Corrections

Our Mission

Our mission is to create a safer Michigan through effective offender management and supervision in our facilities and communities while holding offenders accountable and promoting their success.

What is the Role of the Parole Board?

Created by statute, the Michigan Parole Board is the paroling authority for felony offenders committed to the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Corrections. The Parole Board also acts in an advisory capacity to the Governor for all executive clemency matters.

Parole Board Members

The Parole Board is comprised of ten full-time non-Civil Service employees appointed by the Director of the Department of Corrections. Our members come from diverse backgrounds, including law enforcement, the practice of law, the ministry, the Legislature, public education and careers in corrections.

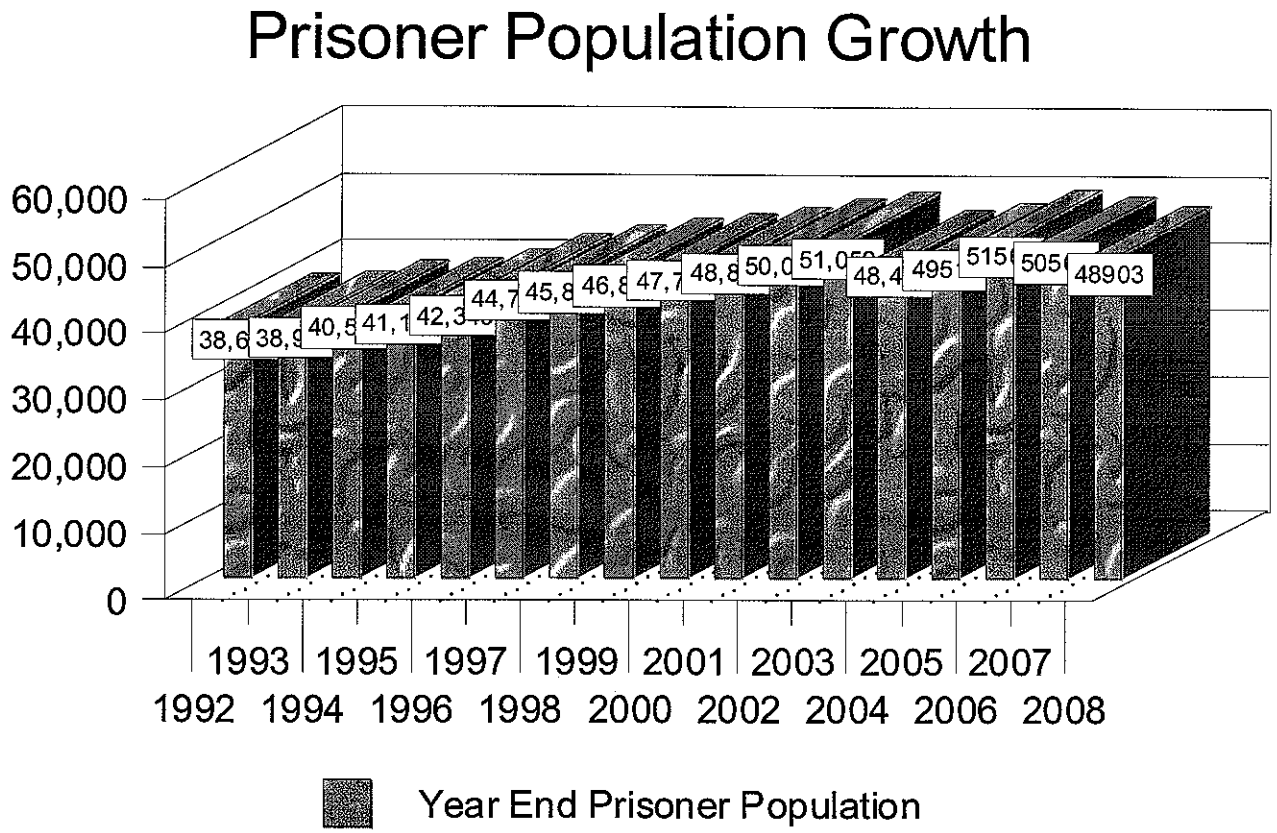
CORRECTIONS CODE OF 1953 (EXCERPT)
Act 232 of 1953
Parole Board Authority

MCL 791.233 Sec. 33. (1) (a) states:

"A prisoner shall not be given liberty on parole until the board has reasonable assurance, after consideration of all of the facts and circumstances, including the prisoner's mental and social attitude, that the prisoner will not become a menace to society or to the public safety."

