

MASSACHUSETTS FURLOUGH PROGRAM

STATISTICAL FACT SHEET

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May 1976

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STATISTICAL FACT SHEET ON THE MASSACHUSETTS FURLOUGH PROGRAM

Overall Statistics

Between the inception of the Massachusetts furlough program on November 6, 1972 and April 24, 1976, a total of 28,477 furloughs have been granted to 3,624 individual residents. The average number of furloughs per resident therefore is eight furloughs.

Escape Rate by Furlough

Of the 28,477 furloughs granted, 381 have resulted in escape, for a furlough escape rate of 1.3%.

If furlough statistics are analyzed on a yearly basis, it can be seen that the escape rate by furlough declined during 1975 as compared to the previous year. In 1975 there were only 88 escapes for a rate of 1.0% whereas in 1974 there were 127 escapes for a rate of 1.5%. The 1973 escapes were even more numerous, or 134 and a 1.9% escape rate.

Voluntary Returns

Of the 381 escapes, 109 or 28% of the total escapes returned voluntarily within a period of twenty-four hours. If these residents are excluded from the escape statistics, the adjusted escape rate becomes 1.0%.

Escapees at Large

As of April 24, 1976, 325 or 85% of the total escapes had been returned to the custody of the Department of Correction. The remainder, 56 or 15%, remained at large.

Escape Rate by Individuals Furloughed

Of the 3,624 individuals furloughed, 369 have been declared escape on one of their furloughs. The escape rate by individual furloughed therefore is 10.2%.

107 of these individuals returned from furlough voluntarily within twenty-four hours. If these persons are excluded from the statistics, the individual escape rate declines to 7.2%.

Trends in Number of Individuals Furloughed

Since the inception of the program the number of individuals furloughed yearly has significantly decreased. In 1973 a total of 1,868 residents received furloughs whereas in 1975 only 1,474 residents were furloughed, a reduction of 21%.

The escape rate by individuals furloughed is presently declining also. In 1974 the individual rate was 7.6% but in 1975 it dropped to 5.8%. If voluntary returns are excluded, the 1975 individual escape rate becomes only 3.5%.

In sum, the data indicates that the Department of Correction has effectively tightened up the administration of the furlough program, as evidenced by the fewer numbers of residents currently being furloughed and the corresponding decrease in the number of residents who are failing to return from furlough.

Proportion of Population Participating in Furlough Program

Of the 2,356 residents in the custody of the Department of Correction on January 1, 1976, only 977 or 41% of all residents incarcerated had received one or more furloughs. The remaining 59% of the total population have not been allowed to participate in the furlough program.

Lifer Furlough Statistics

As of December 1975, a total of 2,744 furloughs have been granted to residents serving life sentences. Of these furloughs 23 or 0.8% have resulted in escape.

First Degree Murder - Lifers convicted of murder in the first degree were granted 842 furloughs, 9 escapes resulted for an escape rate of 1.1%.

Second Degree Murder - Lifers convicted of murder in the second degree received a total of 1,808 furloughs, 13 escapes resulted for an escape rate of 0.7%.

Other Lifers - Lifers convicted of crimes other than first or second degree murder received a total of 94 furloughs, one escape resulted for an escape rate of 1.1%.

Proportion of Lifer Population Participating in Furlough Program

On January 1, 1976 there were 378 lifers in the correctional system, representing 16% of the total population. Of these 378 individuals, 171 or 45% had received one or more furloughs, 64 or 17% had received no furloughs, and 143 or 38% were ineligible for furloughs in accordance with Department of Correction regulations.

Effect of Furlough Program on Recidivism

A special recidivism study of MCI-Framingham releasees conducted by Boston University revealed a relationship between the number of furloughs received and recidivism. For example, the individuals who had no furloughs or only one furlough had a recidivism rate of 22%; those who had 2-6 furloughs had a re-incarceration rate of 15%; and, those who had seven or more furloughs had a rate of 13%.

Court Prosecution of Escape Cases

Of the 374 escapes from furlough as of March 27, 1976, 152 or 41% were not prosecuted for the escape offenses.

161 or 43% of the escape offense have been fully adjudicated and 61 individuals received an additional sentence to be served from and after their present sentences. The most frequent length of the additional sentence was three months.

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
1	Number of Furloughs and Escapes Since the Inception of the Program	5
2	Yearly Escape Rates by Furlough and by Individual Furloughed	6
3	Furlough Escape Rates by Individual Furloughed	7
4	Proportion of Population Furloughed January 1, 1976	8
5	Furlough Experience for Residents Serving Life Sentences - November, 1972 to December, 1975	9
6	Proportion of Lifer Population Furloughed January 1, 1976	10
7	Legal Outcome of Escape from Furlough Cases	11
8	Length of Additional From and After Sentences Received for Escape from Furlough	12

