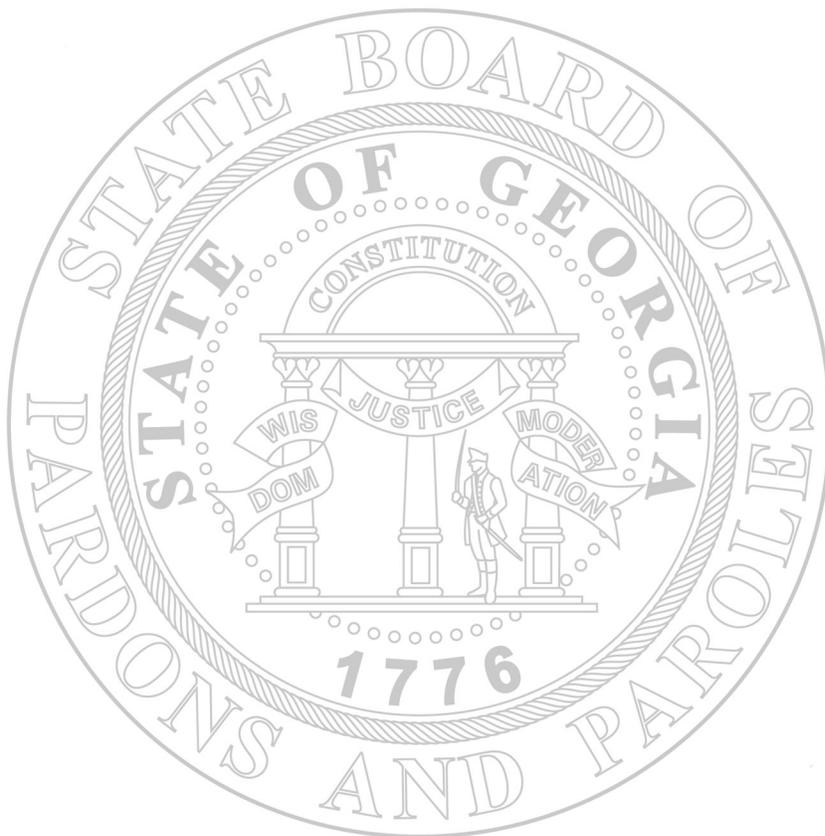


*Annual
Report*

State Board of Pardons and Paroles



FY03

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Chairman's message

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Governor
Members of the General Assembly
Citizens of the State of Georgia



It is with pleasure and pride that I report the Parole Board's activities for FY03, a year marked by significant accomplishments despite the budget reductions which affected all government agencies. After completing our self-initiated operational audit which we began at the close of the previous fiscal year, a streamlined agency emerged, allowing us to more effectively direct our resources to our critical mission of protecting Georgia's communities.

I am extremely proud of two FY03 achievements which not only enhance public safety but also public information on parole operations and criminal information. The "Know Thy Neighbor" Web site allows citizens to locate the residences and descriptive data of any Georgia parolee living in the state, with the ability to search specifically for those parolees in their neighborhoods. The public database was then tailored for law enforcement officials anywhere in the state to enter a password to access valuable information on parole releases from prison within the prior month. First, these services illustrate our agency's belief that citizens have a right to know how their government operates. Second, the Parole Board has a sense of responsibility to provide fellow law enforcement agencies with the necessary tools to fight crime.

We realize that such alliances with the community can only be built on a base of trust and open communication. Our agency places great emphasis on the expansion of partnerships with other public safety organizations, whether through the technology of shared databases, local task forces, or major statewide collaborations such as the Reentry Initiative. Now gaining importance in our crime-prevention strategy is the active recruitment of citizen volunteers, acting independently or as members of civic or faith-based organizations, who want to have a direct impact on their community's safety by working with the Parole Board to assist offenders making the transition from prison to the community.

Partnerships, openness, and accountability were our driving forces for FY03, and, with momentum from the year, we pledge even more results for FY04.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Milton E. Nix, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Milton E. "Buddy" Nix, Jr.

Executive summary

The State Board of Pardons and Paroles is a five-member board with constitutional power of executive clemency in Georgia. The Board regulates released offenders and carefully reintegrates them into the community under strict supervision. The Board works closely with the Department of Corrections to manage prison bed space and to ensure hard prison beds are dedicated to the offenders who have committed the most serious crimes. Through its careful release decisions and effective community supervision, the Parole Board has an enormous and lasting effect on public safety in Georgia.

Parole's intense focus on the safe reentry of offenders costs the state less than three dollars per day, per offender. Compared with the daily costs of \$47 to keep one offender locked in a prison cell, the State of Georgia cannot afford to ignore the financial benefits of parole. Most important, however, is the public-safety benefit of Georgia's offender population reentering society as clean, sober, employable, and law-abiding citizens.

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.

Parole Board Members

In February 1943 the Georgia General Assembly enacted legislation to create the State Board of Pardons and Paroles as an independent agency to administer executive clemency. In August of the same year, voters ratified an amendment to the State Constitution establishing the Board's authority to grant paroles, pardons, reprieves, the ability to commute sentences (including death sentences), to remit sentences, and to remove disabilities imposed by law.

The Constitution provided that the Governor would appoint Board members to serve seven-year terms, subject to confirmation by the State Senate. At the time, the Board had only three members. In 1973, the Constitution was further amended to expand the Board to include five members, as it does today.

The Parole Board is made up of five individuals with a variety of backgrounds in public policy, criminal justice, and public safety.

Chairman Milton E. Nix, Jr. was appointed by Governor Roy Barnes in June 2002 to fill an interim term and, in the first ever bipartisan Board appointment, by outgoing Governor Roy Barnes and incoming Governor Sonny Perdue, was reappointed in December 2002. Chairman Nix began his law-enforcement career in 1964 with the U.S. Air Force, serving as a captain in U.S. and Vietnam assignments. In 1970 he joined the FBI as a Special Agent and later became a Supervisory Special Agent where his assignments included management of the Criminal Informant/Witness Security Program and supervision of an international terrorism section. In 1993 the Commerce, Georgia native and current Conyers resident was appointed by Governor Zell Miller to Director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, a position to which he was reappointed by Governor Barnes in 1999. He brings to the Board a vast breadth and depth of law-enforcement expertise and an unbroken track record of success in using that knowledge to improve public safety.



Chairman Milton E. "Buddy" Nix, Jr.
appointed June 13, 2002
reappointed December 31, 2002

Board Members

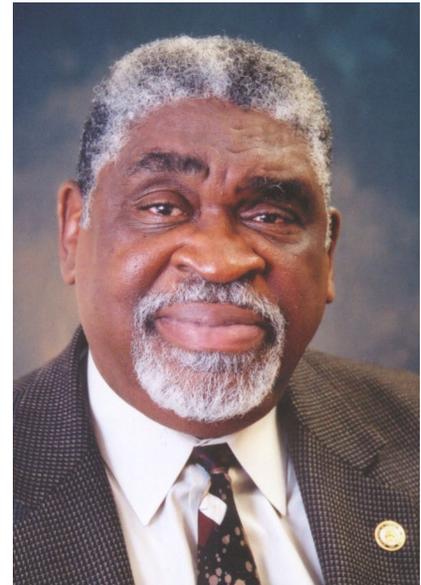
Garfield Hammonds, Jr., of Atlanta, appointed in 1995 and reappointed in 2002, has devoted his career to law enforcement since 1969 when he joined the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency as a Special Agent working undercover in Detroit and New York. He quickly advanced to supervisory positions, including Country Attache in Jamaica, and subsequently became the Special Agent in Charge of the Southeast Region, from which he later retired so he could remain in Georgia. Shortly afterward, Governor Miller appointed him to the Parole Board. While a DEA leader, his concern about youth at risk for drug addiction and criminality led him to implement an award-winning prevention program. His tough stance on criminals, his expert knowledge of the impact of drugs, and his dedication to divert youth from crime add impetus to the agency goals of public safety.

Garfield Hammonds, Jr.
appointed January 10, 1995
reappointed January 1, 2002



Dr. Eugene Walker from DeKalb County was appointed to the Board by Governor Roy Barnes in May 1999 and reappointed to a full seven-year term in December 1999. His distinguished educational background includes a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship and Ph.D. in History from Duke University. He was a professor of history at Clark College and a vice president at DeKalb College before advancing to other administrative positions with the DeKalb County school system. Elected to the State Senate in 1984, Dr. Walker served until 1992 as a member of several committees and as Majority Whip. In January 1995 Governor Zell Miller named him the Commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice. His experience in working with juveniles both in the educational and judicial settings accelerates the Board's mission to prevent crime by breaking the generational cycle of crime.

Dr. Eugene Walker
appointed May 6, 1999
reappointed December 31, 1999



Board Members

J. Michael Light, a native Atlantan, was appointed to the Parole Board by Governor Roy Barnes in July 2002, 22 years after joining the agency as a parole officer in 1980. During the interim, he rose to positions of chief parole officer, research manager, and public information director for the Parole Board and later for the Department of Corrections. He then served as executive assistant to the Commissioner of Corrections, responsible for the agency's planning and research functions, legislative liaison, and oversight of public information and victims' services. He brings to the parole panel vast research and experience-based knowledge of Georgia's prison and parole system and a record of accomplishments confirming his skills and vision in improving that system. Integral to his public service is a long-established commitment to making the criminal justice system more understandable and accountable to the public.

J. Michael Light
appointed July 3, 2002



Dr. Betty Ann Cook was appointed to the Board in January 1997, twenty-five years after she began her career as a criminal justice instructor at Morris Brown College. She rose to academic leadership positions at the Atlanta University Center and Chicago-based Argonne National Laboratory and the Opinion Research Center. In 1995 Governor Miller appointed her as Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Natural Resources and later that year as Director of the State Office of Highway Safety. Dr. Cook is a nationally recognized researcher and author on topics including criminal justice and women's issues. She has won numerous awards for community activism, a tradition she continues by meeting frequently with church, civic, and victims' groups. Dr. Cook was a valued member of the Parole Board throughout FY03. Her term expired on December 31, 2003.

Dr. Betty Ann Cook
appointed January 7, 1997
term expired December 31, 2003



Board Members



Garland R. Hunt, Esq.
appointed January 23, 2004

Shown above with his wife Eileen, Mr. Hunt is congratulated by Governor Perdue after the swearing-in ceremonies held at the State Capitol. In February Board members elected Mr. Hunt as their vice-chairman.

On January 23, 2004, Garland R. Hunt, Esq. was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue to the five-member Parole Board. Mr. Hunt attended undergraduate and law school at Howard University in Washington, D.C, and was a staff attorney for the United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit before moving to Atlanta. Since 1983, Mr. Hunt has been a member of the Georgia Bar Association. Prior to his service on the Parole Board, Mr. Hunt owned a consulting company, Hunt Consulting, and served as General Counsel and Executive Vice-President for the Fellowship of International Churches (FOIC) in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Hunt serves on the Board of Directors for the National Teen Pact and is a Bishop of the Fellowship of International Churches. Mr. Hunt brings to the Parole Board experience and knowledge in both the judicial and human behavior fields. His active community involvement furthers the Board's goals of informing citizens about parole's work and enlisting their aid in the agency's crime-prevention strategies.