Prisons: Population

- 41 facilities with various security levels
- 6 min. security camps
- 1 Special Alternative Incarceration Facility
- 48,178 Prisoners as of 02/13/2009

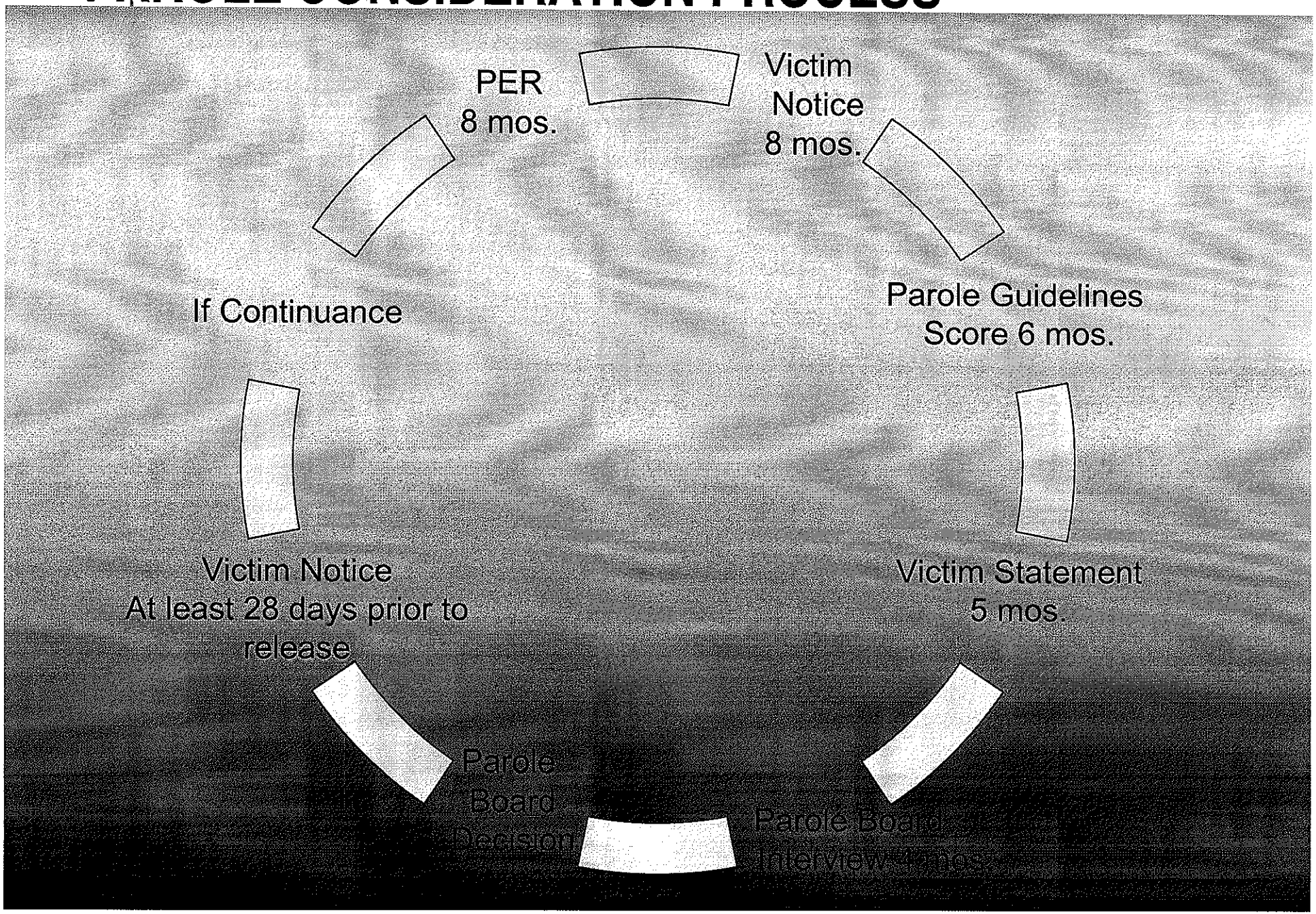


When Does the Process Begin?

- The Parole Board acquires jurisdiction of a case once the prisoner has served the minimum sentence, less any good time or disciplinary credits the prisoner may have earned. The minimum sentence is set by the judge and the maximum sentence is set by statute.

