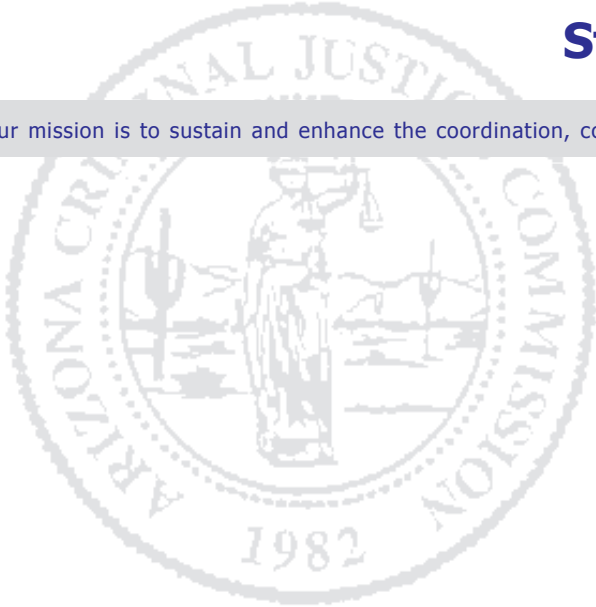


# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

## Statistical Analysis Center Publication

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System in Arizona



# *Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from the Arizona Department of Corrections in 2001*

# 2009

February

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## Introduction

In 2001, the Arizona Department of Corrections released 538 sex offenders at the conclusion of their sentences. By relying on official data from the Arizona Department of Corrections and the Arizona Department of Public Safety, this report summarizes levels of recidivism of released male sex offenders classified by both data sets as sex offenders (n=290). This report documents the rates of recidivism as measured by rates of rearrest and reconviction during a three-year follow-up period. Recidivism rates are presented for all 290 released male sex offenders as well as for four overlapping categories: rapists (n=31), sexual assaulters (n=259), child molesters (n=111), and statutory rapists (n=87).

## Highlights

The 290 male sex offenders released from the Arizona Department of Corrections represent 2.2% of all offenders released in 2001 (13,425). On average the 290 male sex offenders served 69.8 months in prison.

### *Rearrest for a new sex crime within three years*

Of the 290 released sex offenders, 2.4% were rearrested for a new sex crime. By comparison, sex offenders were nearly six times more likely to be rearrested for a new sex crime than non-sex offenders. Among a sample of non-sex offenders, 0.4% (six out of 1,699) were rearrested for a new sex crime.

Of the 31 rapists, 3.2% (one male) had a new arrest for a sex crime (either a sexual assault or another forcible rape). Of the 259 released sexual assaulters, 2.3% (six men) were rearrested for a new sex crime (either a forcible rape or another sexual assault).

After their release, 1.8% (two men) of the child molesters and 2.3% (two men) of the statutory rapists were rearrested for a new sex crime.

### *Reconviction within three years for a new sex crime*

Of the 290 released sex offenders, two (0.7%) were reconvicted for a sex crime (a forcible rape or a sexual assault).

One released rapist was reconvicted for a sex crime. The one male represents 3.2% of the 31 rapists released in 2001. Among the 259 released sexual assaulters, 0.4% (one male) was reconvicted for a sex crime.

Following their release, 0.9% (one male) of the 111 released child molesters were convicted for a new sex crime against a child or an adult. None of the statutory rapists were reconvicted for a sex crime.

### *Rearrest for a sex crime against a child within three years*

Following their release in 2001, four of the 290 released sex offenders (1.4%) were rearrested for a sex offense against a child. A total of 0.2% (four of 1,699) of a sample of non-sex offenders were rearrested for a sex offense against a child.

### *Rearrest for any type of crime within three years*

Twenty-nine percent of sex offenders (83 of the 290) were rearrested for at least one new crime.

Thirty-two percent of the 31 rapists (10 men) and 28.2% of the 259 sexual assaulters (73 men) were rearrested for any type of crime.

Sixteen of the 111 child molesters (14.4%) and 34 of the 87 statutory rapists (39.1%) were rearrested for a new crime.

## Methodology and Definitions

Information on 13,425 individuals released from the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) in 2001 was provided to the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), which is the agency that maintains the Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH) repository. In turn, DPS attempted to match criminal history record information to each of the individuals released from ADC custody in 2001. The DPS uses six fields when attempting to match subjects to their criminal histories: 1) subject's name; 2) subject's date of birth; 3) subject's social security number; 4) subject's state identification number; 5) subject's FBI number; and 6) subject's sex.

Of the 13,425 individuals released from ADC custody in 2001, DPS was able to match criminal history record information for 11,950 individuals (89.1% of all 2001 releases). The 11,950 matches constitute only those that are considered to have a high probability of an accurate match. Of the 11,950 individuals for whom ACCH matches were made, 538 were flagged by ADC as "current sex offenders." For ADC, current sex offender is defined as an individual who was currently serving a sentence for a sex offense, independent of their previous criminal history.

Upon closer inspection of the ADC and ACCH offense data, current sex offender status could not be confirmed for 232 of the 538 individuals flagged as current sex offenders by ADC. The 306 individuals for which there were confirming sex offense information became the sex offender sample for this study. From the remaining non-sex offenders released from prison in 2001 a sample of 1,699 individuals were randomly selected to comprise the non-sex offender comparison group.

