



KOA Recidivism Study, CYs 2008 - 2011

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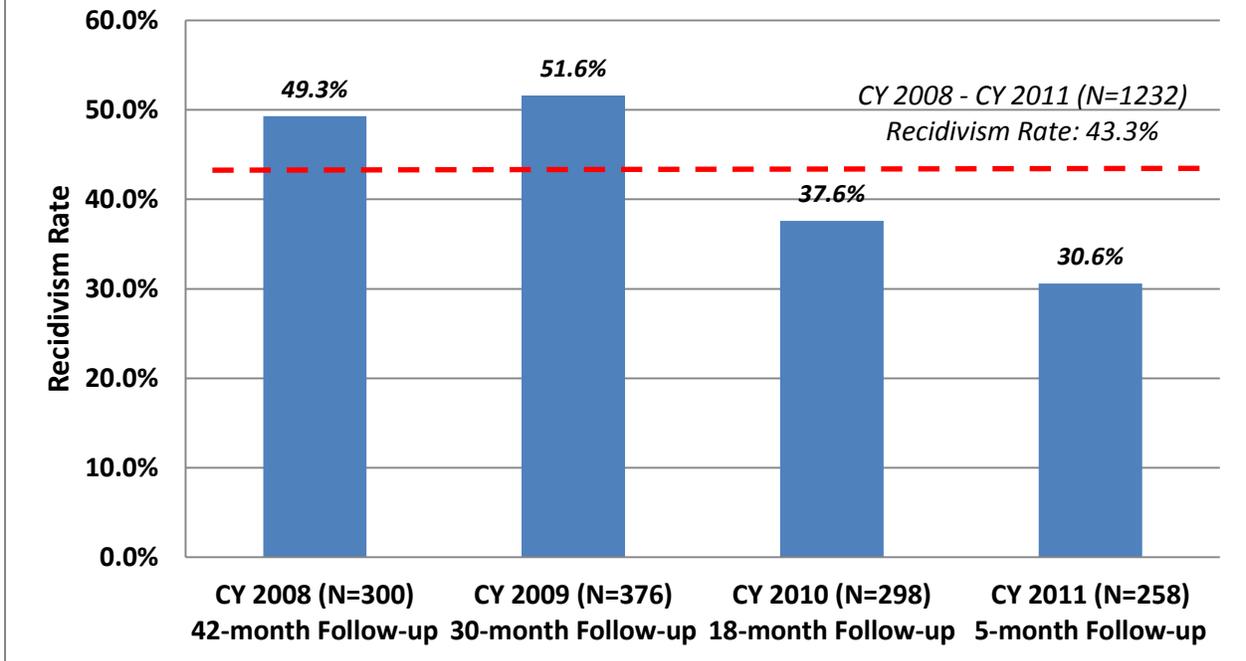
Kokua, Ohana, Aloha (KOA) is an early intervention and drug awareness program hosted by the Hawaii National Guard. The program consists of two consecutive, three-hour classes held once a month. The program is designed for first time status offenders between the ages of 12 and 17 ½ years old. KOA provides youth and their families with tips, tools, and information to help strengthen family relationships and communication in order to handle conflicts and address problems that do not require the intervention of the police or family court. It also helps families in understanding the risks of drug abuse and underage drinking.

This recidivism study analyzed 1,232 individual (unduplicated) participants who completed the KOA program from Calendar Years 2008 through 2011. Excluded from this study were 14 participants who were not between the ages of 12 and 18 years old when they began the program (18 year-olds were included in order to capture all 17 ½ year-olds in the analysis). Recidivism is defined as any arrest subsequent to a KOA program completion date, and participants were tracked over a five- to 42-month follow-up period. The data for this study were drawn from the Hawaii National Guard's KOA Program and the Department of Attorney General's Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS). JJIS is a statewide repository for juvenile data that organizes information from all county police departments, family courts, offices of the prosecuting attorney, and the juvenile correctional facility.

As shown in Figure 1, 43.3% of KOA participants were arrested within 3 ½ years of completing the program. However, closer analysis of Figure 1 reveals a wide variation in recidivism rates from year-to-year. In CY 2008, 49.3% of those who completed the program recidivated, while 51.6% of those who completed the program in CY 2009 recidivated. The recidivism rates for CYs 2010 and 2011 were significantly lower, with recidivism rates of 37.6% and 30.6%, respectively.

