

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 1: 2006 Releases One Year Post Release

- Of the 2608 inmates released in 2006, 454 (17.4%) were re-incarcerated within the first year for a new offense and 164 (6.3%) were re-incarcerated for a technical violation of probation or parole.
- **Total re-incarceration rate was 23.7%.** This is virtually unchanged from the previous year despite a 7% increase in the number of releases.
- There were 41 individuals (3 women, 38 men) who were incarcerated twice within the first year post-release. They are primarily nonviolent offenders struggling with addictions. One member of the group was a notable exception. Three months after serving 10 days for disorderly conduct, he was arrested for murder. He received a life sentence in November 2007.
- Many of these repeat offenders commit drug, property, motor vehicle or prostitution offenses, or violate probation or parole. Although most are not a serious threat to public safety, their constant movements in and out of the criminal justice system are costly. These "churners" should be considered a "high-risk" group and should be targeted for intensive programming and release planning.
- Re-incarceration rates for new crimes by females decreased 12% while technical violations increased 8%. New crimes by males increased 4% and technical violations decreased 11%.

- Risk for re-incarceration was highest among African American males under age 21 at 38.3%. Nearly 85% of this group had no high school diploma or GED and 73% had no work history.
- Consistent with the previous year, nearly 40% of new arraignments occurred within 90 days of release, and fully two-thirds occurred within 180 days of release. Mean time to recidivate was 140 days.
- 339 individuals had new cases awaiting disposition at the end of the first year post release, an increase of 43 from the previous year. Disposition of these cases will be reflected in the three-year follow up.
- Many new arraignments lead to incarceration for violation of release conditions. This is particularly true for nonviolent offenses, which represented 63% of new arraignments, but only 43% of new incarcerations.
- Over 35% of those serving time for a violent offense were arraigned for a new violent offense. Most scored as high-risk on the LSI. 58% had been released without supervision, 73% from the Main Institution. Four were repeat sex offenders and 11 committed new acts of domestic violence. Most of these violent offenders are young males under age 30, however, violent offenses by females were up 46%.
- Median sentence for a new offense was 180 days, for a probation violation, 270 days and for a parole violation, 90 days. Parole violators received credit for over 9000 days on the street before revocation. Probationers on a split sentence do not receive credit,

and must serve the entire suspended portion of their sentence for a violation.

- **Participants in Day Reporting had the lowest re-incarceration rates reflective of a very low number of new offenses. The re-incarceration rate for WMCAC residents rose 2.1 percentage points.**
- **The total re-incarceration rate for Minimum/PRC was only slightly lower than the Main Institution, however over 10% of returns for Minimum/PRC releases were for technical violations.**
- **Consistent with previous years, the majority of parole revocations were for reasons related to relapse.**
- **Those released from lower security have a significantly better outcome than those released from "behind the wall". Those released from lower security committed 44% fewer new crimes despite the fact that over 50% scored 5 or higher on the LSI.**
- **The LSI screening continues to be highly predictive of re-offending. The re-incarceration rate for those who scored as High-Risk offenders was more than twice that of who scored as Low-Risk.**
- **Unemployment, substance abuse, criminal history and personal-emotional problems were the predominant risk factors for re-offending.**

Section II: 2003 Releases Three Years Post Release

- Three years post-release, 65% (1509) of offenders had been arraigned, 45.5% (1056) had been convicted and 37.4% (868) had been incarcerated for a new crime. Another 6.7% (156) had been incarcerated for a technical violation of probation or parole (most in the first year).
- **The total three-year re-incarceration rate for 2003 releases is 44.1%.** This represents a 9.5% reduction since 2000.
- Between 2003 and 2006, the rate of incarceration for new offense dropped from 42.5% to 37.4% (for 2000 and 2003 releases, respectively). Technical violations peaked with the 2001 releases at 10.7% and dropped to 6.7% for the 2003 releases.

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INTRODUCTION

This is the ninth year of the ongoing recidivism study at the Hampden County House of Correction. Release cohorts have grown from 1547 in 1998 to 2608 in 2006, and increase of 69%. The study now includes over 20,000 individuals released over a nine-year period. To our knowledge, there is no other recidivism study of this magnitude conducted at any comparable facility in the country.

Computing and analyzing recidivism for the highly mobile population of individuals that move through a short-term facility such as ours is a complex process, and largely explains the absence of interest or effort to tract this statistic at most county facilities. To accurately assess the rate of re-offending, we must carefully define that portion of the population that is released to the community and is “at risk” to recidivate. This study follows only those sentenced offenders released to the street via expiration of sentences, payment of fines or parole. Sentenced offenders transferred to other correctional facilities at the time of release (immigration, another local jurisdiction, state or federal systems) and pretrial detainees are excluded.

