



RECIDIVISM

2022 REPORT



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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RECIDIVISM REPORT 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of incarceration is multidimensional. Incarceration should aim to deter people from committing crimes, punish individuals for crimes they do commit, incapacitate people who are deemed a risk to the public, and provide an environment for people to be rehabilitated. Ideally, incarceration results in improved public safety through deterrence, incapacitation and rehabilitation.

One way of measuring how well incarceration is working is to determine the rate at which people who leave prison recidivate – meaning they violate the terms of parole or commit new crimes that lead to re-arrest or re-incarceration.

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections’ mission is to “reduce criminal behavior by providing individualized treatment and education to inmates, resulting in successful community reintegration through accountability and positive change.” With this in mind, we routinely evaluate our existing programs and test innovative new ideas for reducing recidivism. Over the past decade, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC) has been a leader in the nationwide movement to focus incarceration more on rehabilitation, rather than using incarceration strictly as punishment: we’ve expanded mental health services, educational and vocational opportunities, substance abuse programs, and more, all in an attempt to help individuals take responsibility for their pasts and to prepare for life outside of prison.

In this document, a follow-up to our 2013 Recidivism Report, we examine how well we are doing in pursuit of our mission by analyzing recidivism among

individuals released from Pennsylvania state prisons. In the 2013 report, we looked at a comprehensive set of characteristics to analyze recidivism: by county, by crime, by release type, and by demographic characteristics. In this report, we aim to update and expand upon this foundation. Added lenses through which we examine recidivism in this report include a more comprehensive view of demographics: education level, mental health status, substance use, employment, as well as other key variables. Additionally, we examine the concept of desistance, which is focused on a measure of success after incarceration rather than on failure. We also provide an expanded examination of the costs of recidivism. Finally, in this report we introduce some new ways of measuring recidivism.

In our 2013 report, we found that 62% of releases from a Pennsylvania state prison in 2008 were re-arrested or re-incarcerated within three years of release. In this report, we find that 64.7% of releases in 2016 were re-arrested or re-incarcerated within three years of release.

Looking beyond Pennsylvania’s 2013 and 2022 reports to other recidivism analyses published by national experts and individual jurisdictions, it is important to note that direct comparisons between reports should be made carefully, as other jurisdictions often use different definitions of recidivism. Further, although this report examines recidivism from many perspectives, it cannot answer the question of why individuals re-offend, or end up back in the criminal justice system after their release.

THE RECIDIVISM CYCLE

Generally, individuals are released from prison in two ways: either as a max-out, or to parole. The following section and diagram below illustrate the recidivism paths that reentrants may follow after their release from prison.

RELEASED WITH PAROLE SUPERVISION

When individuals are sentenced to prison, they are generally given a minimum sentence and a maximum sentence. By law, the minimum sentence is no more than one half the maximum sentence. For example, an individual convicted of robbery may be sentenced to a minimum of three years and a maximum of six years. This means that the individuals must serve at least three years in prison. After serving the minimum sentence, an individual is eligible for release on parole. The parole board will review the original case, as

well as behavior in prison and other available information, to decide whether or not to grant parole for the individual.

An individual released on parole will stay on parole until the expiration of their maximum sentence. We call these individuals **parolees**. For example, if the individual above, with a minimum of three years and maximum of six years, was released once they completed their minimum sentence, they would spend another three more years on parole. While on parole, a parolee is supervised by a parole agent and must abide by the terms of their parole conditions as set by the Board or the agent.

If a parolee violates the terms of their parole (a technical parole violation), or if they commit a new crime (considered a *criminal parole violation/new commitment*), they may be sent

DEFINITIONS

PA DOC MEASURES OF RECIDIVISM

Overall Recidivism: calculated using the first re-arrest or re-incarceration after each release. This means that some individuals who recidivate are only re-arrested, some are only re-incarcerated, and some are both. A release that results in a recidivism event is counted the same whether there is just one recidivism event, or multiple.

Re-incarceration: defined as a parolee or max-out who returns to state prison or Parole Violator Center. County jail and federal prison incarceration are not included.

Re-arrest: defined as when a parolee or max-out is arrested by state or local police. Arrest data is tracked by police statewide and made available to the Department of Corrections on request.

OTHER USEFUL DEFINITIONS

Reentrant: refers to any individual re-entering the community after a period of time in the custody or under supervision of the Department of Corrections. Parolees and max-outs are types of reentrants. An individual may be considered a reentrant even after they have completed their term of incarceration or parole supervision.

Parolee: refers to an individual who is released from state prison under the supervision of a parole agent between their minimum and maximum sentence date. They are a parolee until they have completed their maximum sentence or are re-committed to incarceration.

Max-out: refers to an individual who has completed their maximum sentence. They are released without being under any parole supervision.

Technical Parole Violator (TPV): a parolee who has not necessarily broken the law, but has broken terms of his or her parole. Example of TPVs might include failing a drug test or breaking curfew. TPVs may be sent back to prison or a community corrections center.

Criminal Parole Violator (CPV): a parolee who has committed a new crime while on parole. CPVs are usually sent back to prison for recommitment. CPVs may serve an additional sentence if they are found guilty.

Re-conviction: refers to a court conviction of another criminal offense during a specified period.

back to prison. However, some technical parole violations result in lesser sanctions, and will not automatically result in recommitment. An individual who commits no violations or no new crimes during their parole term will have successfully completed parole. These individuals would only be sent back to prison upon conviction for a new crime.

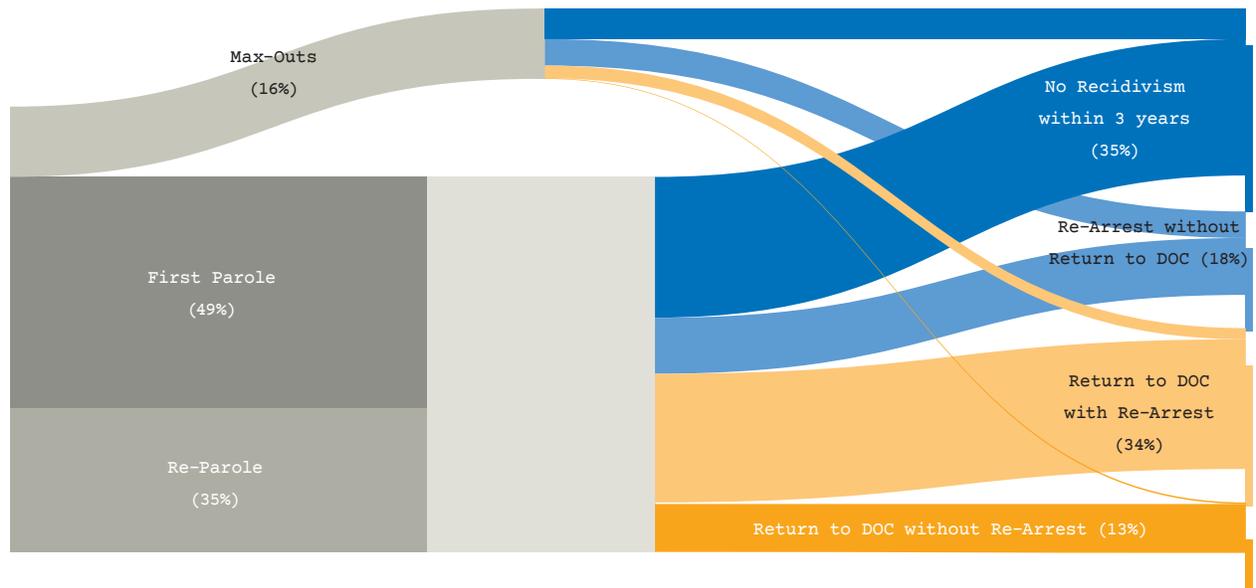
RELEASED AFTER COMPLETING MAXIMUM SENTENCE

An individual who is not granted parole will eventually reach the expiration of their maximum sentence (except for

those sentenced to life sentences, or life without parole). Individuals who are released from prison on their maximum sentence date are referred to as **max-outs**. At the maximum date, PA DOC must release the inmate. In general, max-outs will not have any terms to abide by, or supervision required when they are released, unless the original sentence issued by the court included a consecutive period of post release community supervision (probation) to follow their prison sentence.

The figure below shows the pathways to recidivism – or no recidivism—for 2016 releases.

HOW MANY OF THE 19,824 RELEASES FROM PA DOC IN 2016 RECIDIVATED WITHIN THREE YEARS?



Parolees who do not recidivate continue on parole supervision until their maximum sentence date. Max-outs, or reentrants not on parole, have already passed their maximum sentence date. If they do not recidivate, they have no further involvement with DOC.

Reentrants who are arrested but do not return to DOC include cases where there is no conviction, or cases with a sentence to county jail/probation or another alternative.

Parolees who return to DOC, with or without an arrest, include Technical Parole Violators (TPC) and Convicted Parole Violators (CPV). The CPV designation is only applied after a conviction for a new crime, which can occur before or after the individual is returned to DOC.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Recidivism rates remained relatively stable over the last two decades, with a slight increase in each of the main measures (re-arrest, re-incarceration, overall recidivism) since 2000. The most recent overall recidivism rate is 64.7% within three years of release.
- Of those who recidivated within three years, 75% recidivated within the first 16 months after release.
- Recidivism rates vary substantially based on the prison released from, even after accounting for inmate movements between prisons.
- After adjusting for the fact that the standard method of calculating recidivism rates over-represents chronic recidivists, the re-incarceration rate is estimated to be about 11 percentage points lower.
- After attempting to use a similar method as the U.S. Department of Justice for calculating recidivism rates, Pennsylvania appears to have lower re-arrest rates than national estimates.
- Recidivism rates have increased slightly for females but remained flat for males.
- Recidivism rates have steadily decreased for blacks but have increased significantly for whites. The latest estimates now show a roughly equal recidivism rate for blacks and whites.
- Recidivism rates are higher for those: 1) with a diagnosis of substance use disorder, especially for opiates, 2) with a mental health problem, 3) assessed as high risk, 4) with lower educational attainment, 5) with a more extensive criminal history, 6) who commit more in-prison misconduct, and 7) who receive less in-prison visits.
- Longer lengths of stay in prison are generally associated with lower recidivism rates.
- Property crime offenders have the highest recidivism rates. Sex offenders have the lowest recidivism rates.
- An estimated 1 in 10 police arrests in PA are of a former PA DOC inmate. This estimate has increased since our last report.
- The report calculates an estimate of the cumulative seriousness of recidivism incidents (a “crime harm index”). While recidivism rates remain mostly unchanged since our last report, the average harm done (or seriousness of recidivist crime) has decreased.
- Reentrants on parole supervision are more likely to be re-incarcerated but less likely to be re-arrested.
- Over half (54%) of parolees re-incarcerated within three years of release are re-incarcerated for a technical parole violation (TPV).
- Consistent with our last report, reentrants who are released straight home from prison are less likely to recidivate than those released to a halfway house.
- The report highlights recidivism results for various evaluations of programs and policies conducted within PA DOC. Results are mixed – some appear to reduce recidivism, one appears to increase recidivism, and others show no difference.
- The report introduces a concept called “desistance,” which is an attempt to look at success measures rather than failure measures. This analysis shows that while recidivism rates have not dropped significantly, the frequency and seriousness of recidivism is decreasing.
- Recidivists currently occupy more than half of PA DOC beds, and make up about \$1.2 billion of the department’s annual budget. A 5% reduction in recidivism would save the department approximately \$1.9 million in one year.
- When estimating total societal costs of recidivism, this report estimates that recidivism in Pennsylvania leads to an accumulated cost of approximately \$3.1 billion per year.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DOES PENNSYLVANIA DEFINE RECIDIVISM?

Pennsylvania's primary definition of recidivism is the first instance of either re-arrest or re-incarceration to a PA DOC facility after previously being released from PA DOC custody. (Definitions, page 2)

HOW DOES PENNSYLVANIA'S RECIDIVISM COMPARE TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS?

Cross-jurisdictional recidivism rate comparisons are difficult for a variety of reasons. Pennsylvania's recidivism ranking varies depending on the specific definition of recidivism, but in general is lower than national averages and lower than many other jurisdictions. (Comparing Pennsylvania's Recidivism to National Reports, page 14)

IS RECIDIVISM GOING UP OR DOWN IN PENNSYLVANIA?

Overall, recidivism rates in Pennsylvania have been mostly flat over at least the past 15 years. (Overall Recidivism and Trends, page 6-8)

DOES TREATMENT WORK TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM?

Evaluations of several individual treatment programs and policies have shown varying outcomes for PA DOC inmates. Some programs/policies appear to reduce recidivism and other programs/policies do not. (Program Evaluation, page 39)

WHAT IS THE COST OF RECIDIVISM?

Criminal recidivism costs Pennsylvanians approximately \$3.1 billion per year. A five percent reduction in recidivism would save PA DOC \$1.9 million in one year. (Costs, page 46-51)

OVERALL RECIDIVISM AND TRENDS

This section examines the PA DOC’s four standard measures of recidivism (overall recidivism, re-incarceration, re-arrest, and re-conviction; see definitions on page 3). In addition to the most current recidivism rates, this section examines trends over nearly twenty years.

Overall Recidivism is calculated based on all annual releases from PA DOC custody and shows a higher percentage than the other measures because it includes the first recidivating event, either re-arrest or re-incarceration. Re-incarceration and re-arrest rates measure a subset of the Overall Recidivism rates. Note that an individual might be re-arrested and re-incarcerated, or recidivate multiple times during the follow-up period, but will be counted only the first time for each measure. Re-conviction includes only individuals found guilty of a new charge by a court and is therefore the lowest recidivism rate shown here.

CURRENT RECIDIVISM RATES

For the most recent release years, 40% of releases recidivate (measured by Overall Recidivism) within one year and 64.7% recidivate within three years.

40% OF RELEASES RECIDIVATE WITHIN ONE YEAR AND 64.7% RECIDIVATE WITHIN THREE YEARS

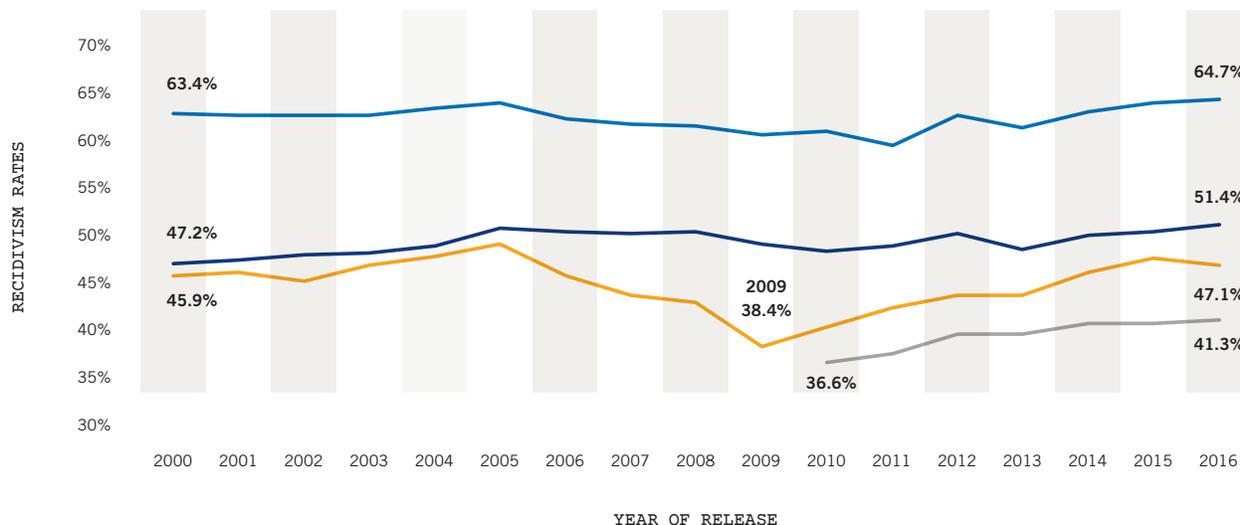
HOW HAS THE 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATE CHANGED OVER TIME?

