



CALIFORNIA PRISONERS

1953

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Summary Statistics
of
PRISONERS AND PAROLEES

Prepared For
The Department of Corrections
by
The Bureau of Criminal Statistics
State of California
Sacramento, California

FOREWORD

With a total of over 14,000 prisoners in its custody at the close of 1953, the California Department of Corrections stands as the third largest prison system in the country being exceeded in the number of inmates by only the federal prison system and New York state. In fact, California prisoners account for nearly 10 percent of the total number of state prisoners in the country. This statistical report supplies information on all prisoners who came into the system or who were released from control of the Department during the calendar year 1953, and, in addition, presents certain comparable data for prior years. This is the fourth annual release of this nature. Statistics for the 5-year period 1945-1949 were previously released in a single report.

The facts concerning the kinds and types of prisoners who are committed to the state institutions, the length of imprisonment, how they are released, how many return as violators, and how many finally are discharged from custody, are of primary value to those who have the responsibility for administering a correctional system. Before any operating program can be evaluated with respect to its efficiency and its result, and before any planning for future developments can be made adequately, basic information of the type presented in this report is essential. Such data also will be of value to all serious students of correctional work, whether they be state executives, legislators, local officials, researchers, or citizens.

The data in this report are presented in six sections: first, institutional population and movement of population; second, information on new prisoners received during the calendar year by offense, area from which committed, age, race, and prior criminal record; third, inmates released from prison; fourth, parole population movement; fifth, men suspended for parole violation; and sixth, parolees discharged from parole.

The report was prepared in the Bureau of Criminal Statistics of the California Department of Justice which acts as the statistical and research agency for the Department of Corrections.

Richard A. McGee
Director of Corrections

Sacramento, California
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CALIFORNIA PRISONERS

1953

SUMMARY

Prison Population Continues to Grow

At the end of the calendar year 1953 the total population of institutions of the Department of Corrections was 14,149, an increase of 980 during the year.

Admissions

The total number of new prisoners committed during 1953 was 4,071, an increase of nearly 13 percent over the number admitted the previous year.

Offenses

Those sent to prison for robbery accounted for the greatest increase in any offense group during 1953. Among the men, there was a 35 percent increase in rate of robbery commitments based on total state population. There was also an increase of 10 percent in forgery commitments, while the increase in narcotic commitments dropped to 6.6 percent for men.

County or Area of Commitment

A relatively high increase in the commitments received from Southern California counties occurred during 1953. For the men, this rate of increase was 14 percent in Los Angeles County and 25 percent in the other Southern California counties.

Age of Prisoners Admitted

There was a substantial increase in the rate of commitments for males under 25 years during 1953 as compared with the previous year. The median age for the men received was 28.5 years, and nearly one-third of such commitments involved persons under the age of 25 years.

Prisoners Released

The increase in the number of persons released from prison during 1953 was nearly 1,000 more than the number released during the previous year. Discharges at expiration of sentence increased from 584 to 822 and paroles from 2,672 to 3,081.

Time Served Before Release

The median time served in prison by men paroled for the first time in 1953 was 30 months, the same as for the previous two years. Those offenses which showed a higher median time served in 1953 than in 1952 were manslaughter, robbery first degree, burglary first degree, auto theft, and sex conduct with children. Those offenses showing a lesser median time served in 1953 than in 1952 were aggravated assaults, grand theft, and rape. In all other offenses, the medians were approximately unchanged as between the two years.

Time Served on Parole Before Discharge

For those persons who were discharged from first parole during 1953, the median time on parole after release from prison was 27 months, the same as for the 1952 discharges. The time served range of the middle 80 percent of the cases was from 19 to 36 months.

INTRODUCTION

This report is designed to make available the basic statistics relating to prisoners in the California prison system for the calendar year 1953. It includes data on both imprisonment and parole. All persons who are convicted of felony offenses in the superior courts of California, and who are sentenced to imprisonment in the state prisons, are committed to the custody of the Director of Corrections who is responsible for the operation and control of seven penal institutions (six for men and one for women). The determination of the sentence and of the time of parole release, if the total sentence is not to be served in prison, is made by the Adult Authority of California for adult male felons, and by the Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women in the cases of women. Both of the last-named official bodies also have an interest in the general policies which govern the administrations of the men's institutions, and the women's institution, respectively, and meet with the Director of Corrections in the consideration of these policies.

The statistical picture of California prisoners, therefore, covers not only the responsibilities of the Director of Corrections as head of that Department and administrator of the prisons, but also the determinations made by the two sentencing and paroling authorities. Under the California law a person committed to the Director of Corrections is officially in his custody until the expiration of his term of sentence. However, all male prisoners who are released on parole are supervised by the Division of Adult Paroles under the administrative control of the Adult Authority; all women parolees are supervised by the women parole officers under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees.

In addition to adult felons committed to the Director of Corrections, the institutions of the Department of Corrections also house other types of inmates whose incarceration is provided for by special sections in the law. The largest group of these additional inmates are young males who have been committed to the Department of the Youth Authority and who have been placed by that authority in a Department of Corrections' institution. Most of these youths are confined in the Deuel Vocational Institution operated by the Department of Corrections, which by law was designed to care for young men who are committed to either the Department of the Youth Authority or the Department of Corrections and who might benefit from a program of vocational training. At the present time the Deuel Vocational Institution (capacity of 1,200) is divided into 800 Youth Authority wards and 400 adult prisoners. As will be seen in the sections of this report relating to

population, there are a few other types of prisoners incarcerated in the institutions of the Department, as sex psychopaths, recalcitrant tuberculars, and psychopathic delinquents, but they represent only a very small part of the total imprisoned.

The facts presented in this report will be developed in accordance with the following outline:

Institution

Institutional Population and Movement
Prisoners Received From Court
Prisoners Released

Parole

Parole Population Movement
Parolees Suspended
Parolees Discharged From Parole

Rather than being a report of the work of the departments and agencies concerned with the prison system, this report presents only basic statistical data relating to prisoners. Administrative data relating to the Department of Corrections appear in the department's biennial report series. Comparable data for the three years previous to the year of this report are shown when particularly significant, in order that general trends may be observed. In presenting information on new prisoners received from court during the year, rates of certain classes per 100,000 population have been computed in order to furnish a more reliable basis for comparison of changes from year to year. Because the California state population has been increasing at a high rate for several years, it is advisable to show the general variation of classes of prisoners from year to year in terms of percentage changes in the rate per 100,000 population, thus eliminating from the comparison the influence of state population growth.

INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION AND MOVEMENT

During the year 1953, the total population of the seven institutions in the California Department of Corrections increased by 980 to a population of 14,149 on December 31, 1953. The following figures show the California prison population at the end of each calendar year beginning with 1947, and the yearly increase:

	Population	Annual Increase
1947	9,036	
1948	10,084	1,048
1949	10,899	815
1950	11,598	699
1951	11,939	341
1952	13,169	1,230
1953	14,149	980

During the 6-year period from December 31, 1947, to December 31, 1953, the prison population increased by more than 5,000, or well over 50 percent. This is an average increase of more than 800 a year. With continued growth of the State's population, it is now estimated that California's prison population will exceed the 16,000 mark in 1955 and reach 20,000 by 1960, see Chart I.

