

# National Corrections and Recidivism Statistics

Bureau of Justice Statistics

April 4, 2022

12:00 – 1:15 PM



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# Second Chance Month – April 2022

Help **individuals**,  
**communities**, and **agencies**  
across the country recognize  
the importance of reentry  
and their role in **building**  
**second chances**



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Bureau of Justice Statistics

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# Agenda

1. Present Findings from Recidivism Studies of Persons Released from State Prison in 2008 and 2012
2. Discuss Report on Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010
3. Demonstrate New Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (CSAT) - Prisoners data tool



# Recidivism Studies of Persons Released from State Prison in 2008 and 2012

1. How is recidivism defined?
2. New BJS studies based on largest cohort and follow-up period to date
3. Comparing recidivism rates over time



# Recidivism is defined multiple ways





# Recidivism measures include three common traits

## Starting event

Placed on probation  
Released from prison

## Outcome measure

Arrest  
Conviction  
Return to prison

## Follow-up period

1 year  
3 years  
5 years  
8 years  
10 years



# BJS has studied recidivism since the early 1980's

State prisoners released in—	Follow-up period
1983	3 years
1994	3 years
2005	9 years
2008	10 years
2012	5 years



# Multiple data sources used for sample selection and outcome measures

## Prisoner records

Prison admission and release dates

Demographic characteristics

Prison commitment offenses

Sentence length

## Criminal history data

Data prior to and following prison release

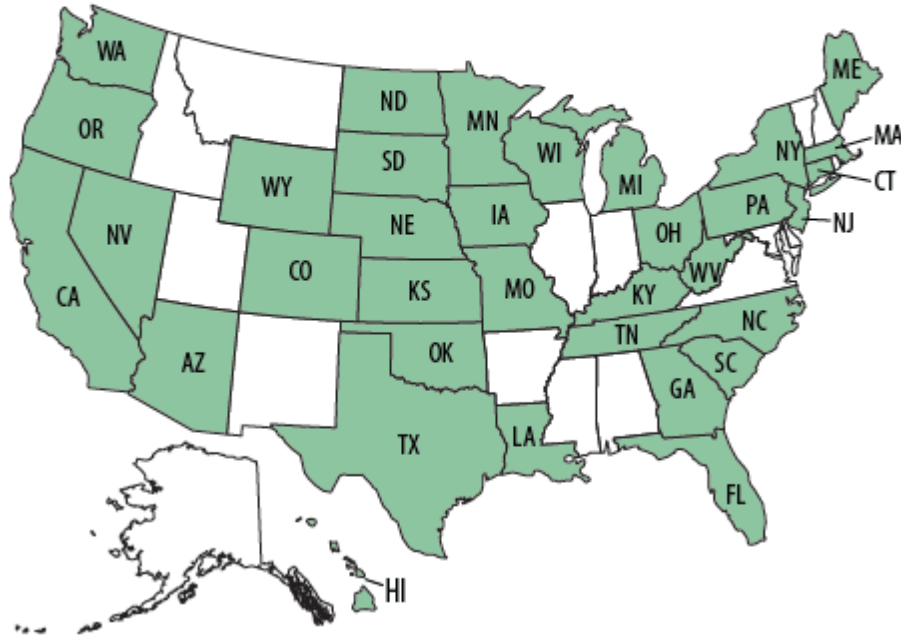
Data within and outside the state where released

- Arrests
- Convictions
- Incarcerations



# Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period

# Largest sample for a BJS recidivism study to date



- State prisoners released in 2012 in 34 states
- Sampled 92,100 to represent 408,300 prisoners
- 79% of all prisoners released nationwide
- 5-year follow-up period

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.



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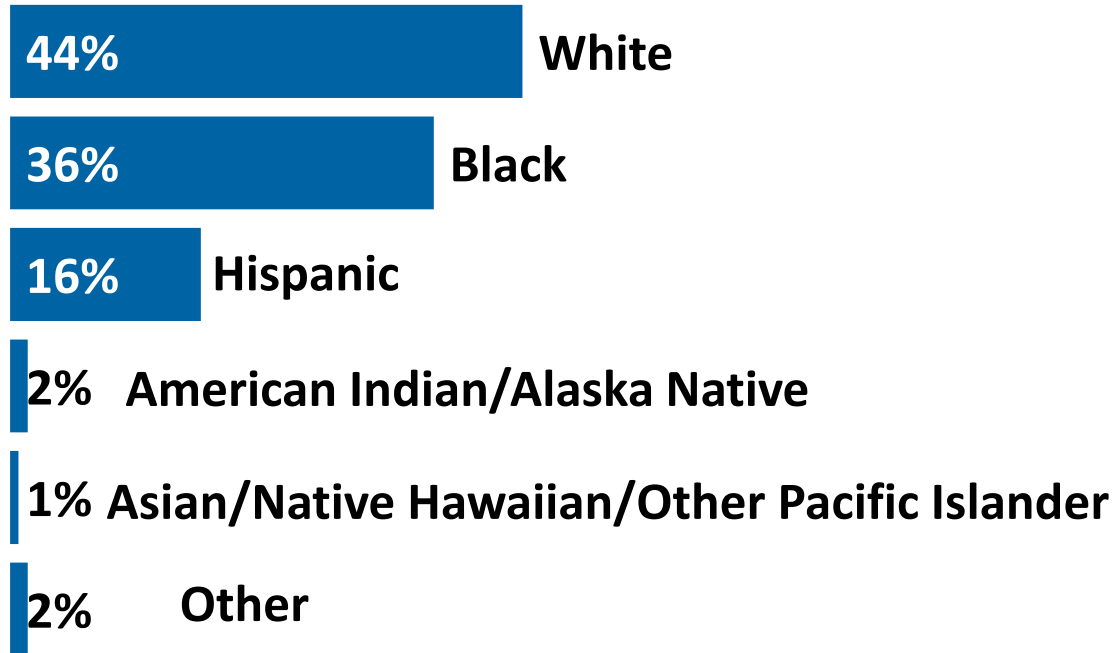
# Males accounted for 9 in 10 prisoners released in 2012



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.



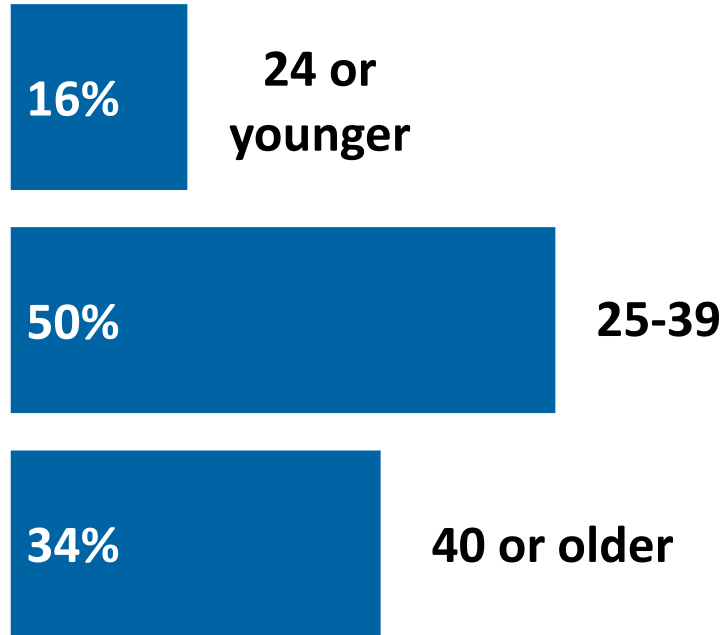
# White prisoners comprised the largest percentage of prisoners released in 2012



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.



# The median age of prisoners released in 2012 was 33 years



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.

