

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (CDC)  
ARTS-IN-CORRECTIONS  
RESEARCH SYNOPSIS ON PAROLE OUTCOMES FOR PARTICIPANTS PAROLED  
DECEMBER 1980 - FEBRUARY 1987**

**I. BACKGROUND**

Parole outcome was studied for 177 randomly selected inmates who had participated in at least one Arts-in-Corrections class per week for a minimum of six months. Outcomes were studied for six-month, one-year, and two year -periods after release. For the purpose of this study, parole outcomes are designated as unfavorable or favorable and are defined as follows:

**A. Unfavorable**

- Return to custody by action of the Board of Prison Terms for violation of parole.
- Return to custody by the court for a conviction-on a new offense.

**B. Favorable**

- Clean, no difficulty reported.
- Other-technical parolee infraction and misdemeanor convictions (See Attachment A)

The data collected on Arts-in-Corrections participants has been compared to statistics compiled on the parole outcomes for all CDC parolees. For CDC releases 1981 through 1984, data are presented on all male and female felons paroled in California or elsewhere. The 1985 and 1986 data are for a 50% randomly selected sample of all male and female felons' released to parole'.

**II. RESULTS**

Results show that the Arts-in-Corrections participants had a significantly higher percentage of favorable outcomes than the CDC total population studied for the same time periods. Specifically, six months after parole, Arts-in- Corrections participants show an 88% rate of favorable outcome as compared to the 72.25% rate for all CDC releases. For the one-year period, the Arts-in-Corrections favorable rate was 74.2% while that for CDC parolees was 49.6%. Two years after release 69.2% of the Arts-in-Corrections parolees retained their favorable status in contrast to the 42% level for all releases.

The research also shows that as time since release increased, the difference between the percentage of favorable outcomes for Arts-in-Corrections and all CDC parolees becomes greater. The data indicates that after 6 months the Arts-in-Corrections favorable rate is 15.7 percentage points higher than the CDC rate. Two years after release that difference climbs to 27.2 percentage points'.

**DEFINITION OF PAROLE OUTCOME FOR FELONS**

**FAVORABLE:**

Clean: no difficulty reported

Other: (in order of increasing severity)

- ◆ Parole Agent arrest on technical charges
- ◆ Arrest and release, with or without trial
- ◆ Parolee-at-large (PAL) less than six months Conviction and sentence of Misdemeanor probation Fine
- ◆ Suspended jail sentence
- ◆ Jail sentence of under 90 days

**PENDING:**

Awaiting trial or sentence on a misdemeanor or felony charge with no previous disposition of any type. Considered neither favorable nor unfavorable.

**MISCELLANEOUS UNFAVORABLE OUTCOMES:**

PAL six months or longer

Declared criminally insane

Death in commission of a crime or from drug overdose

Jail sentence of 90 or more days

Felony probation (at least five years).

Suspended prison sentence

Committed to California Rehabilitation Center (CRC)

**RETURN TO CUSTODY BY BOARD OF PRISON TERMS:**

Prior to July 1977

Return to California prison to finish term by action of the Adult Authority (Board of Prison Terms).

From July 1977

Return to Custody (RTC) by order of the Board of Prison Terms for one or more periods; the maximum total months depends on the law applicable at the time of release. Custody may be in a local jail or in prison.

**RETURN TO CUSTODY BY COURT**

Custody may be in a local jail or in return to a California or other prison with a new felony conviction for a crime committed during the parole period.

