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**ABSCONDERS AND PAROLEES FROM WORK RELEASE**

1988-1992

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149206



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Governor



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## **ABSCONDERS AND PAROLEES FROM WORK RELEASE**

**1988 - 1992**

**This report presents a five year overview of absconders and parolees from DOCS long term release facilities. During this five year period, participation in long term release increased by 220%, while the proportion of participants paroled from long term release facilities rose 190%. Growth in the absconder population was the greatest, increasing by 494%. Contained in this report is selected information concerning the demographic and legal histories of absconders and parolees.**

**DIVISION OF PROGRAM PLANNING, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION**

**1993**

Table of Contents

Table of Contents . . . . . i

Summary . . . . . ii

Introduction . . . . . 1-2

1. Abscondence and Parole Rates . . . . . 3-5

2. Crime Category . . . . . 6

3. Minimum Sentence . . . . . 7

4. Prior Criminal Record . . . . . 8

5. Initial Security Classification . . . . . 9

6. Time Served Before Program Entrance . . . . . 10

7. Gender . . . . . 11

8. Age at Release . . . . . 12

9. Race/Ethnic Status . . . . . 13

10. Region of Birth . . . . . 14

11. Dominant Language . . . . . 15

12. Marital Status . . . . . 16

13. Children . . . . . 17

14. Veterans Status . . . . . 18

15. Self-Reported Drug Use . . . . . 19

16. MAST Score . . . . . 20

Conclusion . . . . . 21

Notes . . . . . 22

**LONG TERM RELEASE ABSCONDERS AND PAROLEES****SUMMARY**

1. Participation in work release increased from 4,702 inmates in 1988 to 15,028 inmates in 1992, or by 220%. Growth in the proportion of inmates paroled from work release facilities was slightly smaller, rising 190%, from 1,650 parolees in 1988 to 4,794 parolees in 1992. Growth in the absconder population far outstripped that for work release participants and parolees, increasing by 1,832 inmates during the five year period, or by 494% (see Tables 1 and 2, pp.4-5).
2. The abscondence rate rose from a low of 7.9 absconders per hundred participants in 1988 to a high of 16.9 in 1991, falling to 14.6 absconders per hundred participants in 1992 (see Table 1, p.4).
3. Over half (56%) of all absconders were committed to DOCS for drug offenses, while slightly less than half (47%) of the parolees were (see Table 3, p.6).
4. Just under 60% of all absconders had served a prior jail or prison sentence compared with roughly 43% of parolees. Conversely, a larger proportion (26%) of parolees had no prior arrests or convictions than did absconders (16%). Almost 31% of parolees had a criminal conviction that did not result in jail time in comparison to 25% of absconders (see Table 5, p.8).
5. In both 1991 and 1992, parolees served longer in general confinement facilities than did absconders. This is particularly true of 1992, where, on average, parolees spent an additional 5.2 months in general confinement (see Table 7, p.10).
6. Absconders were slightly more likely than parolees to have never married (see Table 13, p.16).
7. Twenty-nine percent of all absconders and parolees reported using cocaine prior to incarceration. Proportionally, more absconders than parolees used crack or opiates (see Table 16, p.19).
8. In each release year, the majority of absconders and parolees scored in the non-alcoholic category of the Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (see Table 17, p.20).

## INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) Division of Temporary Release administers a variety of programs designed to ease the transition of inmates into the community prior to their release. These programs are operated at a number of long term release facilities.

In the past, almost all inmates assigned to these facilities were on work release with a few inmates participating in educational release. Inmates participating in work release were absent from correctional facilities for the length of their working day, plus necessary travel time. Many work release inmates were also granted weekend furloughs with family members.

In an effort to ease overcrowding in general confinement facilities, the Department began altering the work release program in 1990. The Department's first initiative was to increase the number of inmates in work release by shortening the time the inmates spent in correctional facilities. Successful work release participants were required to stay only three or four nights at facilities, and on the nights they were living home, other inmates used the facility's beds.

The day reporting program, started in December 1990, further expanded participation in work release, by permitting eligible inmates to live at home but requiring that they report to designated correctional facilities for counseling and drug testing.<sup>1</sup>

In 1991, the Department began contracting with a number of non-profit organizations to establish residential drug treatment housing for inmates graduating from drug and alcohol programs operated at specialized correctional facilities. Inmates living in these residential treatment centers are still in the custody of DOCS and are assigned a correctional facility for accountability purposes.

All inmates in the long term release program, whether it be educational leave, industrial training leave, community service leave, traditional work release, day reporting or residential treatment, must meet applicable eligibility guidelines and must follow all program rules and regulations. Participants failing to report to assigned correctional facilities or residential treatment centers at agreed upon times are subject to arrest for abscondence. If the inmate returns voluntarily within ten hours, the inmate may be declared a late return rather than an absconder. After ten hours, the inmate is declared an absconder and a warrant is issued for his or her arrest.

The focus of this report is absconders from the long term release component of Temporary Release. Since the majority of inmates assigned to long term release facilities are participants in the work release program, the term work release as used in this report, includes all long term release participants. By way of comparison to the larger work release population, data on parolees from the program are also presented. This report covers all absconders and parolees from the long term release program for the years 1988 through 1992.

