



AN OVERVIEW OF PENNSYLVANIA BOARD OF PARDONS DATA

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1.

BACKGROUND

PROJECT **MOTIVATION**

- ▶ It is PLSE's mission to **assist as many applicants as we can** through the pardon process and help them **obtain pardons as quickly as possible**
- ▶ Over the past few years, we have become concerned that **higher application volume = growing delays**

We hope our analysis will help the Board of Pardons identify more areas in which **the process could be streamlined** so that its limited resources can be best **allocated to applications that warrant investigation.**

PROJECT SCOPE

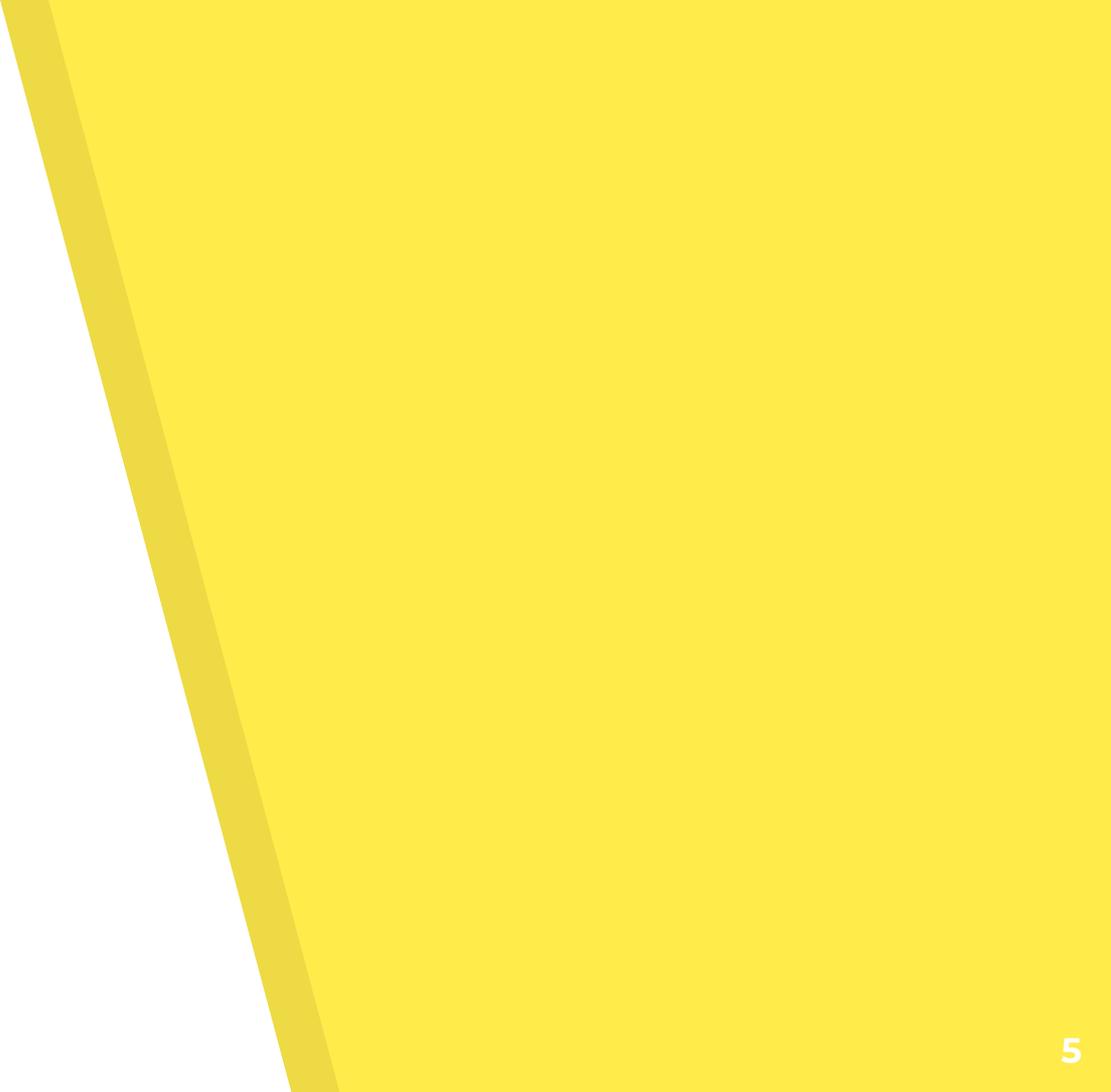
TIME PERIOD

We analyzed data on applications received 2015-2021, with a focus on applications filed **2018-2020**.

We also looked at pardon applications that have gone through merit review and/or had a hearing since January 1, 2018.

AREAS OF ANALYSIS

- **Application volume and processing times** for BOP applicants
- Pardon outcomes for applicants with **different kinds of criminal records**
- Outcomes at the **merit review and hearing stages** of the pardon application process
- Individual **BOP members' voting records** in pardon cases

