



Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 24 States in 2008: A 10-Year Follow-Up Period (2008–2018)

SUMMARY | NCJ 256094

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Among persons released from state prisons in 2008 across 24 states, 82% were arrested at least once during the 10 years following release. The annual arrest percentage among persons released from prison in 2008 declined over time, with 43% arrested at least once in Year 1 of their release, 29% arrested in Year 5, and 22% arrested in Year 10. This is BJS's first recidivism study with a 10-year follow-up period.

Criminal history of persons released from prison

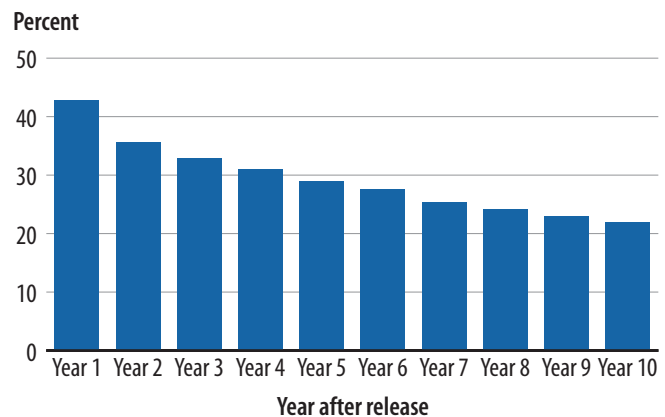
One-quarter (25%) of persons released from prison across 24 states in 2008 had been serving time for a violent offense. Nearly the same percentage of persons released from prison in 2008 had been serving time for property and drug offenses (30% each), and the remaining 16% had been serving time for public order offenses. Prisoners released in 2008 had a median of nine prior arrests and five prior convictions in their criminal history.

Post-release arrests

During the study's 10-year follow-up period, an estimated 2.2 million arrests occurred among the approximately 409,300 persons released from prison across 24 states in 2008. Sixteen percent were arrested within 10 years outside of the state that released them. Males (83%) were more likely than females (76%) to be arrested within 10 years of release. Ninety percent of prisoners who were age 24 or younger at the time of release in 2008 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 within 10 years of release.

Persons released from prison in 2008 after serving time for a violent offense (77%) were less likely to be arrested for any offense than prisoners released after serving time for other types of offenses within 10 years. During this period, 4 in 10 (40%) persons released

Annual arrest percentage of state prisoners released in 24 states in 2008



Note: Prisoners could have been arrested multiple times after release (e.g., a prisoner arrested in Year 1 and Year 3 is included in percentages for both years).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Recidivism of State Prisoners Released in 2008 data collection, 2008–2018.

from prison in 2008 were arrested for a violent offense. Nearly half of persons released from prison in 2008 were arrested for a property (47%) or drug (47%) offense within 10 years.

Returning to prison

Among persons released from prison in 2008 in the 18 states with data on persons returned to prison, about half (49%) had a parole or probation violation or an arrest that led to a new sentence within 3 years, a rate that increased to about 6 in 10 (61%) within 10 years. A greater percentage of prisoners age 24 or younger (69%) than those ages 25 to 39 (64%) or age 40 or older (53%) at release had returned to prison within 10 years.

The full report (*Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 24 States in 2008: A 10-Year Follow-Up Period (2008–2018)*, NCJ 256094), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at bjs.ojp.gov.