

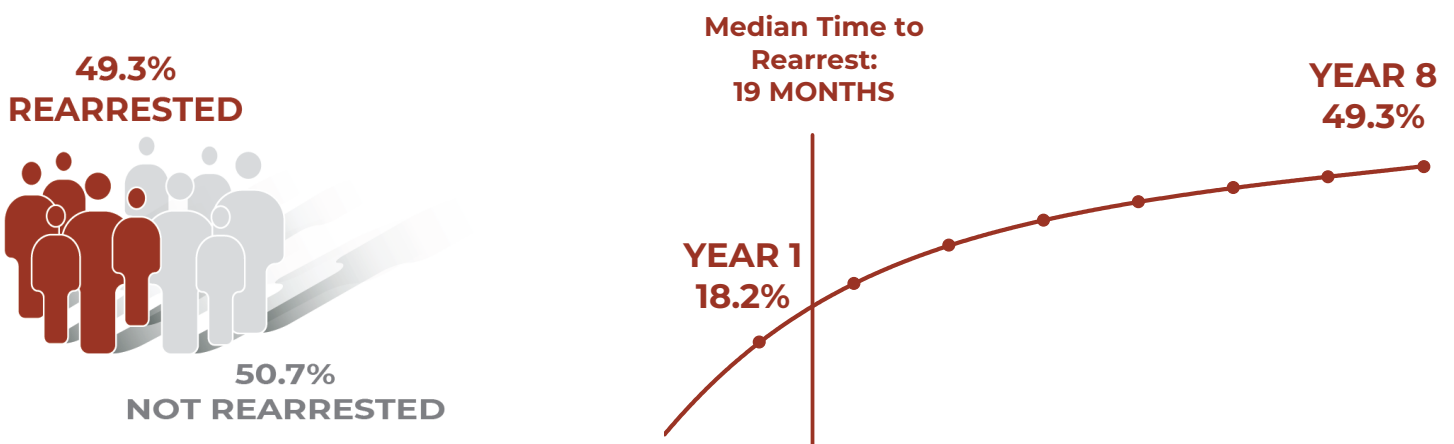
Recidivism and Federal Sentencing Policy

The United States Sentencing Commission published findings from its new multiyear study of 32,000+ offenders released in 2010—the largest group of offenders with an eight-year recidivism study period examined by the Commission to date.

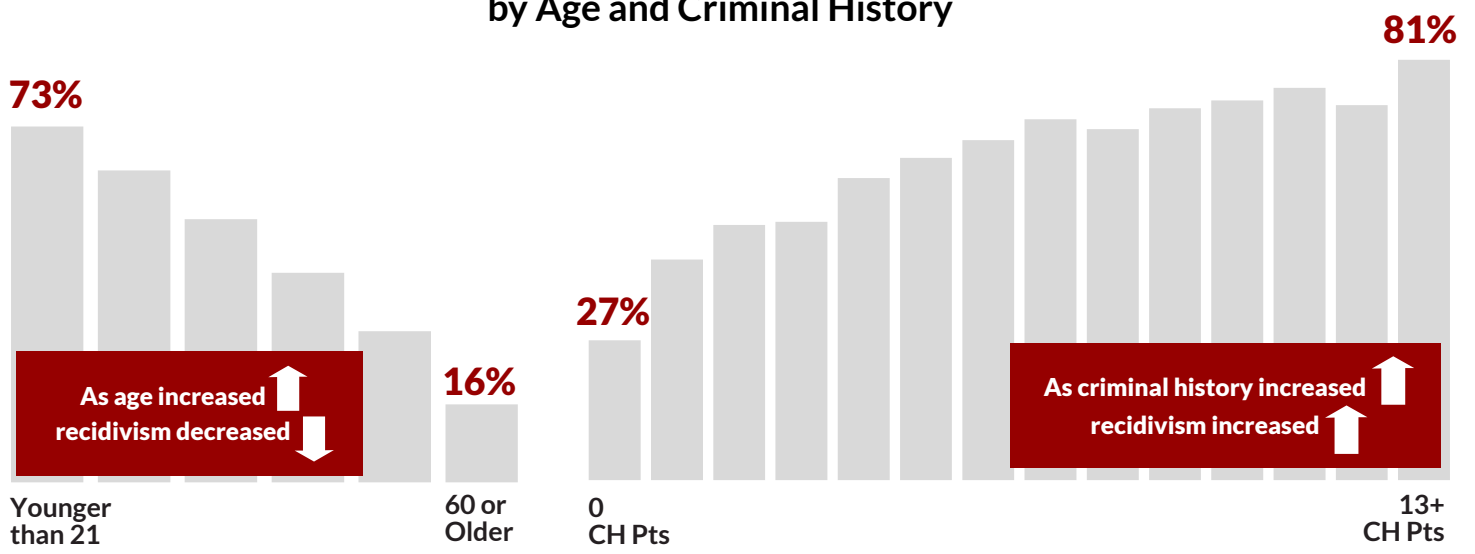
Knowing how often criminals reoffend and the types of crimes they commit can help policymakers determine how best to protect public safety, promote effective reentry techniques, and address overcapacity of the prisons. Below are some key findings from the study.