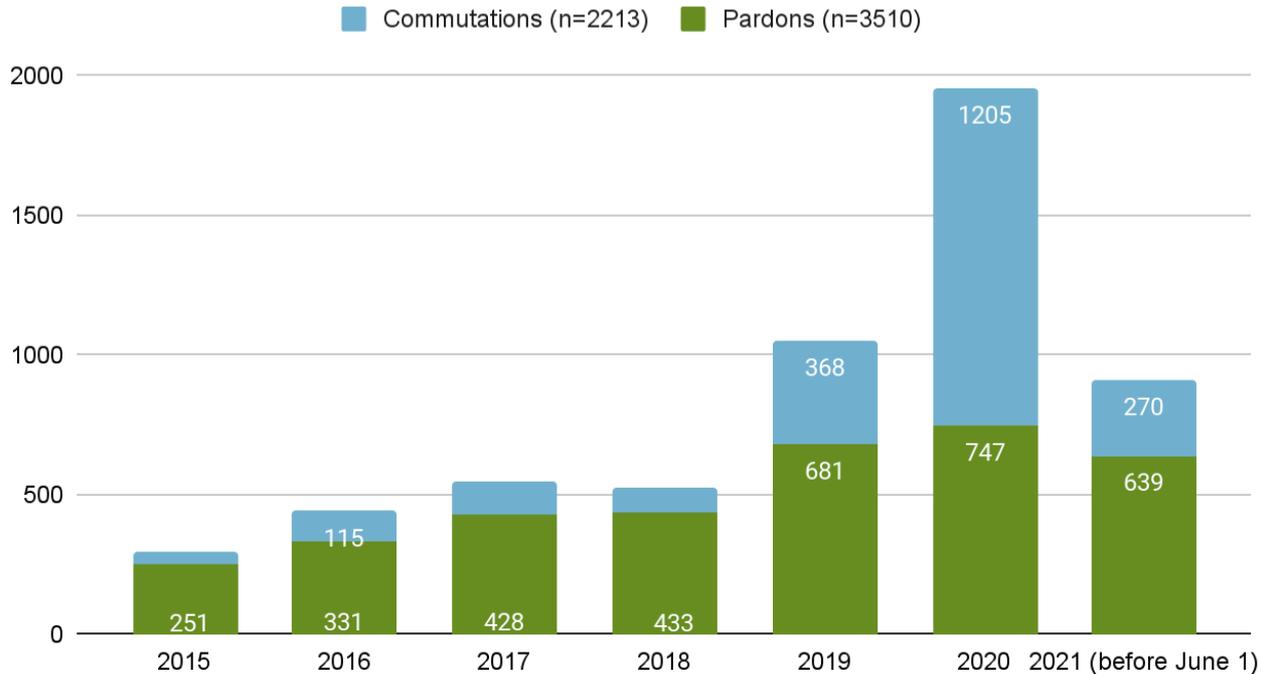
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2.

**APPLICATION
VOLUME**

VOLUME OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Total Applications Received Jan. 1, 2015-June 1, 2021

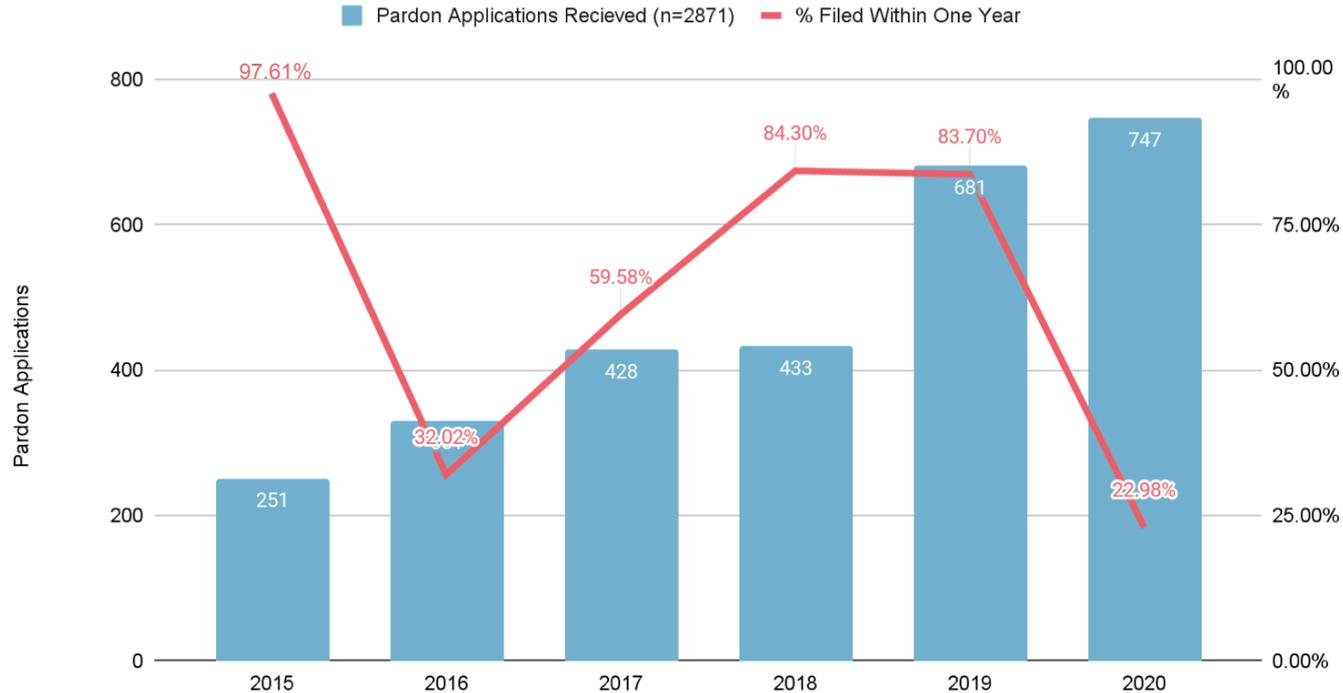


Note: The figures shown for 2020 reflect the number of applications received from January 1, 2020 through June 1, 2020.

