RECIDIVISM OF OFFENDERS ASSIGNED TO COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS OR RELEASED FROM PRISON IN NORTH CAROLINA: FISCAL YEAR 1993-94

Prepared by the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission
in conjunction with
the North Carolina Department of Correction,
Division of Research and Planning

Pursuant to Chapter 18, Section 22.3 of the 1996 Session Laws

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the request of the North Carolina General Assembly, the Department of Correction and the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission has completed a study of recidivism of all offenders who were placed on probation in Fiscal Year 1993-94 or released from prison in Fiscal Year 1993-94. The study included 48,527 offenders who were sentenced for crimes, other than traffic offenses (including DWI), in North Carolina. The data were obtained primarily from the North Carolina Department of Correction probation and prison files and from the State Bureau of Investigation's Division of Criminal Information (DCI). The offenders were tracked in the DCI records for an average of 32.8 months. Recidivism was measured in this study by the percent of offenders who were rearrested during this period of time. The overall percentage of rearrests for all offenders during that period of time was **36.8**. Breaking the rearrests into offense categories shows that: 6.4% were rearrested for violent offenses; 0.4% were rearrested for sex offenses; 18.2% were rearrested for property offenses; 12.1% were rearrested for drug offenses; and 4.8% were rearrested for other miscellaneous offenses.

These offenders had participated in one or more of sixteen programs. Rearrest rates were compared among these sixteen programs. These rearrest rates show considerable variation among the programs. The rearrest rates were highest for community service parole (51%) and IMPACT (50%) and lowest for regular probation (30.7%) and community service probation (31.5%).

Logistic regression of the offender variables (i.e., age, race, gender, prior arrests, current conviction, and time served in prison immediately preceding assignment into the program) was used to create a risk score for a sample of offenders. On the basis of these risk scores, offenders were divided into three levels of risk -- low, medium, and high. Looking at these offenders by program, the rearrest rate for each program appears to be strongly linked to the percentage of high risk offenders in the programs. Furthermore, when the rearrest rates are computed for each risk group within a program and these rearrest rates are compared among the programs, the differences among the groups are greatly reduced. **That is, the rearrest rates are generally low for low risk offenders in each program and are generally high for high risk offenders in each program.** Thus, programs appear to have less effect on probability of rearrest than the risk factors (age, race, gender, current and prior offenses, and time served in prison immediately before entering the program). The one program that seemed to deviate most from these general conclusions was residential treatment. However, since there were only 22 persons in this program, it is not possible to draw any conclusions about residential treatment.

While this study is useful in examining some general information about programs, a study such as this one is no substitute for a thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of programs.

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INTRODUCTION

This report is presented to the General Assembly to provide information on recidivism of criminal offenders in North Carolina. The General Assembly, in Chapter 18, Section 22.3 of the 1996 Session Laws, requested that:

> *The Judicial Department through the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, and the Department of Correction shall jointly prepare an annual report on recidivism among criminal offenders....include tracking of all offenders assigned to community corrections programs or released from prison by fiscal year, beginning with the 1993-94 fiscal year for the first year's report, and then identifying those offenders rearrested within two years or more after assignment to a program or release from prison.*

To address this requirement, the following tasks were completed:

(1) The Department of Correction provided a computerized tape of offenders released from prison and offenders entering supervised probation during the specified time period. The data on this tape included offender-identifying information and was sent to the Division of Criminal Information (DCI) to match these offenders to offenders in the DCI database.

(2) The Department of Correction identified offenders entering community corrections programs supervised or funded by the Department of Correction.

(3) Three community corrections programs (TASC, Community Penalties Program, and residential treatment programs) that receive state funding but are not identified in the DOC database provided information to identify offenders that were in their respective databases.

(4) Rearrest rates were calculated for the entire population of offenders as well as for various subcategories of offenders.

(5) Descriptions of each program and profiles of the offenders in each program have been provided.

(6) A comparison of the recidivism rates among the various programs has been provided.

(7) A comparison of the recidivism rates among the various programs when risk levels of the offenders are controlled has been provided.

The primary goal of this project was to measure the rates of recidivism of offenders who were assigned to sixteen correctional programs. The study has also examined risk levels of a sample of offenders to see if factors such as offender characteristics, prior criminal record, and type of current offense affect recidivism more than the program(s) to which the offender has been assigned.

Several cautions should be made concerning this study:

- it is not a true evaluation of the programs involved but only a description of these programs and the offenders in these programs
- all of the offenders in this study were sentenced under the Fair Sentencing Act and not under Structured Sentencing
- not all of the programs considered still function in exactly the same manner as they did in Fiscal Year 1993-94. Thus, the descriptions in the profile section of this report do not describe the programs as they currently exist, but, rather, how they existed in Fiscal Year 1993-94
- this study only includes sentenced persons assigned to the programs, i.e., not pre-trial services in programs like TASC
- traffic offenders, including those sentenced for Driving While Impaired, are not included in this study
- it does not include those on unsupervised probation or those who **only** received fines/restitution

DATA SOURCES

This study relied on data from the North Carolina Department of Correction (DOC), the Division of Criminal Information (DCI) of the North Carolina Department of Justice, the Community Penalties Program under the Administrative Office of the Courts, Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) under the Department of Human Resources, and from two residential treatment programs (Summit House and FIRST).

Offender Data

The first step in this project was the creation by the Research and Planning Division of DOC of a data tape which contained a record for each person on probation in FY 93/94 or for any person released from prison during that time period. A machine-readable tape was also created for DCI which included the following identifying information:[1]

- Name
- Race
- Sex
- Birth date
- DOC number (old 15-digit format)
- DOC number (new OPUS 7-digit format)
- Social Security number
- FBI number
- State Identifier number.

DCI then used these identifiers to match offenders to their database in order to provide the offender's entire criminal history. Due to a joint project of DOC and DCI which had just been completed in August 1996, the potential for identifying offenders was greater than in the past. As a result, 88.1% of all offenders were matched with the DCI database. (Felony matches were 98.2% and misdemeanor matches were 78.6%.) These matches include all fingerprinted arrests and all convictions which included a fingerprinted arrest. A fingerprinted arrest is defined by DCI as a record of arrest by a law enforcement agency that includes the arrested person's fingerprints. The DCI database includes virtually all felony arrests as well as arrests for serious misdemeanants. This criminal history information was then examined to determine **prior arrests**, i.e., arrests that occurred before the earliest current conviction (that is, the earliest conviction that resulted in the offender being included in the probation/parole/prison release file obtained from DOC), and **rearrests,** i.e., arrests that occurred after the earliest conviction.

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[1] Not all identifiers were available for all offenders.

Program Information

Information on program participation was also obtained, primarily, from Research and Planning in DOC. Exceptions to this are participation in the Community Penalties Program, TASC, and residential treatment facilities (Summit House and FIRST). Information on participation in these programs was obtained from the programs themselves.[2] Many offenders are included in more than one program. One of the most important points to remember is that this recidivism study is not necessarily measuring how well being involved in a program prevented rearrest but only how well being **assigned** to a program is associated with the probability of rearrest. This is not meant to imply that assignment to a program is random or that programs have no impact on the offenders. However, the level of supervision varies from program to program. For example, the Community Penalties Program provides no supervision. It only recommends to the judge a plan for community supervision and/or treatment. Restitution is only restitution ordered. Community service probation/parole only indicates community service is ordered. There is no indication of completion of community service or of paying restitution. These are unfortunate, but unavoidable, limitations of this data. There are, in fact, significant differences among these programs which are not considered in measuring rearrest in this report.

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[2] Not all offender names provided by these agencies were able to be matched with the probation file provided by DOC.

MEASUREMENT AND DEFINITION OF VARIABLES

The major focus of this study is to report the rearrest rates of offenders for each of the sixteen corrections programs examined. Also of interest is whether the rearrest of an offender could be explained by knowledge of other information about the offender. Thus, rearrest was considered to be the dependent variable or the variable that might be affected by some other variable(s). In considering what other factors (variables) might affect this dependent variable, this study was limited to existing data that was mainly related to the demographic characteristics of the offender, criminal history data, and program participation data. As in any research, there are many other variables that might be of importance or interest to the researcher and the reader. However, those variables either were not available or were not deemed feasible for the scope of this study. The variables in this study which were utilized to help explain the likelihood of rearrest by an offender are:

- age
- race
- gender
- marital status
- number of prior fingerprinted arrests
- current offense category
- program assignment
- time served in prison

The demographic variables are self-explanatory. The program assignment variable is examined in some detail in the next section. The other explanatory and dependent variables are described below.

Criminal Activity

The decision to use fingerprinted arrests as a proxy for criminal activity was made for at least two reasons. First, the legislation which mandated that the Sentencing Commission carry out this study required " . . . identifying those offenders rearrested within two years or more after assignment to a program or release from prison." Second, fingerprinted arrests, are, overall, a better measure of recidivism than convictions. While they do not reflect all criminal activity and might be subject to the criticism of including some arrests for which an individual is not guilty, arrests, rather than convictions, also include those instances where the person is guilty but the charge is dismissed for technical, legal, or other reasons.

Prior Arrests

This variable has generally been shown to be a strong predictor of rearrest. This study counts for each arrest every category of charge involved: violent, sex offense, property, drug, or other. Thus if an arrest includes a charge for a property crime and a charge for a drug crime, each category receives a count. These prior arrests do not include traffic offenses (including misdemeanor impaired driving) or any "process" arrests (e.g.,

technical probation/parole violations).

Current Offense

The current offense is the offense for which the offender was placed on probation, parole, or for which they served time in prison. If there is more than one, the **most serious offense** is used. This is defined as the one for which the longest prison term/suspended sentence was imposed. These are summarized into nine categories: felony violent, sex offense, property, drug or other and misdemeanor violent, property, drug or other.

Time Served in Prison

This variable reflects any prison time that was part of the punishment for the current offense(s). It is time served **immediately** before the recidivism follow-up period. For paroled/released offenders, it was time served immediately before the release. For most probationers, it is not applicable. However, there were a few probationers who had served time in prison on a previous sentence to which the current probation sentence was consecutive. In these cases, time was counted as prison time because it was part of the punishment received for the current offense(s).

Special probation and IMPACT are two programs that require offenders to spend some time in prison or jail. Since incarceration is a requirement of these programs, prison time that is a condition of the current sentence is not counted. The measurement of rearrest may be affected by this requirement. That is, since part of the time after being assigned to this program is spent in prison or jail, then the offender is not free to commit crimes during that period. Thus, reported rearrest rates might have been higher if the offenders had not been incarcerated part of the time. (Note, however, that these programs still have high rearrest rates.)

Rearrest Rates (Recidivism)

Rearrests are measured very similarly to prior arrests. The only difference is that prior arrests are those that occurred before the earliest current conviction date and rearrests are those arrests that occurred after the earliest current conviction date. If the offender was paroled and terminated, paroled to another correction program, or a "maxout" from prison (i.e., served the maximum sentence allowed), the prison release date is used. If the offender is on probation, this is the date that the offender started probation. The one exception is the TASC program -- in this program the TASC involvement start date is used. This is because offenders often (at least in FY 93/94) did not begin in the TASC program immediately upon being sentenced to TASC. Thus, the follow-up period for TASC participants is the date that they began involvement in TASC. Follow-up times vary among programs. These follow-up times range from 31.4 months to 35.3 months. The overall average was 32.8 months. Overall rearrest rates are reported; these rates are also reported for the five crime types being considered (violent, sex offense, property, drug, and other).

A PROFILE OF THE PROGRAMS
AND THE OFFENDERS ASSIGNED TO THOSE PROGRAMS

The major goal of this report was to describe each of the programs and the offenders in those programs. This section of the report provides an overall description of the offenders in this population and then individually describes each program and the offenders in that program. The descriptions of these programs are the descriptions of the programs as they existed in Fiscal Year 1993-94 and are not necessarily the same as the programs exist today.[3]

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[3] For more detailed description of these programs in Fiscal Year 1993-94, refer to the *Compendium of Community Corrections Programs in North Carolina,* (January 20, 1995) prepared by Sandy C. Pearce and John H. Madler and published by the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission.

