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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH - 1980

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## Introduction

This report presents a review of the current research projects conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Correction Research Division during 1980. Included in this report are abstracts which summarize specific findings of each of the individuals studies cited.

The report is divided into five sections which reflect the different areas of research conducted by the Unit during 1980. The first section consists of three evaluative reports done by the Research Division during 1980. One report examines the area board classification system formerly used by the department; a separate report examines and evaluates the Care About Now (CAN) program of the department. The last of these reports is an examination of an inmate juvenile counseling program at Walpole known as the Reach Out Program.

Section two contains abstracts geared toward community reintegration in Massachusetts for incarcerated individuals. One series of reports examines those individuals who were placed at facilities operated by Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc. Along those same lines, research was done that focused on women at the Charlotte House program and also individuals who

had been placed at one of the drug contract houses.

Section three contains abstracts that concern studies referred to as operational management studies. The first report details an attempt at developing a Salient Factor Scale for use by the Department. Also, in an attempt to update and improve our information system, two validation studies are described that look at the data and evaluates the accuracy of the information.

Section four focuses on reports that examined recent trends in the Department of Correction. These reports looked at both commitments and movements in the department to determine if there are any significant new trends. Also, one report examined the population of women who had been released from MCI-Framingham, the walled institution for women in Massachusetts.

The final section consists of seven annual statistical reports, which describe background characteristics of individuals committed to and released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions and Houses of Correction. Also, reports describing population movements in the system and participation in the furlough program are included.

Copies of the complete studies may be obtained by writing to:

Research Unit  
Massachusetts Department of Correction  
100 Cambridge Street, 21st Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02202

### Evaluative Reports

This department, in an effort to constantly update and perfect its methods and programs, publishes every year several studies of an evaluative nature. This past year a total of three reports were published. One report is an assessment of Area Board Classification which was the process which enabled inter-institutional transfer of inmates. The second report provides an evaluation of the Care About Now (CAN) program which addresses the needs of inmates being classified especially in regard to substance abuse. Finally there is a report which appraises the Reach Out Program, a juvenile counseling program conducted by inmates at MCI-Walpole.

Evaluation of Area Board Classification at the Massachusetts  
Department of Correction Interim Report II:  
Correlates of Classification  
Recommendations and Decisions  
#189

February, 1980

Ellen Chayet  
Paul Jones

This report is the second in a series that evaluates Area Board classification, which was the process that enabled inmate inter-institutional transfers. Building upon an overall framework established in the first report, a process description, the paper develops profiles of cases in selected security level recommendation or decision categories, and discusses their putative underlying rationales.

Data collected for the 590 sample cases were extensive, comprised of decision variables, factors specific to the Board hearing, and inmate characteristics including institutional experience, criminal history, personal background, and nature of the current offense. Over 150 discrete variables were utilized in the analysis.

Findings highlighted the primary emphasis placed on security risk and facility management when making placement determinations. This was indicated both in rationales for recommendations and decisions, as well as inmate characteristics. Individual program needs were addressed secondarily, usually as a condition accompanying a placement decision.

Profiles of men (a) recommended by Area Boards for lower security; (b) approved by Central Office for lower security; and (c) approved at this level for higher security/remain in current status, did not deviate from what was expected. Lower security cases were apt to have adjusted more fully to incarceration, which includes displaying (in the Board's opinion) a better attitude and greater motivation, and to have more extensive community linkages. The converse of these characteristics described men approved for higher security settings, or for no transfer.

Other findings, warranting additional investigation, were cited. Men approved for lower security tended to be further from parole eligibility. Unanimous security recommendations by Area Boards were more likely to be approved by Central Office as opposed to those including a minority dissent. Finally, Board assessment of motivation and attitude, both subjective indicators, weighed heavily in placement deliberations.



The study concludes with a series of implications for policy based on the finding that the dominant goal of classification is security management and protection of society. More research is planned to assess the overall effectiveness, in terms of success at subsequent placements, of the processes described in these reports.

An Evaluation of Compliance and Process Description  
Of the Care About Now (CAN) Program  
#200

July, 1980

Paul Jones

The treatment of substance abusers in adult correctional facilities has presented itself as an ever growing challenge to the administrators and on line staff of these facilities. Recognizing that the needs of the substance abuser differ from those of the general prison population, the Massachusetts Department of Correction, through available federal funding awarded a grant to the Care About Now (CAN) Program.

The Care About Now Program is a substance abuse treatment model specifically tailored for offenders who are alcohol dependent. This program is unique in that it deals with all areas of need, such as vocational, legal issues, educational goals, etc., rather than addressing the issue of substance abuse alone.

Data presented in this report was collected from CAN's private files and compared to similar data collected from Massachusetts DOC files on residents that were committed one year prior to CAN's emergence into the correctional system.

Analysis of the data revealed a few noteworthy differences between the two groups.