APPLICATION FILING TIMES

Filing Times of Pardon Applications

Pardon Applications Received January 1, 2015-January 1, 2021 (n=2871)



Note: For 2020, the “percent filed within one year” has been calculated based on the 309 applications received from January 1, 2020 through June 1, 2020.

3.

PROCESS AND TERMINOLOGY

PROJECT GOALS

Evaluate

Recommendation rates for pardon applicants by criminal record type and time since most recent conviction.

Determine

If there are types of pardon applicants who are very likely to be recommended by the Board, based only on record type and date of last conviction.

Assist

The Board in identifying applications that it could expedite or subject to a lower degree of scrutiny, using the past voting record as a guide.

ANALYZING TYPES OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

What applications are included in this analysis?

Pardon Applications Filed 2018-2020:

Based on application
filing date, not date
received

Finally Determined Applications:

Excludes withdrawn
applications and those
pending filing, merit
review, hearing, or
reconsideration

ANALYZING TYPES OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

Notes on **criminal record types**:

- ▶ We did not have the data we would need to create a distinct category for **marijuana-only** convictions
- ▶ Applicants' records have been classified based on their **full list of convictions**

For example: An applicant's record would be classified as "**Non-Violent, Drug-Related**" if they had zero violent convictions and at least one drug-related conviction

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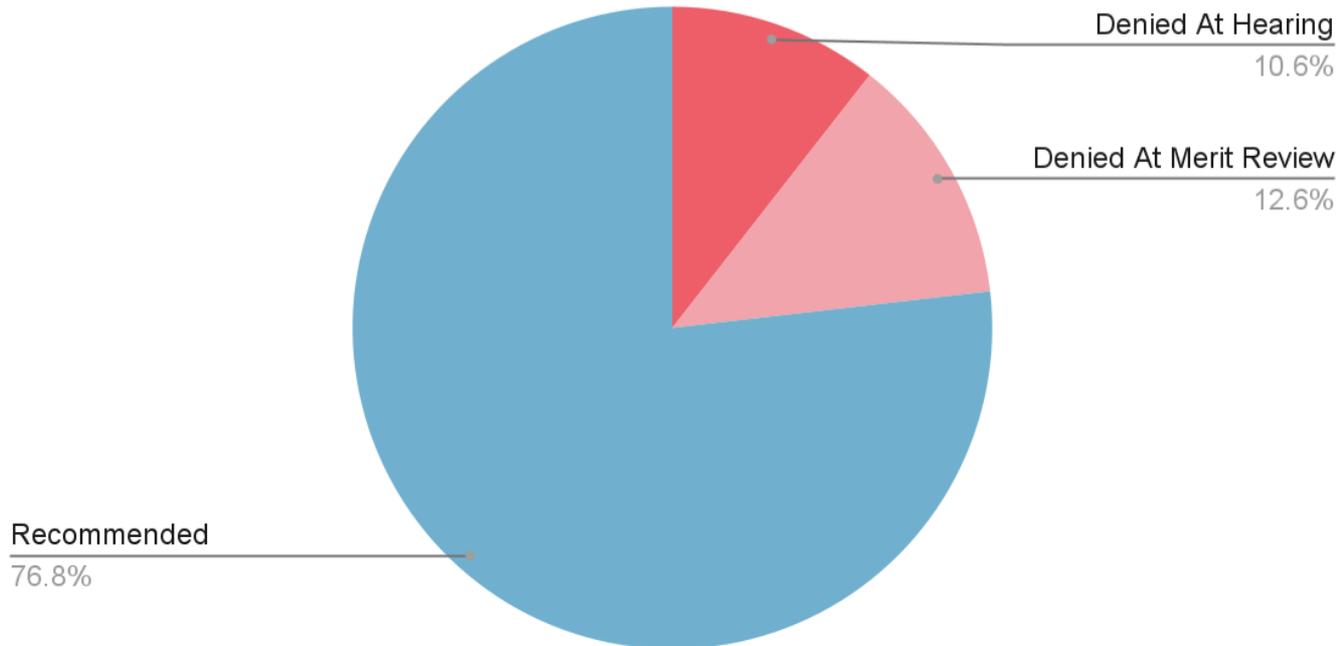
4.

