



Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
Department of Correction

# MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rates: 2015 Release Cohort

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## Three-Year Recidivism Rates: 2015 Release Cohort

### I. Introduction

Data presented herein represents recidivism statistics and administrative data for 2,411 criminally sentenced inmates released to the community from the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC) during calendar year 2015 via expiration of sentence or parole to the community. Each release during the year is counted, making it possible for one inmate to be included multiple times.<sup>1</sup> The MA DOC defines a recidivist as any criminally sentenced inmate released to the community from MA DOC jurisdiction who is re-incarcerated in a Massachusetts state or county facility or to a federal facility for a criminal sentence within three years of their release to the community. The data presented include information on inmate demographics, governing offense, release type, and sentence information.

#### ***Methodology***

Information for this brief was gathered from the MA DOC Inmate Management System (IMS) and the Massachusetts Board of Probation (BOP). Data are derived from information available at the time of collection and are subject to change. The criminal activity of inmates released to the community during 2015 was tracked through the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) to determine any re-incarceration within three years of the inmate's release to the community.

An inmate can be re-incarcerated in one of the following ways: technical violation of parole, violation of parole with a new offense, new court commitment to a Massachusetts county, state or a federal facility, technical violation of probation, or probation violation with a new offense. The recidivism rate is calculated by dividing the number of re-incarcerations by the number of releases in a given category.

It is important to note that a released inmate may be dropped from the study for various reasons, including not having been released directly to the community upon further examination, or death prior to the close of the follow-up period.

#### ***Technical Violations***

MADOC publishes recidivism rates both including and excluding technical violations of parole and probation.

Inmates released to the community with parole or probation conditions are supervised for a period of time while in the community. An inmate can be re-incarcerated for violating the conditions of their parole or probation supervision. A revocation can result from a technical violation of the terms of release, or can result from an arraignment for a new crime.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2015, there were 58 inmates who had multiple releases on the same commitment number within the calendar year.

When reporting on the recidivism rates of inmates released on probation, only those released off of a split sentence that violate and are re-incarcerated are considered probation violators, those with a straight probation term who violate and are incarcerated are considered to be recidivist for a new court commitment. Since probation violators are mainly county sentenced, there are a small number of inmates who can recidivate as a probation violator using the MADOC definition.

In order to calculate the recidivism rate *excluding* technical violations of parole or probation, the inmate's first non-technical re-incarceration within three years of their release was used.

## **II. 2015 Release Cohort Overview**

We are now publishing a full profile of release cohorts in the form of an appendix. Below are key details describing the 2,411 MADOC criminal releases in 2015. See page 10 for the full profile.

- Males (n = 1,893) made up 79% of the 2,411 releases, while females (n = 518) made up 21%.
- Just under half (49%) of all releases self-identified as White – nearly three-fourths of females, and 42% of males. Of the male releases, over half identified as either Black (29%) or Hispanic (28%).
- Altogether, 45% of the release population had served a violent governing offense. Half of males and one-fourth of females (26%) released had served a governing violent offense.
- While more inmates were serving non-violent offenses, the most common offense type for releases was Person Offense (39%), which is considered a violent offense.
- The age of inmates at time of release from the MA DOC ranged from 19 to 89 years old.
- At time of commitment, only 26% of the release cohort was aged 40 or older. By the time of release, the percent of the population in that age category grew to 35%. Males were younger than females upon commitment, but older than females upon release,
- The majority of the inmates were released via expiration of sentence to their community (74%), while the remaining 26% were released via parole to their community.
- Almost half (47%) of females and one-third (35%) of males were released without any form of supervision.
- Half of releases came from medium security facilities, and another 41% of releases came from lower security facilities. The remaining 9% of releases came from a maximum security facility.

**III. Recidivism Statistics**

Of 2,411 criminally sentenced released to the community in 2015, 791 (33%) recidivated within three years of release. There were 168 female recidivists and 623 male recidivists.

**Table 1. Three-Year Recidivism Rates: 2015 Release Cohort**

<b>Overall</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>33%</b>

The overall three-year recidivism rate is slightly up from the 32% overall rate of the 2014 release cohort. However, the female recidivism rate remained at 32 percent.

An inmate on parole or probation who violates the terms of the conditions<sup>2</sup> set forth regarding their release may be re-incarcerated; this return is called a technical violation<sup>3</sup>. A non-technical violation would involve a new arraignment for a crime.

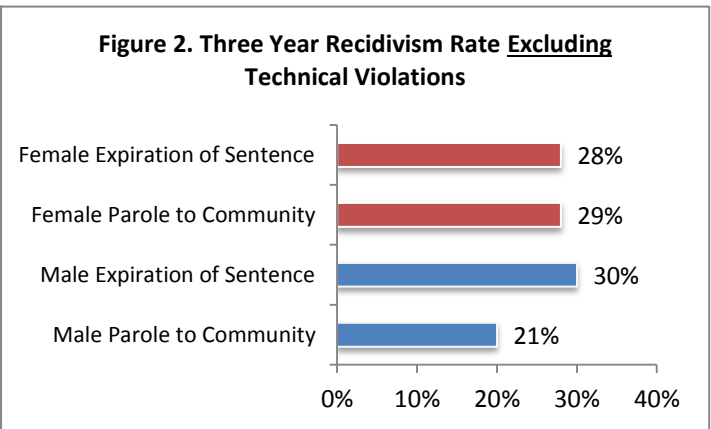
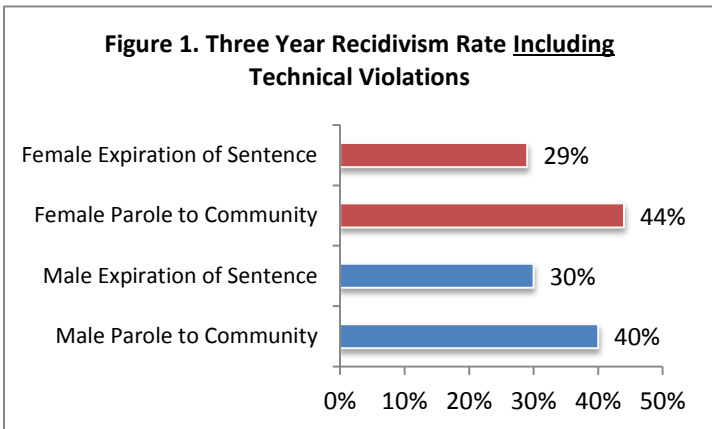
Table 2, and figures 1 and 2, provide a comparison of recidivism rates including and excluding re-incarcerations for technical violations of parole.

