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 2019 recidivism rate for offenders released from IDOC during 2016. This study found that:

- Of those offenders released in 2016, 36.95% were recommitted to the IDOC within three years of their release date, for either a new conviction or a violation of post-release supervision.

  ![2013-2019 Adult Recidivism Rates](image)

- Of all offenders who recidivated, approximately 37.2% returned to IDOC for the commission of a new crime, compared to approximately 62.8% 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 2016, 39.1% returned to the IDOC, versus 24.3% of female releases.

- The recidivism rate for offenders released in 2016, broken down by race is as follows. African American offenders had a rate of 44.7%. Recidivism rates for Caucasian offenders was 34.3%, while rates for Hispanic offenders was 25.3%.

- 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 54% of all recidivists.

- Offenders who had zero conduct violations during their incarceration period were 35.92% 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 14.96% less likely to recidivate compared to those offenders who did not receive any visits.

- Those offenders who participated in a work release program were 37.13% less likely to return to prison when compared to offenders who did not partake in a work release program.