

Calculating a Unified Recidivism Rate for Philadelphia

A Data Snapshot of Reentry and Recidivism, 2012-2015

Data and Metrics Subcommittee, March 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

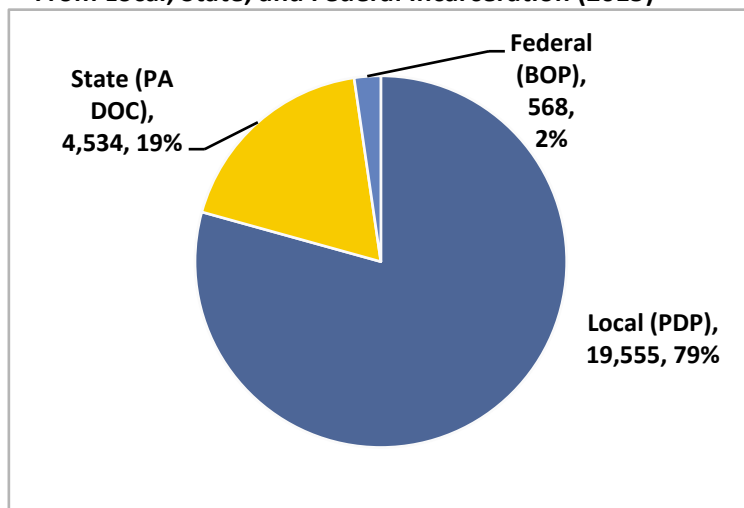
The Reentry Coalition brings agencies and organizations working on reentry in Philadelphia together to collectively reduce recidivism. This report was produced by the Data and Metrics Subcommittee, tasked with coordinating the collection of metrics and data (including recidivism), facilitating data sharing among stakeholders, and advising stakeholders on data-related issues, to ultimately increase the accuracy, availability, sharing, and decision-making of and with data about reentry in Philadelphia. This report contains important information about who is being released to Philadelphia from incarceration and a basic analysis of re-arrest rates.

KEY TAKEAWAYS¹

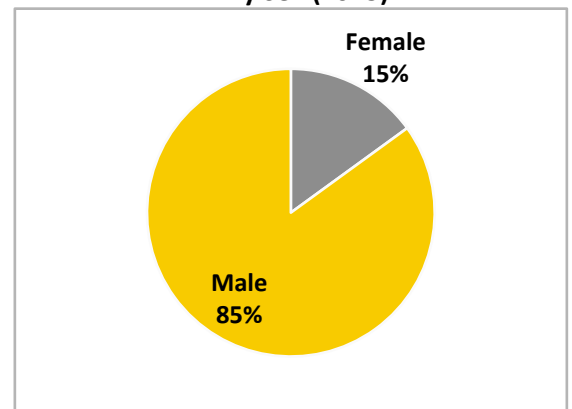
- Around **25,000 people** were released to Philadelphia annually between 2012 and 2015.
- The 25,000 people released to Philadelphia annually are **disproportionately people of color**, a majority are **under 40 years old**, and **return to some neighborhoods far more frequently than others**.
- In 2015, **33.9%** of the people released to Philadelphia from state prison or county jail were re-arrested within a year (we are calling this metric a **unified recidivism rate**).
- **Our shared goal as a Reentry Coalition is to reduce the unified recidivism rate by 25% by the end of the year 2020.** This would mean a unified recidivism rate of 25.4%, or 2,000 fewer people re-arrested within a year of release from state prison or county jail.²
- **Young people (18-24) are the most likely to be re-arrested within a year of being released from incarceration**, and in general re-arrest rates decrease as age increases.
- People released from county jail are more likely than people released from state prison to be re-arrested within a year.

PEOPLE RETURNING TO PHILLY FROM LOCAL & STATE INCARCERATION, BY THE NUMBERS

From Local, State, and Federal Incarceration (2015)



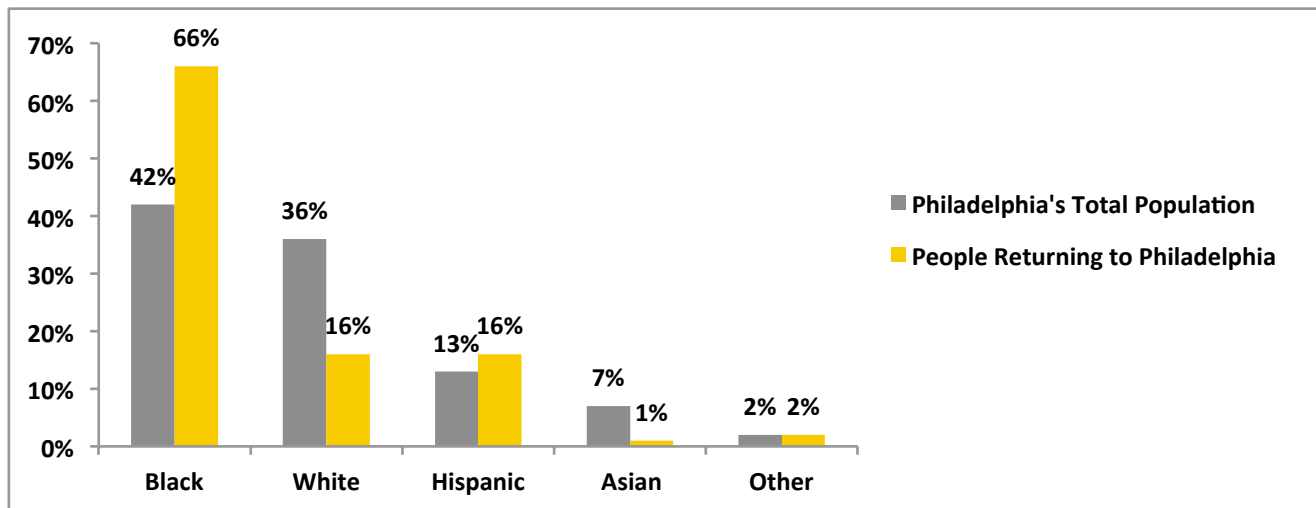
By Sex (2015)