- Truth-In-Sentencing (TIS) legislation, which went into full effect in December of 2000, does not affect prisoners sentenced for crimes which took place before the TIS laws went into effect. Therefore, a substantial percentage of current prisoners are still entitled to either good time or disciplinary credits, depending on the dates of their offenses.

PAROLE CONSIDERATION PROCESS



The Parole Release Process

The ten member Parole Board is divided into three-member panels. Each case is assigned to a panel and the decision whether or not to grant parole is made by majority vote of that panel. Lifers are exceptions; all lifer cases must be decided by majority vote of the entire Parole Board.

Factors considered by the Parole Board in making parole decisions include:

- ✓ Current Offense
- ✓ Prior Criminal Record
- ✓ Institutional Behavior
- ✓ Parole Guidelines Score
- ✓ Information from victims and other relevant sources
- ✓ Information obtained from the prisoner interview

Parole Eligibility Report

- Active Offenses
- Prior Criminal Record
- Institutional Adjustment
- Programming

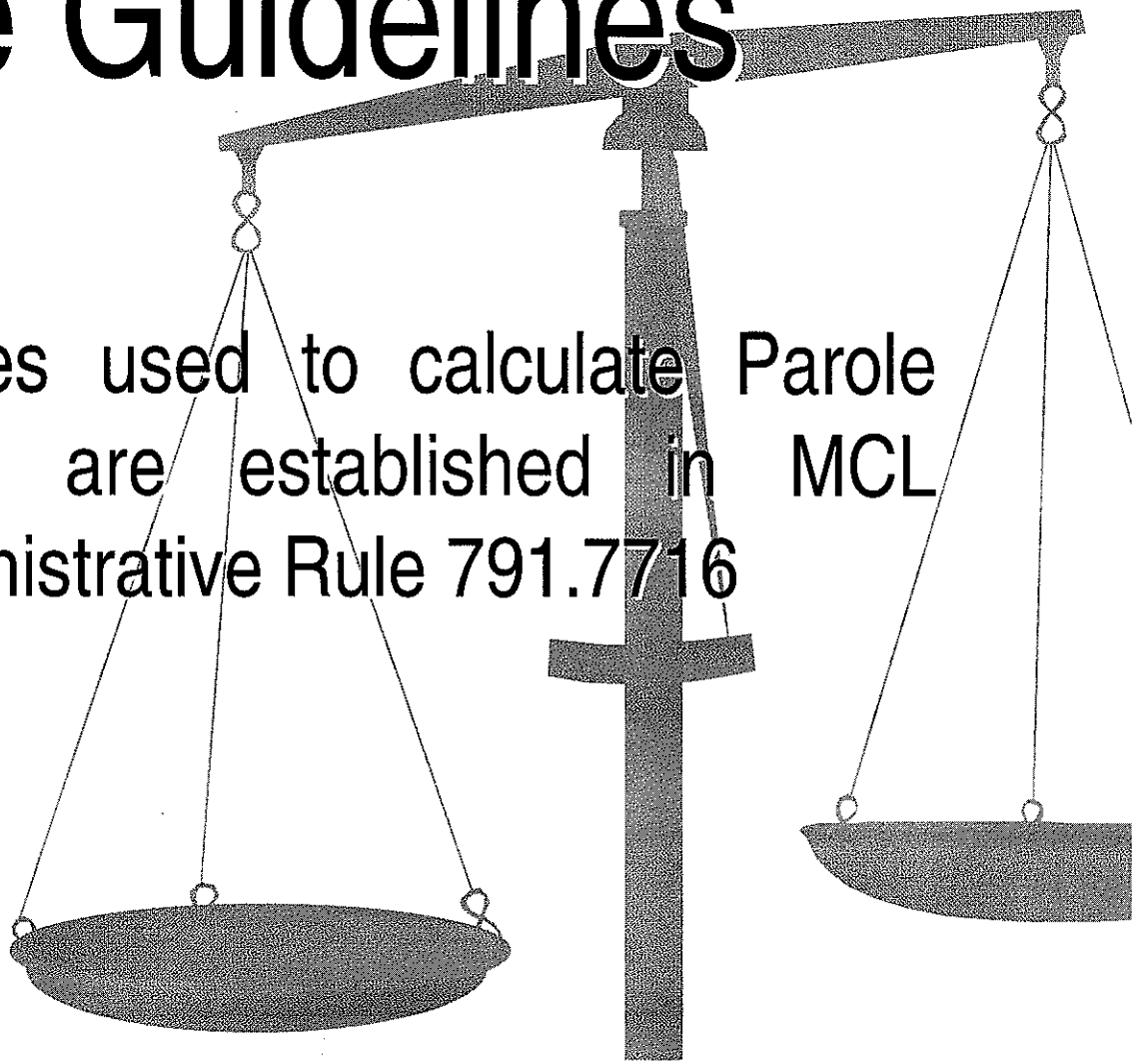
  Education/Work Assignment/Trades Programs

