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DEPARTMENT OF  
OFFENDER REHABILITATION

LOUIE L. WAINWRIGHT, SECRETARY

## Research Study

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MUTUAL PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

-VS-

• NORMAL PAROLE :

A COMPARISON OF SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

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Bureau of Planning,  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose - This report was developed to (a) provide a profile of the MPP participants, (b) compare that profile with inmates released through normal parole procedures, and (c) to determine if the MPP program was facilitating early parole of inmates through its structured pre-release programs.

### Summary of Findings

- MPP participants are more likely to be convicted of routine offenses (robbery, burglary, etc.) than the more sensational offenses (homicide, rape, etc.)
- MPP participants usually have longer sentences than do normal parolees
- MPP participants are slightly younger than normal parolees
- MPP participants are more likely to have a marital status of single than normal parolees
- MPP participants are slightly better educated than normal parolees
- MPP participants are slightly more likely to be black than are normal parolees
- There is a greater percentage of females in the MPP program than in normal parole

- MPP participants are more likely to be first offenders than normal parolees
- MPP participants tend to be less involved with alcohol or narcotics than are normal parolees
- MPP participants serve significantly shorter time than normal parolees for specific lengths of sentences in most cases.

### Conclusion

The data seems to indicate that the MPP group is only slightly different than the inmates who are released under normal parole. The data also supports the position that the structured program of the MPP Contract does in fact contribute to the early release of inmates involved in the program.

STATE OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF OFFENDER REHABILITATION

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NORMAL PAROLE

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PURPOSE

This document is presented to provide a limited profile of the MPP participant and to compare that profile with those released through normal parole.

BACKGROUND

Since implementation of the MPP program in 1976, demographic data on participants in the program has been limited due to the lag time in starting up any new program. However, as of March 1, 1978, there were 759\*inmates under contract in the program. This number is sufficiently large to begin to develop a profile of the average MPP participant.

In addition to the desirability of a profile of the MPP participant it is helpful to know if the MPP program is involving the entire DOR inmate population or if it is limited (intentionally or accidentally) to some sub set of the total DOR population.

A third point of information that was needed is related to the time served in prison prior to parole. One of the goals of

\*Commission Activity Report

the MPP program was to facilitate early release through a structured program of pre-parole activities specified in the contract.

To meet the above information needs this paper was developed.

#### METHODOLOGY

The group selected for comparison purposes was (a) inmates under contract as of March 1, 1978<sup>1</sup>, and (b) all inmates paroled during fiscal 1976-1977. Percentage distribution were developed on demographic variables that were considered possibly related to likelihood of program participation.

In addition an analysis of the time from admission to parole was computed for both groups to determine if the MPP program affected an earlier release than did normal parole.

#### FINDINGS

The following ten tables compare selected demographic variables of inmates paroled during fiscal year 1976-77 and those on the MPP program. The variables compared are as follows:

1. Primary Offense
2. Length of Sentence
3. Current Age
4. Marital Status
5. Education Claimed

<sup>1</sup>Due to a data processing time lag, data was available on only 682 of the 759 inmates on the program.

6. Race
7. Sex
8. Prior DOR Commitments
9. Alcohol/Narcotic Use
10. Time Served Prior to Release

In addition to the above 10 tables, Table 11 compares the amount of time served prior to parole for both groups when controlling for the effects of variation in length of sentence.



Points of contrast between the two groups are noted as follows:

TABLE 1  
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF  
PRIMARY OFFENSE

OFFENSE	NORMAL PAROLE	MPP
Homicide	4.0	1.5
Manslaughter	5.8	2.2
Sexual Battery	2.6	1.0
Aggravated Assault	6.0	1.9
Armed Robbery	13.4	22.0
Unarmed Robbery	5.1	4.0
Burglary	22.5	25.4
Auto Theft	3.2	1.3
Larceny	8.5	11.7
Forgery	5.5	6.2
Narcotics	13.8	11.4
Other	9.6	11.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Primary Offense (Table 1) - Crimes that tend to be rather sensational in nature (such as homicide, sexual battery and aggravated assault) tend to be under-represented in the MPP group while more routine crimes (such as robbery, larceny, burglary) tend to be slightly over-represented.

TABLE 2  
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF  
LENGTH OF SENTENCE

LENGTH OF SENTENCE	NORMAL PAROLE	MPP
Less than 2 years	5.7	.9
2 to 2.9 years	16.0	3.6
3 to 3.9 years	21.6	12.6
4 to 4.9 years	6.0	8.7
5 to 5.9 years	25.7	37.6
6 to 10.9 years	13.9	30.5
11 to 15.9 years	3.8	5.3
16 to 20.9 years	3.0	.6
21 years and over	2.2	0.0
Life	2.1	.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Length of Sentence (Table 2) - The MPP group tends to be of a generally longer sentence group than do normal parolees. Forty-three percent of the Parole group had sentences of less than four years while only 17% of the MPP group are included in the short sentence group.

