



CALIFORNIA PRISONERS

1958 and 1959

CALIFORNIA PRISONERS 1958 and 1959

SUMMARY STATISTICS OF PRISONERS AND PAROLEES

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
RESEARCH DIVISION
ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICS SECTION

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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FOREWORD

The years 1958 and 1959 each established new records of inmate turnover and set new year-end population highs to tally a total biennial prison population increase of nearly 2,400.

Serious overcrowding was reduced by the rapid expansion of the conservation camp program and the opening of the 1,200-man Correctional Training Facility, North, at Soledad.

During the two-year period—and mostly during 1959—the conservation camp program was increased from 15 camps to 21 and the number of inmates housed in camps more than doubled.

Sheer, plain totals of inmates are undeniably important. But totals are made up of individuals. Statistics such as those related in this publication are essential to efficient management.

The corrective program of the institution must be adapted to the individuals it confines. Characteristics such as age, educational achievement, and prior criminal record shape institutional programs.

Changing trends in the characteristics of newly received inmates may soon make their influence felt on institutional operations and later in parole management.

For example, evidence of increasing numbers of narcotics addicts in the prison system led to development of new methods of parole supervision. You will find reference in some of the tables in this volume to the narcotic treatment control project. This experimental project established October 1, 1959, has two phases: field supervision and detention-treatment when required.

Parolees with a history of narcotic addiction are supervised by a specially trained agent who has a small 30-man caseload. The parolee is subjected to frequent chemical tests which will disclose any use of narcotics.

The intensive supervision and frequent checking appear to be a strong deterrent to narcotics use. In the event, however, that use is begun, it is quickly detected before the parolee becomes addicted and forced to resort to further crime.

The parolee may then be confined for up to 90 days in the detention treatment unit. There he gets medical and psychological care. Hopefully he may be returned to the community after treatment. But if he fails to respond, he may be returned to prison. It appears that this technique of short term incarceration may have wider application. This is an example of the public protection afforded by parole.

It should be noted here that parole as it is employed in California is neither leniency nor time off for good behavior. Since the paroling authorities, the Adult Authority and Board of Trustees, set the total

ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICS SECTION RESEARCH DIVISION

This issue of *California Prisoners 1958 And 1959* is the first prepared by the Administrative Statistics Section, Research Division, Department of Corrections.

Formerly this report has been prepared by the Bureau of Criminal Statistics, Department of Justice. When the California Legislature in 1957 created a research division in the Department of Corrections, the Bureau of Criminal Statistics that had served the Department of Corrections since 1945, transferred the administrative statistics function and staff to the newly created research division.

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time to be served, granting of parole does not reduce prison time except for those few offenses carrying definite life sentences.

The flexibility of the indeterminate sentence law permits the boards, within broad limits, to retain the inmate in prison until the optimum time for his release and then to set a further period of parole supervision on top of that.

This period of parole supervision is an effective protection to the public which cannot be provided by merely turning the offender loose at the prison gate, discharged from all further control.

At this point it might be well to review for new readers of this publication the operation of the State prison system.

Adult male felons, committed to the custody of the Director of Corrections, are received at one of two reception-guidance centers. Those committed from 11 southern counties are sent to the reception center located on the grounds of the California Institution for Men at Chino. Those from the northern counties are sent to the center at the California Medical Facility at Vacaville. All women are sent to the California Institution for Women at Corona. During the reception process, the social, medical, and criminal case histories are compiled and examinations given that supply much of the data published in this report.

Male prisoners are distributed from the centers to the various institutions. Women prisoners remain at the California Institution for Women at Corona.

A treatment program is established at the prisons for each inmate, based on the diagnostic recommendations of the reception-guidance center.

The prison system cares for several other types of inmates. The largest group consists of young males committed to the Department of the Youth Authority and placed by that Authority in an institution of the Department of Corrections. There are also recalcitrant tuberculars placed with this Department by the Department of Public Health, and some sex psychopaths and psychopathic delinquents held for the Department of Mental Hygiene.

Most of the statistical tables in this report are confined to adult male and female felons, thus omitting data concerning the large Youth Authority group. Data for this group are published in *Delinquency and Probation in California*.

Parole services for adult males are under the jurisdiction of the Director. However, those for women are administered by the Board of Trustees, and those for youth by the Youth Authority.

The prisoner who has been committed to the Director of Corrections is still in the custody of the Director of Corrections while on parole.

In conclusion, a word about statistics. Care must be taken in the interpretation of statistics which measure a time interval. They cannot take into account cases in which the interval has not been concluded.

For example, time between receipt and execution can only be measured for those persons executed. To the extent there are persons who are not executed, loosely drawn conclusions may be misleading. The same consideration applies to time served in prison or on parole.

Where applicable in these statistics, the median is used rather than the arithmetic average since it is less distorted by the extremes of the distribution. The median is the mid-point in a series of values at which 50 percent of the cases are above and 50 percent below. The range is given for the middle 80 percent. Again this is preferable to the full range because it is far more representative.

Sacramento, California
August 19, 1960

RICHARD A. MCGEE
Director of Corrections

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CALIFORNIA PRISONERS 1958 AND 1959

SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION AND MOVEMENT

The prison population of California was 19,299 on the last day of December 1959. During the year 1959, the total number of inmates increased to 19,867 in March and dropped to 18,916 in October, but reflected a net increase of 97 persons, or one-half of 1 percent by December 31. During 1958, the prison population increased from 16,918 to 19,202, a percentage increase of 13.5 percent. For every 100,000 persons in California on December 31, 1958, there were 128 prison inmates. This rate decreased to 124 prisoners per 100,000 State population on December 31, 1959.

The movement in the prison population during 1959 was 10,438 persons received into, and 10,341 persons released from prison. This amount of movement exceeded the previous record established only the year before by 571 persons received and 2,758 persons released.

PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT

During 1959, 5,426 male felons were newly received from court. This was a rate of 35.5 men per 100,000 State population, a 1.8 percent increase over the 1958 rate. In 1958, the male felon commitment rate had been 34.9 per 100,000 State population when 5,146 men were received. The rate of commitment for the 292 women felons received in 1959 was 1.9, a 6.1 percent increase over the 1.8 rate per 100,000 State population in 1958.

Offense

Although almost 300 more male felons were newly received in prison in 1959 than in 1958, fewer men were received for homicide, robbery, assault, or auto theft in 1959 than in 1958. The percentage change in commitment rates of 1959 over 1958 was greatest for the narcotics offense group with an 18.7 percent increase. The greatest decrease was in the assault group with a drop of 14.9 percent in the 1959 rate as compared to the 1958 rate.

More women were committed to prison for forgery and check offenses than for narcotics offenses during both 1958 and 1959. These two offense groups alone accounted for over half of all women new admissions.

Area or County of Commitment

More men were received into prison from Southern California, especially Los Angeles County, than any other region. However, other areas or counties have a higher rate of commitment. The region composed of

seven San Joaquin Valley counties had the highest rate, 51.3 commitments per 100,000 population in 1959. The Bay area counties, excluding San Francisco and Alameda Counties, had the lowest rate of commitment. Southern California also committed more women to prison than any other area.

Age at Admission

One-half of the men newly received from court during 1958 were younger than 28.9 years of age and one-half were older as the median age of male felons at first admission was 28.9 years. The median age of the men received during 1959 was slightly older being 29.3 years. During 1959, 9.3 percent of the men admitted to prison were under 21 years. The median age for the women was 29.2 years for those received in 1958, and was 30.6 years for those admitted in 1959. Of the women admitted during 1959, 10.6 percent were under 21 years of age.

Prior Commitment Record

Over one-half of the men received into prison in 1958 and in 1959 had served a jail or juvenile commitment, and over one-third had served a prior prison commitment. Slightly less than 16 percent of the men received in 1959 had served a California prison sentence previously. Few women admitted to prison had prior prison commitment histories, 8.3 percent in 1958 and 10.6 percent in 1959.

Educational Achievement

Of the men admitted to prison during 1958 and during 1959, 50 percent had an educational level equal to or higher than the eighth grade. In recent years, 50 percent of the men admitted to prison had measured at the upper seventh grade level.

Offense and Narcotic Addiction

Addict as used in this report refers to a person who in the opinion of the reception-guidance center clinician has used opium or its derivatives to such a degree that withdrawal symptoms occurred upon discontinuance of drug use. Of the men received from court during 1959, for whom the narcotic history was known, 18.3 percent were narcotic addicts. Those convicted of narcotics offenses tended significantly more than any other offense group to be narcotic addicts, 61.1 percent. The theft except auto offense group ranked second with 22.8 percent addicts. Those received into prison for assault, homicide, or sex offenses had relatively few addicts, 3.8 percent, 3.7 percent, and 1.2 percent respectively.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION IN PRISON

There were 17,080 men, excluding 13 parolees in the Narcotic Treatment-Control Project clinic, and 801 women felons in prison on December 31, 1959.

Offense

The offense group with the highest percentage of men in prison was robbery. Burglary was second highest. Narcotics was in third place. Forgery and checks, and homicide were fourth and fifth, respectively.

About three-fourths of the men in prison were in one of these five offense groups. Of the women in prison, approximately one-third were committed for forgery and checks offenses and slightly less than one-fourth for narcotics offenses.

Age

The midpoints in the age distribution of the felons in prison on December 31, 1959, were 31.9 years for the men and 32.3 years for the women. About 3 percent of the men and 3 percent of the women in prison were under 21 years of age.

Prior Commitment Record

On December 31, 1959, about 49 percent of the male felons in prison had had a prior prison commitment. Of the women in prison on December 31, 1959, about 23 percent had had a prior prison commitment.

Status with Reference to Parole

About three-fourths of the men in prison on December 31, 1959, had not been on parole since commitment. About 70 percent of the women in prison had never been paroled.

PRISONERS RELEASED

During 1959, 7,145 men were released from prison; 80.5 percent were paroled; 18.5 percent were discharged; and 1.0 percent died or were executed. Of the 384 women released from prison, 93.5 percent were paroled, 5.5 percent were discharged, and 1.0 percent died.

First Parole

When a statistical distribution is arranged according to size the value of the middle item is the median. The median time served in prison before release to first parole during 1959, was 24 months for both the men and the women.

Reparole

Men who had been returned to prison with new commitments and who were repared during 1959, served a median time of 33 months before repared. Those returned without a new commitment and who were repared in 1959, spent a median time of 17 months in prison before repared.

Discharge at Expiration of Sentence

The median time served by the 722 men first released from prison in 1959 by discharge at expiration of sentence was 24 months. The 147 men discharged in 1959 after return to prison with a new commitment served a median time of 33 months. The 455 men discharged in 1959 after return without a new commitment served a median time of 16 months.

PAROLE POPULATION AND MOVEMENT

On December 31, 1959, a total of 8,511 men who had been in California prisons, were on parole. Of this number, 7,368 were supervised

on parole in California, 694 were under supervision in other states, and 449 were in deport or custody status. There were 689 women on parole, 621 were supervised in California, 56 were on parole in other states, and 12 in deportation or in custody.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION ON PAROLE

On December 31, 1959, the number of men on parole was 8,511, more than half again as many as the 5,628 men on parole on the last day of 1953. In the same six years, the women's parole population increased 74 percent, from 396 to 689.

Offense

The offense group with the largest percentage of men on parole as of December 31, 1959, was burglary, with the offense of robbery second largest, and forgery and checks third. The narcotics offense group increased from 6.3 percent of the men on parole on December 31, 1953, to 15.0 percent on December 31, 1959. The highest percentage (32.1) of women on parole as of December 31, 1959, had been convicted of forgery and checks. Narcotics offenders ranked in second place, almost 23 percent of the women on parole.

Number of Times on Parole

Over 80 percent of both men and women parolees on December 31, 1959, were being supervised on parole for the first time.

DISCHARGE FROM PAROLE

The 1,921 men discharged from first parole during 1959 served a median of 24 months on parole. The 182 men discharged in 1959 from parole after return to prison with a new commitment served a median of 24 months and the 79 men discharged from parole after return to prison without a new commitment served a median of 18 months on parole before release.

The 106 women parolees who were discharged from first parole during 1959 served a median time of 36 months on parole before discharge.

Offense

Of the men discharged from first parole during 1959, those convicted of murder second degree served the highest median time (42 months) on parole before discharge; those in the offense group lewd acts with children served the second highest median time (36 months) on parole.

Time Served in Prison and on Parole

The men who were discharged from first parole during 1959, served a median of 27 months in prison before parole and 24 months on parole before discharge. The women who were discharged from first parole during 1959, served a median of 24 months in prison before parole and 35 months on parole before discharge.

INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION AND MOVEMENT

The number of inmates in the California prisons has increased every year since 1945, with the exception of 1955 when a slight decrease occurred. Consequently, every issue of *California Prisoners*, except the one summarizing 1955 data, has emphasized the growth in prison population. The report for 1956 and 1957, stated for example, "... prison population ... was the highest it has ever been at the close of any calendar year in the history of this State." These same words can be used again in this report to describe prison population for both 1958 and 1959. Thus, the calendar year 1958, and the calendar year 1959, were conventional in successively establishing new population records by the end of each year, 19,202 and 19,299 inmates, respectively. However, 1958 was an exceptional year in that the amount of numerical increase, 2,284, was greater than ever before, and 1959 was exceptional in that the total population gain from December 31 to December 31 was one of the smallest ever recorded, 97. Taken together, 1958 and 1959 were exceptional years in the history of California prisons.

In terms of percentage change, the 13.5 percent increase during 1958 was not as large as the increase that occurred in 1946, the year of the greater percentage gain, which reflected the growth of prison population at the close of World War II. The percentage increase during 1959 of 0.5 percent was the smallest net gain of any other year since 1930. The small increase between January 1, and December 31, 1959 prison population was not the result of a lesser number of persons being committed to prison but was the result of streamlining procedures by the Adult Authority and the Director which allowed for the selective release of more individuals to parole supervision. Prison population had been as high as 19,867 inmates on March 27, 1959, and as low as 18,916 persons on October 5, 1959. Yet the growth in prison population in ten years, from the beginning of 1950 through the end of 1959 was 8,400 inmates.

In relation to the general population of the State, there were almost 128 inmates for every 100,000 persons in California, on December 31, 1958. This was the highest rate since 1938. On December 31, 1959, increase in State population proportionately exceeded the increase in prison population. Although prison population increased, the rate per 100,000 State population decreased to 124.1. Clearly the ratio of number of inmates to the total number of people in the State during both 1958 and 1959, was far below the rate of 147.8 recorded in 1934. Prison population has tended merely to keep up with State population, even though the present size of the prison population is more than double what it was in 1934. The prison population as of December 31, the relationship of prison population per 100,000 California population,

and the annual numerical and percentage changes in prison population since 1930, covering 30 consecutive years, are given in Table 1.

In 1944, the prison population in California was at a low point, because of World War II effects on all available manpower. Immediately following the War, prison population increased rapidly. On December 31, 1944, a War year, California prisons had 5,710 inmates in custody; this number represents a rate of 65.2 per every 100,000 persons in the total State population. By December 31, 1954, the rate had increased to 120.0 per 100,000 California population. The State prisons held 15,376 inmates, over two and two-thirds times as many as ten years before. During 1955, prison population decreased, the only decrease to occur since the War years. This drop was the result of a reduction in the number of persons newly admitted to prison in 1955

TABLE 1
PRISON POPULATION, RATE PER CALIFORNIA POPULATION
AND ANNUAL CHANGE
December 31, 1930-1959

December 31	Prison population	Rate per 100,000 California population*	Annual change prison population	
			Number	Percent
1930.....	7,071	122.6	—	—
1931.....	7,118	121.5	47	0.7
1932.....	7,515	126.7	397	5.6
1933.....	8,333	138.6	818	10.9
1934.....	9,042	147.8	709	8.5
1935.....	9,156	146.3	114	1.3
1936.....	8,586	133.4	— 570	— 6.2
1937.....	8,108	123.0	— 478	— 5.6
1938.....	8,611	128.1	503	6.2
1939.....	8,715	126.9	104	1.2
1940.....	8,180	115.3	— 535	— 6.1
1941.....	7,203	96.2	— 977	— 12.0
1942.....	6,049	74.5	— 1,154	— 16.0
1943.....	5,720	65.7	— 320	— 5.3
1944.....	5,710	65.2	— 10	— 0.3
1945.....	6,628	71.7	918	16.1
1946.....	7,839	80.7	1,211	18.3
1947.....	9,036	80.8	1,197	15.3
1948.....	10,084	97.6	1,048	11.6
1949.....	10,899	103.1	815	8.1
1950.....	11,598	106.9	699	6.4
1951.....	11,930	104.7	341	2.9
1952.....	13,169	110.2	1,230	10.3
1953.....	14,149	114.3	980	7.4
1954.....	15,376	120.0	1,227	8.7
1955.....	15,230	114.9	— 146	— 1.0
1956.....	15,532	111.9	302	2.0
1957.....	16,918	117.2	1,386	8.9
1958.....	19,202	127.9	2,284	13.5
1959.....	19,299	124.1	97	0.5

* California population estimates based on State Department of Finance figures.

as compared with 1954 and was in keeping with the general trend in felony crimes in California in 1955, when both felony arrests and the number of persons prosecuted on felony charges decreased. In 1956, the increase in prison population indicated a tendency for the prison population to return to the trend prior to 1955. The changes in prison population in 1957 and in 1958 further substantiated the trend, although the increase in 1959 was too small to support this trend.

The growth in State population and of prison population from 1930 through 1959, with the expected future growths through 1969 are portrayed in Chart I. The estimated increases of prison population in the future probably will approximate the same rate of growth as that of the State population.

Eight institutions comprise the facilities available for the incarceration of inmates under the custody of the Department of Corrections. The inmate population as of December 31, was distributed among them as shown in Table 2, for the years 1955 through 1959. The growth in

TABLE 2
POPULATION OF CALIFORNIA PRISONS
December 31, 1955 through 1959

Institution	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Total.....	15,230	15,532	16,918	19,202	19,299
California Institution for Men.....	2,601	2,576	2,690	2,908	3,129
California Medical Facility.....	1,117	1,352	1,959	2,114	2,097
California Mens Colony.....	988	1,128	1,186	1,306	1,392
Correctional Training Facility*.....	2,214	2,221	2,145	2,468	3,023
Deuel Vocational Institution.....	1,165	1,231	1,237	1,241	1,585
Folsom Prison.....	2,657	2,292	2,633	3,264	2,701
San Quentin Prison.....	3,931	4,102	4,639	5,171	5,963
California Institution for Women.....	557	610	669	730	809

* Correctional Training Facility prior to September 18, 1959 was named Soledad Prison.

the total prison population cannot be reflected evenly among all the prisons because of the types of facilities, programs, and purposes. The California Institution for Women housed all the women sent to prison. The California Institution for Men has increased rather continuously over the period of years shown, part was overcrowding and part was the opening of new camps. The California Medical Facility increased quite rapidly during 1956 and 1957, after moving from a temporary location in a federal institution on Terminal Island to its permanent site at Vacaville during 1955. By 1958 it had reached maximum capacity. The transfer of the Northern Reception-Guidance Center from San Quentin Prison to a newly constructed building at California Medical Facility in July 1957 accounts for the large increase from 1956 to 1957. The California Mens Colony at Los Padres has continued its steady expansion from 1955 through 1959 as more housing units became available. This institution, housing the older men in prison was opened in 1954. The Correctional Training Facility at Soledad was

formerly called Soledad Prison. Its new name more adequately reflects the true purpose of the institution, especially with the opening of an administratively separate institution housing 1,200 inmates, called North Facility, in November 1958. The tremendous increase in population of Correctional Training Facility from 1958 to 1959, is the result of the nearly complete activation of the North Facility. The Deuel Vocational Institution at Tracy maintained a constant population from 1955 through 1958, operating at maximum capacity. In 1959, this institution was overcrowded as a result of an increase in the number of younger inmates composed chiefly of Youth Authority wards.

Both of the prisons at Folsom and at San Quentin have had to absorb the fluctuation in total prison population, in spite of new facilities created in other locations during the last fifteen years. As of December 31, 1958, these two institutions accounted for 8,435 inmates, or 43.9 percent of the total prison population, with San Quentin the larger of the two. As of December 31, 1959, these prisons supervised 6,664 inmates, or 34.5 percent of the total prison population housed in the institutions and in camps. With North Facility in operation, the serious overcrowding at these two prisons was reduced from the dangerous level in 1958.

The Department of Corrections in cooperation with the California Department of Public Works and the California Department of Natural Resources maintains road camps and forestry camps located in remote areas of the State. Expansion of the conservation program began in 1959, and is expected to continue in future years. As of December 31, 1958, four institutions, California Institution for Men, Correctional Training Facility, Folsom Prison, and San Quentin Prison, were responsible for the custody and training of 979 men at 16 camps engaged in conservation work. By December 31, 1959, camp population had increased to 1,723, a 76.0 percent increase. The number of camp sites increased to 21. The count of the camp population is included in each institution's population shown in Table 2.

The California prisons house four separate types of inmates, the adult male felons, the Youth Authority wards, the adult women felons, and "other" persons in prison for treatment, observation or custody, such as, recalcitrant tuberculars, sex psychopaths, psychopathic delinquents, and persons placed in Department of Corrections facilities by county officials for safekeeping or for diagnostic study. The category "Youth Authority male wards" consists of boys who are committed to the Youth Authority, which subsequently places them in facilities of the Department of Corrections for care and treatment. Most of these boys stay at either Deuel Vocational Institution or Correctional Training Facility at Soledad. The Youth Authority wards in these institutions do not differ significantly in age or prior behavior patterns from the young adult male felons also at the same locations.

The amount of movement into and out of the prison system during 1958 and during 1959, for each of the four sub-populations is shown in Table 3, with the resultant population at the end of each year. Dur-

CHART 1
CALIFORNIA AND PRISON POPULATION
1930 - 1969

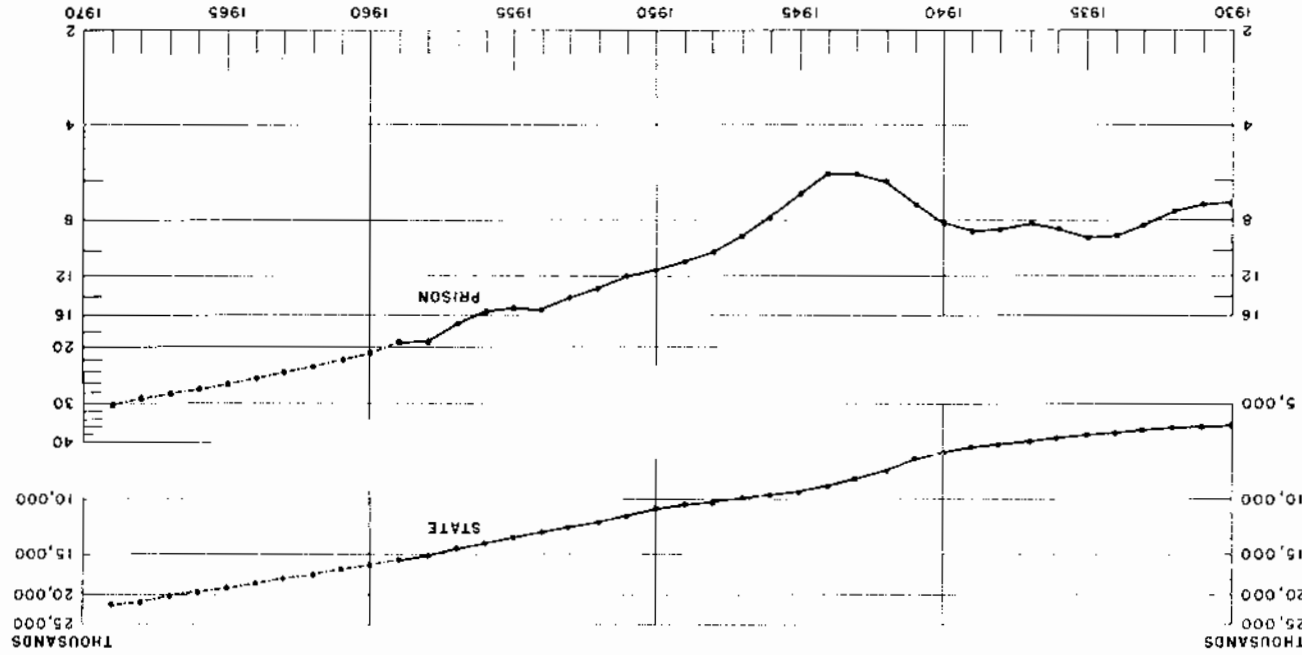


TABLE 3
MOVEMENT OF PRISON POPULATION 1958 and 1959

1959	Men	Youth Authority	Other	Total	Women	Other	Youth Authority	Total	1958	Men	Youth Authority	Other	Total	Women	Total	Movement
	730	515	292	161	42	119	1	43	9	7	66	94	1,742	1,161	17,237	Population, January 1
	74	66														Total received
																First commitments
																Paroles returned
																With new commitments
																Escapes returned
																Returned from court
																Returned from State hospitals
																Youth Authority commitments
																All other
																Narcotic Treatment-Control Project Clinic*
																Total released
																Discharged at expiration of sentence
																Paroled
																Died
																Executed
																Escaped
																To court
																To State hospitals
																To Youth Authority
																Narcotic Treatment-Control Project Clinic*
																All other
																Population change
																Population, December 31

ing 1958, the total number of persons received into prison was 9,867, or 2,284 more than the 7,583 released. During 1959, the total number of persons received was 10,438; the total number of releases was 10,341, a difference of 97. Thus, 1959 was the year in which the greatest turnover in intake and release occurred. The amount of turnover during 1959, exceeded the previous record established only the year before, 1958, by 5.8 percent for the intake, and 36.4 percent for the release.

