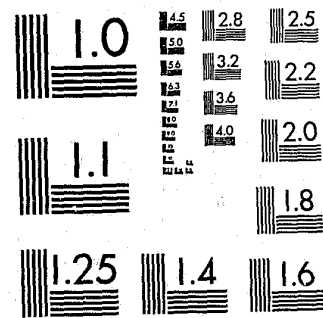


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VIOLENT CRIME IN ALBERTA

PAPER #3
Parole and the Violent Offender

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PAROLE AND THE VIOLENT OFFENDER

By

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and

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June, 1980

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NCJRS

APR 17 1981

ACQUISITIONS

This is Paper #3 from THE VIOLENT CRIME STUDY by the Office of Robert Clark, Leader of the Official Opposition, Legislative Assembly of Alberta under contract with the Centre for Criminological Research, Population Research Laboratory, The University of Alberta.

Additional papers are:

- #1 Violent Crime in Alberta: Some Background Statistics
- #2 Sentencing Strategies and Violent Crime
- #4 Strategies for the Prevention of Violent Crime

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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Laurel Gauld graduated from the University of Alberta in 1975 with a B.A. in Recreation Administration. For three years she worked as a Tenant Program Consultant for the Edmonton Housing Authority and was responsible for developing and implementing community improvement programs for children and adults living in public housing projects throughout Edmonton. She has also worked on several social research projects conducted through the Population Research Laboratory, The University of Alberta.

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The Office of the Official Opposition felt that the topic of Violent Crime in Alberta was of concern to the general public and therefore supported this study to provide basic information to those with an interest in social policy and the quality of life in Alberta.

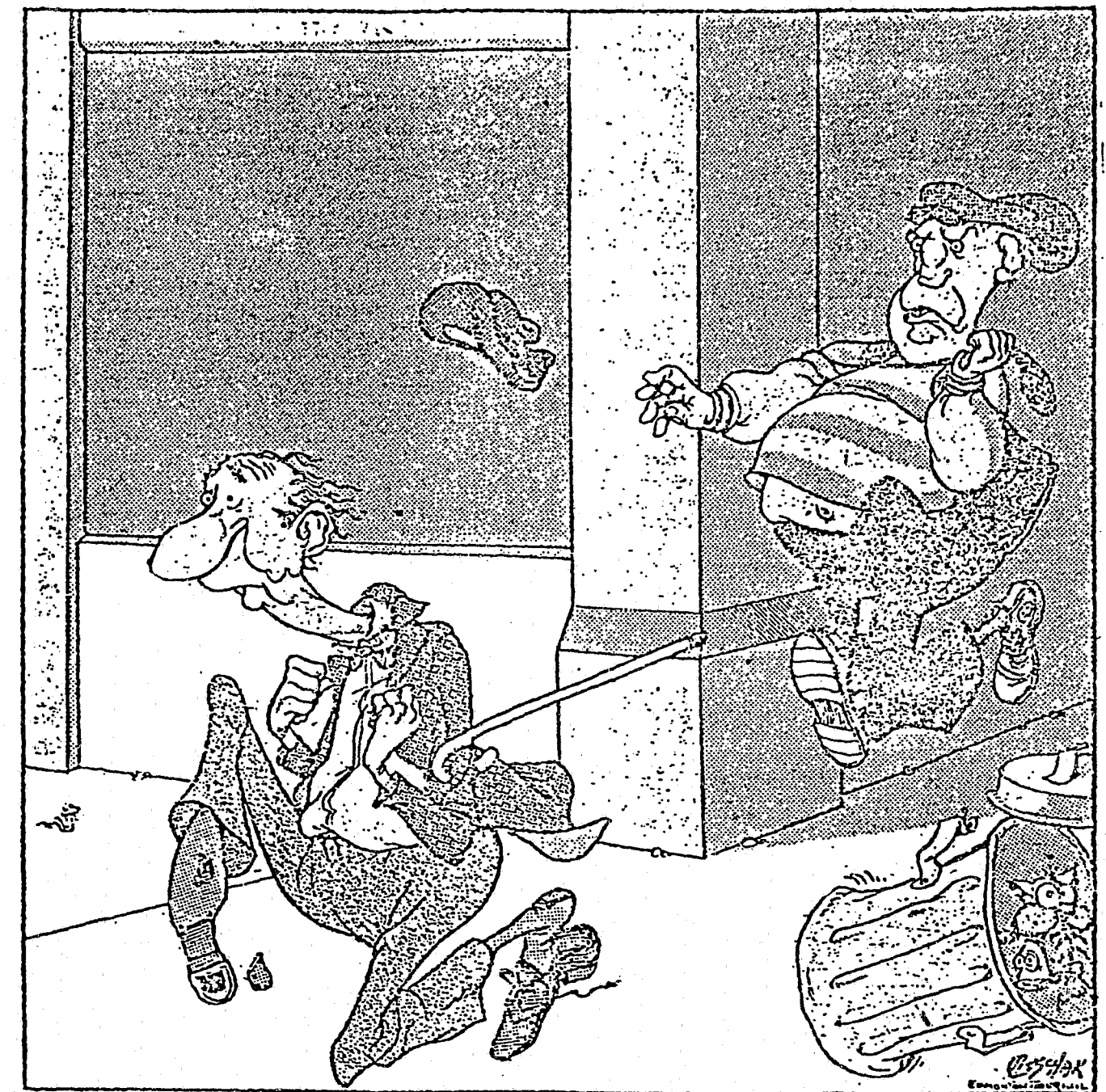
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ABSTRACT

