



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
William H. Fauver, Commissioner

RELEASE OUTCOME – 1984

A FOLLOW-UP STUDY

Prepared By:

Cynthia A. Corbo
OFFICE OF POLICY ANALYSIS & PLANNING

In Conjunction With:

NEW JERSEY CRIMINAL DISPOSITION COMMISSION
DATA COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 1992

136555

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summaryi – iii

Purpose 1

Methodology 1

Release Outcome Rates 2 – 3

Comparison of 1982 and 1984 Release Outcome Rates 4 – 5

Arrest Following Release 5 – 7

Conviction Following Release 7 – 8

Incarceration Following Release 8 – 9

Release Outcome by Selected Characteristics:

 Sex 10

 Race/Ethnicity 10

 Age at Release 11 – 12

 Time Served in Prison 12

 Most Serious Offense at Time of Release 12 – 13

 Most Serious Offense at Time of Rearrest 14

 Prior Adult Arrests 15 – 16

 Age at First Adult Arrest 16 – 18

 Prior Violent Arrest 18

 Prior Drug Possession Arrest 19

 Prior Drug Distribution Arrest 19

Conclusion 19

ACQUISITIONS

MAY 11 1992

NCJRS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study examined release outcome in New Jersey by tracking the criminal activity of offenders released from state prison in 1984. Major findings of this study corroborated research conducted in other jurisdictions and are as follows:

RELEASE OUTCOME RATES – 1982 & 1984:

- 62% of all offenders released from state prison in 1984 were rearrested within the three year follow-up period, with an average of 2.6 arrests per offender. This is the same rearrest rate that was found in the 1982 release outcome study.
- Approximately 4 out of every 10 offenders released from state prison in 1984 had no subsequent arrests during the three years following release.
- 38% were convicted for offenses* committed within the three years following release, compared to a reconviction rate of 49% for offenders released in 1982.
- 24% were reincarcerated, with 13% returned to state prison. This compared to a state prison return rate of 22% for the 1982 release cohort.
- Release outcome rates found in this study appear to be within the range of those found in other jurisdictions.

ARREST FOLLOWING RELEASE:

- Parolees were rearrested at a slightly higher rate than offenders who had completed their sentence (62% compared to 57%). However, both reconviction and reincarceration rates were somewhat higher for max releases.
- Approximately 4 out of every 10 released offenders were rearrested in the first year following release from prison.
- The average time to rearrest for all offenders was 12 months.
- A small percentage of offenders accounted for a disproportionate amount of crime – half of all arrest events were committed by only 23% of the offenders.

CONVICTION FOLLOWING RELEASE:

- Six out of 10 offenders arrested after release from prison were convicted for new offenses.
- When compared to parolees, offenders who were discharged upon expiration of the maximum term had slightly higher rates of reconviction.

INCARCERATION FOLLOWING RELEASE:

- 63% of the offenders who were reconvicted for offenses committed during the three year follow-up period were reincarcerated.

* **NOTE:** The term "offense", as used above and in the following pages, refers to both indictable and non-indictable (disorderly persons) offenses.

- 53% of those who were reincarcerated received state prison sentences. The average sentence for this group was 7 years.
- Approximately 1 in 5 offenders returned to state prison received a sentence of 10 years or more.
- 46% of the offenders who were reincarcerated received county jail sentences, with an average sentence of 4 months.

RELEASE OUTCOME BY SEX, RACE, AGE, TIME SERVED AND MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE:

- Male offenders released from state prison in 1984 had higher rates of rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration than female offenders.
- Black offenders were more likely to be rearrested, reconvicted and reincarcerated than White or Hispanic offenders.
- Older offenders had the lowest rates of rearrest, and the average time to rearrest was longer.
- While offenders who had served over 5 years in prison had the lowest rates of rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration, there was no correlation found between time served and release outcome.
- Property and public policy offenders had the highest rates of rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration.
- Although offenders who had served time for escape comprised only .6% of the total releases in 1984, this group exhibited the highest failure rates of any type of offender.
- Offenders who had served time for sexual assault had the lowest rate of rearrest (39%), while offenders released for murder/manslaughter had the lowest rates of reconviction and reincarceration (21% and 10% respectively).
- Offenders tended to commit new offenses in the same offense category for which they had served time. However, the most probable offense committed was a property offense.
- Released drug offenders were more likely than any other group of releasees to be rearrested for another drug offense (32%).

LENGTH OF CRIMINAL RECORD & AGE AT FIRST ADULT ARREST:

- Offenders with lengthy criminal histories had the highest rates of rearrest.
- 81% of offenders who had 16 or more adult arrests were rearrested for new offenses, compared to 31% of offenders with one prior arrest.
- The younger the age at first adult arrest, the higher the rate of rearrest.
- 72% of the offenders who were first arrested between age 18 and 19 were rearrested during the three year follow-up period. Only 26% of the offenders who were first arrested at age 30 and over were rearrested.

PRIOR VIOLENT ARREST:

- Almost 7 out of 10 offenders released from prison in 1984 had been previously arrested for a violent offense.
- Offenders who had a prior arrest for a violent offense had a greater likelihood of rearrest than any other offenders.

PRIOR DRUG ARREST:

- Half of all released offenders had a prior arrest for drug possession.
- For every offense category, offenders with a prior drug possession arrest had higher rates of rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration.
- Almost 1 in 4 offenders released from prison in 1984 had a prior arrest for drug distribution.
- Offenders with a prior drug distribution arrest had a greater likelihood of rearrest.

RELEASE OUTCOME - 1984

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was twofold: (1) to measure the subsequent criminal involvement of adult offenders released from state prison in 1984; and (2) to compare the current findings with trends discerned in the 1982 release outcome study. Various release outcome indicators were examined, including rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration rates for adult offenders who either completed their sentence or were granted parole in 1984 (n=3,634).

METHODOLOGY

Unlike the methodology employed in the previous release outcome study - a random sample of 200 releasees in 1982 - the current study included all adults released from state prison in 1984, as recorded by the Department of Corrections' Offender Based Correctional Information System (OBCIS). Excluded from this group were juvenile releases (n=832), out of state releases (n=140) and offenders lacking a State Bureau of Identification (SBI) number (n=362).

