



CALIFORNIA PRISONERS

1952

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Summary Statistics of
PRISONERS RECEIVED AND RELEASED FROM PRISON

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FOREWORD

This is the third annual report issued by this Department which presents a summary of statistical data on prisoners in California prisons, including significant information regarding those received and released, during a calendar year. Although it is recognized that these figures are of interest to the public generally, and to various persons and agencies who have a particular interest in these institutions, the primary purpose in tabulating and analyzing them is to provide information for administrative purposes. Such information is necessary to the constant evaluation of the correctional program and the making of needed adjustments in it. It is essential, also, to the planning of future development in the Department of Corrections.

The data in this report appear in three sections: first, institutional population and the movement of population; second, information on new prisoners received during the calendar year by offense, area from which committed, age, race, and prior criminal record; and third, releases from prison. In most of the tables of this report, for comparative purposes the 1951 data will be presented with the 1952 figures.

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

Richard A. McGee
Director of Corrections

Sacramento, California
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SUMMARY

Prison Population an All-Time High

On December 31, 1952, the total population of the institutions in the Department of Corrections was 13,169, an all-time high. It is estimated that the prison population will reach the 15,000 mark during the year 1955.

Overcrowding

The normal capacity of the seven institutions in the Department including both permanent and temporary residence facilities is approximately 10,000. This means that there is a 30 percent overcrowding in the male institutions of the Department. Actually, the capacity of the institutions in terms of permanent buildings takes care of only one-half of the present resident population.

New Admissions

There was an increase of 11 percent (from 3,252 to 3,610) in the number of persons newly committed to the prisons in 1952 over 1951.

Prisoners Released

There were nearly 500 fewer prisoners released in 1952 than during the previous year. The number of releases by expiration of sentence decreased from 985 to 584, and the paroles dropped from 2,761 to 2,672.

Offenses

To a large extent the increase in the number of persons newly committed to prison in the last two years has resulted from a rise in narcotic commitments. Only in 1952 was there an increase noted for offenses other than narcotics. Robbery, burglary, sex offenses, and escape from jail showed small increases.

County or Area of Commitment

The San Joaquin Valley counties showed a marked increase in commitments in 1952 as compared with 1951. There was also a relatively high increase in the number of persons committed from Southern California counties aside from Los Angeles County. However, the rate of commitment from San Francisco County dropped in 1952.

Time Served Before Release

In 1952 the median time served in prison before parole for men paroled for the first time was 30 months, the same as in 1951. The middle four-fifths of the men paroled, omitting from consideration the 10 percent at either extreme, served from 18 to 57 months before release. In a few offenses, notably sex offenses and murder second degree, the time served before the release was greater in 1952 than in 1951. In robbery first, burglary second, and manslaughter, the time served was slightly less for the 1952 paroles than for those in 1951. Persons returned as technical parole violators who were re-paroled during 1952 served a median time of 16 months as compared with a median of 13 months in 1951. Persons who served their sentences in prison until expiration, served a median time of 24 months in 1952, the same as in 1951.

INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION AND MOVEMENT OF POPULATION

On December 31, 1952, the resident population in the seven institutions of the California Department of Corrections was 13,169, an all-time high. Only two other prison systems in the United States care for a greater number of inmates, the Federal system with approximately 18,000 prisoners and New York with approximately 16,000 prisoners. The steady growth of the California prison population during the past few years is shown by the following December 31 figures:

1947	9,036
1948	10,084
1949	10,899
1950	11,598
1951	11,939
1952	13,169

It is estimated that the prison population will reach the 15,000 mark during the year 1955.

San Quentin, the oldest and largest prison in the State, had over 4,800 prisoners on December 31, 1952, nearly 37 percent of the California total prisoner population. In Table 1 the distribution of prisoners on this date by institution is shown at the end of each of the last three years.

Table 1

POPULATION OF CALIFORNIA PRISONS

December 31, 1950, 1951, and 1952

Institution	1950	1951	1952
Total	11,598	11,939	13,169
California Institution for Men, Chino	1,782	2,096	2,155
Reuel Vocational Institution, Lancaster	542	475	557
Folsom Prison	2,753	2,392	2,237
Medical Facility, Terminal Island	662	1,010	1,012
San Quentin Prison	4,712	4,742	4,841
Soledad Prison	822	836	1,932
California Institution for Women, Corona	325	388	415

The California Institution for Women, which has in past years been located at Tehachapi, was moved to its new plant near Corona, California, in August, 1952.

The new medium security prison at Soledad was opened late in 1951 and during the early part of 1952 its population was increased to capacity. Despite this addition to prison capacity there is still a high degree of overcrowding in the California institutions.

The most recent determination of institutional capacity of the Department of Corrections was made as of June 1, 1953. Chart I shows that on that date there were 13,339 in the male population of the Department, and that in the men's institutions there was a permanent bed capacity of 6,583 which would care for only one-half of the total population. In temporary facilities there was a bed capacity for 3,052 more, which means that there was overcrowding beyond permanent and temporary bed capacity to the extent of 31 percent of the total male population. The fact that the prison population will probably rise to 15,000 within the next two years and undoubtedly will grow considerably higher than that in the future gives cause for the greatest concern. The opening of the Deuel Vocational Institution at Tracy in the fall of 1953 will help to the extent that about 400 more Adult Authority males will be cared for there than are provided for at present. The remainder of the institution will be filled by Youth Authority wards. The completion of the California Medical Facility at Vacaville in the next few years will still only add another 500 capacity to the Department's facilities, as the present

temporary Medical Facility at Terminal Island cares for 1,000 prisoners. Even with the construction of a new medium security prison now authorized, and an additional institution for older men on the Chino grounds, capacity to house the prison population will not be sufficient without overcrowding. As it will take several years at best to build and complete these projected institutions, the overcrowding situation will become considerably worse than it is today. To a large extent most of the prisoners in excess of capacity are kept at San Quentin, although each of the other institutions has to bear at least some proportion of the overcrowding.

