



CALIFORNIA PRISONERS

1956 AND 1957

CALIFORNIA PRISONERS 1956 AND 1957

SUMMARY STATISTICS OF PRISONERS AND PAROLEES

Prepared for the
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

By the
BUREAU OF CRIMINAL STATISTICS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Sacramento, California

FOREWORD

The reliable statistics furnished the Department of Corrections continuously by the Bureau of Criminal Statistics are a vital tool in the day-to-day administration of the department.

This report affords all those interested in the administration of criminal justice the opportunity to see the total picture, to pinpoint problems, and to re-evaluate policies and programs with the help of statistics. Each individual or agency concerned with the administration of criminal justice will, perhaps, read these data from a particular viewpoint. My comments are, naturally, those of a correctional administrator.

The fact that the intake of new commitments, the total inmate turnover and prison population all reached new highs, of course, poses a serious housing problem. But it also poses many other significant problems not so easily apparent.

The record high total population has forced double-celling and overcrowding of dormitories in all institutions of the department. The crowding of two men into a space designed to accommodate barely one leads to annoyances, frustrations, fights, and finally to even more serious offenses. It also makes the prevention and detection of immoral incidents more difficult. Of course, there are limits to how many persons can be accommodated even if they are packed in like sardines.

It appears overcrowding will continue even with the opening of the nearly completed North Facility at Soledad, and the completion in 1961 of the just-begun medium security institution at Los Padres. It is evident, also, that additional facilities for women are needed, and are indeed already overdue. Another institution for young men similar to the Deuel Vocational Institution will also be required.

But even more significant from the long view is the effect of a too-large population on the program to rehabilitate prisoners. A population of such size, increasing faster than previously estimated, strains every aspect of the program: from initial classification to final discharge.

The most significant immediate result has been an increase in the number of able-bodied prisoners idled simply because there is nothing for them to do. Idleness is not only unconstructive in the reformation of a prisoner, it is actually destructive. In addition, large numbers of idle prisoners pose the constant threat of disturbances and a weakening of official controls. That such a disturbance has not materialized may be credited to the constructive policies of the department, the available correctional program, and the well-trained personnel who man our institutions.

The size of the prison population and the number of men idle are not the only factors that must be considered in prison administration

and in the maintenance of present rehabilitation techniques and in the creation of new and vital treatment measures. The characteristics of the prisoners are equally significant. A study of the characteristics outlined in this report, considered in terms of the idleness problem, leads inevitably to the conclusion that the Correctional Industries must be enlarged. Large numbers of prisoners can be profitably occupied only if they can serve their time in productive work programs. Such programs not only reduce idleness, but teach inmates industrial techniques and good work habits. Correctional Industries with sales limited to the state-use market, and safeguarded to prevent injury to management or labor, permit the inmate to pay for a part of his keep, to the benefit of the taxpayer.

Incidentally, for the first time in this series of publications this report carries a section on the characteristics of the resident prison population as distinguished from the characteristics of the new commitments. The characteristics do vary, of course. The simple illustration of age serves to clarify the point. The median age of men newly admitted to prison from court in 1957, was 28.5 years. The median age of male felons in prison on December 31, 1957, was 32 years.

This relative youthfulness emphasizes the need for correctional treatment in our institutions. The persons sent to prison have more than half their lives before them.

The increasingly large number of persons either committed to prison on narcotic charges or found to be narcotic addicts, although committed on some other charge, is of significance to the correctional administrator. The successful treatment of this group is a challenge that must be met. Furthermore, the resident prison population tends to consist of the more difficult cases, because those inmates with the better prospects of making a contribution to society are, in general, released as soon as possible, within the limits of statutory provisions.

The continuing low level of educational achievement among persons committed to prison provides ample justification for the excellent school program now administered. However, the percentage reductions in the illiterate brackets coupled with a slight increase in those rated at the ninth grade level or better, indicates that we must bolster the school program to take care of more and more inmates.

The fact that relatively few of the persons committed to prison are without prior juvenile, jail or prison records, is largely accounted for by the county-administered systems of probation. Only those with the worst records are sent to prison. Out of each 100 persons convicted of a crime for which they could be sent to prison, only between 25 and 30 are normally committed to the custody of the Director of Corrections.

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* for the Department Of The Youth Authority, by the Bureau of Criminal Statistics.

With a few exceptions, the actual sentences of prisoners are set within broad statutory limits by the term-fixing authorities. The exceptions are: those prisoners sentenced to death and those sentenced to a definite life term, as in cases of first degree murder. Under the indeterminate sentence law, the term of an adult male felon and the proportion of it he actually spends in prison is set by the Adult Authority. The Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women makes similar determinations for women felons. Youth cases are handled by the Youth Authority. So far as their quasi-judicial functions are concerned, at least, these agencies act completely independent of the Director of Corrections.

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.

But it is obvious, of course, that a correctional administrator must know not only how many persons are being received and the number in prison, but also how long they are held, and by what method they

are released. Characteristics of persons released on parole are important to the administrators of those programs.

In connection with statistics on the time served in prison, I must point out that these can be calculated only on the basis of men released and must, therefore, be imperfect. They do not represent the man who is not released. In presenting information on time served, two general measures are used; these are the median time served and the range of the middle 80 percent of the cases. The median has an advantage over the arithmetic average in that it is not distorted by extreme cases. The range of the middle 80 percent is also a better representation of the spread of a group than is the entire range for the same reason.

Statistical data for women are presented separately from that for men since, throughout the administration of criminal justice, the two sexes have obviously been treated differently.

RICHARD A. MCGEE
Director of Corrections

Sacramento, California
August 1, 1958

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CALIFORNIA PRISONERS 1956 AND 1957

SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION AND MOVEMENT

The California prison population was 16,917 on December 31, 1957, the highest it has ever been at the close of any calendar year in the history of this State. The total number of prison inmates increased by 1,386, or 9 percent during 1957. During 1956, the prison population increased by 302 inmates, or 2 percent, so that on December 31, 1956, 15,532 inmates were in prison. Therefore, on the last day of 1956 and of 1957, the prison population represented a rate of 111.9 and 117.2 inmates per 100,000 California population, respectively.

The greatest amount of turnover in the inmate population ever experienced by the Department of Corrections, occurred during 1957, when 8,390 persons were received into and 7,004 were released from prison.

PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT

During 1957, 4,570 men and 233 women felons were newly received from court. The commitment rate for the male prisoners was 32.3 per 100,000 State population as compared with 30.7 for 1956, a 5 percent rate increase. The rate for the women prisoners received during 1957 was 1.6 as compared with the 1956 rate of 1.9, which was a 11.8 percent decrease.

Offense

The percentage change in the commitment rates for men in 1957 over 1956 was highest for the auto theft offenders, 38.3 percent. The next highest was the burglary group, 16.6 percent. The greatest decline was in the theft except auto group for which the rate decrease was 16.3 percent. More women were committed for narcotics than for forgery during 1957. These two groups ranked highest in the number of women committed to prison, accounting for over three-fifths of all women felons newly received from court. This reversed the ranking of the previous year during which more women were committed for forgery than for narcotics.

Area and County of Commitment

Most men received in prison came from Southern California but other areas have higher commitment rates for the general population. The San Joaquin Valley area set the highest rate in the State: 48.1 per 100,000 population. The seven San Francisco Bay area counties,

excluding San Francisco and Alameda, had the lowest commitment rate in both 1956 and 1957. Southern California counties committed 64 percent of all the women prisoners newly received from court during 1957.

Age at Admission

Of the 4,570 male prisoners admitted to prison during 1957, 50 percent were older than 28.5 years and 50 percent were younger. During 1957, 8.7 percent of the men admitted were under 21 years. The median age of the women at admission increased from 29.3 years in 1956, to 29.5 years in 1957.

Prior Criminal Record

About one-half of the men (50.5 percent) received during 1957 had served prior jail or juvenile sentences before this confinement, 35.3 percent had prior prison commitments, and 14.2 percent had never been confined for a criminal offense previous to this admission.

The percentage of women received into prison who had served prior sentences in a jail or a juvenile institution increased from 40.7 percent in 1956, to 53.7 percent in 1957, while those who had served prior prison commitments decreased from 12.7 to 10.7 percent.

Educational Achievement

Of the men admitted during 1956 and 1957, the median level of educational achievement was the seventh grade each year. Only 3.1 percent of the 4,374 men who were tested in 1957, were classified as illiterate as compared with 4.3 percent of the 4,020 men so measured in 1956.

Offense and Narcotic Addiction

Of those cases for which their narcotic history is known, 20.0 percent of those admitted in 1956 and 18.7 percent of those received in 1957, were classified as narcotic addicts. The percentage of narcotic addicts convicted for narcotic offenses decreased from 66.1 percent in 1956, to 61.7 percent in 1957. Most of those who were judged to be narcotic addicts were committed for narcotic violations. Very few addicts were among those committed to prison for sex offenses, assault, or homicide.

POPULATION IN PRISON

On December 31, 1957, there were 15,119 men and 667 women felons in prison.

Offense

The highest percentage of men in prison had been convicted of robbery. The offense with the second highest percentage of men was burglary. Forgers and check writers ranked third. Approximately one-third of the women already in the prison were serving time for forgery

and check writing. The offense group ranking second highest changed from homicide to narcotics.

Age

The median age of the male and of the women felons was 32.0 years and 31.6 years, respectively, on December 31, 1957. Only 2.3 percent of the men and 2.8 percent of the women were under 21 years of age.

Prior Criminal Record

The recidivism history of the women in prison differs from that of the men. On December 31, 1957, 52.9 percent of the men in prison had served prior prison commitments while only 3.3 percent of the women were so classified. Also, only 12.1 percent of the men in prison had had no prior criminal history while 34.9 percent of the women had not served previous sentences of any type.

PRISONERS RELEASED

During 1957, 4,781 men were released from prison. Of these men, 3,849, or 80.5 percent, were paroled; 866, or 18.1 percent, were discharged; and 66, or 1.4 percent, died or were executed. There were 244 women paroled and three women felons discharged from prison at expiration of sentence.

First Parole

Of those inmates paroled for the first time in 1957, the 3,253 men and 182 women served a median time of 30 months and 24 months in prison, respectively.

Reparole

Men who had been returned to prison with new commitments and who were reparoled during 1957 served a median time of 39 months before rep parole. Men who had been returned from parole without a new commitment and who were reparoled during 1957 spent a median time of 19 months in prison before rep parole.

Discharged at Expiration of Sentence

The 490 male prisoners who were first released directly from prison at expiration of sentence in 1957, served a median time of 24 months before discharge. The 111 prisoners discharged in 1957 after return to prison from parole with a new commitment served a median of 38 months in prison before discharge. The median time served was 19 months for the 265 men discharged during 1957 who previously had been returned as parole violators without a new commitment.

PAROLE MOVEMENT AND POPULATION

On December 31, 1957, 7,713 men and 580 women were on parole in California. Those who were being supervised in California numbered 6,201 men and 518 women. There were 531 men and 62 women in de-

portation or custody status, while 581 men and 518 women were residing in other states.

PAROLE POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Men convicted of robbery composed the largest offense group of those on parole, as of December 31, 1957. The burglary group ranked second. The percentage of those on parole for narcotic convictions had changed from 2.7 percent of the male population in 1951, to 13.1 percent in 1957.

Forgers and check writers made up about one-third of the women parole population on December 31, 1957. While only 5.3 percent of the women parolees on December 31, 1950 had been convicted for narcotics, 16.2 percent of the women on parole had been so convicted who were on parole by December 31, 1957.

DISCHARGE FROM PAROLE

The male parolees who were discharged from first parole during 1957 served a median time of 24 months on parole before discharge. Those men discharged from parole after return to prison for parole violation with a new commitment served a median of 24 months on parole before discharge. The men discharged during 1957 after having been returned to prison from parole without a new commitment served a median time of 17 months on parole before expiration of sentence. The 97 women discharged from first parole during 1957 served a median time of 36 months before discharge.

Time Served in Prison and on Parole

Men discharged from first parole in 1957 served a median time of 27 months in prison before parole and 24 months on parole before discharge, a total of 51 months. Women discharged from first parole served a total of 59 months before discharge in 1957, 23 months in prison before parole and 36 months on parole before discharge.

INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION AND MOVEMENT

The California prison population was 16,918 on December 31, 1957, the highest it has ever been at the close of any calendar year in the history of this State. The total number of prison inmates increased almost 1,400, or 9 percent, during 1957. In 1956, the prison population increased from 15,230 on December 31, 1955, to 15,532 by the end of 1956. This difference amounted to an increase of about 300 inmates, or 2 percent, during that calendar year.

In relation to the general population, the prison population represented a rate of 111.9 inmates per 100,000 California population on December 31, 1956, and 117.2 inmates per 100,000 California population on December 31, 1957. Although the rate on December 31, 1957 was higher than that in 1956, it was still less than the rate of 120.0 on

TABLE 1

PRISON POPULATION, RATE PER CALIFORNIA POPULATION AND ANNUAL CHANGE December 31, 1930-1957

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	135.6	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	126.1	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	—1,164	—16.0
1943.....	5,729	65.7	—320	—5.3
1944.....	5,710	65.2	—19	—0.3
1945.....	6,628	71.7	918	16.1
1946.....	7,839	80.7	1,211	18.3
1947.....	9,036	89.8	1,197	15.3
1948.....	10,084	97.6	1,048	11.6
1949.....	10,899	103.1	815	8.1
1950.....	11,568	106.9	669	6.4
1951.....	11,939	104.7	371	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

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

December 31, 1954. The prison population on December 31, the rate of prison population to California population, and the annual change in rate since 1930 are given in Table 1.

In 1944, the population of the California prison system was at a low point reflecting the effects of World War II. During the years after the close of World War II, the prison population increased rapidly. On December 31, 1944, there were 5,710 inmates in the California prisons which was a rate of 65.2 per 100,000 total California population. By December 31, 1954, this rate had increased to 120.0 per 100,000 California population with 15,376 inmates in the State prisons. During 1955, there was a slight decrease in prison population, the only decrease to occur since 1944. This decrease in 1955 was the result of a reduction in the number of admissions to prisons which in turn was the result of the general drop of felony arrests throughout California. In 1956, the increase in prison population indicated the tendency for this population to return to the trend prior to 1955, that is, to increase from year to year. However, during 1957, with a population increase of 1,386, the largest increase ever to occur during one calendar year in the history of State prisons, the population trend has made a decided change.

Although the growth of prison population has been very rapid since World War II, the rates per 100,000 State population have not approached those of the 1933-1936 years which ranged between 133.4 and 147.8 per 100,000 California population. The growths of the State population and of the prison population are portrayed from 1930-1967 in Chart I. The future prison population is estimated to increase approximately at the same rate as the State population.

The inmate population of the Department of Corrections is distributed among eight institutions, as shown in Table 2. The rapid growth of prison population has required an expansion of facilities to care for these inmates. In the first part of 1955, the Tehachapi Branch of California Institution for Men was opened at the site of the old institution for women prisoners. This provided an additional capacity

CHART I
CALIFORNIA AND PRISON POPULATION
1930 - 1967

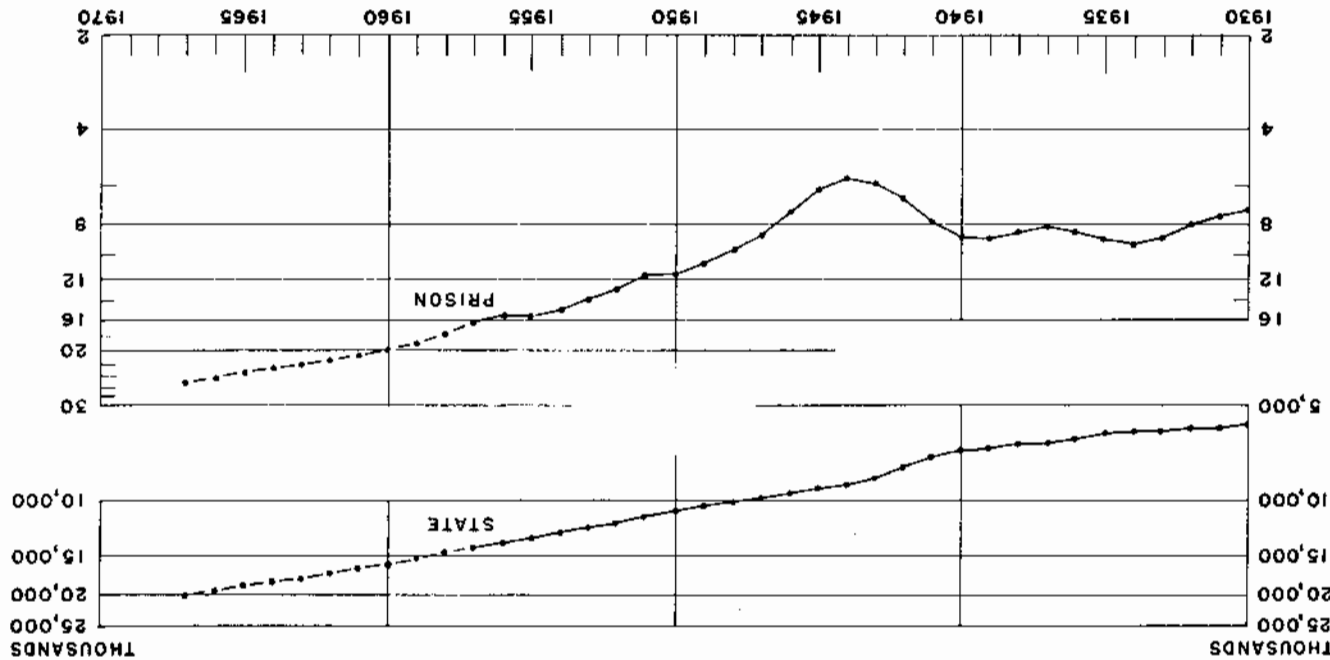


TABLE 2

POPULATION OF CALIFORNIA PRISONS

December 31, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957

Institution	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Total	14,149	15,376	15,230	15,532	16,918
California Institution for Men	2,184	2,213	2,801	2,576	2,690
California Medical Facility	1,089	1,017	1,117	1,352	1,959
California Mens Colony	—	443	988	1,128	1,186
Deuel Vocational Institution	993	1,205	1,165	1,251	1,237
Folsom Prison	2,678	2,716	2,657	2,292	2,633
San Quentin Prison	4,748	4,851	3,931	4,102	4,399
Soledad Prison	2,008	2,386	2,214	2,221	2,145
California Institution for Women	449	544	557	610	669

of 500 beds for men. The California Mens Colony located at Los Padres near San Luis Obispo which opened during 1954, was housing 1,186 inmates on December 31, 1957. The Deuel Vocational Institution, first opened in temporary quarters at Lancaster and moved to its permanent site at Tracy in 1953, has been at maximum capacity during the past four years.

The California Medical Facility moved to its permanent site at Vacaville during 1955, after being located temporarily in a federal institution on Terminal Island. The population of this institution dropped during the period of the move but grew to its maximum capacity of 1,352 inmates during 1956. In July 1957, an additional unit was opened at this location. The Northern Reception-Guidance Center which had been in operation at San Quentin was moved to its new permanent site at the California Medical Facility near Vacaville and was filled to capacity within three months. Therefore, on December 31, 1957, California Medical Facility was caring for 1,959 inmates. Another institution that changed its location was the California Institution for Women which moved from the mountain territory of Tehachapi to its present new installation at Corona during 1953, and had a population of 669 women on December 31, 1957.

In conjunction with the California Department of Public Works and California Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Corrections is operating 15 camps through four of its prisons. These four institutions, California Institution for Men, Folsom, San Quentin, and Soledad, were responsible for the custody and training of 856 men engaged in camp programs of forestry and road work on December 31, 1957. The camp population was included in the institutional count shown in Table 2.

The California prisons consist mainly of four types of populations; namely, adult male felons, the Youth Authority male wards, the adult women felons, and other individuals housed in prisons for treatment or custodial reasons as recalcitrant tuberculars, sex psychopaths, psychopathic delinquents, and persons placed in these facilities by county officials for safekeeping. The classification of Youth Authority male wards refers to boys who are committed to the Youth Authority and placed by that Authority in facilities of Department of Corrections for care and treatment. The Deuel Vocational Institution, the California Medical Facility, and Soledad prisons lodge most of these boys. In this study the four types of inmates will be considered separately with most emphasis being on the adult male felons. The total prison population is determined by the movement of the men and the women into and out of the penal institutions. The movements of these four types of populations are given by sex for 1956 and 1957, in Table 3.

During 1956, the total number of persons received in prison was 7,648, approximately 300 more than the 7,346 inmates released. During 1957, the total number of persons received was 8,390, while only 7,004 were released. These are the highest turnover figures ever experienced

by the Department of Corrections. Naturally, most of this turnover was in the adult male felony group which makes up nine-tenths of the prison population.

The two principal kinds of prison intake are persons newly received from court and prisoners returned for parole violation. During 1957, there were 4,803 first commitments from court, 371 more than during 1956. The number of parole violators returned in 1957 was 1,457, an increase of 237 more than the 1,220 returned during 1956.