First the CAN people were more likely to need legal issues addressed prior to their first transfer to another facility. This action allowed for greater flexibility in establishing the security level status of each resident.

A second major difference noted was that CAN was included to refer its clients to a staff psychologist rather than to some type of counseling session.

Lastly, tabulations done on their three day training workshop revealed that the on-line staff who attended the seminar recommended it to their peers, and added that the workshop content provided them with skills necessary for the prompt delivery of services to the alcoholic offender.

It is made evident through this report that CAN succeeded in achieving its program goals during its first six months of operation. Similarly, the DOC has found a treatment model that addresses all issues of the substance abuser.

The report also states that CAN program should be expanded to include all institutions and not confine itself to the Reception Diagnostic Center.

Reach Out: A Review of Relevant Literature and a Statistical  
Description of Inmate Participants  
#205

September, 1980

Joseph Landolfi

Recent publicity generated by the documentary "Scared Straight" prompted inquiries from Massachusetts Correctional Administrators regarding Reach Out, a juvenile counseling program conducted by inmates at the maximum security institution at MCI-Walpole. The intent of this report was twofold. First, a review of previous and existing inmate sponsored juvenile counseling programs was conducted. Additionally, a statistical profile of the Reach Out inmate participants comprised of prior criminal history, personal history background and furlough history data was conducted. Data presented in the inmate participant profile was compared to similar data available on residents of the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions on January 1, 1979. Analysis of the data revealed several noteworthy differences between the two populations. First, it was noted that in all instances the Reach Out inmate participants exhibited a disproportionately greater number of individuals with prior incarcerations, paroles, and parole violations of any type. Lastly, analysis of the data reflecting present offense, determined that the Reach Out inmate participants tended to be older at the time of their present incarceration and more likely than the comparison Massachusetts Correctional Institution population to be incarcerated for offense against the person, specifically the crime of armed robbery.

### Community Reintegration Reports

The Massachusetts Department of Correction provides several studies each year dealing with the effectiveness of community Reintegration Programs. This year studies were published dealing with Massachusetts Halfway House Programs, Drug Contract House Programs, and Charlotte House Programs. These studies provide a client profile of each of these programs, a completion non-completion analyses, and a recidivism follow-up. Finally there is one study presenting a review of the utilization of pre-release centers throughout state and federal corrections systems.

Client Profile - Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc.  
1977 and 1978 Releases  
#187

March, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report examines residents released from facilities operated by Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc. (MHHI) during 1977 and 1978.

There were a total of 182 individuals released in 1977 and 139 released in 1978. In 1977, 25 individuals or 14% of the total release population escaped from MHHI facilities compared to 20 individuals or 14% in 1978. The completion rate for the 1977 sample was 75% compared to a rate of 71% in 1978.

The report further develops a profile of the typical MHHI program participant during 1977 and 1978.

A Profile of Characteristics Distinguishing Between  
Program Completers and Program Non-Completers at  
Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc.  
1977 And 1978 Releases  
#188

March, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report examines the characteristics that distinguish between program completers and program non-completers for residents released from Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc. during 1977 and 1978.

For the total combined sample of 1977 and 1978 releases, there were fourteen variables that produced statistically significant differences. Some of the more important variables were:

Variables	Completion Rate
1) Number of Furloughs	
One or None	53%
Two or More	81%
2) Prior Juvenile Commitments	
None	80%
One or More	54%
3) Age at First Arrest	
16 Years or Younger	62%
17 Years or Older	83%
4) Committing Institution	
Walpole	84%
Concord or Framingham	67%
5) Number of Successful Furlough Outcomes	
One	56%
Two or More	81%

Variables	Completion Rate
6) Number of Prior Court Appearances	
15 or Less	77%
16 or More	61%
7) Minimum Sentence	
Indeterminate	68%
Non-Indeterminate	80%
8) Age at Release	
22 Years or Younger	65%
23 Years or Older	77%
9) Age at Pre-Release Placement	
20 Years or Younger	64%
21 Years or Older	76%

For the 1977 releasee population, there were fifteen variables that produced statistically significant differences. For the 1978 releasee population, there were seven variables that produced statistically significant differences.



Client Profile - Drug Contract Houses  
1977 And 1978 Releases  
#191

May, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report examines and provides a profile of those residents released from drug contract houses during 1977 and 1978.

There were a total of 33 individuals released in 1977 and 55 released in 1978. In 1977, 10 individuals or 30% of the total releasee population escaped from these houses compared to 19 individuals or 35% in 1978. The completion rate for the 1977 sample was 45% and for the 1978 sample, the completion rate was 49%. If those individuals who voluntarily returned to their sending institutions are included in the totals for computing the completion rates, there would be a completion rate of 44% for the 1977 sample and 42% for the 1978 completion rate.