The subjects included in the study participate in correctional programs, are eligible for movement to lower security and parole, and are provided with a detailed release plan when they leave. Tracking their post-release outcomes can provide valuable information on the effectiveness of the department's correctional practices and programs and have led to numerous changes in the nine years since the study began. For example, the LSI-R screening was implemented in 2000, followed by a refocusing of correctional programs in 2001 to target criminogenic factors. The Phase System of programming, including the mandatory five- week program and

the 40-hour workweek were introduced in 2003. The Community Re-entry Unit opened in October of 2006, impacting sixty-eight offenders included in the 2006 release cohort. Movement to lower security has increased from 35% in 1998 to 48% in 2006.

Recidivistic activity is recorded as any arraignment or conviction for a new offense or re-incarceration for either a new offense or a technical violation of probation or parole within the state of Massachusetts. One and three-year recidivism rates are reported. Recidivism rates are calculated across many dimensions including socio-demographic characteristics, geographic areas, offense types, sentence length, classification-at-release, release type, criminal history, criminogenic risks and post-release supervision. Such detailed analyses of recidivistic activity by released offenders can help to identify those factors that correlate with the risk to re-offend and identify at-risk groups. It can also provide clues to changes in other parts of the criminal justice system that would otherwise go unnoticed.

The goal of this ongoing study of recidivism is to produce more than the “recidivism rate”. The broader purpose is to inform and support good correctional practices, manage scarce correctional resources and address overcrowding issues. In the present climate of high inmate populations and shrinking resources it is more critical than ever to gather and report valid data on factors that may have an effect on the perpetuation of criminal behavior and to present that information in such a way that it is useful to public safety professionals in making security, classification, programming and release decisions. It also aids in developing community collaborations that will improve each offender’s potential for successful reintegration into society and ultimately enhance public safety.

METHODOLOGY

Lists of individuals released from the House of Correction are drawn monthly from the facility's Jail Management System. Offenders not released to the street (transferred to other institutions or returned to pretrial status for new charges) are deleted. Edited lists are produced from which official criminal records (BOPs) are run and processed. Any activity within the criminal court system in Massachusetts is recorded.

Recidivism is reported along four dimensions:

- **New Arraignment** – any court appearances following release for new offense.
- **New Conviction** – any guilty finding on a new case. Dispositions range from guilty-filed to commitment to a county, state or federal facility.
- **New Incarceration** – sentence of any length to a state or county correctional facility in Massachusetts for a new offense.
- **Technical Violation** - return to custody for violation of either parole or probation for any reason other than a new offense.

Due to staffing and access issues, three-year rates for 2003 releases were estimated based on offenders released in February, May, August and November (N=760).

Several data sources are utilized in preparing the recidivism report. Information relative to gender, race, age, residence, current charges and sentence, release type and classification are obtained from JMS. LSI results are drawn from the TRAX Case Management program. Parole

violations are tracked through JMS (date of permanent warrant and outdate adjustment) and the Notice of Preliminary Hearing (Form A) from the Institutional Parole Office. Data for on and after probation and probation violations are recorded from the BOP.

OVERVIEW OF THE 2006 RELEASE COHORT

- **During 2006, 2608 sentenced offenders were released to the street via parole, expiration of sentence or payment of fines. This represented an increase of 174 from the previous year.**

- **23% (593) were paroled and 77% (2015) were released via expiration of sentence or payment of fines ("wrapped").**

- **52% (190) of females and 61% (1361) of males were previous recidivists by virtue of having at least one prior incarceration. 193 males had more than five prior incarcerations in the last 10 years.**

- **Of those serving their first adult incarceration, 31% had a previous juvenile record.**

- **Of those released, 14% (365) were females and 86% (2243) were males. Five males were reported deceased during the first year post-release and have been removed from the cohort.**

- **Females released ranged in age from 19 to 65 years of age. The most common age was 31. Males ranged from 17 to 77 years; the most common age was 23.**

- **15% of the females released were African American, 30% were Hispanic and 55% were Caucasian. Of the male releases, 19% were African American, 41% were Hispanic and 39% were Caucasian.**

- **The breakdown of security level at time of release was as follows: Medium/Maximum 52%, Minimum/PRC 18%, WMCAC 16% and Day Reporting 13%.**

- **The 2006 release cohort included 29 DOC reentry inmates. 25 were released from lower security.**

- **48% (1249) of those released served time for a nonviolent offense (property, drugs, MV, prostitution, other), 15.5% for a violent offense (crime against a person, domestic violence, sex offense, firearms), and 36.5% for violation of parole or probation.**

- **23% served a sentence of 90 days or less, 32% between 90 and 180 days, 23% between 180 and 365 days, and 22% over a year.**

- **357 individuals served sentences part or all of which were mandatory. These mandatory sentences accrued 116,425 bed-days, 55,480 of which were for school zone violations.**

- **46.5% of those released were from Springfield, 13% from Holyoke, 7% from Chicopee, 13% from other Hampden County towns, 13% from other counties and 3% from out of state. 5% provided no address at booking.**