The principal methods of release are by parole and by direct discharge from prison at expiration of sentence. Never in the California history have there been so many inmates released to parole supervision as during 1956, when 4,392 felons were paroled. However, the number of persons leaving prison by parole decreased by approximately 300 during 1957, in comparison with 1956, as 4,093 felons were paroled in 1957. Although the number of felons paroled in 1956 was an increase of 743 over the number paroled during 1955, it was an expected rise because the number released reflects the admission trends of the previous two or three years. During 1953 and 1954, there had been over 4,000 first commitments received each year, and slightly more than 3,600 in 1955. Therefore, there should be a rise in the number paroled during 1956 and a drop in 1957 reflecting the low intake in the number of admissions during 1955.

The number of persons discharged from prison at expiration of sentence decreased by 140 felons in 1957, as compared with 1956, again reflecting the 1955 admission trend. During 1957, 869 persons were discharged from prison while in 1956, 1,009 felons were so released. Only two women in 1956, and three women in 1957, were discharged directly from prison at expiration of sentence. Other population movements such as escapees returned, out to court and returned from court, to State hospitals and returned from State hospitals, and other methods of intake and of release tend to balance each other and therefore do not affect the variations in populations to any great extent. During 1956, the "other" men received in prison were 66 recalcitrant tuberculars, 14 sex psychopaths, 2 psychopathic delinquents, and 3 men for safekeeping, a total of 85 men. During 1957, these figures were 48 recalcitrant tuberculars, 28 sex psychopaths, 3 psychopathic delinquents, 1 for safekeeping, and 2 federal prisoners, a total of 82 men.

The total population in prison increased by 1,386 inmates from December 31, 1956, to December 31, 1957. This increase consisted of 1,131 adult male felons, 181 Youth Authority male wards, 59 women felons, 15 inmates, and 15 were other males.

MOVEMENT OF PRISON POPULATION
1956 and 1957

TABLE 3

Movement	1956													1957													
	Men						Women						Men						Women								
Population, January 1	15,230	13,899	715	59	85	373	557	15,532	13,988	869	65	337	610	Population, December 31	15,532	13,988	89	54	85	373	557	15,532	13,988	869	65	337	610
Total received	7,648	5,984	1,206	85	373	557	15,532	7,004	5,895	1,052	79	320	275	Discharged at expiration of sentence	1,009	4,117	1,007	—	—	275	2	869	3,849	—	—	244	3
First commitments	4,432	4,179	—	—	—	258	4,808	4,093	3,869	869	—	—	806	Paroled	4,392	4,117	1,007	—	—	275	2	869	3,849	—	—	244	3
Parole violators returned	1,220	1,147	—	—	—	73	1,457	1,375	1,308	82	—	—	—	Executed	48	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Without new commitments	561	516	—	—	—	19	756	701	642	9	—	—	—	Died	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Recapital returned	72	71	—	—	—	1	89	87	623	—	—	—	—	All other	89	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Returned from court	615	582	1	—	—	11	6	1,310	1,308	—	—	—	—	Youth Authority commitments	1,206	1,206	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Returned from State hospitals	12	1	—	—	—	33	637	6	—	—	—	—	—	All other	89	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Youth Authority commitments	1,206	1,206	—	—	—	2	1,310	88	—	—	—	—	—	Total released	7,346	5,895	1,052	79	320	275	2	869	3,849	—	—	244	3
All other	89	4	—	—	—	—	88	6	—	—	—	—	—	Population change	15,532	13,988	89	54	85	373	557	15,532	13,988	869	65	337	610

PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT

A person sentenced by the superior court to the Director of Corrections is under a definite sentence of life or of death or under an indeterminate sentence for which the minimum and maximum terms are set forth in California laws. A prisoner with the death sentence is received in San Quentin. A man with a life sentence or an indeterminate sentence is received in either the Northern Reception-Guidance Center or the Southern Reception-Guidance Center. The reception-guidance center staff studies the individual as to sociological, psychological, medical, criminal, and work background and prepares a case history which is a guide to the correctional officials in the training, the treatment, and the disciplining of the inmate for his entire incarceration. This case history is supplemented continuously as the inmate progresses through the correctional system both in an institution and while under parole supervision. A similar case history is prepared by the staff at the California Institution for Women upon the admission of a woman felon.

A specific set of background characteristics is obtained from each case history as a foundation for statistical information. Some of the selected characteristic factors of the persons newly received from court during 1956 and during 1957 are summarized in this chapter.

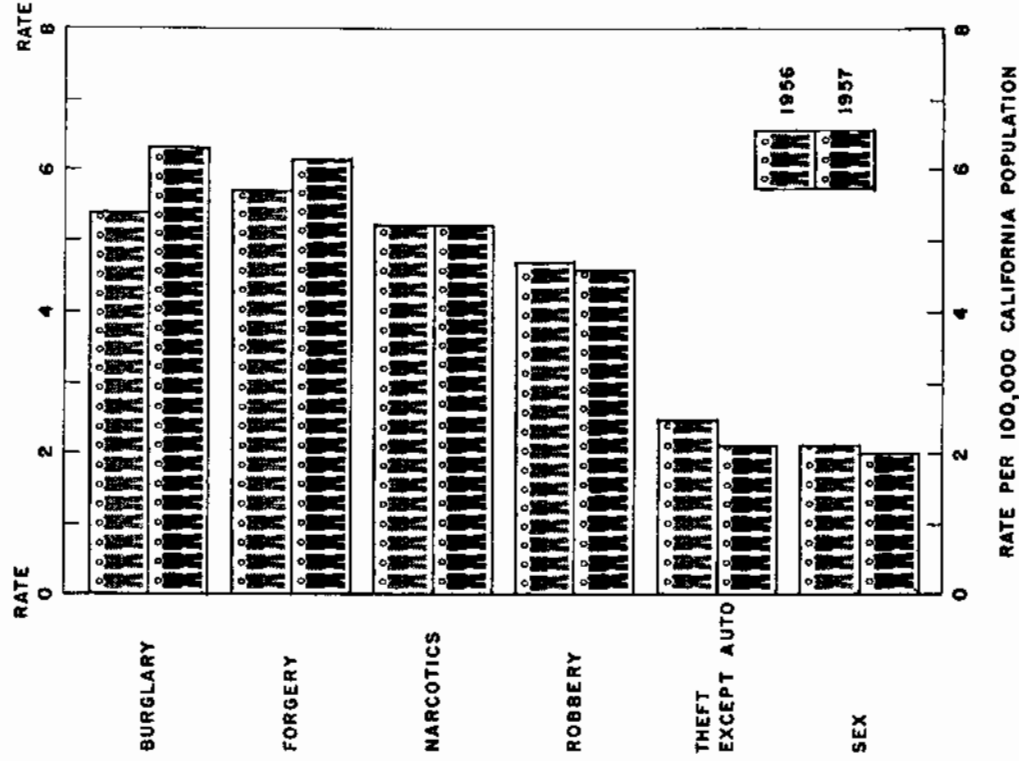
The discussion and tables in this chapter present the data in three subdivisions. In the first two sets of tables, the number received from court has been related to the total population in California, thus making possible a comparison of the commitment rates by offense groups and by area or county from which received. The California population estimates are obtained from the Department of Finance "Estimated Population of California's Areas and Counties" report issued December 1956. The rate per 100,000 population was computed to two decimals, thus allowing for a one decimal percentage change in the rate of one year over the other. The next four sections contrast the 1957 data with that of 1956. The last part of the chapter is devoted to classifying the offense groups with other of the more significant characteristics for the male admissions only. Such subgroupings of data for the women felons admitted during a one-year period would lack meaning because of the small number of cases.

A comparison of the number of prisoners received from court with the State population shows that during 1957, the rate of commitment increased for the men and decreased for the women prisoners. During 1957, the commitment rate for the male prisoners was 32.3 per 100,000 State population as compared with 30.7 for 1956, which was a 5 percent rate increase. The rate for the women prisoners received during 1957 was 1.6, as compared with the 1956 rate of 1.9, which was an 11.8 percent decrease.

CHART II

OFFENSE GROUPS AND RATES OF ADMISSION MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT 1956 AND 1957

Offense groups with admission rate less than 2.0
in either 1956 or 1957 are omitted



OFFENSE

Prisoners are committed to prison for many types of offenses. The statutory provisions of the California Penal Code specify maximum and minimum limits of time to be served for each offense. Throughout this report a prisoner committed for more than one offense is classified according to the most serious offense as determined by the statutory maximum sentence.

The number of prisoners newly received from court is shown by types of offenses and the rates per 100,000 California population for persons received during 1956 and 1957, in Table 4A and Table 4B. The rates of admission for 1956 and for 1957 are compared by selected offense groups in Chart II. The percentage change in the commitment rates of men received increased 5.0 percent in 1957 over 1956. But the rates vary among the different offense groups. The percentage changes in rates of 1957 over 1956, was highest for the auto theft offender, 38.3 percent. Excluding the group called "other offenses" the next highest was the burglary group, 16.6 percent. These two offense groups were considerably higher than the total percent change in rate, 5.0 percent. The greatest decline in rate was in the theft except auto group for which the percentage change in rates was 16.3. Those admitted to prison for robbery, sex offenses, and assault have evidenced small decreases in the percentage change in the rate of admission in 1957 over 1956. The number in each offense group and the percentage distribution of the total men admitted to prison in 1956 and in 1957 are given in Appendix I A.

Of the women received from court during 1957, over three-fifths were convicted either for forgery or for narcotics. There were 73 women received for narcotic offenses and 69 for forgery and check-writing. These two offense groups ranked first and second in number of women committed to prison during 1957. This reversed the ranking of the previous year during which more women were committed for forgery than for narcotics. The offense groups ranking third and fourth in the number of women committed during 1957 were theft (29 women) and homicide (19 women). While the total percentage change in the women admission rates for 1957 over 1956 was —11.8 for all offenses, the percentage change for the homicide group was —31.6, the greatest of these four offense groups shown in Table 4B. The percentage change in rates for those committed for narcotic offenses also showed a decrease of 3.7 percent, but this was the least change of the three offense groups with rate changes. Appendix I B presents by offense groups the number and the percentage of women felons received in 1956 and in 1957.

AREA AND COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

In order to study the locations from which the prisoners are received, the State has been considered as being divided into geographical sub-areas. The number of men and of women committed from each county

in California is given for the years 1956 and 1957 in the Appendix II of this report.

Most of the men received in prison during 1957, came from Southern California but some other areas have higher rates when considered with the estimated county populations. The San Joaquin Valley area with a rate of 48.1 per 100,000 population in these seven counties has the highest rate in the State, Table 5A. This was an increase of 3.5 percent in the 1957 rate over the 1956 rate.

The seven San Francisco Bay area counties, excluding San Francisco and Alameda, had the lowest rate of commitments per 100,000 population in both 1956 and 1957. These rates were 16.3 in 1956, and 16.7 in 1957, which is an increase of 2.8 percent in the 1957 rate over the 1956 rate. In general, the San Francisco Bay area rate of commitment is noticeably much less than the other major geographical populated areas in the State, except for San Francisco County. In 1957, the commitment rate from San Francisco County, 38.0, was very high compared with the 1956 rate of 26.4. This increase of 44.0 percent in the 1957 rate over the 1956 rate was the greatest percent change of any of the more populated areas. The 1957 commitment rate from San Francisco County was similar to its rate in 1954, which was 38.1.

Southern California counties committed 64 percent of all the women prisoners newly received from court during 1957. The commitment rate for the women in 1956 from the Southern California area was 2.2

TABLE 4A

OFFENSE GROUPS MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT 1956 and 1957

Offense	1956			1957		
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*		Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	Percent change in rate 1957 over 1956
Total	4,179	30.7		4,570	32.3	5.0
Homicide	166	1.2		177	1.3	2.5
Murder 1st	53	—		44	—	—
Murder 2d	46	—		67	—	—
Manslaughter	55	—		59	—	—
Manslaughter by vehicle	12	—		7	—	—
Robbery	644	4.7		644	4.6	-4.0
Robbery 1st	428	—		436	—	—
Robbery 2d	190	—		174	—	—
Other	26	—		34	—	—
Assault	162	1.2		163	1.1	-3.4
Assault with deadly weapon	136	—		140	—	—
Other	26	—		23	—	—
Burglary	739	5.4		897	6.3	16.6
Burglary 1st	75	—		82	—	—
Burglary 2d	643	—		786	—	—
Other	21	—		29	—	—
Theft except auto	342	2.5		296	2.1	-16.3
Grand theft	223	—		189	—	—
Petty theft with prior	87	—		85	—	—
Receiving stolen property	32	—		22	—	—
Auto theft	145	1.1		210	1.5	38.3
Forgery and checks	776	5.7		865	6.1	6.8
Sex offenses	280	2.1		280	2.0	-3.9
Rape	104	—		110	—	—
Lewd acts with children	124	—		107	—	—
Other	52	—		63	—	—
Narcotics	710	5.2		742	5.2	0.4
Other offenses	215	1.6		296	2.1	32.3
Deadly weapon	21	—		21	—	—
Drunk driving	24	—		29	—	—
Failure to render aid	8	—		11	—	—
Abortion	2	—		13	—	—
Arson	13	—		20	—	—
Escape from jail or county camp	100	—		149	—	—
Kidnaping	10	—		17	—	—
Habitual criminal	3	—		2	—	—
Other	34	—		34	—	—

* SOURCE: California population estimates from State Department of Finance, "Estimated Total Population, California Areas and Counties, July 1, 1956," December, 1956. Rate computed to two decimals.

TABLE 4B

OFFENSE GROUPS WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT 1956 and 1957

Offense	1956			1957		
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*		Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	Percent change in rate 1957 over 1956
Total	253	1.9		233	1.6	-11.8
Homicide	25	0.2		19	0.1	-31.6
Murder 1st	1	—		3	—	—
Murder 2d	12	—		7	—	—
Manslaughter	12	—		9	—	—
Robbery	7	—		16	—	—
Assault	12	—		9	—	—
Burglary	14	—		7	—	—
Theft	29	0.2		29	0.2	0.0
Forgery and checks	82	0.6		69	0.5	-18.3
Sex offenses	1	—		2	—	—
Narcotics	73	0.5		73	0.5	-3.7
Other offenses	10	—		9	—	—

* SOURCE: California population estimates from State Department of Finance, "Estimated Total Population, California Areas and Counties, July 1, 1956," December, 1956. Rate computed to two decimals.

TABLE 5A
COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1956 and 1957

County or area of commitment	1956		1957		Percent change in rate 1957 over 1956
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	
Total.....	4,179	30.7	4,570	32.3	5.0
Southern California.....	2,650	33.3	2,832	33.8	1.7
Los Angeles.....	1,605	29.7	1,746	31.2	4.9
9 other counties.....	1,045	40.7	1,086	39.2	-3.8
San Francisco Bay area.....	601	20.1	796	23.7	17.9
Alameda County.....	188	21.3	215	24.6	15.3
San Francisco County.....	211	26.4	235	38.0	44.0
7 other counties.....	262	16.3	286	16.7	2.8
Balance of State.....	868	37.0	942	38.8	4.8
10 Sacramento Valley counties.....	200	28.9	240	32.7	13.0
7 San Joaquin Valley counties.....	472	46.5	502	48.1	3.5
22 other counties.....	187	30.8	191	30.7	-0.4

* SOURCE: California population estimates from State Department of Finance, "Estimated Total Population, California Areas and Counties, July 1, 1956." December, 1956.
Rate computed to two decimals.

TABLE 5B
COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT
WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1956 and 1957

County or area of commitment	1956		1957		Percent change in rate 1957 over 1956
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	
Total.....	253	1.9	233	1.6	-11.8
Southern California.....	173	2.2	148	1.8	-18.4
Los Angeles County.....	115	2.1	93	1.7	-25.8
9 other counties.....	58	2.3	55	2.0	-12.4
San Francisco Bay area.....	46	1.4	51	1.5	8.6
Alameda County.....	13	—	10	—	—
San Francisco County.....	17	—	30	—	—
7 other counties.....	16	—	11	—	—
Balance of State.....	34	1.4	34	1.4	-3.4
10 Sacramento Valley counties.....	4	—	5	—	—
7 San Joaquin Valley counties.....	23	—	19	—	—
22 other counties.....	7	—	10	—	—

* SOURCE: California population estimates from State Department of Finance, "Estimated Total Population, California's Areas and Counties, July 1, 1956." December, 1956.
Rate computed to two decimals.

percent per 100,000 population in its counties, as compared with 1.8 percent in 1957, a decrease of 18.4 percent in 1957, Table 5B. The rates of commitment from Los Angeles County alone changed from 2.1 in 1956, to 1.7 in 1957, a decrease of 26.8 percent. While the total number of women committed to prison was less in 1957 than in 1956, the San Francisco Bay area showed a percentage increase of 8.6 in the rates per 100,000 area population for 1957 over 1956. San Francisco County alone increased its number of women committed to prison from 17 during 1956, to 30 during 1957.

AGE AT ADMISSION

The age of persons received in prison always has been of interest to the general public and to students of crime and delinquency. Knowing that age differs noticeably among the types of offenses this age difference by type of crime is presented later in this chapter when the relationship of offense to selected factors is discussed.

The median age of men received in prison during 1957, was approximately the same as the median of those received during 1956. Of the 4,570 male prisoners admitted to prison during 1957, 50 percent were older than 28.5 years, and 50 percent were younger. This median of

TABLE 6A
AGE AT ADMISSION
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1956 and 1957

Age at admission in years	1956		1957	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	4,179	100.0	4,570	100.0
Under 20.....	173	4.1	209	4.6
15-17.....	15	—	7	—
18.....	50	—	78	—
19.....	102	—	124	—
20-24.....	1,177	28.2	1,305	28.6
20.....	168	—	189	—
21.....	248	—	283	—
22.....	269	—	316	—
23.....	260	—	272	—
24.....	232	—	245	—
25-29.....	1,002	24.0	1,052	23.0
30-34.....	685	16.4	714	15.6
35-39.....	438	10.5	472	10.3
40-44.....	274	6.5	330	7.2
45-49.....	191	4.6	220	4.8
50 and over.....	239	5.7	268	5.9
Median age.....	28.6	—	28.5	—
Percent under 21.....	—	8.2	—	8.7
Percent under 25.....	—	32.3	—	33.1

28.5 years was one-tenth of a year younger than the median age of men received during 1956, Table 6A. The percentage of men under 25 years at admission to prison was slightly higher in 1957 as compared with 1956, 33.1 percent and 32.3 percent, respectively. Part of this increase in the younger age group was reflected in the fact that 8.7 percent of the men admitted during 1957 were under 21 years of age, while only 8.2 percent were under 21 at the time of admission in 1956.

The women prisoners received from court during 1957 were a slightly older group than those received during 1956. The median age of women at admission increased slightly from 29.3 years in 1956, to 29.5 years in 1957, Table 6B. The fact that the women received during 1957 were generally slightly older than those received during 1956, is also evidenced by a decrease in the percentage of women admitted under 21 years of age, being 8.7 percent in 1956, and 7.3 percent in 1957.

TABLE 6B
AGE AT ADMISSION
WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1956 and 1957

Age at admission in years	1956		1957	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	253	100.0	233	100.0
Under 20.....	12	4.7	8	3.5
15-17.....	1	—	—	—
18.....	1	—	—	—
19.....	10	—	8	—
20-24.....	60	23.6	58	25.0
20.....	10	—	9	—
21.....	10	—	9	—
22.....	12	—	15	—
23.....	10	—	14	—
24.....	18	—	11	—
25-29.....	64	25.3	56	24.0
30-34.....	49	19.4	47	20.1
35-39.....	28	11.1	25	10.7
40-44.....	18	7.2	14	6.0
45-49.....	12	4.7	12	5.1
50 and over.....	10	4.0	13	5.6
Median age.....	29.3		29.5	
Percent under 21.....		8.7		7.3
Percent under 25.....		28.4		28.3

Age at Admission Since 1945

In the *California Prisoners* report series 1950 through 1955, the age at admission data have been based on age at nearest birth date at the time of entrance into prison. In this 1956 and 1957 report the age at admission is computed as the age at last birthday. In Table 7A and

Table 7B, the number, median age at admission, and the percentages of those under 21 years and under 25 years of age at last birthday are presented for the male prisoners and for the women prisoners newly received from court commencing with the year 1945.

The median age of the male prisoners received from court has not differed greatly from year to year during the past 13 years, Table 7A.

TABLE 7A
MEDIAN AGE AT ADMISSION
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1945 through 1957

Year	Number	Median age in years	Percent under	
			21 years	25 years
1945.....	1,939	28.8	12.9	35.6
1946.....	2,215	28.9	11.1	34.5
1947.....	2,727	29.4	9.2	32.3
1948.....	2,851	29.4	8.5	32.3
1949.....	2,780	29.6	5.9	29.1
1950.....	2,983	30.0	7.4	29.7
1951.....	3,007	29.1	6.7	30.3
1952.....	3,426	28.4	7.8	32.4
1953.....	3,862	28.0	9.2	34.3
1954.....	4,003	28.5	8.7	31.4
1955.....	3,461	29.4	7.9	29.4
1956.....	4,179	28.6	8.2	32.3
1957.....	4,570	28.5	8.7	33.1

TABLE 7B
MEDIAN AGE AT ADMISSION
WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1945 through 1957

Year	Number	Median age in years	Percent under	
			21 years	25 years
1945.....	87	28.5	11.4	35.6
1946.....	97	29.8	11.4	37.1
1947.....	107	30.4	5.5	24.2
1948.....	133	29.2	4.5	29.4
1949.....	101	31.5	7.0	27.7
1950.....	139	30.1	10.7	31.7
1951.....	155	29.1	9.0	28.4
1952.....	184	28.8	11.4	31.5
1953.....	179	29.1	6.8	29.0
1954.....	229	29.7	8.7	27.1
1955.....	177	31.6	5.1	20.3
1956.....	253	29.3	8.7	28.4
1957.....	233	29.5	7.3	28.3

The median age was youngest (28.0 years) for those received during 1953, and oldest (30.0 years) for those received during 1950.

