

Massachusetts Department of Correction  
Three-Year Recidivism Rates: 2018 Release  
Cohort

Calendar Year 2018



Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
November 2024

Maura T. Healey, Governor  
Terrence M. Reidy, Secretary of Public Safety and Security



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Maura T. Healey, Governor

Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor

**Executive Office of Public Safety and Security**

Terrence M. Reidy, Secretary

**Massachusetts Department of Correction**

Shawn P. Jenkins, Commissioner

Rhiana Kohl, Ph.D., Executive Director of Strategic Planning & Research

**Author: Research and Planning Division**

Hollie Matthews, Deputy Director  
Alexandria Merullo, Program Coordinator II  
Katelyn DiChiara, Program Coordinator I

For questions regarding this report, please contact the Research & Planning Division:

Research & Planning Division  
50 Maple Street  
Milford, MA 01757  
[Research@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:Research@massmail.state.ma.us)

**This and other Massachusetts Department of Correction publications can be accessed on the internet at:**

<https://www.mass.gov/research-statistics-and-reports>

**Table of Contents**

Acknowledgments ..... i

Table of Contents ..... ii

Introduction ..... 1

2018 Release Cohort Overview ..... 2

Recidivism Statistics ..... 2

Yearly Trends ..... 11

Conclusion ..... 12

Appendix I: 2018 Release Cohort Overview: Releases by Assigned Sex ..... 13

Appendix II: Male 2018 Release Cohort with Recidivism Rates ..... 14

Appendix III: Females 2018 Release Cohort with Recidivism Rates ..... 15

Definitions ..... 16

## Three-Year Recidivism Rates: 2018 Release Cohort

### I. Introduction

Data presented herein represents recidivism statistics and administrative data for 2,006 criminally sentenced incarcerated individuals released to the community from the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC) during calendar year 2018 via expiration of sentence or parole to the community. Each release during the year is counted, making it possible for one incarcerated individual to be included multiple times.<sup>1</sup> The MA DOC defines a recidivist as any criminally sentenced incarcerated individual 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<sup>2</sup> includes information on incarcerated individual 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 derived from information available at the time of collection and are subject to change. The criminal activity of incarcerated individuals released to the community during 2018 was tracked through the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) to determine any re-incarceration within three years of their release to the community.

An incarcerated individual 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.

It is important to note that a released incarcerated individual 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*

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

Incarcerated individuals released to the community with parole or probation conditions are supervised for a period of time while in the community. An incarcerated individual 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.

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

### II. 2018 Release Cohort Overview

<sup>1</sup> In 2018, there were 51 incarcerated individuals who had multiple releases on the same commitment number within the calendar year.

<sup>2</sup> Data presented reflects information at the time data was collected.

Below are key details describing the 2,006 MA DOC criminal releases in 2018. See page 13 for the full profile.

- Males (n = 1603) made up 80% of the 2,006 releases, while females (n = 403) made up 20%.
- Just under half (49%) of all releases self-identified as White – over three-fourths of females, and 42% of males. Of the male releases, over half identified as either Black or African American (29%) or Hispanic (28%).
- Altogether, 45% of the release population had served a violent governing offense. Just under half of males and almost a third of females released had served a violent governing offense.
- While more incarcerated individuals were serving non-violent offenses, the most common offense type for releases was Person Offense (38%), which is considered a violent offense.
- The age of incarcerated individuals at time of release from the MA DOC ranged from 19 to 81 years old.
- Twenty-seven percent of the releases in the cohort were aged 40 or older at time of commitment. The percentage of the cohort aged 40 or older at time of release grew to 38% compared to age at time of commitment. Overall, males were younger than females at time of commitment, but were older than females at time of release. This indicates males serving longer sentences than their female counterparts.
- The majority of the incarcerated individuals were released via expiration of sentence to their community (76%), while the remaining 24% were released via parole to their community.
- More than half (53%) of females and over one-third (37%) of males were released without parole or probation supervision.
- Half of releases came from medium security facilities, and another 34% of releases came from lower security facilities. The remaining 16% of releases came from a maximum security facility.

**III. Recidivism Statistics**

Of the 2,006 criminally sentenced released to the community in 2018, 574 (29%) recidivated within three years of release. There were 114 female recidivists and 460 male recidivists.

**Table 1. Three-Year Recidivism Rates: 2018 Release Cohort**

<b>Overall</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>29%</b>

- The three-year recidivism rate remains the same (29%) compared to the overall rate of the 2017 release cohort. The recidivism rates for male and female incarcerated individuals were also the same compared to the 2017 release cohort.

An incarcerated individual on parole or probation who violates the terms of the conditions<sup>3</sup> set forth regarding their release may be re-incarcerated; this return is called a technical violation<sup>4</sup>. A non-technical violation would involve an arraignment for a new crime.