Number of Furloughs and Escapes Since the Inception of the Program

-5-

<u>Massachusetts Correctional Facility</u>	<u>No. of Furloughs Granted</u>	<u>Total No. of Residents De- clared Escapees</u>	<u>Overall Furlough Escape Rate</u>	<u>No. Declared Escape, but returned vol- untarily with- in 24 hours</u>	<u>No. Declared Escape, but did not return vol- untarily with- in 24 hours</u>	<u>Furlough es- cape Rate (ex- cluding volun- tarily returns within 24 hours)</u>	<u>No. of Escapes At Large on 4/2/76</u>
MCI Walpole	299	17	1.7	1	16	1.6	7
MCI Concord	3367	116	3.4	35	81	2.4	11
MCI Framingham	2401	25	1.0	13	12	0.5	4
MCI Norfolk	5247	93	1.8	4	89	1.7	28
MCI Bridgewater	832	24	2.9	3	21	2.5	1
MCI Monroe	1072	19	1.8	7	12	1.1	2
MCI Plymouth	1639	18	2.0	6	12	0.7	2
MCI Warwick	675	11	1.6	3	8	1.2	0
RDC	6	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Shirley Pre-Release	2244	31	1.4	20	11	0.5	1
Boston Pre-Release	5890	21	0.4	13	8	0.1	0
Norfolk Pre-Release	197	1	0.5	1	0	0.0	0
Lancaster	91	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Coolidge House	1193	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Brooke House	1210	1	0.1	0	1	0.1	0
Temporary Housing	233	1	0.4	1	0	0.0	0
BI/DOC	57	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
699 House	216	1	0.5	0	1	0.5	0
Rox. Community Rehab. Center	637	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Charlotte House	271	2	0.7	2	0	0.0	0
Drug Treatment Facilities	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0

YEARLY ESCAPE RATES BY FURLOUGH AND
BY INDIVIDUALS FURLOUGHED

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER OF FURLOUGHS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS FURLOUGHED</u>	<u>NUMBER OF ESCAPES</u>	<u>NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY RETURNS</u>	<u>ESCAPE RATE BY INDIVIDUAL</u>	<u>ADJUSTED ESCAPE RATE BY INDIVIDUAL*</u>	<u>ESCAPE RATE BY FURLOUGH</u>	<u>ADJUSTED ESCAPE RATE BY FURLOUGH*</u>
1973	7,196	1,868	134	23	7.2%	5.9%	1.9%	1.5%
1974	8,324	1,670	127	40	7.6%	5.2%	1.5%	1.0%
1975	8,565	1,474	88	36	5.8%	3.5%	1.0%	0.6%

* The adjusted escape rates exclude residents who returned voluntarily within 24 hours.

FURLOUGH ESCAPE RATES BY INDIVIDUAL FURLOUGHED

November 6, 1972 through April 24, 1976

	<u>N</u>	<u>ESCAPES</u>	<u>OVERALL FURLOUGH ESCAPE RATE</u>	<u>NO. DECLARED ESCAPE BUT RETURNED VOLUNTARILY WITHIN 24 HOURS</u>	<u>NO. DECLARED ESCAPE BUT DID NOT RETURN VOLUNTARILY WITHIN 24 HOURS</u>	<u>FURLOUGH ESCAPE RATE (EXCLUDING VOLUNTARY RETURNS WITHIN 24 HOURS</u>
Furlough Statistics by Individuals Furloughed	3,624	369	10.2%	107	267	7.2%

Average # Furloughs Per Resident = 8 furloughs per resident furloughed.

PROPORTION OF POPULATION FURLOUGHED

JANUARY 1, 1976

	<u>NEVER FURLOUGHED</u>		<u>FURLOUGHED</u>		<u>TOTAL POPULATION</u>	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Walpole	466	72	179	18	645	100
Norfolk	426	62	259	38	685	100
Concord	276	70	118	30	394	100
Bridgewater	138	73	51	27	189	100
Framingham	51	30	121	70	172	100
Forestry	6	6	94	94	100	100
Pre-Release Facilities	16	8	197	92	213	100
<u>TOTAL POPULATION</u>	1328	59	977	41	2356	100

FURLOUGH EXPERIENCE FOR RESIDENTS

SERVING LIFE SENTENCES

NOVEMBER, 1972 TO DECEMBER, 1975

	<u>Number of Furloughs</u>	<u>Number of Escapes</u>	<u>Escape Rate</u>
First Degree Murder	842	9	1.1%
Second Degree Murder	1,808	13	0.7%
Other Lifers	94	1	1.1%
Total # Furloughs to Lifers	2,744	23	0.8%
Total # Furlough to All Residents	25,229	354	1.4%

PROPORTION OF LIFER POPULATION FURLOUGHED

January 1, 1976

	<u>Murder</u> <u>1st Degree</u>		<u>Murder</u> <u>2nd Degree</u>		<u>Other</u> <u>Lifers</u>		<u>Total</u> <u>Lifers</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Furloughed	65	(42%)	97	(48%)	9	(36%)	171	(45%)
Never Furloughed	21	(14%)	40	(20%)	3	(12%)	64	(17%)
Ineligible for Furlough	67	(44%)	63	(32%)	13	(52%)	143	(38%)
TOTAL	153	(100%)	200	(100%)	25	(100%)	378	(100%)

LEGAL OUTCOME OF ESCAPE FROM FURLOUGH CASES*

<u>Disposition</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Not Prosecuted	152	(40.6)
Not Guilty	3	(.8)
Probation	37	(9.9)
New Sentence, Concurrent	26	(7.0)
New Sentence, From and After	62	(16.6)
Sentence Suspended	3	(.8)
Case Pending	10	(2.7)
In custody, Out-of State Facilities	11	(3.0)
Resident Deceased	4	(1.0)
At-Large	56	(15.0)
Disposition Unknown	10	(2.7)
TOTAL	374	(100.0)

*As of March 27, 1976

LENGTH OF ADDITIONAL FROM & AFTER SENTENCES RECEIVED FOR ESCAPE FROM FURLOUGH OFFENSE

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
10 days	2	(3.2%)
1 month	7	(11.3%)
2 months	5	(8.1%)
3 months	25	(40.3%)
4 months	6	(9.7%)
5 months	1	(1.6%)
6 months	8	(12.9%)
1 year	7	(11.3%)
3-5 years, forthwith	1	(1.6%)
TOTAL	62	(100.0%)

