



Pennsylvania's Reentry System

Toward Safer Communities

Michael L. Green, Chairman

Mission Statement

“The Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole is committed to promoting public safety, utilizing sound decision making practices that include evidence-based approaches, employing effective methods to aid offenders in reentering society and to reduce recidivism, addressing the needs of crime victims, and improving county adult probation and parole services.”

Legal Authority

Pursuant to the Prisons and Parole Code, the Board can:

- ▶ Make parole decisions and supervise offenders with maximum sentence of two years or more
- ▶ Accept certain special probation cases by order of court
- ▶ Provide all probation services in certain counties
- ▶ Revoke parole of technical parole violators (TPVs) and convicted parole violators (CPVs)

Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision

- ▶ Board supervision of offenders referred to Pennsylvania from other states

Organization

The Board has:

- ▶ 9 Board Members, including Chairman
- ▶ 19 Hearing Examiners, including Chief Hearing Examiner
- ▶ Institutional, Field and Administrative Staff – 1,259 employees
 - ➔ 10 District Offices
 - ➔ 15 District Sub-offices
 - ➔ 26 Institutional Parole Offices
 - ➔ Central Office Administration

What is Parole?

Parole is the conditional release of an inmate from incarceration to continue serving the balance of his or her sentence under supervision within the community. Parole is a privilege, not a right; it is not automatic or guaranteed. It may be revoked for violations of the conditions of parole or for new criminal convictions. Parole is **not** probation, which is a court sentence of supervision in the community instead of a sentence to prison or jail. An offender that violates probation could be sentenced to prison.

Parole is also different from a pardon or a commutation of sentence. In Pennsylvania, the Board of Pardons handles these situations, which is completely separate from the Board of Probation and Parole.

What is the Value of Discretionary Parole?

In Pennsylvania, offenders are given a minimum and maximum sentence. This means there is a minimum amount of time that they **must** serve in prison before they can be considered for parole – and if they are paroled they will remain on parole until the end of their maximum sentence.

Parole serves a very important role in the criminal justice system. Most offenders who have been sentenced to prison will be released at some point and return to the community. Criminal justice experts agree that it is better for society if most offenders are reintegrated into the community on a gradual basis and under parole supervision rather than being released without it.

Value of Discretionary Parole:

- Individualizes release decisions based on each offender’s progress, reduced risk and reentry preparation, rather than release occurring as the result of a set date.
- Measures offenders’ risk by considering the seriousness of the offense and the likelihood to re-offend based on assessment instruments.
- Manages the parolees post-release transitional period by imposing conditions of parole that structure their behavior, environment and activities.

Statewide Performance Improvements by the Board

Recidivism

Evidence-based parole practices result in a reduced recidivism rate.

- ➔ The latest PBPP three-year recidivism rate is 44%, a decrease of three percentage points compared to five years earlier.
- ➔ The PBPP one-year recidivism rate is 20%. This is a decrease from a rate of 22% five years ago.

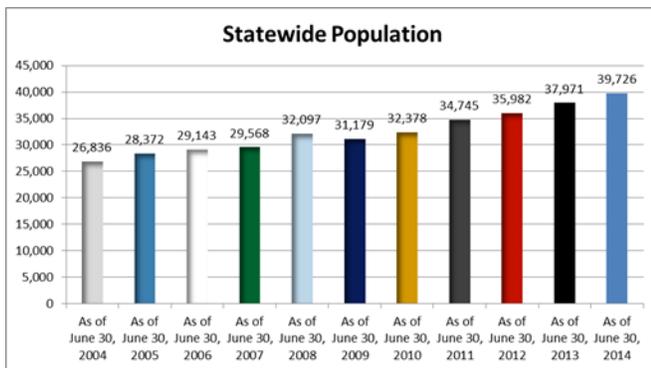
Supervision and Reentry

Problem solving case management continues to help parolee's successfully complete parole.

- ➔ Each year thousands of offenders successfully complete parole. The number of offenders who successfully completed parole in FY13/14 was 6,740, an 11% increase since FY06/07.

Supervised Parole Population

The Board's population grew by 4.6% in FY13/14. Since FY05/06, the parole population has increased 30% from 29,143 to 39,726 in FY13/14.

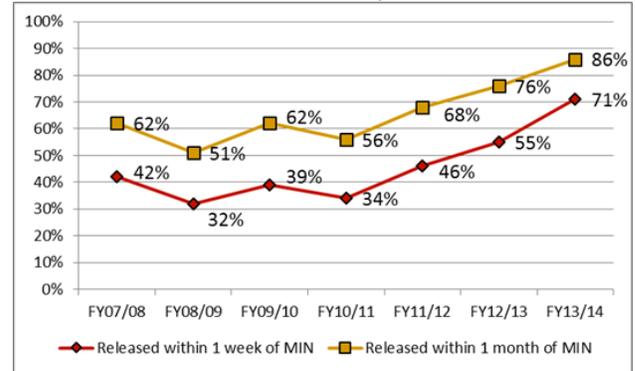


Parole Decisions

The Parole Board made 21,381 decisions to grant or deny parole during FY13/14.

Minimum Sentence Releases

The percentage of offenders released within one week or one month of their minimum date has increased for two consecutive years.



Supervision Cost

The cost of supervising a parolee for one year is \$3,348 versus \$41,100* for a year of incarceration in a state correctional institution.

**PA Department of Correction's projected cost per inmate in the Governor's FY14/15 budget request.*

Employment

Research has proven that employment reduces recidivism. If parolees are working, they are less likely to spend time involved in criminal activity, thus helping to support themselves and dependents, and increasing their ability to pay restitution owed.

- ➔ In FY13/14, the monthly average percent of offenders who were able to work who were employed was 55%.

Offender Accountability

Since many offenders have a substance abuse problem, drug testing and treatment may be a part of their parole conditions. Drug tests are overwhelmingly negative.

- ➔ During FY13/14, 89% of the 122,140 drug tests given to detect illegal drugs were negative.

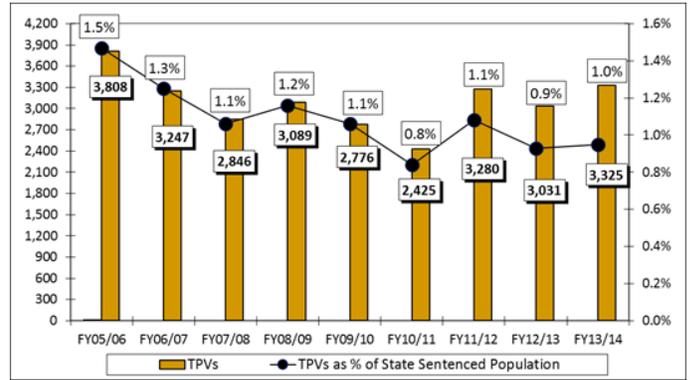
Statewide Performance Improvements by the Board

Enforcement of Parole Conditions

More technical parole violators are returned to prison.

As part of reentry, offenders who violate conditions of parole are sanctioned, may be sent to a treatment program, or have their parole revoked. An offender who commits a crime while on parole is returned to prison.

