



Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

October 2001, NCJ 184735

Trends in State Parole, 1990-2000

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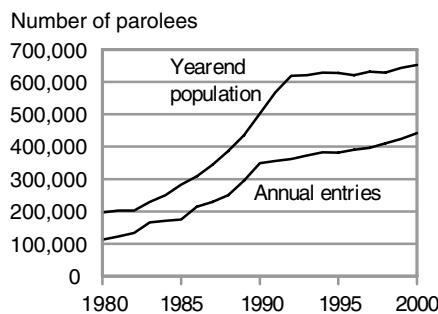
By the end of 2000, 16 States had abolished discretionary release from prison by a parole board for all offenders. Another four States had abolished discretionary parole for certain violent offenses or other crimes against a person. As a result of the movement away from release by parole boards (discretionary parole), release determined by statute (mandatory parole) became the most common method of release from State prison. After 1990 mandatory parole increased from 29% of releases to 41% in 1999, while discretionary parole decreased from 39% to 24%.

Despite changes in release policies, 652,199 adults were under State parole supervision at yearend 2000, more than a 3-fold increase since 1980, when 196,786 adults were on parole. About 312 adults per 100,000 adult U.S. residents were under parole supervision in 2000, compared to 121 in 1980 and 271 in 1990. While the average annual rate of growth in State parole from 1980 to 2000 was 6.2%, the largest increase occurred between 1980 and 1992, when the number of adults on parole grew 10% annually. After 1992 growth in the number of adults on State parole slowed, increasing at an average annual rate of 0.7%.

This report focuses on trends in the State parole population after 1990, the effect of sentencing policies on community release, and the implications for success or failure of offenders under community supervision.

Highlights

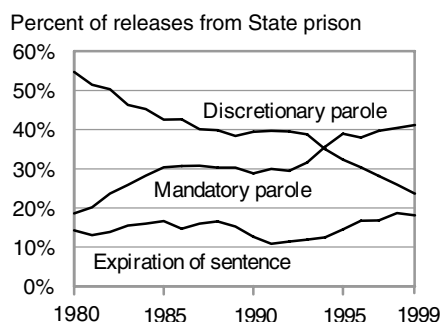
State parole population has remained stable since 1992



- After more than a decade of rapid growth, the number of adults under State parole supervision has nearly stabilized — increasing by 33,510 (0.7% per year) since 1992.

- During the 1980's, entries to State parole supervision tripled, growing from around 113,000 to 349,000 in 1990. During the 1990's, parole entries continued to rise (up 2.4% per year), but were offset by an increase in parole discharges (up 4.6% a year).

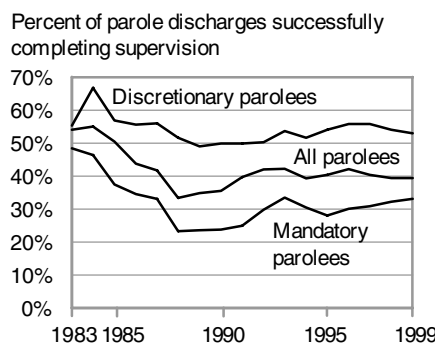
Since 1990 mandatory parole releases have increased, while discretionary releases have decreased



- Between 1990 and 1999, the number of discretionary parole releases from prison dropped (from 159,731 to 128,708), while the number of mandatory parole releases nearly doubled (from 116,857 to 223,342).

- In 1999 nearly 100,000 inmates released from State prisons served their entire prison term (18%), up from 51,288 (13%) in 1990.

42% of parole discharges in 1999 successfully completed supervision



- Among State parole discharges in 1999, over half of discretionary parolees successfully completed their term of supervision, compared to a third of mandatory parolees.

- Success rates were higher among parole discharges who were first prison releases (63%), age 55 or older (54%), and female (48%), than among those who were re-releases (21%), under age 25 (36%), and male (39%).

Table 1. Number of persons in State prison and on parole, yearend 1980, 1985, and 1990-2000

Year	State prisoners ^a		State parolees ^b	
	Number	Percent change	Number	Percent change
1980	305,458		196,786	
1985	462,284		283,139	
1990	708,393		502,134	
1991	753,951	6.4%	568,887	13.3%
1992	802,241	6.4	618,689	8.8
1993	879,714	9.7	620,390	0.3
1994	959,668	9.1	628,941	1.4
1995	1,025,624	6.9	627,960	-0.2
1996	1,076,375	4.9	620,498	-1.2
1997	1,127,686	4.8	631,275	1.7
1998	1,176,055	4.3	629,216	-0.3
1999	1,228,455	4.5	643,452	2.3
2000	1,236,476	0.7	652,199	1.4
Percent change,				
1980-90		131.9%	155.2%	
1990-2000		74.5%	29.9%	
Average annual change,				
1980-90		8.8%	9.8%	
1990-2000		5.7%	2.6%	

Note: Counts are for December 31 of each year and may have been revised based on the most recently reported counts.

^aBased on prisoners under the jurisdiction of State correctional authorities.

^bAdult State parolees only.

Parole defined

Parole — a period of conditional supervised release following a prison term. Prisoners may be released to parole either by a parole board decision (discretionary parole) or according to provisions of a statute (mandatory parole).

Discretionary parole — parole boards have discretionary authority to conditionally release prisoners based on a statutory or administrative determination of eligibility.

Mandatory parole — generally occurs in jurisdictions using determinate sentencing statutes. Inmates are conditionally released from prison after serving a portion of their original sentence minus any good time earned.

Data sources

National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP) — collects individual inmate records for prison admissions and releases and parole admissions and discharges.

Annual Parole Survey (APS) — provides a count of the total number of persons under parole supervision on January 1 and December 31, and a count of the number entering and leaving supervision during each year.

National Prisoner Statistics (NPS-1) — provides yearend jurisdiction-level data on the number of prisoners in State and Federal correctional facilities and the number of parole violators returned to prison during each year.

Survey of Inmates in State Adult Correctional Facilities — provides self-reported data on individual characteristics of State inmates admitted to prison while under parole supervision and on characteristics of soon to be released inmates.

States have reduced the discretion of parole boards in determining prison release

From 1990 to 2000, the State parole population grew at a slower rate than the State prison population. During this period, parolees increased 30%, compared to a 75% increase for State prisoners (table 1). On average, the parole population increased 2.6% per year, while the prison population rose 5.7% per year. The low rate of growth in parole supervision reflects changes in sentencing and parole release policies that have resulted in increasing lengths of stay in prison and declining prison release rates. (See *Prisoners in 1999*, August 2000, NCJ 183476.)

Historically, most State inmates were released to parole supervision after serving a portion of an indeterminate sentence based on a parole board decision. (See box on this page for definitions.) In 1977, 69% of offenders released from State prison were released by a parole board. In 44 States and the District of Columbia, parole boards were responsible for the majority of prison releases. In other States most inmates were released through expiration of sentence (Louisiana, Missouri, and Wyoming), to probation (Idaho), or to mandatory parole (Alaska and Arizona).

States began moving away from discretionary release policies in the 1980's in favor of determinate sentences and mandatory supervised release. By 1989 eight States had abolished discretionary parole. In 20 States the majority of prison releases were through expiration of sentence or mandatory parole release. As a percentage of all State prison releases, discretionary parole releases decreased from 55% in 1980 to 38% in 1989, while mandatory parole releases increased from 19% to 30%.

Continuing the shift away from release by a parole board, an additional eight States abolished discretionary parole in the 1990's. Most of the remaining States further restricted parole by setting specific standards offenders must meet to be eligible for release.

States that have abolished discretionary parole, 2000

All offenders		Certain violent offenders
Arizona	Minnesota	Alaska
California ^a	Mississippi	Louisiana
Delaware	North Carolina	New York
Florida ^b	Ohio ^d	Tennessee
Illinois	Oregon	
Indiana	Virginia	
Kansas ^c	Washington	
Maine	Wisconsin	

^aIn 1976 the Uniform Determinate Sentencing Act abolished discretionary parole for all offenses except some violent crimes with a long sentence or a sentence to life.

^bIn 1995 parole eligibility was abolished for offenses with a life sentence and a 25-year mandatory term.

^cExcludes a few offenses, primarily 1st-degree murder and intentional 2nd-degree murder.

^dExcludes murder and aggravated murder.

By yearend 2000, 29 States and the District of Columbia had adopted the Federal truth-in-sentencing standard that requires Part 1 violent offenders to serve not less than 85% of their sentence in prison before becoming eligible for release (table 2). Part 1 violent offenses, as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports, include murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. By adopting this standard, States could receive truth-in-sentencing funds under the Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing (VOITIS) incentive grant program as established by the 1994 Crime Act. VOITIS grants can be used by States to build or expand prison capacity.