In Table 2 the movement of population is shown for each of the two years 1951 and 1952 by men and women, with the men further classified as to adults and Youth Authority wards. All of the adult men indicated in the table for 1952 were committed to prison after conviction of a felony offense, except 49 in the "all other" received group and 35 in the "all other" released group who were committed under special arrangements. Some of these latter are recalcitrant tuberculous patients convicted of a misdemeanor for violation of quarantine regulations and are cared for in the California Medical Facility, and a few are sex psychopaths in the constructive custody of the Department of Mental Hygiene who have been placed with court approval in a prison for greater security. There was also one federal prisoner in the population who had been received previously to 1952.

The Youth Authority male group consists of wards committed to the Youth Authority and placed by that Authority in a Department of Corrections' institution for care and treatment. Most of these youths are cared for in the Deuel Vocational Institution located temporarily at Lancaster which will be moved during August, 1953, to a new permanent site being constructed near Tracy. Of the 654 Youth Authority males in the population on December 31, 1952, 584 were in the Deuel Vocational Institution or in the Reception-Guidance Center at Chino, and 70 were in other institutions of the Department. All of the women shown in the prison population are in the California Institution for Women at Corona. Of the 415 women in the institution on December 31, 1952, one was a Youth Authority ward, and one a federal prisoner.

The number of adults newly committed to prison during 1952 was 3,510, an increase of 11.1 percent over the commitments of the previous year. For the men the increase was the same, 11.1 percent, while for the women the increase was 18.7 percent. The number of parole violators returned to prison in 1952 was almost the same as the number returned in 1951, except that there was an increase in the proportion returned with new commitments and a decrease in those returned without new commitments as compared with the previous year.

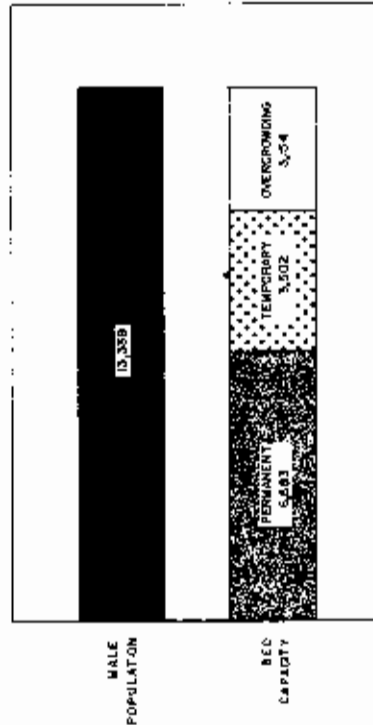
There was a marked drop among the men in the number of persons released from prison in 1952 as compared with 1951. Only 579 were released on expiration of sentence in 1952 as compared with 982 the previous year, and 2,495 were paroled as compared with 2,646 in 1951. The number of deaths, executions, and escapes was greater in 1952 than in 1951. A much larger number of women was released during 1952 than in 1951.

CHART I

CALIFORNIA PRISON BED CAPACITY AND POPULATION

MEN

JUNE 1, 1953



Note: Overcrowding 93.6 percent - excess of permanent bed capacity. This does not include excess of permanent and temporary bed capacity.

Table 2

MOVEMENT OF PRISON POPULATION

1951 - 1952

Type of Activity	1951			1952		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
		Adult	Youth		Adult	Youth
		Authority	Authority		Authority	Authority
Population, January 1	11,538	10,892	646	11,339	10,565	774
Total received	5,451	4,406	1,045	5,298	4,343	955
New commitments	3,252	2,007	1,245	3,610	2,426	1,184
Parole violators returned	301	289	12	340	326	14
With new commitments	360	349	11	401	386	15
Without new commitments	541	520	21	496	474	22
Escapes returned	53	44	9	60	55	5
Returned from court	407	389	18	605	593	12
Returned from State	6	-	-	5	-	-
Hospitals	2	-	-	4	-	-
Youth Authority	207	807	-	1,003	1,002	1
Commitments	27	27	-	114	106	8
All other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total released	5,110	4,149	961	5,068	3,922	1,146
Discharged, expiration	985	982	3	584	579	5
of sentence	2,761	2,646	115	2,672	2,495	177
Paroled	2,364	2,282	82	2,340	2,185	155
First parole	397	364	33	332	310	22
Reparole	49	49	-	67	64	3
Died	6	6	-	9	9	-
Executed	62	53	9	73	63	10
Escaped	406	388	18	626	598	28
To court	11	1	10	9	2	7
To State hospitals	806	-	-	929	-	-
To Youth Authority	24	24	-	109	102	7
All other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Population, December 31	11,939	10,969	970	13,169	12,100	1,069
Population increase	401	277	134	1,230	1,131	99

In recent years a lag has developed in the release of prisoners as compared with persons admitted to prison two and one-half years earlier. In Chart II is shown graphically the number of admissions as related to the number of releases 30 months after admission. The difference between the two lines, as shown by the shaded area, represents the lag in release which represents an increase in the length of time that prisoners are being held. While it is recognized that fluctuations will occur, in the long run the releases will usually about equal the admissions of a similar period of time two and one-half years earlier. Obviously the lag indicated in Chart II has contributed to the steady rise in prison population. It is roughly estimated that about one-half of the recent increase in prison population has been due to the rise in the number of new commitments, and the other half is due to keeping prisoners for longer periods of time as indicated by the shaded portion on Chart II.

