

Table 1.86

U.S. Parole Commission decisions within, above, and below paroling policy guidelines

By type of hearing, fiscal years 1978-96

Fiscal year	Initial hearings				Revocation hearings			
	Total number	Within	Above	Below	Total number	Within	Above	Below
1978	11,790	79.3%	10.6%	10.1%	1,749	79.8%	8.2%	12.1%
1979	11,801	80.7	9.4	10.0	2,032	80.2	8.5	11.3
1980	10,376	82.6	10.8	6.6	2,361	80.3	13.3	6.4
1981	7,718	84.4	9.7	5.9	2,406	80.4	13.3	6.3
1982	8,745	86.9	8.4	5.0	2,295	80.9	13.6	5.5
1983	10,678	86.7	7.9	5.4	2,463	82.8	12.7	4.5
1984	9,926	88.6	8.0	3.5	2,235	80.5	16.7	2.8
1985	10,514	91.2	6.7	2.1	2,163	79.3	19.0	1.6
1986	12,515	92.5	6.2	1.2	2,350	85.5	12.0	2.5
1987	13,029	92.6	6.1	1.3	2,519	88.4	8.4	3.2
1988	12,759	92.0	6.1	1.9	2,936	86.4	10.7	2.9
1989	8,724	90.0	7.9	2.2	2,759	85.8	10.2	4.0
1990	5,438	88.0	9.4	2.6	3,208	84.5	10.8	4.7
1991	3,612	84.9	11.7	3.4	3,142	84.1	9.7	6.2
1992	2,609	83.9	12.7	3.3	3,176	82.7	12.2	5.1
1993	2,618	83.3	14.5	3.3	2,974	82.0	13.0	4.9
1994	1,053	79.7	17.0	3.3	2,205	82.3	11.4	6.3
1995	744	79.0	18.0	3.0	2,097	85.3	7.8	6.9
1996	662	72.8	24.8	2.4	1,689	84.1	10.7	5.2

Note: See Note, table 1.85. In 1978, the U.S. Parole Commission adopted a system of guidelines, based on a calculation of parole risk, to aid in the determination of an optimal parole release date. Release decisions may be made either above or below the designated guideline range if warranted by discretionary, statutory, or policy considerations. For this table, only discretionary decisions outside the guideline structure are counted as "above" or "below." Thus, decisions to deny parole where the mandatory release date is below the guideline range, and decisions to grant an effective parole date above the guideline range, due to time needed to develop a suitable release plan or because the minimum sentence is beyond the guideline range, are counted as "within" the parole policy guidelines. Decisions below the guideline range because of policy limitations are excluded from this table (Source, *October 1, 1993 to September 30, 1994*, p. 10). Guidelines are used in revocation hearings in order to establish an eligibility date for "reparole." In addition, cases in which the guidelines developed by the District of Columbia Parole Board were used as the result of a court order are excluded from this table in 1988. Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

For definitions of terms, see Appendix 5.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Parole Commission, *Report of the U.S. Parole Commission, October 1, 1978 to September 30, 1980* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 1981), p. 22; Patricia L. Hardyman, "Workload and Decision Trends: Statistical Highlights," Report 40, p. 4, U.S. Parole Commission, 1984. (Mimeographed.); U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Parole Commission, *Annual Report of the United States Parole Commission, October 1, 1986 to September 30, 1987* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1988), p. 10; *Annual Report of the United States Parole Commission, October 1, 1990 to September 30, 1991*, p. 13; *October 1, 1993 to September 30, 1994*, p. 10 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice); and data provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Parole Commission. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.