  Substance Abuse Programs/Psych Counseling
- Community Adjustment
- Health Care
- Financial Assets
- Parole Plans
- Risk/Needs Instrument (COMPAS)
- Sex Offender Risk Assessment (*VASOR)

*Vermont Assessment of Sex Offender Risk

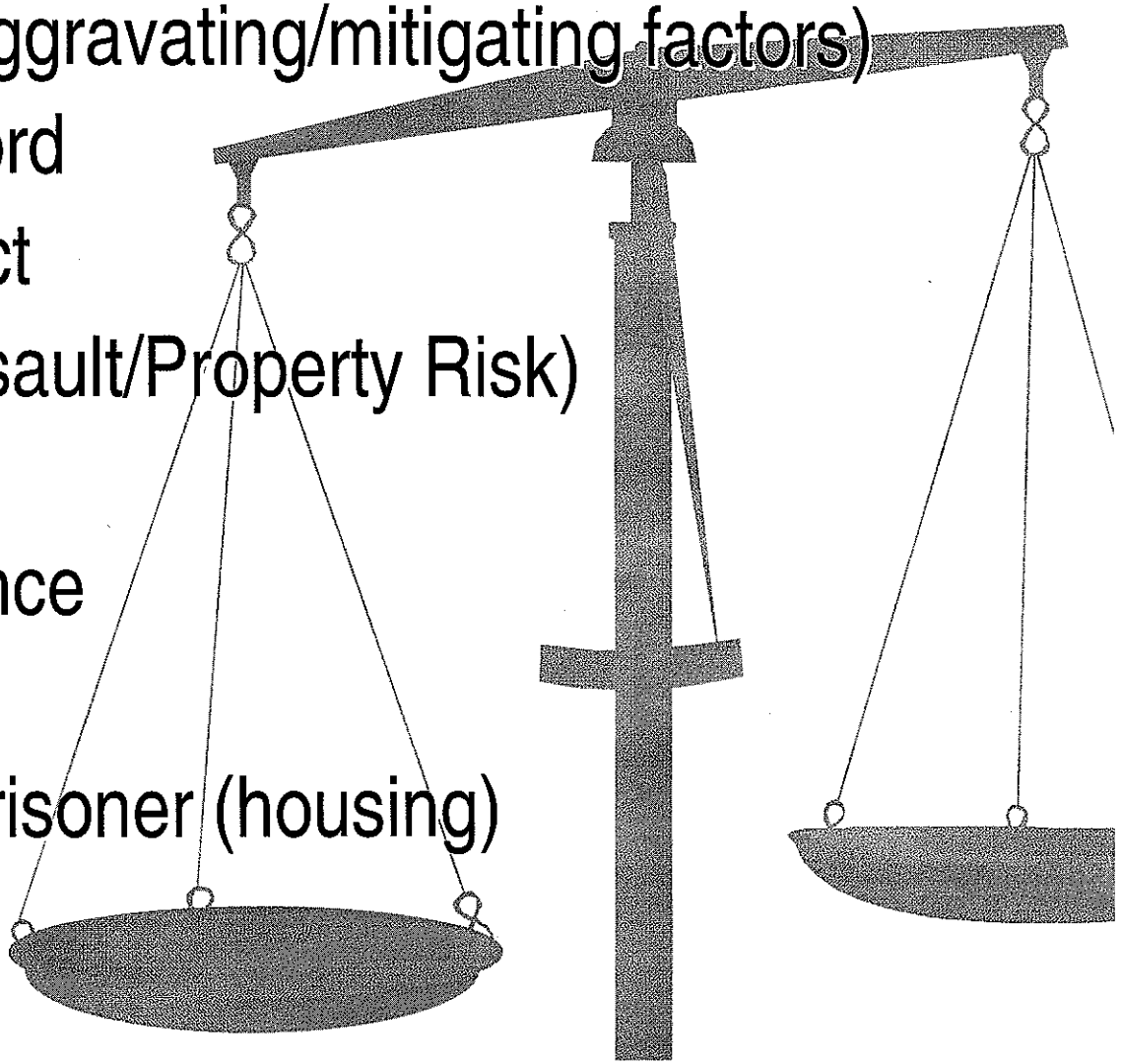
Parole Guidelines

Factors or variables used to calculate Parole Guidelines Scores are established in MCL 791.233e and Administrative Rule 791.7716