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

**Table 2: Three-Year Recidivism Rates Excluding and Including Re-incarcerations for Technical Violators: Re-incarceration Year by Assigned Sex**

Three-Year Recidivism Rates by Assigned Sex and Year <u>Excluding</u> Technical Violations									
		1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		Total	
Gender	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate
Female	403	44	11%	30	7%	10	2%	84	21%
Male	1,603	163	10%	137	9%	82	5%	382	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>23%</b>
Three-Year Recidivism Rate by Assigned Sex and Year <u>Including</u> Technical Violations									
		1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		Total	
Gender	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate
Female	403	75	19%	30	7%	9	2%	114	28%
Male	1,603	243	15%	138	9%	79	5%	460	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>29%</b>

<sup>3</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>4</sup> To calculate the recidivism rate excluding technical violations, the first non-technical re-incarceration within three years of release was used. Incarcerated individuals who were returned for a technical violation were incarcerated for a period of time, diminishing the likelihood of a non-technical return.

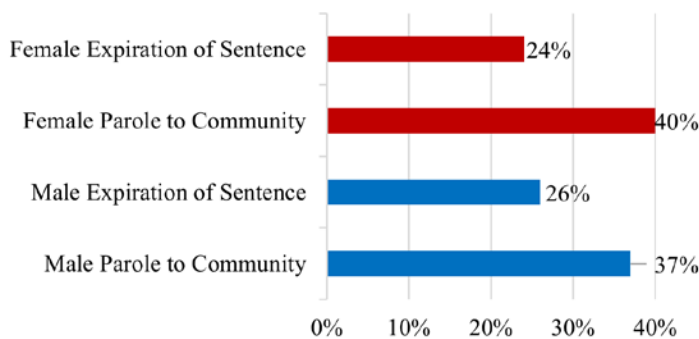
**Table 3: Three-Year Recidivism Rates Excluding and Including Re-incarcerations for Technical Violations: Type of Release by Assigned Sex**

Three-Year Recidivism Rates <u>Excluding</u> Technical Violations of Parole or Probation									
Release Type	Males			Females			Total		
	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate
Parole To Community	379	61	16%	103	12	12%	482	73	15%
Expiration of Sentence	1,224	321	26%	300	72	24%	1,524	393	26%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>23%</b>

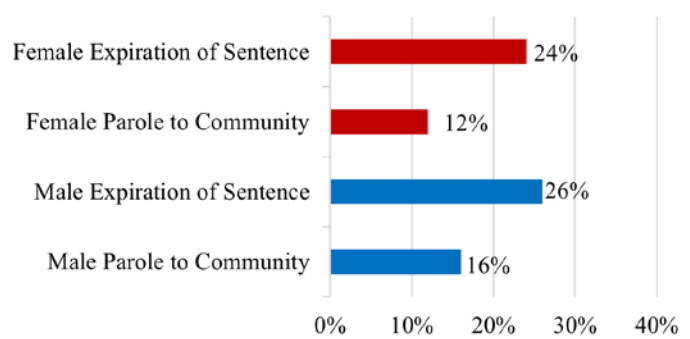
  

Three-Year Recidivism Rates <u>Including</u> Technical Violations of Parole or Probation									
Release Type	Males			Females			Total		
	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate
Parole To Community	379	139	37%	103	41	40%	482	180	37%
Expiration of Sentence	1,224	321	36%	300	73	24%	1542	394	26%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>29%</b>

**Figure 1: Three-Year Recidivism Rate Including Technical Violations**



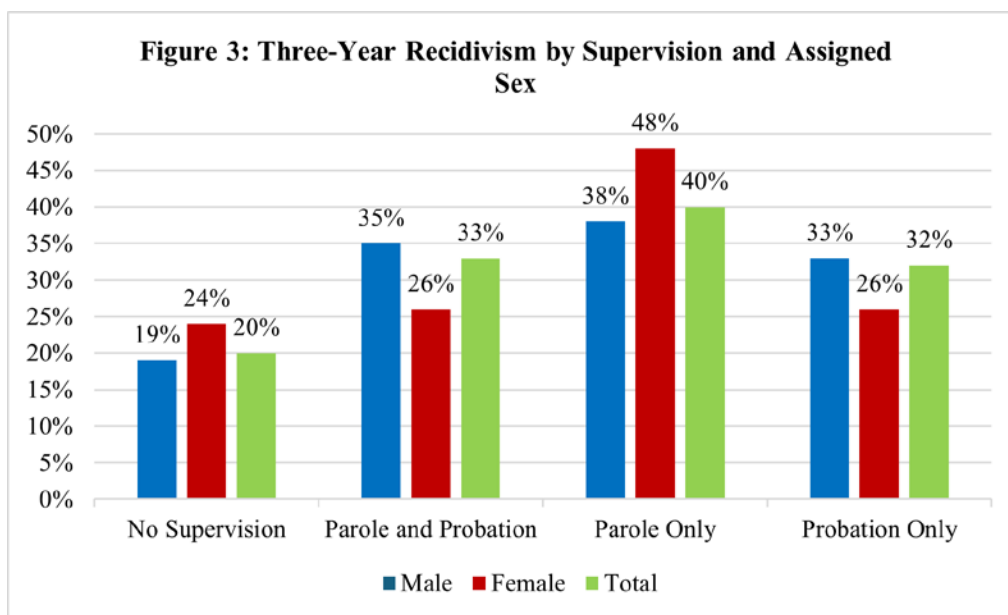
**Figure 2: Three-Year Recidivism Rate Excluding Technical Violations**



- Generally, incarcerated individuals paroled to the community recidivate at higher rates as they are under supervision, but only when considering technical violations (Figure 1). When excluding technical violations<sup>5</sup>, both males and females paroled to the community recidivated at a lower rate than those who were released upon expiration of their sentence (Figures 1 and 2).

