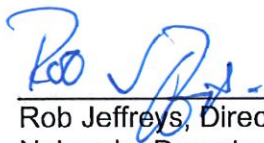


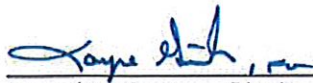
2025 Mandatory Discharge Report

February 1, 2025

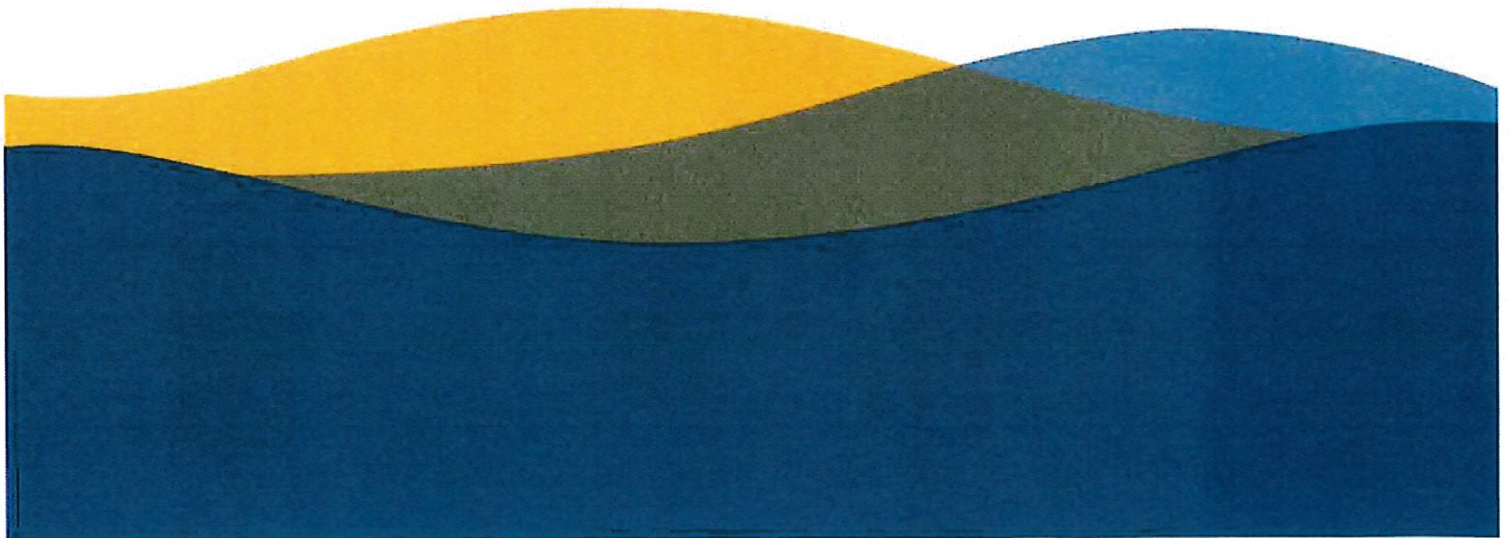
Submitted by:



Rob Jeffrey, Director
Nebraska Department of Correctional Services



Rosalyn Cotton, Chair
Nebraska Board of Parole



SCOPE AND INTRODUCTION

This report is filed jointly by the Nebraska Board of Parole and the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Data represents calendar year 2024 (CY2024). In accordance with N.R.S. §83-1,100.03, the report:

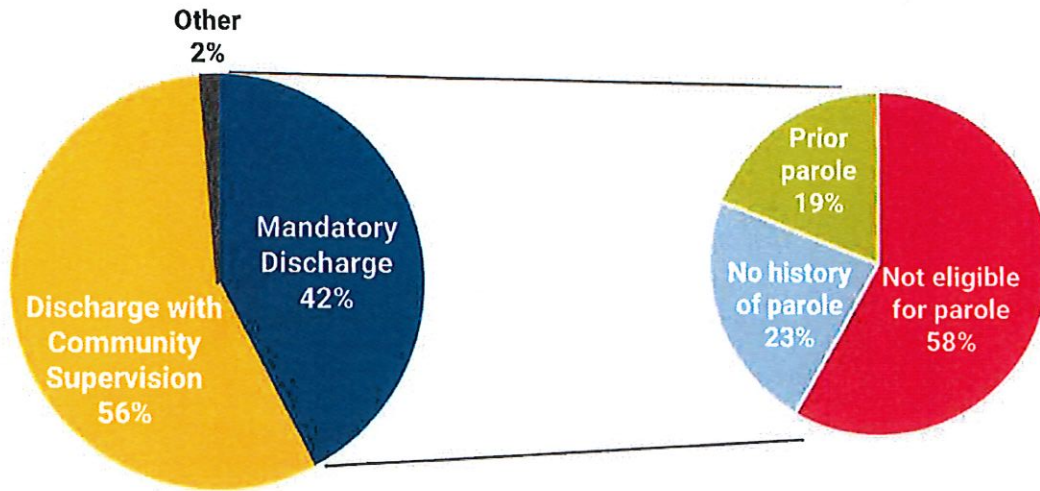
- “describes the percentage of individuals sentenced to NDCS custody who complete their entire sentence and are released with no supervision following that release.
- documents the characteristics of these individuals, including their:
 - highest felony class of conviction,
 - offense type of conviction,
 - most recent risk assessment,
- provides the status of the individualized release or reentry plan, and
- gives reasons why parole was denied or deferred at their most recent Board appearance.
- provides recommendations from both the Board and NDCS with regard to policy and practice changes that will meet the goal of achieving a reduction in the number of inmates under the custody of NDCS who serve their entire sentence in a correctional facility and are released without supervision.”

CY2024 Discharges

Table 1 illustrates the release type and percentage of each type for 2024 and includes three years of historic data for comparison. In CY2024, there were 2,046 individuals who discharged (completed) their sentences. Of these, 865 individuals (42.3%) were discharged directly from an NDCS facility. As noted in Table 1, **503** were not eligible for parole due to their sentence structure; **165** had paroled at least once during their incarceration; and **197** did not experience supervised release. For purposes of this report, the data will focus on these three groups. Chart 1 breaks down the mandatory discharge group by reason.

Release Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percentage of Total Releases 2024
Mandatory Discharge	726	830	856	865	42.3%
<i>Not eligible for parole</i>	419	468	487	503	24.6%
<i>No history of parole</i>	191	202	204	197	9.6%
<i>Prior parole</i>	116	160	165	165	8.1%
Discharge with Community Supervision (Parole or PRS)	1214	1089	1010	1153	56.4%
<i>Parole</i>	636	544	519	574	28.1%
<i>PRS</i>	578	545	491	579	28.3%
Other	51	26	37	28	1.4%
<i>Released to another jurisdiction, transfer, not under NDCS supervision, died in custody</i>	51	26	37	28	1.4%
Total Releases	1991	1945	1903	2046	100.0%

Chart 1 - Total Releases CY2024



Characteristics

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the highest felony class of conviction for each of the three groups.

Table 2 - Highest Felony Class of Conviction			
Felony Class	Prior Parole	No History of Parole	Not Eligible for Parole
Class 1	29	30	18
Class 2	51	51	10
Class 2A	72	104	6
Class 3	11	9	23
Class 3A	1	1	145
Class 4	1	2	298
Misdemeanor	0	0	3
Total	165	197	503

Table 3 presents the distribution of individuals in each of the three groups by most serious offense type.

Table 3 - Most Serious Offense Type			
Offense Type	Prior Parole	No History of Parole	Not Eligible for Parole
Arson	1	0	3
Assault	16	16	105
Burglary	16	12	15
Drugs	31	31	150
Fraud	4	2	13
Homicide	2	3	0
Morals	0	2	1
Motor Vehicle	9	4	45
Restraint	2	3	5
Robbery	1	0	0
Sex Offenses	19	16	27
Theft	12	30	81
Weapons	9	26	32
Other	43	52	26
Total	165	197	503

Through December 2024, NDCS used the Static Risk and Offender Needs Guide – Revised (STRONG-R) to assess an individual’s risk of reoffending. Table 4 provides the most recent risk assessment score for each of the three groups. Individuals who did not have a risk assessment completed generally have refused the assessment or their length of stay within a NDCS facility was less than 45 days.