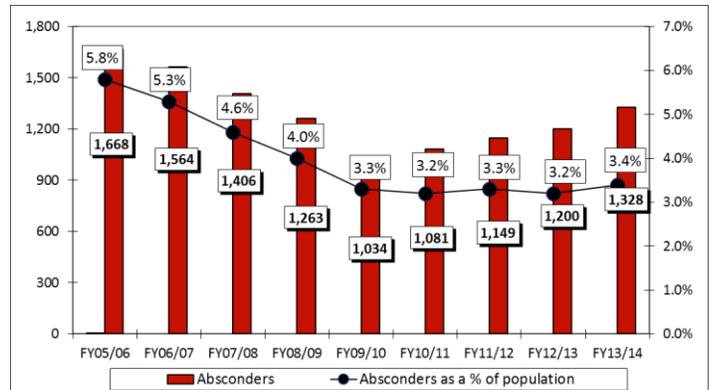
- ➔ In FY13/14, the total number of technical parole violators (TPVs) (state sentence) was 3,325, which were 294 fewer than in FY12/13. Over the fiscal year, state sentence TPVs as a percentage of the state sentence population was 0.95%.
- ➔ In FY13/14, the total number of convicted parole violators (CPVs) (state sentence) was 2,409. Over the fiscal year, state sentence CPVs as a percentage of the state sentence population was 0.69%.
- ➔ Parole Violator Centers were established in March 2010. In Calendar Year 2013, 1,470 technical parole violators were diverted to these centers.



Arrest of Offenders Who Fail to Report

Percentage of parolees on the run continues to decline.

- ➔ The Board’s efforts to aggressively pursue offenders who fail to report to their agent continue to pay off – the percentage of absconders has declined from 5.8% (1,668) in FY05/06 to 3.4% (1,328) in FY13/14, despite an increasing parole population.



Parole Facts – As of June 30, 2014

Statewide the PBPP supervised 39,726 cases as of June 2014.

Gender:

89% Male
11% Female

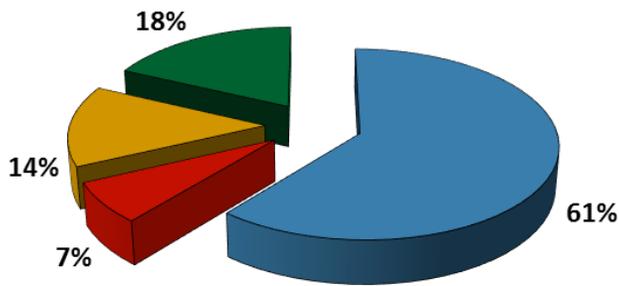
Race/Ethnicity:

48% White
42% Black
9% Hispanic
1% Other

Age at Release:

Under 20 years old: 1%
20 to 29: 33%
30 to 39: 32%
40 to 49: 21%
50 years or older: 13%

Jurisdiction

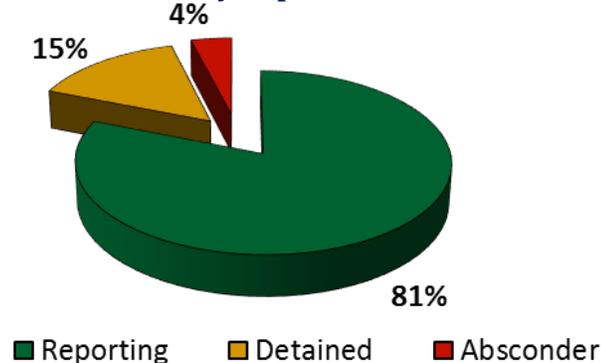


■ Parole ■ Other State ■ Reparole ■ County

Length of Time Under Supervision

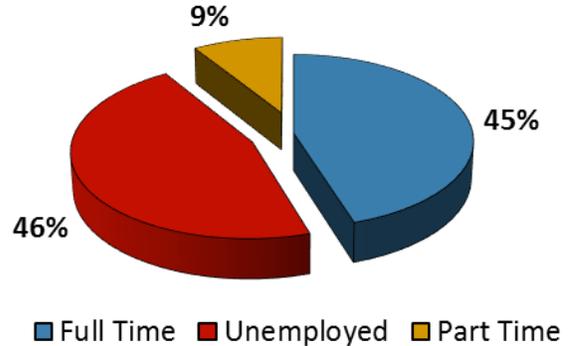
39% less than one year
25% one to two years
15% two to three years
21% more than three years

Parole Cases by Supervision Status



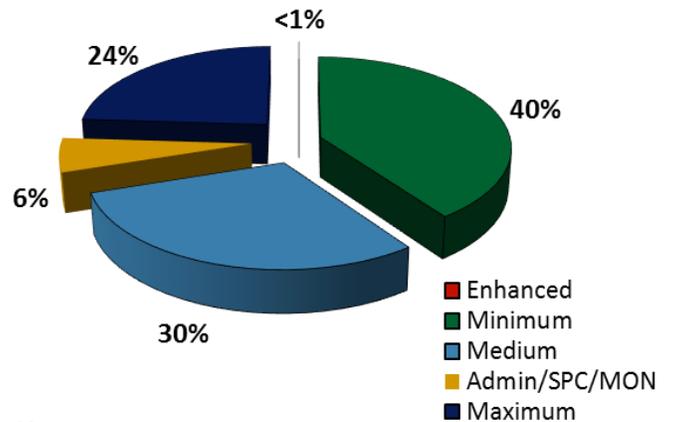
Employment

54% of offenders able to work were employed.



Parole Cases by Supervision Level

Only the 32,439 reporting offenders are included



Offense Groups

In cases where the offender had multiple convictions, the offense count is based on the longest sentence of conviction, but does not represent the prevalence of each type.

Offense Category	Count	Percent
Drugs	10,983	28%
Robbery	4,382	11%
Theft/RSP/Forgery	3,828	10%
Assault	3,492	9%
DUI	2,585	6%
Burglary	2,619	6%
Firearms	1,832	5%
Homicide	1,446	4%
Sex Offender	1,331	3%
Other	7,228	18%
Total	39,726	100%

Preparing Offenders For Successful Transition Back To Their Families And Reentry To The Community

Reentry Planning Begins at Admission to Prison

Upon admission to a state prison, the PA Department of Corrections (DOC) conducts a battery of assessments to determine the inmates risk of reoffending; propensity to act violently; levels of criminal attitudes and hostility; problems with substance abuse; and general psychological well-being. Based on the results of these assessments, a correctional plan will be developed to address necessary treatment and programming needs.

- The DOC and the Board prepare a joint correctional plan.
- Prior to release, institutional parole staff assist the offender to find services to meet these needs, which may include drug and alcohol counseling, medical or mental health services, or domestic violence protocols.
- Parole Agents also assist inmates with securing all necessary documentation (birth certificates, social security cards, etc.) and locate resources for other needs that have been identified in order for the offender to make a successful transition to the community.
- The Board has trained agents to provide aftercare programs in violence prevention, cognitive behavioral programming, employment groups, and anger management and as part of the reentry plan offenders may be required to attend these programs.

Preparing for Release from Prison and Reentry into the Community

As an offender approaches his/her parole interview, DOC and PBPP institutional staff work diligently to facilitate successful reentry. This includes assisting offenders with developing suitable parole plans.

- The reentry plan consists of a home plan and an employment plan. It is developed by the inmate – he or she must send requests to prospective residences and employers to secure adequate living arrangements and employment upon release.

Parole Decision Making – Has the Offender’s Risk Been Reduced?