The following paper examines a common public view that the National Parole Board is "soft" on violent offenders. Data collected by the National Parole Board from 1975 - 1979 are examined to determine how many violent criminals are granted parole and how many are readmitted to prison for parole violations. Based on these data and the findings of the Dangerous Offenders Project in Ohio, the authors conclude that the parole board has been very cautious in granting parole. They suggest that the protection of society which can be achieved by keeping violent offenders in jail for long periods of time has been overstated.



*"Will you stand still? I'm on day parole and if I'm late getting back,
no hot chocolate for me tonight!"*

Source: Edmonton Journal March 27, 1980.

Parole and the Violent Offender

Public Perceptions of the Parole Board

On March 27, 1980 a cartoon appeared in the Edmonton Journal showing the stereotyped hoodlum carrying his black jack and pursuing an innocent victim down the street. The caption had the hoodlum calling to the potential victim to stop because if he did not get back to his community correctional centre, where he was free on day parole, he would miss out on his evening cup of cocoa. The cartoon reflected an attitude shared by many: that the parole board rather casually releases violent offenders from jail so they can continue to attack citizens. In this paper we would like to explore the popular public view that the federal parole board is soft on violent offenders, but first we will review some aspects of the parole system.¹

The Implementation of Sentencing and Release Programs

Remission and mandatory supervision. Prison sentences in Canada can be thought of as having three sections of approximately equal portions. Remission, commonly known as "time off for good behavior", usually represents the last third of an inmate's sentence. Those who receive time off for good behavior must serve that time under the mandatory supervision of the parole board. The board has the authority to revoke that supervision and send individuals back to prison to serve the remaining portion of their sentence if the conditions of the release are violated or if the inmate commits a new crime. One often hears complaints that if a judge says three years, it should mean a full three years, but many correctional workers, who could hardly be described as "bleeding hearts," would argue that time off for good behavior has a number of features in its favor. However, it is important to note that earned remission is not

granted at the discretion of the correctional institution or the parole board. It is a legal requirement. If the public wishes it removed, parliament, not the correctional system would be the instrument for change.

Regular parole. Another third of an inmate's sentence includes the possibility of a parole. Full parole cannot be granted to most inmates until they have served one-third of their sentences, or 7 years, whichever is shorter. In the case of certain violent offences, an inmate is not eligible for parole until he has served one-half of this sentence rather than one-third. First degree murderers must wait a minimum of 25 years before they can be considered for parole and second degree murderers between 10-25 years, depending on the sentence. The parole board must gather data on applications for parole and decide on the risks to the community for each case. Information from classification officers in the prisons, parole officers, police, and in some cases psychological and psychiatric reports become part of the file before each inmate is personally interviewed in the institution. In 1977, for example, the board processed a little over 7,000 cases with slightly over 4,000 coming from inmates serving time in federal penitentiaries and slightly over 3,000 coming from inmates in provincial institutions. Approximately 28% of the applications from the federal institutions were approved and approximately 45% from the provincial institutions. Understandably those serving in provincial institutions for lesser crimes would probably be considered a lesser threat to the community. In general, approximately 40% of the applications reviewed by the parole board are granted.