The number of persons discharged by expiration of sentence, paroled, who died in prison or were executed, represents a figure which can be defined as the total effective releases. Table 3, following, shows the number and percentage of effective releases of men released during each of the past three years by type of release.

Actually, 537 less men were released in 1952 than during the previous year. The total number of releases was even slightly less in 1952 than during the year 1950. The proportionate number of each type of release, however, has changed during the past three years. There was a decrease in the proportion of persons discharged on expiration of sentence and an increase in the percentage released on parole. Actually, there was approximately an eight percent shift from expirations to paroles in the make-up of the total effective releases in 1952 as compared with 1951.

Table 3
EFFECTIVE RELEASES FROM PRISON
Male Prisoners Released

1950 - 1952

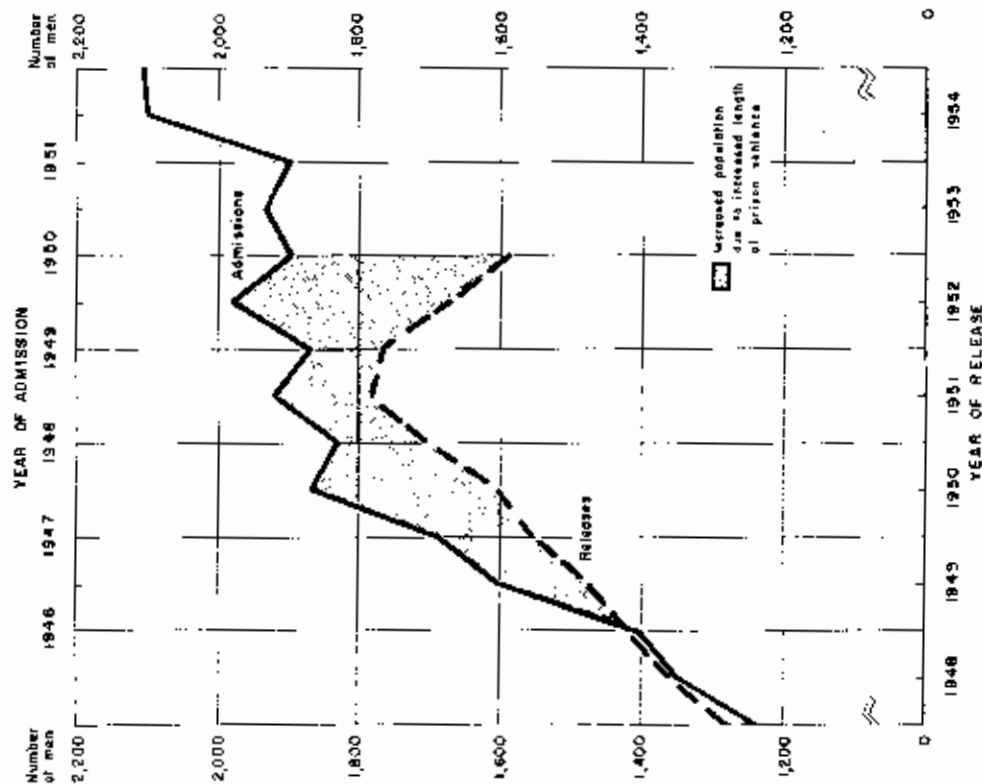
Effective releases	1950		1951		1952	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,161	100.0	3,683	100.0	3,146	100.0
Discharged at expiration	783	24.7	982	26.7	579	18.4
Never paroled	340	10.7	474	12.9	308	9.8
Returned to prison as						
violator	443	14.0	508	13.8	271	8.6
Paroled	2,330	73.6	2,646	71.8	2,495	79.3
Died or executed	54	1.7	55	1.5	72	2.3

CHART II

ADULT MALE ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES CALIFORNIA PRISONS

1945-1952 ADMISSIONS COMPARED WITH
RELEASES THIRTY MONTHS LATER

Based on half year 1945-5 computed from
moving average of twelve half years



Men and women received in prison on new commitments during each of the years 1951 and 1952 are shown in Tables 4 through 8 by offense, area of commitment, age, race, and prior criminal record.

The differences in the number of persons committed to prison in various categories between two single years are not necessarily a reflection of true trends. One year's commitments may be much greater than the general average and in the following year the number may be much lower, so the actual difference looks greater than would be the case if the average or general trend of past years also had been examined. For this reason, in each of the five items on new commitments listed above, there are presented additional tables on males showing the average number of commitments to prison during the four-year period 1947-1950, and indicating the percentage variation from this four-year average for the commitments of 1951 and of 1952.

Averaging the number of commitments based on those four years seems appropriate for use as an indication of normal distribution, as the number of men committed per year did not vary widely during these years, ranging only between 2,727 and 2,983. Further, there were no variations of particular significance in the general make-up of the commitments during this period.

Offense Groups

The distribution of new commitments by offense is shown in Table 4. Among the men there was very little shift in general distribution among the various offense groups. The number of narcotic offenders, which had doubled in 1951 as compared to the previous year, increased 24 percent in 1952 over the year 1951. There was also a substantial increase in the number of persons committed for the offense of escaping from jail or camp. If rape and other sex offenses are combined, the increase of commitments for sex offenses is 19 percent in 1952 as compared with 1951. Most other offenses showed very little increase among the 1952 commitments.

While the number of women committed is relatively small when compared to the men, there were substantial increases in commitments for robbery which rose from 6 to 12, for theft which rose from 17 to 31, and for narcotics which rose from 34 to 47 in 1952 as compared with the previous year.