<b>Table 2. Three Year Recidivism Rates by Gender and Re-incarceration Year: 2015 Release Cohort Excluding and Including Technical Violations</b>									
<b>Three Year Recidivism Rates Excluding Technical Violations</b>									
		<b>1st Year Rec</b>		<b>2nd Year</b>		<b>3rd Year</b>		<b>Total</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of Releases</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Male	1,893	191	10%	165	9%	166	9%	522	28%
Female	518	65	13%	43	8%	37	7%	145	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Three Year Recidivism Rates Including Technical Violations</b>									
		<b>1st Year Rec</b>		<b>2nd Year</b>		<b>3rd Year</b>		<b>Total</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of Releases</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Male	1,893	295	16%	170	9%	158	8%	623	33%
Female	518	94	18%	41	8%	33	6%	168	32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>33%</b>

<sup>2</sup> Technical violations are not necessarily the result of administrative conditions, and could include uncharged criminal conduct, or conduct that is under criminal investigation.

<sup>3</sup> In order to calculate the recidivism rate excluding technical violations, the first non-technical re-incarceration within three years of release was used. Inmates who were returned for a technical violation were incarcerated for a period of time, diminishing the likelihood of a non-technical return.

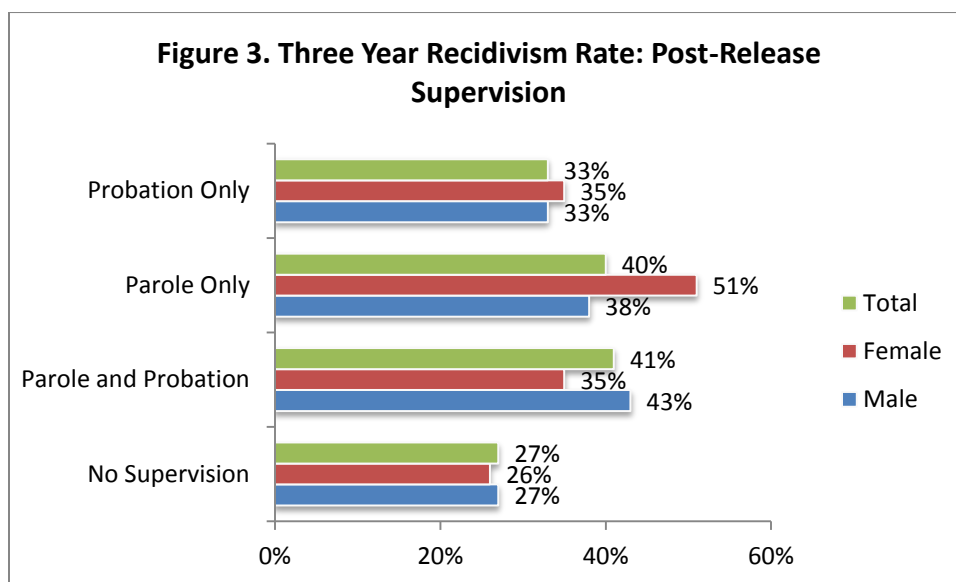
Table 3. Three Year Recidivism Rates by Release Type: 2015 Release Cohort Excluding and Including Technical Violations									
Three Year Recidivism Rates <u>Excluding</u> Technical Violations									
Release Type	Male			Female			Total		
	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate
Expiration of Sentence	1,375	415	30%	399	111	28%	1,774	526	30%
Parole to the Community	518	107	21%	119	34	29%	637	141	22%
Total Releases	1,893	522	28%	518	145	28%	2,411	667	28%
Three Year Recidivism Rates <u>Including</u> Technical Violations									
Release Type	Male			Female			Total		
	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate
Expiration of Sentence	1,375	415	30%	399	116	29%	1,774	531	30%
Parole to the Community	518	208	40%	119	52	44%	637	260	41%
Total Releases	1,893	623	33%	518	168	32%	2,411	791	33%