For the past five years over 70% of the offenders released on full parole completed their terms without incidents. A four-year follow-up study of the entire federal and provincial population of 2,950 parolees released during the year 1974 showed that by the end of 1977, 70% had successfully completed their

parole, 14% had been reincarcerated for various offences, 9% had failed for breach of their parole agreement and the last 7% were continuing on parole.

Day parole and temporary absence. Day parole is a modified form of parole used to enable some inmates to further their studies or training in the community or to undertake employment. These inmates return to the institution periodically, often every evening. Day parole is sometimes used as a testing ground for potential parolees and is sometimes granted a few months before consideration for full parole. Of the 10,135 Canadian offenders whose day parole ended in the year 1977, only 3% (59) were returned to prison for committing new offences.

Temporary absence is an occasional release for medical, humanitarian or rehabilitative reasons. It allows selected inmates to be released unescorted for 72 hours during every three month period. During 1977, 44,980 temporary absences were granted: 28,989 were escorted and 15,991 unescorted. Of these, 193 inmates failed to return to the institution on time, and were subsequently declared unlawfully at large. This figure is roughly half of 1%.

Day parole and temporary absence may be granted near the half-way mark in the eligibility period for full parole.

The Prediction of Violence and the Parole Board

The central concern when responding to the problem of violence is whether violent behavior can be predicted. More detailed discussion is presented in Paper #2 of this study (Hackler and Gault, 1980). Generally, society has been able to identify a fairly large group of people who are potentially dangerous. However, only a small percentage of that potentially dangerous group in fact commits serious violent crimes. As the Dangerous Offender Project in Columbus, Ohio pointed out (Van Dine, Conrad, and Dinitz, 1979), those who commit the

various serious crimes in any one particular year have only rarely committed very serious offences in the past, and the likelihood that they will commit very serious offences in the future is also rare. True, their potential is certainly higher than the average citizen, but those who have already committed very serious violent offences add only a small percentage to the serious violent offences to be committed in the future.

Parole board dilemmas in granting parole. The parole board is faced with specific decisions and specific predictions on individual offenders. Therefore, their researchers have been working on violent prediction devices to make more precise some of the common sense information that has been used to guide judgements in the past. For example, previous violent offences, and a history of escaping from prison increases the likelihood that the inmate would offend again in the future. On the other hand, being older, never having been in jail before, and being better educated is consistent with a lower potential for violence. Unfortunately, these prediction devices can only identify a group of high risk offenders. They cannot identify effectively the smaller segment within this population who are very likely to commit violent offences. Given the lack of an accurate crystal ball, what has the parole board done in the last five years? How many violent offenders do they release on parole compared to non-violent offenders?

Parole Board Decisions - 1975-1979

As of January 8, 1980 there were 9,237 inmates in federal institutions and 62% were serving sentences for crimes of violence. This percentage has been increasing in the last five years. In 1974 the proportion was 57%, in 1977 it was 61% (Appendix A, Footnote 4). We can probably expect the number to increase as non-violent offenders continue to receive more paroles and

shorter sentences than violent offenders.

If we look at the number of releases on parole for 1978-1979, are violent offenders released as frequently as non-violent offenders? That is, if 62% of the releases on parole were granted to those with violent offences, one might then argue that the parole board was not taking histories of violence into account. In fact, 49% of the releases went to those who committed violent offences and 51% went to those committing non-violent offences (Appendix B). It should also be noted that 29% of the releases went to those violent offenders convicted of robbery. None of the 54 dangerous sexual offenders and 5 dangerous offenders in prison during 1979 were released. Of the 985 who were in prison for murder, 32 were released (2%) and of the 191 in jail for attempted murder 16 were released (1%). Murderers made up 11% of the federal prison population but they received only 2% of the paroles in 1979 (Appendix B). One should also note the distinction between first degree and second degree (capital and non-capital) murderers.