Board organization

At the close of FY03 the State Board of Pardons and Paroles was organized into the four primary divisions of Clemency, Field Operations, Community Based Services and Administrative Services. These divisions reported to the Director of Parole. Additional support offices, including Legal Services, Victim Advocacy, Public Information, Legislative Services, and Special Operations and Investigations report directly to the Board members. Shortly after the close of FY03, the Community Based Services Division and the Special Operations Unit were eliminated as part of the agency's reorganization for efficiency and cost-savings.

The [Director of Parole](#) oversees the day-to-day operations of the agency.

The [Clemency Division](#) determines inmate eligibility for parole, reviews cases and makes recommendations to Board members on parole decisions. This Division also processes pardon requests and maintains inmate records.

The [Field Operations Division](#) employs parole officers and field staff responsible for the daily supervision of more than 22,000 parolees in Georgia.

The [Administrative Services Division](#) handles the functions of personnel, training, budget/fiscal, computer services, criminal justice research and operational audits.

The [Legal Services Office](#) reviews agency policy and procedure, and handles all legal matters for the Board.

The [Victim Advocacy Office](#) provides Georgia crime victims with direct and confidential access to parole decisions.

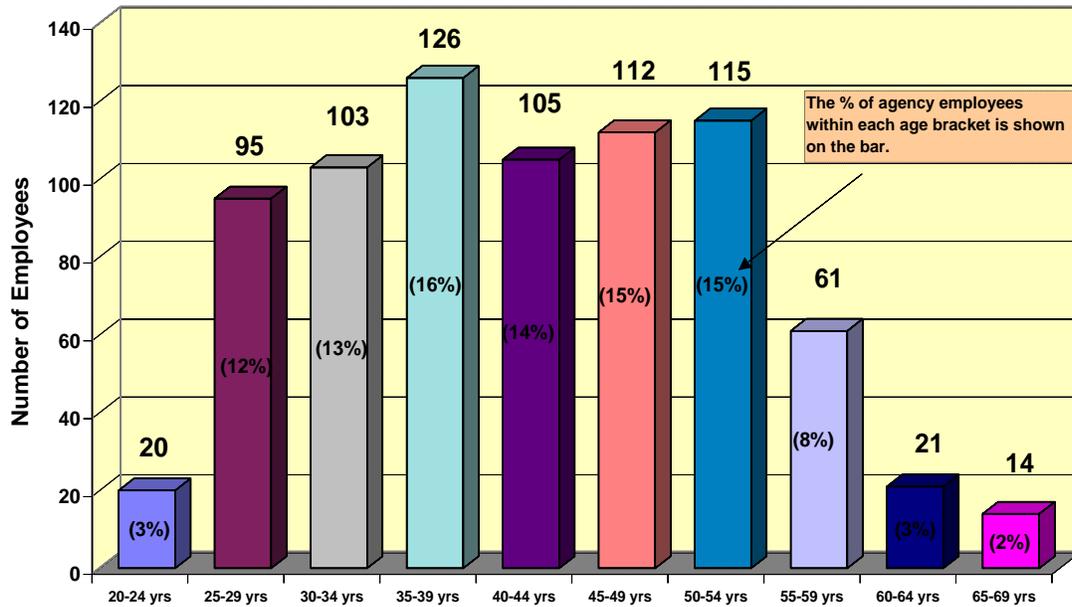
The [Public Information Office](#) manages the Board's media relations and general information publications, videos, or Web site content.

The [Internal Affairs Office](#) handles internal investigations and security for Board members and Board events.

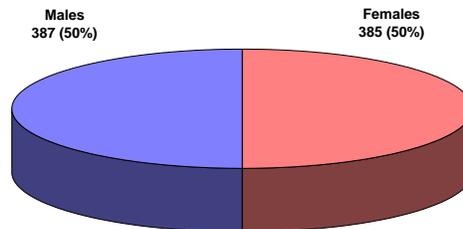
The [Executive Assistant/Legislative Liaison](#) is the Board's primary contact with the Georgia Legislature and assists with special agency projects.

Agency demographics

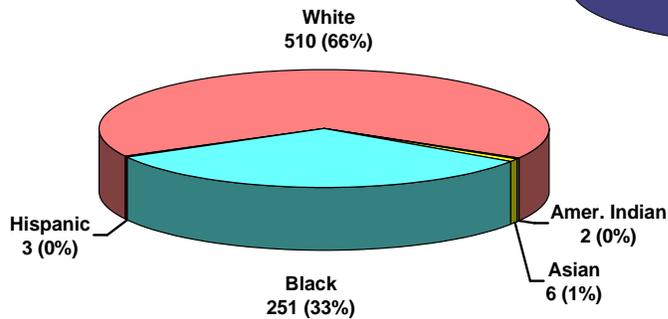
Agency Employees by Age
Employee Total = 772



Agency Employees by Gender
Employee Total = 772



Agency Employees by Race
Employee Total = 772



FY03 agency highlights

PAROLEE DATABASE WEB SITE: The Parole Board launched the “Know Thy Neighbor” Web site database in March 2003, allowing Georgia citizens to learn if parolees live in their neighborhoods. The Web site is a result of legislation introduced by Senate President Pro Tempore Eric Johnson, which passed in the Georgia Legislature in 1997. It allows users to search by zip code, a parolee’s name, or prison ID number to find parolees living throughout Georgia. Once found, the parolee’s record includes a link to the parolee’s photograph, home address, physical description, beginning and ending parole date, and most serious offense. If the parolee has absconded from supervision, the record notes the absconder with a “wanted” sign, and lists the parole office phone number for tips on the individual’s whereabouts. The database is kept current by a daily upload of new information from parole officer laptops around the state. The “Know Thy Neighbor” Web site has recorded more than six million hits since its implementation.

The Georgia Parole Board received a Governor’s Public Safety Award in 2003 for its “Know Thy Neighbor” Web site. Shown at left with Governor Perdue is the team responsible for its design and implementation: (left to right, Tony Mazza, Karen Bowers and Bob Eady).



PAROLE CONTACT REGISTRY WEB SITE: During FY03 the Parole Board began posting on its Web site the names of people contacting the Board to advocate parole or a pardon for a particular inmate. The public can now view a record of clemency contacts to the Board whether by phone, personal visit, or written correspondence. The Board is required by law to keep such contacts on file for public record. Contacts made prior to the launching of the Parole Contact Registry Web site are accessible by request.

FY03 agency highlights

THE OFFENDER REENTRY INITIATIVE: At the beginning of FY03 the State of Georgia was awarded a two-million dollar federal grant to develop and implement reentry programs assisting offenders released from prison. This substantial federal funding reflects the growing understanding of national policy leaders that community transitional support is critical to crime prevention. As part of Georgia's Reentry Steering Committee during FY03, the Parole Board worked with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and other public safety agencies to develop a plan for the Reentry Initiative grant money. The cities of Albany, Savannah, Augusta, and Macon were selected as sites. See more about the Savannah program and the Reentry Initiative on page 37.

AGENCY REORGANIZATION: All divisions and operations of the agency were audited during FY2003 to eliminate duplication of functions and to maximize agency resources. This major initiative had begun at the close of FY02, giving the agency a head start on ways to comply with the mandated budget reductions for all state agencies in FY03. The Parole Board's reorganization resulted in the elimination of the Community Based Services Division as well as the Special Investigations Unit. The most essential functions of these units were assigned to other staff members. The Parole Board abolished several headquarters' managerial positions in FY03 in order to channel those resources toward front-line community supervision positions. All totaled, the Board saved \$1,393,966 through its reorganization.

MORE RESTRICTIONS ON SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS: Passed in 2003, legislation introduced by Senator David Adelman prohibits sexually violent predators from residing within 1,000 feet of locations where minors congregate. Parole's sex offender supervision was further enhanced by training provided by the Center for Sex Offender Management, funded by a National Institute of Corrections grant, and by the introduction of hand-held global positioning system devices, paid for with DEA asset forfeiture funds. The GPS devices measure the distance between the sex offender's residence and "places where children congregate" as required by law.

FY03 agency highlights

REDUCED FEES FOR ELECTRONIC MONITORING: In July 2003 the agency awarded its electronic monitoring contract to ADT Security Services at a cost of \$2.80 per parolee per day, all expenses borne by the parolees requiring its use. Formerly, these charges were affixed on a sliding scale from \$7.00 to \$9.00 per day, an amount which the Parole Board had found to be unrealistic for its targeted population.

RE-ACCREDITATION: Scoring 99.5% out of a possible 100%, the Field Operations Division was once again accredited by the American Correctional Association, Commission on Accreditation, for a fourth cycle of three years. Field Operations has remained under continuous accreditation since its first application in 1994.

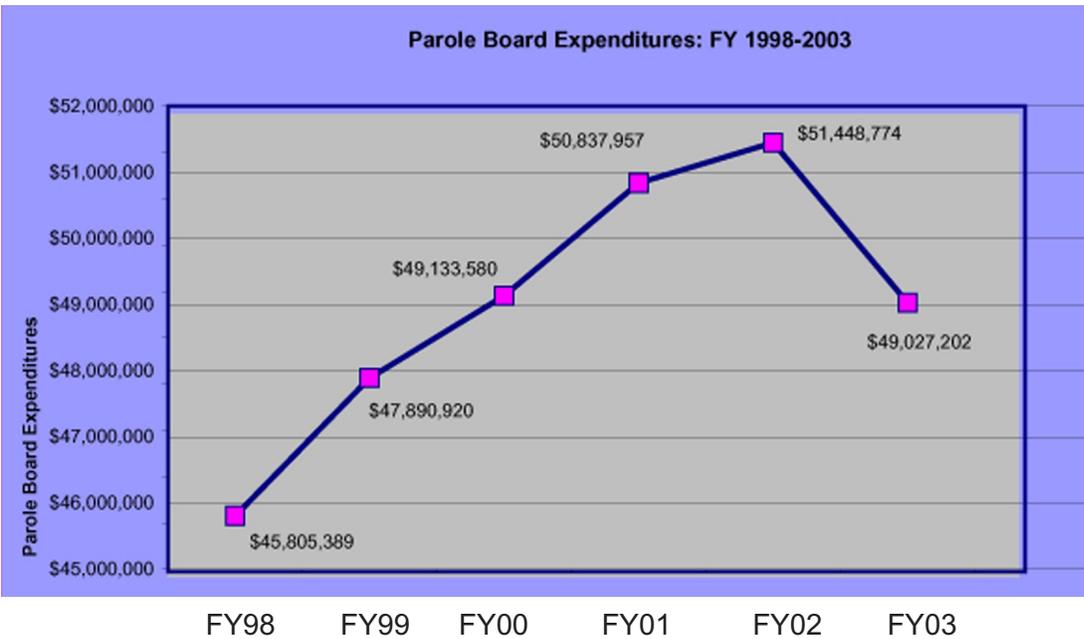
TRANSFER FEE: Legislation passed in 2003 allows the Parole Board and the Department of Corrections to collect a \$25.00 application fee from any non-indigent probationer, parolee, or inmate wishing to have their supervision transferred to another state. This legislation, pushed by Representative Curtis Jenkins, is expected to generate approximately \$120,000 per year for deposit to the state's general fund.