The oldest median age for the women received from court was 31.6 years in 1955, while the youngest was 28.5 years in 1945, Table 7B. There was more variation in the age medians of the women from year to year than was evident in the statistics of male prisoners.

RACE

The three principal cultural groups of prisoners committed to the California system are white, Mexican and Negro. For the purpose of studying racial differences the Mexican has been classified separately from the white group in this report for it represents a separate ethnic cultural group in this State. During the past few years there has been a gradual decrease in the percentage of white admitted to prison.

Of the total number of men admitted to prison in 1957, the white group comprised 58.4 percent of the population, the Negro group 20.4 percent, and the Mexican group 18.5 percent, Table 8A. When com-

TABLE 8A
RACE
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1956 and 1957

Race	1956		1957	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	4,179	100.0	4,570	100.0
White.....	2,472	59.2	2,669	58.4
Mexican.....	762	18.2	845	18.5
Negro.....	857	20.5	931	20.4
Other.....	88	2.1	125	2.7
Indian.....	51	1.2	79	1.8
Chinese.....	19	0.5	23	0.5
Japanese.....	4	0.1	5	0.1
Filipino.....	9	0.2	9	0.2
Hawaiian.....	5	0.1	7	0.1
Korean.....	—	—	1	—
Samoa.....	—	—	—	—

pared with those received in 1956, the percentage of white had decreased slightly from 59.2 percent of the 1956 admissions, while the Mexican cultural group had increased slightly from 18.2 percent in 1956, to 18.5 percent in 1957. The race which reflected the greatest increase in the percentage of those received from court in 1957 over 1956, was the American Indian. This racial group increased from 1.2 percent of the total males admitted in 1956, to 1.8 percent of those admitted in 1957.

The racial groupings of those admitted have different percentage distributions when the women felons received from court are consid-

ered, Table 8B. The changes between 1956 and 1957 are reflected chiefly in an increase in the percentage of white women admitted, decreases in the percentages of the Negro and of the Mexican. The percentage of white women admitted to prison increased from 59.7 percent in 1956, to 62.7 percent in 1957. The prisoners received with Negro ancestry decreased from 33.2 percent of all women received in 1956, to 28.3 percent in 1957. There were fewer women of Mexican descent received during 1957, than during 1956.

TABLE 8B
RACE
WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1956 and 1957

Race	1956		1957	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	253	100.0	233	100.0
White.....	151	59.7	146	62.7
Mexican.....	14	5.5	12	5.1
Negro.....	84	33.2	66	28.3
Other.....	4	1.6	9	3.9
Indian.....	4	1.6	8	3.5
Chinese.....	—	—	—	—
Japanese.....	—	—	—	—
Filipino.....	—	—	—	—
Hawaiian.....	—	—	1	0.4

PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD

The prior criminal history of each prisoner received in the California prison system has been classified as to the type of sentence that had been served previous to this commitment. The prior record information is secured from the California Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation reports, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports, and substantiated by narrative reports from the inmate as obtained through interview by the clinical staff and reflected in the individual's case history. The prior criminal history of the individual may affect the length of time he serves in prison and on parole. In this report prior criminal record is classified into no time served prior to this commitment, time served previously in a jail or juvenile institution, and time served on a prior prison sentence.

The percentage distribution of the male prisoners newly received from court with regard to their criminal records before this reception differed very slightly in 1957 as compared with 1956. About one-half of the men (50.5 percent) received during 1957, had served prior jail or juvenile sentences before this confinement, while 35.3 percent had prior prison commitments, and only 14.2 percent had never been confined for a criminal offense previous to this admission, Table 9A. In

1957 the percent value of those with no prior commitment was 14.2 while in 1956 it was 17.2. Approximately the same percent value increase occurred for those who had served prior jail or juvenile commitments only. Of the men who had served prior prison commitments there was a percentage increase in 1957 for those having a record of only one prior prison and a decrease in those who had served two or more prison sentences.

For the men received in prison during 1957, a commitment record to a California prison or to the Department of Youth Authority was tabulated. Of the 4,570 men received in prison, 3,126, or 68.4 percent, had never been confined in a California prison or Youth Authority institution previously. Only 15.2 percent of the total men received had ever served time in a California prison prior to this commitment. Of the 4,179 men received in prison during 1956, 2,988, or 71.5 percent, had never before served time in a California Youth Authority institution or prison. In 1956, only 13.5 percent had served time in a California prison prior to that commitment.

The prior criminal history of the women received during 1957 differed somewhat from the history of those received during 1956. The

TABLE 9A
PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1956 and 1957

Type of prior commitment	1956		1957	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	4,179	100.0	4,570	100.0
No prior commitment.....	719	17.2	647	14.2
Prior jail or juvenile only.....	1,995	47.8	2,309	50.5
Prior prison commitment.....	1,465	35.0	1,614	35.3
One prison.....	706	16.9	918	20.1
Two prison.....	378	9.0	353	7.7
Three or more prison.....	381	9.1	343	7.5

percentage of the women received in 1957 who had served prior sentences in a jail or juvenile institution was 53.7 percent, over one-half of the total number admitted from court. This was an increase from the 1956 figure, as 40.7 percent of all women newly received had served jail or juvenile sentences previously, Table 9B. There was a noticeable drop in the percentage of women admitted during 1957 with no prior commitments when compared with 1956, as 35.6 percent of those received in 1957, and 46.6 percent of those received in 1956, were so classed. The percentage received who had served prior prison commitments decreased from 12.7 percent in 1956, to 10.7 percent in 1957.

TABLE 9B
PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD
WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1956 and 1957

Type of prior commitment	1956		1957	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	253	100.0	233	100.0
No prior commitment.....	118	46.6	83	35.6
Prior jail or juvenile only.....	103	40.7	125	53.7
Prior prison commitment.....	32	12.7	25	10.7
One prison.....	26	10.3	23	9.9
Two prison.....	4	1.6	1	0.4
Three or more prison.....	2	0.8	1	0.4

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

After admission in the reception-guidance center and during the time of clinical study, tests are administered to the inmate for the purpose of obtaining a grade placement score. Of the men admitted during 1956 and 1957, the median levels of educational achievement were the seventh grade each year, Table 10. The median has been at the seventh grade level for the past nine years. Although the median has remained in the same grade there has been a slight change in the percentage that were designated illiterate in 1956 and 1957. Only 3.1 percent of the

TABLE 10
EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1956 and 1957

Grade achievement score*	1956		1957	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total measured.....	4,020	100.0	4,374	100.0
Illiterate.....	174	4.3	138	3.1
Grade 3.....	53	1.3	60	1.4
Grade 4.....	246	6.1	296	6.8
Grade 5.....	426	10.6	458	10.4
Grade 6.....	528	13.1	570	13.0
Grade 7.....	655	16.3	672	15.4
Grade 8.....	669	16.7	690	15.8
Grade 9.....	609	15.2	670	15.3
Grade 10-11.....	575	14.3	711	16.3
Grade 12 and over.....	85	2.1	111	2.5
Median.....	7th		7th	

* Grade achievement score tested at admission.

4,374 men who were tested in 1957 were classified as illiterate as compared with 4.3 percent of the 4,020 men so measured in 1956. Of the men tested in 1957, 34.1 percent rate ninth grade or higher. This is a slight increase from the 31.6 percent so classified in 1956.

RELATIONSHIP OF OFFENSES TO SELECTED FACTORS

In the following sections of this chapter the offense groups of men received during 1957 have been classified by five selected factors. These factors have been classified by offense and age, race, prior criminal record, educational achievement, and narcotic addiction. In the first table the 1956 data are represented by presenting the medians for each offense. In the next three tables the 1956 data are given in the A section and the 1957 data in the B section. In the last section, narcotic addiction, the 1956 data are represented by percentages.

Because only a few women are received in prison in any one year, no attempt has been made to prepare a discussion of offense with other characteristics. Therefore, the following five tables are only for the male prisoners newly received from court.

OFFENSE AND AGE

As previously noted, the men received in prison during 1957 were approximately the same age as those admitted during 1956. This similarity was not true in most of the individual offense classifications. The offense groups for which the younger men were committed to prison were rape and robbery. This relationship was true in 1956 and in 1957, but the median ages were much younger in 1957 than in 1956. The age medians of these two groups in 1957 were 23.5 years, and 24.4 years, respectively. The older men were committed for lewd acts with children and sex offenses other than rape. But again, the median ages of these groups were younger in 1957 than in 1956, being 41.1 years, and 36.2 years, respectively.

The age medians of the men received for the offenses of homicide, escape from jail or county camp, theft except auto, and narcotics are each one year or more greater in 1957 than the medians for those received in 1956, Table 11. Men committed for other sex offenses were 3.1 years younger in 1957 than the median of 39.3 years in 1956. Those committed for robbery were 1.2 years younger in 1957 than in 1956, with the medians being 24.4 years in 1957, and 25.6 years in 1956. The relationship of age and offense can be seen in Chart III.

OFFENSE AND RACE

In order to adequately present offense and race data for men admitted to prison during 1956 and during 1957, it is necessary that two tables be given. In this case the A and B suffix does not refer to men and women but to 1956 and 1957 data. Of the 4,179 men admitted to prison during 1956, 59.2 percent were classified as white, 18.2 percent were Mexican, and 20.5 percent were Negro. Of those admitted during

TABLE 11
OFFENSE AND AGE AT ADMISSION
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1957

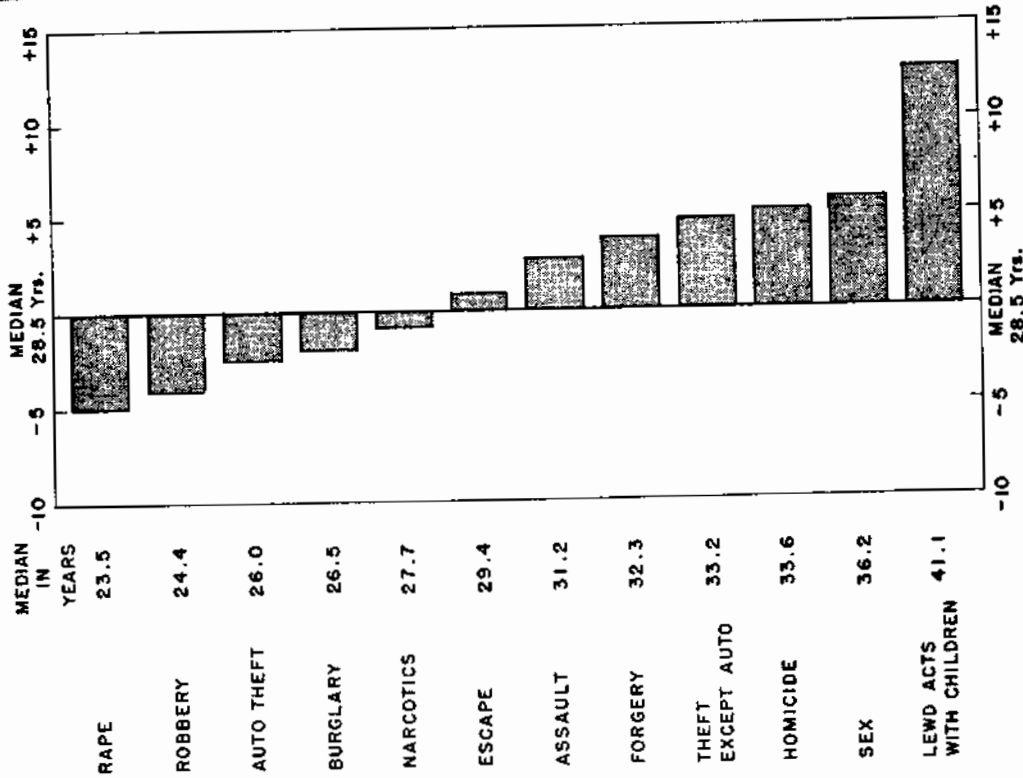
Offense	Age at admission		Median age in years at admission*		Percent under	
	Total	Under 20	1956	1957	21 years	25 years
Total.....	4,570	209	28.6	28.5	8.7	33.1
Homicide.....	177	14	23	30.9	10.2	23.2
Robbery.....	644	53	35	25.6	15.6	55.1
Assault.....	163	16	21	30.6	13.5	30.7
Burglary.....	897	46	31	27.0	9.6	40.5
Theft except auto.....	296	3	35	31.6	3.4	17.9
Auto theft.....	210	19	18	26.2	17.1	44.8
Forgery and checks.....	865	10	135	32.9	2.5	16.5
Sex offenses.....	280	20	35	32.6	11.1	29.3
Rape.....	110	17	9	23.9	22.7	58.2
Lewd acts with children.....	107	7	15	41.1	0.9	6.5
Other.....	63	3	11	39.3	7.9	17.5
Narcotics.....	742	16	55	26.7	6.6	33.0
Escape from jail or county camp.....	149	8	13	27.0	10.1	35.6
Habitual criminal.....	2	—	—	—	0.0	0.0
Other offenses.....	145	—	—	—	7.6	24.1

* Medians computed from arrayed data.

CHART III

OFFENSE AND MEDIAN AGE AT ADMISSION MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT

1957



DIFFERENCE FROM MEDIAN OF ALL OFFENSES IN YEARS

TABLE 12A

OFFENSE AND RACE MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT 1956

Percent Not Computed Where Total Was Less Than 30 Cases

Offense	Total	White		Mexican		Negro		Other	
		Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Total	4,179	2,472	59.2	762	18.2	857	20.5	88	2.1
Homicide	166	88	53.0	27	16.3	44	26.5	7	4.2
Murder 1st	53	32	60.4	13	24.5	7	13.2	1	1.9
Murder 2d	46	29	63.1	3	6.5	12	26.1	2	4.3
Manslaughter	55	19	34.5	9	16.4	24	43.6	3	5.5
Manslaughter by vehicle	12	8	—	2	—	1	—	1	—
Robbery	644	426	66.1	76	11.8	128	19.9	14	2.2
Robbery 1st	428	294	68.7	53	12.4	72	16.8	9	2.1
Robbery 2d	190	118	62.1	18	9.5	49	25.8	5	2.6
Other	26	14	—	5	—	7	—	—	—
Assault	162	77	47.5	32	19.7	50	30.9	3	1.9
Assault with deadly weapon	136	65	47.8	29	21.3	40	29.4	2	1.5
Other	26	12	—	3	—	10	—	1	—
Burglary	739	456	61.7	110	14.9	159	21.5	14	1.9
Burglary 1st	75	43	57.3	13	17.3	17	22.7	2	2.7
Burglary 2d	643	404	62.8	95	14.8	133	20.7	11	1.7
Other	21	9	—	2	—	9	—	1	—
Theft except auto	342	180	52.6	47	13.7	109	31.9	6	1.8
Grand theft	223	133	59.6	24	10.8	62	27.8	4	1.8
Petty theft with prior	87	32	36.8	12	13.8	41	47.1	2	2.3
Receiving stolen property	32	15	46.9	11	34.4	6	18.7	—	—
Auto theft	145	88	60.7	24	16.6	27	18.6	6	4.1
Forgery and checks	776	601	85.2	43	5.5	63	8.1	9	1.2
Sex offenses	280	193	68.9	41	14.6	38	13.6	8	2.9
Rape	104	51	49.0	24	23.1	27	26.0	2	1.9
Lewd acts with children	124	101	81.5	13	10.5	7	5.6	3	2.4
Other	52	41	78.8	4	7.7	4	7.7	3	5.8
Narcotics	710	155	21.8	321	45.2	219	30.9	15	2.1
Escape from jail or county camp	100	73	73.0	16	15.0	8	8.0	4	4.0
Habitual criminal	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other offenses	112	73	65.2	28	23.2	11	9.8	2	1.8

1957, 58.4 percent were white, 18.5 percent Mexican, and 20.4 percent Negro. These percentages vary considerably when each individual offense group is studied.

The forgery and check offense group had the highest percentage of the white race of any one offense group; 85.2 percent of those received in 1956 for this offense, and 83.8 percent in 1957, were classified as white, Tables 12A and 12B. The men of the white race were extremely high, also, in the percentages of two other offense groups; namely, lewd

TABLE 128

OFFENSE AND RACE

MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT

1957

Percent Not Computed Where Total Was Less Than 30 Cases

Offense	White		Mexican		Negro		Other	
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Total	4,570	58.4	845	18.5	931	20.4	125	2.7
Homicide	177	43.5	27	15.3	63	35.6	10	5.6
Murder 1st	44	26.59.1	6	13.6	11	25.0	1	2.3
Murder 2d	67	24.35.8	11	16.4	24	35.8	8	12.0
Manslaughter	59	22.37.3	10	16.9	26	44.1	1	1.7
Manslaughter by vehicle	7	5	—	—	2	—	—	—
Robbery	644	41.2	77	12.0	133	20.6	22	3.4
Robbery 1st	436	300.68.8	49	11.2	77	17.7	10	2.3
Robbery 2d	174	92.52.9	24	13.8	46	26.4	12	6.9
Other	34	20.58.8	4	11.8	10	29.4	—	—
Assault	103	77.47.2	35	21.5	49	30.1	2	1.2
Assault with deadly weapon	140	65.46.5	30	21.4	43	30.7	2	1.4
Other	23	12	5	—	6	—	—	—
Burglary	897	54.7	147	16.4	190	21.2	13	1.4
Burglary 1st	82	48.59.8	16	19.5	18	19.5	1	1.2
Burglary 2d	786	481.61.2	130	16.5	164	20.9	11	1.4
Other	29	17	1	—	10	—	—	—
Theft except auto	296	158.53.4	43	14.5	84	28.4	11	3.7
Grand theft	189	117.61.9	15	7.9	48	25.4	9	4.8
Petty theft with prior	85	32.37.5	23	27.1	28	32.9	2	2.4
Receiving stolen property	22	9	5	—	8	—	—	—
Auto theft	210	130.61.9	33	15.7	37	17.6	10	4.8
Forgery and checks	865	725.83.8	55	6.4	70	8.1	15	1.7
Sex offenses	280	177.63.2	49	17.5	43	15.4	11	3.9
Rape	110	53.48.2	23	20.9	27	24.5	7	6.4
Lewd acts with children	107	83.77.6	14	13.1	7	6.5	3	2.8
Other	63	41.55.1	12	19.0	9	14.3	1	1.6
Narcotics	742	158.21.3	334	45.0	226	30.5	24	3.2
Escape from jail or county camp	149	108.72.5	25	16.8	13	8.7	3	2.0
Habitual criminal	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other offenses	145	99.68.3	20	13.8	22	15.2	4	2.7

acts with children, 77.6 percent in 1957, and escape from jail or county camp 72.5 percent in 1957. The white race made up 78.8 percent and 65.1 percent of the men committed for other sex offenses in 1956 and 1957, respectively. Of those committed for narcotics in 1956 and 1957, the percentages which were white men are comparatively low, 21.8 percent in 1956, and 21.3 percent in 1957.

Those of the Negro race received by the prisons in 1956 were highest in percentages of the total committed for petty theft with prior, 47.1

percent, and manslaughter, 43.6 percent. Those received in 1957 were highest in percent of total committed for manslaughter, 44.1 percent, and murder 2nd, 35.8 percent. This race ranked low in the offense of lewd acts with children 5.6 percent in 1956, and 6.5 percent in 1957. Negroes also ranked low in the percentage of total men committed to prison in 1957 for forgery and checks, and for escape from jail or county camp.

The Mexican cultural group which comprised slightly more than 18 percent of the total men received was the highest of the three major racial groups in the percentage of those committed for narcotic offenses, with 45 percent of all men received with narcotic commitments in 1956 and 1957 being of Mexican descent. Only 5.5 percent in 1956, and 6.4 percent of those in 1957 received for forgery and check offenses were of the Mexican race, the lowest percentage of any one racial group in any offense.