Using an offender's SBI number as a key identifier, subsequent arrest, conviction and incarceration data, as well as information concerning prior criminal history were electronically retrieved by matching the OBCIS database against the State Police Offender Based Transaction System/Computerized Criminal History (OBTS/CCH) database. The result was a match for 98% of the OBCIS release records (n=3,634). (See Table 1 for a profile of offenders released in 1984). Since research suggests that most negative outcomes occur in the first years after release, subsequent criminal activity committed in New Jersey and entered into OBTS/CCH was recorded for a three year period following release from state prison.

It should be noted that release outcome rates may be understated due to missing disposition/sentencing data obtained from the OBTS/CCH database. Disposition data were not reported for 19% of those who were rearrested within three years following release from prison. Of the rearrestees who were reconvicted, 6% were missing

sentencing data. Therefore, release outcome rates as measured by reconviction and reincarceration are most likely higher than the rates reported in this study.

TABLE 1

PROFILE OF 1984 RELEASES

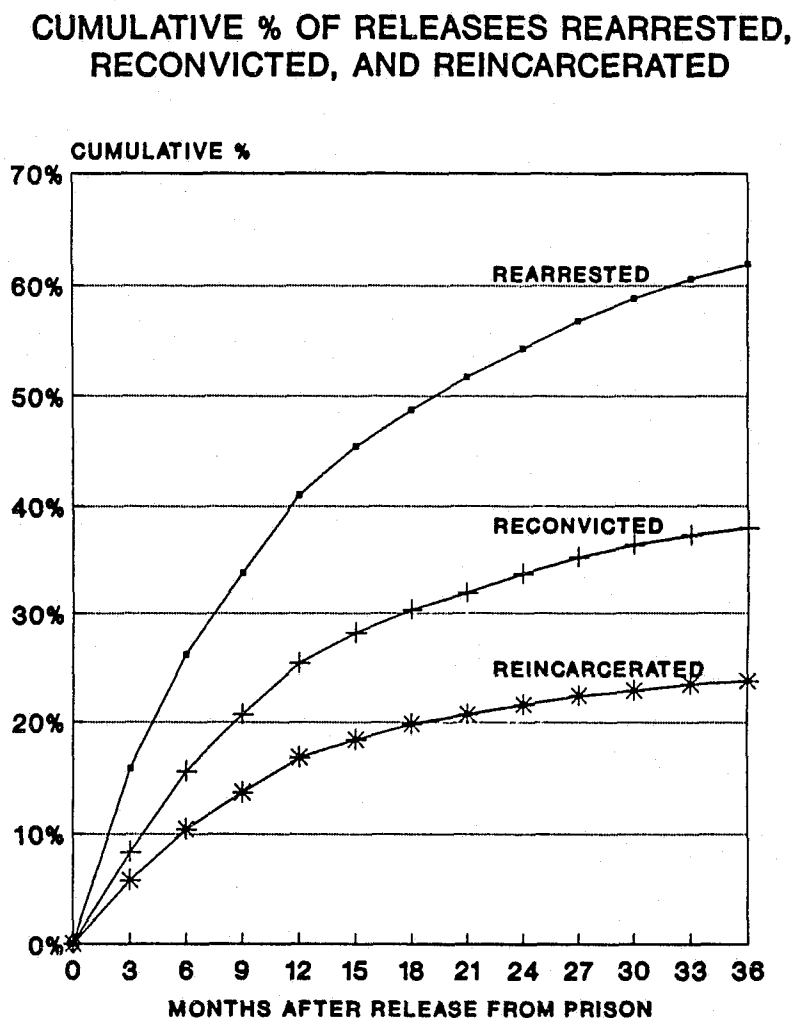
NUMBER RELEASED		3,634	
SEX:			
Male		95%	
Female		5%	
RACE/ETHNICITY:			
Black		56%	
White		31%	
Hispanic		14%	
Other		< 1%	
Uncoded		< 1%	
AGE AT RELEASE:			
18 - 24		31%	
25 - 29		29%	
30 - 34		20%	
35 - 39		10%	
40 - 44		5%	
45+		5%	
Mean:	29 yrs		
Median:	27 yrs		
TIME SERVED IN PRISON:			
Less than 7 mths*		9%	
7 - 12 mths		33%	
13 - 18 mths		21%	
19 - 24 mths		12%	
25 - 30 mths		7%	
31 - 36 mths		5%	
37 - 60 mths		9%	
61+ mths		4%	
Mean:	21 mths		
Median:	19 mths		
NUMBER OF PRIOR ADULT ARRESTS:			
No prior arrests		1%	
1 prior		13%	
2 - 3 priors		20%	
4 - 6 priors		26%	
7 - 10 priors		19%	
11+ priors		22%	
Mean:	7 prior arrests		
Median:	5 prior arrests		
MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE AT TIME OF RELEASE:			
Violent Offenses:			
Murder/Manslaughter		4%	
Sexual Assault		3%	
Robbery		19%	
Assault		9%	
Other Sexual Offenses		1%	
Other Persons Offenses		1%	
Total Violent		36%	
Property Offenses:			
Burglary		20%	
Fraud/Forgery		2%	
Larceny/Theft		7%	
Stolen Property		4%	
Total Property		33%	
Drug Offenses:			
Drugs - Distribution		9%	
Drugs - Possession		5%	
Total Drugs		14%	
Public Policy Offenses:			
Weapons		3%	
Escape		1%	
Other Public Policy		2%	
Total Public Policy		6%	
Uncoded		10%	
AGE AT FIRST ADULT ARREST:			
18 - 19		60%	
20 - 24		25%	
25 - 29		7%	
30+		8%	
Mean:	21 yrs		
Median:	19 yrs		

* Includes parole violators

RELEASE OUTCOME RATES

As indicated in Figure 1, 62% of all offenders released in 1984 were rearrested within three years following release; 38% were reconvicted; and 24% were reincarcerated (prison and jail sentences).

