

**RECIDIVISM OF OFFENDERS ASSIGNED TO  
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS  
OR RELEASED FROM PRISON  
IN NORTH CAROLINA:  
FISCAL YEAR 1994-95**

**Prepared by the North Carolina Sentencing  
and Policy Advisory Commission  
in conjunction with  
the North Carolina Department of Correction**

***SUBMITTED TO THE 1998 SESSION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY***

***Pursuant to Chapter 18, Section 22.3 of the 1996 Session Laws  
APRIL 1998***

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This publication is the result of cooperation from many people without whom this study could not have been completed. Stevens Clarke at the Institute of Government, the lead researcher for the first recidivism study completed for the Sentencing Commission, paved the way with computer programs and advice -- both of which were greatly appreciated. Cheryl George and Eloise Diggins of the DCI provided the matches from the DCI Computerized Criminal History (CCH) database that was used to track offenders. TASC field offices provided the necessary information on offenders that had been placed in TASC. Don Jones from Community Penalties coordinated data collection from the Community Penalties offices around the state. Residential treatment facilities provided data for the first time. Thanks are also due to the many others in state government agencies who provided advice and help with this project. Finally, I would like to thank Mary Robinson and Margaret Clark for seeing that this all came together in one piece.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As mandated by the North Carolina General Assembly, the Department of Correction and the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission have completed a study of recidivism of all offenders who were placed on probation or were released from prison in Fiscal Year 1994/95. The study included 45,836 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's 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 35.1 months. Recidivism was measured in this study by the percent of offenders who were rearrested during this period of time.

As a group, these offenders were 29 years of age, predominately male (81.5%), predominately black (59%), and predominately single (63%). Approximately 70% of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest. The mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests was 2.2; the predominant category of prior arrests was for property offenses (average=1.3). The current offense was most likely to be property misdemeanor (22.7%).

This report provides information on rearrest rates during the follow-up period for the entire population of offenders, and for each individual program. Rearrests do not include traffic offenses (including Driving While Impaired) and the offender group does not include offenders on unsupervised probation. The overall rate of rearrest for all offenders was 37.3%. Breaking the rearrests into offense categories shows that 6.9% were rearrested for violent offenses; 0.4% were rearrested for sex offenses; 17.3% were rearrested for property offenses; 12.4% were rearrested for drug offenses; and 5.6% were rearrested for other miscellaneous offenses. The mean number of subsequent arrests was 0.7.

The offenders studied had participated in one or more of fifteen programs. Information relating to program designation was provided by the Department of Correction and supplemented with information provided by TASC, Community Penalties, Summit House, FIRST, and Harriet's House. It is important to realize that not all of the programs considered still function in the same manner as they did in Fiscal Year 1994/95. The enactment of Structured Sentencing in October, 1994 was responsible for subsequent changes that have occurred in some of the programs. However, it should be remembered that the majority of offenders in this study were sentenced under the Fair Sentencing Act. The number of people tracked in these programs varied considerably, from 27,241 in regular probation and 11,092 in community service probation to only 37 offenders identified as being in residential treatment and 273 in EHA parole. Rearrest rates showed considerable variation when compared among these fifteen programs, with the rate

highest for parolees on electronic house arrest (51.3%) and in community service (50%), and lowest for probationers on regular probation (31.3%) and community service probation (32.5%).

These offenders can be divided into three major groups: probationers (31,081), parolees (12,512), and those offenders who were released from prison with no supervision (2,243). The probationers (average age=28.5) were slightly younger than the other two groups where the average age was over 30. Females comprised 22% of the probationers but only 10% of the parolees. Blacks were 55% of the probationers and over 68% of the parolees. The marital status was similar for all three groups. Probationers were least likely (64%) to have a prior fingerprinted arrest while 82% of the parolees and 84% of the prison releases had a prior fingerprinted arrest. Parolees averaged 3.7 prior arrests and probationers averaged 1.6 prior arrests. All three groups were more likely to have prior arrests for property offenses than any other category of offense. The current offense was most often a property misdemeanor for probationers (27.4%) and for prison releases (43.2%) while it was a property felony for parolees (30.1%).

Of these three groups, the probationers were least likely to be rearrested (32.8%), followed by releasees (40.5%), and parolees (48.1%). Property offenses were the category for which all three groups were most likely to be rearrested. For probationers, the likelihood of being rearrested for a violent offense was 5.9% compared to 9.2% for parolees. Parolees (0.6%) were also twice as likely to be rearrested for a felony sex offense as probationers (0.3%).

Offenders participating in the fifteen programs were classified into risk levels defined as "low risk," "medium risk" and "low risk," based on age, race, gender, and prior arrests. Looking at these offenders by program, the rearrest rate for each program appeared to be strongly linked to the percentage of high risk offenders in the programs. Furthermore, when the rearrest rates were computed for each risk group within a program and these rearrest rates were compared among the programs, the differences among the groups were greatly reduced. That is, the rearrest rates were generally low for low risk offenders in each program and were generally high for high risk offenders in each program. Thus, programs appeared to have less effect on probability of rearrest than the offender's risk factors (age, race, gender, and prior offenses).

While this study is useful in examining some general information about programs, it is no substitute for a thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of programs, using a variety of outcome measures in addition to recidivism to assess program services.

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## INTRODUCTION

This report is presented to the General Assembly to provide information on the rearrest rate 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 which was matched with the Division of Criminal Information (DCI) offender 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) Descriptions of each program and profiles of the offenders in each program were prepared.
- (5) Rearrest rates were calculated for the entire population of offenders as well as for various subcategories of offenders, including a summary of rearrest rates for the various programs.
- (6) A comparison of the rearrest rates among the various programs was conducted controlling for the risk levels of the offenders entering the various programs.

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

Several cautions should be made concerning this study:

- ▶ This study is not a true evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs involved but only a description of these programs and the offenders assigned to them.
- ▶ Not all of the programs considered still function in exactly the same manner as they did in Fiscal Year 1994/95. Thus, the descriptions in the profile section of this report do not describe the programs as they currently exist, but, rather, the way they existed in Fiscal Year 1994/95.
- ▶ The Department of Correction began a new data base structure in 1995. This required conversion of data from the old to the new structure. A consequence of the conversion process was the loss of some information.<sup>1</sup> While Fiscal Year 1994/95 data are less reliable than data from the years before or after that period of time, overall findings appear to be consistent with the previous year's findings.
- ▶ Fiscal Year 1994/95 was the start-up year for Structured Sentencing. As is true with beginning any new system, there were some problems associated with the initial data collection. It should be noted, however, that the majority of the offenders in this study were sentenced under the Fair Sentencing Act and not under Structured Sentencing.
- ▶ This study only includes sentenced persons assigned to the programs, *e.g.*, not pre-trial or diversion assignments to programs like TASC.
- ▶ Traffic offenses, including sentences for Driving While Impaired, are not included in this study.
- ▶ This study does not include offenders on unsupervised probation.

## 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 three residential treatment programs (Summit House, FIRST, and Harriet's House).

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<sup>1</sup> Restitution information was not available due to this loss, resulting in the exclusion of the restitution program from this year's report.

## 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 Fiscal Year 1994/95 or for any person with a first release from prison during that time period. A machine-readable tape was also created for DCI which included the following identifying information:<sup>2</sup>

- Name
- Race
- Sex
- Birth date
- 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. Eighty-five percent of all offenders were matched with the DCI database. (Felony matches were 98% and misdemeanor matches were 73.5%.) These matches include all fingerprinted arrests and all convictions which included a fingerprint. 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 misdemeanors. This criminal history information was then examined to determine prior arrests, *i.e.*, arrests for crimes 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.

## 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, FIRST, and Harriet's House). Information on participation in these programs was obtained from the programs themselves.<sup>3</sup> Many offenders are included in more than one program. One point to remember is that this study is not able to measure the relationship between involvement in

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<sup>2</sup> Not all identifiers were available for all offenders.

<sup>3</sup> Not all offender names provided by these agencies could be matched to the probation file provided by DOC.

a program and prevention of rearrest. This is not meant to imply that being sentenced or assigned to a program has no impact on the offenders. However, this study does not attempt to measure the type and amount of service provided which might vary not only among programs, but also within programs for different individuals. For example, the Community Penalties Program provides no supervision. It only recommends to the judge a plan for community supervision and/or treatment. Inclusion in the community service probation/parole programs only indicates community service was ordered. There is no measure of completion of community service. These are unfortunate, but unavoidable, limitations of the study. There are, in fact, significant differences among these programs which are not considered in measuring rearrest in this report.

## **MEASUREMENT AND DEFINITION OF VARIABLES**

The major focus of this study is to report the rearrest rates of offenders for each of the fifteen 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, the study was limited to existing data that were mainly related to the demographic characteristics of the offender, criminal history, and program participation. 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 applicable for the scope of this study. The variables in this study considered to be of interest or of use in explaining the likelihood of rearrest by an offender were:

- age
- race
- gender
- marital status
- educational status (self-reported completion of high school)
- number of fingerprinted arrests for prior criminal activity
- 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 crimes of 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. The study counts for each arrest every category of charge involved: violent, sex offense, property, drug, or other. For example, if an arrest included a charge for a property crime and a charge for a drug crime, an arrest would be counted in each category. These prior arrests do not include traffic offenses (including misdemeanor impaired driving) or any technical probation/parole violations that do not involve new criminal charges.

### **Current Offense**

The current offense is the offense for which the offender was placed on probation, parole, or served time in prison. If there was more than one, the most serious offense was used, defined as the offense 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) and served immediately before the follow-up period. For paroled/released offenders, it was time served immediately before the release. For most probationers, it was 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 this current sentence was not counted in the time served but, rather, was part of the follow-up time. The measurement of rearrest may be affected by this requirement. That is, since part of the time after being sentenced to one of these programs was spent in prison or jail, the offender was not free to commit crimes during that period. Consequently, 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 higher than average rearrest rates.)

## **Rearrest Rates**

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. Rearrest rates do not include technical probation or parole violations. If the offender was paroled and terminated, paroled to another correction program, or was a "maxout" from prison (*i.e.*, served the maximum sentence allowed), the prison release date was used. If the offender was on probation, entry date into the program was the date used. The one exception was the TASC program -- in this program the TASC involvement start date was used. Average follow-up times varied among programs, and ranged from 33.6 months to 37 months. The overall average follow-up was 35.1 months. Rearrest rates were reported both for overall and for the five crime types being considered (violent, sex, property, drug, 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 profiles each program. Program descriptions are as they existed in Fiscal Year 1994/95, and are not necessarily an accurate depiction of the programs as they exist today.<sup>4</sup>

### **ALL PROGRAMS**

The total number of offenders that were considered in this study was 45,836. The average age of these offenders was 29 and they were predominantly male (81.5%). Thirty-seven percent of the offenders were white, 59% were black. Sixty-three percent of these offenders were single, 20% were divorced, 17% were married/widowed, and the marital status was unknown for less than 1%. Forty-four percent of offenders self-reported completion of high school.<sup>5</sup>

Approximately 70% of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 39.6% had at least one prior conviction. The mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests was 2.2 and the mean number of prior convictions was 1.8. The predominant category of prior fingerprinted arrests was for property offenses (average=1.3). The current offense was most likely a property misdemeanor (22.7%), followed by drug felony (18.3%) and property felony (16.2%). Because of problems during the data conversion process, in 11.4% of the cases the current offense type was uncertain. Twenty-two percent of this population had served time in prison immediately before the beginning of the follow-up period and the mean number of months served in prison was 10 months.

The average follow-up period for all cases was 35.1 months. The overall rearrest rate during this period of time was 37.3 percent and the overall reconviction rate was 27 percent. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for a property (17.3%) or drug (12.4%) offense. The mean number of subsequent arrests was 0.7.

