Virginia Has the Lowest Recidivism Rate in the Country

At 22.4%, Virginia has the lowest recidivism rate among the forty-five states that report three-year re-incarceration rates for felons. Of the 11,576 State Responsible (SR) offenders released from incarceration in Virginia in FY2013 who had an opportunity to recidivate, 2,588 were re-incarcerated within three years. Virginia’s leading rate is attributable to the effective Re-Entry Programming and treatment offered by the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) during an offender’s incarceration and its effective supervision in the community after release. VADOC tailors its programming and supervision to address each offender’s criminogenic risks and needs in keeping with the agency’s mission to enhance the quality of life in the Commonwealth by improving public safety through the successful reintegration of sentenced men and women in its custody and care by providing supervision and control, effective programs and re-entry services in safe environments which foster positive change and growth consistent with research-based evidence, fiscal responsibility, and constitutional standards.

Three-Year Re-Incarceration Rates: A State Comparison

*Unified state, rate includes both state and local responsible offenders

NOTES: Recidivism rates for each state are the most recent three-year re-incarceration rates produced and made publicly available by each state (as of September 2017); please contact each state with any questions about that particular state’s recidivism figures; the following states are excluded from this analysis for the following reasons: Georgia only reports re-conviction information; Hawaii only reports re-arrest information; Illinois only reports re-conviction information; Oregon’s rate is based on a six-month release cohort and includes releases from prison and felons released from jails; Texas’ rate includes both felons and misdemeanants
Three-Year Recidivism Rates Across the United States

Virginia Compared to Other States