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Briefing Paper #3
June 2000

Parole Revocations

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 intended to help high-risk delinquents make the transition from secure confinement to community supervision.

The Institute is publishing 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 comparison groups that are being used in the outcome evaluation.[2] The second paper examined supervision status.[3]

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

- How often do intensive parole youth have their parole revoked?
- How does intensive parole affect parole revocations?

How often do intensive parole youth have their parole revoked?

Washington State statute defines the conditions of parole. The intensive parole legislation added three new parole conditions. Intensive parole uses a system of graduated sanctions for violations of parole conditions tied to the seriousness of the violation.[4] More serious violations can result in a revocation of parole. JRA has two types of parole revocations: revocations resulting in a return to a JRA facility for up to 30 days and those resulting in a stay in a county detention facility. In this report, both types of revocations are examined for intensive parole youth during the first 24 weeks after placement on supervision.

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

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[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.
[3] Robert Barnoski, *Supervision Status: JRA Intensive Parole Evaluation (Briefing Paper #2*), Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Olympia, WA, May 2000.
[4] Robert Barnoski, *Evaluating the Washington State Intensive Parole Model for High Risk Juvenile Offenders,* Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Olympia, WA, November 1999.

Exhibit 1 illustrates the percentage of intensive parole youth with at least one revocation within the first 24 weeks on supervision. The table is based on the 367 youth on intensive parole for at least 24 weeks. Thirty-nine percent of the youth had at least one parole violation that resulted in a return to a JRA institution and 40 percent had a revocation resulting in a stay in detention. Overall, 48 percent had at least one parole revocation.

Exhibit 1
Percentage of Intensive Parole Youth
With at Least One Revocation Within First 24 Weeks

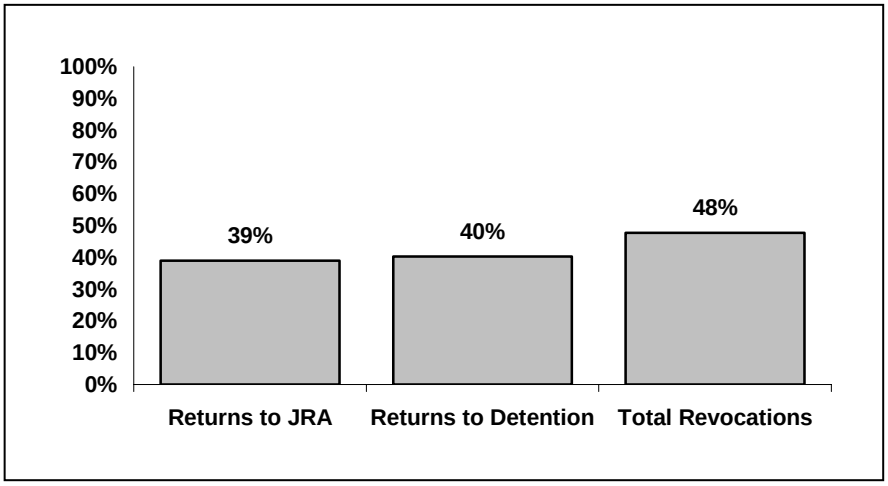


Exhibit 2 displays the distribution of parole revocations for the intensive parole group. Of these youth, 27 percent had one parole violation that resulted in a return to a JRA institution, and 28 percent had a single revocation resulting in a stay in detention. Because some youth had both types of revocations, total revocations do not equal the sum of revocations to JRA and detention. As a result, only 12 percent had one revocation that resulted in either JRA or detention confinement, but 21 percent had two revocations, and 14 percent had three or more total revocations.

During the first 24 weeks from placement on parole, the intensive parole youth averaged 1.1 revocations of either type. The average stay in a JRA facility was 25.4 days and the average stay in local detention was 8.3 days. Youth averaged a total of 27.6 days in both JRA and/or local detention during the first 24 weeks.

Exhibit 2
Number of Parole Revocations During First 24 Weeks

Number of Revocations	Returns to JRA Facility	Returns to Detention Facility	Total Revocations (JRA and Detention)
0	61%	60%	52%
1	27%	28%	12%
2	8%	9%	21%
3 or More	3%	4%	14%
Average Number*	0.6	0.6	1.1
Average Days**	25.4	8.3	27.6

*The number of revocations per youth.
**The average number of days spent confined in a JRA facility or detention as the result of a revocation.

Exhibit 3 shows parole revocation data during the first 24 weeks of intensive parole in each of JRA's six regions.

Exhibit 3
Revocations During First 24 Weeks of Supervision for Intensive Parole Youth in Each Region

Number of Parole Revocations During First 24 Weeks	Percentage of Youth Revoked Within Each Region											
	1 - Spokane		2 - Yakima		3 - Everett		4 - Seattle		5 - Tacoma		6 - Olympia	
	JRA	Detention	JRA	Detention	JRA	Detention	JRA	Detention	JRA	Detention	JRA	Detention
0	72.9	52.1	72.5	70.6	59.6	44.7	61.6	64.0	48.1	51.9	58.6	72.4
1	22.9	29.2	23.5	19.6	27.7	36.2	26.7	26.7	35.1	31.2	24.1	22.4
2	4.2	10.4	3.9	7.8	8.5	12.8	9.3	7.0	13.0	11.7	8.6	3.4
3 or More	0.0	8.3	0.0	2.0	4.3	6.4	2.3	2.3	3.9	5.2	8.6	1.7
At Least One	27.1	47.9	27.5	29.4	40.4	55.3	38.4	36.0	51.9	48.1	41.4	27.6
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Average Number*	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.3
Average Days**	22.0	10.7	21.4	17.1	21.7	13.0	23.7	4.7	30.4	4.2	26.6	8.0
Number of Youth	48		51		47		86		77		58	

*The number of revocations per youth.
**The average number of days spent confined in a JRA facility or detention as the result of a revocation.