- **On the LSI screening, 8% scored as Low-Risk, 57% as Medium-Risk and 35% as High-Risk. Predominant criminogenic factors (in order of magnitude) were substance abuse, adult criminal history, unemployment, personal-emotional problems and criminal associates.**

- **31% of those released from lower security scored as High-Risk, compared to 38% of those released from the Main Institution. Those who moved to lower security had higher rates of substance abuse, but had fewer personal-emotional issues, stronger family relationships and demonstrated more pro-social attitudes.**

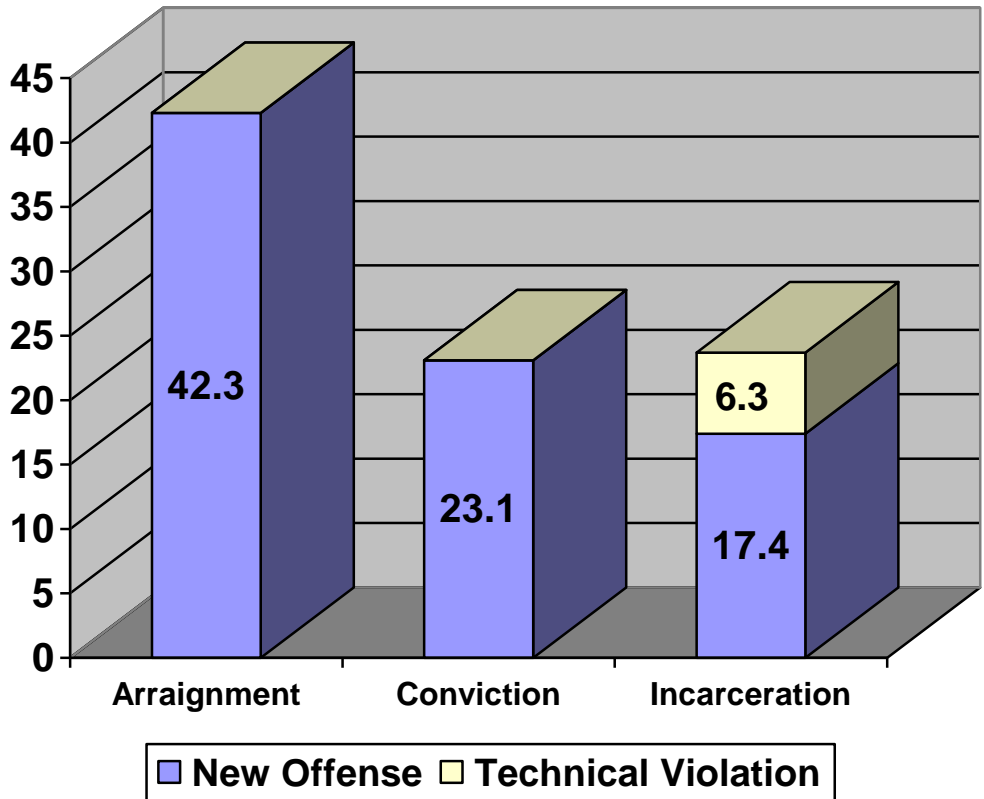
**SECTION I
ONE-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES
2006 RELEASES**

Recidivism Type (% of Total Releases)

	Females		Males		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
New Offense						
Arraignment	130	35.5	974	43.4	1104	42.3
Conviction	76	20.8	527	23.5	603	23.1
Incarceration	50	13.7	405	18.0	455	17.4
Technical Violation	31	8.5	134	6.0	165	6.3

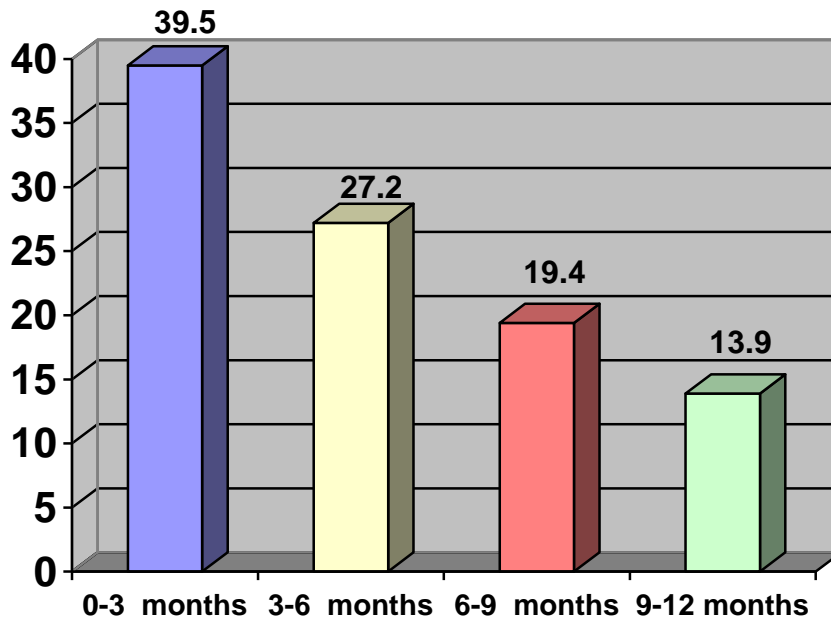
17.4% of those released were sentenced for a new offense within one year of release, an increase of only 0.3 percentage points from the previous year. An additional 6.3% returned for a technical violation of parole or probation. The total reincarceration rate of 23.7% was down 0.2 points from the previous year.

