4,565	22%	8,087	23%	
50 & Over	288	15%	2,402	18%	5,338	26%	8,028	22%	
Total	1,877		13,338		20,577		35,792		
Average Age	37.	.6	38.	8	40	.5	39	.7	

the Non-Violators can be explained by the 50 & Over age group. This age group comprised more than one-quarter of the Non-Violators (26%), but only 18% of the New Crime Violators and 15% Technical Violators.

Mental Health Information

In FY2018, more than one-quarter of the SR Confined Population (27%) showed some evidence of mental impairment. Of these, the vast majority (92%) showed evidence of minimal or mild impairment. However, there were differences between the three groups: New Crime Violators, 30%; Technical Violators, 32%; Non-Violators, 25%).

Alcohol Usage

Among the 19,221 inmates in the FY2018 SR Confined Population who had alcohol usage information reported in a PSI, 5,974 (31%) of these inmates reported they had not used alcohol during the year prior to their incarceration while 13,247 (69%) reported they had used alcohol. Almost one-quarter of these 13,247 inmates (23%) reported using alcohol heavily while another 21% reported moderate use. Almost one-half (46%) reported using alcohol occasionally. The remaining seven percent reported using alcohol in the prior year, but the frequency of use was not reported. Of the 7,909 New Crime Violators with alcohol usage information reported, 2,333 inmates (29%) reported they had not used alcohol during the year prior to their incarceration while 5,576 (71%) reported they had. Among those 5,576 inmates, almost one-half reported heavy use (24%) or moderate use (21%). Of the 1,089 Technical Violators with alcohol usage information reported, almost one-third (32%) reported they had not used alcohol during the year prior to their incarceration while 738 (68%) reported they had. Among those 738 inmates, 44% reported either heavy use (22%) or moderate use (22%).

Drug Usage

Among the 19,221 inmates in the FY2018 SR Confined Population who had drug usage information reported in a PSI, 5,840 (30%) of these inmates reported they had not used drugs during the year prior to their incarceration while 13,381 (70%) reported they had used drugs. Almost one-half of these 13,381 inmates (6,616 or 49%) reported using drugs heavily while another 2,192 (16%) reported moderate use. Seventeen percent reported using drugs only occasionally, and 17% reported using drugs in the year prior to their incarceration, but the frequency of use was not reported. Of the 7,909 New Crime Violators with drug usage information reported, 1,774 (22%) reported they had not used drugs during the year prior to their incarceration while 6,135 (78%) reported they had. Among those 6,135 offenders, 52% reported heavy use while another 16% reported moderate use. Of the 1,089 Technical Violators with drug usage information reported, 228 (21%) reported they had not used drugs during the year prior to their incarceration while 861 (79%) reported they had. Among those 861 inmates, 48% reported heavy use while another 19% reported moderate use.

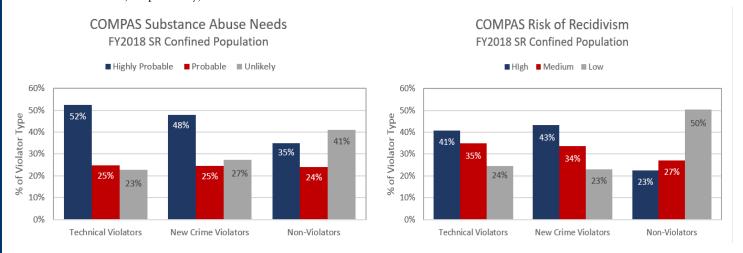
Substance Abuse Needs

Three-quarters of the FY2018 SR Confined Population (26,896 of 35,792) had been scored on the COMPAS Substance Abuse Needs scale prior to the end of that fiscal year. Of these 26,896 inmates, 41% scored "Highly Probable," but there were noticeable differences between the three groups of inmates. More than one-half (52%) of the Technical Violators and almost one-half (48%) of the New Crime Violators scored "Highly Probable" while just more than one-third

(35%) of the Non-Violators scored at this level. Almost one-quarter (23%) of the Technical Violators and more than one-quarter (27%) of the New Crime Violators scored "Unlikely" while 41% of the Non-Violators scored "Unlikely".