Of this offender population, 31,081 were probationers, 12,512 were parolees, and 2,243 were paroled and terminated or had served their maximum prison sentence. The

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<sup>4</sup> For more detailed description of these programs in Fiscal Year 1994/95, refer to the *Compendium of Community Corrections Programs in North Carolina*, (February 5, 1996) prepared by Sandy C. Pearce and John H. Madler and published by the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission.

<sup>5</sup> Self-report of education completed is not available for 18,000 offenders. This is 39% of the total but this percentage varies considerably from group to group. The percent of offenders who self-reported completion of high school was computed only for those offenders where this information is available.

rearrest rates for these three groups were: probationers - 32.8%; parolees - 48.1%; and parole and terminate or prison maxouts - 40.5%. Where felon/misdemeanant status was available, 51% of these offenders were misdemeanants and 49% were felons. The rearrest rate for misdemeanants was 29.7% and the rearrest rate for felons was 38.8%.



## ALL PROGRAMS

**Number of clients (N): 45,836**

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**Age in years:**

Mean ..... 29.0  
 Median ..... 27.4

**Gender:** %

Male ..... 81.5  
 Female ..... 18.5

**Race:** %

White ..... 37.4  
 Black ..... 59.1  
 Other ..... 3.4

**Marital status:** %

Single ..... 62.7  
 Divorced/Separated ..... 19.8  
 Married/Widowed ..... 16.8  
 Other/Unknown ..... 0.6

**Self-reported completion of high school** %

..... 44.0%

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

..... 69.8

**Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:**

Any offense ..... 2.22  
 Violent offense ..... 0.37  
 Sex offense (felony) ..... 0.02  
 Property offense ..... 1.28  
 Drug offense ..... 0.52  
 Other offense ..... 0.27

**Current offense:** %

Violent felony ..... 5.2  
 Sex felony ..... 2.0  
 Property felony ..... 16.2  
 Drug felony ..... 18.3  
 Other felony ..... 1.8  
 Violent misdemeanor ..... 10.3  
 Property misdemeanor ..... 22.7  
 Drug misdemeanor ..... 5.9  
 Other misdemeanor ..... 6.2  
 Other unknown ..... 11.4

**Percentage who served time in prison**

**immediately before beginning program:** %  
 ..... 22.4

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

..... 10.06

**Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):** %

Any offense ..... 37.3  
 Violent offense ..... 6.9  
 Sex offense (felony) ..... 0.4  
 Property offense ..... 17.3  
 Drug offense ..... 12.4  
 Other offense ..... 5.6

**Mean number of subsequent arrests:** .... 0.7

**Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:**

..... 35.1

**Participation in programs:**

Regular Probation ..... 27,241  
 Community Service-Probation ..... 11,092  
 TASC ..... 681  
 Community Penalties Program ..... 498  
 Intensive Probation ..... 4,153  
 Electronic House Arrest-Probation ..... 643  
 Residential Facility ..... 37  
 Special Probation ..... 1,916  
 IMPACT ..... 740  
 Regular Parole ..... 10,719  
 Community Service-Parole ..... 8,503  
 Intensive Parole ..... 1,137  
 Electronic House Arrest-Parole ..... 273  
 Parole and Terminate ..... 1,635  
 Maxout ..... 608

## 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.

In the past, probation was used primarily for misdemeanor offenders; however, during Fiscal Year 1994/95, felons represented approximately 25% of all 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-nine percent (27,241) of all cases included regular probation. The overall rearrest rate for this program was 31.3% and the overall reconviction rate was 22%. Sixty-two 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 1.4. Where felon/misdemeanor status was available, 31% of this population were felons and 69% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely a property(29.8%) or violent (14.1%) misdemeanor. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (14.4%) or drug (10.2%) offenses. This program was imposed in conjunction with all other probation programs. Participation in other programs was found most often in community service probation (31.5%).

## REGULAR PROBATION

**Number of clients (N):** 27,241

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<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning probation</b>	<b>%</b>
Mean	28.8		
Median	26.9		0.6
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none:</b>	
Male	76.4		8.06
Female	23.6		
<b>Race:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprint rearrest):</b>	<b>%</b>
White	42.2	Any offense	31.3
Black	54.2	Violent Offense	5.7
Other	3.6	Sex offense(felony)	0.4
		Property offense	14.4
<b>Marital status:</b>	<b>%</b>	Drug offense	10.2
Single	61.4	Other offense	4.7
Divorced/Separated	19.7		
Married/Widowed	18.2	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests</b>	<b>0.59</b>
Other/Unknown	0.6		
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up</b>	<b>35.0</b>
	43.0		
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Participation in other programs:</b>	<b>%</b>
	62.3	TASC	2.1
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>		Community Service-Probation	31.5
Any offense	1.45	Intensive Probation	2.8
Violent offense	0.23	Electronic House Arrest -Probation	2.0
Sex offense (felony)	0.02	Community Penalties Program	1.8
Property offense	0.80	IMPACT	0.5
Drug offense	0.36	Special Probation	5.2
Other offense	0.19	Residential	0.1
<b>Current offense:</b>	<b>%</b>		
Violent felony	2.4		
Sex felony	1.6		
Property felony	9.3		
Drug felony	13.3		
Other felony	1.3		
Violent misdemeanor	14.1		
Property misdemeanor	29.8		
Drug misdemeanor	8.6		
Other misdemeanor	9.4		
Other unknown	10.0		

## **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 can be used as a sole sanction or it can be used 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 court 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-four percent (11,092) of all cases were on community service probation. The overall rearrest rate was 32.5% and the reconviction rate was 23%. Approximately 67% of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 24% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior fingerprinted arrests was 1.6. Where felon/misdemeanor status was available, approximately 47% of this population were felons and 53% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely a property misdemeanor (27.6%) followed by drug (19.5%) and property (15%) felony offenses. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (15.3%) or drug (10.6%) offenses. This condition was imposed in conjunction with all other probation programs. Participation in other programs was most likely to be regular probation (77.4%) or intensive probation (27.4%).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROBATION

**Number of clients (N): 11,092**

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<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning probation:</b>	<b>%</b>
Mean .....	26.6	.....	1.2
Median .....	24.0		
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none:</b>	
Male .....	78.3	.....	7.81
Female .....	21.7		
<b>Race:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	<b>%</b>
White .....	43.4	Any offense .....	32.5
Black .....	53.1	Violent offense .....	5.4
Other .....	3.5	Sex offense (felony) .....	0.4
		Property offense .....	15.3
<b>Marital status:</b>	<b>%</b>	Drug offense .....	10.6
Single .....	68.4	Other offense .....	5.0
Divorced/Separated .....	15.9		
Married/Widowed .....	15.2	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	... 0.61
Other/Unknown .....	0.6		
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:</b>	..... 34.8
.....	40.9		
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Participation in other programs:</b>	<b>%</b>
.....	66.6	TASC .....	2.3
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>		Intensive Probation .....	27.4
Any offense .....	1.58	Electronic House Arrest-Probation .....	2.6
Violent offense .....	0.22	Community Penalties Program .....	2.5
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.01	IMPACT .....	0.7
Property offense .....	0.89	Special Probation .....	5.9
Drug offense .....	0.43	Regular Probation .....	77.4
Other offense .....	0.19	Residential .....	0.1
<b>Current offense:</b>	<b>%</b>		
Violent felony .....	4.0		
Sex felony .....	1.7		
Property felony .....	15.0		
Drug felony .....	19.5		
Other felony .....	1.5		
Violent misdemeanor .....	8.0		
Property misdemeanor .....	27.6		
Drug misdemeanor .....	5.2		
Other misdemeanor .....	6.1		
Other unknown .....	11.3		

## **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 supervision. TASC is most frequently used as a condition of supervised probation and is 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, the role of TASC programs may vary. In Fiscal Year 1994/95, 25% of offenders in the program were in pretrial status, while 75% 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 was administered by the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services in the Department of Human Resources. During Fiscal Year 1994/95, there were twenty-two 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**

Of the total cases, 681 (1.5%) sentenced offenders were identified as being in TASC. The overall rearrest rate was 40% and the reconviction rate was 25%. Seventy-one percent of this population had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 28.8% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior convictions was 1.7. Where felon/misdemeanor status is available, approximately 52% of this population were felons and 48% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be a drug felony (35.4%) or a drug (17%) or property (13.1%) misdemeanor. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for drug (17.4%) or property (11.9%) offenses. This program was imposed in conjunction with all types of probation programs. Participation in other programs was most likely to be regular probation (84%) or community service probation (38.3%).

TASC

**Number of clients (N): 681**

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<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning probation:</b>	<b>%</b>
Mean .....	29.8	.....	0.6
Median .....	29.0		
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none:</b>	<b>%</b>
Male .....	79.7	.....	5.77
Female .....	20.3		
<b>Race:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	<b>%</b>
White .....	32.6	Any offense .....	39.9
Black .....	66.5	Violent offense .....	7.6
Other .....	0.9	Sex offense (felony) .....	0.4
		Property offense .....	11.9
<b>Marital status:</b>	<b>%</b>	Drug offense .....	17.4
Single .....	63.3	Other offense .....	10.3
Divorced/Separated .....	20.6		
Married/Widowed .....	15.4	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	<b>... 0.75</b>
Other/Unknown .....	0.7		
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:</b>	<b>..... 33.8</b>
.....	52.0		
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Participation in other programs:</b>	<b>%</b>
.....	70.9	Intensive Probation .....	19.8
		Electronic House Arrest-Probation .....	1.9
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>		Community Service-Probation .....	38.3
Any offense .....	1.71	Community Penalties Program .....	3.1
Violent offense .....	0.25	Special Probation .....	8.7
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.02	Regular Probation .....	84.0
Property offense .....	0.72	Residential Facility .....	0.6
Drug offense .....	0.71	IMPACT .....	0.1
Other offense .....	0.22		
<b>Current offense:</b>	<b>%</b>		
Violent felony .....	2.6		
Sex felony .....	1.2		
Property felony .....	5.9		
Drug felony .....	35.4		
Other felony .....	0.6		
Violent misdemeanor .....	7.2		
Property misdemeanor .....	13.1		
Drug misdemeanor .....	17.0		
Other misdemeanor .....	5.1		
Other unknown .....	11.6		

## **COMMUNITY PENALTIES PROGRAM**

### **Description**

In 1983 the General Assembly enacted the Community Penalties Program Act to reduce prison overcrowding. The Act authorizes 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 Fiscal Year 1994/95, Community Penalties Programs were operating in 81 counties. During this period, 4,575 cases were reviewed by the Community Penalties Programs, 1,872 offenders were accepted as clients, 1,035 sentencing plans were presented to judges, and 830 sentencing plans were accepted by judges.

### **Summary of Findings**

Of all cases, 498 (1.1%) could be identified as participating in the community penalties program. The overall rearrest rate for this group was 37.8% with 26% being reconvicted. Eighty-four percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 37.1% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior arrests was 2.8. Where felon/misdemeanor status was available, approximately 82% of these offenders were felons and 18% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be a property (32.9%) or drug (27.9%) felony. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (20.9%) or drug (10.8%) offenses. This program was imposed in conjunction with all other probation programs. It was most likely to be used in conjunction with regular probation (64.2%), community service probation (56%), intensive supervision probation (43.6%), or special probation (14.4%).



