

## STUDYING RECIDIVISM

### Introduction

The VADOC studies recidivism to gather information on the success of offenders reentering society once released from State Responsible (SR) incarceration. Recidivism studies can measure a variety of repeat behaviors for a range of follow-up periods. These measures are limited to known behavior that has been captured in data.

VADOC routinely studies three standard measures of recidivism: re-arrest, re-conviction and re-incarceration for time periods ranging from 6 months to 3 years. These measures are consistent with other Virginia criminal justice agencies' standard recidivism measures.

### Re-Arrest:

Re-arrest is defined as any arrest reported in the Virginia State Police (VSP) criminal history database for a criminal offense, including supervision violations, within the specified time period after release. Local ordinance violations, such as non-criminal speeding, are not considered re-arrests.

### Re-Conviction:

Re-conviction is defined as a conviction resulting from a re-arrest that occurred within the specified time period. The actual conviction may occur outside the follow-up period as long as the arrest occurred within the follow-up period.

### Re-Incarceration:

Re-incarceration is defined as any SR re-incarceration within the specified time period.

## State Responsible Releases

This report provides information on recidivism of State Responsible (SR) releases. SR releases include all Virginia felons who were sentenced to an incarceration period of one year or more and were released from SR incarceration.

VADOC only includes SR releases who were at liberty and had the opportunity to recidivate. Those excluded from the analysis include SR releases who died in custody or were transferred to another jurisdiction upon release.

State Responsible Releases		
Release Year	Total Releases	Releases in Study
FY2007	12,571	12,361
FY2008	12,960	12,817
FY2009	12,995	12,885
FY2010	13,113	13,018
FY2011	12,380	12,263

Releases from Detention and Diversion Centers are studied separately. In addition, recidivism measures for those on community supervision are under development and are not included in this report.

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### Public Safety First

<http://www.vadoc.virginia.gov/about/facts/>

### Virginia Department of Corrections

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS &  
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## RECIDIVISM AT A GLANCE

RELEASES FROM STATE  
RESPONSIBLE  
INCARCERATION

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[HTTP://WWW.VADOC.VIRGINIA.GOV](http://www.vadoc.virginia.gov)

# RECIDIVISM AT A GLANCE

## RELEASES FROM STATE RESPONSIBLE INCARCERATION

### RE-ARREST

Re-arrest rates have declined in almost every follow-up period since the FY2007 release cohort. The FY2007 release cohort had a 6 month re-arrest rate of 16.6% while the FY2011 cohort had a rate of 13.3% (down 3.3%). Similarly, the FY2007 18 month re-arrest rate was 41.8% while the FY2010 had a rate of 37.5% (down 4.3%). Finally, the FY2007 release cohort had a 36 month re-arrest rate of 57.3% compared to a FY2009 re-arrest rate in the same follow-up period of 53.9% (down 3.4%).

Months since Release	Re-Arrest				
	6	12	18	24	36
FY2007	16.6	31.4	41.8	45.8	57.3
FY2008	15.5	29.2	38.9	43.3	54.8
FY2009	14.2	28.1	37.3	41.4	53.9
FY2010	13.8	27.5	37.5	41.5	
FY2011	13.3	26.9			

Re-arrests are reported on VSP criminal history database without delay. Therefore, this measure is immediately available. However, re-arrest is not necessarily indicative of new criminal behavior. Some re-arrests will lead to findings of not guilty or be nolle-prossed.

### RE-CONVICTION

Re-conviction rates have also been in decline, although not as consistently lower in each follow-up period as re-arrest rates. The FY2007 release cohort had a 6 month re-conviction rate of 10.7% while the FY2010 had a rate of 9.3% (down 1.4%). The 18 month rate also declined from 29.1% for the FY2007 cohort to 27.7% for FY2010 (down 1.4%). Finally, between the FY2007 and FY2008 release cohorts the 36 month re-conviction rate dropped from 43.2% to 42.0% (down 1.2%).

Months since Release	Re-Conviction				
	6	12	18	24	36
FY2007	10.7	21.0	29.1	34.7	43.2
FY2008	9.9	19.3	26.8	32.7	42.0
FY2009	9.0	18.9	26.8	33.5	
FY2010	9.3	19.9	27.7		
FY2011					

Re-convictions are reported at the conclusion of court proceedings and entry into the VSP database. Because of this processing time lag, the measure is not immediately reportable. However, this measure is indicative of new criminal behavior because the charge is adjudicated in a court of law.

### RE-INCARCERATION

Re-incarceration rates, consistent with both declining re-arrest and re-conviction rates, are trending lower in more recent SR Release cohorts. Currently, a 36 month follow-up is available for FY2007 and FY2008. The FY2007 cohort had a 12 month rate of 6.1% that declined to 4.9% for FY2010 (down 1.2%), an 18 month rate of 12.4% that fell to 9.9% for FY2010 (down 2.5%), a 24 month rate of 18.1% that fell to 14.5% for FY2009 (down 3.6%), and a 36 month rate of 26.1% that fell to 23.4% for FY2008 (down 2.7%).

Months since Release	Re-Incarceration				
	6	12	18	24	36
FY2007	1.6	6.1	12.4	18.1	26.1
FY2008	1.3	5.5	11.0	15.8	23.4
FY2009	1.2	4.5	9.5	14.5	
FY2010	1.2	4.9	9.9		
FY2011	1.3				

Re-incarceration is reported at the conclusion of court proceedings and entry into VADOC databases. SR incarceration requires a Virginia felony conviction with a sentence of one year or more or a parole violation with a sentence of two years or more. This measure indicates criminal behavior that impacts VADOC bedspace needs.