



Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from State Prison: A 9-Year Follow-Up (2005-14)

SUMMARY | NCJ 251773

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State prisoners released in 2005 after serving time for rape or sexual assault were more than three times as likely as other released prisoners to be arrested for rape or sexual assault during the 9 years following their release. An estimated 7.7% of released sex offenders were arrested for rape or sexual assault during the 9-year follow up period, compared to 2.3% of other released prisoners. Sex offenders represented 5% of state prisoners released in 2005 and 16% of arrests for rape or sexual assault during the 9-year follow-up period.

About the study

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) tracked a representative sample of prisoners released in 2005 in 30 states (these states were responsible for 77% of all state prisoners released nationwide) and examined their arrests through 2014. This is BJS's first recidivism study on sex offenders with a 9-year follow-up period.

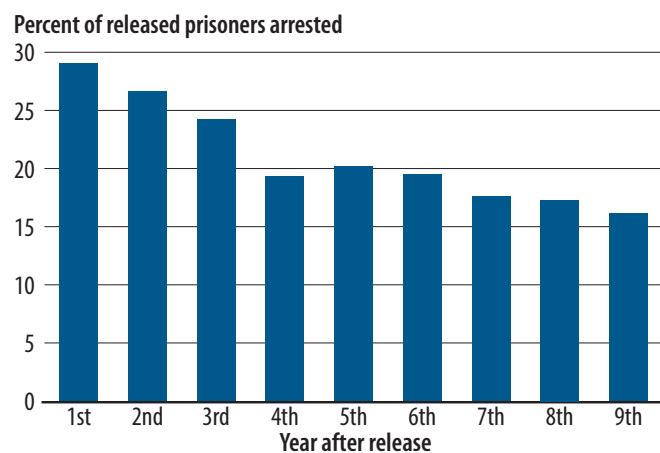
Arrests for all crimes

While prisoners released after serving time for rape or sexual assault were more likely than other released prisoners to be arrested for rape or sexual assault, they were less likely than other released prisoners to be arrested for other crimes. During the 9-year follow-up period, about two-thirds (67%) of released sex offenders were arrested for any crime, compared to about five-sixths (84%) of other released prisoners. Almost all released prisoners who were subsequently arrested (96% of released sex offenders and 99% of all released offenders) were arrested for an offense other than a probation or parole violation.

Long-term recidivism patterns

About 3 in 10 (29%) released sex offenders were arrested for any crime during their first year after release. About 1 in 5 (20%) were arrested during their fifth year after release, and nearly 1 in 6 (16%) were arrested during their ninth year. In all, less than half (49%) of released sex offenders were arrested within

Annual arrest percentage of prisoners released in 30 states in 2005 after serving a sentence for rape/sexual assault



Note: The denominator is the 20,195 prisoners released in 30 states in 2005 after serving a sentence for rape/sexual assault. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Recidivism of State Prisoners Released in 2005 data collection, 2005–2014.

the first 3 years of release, while more than two-thirds (67%) were arrested within 9 years.

During the first 3 years after release, 5% of sex offenders were arrested for any crime outside of the state that released them. After 9 years following release, that percentage had increased to 11%.

Half of released sex offenders had a subsequent arrest that led to a conviction, a lower percentage than for all released prisoners. Within 3 years of release, 28% of sex offenders had an arrest that led to a conviction, compared to 49% of all released prisoners. At the end of the 9-year follow-up period, that percentage had increased to 50% of sex offenders and 69% of all released prisoners.

The full report (*Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from State Prison: A 9-Year Follow-Up (2005-14)*, NCJ 251773), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at www.bjs.gov.