Although there seems to be an 18.7 percentage point decrease in the recidivism rate from CYs 2008 through 2011, this is deceiving because of the varying periods of time during which each program participant had to recidivate. For example, those who completed the KOA program in CY 2008 had a period of 42 months (or 3 ½ years) to recidivate, while those who completed the KOA program in CY 2009 had only a period of 30 months (or 2 ½ years) to recidivate. Those who completed the program in CY 2010 had 18 months (or 1 ½ years) to recidivate, while only a five-month period was allotted for those who completed the program in CY 2011, due to the limited time given to conduct the study. If this was the case, why not set a specific follow-up period?

**Figure 1: KOA Recidivism Rates,
CY 2008- CY 2011**

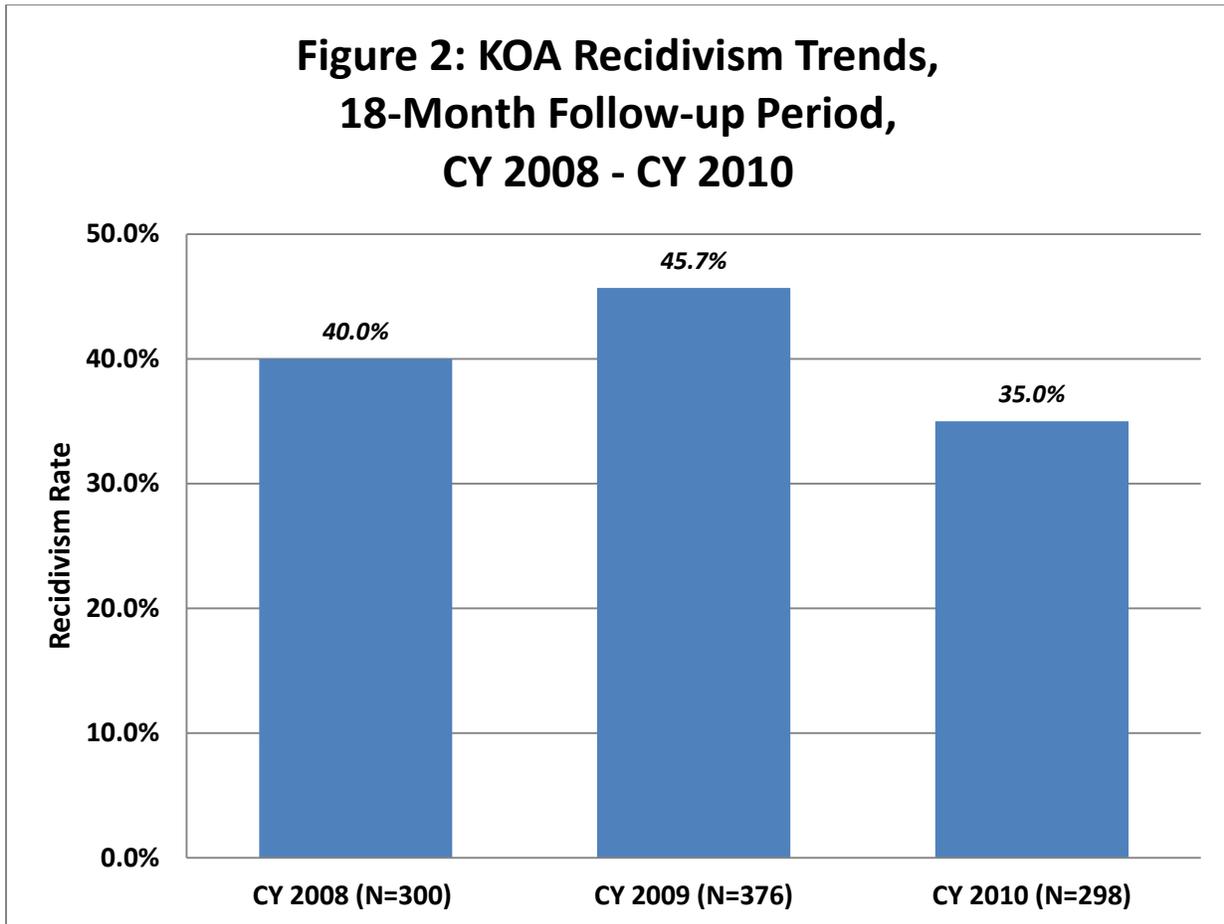


Initially, while the study was being conceptualized, a follow-up period of six months after program completion was set. However, after a series of preliminary analyses was completed, a follow-up period of six months did not suffice to establish the validity of the recidivism rate. For example, looking at only CY 2008 data with a total of 148 recidivists (please refer to Table 1), at a six-month follow-up period, only 60 out of the 148 recidivists were included in calculating the recidivism rate. As a result, 88 of the recidivists were excluded because they recidivated beyond six months post-program completion. If a six-month follow-up period were used, the recidivism rate would have been 20%. However, at a 36-month follow-up period, 146 out of the 148 recidivists were included in calculating the recidivism rate which excluded only two recidivists and would result in a 48.7% recidivism rate. As a result, most of those who recidivated did so within a 36-month period.

