

STATE OF GEORGIA

BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 1996

JULY 1, 1995 - JUNE 30, 1996

1996
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**GEORGIA BOARD OF
PARDONS AND PAROLES**

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STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

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Chairman

Jim Wetherington
Vice-Chairman
Bobby K. Whitworth
Member
Garfield Hammonds, Jr.
Member
Dr. Betty Ann Cook
Member

The Honorable Zell Miller, Governor
Members of the General Assembly
and Citizens of the State of Georgia:

It is my pleasure to deliver to you the Annual Report of the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles for Fiscal Year 1996, a period of achievement and progress for the agency.

The Board continues to move in a positive direction. Perpetrators of violent crimes are staying in prison longer today than five years ago. Although the number of "lifers" in the prison population has increased by 59% since 1991, the number paroled has dropped by 78%. The Board has also reduced total releases by 25% since 1991. Additionally, the number of inmates who the Board now requires to serve 100% of their sentences has increased by 62% in the past five years.

The Board also believes strongly in its obligation to serve crime victims and their families. As this report indicates, we continue to increase restitution payments for victims and for funds paid by offenders into the State's Crime Victims' Emergency Fund. Finally, the victim notification procedures which the Board had in place well in advance of the 1995 law mandating such procedures, has proved beneficial for the Board and victims. The report details those benefits.

The Board is keenly aware of its responsibility to the citizens of this state. For those offenders who are rewarded the privilege of parole, there is one expectation: return to our communities and be law-abiding, productive citizens, or return to prison.

As you read on, you will note a number of other accomplishments by the Board and its dedicated employees. It is our sincere commitment to continue moving in the direction we have set.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter S. Ray", is written over a horizontal line.

Walter S. Ray
Chairman

MISSION STATEMENT

Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles

Our Mission Is To:

- ❖ Protect the public by thoroughly investigating and processing inmate cases and making responsible, just, and equitable parole decisions while balancing punishment and rehabilitation;
- ❖ Respond to the needs and concerns of crime victims and their families;
- ❖ Use agency and community resources as a bridge to help parolees reach self-sufficiency and stable citizenship; and,
- ❖ Supervise parolees skillfully and return to prison those who demonstrate they will not by choice abide by their release conditions.

This mission shall be accomplished through the leadership of the Board and in full partnership with all employees.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE

To Georgia Citizens

to keep refining our ability to select persons for parole who will succeed as law-abiding citizens and our ability to select for longer confinement the physically dangerous and career criminals; to help parolees become productive citizens for the benefit of society, themselves and their families; and to use our arrest and parole revocation authority wisely and remove promptly from society a danger to the community.

To Victims

to welcome and consider views and information from crime victims and their families and to respond positively to their requests for information and notification.

To Parole Board Employees

to provide leadership, training and resources so our work force can perform all jobs effectively and to provide opportunities for their job growth so we can retain knowledgeable and experienced men and women.

To Offenders

to consider each offender as an individual for release by one set of proven standards regardless of where in Georgia the case originated and to provide realistic parole conditions, helpful, positive supervision and personalized assistance.

To Justice

to uphold appropriate punishment, to advance equal treatment of offenders serving for similar offenses with similar histories and needs and to work with other justice system components to reduce criminality.

FY96 IN REVIEW

VICTIMS ARE PRIORITY

The Board continued its sensitivity to the rights of the victim or their survivors in the parole process. In FY96 parole decisions were changed in seven out of every ten cases in which a victim stated a protest.

BOARD GETS TOUGHER ON VIOLENT AND REPEAT CRIMINALS

The Board sought to maximize prison bed-space and guarantee long sentences for violent and repeat criminals by systematically reviewing again all who had a tentative parole month in FY96. The end result was a significant number of parole postponements or altogether complete denials of any future parole for many in that segment of Georgia's inmate population.

HUGE DECREASE IN PAROLES FOR THE VIOLENT

In FY96 the number of life imprisoned inmates dropped by 78% and the number of inmates the Parole Board required to "max-out", or serve 100% of their sentence, increased by 62%.

ONLY 46 LIFERS GET PAROLE

In FY96 the Board reviewed 933 life sentence inmates. The Board informed 95% that there would be no parole and just 46 were granted release. In most cases those denied were told that they will not be reviewed again until 2003 or 2004. Many will be well into their second or third decade of confinement by then.

BOARD DENIES CLEMENCY IN ONE DEATH PENALTY CASES

In FY96 one death row inmate made a last minute appeal to the Board for mercy. Ellis Wayne Felker, sentence to death for a 1981 rape and murder of a Bibb County woman, was denied clemency and executed in November 1996.

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED

In December 1995 Governor Miller appointed Jim Wetherington, a career Columbus Police Department officer and administrator, to the Board slot vacated by departing member J. Wayne Garner. In March 1996 Governor Miller appointed Walter S. Ray, a former State Senator to the Board slot vacated by James T. Morris.

HUNDREDS MORE ELECTRONIC MONITORING UNITS ADDED

The Board received additional money to provide over 900 EM units to its Field Services Division. As a result more parolees have been outfitted with a form of surveillance that restricts their movement from home to pre-approved hours and gives parole officers instant notice if that schedule is violated.

PAROLE OFFICERS PERFORM HEAVY WORKLOAD

In FY96 Georgia's 394 parole officers made over 707,200 parolee-related contacts, submitted over 84,600 reports and investigations, participated in 6,770 hearings and collected over one million dollars in fees and restitution. All of that was done in addition to the thousands of unchronicled hours that parole officers put forth in counselling, crisis intervention, job assistance, service of Parole Board warrants, and the other responsibilities performed by them.

PAROLEES PAY MORE THAN ONE MILLION IN FEES AND RESTITUTION

In FY96 parole officers collected \$1,470,328 from parolees for victim restitution, the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund, and parole supervision fees.

PAROLE WORKS WITH THE OLYMPICS

The Board worked with the Atlanta Olympic Committee to assist in security for the 1996 Games. Plans included volunteering a large contingent of parole officers, all certified peace officers, to perform numerous security roles during the Summer games. Parole officers also provided security for Olympic Torch runners as they made their way to Atlanta from across the United States.

OFFICE CONSOLIDATION SAVES TAXPAYER MONEY

In FY96 the Board found that dollars could be saved and work done more efficiently by consolidating two, in some cases three, parole offices covering certain areas of the

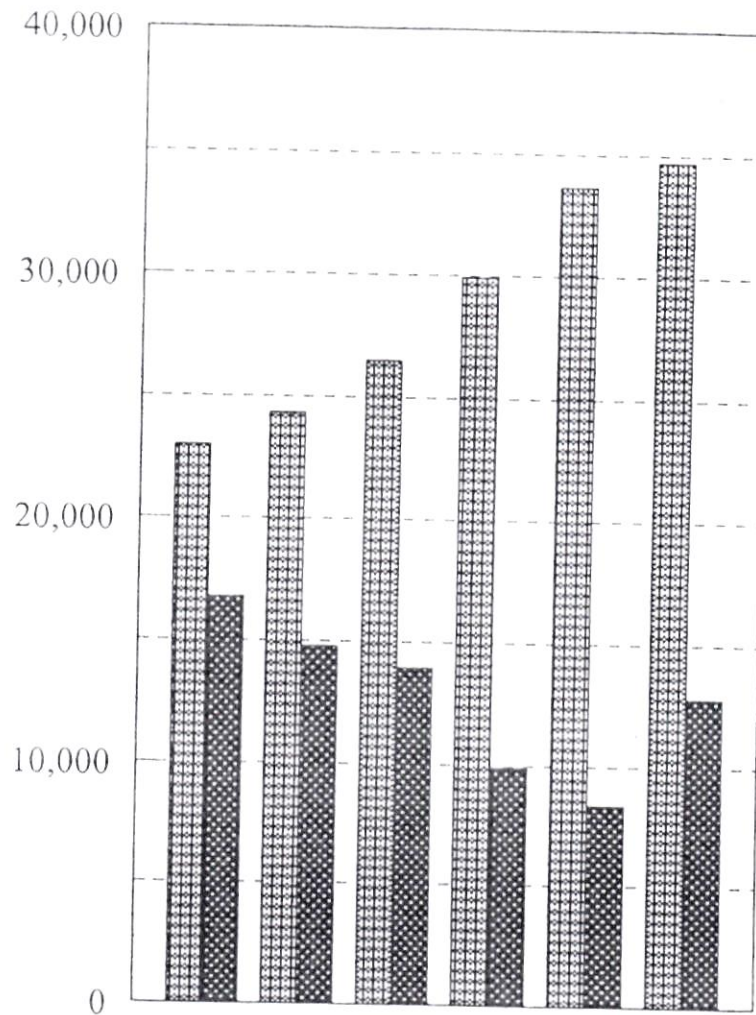
state. These "super" offices are much more fiscally responsible without sacrificing service delivery to the communities they serve.

STRATEGIC PLANNING CONTINUES

In FY96 teams of agency employees completed the process of identifying strategic directions for the agency to take in the coming years. The vision is now taking shape with project teams who will begin the process of implementing a number of strategies which aim to provide for even more enhanced victim services, greater partnerships with other state agencies, improved external and internal agency communications, and a variety of other goals.

INMATE POPULATION AND BOARD RELEASES

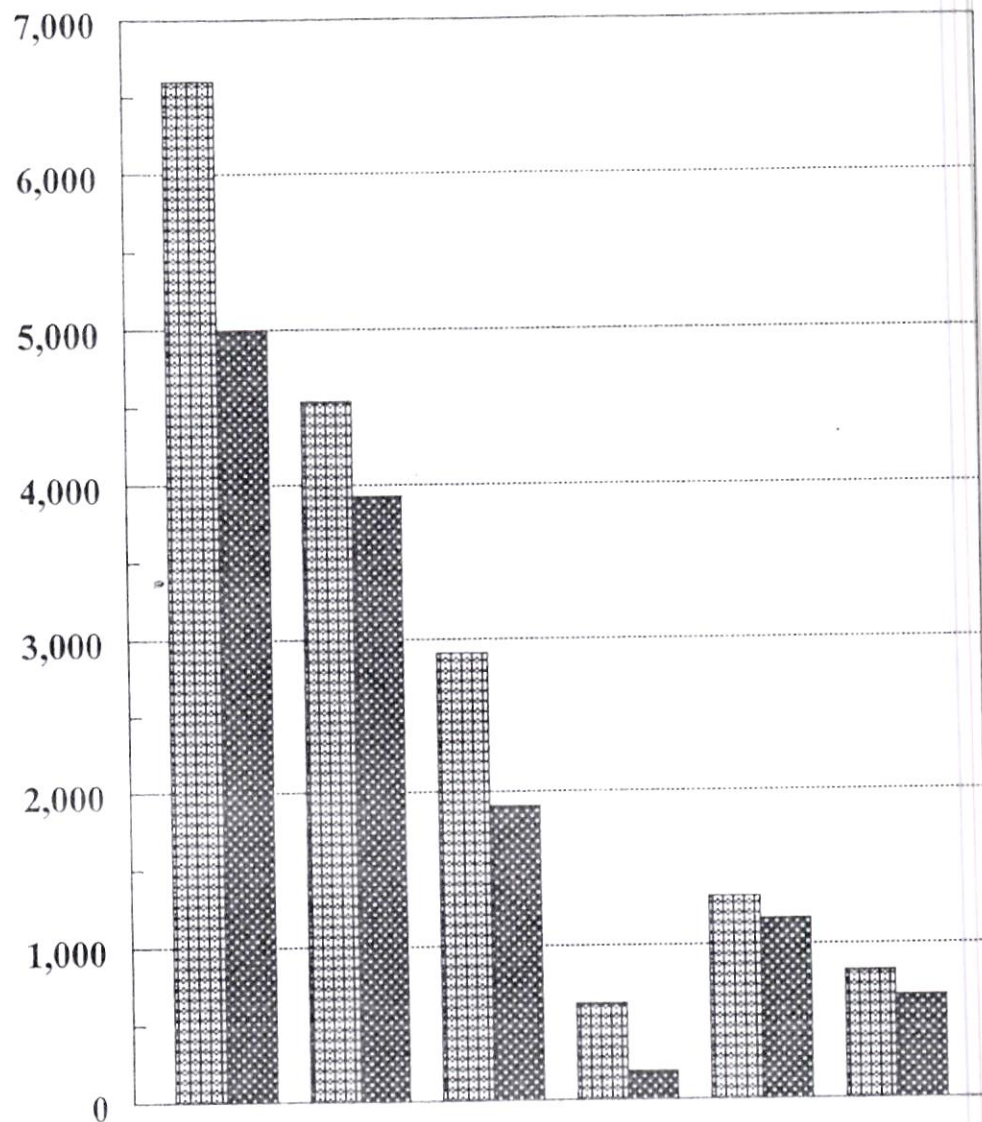
FISCAL YEARS 1991 - 1996



	FY91	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96
*INMATE POPULATION 	23,005	24,330	26,487	29,934	33,679	34,713
BOARD RELEASES 	16,772	14,820	13,952	9,925	8,414	12,845

*Does not include county jail backlog.