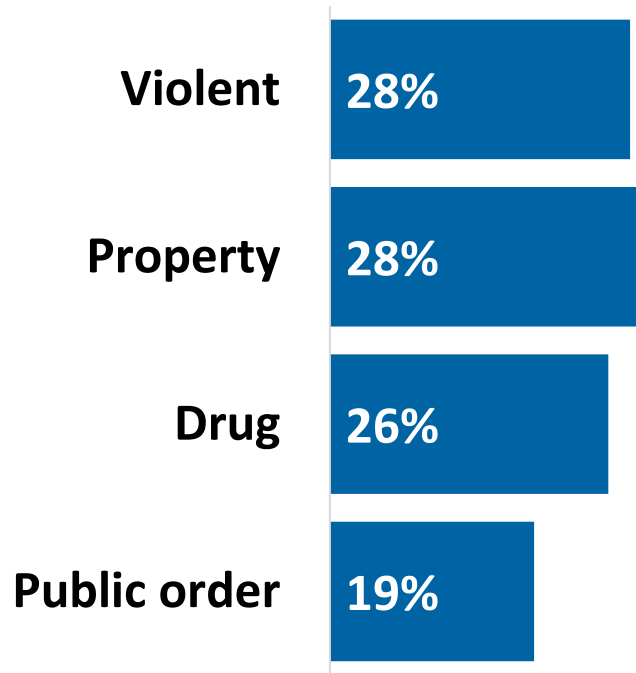


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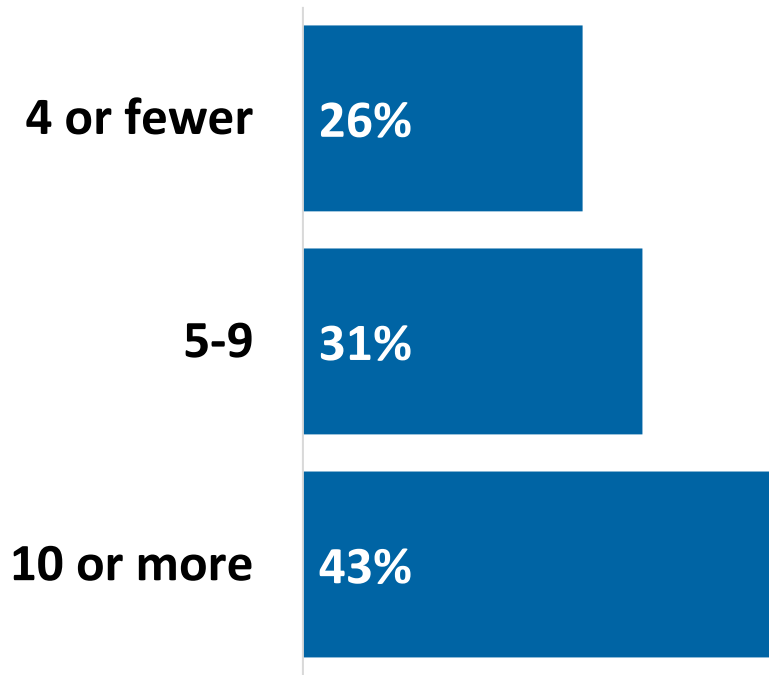
# About 1 in 4 prisoners were serving time for a violent offense



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.



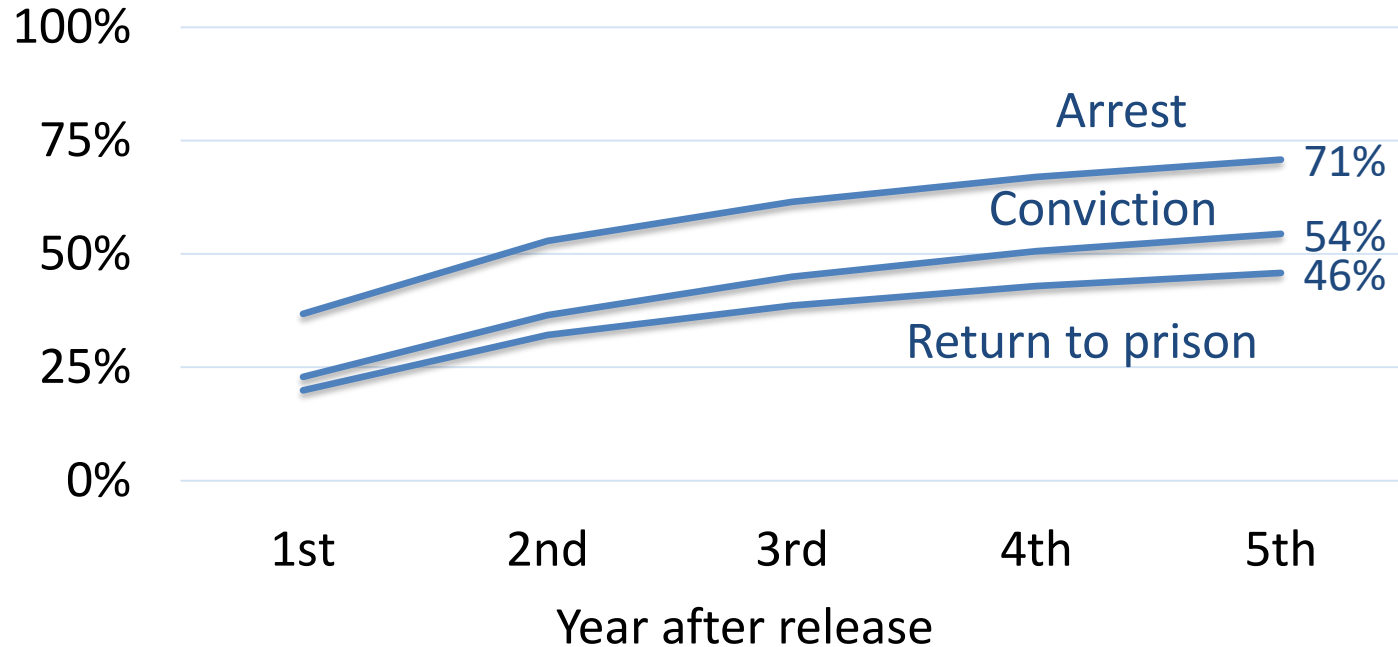
# About 4 in 10 prisoners had 10 or more prior arrests



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.



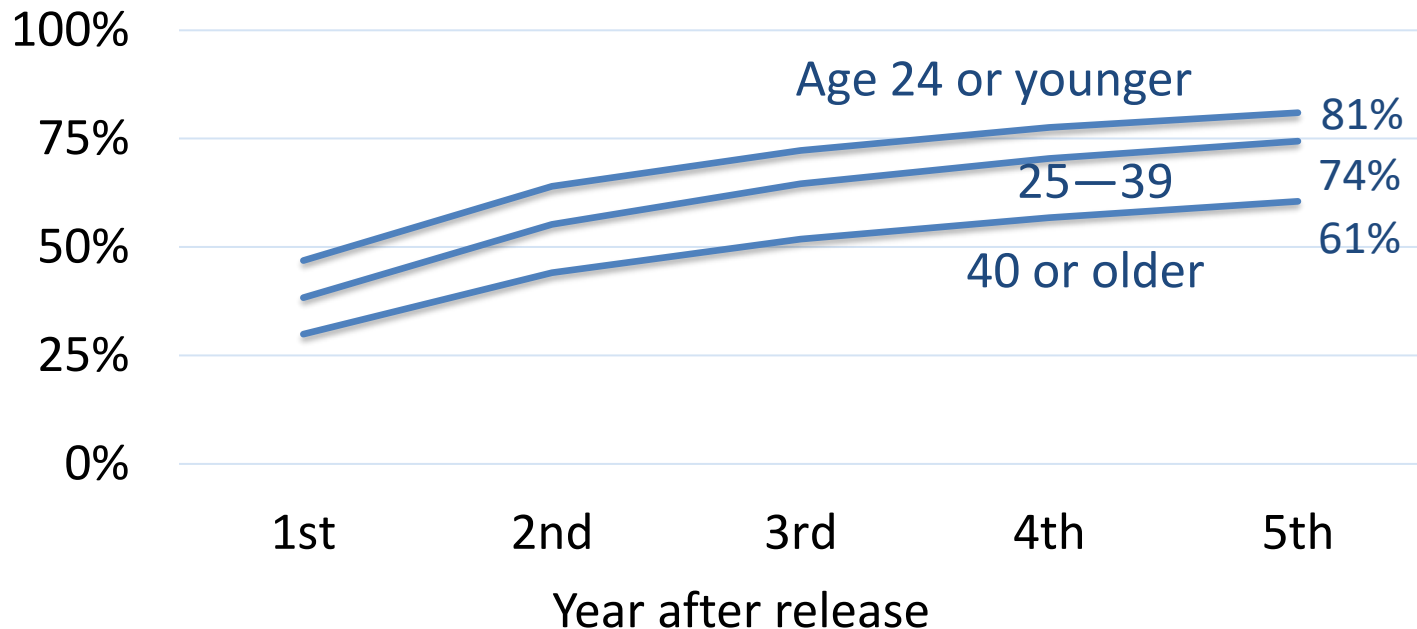
# 7 in 10 prisoners released were arrested and about half returned to prison



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.



