



State Recidivism Comparison

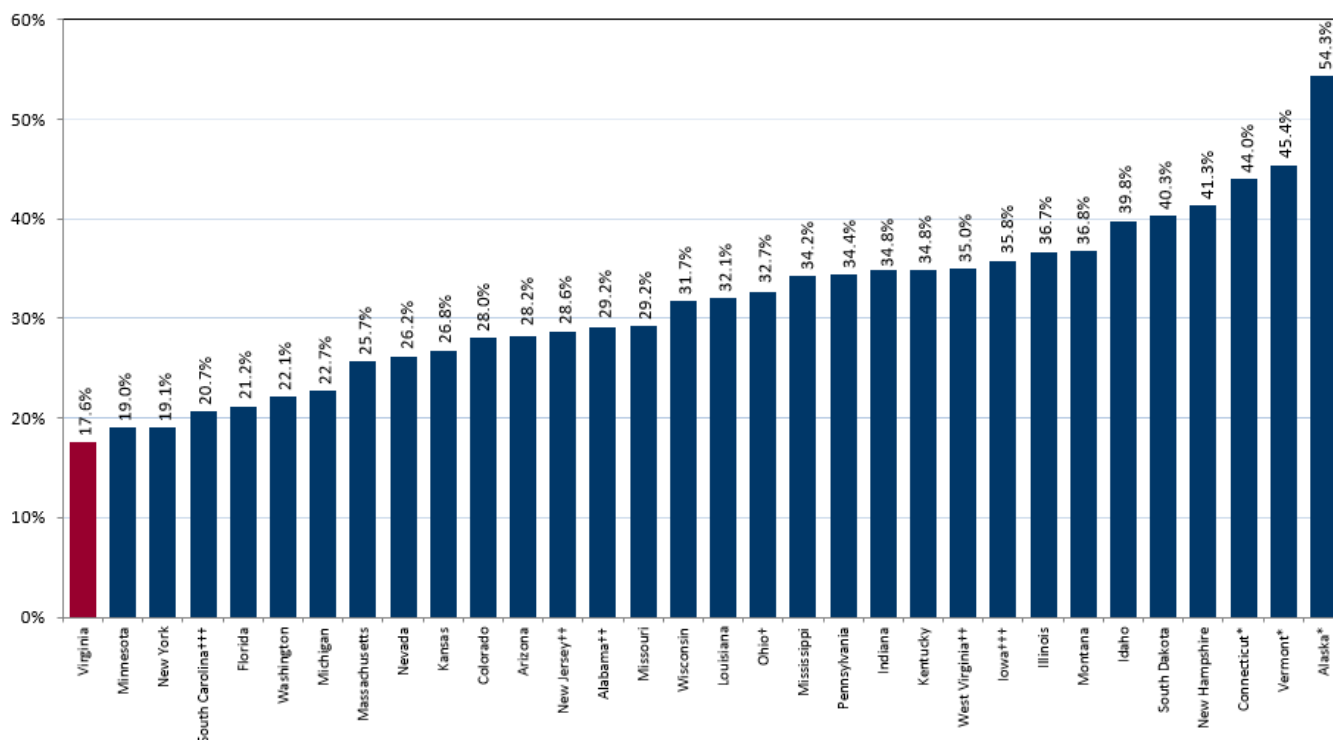
RESEARCH - EVALUATION UNIT

MAY 2025

Virginia's Recidivism Rate is the Lowest in the Country

At 17.6%, Virginia's recidivism rate is the lowest in the country among the 32 states that report three-year State Responsible (SR) re-incarceration rates. Recidivism rates for each state are the most recent three-year re-incarceration rates produced and made publicly available by each state (as of October 22, 2024). The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) waits at least four years to calculate the three-year re-incarceration rate of SR releases in order to allow all court information to be received and entered into VirginiaCORIS. Without waiting for the data to fully mature, the FY2020 recidivism rate in July 2023 would have been 17.5%.¹ Of the 12,680 SR inmates released from incarceration in Virginia in FY2020 who had an opportunity to recidivate, 2,232 were re-incarcerated within three years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, state court closures across the country varied, thus affecting each state's recidivism rate differently depending on various factors related to closures (i.e. length of closures, types of cases heard, etc.). While recidivism is not a program evaluation, additional studies are done to examine the impact of re-entry and educational programming offered by VADOC. Aligning with the agency's mission, VADOC tailors its programming and supervision to address each inmate's criminogenic risk and needs.

Three-Year Re-Incarceration Rates: A State Comparison



*Unified state; rates include both state and local responsible inmates.

† States reporting recidivism data from 2016 releases and prior (COVID-19 pandemic did not impact follow-up period).