## COMMUNITY PENALTIES PROGRAM

**Number of clients (N):** 498

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<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning probation:</b>	
Mean .....	28.2		%
Median .....	25.7		0.6
<b>Gender:</b>	%	<b>Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none:</b>	
Male .....	79.7		1.24
Female .....	20.3		
<b>Race:</b>	%	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	%
White .....	46.6	Any offense .....	37.8
Black .....	51.8	Violent offense .....	4.0
Other .....	1.6	Sex offense (felony) .....	0.8
		Property offense .....	20.9
<b>Marital status:</b>	%	Drug offense .....	10.8
Single .....	67.1	Other offense .....	7.4
Divorced/Separated .....	17.7		
Married/Widowed .....	14.9	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	0.76
Other/Unknown .....	0.4		
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	%	<b>Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:</b>	35.4
	44.0		
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	%	<b>Participation in other programs:</b>	%
	83.7	TASC .....	4.2
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>		Intensive Probation .....	43.6
Any offense .....	2.78	Electronic House Arrest-Probation .....	3.4
Violent offense .....	0.33	Community Service-Probation .....	56.0
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.02	IMPACT .....	2.2
Property offense .....	1.69	Special Probation .....	14.4
Drug offense .....	0.68	Regular Probation .....	64.2
Other offense .....	0.32	Residential Facility .....	2.2
<b>Current offense:</b>	%		
Violent felony .....	6.2		
Sex felony .....	3.4		
Property felony .....	32.9		
Drug felony .....	27.9		
Other felony .....	1.2		
Violent misdemeanor .....	1.8		
Property misdemeanor .....	9.6		
Drug misdemeanor .....	2.8		
Other misdemeanor .....	1.8		
Other unknown .....	12.2		

## **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 is "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 1994/95, the purpose of intensive probation was to target prison-bound offenders. Intensive Supervision Probation is available statewide.

### **Summary of Findings**

Of all cases, 4,153 (9.1%) were on intensive probation. The overall rearrest rate for any offense was 40.6% and the reconviction rate was 36.5%. Seventy-five percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 36.2% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior arrests was 2.3. Where felon/misdemeanor status was available, 78% percent of these offenders were felons and 22% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be a drug (28.2%) or property (22%) felony. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (18.1%) or drug (14.1%) offenses. This program was imposed in conjunction with all other probation programs. Participation in other programs was most likely to be community service probation (73.4%), regular probation (18.3%), or special probation (12.5%).

## INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROBATION

**Number of clients (N):** 4,153

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<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning probation:</b>	<b>%</b>
Mean	27.4		2.1
Median	25.0		
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none:</b>	
Male	87.6		10.3
Female	12.4		
<b>Race:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	<b>%</b>
White	37.9	Any offense	40.6
Black	59.3	Violent offense	6.6
Other	2.8	Sex offense (felony)	0.6
		Property offense	18.1
<b>Marital status:</b>	<b>%</b>	Drug offense	14.1
Single	68.0	Other offense	7.0
Divorced/Separated	16.8		
Married/Widowed	14.6	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	0.73
Other/Unknown	0.5		
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:</b>	34.7
	41.8		
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Participation in other programs:</b>	<b>%</b>
	75.5	TASC	3.2
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>		Community Service-Probation	73.4
Any offense	2.34	Community Penalties Program	5.3
Violent offense	0.37	IMPACT	1.9
Sex offense (felony)	0.02	Special Probation	12.5
Property offense	1.26	Regular Probation	18.3
Drug offense	0.67	Electronic House Arrest-Probation	3.7
Other offense	0.29	Residential	0.2
<b>Current offense:</b>	<b>%</b>		
Violent felony	9.2		
Sex felony	3.3		
Property felony	22.0		
Drug felony	28.2		
Other felony	2.1		
Violent misdemeanor	3.8		
Property misdemeanor	9.6		
Drug misdemeanor	2.6		
Other misdemeanor	2.0		
Other unknown	17.2		

## **ELECTRONIC HOUSE ARREST - PROBATION**

### **Description**

House arrest with electronic monitoring is a special condition of supervised probation. During Fiscal Year 1994/95, 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, to ease prison overcrowding, and to 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**

Of all cases, 643 (1.4%) were on electronic house arrest probation. The overall rearrest rate was 36.5% and the reconviction rate was 26%. Seventy-one percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 32% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior arrests was 2.1. Where felon/misdemeanor status was available, approximately 63% of these offenders were felons and 37% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be drug (22.2%) or property (19.1%) felony or property (16.5%) misdemeanor. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (18.2%) or drug (11%) offenses. This program was imposed in conjunction with all other probation programs. Offenders were most likely to be involved in the regular probation (83.7%), community service probation (45.9%), intensive probation (23.2%), or special probation (12.9%) programs.

## ELECTRONIC HOUSE ARREST - PROBATION

**Number of clients (N):** 643

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<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning probation:</b>	<b>%</b>
Mean .....	27.7	.....	0.8
Median .....	25.1		
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none:</b>	
Male .....	84.0	.....	12.04
Female .....	16.0		
<b>Race:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	<b>%</b>
White .....	40.4	Any offense .....	36.5
Black .....	57.5	Violent offense .....	6.7
Other .....	2.0	Sex offense (felony) .....	0.3
		Property offense .....	18.2
<b>Marital status:</b>	<b>%</b>	Drug offense .....	11.0
Single .....	64.4	Other offense .....	5.1
Divorced/Separated .....	17.7		
Married/Widowed .....	16.8	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	<b>...</b> 0.69
Other/Unknown .....	1.1		
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:</b>	<b>.....</b> 33.8
.....	38.5		
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Participation in other programs:</b>	<b>%</b>
.....	71.4	TASC .....	2.0
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>		Intensive Probation .....	23.2
Any offense .....	2.08	Community Service-Probation .....	45.9
Violent offense .....	0.31	Community Penalties Program .....	2.6
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.02	IMPACT .....	3.6
Property offense .....	1.12	Special Probation .....	12.9
Drug offense .....	0.58	Regular Probation .....	83.7
Other offense .....	0.25	Residential .....	0.2
<b>Current offense:</b>	<b>%</b>		
Violent felony .....	8.4		
Sex felony .....	2.5		
Property felony .....	19.1		
Drug felony .....	22.2		
Other felony .....	1.9		
Violent misdemeanor .....	6.5		
Property misdemeanor .....	16.5		
Drug misdemeanor .....	4.0		
Other misdemeanor .....	4.0		
Other unknown .....	14.8		

## RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

### Description

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

**FORSYTH INITIATIVE FOR RESIDENTIAL SELF-HELP TREATMENT, INC. (FIRST)** is a private nonprofit residential facility located in Winston-Salem. FIRST accepts nonviolent offenders (male and female) with drug/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. In 1994/95, the capacity of FIRST was 120 residents.

**SUMMIT HOUSE, INC.** was operating three residential centers in Greensboro, Raleigh and Charlotte during Fiscal Year 1994/95. The last two programs opened in April 1995. These centers accepted female offenders convicted of nonviolent felonies (pregnant or the mother of young children). 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. The program also provides assistance in returning to employment and brokers service to the children of residents. The minimum stay at Summit House, Inc. is ten months. During Fiscal Year 1994/95, the capacity for all three centers was 66. Each facility averaged 8 women and 14 children.

**PASSAGE HOME, INC. - 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 Fiscal Year 1994/95, 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 37 cases that could be identified as participating in the residential treatment programs. The overall rearrest rate for this group was 45.9% and 38% for reconviction. Eighty-six percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 51.4% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior arrests was 3.7. Where felon/misdemeanor status was available, approximately 62% were felons and 38% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be a property (27%) or drug (27%) felony or property (27%) misdemeanor. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for a property (29.7%) or drug (13.5%) offense. Offenders in this group participated in all other probation programs except IMPACT and in all other parole programs except EHA- parole. They were most likely to participate in the regular probation (70.3%), community penalties (29.7%) program or community service probation (27%).

## RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

**Number of clients (N):** 37

<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning probation:</b>	<b>%</b>
Mean .....	30.0	.....	8.1
Median .....	30.1		
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none:</b>	<b>%</b>
Male .....	27.0	.....	7.75
Female .....	73.0		
<b>Race:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	<b>%</b>
White .....	45.9	Any offense .....	45.9
Black .....	51.4	Violent offense .....	2.7
Other .....	2.7	Property offense .....	29.7
		Drug offense .....	13.5
<b>Marital status:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	<b>%</b>
Single .....	64.9	.....	0.73
Divorced/Separated .....	32.4		
Married/Widowed .....	2.7	<b>Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:</b>	<b>%</b>
		.....	35.0
<b>Self-reported completion of high school:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Participation in other programs:</b>	<b>%</b>
.....	70.0	TASC .....	10.8
		Intensive Probation .....	21.6
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	<b>%</b>	Community Service-Probation .....	27.0
.....	86.5	Community Penalties Program .....	29.7
		Special Probation .....	5.4
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>		Regular Probation .....	70.3
Any offense .....	3.68	Electronic House Arrest - Probation .....	2.7
Violent offense .....	0.22	Intensive Parole .....	2.7
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.00	Community Service Parole .....	10.8
Property offense .....	2.81	Regular Parole .....	10.8
Drug offense .....	0.70	Parole and Terminate .....	2.7
Other offense .....	0.16		
<b>Current offense:</b>	<b>%</b>		
Violent felony .....	2.7		
Property felony .....	27.0		
Drug felony .....	27.0		
Property misdemeanor .....	27.0		
Drug misdemeanor .....	2.7		
Other unknown .....	8.1		

## **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**

Of all cases, 1,916 (4.2%) were on special probation. The overall rearrest rate for this group was 38.5% and the reconviction rate was 27%. Seventy-three percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 37.4% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior arrests was 2.3. Where felon/misdemeanor status was available, approximately 60% of these offenders were felons and 40% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely a drug (20.6%) or property (17.3%) felony or a property (15.1%) or violent (13.6%) misdemeanor. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (17.3%) or drug (13%) offenses. This group participated in all other probation programs except IMPACT. They were most likely to participate in regular probation (74.4%), community service probation (34%), or intensive probation (27.2%).



## SPECIAL PROBATION

**Number of clients (N):** 1,916

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<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning probation:</b>	<b>%</b>
Mean .....	29.2	.....	0.4
Median .....	27.5		
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none:</b>	
Male .....	86.5	.....	17.14
Female .....	13.5		
<b>Race:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean prison time served on special probation:</b>	
White .....	36.8	.....	3.29
Black .....	59.7		
Other .....	3.5	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Marital status:</b>	<b>%</b>	Any offense .....	38.5
Single .....	64.1	Violent offense .....	6.8
Divorced/Separated .....	19.6	Sex offense (felony) .....	0.5
Married/Widowed .....	15.7	Property offense .....	17.3
Other/Unknown .....	0.6	Drug offense .....	13.0
		Other offense .....	5.9
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	<b>...</b>
.....	42.9	.....	0.74
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:</b>	
.....	73.3	.....	34.1
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>		<b>Participation in other programs:</b>	<b>%</b>
Any offense .....	2.28	TASC .....	3.1
Violent offense .....	0.41	Intensive Probation .....	27.2
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.03	Electronic House Arrest-Probation .....	4.3
Property offense .....	1.25	Community Service-Probation .....	34.0
Drug offense .....	0.54	Community Penalties Program .....	3.8
Other offense .....	0.32	Regular Probation .....	74.4
		Residential Facility .....	0.1
<b>Current offense:</b>	<b>%</b>		
Violent felony .....	8.7		
Sex felony .....	4.6		
Property felony .....	17.3		
Drug felony .....	20.6		
Other felony .....	2.7		
Violent misdemeanor .....	13.6		
Property misdemeanor .....	15.1		
Drug misdemeanor .....	2.8		
Other misdemeanor .....	3.9		
Other unknown .....	10.6		

## **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 1994/95, 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**

Of all cases, 740 (1.6%) were involved in the IMPACT program. The overall rearrest rate for this group was 46.4% and the reconviction rate was 32.9%. Seventy-nine percent of this group had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 46% had at least one prior conviction. The mean number of prior convictions was 1.8. Where felon/misdemeanor status was available, 65% of the population were felons and 35% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely property (27.2%) or drug (20.9%) felony or property (22.7%) misdemeanor. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (23.5%) or drug (14.3%) offenses. This population also participated in all other probation programs except special probation and residential programs. They were most likely to participate in regular probation (30%), community service probation (21.93%), or intensive probation (20.9%).

