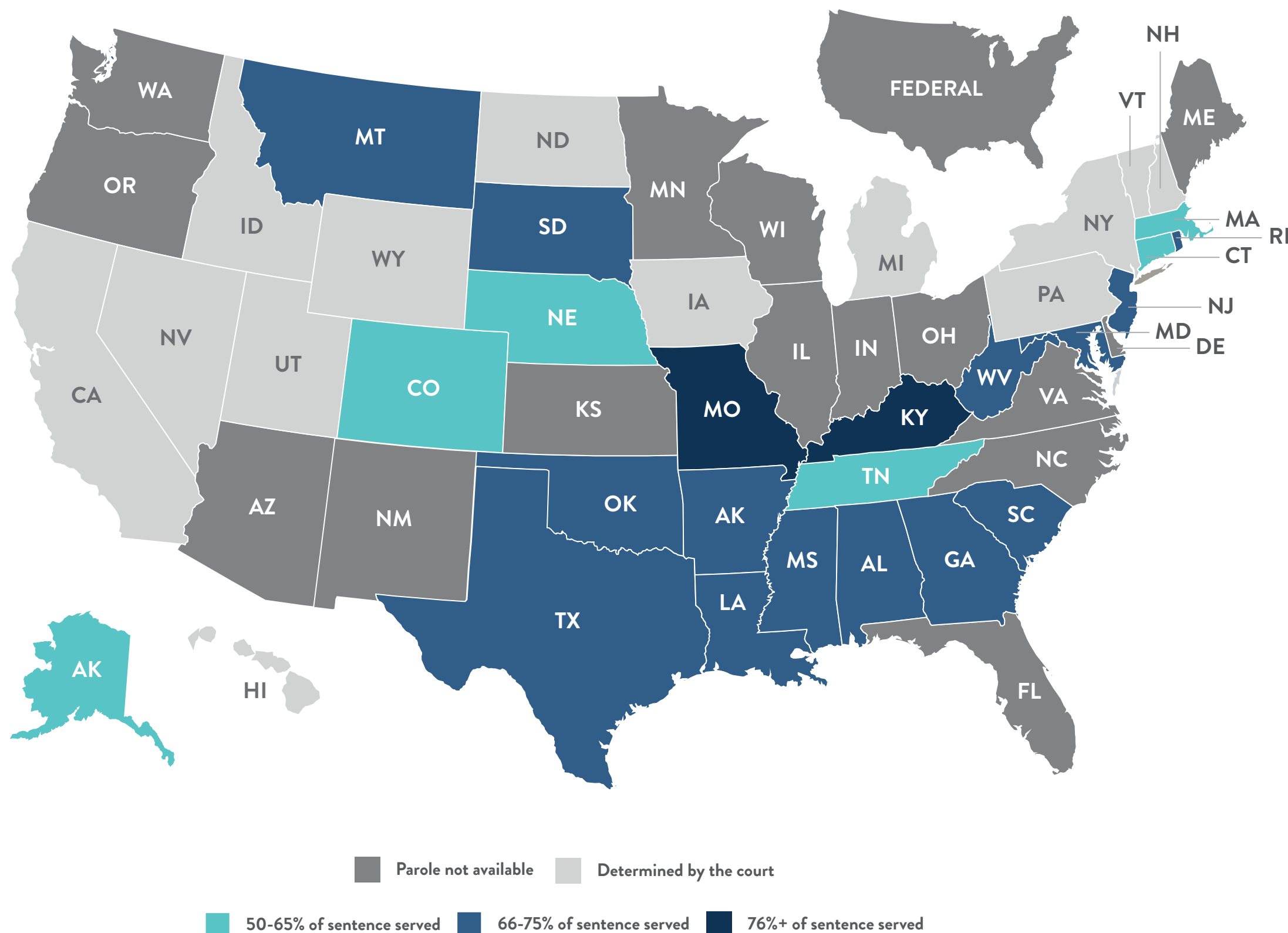


Parole Policies:

Examining Parole Availability and Maximum Reductions

METHODOLOGY

This chart reflects the maximum amount of time an individual could receive off of their term of incarceration if released to parole supervision at their earliest eligibility date. Parole has been abolished in 15 states, as well as the Bureau of Prisons. Kansas, Ohio, and Oregon are included within this total because each jurisdiction has abolished parole for most offenses. In 13 states, the court may determine the amount of time that must be served prior to parole eligibility. The dates for earliest eligibility vary among the remaining states. On the following page, you will find statutory language and sources to support this.