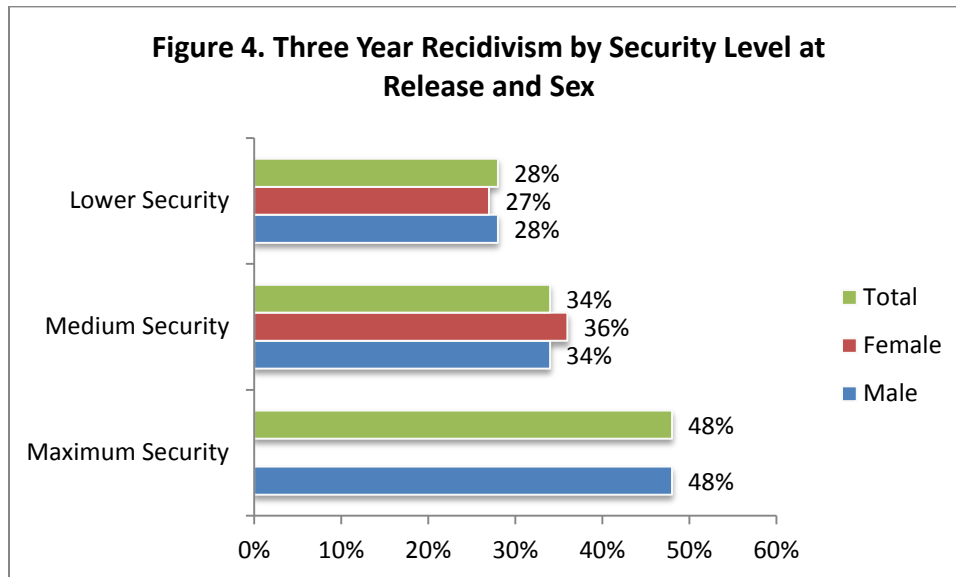
- Generally, inmates paroled to their communities recidivate at higher rates as a result of being under supervision, but only when considering technical violations (Figure 1). When excluding technical violations<sup>4</sup>, males paroled to the community recidivated at a lower rate than males who released upon expiration of their sentence, while the recidivism rate for females remained the same regardless of release type (Figure 2).
- Of the 791 inmates who recidivated using the definition including technical violations, 154 were re-incarcerated for a technical parole violation and 6 were re-incarcerated for a technical probation violation. The majority (84%) of technical violations occurred within the first year of release.

<sup>4</sup> Note: inmates who were returned for a technical violation were incarcerated for a period of time, diminishing the likelihood of a non-technical return. This is highlighted by the lower recidivism rate for paroled male inmates when excluding technical violations.

- Thirty-six inmates had both a technical and a non-technical return within the three year study period. These 36 represent about 23% of the 160 technical violators within the study period.
- Overall, the recidivism rate decreased by five percentage points, from 33% to 28% when excluding technical violations (Table 2).
- When excluding technical violators, the recidivism rate was 11% during the first year of the follow-up period, compared to a rate of 16% when technical violations were included.
- For the second and third years in the follow-up period, recidivism excluding technical violations for both males and females fell between 7 and 9 percent.



- Inmates released with parole, or both probation and parole supervision, showed the highest recidivism rates (Figure 3). This has changed from last year when 2014 probation-only releases showed the highest rates (37% overall). Again, inmates under supervision consistently recidivate at a higher rate and most parolees return for technical violations.
- A female on parole (n=67) was more likely to recidivate than a female on both parole and probation (n=52). This is also a reversal from 2014 rates when females with both types of post-release supervision showed the highest rates of recidivism (39%).



- Recidivism rates for inmates released during 2015 were positively correlated with the security level of the releasing facility (see Figure 4). The recidivism rate for both male and female inmates increased as the security level of the releasing institution increased.
- The highest male recidivism rates are down 4 percentage points from a maximum security facility (52%) from the 2014 cohort, but up 2 percentage points from medium security (32% in 2014).
- Both lower and medium security-released female recidivism rates increased slightly from the 2014 release cohort.

**Table 4. Three-Year Recidivism Rate: 2015 Release Cohort**

<b>State Sentenced Females</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>County Sentenced Females<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>33%</b>

- With respect to post-release supervision, 35 of the 94 *state* sentenced females (37%) were paroled to the community, and roughly half (49%) of those paroled recidivated within three years. In comparison, only 20% of the *county* sentenced females were paroled to the community, with 41% recidivating within three years.

<sup>5</sup> Females sentenced from the court to serve a county sentence often serve that sentence in a state correctional facility due to limited female bed space at the county level. County sentenced females comprised 82% of the criminally sentenced female releases from the MA DOC included in the 2015 recidivism cohort.

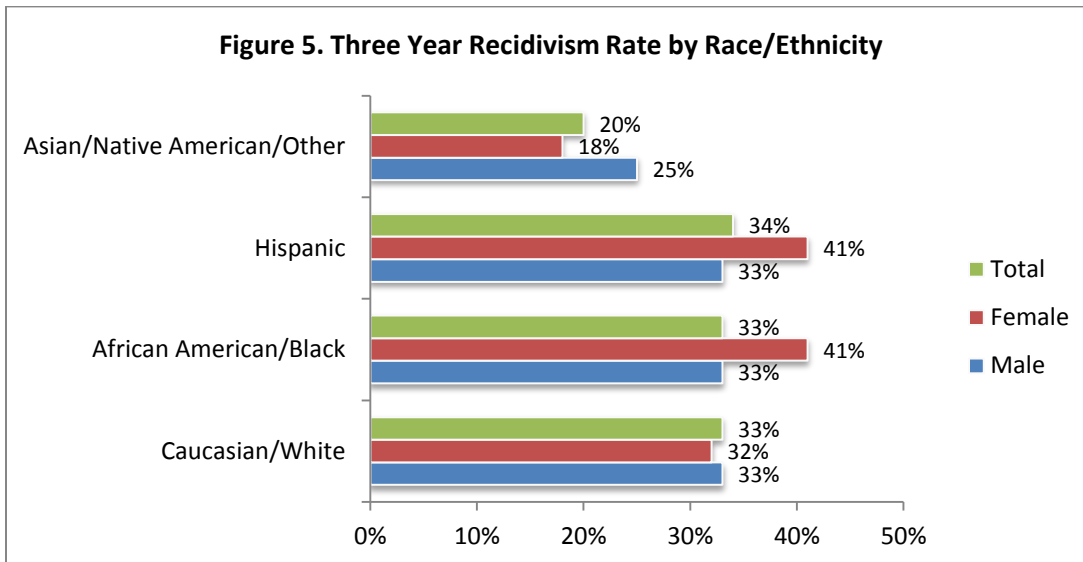
**Table 5. Three Year Recidivism Rates by Release Address: Massachusetts Counties<sup>6</sup>**