In Table 4A the relationship of the male commitments of 1951 and of 1952 to the four-year average of 1947-1950 is shown by offense groups. The general variation that has occurred during the same years in state population should be noted before studying the change in the commitments. In 1951,

Table 4

OFFENSE GROUPS
Prisoners Received from Court
1951 and 1952

Offense	1951				1952				1951				1952			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,397	100.0	3,426	100.0	155	100.0	155	100.0	184	100.0	184	100.0	184	100.0	184	100.0
Homicide	233	6.3	138	4.0	21	13.6	19	10.4	19	10.4	19	10.4	19	10.4	19	10.4
Murder 1st	33	1.1	32	1.0	1	0.6	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5
Murder 2nd	28	1.0	36	1.3	6	3.9	2	1.1	2	1.1	2	1.1	2	1.1	2	1.1
Manslaughter	36	1.1	48	1.4	14	9.1	16	8.8	16	8.8	16	8.8	16	8.8	16	8.8
Manslaughter by vehicle	6	0.2	9	0.3	1	0.6	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5
Robbery	462	14.9	514	15.0	6	3.9	12	6.5	12	6.5	12	6.5	12	6.5	12	6.5
Robbery 1st	288	8.3	346	10.1	5	3.3	5	2.7	5	2.7	5	2.7	5	2.7	5	2.7
Robbery 2nd	147	4.7	147	4.3	1	0.6	7	3.8	7	3.8	7	3.8	7	3.8	7	3.8
Other	27	0.9	21	0.6	1	0.6	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5
Assault	145	3.7	113	3.3	4	2.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5
Burglary	628	20.2	670	19.6	10	6.5	20	10.4	20	10.4	20	10.4	20	10.4	20	10.4
Burglary 1st	87	2.8	72	2.1	2	0.6	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5
Burglary 2nd	940	16.8	575	15.8	9	5.9	9	5.0	9	5.0	9	5.0	9	5.0	9	5.0
Other	21	0.6	23	0.7	1	0.6	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5
Theft, except auto	253	8.2	271	7.9	17	11.0	31	16.9	31	16.9	31	16.9	31	16.9	31	16.9
Auto theft	256	8.0	162	4.7	1	0.6	2	1.1	2	1.1	2	1.1	2	1.1	2	1.1
Forgery and checks	602	19.4	627	18.3	46	31.0	53	28.8	53	28.8	53	28.8	53	28.8	53	28.8
Rape	66	2.1	73	2.3	1	0.6	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5
Other sex offenses	160	5.2	191	5.6	4	2.6	3	1.6	3	1.6	3	1.6	3	1.6	3	1.6
Narcotics	355	11.5	441	12.9	34	21.9	47	25.5	47	25.5	47	25.5	47	25.5	47	25.5
Escape from jail or camp	83	2.7	112	3.3	3	1.9	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5
Habitual criminal	2	0.1	5	0.4	1	0.6	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5
All other	82	2.7	103	3.0	7	4.5	4	2.1	4	2.1	4	2.1	4	2.1	4	2.1

Table 4a

OFFENSE GROUPS
Variation from Four-Year Average
Male Prisoners Received from Court
1947-1950 Average, 1951, and 1952

Offense	1947-50 Year average		1951		1952	
	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average
Total	2,835	9.2	3,097	9.2	3,426	20.8
Homicide	163	- 18.4	133	- 18.4	138	- 15.3
Robbery	514	- 10.1	462	- 10.1	514	0.0
Assault	121	- 5.0	115	- 5.0	113	- 6.6
Burglary	541	16.1	628	16.1	570	23.8
Theft, except auto	250	1.2	253	1.2	271	8.4
Auto theft	159	- 1.9	156	- 1.9	162	1.9
Forgery	536	12.3	602	12.3	627	17.0
Rape	78	- 15.4	66	- 15.4	79	1.3
Other sex offenses	157	1.9	160	1.9	191	21.7
Narcotics	115	208.7	355	208.7	441	283.5
Escape	105	- 21.0	83	- 21.0	112	6.7
All other	96	- 12.5	84	- 12.5	108	12.5
Total, less narcotics	2,720	0.8	2,742	0.8	2,985	9.7
Percent change in State population		7.5		7.5		11.9

the population of the State was 7.5 percent greater than the average for the past four years. In 1952, the state population was 11.9 percent greater.

If prison commitments showed the same rate of increase as state population, the normal expectation would be that the number of 1951 commitments would be 7 percent greater than the 1947-1950 average, while actually it was 9.2 percent, and the 1952 commitments about 12 percent greater, while it was really 20.6 percent.

Observing the percentage changes by offense groups, it will be noted that there was a pronounced decrease in the number of homicide commitments both in 1951 and 1952 as compared with the previous four-year average, and that there has been a less than average number of commitments for robbery, assault, theft except auto, auto theft, rape, and escape. While increases greater than would normally have been expected did occur in burglary, forgery, and, to a small extent, in sex offenses other than rape. Increases in narcotic commitments were striking. In fact, it appears that the increase in narcotic offenses explains most of the increase observed in the total number of commitments.

If the total commitments, omitting narcotics, are considered, the increase in 1951 over the four-year average becomes less than one percent, and the increase in 1952 only about 10 percent. Both of these increases are less than the general population increase in the State during the same period of time.

County or Area of Commitment

The ten counties in Southern California which make up 57 percent of the State's population accounted for 54 percent of the men and 51 percent of the women committed to prison in 1952. The San Francisco Bay area, with nine counties, makes up 24.8 percent of the State's population, but committed only 18.4 percent of the new men received and 32.1 percent of the women. The greatest differential in proportion of commitments with population is found in the commitments from the seven San Joaquin Valley counties. These counties, which have 8 percent of the State's population, accounted for 16 percent of the men and 11 percent of the women received in prison in 1952.

