

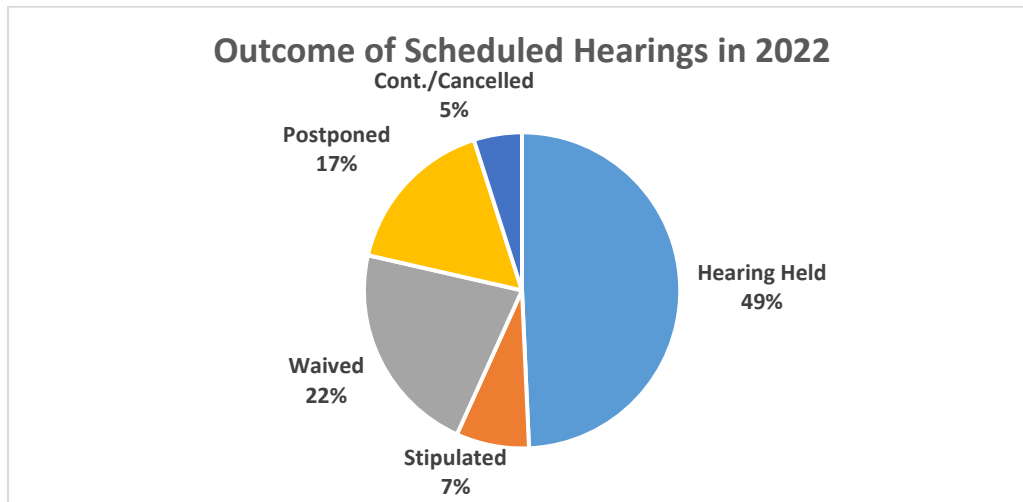


Just the Facts

Grant Rates

What is the Board's grant rate?

A scheduled parole hearing may be postponed (by the incarcerated person or the Board), voluntarily waived by the incarcerated person, continued or cancelled by the Board, result in a grant or denial, or result in the person entering into an agreement that they are not suitable for parole (called a stipulation). A little more than half of all scheduled hearings in 2022 were waived, postponed, continued/cancelled, or resulted in the person stipulating to being unsuitable. *Forty-nine percent (49%) of hearings scheduled in 2022 were actually held and resulted in the Board deciding to grant or deny parole.*



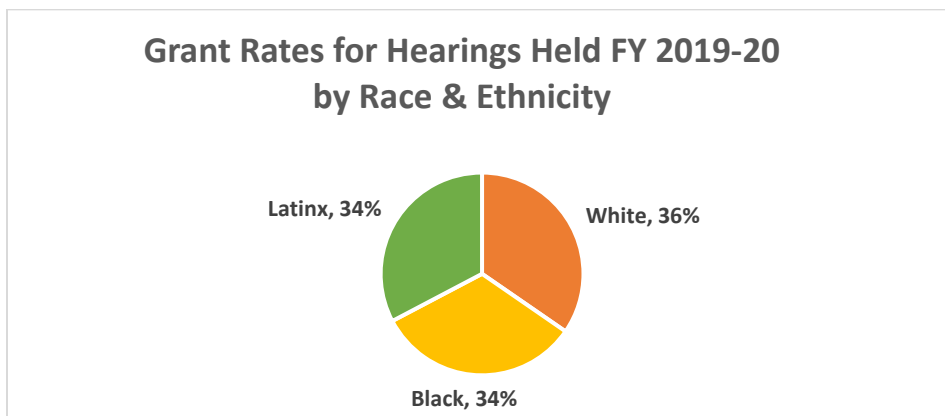
As shown in the following chart, the grant rate has averaged 34% over the past five years, meaning *one out of every three hearings held since 2018 has resulted in a grant of parole.*

Year	No. of Hearings Held	No. of Grants	Grant Rate
2018	2,929	1,136	39%
2019	3,441	1,184	34%
2020	3,464	1,234	36%
2021	4,189	1,424	34%
2022	4,445	1,259	28%
2023*	4,166	1,434	34%
Average	3,772	1,279	34%

*Projected based on hearing results January through June.

Are the Board’s grant rates racially biased?

