

# TIMELY RELEASE REPORT

## 2025



**IDAHO**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTION



*Report to the Legislature*  
Idaho Dept of Correction  
Commission of Pardons and Parole  
February 2025

## Background

In March 2014, Idaho Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter signed into law Senate Bill 1357, also known as Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), to help address three major challenges facing Idaho’s criminal justice system: a revolving door of recidivism from supervision and diversion programs, inefficient use of prison space, and insufficient oversight of recidivism-reduction investments.

Idaho Code §20-223, Section 11, mandates the Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) and the Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole (COPP) submit an annual report by February 1st of each year that provides the length of time incarcerated individuals serve up to their first release from prison. While the original bill stipulated a focus on property and drug offenses, and set a benchmark of 150%, this language was amended in 2017 with Senate Bill 1113 to remove the offense types and 150% benchmark. Despite this, IDOC and COPP continue to use these markers to enable consistent comparisons of the data.

### 2024 Population at a Glance

- A total of 926 individuals under IDOC jurisdiction serving time in prison on a property or drug conviction were released to parole for the first time between January 1 and December 31, 2024.
- 82% (N=755) were released **before** 150% of the fixed portion of their term sentence
- 18% (N= 171) were released **after** 150% of the fixed portion of their term sentence

*See Figure 1 (below)*

#### Releases

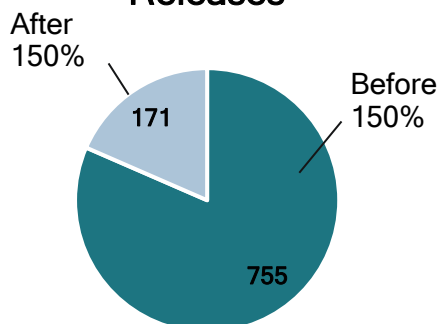


Figure 1, Releases before and after 150% of fixed term

### Primary Delay Reasons

- 56% (N=96) of delays were a result of credit for time served, with a person being parole eligible on arrival or parole eligible within six months of arrival at IDOC.
- 23% (N=40) of delays were a result of an incarcerated individuals’ own actions, including institutional behavior and disciplinary offense reports (DORs).
- 16% (N=27) of delays were a result of having been previously denied parole on this sentence.
- 3% (N=5) of delays were a result of program-related issues.
- 2% (N=3) of delays were for other reasons

*See Figure 2 (below)*

#### Delay Reason

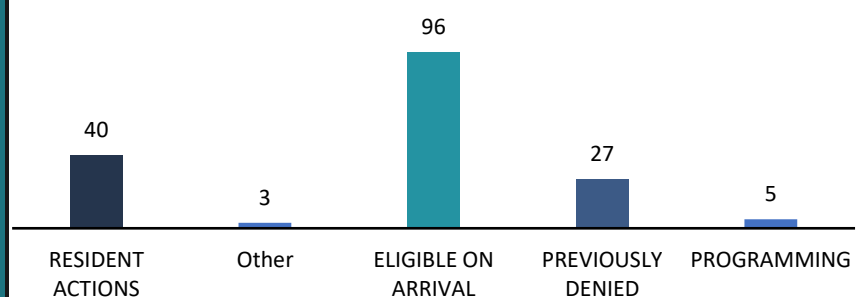


Figure 2, Primary Delay Reasons

## Findings and Conclusions

### Unified Sentencing Act

In order to understand the 150% calculation, one requires an understanding of the current sentencing structure in Idaho. The legislature passed the Unified Sentencing Act in 1986. Idaho Code 19-2513 created a sentencing system with two parts: a fixed term followed by an optional indeterminate term. The fixed portion ensures the individual serves a set period of time in prison without eligibility for parole.

Idaho's criminal statutes typically provide a penalty for each crime and the judge has full discretion to set the minimum, or "fixed," portion. Once the fixed portion is completed, COPP has the discretion to release the individual at any time. The first parole eligible date takes into consideration the fixed term of possibly several sentences running concurrently or consecutively, minus any credit for time served.

Between January 1 and December 31, 2024, 926 people sentenced to a term in prison for a property or drug offense conviction were released to parole for the first time. This is an increase of 15% when compared to 2023. In addition to the overall number of first-time parolees increasing, the number of parolees released before serving 150% of their fixed time also increased. *See Figure 3 (below)*

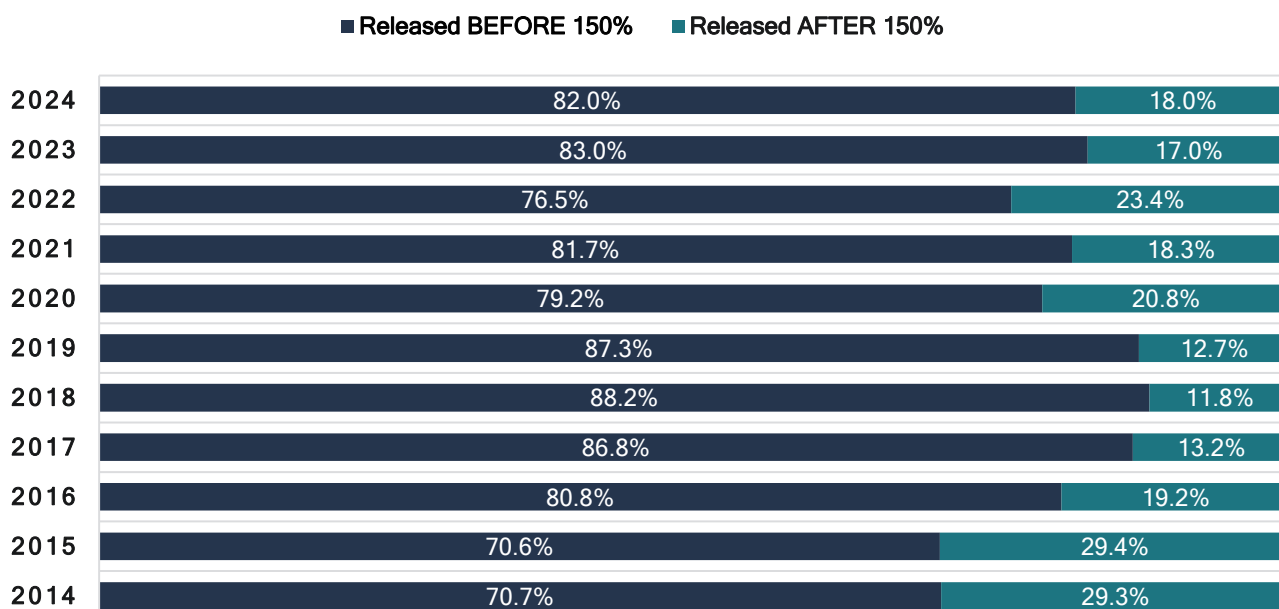


Figure 3, Releases Before and After 150%

Despite the significant changes in 2021, since 2023 there has been relatively little change in percentages of individuals released before 150% of their fixed sentence.