In Table 5 is found the detail relating to the number of commitments from the major areas of the State and their relationship to the population of these areas. California population figures, issued by the State Department of Finance, are used as the basis of comparison of the proportionate commitments of persons from these areas. For the State as a whole the rate of commitments per 100,000 population in 1952 was 29.6, and for 1951 it was 27.9. It is noted in Table 5 that there was a great variation in the rates of commitments. The lowest rate shown in this table for the men, that of 15.0, was for the Bay area counties omitting Alameda and San Francisco Counties. The highest rate, as has already been

Table 5

COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT Prisoners Received from Court 1951 and 1952

County or area of commitment	State population*		Men		Women	
	Number shown	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1951						
Total	11,115	100.0	3,097	100.0	1,555	100.0
Southern California	6,282	56.5	1,681	54.3	835	53.6
Los Angeles County	4,290	38.6	1,148	37.1	555	35.4
9 other counties	1,992	17.9	533	17.2	280	18.2
San Francisco Bay area	2,781	25.0	652	21.0	348	22.4
San Francisco County	177	6.9	306	10.5	26	1.6
Alameda County	768	7.0	139	4.5	9	0.6
7 other counties	1,236	11.1	187	6.0	113	7.4
Balance of State	2,052	18.5	764	24.7	24	1.5
10 Sacramento Valley cos.	584	5.3	187	6.0	6	0.4
7 San Joaquin Valley cos.	916	8.2	386	12.5	22	1.4
22 other counties	552	5.0	191	6.2	7	0.4
1952						
Total	11,568	100.0	3,426	100.0	1,894	100.0
Southern California	6,579	56.9	1,848	53.9	944	50.1
Los Angeles County	4,422	38.3	1,198	34.9	583	30.8
9 other counties	2,057	18.1	650	19.0	361	19.1
San Francisco Bay area	2,867	24.8	630	18.4	359	19.0
San Francisco County	779	6.7	284	8.3	29	1.5
Alameda County	768	6.6	151	4.4	15	0.8
9 other counties	1,320	11.3	195	5.7	115	6.0
Balance of State	2,122	18.3	948	27.7	31	1.6
10 Sacramento Valley cos.	613	5.3	216	6.3	4	0.2
7 San Joaquin Valley cos.	945	8.1	346	10.0	20	1.1
22 other counties	564	4.9	186	5.4	7	0.4

* Source: California Department of Finance, 6-1-53.

indicated a rate of 57.8, nearly four times the lowest rate, occurs for the seven San Joaquin Valley counties.

Comparing the rates of the two years, the greatest variation is to be found in the fact that the rate for San Francisco County, although high, decreased, while the rate for the San Joaquin Valley counties increased. The rates for other areas did not show marked changes.

The rates of commitments of women have been much higher for San Francisco County than for any other area both in 1951 and in 1952.

A comparison of the commitments of men in 1951 and 1952 with the four-year average 1947-1950 is shown in Table 5A by county or area of commitment. San Francisco County shows

Table 5A

COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT
ALL OFFENSES LESS NARCOTICS
VARIATION FROM FOUR-YEAR AVERAGE
Male Prisoners Received from Court

1947-1950 Average, 1951, and 1952

County or area of commitment	1947-50 year average	1951		1952	
		Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average
Total	2,835	3,097	9.2	3,426	20.8
Southern California	1,422	1,681	18.2	1,848	30.0
Los Angeles County	906	1,148	26.7	1,298	32.2
9 other counties	516	533	3.3	550	26.0
San Francisco Bay area . . .	536	652	21.6	630	17.5
Alameda County	149	139	- 6.7	151	1.3
San Francisco County	208	326	56.7	284	36.5
7 other counties	179	187	4.5	195	8.9
Balance of State	877	764	- 12.9	848	- 8.1
10 Sacramento Valley cos. . .	217	187	- 13.8	216	- 0.5
7 San Joaquin Valley cos. . .	474	386	- 18.6	546	15.2
22 other counties	186	191	2.7	186	0.0

the highest percentage of increase with 55.7 percent for the 1951 commitments. Los Angeles County also shows a relatively high percentage of increase. The Sacramento Valley and the San Joaquin Valley counties show a rather marked decrease in the expected number committed in 1951, and a return to slightly above normal expectation in 1952.

As has already been established, the rise in narcotic commitments accounts for a large part of the increases observed in the above figures. It is of interest to examine the general distribution of commitments by county or area when the narcotic cases are omitted from the picture. This has been done in Table 5B which presents a very different picture. Only in Los Angeles County does there appear to be a significant increase greater than would be expected for both years. This evidence again emphasizes the fact that the major change in make-up of prison commitments of the past two years has been the result of the narcotic commitments.

Table 5B

COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT
ALL OFFENSES LESS NARCOTICS
VARIATION FROM FOUR-YEAR AVERAGE
Male Prisoners Received from Court

1947-1950 Average, 1951, and 1952

County or area of commitment	1947-50 year average	1951		1952	
		Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average
Total	2,720	2,742	0.8	2,985	9.7
Southern California	1,366	1,516	11.0	1,668	17.7
Los Angeles County	863	1,018	17.7	1,044	20.7
9 other counties	501	498	- 0.6	504	12.6
San Francisco Bay area . . .	507	508	0.2	495	- 2.4
Alameda County	143	116	- 18.9	123	- 14.0
San Francisco County	191	215	12.6	132	- 0.5
7 other counties	173	177	2.3	180	4.0
Balance of State	847	718	- 15.2	882	4.1
10 Sacramento Valley cos. . .	210	179	- 14.8	201	- 4.3
7 San Joaquin Valley cos. . .	454	357	- 21.4	507	11.7
22 other counties	183	182	- 0.5	174	- 4.9

Age at Admission

A slight decrease in general age of those admitted to prison was observed a year ago when 1951 was compared with the previous year. The median age of those admitted to prison in 1952 was again less than the median for 1951 admissions, see Table 6. The percentage of men who were under 25 years of age at the time of admission was 26.7 in 1950, 27.8 in 1951, and 29.3 in 1952. For the women, these percentages were 25.5 in 1950, 23.9 in 1951, and 27.8 in 1952. The median ages of both men and women in 1952 were approximately 29 years.

