An estimated 11% of the 404,638 prisoners released in 30 states during 2005 were arrested at least once in another state within 5 years following release. The likelihood that prisoners were arrested out of state following release increased with the number of out-of-state arrests in their criminal history. During the 5-year follow-up period, 6% of inmates with no prior out-of-state arrests were arrested out of state, compared to 34% of inmates who had four or more prior out-of-state arrests.

Recidivism rates

Within their first year of release, an estimated 43% of prisoners were arrested for a new crime either within the state of release or in another state (see figure). When examining recidivism rates within the state of release only, an estimated 41% of prisoners were arrested within 1 year following release. Within 5 years of their release, 77% of the released prisoners were arrested either within or outside the state of release. However, when examining arrests during the 5-year follow-up period within the state of release only, an estimated 72% of prisoners were arrested. During the follow-up period, 5% of the prisoners had only out-of-state arrests and were not arrested within the state that released them.

About the offenders

Males had higher out-of-state recidivism rates than females. Within 1 year of release in 2005, 3% of males and 2% of females had an out-of-state arrest. Five years after release, 11% of males and 9% of females had an out-of-state arrest. During the same period, 13% of whites, 10% of blacks, and 8% of Hispanics were arrested in another state. Younger inmates were more likely than older inmates to have an out-of-state arrest after release. An estimated 12% of inmates under age 40 had an out-of-state arrest during the 5-year follow-up period, compared to 8% of those age 40 or older.

Types of offenses

Within 5 years of release in 2005, 29% of prisoners were arrested for a violent offense either within or outside the state of release, 26% of prisoners were arrested for a violent crime within the state of release, and 3% were arrested for a violent crime outside the state of release. Less than 1% of prisoners were arrested for a violent crime both within and outside the state of release during the 5-year follow-up period. An estimated 5% of the prisoners were arrested out of state for a property offense, 4% for a drug crime, and 7% for a public order offense, such as probation violations, weapons offenses, or disorderly conduct.

Post-release supervision

The majority of prisoners in this study (74%) were granted conditional release and placed on parole, probation, or some other form of community supervision. Overall, prisoners granted conditional release (77%) were arrested at similar rates as those granted unconditional release (77%) during the 5-year follow-up period. However, prisoners who were released on community supervision were arrested within the state of release at higher rates (73%) than those granted unconditional release (69%). Prisoners released conditionally (9%) were less likely than those released unconditionally (15%) to be arrested in another state during the 5 years following release.

The full report (Multistate Criminal History Patterns of Prisoners Released in 30 States, NCJ 248942), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.