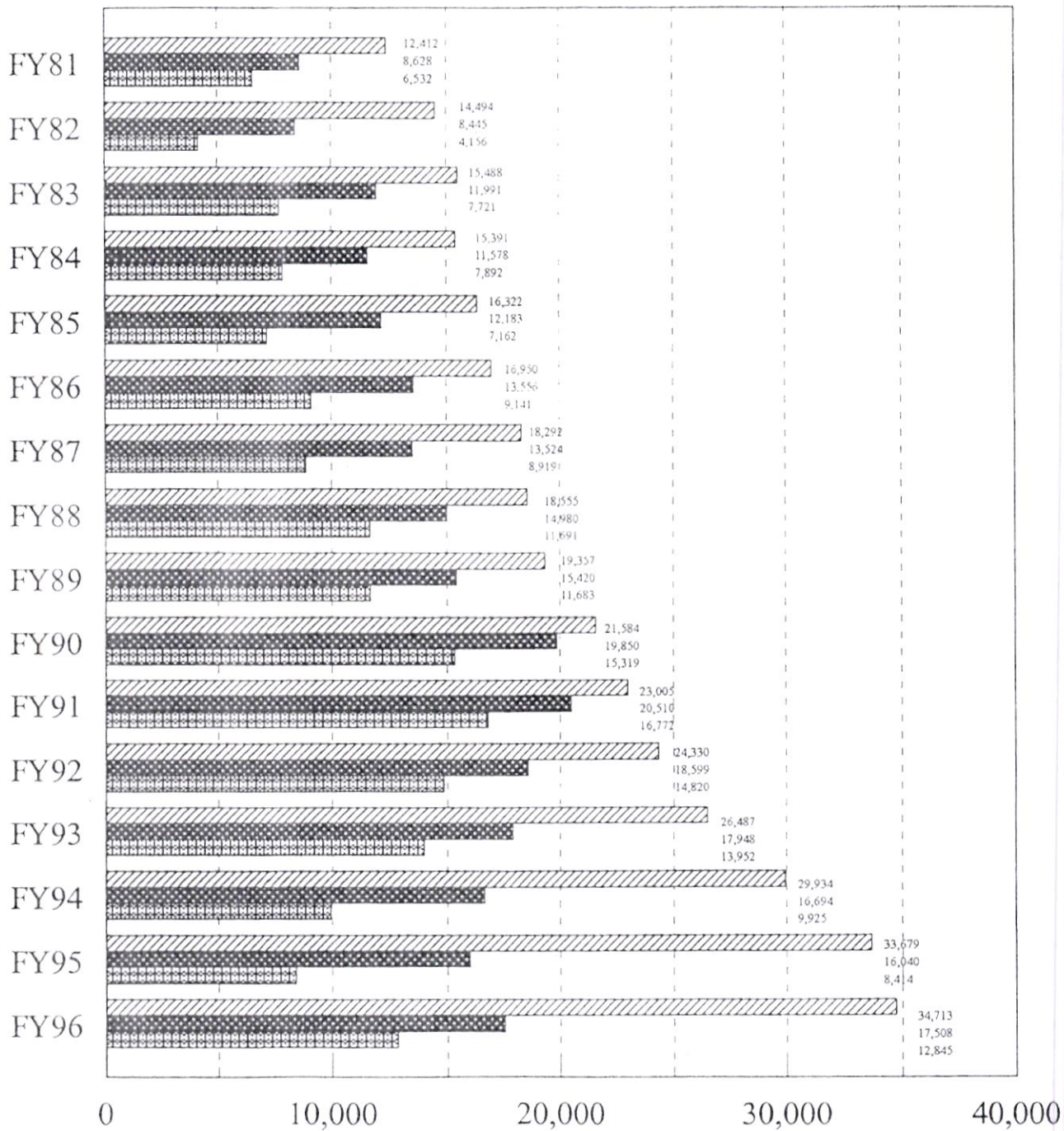
BOARD RELEASES IN ALL CRIME CATEGORIES HAVE BEEN REDUCED SINCE FY91



	PROPERTY	DRUG	VIOLENT	SEX	HV/DUI	OTHER
FY 1991 RELEASES 	6,605	4,538	2,908	622	1,311	823
FY 1996 RELEASES 	5,000	3,930	1,903	183	1,167	662

% REDUCTION	24%	13%	35%	71%	11%	20%
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ADMISSIONS, PRISON POPULATION AND PAROLE RELEASES FISCAL YEARS 1981 - 1996



*PRISON POPULATION

PRISON ADMISSIONS

PAROLE BOARD RELEASES

THE BOARD MEMBERS

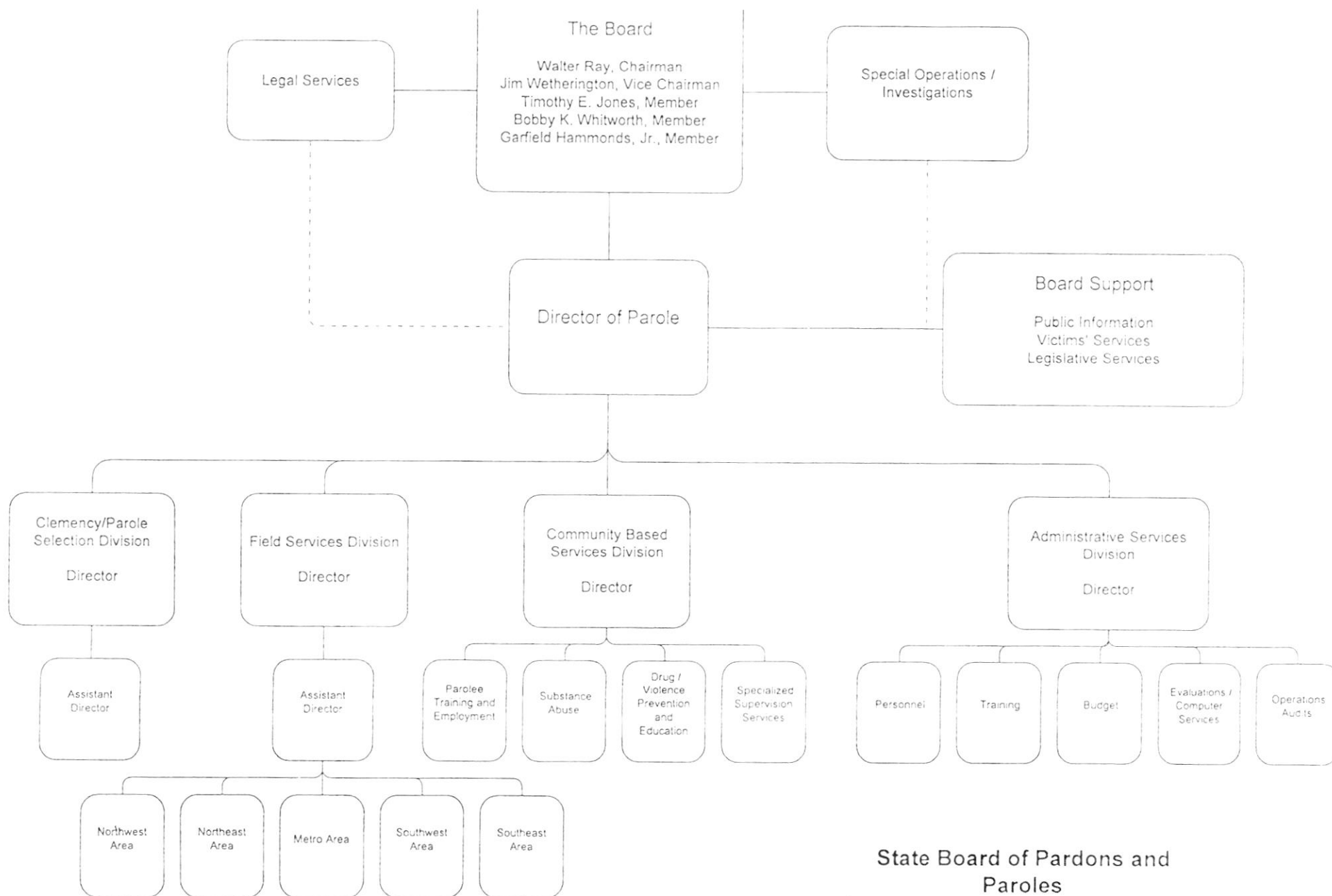
Chairman Walter S. Ray, of Douglas, Georgia, was appointed to the Board of Pardons and Paroles by Governor Zell Miller in March 1996. Prior to his appointment, he served the citizens of the 19th District as their Senator for 12 years. During his tenure in the Senate, he held the leadership positions of President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader, Caucus Chairman, Governor's Floor Leader, Chairman of Corrections Committee and Chairman of Veteran's Affairs Committee. A former State Trooper and educator, Mr. Ray introduced and supported law enforcement and anti-drug legislation. Prior to his leaving the Senate, he was instrumental in facilitating the passage of Governor Miller's sweeping DUI and crime package.

Timothy E. Jones, of Atlanta, Georgia was appointed to the Board of Pardons and Paroles by Governor Joe Frank Harris in January 1990. He is a career employee who began in 1974 as a Parole Officer in the Field Services Division. He served as Assistant Chief, Hearing Examiner, Parole Guidelines Director and Deputy Director of Field Operations when appointed to the Board. During his tenure on the Board, Mr. Jones has received appointments to the Victim's Compensation Board and the Commission on Family Violence. He is a Vietnam Veteran, having earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Garfield Hammonds, Jr., of Atlanta, Georgia was appointed by Governor Zell Miller to the Board of Pardons and Paroles in January 1995. He was elected as Chairman in January 1996 and served until November 1996. Mr. Hammonds has devoted his career to law enforcement and drug interdiction, having worked for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency from 1969 to 1994. He began as a DEA Special Agent in the Detroit and New York offices, then was stationed in the agency's Jamaica office from 1977 to 1983 where he rose to the position of Country Attache. Mr. Hammonds went on to serve the DEA in a succession of supervisory positions in the Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Atlanta Field Divisions. In October 1994 he was appointed to head the Georgia Department of Youth Services, a position he held until his appointment to the Parole Board. Mr. Hammonds' work has earned him an honor from the President as well as numerous awards from the DEA and the State Department.

Vice-Chairman Jim Wetherington, of Columbus, Georgia was appointed to the Board of Pardons and Paroles by Governor Zell Miller in December 1995. Mr. Wetherington is a 36 year veteran of the Columbus Police Department, where he served as Chief of Police for 14 years. During his tenure as Chief, Columbus received many outstanding honors including being recognized as the safest city in the Southeastern United States in 1994. In August 1993, Mr. Wetherington was appointed by Governor Miller to serve on the Georgia Board of Corrections, representing the Third District. During his service with the Board he held the office of Secretary and Vice-Chairman. Mr. Wetherington served as President of the Georgia Association of Chief's of Police and as an Executive Board Member of the International Association Chief's of Police.

