



August 4 Update

Snapshot

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana

PAR Snapshot

Louisiana Incarceration Rate 570

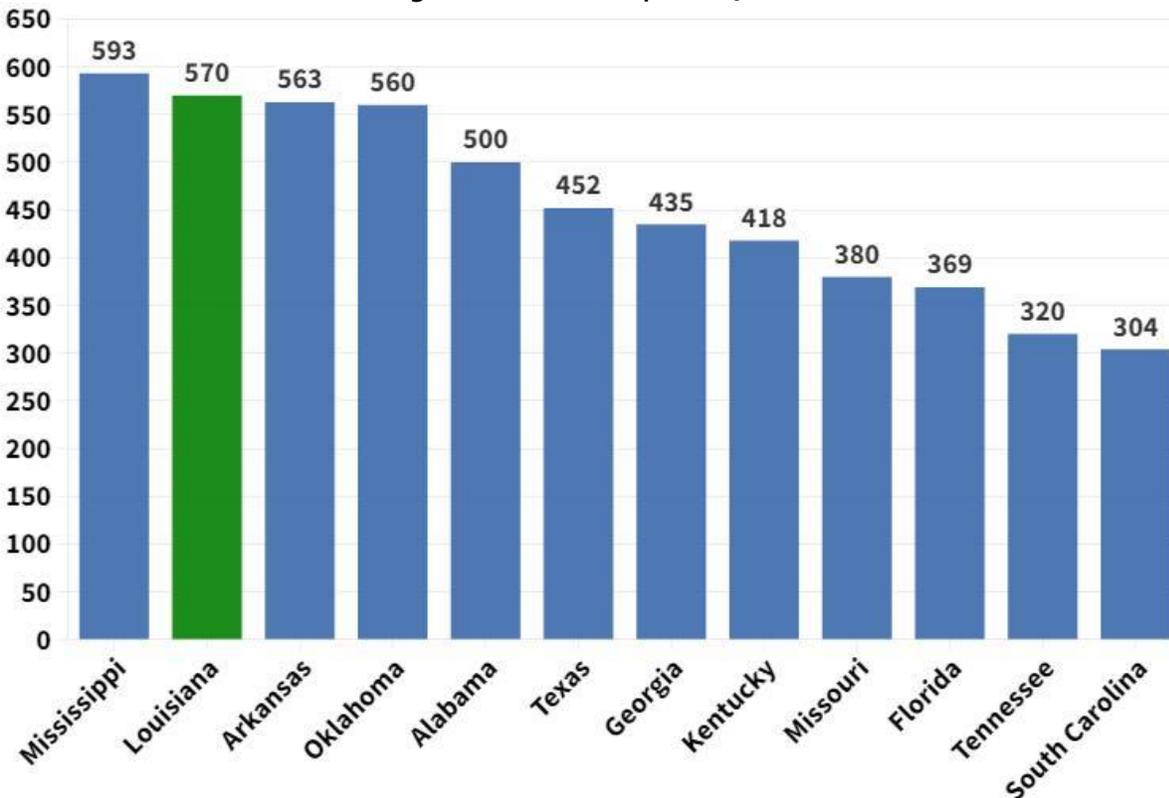
State Has Second Highest Incarceration Rate in Country

Louisiana, known for its exorbitant prison population, has the second highest incarceration rate in the country. Mississippi has the highest rate, with 593 people in prison for every 100,000 state residents, while Louisiana has a rate of 570, according to the latest available data from 2021 compiled by [The Vera Institute of Justice](#).

[The Department of Public Safety and Corrections](#) reports that Louisiana had a total prison population of 26,377 in December 2021. Of the total population, 13,286 people were held in parish jails and 13,091 were held in state prisons.

The Vera Institute calculated each state's incarceration rate by including all people detained on behalf of the correctional authority, whether in state prisons or parish jails, which detain a significant portion of the prison population in Louisiana.