Five States (Delaware, Minnesota, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington) enacted truth-in-sentencing laws prior to passage of the Crime Act. The remaining States passed truth-in-sentencing laws after 1994. (See *Truth in Sentencing in State Prisons*, January 1999, NCJ 170032.)

At yearend 2000 nearly three-quarters of the parole population was in the District of Columbia and the 29 States that met the Federal 85%-standard. Nine of the ten States with the largest parole populations in 2000 met the Federal truth-in-sentencing standard for violent offenders. Texas, with the second largest parole population, required violent offenders to serve 50% of their sentence.

Overall, 11 States more than doubled their parole populations from 1990 to 2000; 6 of the 11 were Federal truth-in-sentencing States. In absolute numbers, 6 Federal truth-in-sentencing States (California, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania) had an increase of 11,000 or more parolees. Thirteen States (9 of which were Federal truth-in-sentencing States) experienced a decline of at least 10% during this period.

Table 2. Number of adults on parole, by State, yearend 1990, 1995, and 2000

	Parole population ^a			Percent change 1990-2000	Number per 100,000 adults ^b
	1990	1995	2000		
All States	502,134	641,038	652,199	29.9%	312
Truth-in-sentencing States ^c					
Arizona	2,474	4,109	3,474	40.4%	92
California	68,120	91,807	117,647	72.7	478
Connecticut	416	1,233	1,868	349.6	73
Delaware	1,002	1,033	579	-42.2	98
District of Columbia	5,157	6,340	5,684	10.2	1,244
Florida	5,237	11,197	6,046	15.5	49
Georgia	20,406	19,434	21,556	5.6	358
Illinois	18,882	29,541	30,199	59.9	329
Iowa	1,991	2,340	2,763	38.8	126
Kansas	5,647	6,094	3,829	-32.2	194
Louisiana	9,754	19,028	22,860	134.4	704
Maine	18	55	28	55.6	3
Michigan	11,083	13,862	15,753	42.1	215
Minnesota	1,701	2,117	3,072	80.7	85
Mississippi	3,321	1,510	1,596	-51.9	77
Missouri	8,939	13,001	12,357	38.2	297
New Jersey	23,172	37,867	14,899	-35.7	235
New Mexico	1,283	1,366	1,670	30.2	127
New York	42,360	55,568	57,858	36.6	405
North Carolina	10,409	18,501	3,352	-67.8	55
North Dakota	130	114	116	-10.8	24
Ohio	6,601	7,432	18,248	176.4	216
Oregon	7,972	15,019	17,832	123.7	693
Pennsylvania	57,298	73,234	82,002	43.1	876
South Carolina	3,770	5,545	4,240	12.5	141
Tennessee	10,221	8,851	8,094	-20.8	189
Utah	1,543	2,700	3,266	111.7	216
Virginia	8,671	10,188	5,148	-40.6	96
Washington	9,114	875	160	-98.2	4
Wisconsin	4,111	7,548	9,430	129.4	236
Other States ^d					
Alabama	6,291	7,793	5,494	-12.7%	165
Alaska	551	459	507	-7.9	116
Arkansas	3,559	4,685	9,453	165.6	474
Colorado	2,140	3,024	5,500	157.0	172
Hawaii	1,383	1,689	2,504	81.1	273
Idaho	318	619	1,443	354.5	156
Indiana	3,291	3,200	4,917	49.4	109
Kentucky	3,239	4,257	4,909	51.6	161
Maryland	11,106	15,748	14,143	27.3	359
Massachusetts	4,816	5,256	3,703	-23.1	76
Montana	685	744	621	-9.3	92
Nebraska	596	661	473	-20.6	38
Nevada	2,702	2,863	4,056	50.1	273
New Hampshire	527	785	944	79.3	102
Oklahoma	2,752	2,356	1,825	-33.7	71
Rhode Island	369	591	353	-4.3	44
South Dakota	681	688	1,481	117.6	268
Texas	104,693	103,089	111,719	6.7	747
Vermont	297	618	902	204.2	196
West Virginia	991	923	1,112	12.3	79
Wyoming	358	403	514	43.8	141

^aBased on the *Annual Parole Survey*.

^bParolees per 100,000 adult U.S. residents based on State populations for April 1, 2000.

^cStates met Federal truth-in-sentencing standards under the Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing incentive grants program in fiscal year 2000.

^dSome States may have truth in sentencing but did not meet the Federal standard.

See *Truth in Sentencing in State Prisons*, NCJ 170032.

Four States accounted for nearly two-thirds of the growth in parole during the 1990's

Four States (California, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas) supervised over half of all State parolees at yearend 2000. Together, these States accounted for 64% of the growth in State parole from 1990 to 2000.

Sixteen States experienced a decline in their parole populations. Washington State (down 98%), followed by North Carolina (down 68%) and Mississippi (down 52%), had the largest declines, as the result of abolishing discretionary parole.

At yearend 2000 nearly 1 in every 320 adults were under State parole supervision. Overall, there were 312 parolees per 100,000 adult U.S. residents in 2000, up from 271 per 100,000 residents in 1990.

Among States, Pennsylvania (with 876 parolees per 100,000 State residents), Texas (with 747), and Louisiana (with 704) had the highest rates of parole supervision. Excluding Maine and Washington, which abolished parole in 1975 and 1984, respectively, North Dakota had the lowest rate of parole supervision (24 per 100,000 State residents), followed by Nebraska (with 38), Rhode Island (with 44), and Florida (with 49).

Since 1990 discretionary releases have declined; mandatory parole and expiration of sentence releases have increased

Regardless of their method of release, nearly all State prisoners (at least 95%) will be released from prison at some point; nearly 80% will be released to parole supervision. (See *Prisoners in 1998*, August 1999, NCJ 175687.) As a percentage of all releases, mandatory parole releases increased from 29% in 1990 to 41% in 1999 (figure 1). Discretionary parole releases dropped from 39% to 24%, while releases due to expiration of sentence rose from 13% to 18%.

In the 1980's discretionary parole was the primary method of release from State prison (table 3). Between 1985 and 1990 discretionary parole releases increased from 88,069 to 159,731. The number released by State parole boards peaked in 1992 (at 170,095) and declined each year thereafter, dropping to 128,708 in 1999.

Consistent with the adoption of truth in sentencing and other mandatory release statutes, mandatory parole releases have steadily increased, from 26,735 in 1980 to 116,857 in 1990. By 1995 the number of mandatory releases exceeded the number of discretionary releases. In 1999, 223,342 State prisoners were released by mandatory parole, a 91%-increase from 1990.

Growth in prison releases linked to drug offenders

Overall, the number of prison releases rose from 405,374 in 1990 to 542,950 in 1999. Based on the most serious offense for which prisoners had served time, drug offenders comprised an increasing percentage of prison releases. Nearly 33% of State prison releases in 1999 were drug offenders (up from 26% in 1990 and 11% in 1985) (figure 2). The number of drug offenders released rose from 23,000 in 1985 to 105,800 in 1990. After 1990 the number of drug offenders continued to go up, reaching 177,000 in 1999.

As a percentage of all releases from prison, violent offenders have remained stable, while property

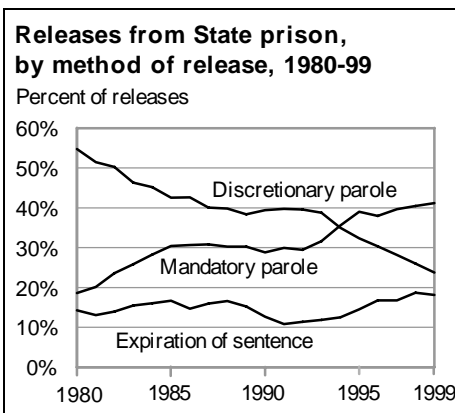


Figure 1

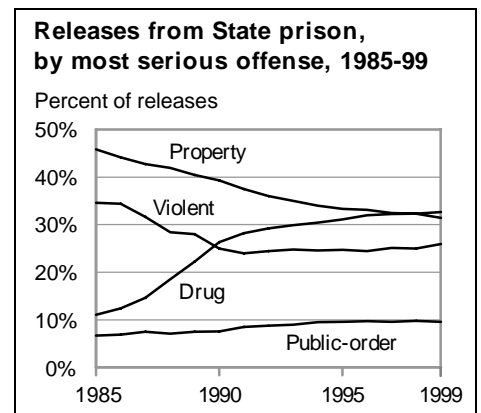


Figure 2

Table 3. Method of release from State prison, for selected years, 1980-99

Year	All releases*	Discretionary parole	Mandatory parole	Other conditional	Expiration of sentence
1980	143,543	78,602	26,735	9,363	20,460
1985	206,988	88,069	62,851	15,371	34,489
1990	405,374	159,731	116,857	62,851	51,288
1992	430,198	170,095	126,836	60,800	48,971
1995	455,140	147,139	177,402	46,195	66,017
1999	542,950	128,708	223,342	66,337	98,218

Note: Based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year who were released from State prison. Counts are for December 31 for each year.
 *Includes releases to probation, commutations, and other unspecified releases and excludes escapees, AWOL's, and transfers.

offenders have dropped sharply. Nearly 25% of releases were violent offenders in 1999 (down from 26% in 1990), and 31% were property offenders (down from 39%).

