



Oregon Recidivism Analysis

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Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
Statistical Analysis Center

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Introduction

This report is the eighth semi-annual recidivism report authored by the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) with the assistance of state agency partners. In the past, the CJC’s semi-annual recidivism report often broke out recidivism by demographics and crime types. In this and future releases of the semi-annual report, the CJC will focus only on summary measures of statewide recidivism codified in ORS 423.557. More detailed analyses of recidivism rates for different sub-populations and/or analyses of different measures of recidivism—other than the one found in ORS 423.557—will be released in separate supplementary reports.

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 re-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 counts. 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 January-June 2015. For this group, the CJC can examine the full three year recidivism period. Recidivism rates are the following for this six-month cohort:

2015 First Cohort Three Year Recidivism Outcomes

Parole-PPS Cohort

Arrest 55%

Conviction 42%

Incarceration 18%

Probation Cohort

Arrest 50%

Conviction 44%

Incarceration 14%

Key Takeaways

- Based on a five year comparison, recidivism rates have increased
- Recidivism rates for those released from prison during the first half of 2015 are lower than for those released during the second half of 2014, by any measure
- Arrest rates for those sentenced to probation in early 2015 are lower than for those sentenced in late 2014
- Incarceration and conviction rates are modestly larger for those in the early 2015 probation cohort compared to the late 2014 probation cohort

¹ Links to the CJC’s previous reports can be found at: <http://www.oregon.gov/cjc/SAC/Pages/Recidivism.aspx>



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Figure 1 and Figure 2 express the above recidivism rates in greater context within Oregon.

Figure 1 depicts three recidivism measures for six-month cohorts of individuals released to parole and post-prison supervision (PPS). The earliest cohort included is the first six months of 1998 (1998/1ST), and the most recent cohort included is the first six months of 2015 (2015/1ST). Recidivism rates for those released from prison during the first half of 2015 are between 0.5% and 1% lower than for those released during the second half of 2014, by any measure. Recidivism rates are higher for those released in early 2015 compared to those released five years prior. Recidivism rates for the early 2015 cohort are 6.5% higher for arrest, 5.7% higher for new convictions, and 3.4% higher for re-incarceration, compared to those released in the first six months of 2010.

Figure 2 illustrates how recidivism has changed for those sentenced to probation from 1998-early 2015. Conviction and incarceration recidivism rates are within 0.6% for those sentenced during the two most recent cohorts (2014/2ND, 2015/1ST). The arrest rate is 1.3% lower for those sentenced in the first half of 2015 compared to those sentenced in the previous six months. Among all measures of recidivism, the first cohort of 2015 has a higher recidivism rate than those sentenced five years earlier. For those sentenced in the first six months of 2015, the arrest rate is 4.9% higher, the conviction rate is 6.3% higher, and the incarceration rate is 3% higher than for those sentenced in the first six months of 2010.

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

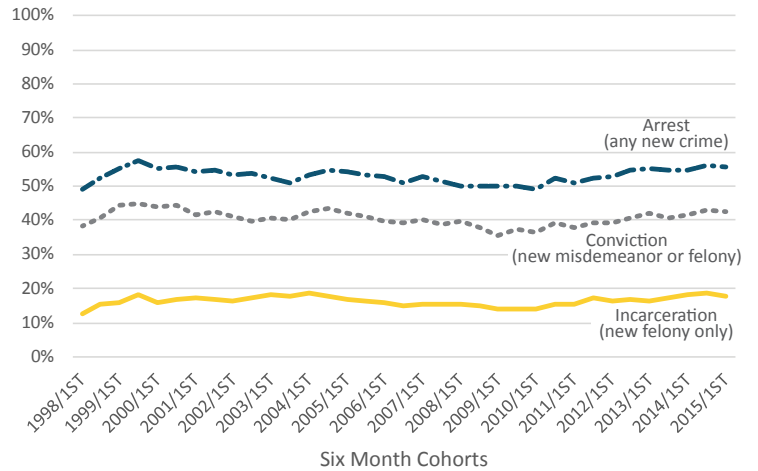


Figure 2. Statewide 3 Year Recidivism Rate, Probation