## ABSCONDENCE AND PAROLE RATES<sup>2</sup>

Yearly participant, absconder and parolee figures for each work release facility are displayed in Tables 1 and 2. Work release facilities are grouped by location and gender of the inmate served. All downstate male facilities are located in New York City. In the upstate male category, Buffalo and Rochester are located in large urban centers, while the remaining facilities are situated in rural areas or small cities.

Participation in work release increased from 4,702 inmates in 1988 to 15,028 inmates in 1992, or by 220%. Growth in the proportion of inmates paroled from work release facilities was slightly smaller, rising 190%, from 1,650 parolees in 1988 to 4,794 parolees in 1992. Growth in the absconder population far outstripped that for work release participants and parolees, increasing by 1,832 inmates during the five year period, or by 494%.

The abscondence rate rose from a low of 7.9 absconders per hundred participants in 1988 to a high of 16.9 in 1991, falling to 14.6 absconders per hundred participants in 1992 (see Table 1, p.4). Yearly abscondence rates were highest in the downstate male category and lowest in the upstate male category.

In contrast to the abscondence rate pattern, parole rates generally declined during the five year period, especially in the upstate male and the female facility categories (see Table 2, p.5).

Table 1. Participants, Absconders and Abscondence Rates by Release Facility  
1988-1992

Facility	1988			1989			1990			1991			1992		
	Participant	Absconder	Rate	Participant	Absconder	Rate	Participant	Absconder	Rate	Participant	Absconder	Rate	Participant	Absconder	Rate
<b>Downstate Male</b>															
Edgecombe	1,162	152	13.1	1,167	157	13.4	1,541	196	12.7	1,861	364	19.6	2,769	485	17.5
Fulton	1,141	90	7.9	1,164	97	8.3	1,567	171	10.9	1,687	325	19.3	2,527	395	15.6
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	623	83	13.3	1,456	384	26.4	2,125	426	20.1
Queensboro	1,667	114	6.8	2,373	288	12.1	3,184	304	9.5	2,973	519	17.4	4,533	721	15.9
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,970</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>4,704</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>6,915</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>7,977</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>11,954</b>	<b>2,027</b>	<b>17.0</b>
<b>Upstate Male</b>															
Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	268	21	7.8
Fishkill	104	2	1.9	103	0	0	130	0	0	158	1	0.6	192	5	2.6
Hudson	140	1	0.7	114	1	0.9	176	0	0	271	7	2.6	365	11	3.0
Mt. McGregor	141	1	0.7	179	2	1.1	177	1	0.6	155	2	1.3	158	2	1.3
Orleans	0	0	0	0	0	0	162	0	0	255	2	0.8	160	2	1.2
Rochester	162	1	0.6	140	0	0	286	7	2.4	528	16	3.0	615	37	6.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>Female</b>															
Albion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	307	1	0.3
Bayview	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	0	295	50	16.9	615	42	6.8
Parkside	185	10	5.4	157	2	1.3	279	3	1.1	399	26	6.5	394	55	14.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>7.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,702</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>5,397</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>8,183</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>10,038</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>15,028</b>	<b>2,203</b>	<b>14.6</b>



Table 2. Participants, Parolees and Parole Rates by Release Facility  
1988-1992

Facility	1988			1989			1990			1991			1992		
	Participant	Parolee	Rate	Participant	Parolee	Rate	Participant	Parolee	Rate	Participant	Parolee	Rate	Participant	Parolee	Rate
<b>Downstate Male</b>															
Edgecombe	1,162	440	37.9	1,167	383	32.8	1,541	515	33.4	1,861	601	32.3	2,769	841	30.4
Fulton	1,141	412	36.1	1,164	431	37.0	1,567	456	29.1	1,687	500	29.6	2,527	769	30.4
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	623	128	20.5	1,456	436	29.9	2,125	689	32.4
Queensboro	1,567	488	29.3	2,373	696	29.3	3,184	1,005	31.6	2,973	973	32.7	4,533	1,529	33.7
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,970</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>4,704</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>6,815</b>	<b>2,104</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>7,977</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>11,854</b>	<b>3,828</b>	<b>32.0</b>
<b>Upstate Male</b>															
Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	268	44	16.4
Fishkill	104	37	35.6	103	35	34.0	130	45	34.6	158	57	36.1	192	74	38.5
Hudson	140	71	50.1	114	42	36.9	176	58	33.0	271	104	38.4	365	116	31.8
Mt. McGregor	141	43	30.5	179	57	31.8	177	58	32.8	155	57	36.8	158	39	24.7
Orleans	0	0	0	0	0	0	162	65	40.1	255	85	33.3	160	30	18.8
Rochester	162	79	48.8	140	60	42.8	286	107	37.4	528	186	35.2	615	296	48.1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>34.1</b>
<b>Female</b>															
Albion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	307	37	12.0
Bayview	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	0	295	77	26.1	615	78	12.7
Parkside	185	80	43.2	157	71	45.2	279	116	41.6	399	194	48.6	394	252	64.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>27.9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,702</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>5,397</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>8,183</b>	<b>2,553</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>10,038</b>	<b>3,270</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>15,028</b>	<b>4,794</b>	<b>31.9</b>

### CRIME CATEGORY

Over half (56%) of all absconders were committed to DOCS for drug offenses, while slightly less than half (47%) of the parolees were (see Table 3).<sup>3</sup> Proportionally, more parolees were committed for violent/coercive offenses (38%) than were absconders (31%). Regardless of release type, there was a movement away from commitments for violent/coercive offenses and toward drug offenses.

