Spatial Distribution of COVID-19 Population Reduction

Purpose

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Corrections was directed by Governor Jay Inslee on April 15, 2020 to identify “incarcerated individuals for potential release through Rapid Reentry, furlough, commutation, or emergency medical release, as eligible and needed” (Proclamation 20-50). Subsequently, 950 individuals were released or transferred to partial confinement under the Governor’s proclamation, and 66 under the Secretary’s furlough authority (1,016 in total), between April 17 and May 15, 2020. This brief report describes the distributions of: 1) individuals released or transferred through emergency commutation, Rapid Reentry or furlough, and 2) those who have since been charged with a new offense, placed on active warrant status, or have otherwise violated the conditions of their supervision (such as drug use, GPS violations, having unauthorized visitors in the approved residence or failure to report/contact the community corrections officer when directed). Most of these will return to the community after their custody violation hearings.

Data Source(s): OMNI as of August 17, 2020; Office of Financial Management (OFM) population estimates of April 1, 2020; Washington Master Addressing Services (WAMAS)

Methods

Participants
Maps include all individuals released or transferred through emergency commutation, Rapid Reentry (RRE) or furlough with a Washington residential address. Allegations of a new offense or violation are limited to those known to the Department of Corrections through admission, warrant, infraction and violation records in the OMNI and IMRS databases. Unless otherwise noted, all records are of status prior to adjudication, and do not necessarily reflect trial or hearings outcomes.

Analytic Approach
Individuals are mapped by release or transfer type (e.g., commutation, RRE, or furlough) and their most recent known address. Maps include a measure of density of the number of released or transferred individuals residing within a one mile radius of each individual address. Maps of individuals charged with a new offense or violation, or placed on active warrant status, indicate areas of elevated risk where their density is significantly greater than that of their respective cohort.

1 Lists and population descriptions for released and transferred individuals are available online at https://www.doc.wa.gov/news/covid-19-faq.htm
**Results**

**Commutations:**
Between April 17 and May 4, 2020, 422 individuals were released by emergency commutation. Figure 1 shows the distribution of those released with a residential address in the state of Washington \((n = 405)\).²

*Figure 1. Individuals released by emergency commutation \((n = 405)\).*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
<th>Percent of Commutations</th>
<th>Percent of WA Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everett</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

² 17 individuals with commuted sentences released out of state, identified as homeless, or had an address not included in the Washington Master Address System.
### New offenses, violations and warrants:

As of August 17, 2020:

- **72 (17.1%)** of those released by emergency commutation have since been readmitted to a DOC facility following a violation (such as drug use, GPS violations, having unauthorized visitors in the approved residence or failure to report/contact the community corrections officer when directed). Most of these will return to the community after their custody violation hearings.
- **39 (9.2%)** have violated but remain in the community with a stipulated agreement.
- **82 (19.4%)** have an active warrant.
- **Three (0.7%)** are jailed pending adjudication on a new felony charge.

Individuals returning to a facility, on active warrant status, or otherwise sanctioned after commutation \((n = 163; 38.6\%)\) are shown in Figure 2.\(^3\) There is indication of elevated risk of violating or absconding among individuals released in the central and southeast regions of the state.

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\(^3\) Categories are not mutually exclusive. For instance, individuals may return to a facility as a violator and then be placed on active warrant status after absconding upon release back to the community.
Figure 2. Individuals violating or on active warrant status following emergency commutation as of August 17, 2020 (n = 163).

NOTE: p values are derived from test of density of individuals with new offense, violation or warrant in a subregion being greater than the overall density of released individuals in that region.
Rapid Reentry:
Between April 20 and May 15, 2020, 528 individuals were transferred to RRE to complete their sentence under electronic monitoring and supervision in the community. The distribution of their transfer locations is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Individuals transferred to Rapid Reentry (n = 528)

Table 2. Individuals transferred to Rapid Reentry by city of transfer location.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
<th>Percent of RRE Transfers</th>
<th>Percent of WA Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everett</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yakima</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puyallup</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellingham</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### New offenses, violations and warrants:

As of August 17, 2020:

- 176 (33.3%) of transfers to RRE have since been readmitted after infracting or committing violations (such as drug use, GPS violations, having unauthorized visitors in the approved residence or failure to report/contact the community corrections officer when directed). Most of these will return to the community after their custody violation hearings.
- 42 (8%) have been charged with an infraction or violation but remain in place
- 27 (5.1%) have active warrants
- One is jailed with a new felony charge.

Individuals infracting, on warrant or jailed after transferring to RRE ($n = 236; 44.7\%$) are shown in Figure 4. There is indication of elevated risk of infracting among those transferred to the southwest and southeast regions of the state.
Figure 4. Individuals infracting, on warrant or jailed after transferring to Rapid Reentry as of August 17, 2020 (n = 236).

NOTE: p values are derived from test of density of individuals with new offense, violation or warrant in a subregion being greater than the overall density of released individuals in that region.
Furlough:
Between April 17 and May 7, 2020, 66 individuals were furloughed to locations shown in Figure 5. Most individuals on furlough were released to King and Pierce counties ($n = 14$ and $n = 10$, respectively).

*Figure 5. Furloughed individuals ($n = 66$).*
New offenses, violations and warrants:
As of August 17, 2020, five furloughed individuals have since returned to a DOC facility following an escape; four violated and were sanctioned with stipulated agreements after continuing on to community supervision; nine have active warrants (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Individuals on active warrant status or charged with a violation after furlough as of August 17, 2020 (n = 16).
Summary

As of August 17, 2020:

- Between April 17 and May 15, 2020, 422 individuals were released on emergency commutation, 528 transferred to RRE, and 66 were furloughed (1,016 in total)

- 72 (17.1%) released by emergency commutation, 176 (33.3%) transferred to RRE, and 5 furloughed individuals have returned to a DOC facility after violating release conditions (such as drug use, GPS violations, having unauthorized visitors in the approved residence or failure to report/contact the community corrections officer when directed). Most of these will return to the community after their custody violation hearings.

- 82 (19.4%) released by emergency commutation, 27 (5.1%) transferred to Rapid Reentry, and 9 furloughed individuals have active warrants

- Three (3) individuals released on emergency commutation and one (1) transferred to RRE are currently jailed with a new felony charge

- There is an indication of elevated risk of violating among those with commuted sentences in the central and southeast regions, and among RRE transfers in the southwest and southeast regions of the state.