Safe Parole Decisions Based on Offender Risk

The Board uses a valid and reliable risk and needs assessment instrument to assist with parole decisions, as well as other nationally recognized assessments. Risk is the likelihood of an offender to commit another crime and the Board tries to determine how much an offender’s risk has been reduced.

■ Paroling an Offender at the Right Time - Board Principles of Decision Making

- Defer to the sentencing court regarding issue of appropriate punishment
- The sentencing court is the arbiter of just punishment
- Ensure all offenders are accurately and consistently evaluated for their readiness to parole to enhance public safety and use a structured decisional instrument
- Because of the significant stakes involved in violent crimes, the Board evaluates violent offenses at a more stringent standard than non-violent offenses
- The Board supports order and safety within the DOC

Prior to the Parole Interview

1. Case Preparation:

Prior to the parole interview, a case file must be prepared for the decision maker to review. The file contains the following:

Required by law:

- ▶ The nature and circumstances of the crime for which the offender was convicted, as well as his/her entire criminal history
- ▶ Information regarding the general character and background of the offender
- ▶ Notes on the sentencing hearing testimony
- ▶ Emotional stability: physical, mental and behavioral condition and history of the offender
- ▶ History of family violence
- ▶ Recommendation of the sentencing judge and prosecuting attorney
- ▶ Input from the victim and the victim's family
- ▶ Recommendation from the warden or superintendent of the facility where the offender is incarcerated

Other Requirements:

- ▶ Status of program completion
- ▶ Adjustment to prison

2. Reentry Plan:

While in prison, an inmate works with his or her institutional parole agent to develop a reentry plan – a home plan, where the inmate proposes to live, and an employment plan, the inmate's efforts to secure employment or a job offer - and a treatment/support plan to help the inmate avoid repeating his criminal behavior. The reentry plan is vital to an offender's success on parole.

The home plan may consist of a private residence or the Board may parole to a community corrections center. During incarceration, the inmate's institutional counselor, parole agent, family or friends may help in finding a job. Inmates are required to send letters to potential employers prior to release.

3. Pre-interview Case Review:

Prior to the parole interview, the decision maker will prepare for the interview by reviewing the case file, including the Parole Decisional Instrument and the offender's reentry plan.

The Parole Interview

The parole interview is conducted to:

- Address with the offender both criminal history and institutional conduct, program participation, and consider needs and risks.
- Assess the adequacy of treatment or programming while incarcerated, at the point of reentry and on an ongoing basis in the community.

However, human behavior is difficult to predict. A risk assessment tool is a statistical tool that does not predict which individual will re-offend, but identifies groups likely to re-offend. The risk assessment may place an offender in a high risk group, but specifically which offender in the group will re-offend cannot be identified.

■ Requirements for Good Parole Decision Making

In addition to the legislatively mandated considerations, research shows that other factors must be considered in the context of how the offender's risk and treatment needs have been met in order to increase the potential for an offender to succeed, such as:

- Input from stakeholders
- Use risk and needs assessments
- Prior parole and supervision history
- Prior violent behavior
- Early onset of criminal behavior
- Adequacy of reentry plan
- Use of risk principle in decision-making
- Ensure completion of programs prior to parole for certain categories of offenders
- Establish conditions of parole that reflect the identified high risk needs most likely to cause an offender to commit another crime

Parole Decisional Instrument

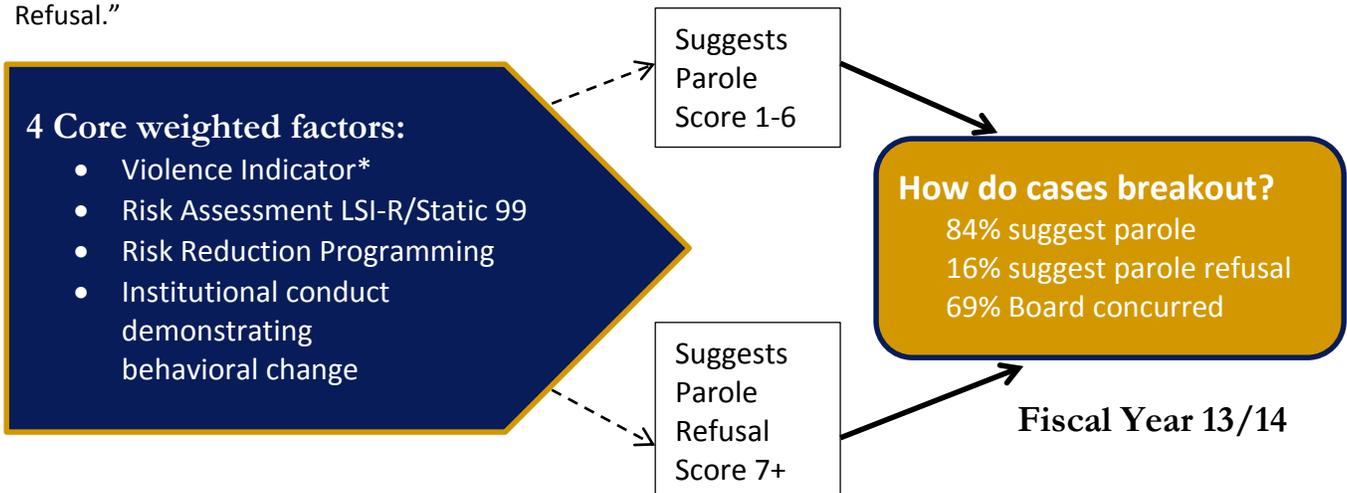
The Board uses a Parole Decisional Instrument (PBPP 361) to analyze individual cases and guide consistency in decision making. The instrument is a guide to advise the decision maker, does not replace professional discretion and does not bind the Board to grant or deny parole, or create a right, presumption or reasonable expectation that parole will be granted.

1. Actuarial information

Actuarial information can be statistically calculated by assigning a weight, i.e. a point value. For validity and fairness, the items that are weighted must be factors that are common to all offenders.

- Four primary factors are calculated and are directly related to a reduced risk of re-offending:
 - Violence Indicator by Offender Violence Risk Typology (OVRT) Category
 - ▶ The Board holds Category Three offenders to a more stringent standard.
 - Risk/Needs
 - ▶ The risk level relates to the likelihood of reoffending.
 - Institutional Programming
 - ▶ Participation in or completion of programming designed to reduce the risk level.
 - Institutional Behavior
 - ▶ Reflects demonstrated behavioral change.

The calculation of these factors determines a threshold score that "Suggests Parole" or "Suggests Parole Refusal."



*Violence Indicator:

- ✓ Instant offense
- ✓ Prior criminal history/violence
- ✓ Age of criminal onset
- ✓ Use of weapons
- ✓ Other static risks

2. Non-Weighted Countervailing Factors

Countervailing factors are factors that will not pertain to all offenders, therefore they are not weighted. They are identified through evaluation of the information in the case file and the parole interview.