Release Address County	Female		Male		Total	
	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Barnstable	20	30%	25	40%	45	35%
Berkshire	1	n/a.	42	31%	43	30%
Bristol	36	39%	199	40%	235	40%
Essex	109	41%	189	30%	298	34%
Franklin	1	n/a	14	n/a	15	n/a
Hampden	9	n/a	241	35%	250	35%
Hampshire	2	n/a	22	27%	24	25%
Middlesex	92	34%	163	29%	255	31%
Norfolk	45	33%	86	33%	131	33%
Plymouth	77	27%	89	33%	166	30%
Suffolk	76	28%	476	33%	552	32%
Worcester	32	38%	237	36%	269	36%
Out of State	18	n/a	109	16%	127	14%
Unknown	0	n/a	1	n/a	1	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>1,893</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>33%</b>

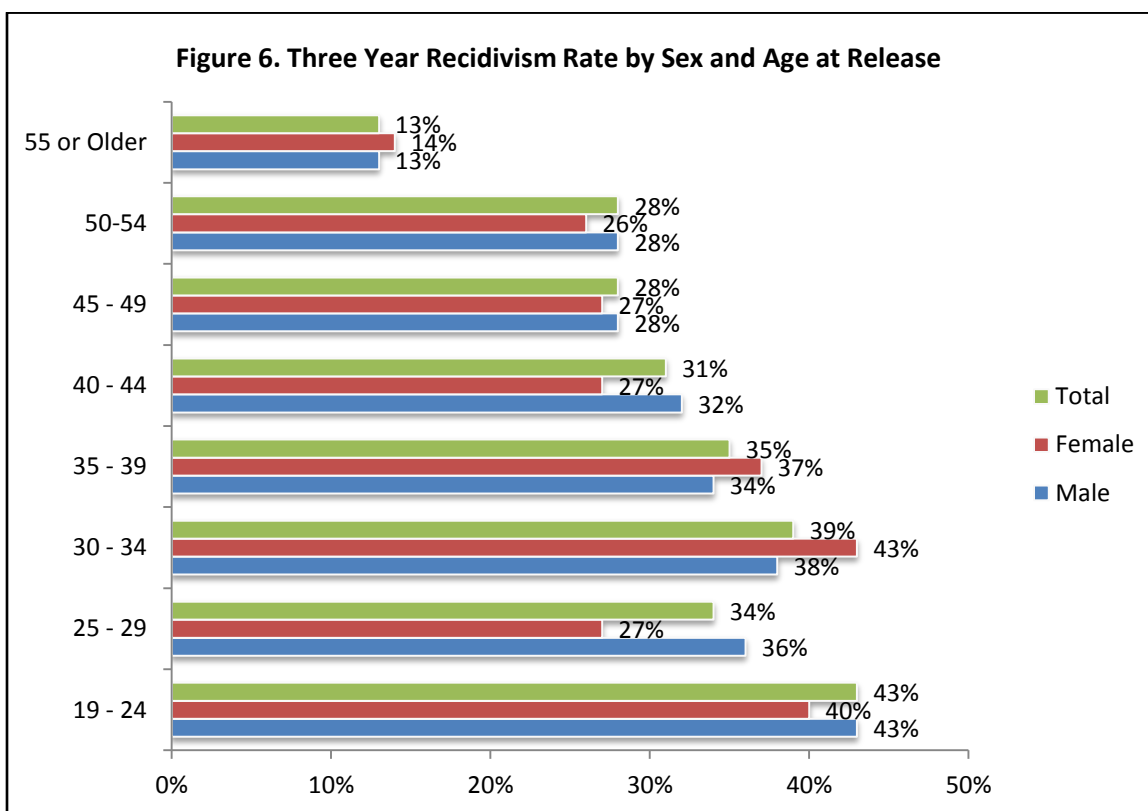
- Of the 2,411 releases in 2015, the vast majority (95%) released somewhere in Massachusetts. Table 4 ranks recidivism rates of counties to which inmates were released.
- Though they did not have the highest number of recidivists, the counties where inmates had the highest recidivism rates overall were Franklin County (53%), Bristol County (40%) and Norfolk County (36%). Rates may be skewed due to the smaller number of total releases to counties such as Franklin and Barnstable.
- Females saw the highest number of releases to, and recidivism from, Essex County, followed by Bristol and Worcester counties.
- Males saw the highest releases to Suffolk County, followed by Worcester and Hampden Counties, and these counties saw average to above average recidivism.

<sup>6</sup> For releases where the numeric value was less than 20, recidivism rates were not reported in the table.