The prison population at the end of any year is determined by the number of inmates in prison at the end of the previous year and the amount of movement into and out of prison during the year. In both 1958 and 1959 the total number of persons received in prison was greater than the number of persons released. The movement in the four sub-groups of the population was not the same in each group. The movement affecting the men felons was such that the population increased during 1958, and decreased during 1959. The number of Youth Authority boys in prison was higher at the end of 1959 than at the end of 1958, and 1958 was higher than 1957. The number of "other" men was less at the close of 1958 than at the close of 1957, and again less in 1959 than at the end of 1958. The women population increased in 1958, and also in 1959.

The two principal movements of felons received in prison are persons newly received from court (new commitments) and parolees returned to prison from parole. During 1959, there was a total of 5,718 felons newly received from court. This number was 307 more than the 5,411 felons received during 1958. The total number of parolees returned to prison in 1959 was 1,757, a decrease of 82 persons from the 1,839 returned during 1958.

The principal movements releasing inmates from prison are discharge at expiration of sentence and release to parole supervision. In the first method the Department of Corrections relinquishes all control over the inmate, and the ex-felon is returned to the community after completing his sentence in accordance with the law. Release from prison to parole supervision provides some guidance by the Department of Corrections during the time the person is learning to adjust to free society. New procedures adopted by the Adult Authority and the Department of Corrections resulted in the release of more individuals from prison, and in holding the rise in prison population to a minimum. There were 6,110 felons released to parole supervision in 1959, as compared with 4,059 in 1958. The number discharged at expiration of sentence also increased from 933 in 1958, to 1,345 in 1959. One man was released from prison by pardon in 1959, after serving about five months in prison. Another man confessed to the crime so the inmate was pardoned. This case is the first pardon directly from prison in California since 1954, when another inmate was released being innocent of the crime for which convicted. Other prison movements of the felony population are escape, escape returned, out to court, returned from court, to and from State hospitals, and other types of intake and outgo. These movements are small in number and tend to counter-

* Narcotic Treatment-Control Project clinic activated October 1, 1959.

balance each other; hence, they do not contribute much to the yearly variation of prison population.

The number of Youth Authority male wards in prison under the care of Department of Corrections on December 31, 1959, was 1,351 boys, an increase of 190 wards from the 1,161 at the close of 1958. The number of Youth Authority boys being cared for in the Department of Corrections increased during both 1958 and 1959. The "other" men received in prison during 1958 were 52 recalcitrant tuberculars, 9 sex psychopaths, 1 psychopathic delinquent, and 5 men for safekeeping, a total of 67 men. The number of "other" men received in 1959 was 46 recalcitrant tuberculars, 5 sex psychopaths, 1 psychopathic delinquent, 4 men for safekeeping, 6 felony prisoners from other states, and 4 county prisoners for diagnostic study, a total of 66 men.

The principal population in the Department of Corrections is felons. In the remainder of this report, the emphasis is on this felony population. A summary description of the felons involved in the movements of the prison and parole populations are presented. More detail is given for the male felons than for the women felons because the number of women involved is so small that when classified by some subgroups only one or two cases are involved, and conclusions cannot be drawn from such minute data.

PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT

After a man has been found guilty of a crime and has been committed by the superior court to the Director of Corrections for confinement under an indeterminate or life sentence, he is received by the Department of Corrections either at the Northern Reception-Guidance Center, California Medical Facility, near Vacaville, or at the Southern Reception-Guidance Center, California Institution for Men, near Chino. Those under a death sentence are received directly at San Quentin to await execution. The professional staff at each reception-guidance center studies the newly received male felon to determine his sociological, psychological, medical, criminal, and work background. On the basis of interviews and tests, a case history of each man is prepared which follows him throughout his prison incarceration, and helps to guide correctional personnel in the management, care and treatment of the inmate. Continuous supplementation to the information contained in the summary record as the inmate moves through his term of confinement and his parole supervision after release ensures realistic evaluation and assessment of the inmate's progress in prison and on parole. Women felons are received at the California Institution for Women, near Corona, where similar reports of background history are prepared, and records of institutional treatment and inmate adjustment are prepared and kept current.

The case histories of persons newly admitted to prison provide the basis for the entire system of statistical description of prisoner characteristics as published in this report. Some of the selected characteristics of persons newly received from court during 1958 and during 1959 are summarized in this chapter. These data describing those newly received from court are grouped into three types of comparisons. The first is a comparison of the number of persons received from court with the number of persons in the State of California. The rates of commitment are given by offense groups related to total State population, and by county or area of commitment related to the total population in the specific area. The California population estimates were obtained from "California's Population in 1959," issued in August 1959 by the California Department of Finance. The rate per 100,000 population was computed to two decimals, thus allowing for a one decimal percentage change in rate from one year to the next. The second type of comparison is between the percentage distributions of characteristics of prisoners received in 1958 and those in 1959. Only the percentage distribution of the major offense groups cover the period 1955 through 1959. The last part of this chapter has the comparison of the offense groups with some of the other more significant characteristics. These comparisons between 1958 and 1959 data for the offense groups and other in-

portant characteristics are for male felons only. Such a comparison of two or more characteristics for the women felons admitted during a one-year period would result in a small number of cases in each category, which lacks significance.

The number of persons received was greater in 1959 than in 1958, but this was expected with the population growth that has occurred in California. In addition, the commitment rate per State population was higher in 1959 than in 1958. The adult male felons had a commitment rate of 34.9 per 100,000 State population for 1958, and 35.5 for 1959. This was a 1.8 percent increase in rate of 1959 over 1958. The women felons received from court during 1958 had a commitment rate of 1.8 percent as compared with 1.9 percent for those received in 1959. This was a 6.1 percent increase in the 1959 rate over the 1958 rate.

OFFENSE

There are many felony offenses for which a person may be committed to prison. Some persons are received in prison with more than one conviction. The most serious offense as determined by the statutory maximum sentence is the classification used in this report for a person committed to prison for more than one offense. The number of men and of women received from court during 1958 and during 1959 are shown in Table 4A and in Table 4B, for each offense classification, with the rate of commitment based on the California population.

During 1959, 5,426 male felons were received from court as compared with 5,146 during 1958, Table 4A. Although there were almost 300 more male felons received in 1959 than in 1958, fewer men convicted for robbery, assault, auto theft, or homicide were received in 1959 than in 1958. While the total number of men and the rate of admission per 100,000 State population increased from 1958 to 1959, the number and the rate of admission decreased for the men convicted of the three principal assaultive crimes against persons. These changes are particularly noticeable by the percentage changes in the rates of admission in 1959 over 1958, Table 4A.

Rate per 100,000 State Population

Of the major offense groups, the greatest decrease in the percentage change in the male felon commitment rate of 1959 over 1958 was a drop of 14.9 percent for those convicted of assault. The second greatest decrease in percentage change in rate was 9.8 for the car theft group. Robbery ranked a close third with a drop of 9.3 percent in the 1959 commitment rate over the 1958 rate.

The offense group of male felons that exhibited the largest percentage increase in rate of commitment for 1959 over the 1958 rate was that labeled "other offenses," 26.1 percent. The principal sub-category in this "other offenses" group was escape from jail or county camp, which highly influenced the percentage change in rate of the total group. The narcotics offense group commitment rate per 100,000 State population

TABLE 4A
OFFENSE GROUPS AND COMMITMENT RATE
PER 100,000 CALIFORNIA POPULATION
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959

Offense	1958		1959		Percent change in rate 1959 over 1958
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	
Total.....	5,146	34.9	5,426	35.5	1.8
Homicide.....	200	1.4	197	1.3	- 5.1
Murder 1st.....	59	—	48	—	—
Murder 2nd.....	64	—	68	—	—
Manslaughter.....	66	—	67	—	—
Manslaughter by vehicle.....	11	—	14	—	—
Robbery.....	793	5.4	747	4.9	- 9.3
Robbery 1st.....	515	—	456	—	—
Robbery 2nd.....	233	—	248	—	—
Other.....	47	—	43	—	—
Assault.....	208	1.4	183	1.2	- 14.9
Assault with deadly weapon.....	184	—	144	—	—
Other.....	24	—	39	—	—
Burglary.....	987	6.7	1,070	7.0	4.6
Burglary 1st.....	87	—	110	—	—
Burglary 2nd.....	859	—	925	—	—
Other.....	41	—	35	—	—
Theft except auto.....	331	2.2	334	2.2	- 2.2
Grand theft.....	197	—	177	—	—
Petty theft with prior.....	104	—	115	—	—
Receiving stolen property.....	30	—	42	—	—
Auto theft.....	242	1.6	226	1.5	- 9.8
Forgery and checks.....	1,017	6.9	1,022	6.7	- 3.0
Sex offenses.....	325	2.2	344	2.3	2.3
Rape.....	113	—	129	—	—
Lewd acts with children.....	123	—	142	—	—
Other.....	89	—	73	—	—
Narcotics.....	748	5.1	920	6.0	18.7
Other offenses.....	293	2.0	383	2.5	26.1
Deadly weapon.....	27	—	26	—	—
Drunk driving.....	18	—	26	—	—
Failure to render aid.....	9	—	5	—	—
Abortion.....	9	—	5	—	—
Arson.....	11	—	21	—	—
Escape from jail or county camp.....	141	—	205	—	—
Kidnapping.....	35	—	37	—	—
Habitual criminal.....	4	—	5	—	—
Other.....	39	—	53	—	—

* California population estimates from State Department of Finance publication, "California's Population," July 1958, and August 1959.
Rate computed to two decimal places.

TABLE 4B
OFFENSE GROUPS AND COMMITMENT RATE
PER 100,000 CALIFORNIA POPULATION
WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959

Offense	1958		1959		Percent change in rate 1959 over 1958
	Number	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion*	Number	Rate per 100,000 popula- tion*	
Total.....	265	1.8	292	1.9	6.1
Homicide.....	26	0.2	24	0.2	-11.1
Murder 1st.....	1	—	4	—	—
Murder 2nd.....	13	—	2	—	—
Manslaughter.....	12	—	18	—	—
Robbery.....	22	—	15	—	—
Assault.....	5	—	19	—	—
Burglary.....	13	—	18	—	—
Theft.....	28	0.2	36	0.2	21.1
Forgery and checks.....	94	0.6	101	0.7	3.1
Sex offenses.....	1	—	2	—	—
Narcotics.....	65	0.4	65	0.4	-2.3
Other offenses.....	11	—	12	—	—

* California population estimates from State Department of Finance publication, "California's Population," July 1958, and August 1959.
Rate computed to two decimal places.

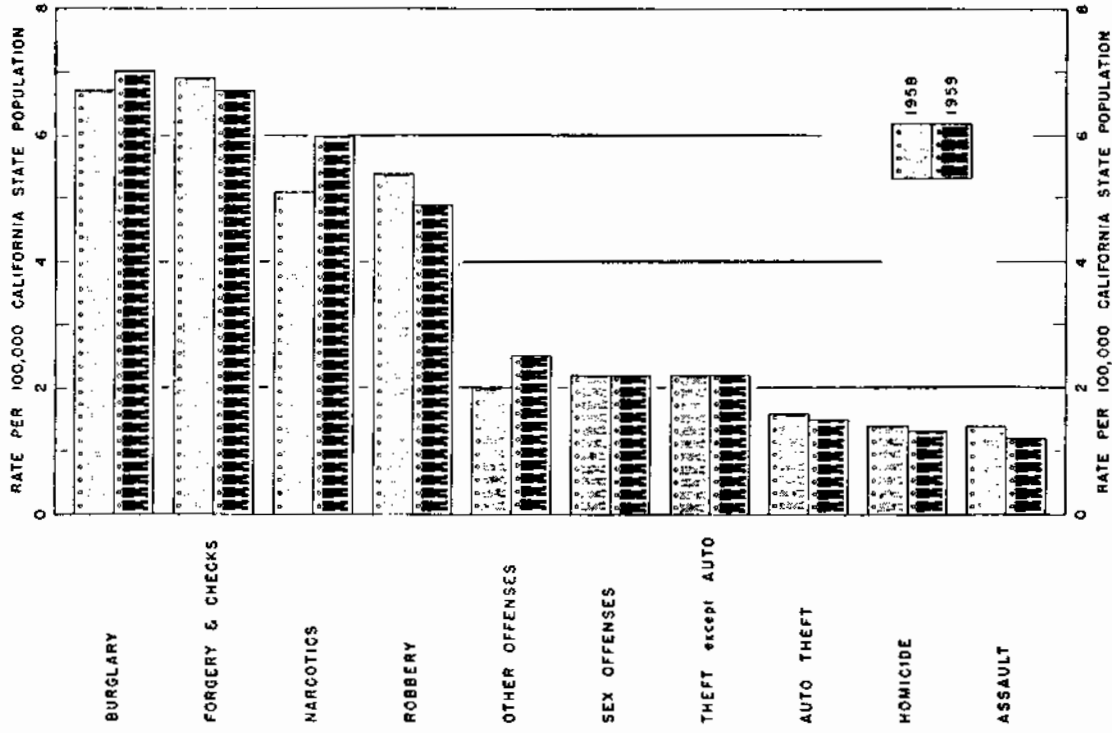
ranked second largest in the percentage increase, an 18.7 percent increase from the 1958 rate of 5.1 to the 1959 rate of 6.0. Chart II ranks pictorially the rate of commitment relative to State population for each offense group of the male felons newly received from court during 1958 and during 1959.

The commitment rate per 100,000 State population for the women felons was higher in 1959 than in 1958, 1.9 and 1.8 respectively, which was a 6.1 percent increase in the 1959 rate over the 1958 rate, Table 4B. There were only four offense groups in which more than 20 women were committed to prison in 1959; these were, homicide, theft, checks and forgery, and narcotics. In 1958 there had been five such groups, with robbery added to the above list. Two of the four principal offense groups in 1959, homicide and narcotics, experienced a decrease in the 1959 commitment rates over the 1958 rates. Although it appears as if the rates for these two offense groups are the same, as shown in Table 4B, actually there is a difference in the second decimal place, thus allowing for the computation of a percentage decrease in the 1959 rate over the 1958 rate.

Percentage Distribution

Many times such questions as: what percentage of the men received in prison are robbers, what percentage are narcotics offenders, are asked. The percentage of male felons newly received in prison in each

CHART II
RATE OF COMMITMENT BY OFFENSE GROUPS
MEN PRISONERS RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 AND 1959



offense group has remained fairly stable over the past five years, Table 5A, although the total number of new admissions has increased each year. The four offense groups, burglary, forgery, robbery, and narcotics, each of which accounted for about 15-20 percent of the male felons admitted to prison from 1955 through 1959, made up almost 70 percent of the men admitted to prison. Sex offenders and theft except auto offenders each comprised slightly more than 5 percent of the total number of men received, while homicide, assault, and auto theft were each slightly less than 5 percent of the men received each year during the five years shown. Thus, there have existed in a constant manner two offense "clusters" in terms of the proportion of the men received from court. One cluster is composed of four offenses, each making up between 15-20 percent of the total number of men received. The constituents of the second cluster vary between about 3-8 percent of the male felons received in prison. The difference between the two clusters is clearly evident in Chart III.

The percentage distribution by offense for the women prisoners newly received in prison during each year 1955 through 1959 are given in Table 5B. The number of women received from court increased each year since 1955 through 1959, except in 1957 when there was a slight decrease of 20 from the number of women (253) received in 1956. When the offense groups are studied by percentage distribution, the two offense groups of forgery and narcotics account for the greatest proportion of women newly received from court. The forgers and check-writers made up from 29.6 to 35.5 percent of the women received in prison each year during 1955 through 1959. Narcotics offenders have ranged from 19.8 percent of those admitted in 1955, to 31.3 percent of the total received in 1957. The offense group which ranked third highest

CHART III
OFFENSE GROUPS EXPRESSED IN PERCENTAGES
MEN PRISONERS RECEIVED FROM COURT
1955 through 1959

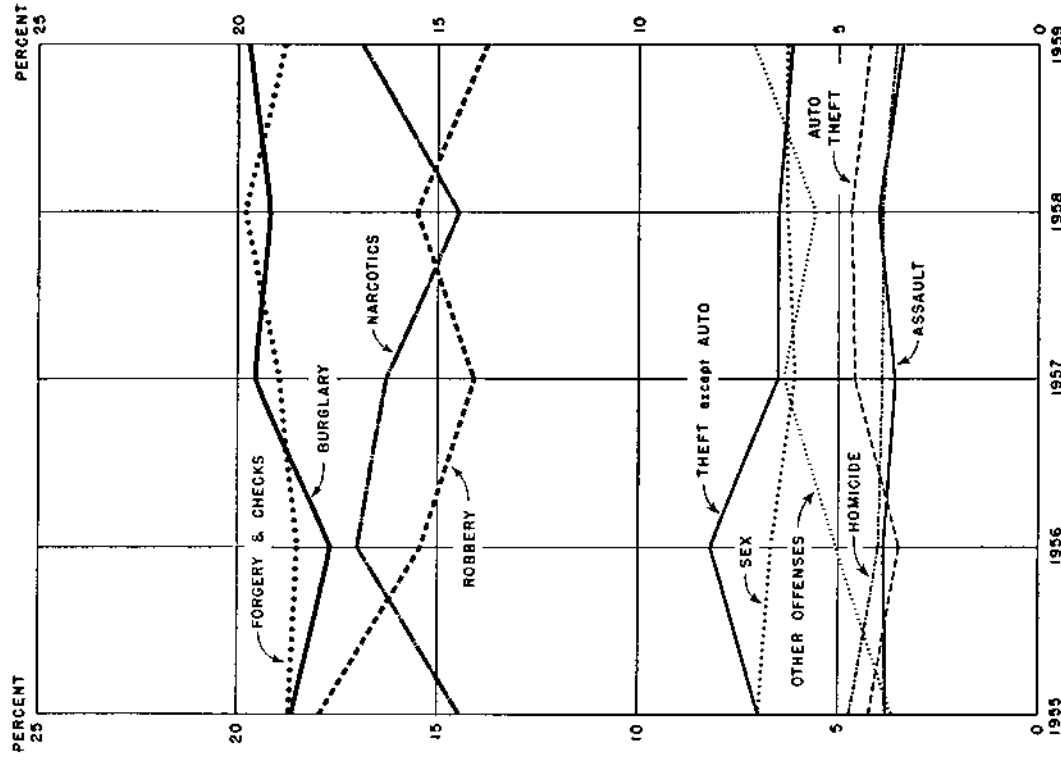


TABLE 5A
OFFENSE GROUPS EXPRESSED IN PERCENTAGES
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1955 through 1959

Offense	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Number of men.....	3,461	4,179	4,570	5,146	5,426
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Homicide.....	4.7	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.6
Robbery.....	17.9	15.4	14.1	15.5	13.8
Assault.....	3.8	3.9	3.6	4.0	3.4
Burglary.....	18.6	17.7	19.6	19.2	19.7
Theft except auto.....	7.0	8.2	6.5	6.5	6.2
Auto theft.....	4.2	3.5	4.6	4.7	4.2
Forgery and checks.....	18.7	18.5	18.9	19.8	18.8
Sex offenses.....	7.0	6.7	6.1	6.3	6.3
Narcotics.....	14.4	17.0	16.3	14.5	16.9
Other offenses.....	3.7	5.1	6.4	5.6	7.1

TABLE 5B
OFFENSE GROUPS EXPRESSED IN PERCENTAGES
WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1955 through 1959

Offense	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Number of women.....	177	253	233	265	292
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Homicide.....	12.4	9.8	8.2	9.8	8.3
Robbery.....	3.9	2.8	6.8	8.3	5.1
Assault.....	3.4	4.7	3.9	1.9	6.5
Burglary.....	6.8	5.5	3.0	4.9	6.2
Theft.....	14.7	11.5	12.4	10.6	12.3
Forgery and checks.....	34.5	32.4	29.6	35.5	34.6
Sex offenses.....	2.8	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.6
Narcotics.....	19.8	28.9	31.3	24.5	22.3
Other offenses.....	1.7	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.1

in the percentage of women received from court was theft; 14.7 percent of those received in 1955, dropped to 10.6 percent of those received in 1958, and increased to 12.3 percent of the women admitted in 1959. No other offense group listed in Table 5B, except homicide, made up as much as 10 percent of the women felons admitted during any one of the five years. In 1955, 12.4 percent of all women felons received from court had been committed for homicide, but the number of women in this offense group has been less than 10 percent of the total women felons admitted to prison each year since.

AREA OR COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

For study purposes the State has been divided into areas. The rate of commitment of male felons in relation to the population of the area or county from which committed is presented in Table 6A. Most of the men received in prison during 1958 and during 1959, were committed from Southern California, but some of the other areas have higher commitment rates. The San Joaquin Valley area had the highest commitment rate of any other area in both 1958 and 1959, 55.5 and 51.3 men per 100,000 population respectively. The decrease from the 1958 rate to the 1959 rate, represents a percentage change of 7.7 percent. Although it ranked only third highest in the 1959 commitment rate, the Sacramento Valley area, however, had the greatest increase in rate of commitment from the 1958 to the 1959 rate. In 1958, the rate of commitment in the Sacramento Valley area was 32.9 per 100,000 population and in 1959 it was 40.4, a percentage increase of 22.8 percent. San Francisco County had the largest percentage decrease in 1959 rate over the 1958 rate. The rate of commitment dropped from 37.3 in 1958 to 27.8 per 100,000 population in 1959, a 25.4 percent decrease.

The county or area of commitment and the rate of commitment per 100,000 population in the area are shown in Table 6B, for the women

TABLE 6A
COMMITMENT RATE BY COUNTY OR AREA
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959

County or area of commitment	1958		1959		Percent change in rate 1959 over 1958
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	
Total.....	5,146	34.9	5,426	35.5	1.8
Southern California.....	3,193	36.4	3,442	37.7	3.7
Los Angeles County.....	1,927	33.3	2,112	33.6	6.9
9 other counties.....	1,266	42.4	1,330	41.7	- 1.7
San Francisco Bay area.....	899	25.7	878	24.3	- 5.4
Alameda County.....	248	28.0	273	30.4	8.5
San Francisco County.....	295	37.3	220	27.8	-25.4
7 other counties.....	356	19.6	385	20.1	2.3
Balance of State.....	1,054	42.5	1,106	43.4	2.3
10 Sacramento Valley counties.....	261	32.9	336	40.4	22.8
7 San Joaquin Valley counties.....	590	55.5	553	51.3	- 7.7
22 other counties.....	203	32.4	217	34.1	5.3

* California population estimates from State Department of Finance publication, "California's Population," July 1958 and August 1959.
Rate computed to two decimal places.

felons newly received from court in 1958 and in 1959. While the 1959 commitment rate per 100,000 for the women felons increased 6.1 percent over the 1958 rate, the 1959 rate for those from Southern California increased 1.4 percent; the San Francisco Bay area rate was 11.3 percent higher and in the balance of the State the rate increased by 38.6 percent.

The number of men and of women committed from each county in California during 1958 and during 1959 appear in the Appendix of this report.

AGE AT ADMISSION

The difference in age between the male felons newly received from court in 1958, and those received in 1959, was not great, see Table 7A. In a statistical distribution arranged according to size the value of the middle item is the median. The median is the point in a series of values at which 50 percent of the cases lie above and 50 percent lie below. The median age of men who were newly admitted in 1958 was 28.9 years, and in 1959 was 29.3 years. This difference of 0.4 year is less than five months. Of the 5,146 men received from court during 1958, 8.9 percent were less than 21 years old and of the 5,426 men received in 1959, 9.3 percent were under 21 years. Among the five-year groups, the greatest change in the percentage distribution was for the 25-29 year olds. This age group made up 22.7 percent of the total number of men admitted

TABLE 6B

COMMITMENT RATE BY COUNTY OR AREA
WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959

County or area of commitment	1958		1959		Percent change in rate 1959 over 1958
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	
Total.....	285	1.8	292	1.9	6.1
Southern California.....	187	2.1	192	2.1	1.4
Los Angeles.....	122	2.1	124	2.1	- 0.9
9 other counties.....	65	2.2	68	2.1	- 2.3
San Francisco Bay Area.....	40	1.2	46	1.3	11.3
Alameda County.....	7	0.8	17	1.9	142.3
San Francisco County.....	17	2.2	14	1.8	-17.7
7 other counties.....	16	0.9	15	0.8	-11.4
Balance of State.....	38	1.5	54	2.1	38.6
10 Sacramento Valley counties.....	11	1.4	15	1.8	29.5
7 San Joaquin Valley counties.....	19	1.8	28	2.6	45.3
22 other counties.....	8	1.3	11	1.7	35.2

* California population estimates from State Department of Finance publication, "California's Population," July 1958 and August 1959.

Rate computed to two decimal places.

in 1958, and only 21.3 percent in 1959. Slightly less than one-third of the men committed to prison during 1958 and during 1959 were under 25 years of age, 32.2 percent in 1958 and 31.9 percent in 1959.