Table 6

AGE AT ADMISSION
Prisoners Received from Court
1951 and 1952

Age at admission in years	Men				Women			
	1951		1952		1951		1952	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total . . .	3,097	100.0	3,426	100.0	155	100.0	184	100.0
Under 20 . . .	48	1.6	73	2.2	7	4.5	6	3.3
15-17 . . .	3	0.1	3	0.1	-	-	-	-
18 . . .	8	0.3	14	0.4	1	0.6	-	0.3
19 . . .	37	1.2	56	1.7	6	3.9	5	2.8
20-24 . . .	813	26.2	931	27.1	30	19.4	45	24.5
20 . . .	61	2.0	106	3.1	3	2.0	9	4.9
21 . . .	155	5.0	174	5.1	5	3.2	11	6.0
22 . . .	193	6.2	228	6.6	8	5.2	11	6.0
23 . . .	206	6.7	207	6.0	5	3.2	6	3.3
24 . . .	178	5.7	216	6.3	9	5.8	8	4.3
25-29 . . .	736	23.8	845	24.7	45	29.1	49	26.6
30-34 . . .	457	14.7	534	15.6	29	18.7	36	19.5
35-39 . . .	352	11.4	357	10.4	13	8.4	11	6.0
40-44 . . .	247	8.0	250	7.3	15	9.7	12	6.5
45-49 . . .	178	5.7	192	5.6	8	5.2	13	7.1
50-54 . . .	143	4.6	120	3.5	5	3.2	6	3.3
55-59 . . .	71	2.3	56	1.6	1	0.6	4	2.2
60 and over . . .	52	1.7	68	2.0	2	1.2	2	1.0
Median age . . .	29.7		28.9		29.5		29.0	
Percent under 25 . . .		27.8		29.3		23.9		27.8

Table 6A

AGE AT ADMISSION
VARIATION FROM FOUR-YEAR AVERAGE
Male Prisoners Received from Court
1947-1950 Average, 1951, and 1952

Age at admission in years	1947-50 year average	1951		1952	
		Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average
Total . . .	2,835	3,097	9.2	3,426	20.8
Under 20 . . .	98	48	- 51.0	73	- 25.5
20 - 24 . . .	753	813	8.0	931	23.6
25 - 29 . . .	596	736	23.1	845	41.3
30 - 39 . . .	754	809	7.3	891	18.2
40 - 49 . . .	421	425	1.0	442	5.0
50 and over . . .	211	266	26.1	244	15.6

Table 6B

AGE AT ADMISSION
ALL OFFENSES LESS BARBOUNCS
VARIATION FROM FOUR-YEAR AVERAGE
Male Prisoners Received from Court
1947-1950 Average, 1951, and 1952

Age at admission in years	1947-50 year average	1951		1952	
		Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average
Total . . .	2,720	2,742	0.8	2,985	9.7
Under 20 . . .	98	44	- 55.1	64	- 34.7
20 - 24 . . .	725	720	- 0.7	801	10.5
25 - 29 . . .	572	637	11.4	736	28.7
30 - 39 . . .	718	723	0.7	784	9.2
40 - 49 . . .	401	377	- 6.0	389	- 3.0
50 and over . . .	206	241	17.0	211	2.4

The relationship of the men committed to prison in 1951 and in 1952 to the average number of commitments during the four-year period 1947-1950 is shown by age at admission in Table 6A. There seems to be a definite tendency during the last two years to commit fewer persons under the age of twenty to the prisons than was the case during the preceding years. The greatest growth in number committed occurs for those in the 25-29 age group. There was also considerable increase during 1951 in the number committed who were over 50 years of age.

In order to determine whether or not these differences may be attributable to the increase in narcotic commitments, these same data, omitting narcotic cases from consideration, are presented in Table 6B. The shift away from committing persons under 20 to prison is even more pronounced with the narcotic cases out of the picture. The other differences noted in Table 6A are still to be seen in Table 6B except that they are not as great. The increased number of commitments during the last two years in the 25-29 age group still exceeds the rate of increase in state population.

Race

The racial distribution of those committed to prison during 1951 and 1952 is shown in Table 7. Among the men there was practically no change at all in the percentage that was white. The proportion that was Mexican was 16.0 percent in

Table 7

RACE Prisoners Received from Court

1951 and 1952

Racial group	1951		1952		1951		1952	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,097	100.0	3,426	100.0	155	100.0	184	100.0
White	1,906	61.5	2,099	61.3	90	58.1	115	62.5
Mexican	496	16.0	596	17.4	9	5.8	4	2.2
Negro	616	19.9	622	18.1	51	32.9	57	31.0
All other	79	2.6	109	3.2	5	3.2	8	4.3
Indian	22	0.7	48	1.4	4	2.6	5	2.7
Chinese	33	1.1	35	1.0	-	-	3	1.6
Japanese	8	0.1	7	0.2	-	-	-	-
Hawaiian	4	0.1	7	0.2	1	0.6	-	-
Philippino	17	0.6	12	0.4	-	-	-	-
Other	1	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 7A

RACE VARIATION FROM FOUR-YEAR AVERAGE Male Prisoners Received from Court 1947-1950 Average, 1951, and 1952

Racial group	1951		1952	
	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average
Total	2,835	3.097	3,426	20.8
White	1,842	1,906	2,099	14.0
Mexican	388	496	596	53.6
Negro	546	616	622	13.9
All other	59	79	109	84.7

Table 7B

RACE ALL OFFENSES LESS NARCOTICS VARIATION FROM FOUR-YEAR AVERAGE Male Prisoners Received from Court 1947-1950 Average, 1951, and 1952

Racial group	1951		1952	
	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average
Total	2,720	2,742	2,985	9.7
White	1,818	1,839	2,014	10.8
Mexican	343	377	394	14.9
Negro	507	477	502	- 1.0
All other	52	49	75	24.2

1951, and increased to 17.4 percent in 1952. On the other hand, the proportion that was Negro decreased from 19.9 percent in 1951 to 18.1 percent in 1952. For some reason there were 48 commitments of Indians in 1952 as compared with 22 in 1951.

