

Recidivism

Measurement, Trends, and Future Considerations



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Recidivism Basics

DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY

The definition of recidivism can be found in ORS 423.557 and denotes that recidivism is any of the following that occurs within **three years** of the start of probation or release from custody:

- An **arrest**;
- A felony or misdemeanor **conviction**; and/or
- A felony **prison sentence** for a new crime.

The CJC utilizes three administrative datasets and analyzes recidivism twice per year (May/Nov) using cohorts of individuals provided by the Department of Corrections.

- Arrests are identified using Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) data;
- Convictions are identified using Oregon Judicial Department Odyssey Data; and
- Incarceration is identified using Department of Corrections Data.

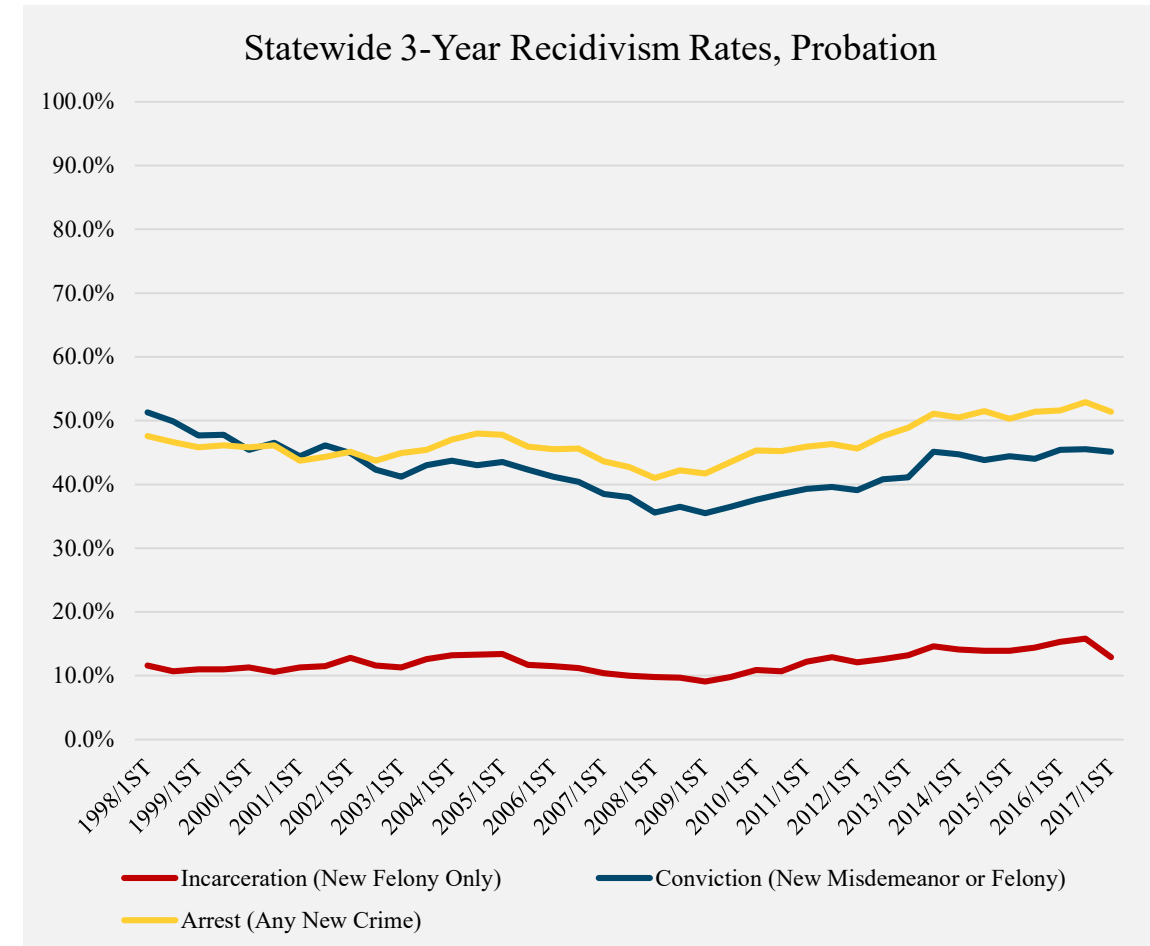
Current Recidivism Trends

RESULTS FROM OUR MOST RECENT REPORT (3/5/2021)

Probation

- Our current report includes those individuals starting probation during the first six months of 2017.
- On the whole, recidivism has been climbing, but the most recent 2017 cohort saw a slight dip across all three measures.

