



# Recidivism Analysis

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## *2010 Release Cohort*

*An analysis of the characteristics of prison inmates released from and re-admitted to the Nevada Department of Corrections.*

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## Prison Readmissions at the Nevada Department of Corrections.

Recidivism is a subject that has been gaining much attention in current times. The contemporary approach of instituting rehabilitative and work programs has become popularized and is assumed to spread some form of benefit to prison inmates. Above all is the large variety of sentencing laws that have been enacted to reduce or accelerate the rate at which offenders serve prison sentences. These laws aim at curtailing prison costs and spending on budgetary items that yield advantageous results. The re-admission of inmates into the correctional system is carefully evaluated and has become a measure of performance. Although not all programs offered at the NDOC are strategically planned with recidivism reduction as an outcome, programming is assumed to be an interactive factor in improving an ex-offender's chances of succeeding in society.

Naturally, many other factors interact, such as the offender's personal and crime history, skills, race, education, and employment prospects. The goal of this newsletter is to present these descriptive factors for prison inmates that are released from the NDOC as well as those that are re-admitted within 36 months from the time of release.

The NDOC's recidivism rate is comprised of offenders who committed a felony conviction in Nevada and were sentenced to at least one year. Offenders in custody of the NDOC on a safekeeping basis

or deceased inmates are excluded. An estimated 5,323 offenders set free during 2010 met these criteria, of which 732 were female and 4,591 were male. Paroled offenders amounted to 3,545 and discharged offenders totaled 1,778.

**Table 1-Readmissions by Gender**

Gender	No	Yes	Total <sup>a</sup>
Female	550	182	732
Male	3,168	1,423	4,591
Total	3,718	1,605	5,323

a. Estimate subject to rounding error.

Between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the percentage return for paroles was 22.26% and for discharges 7.89%. The composition of returns was comprised of 26.17% offenders who were discharged and 73.83% who were paroled in 2010. Over one fourth of those returned had been discharged and the rest had been paroled.

**Table 2-Readmission Rates by Release Type**

Release Type	Readmissions
Discharge	7.89%
Parole	22.26%
Total	30.15%

When age group is considered in isolation, it can be inferred from the descriptive tables that the 18-27 year old age category has the highest rate of readmission, and it is evident that recidivism declines with age. One of the factors that affect recidivism with age is the mean age at

admission, which was 34.33 for females and 33.82 for males in 2012. Another factor is that the distribution of the intake population by age is heavily concentrated in the age range of 15 to 54. The population of intakes under age 55 was 95.35% and 55 and older represented only 4.65% of all intakes in 2012. This concentration of younger offenders has a trickledown effect on the active as well as the release populations.

Of the six offense groups utilized in Nevada, property had the highest readmission rate (34.45%), followed by drugs (30.16%). Of interest is also property with age: Offenders that returned to the NDOC ages 18-27, 28-37, and 58-67 ranked highest and next were violent offenders in the 38-47 age group. These findings provide insightful information for programmatic and rehabilitative purposes.

**Table 3 – Readmissions by Offense and Age Categories**

Age Group	Release/Readmission/Rate						
	Drugs	DUI	Other	Property	Sexual	Violence	Total
	321.00	27.00	40.00	493.00	41.00	517.00	1439.00
18-27	102	7	8	201	14	153	485
	31.78%	25.93%	20.00%	40.77%	34.15%	29.59%	33.70%
	537.00	79.00	41.00	433.00	95.00	571.00	1,756
28-37	158	14	12	158	26	164	532
	29.42%	17.72%	29.27%	36.49%	27.37%	28.72%	30.30%
	416.00	71.00	14.00	241.00	109.00	469.00	1,320.00
38-47	135	7	2	69	27	156	396
	32.45%	9.86%	14.29%	28.63%	24.77%	33.26%	30.00%
	180.00	49.00	8.00	116.00	78.00	231.00	662.00
48-57	46	7	0	32	17	67	169
	25.56%	14.29%	0.00%	27.59%	21.79%	29.00%	25.53%
	26.00	8.00	0.00	21.00	19.00	45.00	119.00
58-67	6	1	0	2	4	7	20
	23.01%	12.94%	0.00%	9.41%	20.71%	15.42%	16.70%
	2.00	2.00	0.00	3.00	10.00	12.00	29.00
68-77 <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	0.00%	0.00%		33.33%	10.00%	8.33%	10.34%
	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	2.00
78-87 <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0.00%			0.00%		0.00%
	1,482.00	238.00	101.00	1,306.00	353.00	1,844.00	5,324.00
Total	447	36	22	463	89	548	1,605
	30.16%	15.13%	21.78%	35.45%	25.21%	29.72%	30.15%