One-Year Recidivism Rates



<u>Number of New Arraignments</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>
1	81	367
2-5	56	573
6-10	22	150
11-15	0	20
More than 16	2	7
Mean	3	3

**Time to New Arraignment
(% of New Arraignments)**



Nearly 40% of new arraignments continue to occur within 90 days of release, and over two-thirds within 180 days of release. Mean time to recidivate was 140 days.

Other Activity	Females		Males		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Open Cases-New	41	11.2	298	13.3	339	13.0
Open Cases-Existing	101	27.6	776	34.6	877	33.6
Open Warrants	34	9.3	186	8.3	220	8.4
New Restraining Order	18	4.9	360	16.0	378	14.5

360 males had new restraining orders filed against them after their release.

Disposition of New Cases	N
Awaiting Disposition	339
Dismissed	93
Nol Pros	34
Continued Without Finding	35
Fined/Filed	66
Probation	32
Suspended Sentence	49
Committed	620

339 individuals had new cases awaiting disposition at the end of their first year post release, an increase of 46 from the previous year. Disposition of these cases will be reflected in the three-year follow up.

The first offense for which an individual is arraigned is often not what leads to a new incarceration. In many cases, a new arrest results in a violation of probation (and to a lesser degree, parole). Probation violations are less than 4% of new arraignments, but account for 17% of new incarcerations for males and 14% for females.

New Offense (% of New Arraignments)

	Females		Males		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Person	26	16.2	213	19.2	239	18.8
Domestic	2	1.2	27	2.4	29	2.3
Sex Offense	1	0.6	17	1.5	18	1.4
Firearms	1	0.6	19	1.7	20	1.6
Total Violent Offenses	30	18.7	276	24.9	306	24.1
Property	34	21.1	204	18.4	238	18.8
Drugs	29	18.0	226	20.4	255	20.1
MV	20	12.4	227	20.5	247	19.5
Prostitution	14	8.7	2	0.2	16	1.3
Other	3	1.9	38	3.4	41	3.2
Total Nonviolent Offense	100	62.1	697	62.9	797	62.8
Parole Violation	25	15.5	94	8.5	119	9.4
Probation Violation	6	3.7	41	3.7	47	3.7
Total Tech. Violations	31	19.2	135	12.2	166	13.1

Overall, new violent offenses were up 15%. Violent offenses by females increased 46% from the previous year.

<u>Original Offense Type</u>	<u>New Offense Type</u>			
	Violent		Nonviolent	
	N	%	N	%
Violent	122	35.4	218	64.6
Nonviolent	184	19.8	745	80.2

122 violent offenders were arraigned for a new violent offense. This group continues to be overwhelmingly male, young (nearly 50% under 30) and

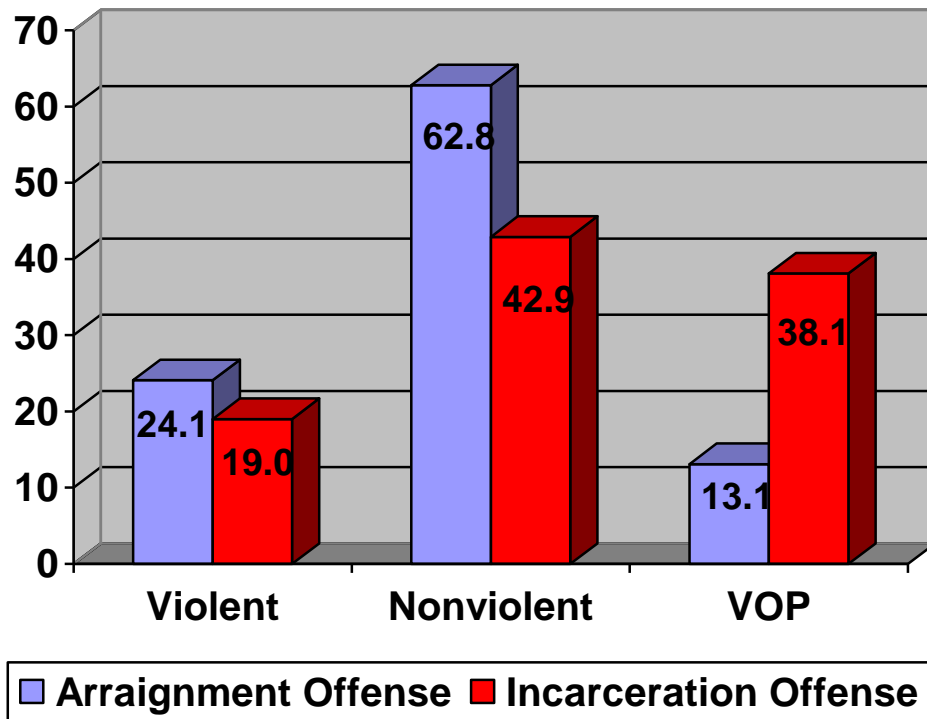
high-risk (75% scoring 5 or more on the LSI). Sixty percent are from Springfield, nearly half of those from the Mason Square area. 73% were released from the Main Institution, 56% with no post release supervision, 32% with probation, 12% were paroled. Four were repeat sex offenders.