DATA ANALYSIS

OVERALL PARDON APPLICATION **OUTCOMES**, BOARD OF PARDONS

Pardon Application Outcomes, Board of Pardons

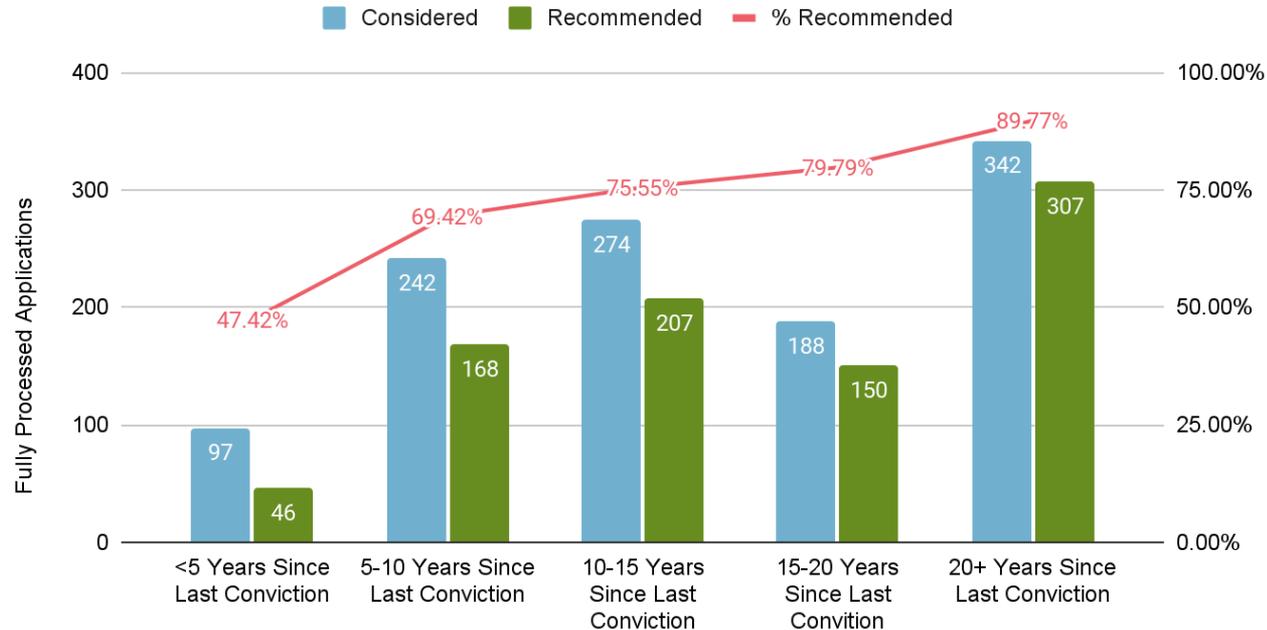
Finally Determined Applications Filed 2018-2020



RECOMMENDATION RATES BY TIME SINCE LAST CONVICTION

Pardon Recommendation Rates by Time Since Last Conviction

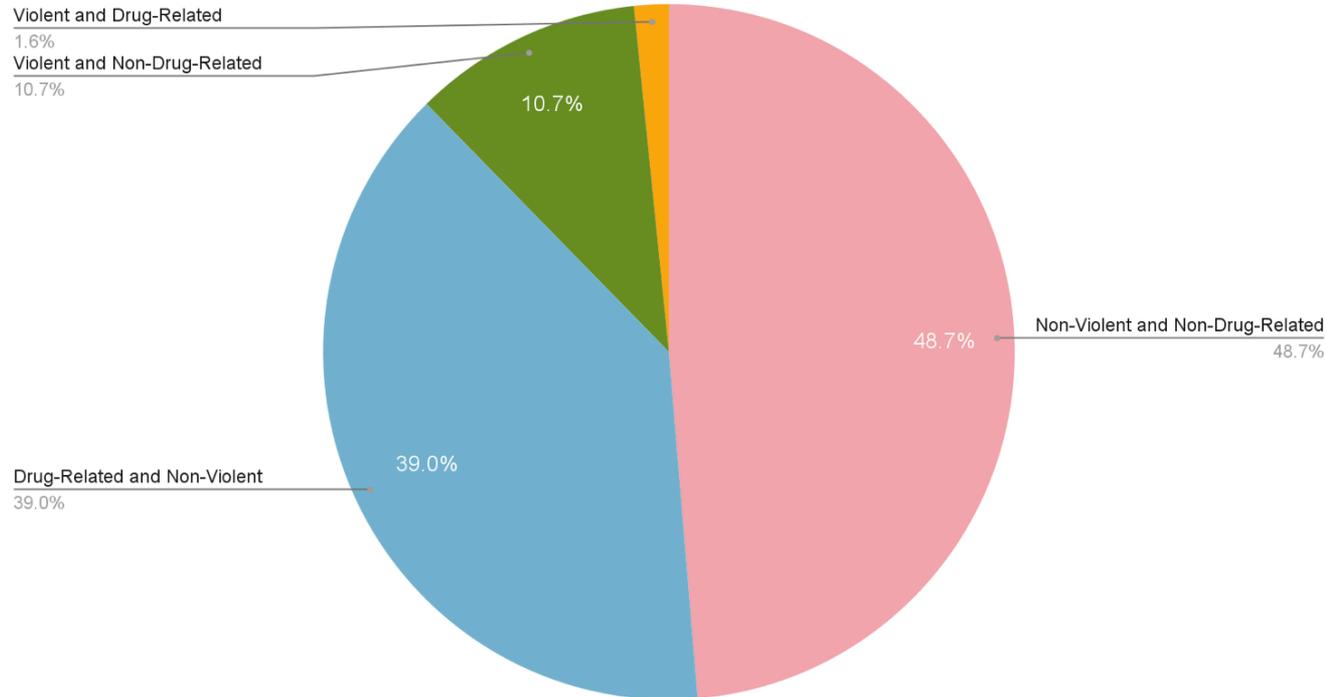
Finally Determined Applications Filed 2018-2020 (n=1143)