Recidivism rates for PA DOC have been mostly flat over the past 16 years. The three-year Overall Recidivism rate increased by 1.3 percentage points since 2000. The re-arrest rate has increased more than the re-incarceration rate. Re-incarceration rates are arguably more heavily influenced by policy decisions such as whether or not to revoke technical parole violators, which may account for the wider fluctuation in re-incarceration rates over time. Re-conviction rate data is only available back to 2010, but generally shows an increasing rate since then. The PA DOC maintains a focus on individualized, evidence-informed approaches to treatment and supervision to promote positive change that will reduce recidivism.

	1-Year (Released in 2018)	3-Year (Released in 2016)
Overall Recidivism Rate	40.0%	64.7%
Re-incarceration Rate	25.7%	47.1%
Re-arrest Rate	25.7%	51.4%
Re-conviction Rate	12.9%	41.3%

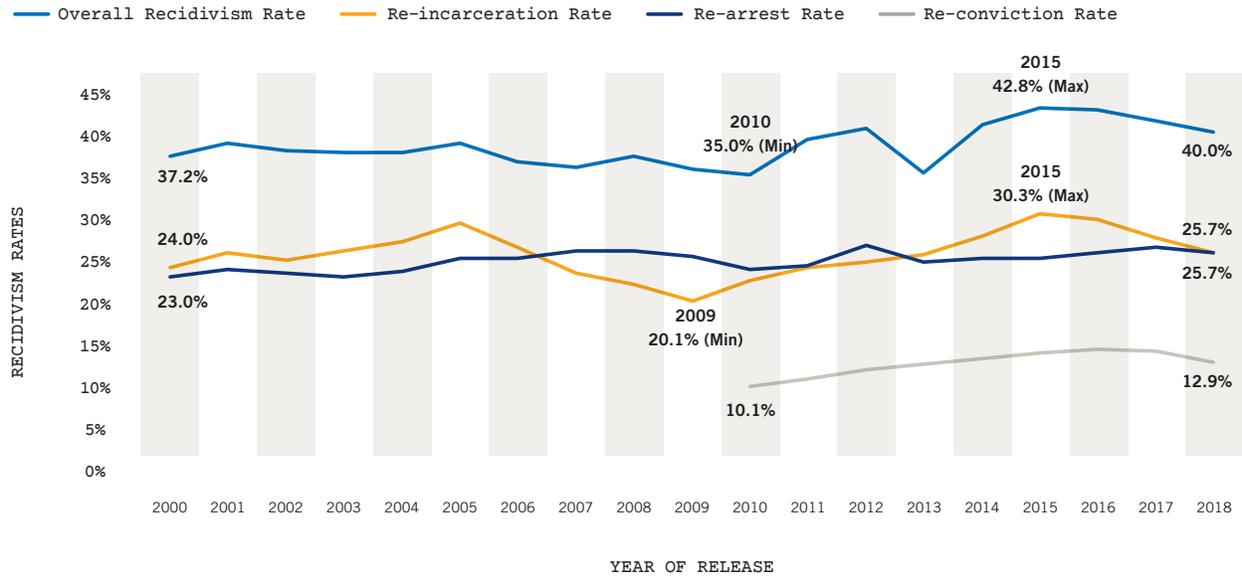
3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES HAVE INCREASED SLIGHTLY BUT REMAIN MOSTLY UNCHANGED OVER THE PAST 16 YEARS

— Overall Recidivism Rate — Re-incarceration Rate — Re-arrest Rate — Re-conviction Rate



Release Year	Overall Recidivism Rate	Re-incarceration Rate	Re-arrest Rate	Re-conviction Rate
2000	63.4%	45.9%	47.2%	
2001	63.1%	46.3%	47.6%	
2002	63.1%	45.4%	48.2%	
2003	63.0%	47.1%	48.4%	
2004	63.8%	48.0%	49.1%	
2005	64.4%	49.3%	51.1%	
2006	62.7%	46.0%	50.6%	
2007	62.2%	43.9%	50.4%	
2008	62.0%	43.0%	50.7%	
2009	61.1%	38.4%	49.2%	
2010	61.4%	40.4%	48.6%	36.6%
2011	59.9%	42.5%	49.2%	37.6%
2012	63.1%	43.8%	50.5%	39.6%
2013	61.8%	43.8%	48.7%	39.6%
2014	63.5%	46.4%	50.4%	40.8%
2015	64.4%	47.8%	50.7%	40.8%
2016	64.7%	47.1%	51.4%	41.3%

1-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES HAVE INCREASED SLIGHTLY BUT REMAIN MOSTLY UNCHANGED OVER THE PAST 18 YEARS



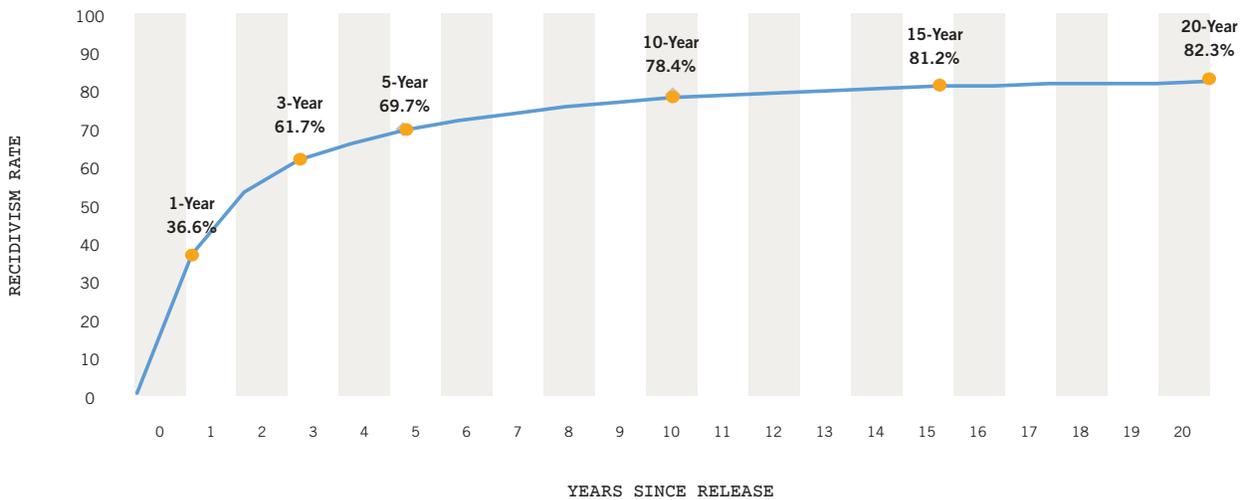
Release Year	Overall Recidivism Rate	Re-incarceration Rate	Re-arrest Rate	Re-conviction Rate
2000	37.2%	24.0%	23.0%	
2001	38.6%	25.8%	23.8%	
2002	37.7%	24.9%	23.3%	
2003	37.6%	26.1%	23.0%	
2004	37.5%	27.2%	23.6%	
2005	38.6%	29.2%	25.1%	
2006	36.4%	26.3%	25.1%	
2007	35.8%	23.4%	25.9%	
2008	37.0%	22.0%	25.9%	
2009	35.5%	20.1%	25.4%	
2010	35.0%	22.5%	23.7%	10.1%
2011	39.1%	24.1%	24.2%	10.9%
2012	40.4%	24.6%	26.5%	12.0%
2013	35.1%	25.5%	24.6%	12.7%
2014	40.8%	27.7%	25.2%	13.4%
2015	42.8%	30.3%	25.0%	13.9%
2016	42.5%	29.6%	25.8%	14.4%
2017	41.3%	27.4%	26.3%	14.1%
2018	40.0%	25.7%	25.7%	12.9%

LONG-TERM RECIDIVISM RATES

The previous figures examined up to 18 years of releases, following each release for up to three years post-release. The below figure looks at one year of releases, and follows those individuals for an extended period of time – 20 years.

When interpreting long-term recidivism rates, it is particularly important to consider outside factors that might prevent someone from being counted as a recidivist, such as death or moving to another state. The section in this report entitled “How Do Deaths and Out-of-State Arrests Affect the Recidivism Rate?” examines how much of an impact these factors have on PA DOC recidivism rates.

20-YEAR RECIDIVISM FOLLOW-UP FOR RELEASES IN 1999 – RECIDIVISM REMAINS MOSTLY FLAT AFTER 10 YEARS POST-RELEASE

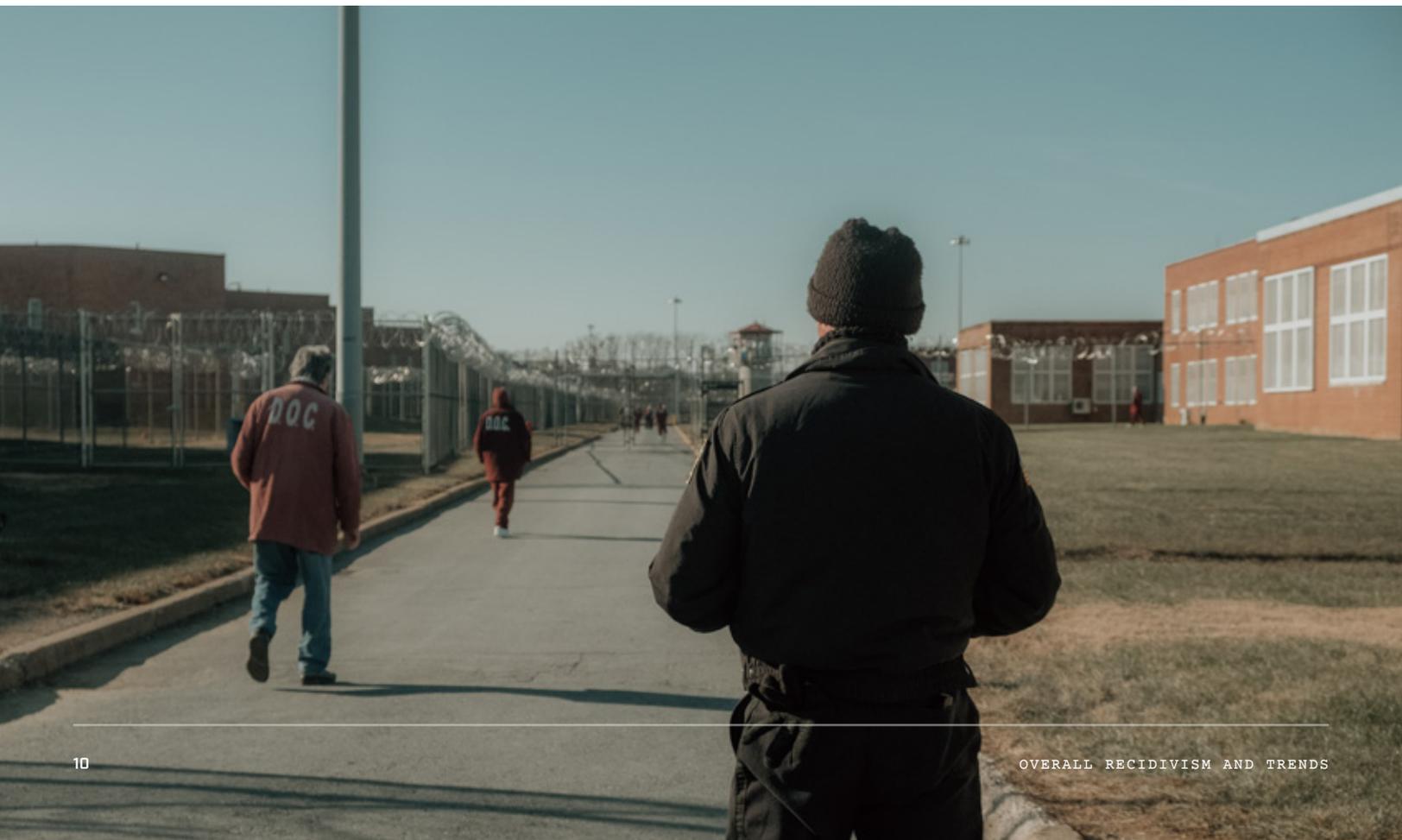
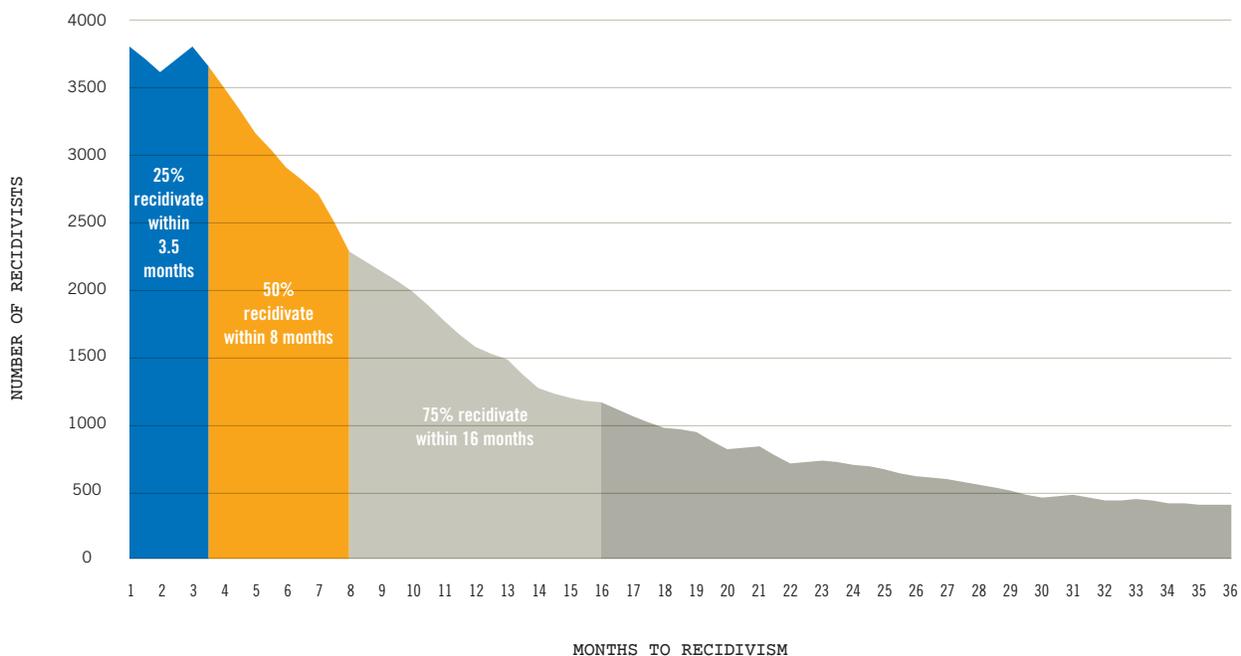


HOW QUICKLY DO THEY COME BACK?

By measuring the time from release to recidivism, this report finds that the majority of recidivism incidents happen within the first few months post-release, and that the probability of recidivism declines precipitously thereafter.

The figure below shows the time from release for individuals released between 2013 and 2016 who went on to recidivate in the first three years after their release. **Half of those who recidivated within three years did so in the first eight months after release.** By the 17th month post-release, three out of four individuals who will recidivate in three years have already done so.

OF REENTRANTS WHO RECIDIVATE IN 3 YEARS, 75% RECIDIVATE WITHIN THE FIRST 16 MONTHS



HOW HAVE RECIDIVISM RATES CHANGED OVER TIME FOR DIFFERENT FACILITIES?

The below figure provides the current 3-year Overall Recidivism rate for each State Correctional Institution (SCI), as well as a summary of how those rates have changed for each SCI over time. It is important to understand that the type of programming/services offered affects the population placed in each facility, as well as the likelihood that different types of individuals will be in a specific facility prior to their release. Additionally, classification and placement policies have changed over time. These recidivism rates adjust for

how much time each individual in the release group spends at each SCI, apportioning recidivism to account for transfers and placements of an individual in multiple facilities during his or her term of incarceration.