3. Professional Judgment

During the interview, the decision maker contemplates how the interview findings link to certain factors to determine if the offender's likelihood of re-offending has been reduced:

Insight and Response to Criminal Behavior

- Offender perception of offense
- Offender perception of criminal lifestyle
- Acceptance of responsibility
- Expressed remorse
- Non-minimization of offense

Demonstrated Motivation for Change

- Program compliance/completion
- Acceptable prison conduct
- Articulation of accepting responsibility
- Community Corrections Center adjustment

Overall Risk

- Analysis of risk domains

- Actions to mitigate risk
- Type of risk (theft vs. rape)
- Judge/DA/Victim Input
- Prior supervision
- Risk: escalation – mitigation

Assessment of parole challenges

- LSI-R problem domains
- Treatment/program evaluations
- Reentry planning
- Prior supervision experience
- Extent of criminal history

Reentry Plan

- Satisfactory residence plan/options
- Employment search
- Development of continuity of care plan

After the Parole Interview

After the decision maker reviews the threshold score, all reports and recommendations in the file, and conducts the interview the decision to grant or refuse parole is recorded on the Parole Decisional Instrument for input into the Board Action.

The Board Action is the public record that documents the decision of the Board to grant or deny parole. It is commonly called the "green sheet."

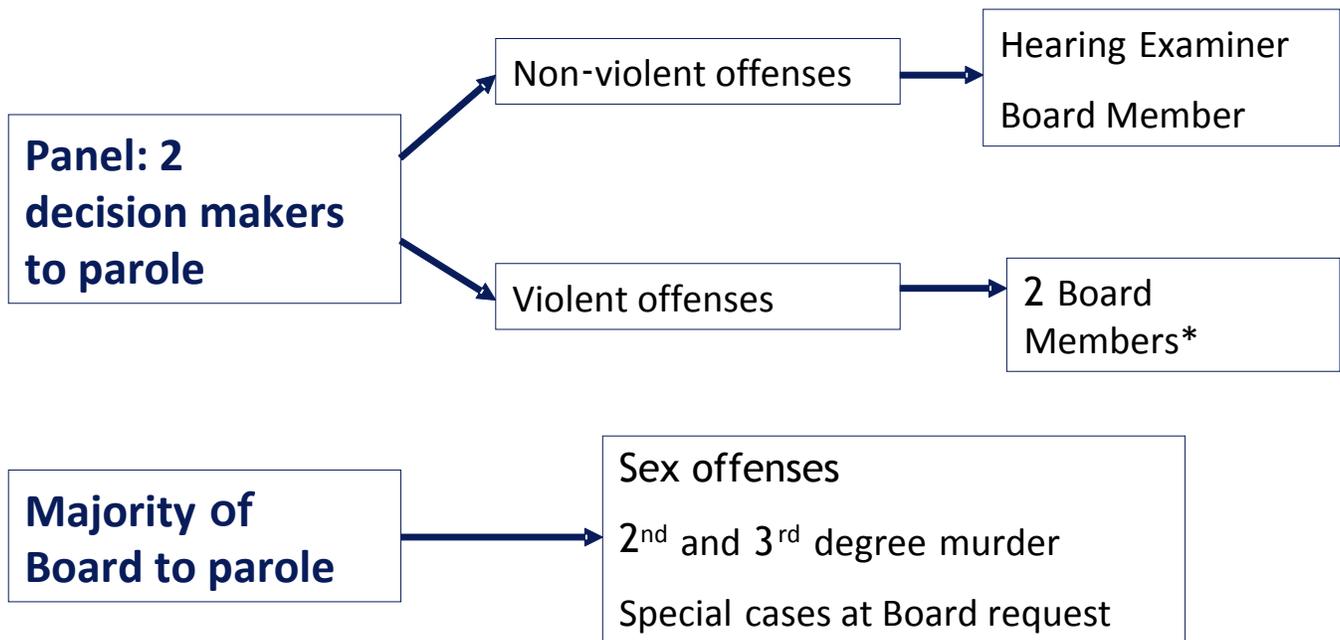
The Board Action will contain the decision to:

- ▶ Parole, the reasons for granting parole and the conditions of supervision

OR

- ▶ Refuse parole with specific requirements to be fulfilled by the time of the next parole review (usually 6 months to 1 year) and reasons for parole refusal decision.

The Voting Process



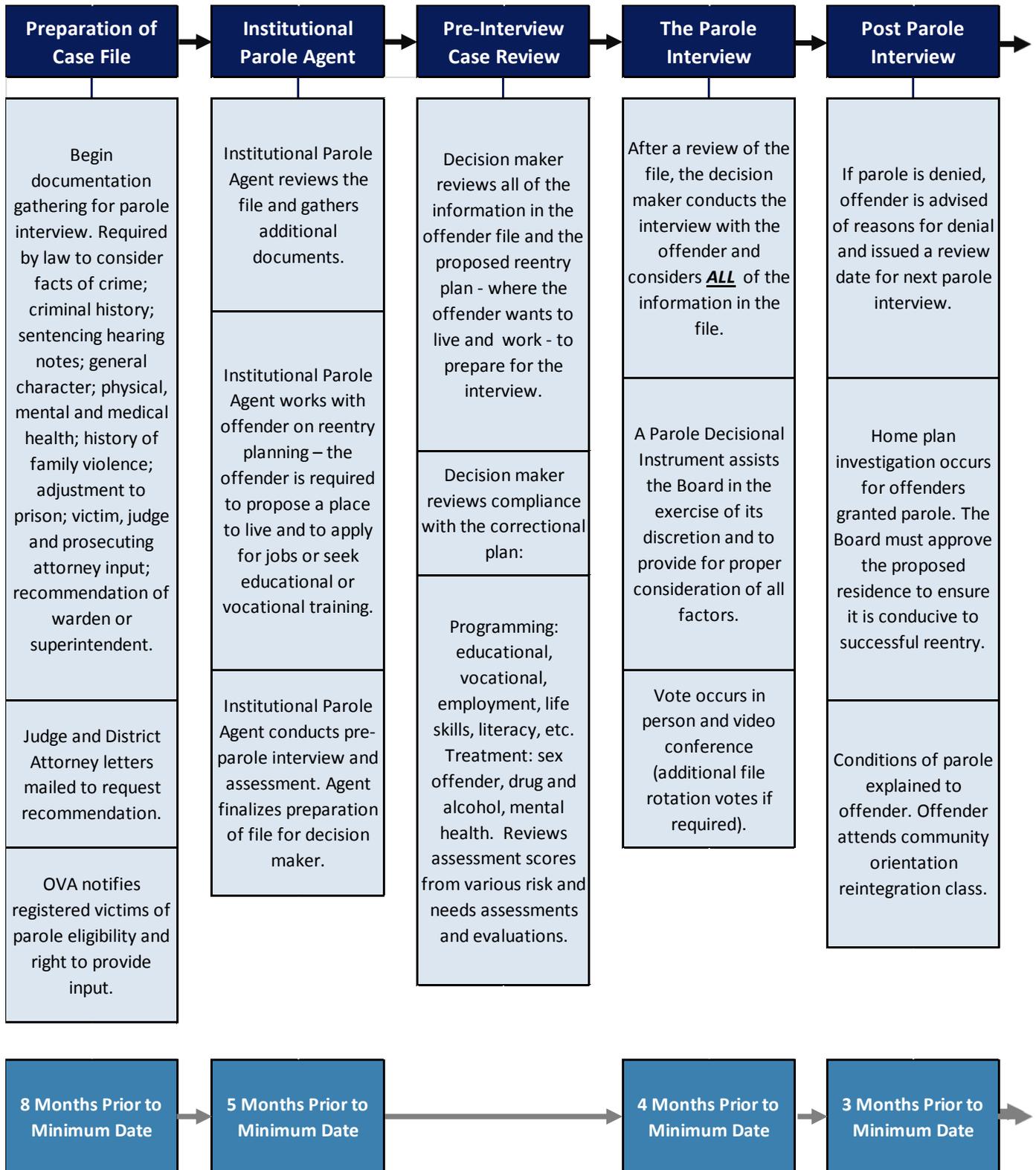
*Violent offenders in SCIs with the exception of inmates in punishment status. Hearing examiners may interview.