A Profile of Characteristics Distinguishing Between  
Program Completers and Program Non-Completers For  
Drug Contract Houses, 1977 and 1978 Releases  
#192

May, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report examines the characteristics that distinguish between program completers and program non-completers for residents released from the drug contract houses during 1977 and 1978.

For the combined sample for 1977 and 1978, there were seven variables that produced statistically significant differences. In order of their significance, the Variables were:

Variables	Completion Rate
1) Age at First Arrest	
16 Years or Younger	33%
17 Years or Older	66%
2) Number of Prior Juvenile Incarcerations	
None	57%
One or More	29%
3) Institution Received From	
Walpole	22%
Non-Walpole Institution	54%
4) Number of Successful Furlough Outcomes	
One	17%
Two or More	70%
5) Number of Prior Charges for Property Offenses	
Five or Fewer	63%
Six or More	38%
6) Number of Furloughs	
One or None	41%
Two or More	70%

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Variables

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Completion Rate

7) Marital Status

Married

Not Married

73%

42%

Pre-Release Systems in the United States  
#193

May, 1980

Ruth Averill

The following study presents a review of the utilization of pre-release centers throughout state and federal corrections systems. Of the 52 corrections systems surveyed, 39 have established pre-release centers. These centers play an important role in gradual community reintegration.

A review of research on pre-release programs done by corrections systems of affiliated universities was also conducted. Many systems had done descriptive or empirical studies that serve as a national assessment of pre-release programs. These studies generally support previous findings by the Massachusetts Department of Correction that graduated release programs are a significant factor in reducing recidivism.

An Analysis of Recidivism Among Residents  
Released From Drug Contract Houses:  
1977 And 1978 Releases  
#197

July, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report examines the recidivism rates for individuals released from drug contract houses during 1977 and 1978.

After an analysis of the data, the following conclusions can be reached: of the 21 individuals who were released to the streets from a drug contract house in 1977, one individual recidivated, giving a recidivism rate of 5%. Of those residents released during 1978, there were 13 releases and two were recidivists during the one year follow-up period giving a recidivism rate of 15%. For the combined sample of releases from drug contract houses during 1977 and 1978, there were 34 individuals released and 3 were returned during the year follow-up giving a recidivism rate of 9%.

An Analysis of Recidivism Among Residents  
Released From the Massachusetts Halfway  
Houses, Inc. 1977 and 1978 Releases  
#198

July, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report analyzes recidivism rates for individuals who were released from facilities operated by the Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc. (MHHI) during 1977 and 1978.

For the combined sample of 1977 and 1978 MHHI releases, 36 individuals out of 306 had been reincarcerated during the one-year follow-up period giving a recidivism rate of 12%. For those individuals who had been released during 1977, twenty-one of the 185 individuals had been reincarcerated, giving a recidivism rate of 11%. One-hundred twenty-one individuals were released during 1978 and 15 of them had been reincarcerated during the one-year follow-up, giving a recidivism rate of 12%.

Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc. pre-release program participants had statistically significantly lower rates of recidivism for 1977 releases and for the combined sample of 1977 and 1978 releases than their expected rates. For the 1978 releases, the MHHI pre-release programs participants had a lower actual rate of recidivism than the expected rate but the difference was not statistically significant.

Client Profile - Charlotte House 1977  
And 1978 Releases  
#201

August, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report is concerned with women released from Charlotte House during 1977 and 1978.

There were a total of 27 women released in 1977 and 18 women released in 1978. In 1977, 15 of the 27 women successfully completed the program at Charlotte House, giving a completion rate of 56%. In 1978, 12 of the 18 women successfully completed the program, giving a completion rate of 67%. In 1977, 6 out of the 27 women in the program escaped, giving an escape rate of 22%. For 1978, one woman escaped out of the 18 women in the program, giving an escape rate of 6%.

A Profile of Characteristics Distinguishing  
Between Program Completers and Program Non-  
Completers at Charlotte House: 1977 and 1978 Releases  
#202

August, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report examines the characteristics that distinguish between program completers and program non-completers for women released from Charlotte House during 1977 and 1978.

For the sample of combined 1977 and 1978 releases, there were twelve variables that produced statistically significant differences. In order of their significance, the variables were:

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Variables	Completion Rate
1) Time on Job of Longest Duration	
Less than 1 Year	38%
1 Year or Longer	88%
2) Age at Charlotte House Placement and Age At Release	
25 Years or Younger	35%
26 Years or Older	80%
3) Age at First Arrest	
17 Years or Younger	18%
18 Years or Older	71%
4) Number of Prior State or Federal Incarcerations	
None	71%
One or More	13%
5) Time at Most Skilled Position	
Less Than One Year	41%
One Year or More	88%



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Variables	Completion Rate
6) Number of Charges for Property Offenses	
One or None	79%
Two or More	38%
7) Number of Court Appearances	
Three or Fewer	81%
Four or More	42%
8) Time Spent at Charlotte House	
7 Months or Less	50%
8 Months or More	100%
9) Age at Incarceration	
21 Years or Younger	22%
22 Years or Older	69%
10) Marital Status	
Single	44%
Other	82%
11) Number of Charges for Escape Offenses	
None	69%
One or More	22%
12) Number of Any Prior Incarcerations	
None	71%
One or More	31%

An Analyses of Recidivism Among Women Released From  
Charlotte House 1977 and 1978 Releases  
#203

August, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report examines the recidivism rates for women released from Charlotte House during 1977 and 1978.

