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**CASE CLASSIFICATION:**

**TWO YEAR OUTCOME STUDY**

**NCJRS**

**DEC 4 1987**

**ACQUISITIONS**

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Budget and Planning  
(TEXAS) BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

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## Case Classification: Two Year Outcome Study

### Introduction:

A Bureau of Justice Statistics report ("Returning to Prison" - November 1984) surveyed recidivism rates of 14 states. The survey indicated a marked similarity in the recidivism rates of the 14 states. An average of 15% of prison releasees returned to prison within one year. After two years an average of 25% of releasees had returned to prison. By the third year, approximately 31% of releasees had returned to prison.

Studies conducted by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (Martinez, Eisenberg) have also indicated very similar one year outcome results. Approximately 14% to 15% of releasees from the Texas Department of Corrections return to prison within one year of release. This report will detail findings of a two year follow-up study and compare this data to national trends.

### Methodology:

Cases assessed in September 1983 were followed, utilizing a computer program, to determine whether a pre-revocation warrant or a revocation had occurred during the subsequent two years, through September 1985. Two methodological problems compromise the comparability of this study to the B.J.S. study in a small way. First, cases assessed in September 1983 represent cases released in September 1983 or up to six months prior to that date. Thus, the follow-up period in this study ranged from 24 months to 30 months, which would reflect a revocation rate higher than a two year follow-up. Mitigating this inflated rate is the fact that this study utilizes revocations and not return to prison. Releasees, who completed supervision before the two year follow-up, but subsequently committed an offense that resulted in a return to prison before the end of the follow-up, were not captured in this data. Thus, the revocation rate will under-state the return to prison rate.

A second goal of this study was to examine the relationship between the Salient Factor Risk Score and two year outcome data.

### Two Year Outcome Data:

Table 1 and accompanying graphs indicate that, in a two year period, 39% of releasees had a pre-revocation warrant issued and 27% of releasees were revoked in this study. In the first year 26% of releasees had a pre-revocation warrant issued resulting in a 12% revocation rate. The lag between issuance of a pre-revocation warrant and subsequent revocation is reflected in the 13% pre-revocation rate and 15% revocation rate in the second year. A portion of warrants issued in the first year resulted in revocations in the second year, increasing the second year rate.

Given the methodological problems cited earlier, the 27% revocation rate is quite comparable to the data cited in the B.J.S. study.

### Salient Factor Risk Score:

The Salient Factor Score remains an accurate predictor of risk, as documented in this report. As Table 1 indicates 52% of releases with a poor risk score had a pre-revocation warrant issued during the two year follow-up, compared with 44% of fair cases, and 26% of minimum cases.

Approximately 37% of the poor risk scores were revoked, 30% of the fair risk scores were revoked, and 15% of good risk scores were revoked during the two year period.

Comparing the first and second years indicates some shrinkage in the ability to distinguish between the risk groups. For example, in the first year there is a 20% difference between the poor risk score and good risk score in the percent of cases pre-revocation (36% vs 16%). This difference shrinks to 6% (16% vs 10%) in the second year. While some shrinkage is common in predictor instruments, cases completing supervision in the second year may mask some of the Salient Factor Score's ability to predict outcome. A more thorough measure of outcome could more accurately determine if shrinkage is a serious problem in the Salient Factor Score.

### Conclusion:

Two Year Outcome data for Texas appears to be quite comparable to recidivism rates reported for other states. It also appears that the Salient Factor Score continues to accurately distinguish between poor, fair, and good risk cases.

Additional research requires an outcome measure that more completely measures post-release outcome than revocations. An outcome measure utilizing return to prison may address the question of shrinkage and related problems more adequately.