Recidivism Type	Percent
Arrest	51%
Conviction	45%
Incarceration	13%



Current Recidivism Trends

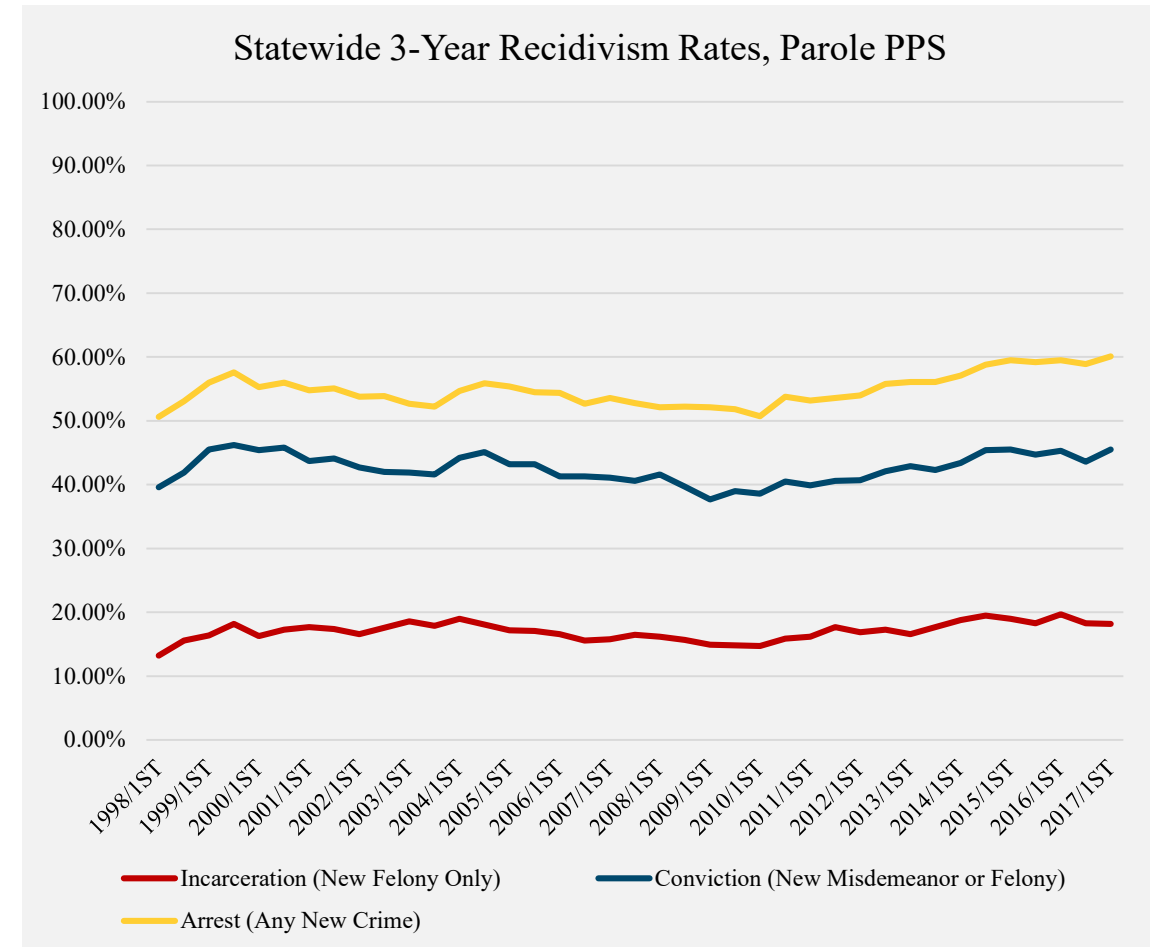
RESULTS FROM OUR MOST RECENT REPORT (3/5/2021)

Parole and Post Prison Supervision

- Our current report includes those individuals released from prison during the first six months of 2017.
- On the whole, recidivism has been climbing and Parole-PPS cohorts generally have higher recidivism rates than probation cohorts.

