



# Arrest History of Persons Admitted to State Prison in 2009 and 2014

SUMMARY NCJ 305022

APRIL 2023

**A**mong persons admitted to state prison in 2014 across 34 states, 77% had five or more prior arrests in their criminal history, including the arrest that resulted in their prison sentence. A similar proportion of persons admitted to state prison in 2009 had five or more prior arrests. In the 26 states included in both cohorts of the study, about three-quarters of persons admitted in 2009 (76%) and persons admitted in 2014 (78%) had five or more prior arrests.

These findings are based on BJS's first examination of prison records from the National Corrections Reporting Program in conjunction with criminal history data to analyze characteristics and arrest histories of persons admitted to state prison in the United States. They include arrests that occurred nationwide, both in the state where persons were admitted and in other states.

## Prior arrests

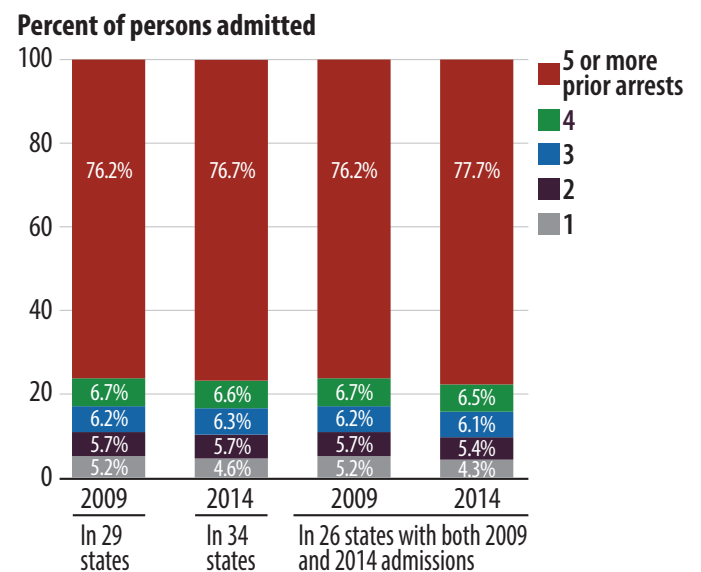
The 369,200 persons admitted to state prison in 34 states in 2014 had an estimated 4.2 million prior arrests in their criminal histories, including the arrest that resulted in their prison sentence. About 1 in 10 persons admitted in 2014 at age 24 or younger had at least one prior arrest outside of the state where they were admitted, and about 4 in 10 persons admitted at age 40 or older had at least one such arrest.

In both 2009 and 2014, persons admitted to state prison had a median of nine prior arrests in their criminal histories. In both years, about 7 in 10 persons entering state prison had at least one prior arrest for a drug offense.

## Recidivism

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

## Prior arrests of persons admitted to state prison in 2009 and 2014



Note: Prior arrests include arrests in a person's criminal history and the arrest that resulted in their imprisonment. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Some juvenile offenses may not be accounted for in the analysis for persons not prosecuted as an adult or due to state laws and practices regarding record sealing or expungement.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Corrections Reporting Program, 2009 and 2014; and Criminal History of State Prisoners Admitted in 2009 and 2014 data collections.

16% for a violent offense. Forty-two percent were arrested for a public order offense within 2 years of release, making it the most common arrest offense for the 2014 admission cohort.

The full report (*Arrest History of Persons Admitted to State Prison in 2009 and 2014*, NCJ 305022), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at [bjs.ojp.gov](http://bjs.ojp.gov).