

Supervision Status

JRA Intensive Parole Evaluation

Background

In 1997, the Washington State Legislature funded intensive parole for youth under the supervision of the state's Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA). This legislation targets 25 percent of the JRA population at the highest risk for re-offending.¹ The goals of the intensive parole program include the following:

- ◆ Maintaining public protection in both the short-term and long-term;
- ◆ Assuring individual accountability; and
- ◆ Providing treatment and support services.

JRA's method for achieving these goals is through an overarching case management system that helps high-risk delinquents make the transition from secure confinement to community supervision.

The Institute will publish a series of briefing papers during the year 2000 as well as annual progress reports to answer the following questions:

- ◆ How well is the intensive parole model being implemented?
- ◆ Does intensive parole reduce recidivism?
- ◆ Does the program's benefits outweigh the program's costs?

The first briefing paper described the intensive parole program and control

This briefing paper looks at intensive parole program youth and answers the following questions:

- ◆ Are intensive parole youth completing their parole supervision within 24 weeks of placement on the supervision?
- ◆ Can we compare the status of these intensive parole youth with the status of youth in a control group?
- ◆ How does intensive parole affect the likelihood that youth will experience supervision difficulties?

Are intensive parole youth completing their parole supervision within 24 weeks of placement on the supervision? The legislation directed that intensive parole youth be on parole supervision for 24 weeks. Youth in the control group were on parole supervision for 12, 16, or 24 weeks based on their length of confinement in an institution. Youth are currently on regular parole for 12, 16, or 24 weeks based on their level of risk. JRA considers youth to be on the caseload but on *inactive status* when their whereabouts are unknown, their parole is revoked, or they are confined in prison, jail, detention, or a mental health facility. As a result, it may take more than 24 weeks of time for a youth to complete 24 weeks of parole supervision.

The intensive parole group being analyzed consists of youth placed in the community on supervision between October 1, 1998, and October 31, 1999.

¹ RCW 13.40.210

² Robert Barnoski, *Population Description: JRA Intensive Parole Evaluation (Briefing Paper #1)*, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Olympia, WA, February 2000.

Exhibit 1 shows the status of intensive parole program youth 24 weeks after being placed on supervision. At this point, 11 percent of the intensive parole group was discharged and 2 percent had been transferred out-of-state. **This left 87 percent of the intensive parole group on the caseload after 24 weeks. Forty-seven percent were on active status and 40 percent had been placed on inactive status.**

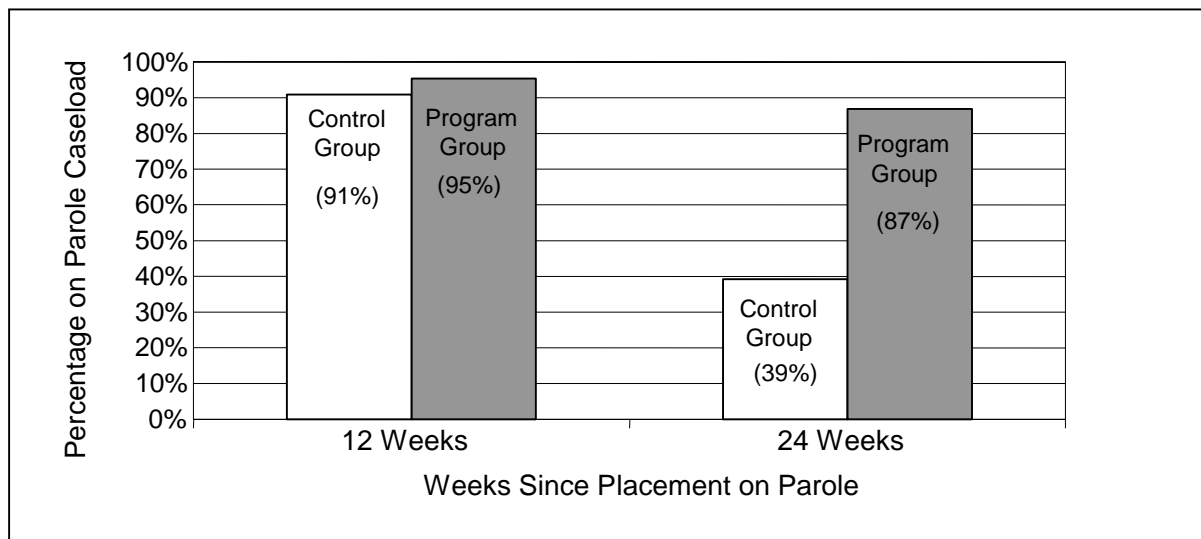
**Exhibit 1
Intensive Parole Group Supervision Status
24 Weeks After Release to Parole**

Number of Youth³	356		
Discharged From Parole	11%		
Transferred Out-of-state	2%		
On Parole Caseload	87%	→	
Total	100%	→	

Active Status	47%
Inactive Status	40%
<i>New Offense</i>	8%
<i>Whereabouts Unknown</i>	11%
<i>Revoked Parole</i>	7%
<i>Detention/Jail</i>	13%
<i>Mental Health</i>	1%

Can we compare the status of intensive parole and control group youth? The control group consists of similar youth⁴ on regular parole between October 1, 1997, and October 1, 1998. Exhibit 2 illustrates the differences in duration of parole for youth in the control and intensive parole groups. One day before the end of the 12th week on supervision, 91 percent of the control and 95 percent of the intensive parole groups were still on the parole caseload. This date was used to have as many control group youth as possible on supervision for this comparison. At 24 weeks, only 39 percent of the control group was on the caseload compared with 87 percent of the intensive parole group.