New Incarceration Offense (% of New Incarcerations)

	Females		Males		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Person	10	12.3	77	14.3	87	14.0
Domestic	1	1.2	15	2.8	16	2.6
Sex Offense	1	1.2	7	1.3	8	1.3
Firearms	0	0.0	7	1.3	7	1.1
Total Violent Offenses	12	14.7	106	19.7	118	19.0
Property	14	17.3	94	17.4	108	17.4
Drugs	9	11.1	94	17.4	103	16.6
MV	4	4.9	33	6.1	37	6.0
Prostitution	5	6.2	0	0.0	5	0.8
Other	1	1.2	12	2.3	13	2.1
Total Nonviolent Offense	33	40.7	233	43.2	266	42.9
Parole Violation	25	30.9	110	20.4	135	21.8
Probation Violation	11	13.6	90	16.7	101	16.3
Total Violations	36	44.5	200	37.1	239	38.1

A new arraignment often leads to violation of probation or parole. This is particularly true of nonviolent offenses, which account for 63% of new arraignments, but only 43% of incarcerations.

Arrestment & Incarceration Offenses



New Sentence (Days)

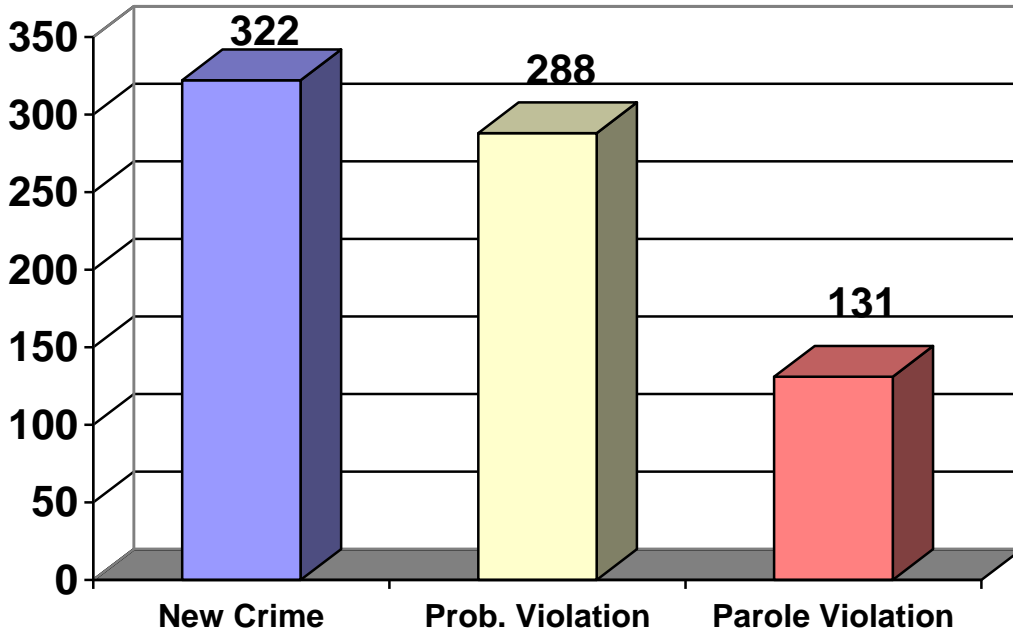
	<u>New Offense</u>	<u>Probation Technical</u>	<u>Parole Technical</u>	<u>All</u>
Mean	322	288	131	276
Median	180	270	90	180
Minimum	1	10	7	1
Maximum	9125*	913	1096	9125

*Life sentence computed at 25 years.

Mean sentence length can be skewed by one extreme value such as a life sentence, therefore it is more accurate to use the *median* when making comparisons to the previous year. Median sentence for a new offense remained at 180 days. Median sentence for technical violation of probation increased from 180 to 270 days, parole violation from 72 to 90 days.

Because parolees receive credit for time on the street, the amount of time they must serve after revocation is much shorter than for probationers. The 119 technical parole violators had 15,288 to serve after revocation, while only 49 technical probation violators tallied 14,413 days. Parole violators received credit for approximately 9024 days on the street prior to revocation.