Release from Prison

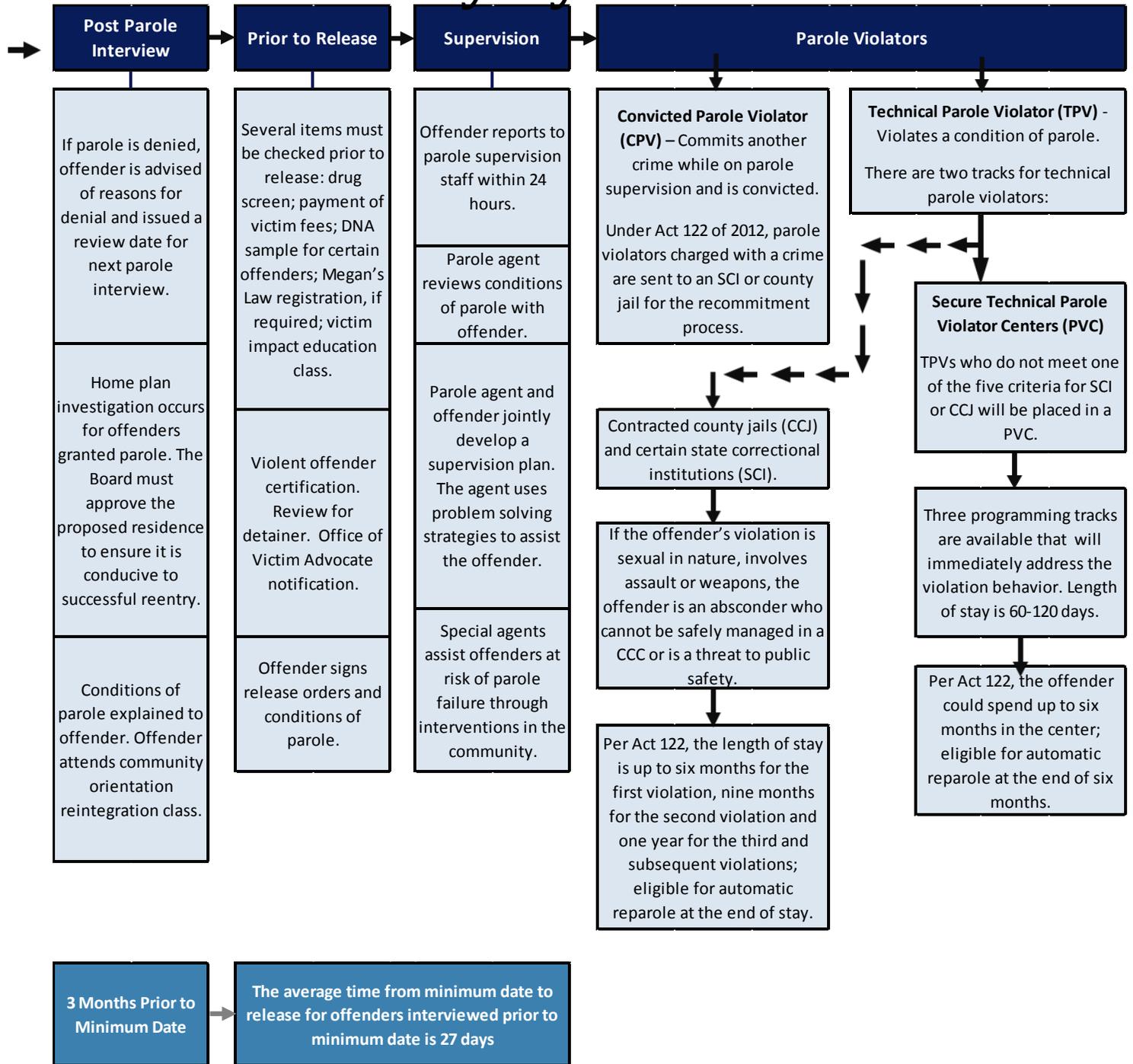
Conditions that **must** be satisfied prior to release of the offender from prison, even if granted parole:

- ▶ Consideration of a home plan
- ▶ Negative drug screening
- ▶ Payment of fees for victims
- ▶ DNA sample
- ▶ Registration of sex offenders (Megan’s Law)
- ▶ Victim Impact Education Program

The Pennsylvania State



Parole Reentry System



Conditions of Parole

- ▶ Board regulations require “general conditions” of parole
 - ➔ Report to agent upon release from prison and don’t leave district without permission
 - ➔ Live at approved residence
 - ➔ Report as instructed by parole agent while on supervision
 - ➔ Comply with all laws
 - ➔ No unlawful substances, no firearms/weapons, no assaultive behavior
 - ➔ Pay fines, costs, and restitution
- ▶ The Board has developed “special conditions of parole” which are individualized to address special offense and offender issues, and may include:
 - ➔ Electronic monitoring, referral to a Community Corrections Center, drug and alcohol treatment, sexual offender treatment, no contact with the victim
 - ▶ Special Conditions may be:
 - ➔ “Imposed” - Special conditions Parole Agents may modify
 - ➔ “Mandatory” - Special conditions only Board Members may modify

Solid Reentry Supervision Supports Public Safety

When supervising offenders, the Board balances its enforcement functions with problem-solving case management in order to reduce recidivism. The Bureau of Offender Reentry has trained and retrained agents in risk reduction strategies, the principles of effective intervention, and motivational interviewing.

Prior to release, then once on parole, the Board prepares parolees for life in the community by assisting parolees with job training and employment skills, referrals for treatment for mental and/or physical illnesses, drug and alcohol programs, life skills classes and other needs.

The Board has special agents (Assessment, Sanctioning and Community Resource Agents) that provide technical assistance to parole agents when an offender is having difficulty adjusting to life outside of prison or is not responding positively to sanctions for parole violations, and, therefore, is in jeopardy of recommitment to prison. These agents have received training through the National Curriculum Training Institute to deliver cognitive behavioral curriculums, which address the offender’s criminal thinking patterns. They also are the expert on local community resources available to meet the needs of the offender.

Parole Jurisdiction

Supervised Populations by Jurisdiction and District - As of June 30, 2014

Region and District Office	PA Parole State Sentence				County		Other States		Total Population
	State Prisons	Boot Camp	County Prisons	Subtotal	Special Probation	Special Parole	Probation	Parole	
Eastern Region	10,780	246	349	11,375	2,027	29	829	197	14,457
Central Region	9,991	342	831	11,164	1,104	16	956	248	13,488
Western Region	6,490	326	509	7,325	2,751	1,090	482	133	11,781
TOTAL	27,261	914	1,689	29,864	5,882	1,135	2,267	578	39,726
Percent of Total	69%	2%	4%	75%	15%	3%	6%	1%	100%

Supervision Levels and Risk Assessment

A risk and needs assessment is completed prior to release from prison. Supervision levels are based on the risk level and are reviewed at least every six months. The Board assigns parolees to one of five levels of supervision: administrative, minimum, medium, maximum, or enhanced with enhanced being for those offenders with the highest risk. The higher the supervision level, the more contact and time the supervising agents must spend with the offender.