TABLE 3. CRIME CATEGORY BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1988 TO 1992

CRIME CATEGORY	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
VIOLENT/COERCIVE	177 47.7%	1718 52.4%	193 35.3%	1382 42.3%	213 27.8%	1152 34.7%	460 27.1%	938 28.7%	691 31.4%	1667 34.8%	1734 31.1%	6857 38.2%
DRUG OFFENSES	153 41.2%	1049 32.0%	281 51.4%	1408 43.1%	443 57.9%	1696 51.1%	1034 61.0%	1912 58.5%	1202 54.6%	2432 50.7%	3113 55.8%	8497 47.4%
PROPERTY AND OTHER	40 10.8%	463 14.1%	65 11.9%	436 13.3%	100 13.1%	401 12.1%	192 11.3%	388 11.9%	290 13.2%	615 12.8%	687 12.3%	2303 12.8%
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER	1 .3%	50 1.5%	8 1.5%	42 1.3%	9 1.2%	72 2.2%	10 .6%	32 1.0%	20 .9%	80 1.7%	48 .9%	276 1.5%
TOTAL	371 100.0%	3280 100.0%	547 100.0%	3268 100.0%	765 100.0%	3321 100.0%	1696 100.0%	3270 100.0%	2203 100.0%	4794 100.0%	5582 100.0%	17933 100.0%

## MINIMUM SENTENCE

During each year of the five year period, the median minimum sentence for both absconders and parolees was 24.0 months (see Table 4). Average minimum sentences ranged from a low of 26.1 months to a high of 30.1 months, with parolees generally receiving slightly longer minimum sentences (0.9 months, on average).

TABLE 4. MINIMUM SENTENCE BY RELEASE YEAR  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1988 TO 1992

MINIMUM SENTENCE	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
12-17 MONTHS	63 17.0%	604 18.4%	114 20.8%	629 19.2%	140 18.3%	738 22.2%	163 9.6%	676 20.7%	278 12.6%	889 18.5%	758 13.6%	3536 19.7%
18-23 MONTHS	64 17.3%	672 20.5%	86 15.7%	672 20.6%	167 21.8%	679 20.4%	245 14.4%	574 17.6%	449 20.4%	956 19.9%	1011 18.1%	3553 19.8%
24-35 MONTHS	122 32.9%	930 28.4%	202 36.9%	1025 31.4%	270 35.3%	1043 31.4%	732 43.2%	1115 34.1%	952 43.2%	1641 34.2%	2278 40.8%	5754 32.1%
36-47 MONTHS	65 17.5%	484 14.8%	79 14.4%	477 14.6%	110 14.4%	457 13.8%	361 21.3%	459 14.0%	336 15.3%	682 14.2%	951 17.0%	2559 14.3%
48-71 MONTHS	48 12.9%	399 12.2%	57 10.4%	326 10.0%	65 8.5%	283 8.5%	158 9.3%	303 9.3%	141 6.4%	392 8.2%	469 8.4%	1703 9.5%
72-119 MONTHS	8 2.2%	167 5.1%	7 1.3%	119 3.6%	12 1.6%	107 3.2%	34 2.0%	118 3.6%	43 2.0%	194 4.0%	104 1.9%	705 3.9%
120-179 MONTHS	0 .0%	11 .3%	0 .0%	8 .2%	0 .0%	3 .1%	2 .1%	12 .4%	3 .1%	10 .2%	5 .1%	44 .2%
180-239 MONTHS	1 .3%	12 .4%	2 .4%	12 .4%	1 .1%	9 .3%	1 .1%	10 .3%	1 .0%	27 .6%	6 .1%	70 .4%
240 + MONTHS	0 .0%	1 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	2 .1%	0 .0%	3 .1%	0 .0%	3 .1%	0 .0%	9 .1%
TOTAL	371 100.0%	3280 100.0%	547 100.0%	3268 100.0%	765 100.0%	3321 100.0%	1696 100.0%	3270 100.0%	2203 100.0%	4794 100.0%	5582 100.0%	17933 100.0%
AVERAGE	28.6	30.1	26.8	28.4	26.1	27.0	29.4	28.4	27.1	28.7	27.7	28.6
MEDIAN	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0

## PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD

The most serious prior adult criminal record for the two study populations is displayed in Table 5. Examination of the grand total column reveals a correlation between prior involvement in the criminal justice system and release status, with absconders more likely to have experienced greater criminal sanctions than parolees.

For example, almost 59% of all absconders had served a prior jail or prison sentence compared with roughly 43% of parolees. Conversely, a larger proportion (26%) of parolees had no prior arrests or convictions than did absconders (16%). Almost 31% of parolees had a criminal conviction that did not result in jail time in comparison to 25% of absconders.

From 1988 to 1992, there was growth in both the prior jail and prison term categories for both groups. In 1988, 29% of absconders and 21% of parolees had served prior jail terms. By 1992, these proportions had risen to 39% and 29%, respectively. For both groups, but more particularly for absconders, growth in the prior prison term category increased the most in the 1991 and 1992 release years.