Bobby K. Whitworth, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, was appointed by Governor Miller to the Board of Pardons and Paroles in April 1993, and was subsequently reappointed in January 1996 for seven more years. In January 1995, he was elected Vice-Chairman to the Board. Mr. Whitworth is a criminal justice professional who joined the Georgia Department of Corrections in 1973 and served in a number of positions prior to becoming Commissioner in 1989. During his tenure as head of Corrections he oversaw the most aggressive prison building program in Georgia's history leading to over 35,000 beds that are on-line.



State Board of Pardons and Paroles

December 1, 1996

THE AGENCY

The operation of the agency flows from the Board to the Director of Parole and the Executive Office to three divisions, each managed by a Division Director. Field Services, which is responsible for parolee supervision, is the largest division with four-fifths of the agency workforce.

DIRECTOR OF PAROLE AND EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The **Director of Parole** is responsible for the daily supervision of agency operations. The **Director of Legal Services** is the Board's liaison with the Department of Law and also acts as the agency's internal counsel.

The **Director of Public Information** is the agency's contact point with the public and the media. The **Director of Victim Services** facilitates communication between crime victims and the Board. A **Legislative Liaison** supports the Board in legislative matters. The **Director of Internal Affairs** conducts pre-employment screens of potential employees and investigates charges of employee misconduct. The **Accreditation Manager** coordinates agency accreditation through the American Correctional Association's Commission on Accreditation.

CLEMENCY ADMINISTRATION/ PAROLE SELECTION DIVISION

The Clemency Administration/Parole Selection Division provides the Board's headquarters support for all parole and clemency-related decisions. The division's staff interacts with the Board from the creation of an inmate file up to and through the decision to grant or deny parole. Division personnel also provide information to the Board for decisions ranging

from death penalty appeals to pardons and restoration of civil and political rights.

The division's **Records Unit** establishes and maintains files on newly-sentenced inmates. The **Processing Unit** collects personal and criminal background data on inmates in preparation for parole consideration. The **Guidelines Unit** assigns cases to Hearing Examiners for rating under the Board's Parole Decision Guidelines. The **Hearing Examiner Unit** evaluates cases and prepares them for review for parole, boot camp, and reprieve programs. The **Disposition Unit** informs inmates of Board decisions and notifies judges, district attorneys, and others of release decisions. **Pardon Administration** processes requests for pardons and restoration of rights.

FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

Field Services provides the investigation functions necessary to the Board for parole release and clemency decisions. Equally as important, division personnel provide supervision to offenders who are released back into the community. Field Services also renders the programming necessary to successfully rehabilitate the offender as well as the sanctions needed to deter further criminal behavior.

Field Operations directs the work of the Board's parole officers and their managers. These are the individuals working in communities throughout the state who conduct pre-parole investigations and monitor the conduct of parolees and other Board releases. **Field Administration**, which oversees the work of the division's headquarters staff, includes the Violations Unit, Interstate Compact, and Program Services.

The **Violations Unit** handles the sanctioning of parole violators and, if necessary, provides warrants for the arrest of parolees. **Parole Compact** administers the agreement that allows for the transfer of a parolee's supervision from the jurisdiction of one state to another. **Program Services** manages the Board's drug treatment programs, volunteer services, and education-based programs.

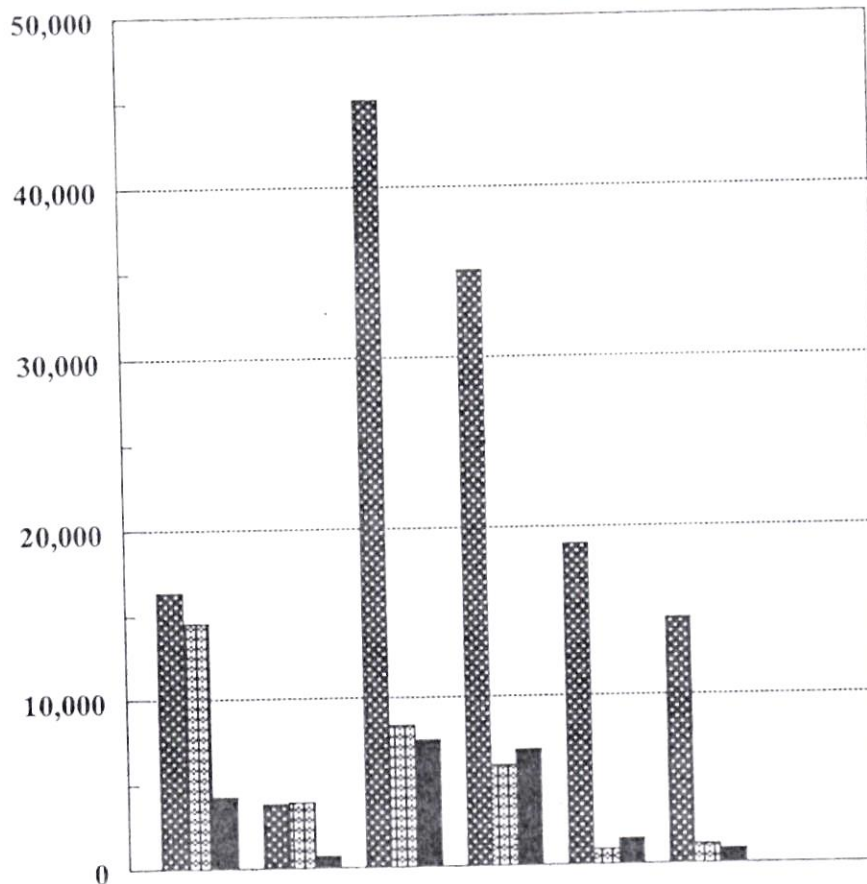
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administration Division is composed of five units that are responsible for budget/fiscal management services, personnel services, computer services and research, Training for all agency employees, and Operational Audits.

The **Personnel Unit** serves all agency human resource operations, including personnel policy and procedure, employee benefits, grievances and adverse actions, and recruitment. The Budget & Fiscal Management Unit oversee agency finance, purchasing and accounting functions. The **Computer Services and Research Unit** provides computer support, evaluation models, and statistical information. The **Training Unit** manages training programs required by the state Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) body as well as other educational opportunities offered by the agency, the State Merit System, and others. The majority of training is delivered at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth and the Board's North Georgia Training Center in Gainesville.

NOTE: As of December 1, 1996 the Community Based Services Division was added. This division is composed of four units that are responsible for parolee training and employment, specialized supervision, substance abuse counseling, and drug/violence education and prevention.

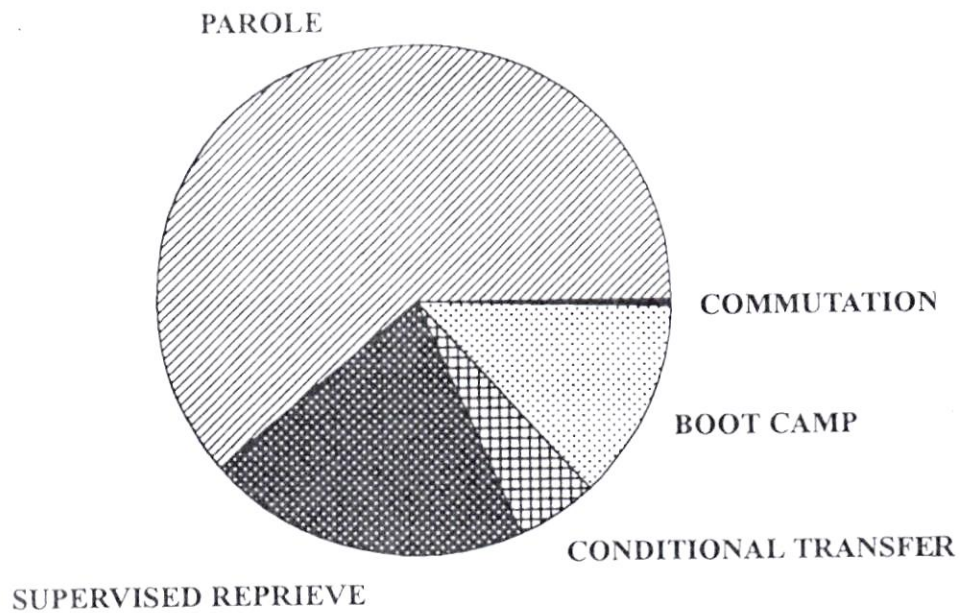
PROBATIONERS MADE UP ALMOST THREE-FOURTHS OF THE OFFENDER POPULATION AT THE END OF FY96 WHILE PAROLEES MADE UP SLIGHTLY MORE THAN ONE-TENTH



	VIOLENT	SEX	PROPERTY	DRUGS	DUL/HAB VIO	OTHER	TOTAL(%)
PROBATIONERS 	16,327	3,791	45,096	35,063	18,990	14,584	133,851 (71%)
INMATES 	14,527	3,858	8,353	5,912	900	1,163	34,713 (18%)
PAROLEES 	4,238	686	7,480	6,817	1,501	838	21,560 (11%)

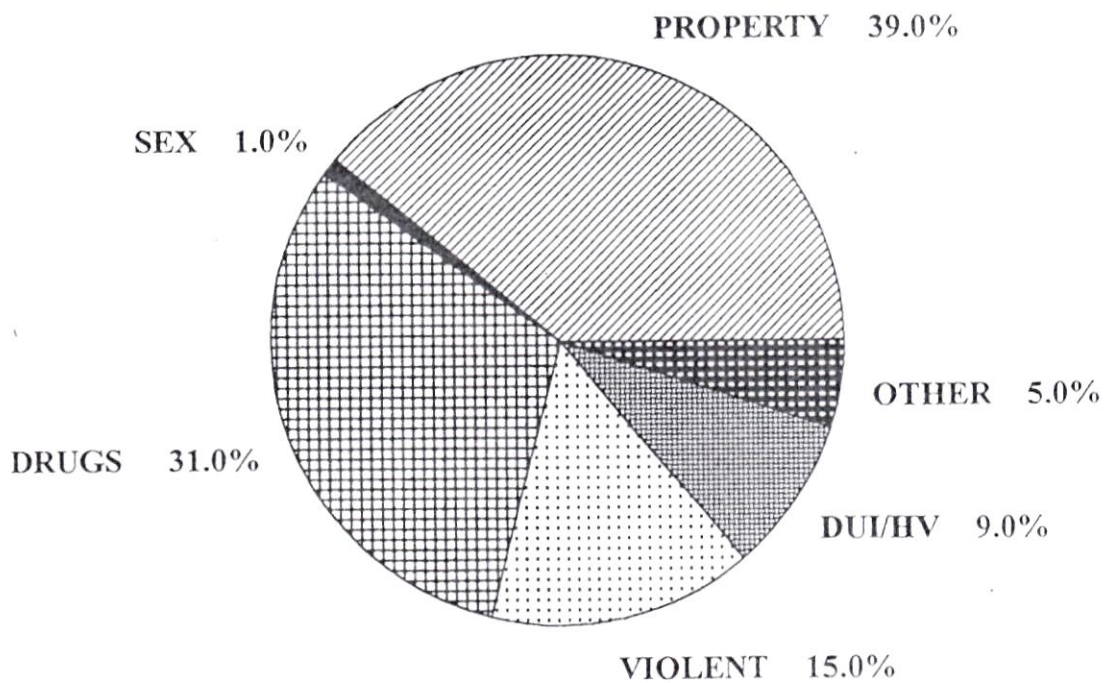
*Does not include jail backlog.

