

Goal: Public Safety

Subject Area: Incarceration, Rehabilitation and Reentry of Offenders

Objective: Decrease the number of offenders who stop reporting to their parole agent.

Why this objective is important:

Parolees must be held accountable to report to their parole agents. A parolee may abscond because he or she has a drug habit and wants to use drugs again. However, a small percentage of parolees may become a danger to the community. In either case, the board issues a warrant for their arrest and aggressively pursues them.

How are we doing:

The board has consistently reduced the absconder rate. The state's 3.2 percent absconder rate for 2010-11 is significantly less than the rate of 6.2 percent in 2003-04.

Strategies

Continue to address needs of offenders, such as for drug treatment, violence prevention programming, and counseling about criminal-thinking behaviors.

Continue to improve relationships with local police to effectively and expeditiously track down absconders.

Measures:

MeasureName	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13
Average monthly percentage of supervised offenders in absconder status	4%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%

Goal: Public Safety

Subject Area: Incarceration, Rehabilitation and Reentry of Offenders

Objective: Decrease the number of technical parole violators (parolees who break their conditions of parole) recommitted to prison.

Why this objective is important:

Many offenders can be safely and effectively managed in the community through a graduated process that provides swift, certain and progressive sanctions, to include treatment and programming. Offenders should remain in their community and close to a support system as long as they are not a threat to themselves or others.

How are we doing:

For several years, the percentage of technical parole violators has steadily declined, and the percentage of convicted parole violators (parolees who are charged with a crime and return to prison pending disposition of the criminal charges) has remained relatively stable. In 2010-11 technical parole violators were less than 1 percent of the state sentenced population.

Strategies

- Continue to use a Violation Sanctioning Grid to guide parole agents in determining the most appropriate type of sanction to impose for particular parole violations, because not all parole violations result in a return to prison.
- Continue to use parole violator centers to address immediate relapse needs that caused the violation behavior.

Measures:

MeasureName	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13
Average monthly number of state-sentenced technical parole violators returned to prison	257	231	202	230	200
Average monthly percentage of state-sentenced technical parole violators returned to prison	1.16%	1.06%	0.84%	0.9%	0.75%

Goal: Public Safety

Subject Area: Incarceration, Rehabilitation and Reentry of Offenders

Objective: Decrease the percentage of individuals who return to prison within one year of release from prison.

Why this objective is important:

During the first year of supervision an offender is most vulnerable to relapse and return to prison. An intensive focus during the first year will help the offender to remain free from a life of crime.

How are we doing:

When offenders return to their communities, they face many obstacles, such as unemployment, crime, poverty and drug prevalence, any or all of which make it difficult to succeed in remaining crime-free. Often they have limited education and job skills, as well as substance abuse problems to overcome. The board will continue to incorporate supervision and case management strategies that focus on the first year of supervision.

Strategies

Continue to incorporate in the Pennsylvania parole system supervision and case management strategies that help an offender to change his or her behavior in order to reduce recidivism.

Measures:

MeasureName	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13
One-year recidivism rate	20.9%	20.2%	16.9%	18.2%	17.1%

Goal: Public Safety

Subject Area: Incarceration, Rehabilitation and Reentry of Offenders

Objective: Increase the number of offenders identified as appropriate for parole based on reduced risk of committing another crime.

Why this objective is important:

Treatment and programming in prison is designed to change behaviors and attitudes toward crime. Offenders who are appropriate for parole have reduced their risk to public safety by participating in treatment and programming, have behaved well in prison and have developed a reentry plan, therefore demonstrating they can be managed safely in the community.

How are we doing:

Each year thousands of offenders successfully complete parole. The number of offenders completing their sentence increased 20 percent since 2005-06, resulting in a total of 6,843 parolees successfully returning to their communities in 2010-11.

Strategies

- Continue to improve the parole preparation process to assist offenders with the development of viable reentry plans prior to the parole interview.
- Continue to provide accurate and complete information to decision makers regarding the offender's criminal and social history and the results of risk and needs assessments to address the needs of the offender that contribute to criminal behavior.

