

MASSACHUSETTS FURLOUGH PROGRAM
STATISTICAL FACT SHEET

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INTRODUCTION

The Home Furlough Program was first implemented in Massachusetts on November 6, 1972. Since then, the program has become an integral component of the Massachusetts Correctional System. The Research Unit of the Department of Correction has produced several statistical and evaluative studies on the Furlough Program since its inception. The following report presents a concise description of the most recent furlough statistics, as well as a listing of other available furlough information.

The report is divided into three sections. The first section gives an overview of pertinent furlough statistics both since the inception of the program and for 1978: the number of furloughs granted; the number of individuals furloughed; escape rates; trends in furlough statistics; and the effect of furlough participation on recidivism rates.

Following the first section are two appendices. Appendix I consists of a series of tables based on the statistics presented in the first section. Appendix II contains a listing of other available departmental research studies on the furlough program.

STATISTICAL FACT SHEET ON THE
MASSACHUSETTS FURLOUGH PROGRAM

Proportion of the Population Participating in Furlough Program

On January 1, 1978, the Department of Correction had in its custody 2881 residents. Of that number, 720 had received one or more furloughs (25%). The remaining 75% did not participate in the furlough program.

Overall Statistics

Between the inception of the furlough program in Massachusetts on November 6, 1972 and December 31, 1978 a total of 50,645 furloughs have been granted. The number of individuals furloughed within this time span is 5275. Thus, the average number of furloughs per resident is approximately 10.

1978 Statistics

From January 1, 1978 to December 31, 1978 a total of 9111 furloughs were granted. The number of individuals furloughed in 1978 was 1269. The average number of furloughs per resident was approximately 7.

Escape Rate by Furlough Since Inception of Program

Out of the 50,645 furloughs granted, 477 have resulted in escapes, for an overall furlough escape rate of 0.9%.

When a comparison is made of escape rates on a yearly basis, the results are as follows: for 1973, the escape rate was 1.9%; for 1974, 1.5%; for 1975, 1.0%; for 1976 and 1977, 0.5%; and for 1978, 0.4%.

Escape Rate by Furlough for 1978

Out of the 9111 furloughs granted in 1978, 38 resulted in escape. The overall escape rate is therefore 0.4%.

Escape Rate by Individuals Furloughed

Of the 5275 individuals furloughed, 458 have been declared escaped at least once. The escape rate by individual furloughed, then, is 8.7%.

Out of the 458 individuals declared escapees, 138 have returned voluntarily within 24 hours. Excluding these individuals from the statistics, the escape rate declines to 6.1%.

Escape Rate by Individuals Furloughed in 1978

Of the 1269 individuals furloughed in 1978, 38 have been declared escaped at least once. The escape rate by individual furloughed is 3.0%.

Voluntary Returns

Of the 477 escapes, 140 or 29% returned voluntarily within 24 hours. If the escape rate is adjusted to exclude such returns, the escape rate becomes 0.7%.

Voluntary Returns in 1978

Out of the 38 escapes for 1978, 16 or 42% returned voluntarily within twenty-four hours. The escape rate excluding such returns is, therefore, 0.2%.

Escapees at Large

As of December 31, 1978, 431 or 90% of the total escapees had been returned to the custody of the Department of Correction. The remaining 46, or 10% remained at large.

Trends in The Number of Individuals Furloughed

Since the inception of the furlough program, the number of individuals furloughed per year has decreased significantly. From 1973 to 1978, the number of residents furloughed decreased from 1868 to 1269 - a decline of 32%.

The escape rate by individuals furloughed has also decreased within the same time span. In 1973, the escape rate by individual was

7.2%, and 1978, 3.0%.

The above data indicates a tightening up of the administration of furloughs by the Department of Correction.

Effect of Furlough Program on Recidivism

Departmental research on recidivism for the years 1973 through 1976 indicates that individuals who had experienced one or more furloughs prior to release had significantly lower rates of recidivism than those individuals released without having had a furlough.

For example, in 1973 the recidivism rate for residents released without a furlough was 25%, while the recidivism rate for individuals having received a furlough was 17%. Similarly, in 1976 those individuals without a furlough had a recidivism rate of 25%, whereas those with a furlough had a recidivism rate of only 9%.