Risk of Recidivism

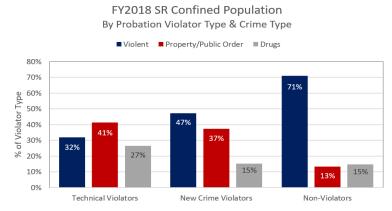
Almost all of the FY2018 SR Confined Population (33,987 of 35,792, or 95%) had had COMPAS Risk Assessment completed prior to the end of that fiscal year. Of these 33,987 inmates, a plurality (38%) were scored as having a "Low" risk of recidivism while almost one-third (32%) were scored as having a "High" risk of recidivism. Among the Non-Violators, one-half (50%) scored "Low" while 23% scored "High", but this pattern was reversed among the probation violators. Forty-one percent of the Technical Violators and 43% of the New Crime Violators had a "High" risk of recidivism while 24% and 23%, respectively, scored "Low".



Most Serious Offense

Overall, a larger proportion of the SR Confined Population had a Violent MSO compared to the SR NCC discussed previously (60% vs. 34%). Additionally, there were marked differences between the groups when looking at the MSO dis-

tribution. Among the Non-Violators, 71% had a Violent MSO while those with a Property/Public Order or Drug MSO made up only 13% and 15% of the Non-Violators, respectively. Inmates with a Violent MSO comprised the largest group of the New Crime Violators (47%), and those inmates with a Property/Public Order MSO comprised 37%. However, inmates with a Property/Public Order MSO made up the largest group among the Technical Violators (41%), with fewer than one-third (32%) having a Violent MSO and more than one-quarter (27%) having a Drug MSO.



Total Sentence

When analyzing and reporting on the Total Sentence information of the SR Confined Population, one must account for the structure under which inmates were sentenced. Inmates convicted of felonies committed prior to January 1, 1995 are eligible for discretionary parole consideration by the Virginia Parole Board (VPB); these inmates are referred to as Parole Eligible (PE). Parole was abolished for felonies committed on/after January 1, 1995. Inmates convicted of these offenses are referred to as Truth-In-Sentencing (TIS) inmates who must serve at least 85% of their Total Sentence. Historically, PE inmates were sentenced to very long terms of incarceration, with these inmates becoming eligible for discretionary pa-

role consideration after serving 25%, 33%, 50% or 75% of their Total Sentence (depending on their prior history). TIS inmates, on the other hand, are sentenced to a shorter total period of incarceration but must serve a larger percentage of that sentence (at least 85%). The June 30, 2018 SR Confined Population was composed of 32,528 (91%) TIS inmates and 3,264 (9%) PE inmates. Failing to distinguish between these two distinct populations would greatly skew the results of any analysis.

TIS Inmates

The 32,528 TIS inmates had an average Total Sentence of 157.6 months (13.1 years) with a median of 90.0 months (7.5 years). Fifty-seven percent (18,587) of these inmates were Non-Violators. The remaining 13,941 were split between New Crime Violators (12,084; 37%) and Technical Violators (1,857; 6%). Among the TIS inmates in the SR Confined Population, the New Crime Violators had a shorter average Total Sentence than the Non-Violators (129.5 vs. 187.7 months). Also, the Technical Violators had a much shorter average Total Sentence (47.7 months) than both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators. The median Total Sentence for both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators were below the averages for each, indicating outliers with long Total Sentences are influencing the averages. The median for the New Crime Violators was shorter than the median for the Non-Violators (77.0 vs. 120.0 months). As for the Technical Violators, the median Total Sentence was much shorter (34.2 months), meaning one-half of these Technical Violators were sentenced to less than three years of incarceration.