# Younger persons were arrested at higher rates than older persons following release

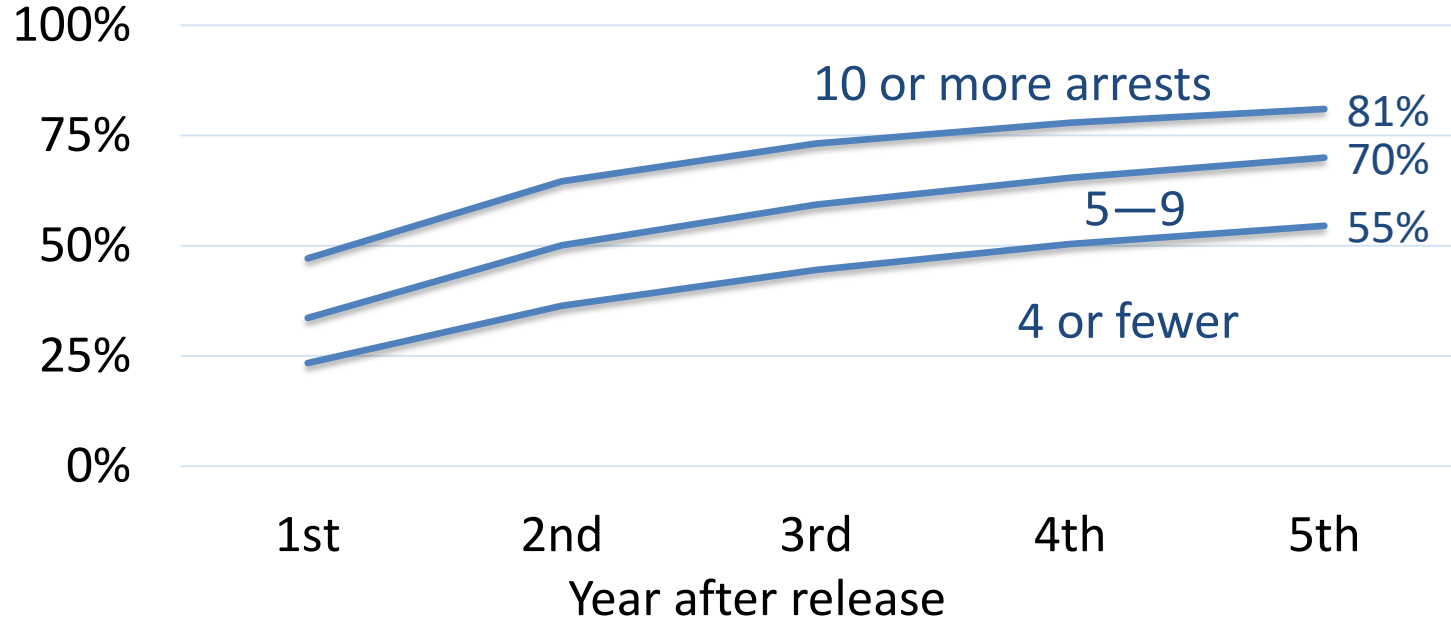


Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012-2017)*. July 2021.

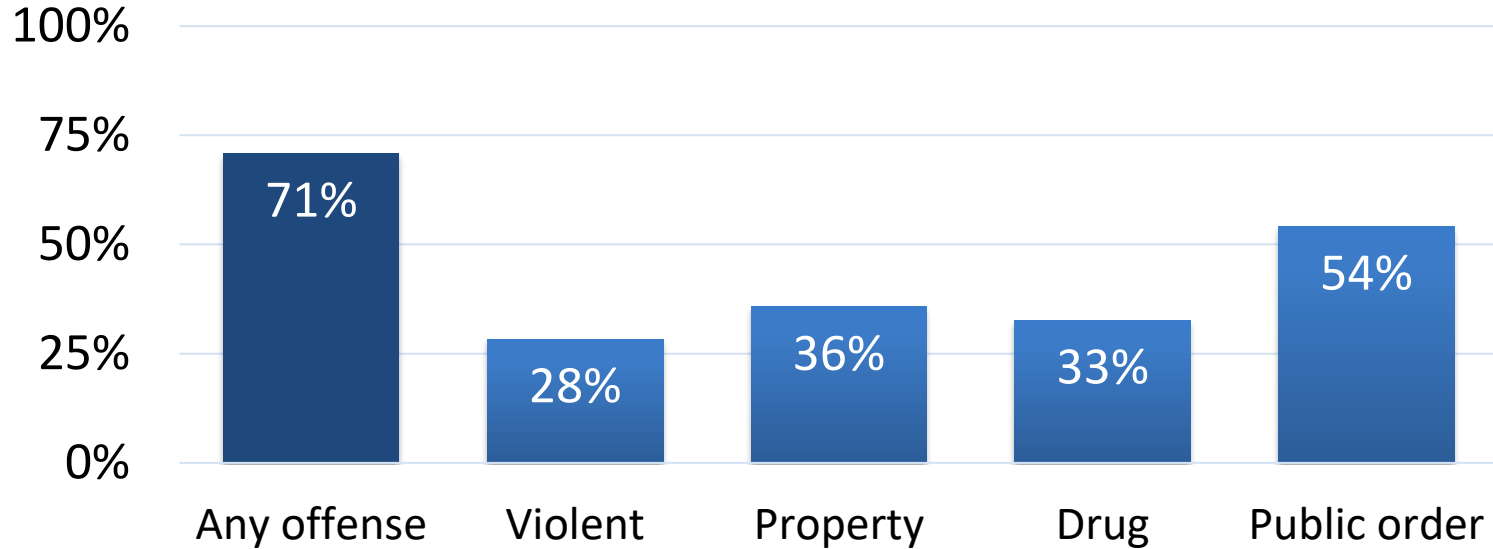


# Those with more prior arrests in their criminal history were re-arrested at higher rates



Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.

# About half of prisoners released were arrested for a public-order offense



## Post-release arrest offenses within 5 years

Note: Detail does not sum to “Any offense” because some persons were arrested for more than one type of offense during the follow-up period.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.



# Other key findings

- About 1 in 10 were arrested within 5 years outside of the state that released them.
- An estimated 1.1 million arrests occurred within 5 years.
- The annual arrest percentage declined from 37% in Year 1 to 26% in Year 5.

Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.

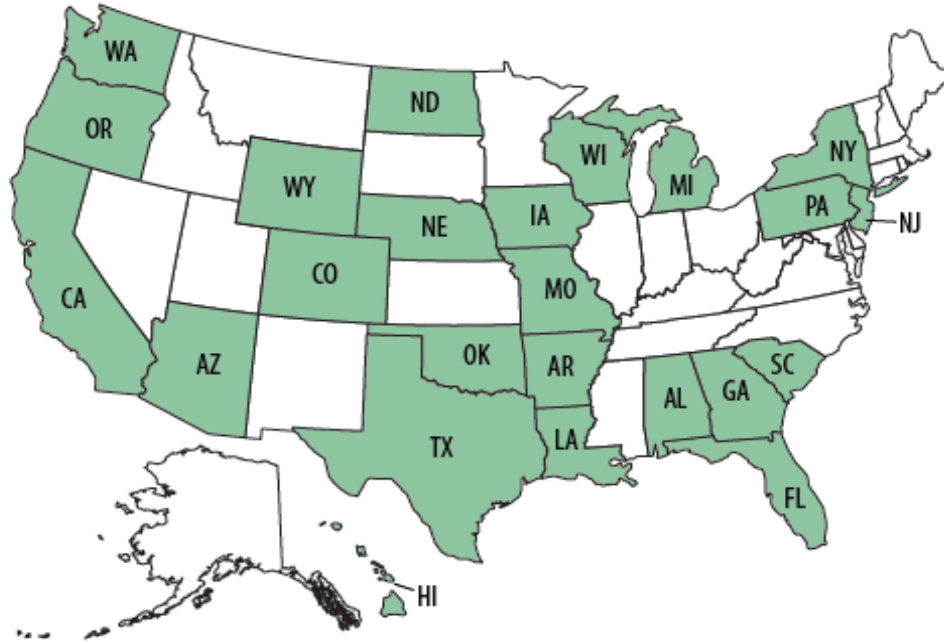
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.



Recidivism of Prisoners  
Released in 24 States in 2008:  
A 10-Year Follow-Up Period



# Longest follow-up period for a BJS recidivism study to date



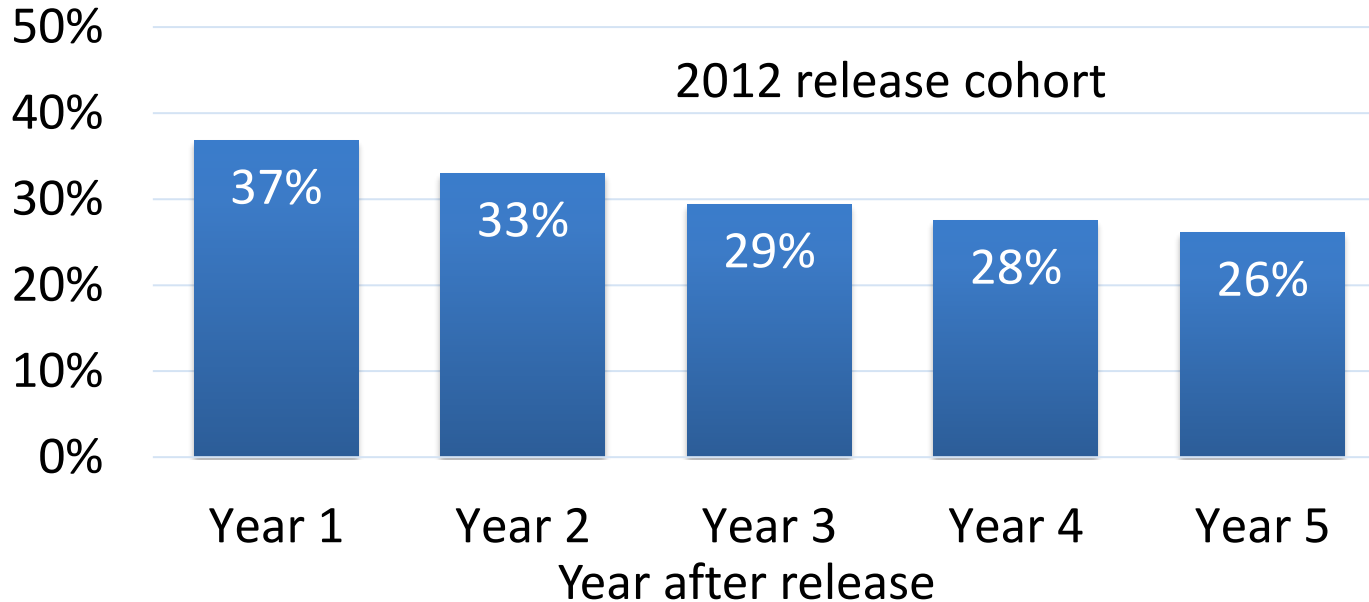
- State prisoners released in 2008 in 24 states
- Sampled 73,600 to represent 409,300 prisoners
- 69% of all prisoners released nationwide
- 10-year follow-up period

