

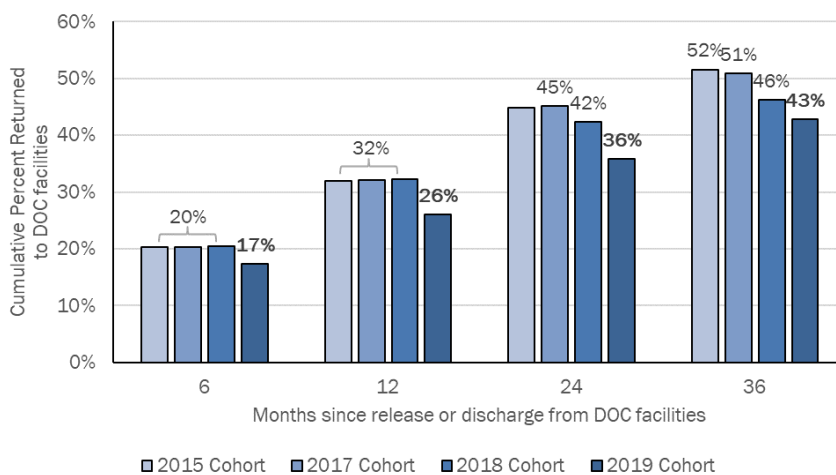
Brief: 2023 Recidivism Study

2019 Release Cohort

Recidivism Study of the 2019 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 percent returned to DOC within 3 years;
 2015, 2017, 2018, & 2019 release cohorts



For 2023, OPM CJPPD studied sentenced individuals released or discharged from Department of Correction (DOC) facilities during 2019. 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 2019 cohort to the 2015, 2017, & 2018 cohort 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, 2) re-conviction and 3) returns to DOC to serve an incarceration sentence, will be presented to the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission in **March 2023**.

Key Changes in Study Population

	2015	2019	Percent Change 2015-2019
DOC Population July 1	16,025	13,107	-18.2%
Release/Discharged Recidivism Study population			
Sentenced	11,332	9,120	-19.5%
Male	10,098	8,011	-20.2%
Female	1,294	1,109	-14.3%
Under the age of 25	2,214	1,299	-41.3%

2023 Study: Key Findings

- The 2019 release cohort had **6% fewer people** compared to 2018, and **-19.5%** compared to 2015.
- **43%** of individuals in the 2019 release cohort returned to a DOC facility within three years.
- The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the 2019 cohort’s return rate, which was **9% lower** than the 2015 cohort’s **52%** benchmark rate.
- As with prior cohorts, **over 60%** of those with the most substantial prior sentence histories at release returned to DOC facilities within 36 months.
- **26%** of those completing their first sentence returned within 36 months.
- Across all cohort years, **49%** total of those discharging their sentence with Risk Reduction Earned Credits (RREC) returned to prison, **5% below** the 2015 benchmark.

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

The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management

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The full report will be presented to the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission in **March 2023**.

This brief and other reports are available for download on the [OPM CJPPD website](#).