After an analysis of the data, the following conclusions can be reached: of the 15 women released from Charlotte House during 1977, one woman recidivated giving a recidivism rate of 7%. Of those women released during 1978, there were 12 women released and one recidivated during the one year follow-up period giving a recidivism rate of 8%. For the combined sample of 1977 and 1978 Charlotte House releases, there were 27 women who were released and 2 were returned during the one year follow-up, giving a recidivism rate of 7%.

Comparison of Program Participants  
Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc.  
1979 Releases  
#211

December, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams  
John Harrington

This report examines those residents released from facilities operated by Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc. during the year 1979. A comparison of clients in each particular halfway house program was carried out to determine what characteristics or variables existed that distinguished individuals in the different programs.

The analysis resulted in the finding that the 699 House program and the Temporary Housing Project facility differed significantly from the other three programs operated by Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc. Those individuals who were serviced by Massachusetts Halfway Houses who constituted the most serious risks tended to concentrate in the 699 House program. The Temporary Housing Project tended to service youthful offenders who began their criminal (delinquent) involvement at a younger age than those of the other programs but who had not established extensive records as adults. The Brooke House population were individuals who were less serious offenders and better risks than those residents of the other MHHI programs.

A Profile of Characteristics That Distinguish Successful  
Completers & Unsuccessful Completers for Individuals  
Released From Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc.  
During 1979  
#212

December, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams  
John Harrington

This report examines the population of residents released from Massachusetts Halfway Houses, Inc. during 1979 to determine those characteristics that were significant in distinguishing successful completers from unsuccessful completers.

For those residents released during 1979, there were twenty-two variables that distinguished the completers from the non-completers. The variables are listed below, in order of their significance.

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Variables	Completion Rate
1) Number of Furloughs	
One or More	33%
Two or More	83%
2) Number of Successful Furlough Outcomes	
5 or Fewer	61%
6 or More	90%
3 Known Drug Use	
None	86%
Some	59%
4) Number of Charges for Person Offenses	
5 or Fewer	78%
6 or More	50%
5) Time at Job of Longest Duration	
One Month or Less	27%
Two Months or More	68%

Variables	Completion Rate
6) Number of Charges For Property Offenses	
5 or Fewer	83%
6 or More	59%
7) Number of Minor Disciplinary Reports	
None	79%
One or More	55%
8) Total Number of Disciplinary Reports	
3 or Fewer	77%
4 or More	55%
9) Time Served Before Pre-Release Placement	
18 Months or Less	61%
19 Months or More	81%
10) Number of Prior Juvenile Incarcerations	
Two or Less	73%
Three or More	40%
11) Prior Address - SMSA	
Boston	75%
Other Locations	53%
12) Age at Incarceration	
22 Years or Younger	59%
23 Years or Older	78%
13) Age at Halfway House Placement	
21 Years or Younger	51%
22 Years or Older	75%
14) Age at First Arrest	
14 Years or Younger	56%
15 Years or Older	76%

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Variables	Completion Rate
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15) Time at Most Skilled Position	
6 Months or Less	59%
7 Months or More	79%
16) Number of Prior County Incarcerations	
None	78%
One or More	60%
17) Total Number of Court Appearances	
5 or Fewer	85%
6 or More	65%
18) Age at Release	
24 Years or Younger	61%
25 Years or Older	77%
19) Marital Status	
Married	88%
Other	66%
20) Age at First Drug Arrest	
17 Years or Younger	50%
18 Years or Older	76%

### Operational Management Studies

This section contains abstracts for operational management studies published during 1979. One report details an attempt at developing a Salient Factor Scale for use by the department. Also, there are two validation studies - one deals with the accuracy of the Correction and Parole Management Information System (CAPMIS) and another deals with the feasibility of adding new variables to the present data base.

Salient Factor Scores: An Aid to Administrative Prediction  
#186

February, 1980

Daniel LeClair  
Charles Metzler  
Joseph Landolfi

In our study we have attempted to test the feasibility of constructing sets of Salient Factor Scores operationally useful for the classification decision-making process. Two distinct outcome situations were involved: (1) Recidivism risk potential and, (2) Pre-release program non-completion risk potential.

