This study compares a group of federal offenders who had walked away from minimum security facilities to a matched sample of similarly situated offenders who had remained in custody (non-walkaways) on a variety of relevant measures. To conduct a comparative investigation, offenders who had unlawfully departed from minimum security facilities over a specified time period were to be matched with offenders who had remained in custody in minimum security institutions at the same time. Aside from these matching criteria, non-walkaways would be randomly selected from listings of the available minimum security population.

The report identifies a series of comparisons between walkaway and non-walkaway offenders to determine factors which might distinguish these two groups in terms of offender characteristics, criminal conviction record, prison incident history and classification.