TABLE 5. PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1988 TO 1992

PRIOR RECORD	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
NO PRIOR ARREST	35 9.5%	447 13.8%	45 8.2%	422 13.0%	47 6.1%	458 13.8%	92 5.4%	442 13.6%	159 7.2%	631 13.2%	378 6.8%	2400 13.5%
NO PRIOR CONVICTION	55 14.9%	518 16.0%	76 13.9%	418 12.9%	92 12.0%	390 11.8%	112 6.6%	363 11.1%	178 8.1%	501 10.5%	513 9.2%	2190 12.3%
CONVICTN NO JAIL	140 37.9%	1090 33.8%	167 30.5%	1088 33.5%	229 29.9%	1081 32.7%	406 24.0%	1013 31.1%	460 20.9%	1246 26.0%	1402 25.1%	5518 30.9%
PRIOR JAIL TERM	196 28.7%	673 20.8%	173 31.6%	825 25.4%	286 37.4%	887 26.8%	664 39.2%	932 28.6%	850 38.6%	1384 28.9%	2079 37.3%	4701 26.4%
PRIOR PRISON TERM	33 8.9%	501 15.5%	86 15.7%	498 15.3%	111 14.5%	491 14.8%	420 24.8%	509 15.6%	555 25.2%	1026 21.4%	1205 21.6%	3025 17.0%
TOTAL	369 100.0%	3229 100.0%	547 100.0%	3251 100.0%	765 100.0%	3307 100.0%	1694 100.0%	3259 100.0%	2202 100.0%	4788 100.0%	5577 100.0%	17834 100.0%

## INITIAL SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

The security classification the inmate received at initial intake appears in Table 6. Irrespective of year, most absconders and parolees were originally classified as minimum security, followed by medium A and then medium B. Over time, there was a steady increase in the percentage of absconders initially classified as medium A and a decline in the percentage classified as medium B or minimum.

TABLE 6. INITIAL SECURITY CLASSIFICATION BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1989 TO 1992

INITIAL SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
MAX A	8 1.7%	86 3.1%	16 2.2%	77 2.6%	30 1.8%	69 2.2%	44 2.0%	154 3.3%	98 1.9%	386 2.8%
MAX B	22 4.7%	178 6.3%	18 2.5%	109 3.6%	68 4.1%	118 3.8%	58 2.7%	211 4.5%	166 3.3%	616 4.5%
MED A	120 25.7%	845 30.1%	218 30.2%	933 30.9%	576 34.5%	887 28.4%	878 40.3%	1670 35.5%	1792 35.6%	4335 31.8%
MED B	95 20.3%	619 22.1%	117 16.2%	508 16.8%	281 16.8%	502 16.1%	295 13.5%	659 14.0%	788 15.6%	2288 16.8%
MIN	222 47.5%	1076 38.4%	352 48.8%	1389 46.1%	714 42.8%	1542 49.5%	904 41.5%	2004 42.7%	2192 43.5%	6011 44.1%
TOTAL	467 100.0%	2804 100.0%	721 100.0%	3016 100.0%	1669 100.0%	3118 100.0%	2179 100.0%	4698 100.0%	5036 100.0%	13636 100.0%

### TIME SERVED BEFORE PROGRAM ENTRANCE

Table 7 indicates the length of time absconders and parolees spent in general confinement facilities before transfer to work release. The time calculation variable necessary to produce this table was not available until 1991, and even then, was not complete for absconders.

In both 1991 and 1992, parolees served longer in general confinement facilities than did absconders. This is particularly true of 1992, where, on average, parolees spent an additional 5.2 months in general confinement (average time served for parolees was 19.7 months versus 14.5 months for absconders). Looking at median time served, the distance between the two groups was not as great, with parolees spending 14.3 months in general confinement before transfer to work release, while absconders spent 12.0 months.

TABLE 7. TIME SERVED BEFORE PROGRAM ENTRANCE BY RELEASE YEAR  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1991 TO 1992

TIME SERVED	1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
0-5 MONTHS	73 11.8%	320 9.9%	325 14.8%	483 10.1%	398 14.1%	803 10.0%
6-11 MONTHS	210 33.9%	1048 32.3%	763 34.7%	1389 29.0%	973 34.5%	2437 30.3%
12-17 MONTHS	176 28.4%	792 24.4%	606 27.5%	1175 24.5%	782 27.7%	1967 24.5%
18-23 MONTHS	80 12.9%	385 11.9%	242 11.0%	604 12.6%	322 11.4%	989 12.3%
24-29 MONTHS	35 5.6%	233 7.2%	115 5.2%	398 8.5%	150 5.3%	631 7.8%
30-35 MONTHS	24 3.9%	131 4.0%	65 3.0%	213 4.4%	89 3.2%	344 4.3%
36-41 MONTHS	8 1.3%	92 2.8%	27 1.2%	129 2.7%	35 1.2%	221 2.7%
42-47 MONTHS	7 1.1%	62 1.9%	20 .9%	110 2.3%	27 1.0%	172 2.1%
48-59 MONTHS	1 .2%	73 2.2%	16 .7%	121 2.5%	17 .6%	194 2.4%
60-71 MONTHS	3 .5%	46 1.4%	10 .5%	68 1.4%	13 .5%	114 1.4%
72-119 MONTHS	3 .5%	52 1.6%	12 .5%	68 1.4%	15 .5%	120 1.5%
120-179 MONTHS	0 .0%	9 .3%	0 .0%	31 .6%	0 .0%	40 .5%
180 + MONTHS	0 .0%	5 .2%	1 .0%	5 .1%	1 .0%	10 .1%
TOTAL	620 100.0%	3248 100.0%	2202 100.0%	4794 100.0%	2822 100.0%	8042 100.0%
AVERAGE	15.2	18.8	14.5	19.7	14.6	19.3
MEDIAN	12.9	13.6	12.0	14.3	12.2	14.0

## GENDER

With the exception of 1988, the proportion of women paroled each year from work release was higher than the percentage which absconded, with the opposite being true for men (see Table 8). The overall contribution of men to the absconder population was 97%, while their membership in the parole group was 95%.