TABLE 3  
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF  
CURRENT AGE

CURRENT AGE	NORMAL PAROLE	MPP
Less than 21	4.0	22.7
21 through 25	37.6	54.3
26 through 30	25.6	13.1
31 through 40	20.7	7.2
over 40	12.1	2.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Current Age (Table 3) - MPP participants tend to be considerably younger than the normal parolee. Seventy-six percent of the MPP group were 25 or younger while in the regular parole group this age category included only 41%.

TABLE 4  
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF  
MARITAL STATUS

MARITAL STATUS	NORMAL PAROLE	MPP
Single	50.6	67.9
Married	26.3	17.8
Separated	8.5	6.0
Divorced	11.9	7.7
Other	2.7	.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Marital Status (Table 4) - Considerably more of the MPP group were single (68%) than the regular parolees (50%), however this is probably due to the younger age of the MPP group (see Table 3).

TABLE 5  
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF  
EDUCATION CLAIMED

EDUCATION CLAIMED	NORMAL PAROLE	MPP
6th or less	8.0	3.1
7th through 10th	48.8	56.1
11th through 12th	39.1	37.1
Over 12th	4.1	3.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Education Claimed (Table 5) - The MPP group appears to be slightly more educated than the normal Parolees. Only 3% of the MPP group claimed less than a 7th grade education while 8% of the normal parolees were in this group.

TABLE 6  
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF  
RACE

RACE	NORMAL PAROLE	MPP
Black	44.2	46.9
White	55.8	53.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Race (Table 6) - Blacks were slightly over-represented in the MPP sample, however this difference is not statistically significant and may be accounted for by correlation between race, offense and length of sentence.

TABLE 7  
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF  
SEX

SEX	NORMAL PAROLE	MPP
Male	92.8	87.6
Female	7.2	12.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Sex (Table 7) - Females were significantly over-represented in the MPP group. This may be accounted for by the availability of the program to all females while this is not the case for all males.

TABLE 8  
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF  
PRIOR DOR COMMITMENTS

PRIOR DOR COMMITMENTS	NORMAL PAROLE	MPP
None	87.7	95.1
1	10.0	4.3
2	1.8	.3
3 or more	.5	.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Prior DOR Commitments (Table 8) - First offenders were more prevalent in the MPP group than in the Normal Parole group.



TABLE 9  
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF  
ALCOHOL/NARCOTIC USE

ALCOHOL/NARCOTIC USE	NORMAL PAROLE	MPP
None	26.0	35.5
Light Alcohol	21.6	10.2
Heavy Alcohol	12.5	5.3
Soft Drug	6.2	8.3
Hard Drug	6.3	10.6
Light Alcohol/Soft Drug	16.1	16.2
Light Alcohol/Hard Drug	7.0	6.5
Hard Alcohol/Soft Drug	2.0	2.8
Hard Alcohol/Hard Drug	2.3	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Alcohol/Narcotic Use (Table 9) - Significantly more of the MPP group claimed no alcohol or narcotic involvement than did the Normal Parole group.

TABLE 10  
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF  
TIME SERVED BEFORE RELEASE ON PAROLE

TIME SERVED BEFORE RELEASE ON PAROLE	NORMAL PAROLE	MPP
Less than 12 months	22.7	2.9
12 through 23 months	42.2	60.1
24 through 35 months	17.9	26.9
36 through 47 months	5.9	6.7
48 through 59 months	4.1	1.1
60 or more months	7.2	2.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Time Served Prior to Parole (Table 10) - This table demonstrates that the inmate in the MPP group served a significantly longer time prior to parole than did Normal Paroles, however it is important to point out the influence of differing lengths of sentence (Table 2) on the time served statistic (see Table 11).

TABLE 11

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF  
TIME SERVED BY LENGTH OF SENTENCE

LENGTH OF SENTENCE	NORMAL PAROLE	MPP
Less than 2 years	6.6 mos.	7.5
2 through 2.9 years	10.5	13.4
3 through 3.9 years	15.0	14.9
4 through 4.9 years	19.3	18.3
5 through 5.9 years	23.5	19.6
6 through 6.9 years	29.3	22.4
7 through 7.9 years	31.1	27.4
8 through 8.9 years	29.2	23.3
9 through 9.9 years	37.6	27.8
10 through 10.9 years	40.1	32.7
11 through 15.9 years	52.7	42.8
16 through 20.9 years	66.9	69.2
Over 20.9 years	71.0	0.0
Life	98.9	71.0
Total	25.2	23.4

Time Served by Length of Sentence (Table 11) - In light of point #10 above, Table 11 displays the relative months served prior to parole while controlling the effect of length of sentence. Here we see that for nearly all length of sentence categories less time is served for the MPP group than for the corresponding Normal Parole category.

## CONCLUSION

Although most of the variables examined in this report show some difference between the MPP group and the normal parole group, it would seem that over all the two groups are quite similar. This similarity suggests that when and if the program is expanded to all DOR institutions the program will be available to all eligibles as defined by law.

In spite of the above similarity, it seems clear that the MPP program is being effective in reducing the length of time inmates are incarcerated. The few categories that show a longer time served for MPP participants may well be due to a tendency to be conservative at the beginning of any new program.

**END**