The distribution of the total prison population on December 31, 1953, among the institutions is shown in Table 1. The Deuel Vocational Institution which had been located temporarily at Lancaster for several years was moved to its new permanent location at Tracy in August, 1953. The opening of this new facility, with a capacity of 1,200, made possible an increase in its population to approximately 1,000 by the close of 1953, and to its full capacity by March, 1954. As will be noted, it has become necessary to place more prisoners in Folsom than is desirable custodially in order to take care of the increasing prison population. Likewise, there has been no opportunity to reduce the large population that has been resident in the San Quentin prison for many years because of the great increase in prison population and the limited facilities. In fact even though additional institutions are planned, they will barely take care of the expected prison population increase. It still will be impossible to achieve the desired reduction in the San Quentin population in the foreseeable future.

Four of the institutions for adult males maintained forestry or road camps with a combined population of 680 men as of December 31. This camp population is included in the data presented in Table 1. The population by institutional camps as of December 31 was:

Chino	267
Folsom	128
San Quentin	166
Soledad	119

During the summer months seasonal camps maintained chiefly for fire control have been established in federal forests.

The general movement of population in and out of the institutions for 1952 and for 1953 is shown in Table 2, by sex, with the male group further subdivided as to adult prisoners and Youth Authority wards. The population increase of 980 during 1953 consisted of 766 men, 169 Youth Authority males, and 35 women. The increase in Youth Authority population resulted from more beds being allocated to Youth Authority wards when the Deuel Vocational Institution was moved to its permanent site.

Of the 12,866 adult males shown in the population at the close of the year, all but 52 were received on a California felony commitment to prison. The 52 others included 19 recalcitrant tuberculous patients convicted of a misdemeanor for violating quarantine regulations and cared for in the California Medical Facility under agreement with the State Department of

Health; 20 persons committed to the Department of Mental Hygiene under the sex psychopath law and placed with court approval in the prisons because of the need for greater security; 12 defective psychopathic patients committed to the Department of Mental Hygiene who also are cared for in the prisons because of the need for more secure custody; and 1 federal prisoner.

The number of persons received from the courts on first felony commitments was 4,071 in 1953, an increase of nearly 500 over the 3,610 committed in 1952. There was also a rise of approximately 100 in the number of parole violators returned to prison in 1953 as compared with 1952. Considerable growth may be noted in the total number of prisoners released from prison in 1953 over that for 1952. The number discharged upon expiration of sentence rose from 584 to 822, and the number paroled went from 2,672 to 3,381. In the report California Prisoners 1952, it was pointed out that there had been a drop in 1952 as compared with 1951 in the number of prisoners released, and that this probably was due to a lag in the discharging and paroling of prisoners as compared with normal release rates. The fact that this lag was considerably diminished in 1953 explains to some extent the increased number of releases during this year. It would appear that by the close of 1953 the release lag existing at the end of 1952 practically had been eliminated.

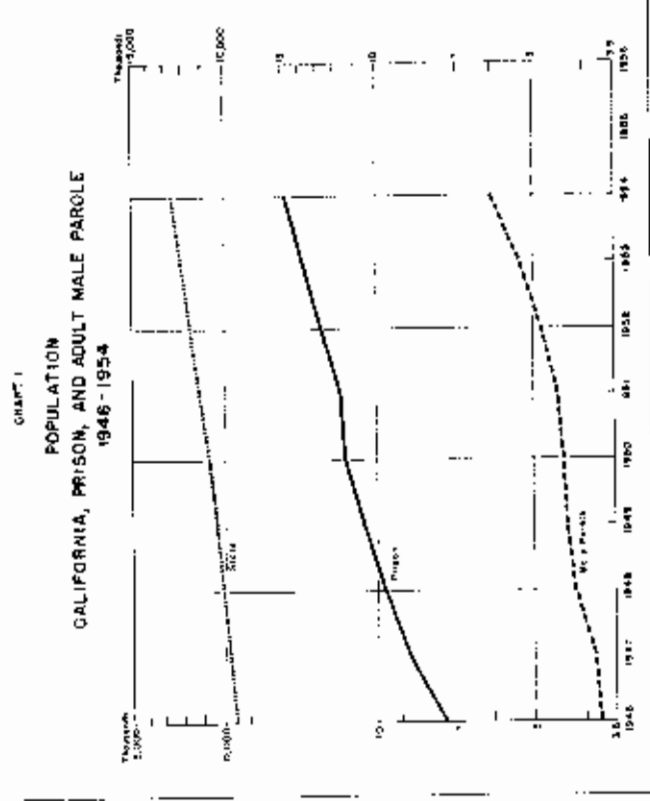


Table 1

POPULATION OF CALIFORNIA PRISONS

December 31, 1950, 1951, 1952, and 1953

Institution	1950	1951	1952	1953
Total	11,598	11,939	13,169	14,149
California Institution for Men	1,782	2,096	2,155	2,184
Deuel Vocational Institution	542	475	591	993
Folsom Prison	2,753	2,392	2,237	2,678
Medical Facility	662	1,010	1,012	1,089
San Quentin Prison	4,712	4,762	4,841	5,748
Soledad Prison	822	836	1,952	2,008
California Institution for Women	325	308	415	1,149

There will be more detailed information relating to first admissions, parole violators returned, and those released from prison in subsequent sections of this report.

The 4,071 persons received in prison on first commitments and the 463 parole violators returned with new commitments represent most, but not all, of the new commitments received on prisoners during 1953. In Table 3 are presented data on the total number of felony commitments that were received by the prison system during the year. There were 45 prisoners who had escaped who were returned to prison with new felony commitments for offenses resulting from the escape. In the cases of 196 inmates already in prison additional commitments were received. In 125 of these cases the inmate was taken out to court and then returned with a new commitment, either for a felony offense which had occurred prior to the original commitment or for a new offense which had occurred in prison subsequent to his original admission. In another 71 cases the prisoners were not taken out to court, but, as is permitted under California law, the former probation status which had been in effect prior to the original prison admission was declared revoked, and a new commitment relating to the offense for which the person was placed on probation was forwarded to the prison authorities.

Table 3

PRISONERS ON WHOM SUPERIOR COURT COMMITMENTS WERE RECEIVED

1953

Classification of prisoner	Total	Men	Women
Total	4,775	4,365	210
First admission to prison	4,071	3,892	179
Direct sentence	3,891	3,727	164
Probation revoked, only	180	165	15
Parole violator returned with new sentence	463	453	10
Escapes returned with new commitment	45	34	11
Person already in prison on whom additional commitment received	196	186	10
Direct sentence	125	117	8
Probation revoked, only	71	69	2

Note: In addition, probation revoked commitments along with new commitments were received on 220 men and 1 woman.