We were interested in developing instruments that would be predictive of these two outcome situations and that could be utilized at different junctures of the incarceration process. Three critical junctures were specified: (1) the reception/diagnostic stage, (2) the intermediate period of incarceration, and (3) the releasing stage.

Using a methodology and format closely mirroring the methodology and format utilized by researchers at the United States Board of Parole in their work on Salient Factor Scores, sets of scores were developed on the Massachusetts Department of Correction's inmate population. The resultant scores were then run through the validation process. It was found that evidence of validation was quite weak. We concluded that operational usage should proceed with extreme caution. Use of the scores when approaching the high and low risk extremes appear to be the most justifiable. In fact, the frequency distributions occurring in the original data sets suggest that a disproportionate number of individual cases do fall in the median category. For this reason it is the opinion of the researchers that evidence does not support operational use of the constructed scores except for experimental and exploratory purposes.

In reviewing the construction processes and the resultant validation procedures for the Salient Factor Scores, several suggestions for further research tasks became evident. First, it is felt that an attempt at incorporating more data elements, especially those traditionally deemed useful in clinical decision making may increase the predictive power of the resultant instrument. Secondly. It is felt that a reduction in unknown data elements, inconsistent data elements, and inaccurate data elements may also contribute to a stronger instrument.



Validation Study Phase I - Final Report  
#195

June, 1980

Linda Holt

This report presents the results of the first phase of a validation study. In this report information in the offender based Correction and Parole Management Information System (CAPMIS) was compared to official documents in offender folders for 16 different variables representing personal characteristics and prior criminal history. Discrepancies were found to exist between the data base and folder information. The variables studied ranged from perfect agreement to forty percent discrepancy between the two data sources.

Validation Study Final Report: Phase III  
#208

October, 1980

Linda Holt  
Mary Beth Cronin

This is the third and final report in the validation study conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Correction. The purpose of this study was to test the feasibility of adding new variables to the present data base using currently available official documents contained in inmate folders. In this report 60 new variables were gathered from other states. Twenty of these variables were further studied to test the feasibility of adding them to the present data base. For many of these variables data is readily available in inmate folders and new variables of interest to practitioners and researchers could be added to the data base with relative ease.

### Trend Analyses Reports

During 1980 several studies have been published by this department which have tried to discern various trends that have developed over the years. One study concerns trends in commitments over the past ten years, while another analyzed movement trends from 1975 to 1979. Finally, one study deals with those women released from Framingham during 1979 and looks for similarities of characteristics between 1979 releases and characteristics that were associated with success in pre-release placement.

Population Movements in the Massachusetts  
Department of Corrections - 1975 to 1979  
#199

July, 1980

Linda Holt

This report is a description of admissions, releases and transfers within the institutions of the Massachusetts Department of Correction during the time period 1975 to 1979. The information in this report is broken down into a number of specific categories including: type of admission, type of release, institutional transfers, admissions and returns from hospitals, moves to houses of correction, moves to other states, and court of commitment. Each table presents data for a five year period for the department as a whole.

This study found the number of movements growing during this period. This was accounted for partially by a growth in population but not from an increase in commitments. Inter-institutional transfers within the department accounted for a large part of this growth in population movements. Movements to Houses of Correction decreased during this period and escapes decreased during this period while movements to other states increased. Other changes in the distribution of movements reflect policy changes.

An Analysis of Recent Trends in Court Commitments  
To The Massachusetts Department of Correction  
#207

September, 1980

Linda Holt

Recent interest in overcrowding and rising prison populations has fostered an interest in looking at trends in court commitments. While there is large annual variation, there has been no significant increase in commitments over the past ten years. Certain characteristics of the offender population have changed, however. There are proportionately more sex offenders and less drug offenders in recent years. Sentence length has increased for Walpole and Concord commitments. Level of education shifted upwards during the decade. Age at incarceration and prior incarceration history did not change.

Women Released Directly From MCI-Framingham: 1979 Releases  
#209

October, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report examines those women who were released directly from MCI-Framingham, the institution for women offenders in Massachusetts during 1979. There were several important findings. They are as follows:

- 1) The majority of women released directly from Framingham in 1979 had not participated in graduated release programs (92%) or the furlough program (86%) during their current incarceration.
- 2) The majority of women (92%) released directly from Framingham in 1979 had not escaped during their current incarceration.
- 3) The majority of women (64%) released directly from Framingham in 1979 served more than one month prior to their release. The women released directly from Framingham had characteristics that were associated with success in pre-release placement.

## Annual Statistical Reports

The annual statistical reports constitute a series of studies published annually by the Massachusetts Department of Correction Research Unit. These studies contain statistics concerning individuals who were committed to a state or county institution during 1979 and a point in time profile of residents of the Massachusetts Department of Correction on January 1, 1980. Also included in these studies is the yearly furlough report and population movements for 1979. Finally, there is a recidivism follow-up study dealing with individuals who were released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions during 1978. The data was all prepared by the Data Entry and Quality Control Unit and processed on the Massachusetts State College Computer Network (MSCCN).