Incarceration Rates Among Southern States per 100,000 residents in Dec. 2021



Source: The Vera Institute of Justice, People in Prison in Winter 2021-22

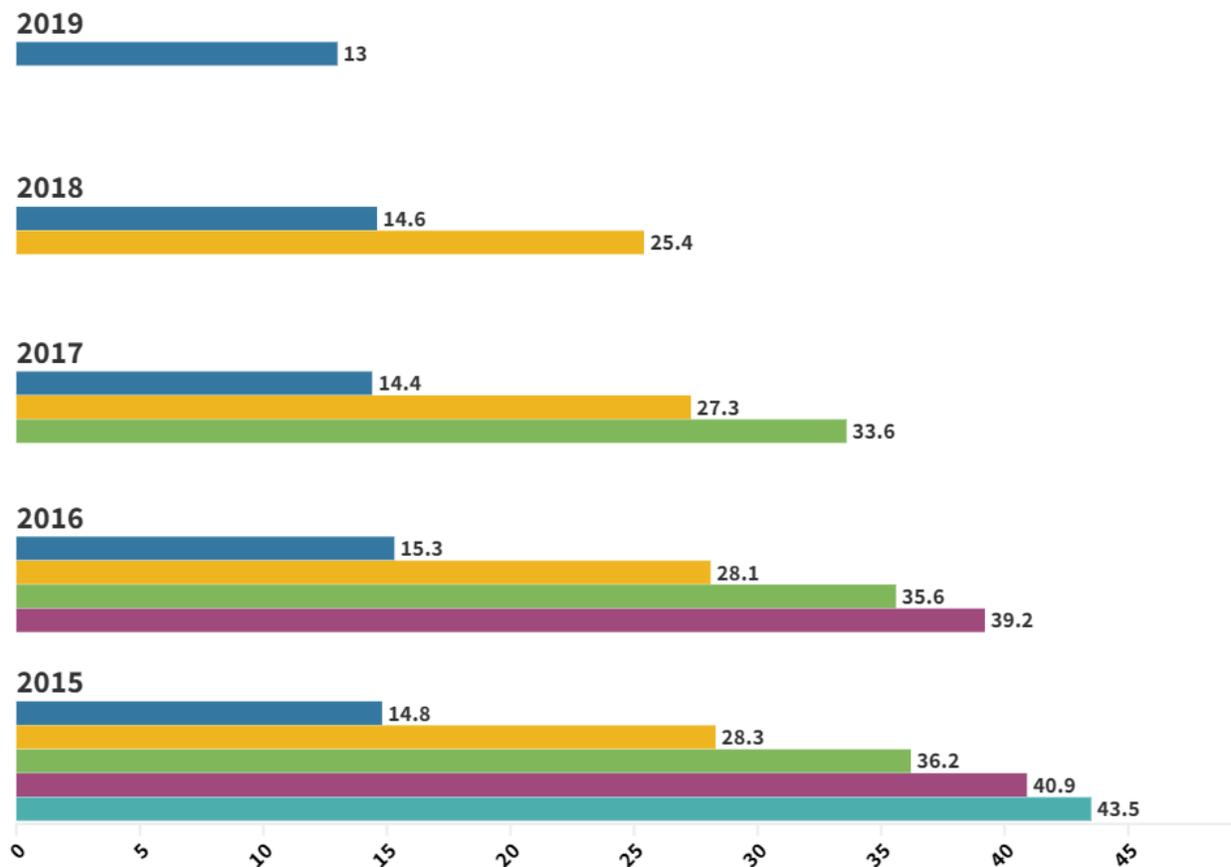
Louisiana sees significant numbers of former inmates return to prison within five years after being released, according to data from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. The graph above shows Louisiana's recidivism rates including first through fifth year returns since 2015. The state counts an offender only once for each release year.

Of the 12,973 prisoners released in 2019, 13% -- or 1,691 offenders -- returned to prison within 12 months of being released. The three-year recidivism rate for those convicted of crimes in Louisiana is 33.6%.

People are more prone to return to prison depending on the type of crime, with people convicted of drug and property crimes more likely to reoffend after their release and those convicted of violent crimes less likely to return to prison after getting out. According to the latest [Department of Public Safety and Corrections](#) data, 15% of drug crime offenders and 15.9% of property crime offenders returned to prison by the fifth year after release. In comparison, there was a 4.2% return rate within five years for violent crimes and 8.3% for all other crimes.

Percent Recidivism Among Total Population

■ 1st Year Returns ■ 2nd Year Returns ■ 3rd Year Returns ■ 4th Year Returns ■ 5th Year Returns



Source: Briefing Book, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, January 2022

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COVID-19 Update

PAR will no longer provide the latest COVID-19 data in the Snapshot. While the pandemic remains a significant health concern, many outlets offer Louisiana residents regular, updated information on the state's COVID-19 cases, deaths and hospitalizations.

Special thanks to the Union Pacific Foundation for supporting PAR's Louisiana Recovery Project.

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