

The Continuing Leverage of Paroling Authorities: Findings from a National Survey

The Consideration of Victims in Parole Release Decision Making

Victims participate in the parole release process in various ways, from speaking at the hearings to writing letters.

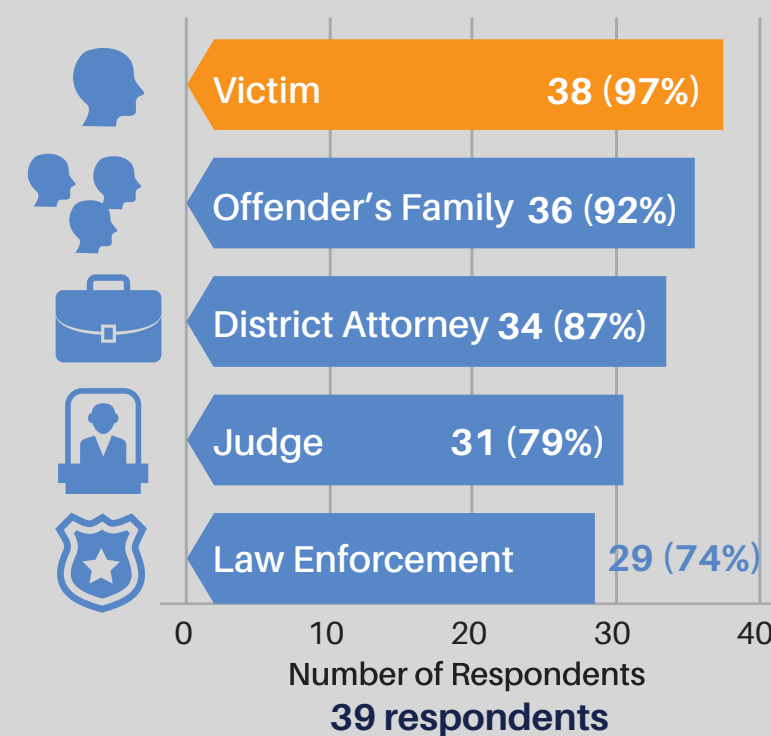
Although many factors contribute to the parole release decision-making process, the victim's input is almost always considered.

Despite the widespread inclusion of victims in the process, Releasing Authority Chairs ranked the importance of victim input as moderate compared to other factors.

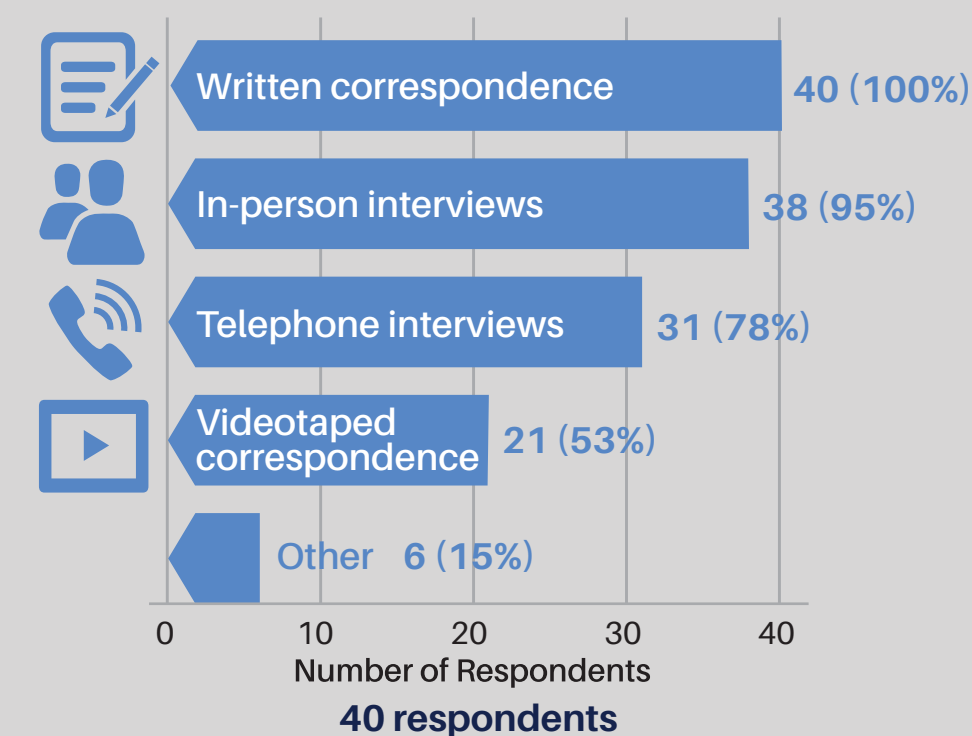
Victim Input

To help inform the release decision, input is often considered from a broad range of individuals and decision-makers. All 50 states and the U.S. Parole Commission have laws that allow for victim impact statements either at sentencing, parole hearings or both.

