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NEW MEXICO.

**Bernalillo County  
Metropolitan Detention  
Center:  
A 9-Year Follow-up on  
Recidivism Among Jail  
Inmates Released in 2010**

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Recidivism – generally defined as the arrest or incarceration of a released inmate – is a key concern in the criminal justice system. While studies on released inmates for prisons are more commonplace, recidivism among released jail inmates is less commonly examined. Recidivism requires three components: 1. A starting event; 2. A measure of failure; and 3. A follow-up period (Alper, Durose, & Markman, 2018, p. 3). The recidivism of jail inmates released from the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) was studied for inmates released in 2010 (the starting event), with a return to MDC custody (the measure of failure), and a follow-up period of nine years after release from the facility. This report studies recidivism of 28,428 MDC inmates released in 2010.

## Demographics

Of the 28,428 unique inmates with at least one release from the MDC in 2010, just under three-quarters were male (73.6%). Nearly half of jail inmates were Hispanic (49.3%) and just under a third were White (30.4%). An additional 10.8% were Native American and 6.5% were African American. The remaining 3.0% were inmates of unknown race, multiple races, or other races.

Of those released in 2010, 28.4% were 24 years of age or younger. An additional 19.5% were between 25 and 29 years of age and 14.6% were between 30 and 34 years of age. Inmates released between 35 and 39 years old accounted for 10.6% of those released and inmates 40 years of age or older comprised 26.8% of the population.

**Table 1. Demographics of MDC Inmates Released in 2010**

<b>All Released Prisoners</b>	100.0%
<b>Sex</b>	
Male	73.6%
Female	26.4%
<b>Race/Hispanic Origin</b>	
Hispanic	49.3%
White <sup>a</sup>	30.4%
Native American <sup>a</sup>	10.8%
African American <sup>a</sup>	6.5%
Other <sup>ab</sup>	3.0%
<b>Age at Release<sup>c</sup></b>	
24 or Younger	28.4%
25-29	19.5%
30-34	14.6%
35-39	10.6%
40 or older	26.8%
<b>Number of Released Inmates</b>	<b>28,428</b>

a Excludes inmates of Hispanic origin

b Includes inmates of multiple races, unknown race, and other races

c Date of birth was not available for 12 inmates

## Recidivism

Within the first year of release, 10,950 (38.5%) inmates returned to custody at the MDC. Table 2 shows the breakdown of inmates who were returned to MDC custody in year one by month. Of the 10,950 inmates, 4,712 (43.0%) of inmates returned within the first three months of year one, with the highest number of inmates returning in one month or less (1,960 or 17.9%). The number of inmates returning to custody decreased each month during the first year with less than 500 of the 10,950 returning to custody in month 10, 11, or 12.

**Table 2. Breakdown of Inmates Returning in Year One by Month**

Return to Custody by Month	Count	Percent
Month 1	1,960	17.9%
Month 2	1,512	13.8%
Month 3	1,240	11.3%
Month 4	1,082	9.9%
Month 5	907	8.3%
Month 6	850	7.8%
Month 7	744	6.8%
Month 8	677	6.2%
Month 9	569	5.2%
Month 10	491	4.5%
Month 11	481	4.4%
Month 12	437	4.0%
<b>Total Inmates Booking in Year 1</b>	<b>10,950</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Of jail inmates released in 2010, 38.5% returned to custody within the first year following their release (see Figure 1). During the second year following release, an additional 10.4% returned to custody, a decrease of 73.0%. During the third year after release, 5.0% of inmates returned, a decrease of 51.9% from year two. The percent of jail inmates booked into the MDC continued to decrease in subsequent years, down to 2.9% in year four and 1.9% in year 5. In years six and seven, the percent of inmates returning to the MDC was 1.3% and 1.1%, respectively. In years eight and nine, less than 1% of inmates returned to the custody of the MDC (.9% and .8%).