New Sentence in Days



Incarceration Rates by Classification at Release

	Females		Males		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Day Reporting	11	22.4	44	16.9	55	17.8
Pre Release	6	37.5	30	29.4	36	30.5
Minimum	15	23.1	57	27.9	72	26.8
Medium	34	24.5	191	27.7	225	27.3
Short Term Pod		N/A	81	26.5	81	26.5
CRU		N/A	13	19.1	13	19.1
Maximum	4	14.3	56	31.1	60	28.7
DOCR	1	20.0	3	12.5	4	13.8
WMCAC-Hampden	9	24.3	42	23.9	51	23.9
WMCAC-Other Counties	1	4.8	19	11.4	20	10.7
Probate	0	0.0	2	3.8	2	3.8

Incarceration Rates by Class* & Type of Return

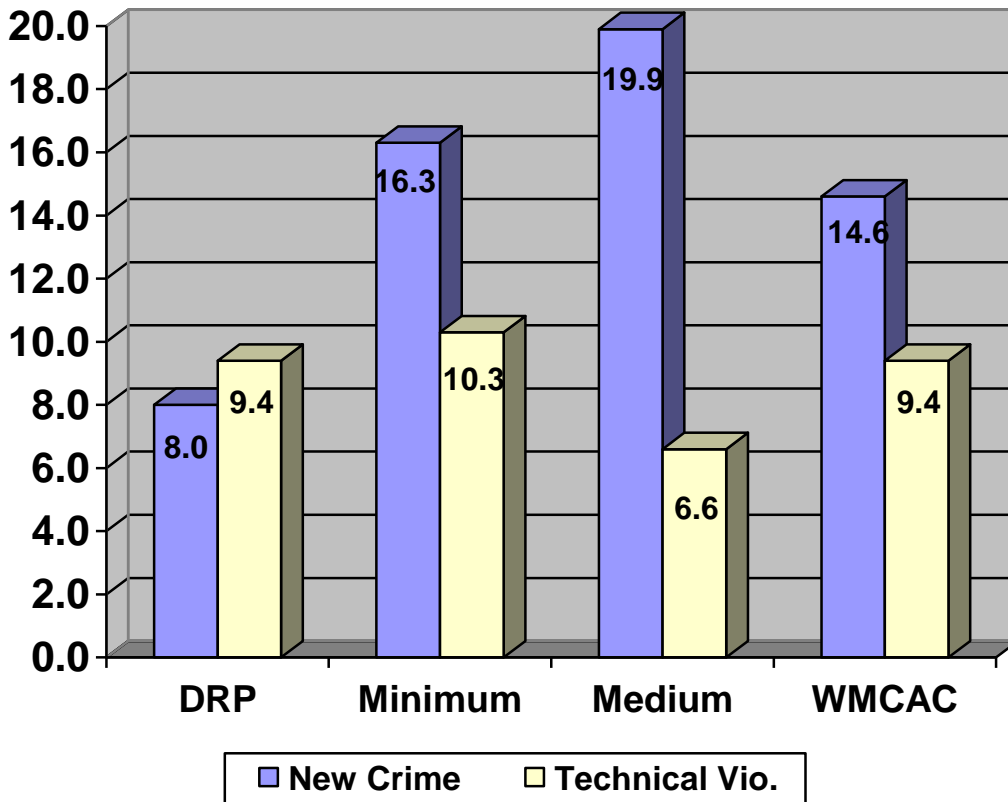
	Technical		New Offense		Total		Chg.
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Day Reporting (339)	32	9.4	27	8.0	59	17.4	-2.1
Minimum/PRC (465)	48	10.3	76	16.3	124	26.7	-0.3
Medium (1423)	94	6.6	283	19.9	377	26.5	-0.1
WMCAC-Hampden (213)	20	9.4	31	14.6	51	23.9	+2.1

***DOCR & Probates are included in security level at time of release.**

Participants in Day Reporting had the lowest re-incarceration rates reflective of a very low number of new offenses. The re-incarceration rate for WMCAC residents rose 2.1 percentage points.

The total re-incarceration rate for Minimum/PRC remained virtually the same as the Main Institution, however over 10% of returns for Minimum/PRC releases were for technical violations.

Incarceration Rates by Class & Type of Return



Incarceration Rates by Security Level at Release & Type of Return

	Technical		New Offense		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Lower Security	89	7.1	164	13.1	253	20.3
Medium/Maximum	75	5.5	292	21.5	367	27.0

Those released from lower security have a significantly better outcome than those released from "behind the wall". Those released from lower security committed 44% fewer new crimes despite the fact that over 50% scored 5 or higher on the LSI.