Case Classification: Two Year Follow-Up

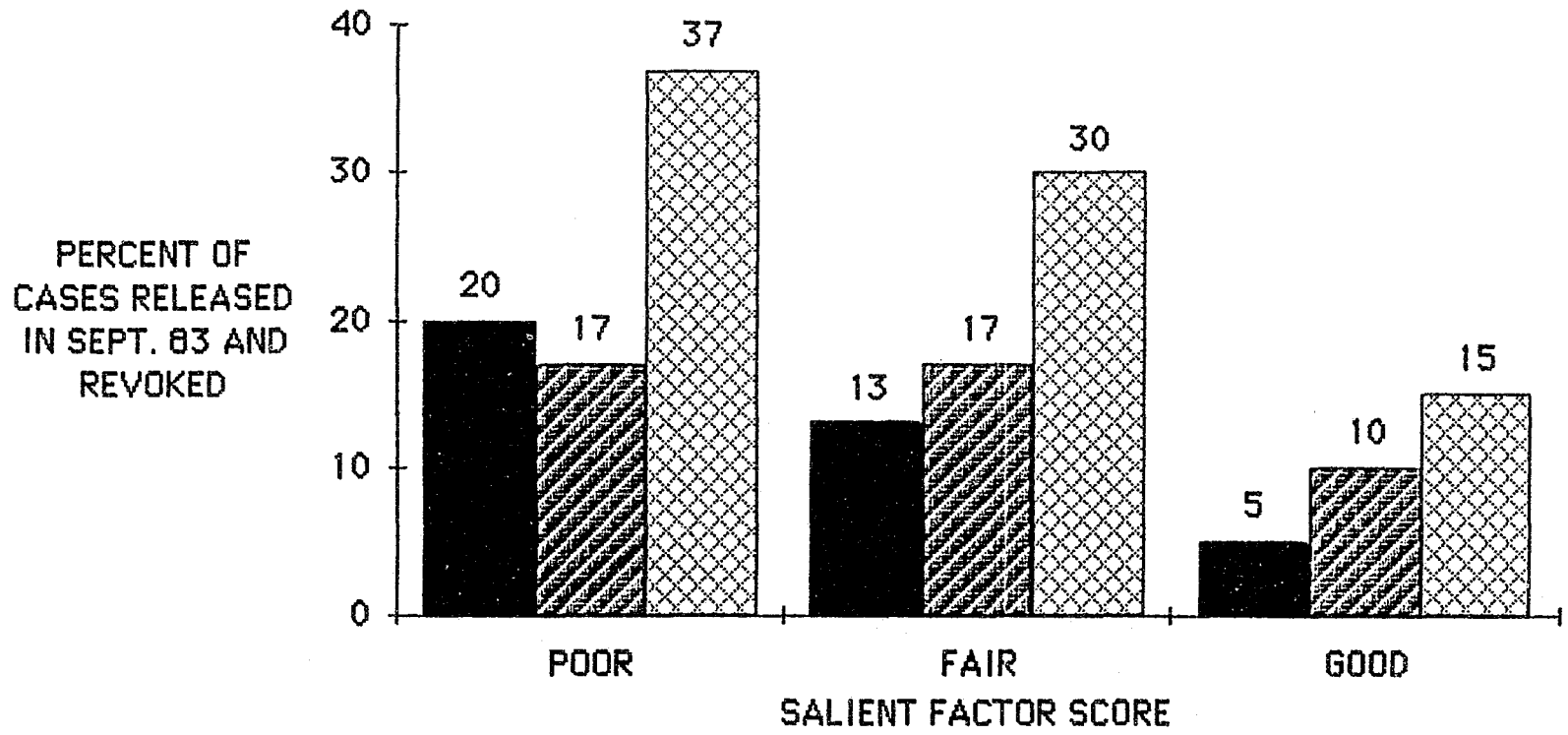
Percent of Cases with Pre-Revocation Warrant  
Issued Between:

<u>Risk Score</u>	<u>Sept. 1983-Sept. 1984</u>	<u>Sept. 1984-Sept. 1985</u>	<u>Total (Sept. 1983-Sept. 1985)</u>
Poor	36% ( 262/ 730)	16% (115/ 730)	52% ( 377/ 730)
Fair	29% ( 704/2458)	15% (371/2458)	44% (1075/2458)
Good	16% ( 252/1563)	10% (148/1563)	26% ( 400/1563)
Total	26% (1218/4751)	13% (634/4751)	39% (1852/4751)

Percent of Cases Revoked Between:

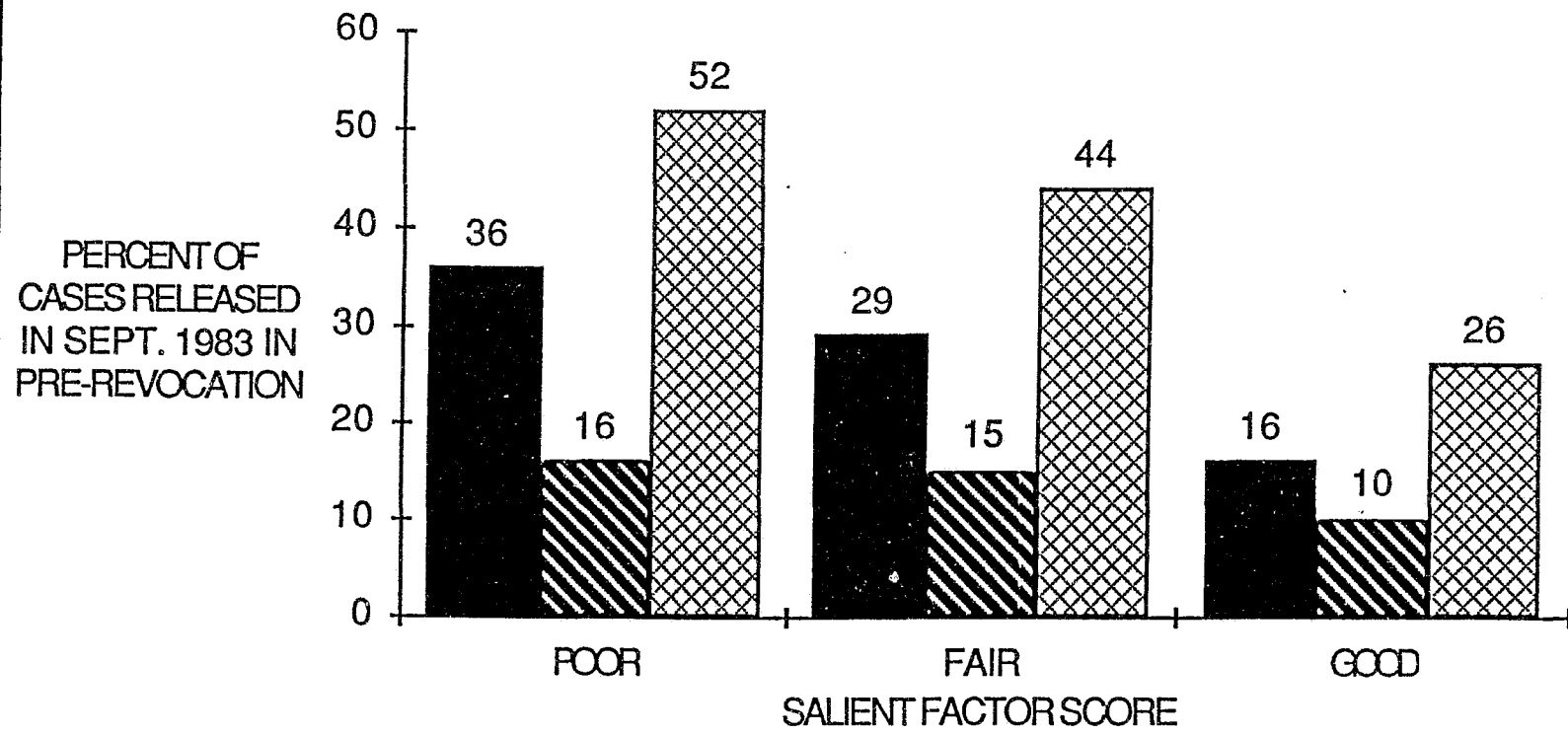
<u>Risk Score</u>	<u>Sept. 1983-Sept. 1984</u>	<u>Sept. 1984-Sept. 1985</u>	<u>Total (Sept. 1983-Sept. 1985)</u>
Poor	20% (144/ 730)	17% (125/ 730)	37% ( 269/ 730)
Fair	13% (323/2458)	17% (409/2458)	30% ( 732/2458)
Good	5% ( 85/1563)	10% (158/1563)	15% ( 243/1563)
Total	12% (552/4751)	15% (692/4751)	27% (1244/4751)

TWO YEAR FOLLOW-UP : PERCENT OF CASES REVOKED BY SALIENT FACTOR SCORE



■ REVOKED : SEPT. 83-84    ▨ REVOKED : SEPT. 84-85    ▩ TOTAL REVOKED : SEPT. 83-85

TWO YEAR FOLLOW-UP: PERCENT OF CASES IN PRE-REVOCAATION BY SALIENT FACTOR SCORE



■ PRE-REVOCAATION:  
SEPT. 83-84

▨ PRE-REVOCAATION:  
SEPT. 84-85

⊞ TOTAL PRE-REVOCAATION:  
SEPT. 83-85