

Over half of criminals released by Gov. Roy Cooper have reoffended, public data tool reveals

RALEIGH, N.C., May 5, 2026 — At least 2,412 of the 4,234 criminals granted early release under a 2021 settlement by then-Governor Roy Cooper have been convicted of an additional crime or post-release violation since being let out, according to records that have been made accessible by a newly launched public data tool.

Cooper Released Him provides searchable access to the offenders including by name, county, and convictions. The data reveals pre-release convictions for hundreds of murderers, rapists, and child molesters:

- 53 serving life sentences - 1 reoffender
- 70 convicted of murder - 9 reoffenders
- 99 convicted of rape or sexual offense - 45 reoffenders
- 203 convicted of taking indecent liberties with a child - 119 reoffenders

The true reoffense rate for these offenders is even higher than the 56.97% indicated. The NC Department of Adult Corrections data omits crimes where charges were never filed, where charges were dropped, or where the prosecution is in progress and has yet to result in a conviction.

For instance, although DeCarlos Brown Jr. may be the most notorious of these criminals due to his apparently racially motivated murder of Iryna Zarutka in Charlotte last August, none of Brown's post-release arrests are in the scope of this data. The Mecklenburg DA declined to prosecute charges related to multiple arrests after Brown's early release date in February 2021, while the charges for the fatal stabbing are still working their way through the long legal process.

"You shouldn't have to be a tech guru to access facts about the rapists, murderers, and child molesters that were granted early release into our communities," said Stephen Horn, founding editor of the Triangle Trumpet and the independent journalist behind the project.

Horn welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with journalists and citizens interested in digging into this data.

The *Cooper Released Him* tool is located at cooperreleasedhim.com, while the project can be found on social media: [Twitter/X](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#).

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