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 24 States in 2008: A 10-Year Follow-Up Period (2008–2018)*. September 2021.



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# Annual arrest rates declined from Year 1 to Year 5

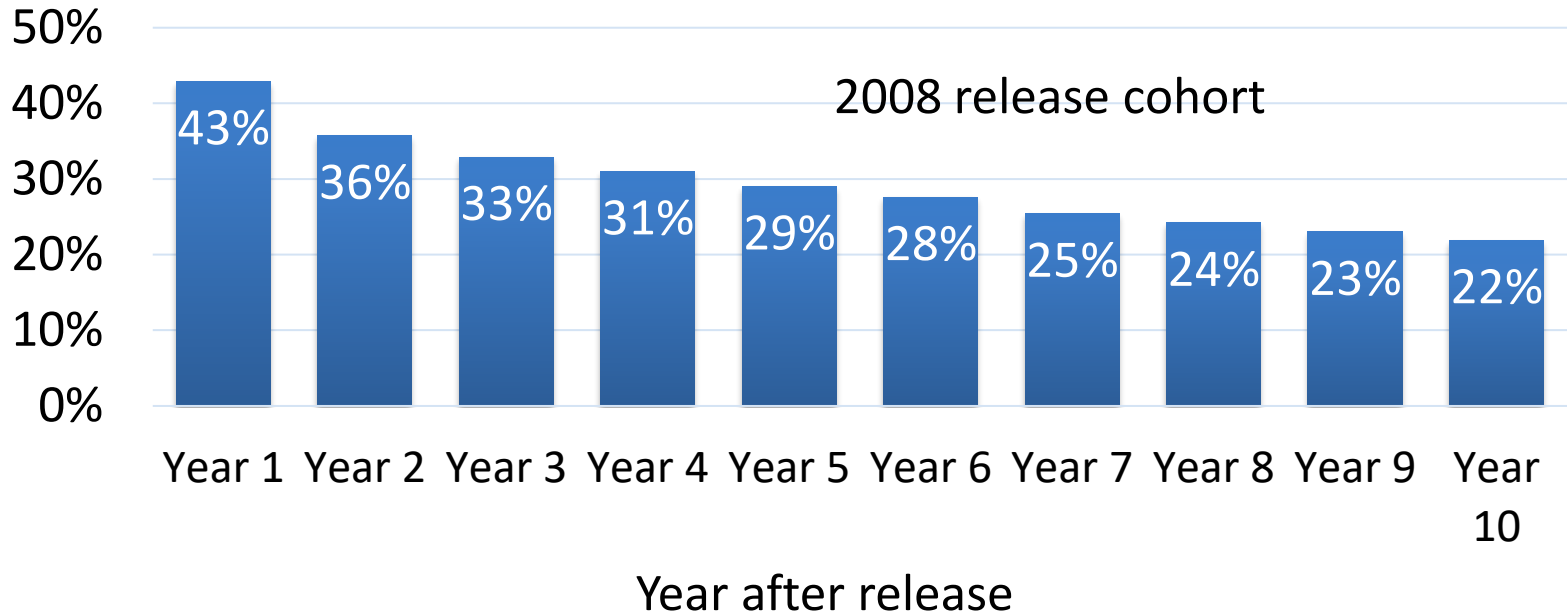


Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.



# Annual arrest rates declined from Year 5 to Year 10

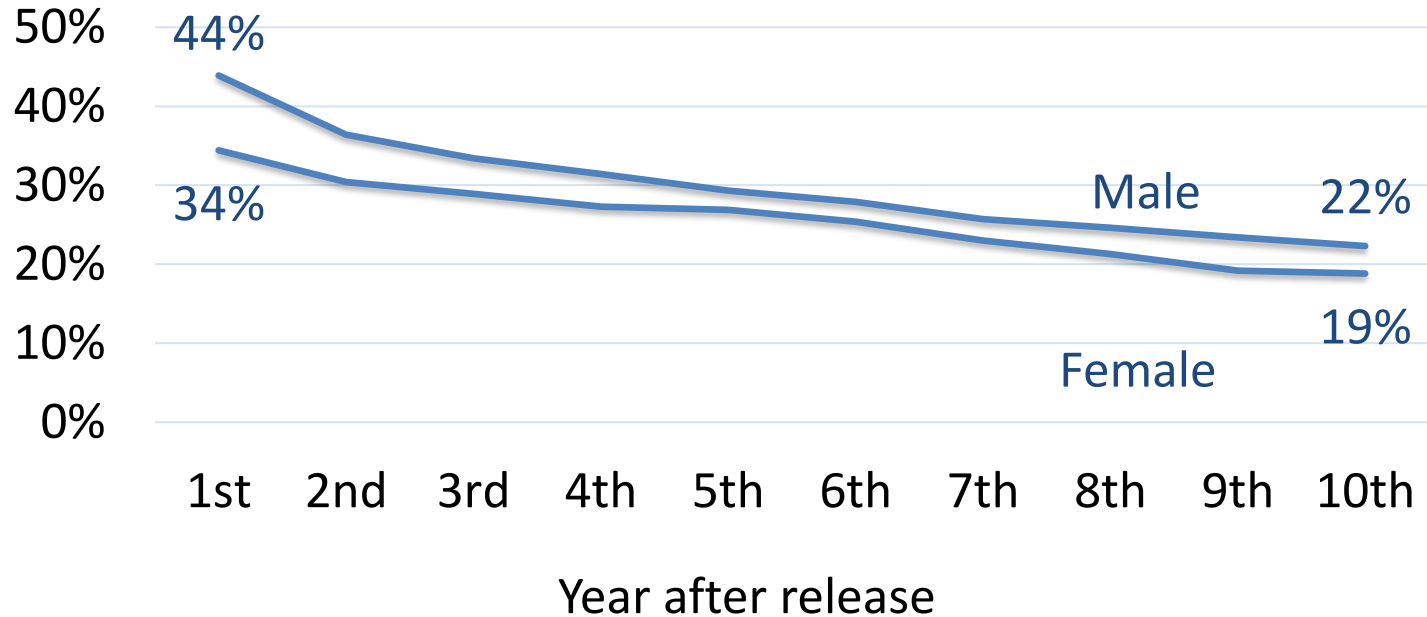


Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 24 States in 2008: A 10-Year Follow-Up Period (2008–2018)*. September 2021.



# Females had lower arrest rates than males from Year 1 to Year 10



Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 24 States in 2008: A 10-Year Follow-Up Period (2008–2018)*. September 2021.