FIGURE 1

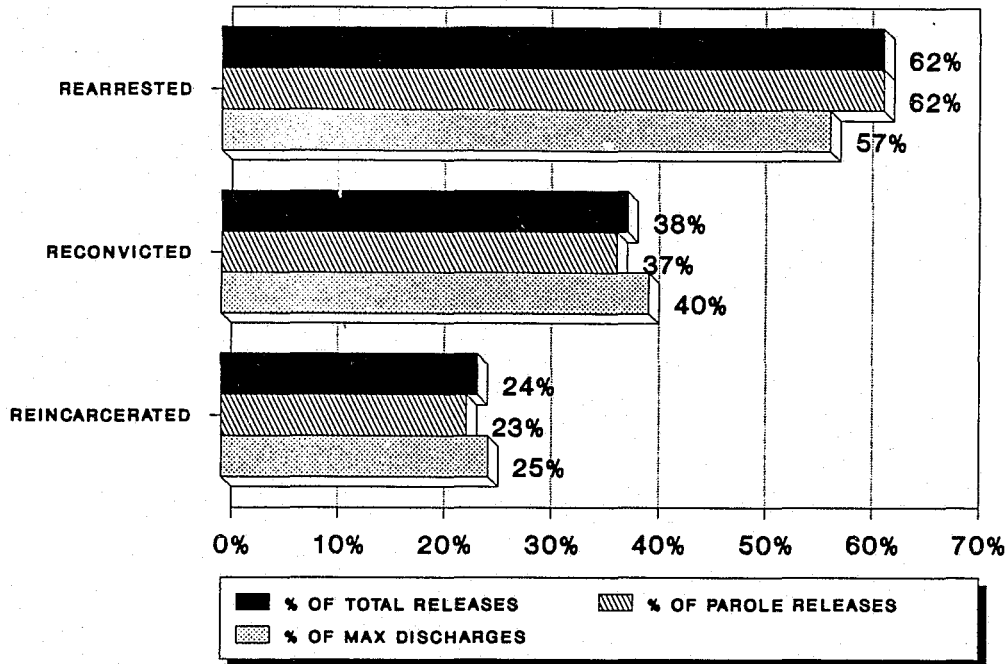


When comparing release outcome indicators for parolees and offenders discharged upon expiration of maximum term, parolees were rearrested at a somewhat higher rate than offenders who had completed their sentence - 62% compared to 57% (Figure 2). However, both reconviction and reincarceration rates were somewhat higher for max releasees. Forty percent (40%) of the max releasees were reconvicted, compared to 37% for offenders under parole supervision. Twenty-four percent (24%) of

the offenders discharged upon expiration of maximum term were reincarcerated, compared to a reincarceration rate of 23% for parolees.

FIGURE 2

RELEASE OUTCOME RATES BY RELEASE TYPE

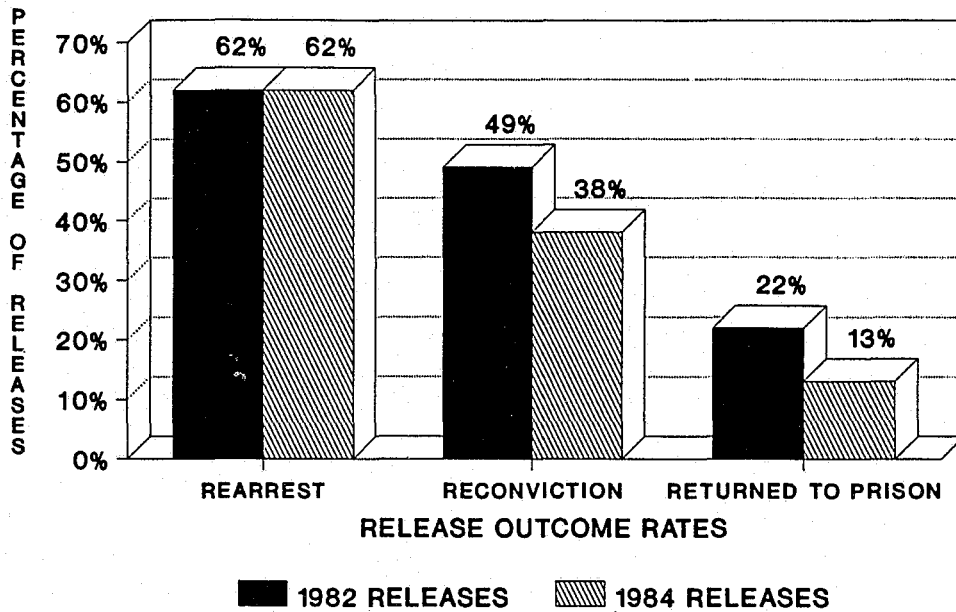


COMPARISON OF 1982 AND 1984 RELEASE OUTCOME RATES

As illustrated in Figure 3, the rate of rearrest (62%) was identical for offenders released from state prison in 1982 and 1984. However, there was disparity in the rates of reconviction and state prison reincarceration. Offenders released from state prison in 1982 had a greater likelihood of both reconviction and state prison reincarceration. Forty-nine percent (49%) of the 1982 release cohort were reconvicted, compared to 38% of the offenders released in 1984. Twenty-two percent of the 1982 release cohort were returned to state prison, compared to 13% for offenders released in 1984. Since the rearrest rates were identical for 1982 and 1984 releasees, disparity in the rates of reconviction and state prison reincarceration may be attributed to missing OBTS/CCH disposition data.

FIGURE 3

**COMPARISON OF RELEASE OUTCOME RATES
1982 & 1984**



ARREST FOLLOWING RELEASE

Sixty-two percent (62%) or 2,249 of the 3,634 offenders released in 1984 were rearrested within three years following release from prison. The longer a releasee can go without arrest, the lesser the likelihood of arrest. Rearrest rates were highest in the first year following release. Approximately four of every ten released offenders were rearrested in the first year (Table 2). Of all those who were rearrested during the three year follow-up period, 66% were rearrested within the first year of release.