FY96 PAROLE BOARD RELEASES BY TYPE



RELEASE TYPE	NUMBER
PAROLE	7,850
SUPERVISED REPRIEVE	2,625
BOOT CAMP	1,638
CONDITIONAL TRANSFER	667
COMMUTATION	65
TOTAL	12,845

**FOUR OF EVERY FIVE BOARD RELEASES WERE GEORGIA INMATES
SERVING FOR NON-VIOLENT OFFENSES**



RELEASE TYPE	RELEASES
DUI/HV	1,167
VIOLENT	1,903
DRUGS	3,930
SEX	183
PROPERTY	5,000
OTHER	662
TOTAL	12,845

NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS RELEASED: 10,759 (84%)

VIOLENT/SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED: 2,086 (16%)

SOME COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT PAROLE

What is parole?

Parole is the discretionary release of an offender back into society after he or she has served a period of confinement in the state prison system. Offenders who gain release are supervised by parole officers and conditions are applied to the release which, if violated, could result in increasing levels of sanctions against the offender. Those who refuse to abide by their parole conditions are returned to incarceration.

What is the purpose of parole?

Most offenders who are serving prison sentences will eventually return to society. Parole provides the crucial transition. The concept of parole allows offenders to be reintegrated into society in a manner that provides control and support for the offender and increases the safety of the public. Simply discharging a person from prison directly back into society without supervision benefits neither society nor the offender and increases the likelihood that the person will re-offend.

What is the Parole Board's role and authority?

The Georgia Parole Board was created in February 1943 by statute law and in August 1943 Georgia voters ratified an amendment setting forth its authority in the State Constitution. The Board's existence ensures that the executive branch of government, in addition to the legislative and judicial branches, has a discretionary role in criminal justice.

The Parole Board has constitutional authority to grant paroles, pardons, and reprieves, to commute and remit sentences, and to restore civil and political rights. It has the authority to investigate cases and supervise persons granted any type of clemency.

How are Parole Board members appointed?

The Parole Board is made up of five Georgians who are appointed by the Governor to staggered seven-year terms subject to the confirmation of the State Senate. Board members have extensive criminal justice experience in the fields of law enforcement, parole, probation, corrections, and the legislature. Each year the Board elects a chairman and a vice-chairman.

When does the parole process begin?

After an inmate is taken into custody by the Department of Corrections it is determined if that person is eligible for parole. The Board then receives paperwork that begins the parole investigation process. In each case research is made into all aspects of the inmate's background including the circumstances of the current offense(s), that person's previous criminal record, personal and family history, and other pertinent data. The information is then compiled into a file and a summary completed using the Board's *Parole Decision Guidelines* rating system.

What happens next?

The case file is circulated among the Board members. They study it and take into account the inmate's prior criminal, social, environmental and psychological history, prison record, and the prognosis for a successful adjustment back to society before choosing to agree with the *Guidelines* recommendation of time to serve or, for a stated reason, depart from it and make an independent vote. All decisions to deny or grant parole represent a consensus of the entire Board.

What about inmates serving life sentences?

In most cases, inmates who receive life sentences are eligible by law for their first parole review after serving seven years if their crime was committed prior to January 1, 1995. Those who commit one of seven certain life sentence crimes after that date must serve fourteen years before the first review. If denied, the inmate is informed when the next review will occur, which is anytime between one and eight years later. There are some exclusions to the initial consideration rule and they are explained on page 32.

How many lifers are released after their first consideration?

In the vast majority of cases the initial consideration is only a starting point. In FY96 the Board chose to grant parole after the first consideration to only 9 of the 254 initial-eligibility life cases it reviewed. In fact, 95% of all the life sentence cases reviewed were denied parole in FY96. Of the 5% who did gain parole, the average time served was 13 years. This average does not take into account the life inmates who have been repeatedly denied, some of whom are unlikely to ever receive the benefit of parole.

At the end of FY96 there were 4,837 inmates serving life sentences in Georgia prisons, an increase of 427 lifers over the previous fiscal year.

What about victims? Can they be heard?

The Parole Board welcomes information from victims of crime or their survivors. What they have to say about how the crime emotionally, physically, and economically impacted them is important to the parole consideration process. And all victim input is kept confidential. To better meet their needs, the agency operates a Victim Services Office that serves as a liaison between victims and the Board.

What are the conditions of parole?

Every inmate granted a release by the Board is expected to abide by a number of conditions. They include following all instructions from their parole officer, obeying the law, not possessing any sort of weapon, and remaining in the state of Georgia. Parolees also pay a monthly supervision fee, a Victims Fund fee, or victim restitution.

Are there special conditions for certain parolees?

Yes. Many parolees are required to adhere to individually-imposed special conditions that include restitution, drug and alcohol treatment, mental health counseling, restrictions on in-state travel, prohibitions on associations with others, rules against operating vehicles, or a variety of other conditions designed to alter negative behavior.

How are parolees supervised in the community?

Individuals who are granted release by the Board are given their parole certificate shortly before leaving the institution where he or she has been incarcerated. The certificate instructs that person to report to the Chief Parole Officer in the parole district office in the community where that person is to reside.

The Chief Parole Officer assigns the parolee to a parole officer based on the parolee's residence and an appropriate level of supervision for each parolee is determined through an assessment based on that person's criminal and social background.

Parolees with histories of drug or alcohol abuse are screened by contract counselors located throughout the State. Those determined to be in need of drug treatment are instructed to participate in one of the

individual or group programs. In all cases the parole officer work to redirect the parolee to a law-abiding life. All parolees are subject to random in-house drug screens that will immediately detect drug use.

Parolees are required to locate and maintain full-time employment. Most parole district offices will assist in the job search with training in how to look for, apply for, and get a job. Many offices provide job resource centers with listings of employers, job opportunities, and even a bank of donated clothing so a parolee can enhance his or her appearance to a potential employer.

Parolees are required to report to their parole officers on a monthly basis or more often if made necessary by unemployment, substance abuse problems, family difficulties, or any other factors that could have a negative impact on their parole status. Parole officers also pay regular visits to the parolees' homes to meet with family members and employers to observe job progress. Officers may also schedule conferences with the parolee and treatment professionals in order to learn firsthand the level of compliance and progress with Board-mandated counseling programs.

The frequency of contact between the parolee and the parole officer can be gradually reduced over time only if the parolee shows stability at work, at home, and with the other conditions of parole.

What if the parole conditions are violated?

Parolees who violate their parole conditions can be disciplined with a variety of sanctions that can increase with the seriousness of the violation. Intermediate sanctions (those short of reincarceration) can begin with parole officer-imposed measures such as the tightening of curfew hours, requirements of professional counseling and increased reporting to the parole office. The Parole Board can also order more restrictive sanctions like electronic monitoring. The most serious violators can face arrest, revocation of parole and a return to prison.

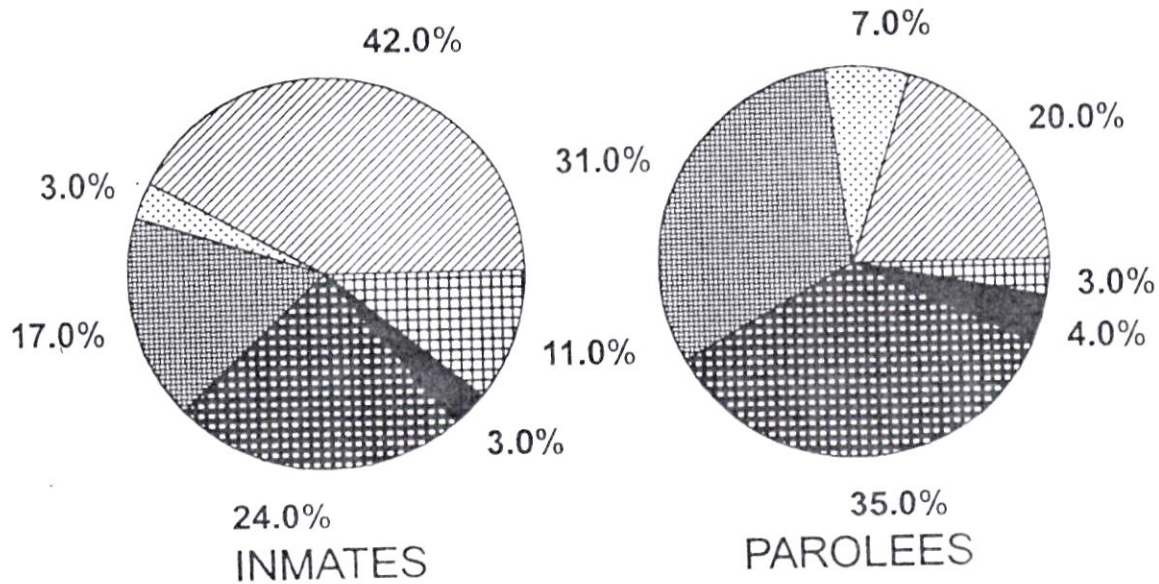
What is the difference between state parole and state probation?

Probation is a judge's order suspending all or part of a prison sentence and in its place allowing a term of supervision in the community *in lieu of the incarceration*. The offender is supervised by a probation officer under the management of the Department of Corrections. Only a judge can revoke probation.

Parole is the release of an inmate prior to the expiration of the incarceration portion of a sentence. The offender is supervised by a parole officer under the direction of the Parole Board. Only the Board can revoke a parole.

Simply put, only the Parole Board can grant parole and only a judge can order probation.

VIOLENT/SEX OFFENDERS MAKE UP OVER ONE-HALF OF GEORGIA'S PRISON POPULATION WHILE THE STATE'S PAROLEE POPULATION IS 77% NON-VIOLENT



▨ VIOLENT ▤ HABITUAL VIO/DUI ▩ DRUGS
▣ PROPERTY ■ OTHER ▧ SEX

PAROLE DECISION GUIDELINES

Parole Decision Guidelines help the State Board of Pardons and Paroles make a more consistent, soundly based, and understandable decisions on inmates serving a sentence of *less than life imprisonment*. Guidelines help the Board decide on a Tentative Parole Month for the inmate or decide that he will complete his sentence without parole.