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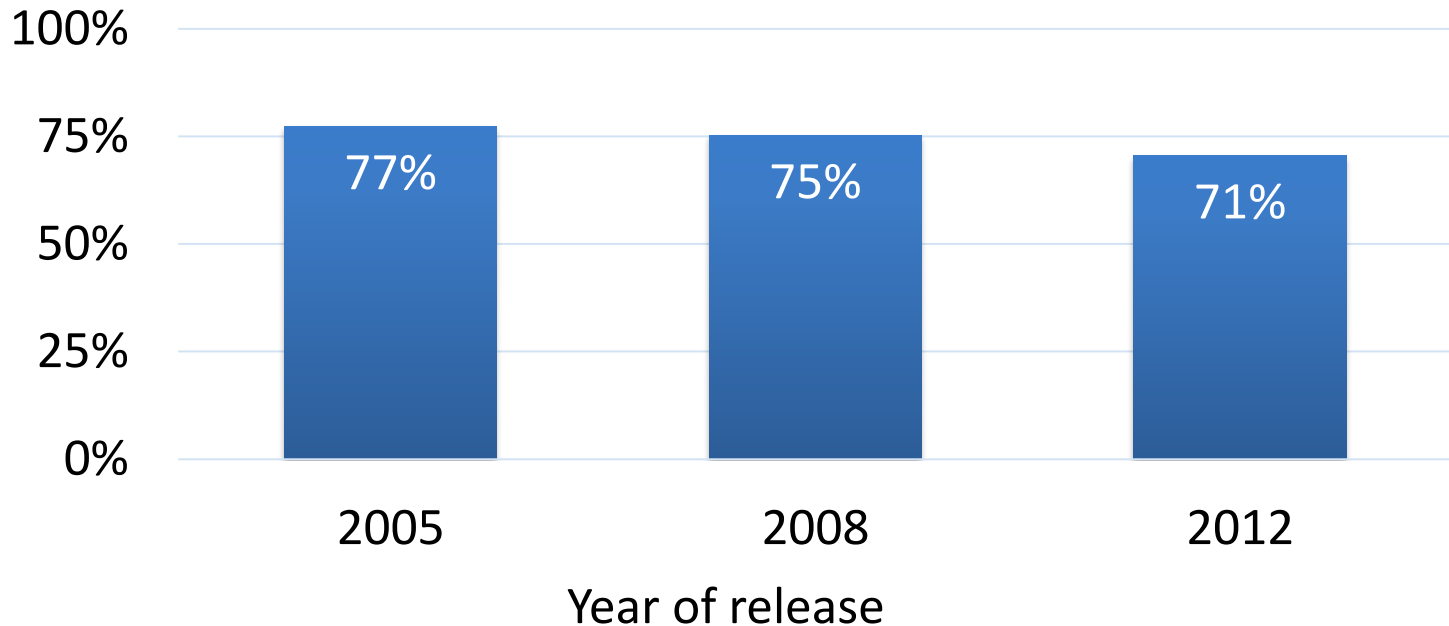
# Have recidivism rates changed over time?



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# Percent arrested for any offense within 5 years declined from 2005 to 2012

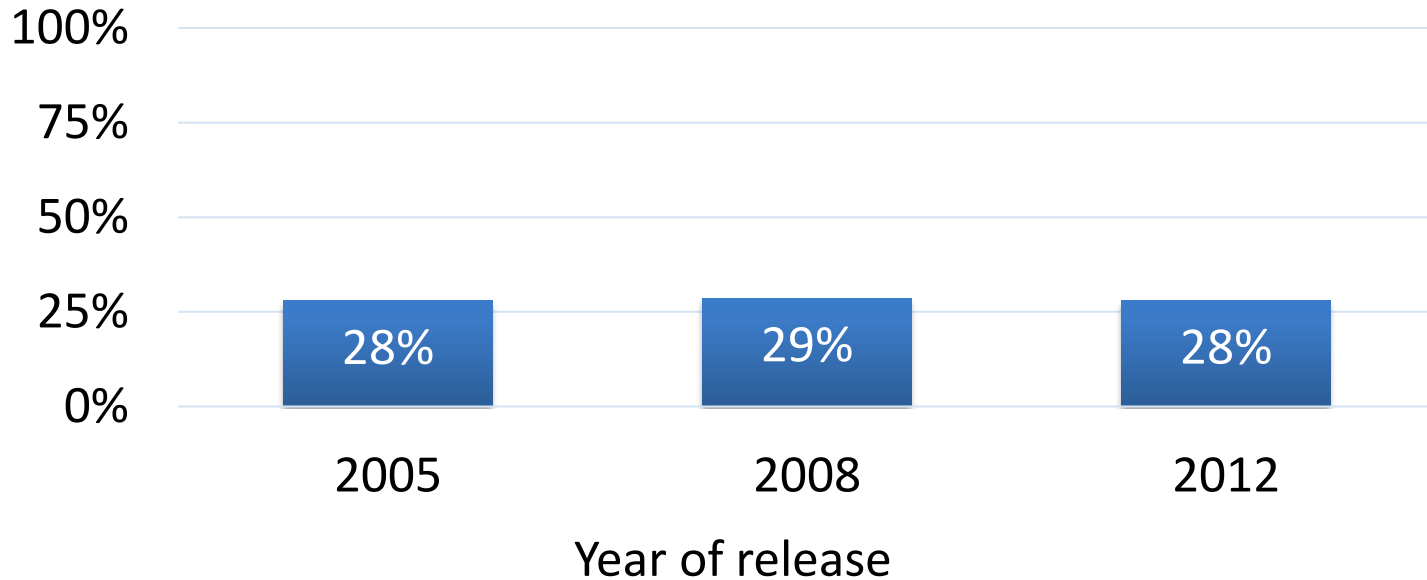


Note: All reported differences are significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.



# Percent arrested for a violent offense within 5 years was similar among those released in 2005 and 2012



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012: A 5-Year Follow-Up Period (2012–2017)*. July 2021.



# Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010





# Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010

E. Ann Carson, Ph.D., *BJS Statistician*; Danielle H. Sandler, Ph.D., *U.S. Census Bureau Senior Economist*; Renuka Bhaskar and Leticia E. Fernandez, Ph.D., *U.S. Census Bureau Survey Statistician*; and Sonya R. Porter, Ph.D., *U.S. Census Bureau Principal Sociologist and Demographer*

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) produced this study to fulfill a congressional mandate in the Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act, part of the 2019 Defense Reauthorization Act (P.L. 116-92, Title XI, Subtitle B, Section 1124). Congress tasked BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau with reporting on post-prison employment of persons released from federal prison. The study population in this report includes 51,500 persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) whose release records could be linked by the U.S. Census Bureau to employment and wage files from the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program.<sup>1</sup> The Census Bureau assigned a Protected Identification Key (PIK) to release records to link them to employment records. Approximately 30% (22,000)

of the 73,500 persons released from federal prison in 2010 could not be assigned a PIK. These persons were excluded from the current analysis because linkage to the LEHD data requires a PIK.

Unless otherwise stated, all statistics presented in this report refer to the study population, which is 51,500 persons released from federal prison whose data could be linked to employment records.

#### U.S. Census Bureau Disclaimer

*Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339).*

<sup>1</sup>See table 1, *Linked BOP-LEHD Data and Methodology for details of the Protected Identification Key assignment process.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Of the 73,500 persons released from federal prison in 2010, a total of 51,500 (70%) received a Protected Identification Key (PIK) that allowed for linkage to employment records from 2010 to 2014.
- A third (33%) of persons in the study population did not find employment at any point during the 16 quarters after their release from prison from 2010 to 2014.
- Persons in the study population convicted of drug offenses had higher post-prison employment rates than persons convicted of other offenses.
- A higher percentage of females than males were employed in each of the 16 quarters following their release in 2010; however, females who were employed were paid a median of \$800 to \$1,800 less per quarter than employed males.
- In the first full quarter after release, 46% of whites in the study population were employed, compared to 37% of American Indians and Alaska Natives; 36% of blacks; 33% of Hispanics; and 33% of Asian, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders.
- Compared to persons who had served time in federal prison for a violent, property, or public order offense, a higher percentage of persons in the study population who had served time for a drug offense were employed in the 16 quarters after release.
- Median quarterly earnings for employed persons in the study population increased from \$3,500 in the first full quarter following their release in 2010 to \$6,000 in the sixteenth quarter.

- Published December 2021
- NCJ 303147
- Report available at:

<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/eprfp10.pdf>

# Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010

- Study mandated by the Fair Chance for Jobs Act, part of the 2019 Defense Reauthorization Act (P.L. 116-92, Title XI, Subtitle B, Section 1124)
- Required a report to Congress by December 2021, and then every 5 years thereafter, covering employment and unemployment of former federal prisoners
- BJS had to use external data sources to complete this report
- Agreement with the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to use data on 2010 federal prison release cohort in linkage to individual-level employment data housed at the U.S. Census Bureau

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010*. Dec 2021.



# Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) data

- Consists of data from state Unemployment Insurance earnings and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data collections
- These data provide employment and earnings information for all persons who earned at least \$1 in wages during a quarter (3 months)
- LEHD data for all 50 states are available from 2000 forward and for a subset of states prior to 2000
- Census receives data from each state and combines into national database
- Data include dates of employment, earnings per quarter, employment sector

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010*. Dec 2021.



# Comparing characteristics of federal and state prisoners

Characteristic	Federal prisoners	State prisoners
<b>Age on December 31, 2020</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
24 years or younger	3.4%	8.7%
25 – 34 years	26.3%	31.4%
35 – 44 years	35.1%	28.0%
45 – 54 years	21.8%	17.7%
55 – 64 years	10.0%	10.5%
65 years or older	3.4%	3.6%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Prisoners in 2020 – Statistical Tables*. Dec 2021.



