

# **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 2007 Admissions**

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**Characteristics of Those who enter the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction  
(DRC) with an Expected Stay of Less than One Year:  
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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, which means almost all sentences of one year or less will spend less than 12 months in prison. As will be noted below, most years at least three fifths of those sent to prison will spend less than 12 months in prison, and many will spend only a few months. 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 during 2007 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 2007 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 28,178 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=16,063; 57% 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 3500 consecutive admissions between May and June 2007, and it seems 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 52% of the sample. A full detailing of the 2007 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 84% F4 or F5. Table C shows expected time to serve. Over 12% of those serving less than a year will be out in less than three months. Another 41% will spend three, four, or five months, for a total of 53% of the one year or less offenders spending less than six months. This is almost 8500 inmates. 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. 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 seven most frequent offenses are in the same order, with percentages for the first four within one 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 3931 offenders in the sample of whom 2038 were for less than one year; for the remaining tables, some cases of the 2038 were excluded due to missing information.

Intake Sample Social History: Almost 43% of the intake sample did not have a high school degree on entering prison (Table 3). Table 4 shows that only 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, 93% 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 71%. 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 than 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, 28% (Table 11), and slightly over half, 52%; have had prior imprisonments (Table 13). Just over a quarter (27%) 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 36% were on probation/community control at the time they committed additional behavior for which they were sent to prison. This is five percentage points higher than the whole intake population. Another six percent 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 – and 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 five percentage point higher likelihood that the short term offender entered for a probation violation.

**DATA TABLES FOR SENTENCES OF LESS THAN ONE YEAR  
N = 16063 (CY2007 COMMITMENTS)**

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

<b>Top Ten Offenses</b>	Frequency	Percent
Drug Possession	3799	23.7
Trafficking in Drugs	1712	10.7
Theft	1565	9.7
Receiving Stolen Property	1076	6.7
Breaking and Entering	756	4.7
Nonsupport of Dependents	689	4.3
Burglary	684	4.3
Domestic Violence	529	3.3
Forgery	521	3.2
Escape	351	2.2
<b>Subtotal for Top Ten Offenses</b>	<b>11682</b>	<b>72.7</b>
<b>Other Offenses with 100 or more</b>		
Robbery	342	2.1
Weapon Under Disability	305	1.9
Carrying Concealed Weapon	283	1.8
Aggravated Assault	258	1.6
Driving while Intoxicated	234	1.5
Assault	228	1.4
Failure to Comply	223	1.4
Failure to Register	180	1.1
Corrupting a Minor	164	1.0
Tampering with Evidence	147	0.9
Felonious Assault	139	0.9
Vandalism	100	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2603</b>	<b>16.2</b>
All Other Crimes	1778	11.1
<b>Total Admissions to Serve Less Than One Year</b>	<b>16063</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table B: Felony Level (N=16063)**

	Frequency	Percent
1st	38	0.2
2nd	119	0.7
3rd-Deter	2446	15.2
4th-Deter	5208	32.4
5th	8252	51.4
Total	16063	100.0

**Table C: Expected Time To Serve  
(N=16063)**

	Frequency	Percent
Less than one month	189	1.2
1.00-1.99	625	3.9
2.00-2.99	1160	7.2
3.00-3.99	1632	10.2
4.00-4.99	2227	13.9
5.00-5.99	2637	16.4
6.00-6.99	1312	8.2
7.00-7.99	1368	8.5
8.00-8.99	1190	7.4
9.00-9.99	1296	8.1
10.00-10.99	1039	6.5
11.00-11.99	1388	8.6
Total	16063	100.0

**Table D: County of Commitment (N=16063)**

	Frequency	Percent
Adams	16	0.1
Allen	108	0.7
Ashland	42	0.3
Ashtabula	93	0.6
Athens	75	0.5
Auglaize	49	0.3
Belmont	20	0.1
Brown	58	0.4
Butler	550	3.4
Carroll	13	0.1
Champaign	49	0.3
Clark	290	1.8
Clermont	170	1.1
Clinton	116	0.7
Columbiana	89	0.6
Coshocton	44	0.3
Crawford	48	0.3
Cuyahoga	3389	21.1
Darke	64	0.4
Defiance	55	0.3
Delaware	118	0.7
Erie	147	0.9
Fairfield	137	0.9
Fayette	74	0.5
Franklin	1228	7.6
Fulton	49	0.3
Gallia	31	0.2
Geauga	28	0.2
Greene	251	1.6
Guernsey	45	0.3
Hamilton	1687	10.5
Hancock	73	0.5
Hardin	15	0.1
Harrison	13	0.1
Henry	15	0.1
Highland	83	0.5
Hocking	37	0.2
Holmes	12	0.1
Huron	83	0.5