ALL PROGRAMS

The total number of offenders that were considered in this study was 48,527. The average age of these offenders was 29 and they were predominantly male (81.6%). Fifty-eight percent of these offenders were single, 17% were divorced, 15% were married/widowed, and the marital status for other/unknown was 10%.

Approximately 80% of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 45.9% had at least one prior conviction. The mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests was 2.59 and the mean number of prior convictions was 1.91. The predominant category of prior fingerprinted arrests was property offense (average=1.55). The current offense was most likely property misdemeanor (27%), followed by drug felony (20.5%) and property felony (18.7%). Only 2.2% of this population had served time in prison immediately before beginning this sentence and the mean number of months served in prison was 9.8 months.

The average follow-up period was 32.8 months. The overall rearrest rate during this period of time was 36.8 percent and the overall reconviction rate was 26.4 percent. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for a property (18.2%) or drug (12.1%) offense. The mean number of subsequent arrests was .7.

Of this offender population, 31,638 were probationers, 12, 534 were parolees, and 4,355 were paroled and terminated or had served their maximum prison sentence. The rearrest rates for these three groups were: probationers (31.9%); parolees (48.7%); and parole and terminate or prison maxouts (38.9%). Approximately fifty-two percent of these offenders were misdemeanants and approximately 48% were felons. The rearrest rate for misdemeanants was 32.6% and the rearrest rate for felons was 41.4%.

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ALL PROGRAMS

Number of clients (N): 48,527

Age in years:
Mean 29.0
Median 27.4

Gender: %
Male 81.6
Female 18.4

Race: %
White 37.5
Black 59.4
Other 3.0

Marital Status: %
Single 58.0
Divorced/Separated 17.0
Married/Widowed 15.0
Other/Unknown 10.0

Percentage with at least one prior %
fingerprinted arrest: 79.6

Mean number of prior fingerprinted
arrests:
Any offense 2.59
Violent offense 0.42
Sex offense (felony) 0.03
Property offense 1.55
Drug offense 0.56
Other offense 0.30

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 5.3
Sex felony 2.1
Property felony 18.7
Drug felony 20.5
Other felony 1.7
Violent misdemeanor 11.9
Property misdemeanor 27.0
Drug misdemeanor 5.6
Other misdemeanor 7.0

Percentage who served time in prison
immediately before beginning %
probation: 2.2

Mean number of months served in
prison, excluding those who served
none: 9.8

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 36.8
Violent offense 6.4
Sex offense (felony) 0.4
Property offense 18.2
Drug offense 12.1
Other offense 4.8

Mean number of subsequent arrests: 0.7

Mean number of months for recidivism
follow-up: 32.8

Participation in programs:
Restitution 21,878
TASC 643
Intensive Probation 2,941
Electronic House Arrest-Probation 819
Community Service-Probation 10,607
Community Penalties Program 479
IMPACT 192
Intensive Parole 212
Special Probation 1,481
Regular Probation 26,777
Residential Facility 22
Electronic House Arrest-Parole 109
Community Service-Parole 8,512
Regular Parole 12,213
Parole and Terminate 3,902
Maxout 453

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RESTITUTION

Description

Victim restitution means monetary compensation to an aggrieved party for damage or loss. Victim restitution was authorized as a condition of probation as a "remedy to promote rehabilitation of criminal offenders, to provide compensation to victims of crime, and to reimburse the Crime Victims Compensation Fund," [G.S. 15A-1343(d)]. The court has the discretion to order an offender to make restitution as a condition of probation. If the offender is given an active sentence, the court may recommend that restitution be made a condition of work release or parole.

The clerk of court's office in each county collects restitution payments. The Administrative Office of the Courts maintains and monitors records of restitution payments, either in manual form in the clerks' offices or in the automated Financial Management System which contains records of installment payments of court debts.

The court may order an offender to pay restitution as a condition of unsupervised or supervised probation. In the case of unsupervised probation, the court is responsible for enforcing the payment of restitution. If the offender does not fulfill this condition of unsupervised probation, the court may modify the sentence to place the offender on supervised probation or may activate the suspended sentence. In the case of supervised probation, the probation officer is responsible for enforcing restitution payments. If the offender does not fulfill this condition of supervised probation, the probation officer may return the case to court to ask for a modification of the sentence or the activation of the suspended sentence.

Summary of Findings

Forty-five percent (21,878) of all cases included restitution. The overall rearrest rate for any offense was 36.2% and the overall reconviction rate was 26.2%. Approximately eighty percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 42.8% had at least one prior conviction. Offenders had an average of 2.6 prior fingerprinted arrests. Approximately 52% of this population was felons and 48% misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely a property misdemeanor (31.1%) or property felony (25.5%). Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (19.5%) or drug (10.6%) offenses. This program was found in combination with all other programs except parole and terminate and prison maxouts. Participation in other programs was most likely to be regular probation (62.8%), community service probation (24.5%), or regular parole (24.4%).

RESTITUTION

Number of clients (N): 21,878

Age in years:
Mean 28.6
Median 26.9

Gender: %
Male 79.8
Female 20.2

Race: %
White 38.9
Black 57.8
Other 3.3

Marital Status: %
Single 63.2
Divorced/Separated 18.9
Married/Widowed 17.2
Other/Unknown 0.6

Percentage with at least one prior %
fingerprinted arrest: 79.6

Mean number of prior fingerprinted
arrests:
Any offense 2.58
Violent offense 0.39
Sex offense (felony) 0.02
Property offense 1.68
Drug offense 0.48
Other offense 0.25

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 5.7
Sex felony 0.8
Property felony 25.5
Drug felony 18.1
Other felony 1.4
Violent misdemeanor 7.6
Property misdemeanor 31.1
Drug misdemeanor 2.2
Other misdemeanor 7.6

Percentage who served time in prison
immediately before beginning %
probation: 2.6

Mean number of months served in
prison, excluding those who served
none: 9.8

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 36.2
Violent offense 6.1
Sex offense (felony) 0.4
Property offense 19.5
Drug offense 10.6
Other offense 4.4

Mean number of subsequent arrests: 0.7

Mean number of months for recidivism
follow-up: 32.8

Participation in other programs: %
TASC 1.0
Intensive Probation 7.8
Electronic House Arrest-Probation 1.9
Community Service-Probation 24.5
Community Penalties Program 1.3
IMPACT 0.5
Intensive Parole 0.4
Special Probation 3.5
Regular Probation 62.8
Residential Facility 0.1
Electronic House Arrest-Parole 0.2
Community Service-Parole 20.0
Regular Parole 24.4

REGULAR PROBATION

Description

The purpose of regular probation is to provide basic community supervision to offenders receiving a suspended sentence from the court. Offenders are classified based on their need for services and supervision. Special conditions may be imposed to further restrict freedom and limit movement in the community, to add further punitive measures, or to establish a complete individual treatment plan addressing the special needs and risk of the offender and providing realistic opportunities for behavioral changes which will ultimately lead to the successful completion of the supervision period.

Historically, probation was used primarily for misdemeanor offenders; however, during FY 93-94, felons represented approximately 23.5% of admissions to probation. Probationers are a diverse group, from first offenders to chronic offenders who have committed property crimes, public order crimes (i.e., drugs and alcohol), and assaultive crimes.

Probation officers of the Division of Adult Probation and Parole within the Department of Correction supervise cases sentenced by the courts to probation.

Summary of Findings

Fifty-five percent (26,777) of all cases included regular probation. The overall rearrest rate for this program was 30.7% and the overall reconviction rate was 21.5%. Seventy percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 31.4% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior fingerprinted arrests for any offense was 1.77. Approximately 29% of this population were felons and 71% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely a property (36.8%) or violent (14.9%) misdemeanor. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (15.6%) or drug (9.6%) offenses. This program was used in conjunction with restitution, TASC, community service probation, community penalties, IMPACT, and residential facility. Participation in other programs was found most often in restitution (51.3%) or community service probation (29.3%).

REGULAR PROBATION

Number of clients (N): 26,777

Age in years:
Mean 28.7
Median 26.9

Gender: %
Male 76.0
Female 24.0

Race: %
White 42.5
Black 54.3
Other 3.3

Marital Status: %
Single 61.9
Divorced/Separated 19.4
Married/Widowed 18.2
Other/Unknown 0.5

Percentage with at least one prior %
fingerprinted arrest: 70.5

Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:
Any offense 1.77
Violent offense 0.27
Sex offense (felony) 0.02
Property offense 1.05
Drug offense 0.39
Other offense 0.21

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 2.4
Sex felony 1.5
Property felony 10.3
Drug felony 13.6
Other felony 0.9
Violent misdemeanor 14.9
Property misdemeanor 36.8
Drug misdemeanor 8.3
Other misdemeanor 11.1

Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning %
probation: 2.2

Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none: 4.31

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 30.7
Violent offense 5.2
Sex offense (felony) 0.4
Property offense 15.6
Drug offense 9.6
Other offense 3.9

Mean number of subsequent arrests: ... 0.57

Mean number of months for recidivism follow-up: 32.7

Participation in other programs: %
Restitution 51.3
TASC 1.8
Community Service-Probation 29.3
Community Penalties Program 1.1
IMPACT 0.3
Residential Facility 0.1

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROBATION

Description

The purpose of the Community Service Work Program is to provide opportunities for offenders to repay the community for damages resulting from their criminal acts. Offenders perform free work for public and nonprofit agencies. Community service work is used as a sanction at every stage of the criminal justice system. It can be used as a sole sanction or in conjunction with other sanctions.

Community service work became a statewide program administered by the Division of Victim and Justice Services in the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety in 1983. Each judicial district throughout North Carolina is required to have at least one community service coordinator to interview, place, and monitor community service work. Each offender is charged a fee of $100 for participation in the Community Service Work Program.

Summary of Findings

Twenty-two percent (10,607) of all cases were community service probation. The overall rearrest rate was 31.5% and the reconviction rate was 22.1%. Approximately seventy-six percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 32% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior fingerprinted arrests was 1.9. Approximately 45% of this population were felons and 55% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely property misdemeanor (33.7%) followed by drug (21.5%) and property (16.7%) felony arrests. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (16.1%) or drug (10.2%) offenses. This condition was imposed in conjunction with all other probation programs. Participation in other programs was most likely to be regular probation (73.9%), restitution (50.6%), or intensive probation (21%).

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROBATION

Number of clients (N): 10,607

Age in years:
Mean 26.8
Median 24.1

Gender:	**%**
Male	77.3
Female	22.7

Race:	**%**
White	44.5
Black	52.3
Other	3.2

Marital Status:	**%**
Single	67.9
Divorced/Separated	15.6
Married/Widowed	16.0
Other/Unknown	0.6

Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:	**%** 75.8

Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:
Any offense 1.90
Violent offense 0.26
Sex offense (felony) 0.02
Property offense 1.13
Drug offense 0.47
Other offense 0.20

Current Offense:	**%**
Violent felony	3.9
Sex felony	1.9
Property felony	16.7
Drug felony	21.5
Other felony	1.3
Violent misdemeanor	8.7
Property misdemeanor	33.7
Drug misdemeanor	5.6
Other misdemeanor	6.8

Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning probation:	**%** 2.6

Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none: 4.25

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest):	**%**
Any offense	31.5
Violent offense	4.7
Sex offense (felony)	0.3
Property offense	16.1
Drug offense	10.2
Other offense	4.0

Mean number of subsequent arrests: . . . 0.56

Mean number of months for recidivism follow-up: 32.7

Participation in other programs:	**%**
Restitution	50.6
TASC	1.9
Intensive Probation	21.0
Electronic House Arrest-Probation	2.8
Community Penalties Program	2.5
IMPACT	0.8
Special Probation	4.7
Regular Probation	73.9

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES TO STREET CRIME (TASC)

Description

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) provides substance abuse and mental health treatment and mental health interventions for certain drug dependent criminal offenders. TASC programs identify, assess, arrange access to treatment, and case manage treatment participation of criminal offenders. Drug dependent offenders who have been charged with or convicted of possession of controlled substances are eligible for involvement in TASC programs. TASC is used by the courts as a condition of deferred prosecution, pretrial release/detention, probation, or post-release. TASC is most frequently used as a condition of supervised probation and often referred to as a transitional bridge between the criminal justice system and treatment programs.