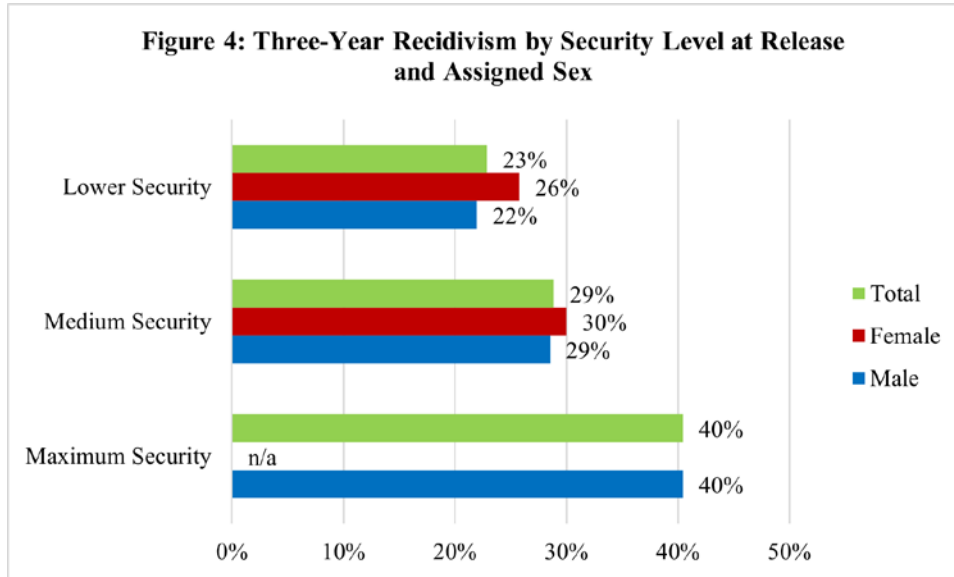
<sup>5</sup> Note: incarcerated individuals who were returned for a technical violation were incarcerated for a period of time, diminishing the likelihood of a non-technical return. This is highlighted by the lower recidivism rate for paroled incarcerated individuals when excluding technical violations.

- Of the 574 incarcerated individuals who recidivated using the definition including technical violations, 125 were re-incarcerated for a technical parole violation and one was re-incarcerated for a technical probation violation. The majority (92%) of technical violations occurred within the first year of release.
- Eighteen incarcerated individuals had both a technical and a non-technical return within the three-year study period. These 18 represent about 14% of the 126 technical violators within the study period.
- Overall, the recidivism rate decreased by six percentage points, from 29% to 23% when excluding technical violators (Table 2).
- When excluding technical violators, the recidivism rate was 10% during the first year of the follow-up period, compared to a rate of 16% when technical violators were included.
- When excluding technical violators, the recidivism rate for the second-year remained the same, at 8%, while the third-year recidivism rate increased by one percentage point, from 4% to 5%.



- Incarcerated individuals, released with parole supervision only, had the highest recidivism rate of 40%, followed by those with both parole and probation supervision (33%) (Figure 3). Again, incarcerated individuals under supervision consistently recidivate at a higher rate and most parolees returned for technical violations.
- Females on parole supervision only (n=64) were most likely to recidivate.





- Recidivism rates for incarcerated individuals released during 2018 were positively correlated with the security level of the releasing facility (see Figure 4). The recidivism rate for both male and female incarcerated individuals increased as the security level of the releasing institution increased.
- Males released from maximum security had the highest recidivism rate (40%), followed by 29% for medium security releases and 22% for releases from lower security. Female releases from medium security had a recidivism rate of 30%, compared to a rate of 26% for those released from a lower security level.

**Table 4. Female State and County Three-Year Recidivism Rate: 2018 Release Cohort**

State Sentenced Females	19%
County Sentenced Females <sup>6</sup>	30%

- State sentenced females had a recidivism rate of 19%, eleven percentage points lower than that of county sentenced females (30%).