a. Sample sizes aren't large enough to be meaningful.

The NDOC follows a one way method of collecting racial information from offenders. The categories maintained are: American Indian, Asian, African American, Caucasian, Hispanic, and Other. This last category is not used for statistical purposes and is utilized to encapsulate offenders going through the classification process or

who belong to an ethnic category not used by the NDOC. American Indians with property, drug, or sex crimes had the highest readmission rates (46.58% to 62.10%). Across offense groups, “Other” racial group exhibits the highest recidivism rate (38.51%), and African Americans are second in rank (34.86%).

**Table 4 – Released Offenders by Offense Group and Ethnic Group and Readmission Rates**

	Recidivism by Ethnic and Offense Group						
	Drugs	DUI	Other <sup>a</sup>	Property	Sexual	Violence	Total
American Indian	13	14	5	19	5	36	92
	6	3	1	9	3	9	31
	47.77%	20.70%	20.70%	46.58%	62.10%	25.18%	33.77%
Asian	36	3	3	44	8	34	128
	16		1	16	2	9	44
	44.68%	0.00%	34.54%	36.00%	25.88%	26.61%	34.50%
African American	363	9	24	280	98	712	1,486
	36.88%	34.50%	37.26%	34.98%	35.80%	33.56%	34.86%
Caucasian	715	150	42	741	195	682	2,526
	231	19	6	270	41	208	775
	32.31%	12.69%	14.14%	36.43%	21.00%	30.49%	30.69%
Hispanic & Cuban	351	64	26	216	47	379	1052
	54	11	4	67	8	77	221
	15.39%	17.28%	15.47%	31.07%	17.12%	20.29%	21.00%
Other <sup>a</sup>	14	0	2	12	2	12	42
	6		1	3		6	16
	41.40%		51.75%	25.88%	0.00%	51.75%	38.51%
All Groups	1,482	238	101	1,306	353	1,844	5,324
	447	36	22	463	89	548	1605
% Return	30.16%	15.15%	21.69%	35.44%	25.24%	29.71%	30.15%

a. Select sample sizes aren't meaningful.

## Credit Earning Programs

Corrections administrators are interested in investigating if offenders that return to the NDOC have completed rehabilitative or education programs. It is important to know that each program has a specific goal, such as controlling anger or emotions. These types of programs are therapeutic and are intended to provide support for inmates in addressing their own personal behaviors. That is, not all programs are developed with the aim of reducing the likelihood that an offender will return after release. Vocational and educational programs, for example, are expected to have an effect on recidivism indirectly. These programs can lead to employment opportunities for offenders once they are released. It is expected that the overall effect of all programs contribute to an offender's success in regaining long-term freedom and self-sufficiency.

Readmission rates by program participation for select programs are exhibited in this document. The statistical relationship of these programs and the likelihood of recidivism would require further empirical research. The rate for offenders released from transitional housing facilities is also available in the tables provided below. According to a study by the Pew Center on the States (2011), readmission rates for the 2004 release cohort for 33 states in the U.S. ranged from 22.8% to 61.2%. The mean rate for the states in the study was 43.3%. All the rates mentioned in the study by the NDOC for 2010 are beneath the 2009 national rate.