These differences in Total Sentence were much more noticeable when looking at the Probation Violators by MSO.

New Crime Violators with a Violent MSO had an average Total Sentence that was more than eleven years longer than the average for the Technical Violators (204.8 vs. 68.9 months), but their average was almost four years shorter than the average Total Sentence for the Non-Violators with a Violent MSO (204.8 vs. 250.5 months). While much shorter than the average Total Sentences, the medians followed a similar pattern for these groups. The median Total Sentence for the Technical Violators with a Violent MSO was 48 months, meaning one-half of this group had a sentence of four years or less. Among the TIS inmates with a Property/Public Order MSO, the Non-Violators had a longer average Total Sentence (80.8 months) than both the New Crime Violators (72.8 months) and the Technical Violators (38.7 months). Among the inmates with a Drug MSO, the New Crime Violators had a longer average Total Sentence (82.6 months) than the Non-Violators (77.2 months) and the Technical Violators (40.8 months). Again, while shorter than the averages, the median Total Sentences for these groups follow a similar pattern. The median for the Technical Violators with a

	TIS Offender Average Sentence Length (months) By Violation Type and Most Serious Offense								
		New Crime Violators		Total TIS					
Violent									
n=	532	5,179	12,342	18,076					
Mean	68.9	204.8	250.5	249.0					
Median	48.0	140.0	180.0	180.0					
Property	/Public Or	der							
n=	823	4,885	3,201	8,889					
Mean	38.7	72.8	80.8	80.1					
Median	30.0	55.3	48.0	57.8					
Drugs									
n=	501	2,020	3,044	5,563					
Mean	40.8	82.6	77.2	82.3					
Median	25.0	60.0	60.0	60.0					
Overall									
n=	1,857	12,084	18,587	32,528					
Mean	47.7	129.5	187.7	157.6					
Median	34.2	77.0	120.0	90.0					

Property/Public Order was 30.0 months, while the median for those with a Drug MSO was 25.0 months.

PE Inmates

PE inmates receive much longer sentences than TIS offenders. The 3,264 PE inmates had an average Total Sentence of 610.0 months (50.8 years) with a median of 523.7 months (43.6 years). Sixty-one percent (1,990) of these inmates were Non-Violators. The remaining 1,274 were split between New Crime Violators (1,254; 38%) and Technical Violators (20; <1%). When comparing Probation Violators to the Non-Violators among the PE inmates in the SR Confined Population, the New Crime Violators had a shorter average Total Sentence than the Non-Violators (501.3 vs. 735.3 months), and the

Technical Violators had a much shorter average Total Sentence (179.2 months) than both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators. The median Total Sentence for both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators were below the averages for each, indicating that outliers with long total sentences are influencing the averages. The median for the New Crime Violators was shorter than the median for the Non-Violators (432.2 vs. 650.0 months). As for the Technical Violators (432.2 vs. 650.0 months).

tors, the median Total Sentence was much shorter (141.0 months).

These differences in Total Sentence were much more noticeable when looking at the Probation Violators by MSO. New Crime Violators with a Violent MSO had an average Total Sentence that was twenty-five years longer than the average for the Technical Violators (533.5 vs. 230.5 months), but their average was almost nineteen years shorter than the average Total Sentence for the Non-Violators with a Violent MSO (533.5 vs. 757.3 months). The medians followed a similar pattern for these groups. Among the PE inmates with a Property/ Public Order MSO, the New Crime Violators had a longer average Total Sentence (384.9 months) than the Non-Violators (296.3 months) and the Technical Violators (70.8 months). Among the inmates with a Drug MSO, the Non-Violators had a longer average Total Sentence (593.1 months) than the New Crime Violators (292.5 months). There were two PE Technical Violators with a Drug MSO who were serving total imposed sentences of 84.0 months and 150.0 months.