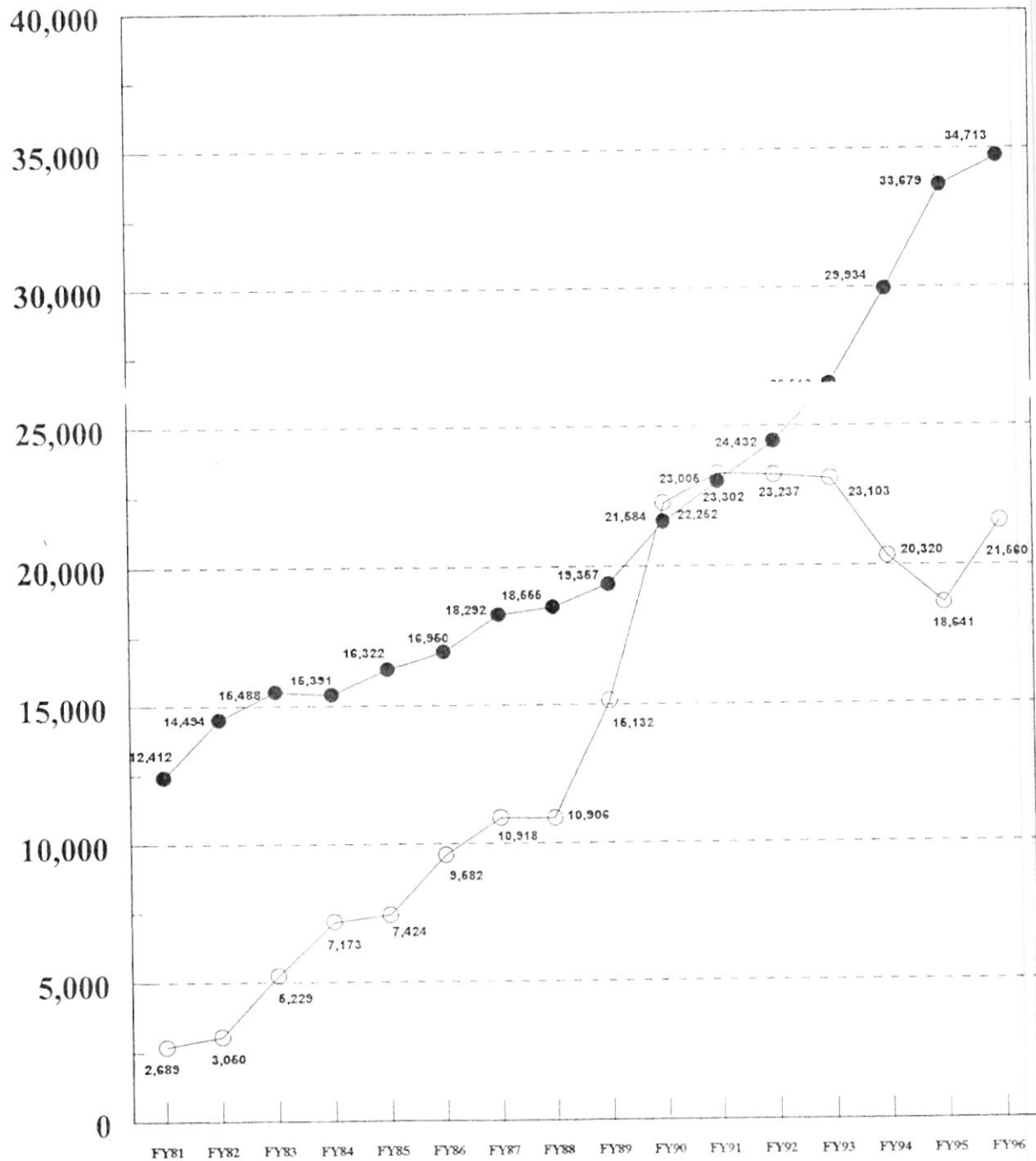
A Board hearing examiner identifies an inmate's Crime Severity Level from a table of offenses ranked in seven levels from lowest to highest severity. The higher the severity, the longer the inmate is recommended to serve. Then the hearing examiner calculates the inmate's Parole Success Likelihood Score by adding weighted factors with proven predictive value from the inmate's criminal and social history. A history of things such as prior imprisonment, parole or probation failure, heroin use or possession, and joblessness would increase the risk of paroling the inmate and cause him to be recommended for longer confinement.

The hearing examiner inserts the inmate's Crime Severity Level and Parole Success Likelihood Score into a Guidelines Chart, which, also weighing sentence length and prison capacity, recommends how long the inmate should be confined. This translates into either a recommendation for parole denial or for a Tentative Parole Month in the future.

By majority vote the Parole Board members either agree with the Guidelines recommendation or, for a stated reason, depart from it and make an independent decision. The inmate is then sent a notice of the Board's decision to establish a tentative parole month. The inmate is informed that the decision is provisional upon good conduct and participation in prison education, work, and treatment programs. The decision is subject to change at the discretion of the Board. Usually, on the recommendation of the Department of Corrections, misconduct results in parole postponement or cancellation.

Parole Guidelines help keep the Board on track toward its goal of seeing that inmates serving for similar offenses with similar histories are treated the same.

GEORGIA PRISON AND PAROLEE POPULATION FISCAL YEARS 1981 - 1996



PRISON POPULATION* PAROLEE POPULATION



VICTIM SERVICES

LEADERSHIP IN VICTIM SERVICES

The State Board of Pardons and Paroles has for decades provided the kind of victim notification only recently required of Georgia's justice system by the 1995 Crime Victims' Bill of Rights.

Governor Zell Miller signed the legislation into law in April 1995, requiring criminal justice agencies to set up victim notification procedures. The Parole Board supported the move and already had in place those procedures for notifying victims of planned paroles and considering their views and recommendations.

MEMBERS HEED VICTIMS' VIEWS

Parole Board Members during 1996 kept paying attention to the views of crime victims. Moreover, Members typically responded favorably.

In the inmate cases planned for parole during the year which were sent back to the Board to see new victim letters, the Members halted the paroles of 78 percent. Specifically, they postponed the paroles of 47 percent and denied any future parole to an additional 31 percent.

Moved by the expressions of continued suffering and fear by victims and their families, the Board did not hesitate to discard many parole dates set four or five years ago by the agency. Back then the Board had been pressured by prison overcrowding, now greatly relieved by new prison construction.

BOARD ENCOURAGES COMMUNICATION

The Board's Victim Services Office, created in 1991, communicates with victims, their families, victim advocates, and public officials to encourage them to write letters giving their views about the cases. Many do write at the rate of more than three thousand letters each year.

The office answers every letter, makes it a prominent part of the confidential case file, and flags the file for each objector -- if parole is ever planned -- to be sent written notification. This would give the objector plenty of time to restate the objection and likely become one of those who help stop 78 percent of contested paroles.

ALLIED GROUPS EDUCATE ABOUT RIGHTS

The Parole Board wants all victims to know their parole system rights: to give the Board views about the crime and the criminal, to find out what the Board is doing on the case, and, upon request, to be notified of any planned parole.

The Board's information sheets for victims and law enforcement personnel (see Appendix) proclaim their rights and have been distributed widely throughout Georgia.

The Board appreciates the help in informing victims about their rights it gets from victim service providers in the offices of prosecutors, law enforcement, the Department of Family and Children Services, rape crisis centers, county health centers, domestic violence shelters, and victim advocacy and support organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Especially

appreciated are views and information on cases sent to the Victim Services Office by those service providers.

After an offender is sentenced to prison, a victim or victim's family member can phone the Parole Board's Victim Services Office at (404) 651-6668 to be informed about procedures, learn the inmate's serial number, and be strongly encouraged to write a letter expressing views to:

Silas Moore, Victim Services Director
State Board of Pardons and Paroles
2 M.L. King, Jr. Drive, S.E.
Atlanta, GA. 30334

The Board's service capability was strengthened in June 1996 by the appointment of Trixie Lee as Assistant Director of Victim Services.

PAROLEE PAYMENTS AID VICTIMS

Since May 1993 the Parole Board has been collecting court-ordered victim restitution from parolees. All money collected is turned over to local probation offices for distribution to the victims. The total collected from the beginning through FY96 is \$550,664.

During the fall of 1991, the Board decided that parolees serving for certain violent offenses should pay \$10 per month into the State's Crime Victims Emergency Fund. The grand total collected from 1991 through the close of FY96 is \$919,664. Crime victims can apply to the Governor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for grants from this fund.

FISCAL YEAR	SUMMARY OF FEES AND RESTITUTION COLLECTED FROM PAROLEES
FY85	\$111,436
FY86	\$496,613
FY87	\$703,341
FY88	\$738,598
FY89	\$759,050
FY90	\$1,095,806
FY91	\$1,331,262
FY92	\$1,325,849
FY93	\$1,328,533
FY94	\$1,659,710
FY95	\$1,015,610*
FY96	\$1,470,328
TOTAL	\$12,036,156

*Drop in collections reflects corresponding decrease in the number of persons on parole.

FISCAL YEAR 1996 ACTIVITY REPORT

(There were 18,641 parolees under supervision at the end of FY95.)

RELEASE ACTION

Parole	7,850
Boot Camp	1,638
Supervised Reprieve	2,625
Conditional Transfer to Detainer	667
Commutation to Time Served	65
Remission of Sentence	0
Other Release Action	0
TOTAL	12,845

REVOCATIONS

3,107

DISCHARGES

Discharge from Parole	4,559
Discharge from Supervised Reprieve	1,182
Commutation to Discharge Parole	972
TOTAL	6,713

TOTAL DECISIONS UNDER PAROLE GUIDELINES 11,093

LIFE DECISIONS

Decision to Deny Parole to Life Cases	887
Decision to Grant Parole to Life Cases	46
(Lifers Paroled at 1st Consideration: 14	
TOTAL	933

OTHER BOARD ACTIONS

Pardon	86
Commutation Reducing Sentence (No Release)	7
Medical or Compassionate Reprieve	65
Restoration of Rights Upon Application	256
Visitor Interview	2,922
Inmate Interview at Institution by Board Members	98
Final Hearing	727
Preliminary Hearing	165

INMATES AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD

Inmate Population	34,713
Jail Backlog	788
TOTAL	35,501

RELEASES UNDER SUPERVISION END OF FY95

Georgia Releases in Georgia	18,987
Other States' Releases in Georgia	809
Georgia Releases Out of State	1,764
TOTAL	21,560

PROGRAM SERVICES

Effective supervision and management of the parolees living in Georgia's communities is enhanced with programs that address the offender's criminal lifestyle prior to prison and that reduce the risk of re-offending after release.

Substance abuse, incomplete education, unemployment and undisciplined lifestyle are but a few of the significant factors that are addressed as unemployment offenders are transitioned back into society. The Board's Program Services Unit administers an array of programs that are designed to assist the parole officer's supervision, increase the safety of our communities and reduce the likelihood of recidivating.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELORS

Contract counselors located throughout the state deliver programs to alcohol and other drug dependent parolees. These treatment professionals determine the specific needs of each parolee and then prescribe placement in one-on-one and group counseling sessions. The focus of these services is on changing substance abuse and criminal lifestyle factors. Parolees are drug tested randomly and routinely.

SPECIALIZED PAROLE SUPERVISION AND ELECTRONIC MONITORING

During FY'96, preliminary planning began to combine the Board's Specialized Parole Supervision Program with the Electronic Monitoring initiative. This will offer a highly structured, balanced alternative to the Board for the supervision of the high need population of parolees. The combined program will continue to be used with both parolees immediately upon release from prison and/or as a final sanction for those who repeatedly violate the technical conditions of parole. Electronic Monitoring use was expanded to 900 units statewide during FY'96 and the Board received funding to expand the program to 1400 units during FY'97.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Educational services offered to parolees are varied and are designed to meet the range of needs experienced by the diverse parole population. Pre-released and post-release orientation to parole requirements have been enhanced during FY'96. Adult educational services to include GED, adult basic education, and literacy are offered to parolees through referrals. AIDS awareness continues to be offered to all parolees upon release from prison. Grant funding was secured during FY'96 to provide the necessary training and equipment for expansion of cognitive skills training.

PAROLE CENTERS

Parolees whose substance abuse problems lead to the revocation of their parole may now spend from up to nine months at one of two parole revocation centers that are administered and operated by the Georgia Department of Corrections. At these centers intensive daily counseling focuses on accepting responsibility for alcohol and other drug use and criminal behavior. The programs are delivered by private vendors under a state contract. Release from the centers is predicated on a detailed aftercare plan involving the parolee, his parole officer, substance abuse counselors, and resources within the community.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Volunteers are recruited from religious and community based resources to assist parolees in successfully transitioning from prison to the community and in successfully completing parole. Program services staff are involved in developing and coordinating volunteers from these outside resources and in securing aftercare residences and services from non-profit service providers.