This ensures that the offender is supervised at the appropriate level: increased supervision in response to higher risk or identified needs and reduced supervision in recognition of successful adjustment and reduced risks to the community.

Reentry in First 90 Days is Critical

Continuity of treatment and medical needs and stability in life in relation to housing and employment are critical to a parolee's ability to successfully reintegrate into society. Parole plans are developed by the institutional agent and offender prior to release from prison and provide continuity by connecting offenders with community services and programming needs while they are still in prison.

Parole Plans Integrate Evidence-Based Practices and the Principles of Effective Intervention:

- ▶ Target crime-producing needs
- ▶ Conduct thorough risk and needs assessments and target interventions to high-risk offenders
- ▶ Programs designed and implemented on a proven theoretical model
- ▶ Use a cognitive behavioral approach
- ▶ Disrupt the delinquency network
- ▶ Provide intensive services
- ▶ Responsivity – match the right program to the offender for best response
- ▶ Relapse prevention component
- ▶ Integrate with community-based services
- ▶ Reinforce integrity of services

Parole to Community Corrections Centers

Some offenders are paroled directly to community corrections centers (CCCs), an intermediate step between incarceration in a prison and full release to the community. These facilities are managed by either the DOC or are through contracts with the DOC.

Specialized Caseloads

The Board recognizes that offenders are individuals and have different needs and challenges. By creating specialized caseloads, the Board recognizes that some offenders need agents trained to detect deceit and manipulation in order to be safely supervised in the community while others need more of an agent's guidance. Others simply need to be arrested after refusing to report to their agents.

To respond to these differences, the Board has created several types of specialized agent caseloads.

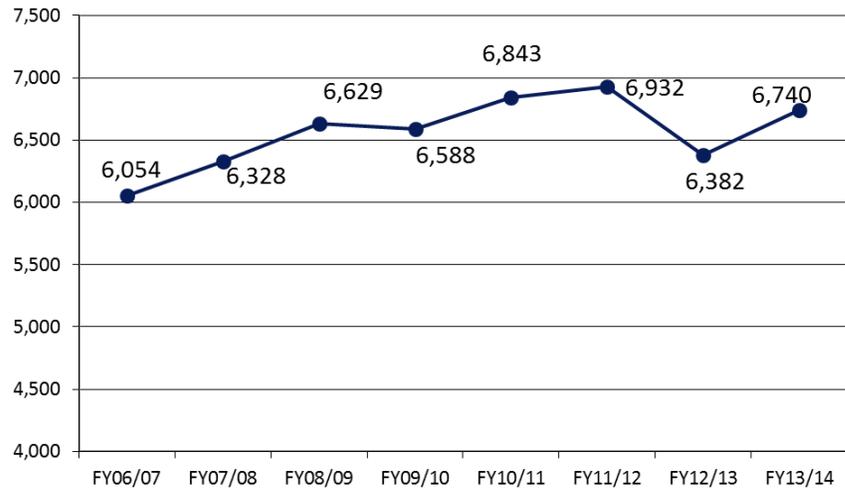
Specialized training is provided for agents who:

- ▶ Supervise sex offenders
- ▶ Supervise offenders with mental health issues, including full mental health certification by some agents
- ▶ Focus on apprehending absconders (FAST Unit)
- ▶ Assist with parolees who are having difficulty adjusting to life outside of prison (Assessment, Sanctioning and Community Resource Agents)

Victimizations are Reduced When Offenders Succeed on Parole

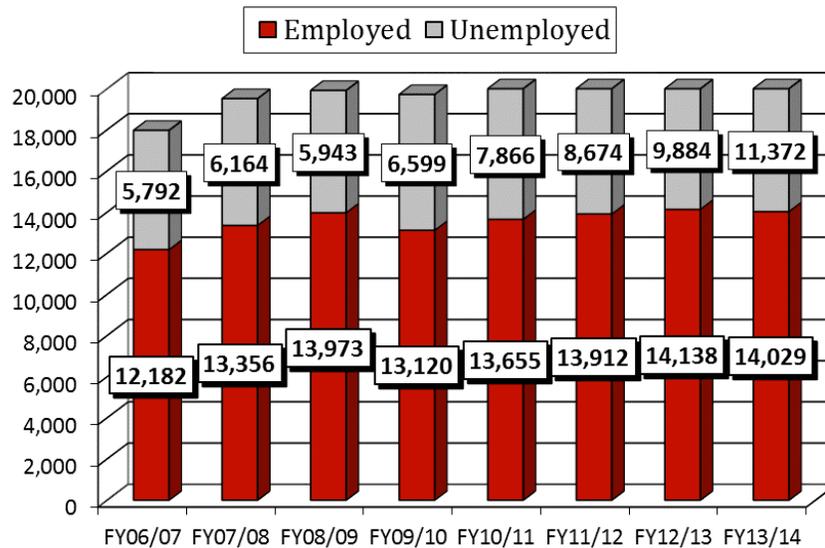
The Board's vision is to return offenders to their communities as law abiding citizens.

This vision is reached by helping offenders re-adjust to community life and pressures while at the same time being ready to punish offenders for transgressions.



Monthly Average Employment Total for the Parole Population

The Board puts great emphasis on employment. Offenders who are employed and engaged in community activities are most likely to succeed.



Enforcement of Parole Conditions Strengthens Community Safety

Who are parole violators?

Parole violators are classified as either convicted parole violators (CPVs) or technical parole violators (TPVs). A CPV is an offender who has committed a new crime while on parole. A TPV is an offender who breaks the terms and conditions of his or her parole. Breaking curfew, moving without permission or unauthorized contact with a victim are examples of technical parole violations.

CPVs Go Directly to Prison

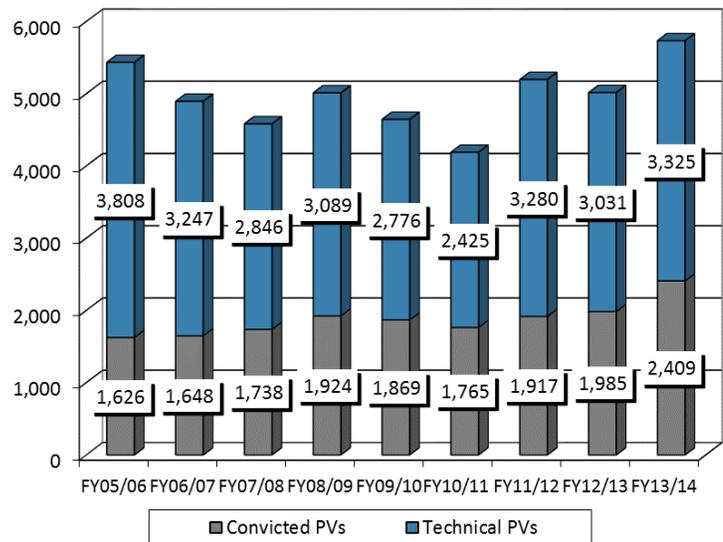
Offenders who are arrested for committing a new crime while on parole are given no grace period. They are detained in prison under a Board warrant until their new charges have been settled – even if they post bail.

If convicted, the Board can recommit to serve the balance of the sentence with no credit for time on parole.

