

Mental Health Disorders – Inmate Recidivism Rate

Included in the Department of Corrections' (SCDC) October 29, 2019 letter to the House Legislative Oversight Committee (LOC). This information was provided in response to the following question in LOC's October 8, 2019, letter to the Department of Corrections: "29. What is the recidivism rate for inmates diagnosed with a mental health disorder?"

In addition to providing the information in this document, SCDC provided the following response:

- Please see attached Recidivism Rates of Inmates Released FY2012-FY2016.

South Carolina Department of Corrections
Recidivism Rates of Inmates Released during FY2012 - FY2016

	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Total Number of Releases	11,409	9,623	9,485	9,354	9,147
Percentage of Releasees who Returned to SCDC:					
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Within One Year or Less	6.2%	6.2%	5.6%	5.8%	5.5%
Within Two Years or Less	15.5%	16.2%	15.2%	15.7%	14.2%
Within Three Years or Less	22.4%	23.1%	22.7%	22.3%	21.2%
Within Four Years or Less	27.2%	28.4%	27.6%	27.3%	n/a
Within Five Years or Less	30.9%	31.8%	30.8%	n/a	n/a

Comparison of 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Inmate Attributes

Attributes	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Overall Rate	22.4%	23.1%	22.7%	22.3%	21.2%
Gender					
Males	23.3%	24.1%	23.7%	23.1%	21.9%
Females	15.2%	15.2%	14.8%	16.2%	15.7%
Type of Release					
Maxout (Expiration of Sentence)	17.7%	19.0%	18.7%	18.6%	17.1%
Parole	18.3%	17.4%	19.0%	19.5%	16.8%
Probation	31.8%	32.2%	34.3%	31.3%	29.6%
Community Supervision	14.0%	14.7%	12.0%	12.9%	12.6%
Supervised Reentry	n/a	36.1%	27.9%	25.1%	27.1%
Youthful Offender Act* - Parole	38.4%	37.7%	30.9%	31.9%	33.7%
Youthful Offender Act* - Maxout	23.0%	27.8%	25.0%	32.8%	24.7%
Youthful Offender Act* - Intensive Supervision Parole	n/a	22.9%	28.9%	30.3%	30.6%
Age at Release					
Under 25 Years	32.0%	31.8%	28.5%	29.1%	31.4%
25-30 Years	23.6%	23.1%	23.4%	24.1%	20.7%
31-40 Years	19.9%	20.3%	21.9%	19.7%	21.3%
Over 40 Years	17.0%	19.8%	19.1%	19.2%	16.2%
Program Participation					
Pre-Release	21.6%	20.8%	20.8%	20.4%	19.9%
Work Program	17.9%	19.1%	22.6%	16.3%	15.8%
Labor Crew	17.8%	19.1%	21.9%	18.0%	17.4%
Labor Crew/Work Program	17.8%	19.1%	21.8%	18.0%	17.3%
Prison Industry	14.6%	13.5%	12.5%	13.4%	10.9%
GED Earned in SCDC Education Program	21.4%	21.7%	21.3%	17.3%	15.8%
Sentence Type					
Youthful Offender Act*	36.9%	35.6%	29.7%	30.8%	30.5%
Straight-time	20.7%	21.7%	21.9%	21.4%	20.3%
Criminal History					
Had Conviction and/or Commitment	24.7%	25.4%	25.6%	25.4%	22.8%
Had Commitment	26.4%	27.1%	26.8%	26.7%	23.4%

No Known Priors	18.6%	19.4%	18.0%	17.4%	18.6%
Mental Health Classification at time of release					
Mentally III	26.4%	25.9%	25.8%	24.4%	24.7%
Non-Mentally III	21.9%	22.8%	22.3%	22.1%	20.8%

* Youthful Offender Act (YOA) inmates serve an indeterminate sentence of 1 to 6 years. "Intensive Supervision Parole" releases began in FY13; this parole program includes "first time" youthful offenders who undergo intensive programs/oversight while institutionalized and while on parole supervision.