Table 1: CY 2008 Recidivism Rates, based on various Follow-up Periods

Follow-up Period	Recidivism Rate	Recidivists	
		Included	Excluded
6-month follow-up	20.0%	60	88
12-month follow-up	34.7%	104	44
24-month follow-up	42.7%	128	20
36-month follow-up	48.7%	146	2

The number of follow-up months must be standardized in order to compare year-to-year recidivism rates. In this case, in order to look at recidivism rate trends for CYs 2008 and 2009, an 18-month follow-up period was used, although CY 2010 only had a follow-up period of 17 months (please note the above regarding the problems surrounding the use of a follow-up period less than 36 months).



Looking at Figure 2, 40.0% of those who completed the program in CY 2008 recidivated within 18 months post-completion; those who completed the program in CY 2009 had a 45.7% recidivism rate; and participants who completed the program in CY 2010 had a 35.0% recidivism rate. There was a 5.7 percentage point increase in the recidivism rate from CY 2008 to CY 2009, and a 10.7 percentage point decrease in the recidivism rate from CY 2009 to CY 2010. KOA's recidivism rate decreased 12.5% (or five percentage points) between CY 2008 and CY 2010, which represents an annual percentage rate decrease of 4.2% (despite an increase in recidivism in 2009).

Table 2: Offense Type, CY 2008 – CY 2011

Offense Type	%	# of Recidivists
Drug Offenses	3.4%	18
Person Offenses	5.6%	30
Property Offenses	18.4%	98
Sex Offenses	0.4%	2
Status Offenses	68.1%	363
Weapons/Intimidation Offenses	2.6%	14
Other Offenses	1.5%	8
Total	100.0%	533

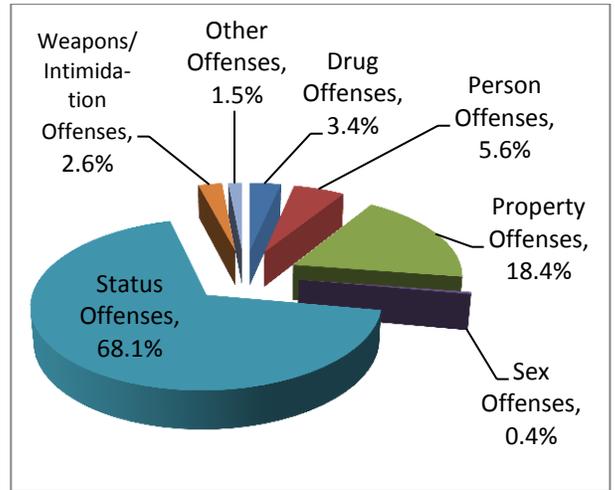
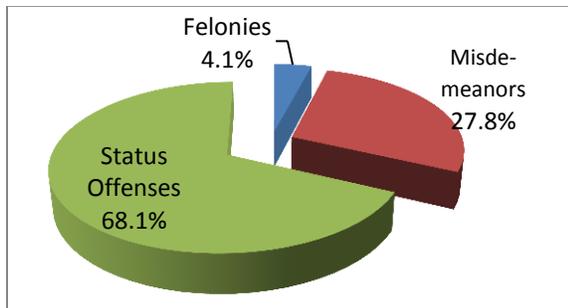


Table 2 displays the types of offenses (see appendix) for which KOA recidivists were arrested. Most of those who recidivated were arrested for status offenses (68.1%), followed by property offenses (18.4%), and person offenses (5.6%). Additionally, 3.4% were apprehended for drug offenses, followed by weapons/intimidation (2.6%), other offenses (1.5%), and sex offenses (0.4%).

Table 3: Offense Severity, CY 2008 – CY 2011



Offense Severity	%	# of Recidivists
Felonies	4.1%	22
Misdemeanors	27.8%	148
Status Offenses	68.1%	363
Total	100.0%	533

Table 3 displays the severity of offenses committed by KOA recidivists. Of the 533 recidivists, 22 (or 4.1%) recidivated as felons, 148 (or 27.8%) recidivated as misdemeanants, and 363 (or 68.1%) recidivated as status offenders.

