

RECIDIVISM OF PAROLED SEX OFFENDERS – A TEN (10) YEAR STUDY

The following figures report on a five-year California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) follow-up study of the recidivism of 3,577 individuals convicted of a sex offense who were released from CDCR prisons in 1997 and followed until the end of 2007

REASON FOR RETURN TO CUSTODY → ↓ TIME PERIOD BEFORE RETURN TO CUSTODY	SEX OFFENDER PAROLEES WHO WERE RETURNED TO CDCR CUSTODY AS A RESULT OF A NEW SEX OFFENSE CONVICTION		SEX OFFENDER PAROLEES RETURNED TO CDCR CUSTODY AS A RESULT OF A NEW CONVICTION OTHER THAN A SEX OFFENSE		SEX OFFENDER PAROLEES WHO WERE RETURNED TO CDCR CUSTODY AS A RESULT OF A VIOLATION OF PAROLE CONDITIONS	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
BY THE END OF THE FIRST FULL CALENDAR YEAR FOLLOWING RELEASE (PERIOD VARIES BETWEEN 12 & 24 MONTHS. RETURN TO CUSTODY OCCURRED DURING 1997 - 1998)	79	2.21%*	89	2.49%	1,316	36.79%
CUMULATIVE TOTAL IS THE SAME						
DURING THE SECOND FULL CALENDAR YEAR AFTER RELEASE (RETURN TO CUSTODY OCCURRED SOMETIME DURING 1999)	26	0.73%	42	1.17%	291	8.14%
CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF ALL WHO HAD BEEN RETURNED TO CUSTODY UP TO THE END OF 1999 – A 2-YEAR PERIOD	105	2.94%	131	3.66%	1,607	44.93%
DURING THE THIRD FULL CALENDAR YEAR AFTER RELEASE (RETURN TO CUSTODY OCCURRED SOMETIME DURING 2000)	10	0.27%	5	0.14%	115	3.21%
CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF ALL WHO HAD BEEN RETURNED TO CUSTODY UP TO THE END OF 2000 – A 3-YEAR PERIOD	115	3.21%	136	3.80%	1,722	48.14%
DURING THE FOURTH AND FIFTH FULL CALENDAR YEAR AFTER RELEASE (RETURN TO CUSTODY OCCURRED SOMETIME DURING 2001 AND 2002)	03	0.09%	1	0.03%	24	0.67%
CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF ALL WHO HAD BEEN RETURNED TO CUSTODY UP TO THE END OF 2002 – A 5 YEAR PERIOD	118	3.30%	137	3.83%	1,746	48.81%
DURING THE SIXTH THROUGH THE TENTH FULL CALENDAR YEARS AFTER RELEASE (RETURN TO CUSTODY OCCURRED SOMETIME BETWEEN 2003 AND 2007)	03	0.08%	0	0.00%	09	0.25%
CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF ALL WHO HAD BEEN RETURNED TO CUSTODY UNTIL 2007 – A 10 YEAR PERIOD	121	3.38%	137	3.83%	1755	49.06%

NOTEWORTHY FINDINGS: The total number and % of sexual recidivists is lower than some might have believed. Most re-offenses and parole violations occur in the initial period of reentry after release. Sex offenders are more likely to commit some other type of offense than to commit a new sex offense. Although supervised intensely, sex offenders are returned to custody for parole violations at a lower rate than the average for all CDCR parolees (60-70%).

* All percentages are based upon the original total of 3,577 parolees released during 1997. (Since some had been returned to custody during the study period, not all of them continued to be at risk in the community. A significant number, however, were probably returned to custody for a parole violation and then released on parole again.)