

Unauthorized Leaves

JRA Intensive Parole Evaluation

Background

In 1997, the Washington State Legislature funded intensive parole for youth under the supervision of the state's Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA). This legislation targets 25 percent of the JRA population at the highest risk for re-offending.¹ The goals of the intensive parole program include the following:

- ◆ Maintaining public protection in both the short-term and long-term;
- ◆ Assuring individual accountability; and
- ◆ Providing treatment and support services.

JRA's method for achieving these goals is through an overarching case management system intended to help high-risk delinquents make the transition from secure confinement to community supervision.

The Institute is publishing a series of briefing papers during the year 2000 as well as annual progress reports to answer the following questions:

- ◆ How well is the intensive parole model being implemented?
- ◆ Does intensive parole reduce recidivism?
- ◆ Does the program's benefits outweigh the program's costs?

Three briefing papers have been done for far:

#1- Study population description.²

#2- Supervision status analysis.³

#3- Parole revocation analysis.⁴

This briefing paper looks at intensive parole program youth and answers the following questions about unauthorized leaves:

- ◆ How often do intensive parole youth go on unauthorized leave?
- ◆ How does intensive parole affect unauthorized leaves?

How often do intensive parole youth go on unauthorized leave? The parole conditions defined in Washington State statute require each youth's whereabouts on parole to always be known by their parole counselor. Intensive parole supervision added the requirement that a youth meet at least one a week with their parole counselor. When a youth's whereabouts becomes unknown, the youth is on unauthorized leave. In this report, unauthorized leaves are examined for intensive parole youth during the first 24 weeks after placement on supervision.

The intensive parole group in this report consists of youth placed in the community on intensive parole between October 1, 1998, and October 31, 1999.

¹ RCW 13.40.210

² Robert Barnoski, *Population Description: JRA Intensive Parole Evaluation (Briefing Paper #1)*, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Olympia, WA, February 2000.

³ Robert Barnoski, *Supervision Status: JRA Intensive Parole Evaluation (Briefing Paper #2)*, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Olympia, WA, May 2000.

⁴ Robert Barnoski, *Parole Revocations: JRA Intensive Parole Evaluation (Briefing Paper #2)*, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Olympia, WA, May 2000.

Exhibit 1 illustrates the percentage of intensive parole youth by the number of unauthorized leaves they had within the first 24 weeks on supervision. The table is based on the 367 youth on intensive parole for at least 24 weeks. Forty-six percent of the youth had at no unauthorized leaves. Twenty-nine of the intensive parole group percent had one unauthorized leave, 15 percent had two, and five percent had at least three unauthorized leaves.

Exhibit 1
Percentage of Intensive Parole Youth
With at Least One Unauthorized Leave Within First 24 Weeks

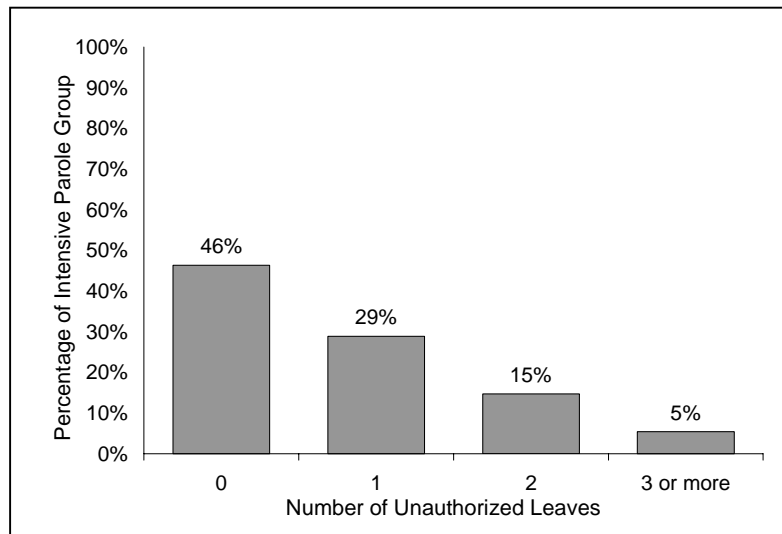


Exhibit 2 displays a description of unauthorized leaves for the intensive parole group during the first 24 weeks from placement on parole. The intensive parole youth averaged 1.0 unauthorized leaves and the average length of time spent on unauthorized leave during the first 24 weeks was 35.3 days.

Exhibit 2
Number of Unauthorized leaves During First 24 Weeks

NUMBER OF Unauthorized Leaves	NUMBER OF YOUTH	PERCENTAGE OF PROGRAM GROUP
0	170	46%
1	106	29%
2	54	15%
3	20	5%
4	12	3%
5	3	1%
6	2	1%
TOTAL	367	100%
AT LEAST ONE	197	54%
AVERAGE NUMBER*		1.0
AVERAGE DAYS**		35.3

*The number of unauthorized leaves per youth.

**The average number of days spent on unauthorized leave.

Exhibit 3 shows unauthorized leave data during the first 24 weeks of intensive parole in each of JRA's six regions.