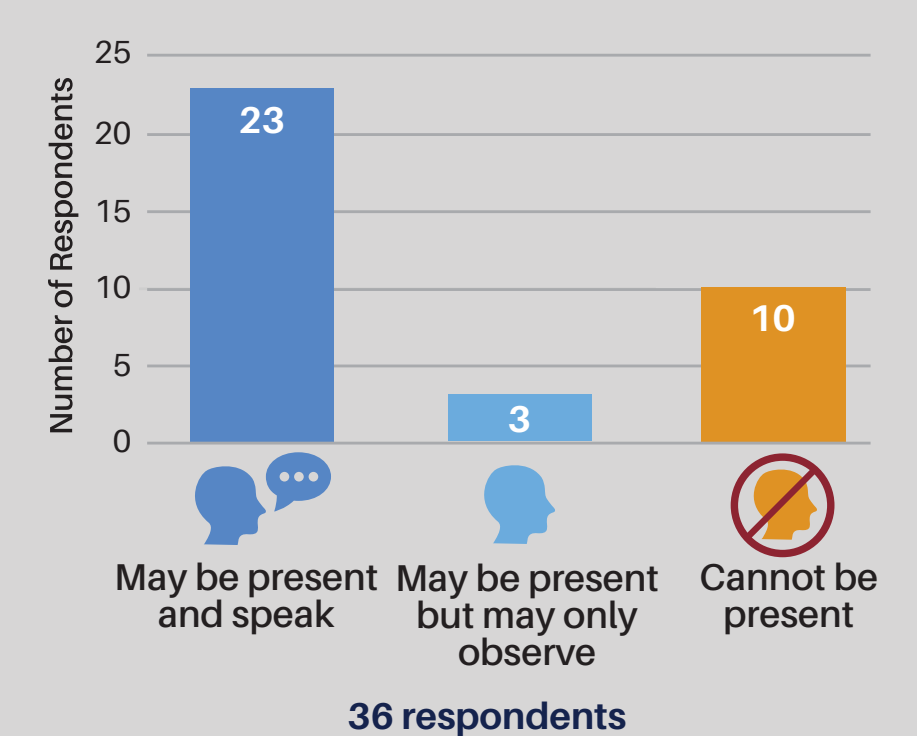
Whose Input is Considered at Release?