Between 1975 and 1979 134 murderers were released on parole. Of these, 40 were convicted of first degree murder and 94 of second degree murder (Appendix C). In other words, there is little indication that the parole board has been releasing murderers and dangerous sexual offenders in a rather casual manner so that they can prey on an unsuspecting public. In fact, some could argue that the parole board has been overly cautious when one looks at data such as that produced by the Dangerous Offender Project (Van Dine, Conrad, and Dinitz, 1979).

The next logical question is to see if parolees committed many violent offences while on parole.

The Results of Parole

Readmission to penitentiary. In 1975 6,428 offenders were on parole.

During that year 390 failed (6%) and were readmitted to penitentiaries. Sixty-eight per cent of these readmissions were "with offence" while 32% were "without offence". The distinction between "with" and "without" offences may not always be clear, but one should note that approximately one-third of the cases were returned to prison without any necessary evidence that they had committed a crime. How many of these parolees were returned for violent offences? In 1975, 65 or 17% of the 390 failures were readmitted for violent offences (Appendix D).

Have things been getting worse? Have parolees been committing more offences? In 1978 there were 6,619 inmates on parole. Only 261 were readmitted to penitentiaries. Half of these failures were readmitted "with offences" and the other half "without". Note that a higher percentage had their paroles revoked "without an offence" in 1978 than in 1975. There seems to be no sign of a growing hesitancy on the part of parole officers to return a parolee to the penitentiary without having a new offence. (Parole failures due to the commission of a violent offence were approximately one-half of 1% of those on parole). Readmissions for violent offences in 1978 were down to 37 or 14% of all those readmitted.

Success rate of those completing parole. In 1975 67% successfully completed parole. Those who were on mandatory supervision had a success rate of 59% (Appendix E). Understandably those offenders who had been granted parole by the parole board might conceivably be a better risk group than those who had been denied parole but were released under mandatory supervision because of earned remission. However, these mandatory supervision cases, which were not granted parole, also completed supervision successfully in the majority of cases. By 1978 the success rate was 75% for those on normal parole and 62% for those on mandatory supervision.

Of those who did not complete parole successfully 11% had their parole revoked because of an offence and 14% without an offence. For those who had been on mandatory supervision 16% had the supervision revoked with an offence and 23% without. Again, there is no evidence that parole officers feel obliged to wait for some serious offence before revoking a parole, nor is there evidence that the parole board has been excessively soft.

Regional Differences. In general, the prairie provinces tend to be much like the rest of Canada, but it would be worth noting activities in the Atlantic provinces. It seems that more paroles are granted in the Atlantic provinces than in the rest of Canada (42% compared to 34% in 1978 and 56% compared to 40% in 1979) (Appendix F). A similar pattern seems to hold for day parole with the Atlantic provinces granting 76% of the applications in 1978 compared to 69% for the rest of Canada and 75% in 1979 compared to 62% for the rest of the population to the rest of Canada (Appendix F). In general, the Atlantic provinces tend to have a lower crime rate than the rest of Canada. Does this make it possible for the parole board to grant more paroles or is there a general atmosphere in the Maritimes that reflects a lesser fear of violent crime?²

Murderers on parole.³ We previously noted that 134 murderers had been released on parole in the last five years. Let us first turn to the 40 first degree murderers who were released; three were returned to the penitentiary (Appendix G). One was returned for breaking and entering and another for trafficking. The third was for a parole revocation.

Of the 94 second degree murderers who were released during this five year period, 9 were returned to the penitentiary (Appendix H). Four were returned for new offences of breaking and entering, trafficking and two for theft, three were returned for a technical violation. Although this five year period is fairly brief, these 134 murderers did not seem to be a uniquely dangerous

group compared to others. Excluding two persons who served 43 years prior to release on parole, the first degree murderers released during this five year period had served an average of 13 years (Appendix I). Those who had been serving for second degree murder were released after 9 years (Appendix J). These statistics do not support the accusation, often leveled at the parole board, that murderers are released without having served much time.