For facilities that were not operational during the entire period of this review (2000 to 2016), the change in recidivism is only shown for the years they were open.

3-YEAR OVERALL RECIDIVISM

Institution	Recidivism Rate Trends*			Current Rate	16-Year Change
	00-'05	05-'10	10-'15		
Albion				66.2%	→ -1.2%
Benner Twp**				68.8%	↗ 6.2%
Cambridge Springs				57.5%	↗ 7.3%
Camp Hill				62.6%	→ 0.3%
Chester				73.9%	↑ 23.8%
Coal Township				63.4%	↘ -5.3%
Dallas				61.8%	→ 3.6%
Fayette**				76.2%	↗ 5.9%
Forest**				70.4%	↑ 11.1%
Frackville				67.9%	→ 2.2%
Graterford				66.5%	→ -3.0%
Greene				65.7%	↓ -9.8%
Houtzdale				66.1%	→ 1.2%
Huntingdon				64.0%	→ -3.8%
Laurel Highlands				58.9%	↑ 18.4%
Mahanoy				67.5%	→ 2.6%
Mercer				67.3%	↑ 13.6%
Muncy				59.7%	→ 1.7%
Pine Grove**				63.7%	↗ 8.9%
Pittsburgh				70.6%	→ -1.9%
Quehanna				67.7%	↑ 13.6%
Retreat				59.0%	↘ -7.9%
Rockview				60.8%	→ -0.9%
Smithfield				62.5%	↘ -5.8%
Somerset				63.3%	→ -4.7%
Waymart				57.2%	↗ 8.8%

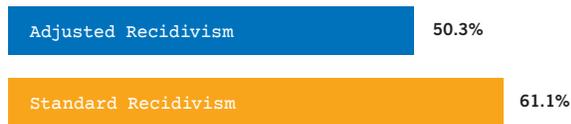
*Release year, recidivism measured for three years following release. Current rate is for 2016 releases.
 **Data not available for total period (2000-2016) due to SCI opening; change shown for period available.

HOW MUCH OF THE RECIDIVISM RATE IS CAUSED BY THE REVOLVING DOOR?

Of the releases in 2009 that resulted in recidivism, 36% were reincarcerated in PA DOC two or more times within the 10 years following that release. Standard recidivism rates (using prison releases as the starting point for calculating recidivism) are disproportionately impacted by a relatively small number of repeat recidivists. This is often referred to as the “revolving door” group, who cycle in and out of prison repeatedly.

Researchers have suggested a method of adjusting the recidivism rate in order to reflect the recidivism rate of the prison population instead of the recidivism rate of prison releases which is heavily influenced by this “revolving door” effect.¹ Using the adjusted rate, which puts less weight on each recidivism event for the small group that come back many times, Pennsylvania’s overall 3-year recidivism rate for those released in 2009 comes down from 61.1 percent to 50.3 percent.¹

AFTER ADJUSTING FOR THE OVER-REPRESENTATION OF REPEAT OFFENDERS, THE 3-YEAR OVERALL RECIDIVISM RATE IS 10.8 PERCENTAGE POINTS LOWER



What is the adjusted (weighted) recidivism rate?

Traditionally, the starting point for recidivism analysis is all releases in a given year, and then those releases are followed up for a period of time after release (typically one or three years). For example, an individual who is released and returned to prison, on average, once every two years, will show up as a recidivist in the Department’s rate every year in which they have a release. Over ten years of recidivism data, this **one** individual would be counted **five** times.

While we would not want to count them only once, as each incarceration and release reflects a crime committed and associated harm to the community, it is also important to consider how counting them five times affects the recidivism rate, and how representative such a recidivism rate is of all of those who have ever been exposed to any period of incarceration.

- The weighted rate uses the number of times an offender returns during a set follow-up period to measure how over-represented they are in the traditional re-incarceration rate. Then, the individual’s recidivism event is reduced proportionally to that amount. For example, an individual who had no releases in the next 10 years, counts as one re-incarceration event, an individual who had four releases in the ten years counts as ¼ of a re-incarceration event, and so on. The resulting weighted re-incarceration rate is lower because it reflects the cycling of offenders over a longer period of time.

To use a simple example of the difference between the standard recidivism rate and the adjusted recidivism rate, consider a non-criminal justice example. Imagine if an online clothing company wanted to survey those who visited their website to learn about customer satisfaction. If they surveyed all who visited their website in a given month (similar to the standard recidivism approach of basing the recidivism rate off all who leave prison in a given year) the

¹ This method was adapted from the Rhodes et. al., (2019) study entitled “Event-and Offender-Based Recidivism Methodology Using the National Corrections Reporting Program”: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/250749.pdf>. Analysis completed here used the 2009 PA DOC releases, including a 10-year follow-up window according to the research methodology for weighted-re-incarceration rates adapted from Rhodes, et al., 2019.

survey will over-represent shoppers who frequently visit the website. These shoppers are probably expected to react differently on the survey (they are probably more satisfied since they keep coming back) than anyone who has ever bought something on the website. An adjusted survey rate (like the adjusted recidivism rate) would account for this so that the company can get a different perspective – the perspective of all who have spent any time on their website rather than a perspective over-influenced by repeat shoppers.

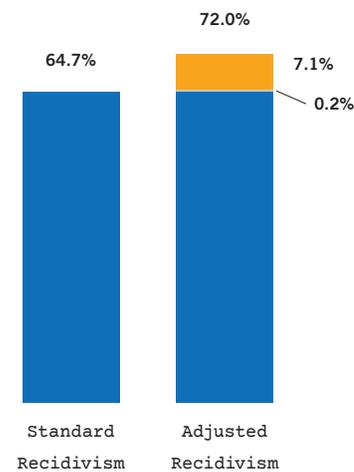
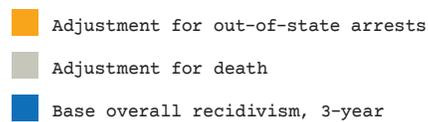
It is important to note that there neither the standard nor the adjusted recidivism rate is a right or wrong way to calculate recidivism. They are just different. They reflect different groups, different ways of looking at recidivism, and may have different policy implications.

HOW DO DEATHS AND OUT-OF-STATE ARRESTS AFFECT THE RECIDIVISM RATE?

When we account for individuals who are deceased (and therefore we cannot know if they would recidivate) and individuals who are arrested in other states (and therefore do not appear in data PA DOC has access to) the recidivism rate increases.

A 2015 U.S. Department of Justice recidivism analysis of criminal history patterns across states, found that 7.1% of Pennsylvania state prison inmates are arrested in another state within three years of release.² We add this to our data, after removing individuals who were deceased, for an overall impact of 7.3 percentage points, from 64.7 to 72%.

ADJUSTING FOR DEATH AND OUT-OF-STATE ARRESTS INCREASES THE OVERALL 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATE BY 7.3 PERCENTAGE POINTS



² <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/mschpprts05.pdf>

HOW DOES PENNSYLVANIA’S RECIDIVISM RATE COMPARE TO THE NATION?

It is crucial to remember that methods of recidivism calculation vary widely across jurisdictions and can be influenced by many factors such as the structure of a jurisdiction’s criminal justice system and the details of the recidivism calculation. Cross-jurisdictional comparisons in recidivism rates are thus typically advised against. However, this does not stop the question from frequently being asked. Therefore, this section is an attempt (with all due caveats about the dangers of cross-jurisdictional comparisons) to look at Pennsylvania recidivism rates in comparison to other jurisdictions using as close of a matched approach as possible.

Are there published state comparisons?

There is no national data comparing recidivism rates across all states. A true comparison requires rigorous analysis and careful consideration of the data and policies of each jurisdiction. Even where definitions of recidivism are similar, jurisdictions operate differently, the type of data that is available will differ, and calculation methods vary depending on the judgement of individual researchers and jurisdictions.³

For example, PEW Charitable Trusts published a recidivism analysis using data from 23 states, and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) published a detailed recidivism report using

a sample of data from 30 states. However, in both cases, the reports publish only the aggregate estimated recidivism rate and not the rates of individual states, recognizing that state-to-state comparisons would not be valid with the available information.

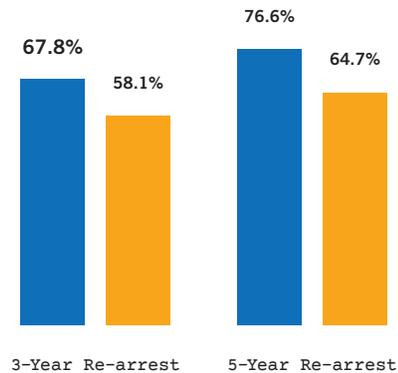
Can we compare Pennsylvania to any multi-state estimates?

The DOJ estimated that 67.8% of state prison inmates were re-arrested for a new crime within three years of their 2005 release and 76.6% within five years of release. Using PA DOC data, 3-year and 5-year adjusted re-arrest rates were calculated using elements of the methodology that are included in the DOJ report. This included removing from the calculation individuals if they were deceased or had a sentence of less than one year, and adding in an estimate of re-arrests out-of-state.

With adjustments in place to make comparable to the DOJ report, they increased the 3-year re-arrest rate for Pennsylvania by seven percentage points compared to PA DOC’s traditional re-arrest calculation. It is important to note that other minor differences in methodology or data may exist between the PA DOC adjusted rate and the DOJ 30-state analysis, but this was the closest attempt at an apples-to-apples comparison. Based on this comparison, Pennsylvania’s re-arrest rate is about 10 to 12 percentage points lower than the estimated re-arrest rate for all 30 states.

COMPARISON OF BJS 30-STATE AND PENNSYLVANIA’S 3-AND 5-YEAR RE-ARREST RATES

■ BJS 30-State ■ Pennsylvania



³ Although published recidivism rates for different jurisdictions should not be interpreted as a direct comparison, re-arrest and re-incarceration (to state prison) rates have been published for six nearby states (Delaware, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and West Virginia) as well as 30-state (Bureau of Justice Statistics) and 23-state studies (PEW Charitable Trusts).

⁴ Re-arrest does not include recidivism for parole violations, which PA DOC traditionally includes in the overall recidivism rate.

RECIDIVISM BY DEMOGRAPHICS AND CHARACTERISTICS

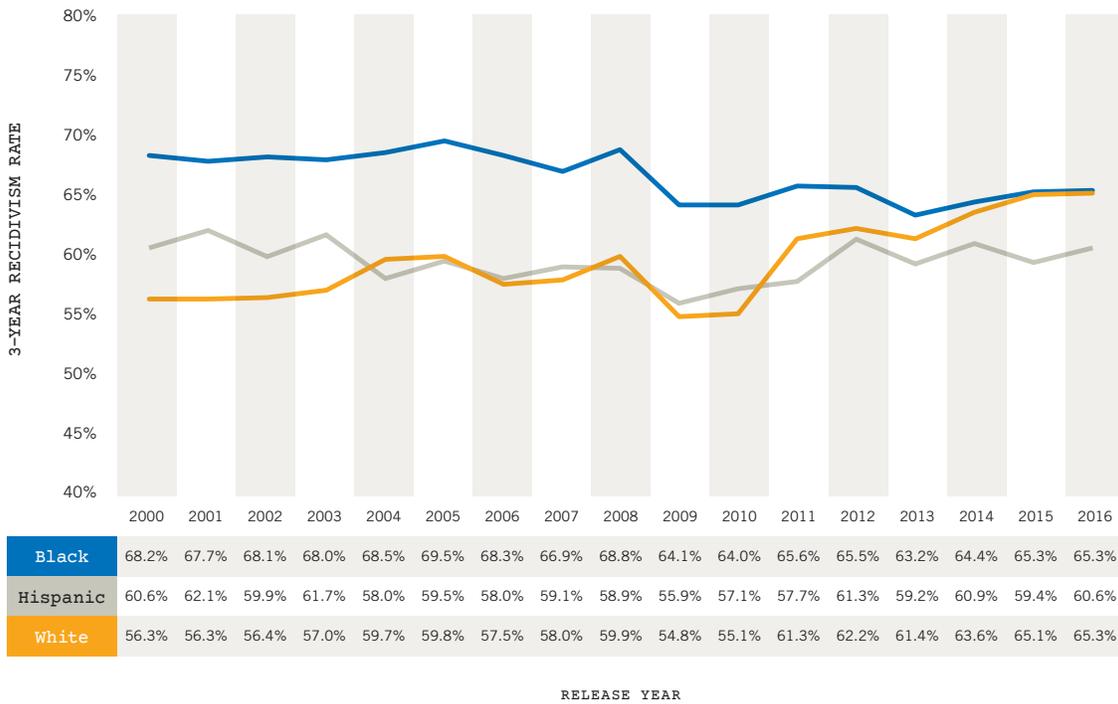
In this section we provide recidivism rates broken out by different inmate characteristics, including demographics, originating county, and education level, as well as by identified concerns such as mental health and substance use disorders.

RACE/ETHNICITY

White reentrants showed the largest increase in 3-year recidivism rates from 2009 through 2016. Recidivism rates have actually declined slightly for black reentrants. In 2009, the recidivism rate for white reentrants was almost 12

percentage points lower than for black reentrants. By 2016, the recidivism rates for Black and white reentrants were the same.

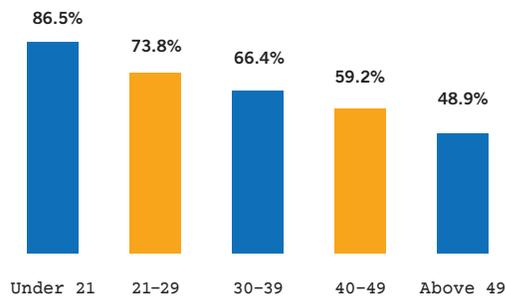
RECIDIVISM INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY FOR WHITE REENTRANTS; DECREASED FOR BLACK REENTRANTS



AGE

Recidivism is the highest for those under the age of 21 at the time of release from PA DOC custody, then steadily decreases as reentrants become older at the time of release.

OLDER REENTRANTS HAVE LOWER RECIDIVISM RATES



B31-17

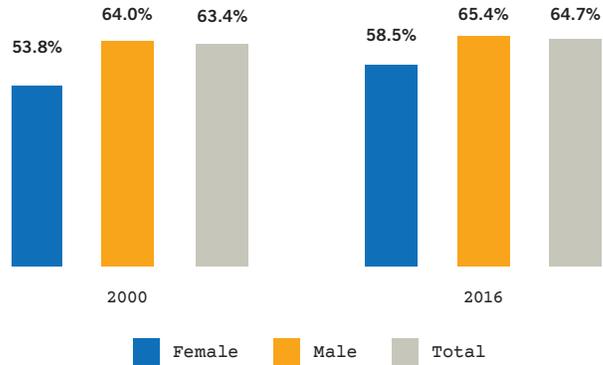


GENDER

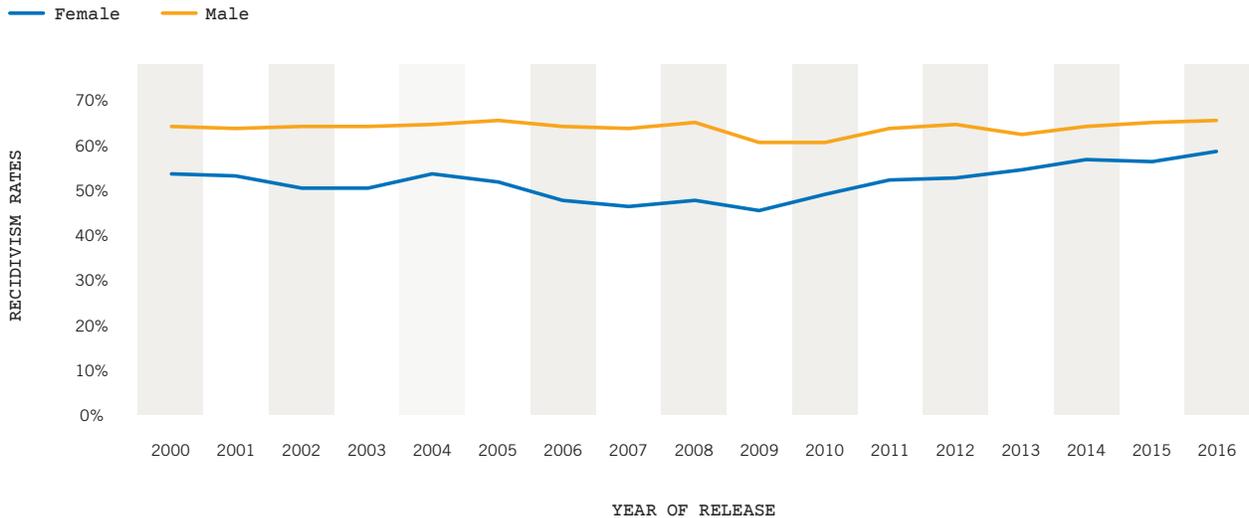
Women recidivate at lower rates than men, on average – 58.5% of women compared to 65.4% of men recidivate within three years of release.

