# Oregon Recidivism Analysis

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Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
Statistical Analysis Center

Kelly Guinn, Ph.D., Sr. Research Analyst
Kelly Officer, Research Director
Ryan Keck, Interim Executive Director

**Key Takeaways:**

- For the examined Parole-PPS cohort, rates of arrest, conviction, and incarceration recidivism have increased, but they remain lower than pre-COVID-19 rates.
- For the examined Probation cohort, recidivism rates for arrest have slightly decreased, while conviction and incarceration recidivism rates have slightly increased. These recidivism rates remain lower than pre-COVID-19 rates.
- Recidivism rates may have reached a natural floor in recent cohorts, and slight fluctuations can be expected, especially as the criminal justice system adjusts to post-COVID-19 circumstances and legislative changes regarding the possession of controlled substances.

## Introduction

This semiannual recidivism report is authored by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) with the assistance of state agency partners. The CJC separately analyzes two groups: those released to post-prison supervision, and those who are sentenced to a new probation sentence. As required in ORS 423.557, an individual is counted as recidivating if they are incarcerated for a new crime, or arrested or convicted of a crime, within three years of release from prison/felony jail sentence or starting a probation sentence. Arrest, conviction, and incarceration rates are tracked separately, so a single individual can contribute to all three recidivism measures or a subset. In this report, the CJC's methodology for cohorts is consistent with past reports.

To calculate recidivism rates, the CJC combines data provided by the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC), Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), and Oregon State Police (OSP). Law Enforcement Data Systems (LEDS) data from OSP permits the CJC to count arrests for which the individual was fingerprinted. Fingerprinting is required in arrests for felony crimes and for misdemeanor drug and sex crimes. Although fingerprinting occurs for other misdemeanor crimes, it is not required, and these arrests may be omitted from the CJC's recidivism measure. In reported arrest counts, the CJC does not account for multiple arrests. Circuit court data from the OJD allows the CJC to track misdemeanor and felony convictions. In reported conviction counts, the CJC does not account for multiple convictions. Oregon DOC data permits the CJC to track incarceration for individuals within these cohorts. As with arrests and convictions, multiple incarcerations are not accounted for in the CJC's recidivism measure.

## Statewide Recidivism Rates

The most recent recidivism cohort the CJC can track includes individuals released from incarceration or sentenced to probation from July through December 2022. For this group, the CJC can examine the full three-year recidivism period, which ended in December 2025. Recidivism rates for this six-month cohort are displayed in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

**Figure 1: 2022 Second Cohort 3-Year Recidivism Outcomes, Parole-PPS Cohort**

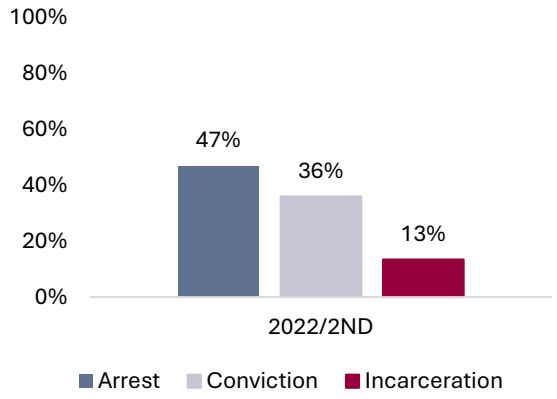



**Figure 2: 2022 Second Cohort 3-Year Recidivism Outcomes, Probation Cohort**

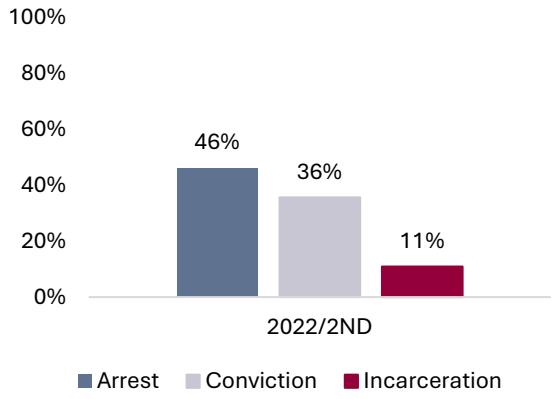



Figure 3 and Figure 4 express the above recidivism rates in greater context within Oregon. The first cohort included in the figures is from 2008 and the most recent cohort examined is the second six-month cohort of 2022 (2022/2ND). There are several notable events that have occurred between 2020 and 2024, and these are important to consider when examining the trends displayed in these figures. These events include the COVID-19 pandemic, the passage of Measure 110, and the passage of House Bill 4002.