The women felons newly received from court during 1959 were older than the group admitted during 1958. The median age was 30.6 years for the women received in 1959 and was 29.2 years for those received in 1958, a difference of 1.4 years, Table 7B. The age distributions of the women received in 1958 and in 1959 differed with respect to the five-year age groups. In 1958, 30.2 percent of the women received were in the 20-24 year group, but in 1959, only 19.2 percent were in this age group. The percentage under 21 years was almost the same in 1959 as in 1958, 10.6 percent and 10.9 percent respectively.

ETHNIC GROUPS

Ethnic groups as used in this report refers to cultural groupings, or "life-style" groups of people which are relatively distinct in California. The connotation is partially sociological and partially anthropological. In past publications the word race was used but ethnic group more clearly describes the classifications.

The ethnic groupings of male felons newly received from court in 1958 and in 1959 are shown in Table 8A. Approximately three-fifths of the male prisoners received in 1958 and in 1959 belonged to the white group. The Negro group comprised about one-fifth or 20 percent,

TABLE 7A

AGE AT ADMISSION
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959

Age at admission in years	1958		1959	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	5,146	100.0	5,426	100.0
Under 20.....	242	4.7	264	4.9
15-17.....	13	—	17	—
18.....	84	—	83	—
19.....	145	—	164	—
20-24.....	1,413	27.5	1,466	27.0
20.....	217	—	240	—
21.....	266	—	313	—
22.....	328	—	322	—
23.....	295	—	321	—
24.....	277	—	270	—
25-29.....	1,168	22.7	1,155	21.3
30-34.....	869	16.9	946	17.4
35-39.....	548	10.6	607	11.2
40-44.....	373	7.2	393	7.2
45-49.....	232	4.5	234	4.7
50 and over.....	301	5.9	341	6.3
Median age.....	28.9	—	29.3	—
Percent under 21.....	—	8.9	—	9.3
Percent under 25.....	—	32.2	—	31.9

and the Mexican descent group made up 16 percent of the men received. These three groups accounted for 97.8 percent of all men admitted to prison in 1959, which is approximately the same as the statistics of the previous year, 1958.

The women felons newly received from court are presented by ethnic groups in Table 8B. Most of the women belonged to the white group, 65.3 percent of the new admissions in 1958, and 65.8 percent of the women received from court in 1959. Very few women of Mexican descent were received in prison either year. The three major groups accounted for 95.9 percent during 1958 and 95.6 percent during 1959 of all women received into prison.

PRIOR COMMITMENT RECORD

The prior commitment record of each person received in the institutions of the Department of Corrections is classified according to the number and type of sentences served before the present incarceration. This information is obtained from the California Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports, and is reviewed with the inmate during his stay at the reception-guidance center. In this study, prior criminal commitment

TABLE 7B
AGE AT ADMISSION
WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959

Age at admission in years	1958		1959	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	265	100.0	292	100.0
Under 20.....	12	4.5	19	6.5
15-17.....	—	—	—	—
18.....	2	—	9	—
19.....	10	—	10	—
20-24.....	80	30.2	56	19.2
20.....	17	—	12	—
21.....	13	—	12	—
22.....	15	—	12	—
23.....	16	—	11	—
24.....	19	—	9	—
25-29.....	48	18.1	64	21.9
30-34.....	39	14.7	60	20.5
35-39.....	26	9.8	39	13.4
40-44.....	24	9.1	32	11.0
45-49.....	14	5.3	7	2.4
50 and over.....	22	8.3	15	5.1
Median age.....	20.2		30.6	
Percent under 21.....		10.9		10.6
Percent under 25.....		34.7		25.7

record has been summarized into three major groups: no prior commitment of any kind, time served in a jail or in a juvenile institution, and time served in a prison before this incarceration.

About one-half of the men received from court during 1958 and during 1959 had a record of prior jail or juvenile commitments only, Table 9A. More than one-third had a record of being incarcerated in prison, but only approximately 14 percent of the men admitted to prison in 1958 and in 1959 had a record of no prior commitment. These percentages have been approximately at these levels for the past three years.

With such a great number of men being sent to prison, and with most of them having served prior sentences, one is often asked: How many of these are California repeaters? During 1958 and 1959, a count was made of the number of men who had a prior commitment to the California Department of the Youth Authority and to a California prison. No count was made of the number of men who had served a sentence in a California jail.

Of the male felons received in prison during 1958, 17.8 percent had been wards in a California Youth Authority institution. In 1959, 18.5 percent of those admitted had been Youth Authority wards, but about

TABLE 8A

ETHNIC GROUPS
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959

Ethnic groups	1958		1959	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	5,146	100.0	5,426	100.0
White.....	3,093	60.1	3,295	60.7
Mexican descent.....	828	16.1	864	15.9
Negro.....	1,105	21.5	1,150	21.2
Other.....	120	2.3	117	2.2
American Indian.....	74	1.5	60	1.1
Chinese.....	10	0.2	6	0.1
Japanese.....	7	0.1	10	0.2
Filipino.....	15	0.3	29	0.6
Hawaiian.....	12	0.2	10	0.2
Other*.....	2	0.0	2	0.0

*Includes 1 Korean and 1 Burmese in 1958, 1 Guamanian and 1 Malayan in 1959.

TABLE 8B

ETHNIC GROUPS
WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959

Ethnic groups	1958		1959	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	265	100.0	292	100.0
White.....	173	65.3	192	65.8
Mexican descent.....	4	1.5	10	3.4
Negro.....	77	29.1	77	26.4
Other.....	11	4.1	13	4.4
American Indian.....	11	4.1	10	3.4
Filipino.....	—	—	2	0.7
Hawaiian.....	—	—	1	0.3

7 percent of the 18.5 percent had been discharged from the California Youth Authority commitment for three or more years. Of the 5,426 male felons newly received from court during 1959, 857 men or 15.8 percent had served a prison sentence in California previously. This percentage was slightly less in 1958, as 779 or 15.2 percent of the 5,146 men received had prior California prison commitments. Of the male felons received in 1959, 3 percent had been both in the California Youth Authority and a California prison previously. The 3 percent are included in each of the Youth Authority and prison figures quoted above.

The women show a far lesser degree of recidivism than do the men, Table 9B. Only about 8 to 11 percent of the women committed to prison had served prior prison sentences. The prior commitment history of the women received in 1958 differed from the history of those received in 1959. In 1958, 47.2 percent of the women received had no prior commitment history while in 1959 this group had dropped to 37.0 percent of those admitted. This same pattern occurred in 1956 and in 1957, when of the women newly admitted to prison the no prior commitment group comprised 46.6 percent and 35.6 percent, respectively. The variation in the percentages is most noticeably reflected in the group who have served prior jail or juvenile sentences. Those who had served jail or juvenile sentences made up about one-half the women committed to prison.

TABLE 9A

PRIOR COMMITMENT RECORD
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959

Type of prior commitment	1958		1959	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	5,146	100.0	5,426	100.0
No prior commitment.....	745	14.5	756	14.0
Prior jail or juvenile only.....	2,636	51.2	2,773	51.1
Prior prison commitment.....	1,765	34.3	1,895	34.9
One prison.....	942	18.3	1,004	18.5
Two prison.....	432	8.4	428	7.9
Three or more prison.....	391	7.6	463	8.5

TABLE 9B

PRIOR COMMITMENT RECORD
WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959

Type of prior commitment	1958		1959	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	265	100.0	292	100.0
No prior commitment.....	125	47.2	108	37.0
Prior jail or juvenile only.....	118	44.5	153	52.4
Prior prison commitment.....	22	8.3	31	10.6
One prison.....	16	6.1	23	7.9
Two prison.....	4	1.5	6	2.1
Three or more prison.....	2	0.7	2	0.6

TIME IN STATE BEFORE OFFENSE

Have the persons who are sentenced to prison in California been in this State very long? The length of time in State before commitment is presented for the men in Table 10. Over 63 percent of the male felons newly received from court during 1958 and during 1959 had been in California 10 years or more. Only about 10 percent of the new admissions in both 1958 and 1959 had been in California less than one year. Similar information is not available for the women felons admitted during 1958 and during 1959.

TABLE 10

TIME IN STATE BEFORE OFFENSE
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959

Time in state before offense	1958			1959		
	Number	Percent	Cumulative percent	Number	Percent	Cumulative percent
Total.....	5,146	100.0	—	5,426	100.0	—
Less than one month.....	84	1.6	1.6	84	1.6	1.6
One to five months.....	280	5.4	7.0	283	5.2	6.8
Six to eleven months.....	171	3.3	10.3	167	3.1	9.9
One year but less than two years.....	247	4.8	15.1	206	3.8	13.7
Two years but less than three years.....	220	4.3	19.4	208	3.8	17.5
Three years but less than five years.....	321	6.2	25.6	372	6.8	24.3
Five years but less than ten years.....	558	10.9	36.5	677	12.5	36.8
Ten years or more.....	3,265	63.5	100.0	3,429	63.2	100.0

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Standardized tests are administered to each inmate while at the reception-guidance center in order to assess each individual's educational needs. Of the men received from court in 1958 and in 1959, the median educational achievement score was equivalent to the 8th grade. For some years prior to 1958, the median educational achievement score was the 7th grade. Concomitant with the shift in the median value, is the fact that the proportion of inmates who scored at each of the levels from illiterate through the fifth grade accounted for a total of 18.2 percent in 1958 and 18.1 percent in 1959, and the proportion who scored at the 10th grade or higher was 20.3 percent in 1958 and 21.7 percent in 1959. The percentage distributions for 1958 and 1959 of men received from court are presented in tabular form in Table 11.

TABLE 11
EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959

Grade achievement score*	1958		1959	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	5,146	—	5,426	—
Not tested.....	211	—	234	—
Total tested.....	4,935	100.0	5,192	100.0
Illiterate.....	172	3.5	163	3.1
Grade 3.....	32	0.6	39	0.8
Grade 4.....	226	4.6	273	5.3
Grade 5.....	467	9.5	464	8.9
Grade 6.....	624	12.6	593	11.4
Grade 7.....	793	16.0	767	14.8
Grade 8.....	822	16.7	917	17.7
Grade 9.....	798	16.2	849	16.3
Grade 10-11.....	873	17.7	1,011	19.5
Grade 12 and over.....	126	2.6	116	2.2
Median grade.....	8th		8th	

* Grade achievement score obtained during admission at Reception-Guidance Centers.

RELATIONSHIP OF OFFENSE TO SELECTED FACTORS

The remainder of this chapter shows how some of the characteristics of prisoners newly received from court during 1958 and 1959 were related to the offenses for which the prisoners were sentenced to prison. Age at admission, ethnic groups, prior commitment record, and educational achievement are each distributed as a function of the several individual offenses. These data are pertinent to such a question as, "Are prisoners who are committed for a given kind of offense different from those who are sent to prison for some other kind of offense with respect to age at admission or prior commitment record?" The narcotic history at admission to prison for male felons received in 1959, also is shown by the offense groups.

In the first table, the 1958 data are represented by the median age at the time of admission for those committed to prison in each of the offense groups. The data for 1959 new admissions with respect to age at admission are given in greater detail. In the following eight tables, those numbered with the suffix "A" present data of prisoners received during 1958, and those numbered with the suffix "B" show the data distributions of 1959. The last table (16) presents only 1959 data, since comparable information for 1958 is not available. The relationship between offense and selected factors is discussed only for the male prisoners newly received from court. The number of women received in prison during any one year is too small to permit yearly analysis of

their characteristics by the kind of offense for which women are sentenced to prison.

OFFENSE AND AGE AT ADMISSION

Although the median age of all men committed to prison during 1959 differed little from the median age of all men committed during 1958, when the type of offense is considered some differences do emerge. In 1958, those who were sentenced to prison for robbery had the lowest median age, in 1959 those sentenced for rape had the lowest median age. Table 12 shows the number of men in each of the five-year age groups who were committed during 1959 for offenses summarized in thirteen major categories, the percentage under 21 years of age and the percentage under 25 years of age, and the median age in 1958 and in 1959 for each offense group.

Both in 1958 and in 1959, the men who were committed to prison for the offense of lewd acts with children tended to be older than men in other offense groups, as their median age was 41.8 years in 1958, and 40.8 years in 1959. The men received in 1959 for homicide, assault, or escape from jail or county camp were older than men in like offense groups received in 1958. The median age in each of these three groups was one year or more older in 1959 than the median in 1958. Men received in 1959 for auto theft, rape and lewd acts with children were younger than men with similar offenses received in 1958. The median age of men in each of these three groups was one year or more younger in 1959 than the median in 1958.

Men sent to prison for rape or assault seem to be a younger group of men than in other offense groups. One-half (or 50 percent) of the men received in 1959 for rape were under 25 years of age, and 48 percent of the men received for assault were under 25. In Chart IV, the offense groups are arranged according to increasing median age, and are displayed by the amount and direction of the difference between the median age of each offense group and the median age computed for all offenders received from court during 1959.

OFFENSE AND ETHNIC GROUPS

Most of the male felons committed to prison each year are of the white group. The percentages vary considerably when studied by offense groups. According to the data in Tables 13A and 13B, in every offense group except one, more persons of the white group were committed to prison than any other ethnic group. The exception was for those sentenced to prison for narcotics offenses.

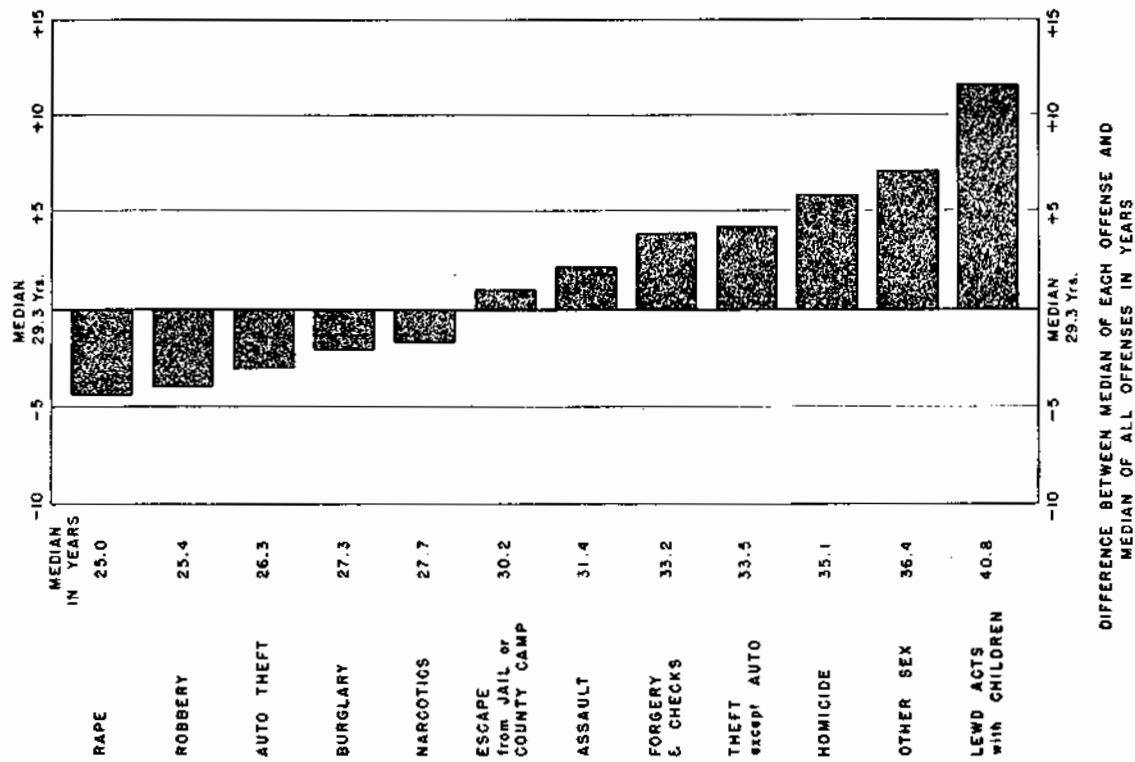
In 1959, 60.7 percent of the 5,426 male felons newly admitted to prison were of the white group. This group made up 85.4 percent of those committed for forgery and checks, 78.9 percent of those for lewd acts with children, and 79.5 percent of those convicted of escape from jail or county camp.

TABLE 12
OFFENSE AND AGE AT ADMISSION
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1959

Offense	Total	Age at admission											Percent under
		Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	1958	1959	21 years	
Total	6,426	264	1,466	1,155	946	607	393	254	341	28.9	29.3	9.3	31.9
	107	12	21	36	29	24	26	22	27	31.9	35.1	6.6	16.8
	747	65	295	177	106	56	23	15	10	25.0	25.4	15.7	48.2
	183	7	41	36	27	18	8	19	34	30.1	31.4	7.7	26.2
	1,070	71	350	243	168	100	67	37	34	27.3	27.3	12.7	39.3
	334	10	45	66	66	44	38	23	42	32.8	33.5	6.0	16.5
	226	17	83	50	31	23	7	5	10	27.9	26.3	15.0	44.2
	1,022	8	179	188	214	155	111	82	85	32.9	33.2	2.2	18.3
	344	13	68	49	52	49	42	38	58	34.4	34.0	6.4	23.5
	129	9	56	26	18	7	8	2	3	25.0	23.2	13.2	50.4
	142	3	3	15	20	26	25	4	46	41.8	40.8	2.1	4.2
	73	1	9	8	14	16	9	7	9	37.3	36.4	2.7	13.7
	920	36	295	242	187	80	31	25	24	27.4	27.7	8.6	36.0
	205	14	51	36	41	23	13	15	12	28.4	30.2	13.2	31.7
	5	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	0.0
173	11	38	32	24	24	17	9	18	31.5	31.1	9.8	28.3	

* Medians computed from grouped data.

CHART IV
OFFENSE AND MEDIAN AGE
MEN PRISONERS RECEIVED FROM COURT
1959



The male felons of Mexican descent who comprised 15.9 percent of the men received in 1959, made up 44.8 percent of those convicted of narcotics offenses. When the offense groups are studied for the proportion of the commitments who were of the Negro ethnic group, a still different pattern is evident. The Negro group which was 21.2 percent of the men received during 1959, comprised 44.3 percent of those committed for petty theft with a prior and 40.3 percent of the men received

TABLE 13A
OFFENSE AND ETHNIC GROUPS
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958

Percent Not Computed for Offenses with a Total of Less Than 30 Cases

Offense	Total	White		Mexican descent		Negro		Other	
		Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Total.....	5,146	3,093	60.1	828	16.1	1,105	21.5	120	2.3
Homicide.....	200	85	42.5	30	15.0	79	39.5	6	3.0
Murder 1st.....	59	25	42.4	5	8.5	29	49.1	—	—
Murder 2nd.....	64	23	35.9	9	14.1	30	46.9	2	3.1
Manslaughter.....	66	29	43.9	14	21.2	19	28.8	4	6.1
Manslaughter by vehicle.....	11	8	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Robbery.....	795	518	65.2	77	9.7	184	23.1	16	2.0
Robbery 1st.....	515	348	67.6	44	8.5	116	22.5	7	1.4
Robbery 2nd.....	233	143	61.4	26	11.1	55	23.6	0	3.9
Other.....	47	27	57.4	7	14.9	13	27.7	—	—
Assault.....	208	91	43.7	38	18.3	68	32.7	11	5.3
Assault with deadly weapon.....	184	76	41.3	35	19.0	63	34.3	10	5.4
Other.....	24	15	—	3	—	5	—	1	—
Burglary.....	987	591	59.9	168	17.0	210	21.3	18	1.8
Burglary 1st.....	87	51	58.6	15	17.2	18	20.7	3	3.5
Burglary 2nd.....	859	509	59.3	151	17.6	184	21.4	15	1.7
Other.....	41	31	75.6	2	4.9	8	19.5	—	—
Theft except auto.....	331	189	57.1	40	12.1	97	29.3	5	1.5
Grand theft.....	197	129	65.5	21	10.7	43	21.8	4	2.0
Petty theft with prior.....	104	47	45.2	14	13.5	43	41.3	—	—
Receiving stolen property.....	30	13	43.3	5	16.7	11	36.7	1	3.3
Auto theft.....	242	155	64.0	33	13.6	50	20.7	4	1.7
Forgery and checks.....	1,017	848	83.4	55	5.4	94	9.2	20	2.0
Sex offenses.....	325	205	63.1	47	14.5	61	18.7	12	3.7
Rape.....	113	54	47.8	27	23.9	27	23.9	5	4.4
Lewd acts with children.....	123	87	70.7	14	11.4	18	14.6	4	3.3
Other.....	39	64	71.9	6	6.7	16	18.0	3	3.4
Narcotics.....	748	203	27.1	295	39.4	231	30.9	19	2.6
Escape from jail or county camp.....	141	106	75.2	21	14.9	8	5.7	6	4.2
Habitual criminal.....	4	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other offenses.....	148	99	66.9	24	16.2	22	14.9	3	2.0

with manslaughter commitments. The Negro group was very low in proportion for those committed for escape from jail or county camp, and also for forgery and checks, 4.4 percent and 7.9 percent respectively.

OFFENSE AND PRIOR COMMITMENT RECORD

Of the men who were committed to prison for lewd acts with children during 1958 and 1959, 42.3 percent and 39.4 percent, respectively, had

TABLE 13B
OFFENSE AND ETHNIC GROUPS
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1959

Percent Not Computed for Offenses with a Total of Less Than 30 Cases

Offense	Total	White		Mexican descent		Negro		Other	
		Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Total.....	5,426	3,295	60.7	864	15.9	1,150	21.2	117	2.2
Homicide.....	197	104	52.8	19	9.7	68	34.5	6	3.0
Murder 1st.....	48	31	64.6	5	10.4	12	25.0	—	—
Murder 2nd.....	68	37	54.4	4	5.9	24	35.3	3	4.4
Manslaughter.....	67	28	41.8	9	13.4	27	40.3	3	4.5
Manslaughter by vehicle.....	14	8	—	1	—	5	—	—	—
Robbery.....	747	435	58.2	60	8.0	239	32.0	13	1.8
Robbery 1st.....	456	274	60.1	35	7.7	140	30.7	7	1.5
Robbery 2nd.....	248	138	55.6	18	7.3	86	34.7	6	2.4
Other.....	43	23	53.5	7	16.3	13	30.2	—	—
Assault.....	183	93	50.8	23	12.6	60	32.8	7	3.8
Assault with deadly weapon.....	144	68	47.2	19	13.2	52	36.1	5	3.5
Other.....	39	25	64.1	4	10.3	8	20.5	2	5.1
Burglary.....	1,070	674	63.0	139	13.0	229	21.4	28	2.6
Burglary 1st.....	110	69	62.7	13	11.8	26	23.7	2	1.8
Burglary 2nd.....	925	589	63.7	117	12.6	193	20.9	26	2.8
Other.....	35	16	45.7	9	25.7	10	28.6	—	—
Theft except auto.....	334	181	54.2	44	13.2	104	31.1	5	1.5
Grand theft.....	177	119	67.2	15	8.5	41	23.2	2	1.1
Petty theft with prior.....	115	39	33.9	24	20.9	51	44.3	1	0.9
Receiving stolen property.....	42	23	54.7	5	11.9	12	28.6	2	4.8
Auto theft.....	226	145	64.2	23	10.2	52	23.0	6	2.6
Forgery and checks.....	1,022	873	85.4	49	4.8	81	7.9	19	1.9
Sex offenses.....	314	228	66.3	45	13.1	63	18.3	8	2.3
Rape.....	129	67	51.9	25	19.4	34	26.4	3	2.3
Lewd acts with children.....	142	112	78.9	10	7.0	15	10.6	5	3.5
Other.....	73	49	67.1	10	13.7	14	19.2	—	—
Narcotics.....	920	282	30.7	412	44.8	210	22.8	16	1.7
Escape from jail or county camp.....	205	163	79.5	28	13.7	9	4.4	5	2.4
Habitual criminal.....	5	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other offenses.....	173	113	65.3	22	12.7	34	19.7	4	2.3

had no prior commitment record. In 1958, 41.0 percent, and in 1959, 36.0 percent of the men newly received from court for the offense of homicide had had no prior commitment record. These are the two offense groups with the highest proportion of men with no prior commitment history at time of admission to prison. On the other hand, in comparison with the total percentage distribution, a very small proportion of persons with no prior commitment record were sentenced to prison for burglary, escape from jail or county camp, or auto theft. The offenses with the highest percentage of men who had served prior prison sentences were the theft groups: theft except auto, auto theft, and forgery and checks. Burglary ranked next highest in the proportion of men with prior prison commitments. These facts are evident in Tables 14A and 14B.

Of the male felons newly received from court, 15.8 percent in 1959 had served a sentence in a California prison previously. Those with prior California prison terms made up 29.3 percent of the theft except auto group, 21.5 percent of the forgers, and 17.7 percent of the burglary offenders. By offense groups, these three were the highest in percentage of men discharged from California prisons and parole. This was true also for the men admitted to prison in 1958.