Since 2009, the female recidivism rate increased significantly (by 13.2 percentage points). During the same time period, the male recidivism rate remained mostly flat.

FEMALE RECIDIVISM RATES REMAIN LOWER THAN MALE RECIDIVISM RATES

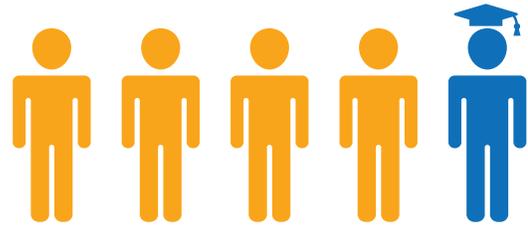


FEMALE RECIDIVISM HAS INCREASED IN THE PAST TEN YEARS; MALE RECIDIVISM HAS REMAINED FLAT



EDUCATION LEVEL

Among the 2016 PA DOC releases, four out of 10 had less than a 12th grade education. Education level is measured here as the highest education level attained (including GED equivalency) at the time of release from prison, which may include education attained while in prison.

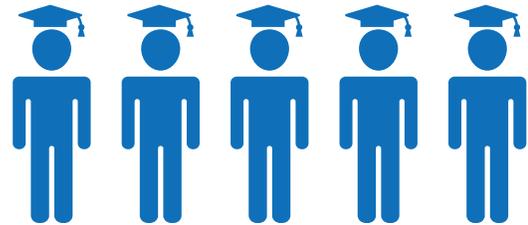


**4 OUT OF 10 RELEASES
IN 2016 HAD LESS THAN
A 12TH GRADE
EDUCATION LEVEL**

Do More Educated Reentrants Have Lower Recidivism Rates?

Shown in the table below, reentrants with a 12th grade education or higher have slightly better recidivism outcomes (63.5% compared to 66.4%).

Maximum Educational Attainment Before Release	3-Year Overall Recidivism Rate
Less than 12th grade	66.4%
At least 12th grade	63.5%
Difference	-2.9%



OPIOID ADDICTION

All inmates are screened for substance use disorder upon admission to state prisons. The assessment is updated periodically throughout the prison term.

Based on the self-reported drug of choice data, those who indicate opioids as any of their three drugs of choice have the highest 3-year overall recidivism rate, 70.2 percent.

Conversely, those reentrants who did not have a substance use disorder had the lowest 3-year overall recidivism rate, 59.3 percent. Shown in the table below, recidivism rates for individuals who have problems with other drugs vary, but all fall below the recidivism rate for opioids.

REENTRANTS WHO USE OPIOIDS HAVE THE HIGHEST 3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATE



Drug of Choice*	2016 Releases	3-Year Recidivism	
		Number	Rate
Opioids	4,307	3,022	70.2%
Non-opioid drugs	8,735	5,785	66.2%
Marijuana	3,489	2,385	68.4%
Cocaine or Crack	2,401	1,599	66.6%
Alcohol	4,384	2,655	60.6%
Other or None Specified	8,520	5,566	65.3%
No Substance Use Disorder	6,782	4,023	59.3%

*Inmates can report up to three drugs of choice when being assessed for SUD. Therefore, individuals are counted in the rate for each drug they reported.

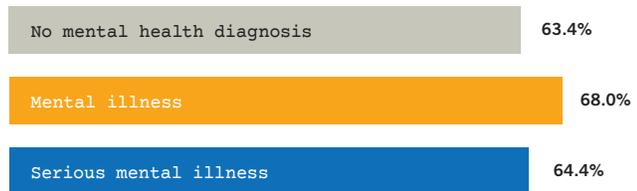
MENTAL HEALTH STATUS

Mental health status is assessed and recorded after admission to PA DOC during the diagnostic and classification process. This information is updated throughout the prison stay whenever new information is received or the inmate receives a new diagnosis. “Mental Health” indicates any mental health diagnosis or related need; “Serious Mental Illness” refers to a specific set of diagnoses as defined by the DSM-5 such as bipolar disorder, major depression, and schizophrenia.

Incarcerated women are more likely to have mental health needs. In this section we examine 3-year overall recidivism rates for all releases in 2016, by mental health status. More than two thirds (72%) of female reentrants have mental health needs, compared to less than a quarter (21%) of male reentrants.

Individuals with mental health needs, excluding those with a serious mental illness, have a 4.6 percentage point higher recidivism rate, 68% compared to 63.4%. The difference in recidivism rates between those who have no mental health diagnosis and those who have a serious mental illness is not as significant; 63.4% compared to 64.4%.

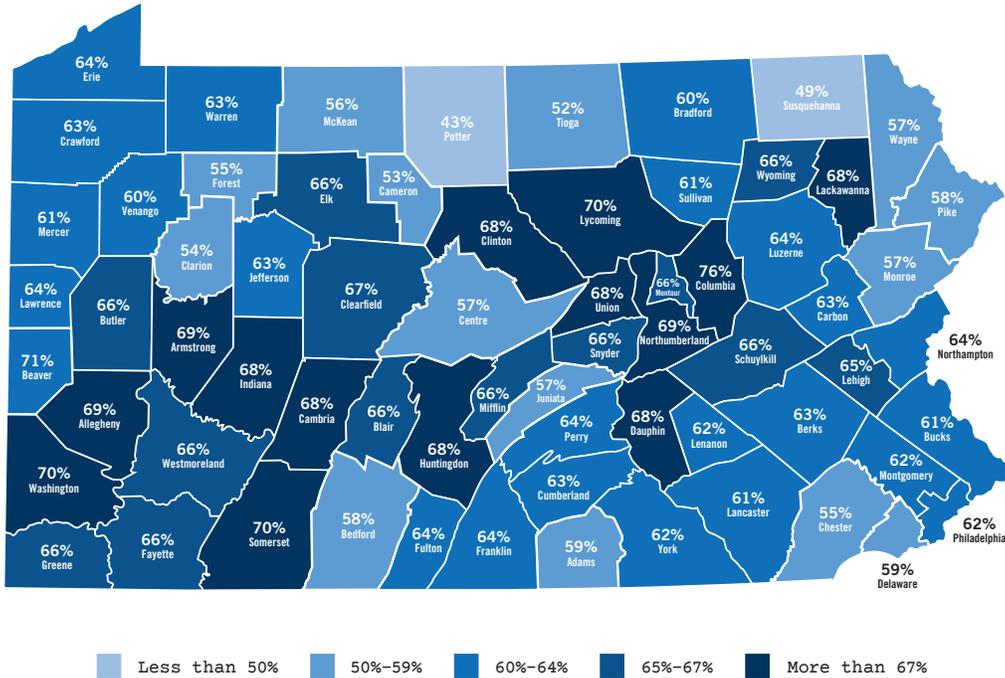
REENTRANTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS ARE SLIGHTLY MORE LIKELY TO RECIDIVATE



RECIDIVISM BY COUNTY

The map below shows the 3-year overall recidivism rate for each county based on the location in which the reentrant was originally charged, often referred to as “committing county.” Four years of releases (2013 to 2016 releases) are used in this analysis.

The number of releases, and the recidivism rate by re-incarceration, re-arrest, and overall recidivism are listed by county in the appendix of this report.



CENTRAL AND WESTERN PA COUNTIES GENERALLY HAVE THE HIGHEST RECIDIVISM RATES

Counties with highest and lowest recidivism rates			
	County	Recidivism	#of Releases
Highest Rates	Columbia	76%	230
	Beaver	71%	553
	Lycoming	70%	1,336
	Somerset	70%	473
	Washington	70%	862
Lowest Rates	Clarion	54%	146
	Cameron	53%	32
	Tioga	52%	207
	Susquehanna	49%	133
	Potter	43%	93

RECIDIVISM BY CRIME TYPE AND CRIMINAL CHARACTERISTICS

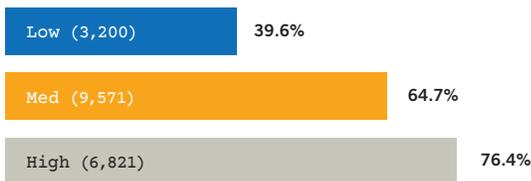
In this section we provide recidivism rates broken out by different crime types and criminal characteristics, both pre-and-post incarceration. This includes criminal risk level, prior arrests, prior incarcerations, length of stay, commitment crime type, re-offending crime type, crime type specialization, and a “Crime Harm Index.”



RISK LEVEL

All PADOC inmates are screened for risk of recidivism using the Risk Screening Tool (RST) upon admission. About half of releases were medium risk individuals, another one-third were high risk, and the remaining one-fifth were low risk. The 3-year overall recidivism rate increases with each higher risk level group, as would be expected. High risk releases are almost twice as likely to recidivate as low risk releases (76.4% compared to 39.6%).

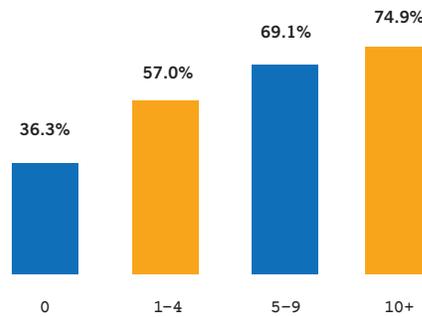
RECIDIVISM RATES INCREASE WITH HIGHER RISK LEVELS



PRIOR ARRESTS

Reentrants who have been arrested more frequently in the past are more likely to recidivate. The number of prior arrests does not include the most recent arrest, which most frequently is the arrest that led to their current incarceration. Almost three quarters (74.9%) of reentrants with 10 or more prior arrests recidivate within three years, compared to just about one-third (36.3%) of the individuals without a prior arrest.

RECIDIVISM RATES INCREASE WITH NUMBER OF PRIOR ARRESTS

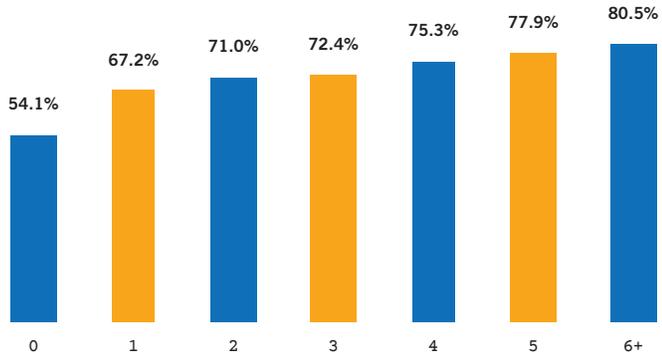


Count of Prior Arrests	# of Releases	3-Year Recidivism
0	1,044	36.3%
1-4	6,722	57.0%
5-9	7,088	69.1%
10+	4,970	74.9%

PRIOR STATE PRISON INCARCERATIONS

Reentrants who have been incarcerated in PA DOC more times in the past are more likely to recidivate. The number of prior incarcerations does not include the current incarceration. Eight out of 10 individuals who have been incarcerated six or more times recidivate within three years, compared to only about half of individuals being released from their first incarceration.

RECIDIVISM RATES INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY FOR THOSE WITH ONE OR MORE PRIOR INCARCERATIONS

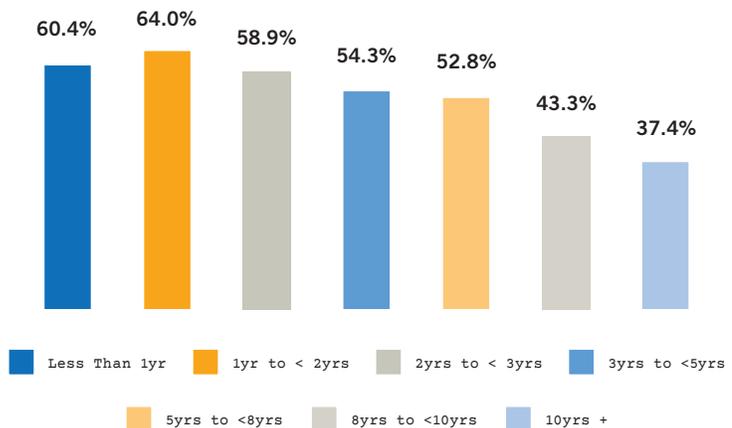


Count of Prior Incarcerations	# of Releases	3-Year Recidivism Rate
0	7,374	54.1%
1	5,064	67.2%
2	3,164	71.0%
3	1,760	72.4%
4	982	75.3%
5	628	77.9%
6+	852	80.5%

LENGTH OF STAY IN PRISON PRIOR TO RELEASE

Among 2016 releases, the three-year recidivism rate by length of prison stay was highest for those whose prison stay was between one and two years.. Three-year recidivism rates steadily declined thereafter, as the length of stay increased, to a low of 37.4% for those who were in prison 10 or more years.

LONGER LENGTHS OF STAY IN PRISON ASSOCIATED WITH LOWER RECIDIVISM RATES



RECIDIVISM BY COMMITMENT CRIME TYPE

Reentrants who were incarcerated for property crimes (such as burglary, theft, and arson) are the most likely to recidivate within three years of release (74.6%). Those incarcerated for sex offenses have the lowest three-year overall recidivism rate (47.6%).

RECIDIVISM BY RE-OFFENSE CRIME TYPE

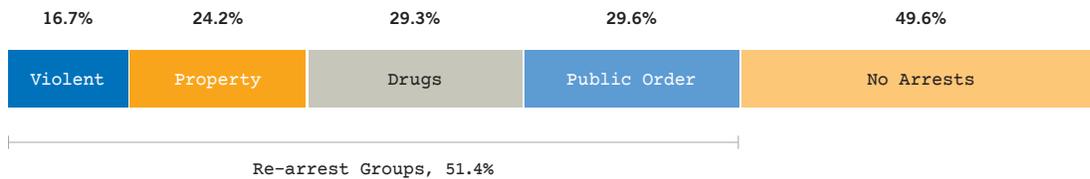
Within three years of release, *just over half, or 51.4 percent*, are re-arrested. Eight out of 10 of the re-arrest offense types are split fairly evenly between public order, drugs, and property crimes. The remaining 16.7% are for violent crimes (including sex offenses).

PROPERTY CRIME OFFENDERS HAVE HIGHEST RECIDIVISM RATES; SEX OFFENDERS HAVE LOWEST

Commitment Crime Type	# of Releases	Recidivism Rates		
		Re-arrest	Re-incarceration	Recidivism
Property	5,195	59.9%	56.9%	74.6%
Public Order	1,005	52.1%	50.9%	68.4%
Weapons	1,339	56.6%	44.2%	65.5%
Violent	4,751	50.1%	46.3%	63.1%
Drugs	5,275	50.1%	42.7%	61.6%
DUI	1,008	39.3%	36.1%	50.1%
Sex Offenses	1,125	28.9%	33.5%	47.6%
Grand Total	19,824	51.4%	47.1%	64.7%

Note: 126 records were missing offense codes.

