

Recidivism Analysis

2013 Release Cohort

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



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 36-month rates and disaggregates offender data to produce baseline indicators for each release cohort. This newsletter is intended to provide an analysis of baseline recidivism data available to the NDOC and to present the success rates of offenders across demographic and offense groups.

Population in the Rate Calculation

The NDOC's recidivism rate is derived by placing offenders who committed a felony conviction in Nevada and were sentenced to serve time for at least one year at a state correctional facility and that are released in the denominator. If any of these offenders return, they are placed in the numerator. 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 4,972 sentenced offenders who were released during 2013 and met the criteria for inclusion. Releases included 694 women of whom 24.1% returned and 4,278 men of whom 30.1% returned within 36 months of leaving the prison system.

Men and women had statistically significantly different return rates. Based on the 2013 release cohort, the odds that a male return to prison is 1.75 times higher than for a female, given all other factors remain equal.

Table 1-Readmission % by Gender

Gender	No	Yes	Total	%
Female	527	167	694	24.1%
Male	2,991	1,287	4,278	30.1%
Total	3,518	1,454	4,972	29.2%

Paroled offenders totaled 3,028 of which 33.7% were readmitted, and discharged offenders totaled 1,944 with

22.4% also returning by the end of 2016. When the data were analyzed, it was concluded that release type contributes to the odds of returning. For offenders that discharged their sentences, the odds of returning were .531 times lower than for offenders that were paroled to community supervision.

Table 2-Readmission Rates by Release Type

Release Type	Released	Readmissions
Discharge	1,944	22.4%
Parole	3,028	33.7%
Total	4,972	29.2%

Recidivism and Age

Offenders who were released before the age of 35 had higher recidivism rates above the overall rate. Offenders younger than age 25 had return rates 7.4 percentage points higher than the overall rate. In fact, rates decline by a factor of .981 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	63.4%	36.6%
25-34	69.7%	30.3%
35-44	71.9%	28.1%
45-54	73.7%	26.3%
>=55	81.8%	18.2%
Total	70.8%	29.2%

Offense Type and Age

Of the major six offense groups utilized in Nevada, drugs, DUI, property, sex, other, and violence; DUI and property offenders had recidivism rates that were statistically different than the overall rate. Property offenders returned 35.4% of the time; in contrast, DUI offenders returned only 8.6% of the time during the 36-month period. Relative to an offender who commits an unstandardized crime (other), the odds of returning are 1.992 times higher for a property offender but .407 lower for a DUI offender.

Recidivism among property offenders is above the overall rate until individuals are 44 years of age. Their rates range from 34.1% to 38.1%. Comparably, drug offenders under the age of 25 returned 38.1% of the time and 25 to 34 year olds 31.9% of the time. Violent offenders in the 2013 release cohort had lower recidivism than the overall rate but higher for the younger age category. Recidivism was highest for sex offenders who were released from prison before the age of 25 with 42.1% returning, though this age group had only 19 individuals.

Table 4-Recidivism Rates for Younger Groups and Offense Type

Age Group	Drug	Property	Violence
<25	38.1	38.1	35.8
25-34	31.9	38.9	27.2
35-44	27.4	34.1	27.2
45-45	32.9	25.7	24.7

Table 5- Recidivism by Offense Type

Offense Group	No %	Yes %
Drugs	69.1	30.9
DUI	91.4	8.6
Other	77.9	22.1
Property	64.6	35.4
Sexual	78.9	21.1
Violence	72.2	27.8
Total	70.8	29.2

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 to group offenders whose race or ethnicity is unrecognized. Hispanics in the 2013 release cohort had recidivism rates that were lower than for all the other races. Asians have the highest recidivism rate (36.6%), followed in ranking by Native Americans (36.2%), and next by African Americans (31.7%).

Table 6 – Return Rates by Race & Ethnicity

Racial Group	No %	Yes %
Asian	63.4	36.6
African American	68.3	31.7
Hispanic	80.1	19.9
Native American	63.8	36.2
Other	69.2	30.8
Caucasian	69.3	30.7
Total	70.8	29.2

When the likelihood of returning was assessed across race or ethnicity, it was concluded that Hispanics had lower odds of

recidivating (.496 times) than Caucasians. None of the other racial groups contribute significantly to the odds of recidivating.

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-month 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

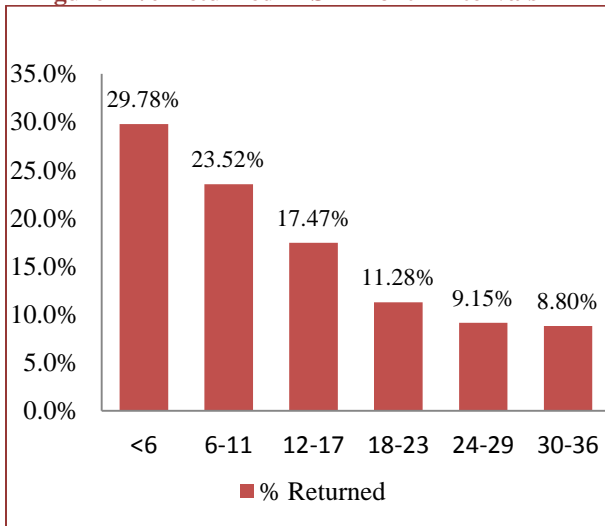
Year	Female	Male	Total	%
2013	57	381	438	30.1
2014	64	542	606	71.8
2015	29	260	289	91.7
2016	17	104	121	100.0

For the 2013 releases caseload, it was noted that, of the 1,454 offenders that returned, 433 returned in fewer than 6 months (29.78%), 342 (23.52%) within 6 to 11 months, and 254 (17.47%) 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	433	29.78
6-11	342	23.52
12-17	254	17.47
18-23	164	11.28
24-29	133	9.15
30-36	128	8.8
Total	1,454	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, because that's when more than half of returns to confinement occur (53.30%).

Figure 1-% Returned in Six-month Intervals

As shown in Table 10, four years of releases translated into 6,131 offenders coming back in seven 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 into society.

Table 10-Inmates Returned by Year

Return Year	Release Year				Effect
	2010	2011	2012	2013	
2010	465	-	-		465
2011	657	485	-		1,142
2012	347	664	483		1,494
2013	130	285	595	381	1,391
2014	--	100	339	542	981
2015	--	--	127	260	387
2016				104	104
Total	1,599	1,534	1,544	1,454	6,131

Table 11 – % Returned 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
2013	4,972	1,454	29.20	36

In Nevada, 36-month rates trended upwards from 2009 to 2012, and prison readmissions, on the aggregate, impacted the overall level of admissions. For the releases

caseloads between 2009 and 2012 recidivism rates increased at an average rate of 4.12% per year, and the trend was reversed with the 2013 release cohort by declining by 3.56%. Lower recidivism rates translate into higher rates of success post confinement.

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. The 2013 caseload shows improvement in Nevada and shows that 70.80% of offenders were successful in the community versus 69.76% for the 2012 release cohort. From this analysis it was learned that young, male, and property or drug offenders that are released on parole are more likely to return 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.

Figure 2 – Success after Incarceration

