



# Recidivism Analysis

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## *2012 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 returning citizens' chances of succeeding in society. Naturally, many factors interact, such as co-occurring disorders, the offender's personal and crime history, skills, race, education, and employment prospects.

A portion of individuals in the prison population are repeat offenders, and some of them have common traits. The NDOC tracks 24-month and 36-month rates and disaggregates offender data to produce baseline indicators for each release cohort. This newsletter is intended to provide an analysis of recidivism data available to the NDOC and to present the success rates of offenders across demographic and criminogenic groups.

## Rate Calculation

The NDOC's recidivism rate is derived by including offenders who committed a felony conviction in Nevada and were sentenced to serve time for at least one year at a state correctional facility. Offenders in custody of the NDOC on a safekeeping basis or that participate in programs not for felony offenders are excluded from the rate.

## Return Rates by Gender or Release Status

The release cohort that is included in the recidivism study comprised a total of 5,106 sentenced offenders who were released during 2012 and met the criteria for inclusion. Releases included 682 women of whom 27.3% returned and 4,424 men of whom 30.7% returned within 36 months of leaving the prison system.

Women in the 2012 cohort had lower odds of returning than men. Statistically, the odds that a woman would return to prison was .672 lower than for her male counterpart, given all other factors remain equal.

**Table 1-Readmissions by Gender**

Gender	No	Yes	%	Total
Female	496	186	27.3	682
Male	3,066	1,358	30.7	4,424
Total	3,562	1,544	30.2	5,106

Paroled offenders totaled 3,149 of which 34.8% were readmitted, and discharged offenders totaled 1,957 with 22.9% also returning by the end of 2015. When the data were analyzed, it was

concluded that release type contributes to the odds of returning. For offenders that expired their sentences, the odds of returning were .510 lower than for offenders that were paroled to community supervision.

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

Release Type	Released	Readmissions
Discharge	1,957	22.9
Parole	3,149	34.8
Total	5,106	30.2

### Recidivism and Age

Recidivism by age group was also inspected. It was noted that offenders who were released before the age of 35 had higher recidivism rates above the overall rate. For offenders under age 25 return rates were 4.9 percentage points higher than the overall. Recidivism rates decline, however, by a factor of .982 for every one year increase in age at time of release.

**Table 3-Released Offenders by Age Group**

Age Group	Recidivism Rates %	
	No	Yes
<25	64.95	35.05
25-34	67.99	32.01
35-44	70.60	29.40
45-54	72.58	27.42
>55	84.31	15.69
Total	69.76	30.24

### Offense Type and Age

Of the major five offense groups utilized in Nevada, drugs, DUI, property,

sex, and violence; DUI and property offenders had recidivism rates that were statistically different than the overall rate. Property offenders returned 38.5% of the time; in contrast, DUI offenders returned only 8.7% of the time during the 36-month period. Recidivism among property offenders is most predominant among individuals under the age of 34. Their rates are 40.15% for offenders under 25 and 41.54% for 25 to 34 year olds. Next in recidivism rate hierarchy are drug offenders under the age of 25 who recidivated 38.04% of the time. Violent offenders 25 to 34 years of age have higher rates than drug offenders, and sex offenders 35 to 44 years of age have higher rates than drug and violent offenders in the same age group.

**Table 4-Recidivism Rates for Younger Groups and Race or Ethnicity**

Age Group	Drug	Property	Violence	Sex
<25	38.04	40.15	32.19	23.08
25-34	28.38	41.54	30.37	26.04
35-44	30.10	36.08	27.56	32.58

Across age groups, the recidivism rate for property offenders was statistically higher than all other offense groups, including violent offenders. In turn, offenders that committed DUI and drug offenses had statistically significantly lower recidivism rates than property individuals. DUI offenders, indeed, have less of a chance of returning, as the odds are .259 times lower than for violent offenders. The analysis also demonstrated that the likelihood of returning to prison is 1.428

times higher for a property offender than for a violent offender, and drug offenses don't contribute to the odds of recidivating

**Table 5- Recidivism by Offense Type**

Offense Group	No %	Yes %
Drugs	70.40	29.60
DUI	91.30	8.70
Property	61.50	38.50
Sexual	73.70	26.30
Violence	71.00	29.00
Total	69.80	30.20

### Race and Ethnicity

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. Native Americans, Caucasians, and African Americans in the 2012 release cohort had recidivism rates higher than the overall rate. Drug offenders in the Asian racial group have the highest recidivism rate (42.31%), followed in ranking by Native American drug offenders (41.67%). Hispanic offenders had really a low rate of recidivism (14.42%). For all racial groups, property offenders had the highest recidivism rates, confirming that this is the group that is at most risk of going back to prison.

**Table 6 – Return Rates by Race & Ethnicity**

Racial Group	No %	Yes%
Asian	70.08	29.92
Black	65.75	34.25
Hispanic	79.53	20.47
Indian	63.41	36.59
Other	82.50	17.50
White	68.02	31.98
Total	69.76	30.24

When the likelihood of returning was assessed across race or ethnicity, it was concluded that Hispanics had lower odds of recidivating than Caucasian offenders. None of the other racial groups contributed to the odds of succeeding or failing outside prison.

