

FACTS ABOUT OKLAHOMA PRISON RECIDIVISM

- The Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC) defines recidivism as the percentage of all offenders released in a given year who have returned to ODOC incarceration at the end of a three-year period. This corresponds with the definition used by most other states, the federal government, and academic research, and is the most commonly cited measure of correctional success or failure.
- For FY10 ODOC prison releases, the overall recidivism rate was 21.2%. For males it was 22.6% and for females it was 13.3%.
- The recidivism rate for FY10 prison releases decreases as offenders age. Offenders who are 25 years of age or younger at the time of release have the highest recidivism rate, with 31.8% returning to an ODOC prison reception center within three years. Offenders who are 56 years of age and older have the lowest recidivism rate, with 8.8% returning to an ODOC prison reception center within three years.
- For FY10 prison releases broken down by race/ethnicity: African Americans recidivated at 23.1%, Caucasians at 20.1%, Hispanics at 17.4%, Native Americans at 24.7%, and all other races/ethnicities at 23.5%.
- National statistics on other states' recidivism rates have not been updated since a 2002 report generated by the Bureau of Justice Statistics was released, indicating that an estimated 67.5% prisoners released from prisons in 15 states in 1994 were rearrested within three years. Some states contiguous to Oklahoma have reported recidivism rates based on re-imprisonment in more recent years: Texas - 23% (2009 releases), Missouri - 42% (2009 releases), Arkansas - 42% (2009 releases), Kansas - 34% (2008 releases), Colorado - 52% (2008 releases), and New Mexico - 48% (2010 releases).
- To measure the effectiveness of program completion on reducing an offender's likelihood of returning to prison, ODOC uses survival analysis to determine the percentage of offenders who completed programs and returned to an ODOC prison within three years of their release. The group of released completers are typically compared to matched non-participants who released from prison during the same time period.
- ODOC administers a risk assessment instrument near the time of prison reception called the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R), which determines the offender's risk of reoffending, as well as their needs for services to prevent future recidivism. Risk levels generated from this assessment are: high risk, moderate risk, and low risk. A recidivism analysis of FY10 prison releases, stratified by LSI-R risk level, indicates that 26.3% of high risk offenders return to an ODOC prison reception center within three years of release. The percentage is lower for moderate risk at 19.5% and even lower for low risk offenders at 13.3%.