TABLE 8. GENDER BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1988 TO 1992

GENDER	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
MALE	361 97.3%	3200 97.6%	545 99.6%	3197 97.8%	762 99.6%	3205 96.5%	1620 95.5%	2999 91.7%	2105 95.6%	4427 92.3%	5393 96.6%	17028 95.0%
FEMALE	10 2.7%	80 2.4%	2 .4%	71 2.2%	3 .4%	116 3.5%	76 4.5%	271 8.3%	98 4.4%	367 7.7%	189 3.4%	905 5.0%
TOTAL	371 100.0%	3280 100.0%	547 100.0%	3268 100.0%	765 100.0%	3321 100.0%	1696 100.0%	3270 100.0%	2203 100.0%	4794 100.0%	5582 100.0%	17933 100.0%

## AGE AT RELEASE

Across the five year period there was no significant change in the age of the work release participant at abscondence or parole (see Table 9). The overall median age for absconders and parolees was 29, while parolees were, on average, one year older than absconders (average age for parolees was 31 years versus 30 years for absconders).

TABLE 9. AGE AT RELEASE BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1988 TO 1992

AGE AT RELEASE	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
16-18 YEARS	3 .8%	41 1.2%	5 .9%	50 1.5%	15 2.0%	51 1.5%	19 1.1%	24 .7%	44 2.0%	80 1.7%	86 1.5%	246 1.4%
19-20 YEARS	15 4.0%	165 5.0%	23 4.2%	164 5.0%	31 4.1%	194 5.8%	61 3.6%	124 3.8%	93 4.2%	242 5.0%	223 4.0%	889 5.0%
21-24 YEARS	66 17.8%	724 22.1%	102 18.6%	647 19.8%	111 14.5%	526 15.8%	271 16.0%	439 13.4%	445 20.2%	746 15.6%	995 17.8%	3082 17.2%
25-29 YEARS	135 36.4%	922 28.1%	172 31.4%	953 29.2%	242 31.6%	1015 30.6%	544 32.1%	967 29.6%	642 29.1%	1238 25.8%	1735 31.1%	5095 28.4%
30-34 YEARS	75 20.2%	686 20.9%	142 26.0%	695 21.3%	204 26.7%	710 21.4%	447 26.4%	780 23.9%	508 23.1%	1116 23.3%	1376 24.7%	3987 22.2%
35-39 YEARS	47 12.7%	373 11.4%	57 10.4%	356 10.9%	94 12.3%	401 12.1%	208 12.3%	399 12.2%	295 13.4%	662 13.8%	701 12.6%	2191 12.2%
40-44 YEARS	26 7.0%	187 5.7%	30 5.5%	202 6.2%	34 4.4%	232 7.0%	104 6.1%	282 8.6%	115 5.2%	379 7.9%	309 5.5%	1282 7.1%
45-49 YEARS	2 .5%	92 2.8%	9 1.6%	104 3.2%	22 2.9%	106 3.2%	29 1.7%	129 3.9%	40 1.8%	184 3.8%	102 1.8%	615 3.4%
50-54 YEARS	1 .3%	52 1.6%	5 .9%	53 1.6%	11 1.4%	52 1.6%	11 .6%	70 2.1%	19 .9%	79 1.6%	47 .8%	306 1.7%
55-59 YEARS	1 .3%	18 .5%	1 .2%	26 .8%	0 .0%	20 .6%	2 .1%	35 1.1%	1 .0%	39 .8%	5 .1%	136 .8%
60-64 YEARS	0 .0%	14 .4%	1 .2%	10 .3%	0 .0%	8 .2%	0 .0%	18 .6%	1 .0%	22 .5%	2 .0%	72 .4%
65+ YEARS	0 .0%	6 .2%	0 .0%	8 .2%	1 .1%	6 .2%	0 .0%	3 .1%	0 .0%	7 .1%	1 .0%	30 .2%
TOTAL	371 100.0%	3280 100.0%	547 100.0%	3268 100.0%	765 100.0%	3321 100.0%	1696 100.0%	3270 100.0%	2203 100.0%	4794 100.0%	5582 100.0%	17933 100.0%
AVERAGE	29.3	29.8	29.5	30.1	30.0	30.4	29.9	31.6	29.4	31.1	29.6	30.6
MEDIAN	28.0	28.0	29.0	28.0	29.0	29.0	29.0	30.0	28.0	30.0	29.0	29.0



RACE/ETHNIC STATUS<sup>4</sup>

Regardless of year, the proportion of white inmates in parole population is higher than in the absconder population (see Table 10). In contrast, the proportion of Hispanics in the absconder population is consistently higher than in the parole population. Blacks are somewhat more likely to be represented in the absconder population than they are the parole population.