A Statistical Description of Commitments to Massachusetts  
Houses of Correction During 1979  
#185

March, 1980

Charles Metzler

This report deals with court commitments to the Massachusetts Houses of Correction (county institutions) during 1979. Also included is information concerning the operating expenditures for the facilities.

During 1979, there were 4,612 individuals sentenced to the county facilities. This represents an increase of 9% over the number of commitments during 1978.

Institutions. Over half (51%) of the commitments were sentenced to three institutions - Billerica (20%), Worcester (18%), and Deer Island (13%).

Present Offense. The majority of individuals were committed for non-person offenses (47% for offenses against property, 7% for drug offenses, and 28% for other offenses). The single offense for which individuals were most frequently sentenced was burglary (17%).

Sentence. Sentences to county facilities may not exceed 2½ years. Nearly half (49%) were committed for sentences of three months or less which includes commitments in lieu of fines.

Age at Commitment. The median age for commitments to houses of correction is 23 years old.

Sex. The vast majority of commitments were male (98%).

Marital Status. Most individuals were single (70%), whereas only 19% were married at the time of their incarceration.

Last Grade Completed. The median last grade completed was eleventh grade. About one third of the commitments (35%) graduated from high school.



A Statistical Description of Residents of the  
Massachusetts Institutions on January 1, 1980  
#190

May, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report is a statistical description of characteristics of the residents in each correctional facility as of January 1, 1980. This point-in-time profile contains information on present offense variables, personal background characteristics, criminal history, and furlough participation.

As of January 1, 1980, there were 2,754 individuals incarcerated in the state correctional system.

Nature of Present Offense

Institution of Residence. Two institutions house half of the inmate population. Approximately one-quarter of the population (23%) is housed in Walpole, the primary maximum security facility and over one-quarter (27%) is housed at Norfolk, a medium security institution. The pre-release population decreased from 12% on January 1, 1979 to 11% on January 1, 1980.

Sentencing Courts. Half of the residents in institutions as of January 1, 1980 were sentenced in two of the Superior Courts - Suffolk (35%) and Middlesex (15%).

Commitment Institution. The majority of residents (76%) were committed to Walpole.

Sentence. Over half of the residents (53%) are serving a minimum sentence of seven years or more while the rest are serving minimum sentences of less than seven years of indeterminate sentences. Sixteen percent are lifers and one individual is serving a death sentence.

Offense. The majority of residents (69%) are serving sentences for offenses versus the person. The most frequent offense of the current population was armed robbery (28%).

Age at Incarceration. The median age at incarceration was 24 years.

Personal Background Characteristics

Sex. The majority of the population (96%) is male.

Race. Thirty-six percent of the residents are black; 3% are hispanic, 62% are white, and there is one Native American and

one Asian resident in the system.

Marital Status. Over half of the population (59%) is single.

Military Discharge. The majority (73%) did not serve in the military.

Prior Address. The majority of residents (56%) came from the greater Boston SMSA.

Occupation. Most of the residents (76%) held manual or service jobs prior to their incarceration.

Education. The median educational level was tenth grade; 26% were high school graduates or had received their graduate equivalency diploma; and 17% were college graduates.

#### Criminal History

Prior Arrests. The median age at first arrest was sixteen years. Nearly half (48%) of the residents had 12 or more prior court appearances.

A majority of the residents had prior arrests for offenses versus person (91%) and for property offenses (87%). A minority of residents had prior arrests for sex offenses (21%) for drug offenses (45%) for drunkenness offenses (23%) and for escape offenses (6%).

Prior Incarcerations. Thirty percent had been incarcerated as juveniles; 44% had prior incarcerations at a house of correction; and 32% had prior incarcerations in state or federal correctional institutions.

Overall, 66% had served time in some type of correctional facility and 58% had served time as an adult.

Furlough Variables. Most inmates (72%) continue not to receive furloughs; only 4% had a "Late Under" furlough outcome and only for individuals (.1%) escaped while on a furlough.

Population Movements in the Massachusetts  
Department of Correction During 1979  
#194

May, 1980

Linda Holt

This report is a description of admissions, releases and transfers within the institutions of the Massachusetts Department of Correction during the year 1979. The information in this report is broken down into a number of specific categories including: type of admission, type of release, institutional transfers, returns from hospitals, releases to hospitals, transfers of houses of correction inmates to Department of Correction facilities, transfers to houses of correction, returns of Department of Correction inmates from houses of correction, transfers to houses of correction on a from and after sentence, admissions from out of state, releases to out of state, and court of commitment.