Table 4 – Most Recent Risk Assessment			
STRONG-R Status at Discharge	Prior Parole	No History of Parole	Not Eligible for Parole
Completed Assessment	165	168	303
<i>High Risk - Violence, Property, Drugs</i>	54	40	87
<i>High Risk - Violence</i>	80	87	123
<i>High Risk - Property</i>	3	3	9
<i>High Risk - Drugs</i>	7	8	32
<i>Moderate Risk</i>	15	18	30
<i>Low Risk</i>	6	12	22
No Assessment Recorded	0	29	200
<i>Length of Stay Between 0 and 7 Days</i>	0	14	27
<i>Length of Stay Between 8 and 45 Days</i>	0	6	27
<i>Length of Stay 46 Days or More</i>	0	9	146
Total Discharges	165	197	503

Status of the Individualized Release or Reentry Plan

Planning for a successful reentry begins immediately upon an individual's arrival at an intake facility and continues throughout their sentence.

In CY2024, reentry specialists conducted orientation sessions for newly admitted individuals at all three intake facilities: the Reception and Treatment Center (adult males), Nebraska Correctional Center for Women (females), and Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (males under the age of 18). In accordance with the **5-Key Model for Reentry and Well-Being Development™**, individuals are encouraged to begin thinking about their goals and what areas of their life they need to work on in support of their holistic wellbeing and successful reintegration.

Reentry specialists meet with individuals at key points throughout their sentence, including 180 days, 120 days, and 30 days prior to release. They also meet with individuals on an as-needed basis to provide support and assist in developing personalized reentry plans.

Table 5 presents the status of the individualized release or reentry plan for the individuals who were parole-eligible, but did not receive supervised release and those who were not eligible for parole.