PE Offender Average Sentence Length (months) By Violation Type and Most Serious Offense									
		New Crime Violators		Total PE					
Violent									
n=	13	1,030	1,929	2,972					
Mean	230.5	533.5	757.3	653.4					
Median	246.0	465.2	660.0	558.0					
Property/Public Order									
n=	5	187	46	238					
Mean	70.8	384.9	296.3	361.5					
Median	72.0	318.0	51.0	288.0					
Drugs									
n=	2	37	15	54					
Mean	117.0	292.5	593.1	369.5					
Median	117.0	240.0	504.0	284.5					
Overall									
n=	20	1,254	1,990	3,264					
Mean	179.2	501.3	735.3	610.0					
Median	141.0	432.2	650.0	523.7					

Remaining Expected Length of Stay

Remaining Expected Length of Stay (RELOS) is a measure of how much longer a current inmate will be State Responsible and occupy an SR bed (either in a VADOC facility or a local/regional jail). This measure is the difference between the "cut date" of the SR Confined Population (June 30, 2018 in this analysis) and an inmate's Expected Release Date, based on Total Sentence and good time earning rate (Good Time Release Date for TIS inmates and Mandatory Parole Release Date for PE inmates). As RELOS measures how much longer an inmate will be SR, VADOC uses RELOS in its forecast simulation model. As with the Total Sentence analysis of the SR Confined Population, the RELOS for TIS inmates and PE inmates must be looked at separately.

TIS Inmates

The 32,528 TIS inmates had an average RELOS of 82.5 months (6.9 years) with a median of 28.8 months (2.4 years), meaning one-half of these inmates were expected to be released within that timeframe. When comparing Probation Violators to the Non-Violators among the TIS inmates in the SR Confined Population, the New Crime Violators had a shorter average RELOS than the Non-Violators (64.8 vs. 99.4 months), and the Technical Violators had a much shorter average RELOS (17.0 months) than both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators. The median RELOS for both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators were below the averages for each, indicating outliers with long RELOS are influencing the averages. The median for the New Crime Violators was shorter than the median for the Non-Violators (23.4 vs. 37.3 months). As for the Technical Violators, the median RELOS was much shorter (6.9 months), meaning one-half of these Technical Violators are expected to be released in less than one year.

These differences in RELOS are much more noticeable when looking at the Probation Violators by MSO. New Crime Violators with a Violent MSO had an average RELOS that was almost seven years longer than the average for the Tech-

nical Violators (110.2 vs. 27.6 months), but their average is more than one and a half years shorter than the average RE-LOS for the Non-Violators with a Violent MSO (110.2 vs. 131.3 months). While much shorter than the average RELOS,

the medians follow a similar pattern for these groups. The median RELOS for the Technical Violators with a Violent MSO is just under one year (11.4 months), meaning one-half of this group was expected to be released within that timeframe.

Among the TIS inmates with a Property/Public Order MSO, the Non-Violators had a longer average RELOS than the New Crime Violators (37.7 vs. 26.2), both of which are much longer than the average for the Technical Violators (11.9 months). Among the inmates with a Drug MSO, the New Crime Violators had a slightly longer average RELOS than the Non-Violators (34.0 vs. 30.8 months, respectively) which were much longer than the average for the Technical Violators (13.8 months). While shorter than the averages, the median RELOS for these groups follows a similar pattern. The median for the Technical Violators with a Property/Public Order was 5.8 months, and the median for those with a Drug MSO was 6.2 months, meaning one-half of these inmates were expected to be released during those time frames.