No. An independent review by the California Committee on Revision of the Penal Code looked at the outcome of all hearings held in fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 by race and ethnicity and found *no difference in outcomes based on race and ethnicity*. Specifically, the report found that out of the 3,400 hearings held in Fiscal Year 2019-20, “parole grant rates across racial groups showed little disparities.”¹

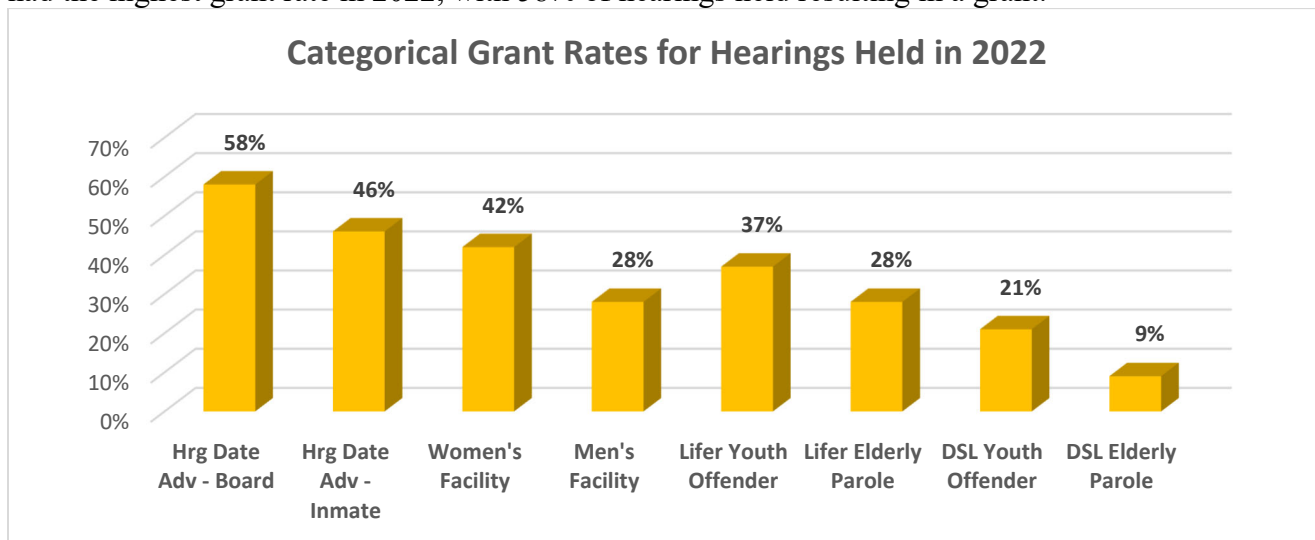


The committee’s report went further to say,

“[t]he small disparities across these three groups are not statistically significantly different from zero. That is to say, the patterns observed for the time period analyzed are consistent with the hypothesis that **there are no overall racial disparities for these three groups in grant rates for those who go through parole hearings.**”

Do grant rates vary by hearing type, gender, hearing dates being advanced, etc.?

Yes. Persons whose hearing date was moved up because of the Board’s Administrative Review process had the highest grant rate in 2022, with 58% of hearings held resulting in a grant.



Persons whose hearing date was moved up because they filed a Petition to Advance had a grant rate of 46%, meaning 46% of the hearings held after a Petition to Advance was approved resulted in a grant.

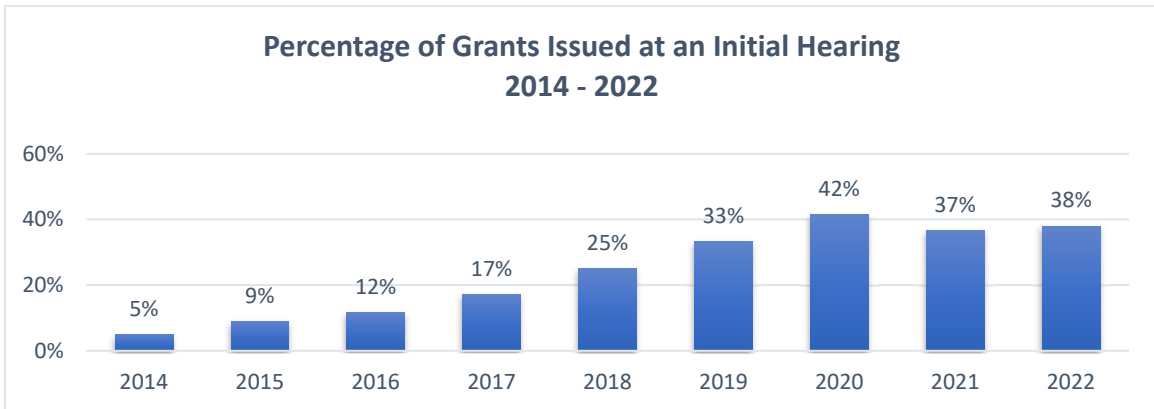
¹ The Committee on Revision of the Penal Code’s review found that the number of parole hearings for other race and ethnic groups were too small to conduct a comparative analysis so they were not included in the committee’s findings.

