Indiana Department of Correction
2018 Adult Recidivism Rates

The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) defines recidivism as a return to incarceration within three years of the offender’s date of release from a state correctional institution. A recent study by the IDOC calculated the 2018 recidivism rate for offenders released from IDOC during 2015. This study found that:

- 2018 recidivism rates continued to be at all-time lows. Of those offenders released in 2015, 33.78% were recommitted to the IDOC within three years of their release date, for either a new conviction or a violation of post-release supervision.

- Of all offenders who recidivated, approximately 41.3% returned to IDOC for the commission of a new crime, compared to approximately 58.7% for a technical rule violation of post-release supervision.

- Male offenders had a higher recidivism rate when compared to female offenders. Of male offenders released in 2015, 35.7% returned to the IDOC, versus 23.5% of female releases.

- The recidivism rate for offenders released in 2015, broken down by race is as follows. African American offenders had a rate of 38.5%. Recidivism rates for Caucasian offenders was 32.6%, while rates for Hispanic offenders was 20.1%.

- The younger the offender is at the time he/she is released, the more likely they are to return to the IDOC. Also, offenders serving less than 5 years with IDOC represent approximately 88% of all recidivists.

- Offenders who had zero conduct violations during their incarceration period were 36.0% less likely to recidivate when compared to offenders who had at least one conduct violation.

- Offenders who received visits from family or friends while incarcerated were 10.1% less likely to recidivate compared to those offenders who did not receive any visits.

- Those offenders who participated in a work release program were 34.9% less likely to return to prison when compared to offenders who did not partake in a work release program.