TIS Offender Average RELOS (months) By Violation Type and Most Serious Offense									
		New Crime Violators		Total TIS					
Violent									
n=	532	5,179	12,342	18,076					
Mean	27.6	110.2	131.3	122.5					
Median	11.4	49.9	63.1	56.1					
Property	Property/Public Order								
n=	823	4,885	3,200	8,887					
Mean	11.9	26.2	37.7	29.2					
Median	5.8	14.4	11.7	12.5					
Drugs									
n=	501	2,020	3,044	5,563					
Mean	13.8	34.0	30.8	30.6					
Median	6.2	16.7	14.6	14.4					
Overall									
n=	1,857	12,084	18,585	32,526					
Mean	17.0	64.8	99.4	82.5					
Median	6.9	23.4	37.3	28.6					

PE Inmates

PE inmates receive much longer sentences than TIS inmates. However, as RELOS represents how much longer these inmates will be incarcerated until their Expected Release Date (Mandatory Parole Release Date), the RELOS values for the PE inmates are much shorter than their Total Sentence. The 3,264 PE inmates had an average RELOS of 156.9 months (13.1 years) with a median of 77.1 months (6.4 years). When comparing Probation Violators to the Non-Violators among the PE inmates in the SR Confined Population, the New Crime Violators had a shorter average RELOS than the Non-Violators (136.6 vs. 181.4 months), and the Technical Violators had a much shorter average RELOS (24.1 months) than

both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators. The median RELOS for both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators were below the averages for each, indicating outliers with long RELOS are influencing the averages. The median for the New Crime Violators was shorter than the median for the Non-Violators (71.1 vs. 89.4 months). As for the Technical Violators, the median RELOS was much shorter (11.2 months), meaning one-half of these Technical Violators were expected to be released within one year.

These differences in RELOS are much more noticeable for the Probation Violators by MSO. New Crime Violators with a Violent MSO have an average RELOS that is more than ten years longer than the average for the Technical Violators (151.7 vs. 28.5 months), but their average is almost three years shorter than the average RELOS for the Non-Violators with a Violent MSO (151.7 vs. 186.1 months). While much shorter than the average RELOS, the medians follow a similar pattern for these groups. Technical Violators with a Violent

PE Offender RELOS (months) By Violation Type and Most Serious Offense									
		New Crime Violators		Total PE					
Violent									
n=	13	1,030	1,929	2,972					
Mean	28.5	151.7	186.1	168.7					
Median	13.4	86.2	93.0	88.4					
Property/Public Order									
n=	5	187	46	238					
Mean	20.3	79.6	64.1	75.4					
Median	15.2	41.5	28.6	37.1					
Drugs									
n=	2	37	15	54					
Mean	5.1	50.3	216.4	94.8					
Median	5.1	34.9	121.1	45.8					
Overall									
n=	20	1,254	1,990	3,264					
Mean	24.1	136.6	181.4	156.9					
Median	11.2	71.1	89.4	77.1					

MSO had a median RELOS of 13.4 months, meaning one-half of these inmates were expected to be released in a little over one year.

Among the PE inmates with a Property/Public Order MSO, the New Crime Violators had a longer average RELOS (79.6 months) than the Non-Violators (64.1 months) and much longer than the Technical Violators (20.3 months). Among the inmates with a Drug MSO, the Non-Violators have a much longer average RELOS (216.4 months) than the New Crime Violators (50.3 months) and the two Technical Violators (1.3 months and 9.0 months). Again, while shorter than the averages, the median RELOS for these groups follow a similar pattern.

Prior SR Incarcerations

More than one-half (56%) of the SR inmates were serving their first term of SR incarceration, with almost another 23% serving their second term. However, like the SR NCC, the differences in incarceration history between the Probation Violators and the Non-Violators are quite stark. Almost three-quarters (74%) of the Non-Violators had not served a prior term of SR incarceration while one-third of the New Crime Violators and 29% of the Technical Violators had not served a prior term of SR incarceration. Only 14% of the Non-Violators had served one prior term of SR incarceration, but over one-third of the New Crime Violators and the Technical Violators (33% and 35%, respectively) had served one prior term. The percentages of New Crime Violators and Technical Violators who had served two prior terms of SR incarceration

(17% each) were more than double

the percentage for the Non-Violators (7%). The percentages of New Crime Violators and Technical Violators who had served three prior and four or more prior terms of SR incarceration were larger than the percentages for the Non-Violators.