Table 2

MOVEMENT OF PRISON POPULATION

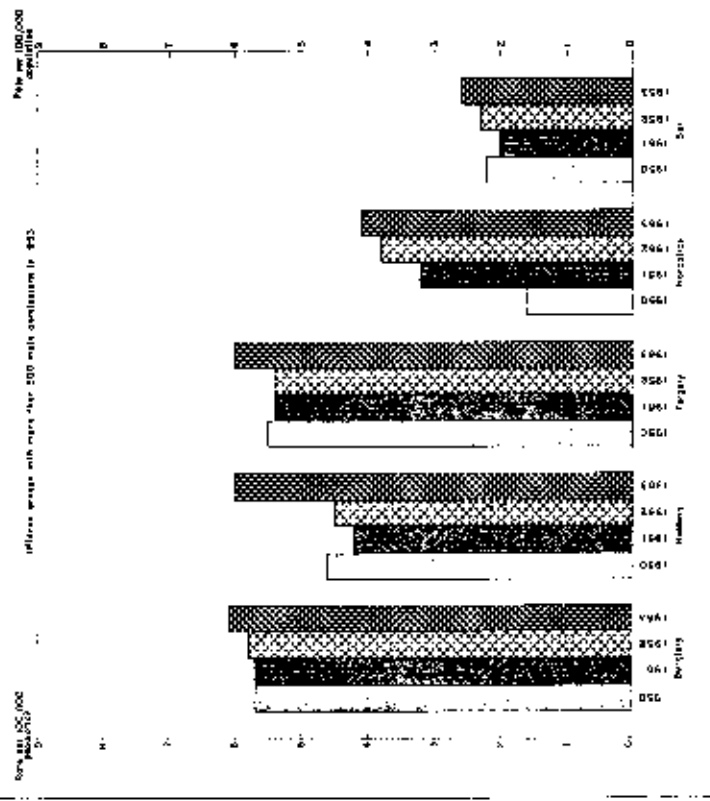
1952 and 1953

Type of activity	1952		1953	
	Total	Men	Men	Women
		Adult	Adult	Youth
		Authority	Authority	Authority
Population, January 1	11,929	10,969	10,100	694
Total received	6,853	5,043	5,600	1,226
First commitments	3,610	3,426	3,892	179
Parole violators returned	997	863	946	51
With new commitments	431	389	453	10
Without new commitments	566	474	493	43
Escapes returned	60	55	45	15
Returned from court	609	593	552	14
Returned from state hospital	5	-	1	5
Youth Authority commitments	1,003	1,002	1,219	1
All other	111	106	204	1
Total released	7,568	7,012	7,574	240
Discharged, expiration of sentence	504	509	522	-
Paroled	2,672	2,495	2,131	200
First parole	2,340	2,186	2,017	164
Parole	332	310	164	36
Died	67	64	15	1
Executed	9	9	8	-
Received	73	61	17	14
To court	616	598	570	15
To state hospital	9	8	12	8
To Youth Authority	927	922	1,041	-
All other	109	102	129	1
Population, December 31	13,159	12,100	12,866	470
Population increase	1,230	1,131	766	33

1952, but offense groups such as homicide, assault, and burglary showed relatively minor increases. The general theft category actually indicated a substantial rate of decrease.

It is clear from the data in this table that there is no such thing as a general rise or fall in the rate of commitment for all types of crime. The reasons for shifts from year to year in different offense groups are many and complex. In part they may reflect an increase or decrease in the number of crimes committed. Local issues in law enforcement may result in a greater or lesser degree of effort being made to arrest and prosecute offenders in specific types of crime. Public consciousness also affects prosecution. Communities sometimes may become aroused over one or two well-publicized crimes, which results in a great deal of attention concentrated for a time on such offenses. It is a known fact that the

CHART II
SELECTED OFFENSE GROUPS AND RATES OF ADMISSION
MALE PRISONERS RECEIVED FROM COURT
1950-1953



change in the assignment of a judge sitting on the criminal bench may affect materially the rate of criminal commitments; one judge habitually may send a high proportion of convicted offenders to prison while another may make greater use of probation. As judges frequently alternate on assignments from year to year, a change may make a great deal of difference in the commitment rate of a given county. Also, alterations in the substantive law may affect commitment rates. Such a change produced to a large extent the 100 percent increase in the number of narcotic offenders committed in 1951 as compared with 1950.

The general offense distribution for the number of women received from court, Table 4B, is quite different from that for the men. The percent of women committed for homicide,

Table 4b
OFFENSE GROUPS
Women Prisoners Received From Court
1950 - 1953

Offense	1950		1951		1952		1953		Percent change in rate	
	Number	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion	Number	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion	Number	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion	Number	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion	1953 over 3-year average	1953 over 3-year average
Total	135	1.31	155	1.39	184	1.59	179	1.46	-6.9	3.6
Homicide	17		21		19		29			
Murder 1st	1		1		1		4			
Murder 2nd	1		5		2		7			
Manslaughter	12		14		16		18			
Robbery	8		6		12		12			
Assault	9		4		1		4			
Burglary	12		10		10		11			
Theft	27		18		33		15			
Forgery & checks	12	0.39	16	0.43	53	0.46	60	0.50	9.5	16.1
Sex offenses	1		4		4		2			
Narcotics	15	0.14	34	0.31	47	0.41	94	0.28	-30.6	-0.7
Other offenses	9		20		3		12			

* Based on rate per 100,000 computed to two decimal places.

chiefly manslaughter, was much higher than that of the men, about 10 to 16 percent of the women in contrast to around 4 percent of the men. More women were committed for forgery than for any other offense, which accounted for one-fourth to one-third of all their admissions. The next most frequent offense among the women was narcotics. Very few women were committed for robbery, assault, burglary, auto theft, or sex offenses. It is of some interest to observe that while there was a substantial increase in the number of men committed to prison in 1953 over 1952, there were actually 5 less women committed in 1953 than there were in the previous year.

County or Area of Commitment

In analyzing the source of commitment of prisoners, the State has been divided into three basic geographical areas: first, Southern California which is further subdivided into Los Angeles County with 39 percent of the State's population, and the nine other Southern California counties grouped together accounting for 18 percent of the population; second, the San Francisco Bay area with about one-fourth of the State's population in which Alameda and San Francisco Counties are shown separately and the seven other counties in this area grouped together; and, third, the rest of the State with the remaining 18 percent of the population divided into three groups, the ten counties in the Sacramento Valley, seven counties in the San Joaquin Valley, and the other twenty-two counties which represent coastal and mountain areas. The rates of men committed from these geographical areas per 100,000 population are shown in Table 5A. These have been based upon county population estimates for each of the past four years, as prepared by the California Department of Finance.

The lowest rates each year were for the seven San Francisco Bay area counties exclusive of Alameda and San Francisco Counties. Their rate of prison commitments per 100,000 population in 1953 (16.2) was just about one-half of the rate for the State as a whole (32.2). The highest rate (49.0) was found in the San Joaquin Valley area, with the Southern California counties outside of Los Angeles having the next highest (38.9) and the San Francisco County rate (38.0) close behind. Alameda County showed a commitment rate of 22.8 per 100,000, next to the lowest rate shown. The relative positions of the rates for the different geographical areas were nearly the same for each of the years studied; the San Joaquin Valley counties had the highest rates and the group of seven counties in the San Francisco Bay area had the lowest.

Although there has been a consistent pattern in the ranking of geographical areas, there have been some changes of interest from year to year within the areas. The nine Southern California counties excluding Los Angeles had a 25 percent increase in rate of commitments for 1953 over the previous year, and approximately a 31 percent increase over its average rate for the three previous years. Los Angeles and Alameda Counties also rose; however, for the former the rate consistently increased each year and for the latter the rate declined for two

years and ascended again in 1953 to a commitment rate slightly below that for 1950. The Sacramento Valley counties showed a decreased rate for 1953 over 1952.