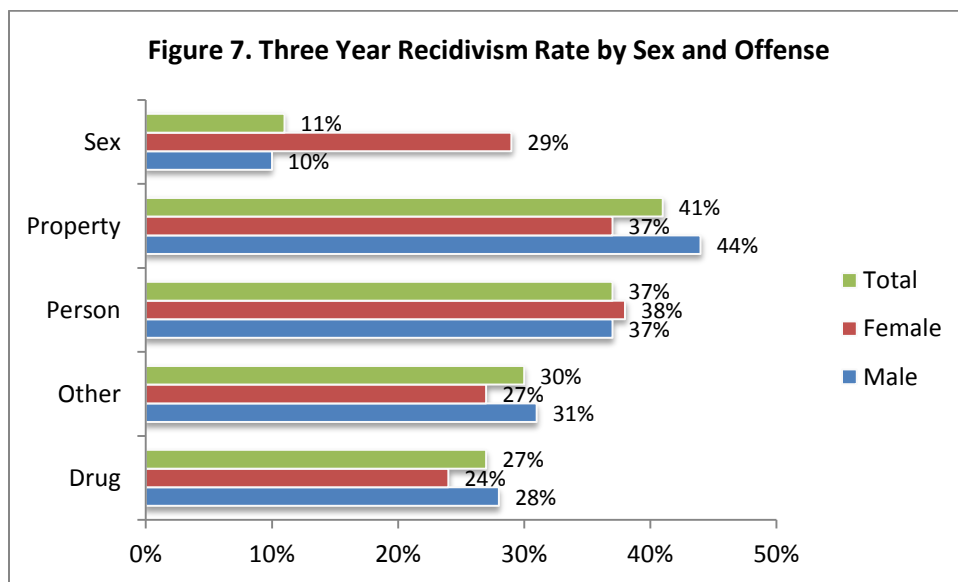




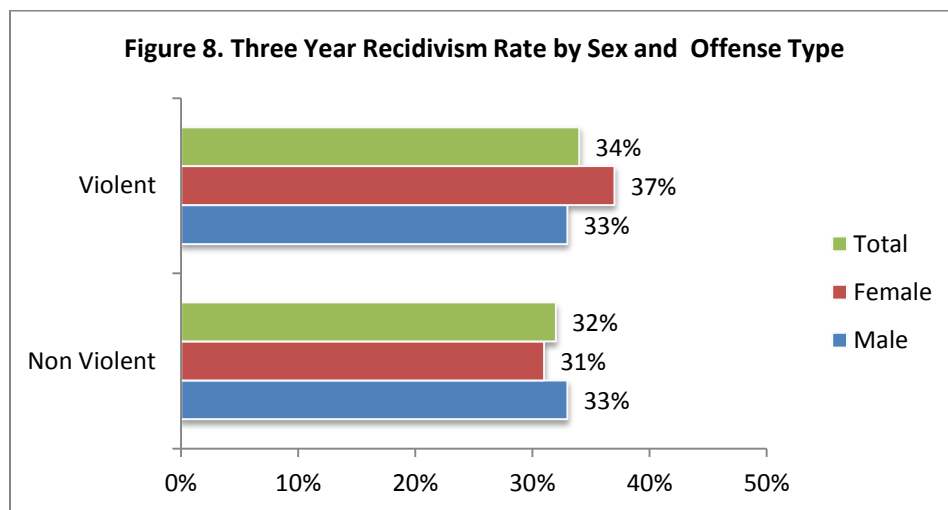
- Male inmates across the three major race groups of White, Black and Hispanic recidivated at 33 percent each. Males reporting a race of Asian, Native American or Other recidivated at 18%.
- Female inmates reporting a race of African American/Black or Hispanic recidivated at 41%, followed by Caucasian/White females at 32%.



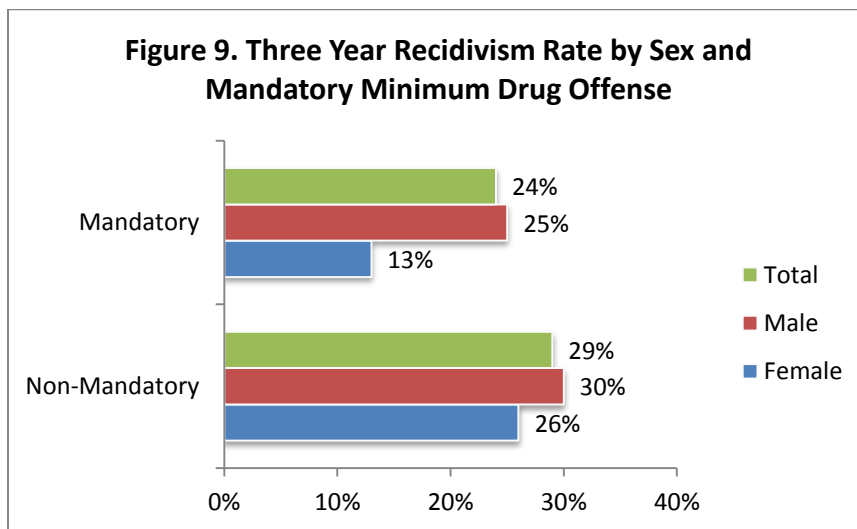
- Male inmates younger than 25 years old at release, and female inmates 30 to 34 at release, held the highest age-sex group recidivism rates of 43%.
- Female inmates ages 25 to 29 recidivated at a rate of 27 percent. This age group had the highest number of releases (n = 140) for females.
- Inmates 55 and older, both male and female, recidivated at the lowest rates, consistent with research on age and recidivism.



- Property offenders had the highest overall recidivism rate of all offense types, followed by Person offenses which showed a 37% recidivism rate. Female sex offender recidivism stands out, though the number of corresponding releases was small (n = 7).



- Overall recidivism rates by violent (Person, Sex) and nonviolent (Property, Drug, Other) offense were the same for males, and violent recidivism was higher for females.