The racial distribution of the women committed varied somewhat in 1952 as compared with 1951, but as the numbers are so small not much significance can be attached to any variation.

The racial groups of the 1951 and 1952 male commitments have been compared to those of the previous four-year average in Table 7A. It will be observed that the heaviest increases occur in the Mexican group and in the "other races" group. Again, these data are shown in Table 7B omitting narcotic cases with the result that the marked variations from the four-year average observed in Table 7A are about eliminated. Aside from narcotics, the increase in commitments of Mexicans is not far from normal expectation, and the Negro commitments are below normal.

Among the "other races" nearly every narcotic commitment recorded during these years has been Chinese. In 1952 the rise in the "other races" group results from the increased number of Indian commitments already mentioned but none of these involved narcotic offenses.

Prior Criminal Record

Less than 18 percent of the men and 37 percent of the women who were received in 1952 had records of no prior commitment to a prison, a jail, or a juvenile institution upon conviction of a criminal offense as shown in Table 8. More

than a third (35.6 percent) of the men had a prior record of prison commitment, and nearly half (46.7 percent) had been committed previously to a jail or to a juvenile institution. The percentage distribution of the types of prior criminal records of men admitted to prison in 1952 was almost the same as it was in 1951.

Greater differences between the two years are to be found among the prior records of the women. The proportion of those who had no prior commitment dropped, while the percentage of those who had prior commitments to a jail or a juvenile institution rose from 37 percent to 51 percent.

The 1951 and the 1952 male commitments are compared with the average of the previous four years in Table 8A by type of prior commitment record. Two factors undoubtedly influence the results shown in this table. First, more complete information on the misdemeanor history of new prisoners was probably available for the 1951 and the 1952 commitments than had been available for those of previous years. This contributed to the heavy increase in the number recorded with prior misdemeanor commitments, and a decrease in the number classified as having no prior commitments. Second, as narcotic commitments contributed most of the general increase that has been observed in 1951 and 1952, and as narcotic offenders tend to have a higher than average prior misdemeanor record, an increase in the persons committed who had prior misdemeanor commitment records is to be expected. This latter factor is examined in Table 8B where the same commitment data omitting narcotic offenses are shown. This reduction in the number with no prior criminal commitment record is even greater in Table 8B than in 8A. However, the number with prior records of jail or juvenile commitments, although much less than shown in Table 8A, nevertheless indicates some general increase in the commitments of this particular group.

Table 8

PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD
Prisoners Received from Court

1951 and 1952

Type of prior commitment	Men				Women			
	1951		1952		1951		1952	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,097	100.0	3,426	100.0	155	100.0	184	100.0
No prior commitment	542	17.5	605	17.7	75	48.4	68	37.0
Prior jail or juvenile only	2,452	46.2	1,600	46.7	58	37.4	94	51.1
Prior prison commitment	1,123	36.3	1,221	35.6	22	14.2	22	11.9
One prison	624	20.1	681	19.8	15	9.7	18	9.8
Two prison	271	8.8	309	9.0	7	4.5	3	1.6
Three or more prison	228	7.4	231	6.8	-	-	1	0.5

RELEASES FROM PRISON

Table 8A

PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD
VARIATION FROM FOUR-YEAR AVERAGE
Male Prisoners Received from Court
1947-1950 Average, 1951, and 1952

Type of prior commitment	1947-50 year average	1951		1952	
		Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average
Total	2,835	3,097	9.2	3,426	20.8
No prior commitment	649	542	- 16.5	605	- 6.8
Prior jail or juvenile only	1,136	1,432	26.1	1,600	40.8
Prior prison commitment . .	1,050	1,123	7.0	1,221	16.3

The next three tables give information for both 1951 and 1952 relating to the time served in prison by men who were paroled for the first time, by those who were reparaoled, and by those who were released from prison on expiration of sentence.

Men Paroled for the First Time

The median time served before release by those men paroled for the first time and the range of the middle four-fifths of the cases are presented by offense group in Table 9. The data are nearly identical for the years 1952 and 1951 with respect to the total first paroles. The median time served was 30 months and the time served by the middle four-fifths of the men paroled ranged from 18 months to 56 and 57 months. Examination of the individual offenses, however, indicates some variation between the two years. The median time served by those paroled in 1952 with first degree murder charges was just 12 years, whereas it had been 13½ years for this group released in 1951. On the other hand, the median time served by those paroled who had been committed for murder second degree increased from 59 months to 66 months. There was also an increase noted in time served by those paroled in 1952 who were committed for sex offenses, particularly the rape offenders. Those paroled in 1952, sentenced for rape, served a median time of 15 months longer than those released in 1951. The median time for those charged with assault with a deadly weapon rose from 30 to 33 months, while the medians for those convicted of robbery first degree and burglary second degree each dropped 3 months in 1952 as compared with 1951. All other offenses listed in the table the median time served was the same for the men paroled in both years.