PAROLE OFFICER WORKLOAD IN FY96

In FY96 the Board's 394 parole officers produced the following numbers in the course of their daily responsibilities:

INVESTIGATIONS

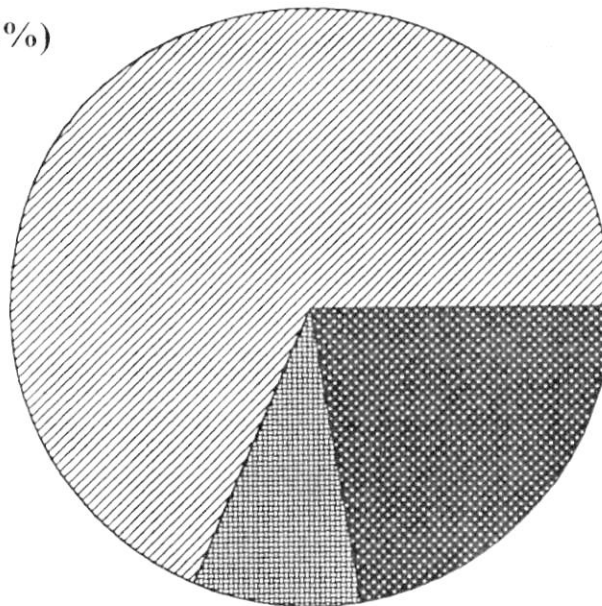
Legal Investigations	:	19,553
Social Investigations	:	11,485
Personal History Statements	:	18,250
Residence/Employment Plans	:	14,145
Other Investigations	:	2,574
TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS	:	66,007

SUPERVISION DUTIES

Contacts with Parolees, Parolee Family Members, Employers, Counselors, etc.	:	707,209
Administrative Hearings	:	5,693
Preliminary (Probable Cause) Hearings	:	278
Final (Revocation) Hearings	:	799
TOTAL HEARINGS	:	6,770
Commutation Evaluation Reports	:	3,105
Delinquent Reports	:	15,503
TOTAL SUPERVISION REPORTS	:	18,608

LESS THAN 10% OF PAROLEES WHO LEFT PAROLE IN FY96 WERE REVOKED FOR COMMITTING A NEW CRIME

6,713 (68%)



2,211 (23%)

896 (9%)



Successful Completion



Revoked New Conviction



Revoked Technical

GEORGIA LAWS FOR PAROLE CONSIDERATION OF INMATES SERVING LIFE SENTENCES

- 1) A person serving a life sentence for a crime committed before 1995 is considered for parole after serving seven years and, if denied, is reconsidered at intervals of anywhere between one and eight years.*
- 2) A person whose death sentence is commuted by the Board to life imprisonment in 1977 or later must serve 25 years before becoming eligible for parole consideration.
- 3) A person convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment for an offense committed on or after July 1, 1983, and who has previously been imprisoned under a life sentence must serve 25 years before becoming eligible for parole consideration.
- 4) A person serving consecutive life sentences for offenses occurring in the same series of acts committed on or after July 1, 1983, and any of the life sentences is for murder must serve consecutive ten-year periods for each sentence, up to a maximum of 30 years, before becoming eligible for parole consideration.*

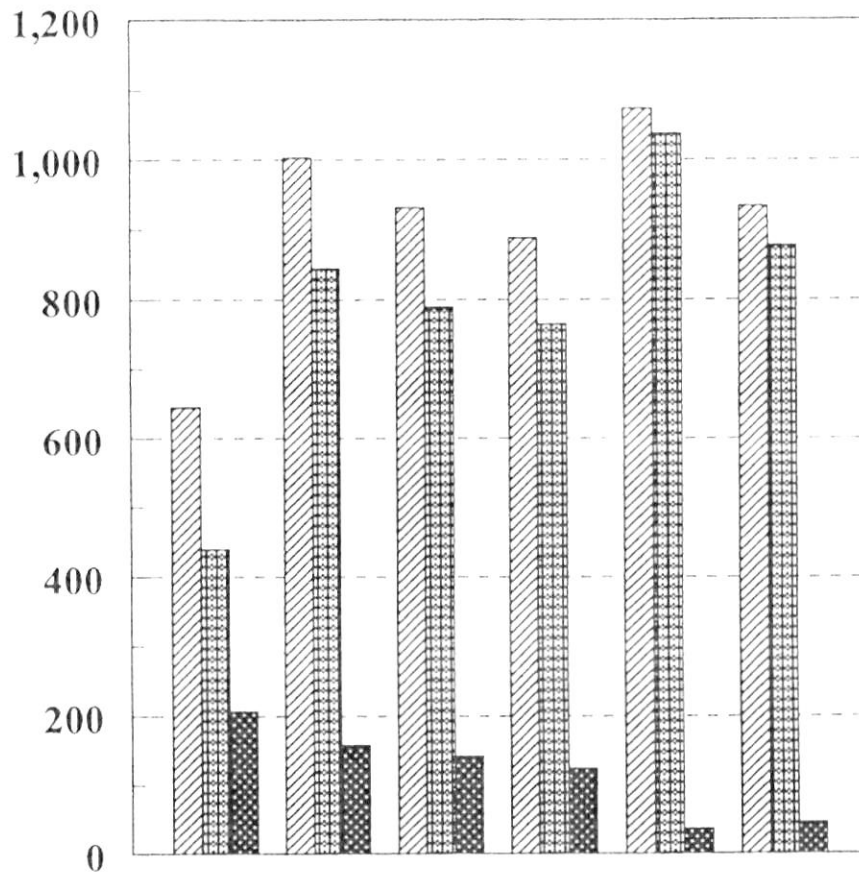
***"TWO-STRIKES" LAW:** In 1994 the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation in the form of an amendment to the State Constitution, later ratified by the voters, requiring persons who are sentenced to life imprisonment for a "first strike" - the first conviction for a Murder, Rape, Kidnapping, Armed Robbery, Aggravated Child Molestation, Aggravated Sodomy, or Aggravated Sexual Battery - to serve 14 years before becoming eligible for parole. (Persons sentenced to life for crimes other than these seven will still be considered after seven years.) This section of the law applies to those who commit one or more of those seven crimes on or after January 1, 1995.

The law mandates that those convicted and sentenced to prison with a sentence of *less than life* for a "first strike" crime committed on or after January 1, 1995, must serve the entire court-imposed sentence with no parole.

The law mandates a sentence of life imprisonment *without parole* for anyone who is convicted a second time for any of the seven crimes mentioned above. This "second strike" must have been committed on or after January 1, 1995.

These laws override the provisions in paragraphs 1-4 when applicable.

DECISIONS ON LIFE SENTENCE INMATES FISCAL YEARS 1991 - 1996



	FY91	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96
LIFERS REVIEWED 	645	1,002	931	888	1,074	933
LIFERS DENIED 	439	844	789	764	1,038	877
LIFERS PAROLED 	206	158	142	124	36	46

% LIFERS DENIED	68%	84%	85%	86%	97%	95%
% LIFERS PAROLED	32%	16%	15%	14%	3%	5%

TIME SERVED BY PAROLED LIFERS

The average time served by a Georgia life sentence inmate can only be determined by the few who are released. In FY96 paroled lifers were less than 1% of the entire lifer population. FY96 Active lifers who have been denied parole at least once have already served, on the average, 12.3 years.

YEAR	LIFER POPULATION	LIFERS REVIEWED	LIFERS PAROLED	AVG. YEARS SERVED
FY90	2,897	575	160	12.1
FY91	3,049	645	206	12
FY92	3,252	1,002	158	12.6
FY93	3,625	931	142	12.6
FY94	3,989	888	124	13
FY95	4,410	1,074	36	12.3
FY96	4,837	933	46	12.2

Most lifers are eligible by law for parole consideration after serving seven years of their sentence. The chart below shows that fewer lifers are being paroled at their initial eligibility. NOTE: These lifers are included in the "Lifers Paroled" category in the above chart.

YEAR	FY90	FY91	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96
Paroled @ 1st consid.	35	43	31	14	9	4	14

LIFE SENTENCE INMATES ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE RELEASE BUT STILL IN PRISON¹

Parole releases for eligible life sentence inmates have been reduced to a trickle of the most deserving few. During FY96 the Parole Board granted clemency to only 46 life sentence inmates. Each year the average time served increased for those life sentence inmates eligible for parole consideration but denied clemency. The following table provides a listing of the number of inmates denied clemency and the number of years they have served.

ELIGIBLE LIFE SENTENCE INMATES DENIED PAROLE	
Years in Prison	Number of inmates
7	87
8	217
9	125
10	187
11	184
12	129
13	114
14	100
15	96
16 - 20	279
21 - 25	76
over 25 years	25
Total number of eligible life sentence inmates - 1,619	
AVG. TIME SERVED FOR INMATES DENIED PAROLE 13.17 YRS.	

¹

The total number of life sentence inmates in the prison system is 4,837. There are 3,218 life sentence inmates who have been incarcerated less than seven years.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The drawing-board work is done and now the action begins. Three years after beginning its strategic planning, the Board has drawn the blueprints for fulfilling its newly defined mission and vision and is ready to begin creating the future envisioned by its employees.

Responding to citizens' demands for more responsive, accountable, and understandable government, Governor Zell Miller in 1992 directed state agencies to begin strategic planning—a system whereby objectives would be clearly aligned to mission and results would be monitored. A critical factor in the success of the strategic planning model is its emphasis on obtaining input from the entire agency staff.

The Board began the process with momentum from its recently inaugurated five-year master plan. Nevertheless, it was soon apparent that strategic planning required even more deliberation and longer-term vision than the master plan had demanded. Participants began to appreciate the methodical—often arduous—process by which separate voices could be unified by common goals.

The Board began 1996 with a mission and vision created from communication with its 836 staff members. Listening to colleagues and discussing their personal views of the agency allowed the agency to re-invent itself into a more responsive agency to the community. Likewise, employees identified *strategic directions*—the avenues by which the mission and vision would be obtained. For each direction a team was formed to develop strategies for achieving its goals. The teams' work became the highlight of 1996 strategic planning.

Many planning team members have now joined action teams who will implement the strategies. Drawn from the diverse interests and functions of the agency, both planning and action team members have brought creative vision to the projects. For example, the expanding alliances team, which seeks to improve relationships with other agencies, benefits from expertise of parole officer team members who have cultivated relationships with law enforcement and social service agencies in their local communities. They could relate the benefits of specific partnerships for statewide development.

Another, the victims services team, is composed of both central office and field staff with experience and enthusiasm for advancing the Board to national leadership in providing services to crime victims and their families.

Strategic planning creates the government Georgians want—responsive, accountable, and efficient. The Board is committed to the process of strategic planning and to a timely production of quality-based products and services derived from the planning.

GEORGIA PAROLEE BACKGROUNDS

The pages that follow document certain aspects of the backgrounds of the men and women who were on parole in Georgia at the end of FY96. In many cases these numbers reflect within a few percentage points the backgrounds of most who enter Georgia's prison system:

There were 21,560 offenders on parole at the end of FY96.

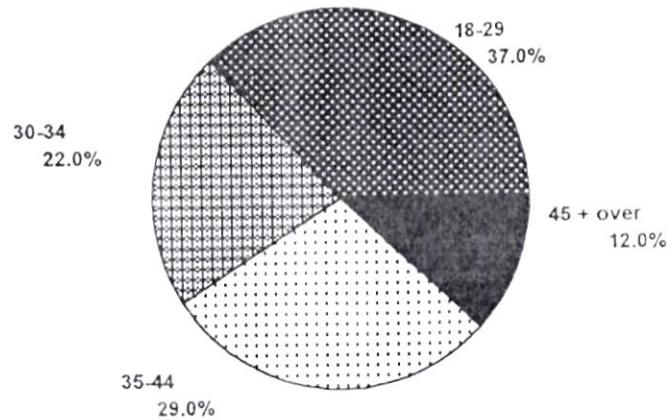
- **AGE:** 59% of the persons on parole are under age 35.
The average age of all parolees is 34.
- **RACE:** 65% of parolees are non-white.
- **SEX:** 91% of parolees are men; 9% are women.
- **PARENTS:** 53% grew up in homes where one or both parents were absent.
- **ORIGIN:** Parolees are evenly split between urban and rural origins.
- **EDUCATION:** 90% spell at less than a 12th grade level; 6th grade is the average.

79% read at less than a 12th grade level; 7th grade is the average.

96% perform math at less than a 12th grade level; 7th grade is the average.

62% failed to complete high school; 11th grade is the average.
- **MARITAL STATUS:** 85% were single or not legally married at the time of their incarceration.
- **CHILDREN:** 88% of all persons on parole have at least one child.
The average number of children is 2.
- **EMPLOYMENT:** Just 39% of all parolees were fully employed at the time of their incarceration.