Persons housed at a facility for women had a grant rate of 42%. And persons sentenced to life with the possibility of parole who qualified as a youth offender had a grant rate of 37% in 2022.

Determinately-sentenced persons who qualified as a youth offender or for elderly parole had the lowest grant rates in 2022 (21% for determinately-sentenced youth offenders and 9% for determinately-sentenced persons eligible for elderly parole).

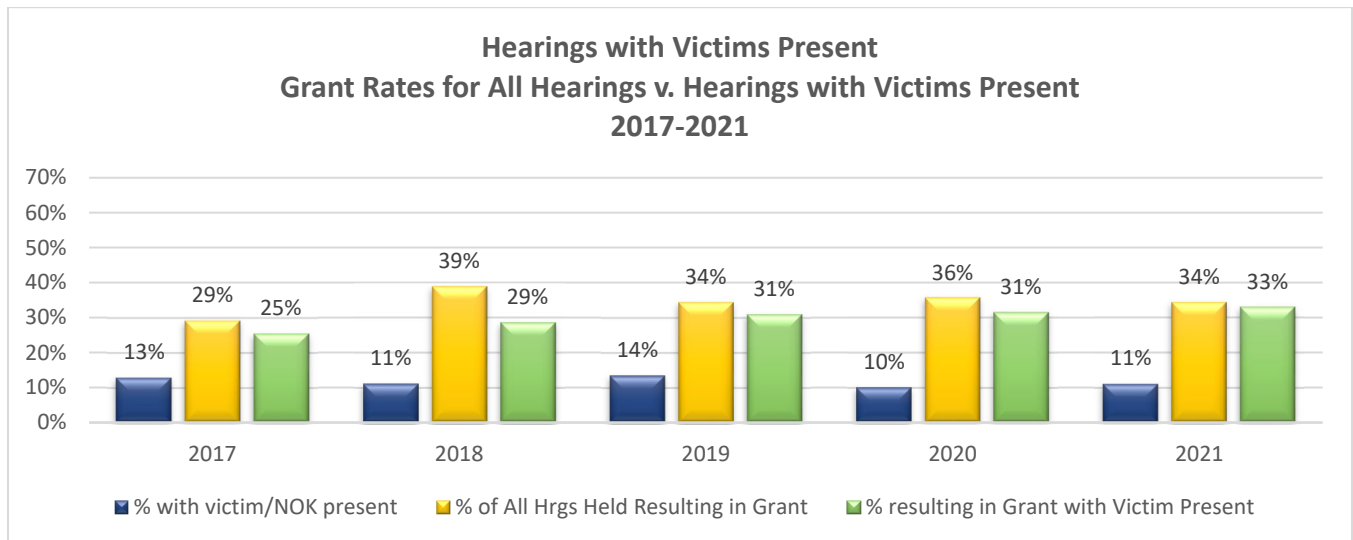
Are people granted parole at their initial hearing?

Yes. The Board applies the same legal standard at all parole hearings. The percentage of grants given at an initial hearing has increased significantly since 2014. In 2022, 38% of all grants were given at an initial hearing, more than twice the percentage given at initial hearings in 2017.



Does the Board grant parole if a victim attends the hearing?

Yes. The Board applies the same legal standard at all parole hearings. In addition, the California Supreme Court held in 2013 that the Board cannot base its decisions on victims’ opinions. Since 2017, victims have participated in 10-14% of parole hearings held annually. In 2021, there was only a one percent difference in grant rates between all hearings held and hearings held with a victim present (34% versus 33%).



How have changes in sentencing laws and the Board’s grant rate changed the overall lifer population in California?

Changes in sentencing laws and the Board’s grant rates are beginning to have a significant impact on the number of persons serving life with the possibility of parole in California. In 2017, California released more lifers from prison than were admitted to state prison for the first time in 34 years. More than 10,000 lifers were safely returned to our communities between 2013 and 2021.