Depending on the juncture of the criminal justice system at which offenders are identified, TASC programs' roles may vary. In FY 93-94, 32% of offenders in the program were in pretrial status. During the same time period, 68% of offenders in the program were in post-trial status since they had been convicted of a crime. In these cases, the TASC Coordinator serves as a liaison between the supervising probation officer and the public and private system. If the TASC Coordinator determines that an offender has a substance abuse problem, a referral is made to a treatment agency. The TASC Coordinator then monitors the offender's participation in treatment and reports the offender's progress to the probation officer. If the offender fails to comply with treatment, the TASC Coordinator reports the violation to the probation officer who determines the next course of action.

TASC is administered by the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services in the Department of Human Resources. During FY 93-94, there were programs in North Carolina operated by private nonprofit agencies or area mental health programs. It is an objective of the Division to have TASC programs operational in all of the State's judicial districts.

Summary of Findings

One percent (643) of the total cases were identified as being in TASC. The overall recidivism rate for rearrests was 34.4% and for reconvictions was 21.7%. Eighty-seven percent of this population had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 49.3% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior fingerprinted arrests was 2.52. Approximately 48% of this population were felons and 52% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be a drug felony (30%) or a drug (19%) or property (18.2%) misdemeanor. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for drug (15.7%) or property (15.2%) offenses. This program was used in conjunction with restitution, community penalties, and residential facility, as well as all types of probation. Participation in other programs was most likely to be regular probation (73.7%), restitution (32.7%), or community service probation (31.4%).

Number of clients (N): 643

Age in years:
Mean 30.4
Median 30.0

Gender: %
Male 81.0
Female 19.0

Race: %
White 41.2
Black 57.7
Other 1.1

Marital Status: %
Single 62.1
Divorced/Separated 21.3
Married/Widowed 16.2
Other/Unknown 0.5

Percentage with at least one prior %
fingerprinted arrest: 87.1

Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:
Any offense 2.52
Violent offense 0.37
Sex offense (felony) 0.02
Property offense 1.26
Drug offense 0.83
Other offense 0.23

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 2.8
Sex felony 1.9
Property felony 11.4
Drug felony 30.0
Other felony 1.4
Violent misdemeanor 10.1
Property misdemeanor 18.2
Drug misdemeanor 19.0
Other misdemeanor 5.3

Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning %
probation: 1.3

Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none: 4.14

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 34.4
Violent offense 3.7
Sex offense (felony) 0.5
Property offense 15.2
Drug offense 15.7
Other offense 5.8

Mean number of subsequent arrests: ... 0.59

Mean number of months for recidivism follow-up: 31.4

Participation in other programs: %
Restitution 32.7
Intensive Probation 16.8
Electronic House Arrest-Probation 2.8
Community Service-Probation 31.4
Community Penalties Program 3.4
Special Probation 8.9
Regular Probation 73.7
Residential Facility 0.2

COMMUNITY PENALTIES PROGRAM

Description

In 1983 the General Assembly enacted the Community Penalties Program Act to reduce prison overcrowding. The Act authorized private nonprofit agencies to apply for state grants for Community Penalties Programs which provide sentencing plans to judges "to be used in lieu of and at less cost than imprisonment." Community Penalties Programs target offenders convicted of misdemeanors or felonies who are facing an imminent and substantial threat of imprisonment.

The Community Penalties Program is administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Local boards of directors govern Community Penalties Programs within the framework of the Community Penalties Act and general guidelines issued by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Each local program is required to provide matching funds. During FY 93-94, Community Penalties Programs were operating in 42 counties. During this period, 3,461 cases were reviewed by the Community Penalties Programs, 1,471 offenders were accepted as clients, 783 sentencing plans were presented to judges, and 633 sentencing plans were accepted by judges.

Summary of Findings

One percent (479) of all cases could be identified as participating in the Community Penalties Program. The overall rearrest rate for this program was 40.1% with 28.8% being reconvicted. Approximately ninety-four percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 45.5% had at least one prior conviction. Approximately 82% of these offenders were felons and 18% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be a property (38%) or drug (34.2%) felony. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (20%) or drug (15.9%) offenses. This program was used in conjunction with all other probation programs. It was most likely to be used in conjunction with restitution (59.5%), regular probation (59.3%), or community service probation (56.4%) programs.

COMMUNITY PENALTIES PROGRAM

Number of clients (N): 479

Age in years:
Mean 27.2
Median 25.2

Gender: %
Male 80.0
Female 20.0

Race: %
White 47.4
Black 51.4
Other 1.3

Marital Status: %
Single 64.7
Divorced/Separated 19.0
Married/Widowed 15.0
Other/Unknown 1.3

Percentage with at least one prior %
fingerprinted arrest: 93.9

Mean number of prior fingerprinted
arrests:
Any offense 3.08
Violent offense 0.36
Sex offense (felony) 0.03
Property offense 1.90
Drug offense 0.77
Other offense 0.30

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 5.2
Sex felony 2.7
Property felony 38.0
Drug felony 34.2
Other felony 2.1
Violent misdemeanor 3.3
Property misdemeanor 11.3
Drug misdemeanor 1.0
Other misdemeanor 2.1

Percentage who served time in prison
immediately before beginning %
probation: 1.3

Mean number of months served in
prison, excluding those who served
none: 3.47

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 40.1
Violent offense 3.5
Property offense 20.0
Drug offense 15.9
Other offense 4.6

Mean number of subsequent arrests: . . . 0.70

Mean number of months for recidivism
follow-up: 32.3

Participation in other programs: %
Restitution 59.5
TASC 4.6
Intensive Probation 31.7
Electronic House Arrest-Probation 4.6
Community Service-Probation 56.4
IMPACT 2.3
Special Probation 8.1
Regular Probation 59.3
Residential Facility 1.7

INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROBATION

Description

In 1983 the General Assembly authorized the Division of Adult Probation and Parole within the Department of Correction to establish a program of Intensive Probation. The purpose of the program was "to provide intensive supervision for probationers and parolees who require close supervision in order to remain in the community pursuant to a community penalties plan, community work plan, community restitution plan, or other plan of rehabilitation." During Fiscal Year 1993-94, the purpose of intensive probation was to target prison-bound offenders. Intensive Supervision Probation was available statewide.

Summary of Findings

Six percent (2,941) of all cases were on intensive supervision probation. The overall rate for rearrest for any offense was 39.7% and for reconviction was 28.4%. Ninety-three percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 52.1% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior arrests was three. Eighty-one percent of these offenders were felons and 19% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be a drug (38.4%) or property (28.3%) felony. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (18.3%) or drug (15.6%) offenses. This program was used in conjunction with restitution, TASC, community penalties, IMPACT, community service probation, and special probation. Participation in other programs was most likely to be community service probation (75.9%), restitution (58.2%), or special probation (11.6%).

INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROBATION

<u>Number of clients (N): 2,941</u>

Age in years:
Mean 27.0
Median 24.6

Gender: %
Male 88.2
Female 11.8

Race: %
White 37.0
Black 60.1
Other 2.9

Marital Status: %
Single 69.5
Divorced/Separated 14.7
Married/Widowed 15.2
Other/Unknown 0.6

Percentage with at least one prior   %
fingerprinted arrest: 93.0

Mean number of prior fingerprinted
arrests:
Any offense 3.00
Violent offense 0.46
Sex offense (felony) 0.03
Property offense 1.68
Drug offense 0.82
Other offense 0.33

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 8.7
Sex felony 3.6
Property felony 28.3
Drug felony 38.4
Other felony 1.9
Violent misdemeanor 4.6
Property misdemeanor 10.7
Drug misdemeanor 2.2
Other misdemeanor 1.6

Percentage who served time in prison
immediately before beginning   %
probation: 6.9

Mean number of months served in
prison, excluding those who served
none: 4.2

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 39.7
Violent offense 5.4
Sex offense (felony) 0.4
Property offense 18.3
Drug offense 15.6
Other offense 5.4

Mean number of subsequent arrests: . . . 0.71

Mean number of months for recidivism
follow-up: 32.7

Participation in other programs: %
Restitution 58.2
TASC 3.7
Community Service-Probation 75.9
Community Penalties Program 5.2
IMPACT 2.2
Special Probation 11.6

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ELECTRONIC HOUSE ARREST - PROBATION

Description

House arrest with electronic monitoring is a special condition of supervised probation. During Fiscal Year 1993-94, the purposes of house arrest with electronic monitoring were to restrict the offender's freedom and movement in the community, to increase supervision of convicted offenders, ease prison overcrowding, and save taxpayers money. House arrest with electronic monitoring is available statewide through the Division of Adult Probation and Parole within the Department of Correction.

House arrest with electronic monitoring uses computer technology to monitor and restrict the offender's movement. Other than approved leave to go to work or to receive rehabilitative services, the offender is restricted to his/her home. Through the use of a transmitter strapped to an offender's ankle and linked by telephone lines to a central computer, a continuous signal is emitted. If this signal is interrupted by the offender going beyond the authorized radius of the receiver, the host computer records the date and time of the signal's disappearance. The computer will also record the date and time the signal resumes. If a signal interruption occurs during a period when the probationer should be at home, the violation is checked by the probation officer or by a designated electronic house arrest response officer. The average stay on house arrest is ninety days, after which the offender is initially supervised as a high risk case on regular probation.

Summary of Findings

Two percent (819) of all cases were on electronic house arrest probation. The overall rearrest rate was 36.3% and the reconviction rate was 26.1%. Eighty-one percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 37.1% had at least one prior conviction. Approximately 54% of these offenders were felons and 46% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be drug (26.6%) felony or property (25.3%) misdemeanor. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (17.7%) or drug (11.7%) offenses. These offenders were also in other programs which included restitution, TASC, community service probation, community penalties, IMPACT, and special probation. They were most likely to be involved in the restitution (51.8%) or community service probation (36.4%) programs.

ELECTRONIC HOUSE ARREST - PROBATION

Number of clients (N): 819

Age in years:
Mean 26.2
Median 23.2

Gender: %
Male 83.6
Female 16.4

Race: %
White 43.1
Black 56.5
Other 0.4

Marital Status: %
Single 69.8
Divorced/Separated 14.5
Married/Widowed 15.4
Other/Unknown 0.2

Percentage with at least one prior %
fingerprinted arrest: 81.1

Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:
Any offense 2.23
Violent offense 0.34
Sex offense (felony) 0.02
Property offense 1.29
Drug offense 0.57
Other offense 0.24

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 6.3
Sex felony 2.9
Property felony 16.5
Drug felony 26.6
Other felony 2.2
Violent misdemeanor 10.5
Sex offense misdemeanor 0.1
Property misdemeanor 25.3
Drug misdemeanor 4.2
Other misdemeanor 5.4

Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning %
probation: 1.5

Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none: 2.83

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 36.3
Violent offense 6.1
Sex offense (felony) 0.2
Property offense 17.7
Drug offense 11.7
Other offense 4.6

Mean number of subsequent arrests: ... 0.65

Mean number of months for recidivism follow-up: 33.0

Participation in other programs: %
Restitution 51.8
TASC 2.2
Community Service-Probation 36.4
Community Penalties Program 2.7
IMPACT 2.0
Special Probation 4.8

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Description

There are five residential facilities specifically for criminal offenders in North Carolina which are administered by various nonprofit agencies. However, three of these facilities--FIRST, Inc., Summit House, and Harriet's House, also receive funding from State Government and are, therefore, included in this study.