TABLE 2

REARREST RATES BY TIME AFTER RELEASE

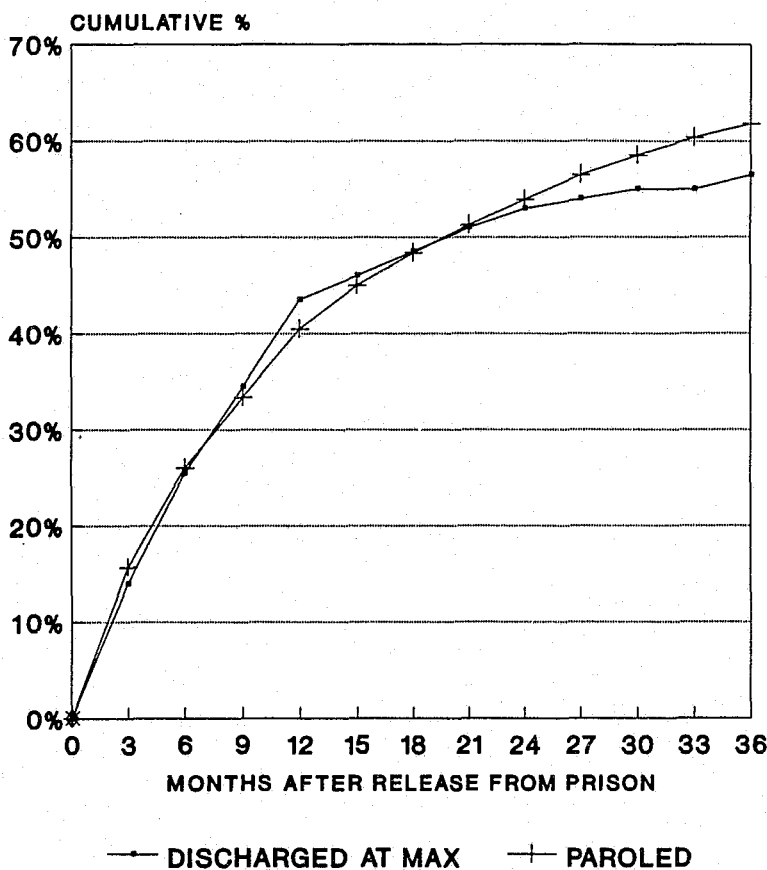
MONTHS AFTER RELEASE	% REARRESTED	CUMULATIVE % REARRESTED
3 mths	15.8%	15.8%
6 mths	10.4%	26.2%
9 mths	7.6%	33.8%
12 mths	7.2%	41.0%
15 mths	4.0%	45.0%
18 mths	3.7%	48.7%
21 mths	3.0%	51.7%
24 mths	2.6%	54.3%
27 mths	2.5%	56.8%
30 mths	1.2%	58.0%
33 mths	2.6%	60.6%
36 mths	1.3%	61.9%

-> 66% of all rearrests

As illustrated in Figure 4, during the third year following release, the rearrest rate for parolees was slightly higher than that for offenders who had completed their sentence.

FIGURE 4

CUMULATIVE % OF RELEASEES REARRESTED BY TYPE OF RELEASE



As recorded in the CCH database, 2,249 rearrestees were responsible for 5,878 arrest events, with an average of 2.6 arrests per offender (Table 3). A small percentage of offenders accounted for a disproportionate percentage of the arrest events. Almost half of all arrest events (2,865) were committed by only 23% of the offenders (517). This finding is corroborated by research in other jurisdictions.

TABLE 3**REARRESTS WITHIN THREE YEARS
FOLLOWING RELEASE FROM PRISON**

NUMBER OF ARRESTS	NUMBER OF REARRESTED	TOTAL NUMBER OF ARREST EVENTS
1	831	831
2	521	1,042
3	380	1,140
4	198	792
5	123	615
6	77	462
7	43	301
8	30 23%	240 49%
9	26	234
10	7	70
11	7	77
12	4	48
13	2	26
TOTAL	2,249	5,878
NUMBER OF REARRESTS (MEAN): 2.6		

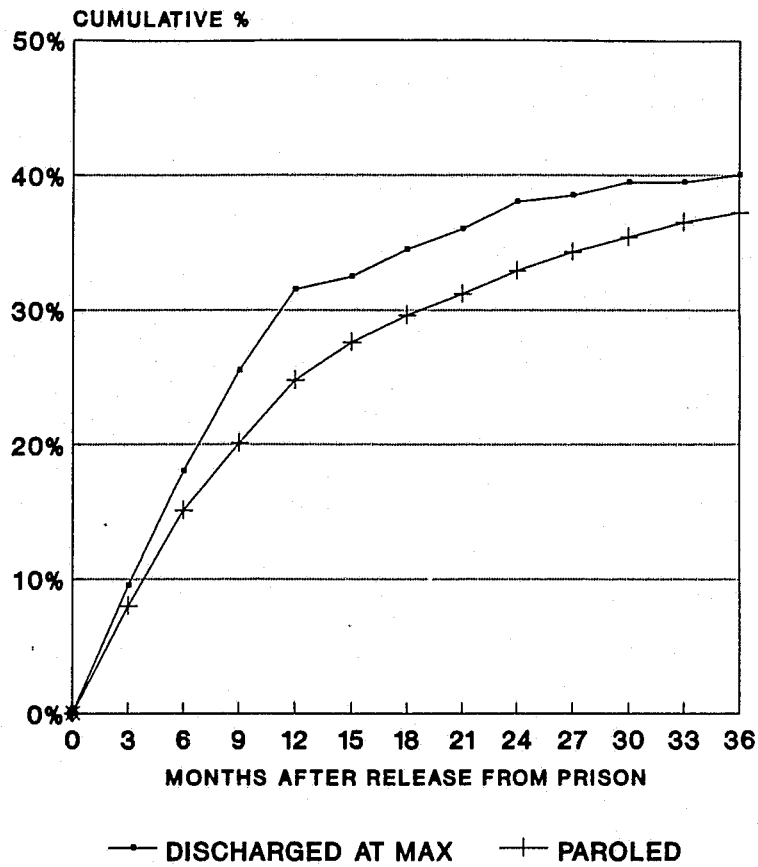
CONVICTION FOLLOWING RELEASE

Six out of ten offenders arrested after release from prison were convicted for new offenses * committed during the three year follow-up period. Sixty-three percent (63%) of the offenders who were convicted for new offenses were reincarcerated (prison or jail). As indicated in Figure 5, offenders who were discharged at the expiration of the maximum term had a greater likelihood of reconviction - 40% for the max cases, compared to 37% for offenders under parole supervision. During the first year following release from prison, offenders who had completed their sentence had a reconviction rate of 31%, compared to 25% for parolees.