TAPE TO DIGITAL: Field Operations officers moved from tape to digital recordings of final hearings on parole violators, easing storage and retrieval space and time. Other advances include the automation of discharge papers, which formerly were typed, as well as other internal documentation on parolee cases.

VIRTUAL OFFICES: The agency's six regional directors as well as several other field administrators began their move to "virtual offices," which is expected to save the state nearly \$150,000 annually. Equipped with mobile phones, laptops containing comprehensive databases on all parole functions, and access to parole offices, directors can work efficiently while remaining completely accessible to field offices in their area. Other real estate savings will be realized as the agency merges field offices and schedules staff to share space by alternating office days.

Budget cuts

Like all state agencies, the Parole Board’s appropriated FY03 funds were reduced and further restrictions for 2004 and 2005 budgets were targeted. The Board’s actual expenditures for FY03 totaled \$49,027,202, which is a \$2.4 million reduction from FY02. To reduce spending for the year, the agency cut operating costs in several areas such as motor vehicle purchases, real estate rentals and county jail subsidies. However, due to the agency’s relatively small size, its most significant expenditure and therefore its greatest source of savings was in the area of personal services. Those reductions were generated through several methods, including attrition as employees resigned or retired. The Board also terminated all but two part-time hourly employees. The agency eliminated the Community Based Services Division and the Special Operations Unit and distributed the critical functions of these units among other staff. During FY03 the Board also temporarily held several high level managerial positions vacant to generate savings. The agency directed its available personal service funds to positions considered critical and essential to the agency’s mission of effective parolee selection and community supervision.



Agency expenditures FY03

PERSONAL SERVICES

Salaries	29,927,720
Temporary Labor	200,946
Overtime	15,910
Fringe Benefits	9,311,789
Personal Liability	0
Unemployment Insurance	29,610
Workers Compensation	422,154
Merit System Assessments	124,362
Drug Testing Services	3,597
TOTAL	40,036,088

REGULAR OPERATING

Motor Vehicle Expenses	365,748
Publications and Printing	25,389
Supplies and Materials	648,753
Repairs and Maintenance	114,330
Equipment Purchases < \$1,000	156,837
Water & Sewage	11,467
Energy	192,744
Rents - other than Real Estate	8,650
Insurance and Bonding	64,811
Freight	3,560
Other Operating Expenses	138,746
TOTAL	1,731,035

OTHER

Travel	356,436
Motor Vehicle Purchases	0
Equipment Purchases	296,682
Computer Charges	621,477
Real Estate Rentals	3,016,034
Telecommunications	1,080,496
Per Diem and Fees	523,282
Contracts	740,661
Health Services Purchases	7,520
County Jail Subsidy for Parolees	617,491

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$49,027,202**

Georgia's correctional population soars

Georgia's prison population is the sixth-largest in the U.S., with more than 49,000 offenders sentenced to state incarceration at the close of FY03. Based on current sentencing practices, Georgia's Department of Corrections projects the prison population will increase to unprecedented levels over the next five years.

The chart below shows the number of offenders by crime type in each of the three custody categories. To the right of each total is the translation of that figure to a percentage of the state's overall total for that crime type. For example, the 3,428 violent offenders on parole represent only 8% of the violent offenders in state custody.

GEORGIA'S CORRECTIONAL POPULATION: FY2003							
CRIME TYPE*	PROBATION		INMATE		PAROLE		TOTAL
Violent Offense	17,566	42%	21,118	50%	3,428	8%	42,112
Sex Offense	5,445	45%	6,338	53%	192	2%	11,975
Property	46,739	73%	10,124	16%	6,846	11%	63,709
Drug Sales	9,104	52%	3,725	21%	4,727	27%	17,556
Drug Possession	33,938	82%	3,428	8%	4,262	10%	41,628
Habitual Violator / D.U.I.	3,445	80%	352	8%	509	12%	4,306
Other	9,506	72%	2,129	16%	1,655	12%	13,290
TOTAL	125,743		47,214		21,619		194,576
% of STATE TOTAL	65%		24%		11%		100%
* Percentages represent the offenders in each Crime Type category.							

The inmate population above does not include the 2,000-plus inmates in county jails awaiting transfer into state prisons. The parolee population does not include 589 offenders sentenced in other states but now living in Georgia and supervised by the Georgia Parole Board. The probation population represents state probationers only, including those serving in detention and diversion centers, and in boot camp facilities.

Source: Office of Criminal Justice Research, State Board of Pardons and Paroles
OTIS 6/30/2003

Interstate supervision of parolees

Georgia may request the transfer of a Georgia-sentenced parolee to the supervision of another state for legitimate, verifiable reasons. Primarily, this is for the offender to return to the original residence or family, particularly if that environment appears conducive to the parolee's successful rehabilitation. For the same reasons, Georgia agrees to supervise approved parolees transferred from other states. An interstate compact sets out the conditions for supervision of transferred offenders, including procedures to handle parole violations and extradition of parole violators. Out-of-state parolees must obey the parole conditions of the sentencing state as well as the state accepting their supervision. Last year a new interstate compact was formed which will provide more standardized practices and accountability among member states. Under the new provisions each state is required to form a State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, composed of representatives from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, as well as a victim advocate and the state's compact administrator. These Councils form the National Commission, which meets annually to establish and oversee compliance of interstate procedures. Atlanta will host the National Commission assembly in October 2004.

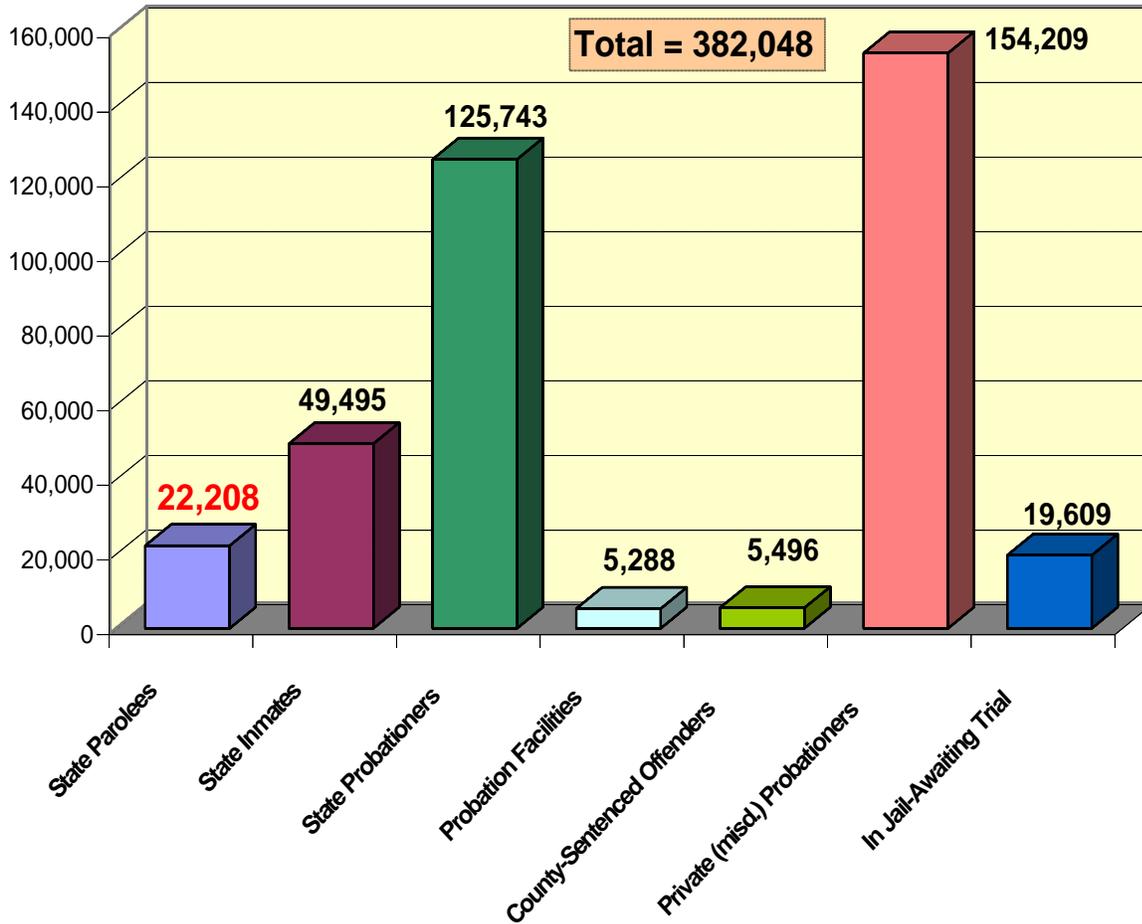
Out-of-state parolees supervised by Georgia 589

Georgia parolees supervised by other states 1,319

Georgia's full correctional picture

Georgia's offender population includes not only those in state prisons or under state adult probation or parole authority, but also more than 150,000 misdemeanants. By Georgia law, misdemeanants serve their probation with private probation authorities contracted by county or city governments.

