

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Characteristics of Those who enter the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) with an Expected Stay of Less than One Year: A Report Based on 2008 Admissions

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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, over half of those sent to prison will spend less than 12 months in prison, and many will spend only a few months. Chart A demonstrates all 2008 commitments with short sentences. 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 Released in Less Than 12 Months: Two databases were used for this summary. First, all felons committed to DRC from common pleas courts during CY 2008 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 26,993 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=13,699; 51% 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 3200 consecutive admissions between May and June 2008, 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 48% of the sample. A full detailing of the 2008 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 35% 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 offenders have committed violent crimes. Table B sorts the offenders by felony level, with 85% serving an F4 or F5 offense. Table C shows expected time to serve. Over 8% (1149) of those serving less than a year will be out in less than three months. Another 34% (4710) will spend three, four, or five months, for a total of 43% of the one year or less offenders spending less than six months. In 2007 there were about 8500 inmates with less than six months; in 2008 there were only 5900, so the drop is 2600. 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 slightly more females in the less than one year group (Table F) than in all admissions. Chart B demonstrates female commitments by length of expected stay. Age patterns also are consistent with 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.

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), and County of Commitment (Table 9) show great consistency between the two databases. So does Table 10 - Offenses; the four most frequent offenses are in the same order, with percentages within one to two percentage point 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 3264 offenders in the sample of whom 1561 (48%) were for less than one year.

Intake Sample Social History: Almost two-fifths of the intake sample did not have a high school degree on entering prison (Table 3). Table 4 shows that slightly less than a quarter had been full time employed at the time of arrest for the committing offense. Table 5 notes that 31% had some history of mental illness or treatment. Of the sample, 91% had a documented history of drug abuse or admitted to the same (Table 6), while fewer had problems with alcohol as shown in Table 7, but still almost 72%. Only 31% of the sample had completed substance abuse treatment (Table 8). With regard to all these variables, there are no meaningful differences from the full Intake sample; a slight exception is that two or three more percentage points of the "less the 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 have at least two prior felonies, 43% (Table 11), and slightly over half, 51%, have had prior imprisonments (Table 13). A quarter (25%) had prior violent felony convictions (Table 12). These distributions are very similar for both the short term offenders and the full intake sample. Further, Table 14 illustrates that 38% were on probation/community control at the time they committed additional behavior for which they were sent to prison. This is six percentage points higher than the whole intake population. Another 6.5% 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. Differences relate to the kinds of offenses for which the short term inmates enter prison, which are predominately, but not exclusively, drug and property offenses, the term lengths of admission, and a six percentage point higher likelihood that the short term offender entered for a probation violation.

DATA TABLES FOR SENTENCES OF LESS THAN ONE YEAR
N = 13699 (CY2008 COMMITMENTS)

Table A: MOST FREQUENT CRIMES
(ranked in order of frequency)

Top Ten Offenses	Frequency	Percent
Drug Possession	3119	22.8
Trafficking in Drugs	1597	11.7
Theft	1415	10.3
Receiving Stolen Property	903	6.6
Breaking and Entering	663	4.8
Nonsupport of Dependents	585	4.3
Burglary	573	4.2
Domestic Violence	465	3.4
Forgery	429	3.1
Escape	296	2.2
Subtotal for Top Ten Offenses	10045	73.3
Other Offenses with 100 or more		
Weapon Under Disability	264	1.9
Robbery	263	1.9
Aggravated Assault	244	1.8
Carry Concealed Weapon	221	1.6
Failure to Register	201	1.5
Assault	194	1.4
Failure to Comply	173	1.3
Driving while Intoxicated	161	1.2
Tampering with Evidence	117	0.9
Corrupting a Minor	111	0.8
All Other Crimes	1705	12.4
Total Admissions to Serve Less Than One Year	13699	100.0

Table B: Felony Level (N=13699)

	Frequency	Percent
1st	12	0.1
2nd	49	0.4
3rd-Deter	2063	15.1
4th-Deter	4219	30.8
5th	7356	53.7
Total	13699	100