Following the methodology of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) study on recidivism of sex offenders released from prison in 1994, the 306 sex offenders were classified into four mutually exclusive sex offender types using subject-specific Arizona Revised Statute information available from ADC: 1) rapists; 2) sexual assaulters; 3) child molesters; and 4) statutory rapists. An additional variable was created that collapsed the four sex offender types into three: 1) rapists; 2) sexual assaulters; and 3) child molesters by including statutory rapists in the child molester category. A final dichotomous sex offender variable was created that collapsed the four sex offender types into two: 1) rapists; and 2) sexual assaulters by including child molesters and statutory rapists in the sexual assaulter category. Literal descriptions of sex offenses found in the ADC data were used in conjunction with Arizona Revised Statute descriptions because the terms used by BJS to describe sex offenders do not entirely correspond with Arizona terminology.

In a divergence from the methodology of the previously cited BJS study, female sex offenders were excluded from the study (n=3). Other ways in which this report differs from the original BJS study include the following: 1) the population under observation includes sex offenders who were released from prison in 2001 and it is unclear whether they were first releases or not; 2) race and ethnicity were both included in the study along with Mexican nationals; 3) no distinction is made between prior arrests and prior record as the researchers relied on the criminal history records provided by the Arizona Department of Public Safety; and 4) conviction and sentencing data are limited as the Arizona Department of Public Safety did not provide disposition date data.

## Sex Offenders Released from Prison in 2001

### Demographic Characteristics

*All sex offenders*

Of the 290 released sex offenders, approximately –

- 158 (54.5% of the 290) were Caucasian males (table 1)
- 33 (11.4%) were black males
- 19 (6.6%) were Native American males
- 59 (20.3%) were Latino males
- 21 (7.2%) were Mexican Nationals

The majority of sex offenders were over the age of 35 when released.

*Rapists and sexual assaulters*

Of the 290 released sex offenders, 31 were rapists and 259 were sexual assaulters.

Of the 31 rapists, 14 (45.2% of 31) were Caucasian males and eight (25.8%) were black males.

Median age at time of release was approximately 39 years for both rapists and sexual assaulters.

<b>Table 1. Demographic characteristics of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, by type of sex offender</b>			
Prisoner characteristic	Percent of released prisoners		
	All	Rapists	Sexual assaulters
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>			
Caucasian	54.5%	45.2%	55.6%
Black	11.4	25.8	9.7
Native American	6.6	0.0	7.3
Latino	20.3	19.4	20.5
Mexican Nationals	7.2	9.7	6.9
<b>Age at release</b>			
18-24	10.3%	9.7%	10.4%
25-29	10.3	3.2	11.2
30-34	8.6	12.9	8.1
35-39	21.7	29.0	20.8
40-44	14.5	19.4	13.9
45 or older	34.5	25.8	35.5
<b>Age at release</b>			
Average	41.1 yrs	39.0 yrs	41.4 yrs
Median	39.0	39.0	39.0
Total released	290	31	259

*Child molesters and statutory rapists*

Some of the 290 sex offenders were men whose imprisonment offense was a sex offense against a child.

In this report, these offenders are called “child molesters” or “statutory rapists” (table 2).

Both the 111 child molesters and the 87 statutory rapists were predominantly Caucasian males. Eighty-nine percent of the child molesters were age 30 or older. Sixty-nine percent of the statutory rapists were 30 or older at the time they were released from prison.

Among the released child molesters there were 77 Caucasian men (69.4%) and 16 Latino men (14.4%). The 91 statutory rapists included 42 Caucasian men (48.3%) and 22 Latino men (25.3%).

<b>Table 2. Demographic characteristics of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001</b>		
Prisoner characteristic	Percent of released prisoners	
	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>		
Caucasian	69.4%	48.3%
Black	2.7	11.5
Native American	6.3	11.5
Latino	14.4	25.3
Mexican Nationals	7.2	3.4
<b>Age at release</b>		
18-24	2.7%	14.9%
25-29	8.1	16.1
30-34	4.5	10.3
35-39	24.3	20.7
40-44	12.6	10.3
45 or older	47.7	27.6
<b>Age at release</b>		
Average	46.0 yrs	38.1 yrs
Median	44.0	36.0
<b>Total released</b>		
	111	87



## Sentence and Length of Time Served

### All sex offenders

The shortest prison term was four months; the longest was 28 years. On average, a sex offender released from prison in 2001 had a 94 month term and served 100% of the sentence before being released (table 3). Fifty-four percent had served two-thirds of their sentence before being released. When released, 27.1% had more than three years of their sentence remaining to be served.

### Rapists and sexual assaulters

Consistent with the more serious nature of rape —

- on average a released rapist had a longer sentence (by 21 months) than a sexual assaulter
- rapists served 64% of their sentence before being released while sexual assaulters spent 100% of their time in confinement
- when released, 48% of rapists had more than three years of their sentence remaining to be served and 25.5% of sexual assaulters had more than three years of their sentence remaining to be served.

<b>Table 3. Sentence length and time served for sex offenders released from prison in 2001, by type of sex offender</b>			
Characteristic	All	Rapists	Sexual assaulters
<b>Sentence length (in months)</b>			
Mean	93.8 mo	112.6 mo	91.6 mo
Median	90.0	105.0	90.0
<b>Time served (in months)</b>			
Mean	69.8 mo	72.6 mo	69.5 mo
Median	70.3	59.7	71.7
<b>Percent of sentence served</b>			
	100%	64%	100%
<b>Upon release in 2001, percent who had served -</b>			
6 months or less	14.5%	12.9%	14.7%
7-12	5.5	3.2	5.8
13-18	3.8	3.2	3.9
19-24	4.1	6.5	3.9
25-30	2.4	0.0	2.7
31-36	3.1	3.2	3.1
37-60	12.4	22.6	11.2
61 months or more	54.1	48.4	54.8
<b>Upon release in 2001, percent with time still remaining to be served</b>			
6 months or less	28.6	19.4	29.7
7-12	17.6	9.7	18.5
13-18	11.4	9.7	11.6
19-24	5.5	3.2	5.8
25-30	3.8	6.5	3.5
31-36	5.2	3.2	5.4
37-60	15.9	12.9	16.2
61 months or more	12.1	35.5	9.3
Total released	290	31	259

*Child molesters and sexual assaulters*

On average, child molesters were released after serving 84.9 months of their 109.9 month sentence (table 4). Statutory rapists were released after serving approximately 64 months of their 83 month sentence. Upon release, almost a third of the child molesters and statutory rapist had more than three years of their sentence remaining to be served.