Recidivism Type	Percent
Arrest	60%
Conviction	46%
Incarceration	18%

- Parole-PPS data “correction”



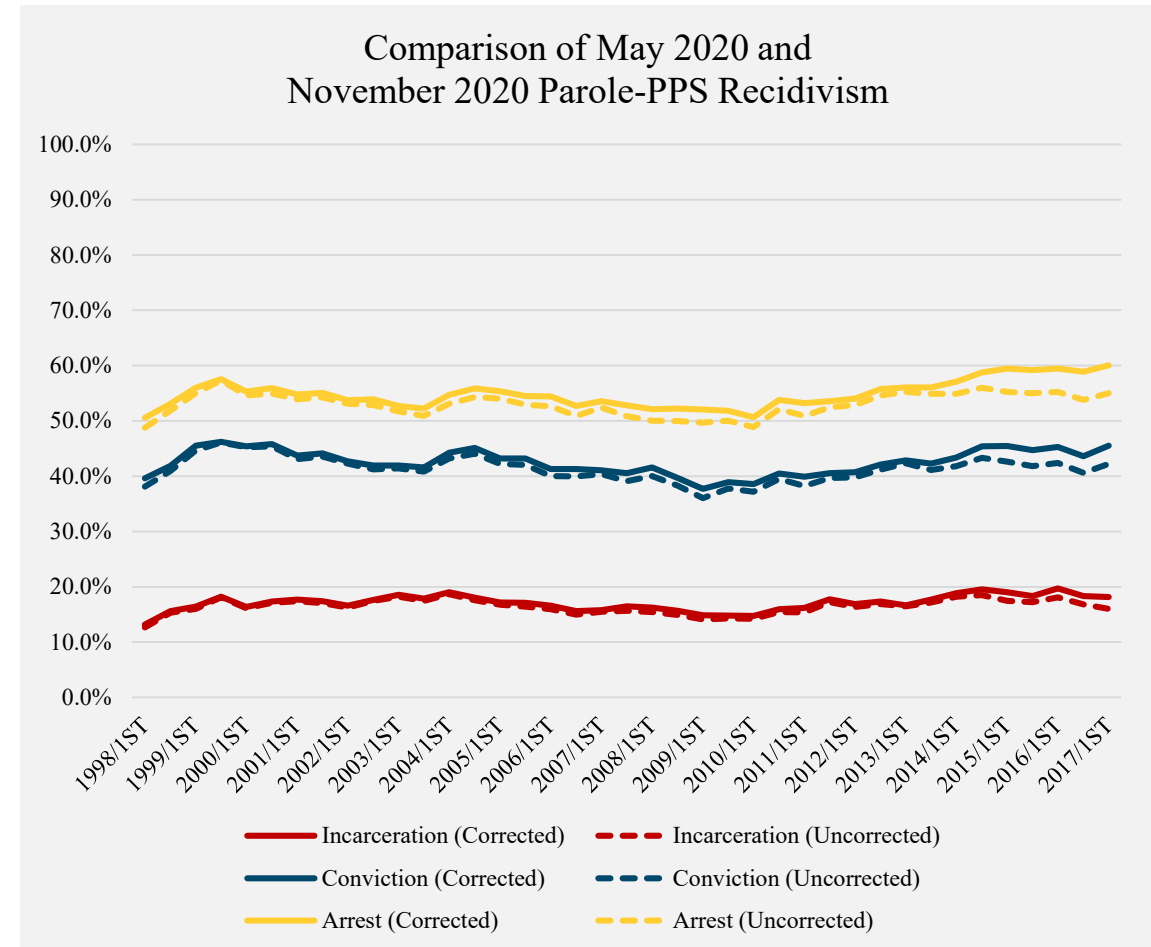
Current Recidivism Trends

RECENT METHODOLOGICAL REFINEMENTS

Recent Methodological Refinements

- The increased utilization of short-term transitional leave, as well as the lengthening of the leave term, has impacted our analysis.
- The primary issue was a misalignment in the release definition in the DOC cohorts.
- The issue had a minimal impact prior to 2013 but has grown since that time.