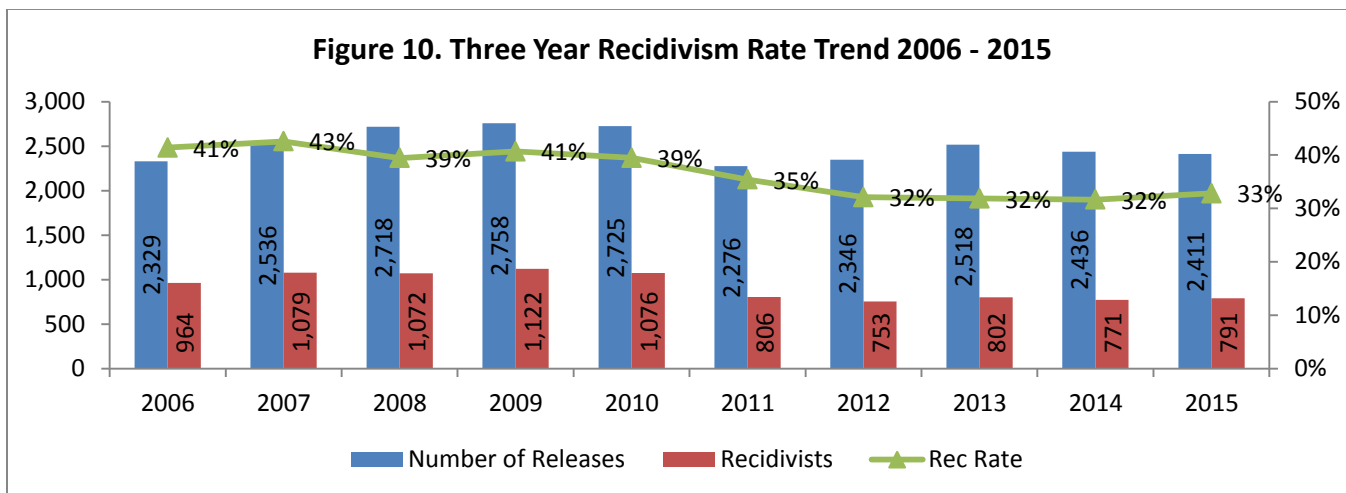
- Just under one-fourth of mandatory minimum drug offense releases recidivated within three years. This figure is up slightly, while total mandatory minimum drug releases are down 11 percent from the 2014 cohort.
- Overall drug releases are also down slightly, while male drug offenders overall are recidivating at higher rates since the previous report (from 24% to 28%).

Risk Level	Male			Female			Total		
	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate
High	1,134	468	41%	188	62	33%	1,322	530	40%
Moderate	339	81	24%	80	18	23%	419	99	24%
Low	346	46	13%	61	10	16%	407	56	14%
Total Releases	1,819	549	30%	329	80	24%	2,148	629	29%

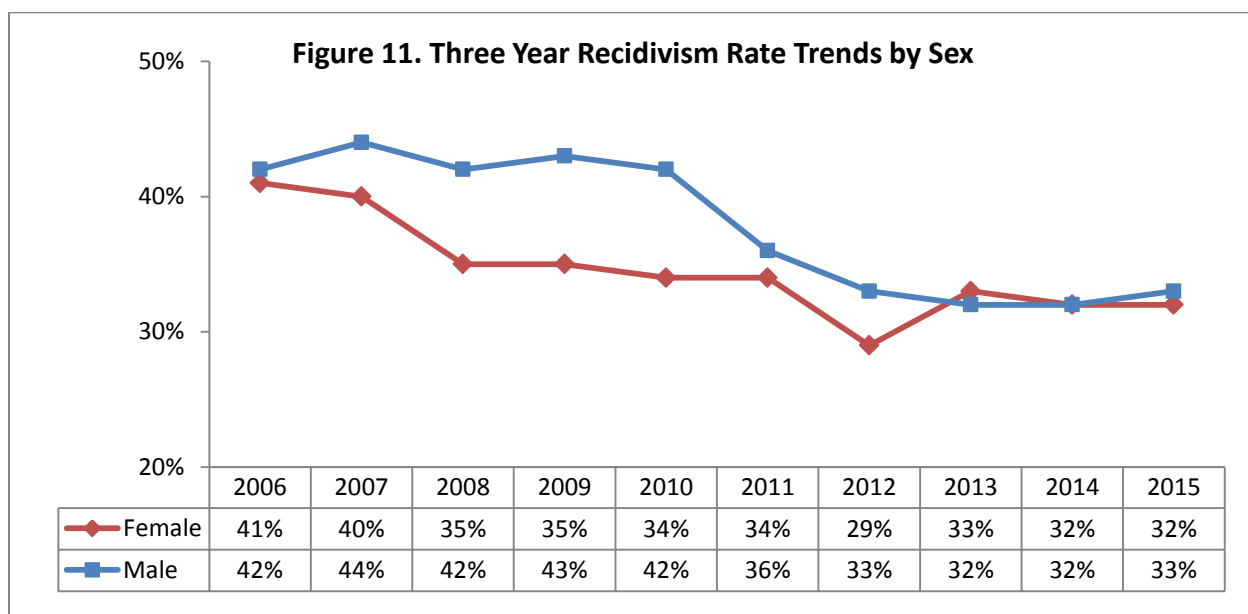
- Three year recidivism rates were positively correlated with the increase in risk level.
- Males with a low risk level had a 13% recidivism rate, compared to a rate of 41% for those with a high risk.
- Female releases with a low risk level had a 14% recidivism rate, compared to a rate of 40% for those with a high risk level.

