

Overview and Glossary of Terms and Concepts Published by PBC

Conditional Release Reviews Dataset

Foreword

The Parole Board of Canada (PBC or "the Board"), as part of the criminal justice system, makes independent, quality conditional release and record suspension decisions and clemency recommendations. The Board contributes to the protection of society by facilitating, as appropriate, the timely reintegration of offenders as law-abiding citizens.

The Board makes conditional release decisions for federal offenders, as well as for provincial offenders in provinces and territories that do not have their own provincial boards. Only the provinces of Ontario and Quebec currently have their own parole boards that make parole decisions for offenders serving sentences of less than two years.

The PBC has four programs: Conditional Release Decisions, Conditional Release Openness and Accountability, Record Suspension Decisions and Clemency Recommendations, and Internal Services.

Conditional Release Decisions is the Board's largest program. It includes: the review of offenders' cases and the making of quality conditional release decisions, including appeals; the provision of in-depth training on how to assess the risk of reoffending; and the coordination of program delivery throughout the Board and with the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and other key partners.

Conditional Release Openness and Accountability is the second largest program at the Board. It focuses on the provision of information to victims and other interested parties within the community, as well as coordinating victims' and other observers' attendance at PBC hearings, providing assistance to victims in preparing their victim statements and providing access to the Decision Registry.

Record Suspension Decisions and Clemency Recommendations, the third program at the Board, involves the review of record suspension and clemency applications and the rendering of record suspension decisions and clemency recommendations.

Internal Services, although a separate program, exists to support the Board's main activities by providing procurement, accommodation, and financial management as well as human resource services.

The PBC publishes an annual [Performance Monitoring Report](#) which provides a broad range of statistical information on its programs.

The report presents information using easy to read graphs as well as text and provides links to detailed statistical tables which are found in the Appendix.

The [Department Performance Reports](#) provide information on the Board's performance by strategic outcome and financial expenditures.

Additional information on the PBC's environment can be found in the PBC's [Quick Stats Fact Sheets](#).

About this Dataset

The Conditional Release Reviews dataset provides information on the number of reviews conducted by the PBC for a given period. A review contains one or more decisions conducted on the same day for the same offender. Reviews are sorted according to location and review type. Items found in this dataset include, among others, jurisdiction, sentence type, review type, race, gender and offence type.

The data were extracted from the Conditional Release Information Management System (CRIMS) and reflect the decisions taken within the selected fiscal year.

Terms and Concepts

Number – Unique record identifier

Race – This corresponds to the race/ethno-cultural background of the offender. This is voluntary information that is self reported by the offender.

Race Group – This groups the Race column into five categories. “Aboriginal” corresponds to offenders who self identify as “First Nations”, “Métis”, or “Inuit”. “Asian” refers to offenders who self identify as Arab, Asian-south, Asian-west, Asiatic, Asian-east/southeast, Chinese, Japanese and Korean. “Black” refers to offenders who self-identify as Black, Caribbean or Sub-Saharan Africa. “Caucasian” refers to offenders who self identify as White, British Isles, Euro-eastern, Euro-western, Euro-northern or Euro-southern. The “Other” category includes offenders who do not self identify, as well as those who self identify as Arab/West Asian, Latin American, Multiracial/Ethnic, Oceania, East Indian, Filipino, Hispanic, Other and Unable to Specify.

Gender – This corresponds to the gender of the offender.

Decision Category – Indicates the decision taken by the PBC was pre-release (PRE), post release (POST) or whether the decision was OTHER, which refers to decisions related to detention.

Decision Date Fiscal Year – This identifies the fiscal year during which the decision was taken. A fiscal year starts on April first of a given year and ends on March 31st of the following year (e.g. Fiscal year 2016-2017 starts April 1st 2016 and ends March 31st 2017).

Decision Month – Indicates the month during which the decision was taken.

Decision Purpose – Indicates the decision purpose used by the Board. (e.g. regular, or APR (accelerated parole review)).

Review Type – Identifies the format of the review. PANEL, PANEL INTERPRET = Hearing with an interpreter, PANEL VIDEOCON = Hearing where videoconferencing was used by at least one Board member, PAPER, PANEL TELECON = Hearing where at least one Board member participated by teleconference, PANEL COMMUNITY = Hearing conducted in the community.

Review Group – Identifies the group the review type falls under. PAPER or PANEL.

Jurisdiction – This identifies if the offender is serving a federal sentence (2 years or more) or a provincial sentence (less than two years).

Sentence Type – This corresponds to the type of sentence imposed by the courts. Determinate sentences have a set expiry date. Indeterminate sentences never expire.

Hearing Facility Region – This corresponds to the region where the decision was made.

Hearing Facility PBC Office – For decisions that were made in the Prairie region this corresponds to the specific PBC office which was responsible for the file. As there is only one office in each of the other regions, this term is not applicable to the other regions.

Assisted Hearing Group – Identifies if the hearing was an Elder Assisted Hearing. PAPER, NON-ASSTD – Non-assisted, ASSISTED.

Major Offence Group – This is the category into which the offender’s most serious offence on the current sentence falls MURDER 1 = First degree murder, MURDER 2 = Second degree murder, NON SCHEDULE = an offence which is not murder or part of Schedule I or Schedule II of the CCRA, SCHE 1 W/O SEX = an offence which is part of Schedule I of the CCRA but is not an offence of a sexual nature, SCHE 1 WITH SEX = an offences which is part of Schedule I of the CCRA and is an offence of a sexual nature, SCHEDULE 2 = an offence which is part of Schedule II of the CCRA.

Acronyms used in this dataset

APR	Accelerated Parole Review
CCRA	<i>Corrections and Conditional Release Act</i>
CSC	Correctional Service of Canada
PBC	Parole Board of Canada
CRIMS	Conditional Release Information Management System

Note: Due to ongoing data quality assurance processes, data may differ from previously reported numbers.

Source: Parole Board of Canada, October, 2017