RE-ARRESTS WITHIN THREE YEARS OF RELEASE: VIOLENT CRIMES ARE SMALLEST SHARE OF TOTAL RE-ARRESTS AT 16.7%



SHARE OF ALL ARRESTS MADE IN PENNSYLVANIA ATTRIBUTABLE TO PA DOC REENTRANTS

In 2010, there were 138,924 total arrests in Pennsylvania reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report for crimes classified as violent, property, or drug offenses. In this analysis only more serious (Part I) property and violent offenses were included. Individuals who spent time in PA DOC in the past accounted for 12,861 of those arrests, or 10.2% of the total.

The same analysis for arrests in 2018 showed 7.8% of the total was attributable to individuals who spent time in PA DOC in the past. From 2010 to 2018, the fraction of total arrests attributable to former PA DOC inmates increased in all three crime categories, with property crimes seeing the largest increase.

CRIME SPECIALIZATION:

Do reentrants recidivate by committing the same type of crime they were last incarcerated for?

Within three years of release, just over half (51.4%) are re-arrested for a new crime. Of those who were re-arrested, about one out of three (35.0%) were re-arrested for the same type of crime as the commitment crime before incarceration.

ARRESTS IN 2018; INMATES RELEASED 2008-2018

	Violent	Property	Drugs	Total
2018 Arrests of Former PA DOC Inmates	1,904	4,123	6,834	12,861
2018 Total PA Arrests	19,536	44,478	61,934	125,948
% of Total PA Arrests by Former PA DOC Inmates	9.7%	9.3%	11.0%	10.2%

ARRESTS IN 2010; INMATES RELEASED 2000-2010

	Violent	Property	Drugs	Total
2010 Arrests of Former PA DOC Inmates	1,904	3,656	5,262	10,824
2010 Total PA Arrests	24,263	58,803	55,858	138,924
% of Total PA Arrests by Former PA DOC Inmates	7.9%	6.22	9.4%	7.8%

In the table below, each row shows the outcome for releases based on the **original (commitment) crime type**. Each column shows the outcome for releases based on **re-arrest crime type**. The highlighted cells are those where the individual’s original (commitment) crime type matches his/her re-arrest crime type. So for example 11.2% of violent offenders are re-arrested for a violent offense, 23.4% of property offenders are re-arrested for a property offense, etc. There is significant diversity in offenses, with some specialization — especially among property and drug offenders.

REENTRANTS GENERALLY SHOW DIVERSITY IN CRIME TYPES COMMITTED, WITH SOME SPECIALIZATION, ESPECIALLY AMONG DRUG AND PROPERTY OFFENDERS

Crime Type for Original Commitment	Re-arrest Crime Type						Total
	Violent	Property	Drugs	Public Order/Other	Other/Unknown	No Re-arrest	
Violent	11.2%	8.5%	10.7%	15.1%	0.3%	54.2%	100.0%
Property	7.0%	23.4%	14.8%	14.6%	0.1%	40.1%	100.0%
Drugs	7.0%	7.8%	21.0%	14.3%	0.0%	49.9%	100.0%
Public Order/Other	9.2%	10.0%	13.8%	17.5%	0.0%	49.6%	100.0%

CRIME HARM INDEX:

Measuring the harm to society

A Crime Harm Index (CHI) measures the level of societal harm that results from crime (or in this case recidivism), recognizing that all crime types don't carry equal weight in their impact on society. Traditional measures of recidivism treat all recidivism incidents equally, only measuring whether someone recidivated or not, regardless of the recidivism crime type.

This report makes use of Pennsylvania's Offense Gravity Scores (OGS) in order to quantify the harm of recidivism and create somewhat of a CHI. The OGS is a score between one and 15, assigned by the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to every unique criminal offense code in Pennsylvania's criminal statutes. The OGS is used in Pennsylvania's sentencing guidelines and can be described as a numerical representation of the seriousness of the crime committed.⁵ A higher OGS score generally indicates a more serious or harmful crime.

The below results in this section look at a 3-year follow-up period for those released in 2006 and in 2016, and records the OGS score for each arrest charge accumulated during the follow-up period among all who were re-arrested during

that period. The figure below shows that the average OGS score for all re-arrest charges among the 2006 releases was 4.47, and the average OGS score for all re-arrest charges among the 2016 releases decreased slightly to 4.30.

The table below shows the percent of the 2006 and 2016 releases who had one or more re-arrest charges within each OGS category, and also gives some examples of the types of offenses within each OGS category. For example, one of the biggest changes from 2006 to 2016 was the fraction of reentrants who were re-arrested for an OGS 1 offense type, which is the lowest offense type and includes offenses such as disorderly conduct and reckless driving. In the 2006 group, 16.1% were re-arrested for one or more OGS 1 offenses, whereas in the 2016 group the percent re-arrested for an OGS 1 offense increased to 20.1%.

AVERAGE RE-ARREST SERIOUSNESS (OGS SCORE) DECREASED OVER TIME



⁵ Further information regarding sentencing guidelines, including OGS, can be found at the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing website <http://pcs.la.psu.edu>

% OF RE-ARREST CHARGES BY OFFENSE GRAVITY SCORE (OGS)

Associated Offenses with OGS		2006	2016
OGS 1	Disorderly Conduct, Reckless Driving, Criminal Trespass, Public Drunkenness, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	16.1%	20.1%
OGS 2	Retail Theft, Resisting Arrest, Criminal Mischief, Resisting Arrest	7.2%	7.8%
OGS 3	Simple Assault, Reckless Endangerment, Forgery, Simple Possession of Drugs	25.9%	22.9%
OGS 4	Indecent Assault or Exposure, Criminal Trespass, Endangering the Welfare of Children, Corruption of Minors	5.2%	2.4%
OGS 5	Burglary, Driving Under the Influence (DUI), Theft of Movable Property, Receiving Stolen Property, Flight to Avoid Apprehension	20.5%	22.3%
OGS 6	Aggravated Assault, Homicide by Vehicle, Stalking, Terroristic Threats, Harassment	4.9%	6.2%
OGS 7	Robbery (inflicting or threatening bodily injury), Statutory Rape, Assault by Prisoner, Burglary of an Occupied Structure	0.9%	1.1%
OGS 8	Sexual Abuse of Children-Possession of Child Pornography, Drug Manufacture/Sale/Deliver or Possession with Intent to Distribute (PWID), Retaliation Against Witness or Victim	10.4%	6.5%
OGS 9	Sexual Exploitation of Children, Kidnapping, Firearm Not to be Carried Without a License, Persons Not to Use or Possess Firearms, Burglary of A Structure with a Person Present	3.0%	5.4%
OGS 10	Kidnapping, Aggravated Indecent Assault, Arson Endangering Persons, Robbery with Threat of Serious Bodily Injury, Sex Offender Failure to Verify Address or Photograph as Required	1.2%	1.2%
OGS 11	Aggravated Assault (General), Voluntary Manslaughter, Sexual Assault, Criminal Conspiracy, Failure to Comply with Registration of Sexual Offenders Requirements	2.2%	2.7%
OGS 12	Rape, Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Robbery (General), Robbery Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury, Robbery of Motor Vehicles	2.0%	0.8%
OGS 13	Criminal Homicide, Drug Delivery Resulting in Death	0.1%	0.2%
OGS 14	3rd Degree Murder, Contact or Communication With a Minor-Sexual Offenses	0.4%	0.3%
OGS 15	1st Degree Murder, 2nd Degree Murder	0.1%	0.1%
Average OGS		4.5	4.3

* The average OGS is obtained by summing the OGSs for all of the arrest charges for those who were released in 2006 or 2016 and re-arrested within three years, then dividing that number by the total number charges.

RECIDIVISM BY INCARCERATION EXPERIENCE

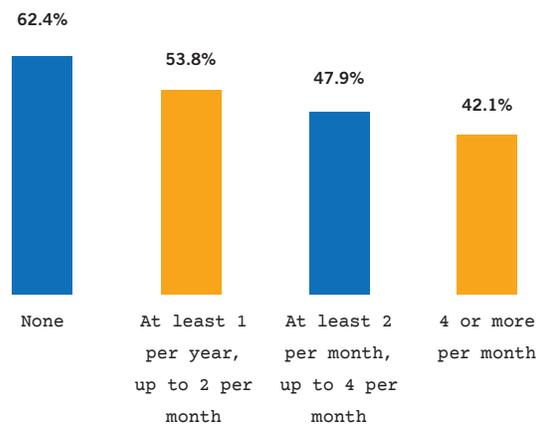
This section looks at three-year recidivism rates for initial releases (not including parole violator re-releases) to consider how recidivism rates are related to core elements of the incarceration experience such as visits by friends and family and misconducts for institutional misbehavior.

VISITS

The below graph considers recidivism rates by the frequency of visits by friends and family members (visits per year), excluding special types of visits such as by an attorney or religious advisor. This analysis is based on 3-year recidivism rates for all initial releases between 2012 through 2016. Only approximately 60% of all initial releases during this time period received any visit by family and/or friends. The remaining 40% did not receive a visit during their time of incarceration.

Reentrants with more visits per year were less likely to recidivate. Those with an average of four visits per month had a three-year overall recidivism rate of 42.1%, more than 20 percentage points lower than those with no visits (62.4%).

REENTRANTS WITH MORE FREQUENT VISITS FROM FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE LESS LIKELY TO RECIDIVATE



Average: Visit Events During Incarceration

MISCONDUCTS

Among inmates who commit serious misconducts in prison, those who had more misconducts per year were more likely to recidivate within three years of release.

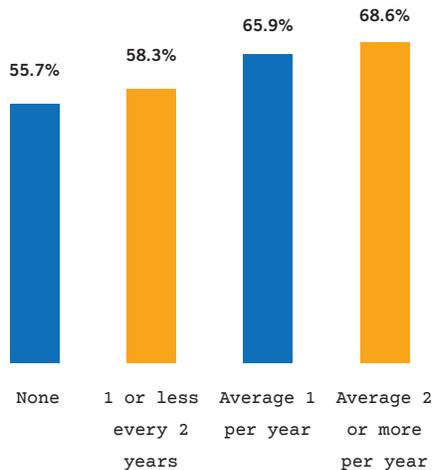
Serious misconducts are referred to by PA DOC as Class 1 misconducts. These include institutional violence, from fighting to assault or even murder, as well as actions such as indecent exposure, threatening, extortion, or gambling.

Among initial release over five years (2012-2016), 20.6% were found guilty of at least one Class 1 misconduct. This analysis excludes any incident where the individual was found not guilty or which resulted in an informal resolution. Misconducts such as refusing to obey an order and possession of contraband are eligible for informal resolution.

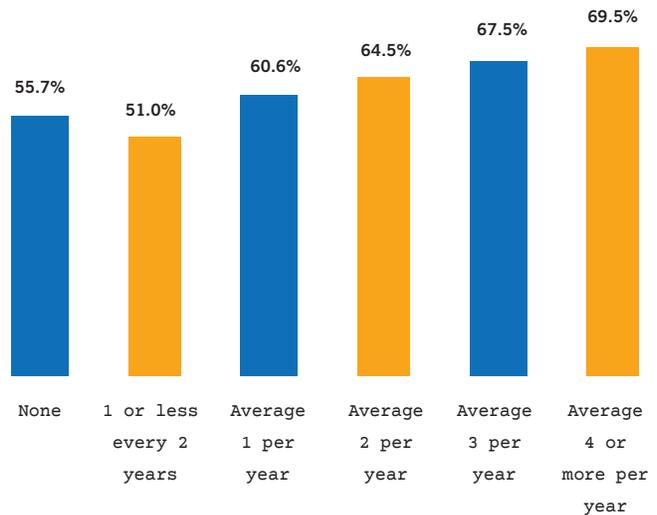
For this group, as the average number of serious misconducts per year rose, so did the 3-year overall recidivism rate. The recidivism rate for those with an average of at least two serious misconducts per year of incarceration is 68.6%, or 13 percentage points higher than those who committed no serious misconduct during their incarceration (55.7%).

When looking at all misconducts (not just restricting to serious misconducts), reentrants with more misconducts per year again recidivated at a higher rate. Those who averaged four or more misconducts per year had a 3-year overall recidivism rate of 69.5%. The recidivism rate for individuals with no misconducts was 55.7%. Those who had no misconducts actually had a slightly higher recidivism rate than those who averaged one or more per year.

RECIDIVISM RATES BY AVERAGE NUMBER OF SERIOUS MISCONDUCTS COMMITTED PER YEAR INCARCERATED



REENTRANTS WHO AVERAGED MORE MISCONDUCTS WHILE INCARCERATED ARE MORE LIKELY TO RECIDIVATE



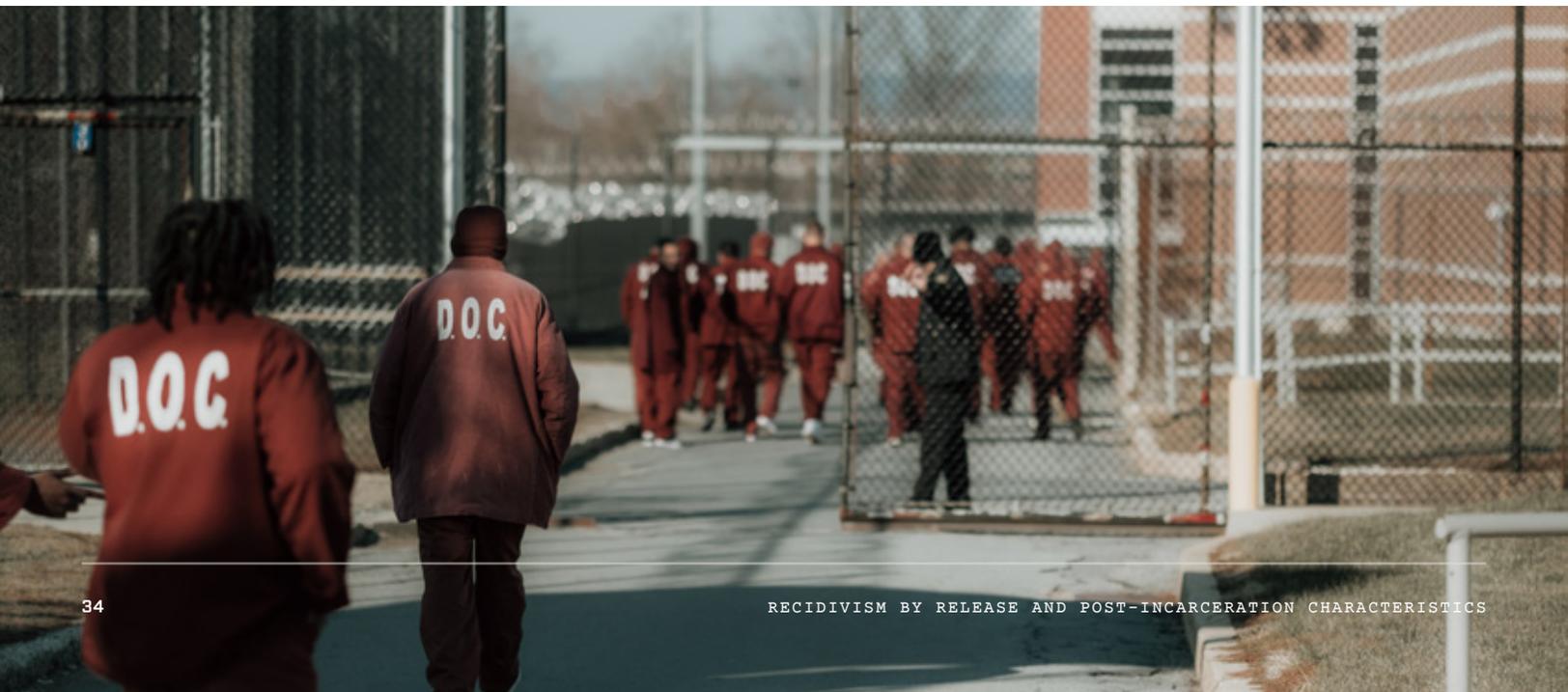
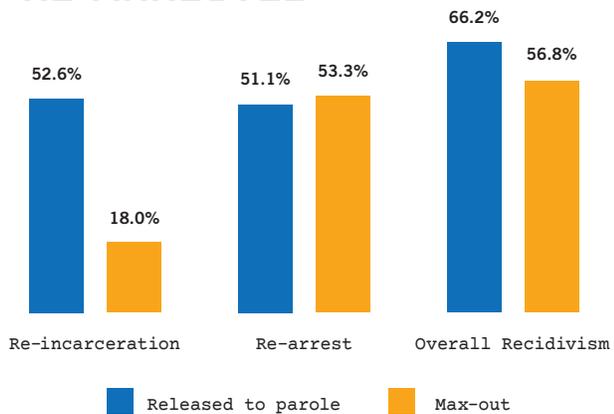




RECIDIVISM BY RELEASE TYPE AND POST-INCARCERATION CHARACTERISTICS

An individual is generally released from a PA DOC prison in one of two ways: either by completing their entire sentence (known as a max-out) or by being granted parole. Shown in the graph below, the overall recidivism rate is 9.4 percentage points higher for parolee releases compared to max-outs. However, this difference is driven largely by the re-incarceration rate, which is much higher for parolees. Parolees can be re-incarcerated for a technical parole violation whereas max-outs are under no supervision and cannot be returned for a technical parole violation. This presumably explains part of why the re-incarceration rate is so much lower for max-outs than for parole releases. The re-arrest rate is actually slightly lower (2.2 percentage points lower) for parole releases than for max-outs.