TABLE 14A

OFFENSE AND PRIOR COMMITMENT RECORD MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT

1958

Offense	Total	Type of prior commitment					
		No prior		Prior jail or juvenile		One prison	
		Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Total.....	5,146	745	14.5	2,636	51.2	942	18.3
Homicide.....	200	82	41.0	86	43.0	23	11.5
Robbery.....	795	162	20.4	422	53.1	118	14.8
Assault.....	208	42	20.2	108	51.9	37	17.8
Burglary.....	987	59	6.0	528	53.5	184	18.6
Theft except auto.....	331	39	11.8	132	39.9	81	24.5
Auto theft.....	242	12	5.0	137	56.6	45	18.6
Forgery and checks.....	1,017	107	10.5	466	45.8	223	21.9
Sex offenses.....	325	124	38.2	130	40.0	40	12.3
Rape.....	113	41	36.3	57	50.4	6	5.3
Lewd acts with children.....	123	52	42.3	39	31.7	19	15.4
Other.....	89	31	34.8	34	38.2	15	16.9
Narcotics.....	748	91	12.2	478	63.9	125	16.7
Escape from jail or county camp.....	141	—	—	92	65.2	30	21.3
Habitual criminal.....	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offenses.....	148	27	18.3	57	38.5	36	24.3

TABLE 14B

OFFENSE AND PRIOR COMMITMENT RECORD MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT

1959

Offense	Total	Type of prior commitment					
		No prior		Prior jail or juvenile		One prison	
		Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Total.....	5,426	758	14.0	2,773	51.1	1,004	18.5
Homicide.....	197	71	36.0	85	43.2	25	12.7
Robbery.....	747	156	20.9	410	54.9	107	14.3
Assault.....	133	48	26.2	83	45.4	26	14.2
Burglary.....	1,070	63	5.9	563	52.6	221	20.7
Theft except auto.....	334	39	11.7	120	35.9	70	21.0
Auto theft.....	226	7	3.1	122	54.0	43	19.0
Forgery and checks.....	1,022	108	10.6	475	46.5	201	19.6
Sex offenses.....	344	113	32.9	147	42.7	56	16.3
Rape.....	129	26	27.9	73	56.6	17	13.2
Lewd acts with children.....	142	56	39.4	43	30.3	26	18.3
Other.....	73	21	28.8	31	42.5	13	17.8
Narcotics.....	920	119	12.9	550	59.8	190	20.7
Escape from jail or county camp.....	205	1	0.5	133	64.9	33	16.1
Habitual criminal.....	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offenses.....	173	33	19.1	85	49.1	32	18.5

Only 3.1 percent of the men newly received in 1959 with rape convictions had served a term in a California prison previously. This offense group had the lowest percentage of men with prior California prison terms. Homicide ranked second lowest. These two offense groups also ranked the lowest for men admitted in 1958, but were in reverse order, homicide being the lowest and rape second.

OFFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

About 95 percent of the men admitted to prison were tested for educational achievement while at the reception-guidance center. Of the 4,935 men in 1958 and 5,192 men in 1959 who were tested, the grade score and the offense are simultaneously tabulated to observe the educational level for each of the offense groups. About 60 percent of men committed to prison obtained scores between the third and eighth grade educational levels. Over one-third measured at the ninth through eleventh grade. Few men were illiterate and even fewer measured at the twelfth grade or higher level. The comparisons of those total percentages, and the levels of education in each type of offense are shown in Tables 15A and 15B.

MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT

1959

Offense	Total tested	Grade achievement score							
		Illiterate		Grade 3-8		Grade 9-11		Grade 12 and over	
		Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Total.....	5,192	163	3.1	3,053	58.9	1,960	35.8	116	2.2
Homicide.....	178	11	6.2	118	66.3	43	24.1	6	3.4
Robbery.....	730	22	3.0	415	56.9	281	38.5	12	1.6
Assault.....	172	17	9.9	197	62.2	46	26.7	2	1.2
Burglary.....	1,040	25	2.4	661	63.6	341	32.8	13	1.2
Theft except auto.....	317	10	3.2	174	54.9	120	37.8	13	4.1
Auto theft.....	215	2	0.9	126	58.6	85	39.6	2	0.9
Forgery and checks.....	993	15	1.5	471	47.5	464	46.7	43	4.3
Sex offenses.....	315	15	4.8	196	62.2	96	30.5	8	2.5
Rape.....	121	3	2.5	83	68.6	32	26.4	3	2.5
Lewd acts with children.....	128	6	4.7	78	60.9	39	30.5	5	3.9
Other.....	66	6	9.1	35	53.0	25	37.9	—	—
Narcotics.....	877	35	4.0	558	63.6	271	30.9	13	1.5
Escape from jail or county camp.....	188	6	3.2	123	65.4	57	30.3	2	1.1
Habitual criminal.....	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Other offenses.....	164	5	3.0	101	61.6	56	34.2	2	1.2

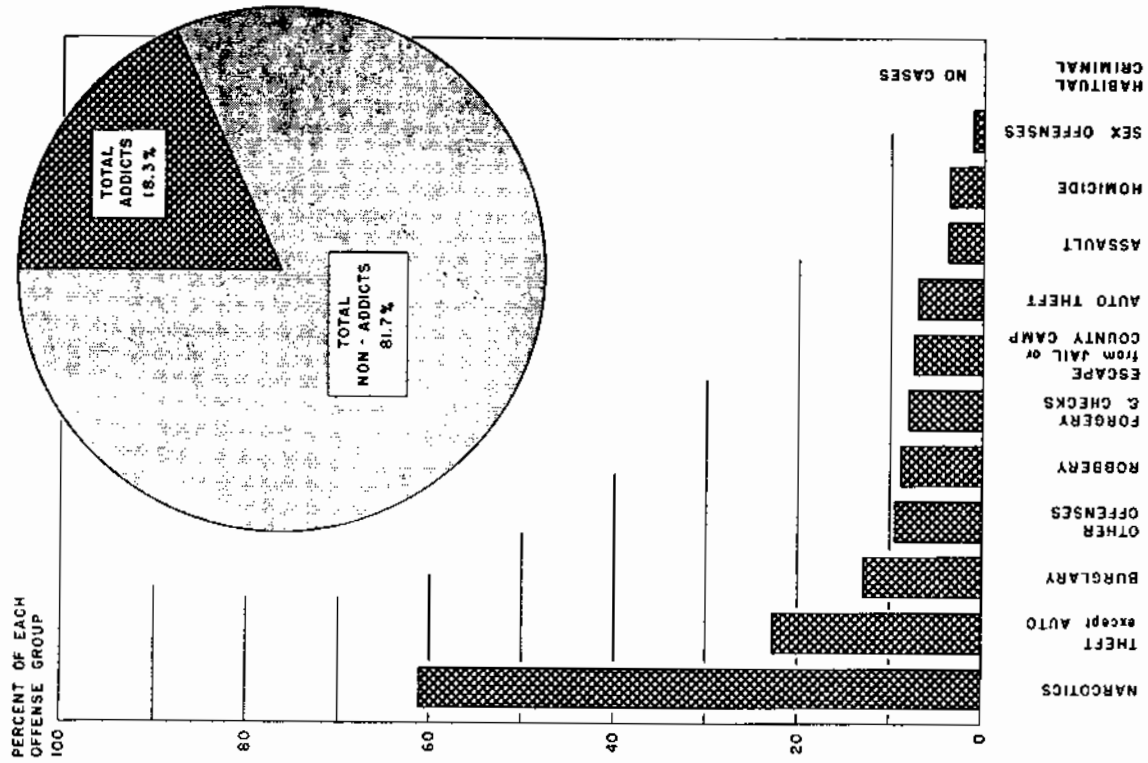
Three out of every five narcotic offenders received in 1959, were narcotic addicts. By contrast, the offense group with the second highest proportion of narcotic addicts was theft except auto, with only 22.8 percent, or about one in every five were addicts. As a further contrast, the violent offenses of assault, homicide, or sex offenses had a small proportion who were narcotic addicts, 3.8 percent, 3.7 percent, and 1.2 percent, respectively. Chart V also shows by the relative height of the bars the proportion of narcotic addicts in each offense group.

The definition of narcotic addict as used in this statistical report is a person who, in the opinion of reception-guidance center clinicians, had used opium or its derivatives, such as heroin, to such a degree that withdrawal symptoms occurred upon discontinuing administration of the drug. Thus, marijuana users are not included in the data as addicts.

TABLE 16
OFFENSE AND NARCOTIC ADDICTION
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1959

Narcotic history	Percent																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
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Narcotic addicts	Total	5,426	197	183	1,070	334	226	1,022	920	205	173	Total																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
													Heroin addicts	Other opiate	Percent	excluding addicts unknown	18.3	3.7	8.7	3.8	12.9	22.8	7.1	7.9	1.2	61.1	9.4																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
																												Total	467	No narcotics	Marijuana only	Total	154	5	147	7	16	15	545	14	1	15																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
																																											Total	983	4	51	4	52	6	19	26	15	80	4	76	16	80	15	70	3	73	15	545	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

CHART V
OFFENSE AND NARCOTIC ADDICTION
MEN PRISONERS RECEIVED FROM COURT
1959



compared with similar information for the prison population on the last day of 1953 and of 1956. These three dates, at three-year intervals, provide a basis for showing what kind of changes or trends have occurred in the last six years, and how much and in what direction the trends have been. As is true of all percentage distributions, when an increase occurs in one factor, some other factor or combination of factors must of necessity decrease, since each of the distributions has been constrained to add to 100.

The California prisons on December 31, 1959, housed a total of 17,080 adult male felons, excluding 13 parolees in the Narcotic Treatment-Control Project clinic, and 801 women felons. These populations have grown from 12,941 men and 447 women as of December 31, 1953, an increase of 32.0 percent and of 79.2 percent, respectively. The men in the reception-guidance centers are not included in the discussion of the characteristics of the resident prison population because information concerning these inmates is not available until after the diagnostic studies are completed by the staff in the centers. On December 31, 1959, there were 1,237 men under study in the reception-guidance centers, and as of December 31, 1953 and 1956, there were 1,292 and 1,114 men, respectively.

OFFENSE

In American culture it is assumed that a person's behavior reveals what sort of an individual he is. Usually this assumption seems workable. The kind of offense for which a person is committed to prison is known, and is an important means of describing that person. Hence, the relative number of inmates in each offense category provides information concerning the composition of the prison population: what it is like and whether it has changed over the past few years.

When an offender is committed to prison, his term is either an indeterminate sentence or a definite sentence of life or death. More persons are admitted each year for the less serious crimes, as crimes against property, than for the more violent felonies, as crimes against other persons. But those who have committed the more serious offenses stay in prison longer. Consequently, the resident population tends to become a residuum of those who have been incarcerated for crimes involving physical violence against persons.

The percentage distribution of offense groups for male felons is shown in Table 17A, for December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959. The offense group with the highest percentage of men in prison is robbery. For all three of the selected years, more men were in prison for robbery than for any other single offense. Approximately one-fifth of the male prison population had been convicted for this offense. The offense group with second highest percentage of men was burglary. But the difference in percentages between these two groups is negligible. The prison population is proportionately made up of almost as many men committed for burglary as for robbery. Together, these two offense groups comprise nearly two-fifths of the inmates. These two offense groups have main-

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION IN PRISON

Summary statistics which describe the characteristics of the resident population in prison are equally important as those which depict the distinctive qualities of those newly received. Both sets of information provide a quantitative basis for a more complete understanding of the correctional picture in California. Inmates who were committed to prison some time ago, differ from persons who have only recently entered prison. Persons convicted for the more serious felonies must serve longer sentences than those admitted for relatively lesser crimes. As a result, when the prison population and those newly received from court are compared, a larger proportion of inmates in the resident population are older persons, and also are persons convicted of crimes involving physical violence.

In this chapter, the distribution of men and of women felons, according to offense, age, ethnic groups, prior commitment record, and parole status are discussed. Then a brief review of offense, age, and ethnic groups of Youth Authority wards completes the account of the population in prison. The selected characteristics of the three groups are not strictly comparable from one group to another. Throughout the administration of criminal justice, the adult male felons, the women felons, and the Youth Authority wards are seen as different groups by society and hence are treated differently. Therefore, any similarities between the groups may not necessarily be due to the same causes, nor are differences clearly attributable to the groups themselves or to the way in which they have been treated. The statistics presented here, as in the preceding chapter, can not be used realistically to claim that crime in general is increasing, or that a particular crime is being committed more often now than a few years ago. The statistical summaries in this report present information regarding a particular status or movement of California prison or parole populations.

The data in this chapter describe the selected characteristics of the resident prison population as of one particular day, the last day of the calendar year. The preceding chapter presented data summarizing the entire calendar year admission to prison of persons newly received from court. The methods of presentation differ between the two chapters because: first, any one movement of prisoners, as admission or as release, usually involves the same individual only once in a year, and second, while the prison population is the result of two continuous processes, total intake and total outgo, most of the inmates are the same individuals in prison day after day and therefore can best be represented by the study of one day in the year.

In this chapter the selected characteristics of resident prison inmates on December 31, 1959, are given as a percentage distribution and are

TABLE 17A
OFFENSE GROUPS
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Offense	1953	1956	1959
Number of men*	11,649	13,038	15,843
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Homicide.....	7.8	7.4	7.2
Robbery.....	20.9	21.2	21.3
Assault.....	3.0	3.4	3.8
Burglary.....	18.9	18.2	17.9
Theft except auto.....	5.0	4.6	3.9
Auto theft.....	3.7	2.8	2.7
Forgery and checks.....	15.6	14.8	13.8
Rape.....	3.3	3.1	3.2
Other sex.....	7.4	6.1	5.3
Narcotics.....	8.5	12.9	15.4
Escape.....	2.0	1.8	2.0
Habitual criminal.....	1.2	1.0	0.8
All other.....	2.7	2.7	2.7

* Excludes those in Reception-Guidance Centers. Total number of men felons in prison on December 31, was 12,941 in 1953, 14,152 in 1956, and 17,080 in 1959. Also excludes 13 men in Narcotic Treatment-Control Project clinic which began in October 1959.

tained their relative rank order with respect to each other during the past six years, although there has been some tendency for robbery to increase relative to the total number of prisoners and for burglary to decrease slightly.

The offense group with the third highest percentage on December 31, 1959, has shown a marked change, however. The proportion of narcotics offenders has increased from 8.5 percent in 1953 to 15.4 percent on December 31, 1959. In 1953, proportionately more men were incarcerated for forgery and checks than for narcotics, but by 1959, the converse was true. Thus, while forgery and checks ranked third and narcotics was fourth as of December 31, 1953, six years later, on December 31, 1959, narcotics was third, forgery and checks was fourth. The homicide group although always in fifth place, was much less than the first four groups, 7.8 percent in 1953 and 7.2 percent in 1959. These first five groups accounted for 71.7 percent of the men in prison on the last day of 1953, and 75.6 percent in 1959.

The distribution of offense groups for the women felons in prison is quite different from the men. The highest percentage offense group is forgery and checks, which accounted for about one-third of all women inmates, each year. The second highest ranking offense group of women in prison has been narcotics for each of the three years presented in Table 17B. The proportion has increased, however, from 15.9 percent, which was about the same as the proportion of those in prison for homicide, in 1953, to 23.5 percent in 1959. Although the rank order of these

three offense groups has not changed, the narcotics percentage has increased and the homicide percentage has decreased. By 1959, there were proportionately more than twice as many women felons in prison for narcotics offenses (23.5 percent) than for homicide (10.1 percent). The theft except auto offense group has ranked fourth highest for each of the three selected years; however, the percentage of women in prison for this offense category has tended to decrease, from 11.6 percent on December 31, 1953, to 9.7 percent at the end of 1959. The fifth highest offense group in rank in 1953, burglary, has decreased proportionately during the six-year period to be replaced by robbery during 1959.

The five proportionately largest offense groups of women accounted for 82.3 percent of all women in prison in 1953, and 84.6 percent as of December 31, 1959. At the end of 1953, the top five offense groups were forgery and checks, narcotics, homicide, theft except auto, and burglary; on the last day of 1959, the top four were unchanged, but robbery replaced burglary in the fifth position.

TABLE 17B
OFFENSE GROUPS
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Offense	1953	1956	1959
Number of women.....	447*	608	801
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Homicide.....	15.2	12.8	10.1
Robbery.....	6.5	4.9	7.5
Assault.....	2.0	3.3	4.0
Burglary.....	6.7	6.1	5.7
Theft except auto.....	11.6	10.2	9.7
Auto theft.....	0.5	0.5	0.4
Forgery and checks.....	32.9	34.1	33.8
Rape.....	0.2	0.3	0.1
Other sex.....	1.1	0.8	0.4
Narcotics.....	15.9	23.0	23.5
Escape.....	3.6	1.7	1.8
Habitual criminal.....	—	—	—
All other.....	3.8	2.3	3.0

* One woman awaiting execution at San Quentin is omitted.

AGE

The number of inmates in prison on a certain day and the offenses for which they are incarcerated are not sufficient for understanding what kind of people are in prison. This section presents another aspect of the prison population, age. The distributions presented in Table 18A and Table 18B, for men and for women felons, depict the proportionate number of inmates in prison according to chronological age at last birthday.

TABLE 18A
AGE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Age	1953	1956	1959
Number of men*	11,649	13,038	15,843
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20.....	0.8	0.7	1.0
20-24.....	16.7	16.6	17.5
25-29.....	25.2	24.4	23.6
30-34.....	17.6	19.8	20.4
35-39.....	12.2	12.6	13.7
40-44.....	9.4	9.0	8.6
45-49.....	7.1	6.4	6.1
50-54.....	4.9	4.5	4.0
55-59.....	2.8	3.0	2.5
60 and over.....	3.3	3.0	2.6
Median age in years.....	32.1	32.1	31.9
Percent under 21.....	2.2	2.0	2.8

* Excludes those in Reception-Guidance Centers. Total number of men felons in prison, on December 31, was 12,911 in 1953, 14,132 in 1956, and 17,080 in 1959. Also excludes 13 men in Narcotic Treatment-Control Project clinic which began in October 1953.

TABLE 18B
AGE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Age	1953	1956	1959
Number of women.....	447*	608	801
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20.....	1.6	1.5	1.6
20-24.....	20.8	16.8	15.6
25-29.....	25.3	21.4	22.1
30-34.....	17.4	24.0	23.1
35-39.....	11.8	13.6	14.6
40-44.....	7.8	8.2	10.0
45-49.....	5.6	5.4	4.9
50-54.....	4.5	3.3	2.8
55-59.....	1.8	3.5	3.1
60 and over.....	3.4	2.3	2.2
Median age in years.....	30.7	32.2	32.3
Percent under 21.....	3.4	3.0	3.2

* One woman awaiting execution at San Quentin is omitted.

slight trend toward younger inmates being in prison in 1959 as compared with six years previous, is the fact that the percentage of inmates in the age ranges of under 20 and 20-24 have increased, while the proportion of those in the age group 25-29 has decreased. The percentage in the 30-39 age group has increased but the percentages in the age groups above 40 have tended to decrease. The percentages of men in prison who are younger than 21, decreased from 2.2 percent in 1953, to 2.0 percent at the end of 1956. However, on the last day of 1959, 2.8 percent of all inmates were under 21 years of age. This inconsistency of the percentage below 21, in addition to the reversal of the trend as shown by a decrease in the percentage of those in the 25-29 year old age group, tends to obscure any general downward shift in age of the male prison population.

The distribution of the women inmates according to age is given in Table 18B. There is one aspect of the distribution of age groups for the women which shows a marked difference from the age distributions of the men, and one which shows the same pattern. First, the median age of women has tended to increase. In 1953, the median age of women inmates was 30.7 years (less than the median age of men inmates), in 1956 the median age for the women was 32.2 years, and by the end of 1959 the women's median age was 32.3 years (slightly older than the men's median age of 31.9 years). Second, the distribution of age groups for the women has shown a marked tendency for the most numerous group in 1953, the 25-29 year olds, to comprise a smaller and smaller proportion of the total number of women in prison, while the 30-34 year old age group has tended to increase.

ETHNIC GROUPS

Most of the adult male felons in prison on December 31, 1959, were of the white racial group, although the percentage had declined from 62.7 percent to 58.3 percent of the total prison population during the last six years. At the same time, the percentage of those in prison who were Negro had increased from 19.9 percent to 22.6 percent, and those of Mexican descent increased slightly, from 15.1 percent on December 31, 1953, to 16.8 percent on December 31, 1959. As in the previous chapter, these three major groupings do not refer to country of citizenship, but to categories designating the ethnic origins which distinguish the inmates into disparate groups. Table 19A shows the total number of male felons residing in California prisons and the percentage in each ethnic group, as of December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959.

Ethnic data for the women in prison on December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959, are given in Table 19B. In this population also, there has been a slight decrease in the percentage of the white group in prison and an increase in the Negro group. The proportion of women inmates of Mexican descent was only 4.4 percent as of December 31, 1959, which was less than at the end of either 1953 or 1956.

According to the data shown in Table 18A, the percentage distribution for the age groups of male inmates has tended to shift somewhat since 1953, but the median age, 32.1 years as of the last day of 1953 and 31.9 years by the end of 1959, is practically the same. Indicative of a

TABLE 19A

ETHNIC GROUPS
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Ethnic groups	1953	1956	1959
Number of men*	11,649	13,038	15,843
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	62.7	59.8	58.3
Mexican descent	15.1	16.6	16.8
Negro	19.9	21.3	22.6
Other	2.3	2.3	2.3

* Excludes those in Reception-Guidance Centers. Total number of men felons in prison on December 31, was 12,941 in 1953, 14,152 in 1956, and 17,080 in 1959. Also excludes 13 men in Narcotic Treatment-Control Project clinic which began in October 1959.

TABLE 19B

ETHNIC GROUPS
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Ethnic groups	1953	1956	1959
Number of women	447*	608	801
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	65.6	63.3	62.5
Mexican descent	5.4	6.1	4.4
Negro	25.7	28.6	29.5
Other	3.3	2.0	3.6

* One woman awaiting execution at San Quentin is omitted.

PRIOR COMMITMENT RECORD

About one-half of the men in prison have served at least one prison term prior to the present incarceration. Table 20A presents the distribution of male felons with respect to their records of prior commitment. The percentage of those who have had one or more prior prison commitments has not changed systematically according to the data presented in the table. However, those without a prior commitment of any kind have tended to become proportionately fewer, while those with a prior jail or juvenile commitment record have increased relative to the total number of men in prison.

On December 31, 1953, 16.4 percent of the 11,649 male inmates had had no prior commitment history. Three years later, the percentage had decreased to 13.4 percent, and by the end of 1959, 12.0 percent of the 15,843 men inmates were experiencing their first confinement for a criminal offense. At the same time, those men with a prior jail or juvenile commitment history had increased from 34.5 percent of

TABLE 20A

PRIOR COMMITMENT RECORD
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Type of prior commitment	1953	1956	1959
Number of men*	11,649	13,038	15,843
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
No prior commitment	16.4	13.4	12.0
Prior jail or juvenile only	34.5	32.7	39.1
Prior prison commitment	49.1	53.9	48.9
One prison	25.3	27.6	25.5
Two prison	12.8	13.5	11.9
Three prison	6.4	7.0	5.9
Four or more prison	4.6	5.8	5.6

* Excludes those in Reception-Guidance Centers. Total number of men felons in prison on December 31, was 12,941 in 1953, 14,152 in 1956, and 17,080 in 1959. Also excludes 13 men in Narcotic Treatment-Control Project clinic which began in October 1959.

the men in prison on December 31, 1953, to 39.1 percent on the last day of 1959. This increase has not been constant over the six-year period, however. On December 31, 1956, slightly less than one-third of the men in prison had had a prior jail or juvenile sentence, but the proportion with prior prison confinement was higher on that date. Thus, an increase has occurred during the past six years in the proportion of prison inmates with a history of earlier confinement for criminal offenses.

For the three periods shown in this section, the percentage of men with each type of prior commitment history increased as the severity of earlier confinement increased. But when those with prior prison commitments are studied, the percentage of men decreased as the number of previous prison commitments increases. The uniformity of these relationships over the years is shown in Chart VI-A, which pictorially describes the proportion of male inmates with the three principal types of prior commitment record.

The percentage distribution of women felons in prison as of December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959, arrayed according to prior commitment record, presents an entirely different picture from that of the men. About one-third of the women in prison had no commitment history prior to the current admission to prison. There has been a decrease in the proportion in this group with no previous commitment history during the six years, from 36 percent in 1953 to 31 percent at the close of 1959, Table 20B.

