

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH  
1989

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March 1990

PUBLICATION: 16,252-27 pgs.-250 cps.-3-29-90  
APPROVED BY: Ric Murphy State Purchasing Agent

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## INTRODUCTION

During 1989, the Research Division of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) conducted several special research projects and produced a number of statistical reports describing the DOC inmate population. This report presents a review of the research that stemmed from these projects and from the annual statistical reports. The abstracts reproduced in this report summarize specific findings from each of the studies and statistical reports cited.

This report is divided into three major sections reflecting the different areas of research conducted by the Research Division in 1989. The first section covers a series of statistical descriptions of the state prison population. The second section includes abstracts of findings from special evaluative and descriptive projects completed in 1989. The third section includes abstracts from research in progress during 1989.

The first section of this document consists of abstracts from reports which the Research Division produces annually. The reports in this section present updated information on the status and characteristics of the state prison population. The first in this series of reports is a statistical description of the 6,757 residents in DOC facilities as of January 1, 1989. The next report provides a statistical description of the individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction during 1988, including information on the nature of the present offense, personal background characteristics and criminal history of these individuals. The third report assesses population change and summarizes all movement of offenders in DOC custody during the calendar year of 1988. The tables in this report reveal the numbers of new court commitments, paroles, returns on parole violation, discharges, escapes,

deaths, transfers to other correctional facilities both within and outside the state and temporary releases to hospitals and courts that occurred during the year. The fourth report presents a statistical description of the 3,084 releases to the street from Massachusetts correctional facilities during 1987. Information on trends in selected characteristics of offenders released from 1983 to 1987 is included in this report as well. The fifth and sixth reports present recidivism rates for releases to the street from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions and Massachusetts Pre-Release facilities during 1986. These reports included statistical information on release variables, nature of present offense, personal background characteristics, criminal history, and furlough participation as well. The seventh report contains a statistical description of the number, distribution, and outcomes of furloughs for the year 1988 as well as a trend analysis of furloughs since the inception of the program in 1972.

Information in each of the annual reports is institution-specific; that is, the data are reported by the institution where the inmate is a resident, released from, or admitted to. Consequently, much of the information in each annual report is available for individual institutions as well as for the entire correctional system.

Studies summarized in the second section present findings from special evaluations and descriptions of DOC-sponsored programs and selected prison populations. The first study, Testing the Implementation of a Point-Based Classification System, compares the initial classification decisions of 180 inmates classified at MCI-Concord and MCI-Cedar Junction with the classification decisions reached by "reclassifying" these inmates using National Institute of Corrections (NIC) criteria. In response to these findings the study concludes with a recommendation for modifications to the current classification system.

The second study presents results from an impact evaluation of the Program Unit for Substance Abusers at MCI-Cedar Junction. This study utilizes a non-

equivalent control group design in order to assess long-term abstinence of Program Unit completers compared to three other groups of inmates. Three variables were used to measure the incidence of substance abuse before and after the treatment interval: disciplinary reports related to substance abuse, positive urinalysis results, and transfers or reclassifications for known drug abuse. The results do not support the assertion that participation in the Substance Abuse Unit ensures reduced substance abuse activity or clear improvement in institutional behavior. The study concludes with a summary of the major findings and recommendations concerning the assessment of treatment impacts, the unit screening process, use of bed space, and program incentives and requirements.

The third study reports the results of an impact evaluation of two correctional alcohol treatment facilities: the Longwood Treatment Center in Boston, and the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center in Springfield. The Middlesex County Jail and House of Correction in Billerica was used as a comparison (non-treatment) site. Recidivism rates and rearrest rates for 12 month, 18 month, and 24 month follow-up periods were used in order to assess treatment impact. For each post-release follow-up period, Longwood Treatment Center was found to have a significantly lower recidivism rate than either Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center or Middlesex County Jail and House of Correction. These results provide evidence of the positive impact of Longwood's correctional alcohol treatment program. This report concludes with recommendations based on the study's findings.