TABLE 10. RACE/ETHNIC STATUS BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1989 TO 1992

RACE/ ETHNIC STATUS	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
WHITE	43 11.6%	614 18.7%	50 9.1%	514 15.7%	70 9.2%	571 17.2%	132 7.8%	637 19.5%	178 8.1%	819 17.1%	473 8.5%	3155 17.6%
BLACK	178 48.0%	1573 48.0%	263 48.1%	1541 47.2%	368 48.1%	1562 47.0%	867 51.2%	1557 47.7%	1142 52.0%	2329 48.7%	2818 50.6%	8562 47.8%
HISPANIC	150 40.4%	1093 33.3%	234 42.8%	1212 37.1%	327 42.7%	1188 35.8%	694 41.0%	1070 32.8%	878 39.9%	1632 34.1%	2283 41.0%	6195 34.6%
TOTAL	371 100.0%	3280 100.0%	547 100.0%	3267 100.0%	765 100.0%	3321 100.0%	1693 100.0%	3264 100.0%	2198 100.0%	4780 100.0%	5574 100.0%	17912 100.0%

## REGION OF BIRTH

The inmate's place of birth is divided into three categories which appear in Table 11. Approximately, 80% of absconders and parolees were born in the United States. Births in U.S. Possessions accounted for another 17% of absconders and 15% of parolees. There was only minor fluctuation in these percentages during the five year period.

TABLE 11. REGION OF BIRTH BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1988 TO 1992

REGION OF BIRTH	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
UNITED STATES	284 76.5%	2586 78.8%	431 78.8%	2574 78.8%	586 76.6%	2684 80.8%	1364 80.4%	2647 81.0%	1723 78.2%	3819 79.7%	4388 78.6%	14310 79.8%
U.S. POSSESSIONS	70 18.9%	498 15.2%	102 18.6%	566 17.3%	148 19.3%	489 14.7%	278 16.4%	459 14.0%	341 15.5%	631 13.2%	939 16.8%	2643 14.7%
OTHER	17 4.6%	196 6.0%	14 2.6%	128 3.9%	31 4.1%	148 4.5%	54 3.2%	163 5.0%	139 6.3%	343 7.2%	255 4.6%	978 5.5%
TOTAL	371 100.0%	3280 100.0%	547 100.0%	3268 100.0%	765 100.0%	3321 100.0%	1696 100.0%	3269 100.0%	2203 100.0%	4793 100.0%	5582 100.0%	17931 100.0%

## DOMINANT LANGUAGE

English is the primary language for the majority of all absconders (88%) and parolees (89%) (see Table 12). The proportion of absconders and parolees who cited Spanish as their dominant language rose slightly from 1988 to 1992, and overall, represented 11% of absconders and 9% of parolees.

TABLE 12. DOMINANT LANGUAGE BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1988 TO 1992

LANGUAGE	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
SPANISH	29 8.5%	246 8.6%	56 11.1%	298 10.2%	88 12.2%	274 9.3%	158 9.5%	281 9.1%	268 12.3%	429 9.1%	599 11.1%	1528 9.2%
ENGLISH	309 90.1%	2552 89.5%	434 85.9%	2589 88.4%	618 85.8%	2631 88.8%	1483 89.3%	2769 89.6%	1904 87.3%	4240 90.2%	4748 87.8%	14781 89.4%
OTHER LANGUAGE	0 .0%	4 .1%	1 .2%	4 .1%	0 .0%	7 .2%	2 .1%	5 .2%	3 .1%	2 .0%	6 .1%	22 .1%
NO PREFERENCE	5 1.5%	48 1.7%	14 2.8%	39 1.3%	14 1.9%	50 1.7%	17 1.0%	36 1.2%	6 .3%	30 .6%	56 1.0%	203 1.2%
TOTAL	343 100.0%	2850 100.0%	505 100.0%	2930 100.0%	720 100.0%	2962 100.0%	1660 100.0%	3091 100.0%	2181 100.0%	4701 100.0%	5409 100.0%	16534 100.0%

## MARITAL STATUS

Irrespective of year, the majority of all absconders and parolees indicated that they had never married (see Table 13). In 1988, 52% of absconders and 53% of parolees fell in this category, but by 1992, the percentage claiming never to have married increased to 68% of the absconders and 60% of the parolees. Whereas a slightly greater proportion of absconders than parolees had never married, the percentage of parolees in the married category was consistently larger.

The proportion of both groups involved in common law relationships declined almost yearly, from approximately 20% in 1988, to about 10% in 1992. There was little change in the percentage distribution of the remaining two categories.