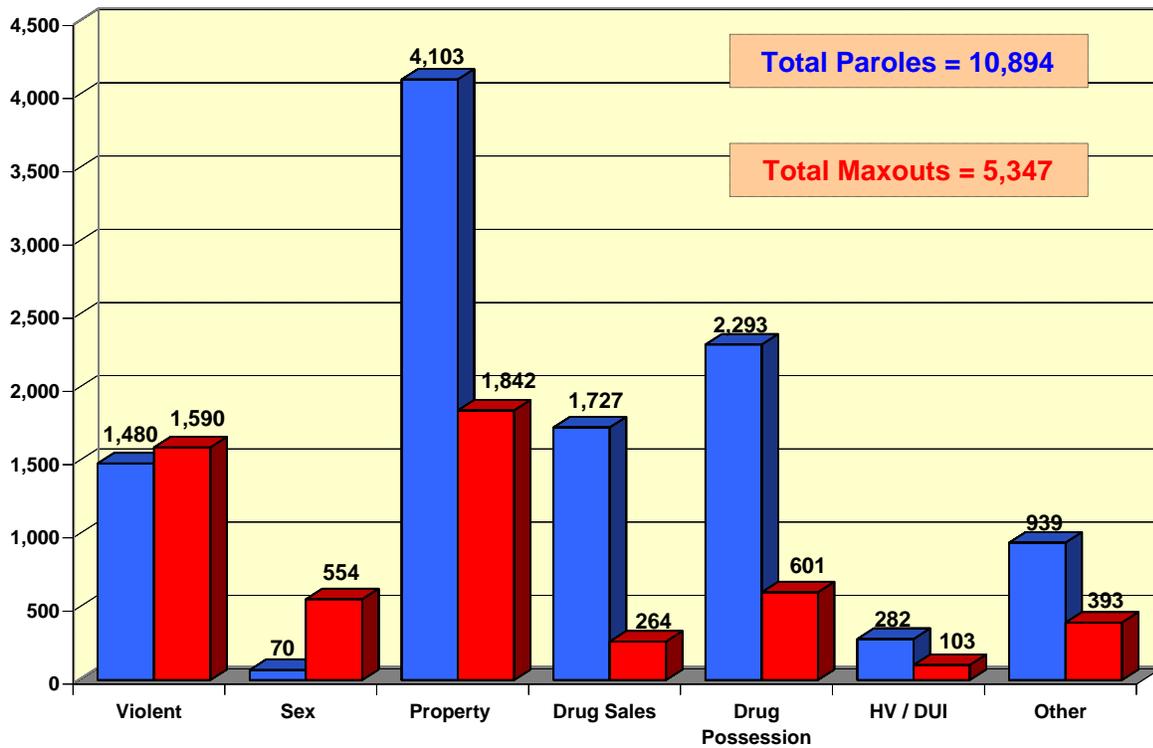
Georgia's Adult Offender Population
(as of June 30, 2003)



Limited space requires careful allocation

The ever-growing prison population underscores the need to divert low-end offenders from prison beds to alternative methods of supervision, such as appropriate treatment transitional facilities or parole. Recent research indicates that certain offenders, specifically sex offenders, are more likely to commit new offenses if they are discharged directly from prison to the community without any transitional supervision. Parole supervision enhances public safety through strict surveillance and by placing and monitoring offenders in mandated programs aimed to alter their criminal thinking and behavior patterns.

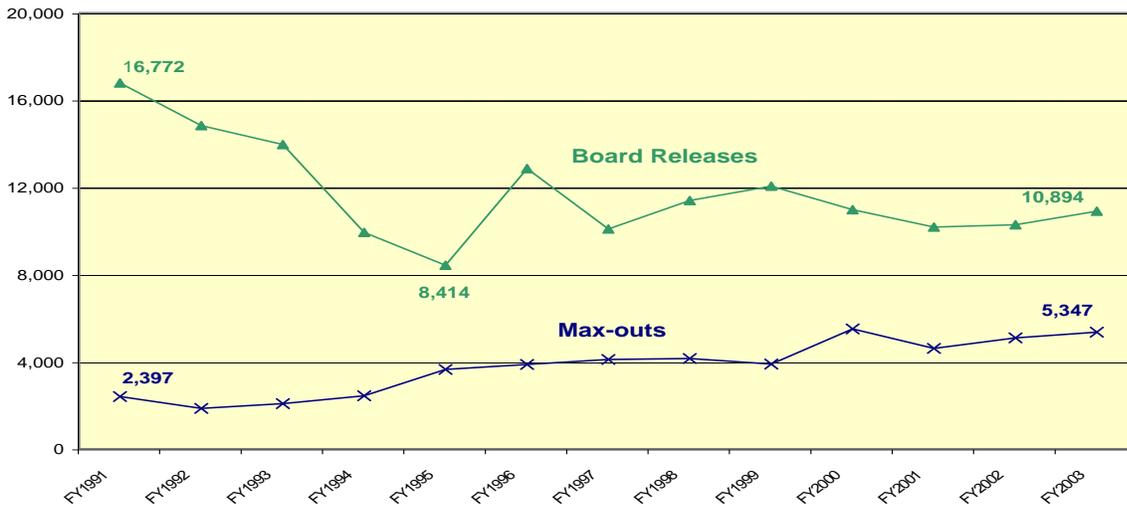
FY 2003 Prison Releases by Crime Type



Parole population holds steady

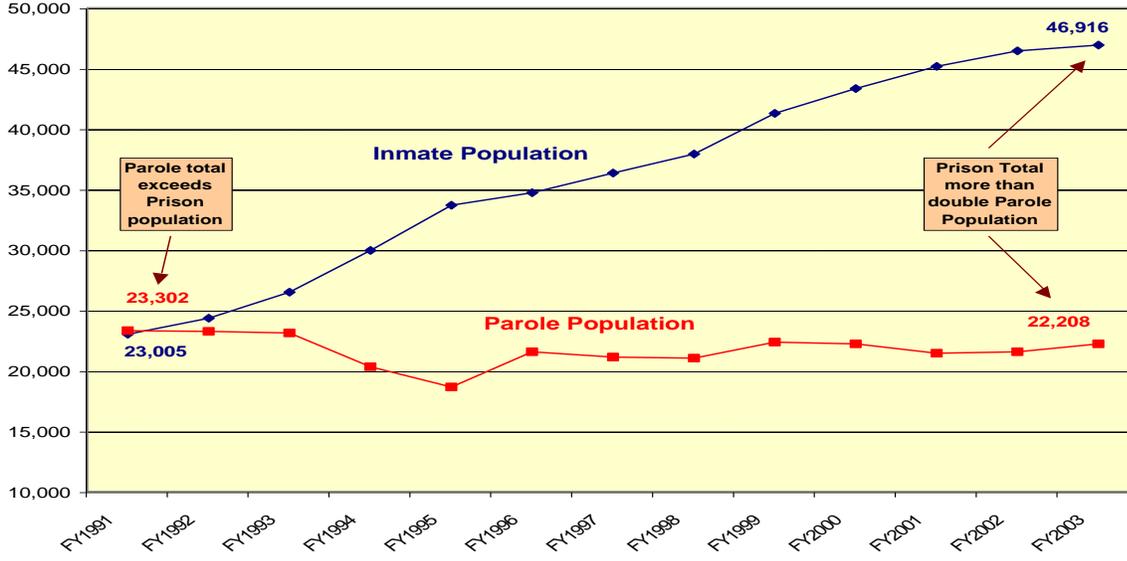
At the close of FY03 (6/30/03) the parolee population stood at 22,208. While the inmate population has grown each year since 1992, the parole population has remained stable or has fallen slightly. A huge expansion of the Georgia prison system doubled the state's prison capacity between 1991 and 2003.

**Parole Board Releases and Prison Max-Outs
FY 1991 to FY 2003**



Fewer paroles, more max-outs: In FY91 one of every 10 prison releases was a max-out. By FY03, due to tougher laws and parole policies, max-outs had increased to one in three.

**Inmate Population and Parole Population
FY 1991 to FY 2003**



Source: Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS) - June 2003

Escalating case reviews confront decision-makers

Since 1973, the state's prison population has grown exponentially while the number of Parole Board members has remained the same. Statistics from the Department of Corrections indicate that there are almost 49,000 inmates serving in Georgia's prisons, equivalent to a 470% increase since the Board was made a five-member body in 1973. Today, Board members review and vote on approximately 1,200 inmate files each month. Board members also travel the state weekly to hold revocation hearings, determining whether or not to return parolees to prison if they have violated conditions of their parole.



Chairman Milton "Buddy" Nix is surrounded by 1,200 inmate files, which is the average number Board members review each month for possible parole. Cases are reviewed independently by Board members until a majority of three determines whether to grant or deny parole.

Parole decisions

In Georgia no prison inmate is entitled to parole. Most, however, are eligible for parole at a certain point in their prison sentence, usually one-third, and are entitled to a *parole consideration*. A favorable parole decision results in the Board establishing a “tentative parole month” (TPM) for the inmate, contingent on progress reports and other information received during the intervening months or years. Parole may be withdrawn by the Board at any time prior to the scheduled prison release date.

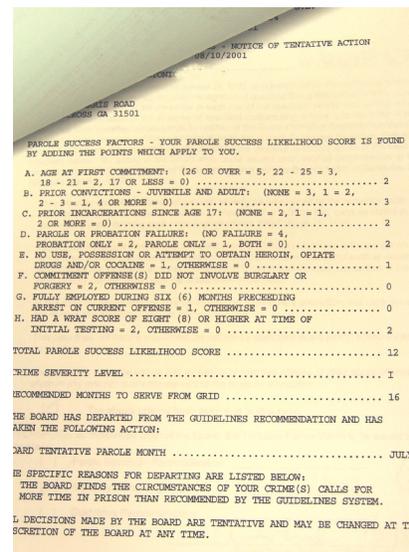
Parole Decision Guidelines

Since 1979 the Parole Board has reviewed non-life sentence cases under Parole Decision Guidelines, one of the country’s first standardized methods of predicting success on parole.

A Board hearing examiner reviews the inmate’s file and extracts specific factors such as educational level and prior criminal history. Using a grid, the examiner then links the risk factor score with the appropriate crime-severity level, from level one incorporating such offenses as shoplifting, to level seven, which includes crimes such as kidnapping or armed robbery. The cross reference grid reveals the typical prison time, including the maximum, served by other offenders with similar offenses and risk factors. Board members may agree with the recommended time or, as they consider the unique factors in the case, may reduce or extend it.

Board members do not apply Parole Decision Guidelines to life-sentence offenders, whose suitability for parole is dictated by the nature of their crime. The offense severity may preclude any eventual release despite stellar prison conduct, remarkable family support, or other factors which might tip the scales favorably for offenders with lesser crimes.

Routinely, the Parole Decision Guidelines system is revised to reflect new legislation and sentencing and clemency practices. Periodically, all Guidelines components are thoroughly reevaluated to assess continued reliability. This process is currently underway and will be completed during FY04.