FORSYTH INITIATIVE FOR RESIDENTIAL SELF-HELP TREATMENT, INC. (FIRST)

FIRST, Inc. is a private nonprofit residential facility located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. FIRST accepts nonviolent offenders (male and female) with drug and alcohol problems. It is a long-term, self-help, participant-managed rehabilitation program for selected hard-core criminals and substance abusers.

FIRST admits residents only upon their personal requests. When applying for admission, an offender agrees to a two-year stay involving constant supervision and surveillance. FIRST enforces program requirements with a highly-structured system of punishments and rewards leading to increasing responsibility, status, and freedom. During FY 1993-94, the capacity of FIRST was 75 residents.

SUMMIT HOUSE, INC.

During Fiscal Year 1993-94, Summit House, Inc. was operating one residential center in Greensboro. This center accepted female offenders convicted of nonviolent felonies (pregnant or the mother of young children). In 1995, two additional centers were opened in Raleigh and Charlotte.

The goal of Summit House is to keep the family intact while the woman satisfies her obligation to the criminal justice system. Summit House, Inc. provides and brokers individual, group, and substance abuse counseling, classes in basic living skills, and access to GED classes and/or further education. Summit House, Inc. provides assistance in returning to employment and provides or brokers service to the children of residents. The minimum stay at Summit House, Inc. is ten months. During FY 1993-94, the capacity of Summit House was 22. This normally averaged eight women and fourteen children.

PASSAGE HOME, INC. - HARRIET'S HOUSE

Harriet's House is a residential program for paroled women and their children located in Raleigh. The mission of Harriet's House is to reduce recidivism by teaching self-sufficiency and financial independence. Residents are subsidized in private apartments for a twelve month period. Residents and their children participate in individual and group counseling. They are provided job training and educational opportunities, independent living skills, parenting skills training, and substance abuse or domestic violence counseling as needed.

During FY 1993-94, Harriet's House had a capacity of ten to twelve families. After leaving the residential component, residents receive aftercare services for six months in order to support their financial and emotional independence.

Summary of Findings

There were only 22 cases that could be identified as participating in the residential treatment programs. The overall rate for rearrests was 31.8% and for reconviction was 22.3%. All of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 77% had at least one prior conviction. Approximately 73% were felons and 27% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be a property (45.5%) or drug (22.7%) felony. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for a property offense (22.7%). This group was also in all other probation programs except electronic house arrest probation and IMPACT. They were most likely to participate in the regular probation (86.4%), restitution (63.6%), or community penalties (36.4%) programs.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Number of clients (N):   22

Age in years:
Mean 27.4
Median 27.0

Gender: %
Male 63.6
Female 36.4

Race: %
White 45.5
Black 54.5

Marital Status: %
Single 77.3
Divorced/Separated 22.7

**Percentage with at least one prior   %
fingerprinted arrest:** 100.0

**Mean number of prior fingerprinted
arrests:**
Any offense 4.50
Violent offense 0.59
Sex offense (felony) 0.04
Property offense 3.22
Drug offense 0.82
Other offense 0.41

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 4.5
Property felony 45.5
Drug felony 22.7
Violent misdemeanor 4.5
Property misdemeanor 18.2
Drug misdemeanor 4.5

**Percentage who served time in prison
immediately before beginning   %
probation:** 4.5

**Mean number of months served in
prison, excluding those who served
none:** 4.34

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 31.8
Violent offense 4.5
Property offense 22.7
Drug offense 4.5

Mean number of subsequent arrests: ... 0.77

**Mean number of months for recidivism
follow-up:** 33.4

Participation in other programs: %
Restitution 63.6
TASC 4.5
Intensive Probation 4.5
Community Service-Probation ... 9.1
Community Penalties Program ... 36.4
Special Probation 9.1
Regular Probation 86.4

SPECIAL PROBATION

Description

Special Probation, sometimes called a split sentence, requires a period or periods of imprisonment in a prison or jail during the period of probation (total imprisonment may not exceed 25% of the statutory maximum prison term or six months, whichever is less). The term of probation may include special conditions such as recommendation for work release or serving the active term in an inpatient facility.

As a highly restrictive form of probation, special probation is used primarily for offenders in need of a high level of control and supervision while remaining in the community. Offenders are supervised by probation officers of the Division of Adult Probation and Parole.

Summary of Findings

Three percent (1,481) of all cases were on special probation. The overall rearrest rate for this group was 35.7% and the reconviction rate was 24.6%. Approximately eighty-six percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 45% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior fingerprinted arrests was 2.67. Approximately 66% of these offenders were felons and 34% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely a drug (27.8%) or property (20.5%) felony. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (16.9%) or drug (13.2%) offenses. This group was also in all other probation programs. They were most likely to also be in restitution (51.7%) or community service probation (33.9%) programs.

SPECIAL PROBATION

Number of clients (N): 1,481

Age in years:
Mean 28.6
Median 26.4

Gender: **%**
Male 87.0
Female 13.0

Race: **%**
White 35.0
Black 60.4
Other 4.6

Marital Status: **%**
Single 67.2
Divorced/Separated 17.6
Married/Widowed 14.6
Other/Unknown 0.6

Percentage with at least one prior   **%**
fingerprinted arrest: 85.9

Mean number of prior fingerprinted
arrests:
Any offense 2.67
Violent offense 0.49
Sex offense (felony) 0.04
Property offense 1.45
Drug offense 0.67
Other offense 0.32

Current Offense: **%**
Violent felony 10.2
Sex felony 5.7
Property felony 20.5
Drug felony 27.8
Other felony 2.2
Violent misdemeanor 13.6
Property misdemeanor 14.1
Drug misdemeanor 2.6
Other misdemeanor 3.4

Percentage who served time in prison
immediately before beginning   **%**
probation: 0

Mean number of months served in
prison, excluding those who served
none: 4.78

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 35.7
Violent offense 6.1
Sex offense (felony) 0.7
Property offense 16.9
Drug offense 13.2
Other offense 4.6

Mean number of subsequent arrests: . . . 0.64

Mean number of months for recidivism
follow-up: 33.0

Participation in other programs: **%**
Restitution 51.7
TASC 3.8
Intensive Probation 23.0
Electronic House Arrest-Probation 2.6
Community Service-Probation 33.9
Community Penalties Program 2.6
IMPACT 1.1
Residential Facility 0.1

IMPACT PROGRAM

Description

The Intensive Motivational Program of Alternative Correctional Treatment (IMPACT) is a condition of a split sentence (special probation) in which the offender must serve an active sentence of ninety days and then remain on supervised probation. The goal of the IMPACT Program is to instill self-confidence, discipline, and a work ethic through a strictly regimented paramilitary program.

The Division of Adult Probation and Parole administers IMPACT; however, the Division of Prisons controls staffing, programming, and budget. Offenders are required to exercise, drill, work, and attend school. They spend more than seven hours a day at work. Much of the work involves clearing land or cleaning property for federal, state, and local government agencies. Individualized instruction is offered by teachers from Richmond Community College for those who do not possess a high school diploma. Offenders who have graduated from high school are put into a tutoring program. They also receive counseling. Instructors help them develop social, job search, and budget management skills. After graduation from IMPACT, the offender is released to the custody of his probation officer to complete his probation period.

During Fiscal Year 1993-94, the criteria for IMPACT was as follows: males between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five, convicted of an offense punishable by a prison sentence of one year or more, medically fit, and who had not previously served an active sentence in excess of 120 days.

Summary of Findings

Less than one percent (192) of all cases were involved in the IMPACT Program. The overall rearrest rate for this program was 50% and the reconviction rate was 38.5%. Eighty-nine percent of this group had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 37% had at least one prior conviction. The mean number of prior convictions was 1.93. Two-thirds of the population was felons and one-third were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely a property (37.5%) felony or property (21.9%) misdemeanor. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (25.5%) or drug (16.1%) offenses. This population also was in all other probation programs except residential treatment facility. They were most likely to participate in restitution (52.1%), regular probation (47.9%), or community service probation (42.7%) programs.

IMPACT

Number of clients (N): 192

Age in years:
Mean 18.9
Median 18.4

Gender: %
Male 100
Female 0

Race: %
White 50.5
Black 46.9
Other 2.6

Marital Status: %
Single 96.9
Divorced/Separated 1.0
Married/Widowed 1.6
Other/Unknown 0.5

Percentage with at least one prior %
fingerprinted arrest: 89.1

Mean number of prior fingerprinted
arrests:
Any offense 1.93
Violent offense 0.18
Sex offense (felony) 0.03
Property offense 1.35
Drug offense 0.35
Other offense 0.17

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 6.3
Sex felony 2.6
Property felony 37.5
Drug felony 18.2
Other felony 2.1
Violent misdemeanor 5.7
Property misdemeanor 21.9
Drug misdemeanor 3.6
Other misdemeanor 2.1

Percentage who served time in prison
immediately before beginning %
probation: 0

Mean number of months served in
prison, excluding those who served
none: 2.53

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 50.0
Violent offense 7.8
Sex offense (felony) 0.5
Property offense 25.5
Drug offense 16.1
Other offense 7.8

Mean number of subsequent arrests: ... 0.92

Mean number of months for recidivism
follow-up: 34.4

Participation in other programs: %
Restitution 52.1
Intensive Probation 33.3
Electronic House Arrest-Probation 8.3
Community Service-Probation 42.7
Community Penalties Program 5.7
Special Probation 8.9
Regular Probation 47.9
Community Service-Parole 1.0
Regular Parole 6.3
Parole and Terminate 0.5

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REGULAR PAROLE

Description

The purpose of regular parole is to provide basic community supervision to offenders placed on parole by the Parole Commission. Offenders are classified based on their need for services and supervision. Special conditions may be imposed to further restrict freedom and limit movement in the community, to add further punitive measures, or to establish a complete individual treatment plan addressing the special needs and risk of the offender and providing realistic opportunities for behavioral changes which will ultimately lead to the successful completion of the supervision period. Parole officers of the Division of Adult Probation and Parole within the Department of Correction supervise cases paroled from prison by the Parole Commission.

During Fiscal Year 1993-94, which was prior to the enactment of the Structured Sentencing Act, offenders could be granted early release from prison (parole) by the Parole Commission. Under the parole system, the Parole Commission sets the conditions of parole, including supervision in the community. Parole eligibility depends on the laws under which the offender was sentenced and the offender's behavior in prison.

Summary of Findings

Twenty-five percent (12,213) of all cases were on regular parole. The overall rearrest rate for this group was 48.8% and the overall reconviction rate was 35.9%. Ninety-four percent of this group had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 69% had at least one prior conviction. Eighty-seven percent of this group were felons and 13% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be a property (38.5%) or drug (32.9%) felony. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (23.6%) or drug (16.7%) offenses. The only other programs in which they also participated were community service parole (67.8%), restitution (43.7%), and IMPACT (.1%).

REGULAR PAROLE

<u>**Number of clients (N):**</u> 12,213

Age in years:
Mean 29.9
Median 28.6

Gender:	**%**
Male	91.1
Female	8.9

Race:	**%**
White	28.9
Black	68.6
Other	2.4

Marital Status:	**%**
Single	65.7
Divorced/Separated	18.2
Married/Widowed	13.2
Other/Unknown	2.9

Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:	**%** 94.5

Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:
Any offense 4.20
Violent offense 0.68
Sex offense (felony) 0.04
Property offense 2.57
Drug offense 0.88
Other offense 0.46

Current Offense:	**%**
Violent felony	9.7
Sex felony	2.7
Property felony	38.5
Drug felony	32.9
Other felony	3.2
Violent misdemeanor	6.6
Property misdemeanor	5.2
Drug misdemeanor	0.5
Other misdemeanor	0.8

Mean number of months served in prison before being placed on parole: . . 11.7

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest):	**%**
Any offense	48.8
Violent offense	9.3
Sex offense (felony)	0.6
Property offense	23.6
Drug offense	16.7
Other offense	6.7

Mean number of subsequent arrests: . . . 0.98

Mean number of months for recidivism follow-up: 32.7

Participation in other programs:	**%**
Restitution	43.7
IMPACT	0.1
Community Service-Parole	67.8

COMMUNITY SERVICE PAROLE

Description

As with the Community Service Work Program for probationers, the purpose of the Community Service Work Program for paroled offenders is to provide opportunities for offenders to repay the community for damages resulting from their criminal acts. Offenders perform free work for public and nonprofit agencies. Community service work is used as a sanction at every stage of the criminal justice system. It can be used as a sole sanction or in conjunction with other sanctions.

