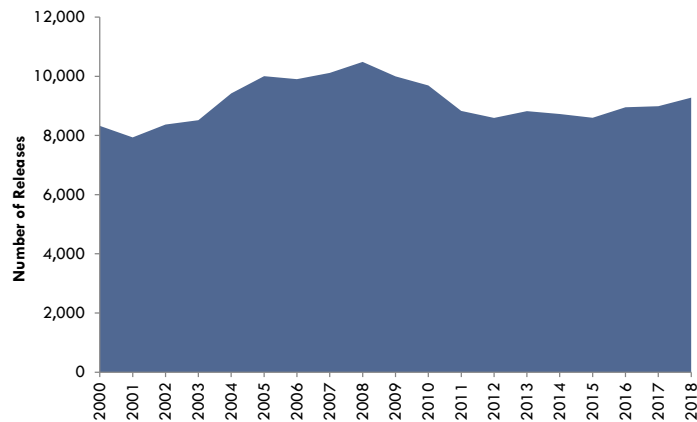




# WISCONSIN PRISON RELEASES: 2000-2018

The releases numbers presented below are physical releases from Wisconsin adult prisons or contracted facilities from 2000 to 2018. The release counts exclude inmates who were never physically admitted to and released from a WI DOC prison or contract facility if they were determined at the time of sentencing to have already served sufficient time while being held in a county jail. Releases from temporary holds are also excluded.

Prison releases have followed approximately the same trend as admissions, increasing from 8,325 releases in 2000 to 10,487 releases in 2008, and then decreasing again to 9,279 releases in 2018. In 2018, an average of 769 inmates were released per month.



## Highlights:

**Gender.** Males have consistently made up the majority (between 89% and 93%) of prison releases across all release years.

**Race.** Since 2000, the percentage of Black inmates released has steadily decreased while the percentage of White inmates released has steadily increased. In 2018, 58.3% of inmates released were White, and 35.2% of inmates released were Black.

**Age.** Inmates between the ages of 20 and 39 made up 67.7% of releases in 2018. However, the percentage of releases for inmates aged 50 or older more than tripled between 2000 and 2018, increasing from 4.1% to 14.3% of releases.

**Release Type.** In 2018, 82.7% of inmates were released on Extended Supervision or Mandatory Release (ES/MR), while only 2.4% of inmates were released to Parole. The implementation of Truth in Sentencing in 1999 led to a decrease in releases to Parole and an increase in releases to ES/MR.

**County.** The largest proportion of inmates (29.0%) was released to Milwaukee County in 2018, followed by Dane County (6.3%), Racine County (5.6%), Brown County (4.6%), and Kenosha County (4.1%).

**Time Served.** The majority of inmates released between 2000 and 2018 served less than two years in prison. Of the 2018 releases, 37.1% served less than one year and 8.5% served five or more years. The average number of years served increased by 22.2% between 2000 and 2018, from 1.9 to 2.3 years.

**Time Served by Most Serious Offense.** On average, between 2000 and 2018 (for New Sentence Only admissions), the majority of inmates with violent offenses as their most serious offense served two or more years. The majority of inmates with property, drug, or public order offenses served less than two years.

For more details, see the full Prison Releases report on the WI DOC website: [Prison Releases: 2000-2018](#)

Inquiries regarding this report may be directed to the Data and Research Inquiries mailbox:  
[WIDOCDataandResearchInquiries@wisconsin.gov](mailto:WIDOCDataandResearchInquiries@wisconsin.gov)