<sup>7</sup>Of the 2,411 releases in the 2015 recidivism cohort, 263 did not have a risk score and were not included in analysis.

Yearly Trends



The recidivism rate from the 2015 MADOC release cohort has broken a three-year streak, but may still be stabilizing in the low 30 percent range. Between 2014 and 2015, releases increased by 57, but the number of recidivists increased by 67.



Recidivism rates over the past ten years by sex show that the downward trend is owed to both males and females. While female recidivism dropped earlier, male and female rates seem to have met in the low-30s range. The year 2013 was the first time since 2005 that females had a higher three year recidivism rate compared to their male counterparts, and rates were equal in 2014. Females ended the ten-year trend period with a recidivism rate of 32%, while males have edged upward slightly.

### CONCLUSION

The goal of lowering recidivism rates through evidence-based programming and improved reentry efforts remains central at the MA DOC. In late 2018, MADOC was recognized as a leader in reducing recidivism, as the best of 11 states ranked by the Council for State Governments Justice Center in a ten-year study.<sup>8</sup>

Since the passage of the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Act, increased program availability, opportunities for parole, and improved treatment of subpopulations within the DOC, among other sweeping changes, will affect the recidivism rate over the next several years. Additionally, the steady decline of the MA DOC population may push recidivism rates one way or another.

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<sup>8</sup> Details about the CSG study can be found at <https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/publications/reducing-recidivism-states-deliver-results-2018/>

Appendix I: 2015 Release Cohort Overview: Release Variables by Sex							
		Female		Male		Total	
		Total	518	Total	1,893	Total	2,411
Variable	Category	N of Releases	% of Female Releases	N of Releases	% of Male Releases	N of Releases	% of Releases
Age at Commitment	24 or Younger	88	17%	430	23%	518	21%
	25 - 29	131	25%	401	21%	532	22%
	30 - 34	99	19%	338	18%	437	18%
	35 - 39	66	13%	232	12%	298	12%
	40 - 44	45	9%	193	10%	238	10%
	45 - 49	47	9%	144	8%	191	8%
	50 - 54	25	5%	86	5%	111	5%
	55 or Older	17	3%	69	<4%	86	4%
Age at Release	24 or Younger	62	12%	152	8%	214	9%
	25 - 29	140	27%	349	18%	489	20%
	30 - 34	96	19%	343	18%	439	18%
	35 - 39	75	14%	339	18%	414	17%
	40 - 44	44	8%	219	12%	263	11%
	45 - 49	49	9%	209	11%	258	11%
	50 - 54	31	6%	140	7%	171	7%
	55 or Older	21	4%	142	8%	163	7%
Release Type	Expiration to the Community	399	77%	1375	73%	1774	74%
	Parole to the Community	119	23%	518	27%	637	26%
Post Release Supervision	No Supervision	243	47%	653	35%	896	37%
	Parole and Probation	52	10%	192	10%	244	10%
	Parole Only	67	13%	326	17%	393	16%
	Probation Only	156	30%	722	38%	878	36%*
Race/Ethnicity	White	383	74%	798	42%	1181	49%
	Black	59	11%	548	29%	607	25%
	Hispanic	37	7%	527	28%	564	23%
	Other	39	8%	20	1%	59	<3%
Governing Offense Type	Person	128	25%	803	42%	931	39%
	Property	171	33%	261	14%	432	18%
	Drug	103	20%	469	25%	572	24%
	Other	109	21%	225	12%	334	14%
	Sex	7	1%	135	7%	142	<6%
Governing Offense	Violent	135	26%	938	50%	1073	45%
	Non-violent	383	74%	955	50%	1338	55%
Security Level at Release	Maximum	n/a	n/a	215	11%	215	9%
	Medium	312	60%	884	47%	1196	50%
	Lower	206	40%	794	42%	1000	41%

Appendix II: Male Release Cohort with Recidivism Rates					
Variable	Category	N of Releases	% of Releases	N Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
<b>Overall</b>		<b>1893</b>		<b>623</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Age at Commitment</b>	24 or Younger	430	23%	164	38%
	25 - 29	401	21%	153	38%
	30 - 34	338	18%	104	31%
	35 - 39	232	12%	79	34%
	40 - 44	193	10%	60	31%
	45 - 49	144	8%	40	28%
	50 - 54	86	5%	19	22%
	55 or Older	69	<4%	4	6%
<b>Age at Release</b>	24 or Younger	152	8%	66	43%
	25 - 29	349	18%	126	36%
	30 - 34	343	18%	130	38%
	35 - 39	339	18%	116	34%
	40 - 44	219	12%	70	32%
	45 - 49	209	11%	58	28%
	50 - 54	140	7%	40	29%
	55 or Older	142	8%	18	13%
<b>Release Type</b>	Expiration to the Community	1375	73%	415	30%
	Parole to the Community	518	27%	209	40%
<b>Post Release Supervision</b>	No Supervision	653	35%	177	27%
	Parole and Probation	192	10%	83	43%
	Parole Only	326	17%	126	39%
	Probation Only	722	38%	238	33%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	White	798	42%	266	33%
	Black	548	29%	179	33%
	Hispanic	527	28%	174	33%
	Other	20	1%	5	25%
<b>Governing Offense Type</b>	Person	803	42%	297	37%
	Property	261	14%	115	44%
	Drug	469	25%	129	28%
	Other	225	12%	70	31%
	Sex	135	7%	13	10%
<b>Governing Offense</b>	Violent	938	50%	310	33%
	Non-violent	955	50%	314	33%
<b>Security Level at Release</b>	Maximum	215	11%	103	48%
	Medium	884	47%	299	34%
	Lower	794	42%	222	28%