Community service work is administered by the Division of Victim and Justice Services in the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. Each judicial district throughout North Carolina is required to have at least one community service coordinator to interview, place, and monitor community service work. Each offender is charged a fee of $100 for participation in the Community Service Work Program.

Summary of findings

Eighteen percent (8,512) of all cases included community service parole. The overall rearrest rate for any offense was 51% and the reconviction rate was 37.5% for any offense. Approximately ninety-seven percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 74% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior fingerprinted arrests was 4.56. Approximately 99% of this population were felons. The current offense was most likely to be a property (46.3%) or drug (38.6%) felony. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (25.1%) or drug (18.2%) offenses. This program was used in conjunction with restitution, intensive parole, electronic house arrest parole, and regular parole. It was most likely used in conjunction with regular parole (97.3%) and restitution (51.4%).

COMMUNITY SERVICE PAROLE

<u>Number of clients (N): 8,512</u>

Age in years:
Mean 30.1
Median 28.9

Gender: %
Male 91.3
Female 8.7

Race: %
White 27.0
Black 70.8
Other 2.1

Marital Status: %
Single 66.9
Divorced/Separated 18.2
Married/Widowed 13.9
Other/Unknown 1.0

Percentage with at least one prior %
fingerprinted arrest: 96.9

Mean number of prior fingerprinted
arrests:
Any offense 4.56
Violent offense 0.67
Sex offense (felony) 0.04
Property offense 2.84
Drug offense 1.02
Other offense 0.46

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 9.3
Sex felony 1.5
Property felony 46.3
Drug felony 38.6
Other felony 2.9
Violent misdemeanor 0.8
Property misdemeanor 0.4
Drug misdemeanor 0.1

Mean number of months served in
prison before beginning parole: 11.9

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 51.0
Violent offense 9.1
Sex offense (felony) 0.5
Property offense 25.1
Drug offense 18.2
Other offense 6.4

Mean number of subsequent arrests: . . . 1.02

Mean number of months for recidivism
follow-up: 32.8

Participation in other programs: %
Restitution 51.4
Intensive Parole 1.8
Electronic House Arrest-Parole 1.0
Regular Parole 97.3

INTENSIVE PAROLE

Description

In 1983 the General Assembly authorized the Division of Adult Probation and Parole within the Department of Correction to establish a program of Intensive Parole. The purpose of the program was "to provide intensive supervision for probationers and parolees who require close supervision in order to remain in the community pursuant to a community penalties plan, community work plan, community restitution plan, or other plan of rehabilitation." Intensive Supervision Parole is available statewide.

Summary of Findings

Less than one percent (212) of all cases were on intensive parole. The overall rearrest rate was 47.2% and the overall reconviction rate was 33.5%. Ninety-four percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 69.8% had at least one prior conviction. All of these offenders were felons. The current offense was most likely a property (37.7%) or violent (30.2%) felony. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (25%) or drug (13.7%) offenses. The only other programs to which they also were assigned were community service parole (70.8%) and restitution (45.8%).

INTENSIVE PAROLE

Number of clients (N): 212

Age in years:
Mean 31.4
Median 29.9

Gender: %
Male 95.8
Female 4.2

Race: %
White 30.7
Black 64.2
Other 5.2

Marital Status: %
Single 67.0
Divorced/Separated 19.3
Married/Widowed 12.3
Other/Unknown 1.4

Percentage with at least one prior   %
fingerprinted arrest: 94.3

Mean number of prior fingerprinted
arrests:
Any offense 4.98
Violent offense 1.16
Sex offense (felony) 0.07
Property offense 3.05
Drug offense 0.80
Other offense 0.56

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 30.2
Sex felony 5.2
Property felony 37.7
Drug felony 19.3
Other felony 6.6
Property misdemeanor 0.9

Mean number of months served in
prison before beginning parole: 37.2

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 47.2
Violent offense 9.9
Property offense 25.0
Drug offense 13.7
Other offense 5.7

Mean number of subsequent arrests: ... 0.93

Mean number of months for recidivism
follow-up: 34.3

Participation in other programs: %
Restitution 45.8
Community Service-Parole 70.8

ELECTRONIC HOUSE ARREST - PAROLE

Description

House arrest with electronic monitoring is a special condition of supervised parole. During Fiscal Year 1993-94, the purposes of house arrest with electronic monitoring were to restrict the offender's freedom and movement in the community, to increase supervision of convicted offenders, ease prison overcrowding, and save taxpayers money. House arrest with electronic monitoring is available statewide through the Division of Adult Probation and Parole within the Department of Correction.

House arrest with electronic monitoring uses computer technology to monitor and restrict the offender's movement. Other than approved leave to go to work or to receive rehabilitative services, the offender is restricted to his/her home. Through the use of a transmitter strapped to an offender's ankle and linked by telephone lines to a central computer, a continuous signal is emitted. If this signal is interrupted by the offender going beyond the authorized radius of the receiver, the host computer records the date and time of the signal's disappearance. The computer will also record the date and time the signal resumes. If a signal interruption occurs during a period when the parolee should be at home, the violation is checked by the parole officer or by a designated electronic house arrest response officer. The average stay on house arrest is ninety days, after which the offender is initially supervised as a high risk case on regular parole.

Summary of Findings

Less than one percent (109) of all cases were on electronic house parole. The overall recidivism rate for rearrest was 41.3% and 29.4% for reconviction. Ninety-six percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 73% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior arrests was 5.38. Approximately 91% of these offenders were felons and 9% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely property (40.4%) or violent (22.9%) felony. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (18.3%) or drug (13.8%) offenses. The only other programs to which they also were assigned were community service parole (75.2%) and restitution (48.6%).

ELECTRONIC HOUSE ARREST - PAROLE

Age in years:
Mean 31.2
Median 29.7

Gender: %
Male 94.5
Female 5.5

Race: %
White 37.6
Black 58.7
Other 3.7

Marital Status: %
Single 66.1
Divorced/Separated 16.5
Married/Widowed 17.4

Percentage with at least one prior   %
fingerprinted arrest: 96.3

Mean number of prior fingerprinted
arrests:
Any offense 5.38
Violent offense 0.94
Sex offense (felony) 0.06
Property offense 3.75
Drug offense 0.71
Other offense 0.61

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 22.9
Sex felony 3.7
Property felony 40.4
Drug felony 19.3
Other felony 4.6
Violent misdemeanor 6.4
Property misdemeanor 1.8
Other misdemeanor 0.9

Mean number of months served in
prison before beginning parole: 22.8

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 41.3
Violent offense 7.3
Sex offense (felony) 0.9
Property offense 18.3
Drug offense 13.8
Other offense 5.5

Mean number of subsequent arrests: . . . 0.87

Mean number of months for recidivism
follow-up: 35.3

Participation in other programs: %
Restitution 48.6
Community Service-Parole 75.2

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PAROLE AND TERMINATE

Description

Parole and Terminate refers to offenders who are released from prison by the Parole Commission and are not subject to community supervision by a parole officer or any other conditions of parole.

Summary of Findings

Eight percent (3,902) of all cases were paroled and terminated. The overall rearrest rate for this group was 39.6% and the reconviction rate was 29.8%. Eighty-two percent of this group had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 67.9% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior arrests was 2.71. Approximately 75% of this group were misdemeanants and 25% were felons. The current offense was most likely to be property misdemeanor (48.1%), violent misdemeanor (13.7%), or drug felony (13.6%). Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (20.4%) or drug (12%) offenses. Since this program has no supervision involved, it was not used in conjunction with other programs.

PAROLE AND TERMINATE

Number of clients (N): 3,902

Age in years:
Mean 29.7
Median 28.8

Gender: %
Male 81.8
Female 18.2

Race: %
White 30.8
Black 66.2
Other 3.0

Marital Status: %
Other/Unknown 100.0

Percentage with at least one prior %
fingerprinted arrest: 82.1

Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:
Any offense 2.71
Violent offense 0.45
Sex offense (felony) 0.03
Property offense 1.68
Drug offense 0.49
Other offense 0.35

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 2.5
Sex felony 1.2
Property felony 6.7
Drug felony 13.6
Other felony 0.8
Violent misdemeanor 13.7
Sex offense misdemeanor 0.1
Property misdemeanor 48.1
Drug misdemeanor 8.0
Other misdemeanor 5.3

**Mean number of months served in
prison before release:** 4.2

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest): %
Any offense 39.6
Violent offense 6.7
Sex offense (felony) 0.5
Property offense 20.4
Drug offense 12.0
Other offense 4.7

Mean number of subsequent arrests: ... 0.79

**Mean number of months for recidivism
follow-up:** 33.5

Participation in other programs: ...... N/A

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PRISON MAXOUTS

Description

Offenders who "maxout" of prison are unconditionally released from prison after serving their entire sentence (minus credit for good time, gain time, or previous confinement). In addition, these offenders are not subject to any community supervision or other conditions of parole.

Summary of Findings

About one percent (453) of all cases were prison maxouts. The overall rearrest rate for this group was 32.7% and the overall reconviction rate was 25.8%. Eighty-five percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 55.6% of them had at least one prior conviction. The mean number of prior arrests was 3.04. Approximately 85% of these offenders were felons and 15% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be violent (35.8%), property (19.6%), or drug (15%) felony. Offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (15.5%) or drug (10.4%) offenses. Since this program does not involve any supervision, it is not found in conjunction with any other programs.

PRISON MAXOUTS

Number of clients (N): 453

Age in years:
Mean 31.9
Median 30.6

Gender: %
Male 90.3
Female 9.7

Race: %
White 36.6
Black 59.6
Other 3.8

Marital Status: %
Other/Unknown 100.0

Percentage with at least one prior   %
fingerprinted arrest: 85.2

Mean number of prior fingerprinted
arrests:
Any offense 3.04
Violent offense 0.67
Sex offense (felony) 0.05
Property offense 1.77
Drug offense 0.51
Other offense 0.44

Current Offense: %
Violent felony 35.8
Sex felony 7.3
Property felony 19.6
Drug felony 15.0
Other felony 7.1
Violent misdemeanor 9.1
Property misdemeanor 5.5
Drug misdemeanor 0.2
Other misdemeanor 0.4

Mean number of months served in
prison before release: 35.8

Recidivism rates (fingerprinted rearrest):   %
Any offense 32.7
Violent offense 7.3
Sex offense (felony) 0.2
Property offense 15.5
Drug offense 10.4
Other offense 3.3

Mean number of subsequent arrests: . . . 0.63

Mean number of months for recidivism
follow-up: 33.4

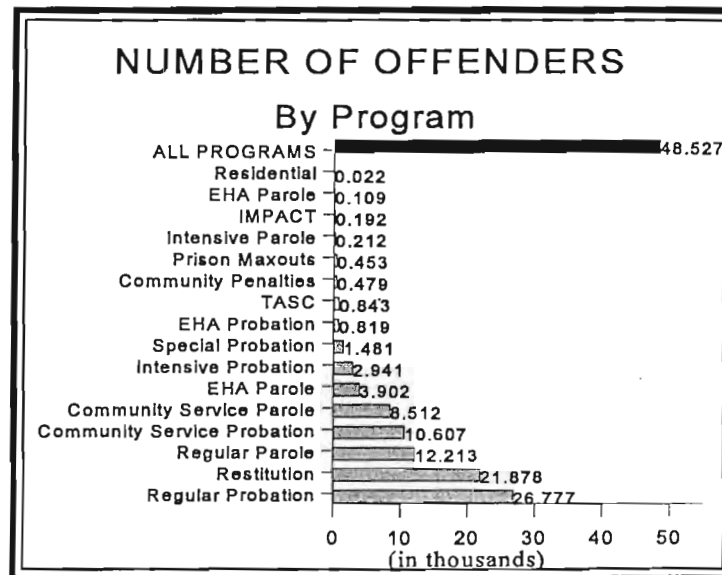### Participation in other programs: . . . . . . N/A

COMPARISON OF REARREST RATES AMONG PROGRAMS

Of the 48,527 offenders in the population, the largest number of persons participating in an individual program was for regular probation (26,777) followed by restitution (21,878) and regular parole (12,213). In contrast, only 22 offenders were identified as being in residential treatment, 109 offenders were in EHA parole, and 192 offenders were in IMPACT. *It is important to remember that most (65.5%) of these offenders are sentenced to at least two programs.* The four program combinations (or single program involvement) which included over half of all offenders were:

- regular probation and restitution(20.2%)
- regular probation (17.7%)
- regular parole, restitution, and community service parole (8.8%)
- regular parole and community service parole (8.3%).

