

Multistate Criminal History Patterns of Prisoners Released in 30 States

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Summary | NCJ 248942 | September 2015

n estimated 11% of the 404,638 prisoners released in 30 states during 2005 were arrested at least once in another state within 5 years following release. The likelihood that prisoners were arrested out of state following release increased with the number of out-of-state arrests in their criminal history. During the 5-year follow-up period, 6% of inmates with no prior out-of-state arrests were arrested out of state, compared to 34% of inmates who had four or more prior out-of-state arrests.

Recidivism rates

Within their first year of release, an estimated 43% of prisoners were arrested for a new crime either within the state of release or in another state (see figure). When examining recidivism rates within the state of release only, an estimated 41% of prisoners were arrested within 1 year following release. Within 5 years of their release, 77% of the released prisoners were arrested either within or outside the state of release. However, when examining arrests during the 5-year follow-up period within the state of release only, an estimated 72% of prisoners were arrested. During the follow-up period, 5% of the prisoners had only out-of-state arrests and were not arrested within the state that released them.

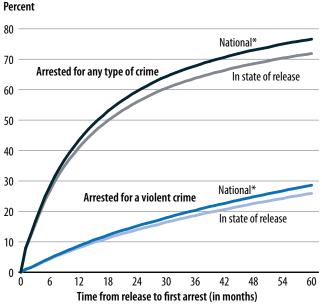
About the offenders

Males had higher out-of-state recidivism rates than females. Within 1 year of release in 2005, 3% of males and 2% of females had an out-of-state arrest. Five years after release, 11% of males and 9% of females had an out-of-state arrest. During the same period, 13% of whites, 10% of blacks, and 8% of Hispanics were arrested in another state. Younger inmates were more likely than older inmates to have an out-of-state arrest after release. An estimated 12% of inmates under age 40 had an out-of-state arrest during the 5-year follow-up period, compared to 8% of those age 40 or older.

Types of offenses

Within 5 years of release in 2005, 29% of prisoners were arrested for a violent offense either within or outside the state of release, 26% of prisoners were arrested for a violent crime within the state of release, and 3% were arrested for a violent crime outside the state of release. Less than 1% of prisoners were arrested for a violent crime both within and outside the state of release during the 5-year follow-up

Time from release to first arrest within or outside the state of release for prisoners released in 30 states in 2005



Note: Prisoners were tracked for 5 years following release.
*Includes both in-state and out-of-state arrests.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Recidivism of State Prisoners Released in 2005 data collection.

period. An estimated 5% of the prisoners were arrested out of state for a property offense, 4% for a drug crime, and 7% for a public order offense, such as probation violations, weapons offenses, or disorderly conduct.

Post-release supervision

The majority of prisoners in this study (74%) were granted conditional release and placed on parole, probation, or some other form of community supervision. Overall, prisoners granted conditional release (77%) were arrested at similar rates as those granted unconditional release (77%) during the 5-year follow-up period. However, prisoners who were released on community supervision were arrested within the state of release at higher rates (73%) than those granted unconditional release (69%). Prisoners released conditionally (9%) were less likely than those released unconditionally (15%) to be arrested in another state during the 5 years following release.

The full report (*Multistate Criminal History Patterns of Prisoners Released in 30 States*, NCJ 248942), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.