Between 1990 and 1999, annual releases from State prison to parole supervision grew by an estimated 78,900 inmates (table 4). Drug offenders accounted for 61% of the increase, followed by violent offenders (23%), and public-order offenders (15%). The number of property offenders released to parole declined from 1990 to 1999.

About 98,000 State prisoners were released unconditionally through an expiration of their sentence in 1999, up

from 48,971 released in 1990. These inmates were released without any parole supervision. Of those released in 1999, 32% were violent offenders, 32% property offenders, 24% drug offenders, and 12% public-order offenders.

Prison releases have served more time and a greater portion of their sentence before release

Among all State inmates released from prison for their first time on their current offense (“first releases”), the average time served in prison increased from 22 months in 1990 to 29 months in 1999 (table 5). Released inmates had also served an average

of 5 months in local jails prior to their admission to prison. Overall, released inmates had served a total of 34 months in 1999 — 6 months longer than released inmates in 1990.

Murderers released in 1999 served on average 14 months longer than those released in 1990 (106 months versus 92 months). Rape offenders served 17 months longer (79 months compared to 62 months). Drug offenders served 27 months in 1999, compared to 20 months in 1990.

Reflecting statutory and policy changes that required offenders to serve a larger portion of their sentence before release, all offenders released for the first time in 1999 served on average 49% of their sentence, up from 38% in 1990.

Of the four major offense categories, violent offenders served the highest percentage (55%) in 1999, followed by public-order (51%), property (46%), and drug offenders (43%). Offenders convicted of assault served the highest percentage of their sentence (about 59%), followed by offenders convicted of rape (58%).

Table 4. Partitioning the growth in method of release from State prison, by offense, 1990-99

Most serious offense	Parole supervision*		Expiration of sentence	
	Change, 1990-99	Percent of total	Change, 1990-99	Percent of total
All offenses	78,900	100.0%	46,900	100.0%
Violent	19,800	23.3	15,500	33.0
Property	-1,100		9,100	19.3
Drug	52,100	61.4	14,900	31.7
Public-order	13,000	15.3	7,600	16.1

Note: Based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year who were released from State prison. Counts are for December 31 for each year.

*Includes all releases to parole, probation, and other conditional supervision.

Table 5. Sentence length and time served for first releases from State prison, 1990 and 1999

	Mean sentence length ^a		Mean time served in —				Total time served ^c		Percent of sentence served ^d	
	1990	1999	Jail ^b		Prison		1990	1999	1990	1999
			1990	1999	1990	1999				
All offenses	69 mo	65 mo	6 mo	5 mo	22 mo	29 mo	28 mo	34 mo	38.0%	48.7%
Violent offenses	99 mo	87 mo	7 mo	6 mo	39 mo	45 mo	46 mo	51 mo	43.8%	55.0%
Murder ^e	209	192	9	10	83	96	92	106	43.1	53.1
Manslaughter	88	102	5	6	31	49	37	56	41.0	52.5
Rape	128	124	7	6	55	73	62	79	45.5	58.3
Other sexual assault	77	76	5	6	30	42	36	47	43.8	57.0
Robbery	104	97	7	6	41	48	48	55	42.8	51.6
Assault	64	62	6	6	23	33	30	39	43.9	58.7
Property offenses	65 mo	58 mo	6 mo	5 mo	18 mo	25 mo	24 mo	29 mo	34.4%	45.6%
Burglary	79	73	6	5	22	31	29	36	33.9	44.3
Larceny/theft	52	45	6	4	14	19	20	24	35.5	46.9
Motor vehicle theft	56	44	7	5	13	20	20	25	33.1	52.5
Fraud	56	49	6	4	14	19	20	23	33.2	41.7
Drug offenses	57 mo	59 mo	6 mo	5 mo	14 mo	22 mo	20 mo	27 mo	32.9%	42.8%
Possession	61	56	6	5	12	20	18	25	29.0	42.4
Trafficking	60	64	6	5	16	24	22	29	34.8	42.0
Public-order offenses	40 mo	42 mo.	5 mo	4 mo	14 mo	19 mo	18 mo	23 mo	42.6%	51.1%

Note: Based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year who were released for the first time on the current sentence. Excludes prisoners released from prison by escape, death, transfer, appeal, or detainee.

^aMaximum sentence length for the most serious offense. Excludes sentences of life, life without parole, life plus additional years, and death.

^bTime served in jail and credited toward the current sentence.

^cBased on time served in jail and in prison. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

^dBased on total sentence length (not shown) for all consecutive sentences.

^eIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

Table 6. Time served, maximum sentence, and percent of sentence served for Part 1 violent offenders, by State, 1993, 1996, and 1999

	Mean maximum sentence ^a			Mean time served			Percent of sentence served ^b		
	1993	1996	1999	1993	1996	1999	1993	1996	1999
All States	108 mo	99 mo	103 mo	46 mo	50 mo	53 mo	46%	52%	56%
Truth-in-sentencing States ^c	89 mo	88 mo	93 mo	41 mo	46 mo	50 mo	50%	54%	58%
Arizona	69	71	60	43	48	49	62	68	81
California	58	63	60	33	36	37	57	57	61
Connecticut	71	74	80	38	49	64	54	65	80
Delaware	--	--	--	42	42	46	--	--	--
Florida	74	84	91	31	45	53	42	54	58
Georgia	150	134	117	63	67	76	42	50	65
Illinois	91	99	107	40	45	48	44	45	45
Iowa	192	135	146	39	48	58	20	36	40
Kansas	--	--	--	29	33	41	--	--	--
Louisiana	104	98	96	67	68	45	64	69	48
Maine	--	--	--	43	44	39	--	--	--
Michigan	43	50	52	46	53	59	/	/	/
Minnesota	50	56	60	34	37	39	68	67	65
Mississippi	106	118	128	45	58	57	43	49	44
Missouri	96	98	99	74	78	85	77	80	86
New Jersey	121	108	120	47	46	53	39	43	44
New Mexico	70	67	77	38	37	57	54	56	74
New York	94	96	98	50	53	66	53	56	68
North Carolina	136	121	120	33	44	52	24	36	44
North Dakota	47	60	38	31	47	29	66	78	76
Ohio	237	226	165	61	71	64	26	32	39
Oregon	111	65	62	43	37	42	39	58	67
Pennsylvania	117	119	140	54	61	80	46	51	57
South Carolina	100	90	104	44	44	46	44	48	44
Tennessee	130	121	131	48	58	65	37	48	50
Utah	121	90	100	43	36	35	36	40	36
Virginia	107	97	113	41	50	62	38	51	55
Washington	41	47	49	31	34	38	76	72	78
Wisconsin	84	82	80	41	43	51	49	52	64
Other States ^d	129 mo	113 mo	104 mo	53 mo	54 mo	55 mo	42%	48%	54%
Alabama	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alaska	115	124	88	65	71	63	57	57	72
Arkansas	131	109	157	35	37	56	27	34	36
Colorado	98	89	96	39	40	50	40	45	52
Hawaii	138	124	125	64	57	59	47	46	47
Idaho	104	90	98	59	80	36	57	89	37
Indiana	108	111	102	54	56	46	50	51	45
Kentucky	242	156	196	77	71	/	32	45	/
Maryland	118	106	99	63	59	57	53	56	58
Massachusetts	123	110	98	51	61	61	42	55	63
Montana	89	119	--	61	54	60	69	46	--
Nebraska	118	123	140	55	49	61	47	40	44
Nevada	--	86	107	--	34	41	--	40	39
New Hampshire	98	89	100	36	39	48	37	44	48
Oklahoma	104	110	111	34	42	47	33	38	42
Rhode Island	80	80	68	44	50	46	55	63	67
South Dakota	101	78	72	36	37	29	35	48	40
Texas	157	123	97	48	57	59	31	46	61
Vermont	100	113	121	29	56	54	29	50	45
West Virginia	171	108	139	76	50	62	44	46	45
Wyoming	140	123	137	69	69	55	49	56	40

Note: Data were obtained from the Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing (VOITIS) Incentive Grant Program. Includes only offenders with a sentence of more than 1 year released for the first time on the current sentence. Excludes persons released from prison by escape, death, transfer, appeal or detainer. Part 1 violent crimes include murder/nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.
--Not reported.