PAROLEES BY AGE AND SEX

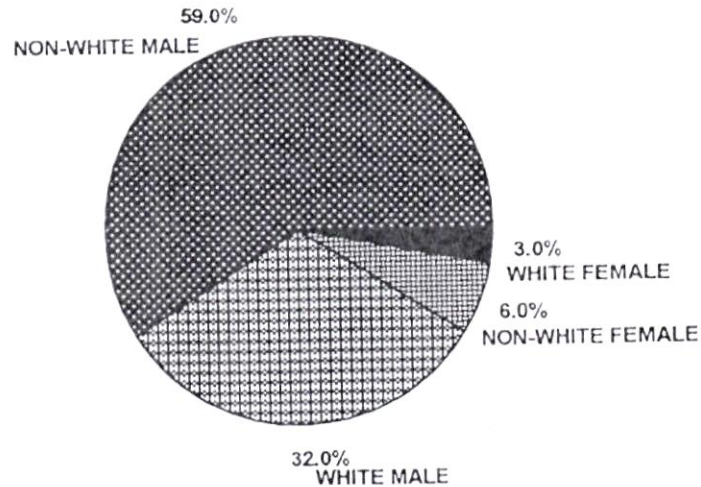


MALES

FEMALES

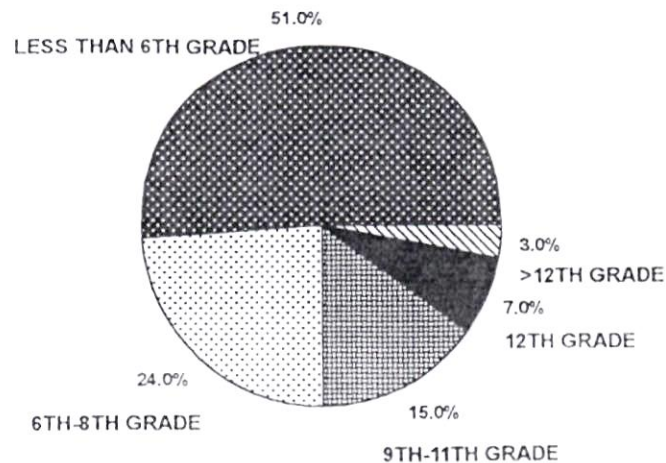
	WHITE	NON-WHITE	WHITE	NON-WHITE	TOTAL
18-29	11%	23%	1%	2%	37%
30-34	7%	13%	1%	1%	22%
35-44	9%	17%	1%	2%	29%
45+OVER	5%	6%	<1%	1%	12%

PAROLEES BY RACE AND SEX



	TOTAL
NON-WHITE MALE	59%
WHITE MALE	32%
NON-WHITE FEMALE	6%
WHITE FEMALE	3%

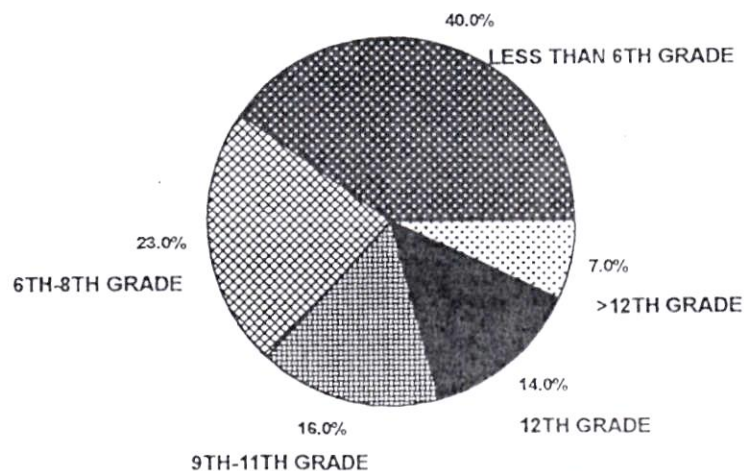
AVERAGE SPELLING LEVEL (GRADE) BY PAROLEE SEX AND AGE GROUP



AGE	MALE	FEMALE
18-29	6.9	8.4
30-34	6.2	7.6
35-44	6.0	7.8
45/ABOVE	5.7	6.7
TOTAL	6.3	7.8

OVERALL AVERAGE: 6.5 (Halfway between start of sixth grade and start of seventh grade)

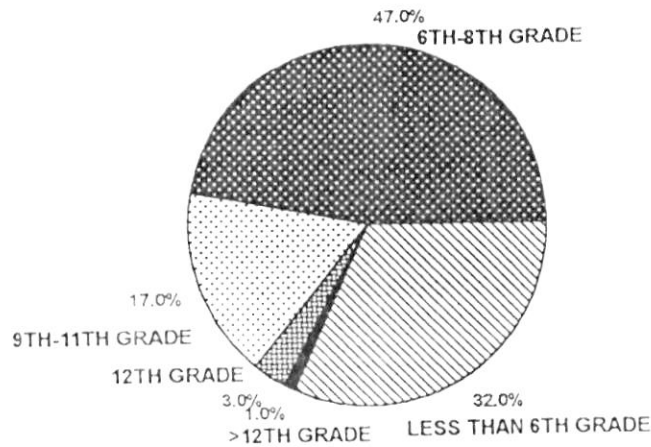
AVERAGE READING LEVEL (GRADE) BY PAROLEE SEX AND AGE GROUP



AGE	MALE	FEMALE
18-29	7.7	8.2
30-34	7.4	7.5
35-44	7.3	8.1
45/ABOVE	7.1	7.5
TOTAL	7.5	7.9

OVERALL AVERAGE: 7.5 (Halfway between start of seventh grade and start of eighth grade)

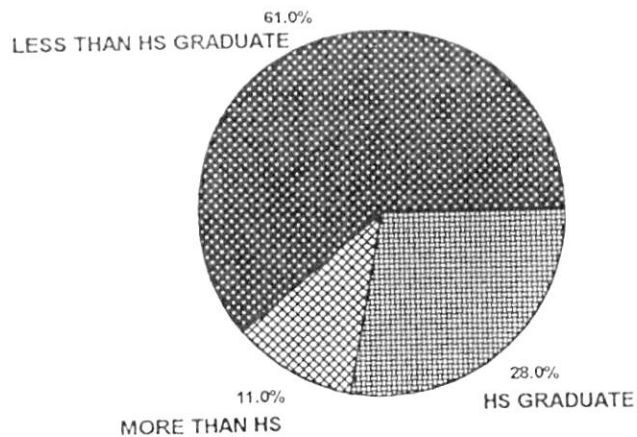
AVERAGE MATH LEVEL (GRADE) BY PAROLEE SEX AND AGE GROUP



AGE	MALE	FEMALE
18-29	7.3	7.2
30-34	7.1	6.8
35-44	6.9	6.7
45/ABOVE	6.7	6.1
TOTAL	7.1	6.8

OVERALL AVERAGE: 7.1 (One month after start of seventh grade)

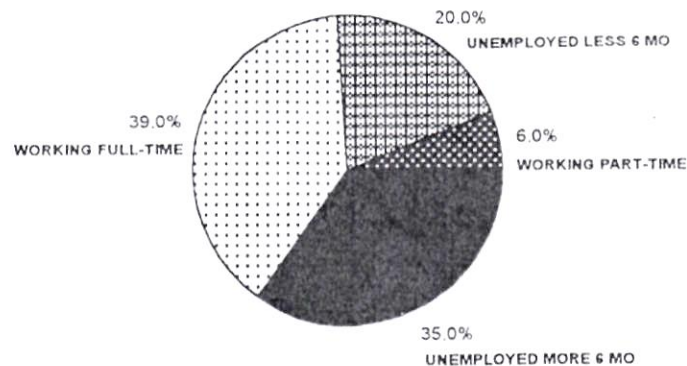
AVERAGE GRADE COMPLETED BY PAROLEE SEX AND AGE GROUP



AGE	MALE	FEMALE
18-29	10.7	11.5
30-34	11.5	11.7
35-44	11.8	11.9
45/ABOVE	11.0	10.7
TOTAL	11.2	11.6

OVERALL AVERAGE: 11.3 (Almost 3 months after start of eleventh grade)

EMPLOYMENT STATUS BEFORE PRISON ADMISSION BY PAROLEE SEX AND AGE GROUP



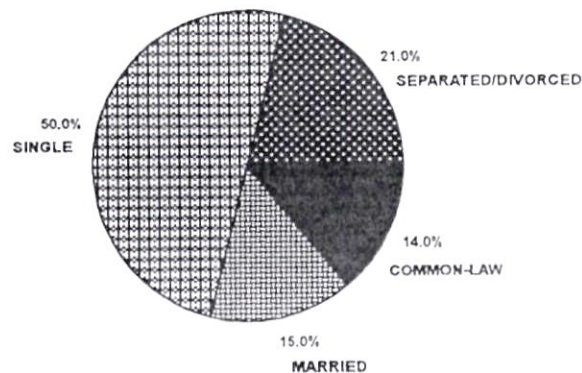
MALES

FEMALES

	18-29	30-34	35-44	45/A	18-29	30-34	35-44	45/A	TOTAL
FULL-TIME	13%	8%	11%	4%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	39%
PART-TIME	3%	1%	2%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	6%
UNEMPLOYED LESS THAN 6 MONTHS	8%	4%	5%	2%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	20%
UNEMPLOYED MORE THAN 6 MONTHS	11%	6%	9%	4%	1%	1%	2%	<1%	35%
TOTAL	35%	20%	26%	11%	2%	2%	3%	1%	100%

Note: Columns or rows may not add exactly to totals due to rounding.

MARITAL STATUS AT TIME OF PRISON ADMISSION BY PAROLEE SEX AND AGE GROUP

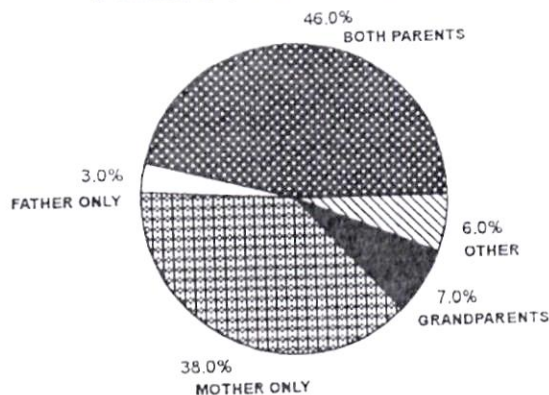


MALES

FEMALES

	18-29	30-34	35-44	45/A	18-29	30-34	35-44	45/A	TOTAL
MARRIED	3%	3%	5%	3%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	15%
COMMON-LAW	3%	3%	5%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	14%
SEP/DIV/WIDOW	2%	4%	8%	5%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	21%
SINGLE	26%	10%	8%	2%	2%	1%	1%	<1%	50%
TOTAL	35%	20%	26%	11%	2%	2%	3%	1%	100%

PARENTAL PRESENCE THROUGH TEEN-AGE YEARS



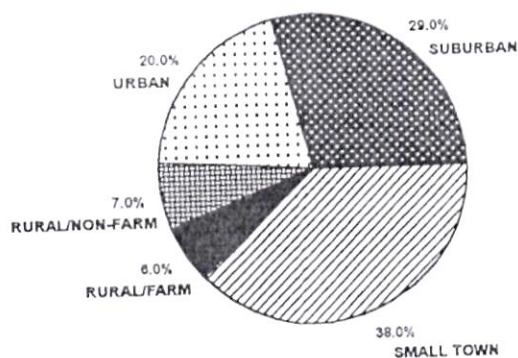
MALES

FEMALES

	18-29	30-34	35-44	45/A	18-29	30-34	35-44	45/A	TOTAL
BOTH PARENTS	15%	10%	14%	6%	1%	1%	2%	<1%	46%
MOTHER ONLY	16%	8%	8%	3%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	38%
FATHER ONLY	1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	3%
GRANDPARENTS	3%	1%	2%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	7%
OTHER	2%	1%	2%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	6%
TOTAL	35%	20%	26%	11%	2%	2%	3%	1%	100%

Note: Columns or rows may not add exactly to totals due to rounding.