REENTRANTS ON PAROLE SUPERVISION ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE RE-INCARCERATED BUT LESS LIKELY TO BE RE-ARRESTED



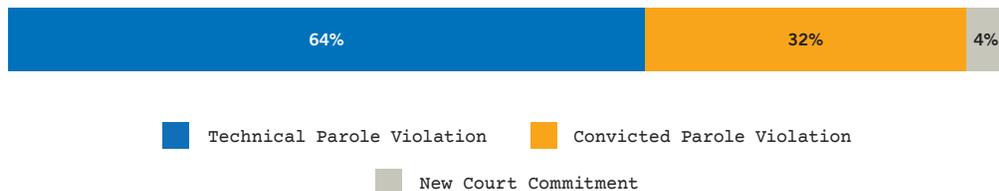


HOW DO PAROLE VIOLATIONS IMPACT THE RE-INCARCERATION RATE?

While individuals who max out can only be reincarcerated as the result of a new criminal conviction through the court system (new court commitment), parolees can return to prison for either a new court commitment or for a parole violation. Parolees who return to prison because they are convicted of a new crime are classified as convicted parole violators (CPV).

Parolees who are returned to prison for acts which do not rise to the level of a new crime but violate the terms of their parole supervision are classified as technical parole violators (TPV). Technical parole violations account for 64% of reincarcerations among parole releases.

TWO-THIRDS OF PAROLE REASES WHO ARE RE-INCARCERATED WITHIN 3 YEARS ARE RETURNED FOR A TECHNICAL PAROLE VIOLATION

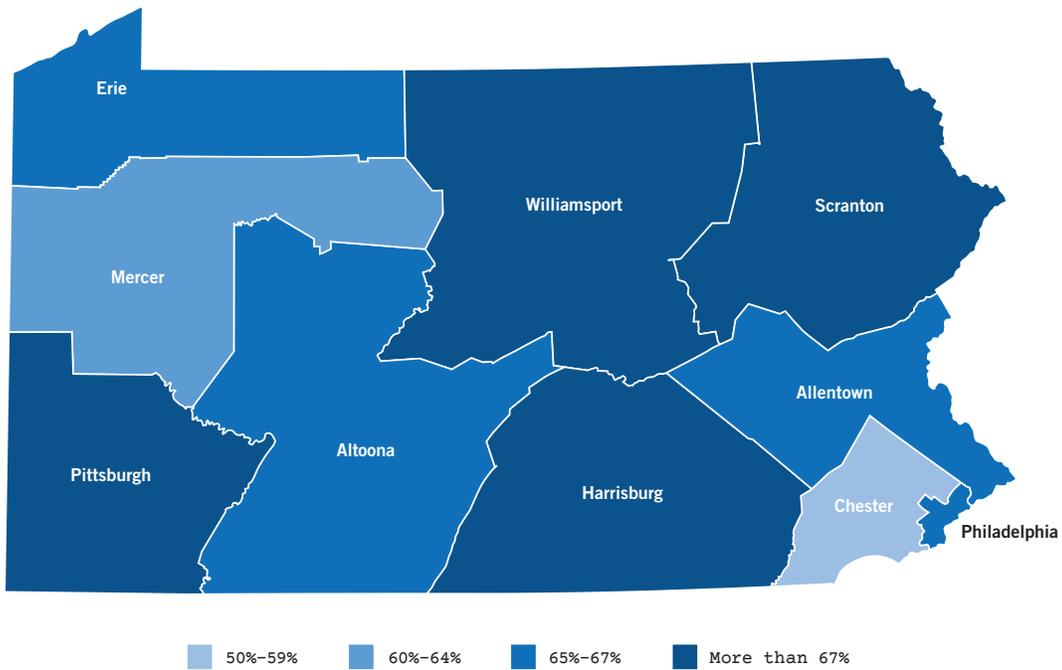


RECIDIVISM RATES BY PAROLE DISTRICT

Many factors contribute to recidivism rates that may vary geographically, including which types of cases are supervised out of each district office. For parole releases in 2016, re-arrest rates did not vary much by parole district. Re-incarceration rates and overall recidivism rates varied more by parole district.

The Pittsburgh parole district had the highest overall recidivism rate (73.9%), whereas the Chester parole district had the lowest overall recidivism rate (56%).

RECIDIVISM RATES BY PAROLE DISTRICTS AMONG PAROLE RELEASES



District Office	Western Region				Central Region				Eastern Region		Statewide
	Altoona	Erie	Mercer	Pittsburgh	Allentown	Harrisburg	Scranton	Williamsport	Chester	Philadelphia	
Overall Recidivism Rate	67.6%	67.8%	64.8%	73.9%	67.8%	68.0%	69.9%	69.2%	56.0%	66.2%	64.7%
Re-incarceration Rate	54.2%	57.7%	46.4%	59.3%	57.3%	54.1%	57.9%	60.6%	41.2%	50.3%	47.1%
Re-arrest Rate	49.7%	46.8%	55.3%	56.9%	49.2%	52.8%	51.0%	48.5%	47.3%	54.5%	51.4%

RECIDIVISM RATES BY TYPE OF RELEASE SETTING

Among those released on parole in 2016, 35% were released to a halfway house and 65% were released to a residence in the community. Parolees released from prison directly to an address in the community, such as their own home or that of a family member, recidivated at a rate of 57.9% over three years. By comparison, the recidivism rate for parolees released to a halfway house (a state-run or contracted community corrections center) was 69.8%.

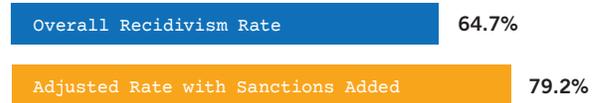
RECIDIVISM RATES ARE LOWER FOR PAROLEES RELEASED HOME VERSUS THOSE RELEASED TO A HALFWAY HOUSE FIRST



HOW WOULD THE RECIDIVISM RATE CHANGE BY INCLUDING MINOR PAROLE INFRACTIONS?

What this report refers to as the “overall recidivism rate” includes re-incarceration and re-arrest. However, parole agents may impose a number of intermediate sanctions on parolees for breaking the rules of parole supervision. These violations of parole conditions are generally not violations of the law. As listed below, the sanctions range from a minor restriction (such as curfew or limited travel), to more significant sanctions such as electronic monitoring or incarceration.

THE RECIDIVISM RATE IS 14.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER IF INTERMEDIATE PAROLE SANCTIONS ARE ALSO INCLUDED



If in addition to re-arrest and re-incarceration, the overall recidivism measure included the first action that resulted in any kind of sanction (including intermediate parole sanctions), the recidivism rate rises to 79.2%, 14.5 percentage points higher than the standard overall recidivism rate for 2016 releases.

WHAT ARE SANCTIONS?

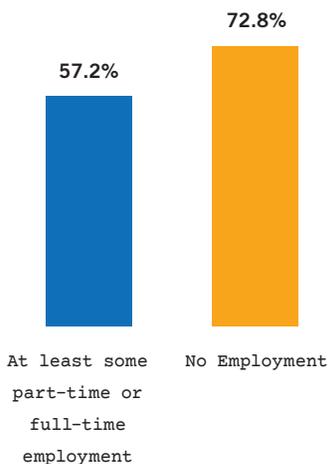
Sanctions are a tool used by parole agents to address issues with parolee behavior. They begin with minor warnings, and escalate with the number or severity of the infraction(s). The list below includes the most common types of sanctions:

- Written Warning
- Travel Restriction
- Increased Reporting Requirements
- Treatment Evaluation
- Treatment Referral
- Treatment Placement
- Electronic Monitoring/GPS
- Imposition of Community Service
- Imposition of Curfew
- Day Reporting Center
- Community Corrections
- Incarceration

ARE PAROLEES WHO ARE EMPLOYED IN THE FIRST YEAR POST-RELEASE LESS LIKELY TO RECIDIVATE?

Parolees who had no record of employment at any time within 12 months following release had a recidivism rate about 16 percentage points higher than those with at least some employment. Typically, parole agents record the employment status of reentrants during routine supervision contacts. Although employment records are self-reported by the parolees, parole agents may verify employment as needed.

PAROLEES UNEMPLOYED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF RELEASE HAVE A HIGHER RECIDIVISM RATE



PROGRAM EVALUATION

This report presents analysis of recidivism data but does not seek to evaluate specific programs for their impact on recidivism, or make causal statements concerning the cause and effect of various programs or factors on recidivism. Program evaluation is a valuable but complex undertaking. The most rigorous evaluations, using methods such as a randomized controlled trial (RCT), go beyond correlation and seek to determine causality. While program evaluation is outside of the scope of this report, interested parties often want to know about the effectiveness of programs when the topic of recidivism arises. This section is intended to give a brief overview and flavor of the program evaluation efforts conducted by PA DOC.

The PA DOC Bureau of Planning, Research, and Statistics (PRS) attempts to rigorously evaluate as many programs, policies, and practices operated by the PA DOC as possible. Departmental leadership help set the priority for program evaluation since evaluating all programs/policies/practices is impossible. PRS staff often work with a variety of academic partners to conduct these evaluations.

The below table presents some recently completed, rigorously conducted, PA DOC program evaluations. From these results, about half the programs appear to reduce recidivism and the other half appear to have either no impact on recidivism or may actually increase recidivism.

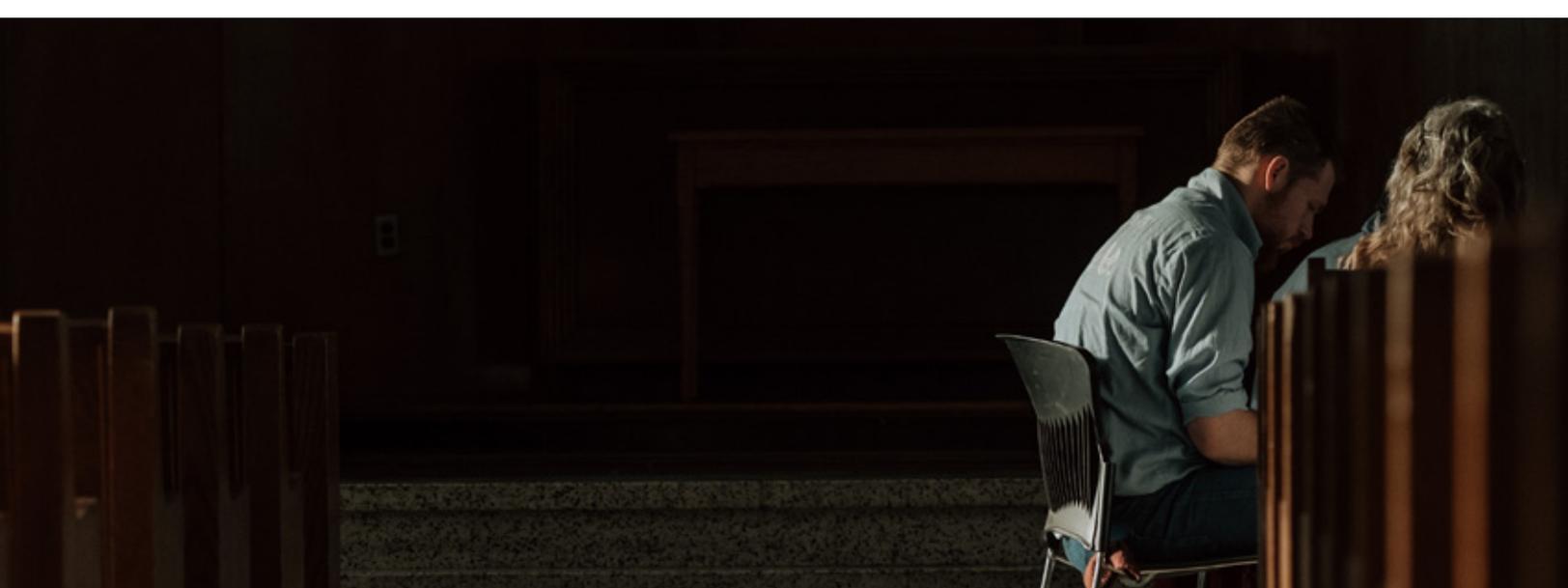
RECENT PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Program Evaluated	Evaluation Date	Impact on Recidivism
State Intermediate Punishment (SIP)	January 2017	↓ 15.3 - 44.6%
Recidivism Risk Reduction Incentive (RRRI)	January 2018	↓ 15.5 - 20.4%
Quehanna Bootcamp	February 2016	↓ 9.5 - 18%
Residential Community Corrections	February 2013	↑ Increased
Therapeutic Community (TC) Unit	June 2019	→ No Change
Experimental Relocation	October 2014	↓ 3.0%
Medication Assisted Treatment (Vivitrol)	January 2018	→ No Change
SIP HOPE	May 2017	↓ 12.9%
Naloxone at Release from Prison	November 2019	→ No Change

FUTURE EVALUATIONS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS OR UNDER CONSIDERATION:

- Pell-funded college courses for inmates
- Non-residential reentry programming (employment assistance, housing, mental health, mentoring, substance abuse)
- Thinking for a Change (TFC) cognitive-behavioral therapy program
- Trauma-informed care programming
- Technical Parole Violator (TPV) treatment programming
- In-prison peer mentoring
- NeuroResource Facilitation program for inmates with brain injury
- The “Little Scandinavia” prison housing unit
- Financial Education programming





DESISTANCE

WHAT IS DESISTANCE?

Desistance is the process by which an individual slows down or stops offending over time. It can take the form of a reduction in the seriousness of offending, the frequency of offending, or stopping offending altogether. Desistance is a relatively new concept in criminal justice research, unfamiliar (or less familiar than recidivism) to most policymakers.⁶ This section is intended to introduce the concept of desistance. At the core of desistance is the notion that individuals change over time and that traditional measures of recidivism are too limiting and focus too much on failure rather than success. Focusing exclusively on recidivism in criminal justice would be analogous to focusing exclusively on school drop-out rates in education. As such, desistance is a good companion to recidivism when measuring correctional performance.

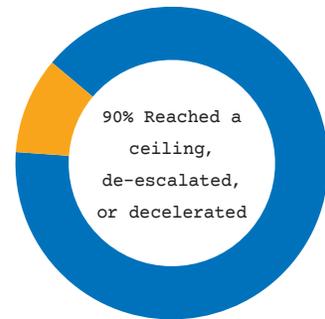
To illustrate three concrete measures of desistance, the below section takes a closer look at a *random sample of 100 individuals released from a PA DOC prison in 2004*. The sample excludes anyone who was deceased in the follow-up period (15 years) and anyone with missing criminal history data.

DO MOST PEOPLE DESIST?

