This is a report of the three-year recidivism rate for all adult inmates released from a West Virginia prison or jail 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.

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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

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 (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.