*NOTE: The term "offense", as used above and in the following pages, refers to both indictable and non-indictable (disorderly persons) offenses.

FIGURE 5

**CUMULATIVE % OF RELEASEES RECONVICTED
BY TYPE OF RELEASE**



INCARCERATION FOLLOWING RELEASE

Almost one out of four offenders released from prison in 1984 were incarcerated in state prison or county jail for new crimes committed during the three year follow-up period. Fifty-three percent (53%) of the offenders who were reincarcerated (459) received state prison sentences. The average sentence received for this group was seven years, while the most frequent sentence was five years (Table 4). Approximately one in five offenders returned to state prison received a sentence of ten years or more.

TABLE 4

**OFFENDERS REINCARCERATED
BY LENGTH OF PRISON SENTENCE**

TERM	#	%
Indeterminate	27	6%
Less than 3 yrs	38	8%
3 yrs	54	12%
4 yrs	65	14%
5 yrs	121	26%
6 yrs	10	2%
7 yrs	33	7%
8 yrs	9	2%
9 yrs	3	1%
10 yrs	46	10%
11 - 15 yrs	29	6%
16 - 20 yrs	10	2%
20+ yrs	14	3%
TOTAL	459	100%

Forty-six percent (46%) of the offenders who were reincarcerated (402) received county jail sentences. The average county jail sentence was four months (Table 5). Over half (56%) of the offenders who were sentenced to county jail received sentences of three months or less.

TABLE 5

**OFFENDERS REINCARCERATED
BY LENGTH OF COUNTY JAIL SENTENCE**

TERM	#	%
Less than 1 mth	63	16%
1 - 3 mths	161	40%
4 - 6 mths	107	27%
7 - 9 mths	19	5%
10 - 12 mths	52	13%
TOTAL	402	100%

RELEASE OUTCOME BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

SEX

Male offenders released from prison in 1984 had higher rates of rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration than female offenders (Table 6). The greatest difference was found in the rate of rearrest - 62% for males compared to 55% for females.

RACE/ETHNICITY

Black offenders were more likely to be rearrested, reconvicted and reincarcerated than White or Hispanic offenders. Black offenders had a post-release arrest rate of 68%, compared to a rearrest rate of 54% for White offenders and 53% for Hispanic offenders. Similarly, reconviction and reincarceration rates were higher for Black offenders - 42% reconvicted and 26% reincarcerated. The rates of reconviction and reincarceration for White offenders were 33% and 20%, compared to 34% and 23% for Hispanic offenders.

TABLE 6

**RELEASE OUTCOME RATES – 1984 RELEASES
BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS**

	PERCENT OF ALL RELEASES	PERCENT OF RELEASEES WHO WITHIN 3 YRS WERE:		
		REARRESTED	RECONVICED	REINCARCERATED
ALL RELEASES	100%	62%	38%	24%
SEX:				
Male	95%	62%	38%	24%
Female	5%	55%	37%	21%
RACE/ETHNICITY:				
Black	56%	68%	42%	26%
White	31%	54%	33%	20%
Hispanic	14%	53%	34%	23%
Other	< 1%	33%	0%	0%
Uncoded	< 1%	0%	0%	0%
AGE AT RELEASE:				
18 – 24	31%	70%	44%	26%
25 – 29	29%	64%	41%	26%
30 – 34	20%	60%	37%	25%
35 – 39	10%	54%	30%	21%
40+	10%	41%	22%	13%
TIME SERVED IN PRISON:				
Less than 7 mths*	9%	60%	42%	29%
7 – 12 mths	33%	62%	39%	23%
13 – 18 mths	21%	62%	37%	25%
19 – 24 mths	12%	67%	39%	22%
25 – 30 mths	7%	67%	41%	25%
31 – 36 mths	5%	59%	29%	20%
37 – 60 mths	9%	59%	38%	27%
61+ mths	4%	57%	28%	15%

* Includes parole violators

AGE AT RELEASE

Release outcome rates were inversely related to an offender's age at time of release from prison (Figure 6). Not only did older offenders have the lowest rates of rearrest, the average time to rearrest was also longer. Offenders in the 18 to 24 year old category had a post-release arrest rate of 70% and an average of 11 months to rearrest, compared to a rearrest rate of 41% and an average of 14 months to rearrest for offenders age 40 and older (Table 7). The average time to rearrest for all age categories was 12 months. The average age at release for all offenders released in 1984 was 29, compared to 28 for releasees arrested within the three year follow-up period.

