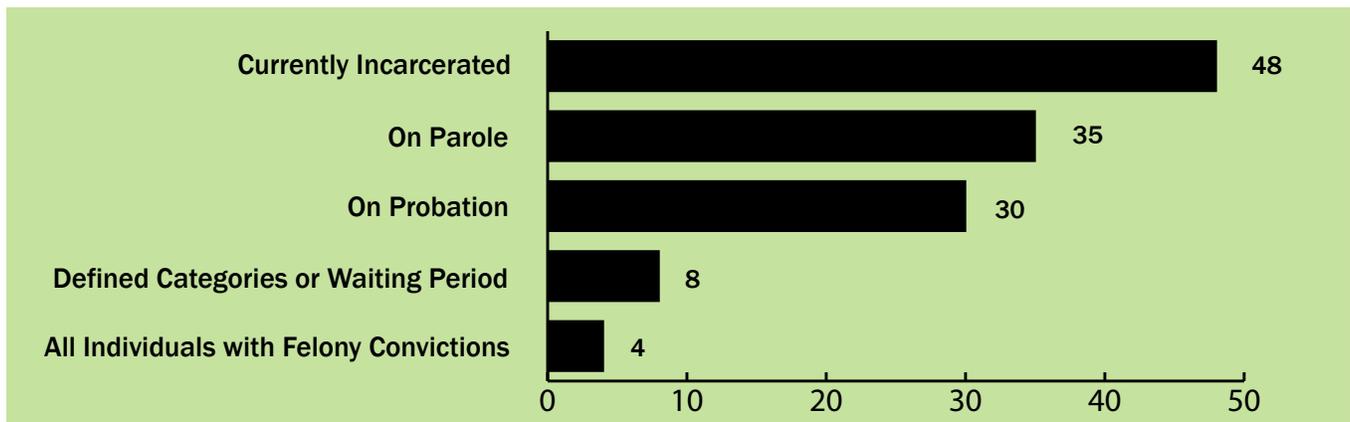




## Over 2 Million Formerly Incarcerated Denied the Right to Vote

In the U.S., many states have enacted disenfranchisement laws that currently or permanently prohibit 5.3 million Americans from the right to vote as a result of a felony conviction. Of these, 2.1 million have completed their sentence. A recent report from The Sentencing Project indicates that 48 states – including Illinois – disenfranchise currently incarcerated individuals. Thirty-five states disenfranchise individuals on parole, 30 disenfranchise those on probation, eight disenfranchise certain individuals with certain types of convictions or specify waiting periods after which they may apply for restoration of their voting rights,<sup>1</sup> and four permanently disenfranchise all individuals ever convicted of a felony. Only Maine and Vermont permit currently incarcerated individuals to vote. At seven times the national average, 1.4 million African-American men (13% of the African-American male general population) are disenfranchised. Authors note that reform of disenfranchisement policies is motivated by the growing recognition that many such policies do not help meet correctional objectives and deny democratic participation.

**Number of U.S. States with Felony Disenfranchisement Laws, 2011**



**Source:**

The Sentencing Project. (2011). *Felony Disenfranchisement Laws in the United States*. Washington, D.C.: The Sentencing Project.

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Examples include Wyoming, which permits individuals with non-violent first-time felony convictions to apply after completing their sentence, and Nevada, which automatically exempts individuals with a first-time non-violent felony conviction from disenfranchisement once they have completed their sentence.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at [www.centerforhealthandjustice.org](http://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org).

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