/Not calculated.

^aExcludes sentences of life or death.

^bBased on States that reported both mean maximum sentence and mean time served.

^cStates met the Federal 85% requirement for VOITIS grants in fiscal year 2000 based on 1999 data. Excludes the District of Columbia.

^dRequirement for percent of sentence served may vary by State and by type of offender.

Time served by released Part 1 violent offenders increased in 33 States between 1993 and 1999

Through the VOITIS program, 33 States reported an increase in average time served by released Part 1 violent prisoners between 1993 and 1999 (table 6). Overall, time served by released Part 1 violent offenders rose from 46 months to 53 months. The average time served for violent offenders released in 1999 ranged from 29 months in North Dakota to 85 months in Missouri.

The percent of the total sentence served increased from 46% in 1993 to 56% in 1999. Part 1 violent offenders in Missouri (86%), Arizona (81%), and Connecticut (80%) served the highest percent of their sentences before release. Violent offenders in Utah and Arkansas served the lowest percent of their sentences before release (36%).

On average, in 1999 released violent offenders in Federal truth-in-sentencing States served 50 months (or 58% of the average maximum sentence), while violent offenders in other States served 55 months (54% of the maximum sentence). Between 1993 and 1999, the percent of sentence served by released violent inmates rose in 21 of the 25 truth-in-sentencing States that reported data and in 12 of the 21 States not meeting the 85%-standard.

Inmates released by parole boards served longer than those released by mandatory parole

In 1999 prisoners released by discretionary parole for the first time on the current sentence had served an average of 35 months in prison and jail, while those released through mandatory parole had served 33 months (table 7). Among discretionary

releases, time served rose for all types of offenders during the 1990's. In 1999 violent offenders released by discretionary parole served 10 months longer than violent offenders released in 1990; property offenders served 6 months longer; drug offenders, 8 months; and public-order offenders, 3 months.

Among mandatory parole releases, time served also increased for all types of offenses — violent and public-order offenders served 6 months longer in 1999 than in 1990, while property and drug offenders served 7 months longer.

Although the average time served by discretionary releases exceeded the time served by mandatory parole releases in both years, discretionary releases served a smaller percentage of their prison sentences before release. In 1999 discretionary releases served 37% of their total prison sentence (up from 34% in 1990); mandatory releases served 61% of their sentence (up from 55%).

Prisoners released due to expiration of sentence had served longer in 1999 (36 months) than in 1990 (31 months). Violent offenders released through expiration of sentence had the largest increase (8 months) in time served in prison. In 1999 violent offenders released through expiration of sentence served, on average, 68% of their total maximum sentence, up from 53% in 1990.

Among discretionary and mandatory parole releases, black offenders served longer than whites

Time served by prisoners released for the first time on their current sentence in 1999 varied among white, black, and Hispanic prisoners. Overall, black non-Hispanic offenders released by

Table 7. Sentence length and time served for first releases from State prison, by method of release, 1990 and 1999

Type of release and offense	1990			1999		
	Mean sentence length ^a	Mean total time served ^b	Percent of sentence served ^c	Mean sentence length ^a	Mean total time served ^b	Percent of sentence served ^c
Discretionary release	82 mo	29 mo	34%	89 mo	35 mo	37%
Violent	118	49	40	126	59	44
Property	77	25	31	83	31	34
Drug	70	20	29	80	28	33
Public-order	44	18	37	49	21	39
Mandatory release	42 mo	27 mo	55%	48 mo	33 mo	61%
Violent	64	41	59	66	47	63
Property	38	23	52	43	30	59
Drug	33	20	50	40	27	59
Public-order	27	19	61	38	25	61
Expiration of sentence	56 mo	31 mo	53%	49 mo	36 mo	67%
Violent	81	44	53	69	52	68
Property	50	27	52	41	30	65
Drug	35	21	57	41	29	65
Public-order	43	28	62	35	25	66

Note: Based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year. Excludes persons released from prison by escape, death, transfer, appeal, or detainee.

^aExcludes sentences of life without parole, life plus additional years, life and death.

^bIncludes time served in prison and jail.

^cBased on total sentence length (not shown) for all consecutive sentences.

Table 8. Mean time served in prison for first releases to State parole, by method of release, 1999

Most serious offense	Discretionary parole releases					Mandatory parole releases				
	Male	Female	White ^a	Black ^a	Hispanic	Male	Female	White ^a	Black ^a	Hispanic
All offenses	36 mo	26 mo	34 mo	37 mo	33 mo	34 mo	24 mo	31 mo	38 mo	30 mo
Violent offenses	60 mo	45 mo	58 mo	62 mo	47 mo	48 mo	36 mo	47 mo	53 mo	41 mo
Murder ^b	122	91	126	116	113	104	87	112	105	97
Manslaughter	58	52	52	67	39	50	42	46	53	52
Rape	93	--	80	122	54	86	--	82	98	71
Other sexual assault	52	41	52	54	40	46	44	49	43	42
Robbery	61	40	62	61	45	51	33	52	56	39
Assault	46	34	43	48	41	32	27	30	36	29
Property offenses	32 mo	21 mo	30 mo	32 mo	30 mo	31 mo	22 mo	29 mo	33 mo	29 mo
Burglary	39	27	37	41	36	37	24	35	41	34
Larceny/theft	25	19	24	23	22	26	20	25	27	24
Motor vehicle theft	26	21	26	26	27	24	19	23	28	24
Fraud	26	20	24	25	26	27	22	25	27	23
Drug offenses	29 mo	24 mo	27 mo	28 mo	31 mo	27 mo	21 mo	22 mo	31 mo	26 mo
Possession	27	23	24	26	34	27	20	20	34	27
Trafficking	29	24	28	28	29	31	26	25	36	29
Public-order offenses	21 mo	19 mo	19 mo	22 mo	22 mo	26 mo	21 mo	24 mo	29 mo	24 mo

Note: Based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year. Excludes prisoners released from prison by escape, death, transfer, appeal, or detainee. Includes time served in prison and jail.

--Not calculated.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic origin.

^bIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

discretionary parole in 1999 served 37 months; white non-Hispanics served 34 months; and Hispanics 33 months (table 8). Black offenders released by mandatory parole served 7 months longer than whites (38 months compared to 31 months). Hispanics served 30 months.

Among released violent offenders, blacks served 4 months longer than whites before a discretionary parole release (62 months compared to 58 months) and 6 months longer before a mandatory parole (53 months compared to 47 months). Hispanic prisoners served the shortest amount of time for violent offenses before release (47 months before a discretionary parole release and 41 months before a mandatory release).

In 1999 Hispanics served longer than other groups for drug offenses before a discretionary parole release (31 months versus 27 for whites and 28 for blacks). Black drug offenders served more time before a mandatory release (31 months), than whites (22 months) and Hispanics (26 months).

Women released in 1999 served less time in State prison than men, regardless of the method of release. On average, women released by discretionary parole served 26 months, and

men served 36 months. Women released by mandatory parole served 24 months and men served 34 months.

For violent offenses, women served 45 months prior to discretionary release compared to 36 months among women who received a mandatory parole. Women in prison for drug offenses served 24 months before a discretionary release and 21 months before a mandatory release.

Over half of prison releases had a prior incarceration; more than a quarter were parole violators

A majority of released State prisoners had been in prison before and were returned to prison for new offenses or parole violations. According to inmates in State prison in 1997, 56% of those who expected to be released to the community by yearend 1999 had one or more prior incarcerations, and 25% had 3 or more prior incarcerations (table 9). Among those expecting to

Table 9. Characteristics of State prisoners expected to be released by yearend 1999

Characteristic	Percent of expected releases
Most serious offense	
Violent	33.2%
Property	26.6
Drug	26.7
Public-order	13.3
Other	0.2
Number of prior incarcerations	
0	44.0%
1	20.6
2	9.9
3 to 5	15.3
6 or more	10.2
Criminal justice status at time of arrest	
None	46.4%
On probation	26.2
On parole	26.7
Escape	0.7

Note: Based on data from the *Survey of Inmates in State Adult Correctional Facilities, 1997*.