<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Federal prisoners</b>	<b>State prisoners</b>
<b>Race/ethnicity, 2020</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Non-Hispanic white	23.1%	31.3%
Non-Hispanic black	31.8%	33.1%
Hispanic	34.8%	21.7%
Non-Hispanic American Indian/Asian/Other	10.3%	13.8%
<b>Offense distribution, 2019</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Violent	7.8%	58.2%
Property	4.7%	15.3%
Drug	46.7%	14.0%
Public order	40.5%	11.9%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Prisoners in 2020 – Statistical Tables*. Dec 2021.



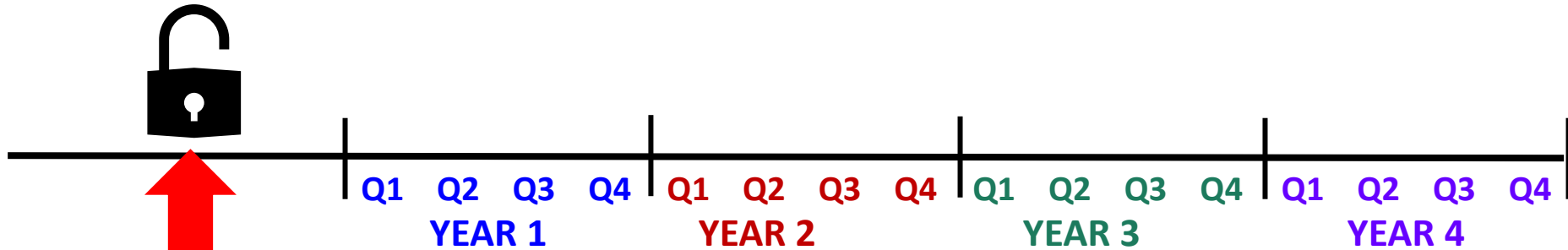
# Federal Justice Statistics Program BOP release data

- 73,500 persons released from federal custody in 2010
- Only 70% of the 2010 release cohort could be assigned a linking identification number (51,500 persons)
  - While Hispanics accounted for 49% of all persons released from the BOP in 2010, they only accounted for 31% of those who received a linking identification number
  - Of the 22,000 persons released from the BOP in 2010 who could **not** be assigned a linking identification number, almost 98% were non-U.S. citizens
  - Hispanics accounted for 77% of non-U.S. citizens released from the BOP in 2010

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010*. Dec 2021.



# Individual follow-up periods to measure employment



**Quarter of release**  
(One of the  
quarters in 2010)



# Measures of employment for persons released from federal prison in 2010

	Total	Male	Female
Total number in study population	51,500	45,300	6,200
Percent ever employed in 16 quarters after quarter of release	67.0%	65.6%	74.6%
Mean number of quarters employed (maximum=16)	9.2 quarters	9.1 quarters	10.2 quarters
Mean number of jobs held over 16 quarters	3.4 jobs	3.3 jobs	3.7 jobs
Mean time to first employment	2.2 quarters	2.2 quarters	2.0 quarters
Mean longest consistent employment	7.8 quarters	7.7 quarters	8.7 quarters

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010*. Dec 2021.





	White/a	Black/a	Hispanic	AIAN/a,b	Asian/a,c	Other/a
Total number in study population	14,500	17,900	16,100	1,400	1,100	600
Percent ever employed in 16 quarters after quarter of release	73.1%	71.1%	55.3%	75.7%	63.6%	72.9%
Mean number of quarters employed (maximum=16)	9.8 qtrs	8.3 qtrs	10.2 qtrs	7.3 qtrs	9.5 qtrs	9.5 qtrs
Mean number of jobs held over 16 quarters	3.2 jobs	3.3 jobs	3.8 jobs	3.3 jobs	2.7 jobs	3.4 jobs
Mean time to first employment	1.8 qtrs	2.6 qtrs	2.1 qtrs	2.7 qtrs	2.3 qtrs	2.0 qtrs
Mean Longest consistent employment	8.3 qtrs	6.8 qtrs	8.8 qtrs	5.5 qtrs	8.4 qtrs	8.0 qtrs

a/Non-Hispanic

b/American Indian or Alaska Native

c/Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander

d/Persons of other or multiple races

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010*. Dec 2021.

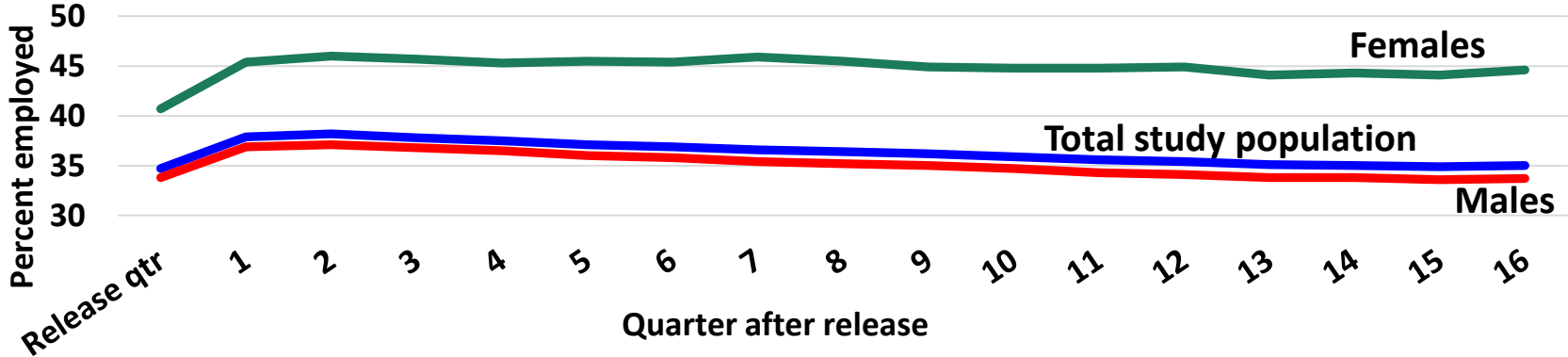


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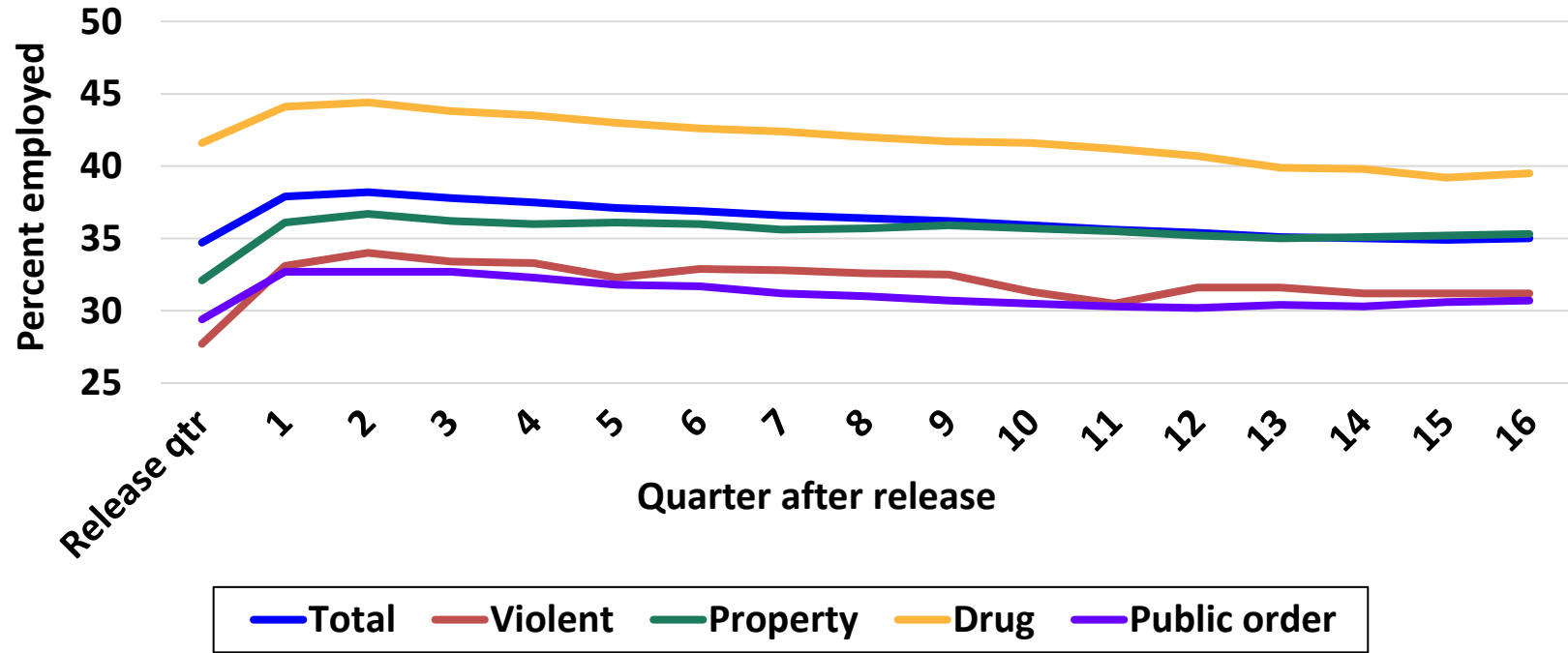
# Quarterly employment of persons released from federal prison in 2010

- In no single quarter after release were more than 40% of persons from the study population employed
- Females in the study population had slightly higher percentages of persons employed in each of the 16 quarters after release than did males.