How does intensive parole affect parole revocations? The Institute's evaluation of the intensive parole program involves a comparison group consisting of youth placed on parole supervision between October 1, 1997, and October 1, 1998, who would have met the intensive parole criteria had the program existed at that time. As reported in the first briefing paper, the intensive parole and comparison groups differ slightly, yet significantly, on three variables (ISCA,[5] time on parole, and age at placement on parole). The comparison group is of slightly higher risk. The second briefing paper found that nearly all members of both groups were still under supervision up to one day before the end of their twelfth week on parole. As a result, the behavior of the two groups can be compared during the first 12 weeks of parole as long as the appropriate statistical adjustments are made to allow for the slight differences.

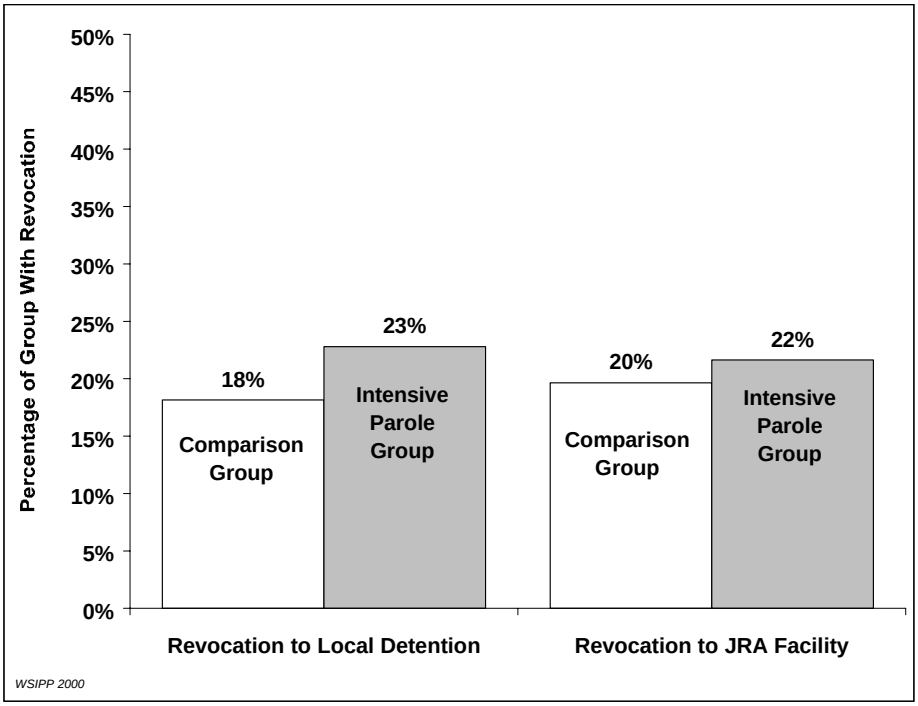
After statistically controlling for the three variables, analyses[6] revealed that the intensive parole group had a significantly higher number of revocations to local detention but not to a JRA facility than the comparison group during the first 12 weeks after placement on parole. **Intensive parole group participation increased the average number of revocations to local detention within the first 12 weeks by 40 percent, from 0.20 to 0.28 relative to the comparison group**.

Next we examined the number of days spent in confinement as a result of a revocation. Within the first 12 weeks, the average number of days in detention was 4.3 for the comparison group and 6.2 for the intensive parole group. This is a statistically significant difference. For revocations to a JRA facility, the comparison and intensive parole groups were confined an average of 15.9 and 17.5 days respectively. This is not statistically significant. **Intensive parole slightly increased days spent in local detention but did not affect days spent in JRA facilities during the first 12 weeks of supervision.**

[5] Initial Security Classification Assessment.
[6] Negative Binomial Regression: Number of revocations is a function of Program Group, ISCA Score, length of time under supervision, and age at parole placement for youth with at least 83 days since program placement.

Exhibit 4 illustrates how much the two groups differ with regard to parole revocations within the first 12 weeks of supervision. Twenty-three percent of the intensive parole group had at least one revocation to local detention compared to 18 percent of the comparison group. Although statistically significant, this difference is not large. The percentage of youth with at least one revocation to a JRA facility was 20 and 22 percent, respectively, for the comparison and intensive parole groups. **That is, intensive parole slightly increased the number of youth with at least one revocation to local detention but did not affect the number of youth with revocations to a JRA facility during the first 12 weeks of parole.**

Exhibit 4
Percentage of Youth Having At Least One Revocation Within First 12 Weeks of Parole



Next Briefing Paper

The next briefing paper will examine unauthorized leaves from parole supervision.

To obtain previous briefing papers, call the Institute at (360) 586-2677. For further information, contact Robert Barnoski at (360) 586-2744.

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