APPENDIX I

TABLE I

PROPORTION OF POPULATION FURLOUGHED

	NEVER FURLOUGHED		FURLOUGHED		TOTAL POPULATION	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Walpole	609	91	61	9	670	100
Concord	359	79	95	21	454	100
Framingham-Men	9	28	23	72	32	100
Framingham-Women	51	58	37	42	88	100
Norfolk	643	90	73	10	716	100
SECC	190	81	44	19	234	100
Forestry	25	24	78	76	103	100
Drug Houses	18	60	12	40	30	100
Contract Houses	12	22	42	78	54	100
Pre-Release	59	19	249	81	308	100
RDC	54	96	2	4	56	100
Bridgewater	127	98	3	2	130	100
Lemuel Shattuck	5	83	1	17	6	100
TOTAL	2161	75	720	25	2881	100

TABLE II

NUMBER OF FURLOUGHS AND ESCAPES SINCE INCEPTION OF PROGRAM

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>ESCAPES</u>	<u>OVERALL ESCAPE RATE</u>	<u>NO. DECLARED ESCAPE BUT VOLUNTARY RETURNED WITHIN 24 HOURS</u>	<u>NO. DECLARED ESCAPE BUT DID NOT VOLUNTARILY RETURN WITHIN 24 HOURS</u>	<u>FURLOUGH ESCAPE RATE EXCLUDING VOLUNTARY RETURNS</u>
50,645	477	0.9%	140	337	0.7%

Furlough Statistics
by Furlough

TABLE III

FURLOUGH ESCAPE RATES BY INDIVIDUAL FURLOUGHED NOVEMBER 6, 1972 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1978

	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>ESCAPES</u>	<u>OVERALL FURLOUGH ESCAPE RATE</u>	<u>NO. DECLARED ESCAPE BUT RETURNED VOLUN- TARILY 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	5,275	458	8.7%	138	320	6.1%

AVERAGE NUMBER FURLOUGHS PER RESIDENT = 10

TABLE IV

YEARLY COMPARISON OF FURLOUGH STATISTICS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER OF FURLOUGHS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF ESCAPES</u>	<u>ESCAPE RATE</u>	<u>NUMBER ESCAPED VOLUNTARILY RETURNED WITHIN 24 HOURS</u>	<u>ESCAPE RATE EXCLUDING VOLUNTARY RETURNS</u>
1973	7196	134	1.9%	23	1.5%
1974	8324	127	1.5%	40	1.0%
1975	8565	88	1.0%	36	0.6%
1976	7996	40	0.5%	13	0.4%
1977	8199	42	0.5%	12	0.4%
1978	9111	38	0.4%	16	0.2%

TABLE V

YEARLY COMPARISON OF RECIDIVISM RATES BY FURLOUGH PARTICIPATION

	1973		1974		1975		1976	
	N	RR %						
Did Receive Furlough	670 (69)	17%	674 (74)	15%	502 (62)	14%	499 (54)	9%
Did Not Receive Furlough	296 (31)	25%	237 (26)	30%	304 (38)	30%	426 (46)	25%
TOTAL	966 (100)	19%	911 (100)	19%	806 (100)	20%	925 (100)	16%

APPENDIX II

AVAILABLE FURLOUGH PUBLICATIONS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PUBLICATION NUMBER</u>
Interim Report on Furloughs (1973)	65
An Evaluation of the Massachusetts Furlough Experience November 1972 - August, 1973	74
The Massachusetts Furlough Experience (1974)	79
National Furlough Data (1974)	90
Selected Characteristics of Residents Who Have Escaped on Furlough From Massachusetts Correctional Institutions - November 6, 1972 Through May 25, 1974	93
1974 Yearly Statistical Report of the Furlough Program	95
Description of Furloughs Granted November 6, 1972 Through December 31, 1973	97
Massachusetts Furlough Program: A Comprehensive Assessment	112
1975 Yearly Statistical Report of the Furlough Program	115
Massachusetts Furlough Program Statistical Fact Sheet	118
1976 Yearly Statistical Report of the Furlough Program	145
The Effect of the Home Furlough Program on Rates of Recidivism	146
Societal Reintegration & Recidivism Rates	159
1977 Yearly Statistical Report of the Furlough Program	162

The above publications can be obtained by writing to:

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Massachusetts Department of Correction
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