PARDON APPLICATIONS BY CRIMINAL RECORD TYPE

Pardon Applications by Criminal Record Type

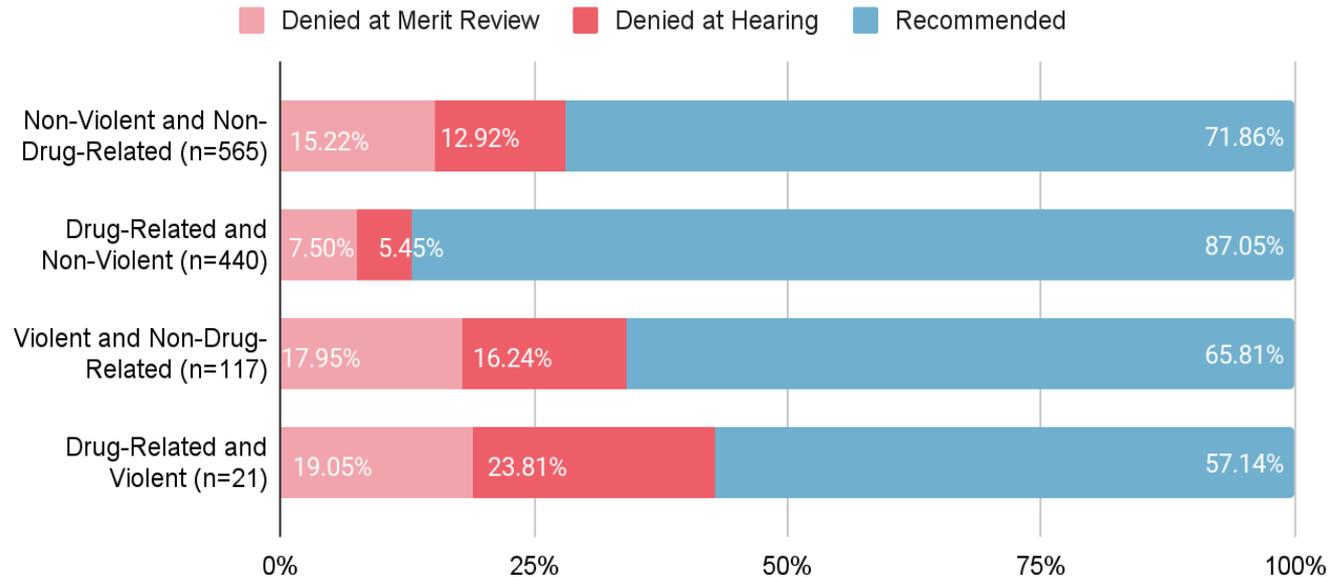
Applications Filed 2018 - 2020 (n=1545)



RECOMMENDATION RATES BY CRIMINAL RECORD TYPE

Pardon Outcomes by Record Type, Board of Pardons

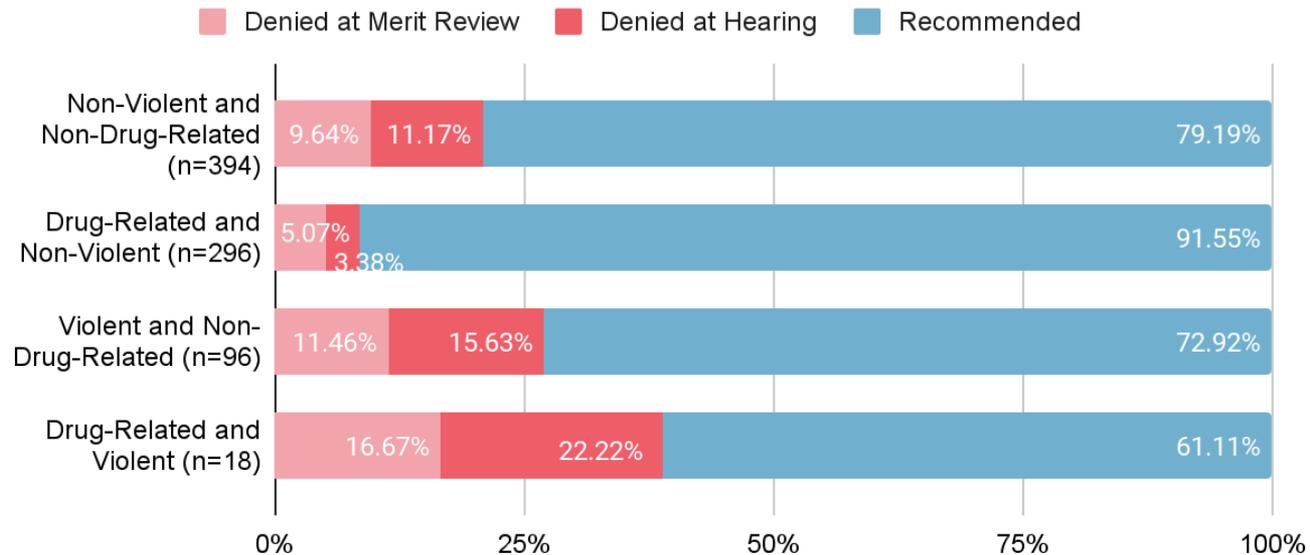
Finally Determined Applications Filed 2018-2020 (n=1143)



RECOMMENDATION RATES BY 10+ YEARS SINCE LAST CONVICTION

Pardon Outcomes by Record Type, 10+ Years Since Last Conviction, Board of Pardons