Recommendations

Follow-up of this study is recommended in order to calculate valid recidivism rates for CYs 2009, 2010, and 2011. Although it would take a few years to collect data for a recidivism study with a 3-year follow-up, doing so would yield more accurate results. Widening the scope of study to include KOA participants' ethnicity is also recommended in order to better account for the population receiving KOA services. Educational risk factors (e.g., school dropout rate, low grade point average, absenteeism, and

suspensions), family risk factors (such as a child's placement in the foster care system may indicate that the child's family cannot provide a safe home or supportive), as well as alcohol or drug problems that the child may have are also important factors to consider in exploring characteristics related to the probably of re-offending, if data is available. Because this study only focused on the recidivism rates of those who completed KOA, it is highly recommended that a recidivism study is also done for those who were terminated from the program due to their inability to complete the program requirements or for failing to report to the program. Also, it is important to standardize the methodology used in recidivism studies. For example, the number of follow-up months needs to be standardized in order to more accurately report on year-to-year trends. Another recommendation is for KOA stakeholders to come together in standardizing data collection methods which include determining what constitutes as a failure, no show, and rescheduled. With KOA stakeholders' compliance with these recommendations, KOA will continue to improve with the help of valid study results.

This report is available electronically at the Juvenile Justice Information System and Research and Statistics sections of the Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance website:
<<http://hawaii.gov/ag/cpja>>

APPENDIX

Offense categories used were determined by the Research Subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Information Committee (JJIC). The JJIC is the governing body of all JJIS data and consists of representatives from JJIS member agencies. The JJIC Research Subcommittee determined seven major offense categories:

1. **Person Offenses** includes offenses that involve detrimental physical contact acted upon a victim by the offender.
 - a. **Homicide** (*e.g.*, murder, negligent homicide).
 - b. **Assault 1 or 2** offenses occur when there is “serious” or “substantial” bodily injury intentionally or knowingly inflicted on another person, respectively. [Starting in 2007, a criminal offense involving a person intentionally (or) knowingly causing bodily injury to any emergency medical services personnel who is engaged in the performance of duty would be charged with assault in the second degree. Starting in 2003, a criminal offense involving the assault of a police officer or educational worker who is engaged in the performance of his/her duties was deemed a class C felony, or assault in the second degree].
 - c. **Kidnapping** occurs when a person intentionally or knowingly restrains another person with intent to use that person as a shield or hostage, inflict bodily injury upon that person or subject that person to a sexual offense, or terrorize that person.
 - d. **Robbery** includes acts in which a person uses force against another person with the intent to overcome that person’s physical resistance (or threatens to do so) in the course of committing theft.
 - e. **Abuse of Family Member** includes offenses for which any person physically abuses a family or household member.
 - f. **Assault 3** includes offenses in which a person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to another person, or does so negligently with a dangerous instrument. This is a misdemeanor offense.

2. **Sex Offenses** include the following offenses:
 - a. **Sexual Assault 1 or 2** occur when a person knowingly subjects another person to an act of sexual penetration by strong compulsion (sex assault 1 and 2 are felonies).
 - b. **Sexual Assault 3** occurs when a person recklessly subjects another person to an act of sexual penetration by compulsion. It is also a felony offense.
 - c. **Sexual Assault 4** occurs when a person subjects another person to sexual contact by compulsion or causes another person to have sexual contact with the person by compulsion, and is a misdemeanor offense.
 - d. **Prostitution** includes offenses in which a person performed any lewd act which is likely to be observed by others who would be affronted or alarmed.

3. **Drug Offenses** include all “PUP” offending activities (*i.e.*, “possession,” “use,” or “purchase” of illicit substances), as well as drug trafficking:
 - a. **Dangerous Drugs** (*e.g.*, crystal methamphetamine, cocaine).
 - b. **Harmful Drugs** (*e.g.*, prescription medications that can act as depressants, stimulants, or have other sensational effects).
 - c. **Detrimental 1 Drugs** (*e.g.*, trafficking of marijuana).
 - d. **Detrimental 2 Drugs** (*e.g.*, PUP of marijuana).
 - e. **Alcohol** (*e.g.*, prohibitions, arrests for “driving under the influence”).
 - f. **Other Drugs** (*e.g.*, paraphernalia, promoting controlled substance in school; not presented in this report).