OFFENSE AND PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD

Over two-fifths of the men committed for homicide or lewd acts with children had never served a prior commitment of any type before admission to prison in 1956 or in 1957, Tables 13A and 13B. Of the men

TABLE 13A

OFFENSE AND PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD

MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT

1956

Offense	Total	Type of prior commitment							
		No prior		Prior jail or juvenile		One prison		Two or more prison	
		Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Total	4,179	719	17.2	1,995	47.8	706	16.9	759	18.1
Homicide	166	82	49.4	60	36.2	15	9.0	9	5.4
Robbery	644	143	22.2	298	46.3	113	17.5	90	14.0
Assault	162	47	29.0	77	47.5	17	10.5	21	13.0
Burglary	739	68	9.2	361	48.8	133	18.0	177	24.0
Theft except auto	342	52	15.2	120	35.1	71	20.8	99	28.9
Auto theft	145	13	9.0	72	49.6	21	14.5	39	26.9
Forgery and checks	776	63	12.0	353	42.9	149	19.2	201	25.9
Sex offenses	280	110	39.3	110	39.3	42	15.0	18	6.4
Rape	104	36	34.6	55	52.9	10	9.6	3	2.9
Lewd acts with children	124	51	41.1	38	30.6	23	18.6	12	9.7
Other	52	23	44.2	17	32.7	9	17.3	3	5.8
Narcotics	710	89	12.5	442	62.3	116	16.3	63	8.9
Escape from jail or county camp	100	—	—	63	63.0	18	18.0	19	19.0
Habitual criminal	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Other offenses	112	22	19.6	59	52.7	11	9.8	20	17.9

TABLE 138

OFFENSE AND PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT 1957

Offense	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.....	4,570	14.2	2,309	50.5	918	20.1
Homicide.....	177	40.1	70	39.5	24	13.6
Robbery.....	644	19.7	354	55.0	97	15.1
Assault.....	153	23.3	79	48.5	32	19.6
Burglary.....	897	6.0	450	50.2	185	20.7
Theft except auto.....	296	13.9	109	36.8	79	26.7
Auto theft.....	210	9.0	110	52.4	42	20.0
Forgery and checks.....	865	10.9	392	45.3	209	24.1
Sex offenses.....	280	38.2	121	43.2	33	11.8
Rape.....	110	41	51	46.4	11	10.0
Lewd acts with children.....	107	44	34	31.8	20	18.7
Other.....	63	22	35	57.1	2	3.2
Narcotics.....	742	69	452	60.9	159	21.4
Escape from jail or county camp.....	149	---	105	70.5	23	15.4
Habitual criminal.....	145	27	67	46.2	34	23.5
Other offenses.....	145	18.6	67	46.2	34	23.5

admitted to prison in 1956 and in 1957, more than two-fifths of those convicted of theft except auto, forgery and checks, or burglary, had served prior prison terms before this admission. With approximately 50 percent of the total males received in 1956 and in 1957 having served prior jail or juvenile sentences before this commitment, it is not surprising that 63.0 percent in 1956, and 70.5 percent in 1957 of those convicted for escape from jail or county camp had served prior misdemeanor sentences. Of those convicted for narcotics 62.3 percent in 1956, and 60.9 percent in 1957, also had served time previously in jail or juvenile institutions.

A brief review was made regarding the prior California commitment history of the men admitted to prison. When the California criminal record was studied with each offense group it was seen that over one-fourth of those received for theft except auto had been in a California prison previous to this admission. Forgers and check-writers ranked second. The data as to the number of men who had served prior California jail sentences are not available.

TABLE 14A

OFFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT 1956

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.....	4,020	174	4.3	2,577	64.1	1,184	29.5	85	2.1
Homicide.....	145	16	11.0	96	66.2	31	21.4	2	1.4
Robbery.....	631	21	3.3	383	60.7	210	33.3	17	2.7
Assault.....	148	13	8.8	100	71.6	29	19.6	—	—
Burglary.....	721	34	4.7	466	64.6	207	28.7	14	2.0
Theft except auto.....	335	10	3.0	218	65.1	98	29.2	9	2.7
Auto theft.....	139	9	6.5	97	69.8	31	22.3	2	1.4
Forgery and checks.....	750	9	1.2	391	52.1	323	43.1	27	3.6
Sex offenses.....	259	14	5.4	172	66.4	68	26.3	5	1.9
Rape.....	104	5	4.8	71	68.3	26	25.0	2	1.9
Lewd acts with children.....	106	6	5.7	72	67.9	27	25.5	1	0.9
Other.....	49	3	6.1	29	59.2	15	30.6	2	4.1
Narcotics.....	689	38	5.5	503	73.0	141	20.5	7	1.0
Escape from jail or county camp.....	93	5	5.4	68	73.1	20	21.5	—	—
Habitual criminal.....	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Other offenses.....	107	5	4.7	75	70.1	25	23.3	2	1.9

Table 14A. These percentages had changed somewhat for the 4,374 men admitted in 1957 and tested for grade achievement score. Of these men admitted in 1957, 3.2 percent measured illiterate, and 34.1 percent tested better than eighth grade level, Table 14B.

Those convicted of forgery and checks had a higher grade achievement score than those in any other offense group. As is evidenced in Tables 14A and 14B, 46.7 percent of all forgers and check-writers admitted during 1956, and 50.9 percent of those admitted in 1957, had achieved scores of ninth grade or higher education. Also, 36 percent of those admitted in 1956, and 38 percent of those admitted in 1957, for robbery were of high school educational level or better. Those who were illiterate comprised 11 percent of those received for homicide in 1956, and 8.5 percent of those so received in 1957.

While the number of persons convicted for narcotic offenses rose from 710 in 1956, to 742 in 1957, the percentage of these persons defined as narcotic addicts decreased from 66.1 percent in 1956, to 61.7 percent in 1957. As might be expected, those committed for narcotic violations had the highest percentage of addicts. The offense groups with the next highest proportion of narcotic addicts were theft except auto and burglary, 20.4 percent and 15.8 percent in 1956, and 16.7 percent and 15.1 percent in 1957. There were very few addicts reported among those committed to prison for sex offenses, assault, or homicide.

TABLE 14B
OFFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1957

Offense	Total treated	Grade achievement score					
		Illiterate		Grade 3-8		Grade 9-11	
		Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Total.....	4,374	138	3.2	2,744	62.7	1,381	31.6
Homicide.....	154	13	8.5	98	63.6	38	24.7
Robbery.....	632	14	2.2	378	59.8	228	36.1
Assault.....	148	9	6.1	103	69.6	33	22.3
Burglary.....	875	32	3.7	571	65.2	259	29.8
Theft except auto.....	282	8	2.8	186	66.0	78	27.7
Auto theft.....	203	3	1.5	134	66.0	59	29.1
Forgery and checks.....	835	6	0.7	404	48.4	383	45.9
Sex offenses.....	269	11	4.1	184	68.4	68	25.3
Rape.....	106	2	1.9	75	70.8	26	24.5
Lewd acts with children.....	102	4	3.9	69	67.6	28	27.5
Other.....	61	5	8.2	40	65.6	14	22.9
Narcotics.....	705	29	4.1	509	72.2	160	22.7
Escape from jail or county camp.....	138	9	6.6	95	69.9	30	22.1
Habitual criminal.....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offenses.....	133	4	3.0	80	60.2	45	33.8

OFFENSE AND NARCOTIC ADDICTION

The annual data on offense and narcotic addiction are presented for the second time in this report. For the purposes of this statistical information narcotic addicts were defined as those men who, in the opinion of the reception-guidance center clinicians, had in recent years used heroin or its derivatives to the extent that withdrawal symptoms were experienced upon termination of dosage.

Of the 4,179 men received in prison during 1956, the narcotic history was not determined for 44 cases, and for the 4,570 received during 1957, it was not determined for 20 cases. Of those cases for which the history is known, 16.2 percent of those admitted in 1955* were classified as having a history of narcotic addiction, 20.0 percent of those admitted in 1956, and 18.7 percent of those received in 1957 were so classified. In Table 15, the percentages of narcotic addicts are given by offense for the men received in 1956 and in 1957. Chart IV illustrates the percentages of addicts in the men newly received from court during 1957 and for whom the narcotic history was known.

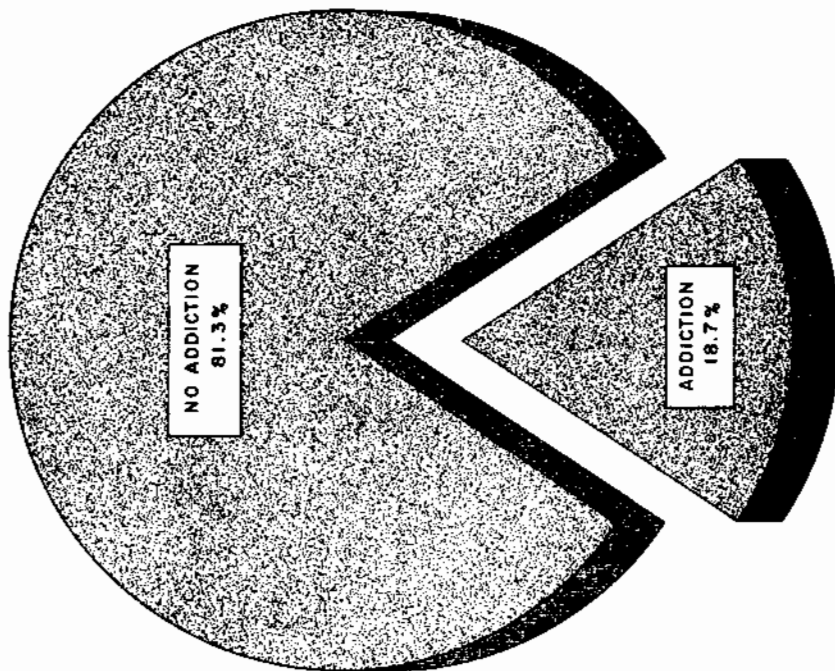
* Source: California Prisoners 1955—Bureau of Criminal Statistics; Sacramento, California.

TABLE 15
OFFENSE AND NARCOTIC ADDICTION
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1957

Offense	Total	Narcotic history			
		Unknown	No narcotics	Narcotic addiction	Percent narcotic excluding unknown
Total.....	4,570	20	3,697	853	20.0*
Homicide.....	177	7	162	8	3.9
Robbery.....	644	1	573	71	10.5
Assault.....	163	1	157	5	3.0
Burglary.....	897	—	762	135	15.8
Theft except auto.....	296	2	245	49	16.7
Auto theft.....	210	—	192	18	8.6
Forgery and checks.....	865	6	784	75	8.7
Sex offenses.....	280	1	274	5	1.8
Narcotics.....	742	1	284	457	60.1
Escape from jail or county camp.....	149	—	134	15	10.1
Habitual criminal.....	2	—	2	—	0.0
Other offenses.....	145	1	129	15	10.4

* In 1956, 4,179 men were received, of whom 827 were narcotic addicts, 3,308 had no narcotic history, and 44 whose narcotic history was unknown.

CHART IV
NARCOTIC ADDICTION
MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT
1957



CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION IN PRISON

The characteristics of the prison inmate body are presented in *California Prisoners* for the first time. Only the more important characteristics have been selected for presentation herein. The additions of this chapter and a similar chapter indicating the characteristics of the parole population have made a more complete picture of the types of individuals under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections. Each six months since 1945, the Bureau of Criminal Statistics has issued a mimeographed report entitled *Characteristics of Resident Population of California State Prisons by Institutions*. Although now out of print in most copies, the report has been a helpful tool in the administration of the Department of Corrections and each institution. It indicates the inmate make-up and the consistency of each type in the populations of the individual institutions.

In this chapter selected characteristics are given for: first, the men and the women felonious populations; and second, the male Youth Authority wards. As the number of Youth Authority wards being cared for by the California prison system has increased somewhat during the past years and is still increasing, it was decided that a description of the Youth Authority boys be given in the last section of this chapter.

In this chapter and the chapter relating to those newly received from court, the resident characteristics are as of one specific day in the year, while the admission data are total year figures. Also, the distributions of such items as offense and age differ between the resident population data and the admission figures because those admitted for the more serious offenses stay in prison longer than those convicted of the lesser offenses; therefore, the prison population would have a higher percentage in the more serious crime classifications and would become an older group.

In order to portray the changes and trends in the general characteristics of the adult felonious population during the past few years, the percentage distributions of the selected items are given as of December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957. As is true of all percentage distributions, when there is an increase in one factor there must be a corresponding decrease in some other item or items as the distribution must equal 100 percent. The felons housed in the reception-guidance centers have been excluded in the presentation of the characteristics of the resident population because many of the characteristics are not known until the diagnostic studies are completed for the individuals in these centers.

On December 31, 1957, the California prisons were housing 15,119 men and 667 women felons. These felonious populations had grown from 10,954 men and 388 women as of December 31, 1951, an increase

of 38.0 percent and 71.9 percent, respectively. In the following sections the characteristics of these populations are compared for December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957. The percentage distributions as of December 31, 1956, have not been shown because the changes in trend are more distinct over the six-year period than between just the last two years.

OFFENSE

For what crimes against society are prisoners confined in State prisons? After due process of law, offenders are sentenced to prison and serve under either an indeterminate sentence or a definite sentence of life or death. The number of persons admitted annually to prison is higher for the less serious crimes. The more serious offenders stay longer in prison. Thus, over a period of years, the resident population becomes an accumulation of the more serious types. The higher percentages in the resident population distribution reflect this accumulation of the more serious offenders.

In order to show the changes and the trends over the past six years, the percentage distribution of the male felons is given by offense groups, in Table 16A, for December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957. The highest percentage of men in prison had been convicted for robbery. In 1951 and in 1957, the distribution for this offense was 20.5 percent, while in 1954, this percentage was slightly higher, 21.3 percent. The offense with the second highest percentage of men was burglary, which has ranged from 19.5 percent to 18.4 percent of the population for the three periods

TABLE 16A

OFFENSE GROUPS PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE FELONS IN PRISON December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Offense	1951	1954	1957
Number of men*	10,116	12,908	14,086
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Homicide.....	8.9	7.2	7.2
Robbery.....	20.5	21.3	20.5
Assault.....	3.3	2.9	3.4
Burglary.....	19.5	19.1	18.4
Theft except auto.....	5.8	4.9	4.7
Auto theft.....	3.5	3.5	3.0
Forgery and checks.....	15.6	15.5	15.0
Rape.....	3.4	3.0	3.0
Other sex.....	7.5	6.7	5.7
Narcotics.....	4.8	10.4	14.5
Escape.....	2.5	1.7	0.9
Habitual criminal.....	1.6	1.1	0.9
All other.....	3.1	2.7	2.8

* Excludes those in Reception-Guidance Centers. Total felonious population on December 31, was 10,954 in 1951, 13,896 in 1954, and 15,119 in 1957.

shown. Forgers and check writers ranked third, making up 15 percent or slightly more of the population. On December 31, 1951, only 4.8 percent of the population were narcotic offenders. Six years later this had increased to 14.5 percent, the greatest change in the percentage distribution of any one offense group for men.

Approximately one-third of the population in the prison for women was serving time for forgery and check writing, as seen in Table 16B. During the periods covered in this table the offense group ranking

TABLE 16B
OFFENSE GROUPS
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Offense	1951	1954	1957
Number of women.....	388	543	667
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Homicide.....	17.5	15.7	11.4
Robbery.....	5.9	6.6	5.2
Assault.....	5.4	3.1	3.8
Burglary.....	6.7	5.9	4.5
Theft except auto.....	13.9	9.9	10.2
Auto theft.....	1.3	0.6	0.9
Forgery.....	27.8	31.8	32.1
Rape.....	—	0.2	0.1
Other sex.....	1.6	1.5	0.9
Narcotics.....	12.4	17.3	26.5
Escape.....	3.6	3.3	0.6
Habitual criminal.....	—	—	—
All other.....	3.9	4.1	3.8

second highest changed from homicide to narcotic. On December 31, 1951, 17.5 percent of the women population was serving time for homicide. This offense group was only 11.4 percent of the population on December 31, 1957, ranking third highest. The women felons convicted of narcotic offenses made up 12.4 percent of the population on December 31, 1951, but had increased almost constantly so as to comprise 26.5 percent of the population on December 31, 1957. This was the greatest change in any percentage of offense groups, either men or women.

AGE

The age of the resident population of the male felons in prison has decreased very slightly in the past six years, Table 17A. The median age of the male felons on December 31, 1951, was 32.8 years, while on December 31, 1957, this median age had decreased to 32.0 years. An increase has occurred in the 20-29 age group with 38.7 percent of the population being in that group in 1951, and 40.8 percent so classified in 1957. The percentage under 21 years of age increased from 2.1 percent in 1951, to 2.3 percent in 1957.

TABLE 17A
AGE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Age	1951	1954	1957
Number of men*	10,116	12,908	14,086
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20.....	0.6	0.8	1.0
20-24.....	15.7	17.0	16.6
25-29.....	23.0	25.7	24.2
30-34.....	17.4	18.1	20.2
35-39.....	13.5	12.1	13.1
40-44.....	10.3	9.2	8.7
45-49.....	7.9	6.6	6.3
50-54.....	5.2	4.7	4.1
55-59.....	3.0	3.0	2.8
60 and over.....	3.4	3.0	2.8
Median age in years.....	32.8	31.8	32.0
Percent under 21.....	2.1	2.3	2.3

* Excludes those in Reception-Guidance Centers. Total felonious population on December 31, was 10,954 in 1951, 13,896 in 1954, and 15,119 in 1957.

While there was a tendency for the men in prison to be a slightly younger group in 1957 than in 1951, this was not the picture in the resident population of the women. The median age for the women was 30.5 years on December 31, 1951, and was 31.6 years on December 31, 1957, exactly 1.1 years older, Table 17B. The median age of the women

TABLE 17B
AGE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Age	1951	1954	1957
Number of women.....	388	543	657
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20.....	2.3	1.3	1.2
20-24.....	17.0	19.7	16.2
25-29.....	28.8	26.3	23.2
30-34.....	18.6	17.1	23.2
35-39.....	12.6	12.2	12.9
40-44.....	9.0	8.9	7.4
45-49.....	4.4	4.8	5.7
50-54.....	3.6	4.6	3.0
55-59.....	0.8	2.2	3.0
60 and over.....	2.9	2.9	2.2
Median age in years.....	30.5	30.8	31.6
Percent under 21.....	5.0	4.2	2.8

during the past six years has not been consistent, for while it was 30.5 years in the last of 1951, this median decreased to 30.2 years by December 31, 1952, and had gradually increased to 32.6 years at the close of 1955, to become one year younger by the end of 1957 (31.6 years). The percentages of those under 21 years of age have not entirely reflected the fluctuations in the median age. The percentage of women under 21 years was 5.0 percent on December 31, 1951, 4.2 percent in 1954, but had dropped to 2.2 percent at the end of 1955, and had only increased to 2.8 percent on December 31, 1957.

RACE

Most of the people in prison are of the white race. As was done in the previous chapter, the Mexican group has been classified separately from the white because there are noticeable differences in the social and economic patterns of these two groups in this State. In the percentages of men residing in prison, there have been some changes in the race distribution during the past few years, Table 18A. Those

TABLE 18A

RACE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Race	1951	1954	1957
Number of men*	10,116	12,908	14,086
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	64.5	61.7	56.2
Mexican.....	13.2	15.8	16.9
Negro.....	19.9	20.3	21.5
Other.....	2.4	2.2	2.4

* Excludes those in Reception-Guidance Centers. Total felonious population on December 31, was 10,954 in 1951, 13,896 in 1954, and 15,119 in 1957.

classified as white comprised 64.5 percent of the prison population in 1951, and 59.2 percent in 1957. The Mexican race has changed from 13.2 percent to 16.9 percent, during the same period. There has been a slight increase in the Negro population percentage since 1951 when this racial group was 19.9 percent, as compared with 21.5 percent in 1957.

Somewhat similar changes in distribution have occurred among the women felons. Since 1951 the percent of white women in California prisons has decreased from 62.1 to 61.6 in 1957, Table 18B. During the same period the Mexican group which comprised a very small percent of the total population increased from 5.4 percent to 6.2 percent, and the Negro group from 29.1 percent to 29.7 percent.

TABLE 188
RACE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Race	1951	1954	1957
Number of women	388	543	667
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	62.1	61.9	61.6
Mexican	5.4	7.2	6.2
Negro	29.1	28.0	29.7
Other	3.4	2.9	2.5

PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD

Over one-half of the male felonious population had served prior prison terms before the present incarceration, Table 19A. Of the male felons in prison December 31, 1951, 50.9 percent had served prior

TABLE 19A
PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Type of prior commitment	1951	1954	1957
Number of men*	10,116	12,908	14,086
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
No prior commitment	17.7	14.7	12.1
Prior jail or juvenile only	31.4	35.3	35.0
Prior prison commitment	50.9	50.0	52.9
One prison	26.2	25.5	27.2
Two prison	13.4	13.0	13.2
Three or more prison	11.3	11.5	12.5

* Excludes those in Reception-Guidance Centers. Total felonious population on December 31, was 10,954 in 1951, 13,896 in 1954, and 15,119 in 1957.

prison sentences, while on December 31, 1957, 52.9 percent of the population had this recidivist pattern. Of the men who had prison experience before this admission, those with a history of only one prison confinement previously, made up 26.2 percent of the population in 1951, but were 27.2 percent of the male residents in 1957. Those who had served three or more prison sentences before this commitment were 11.3 percent of the population in 1951, and 12.5 percent in 1957.

There was, also, a noticeable increase in the percentage who had served prior jail or juvenile commitments before this admission. In 1951 this percent was 31.4, while on December 31, 1957 it was 35.0.