Factors Considered in Parole Guidelines

- Active Sentence (aggravating/mitigating factors)
- Prior Criminal Record
- Institutional Conduct
- Statistical Risk (Assault/Property Risk)
- Age of Prisoner
- Program Performance
- Mental Health
- Security Level of Prisoner (housing)



Parole Guidelines Scores Reflect Probability of Parole

- Score +3 or greater = High

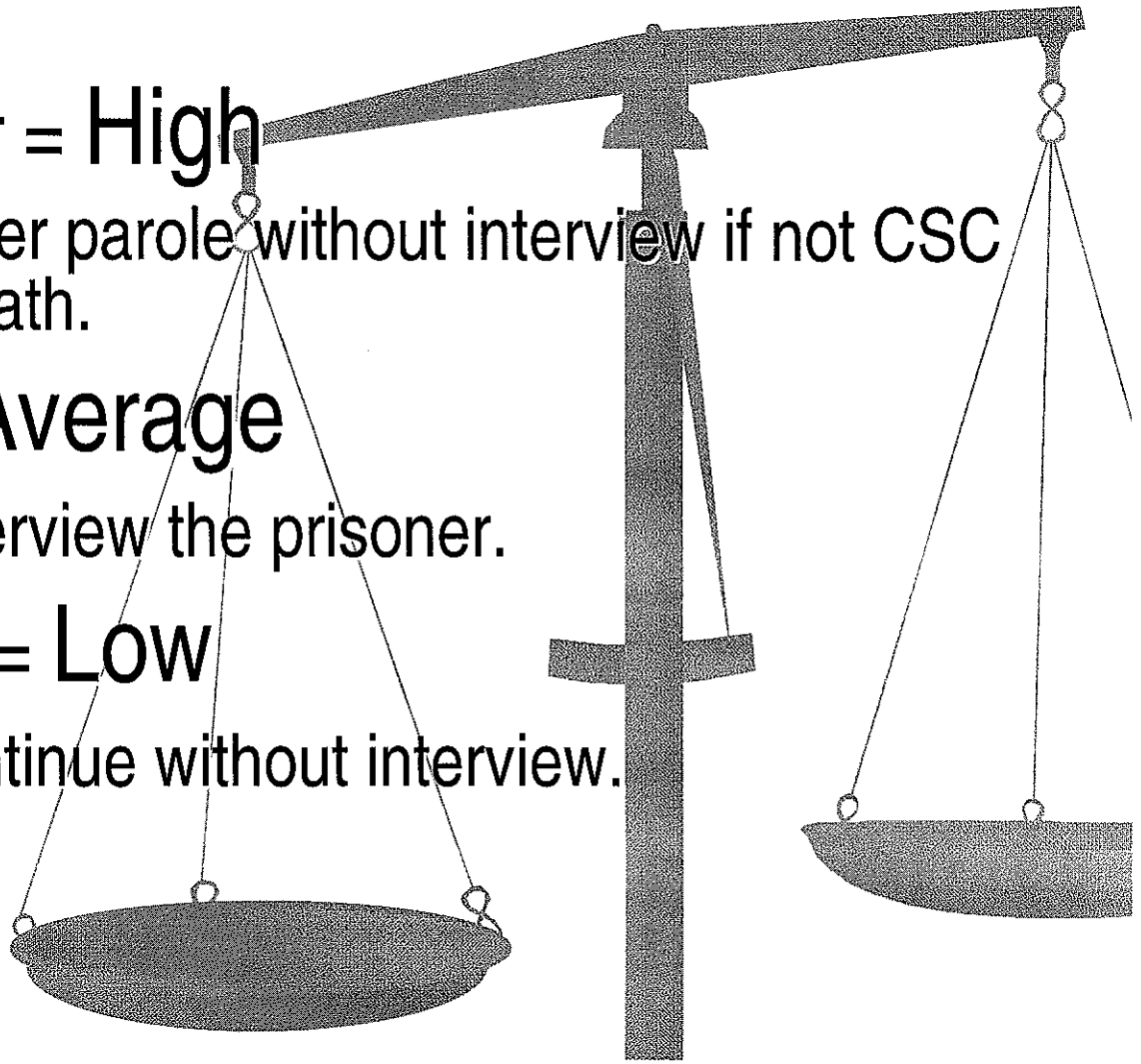
  Parole Board may order parole without interview if not CSC or case involving a death.