FIGURE 6

**CUMULATIVE % REARRESTED WITHIN 3 YRS
BY AGE AT RELEASE**

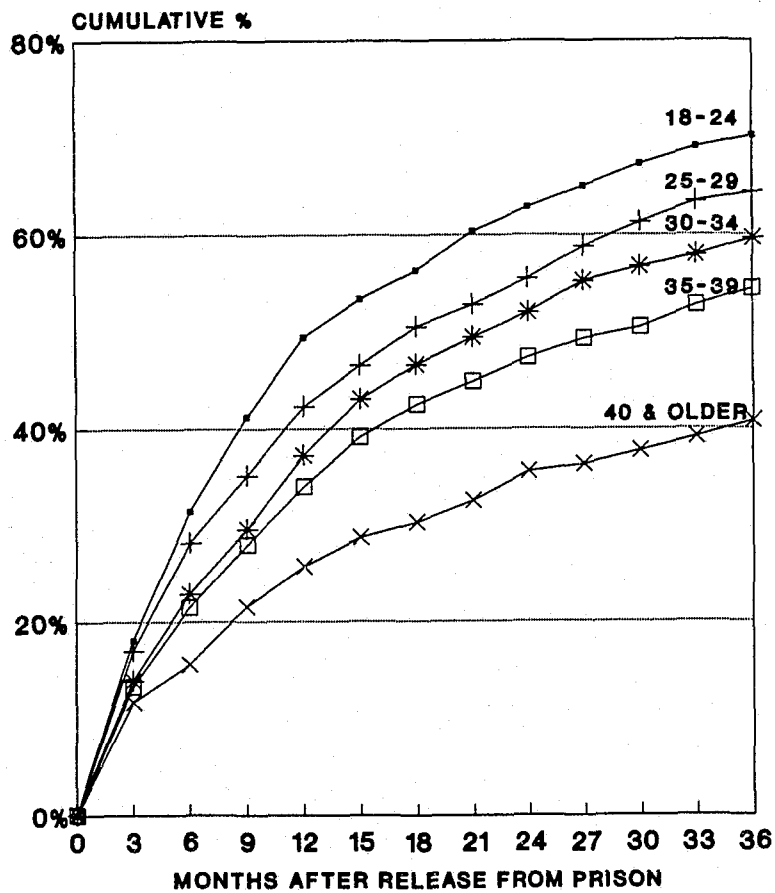


TABLE 7**POST-RELEASE ARRESTS BY AGE AT RELEASE**

AGE AT RELEASE	NUMBER RELEASED	NUMBER REARRESTED	PERCENT REARRESTED	TIME TO REARREST (MEAN)
18-24	1,139	800	70%	11 mths
25-29	1,047	674	64%	12 mths
30-34	725	432	60%	12 mths
35-39	353	192	54%	13 mths
40+	370	151	41%	14 mths
TOTAL	3,634	2,249	62%	12 mths

TIME SERVED IN PRISON

With the exception of offenders who had served over five years in prison, there appeared to be no discernible pattern regarding the impact of time served in prison on release outcome. Offenders who had served the longest time in prison (over five years) had the lowest rates of rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration (Table 6). A research study conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics entitled, Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1983 supports this finding. In the BJS study, offenders who had served over five years in prison were less likely to be rearrested during the three year follow-up period; however, also in the BJS report, no correlation was found between time served in prison and release outcome. The average time served in prison for both offenders released in 1984 and those rearrested was 21 months.

MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE AT TIME OF RELEASE

Offenders released for property offenses and public policy offenses had the highest rates of rearrest, reconviction and reincarceration (Table 8). The rearrest rate was 68% for both property and public policy offenders, compared to 58% for violent offenders. Violent offenders were also less likely to be rearrested, reconvicted or reincarcerated. Offenders who had served time for escape exhibited the highest failure rates of any type of offender - 83% rearrested, 65% reconvicted and 39% reincarcerated. It should be noted, however, that offenders who served time for escape

comprised only .6% of the total releases in 1984. Therefore, caution should be exercised when making inferences concerning this data. Offenders who had served time for sexual assault had the lowest rate of rearrest (39%), while offenders released for murder/manslaughter had the lowest rates of reconviction (21%) and reincarceration (10%).

TABLE 8

**RELEASE OUTCOME RATES – 1984 RELEASES
BY MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE AT RELEASE**

	PERCENT OF	PERCENT OF RELEASEES WHO WITHIN 3 YRS WERE:		
	ALL RELEASES	REARRESTED	RECONVICTED	REINCARCERATED
ALL RELEASES	100%	62%	38%	24%
MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE AT RELEASE:				
VIOLENT OFFENSES:				
Murder/Manslaughter	4%	44%	21%	10%
Sexual Assault	3%	39%	23%	17%
Robbery	19%	64%	36%	23%
Assault	9%	58%	31%	20%
Other Sexual Offenses	1%	52%	32%	19%
Other Persons Offenses	<u>1%</u>	<u>71%</u>	<u>39%</u>	<u>19%</u>
Total Violent Offenses	36%	58%	32%	20%
PROPERTY OFFENSES:				
Burglary	20%	70%	48%	29%
Fraud/Forgery	2%	66%	41%	25%
Larceny/Theft	7%	67%	39%	28%
Stolen Property	4%	68%	41%	28%
Other Property	<u>1%</u>	<u>58%</u>	<u>28%</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total Property Offenses	34%	68%	44%	28%
DRUGS:				
Distribution	9%	59%	38%	22%
Possession	<u>5%</u>	<u>58%</u>	<u>35%</u>	<u>24%</u>
Total Drug Offenses	14%	59%	37%	23%
PUBLIC POLICY OFFENSES:				
Weapons Offenses	3%	61%	42%	29%
Escape	1%	83%	65%	39%
Other Public Policy Offenses	<u>2%</u>	<u>76%</u>	<u>37%</u>	<u>22%</u>
Total Public Policy Offenses	6%	68%	43%	28%
Uncoded Offense	10%	56%	36%	23%

MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE AT TIME OF REARREST

Offenders tended to commit new offenses in the same offense category for which they had served time (Table 9). This finding is corroborated by research conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. For example, those having served time for drug offenses were more likely than any other group of releasees to be rearrested for another drug offense (32%). Following this same pattern, offenders who had served time for sexual assault were more likely than any other group of releasees to be rearrested for sexual assault (8%). This same pattern was observed for offenders who had served time for robbery (7%), assault (11%), burglary (17%) and stolen property (10%).