FY2018 SR Confined Population by Probation Violation Type & Prior SR Incarcerations

	Technical Violators		New Crime	e Violators	Non-Violators Total SR Confine		Confined	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Zero Prior	551	29%	4,346	33%	15,143	74%	20,040	56%
One Prior	628	33%	4,622	35%	2,966	14%	8,216	23%
Two Prior	323	17%	2,287	17%	1,366	7%	3,976	11%
Three Prior	189	10%	1,110	8%	628	3%	1,927	5%
Four or More Prior	186	10%	973	7%	474	2%	1,633	5%
Total	1,877		13,338		20,577		35,792	

Probation Violators by Committing Court⁵

Probation violation practices can vary by localities and jurisdiction. VADOC analyzed this information and developed the two maps on the following page which allow for comparison between committing courts. The first map shows the Probation Violation Rate per 10,000 people in the population, and the second map shows the Technical Probation Violation Rate per 10,000 population.⁶

Probation Violation Rate

In FY2018, Virginia had a statewide Probation Violation rate of 7.2 per 10,000 people in the population. The average locality had an average rate of 10.0 per 10,000 with a median rate of 8.1. The rates ranged from 0.0 for Highland County to 39.6 for the city of Bristol. While the median is the midpoint where 50% of the localities had rates below this value and

⁵While inmates may be sentenced by courts in multiple jurisdictions for multiple offenses, VADOC assigns each inmate to the court that sentenced the inmate for his most serious offense (MSO). Several independent cities in Virginia share a circuit court with a neighboring locality (i.e. City of Emporia with Greensville County, City of Harrisonburg with Rockingham County). For the display purposes of the maps in this report, these cities are assigned the value of the locality with which they share a circuit court.

⁶Probation Violation Rate = (Number of SR NCC Probation Violations in a locality / Locality Population) x 10,000

Technical Probation Violation Rate = (Number of SR NCC Technical Probation Violations in a locality / Locality Population) x 10,000

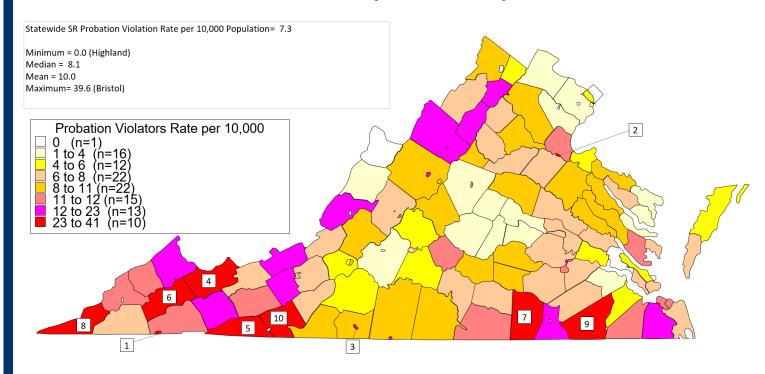
Population figures are from Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties in Virginia: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019 (CO-EST2019-

ANNRES-51); U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division; released March 2020; https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-counties-total.html

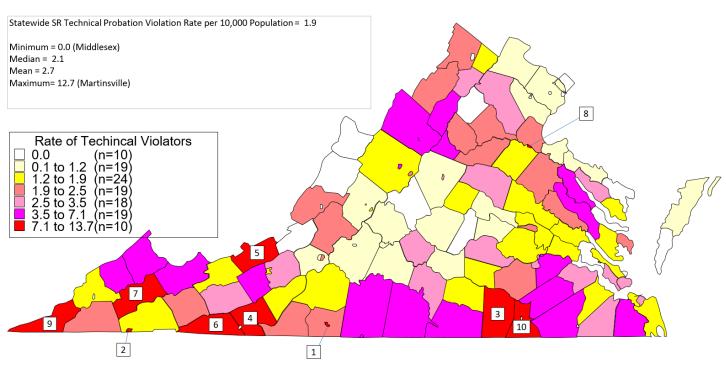
⁷Any rate above this value is more than two standard deviations above the average and is statistically significant.