**Exhibit 2
Percentage of Youth on Caseload Since Placement on Parole**



³ The table does not include all 454 intensive parole group youth because some had just recently been released.

⁴ Youth who would have met the intensive parole criteria had the program existed at that time.

The two groups cannot be meaningfully compared at the 24-week point because few control group youth remained on parole. The groups can, however, be compared before the end of 12 weeks.

How does intensive parole affect the likelihood that youth will experience supervision difficulties? Exhibit 3 displays the status of both the intensive parole and control group youth one day before the end of their 12th week on parole. At that time, 32 percent of the control group and 37 percent of the intensive parole group experienced supervision difficulties that placed them on inactive status.

Exhibit 3
Comparison of Supervision Status
One Day Before 12 Weeks on Parole

	12 Week Status	
	Control	Intensive Parole
Number of Youth	441	454
Discharged From Parole	7%	2%
Transferred Out-of-state	2%	3%
On Parole Caseload	91%	95%
Total	100%	100%

	Control	Intensive Parole
Active Status	59%	58%
Inactive Status	32%	37%
New Offense	3%	4%
Whereabouts Unknown	13%	16%
Revoked Parole	9%	9%
Detention/Jail	8%	8%
Mental Health	0%	0%

As reported in the first briefing paper, the intensive parole and control groups differ significantly on three variables (ISCA,⁵ time on parole, and age at placement on parole). After statistically controlling for these three variables, analyses⁶ revealed that both groups were equally likely to have parole difficulties that would place them on inactive status 12 weeks after release from a JRA facility. **That is, intensive parole does not significantly influence whether a youth was on an inactive status just before the end of the 12th week of parole.**

As a side note, the chances that a youth's status was inactive at 12 weeks increased by 5 percent for every one point increase in the ISCA score and 3 percent for every week under supervision. This finding validates that the ISCA score is accurately accessing risk for supervision difficulties as well as re-offending. Age when placed on parole was not significantly related to having an inactive status 12 weeks after placement on supervision.

⁵ Initial Security Classification Assessment.

⁶ In the logistic regression model, being on inactive status is a function of the intensive parole group, ISCA score, length of time on supervision, and age at parole placement.

Data by Region

Exhibit 4 shows the 24-week supervision status of intensive parole youth within each of JRA's six regions. Exhibit 5 compares the 12-week supervision status of intensive parole and control group youth within each region.

Exhibit 4
Percentage of Intensive Parole Youth in Each
Status Category 24 Weeks After Release: Regional Variation

STATUS	REGIONS (BY PERCENTAGES)					
	1 - SPOKANE	2 - YAKIMA	3 - EVERETT	4 - SEATTLE	5 - TACOMA	6 - OLYMPIA
Discharged From Parole	17	4	9	8	19	9
Transferred Out-of-state	0	2	2	2	0	5
On Parole Caseload	83	94	89	90	81	86
Active Supervision	42	51	47	44	49	50
Inactive Supervision	42	43	43	45	31	36
<i>New Offense</i>	10	2	21	10	1	5
<i>Whereabouts Unknown</i>	4	16	9	15	13	7
<i>Revoked Parole</i>	13	8	2	7	4	10
<i>Detention/Jail</i>	15	18	9	13	13	14
<i>Mental Health</i>	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Exhibit 5
Percentage of Intensive Parole and Control Group Youth in Each
Status Category One Day Before 12 Weeks on Parole: Regional Variation

STATUS	REGIONS (BY PERCENTAGES)											
	1 - SPOKANE		2 - YAKIMA		3 - EVERETT		4 - SEATTLE		5 - TACOMA		6 - OLYMPIA	
	Control	Intensive Parole	Control	Intensive Parole	Control	Intensive Parole	Control	Intensive Parole	Control	Intensive Parole	Control	Intensive Parole
Discharged From Parole	17	4	9	8	19	9	11	17	4	9	8	19
Transferred Out-of-state	0	2	2	2	0	5	2	0	2	2	2	0
On Parole Caseload	83	94	89	90	81	86	87	83	94	89	90	81
Active Supervision	42	51	47	44	49	50	47	42	51	47	44	49
Inactive Supervision	42	43	43	45	31	36	40	42	43	43	45	31
<i>New Offense</i>	10	2	21	10	1	5	8	10	2	21	10	1
<i>Whereabouts Unknown</i>	4	16	9	15	13	7	11	4	16	9	15	13
<i>Revoked Parole</i>	13	8	2	7	4	10	7	13	8	2	7	4
<i>Detention/Jail</i>	15	18	9	13	13	14	13	15	18	9	13	13
<i>Mental Health</i>	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Next Briefing Paper

The next briefing paper will examine parole revocations.

To obtain other briefing papers on this topic, call the Institute at (360) 586-2677. For further information, contact Robert Barnoski at (360) 586-2744 or barney@wsipp.wa.gov.