Act 122 of 2012 gives the Board discretion in determining whether to award street time to some convicted parole violators whose violations were non-violent. The Board may either award all street time served or none.

▶ For FY 13/14, the average monthly number of state sentence CPVs was 0.69% or 2,409 CPVs out of more than 45,000 offenders supervised in the year.

State Sentenced Parole Violators Returned to Prison



Convicted Parole Violators (CPVs) as a Percentage of State Sentenced Population

Fiscal Year	Monthly CPVs	Annual CPVs	Average State Sentenced Population	CPVs as % of State Sentenced Population	Total Population
FY05/06	136	1,626	21,567	0.63%	29,211
FY06/07	137	1,648	21,688	0.63%	29,734
FY07/08	145	1,738	22,310	0.65%	32,097
FY08/09	160	1,924	22,274	0.72%	31,179
FY09/10	156	1,869	21,889	0.71%	32,378
FY10/11	147	1,765	23,932	0.61%	34,745
FY11/12	160	1,917	25,312	0.63%	35,982
FY12/13	165	1,985	27,143	0.61%	37,971
FY13/14	201	2,409	29,136	0.69%	39,726

■ Technical Parole Violator Management

Parolees who are returned to prison for technical violations are more likely to fail if re-paroled later compared to parolees who are able to maintain active ties within their community. Most offenders can be safely and effectively managed in the community where they are connected with family resources.

The Board’s problem-solving case management practices help the offender achieve success and improve public safety. These practices include the use of intermediate sanctions and community-based programs, many in community corrections facilities, focusing on crime prevention. The programs use risk and needs assessments to address the root causes of the crime-producing behavior, provide behavioral treatment, and use cognitive behavioral approaches to change criminal thinking.

An important tool in the supervision of parolees is the violation sanctioning grid (VSG), which incorporated factors such as the risk level, stability of the offender in the community, family support and employment. The VSG provides a graduated system of parole sanctions depending on the severity and number of infractions a parolee has committed.

Sanctions range from a written warning to placement in a substance abuse program. It is important to understand that although these violations are “technical,” they can lead to criminal behavior if not addressed. When this occurs, parolees are returned to prison as technical or criminal parole violators depending on the type of violation.

▶ For FY 13/14, the average monthly number of state sentence TPVs was 0.95% or 3,325 TPVs out of more than 45,000 offenders supervised in the year.

Safely Managing TPVs on the Street

- ▶ Violations of parole are met with a swift and certain response.

- ▶ Violation Sanctioning Grid: Violations are assessed with respect to the severity of the violation, risk level of the parolee, and imminent risk of violence or harm.

- ▶ Sanctions are tailored to:
 - Individual risk and needs
 - Offender responsibility
 - Timeliness
 - Effectiveness
 - Fairness
 - Consistency

Technical Parole Violators (TPVs) as a Percentage of State Sentenced Population					
Fiscal Year	Monthly Average TPVs	Annual TPVs	Average State Sentenced Population	TPVs as % of State Sentenced Population	Total Population
FY05/06	317	3,808	21,567	1.47%	29,211
FY06/07	271	3,247	21,688	1.25%	29,734
FY07/08	237	2,846	22,310	1.06%	32,097
FY08/09	257	3,089	22,274	1.16%	31,179
FY09/10	231	2,776	21,889	1.06%	32,378
FY10/11	202	2,425	23,932	0.84%	34,745
FY11/12	273	3,280	25,312	1.08%	35,982
FY12/13	253	3,031	24,143	0.93%	37,971
FY13/14	277	3,325	29,136	0.95%	39,726

Placement of Technical Parole Violators

Act 122 of 2012 (Justice Reinvestment Initiative) changes the place of confinement for TPVs.

If the technical violation was: sexual in nature, involved assaultive behavior, involved possession of a weapon, posed an identifiable threat to public safety or the parole violator is an absconder who cannot be safely managed in a community corrections center, the parole violator will be returned to a contracted county jail or prison.

Technical parole violators returned to jail or prison will serve up to six months for the first violation, nine months for the second violation and one year for the third and subsequent violations before being automatically re-paroled. However, if the offender has: committed disciplinary infractions involving assaultive behavior, sexual assault, possession of a weapon or controlled substance, spent more than 90 days in segregated housing due to one or more disciplinary actions or refused to participate in programming or to work, the technical parole violator is not eligible for this automatic re-parole.

Parole Violator Centers

Parole Violator Centers (PVC) are designed to help an offender with their adjustment to life in the community under parole supervision. These centers focus on providing immediate treatment and programming that is specific to individual circumstances.

It is the goal of the Parole Board to address an offender's violation behavior in order to help the offender successfully complete parole and lead a law-abiding lifestyle. Under Act 122 of 2012, most parole violators will go to a PVC. Length of stay is dependent on the offender's programming needs and his or her commitment to satisfying the requirements of the program.

Based on the individual's assessed needs and behavioral adjustment, the offender's stay at the center will usually be from 60 to 120 days. Per Act 122, the length of stay may be up to six months at which time the offender is automatically re-paroled.

What is the Parole Violator Center Program?

■ The parole violator center program is operated as a secure community correction center (CCC). In a secure parole violator center, offenders are never permitted to leave the center without an official escort. Offenders are only escorted outside the facility in emergency situations that cannot be handled within the center (i.e.: medical emergencies).

How does this program benefit the offender?

■ The offender will be placed in the parole violator center instead of remaining at a state correctional institution, which will keep the offender close to community support systems.

■ The offender will immediately receive programming at the parole violator center. If they waive the right, an offender does not need to go through the Board's violation hearing process.

■ The offender will likely be released to an approved home plan in a much shorter time period as long as the individual successfully completes **ALL** programming and requirements.

FAST Response to Absconders

■ What is an Absconder?

When a parolee is not available for supervision - fails to report as instructed or moves without permission to an unknown residence – the parolee is declared an “absconder.”

■ Warrants for Absconder Increase Public Safety

The Board immediately posts a wanted notice for all absconders with the Pennsylvania State Police and in federal criminal databases.

A high percentage of parolees have substance abuse problems. Typically, these offenders abscond from supervision so they can continue their drug habit or they have left a community corrections center. By increasing the use of alternative sanctioning, drug treatment and half-way-back programs, Pennsylvania’s absconder rate is less than the national average. However, once a parolee fails to report to their agent and cannot be located they are considered to be a threat to public safety.

The percentage of absconders has declined from 5.8% (1,668) in FY05/06 to 3.4% (1,328) in FY13/14.

■ 24/7 Operations Center

The Board’s Operation’s Monitoring Center (“24/7 Unit”) receives alerts regarding parolees who:

- ➔ are on electronic monitoring
- ➔ have been arrested
- ➔ are absconders in police custody

The 24/7 Unit immediately notifies the appropriate field agent to prevent the absconder from being released from police custody.

The Board web page contains photographs and demographic information on absconders. The web page can be accessed at www.pbpp.state.pa.us.

Citizens who have information about an absconder are encouraged to call the appropriate district office between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. After normal business hours, contact the 24/7 Unit at 800.932.4857 or send an email to ra-pbpopc@state.pa.us.

■ Fugitive Apprehension Search Team (FAST) Unit

“FAST” units were created to enhance the Board’s efforts with absconder recovery. FAST units work with local, state and federal law enforcement officials and the U.S. Marshal’s Service.