TABLE 19B

PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Type of prior commitment	1951	1954	1957
Number of women	388	543	667
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
No prior commitment	39.4	36.8	34.9
Prior jail or juvenile	36.3	43.7	41.8
Prior prison commitment	24.3	19.5	23.3
One prison	18.3	13.5	16.2
Two prison	4.4	4.4	4.1
Three or more prison	1.6	1.6	3.0

Naturally, there has been a corresponding decrease in the percentage residing in prison who had had no commitments previously, dropping from 17.7 percent in 1951, to 12.1 percent in 1957. The relationships of the types of prior criminal records for December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957 are shown in Chart V A.

The recidivism history of the women in prison differs from that of the men. As can be observed in Table 19B, the greatest change in the percentage distributions of women in prison has occurred in the group who served prior jail or juvenile sentences before the present commitment. In 1951 this group comprised 36.3 percent of the population, while in 1957 it comprised 41.8 percent, the highest percentage in the three types of prior commitment history. During the same period the percentage of those who had no prior commitments dropped from 39.4 percent in 1951, to 34.9 percent in 1957, changing rank with those who had prior jail or juvenile sentences. There has been a slight decrease from 1951 to 1957 in the percentage of women in prison who had served previous prison commitments, Chart V B.

It is of special interest to note that on December 31, 1957, 52.9 percent of the men in prison had served prior prison commitments, while only 23.3 percent of the women were so classified. Also, that only 12.1 percent of the men in prison had no prior criminal history, while 34.9 percent of the women had not served previous sentences of any type.

STATUS WITH REFERENCE TO PAROLE

Of the men residing in prison, around 78 percent had never been placed on parole, and about 22 percent were individuals who had been returned to prison after violating their parole agreements, Table 20A. The ratio of those not paroled since commitment to the parole violators returned has remained approximately the same (varying about 1 percent each way) during the past six years, the period covered by this table.

CHART V-A

PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE FELONS IN PRISON
DECEMBER 31, 1951, 1954 AND 1957

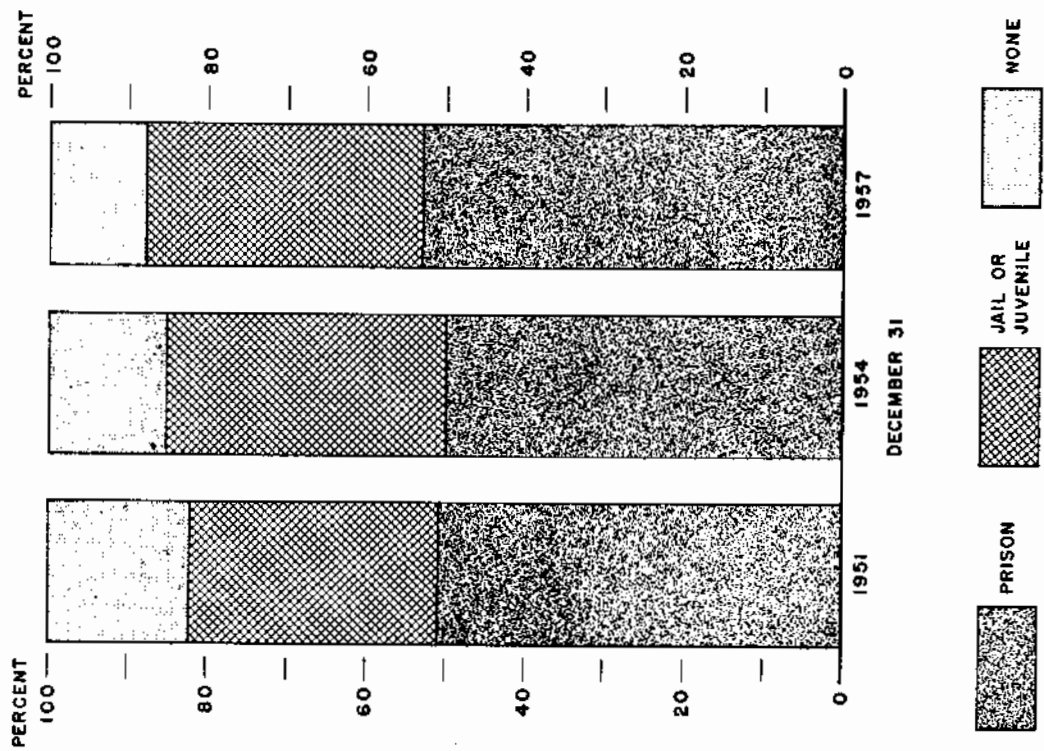


CHART V-B

PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN FELONS IN PRISON
DECEMBER 31, 1950, 1954 AND 1957

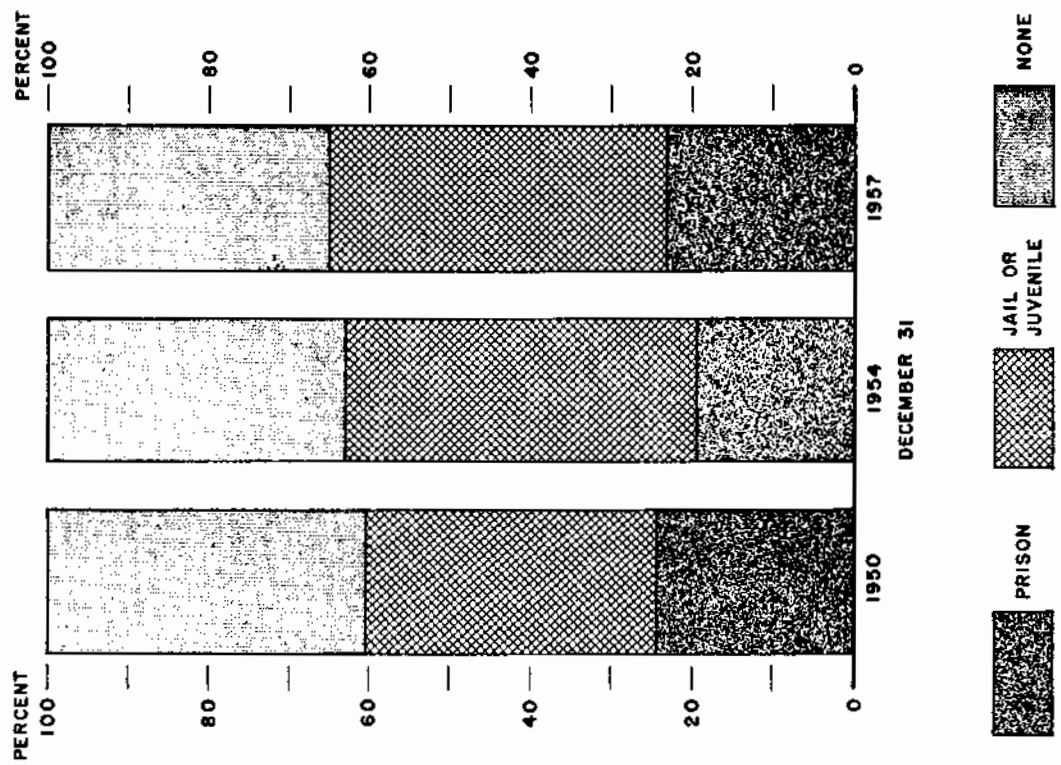


TABLE 20A
STATUS WITH REFERENCE TO PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Status with reference to parole	1951	1954	1957
Number of men*	10,116	12,908	14,086
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not paroled since commitment.....	77.5	79.2	76.8
Paroled and returned once as violator.....	17.1	16.5	18.9
Paroled and returned twice as violator.....	4.6	3.7	3.5
Paroled and returned three times or more as violator.....	0.8	0.6	0.8

* Excludes those in Reception-Guidance Centers. Total felonious population on December 31, was 10,954 in 1951, 13,896 in 1954, and 15,119 in 1957.

There has been a tendency for the percentage of women in the prison population who were returned for parole violation to increase while the percentage of those never paroled since commitment has decreased during the past few years, Table 20B. On December 31, 1951, 12.4 percent

TABLE 20B
STATUS WITH REFERENCE TO PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN FELONS IN PRISON
December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Status with reference to parole	1951	1954	1957
Number of women.....	388	543	667
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not paroled since commitment.....	87.6	82.8	80.1
Paroled and returned once as violator.....	7.5	11.8	12.8
Paroled and returned twice as violator.....	3.4	3.7	5.2
Paroled and returned three times or more as violator.....	1.5	1.7	1.9

of the women in prison had been paroled and returned as violators while serving current prison sentences. On December 31, 1957, this group made up 19.9 percent of the population.

YOUTH AUTHORITY WARDS

According to the statutes of California it is permissible for the Youth Authority to authorize the use of other facilities within this State for the care and the treatment of persons subject to the control of that Authority. The Director of Corrections has agreed with Youth Authority to care for certain Youth Authority wards in designated facilities under his jurisdiction. Most of the Youth Authority wards housed in the facilities of the Department of Corrections are 18 years or older, and are similar to a group who have been committed to the Department

of Corrections by the Superior courts. Persons between the ages of 18 and 21 who commit a serious offense may be tried in the Superior Court of California and be committed to either the Youth Authority or the Department of Corrections. As there are many similar problems in the handling of this age group it has been found administratively feasible for the two departments to house these persons together in designated facilities.

The California Department of Corrections was caring for 1,052 Youth Authority wards on December 31, 1957. Two of these wards were girls. These girls had been convicted in the criminal courts and were in the California Institution for Women at Corona. Of the 1,050 male wards, 147 boys had been sent to the Youth Authority by juvenile courts. Of the 1,050 boys, 772 were in the Deuel Vocational Institution, 231 in Soledad, 25 in California Medical Facility, 3 in San Quentin, and 19 in Southern Reception-Guidance Center awaiting transfer to Deuel Vocational Institution.

In Table 21, selected characteristics are presented for Youth Authority boys in the Department of Corrections institutions, and for whom the reception-guidance center case history had been completed. The offenses for which most of the boys were in custody as of December 31, 1957, were: first, burglary; second, robbery; third, auto theft. Of these 907 boys, 230, or 25.3 percent, were confined for burglary offenses, and

TABLE 21
CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH AUTHORITY BOYS IN DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS INSTITUTIONS
December 31, 1957

Offense	Number	Percent	Age in years and race	Number	Percent
Offense.....	907*	100.0	Race.....	851**	100.0
Homicide.....	16	1.8	White.....	546	64.2
Robbery.....	206	22.7	Mexican.....	189	22.2
Assault.....	44	4.8	Negro.....	107	12.5
Burglary.....	230	25.3	Other.....	9	1.1
Theft except auto.....	43	4.7	Age in years.....	907*	100.0
Auto theft.....	135	14.9	16.....	—	—
Forgery and checks.....	37	4.1	17.....	17	1.9
Rape.....	38	4.2	18.....	92	10.1
Other sex.....	16	1.8	19.....	225	24.8
Narcotics.....	87	9.6	20.....	285	31.4
All other.....	55	6.1	21.....	193	21.3
			22.....	73	8.0
			23.....	15	1.7
			24.....	7	0.8
			Median age in years 20		

* Excludes 124 boys in the Reception-Guidance Center at Deuel Vocational Institution, and 19 in Southern Reception-Guidance Center.
Of these 907 boys, 147 were juvenile court cases, and 760 were criminal court commitments.
** Excludes 56 boys for which there was no information on race.

206, or 22.7 percent, were in prison for robbery, which is 2.6 percent less than those committed for burglary. These two offense groups are noticeably much higher than the auto theft group which made up about 14.9 percent, and the narcotic group which was 9.6 percent of the male youth population in the Department of Corrections institutions.

Over three-fifths of the Youth Authority boys in the Department of Corrections facilities on December 31, 1957 were of the white race, more than one-fifth were of Mexican descent, and one-eighth were Negro. The male wards had a median age of 20 years with 77.5 percent being 19, 20, or 21 years of age.

PRISONERS RELEASED

How long do felonious prisoners remain in California prisons? In order to answer this question the differences in the types of release; i.e., discharge or parole, and in the individual prisoners with respect to offense, prior criminal record, and prison adjustment must be considered. It is of particular importance in the examination and study of time served that those who are in prison on their first incarceration be grouped separately from those who have been returned to prison for violation of the parole status. The measurement of time served on a second or more return cannot be specified as to the portion of additional servitude attributable to the original offense and the portion allotted to the violation offense.

A prisoner found guilty of a felony and committed to prison by a court is either under an indeterminate term or a definite term of life or death. Under the indeterminate sentence law the maximum and the minimum length of term is specified by State code. The minimum amount of time a person must serve may be increased by other statutory provisions which may cause an aggravation of this minimum term. Court findings which may cause an aggravation are a prior conviction or use or possession of a deadly weapon. Consecutive sentences also extend or aggravate the time to be served.

Within the statutory provisions set forth in the California law, the Adult Authority for the male felons and the Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women determine the exact length of time an inmate must serve for each offense. This determination by the respective boards is made after a personal interview with each individual inmate and after studying the case history and the prison adjustment of the person. It is the responsibility of these two boards to determine the amount of time each person must spend in prison and on parole before final discharge. These two boards also have the legal authority to return to prison the person violating his parole and to re-release him to society within the maximum statutory term when sufficient progress toward social adjustment has been achieved.

METHOD OF RELEASE

The four principal methods by which felons may be released from prison are parole, discharge, death, and execution. Some information on the male prisoners released was presented in Table 3, and has been enlarged upon in Table 22.

In 1956 and in 1957 about 80 percent of all adult male felons released were placed under parole supervision, Table 22. The percentage released from prison by expiration of sentence was more in 1956 than in 1957, 19.5 percent and 18.1 percent, respectively. Deaths and executions

TABLE 22

METHOD OF RELEASE
MALE PRISONERS RELEASED FROM PRISON
1956 and 1957

Method of release	1956		1957	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	5,176	100.0	4,781	100.0
Parole.....	4,117	79.5	3,849	80.5
Expiration of sentence.....	1,007	19.5	866	18.1
Death or execution.....	52	1.0	66	1.4
First release.....	4,117	100.0	3,790	100.0
Parole.....	3,537	86.4	3,253	85.8
Expiration of sentence.....	516	12.6	490	12.9
Death or execution.....	41	1.0	47	1.3
Re-release.....	1,059	—	991	—
After return with new commitment.....	534	100.0	572	100.0
Parole.....	416	77.9	448	78.3
Expiration of sentence.....	112	21.0	111	19.4
Death or execution.....	6	1.1	13	2.3
After return without new commitment.....	525	100.0	419	100.0
Parole.....	144	27.4	148	35.3
Expiration of sentence.....	376	71.6	265	63.3
Death or execution.....	5	1.0	6	1.4

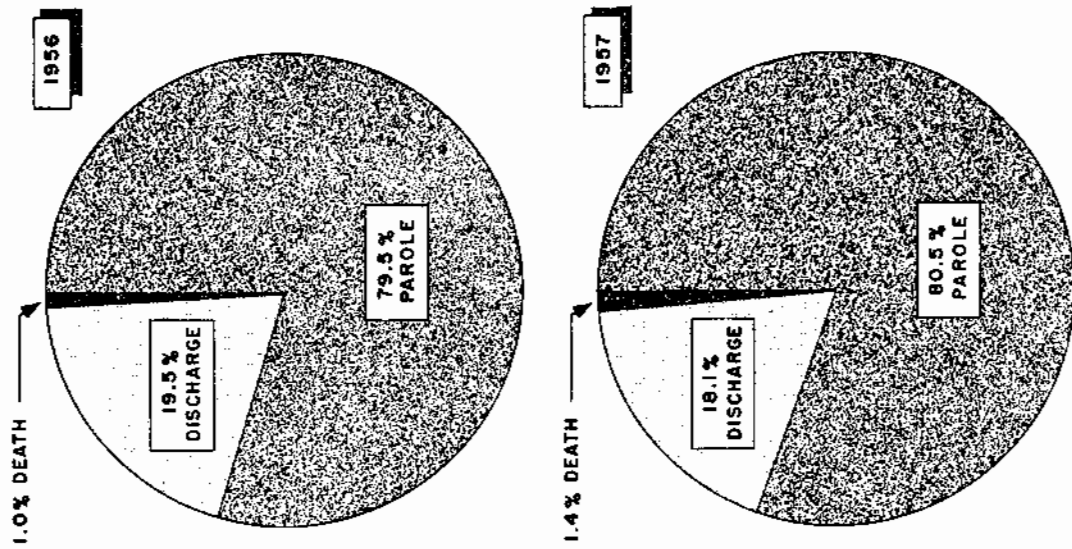
ranged between 1 and 2 percent each year. The percentages of methods of release from prison in 1956 and in 1957 are exhibited in Chart VI.

Of all men released during 1957, 3,790 men, or 79.3 percent, were persons being released from prison for the first time. Of these prisoners, 3,253 men, or 85.8 percent, were paroled and 490, or 12.9 percent, were discharged. There is a marked difference in the method of release for those first released, and for those who were re-released after return to prison from parole. Of the 572 men released in 1957 who had been parolees returned with an additional criminal offense, 78.3 percent were re-paroled, and 19.4 percent were discharged. The method of release for men re-released after return to prison from parole without a new commitment was almost the reverse of those released after return with a new commitment. Of the 419 men released after return without a new commitment, 35.3 percent were placed on parole and 63.3 percent were discharged directly from the institution.

In 1957 there were 244 women released to parole supervision and only three persons discharged at expiration of sentence, Table 3. It has been the trend for many years that almost all women be placed on parole and only a very few be discharged directly from prison at expiration of sentence.

CHART VI

METHOD OF RELEASE
MALE PRISONERS RELEASED FROM PRISON
1956 AND 1957



PAROLE

The greatest number of men and of women prisoners in the history of California ever released on parole was accomplished during 1956, when 4,117 men and 275 women were placed in the community under supervision. These numbers decreased somewhat in 1957 when 3,849 men and 244 women were paroled.

In a study of parole it is necessary that first parole and repaole after return to prison for parole violation be considered separately. When a person is paroled for the first time, the time served in prison and the actions taken by the boards in the setting of the release date for the inmate are related to the offense or offenses for which the person was committed. There are two principal methods by which a person is returned to prison with a parole violator status. He may be returned with a new commitment having been convicted of a new felonious act while on parole. There are other individuals who do not live up to the parole agreement and must be returned to prison for their own protection or for the good of society. When an individual is paroled after return to prison one or more times for parole violations, the consideration of time served not only involves the original offense but also the subsequent violations which may be technical in nature or may result from a new criminal conviction. There is no method of determining the amount of time served attributable to the original offense and to the subsequent violations. For this reason time served by those repaeroled is not classified by offense.

The median time served in prison before parole is given by type of parole for the male prisoners released during 1950 and each year since, Table 23A. This table indicates that the median time served by those

CHART VII
TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED
IN PRISON BEFORE LAST PAROLE
MALE PRISONERS PAROLED
1950 — 1957

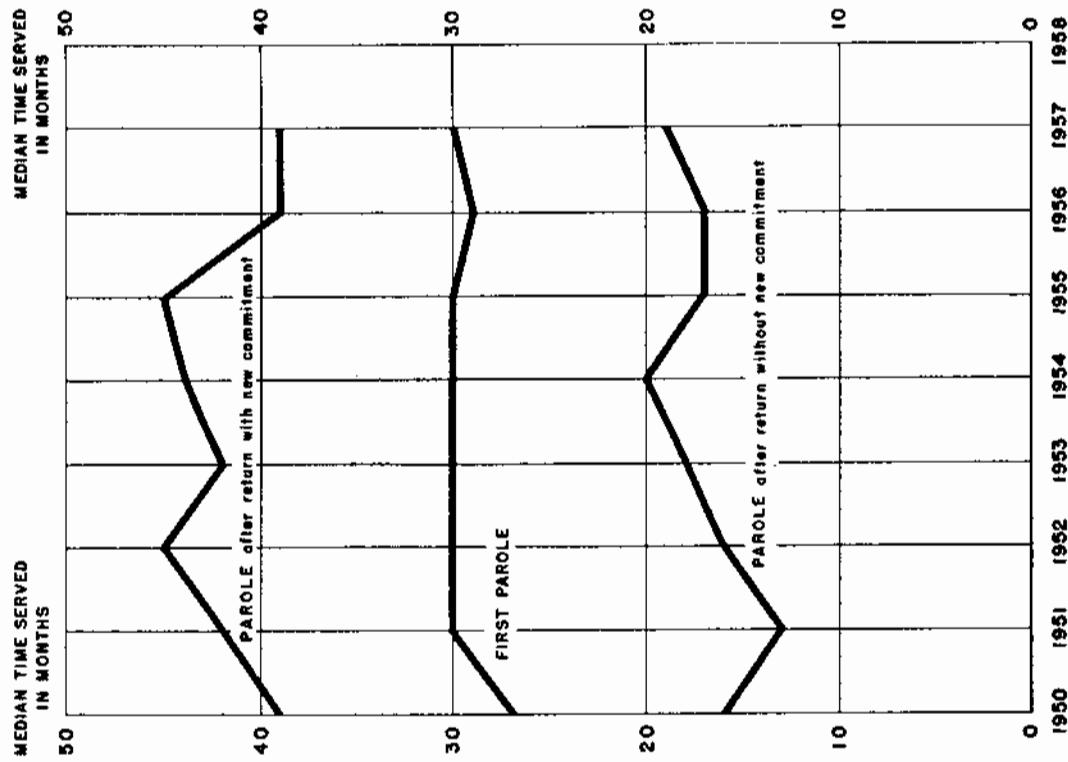


TABLE 23A
TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON
BEFORE LAST PAROLE BY YEAR

MALE PRISONERS PAROLED
1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957

Year	First parole		Repaeroled 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	209	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

first paroled was less in 1950 (27 months) than for any one year since. The median time served for those paroled in 1957 was 30 months, which has been the median for each year since 1950 except 1956 when the median was 29 months.