Incarceration Rates by LSI & Security Level

LSI Score	Lower Security		Main Inst.	
	N	%	N	%
Low-Risk (0-2)	12	10.1	5	7.2
Medium-Risk (3-5)	128	20.4	164	22.5
High-Risk (6-8)	97	28.8	180	36.2

Re-incarceration rates for Medium-Risk offenders released from lower security were over 9% lower from the Main Institution. The benefits of step-down were even more pronounced for High-Risk Offenders. Re-incarceration rates for High-Risk offenders released from lower security were more than 20% lower than those released from high security.

Incarceration Rates by Post Release Supervision

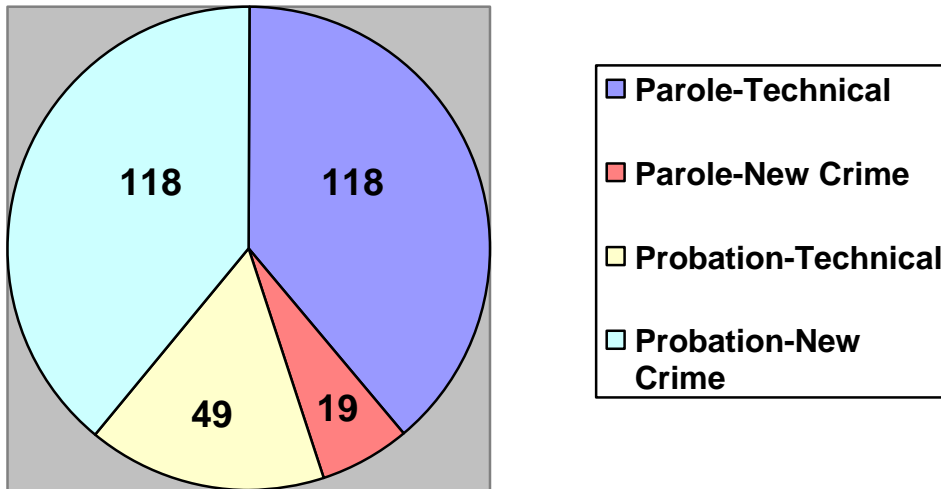
	Technical Violation		New Offense		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Probation Only	47	7.0	143	21.2	190	28.1
Parole Only	87	21.2	42*	10.2	129	31.5
Dual Supervision	32	17.3	22*	11.9	54	29.3
No Supervision	N/A		247	18.5	247	18.4

***Only 19 parolees committed new offenses while under parole supervision. Nearly all new offenses by probationers occurred during probation supervision.**

Violations of Release Conditions

	Females	Males	Total
Parole Violation-Technical	25	92	117
Parole Violation-New Offense	1	18	19
Lifetime Parole-Technical	0	1	1
Probation Violation-Technical	6	43	49
Probation Violation-New Offense	12	106	118

Violations of Release Conditions

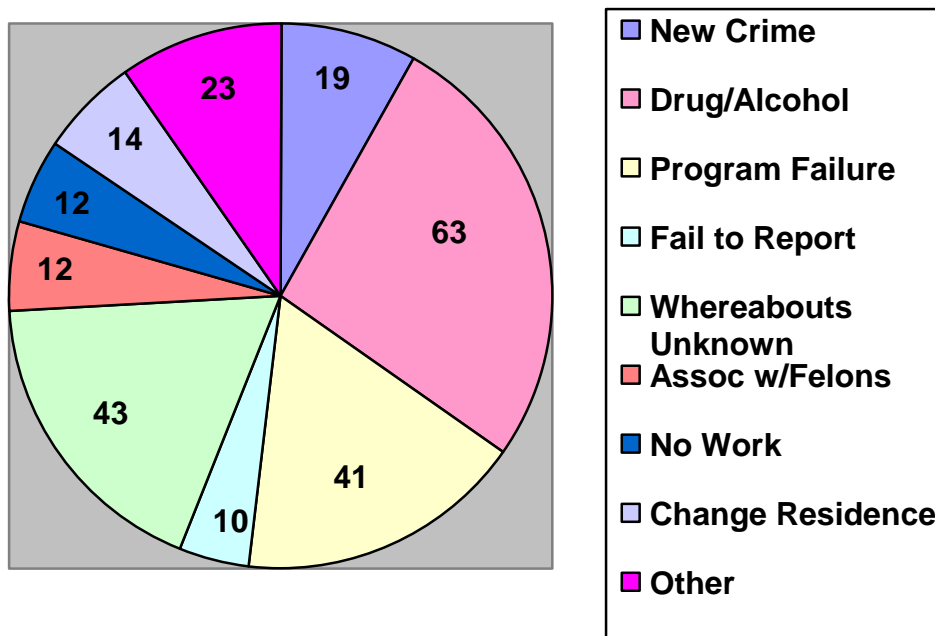


<u>Reasons for Parole Violation</u>	<u>N</u>
Crime on Parole	19
Drug or Alcohol Use	63
Program Failure	41
Failure to Report	10
Whereabouts Unknown*	43
Irresponsible Conduct	10
Associate with Known Felons	12
Failure to Find or Maintain Employment	12
Change Residence	14
Nonpayment of Supervision Fee	10
New Restraining Order Issued (209A)	3