<b>Table 4. Sentence length and time served for child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001</b>		
Characteristic	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
<b>Sentence length (in months)</b>		
Mean	109.9 mo	83.3 mo
Median	120.0	72.0
<b>Time served (in months)</b>		
Mean	84.9 mo	64.5 mo
Median	84.3	61.8
<b>Percent of sentence served</b>	90%	100%
<b>Upon release in 2001, percent who had served -</b>		
6 months or less	5.4%	21.8%
7-12	1.8	9.2
13-18	1.8	3.4
19-24	3.6	1.1
25-30	5.4	1.1
31-36	1.8	4.6
37-60	11.7	8.0
61 months or more	68.5	50.6
<b>Upon release in 2001, percent with time still remaining to be served</b>		
6 months or less	28.8	33.3
7-12	4.4	16.1
13-18	9.0	11.5
19-24	6.3	3.4
25-30	4.5	3.4
31-36	7.2	4.6
37-60	18.9	17.2
61 months or more	10.8	10.3
<b>Total released</b>	111	87

## **Prior Criminal Record**

### *All sex offenders*

At the time the 290 male sex offenders were arrested for the sex crime that resulted in their imprisonment —

- 86.9% (252 of the 290 men) had been arrested at least one earlier time (table 5)
- the average number of prior arrests for any crime was 8.5.

### *Sex offenders compared to non-sex offenders*

Almost all (99.7%) non-sex offenders had at least one prior arrest (not shown). Non-sex offenders averaged 18 prior arrests.

### *Rapists and sexual assaulters*

Approximately ninety percent of rapists and eighty-seven percent of sexual assaulters had been arrested at least one earlier time. The average number of prior arrests for rapists was 10; for sexual assaulters it was 8.3 prior arrests.

<b>Table 5. Prior criminal record of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, by type of sex offender</b>			
Prior to the sex crime for which imprisoned	All	Rapists	Sexual assaulters
<b>Percent with at least one prior arrest for -</b>			
Any crime	86.9%	90.3%	86.5%
<b>Prior arrests for any crime</b>			
Mean	8.5	9.9	8.3
Median	5.0	7.0	5.0
<b>Total released</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>259</b>
Note: "Prior" includes the arrest that was the reason the sex offenders were in prison in 2001. Persons with no prior arrest were coded zero and were included in the calculations of mean and median priors.			

*Child molesters and sexual assaulters*

Approximately 91 percent of rapists and 86 percent of sexual assaulters had been arrested at least one earlier time (table 6). The average number of prior arrests for child molesters was 7.7 and 9.4 for statutory rapists.

<b>Table 6. Prior criminal record of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001</b>		
	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
Prior to the sex crime for which imprisoned		
<b>Percent with at least one prior arrest for -</b>		
Any crime	85.6%	90.8%
<b>Prior arrests for any crime</b>		
Mean	7.7	9.4
Median	5.0	6.0
Total released	111	87
Note: "Prior" includes the arrest that was the reason the sex offenders were in prison in 2001. Persons with no prior arrest were coded zero and were included in the calculations of mean and median priors.		

## Recidivism for Any Type of Crime

### Measure of Recidivism

This section measures recidivism in the following way:

- percent rearrested for any type of crime.

Except where stated otherwise, the recidivism measure —

- refers to the full three-year period following the prisoner's release in 2001

- includes "Arizona" recidivism.

"Arizona" recidivism refers to new offenses committed within Arizona.

#### *All sex offenders*

The 290 sex offenders in this study were all released from prison in 2001. Within the first three years following their release —

- 28.6% (83 of the 290) were rearrested for at least one new crime (table 7).

#### *Rapists and sexual assaulters*

Within the first three years following release —

- 32.3% of the 31 rapists (10 men) and 28.2% of the 259 sexual assaulters (73 men) were rearrested for any type of crime (table 7).

#### *Sex offenders compared to non-sex offenders*

Fifty-eight percent of non-sex offenders were rearrested for a new crime within three years of release (977 of 1,699, not shown here). Also, 56.7% of sex offenders who were rearrested were charged with a felony. This is higher than the 41.6% of non-sex offenders who were rearrested for a felony offense.

<b>Table 7. Recidivism rate of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, by recidivism measure and type of sex offender</b>			
Recidivism measure	Percent of released prisoners		
	All	Rapists	Sexual assaulters
<b>Within three years following release</b>			
Rearrested for any type of crime	28.6%	32.3%	28.2%
Total released	290	31	259

*Child molesters and statutory rapists*

Of the child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001

- 16 of the 111 child molesters (14.4%) and 34 of the 87 statutory rapists (39.1%) were rearrested for a new crime (not necessarily a new sex crime) (table 8).

<b>Table 8. Recidivism rate of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001, by recidivism measure</b>		
Recidivism measure	Percent of released prisoners	
	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
<b>Within three years following release</b>		
Rearrested for any type of crime	14.4%	39.1%
Total released	111	87

**Time to Recidivism**

*All sex offenders*

Within six months following their release, 0.6% were rearrested for a new crime (not necessarily another sex offense) (table 9). Within one year, 13.1% were rearrested. Within two years, 22.8% of men were rearrested. By the end of the three-year follow-up period, 28.6% (83 of the 290) were rearrested for some type of crime.