(For a detailed breakdown of the programs and combinations of programs in which offenders are included see Appendix A.)
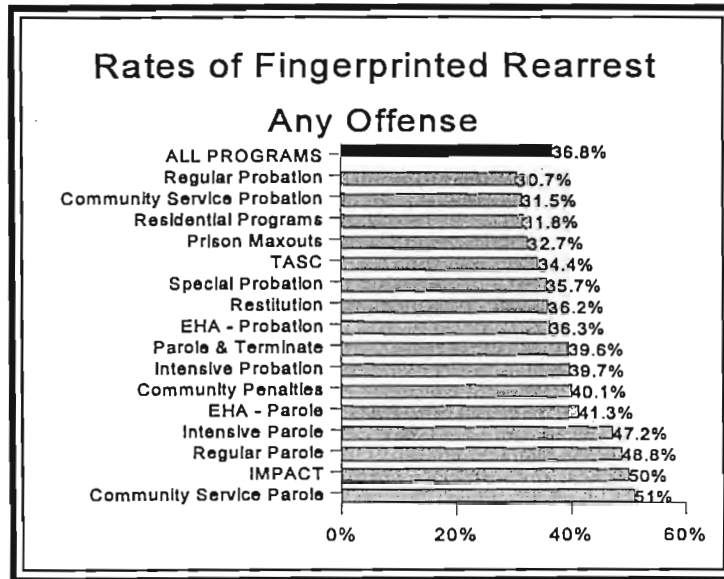
The overall recidivism rate varied depending on whether offenders were probationers (31.86%), parolees(48.71%), or released from prison with no supervision, i.e., parole and terminate or prison maxouts (38.87%). The overall recidivism rate also varied depending on whether the offenders were felons (41.39%) or misdemeanors (32.58%).

NUMBER OF OFFENDERS
By Program

Program	Value (in thousands)
ALL PROGRAMS	48.527
Residential	0.022
EHA Parole	0.109
IMPACT	0.192
Intensive Parole	0.212
Prison Maxouts	0.453
Community Penalties	0.479
TASC	0.843
EHA Probation	0.819
Special Probation	1.481
Intensive Probation	2.941
EHA Parole	3.902
Community Service Parole	8.512
Community Service Probation	10.607
Regular Parole	12.213
Restitution	21.878
Regular Probation	26.777

The following sections review rearrest rates for any offense and also for the five categories of offenses that have been considered in this study. The average follow-up time for tracking rearrests was 32.8 months.
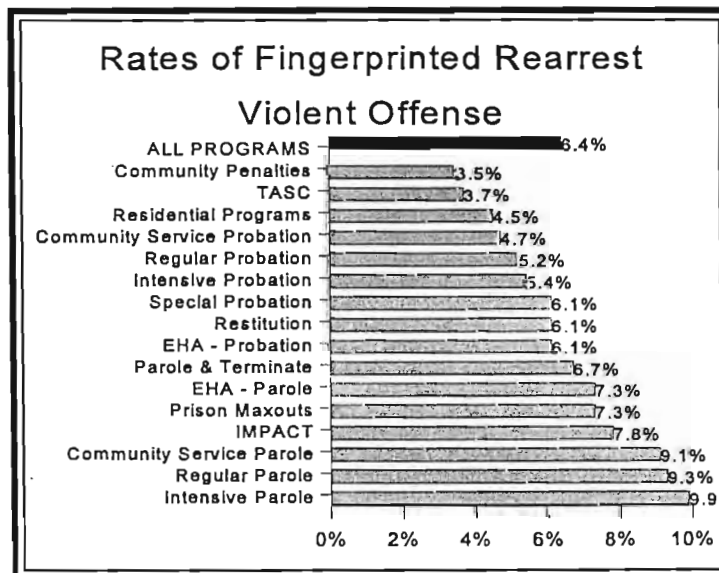
Rearrest Rate For Any Offense

The overall fingerprinted rearrest rate for all offenders was 36.8%. The rearrest rate was highest for community service parole (51%), IMPACT (50%), and regular parole (48.8%). The rearrest rate was lowest for regular probation (30.7%), community service probation (31.5%), and residential treatment (31.8%).

Rates of Fingerprinted Rearrest
Any Offense

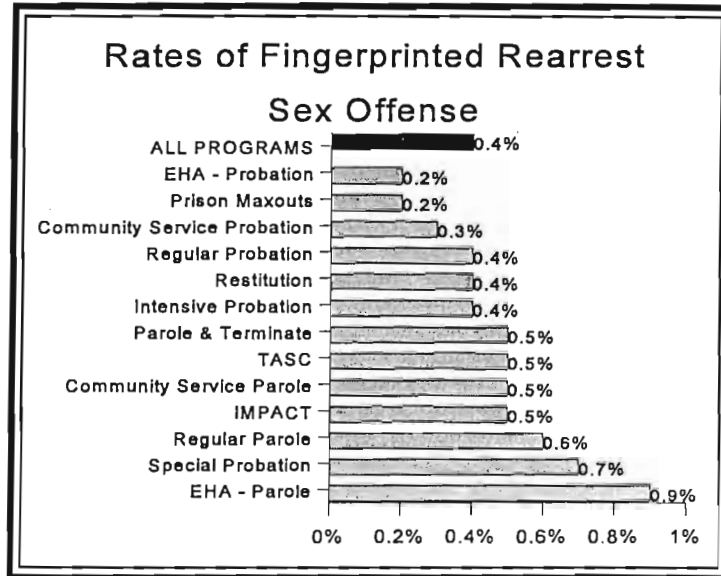| Program	Rate
ALL PROGRAMS	36.8%
Regular Probation	30.7%
Community Service Probation	31.5%
Residential Programs	31.8%
Prison Maxouts	32.7%
TASC	34.4%
Special Probation	35.7%
Restitution	36.2%
EHA - Probation	36.3%
Parole & Terminate	39.6%
Intensive Probation	39.7%
Community Penalties	40.1%
EHA - Parole	41.3%
Intensive Parole	47.2%
Regular Parole	48.8%
IMPACT	50%
Community Service Parole	51%

Rearrest Rate For Violent Offenses

The overall rearrest rate for violent offenses was 6.4%. The violent rearrest rate was highest for intensive parole (9.9%), regular parole (9.3%), and community service parole (9.1%). The violent rearrest rate was lowest for community penalties (3.5%) and TASC (3.7%).

Rates of Fingerprinted Rearrest
Violent Offense

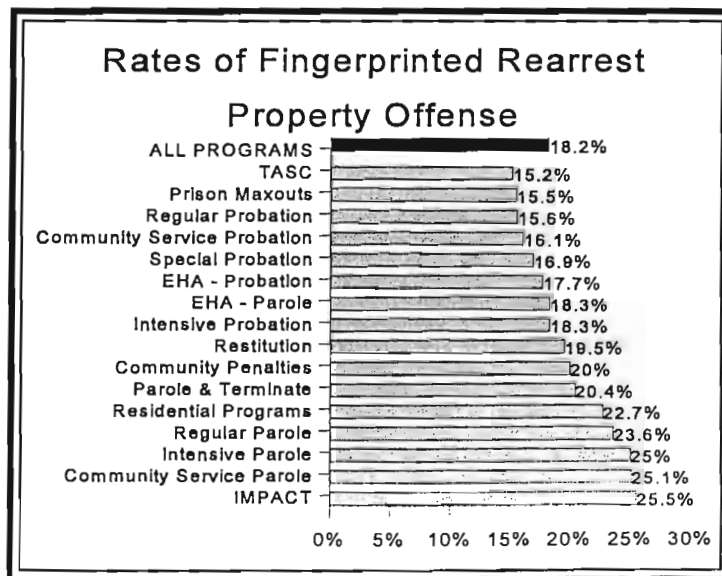| Program	Rate
ALL PROGRAMS	6.4%
Community Penalties	3.5%
TASC	3.7%
Residential Programs	4.5%
Community Service Probation	4.7%
Regular Probation	5.2%
Intensive Probation	5.4%
Special Probation	6.1%
Restitution	6.1%
EHA - Probation	6.1%
Parole & Terminate	6.7%
EHA - Parole	7.3%
Prison Maxouts	7.3%
IMPACT	7.8%
Community Service Parole	9.1%
Regular Parole	9.3%
Intensive Parole	9.9

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Rearrest Rate for Sex Offenses

The overall rearrest rate for sex offenses was .4 %. The sex offense rearrest rate was zero for residential treatment and intensive parole. The sex offense rearrest rate was .2% for EHA probation and for prison "maxouts". The sex offense rearrest rate was highest for EHA parole (.9%), special probation (.7%), and regular parole (.6%).

Rates of Fingerprinted Rearrest

Sex Offense

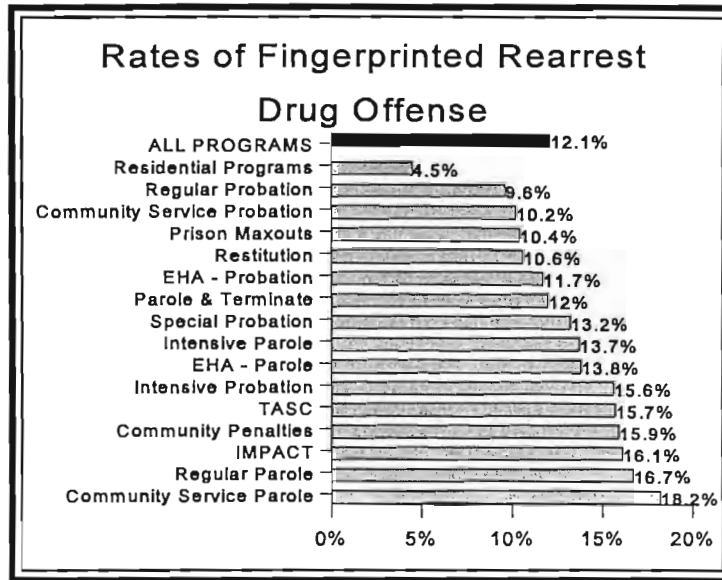| Program	Rate
ALL PROGRAMS	0.4%
EHA - Probation	0.2%
Prison Maxouts	0.2%
Community Service Probation	0.3%
Regular Probation	0.4%
Restitution	0.4%
Intensive Probation	0.4%
Parole & Terminate	0.5%
TASC	0.5%
Community Service Parole	0.5%
IMPACT	0.5%
Regular Parole	0.6%
Special Probation	0.7%
EHA - Parole	0.9%

0% 0.2% 0.4% 0.6% 0.8% 1%

Rearrest Rate for Property Offenses

The overall rearrest rate for property offenses was 18.2%. The property rearrest rate was highest for IMPACT (25.5%), community service parole (25.1%), and intensive parole (25%). The property rearrest rate was lowest for TASC (15.2%), prison "maxouts" (15.5%), and regular probation (15.6%).