Table 10. Substance abuse, mental illness, and homelessness among State prisoners expected to be released by yearend 1999

Characteristic	Percent of expected releases
Alcohol or drug involved at time of offense	83.9%
Alcohol abuse	
Alcohol use at time of offense	41.5%
Alcohol dependent	24.9
Drug use	
In month before offense	58.8%
At time of offense	45.3
Intravenous use in the past	24.8
Committed offense for money for drugs	20.9
Mentally ill	14.3%
Homeless at time of arrest	11.6%

Note: Based on data from the *Survey of Inmates in State Adult Correctional Facilities, 1997*.

Table 11. State parole entries and discharges, 1980 and 1990-2000

Year	Entries	Discharges
1980	113,383	105,215
1990	349,030	274,697
1991	355,748	300,084
1992	362,466	325,470
1993	372,823	366,038
1994	382,999	374,183
1995	381,878	368,746
1996	390,537	372,875
1997	396,651	389,074
1998	409,922	402,946
1999	423,850	410,613
2000	441,605	432,183

Note: Based on the *Annual Parole Survey*, 1980-2000. Counts are for entries and discharges between January 1 and December 31 of each year.

return to the community by 1999, 27% had been on parole and 26% on probation at the time of arrest for their current incarceration.

These criminal records were compounded by histories of drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, and homelessness (table 10). Among prisoners expected to be released to the community by yearend 1999, 84% reported being involved in drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense. Nearly 25% were determined to be alcohol dependent, and 21% had committed the offense to obtain money for drugs. Fourteen percent were determined to be mentally ill, and 12% reported being homeless at the time of arrest.

State parole entries and discharges rose during the 1990's

During 2000 there were 441,605 entries to State parole, a 27% increase over the number that entered parole in 1990 (table 11). The number of discharges from State parole rose from 274,697 in 1990 to 432,183 in 2000, an increase of 57%. During the 1990's, State parole entries increased an average of 2.4% per year, while parole discharges increased an average of 4.6% per year.

Discharges include parolees who are successful as well as those who are unsuccessful (including revocations, returns to prison or jail, and absconders). Discharges also include parolees transferred to other jurisdictions and those who die while under supervision.

Re-releases an increasing portion of State parole entries

Among parole entries, the percentage who had been re-released rose between 1990 and 1999. Re-releases are persons leaving prison after having served time either for a violation of parole or other conditional release or for a new offense committed while under parole supervision. In 1990, 27% of entries to parole were re-releases; in 1999, 45% were re-releases (figure 3). During 1999 an estimated 192,400 re-releases entered parole, an increase of 103% over the 94,900 re-releases in 1990.

Entries to State parole, by type of prison release, 1985-99

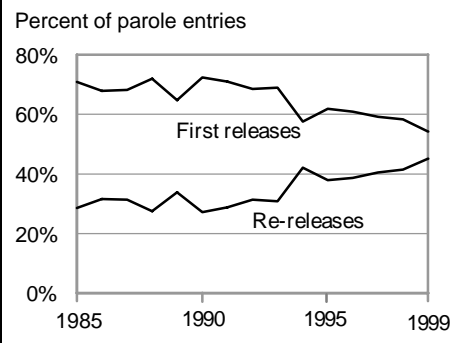


Figure 3

After having been returned to prison for a parole or conditional release violation, re-releases served on average 13 months in prison in 1999 (table 12). From 1990 to 1999 their average time served in prison following re-admission increased by 2 months. In both years about 7 in 10 re-releases had served less than 12 months in prison.

Table 12. Criminal justice characteristics of State parole entries, 1990 and 1999

Characteristic	Percent of entries	
	1990	1999
Most serious offense		
Violent	24.8%	24.4%
Property	38.7	30.8
Drug	27.2	35.3
Public-order	7.4	9.0
Other	2.0	0.5
Method of release		
Discretionary parole	59.8%	41.7%
Mandatory parole	40.2	58.3
Type of release		
First release	72.4%	54.2%
Re-release	27.2	45.4
Other	0.5	0.4
Time served in State prison		
First releases		
Less than 12 mos.	47.0%	34.0%
12-23	25.2	27.7
24-59	20.3	26.1
60 or more	7.5	12.3
Mean time served	22 mo	29 mo
Re-releases		
Less than 12 mos.	74.2%	72.3%
12-23	15.8	13.7
24-59	8.1	10.3
60 or more	1.9	3.7
Mean time served	11 mo	13 mo

Note: Based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year who were released from State prison. Data are from the *National Corrections Reporting Program*.

Table 13. Demographic characteristics of State parole entries, 1990 and 1999

Characteristic	Percent of entries	
	1990	1999
Gender		
Male	92.1%	90.1%
Female	7.9	9.9
Race/Hispanic origin		
White non-Hispanic	34.2%	35.4%
Black non-Hispanic	48.8	47.3
Hispanic	16.3	16.1
Other	0.7	1.2
Age at prison release		
17 or younger	0.2%	0.1%
18-24	23.4	16.3
25-29	26.6	19.0
30-34	22.2	19.7
35-39	13.9	19.2
40-44	7.3	13.5
45-54	4.9	10.2
55 or older	1.5	2.1
Mean age	31 yrs	34 yrs
Education		
8th grade or less	16.8%	11.0%
Some high school	45.4	39.8
High school graduate	29.6	42.2
Some college or more	8.2	7.0

Note: Based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year who were released from State prison. Data are from the *National Corrections Reporting Program*.

State parole entries older in 1999 than in 1990

The average age of prisoners released to parole increased from 31 years in 1990 to 34 years in 1999 (table 13). In 1999 an estimated 109,300 State prisoners age 40 or older were paroled, — 26% of all entries to parole. This was more than double the 47,800 prisoners age 40 or older who entered parole in 1990.

The number of parole entries among inmates under age 35 declined over the period. In 1999, 233,500 State prisoners under age 35 entered parole, down from 252,700. The largest decline was among inmates age 25 to 29. In 1990 they represented 27% of all parole entries; in 1999, 19%.

Female entries to parole increased during the 1990's

In 1999, 10% of entries to State parole were female, up from 8% in 1990. The number of women who entered parole increased from an estimated 27,600 in 1990 to 42,000 in 1999. Although the 52% increase in the number of female parole entries outpaced that of males (up 19%), there were 381,900 male entries in 1999.

An increasing percentage of women entering parole had served time for drug offenses (table 14). In 1990, 36% of female parole entries were drug offenders; by 1999, 42% were drug offenders. Women first released to parole were less likely to be property offenders in 1999 (35%) than in 1990 (42%). As a percentage of women entering parole, violent offenders remained unchanged (16%).

Among parole entries, the racial and ethnic distributions remained nearly stable during the 1990's. In 1999, 35% of parole entries were white, 47% were black, and 16% were Hispanic. Violent offenders accounted for approximately a quarter of first releases among whites, blacks, and Hispanics in both 1990 and 1999.

Drug offenders represented an increasing percentage of parole entries, among all groups. In 1999 drug offenders comprised 39% of black parole entries (up from 31% in 1990); 43% of Hispanic entries (up from 41%); and 21% of white entries (up from 18%).

Parole success rates unchanged since 1990

Of the 410,613 discharges from State parole in 1999, 42% successfully completed their term of supervision, 43% were returned to prison or jail, and 10% absconded. In 1990, 45% of State parole discharges were successful. Between 1990 and 1999 the percent successful among State parole discharges has ranged from 42% to 49%, without any distinct trend.

States differed in their rate of success among parole discharges (table 15). States with the highest rates of success in 1999 were Massachusetts and Mississippi (at 83% each), followed by North Carolina (80%) and North Dakota (79%). Utah (18%) and California (21%) had the lowest rates of success in 1999.

When comparing State success rates for parole discharges, differences may be due to variations in parole populations, such as age at prison release, criminal history, and most serious offense. Success rates may also differ based on the intensity of supervision and the parole agency policies related to revocation of technical violators.