In summary, over 600 murderers were admitted to Canadian penitentiaries over the last five years. During that period 134 were released and obviously these individuals came primarily from an earlier population in prison. Those released had on the average served more than 9 years and their success rate on parole seemed to be comparable to that of other parolees. When they committed new offences they tended to be for non-violent crimes. Again, these data seem to be compatible with the Dangerous Offender Project. Murderers are part of this large pool of potentially dangerous offenders, but there is little indication that they are uniquely and excessively dangerous compared to other offenders. One could argue that the parole board was particularly insightful in selecting the 134 murderers for parole during the last five years. However, a more reasonable assumption is that the parole board, like everyone else, lacks the ability to predict very successfully. We have simply overstated the gains which can be achieved in terms of the protection of society by keeping murderers in jail for long periods of time. Instead of protecting society, are we paying an unnecessary cost by imprisoning such a high percentage of the offenders for a long time? Will recent legislation requiring longer periods of incarceration before murderers can be released on parole have a positive or a negative impact?⁴

Conclusion

There is no way that a parole board can diagnose future violence with any great degree of certainty. Therefore, it is clear that even a cautious strategy will result in failures. During the spring of 1979 Edmonton was the scene of several of those failures. All were clustered within a few days of each other. Two of those seven offenders were under mandatory supervision, a release over which the board has no control. One was on full parole, three had been granted day paroles, and the fifth was on temporary absence. Although the files of such offenders are not open to the public, it is our understanding that the backgrounds of these five offenders would not establish them as extremely high risks.

When one attempts to judge the achievements of the parole board, one has to compare the consequences of these decisions against other decisions in society that also lead to violent deaths. One must also weigh the consequences of having offenders serve long jail terms when many of them would be making a meaningful contribution in normal society. Why does society judge parole by different standards than other societal risks? When the Ford Motor company was tried for failing to modify gas tanks, knowing this would lead to deaths, they were acquitted. Many societal decisions involving oil rigs, mines, air bags in automobiles, the use of asbestos, etc. include calculated risks. A certain level of death and injury is accepted as a trade-off against other benefits. Policy makers should expect parole boards to assess these trade-offs rather than have these decisions dictated by the emotional climate of the public.

Looking at the past five years of activities, it is difficult to see where the parole board has been releasing dangerous offenders in an excessively casual manner. In fact, we would conclude that the parole board has been very

cautious. In the fourth paper in the series, we argue that shorter sentences coupled with a higher rate of conviction would be a superior strategy to longer sentences. More lenient parole decisions might work against family breakdown, despair, and commitment to crime as a career and in general have long term consequences for violent crime. Public sentiment is not in keeping with such a strategy, however, because the risk of crime in the immediate future would be increased by more earlier parole and shorter sentences.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 We would like to thank the National Parole Board Research and Evaluation Section for the basic data used in this section. However, interpretations are our own.
- 2 Of the federal inmates serving time in the Maritimes, 56% were in for crimes of violence compared with 62% in the rest of Canada. Hence, the higher parole rate may be reflected in the lower frequency of severe crimes. We would need to look at the paroles granted by each offence for the different regions to see if parole is different by area.
- 3 Killers of policemen or prison guards were capital murderers. First degree murders involves intent. We have equated the two categories although they are somewhat different.
- 4 Bill C-51 requires that first degree murderers must wait 25 years before they can be considered for parole. Second degree murderers must wait from 10-25 years before being considered with this time being set by the judge.

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Appendix A

Federal Inmates Serving a Major Offence of Violence (number and percentages)
by Region and All Canada as of January 8, 1980¹

