

How to Use WI DOC Recidivism Dashboards

1. Why will no data display on my dashboard graph?

If there is no data or very few data points displayed on the dashboard, it is because you are filtering for too many categories. A sub-group of offenders must make up at least 5% of the total release cohort for recidivism rates to display. This is because recidivism rates for very small populations can be misleading as slight changes in the numbers of recidivists can produce large changes in recidivism rates. If no data displays on the graph, try selecting additional genders, races, age groups, or risk levels to increase the number of offenders included in the group you are looking at.

2. Why are recidivism rates only shown for releases between 2000 and 2014?

The most recent release years WI DOC calculates recidivism rates for are contained in the dashboards. WI DOC does not obtain offense data until the time that the offender is sentenced to prison or probation. On average, an offender is not sentenced to prison or probation for 209 days after he or she commits a new offense. Therefore, recidivism calculations include a one-year lag time after the end of a follow-up period to account for the time between apprehension for a new crime and subsequent court disposition. For example, a dashboard of 2013 release from prison recidivism rates with a three-year follow-up period would not be published until after 2017, allowing for the three-year follow-up period (ending in 2016) and the one-year lag time (ending in 2017).

3. Why do some of the dashboards only include recidivism data for a three-year follow-up period?

A three-year follow-up period is the standard length of time used for reporting recidivism rates. Offenders who recidivate within the one- and two-year follow-up periods are also counted in the three-year follow-up period. For clarity and ease of interpretation, only three-year follow-up periods are presented for the Time to Recidivism Event, Recidivism Rates by Risk Level, and Recidivism Rates by Original Offense Type dashboards.

4. Why can't I download the recidivism data?

The recidivism data is not available to download due to the complex nature of the data and how it had to be structured to create the dashboards. While raw data cannot be downloaded, images and PDFs of the graphs can be downloaded.

5. Can I select more than one sub-group in a filter?

You can select as many or as few sub-groups as you like within a filter on each of the dashboards. For example, the Recidivism Rate Trends graph can be filtered to select only females, all races, and only offenders aged 20-39 (selecting both the "20-29" filter and the "30-39" filter). If you select the 'All' option in a filter, every sub-group listed within that filter will be present in the recidivism rates displayed on the graph.

6. Where can I get more information about how WI DOC recidivism rates are calculated?

For more information on the methodology used to calculate WI DOC recidivism rates please see the [August 2016 WI DOC Recidivism Report](#).

7. Who can I contact for more information?

For more information or inquiries related to WI DOC recidivism, please contact: WIDOCDataandResearchInquiries@wisconsin.gov.