The proportion of women who had served jail or juvenile sentences prior to the present incarceration was the highest of the three types of prior commitment history, but the percentage has varied greatly during the six years. On December 31, 1953, 42.5 percent of the women in prison had previously been confined under a jail or juvenile sen-

CHART VI-A
PRIOR COMMITMENT RECORD
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MEN FELONS IN PRISON
DECEMBER 31, 1953, 1956, AND 1959

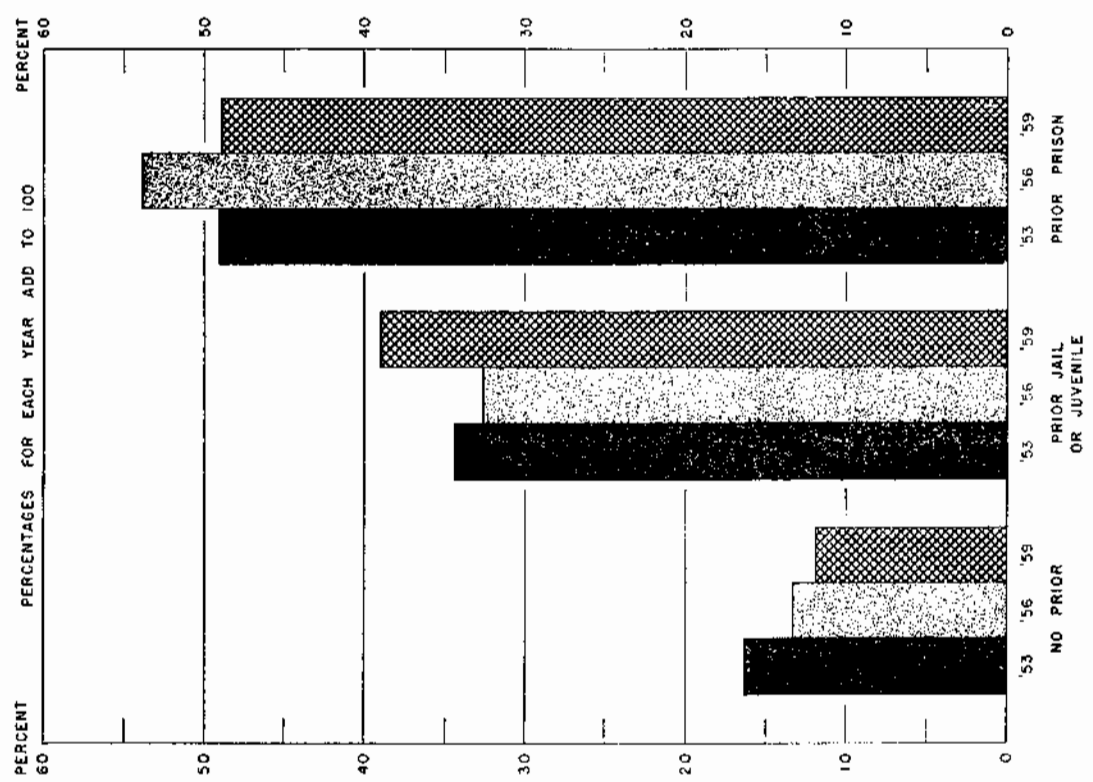


TABLE 20B

PRIOR COMMITMENT RECORD
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Type of prior commitment	1953	1956	1959
Number of women	447*	608	801
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
No prior commitment	36.0	34.2	31.0
Prior jail or juvenile only	42.5	36.0	46.3
Prior prison commitment	21.5	29.8	22.7
One prison	16.3	20.7	16.4
Two prison	3.6	5.3	4.1
Three prison	0.7	2.5	1.1
Four or more prison	0.9	1.3	1.1

* One woman awaiting execution at San Quentin is omitted.

tence, in 1956 the percentage had decreased to 36.0 percent, and by the end of 1959, it had increased to 46.3 percent.

Women in prison who had served prison sentences before the present incarceration made up 21.5 percent of the population in 1953. The proportion in this category increased to 29.8 percent of the population in 1956, and then decreased to 22.7 percent in 1959. Approximately seven of every ten women who had had prior prison commitments had served only one prison sentence previously. The proportions of the three groups of prior commitment history by the three years are shown graphically in Chart VI-B.

STATUS WITH REFERENCE TO PAROLE

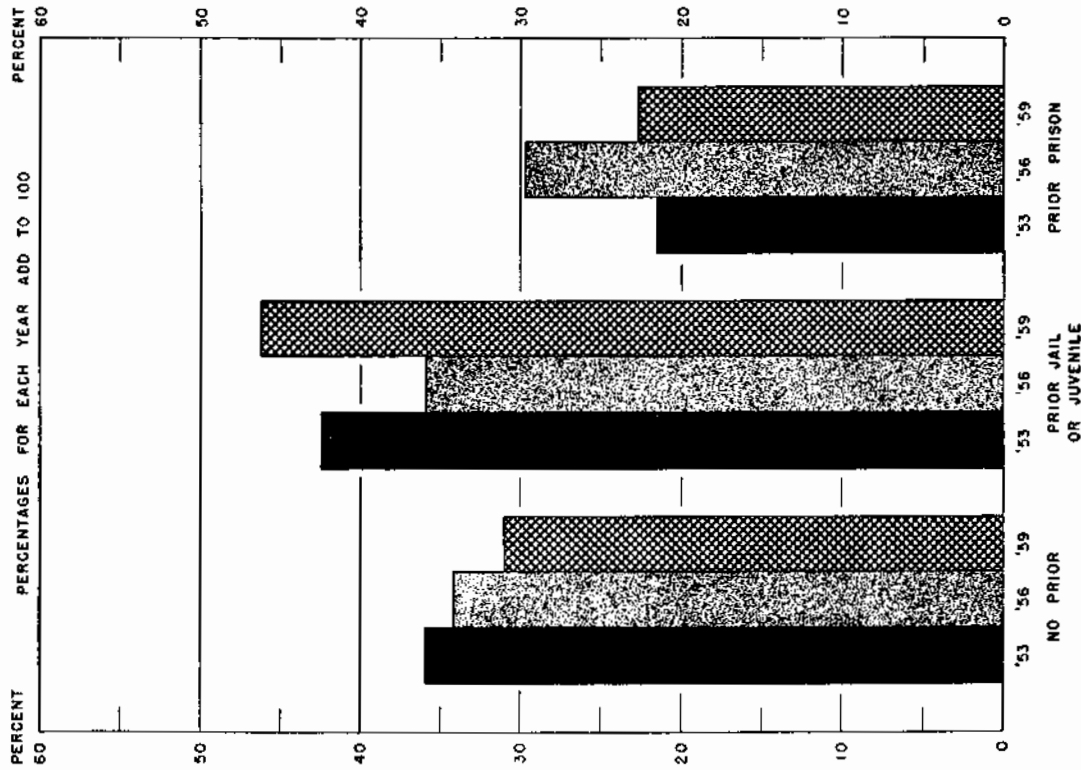
Over three-fourths of the men in prison as of December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959, had never been on parole since being committed to prison, Table 21A. During the six-year period represented, however,

TABLE 21A
STATUS WITH REFERENCE TO PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Status with reference to parole	1953	1956	1959
Number of men*	11,640	13,038	15,843
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not paroled since commitment	80.2	77.8	76.0
Paroled and returned once as violator	15.6	18.0	18.9
Paroled and returned twice as violator	3.6	3.5	4.2
Paroled and returned three times or more as violator	0.6	0.7	0.9

* Excludes those in Reception-Guidance Centers. Total number of men felons in prison on December 31, was 12,941 in 1953, 14,152 in 1956, and 17,080 in 1959. Also excludes 13 men in Narcotic Treatment-Central Project clinic which began in October 1959.

CHART VI-B
PRIOR COMMITMENT RECORD
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN FELONS IN PRISON
DECEMBER 31, 1953, 1956, AND 1959



there was a tendency for the prison population to be comprised of a larger percentage of men returned to prison from parole, and a concomitant decrease in the proportion of inmates who had not been paroled since commitment. The change has been small. Since 1953, the percentage of male inmates who had been returned to prison from parole has increased from 19.8 percent on December 31, 1953, to 24.0 percent on December 31, 1959, a difference of only 4.2 percentage points.

The resident population of women inmates has shown a marked trend toward a decrease in the percentage of those who have not been paroled since commitment. On December 31, 1953, 84.1 percent of the women in prison had not been paroled, but on December 31, 1959, 71.9 percent had not been on parole since first admission, a difference of 12.2 percentage points. As a consequence, the women inmates who had been returned to prison from parole, increased from 15.9 percent to 28.1 percent of all women in prison. Table 21B depicts these changes in the status with reference to parole of the women resident population for December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959.

TABLE 21B
STATUS WITH REFERENCE TO PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Status with reference to parole	1953	1956	1959
Number of women.....	447*	608	801
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not paroled since commitment.....	84.1	80.4	71.9
Paroled and returned once as violator.....	12.1	12.3	20.3
Paroled and returned twice as violator.....	2.7	5.3	5.0
Paroled and returned three times or more as violator.....	1.1	2.0	2.8

* One woman awaiting execution at San Quentin is omitted.

YOUTH AUTHORITY WARDS

By mutual agreement with the Youth Authority, and in accordance with permissive statutes of California law, the Department of Corrections provides care and treatment for some of the older Youth Authority wards. The cooperation of the two departments ensures the greatest likelihood for the rehabilitation of youthful offenders and optimal protection for society at the same time. On December 31, 1958, the Youth Authority population in Department of Corrections institutions was 1,161, all of whom were boys. One year later, this population had increased by 197, or 17.0 percent, to 1,358. Seven of the 1,358 wards were girls at the California Institution for Women on December 31, 1959. The Deuel Vocational Institution housed about two-thirds of the Youth Authority male wards in the Department of Corrections at the end of both 1958 and 1959.

The characteristics of the Youth Authority boys in Department of Corrections institutions on December 31, 1958 and 1959, are shown in Table 22 with respect to offense, ethnic groups, and age. Most of these boys had been confined for burglary, with over 25 percent of these wards in both years in this offense group. Robbery was the second largest group, followed by theft except auto, and then narcotics. These four offense groups accounted for a smaller proportion of the popula-

tion at the end of 1959, (68.2 percent) than at the close of 1958, (73.2 percent).

On December 31, 1959, 58.5 percent of the Youth Authority wards in Department of Corrections were of the white ethnic group, 20 percent were Negro, and another 20 percent were of Mexican descent. Approximately 95 percent of the boys were 18 through 21 years of age, with the median age being 19.8 years.

TABLE 22
CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH AUTHORITY BOYS IN
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS INSTITUTIONS
December 31, 1958 and 1959

Characteristics	1958		1959	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Offense.....	977 ^a	100.0	1,140 ^a	100.0
Homicide.....	11	1.1	12	1.1
Robbery.....	207	21.2	209	18.3
Assault.....	38	3.9	65	5.7
Burglary.....	268	27.4	291	25.5
Theft except auto.....	74	7.6	68	6.0
Auto theft.....	142	14.5	181	15.9
Forgery and checks.....	44	4.5	62	5.4
Rape.....	40	4.1	32	4.6
Other sex.....	7	0.7	21	1.8
Narcotics.....	98	10.0	97	8.5
All other.....	48	4.9	82	7.2
Ethnic groups.....	937 ^{a, b}	100.0	1,009 ^{c, d}	100.0
White.....	520	55.5	590	58.5
Mexican descent.....	198	21.1	202	20.0
Negro.....	189	20.2	202	20.0
Other.....	30	3.2	15	1.5
Age in years.....	977 ^a	100.0	1,140 ^a	100.0
16.....	1	0.1	3	0.3
17.....	24	2.5	33	2.9
18.....	179	18.3	233	20.4
19.....	380	38.9	393	34.5
20.....	264	27.0	313	27.5
21.....	117	12.0	142	12.4
22.....	9	0.9	15	1.3
23.....	1	0.1	3	0.3
24.....	2	0.2	5	0.4
Median age in years.....	19.7		19.8	

^a Excludes boys in Reception-Guidance Center at Penal Vocational Institution. Of the 977 boys, 155 were juvenile court cases, 822 were criminal court cases.

^b Excludes 10 boys for whom there was no information on ethnic groups.

^c Excludes boys in Reception-Guidance Centers at Penal Vocational Institution and at California Institution for Men. Of the 1,140 boys, 139 were juvenile court cases, and 1,001 were criminal court cases.

^d Excludes 131 boys for whom there was no information on ethnic groups.

TABLE 23A
METHOD OF RELEASE
MALE PRISONERS RELEASED FROM PRISON
1958 and 1959

Method of release	1958		1959	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	4,708	100.0	7,145	100.0
Parole.....	3,739	79.4	5,751	80.5
Expiration of sentence.....	927	19.7	1,324	18.5
Death or execution.....	42	0.9	70	1.0
First release.....	3,670	100.0	5,417	100.0
Parole.....	3,088	84.1	4,637	85.6
Expiration of sentence.....	551	15.0	722	13.3
Death or execution.....	31	0.9	58	1.1
Re-release.....	1,038	—	1,728	—
After return with new commitment.....	555	100.0	836	100.0
Parole.....	457	82.3	685	81.9
Expiration of sentence.....	91	16.4	147	17.6
Death or execution.....	7	1.3	4	0.5
After return without new commitment.....	483	100.0	882	100.0
Parole.....	194	40.2	429	48.1
Expiration of sentence.....	285	59.0	455	51.0
Death or execution.....	4	0.8	8	0.9

TABLE 23B
METHOD OF RELEASE
WOMEN PRISONERS RELEASED FROM PRISON
1958 and 1959

Method of release	1958		1959	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	329	100.0	384	100.0
Parole.....	320	97.3	359	93.5
Expiration of sentence.....	6	1.8	21	5.5
Death or execution.....	3	0.9	4	1.0
First release.....	254	100.0	260	100.0
Parole.....	251	98.8	253	97.3
Expiration of sentence.....	1	0.4	4	1.5
Death or execution.....	2	0.8	3	1.2
Re-release.....	75	—	124	—
After return with new commitment.....	25	100.0	21	100.0
Parole.....	25	100.0	20	95.2
Expiration of sentence.....	—	—	—	—
Death or execution.....	—	—	1	4.8
After return without new commitment.....	50	100.0	103	100.0
Parole.....	44	88.0	86	83.5
Expiration of sentence.....	5	10.0	17	16.5
Death or execution.....	1	2.0	—	—

PRISONERS RELEASED

From the time of commitment to prison by the superior court, the prisoner looks forward to the day of his release from the institution. The minimum and the maximum limits of a felon's sentence are determined by the offense or offenses for which he is convicted. California has an indeterminate sentence law for most offense categories. Only a few offenses carry a death penalty or a life sentence without possibility of parole. Other statutory provisions may cause an aggravation of the minimum term attributed to a particular offense. The stipulations in the commitment which increase or aggravate the length of stay in prison are the possession or use of a deadly weapon, a prior felony conviction, or one or more consecutive sentences.

Within the statutory provisions of California law, the Adult Authority determines for the adult male felons the length of time each inmate must serve for his offense. The amount of time served in prison and on parole before discharge is fixed after a personal interview with each inmate and after study of his case history and his prison adjustment. This Board also has the responsibility of returning to prison a person who violates his parole and to re-release him again when he has made sufficient progress toward social adjustment. The Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women serves an identical function for the adult women felons.

In the study of time served in prison before release, it is very important that those released for the first time be considered separately from those who are re-released after return from parole either with a new commitment or without a new commitment. The amount of time served by a person after return to prison from parole can not be allotted as to how much of the incarceration is attributable to the original offense and how much to the criminal behavior while on parole.

METHOD OF RELEASE

Parole, discharge, death, and execution are the statistically important methods of release from prison. Usually, most prisoners leave prison by being released to parole for supervision while finishing their sentences outside the walls of prison, rather than being discharged from prison at the expiration of sentence. Table 3 showed that the number of inmates, both men and women, released to parole was greater than the number of those released by discharge from prison. The same data regarding the type of release presented previously in Table 3 are repeated with further classifications in Table 23A for the men, and in Table 23B for the women.

Although more male felons were released from California prisons in 1959 than in 1958, approximately 80 percent of all the men released

in each year have been paroled, Table 23A. A slightly higher proportion of men released were discharged from prison at expiration of sentence in 1958 than in 1959, 19.7 percent and 18.5 percent, respectively. The proportion of male felons released from prison by death or execution was virtually the same in 1959 as in 1958, 1.0 percent and 0.9 percent.

When the method of release is further subdivided into first release, re-release after return to prison with a new commitment, and re-release after return to prison without a new commitment, the proportion of prisoners released by parole, discharge, and death or execution varies markedly. About 85 percent of the men who were released for the first time during 1958 and during 1959 were placed on parole. Of those men who were re-released, the proportion who had been returned with a new commitment and then placed on parole was more nearly like that of those first released than was the proportion of men re-paroled after return without a new commitment. In the latter case, most of the men re-released from prison were by discharge at expiration of sentence, 59.0 percent in 1958 and 51.0 percent in 1959. The proportion of men released in 1959 by the three methods is portrayed graphically in Chart VII-A.

The proportion of women released to parole supervision in 1958 and 1959 was much higher than that of the men. Almost all of the women released in 1958 were paroled (97.3 percent), while in 1959 a slightly lesser proportion was paroled (93.5 percent), Table 23B. The drop in the percentage paroled in 1959 was offset by an increase in the proportion discharged from prison at expiration of sentence, 5.5 percent in 1959 as compared to 1.8 percent in 1958.

This increase in the proportion of women discharged from prison in 1959 occurred chiefly in the proportion released at expiration of sentence after return to prison from parole without a new commitment. The method of release for the women as shown by the data in Table 23B are graphically portrayed in Chart VII-B.

PAROLE

More men and women were placed under parole supervision in California in 1959 than ever before in the history of this State. In a study of the length of time served in prison by the persons paroled it is necessary to consider them in two separate categories, those paroled for the first time after original commitment and those re-paroled after return to prison from parole. Of the latter group, classification must be made between those re-paroled after return to prison with a new commitment and those re-paroled after return to prison without a new commitment. The time served in prison before first parole is related to the offense or offenses for which a person is committed to prison. A summary of such data gives a general pattern of time served as related to offense and recidivism. The amount of time served in prison before release by a person returned to prison from parole because his behavior on parole

CHART VII-A
METHOD OF RELEASE
MEN PRISONERS RELEASED FROM PRISON
1959

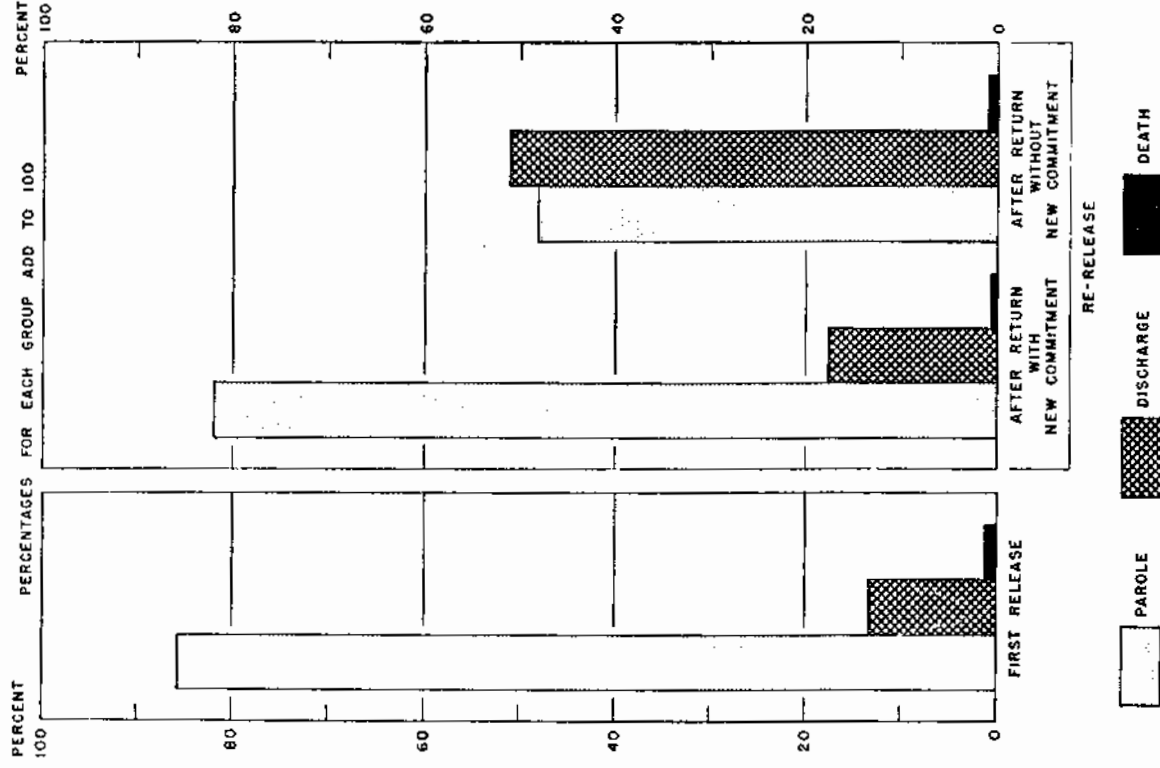
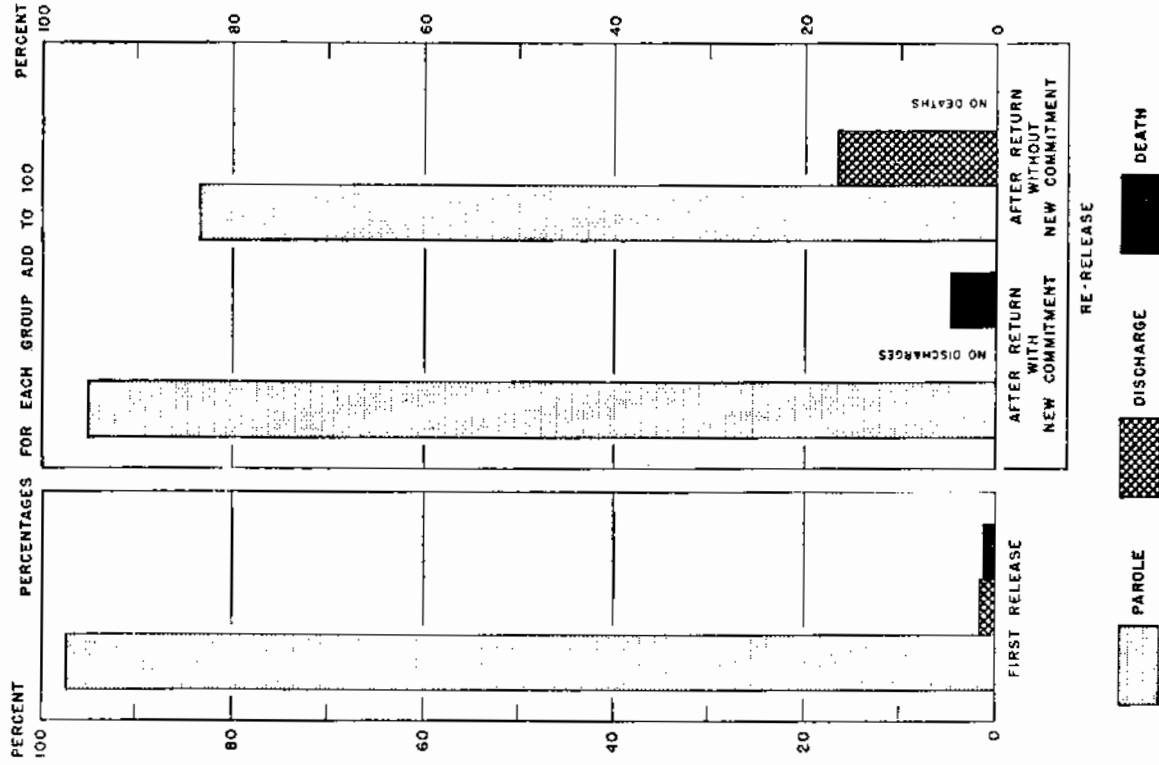


CHART VII-B
METHOD OF RELEASE
WOMEN PRISONERS RELEASED FROM PRISON
1959



was not satisfactory, may be influenced not only by the offense committed while on parole, but also by the original commitment. Since the amount of time served which is attributable to the original offense can not be separated from the amount of time served attributable to the offense committed on parole, the time served by those re-paroled is not classified by offense groups.

The median time served in prison by male offenders prior to being placed on parole during each year since 1950, is given by the three types of parole in Table 24A. The median time served in months before

TABLE 24A
TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON
BEFORE LAST PAROLE BY YEAR
MALE PRISONERS PAROLED
1950 through 1959

Year	First parole		Reparoled after return to prison			
			With new commitment		Without new commitment	
	Number	Median time served in months	Number	Median time served in months	Number	Median time served in months
1950.....	1,987	27	149	39	194	16
1951.....	2,282	30	178	42	186	13
1952.....	2,185	30	187	45	123	16
1953.....	2,717	30	299	42	165	18
1954.....	2,874	30	251	44	147	20
1955.....	2,975	30	295	45	149	17
1956.....	3,557	29	416	39	144	17
1957.....	3,253	30	448	39	148	19
1958.....	3,088	27	457	38	194	18
1959.....	4,637	24	685	33	429	17

first parole was relatively uniform over the years in comparison to the median time served before reparole for both those returned with a new commitment and those returned without a new commitment. For six of the last ten years, the median time served before first parole was 30 months. But for the last two years, 1958 and 1959, the median decreased three months to 27 months in 1958, and then again decreased three months to 24 months in 1959.

The median time served for those re-paroled after return to prison with a new commitment varied from 45 months in 1952 and in 1955, to 33 months in 1959. For those re-paroled after return without a new commitment, the median time served prior to re-release from prison to parole supervision fluctuated from 13 months in 1951 up to 20 months in 1954, a difference of seven months. The median time served by this group has decreased one month each year since 1957. For each of the three categories of release to parole, the median time served before

release was less in 1959 than in 1958. These relationships are portrayed in graphic form in Chart VIII.

For the women, the type of parole and the median time served in prison before last parole are presented for each of the last 10 years, 1950 through 1959, in Table 24B. The median time served prior to release to first parole varied only three months, from a high of 26 months in 1950, 1951, and 1952, to a low of 23 months in 1954, during the last decade. The median time served has been 24 months for five of the last 10 years, including 1958 and 1959. The median number of months served by the women before repaole after return without a new commitment has ranged from a low of 13 months in 1954 and 1956 to a high of 17 months in 1957. This median was 13.5 months for those repaored in 1959. The number of women returned to prison with a new commitment has been so small that the number repaored each year has only been as high as 25 cases once in 10 years (1958), therefore the median time served is not shown for this repaored group.