*Rapists and sexual assaulters*

Less than 10% of released rapists and 6.6% of released sexual assaulters were rearrested for a new crime within six months following their 2001 release.

*Child molesters and statutory rapists*

Of the 111 released child molesters, 3.6% were rearrested for a new crime within the six month follow-up period (table 10). Less than 10% of released statutory rapists were rearrested within the first six months.

<b>Table 9. Recidivism rate of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, by type of recidivism measure, type of sex offender, and time after release</b>			
Time after 2001 release	Cumulative percent of sex offenders released from prison in 2001		
	All	Rapists	Sexual assaulters
<b>Rearrested for any type of crime within -</b>			
6 months	6.6%	6.5%	6.6%
1 year	13.1	16.1	12.7
2 years	22.8	25.8	22.4
3 years	28.6	32.3	28.2
Total released	290	31	259

<b>Table 10. Recidivism rate of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001, by type of recidivism measure and time after release</b>		
Time after 2001 release	Cumulative percent of sex offenders released from prison in 2001	
	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
<b>Rearrested for any type of crime within -</b>		
6 months	3.6%	8.0%
1 year	5.4	19.5
2 years	12.6	9.9
3 years	14.4	39.1
Total released	111	87

## Demographic Characteristics

### All sex offenders

*Race/ethnicity.* Latino men (45.8%) released in 2001 were more likely than Caucasian men (22.8%) to be rearrested for a new crime (not limited to just a new sex crime) within the first three years following their release (table 11).

*Age.* The younger the prisoner when released, the higher the rate of recidivism. For example, of all the sex offenders under age 25 at the time of discharge from prison, 63.3% were rearrested for some type of crime within three years, or three times more frequently (21.0%) than those age 45 or older.

### Rapists and sexual assaulters

*Race/ethnicity.* Among releasees whose imprisonment offense was rape, 50% of Caucasian men and 33% of Latino men were rearrested for any type of crime. Among sexual assaulters, 47.2% of Latino men and 44% of black men were rearrested for any type of crime.

*Age.* For both rapists and sexual assaulters, younger releasees had higher rearrest rates than older releasees.

### Child molesters and statutory rapists

*Race/ethnicity.* The rearrest rate among released child molesters was 66.7% for black men and 25% for Latinos (table 12). Among statutory rapists, Latino men (72.7%) had a higher rearrest rate than all other racial/ethnic groups.

*Age.* For both child molesters and statutory rapists, younger releasees had higher rearrest rates than older releasees.

**Table 11. Rearrest rate of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, by type of sex offender and demographic characteristics of released prisoners**

Prisoner characteristic	Percent rearrested for any type of crime within three years		
	All	Rapists	Sexual assaulters
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>			
Caucasian	22.8%	50.0%	20.1%
Black	36.4	12.5	44.0
Native American	31.6	0	31.6
Latino	45.8	33.3	47.2
Mexican Nationals	9.5	0	11.1
<b>Age at release</b>			
18-24	63.3%	66.7%	63.0%
25-29	26.7	0.0	27.6
30-34	32.0	0	38.1
35-39	28.6	22.2	29.6
40-44	21.4	16.7	22.2
45 or older	21.0	62.5	17.4
Total released	290	31	259

**Table 12. Rearrest rate of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001, by demographic characteristics of released prisoners**

Prisoner characteristic	Percent rearrested for any type of crime within three years	
	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>		
Caucasian	13.0%	26.2%
Black	66.7	30.0
Native American	0	30.0
Latino	25.0	72.7
Mexican Nationals	0	33.3
<b>Age at release</b>		
18-24	66.7%	69.2%
25-29	11.1	42.9
30-34	0	55.6
35-39	14.8	55.6
40-44	21.4	11.1
45 or older	11.3	12.5
Total released	111	87



**Time Served before 2001 Release**

*All sex offenders*

Sex offenders who served the shortest amount of time in prison before being released (six months or less) had a higher rearrest rate (47.6%) than those who served the longest (over five years, 22.3% rate) (table 13). Similarly, prisoners who served six months or less had a higher rearrest rate (47.6%) than those who served seven months to one year (33.3%). However, other comparisons did not indicate a connection between serving more time and lower recidivism. For example, the rearrest rate for sex offenders who served two and one-half to three years in prison (33.3%) was slightly higher than the rearrest rate for those who served seven months to one year.

*Rapists and sexual assaulters*

Among rapists who served 61 months or more, 46.7% were rearrested for all types of crimes. Among released sexual assaulters who served no more than six months, 52.6% were rearrested.

*Child molesters and statutory rapists*

Among released child molesters and statutory rapists, the results continued to be mixed regarding an association between recidivism rates and the amount of time served (table 14). Half of the child molesters released after serving six months or less and 13 – 18 months were rearrested within three years of their release. The highest rates of rearrest for statutory rapists were for those released after serving 6 months or less (57.9%) and 37 – 60 months (57.1%).

**Table 13. Rearrest rate of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, by type of sex offender and time served before release**

Time served in prison before 2001 release	Percent rearrested for any type of crime within three years		
	All	Rapists	Sexual Assaulters
6 months or less	47.6%	0.0%	52.6%
7-12	31.2	0.0	33.3
13-18	45.5	100.0	40.0
19-24	33.3	0	40.0
25-30	28.6	--	28.6
31-36	33.3	100.0	25.0
37-60	25.0	14.3	27.6
61 months or more	22.3	46.7	19.7
Total released	290	31	259

**Table 14. Rearrest rate of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001, by time served before being released**

Time served in prison before 2001 release	Percent rearrested for any type of crime within three years	
	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
6 months or less	50.0%	57.9%
7-12	0.0	37.5
13-18	50.0	33.3
19-24	25.0	0.0
25-30	33.3	0.0
31-36	0.0	25.0
37-60	15.4	57.1
61 months or more	9.2	31.8
Total released	111	87

**Number of Prior Arrests for Any Type of Crime**

*All sex offenders*

Prisoners with just one prior arrest for any type of crime had a 27.8% rearrest rate for any type of crime (table 15). Prisoners with 11-15 prior arrests had a 50.0% rearrest rate, with further increases, in the rearrest rate (51.1%) for released prisoners with the longest criminal record (more than 15 prior arrests).