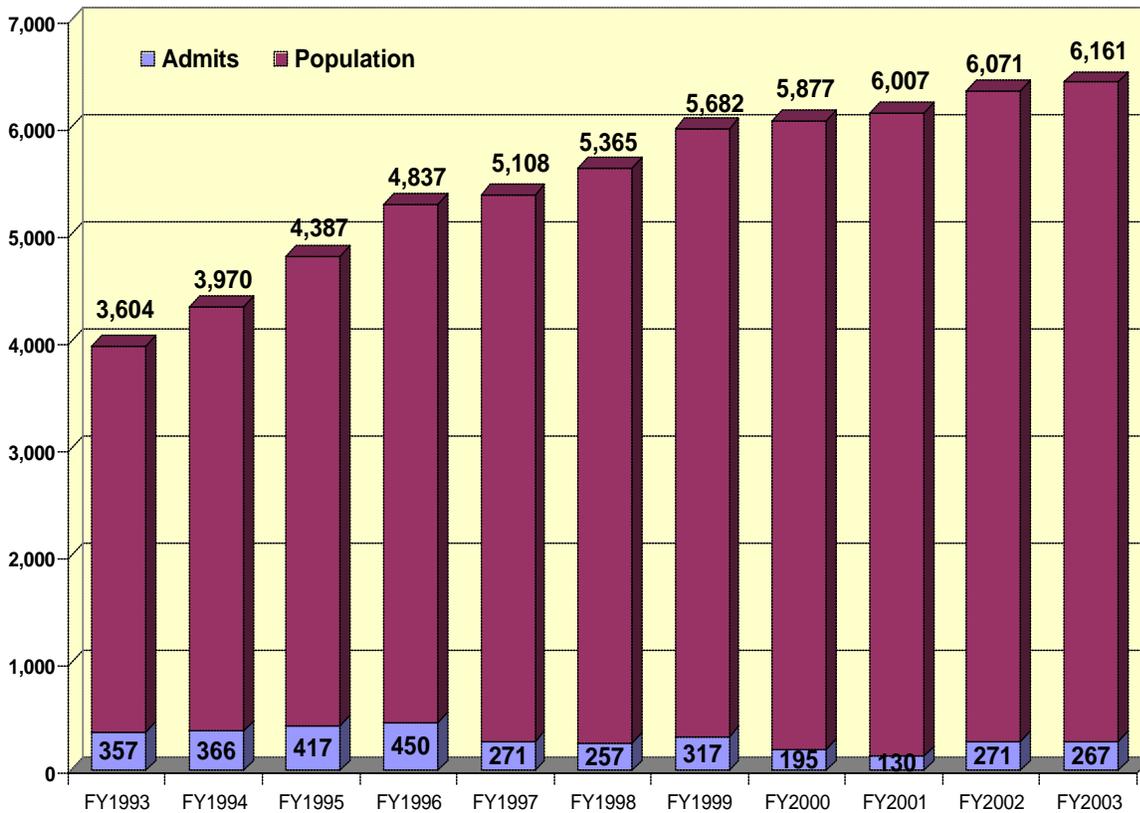
Inmates receive notice of the Board’s decision on their parole with their Guidelines score. If parole has been approved, the inmate is given a “tentative parole month” and cautioned that the decision may be rescinded up to the hour of release.

Life-sentenced inmates

Inmates denied parole at their initial consideration are reconsidered under certain specific circumstances. Inmates serving life sentences who are denied parole are legally entitled to reviews at intervals not exceeding eight years, but, as with all cases, Georgia's Parole Board can reconsider a case at any time. Life-sentenced inmates, except drug offenders, who committed their crimes after January 1, 1995, must serve fourteen years before their first parole consideration. Georgia has one of the largest life-sentence prison populations in the country.

Inmates Serving a Life Sentence

(Source: Georgia Department of Corrections)

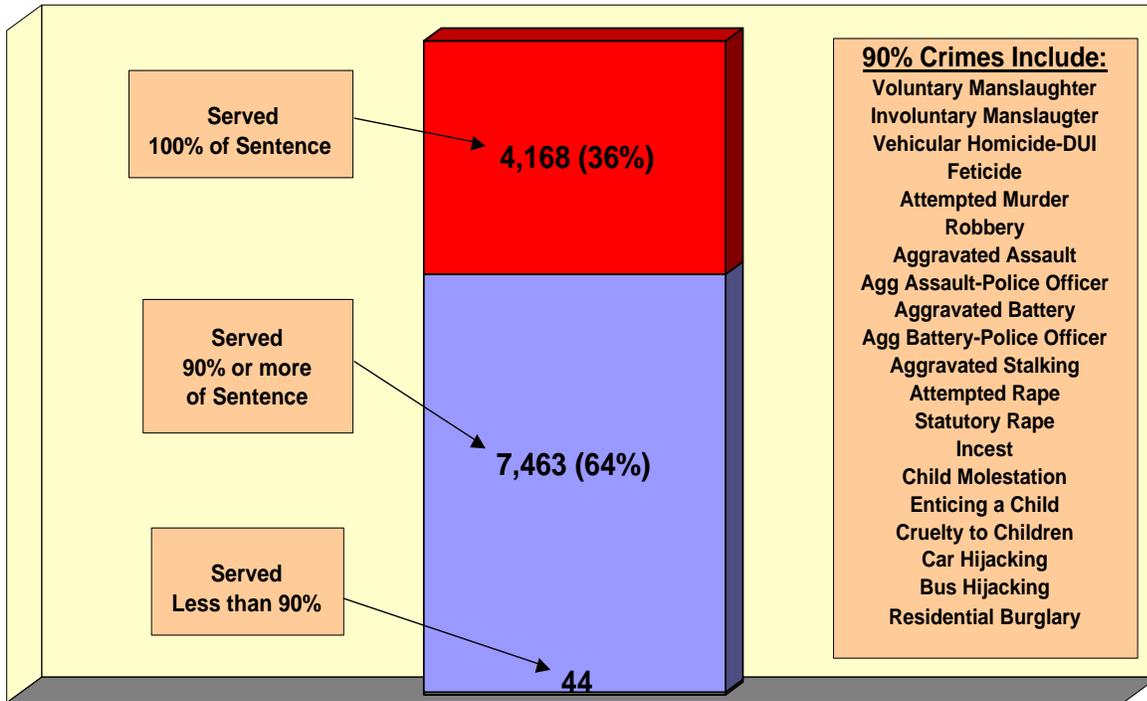


Georgia's lifer population has increased by 71% over the last ten years. This is largely due to tougher laws and stricter parole policies imposed during that period.

90 percent policy

Offenders convicted for residential burglary and nineteen violent crimes not included in Georgia's "seven deadly sins" legislation are subject to the Parole Board's policy requiring 90 percent service of their court-imposed prison term before possible parole. From the implementation of the Board's self-initiated policy in January 1998 through the end of December 2003, the Parole Board had rendered 11,655 decisions under its provisions.

90% Service Policy
Total Cases Processed = 11,655



Since the implementation of the Board's 90-percent policy in January 1988, only 44 exemptions have been made, all due to unique circumstances and after consultation with sentencing judges, prosecuting attorneys, and other law-enforcement officials involved in the case.

Clemency action in FY03

RELEASE ACTIONS

Parole	8,394
Supervised Reprieve	1,999
Conditional Transfer	501
Commutation	0
Remission	0
Other Release Actions	0
TOTAL RELEASES	10,894

TOTAL PAROLE REVOCATIONS 3,071

DISCHARGES

Discharge from Parole	5,739
Discharge from Supervised Reprieve	1,227
Commutation to Discharge Parole	184
TOTAL DISCHARGES	7,150

TOTAL DECISIONS UNDER GUIDELINES 14,539

LIFE DECISIONS

Deny Parole to Life Cases	387
Grant Parole to Life Cases	167
TOTAL LIFE DECISIONS	554

OTHER BOARD ACTIONS

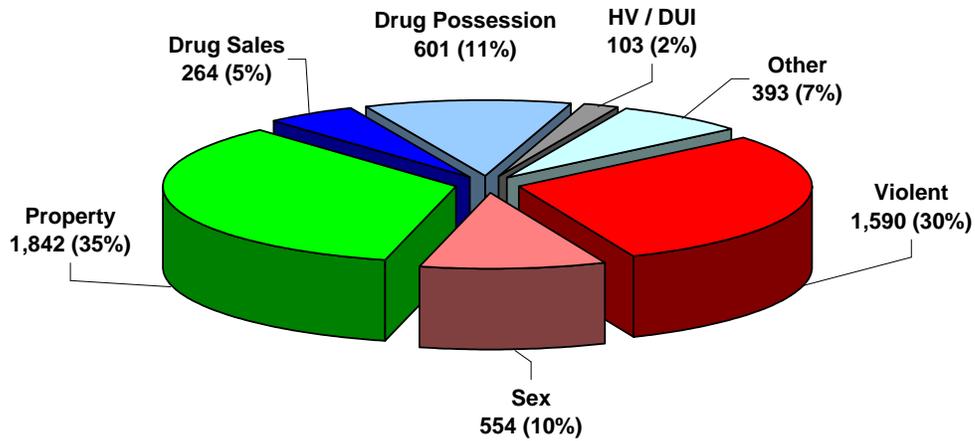
Pardon	358
Commutation Reducing Sentence	0
Medical/Compassionate Reprieve	85
Restoration of Rights	319
Visitor Interview	3,613
Inmate Interview	98
Revocation Hearing	458
Preliminary Hearing	104

RELEASES UNDER SUPERVISION

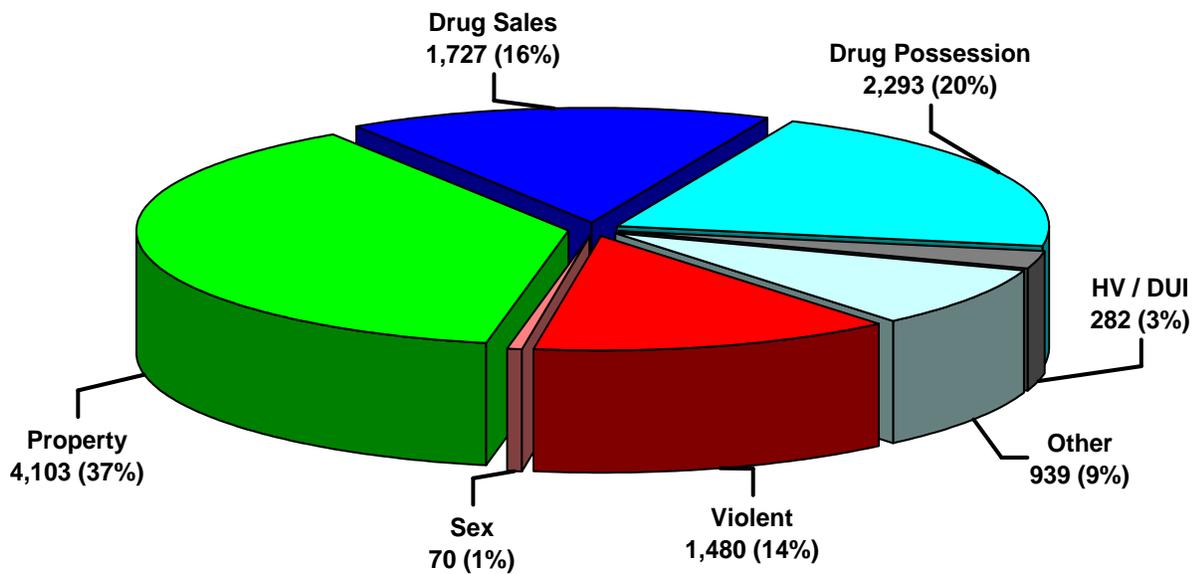
Georgia Releases in Georgia	20,300
Out-of-State Releases in Georgia	589
Georgia Releases Out of State	1,319
TOTAL PAROLEE POPULATION	22,208

Parole release vs. prison discharges (maxouts)

FY2003 Prison Max-Outs by Crime Type
Total = 5,347



FY 2003 Board Releases by Crime Type
Total = 10,894



Source: Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS) - 6/30/2003

Death case appeals

The Parole Board has the sole constitutional authority to commute, or reduce, capital punishment cases to a sentence of life or life without parole. Once a death row inmate exhausts his judicial appeals an execution date is set. At that point, the condemned can apply to the Board for clemency.