NOTE: Rate per population normalizes the data for population which allows for the comparison of different jurisdictions regardless of size.

FY2018 SR Probation Violators Rate per 10,000 Population



FY2018 SR Technical Probation Violation Rate Per 10,000 Population



50% above, more than one-third of the localities (43 of 119, 36%) had Probation Violation rates above the statewide average, led by eight localities with a rate of 24.3 per 10,000 or higher.⁷ These localities were: Bristol, 39.6; Fredericksburg, 31.5; Martinsville, 30.9; Tazewell, 29.5, Grayson, 29.4; Russell, 29.1; Brunswick, 26.9; and Lee, 24.5.

Probation Violations were reported from localities throughout Virginia. Most localities (76 of 119, 64%) had Probation Violation rates below the statewide average; however, there were localities with rates above the statewide average in every area of the state. These localities were concentrated in three areas: Southwest Virginia; the portion of Southside Virginia stretching from Mecklenburg to Suffolk; and the area of the Shenandoah Valley encompassing Rockingham/ Harrisonburg, Page, and Warren.

Technical Probation Violation Rate

In FY2018, Virginia had a statewide Technical Probation Violation rate of 1.9 per 10,000 people population. The average locality had an average rate of 2.7 per 10,000 with a median rate of 2.1. The rates ranged from 0.00 (31 localities) to 12.7 for the city of Martinsville. While the median is the midpoint where 50% of the localities had rates below this value and 50% above, more than one-third of the localities (43 of 119, 36%) had Technical Probation Violation rates above the average, led by eight localities with a rate of 7.8 per 10,000 or higher. These localities were: Martinsville, 12.7; Bristol, 12.6; Brunswick, 10.4; Carroll, 10.3; Giles, 8.9; Grayson, 8.3; Russell, 8.2; and Fredericksburg, 7.9.

As the second map on the previous page shows, Technical Probation Violations were reported from localities throughout Virginia. Most localities (76 of 119, 64%) had Technical Probation Violation rates below the average. Howev-

er, there were localities with rates above the average in every area of the state. These localities were concentrated in three areas: all of the localities on Virginia's southern border from stretching Grayson in the west to Suffolk in the east; Southwest Virginia; and the portion of the Shenandoah Valley encompassing Rockingham/Harrisonburg, Page, and Greene. The labels on the maps correspond to the numbers in the table to the right.

Top Ten Localities									
Proba	ation Violation Rat	e per	Techni	ical Probation Viol	ation Rate				
	10,000 Population			per 10,000 Popula	tion				
1	Bristol	39.6	1	Martinsville	12.7				
2	Fredericksburg	31.5	2	Bristol	12.6				
3	Martinsville	30.9	3	Brunswick	10.4				
4	Tazewell	29.5	4	Carroll	10.3				
5	Grayson	29.4	5	Giles	8.9				
6	Russell	29.1	6	Grayson	8.3				
7	Brunswick	26.9	7	Russell	8.2				
8	Lee	24.5	8	Fredericksburg	7.9				
9	Southampton	23.1	9	Lee	7.6				
10	Carroll	23.0	10	Greensville	7.1				