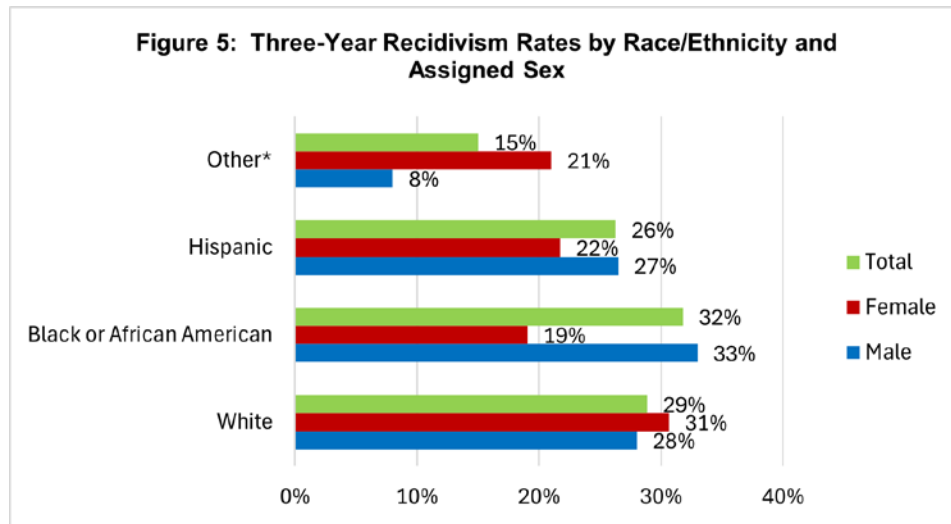
<sup>6</sup> Females sentenced from the court to serve a county sentence often serve that sentence in a state correctional facility due to limited female bed space at the county level. County sentenced females comprised 80% of the criminally sentenced female releases from the MA DOC included in the 2018 recidivism cohort.

**Table 5. Three-Year Recidivism Rates by Release Address: Massachusetts Counties<sup>78</sup>**

Release Address County	Female		Male		Total	
	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Barnstable	15	n/a	34	32%	49	27%
Berkshire	1	n/a	26	38%	27	41%
Bristol	36	42%	188	31%	224	33%
Dukes	0	n/a	2	n/a	2	n/a
Essex	96	28%	160	26%	256	27%
Franklin	0	n/a	21	14%	21	14%
Hampden	5	n/a	205	27%	210	27%
Hampshire	2	n/a	11	n/a	13	n/a
Middlesex	69	23%	164	29%	233	27%
Nantucket	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
Norfolk	42	21%	68	25%	110	24%
Plymouth	52	33%	74	30%	126	31%
Suffolk	43	33%	340	32%	383	32%
Worcester	22	36%	202	31%	224	32%
Out of State	19	n/a	107	15%	126	14%
Unknown	1	n/a	1	n/a	2	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>29%</b>

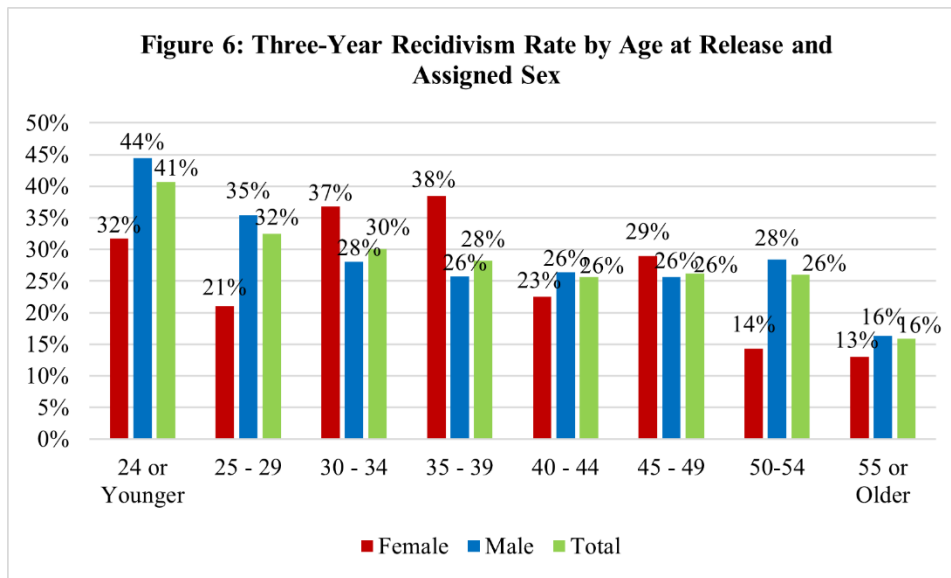
- Of the 2,006 releases in 2018, the vast majority (94%) released somewhere in Massachusetts. Table 5 ranks recidivism rates of counties to which incarcerated individuals were released.
- The county where incarcerated individuals had the highest recidivism rates overall was Berkshire County (41%).
- Females saw the highest number of releases to Essex and Middlesex counties, and highest recidivism rates from, Bristol and Worcester Counties.
- Males saw the highest releases to Suffolk County, followed by Hampden and Worcester Counties, while the highest recidivism rate was for Berkshire County, followed by Barnstable and Suffolk Counties. Rates may be skewed due to the smaller number of releases to some counties.