TABLE 24B
TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON
BEFORE LAST PAROLE BY YEAR
WOMEN PRISONERS PAROLED
1950 through 1959
Medians Computed Only for 25 or More Cases

Year	First parole		Repaored after return to prison			
			With new commitment		Without new commitment	
	Number	Median time served in months	Number	Median time served in months	Number	Median time served in months
1950.....	128	26	4	—	31	14
1951.....	82	26	3	—	30	14
1952.....	156	26	4	—	18	—
1953.....	163	24	13	—	24	—
1954.....	148	23	9	—	33	13
1955.....	187	24	9	—	34	14
1956.....	195	25	18	—	62	13
1957.....	182	24	15	—	47	17
1958.....	251	24	25	29	44	14
1959.....	253	24	20	—	86	13.5

FIRST PAROLE

There were 3,088 male felons released from prison to parole supervision for the first time during 1958, and 4,637 during 1959. The length of time served by these men is given in Table 25A, for offense groups with more than 25 men. For all offenses, including those not shown separately in Table 25A, the median time served by men first released

CHART VIII
TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED
IN PRISON BEFORE LAST PAROLE
MEN PRISONERS PAROLED
1950 - 1959

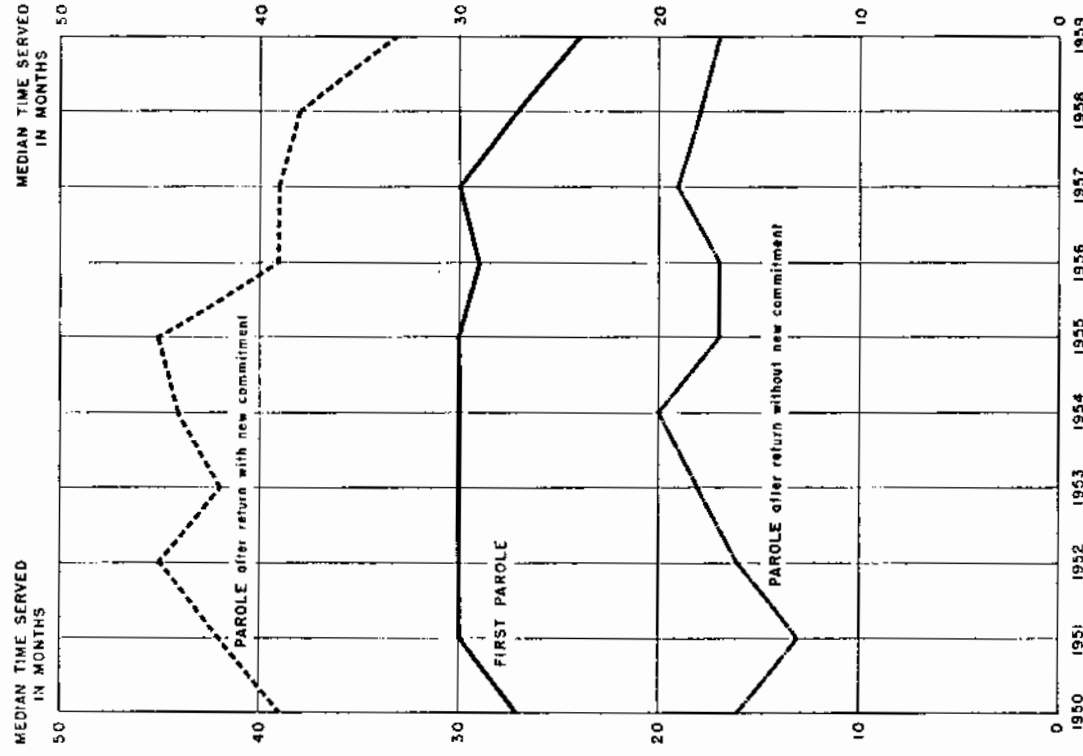


TABLE 25A
OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON
MALE PRISONERS PAROLED FOR THE FIRST TIME
1958 and 1959

Only Offense Groups With More Than 25 Cases Are Shown *

Selected offenses	1958			1959		
	Time served in months			Time served in months		
	Number	Median	Range of middle 80%	Number	Median	Range of middle 80%
All offenses**	3,088	27	15-51	4,637	24	12-49
Murder 1st.....	21	144	108-169	32	136.5	101-183
Murder 2nd.....	23	48	39-123	48	72	51-120
Manslaughter.....	32	31	18-50	57	36	24-68
Robbery 1st.....	336	36	26-60	450	40	27-72
Robbery 2nd.....	149	27	18-48	170	24	15-46
Attempted robbery.....	18	—	—	26	30	12-60
Assault with deadly weapon.....	78	30	18-60	117	29	15-55
Burglary 1st.....	69	36	24-61	80	36	24-68
Burglary 2nd.....	509	24	15-45	822	23	12-38
Attempted burglary 2nd.....	11	—	—	27	18	12-33
Grand theft except auto.....	149	23	13-36	185	23	12-36
Petty theft with prior.....	32	17	15-38	71	15	9-25
Auto theft.....	131	24	12-39	191	18	11-30
Forgery and checks.....	601	24	12-36	1,006	18	11-32
Rape.....	62	36	15-69	69	35	14-63
Lewd acts with children.....	123	45.5	24-96	139	37	24-91
Narcotics.....	503	28	18-48	736	28	15-46
Escape from jail.....	29	12	9-30	74	9	6-24
Escape from prison.....	17	—	—	25	47	28-63

* Murder 1st and murder 2nd shown for 1958, because in prior years and in 1959 the number of cases is greater than 25.

** Includes offenses not shown.

from prison to parole during 1958 was 27 months and during 1959 it decreased to 24 months. The range of the middle 80 percent of the cases dropped three months at its lower level from 15 to 12 months, and decreased two months at the upper level, 51 to 49 months. If each of the major offense groups is studied separately, a more accurate description of the amount of time served by the men before parole is obtained because time served is closely related to the type of offense. The median time served by those convicted of murder first was 144 months before release to parole in 1958, and 136.5 months before release to parole in 1959, a decrease of 7.5 months. On the other hand, the range of the middle 80 percent of the cases in the murder first category increased. The upper limit was 169 months during 1958, which increased to 193 months during 1959. The lower limit was 108 months in 1958 and 101

months in 1959, a middle 80 percent range of 61 months in 1958 and 92 months in 1959. As expected, persons convicted of murder first with a life sentence spend more time in prison than any other offense group.

For those incarcerated for murder second the median length of time in prison before first parole was, 48 months for those first paroled in 1958, and 72 months in 1959, an increase of two years. The middle 80 percent range of time served in prison by the murder second offenders was from 39 to 123 months for males first paroled in 1958 and from 51 to 120 months in 1959. Only these two offense groups exhibited such a great degree of fluctuation between data for 1958 and data for 1959. So few men in these two offense groups were paroled each year that the numbers of cases upon which the time served computation was based were too small to provide stable measurements.

In general, men convicted of the more serious offenses against person such as murder, robbery, or lewd acts with children, served more time in prison before release than those convicted of the less serious felonies such as crimes against property. The amount of time served by men convicted of robbery first was greater for those first paroled in 1959 than for those paroled in 1958. The median rose from 36 months in 1958 to 40 months in 1959. Of the 16 offense groups in Table 25A, for which the time served before first parole in 1958 and in 1959 are available, the three offenses which had the same median in both years were burglary first, 36 months, grand theft except auto, 23 months, and narcotics, 28 months.

The women who were paroled for the first time served a median of 24 months in prison before parole in both 1958 or in 1959. The women in two offense categories made up 63 percent of those first paroled each year. These two offense groups were forgery and checks, and narcotics, and were the only two offense groups in which there were more than

TABLE 25B
OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON
WOMEN PRISONERS PAROLED FOR THE FIRST TIME
1958 and 1959

Only Offense Groups With More Than 25 Cases Are Shown

Selected offenses	1958			1959		
	Time served in months			Time served in months		
	Number	Median	Range of middle 80%	Number	Median	Range of middle 80%
All offenses*	251	24	17-35	253	24	13-33.5
Forgery and checks.....	95	23	16-33	81	20	12-28
Narcotics.....	64	24.5	16-31	79	25	14-36

* Includes offenses not shown.

25 women paroled, Table 25B. The median time served by the forgers and checkwriters before first parole in 1959 was three months less than in 1958, 20 months and 23 months respectively. The time served range of the middle 80 percent of the cases reflected the decrease also. Women convicted of narcotics offenses who were first paroled in 1959 served slightly more time in prison before parole than did those paroled in 1958. The median for those first paroled in 1958 was 24.5 months and in 1959 was 25 months. In 1959 the time served range of the middle 80 percent of the narcotics offenders was both lower at the bottom and higher at the top than the middle 80 percent range in 1958, 14-36 months in 1959 and 16-31 months in 1958.

REPAROLE

A parolee whose behavior while on parole is not satisfactory to the term setting and paroling board, may be returned to prison. Violations of a more serious nature may involve a return to prison with a new commitment by the superior court. Misbehavior of a technical nature by a parolee may result in his return to prison without a new commitment. The prisoner being returned to prison may be released by the parole board to parole supervision again after a period of time. The status at the time of return to prison with respect to whether or not the inmate had a new commitment, the median time served in prison before reparole, and the range of the time served by the middle 80 percent of the cases are given in Table 26 for men reparoled during 1958 and during 1959.

Male felons who were returned to prison with a new commitment and who were subsequently reparoled in 1958 or in 1959, spent more time in prison before reparole than did either those paroled for the first time or those reparoled after return without a new commitment.

TABLE 26
STATUS AT RETURN FROM PAROLE AND TIME SERVED
IN PRISON BEFORE REPAREOLE
MALE PRISONERS REPAREOLED
1958 and 1959

Status at return from parole	1958			1959		
	Number	Time served in months		Number	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%
Total.....	651	—	—	1,114	—	—
With new commitment.....	457	38	24-61	685	33	23-63
Without new commitment.....	194	18	13-40	429	17	10-41

The parolees returned to prison with a new commitment served a median time of 38 months in prison before reparole in 1958, and 33 months before reparole in 1959, or five months less. Those reparoled in 1959 after return with a new commitment had a median time served (33 months) nine months higher than those paroled for the first time (24 months) in the same year. The men reparoled in 1959 after return without a new commitment served a median time of 17 months, which was one month less than the median of a similar group released in 1958.

DISCHARGE FROM PRISON AT EXPIRATION OF SENTENCE

The total number of adult male felons discharged from prison in 1959 was 1,324 and in 1958 was 927. In order to study the amount of time these men spent in prison before discharge by expiration of sentence they must be considered in two groups, i.e., those who had never been on parole and were released from prison for the first time, and those who had been on parole previously, were returned to prison from parole either with or without a new commitment, and were then discharged at expiration of sentence. Also, as was done in the previous section, those men who were re-released after return to prison with a new commitment and those returned without a new felony offense must be classified separately for further consideration.

The adult male felons who were released from prison for the first time by discharge at expiration of sentence numbered 551 in 1958, and 722 in 1959. The median time spent in prison was 24 months for those discharged in 1958 and in 1959. The time served range of the middle 80 percent of the cases was identical for both years also, 10 to 60 months. The number of inmates first released by discharge, the median time served, and the range of time which the middle 80 percent of the cases spent in prison before discharge, distributed according to the several offense groups, are shown in Table 27.

For those released in 1959 as compared with 1958, the median time served before discharge decreased for three offense groups, petty theft with prior, forgery and checks, and narcotics. For two offense groups it increased, burglary 2nd, and grand theft except auto. Auto theft and escape from jail offense groups remained the same. By arranging median time served in descending order, Chart IX pictorially displays the relationship between offense and median time served by the men first released by discharge in 1958 and in 1959. As can be seen, the difference between the median time served before release in 1958 and in 1959 for the same offense is not as great as are the differences in medians among different offense groups in the same year.

Time served statistics and status at time of return from parole are shown in Table 28 for the men who were re-released from prison by discharge at expiration of sentence, during 1958 and during 1959. These inmates are classified into two groups, those who were returned to prison from parole with a new commitment and those who were returned to prison without a new commitment. Male felons discharged

TABLE 27
OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON
MALE PRISONERS FIRST RELEASED FROM PRISON BY DISCHARGE
AT EXPIRATION OF SENTENCE
1958 and 1959
Only Offense Groups With More Than 25 Cases Are Shown

Selected offenses	1958			1959		
	Number	Time served in months		Number	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%
All offenses*	551	24	10-60	722	24	10-60
Burglary 2nd.....	74	32	12-60	128	32.5	15-60
Grand theft except auto.....	34	24	12-45	34	29.5	12-48
Auto theft.....	50	24	12-43	69	24	12-46
Petty theft with prior.....	49	24	12-42	66	17.5	12-80
Forgery and checks.....	115	27	12-48	167	24	12-54
Narcotics.....	27	48	16-72	29	45	24-66
Escape from jail.....	86	9	6-15	101	9	6-21

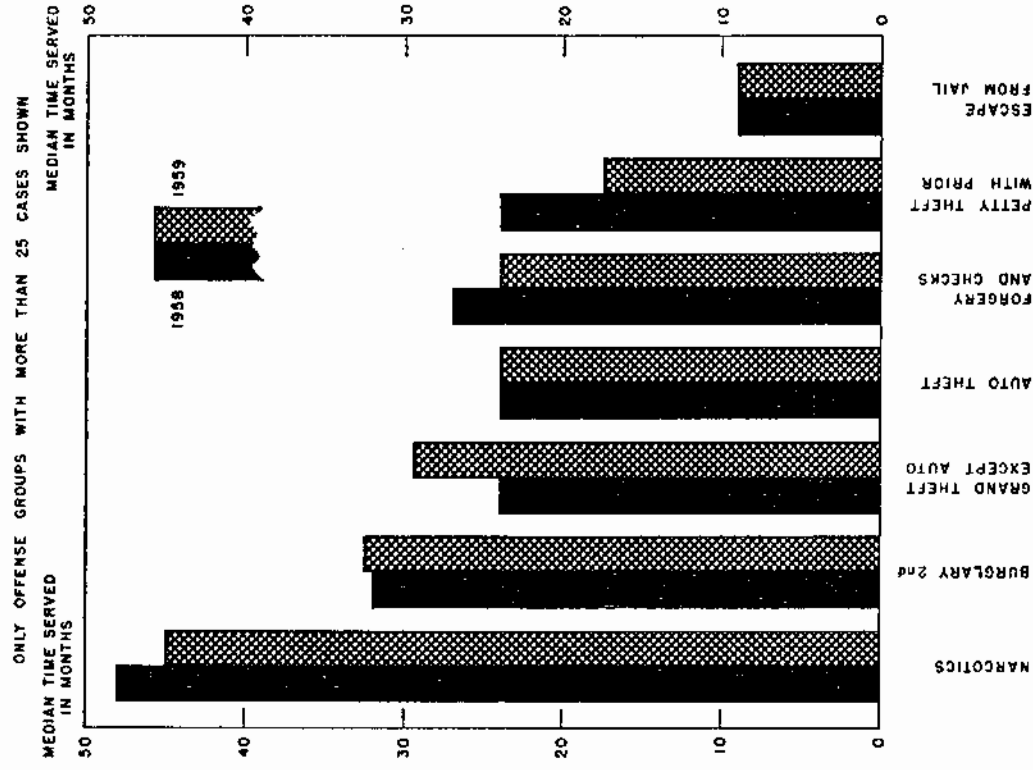
* Includes offenses not shown.

TABLE 28
STATUS AT RETURN AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON
MALE PRISONERS RE-RELEASED FROM PRISON BY DISCHARGE
AT EXPIRATION OF SENTENCE
1958 and 1959

Status at Return	1958			1959		
	Number	Time served in months		Number	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%
Total.....	376	—	—	602	—	—
With new commitment.....	91	40	24-61	147	33	24-60
Without new commitment.....	285	17	8-32	455	16	9-32

from prison at expiration of sentence in 1959, after return from parole with a new commitment, served a median time of 33 months before release. This was 7 months less than the 40 months median time served by a like group discharged during 1958. However, the range of time served by the middle 80 percent of the men in this category was approximately the same in 1958 as in 1959. For the male felons who had been returned to prison without a new commitment, the median time served prior to discharge in 1959 was 16 months, and in 1958 it was

CHART IX
OFFENSE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED
IN PRISON BEFORE DISCHARGE
MEN PRISONERS FIRST RELEASED BY DISCHARGE
1958 AND 1959



17 months. The time served range of the middle 80 percent of the cases was almost the same in 1959 as it was in 1958, 9 to 32 months and 8 to 32 months, respectively.

The number of adult women felons discharged from prison at expiration of sentence was six in 1958 and was 21 in 1959. So few women were discharged, that no study was made regarding the length of time in prison before discharge.

DEATH

During 1958, 39 adult felons died while in prison, Table 3. Of this total, 36 were men and three were women. The median time served by the 36 men was 26.5 months before death; the range of time served by the middle 80 percent was from 7 to 65 months. Twenty-six of the men had never been on parole since original commitment, and four had been returned from parole without a new commitment. The median age at time of death of the 36 male felons was 50.5 years, the lower limit of the range of middle 80 percent was 29 years and the upper limit was 71 years. The youngest man was 19, the oldest was 81 years old.

In 1959, considerably more felons died in prison than in 1958, 68 as compared with 39. Sixty-four were adult male felons and four were women felons. The median time served by the male felons was 21 months and the range of the middle 80 percent of the cases varied from 3 to 87 months. About 83 percent, or 53 of the men, had never been on parole since original commitment. The median age at death of the 64 men was 48 years, and the range of the middle 80 percent of the cases was from 27 to 65 years of age. The youngest man was 23, the oldest was 91 years old.

EXECUTION

One hundred and twenty-five persons have been received into prison with the death sentence since the first of 1950 through the end of 1959. During the same ten-year period, 30 persons have had death sentences removed, and 74 have been executed. Table 29 shows the number of persons received, the number executed, and the number with death sentences removed for the interval 1950-1954, and the years 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, and 1959.

Also shown in Table 29 is a distribution of length of time between admission with death sentence and execution. From 1950 through 1954, over one-half (56.4 percent) of those who were executed, had spent a year or less in prison prior to execution. During the interval of time since then, from 1955 through 1959, only about one-fourth (25.7 percent) had spent a year or less in prison before being executed. In fact, during the earlier period, 79.5 percent were executed within a year and a half after admission, but in the second five-year period, only 40.0 percent were executed within 18 months after being committed to prison with the death sentence. Those who were executed during 1958 had spent a minimum of 21 months to a maximum of 122 months on death row prior to execution. For those executed during 1959, the

minimum time served prior to execution was nine months, and the maximum was 46 months.

All twelve men, six executed in 1958 and six in 1959, were sentenced for murder first. Of the six executed during 1958, two had had no prior criminal commitment history, two had previously been sentenced to jail for misdemeanor convictions, and two had served prison sentences previously. Their ages ranged from 23 to 44 years at time of execution; three were white, two were Negro, and one was of Filipino ancestry.

The six men executed in 1959 had the following record of prior commitment: one had had no prior commitment, one had been in a juvenile correctional institution, and four had had at least one previous prison commitment. Five of the men executed were of the white race and one was Negro. The youngest man at time of execution in 1959, was 26 years old, the oldest was 36 years old.

TABLE 29
DEATH PENALTIES
NUMBER RECEIVED AND DISPOSITION
1950-1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, and 1959

Item	1950-1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Number received with death sentence.....	66*	9	14	9	12	15*
Number of executions.....	39	9*	5	9	6	6
Number with death sentence removed.....	10	2	1	5	5	7

* One woman.

MONTHS BETWEEN ADMISSION WITH DEATH PENALTY AND EXECUTION
1950-1954 and 1955-1959

Months	1950-1954		1955-1959	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	39	100.0	35	100.0
8-12.....	22	56.4	9	25.7
13-18.....	9	23.1	5	14.3
19-24.....	2	5.1	10*	28.6
25 and over.....	6	15.4	11	31.4

* One woman.

TABLE 30A
MOVEMENT OF MALE PAROLE POPULATION AND
LOCATION OF SUPERVISION
1958 and 1959

Movement	1958				1959			
	Total	Supervised in		Deport or custody	Total	Supervised in		Deport or custody
		Calif.	Other states			Calif.	Other states	
Population, January 1.....	7,313	6,201	581	531	6,765	5,690	598	477
Total received on parole.....	5,750	5,132	406	213	7,987	7,258	465	264
Paroled from prison.....	3,739	3,368	210	161	5,751	5,198	313	240
Reinstated after suspension.....	346	274	35	37	315	288	16	11
By transfer.....	1,665	1,490	160	15	1,921	1,772	136	13
Total removed from parole.....	6,208	5,643	388	267	6,241	5,580	309	292
Discharged*.....	2,329	1,918	239	172	2,183	1,795	232	156
Suspended.....	2,230	2,147	71	12	2,041	1,968	65	8
Died**.....	74	65	9	—	96	57	7	32
By transfer.....	1,665	1,513	69	83	1,921	1,760	65	96
Population, December 31.....	6,765	5,690	598	477	8,511	7,368	694	449
Population change.....	—548	—511	17	—54	1,746	1,678	96	—28

* Includes pardons and commutations of which there were 24 in 1958, and 1 in 1959.

** Includes presumptive deaths, 0 in 1958 and 32 in 1959.

PAROLE POPULATION AND MOVEMENT

The Department of Corrections parole population on December 31, 1959, was 9,200 felons, of which 8,511 were men and 689 were women. The remaining chapters in this report present some facts regarding the paroles and the movement of these persons. It is not always necessary that an inmate remain in an environment of great physical restraint, such as a prison, to serve his entire sentence. Experience in California has indicated that placing a felon under parole supervision allows the means of assisting the offender in the transition from the controlled routine of prison life to the unfamiliar problems to be faced in the community, and also provides guidance to a person who in the past has had difficulty in conforming to society's rules. About 80 percent of all persons released from prison are paroled.

From January 1, 1958 to December 31, 1958, the total number of men on parole decreased from 7,313 to 6,765. This decrease in parole population of 548 men represented a 7.5 percent drop. During 1959, however, male felony parole population rose to 8,561 by November 30, and was 8,511 on December 31, 1959, an increase of 1,746 men, or 25.8 percent, during one year. The number of men on parole as of November 30, 1959, was the highest it has ever been in the history of this State. The total male parole population, as shown in Table 30A, is composed of three groups, parolees supervised in California, parolees supervised in other states, and California parolees released from prison to custody or for deportation. Only one of the three groups, California prisoners supervised on parole in other states, increased during 1958, but during 1959 only one group decreased in size, the number of men on parole to deport or custody. Excluded from the statistical tables are men from prisons of other states who were in California and were supervised on parole by California agents for the other states.

The population on parole at any one time is the resultant of several categories of parolee movement over a period of time. Persons are added to the parole population count by two principal methods, those received for supervision from prison, and those reinstated to active parole supervision by the Adult Authority after being suspended for behavior not in conformance with the parole contract. Persons are removed from parole by death, by discharge at expiration of sentence, by pardon or commutation, and by suspension. The transfer items show the amount of movement of parolees among the parole district offices within the State, and between California and other states or jurisdictions. The amount of transfers is an accounting figure necessary for balancing the movement tables and to express location of the parole population clearly.

More men were released to parole from prison during 1959 than during 1958, 5,751 and 3,739 respectively. Approximately 90 percent of all men paroled remain in California for supervision. Although the number of men reinstated to parole supervision after suspension was less in 1959 than in 1958, the number of parolees suspended in 1959 was also less than in 1958. Also, fewer men were discharged from parole during 1959 than during 1958. The drop in the number of men removed from parole during 1959 was to be expected; the trend in the number of men removed from parole reflects the trend in the number received on parole during the previous two or three years. Both in 1957 and in 1958 there had been fewer men paroled from prison than during the preceding year, in each case.

California is a member of the Interstate Compact. Under the Compact's provisions, California agents supervise parolees from other states in exchange for California parolees being supervised by the other states. While California had 694 men on parole in states outside of California, this State was supervising 884 men for other states on December 31, 1959.

Although the number of men on parole decreased during 1958, then increased markedly during 1959, the number of women on parole increased during both years, Table 30B. On January 1, 1958, the total number of women on parole was 580, and by the end of 1958 the popu-

lation was 645, an increase of 11.2 percent. During 1959, the number of women on parole increased by 6.8 percent to reach 689 on December 31. California women parole agents were supervising 36 women on parole in California from other states on December 31, 1959. More women were paroled from prison in 1959 than in 1958, 359 and 320 respectively. The number of women discharged from parole was 108 in 1958 and 136 in 1959, an increase of 28 women. There were 12 more women suspended in 1959 as compared with 1958, 211 and 199 respectively.

