



# **Recommended Considerations for the Florida Parole Commission**

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## Recommendations

Based upon our empirical assessment of your risk assessment instrument and review of the relevant prior research studies, we recommend the following for your consideration:

1. Consider adding **Robbery** as a salient factor score rather than **Burglary**. Robbery is much more predictive of recidivism (82% more likely) than Burglary (24% more likely). This finding is consistent with prior studies in the criminological literature.
2. Consider adding age at time of release as a Mitigator. Releasees 50 years of age or older are significantly less likely (49%) to reoffend. This finding is consistent with prior studies in the criminological literature.
3. Consider combining salient factors 1 - Prior Convictions, 2 - Prior Incarcerations and 3 - Time Served. These factors overlap causing a score in one factor to automatically result in a score in another factor.
4. Consider assigning scores to all Aggravators and Mitigators to create a more numerically informed instrument and process.
5. Finally, we recommend that next year the commission consider an assessment that determines which Aggravators and Mitigators are evidence based. Specifically, we recommend that the parole commission consider moving toward a system that quantifies evidence based Mitigators as well as Aggravators and that this leads to an evidence based risk assessment.

## Findings

In an effort to inform and improve the practices of the Florida Parole Commission and its Objective Parole Guidelines we conducted statistical analyses to address the following questions:

1. What is the predictive accuracy of the current system of Objective Parole Guidelines in determining whether paroled inmates will fail through absconding from supervision, violating their terms and conditions of supervision, or committing new crimes?
2. If the same factors used currently in the Objective Parole Guidelines are retained but the scoring rubric and weighting scheme is changed, is the predictive accuracy improved?
3. If measures that are not currently being used to develop the salient factor scores were to be included in the Objective Parole Guidelines, would the prediction of paroled inmate absconding from supervision, violating the conditions of supervision, or committing new crimes improve, stay the same, or decline?

Overall we were successfully able to match 255 parole cases with the Department of Corrections recidivism file.

- Of the 255 matched cases, 54 returned to prison within 3 years for any reason.

### Parole Commission Factor Scores and Return to Prison within 3 years for any reason

	Scale	Odds Ratio	Likelihood
<b>Factor Score 1 – Prior Convictions</b>	0 - 3	1.140	14% more likely
<b>Factor Score 2 – Prior Incarcerations</b>	0 - 2	1.148	15% more likely
<b>Factor Score 3 – Time Served</b>	0 - 2	1.102	10% more likely
<b>Factor Score 4 – Age at Offense for First Incarceration</b>	0 - 2	1.382	38% more likely
<b>Factor Score 5 – Revocations</b>	0 - 1	1.705	70% more likely
<b>Factor Score 6 – Escape Convictions</b>	0 - 1	1.969	96% more likely
<b>Factor Score 7 – Burglary or B&amp;E as Present Offense</b>	0 - 1	1.236	24% more likely
<b>Total Factor Score</b>	0 - 11	1.065	7% more likely
<b>Months Added for Aggravations</b>	0 - 1,252	1.000	No Relationship
<b>Total Months assigned before Parole Eligibility</b>	20 - 1,432	1.000	No Relationship

**Additional DOC Variables and Return to Prison within 3 years for any reason**

	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Odds Ratio</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>
<b>Primary Offense - Murder/Manslaughter</b>	0-1	0.372	63% less likely
<b>Primary Offense – Robbery</b>	0-1	1.824	82% more likely
<b>Age at Release</b>	41-85	0.964	4% less likely
<b>49 Years of Age or below at Release</b>	0-1	1.960	96% more likely
<b>50 to 59 Years of Age at Release</b>	0-1	0.612	39% less likely
<b>60 Years of Age or Older at Release</b>	0-1	0.877	22% less likely
<b>Close Custody at Release</b>	0-1	1.056	6% more likely
<b>Disciplinary Infractions</b>	0-51	1.023	2% more likely
<b>Earned GED while Incarcerated</b>	0-1	0.691	31% less likely
<b>Visited by friends or family in the Last Year Prior to Release</b>	0-1	0.545	45% less likely