

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Characteristics of those who enter the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
(DRC) with an Expected Stay of Less than One Year:
A Report Based on 2009 Admissions

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Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Ernie L. Moore, Director

Office of Policy and Offender Reentry
Edward Rhine, PhD, Deputy Director

Bureau of Research, Office of Policy and Offender Reentry
Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Text Cindy Gonzalez

Tables Craig Bennie
Cindy Gonzalez

Data and Report Preparation and Support
For the 2009 Intake Report

Jim Bates
Reeda Boyd
Ronnie Easter
Cindy Gonzalez
Vicky Muncy

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Context: Ohio has a sentencing structure that allows judges to sentence felons to the prison system for terms as short as six months, and there are sentences at the Felony 5, 4, and 3 levels that can be one year or less. Given that most offenders spend at least a few days in jail, and that time is reduced from the time to be spent in prison, this means almost all sentences of one year or less will spend less than 12 months in prison. As will be noted below, under half of those sent to prison will spend less than 12 months in prison, and many will spend only a few months. In recent years the percentage of short term offenders has been even higher. This pattern allows Ohio to reserve most of its prison capacity for more serious offenders, who typically spend many years in prison. A profile of average time served for Ohio inmates released from prison can be found at <http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/reports/reports15.asp>.

Those to be Released in Less Than 12 Months (Short Term Offenders – STO's): Two databases were used for this summary. First, all felons committed to DRC from common pleas courts during CY 2009 are summarized in a commitment database. That database is used to produce the overall commitment report, detailed at <http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/reports/reports12.asp>, on all 25,031 admissions. That database has a variable that records the likely completion date of the prison term. Those in the commitment database with a completion date of less than 12 months after admission were selected (N=11,906; 48% of admissions) and summarized in several tables below.

Unfortunately, the overall commitment database does not have many detailed variables about each offender. Thus, we turned to a second database for which a detailed social, offense, and criminal history was collected and coded. That "sample" was for over 3300 consecutive admissions between May and June 2009 and it is shown to be fully representative of the larger population. For that sample also those expected to spend less than one year were extracted and described in the tables below. This was 46% of the sample. A full detailing of the 2009 Intake sample is available on DRC's website at <http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/reports/reports18.asp>.

Commitment Database Tables: These tables are attached as Tables A – G. Table A shows that 32% of the short term offenders are in for drug possession or trafficking of small amounts. Most of the other ten most frequent offenses are property offenses. Still, it is useful to note that some of these STO offenders have committed violent crimes. Table B sorts the offenders by felony level, with 84% serving an F4 or F5 offense. Table C shows expected time to serve. Over 8% (955) of those serving less than a year will be out in less than three months. Another 34% (4035) will spend three, four, or five months, for a total of 42% of the one year or less offenders spending less than six months. In 2008 there were about 5900 inmates with less than six months. In 2009 there were about 5000 so the drop is about 900. Table D shows a county distribution; no total seems completely out of line with overall commitment patterns. Table E shows race/ethnicity commitment patterns consistent with all admissions, but there are a slightly larger proportion of females in the less than one year group (Table F) than in all admissions. The mean and median ages of the STO's are about a year older than the overall intake (Table G). Thus, overall, these offenders are similar to all inmates with the exception of having shorter terms, less serious crimes (specifically drugs and property), and offenses with lower felony levels. Short term offenders are slightly more likely to be female.

Intake Sample Database Tables: These tables are attached as Tables 1-14. Certain tables can be compared between the Commitment and Intake Databases. Gender (Table 1), Race/Ethnicity (Table 2), County of Commitment (Table 3) and Offenses (Table 4) show great consistency between the two databases. The four most frequent offenses are in the same order, with percentages within one to two

percentage points between the two tables. There is a fairly close ordering between the next several offenses. All this suggests that for the less than one year offender the social and criminal profile of the intake sample is probably reasonable for all less than one year commitments. There are 3358 offenders in the sample, of whom 1551 (46%) were for less than one year. It is worth noting that the female proportion of STO's is about three percentage points higher than for the full intake sample; female STO's are over six percentage points higher than offenders entering for a year or more.