Summary & Conclusions

Thirty-eight percent of the SR NCC were New Crime Violators, and 13% were Technical Violators. One-quarter of the New Crime Violators had a Violent MSO for that term of incarceration. The remaining three-quarters had a Property/Public Order MSO (52%) or Drug MSO (23%). Twenty-four percent of the Technical Violators had a Violent MSO for that term of incarceration, 45% had a Property/Public Order MSO, and 31% had a Drug MSO. Even though the proportion of Probation Violators has remained relatively stable, the breakdown between New Crime Violators and Technical Violators has changed over time. New Crime Violators have decreased from 84% of total Violators in FY2010 to 74% in FY2018. Conversely, Technical Violators have increased from 16% to 26%. Some of this increase in Technical Violators may be due to the nationwide opioid epidemic, as judges may be violating probationers with substance abuse issues at an increased rate in an attempt to get the offenders into drug treatment programming. More than one-half (59%) of the Technical Violators scored "Highly Probable" on the COMPAS Substance Abuse Needs assessment.

⁷Any rate above this value is more than two standard deviations above the average and is statistically significant.

Probation Violators have comprised approximately one-half of the male SR NCC. Among females, Probation Violators have comprised more than half of the female SR NCC (52-58%). On average, Probation Violators were approximately the same age as the Non-Violators (35.4 years vs. 35.7 years). Among the Violators, the Technical Violators were slightly older (36.1 years). A larger percentage of the New Crime Violators (30%) showed some evidence of mental health impairment than either the Technical Violators (27%) or the Non-Violators (25%). More than one-quarter of the FY2018 SR NCC (27%) had some degree of mental health impairment. Of these offenders, 4% had a diagnosis of a serious mental illness.

More than three-quarters of the FY2018 SR NCC scored "Highly Probable" or "Probable" on the COMPAS Substance Abuse Needs assessment, with the percentages for the Technical Violators (81%) and New Crime Violators (78%) being larger than that for the Non-Violators (73%). More than three-quarters of the FY2018 SR NCC had a High or Medium risk of recidivism on the COMPAS Risk Assessment instrument, with the percentages for the Technical Violators (80%) and New Crime Violators (83%) being larger than that for the Non-Violators (72%). More than one-quarter of the Non-Violators (28%) had a Low risk of recidivism.

One-quarter of the New Crime Violators and one-quarter of the Technical Violators had a Violent MSO, but 38% of the Non-Violators had a Violent MSO. A larger proportion of the Technical Violators had a Drug MSO than did the New Crime Violators (31% vs. 23%). New Crime Violators had a shorter average Total Sentence than the Non-Violators, and the Technical Violators had a much shorter average Total Sentence than both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators. New Crime Violators with a Violent MSO had an average Total Sentence that was much longer than the average for the Technical Violators, but their average was more than one year shorter than the average Total Sentence for the Non-Violators with a Violent MSO. The median Total Sentence for the Technical Violators with a Violent MSO was just nineteen months, meaning that half of this group had a sentence at or below this length.

Probation Violators are sentenced by courts throughout the Commonwealth. Most localities have a Probation Violation Rate below the statewide average. Although there are localities with higher than average rates in every region of the state, the highest concentrations are in Southside Virginia and far Southwest Virginia. Likewise, Technical Probation Violations were reported from localities throughout Virginia. Most localities had Technical Probation Violation rates below the statewide average. However, there were localities with rates above the statewide average in every area of the state. Again, these localities were concentrated in Southside Virginia and far Southwest Virginia.

When comparing Probation Violators to the Non-Violators among the TIS offenders in the SR Confined Population, the New Crime Violators had a shorter mean Remaining Expected Length of Stay (RELOS) than the Non-Violators, and the Technical Violators had a much shorter mean RELOS than both the New Crime Violators and the Non-Violators. Technical Violators in particular have an average expected SRLOS of one-and-a-half years so many will serve their entire SR term of incarceration in a local jail and not receive re-entry programming services offered in VADOC facilities.

VADOC Research—Statistical Analysis & Forecast Unit Tama Celi, PhD Warren McGehee, MPA Jake Kline, MPA

research@vadoc.virginia.gov



"We're in the business of helping people to be better."

- Director Harold Clarke

Virginia Department of Corrections The Research Unit P.O. Box 26963 Richmond, VA 23261-6963