Recent National and State Trends in Recidivism

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1. First-of-its-kind 50-state survey of recidivism (return to prison) rates

2. Data for offenders released in 1999, 2004 and followed for three years

3. States reported recidivism for new crime and technical violation of supervision

4. Differences in definitions, data collection procedures warrant caution about making interstate comparisons.
More than 4 out of 10 adult American offenders return to prison within three years of their release.

1999 - 2002

1999 - 2002

2004 - 2007

2004 - 2007

45.4%

43.3%
Changes in Recidivism: 1999 and 2004

Legend:
- Larger (>10%)
- Smaller (0-10%)
- Larger (≥10%)
- N/A

Decreases:
- OR: -31.9%
- CA: -5.5%
- UT: -18.4%
- ID: -2.0%
- MT: -2.0%
- WA: 30.8%

Increases:
- NE: 12.1%
- SD: 34.9%
- MO: 11.7%
- IN: 11.1%
- IL: 4.7%
- IA: -0.2%
- KY: -2.6%
- VA: -2.6%
- NC: -8.1%
- SC: 19.3%
- LA: 25.1%
- TX: -0.8%
- AL: -2.4%
- GA: -3.3%

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Protecting Public Safety and Cutting Costs

If 10 states reduced recidivism by 10 percent:

- CA: $233.1
- NY: $42.0
- IL: $39.8
- TX: $33.6
- AK: $24.6
- OH: $24.3
- NC: $23.0
- CT: $20.8
- NJ: $16.8
- MO: $14.4

$472.5 million

Potential Cost Savings
Policies and Practices that Impact Recidivism

Pre-Entry
- Assessment
- Offender Risk Profile
- State Sentencing Laws

Behind the Walls
- Assessment
- Classification
- Transition Planning
- Programming
- Release Criteria

Reentry
- Assessment
- Classification
- Reentry Handoff
- Supervision Length
- Violations Policy
- Incentives