

North Carolina Post-Release Supervision
and Parole Commission

Parole Eligibility Report
F Y 2009-2010
(The Comparison Project)

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The Comparison Project

Pursuant to Senate Bill 1741, Section 17.28 (C), the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission compared the amount of time Pre-Structured Sentencing cases had served with the amount of time they would have served under the Structured Sentencing Law (as defined by Section 17.28).

Class A felonies were not included since they would be sentenced to Life without Parole under the Structured Sentencing Law. Only Pre-Sentencing cases with Parole Eligibility dates on or before July 1, 2010 were considered.

The Parole Commission will continue to monitor many of these cases for subsequent comparison projects. Every effort was made to release those inmates who were judged to be an acceptable risk to the community. Others were recommended for MAPP to help them prepare for release through involvement in rehabilitation programs.

The following explanation and data was prepared by the Research and Planning section of the Department of Correction:

Parole Eligibility Report

(Actual time served by FSA offenders compared time served for similar crime under SSA)

Purpose:

- Analysis of the amount of time each inmate who is eligible for parole before July 1, 2010, has served compared to the time served by offenders under Structured Sentencing for comparable crimes, including the class of the offense for which each parole-eligible inmate was convicted and whether an inmate had multiple criminal convictions.
- Determination as to whether the person has served more time in custody than the person would have served if sentenced to the maximum sentence under Structured Sentencing.

Methodology:

- Identify currently active inmates eligible for parole.
- Exclude DWI and First Degree Murder life sentences. (DWI is its own special case and First Degree Murder is not
Eligible for release under Structured Sentencing Act)
- Divide the dataset into two groups: inmates with a single commitment and those with multiple commitments.
- Determine the SSA equivalent penalty class for each crime that effects the time of the current incarceration.

- Apply the number of months for the maximum presumptive sentence under the SSA to each relevant commitment.
- Determine the number of months that the inmate has served in prison on this period of incarceration.
- Compare the two numbers.
- Create two groups
 - Compares favorable (inmate has served more time under FSA sentence than SSA)
 - Compares unfavorably (Inmate has not served as much time as SSA would require)

Results:

Table 1 displays the population breakdown for 3/20/2010 that resulted in the data for this report.

Table 1

TOTAL INMATES IN THE POPULATION AS OF 03/20/2010	40,383
TOTAL ELIGIBLE TO BE PAROLED LESS DWI AND 1ST DEGREE MURDER	2,655
PAROLE ELIGIBLE ON OR BEFORE 7/1/2010	1,331
NOT PAROLE ELIGIBLE ON OR BEFORE 7/1/2010	1,323
PAROLE ELIGIBLE (SINGLE COMMITMENT)	357
PAROLE ELIGIBLE (MULTIPLE COMMITMENTS)	974

ON 3/20/2010 A TOTAL OF 1,331 INMATES HAD A PAROLE ELIGIBILITY DATE BEFORE 7/1/2010. OF THE NUMBER THAT WERE PAROLE ELIGIBLE 270 HAVE SERVED LONGER UNDER THEIR FSA SENTENCE(S) THAN AN SSA SENTENCE FOR THE EQUIVALENT PENALTY CLASS(S) AND THE MAXIMUM PRESUMPTIVE SENTENCE FOR PRIOR RECORD LEVEL 6. TABLE 2 DISPLAYS THE TOTAL ELIGIBLE AND THOSE THAT COMPARED FAVORABLY OR UNFAVORABLY.

TABLE 2

	COMPARISON NOT FAVORABLE	COMPARISON FAVORABLE	TOTAL
PAROLE ELIGIBLE SINGLE COMMITMENT	307	50	357
PAROLE ELIGIBLE MULTIPLE COMMITMENTS	754	220	974