Intake Sample Social History: About 39% of the intake sample did not have a high school degree on entering prison (Table 5). Table 6 shows that slightly less than a quarter had been full time employed at the time of arrest for committing the offense. Table 7 notes that one-third of the intake sample had some history of mental illness or treatment. Of the sample, 81% had a documented history of drug abuse within six months immediately before and including the day of arrest for current offense (Table 8). Fewer had problems with alcohol abuse within the same time period as shown in Table 9, but still almost 47%. Only 29% of the sample had completed substance abuse treatment (Table 10). With regard to all these variables, there is little meaningful difference from the full Intake sample; a slight exception is that two or three more percentage points of the "less than one year" portion of the sample had a history of drug abuse and also had been to substance abuse treatment.

Intake Sample Criminal History: Although the instant offenses of these short sentence offenders are not very serious, this does not mean that all are easy to divert. Many of these offenders have two or more prior felonies, 41% (Table 11); a quarter (25%) had prior violent felony convictions (Table 12), and 49% have had prior imprisonments (Table 13). These distributions are very similar for both the short term offenders and the full intake sample. Further, Table 14 illustrates that 36% were on probation/community control at the time they committed additional behavior for which they were sent to prison. This is ten percentage points higher than the whole intake population and about 15 percentage points higher than those with stays expected to be one year or more. Another 6.2% were on parole or post release control from prison when they committed a new felony that resulted in a new prison term.

Summary: In many ways the inmates entering prison with short terms are remarkably similar to the full range of inmates coming to prison. Demographics – sex, ethnicity, age, county of commitment – social history – education, employment, substance abuse, treatment – are all very similar between the two groups. The STO's are somewhat more likely to be female. Differences primarily relate to the kinds of offenses for which the short term inmates enter prison, which are predominately, but not exclusively, drug and property offenses, and the term lengths of admission. Also, there is a ten percentage point higher likelihood that the short term offender entered for a probation violation.

**DATA TABLES FOR INMATES COMMITTED WITH AN
EXPECTED STAY OF LESS THAN ONE YEAR
N = 11906 (CY 2009 COMMITMENTS)**

Table A: Most Frequent Crimes
(ranked in order of frequency)

Top Ten Offenses	Frequency	Percent
Drug Possession	2399	20.1
Trafficking in Drugs	1466	12.3
Grand Theft	1423	12.0
Receiving Stolen Property	836	7.0
Breaking and Entering	532	4.5
Burglary	531	4.5
Non-Support of Dependents	491	4.1
Domestic Violence	474	4.0
Forgery	307	2.6
Weapon Under Disability	271	2.3
Subtotal for Top Ten Offenses	8730	73.3
Other Offenses with 100 or more		
Robbery	229	1.9
Aggravated Assault	212	1.8
Carrying Concealed Weapon	202	1.7
Escape	169	1.4
Assault	163	1.4
Failure to Notify Change of Address	141	1.2
Resisting Arrest	130	1.1
Driving While Intoxicated	126	1.1
Tampering w/Evidence	108	.9
All Other Crimes	1696	14.2
Total Admissions to Serve Less Than One Year	11906	100.0

Table B: Felony Level (N = 11906)

	Frequency	Percent
1st	11	.1
2nd	36	.3
3rd	1839	15.4
4th	3777	31.7
5th	6243	52.4
Total	11906	100.0

**Table C: Expected Time To Serve
(N = 11906)**

	Frequency	Percent
Less than one month	136	1.1
1.00-1.99	288	2.4
2.00-2.99	531	4.5
3.00-3.99	900	7.6
4.00-4.99	1248	10.5
5.00-5.99	1887	15.8
6.00-6.99	898	7.5
7.00-7.99	1033	8.7
8.00-8.99	1108	9.3
9.00-9.99	1208	10.1
10.00-10.99	1145	9.6
11.00-11.99	1524	12.8
Total	11906	100.0

Table D: County of Commitment (N = 11906)