Table 14. Most serious offense of first releases to State parole, 1990 and 1999

Most serious offense	First releases to State parole in 1990					First releases to State parole in 1999				
	Male	Female	White ^a	Black ^a	Hispanic	Male	Female	White ^a	Black ^a	Hispanic
All offenses	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Violent offenses	26.1%	15.9%	23.7%	27.0%	22.4%	28.7%	15.9%	25.9%	28.4%	26.7%
Murder ^b	1.8	2.2	1.7	2.0	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.6	1.6
Manslaughter	1.0	1.6	1.4	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.3	0.9	0.9
Rape	2.1	0.1	2.3	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.2	2.3	1.2	1.3
Other sexual assault	2.9	0.4	4.5	1.4	2.0	3.8	0.4	5.6	1.7	3.5
Robbery	11.1	6.4	6.8	14.0	9.9	9.5	4.9	5.5	12.2	8.0
Assault	6.1	4.3	5.5	6.3	5.4	9.4	6.2	8.1	9.3	9.6
Property offenses	37.6%	41.5%	44.9%	35.3%	28.3%	28.7%	35.3%	38.6%	24.9%	20.4%
Burglary	18.4	6.1	20.6	15.0	16.3	13.4	6.4	16.7	10.3	10.6
Larceny/theft	9.2	17.3	10.7	10.5	5.9	6.5	12.8	8.8	6.9	3.7
Motor vehicle theft	2.7	0.9	2.8	2.3	2.7	2.2	1.2	2.3	1.7	2.5
Fraud	3.9	14.8	6.7	4.2	1.6	3.3	12.4	6.3	3.5	1.3
Drug offenses	26.6%	36.2%	18.4%	30.6%	40.5%	31.3%	41.7%	20.9%	38.7%	42.6%
Possession	7.9	11.0	6.0	10.2	7.7	8.5	12.0	7.4	10.1	9.4
Trafficking	14.0	17.7	8.2	15.5	26.8	17.4	20.0	9.2	21.9	26.6
Public-order offenses	8.5%	5.1%	11.2%	6.1%	7.3%	10.9%	6.5%	14.2%	7.6%	9.8%

Note: Based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year who were released for the first time on the current sentence. Excludes prisoners released from prison by escape, death, transfer, appeal, or detainee. Detail may not add to total because of rounding and exclusion of other/unspecified offenses.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic origin.

^bIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

Table 15. Percent successful among State parole discharges, by State, 1990, 1995, and 1999

Region and jurisdiction	Percent successful of all parole discharges		
	1990	1995	1999
All States	44.6%	44.3%	41.9%
Northeast			
Connecticut	55.0%	55.3%	57.7%
Maine	/	/	/
Massachusetts	75.8	71.3	82.9
New Hampshire	60.1	67.3	--
New Jersey	61.3	43.1	55.1
New York	48.9	51.9	54.9
Pennsylvania	79.2	70.3	/
Rhode Island	62.6	64.8	65.9
Vermont	38.2	48.6	65.8
Midwest			
Illinois	47.0%	66.3%	62.9%
Indiana	73.0	74.6	63.0
Iowa	69.8	68.0	60.9
Kansas	11.5	37.4	32.3
Michigan	52.7	60.0	51.9
Minnesota	73.3	66.6	55.7
Missouri	52.5	66.4	40.4
Nebraska	68.2	57.3	62.9
North Dakota	76.6	75.7	79.1
Ohio	52.4	50.0	43.6
South Dakota	66.8	70.6	62.6
Wisconsin	72.6	59.1	63.4
South			
Alabama	28.8%	/	72.1%
Arkansas	68.1	40.1	39.6
Delaware	82.8	--	/
Dist. of Columbia	40.1	48.8	--
Florida	61.2	40.9	56.5
Georgia	62.2	60.2	63.4
Kentucky	22.6	31.6	33.7
Louisiana	61.5	47.8	46.9
Maryland	67.2	64.6	47.0
Mississippi	62.6	78.2	82.7
North Carolina	78.8	68.4	79.8
Oklahoma	69.2	67.0	75.4
South Carolina	54.7	55.9	65.3
Tennessee	35.9	25.8	42.3
Texas	35.1	41.0	54.9
Virginia	68.0	57.8	63.2
West Virginia	48.2	46.0	65.2
West			
Alaska	44.0%	39.5%	33.7%
Arizona	62.3	48.9	61.9
California	19.4	20.9	21.3
Colorado	58.2	48.9	36.3
Hawaii	13.1	40.5	32.4
Idaho	61.5	26.0	46.4
Montana	55.3	--	59.9
Nevada	70.4	74.6	66.8
New Mexico	37.8	28.9	28.5
Oregon	27.9	39.6	50.6
Utah	21.8	23.7	18.5
Washington	47.9	29.4	/
Wyoming	66.1	48.5	59.6

Note: Based on the *Annual Parole Survey*. Counts are for discharges between January 1 and December 31 of each year.

--Not reported.
/Not calculated.

Success rates highest among first releases and discretionary parole releases

In every year during the 1990's, first releases to State parole were more likely to have been successful than re-releases. Among State parole discharges in 1990, 56% of first releases successfully completed their supervision, compared to 15% of re-releases. Of all those exiting parole in 1999, 63% of first releases were successful, compared to 21% of re-releases (table 16).

Success rates also varied by method of release. In every year between 1990 and 1999, State prisoners released by a parole board had higher success rates than those released through mandatory parole. Among parole

discharges in 1999, 54% of discretionary parolees were successful compared to 33% of those who had received mandatory parole. Between 1990 and 1999 the percent successful among discretionary parolees varied between 50% and 56%, while the percent successful among mandatory parolees varied between 24% and 33%.

Among parole discharges in 1999 who had been released from prison for the first time on their current offense, mandatory parolees had a higher success rate (79%) than discretionary parolees (61%) (table 17). Discretionary parolees in 1999 who had been re-released from prison were more likely to be successful (37%) than mandatory parolees (17%).

Table 16. Percent successful among State parole discharges, by method of release from prison, 1990-99

Year	All discharges ^a	Type of release ^b		Method of release ^b	
		First release	Re-release	Discretionary parole	Mandatory parole
1990	44.6%	56.4%	14.6%	51.6%	23.8%
1991	46.8	60.7	17.1	52.6	24.9
1992	48.6	57.4	22.5	50.7	29.8
1993	46.9	65.4	23.0	54.8	33.5
1994	44.3	56.7	19.1	52.2	30.4
1995	44.3	63.4	18.0	54.3	28.0
1996	45.2	67.4	19.4	55.9	30.2
1997	43.4	63.4	18.7	55.8	30.8
1998	43.8	62.9	20.5	55.3	32.2
1999	41.9	63.5	21.1	54.1	33.1

^aData are from the *Annual Parole Survey*.

^bData are from the *National Corrections Reporting Program*.

Table 17. Percent successful among State parole discharges, by type and method of release, 1990-99

Year	First release		Re-release	
	Discretionary	Mandatory	Discretionary	Mandatory
1990	59.6%	51.5%	26.7%	11.7%
1991	58.5	51.9	33.5	13.7
1992	49.4	59.8	43.3	16.6
1993	58.8	88.8	41.8	17.4
1994	53.2	81.6	43.9	13.7
1995	57.8	81.5	40.4	12.7
1996	60.2	84.3	42.7	14.0
1997	60.9	78.9	39.2	13.5
1998	61.7	78.6	38.1	16.2
1999	61.4	78.6	36.7	16.6

Note: Based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year who were released from State prison. Data are from the *National Corrections Reporting Program*.

Among parole discharges, success rates rose for blacks and Hispanics; dropped for whites

Between 1990 and 1999 the success rates among State parole discharges increased from 33% to 39% among blacks and increased from 31% to 51% among Hispanics, but dropped from 44% to 41% among whites (table 18). The 11 percentage-point difference in success rates between white and black parole discharges in 1990 narrowed to less than 2 percentage points in 1999.

Table 18. Percent successful among State parole discharges, by selected characteristics, 1990 and 1999

Characteristic	Percent successful	
	1990	1999
Gender		
Male	35.9%	39.3%
Female	37.1	47.7
Race/Hispanic origin		
White non-Hispanic	44.1%	40.9%
Black non-Hispanic	33.2	39.0
Hispanic	31.0	50.6
Other	33.6	42.2
Age at parole discharge		
17 or younger	26.2%	42.9%
18-24	33.4	36.3
25-29	34.8	42.6
30-34	34.1	39.0
35-39	36.8	38.3
40-44	38.4	39.5
45-54	46.2	43.1
55 or older	56.6	54.5
Method of release		
Discretionary parole	51.6%	54.1%
Mandatory parole	23.8	33.1
Type of release		
First release	56.4%	63.5%
Re-release	14.6	21.1
Most serious offense		
Violent	39.1%	41.0%
Property	33.8	36.5
Drug	33.7	40.9
Public-order	46.1	47.1
Time served in prison*		
Less than 12 months	74.6%	74.0%
12-23 months	67.7	68.7
24-59 months	59.1	62.7
60 months or more	49.5	62.0

Note: Based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year who were released from State prison. Data are from the *National Corrections Reporting Program*.
*First releases only.