Fluctuations which occurred within individual counties making up the geographical groups have some effect on the area rates. For instance, the rate of commitments from Riverside County increased from 71 in 1952 to 177 in 1953, or a 151 percent rate increase. If Riverside County were eliminated from the group of nine Southern California counties, the general increase of that group would drop from the 25 percent shown in the table to about 19 percent. If the six counties having over 200,000 population and showing the most extreme variation in commitment rates between 1952 and 1953 were eliminated from the state total, the general increase in commitment rate for the State would be only 2 percent. These six counties are: Riverside, with a 131 percent increase; Santa Clara, 71 percent increase; Alameda, 19 percent increase; San Bernardino, 15 percent increase; Los Angeles, 14 percent increase; and San Joaquin with a decrease of 32 percent.

The reasons for some of these wide fluctuations are not always easy to ascertain. Different offense groups vary in different ways within the county groups, as illustrated in Table 5B. Changes in the offense commitment rates for individual counties or areas vary greatly in some instances from the changes in state-wide commitment rates for a particular offense group. It has been noted previously that robbery commitments in proportion to state population had increased about 35 percent state-wide. However, for Los Angeles County the increase

Table 5A
COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT
Male Prisoners Sentenced From Court
1950 - 1953

County or Area of Commitment	1950		1951		1952		1953		Percent Change in Rate	
	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	1953 over 1952	1953 over 1950
Total	29.0	2,393	31.4	2,507	28.6	2,386	32.2	2,812	6.6	13.0
Southern California	24.5	1,485	26.6	1,681	28.1	2,294	32.2	2,794	13.7	24.9
Los Angeles County	22.2	374	26.9	1,348	26.7	1,139	30.6	1,433	13.3	20.6
7 other counties	31.3	961	26.8	333	31.0	856	38.6	1,355	23.4	30.9
San Francisco Bay Area	21.9	508	21.4	624	22.0	106	23.9	106	8.2	6.1
Alameda County	23.0	171	18.1	130	23.1	106	23.8	106	3.5	37.6
San Francisco County	25.9	800	42.0	284	26.5	224	26.8	224	1.3	9.3
9 other counties	18.7	218	15.1	157	23.3	224	26.2	224	3.3	-20.1
Alameda of State	15.8	609	31.2	781	11.7	806	41.6	806	-21.2	-44.7
San Joaquin Valley area	30.2	172	32.0	187	32.0	216	32.7	216	3.9	4.0
7 other counties	34.1	542	18.6	144	31.8	475	41.0	475	47.6	-13.2
28 other counties	30.3	175	30.1	301	33.0	156	34.0	156	3.0	8.1

* Based on rate per 100,000 registered in the census places.

Table 53

CRIMES AND AREA OF COMMITMENT
Male Prisoners Received from Courts
1950 - 1953

Offense and area	1950		1951		1952		1953		Percent change in 1953	
	Number	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion	Number	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion	Number	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion	Number	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion	1953 over 1952	1953 over 1952 average
Total	2,263	25.0	3,077	27.9	3,420	29.5	3,402	32.2	0.8	13.0
San Diego	129	1.5	133	1.2	138	1.2	133	1.3	0.0	-1.5
Robbery	129	1.5	133	1.2	138	1.2	133	1.3	0.0	-1.5
Auto theft	129	1.5	133	1.2	138	1.2	133	1.3	0.0	-1.5
Sex offenses	129	1.5	133	1.2	138	1.2	133	1.3	0.0	-1.5
Narcotics	129	1.5	133	1.2	138	1.2	133	1.3	0.0	-1.5
Other offenses	129	1.5	133	1.2	138	1.2	133	1.3	0.0	-1.5
San Francisco Bay area	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Robbery	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Auto theft	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Sex offenses	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Narcotics	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Other offenses	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
San Francisco Bay area	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Robbery	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Auto theft	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Sex offenses	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Narcotics	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Other offenses	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
San Francisco Bay area	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Robbery	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Auto theft	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Sex offenses	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Narcotics	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0
Other offenses	1,263	15.0	1,677	14.5	1,820	15.5	1,802	16.2	0.7	13.0

* Based on rate per 100,000 population for two fiscal years.
Note: In the following table, information is given only for the offense crimes robbery, burglary, property and narcotic offenses, and sex offenses.

was only 5.6 percent and for the Southern California counties excluding Los Angeles, the increase was 11.3 percent. There was also a pronounced increase in robbery commitment rates of 9.3 percent for the San Francisco Bay area counties, but only about 1.3 percent for the rest of the State. The state burglary commitment rate for 1953 increased only 4.5 percent over 1952; however, for Los Angeles County the increase in rate was 19.2 percent, and for the nine Southern California counties the increase was 17.7 percent. For the rest of the State there was actually a decrease in burglary commitments (12.7 percent). State-wide there was a 10 percent increase in the rate of property commitments for 1953 as compared with 1952 (Table 44). For Los Angeles County this increase was as high as 42 percent, for the other Southern California counties it was about 26 percent, and for the rest of the State there was a definite decrease. The rate of sex offense commitments for 1953 over 1952 rose 9 percent, but this increase was found to be entirely within the nine Southern California counties, excluding Los Angeles. The rest of the State had no increase. As a whole, narcotic commitments of the State had no increase. In 1953, but in Los Angeles County they rose 21 percent. Outside of this one county there was no increase to speak of in narcotic commitments.

The rates of women committed from the basic geographic areas per 100,000 population are given in Table 50. The highest rates for the last three years were from San Francisco County. These rates have been increasing steadily each year. The 1953 rate was a 46.4 percent increase over the 1950-52 average. In 1953, the rates of commitments for the other geographic areas did not vary significantly from those of the total for the State.

Table 50

COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT
Women Prisoners Received from Court
1950 - 1953

County or area of commitment	1950		1951		1952		1953		Percent change in rate	
	Number per 100,000 popula- tion	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion	Number per 100,000 popula- tion	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion	Number per 100,000 popula- tion	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion	Number per 100,000 popula- tion	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion	1953 over 1952	1953 over 1952 average
Total	139	1.30	125	1.39	126	1.36	129	1.49	-6.9	3.6
San Francisco Bay area	129	1.30	125	1.39	126	1.36	129	1.49	-6.9	3.6
San Francisco County	129	1.30	125	1.39	126	1.36	129	1.49	-6.9	3.6
Alameda County	129	1.30	125	1.39	126	1.36	129	1.49	-6.9	3.6
San Francisco County	129	1.30	125	1.39	126	1.36	129	1.49	-6.9	3.6
San Francisco Bay area	129	1.30	125	1.39	126	1.36	129	1.49	-6.9	3.6
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San Francisco County	129	1.30	125	1.39	126	1.36	129	1.49	-6.9	3.6
San Francisco Bay area	129	1.30	125	1.39	126	1.36	129	1.49	-6.9	3.6
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San Francisco County	129	1.30	125	1.39	126	1.36	129	1.49	-6.9	3.6
San Francisco Bay area	129	1.30	125	1.39	126	1.36	129	1.49	-6.9	3.6
Alameda County	129	1.30	125	1.39	126	1.36	129	1.49	-6.9	3.6
San Francisco County	129	1.30	125	1.39	126	1.36	129	1.49	-6.9	3.6</

AGE AT ADMISSION

What is the age distribution of persons committed to prisons in California, and is there any discernible fluctuation in the age of prisoners received over the past few years? The data presented in Table 6A for male prisoners will answer these questions in part. A slight rise in the commitment rate of persons in the younger age group during the past few years is noticeable. Those under the age of 30 had a much greater rise in the 1953 rate over the 3-year average than did the older men. The median age has decreased in 1952 and 1953 from what it was in 1950 and 1951, and the percentage of persons under 25 has increased gradually. The fact that there has been a substantial rise in robbery commitments is probably one reason for the increase in commitments of younger persons, as persons committed for robbery always have had a lower average age than those received for most other types of crime.

