



# State Recidivism Comparison

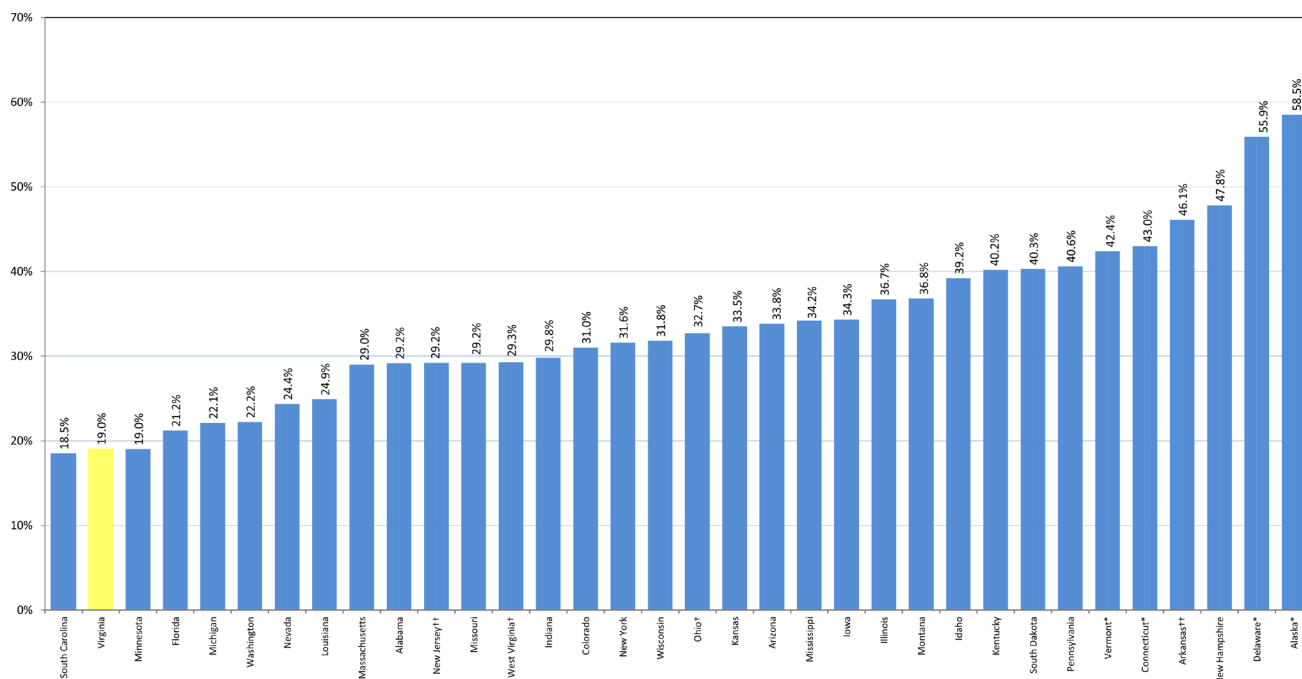
RESEARCH - EVALUATION UNIT

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## Virginia's Recidivism Rate Among the Lowest in the Country

At 19.0%, Virginia's recidivism rate remains among the lowest in the country of states that report three-year State Responsible (SR) re-incarceration rates. The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) waits at least four years to calculate the three-year re-incarceration rate of SR releases in order to allow all court information to be received and entered into VirginiaCORIS. Without waiting for the data to fully mature, the FY2019 recidivism rate in July 2022 would have been 18.9%.<sup>1</sup> Of the 12,597 SR inmates released from incarceration in Virginia in FY2019 who had an opportunity to recidivate, 2,399 were re-incarcerated within three years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, state court closures across the country varied, thus affecting each state's recidivism rate differently depending on various factors related to closures (i.e. length of closures, types of cases heard, etc.). Recidivism rates for each state are the most recent three-year re-incarceration rates produced and made publicly available by each state (as of December 04, 2023). If VADOC's FY2019 rate was compared to South Carolina's FY2019 rate (19.4%), Virginia would have the lowest rate. While recidivism is not a program evaluation, additional studies are done to examine the impact of re-entry and educational programming offered by VADOC. The VADOC tailors its programming and supervision to address each inmate's criminogenic risk and needs. This aligns 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 effective supervision, programs, and re-entry services in safe environments.

### Three-Year Re-Incarceration Rates: A State Comparison



\* Unified state; rates include both state and local responsible inmates.