*Rapists and sexual assaulters*

Among rapists with one and three – six prior arrests, none were rearrested. Rapists with 16 or more prior arrests had a 60.0% rearrest rate for any type of crime. Sexual assaulters with 11 – 15 prior arrests had the highest rearrest rates (56.0%).

<b>Table 15. Rearrest rate of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, by type of sex offender and number of prior arrests for any type of crime</b>			
Number of adult arrests prior to 2001 release	All	Rapists	Sexual assaulters
<b>Percent rearrested for any type of crime within three years</b>			
1 prior arrest for any type of crime	27.8%	0.0%	27.8%
2	26.9	50.0	22.7
3	15.8	0.0	16.7
4	21.1	0.0	22.2
5	14.8	0.0	16.0
6	18.8	0.0	23.1
7-10	32.7	57.1	28.9
11-15	50.0	20.0	56.0
16 or more	51.1	60.0	50.0
<b>Percent of released prisoners</b>			
1 prior arrest for any type of crime	6.2	0.0	6.9
2	9.0	12.9	8.5
3	6.6	3.2	6.9
4	6.6	3.2	6.9
5	9.3	6.5	9.7
6	5.5	9.7	5.0
7-10	17.9	22.6	17.4
11-15	10.3	16.1	9.7
16 or more	15.5	16.1	15.4
Total released	290	31	259

*Child molesters and statutory rapists*

Among released prisoners with the smallest number of prior arrests (one prior arrest), 11.1% of child molesters and 42.9% of statutory rapists were rearrested for any type of crime within three years (table 16). Rearrest rates for child molesters were highest among released prisoners with 11-15 prior arrests. Among statutory rapists, rearrest rates were highest among those with four and six prior arrests.

<b>Table 16. Rearrest rate of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001, by number of prior arrests for any type of crime</b>		
Number of adult arrests prior to 2001 release	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
<b>Percent rearrested for any type of crime within three years</b>		
1 prior arrest for any type of crime	11.1%	42.9%
2	8.3	25.0
3	11.1	20.0
4	12.5	60.0
5	0.0	12.5
6	0.0	60.0
7-10	10.0	41.7
11-15	55.6	50.0
16 or more	36.4	57.9
<b>Percent of released prisoners</b>		
1 prior arrest for any type of crime	14.4	8.0
2	8.1	9.2
3	10.8	5.7
4	8.1	5.7
5	7.2	9.2
6	9.9	5.7
7-10	5.4	13.8
11-15	18.0	11.5
16 or more	8.1	21.8
<b>Total released</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>87</b>

## Rearrest and Reconviction

### All sex offenders

Based on official arrest records, seven of the 290 released sex offenders (2.4%) were rearrested for a new sex crime within the first three years following their release (table 17).

Of the total 290 released sex, two (0.7%) were reconvicted for a sex crime (a forcible rape or a sexual assault) within three years.

### Sex offenders compared to non-sex offenders

Among non-sex offenders, 0.4% (six out of 1,699) were rearrested for a new sex crime within three years (not shown in table). By comparison, the 2.4% rearrest rate for the 290 released sex offenders was six times higher.

Assuming that the 290 sex offenders who were rearrested for another sex crime each victimized no more than one victim, the number of sex crimes they committed after their prison release totaled seven. Assuming that the six non-sex offenders rearrested for a sex crime after their release also victimized one victim each, the number of sex crimes they committed was six.

**Table 17. Of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, percent rearrested and percent reconvicted for any new sex crime, by type of sex offender**

	All	Rapists	Sexual assaulters
Percent rearrested for any new sex crime within three years	2.4%	3.2%	2.3%
Percent reconvicted for any new sex crime within three years	0.7	3.2	0.4
Total released	290	31	259

### Rapists and sexual assaulters

Of the 31 rapists, 3.2% (one male) had a new arrest for a sex crime (either a sexual assault or another forcible rape) after being released. Of the 259 released sexual assaulters, 2.3% (six men) were rearrested for a new sex crime (either a forcible rape or another sexual assault).

One released rapist was reconvicted for a sex crime. The one male represents 3.2% of the 31 rapists released in 2001. Among the 259 released sexual assaulters, 0.4% (one male) was reconvicted for a sex crime.

*Child molesters and statutory rapists*

After their release, 1.8% (two men) of the child molesters and 2.3% (two men) of the statutory rapists were rearrested for a new sex crime (table 18).

Following their release, 0.9% (one male) of the 111 released child molesters were convicted for a new sex crime against a child or an adult. None of the statutory rapists were reconvicted for a sex crime.

<b>Table 18. Of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001, percent rearrested and percent reconvicted for any new sex crime</b>		
	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
Percent rearrested for any new sex crime within three years	1.8%	2.3%
Percent reconvicted for any new sex crime within three years	0.9	0
Total released	111	87

**Time to Rearrest**

*All sex offenders*

Within six months following their release, 1.1% of the 290 men were rearrested for a new sex crime (table 19). Within one year, 2.3% were rearrested. By the end of the three-year follow-up period, 2.3% had been rearrested for another sex crime.