Table 6A

AGE AT ADMISSION
Male Prisoners Received From Court
1950 - 1953

Age at admission in years	1950		1951		1952		1953		Percent change in rate	
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	1953 over 3-year average	1953 over 1952
Total	2,883	20.0	1,057	27.9	1,406	25.6	3,652	32.2	8.8	13.0
Under 20	67	0.6	36	0.1	73	0.6	111	0.9	46.0	54.3
15 - 17	1		6		3		5			
18	10		3		11		34			
19	11		3		36		64			
20 - 24	732	6.9	813	7.3	951	8.1	1,106	9.2	14.0	23.7
20	94		81		106		141			
21	125		127		171		208			
22	170		151		209		265			
23	173		206		237		269			
24	161		176		218		285			
25 - 29	685	6.1	716	5.6	713	7.1	970	8.0	9.8	20.6
25	181		176		416		473		2.7	8.1
26	181		176		416		473		2.7	8.1
27	181		176		416		473		2.7	8.1
28	181		176		416		473		2.7	8.1
29	181		176		416		473		2.7	8.1
30 - 34	589	5.4	545	4.7	574	5.4	701	5.4	1.0	5.6
30	159		145		171		201		1.0	5.6
31	159		145		171		201		1.0	5.6
32	159		145		171		201		1.0	5.6
33	159		145		171		201		1.0	5.6
34	159		145		171		201		1.0	5.6
35 - 39	151	1.7	178	1.6	132	1.7	200	1.7	-2.9	0.6
35	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
36	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
37	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
38	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
39	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
40 and over	233	2.1	266	2.4	246	2.1	247	2.1	-2.9	0.6
40	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
41	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
42	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
43	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
44	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
45	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
46	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
47	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
48	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
49	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
50	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
51	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
52	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
53	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
54	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
55	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
56	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
57	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
58	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
59	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
60	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
61	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
62	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
63	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
64	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
65	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
66	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
67	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
68	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
69	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
70	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
71	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
72	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
73	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
74	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
75	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
76	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
77	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
78	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
79	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
80	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
81	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
82	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
83	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
84	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
85	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
86	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
87	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
88	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
89	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
90	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
91	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
92	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
93	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
94	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
95	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
96	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
97	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
98	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
99	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
100	151		178		132		200		-2.9	0.6
Median age	35.5		31.1		28.9		28.5			
Percent under 25	26.7		27.8		29.1		31.3			

* Based on data per 100,000 completed to two decimal places.

Table 6B

AGE AT ADMISSION
Women Prisoners Received From Court
1950 - 1953

Age at admission in years	1950		1951		1952		1953		Percent change in rate	
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	1953 over 3-year average	1953 over 1952
Total	139	1.31	155	1.39	184	1.39	179	1.48	-6.9	3.6
Under 20	8		7		6		7			
15 - 17	1		1		1		1			
18	1		6		5		6			
19	6									
20 - 24	29	0.27	36	0.27	15	0.29	41	0.34	-12.6	9.3
20	4		1		2		2			
21	3		6		11		9			
22	2		6		11		8			
23	8		7		6		10			
24	8		9		8		12			
25 - 29	28	0.46	15	0.41	36	0.48	17	0.37	-12.0	2.2
25	28		15		36		17		-12.0	2.2
26	30	0.28	29	0.26	36	0.31	28	0.23	-23.4	-10.6
27	30		29		36		28		-23.4	-10.6
28	20		13		13		24			
29	11		15		12		13			
30 - 34	6		8		11		13			
30	6		8		11		13			
31	9		8		12		13			
32	9		8		12		13			
33	9		8		12		13			
34	9		8		12		13			
35 and over	30.8		29.5		29.0		29.6			
Median age	30.8		29.5		29.0		29.6			
Percent under 25	26.6		23.9		27.7		26.9			

the white, and there has been a recent decrease in the rate of commitment of the "all other" group, Table 7A. Part of these increases in rates of commitment for the Mexican and Negro groups may be due to the general increase in narcotic commitments already described. Both of these groups have contributed a large number of commitments on narcotic charges. In 1953 the Mexican group accounted for 18.4 percent of the total rates received, but they contributed 45.7 percent of the narcotic commitments. The Negro group accounted for 19.7 percent of the total commitments, but contributed 27.4 percent of the narcotic commitments.

Most of the relatively few Chinese who were committed to prison had been involved in narcotic offenses. This accounts for the rise in numbers in 1951 and 1952, and the decrease shown in 1953. It may be noted that very few Japanese ever are committed to prison. There was only one such commitment in the whole State during 1953.

Of the 179 women committed to prison in 1953, there was a relatively higher proportion of Negroes and lower proportion of Mexicans than that of the total rate commitments. The proportion of white women commitments closely approximated that of the men. These generalizations also are true of the other years shown in Table 7B.

Prior Criminal Record

The classification of felons committed to prison by prior criminal record is given in Tables 8A and 8B for men and women, respectively. This classification of each prisoner was based upon his Federal Bureau of Investigation and California Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation records, on probation reports, and personal interviews with the inmate at the time of arrival in the Reception-Guidance Center.

There has been an increase in recent years in the male rate of commitment of those having no prior prison record as compared with those having a prior prison record, see Chart 111. The increase in commitment rates for 1953 over 1952 was 15 percent for those having no former commitment record, 10 percent for those having a commitment record of less than prison, and only 3 percent for those having a prior prison record. The women committed to prison in 1953 also showed a rise in those having no prior commitment record.

Some of this increase may have resulted from a 1951 change in the narcotic law which forbade the granting of probation to any person convicted of possession or sale of narcotics. Also, some of the increase may be the result of the courts making greater use of prison sentences than in past years. This tendency of the courts may be an effort to combat the general increase in crime. Whatever the reason, there has been some definite increase in the proportion of prison sentences for those having no prior commitment record and those having only a prior jail or juvenile commitment record.

Table 7A

RACE
Male Prisoners Received From Court
1952 - 1953

Racial group	1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		Percent change in rate*	
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	1953 over 1952	3-year average 1952-1956
Total	2,903	26.6	3,097	27.9	3,408	29.6	3,892	32.2	3,892	32.2	6.6	13.0
White	1,979	18.1	2,006	17.2	2,399	18.2	2,334	19.3	2,334	19.3	6.3	8.0
Mexican	415	3.0	658	4.5	766	5.2	717	5.9	717	5.9	12.3	32.9
Negro	551	5.2	815	5.5	888	5.1	768	6.4	768	6.4	18.2	18.3
All other	56	0.5	19	0.7	55	0.9	73	0.6	73	0.6	-36.2	-17.8
Indian	94		28		40		29		29			
Chinese	14		3		37		27		27			
Japanese	5		2		7		1		1			
Philippine	11		34		12		13		13			
Guam	3		4		1		2		2			
Other	3		4		1		1		1			

* Based on rate per 100,000 compared to the Baseline figures.

Table 7B

RACE
Women Prisoners Received From Court
1952 - 1953

Racial group	1952		1953		1954		1955		Percent change in rate*	
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	1953 over 1952	1954 over 1953
Total	236	1.33	175	1.35	134	1.39	179	1.48	-6.5	3.6
White	67	0.86	96	0.81	112	0.84	111	0.82	-7.5	2.1
Mexican	8	0.16	21	0.16	4	0.10	16	0.15	-29.6	-20.7
Negro	36	0.16	51	0.16	57	0.19	48	0.15	-29.6	-20.7
Other	6		3		6		6			

* Based on rate per 100,000 compared to the Baseline figures.