A Statistical Description of Court Commitments to Massachusetts  
Correctional Institutions During 1979  
#196

July, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report is a statistical description of characteristics of court commitments to the Massachusetts Department of Correction during 1979. The tables in this report contain information on the nature of present offense, personal background characteristics, and criminal history of admissions from the courts to MCI-Walpole, MCI-Concord and MCI-Framingham.

During 1979, there were 1,134 persons sentenced to the state correctional system.

Nature of Present Offense

Commitment Institution. Forty-eight percent of the commitments were sentenced to Walpole; thirty-six percent were sentenced to Concord; and sixteen percent were sentenced to Framingham; eighty-four percent of those sentenced were male and sixteen percent were female.

Sentencing Courts. Sixty percent of the commitments were sentenced in four of the Superior Courts in Massachusetts - Suffolk (23%), Middlesex (16%), Worcester (10%), and Hampden (10%). Seventy-two percent of the Framingham commitments were sentenced in Municipal or District Courts.

Offense. The majority of the commitments (55%) were for offenses versus the person. The single offense for which individuals were most frequently sentenced was armed robbery (26%).

Age at Incarceration. The median age was 23 years old at incarceration for the total commitments. For Walpole commitments, the median age was 27 years; 21 years for Concord commitments; and 24 years for Framingham commitments.

Personal Background Characteristics

Race. Twenty-eight percent were black; six percent were hispanic; sixty-six percent were white and there was one Native American.

Marital Status. The majority of new commitments (65%) were single; nineteen percent were married; nine percent were divorced, five percent were separated, and one percent were widowed.

Military Discharge. The majority (81%) did not serve in the military; eleven percent received an honorable discharge from military service.

Prior Address. Half (50%) of the new commitments came from the greater Boston SMSA.

Occupation. Most of the commitments (76%) held manual or service jobs and more than half (54%) of them had never held any job for a year or more.

Education. The median educational level was tenth grade; thirty percent had graduated from high school or had received their high school equivalency diploma; one percent were college graduates.

### Criminal History

Prior Arrests. The median age at first arrest was 17 years. Eighty-seven percent had been arrested at least once prior to their present offense. Twenty-nine percent of the commitments had more than fifteen prior court appearances.

A majority of commitments had prior arrests for offenses versus person (84%) and for property offenses (79%). A minority of commitments had prior arrests for sex offenses (29%) for drug offenses (27%) for drunkenness offenses (22%), and for escape offenses (22%).

Prior Incarcerations. Twenty-four percent had been incarcerated as juveniles; thirty-six percent had prior house of correction incarcerations; and twenty-two percent had prior incarcerations in state or federal correctional institutions.

Overall, fifty-four percent had served time in some type of correctional facility and forty-six percent had served some time as an adult.

### Comparisons to 1978 Commitments

There was an increase in commitments for prostitution in 1979 as compared with 1978 (19% vs. 14% respectively). The commitments of women for the offense of disturbing the peace increased (6% vs. 1%) as did the commitments for being a common nightwalker (7% vs. 0%).

For 1979, there was an increase in Walpole commitments (48% vs. 43%), an increase in Framingham commitments (16% vs. 12%) and a decrease in Concord commitments (36% vs. 45%).

The number of individuals committed during 1979 who were either high school graduates or who had received their high school equivalency diploma decreased from the 1978 totals (30% vs. 34%). Also there were fewer individuals committed in 1979 who had served a previous adult incarceration than in 1978 (46% vs. 50%).

A Statistical Description of Releases From the Massachusetts  
Correctional Institutions During 1979  
#204

August, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This report consists of a statistical description of the characteristics of releases to the street from the Massachusetts Department of Correction during 1979. The tables contain information on the nature of the present offense, personal background characteristics, criminal history variables, furlough participation variables, and release variables for all individuals released to the streets from Massachusetts correctional institutions. The release population is divided according to institution of release.

During 1979, there were 1,124 individuals released to the street from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions. This is approximately the same as the number of releases during 1978.

Nature of Present Offense

Sentencing Courts. Over half of the releases were originally sentenced in three of the Superior Courts - Suffolk (30%), Middlesex (14%), and Worcester (9%).

Jail Credits. More than half (51%) of the releases spent 10 days or less in jail while awaiting trial.

Commitment Institution. Most of the releases (46%) were sentenced to MCI-Concord.

Sentence. The majority of the releases (61%) served an indeterminate minimum sentence. More than half (52%) of the releases served a maximum sentence of seven years or less. Seventeen individuals (2%) were serving a life sentence.

Most Serious Offense. The majority of releases (57%) were serving sentences for offenses vs. person. The offense for which individuals were most frequently sentenced was armed robbery (32%).

Age at Incarceration. The median age at incarceration was 23 years old.

Personal Background Characteristics

Sex. The majority of releases (85%) were male.

Race. Thirty percent of the releases were black; 4% were hispanic, and 66% were white, there was one Native American

released during 1979.

