

This chart contains the Average Length of Stay for inmates released in 1998 for each state. It also contains Recidivism Rates.

	Avg. Length of Stay (months) for Releases			Recidivism Rate	Years Tracked
	Overall	Discretionary	Mandatory		
Alabama ¹	36.0			27.0%	14
Arizona ²	31.9	52.1	27.1	25.9%	3
Arkansas ³	30.0			38.0%	3
California	23.0			57.8%	2
Colorado	23.2			42.1%	3
Connecticut	18.8	21.4	16.8		
Delaware	8.1			57.0%	5
Florida ⁴	38.2	52.0	33.9	18.8	2
Georgia	24.4	25.9	29.4	39.0%	3
Hawaii ⁵					
Idaho	44.0				
Illinois	22.3	267.0	21.9	39.9%	3
Indiana	22.3	19.3	25.0	23.0%	
Iowa ⁶	20.9	27.2		14.7%	1
Kansas ⁷				12.0%	3
Kentucky	21.6	20.9	22.4	33.1%	2
Louisiana	34.2	25.7	27.8	20.1%	5
Maryland	16.0	30.0	13.0	25.5%	3
Massachusetts	37.3	34.2	39.5	24.0%	5
Michigan	36.4	33.1	61.3	14.6%	4
Minnesota	17.3	18.0	18.2	28.0%	3
Mississippi	30.0				
Missouri ⁸	31.1	31.0	46.9	14.0%	3
Montana ⁹	35.1			11.0%	3
Nebraska	27.4	28.3	26.8	22.8%	3
Nevada	25.5				
New Hampshire ¹⁰	22.2	22.1	22.7	20.0%	3
New Jersey	22.0			24.0%	3
New Mexico	43.1			39.3%	
New York	34.5	30.6	49.7	43.8%	3
North Carolina ¹¹				48.0%	3
Ohio	29.2	70.3	13.2	37.5%	3
Oklahoma	25.0	34.0	25.0	26.3%	3
Oregon	17.3		17.3	33.4%	3
Pennsylvania	54.7	52.4	75.2		
Rhode Island ¹²				56.9%	23
South Carolina ¹³	43.0	30.0	24.0	31.9%	3
South Dakota	15.0	9.8	27.0	20.0%	
Tennessee	42.3	33.4	62.6	37.2%	4
Texas	42.0	44.4	40.8	40.8%	3
Utah	20.6			67.0%	3

Vermont	12.0			40.0%	3
Virginia	37.2	55.8	57.9	31.0%	
Washington	22.9	119.3	22.1	32.0%	5
West Virginia	62.0	60.0	62.0		
Wisconsin	27.0	25.0	37.0		
Wyoming	27.1	26.1	28.3		
Federal				40.8%	3
Average	29.1	44.5	34.0	32.7%	4

¹Recidivism rate for 1994 releases. ²Recidivism rate is percent returned with a new felony. ³Length of stay for DOC inmates only. Dept. of Comm. Punishment is 7 month avg., 7 months for mandatory release. Recidivism rate DCP was 25%. ⁴This data comes from the "Recidivism Rates of Inmates Released from Florida's Prison, FY 1988/89 to FY 1994/95" published in March 1998. It represents the recidivism rate for the most recent fiscal year for which we have data - 1994/95. ⁵Average length of stay for sentenced felon releases only. Discretionary releases represent parole releases and probation releases. Mandatory releases represent releases with time served. ⁶Overall Length of Stay (LOS) is time served in prison only. Discretionary LOS is for FY 98 total time served, including jail prior to parole. Recidivism rate also for FY 98. ⁷For FY 95 recidivism for: releases returned with new sentence were 12%, 38.5% for return with no sentence, and 1.9% for Parole warrant issued. ⁸Recidivism estimate based on return to prison for any reason, including technical violation. ⁹Recidivism estimated. ¹⁰Recidivism is based upon all people paroled in 1993 and followed for 3 years. ¹¹Recidivism rates based on rearrest rate (fingerprinted arrest), this rate is for any offense. Recidivism data is from "Recidivism of Offenders ... FY 1994-95", NC Sentencing Commission. Years tracked expressed in months in the published report. The actual figures was reported as 35.5 months. ¹²As of 6/30/98. ¹³Recidivism rate is proportion of 1994 releases who were returned to SCDC within 3 years.

Snapshot: Average Length of Stay for Inmates Released in 1998 and Agency Recidivism Rates

Discretionary Releases: Inmates released based on the decision of a parole board or parole authority.

Mandatory Releases: Inmates released based on a formula for legally releasing inmates early in order to control population levels or when an inmate has completed his or her sentence.

Recidivism Rate: Agency calculated percentage of inmates being incarcerated for a new charge who have served a prior sentence. Rates are calculated differently among jurisdictions, so cross-agency comparisons are difficult.

The average length of time served for all inmates released in 1998 was 29.1 months (as reported by 45 agencies).

Discretionary releases served an average of 44.5 months in 30 agencies while mandatory releases served an average of 34.0 months in 30 agencies.

The average recidivism rate among 40 jurisdictions was 32.7%. On average, agencies track the inmates for four years, on average, following release from prison.

Average length of stay at release ranged from 62.0 months in West Virginia to 8.1 months in Delaware.

The agency with the highest reported recidivism rate was Utah (67.0%).