TABLE 9

REARREST RATES BY MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE AT RELEASE AND REARREST CHARGE

PERCENT OF RELEASEES REARRESTED WITHIN 3 YEARS WHOSE MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE AT RELEASE WAS:										
REARREST CHARGE:	MURDER/ MANSI	SEX ASSAULT	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	BURGLARY	FRAUD/ FORGERY	LARC/ THEFT	STOLEN PROP	DRUGS	PUBLIC POLICY
VIOLENT OFFENSES:	13%	16%	17%	17%	10%	7%	9%	9%	8%	15%
Murder/Mansi	0%	0%	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	2%	0.4%	0%	0%	0%
Sexual Assault	1%	8%	1%	0.3%	0.6%	0%	0.8%	0.7%	1%	1%
Robbery	3%	3%	7%	5%	3%	2%	5%	3%	2%	5%
Assault	9%	5%	9%	11%	6%	3%	4%	5%	5%	8%
PROPERTY OFFENSES:	14%	11%	21%	17%	37%	36%	33%	35%	14%	18%
Burglary	6%	4%	7%	6%	17%	5%	6%	11%	4%	4%
Fraud/Forgery	0%	2%	1%	0.3%	2%	3%	5%	0%	0.8%	3%
Larceny/Theft	6%	5%	9%	7%	14%	20%	16%	14%	7%	6%
Stolen Property	2%	0%	4%	4%	4%	8%	6%	10%	2%	5%
Drugs	10%	6%	17%	14%	14%	11%	12%	13%	32%	15%
Public Policy	0.7%	0%	4%	3%	5%	7%	3%	4%	2%	3%
REARRESTED:										
#	54	36	400	170	480	43	147	87	280	116
%	37%	33%	58%	52%	66%	59%	58%	60%	55%	53%

NOTE: Due to uncoded offense data, rearrest percentages are lower than reported elsewhere in this study.

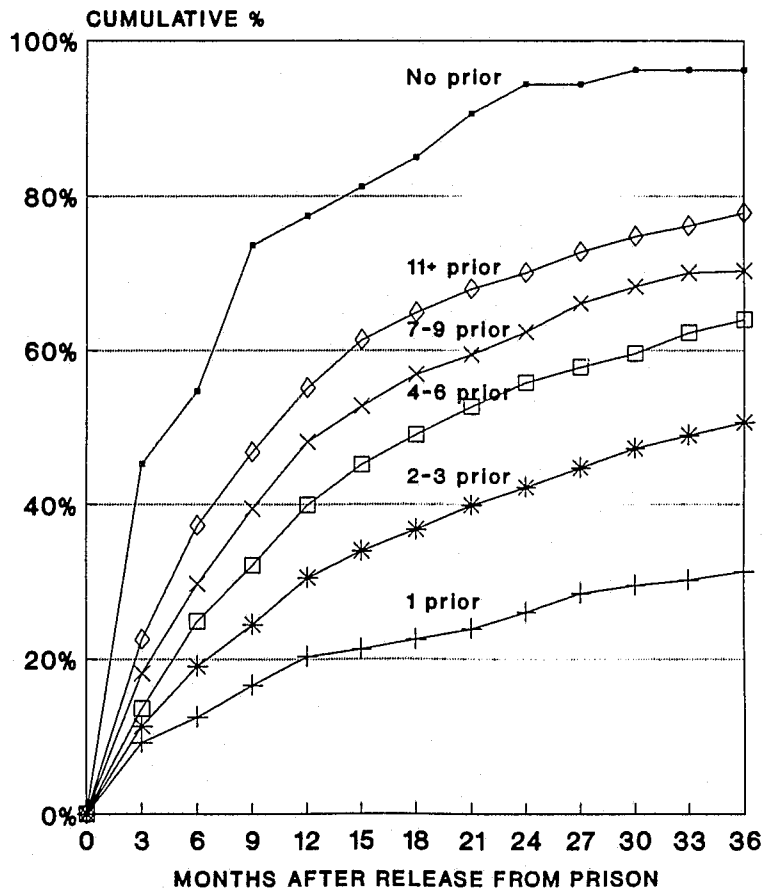
PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD

PRIOR ADULT ARRESTS

With the exception of offenders who had no prior adult arrest, offenders with lengthy criminal histories had the highest rates of rearrest (Figure 7). Eighty-one percent (81%) of the offenders who had 16 or more adult arrests were rearrested during the three year follow-up period, compared to only 31% of the offenders with one prior arrest (Table 10). Not only did offenders with lengthy criminal histories have the highest rates of rearrest, this group exhibited the most rapid failure. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the offenders with 16 or more prior arrests were rearrested within the first year following release from prison. Only 20% of the offenders with 1 prior arrest were rearrested within the first year. The average time to rearrest was 10 months for offenders with 16 or more prior arrests, compared to 14 months for offenders with one prior arrest.

FIGURE 7

**CUMULATIVE % REARRESTED WITHIN 3 YRS
BY NUMBER OF PRIOR ADULT ARRESTS**



As previously indicated, offenders who had no prior history of arrest exhibited the highest rate of failure. Due to the small number of releasees in this category (53), caution should be taken when making inferences concerning this data.