	<u>ATLANTIC</u>		<u>QUEBEC</u>		<u>ONTARIO</u>		<u>PRAIRIES</u>		<u>PACIFIC</u>		<u>ALL CANADA</u> ²	
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
1. <u>TOTAL NUMBER</u> <u>OF INMATES</u>	879	9.5	2815	30.5	2320	25.1	1790	19.4	1311	14.2	9237	100.0
2. <u>MAJOR OFFENCES OF</u> <u>VIOLENCE</u> ³												
(Number and percent- age of regional total)												
Murder	93	10.6	280	10.0	256	11.0	182	10.2	177	13.5	995	10.8
Attempted Murder	15	1.7	61	2.2	42	1.8	36	2.0	35	2.7	191	2.1
Manslaughter	38	4.3	183	6.5	156	6.7	108	6.0	44	3.4	540	5.9
Rape	48	5.5	87	3.1	115	5.0	128	7.2	91	6.9	471	5.1
Other Sex	29	3.3	27	1.0	54	2.3	43	2.4	40	3.1	193	2.1
Wounding	12	1.4	31	1.1	49	2.1	50	2.8	17	1.3	162	1.8
Assault	22	2.5	10	0.4	40	1.7	28	1.6	17	1.3	121	1.3
Robbery	213	24.2	1178	41.9	634	27.3	441	24.6	277	21.1	2762	29.9
Kidnapping	4	0.5	58	2.1	27	1.2	34	1.9	19	1.5	144	1.6
Offensive Weapon	19	2.2	25	0.9	33	1.4	24	1.3	14	1.1	117	1.3
Dangerous Sexual												
Offenders	2	0.2	5	0.2	17	0.7	6	0.3	24	1.8	54	0.6
Dangerous Offenders	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.2	1	0.1	0	0.0	5	0.1
TOTAL	495	56.3	1945	69.1	1427	61.5	1081	60.4	755	57.6	5755	62.3 ⁴

(Continued)

Appendix A (Continued)

1. Profile totals reflect a period of about 6 to 8 weeks prior to the date stated owing to delays in processing the figures.
2. All Canada totals also include the 122 Federal inmates who are serving their sentence in a provincial institution by virtue of the Federal/Provincial Agreement. A breakdown of these inmates indicate that 52 out of the 122 or 42.6% are serving a sentence for a violent offence. This includes 7 for Murder, 2 Attempted Murder, 11 Manslaughte 2 Rape, 3 Wounding, 4 Assault, 19 Robbery, 2 Kidnapping, and 2 for Offensive Weapons.
3. Major Offence is the offence for which the inmate was convicted for the term. If there is more than one offence, the major offence is the one for which the longest sentence was awarded. If more than one offence was awarded this same sentence, the major offence is the most serious one, as measured by the maximum penalty allowed by law. If more than one offence carries the same maximum penalty, the major offence is the first of these listed on the Warrant of Committal. The major offences of "violence" are those designated as such by Operational Information Services, CSC.
4. This represents a significant increase in the number of Federal offenders serving a sentence for a major offence of violence in the last six years. In 1974, the proportion of violent offenders was 4895/8546 or 57.3 per cent; in 1977 it was 5675/9240 or 61.3 per cent.

SOURCE: Derived from the Population Profile, Operational Information Services, CSC.

PREPARED BY: Research and Evaluation Section, National Parole Board, March 17, 1980

Appendix B

Releases on Parole For Fiscal Year 1978-79 by Major* Offence Type
For Federal Inmates

** Murder - 32 or 1.9%
** Attempted Murder - 16 or 0.9%
** Manslaughter - 95 or 5.6%
** Rape - 93 or 5.4%
** Other Sexual Offences - 30 or 1.8%
** Kidnapping and Abduction - 16 or 0.9%
** Wounding - 25 or 1.5%
** Assault - 15 or 0.8%
** Robbery - 499 or 29.2%
** Offensive Weapons - 14 or 0.7%
Prison Breach - 4 or 0.2%
Break and Entry - 249 or 14.6%
Theft - 61 or 3.6%
Possession of Stolen Goods - 40 or 2.3%
Fraud - 57 or 3.3%
Criminal Negligence - 8 or 0.5%
** Dangerous Sex Offender - 0
Habitual Criminal - 0
** Dangerous Offender - 0
Other Criminal Code - 85 or 5.0%
Narcotics - 343 or 20.0%
Food and Drug - 23 or 1.3%
Other Statutes - 6 or 0.4%
Number of releases by Violent Offences - 835 or 48.8%
Number of releases by Non-Violent Offences - 876 or 51.2%

TOTAL - 1711 or 100%

(Continued)

Appendix B (Continued)

* Major Offence is the offence for which the inmate was convicted for the term. If there is more than one offence, the major offence is the one for which the longest sentence was awarded. If more than one offence was awarded this same sentence, the major offence is the most serious one, as measured by the maximum penalty allowed by law. If more than one offence carries the same maximum penalty, the major offence is the first of these listed on the Warrant of Committal.