Men Reparoled

The time served by men returned to prison as violators before they were reparaoled was greater in 1952 than it was in 1951, as shown in Table 10. For men returned with a new commitment the median time served before reparaole rose from 42 to 45 months, and for those returned on technical violations without a new commitment the median time increased from 13 to 16 months. Those returned without a new commitment have been grouped into four subdivisions, and the median time served is shown for each of these divisions. The first subdivision consists of those returned to prison as violators but against whom no criminal charge had been filed. In these the violation had been a matter of absconding or was based on the nonobservance of technical conditions of parole. The second subdivision includes those persons who were charged with a new criminal offense but were not convicted and were without sufficient indication in their record to conclude that they had

Table 8B

PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD
ALL OFFENSES LESS NARCOTICS
VARIATION FROM FOUR-YEAR AVERAGE
Male Prisoners Received from Court
1947-1950 Average, 1951, and 1952

Type of prior commitment	1947-50 year average	1951		1952	
		Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average	Number	Percent variation from 4-yr. average
Total	2,720	2,742	0.8	2,995	9.7
No prior commitment	636	487	- 23.4	530	- 16.7
Prior jail or juvenile only	1,080	1,228	13.7	1,360	25.9
Prior prison commitment . .	1,004	1,027	2.3	1,095	9.1

Table 9
OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON
Male Prisoners Paroled for the First Time
1951 and 1952

Only offense groups with more than 25 cases have been shown

Offense	1951				1952			
	Number of cases	Time served in months		Number of cases	Time served in months		Range of middle 80%	
		Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%		
Total.	2,282	30	18-56	2,185	30	18-57		
Murder 1st	44	160	120-204	40	144	97-219		
Murder 2nd	41	59	46-84	39	66	42-91		
Manslaughter	56	33	24-46	55	30	24-42		
Robbery 1st.	301	39	30-60	278	36	27-63		
Robbery 2nd.	141	30	18-44	103	30	18-56		
Assault with deadly weapon.	80	30	18-42	79	33	18-45		
Burglary 1st	71	36	27-50	61	36	24-65		
Burglary 2nd	350	30	18-42	383	27	18-43		
Grand theft, except auto.	129	27	18-36	112	27	18-42		
Auto theft	96	24	18-36	112	24	18-36		
Forgery and checks . .	466	24	15-36	421	24	16-36		
Rape	53	39	18-90	49	54	24-108		
Lewd and lasc. conduct	65	42	26-89	57	44	30-82		
Narcotics.	90	24	18-36	115	24	12-39		
Escape from jail . . .	40	18	13-33	36	18	12-30		
All other.	259	-	-	243	-	-		

been guilty of the offense charged. The fact that this group was held longer in prison than any of the other four groups suggests that they may have been considered to be implicated in the criminal offenses charged. The third subdivision comprises those persons who were convicted of a misdemeanor offense and were returned to prison after serving the penalty for such offense. The fourth subdivision includes those persons who were charged with new felony offenses and were either convicted of them to serve time elsewhere or were returned to prison without conviction but the record is clear that they committed the particular offense charged. It will be noted that in each of these subdivisions the time served for those reparoled in 1952 exceeds the time served by those reparoled in 1951.

Men Discharged by Expiration of Sentence

The median time served in prison before expiration of sentence for men who were never paroled was 24 months for the 1952 cases, the same as it was for the 1951 cases, Table 11. In two types of offenses, burglary second degree and petty theft with a prior, the median time was greater in 1952 than in 1951.

Those persons returned as parole violators with new commitments and held in prison until the expiration of their sentences served a longer period of time in 1952 than in 1951, the medians being 31 months and 43 months, respectively. These

Table 10
TIME SERVED AS VIOLATOR BEFORE REARREST
Male Prisoners Reparoled
1951 and 1952

Type of parole	1951			1952		
	Number of cases	Time served in months		Number of cases	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%
Total	364	42	33-71	311	45	33-73
After return with new commitment	179	43	7-32	187	16	7-40
After return without new commitment	185	18	6-38	123	17	4-42
No criminal charge	36	16	7-30	31	23	11-34
Criminal charge, no conviction	21	16	6-31	16	16	20-42
Misdemeanor conviction	40	10	7-32	34	16	7-40
Felony offense committed	96	15	7-32	52	17	7-40

whose sentences expired after being returned to prison without a new commitment served slightly less time in 1952 than in 1951. The time-served data for the four subgroups of men returned without a new commitment show that there was a reduction in median time served for those who had no criminal charge and for those who had misdemeanor convictions, while there was a slight increase for those who had a criminal charge without conviction. There was no change to speak of in the median time served of those who had been returned to prison after the commission of a new felony offense.

Table 11

TIME SERVED IN PRISON
Males Released from Prison on Expiration of Sentence
1951 and 1952

Type of discharge	1951			1952		
	Number of cases	Time served in months		Number of cases	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%
Total	982			579		
First release.	474	24	12-50	308	24	13-60
Burglary 2nd	61	30	18-44	41	33	24-48
Grand theft.	33	30	13-43	13	-	-
Petty theft with prior	50	21	12-33	48	24	12-36
Auto theft	33	24	18-36	17	-	-
Forgery and checks	70	24	18-43	42	24	18-48
Escape	97	18	12-30	56	18	12-33
All other.	130	-	-	91	-	-
Release after return as parole violator	508	-	-	271	-	-
After return with new commitment.	45	43	30-57	33	51	36-71
After return without new commitment.	463	20	11-30	238	18	11-38
No criminal charge	89	17	11-28	37	16	9-25
Criminal charge, no conviction.	66	19.5	12-30	30	20.5	13-41
Misdemeanor conviction	117	20	10-26	71	16	11-32
Felony offense committed	191	21	12-32	100	20.5	11-41