**Table 7 – Recidivism Rates above the Overall Rate**

Race	Drugs %	Property %
African American	35.83	38.49
Asian	42.31	36.17
Caucasian	33.63	39.27
Hispanic	14.42	35.03
Native American	41.67	45.00

### Readmissions by Time Interval

Returns to prison are tracked by the year of return beginning with the release year. To have a more precise notion of how many months go by before an offender returns, the data were categorized in six months intervals. Recidivism by year of return gives the impression that more than one-third of the offenders return the second

year. However, a significant portion of recidivism occurs within the first 11 months of release and; then, rates decline gradually.

**Table 8 – Offenders Readmitted each Year**

Year	Female	Male	Total	%
2012	60	423	483	9.46
2013	75	520	595	21.11
2014	33	306	339	27.75
2015	18	109	127	30.24

For the 2012 releases caseload, it was noted that, of the 1,544 offenders that returned, 480 returned in less than 6 months (31.09%), 381 (24.68%) within 6 to 11 months, and 214 (13.86%) within 12 to 17 months. The declining rate over a period of 36 months is insightful and supports theories that hypothesize that once an offender has been free for 36 consecutive months, the chances of returning are almost negligible.

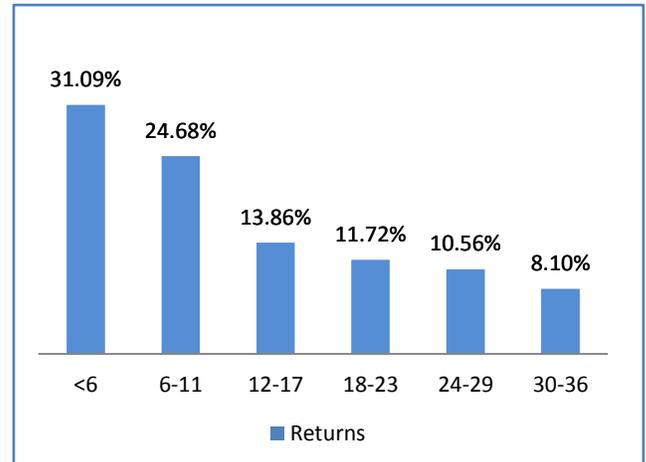
**Table 9 – Months of Release**

Months	Returns	%
<6	480	31.09
6-11	381	24.68
12-17	214	13.86
18-23	181	11.72
24-29	163	10.56
30-36	125	8.10
Total	1544	100.00

When attempting to assist ex-offenders to be successful outside, it is

worth noting that monitoring within the first 11 months of release could reduce a sizable portion of recidivism

**Figure 1 – Returns in Six Months Intervals**



As shown in Table 10, three years of releases translated into 4,677 offenders coming back in six years. Even more important is the support that stems from a comprehensive approach that targets the specific characteristics that lead to criminogenic behavior or lack of compliance with the conditions of community supervision after reintegrating in society.

**Table 10-Inmates Returned**

Return Year	Release Year			Effect
	2010	2011	2012	
2010	465	-	-	465
2011	657	485	-	1142
2012	347	664	483	1494
2013	130	285	595	1010
2014	--	100	339	439
2015	--	--	127	127
Total	1,599	1,534	1,544	4,677

**Table 11 – Returns by Year of Release**

Release Year	Releases	Returns	%	Months
1998	4,904	1,134	23.12	36
2000	5,425	1,406	25.92	36
2001	5,585	1,445	25.87	36
2002	5,196	1,370	26.37	36
2003	5,195	1,233	23.73	24
2004	5,387	1,662	24.04	24
2006	5,195	1,233	23.73	24
2008	5,301	1,334	25.17	24
2009	5,139	1,382	26.89	36
2010	5,511	1,605	29.03	36
2011	5,271	1,533	29.08	36
2012	5,106	1,544	30.24	36

and 2012 did not return to the prison system in Nevada. From this analysis it was learned that young, male, and property or drug offenders that are released on parole have higher likelihoods of readmission to prison and that these types of individuals are at higher risk. A comprehensive approach to targeting offenders most prone to failure might be instrumental in improving their chances of reintegrating to society.

As shown in Table 11, in Nevada, 36-month rates have been trending upwards, and prison readmissions, on the aggregate, impacted the overall level of admissions. Beginning with the 2009 releases caseload, recidivism rates increased at an average of 4.12% per year. These rates don't take into account the possibility of death or the possibility of migration to other states for offenders released from prison.

## Summary

Recidivism is an indicator of importance in the correctional system and one that is not simple to understand. Many factors lead to success in the community, not all of them are demographic. Factors such as substance abuse, the ability to rehabilitate, or willingness to participate in programs, job opportunities, and access to services interact in the process. In Nevada, 71.19% of offenders released between 2009