TABLE 13. MARITAL STATUS BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1988 TO 1992

MARITAL STATUS	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
NEVER MARRIED	191 51.6%	1709 53.0%	323 59.0%	1797 55.0%	457 59.7%	1828 55.1%	1021 60.2%	1829 56.1%	1488 67.8%	2875 60.2%	3480 62.5%	10038 56.2%
MARRIED	66 17.8%	630 19.5%	79 14.4%	598 18.3%	112 14.6%	649 19.6%	279 16.5%	682 20.9%	279 12.7%	929 19.5%	815 14.6%	3488 19.5%
COMMON LAW	81 21.9%	654 20.3%	94 17.2%	583 17.8%	136 17.8%	523 15.8%	250 14.7%	403 12.4%	205 9.3%	502 10.5%	766 13.7%	2665 14.9%
SEPARATE/DIVORCE	30 8.1%	219 6.8%	45 8.2%	272 8.3%	56 7.3%	299 9.0%	135 8.0%	329 10.1%	217 9.9%	437 9.2%	483 8.7%	1556 8.7%
WIDOWED	2 .5%	15 .5%	6 1.1%	17 .5%	4 .5%	17 .5%	10 .6%	20 .6%	6 .3%	31 .6%	28 .5%	100 .6%
TOTAL	370 100.0%	3227 100.0%	547 100.0%	3267 100.0%	765 100.0%	3316 100.0%	1695 100.0%	3263 100.0%	2195 100.0%	4774 100.0%	5572 100.0%	17847 100.0%

## CHILDREN

Table 14 displays the number of living children reported by the inmate at initial classification. With the exception of 1988, the proportional breakdown of each group by number of children was fairly similar. Over the five year period, approximately 37% of both groups reported no children; 26%, one child; 18%, two children; 10%, three children and 9%, four or more children.

TABLE 14. NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1988 TO 1992

CHILDREN	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
NONE	114 32.1%	1153 39.7%	200 37.4%	1191 38.7%	280 36.7%	1205 37.2%	596 35.5%	1091 34.1%	837 38.3%	1714 36.3%	2027 36.8%	6354 37.1%
1 CHILD	96 27.0%	745 25.7%	134 25.0%	832 27.0%	208 27.3%	826 25.5%	458 27.3%	833 26.0%	584 26.8%	1173 24.9%	1480 26.8%	4409 25.7%
2 CHILDREN	95 26.8%	499 17.2%	101 18.9%	544 17.7%	145 19.0%	570 17.6%	308 18.3%	612 19.1%	373 17.1%	906 19.2%	1022 18.5%	3131 18.3%
3 CHILDREN	29 8.2%	269 9.3%	45 8.4%	269 8.7%	65 8.5%	339 10.5%	170 10.1%	341 10.6%	217 9.9%	473 10.0%	526 9.5%	1691 9.9%
4 OR MORE	21 5.9%	236 8.1%	55 10.3%	244 7.9%	64 8.4%	296 9.1%	147 8.8%	325 10.1%	172 7.9%	454 9.6%	459 8.3%	1555 9.1%
TOTAL	355 100.0%	2902 100.0%	535 100.0%	3080 100.0%	762 100.0%	3236 100.0%	1679 100.0%	3202 100.0%	2183 100.0%	4720 100.0%	5514 100.0%	17140 100.0%

## VETERANS STATUS

As indicated in Table 15, the proportion of absconders who were veterans declined each year, from a high of 17% in 1988 to a low of 7% in 1992. Among parolees, there was only slight variation in veteran's status. Consequently, the overall average percentage of absconders and parolees claiming veteran's status was similar (9% of absconders and 10% of parolees).

TABLE 15. VETERANS STATUS BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1988 TO 1992

VETERANS STATUS	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
VETERAN	61 16.6%	314 9.6%	65 11.9%	340 10.5%	80 10.5%	317 9.6%	144 8.5%	342 10.5%	161 7.3%	446 9.3%	511 9.2%	1759 9.9%
NON-VETERAN	307 83.4%	2954 90.4%	481 88.1%	2905 89.5%	682 89.5%	2988 90.4%	1543 91.5%	2909 89.5%	2032 92.7%	4325 90.7%	5045 90.8%	16081 90.1%
TOTAL	368 100.0%	3268 100.0%	546 100.0%	3245 100.0%	762 100.0%	3305 100.0%	1687 100.0%	3251 100.0%	2193 100.0%	4771 100.0%	5556 100.0%	17840 100.0%

### SELF-REPORTED DRUG USE

Inmates are asked at initial classification what, if any, drugs were used in the six months prior to their last arrest.<sup>5</sup> The results of this question appear in Table 16. Note that in release year 1988, only a very few inmates stated that they did not use any drugs, but by 1992, this category had grown to include 25% of absconders and 30% of parolees.

Across the five years, cocaine remained the most commonly used drug by both absconders and parolees, although use of it declined. About 38% of the absconders and 37% of the parolees released in 1988 fell in this category, while in release year 1992, only 22% of absconders and 23% of parolees reported cocaine usage. The percentage of absconders and parolees citing crack usage fluctuated from 1988 to 1992, with absconders more likely to use the drug than parolees. Proportionally, absconders were also more likely to use opiates than were parolees (overall, 16% of absconders reported opiates compared with 14% of parolees). About 15% of the absconder and parolee populations reported the use of marijuana.