<sup>7</sup> For releases where the numeric value was less than 20, recidivism rates were not reported in the figure

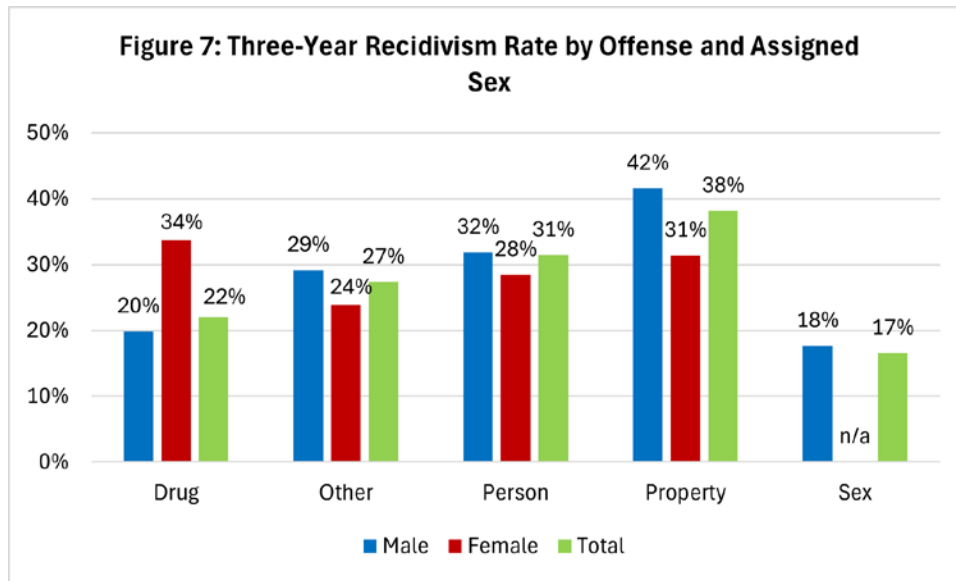


\*Other includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, and Unknown

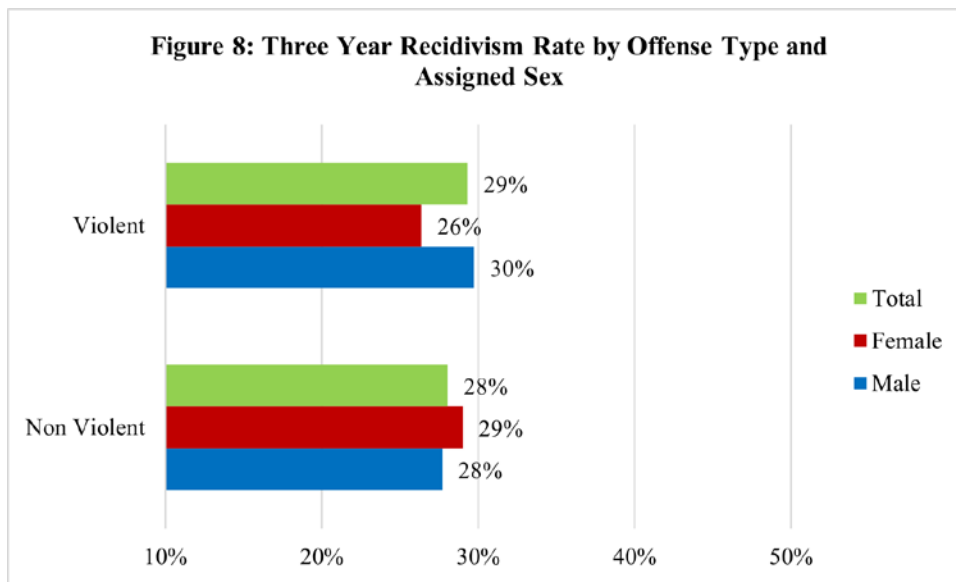
- Male incarcerated individuals reporting a race/ethnicity of Hispanic had the lowest recidivism rate at 27%, while those reporting a race/ethnicity of Black or African American recidivated at the highest rate (33%). Female incarcerated individuals reporting a race/ethnicity of White had the highest recidivism rate of 31%, followed by Hispanic at 22%.



- Males younger than 24 years old at release had the highest recidivism rate of 44%, while the highest recidivism rate for females at release was the 35-39 age cohort (38%).
- Male and female incarcerated individuals aged 55 or older recidivated at the lowest rates, 16% and 13%, respectively. The lower recidivism rates for the oldest age groups are consistent with research on age and recidivism.