	Frequency	Percent
Adams	14	.1
Allen	47	.4
Ashland	53	.4
Ashtabula	65	.5
Athens	54	.5
Auglaize	33	.3
Belmont	14	.1
Brown	120	1.0
Butler	423	3.6
Carroll	7	.1
Champaign	26	.2
Clark	244	2.0
Clermont	142	1.2
Clinton	73	.6
Columbiana	79	.7
Coshocton	39	.3
Crawford	36	.3
Cuyahoga	2661	22.4
Darke	25	.2
Defiance	24	.2
Delaware	84	.7
Erie	64	.5
Fairfield	90	.8
Fayette	41	.3
Franklin	906	7.6
Fulton	43	.4
Gallia	20	.2
Geauga	21	.2
Greene	203	1.7
Guernsey	34	.3
Hamilton	1131	9.5
Hancock	39	.3
Hardin	6	.1
Harrison	4	.0
Henry	7	.1
Highland	39	.3
Hocking	32	.3

Holmes	17	.1
Huron	61	.5
Jackson	30	.3
Jefferson	39	.3
Knox	19	.2
Lake	198	1.7
Lawrence	71	.6
Licking	156	1.3
Logan	45	.4
Lorain	215	1.8
Lucas	316	2.7
Madison	43	.4
Mahoning	208	1.7
Marion	97	.8
Medina	122	1.0
Meigs	13	.1
Mercer	8	.1
Miami	177	1.5
Monroe	8	.1
Montgomery	770	6.5
Morgan	3	.0
Morrow	6	.1
Muskingum	89	.7
Noble	3	.0
Ottawa	21	.2
Paulding	17	.1
Perry	16	.1
Pickaway	86	.7
Pike	17	.1
Portage	79	.7
Preble	28	.2
Putnam	20	.2
Richland	167	1.4
Ross	79	.7
Sandusky	50	.4
Scioto	151	1.3
Seneca	44	.4
Shelby	59	.5
Stark	380	3.2
Summit	426	3.6
Trumbull	184	1.5
Tuscarawas	27	.2
Union	17	.1

Van Wert	28	.2
Vinton	9	.1
Warren	130	1.1
Washington	38	.3
Wayne	25	.2
Williams	39	.3
Wood	100	.8
Wyandot	12	.1
Total	11906	100.0

Table E: Race/Ethnicity (N = 11906)

	Frequency	Percent
White	6390	53.7
Black	5358	45.0
Other	141	1.2
Asian	12	.1
American Native	5	.0
Total	11906	100.0

Table F: Sex of Commitments (N = 11906)

	Frequency	Percent
Female	1939	16.3
Male	9967	83.7
Total	11906	100.0

Table G: Age Group of Commitments (N = 11906)

	Frequency	Percent
0-17	10	.1
18-24	2827	23.7
25-29	2448	20.6
30-34	1845	15.5
35-39	1513	12.7
40-44	1277	10.7
45-49	1061	8.9
50-54	606	5.1
55-59	227	1.9
60-64	68	.6
65-69	17	.1
70-74	5	.0
75-79	2	.0
Total	11906	100.0

**Mean Age (STO's)
(N=11906)**

Mean Age	33.22
Median Age	31

**Mean Age (all 2009 commitments)
(N=25031)**

Mean Age	32.41
Median Age	30

**Table 1: Sex of Offenders with less than one year stay
Intake 2009
(N = 1551)**

	Frequency	Percent
Female	280	18.1
Male	1271	81.9
Total	1551	100.0

**Table 2: Race and Ethnicity of Offenders with less than
one year stay
Intake 2009
(N = 1551)**

	Frequency	Percent
Asian	1	0.1
Black	669	43.1
White	859	55.4
Other	22	1.4
Total	1551	100.0

****There is no data for Hispanics. They are instead grouped with Black and White offenders**

**Table 3: Counties of Commitment of Offenders with less than
one year stay
Intake 2009
(N = 1551)**

	Frequency	Percent
Allen	7	0.5
Ashland	9	0.6
Ashtabula	5	0.3
Athens	9	0.6
Auglaize	4	0.3
Belmont	0	0.0
Brown	2	0.1
Butler	67	4.3
Carroll	2	0.1
Champaign	4	0.3
Clark	38	2.5
Clermont	11	0.7
Clinton	10	0.6
Columbiana	9	0.6
Coshocton	5	0.3
Crawford	11	0.7
Cuyahoga	342	22.1
Darke	1	0.1
Defiance	6	0.4
Delaware	20	1.3
Erie	13	0.8
Fairfield	10	0.6
Fayette	6	0.4
Franklin	120	7.7
Fulton	3	0.2
Gallia	2	0.1
Geauga	3	0.2
Greene	22	1.4
Guernsey	4	0.3
Hamilton	184	11.9
Hancock	6	0.4
Hardin	1	0.1
Harrison	2	0.1