TABLE 10

REARREST RATES BY NUMBER OF PRIOR ADULT ARRESTS

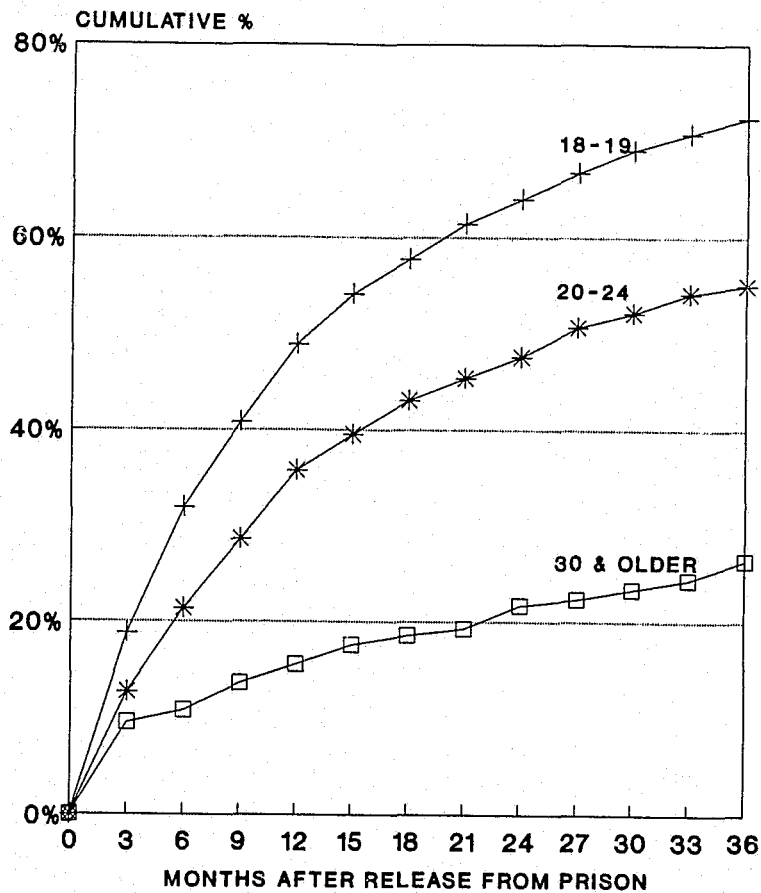
NUMBER OF PRIOR ADULT ARRESTS	PERCENT OF ALL RELEASEES	PERCENT OF RELEASEES WHO WERE REARRESTED:		TIME TO REARREST (MEAN)
		WITHIN 3 YRS	WITHIN 1 YR	
No prior	1%	96%	77%	9 mths
1 prior	13%	31%	20%	14 mths
2 prior	11%	48%	27%	14 mths
3 prior	9%	54%	35%	13 mths
4 prior	10%	63%	38%	13 mths
5 prior	9%	63%	40%	12 mths
6 prior	8%	67%	43%	12 mths
7-10 prior	19%	70%	48%	11 mths
11-15 prior	12%	75%	52%	11 mths
16 or more	10%	81%	58%	10 mths
TOTAL	100%	62%	41%	12 mths

AGE AT FIRST ADULT ARREST

As was found with age at release from prison, release outcome rates were inversely related to an offender's age at first adult arrest (Figure 8). The younger the age at first adult arrest, the higher the rate of rearrest.

FIGURE 8

**CUMULATIVE % REARRESTED WITHIN 3 YRS
BY AGE AT FIRST ADULT ARREST**



As indicated in Table 11, seventy-two percent (72%) of the offenders who were first arrested between age 18 and 19 were rearrested during the three year follow-up period. This compared to a rearrest rate of only 26% for offenders who were first arrested at age 30 and over.

With the exception of offenders with no prior arrest record, offenders with lengthy criminal histories had the highest rates of rearrest. This pattern was observed for all age categories (Table 11). For offenders released from prison in 1984, the average age at first adult arrest was 21, compared to age 20 for offenders rearrested within the three year follow-up period.

TABLE 11**REARREST RATES BY AGE AT FIRST ADULT ARREST AND NUMBER OF PRIOR ARRESTS**

NUMBER OF ADULT ARRESTS PRIOR TO RELEASE	AGE AT FIRST ADULT ARREST:			
	18-19	20-24	25-29	30+
No prior arrest	100%	94%	100%	100%
1 prior arrest	55%	29%	26%	11%
2-3 prior arrests	63%	45%	28%	24%
4-6 prior arrests	70%	58%	40%	38%
7-10 prior arrests	76%	64%	57%	52%
11+ prior arrests	80%	73%	67%	46%
All Releases	72%	55%	38%	26%

PRIOR VIOLENT ARREST

Almost seven out of ten offenders released from prison in 1984 had been previously arrested for a violent offense (Table 12). Offenders who had a prior arrest for a violent crime had a greater likelihood of rearrest than any other releasees. Sixty-four percent (64%) of released offenders with prior violent arrest were rearrested within the three year follow-up period. When compared to other offenders, property offenders who had a prior violent arrest had a greater likelihood of rearrest (77% rearrested).

TABLE 12**REARREST RATES BY MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE AT RELEASE AND PRIOR HISTORY**

PRIOR HISTORY:	ALL 1984 RELEASEES	ALL OFFENSES	PERCENT OF RELEASEES WHO WERE REARRESTED WITHIN 3 YRS BY MSO AT RELEASE:			
			VIOLENT	PROPERTY	DRUGS	PUBLIC POLICY
ALL RELEASES	100%	62%	58%	68%	59%	68%
PRIOR VIOLENT ARREST:						
Yes	69%	64%	57%	77%	71%	67%
No	31%	57%	48%	62%	47%	47%
PRIOR DRUG (POSSESS) ARREST:						
Yes	50%	68%	70%	76%	59%	70%
No	50%	56%	53%	64%	53%	48%
PRIOR DRUG (DISTRIB) ARREST:						
Yes	23%	65%	76%	77%	68%	73%
No	77%	61%	57%	69%	57%	55%

PRIOR DRUG POSSESSION ARREST

Half of all released offenders had a prior arrest for drug possession. For every offense category, offenders with a prior arrest for drug possession had higher rates of rearrest (Table 12). Following the same pattern as property offenders with a prior violent arrest, property offenders with a prior drug possession arrest had the highest rate of rearrest (76%).

PRIOR DRUG DISTRIBUTION ARREST

Almost one in four offenders released from prison in 1984 had a prior arrest for drug distribution (Table 12). Again, when compared to other releasees, offenders with a prior drug distribution arrest had a greater likelihood of rearrest. Following the same pattern that was observed for property offenders, property offenders with a prior drug distribution arrest had the highest rate of rearrest (77%).

CONCLUSION

Despite differences in methodologies, release year and parolee characteristics, the release outcome rates found in this study appear to be within the range of those found in other jurisdictions. A study conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1983, found that in 11 states, 62.5% of those released from state prison in 1983 were rearrested within three years following release. This is virtually the same rearrest rate that was found in the current New Jersey study. Conviction and incarceration rates were higher in the BJS study, 46.8% and 41.4% respectively, compared to 38% reconvicted and 24% reincarcerated in the New Jersey study.