

WHO EXITED PRISON?

SELECT DATA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012 RELEASES

AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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OBJECTIVE

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice's (TDCJ) statutory mission is to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime. TDCJ is organized into multiple divisions and organizational units.

DEFINITIONS

- ◆ Administrative Segregation indicates a need for separation from staff or other offenders.
- ◆ Safekeeping indicates potential for victimization.
- ◆ G1–G3 and Outside Trusty indicates good disciplinary history.
- ◆ G4 indicates poor (non-assaultive) disciplinary history.
- ◆ G5 indicates assaultive disciplinary history.
- ◆ Other indicates special needs or participation in a program (not part of the general population).

KEY FACTS

- ◆ 83.4 percent of prisoners were released to parole supervision.
- ◆ 86.5 percent of prisoners had a custody level of G1–G3 or Outside Trusty at release.
- ◆ 76.8 percent of prisoners released had served five years or less at release.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Texas Government Code, Chapter 491

The data highlight offense and sentence characteristics of offenders released from prison facilities during fiscal year 2012. Prisons house offenders convicted of third-degree felonies or higher. The punishment ranges for these offenders can range from two years to death. The data do not include characteristics of state jail offenders, Substance Abuse Felony Punishment participants, or parole violators in Intermediate Sanction facilities. The data were extracted from individual-level records submitted by Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Executive Services and may differ from the TDCJ Statistical Report due to methodological differences.

RELEASE TYPE

FIG. 1
RELEASE TYPE OF THE PRISON RELEASE POPULATION, FISCAL YEAR 2012

RELEASE TYPE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Discharge	7,451	15.4%
Release to Probation*	548	1.1
Release to Parole Supervision	40,331	83.4
Total	48,330	100.0%

* A judge maintains continuing jurisdiction over cases sentenced to prison for 180 days. Within the 180-day period, the judge has the option to remove the offender from incarceration and instead place the offender on probation.

NOTE: Percentages presented in this report do not always add to 100% due to rounding.

SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

CUSTODY LEVEL

FIG. 2
CUSTODY LEVEL OF THE PRISON RELEASE POPULATION, FISCAL YEAR 2012

RELEASE TYPE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Administrative Segregation	1,445	3.0%
Safekeeping	301	0.6
G1–G3 and Outside Trusty	41,808	86.5
G4	2,039	4.2
G5	712	1.5
Other	2,025	4.2
Total	48,330	100.0%

NOTE: Percentages presented in this report do not always add to 100% due to rounding.

SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

CUSTODY LEVEL BY RELEASE TYPE**FIG. 3
CUSTODY LEVEL BY RELEASE TYPE OF THE PRISON RELEASE POPULATION, FISCAL YEAR 2012**

CUSTODY LEVEL	DISCHARGE	RELEASE TO PROBATION	RELEASE TO PAROLE SUPERVISION	TOTAL
Administrative Segregation	833	0	612	1,445
Safekeeping	83	0	218	301
G1–G3 and Outside Trusty	4,025	439	37,344	41,808
G4	1,638	5	396	2,039
G5	670	0	42	712
Other	202	104	1,719	2,025
Total	7,451	548	40,331	48,330

SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

TIME SERVED**FIG. 4
TIME SERVED OF THE PRISON RELEASE POPULATION, FISCAL YEAR 2012**

TIME SERVED	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
12 Months and Less	8,505	17.6%
1 to 2 Years	13,407	27.7
3 to 5 Years	15,204	31.5
6 to 10 Years	5,955	12.3
11+ Years	5,259	10.9
Total	48,330	100.0%

NOTE: Percentages presented in this report do not always add to 100% due to rounding.
SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.**KEY TERMS**

Administrative Segregation: A non-punitive, maximum custody status involving separation of an offender from the general population within the prison institution.

G1–G3 and Outside Trusty: Offenders in these custodies have a good disciplinary history, have served a specified portion of their sentence (varies by custody level), and do not have any security precaution designators.

G4: Offenders in this custody have disciplinary convictions within the past 12 months or a placement of a security precaution designator for escape, staff assault, or hostage.

G5: Offenders in this custody have disciplinary convictions for an assault with a weapon on staff or offenders within the past 12 to 24 months or have escaped from a TDCJ secure adult correctional facility within the past five years.

Safekeeping: Offenders who require separate housing for reasons that include, but are not limited to, vulnerability, threats to their safety, and potential for victimization.

USEFUL REFERENCES

Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Statistical Report FY2012

http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/documents/Statistical_Report_FY2012.pdf**CONTACT**Laurie Molina or Jamie Gardner Email: Issuebrief@lbb.state.tx.us