In concluding the section on Prisoners Received From Court, it should be pointed out that other data in addition to those presented are available on our prisoners including information on birthplace, marital status, mental rating, educational rating, military record, and time in State before commission of offense. These particular facts do not seem to have as much significance for presentation on an annual basis. At present it is contemplated that an analysis of the 5-year period of 1950 through 1954 will be made during 1955. It is tentatively planned that information relating to the facts just enumerated will be in this 5-year analysis. Further, a more detailed cross analysis of the various characteristics of prisoners may be made when studying a 5-year group consisting of more than 17,000 men and some 800 women admissions, than is possible with the more limited annual groups.

Table 8A

PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD
Male Prisoners Received From Court
1950 - 1953

Type of prior commitment	1950		1951		1952		1953		Percent change in rate*	
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	1952 over 1951	1953 over 1952
Total	2,089	28.6	3,197	27.0	3,425	25.6	3,842	32.0	0.5	11.0
No prior commitment	617	5.8	532	4.5	609	5.2	786	6.0	10.5	11.1
Minor jail or juvenile only	1,266	11.2	1,412	12.0	1,600	13.8	1,840	15.3	10.7	15.1
Major prison commitment	1,100	10.7	1,229	13.1	1,492	10.6	1,371	10.9	3.6	2.2
Sex crimes	985	8.5	684	5.6	631	5.2	717	6.0	1.0	1.2
Two priors	550	5.1	271	2.4	275	2.1	130	2.8	3.2	5.1
Three or more priors	454	4.3	228	2.1	215	2.1	119	3.2	12.0	0.5

* Based on rate per 100,000 compared to two decimal places.

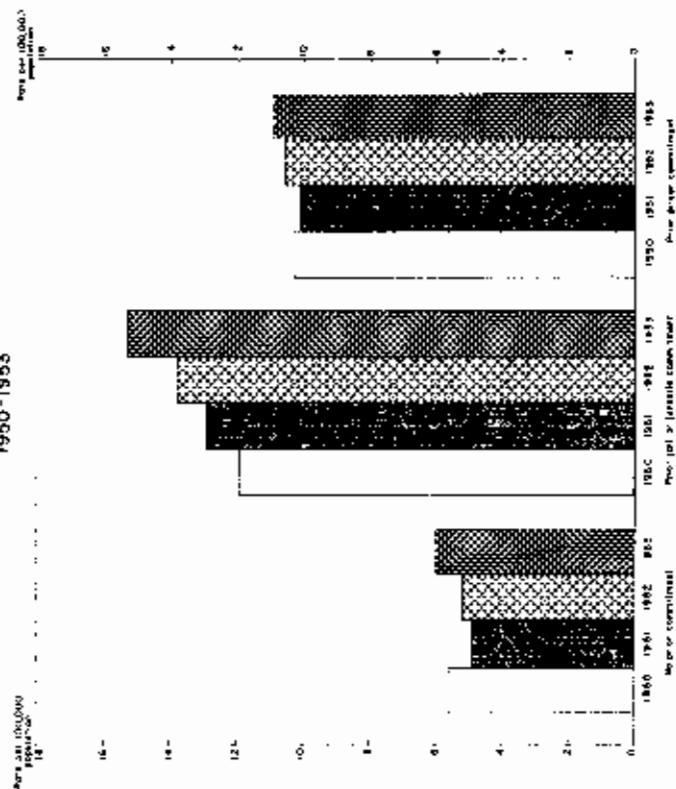
Table 8B

PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD
Male Prisoners Received From Court
1950 - 1953

Type of prior commitment	1950		1951		1952		1953		Percent change in rate*	
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	1952 over 1951	1953 over 1952
Total	170	1.17	155	1.38	164	1.24	175	1.45	-0.5	3.6
No prior commitment	54	0.51	75	0.63	60	0.59	75	0.65	11.2	13.8
Minor jail or juvenile only	63	0.56	56	0.50	54	0.41	81	0.65	-25.5	1.0
Two or more priors	53	0.46	24	0.21	50	0.39	19	0.16		

* Based on rate per 100,000 compared to two decimal places.

CHART III
PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD AND RATES OF ADMISSION
MALE PRISONERS RECEIVED FROM COURT
1950-1953



PRISONERS RELEASED

Nearly every person committed to prison is eventually released into free society by either parole or expiration of sentence. Very few persons die in prison or are executed. The movement of prisoners as shown in Table 2 indicated a large number of temporary releases, but all persons so released were returned soon to prison. With very few exceptions the three types of releases just named, parole, expiration of sentence, and death, account for all final releases from prison. The few exceptions relate to those prisoners who may be released on court order as a result of a reversal of their convictions or on writ of habeas corpus due to some defect in the original commitment, but these do not average more than 10 to 15 a year from the California prisons.

The number of men released by parole, expiration of sentence, or death during each of the last four calendar years is shown in Table 9A. During these years, the men released from prison by parole accounted for 72 to 79 percent of all releases, by expiration of sentence for 18 to 27 percent, and by death and execution for only 1 or 2 percent.

There is a different pattern to be observed between those who were released for the first time from prison, and those who were released after having been returned to prison as parole violators. Of the latter group differences in release pattern are to be observed between those who had been returned with new commitments, and those returned without new commitments. Of first releases from prison about 85 percent were released by parole, and around 13 percent by expiration of sentence. A similar pattern is observed for those returned as violators with new commitments who are again released. The paroles accounted for about 80 percent and expiration of sentence, 19 percent. However, of those persons who were released after return without new commitments, two-thirds were by expiration of sentence and only one-third by parole.

There are so few women committed to prison that the same detailed analysis cannot be made of releases that was possible for the men. However, it is of interest to indicate the methods of release and the time served in those few instances for which a comparison is possible.

Table 9B shows for the past four calendar years the total number of women released from prison and the type of release. It will be noted that the method of release was almost exclusively by parole which accounted for 95 to 99 percent of the releases during this 4-year period. In fact, in 1953 there was not a single case of release by expiration of sentence, and only one death was reported.