While every parole agent has the ability and duty to carry out the recovery of absconders, these specialized units actively pursue violent crime absconders as a high priority to help ensure public safety.

FAST Units

FAST Unit	Creation Date	Total Arrests Since Inception through June 30, 2013	FY 13/14	FAST Unit Total
Philadelphia	October 2002	7,424	638	8,062
Pittsburgh	October 2004	1,990	342	2,332
Erie	May 2006	175	170	345
Harrisburg	June 2006	1,149	321	1,470
Altoona	May 2010	84	63	147
Allentown	February 2010*	269	400	669
Williamsport	August 2012^	N/A	15	15
Scranton	January 2013	76	174	250
Total		11,167	2,123	13,290

*Allentown has had a deputized FAST agent since February 2010, but record keeping did not begin until August 2012.

^Williamsport has had a deputized FAST agent since August 2012, but record keeping did not begin until April 2014.

Law Enforcement Partnerships Protect Public Safety

To achieve our mission of public safety, reentry services within each parole region seek to balance the law enforcement functions of surveillance and monitoring with problem solving case management. The Board has many law enforcement partnerships in its districts throughout the state where we work to implement effective strategies that enhance public safety and make our communities safer places to live and work.

- The Board works with law enforcement entities in the area of information sharing, participation in committees and workgroups and the enforcement of warrants and partnered patrols:
 - Participate in police roll calls
 - Provide intelligence information
 - Conduct bar sweeps and curfew compliance checks
 - Participate in joint task force operations
 - Attend crime prevention meetings

- **Federal Law Enforcement Partnerships**

State parole agents work with the U.S. Marshal's Service, detectives, investigators, police officers and deputies as part of Operation FALCON, a national fugitive apprehension operation that focuses on violent criminals on the run. In these instances parole agents, as well as other law enforcement personnel, are deputized by federal authorities to provide the authority to arrest and detain individuals not under their supervision.

- **Project Safe Neighborhood Call-In Program**

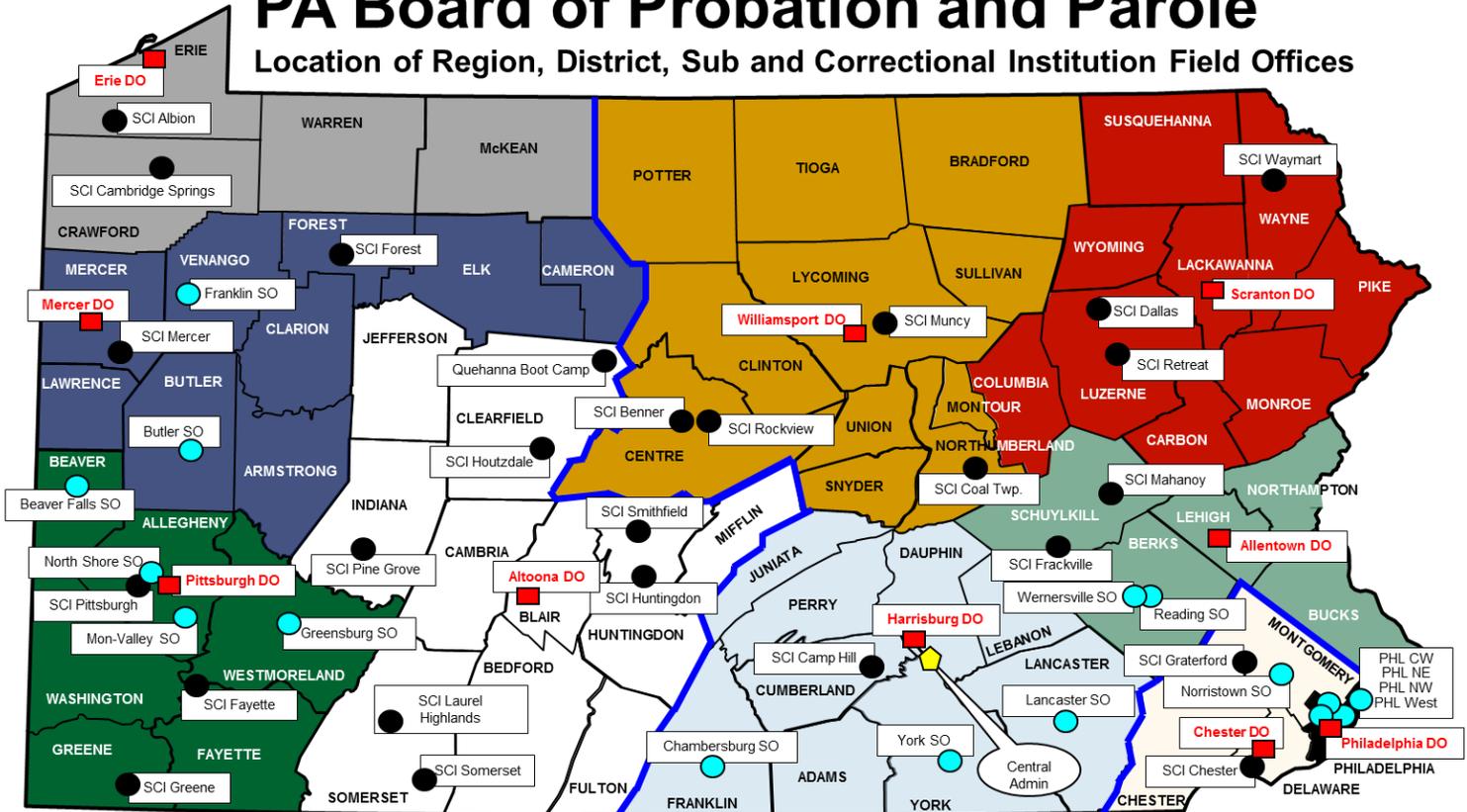
The Board is partnering with the Philadelphia U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to pilot an Offender Call-In Program, which targets high risk, violent offenders involved with drugs and weapons in Philadelphia. Forums are developed for offenders and their family to encourage the offenders to make positive choices in their lives. At the forum, parolees will hear from ex-offenders and be informed of reentry services that are available for the entire family. Alternatively, they are also informed by the police and district attorney's office that they will receive additional scrutiny because of their criminal history and they will be informed of the consequences of continuing to commit crimes.

- **Police and Parole Agents Partner in Street Crimes Unit**

The Board is partnering with city police departments to target high risk offenders with a history of drugs, guns and violence in high crime areas within cities. These are often offenders well known to police and parole. In Harrisburg and Reading, parole agents are riding with police officers approximately three days a week to make contacts with offenders, and agents can provide assistance to police if requested. The partnership seeks to improve law enforcement relationships in the community by police getting to know offenders and their families; change offender behavior through referrals to programming; and increase public safety. Parole agents can provide valuable information to law enforcement about individuals on parole in their community, notification of wanted parolees and conditions of parole such as curfews. The Board plans to expand the program to other cities across the commonwealth.

PA Board of Probation and Parole

Location of Region, District, Sub and Correctional Institution Field Offices



Western Region

Erie District	Altoona District
Mercer District	Pittsburgh District

Central Region

Williamsport District	Harrisburg District
Scranton District	Allentown District

Eastern Region

Chester District
Philadelphia District

■ PBPP District Office (10)

● PBPP Sub-Office (16)

● State Correctional Institution (26)

www.pbpp.pa.gov