**Table 4 – Readmission Rates and Housing**

Housing	
Transitional	31.58%
All Housing	30.15%

**Table 5 – Readmission Rates and Behavioral Program Participation**

All Behavioral Programs	
Anger Management	34.44%
Cage your Rage	28.96%
Commitment to Change	35.81%
Emotions Management	24.32%
New Beginnings	33.38%
Relationship Skills	30.25%
Victim Awareness	28.77%
All Behavioral Programs	30.81%

**Table 6**

Education Programs	
All Education Programs	32.19%
Vocational	38.70%
High School	31.55%
GED	31.79%

**Table 7 – Readmission and Substance Abuse Program Participation**

Substance Abuse	
Addiction Prevention	29.55%
OASIS	33.32%
All Substance Abuse Programs	30.96%

The readmission rate maintained by the NDOC includes all offenders released in 2010; however, select commitments are excluded, such as safekeepers or bootcampers. Only returns to the Nevada prison system are accounted for. Offenders who died during 2010 were estimated and excluded from the release caseload. The rate encompasses all returns within 36 months from the date of release. For the release cohort of this study, 29.41% of all returns occurred within the first year, 70.22% by the end of the second year, and 91.84% before the end of the third year of the study (Table 10).

### Readmissions over Time

**Table 8 – Offenders Readmitted each Year**

Year	Female	Male	Total
2010	68	404	472
2011	73	582	655
2012	32	315	347
2013	9	122	131
Total	182	1,423	1,605

Generally, chances of returning to prison decrease with time. As it's shown in Table 11, prison returns trended downward from 8.87% in 2010 to 2.46% in 2013. These proportions are insightful and support theories that hypothesize that once an offender has been free of crime for 36 consecutive months, the chance of recidivating is much lower or negligible.

**Table 9 – Cumulative Returns each Year by Gender**

Year	Female	Male	Grand Total
2010	37.30%	28.39%	29.41%
2011	77.47%	69.29%	70.22%
2012	95.05%	91.43%	91.84%
2013	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

**Table 10 –Recidivism Rates per Year**

Year	Recidivism Rates per Year	Cumulative Rates
2010	8.87%	8.56%
2011	12.31%	21.17%
2012	6.52%	27.69%
2013	2.46%	30.15%
Total	30.15%	30.15%

Recidivism is an indicator of importance and one that is not easy to measure. Offenders often migrate to other states after release, and state prisons often don't have the ability to identify re-offenses in other jurisdictions. Definitions of

recidivism and the method of measuring differ among jurisdictions, and evidence of program effectiveness may require measuring at various points (OJJDP, 2011). Various factors in an offender's prison time affect the possibility of reconviction, not just programs. These include the length of the sentence, the length of program participation, the quantity and quality of programs offered or taken, and the offender's individual goals. In evaluating readmission, technical violations should be

treated separately from delinquent violations (OJJDP, 2011).

Often, policy makers inquire about the distribution of admission caseloads in regard to reconvictions. This report provided key descriptive information regarding Nevada's prison returns for the 2010 release cohort. The baseline information available in this report should provide a starting point for evaluating the composition of the correctional population and the factors that can potentially result in recidivism.

**Table 11-NDOC Readmission Rates**

Release Year	Releases	Returns	%
1998	4,904	1,134	23.12%
2000	5,425	1,406	25.92%
2001	5,585	1,445	25.87%
2002	5,196	1,370	26.37%
2003	5,195	1,233	23.73%
2004	5,387	1,662	24.04%
2006	5,195	1,233	23.73%
2008	5,301	1,334	25.17%
2009	5,139	1,382	26.89%
2010 <sup>a b</sup>	5,324	1,605	30.15%

- a. The rate for 2010 is not comparable to the rate for previous years. If releases had not been adjusted for deaths, the rate would have been 1.03% lower.
- b. The national recidivism rate for 2005 (49.7%) would have been one half of one percent lower if death estimates had been excluded.

## References

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