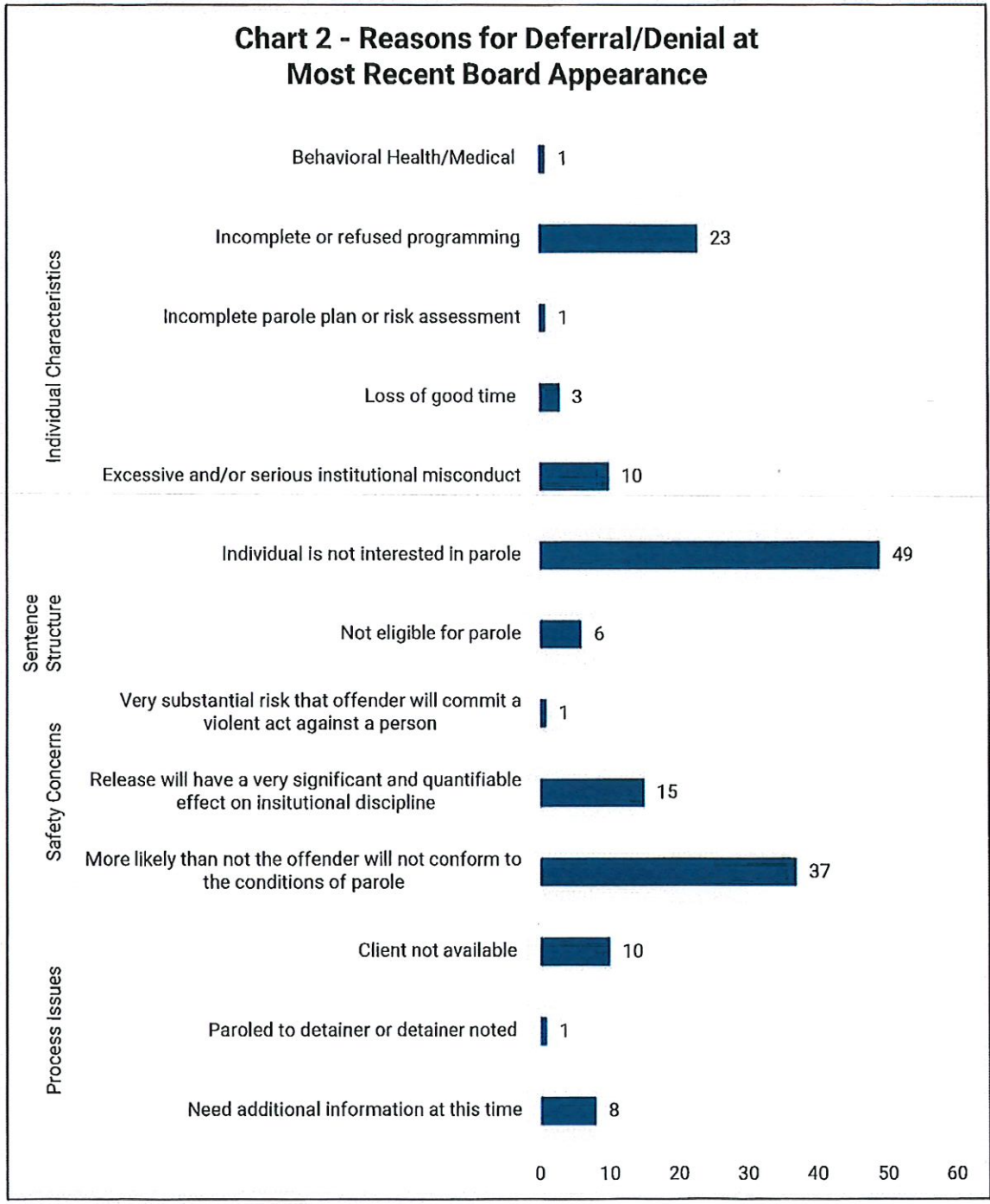
Table 5 - Reentry Plan Status		
Reentry Plan Status	No History of Parole	Not Eligible for Parole
Completed Reentry Plan	176	461
No Completed Reentry Plan	21	42
<i>Admitted and Discharged on Same Day</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Discharged within Two Weeks of Admission</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Individual Refusal</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>No record exists</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>26</i>
Total	197	503

REASONS FOR PAROLE DENIAL/DEFERRAL

Table 6 represents the decisions of the Board of Parole regarding an individual's most recent Board appearance. Data in this table represents only the group of parole-eligible individuals who did not receive parole.

Table 6 - Parole Board Appearance		
Most Recent Appearance Type	Number	Percent of Total
<i>Offender Review</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>43.7%</i>
<i>Initial Parole Hearing</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>26.4%</i>
<i>Review of Parole</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
<i>No Parole Review</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>29.9%</i>
Total	197	100.0%

Chart 2 indicates the categories and reasons used by the Board of Parole in documenting the decision for deferral/denial.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO POLICY AND PRACTICE

NDCS and the Board are committed to collaboratively minimizing the number of individuals who are released directly from an NDCS facility without supervision. The following strategies and recommendations, which illustrate current efforts that will be further implemented in CY2025, address common reasons for parole deferrals and denials.

- Schedule parole hearings at the earliest possible date, incentivizing appropriate behavior during incarceration
- Strengthen interagency collaboration by maintaining open and regular communication between the Board of Parole and NDCS
- Deliver evidence-based interventions to guide individuals to make necessary changes to achieve a higher level of well-being, which increases the likelihood of reentry success
- Provide guidance for parole hearing preparation and attendance through Parole School classes
- Prioritize program access by parole eligibility date to ensure individuals are ready at the earliest opportunity
- Promote holistic well-being as a pathway to reentry success, using the 5-Key Model
- Educate individuals on the benefits of supervision through engagement with parole officers earlier in their incarceration
- Increase engagement in educational services, to include high school, GED and college courses
- Increase access to workforce development opportunities through collaboration with community partners
- Equip individuals with the resources needed for successful reentry (birth certificate, state ID, Social Security card, Medicaid enrollment, SNAP application, etc.)