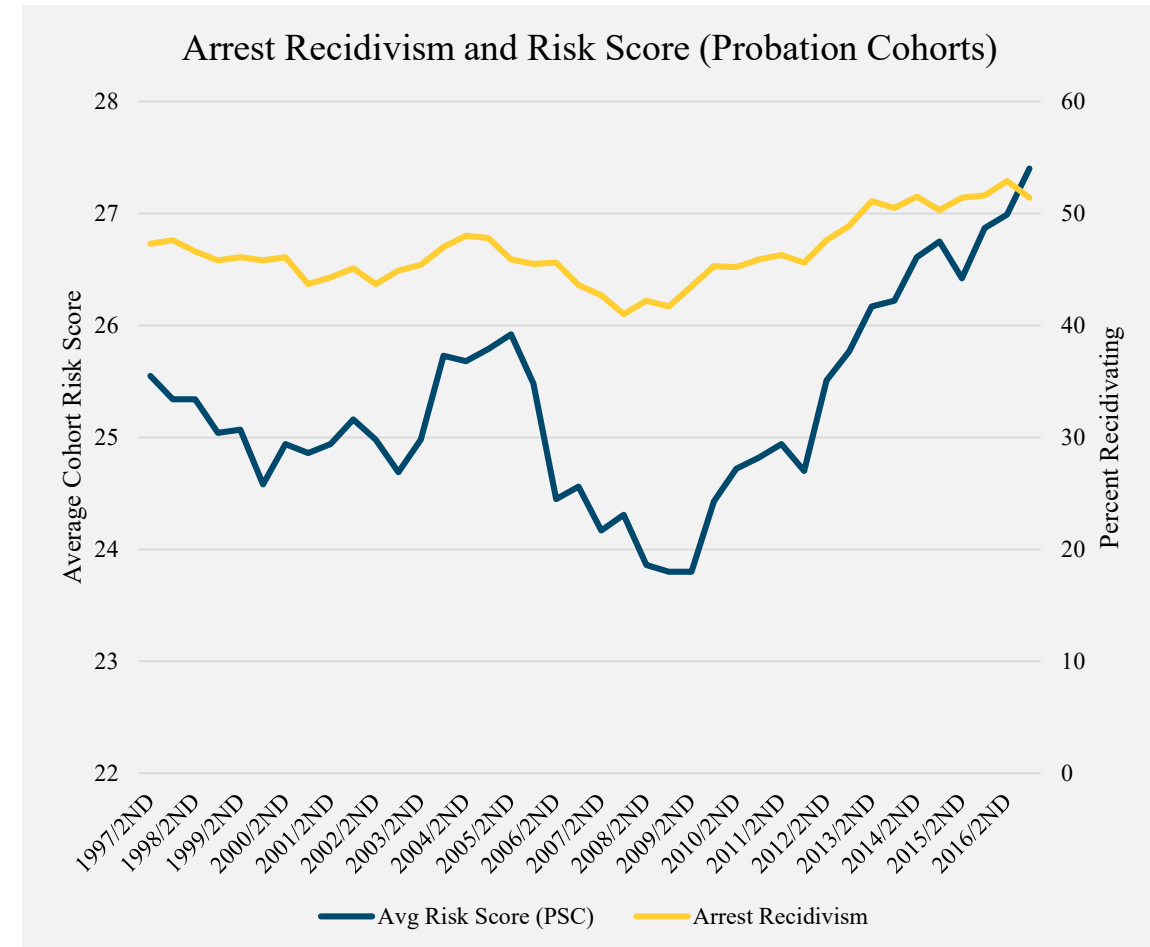
Recidivism Type	May 2020	Nov 2020
Arrest	55.0%	60.1%
Conviction	42.2%	45.5%
Incarceration	16.0%	18.2%



Current Recidivism Trends

WHAT COULD BE BEHIND THE UPWARD TRENDS?