Jackson	62	0.4
Jefferson	25	0.2
Knox	31	0.2
Lake	219	1.4
Lawrence	73	0.5
Licking	222	1.4
Logan	39	0.2
Lorain	367	2.3
Lucas	422	2.6
Madison	56	0.3
Mahoning	238	1.5
Marion	168	1.0
Medina	163	1.0
Meigs	23	0.1
Mercer	27	0.2
Miami	164	1.0
Monroe	11	0.1
Montgomery	927	5.8
Morgan	5	0.0
Morrow	23	0.1
Muskingum	128	0.8
Noble	14	0.1
Ottawa	16	0.1
Paulding	25	0.2
Perry	23	0.1
Pickaway	73	0.5
Pike	14	0.1
Portage	103	0.6
Preble	40	0.2
Putnam	26	0.2
Richland	230	1.4
Ross	87	0.5
Sandusky	69	0.4
Scioto	176	1.1
Seneca	50	0.3
Shelby	51	0.3
Stark	527	3.3
Summit	798	5.0
Trumbull	170	1.1
Tuscarawas	56	0.3
Union	54	0.3
Van Wert	38	0.2
Vinton	20	0.1

Warren	221	1.4
Washington	71	0.4
Wayne	47	0.3
Williams	50	0.3
Wood	131	0.8
Wyandot	26	0.2
Total	16063	100.0

**Table E: Race/Ethnicity (N=16063)**

	Frequency	Percent
White	8454	52.6
Black	7281	45.3
Hispanic-White	256	1.6
Asian	11	0.1
Hispanic-Black	32	0.2
Other	22	0.1
Native American	7	0.0
Total	16063	100.0

**Table F: Sex of Commitments (N=16063)**

	Frequency	Percent
Male	13448	83.7
Female	2615	16.3
Total	16063	100.0

**Table G: Age Group of Commitments (N=16063)**

	Frequency	Percent
0-17	11	0.1
18-24	3818	23.8
25-29	3187	19.8
30-34	2226	13.9
35-39	2204	13.7
40-44	1978	12.3
45-49	1486	9.3
50-54	727	4.5
55-59	289	1.8
60-64	92	0.6
65-69	30	0.2
70-74	13	0.1
75-79	1	0
80-100	1	0
Total	16063	100.0

**Mean Age**

Mean Age	33.36
Median Age	32

**Table 1: Sex of Offenders with less than one year term  
Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
Female	355	17.4
Male	1683	82.6
Total	2038	100.0

**Table 2: Race and Ethnicity of Offenders with less than one year term  
Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
Asian	3	0.1
Black	958	47.0
Other	5	0.2
White	1072	52.6
Total	2038	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 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
8th Grade or Less	124	6.7
9th - 12th, No Diploma	668	35.9
High School Diploma	404	21.7
GED	340	18.3
Attended College - No Degree	291	15.6
College Degree - Bachelors or more	34	1.8
Total	1861	100.0

**Table 4: Employment Status at Arrest of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
Unemployed	990	51.4
Partial Employment	449	23.3
Full Time Employment	488	25.3
Total	1927	100.0

**Table 5: Indication of Mental Illness of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
No Mental Illness	1390	68.2
Self-Admission/Evidence	69	3.4
Diagnosed with Mental Illness	11	0.5
Treated for Mental Illness	536	26.3
Total	2038	100.0

**Table 6: History of Past Drug Abuse of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
No Indication	138	6.8
Self Admission/Evidence	1167	57.3
Diagnosis of Problem	1	0.0
Treatment of Problem	711	34.9
Total	2038	100.0

**Table 7: History of Past Alcohol Abuse of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
No Indication	585	28.7
Self-Admission/Evidence	958	47.0
Treatment of Problem	478	23.5
Total	2038	100.0

**Table 8: History of Substance Abuse Treatment of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
No Treatment History	944	47.2
Fail to Comply w/Treatment	162	8.1
Began Treatment-Completion Unknown	40	2.0
Completed Treatment	621	31.1
Treatment After Arrest Only	232	11.6
Total	1999	100.0

**Table 9: Counties of Commitment of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
Allen	12	0.6
Ashland	4	0.2
Ashtabula	14	0.7
Athens	10	0.5
Auglaize	14	0.7
Belmont	2	0.1
Brown	7	0.3
Butler	57	2.8

Carroll	1	0.0
Champaign	3	0.1
Clark	49	2.4
Clermont	18	0.9
Clinton	14	0.7
Columbiana	10	0.5
Coshocton	8	0.4
Crawford	13	0.6
Cuyahoga	490	24.0
Darke	11	0.5
Defiance	5	0.2
Delaware	10	0.5
Erie	16	0.8
Fairfield	13	0.6
Fayette	10	0.5
Franklin	131	6.4
Fulton	3	0.1
Gallia	5	0.2
Geauga	5	0.2
Greene	34	1.7
Guernsey	5	0.2
Hamilton	209	10.3
Hancock	14	0.7
Hardin	1	0.0
Henry	2	0.1
Highland	18	0.9
Hocking	5	0.2
Huron	3	0.1
Jackson	8	0.4
Jefferson	4	0.2
Knox	5	0.2
Lake	23	1.1
Lawrence	10	0.5
Licking	37	1.8
Logan	6	0.3
Lorain	55	2.7
Lucas	30	1.5
Madison	9	0.4
Mahoning	17	0.8
Marion	26	1.3
Medina	23	1.1
Meigs	3	0.1
Mercer	5	0.2
Miami	15	0.7
Monroe	4	0.2
Montgomery	137	6.7

