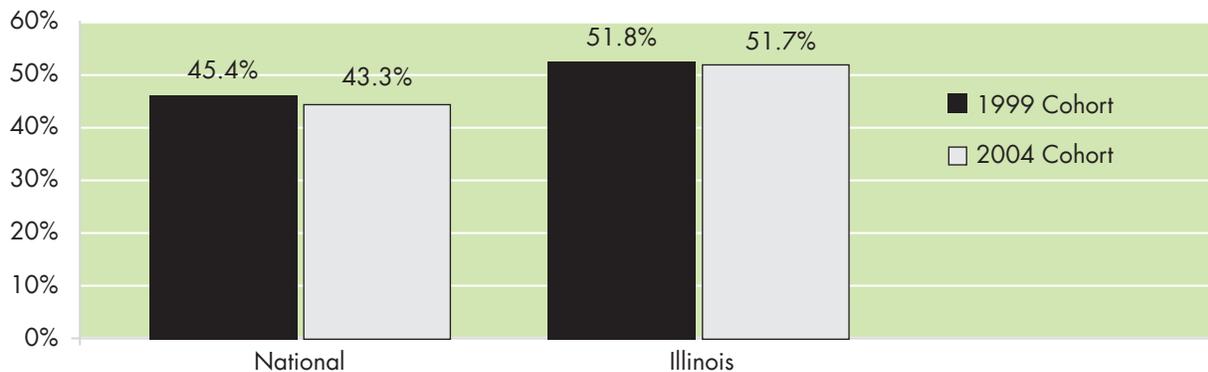




National and Illinois Recidivism Rates Not Budging

According to a new report by the Pew Center on the States, the national recidivism rate barely improved between groups of prisoners released in 1999 and 2004.¹ Approximately 45% of inmates released in 1999 and 43% of those released in 2004 were back behind bars within three years. The Illinois recidivism rate is higher than the national rate, with approximately 52% of releases from both 1999 and 2004 returning to prison within three years. Of the 41 states reporting data for the 2004 cohort, Illinois is one of only six that saw more than half of its released incarcerates return within three years. Many factors affect state recidivism rates, including sentencing and community corrections policies, making cross-state analysis difficult. In Illinois, the recidivism rate plunged in the 1980s when there was no parole system to provide supervision in the community or to return releasees to custody for parole violations. Additionally, the most recent data in the report are not recent enough to take into account the current efforts underway in Illinois to reduce recidivism by providing addiction treatment and other supportive services in correctional institutions and following release. The authors note that analyzing how a particular state's rate has changed over time could provide insight into how its policies are influencing recidivism rates.

National and Illinois Recidivism Rates Among Prisoners Released in 1999 and 2004



Source: Pew Center on the States, *State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America's Prisons*. Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts, April 2011.

Notes:

¹ This study uses the term "recidivism rate" to refer to the percentage of people released from prison and then rearrested, reconvicted, or returned to custody for either a new crime or a technical violation of supervision within three years of release. The recidivism figures cited in this research brief signify a return to prison. The national totals for the two cohorts are not directly comparable because eight states did not report data for the 1999 cohort.

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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