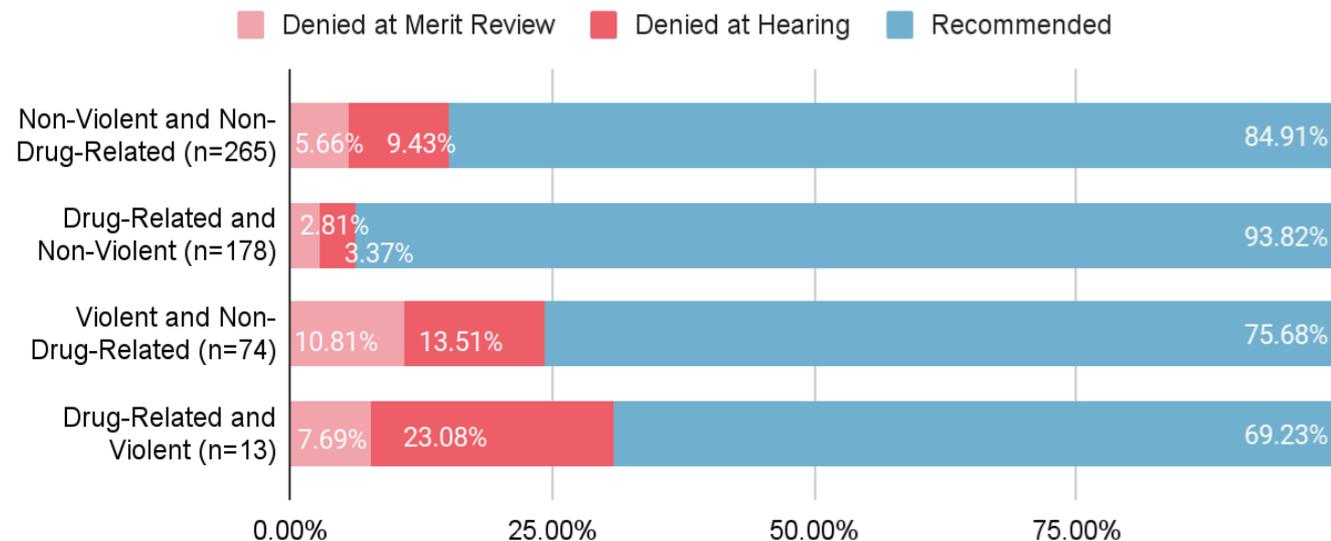
Finally Determined Applications Filed 2018-2020 (n= 804)



RECOMMENDATION RATES BY 15+ YEARS SINCE LAST CONVICTION

Pardon Outcomes by Record Type, 15+ Years Since Last Conviction, Board of Pardons

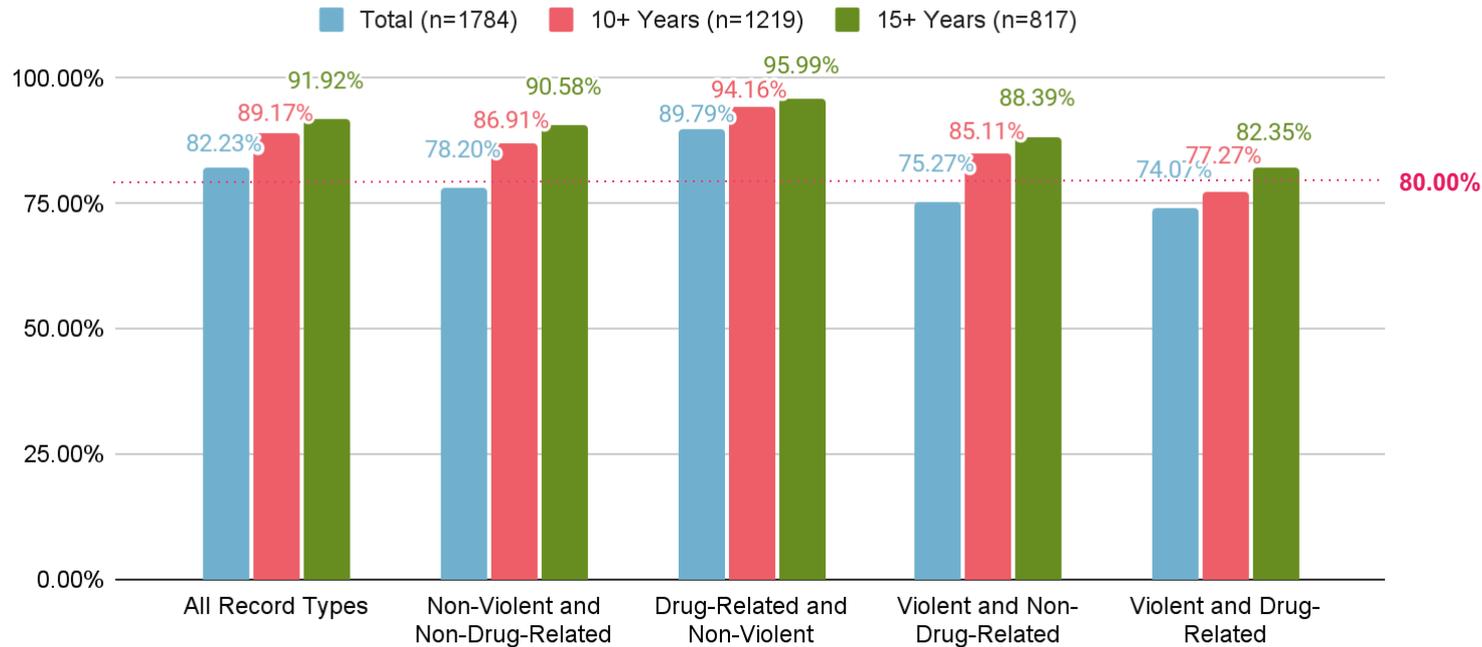
Finally Determined Applications Filed 2018-2020 (n=530)



MERIT REVIEW STAGE: OUTCOMES BY CRIMINAL RECORD TYPE

Percent Granted Hearing at Merit Review by Record Type and Time Since Last Conviction