Henry	2	0.1
Highland	7	0.5
Hocking	3	0.2
Holmes	1	0.1
Huron	3	0.2
Jackson	10	0.6
Jefferson	5	0.3
Knox	5	0.3
Lake	20	1.3
Lawrence	13	0.8
Licking	11	0.7
Logan	8	0.5
Lorain	30	1.9
Lucas	30	1.9
Madison	4	0.3
Mahoning	33	2.1
Marion	12	0.8
Medina	14	0.9
Meigs	1	0.1
Mercer	4	0.3
Miami	23	1.5
Montgomery	108	7.0
Morrow	1	0.1
Muskingum	20	1.3
Noble	1	0.1
Ottawa	2	0.1
Paulding	2	0.1
Perry	1	0.1
Pickaway	9	0.6
Pike	3	0.2
Portage	9	0.6
Preble	3	0.2
Putnam	2	0.1
Richland	23	1.5
Ross	7	0.5
Sandusky	3	0.2
Scioto	18	1.2
Seneca	4	0.3
Shelby	5	0.3
Stark	48	3.1
Summit	51	3.3

Trumbull	16	1.0
Tuscarawas	5	0.3
Union	3	0.2
Van Wert	2	0.1
Vinton	2	0.1
Warren	17	1.1
Washington	6	0.4
Wayne	2	0.1
Williams	5	0.3
Wood	8	0.5
Total	1551	100.0

**Table 4: Most Serious Conviction Offenses of Offenders
with less than one year stay
Intake 2009
(N = 1551)**

	Frequency	Percent
Drug Possession	384	24.8
Trafficking in Drugs	172	11.1
Theft	167	10.8
Receiving Stolen Property	110	7.1
Nonsupport of Dependents	91	5.9
Breaking and Entering	73	4.7
Forgery	59	3.8
Domestic Violence	50	3.2
Burglary	34	2.2
Weapon Under Disability	30	1.9
Escape	30	1.9
Carrying Concealed Weapon	27	1.7
Assault	22	1.4
Aggravated Assault	21	1.4
Robbery	19	1.2
Failure to Comply	17	1.1
Tampering w/Evidence	16	1.0
Felonious Assault	13	0.8

Driving while Intoxicated	13	0.8
Gross Sexual Imposition	12	0.8
Corrupting a Minor	11	0.7
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	9	0.6
Passing Bad Checks	9	0.6
Deception to Obtain Dangerous Drugs	9	0.6
Violation of Protection Order	8	0.5
Vandalism	8	0.5
Failure to Verify Address	8	0.5
Taking Identity of Another	7	0.5
Misuse of Credit Card	7	0.5
Illegal Drug Documents	7	0.5
Tampering w/Records	6	0.4
Improper Handling of Firearm	6	0.4
Aggravated Menacing	6	0.4
Possession of Criminal Tools	4	0.3
Obstruction Official Business	4	0.3
Illegal Weapons	4	0.3
Harassment by Inmate	4	0.3
Duty to Register	4	0.3
Aggravated Vehicular Assault	4	0.3
Violate Own Recognizance	3	0.2
Sexual Battery	3	0.2
Sale Counterfeit Drugs	3	0.2
Illegal Manufacture of Drugs	3	0.2
Arson	3	0.2
Abduction	3	0.2
Obstruction of Justice	2	0.1
Intimidation of Victim/Witness	2	0.1
Failure to Appear	2	0.1
Endangering Children	2	0.1
Aggravated Vehicular Homicide	2	0.1
Aggravated Robbery	2	0.1
Unauthorized Use of Property	1	0.1
Theft in Office	1	0.1
Telephone Harassment	1	0.1
Soliciting	1	0.1
Promoting Prostitution	1	0.1
Permit Drug Abuse	1	0.1
Pandering Obscenity	1	0.1
Involuntary Manslaughter	1	0.1