- Score -12 to +2 = Average

  Parole Board must interview the prisoner.

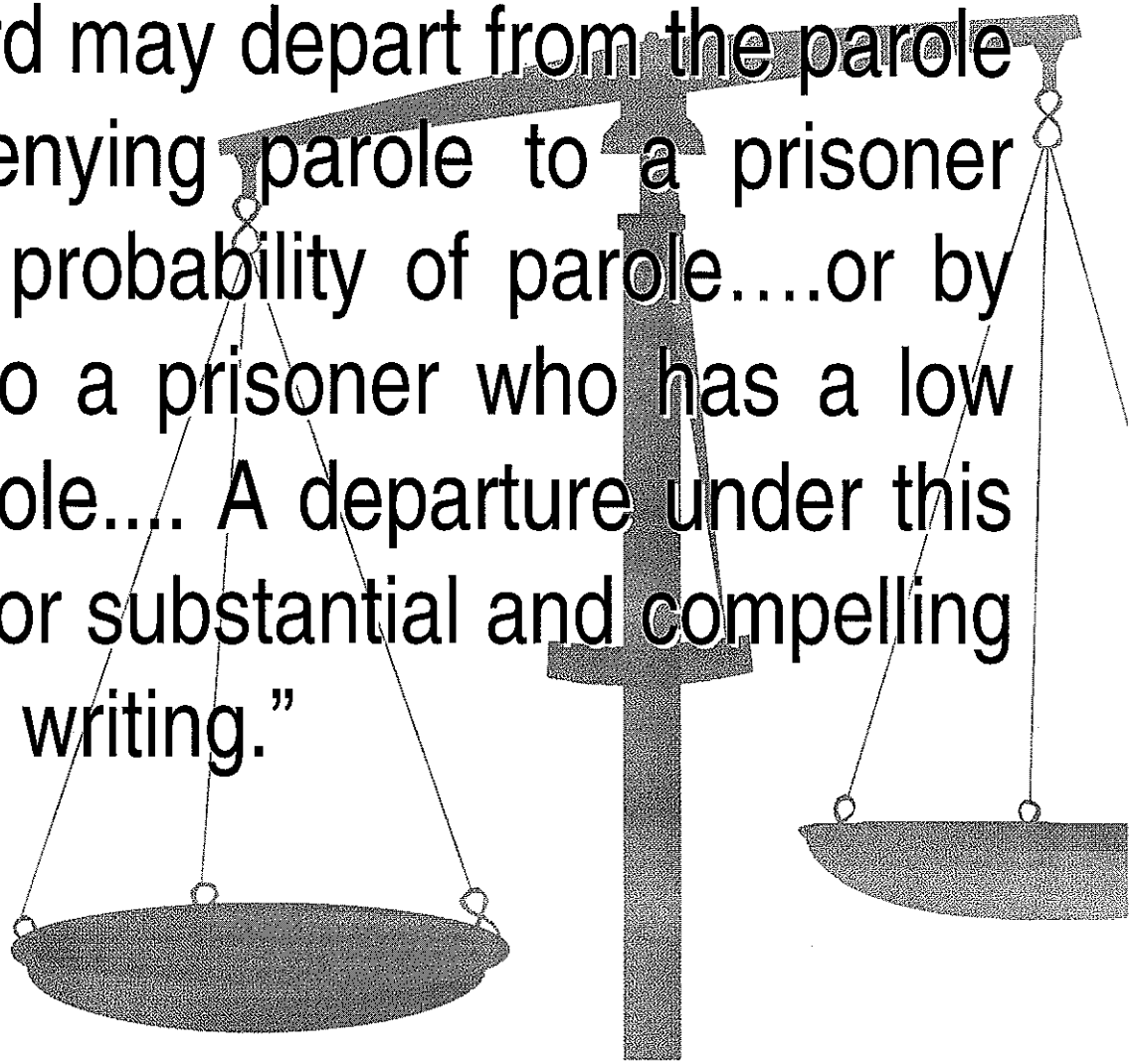
- Score -13 or lower = Low

  Parole Board may continue without interview.



Departing from Parole Guidelines MCL 791.233e

"The Parole Board may depart from the parole guidelines by denying parole to a prisoner who has a high probability of parole....or by granting parole to a prisoner who has a low probability of parole.... A departure under this section shall be for substantial and compelling reasons stated in writing."



