

2016 WEST VIRGINIA RECIDIVISM REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2020



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 2016. For the purpose of this study, a recidivist is defined as an offender released during the calendar year 2016, and who was recommitted to the custody of the WV Division of Corrections & Rehabilitation (DCR) within three years of their release.

HIGHLIGHTS

The 3-year recidivism rate for inmates released from DCR custody in 2016 is 29.25%, representing an increase of 1.28% from the previously recorded 3-year rate for 2015 releases at 27.97%. Unlike the 2015 report, recidivism by new crime experienced a 2.16 point increase while parole revocations experienced a 0.87 point decrease from the previous year's rates. Parole revocations remains a large proportion of recidivist return type, approximately 57% of recidivists by revocations had pending criminal charges while about 43% are recommitted based on technical violations.

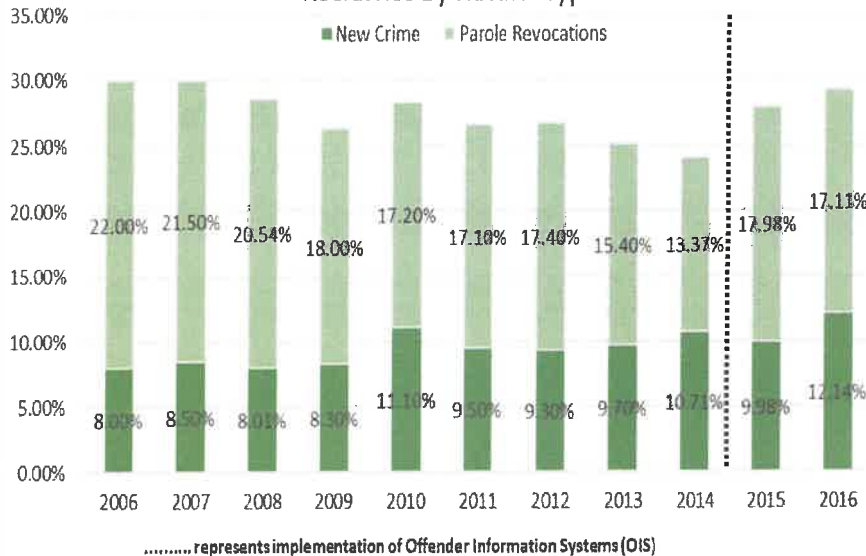
RELEASE TYPE

Inmates released to parole represented almost 60% of all releases in 2016, and approximately 67% of all recidivists. Court order releases, accounting for about 14% of all releases, had the highest recidivism rate at 33.18%.

GENDER

Of the 3,156 inmates released in 2016, 82% were male, and 18% were female. Similar to the 2015 recidivism report, the recidivism rate of males is greater than that of females, with 30.88% of males returning within three years compared to 21.97% for females.

Recidivist By Return Type



‡ In 2015 a new computer system, the Offender Information System (OIS), was implemented, so it is unclear how much of the increased recidivism rate was due to a change in offender behavior or due to a change in how the data were reported. This should become clearer as future rates are reported.

Release Type	Releases	Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
Court Order	443	147	33.18%
Discharged	751	146	19.44%
Released to Parole	1890	618	32.70%
Other ²	72	12	16.67%
Grand Total	3156	923	29.25%

Gender	Releases	Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
Female	578	127	21.97%
Male	2578	796	30.88%
Grand Total	3156	923	29.25%

1. In this report, inmates released from jails are convicted felony offenders who were sentenced to prison but housed within a jail facility.
 2. Other includes Regional Jail Authority (RJA) release reasons such as Charges Dismissed, Extradited, Released to Bond and Released to Detainer.

AGE AT RELEASE			
Age Category	Releases	Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
Under 20	1	0	0%
20—29	881	347	39.39%
30—39	1290	384	29.77%
40—49	621	135	21.74%
50—59	272	47	17.28%
60—69	78	10	12.82%
70+	13	0	0%
Grand Total	3156	923	29.25%
RECIDIVISM BY RACE			
Race	Releases	Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
Asian	2	0	0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	8	2	25%
Black	342	82	23.98%
Hispanic or Latino	9	3	33.33%
Multi Racial or Other	22	6	27.27%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1	1	100%
White	2768	829	29.95%
Unknown ³	4	0	0%
Grand Total	3156	923	29.25%
Original Crime Category ⁴	Releases	Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
Arson	26	7	26.92%
Assault	173	49	28.32%
Bribery	2	1	50.00%
Burglary /B&E	480	203	42.29%
Child Abuse/Neglect	82	19	23.17%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	142	41	28.87%
Destruction of Property	9	4	44.44%
Drug/Narcotic Offense	654	158	24.16%
DUI	103	18	17.48%
Embezzlement	10	1	10.00%
Fraud	96	23	23.96%
Homicide	67	6	8.96%
Kidnapping/Abduction	8	1	12.50%
Larceny/Theft Offenses	314	105	33.44%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	1	100.00%
Other	448	128	28.57%
Pornography/Obscene Material	18	3	16.67%
Prostitution	1	0	0%
Robbery	178	55	30.90%
Sex Offense, Forcible	100	19	19.00%
Sex Offense, Non Forcible	111	48	43.24%
Stolen Property	54	15	27.78%
Weapon Law Violation	38	5	13.16%
Unknown ³	41	13	31.71%
Grand Total	3156	923	29.25%

3. Records with missing data in OIS have been categorized as “unknown” for these analyses.

4. Only offender’s most serious crime was counted.

AGE

The average age of inmates released in 2016 was 35, a year less than the average age in the 2015 report. Inmates aged 30-39 had the highest number of releases and the second highest recidivism rate. Despite having the second highest number of releases, inmates aged 20-29 had the highest recidivism rate at almost 40%. Overall, the recidivism rate declines steadily as the age at which inmates are released increases.

RACE

The majority of inmates released in 2016 were white (87.7%), followed by black inmates (10.8%). White inmates' recidivism rate is about six percentage points higher than that of black inmates (29.95% vs. 23.98%).

CRIME CATEGORY

Inmates convicted of drug/narcotic crimes had the highest number of releases (654;20.7%) followed by Burglary/B&E (480; 15.2%). However, the recidivism rate for Burglary/B&E offenders was significantly higher than that of drug and narcotic offenders (42.29% vs. 24.16%). The recidivism rate of inmates released for a non forcible sex offense experienced the largest increase from 21.67% in 2015 to 43.24% in 2016.

TIME SINCE RELEASE

450 of the 923 recidivists (or 48.8%) were back as a new commit or revocation within one year of release. About 84% (778) 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 16.6 months.