



Oregon Recidivism Analysis

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Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
Statistical Analysis Center

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Introduction

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

In this current report, the CJC's methodology is consistent with past reports (please see Appendix of [May 2018 report](#)). Three components of recidivism are tracked: arrest for a new crime, conviction for a new misdemeanor or felony crime, and incarceration for a new felony crime. Each recidivating component in this analysis is tracked separately, so a single offender can contribute to all three measures or a subset. The CJC separately analyses two groups: those released to post-prison supervision, and those who are sentenced to a new probation sentence. An offender is counted as recidivating if they are arrested, convicted, or incarcerated for a new crime, within three years of release from prison/felony jail sentence, or imposition of a probation sentence.

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 offenders starting felony probation or post-prison supervision within six month cohorts. This current analysis uses these DOC-defined cohorts. The DOC data also 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 prison/jail or sentenced to probation from July-December 2016. For this group, the CJC can examine the full three year recidivism period. Recidivism rates are the following for this six-month cohort:

2016 Second Cohort Three Year Recidivism Outcomes

Parole-PPS Cohort

Arrest 54%

Conviction 41%

Incarceration 17%

Probation Cohort

Arrest 53%

Conviction 46%

Incarceration 16%

Key Takeaways

- Over the last ten years in Oregon, recidivism rates for those sentenced to probation tend to be more volatile than recidivism rates for those released from jail or prison
- Over the most recent ten years, recidivism rates for those released from jail or prison vary by, at most, around 7%
- Recidivism rates for those sentenced to probation vary by about 7% or more, including incarceration rates, in the last ten years
- Recidivism rates are lower for those released from prison during late 2016 compared to those released in 2015, by any measure
- Arrest and incarceration recidivism continue to remain high for the second probation cohort of 2016



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Figure 1 and Figure 2 express the above recidivism rates in greater context within Oregon. The earliest cohort included is the first six months of 1998 (1998/1ST), and the most recent cohort included is the second six months of 2016 (2016/2ND). By any measure, the most recent recidivism rates are higher than those for the cohort five years earlier. Recidivism rates in 2016 exceed the minimum recidivism rates recorded in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1 illustrates how recidivism has changed for those released from jail or prison from 1998 through 2016. The most recent cohort exhibits lower recidivism rates than the immediately preceding cohort. The arrest, conviction, and incarceration rates are at least 1.25 percent lower for the second cohort of 2016 compared to the first cohort of 2016. However, over the last ten years recidivism rates have not varied much for the Parole-PPS cohort: arrest rates vary up to 7.1 percent, conviction rates vary up to 7.3 percent, and incarceration rates vary up to 4.4 percent.

Figure 2 depicts arrest, conviction, and incarceration rates for groups of individuals sentenced to probation during an eighteen year period. Over the last ten years in Oregon, recidivism rates for those sentenced to probation tend to be more volatile than recidivism rates for those released from jail or prison. In the probation cohort from 2006 through 2016, arrest rates vary up to 11.7 percent, conviction rates vary up to 9.9 percent, and incarceration rates vary up to 6.7 percent. In the November 2019 Recidivism report, CJC notes that arrest and incarceration recidivism reaches a historic high for the first cohort of 2016. For the second cohort of 2016, arrest and incarceration recidivism continue to remain high. However, the difference in the rates between the first cohort of 2016 and the second cohort of 2016 differ by as little as .09 percent.

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

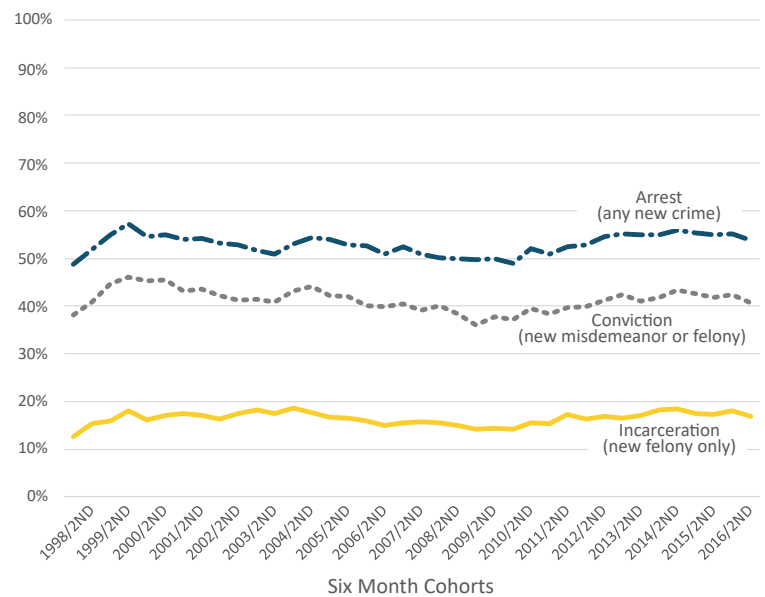


Figure 2. Statewide 3 Year Recidivism Rate, Probation