*Rapists and sexual assaulters*

Within six months following their release, none of the rapists were rearrested for a new sex crime. By the end of the three-year follow-up period, 3.2% had been rearrested for another sex crime. By the end of the three-year follow-up period, 2.3% of sexual assaulters had been rearrested for another sex crime.

*Child molesters and statutory rapists*

Within six months following their release, 0.9% of the child molesters were rearrested for a new sex crime (table 20). By the end of the three-year follow-up period, 1.8% had been rearrested for another sex crime. By the end of the three-year follow-up period, 2.3% of statutory rapists had been rearrested for another sex crime.

**Table 19. Of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, percent rearrested for any new sex crime, by type of sex offender and time after release**

Time after 2001 release	Cumulative percent rearrested for any new sex crime within specified time		
	All	Rapists	Sexual assaulters
6 months	1.1%	0%	1.2%
1 year	2.3	3.2	1.5
2 years	2.3	3.2	2.3
3 years	2.3	3.2	.3
Total released	290	31	259

**Table 20. Of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001, percent rearrested for any new sex crime, by time after release**

Time after 2001 release	Cumulative percent rearrested for any new sex crime within specified time	
	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
6 months	0.9%	1.1%
1 year	0.9	2.3
2 years	1.8	2.3
3 years	1.8	2.3
Total released	111	87

**Demographic Characteristics**

*All sex offenders*

*Race/ethnicity.* Among sex offenders released from prison in 2001, Latino men (5.1%) and black men (3.0%) had the highest rearrest rates for another sex crime (table 21).

*Age.* Recidivism studies typically find that the older the prisoner when released, the lower the rate of recidivism. Results reported here on released sex offenders did not follow this pattern. The lowest rate of rearrest for a sex crime (1.8%) belonged to sex offenders who were 35-39 at the time of release. The highest rearrest rate was for offenders who were 18-24 at the time of release (8.3%).

**Time Served before 2001 Release**

*All sex offenders*

The study compared recidivism rates among prisoners who served different lengths of time before being released from prison in 2001. No clear association was found between how long they were in prison and their recidivism rate (table 22). For example, those sex offenders who served six or fewer months had a rearrest rate of 9.5%. Sex offenders who served seven to twelve months were rearrested for a new sex crime at a higher rate (12.5%).

**Table 21. Of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, percent rearrested for any new sex crime, by demographic characteristics of released prisoners**

Prisoner characteristic	Percent of released sex offenders rearrested for any new sex crime within three years
<b>Total released</b>	2.4 %
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	
Caucasian	1.9%
Black	3.0
Native American	0.0
Latino	5.1
Mexican Nationals	0.0
<b>Age at release</b>	
18-24	8.3%
25-29	0.0
30-34	5.0
35-39	1.8
40-44	2.3
45 or older	2.5
<b>Total released</b>	290

**Table 22. Of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, percent rearrested for any new sex crime, by time served before being released**

Time served in prison before 2001 release	Percent of released sex offenders rearrested for any new sex crime within three years
6 months or less	9.5%
7-12	12.5
13-18	0.0
19-24	0.0
25-30	0.0
31-36	0.0
37-60	0.0
61 months or more	0.6
<b>Total released</b>	290

**Number of Prior Arrests for Any Type of Crime**

*All sex offenders*

Sex offenders with six prior arrest had the highest rearrest rate (6.2%), while none of the sex offenders with one to four prior arrests were rearrested for any new sex crime within three years (table 23).

<b>Table 23. Of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, percent rearrested for any new sex crime, by number of prior arrests for any type of crime</b>	
Number of adult arrests prior to 2001 release	Percent rearrested for any new sex crime within 3 years
All sex offenders	2.4%
1 prior arrest for any type of crime	0
2	0
3	0
4	0
5	3.7
6	6.2
7-10	3.8
11-15	3.3
16 or more	4.4
	<b>Percent of released prisoners</b>
All sex offenders	100%
1 prior arrest for any type of crime	6.2
2	9.0
3	6.6
4	6.6
5	9.3
6	5.5
7-10	17.9
11-15	10.3
16 or more	15.5
Total released	290



**Prior Arrest for a Sex Crime**

*All sex offenders*

Prior to their release in 2001, 101 of the sex offenders (35.6% of the total 290) had two or more arrests for a sex offense in their criminal record: the arrest for the sex offense that resulted in their imprisonment, and at least one earlier arrest for a sex crime (table 24). For the remaining 183 (64.4% of the total 290), their only prior arrest for a sex crime was the arrest that brought them into prison. Following their release, the three with more than one sex crime in their criminal background had a rearrest rate of 2.0% while sex offenders with a single prior arrest had a 1.6% rearrest rate.

*Rapists and sexual assaulters*

None of the rapists (0%) with one prior arrest for a sex crime were rearrested while 4.8% of rapists with two or more sex crimes were rearrested. Sexual assaulters with one prior arrest for any sex crime had a rearrest rate of 1.7% and 1.2% for those with two or more prior sex crimes.

<b>Table 24. Of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, percent rearrested for any new sex crime, by type of sex offender and prior arrest for any sex crime</b>			
Arrest prior to 2001 release	All	Rapists	Sexual assaulters
<b>Percent rearrested for any new sex crime within three years</b>			
Total	2.4%	3.2%	2.3%
The arrest responsible for their being in prison in 2001 was -			
Their first arrest for any sex crime	1.6	0	1.7
Not their first arrest for any sex crime	2.0	4.8	1.2
<b>Percent of released prisoners</b>			
Total	100%	100%	100%
The arrest responsible for their being in prison in 2001 was -			
Their first arrest for sex crime	64.4	32.3	68.4
Not their first arrest for any sex crime	35.6	67.7	31.6
Total released	290	31	259

*Child molesters and statutory rapists*

For 87 of the child molesters (78.2% of 111) the corresponding arrest was their only prior arrest for a sex offense (table 25). The remaining 24 child molesters (21.8% of 111) had at least two prior arrests for a sex crime: the arrest for their imprisonment offense, and at least one other prior arrest for a sex offense. Of the 24 child molesters with multiple sex crimes in their past, none were rearrested for another sex crime. On the other hand, the rate of rearrest for released child molesters with just one prior arrest for a sex crime was 2.3%.