This analysis found that 73 out of 100 individuals (73%) “decelerated” (or slowed down) the criminal offending after prison, 57 out of 100 individuals (57%) “de-escalated” (or committed less serious crimes) after prison, and 20 out of 100 individuals “reached a ceiling” (or stopped offending altogether) after release from prison. Overall, 90 out of 100 individuals (90%) met at least one of these three measures or benchmarks of desistance after release from prison.

90% OF REENTRANTS MEET ONE OR MORE BENCHMARK OF DESISTANCE AFTER RELEASE FROM PRISON

10% Did not meet any of the three desistance definitions



⁶ For more on the concepts and research behind desistance, refer to these sources: Sampson & Laub, 1993, 2001; Brame et.al, 2004; Maruna, 2017; Loeber and LeBlanc, 1990

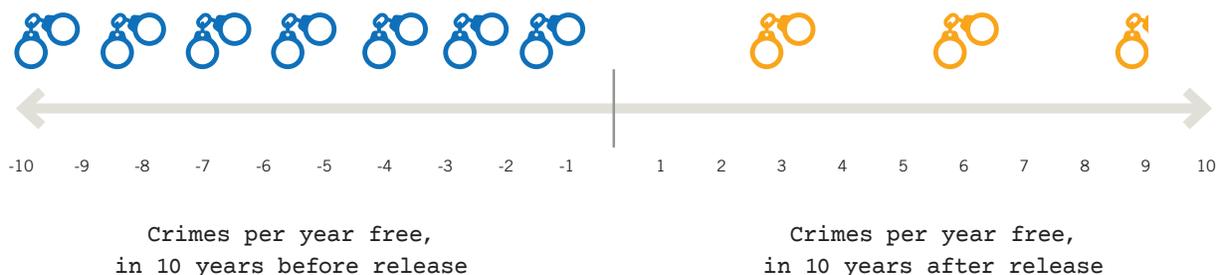


DECELERATION

An individual decelerates by **reducing the frequency** of committing crimes over time. This report measures deceleration by the number of arrests per year, counting only the time the individual is free in the community (not including time incarcerated).

In the 100-person sample, 73 were arrested less frequently in the 10 years after release from prison compared to the previous 10 years before prison. Among these individuals, the rate of arrests per year **decreased** from an average of about 0.7 arrests per year to just 0.2 arrests per year, or one fewer arrest every two years on average.

**73% DECELERATED AFTER PRISON,
AVERAGING 1 FEWER ARREST EVERY 2 YEARS**

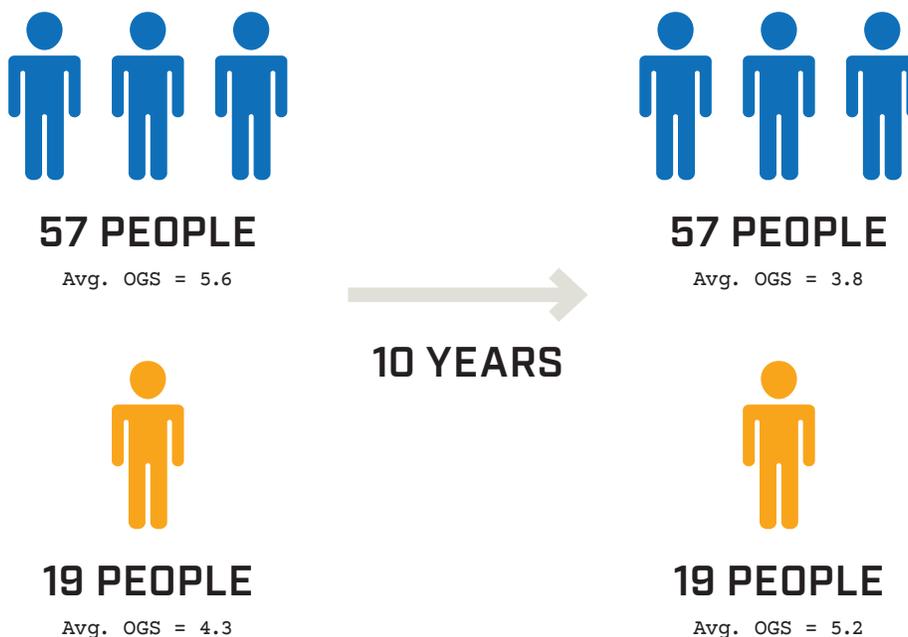


DE-ESCALATION

De-escalation refers to a **decrease over time in the seriousness of the crimes** being committed. For example, an individual who specializes in armed robberies early in his/her criminal career might go on to commit less violent crimes, such as burglary or petty theft, later in their criminal career. This report measures the seriousness of each crime based on the Offense Gravity Score (OGS), taking the average OGS for all arrests accumulated by each person in the 10 years before prison compared to the 10 years after prison.⁷

Out of the 100-person sample, 77 individuals were re-arrested within 10 years of their release from prison. Of that group, 57 (three out of four) measured a **decrease** in the severity of crimes arrested for, while 20 (one out of four) indicated more severe crimes arrested for on average after release from prison.

The 57 individuals who de-escalated after prison had an average OGS score 33% lower post-release. On the other hand, the 19 individuals who escalated to more serious arrest charges had an increase in OGS of 26%. One individual in this sample had no change in average OGS score from before prison to after prison.



⁷ Further information regarding sentencing guidelines, including OGS, can be found at the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing website <http://pcs.la.psu.edu>

REACHING A CEILING

In this report an individual is defined as “reaching the ceiling” of their criminal activity when they **stop offending altogether**. To measure this, we looked at a sample of released individuals who had the opportunity to re-offend during the *15 years following release from prison*. Those individuals who had no arrest charges and were not returned to PA DOC custody at all during the 15 years after prison were defined as “reaching a ceiling.” This might also be called “cessation.”

One out of five individuals, or 20%, of the 100-person sample released in 2004 did not re-offend again during the 15 years after release from prison.

**20% CEASED OFFENDING ALTOGETHER
AFTER RELEASE FROM PRISON**



COST OF RECIDIVISM

HOW MUCH WOULD PA DOC SAVE IF RECIDIVISM FELL 1, 5, OR 10%?

If the one-year re-incarceration rate could be reduced by one percentage point, meaning 182 fewer people returning to prison in their first year post release out of more than 18,000 total releases, there would be an initial one-year savings of \$387,947. If the re-incarceration rate fell by 10 percentage points, meaning 907 fewer returns to prison in the first year post-release, the annual savings would increase to \$9.2 million.

Change in Recidivism Rate	Target 1-Year Re-incarceration Rate After Change	How many fewer people would need to recidivate?	1-Year Cost Savings with Recidivism Reduction
1%	24.7%	182	\$387,947
5%	20.7%	725	\$1,933,340
10%	15.7%	907	\$9,192,327

HOW MUCH DOES ONE YEAR OF RECIDIVISM COST?

One way recidivism generates costs is the direct cost to incarcerate recidivists. By this measure, one year of releases costs PA DOC \$95 million (based on calendar year 2016 releases), and three years of recidivism for the same group of releases costs \$397 million. These costs accumulate over time. For example, in 2019 PA DOC incurred costs for 2018 recidivists in their first year post-release plus 2017 recidivists in their second year post-release, and so on.

From 2010 to 2016, the total cost of re-incarcerating recidivists in their first year post release grew by \$26 million, or 37%. The 3-year cost also increased, though by a smaller percent (\$32 million, or 9%). Some of the increasing costs can be attributed to the growth in the number of releases per year. From 2010 to 2016, annual releases increased from roughly 17,000 to 20,000, a 19 percent increase.

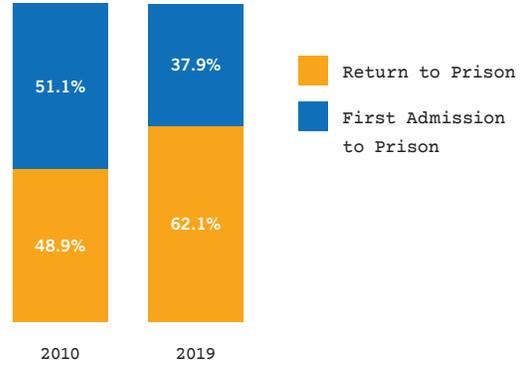
Release Year	1-Year Re-incarceration rate	Average time reincarcerated during 1st year (in months)	Total 1-Year Cost (in millions)
2010	22.5%	4.07	\$68.86
2016	29.6%	3.62	\$94.60

Release Year	1-Year Re-incarceration rate	Average time reincarcerated during 1st year (in months)	Total 1-Year Cost (in millions)
2010	40.4%	10.48	\$365.72
2016	47.1%	8.54	\$397.28

HOW MUCH DOES RECIDIVISM CONTRIBUTE TO PRISON ADMISSIONS?

Almost two out of every three new admissions into Pennsylvania state prisons (62.1%) in 2019 was a returning offender, whether being returned after recently being released or returning after years in the community. The fraction of admissions who are recidivists has increased over time. In 2010, only half of new admissions (48.9%) were recidivists. Conversely, the fraction of admissions who never previously spent time in PA DOC custody has decreased over time.

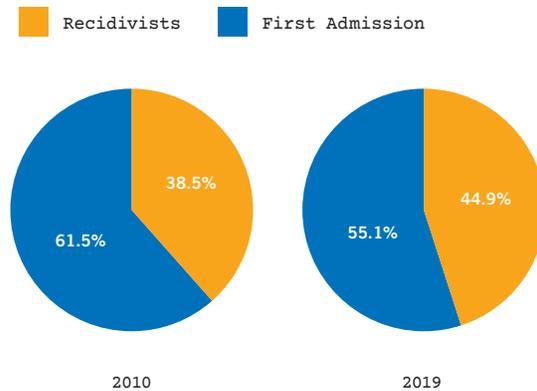
RECIDIVISM DRIVES PRISON ADMISSIONS



WHAT FRACTION OF THE INMATE POPULATION ARE RECIDIVISTS?

Based on the year-end prison population in 2019, 44.9% of the prison population is made up of recidivists, compared to 55.1% who are in a Pennsylvania state prison for the first time. Even among the group in a Pennsylvania prison for the first time, many were previously on probation, in a county jail, or previously incarcerated in another jurisdiction, so it is not necessarily their first criminal justice interaction. The percent of the inmate population made up of recidivists has increased 6.4 percentage points since 2010, when it was 38.5%.

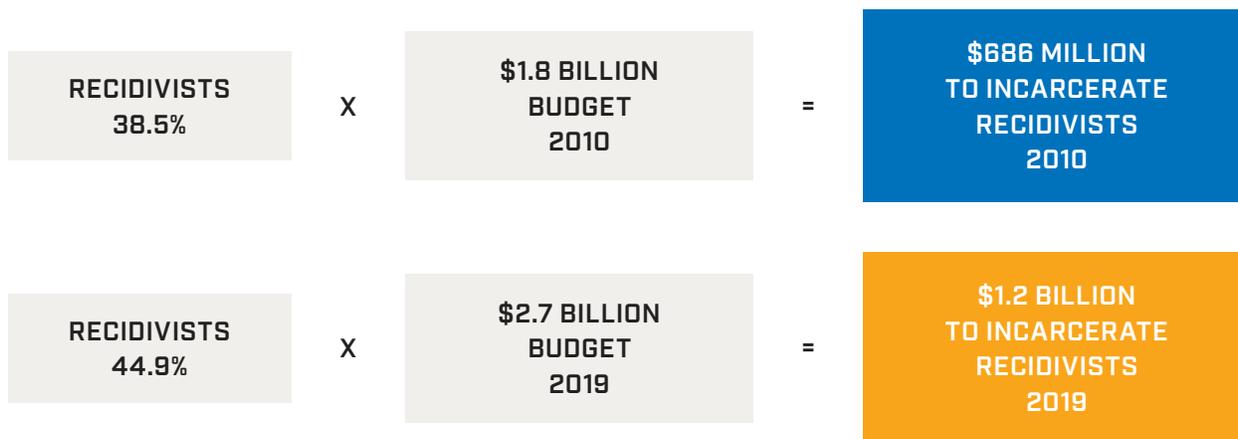
ALMOST HALF OF THE INMATE POPULATION ARE RECIDIVISTS; THIS FRACTION HAS INCREASED OVER TIME



HOW MUCH OF OUR ANNUAL BUDGET IS SPENT ON RECIDIVISTS?

In 2010 the total PA DOC budget was \$1.8 billion. At that time, recidivists made up 38.5% of the inmate population. Based on that share, the cost to incarcerate all recidivists for one year in 2010 was \$686 million.

By 2019, the cost to incarcerate recidivists has grown to \$1.2 billion—a 76% increase from 2010. Approximately half of this increase is attributable to the overall increase in the PA DOC budget.



ANNUAL COST TO INCARCERATE RECIDIVISTS GREW 76% FROM 2010 (\$686 MILLION) TO 2019 (\$1.2 BILLION)



HOW MUCH DOES RECIDIVISM COST COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETY MORE BROADLY?

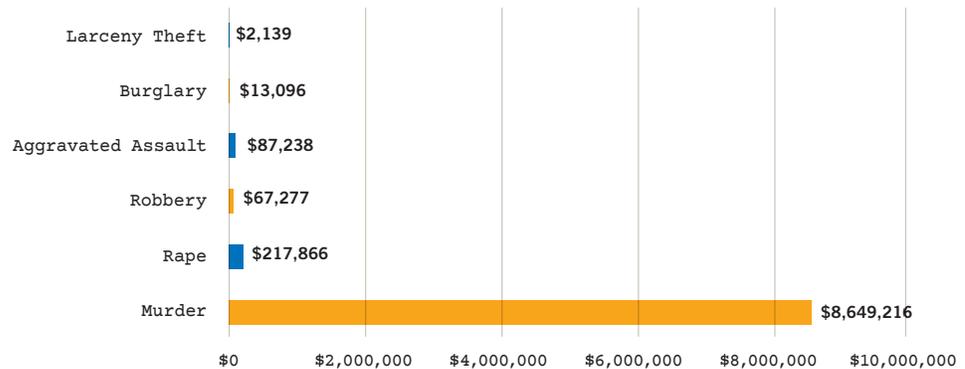
Recidivism not only costs the Department of Corrections, but also creates costs to society such as physical damage, costs of preventing and responding to crime, victim costs, and even intangible costs such as fear of crime. Put into dollars, the estimated total cost to society of recidivism for serious crimes committed by PA DOC reentrants, measured by arrest charges of individuals released in 2016, is \$3.11 billion per year.

The figure of \$3.11 billion total cost of recidivism is estimated based on a study conducted by the Rand Corporation which estimates the total societal cost of crime for a variety of different serious crime types. The estimated costs per crime from that report are shown in the table below for each of the following: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft.⁸

Murder is the crime type with the highest cost to society, contributing 90% of the total \$3.11 billion cost to society of recidivism, although accounting for only 2% of the total number of arrest charges for recidivists.

ESTIMATED COST TO SOCIETY PER CRIME

SOURCE:
RAND META-ANALYSIS,
2010



⁸ These are the Part 1 Index Crimes, which are reported in the FBI's annual Uniform Crime Report.