** Designated as a "violent" offence by Operational Information Services, CSC.

SOURCE: Inmate Record System

PREPARED BY: Research and Evaluation Section, National Parole Board,
March 10, 1980

Appendix C

Statistics on Murderers Released on Parole

How many capital and non-capital murderers were released on parole over the past 5 years?

Capital & Non-Capital Murderers Released on Parole
1975-1979*

YEAR	CAPITAL	NON-CAPITAL	TOTAL
1975	4	5	9
1976	11	20	31
1977	12	16	28
1978	6	27	33
1979	7	26	33
Total	40	94	134

* As of November 1979

SOURCE: OIS - Inmate Records System

PREPARED BY: Research and Evaluation Section
National Parole Board
December 27, 1979

Over the five year period 1975-1979, 134 capital and non-capital murderers were paroled.

Appendix D

Federal Parolees Re-Admitted to Penitentiary for Technical Violations, Indictable and Violent Offences
Number and Percentage and Number on Parole 1975-78

YEAR	NUMBER ON PAROLE	Re-admitted to Penitentiary				PROPORTION OF RE-ADMISSIONS THAT WERE FOR VIOLENT OFFENCES	
		With Offence		Without Off.		Total	
		#	%	#	%		
1975	6428	265	67.9	125	32.1	390	65
1976	5694	236	66.9	117	33.1	353	59
1977	5999	169	57.7	124	42.3	293	36
1978	6618	131	50.2	130	49.8	261	37
% Change 78/75	+3.0	-50.6	-26.1	+4.0	+55.1	-33.1	-43.0

SOURCE: OIS - Inmate Record System

PREPARED BY: Research and Evaluation Section, National Parole Board, October 1979

Appendix E

Federal Parole and Mandatory Supervision Number Terminating and Number and Percentage Completing Successfully 1975-78

YEAR	PAROLE			MANDATORY SUPERVISION		
	Total * Terminated	Completed Successfully		Total * Terminated	Completed Successfully	
		#	%		#	%
1975	1358	912	67.2	2281	1338	58.7
1976	1217	851	69.9	2460	1319	53.6
1977	1020	722	70.8	2613	1456	55.7
1978	1090	814	74.7	2644	1631	61.7
Average	1171	825	70.7**	2500	1436	57.4

* Total Terminated excludes cases terminated by death or otherwise. For the years 1975 to 1978, 155 cases were excluded from parole terminations and 326 cases were excluded from mandatory supervision terminations.

** The average success rate for provincial parole was 81.4% and for all parole releases 76.5%

SOURCE: NPSIS

PREPARED BY: Research and Evaluation Section, National Parole Board, October 1979

Appendix F

Federal Full Parole and Day Parole Number and Percentage Granted* by
Region 1978 & 1979

REGION	APPLICATION FOR FULL PAROLE				APPLICATION FOR DAY PAROLE			
	1978		1979		1978		1979	
	No. of Applic.	% Granted	No. of Applic.	% Granted	No. of Applic.	% Granted	No. of Applic.	% Granted
Canada	1630	34.3	1617	40.4	2713	68.9	2613	61.5
Pacific	169	22.8	169	32.7	308	54.5	337	53.2
Prairies	273	37.6	226	36.2	552	68.1	491	53.9
Ontario	321	28.1	370	37.0	464	55.4	540	55.6
Quebec	630	40.0	605	42.6	1053	82.2	877	69.7
Atlantic	237	41.7	247	56.3	336	75.5	368	73.5

* Grant rates for day parole are calculated on total applications and full parole on total eligible.

SOURCE: Statistics re: Selected Parole Decisions and Mandatory Supervision Releases

PREPARED BY: Research & Evaluation Section, National Parole Board,
March 20, 1980

Appendix G

How many of the capital murderers released from 1975 to 1979 returned to
a federal penitentiary?