The next section of this report contains brief descriptions of nine research studies that were in progress during 1989. The first study is an impact evaluation of the substance abuse treatment units at MCI-Shirley, North Central Correctional Institution, and Old Colony Correctional Center. The second is an evaluation of the Norfolk Fellowship Program - a program where inmates and volunteers from

the local community gather to discuss a broad range of issues. Third is an evaluation of Massachusetts Correctional Industries which will evaluate the impact of work in prison on discipline and post-release integration. The fourth project is a continuation of the evaluation of the DOC inmate classification system. The final phase of this project will be an impact evaluation of Classification and Program Agreements (CAPA). The fifth project is a series of research briefs concerned with describing sex offenders committed to the DOC. During 1988, the first research brief in this series, "How Many Sex Offenders Are There? And, Where Are They?" was completed. Subsequent reports will provide further descriptions of this population. The sixth project is a description of CORI petitioners, individuals that request to be notified of an offender's temporary, provisional, or final release from custody. This study will consist of statistical information on CORI petitioners and the offenders who are the subjects of these petitions. The seventh project is an exploratory study on the impact of Islamic identification on incarcerated offenders. Eighth is a study on the effectiveness of prison confinement for female offenders. The ninth project presents an assessment on the impacts of furlough participation and pre-release placement on recidivism.

In addition to the annual reports, the Research Division also produces quarterly reports on the status of prison overcrowding, and monthly statistical reports on admissions to and releases from the Department of Correction. Information on participation in selected inmate programs (furloughs, state hospital, education release, and work release) are included in the monthly statistical reports as well.

Copies of the full reports and studies may be obtained by writing to:

**Massachusetts Department of Correction  
Research Division -22nd Floor  
100 Cambridge Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02202**

## **ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS**



**A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF  
RESIDENTS OF MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS ON JANUARY 1, 1989**

#342

November 1989

Linda K. Holt

This report presents a statistical description of the 6,757 individuals in the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) on January 1, 1989. The report contains information on present offense and sentence, personal background characteristics, criminal history, and furlough program participation. The information is presented for the DOC population as a whole and for each facility separately. Changes in the population over the last five years are also given. Some of the highlights of the information presented in this report are:

- The 6,757 inmates in the DOC represent an increase of 8 percent over 1988 and an increase of 51 percent over 1984.
- Between 1984 and 1989, DOC population showed an increase in the proportion of Hispanic offenders, an increase in the proportion of offenders age 30 or over; an increase in the proportion of drug offenders; and a decrease in the proportion of furlough program participants.
- Ten percent were in maximum security facilities, 65 percent in medium security, 5 percent in minimum security, 14 percent in minimum/pre-release security, and 6 percent in pre-release security.
- Fifty percent of the population were incarcerated for an offense against the person, 14 percent for sex offenses, 15 percent for property offenses, 16 percent for drug offenses, and 5 percent for other offenses.
- There were 771 lifers in the DOC, including 335 first-degree lifers and 436 second-degree lifers.
- The median age of the population was 31 years.
- Forty-nine percent were serving their first adult incarceration and 51 percent had a previous incarceration as an adult.

**1988 COURT COMMITMENTS TO THE  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

#343

December 1989

Lisa Lorant  
Robert Tenaglia

This report is a statistical description of the 2,965 individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction during the year 1988. The tables in this report contain information on the nature of present offense, personal background characteristics and criminal history of these individuals. Some highlights of the statistics presented in this report are:

- There was a 4 percent increase in the number of commitments during the year, from 2,848 in 1987 to 2,965 in 1988. The 2,965 commitments in 1988 represent the highest level of commitments in DOC history.
- There were 1,364 commitments to Cedar Junction (9 percent higher than 1987), 1,022 commitments to Framingham (14 percent higher than 1987), and 579 commitments to Concord (17 percent lower than 1987).
- Males are committed to Cedar Junction or Concord while females are committed to Framingham. Overall, there was a decrease of less than one percent in male commitments and an increase of 14 percent in female commitments from 1987 to 1988.
- The median minimum sentence for Cedar Junction commitments was five years; the median maximum sentence for Concord commitments was ten years; and the median maximum sentence for Framingham commitments was less than 1 year. Sentence lengths for new court commitments were similar in 1987 and 1988.
- Violent offenses (person and sex) accounted for 52 percent of all male commitments and 11 percent of all female commitments. Non-violent offenses (property, drug and "other") represented 89 percent of all female commitments and 48 percent of all male commitments. From 1987 to 1988 there were increases in commitments for property offenses (up 8 percent), sex offenses (up 7 percent), drug offenses (up 7 percent), and "other" offenses (up 1 percent). There was a decrease in commitments for person offenses (down less than one percent).
- The median age at commitment was 28 years.
- Fifty-six percent of the commitment population were white (including white Hispanics); 63 percent came from the Boston SMSA; most had limited work experience concentrated in the areas of manual labor and services; the median educational level was twelfth grade; and, 36 percent had a self-reported history of drug use.
- Fifty-seven percent were serving their first adult incarceration. The median age at first court appearance was nineteen.

