National Corrections and Recidivism Statistics

Bureau of Justice Statistics

April 4, 2022

12:00 – 1:15 PM
Virtual Meeting/Conference Recording Notice

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#SecondChanceMonth
#SecondChanceMonth22
Leonardo Antenangeli, Ph.D., Statistician
E. Ann Carson, Ph.D., Statistician
Matt Durose, Statistician
Danielle Kaebble, Statistician
1. Present Findings from Recidivism Studies of Persons Released from State Prison in 2008 and 2012

2. Discuss Report on Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010

3. Demonstrate New Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (CSAT) - Prisoners data tool
Recidivism Studies of Persons Released from State Prison in 2008 and 2012

1. How is recidivism defined?
2. New BJS studies based on largest cohort and follow-up period to date
3. Comparing recidivism rates over time
Recidivism is defined multiple ways
Recidivism measures include three common traits

**Starting event**
- Placed on probation
- Released from prison

**Outcome measure**
- Arrest
- Conviction
- Return to prison

**Follow-up period**
- 1 year
- 3 years
- 5 years
- 8 years
- 10 years
BJS has studied recidivism since the early 1980’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State prisoners released in—</th>
<th>Follow-up period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>9 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Multiple data sources used for sample selection and outcome measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prisoner records</th>
<th>Criminal history data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prison admission and release dates</td>
<td>Data prior to and following prison release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographic characteristics</td>
<td>Data within and outside the state where released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison commitment offenses</td>
<td>• Arrests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence length</td>
<td>• Convictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Incarcerations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period
Largest sample for a BJS recidivism study to date

- State prisoners released in 2012 in 34 states
- Sampled 92,100 to represent 408,300 prisoners
- 79% of all prisoners released nationwide
- 5-year follow-up period

Males accounted for 9 in 10 prisoners released in 2012

89% Male
11% Female

White prisoners comprised the largest percentage of prisoners released in 2012

- **44%** White
- **36%** Black
- **16%** Hispanic
- **2%** American Indian/Alaska Native
- **1%** Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- **2%** Other

The median age of prisoners released in 2012 was 33 years.

- 16% were 24 or younger
- 50% were 25-39
- 34% were 40 or older

About 1 in 4 prisoners were serving time for a violent offense

- Violent: 28%
- Property: 28%
- Drug: 26%
- Public order: 19%

About 4 in 10 prisoners had 10 or more prior arrests

- 4 or fewer: 26%
- 5-9: 31%
- 10 or more: 43%

7 in 10 prisoners released were arrested and about half returned to prison

Younger persons were arrested at higher rates than older persons following release

Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.
Those with more prior arrests in their criminal history were re-arrested at higher rates.

- 10 or more arrests: 81%
- 5–9 arrests: 70%
- 4 or fewer arrests: 55%

Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.
About half of prisoners released were arrested for a public-order offense.

Post-release arrest offenses within 5 years

- Any offense: 71%
- Violent: 28%
- Property: 36%
- Drug: 33%
- Public order: 54%

Note: Detail does not sum to “Any offense” because some persons were arrested for more than one type of offense during the follow-up period.

Other key findings

• About 1 in 10 were arrested within 5 years outside of the state that released them.
• An estimated 1.1 million arrests occurred within 5 years.
• The annual arrest percentage declined from 37% in Year 1 to 26% in Year 5.

Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.
Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 24 States in 2008: A 10-Year Follow-Up Period
Longest follow-up period for a BJS recidivism study to date

- State prisoners released in 2008 in 24 states
- Sampled 73,600 to represent 409,300 prisoners
- 69% of all prisoners released nationwide
- 10-year follow-up period

Annual arrest rates declined from Year 1 to Year 5

Year after release

- Year 1: 37%
- Year 2: 33%
- Year 3: 29%
- Year 4: 28%
- Year 5: 26%

2012 release cohort

Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.
Annual arrest rates declined from Year 5 to Year 10

Year 1: 43%
Year 2: 36%
Year 3: 33%
Year 4: 31%
Year 5: 29%
Year 6: 28%
Year 7: 25%
Year 8: 24%
Year 9: 23%
Year 10: 22%

2008 release cohort

Year after release

Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.
Females had lower arrest rates than males from Year 1 to Year 10

Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.
Have recidivism rates changed over time?
Percent arrested for any offense within 5 years declined from 2005 to 2012

Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.
Percent arrested for a violent offense within 5 years was similar among those released in 2005 and 2012.

Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010
Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010

E. Ann Carson, Ph.D., BJS Statistician; Danielle H. Sandler, Ph.D., U.S. Census Bureau Senior Economist; Renuka Bhashkar and Leticia E. Fernandez, Ph.D., U.S. Census Bureau Survey Statistician; and Sonya R. Porter, Ph.D., U.S. Census Bureau Principal Sociologist and Demographer

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) produced this study to fulfill a congressional mandate in the Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act, part of the 2019 Defense Reauthorization Act (P.L. 116-92, Title XI, Subtitle B, Section 1124). Congress tasked BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau with reporting on post-prison employment of persons released from federal prison. The study population in this report includes 51,950 persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) whose release records could be linked by the U.S. Census Bureau to employment and wage files from the Longitudinal Employee-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program.1 The Census Bureau assigned a Protected Identification Key (PIK) to release records to link them to employment records. Approximately 30% (22,000) of the 73,500 persons released from federal prison in 2010 could not be assigned a PIK. These persons were excluded from the current analysis because linkage to the LEHD data requires a PIK.

Unless otherwise stated, all statistics presented in this report refer to the study population, which is 51,950 persons released from federal prison whose data could be linked to employment records.

U.S. Census Bureau Disclaimer
Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339).

Highlights

- Of the 73,500 persons released from federal prison in 2010, a total of 51,950 (70%) received a Protected Identification Key (PIK) that allowed for linkage to employment records from 2010 to 2014.
- A third (33%) of persons in the study population did not find employment at any point during the 16 quarters after their release from prison from 2010 to 2014.
- Persons in the study population convicted of drug offenses had higher post-prison employment rates than persons convicted of other offenses.
- A higher percentage of females than males were employed in each of the 16 quarters following their release in 2010; however, females who were employed were paid a median of $800 to $1,800 less per quarter than employed males.

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NCJ 303147

Report available at: https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/eprfp10.pdf
Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010

- Study mandated by the Fair Chance for Jobs Act, part of the 2019 Defense Reauthorization Act (P.L. 116-92, Title XI, Subtitle B, Section 1124)
- Required a report to Congress by December 2021, and then every 5 years thereafter, covering employment and unemployment of former federal prisoners
- BJS had to use external data sources to complete this report
- Agreement with the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to use data on 2010 federal prison release cohort in linkage to individual-level employment data housed at the U.S. Census Bureau

Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) data

• Consists of data from state Unemployment Insurance earnings and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data collections
• These data provide employment and earnings information for all persons who earned at least $1 in wages during a quarter (3 months)
• LEHD data for all 50 states are available from 2000 forward and for a subset of states prior to 2000
• Census receives data from each state and combines into national database
• Data include dates of employment, earnings per quarter, employment sector

Comparing characteristics of federal and state prisoners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Federal prisoners</th>
<th>State prisoners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age on December 31, 2020</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 years or younger</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 – 34 years</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 – 44 years</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 – 54 years</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 – 64 years</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years or older</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Federal prisoners</th>
<th>State prisoners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race/ethnicity, 2020</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic white</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic black</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic American Indian/Asian/Other</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offense distribution, 2019</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public order</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Federal Justice Statistics Program BOP release data

• 73,500 persons released from federal custody in 2010

• Only 70% of the 2010 release cohort could be assigned a linking identification number (51,500 persons)
  
  o While Hispanics accounted for 49% of all persons released from the BOP in 2010, they only accounted for 31% of those who received a linking identification number
  
  o Of the 22,000 persons released from the BOP in 2010 who could not be assigned a linking identification number, almost 98% were non-U.S. citizens
  