Follow-up of Capital Murderers
Released from 1975-1979*

Number Released	40
Number Returned	3
Number Returned for a new offence **	2

* As of November 1979

** These parolees were returned to the penitentiary for new offences of Break and Enter and Trafficking

SOURCE: OIS Inmate Record System

PREPARED BY: Research and Evaluation Section
National Parole Board
December 27, 1979

Of the 40 capital murderers released over the period January 1974 to November 1979, three have been returned to the penitentiary. Two were returned for new offences of Break and Enter and Trafficking and 1 for parole revocation.

Appendix H

How many of the non-capital murderers released from 1975-1979 returned to a federal penitentiary?

Follow-up of Non-Capital Murderers
Released from 1975-1979 *

Number Released	94
Number Returned	9
Number Returned for a new offence **	4

* As of November 1979

** These parolees were returned to the penitentiary for new offences of Break and Enter, Trafficking and 2 Theft.

SOURCE: OIS - Inmate Record System

PREPARED BY: Research and Evaluation Section
National Parole Board
December 27, 1979

Of the 94 non-capital murderers released over the period January 1975 to November 1979, 9 were returned to the penitentiary. Four were returned for new offences of Break and Enter, Trafficking and 2 for Theft. Three were returned for a technical violation.

Appendix I

How long do capital murderers serve in a penitentiary before they are released on parole?

Time Served Before Release on Parole by Capital Murderers Admitted by
Warrant of Committal and Parole Revocation, 1975 - 1979 *

YEAR OF RELEASE	TIME SERVED					
	ADMITTED BY					
	Warrant of Committal		Parole Revocation		Total	
	# Released	Aver. Time	# Released	Aver. Time	# Released	Aver. Time
1975	4	19.6	-	-	4	19.6
1976**	10	13.8	-	-	10	13.8
1977	9	12.5	3	9.0	12	11.7
1978***	5	12.0	-	-	5	12.0
1979	5	13.8	2	7.1	7	11.9
TOTAL****	33	13.9	5	8.3	38	13.2

* As of November 1979

** Excludes 1 person who served 43.4 years. If this person were included the average time served would have been 16.5 years.

*** Excludes 1 person who served 43.4 years. If this person were included the average time served would have been 17.3 years.

**** Excludes 2 persons who served 43.4 years prior to release on parole. If these persons were included the adjusted time served would be 15.6 years and 35 releases.

SOURCE: OIS - Inmate Records Systems

PREPARED BY: Research and Evaluation Section, National Parole Board, December 27, 1979.

For capital murder, 38 inmates served an average of 13.3 years. This average excludes 2 inmates who remained in the penitentiary for 43.4 years.

Inmates released on first parole served an average of 13.9 years, with the exception of the cases previously mentioned. Those admitted on parole revocation served an average of 8.3 years prior to re-release on parole.

Appendix J

How long do non-capital murderers serve in a penitentiary
before they are released on parole?

Time Served Before Release on Parole by Non-Capital Murderers Admitted
by Warrant of Committal and Parole Revocation, 1975 - 1979 *

YEAR OF RELEASE	TIME SERVED					
	ADMITTED BY					
	Warrant of Committal		Parole Revocation		Total	
	# Released	Aver. Time	# Released	Aver. Time	# Released	Aver. Time
1975	4	9.3	1	6.1	5	8.6
1976	20	10.3	1	4.3	21	10.1
1977	13	9.9	3	5.4	16	9.0
1978	19	11.1	7	4.6	26	9.3
1979**	24	10.5	1	8.1	25	10.4
TOTAL	80	10.4	13	5.1	93	9.3

* As of November 1979

** One inmate admitted on transfer from the U.S.A. has been excluded.

SOURCE: OIS - Inmate Records System

PREPARED BY: Research and Evaluation Section, National Parole Board, December 27, 1979

During the periods January 1975 - November 1979, 93 non-capital murderers were released after serving an average of 9.3 years.

Those released on first parole served an average of 10.4 years. Inmates admitted on parole revocation remained in the penitentiary an average of 5.1 years before being granted another parole.

END