

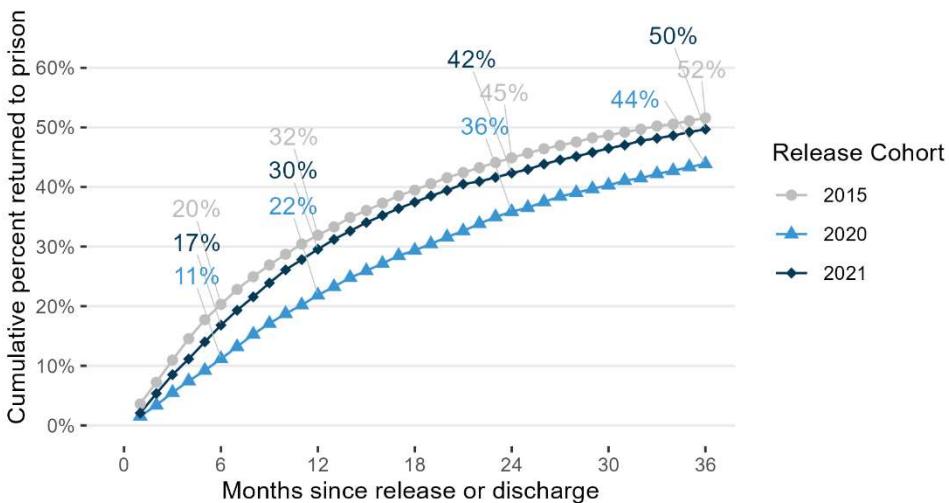
Brief: 2025 Recidivism Study

2021 Release Cohort

Recidivism Study of the 2021 Release Cohort

Per statute, the OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (OPM CJPPD) produces annual reports on *recidivism*, i.e. a relapse into criminal behavior, among individuals released or discharged from Connecticut's correctional facilities.

**Cumulative percentage returned to DOC within 3 years;
2015, 2020, & 2021 release cohorts**



For 2025, OPM CJPPD studied sentenced individuals released or discharged from Department of Correction (DOC) facilities during 2021. The chart above presents the cumulative percentage of individuals returned to DOC facilities for any reason at 6, 12, 24, and 36 months, and compares the 2021 cohort to the 2015 cohort (pre-pandemic benchmark) & 2020 cohort (COVID pandemic) years. Given Connecticut's unified correction system, this brief reports the rate of return to DOC for any reason for its utility in long-range system and facility planning. Additional recidivism measures, including 1) rearrest and 2) re-conviction data will be presented to the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission when available later in 2025.

This brief was produced by the Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division Research Unit of

The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford CT, 06106
This brief and other reports are available for download
on the [OPM CJPPD website](#).

Key Changes in Study Population

	Historic Baseline	Percent Change	
		2015	2021
DOC Population July 1	16,025	9,920	-38.1%
Release/Discharged Recidivism Study population			
Sentenced	11,332	4,633	-59.1%
Male	10,038	4,167	-58.5%
Female	1,294	466	-64.0%
Under the age of 25	2,214	532	-76.0%

2025 Study: Key Findings

- Criminal Justice system impacts from the COVID 19 pandemic contributed to fewer people released or discharged from DOC in 2021. OPM's study cohort for 2021 had **4,633** people, **nearly a 60% reduction** from the 2015 cohort, our study's pre-pandemic benchmark.
- The 2021 release cohort had a **50%** cumulative return rate within 3 years, higher than the 2020 cohort's pandemic impacted rate of **44%**, but 2 percent below the 2015 cohort's.
- Within 6 months, **17%** of the 2021 cohort returned, closer to the historic 20% rate observed with the 2015 cohort. Within 1 year, **30%** of the 2021 cohort returned, again lower than the 2015 rate (32%).
- By contrast, the 2020 cohort, released into the community during the onset of the COVID pandemic, had six and twelve month return rates of only 11 and 22 percent respectively.
- 47%** of those discharging their sentence with Risk Reduction Earned Credits (RREC) in 2021 returned to prison within three years, slightly lower than the overall cohort rate of 50%.