  o Hispanics accounted for 77% of non-U.S. citizens released from the BOP in 2010

Individual follow-up periods to measure employment

Quarter of release
(One of the quarters in 2010)
### Measures of employment for persons released from federal prison in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number in study population</td>
<td>51,500</td>
<td>45,300</td>
<td>6,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent ever employed in 16 quarters after quarter of release</td>
<td>67.0%</td>
<td>65.6%</td>
<td>74.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean number of quarters employed (maximum=16)</td>
<td>9.2 quarters</td>
<td>9.1 quarters</td>
<td>10.2 quarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean number of jobs held over 16 quarters</td>
<td>3.4 jobs</td>
<td>3.3 jobs</td>
<td>3.7 jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean time to first employment</td>
<td>2.2 quarters</td>
<td>2.2 quarters</td>
<td>2.0 quarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean longest consistent employment</td>
<td>7.8 quarters</td>
<td>7.7 quarters</td>
<td>8.7 quarters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White/a</th>
<th>Black/a</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>AIAN/a,b</th>
<th>Asian/a,c</th>
<th>Other/a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number in study population</td>
<td>14,500</td>
<td>17,900</td>
<td>16,100</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent ever employed in 16 quarters after quarter of release</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
<td>75.7%</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>72.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean number of quarters employed (maximum=16)</td>
<td>9.8 qtrs</td>
<td>8.3 qtrs</td>
<td>10.2 qtrs</td>
<td>7.3 qtrs</td>
<td>9.5 qtrs</td>
<td>9.5 qtrs</td>
</tr>
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<td>3.2 jobs</td>
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<td>3.8 jobs</td>
<td>3.3 jobs</td>
<td>2.7 jobs</td>
<td>3.4 jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean time to first employment</td>
<td>1.8 qtrs</td>
<td>2.6 qtrs</td>
<td>2.1 qtrs</td>
<td>2.7 qtrs</td>
<td>2.3 qtrs</td>
<td>2.0 qtrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Longest consistent employment</td>
<td>8.3 qtrs</td>
<td>6.8 qtrs</td>
<td>8.8 qtrs</td>
<td>5.5 qtrs</td>
<td>8.4 qtrs</td>
<td>8.0 qtrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a/Non-Hispanic  
b/American Indian or Alaska Native  
c/Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander  
d/Persons of other or multiple races  

Quarterly employment of persons released from federal prison in 2010

- In no single quarter after release were more than 40% of persons from the study population employed.
- Females in the study population had slightly higher percentages of persons employed in each of the 16 quarters after release than did males.

Percent of persons employed per quarter after release from federal prison in 2010, by most serious offense

Percent employed

Quarter after release

Release qtr

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

25 30 35 40 45 50

Total Violent Property Drug Public order

Percent of persons employed per quarter after release from federal prison in 2010, by race/ethnicity

Percent of persons employed per quarter after release from federal prison in 2010, by time served in BOP

People who served the least amount of time in BOP custody before release in 2010 had the worst employment outcomes

- Quarterly employment for persons who served less than 1 year in BOP custody never exceeded 32%
- 37% of persons who served less than a year were unemployed for all 4 years post-release
  - In comparison, 33% of those who served 1-1.9 years were unemployed
- Those who served less than a year in BOP custody spent an average 2.9 quarters between release and their first job
  - Those who served 1-1.9 years prior to release spent 2.0 quarters
- Average total number of quarters employed was 8.4 (16 maximum)

Median quarterly earnings

• Of those in the study population employed during Quarter 1 post-release, median quarterly earnings were $3,500, compared to $6,000 in Quarter 16
• Females employed in each quarter had lower quarterly earnings than did males
• In Quarters 1 and 16, Hispanics, whites, and Asians who were employed had higher earnings compared to Blacks and American Indians/Alaska Natives
• Persons who served less than 1 year prior to 2010 BOP release earned at least $1,000/quarter less than those who served longer
• Those employed after serving time for drug and public order offenses earned an average of more than $6,100/quarter in quarter 16, about $1,300 more than persons who had served time for violent offenses

Median quarterly earnings for persons released from BOP custody in 2010 and employed in Quarters 1 or 16 after release, by sex and time served.

Median quarterly earnings for persons released from BOP custody in 2010 and employed in Quarters 1 or 16 after release, by most serious offense and race/ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most serious offense</th>
<th>Race/ethnicity</th>
<th>Quarter 1</th>
<th>Quarter 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violent</td>
<td>White, NH</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>Black, NH</td>
<td>$3,200</td>
<td>$5,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug</td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Order</td>
<td>Amerind, NH</td>
<td>$3,800</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian/PacIsl, NH</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$6,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (CSAT) 

Prisoners tool

Enhances the core functionality of the previous data tool

Available at:
https://csat.bjs.ojp.gov
CSAT - Prisoners

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