Marital Status. The majority (64%) of releases were single.

Military Discharge. The majority (76%) did not serve in the military.

Prior Address. The majority (58%) came from the greater Boston SMSA.

Occupation. The majority (73%) held manual or service jobs prior to their incarceration.

Education. The median educational level was tenth grade; 26% were either high school graduates or individuals who had received their general equivalency diploma.

### Criminal History

Prior Arrests. The median age at first arrest was 16 years. Most of the releases (91%) had been arrested at least once prior to their present offense. A majority (57%) had nine or more prior court appearances. A majority of the releases had prior arrests for offenses vs. person (82%) and for property offenses (83%). A minority had prior arrests for sex offenses (13%), for drug offenses (41%), for drunkenness offenses (30%) and for escape offenses (11%).

Prior Incarcerations. Thirty-nine percent of the releases had prior incarcerations at a house of correction and 25% had prior incarcerations in state or federal correctional institutions. Overall 58% had served time in some type of correctional facility and 50% had served some time as an adult.

Prior Paroles. Fifteen percent had been paroled from a juvenile facility and 7% had juvenile parole violations. Twenty-two percent had been previously paroled as an adult and 14% had previous adult parole violations. Overall, thirty percent had been paroled at least once prior to their current release and 19% had previous parole violations.

Furlough Variables. A majority of the releases (58%) had never experienced a furlough. Ten percent had a "Late Under" furlough outcome (returned within 2 hours after the designated time of return). Nineteen individuals (2%) escaped on furlough, and one individual was arrested while on a furlough.

### Release Variables

Institution of Release. Thirty-three percent were released from pre-release institutions.



Type of Release. The majority (84%) were released on parole and 10% received a good conduct discharge. Only 75 individuals (7%) served their maximum sentence.

Time Served. About one-third (32%) of the releases had complex sentences which include parole violations, transfers from other state or federal institutions, house of correction transfers and individuals with forthwith or from and after sentences. Forty percent served under two years and 7% served five years or longer.

Age at Release. The median age at release was 26 years old.

1979 Statistical Report of the Furlough Program  
#206

September, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

The furlough program has been in operation by the Massachusetts Department of Correction since November 6, 1972. A total of 58,665 furloughs were granted between the inception of the program and December 31, 1979. During that period, 515 of those furloughs resulted in escapes (a resident failing to return to his correctional facility within two hours of his/her designated time), thus yielding an overall escape rate of 0.9%. The report contains a statistical description of the furlough program for the year 1979 as well as a trend analysis of the program since its inception in 1972.

An analysis of available statistics indicates that although the number of furloughs granted over the years has fluctuated, the escape rate has decreased from 1.9% in 1973 to 0.4% in 1979. There was an 11% decrease in the number of furloughs in 1979 as compared to 1978. This report also presents frequencies and escape rates of background characteristics for each furlough granted during 1979 as well as nature of present offense variables, personal background variables, criminal history variables, and furlough variables.

Statistical Tables Describing the Background Characteristics  
And Recidivism Rates of Releases From Massachusetts  
Correctional Institutions During 1978  
#210

November, 1980

Lawrence T. Williams

This research report is a statistical description of characteristics of individuals released to the street from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions during 1978 with corresponding recidivism rates. The statistics are available for men released from MCI's Walpole, Concord, Framingham, Norfolk, SECC (Southeastern Correctional Center), NECC (Northeastern Correctional Center), the three forestry camps (Plymouth, Warwick, and Monroe) six drug rehabilitation pre-release facilities (Hospitality House, Meridian House, Boston VA Hospital, Trio House, Project Turnabout, and Bedford VA Hospital), fourteen pre-release centers (BOSP-Boston Offenders Services Project, 577 House, 699 House, Temporary Housing, Shirley, Boston State, Coolidge House, Brooke House, South Middlesex, Park Drive, Western Avenue, Lancaster Norfolk Pre-Release, and METAC), and three other facilities (RDC - Reception Diagnostic Center, Bridgewater State Hospital for the Criminally Insane and the Sexually Dangerous Persons Treatment Center). Statistics are also available for women released from MCI-Framingham and two pre-release centers (Charlotte House and Brooke House). A total of 1,118 individuals (992 males and 126 females) were released from the correctional institutions listed above. The follow-up period is one year from the date of the individual's release to the community. A recidivist is defined as any person who returns to a state or federal correctional institution, or to a house of correction or jail for 30 days or more.

The overall recidivism rate for individuals released during 1978 was 16%. This represents a 1% increase in the rate for 1977 of 15%. Those individuals released in 1978 who received a furlough prior to release had a recidivism rate of 8% compared to a rate of 24% for those who never participated in the furlough program. Those individuals released during 1978 from pre-release centers had a recidivism rate of 9% and those who did not get released from a pre-release center had a recidivism rate of 21%.

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