ENVIRONMENT TO AGE 16 BY SEX AND AGE GROUP



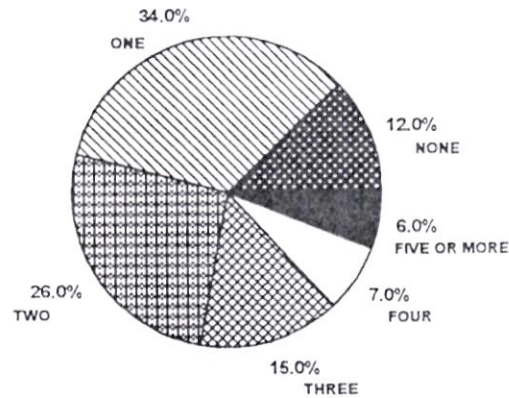
MALES

FEMALES

	18-29	30-34	35-44	45/A	18-29	30-34	35-44	45/A	TOTAL
RURAL/FARM	1%	1%	2%	2%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	6%
RURAL/NON-FARM	1%	1%	2%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	7%
SUBURBAN	10%	6%	8%	3%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	29%
URBAN	7%	4%	5%	2%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	20%
SMALL TOWN	15%	8%	9%	3%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	38%
TOTAL	35%	20%	26%	11%	2%	2%	3%	1%	100%

Note: Columns or rows may not add exactly to totals due to rounding.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN AT TIME OF PRISON ADMISSION BY PAROLEE SEX AND AGE GROUP



MALES

FEMALES

	18-29	30-34	35-44	45/A	18-29	30-34	35-44	45/A	TOTAL
NONE	6%	3%	3%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	12%
ONE	16%	7%	8%	2%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	34%
TWO	8%	6%	7%	3%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	26%
THREE	3%	3%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	15%
FOUR	1%	1%	2%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	7%
FIVE OR MORE	<1%	1%	2%	2%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	6%
TOTAL	35%	20%	26%	11%	2%	2%	3%	1%	100%

Note: Columns and rows may not add up to totals because of rounding.

SUMMARY: FY96 EXPENDITURES

PERSONAL SERVICES

SALARIES	23,207,181
OVERTIME	25,369
TERMINAL LEAVE	136,720
PAID COMPENSATORY TIME	0
LABOR	511,318
MEDICARE LABOR	137,773
F.I.C.A.	1,727,735
RETIREMENT	3,651,143
HEALTH INSURANCE	2,921,108
PERSONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	40,937
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	11,381
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	136,976
MERIT SYSTEM ASSESSMENTS	143,548
TORT CLAIMS INSURANCE	260,429
DRUG TESTING SERVICES	9,994

TOTAL \$32,921,612

REGULAR OPERATING

MOTOR VEHICLE EXPENSE	320,322
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	668,109
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	238,982
UTILITIES	213,736
PUBLISHING & PRINTING	50,483
RENTALS < 3 MOS	24,006
INSURANCE & BONDING	49,786
CLAIMS AND INDEMNITIES	129
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	82,723
DOAS RAPID COPY	7,908
EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	286,307

TOTAL \$ 1,942,491

OTHER

TRAVEL - EMPLOYEES ONLY	563,458
MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	370,169
EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	148,084
REAL ESTATE PURCHASES	2,682,856
PER DIEM, FEES & CONTRACTS	975,338
COMPUTER CHARGES	631,193
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	922,169
COUNTY SUBSIDY - PAROLEES	649,980
HEALTH SERVICE PURCHASES	24,010

TOTAL \$ 6,967,257

TOTAL EXPENDITURES = \$41,831,360

1996 - 1997

CENTRAL OFFICE DIRECTORY

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GLOSSARY OF COMMON PAROLE TERMS

ACTIVE SUPERVISION: *A parole status under which a parolee must report on a regular basis to an assigned parole officer.*

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING: *A hearing involving the Chief Parole Officer, the parole officer and the parolee designed to intervene in the early stages of parolee non-compliance with the conditions of parole. Parolee problems are addressed and solutions are presented to correct the negative behavior.*

AREA SUPERVISOR: *A community-based Parole Board administrator overseeing the management of parole services within a number of parole districts comprising an "area."*

CHIEF PAROLE OFFICER: *A Parole Board manager responsible for all parole services within an assigned district. The Chief reports directly to the Area Supervisor.*

COMMUTATION: *The reduction of a sentence to a lesser sentence.*

COMPASSIONATE REPRIEVE: *A release of an inmate from prison for a limited time to visit a critically ill relative, attend a funeral, or other reasons deemed appropriate by the Board.*

CONDITIONAL TRANSFER: *A process whereby an inmate is released by the Parole Board from state custody to a detainer filed by authorities in Georgia, another state, the Federal system, or the military. Only if the detaining authority releases the person before the expiration of the Georgia sentence could the inmate's status become that of a parolee.*

DELINQUENT REPORT: *A documentation of a parolee's parole violation(s) submitted to the Parole Board by the supervising parole officer.*

DETAINDER: *An official notice indicating that an inmate is wanted by a jurisdiction to face charges or serve a sentence.*

DISCHARGE DATE: *The date at which parole supervision ends.*

EARNED TIME: *A Georgia law (repealed in 1984) whereby inmates were credited with an extra day of prison service for each day served with good behavior. It enabled many inmates to discharge from prison after serving one-half of their sentences. Some inmates whose offenses were committed before the repeal date still receive this credit.*

ELECTRONIC MONITORING: *An enhancement of parole supervision where parolees charged with violations of parole are placed under electronic surveillance via the use of an ankle transmitter and telephone hook-up to a central computer that documents the movement of the offender from his or her home.*

EMERGENCY RELEASE: *A program of accelerated paroles designed to manage prison overcrowding.*

EMERGENCY REPRIEVE: *A temporary suspension of a prison sentence to release an offender under conditions which, if violated, permit his or her reimprisonment. The Parole Board can credit that time served on reprieve toward the completion of the sentence.*

FIELD SERVICES OFFICER: *A Parole Review Officer in the central office who serves as a liaison between the Board and the field in the violations and commutation process.*

FINAL HEARING: *A hearing before the Parole Board to determine whether a parolee has violated the conditions of parole and whether a violation warrants a return to prison.*

FISCAL YEAR (FY): *A 12 month period for which an agency plans to use its funds. In Georgia, the fiscal year runs from July 1st of one year to June 30th of the next year.*

HEARING EXAMINER: *A Parole Board employee responsible for the application of the Parole Decision Guidelines to inmate cases in preparation for a parole action.*

INMATE: *A person sentenced to incarceration.*

INSTITUTIONAL PAROLE OFFICER: *A parole officer assigned to a state prison to interview inmates for parole information and to assist inmates with parole-related matters.*

INTERMEDIATE SANCTION: *A punitive action, short of revocation of parole, applied in response to a violation of parole.*

INTERSTATE COMPACT: *An agreement between Georgia and the other states that allows for the transfer of parolees between state jurisdictions.*

LEGAL INVESTIGATION: *A pre-parole investigation submitted by a parole officer detailing the offender's conviction data, the circumstances of the crime(s) and the offender's prior criminal record.*

MEDICAL REPRIEVE: *A release granted to a terminally ill inmate or one suffering from a medical condition for which the necessary treatment is available only outside of the state prison system.*

PARDON: *A declaration of record by the Parole Board that a person is relieved from the consequences of a particular conviction. It restores civil and political rights and removes legal disabilities resulting from the conviction. There are two types: a full pardon granted after submission of proof of innocence and a five-year pardon not implying innocence but granted five crime-free years after completion of all sentences.*

PAROLE: *The release of an offender from confinement under continuing state custody and supervision and under conditions which, if violated, permit reimprisonment.*

PAROLE BOARD (GEORGIA): *An executive clemency panel of five members appointed by the Governor to staggered seven-year terms subject to the confirmation of the State Senate.*

PAROLE CERTIFICATE: *An order of the Parole Board authorizing the release of an inmate from state custody to the supervision of a parole officer. It also serves as an agreement between the state and the offender whereby the inmate agrees to abide by the conditions of the order.*

PAROLE DECISION GUIDELINES: *A process used by the Parole Board to determine an offender's tentative parole month. Board members, when voting on cases, can choose to agree with the Guidelines recommendation or deviate from it.*

PAROLE PLAN: *The prospective plan for residence and job submitted by the inmate for verification by the Board prior to final approval of parole.*

PAROLE VIOLATION: *A failure by the parolee to abide by one or more of the conditions of parole.*

PAROLE WARRANT: *An order issued by the Parole Board authorizing the arrest of a parolee.*

PAROLEE: *An inmate released on parole status.*

PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE CREDIT: *A reward granted to inmates based on their documented efforts to rehabilitate themselves through positive participation in education, work and treatment programs. Based on a recommendation from the Department of Corrections, the Parole Board, at its discretion, may advance the parole date for inmates who demonstrate efforts to rehabilitate themselves.*

PERSONAL HISTORY STATEMENT (PHS): *A report of a personal background interview between a parole officer and an inmate entering the state prison system.*

PRELIMINARY HEARING: *A hearing held to determine if there is probable cause to believe that a parolee has violated a condition of parole and whether he or she should be held under arrest pending a Parole Board decision on revocation.*

PROBATION: *A court-imposed sentence suspending incarceration and instead imposing a term of supervision in the community under the direction of a probation officer.*

RECIDIVISM: *The percentage of offenders who return to prison during a specified period of time.*

REMISSION: *A Parole Board action that occurs when the sentencing court makes a specific recommendation for the release of an inmate.*

REPRIEVE: *A Parole Board program designed to review and grant releases to inmates serving sentences of two years or less.*

REPRIEVEE: *A person released on reprieve status.*

RESTITUTION: *Payments made to a crime victim by the perpetrator of the crime.*

RESTORATION OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS: *A Parole Board action that reestablishes a person's right to hold public office and to serve on a jury, only after the completion of all court sentences or outstanding criminal charges.*

REVOCATION: *A decision by the Board to return a parolee to prison based on the failure to follow the conditions of parole.*

REVOCATION HEARING: *See Final Hearing.*

SET-OFF: *The amount of time specified by the Parole Board between the denial of parole and the next consideration date.*

SOCIAL INVESTIGATION: *A pre-parole investigation of an inmate's personal and family background that is obtained during contact between a parole officer and a relative of the inmate.*

SPECIAL CONDITION: *A condition of parole that addresses a specific aspect of an individual's behavior.*

SPECIALIZED SUPERVISION: *Relatively small parolee caseloads supervised by parole officers specifically trained to deal with the high-need parolee (i.e. mental health cases, severe substance abusers, the mentally deficient, etc.).*

SUPERVISION FEE: *A condition of parole requiring that a parolee pay a fee of \$10.00 per month. All supervision fees are returned to the State treasury.*

SUPERVISION LEVEL: *The number of times a month a parolee is to be seen by a parole officer based on the risk and needs of the offender.*

TECHNICAL VIOLATION: *A violation of parole not involving a criminal act.*

TENTATIVE PAROLE MONTH: *The date chosen by the Parole Board to grant release to an inmate dependent on satisfactory prison behavior and other factors, such as new information or protests, which may lead the Parole Board to reconsider its decision.*

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT: *A form submitted by the victims of crime or their survivors to the Parole Board documenting the impact of the criminal act on their lives.*

WAIVER OF FINAL HEARING: *A form signed by the parolee admitting the violation of specific conditions of parole. It subjects the parolee to revocation of parole without a final hearing before the Parole Board.*

NOTES



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