For those reparaed, after return to prison with a new commitment, the median time served in prison varied from 39 months before release in 1950, in 1956, and in 1957, to a high of 45 months in 1952 and in 1955. Within this six months range there has been no distinct trend over the years as to the time served by parole violators returned with new commitments. In each year, the median time was from 9 to 15 months longer than the median time served by men paroled for the first time.

Men returned to prison after parole violation without a new commitment served less time in prison before reparole than did the other violators. During the past eight years the median time served by these technical parole violators reparaed was lowest in 1951 (13 months), highest in 1954 (20 months), and was 17 months and 19 months in 1956 and in 1957, respectively. Chart VII displays the trend and the variations in the medians of time served by the three types of paroles for 1950 through 1957.

The type of parole and median time served in prison before parole are given for women by each calendar year 1950 through 1957, Table 23B. The median time served in prison before first parole has varied only three months during the past eight years. For the women first

TABLE 23B
TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON
BEFORE LAST PAROLE BY YEAR

WOMEN PRISONERS PAROLED
1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957
Medians Computed Only for Years With More Than 25 Cases

Year	First parole			Paroled after return to prison		
	Without new commitment		Median time served in months	With new commitment		Median time served in months
	Number	Median time served in months		Number	Median time served in months	
1950.....	128	26	—	4	—	14
1951.....	82	26	—	3	—	14
1952.....	155	26	—	4	—	—
1953.....	163	24	—	13	—	—
1954.....	148	23	—	9	—	13
1955.....	187	24	—	9	—	14
1956.....	195	25	—	18	—	13
1957.....	182	24	—	15	—	17

paroled during 1950, 1951, and 1952, the median time before release was 26 months. The median dropped to 23 months for those released in 1954, only to increase slightly during the next two years to 25 months in prison before parole in 1956. For those paroled for the first time in 1957 the median time served was 24 months.

So very few women were returned to prison with new commitments that the number reparaed has not been large enough to compute the median time served before release for any one year during the past eight-year period. The medians of time served in prison by the women reparaed after return to prison for technical violations were computed for six of the last eight years and were not computed for 1952 or 1953 as less than 25 women were reparaed each year. The medians computed for these years were either 13 months or 14 months for each year until 1957 when the women reparaed after being returned to prison for technical violations remained in prison 17 months before re-release.

TABLE 24A
OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON
MALE PRISONERS PAROLED FOR THE FIRST TIME
1956 and 1957
Only Offense Groups With More Than 25 Cases Are Shown

Selected offenses	1956			1957		
	Time served in months		Range of middle 80%	Time served in months		Range of middle 80%
	Number	Median		Number	Median	
All offenses.....	3,557	29	16-51	3,253	30	15-50
Murder 1st.....	32	121	96-192	26	120	96-222
Murder 2d.....	47	63	36-84	38	69	36-108
Manslaughter.....	35	33	18-48	54	33.5	21-51
Robbery 1st.....	451	36	27-61	369	36	27-62
Robbery 2d.....	198	27	18-45	177	27	18-48
Assault with deadly weapon.....	80	30	15-60	92	25	18-48
Burglary 1st.....	76	32	24-63	64	34	24-60
Burglary 2d.....	668	26	15-40	481	25	15-42
Grand theft except auto.....	157	24	15-36	134	24	12-39
Petty theft with prior.....	21	24	—	35	15	12-27
Auto theft.....	150	24	15-39	112	24	12-44
Forgery and checks.....	642	24	15-36	626	24	12-36
Rape.....	79	39	18-66	87	38	15-69
Lewd acts with children.....	143	48	30-90	117	42	24-97
Narcotics.....	516	27	18-39	523	30	15-42
Escape from jail.....	22	—	—	38	12	7-30

FIRST PAROLE

There were 3,557 male prisoners paroled for the first time during 1956, and 3,253 during 1957. Offense and time served in prison by the men first paroled during 1956 and during 1957 are given in Table 24A by offense groups of more than 25 men. The median time served by the men released in 1957 was one month longer than the median of those released in 1956, 30 months and 29 months respectively. The range of time served by the middle 80 percent of the men released in 1957 was less by one month at both the lower and upper limits, being 15-50 months as compared with 16-51 months for those released during 1956.

Those convicted of murder second degree spent a median time of 69 months in prison before first parole in 1957, as compared with 63 months by those so released during 1956. An increase in the median time served in prison before first parole occurred for men convicted of narcotic offenses. Men in this offense group served a median time of 27 months before parole in 1956, and 30 months before release in 1957. First degree burglars and those convicted of rape placed on parole in 1957, served a median time of two months longer than did those released in 1956. The first degree burglars paroled in 1957 served 34 months, and those men convicted of rape served 38 months in prison before parole. For those men who had been imprisoned for lewd acts with children the median time served decreased from 48 months before first parole in 1956, to 42 months for those released during 1957. The range of the middle 80 percent of the lewd acts with children cases released in 1957 was less by six months at the lower limit and increased by seven months at the upper limit, being 24-97 months in 1957. Men who had been convicted of assault with deadly weapon and first paroled during 1957, served a median of 25 months before parole, while those so released during 1956 served 30 months.

TABLE 24B
OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON
WOMEN PRISONERS PAROLED FOR THE FIRST TIME
1956 and 1957

Selected offenses	1956				1957			
	Time served in months		Number	Range of middle 80%	Time served in months		Number	Range of middle 80%
	Median	Median			Median	Median		
All offenses.....	195	25	182	17-38	24	24	182	17-34
Forgery and checks.....	68	25	64	18-35	22	22	64	18-31
Narcotics.....	37	24	41	14-32	27	27	41	18-33

Only Offense Groups With More Than 25 Cases Are Shown

The women paroled for the first time from the California Institution for Women served medians of 25 months in prison before parole in 1956, and 24 months before parole in 1957. Because of the small number of persons placed on first parole during any one calendar year the offenses of forgery and checks and narcotics are the only groups with a sufficient number of parolees for study with respect to time served, Table 24B. The women convicted of forgery and check offenses served less time before parole in 1957 than those paroled in 1956 as the medians of time served for this offense group were 25 months before parole in 1956, and 22 months in 1957, three months less. The median time served by the woman with narcotic convictions first paroled in 1957 was 27 months, which is three months longer than the median time (24 months) for those released in 1956.

REPAROLE

The status of the individual at time of return to prison from parole, the median time served in prison before repaole, and the range of the time served by the middle 80 percent of the cases are given in Table 25 for the male prisoners repaored during 1956 and during 1957.

TABLE 25

STATUS AT RETURN FROM PAROLE AND TIME SERVED IN
PRISON BEFORE REPAROLE
MALE PRISONERS REPAROLED
1956 and 1957

Status at return from parole	1956			1957		
	Time served in months		Number	Time served in months		Number
	Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%	
Total.....	560	--	596	--	--	--
With new commitment.....	416	28-65	448	39	27-46	39
Without new commitment.....	144	8-45	148	17	12-42	19

Men who were returned to prison with new commitments and who were repaored spent longer periods of time in prison before repaole than did either those paroled for the first time or those repaored after technical parole violation. The parole violators returned to prison with a new commitment served a median of 39 months in prison before repaole in 1956 or in 1957, about three-fourths of a year longer than those paroled for the first time.

Men who were returned to prison without new commitments and who were repaored during 1956 spent a median of 17 months in

prison before reparole, while those repared during 1957 spent 19 months, two months longer. The upper limit of the middle 80 percent was 45 months in 1956, and 42 months in 1957. The lower limit of this range was eight months in 1956, and 12 months in 1957.

DISCHARGE FROM PRISON AT EXPIRATION OF SENTENCE

In order to properly study the length of time in prison before discharge at expiration of sentence it is necessary to group these data by first release and re-release. The male prisoners first released from prison by expiration of sentence numbered 519 during 1956, and 490 during 1957. The men who served their entire sentences in prison without having been paroled spent a median time of 24 months before discharge in 1957, which was six months less than the 30 months served by those released during 1956.

The offense and the time served in prison are depicted for those groups in which more than 25 men were released, Table 26. The greatest difference in median time served occurred for men convicted of narcotics. Men convicted of this offense, who were released for the first time during 1956, served a median time of 36 months in prison. In 1957, this median was 48 months, exactly one year longer. The length of time served by those convicted of auto theft also increased, as the median time was 30 months for those discharged in 1956, while the median was 36 months, one-half year longer, for those released in 1957. In only one offense category was there a reduction in the median of

CHART VIII

OFFENSE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON BEFORE DISCHARGE MALE PRISONERS FIRST RELEASED BY DISCHARGE 1956 AND 1957

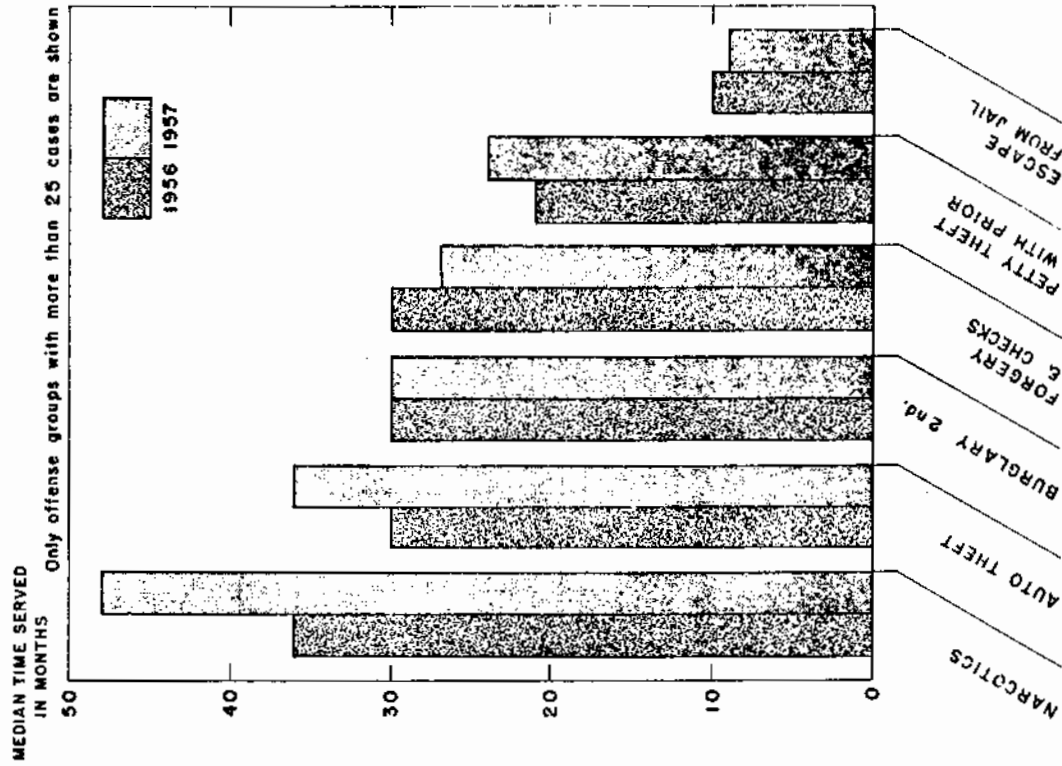


TABLE 26

OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON MALE PRISONERS FIRST RELEASED FROM PRISON BY DISCHARGE AT EXPIRATION OF SENTENCE 1956 and 1957

Only Offense Groups With More Than 25 Cases Are Shown
Median and Range Shown Only for 25 or More Cases

Selected offenses	1956			1957		
	Time served in months		Number	Time served in months		Number
	Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%	
All offenses	30	12-40	519	24	9-60	490
Burglary 2d	30	12-40	101	30	12-60	93
Grand theft except auto	20.5	12-36	32	—	—	24
Auto theft	30	18-48	42	36	18-60	30
Petty theft with prior	21	12-30	42	24	12-36	26
Forgery and checks	30	12-48	122	27	12-48	113
Narcotics	36	18-60	44	48	24-60	34
Escape from jail	10	6-24	31	9	6-18	86

time served before release by discharge. Forgers and check writers served medians of 30 months before discharge in 1956, and 27 months before discharge in 1957. The range of the middle 80 percent of the men discharged for forgery and check offenses was the same in 1956 and in 1957, 12-48 months. Median time served in prison before first release by discharge is shown graphically for selected offense groups in Chart VIII.

The male prisoners re-released from prison by discharge at expiration of sentence have been classified into those who had been returned from parole with a new commitment and those who had been returned without a new commitment, Table 27. Prisoners discharged from prison

TABLE 27

STATUS AT RETURN AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON
MALE PRISONERS RE-RELEASED FROM PRISON BY DISCHARGE
AT EXPIRATION OF SENTENCE
1956 and 1957

Status at return	1956			1957		
	Time served in months			Time served in months		
	Number	Median	Range of middle 80%	Number	Median	Range of middle 80%
Total	488	—	—	376	—	—
With new commitment	112	47	30-60	111	38	30-60
Without new commitment	376	18	10-28	265	19	10-34

at expiration of sentence in 1957, after having been returned for parole violation with a new commitment, served a median time of 38 months before discharge. This was nine months less than the median of 47 months served by those discharged during 1956. However, the range of time served by the middle 80 percent of the men was the same (30-60 months) in both years. The male felons who had been returned to prison for technical parole violation served a median of 18 months before discharge in 1956, and 19 months before release in 1957, one month longer.

DEATH

A total of 48 deaths occurred in the State prisons during 1956. These were 47 male felons and one male recalcitrant tubercular case. In 1957, 61 deaths occurred in the prisons. Of these deaths, 57 were male felons, one a Youth Authority boy, and three were women felons. The median time served in prison by the 47 male felons between last admission and death in 1956 was 24 months. The 57 male felons whose deaths occurred in 1957, had also served a median time of 24 months.

EXECUTION

During the past eight years 98 persons have been received in prison with death sentences, 66 between 1950-1954, 9 in 1955, 14 in 1956, and 9 in 1957. During the same eight years 18 have had death sentences removed, five of which were during 1957. California has executed 62 persons from the first of 1950 through the end of 1957. Of these executions five occurred in 1956, and nine in 1957, Table 28.

TABLE 28
DEATH PENALTIES
1950-1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957

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

Months Between Admission With Death Penalty and Execution

Months	1950-1954		1955-1957	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	39	100.0	23*	100.0
8-12	22	56.4	6	26.1
13-18	9	23.1	5	21.7
19-24	2	5.1	8*	34.8
25 and over	6	15.4	4	17.4

* One woman.

The number of months between admission to prison with death penalty and execution during 1950-1954 ranged from 8-79 months, with a median of 12 months for the 39 men executed. Only eight, or 20.5 percent, of these 39 men were in prison longer than one and one-half years before execution. Of the 23 executed during 1955-1957, the time between arrival and execution ranged from 10-83 months. About 52 percent of these cases were in prison more than one and one-half years before execution. Of the 14 men executed during the past two years, each had been convicted of murder first degree, and ten were white, three Negro, and one American Indian. There were 20 prisoners in California State prisons awaiting execution as of December 31, 1957.

In Table 29A the transfer items are accounting figures balancing the population movement among district offices and/or other states. The transfer items need no further discussion.

PAROLE MOVEMENT AND POPULATION

The remaining chapters present data relating to parole and parolees. This chapter consists mainly of brief descriptive actions regarding the movement of the men and the women parole populations. The next chapter sets forth, for the first time in this series of reports, some of the characteristics of the male parole population as of December 31, 1951, December 31, 1954, and December 31, 1957, and of the women parole population as of the last day of 1950, 1954, and 1957. The characteristics information is not available for 1951 for the women parole population. The second chapter following this one presents brief statements regarding the parolees who have been suspended from parole because of some overt action, and the third chapter comments on those who have been reinstated to parole supervision after suspension. In the final chapter, study is devoted to those discharged from parole.

Men who have been confined in California prisons and who have been placed on parole are supervised by agents in the Division of Adult Paroles. Since September 1957, this Division has been under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections. Prior to that the Adult Authority had the administrative authority for the parole agents. The women paroled from the California Institution for Women are supervised by women agents under the administration of the Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women.

As of December 31, 1956, there were 7,601 men being supervised by the Division of Adult Paroles. This had decreased to 7,313 men under supervision as of December 31, 1957. The parole population from California prisons may be located in California, in other states, or may have been released to other authoritative jurisdictions for deportation or for confinement in a federal institution or in prisons of other states. As of December 31, 1957, 84.8 percent of the total California male parole population were being supervised in California and only 15.2 percent were completing their sentences out of this State. On December 31, 1956, 82.7 percent of the California male parole population were supervised in California and 17.3 percent elsewhere.

Excluding those transferred from one district to another, the greatest number of movements of male parolees ever recorded in California occurred during 1957. Although 4,117 men were received on parole during 1956, which is the highest in California history, the number discharged and suspended from parole were less than during 1957 which exceeded all prior records. During 1957 the movements of male parolees totaled 8,468 excluding those transferred, while in 1956 the count was 7,974 movements. The men discharged from parole during 1956 and during 1957 will be studied in a later chapter of this publication.

TABLE 29A

MOVEMENT OF MALE PAROLE POPULATION AND LOCATION OF SUPERVISION 1956 and 1957

Movement	1956				1957			
	Total	Supervised in		Deport or custody	Total	Supervised in		Deport or custody
		California	Other states			California	Other states	
Population, January 1.....	6,719	5,493	655	571	7,601	6,285	666	650
Total received on parole.....	6,441	5,655	446	340	6,534	5,901	376	257
Paroled from prison.....	4,117	3,629	273	215	3,849	3,441	199	209
Reinstated after suspension.....	311	212	46	53	241	178	42	21
By transfer.....	2,013	1,814	127	72	2,444	2,282	135	27
Total removed from parole.....	5,559	4,863	435	261	6,822	5,985	461	376
Discharged*.....	1,982	1,548	260	174	2,422	1,942	284	196
Suspended.....	1,497	1,415	72	10	1,808	1,701	92	16
Died.....	67	58	9	—	148	64	11	73
By transfer.....	2,013	1,842	94	77	2,444	2,278	74	92
Population, December 31.....	7,601	6,285	666	650	7,313	6,201	581	531
Population change.....	882	792	11	79	—288	—84	—85	—119

* Includes pardons and commutations of which there were 11 in 1956 and three in 1957.

The parole agents in California supervise not only those released from California prisons who remain in this State, but also parolees from other state prison systems. Supervision of these parolees is the same as supervision of California parolees. This has been accomplished through an agreement under the provisions of the Interstate Compact. The California agents were supervising 697 men in California from other states on December 31, 1956, and 809 men from other state systems on the last day of 1957. Other state jurisdictions were supervising 666 and 581 parolees from California as of December 31, 1956 and December 31, 1957, respectively.

The number of women under parole supervision increased during 1957, Table 29B. On December 31, 1957, 580 women were under parole supervision which was an increase of 12 over the 568 women under supervision on December 31 of the previous year. Of these 580 parolees, 518, or 89 percent, were residing in California, 49 were being supervised in other states, and 13 were in deport or custody status. The California women parole agents were supervising persons from other

TABLE 298

MOVEMENT OF WOMEN PAROLE POPULATION AND LOCATION OF SUPERVISION 1956 and 1957

Movement	1956			1957		
	Supervised in		Total	Supervised in		Total
	Calif.	Other states*		Calif.	Other states*	
Population, January 1.....	466	59	525	505	63	568
Total received on parole.....	364	33	397	303	21	324
Paroled from prison.....	275	18	293	229	15	244
Reinstated after suspension.....	63	4	67	58	2	60
By transfer.....	25	11	36	16	4	20
Total removed from parole.....	262	29	291	290	22	312
Discharged†.....	95	13	108	117	8	125
Suspended.....	133	12	145	154	8	162
Died.....	8	—	8	5	1	6
By transfer.....	26	4	30	15	5	20
Population, December 31.....	568	63	631	518	62	580
Population change.....	102	4	106	13	—1	12

* Includes deport or custody cases. This population was 10 on December 31, 1956, and 13 on December 31, 1957. The movement was four paroled, one transferred out during 1956, five paroled, one transferred out, and one died during 1957.

† Includes one pardon in 1957.

states. On December 31, 1956, this load from other states numbered 37 women, and on the last day of 1957 the number was 33 women.

The number of women placed on parole during 1957 was less than the number during 1956. There were 244 California prisoners released to parole supervision in 1957 as compared with 275 in 1956. Also, in 1957, 60 women were reinstated to supervision after having been suspended for violation of parole as compared with 63 during 1956. The numbers discharged from parole or suspended for parole violation increased during 1957 as compared with 1956. The number of women discharged was 95 during 1956, and 125 during 1957, an increase of 30 women. The number suspended in 1956 was 133, and in 1957 was 162, an increase of 29 women.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION ON PAROLE

For many years the Bureau of Criminal Statistics has given administrators of the Department of Corrections an accounting of the general types of persons on parole. Because a selected set of characteristics of parolees may be of general interest, there is published in this book for the first time some detail on the offense, the number of times on parole, and length of time on present parole for the adult men and women who were serving the completion of a California prison sentence by this method.