## IMPACT

**Number of clients (N): 740**

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<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning probation:</b>	<b>%</b>
Mean .....	19.3		0.3
Median .....	18.6		
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none:</b>	
Male .....	99.2		3.1
Female .....	0.8		
<b>Race:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean prison time served on IMPACT:</b>	2.57
White .....	40.3		
Black .....	56.6	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	<b>%</b>
Other .....	3.1	Any offense .....	46.4
		Violent offense .....	8.7
		Sex offense (felony) .....	0.3
		Property offense .....	23.5
		Drug offense .....	14.3
		Other offense .....	7.0
<b>Marital status:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	... 0.89
Single .....	93.9		
Divorced/Separated .....	2.0	<b>Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:</b>	35.7
Married/Widowed .....	3.8		
Other/Unknown .....	0.3	<b>Participation in other programs:</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	<b>%</b>	Intensive Probation .....	20.9
.....	25.0	Electronic House Arrest-Probation .....	4.0
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	<b>%</b>	Community Service-Probation .....	21.9
.....	79.2	Community Penalties Program .....	3.0
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>		Regular Probation .....	30.0
Any offense .....	1.82	TASC .....	0.5
Violent offense .....	0.23		
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.01		
Property offense .....	1.12		
Drug offense .....	0.46		
Other offense .....	0.17		
<b>Current offense:</b>	<b>%</b>		
Violent felony .....	9.2		
Sex felony .....	0.5		
Property felony .....	27.2		
Drug felony .....	20.9		
Other felony .....	1.2		
Violent misdemeanor .....	4.2		
Property misdemeanor .....	22.7		
Drug misdemeanor .....	2.4		
Other misdemeanor .....	2.3		
Other unknown .....	9.3		

## **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 1994/95, offenders who committed their offense prior to the Structured Sentencing Act (October 1, 1994) 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-three percent (10,719) of all cases were on regular parole. The overall rearrest rate for this group was 47.8% and the reconviction rate was 35.5%. Eighty percent of this group had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 67.5% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior arrests was 3.6. Where felon/misdemeanor status was available, 81% of this group were felons and 19% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be a property (27.7%) or drug (26.9%) felony. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (22.4%) or drug (16%) offenses. The only other programs in which they also participated were community service-parole (61.3%), intensive parole (4.6%) and electronic house arrest-parole (2.3%).

## REGULAR PAROLE

**Number of clients (N):** 10,719

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**Age in years:**  
 Mean ..... 30.2  
 Median ..... 29.0

**Gender:** %  
 Male ..... 90.0  
 Female ..... 10.0

**Race:** %  
 White ..... 28.8  
 Black ..... 67.9  
 Other ..... 3.2

**Marital status:** %  
 Single ..... 62.3  
 Divorced/Separated ..... 21.6  
 Married/Widowed ..... 15.5  
 Other/Unknown ..... 0.6

**Self-reported completion of high school** ..... %  
 ..... 45.4

**Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:** ..... %  
 ..... 80.1

**Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:**  
 Any offense ..... 3.60  
 Violent offense ..... 0.61  
 Sex offense (felony) ..... 0.04  
 Property offense ..... 2.13  
 Drug offense ..... 0.80  
 Other offense ..... 0.42

**Current offense:** %  
 Violent felony ..... 8.6  
 Sex felony ..... 2.6  
 Property felony ..... 27.7  
 Drug felony ..... 26.9  
 Other felony ..... 2.8  
 Violent misdemeanor ..... 5.2  
 Property misdemeanor ..... 8.5  
 Drug misdemeanor ..... 0.9  
 Other misdemeanor ..... 1.1  
 Other unknown ..... 15.7

**Mean number of months served in prison:** ..... 10.1

**Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):** . %  
 Any offense ..... 47.8  
 Violent offense ..... 9.5  
 Sex offense (felony) ..... 0.6  
 Property offense ..... 22.4  
 Drug offense ..... 16.0  
 Other offense ..... 6.9

**Mean number of subsequent arrests:** ... 0.99

**Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:** ..... 35.6

**Participation in other programs:** %  
 Community Service-Parole ..... 61.3  
 Intensive Parole ..... 4.6  
 Electronic House Arrest - Parole ..... 2.3

## **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 the opportunity 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 can be used as a sole sanction or it can be used 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 court 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**

Over eighteen percent (8,503) of all cases included community service parole. The overall rearrest rate for any offense was 50% and the reconviction rate was 37.6% for any offense. Eighty-five percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 74.8% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior fingerprinted arrests was 4.2. Where felon/misdemeanor status was available, approximately 97% of this population were felons. The current offense was most likely to be a property (39.2%) or drug (33.6%) felony. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (23.9%) or drug (17.7%) offenses. This program was used in conjunction with intensive parole (11.4%), electronic house arrest-parole (2.5%), and, most frequently, with regular parole (77.3%).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PAROLE

**Number of clients (N): 8,503**

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<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Mean number of months served in prison:</b>	9.61
Mean .....	30.3		
Median .....	29.1	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	%
<b>Gender:</b>	%	Any offense .....	50.0
Male .....	90.5	Violent offense .....	8.8
Female .....	9.5	Sex offense (felony) .....	0.4
<b>Race:</b>	%	Property offense .....	23.9
White .....	26.7	Drug offense .....	17.7
Black .....	70.3	Other offense .....	7.4
Other .....	3.0	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	1.04
<b>Marital status:</b>	%	<b>Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:</b>	35.5
Single .....	63.0		
Divorced/Separated .....	21.0	<b>Participation in other programs:</b>	%
Married/Widowed .....	15.6	Electronic House Arrest-Parole .....	2.5
Other/Unknown .....	0.4	Intensive Parole .....	11.4
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	%	Regular Parole .....	77.3
.....	46.9		
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	%		
.....	85.1		
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>			
Any offense .....	4.20		
Violent offense .....	0.62		
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.03		
Property offense .....	2.57		
Drug offense .....	0.99		
Other offense .....	0.44		
<b>Current offense:</b>	%		
Violent felony .....	8.5		
Sex felony .....	1.0		
Property felony .....	39.2		
Drug felony .....	33.6		
Other felony .....	2.3		
Violent misdemeanor .....	0.8		
Property misdemeanor .....	1.3		
Drug misdemeanor .....	0.1		
Other misdemeanor .....	0.2		
Other unknown .....	12.9		

## **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 is "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**

Of all cases, 1,137 (2.5%) were on intensive parole. The overall rearrest rate was 47.9% and the overall reconviction rate was 35.8%. Eighty-three percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 70.7% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior arrests was 4.2. Where felon/ misdemeanor status was available, approximately 97% of these offenders were felons and 3% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely a property (29.6%), violent (23%), and drug (21.2%) felony. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (22.9%) or drug (15.8%) offenses. The only other programs in which they participated were residential treatment, electronic house arrest-parole, community service parole, regular parole. The programs in which they most often participated were community service parole (85.4%) and regular parole (42.9%).



## INTENSIVE PAROLE

**Number of clients (N):** 1,137

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<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Mean number of months served in prison:</b>	21.87
Mean .....	30.4		
Median .....	29.0		
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	<b>%</b>
Male .....	92.7	Any offense .....	47.9
Female .....	7.3	Violent offense .....	8.6
		Sex offense (felony) .....	0.5
		Property offense .....	22.9
		Drug offense .....	15.8
		Other offense .....	7.4
<b>Race:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	0.95
White .....	28.3		
Black .....	67.9	<b>Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:</b>	33.6
Other .....	3.8		
<b>Marital status:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Participation in other programs:</b>	
Single .....	60.1	Community Service-Parole .....	85.4
Divorced/Separated .....	19.3	Residential .....	0.1
Married/Widowed .....	20.2	Regular Parole .....	42.9
Other/Unknown .....	0.4	Electronic House Arrest-Parole .....	1.2
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	<b>%</b>		
.....	44.0		
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	<b>%</b>		
.....	83.0		
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>			
Any offense .....	4.25		
Violent offense .....	0.88		
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.04		
Property offense .....	2.55		
Drug offense .....	0.79		
Other offense .....	0.50		
<b>Current offense:</b>	<b>%</b>		
Violent felony .....	23.0		
Sex felony .....	2.7		
Property felony .....	29.6		
Drug felony .....	21.2		
Other felony .....	6.5		
Violent misdemeanor .....	0.8		
Property misdemeanor .....	1.3		
Drug misdemeanor .....	0.3		
Other unknown .....	14.6		

## **ELECTRONIC HOUSE ARREST - PAROLE**

### **Description**

House arrest with electronic monitoring is a special condition of supervised parole. During Fiscal Year 1994/95, 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**

Of all cases, 273 (.6%) were on electronic house arrest parole. The overall rate for rearrest was 51.3% and for reconviction was 36%. Seventy-nine percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 69.2% had at least one prior conviction. The average number of prior arrests was 4. Where felon/misdemeanor status was available, approximately 97% of these offenders were felons and 3% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely property (30.4%), drug (30.4%), or violent (15%) felony. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (25.3%), drug (13.9%), or violent (10.6%) offenses. The other programs in which they participated were community service parole, regular parole, intensive parole, with the most frequent ones being regular parole (96.3%) and community service parole (77.3%).

## ELECTRONIC HOUSE ARREST - PAROLE

**Number of clients (N):** 273

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**Age in years:**  
 Mean ..... 29.0  
 Median ..... 27.1

**Gender:** %  
 Male ..... 93.4  
 Female ..... 6.6

**Race:** %  
 White ..... 33.3  
 Black ..... 64.1  
 Other ..... 2.6

**Marital status:** %  
 Single ..... 65.9  
 Divorced/Separated ..... 18.3  
 Married/Widowed ..... 15.8

**Self-reported completion of high school** ..... %  
 ..... 52.0

**Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:** ..... %  
 ..... 78.8

**Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:**  
 Any offense ..... 4.03  
 Violent offense ..... 0.70  
 Sex offense (felony) ..... 0.04  
 Property offense ..... 2.40  
 Drug offense ..... 0.91  
 Other offense ..... 0.44

**Current offense:** %  
 Violent felony ..... 15.0  
 Sex felony ..... 0.7  
 Property felony ..... 30.4  
 Drug felony ..... 30.4  
 Other felony ..... 1.5  
 Violent misdemeanor ..... 1.1  
 Property misdemeanor ..... 1.5  
 Other unknown ..... 19.4

**Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none:** ..... 12.84

**Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):** %  
 Any offense ..... 51.3  
 Violent offense ..... 10.6  
 Sex offense (felony) ..... 0.7  
 Property offense ..... 25.3  
 Drug offense ..... 13.9  
 Other offense ..... 8.4

**Mean number of subsequent arrests:** ... 0.94

**Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:** ..... 34.3

**Participation in other programs:** %  
 Community Service-Parole ..... 77.3  
 Regular Parole ..... 96.3  
 Intensive Parole ..... 4.4

## **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**

Of all cases, 1,635 (3.6%) were paroled and terminated. The overall rearrest rate for this group was 40.5% and the reconviction rate was 28.3%. Eighty-two percent of this group had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 65.1% had at least one prior conviction. The mean number of prior arrests was 2.6. Approximately 24% were felons and 76% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be property misdemeanor (53%) or drug felony (12.7%). These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (19.3%) or drug (12.1%) offenses. Since this program has no supervision involved, it was not used in conjunction with other programs.