**Table C: Expected Time To Serve
(N=13699)**

	Frequency	Percent
Less than one month	154	1.1
1.00-1.99	323	2.4
2.00-2.99	672	4.9
3.00-3.99	1146	8.4
4.00-4.99	1548	11.3
5.00-5.99	2016	14.7
6.00-6.99	1092	8.0
7.00-7.99	1246	9.1
8.00-8.99	1257	9.2
9.00-9.99	1323	9.7
10.00-10.99	1308	9.5
11.00-11.99	1614	11.8
Total	13699	100.0

Table D: County of Commitment (N=13699)

	Frequency	Percent
Adams	15	0.1
Allen	57	0.4
Ashland	36	0.3
Ashtabula	68	0.5
Athens	71	0.5
Auglaize	29	0.2
Belmont	15	0.1
Brown	40	0.3

Butler	489	3.6
Carroll	12	0.1
Champaign	37	0.3
Clark	280	2.0
Clermont	117	0.9
Clinton	74	0.5
Columbiana	75	0.5
Coshocton	45	0.3
Crawford	49	0.4
Cuyahoga	3058	22.3
Darke	38	0.3
Defiance	30	0.2
Delaware	106	0.8
Erie	101	0.7
Fairfield	82	0.6
Fayette	75	0.5
Franklin	988	7.2
Fulton	46	0.3
Gallia	21	0.2
Geauga	28	0.2
Greene	254	1.9
Guernsey	41	0.3
Hamilton	1574	11.5
Hancock	58	0.4
Hardin	5	0.0
Harrison	8	0.1
Henry	16	0.1
Highland	71	0.5
Hocking	24	0.2
Holmes	11	0.1
Huron	57	0.4
Jackson	34	0.4
Jefferson	34	0.2
Knox	36	0.2
Lake	195	1.4
Lawrence	93	0.5
Licking	150	1.4
Logan	51	0.2
Lorain	290	2.3
Lucas	383	2.6
Madison	32	0.3
Mahoning	204	1.5
Marion	103	1.0
Medina	141	1.0

Meigs	10	0.1
Mercer	23	0.2
Miami	178	1.0
Monroe	15	0.1
Montgomery	894	5.8
Morgan	7	0.0
Morrow	20	0.1
Muskingum	118	0.8
Noble	9	0.1
Ottawa	12	0.1
Paulding	13	0.1
Perry	24	0.2
Pickaway	67	0.5
Pike	21	0.2
Portage	69	0.5
Preble	42	0.3
Putnam	15	0.1
Richland	197	1.4
Ross	93	0.7
Sandusky	41	0.3
Scioto	172	1.3
Seneca	47	0.3
Shelby	44	0.3
Stark	424	3.1
Summit	493	3.6
Trumbull	153	1.1
Tuscarawarus	35	0.3
Union	34	0.2
Van Wert	16	0.1
Vinton	18	0.1
Warren	182	1.3
Washington	59	0.4
Wayne	45	0.3
Williams	38	0.3
Wood	102	0.7
Wyandot	21	0.2
Total	13699	100.0

Table E: Race/Ethnicity (N=13699)

	Frequency	Percent
White	7228	52.8
Black	6373	46.5
Asian	7	0.1
Other	83	0.6
Native American	8	0.1
Total	13699	100.0

Table F: Sex of Commitments (N=13699)

	Frequency	Percent
Male	11516	84.1
Female	2183	15.9
Total	13699	100.0

Table G: Age Group of Commitments (N=13699)

	Frequency	Percent
0-17		
18-24	15	0.1
25-29	3135	22.9
30-34	2648	19.3
35-39	1997	14.6
40-44	1870	13.7
45-49	1617	11.8
50-54	1293	9.4
55-59	732	5.3
60-64	264	1.9
65-69	90	0.7
70-74	25	0.2
75-79	10	0.1
	3	0.0
Total	13699	100.0

Mean Age (N = 13699)		Mean Age N = (26993)	
Mean Age	33.68	Mean Age	32.77
Median Age	32	Median Age	31

