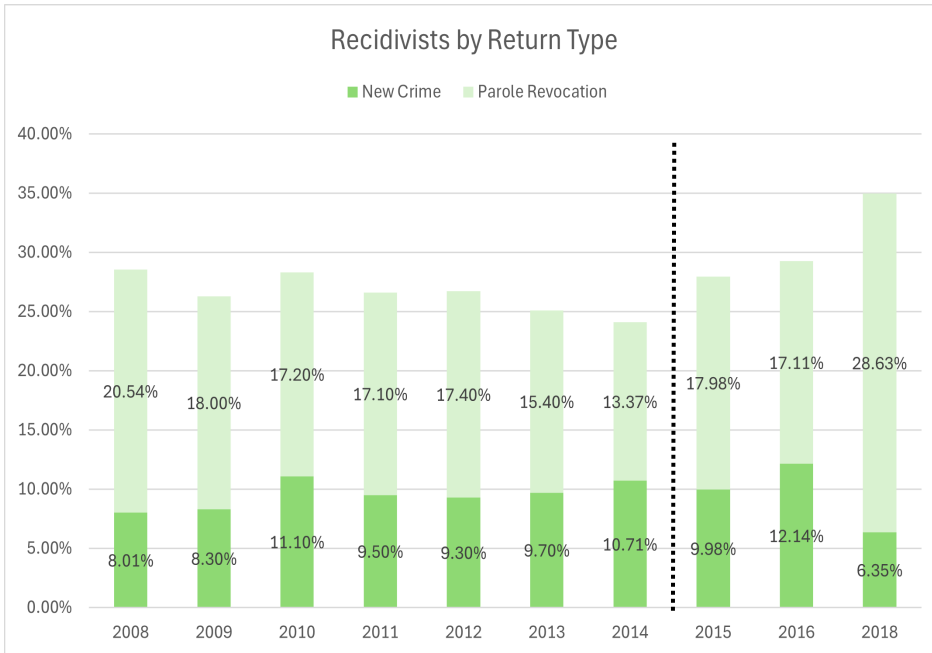


2018 WEST VIRGINIA RECIDIVISM REPORT

July 2024



This is a report of the three-year recidivism rate for all adult inmates released from a West Virginia prison or jail¹ in calendar year 2018. For the purpose of this report, a recidivist is defined as an individual released during the calendar year 2018 who was recommitted to the custody of the WV Division of Corrections & Rehabilitation (DCR) within three years of their release.



‡ In 2015 a new computer system, the Offender Information System (OIS), was implemented by DCR. It is unclear how much of the increased recidivism rates are due to a change in offender behavior or due to a change in how the data are collected and reported.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2018 there were 3,639 releases from prison and jail. Of these, 1,273 were recommitted within three years of their release date. The majority of commitments were due to a parole revocation (1,042). The 2018 3-year recidivism rate of 35.0% reflects a 5.75% increase from the previously recorded rate of 29.25% in 2016. Recidivism by parole revocation represented 28.63% of 2018 releases, the highest revocation rate in the last ten years. Most recidivists with a parole revocation were for a technical violation (60.4%). Recidivists with new crimes accounted for just 6.35% of all 2018 releases, a decrease of nearly 50% from 2016².

RELEASE TYPE			
Release Type	Releases	Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
Court Order	103	32	31.1%
Discharged	757	121	16.0%
Released to Parole	2,674	1,089	40.7%
Mandatory Supervision	104	31	29.8%
Medical Respite	1	0	0.0%
Grand Total	3,639	1,273	35.0%

RELEASE TYPE

The majority of releases (73.5%) and recidivists (85.5%) in 2018 were individuals released to parole. This group had the highest recidivism rate at 40.7%. Individuals that were released due to their sentence being discharged had the lowest³ recidivism rate at 16.0%.

GENDER			
Gender	Releases	Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
Female	593	147	24.8%
Male	3,046	1,126	37.0%
Grand Total	3,639	1,273	35.0%

GENDER

Of the 3,639 individuals released in 2018, 84% were Male and 16% were Female. While the recidivism rate for Females increased slightly since 2016, the rate for Males (37.0%) is still greater than that of females (24.8%).

1. In this report, inmates released from jails are individuals that were convicted of a felony offense who were sentenced to prison but housed within a jail facility.
 2. This decrease in recidivism for new crimes may be due, in part, to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.
 3. Excluding the Medical Respite release type.

AGE AT RELEASE			
Age Category	Releases	Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
Under 20	4	2	50.0%
20—29	1,046	455	43.5%
30—39	1,527	536	35.1%
40—49	700	215	30.7%
50—59	281	59	21.0%
60—69	68	6	8.8%
70+	13	0	0%
Grand Total	3,639	1,273	35.0%

RACE			
Race	Releases	Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
American Indian/Alaska Native	2	1	50.0%
Asian	6	2	33.3%
Black	437	123	28.1%
Hispanic or Latino	22	8	36.4%
Multi-Racial or Other	24	10	41.7%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0.0%
White	3,148	1,129	35.9%
Grand Total	3,639	1,273	35.0%

CRIME CATEGORY			
Original Crime Category ⁴	Releases	Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
Abduction	2	0	0.0%
Arson	29	6	20.7%
Assault	262	87	33.2%
Bribery	1	1	100.0%
Burglary/B&E	639	290	45.4%
Child Abuse/Neglect	97	23	23.7%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	137	53	38.7%
Destruction of Property	15	5	33.3%
Drug/Narcotic Offense	736	246	33.4%
DUI	103	20	19.4%
Embezzlement	20	3	15.0%
Fraud	108	39	36.1%
Homicide	91	18	19.8%
Kidnapping/Abduction	21	1	4.8%
Larceny/Theft Offenses	333	138	41.4%
Other	502	161	32.1%
Pornography/Obscene Material	24	7	29.2%
Robbery	187	61	32.6%
Sex Offense, Forcible	113	24	21.2%
Sex Offense, Non-Forcible	106	43	40.6%
Stolen Property	60	27	45.0%
Weapon Law Violation	53	20	37.7%
Grand Total	3,639	1,273	35.0%

4. Only the most serious offense for which an individual was convicted is counted.

AGE

The average age of individuals released in 2018 was 36. Individuals aged 30-39 made up the highest number of releases (1,527) and recidivists (536). However, individuals aged 20-29 had a higher recidivism rate at 43.5% compared to 35.1% for those 30-39. Overall, the recidivism rate declines steadily as the individual's age at release increases.

RACE

The majority of releases in 2018 were White (86.5%), followed by Black (12.0%). The recidivism rate for Whites is about six percentage points higher than that of Blacks (35.9% vs. 28.1%).

CRIME CATEGORY

Individuals convicted of Drug/Narcotic offenses had the highest number of releases (736; 20.2%) followed by Burglary/B&E (639; 17.6%). However, the recidivism rate for individuals convicted of Burglary/B&E was significantly higher than that of Drug/Narcotic offenses (45.4% vs. 33.4%). Persons released from incarceration on Stolen Property, Larceny/Theft, and Non-Forcible Sex Offenses also experienced recidivism rates greater than 40%.

TIME SINCE RELEASE

643 of the 1,273 recidivists (or 50.5%) were back with a new commitment or parole revocation within one year of release. About 89% (1,126) of recidivists returned within two years of release. The average (mean) length of time recidivists spent in the community before being recommitted to DCR's custody was 13.6 months.