## PAROLE AND TERMINATE

**Number of clients (N):** 1,635

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<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Mean number of months served in prison:</b>	3.23
Mean .....	29.8		
Median .....	28.5	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	%
<b>Gender:</b>	%	Any offense .....	40.5
Male .....	79.8	Violent offense .....	7.8
Female .....	20.2	Sex offense (felony) .....	0.4
<b>Race:</b>	%	Property offense .....	19.3
White .....	30.9	Drug offense .....	12.1
Black .....	65.9	Other offense .....	5.6
Other .....	3.2	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	... 0.81
<b>Marital status:</b>	%	<b>Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:</b>	... 37.0
Single .....	64.6	<b>Participation in other programs:</b>	... N/A
Divorced/Separated .....	22.3		
Married/Widowed .....	12.7		
Other/Unknown .....	0.4		
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	%		
.....	46.3		
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	%		
.....	82.0		
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>			
Any offense .....	2.61		
Violent offense .....	0.43		
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.02		
Property offense .....	1.57		
Drug offense .....	0.52		
Other offense .....	0.36		
<b>Current offense:</b>	%		
Violent felony .....	2.8		
Sex offense .....	0.7		
Property felony .....	6.4		
Drug felony .....	12.7		
Other felony .....	1.2		
Violent misdemeanor .....	7.0		
Property misdemeanor .....	53.0		
Drug misdemeanor .....	10.6		
Other misdemeanor .....	5.6		

## **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). These offenders are not subject to any community supervision or other conditions of parole.

### **Summary of Findings**

About 1.3% (608) of all cases were prison maxouts. The overall rearrest rate for this group was 40.5% and the overall reconviction rate was 29%. Ninety percent of these offenders had at least one prior fingerprinted arrest and 63.2% of them had at least one prior conviction. The mean number of prior arrests was 3.6. Where felon/misdemeanor status was available, approximately 67% of these offenders were felons and 33% were misdemeanants. The current offense was most likely to be violent (28.9%) or property (15.8%) felony or property (16.9%) misdemeanor. These offenders were most likely to be rearrested for property (18.8%), drug (11.6%), or violent (11.2%) 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): 608**

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**Age in years:**

Mean ..... 32.0  
 Median ..... 31.3

**Gender:**

..... %  
 Male ..... 90.8  
 Female ..... 9.2

**Race:**

..... %  
 White ..... 32.1  
 Black ..... 64.0  
 Other ..... 3.9

**Marital status:**

..... %  
 Single ..... 66.4  
 Divorced/Separated ..... 18.4  
 Married/Widowed ..... 15.0  
 Other/Unknown ..... 0.2

**Self-reported completion of high school**

..... %  
 ..... 42.2

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

..... %  
 ..... 89.8

**Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:**

Any offense ..... 3.56  
 Violent offense ..... 0.93  
 Sex offense (felony) ..... 0.05  
 Property offense ..... 2.01  
 Drug offense ..... 0.48  
 Other offense ..... 0.54

**Current offense:**

..... %  
 Violent felony ..... 28.9  
 Sex felony ..... 6.2  
 Property felony ..... 15.8  
 Drug felony ..... 7.2  
 Other felony ..... 9.0  
 Violent misdemeanor ..... 10.5  
 Property misdemeanor ..... 16.9  
 Drug misdemeanor ..... 2.0  
 Other misdemeanor ..... 3.1  
 Other unknown ..... 0.2

**Mean number of months served in prison:**

..... 29.49

**Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):**

..... %  
 Any offense ..... 40.5  
 Violent offense ..... 11.2  
 Sex offense (felony) ..... 0.5  
 Property offense ..... 18.8  
 Drug offense ..... 11.6  
 Other offense ..... 5.1

**Mean number of subsequent arrests:** ... 0.77

**Mean number of months for rearrest follow-up:**

..... 34.2

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



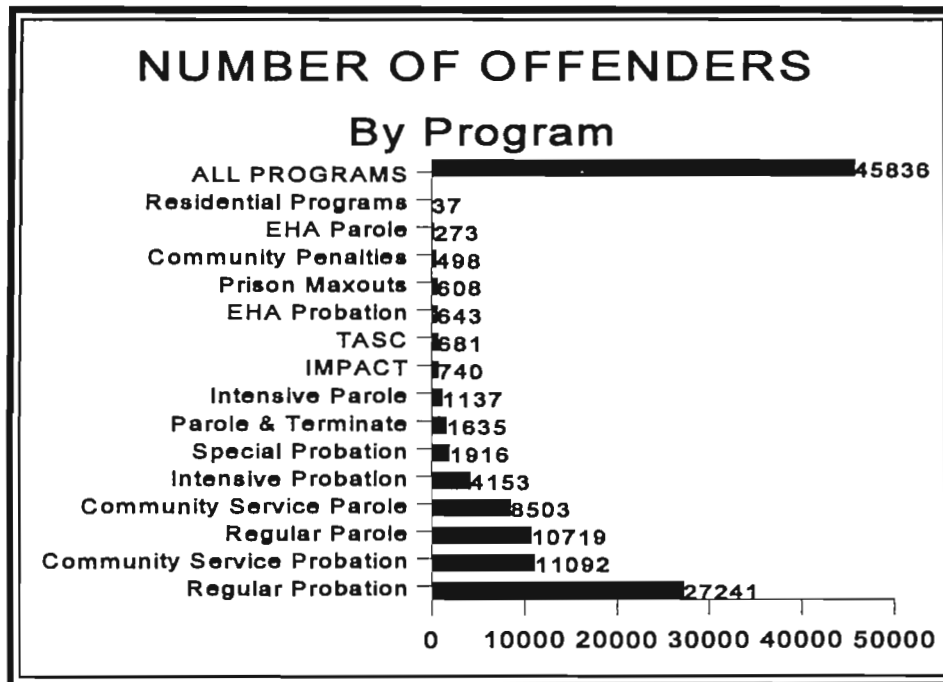


## REARREST RATES AND RISK SCORES ACROSS PROGRAMS

While it is important to remember that the differences in rearrest rates are not necessarily reflective of program effectiveness or of the services provided by a program, this section does summarize the rearrest rates for the various programs and types of programs (probation, parole, release from prison without supervision) as well as examine the risk scores of offenders and compare offenders with similar risk scores among the programs.

### REARREST RATES ACROSS PROGRAMS

Of the 45,836 offenders in the population, the largest number of persons participating in an individual program was for regular probation (27,241) followed by community service probation (11,092) and regular parole (10,719). In contrast, only 37 offenders were identified as being in residential treatment, 273 in EHA parole, and 498 in community penalties. It is important to remember that 46% of these offenders were sentenced to at least two programs. Over half of all offenders were sentenced to either regular probation (36%) as a single program or to regular probation combined with community service probation (16%).<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> For a detailed breakdown of the program combinations in which offenders are included see Appendix A.

The rearrest rate varied depending on whether offenders were probationers (32.8%), parolees (48.1%), or released from prison with no supervision, *i.e.*, parole and terminate or prison maxout offenders (40.5%). The rearrest rate also varied depending on whether the offenders were felons (38.8%) or misdemeanants (29.7%). It is important to note that rearrest rates may be affected by technical revocations for those on probation or parole. That is, if a probationer or parolee is revoked, part of the time after being sentenced to a program will be spent in prison or jail. Since the offender is not free to commit crimes during that period, the reported rearrest rates might be lower for probationers or parolees than for those in the parole and terminate or prison maxout groups.

The following pages summarize the profile of offenders on probation, parole, and releases from prison (parole and terminate or prison maxouts). The next section reviews arrest rates for any offense and for the five categories of offenses that have been considered in this study. The average follow-up time for tracking rearrests was 35.1 months.

Probationers, whose average age was 28.5, were slightly younger than the other two groups (parolees, whose average age was 30.2, and prison releases, whose average age was 30.4). Females comprised 22% of all probationers and only 10% of the parolees and 17% of the prison releases. Blacks were 55% of the probationers, 68.3% of the parolees and 65.4% of the prison releases. The marital status was similar for all three groups. The percent of offenders reporting completion of high school education was lowest for probationers (42.2%) and highest for parolees (45.7%).

The probationers were least likely (64%) to have a prior fingerprinted arrest while 82% of parolees and 84% of prison releases had a prior fingerprinted arrest. The mean number of prior arrests was highest for parolees (3.7) and lowest for probationers (1.6). All three groups were most likely to have prior arrests for property offenses with the highest average being for parolees (2.2) and the lowest for probationers (0.9). The current offense was most often a property misdemeanor for probationers (27.4%) and for prison releases (43.2%) while it was a property felony for parolees (30.1%). The rearrest rate was lowest for probationers (32.8%) and highest for parolees (48.1%). Property offenses were the category for which all three groups were most likely to be rearrested. The average number of subsequent rearrests for property offenses ranged from a low of 0.6 for probationers to a high of 1 for parolees. Eighty-eight percent of all probationers were on regular probation; 36% were on community service probation; and 13% were on intensive probation. Eighty-five percent of all parolees were on regular parole and 67% were on community service parole. Seventy-three percent of prison releases were parole and terminate while 27% were prison maxouts.

## PROBATION

### Number of clients (N): 31,081

<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Percentage who served time in prison immediately before beginning probation:</b>	
Mean .....	28.5		0.7
Median .....	26.4		
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of months served in prison, excluding those who served none:</b>	
Male .....	78.0		6.26
Female .....	22.0		
<b>Race:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	<b>%</b>
White .....	41.5	Any offense .....	32.8
Black .....	55.0	Violent offense .....	5.9
Other .....	3.5	Sex offense (felony) .....	0.3
		Property offense .....	15.0
		Drug offense .....	10.8
		Other offense .....	5.0
<b>Marital status:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	0.62
Single .....	62.6		
Divorced/Separated .....	19.1	<b>Mean number of months for recidivism follow-up:</b>	34.9
Married/Widowed .....	17.7		
Other/Unknown .....	0.6		
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Participation in programs:</b>	<b>%</b>
.....	42.2	TASC .....	2.2
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	<b>%</b>	Intensive Probation .....	13.4
.....	63.9	Electronic House Arrest-Probation .....	2.1
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>		Community Service-Probation .....	35.7
Any offense .....	1.57	Community Penalties Program .....	1.6
Violent offense .....	0.25	IMPACT .....	2.4
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.02	Special Probation .....	6.1
Property offense .....	0.86	Regular Probation .....	87.6
Drug offense .....	0.40	Residential Facility .....	0.1
Other offense .....	0.20		
<b>Current Offense:</b>	<b>%</b>		
Violent felony .....	3.2		
Sex felony .....	1.8		
Property felony .....	11.1		
Drug felony .....	15.0		
Other felony .....	1.4		
Violent misdemeanor .....	12.8		
Property misdemeanor .....	27.4		
Drug misdemeanor .....	7.8		
Other misdemeanor .....	8.4		
Other unknown .....	11.1		

## PAROLE

**Number of clients (N): 12,512**

<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Mean number of months served in prison:</b>	10.31
Mean .....	30.2		
Median .....	28.9	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	
<b>Gender:</b>	%		
Male .....	90.0	Any offense .....	48.1
Female .....	10.0	Violent offense .....	9.2
		Sex offense (felony) .....	0.6
<b>Race:</b>	%	Property offense .....	22.5
White .....	28.5	Drug offense .....	16.3
Black .....	68.3	Other offense .....	7.1
Other .....	3.3		
		<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests:</b>	0.00
<b>Marital status:</b>	%		
Single .....	62.5	<b>Mean number of months for recidivism follow-up:</b>	35.5
Divorced/Separated .....	21.4		
Married/Widowed .....	15.5	<b>Participation in programs:</b>	%
Other/Unknown .....	0.6	Intensive Parole .....	9.0
		Electronic House Arrest-Parole ..	2.1
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	%	Community Service Parole .....	66.9
.....	45.7	Regular Parole .....	85.3
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	%		
.....	82.0		
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>			
Any offense .....	3.74		
Violent offense .....	0.62		
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.04		
Property offense .....	2.24		
Drug offense .....	0.84		
Other offense .....	0.42		
<b>Current offense:</b>	%		
Violent felony .....	9.2		
Sex felony .....	2.4		
Property felony .....	30.1		
Drug felony .....	27.8		
Other felony .....	2.8		
Violent misdemeanor .....	4.4		
Property misdemeanor .....	7.3		
Drug misdemeanor .....	0.8		
Other misdemeanor .....	1.0		
Other unknown .....	14.2		