Rates of Fingerprinted Rearrest

Property Offense

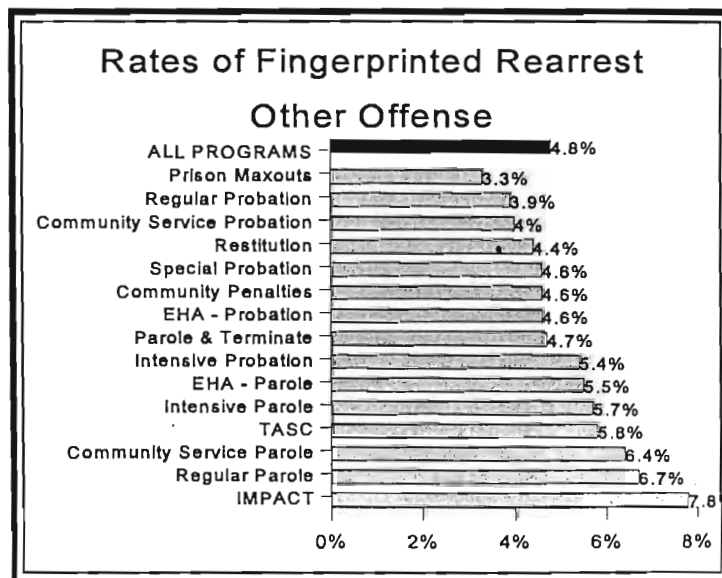| Program	Rate
ALL PROGRAMS	18.2%
TASC	15.2%
Prison Maxouts	15.5%
Regular Probation	15.6%
Community Service Probation	16.1%
Special Probation	16.9%
EHA - Probation	17.7%
EHA - Parole	18.3%
Intensive Probation	18.3%
Restitution	19.5%
Community Penalties	20%
Parole & Terminate	20.4%
Residential Programs	22.7%
Regular Parole	23.6%
Intensive Parole	25%
Community Service Parole	25.1%
IMPACT	25.5%

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30%

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Rearrest Rate for Drug Offenses

The overall rearrest rate for drug offenses was 12.1%. The drug rearrest rate was highest for community service parole (18.2%), regular parole (16.7%), and IMPACT (16.1%). The drug rearrest rate was lowest for residential treatment (4.5%), regular probation (9.6%), and community service probation (10.2%).
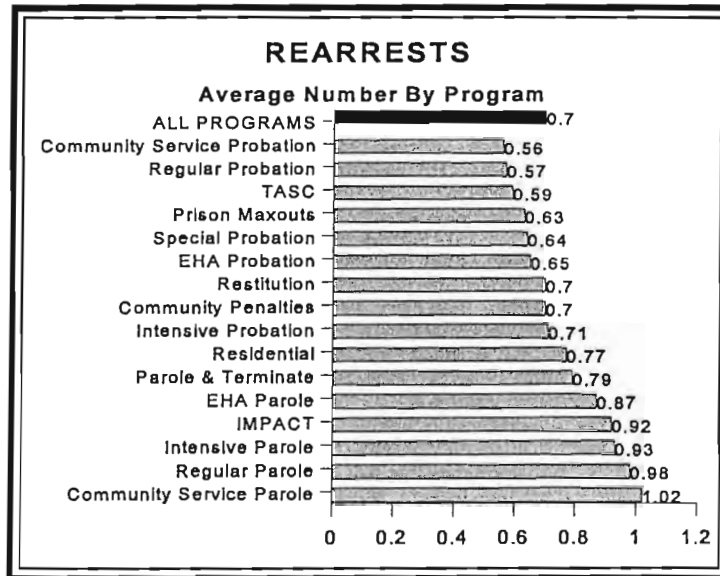

Rates of Fingerprinted Rearrest
Drug Offense

Program	Rate
ALL PROGRAMS	12.1%
Residential Programs	4.5%
Regular Probation	9.6%
Community Service Probation	10.2%
Prison Maxouts	10.4%
Restitution	10.6%
EHA - Probation	11.7%
Parole & Terminate	12%
Special Probation	13.2%
Intensive Parole	13.7%
EHA - Parole	13.8%
Intensive Probation	15.6%
TASC	15.7%
Community Penalties	15.9%
IMPACT	16.1%
Regular Parole	16.7%
Community Service Parole	18.2%

Rearrest Rate for Other Offenses

The overall rearrest rate for "other" offenses was 4.8%. The "other" rearrest rate was highest for IMPACT (7.8%), regular parole (6.7%), and community service parole (6.4%). There were no rearrests for "other" offenses for residential treatment; the rearrest rate for "other" offenses was 3.3% for prison "maxouts" and 3.9% for regular probation.

Rates of Fingerprinted Rearrest
Other Offense

Program	Rate
ALL PROGRAMS	4.8%
Prison Maxouts	3.3%
Regular Probation	3.9%
Community Service Probation	4%
Restitution	4.4%
Special Probation	4.6%
Community Penalties	4.6%
EHA - Probation	4.6%
Parole & Terminate	4.7%
Intensive Probation	5.4%
EHA - Parole	5.5%
Intensive Parole	5.7%
TASC	5.8%
Community Service Parole	6.4%
Regular Parole	6.7%
IMPACT	7.8

Average Number of Rearrests by Program

The average number of rearrests for all offenders was .7. The average number of rearrests was highest for community service parole (1.02), regular parole (.98), and intensive parole (.93). The average number of rearrests was lowest for community service probation (.56), regular probation (.57), and TASC (.59).
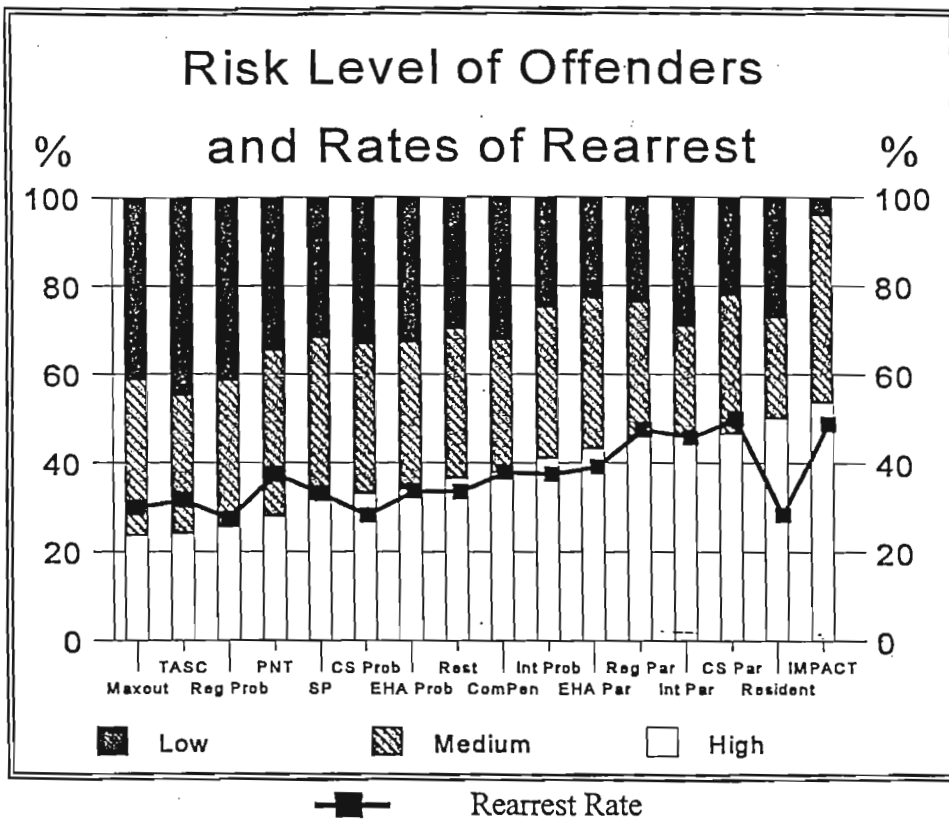
REARRESTS

Average Number By Program

Program	Value
ALL PROGRAMS	0.7
Community Service Probation	0.56
Regular Probation	0.57
TASC	0.59
Prison Maxouts	0.63
Special Probation	0.64
EHA Probation	0.65
Restitution	0.7
Community Penalties	0.7
Intensive Probation	0.71
Residential	0.77
Parole & Terminate	0.79
EHA Parole	0.87
IMPACT	0.92
Intensive Parole	0.93
Regular Parole	0.98
Community Service Parole	1.02

0   0.2   0.4   0.6   0.8   1   1.2

RECIDIVISM RATES COMPARED WITH RISK SCORES OF OFFENDERS

When comparing the rearrest rates of offenders in the various programs, it cannot be assumed that a high rearrest rate for one program means that the program is less effective than programs with lower rearrest. The various programs may contain more or less offenders that are at high risk. Programs with a large percentage of high risk offenders will be more likely to have a high rearrest rate. For this reason, a logistic regression model[4] was used to create a risk score for each offender in a sample of cases.[5] As demonstrated by the graph on the next page, with the exception of residential treatment, the percent of offenders who were rearrested were very similar to the percent of high risk offenders in the program. It is important to note that while the residential treatment rearrest rate is much lower than the percentage of high risk individuals in the program, only 22 offenders in this study were assigned to residential treatment and it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions from such a small number.

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[4] For a description of logistic regression as it has been used in a previous study of recidivism, see Clarke and Harrison (1992). In the current study, a logistic regression model was used which included age, race, gender, current and prior offenses, and time served immediately prior to the program involvement was used to create a risk score for each individual. From these scores, each person was assigned a risk level of low, medium, or high.
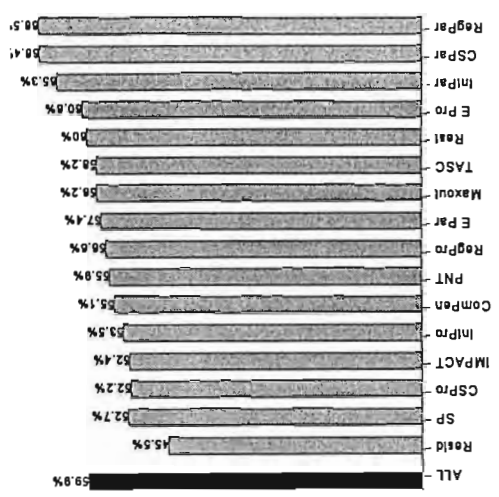
[5] The sample was drawn to assure that an adequate number of participants would be included for each program. Because of the small number of offenders in the programs, all offenders were included from the residential treatment, EHA parole, IMPACT, and intensive parole programs.