Hispanic parolees, who had the lowest rate of success in 1990, had the highest rate in 1999.

For female parole discharges, the rate of success rose over 10 percentage points (from 37% in 1990 to 48% in 1999). The success rate among male parole discharges increased from 36% to 39%.

Older parole discharges had the highest rates of success in both years. Accounting for 2.1% of discharges in 1999, parolees age 55 or older had the highest rate of successful completion (55%). Among parole discharges in other age groups, success rates fluctuated between 36% and 43%.

Success rates highest among first releases serving less than 12 months in prison

Among parole discharges, 74% of first releases who had served less than 12 months in prison successfully completed parole, the highest success rate among paroled first releases. As the length of time served in prison increased for first releases, the success rate declined, with offenders with the longest time served (5 years or more) having the lowest success rate (62%). The rate of success for this group still exceeded the overall success rate of 42% for all parolees.

In 1999 parole discharges served an average of 26 months under supervision, up from 23 months in 1990

Among first releases from prison, successful parole board releases served, on average, 34 months in 1999; while successful mandatory parole releases served 21 months. Unsuccessful parole discharges released by a parole board served an average 26 months, while those released by mandatory parole served 19 months. Overall, successful parole discharges in 1999 served an average of 27 months under parole supervision and unsuccessful discharges served 24 months.

Regardless of outcome, State parole discharges who had been released by a parole board served longer under supervision in 1999 than in 1990.

Method of release	Average time served on parole*	
	1990	1999
All releases	23 mo	26 mo
Successful releases		
Discretionary	25 mo	27 mo
Mandatory	27	34
Unsuccessful releases		
Discretionary	21	21
Mandatory	21 mo	24 mo
Discretionary	19	26
Mandatory	22	19

Note: Based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year who were released from State prison.
*First releases only.

Rates of successful termination higher when California is excluded

The size and make-up of California's parole population, combined with the low percent of successful terminations (25% in 1999), affect the national rate of success for parole discharges. If data from California are removed from the analysis, the comparative rates of success for discretionary and mandatory parole change dramatically.

When California data are excluded, the success rate for all parole discharges rises to 53% (from 42%), and the rate for mandatory parolees increases to 64% (from 33%) in 1999.

Overall, California accounted for nearly 30% of all State parole discharges during 1999. Discretionary parole, though available as a method of release, is rarely used in California. In 1999 more than 99% of California's parole discharges had received mandatory parole.

Percent successful among parole discharges in California and all other States, 1995-99

Year	California	Parole in all other States	
	All parole	All	Mandatory
1995	22.7%	52.8%	64.0%
1996	23.8	56.6	71.6
1997	22.8	55.9	67.2
1998	24.3	54.5	65.7
1999	25.2	53.3	63.9

Note: Based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year who were released from State prison.

Table 19. Percent parole violators among admissions to State prison, 1990 and 1999

Region and jurisdiction	Percent of admissions that were parole violators	
	1990	1999
All States*	28.8%	34.8%
Northeast		
Connecticut	43.4%	17.4%
Maine	21.3	40.9
Massachusetts	31.4	22.7
New Hampshire	19.3	31.6
New Jersey	20.8	35.5
New York	18.1	31.5
Pennsylvania	26.1	36.1
Rhode Island	24.9	19.0
Vermont	14.5	17.0
Midwest		
Illinois	25.4%	27.3%
Indiana	5.3	9.6
Iowa	26.7	19.3
Kansas	35.0	38.2
Michigan	23.2	36.8
Minnesota	23.1	32.1
Missouri	26.2	38.8
Nebraska	16.3	16.1
North Dakota	13.8	18.7
Ohio	12.9	17.6
South Dakota	17.7	20.7
Wisconsin	19.2	31.2
South		
Alabama	25.9%	9.3%
Arkansas	22.4	25.3
Delaware	6.2	25.3
Florida	5.3	6.9
Georgia	21.1	20.5
Kentucky	27.5	31.9
Louisiana	14.7	53.1
Maryland	13.8	32.6
Mississippi	13.9	9.7
North Carolina	13.0	12.8
Oklahoma	3.4	14.1
South Carolina	22.8	24.1
Tennessee	32.9	36.2
Texas	37.1	21.0
Virginia	10.2	11.1
West Virginia	13.0	9.7
West		
Alaska	14.0%	44.2%
Arizona	14.0	23.0
California	58.1	67.2
Colorado	20.9	37.1
Hawaii	27.7	49.1
Idaho	20.4	32.2
Montana	19.9	53.1
Nevada	18.6	17.7
New Mexico	28.4	35.7
Oregon	48.0	25.1
Utah	51.0	55.3
Washington	13.0	10.5
Wyoming	6.4	34.5

Note: Based on data from the *National Prisoners Statistics (NPS-1)* series.
*Excludes the District of Columbia.

Number of parole violators returned to prison continued to rise during the 1990's

In 1999, 197,606 parole violators were returned to State prison, up from 27,177 in 1980 and 131,502 in 1990. As a percentage of all admissions to State prison, parole violators more than doubled from 17% in 1980 to 35% in 1999 (figure 4).

Between 1990 and 1999 the number of parole violators rose 50%, while the number of new court commitments rose 7%. On average, the number of parole violators grew 4% per year, while the number of new court commitments rose 0.8% per year.

In 1999 parole violators accounted for more than 50% of State prison admission in California (67%), Utah (55%), Montana (53%), and Louisiana (53%) (table 19). In five States — Florida (7%), Alabama (9%), Indiana (10%), Mississippi (10%) and West Virginia (10%) — parole violators comprised 10% or less of all admissions.

In 36 States parole violators increased as a percentage of admissions between 1990 and 1999. As a percentage of all admissions, parole violators rose the most in Louisiana (from 15% in 1990 to 53% in 1999) and in Montana (from 20% to 53%).

Nearly a quarter of State prisoners in 1997 were parole violators

Based on personal interviews of State inmates, an estimated 24% of prisoners in 1997 said they were on parole at the time of the offense for which they were serving time in prison (up from 22% in 1991). Of the 1,129,180 inmates under the jurisdiction of State prison authorities at yearend 1997, approximately 271,000 were parole violators.

Parole violators in prison in 1997 were older and more likely to have committed a public order or drug offense than parole violators in 1991 (table 20). In 1997 about 25% of parole violators in prison were age 40 or older, compared

Admissions to State prison, by type of admission, 1980-99

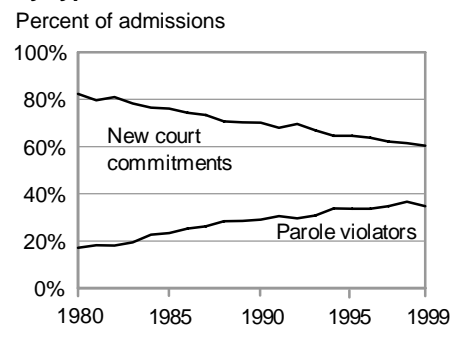


Figure 4

to 17% in 1991. In 1997 an estimated 34% were serving time for a violent offense and 23% for a drug offense. In 1991, 36% of parole violators were in prison for a violent offense; 19% for a drug offense. In both years, more than 42% of parole violators reported having been incarcerated 3 or more times in the past.

Table 20. Characteristics of parole violators in State prison, 1991 and 1997

Characteristic	Percent of parole violators	
	1991	1997
Gender		
Male	96.0%	95.3%
Female	4.0	4.7
Race/Hispanic origin		
White non-Hispanic	31.2%	27.5%
Black non-Hispanic	48.4	51.8
Hispanic	17.9	18.3
Other	2.5	2.4
Age at prison release		
17 or younger	0.2%	0.1%
18-24	15.1	9.4
25-29	26.1	20.8
30-34	25.9	24.1
35-39	16.0	20.3
40-44	9.0	13.9
45-54	5.9	9.3
55 or older	1.9	2.0
Most serious offense		
Violent	35.9%	33.7%
Property	35.8	30.1
Drug	19.3	23.1
Public-order	8.7	12.9
Other	0.3	0.2
Number of prior incarcerations		
1	37.8%	42.3%
2	19.4	14.0
3 to 5	26.8	26.3
6 or more	16.0	17.3

Note: Data are from the *Survey of Inmates in State Adult Correctional Facilities, 1991 and 1997*.