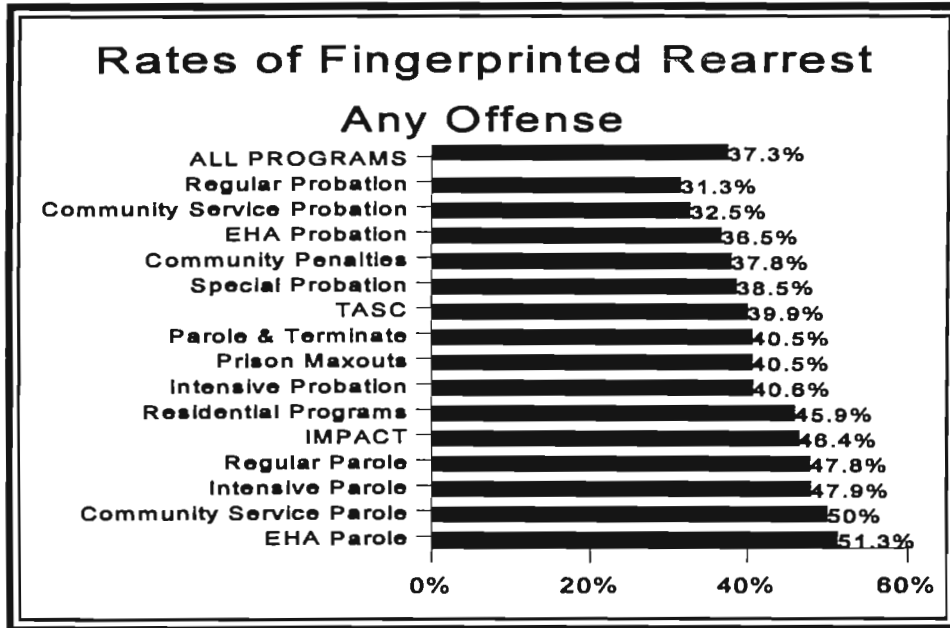
## PRISON RELEASES WITH NO SUPERVISION

**Number of clients (N): 2,243**

<b>Age in years:</b>		<b>Mean number of months served in prison:</b>	10.34
Mean .....	30.4		
Median .....	29.3		
<b>Gender:</b>	%	<b>Rearrest rates (fingerprinted rearrest):</b>	%
Male .....	82.7	Any offense .....	40.5
Female .....	17.3	Violent offense .....	8.8
		Sex offense (felony) .....	0.4
		Property offense .....	19.2
		Drug offense .....	12.0
		Other offense .....	5.5
<b>Race:</b>	%	<b>Mean number of subsequent arrests: ...</b>	0.80
White .....	31.3		
Black .....	65.4	<b>Mean number of months for recidivism follow-up:</b>	36.2
Other .....	3.4		
<b>Marital status:</b>	%	<b>Participation in programs:</b>	%
Single .....	65.1	Parole and Terminate .....	73.0
Divorced/Separated .....	21.2	Maxout .....	27.0
Married/Widowed .....	13.3		
Other/Unknown .....	0.3		
<b>Self-reported completion of high school</b>	%		
.....	45.2		
<b>Percentage with at least one prior fingerprinted arrest:</b>	%		
.....	84.1		
<b>Mean number of prior fingerprinted arrests:</b>			
Any offense .....	2.87		
Violent offense .....	0.57		
Sex offense (felony) .....	0.03		
Property offense .....	1.69		
Drug offense .....	0.51		
Other offense .....	0.41		
<b>Current offense:</b>	%		
Violent felony .....	9.9		
Sex felony .....	2.2		
Property felony .....	8.9		
Drug felony .....	11.2		
Other felony .....	3.3		
Violent misdemeanor .....	8.0		
Property misdemeanor .....	43.2		
Drug misdemeanor .....	8.2		
Other misdemeanor .....	4.9		

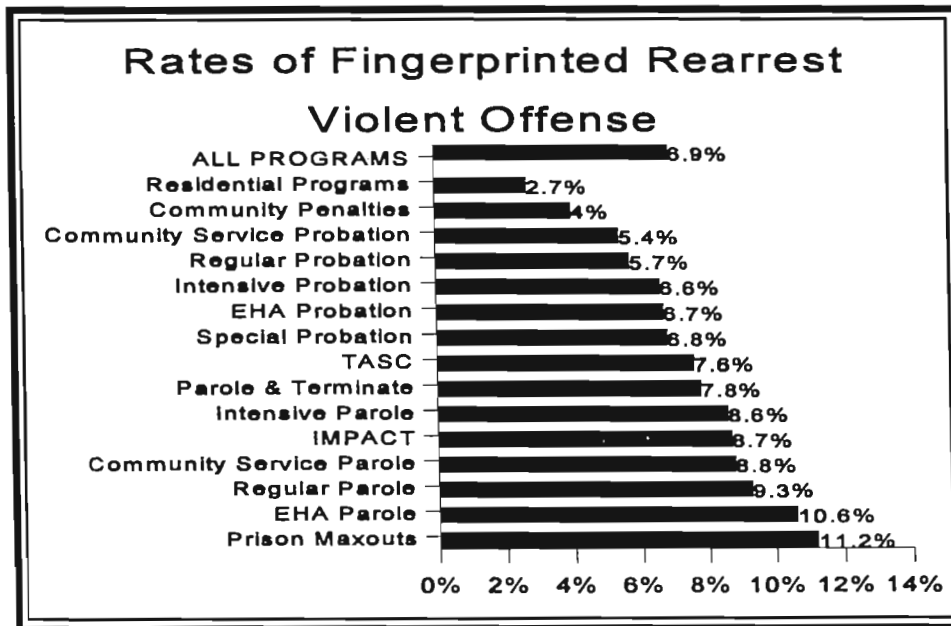
### Rearrest Rate For Any Offense

The overall fingerprinted rearrest rate for all offenders was 37.3%. The rearrest rate was highest for EHA parole (51.3%), community service parole (50%), and intensive parole (47.9%). The rearrest rate was lowest for regular probation (31.3%), community service probation (32.5%), and EHA probation (36.5%).



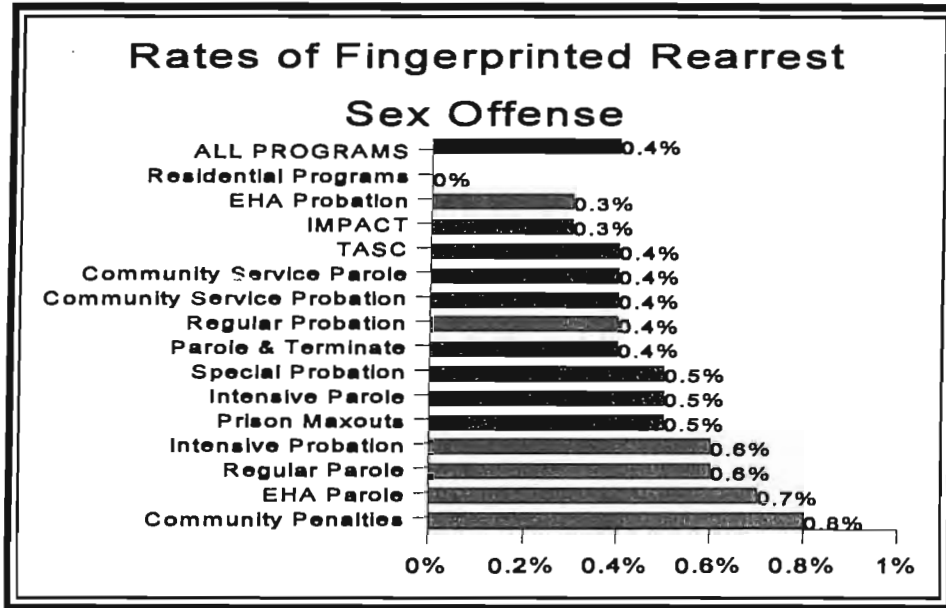
### Rearrest Rate For Violent Offenses

The overall rearrest rate for violent offenses was 6.9%. The violent rearrest rate was highest for prison maxouts (11.2%), EHA parole (10.6%), and regular parole (9.3%). The violent rearrest rate was lowest for residential programs (2.7%), community penalties (4%), and community service probation (5.4%).



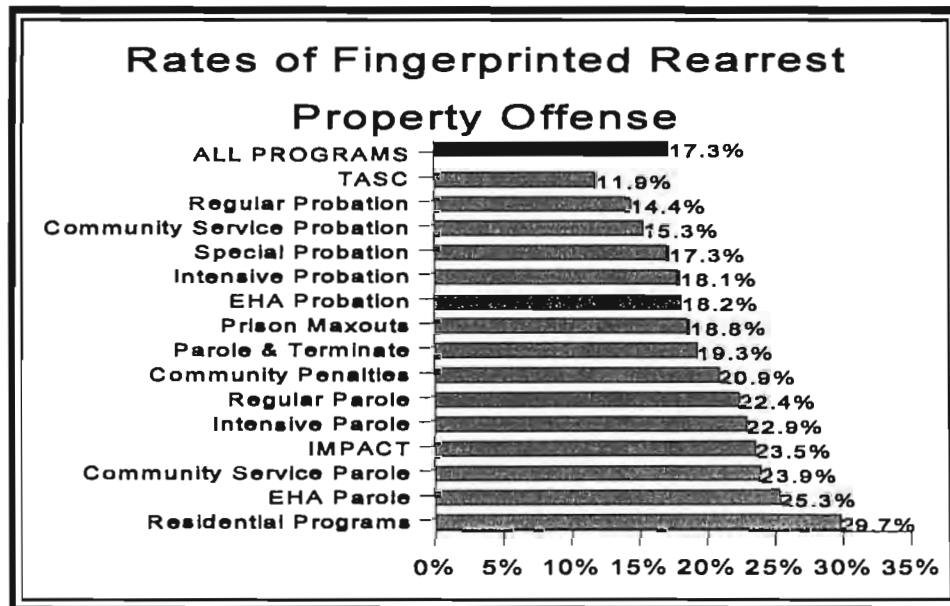
### Rearrest Rate For Sex Offenses

The overall rearrest rate for sex offenses was 0.4%. The sex offense rearrest rate was 0% for residential treatment and 0.3% for EHA probation and IMPACT. The sex offense rearrest rate was highest for community penalties (0.8%), EHA parole (0.7%), and regular parole and intensive probation (0.6%).



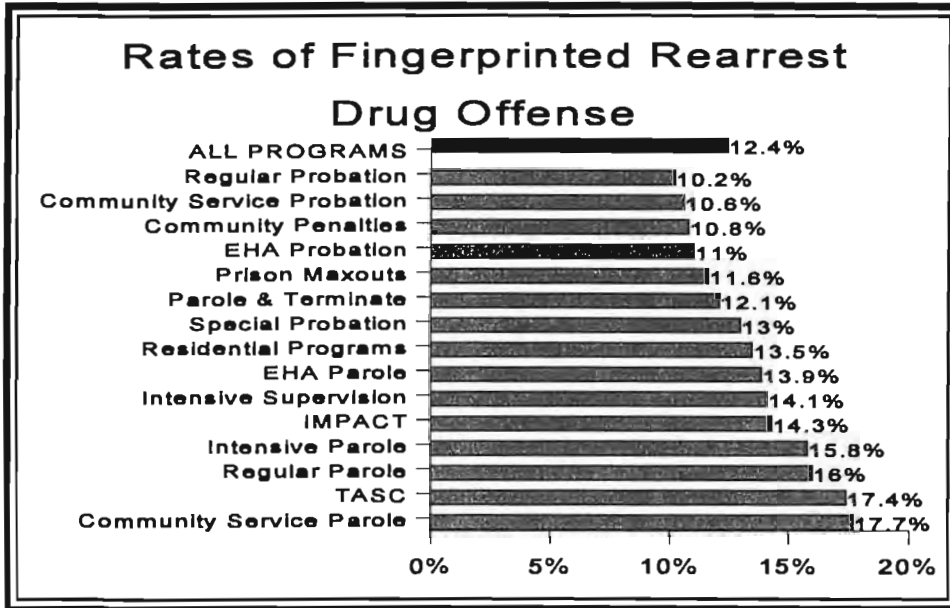
### Rearrest Rate for Property Offenses

The overall rearrest rate for property offenses was 17.3%. The property rearrest rate was highest for residential programs (29.7%), EHA parole (25.3%), and community service parole (23.9%). The property rearrest rate was lowest for TASC (11.9%), regular probation (14.4%), and community service probation (15.3%).