Prior to the clemency hearing, the Board compiles thorough information about the circumstances of the offense and criminal history of the condemned. Each Board member reviews the file and a Board appointment is scheduled to allow those in favor of clemency to appear before the Board.

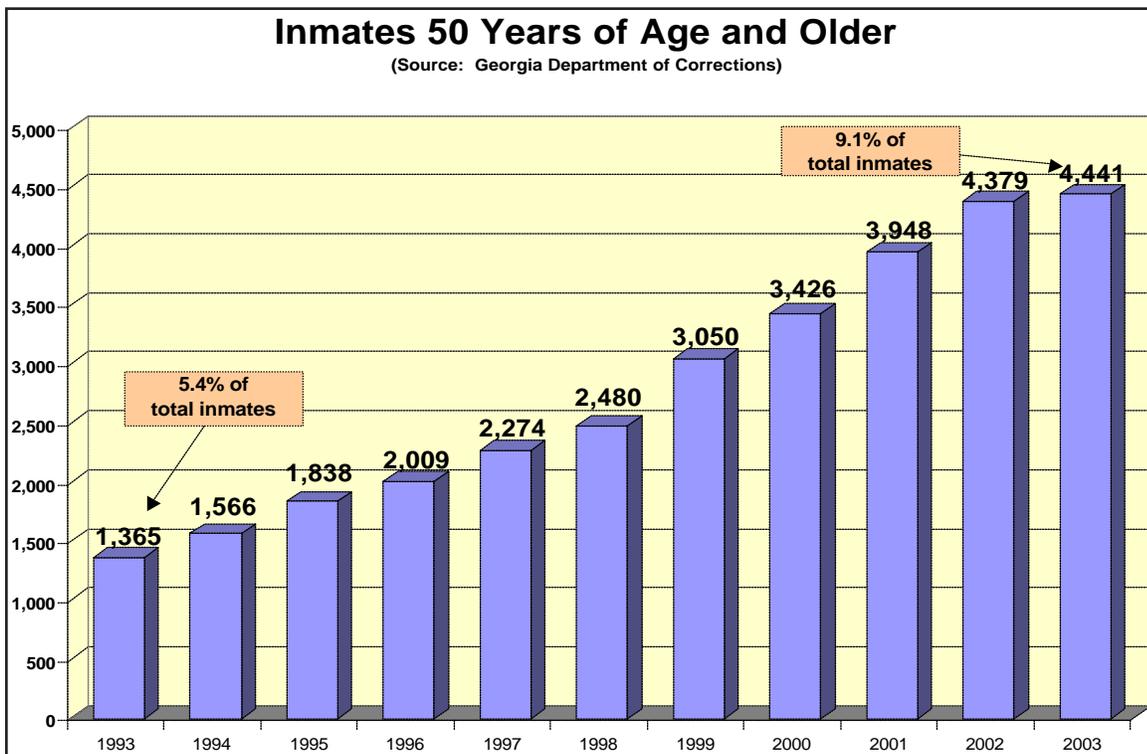
Once the Board appointment is completed, the Board members each cast a confidential vote on whether or not to commute the death sentence. A majority of three members is needed to reduce a death sentence.

Since the state of Georgia reinstated the death penalty in 1976 through the close of FY03, the Board has considered forty death-sentenced inmates. Only seven have been commuted to a lesser sentence by the Board.

During FY03 the Board considered four death case appeals: William Marvin Fugate III, William Howard Putnam, Larry Eugene Moon, and Carl Isaacs. All four were denied commutation and subsequently executed.

Georgia's aging inmates

Older inmates (50+) comprise six percent of Georgia's prison population but consume more than twelve percent of the state prison healthcare budget of \$120 million set aside for all inmates. Medical problems normally associated with aging are compounded in inmates who typically have long histories of unhealthy lifestyles and poor healthcare. National statistics show that an inmate aged 50 or older is twenty times more likely to occupy an expensive prison medical bed. When medical or custodial care could be better handled in the community, and when the inmate does not appear to threaten public security, the Department of Corrections may refer the case to the Parole Board for consideration of medical reprieve or another form of supervised release to the community. During FY03, the Parole Board supervised only 45 to 50 medical reprieve releases at one time, less than one percent of the entire parole population.



Daily prison housing cost for an average inmate is \$47 versus \$145 for an inmate 50 or older

Victim advocacy

As new offenders enter the Georgia prison system, the Board actively solicits district attorneys, witnesses, and victims or their survivors to contact the Board's Victim Advocacy Office. All letters and contacts to the office are made a permanent and confidential part of the case file on the inmate. When the offender becomes eligible for parole consideration, the victim's wishes, fears, and concerns become a critical part of the parole decision process.

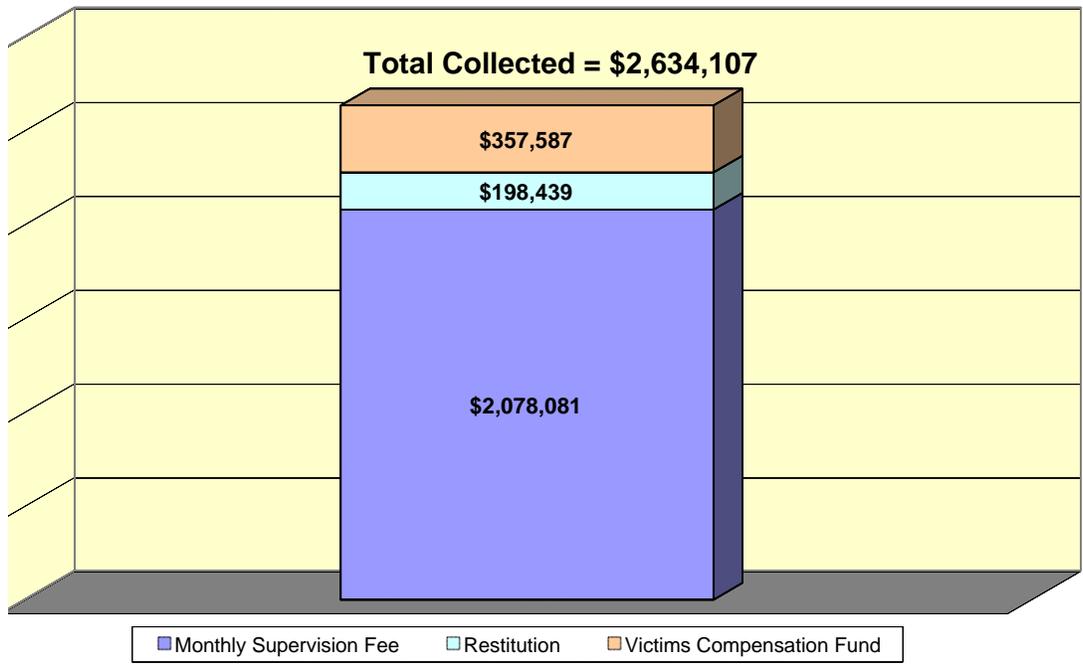
Victims can also complete a Victim Impact Statement which will permanently remain in the inmate's file. If requested, the victim will be notified when the Board plans to consider an inmate for parole and, if the Board considers the offender to be a candidate for parole, the exact release date. If a victim or their survivor protests a release, the Board will often adhere to their wishes.

In 1991 the agency began to require certain parolees to pay a victim compensation fee. The proceeds of this fee are deposited in the Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Fund.

During FY03 the Office of Victim Advocacy sent out 4,015 pieces of correspondence, provided assistance to 6,500 callers, and personally met with 57 individuals on specific parole cases. Of the 91 inmate cases which Parole's victim advocates submitted to the Board for reconsideration of parole, 89 received extended time, some to their normal prison max-out date.

Victim advocacy

Georgia parolees pay monthly supervision fees which directly benefit victims and communities. Regular supervision fees are returned to the state treasury's general fund; restitution fees, which may be imposed by the sentencing court or by the Parole Board, reimburse specific victim(s) harmed by an offender's crime; and victims compensation fees, paid by violent-crime offenders in lieu of standard parole fees, are deposited to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund which provides payment to those personally impacted by crime.



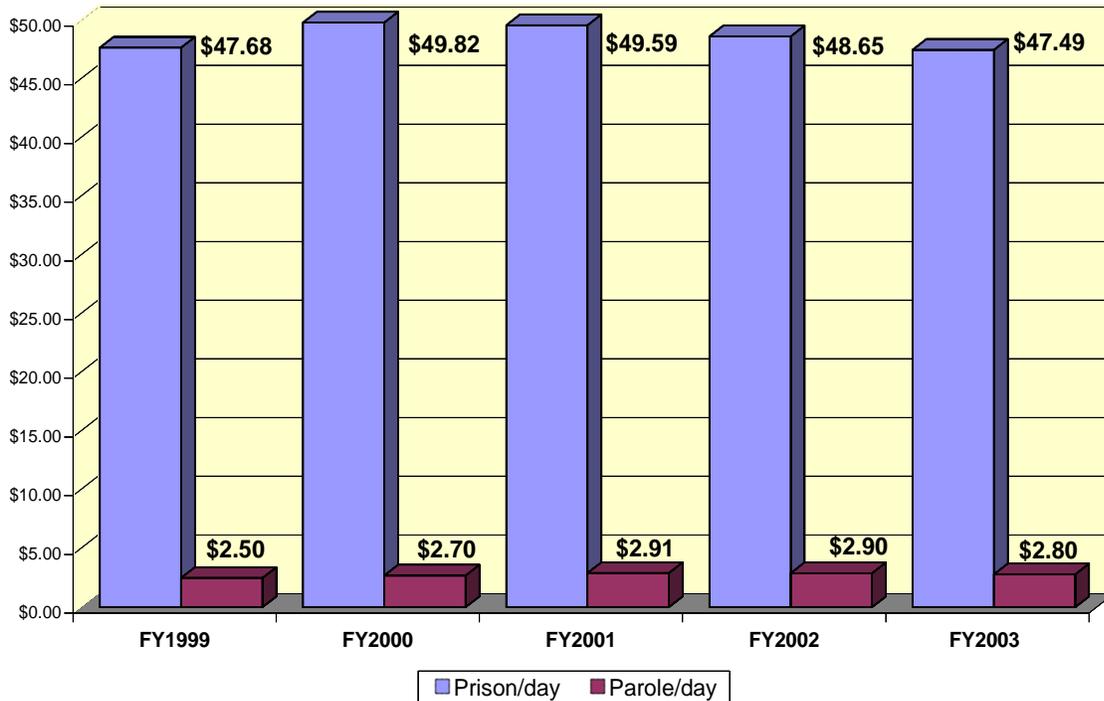
Georgia's award-winning parolee supervision

In 1998 the Parole Board developed and implemented a model of offender supervision that incorporates theory, research, public policy, accountability, and outcome measurement. Known as Results Driven Supervision, or RDS, this model has become a national standard and one of the nation's most acclaimed government programs.