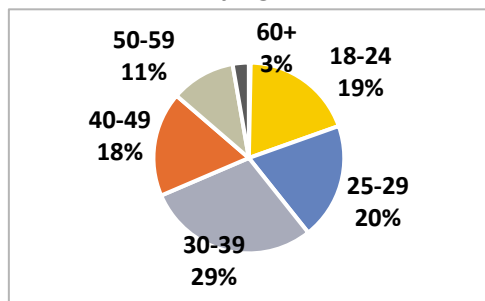
¹ This data includes people released to Philadelphia in 2015 who had been charged with a criminal non-summary type offense in the Philadelphia adult criminal justice system. Unless noted otherwise, all data refers only to people released from county jail and state prison, not from federal prison.

² Based on the number of people released in 2015.

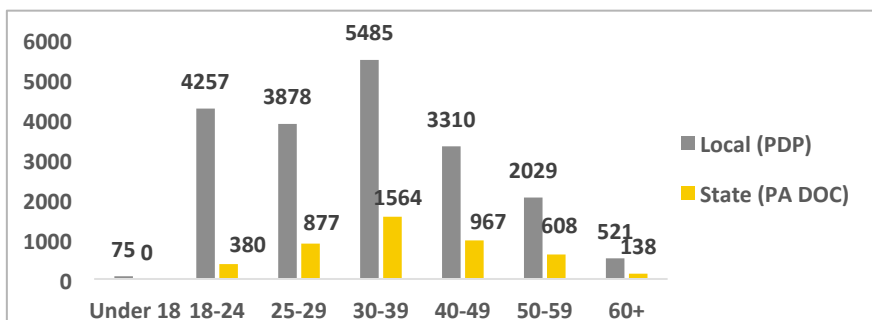
Race/Ethnicity of People Returning to Philadelphia vs. Race/Ethnicity of Philadelphia's Total Population (2015)



Releases by Age (2015)



Releases by Age by Agency (2015)

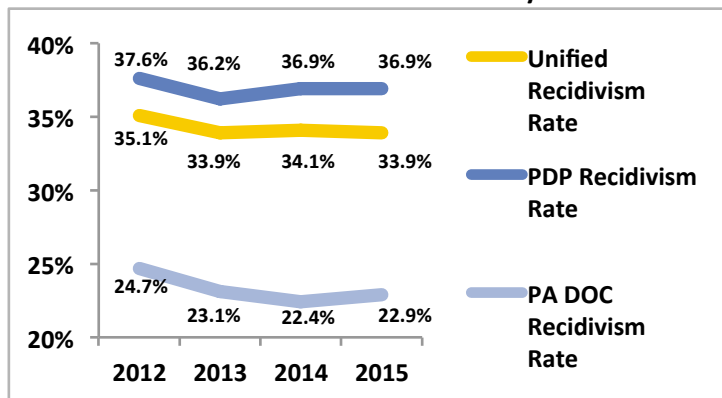


PHILADELPHIA'S UNIFIED RECIDIVISM RATE AND GOAL TO REACH BY THE END OF 2020

To track recidivism as a Coalition, the primary metric we selected to focus on was **one year re-arrest rates for people released by the Philadelphia Department of Prisons or the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to Philadelphia**. The selection of this metric was based in large part on the availability of data. We urge caution in comparing the data in this report to other recidivism measures that may be published by other entities/agencies within Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, or any other geographical region.

In 2015, the one-year unified recidivism rate for people returning to Philadelphia was 33.9%. Looked at differently, this means that of the 24,089 people released to Philadelphia from PDP and PA DOC in that year, roughly 8,000 people who were re-arrested at least once within a year after their return to the community from incarceration, and 16,000 were not. **Our shared goal as a Reentry Coalition is to reduce the unified recidivism rate by 25% by the end of the year 2020.** This would mean a unified recidivism rate of 25.4%.

Unified Recidivism Rate and Recidivism Rate by Place of Custody (2012-2015)



Recidivism by Age Group (2015)

