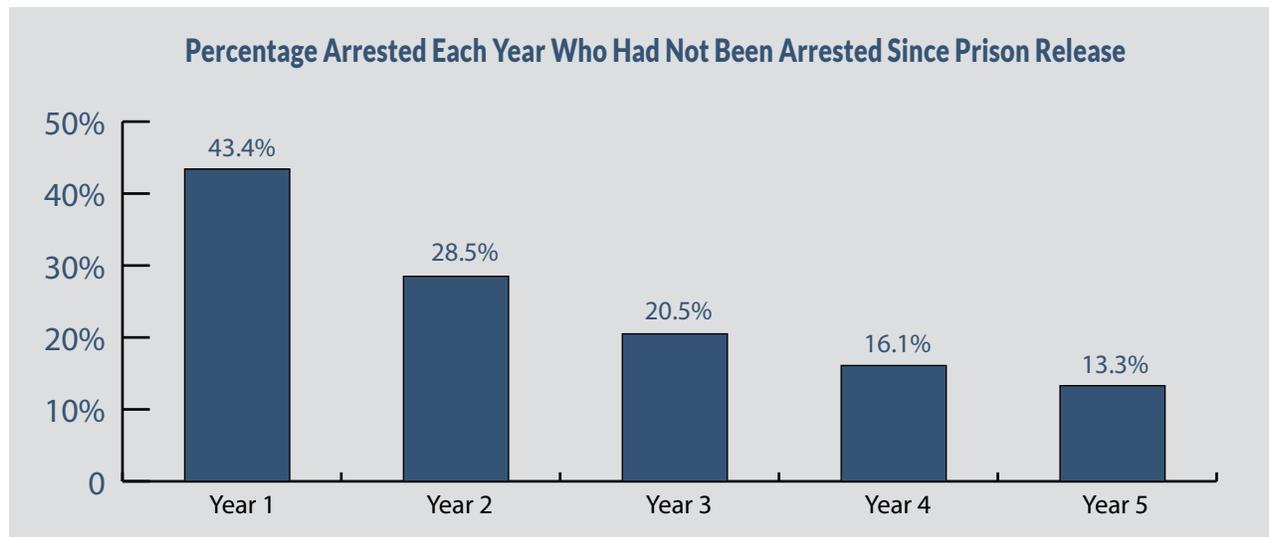




Five-Year Recidivism Study: Longer Time Post-Release without Arrest Linked to Reduced Likelihood of Eventual Arrest

In a recent report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), statisticians noted that the longer people went without being arrested following release from prison, the less likely they were to be arrested at all within the five-year follow-up period. The report, which provides data on the recidivism patterns of people released in 2005 from state prisons in 30 states,¹ indicated that only 13.3% of those who went four years without an arrest were arrested in the fifth year.² Each subsequent year following release, the arrest rate diminished: 43.4% in the first year, 28.5% in the second, 20.5% in the third, and 16.1% in the fourth.³ Overall, three out of four individuals (76.6%) released in 2005 were arrested within five years. Authors also observed that individuals with greater numbers of arrests on record prior to incarceration were more likely to be re-arrested after release. Additionally, among those released in 23 states with available data on individuals returned to prison, 55.1% had returned to prison within five years.



Source:

Durose, M. R., Cooper, A. D., and Snyder, H. N. (2014). *Recidivism of prisoners released in 30 states in 2005: Patterns from 2005 to 2010*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Notes:

- ¹ The report detailed recidivism – arrest, adjudication, conviction, and incarceration – of 404,638 formerly incarcerated individuals for a five-year period after release from prison, using a representative sample of 68,597 persons. States were selected for the study based on their ability to provide records and the FBI or state identification numbers on persons released in 2005. Illinois data were not included.
- ² While prior BJS prison recidivism reports tracked people for three years after release, this report used a five-year follow-up period due to its potential usefulness to policymakers and practitioners, and because it provides a more complete assessment of the number and types of crimes committed in the years after release. For three-year recidivism data, please see the source report.
- ³ Arrest rates reflect the percentage of individuals arrested during each year who had not been arrested in the preceding year(s) since release. Thus, the denominator for each year's rate becomes smaller, reflecting the reduced number of individuals who had not been arrested to date.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at www.centerforhealthandjustice.org.

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