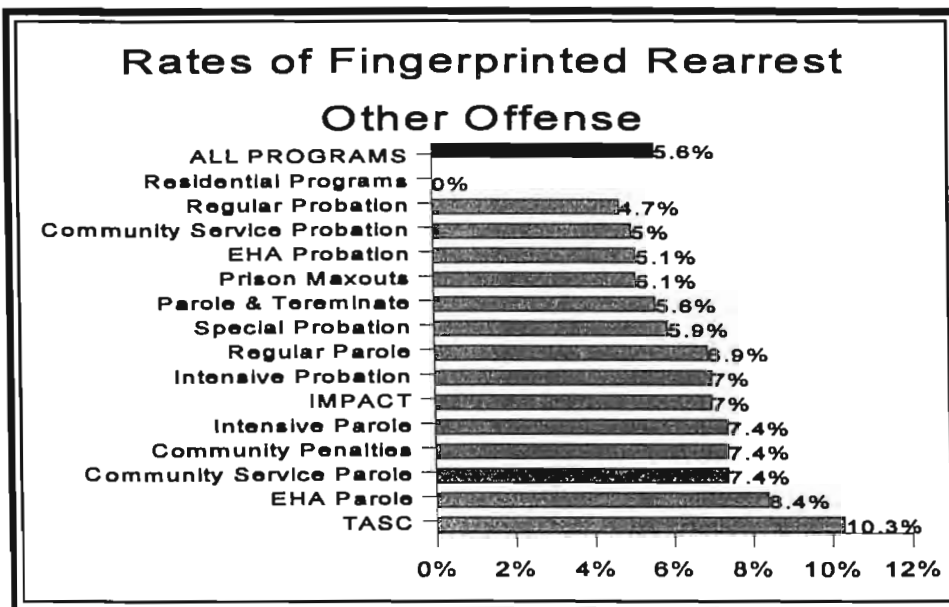
### Rearrest Rate For Drug Offenses

The overall rearrest rate for drug offenses was 12.4%. The drug rearrest rate was highest for community service parole (17.7%), TASC (17.4%), and regular parole (16%). The drug rearrest rate was lowest for regular probation (10.2%), community service probation (10.6%), and community penalties (10.8%).



### Rearrest Rate For Other Offenses

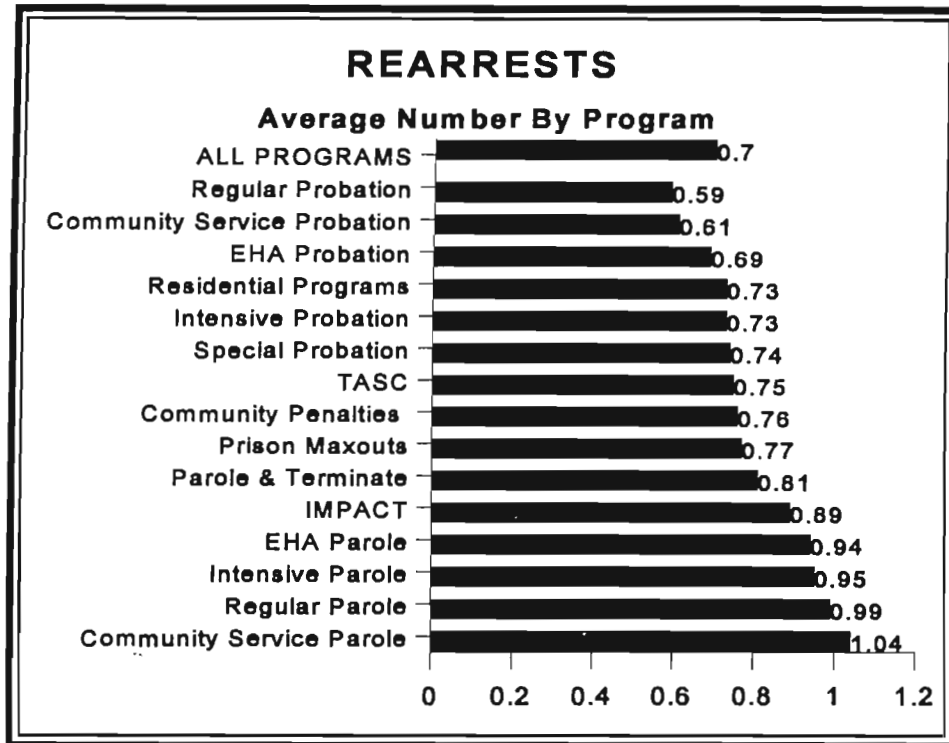
The overall rearrest rate for other offenses was 5.6%. This rate was highest for TASC (10.3%) and EHA parole (8.4%). The rate was lowest for residential programs (0%), regular probation (4.7%), and community service probation (5%).





### Average Number of Rearrests By Program

The average number of rearrests for all offenders was 0.7. The average number was highest for community service parole (1.04), regular parole (0.99), and intensive parole (0.95). The average number of rearrests was lowest for regular probation (0.59), community service probation (0.61), and EHA probation (0.69).

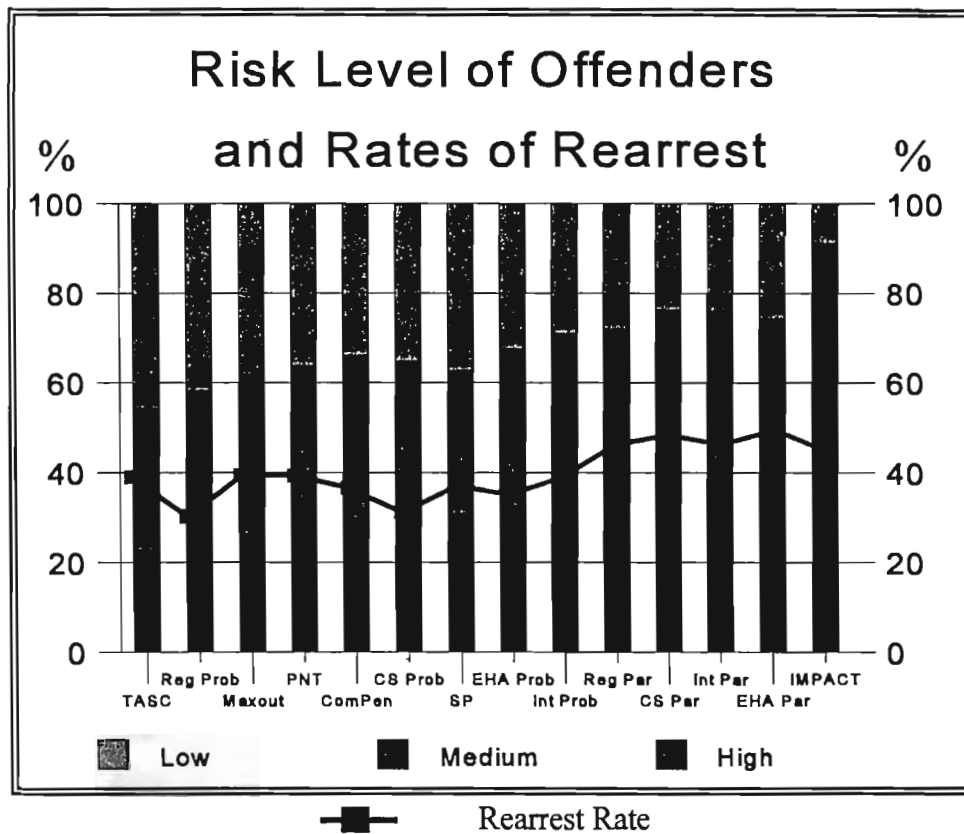


### RECIDIVISM RATES COMPARED WITH RISK SCORES OF OFFENDERS

When comparing the rearrest rates of offenders in the various programs, it cannot be assumed that a high rearrest rate for a program means that the program is less effective than programs with lower rearrest rates. The various programs may contain more or less offenders that are at high risk. Programs with a large percentage of high risk offenders are more likely to have a high rearrest rate. For this reason, a multivariate analysis using a logistic regression model<sup>7</sup> has been used to create a risk score for each offender in a sample of cases.<sup>8</sup> As demonstrated by the graph on the next page, the percentage of offenders in a program who were rearrested tended to be similar to the percent of high risk offenders in that program.

<sup>7</sup> 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 to create a risk score for each individual. From these scores, each person was assigned a risk level of low, medium or high.

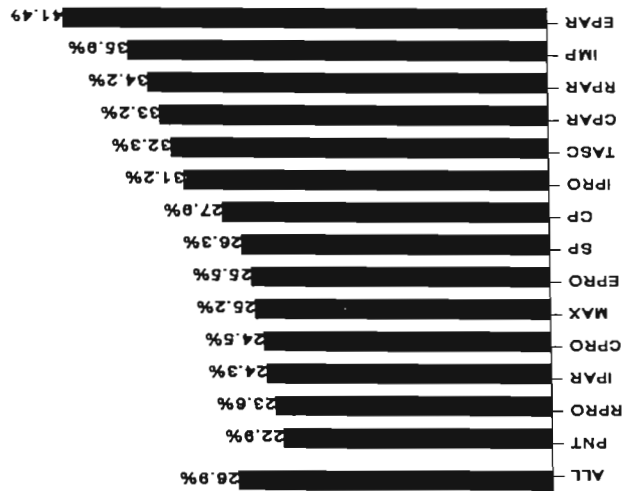
<sup>8</sup> The sample was drawn to assure that an adequate number of participants would be included for each program. Because of the small number of offenders in the EHA parole program, all offenders from that program were included. The residential treatment group was not included in this analysis since there were only 37 persons and it is difficult to draw conclusions from such a small group.



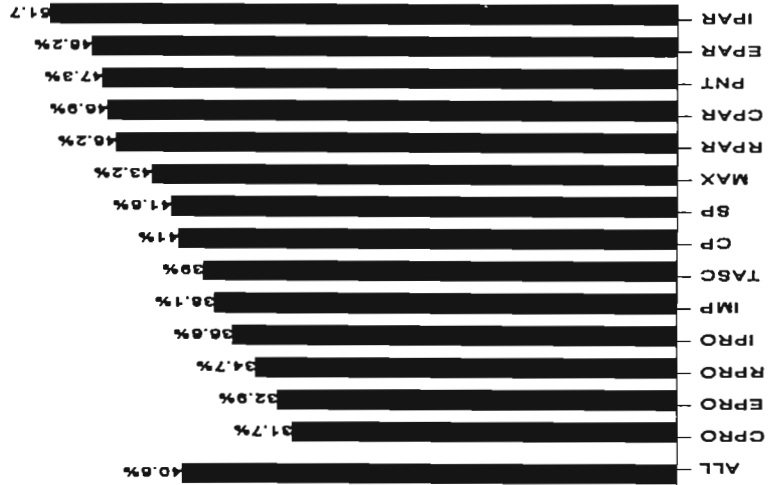
Another way of utilizing the risk scores of individuals to compare programs was to divide the population into three groups: low, medium, and high risk, and then to look at the rearrest rate by program for each of the three groups. As can be seen from the graph on the following page, the overall rearrest rate for the low risk group was 26.9% and ranged from a low of 22.9% for parole and terminate offenders to a high of 41.4% for offenders on electronic house arrest parole. The overall rearrest rate for the medium risk group was 40.8% and ranged from a low of 31.7% for community service probation offenders to a high of 51.7% for intensive supervision parole. The overall rearrest rate for the high risk group was 55.4% and ranged from a low of 50.5% for offenders in the TASC program to a high of 62.8% for intensive supervision parole.