In this chapter the status of those on parole with respect to each characteristic has been compared for three periods of time, December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957 for the men, and December 31, 1950, 1954, and 1957 for the women parole population. The data are not available for the women parole population as of December 31, 1951. The percentage distribution has been used for these comparisons as significant changes are more easily recognized.

On December 31, 1957 there were 7,313 male parolees under supervision which is an 18.4 increase from the 6,176 under supervision three years previously. During the same period of time, the number of women

TABLE 30A

OFFENSE GROUPS PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE PAROLE POPULATION December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Offense	1951	1954	1957
Number of men.....	4,873	6,176	7,313
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Homicide.....	16.5	13.2	10.8
Murder 1st.....	10.9	8.7	6.8
Murder 2d.....	3.2	2.7	2.3
Manslaughter.....	2.4	1.8	1.7
Robbery.....	20.3	17.4	20.2
Assault.....	3.7	3.1	2.6
Burglary.....	16.9	18.6	16.4
Theft except auto.....	5.6	5.7	4.7
Auto theft.....	2.8	3.3	2.6
Forgery and checks.....	14.8	15.6	14.9
Rape.....	4.0	3.7	3.3
Lewd acts with children.....	4.0	3.5	4.6
Other sex.....	2.0	1.6	1.8
Narcotics.....	2.7	8.3	13.1
Escape.....	1.2	1.3	1.4
Habitual criminal.....	2.3	1.7	1.5
All other.....	3.2	3.0	2.1

(63)

under parole supervision increased from 430 at the end of 1954, to 580 as of December 31, 1957, a rise of 34.9 percent.

OFFENSE

The percentage distribution of male parolees by offense groups is presented in Table 30A for the men on parole as of December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957. A comparison of the percentage distribution indicates that some changes have occurred with respect to the offense groups. Those convicted of robbery had the highest percentage of the offense groups. The burglary group ranked second. Forgers and check writers were third in 1954 and 1957, but homicide was third in 1951. The homicide group shows a noticeable drop from 16.5 percent of the parole population in 1951, to 10.8 percent in 1957. The percentages of those on parole after narcotic convictions have changed more than for any other offense group. The distribution of this group rose from 2.7 percent of the total in 1951, to 13.1 percent in 1957.

The number of persons serving life sentences has some effect on the number of men in the more serious offense groups. During the past six years the percentage of male parolees with life sentences has decreased from 14.5 percent to 9.4 percent in 1957. This is to be expected with a noted drop in the percentage of those who had been convicted of homicide and some of the other more serious crimes which have life sentences. Naturally, there has been a corresponding increase in those with other than life terms.

TABLE 30B

OFFENSE GROUPS PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN PAROLE POPULATION December 31, 1950, 1954, and 1957

Offense	1950	1954	1957
Number of women.....	226	430	580
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Homicide.....	26.0	16.5	17.6
Murder 1st.....	6.6	2.6	2.4
Murder 2d.....	4.8	3.7	4.8
Manslaughter.....	14.6	10.2	10.4
Robbery.....	9.3	6.5	6.2
Assault.....	5.3	4.4	3.8
Burglary.....	7.6	7.0	7.2
Theft except auto.....	14.6	13.1	11.5
Auto theft.....	---	0.2	0.2
Forgery and checks.....	20.8	30.7	32.1
Sex.....	1.8	0.9	1.7
Narcotics.....	5.3	15.1	16.2
Escape.....	0.9	1.6	1.6
All other.....	8.4	4.0	1.9

The percentage distribution of women parolees by offense groups is given in Table 30B. Those convicted of forgery and checks made up slightly less than one-third of the women parole population on December 31, 1954 and 1957. This offense group has increased from 20.8 percent in 1950, to 32.1 percent as of December 31, 1957, signifying that 11.3 percent more of the population in 1957 were forgers and check writers. During the same period those convicted of homicide which used to be the highest percentage in the parole population distribution dropped from first to second place, there having been 26.0 percent of all women parolees in 1950 serving sentences for homicide, while only 17.6 percent in 1957 were homicidal offenders. Most of this percentage change in the homicide group occurred in the murder first degree and manslaughter classifications. During this same period of time the women parolees with life sentences decreased from 7.1 percent of the 1950 population to 2.4 percent of the 1957 population. This, too, can be directly related to the noticeable percentage drop for those serving murder first degree convictions.

As has been noticed in all previous chapters whenever offense groups are discussed the number serving narcotic convictions has increased. This increase is reflected in all population and movement figures. While only 5.3 percent of the women parolees in 1950 had narcotic convictions, this percentage had increased to 16.2 by December 31, 1957.

NUMBER OF TIMES ON PAROLE

Most men are serving their first parole under present convictions, since not quite 90 percent of all parolees were on first parole, Table 31A. This percentage distribution has not changed materially during the past six years, as the range has been from 90.3 percent in 1952, to 87.6 percent in 1957. The percentage of men serving their second parole increased from 8.7 percent in 1951, to 10.3 percent in 1957. About 2 percent of the men on parole as of December 31, 1957, were serving their third or more parole under present convictions.

TABLE 31A

NUMBER OF TIMES ON PAROLE PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE PAROLE POPULATION December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Times on parole	1951	1954	1957
Number of men.....	4,673	6,176	7,313
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
First parole.....	89.8	90.0	87.6
Second parole.....	8.7	8.4	10.3
Third or more parole.....	1.5	1.6	2.1

There have been some changes since 1950 in the percentage distribution of women parole population with respect to number of times on parole during their present sentences, Table 31B. Since 1950, when

TABLE 31B
NUMBER OF TIMES ON PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN PAROLE POPULATION
December 31, 1950, 1954, and 1957

Times on parole	1950	1954	1957
Number of women.....	226	430	580
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
First parole.....	85.9	85.8	82.7
Second parole.....	11.5	11.2	12.1
Third or more parole.....	2.6	3.0	5.2

85.9 percent of the women parole population were first parolees, this percent has dropped to 82.7 as of December 31, 1957. Most of the increase occurred in those serving third or more parole.

LENGTH OF TIME ON PRESENT PAROLE

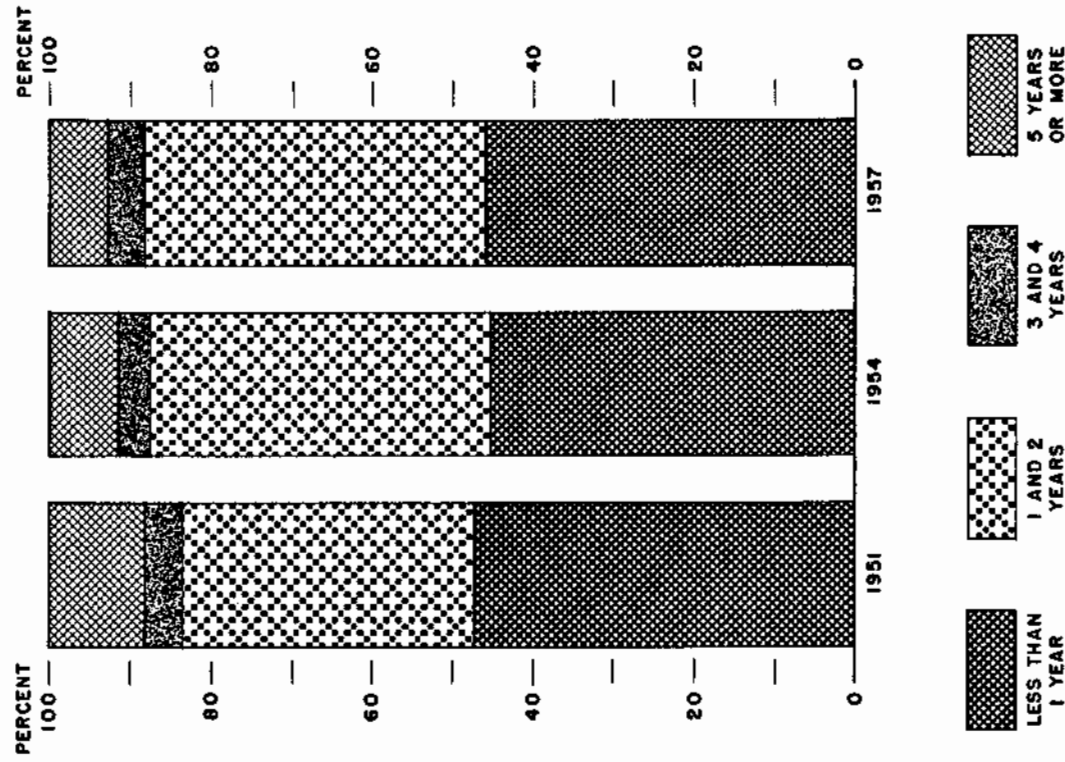
Of the 7,313 men on parole as of December 31, 1957, 46.0 percent had been on parole less than one year and 30.9 percent one year but less than two years. These percents were 47.3 and 26.7, respectively, for the 4,673 men on parole as of December 31, 1951, Table 32A. Although there has not been much change in the percentage of those on parole less than one year, there has been a gradual increase in the percentage of those who were on parole one year but less than two years. This change in distribution has been gradual during the six-year period. The percentage of those on parole five years or longer has

TABLE 32A
LENGTH OF TIME ON PRESENT PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE PAROLE POPULATION
December 31, 1951, 1954, and 1957

Length of time on present parole	1951	1954	1957
Number of men.....	4,673	6,176	7,313
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1 year.....	47.3	45.4	46.0
1 year but less than 2 years.....	26.7	29.8	30.9
2 years but less than 3 years.....	9.6	12.3	11.4
3 years but less than 4 years.....	3.1	2.9	3.1
4 years but less than 5 years.....	1.6	1.1	1.5
5 years or longer.....	11.7	8.5	7.1

CHART IX-A

LENGTH OF TIME ON PRESENT PAROLE PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE PAROLE POPULATION DECEMBER 31, 1951, 1954 AND 1957



dropped from 11.7 percent on the last day of 1951 to only 7.1 percent on December 31, 1957. Chart IX A gives a pictorial description of the length of time on parole for the men.

The length of time on present parole for the women parolees has shifted during the past seven years, as can be seen in Table 32B. The percentage distribution of the women on parole as of December 31,

TABLE 32B
LENGTH OF TIME ON PRESENT PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN PAROLE POPULATION
December 31, 1950, 1954, and 1957

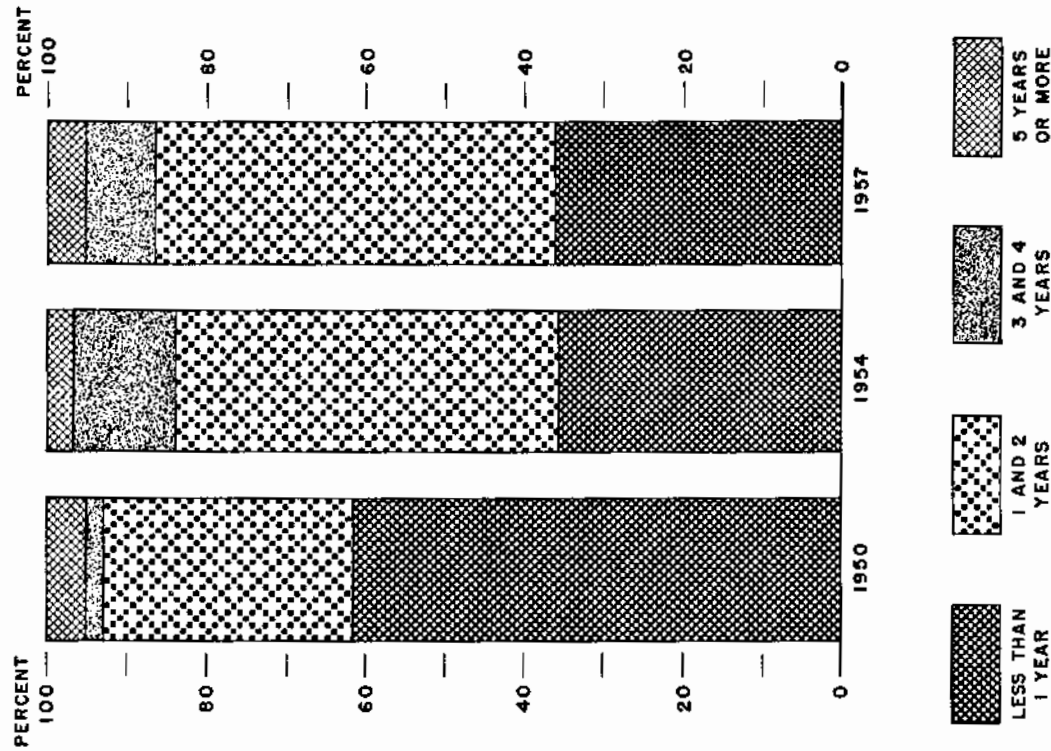
Length of time on present parole	1950	1954	1957
Number of women.....	226	430	580
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1 year.....	61.5	35.8	36.2
1 year but less than 2 years.....	23.5	29.8	29.1
2 years but less than 3 years.....	8.0	18.4	21.2
3 years but less than 4 years.....	1.8	7.9	5.2
4 years but less than 5 years.....	0.4	5.1	3.5
5 years or longer.....	4.8	3.0	4.8

1957, indicates that a greater percentage of these women had served a longer time on parole than those on parole as of December 31, 1950.

Considering the percentage distribution of those who had been on parole less than one year, it is noticeable that about three-fifths of the population on December 31, 1950 were in this category, and only slightly more than one-third in 1957 were so classified. There was a noticeable percentage change in those serving two years but less than three years on parole. As of the end of 1950, 8.0 percent were in this category, while on the last day of 1957, 21.2 percent had served this much time. The changes in the percentage distribution of the length of time on present parole for the women parole population are illustrated in Chart IX B.

CHART IX-B

LENGTH OF TIME ON PRESENT PAROLE
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION
OF WOMEN PAROLE POPULATION
DECEMBER 31, 1950, 1954 AND 1957



SUSPENSION

When a parolee becomes involved in additional criminal conduct or has violated other conditions of the parole agreement, a report prepared by his parole agent is submitted to the Adult Authority (or in the case of a woman parole violator the report is presented to the Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women). These authorities may then order a suspension of parole which stops the running time credited on the sentence. The offender is also ordered returned to prison. However, not all suspended parolees are returned to prison. The Board may review the case at some later date and the parolee may be reinstated to parole status. See the next chapter.

Administrative action suspended 1,497 men from parole during 1956, and 1,808 men during 1957. Of those suspended during 1956, 1,239 were serving their first parole and 258 were serving second or more parole. Of those suspended during 1957, 1,500 were serving first parole and 308 were serving second or more parole. There are three principle categories for suspension of parole. Of the 1,080 male parolees suspended during 1957, 206 men, or 11.4 percent, were suspended for technical violations, 486 parolees, or 26.9 percent, were men whose whereabouts were unknown, and 1,116 men, or 61.7 percent, had new criminal charges filed against them. These percentage distributions by category for suspension were approximately the same in 1956.

The cumulative percentages of men paroled to California parole supervision and who violated their paroles for the first time are shown in Table 33A, grouped by year of parole for 1953 through 1957. During 1957, 13.4 percent of the 3,441 paroled that year had been suspended. This percentage was higher than the percentages of those paroled dur-

TABLE 33A
CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE OF PAROLEES SUSPENDED
EACH YEAR AFTER PAROLE
MALE PAROLEES SUSPENDED AFTER PAROLED TO SUPERVISION IN CALIFORNIA
1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957

Year during which suspended	Year of parole				
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Number paroled.....	2,773	2,858	3,034	3,620	3,441
Year of parole.....	16.1	15.1	10.9	11.5	13.4
1st year after parole.....	39.7	37.7	32.2	33.1	
2d year after parole.....	46.9	44.9	42.0		
3d year after parole.....	48.6	46.5			
4th year after parole.....	48.8				

ing 1955 or 1956, but was still less than the percentages of those who violated during the year of parole of 1953 or 1954. By the end of the first year after release one-third of the men placed on parole in 1956 had been suspended from parole. The data in Table 33A indicate that most men who violate parole do so by the end of the second year after parole.

Women parolees who were suspended, totaled 133 during 1956, and 162 during 1957. In Table 33B the cumulative percentage of the women parolees suspended for the first time is given by year of parole for

TABLE 33B
CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE OF PAROLEES SUSPENDED
EACH YEAR AFTER PAROLE
WOMEN PAROLEES SUSPENDED FOR THE FIRST TIME
1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957

Year during which suspended	Year of parole				
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Number paroled.....	200	190	230	275	244
Year of parole.....	18.5	25.8	20.4	15.3	13.9
1st year after parole.....	42.0	47.9	31.3	35.3	
2d year after parole.....	52.5	53.2	38.3		
3d year after parole.....	56.5	54.7			
4th year after parole.....	57.5				

1953 through 1957. During 1957, 13.9 percent of the 244 women placed under parole supervision had been suspended from parole. This percentage was the lowest for those suspended during the year of parole for the last five years shown in this table. By the end of the second year after parole around 55 percent of the women paroled in 1953 and in 1954 had violated and subsequently been suspended, but of the 1955 parolees only 38 percent had been suspended.

REINSTATEMENT

The Adult Authority or the Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women may reinstate to active supervision on parole any person it has suspended. Time to be served on the sentence starts to count again at reinstatement. Two of the more common situations in which reinstatements are ordered are: first, a parolee, suspended because his whereabouts were unknown, is located and found to have been law abiding while at large; second, a parolee, suspended as a result of having been convicted of a new offense and serving his sentence in other than a California prison, may be reinstated to parole supervision concurrently with the other jurisdiction.

During 1957, 241 men were returned to active parole supervision by reinstatement after suspension. Of the 241 men, 133 had been suspended previously as parole violators whose whereabouts were unknown, 105 had had new criminal charges against them, and three were technical violators. In 1956, of the 311 men reinstated to active parole supervision, 177 had been suspended and were parole violators at large, and 134 had had criminal charges filed against them. The number of men reinstated, the ratio of reinstatements to 100 average suspensions, and the reason for these suspensions are presented in Table 34A for the

TABLE 34A

NUMBER OF REINSTATEMENTS RATIO OF REINSTATEMENTS PER 100 AVERAGE SUSPENSIONS REASON FOR SUSPENSION BY YEAR MALE PAROLEES REINSTATED ON PAROLE 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957

Year	Reason for suspension									
	Total		Technical		PVAL		Criminal charge			
	Number	Ratio per 100 average suspen- sions*	Number	Ratio per 100 average suspen- sions*	Number	Ratio per 100 average suspen- sions*	Number	Ratio per 100 average suspen- sions*		
1950....	195	17	3	5	84	21	108	16		
1951....	196	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	0	—	177	43	134	15		
1957....	241	15	3	2	133	29	105	10		

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

parolees reinstated during each of the past eight years. Since about three-fourths of all reinstatements occur within the two-year period after suspension, a two-year average has been used as a base to compute the ratio of the number reinstated to the number suspended.

There were 15 men reinstated on parole in 1957 for every 100 suspended, averaging the number suspended during 1956 and 1957. In 1956, the ratio was 22 men reinstated for each 100 suspended. When the reasons for suspension are considered, the ratios change somewhat. In 1957, 29 men of every 100 suspended as PVAL (parole violator at large) were reinstated and 10 men of every 100 suspended for criminal charges were reinstated. These ratios were higher in 1956 when 43 men of every 100 suspended for PVAL were returned to active parole status, and 15 men per 100 suspensions for criminal charges were reinstated to parole supervision.

When the reinstatement ratios for the past eight years are reviewed, the ratios for those who were suspended for PVAL have varied noticeably from year to year, while the ratios for those suspended for technical reasons or because of criminal charges have remained more consistent.

The ratio of the number reinstated to the number suspended was high for the women parolees. The number reinstated and the ratio of reinstatements for each 100 average suspensions during a two-year period are given in Table 34B for 1950 and each year since. In 1957, with 60 women being reinstated to parole supervision the ratio was 41 reinstatements per 100 suspensions. In 1956, the ratio was lower, 38 reinstatements for each 100 average suspensions. The reinstatement ratio has ranged from a low of 30 in 1950, to a high of 56 in 1955, and decreased to 41 in 1957.

TABLE 34B

NUMBER OF REINSTATEMENTS RATIO OF REINSTATEMENTS PER 100 AVERAGE SUSPENSIONS BY YEAR WOMEN PAROLEES REINSTATED ON PAROLE 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957

Year	Number	Ratio per 100 average suspensions*
1950.....	17	20
1951.....	23	38
1952.....	39	53
1953.....	32	34
1954.....	66	52
1955.....	99	66
1956.....	63	38
1957.....	60	41

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

DISCHARGE FROM PAROLE

After months of supervision and guidance from the parole agents, many prisoners complete their sentences and are discharged from parole status. Most of the men (89.3 percent) discharged from parole during 1957, were serving their first parole, and about 78 percent of the women were of the same status. Again, in studying the length of time served on parole, it is necessary to separate types of parole into first parole, reparole after return to prison with a new commitment, and reparole after return to prison without a new commitment but for technical violation of parole.