Risk Level of Offenders and Rates of Rearrest

Categories (x-axis): Maxout, TASC, Reg Prob, PNT, SP, CS Prob, EHA Prob, Rest, ComPen, Int Prob, EHA Par, Reg Par, Int Par, CS Par, Resident, IMPACT

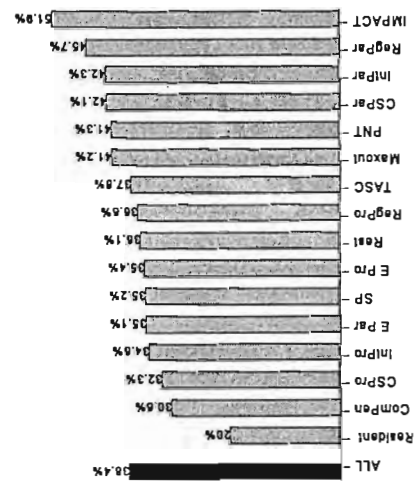Legend: Low, Medium, High, Rearrest Rate

Another way of using the risk scores of individuals to look at differences and similarities among the programs is to divide the population into three groups: low, medium, and high risk and then to look at the rearrest rate by program for each of the three groups. As can be seen from the graph on the following page, the overall rearrest rate for the low risk group was 19.8% and ranged from a low of 0% for IMPACT to a high of 30.2% for regular parole. The overall rearrest rate for the medium risk group was 38.4% and ranged from a low of 20% for residential treatment to a high of 51.9% for IMPACT. The overall rearrest rate for the high risk group was 59.9% and ranged from a low of 45.5% for residential treatment to a high of 68.5% for regular parole. It is noteworthy that the program that had the second highest overall rearrest rate (IMPACT) actually had no recidivism for its low risk offenders. However, only eight of the 109 IMPACT offenders were classified as low risk offenders. When the medium risk offenders were examined, IMPACT had the highest rearrest rate.
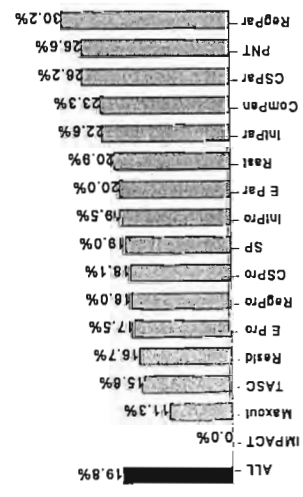
REARREST RATES AND RISK LEVEL OF OFFENDERS

Rearrest Rates of High Risk Offenders

Program	Rate
RegPar	58.5%
CSPar	58.4%
InPar	55.3%
E Pro	50.6%
Resi	60%
TASC	58.2%
Maxout	58.2%
E Par	57.4%
RegPro	56.6%
PNT	55.9%
ComPen	55.1%
InPro	53.5%
IMPACT	52.4%
CSPro	52.2%
SP	52.7%
Resid	45.5%
ALL	59.8%

Rearrest Rates of Medium Risk Offenders

Program	Rate
IMPACT	51.9%
RegPar	43.7%
InPar	42.3%
CSPar	42.1%
PNT	41.3%
Maxout	41.2%
TASC	37.8%
RegPro	36.5%
Resi	36.1%
E Pro	35.4%
SP	35.2%
E Par	35.1%
InPro	34.6%
CSPro	32.3%
ComPen	30.6%
Resident	20%
ALL	36.4%

Rearrest Rates of Low Risk Offenders

Program	Rate
RegPar	30.2%
PNT	26.6%
CSPar	26.2%
ComPen	23.3%
InPar	22.6%
Resi	20.8%
E Par	20.0%
InPro	18.5%
SP	19.0%
CSPro	18.1%
RegPro	18.0%
E Pro	17.5%
Resid	16.7%
TASC	15.8%
Maxout	11.3%
IMPACT	0.0%
ALL	19.8%

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DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

This study is the third recidivism study that has been conducted under the supervision of the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission. The first two (Clarke and Harrison, 1992; Jones and Ross, 1996) were contractual agreements with researchers. This study is the first of an annual series of studies to be completed by the Sentencing Commission staff in conjunction with the Department of Correction.

Of the 48,527 offenders in this study, 36.8% were rearrested during the follow-up period of 32.8 months. This study provides a profile of the offenders in the sixteen corrections programs that were included. There is considerable variation in the recidivism rates by program. The rates range from 30.7% for regular probation to 51% for community service parole. What conclusions can be drawn from this information? Does this mean that regular probation is a better program than community service parole? The answer to these questions is no.

As has been pointed out several times, this study is not a controlled experiment. It is only a description of the programs. There was no way to control the assignment of offenders to the various programs and thus there is no way to assume that the offenders in each group are similar in their likelihood to commit another crime.

If the offenders assigned to the various programs are assigned to those programs not randomly but as the result of some rational decision making on the part of judges or the Parole Commission, then differences in rearrest rates among the programs would be expected. To test this logic, a sample was used to perform a logistic regression with offender demographic characteristics and prior and current offense information as the independent variables and recidivism as the dependent variable. From this regression analysis, a risk score for each person in the sample was computed. These risk scores were then assigned a value of low, medium, or high and compared with the recidivism score for each program. The graphical comparison indicates that the percent of high risk offenders in each program are roughly equivalent to the recidivism rate in that program. The one exception was residential treatment which only had 22 offenders, so, it is difficult to draw conclusions about that program.

Another way in which the risk score was used for comparison purposes was to compute a separate rearrest rate for low risk offenders, medium risk offenders, and high risk offenders within each program. This has also been shown graphically. This graph suggests that the differences among programs basically "wash-out" when the risk-level of the offenders is held constant for the programs.

Recidivism is always an area of concern for researchers and practitioners alike in the criminal justice field. This study has provided descriptive highlights of recidivism of offenders who either entered a community corrections program in Fiscal Year 1993-94 or were released from prison in Fiscal Year 1993-94. More in-depth studies and evaluation of the various programs would be useful to discover strengths and weaknesses to determine how they could better serve offenders.

APPENDIX A

PROGRAM COMBINATIONS

FOR OFFENDERS IN THIS STUDY

Program Combinations	Number of Offenders	Percent	Cumulative Number	Cumulative Percent
--------R---F---	9779	20.2	9779	20.2
--------R-------	8575	17.7	18354	37.8
---------A--F-O-	4256	8.8	22610	46.6
---------A----O-	4022	8.3	26632	54.9
-------R----L--	3978	8.2	30610	63.1
----------N-----	3901	8.0	34511	71.1
-------R---F-L--	3596	7.4	38107	78.5
--------A------	2844	5.9	40951	84.4
--------A--F---	1079	2.2	42030	86.6
---D--------F-L-	1054	2.2	43084	88.8
---D---------L--	722	1.5	43806	90.3
----------M----	453	0.9	44259	91.2
-------S--------	435	0.9	44694	92.1
-------S----F---	371	0.8	45065	92.9
---D--------F---	294	0.6	45359	93.5
---D------------	258	0.5	45617	94.0
--T-----R-------	248	0.5	45865	94.5
-----J----------	243	0.5	46108	95.0
-----J------F---	225	0.5	46333	95.5
---D---S----F-L-	144	0.3	46477	95.8
-----J------F-L-	143	0.3	46620	96.1
-------S----F-L-	127	0.3	46747	96.3
-----J-------L--	117	0.2	46864	96.6
--T-----R---F---	111	0.2	46975	96.8
-------S-----L--	99	0.2	47074	97.0
-C------R---F---	77	0.2	47151	97.2
----G-------F-O-	76	0.2	47227	97.3
----G---------O-	74	0.2	47301	97.5
---D---S-----L--	74	0.2	47375	97.6
-C------R---F-L-	74	0.2	47449	97.8
--T-----R----L--	73	0.2	47522	97.9
-C------R-------	64	0.1	47586	98.1
-C-D--------F-L-	64	0.1	47650	98.2
-C------R----L--	50	0.1	47700	98.3
---D---S----F---	48	0.1	47748	98.4
------K-----F-O-	43	0.1	47791	98.5
----G----------	41	0.1	47832	98.6
------K-------O-	39	0.1	47871	98.6
---D---S--------	37	0.1	47908	98.7
--T-D--------L--	34	0.1	47942	98.8
-C-D---------L--	34	0.1	47976	98.9
--T-----R---F-L-	33	0.1	48009	98.9
B-------R---F---	32	0.1	48041	99.0
--T-D-------F-L-	31	0.1	48072	99.1
B-------R-------	28	0.1	48100	99.1
--T----S--------	26	0.1	48126	99.2

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Program Combinations	Number of Offenders	Percent	Cumulative Number	Cumulative Percent
B--D--------F-L-	24	0.0	48150	99.2
----G-------F---	21	0.0	48171	99.3
------K---------	17	0.0	48188	99.3
B-------R----L--	17	0.0	48205	99.3
-----J-S----F-L-	14	0.0	48219	99.4
--T-D-----------	13	0.0	48232	99.4
-C-D------------	13	0.0	48245	99.4
-----J-S----F---	11	0.0	48256	99.4
------K-----F---	10	0.0	48266	99.5
-C-D--------F---	10	0.0	48276	99.5
-C-D---S----F-L-	10	0.0	48286	99.5
B-------R---F-L-	10	0.0	48296	99.5
B--D---------L--	10	0.0	48306	99.5
--T----S----F---	9	0.0	48315	99.6
--T-D--S-----L--	9	0.0	48324	99.6
-C---J------F-L-	9	0.0	48333	99.6
B--------A------	9	0.0	48342	99.6
B--D-----------	9	0.0	48351	99.6
-----J-S--------	8	0.0	48359	99.7
--T--J----------	8	0.0	48367	99.7
--T-D-------F---	8	0.0	48375	99.7
B--D--------F---	8	0.0	48383	99.7
--------R---F--P	7	0.0	48390	99.7
-C-----S--------	6	0.0	48396	99.7
-C---J------F---	6	0.0	48402	99.7
--------R------P	5	0.0	48407	99.8
-C-----S----F---	5	0.0	48412	99.8
-C-----S----F-L-	5	0.0	48417	99.8
-C-T----R-------	5	0.0	48422	99.8
-C-T-D------F-L-	5	0.0	48427	99.8
B----J----------	5	0.0	48432	99.8
B----J------F---	5	0.0	48437	99.8
-----J-S-----L--	4	0.0	48441	99.8
--T--J-------L--	4	0.0	48445	99.8
--T--J------F---	4	0.0	48449	99.8
-C---J----------	4	0.0	48453	99.8
-C-D---S----F---	4	0.0	48457	99.9
-C-T-D-------L--	4	0.0	48461	99.9
B-C-----R---F-L-	4	0.0	48465	99.9
--T----S-----L--	3	0.0	48468	99.9
--T----S----F-L-	3	0.0	48471	99.9
-C------R---F--P	3	0.0	48474	99.9
B----J------F-L-	3	0.0	48477	99.9
B--D---S-----L--	3	0.0	48480	99.9
B--D---S----F-L-	3	0.0	48483	99.9
--T-D--S--------	2	0.0	48485	99.9
-C------R------P	2	0.0	48487	99.9
-C-T----R----L--	2	0.0	48489	99.9

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Program Combinations	Number of Offenders	Percent	Cumulative Number	Cumulative Percent
B--------A----O-	2	0.0	48491	99.9
B------S--------	2	0.0	48493	99.9
B------S----F---	2	0.0	48495	99.9
B------S----F-L-	2	0.0	48497	99.9
B--D---S--------	2	0.0	48499	99.9
B-C-D--------L--	2	0.0	48501	99.9
B-C-D-------F-L-	2	0.0	48503	100.0
-------R--F-L-P	1	0.0	48504	100.0
-------S----F--P	1	0.0	48505	100.0
--T--J------F-L-	1	0.0	48506	100.0
--T-D--S----F---	1	0.0	48507	100.0
-C-----S-------P	1	0.0	48508	100.0
-C-----S-----L--	1	0.0	48509	100.0
-C---J-------L--	1	0.0	48510	100.0
-C-D-------F-L-P	1	0.0	48511	100.0
-C-D---S--------	1	0.0	48512	100.0
-C-D---S-----L--	1	0.0	48513	100.0
-C-T----R---F---	1	0.0	48514	100.0
-C-T----R---F--P	1	0.0	48515	100.0
-C-T---S--------	1	0.0	48516	100.0
-C-T---S----F---	1	0.0	48517	100.0
-C-T-J-S----F---	1	0.0	48518	100.0
-C-T-D-S--------	1	0.0	48519	100.0
B---------N-----	1	0.0	48520	100.0
B--------A--F---	1	0.0	48521	100.0
B----J-------L--	1	0.0	48522	100.0
B----J-S----F---	1	0.0	48523	100.0
B--D---S----F---	1	0.0	48524	100.0
B-C-----R-------	1	0.0	48525	100.0
B-C----S----F---	1	0.0	48526	100.0
B-C--J------F-L-	1	0.0	48527	100.0

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L=Community Service Probation
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