



Oregon Recidivism Analysis

November 2021

Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
Statistical Analysis Center

Siobhan McAlister, Senior Research Analyst
Kelly Officer, Research Director
Ken Sanchagrin, Ph. D., Executive Director

Introduction

This report is the fourteenth semiannual recidivism report authored by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) with the assistance of state agency partners.

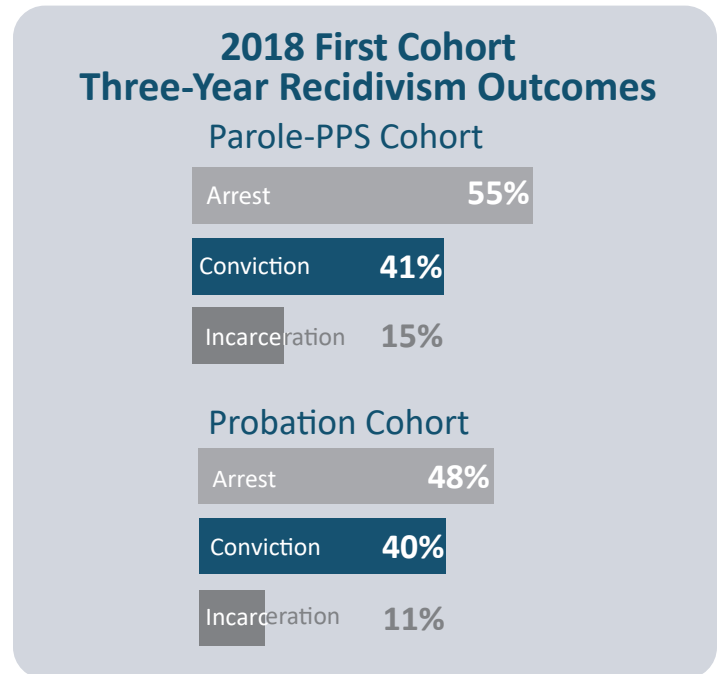
In this report, the CJC’s methodology for connecting cohorts to potential recidivism is consistent with past reports (please see Appendix of [May 2018 report](#).) The cohorts themselves are the corrected cohorts detailed in the [November 2020 report](#). The CJC separately analyses two groups: those released to post-prison supervision, and those who are sentenced to a new probation sentence. 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.

The CJC combines data provided by the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC), Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), and Oregon State Police (OSP) to calculate recidivism. The Oregon DOC tracks recidivism for individuals starting felony probation or post-prison supervision within six-month cohorts. This current analysis uses these DOC-defined cohorts, and these cohorts are defined as described in the [November 2020 report](#). The DOC data permits the CJC to track incarceration for individuals within these cohorts. 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. 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. Multiple arrests and arrests that do not require fingerprinting are omitted from 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 January-June 2018. For this group, the CJC can examine the full three year recidivism period. Recidivism rates are the following for this six-month cohort:



Key Takeaways

- Recidivism rates continue to decrease or remain flat for the most recent Parole-PPS cohort
- Recidivism decreases by two percentage points or more for the first Probation cohort of 2018 compared to the immediately preceding cohort
- From late 2017 to early 2018, conviction and arrest rates drop by the historically largest amount between any two consecutive Probation cohorts
- Recidivism rates from the second to the third year of follow-up grew by the historically smallest percentage point change for both 2018/1ST cohorts

Figure 1 and **Figure 2** express the above recidivism rates in greater context within Oregon. The first cohort included in the figures is the first six months of 1998 (1998/1ST), and the most recent cohort included is the first six months of 2018 (2018/1ST). The final year of the three-year follow up period for the first cohort



Oregon Recidivism Analysis

November 2021

of 2018 occurred, depending on the individual, from January 2020 to June 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic may have influenced recidivism rates during this time.

Figure 1 displays the recidivism rates for those released from jail or prison from 1998 through early 2018. As reported in the [May 2021 report](#), from early to late 2017, recidivism decreased by the largest amount between any two consecutive cohorts. Recidivism remains relatively flat or decreases for the first cohort of 2018. The incarceration rate for those released in early 2018 is 14.8 percent, 0.1 percentage points more than the immediately preceding cohort. The conviction rate for the 2018/1ST cohort is 2 percentage points less, and the arrest rate is 1.8 percentage points less, than the rates for the immediately preceding cohort. Recidivism rates grew historically little between the two- and three-year follow-up period for the first cohort of 2018; the growth is even less (within 1.3 percentage points) than the 2017/2ND cohort's previously historically low growth.

Figure 2 illustrates arrest, conviction, and incarceration rates for groups of individuals sentenced to probation from 1998 through early 2018, a twenty-and-a-half-year period. In the [May 2021 report](#), the 2017/2ND Probation cohort did not exhibit the atypically low recidivism of the 2017/2ND Parole-PPS cohort. However, for the first Probation cohort of 2018, recidivism rates do drop. The incarceration rate for the first cohort of 2018 is 10.7 percent, 2.2 percentage points less than the incarceration rate for the second cohort of 2017. The conviction rate for the 2018/1ST cohort is 40.4 percent and the arrest rate is 48.4 percent, 3.2 and 2.5 percentage points less, respectively, than the rates of the immediately preceding cohort. In fact, from late 2017 to early 2018, conviction and arrest rates dropped by the historically largest amount between any two consecutive Probation cohorts. Recidivism rates for those sentenced to probation from January through June 2018 grew by the historically least amount between the two- and three-year follow-up periods. On average, in cohorts before 2018, the incarceration rate grew 2.6 percentage points from the second to the third year after sentencing.

For the first Probation cohort of 2018, the incarceration rate grew only 1.5 percentage points, 1.1 percentage points less than average. The conviction rate grew 1.6 percentage points less than average, and arrest rate grew 1.9 percentage points less than average from the two- to three-year follow-up period.

Figure 1. Statewide 3-Year Recidivism Rate, Parole-PPS

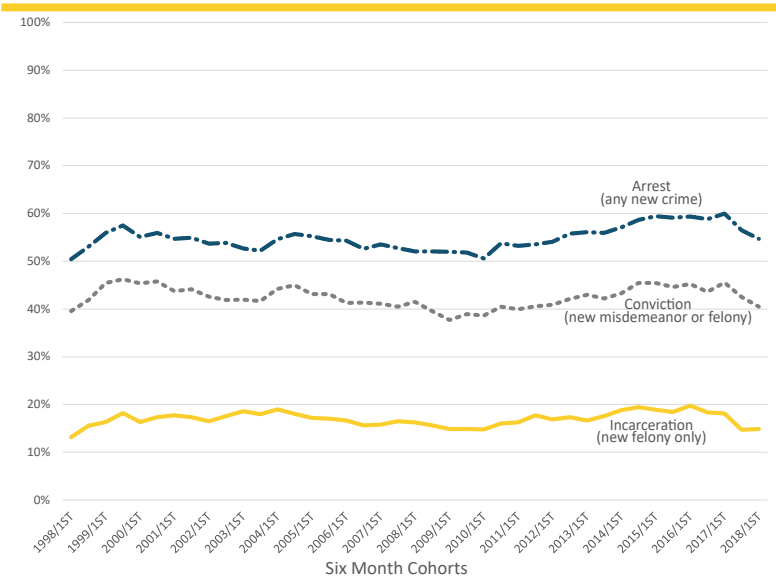


Figure 2. Statewide 3-Year Recidivism Rate, Probation