RDS targets those offenders most likely to return to prison and places them in intervention programs proven to reduce their likelihood of re-offending. The intervention programs are classified into four categories: substance abuse, education, cognitive traits, and employment. Parole officers create individual supervision plans for each parolee, addressing these four categories with short and long-term goals and consequences.

Cost Comparison of Parole Supervision vs. Prison Incarceration



Georgia's elite force of field officers

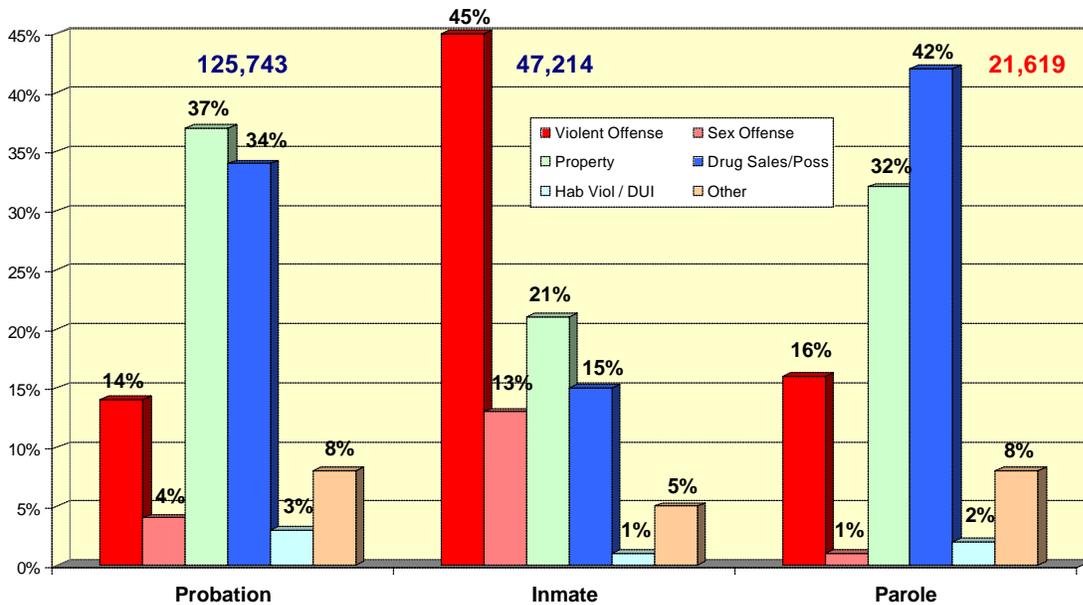
Georgia's parole officers are considered among the best-trained criminal justice field professionals in the nation. All are college graduates who have passed physical and psychological testing before entering eight weeks of intensive training at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth. There they study such topics as defensive tactics, constitutional law, supervision techniques, and victims rights, and qualify with a semiautomatic weapon, a skill they maintain through semi-annual requalifications. Graduates of the rigorous training are certified by the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Council to serve as Georgia Peace Officers sworn to protect the public.



FY03
 Fugitives arrested:735
 Number extradited from other states:132
 (93 by contracted service provider; 39 by Georgia parole officers)

Parole officers have authority to execute Board warrants, which they do with precision and safety resulting from their extensive training. Parole officers frequently assist other community law-enforcement agencies in drug sweeps or other projects to safeguard communities. Parole and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency are official partners and the agency's parole officers are specially trained to assist in state emergencies.

Georgia's Correctional Population: FY2003
State Offenders by Crime Type



Volunteer recruitment expands



In FY03

561 parolees graduated from cognitive skills programs
3,294 completed substance abuse programs
55 parole officers were trained to deliver cognitive skills training to parolees. This brings to 109 the number of parole officers certified in specific, proven techniques that have been shown to help parolees alter their criminal thinking and behavior.

The law-enforcement aspect of parole officers' work does not diminish their equally important role as intervention specialists who monitor the offender's compliance with parole conditions and progress toward contracted goals. Georgia's parole officers deliver many intervention programs themselves, while continually searching for effective service providers in their communities who can supply other training or treatment for parolees. While the agency has long realized the benefits of volunteer mentors to help parolees navigate the daily struggles of transition from prison to the real world, budget cutbacks in FY03 prompted the Board to place more emphasis on enlisting volunteers for a wider range of projects. The early and more substantive involvement of community members is at the heart of successful offender rehabilitation. Much of the parole officer's work is to establish a supportive network of responsible citizens around the parolee who will continue to guide the offender when his or her parole expires. Thus, the service of private citizens, acting on their own or through civic or faith-based initiatives, is the state's most affordable yet most priceless commodity in building safer communities.

Volunteer training in FY03

Reentry Aftercare Training: 33 participants

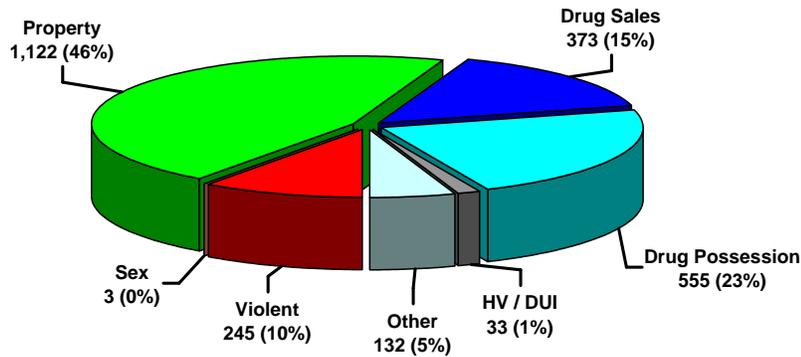
One Church One Inmate : 51 participants

North Georgia Ministerial Alliance: 22 participants

Male vs. female crime types

Female Parole Population by Crime Type

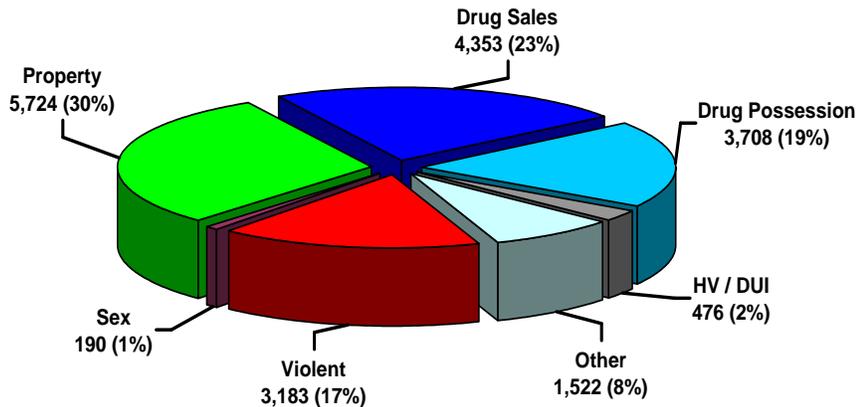
Total = 2,463 (6-30-2003)



Source: Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS) - 6/30/2003
Excludes other states' parolees under supervision in Georgia.

Male Parole Population by Crime Type

Total = 19,156 (6-30-2003)

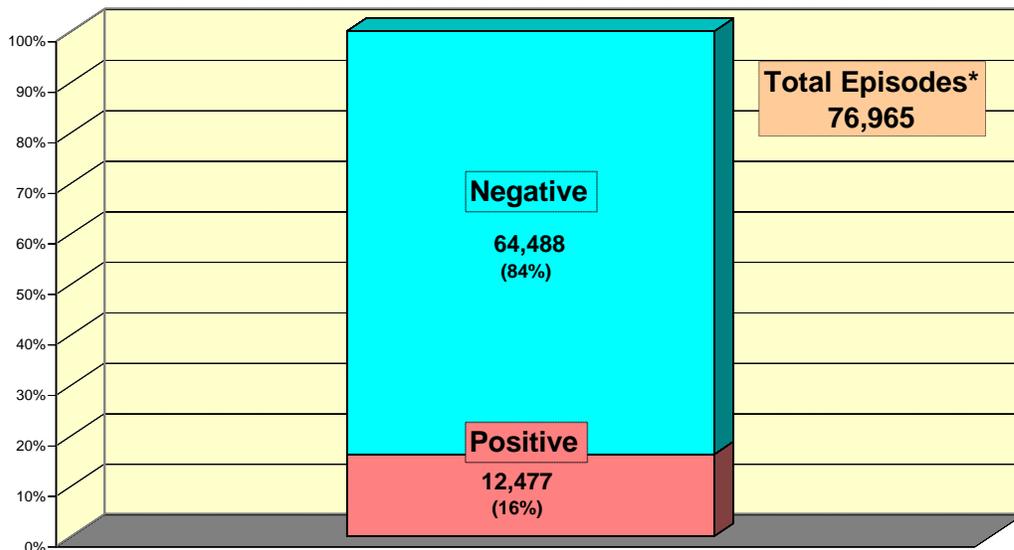


Source: Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS) - 6/30/2003
Excludes other states' parolees under supervision in Georgia.

Monitoring and surveillance tools

The Board uses electronic monitoring devices and drug screens to assist parole officers in their enforcement of parole conditions. In FY03 the Board contracted with ADT Security Services to supply electronic monitoring devices and tracking notification at a cost of \$2.80 per day per parolee. These costs are paid by the offender requiring the service, typically those at higher risk for relapse, or those who have violated certain technical conditions of parole but whose conduct is not threatening to the public. Some sex offenders who do not merit parole by the nature of their crimes may be released under strict parole supervision with electronic monitoring a few months prior to the expiration of their sentence as a precautionary measure for the public. During the supervised period, parole officers can enforce the offender's compliance with laws mandating his registration with law-enforcement and school officials. Officers can also monitor the offender's housing and work arrangements, his attendance at treatment programs, and other aspects of his behavior through regular polygraph examinations.