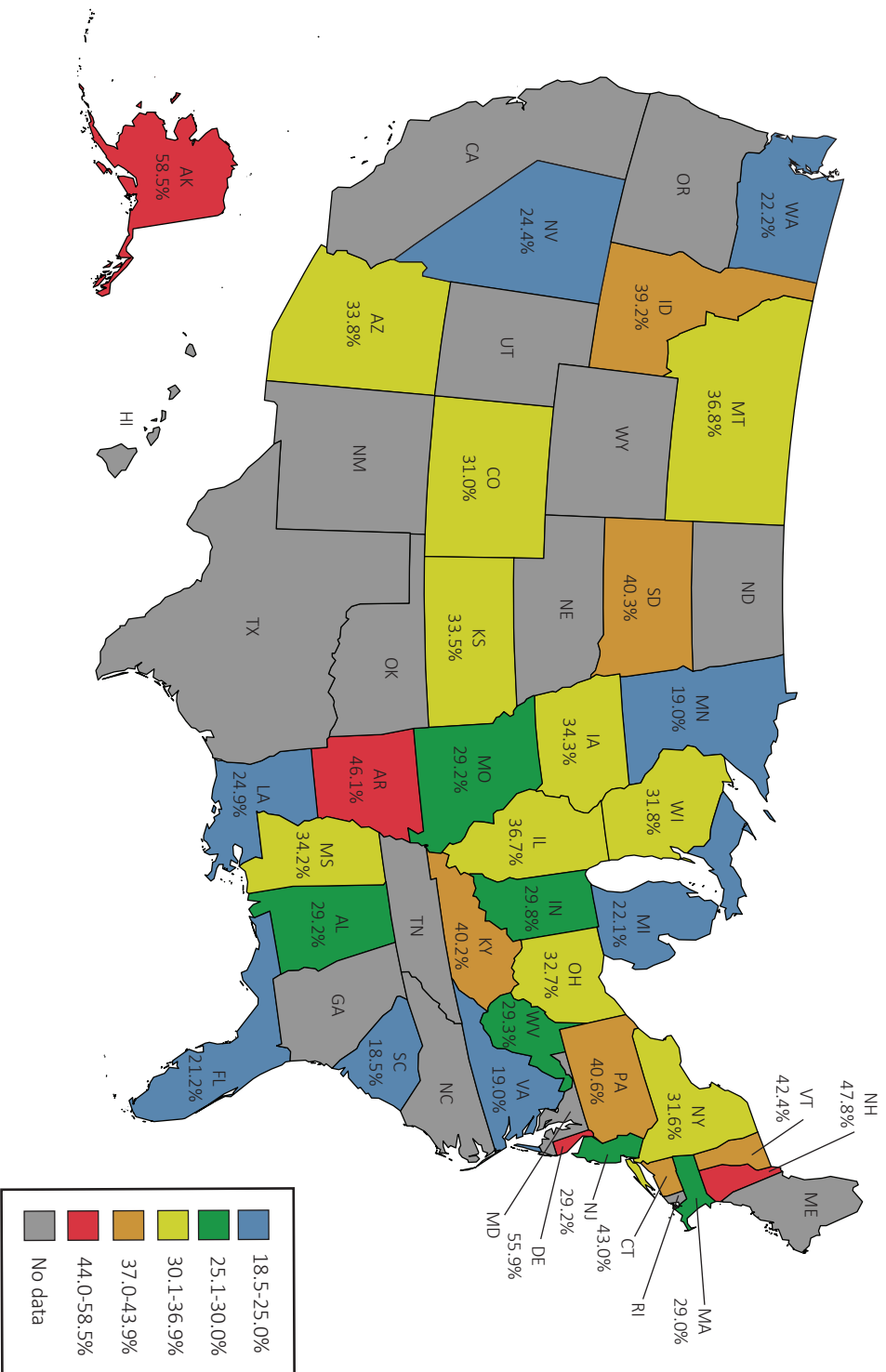
† States reporting recidivism data from 2016 releases and prior (COVID-19 pandemic did not impact follow-up period).

†† States reporting 2017 rates. The last follow-up period was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic but not as significantly as 2018 and 2019 releases.

1 Due to COVID-19, the four year wait period did not have as significant of an impact on the FY2019 cohort as it previously has.

**NOTES:** Virginia (VA) waits at least four years to compute the three-year re-incarceration rate to assure all court orders are accounted for. All SR sentences after release are counted as recidivism in VA, including technical violations and sentences for offenses that occurred prior to release. Please contact each state with any questions about that particular state's recidivism figures (data as of December 4, 2023). The following states are excluded from this analysis for the reasons given: California's rate excludes parole violations; Georgia only reports re-conviction information; Hawaii only reports re-arrest information; Maryland's rate includes convictions to new probation sentences; New Mexico's rate counts new charges and technical violations separately; North Carolina solely produces two-year follow-up rates; Oregon's rate is based on a six-month release cohort and includes releases from prison and felons released from jails; Rhode Island's rate includes awaiting trial detainees; Tennessee's rate includes those who are arrested and placed in jail who are not convicted of a crime as well as those who are convicted of committing a new crime; Texas' rate does not include state jail releases; Utah's rate only includes releases to parole; Maine, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wyoming all calculate a physical return to DOC rate.

# Three-Year Re-Incarceration Rates Across the United States



**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 December 4, 2023); please contact each state with any questions about that particular state's recidivism figures. The following states are excluded from this analysis for the reasons given: California's rate excludes parole violations; Georgia only reports re-conviction information; Hawaii only reports re-arrest information; Maryland's rate includes convictions to new probation sentences; New Mexico's rate counts new charges and technical violations separately; North Carolina solely produces two-year follow-up rates; Oregon's rate is based on a six-month release cohort and includes releases from prison and felons released from jails; Rhode Island's rate includes awaiting trial detainees; Tennessee's rate includes those who are arrested and placed in jail who are not convicted of a crime as well as those who are convicted of committing a new crime; Texas' rate does not include state jail releases; Utah's rate only includes releases to parole; Maine, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wyoming all calculate a physical return to DOC rate.

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