Overall

Over the eight-year follow-up period, about half of federal offenders were rearrested. Of those offenders who reoffended, most did so within the first two years of release, and their most common recidivism event was assault.¹

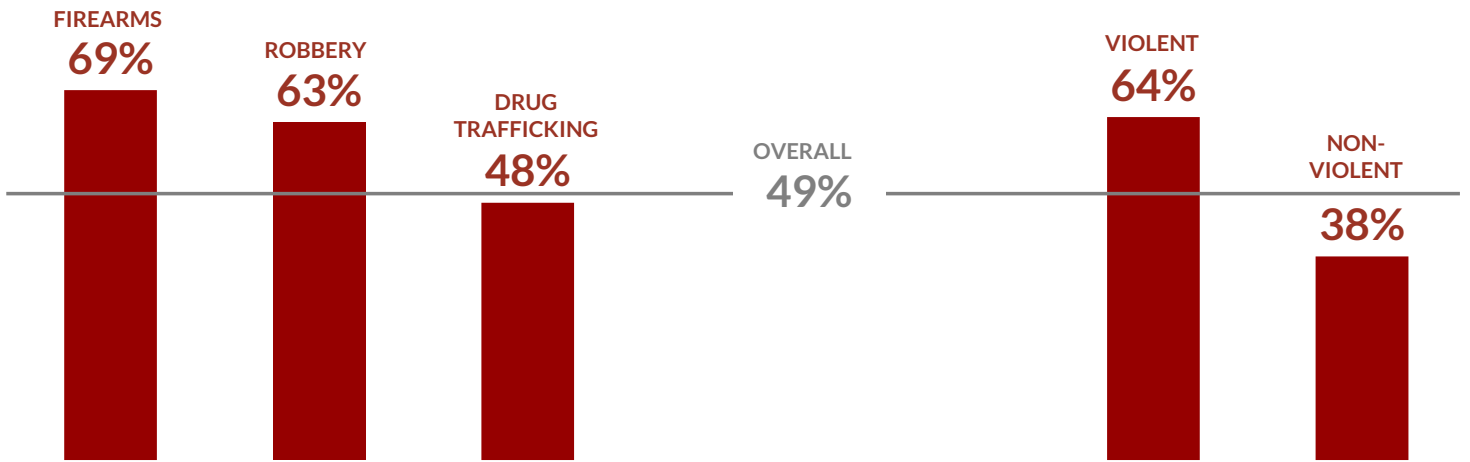


Rearrest Rates After Eight Years Post-Release by Age and Criminal History



Crime Types

The type of federal crime that led to an offender's original conviction was also related to their likelihood of reoffending.^{2,3,4} Firearms offenders sentenced under §2K2.1 were most likely to be rearrested followed closely by robbery offenders.



Comparing Prior Recidivism Studies

The recidivism rate remained **unchanged** for federal offenders released in 2010 compared to offenders released in 2005⁵ despite two intervening major developments in the federal criminal justice system: the Supreme Court's decision in *Booker* and increased use of evidence-based practices in federal supervision.

Over an eight-year follow-up period, nearly one-half (49.3%) of federal offenders released in 2010 were rearrested, the same rate for offenders released in 2005 (49.3%).

Other recidivism patterns also were consistent for the two offender cohorts.



¹ U.S. SENTENCING COMM'N, RECIDIVISM OF FEDERAL OFFENDERS RELEASED IN 2010 (2021)
² U.S. SENTENCING COMM'N, RECIDIVISM OF FEDERAL FIREARMS OFFENDERS RELEASED IN 2010 (2021)
³ U.S. SENTENCING COMM'N, RECIDIVISM OF FEDERAL DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS RELEASED IN 2010 (2022)
⁴ U.S. SENTENCING COMM'N, RECIDIVISM OF FEDERAL VIOLENT OFFENDERS RELEASED IN 2010 (2022)
⁵ U.S. SENTENCING COMM'N, RECIDIVISM AMONG FEDERAL OFFENDERS: A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW (2016)