STATE	STATUTORY LANGUAGE ON ELIGIBILITY (REFER TO STATUTE FOR FULL DETAILS)	MAX % OF TIME OFF	SOURCE
ALABAMA	An individual becomes eligible after serving 1/3 of sentence or 10 years, whichever is less. Certain Class A felonies must serve 85% or 15 years, whichever is less.	67%	Ala. Code § 15-22-28(e) (2019).
ALASKA	If sentenced for first- or second-degree murder, individual must serve mandatory minimum, and at least 2/3 of term of imprisonment imposed before parole. For other felonies under Alaska Stat. § 12.55.125(a)-(b) (felony sentencing statute), individuals must serve mandatory minimum and at least 1/2 of term of imprisonment.	50%	Alaska Stat. § 33.16.090 (2019).
ARIZONA	Before parole was abolished in January 1994, individuals were eligible after serving 1/2 of sentence imposed, unless sentenced otherwise.	Abolished.	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 41-1604.09 (2019).
ARKANSAS	An individual is eligible after serving 1/3 or 1/2 (with good time credit) of sentence depending on the seriousness determination made by the Arkansas Sentencing Commission or 1/2 (with good time credit) of the time to which sentence is commuted by executive clemency, with exclusions.	67%	Ark. Code Ann. §§ 16-93-607, 16-93-614 (2019).
CALIFORNIA	An individual imprisoned in state prison pursuant to Section 1168 (substitution of determinate sentences for prior indeterminate sentences) or 1170 (determinate sentencing) shall receive a period of parole supervision or postrelease community supervision unless waived or as otherwise provided.	0% (determinate sentences); Determined by Board of Parole (indeterminate sentences).	Cal. Penal Code §§ 1170, 3000, 3000.08 (2019).
COLORADO	An individual is eligible after serving 50% of sentence (less earned time), except for individuals convicted of violent felonies, who are eligible after serving 75% of sentence (less earned time).	50%	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 17-22.5-403 (2019).
CONNECTICUT	An individual is eligible after serving 1/2 of total effective sentence (less risk reduction credit) or 1/2 of the most recent sentence imposed by the court (less risk reduction credit). Some violent crimes require the individual to serve 85% of sentence before becoming eligible, with exceptions.	50%	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-125a (2019).
DELAWARE	Before parole was abolished in June 1990, individuals were eligible for parole after serving 1/3 of the term imposed by the court (less merit and good behavior credits) or 120 days, whichever is greater.	Abolished.	Del. Code Ann., tit. 11, § 4346 (2019).
FLORIDA	Before parole was abolished in October 1983, an individual's eligibility was based on sentence length. Individuals sentenced for an indeterminate term, or a term of 3 years or less, had an initial interview within 8 months after the initial date of confinement.	Abolished.	Fla. Stat. § 947.16 (2019).
GEORGIA	An individual serving a sentence for a misdemeanor or nonviolent, nonrepeat felony shall only be eligible for consideration for parole after six months of sentence or 1/3 of sentence, whichever is greater. Individuals serving sentences aggregating 21 years or more become eligible after seven years.	67%	Ga. Code Ann. § 42-9-45 (2019).
HAWAII	An individual sentenced to indeterminate or extended prison term shall have a hearing by the Hawaii Paroling Authority within six months of commitment to fix the minimum term of imprisonment to be served before eligible.	Determined by the court and the Hawaii Paroling Authority.	Haw. Rev. Stat. §§ 706-659 to -661, 706-669 to -670 (2019).
IDAHO	An individual is eligible for parole after serving the required statutory sentence of a unified sentence.	Determined by the court.	Idaho Code §§ 19-2513, 20-223 (2019).
ILLINOIS	Before parole was abolished in February 1978, an individual was eligible for parole after serving minimum term of an indeterminate sentence (less good time) or 20 years or 1/3 of a determinate sentence, whichever is less (less good time).	Abolished.	730 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/3-3-3 (2019).