Of the male parolees discharged during 1957, those completing their first parole served a median time of 24 months on parole before discharge. As indicated by Table 35A, 24 months was the median time

TABLE 35A

TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED ON PAROLE BY YEAR MALE PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957

Year	First parole		Reparole after return to prison			
			With new commitment		Without new commitment	
	Number	Median time served on parole in months	Number	Median time served on parole in months	Number	Median time served on parole in months
1950.....	1,073	24	48	28.5	97	19
1951.....	1,168	24	56	27.5	82	18
1952.....	1,043	27	39	29	84	20
1953.....	1,191	27	71	27	73	21
1954.....	1,283	30	75	25	66	15
1955.....	1,529	27	73	27	89	18
1956.....	1,766	27	121	28	84	18
1957.....	2,161	24	181	24	77	17

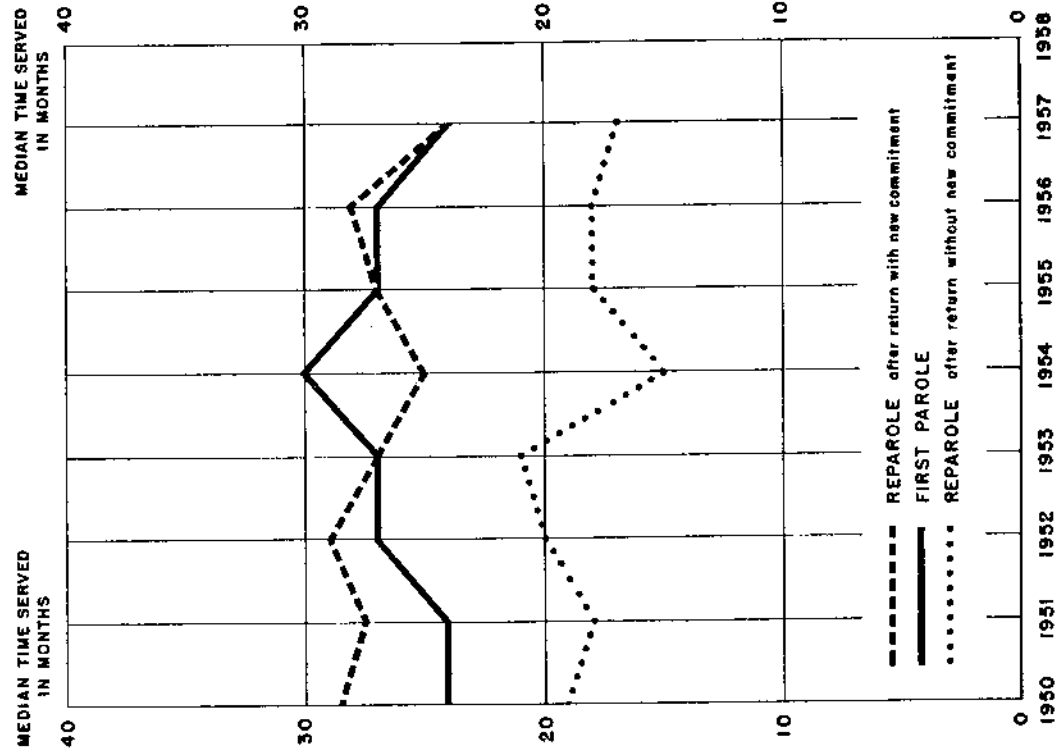
served by those discharged from parole during 1950 and 1951, as well as those discharged in 1957, while 27 months was the median time on parole before discharge in 1952, 1953, 1955, and 1956. Since 1950, the median time on parole before discharge was 30 months in only one year, 1954.

Those men discharged from reparole after return to prison with a new commitment from parole served a median time of 24 months on reparole before discharge in 1957, and 28 months in 1956. Previously,

CHART X

TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED ON PAROLE

MALE PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE 1950 — 1957



the median time served on reparole by those so discharged each year has ranged from 29 months in 1952, to 25 months in 1954. After having been returned to prison for parole violation but without a new commitment, the men served a median time of 17 months on reparole before discharge in 1957, and 18 months in 1956. The differences in the lengths of time on parole before discharge by the three types of parolees are presented in Chart X for 1950 and each year since.

For the women discharged from parole, the measurement of time served on parole before discharge is statistically significant only for those serving first parole. The 97 women discharged during 1956, each had during 1957, and the 82 women so discharged during 1956, each had a median time served of 36 months before discharge. These medians were two months longer than the median time served by those discharged during 1955, and also were 15 months longer than the median time of 21 months served by those discharged during 1950, Table 35B. During the period 1950-1956 the median time served by women first parolees on parole before discharge has increased gradually.

TABLE 35B

TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED ON PAROLE BY YEAR
WOMEN PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957

Year	First parole			Reparole after return to prison		
	Number	Median time served on parole in months	Without new commitment	With new commitment		Median time served on parole in months
				Number	Median time served on parole in months	
1950.....	54	21	—	—	—	—
1951.....	53	25	—	—	—	—
1952.....	37	26	—	—	—	—
1953.....	45	28	—	1	—	—
1954.....	60	33	—	—	—	—
1955.....	80	34	—	1	—	—
1956.....	82	36	—	3	—	—
1957.....	97	36	—	5	—	—

OFFENSE

The length of time served by first parolees before discharge becomes more meaningful when studied in connection with the offense. The offense and time served on first parole before discharge during 1956 and during 1957 are given in Table 36 for the offense groups in which there were 25 or more men discharged. The median of time served on first parole by the men discharged during 1957 was 24 months, 3 months less than the median time served by those discharged in 1956. This exact reduction was reflected in the length of time served by those

TABLE 36
OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED ON PAROLE
MALE FIRST PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1956 and 1957

Only Offense Groups With 25 Cases or More Are Shown

Selected offenses	1956			1957		
	Time served in months		Number	Time served in months		Number
	Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%	
All offenses.....	27	16-36	1,766	24	15-36	2,161
Murder 2d.....	32	30-60	32	42	35-64	29
Manslaughter.....	25	24-42	25	30	21-42	33
Robbery 1st.....	33	24-42	172	30	24-42	209
Robbery 2d.....	27	19-36	82	24	15-36	133
Assault with deadly weapon.....	27	18-36	66	24	15-36	89
Burglary 1st.....	32	21-36	43	29	18-42	47
Burglary 2d.....	26	15-36	298	24	12-36	367
Grand theft except auto.....	24.5	15-36	94	24	15-35	117
Auto theft.....	24	12-33	68	21	12-30	77
Forgery and checks.....	24	18-36	336	24	14-33	409
Rape.....	36	21-45	60	36	24-50	69
Lewd acts with children.....	34.5	18-48	50	36	21-42	86
Narcotics.....	24	15-36	231	24	15-33	293

convicted of robbery 1st, robbery 2nd, assault with deadly weapon, burglary 1st, or auto theft. Those convicted for lewd acts with children served a median of 36 months on parole before discharge in 1957, as compared with 34.5 months by those discharged in 1956. This was the only offense group in which the median of time served on parole increased for those discharged during 1957 as compared with 1956.

TIME SERVED IN PRISON AND ON PAROLE

The median time served in prison and the median time on parole before discharge for the male first parolees discharged during the last two years are compared by selected offense groups in Table 37A. The men discharged from first parole in 1956 served a median time of 30 months in prison before parole and 27 months on parole before discharge, a total of 57 months. The men discharged from first parole in 1957 served a median time of 27 months in prison before parole and 24 months on parole before discharge, a total of 51 months. In each year, the men had served three months more time in prison than on parole.

TABLE 37A
OFFENSE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGE
MALE FIRST PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1956 and 1957

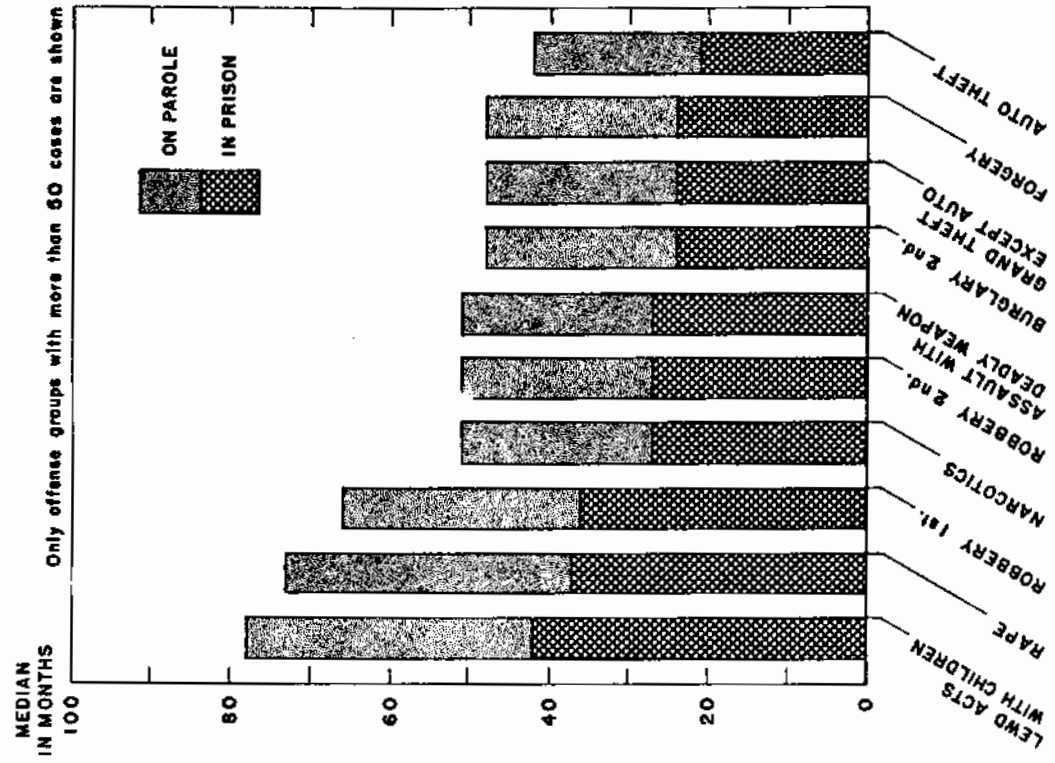
Only Offense Groups With 25 Cases or More Are Shown

Selected offenses	1956			1957		
	Number	Median time served in months		Number	Median time served in months	
		In prison before parole	On parole before discharge		In prison before parole	On parole before discharge
All offenses.....	1,786	30	27	2,161	27	24
Murder 2d.....	32	64	42	29	66	42
Manslaughter.....	25	36	30	33	35	30
Robbery 1st.....	172	36	33	209	36	30
Robbery 2d.....	82	30	27	133	27	24
Assault with deadly weapon.....	66	30	27	86	27	24
Burglary 1st.....	43	36	32	47	40	29
Burglary 2d.....	298	27	26	367	24	24
Grand theft except auto.....	94	24	24.5	117	24	24
Auto theft.....	68	24	24	77	21	21
Forgery and checks.....	336	24	24	409	24	24
Rape.....	60	40.5	38	69	37	36
Lewd acts with children.....	50	52.5	34.5	86	42	36
Narcotics.....	231	24	24	263	27	24

When considering total time served in prison and on parole those convicted of second degree murder served the most time, a median of 108 months for those discharged in 1957, and 106 months for those discharged in 1956. The offense group serving the next longest time was lewd acts with children. Men convicted of this offense served a total of 78 months before discharge in 1957, and 87 months before completing their sentences in 1956. This was a noticeable decrease in the length of time served by the men discharged in 1957, but this decrease occurred in the time in prison before parole. Those discharged in 1956 had served a median time of 52.5 months in prison before parole, while those discharged in 1957 had served 10 months less time or 42 months before parole. The median time served on parole before discharge for men convicted of this offense was longer for those discharged in 1957 as compared with those discharged in 1956, 36 months and 34.5 months, respectively.

CHART XI-A

OFFENSE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED
IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGE
MALE FIRST PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1957



Men convicted of rape served the third longest period of total time, a median time of 76.5 months for those discharged in 1956, and a median time of 73 months for those in 1957. Again, this difference in the length of time served by the 1956 and the 1957 dischargees was the result of longer periods of time in prison before parole. Those convicted for auto theft served the shortest time of those discharged during 1957, having been 21 months in prison before parole and 21 months on parole before discharge. The same offense group served a total of 48 months before discharge in 1956, one-half in prison and one-half on parole.

The forgers and check writers served 50 percent of their time in prison and 50 percent on parole. Figures of the past three years show that two years are served in prison and two years on parole, totaling four years served by these men so convicted. The offense groups and their associated medians of the total length of time served by men discharged from parole in 1957 are illustrated in Chart XI A.

Because of the small numbers involved in each offense group it is not practical to study the length of time served in prison and on parole by offense for the women discharged from first parole each year. In Table 37B the median time for the number of months served in prison

TABLE 37B

**MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGE**

BY YEAR

WOMEN FIRST PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE

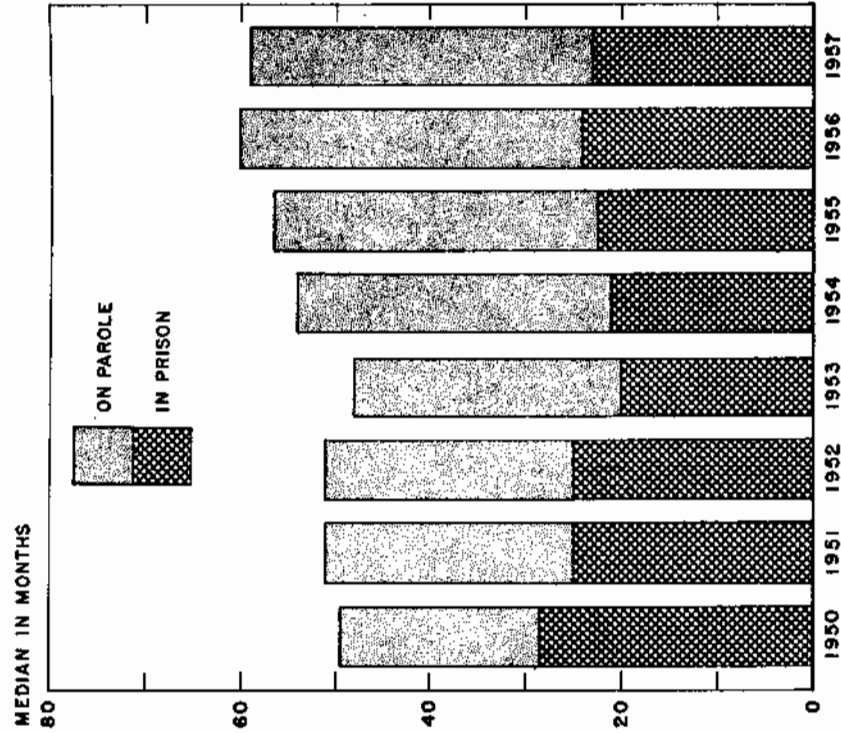
1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957

Year	Number	Median time served in months	
		In prison before parole	On parole before discharge
1950.....	54	28.5	21
1951.....	53	25	26
1952.....	37	25	26
1953.....	45	20	28
1954.....	60	21	33
1955.....	80	22.5	34
1956.....	82	24	36
1957.....	97	23	36

before parole and the median time on parole before discharge are given for the women discharged from first parole during each year 1950 through 1957. The median time served in prison before parole varied from 28.5 months for those discharged in 1950, to 20 months for those discharged in 1953, and was 23 months for the women discharged during 1957. Length of time on parole before discharge increased gradually from 21 months for those who were discharged in 1950, to 36 months for those discharged in either 1956 or 1957. Although there has been

CHART XI-B

**MEDIAN TIME SERVED
IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGE
WOMEN FIRST PAROLEES DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE
1950 — 1957**



a slight tendency for median time in prison before parole to decrease for those discharged during the last eight years, this change first, has not been consistent and second, has been off-set by the increase in median time on parole before discharge. Consequently, the total time served has fluctuated from a low of 48 months for those discharged during 1953, to a high of 60 months for those discharged in 1956; thus, total time served has increased by a whole year from 1953 to 1957. Chart XI B displays the median time in prison, on parole before discharge, and total time served by women first parolees discharged from parole in 1950 and in each subsequent year.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I-A

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY OFFENSE GROUPS MALE PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957

Offense	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Number of men	3,892	4,003	3,461	4,179	4,570
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Homicide	3.9	3.7	4.7	4.0	3.9
Robbery	18.6	17.0	17.9	15.4	14.1
Assault	3.1	2.6	3.8	3.9	3.6
Burglary	18.8	20.0	18.6	17.7	19.6
Theft except auto	6.3	6.9	7.0	8.2	6.5
Auto theft	5.0	4.7	4.2	3.5	4.6
Forgery and checks	18.6	18.8	18.7	18.5	18.9
Sex offenses	7.9	6.1	7.0	6.7	6.1
Narcotics	12.6	16.2	14.4	17.0	16.3
Other offenses	5.2	4.0	3.7	5.1	6.4

APPENDIX I-B

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY OFFENSE GROUPS WOMEN PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957

Offense	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Number of women	179	229	177	253	233
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Homicide	16.2	12.2	12.4	9.8	8.2
Robbery	6.7	4.8	3.9	2.8	6.8
Assault	2.2	4.8	3.4	4.7	3.9
Burglary	6.2	5.3	6.8	5.5	3.0
Theft except auto	8.4	9.6	14.7	11.1	11.1
Auto theft	—	0.9	—	0.4	1.3
Forgery and checks	33.5	31.9	34.5	32.4	29.6
Sex offenders	1.1	1.7	2.8	0.4	0.9
Narcotics	19.0	22.7	19.8	28.9	31.3
Other offenses	6.7	6.1	1.7	4.0	3.9

APPENDIX II

COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT

1956 and 1957

County or area of commitment	1956		1957	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total.....	4,179	253	4,570	233
Southern California.....	2,650	173	2,832	148
Los Angeles County.....	1,605	115	1,746	93
9 other counties.....	1,045	58	1,086	55
Imperial.....	55	1	45	1
Kern.....	147	12	102	3
Orange.....	126	7	165	6
Riverside.....	111	2	86	3
San Bernardino.....	183	6	209	4
San Diego.....	305	25	351	31
San Luis Obispo.....	20	2	23	1
Santa Barbara.....	43	3	62	5
Ventura.....	55	—	43	1
San Francisco Bay Area.....	661	46	796	61
Alameda County.....	188	13	215	10
San Francisco County.....	211	17	295	30
7 other counties.....	262	16	286	11
Contra Costa.....	47	3	58	2
Marin.....	9	2	14	2
Napa.....	10	—	17	—
San Mateo.....	30	2	47	—
Santa Clara.....	124	3	104	5
Solano.....	28	3	25	1
Sonoma.....	14	3	21	1
Balance of State.....	808	34	942	34
10 Sacramento Valley counties.....	209	4	249	5
Butte.....	33	—	32	1
Colusa.....	—	—	5	—
Glenn.....	8	—	7	—
Placer.....	10	—	5	—
Sacramento.....	91	2	105	1
Shasta.....	14	—	21	—
Sutter.....	8	—	3	—
Tehama.....	7	—	10	—
Yolo.....	32	2	50	2
Yuba.....	6	—	11	—
7 San Joaquin Valley counties.....	472	23	502	19
Fresno.....	116	10	123	3
Kings.....	18	1	21	—
Madera.....	30	3	27	4
Merced.....	25	2	45	1
San Joaquin.....	131	2	113	8
Stanislaus.....	82	4	102	2
Tulare.....	50	1	71	1

COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT—Continued PRISONERS NEWLY RECEIVED FROM COURT 1956 and 1957

County or area of commitment	1956		1957	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
22 other counties.....	187	7	191	10
Alpine.....	—	—	1	—
Amador.....	—	—	4	—
Calaveras.....	8	—	1	—
Del Norte.....	5	—	15	1
El Dorado.....	4	—	6	—
Humboldt.....	29	—	24	—
Inyo.....	8	1	9	—
Lake.....	2	—	9	—
Lassen.....	2	—	5	—
Mariposa.....	1	—	—	1
Mendocino.....	20	1	18	3
Modoc.....	7	—	6	—
Mono.....	—	—	—	—
Monterey.....	44	3	35	3
Nevada.....	4	—	5	—
Plumas.....	3	—	3	—
San Benito.....	8	—	11	1
Santa Cruz.....	24	2	22	1
Sierra.....	1	—	—	—
Siakiyou.....	7	—	7	—
Trinity.....	6	—	4	—
Tuolumne.....	4	—	6	—

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The Bureau of Criminal Statistics was placed in the Department of Justice when organized in 1945, and was given statutory acknowledgment by the California Legislature in 1955. This Bureau has been responsible for and provided the research and statistical functions of three State departments:

Department of Corrections
Department of Justice
Department of Youth Authority

In 1957 the California Legislature created research divisions in the Department of Corrections and in the Department of Youth Authority. With the staffing and formation of these two new research divisions it is the plan that the services provided by the Bureau of Criminal Statistics for those two departments be transferred to the respective research divisions. Therefore, the present issue of *California Prisoners 1956 and 1957* will be the last to be prepared by the Bureau of Criminal Statistics.

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