**POPULATION MOVEMENTS IN THE  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION,  
1988**

#338

March 1989

Linda K. Holt

This report summarizes the movement of offenders in the custody of the DOC during 1988. While the focus of the analysis is on calendar year 1988, trends in population movement over the period 1983 to 1988 are also discussed, particularly in relation to population growth during the period.

Some of the highlights of the information presented in this report include:

- There were 17,733 admissions and 17,309 releases of all types to DOC facilities during 1988.
- The continued pattern of admissions surpassing releases led to population growth in the agency.
- In 1988 admissions to the DOC included commitments/from and afters (N=2,975), parole/probation violators (N=1,229), and county transfers (N=590).
- In 1988 releases from the DOC included paroles to street (N=1,863), discharges to street (N=1,297), transfers to county facilities (N=644) and expirations of sentence to street (N=315).

**A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF RELEASES FROM  
MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
DURING 1987**

#337

March 1989

Lisa Lorant

This report presents a statistical description of the 3,084 offenders released to the street from a Massachusetts correctional facility during 1987. This report also presents information on trends among releases over the last five years. Highlights from this report include the following:

- The 3,084 releases in 1987 represent an increase of 62 (2 percent) over 1986 releases and an increase of 1108 (56 percent) over 1983 releases.
- The number of males released during 1987 increased by 4 percent from 1986, while the number of females released during 1987 decreased by 2 percent.
- Fifty-six percent of all releases were by parole, 35 percent were by discharge and 9 percent were by expiration of sentence.
- Fifty-one percent were released from maximum or medium security facilities and 49 percent were released from lower security facilities. Many of those released from secure facilities were females serving county sentences or male parole violators.
- The average time served was 52.1 months for individuals serving Cedar Junction sentences, 19.2 months for individuals serving Concord sentences, and 6.1 months for individuals serving Framingham sentences.

**STATISTICAL TABLES DESCRIBING THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS AND  
RECIDIVISM RATES FOR RELEASES FROM MASSACHUSETTS  
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
DURING 1986**

**#340**

**May 1989**

**Linda K. Holt  
Lisa Lorant**

**and**

**STATISTICAL TABLES DESCRIBING THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS AND  
RECIDIVISM RATES FOR RELEASES FROM MASSACHUSETTS  
PRE-RELEASE FACILITIES  
DURING 1986**

**#341**

**May 1989**

**Linda K. Holt  
Lisa Lorant**

These two reports present information on recidivism rates of offenders released from Department of Correction facilities during 1986. In addition to providing recidivism rates, the tables in these two reports present statistical descriptions of the releasees. Some highlights from these two reports include the following:

- The recidivism rate in 1986 was 27%. This is the same as the rate for 1985 (27%).
- The number of releases increased from 1,979 in 1985 to 2,767 in 1986, an increase of 40%.
- The recidivism rate varied by security level of the institution from which the offender was released: 51% for maximum, 32% for medium, 37% for minimum, 18% for minimum/pre-release, 17% for state pre-release and 23% for contract pre-release.
- From 1985 to 1986 the recidivism rate for releases from maximum or medium security institutions increased from 32% to 34%, and the recidivism rate for releases from lower security facilities stayed the same (20%).
- The recidivism rate for males was 28%, an increase from the 1985 figure of 26%, and the rate for females was 22% a decrease from last year's figure of 30%.
- Among males, the recidivism rate was 30% for those serving a Walpole sentence (compared to 27% for 1985), 33% for those serving a Concord sentence (compared to 27% for 1985), and 9% for those committed to other jurisdictions (e.g., county).
- Recidivists were returned for a variety of reasons: 16% for technical parole violations, 60% for a parole violation involving a new arrest, and 24% for re-incarceration on a new offense.

- Offenders released by parole had a higher recidivism rate (33%) than those who were discharged (15%).
- For males, those committed for property offenses had the highest recidivism rate (40%); for females, those committed for sex offenses had the highest recidivism rate (60%).
- The recidivism rate for those released with no prior adult incarcerations was lower (20%) than for those with a history of one (30%) or more than one (34%) prior adult incarcerations.
- The recidivism rate for offenders with no furloughs prior to release was 31% and the recidivism rate for individuals with one or more furloughs prior to release was 16%.

## 1988 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE FURLOUGH PROGRAM

#345

December 1989

Lisa Lorant  
Robert Tenaglia

The Furlough Program was first implemented by the Massachusetts Department of Correction on November 6, 1972. Since the inception of the program until December 31, 1988, a total of 124,351 furloughs have been granted to 10,910 individuals. There have been 652 escapes since the inception of the program, yielding an overall success rate of 99.5 percent of all furloughs and an escape rate of 0.5 percent per furlough.