70% of parole violators in prison in 1997 returned for a new offense

Among parole violators in State prison in 1997, 215,964 (85%) reported that their parole had been revoked or taken away for violating the conditions of their release. Of that number, 70% said that their parole had been revoked because

of an arrest or conviction for a new offense; 22% said they had absconded or otherwise failed to report to a parole officer; 16% said they had a drug-related violation; and 18% reported other reasons such as possession of a gun, maintaining contact with known felons, or failure to maintain employment (table 21).

Table 21. Reasons for revocation among parole violators in State prison, for all States, California, New York, and Texas, 1997

Reason for revocation	All States	California	New York	Texas
Arrest/conviction for new offense	69.9%	60.3%	87.1%	78.8%
Drug related violations	16.1%	23.1%	11.4%	10.7%
Positive test for drug use	7.9	12.2	5.6	4.3
Possession of drug(s)	6.6	8.9	5.6	5.6
Failure to report for drug testing	2.3	4.6	1.3	1.3
Failure to report for alcohol or drug treatment	1.7	1.1	1.9	1.2
Absconders	22.3%	26.6%	18.4%	19.7%
Failure to report/absconded	18.6	24.7	17.2	17.2
Left jurisdiction without permission	5.6	3.9	2.5	4.0
Other reasons	17.8%	20.7%	10.6%	13.8%
Failure to report for counseling	2.4	1.2	2.0	1.9
Failure to maintain employment	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.9
Failure to meet financial obligations	2.3	0.2	0.0	2.7
Maintained contact with known offenders	1.2	1.6	0.4	0.8
Possession of gun(s)	3.5	3.8	1.9	2.3

Note: Data are from the *Survey of Inmates in State Adult Correctional Facilities, 1997*. Excludes 37,440 parole violators who reported that their parole had not been revoked. Detail adds to more than 100% because some inmates may have had more than 1 violation of parole.

Table 22. Characteristics of parole violators in State prison for all States, California, New York, and Texas, 1997

Characteristic	All States	California	New York	Texas
Gender				
Male	95.3%	92.9%	96.7%	94.6%
Female	4.7	7.1	3.3	5.4
Race/Hispanic origin				
White non-Hispanic	27.5%	30.8%	11.1%	23.1%
Black non-Hispanic	51.8	33.4	54.2	50.3
Hispanic	18.3	31.9	33.1	26.0
Other	2.4	3.9	1.6	0.6
Age at prison release				
17 or younger	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
18-24	9.4	8.8	8.6	6.1
25-29	20.8	19.8	19.8	19.1
30-34	24.1	25.5	26.0	23.3
35-39	20.3	22.9	20.3	21.1
40-44	13.9	12.8	13.3	15.5
45-54	9.3	8.0	10.2	12.3
55 or older	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.5
Most serious offense*				
Violent	33.7%	24.4%	40.9%	33.3%
Property	30.1	25.3	15.6	36.8
Drug	23.1	27.1	33.6	21.3
Public-order	12.9	22.9	9.4	8.6
Number of prior incarcerations				
1	42.3%	28.9%	52.9%	44.1%
2	14.0	12.6	12.6	14.1
3 to 5	26.3	27.7	26.7	28.4
6 or more	17.3	30.7	7.8	13.5

Note: Data are from the *Survey of Inmates in State Adult Correctional Facilities, 1997*. *Excludes other/unspecified offenses.

Half of parole violators incarcerated in 3 States

The three largest State prison systems (California, Texas, and New York) held over half of all parole violators in prison in 1997. California held 22% of all parole violators in prison, Texas, 21%, and New York, 8%. Within each of these States, the percentage of prisoners who were parole violators was higher than the national level: 39% in Texas, 38% in California, and 28% in New York, compared to 24% nationally.

Among parole violators returned to prison, those held in California (60%) were the least likely to have been arrested or convicted for a new offense and the most likely to have been returned for a drug violation (23%). About 11% of parole violators in New York and Texas reported a drug violation as a reason for their return to prison.

Characteristics of parole violators varied among the 3 largest States

A higher percentage of parole violators in California (7.1%) were women than in Texas (5.4%) and New York (3.3%) (table 22). Nationally, 4.7% of parole violators in State prison in 1997 were women.

New York had the highest percentage of parole violators in prison who were black (54%), followed by Texas (50%) and California (33%). In New York, 11% of parole violators were white; in Texas, 23%; in California, 31%. The percent Hispanic among parole violators ranged from 26% to 33% in the three States.

New York had the highest percentage of parole violators convicted of a violent offense (41%), compared to 33% in Texas and 24% in California. New York also had the highest percentage of parole violators returned for a drug offense (34%), compared to 27% in California and 21% in Texas.

Among the three largest States, parole violators in California had the longest criminal histories. More than 58% of parole violators in California had been incarcerated at least 3 times in the past, compared to 42% in Texas and 35% in New York. Nationwide, 44% of parole violators reported three or more prior incarcerations.

Methodology

National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP)

The National Corrections Reporting Program collects individual level data for persons admitted to and released from State prisons and offenders exiting parole supervision, in each year. NCRP is the only national collection that provides data on offense, sentence length, and time served for State prisoners and parole discharges. While NCRP collects data on all offenders, this report includes data on prisoners with a total sentence of more than a year.

In 1999 release data were reported by 37 States and the California Youth Authority: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

These 37 States reported a total of 499,886 releases from prison in the National Prisoner Statistics series, which represented 91% of all releases in 1999. Between 35 and 39 States provided data on releases from 1990 to 1999. Data were reported on maximum sentence length for 93% of 227,100 first releases reported to the NCRP in 1990 and 93% of the 243,055 first releases reported in 1999. Data were reported on time served in jail for 77% in 1990 and 85% in 1999 and time served in prison for 95% in 1990 and 99% in 1999.

In 1999, 27 States and the California Youth Authority reported data on parole discharges: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

These 27 States reported 335,646 parole discharges in the 1999 Annual Parole Survey, which represented 86% of all State parole discharges in that year. From 1990 to 1999, 27 to 31 States submitted data on parole discharges. States that reported only successful discharges or only unsuccessful discharges were excluded from calculations of success rates.

Annual Parole Survey

The Annual Parole Survey provides a count of the total number of persons supervised in the community on January 1 and December 31, and a count of the number entering and leaving supervision during the collection year. The survey covered all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal System, for all years from 1980-2000.

The 2000 parole survey was sent to 54 respondents, including 52 central reporters, the California Youth Authority, and one municipal agency. States with multiple reporters were Alabama (2) and California (2). The 2000 survey had a 100% response rate.

National Prisoners Statistics (NPS-1)

The National Prisoners Statistics (NPS-1) series obtains yearend and midyear counts of prisoners from departments of correction in each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Excluded from NPS-1 counts are persons confined in locally administered confinement facilities who are under the jurisdiction of local authorities.

NPS-1 also collects comparable data on prison admissions and releases with a sentence of more than 1 year. Admission counts include data on new court commitments, parole violators returned to prison, and other types of admission. Data on method of release from State prison include counts for mandatory parole, discretionary parole, other conditional releases, and unconditional releases from prison. Transfers, AWOL's and escapees are excluded from the release data in this report.

Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 1991 and 1997

The Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, conducted every 5 to 6 years, provide detailed data on individual characteristics of prison inmates. Based on scientifically selected samples of facilities and of inmates held in them, these surveys provide detailed information unavailable from any other source.

To determine characteristics of inmates to be released by yearend 1999 — including gender, age, race/Hispanic origin, offense, criminal history, substance abuse, mental illness and homelessness — information was drawn for this report from the 1997 survey. Comparisons of parole violators and reasons for revocation in California, New York, and Texas (self-representing States in the sample) were also based on data from the 1997 survey.

For descriptions of the 1991 and 1997 surveys and information on the sample designs and accuracy of the estimates, see *Comparing Federal and State Prison Inmates, 1991*, September 1994, NCJ 145864, and *Substance Abuse and Treatment of State and Federal Prisoners, 1997*, January 1999, NCJ 172871.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Lawrence A. Greenfeld is acting director.

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Timothy A. Hughes, Doris James Wilson, and Allen J. Beck wrote this report. Paige Harrison provided statistical review and verification. Ellen Goldberg and Tom Hester edited and produced the report. Jayne E. Robinson administered final production.

October 2001, NCJ 184735

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The data from the National Corrections Reporting Program, 1983-1998, are available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, maintained by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. The archive may also be accessed through the BJS Internet site.

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