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INFORMATION BULLETIN

FROM: Correction-Parole Information System
(Report prepared by Robert Patrician, Carroll Miller and
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SUBJECT: The Geographical Distribution of 1972 Releasees

This report presents figures on the number of releasees from M.C.I.'s (except Bridgewater) during 1972 returning to various geographical areas of Massachusetts. The report also presents figures from earlier years and a projection for 1973. The purpose of the report is to provide guidance as to the appropriate geographical placement of Community Residential Centers and other Community based pre-release and post-release services.

The data on 1972 releasees was taken from computerized files on parolees and dischargees developed by the Correction-Parole Information System Project. Figures for earlier years were taken from previously published reports.*

*"The Geographical Distribution of Offenders Released From The Massachusetts Correctional Institution," P. Bourgeois and C. Miller, Feb. 1972. "Numbers of M.C.I. Men Released to Different Geographical Areas During 1971," P. Bourgeois, March 1972. The earlier of these two reports analyzes the geographical distribution of releasees in considerable detail.

Table 1 shows the number of releasees to various geographical areas of Massachusetts during 1972. The cities and towns included in each geographical area are defined on the map that is the last page of this report. Table I presents figures separately for persons paroled to the street, paroled to residential centers, and released on discharge or expiration.

TABLE I

NUMBERS OF M.C.I. RELEASEES DURING 1972 RETURNING TO MAJOR STATE POPULATION CENTERS

<u>AREAS RELEASED TO</u>	<u>PAROLED TO STREET</u>	<u>PAROLED TO RESIDENTIAL CENTERS</u>	<u>DISCHARGED OR EXPIRATION</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
				<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Greater Boston	583	174	123	880	61%
Boston	(341)	(153)	(77)	(571)	39%
Northern Suburbs	(138)	(13)	(33)	(184)	13%
Remaining Communities	(104)	(8)	(13)	(125)	9%
Greater Springfield	81	2	7	90	6%
Greater Worcester	76	3	11	90	6%
New Bedford/Fall River Area	54	1	9	64	4%
Lowell/Lawrence Area	49	3	26	78	5%
Other Massachusetts Communities	119	16	15	150	11%
Out of State	87	0	12	99	7%
KNWON TOTAL	1049*	199	203	145	100%
UNKNOWN	118*	0	0	118	--

* It may be noted that the known total of parolees is higher than previously distributed figures (and the number unknown correspondingly lower). This is due to the decision to assume that assignment to a specific parole officer is likely to indicate residence in a specific area. On this assumption, the 236 individuals for whom data was not available for the residence variable were sorted by parole officer. Each of these parolees were then assumed to be residing in the geographical district supervised by the parole officer indicated and thus were added to the total of releasees to that area.

There were several patterns in this table worth highlighting:

First, Boston releasees were much more likely to be paroled to residential centers than were releasees to other areas. During 1972, 153 (or 27%) of the 571 Boston releasees were paroled to residential centers, while this was true for only 50 (or 6%) of the 880 persons released to other areas of Massachusetts. This discrepancy should be even greater during 1973, with the opening in late 1972 or early 1973 of four new CRS facilities located in Boston, plus another in nearby Cambridge. Clearly the areas outside of Boston have the greatest need for new residential centers.

Second, a large majority of the releasees went to the greater Boston area (61%). Most of these releasees went to Boston proper (39%), with most of the remaining going to a strip of thirteen suburbs directly north of Boston (13%), and with a smaller but still sizable number returning to other cities and towns within a fifteen mile radius of Boston (9%). It is worth repeating here that a previous study* found that two-thirds of Boston releasees (excluding releasees to residential centers) return to a "core city" area consisting of the South End, Roxbury, North Dorchester and South Dorchester.

Third, sizable numbers of releasees returned to each of the remaining four large metropolitan areas of Massachusetts. However, the total number of people returning to these four metropolitan areas (21%) was much smaller than the number returning to the greater Boston area (61%).

Fourth, a relatively small number of people were released to areas of Massachusetts outside these five metropolitan areas (11%). It can be seen then that almost all releasees return to one of these five metropolitan areas.

*"The Geographical Distribution of Offenders Released from the Mass. Correctional Institutions", P. Bourgeois and C. Miller, Feb. 1972.

Table II describes the numbers of releasees returning to various geographical areas, showing the trends from 1966 to 1972 and a projection for 1973. (Table II is shown on page 5)

The major finding in this table is the remarkable consistency during these years in the percentage of releasees returning to each of these geographical areas. It would appear, then, that in the near future we will continue to see the same proportions of releasees returning to each of these areas.

The projection for 1973 was derived by the following two steps:

(a) The number of releasees during the first seven months of 1973 was already available, and the number of releasees during the last five months of 1973 was estimated by examining the pattern in the monthly number of releasees during the period from January 1972 until July 1973. This gave us a projected number of releasees during 1973 of 1250. (b) It was then assumed that the same proportion of 1973 releasees would return to each geographical area as was the case during 1972.

It is worth underlining that we project a 20% decrease in the yearly number of releasees, from 1569 during 1972 to 1250 during 1973. This is based on a marked decrease in the number of releasees during the first seven months of 1973.

Appendix A shows the number of residents released from M.C.I.'s to each of the Commonwealth's major cities during 1972.

TABLE II

NUMBER OF M.C.I. RELEASEES RETURNING TO MAJOR STATE POPULATION CENTERS: 1966 - 1972 TRENDS, 1973 PROJECTION

AREA	1966		1970		1971		1972		PROJECTION 1973	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Greater Boston	519	57%	477	65%	460	58%	880	61%	762	61%
Boston	(332)	(36%)	(320)	(43%)	(300)	(38%)	(571)	(39%)	(488)	(39%)
Northern Suburbs	(117)	(13%)	(96)	(13%)	(101)	(13%)	(184)	(13%)	(162)	(13%)
Remaining Communities	(70)	(8%)	(61)	(9%)	(59)	(7%)	(125)	(9%)	(112)	(9%)
Greater Springfield	62	7%	52	7%	62	8%	90	6%	75	6%
Greater Worcester	77	8%	43	6%	71	9%	90	6%	75	6%
New Bedford/Fall River Area	39	4%	28	4%	35	4%	64	4%	50	4%
Lowell/Lawrence Area	62	7%	39	5%	31	4%	78	5%	63	5%
Other Mass. Communities	85	9%	46	6%	77	10%	150	11%	138	11%
Out of State	74	8%	52	7%	60	7%	99	7%	87	7%
KNOWN TOTAL	918	100%	737	100%	796	100%	1451	100%	1250	100%
UNKNOWN	0		0		0		118		0	

APPENDIX A

<u>CITY</u>	<u>PAROLES TO STREET</u>	<u>PAROLES TO RESIDENTIAL CENTERS</u>	<u>DISCHARGED OR EXPIRATION</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Boston	341	153	77	571
Worcester	44	3	9	56
Springfield	61	1	20	82
Lowell	11	2	0	13
Somerville	24	0	5	29
Cambridge	16	8	2	26
Lynn	19	0	2	21
New Bedford	30	0	7	37
Fall River	17	1	4	22
Lawrence	20	0	7	27
Brockton	14	1	7	22
Malden	13	1	2	16
Holyoke	9	1	4	14
Waltham	5	3	5	13
Chelsea	7	1	4	12
Arlington	6	0	0	6
Framingham	9	1	0	10
Revere	10	0	2	12
Medford	12	0	5	17

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