

State of New York  
Department of Correctional Services

Building Number 2  
Harriman Office Campus  
Albany, New York 12226

**Shock Incarceration  
2007 Legislative Report**

**Executive Summary**



**Eliot Spitzer  
Governor**



**Brian Fischer  
Commissioner**

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**The Nineteenth Annual  
Shock Legislative  
Report**

**2007**



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# ***SHOCK INCARCERATION IN NEW YORK STATE***

## ***Highlights of the***

### ***2007 Report to the Legislature***

- ❖ New York State has the largest Shock Incarceration Program for sentenced state prisoners in the nation with a capacity of 1,290 males, 114 females and 222 beds at Lakeview dedicated to orientation and screening.

Since screening of Shock eligibles began in July 1987, through September 2006:

- ❖ 94,552 legally eligible inmates have been screened for participation.
- ❖ 51,522 inmates entered the Shock program (54% of inmates screened).
- ❖ 35,102 completed the program and were released to Parole (68% of inmates who began).
- ❖ Since Shock began, each month an average of 435 inmates were screened, 242 inmates were admitted to the program, and 171 inmates graduated. Recent declines in the average number of screenings and admissions per month reflect the availability of early release mechanisms and non-prison alternatives for certain nonviolent offenders who would otherwise be eligible for Shock.
- ❖ On September 30, 2006, 1,055 inmates were under custody at Shock facilities, including 190 at Monterey, 121 at Summit, 183 at Moriah, and 561 at Lakeview (including 84 female inmates).
- ❖ Overall, most inmates who were disqualified could not participate because of medical problems. However, successful efforts to include inmates with a variety of medical needs has reduced the rate of medical disqualification in recent years. Most currently, a greater proportion of inmates were excluded because they were assessed as posing a public risk than because of medical problems.
- ❖ Women were more than twice as likely as men to be disqualified due to medical or mental health needs. One in five women screened were excluded for medical reasons; an additional 14 percent were disqualified based on mental health assessments.
- ❖ Failure to complete the program was most often attributed to disciplinary problems (43%). Eleven percent of the removals left voluntarily. On average, Shock removals spent 77 days in the program before leaving.

- ❖ The Shock Incarceration Program saves the State money, while providing inmates intensive treatment and education programs. For the 35,102 releases from Shock through September 30, 2006, the Department saved an estimated \$1.18 billion in both operating and capital costs.
- ❖ Each graduate was released to Parole supervision an average of 345 days or approximately 11.3 months earlier than his/her earliest possible release without Shock.
- ❖ Each year, supervised crews of Shock inmates perform thousands of hours of community service as part of the daily routine of the facilities. It is estimated that in calendar year 2006 inmates from Shock facilities performed approximately 1.2 million hours of community service.
- ❖ On average, Shock inmates who graduated during fiscal year 2005-2006 increased their math and reading scores by at least one grade level. Within six months, 80% of the Shock graduates had increased their math scores and 67% increased their reading scores.
- ❖ During fiscal year 2005-2006, the GED passing rate for Shock inmates was 80%, considerably higher than the passing rates at comparison medium (57%) and minimum (41%) facilities. Since the 1990 report, the GED passing rate for Shock graduates has doubled (from 40% in 1990 to 80% in the current report).
- ❖ The rates of all Tier levels of misbehavior reports occurring at Shock tend to be lower than at the comparison Minimum and Medium security facilities.

## **SHOCK PAROLE IN NEW YORK STATE**

- ❖ Shock Success: Shock graduates are more likely than comparison group parolees to be successful on parole supervision despite remaining at risk for longer periods of time. A total of 32,492 Shock graduates were compared to 43,191 Eligible But Not Sent offenders and 13,306 Removal offenders.
- ❖ After one year, 92% percent of the Shock group remained in the community, compared to 84% of the Eligible But Not Sent offenders and 81% of the Removal group.
- ❖ After two years, the Shock success rate (78%) was significantly higher than the Eligible But Not Sent group (68%) or the Removal group (61%).
- ❖ After three years, the success rate for Shock offenders was 69%, while the rate was 60% for the Eligible But Not Sent offenders and 53% for the Removal group.
- ❖ Shock parolees were the least likely of the groups to have violated within the first six months of release.
- ❖ Age At Release: Shock graduates had higher success rates than comparison group offenders, regardless of age at release. Consistent with other criminal justice literature, younger Shock graduates (those between 16 and 25 years old at the time of release) generally did not perform as well as older graduates. Nevertheless, young Shock offenders performed better than young comparison group offenders.
- ❖ Gender: Female offenders generally performed better than male offenders. Female Shock offenders performed better than the female comparison groups at all time points.
- ❖ Crime Type: The Shock group contained significantly more drug offenders than the comparison groups. When controls for drug crimes were introduced, the Shock group generally achieved higher success rates than any comparison group at 12, 24 or 36 months.
- ❖ Employment: Shock parolees are more successful than comparison group parolees at securing employment. A total of 43% of the Shock parolees were employed, compared to 25% of the Eligible But Not Sent offenders and 24% of the Removals.
- ❖ Drug Tests: A total of 92% of the drug tests on Shock parolees indicated an abstinence from drug use.