Percent of persons employed per quarter after release from federal prison in 2010, by sex



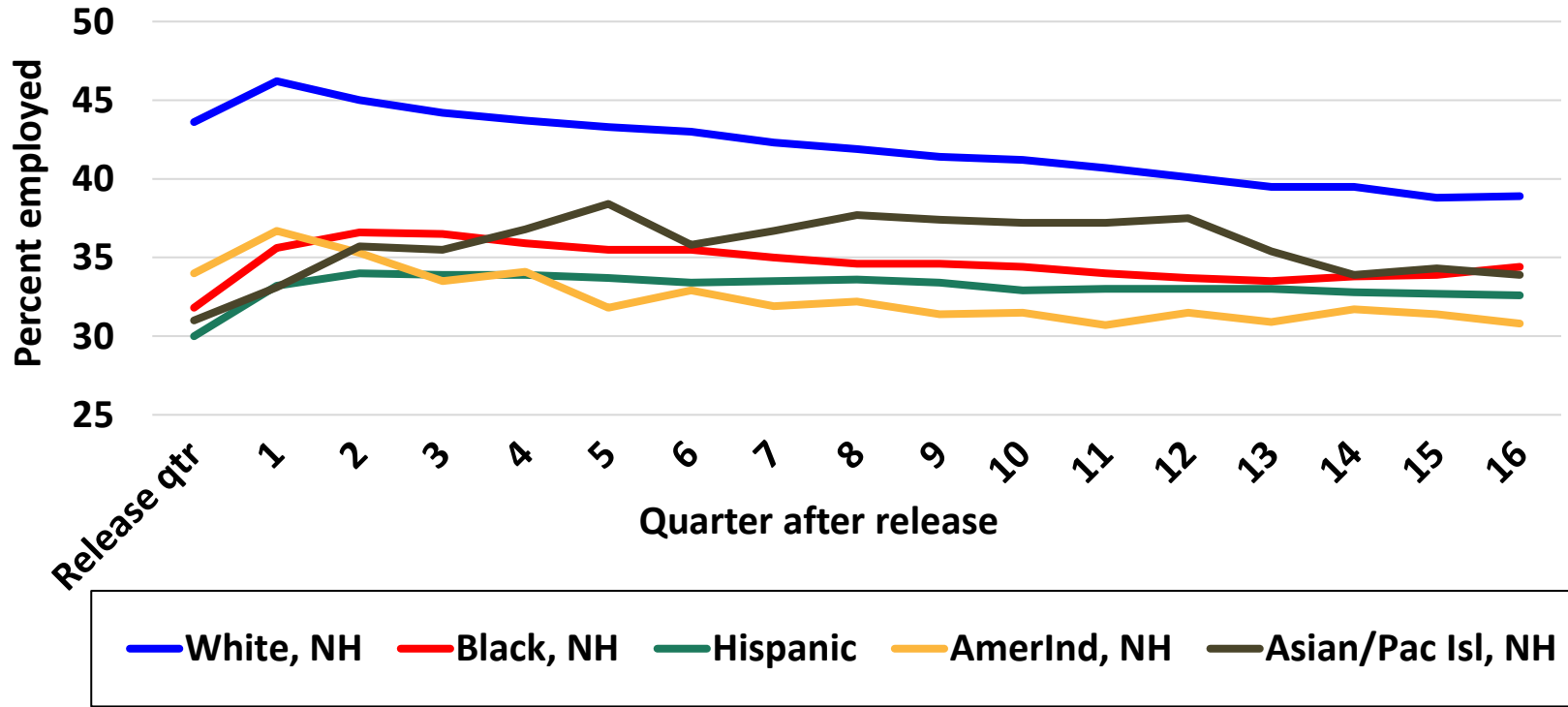
## Percent of persons employed per quarter after release from federal prison in 2010, by most serious offense



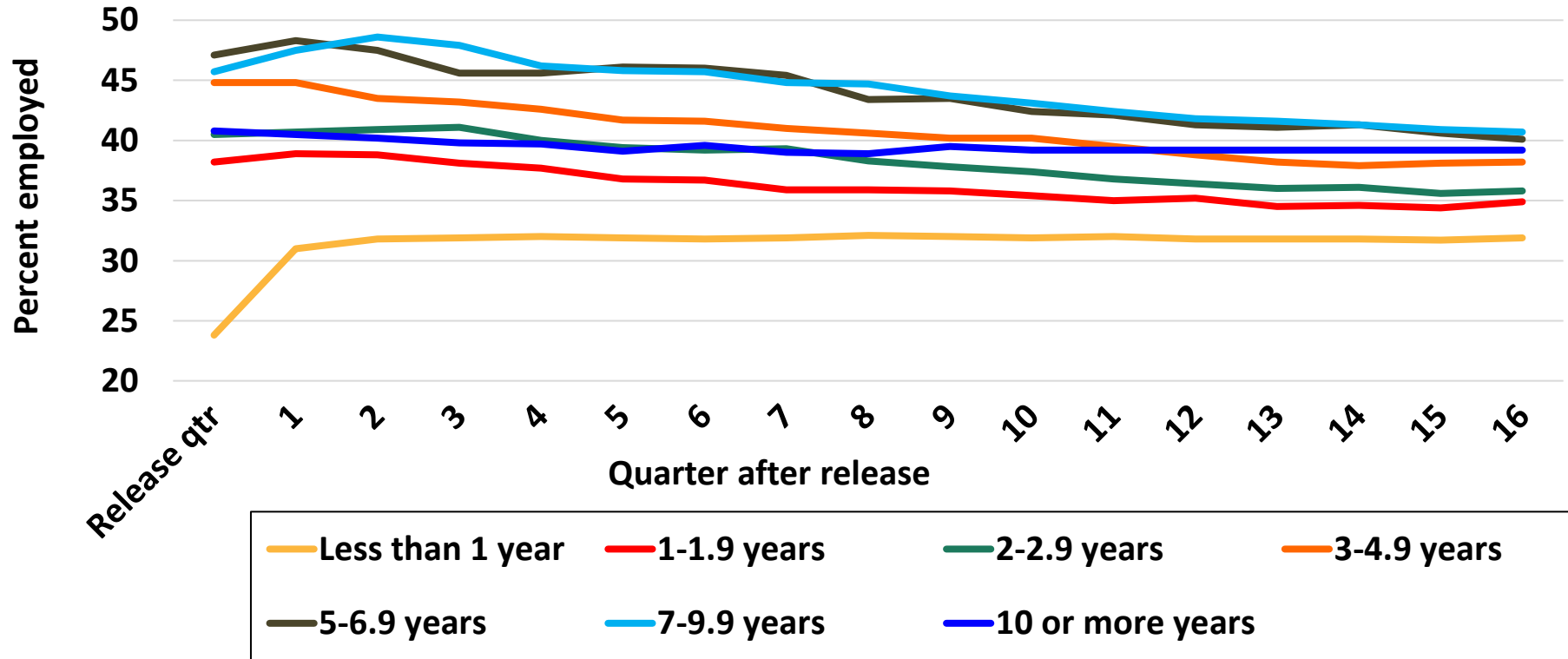
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010*. Dec 2021.



## Percent of persons employed per quarter after release from federal prison in 2010, by race/ethnicity



## Percent of persons employed per quarter after release from federal prison in 2010, by time served in BOP



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010*. Dec 2021.