Similar results were found for released statutory rapists. Those with a more extensive record of prior arrests for sex crimes were not rearrested, while those with just one past arrest had a rearrest rate of 1.8%.

<b>Table 25. Of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001, percent rearrested for any new sex crime, by prior arrest for any sex crime</b>		
Arrest prior to 2001 release	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
<b>Percent rearrested for any new sex crime within three years</b>		
Total	1.8%	2.3%
The arrest responsible for their being in prison in 2001 was -		
Their first arrest for any sex crime	2.3	1.8
Not their first arrest for any sex crime	0	0
<b>Percent of released prisoners</b>		
Total	100%	100%
The arrest responsible for their being in prison in 2001 was -		
Their first arrest for sex crime	78.2	66.7
Not their first arrest for any sex crime	21.8	33.3
Total released	111	87

## Rearrest

### All sex offenders

Following their release in 2001, four of the total 290 released sex offenders (1.4%) were rearrested for a sex offense against a child (table 26).

### Sex offenders compared to non-sex offenders

A total of 0.2% (four of 1,699) of non-sex offenders were rearrested within three years for a sex offense against a child (not shown).

### Rapists and sexual assaulters

Following their 2001 release, none of the 31 rapists and 4 sexual assaulters (1.5% of 259) were rearrested for molesting a child (table 26).

### Child molesters and statutory rapists

Within three years following their release from prison in 2001, two (1.8%) of the released 111 child molesters and one (1.1%) of the 87 released statutory rapists were rearrested for molesting another child (table 27).

**Table 26. Of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, percent rearrested for a sex crime against a child, and percent of their alleged victims, by age of victim and type of sex offender**

	Percent rearrested for a sex crime against a child within three years		
	All	Rapists	Sexual assaulters
Total	1.4%	0%	1.5%
Total released	290	31	259

**Table 27. Of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001, percent rearrested for a sex crime against a child and percent of their alleged victims, by age of victim**

	Percent rearrested for a sex crime against a child within three years	
	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
Total	1.8%	1.1%
Total released	111	87

**Prior Arrest for Any Sex Crime and Arrest of a Sex Crime against a Child**

*All sex offenders*

After their 2001 release from prison, sex offenders with a prior arrest for a sex crime were more likely to be arrested for child molesting (1.1%) than those who had no arrest record for sex crime (0%) (table 28).

*Rapists and sexual assaulters*

After being released in 2001, none of the rapists with or without a prior arrest record for a sex crime were arrested for child molesting. Sexual assaulters who had no arrest record for sex crime had a rearrest rate of 1.2% for a sex crime against a child.

**Table 28. Of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, percent arrested for a sex crime against a child, by prior arrest for a sex crime against a child and type of sex offender**

Arrest prior to 2001 release	All	Rapists	Sexual assaulters
<b>Percent rearrested for a sex crime against a child within three years</b>			
Total	1.4%	0%	1.5%
The arrest responsible for their being in prison in 2001 was -			
Their first arrest for any sex crime	0	0	1.2
Not their first arrest for any sex crime	1.1	0	0
<b>Percent of released prisoners</b>			
Total	100%	100%	100%
The arrest responsible for their being in prison in 2001 was -			
Their first arrest for any sex crime	64.4	32.3	68.4
Not their first arrest for any sex crime	35.6	67.7	31.6
Total released	290	31	259

*Child molesters and statutory rapists*

After release, 2.3% of the child molesters who had no arrest record for sex crime were rearrested. None of the child molesters with a prior record of a sex crime were rearrested for a sex crime against a child (table 29).

None of the statutory rapists with or without a prior arrest for any sex crime were rearrested for a sex crime against a child.

<b>Table 29. Of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001, percent arrested for a sex crime against a child, by prior arrest for a sex crime against a child</b>		
	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
Arrest prior to 2001 release		
<b>Percent rearrested for a sex crime against a child within three years</b>		
Total	1.8%	1.1%
The arrest responsible for their being in prison in 2001 was -		
Their first arrest for any sex crime	2.3	0
Not their first arrest for any sex crime	0	0
<b>Percent of released prisoners</b>		
Total	100%	100%
The arrest responsible for their being in prison in 2001 was -		
Their first arrest for any sex crime	78.2	66.7
Not their first arrest for any sex crime	21.8	33.3
Total released	111	87

**Molester’s Ages at Time of Imprisonment Offense**

*Child molesters*

The released child molesters were all men who were arrested, convicted, and sentenced to prison for a sex crime against a child. At the time they committed their imprisonment offense, most (72.9%) were age 30 and older (table 30).

About five percent of men between the ages of 35-39 and 3.2% of men 45 or older were subsequently arrested for molesting another child.

**Table 30. Among child molesters released from prison in 2001, the molester’s age when he committed the crime that resulted in his imprisonment, and percent rearrested for a sex crime against a child**

Age characteristic	Percent of total	Percent of released child molesters rearrested for a sex crime against a child within three years
<b>Child molester’s age when he committed the sex crime for which imprisoned</b>		
18-24	12.6%	0%
25-29	14.4	0
30-34	16.2	0
35-39	17.1	5.3
40-44	11.7	0
45 or older	27.9	3.2
Total released	111	111

## Rearrest Rate

### All sex offenders

Of the 290 male sex offenders released from prison in 2001 —

- 28.6% (83 men) were rearrested for a crime of any kind (table 31)
- 1.4% (four men) were rearrested for a sex offense
- 9.3% (27 men) were rearrested for a violent crime
- 4.1% (12 men) were rearrested for a property crime of some kind.