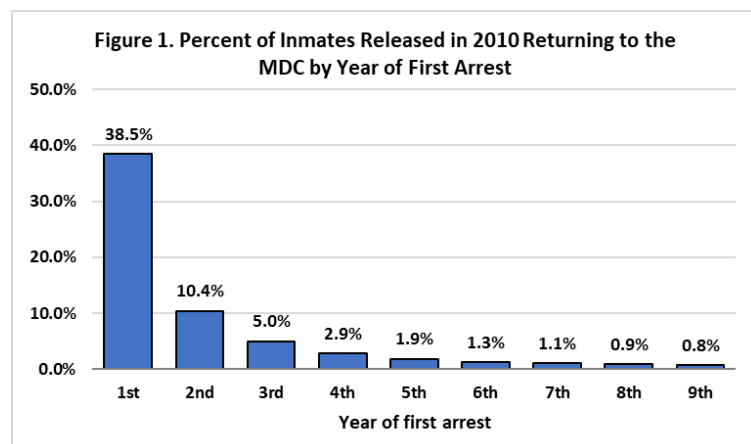
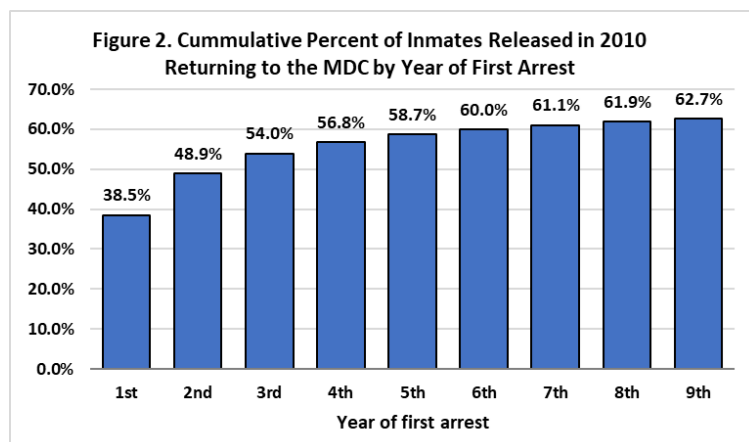


Figure 2 shows the cumulative percent of inmates released in 2010 by year of first arrest. Overall, 62.7% of inmates returned to custody within nine years of release from the MDC. Most of these bookings occur in the first few years following release. During year 1, 38.5% of inmates returned to MDC. By year two, 48.9% of inmates returned to the custody of the MDC, accounting for 78.0% of the rate by year nine. By year three, 54.0% of inmates returned to the custody of the MDC, or 86.1% of the cumulative rate by year nine. The rate of increase in the cumulative percent of inmates released continued to decrease each year.



Of inmates released in 2010, 38.5% returned to MDC within the first year (see Figure 3). During the second year 28.8% of inmates returned to custody, a 25.2% decrease from year one. In the third year after release 23.4% of inmates returned to custody, a 18.75% decrease from year two and a 39.23% decrease from year one. Years one through three hold the greatest percentage of inmates returning to MDC custody, with all subsequent years dwindling, ending with 11.1% of inmates returning in year nine.