Table 9A

TYPE OF RELEASE
Male Prisoners Released From Prison
1950 - 1953

Type of release	1950		1951		1952		1953	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total released	3,167	100.0	3,661	100.0	3,146	100.0	4,056	100.0
Expiration of sentence	163	5.1	582	15.9	279	8.9	822	20.3
Parole	2,130	67.6	2,656	72.5	2,199	69.9	3,131	77.2
Death or execution	54	1.7	55	1.5	78	2.5	53	1.3
First released	2,568	80.9	2,809	76.7	2,391	75.9	3,090	76.2
Expiration of sentence	340	13.2	171	6.1	106	4.5	369	12.0
Parole	1,967	76.5	2,282	81.4	2,085	87.2	2,717	87.8
Death or execution	41	1.6	47	1.7	78	3.3	44	1.4
Re-released	799	25.1	860	23.5	755	24.1	866	21.5
After return with new commitment	351	10.8	229	6.4	226	7.2	374	9.2
Expiration of sentence	31	0.8	41	1.2	13	0.3	71	1.8
Parole	129	3.4	179	5.1	187	5.6	299	7.3
Death or execution	1	0.0	2	0.0	6	0.2	1	0.0
After return without new commitment	606	19.0	631	17.3	529	16.8	492	12.3
Expiration of sentence	402	12.8	169	4.6	238	7.5	362	8.9
Parole	190	6.2	159	4.4	171	5.3	168	4.1
Death or execution	5	0.2	3	0.1	8	0.2	3	0.1

Table 9B

TYPE OF RELEASE
Women Prisoners Released From Prison
1950 - 1953

Type of release	1950		1951		1952		1953	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total released	172	100.0	112	100.0	184	100.0	201	100.0
Expiration of sentence	9	5.2	3	2.7	5	2.7	-	-
Parole	163	94.8	110	97.3	177	97.3	200	99.3
Death or execution	1	0.6	-	-	2	1.1	1	0.5

Male Prisoners Reparoled

Those persons who were returned to prison as parole violators with new commitments served relatively long periods of time before reparole, while those returned without new commitments served much shorter periods of time. The medians of time served by those reparoled in 1952 and in 1953 are shown in Table 11 by violation status at time of return.

Violators with new commitments spent a median time of 42 months in prison before reparole during the year 1953; a 3-month reduction from the median time shown for the 1952 releases of the same type. Those returned without new commitments stayed in prison a median time of 18 months before release in 1953, as compared with 16 months prior to reparole in 1952. The range of the middle 80 percent of the cases in this instance indicates that there were fewer short sentences involved in 1953 than in 1952, as the lower limit of this range rose from 7 months to 10 months.

Male Prisoners Discharged on Expiration of Sentence

Information on men who were discharged on expiration of sentence is presented in Table 12, which gives time served by those released from prison for the first time and those released after parole violation and return. The individual offense for those released for the first time is shown only where there were 25 or more cases.

Men who spent their entire sentences in prison without ever being paroled served a median time of 24 months for all offenses. Second degree burglary cases discharged in 1953

Table 11
TIME SERVED AS VIOLATOR BEFORE REPAROLE
Male Prisoners Reparoled
1952 and 1953

Violation status at return	1952		1953	
	Number of cases	Time served in months Median Range of middle 80%	Number of cases	Time served in months Median Range of middle 80%
Total	110		466	
After return with new commitment	129	15 23-73	249	12 20-66
After return without new commitment	123	16 7-40	165	15 10-39

Table 12

OFFENSE, VIOLATION STATUS AT RETURN, AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON
Male Prisoners Released From Prison on Expiration of Sentence
1952 and 1953

Offense and violation status at return	1952		1953	
	Number of cases	Time served in months Median Range of middle 80%	Number of cases	Time served in months Median Range of middle 80%
Total	579		322	
First releases	308	24 13-50	429	23 12-60
Burglary 2nd	41	13 3-25	71	16 12-30
Grand theft, except auto	13		21	24 12-46
Grand theft with prior	46	24 10-36	38	24 12-36
Auto theft	13		25	25 15-30
Forgery and checks	42	24 3-48	59	16 12-60
Narcotics	14		27	26 12-46
Escape from jail	56	16 3-33	72	17 10-24
Other offenses	71		110	
Re-releases	271		393	
After return with new commitment	33	31 16-71	71	12 36-65
After return without new commitment	238	18 11-30	322	20.5 12-38

Note: Median and range figures are omitted where number of cases is less than 25.

Table 13

OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON
Women Prisoners Reparoled for the First Time
1952-51 and 1952-53

Only offense groups with more than 25 cases are shown					
Offense	Number of cases	1950-51		1952-53	
		Time served in months Median	Range of middle 80%	Number of cases	Time served in months Median
Total	223	26	13-37	318	25 15-39
Manslaughter	26	25.5	13-33	30	26 13-31
Grand theft, except auto	26	27	10-30	39	26 13-37
Forgery and checks	60	25.5	12-33	68	25.5 13-36
Narcotics	15			62	20 11-26

Only offense groups with more than 25 cases are shown

had a median time served of 36 months as compared with 33 months for the 1952 discharges. Forgery and check defendants discharged at expiration of sentence in 1953 served a year longer, with a median of 36 months as against 24 months in 1952. On the other hand, persons serving time for escape from jail or local officers served a median of 12 months before expiration in 1953, whereas the median was 18 months for 1952 expirations.

Again it is seen that persons returned to prison as parole violators with new commitments served relatively long periods of time before release, the median time for the last period of imprisonment being 51 months for the 1952 discharges and 48 months for the 1953 releases. Persons who had been released without new commitments, and who thereupon served the remainder of their sentences in prison, had a median time of 18 months when released in 1952 and 20.5 months in 1953.

PAROLE POPULATION MOVEMENT

The responsibility for supervision of men granted parole rests with the Division of Adult Paroles which is under the administration of the Adult Authority. The movement of male parole population for the calendar years 1952 and 1953 is shown in Table 13A.

There was an increase of 583 in the number of men under parole supervision during the year 1953, bringing the total number of active male California parolees to 5,628 on December 31, 1953. Of these, 4,408 were under the supervision of the Division of Adult Paroles in California, 698 were under cooperative supervision of parole departments in other states, and 542 were either paroled in custody of some institution or deported to a foreign country. Most of such deported California parolees are Mexican nationals.

Table 13A
MOVEMENT OF MALE PAROLE POPULATION
1952 and 1953

Type of movement	Total	1952			1953		
		Calif. Parole	Other States	Custody or Deport	Total	Calif. Parole	Custody or Deport
On parole, January 1	4,872	3,394	756	583	5,045	3,777	429
Total received on parole	3,649	3,478	402	166	3,166	3,244	179
Paroled from prison	2,195	2,119	207	254	3,181	2,773	171
Recaptured after suspension . .	249	166	81	3	249	131	3
By transfer	905	794	96	15	1,736	1,670	72
Total removed from parole	3,277	2,693	429	253	4,583	3,913	176
Suspended	1,148	1,268	111	5	1,383	1,247	18
Discharged (A)	1,170	936	214	121	1,365	978	118
Died	34	30	4	0	34	25	3
By transfer	905	791	81	43	1,735	1,687	37
On parole, December 31	5,455	3,777	725	519	5,628	4,408	542
Population changes	1,102	383	-27	26	983	631	-71
							3

(A) Includes 1 man paroled in 1952 and 10 men paroled in 1953.

The number received on parole is identical with the number of men shown in Table 2 as being paroled. The increase in the number paroled that was noted in 1953 as compared with 1952 was responsible chiefly for the increase in the parole case load. The 249 men reinstated after suspension of parole were those persons who were restored to an active status on parole without having been returned to a California prison.

There is a growing tendency to release each year a larger proportion of parolees to supervision in California rather than out of state. In 1950, the proportion of total parolees released to California supervision was 80 percent, in 1951 it was 82 percent, in 1952 it was 85 percent, and in 1953 it was 87 percent.

In addition to the 4,408 California parolees who were under supervision of the Division of Adult Paroles at the close of 1953, the Division also supervised 640 parolees from other states under the provisions of the Interstate Compact for the Supervision of Parolees. This made a total of 5,048 men supervised by California parole officers on December 31, 1953.

The movement of women parole population during 1952 and 1953 is given in Table 13B. This population is supervised by women parole officers whose work is administered by the Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women. There was an increase in the case load of women on parole both during 1952 and 1953 so that the total number under supervision at the close of 1953 was 396, of whom 342 were being supervised in California.

