



Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)

SUMMARY | NCJ 255947

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About 6 in 10 (62%) persons released from state prisons in 2012 across 34 states were arrested within 3 years, and 7 in 10 (71%) were arrested within 5 years. Among those released across the 31 states with the necessary court data, about half (54%) had an arrest within 5 years that resulted in a conviction. Among persons released from prison in 2012 across the 21 states with data on persons returned to prison, nearly half (46%) had a parole or probation violation or a new sentence within 5 years that led to reimprisonment.

Criminal history of persons released from prison

Forty-three percent of persons released from prison in 2012 had 10 or more prior arrests, compared to 31% who had 5 to 9, and 26% who had 4 or fewer.

Post-release arrests

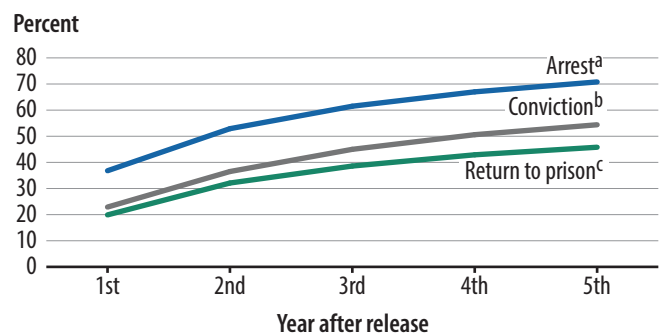
The approximately 408,300 persons released from state prisons across 34 states in 2012 had an estimated 1,113,000 arrests during the 5-year follow-up period. About 1 in 10 (11%) persons released from prison in 2012 were arrested within 5 years outside of the state that released them.

Persons released from prison with more prior arrests in their criminal history were arrested at higher rates during the post-release follow-up period. Fifty-five percent of persons released from prison in 2012 with 4 or fewer prior arrests were arrested during the 5 years following release, compared to 70% of those with 5 to 9 prior arrests, and 81% of those with 10 or more prior arrests.

Comparing recidivism rates of persons released from prison over time

Among persons released from state prisons across the 19 states in the 2005, 2008, and 2012 recidivism

Cumulative percent of state prisoners released in 2012 who had a new arrest, conviction, or return to prison after release, by year following release



^aEstimates are based on prisoners released across the 34 states in the study who had a new arrest.

^bEstimates are based on prisoners released across the 31 states that could provide the necessary court data.

^cEstimates are based on prisoners released across the 21 states that could provide the necessary data on persons returned to prison for a probation or parole violation or an arrest that led to a new sentence.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Recidivism of State Prisoners Released in 2012 data collection, 2012–2017.

studies, the percentage arrested within 5 years declined from 77% of 2005 releases, to 75% of 2008 releases, to 71% of 2012 releases.

While the percentage of persons released from prison arrested for any type of crime within 5 years was lower among those released in 2012 than among those released in 2005, the percentage arrested for a violent offense within 5 years did not differ significantly between persons released from prison in 2005 (28%) and those released in 2012 (28%).

The full report (*Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*, NCJ 255947), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at bjs.ojp.gov.