

Recidivism of Criminal Offenders Based On Data From The US Department Of Justice And The US Sentencing Commission

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Testimony is based on *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 24 States: A 10-Year Follow-Up Period From The US Department of Justice-2021*

82 percent of offenders released from prison were rearrested. This comes during a timeframe where the great majority of crimes were not reported per BJS, overall arrests declined along with decreases in crimes solved.

Per BJS, over 90 percent of new arrests were based on new crimes, not parole and probation violations.

61 percent of offenders released from prison were reincarcerated. Note that national rates of incarceration have declined significantly.

66 percent of released offenders from prison were arrested within three years.

Ninety percent of prisoners who were age 24 or younger at the time of release in were arrested within 10 years of release. A smaller percentage of those who were ages 25 to 39 (85%) and age 40 or older (75%) *at the time of release* were arrested again within 10 years of release.

During the 10-year follow-up period, an estimated 2.2 million arrests occurred among the approximately 409,300 prisoners released.

One-quarter (25%) of prisoners released across 24 states had been serving time for a violent offense.

Prisoners released had a median of nine prior arrests (for any type of offense) and five corresponding convictions in their criminal history before release. An estimated 29% of prisoners released in were first arrested when they were age 17 or younger, and 85% were first arrested when they were age 24 or younger.

At age of release, 89 percent of those age 24 or less were arrested, 85 percent of those age 25-39 were arrested and those 75.4 percent of those 40 and older were arrested.

Among state prisoners released after *serving time for a violent offense*, about 6 in 10 (61%) were arrested within 3 years following their release. This percentage increased to

about 7 in 10 (69%) prisoners arrested within 5 years and just under 8 in 10 (77%) arrested within 10 years following release.

89 percent of released prisoners had 10 or more arrests ten years after release based on prior arrests, age of first arrest, and years following release. For those 40 or older, it 41.3 percent.

Nearly 7 in 10 state prisoners released across 22 states had an arrest within 10 years that led to a conviction.

About 6 in 10 released prisoners returned to prison within 10 years. This applies to 53 percent of those 40 or older upon release.

Thirty-one percent of released prisoners were arrested for assault, while 1% were arrested for homicide, 3% for rape or sexual assault, 7% for robbery, and 14% for other types of violent offenses.

More than 4 in 10 prisoners released after serving time for a violent offense were arrested for a violent offense within 10 years.

The states measured accounted for 69 percent of all released prisoners in the US.

I served as the director of public information for the Maryland Department of Public Safety And Correctional Services for 14 years. During that time, Maryland's rates of recidivism mimicked Bureau of Justice Statistics data.

Arrest History of Persons Admitted to State Prison in 2009 and 2014 from The Bureau of Justice Statistics-2023

The 369,200 persons admitted to state prison in 34 states had an estimated 4.2 million prior arrests.

Persons admitted to state prison had a *median* of nine prior arrests.

About half of persons admitted in 2014 were released by the end of 2015. Over half (59%) were arrested at least once within 2 years.

78 percent of inmates had previous incarcerations. Forty-two percent had 5-10 or more incarcerations. 62 percent were violent.

Data From The US Sentencing Commission

Impact Of Longer Sentences: Released offenders committed well over two million new crimes per the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The odds of recidivism were approximately 29 percent lower for *federal offenders* sentenced to more than 120 months of incarceration compared to a matched group of *federal offenders* receiving shorter sentences, [US Sentencing Commission](#).

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Violent Offenders: Violent offenders recidivated at a higher rate than non-violent offenders. Over an eight-year follow-up period, nearly two-thirds (63.8%) of violent offenders released in 2010 were rearrested, compared to more than one-third (38.4%) of non-violent offenders. Even higher rates of recidivism apply to firearm offenders, [US Sentencing Commission](#).

I urge the legislators to vote unfavorably on HB0853.

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