Bureau of Justice Statistics

# People who served the least amount of time in BOP custody before release in 2010 had the worst employment outcomes

- Quarterly employment for persons who served less than 1 year in BOP custody never exceeded 32%
- 37% of persons who served less than a year were unemployed for all 4 years post-release
  - In comparison, 33% of those who served 1-1.9 years were unemployed
- Those who served less than a year in BOP custody spent an average 2.9 quarters between release and their first job
  - Those who served 1-1.9 years prior to release spent 2.0 quarters
- Average total number of quarters employed was 8.4 (16 maximum)

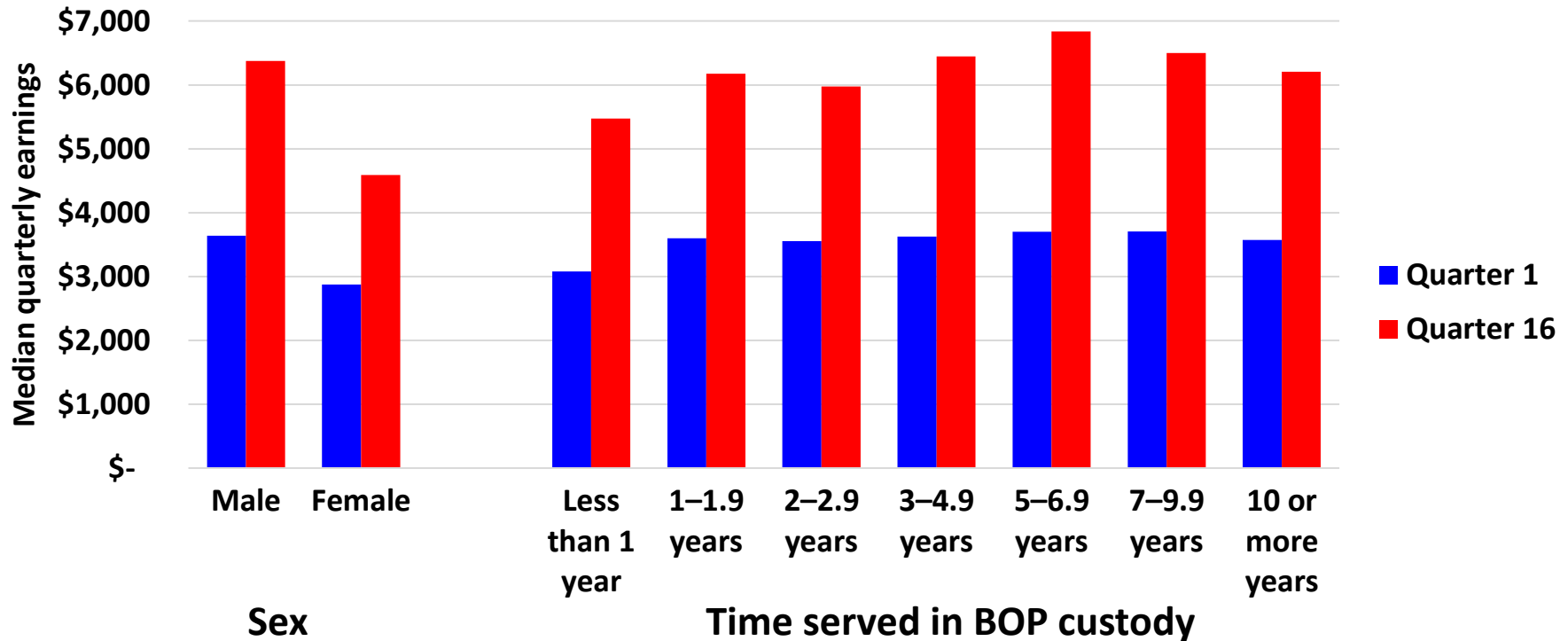


# Median quarterly earnings

- Of those in the study population employed during Quarter 1 post-release, median quarterly earnings were \$3,500, compared to \$6,000 in Quarter 16
- Females employed in each quarter had lower quarterly earnings than did males
- In Quarters 1 and 16, Hispanics, whites, and Asians who were employed had higher earnings compared to Blacks and American Indians/Alaska Natives
- Persons who served less than 1 year prior to 2010 BOP release earned at least \$1,000/quarter less than those who served longer
- Those employed after serving time for drug and public order offenses earned an average of more than \$6,100/quarter in quarter 16, about \$1,300 more than persons who had served time for violent offenses

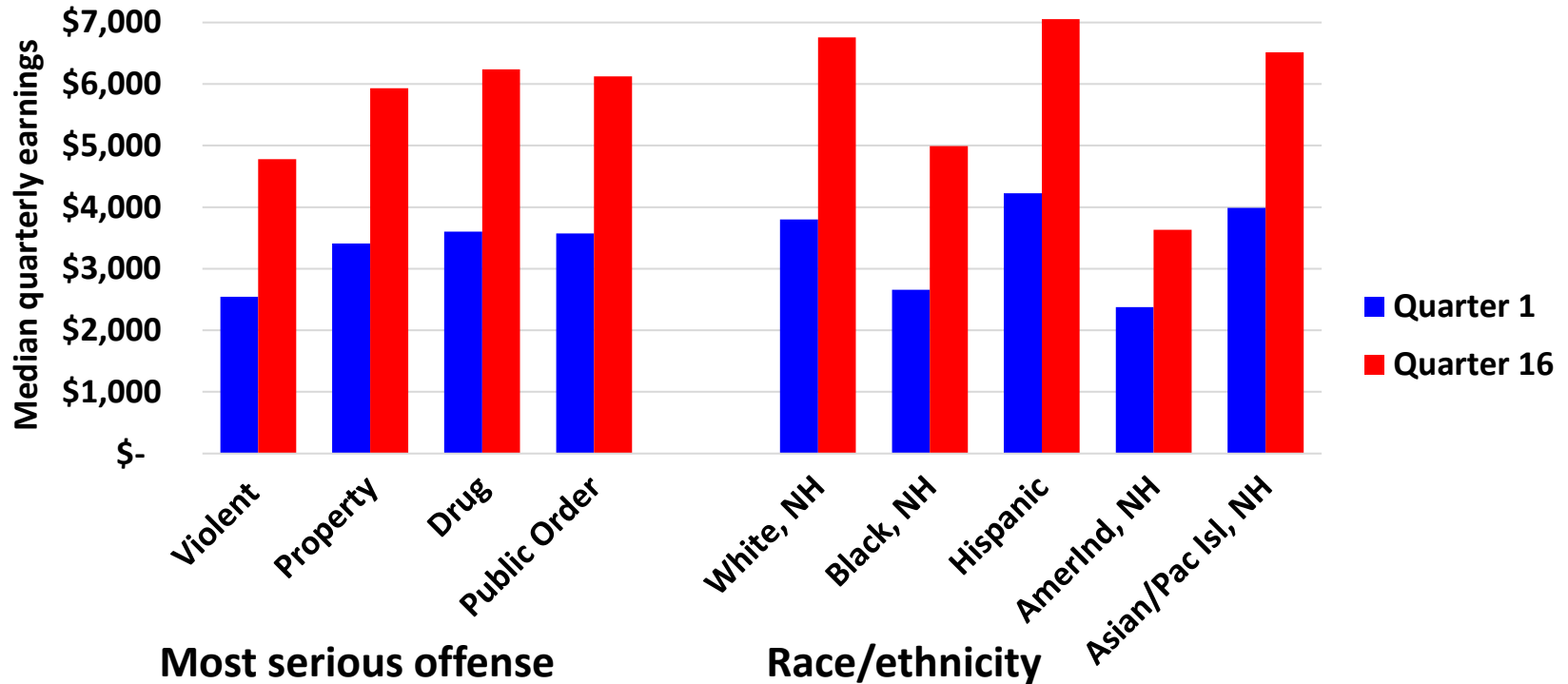


## Median quarterly earnings for persons released from BOP custody in 2010 and employed in Quarters 1 or 16 after release, by sex and time served





## Median quarterly earnings for persons released from BOP custody in 2010 and employed in Quarters 1 or 16 after release, by most serious offense and race/ethnicity



# Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (CSAT)

## Prisoners tool

Enhances the core functionality of the previous data tool

Available at:

<https://csat.bjs.ojp.gov>



# CSAT - Prisoners

<https://csat.bjs.ojp.gov>

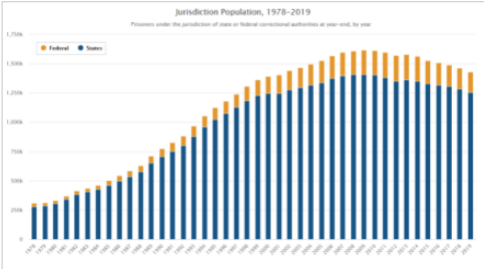
## Overview

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) compiles comprehensive information on offenders sentenced to state and federal prisons, through the National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) survey and the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP). BJS has made these data available through the CSAT-Prisoners tool, an interface developed and maintained by Abt Associates Inc. CSAT-Prisoners can generate various statistics, figures and maps on prison admissions, prison releases, and year-end prison populations between 1978 and 2019.

## Frequently Requested Figures

View selected pre-formatted figures showing long-term trends in prison admissions, releases, and year-end populations, and the most recent data on characteristics of persons admitted to prison, released from prison, and in the year-end prison population.

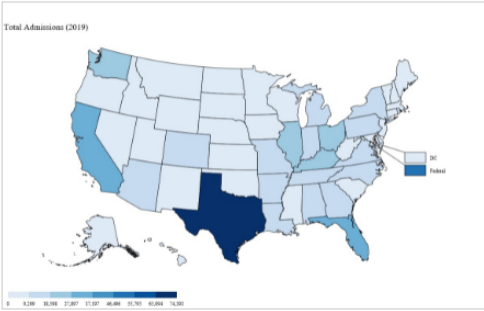
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## Map Query

Create maps showing annual state-level admission, release, and year-end population counts.

[View Map Query](#)





Access the latest research at <https://bjs.ojp.gov>

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