In March of 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic, and they declared the public health emergency over approximately three years later, in May of 2023. Prior analyses by CJC show a substantial reduction in traffic stops, arrests, and prison and probation intakes over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic[1]. Despite the pandemic being declared over, the ramifications persist; staffing at all levels of the criminal justice system has been impacted by COVID-19. In addition to pandemic related changes, Measure 110, which decriminalized most possession of controlled substances, was passed in November 2020 and became effective in February 2021. Prior analyses suggest that this decriminalization is associated with a 1 to 5 percent decrease in recidivism rates across both the Probation and Parole-PPS cohorts[2]. However, the decriminalization efforts of Measure 110 were shifted by additional legislation that took effect in September 2024, which classified most possession of controlled substance offenses at the misdemeanor level[3]. The trend may shift again in the most recent cohorts, given that their three-year risk period goes beyond September 2024.

Figure 3 displays the recidivism rates for individuals on parole or post-prison supervision, which includes all individuals released from jail or prison. For the most recent Parole-PPS cohort, arrest, conviction, and incarceration recidivism displayed slight increases. The arrest rate for the most recent cohort (2022/2ND) is 47.0 percent, which is 2.1 percentage points higher than the previous

[1] https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/CJC%20Document%20Library/COVID_impacts_part1.pdf
[2] https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/CJC%20Document%20Library/Recidivism%20Report%20November%202022.pdf
[3] In the 2024 session, the legislature passed HB 4002, which classified most possession of controlled substances as a drug enforcement misdemeanor effective September 1, 2024.

cohort, and the conviction recidivism rate is 36.0 percent, which is 0.4 percentage points higher than the previous cohort. The incarceration recidivism rate for the 2022/2ND cohort is 0.1 percentage points higher than the previous cohort's rate, sitting at 13.5 percent. Despite the increases in recidivism rates compared to the recent cohorts, they remain below the pre-pandemic rates.

**Figure 3: Statewide 3-Year Recidivism Rate, Parole-PPS**

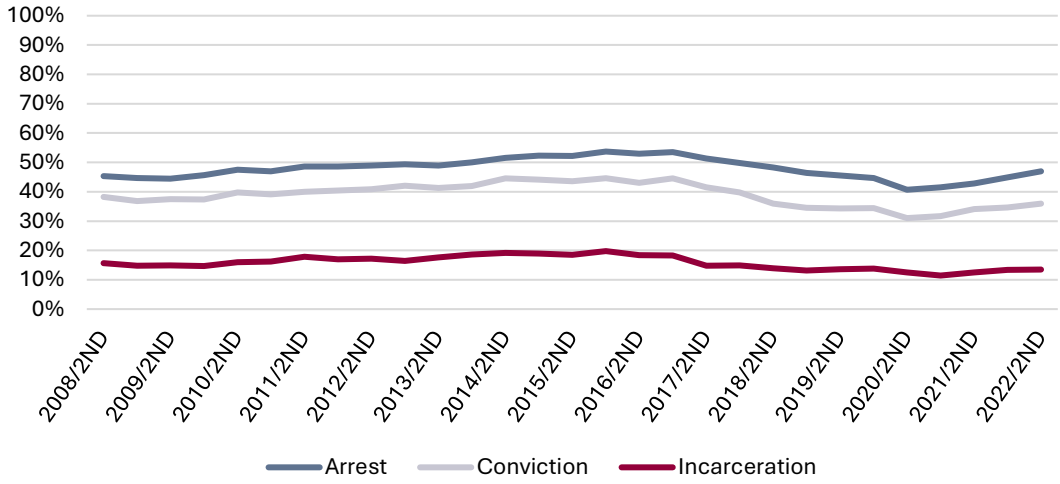



Figure 4 illustrates arrest, conviction, and incarceration recidivism rates for individuals sentenced to probation from 2008 through December 2022. Unlike the Parole-PPS cohort, recidivism rates slightly decreased for arrest, sitting at 46.3%. Similar to the Parole-PPS cohort, recidivism rates for conviction and incarceration slightly increased. Conviction recidivism increased by 0.1 percentage points, sitting at 35.6 percent, and incarceration recidivism increased by 0.4 percentage points, sitting at 11.0 percent.

**Figure 4: Statewide 3-Year Recidivism Rate, Probation**