Morgan	1	0.0
Morrow	4	0.2
Muskingum	13	0.6
Noble	6	0.3
Ottawa	3	0.1
Paulding	3	0.1
Perry	2	0.1
Pickaway	3	0.1
Portage	18	0.9
Preble	6	0.3
Putnam	5	0.2
Richland	20	1.0
Ross	10	0.5
Sandusky	7	0.3
Scioto	24	1.2
Seneca	4	0.2
Shelby	8	0.4
Stark	56	2.7
Summit	95	4.7
Trumbull	20	1.0
Tuscarawas	5	0.2
Union	3	0.1
Van Wert	5	0.2
Vinton	4	0.2
Warren	28	1.4
Washington	8	0.4
Wayne	12	0.6
Williams	4	0.2
Wood	16	0.8
Wyandot	2	0.1
Total	2038	100.0

**Table 10: Most Serious Conviction Offense of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
Drug Possession	531	26.1
Trafficking in Drugs	226	11.1
Theft	205	10.1

Receiving Stolen Property	133	6.5
Breaking and Entering	98	4.8
Nonsupport of Dependents	84	4.1
Burglary	76	3.7
Forgery	75	3.7
Domestic Violence	60	2.9
Weapon Under Disability	44	2.2
Robbery	41	2.0
Aggravated Assault	33	1.6
Assault	31	1.5
Escape	30	1.5
Duty to Register	29	1.4
Failure to Comply	25	1.2
Carrying Concealed Weapon	24	1.2
Tampering w/Evidence	21	1.0
Corrupting a Minor	21	1.0
Driving while Intoxicated	16	0.8
Felonious Assault	15	0.7
Sale Counterfeit Drugs	14	0.7
Illegal Manufacture of Drugs	13	0.6
Deception to Obtain Dangerous Drugs	13	0.6
Violation of Protection Order	9	0.4
Illegal Drug Documents	9	0.4
Failure to Verify Address	9	0.4
Passing Bad Checks	9	0.4
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	8	0.4
Taking Identity of Another	8	0.4
Misuse of Credit Card	8	0.4
Aggravated Vehicular Assault	8	0.4
Violate Own Recognizance	7	0.3
Vandalism	7	0.3
Sexual Battery	7	0.3
Failure to Appear	7	0.3
Importuning	6	0.3
Endangering Children	6	0.3
Safecracking	5	0.2
Permit Drug Abuse	5	0.2
Improper Handling of Firearm	5	0.2
Illegal Weapons	5	0.2
Arson	5	0.2
Tampering w/Records	3	0.1
Obstruction Official Business	3	0.1
Gross Sexual Imposition	3	0.1

Aggravated Menacing	3	0.1
Abduction	3	0.1
Tampering w/Coin Machine	2	0.1
Retaliation	2	0.1
Possession of Criminal Tools	2	0.1
Telephone Harassment	2	0.1
Pandering Obscenity	2	0.1
Obstruction of Justice	2	0.1
Interference w/Custody	2	0.1
Firearm Specification in Indictment	2	0.1
Workers Compensation Fraud	1	0.0
Unlawful Weapons Transaction	1	0.0
Unlawful Possession of Firearm	1	0.0
Telecommunications Fraud	1	0.0
Tampering w/VIN Number	1	0.0
Soliciting	1	0.0
Promoting Prostitution	1	0.0
Intimidation	1	0.0
Inducing Panic	1	0.0
Harassment by Inmate	1	0.0
Gambling	1	0.0
Extortion	1	0.0
Disseminating Obscene Information	1	0.0
Disrupting Public Service	1	0.0
Aggravated Arson	1	0.0
Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	1	0.0
Total	2038	100.0

**Table 11: Adult Felony Convictions of Offenders with less than  
one year term  
Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
0	705	34.7
1	462	22.8
2	285	14.0
3	203	10.0
4	122	6.0
5	82	4.0
6	55	2.7
7	39	1.9
8	26	1.3
9 or more	50	2.5
Total	2029	100.0

**Table 12: Adult Violent Felony Convictions of Offenders with less  
than one year term  
Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
0	1490	73.4
1	365	18.0
2	133	6.6
3	34	1.7
4	7	0.3
5 or more	1	0.0
Total	2030	100.0

**Table 13: Adult Prison Incarcerations of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
0	970	47.7
1	412	20.3
2	227	11.2
3	147	7.2
4	99	4.9
5	71	3.5
6	45	2.2
7	21	1.0
8 or more	40	2.0
Total	2032	100.0

**Table 14: Parole/Probation Violation of Offenders with less than one year term Intake 2007**

	Frequency	Percent
Not a Violator	1181	58.1
Technical Violator/Probation	376	18.5
New Crime/Technical Violator	20	1.0
New Crime/Probation	328	16.1
New Crime/Parole	129	6.3
Total	2034	100.0