TABLE 16. SELF-REPORTED DRUG USE BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1988 TO 1992

SELF-REPORTED DRUG USE	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
COCAINE	142 38.3%	1203 36.7%	174 31.8%	1005 30.8%	255 33.3%	950 28.6%	542 32.0%	898 27.5%	492 22.3%	1106 23.1%	1605 28.8%	5162 28.8%
CRACK	61 16.4%	207 6.3%	125 22.9%	402 12.3%	192 25.1%	499 15.0%	301 17.7%	424 13.0%	357 16.2%	516 10.8%	1036 18.6%	2048 11.4%
OPIATES	37 10.0%	330 10.1%	82 15.0%	420 12.9%	114 14.9%	471 14.2%	316 18.6%	517 15.8%	363 16.5%	684 14.3%	912 16.3%	2422 13.5%
MARIJUANA	51 13.7%	542 16.5%	74 13.5%	490 15.0%	97 12.7%	505 15.2%	235 13.9%	466 14.3%	375 17.0%	756 15.8%	832 14.9%	2759 15.4%
OTHER DRUGS	34 9.2%	414 12.6%	25 4.6%	242 7.4%	11 1.4%	110 3.3%	22 1.3%	75 2.3%	26 1.2%	97 2.0%	118 2.1%	938 5.2%
NO DRUGS USED	15 4.0%	64 2.0%	50 9.1%	407 12.5%	79 10.3%	546 16.4%	238 14.0%	679 20.8%	551 25.0%	1458 30.4%	933 16.7%	3154 17.6%
UNKNOWN	31 8.4%	520 15.9%	17 3.1%	302 9.2%	17 2.2%	240 7.2%	42 2.5%	211 6.5%	39 1.8%	177 3.7%	146 2.6%	1450 8.1%
TOTAL	371 100.0%	3280 100.0%	547 100.0%	3268 100.0%	765 100.0%	3321 100.0%	1696 100.0%	3270 100.0%	2203 100.0%	4794 100.0%	5582 100.0%	17933 100.0%

## MAST SCORE

The Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST) is routinely given to most inmates at initial classification. The results for the two study populations appear in Table 17.

In each release year, the majority of absconders and parolees scored in the non-alcoholic category with another quarter of both populations scoring in the alcoholic range. With the exception of 1992, there was little variation between the two groups in regard to these MAST scores.

However, 1992, saw not only a shift away from the non-alcoholic category toward the alcoholic and suggestive abuse categories, but also a greater distance between the proportion of the two groups falling in the non-alcoholic and alcoholic ranges. Among 1992 absconders, 50% scored non-alcoholic compared with 57% of parolees. The percentage of 1992 absconders who scored alcoholic increased to 30%, while the proportion of parolees in this category increased modestly to 25%.

The introduction of inmates to several residential drug and alcohol treatment facilities in 1992, may explain in part, why there was a change in the distribution of MAST scores.

TABLE 17. MAST SCORE BY RELEASE STATUS  
ABSCONDERS AND FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION 1988 TO 1992

MAST SCORE	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		GRAND TOTAL	
	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE	ABSCOND	PAROLE
NON ALCOHOLIC 0-4	167 59.2%	1400 60.3%	275 59.0%	1604 60.6%	430 62.2%	1722 62.2%	971 61.6%	1768 61.5%	1049 50.4%	2490 56.9%	2892 56.8%	8984 59.9%
SUGGESTIVE ABUSE 5-8	41 14.5%	344 14.8%	74 15.9%	415 15.7%	98 14.2%	407 14.7%	234 14.8%	430 15.0%	412 19.8%	799 18.2%	859 16.9%	2395 16.0%
ALCOHOLIC 9+	74 26.2%	577 24.9%	117 25.1%	628 23.7%	163 23.6%	639 23.1%	371 23.5%	677 23.5%	620 29.8%	1090 24.9%	1345 26.4%	3611 24.1%
TOTAL	282 100.0%	2321 100.0%	466 100.0%	2647 100.0%	691 100.0%	2768 100.0%	1576 100.0%	2875 100.0%	2081 100.0%	4379 100.0%	5096 100.0%	14990 100.0%



## CONCLUSION

This report presented a five year overview of absconders and parolees from DOCS long term release facilities. Participation in long term release increased by 220%, while the proportion of participants paroled from long term release facilities rose 190%. Growth in the absconder population was the greatest, increasing by 494%.

In terms of the demographic and legal characteristics of the two populations, absconders and parolees, there were a great deal more similarities than differences. Most notable among the differences were prior involvement in the criminal justice system, commitment offense, time served in general confinement facilities, marital status, drug usage and race/ethnicity. Absconders were more likely than parolees to have served prior jail or prison sentences, to be drug offenders, to have spent less time in general confinement facilities before transfer to work release facilities, never to have married, to have used crack and to be Hispanic.

To conclude, this report has offered only a descriptive profile of the work release absconder and parolee populations, and as such, should not be viewed as an evaluation report of the DOCS work release program. Adjustment to the work release program may be associated with a number of factors not discussed here, such as, prior participation in drug treatment and counseling programs, overall adjustment to incarceration, employment opportunities and stability of home environments.

## NOTES

1. For complete information on the DOCS day reporting program see *Day Reporting Program Profile*. New York State Department of Correctional Services, 1992.
2. With the exception of 1992, counts of absconders, parolees and participants were derived from the DOCS Locator System. The Division of Temporary Release supplied the count of 1992 absconders and participants.
3. Absconder and parolee totals are not identical in each table due to missing variable data.
4. Ethnic affiliation is self-reported by the inmate at initial DOCS reception.
5. Self-reported drug use was first collected in January 1988. If an inmate reports using more than one controlled substance, the controlled substances are then ranked by a DOCS seriousness of use scale. The seriousness scale, derived from the controlled substances schedule used by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), provides no information regarding frequency or duration of drug usage.