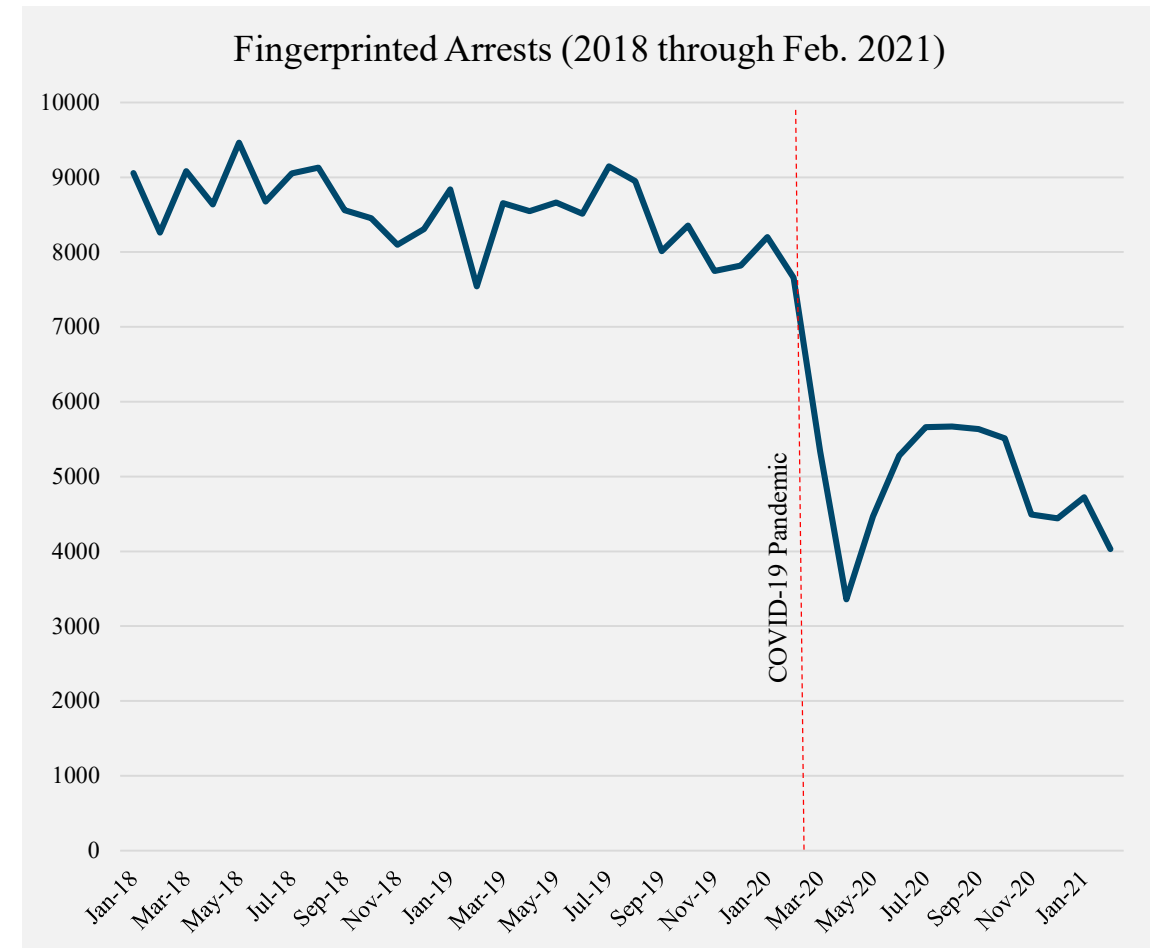
- Since 2008, recidivism has been on the rise.
- CJC has investigated the release cohorts and have found few changes in demographics or crime type to explain this trend.
- Risk scores, however, have also changed over time and strongly correlate with recidivism.
- It is possible, therefore, that as more individuals are diverted from prison (who otherwise would have been prison bound), recidivism rate increases have responded with the increase in risk.