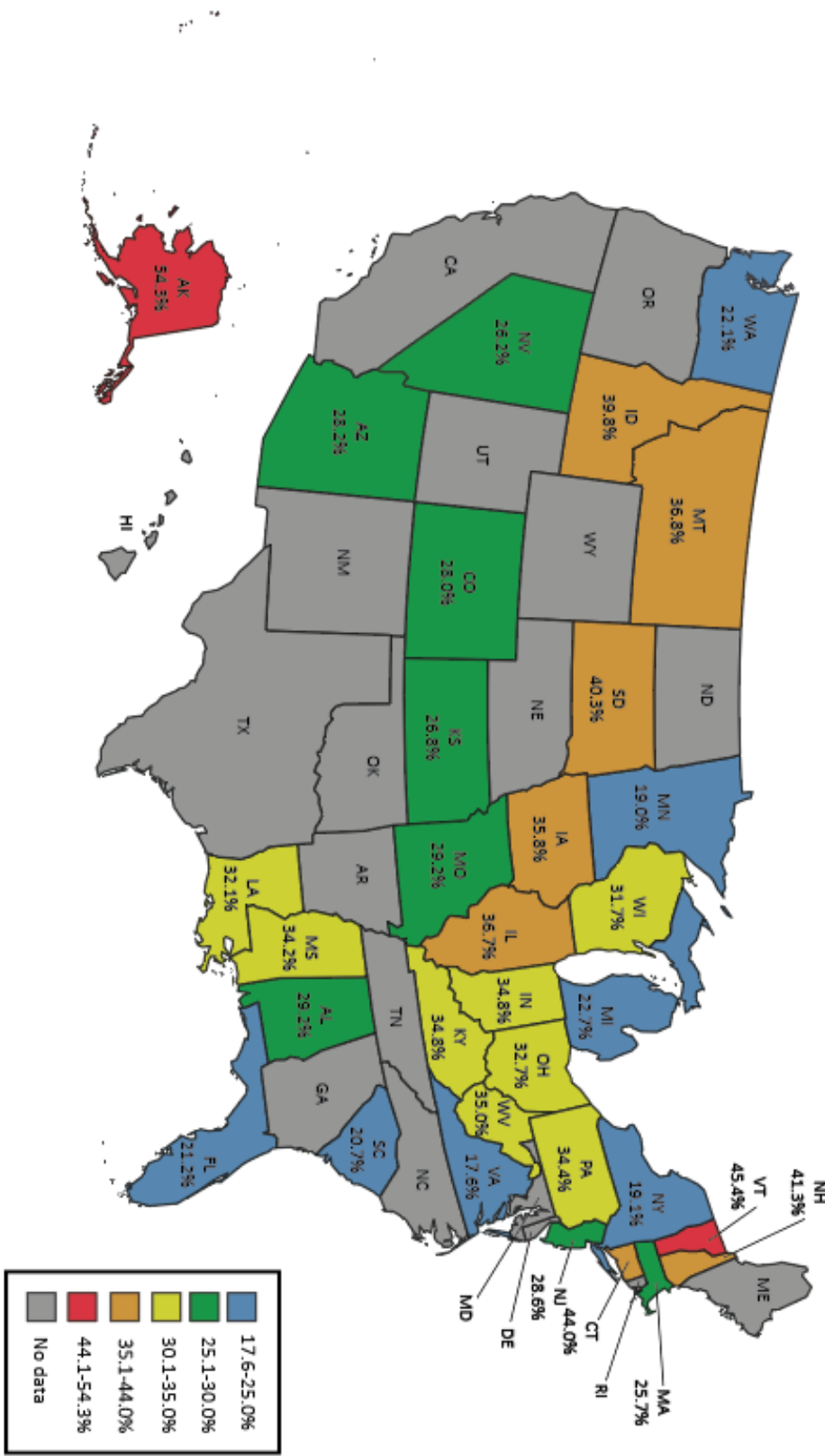
†† States reporting 2018 rates. The follow-up periods for 2018, 2019, and 2020 releases were impacted significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic.

††† States reporting 2021 rates. The follow-up period for 2021 releases was not impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as significantly as previous years.

¹ Due to changes since COVID-19, the four year wait period did not have as significant of an impact on the FY2020 cohort as it previously has.

NOTES: Virginia (VA) waits at least four years to compute the three-year re-incarceration rate to assure all court orders are accounted for. All SR sentences after release are counted as recidivism in VA, including technical violations and sentences for offenses that occurred prior to release. Please contact each state with any questions about that particular state's recidivism figures (data as of October 22, 2024). The following states are excluded from this analysis for the reasons given: Arkansas' rate includes probation impositions; California's rate excludes parole violations; Delaware is a unified state but also produces a return to prison measure which includes misdemeanor inmates as long as their sentence was at least 12 months; Georgia only reports re-conviction information; Hawaii only reports re-arrest information; Maryland's rate includes convictions to new probation sentences; New Mexico's rate counts new charges and technical violations separately; North Carolina solely produces two-year follow-up rates; Oregon's rate is based on a six-month release cohort and includes releases from prison and felons released from jails; Rhode Island's rate includes awaiting trial detainees; Tennessee's rate includes those who are arrested and placed in jail who are not convicted of a crime as well as those who are convicted of committing a new crime; Texas' rate does not include state jail releases; Utah's rate only includes releases to parole; Maine, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wyoming all calculate a physical return to DOC rate.

Three-Year Re-Incarceration Rates Across the United States



NOTES: Recidivism rates for each state are the most recent three-year re-incarceration rates produced and made publicly available by each state (as of October 22, 2024); please contact each state with any questions about that particular state's recidivism figures. The following states are excluded from this analysis for the reasons given: Arkansas' rate includes probation impositions; California's rate excludes parole violations; Delaware is a unified state but also produces a return to prison measure which includes misdemeanor inmates as long as their sentence was at least 12 months; Georgia only reports re-conviction information; Hawaii only reports re-arrest information; Maryland's rate includes convictions to new probation sentences; New Mexico's rate counts new charges and technical violations separately; North Carolina solely produces two-year follow-up rates; Oregon's rate is based on a six-month release cohort and includes releases from prison and felons released from jails; Rhode Island's rate includes awaiting trial detainees; Tennessee's rate includes those who are arrested and placed in jail who are not convicted of a crime as well as those who are convicted of committing a new crime; Texas' rate does not include state jail releases; Utah's rate only includes releases to parole; Maine, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wyoming all calculate a physical return to DOC rate.

Virginia Department of
Corrections

Research - Evaluation Unit

Dr. Tama Celi

Brittney Via, M.A.

Dakota Contois

Email: research@vadoc.virginia.gov