INDIANA	Before parole was abolished in October 1977, an individual was eligible after serving minimum term of imprisonment (less credit time) or upon completion of 1/2 of determinate term of imprisonment or at the expiration of 20 years, whichever comes first (less credit time).	Abolished.	Ind. Code Ann. §§ 11-13-3-2, 35-50-6-1 (2019).
IOWA	An individual's eligibility is considered at least once per year, with exceptions, and can start as early as one year after incarceration.	Determined by the parole board.	Iowa Code §§ 902.11-902.12, 906.5 (2019).
KANSAS	Before parole was abolished for most offenses in July 1993, an individual became eligible after serving the entire minimum term (less good time), with exceptions.	Abolished.	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 22-3717 (2019).
KENTUCKY	An individual serving two to 39 years is eligible after serving 20% of sentence, with exceptions.	80%	501 Ky. Admin. Regs. 1:030 (2019).
LOUISIANA	An individual becomes eligible after serving 25% of the sentence imposed, with exceptions.	75+%	La. Rev. Stat. § 15:574.4 (2019).
MAINE	Before parole was abolished in May 1976, an individual was eligible prior to the expiration of 1/2 of the term imposed by the court (less good behavior) when convicted of certain offenses.	Abolished.	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 34-A, § 5803 (2019).
MARYLAND	An individual becomes eligible after serving 1/4 of sentence, with exceptions.	75%	Md. Code Ann., Correctional Services § 7-301 (2020).
MASSACHUSETTS	House of Correction Sentences: Individuals are eligible after serving 1/2 of the total aggregate term of incarceration or two years, whichever is shorter. State Prison Sentences: Individuals are eligible for parole after serving the minimum term of sentence (less deductions for earned good time), with exceptions.	50%	120 Mass. Code Regs. 200.02 (2019).
MICHIGAN	An individual becomes eligible after serving minimum term, minus good time and disciplinary credits, with exceptions.	Determined by trial court.	Mich. Comp. Laws Serv. §§ 791.233-791.233b, 791.235 (2019).
MINNESOTA	Before parole was abolished in May 1980, the commissioner of corrections could grant parole to any individual, with exception.	Abolished.	Minn. Stat. §§ 243.05, 244.08 (2019).
MISSISSIPPI	An individual becomes eligible after serving 1/4 of sentence, with exceptions.	75%	Miss. Code Ann. § 47-7-3 (2019).
MISSOURI	An individual becomes eligible after serving 15% of maximum sentence, with exceptions.	85%	Mo. Code Regs. Ann. tit. 14, § 80-2.010 (2019).
MONTANA	An individual becomes eligible after serving at least 1/4 of full term, with exceptions.	75%	Mont. Code Ann. § 46-23-201 (2019).
NEBRASKA	Every committed individual shall be eligible for release after serving 1/2 the minimum term of sentence.	50%	Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 83-1,110 (2019).
NEVADA	An individual becomes eligible after serving the minimum term or minimum aggregate term of imprisonment imposed by the court.	Determined by the court.	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 213.120 (2019).

NEW HAMPSHIRE	An individual becomes eligible after serving the minimum term of sentence (minus credits, plus disciplinary period), with exceptions.	Determined by the court.	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 651-A:6 to -A:8 (2019).
NEW JERSEY	An individual becomes eligible after serving any judicial or statutory mandatory minimum term or 1/3 of the sentence imposed with no mandatory minimum (less commutation for good behavior and credit for institutional assignments), with exception for life sentences.	67%	N.J. Stat. §§ 30:4-123.10, 30:4-123.51 (2019).
NEW MEXICO	Before parole was abolished in July 1979, an individual was eligible after serving required term by court.	Abolished.	N.M. Stat. § 31-21-10 (2019).
NEW YORK	Indeterminate sentences: An individual is eligible for release at the discretion of board of parole after serving minimum term of the sentence. Determinate sentences: An individual is not eligible for parole.	Determined by court (indeterminate sentence); 0% (determinate sentence).	N.Y. Penal Law §§ 70.00, 70.40, 70.45 (2019).
NORTH CAROLINA	Before parole was abolished in October 1994, an individual was eligible after serving minimum term, or 1/5 of the maximum penalty allowed by law, whichever is less (less credits).	Abolished.	N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 15A-1340.13, 15A-1371 (2019).