- During 1988, a total of 3,218 furloughs were granted to 646 individuals. This is a decrease of 45 percent from the 5,859 furloughs granted during 1987; and a decrease of 44 percent from the 1,161 individuals furloughed during 1987.
- The median number of furloughs per furloughed offender for 1988 was two. This is lower than the 1987 median of three furloughs per furloughed offender.
- During 1988, 61 percent of all furloughs were from pre-release facilities; 19 percent were from mixed minimum/pre-release facilities; 13 percent were from minimum security facilities; and 7 percent were from maximum or medium security institutions.
- Of the furloughs taken, 90 percent were unescorted furloughs and 10 percent were escorted or emergency furloughs.
- The median number of hours of leave per furlough during 1988 was 19 hours. This number is the same as 1987.
- 1988 had 99.9 percent successful returns of all furloughs taken.
- There were 2 escapes from furlough during 1988, resulting in an escape rate per furlough of 0.1 percent.
- Over the past 14 years, the number of individuals released from the Department of Correction who have participated in the furlough program has steadily declined. 1988 preliminary data show that 16 percent of the males, and 3 percent of the females released had one or more furloughs.

## **EVALUATIVE AND DESCRIPTIVE STUDIES**



**TESTING THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF A POINT-BASED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM:**

**A COMPARISON OF  
DOC INITIAL CLASSIFICATIONS  
WITH THE NIC MODEL SYSTEMS APPROACH**

#336

March 1989

Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.  
Michael White, M.A.

This report presents the results of a comparative validation analysis of initial classification decisions reached by the Massachusetts DOC Classification System with those of the National Institute of Correction's Model Systems Approach. The purpose of this analysis was to examine what security level distributions would be reached at initial classification if the DOC were to use the NIC objective, point-based model of classification.

The initial classification decisions on 180 inmates classified at MCI-Concord and MCI-Cedar Junction were compared to the decisions reached with the NIC model after these 180 cases were "reclassified" using NIC criteria. It was found that 49% of the sample was overclassified, 43% was same-level classified, and 8% was underclassified according to NIC criteria. Moreover, 97% of the sample was classified to medium or maximum custody in the DOC system, while the NIC system assigned 60% of the sample to medium or close custody. Conversely, only 3% were assigned to minimum security using DOC criteria compared to 40% using the NIC model.

It is concluded that the DOC classification system results in overclassification of nearly half of all offenders. In particular, first- and second-degree murderers, drug, sex, and property offenders are overclassified. Overclassification is primarily attributable to the time guidelines established in the Standard Movement Chronology. The effect of overclassification is a misuse of maximum and medium security bed space. While the feasibility of immediately assigning lifers to minimum security settings is questionable, at least some of the bed space shortage in medium security could be alleviated by the immediate assignment of drug offenders, and selected sex and property offenders to minimum security.

In response to these conclusions, four recommendations are offered. First, the DOC should place a decreased emphasis on sentence length as a classification factor. Second, the Standard Movement Chronology should be revised or abandoned. Third, the existing classification system should be supplemented by a point-based model of classification. Fourth, a full-scale validation study testing the NIC model on the Massachusetts state prison population should be conducted.

EVALUATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
PROGRAMMING AT MIC-CEDAR JUNCTION, VOLUME 2:

IMPACT EVALUATION OF  
THE PROGRAM UNIT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

#339

August 1989

Ann Marie Rocheleau, M.A.  
Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

A growing recognition of the linkage between substance abuse and criminality, coupled with sharp increases in the proportion of persons incarcerated for drug offenses, has led to the implementation of an increasing number of prison-based substance abuse treatment programs. This report presents results from an impact evaluation of the Program Unit for Substance Abusers, a treatment unit operated at MCI-Cedar Junction at Walpole, the state's maximum security facility.

The purpose of the study was to assess the long-term abstinence of Program Unit completers as compared to three other groups of inmates: Walpole inmates known to be substance abusers who had never participated in the Program Unit ("control group"); Program Unit non-completers; and, inmates who applied to but were not accepted into the Program Unit. The three variables used to measure the incidence of substance abuse one year prior to participation/application in the Unit and one year following release/termination from the Unit were; disciplinary reports related to substance abuse; positive results of urinalysis; and transfers/reclassifications for known drug abuse.