Measures:

MeasureName	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13
Annual state sentence releases to parole supervision	8,410	10,292	11,521	11,950	13,450
Average monthly number of offenders eligible for parole interviews	2,580	3,059	3,154	3,185	3,215
Average monthly number of offenders granted parole or reparole	811	1,113	1,155	1,105	1,215
Average monthly number of offenders interviewed	1,697	1,873	1,847	1,870	1,980
Average monthly number of offenders released to parole from state correctional institutions	640	797	893	915	1,030
Average monthly percentage of scheduled interviews held	66%	61%	59%	59%	61%
State parolees and probationers supervised at fiscal year end	31,179	32,378	34,745	36,700	40,400

Goal: Public Safety

Subject Area: Incarceration, Rehabilitation and Reentry of Offenders

Objective: Increase the percentage of parolees able to work who are employed.

Why this objective is important:

Employment is an important factor in parole success. Employed parolees are less likely to become involved in criminal activity. Parolees able to work are required to work, search for a job, participate in job training or attend school.

How are we doing:

The percentage of parolees employed has remained essentially stable during these tough economic times. In 2010-11, 63 percent of parolees who were able to work were employed. The challenge is that individuals with criminal records are barred from certain jobs because of their criminal history.

Strategies

Continue to support Offender Workforce Development Specialists who have gained skills needed to help offenders seek, secure and maintain employment.

Facilitate a seamless continuum of workforce development services from the correctional facility to the community.

Work with parolees who are low-skilled or unskilled and are in need of job training to secure sustainable employment.

Measures:

MeasureName	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13
Employment rate (percentage) of offenders who are able to work	70%	67%	63%	62%	61%

Goal: Public Safety

Subject Area: Incarceration, Rehabilitation and Reentry of Offenders

Objective: Increase the percentage of parolees who successfully complete parole.

Why this objective is important:

Parole agents work with offenders to help them change their behavior and successfully complete parole. When this occurs, offenders are less likely to commit another crime.

How are we doing:

Of those offenders whose supervision ended in 2010-11, 58 percent, or 6,843 offenders, completed parole successfully and returned to their communities.

Support from the community is necessary, including adequate community resources such as drug and alcohol treatment, sex offender treatment, mental health services, affordable housing and available jobs. The parole agent works with the parolee on all of these issues, but if a parolee cannot find a job, a place to live and necessary treatment, it is difficult for him or her to change behavior.

Strategies

Continue to use and improve a problem-solving case management approach that holds offenders accountable and also helps them to change their behavior.

Expand the number of parole agents certified to deliver transitional programs to parolees under supervision.

Work with local probation departments to develop more post-release programming and transitional support for parolees in regions, such as rural areas, where these services are not available.

Measures:

MeasureName	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13
Successful completions of parole as a percentage of monthly cases closed (revocations or successful completions)	53%	55%	58%	57%	58%
Total state supervision fee dollars collected annually	\$3,820,635.00	\$3,701,685.00	\$3,581,208.00	\$3,600,000.00	\$3,500,000.00

Goal: Public Safety

Subject Area: Incarceration, Rehabilitation and Reentry of Offenders

Objective: Maintain the 100 percent completion rate for sexual offender assessments ordered by the adult and juvenile courts and the assessments requested by the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole.

Why this objective is important:

By law, the Sexual Offenders Assessment Board (SOAB) must provide assessments to the court within 90 days after conviction for adults and within 90 days after a juvenile's 20th birthday. The SOAB also does an assessment of sex offenders for the parole board. This assessment is a highly specialized evaluation determining the risks posed to the community. The board's assessment may include recommendations for treatment and supervision in the community.

How are we doing:

In 2010-11, the SOAB completed all court-ordered assessments on time, as required by law. The challenge for the SOAB is to keep up with the requests from the parole board.

Strategies

Continue to identify potential opportunities to electronically obtain relevant data and documents from state and county criminal justice entities, such as receiving juvenile records from the courts electronically to improve the efficiency of the investigative process.

Measures:

MeasureName	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13
Total number of sex offender assessments completed	2,018	1,797	1,968	2,390	2,580