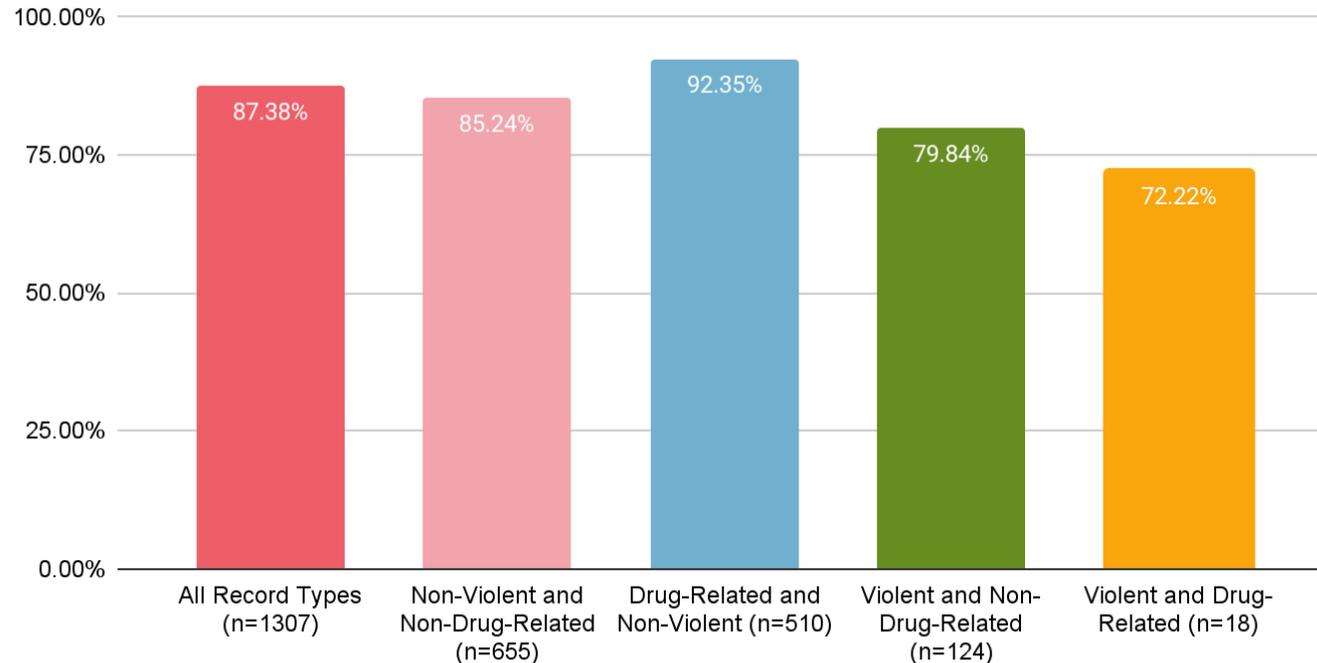
Pardon Application Merit Reviews Held 2018-Present



PUBLIC HEARING STAGE: OUTCOMES BY CRIMINAL RECORD TYPE

Percent Recommended at Public Hearing by Record Type

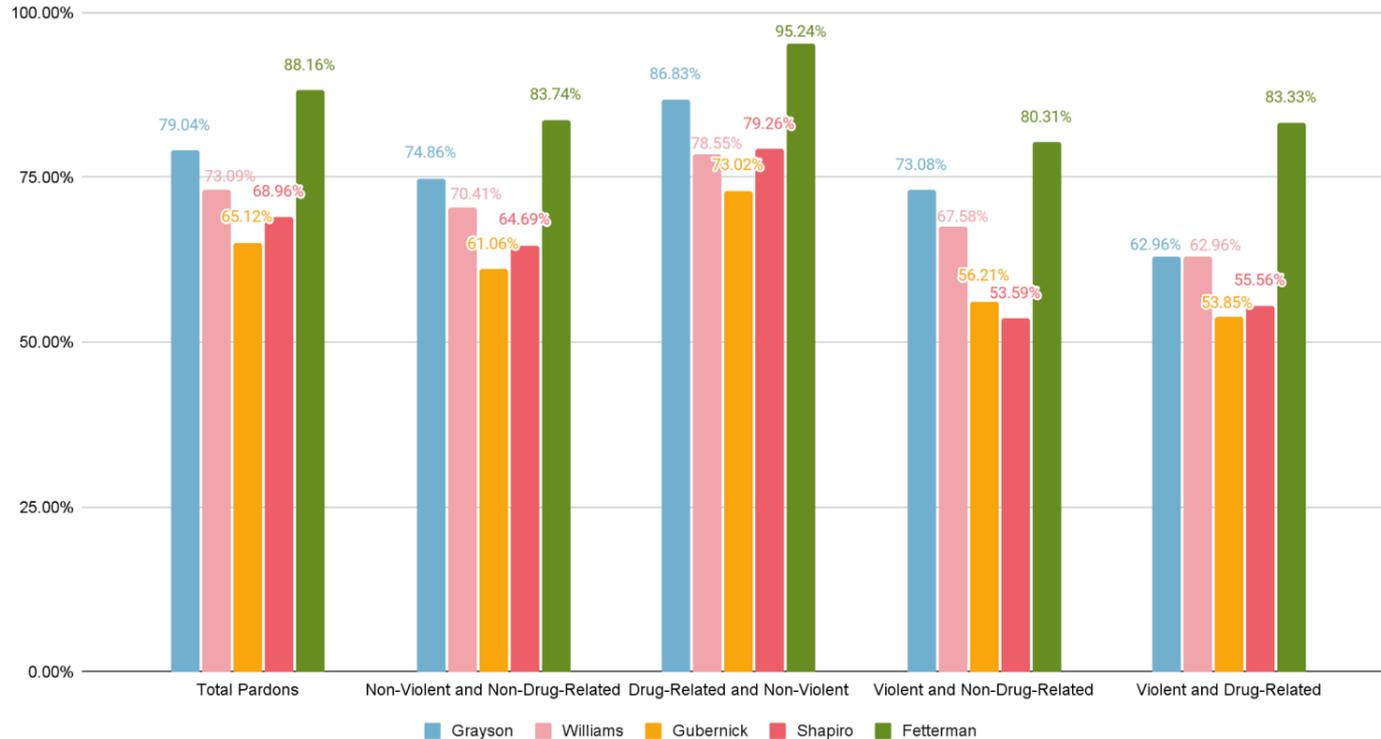
Pardon Application Public Hearings Held 2018-Present