The Role of Crime Victims

- Crime victims are an important part of the parole consideration process. They are given an opportunity to participate in this process under the provisions of the Crime Victim's Rights Act. Victims and their family members are entitled to notification before the Parole Board takes certain specific actions.

- Victims who chose to exercise their rights are entitled to be notified before the Parole Board considers parole and to make impact statements to the Board either in person, by telephone or in writing. Participation by crime victims has increased dramatically during recent years.

Typical Parole Board Workload

- 4 Interview Days Per Week
- 25 Interviews per Day, per Member
- 20,375 Interviews per year (2008)
- 47,471 Preliminary Votes per year (2008)
- 1,157 Continuances without Interview (2008)
- 1,708 Paroles without Interview (2008)
- 23,267 Completed Decisions per year (2008)

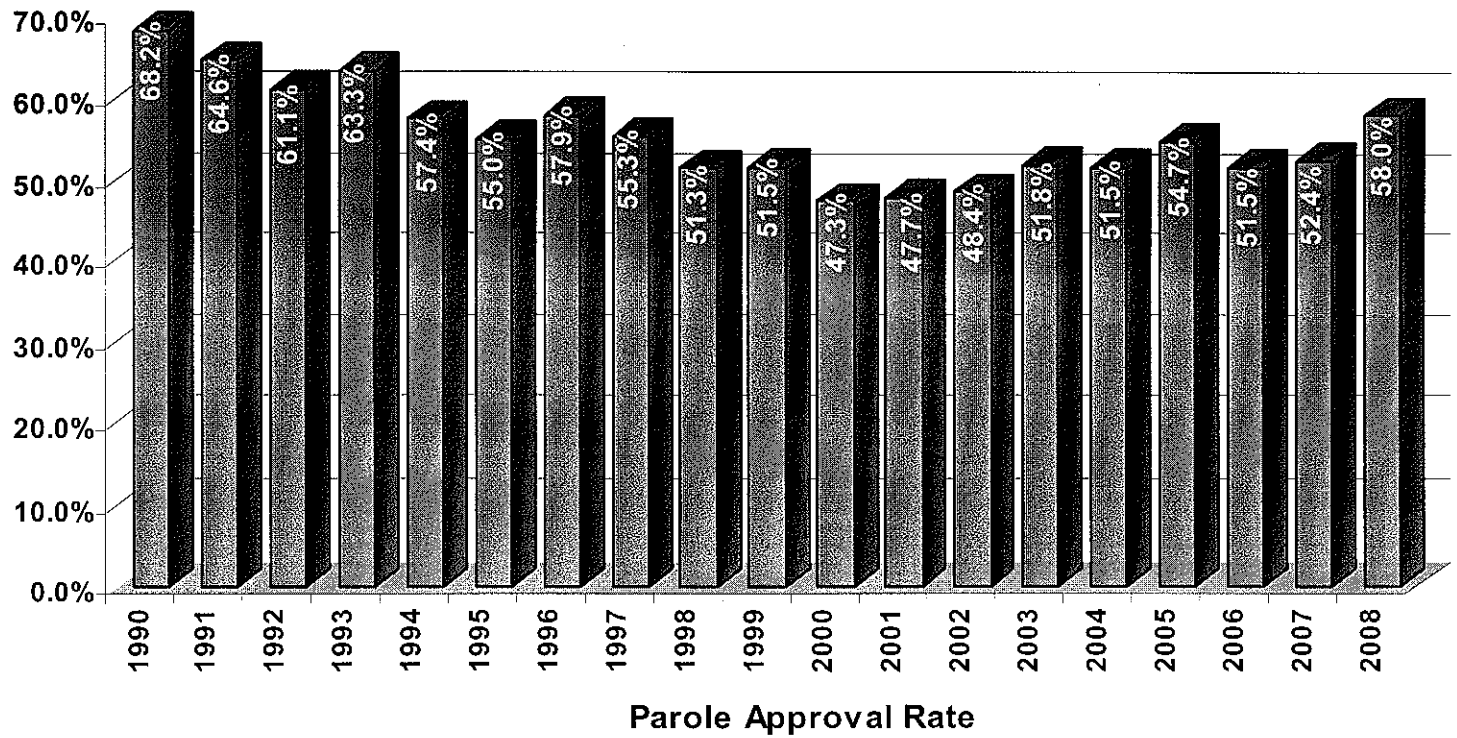
Parole Board Interview

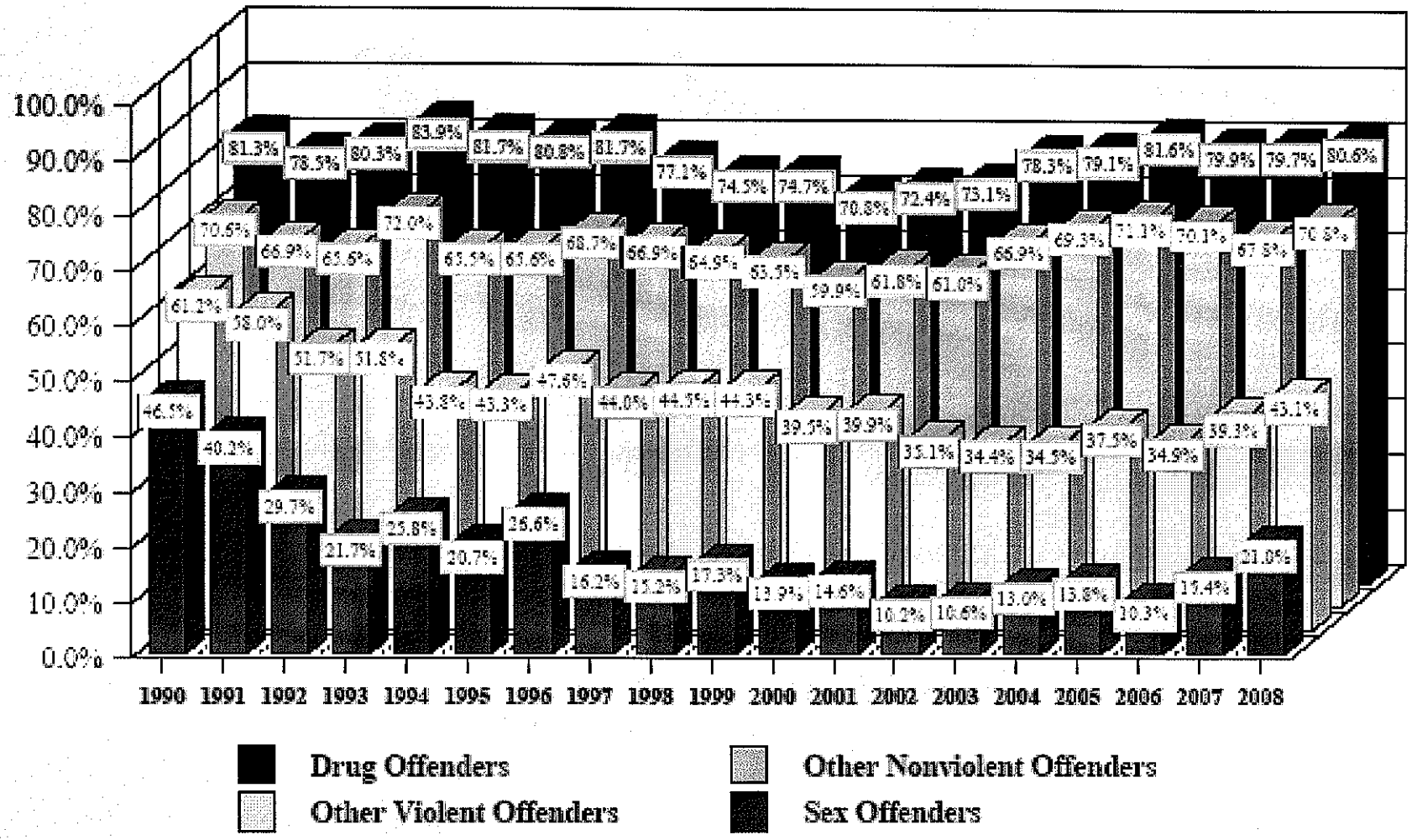
- Most interviews are conducted as video-conferences.
- Prisoners are permitted to have one representative of their choosing although the representative cannot be another prisoner or an attorney.
- The interview allows the Board member to collect information, review file material and assess the viability of the prisoner's post-release plan.

The Parole Decision

Following an interview of the prisoner, the Board member who conducted the interview refers the case, including the file and the notes taken during the interview, to his or her Parole Board panel partner, the second member of the three member panel which will make the decision to parole the prisoner, continue the prisoner, or defer the decision in order to collect additional information or discuss the case.

Parole Rates



Parole Approval Rates

By Offense Group