Permissible Methods of Victim Input

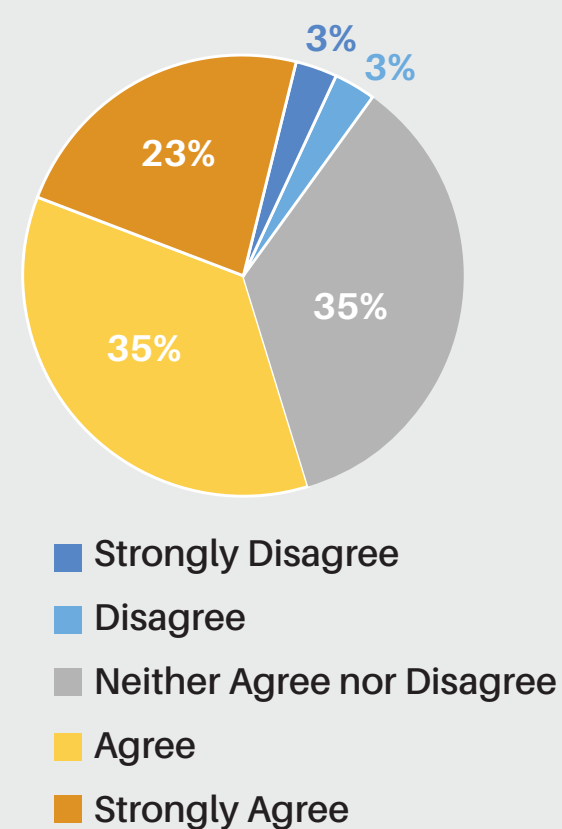


Victim Involvement at Release Hearing

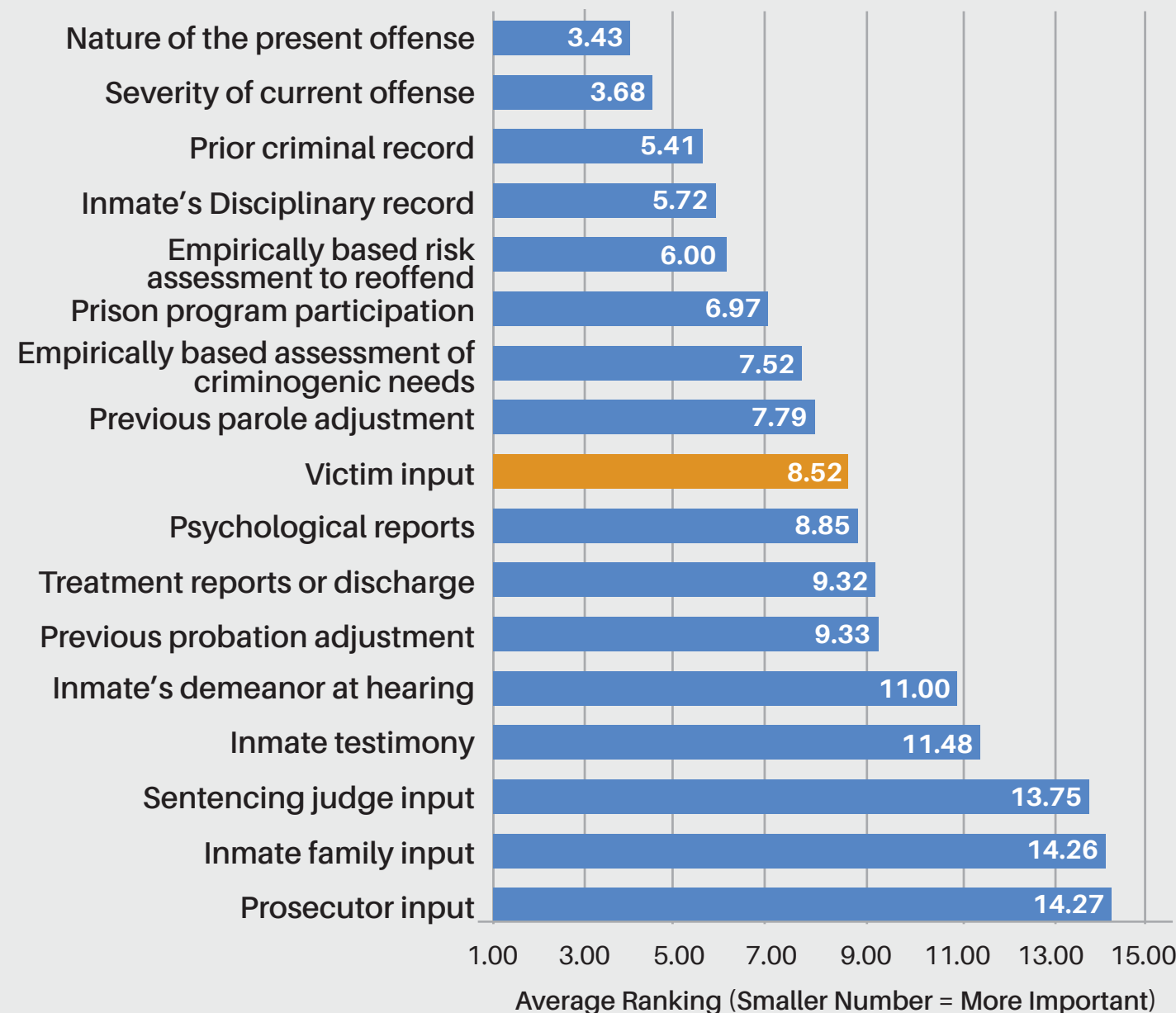


Releasing Authority Chairs' Views:

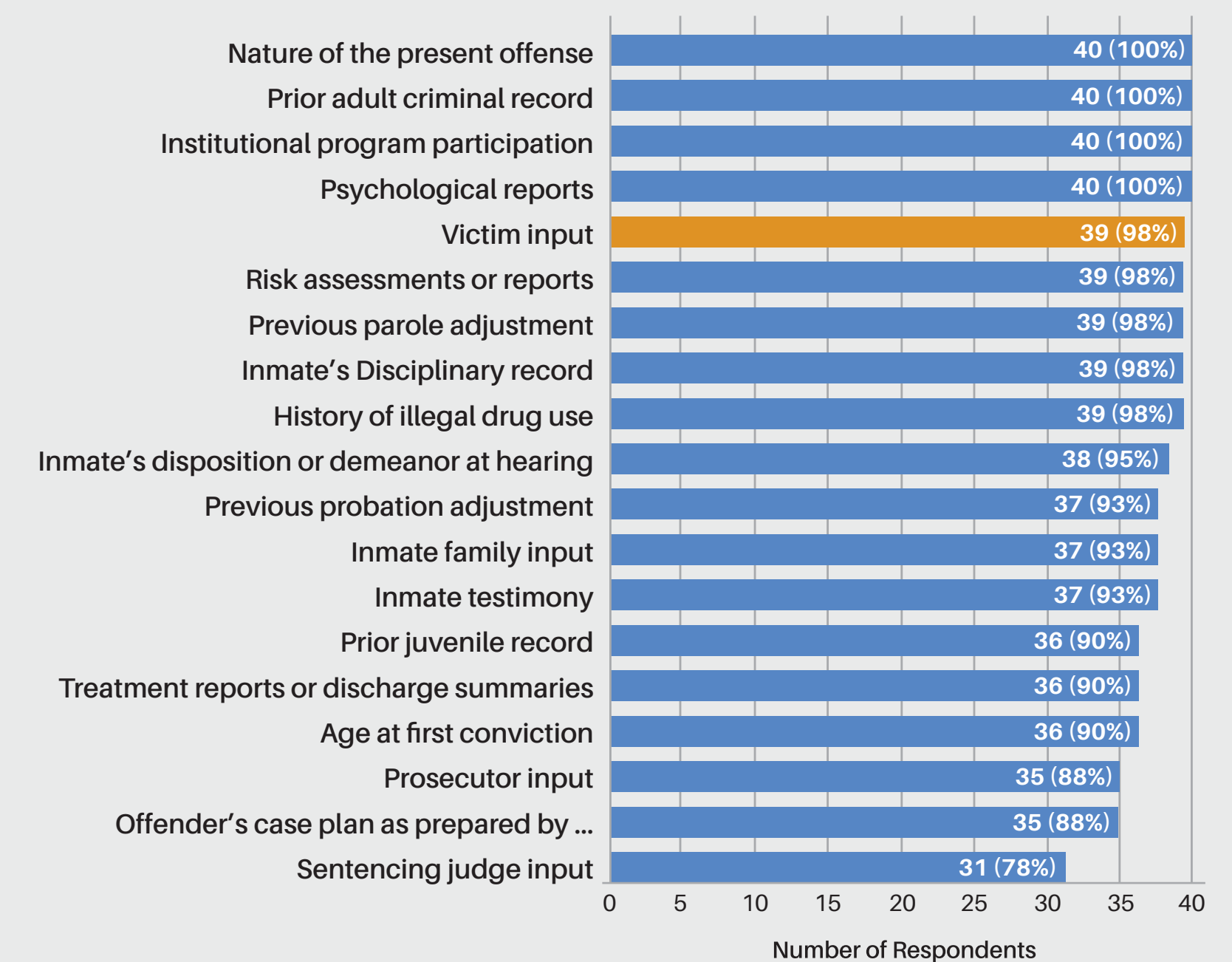
Victim-input into the parole process, when provided, offers valuable information on an offender's readiness for release.



Releasing Authority Chairs' Ranking of Release Factors in Order of Importance



Information Considered at Release



To download a copy of the full report, *The Continuing Leverage of Releasing Authorities: Findings from a National Survey*, go to: robinainstitute.umn.edu/publications/continuing-leverage-releasing-authorities-findings-national-survey.

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Note: The number of respondents varies for each question, which explains any difference in the number of states reporting the use of victim input.