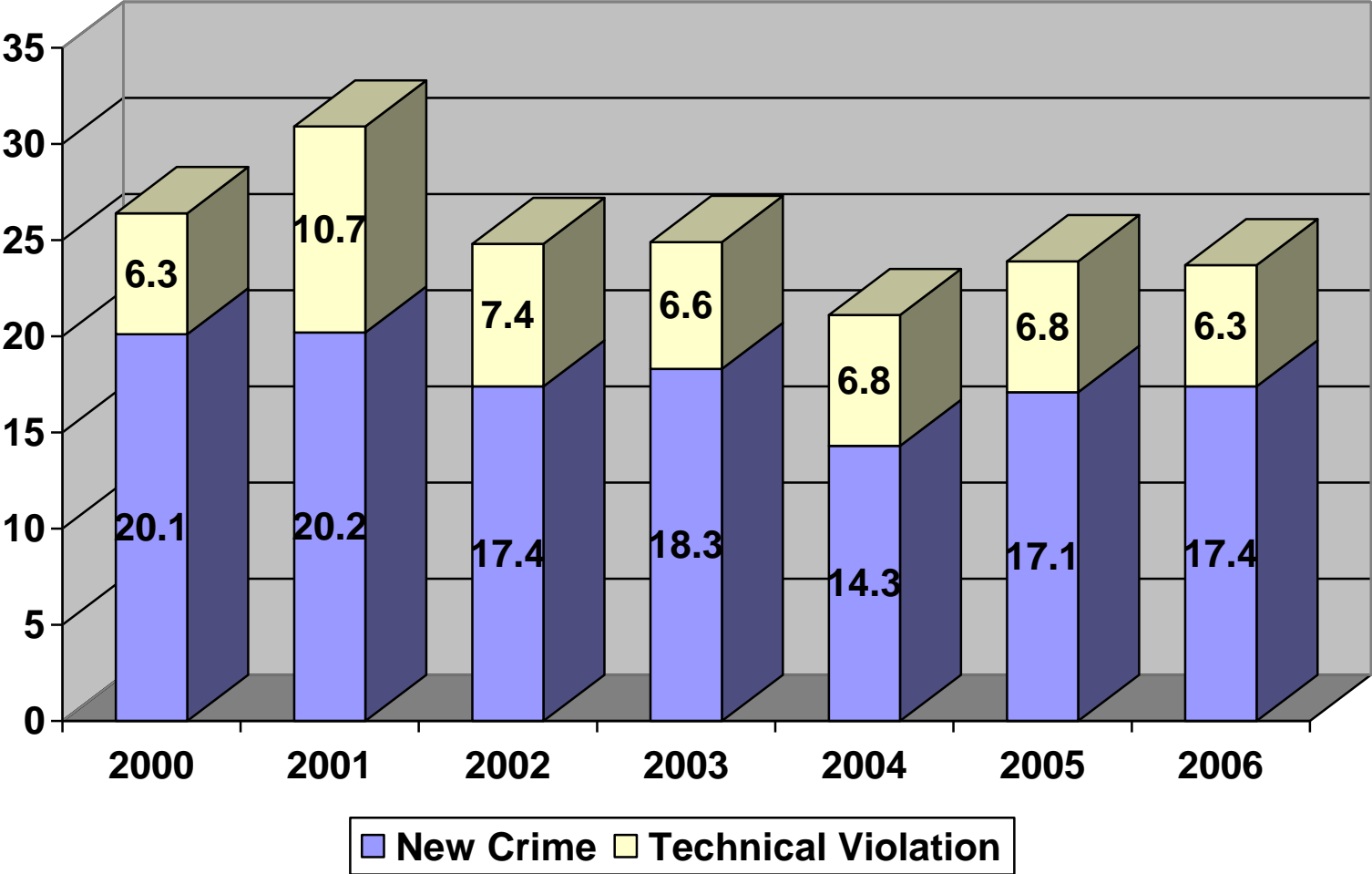
Most revocation forms list more than one reason.

***Note: Parolees do not receive credit for time they were "whereabouts unknown".**

Reasons for Parole Revocation



One-Year Re-incarceration Rates 2000-2006



**SECTION II
THREE-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES
2003 RELEASES****

Three-Year Recidivism Rates	2000 %	2001 %	2002 %	2003 %
New Offense				
Arraigned	68.6	63.6	65.6	65.1
Convicted	53.1	49.9	47.7	45.5
Incarcerated	42.5	38.6	38.8	37.4
Technical Violation	6.3	10.7	7.4	6.7

Three-year re-incarceration rates for 2003 releases decreased 4.5% from the 2002 rate. Incarceration for new crimes dropped 3.6% and technical violations fell 9.5%. Three-year rates have dropped 9.5% since 2000.

****Estimated based on February, May, August and November releases.**

Three-Year Recidivism Rates 2000 - 2003

