



Recidivism Rates Decline Third Year in a Row



A Publication of the State of New Hampshire, Department of Corrections

Recidivism rates among New Hampshire’s prison population have fallen 12% over the past three cohort years to a recidivism rate of 43.8% — the lowest rate in five years. These results are among the findings of the New Hampshire Department of Corrections’ most recent study of recidivism which looked at returns to prison among offenders released in fiscal year 2008.

Methodology

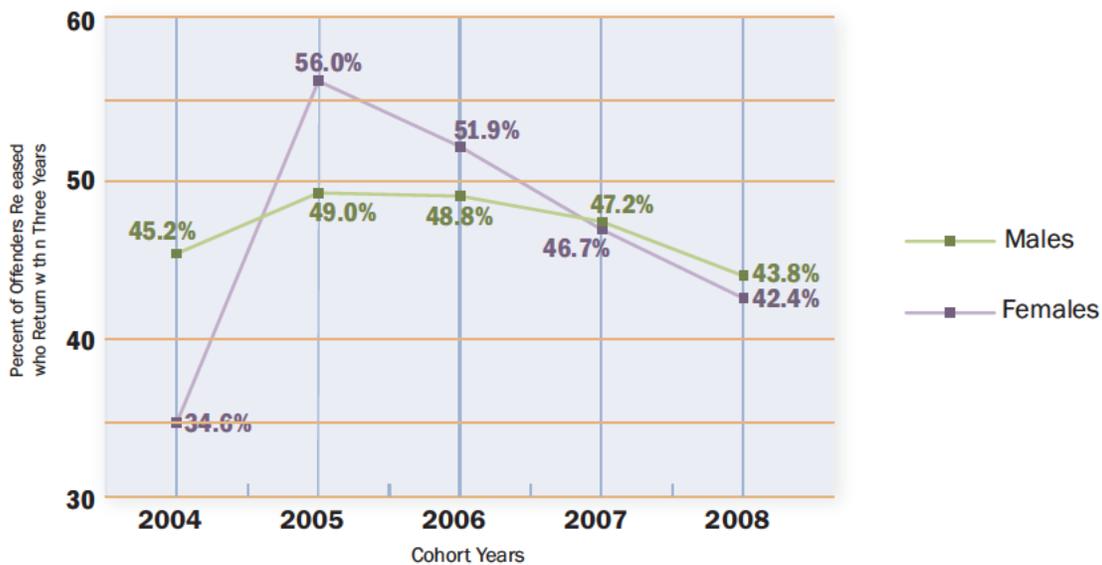
The New Hampshire Department of Corrections (DOC) conducts studies of recidivism, which track offenders released from prison each fiscal year to see how many return to prison within three years of their release. This report analyzes changes in recidivism rates over most recent five cohort years.

Findings

Approximately 1100 offenders are released from prison each year from New Hampshire state prisons, of which roughly 90% are males and 10% are females. The statewide recidivism rate for offenders released in fiscal year 2004 was 44.2%. The recidivism rate for males was 45.2% that year, while the recidivism rate for females was 34.6%.

Recidivism rates for offenders released in 2005 increased a dramatic 12% statewide, from 44.2% to 49.6%. A full one-third of this increase was due to an unprecedented 62% increase in the recidivism rate for females, which went from 34.6% to 56% in one year. The recidivism rate for males increased 8.8%, rising from 45.2% to 49% that same year.

Chart 1. Recidivism Rates for Releases FY2004 - FY2008



Since 2005 however, statewide recidivism rates have been falling at an average annual rate of 4.2%, reaching a five year low among offenders released in 2008. The rate for males has decreased 10.6% in the past five years, while the decrease in recidivism for female offenders was 8.8%.

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