Many more women were suspended from parole during each of the years shown in the table than were terminated from parole by discharge or death. In 1953, of the 165 effective terminations of parole, 105, or nearly 64 percent, were suspended for parole violation. This is a higher rate of violation than was found in the case of the male parolees where about half of the terminations during the year were by suspension.

In addition to the 342 California parolees supervised by the women parole officers within the State of California on December 31, 1953, there were 28 women parolees from other states supervised by these same parole officers so that the active case supervision load within the State of California was 370.

Table 13B

MOVEMENT OF WOMEN PAROLE POPULATION

1952 and 1953

Type of movement	1952		1953	
	Total	Supervised in Califormia	Total	Supervised in Califormia
On parole, January 1,	244	203	41	26
Total received on parole	245	195	40	26
Paroled from prison	177	151	26	16
Reinstated after suspension	35	35	4	4
By transfer	22	12	10	3
Total received from parole	153	124	10	20
Suspended	96	75	2	2
Discharged (a)	47	35	7	13
Died	2	2	1	1
By transfer	22	12	1	7
On parole, December 31,	359	287	52	34
Population change	55	54	21	79

(a) Includes 2 women paroled in 1952 and 5 women paroled in 1953.

PAROLEES SUSPENDED

An examination of the rate of suspension based on the number of parolees under supervision in 1950 shows 258 suspensions for every 1,000 men on parole; in 1951 a 271 rate; in 1952 a 238 rate; and in 1953 a 262 rate. In general, the rates of the different types of suspension have varied about the same from year to year as has the rate for total suspensions.

Some indication of violation pattern in terms of when parolees are suspended is presented in Table 15 which shows on an accumulative basis the annual proportion of persons suspended in each year's class of parole releases. It will be noted that 23.6 percent of the group paroled in 1947 were suspended during the same year. In recent years this percentage has been lower, ranging from about 14 to 17 percent. In general, by the end of the first year following the year of parole some 36 or 37 percent of the original class of parolees have been suspended, by the end of the second year following parole about 43 percent have violated, and by the end of the third year over 45 percent. For the four years shown in which parolees had been out for a period of over three years, a decrease from 50.9 percent for the 1947 group to 45.5 percent for the 1950 group is to be noted, and consequently there is evidence of a reduction in the proportion suspended.

A new method of computing the time between parole and violation became effective July 1, 1953. The interval as now measured is the time between the date of parole and date parolee actually violated. Formerly this measurement had been the time between the date of parole and date of the Adult Authority action of suspension. Based on the 6-month data accumulated for the last half of 1953, the median time interval between parole and violation was 5.4 months for the first parolees and 3.7 months for reparolees.

The number of male parolees suspended as violators during each of the past four calendar years is given in Table 14 with the indication of the reason for suspension. Also, rates of suspension per 1,000 average case load of parolees each year have been computed in order to show the trend of each type of suspension. There are three major types: first, those who were suspended for violating the technical provisions of their parole; second, those who were suspended because they had absconded and their whereabouts were unknown at the time of suspension, designated PVAL; and third, those who were suspended as a result of being charged with new criminal offenses. Approximately 57 percent of all suspensions occurred as a result of criminal charges being filed against a parolee. In about one-third of the cases the parolee had absconded, and in less than 10 percent the suspension was based on violations of technical conditions.

TABLE 14
REASON FOR SUSPENSION AND RATE PER 1,000 AVERAGE PAROLE CASE LOAD
Male Suspended From Parole
1950 - 1953

Reason for suspension	1950		1951		1952		1953	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 parolees	Number	Rate per 1,000 parolees	Number	Rate per 1,000 parolees	Number	Rate per 1,000 parolees
Total	1,122	100.0	899	100.0	1,222	100.0	1,009	100.0
Technical	63	5.6	53	5.9	104	8.5	21.1	2.1
PVAL	449	39.3	316	35.1	399	32.6	36.2	3.6
Criminal charges	640	57.1	547	61.0	727	59.3	761	75.3
Total	1,148	100.0	918	100.0	1,231	100.0	1,052	100.0
Technical	97	8.3	92	10.0	131	10.7	24.1	2.3
PVAL	402	35.0	314	34.1	459	37.3	36.1	3.4
Criminal charges	651	56.7	540	58.9	680	55.0	761	72.3

Table 15

CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE OF PAROLEES SUSPENDED EACH YEAR AFTER PAROLE
Male Suspended From Parole
1947 - 1953

Year during which suspended	Year of parole					
	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1953
Year of parole	23.6	23.0	19.1	16.1	16.7	17.3
1st year after parole	45.2	43.3	41.0	37.5	36.8	35.3
2nd year after parole	53.0	49.6	46.3	43.9	43.4	43.4
3rd year after parole	50.9	50.2	47.1	45.5	45.5	45.5

PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE

The median time served on parole by the men who successfully had completed their first parole, and who were discharged during the years 1952 and 1953 is shown in Table 16. This median time was 27 months for both years. When it is remembered that the median time served in prison before release on parole was 30 months during each of these years, it will be seen that nearly half of a man's sentence is spent on parole.

Among the offense groups of those discharged from first parole there were no outstanding differences observed between 1952 and 1953 in the median time served, Table 17. The greatest difference occurred in the offense group of lewd and lascivious acts with children, where the median in 1952 was 39 months, and in 1953 was 35.5 months. However, this difference is of little significance as the median for this particular offense was higher in 1952 than in either of the two previous years.

Table 16

STATUS AT DISCHARGE AND TIME SERVED ON PAROLE
Men Discharged from Parole

1952 and 1953

Status at discharge	1952		1953	
	Number of cases	Median time served in months	Number of cases	Median time served in months
Total	1,270		1,465	
First parole	1,093	27	1,194	27
Repeaters				
Returned with new commitment	79	29	71	27
Returned without new commitment	84	20	75	21
Completions or pardons	4		30	

It might be said in conclusion that those persons who are committed to prison, are paroled and successfully complete their paroles without being returned to prison, serve on the average a total sentence of approximately five years, and in general one-half of this sentence is served in prison and the other half on parole. Obviously there are many variations from this general average depending on the offense which has been committed, and yet the great majority of offenses show a time served which approximates within a few months the general median time served in all cases.

Table 17

OFFENSES AND TIME SERVED ON PAROLE
Men Discharged from First Parole

1952 and 1953

Only offense groups with more than 25 cases are shown

Offense	1952			1953		
	Number of cases	Time served in months		Number of cases	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 50%		Median	Range of middle 50%
Total	1,043	27	10-41	1,101	27	11-41
Murder 1st	26	24	20-30	36	40	30-50
Manslaughter	26	26.5	20-30	37	27	15-30
Robbery 1st	124	30	24-36	154	30	24-40
Robbery 2nd	89	27	15-30	73	27	20-35
Assault with deadly weapon	55	27	15-40	46	23.7	25-30
Burglary 1st	27	23	18-40	31	19	11-30
Burglary 2nd	159	21	15-31	171	24	15-30
Grand theft, except auto	65	24	16-35	61	24	27-31
Auto theft	31	24	18-32	37	22	18-33
Forgery and counterfeiting	137	24	15-30	194	29	15-31
Rape	13	33.5	24-60	15	31.5	24-50
Lewd and lascivious acts	49	36	24-54	56	30.6	24-50
Narcotics	30	31.5	15-57	51	21	18-70