MERIT REVIEW STAGE: FAVORABLE VOTE RATES BY BOARD MEMBER

Merit Review Favorable Vote Rate for Pardon Applicants by Record Type and Board Member

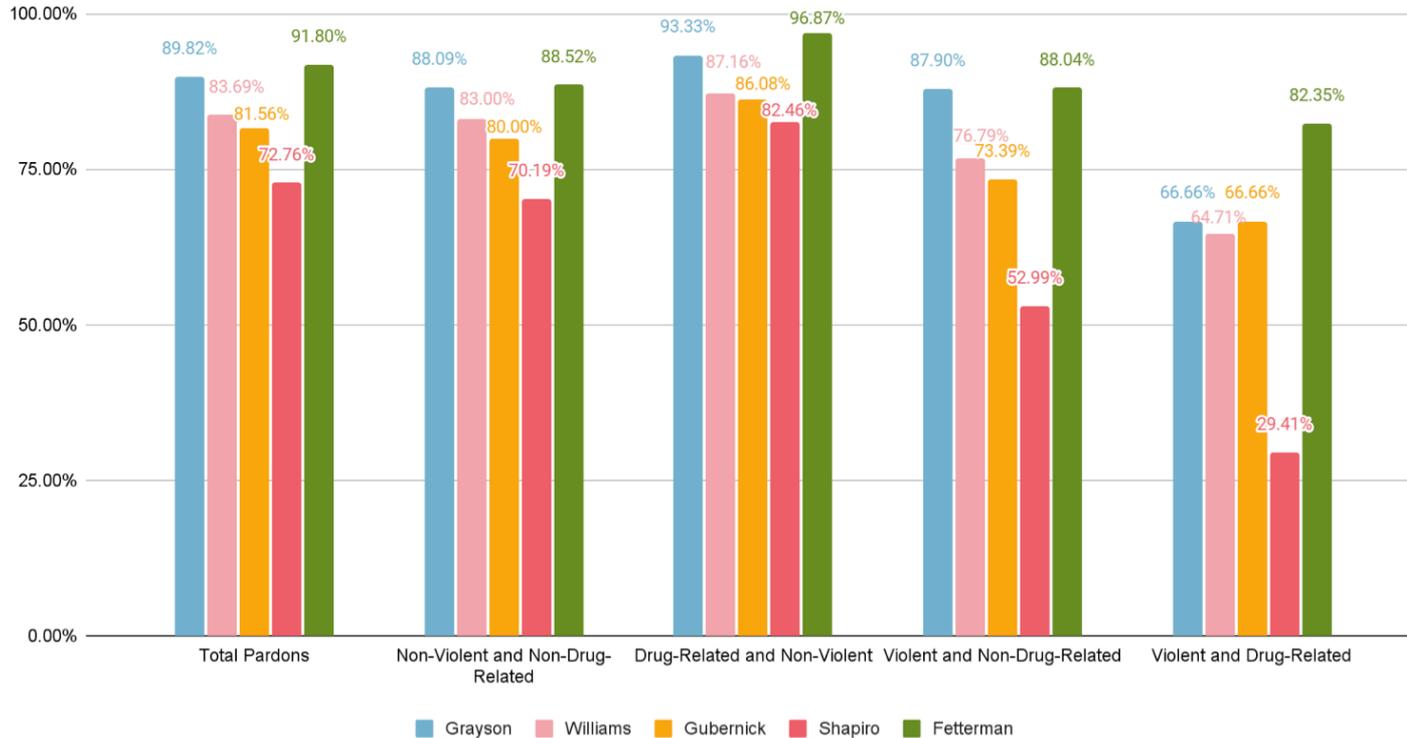
Merit Reviews Held 2018-Present* (Vote Rates for Lt. Gov. Fetterman reported 2019-Present)



PUBLIC HEARING STAGE: RECOMMENDATION RATES BY BOARD MEMBER

Public Hearing Recommendation Rates for Pardon Applicants by Record Type and Board Member

Pardon Public Hearings Held 2018-Present (*Vote rates for Lt. Gov. Fetterman reported 2019-present)





5.

KEY

TAKEAWAYS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Board of Pardons receives more applications each year. The events of 2020-21 have contributed to a particularly large backlog.



Some groups of applicants have been making it through merit review at **very high rates (as high as 96%, as shown)**, and may not merit the same level of scrutiny as other applicants.



Streamlining the Board's review of these applicants may help the Board reduce its backlog, increase its capacity, and shorten processing times for all applicants.

THANKS!

WE WELCOME YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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