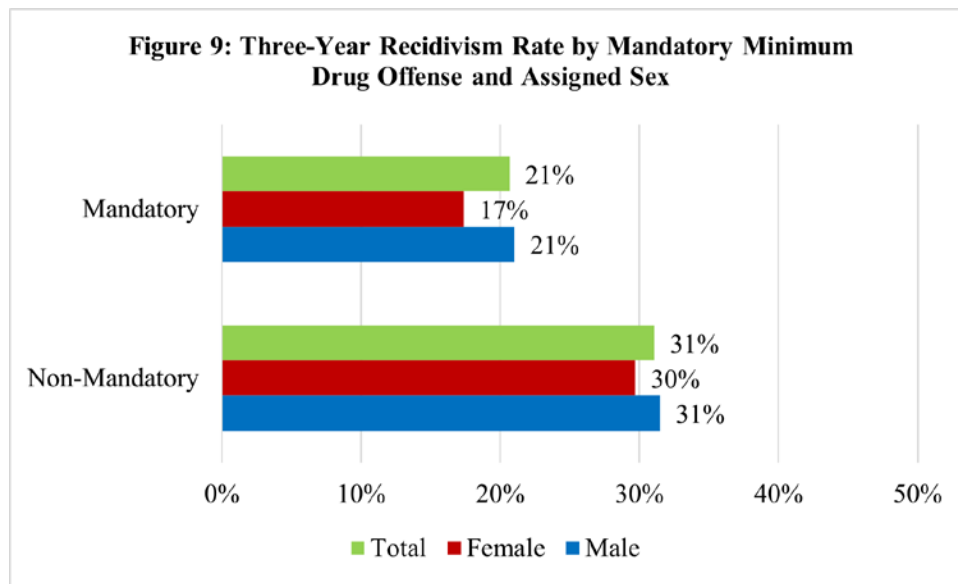


- Overall, property offenders had the highest recidivism rate of all offense types<sup>9</sup> (38%), followed by person offenses, with a 31% recidivism rate. For male incarcerated individuals property offenders had the highest recidivism rate of 42%, while sex offenders had the lowest recidivism rate (18%).



- Recidivism rates for male incarcerated individuals released after serving a sentence for violent (Person, Sex) offenses were higher compared to non-violent (Property, Drug, Other) offenses, while violent offense recidivism was lower for females. The recidivism rate for incarcerated individuals serving a violent offense was higher for males than females.

<sup>9</sup> For releases where the numeric value was less than 20, recidivism rates were not reported in the figure.



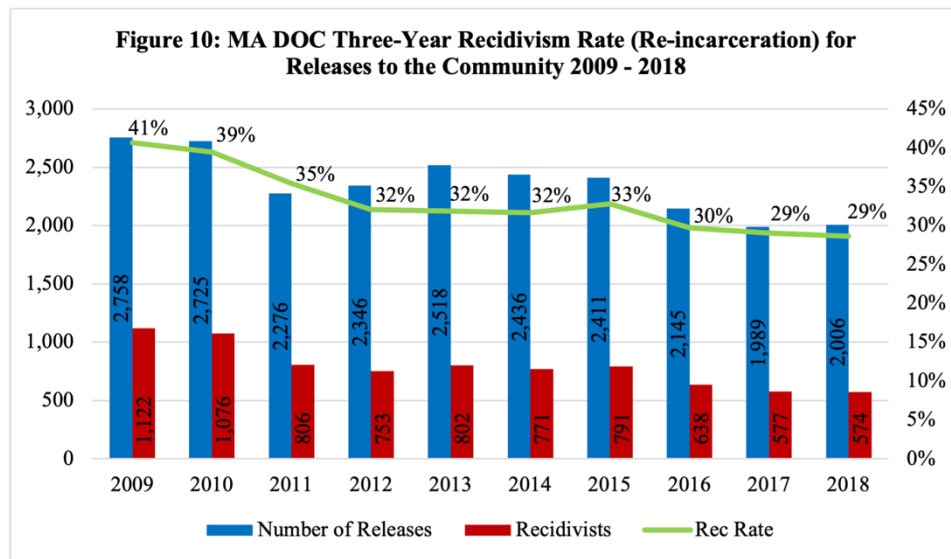
- In total, twenty-one percent of mandatory minimum drug offense releases recidivated within three years. For those serving a governing non-mandatory drug offense, females had the lowest recidivism rate (30%), while males recidivated at a rate of 31% (Figure 9).

Risk Level	Male			Female			Total		
	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate
High	728	277	38%	90	31	34%	818	308	38%
Moderate	441	123	28%	67	19	28%	508	142	28%
Low	416	55	13%	87	13	15%	503	68	14%
Total Releases	1,585	455	29%	244	63	26%	1,829	518	28%