**REARREST RATES AND RISK LEVEL OF OFFENDERS**

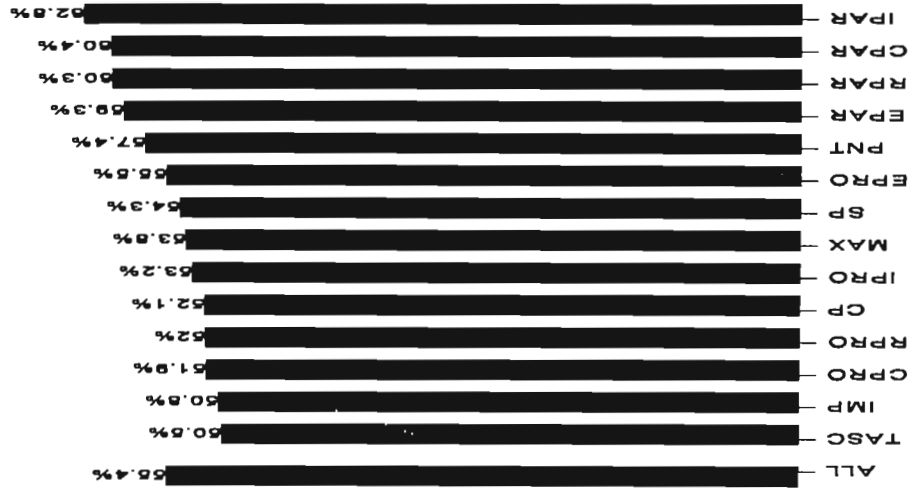
**Rearrest Rates of  
Low Risk Offenders**



**Rearrest Rates of  
Medium Risk Offenders**



**Rearrest Rates of  
High Risk Offenders**



## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

This study is the second annual recidivism study conducted by the Sentencing Commission staff in conjunction with the Department of Correction. It follows the same general design as that of the first recidivism study conducted under the supervision of the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission through a contractual agreement with Clarke and Harrison in 1992.

Of the 45,836 offenders in the study, 37.3% were rearrested during the follow-up period of 35.1 months. This report provides a profile of the offenders in the fifteen corrections programs that were included. There was considerable variation in the recidivism rates by program. The rates ranged from 31.3% for regular probation to 51.3% for electronic house arrest 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.

Those offenders assigned to the probation programs tend to be less serious offenders than the offenders that have been in prison and who are released onto parole or released without supervision. The fact that persons in probation programs are less likely to be rearrested is an indication of this fact. The Parole Commission is less likely to parole and terminate the worse offenders coming out of prison. This fact is reflected in the difference in the parole and terminate (40.5%) rearrest rate compared with the released onto parole rearrest rate (48.1%).

If, as we can assume, the offenders assigned to the various programs were sentenced to those programs not randomly but as the result of rational decision making on the part of judges or the Parole Commission, then differences in rearrest rates among the programs should be expected. To test this logic, a sample was used to perform a logistic regression with offender demographic characteristics and prior 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 is roughly equivalent to the recidivism rate in that program.

Another way in which the risk score was used for comparison purposes was to compute a separate rearrest rate for low risk, medium risk, and high risk offenders within each program. This analysis suggested that much of the difference among programs basically "washes-out" when the risk-level of the offenders was held constant for the programs.

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 was no way to assume that the offenders in each group were similar in their likelihood to commit another crime.

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 or were released from prison in Fiscal Year 1994-95. More in-depth studies and evaluation of the various programs would be useful to discover program 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----	16444	35.9	16444	35.9
-----U--R----	7305	15.9	23749	51.8
-----D--A----	6018	13.1	29767	64.9
-----A----	3932	8.6	33699	73.5
---I---U-----	1886	4.1	35585	77.6
-----N--	1634	3.6	37219	81.2
-----D-----	1193	2.6	38412	83.8
-----SR----	962	2.1	39374	85.9
---I-----	637	1.4	40011	87.3
----P---D-----	621	1.4	40632	88.6
-----M-	608	1.3	41240	90.0
---I---U--R----	396	0.9	41636	90.8
B-----	381	0.8	42017	91.7
--T-----R----	341	0.7	42358	92.4
----P---D--A----	328	0.7	42686	93.1
---I---U-S-----	263	0.6	42949	93.7
-----U-SR----	249	0.5	43198	94.2
----E---R----	241	0.5	43439	94.8
-----L-D--A----	193	0.4	43632	95.2
---I-----R----	160	0.3	43792	95.5
----E-U--R----	159	0.3	43951	95.9
----P-----A----	145	0.3	44096	96.2
--T---U--R----	143	0.3	44239	96.5
B-----R----	122	0.3	44361	96.8
-C-----R----	117	0.3	44478	97.0
--I-----S-----	104	0.2	44582	97.3
-C-I---U-----	95	0.2	44677	97.5
-C-----U--R----	89	0.2	44766	97.7
B--I---U-----	74	0.2	44840	97.8
--TI---U-----	62	0.1	44902	98.0
-----D-R----	58	0.1	44960	98.1
---I-E-U-----	54	0.1	45014	98.2
-----L---A----	52	0.1	45066	98.3
---I---U-SR----	47	0.1	45113	98.4
B-----U--R----	40	0.1	45153	98.5
----E---SR----	39	0.1	45192	98.6
--T-----SR----	30	0.1	45222	98.7
-C-I---U--R----	29	0.1	45251	98.7
-C-I-----	27	0.1	45278	98.8
-C-I---U-S-----	26	0.1	45304	98.8
B--I-----	26	0.1	45330	98.9
---I-E-----	23	0.1	45353	98.9
-C-----SR----	23	0.1	45376	99.0
-----DS-A----	20	0.0	45396	99.0
---I---D-----	20	0.0	45416	99.1
---I-----SR----	18	0.0	45434	99.1
--TI---U--R----	18	0.0	45452	99.2
--TI-----	17	0.0	45469	99.2
B--I---U--R----	16	0.0	45485	99.2

KEY TO PROGRAM CODES:

A=Regular Parole  
D=Community Service Parole  
L=Electronic Parole  
P=Intensive Parole  
T=TASC

B=IMPACT  
E=Electronic Probation  
M=Maxout  
R=Regular Probation  
U=Community Service Prob.

C=Community Penalties  
I=Intensive Probation  
N=Parole and Terminate  
S=Special Probation  
Z=Residential

PROGCOM2	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
---I-E-U--R----	15	0.0	45500	99.3
----E-U-SR----	13	0.0	45513	99.3
----P-----	13	0.0	45526	99.3
--I-E-U-S-----	12	0.0	45538	99.3
--TI--U-S-----	12	0.0	45550	99.4
-----S-A----	11	0.0	45561	99.4
---I-E----R----	11	0.0	45572	99.4
B----E-U--R----	10	0.0	45582	99.4
-----R---Z	9	0.0	45591	99.5
----P-L-D-----	9	0.0	45600	99.5
B--I-----R----	9	0.0	45609	99.5
-----DSR----	8	0.0	45617	99.5
-C-I-----R----	8	0.0	45625	99.5
BC-I---U-----	8	0.0	45633	99.6
----P----S-A----	7	0.0	45640	99.6
--I-E-U-SR----	7	0.0	45647	99.6
-C-----R---Z	7	0.0	45654	99.6
-C----U-SR----	7	0.0	45661	99.6
-C-I-----S-----	7	0.0	45668	99.6
B-----L-D-----	7	0.0	45675	99.6
--T----U-SR----	6	0.0	45681	99.7
--TI-----S-----	6	0.0	45687	99.7
-C---E-U--R----	6	0.0	45693	99.7
B----E---R----	6	0.0	45699	99.7
--I-E---S-----	5	0.0	45704	99.7
-C---E---R----	5	0.0	45709	99.7
-CT-----R----	5	0.0	45714	99.7
-CTI---U-----	5	0.0	45719	99.7
B-----L-----	5	0.0	45724	99.8
B--I-E-U-----	5	0.0	45729	99.8
BC-----R----	5	0.0	45734	99.8
----P-L-D--A----	4	0.0	45738	99.8
--T--E---R----	4	0.0	45742	99.8
--T--E-U--R----	4	0.0	45746	99.8
--TI-----R----	4	0.0	45750	99.8
B--I-E-U--R----	4	0.0	45754	99.8
BC-I-----	4	0.0	45758	99.8
-----D--A--Z	3	0.0	45761	99.8
-----E--D-R----	3	0.0	45764	99.8
----P---DS----	3	0.0	45767	99.8
----P---DS-A----	3	0.0	45770	99.9
---I---U-----Z	3	0.0	45773	99.9
---I-E---SR----	3	0.0	45776	99.9
-CT----U--R----	3	0.0	45779	99.9
-----U-----	2	0.0	45781	99.9
-----U--R---Z	2	0.0	45783	99.9
-----L-DS-A----	2	0.0	45785	99.9
--T-----R---Z	2	0.0	45787	99.9
--T----D-R----	2	0.0	45789	99.9

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I=Intensive Probation  
N=Parole and Terminate  
S=Special Probation  
Z=Residential

PROGCOM2	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
-C-----U--R---Z	2	0.0	45791	99.9
B-----D-----	2	0.0	45793	99.9
B--I-E-----	2	0.0	45795	99.9
B--I-E---R----	2	0.0	45797	99.9
B-T-----R----	2	0.0	45799	99.9
-----N-Z	1	0.0	45800	99.9
---P---D--A--Z	1	0.0	45801	99.9
---I-----Z	1	0.0	45802	99.9
---I-----R---Z	1	0.0	45803	99.9
---I---S---Z	1	0.0	45804	99.9
---I---U-SR---Z	1	0.0	45805	99.9
--T--E-U-SR----	1	0.0	45806	99.9
--TI-----SR----	1	0.0	45807	99.9
--TI---U-----Z	1	0.0	45808	99.9
--TI-E-----	1	0.0	45809	99.9
--TI-E-U-----	1	0.0	45810	99.9
--TI-E-U--R----	1	0.0	45811	99.9
-C-----D-R----	1	0.0	45812	99.9
-C-----DSR----	1	0.0	45813	99.9
-C---E-U--R---Z	1	0.0	45814	100.0
-C-I-----SR----	1	0.0	45815	100.0
-C-I---U-SR----	1	0.0	45816	100.0
-C-I-E---R----	1	0.0	45817	100.0
-C-I-E--S----	1	0.0	45818	100.0
-C-I-E-U-----	1	0.0	45819	100.0
-CT-----R---Z	1	0.0	45820	100.0
-CT-----SR----	1	0.0	45821	100.0
-CT--E---R----	1	0.0	45822	100.0
-CTI-----	1	0.0	45823	100.0
-CTI-----S----	1	0.0	45824	100.0
-CTI---U--R----	1	0.0	45825	100.0
-CTI---U-S----	1	0.0	45826	100.0
B-----D-R----	1	0.0	45827	100.0
B---P-----	1	0.0	45828	100.0
B---P---D-----	1	0.0	45829	100.0
B---P-L-D-----	1	0.0	45830	100.0
B-TI---U--R----	1	0.0	45831	100.0
BC-----U--R----	1	0.0	45832	100.0
BC-I-----R----	1	0.0	45833	100.0
BC-I---U--R----	1	0.0	45834	100.0
BC-I-E-U--R----	1	0.0	45835	100.0
BCTI---U-----	1	0.0	45836	100.0

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I=Intensive Probation  
N=Parole and Terminate  
S=Special Probation  
Z=Residential



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