NORTH DAKOTA	An individual's eligibility is determined by the parole board. If the board is convinced the individual will conform to the terms and conditions of parole the board or the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation may establish, then an individual may be released by the board at any time, with exception.	Determined by the parole board.	N.D. Cent. Code, §§ 12-59-01, 12.1-32-09.1 (2019).
OHIO	Before parole was abolished for most offenses in July 1996, an individual had to serve minimum term before eligible for parole.	Abolished.	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2967.13 (2019); Ohio Admin. Code 5120:1-1-03 (2019).
OKLAHOMA	Before October 30, 2018: An individual was eligible after serving 1/3 of sentence, with exception. As of November 1, 2018: An individual becomes eligible after serving 1/4 of sentence imposed, with exceptions.	67% (crime committed before Nov. 1, 2018); 75% (crime committed on or after Nov. 1, 2018).	Okla. Stat. tit. 21, § 13.1 (2019); Okla. Stat. tit. 57, § 332.7 (2019).
OREGON	Before parole was abolished for most offenses in November 1989, an individual was eligible after serving one's minimum term, which the court may impose at up to 1/2 the maximum.	Abolished.	Or. Rev. Stat. §§ 144.050, 144.110 (2019); Or. Admin. R. 213-004-0001, 255-005-0005 (2020).
PENNSYLVANIA	An individual is eligible after serving the minimum term of imprisonment set by the court.	Determined by court.	61 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 6137 (2019).
RHODE ISLAND	An individual is eligible after serving not less than 1/3 of sentence, with exceptions.	67%	R.I. Gen. Laws § 13-8-9 (2019).
SOUTH CAROLINA	An individual becomes eligible after serving 1/4 of sentence, with exceptions.	75%	S.C. Code Ann. §§ 24-13-100, 24-13-150, 24-21-610 (2019).
SOUTH DAKOTA	An individual becomes eligible after serving 1/4 of sentence, with exceptions.	75%	S.D. Codified Laws § 24-15-5 (2019).
TENNESSEE	Indeterminate sentences: An individual becomes eligible after serving minimum term, and serves no less than one year. Determinate sentences: An individual becomes eligible after serving 1/2 the sentence imposed by the court and no less than a year.	Determined by the court (indeterminate); 50% (determinate).	Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-28-115 (2019).
TEXAS	An individual becomes eligible after serving 1/4 of sentence (less good time) or 15 years, whichever is less, with exceptions.	75%	Tex. Gov't Code § 508.145 (2019).
UTAH	The parole board may parole any individual, except those who must serve mandatory minimum sentences and those sentenced to death or life without parole.	Determined by the parole board or court.	Utah Code Ann. § 77-27-9 (2019).
VERMONT	An individual becomes eligible for parole within 12 months with no minimum sentence or after serving minimum sentence if there is one.	Determined by parole board or court.	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 28, § 501 (2019).
VIRGINIA	Before parole was abolished January 1995, an individual was eligible after serving 1/4 of sentence or 12 years, whichever is less, with exception.	Abolished.	Va. Code Ann. §§ 53.1-151, 53.1-159, 53.1-165.1 (2019).
WASHINGTON	Before parole was abolished July 1984, an individual was eligible after serving the minimum term fixed by the court under the indeterminate sentencing system.	Abolished.	Rev. Code Wash. §§ 9.94A.505, 9.95.011, 72.04A.900 (2019); Wash. Admin. Code § 381-30-060 (2019).
WEST VIRGINIA	An individual becomes eligible after serving the minimum term of an indeterminate sentence or 1/4 of a definite term sentence, with exceptions.	75% (definite term sentence); Determined by court (indeterminate sentence).	W. Va. Code § 62-12-13 (2019); W. Va. Code R. § 92-1-2 (2019).
WISCONSIN	Before parole was abolished December 1999, an individual was eligible after serving 25% of sentence or six months, whichever was greater, with exception.	Abolished.	Wis. Stat. §§ 302.11, 304.06, 973.01, 973.014 (2019).
WYOMING	An individual becomes eligible after serving the minimum sentence set by the trial court (less good time), with exception.	Determined by the court.	Wyo. Stat. § 7-13-402 (2019).
FEDERAL	Before parole was abolished in November 1987, an individual was eligible after serving 1/3 of sentence, or after serving 10 years of a life sentence or of a sentence of over 30 years, with exception.	Abolished.	18 U.S. Code §§ 3581, 3583, 4201-4218 (2019).