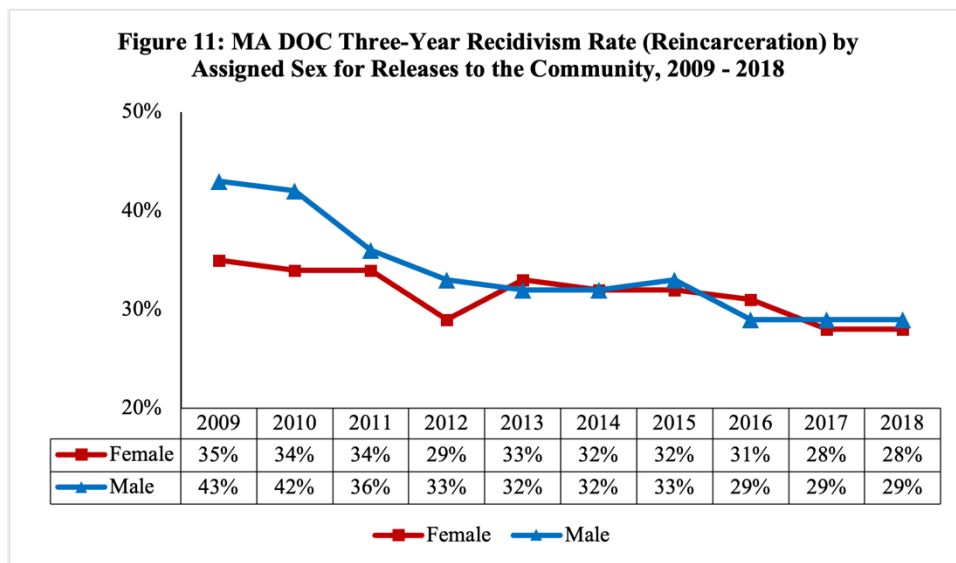
- Three-year recidivism rates were positively correlated with the increase in risk level.
- Males with a low-risk level had a 13% recidivism rate, compared to a rate of 38% for those with a high-risk.
- Female releases with a low-risk level had a 15% recidivism rate, compared to a rate of 34% for those with a high-risk level.

<sup>10</sup> Of the 2,006 releases in the 2018 cohort, 177 did not have a risk score and are not included in the table.

**IV. Yearly Trends**



- Over the ten-year trend period the recidivism rate for releases to the community via parole or expiration of sentence reached a high of 41% with the 2009 release cohort. The rate began to decline steadily beginning with the 2010 releases, reaching a low 29% for the most recent release cohorts.



- The downward trend over the past 10 years has occurred for both males and females. Male and female rates declined between 2009 and 2012, with males experiencing a more notable decrease. Females experience a slight uptick in 2013, surpassing the male recidivism rate for the first time since 2005, rates were equal in 2014, and female recidivism rates surpassed the male rate again in 2016. Females ended the ten-year trend period with a recidivism rate of 28%, while males ended at 29% for the third consecutive year.

## **V. Conclusion**

The goal of lowering recidivism rates through evidence-based programming and improved reentry efforts remains central at the MA DOC. In late 2018, MA DOC 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>11</sup>.

Ten years of recidivism data for the years 2009 – 2018 showed a decrease in recidivism rates. The decline took place among nearly all categories of demographics tested, though more sharply among males than females. Because the declines occurred across board, it is difficult for us to pinpoint the drivers of the downward trend observed. However, there are still categories where the rate of recidivism remained high even though the rate went down from 2009 to 2018. Focusing on the incarcerated individuals in these categories will help lower the rate of recidivism further. These categories include individuals released from maximum security, less than 30 years of age, with a governing property or person offense.

Since the passage of the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Act, increased program availability, opportunities for parole, and improved treatment of subpopulations within the MA DOC, among other sweeping changes, will affect the recidivism rate over the next several years.

---

<sup>11</sup> Details about the CSG study can be found at <https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrc/publications/reducing-recidivism-states-deliver-results-2018/>

Appendix I: 2018 Release Cohort Overview: Release Variables by Assigned Sex							
		Female		Male		Total	
		Total	403	Total	1,603	Total	2,006
Variable	Category	Number of Releases	% of Female Releases	Number of Releases	% of Male Releases	Number of Releases	% of Releases
Age at Commitment	24 or Younger	50	12%	313	20%	363	18%
	25 - 29	86	21%	335	21%	421	21%
	30 - 34	85	21%	303	19%	388	19%
	35 - 39	66	16%	220	14%	286	14%
	40 - 44	31	8%	161	10%	192	10%
	45 - 49	43	11%	132	8%	175	9%
	50 - 54	22	5%	82	5%	104	5%
	55 or Older	20	5%	57	4%	77	4%
Age at Release	24 or Younger	41	10%	99	6%	140	7%
	25 - 29	81	20%	316	20%	397	20%
	30 - 34	87	22%	292	18%	379	19%
	35 - 39	65	16%	272	17%	337	17%
	40 - 44	40	10%	178	11%	218	11%
	45 - 49	38	9%	164	10%	202	10%
	50 - 54	28	7%	141	9%	169	8%
	55 or Older	23	6%	141	9%	164	8%
Release Type	Expiration to the Community	300	74%	1,224	76%	1,524	76%
	Parole to the Community	103	26%	379	24%	482	24%
Post Release Supervision	No Supervision	214	53%	593	37%	807	40%
	Parole and Probation	39	10%	142	9%	181	9%
	Parole Only	64	16%	237	15%	301	15%
	Probation Only	86	21%	631	39%	717	36%
Race/Ethnicity	White	310	77%	671	42%	981	49%
	Black or African American	42	10%	458	29%	500	25%
	Hispanic	23	6%	449	28%	472	24%
	Other	28	7%	25	2%	53	3%
Governing Offense Type	Person	102	25%	668	42%	770	38%
	Property	102	25%	202	13%	304	15%
	Drug	74	18%	398	25%	472	24%
	Other	117	29%	216	13%	333	17%
	Sex	8	n/a	119	7%	127	6%
Governing Offense	Violent	110	27%	787	49%	897	45%
	Non-violent	293	73%	816	51%	1,109	55%
Security Level at Release	Maximum	n/a	n/a	314	20%	314	16%
	Medium	240	60%	761	47%	1,001	50%
	Lower	163	40%	528	33%	691	34%