Exhibit 3
Unauthorized Leaves During First 24 Weeks of Supervision
for Intensive Parole Youth in Each Region

NUMBER OF UNAUTHORIZED LEAVES DURING FIRST 24 WEEKS	PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH HAVING UNAUTHORIZED LEAVES WITHIN EACH REGION					
	1 - SPOKANE	2 - YAKIMA	3 - EVERETT	4 - SEATTLE	5 - TACOMA	6 - OLYMPIA
0	56%	37%	38%	38%	52%	57%
1	29%	35%	36%	29%	22%	26%
2	8%	14%	17%	17%	17%	12%
3	4%	8%	6%	9%	3%	2%
4	2%	2%	2%	5%	4%	3%
5	0%	2%	0%	0%	3%	0%
6	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
AT LEAST ONE	44%	63%	62%	62%	48%	43%
AVERAGE NUMBER*	0.7	1.2	1	1.2	0.9	0.7
AVERAGE DAYS**	33.6	32.6	26.7	43.3	33.1	36.4
NUMBER OF YOUTH	48	51	47	86	77	58

*The number of unauthorized leaves per youth.

**The average number of days spent on unauthorized leave.

How does intensive parole affect unauthorized leaves? The Institute's evaluation of the intensive parole program involves a comparison group consisting of youth placed on parole supervision between October 1, 1997, and October 1, 1998, who would have met the intensive parole criteria had the program existed at that time. As reported in the first briefing paper, the intensive parole and comparison groups differ slightly, yet significantly, on three variables (ISCA,⁵ time on parole, and age at placement on parole). The comparison group is of slightly higher risk. The second briefing paper found that nearly all members of both groups were still under supervision up to one day before the end of their twelfth week on parole. As a result, the behavior of the two groups can be compared during the first 12 weeks of parole as long as the appropriate statistical adjustments are made to allow for the slight differences.

After statistically controlling for the three variables, analyses⁶ revealed there are no statistically significant differences between the intensive parole and comparison group for the number of times a youth goes on unauthorized leave. Within the first 12 weeks, the average number of times on unauthorized leave was 0.5 for both the intensive parole and comparison groups. **That is, intensive parole does not significantly influence the number of times a youth goes on unauthorized leave just before the end of the 12th week of parole.**

Next we examined the number of days spent on unauthorized leave. Within the first 12 weeks, the average number of days on unauthorized leave was 17.9 for the comparison

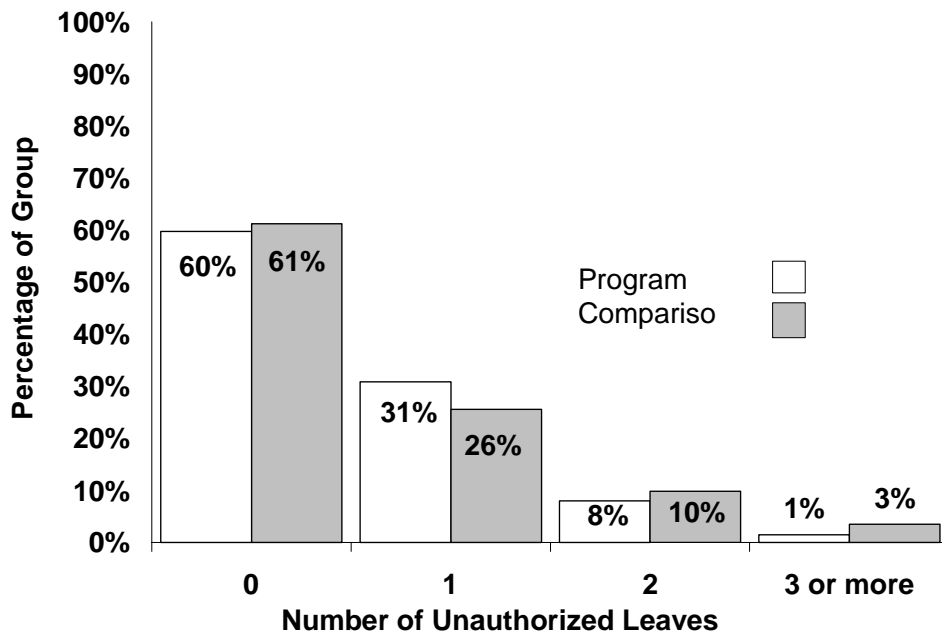
⁵ Initial Security Classification Assessment.

⁶ Negative Binomial Regression: Number of revocations is a function of Program Group, ISCA Score, length of time under supervision, and age at parole placement for youth with at least 83 days since program placement.

group and 21.7 for the intensive parole group. This is not a statistically significant difference. **Intensive parole increased slightly but not significantly the days spent on unauthorized leave during the first 12 weeks of supervision for those who went AWOL at least once.**

Exhibit 4 illustrates how much the two groups differ with regard to unauthorized leaves within the first 12 weeks of supervision.

Exhibit 4
Percentage of Youth Having At Least One Unauthorized Leave Within First 12 Weeks of Parole



Next Briefing Paper

The next briefing paper will examine baseline recidivism for the comparison group.

To obtain previous briefing papers, call the Institute at (360) 586-2677. For further information, contact Robert Barnoski at (360) 586-2744.