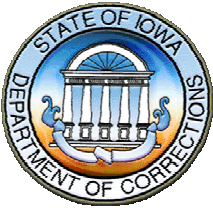
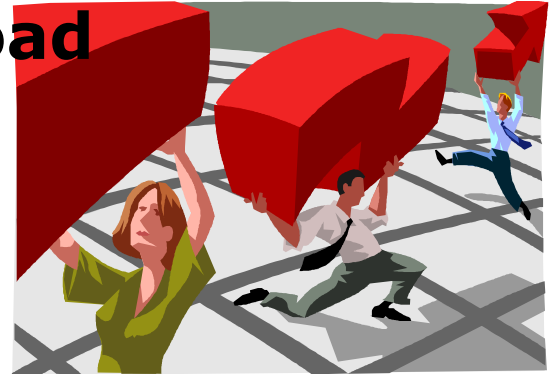


Lettie Prell
Director of Research

Curt Smith
Executive Assistant to the Director



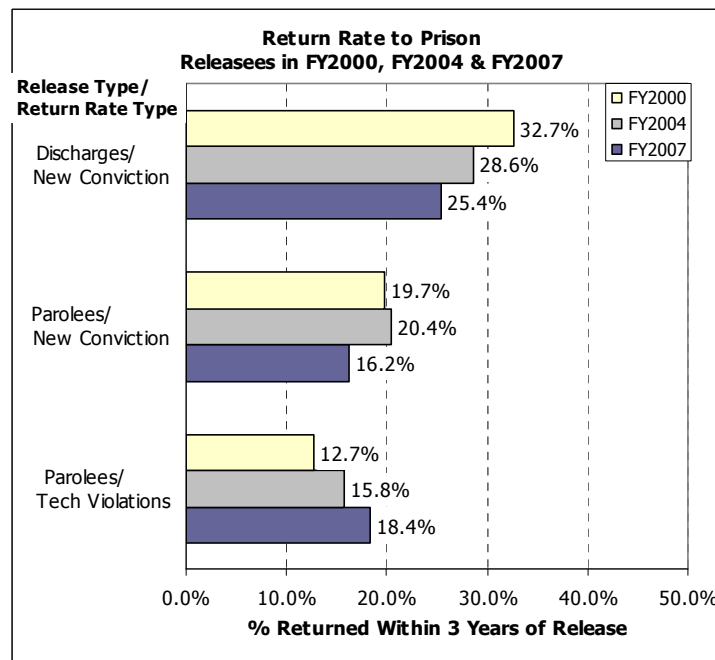
Data Download



New Convictions Lower for Paroles

In June 2011, Lettie Prell released a report entitled *Iowa Recidivism Report: Prison Return Rates (FY 2007 Releases Tracked for 3 Years)*, in which she finds that those prison inmates who are paroled are less likely to return to prison due to a new conviction than are inmates who leave prison due to expiration of sentence.

Offenders who discharge their sentences cannot be returned to prison for technical violations because they do not receive community supervision. However, as shown below their rates of return to prison for new conviction is higher than for parolees, suggesting that community supervision enhances public safety. Given the difference in recidivism rates between discharges and paroles for the most recent period, one may estimate that for every one hundred offenders who are paroled rather than discharge by way of expiration of sentence, nine new convictions involving prison incarceration may be prevented.



The bar graph illustrates two additional findings:

- There has been a downward trend in new convictions for both offenders expiring their sentences and those placed on parole. This suggests that correctional programming in the institutions and the community has improved; and
- There has been an upward trend in parolees returned to prison due to technical violations. It is beyond the scope of the report to ascertain the causes(s) for this trend. In so far that returning technical violators in prison increases prison crowding and correctional costs, further research would be beneficial.

The full report can be found on the DOC website at: www.doc.state.ia.us/research.asp