Of the 290 released men, two (0.7%) were rearrested for rape and two (0.7%) were rearrested for sexual assault. The category of violent crime for which a prisoner was most likely to be rearrested was assault (6.2%); the category least likely was rape and sexual assault (0.7%). Just over 18% of sex offenders were rearrested for a public-order offense, such as a parole violation or traffic offense.

### Rapists and sexual assaulters

Among the 31 released rapists —

- 32.3% (10) were rearrested for a crime of any kind
- 6.5% (two) were rearrested for a violent crime
- none were rearrested for homicide
- 6.5% (two) were rearrested for a property offense
- 3.2% (one) were rearrested for rape.

Among the 259 released sexual assaulters —

- 28.2% (73) were rearrested for a crime of any kind

**Table 31. Rearrest rate of sex offenders released from prison in 2001, by type of sex offender and charge at arrest**

Rearrest charge	Percent rearrested for specified offense within three years		
	All	Rapists	Sexual Assaulters
All charges	28.6%	32.3%	28.2%
Violent offenses <sup>b</sup>	9.3	6.5	9.7
Homicide <sup>c</sup>	1.0	0	1.2
Sex offense <sup>d</sup>	1.4	3.2	1.2
Rape	0.7	3.2	0.4
Sexual assault	0.7	0	0.8
Robbery	1.3	6.5	0.4
Assault	6.2	3.2	6.6
Property offenses <sup>e</sup>	4.1%	6.5%	3.9%
Burglary	2.1	6.5	1.5
Larceny/theft	1.4	0	1.5
Motor vehicle theft	1.0	3.2	0.8
Fraud	0.7	0	0.8
Drug offenses <sup>f</sup>	5.2%	6.5%	5.0%
Public-order offenses <sup>g</sup>	18.3%	25.8%	17.4%
Other offenses	15.5%	16.1%	15.4%
Total released	290	31	259

Note: Offense type detail may not add to offense type totals because persons may be rearrested for more than one type of charge.  
 All offenses include any offense type listed in footnotes *b* through *f* plus “other” and “unknown” offenses.  
<sup>b</sup> Total violent offenses include homicide, kidnapping, rape, other sexual assault, robbery, assaults, and other violence.  
<sup>c</sup> Homicide includes murder, voluntary manslaughter, vehicular manslaughter, negligent manslaughter, nonnegligent manslaughter, and unspecified homicide.  
<sup>d</sup> Includes both rape and sexual assault.  
<sup>e</sup> Total property offenses include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, fraud, forgery, embezzlement, arson, stolen property, and other forms of property offenses.  
<sup>f</sup> Drug offenses include drug trafficking, drug possession, and other forms of drug offenses.  
<sup>g</sup> Public-order offenses include traffic offenses, weapon offenses, probation and parole violations, court-related offenses, disorderly conduct, and other such offenses.

- 9.7% (25) were rearrested for a violent crime
- 1.2% (three) were rearrested for homicide
- 3.9% (10) were rearrested for a property offense
- 0.8% (two) were charged with committing the same type of crime for which they served time in prison.

Child molesters and statutory rapists

Of the 111 child molesters released from prison in 2001 —

- 14.4% (16) were rearrested for a crime of any kind (table 32)
- 0.9% (one) were rearrested for intentionally or negligently killing someone.

Child molesters were less likely to be rearrested for a property crime (0.9%, one of 111) than a violent crime (4.5%, five of 111).

Of the 87 statutory rapists released in 2001 —

- 39.1% (34) were rearrested for some new crime
- none were rearrested for homicide
- 6.9% (six) were rearrested for a property crime
- 12.6% (11) were rearrested for a violent crime.

**Table 32. Rearrest rate of child molesters and statutory rapists released from prison in 2001, by charge at rearrest**

Rearrest charge	Percent rearrested for specified offense within three years	
	Child molesters	Statutory rapists
All charges	14.4%	39.1%
Violent offenses <sup>b</sup>	4.5	12.6
Homicide <sup>c</sup>	0.9	0
Sex offense <sup>d</sup>	0.9	1.1
Rape	0	1.1
Sexual assault	0.9	0
Robbery	0	0
Assault	1.8	10.3
Property offenses <sup>e</sup>	0.9%	6.9%
Burglary	0.9	3.4
Larceny/theft	0	2.3
Motor vehicle theft	0	2.3
Fraud	0.9	0
Drug offenses <sup>f</sup>	0.9%	9.2%
Public-order offenses <sup>g</sup>	8.1%	25.3%
Other offenses	7.2%	24.1%
Total released	111	87

Note: The 114 child molesters and 91 statutory rapists were released in Arizona. Offense type detail may not add to offense type totals because of rounding.

All offenses include any offense type listed in footnotes *b* through *f* plus “other” and “unknown” offenses.

<sup>b</sup> Total violent offenses include homicide, kidnapping, rape, other sexual assault, robbery, assaults, and other violence.

<sup>c</sup> Homicide includes murder, voluntary manslaughter, vehicular manslaughter, negligent manslaughter, nonnegligent manslaughter, and unspecified homicide.

<sup>d</sup> Includes both rape and sexual assault.

<sup>e</sup> Total property offenses include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, fraud, forgery, embezzlement, arson, stolen property, and other forms of property offenses.

<sup>f</sup> Drug offenses include drug trafficking, drug possession, and other forms of drug offenses.

<sup>g</sup> Public-order offenses include traffic offenses, weapon offenses, probation and parole violations, court-related offenses, disorderly conduct, and other such offenses.