**Table 1: Sex of Offenders with less than one year term
Intake 2008**

	Frequency	Percent
Female	267	17.1
Male	1294	82.9
Total	1561	100.0

**Table 2: Race and Ethnicity of Offenders with less than one year term
Intake 2008**

	Frequency	Percent
Black	724	46.4
Other	2	0.1
White	835	53.5
Total	1561	100.0

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

**Table 3: Education Level at Arrest of Offenders with less than
one year term
Intake 2008**

	Frequency	Percent
8th Grade or Less	92	5.9
9th - 12th, No Diploma	520	33.3
High School Diploma	314	20.1
GED	295	18.9
Attended College - No Degree	185	11.9
College Degree - Bachelors or more	52	3.3
Total	1458	93.4
Unknown	103	6.6
Total	1561	100.0

Table 4: Employment Status at Arrest of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2008

	Frequency	Percent
Unemployed	736	47.1
Partial Employment	363	23.3
Full Time Employment	386	24.7
Total	1485	95.1
Unknown	76	4.9
Total	1561	100

Table 5: Indication of Mental Illness of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2008

	Frequency	Percent
No Mental Illness	1061	68.0
Self-Admission/Evidence	52	3.3
Diagnosed with Mental Illness	11	0.7
Treated for Mental Illness	422	27.0
Total	1546	99.0
Unknown	15	1.0
Total	1561	100.0

Table 6: History of Past Drug Abuse of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2008

	Frequency	Percent
No Indication	137	8.8
Self Admission/Evidence	861	55.2
Diagnosis of Problem	2	0.1
Treatment of Problem	539	34.5
Total	1539	98.6
Unknown	22	1.4
Total	1561	100.0

Table 7: History of Past Alcohol Abuse of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2008

	Frequency	Percent
No Indication	438	28.1
Self-Admission/Evidence	726	46.5
Diagnosis of Problem	1	0.1
Treatment of Problem	375	24.0
Total	1540	98.7
Unknown	21	1.3
Total	1561	100.0

Table 8: History of Substance Abuse Treatment of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2008

	Frequency	Percent
No Treatment History	716	45.9
Fail to Comply w/Treatment	135	8.6
Began Treatment-Completion Unknown	28	1.8
In Treatment at Arrest	3	0.2
Completed Treatment	477	30.6
Treatment After Arrest Only	176	11.3
Total	1535	98.3
Unknown	26	1.7
Total	1561	100.0

Table 9: Counties of Commitment of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2008

	Frequency	Percent
Allen	7	0.4
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	2.4
Clermont	11	0.7
Clinton	10	0.6
Columbiana	9	0.6
Coshocton	5	0.3
Crawford	11	0.7
Cuyahoga	342	21.9
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	11.8
Hancock	6	0.4
Hardin	1	0.1
Harrison	2	0.1
Henry	2	0.1
Highland	7	0.4
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	6.9
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	0.4
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	1561	100.0

Counties with the greatest number of offender commitments:

Cuyahoga (N=342; 21.9%), Hamilton (N=184; 11.8%), Franklin (N=120; 7.7%), Montgomery (N=108; 6.9%), Butler (N=67; 4.3%), Summit (N=51; 3.3%), Summit (N=48; 3.1%), Clark (N=38; 2.4%), Mahoning (N=33; 2.1%) and a tie between Lorain and Lucas counties (N=30; 1.9%)

Table 10: Most Serious Conviction Offense of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2008

	Frequency	Percent
Drug Possession	384	24.6
Trafficking in Drugs	172	11.0
Theft	167	10.7
Receiving Stolen Property	110	7.0
Nonsupport of Dependents	91	5.8
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	1.3
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	0.4
Misuse of Credit Card	7	0.4
Illegal Drug Documents	7	0.4
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	1561	100.0

Table 11: Adult Felony Convictions of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2008

	Frequency	Percent
0	573	36.7
1	315	20.2
2	218	14.0
3	156	10.0
4	88	5.6
5 or more	201	12.9
Total	1551	99.4
Unknown	10	0.6
Total	1561	100.0

Table 12: Adult Violent Felony Convictions of Offenders with less than one year term (not including sex offenses) Intake 2008

	Frequency	Percent
0	1166	74.7
1	273	17.5
2	68	4.4
3	33	2.1
4	10	0.6
5 or more	1	0.1
Total	1551	99.4
Unknown	10	0.6
Total	1561	100.0