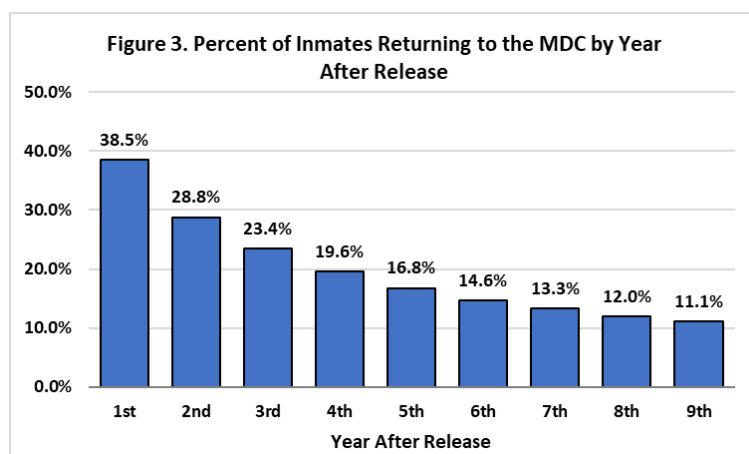
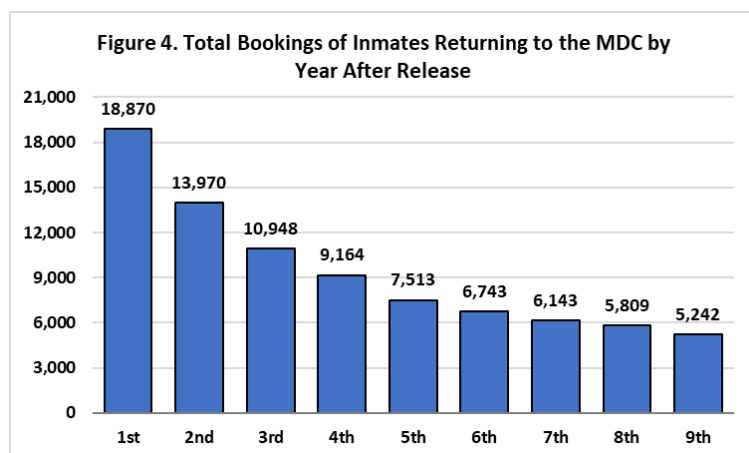


Figure 4 shows the total bookings of inmates returning to MDC by year after release. During year one, 10,950 inmates were booked into the MDC 18,870 times. During year 2, inmates released in 2010 accounted for 13,970 bookings. The total bookings accounted for by inmates released in 2010 decreased each year after release. In year nine, there were 5,242 bookings for inmates returning to the MDC, a 72.2% decrease from year one.



Of the 28,428 inmates released in 2010, 10,601 (37.3%) had no bookings (see Table 3), Of the those returning to custody, 4,686 (16.5%) had one booking and the remaining 13,141 (46.2%) of inmates had more than one booking. There was an average of 4.7 bookings over 9 years for the inmates return to custody after release in 2010.

**Table 3. Number of Bookings into the MDC following 2010 Release**

Number of Bookings	Count	Percent
No Bookings	10,601	37.3%
1 Booking	4,686	16.5%
2 or More Bookings	13,141	46.2%
<b>Total Inmates Released in 2010</b>	<b>28,428</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Recidivism by Demographics

Table 3 (see below) shows the demographic makeup of inmates who have returned to the MDC by year of first arrest. During year one, 39.6% of males returned to the MDC and an additional 10.9% returned in year two, for over 50% of the male inmates returning to custody. During year one, 35.4% of females were returned to custody in year one, and 9.2% in year two, making up 44.6% of the female population returned, a 11.7% difference from male inmates.

Of all the races and Hispanic origins, African American's had the highest percent of inmates returned to custody within the first year at 44%, with people of Hispanic/Latino origin following closely behind at 41.8%. By year two 55.5% of African Americans had recidivated, 53.3% of Hispanic/Latinos, 50.4% of Native Americans, and 41.4% of Whites inmates released in 2010 had returned back to MDC custody. After year two the number of inmates returned to MDC by year of first arrest begins to steadily decrease, regardless of race or Hispanic origin, with the lowest percentage of inmates returning at .4% (Race: Other) occurring in year nine.

The difference between age categories is minimal (a 3% difference between 24 or younger and 40 or older), unknown category excluded. Most inmates, regardless of age return in year one and year two, and see a minimal amount of returns in subsequent years.

The highest rates of returns to the MDC occurred during year one and two, regardless of sex, race/Hispanic origin, or age.