TABLE 30B
MOVEMENT OF WOMEN PAROLE POPULATION AND
LOCATION OF SUPERVISION
1958 and 1959

Movement	1958			1959		
	Total	Supervised in		Total	Supervised in	
		Calif. formia*	Other states*		Calif. formia	Other states*
Population, January 1.....	580	518	62	645	576	69
Total received on parole.....	405	367	38	435	403	32
Paroled from prison.....	320	289	21	339	341	18
Reinstated after suspension.....	57	49	8	39	37	2
By transfer.....	28	19	9	37	25	12
Total removed from parole.....	340	309	31	391	358	33
Discharged**.....	108	95	13	138	122	14
Suspended.....	199	160	9	211	201	10
Died.....	5	5	—	7	5	2
By transfer.....	28	19	9	37	30	7
Population, December 31.....	645	576	69	689	621	68
Population change.....	65	58	7	44	45	—1

* Includes deport and custody cases, which were 13 on December 31, 1958 and 12 on December 31, 1959. The movement was 7 paroled, 1 suspended, and 6 transferred out during 1958, and was 3 paroled, 1 transferred in, 1 discharged, 2 suspended and 2 transferred out during 1959.

** There were no women parolees pardoned or commuted in 1958 or in 1959.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION ON PAROLE

The parole population is constantly changing by persons being received for supervision and by persons being released from supervision daily. In order to learn a little about the parolees, some characteristics of the population under supervision on the last day of the calendar year, December 31, 1959, have been compared with the characteristics of those on parole as of December 31, 1953 and 1956. The type of offense, number of times on parole, and length of time on present parole, are the characteristics presented for the men and for the women parolees. These characteristics are expressed as percentage distributions in the tables and charts.

The number of men under parole supervision on December 31, 1959, was 8,511, 12.0 percent more than the 7,601 on parole three years earlier in 1956, and 51.2 percent greater than the 5,628 on parole as of the last day in 1953. During the same period, the number of women on parole increased 21.3 percent from 568 at the end of 1956 to 689 at the end of 1959. In the six years from the last day of 1953 to the last day of 1959, the number of women on parole increased by 293 persons, or 74.0 percent.

OFFENSE

For what crimes are persons being supervised on parole? The percentage distribution of male parolees by offense groups is given in Table 31A, for the men on parole as of December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959. Those who had committed burglary accounted for the largest percentage of men on parole at the end of 1959. Those committed for robbery were the second largest percentage group, although the robbery offense group had ranked first in 1953 and in 1956. These two highest ranking offense groups together, accounted for 37.0 percent of the total number of men on parole at the end of 1953, 37.8 percent in 1956, and 35.9 percent on the last day of 1959, which is well over one-third of all men on parole.

Forgers and check writers ranked third in proportionate frequency of men in offense groups. This group increased from 14.9 percent of the parole population as of December 31, 1953, to 15.7 percent on the last day of 1956, to 16.7 percent by the end of 1959. The homicide offense group showed a concomitant decrease during the same time, from 14.1 percent of the male parole population as of December 31, 1953, when homicide ranked fourth, to 8.8 percent as of December 31, 1959, when it ranked fifth. The percentage rank of narcotic offenders shifted from the fifth highest position on December 31, 1953 with 6.3 percent, to the fourth on December 31, 1959 with 15.0 percent. These five offense

TABLE 31A
OFFENSE GROUPS
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE PAROLE POPULATION
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Offense	1953	1956	1959*
Number of men.....	5,628	7,601	8,511
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Homicide.....	14.1	11.1	8.8
Murder 1st.....	9.3	7.3	5.6
Murder 2nd.....	1.7	2.3	1.7
Manslaughter.....	2.1	1.5	1.5
Robbery.....	18.6	19.8	17.8
Assault.....	3.4	2.5	2.6
Burglary.....	18.4	18.0	18.1
Theft except auto.....	5.7	4.5	6.0
Auto theft.....	3.4	2.7	2.5
Forgery and checks.....	14.9	15.7	16.7
Rape.....	3.6	3.3	2.3
Lewd acts with children.....	3.1	4.5	4.1
Other sex.....	1.5	1.7	1.4
Narcotics.....	6.3	11.1	15.0
Escape.....	1.9	1.2	1.4
Habitual criminal.....	1.9	1.5	1.3
All other.....	3.2	2.4	3.0

* Includes the 13 men in Narcotic Treatment-Control Project clinic on December 31, 1959.

groups just listed comprised about three-fourths of all men on parole as of December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959.

Of the women on parole as of December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959, those convicted for forgery and checks comprised slightly less than one-third the population, Table 31B, and had the highest percentage of the offense groups. The percentages of those on parole after narcotic convictions have changed more than for any other offense group. The percentage in this group rose from 12.6 percent in 1953 to 22.9 percent in 1959, changing in rank position from fourth highest in 1953 to second in 1959. The increase in the percentage of women narcotic offenders on parole, causing this offense group to rank second highest in the offense groups on December 31, 1959, has effected the displacement of the homicide group from second to third highest and of the thefts except auto group from third to fourth highest percentage-wise on the last day of 1959. The four offense groups, forgery and checks, narcotics, homicide, and theft except auto, accounted for 73.8 percent of the women on parole as of December 31, 1953 and 82.6 percent (over four-fifths of the population) as of the last day of 1959.

NUMBER OF TIMES ON PAROLE

Some persons have been paroled from prison more than once during a single commitment. A person while on parole from prison may be

TABLE 31B
OFFENSE GROUPS
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN PAROLE POPULATION
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Offense	1953	1956	1959
Number of women.....	390	568	689
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Homicide.....	18.2	17.0	18.6
Murder 1st.....	3.0	2.3	2.0
Murder 2nd.....	4.1	4.9	6.6
Manslaughter.....	11.1	9.8	8.0
Robbery.....	6.3	6.5	4.2
Assault.....	5.8	3.9	2.6
Burglary.....	6.3	7.0	5.8
Theft except auto.....	15.2	12.0	11.0
Auto theft.....	1.0	0.2	0.2
Forgery and checks.....	27.8	31.2	32.1
Sex.....	1.5	1.8	1.3
Narcotics.....	12.6	14.4	22.9
Escape.....	1.8	2.3	1.3
All other.....	3.5	3.7	2.0

suspended, returned to prison for some misbehavior, and again re-paroled after a period of time in prison. Most of the male felons on parole as of December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959, were serving their first parole under their present conviction, according to the percentage distribution shown in Table 32A. Few men were on parole for the second time, 9.0 percent in 1953 and 13.5 percent in 1959. A very small proportion of men, 1.6 percent in 1953 and 2.4 percent in 1959, were on parole for the third or more time. As is true in any percentage distribution when one percentage increases another must decrease for the total must always be 100 percent. Such change is evident in tables

TABLE 32A
NUMBER OF TIMES ON PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE PAROLE POPULATION
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Times on parole	1953	1956	1959*
Number of men.....	5,628	7,601	8,511
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
First parole.....	89.4	88.7	84.1
Second parole.....	9.0	9.4	13.5
Third or more parole.....	1.6	1.9	2.4

* Includes the 13 men in Narcotic Treatment-Control Project clinic on December 31, 1959.

that have only three items. As the percentage of those on first parole decreased the percentage on second or more parole increased.

A trend similar to that of the men is apparent in the percentage distribution of women regarding the number of times on parole during the past six years, Table 32B. While the percentage of women on first parole has decreased the percentages of those on second and third or more parole have increased. The proportion of women on first parole dropped from 85.9 percent on December 31, 1953 to 80.7 percent on the last day of 1959. At the same time, this drop of about 5 percentage points from 1953 to 1959 was reflected in an increase of 4 percentage points for those on parole for the second time (10.8 percent to 14.7 percent) and 1 percentage point for those on the third or more parole (3.3 percent to 4.6 percent).

TABLE 32B
NUMBER OF TIMES ON PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN PAROLE POPULATION
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Times on parole	1953	1956	1959
Number of women	398	508	689
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
First parole	85.9	81.3	80.7
Second parole	10.8	14.1	14.7
Third or more parole	3.3	4.6	4.6

LENGTH OF TIME ON PRESENT PAROLE

The percentage distribution of men on parole as of December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959, with respect to the amount of time under parole supervision is shown in Table 33A. The proportion of men who had been on parole less than one year by December 31, 1959, was greater than the proportion in a similar status as of December 31, 1956, 58.6 percent and 48.1 percent respectively. Whenever the number of men placed on parole in any one year is relatively high, the proportion on parole for less than one year at the end of the parole year, is expected to be high also. In 1959, more men were paroled than ever before. Over 2,000 more men had been released to parole supervision in 1959 than in 1958. A comparison of the percentage distribution for 1959, with those for 1956, and 1953, shows a marked difference between 1959 data and that of both 1953 and 1956. This difference is graphically portrayed in Chart X-A.

The length of time on present parole for the women is shown in Table 33B. The percentage distributions are similar to those for the men only in that as the length of time increases, the proportion of the total number of women on parole decreases. The proportion of women

CHART X-A
LENGTH OF TIME ON PRESENT PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MEN ON PAROLE
DECEMBER 31, 1953, 1956, AND 1959

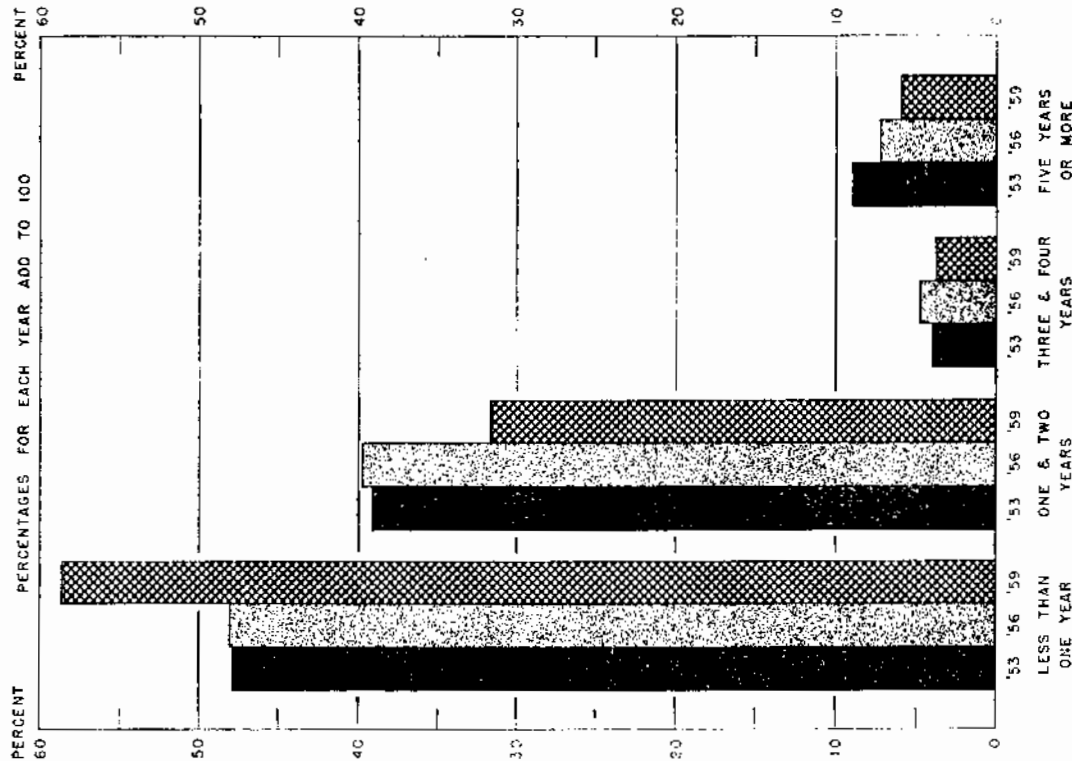


TABLE 33A

LENGTH OF TIME ON PRESENT PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE PAROLE POPULATION
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Length of time on present parole	1953	1956	1959*
Number of men.....	5,828	7,801	8,511
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1 year.....	47.9	48.1	58.6
1 year but less than 2 years.....	26.6	27.7	22.3
2 years but less than 3 years.....	12.5	12.1	9.3
3 years but less than 4 years.....	2.4	3.3	2.7
4 years but less than 5 years.....	1.6	1.5	1.1
5 years or longer.....	9.0	7.3	6.0

* Includes the 13 men in Narcotic Treatment-Control Project clinic on December 31, 1959.

on parole as of the last day of 1953, 1956, and 1959, who had been on parole for less than one year tended to decrease from 1953, to 1956, to 1959, but the decrease was very slight. Other groups that reflected a decrease in the percentages were those who had been on parole one year but less than two, and those in the three year but less than four groups. The percentage distributions showed an increase from 1953 to 1959 for those who had been on parole two years but less than three and four years or longer. Chart X-B, presents a comparison of the changes from 1953, to 1956, to 1959, in the proportion of women in each interval of length of time on parole, although the grouping of years are somewhat different than in Table 33B.

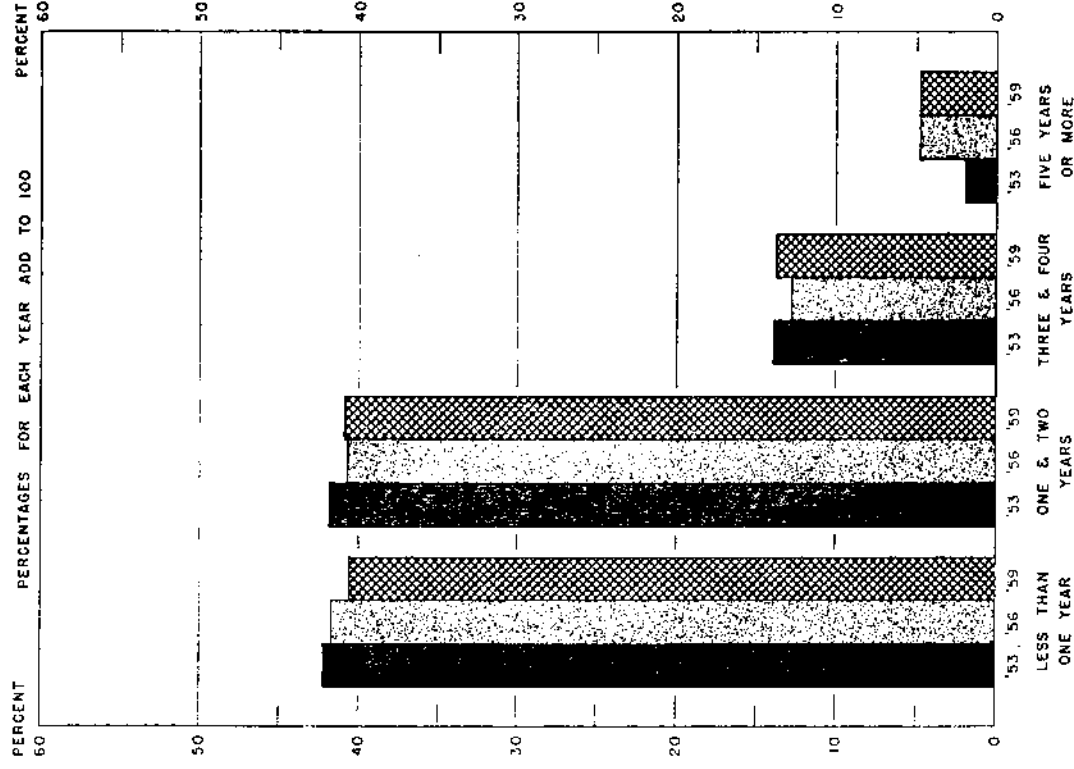
TABLE 33B

LENGTH OF TIME ON PRESENT PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN PAROLE POPULATION
December 31, 1953, 1956, and 1959

Length of time on present parole	1953	1956	1959
Number of women.....	396	568	189
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1 year.....	42.2	41.7	40.6
1 year but less than 2 years.....	23.8	27.8	25.5
2 years but less than 3 years.....	13.1	12.9	15.4
3 years but less than 4 years.....	11.6	10.0	8.6
4 years but less than 5 years.....	2.3	2.8	5.1
5 years or longer.....	2.0	4.8	4.8

CHART X-B

LENGTH OF TIME ON PRESENT PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN ON PAROLE
DECEMBER 31, 1953, 1956, AND 1959



centage was somewhat higher than the percentages for women paroled during the prior four years, but was not as high as for those paroled during 1954 when 25.8 percent of all women paroled were suspended during the same year in which paroled. The proportion of women who are suspended during the first few years after parole has increased gradually in the recent years.

SUSPENSION

A parolee who becomes involved in criminal conduct or who otherwise violates his parole agreement will have his behavior reported by his parole agent to the paroling board, the Adult Authority if it is a male parolee or to the Board of Trustees, California Institution for Women, if a woman parolee. The Adult Authority or the Board of Trustees may order the suspension of the parolee. This would stop the time served credited toward his term. At some later date the board may reconsider the case with reference to additional knowledge or to parolee adjustment since the suspension and order the suspended parolee be reinstated to active parole status. This chapter discusses suspension and the next chapter discusses reinstatement.

The number of male felons suspended from parole was 2,230 in 1958 and 2,041 in 1959. Of the 2,230 men suspended in 1958, 1,789 were on first parole and 441 were on reparole. In 1959, there were 1,596 men on first parole and 445 on reparole when suspended. The three principal reasons for suspension are new felony charges, parolee whereabouts unknown, and non-compliance with the technical provisions of the parole contract. Approximately 63 percent of the men suspended in 1958 and in 1959 had new criminal charges filed against them. The other men suspended in 1958, were 540 parolees, 24.2 percent, whose whereabouts were unknown and 276 men, 12.4 percent, who were suspended for technical reasons. In 1959, the men suspended, other than for new criminal charges, were 569 parolees, 27.8 percent, whose whereabouts were unknown at time of suspension, and 192 men, 9.4 percent suspended for technical reasons.

Men paroled to supervision in California were studied by relating those suspended for the first time to the year during which paroled. The cumulative percentage of men released to California supervision who were suspended for the first time are shown by year of parole and by each successive year after parole for 1955 through 1959, Table 34A. During 1958, 17.4 percent of the men paroled that year were suspended for the first time. This percentage of suspension during the year of parole was higher than any for those paroled during the other four years (including 1959) shown in the table. By the close of the first year after parole slightly more than two-fifths of the men paroled to California supervision during 1957 and during 1958 had been suspended.

The Board of Trustees, California Institution for Women, suspended the paroles of 199 women during 1958 and 211 in 1959. The cumulative percentage of women parolees suspended for the first time is shown in Table 34B by each year of parole for 1955 through 1959. In 1959, 22.0 percent of the women paroled that year were suspended, and in 1958, 17.2 were suspended during that same year of parole. The 1959 per-

(80)

TABLE 34A

CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE OF PAROLEES SUSPENDED EACH YEAR AFTER PAROLE MALE PAROLEES SUSPENDED FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM SUPERVISION IN CALIFORNIA 1955 through 1959

Year during which suspended	Year of parole			
	1955	1956	1957	1958
Number paroled.....	3,034	3,629	3,441	3,368
Year of parole.....				
1st year after parole.....	10.9	11.5	13.4	17.4
2nd year after parole.....	32.2	33.1	40.5	41.4
3rd year after parole.....	42.0	43.7	46.5	
4th year after parole.....	44.5	45.2		
				5,108
				13.9

TABLE 34B

CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE OF PAROLEES SUSPENDED EACH YEAR AFTER PAROLE WOMEN PAROLEES SUSPENDED FOR THE FIRST TIME 1955 through 1959

Year during which suspended	Year of parole			
	1955	1956	1957	1958
Number paroled.....	230	275	244	320
Year of parole.....				
1st year after parole.....	20.4	15.3	13.9	17.2
2nd year after parole.....	31.3	35.3	36.4	40.3
3rd year after parole.....	38.3	45.8	44.6	
4th year after parole.....	42.6	49.4		
	44.8			
				359
				22.0

were returned to active parole supervision by reinstatement. Related to the last two years of suspension experience this was 15 men for every 100 suspended. The ratio of reinstatements per 100 average suspensions was 15 for 1957 as well as for 1959. These two years had the lowest ratios of any of the ten years shown in Table 35A.

The male felons suspended for the reason that the parolees' whereabouts were unknown had a higher ratio of reinstatement than those suspended for other reasons. This has been true for each of the past ten years although the ratio for those reinstated after suspension because of unknown whereabouts has varied greatly from year to year, from a low of 21 in 1950 and 1951 to a high of 43 in 1956. The ratio of reinstatement per 100 suspensions has been more constant from year to year for those suspended for criminal charges or for technical reasons.

The ratio of women reinstated to parole for each 100 average suspended for a two year period is presented in Table 35B. The restoration of 39 women to parole supervision in 1959 was equivalent to a ratio of 19 per 100 average suspensions, the lowest ratio during the ten years. During 1950 through 1959, the ratio has varied considerably from year to year without a definite trend pattern, with a high of 56 in 1955 and a low of 19 in 1959.

REINSTATEMENT

The authority that suspends parole may reinstate the person to active parole status again. The parolee suspended because his whereabouts was unknown most likely will be reinstated to parole supervision when located, if it is found that he has been law abiding while at large. A suspended parolee who may have been convicted of an offense and served a sentence in jail or in a prison other than in California may be reinstated to parole supervision if the board is of the opinion that it would serve no useful purpose to the public or to the parolee for him to return to a California prison. These are the two more common situations which precede a parolee's reinstatement to parole.

The number of male felons reinstated to active parole supervision during each of the ten years 1950 through 1959 is presented by reason for suspension in Table 35A. Since about three-fourths of the reinstatements occur within the first two years following suspension, the ratio of the number of reinstatements per 100 average number of suspensions for the two-year period, including the year of reinstatement and the previous year, is used in Table 35A. During 1959, 315 men

TABLE 35A

NUMBER OF REINSTATEMENTS RATIO OF REINSTATEMENTS PER 100 AVERAGE SUSPENSIONS REASON FOR SUSPENSION BY YEAR MALE PAROLEES REINSTATED ON PAROLE 1950 through 1959

Year	Total		Reason for suspension					
			Technical		Whereabouts unknown		Criminal charge	
	Number	Ratio* per 100 average suspensions	Number	Ratio* per 100 average suspensions	Number	Ratio* per 100 average suspensions	Number	Ratio* per 100 average suspensions
1950.....	195	17	3	5	84	21	108	16
1951.....	193	17	3	4	86	21	105	15
1952.....	249	21	6	6	126	32	117	17
1953.....	249	20	5	4	121	28	123	17
1954.....	253	18	2	1	123	37	128	15
1955.....	284	20	1	1	142	34	141	16
1956.....	311	22	—	—	177	43	134	15
1957.....	241	15	3	2	133	29	105	10
1958.....	346	17	7	3	143	28	196	16
1959.....	315	15	6	3	121	22	188	14

* Ratio based on two-year average number of cases suspended during the year indicated and the previous year.

TABLE 35B

NUMBER OF REINSTATEMENTS RATIO OF REINSTATEMENTS PER 100 AVERAGE SUSPENSIONS BY YEAR WOMEN PAROLEES REINSTATED ON PAROLE 1950 through 1959

Year	Number	Ratio per 100 average suspensions*
1950.....	17	30
1951.....	23	38
1952.....	39	53
1953.....	32	34
1954.....	66	52
1955.....	99	56
1956.....	63	38
1957.....	60	41
1958.....	57	32
1959.....	39	19

* Ratio based on two-year average number of cases suspended during the year indicated and the previous year.

as indicated in Table 36A. The highest median in the ten-year period was 30 months, that served on parole by those discharged during 1954.

Those men who were discharged during 1959 from parole after having been returned to prison with a new commitment, also served a median time of 24 months. In the preceding nine years, the median time served on parole had been as high as 29 months (1952) for this group. During 1959, the men discharged from parole after return to prison without a new commitment served a median time on parole of 18 months before discharge at expiration of sentence. The differences in median time served on parole before discharge by the three types of parolees are presented from 1950 through 1959 in Chart XI. The median time served on parole before discharge by men repared after return to prison with a new commitment, did approximate more closely the median time served by men on first parole than did the median time served by men repared after return to prison without a new commitment.

In 1959, more women felons were discharged from parole than ever before. But when studied by the three types of parole, those discharged from parole after return to prison with a new commitment numbered only four cases and therefore are not studied with respect to length of time served. The 106 women discharged from first parole in 1959 served a median of 35 months on parole before discharge, Table 36B. Those who were repared after return to prison without a new commitment had a median of 20.5 months served on parole before discharge in 1959.

DISCHARGE FROM PAROLE

Since most of the prisoners are released from prison to parole supervision to complete their sentences, and since most prisoners sooner or later serve their time and are finally discharged, this chapter on selected characteristics of prisoners discharged from parole describes a factor in the culminating step, the goal sought by almost all persons committed to prison. Discharge from parole for many parolees means the completion of sentence after months of counsel, advice and direction by the parole agent.

In 1959, 2,182 men were discharged from parole, 88.0 percent of these had been on first parole. Of the 136 women discharged from parole in 1959, 77.9 percent had been on first parole. As in all previous discussions of time served, it is again necessary to separate types of parole into three distinct groupings: first parole, repared after return to prison with a new commitment, and repared after return without a new commitment.