Drug Testing Episodes: FY 2003

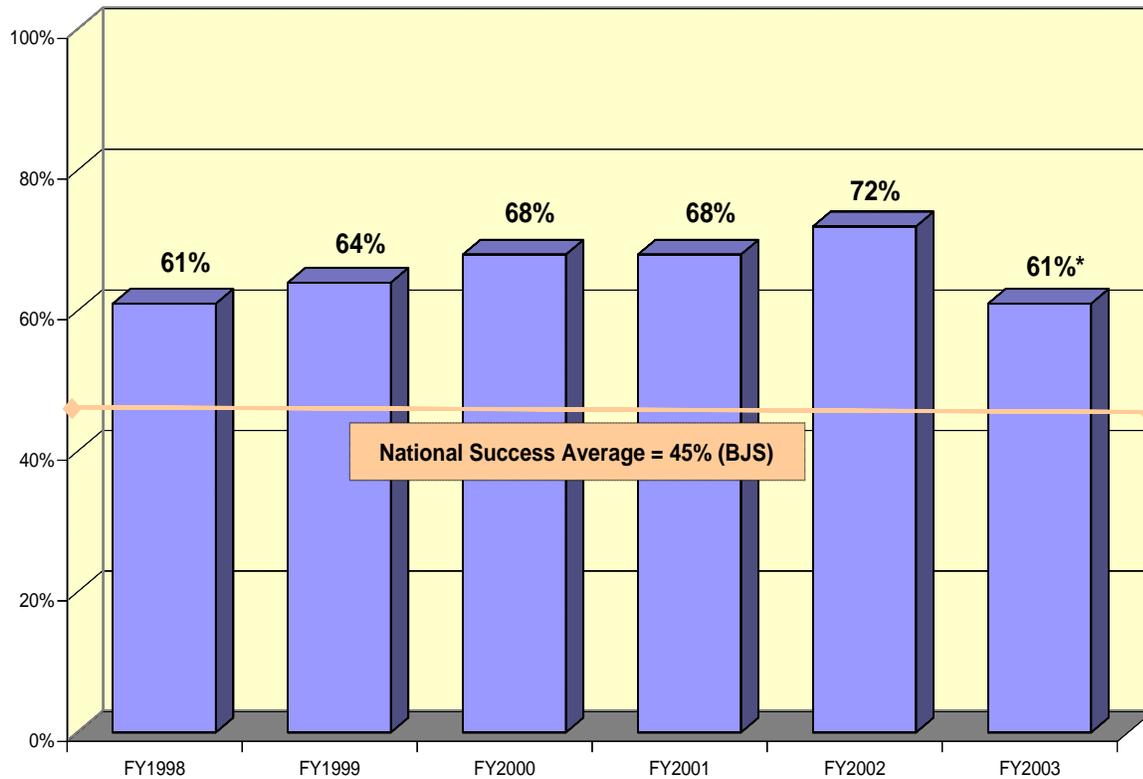


* Note: A test episode is 1 set of drug tests for 1 parolee on 1 day regardless of the # of tests conducted.

Drug testing is an important monitoring tool in parolee supervision. Early detection of an offender's drug use can help officers intercept a more serious relapse which may lead to related criminal behavior. Parole officers conduct both scheduled and unannounced drug screens on targeted offenders.

Georgia's success rate exceeds national average

Percentage of Successful Completions



*Over the last six years the Georgia Parole Board's success rate has exceeded the national average by 16% or more. In 2003 The Board began to apply a stricter measure of "parolee success" than is currently used to tabulate national success figures. This stricter measure of success accounts for the success percentage decrease shown above from FY02 to FY03.

During FY03 the Georgia Board hosted several states for training sessions on its award-winning Results Driven Supervision model. Since the implementation of the RDS system in December 1997, more than thirty states have consulted with the Board to learn ways to adapt the model to their own offender management needs.

Looking ahead: safe reentry equals increased public safety

All over the United States, programs focusing on the reentry of offenders leaving prison returning to the community are garnering attention from policy leaders, the media and the public. After years of the “brick and mortar approach,” leaders now understand that building more prison beds will not help offenders to follow the straight and narrow path once their sentence is complete. As a result, policy-makers are funding initiatives assisting offenders who have served lengthy prison sentences to return to their communities as law-abiding, drug-free, tax-paying citizens.

At the beginning of Fiscal Year 2003, the State of Georgia was awarded two million dollars through a federal grant to develop and implement a more contiguous process for moving offenders from prison back into the community. The project became known within the state’s public safety community as the Reentry Initiative.

Recognizing that a successful transition period from behind bars to the free world is critical to an offender’s success, the Georgia public safety community worked throughout FY 03 with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) on the reentry concept. The Parole Board was included in a Reentry Steering Committee that was formed to begin the allocation of the grant funds in Georgia to enhance programs focusing on reentry policies.

During FY 03, the Parole Board quickly became a part of a working group of criminal justice agencies responsible for developing a plan for the Reentry Initiative grant money. The working group proposed to duplicate the successful results from one of Georgia’s first reentry projects, the Savannah Impact Program (SIP). Four Georgia cities were chosen as sites for expanding the reentry concept: Albany, Augusta, Macon, and Savannah.

If the new pilot projects follow the model of the Savannah program, they will consist of unique partnerships of state public safety agencies, city and county law enforcement units and non-profit organizations. The Savannah Impact Program was created to reduce repeat criminality in the Savannah area committed by parolees and probationers, to steer juvenile offenders away from a life of crime, and to reduce long-term unemployment by assisting adult offenders to gain marketable job skills. (Continued, next page)

Looking ahead: safe reentry

SIP approaches these challenges with a three-pronged solution.

- First, parole and probation officers assigned to the SIP program provide intensive supervision to high-risk offenders in the Savannah area. SIP chose a small number of offenders at first, approximately 600, in order to limit officers' caseloads for maximum supervision and in-field monitoring. Officers combine the use of tools such as electronic monitoring, drug testing, polygraphing, and unannounced home visits.
- Next, SIP targets high-risk juvenile offenders with a basic education and job-training program, middle school mentoring program and outreach.
- The last SIP component matches parolees and probationers with resources to kick substance abuse habits, gain job skills training, programs to prepare for the GED, and mental and physical healthcare. Once offenders are properly trained, SIP officers match the offenders with potential employers.

The Savannah Impact Program has been widely recognized as an outstanding start for Georgia's reentry efforts of the future. Combining law enforcement resources and building partnerships has become a successful method for Savannah in reducing recidivism by parolees and probationers.

Thanks to the hard work accomplished in FY 03, the Parole Board will continue to be one of Georgia's leaders in the Reentry Initiative, the future of public safety.

Looking ahead: expanding alliances

The Georgia Parole Board recognizes that no criminal justice agency can accomplish its missions of crime prevention without strong community alliances, and that those alliances can only be formed by continually improving communication through all available channels. For example, while the Board seeks to maximize its technological resources for the sharing of database information with other law-enforcement agencies and with the public, it also aims to form working relationships with those who recognize the offender's path into and out of crime occurs not in prison but in the community.

The Atlanta Day Reporting Center, a project of the Parole Board and the Department of Corrections which offers intensive and holistic intervention for probationers and parolees, is an example of how professional alliances create a tighter weave for rehabilitation. But crime-fighting partnerships can form on any level, with any combination of concerned participants, including local crime-prevention task forces or an individual citizen working with a parole officer to assist one offender's job search.

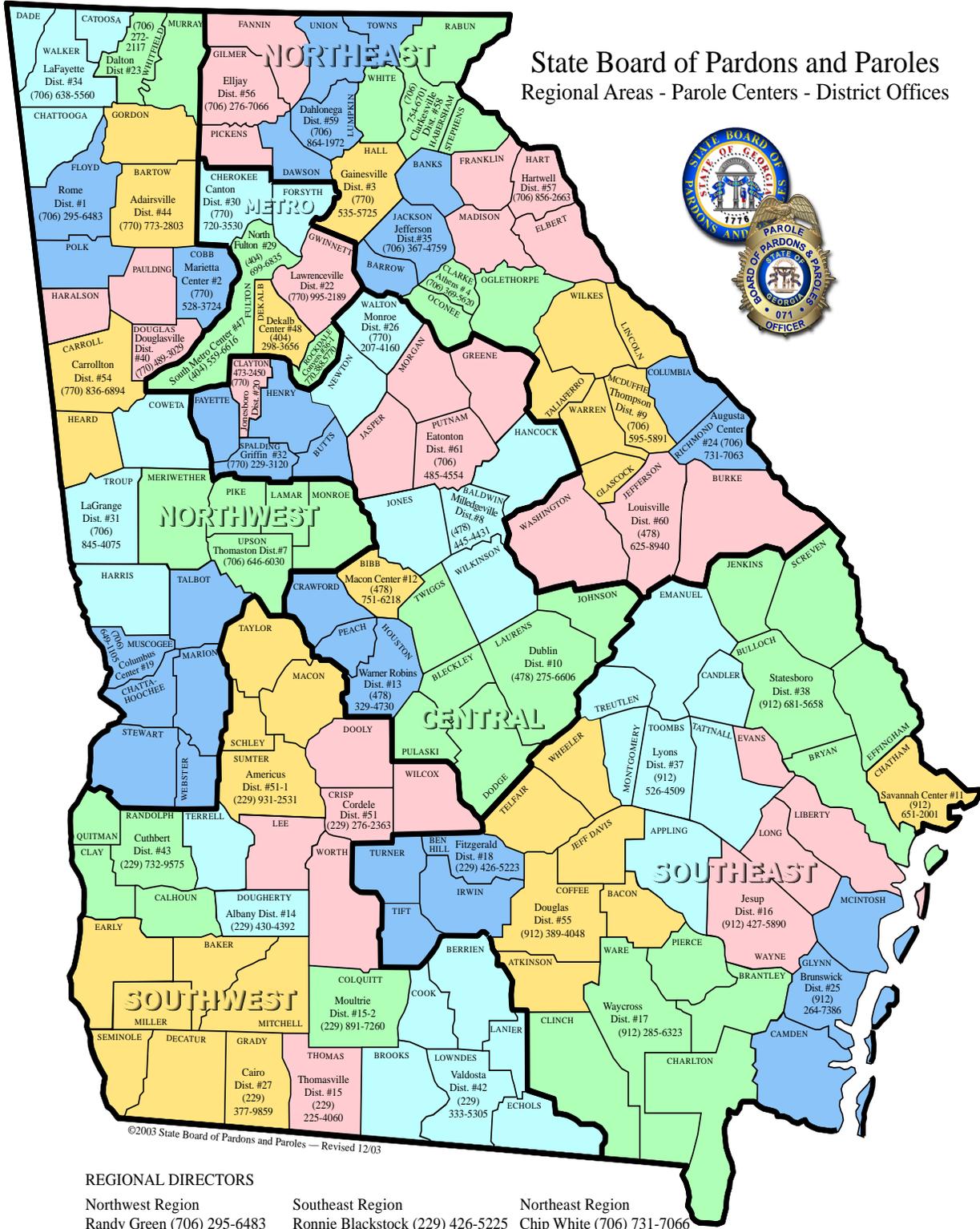
Criminal justice agencies have long recognized the value of community volunteers but now view these socially responsible citizens as capable of providing a much larger range of services to the offender population. The faith-based initiative, for example, provides an opportunity for individuals to use more of their professional skills and interests in the direct training or assistance to parolees. This change in focus is largely a result of the public's increased understanding of the factors contributing to crime, the realization that prison provides a temporary solution at best, and the acknowledgement that by assisting offenders wanting to change behavior, Georgia's communities become safer and more economically vital for all its inhabitants.

Partnerships are the trend for the future of criminal justice agencies, and it is one that the Georgia Parole Board supports and fosters.

The FY03 Annual Report was prepared by the Parole Board's Offices of Public Information and Criminal Justice Research. For further information please contact:

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Parole districts and regions



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