Appendix III: Female Release Cohort with Recidivism Rates					
Variable	Category	N of Releases	% of Releases	N Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
<b>Overall</b>		<b>518</b>		<b>168</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Age at Commitment</b>	24 or Younger	88	17%	31	35%
	25 - 29	131	25%	35	27%
	30 - 34	99	19%	43	43%
	35 - 39	66	13%	24	36%
	40 - 44	45	9%	13	29%
	45 - 49	47	9%	13	28%
	50 - 54	25	5%	7	28%
	55 or Older	17	3%	2	12%
<b>Age at Release</b>	24 or Younger	62	12%	25	40%
	25 - 29	140	27%	38	27%
	30 - 34	96	19%	41	43%
	35 - 39	75	14%	28	37%
	40 - 44	44	8%	12	27%
	45 - 49	49	9%	13	27%
	50 - 54	31	6%	8	26%
	55 or Older	21	4%	3	14%
<b>Release Type</b>	Expiration to the Community	399	77%	116	29%
	Parole to the Community	119	23%	52	44%
<b>Post Release Supervision</b>	No Supervision	243	47%	62	26%
	Parole and Probation	52	10%	18	35%
	Parole Only	67	13%	34	51%
	Probation Only	156	30%	54	35%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	White	383	74%	122	32%
	Black	59	11%	24	41%
	Hispanic	37	7%	15	41%
	Other	39	8%	7	18%
<b>Governing Offense Type</b>	Person	128	25%	48	38%
	Property	171	33%	63	37%
	Drug	103	20%	25	24%
	Other	109	21%	30	27%
	Sex	7	1%	2	N.A.
<b>Governing Offense</b>	Violent	135	26%	50	37%
	Non-violent	383	74%	118	31%
<b>Security Level at Release</b>	Maximum	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	
	Medium	312	60%	111	36%
	Lower	206	40%	57	28%



Definitions	
<b>County Sentence</b>	Prior to the “Truth in Sentencing” law, if an inmate is sentenced to the House of Correction, the term shall be two and a half years or less. Parole eligibility and discharge are based on the maximum term of a sentence. Under the “new” law (enacted in 1994), discharge on this sentence will change because of the elimination of statutory good time. There is no change in the parole eligibility date.
<b>Crime Bill of 2012</b>	The common term for Chapter 192 of the Acts of 2012. Effective August 2, 2012, which resulted in an immediate change to the sentence structure for numerous inmates.
<b>Crime Bill of 2018</b>	The common term for Chapter 192 of the Acts of 2018, effective April 13, 2018, which resulted in changes to Restrictive Housing, Earned Good Time and Medical Releases.
<b>Governing Offense</b>	With respect to an individual who is incarcerated for multiple offenses, the governing offense is the offense that carries the longest maximum sentence.
<b>Lower Security</b>	Lower security includes minimum, pre-release, and electronic monitoring (ELMO).
<b>Mandatory Drug Offenders</b>	Inmates serving a governing drug sentence that carries a mandatory minimum term.
<b>Offense Category</b>	Offense categories include Person, Property, Sex, Drug, and Other. Offense categories represent the inmate’s governing offense.
<b>Parole</b>	The discharge of an inmate from a Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction to the community while under the supervision of the Parole Board. Such discharged inmates may be re-incarcerated for violating the terms of their supervision imposed by the Parole Board.
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	The race categories self-reported and used in this report include: Caucasian, African American/Black, Asian, Hawaiian-Pacific Islander, and American Indian-Alaska Native. Inmates who report a Hispanic ethnicity are reported as Hispanic in this race category.
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	Number of inmates re-incarcerated within three years of their release to the community divided by the number of inmates released.
<b>Recidivism Risk Score</b>	On intake to the prison system, each inmate is given assessments to establish his/her Intake/Criminal History/Risk Scale Set. Components of the scale set are the General and Violent Recidivism Risk Scores which may be used to predict recidivism risk. The risk scores are based on a COMPAS Core scale (an automated risk need assessment tool). The amount of programming required for a given inmate is established based on a simplified scale of Low, Moderate or High recidivism risk inmates. The inmate’s most recent risk assessment data was used prior to his/her release to the community.
<b>Release Address</b>	Release address is self-reported by the inmate prior to release. When a release address is not provided, the last known address reported by the inmate is used.
<b>State Prison Sentence</b>	Prior to the “Truth in Sentencing” law, if an inmate is sentenced to the State Prison, except for life or as a habitual criminal, the court shall not fix the term of imprisonment, but shall fix a maximum and minimum term for which he/she may be imprisoned. The minimum term shall not be less than two and a half years. All sentences that have a finite maximum term are eligible to have the term reduced by statutory good time, except for most sex offenses, crimes committed while confined and certain “mandatory” sentences. In the “new law”, all state sentences have a minimum and a maximum term, unless an inmate is sentenced for life or is charged as a habitual criminal. The minimum term is used to determine parole eligibility, and the maximum term is used to determine discharge. Under both the “old” and “new” sentencing systems, an inmate is discharged from his/her sentence at the expiration of his term, less any statutory or earned good time. Under the “new” system none of the reduction will be attributable to statutory good time.
<b>Split Sentence</b>	Sentence that includes a period of incarceration and a period of probation in the community.
<b>Violent/Non-Violent Offense</b>	Person and Sex offenses are combined into the category ‘Violent Offenses’. Property, Drug, and ‘Other’ offenses are categorized into ‘Non-Violent’ offenses.