Table 13: Adult Prison Incarcerations of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2008

	Frequency	Percent
0	759	48.6
1	288	18.4
2	172	11.0
3	116	7.4
4	90	5.8
5	39	2.5
6	35	2.2
7	19	1.2
8 or more	33	2.1
Total	1551	99.4
Unknown	10	0.6
Total	1561	100.0

Table 14: Parole/Probation Violation of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2008

	Frequency	Percent
Not a Violator	868	55.6
Technical Violator/Probation	352	22.5
New Crime/Technical Violator	1	0.1
New Crime/Probation	231	14.8
New Crime/Parole	101	6.5
Total	1553	99.5
Unknown	8	0.5
Total	1561	100.0

CHART A
Proportions of all CY 2008 commitments with short sentences

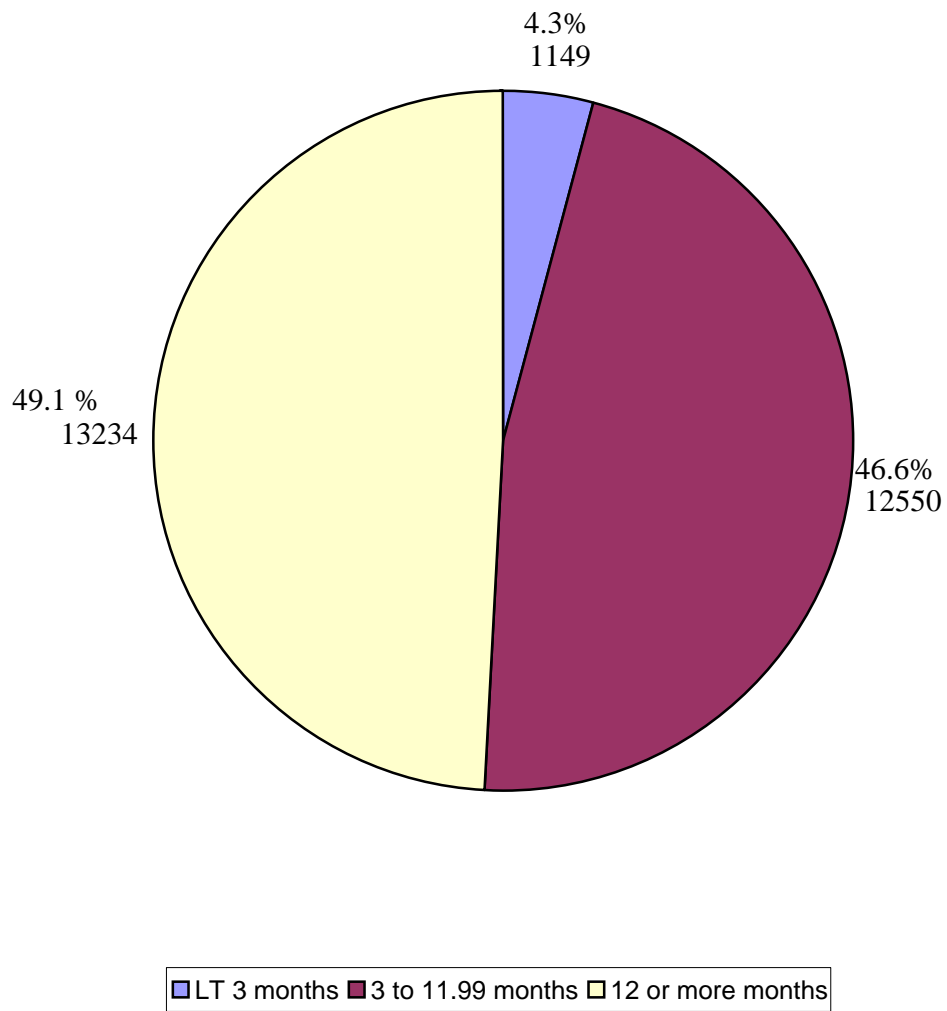


Chart B
CY 08 female commitments to DRC, by length of expected stay