Insurance Fraud	1	0.1
Inducing Panic	1	0.1
Importuning	1	0.1
Disseminating Obscene Information	1	0.1
Disrupting Public Service	1	0.1
Criminal Simulation	1	0.1
Aggravated Rioting	1	0.1
Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	1	0.1
Total	1551	100.0

**Table 5: Education Level at Arrest of Offenders with less than
one year stay
Intake 2009
(N = 1551)**

	Frequency	Percent
8th Grade or Less	79	5.4
9th - 12th, No Diploma	523	33.7
High School Diploma	277	17.9
GED	303	19.5
Attended College - No Degree	216	13.9
Associates Degree	25	1.6
College Degree - Bachelors or more	21	1.4
Total	1444	93.1
Unknown	107	6.9
Total	1551	100.0

Table 6: Employment Status at Arrest of Offenders with less than one year stay Intake 2009 (N = 1551)

	Frequency	Percent
Unemployed	965	62.2
Partial Employment	169	10.9
Full Time Employment	347	22.4
Total	1481	95.5
Unknown	70	4.5
Total	1551	100.0

Table 7: Indication of Mental Illness of Offenders with less than one year stay Intake 2009 (N = 1551)

	Frequency	Percent
No Mental Illness	1012	65.2
Self-Admission/Evidence	58	3.7
Diagnosed with Mental Illness	11	0.7
Treated for Mental Illness	449	28.9
Total	1530	98.6
Unknown	21	1.4
Total	1551	100.0

Table 8: History of Recent Drug Abuse of Offenders with less than one year stay Intake 2009 (N = 1551)

	Frequency	Percent
No Indication	277	17.9
Self Admission/Evidence	1234	79.6
Treatment of Problem	23	1.5
Total	1534	98.9
Unknown	17	1.1
Total	1551	100.0

Table 9: History of Recent Alcohol Abuse of Offenders with less than one year stay Intake 2009 (N = 1551)

	Frequency	Percent
No Indication	808	52.1
Self-Admission/Evidence	711	45.8
Treatment of Problem	15	1.0
Total	1534	98.9
Unknown	17	1.1
Total	1551	100.0

**Table 10: History of Substance Abuse Treatment of Offenders with less than one year stay
Intake 2009
(N = 1551)**

	Frequency	Percent
No Treatment History	707	45.6
Fail to Comply w/Treatment	146	9.4
Began Treatment-Completion Unknown	33	2.1
In Treatment at Arrest	1	0.1
Completed Treatment	453	29.2
Treatment After Arrest Only	191	12.3
Total	1531	98.7
Unknown	20	1.3
Total	1551	100.0

**Table 11: Adult Felony Convictions of Offenders with less than one year stay
Intake 2009
(N = 1551)**

	Frequency	Percent
0	594	38.3
1	303	19.5
2	236	15.2
3	127	8.2
4	108	7.0
5 or more	172	11.1
Total	1540	99.3
Unknown	11	.7
Total	1551	100.0

Table 12: Adult Violent Felony Convictions of Offenders with less than one year stay (includes felony sex convictions)
Intake 2009
(N = 1551)

	Frequency	Percent
0	1150	74.1
1	262	16.9
2	81	5.2
3	41	2.6
4	7	0.4
5 or more	2	0.1
Total	1543	99.5
Unknown	8	.5
Total	1551	100.0

Table 13: Adult Prison Incarcerations of Offenders with less than one year stay
Intake 2009
(N = 1551)

	Frequency	Percent
0	777	50.1
1	281	18.6
2	173	11.2
3	111	7.2
4	71	4.6
5	42	2.7
6	30	1.9
7	17	1.1
8 or more	39	2.7
Total	1541	99.4
Unknown	10	.6
Total	1551	100.0

**Table 14: Parole/Probation Violation of Offenders with less than
one year stay
Intake 2009
(N = 1551)**

	Frequency	Percent
Not a Violator	891	57.4
Technical Violator/Probation	298	19.2
New Crime/Technical Violator	24	1.5
New Crime/Probation	230	14.8
New Crime/Parole	96	6.2
Total	1539	99.2
Unknown	12	.8
Total	1551	100.0