**Table 3. Demographics of Inmates Returning to the MDC by Year of First Arrest**

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	No Bookings
<b>All Released Prisoners</b>	38.5%	10.4%	5.0%	2.9%	1.9%	1.3%	1.1%	0.9%	0.8%	37.3%
<b>Sex</b>										
Male	39.6%	10.9%	5.0%	2.9%	1.9%	1.3%	1.1%	0.9%	0.7%	35.7%
Female	35.4%	9.2%	5.0%	2.7%	1.7%	1.1%	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%	41.8%
<b>Race/Hispanic Origin</b>										
Hispanic/Latino	41.8%	11.5%	5.4%	3.0%	2.0%	1.4%	1.1%	0.9%	0.8%	32.2%
White <sup>a</sup>	32.7%	8.7%	4.7%	2.6%	1.8%	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	45.8%
Native American <sup>a</sup>	39.4%	11.0%	4.5%	3.2%	1.7%	1.5%	1.7%	0.9%	0.8%	35.4%
African American <sup>a</sup>	44.0%	11.5%	5.1%	2.6%	1.5%	1.1%	0.5%	0.9%	0.6%	32.3%
Other <sup>ab</sup>	28.9%	5.4%	4.4%	2.0%	2.4%	0.9%	0.8%	1.1%	0.4%	53.7%
<b>Age at Release<sup>c</sup></b>										
24 or Younger	40.0%	11.0%	5.4%	3.2%	2.2%	1.4%	1.1%	0.9%	0.8%	33.9%
25-29	38.0%	10.4%	5.8%	3.1%	1.9%	1.2%	1.4%	1.0%	1.0%	36.2%
30-34	39.7%	10.8%	5.5%	2.6%	1.8%	1.3%	1.3%	0.9%	0.6%	35.5%
35-39	37.9%	10.9%	4.1%	2.8%	2.2%	1.4%	1.2%	1.0%	0.7%	37.9%
40 or older	37.0%	9.5%	4.2%	2.5%	1.4%	1.1%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	42.3%

a Excludes inmates of Hispanic origin

b Includes inmates of multiple races, unknown race, and other races

c Date of birth was not available for 12 inmates, these inmates have been excluded from this table as the total is too small to allow for a comparison.

## Conclusion

There were some limitations to this study. Information is not available for bookings into other facilities, either statewide or nationally. In addition, some inmates may have new criminal activity that does not result in a booking, either as a result of the nature of the charge (for example a citation) or there may be an open arrest warrant. In a national prisoner recidivism study, a small percent of inmates (3.1%) who were identified as deceased were removed from the study (Alper et al., 2018, p. 16). While this would likely have a small impact on the outcomes, it would improve accuracy of the outcomes. While information is not available to address these limitations, additional items can be included in future research. The current report does not include information on the criminal charges at the time of release. While jail data on charges is not available for 2010, it is available for future years. A study using a cohort from 2014 or later would allow the inclusion of detail on booking charges. Though there were some limitations, the current study allowed for a long-term study of inmates released in 2010.

In 2010, 28,428 inmates were released from the MDC at least once. During the nine-year follow-up period, over one-third of released inmates did not return to the custody of the MDC. Of the 62.7% of inmates who recidivated, the first return occurred most often during either year 1 (38.5%) or year 2 (10.4%) with the remaining 13.8% occurring during years 3 through 9. Of the inmates who recidivated, inmates were nearly three times more likely to have two or more bookings than one booking (46.2% compared to 16.5%).

Male inmates recidivated more frequently during year 1 than female inmates (39.6% compared to 35.4%) although the rates narrowed during years 2 through 9. Similarly, recidivism during year 1 occurred at

higher rates for African American inmates (44.0%), Hispanic/Latino inmates (41.8%), and Native American inmates (39.4%) compared to White inmates (32.7%). Similar to gender, the difference in rates decreased during years 2 through 9. By age group, the differences in recidivism rates by year was small, ranging from 37.0% for those 40 of age or older to 40% for those 24 years of age or younger.

## References

Alper, M., Durose, M. R. & Markman, J. (May 2018). *2018 update on prisoner recidivism: A 9-year follow-up period (2005 – 2014)*. (Report No. NCJ 250975). U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.