4. **Weapons/Intimidation Offenses** include weapons and/or no physical contact or relatively minor physical contact (*e.g.*, pushing, shoving).
 - a. **Terroristic Threatening 1** includes offenses in which a person threatens, by word or conduct, to cause bodily injury to another person or serious damage to the property of another. Terroristic threatening 1 is a felony C offense pertaining primarily to victims who are public servants, such as an educational administrator, counselor, or teacher, and/or involves threatening another person on more than one occasion for the same or a similar purpose.
 - b. **Terroristic Threatening 2** does not involve public servants or repeated incidences. It is a misdemeanor offense.
 - c. **Harassment** includes offenses in which a person commits the following types of act(s) on another- strikes, shoves, kicks, or offensive touching, insults, taunts, or challenges intended to provoke a violent response, or other offensive forms of communication (*e.g.*, telephone calls, facsimile transmissions).
 - d. **Weapons Felony** offenses involve unlawful possession of deadly weapons, such as firearms, explosives, or other destructive devices.
 - e. **Weapons Misdemeanor** offenses involve possession of prohibited weapons such as knives or brass knuckles. Misdemeanor weapons offenses can also include possession of deadly weapons, though in a less dangerous context.

5. **Property Offenses** includes offenses involving theft or damage to another’s property:
 - a. **Burglary** offenses apply when a person intentionally enters or remains unlawfully in a building, with intent to commit a crime against a person or against property rights.
 - b. **Theft 1 or 2** offenses involve theft without force. Theft 1 applies when the value of the stolen item(s) exceeds \$20,000 or is a firearm; Theft 2 applies when the value of the stolen item(s) exceeds \$300. Theft 1 and 2 are both felony offenses.
 - c. **Theft 3 or 4** offenses also involve theft without force of items of lesser value. Theft 3 applies when the value of the item(s) exceeds \$100. Theft 4 applies when the value is less than \$100. Both are misdemeanor offenses.
 - d. **Unauthorized Entry into Motor Vehicle/Unauthorized Control of a Propelled Vehicle (UEMV/UCPV)** offenses include those in which a person exerts unauthorized control over

another's vehicle without the owner's consent, or enters the vehicle to seal it, part of it, or property within it.

- e. **Computer/Credit Card Fraud** includes offenses in which a person knowingly accesses a computer without authorization and, by means of such conduct, obtains or exerts control over the property of another, or knowingly accesses a computer, computer system or network without authorization. Credit card fraud involves the unauthorized use of another's credit card or the card's number to obtain money, goods, services, or anything else of value.
 - f. **Other Property Crimes** offenses are those that do not fall into the above offenses (*e.g.*, arson, criminal property damage) and where a person intentionally damages or exerts control over another's property without permission.
 - g. **Trespass** offenses include those in which a person knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in a dwelling or other premises (*e.g.*, hotel, school, commercial business).
6. **Status Offenses** include offenses that are only prohibited because they are committed by someone under age eighteen:
- a. **Runaway** offenses pertain to juveniles who are absent from home without parental permission.
 - b. **Tuancy** offenses pertain to juveniles who leave school without the permission of the school or a parent/guardian.
 - c. **Curfew** offenses occur when a juvenile under age sixteen goes or remains on any public street, highway, public place, or private place held open to the public after ten o'clock in the evening and before four o'clock in the morning, unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, or adult person authorized to accompany the child.
 - d. **Beyond Parental Control** applies when a parent or legal guardian deems their child beyond their control and requires police intervention.
 - e. **Other Status Offenses** refer to all other status offenses not listed above (*e.g.*, injurious behavior, person in need of supervision).
7. **Other Offenses** includes the following offenses and subcategories that do not fall into any of the above major offense categories:
- a. **Parole Violation** occurs when a juvenile violates the conditions of his/her release from incarceration to parole.
 - b. **Furlough Violation** occurs when a juvenile violates conditions of his/her furlough (a temporary release from the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility).
 - c. **Probation Violation** occurs when a juvenile violates the conditions of his/her probation sentence.
 - d. **Traffic** offenses include a wide variety of driving offenses, including but not limited to speeding, driving without a license, reckless driving, inattention to driving, etc.
 - e. **Other Offenses** include offenses that do not fall into any of the above major offense categories or subcategories. These offenses include "disorderly conduct" and many county ordinances (*e.g.*, skateboarding on sidewalk, fireworks violations, park or fishing ordinance violations).