



RECIDIVISM IN ARKANSAS

2019 Release Cohort

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In Arkansas, recidivism is defined as “a criminal act that results in the rearrest, reconviction, or return to incarceration of a person with a new sentence or a revocation from parole or post-release supervision during a three-year period following the person’s release from custody (A.C.A. § 5-4-101).” Despite the statutory definition, Arkansas Department of Corrections (ARDOC) researchers do not have access to rearrest data; therefore, the department conceptualizes recidivism as a sentence to probation or reincarceration within 36 months of release.



In 2019, 10,775 people were released from a Division of Corrections’ (ADC) prison, Division of Community Corrections’ (ACC) center, a facility under the jurisdiction of the ARDOC (e.g., Reentry facility), or a county jail. Within 36 months, 5,203 individuals returned to incarceration or received a probation imposition¹ making the recidivism rate 48.3%.

¹ Although 1,345 people were sentenced to probation, 812 were also reincarcerated. The reincarceration rate includes those who received probation and returned to prison ($n = 4,670$), while the probation rate is based on the individuals who only received a probation imposition ($n = 533$).

TABLE 1 - RATES BY DEMOGRAPHICS AND SITUATIONAL FACTORS

	Released (N=10,775)		Probation (N=533)		Return (N=4,670)		Recidivism (N=5,203)
	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Division							
ACC	1,692	15.7	78	4.6	564	33.3	37.9
ADC	9,083	84.3	455	5.0	4,106	45.2	50.2
Gender							
Female	1,631	15.1	107	6.6	473	29.0	35.6
Male	9,144	84.9	426	4.7	4,197	45.9	50.6
Race							
White	7,081	65.7	368	5.2	3,137	44.3	49.5
Black	3,320	30.8	159	4.8	1,388	41.8	46.6
Other ^a	374	3.5	6	1.6	145	38.8	40.4
Age							
17-24	799	7.4	35	4.4	415	51.9	56.3
25-34	3,848	35.7	222	5.8	1,873	48.7	54.4
35-44	3,668	34.0	164	4.5	1,564	42.6	47.1
45-64	2,362	21.9	108	4.6	800	33.9	38.4
65+	98	0.9	4	4.1	18	18.4	22.4
Release Type							
Discharged	727	6.7	81	11.1	195	26.8	38.0
To Supervision	10,048	93.3	452	4.5	4,475	44.5	49.0
Restrictive Housing ^b							
Yes	1,244	11.6	44	3.5	593	47.7	51.2
Reentry Program							
Yes	393	3.6	6	1.5	153	38.9	40.5
STTG ^c Affiliated							
Yes	2,545	23.6	100	3.9	1,377	54.1	58.0

Notes. ^a Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American individuals.

^b Individual was in restrictive housing at some point within the last year of their incarceration.

^c Security threat/terrorist group

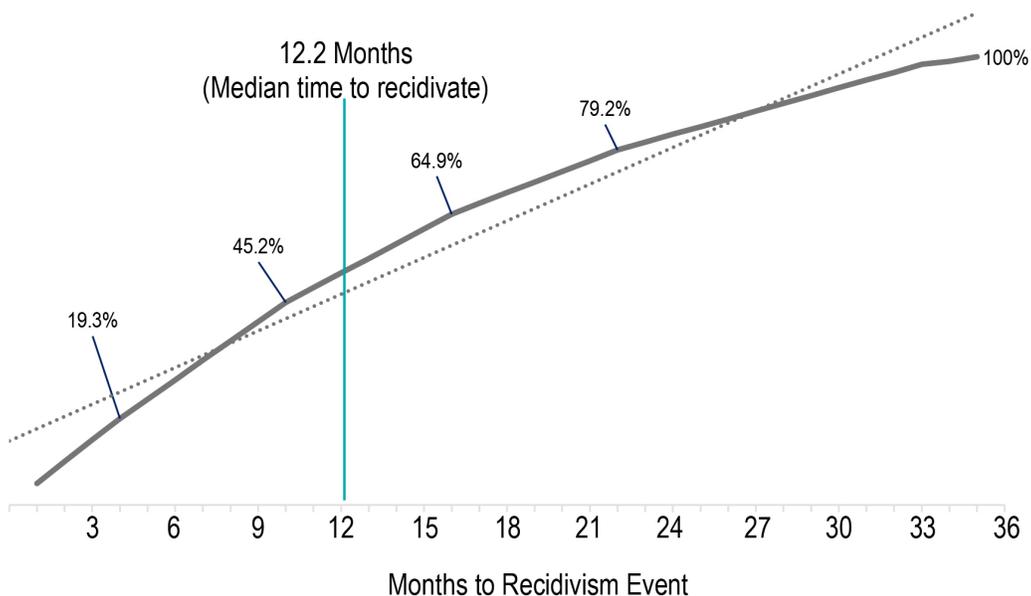
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TIME TO RECIDIVISM

Within one year, 47% of recidivists were reincarcerated and 41.1% were sentenced to probation. By 24 months, nearly 80% recidivated.

GRAPH 1 - TIME TO RECIDIVISM EVENT



RELEASE AND RETURN OFFENSES

Last, we explored the offense type related to their incarceration and reincarceration (viz., sexually violent, violent, sexual, drug, and non-violent). For the return cohort, we included technical violations. Drug offenses were the most common crime types among the release and return cohorts.

CHART 1 - RELEASE AND RETURN OFFENSES