Future Considerations

COVID-19 EFFECT

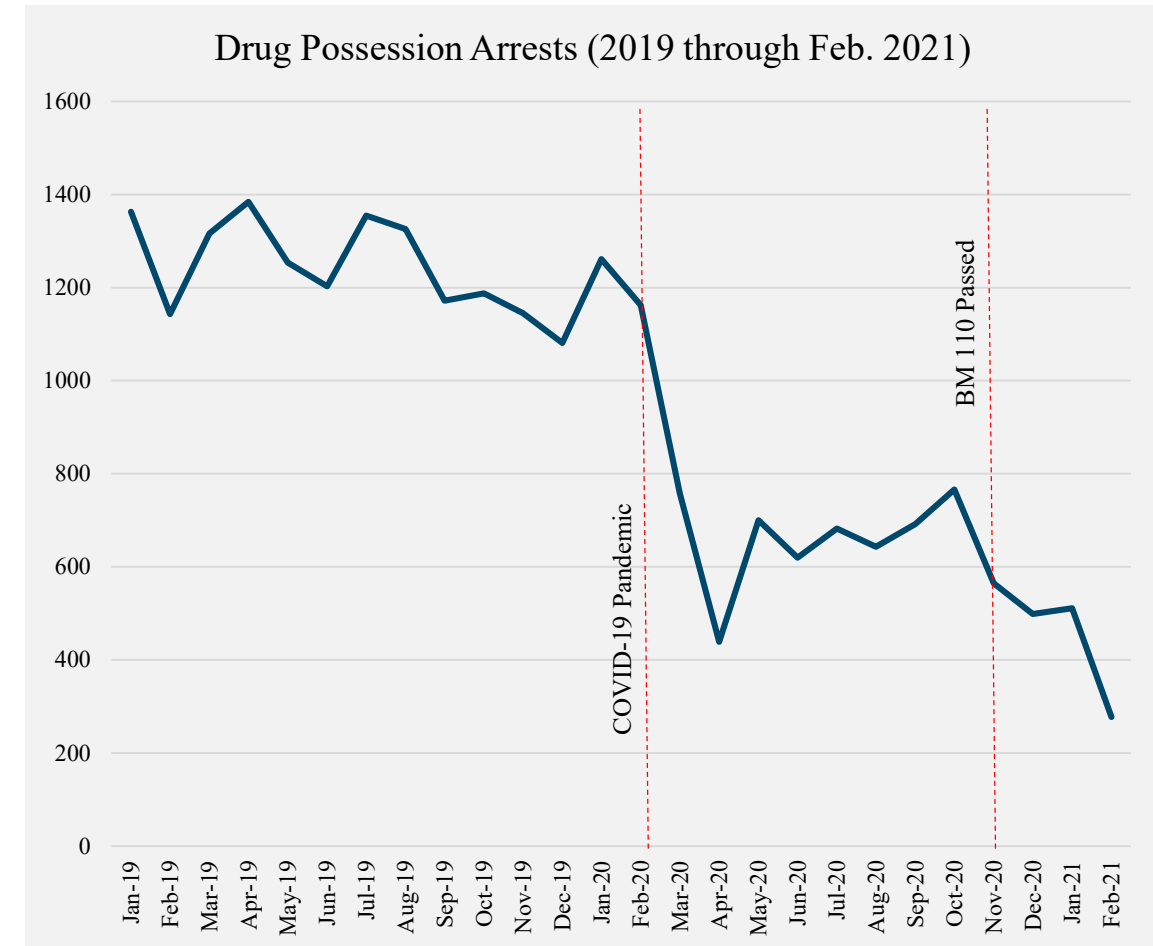
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had far reaching impacts on the criminal justice system.
 - CJC estimates that in the first three months of the pandemic response, approximately 40,000 fewer traffic stops than expected occurred.
 - Since February 2020, arrests have fallen by 40% on average compared to 2019.
- These effects will most likely lead to drops in recidivism, particularly for cohorts in 2019 and onward.



Future Considerations

BALLOT MEASURE 110 EFFECT

- CJC estimates a 90% reduction in PCS arrests and convictions due to BM110.
- The passage of BM 110 will have permanent, far reaching impacts on recidivism.
 - Individuals convicted of PCS have the highest recidivism rates.
 - Among those who recidivate, a PCS charge is one of the most common reasons.
- Moving forward, CJC will likely provide additional tables/figures with PCS removed to provide more consistent trend data.



Appendix

RECIDIVISM UNDERESTIMATE DETAIL

- Prior to HB 3194 (2013), prison leave had only a small effect on recidivism estimates.
- The expansion of STTL, both in scope and in the length of leave has led to rapid growth in the underestimation of recidivism for the Parole-PPS cohorts.