Appendix II: Male 2018 Release Cohort with Recidivism Rates				
Variable	Category	Number of Releases	Number of Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
Age at Commitment	24 or Younger	313	111	35%
	25 - 29	335	110	33%
	30 - 34	303	86	28%
	35 - 39	220	50	23%
	40 - 44	161	41	25%
	45 - 49	132	36	27%
	50 - 54	82	17	21%
	55 or Older	57	9	16%
Age at Release	24 or Younger	99	44	44%
	25 - 29	316	112	35%
	30 - 34	292	82	28%
	35 - 39	272	70	26%
	40 - 44	178	47	26%
	45 - 49	164	42	26%
	50 - 54	141	40	28%
	55 or Older	141	23	16%
Release Type	Expiration to the Community	1224	321	26%
	Parole to the Community	379	139	37%
Post Release Supervision	No Supervision	593	112	19%
	Parole and Probation	142	50	35%
	Parole Only	237	89	38%
	Probation Only	631	209	33%
Race/Ethnicity	White	671	188	28%
	Black or African American	458	151	33%
	Hispanic	449	119	27%
	Other	25	2	8%
Governing Offense Type	Person	668	213	32%
	Property	202	84	42%
	Drug	398	79	20%
	Other	216	63	29%
	Sex	119	21	18%
Governing Offense	Violent	787	243	31%
	Non-violent	816	226	28%
Security Level at Release	Maximum	314	127	40%
	Medium	761	217	29%
	Lower	528	116	22%

Appendix III: Female 2018 Release Cohort with Recidivism Rates				
Variable	Category	Number of Releases	Number of Recidivists	Recidivism Rate
Age at Commitment	24 or Younger	50	15	30%
	25 - 29	86	17	20%
	30 - 34	85	35	41%
	35 - 39	66	22	33%
	40 - 44	31	9	29%
	45 - 49	43	9	21%
	50 - 54	22	5	23%
	55 or Older	20	2	10%
Age at Release	24 or Younger	41	13	32%
	25 - 29	81	17	21%
	30 - 34	87	32	37%
	35 - 39	65	25	38%
	40 - 44	40	9	23%
	45 - 49	38	11	29%
	50 - 54	28	4	14%
	55 or Older	23	3	13%
Release Type	Expiration to the Community	300	73	24%
	Parole to the Community	103	41	40%
Post Release Supervision	No Supervision	214	51	24%
	Parole and Probation	39	10	26%
	Parole Only	64	31	48%
	Probation Only	86	22	26%
Race/Ethnicity	White	310	95	31%
	Black or African American	42	8	19%
	Hispanic	23	5	22%
	Other	28	6	21%
Governing Offense Type	Person	102	29	28%
	Property	102	32	31%
	Drug	74	25	34%
	Other	117	28	24%
	Sex	8	0	0%
Governing Offense	Violent	110	29	26%
	Non-violent	293	85	29%
Security Level at Release	Maximum	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Medium	240	72	30%
	Lower	163	42	26%

Definitions	
<b>County Sentence</b>	Prior to the “Truth in Sentencing” law, if an incarcerated individual 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 incarcerated individuals.
<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>	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>	Incarcerated individuals 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 incarcerated individual’s governing offense.
<b>Parole</b>	The discharge of an incarcerated individual from a Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction to the community while under the supervision of the Parole Board. Such discharged incarcerated individuals 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: African American/Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, White, and Unknown. The ‘Other’ race category reported in the tables includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, and Unknown. Incarcerated individuals who report a Hispanic ethnicity are reported as Hispanic in this race category.
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	Number of incarcerated individuals re-incarcerated within three years of their release to the community divided by the number of incarcerated individuals released.
<b>Recidivism Risk Score</b>	On intake to the prison system, each incarcerated individual 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 incarcerated individual is established based on a simplified scale of Low, Moderate or High recidivism risk incarcerated individuals. The incarcerated individual’s most recent general risk assessment data was used prior to his/her release to the community.
<b>Release Address</b>	Release address is self-reported by the incarcerated individual prior to release. When a release address is not provided, the last known address reported by the incarcerated individual is used.
<b>State Prison Sentence</b>	Prior to the “Truth in Sentencing” law, if an incarcerated individual 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 incarcerated individual 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 incarcerated individual 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>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.