TYPES OF COST TO SOCIETY

COST OF CRIME ANTICIPATION:

The actions citizens take to protect their person and property such as:

- burglar alarms
- home and vehicle security
- taking a taxi instead of walking home at night
- police patrolling
- community based crime prevention programs

COST OF CRIME CONSEQUENCES:

Victims often experience the economic impact of crime such as:

- lost property costs
- medical costs
- loss of wage and productivity costs
- intangible pain and suffering
- decreases quality of life

COST OF RESPONSES TO CRIME:

The systems in place that are essential to operating the criminal justice system and improving community safety, such as:

- policing costs
- criminal justice and court system costs
- legal fees
- punishment costs (prison, jail, probation, etc.)
- victim compensation costs
- offender costs such as loss of freedom

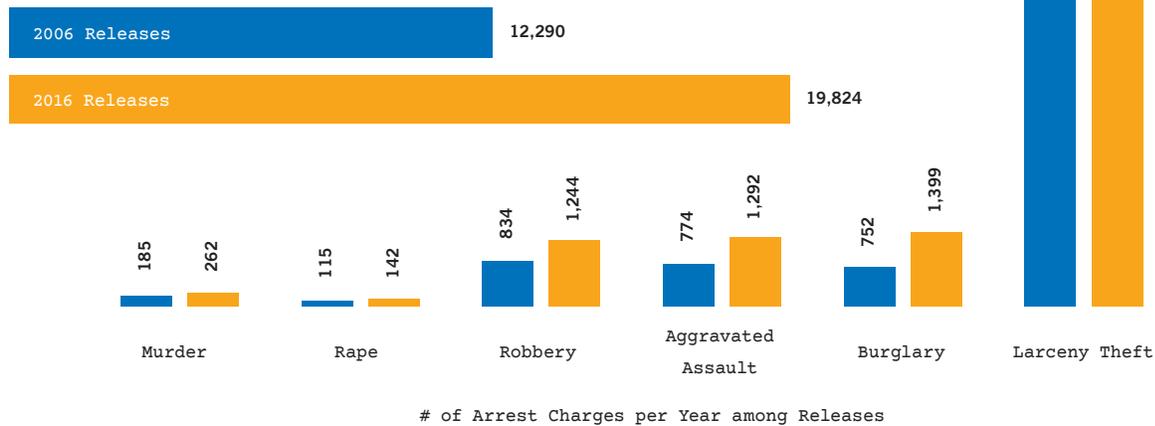


HAS THIS TOTAL COST TO SOCIETY CHANGED OVER TIME?

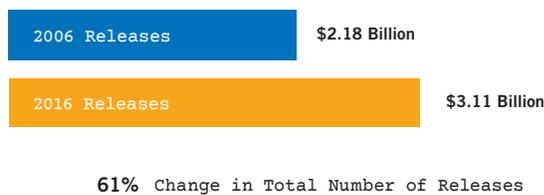
The estimated annual cost to society of recidivism for serious crimes committed by individuals released from PA DOC grew from \$2.18 billion based on releases in 2006 to \$3.11 billion based on releases in 2016, a nearly 43% increase.

One major factor in this increase is the total number of released individuals, which grew by 61% over the 10-year period. For all crime types examined here except for aggravated assault and burglary, the number of charges per released individual actually decreased, even though the total number of charges increased. Police and/or prosecutors charging more charges per criminal incident may have also contributed to this increase in total costs over time, separate from any actual increase in criminal activity.

RECIDIVISM FOR ALL CRIME TYPES INCREASED; ALSO, THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS RELEASED FROM PRISON INCREASED BY 61%



PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2006 TO 2016



Charges	% Change in Total Charges	% Change in Charges/Person
Murder	42%	-12%
Rape	23%	-23%
Robbery	49%	-8%
Aggravated Assault	67%	3%
Robbery	86%	15%
Larceny Theft	44%	-11%
Total	50%	-7%

APPENDIX

3-YEAR OVERALL RECIDIVISM RATES BY INSTITUTION BY YEAR

Institution	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Albion	67.4%	70.6%	67.0%	68.0%	67.5%	67.4%	68.2%	64.0%	70.6%	58.2%	59.3%	65.7%	68.3%	65.7%	67.6%	66.9%	66.2%
Benner Twp														62.6%	59.8%	65.5%	68.8%
Cambridge Springs	50.2%	50.8%	50.2%	45.3%	51.4%	49.8%	47.2%	45.7%	49.1%	42.9%	57.7%	59.8%	58.0%	57.0%	60.2%	58.0%	57.5%
Camp Hill	62.3%	63.3%	61.1%	60.4%	64.2%	63.4%	60.7%	60.7%	61.1%	57.7%	59.2%	63.2%	65.4%	59.4%	61.2%	61.9%	62.6%
Chester	50.1%	62.8%	55.7%	61.1%	60.9%	58.8%	59.0%	49.2%	64.1%	61.4%	64.9%	66.0%	66.0%	68.3%	72.1%	72.9%	73.9%
Coal Township	68.7%	63.4%	66.3%	67.8%	68.9%	66.0%	70.4%	63.8%	63.2%	63.2%	59.5%	67.0%	67.3%	60.2%	67.2%	63.3%	63.4%
Dallas	58.2%	61.3%	61.9%	62.8%	62.1%	64.9%	60.6%	63.9%	65.1%	62.7%	64.1%	70.4%	68.9%	66.3%	64.9%	69.5%	61.8%
Fayette				70.3%	69.1%	63.7%	61.2%	67.3%	66.8%	68.5%	68.7%	71.9%	69.2%	67.2%	65.7%	69.1%	76.2%
Forest						59.3%	57.7%	63.2%	66.5%	71.9%	66.6%	64.5%	64.0%	67.7%	67.4%	67.9%	70.4%
Frackville	65.7%	62.7%	62.0%	71.0%	68.7%	62.9%	64.3%	69.1%	67.7%	63.1%	62.1%	72.1%	70.5%	67.9%	70.3%	70.8%	67.9%
Graterford	69.5%	67.4%	70.0%	69.7%	71.8%	71.2%	71.1%	65.4%	70.2%	65.7%	64.0%	67.2%	67.7%	62.9%	64.6%	65.6%	66.5%
Greene	75.5%	71.7%	72.8%	68.2%	72.1%	74.7%	69.2%	70.9%	72.4%	65.9%	69.6%	73.3%	66.3%	64.1%	62.0%	62.4%	65.7%
Houtzdale	64.9%	67.9%	66.1%	68.8%	67.0%	68.0%	68.0%	66.9%	72.1%	62.8%	67.9%	63.4%	69.4%	65.7%	64.5%	67.0%	66.1%
Huntingdon	67.8%	66.3%	68.2%	73.3%	71.0%	74.0%	71.3%	62.5%	74.0%	63.1%	62.6%	59.7%	72.1%	60.8%	66.0%	65.2%	64.0%
Laurel Highlands	40.5%	58.3%	43.2%	38.7%	45.2%	45.1%	38.2%	49.4%	40.7%	42.8%	38.2%	46.2%	53.9%	58.7%	56.8%	63.2%	58.9%
Mahanoy	64.8%	66.7%	63.2%	70.1%	65.8%	66.7%	68.5%	66.9%	67.5%	65.7%	64.5%	71.2%	68.1%	63.1%	68.1%	66.5%	67.5%
Mercer	53.6%	50.7%	49.4%	47.0%	45.8%	49.9%	51.8%	53.9%	52.4%	51.4%	52.1%	60.0%	61.9%	62.6%	62.6%	65.4%	67.3%
Muncy	58.0%	58.0%	51.4%	55.3%	56.5%	54.7%	50.0%	48.6%	52.5%	50.6%	51.0%	54.9%	56.2%	53.0%	55.5%	56.8%	59.7%
Pine Grove		54.8%	60.9%	65.1%	67.6%	72.5%	74.3%	75.7%	77.0%	62.0%	64.1%	68.4%	73.1%	59.1%	64.8%	64.7%	63.7%
Pittsburgh	72.5%	71.8%	71.0%	70.6%	70.3%	69.1%	57.6%	61.2%	67.2%	63.5%	67.8%	67.4%	69.4%	66.9%	69.3%	69.8%	70.6%
Quehanna	54.1%	53.4%	60.8%	54.0%	56.9%	58.0%	64.6%	57.3%	59.9%	53.4%	55.7%	64.2%	58.3%	63.8%	66.7%	65.0%	67.7%
Retreat	66.9%	70.8%	66.9%	60.0%	66.7%	69.0%	64.2%	60.0%	68.1%	64.4%	60.7%	63.6%	68.3%	59.9%	60.6%	60.4%	59.0%
Rockview	61.7%	61.8%	63.7%	66.4%	66.1%	63.6%	64.8%	67.0%	67.6%	57.9%	57.0%	69.8%	69.1%	59.9%	59.0%	59.9%	60.8%
Smithfield	68.3%	70.2%	67.8%	69.5%	66.2%	66.2%	64.6%	67.0%	70.0%	61.0%	72.7%	66.1%	66.8%	62.5%	66.5%	68.0%	62.5%
Somerset	68.0%	71.4%	72.0%	70.4%	68.7%	71.4%	67.9%	68.2%	70.2%	65.7%	59.9%	63.0%	65.8%	61.2%	62.3%	61.8%	63.3%
Waymart	48.4%	46.7%	45.5%	37.8%	43.9%	49.3%	53.4%	55.3%	46.6%	54.7%	56.6%	64.8%	63.2%	55.4%	53.5%	55.9%	57.2%
Total	64.2%	64.5%	63.6%	63.5%	64.5%	64.6%	63.1%	62.6%	64.8%	60.6%	61.1%	65.0%	66.1%	61.8%	63.7%	64.5%	65.0%
PA Overall Recid	63.4%	63.1%	63.1%	63.0%	63.8%	64.4%	62.7%	62.2%	62.0%	61.1%	61.4%	59.9%	63.1%	61.8%	63.5%	64.4%	64.7%

3-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY COUNTY

Committing County	# of Releases	Re-arrest	Re-incarceration	Recidivism
Adams	849	46.2%	43.6%	59.0%
Allegheny	5,421	57.3%	48.9%	69.4%
Armstrong	188	58.5%	44.7%	69.1%
Beaver	553	61.8%	44.1%	70.5%
Bedford	418	40.9%	45.9%	57.9%
Berks	2,798	47.8%	49.2%	62.8%
Blair	955	49.5%	49.1%	65.7%
Bradford	495	45.7%	45.3%	59.8%
Bucks	2,194	48.8%	43.5%	50.8%
Butler	617	51.2%	46.8%	65.6%
Cambria	530	54.9%	50.9%	67.5%
Cameron	32	34.4%	37.5%	53.1%
Carbon	235	49.8%	42.6%	63.0%
Centre	419	46.3%	46.5%	57.3%
Chester	1,655	43.4%	40.8%	53.3%
Clarion	146	48.6%	37.7%	54.1%
Clearfield	706	49.4%	50.7%	67.1%
Clinton	226	53.1%	55.8%	68.1%
Columbia	230	62.2%	55.7%	75.7%
Crawford	532	45.5%	51.3%	62.8%
Cumberland	619	53.8%	44.7%	63.5%
Dauphin	3,097	57.7%	48.8%	68.1%
Delaware	3,918	48.1%	40.7%	58.7%
Elk	131	45.8%	48.9%	66.4%
Erie	2,153	45.8%	49.4%	63.5%
Fayette	1,495	53.8%	46.4%	66.2%
Forest	31	35.5%	45.2%	54.8%
Franklin	1,038	53.2%	47.3%	64.5%
Fulton	151	47.0%	57.0%	64.2%
Greene	228	44.7%	55.3%	66.2%
Huntingdon	262	52.3%	51.5%	67.6%
Indiana	339	51.9%	54.6%	68.4%
Jefferson	631	40.6%	54.2%	63.4%
Juniata	87	43.7%	43.7%	57.5%
Lackawanna	2,880	49.1%	54.4%	67.9%
Lancaster	2,726	45.7%	46.7%	60.9%
Lawrence	522	50.4%	43.1%	64.4%
Lebanon	922	45.0%	49.2%	62.1%
Lehigh	2,550	49.0%	50.4%	64.7%
Luzerne	1,423	45.8%	48.2%	63.7%
Lycoming	1,336	51.6%	56.7%	70.1%
McKean	365	36.2%	44.7%	56.4%
Mercer	631	49.9%	40.6%	61.2%
Mifflin	251	55.4%	47.4%	66.1%
Monroe	1,151	41.0%	41.2%	56.7%
Montgomery	2,708	53.1%	42.8%	62.3%
Montour	98	56.1%	59.2%	66.3%
Northampton	1,665	48.1%	47.4%	63.7%
Northumberland	624	50.0%	56.1%	68.9%
Out of State	387	49.9%	78.0%	86.8%
Perry	259	47.1%	50.6%	64.1%
Philadelphia	16,357	54.4%	41.3%	62.2%
Pike	430	37.0%	46.0%	57.7%
Potter	93	23.7%	33.3%	43.0%
Schuylkill	760	42.9%	50.3%	65.9%
Snyder	341	46.6%	54.5%	66.3%
Somerset	473	50.1%	55.4%	70.0%
Sullivan	33	48.5%	39.4%	60.6%
Susquehanna	133	27.1%	36.8%	48.9%
Tioga	207	32.9%	43.5%	52.2%
Union	299	47.8%	59.2%	68.2%
Venango	512	41.4%	47.9%	60.4%
Warren	398	47.0%	50.8%	62.8%
Washington	862	53.6%	51.0%	69.7%
Wayne	339	35.4%	45.7%	56.6%
Westmoreland	1,065	51.4%	48.4%	66.1%
Wyoming	286	46.9%	52.8%	66.1%
York	2,633	49.5%	44.2%	62.1%
Grand Total	79,168	50.5%	46.4%	63.6%

COST TO SOCIETY

ALL ARREST CHARGES FOR SERIOUS (INDEX) CRIMES FOR PA DOC RELEASES IN 2006 AND 2016

2006 (12,290 total releases)				
	# of charges	% of Total Charges	Cost per crime	Total cost
Murder	185	2%	\$8,649,216	\$1,600,104,960
Rape	115	1%	\$217,866	\$25,054,590
Robbery	834	10%	\$67,277	\$56,109,018
Aggravated Assault	774	9%	\$87,238	\$67,522,212
Burglary	752	9%	\$13,096	\$9,848,192
Larceny Theft	5,850	69%	\$2,139	\$12,513,150
Total:	8,510	100%		\$1,771,152,122

2016 (19,824 total releases)				
	# of charges	% of Total Charges	Cost per crime	Total cost
Murder	262	2%	\$8,649,216	\$2,266,094,592
Rape	142	1%	\$217,866	\$30,936,972
Robbery	1,244	10%	\$67,277	\$83,692,588
Aggravated Assault	1,292	10%	\$87,238	\$112,711,496
Burglary	1,399	11%	\$13,096	\$18,321,304
Larceny Theft	8,412	66%	\$2,139	\$17,993,268
Total:	12,751	100%		\$2,529,750,220

total costs in these tables do not match total costs in the main report because the cost per crime amounts from the Rand Corporation report are in 2007 dollars and the final figures in the main report were adjusted for inflation using an inflation calculator: <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>

PENNSYLVANIA-BJA COMPARISON METHODOLOGY

The following is a more detailed description of the methodology used by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the PA DOC methodology to calculate a comparison rate for Pennsylvania.

BJS defined recidivism as an individual’s re-arrest after their release from state prison. BJS used access to county, state and federal arrest records via state reporting, the FBI’s Interstate Identification Index and the International Justice and Public Safety Network. BJS also was able to exclude individuals who died by using the FBI’s fingerprint-verified death notices system as well as through the Social Security Administration’s Death Master File. In their five-year recidivism report in 2014, they found that 1,595 individuals out of the 70,878 releases from 2005 died over the course of five years, or 2.3% of releasesⁱⁱ. By their nine-year update, 2,173 had died, or 3.1%.ⁱⁱⁱ

In order to adjust PA DOC re-arrest rates for deaths, this report uses death data acquired from the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Vital Statistics program. Individuals who died during the follow-up period were removed from the recidivism calculations here.

This report is more limited in its ability to track out-of-state arrests, which are reported nationally, but which the authors of this report do not have easy access to. BJS reported state-specific rates for out-of-state arrests in 2015. For Pennsylvania, 9.7% of individuals released from state prison are estimated to be re-arrested in another state within five years of their release. To account for these individuals, this report estimates 9.7% of those who we released from state prison were re-arrested in another state, and added that number to the number of individuals arrested in Pennsylvania.^{iv}

ⁱⁱ <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rprts05p0510.pdf>, page 3.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/18upr9yfup0514.pdf>

^{iv} <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/mschprts05.pdf>, page 11



The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections operates as one team, embraces diversity, and commits to enhancing Public Safety. We are proud of our reputation as leaders in the corrections field. Our mission is to reduce criminal behavior by providing individualized treatment and education to offenders, resulting in successful community reintegration through accountability and positive change.