One-half of the male felons discharged from first parole during 1959 served 24 months or less on parole before discharge, and the other half served 24 months or more, thus, the median time on parole served by these men before discharge was 24 months. The median was the same as for those men discharged from parole in 1950, 1951, 1957, and 1958,

TABLE 36A

TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED ON PAROLE BY YEAR
MALE PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1950 through 1959

Year	First parole		Repared after return to prison		
	Number	Median time served on parole in months	With new commitment	Without new commitment	Median time served on parole in months
1950	1,073	24	48	97	19
1951	1,168	24	56	82	18
1952	1,042	27	39	84	20
1953	1,191	27	71	73	21
1954	1,283	30	75	66	15
1955	1,529	27	89	73	18
1956	1,766	27	121	84	18
1957	2,161	24	181	77	17
1958	2,046	24	193	66	15.5
1959	1,921	24	182	79	18

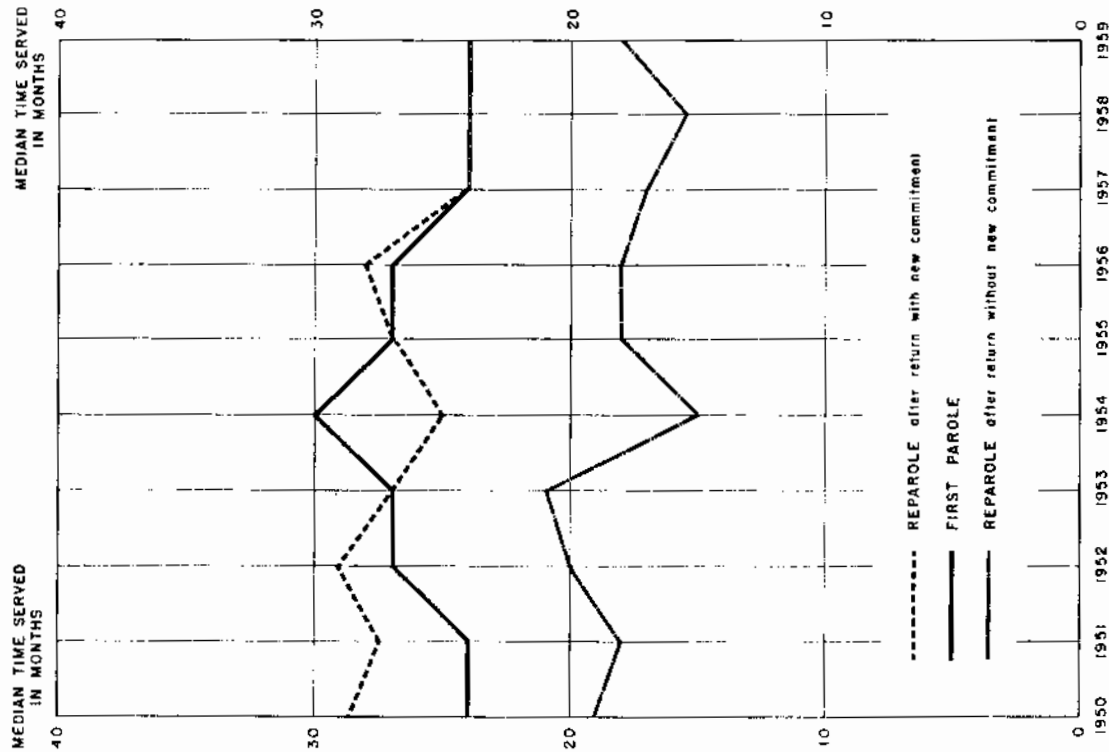
TABLE 36B

TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED ON PAROLE BY YEAR
WOMEN PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1950 through 1959

Median Time Served Computed Only for 25 or More Cases

Year	First parole		Repared after return to prison		
	Number	Median time served on parole in months	With new commitment	Without new commitment	Median time served on parole in months
1950	54	21	—	3	—
1951	53	26	—	5	—
1952	37	26	—	5	—
1953	45	28	1	7	—
1954	60	33	—	6	—
1955	80	34	1	7	—
1956	82	36	3	10	—
1957	97	36	5	22	—
1958	85	36	5	18	—
1959	106	35	4	26	20.5

CHART XI
TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED
ON PAROLE
MEN DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1950 - 1959



The 54 women discharged from first parole in 1950 had a median time served on parole of 21 months. The median for those discharged each year since 1950 gradually increased through 1956. For the women discharged from first parole in 1956, in 1957, and in 1958, the median was 36 months on parole before discharge. This median had decreased by one month (35 months) for those discharged in 1959.

OFFENSE

When studied by offense group, the length of time served by first parolees before discharge indicates that those who were convicted of the more serious offenses were under parole supervision longer than those convicted of less serious crimes. For the male felons discharged from first parole during 1958 and during 1959, the time served on parole before discharge as expressed by the median and the range of the middle 80 percent of the cases is shown for the offense groups with more than 25 men in Table 37A.

Considering only the median, the men who had been convicted of murder 2nd, or lewd acts with children spent more than 30 months

TABLE 37A

OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED ON PAROLE MALE FIRST PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE 1958 and 1959

Only Offense Groups With More Than 25 Cases Are Shown

Selected offenses	1958			1959		
	Time served in months		Number	Time served in months		Number
	Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%	
All offenses*	24	15-39	1,921	24	15-39	24
Murder 2nd	44	30-60	34	42	30-50	42
Manslaughter	38	24-42	37	30	21-42	30
Robbery 1st	248	23-42	257	30	24-45	30
Robbery 2nd	131	15-36	92	22.5	15-32	22.5
Assault with deadly weapon	64	14-36	59	24	18-35	24
Burglary 1st	44	21-36	37	30	18-45	30
Burglary 2nd	327	15-33	286	21	12-33	21
Grand theft except auto	63	15-39	90	21.5	12-36	21.5
Auto theft	68	12-30	80	18.5	11-36	18.5
Forgery and checks	356	12-33	340	21	12-36	21
Rape	64	18-46	72	30	18-45	30
Lewd acts with children	101	24-45	87	36	22-45	36
Narcotics	274	15-30	267	24	19-36	24

* Includes offenses not shown.

on parole before discharge in 1958, and in 1959. Male felons convicted of manslaughter served 31 months before discharge in 1958, and 30 months before discharge in 1959. Only men in one offense group, auto theft, spent less than 20 months on parole before discharge in 1958 and in 1959. For all other offense groups of those discharged from parole in 1958 and in 1959, the median time served was between 20 and 30 months inclusive.

If the range of the middle 80 percent is considered, the offense groups which showed the greatest amount of variability in time served on parole before discharge in 1958 were murder 2nd and rape, the former varying from 30 to 60 months, a difference of 30 months, and the latter varying from 18 to 46 months, a difference of 28 months. In 1959, the two offense groups with the most variability in the middle 80 percent range with respect to the amount of time served were rape and first degree burglary, both varied from 18 to 45 months, a difference of 27 months.

In order to present offense and time served information for the women parolees, the data for the women discharged from first parole during the five years 1955 through 1959 were combined. Even the summarization of five years' data gave only four offense groups with more than 25 cases each, see Table 37B. For the 450 women discharged from

TABLE 37B
OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED ON PAROLE
WOMEN FIRST PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1955-1959

Only Offense Groups With More Than 25 Cases Are Shown

Selected offenses	Number	Median time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%
All offenses*	450	36	16-55
Manslaughter.....	49	40	28-58
Grand theft except auto.....	51	37	21-51
Forgery and checks.....	123	38	24-54
Narcotics.....	77	30	17-38

* Includes offenses not shown.

first parole during 1955 through 1959, the median time on parole was 36 months, while the range of the middle 80 percent of the cases was from 16 to 55 months. Of the four selected offense classifications, three had a median time served which was greater than the all offense category, with manslaughter having the highest, 40 months. The women felons convicted of narcotics served a median of 30 months on first parole before discharge in 1955 through 1959.

TIME SERVED IN PRISON AND ON PAROLE

For all male felons who were discharged from first parole during 1958 and during 1959, the median time served in prison before parole, the median time served on parole before discharge, and the total of the two medians are shown in Table 38A by offense groups which had more than 25 cases. It should be noted that time served in prison before parole of men discharged from parole refers only to those who were able to finish their terms on parole without being returned to prison. Consequently, the data in Table 38A are not directly comparable to the data in Table 25A. Those individuals who contribute to the statistical information shown in Table 38A are a more highly select group than the men referred to in Table 25A, as, the men represented in Table 38A have completed their parole successfully.

For the all offense group, the total of the two medians was three months less for those discharged in 1959 than for those discharged in

TABLE 38A

OFFENSE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGE
MALE FIRST PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1958 and 1959

Only Offense Groups With More Than 25 Cases Are Shown

Selected offenses	1958				1959			
	Median time served in months			Number	Median time served in months			Total of medians
	In prison before parole	On parole before discharge	Total of medians		In prison before parole	On parole before discharge	Total of medians	
All offenses*	2,046	30	24	54	1,921	27	24	51
Murder 2nd.....	44	60	46	106	34	48	42	90
Manslaughter.....	38	33	31	64	37	36	30	66
Robbery 1st.....	248	36	30	66	257	35	30	65
Robbery 2nd.....	131	27	24	51	92	24	22.5	46.5
Assault with deadly weapon.....	64	30	24	54	59	24	24	48
Burglary 1st.....	44	33	30	63	37	36	30	66
Burglary 2nd.....	327	24	24	48	286	24	21	45
Grand theft except auto.....	93	24	24	48	90	21	21.5	42.5
Auto theft.....	68	24.5	19	43.5	80	24	18.5	42.5
Forgery and checks.....	356	24	21.5	45.5	340	22	21	43
Rape.....	64	33	30	63	72	36	30	66
Lewd acts with children.....	101	42	33	75	87	45	36	81
Narcotics.....	274	27	24	51	267	27	24	51

* Includes offense groups not shown.

1958, 51 months and 54 months respectively. The difference occurred in the median time served in prison before parole as those discharged from first parole in 1958 had spent a median of 30 months in prison before release and those parolees discharged in 1959 had a median time of 27 months. The median time on parole before discharge was 24 months, the same in 1958 and in 1959. Substantial differences can be found when each offense group is considered individually, Table 38A. Without a doubt, male felons convicted of the more serious offenses serve longer terms than those with less serious offenses. Those convicted of murder second, lewd acts with children, rape, manslaughter, burglary first or robbery first, serve the longer sentences both in prison before parole and on parole before discharge. The comparisons of time served in prison before parole and on parole before discharge in 1959, are visualized by offense groups in Chart XII. When considering the 1958 and 1959 totals of the two medians of each offense group some changes are evident. The offense group with the greatest amount of difference was murder second which has the least number of cases of any group in 1959. The 34 men with murder second convictions discharged from parole in 1959, had a total median time of 90 months served. The similar group of 44 men discharged in 1958 had a total median time of 106 months, 16 months more than the 1959 group. Men with murder second convictions discharged in 1958 had spent 12 months more in prison before parole than did those discharged in 1959, 60 months and 48 months respectively. The men convicted of lewd acts with children and discharged from first parole during 1959, had served six months more time than those so convicted and discharged from parole in 1958. The increase in the length of sentence occurred in three months more time in prison and three months longer time on parole. Narcotic offenders was the only group for which the median time in prison before parole and on parole before discharge was the same for those discharged in 1958 and in 1959. For both years the median time was 27 months in prison before parole and 24 months on parole before discharge, a total of 51 months.

The median time served in prison was greater than the median time on parole for most offense groups of the male felons. There were two exceptions in 1958 and two in 1959. The exceptions in 1958 were the two offense groups, burglary second, and grand theft except auto. For both of these groups the median time served in prison equalled median time on parole. In 1959, one offense group, grand theft except auto, had a higher median time on parole than the median time served in prison, while the offense group, assault with deadly weapon had a median time on parole equal to the median time served in prison.

The data on offense and median time served in prison before parole and on parole before discharge for the women first parolees are presented in Table 38B for those discharged during the five-year period 1955-1959. The women convicted of manslaughter had longer sentences than the other three offense groups with more than 25 cases. The total of the two medians was 65 months, which consisted of 25 months in

CHART XII
OFFENSE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED
IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGE
MEN DISCHARGED FROM FIRST PAROLE
1959

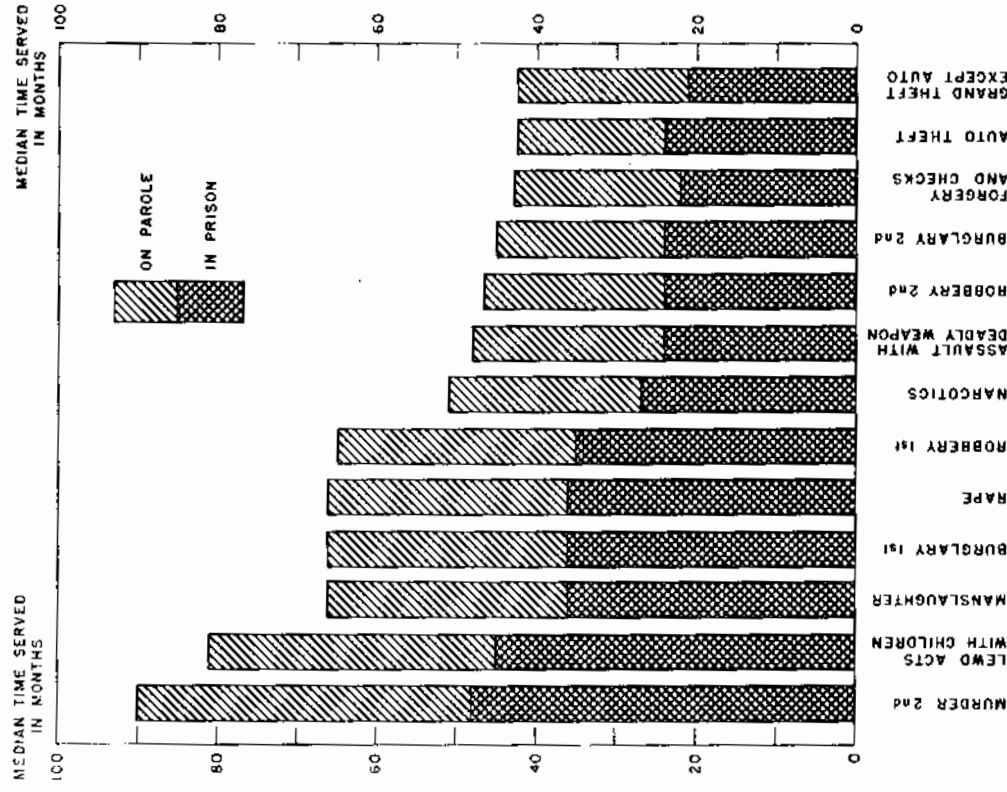


TABLE 388
OFFENSE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGE
WOMEN FIRST PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1955-1959

Only Offense Groups With More Than 25 Cases Are Shown

Selected offenses	Number	Median time served in months		
		In prison before parole	On parole before discharge	Total of medians
All offenses*	450	23	36	59
Manslaughter	49	25	40	65
Grand theft except auto	51	24	37	61
Forgery and checks	123	25	38	63
Narcotics	77	20	30	50

* Includes offenses not shown.

prison and 40 months on parole. Of these four offense groups, forgery and checks ranked second highest in the total time served, grand theft except auto ranked third, and narcotic offenses fourth. As indicated by the medians, more time was spent on parole than in prison by women in each of the four selected offense groups.

A presentation of time served in prison before parole and on parole before discharge for the male felons discharged from first parole during each year from 1950 through 1959, is given in Table 39A. The trend in median time served in prison before parole, median time on parole, and the total of the two medians indicates that there was an

TABLE 39A
MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGE BY YEAR
MALE FIRST PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1950 through 1959

Year	Number	Median time served in months		
		In prison before parole	On parole before discharge	Total of medians
1950	1,073	25	24	49
1951	1,168	25	24	49
1952	1,042	27	27	54
1953	1,191	27	27	54
1954	1,283	30	30	60
1955	1,529	30	27	57
1956	1,766	30	27	57
1957	2,161	27	24	51
1958	2,046	30	24	54
1959	1,921	27	24	51

increase in the amount of time served by the men discharged from first parole in 1950 through 1954 and then a decrease to 1957, with a slight increase in 1958 and with a return to the 1957 level in 1959. This pattern is true for both the median time served in prison and the median time served on parole, with the increase reflected in the 1958 total having occurred in the median of time served in prison before parole. This review of the ten year data of time served by men before discharge from first parole showed that except for those discharged in 1952, 1953, and 1954, more time was spent in prison than under parole supervision, as seen in Chart XIII-A.

The median time served in prison before parole and the median time served on first parole before discharge in 1950 through 1959 is presented for each year in Table 39B for the women discharged from first

TABLE 39B
MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGE BY YEAR
WOMEN FIRST PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1950 through 1959

Year	Number	Median time served in months		
		In prison before parole	On parole before discharge	Total of medians
1950	54	28.5	21	49.5
1951	53	25	26	51
1952	37	25	25	51
1953	45	20	28	48
1954	60	21	33	54
1955	80	22.5	34	56.5
1956	82	24	36	60
1957	97	23	36	59
1958	85	23	36	59
1959	106	24	35	59

parole. The median time served in prison before parole has varied from a high of 28.5 months for those discharged from parole in 1950, to a low of 20 months for those who were discharged from parole in 1953, and was 24 months for those discharged in 1959.

A brief study of the amount of time served in prison and on parole for the women discharged from first parole during each of the past ten years showed that the amount of time served in prison has become much less than the amount of time served on parole to the extent that for those discharged in 1951 almost one-half of the sentence was spent in prison and one-half on parole, but for those discharged in 1953 and in each year since, the sentences have been served by approximately one-third time in prison and two-thirds time on parole. Chart XIII-B portrays these differences.

CHART XIII - A

MEDIAN TIME SERVED
IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGE
MEN DISCHARGED FROM FIRST PAROLE
1950 - 1959

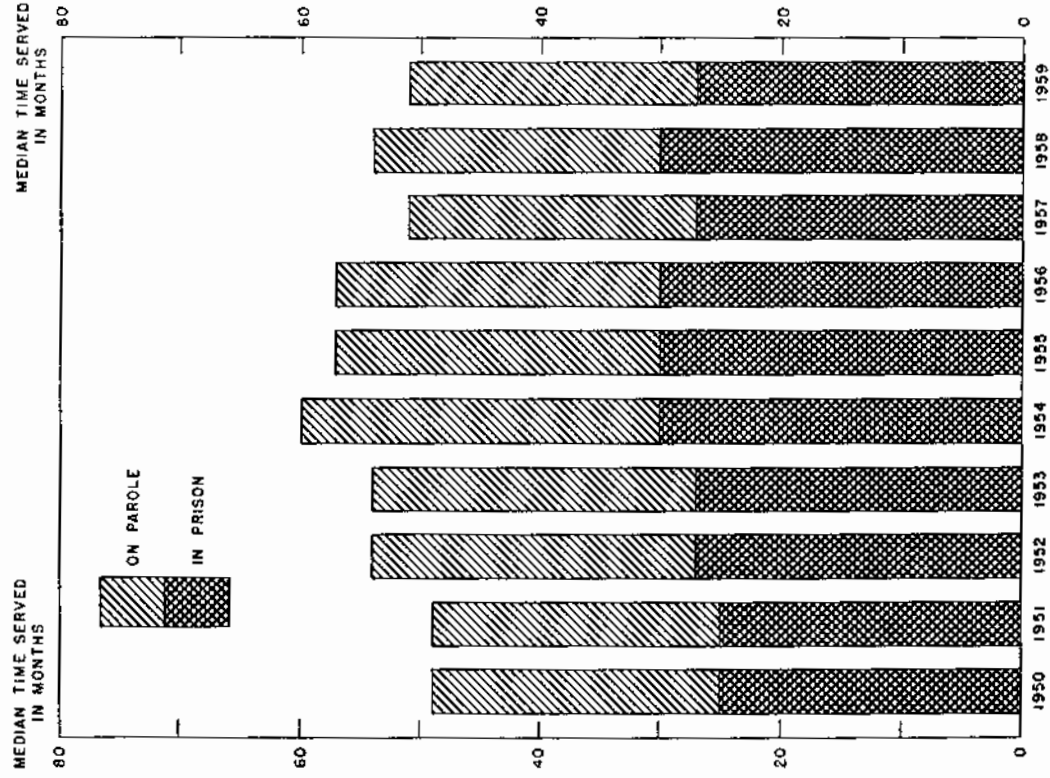
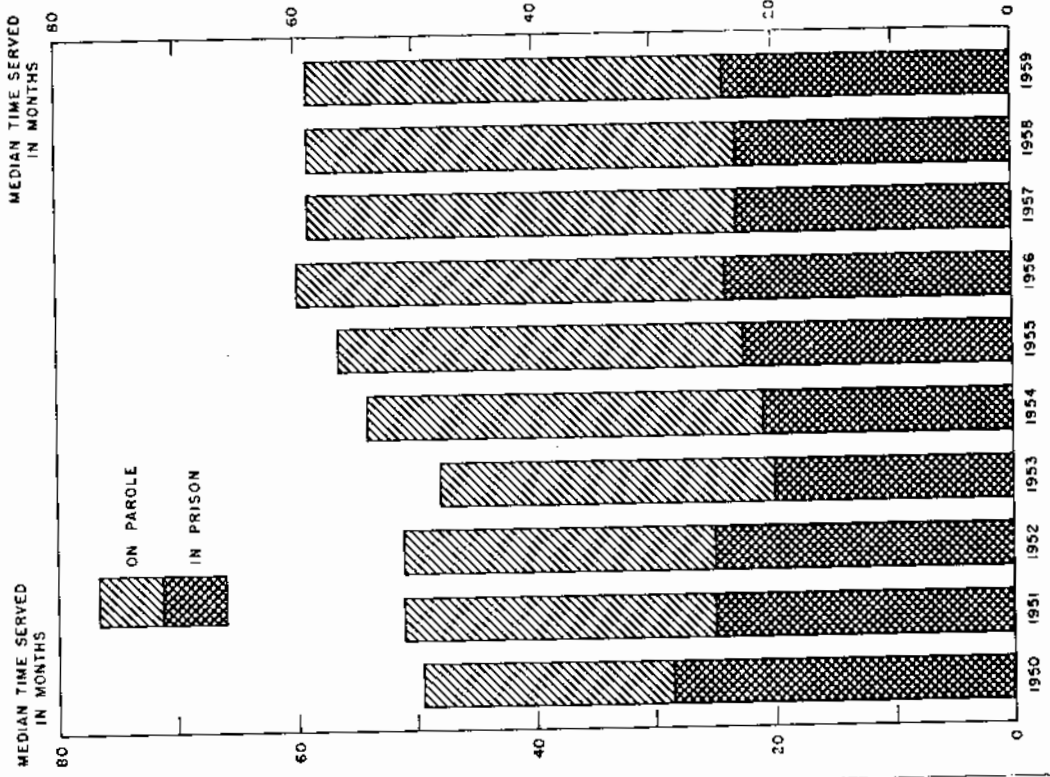


CHART XIII - B

MEDIAN TIME SERVED
IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGE
WOMEN DISCHARGED FROM FIRST PAROLE
1950 - 1959



APPENDIX

**COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT
PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959**

County or area of commitment	1958		1959	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	5,146	263	5,426	292
Southern California				
Los Angeles County.....	3,193	187	3,442	192
9 other counties.....	1,927	122	2,112	124
Imperial.....	1,266	65	1,330	68
Kern.....	42	1	57	4
Orange.....	157	8	187	9
Riverside.....	185	6	202	9
San Bernardino.....	114	6	143	6
San Diego.....	238	6	241	3
San Luis Obispo.....	379	32	390	28
San Luis Obispo.....	15	2	25	4
Santa Barbara.....	62	3	65	5
Ventura.....	54	1	50	3
San Francisco Bay Area				
Alameda County.....	899	40	878	46
Alameda County.....	248	7	273	17
San Francisco County.....	295	17	220	14
7 other counties.....	356	16	385	15
Contra Costa.....	64	4	77	2
Marin.....	10	—	20	—
Napa.....	14	—	20	1
San Mateo.....	54	3	62	1
Santa Clara.....	130	6	129	7
Solano.....	37	—	38	2
Sonoma.....	42	3	39	2
Balance of State	1,034	38	1,106	54
10 Sacramento Valley counties				
Butte.....	201	11	336	15
Butte.....	35	—	53	—
Colusa.....	8	—	10	—
Glenn.....	6	—	4	—
Placer.....	13	—	14	2
Sacramento.....	115	2	151	7
Shasta.....	23	2	19	—
Sutter.....	9	—	10	—
Tehama.....	9	1	10	1
Yolo.....	27	5	52	4
Yuba.....	14	1	13	1
7 San Joaquin Valley counties				
Fresno.....	590	19	553	28
Kings.....	159	6	157	14
Madera.....	21	—	27	2
Merced.....	35	2	26	2
San Joaquin.....	62	1	34	1
Stanislaus.....	143	5	141	5
Tulare.....	89	3	126	2
Tulare.....	81	2	42	2

**COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT—Continued
PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1958 and 1959**

County or area of commitment	1958		1959	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
22 other counties	203	8	217	11
Alpine.....	—	—	—	—
Amador.....	2	—	—	—
Calaveras.....	12	—	13	—
Del Norte.....	7	1	9	1
El Dorado.....	25	1	28	1
Humboldt.....	10	1	10	—
Inyo.....	6	—	4	—
Lake.....	6	—	6	—
Lassen.....	—	—	—	—
Mariposa.....	25	—	23	1
Mendocino.....	6	—	5	—
Modoc.....	—	—	1	—
Monterey.....	42	3	51	6
Nevada.....	4	—	9	—
Plumas.....	1	—	5	—
San Benito.....	2	—	4	—
Santa Cruz.....	35	1	33	1
Sierra.....	—	—	—	—
Siskiyou.....	15	—	5	—
Trinity.....	2	—	5	—
Tuolumne.....	1	—	6	—