Results indicated that Program Unit completers had both less serious pre-incarceration and institutional substance abuse histories, and disciplinary histories than either the control, applicant, or non-completer groups. Moreover, when all indicators of a substance abuse problem were combined, more inmates in the control group had substance abuse problems followed by the applicants, non-completers, and completers.

Pre-and post-treatment measures of institutional substance abuse indicated slight improvements in the completer group but similar improvements in the applicant and control groups raising the question of whether or not improvement was due to treatment participation. Thus, although 31% of the program completers experienced less indicators of substance abuse after treatment, so did 40% of the applicant and 37% of the control groups. Almost two-thirds of program completers and non-completers experienced no change in their amount of substance abuse while 8% of program completers evidenced more substance abuse compared to 20% of the non-completers, 16% of the applicants, and 23% of the control group. In sum, participation in the Substance Abuse unit did not appear to ensure less substance abuse activity nor clear improvements in institutional behavior as indicated by disciplinary reports.

While the impact results call into question the effectiveness of treatment and screening criteria in the Program Unit, interviews with staff and program participants indicated some positive effects. Issues concerning screening and classification, program requirements and incentives, the treatment and education groups, reasons for non-completion, participants' perceptions, and unanticipated effects and findings are discussed.

The final section of the report summarizes major findings and presents recommendations concerning the assessment of treatment impacts, the Unit screening process, use of bed space, and program incentives and requirements.

## **CORRECTIONAL ALCOHOL TREATMENT CENTERS: AN IMPACT EVALUATION**

#344

December 1989

**Julie M. Nardone, M.A.  
Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.**

In the wake of increased commitments to county houses-of-correction for drunk driving in recent years, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established three correctional alcohol treatment centers which are designed to detain and provide alcoholism education and treatment to multiple drunken driving offenders. These alternatives to houses-of-correction were viewed as the best way of dealing with the repeat OUI offender in that a merger of incarceration and alcohol treatment would make it more likely that OUI offenders would be sentenced and treated for their drinking problems than would be the case with incarceration only.

This report presents results from an impact evaluation of two of those correctional alcohol treatment facilities: the Longwood Treatment Center in Boston and the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center (WMCAC) in Springfield. The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of correctional alcohol treatment on the recidivism (reincarceration) and rearrest rates of multiple OUI offenders released from these facilities. The Middlesex County Jail and House of Correction in Billerica was selected as a comparison (non-treatment) site for purposes of measuring impacts at the two correctional alcohol treatment centers. Three post-release follow-up periods were employed in the study: twelve, eighteen and twenty-four months.

The major finding which emerges from this study is that the Longwood Treatment Center has a statistically significant lower recidivism rate at each post-release follow-up period than either the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center or the Middlesex County Jail and House of Correction. For example, at the 12 month follow-up, the Longwood recidivism rate was 6.6% compared to a rate of 15.6% at the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center and 15.9% at the the Middlesex County Jail and House of Correction. Similarly, Longwood had the lowest rearrest rate at each follow-up period although the differences between Longwood and the two other facilities were not always statistically significant. The differences between the 12 and 18 month recidivism and rearrest rates at WMCAC and Billerica were not statistically significant. A new OUI offense was the offense which most frequently accounted for recidivism and rearrest across all facilities and all follow-up periods.

These results provide evidence of the positive impact of Longwood's correctional alcohol treatment as documented by lower rates of recidivism and rearrest among Longwood releasees. By contrast, the research was not able to document a treatment effect at the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center as its recidivism and rearrest rates were not significantly different than those documented for Billerica releasees.

On the basis of these findings, the following recommendations are offered: 1) further research on WMCAC and Longwood; 2) re-consideration of the target population at WMCAC; and, 3) continued emphasis on the aftercare component at Longwood and WMCAC.

## **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

## EVALUATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT UNITS

Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

Incarcerated offenders have been found to have histories and rates of alcohol and drug abuse substantially greater than the general population. The relationship between substance abuse and criminality has received increased attention as research has revealed that one third to one half of incarcerated offenders reported that they were under the influence of an illegal drug or had been very drunk before they committed the crime for which they were incarcerated.

In recognition of the link between substance abuse and crime, the Department of Correction has established substance abuse treatment units at a number of facilities. The Research Division will undertake an evaluation of three of these units which are based on a therapeutic community model for housing and treating inmates with substance abuse problems. The programs are at: MCI-Shirley; North Central Correctional Institution; and, Old Colony Correctional Center.

The objective of this evaluation will be to examine the impact of treatment on program participants by comparing the post-program institutional adjustment and post-release recidivism of program completers to non-participants with substance abuse histories.

The study will begin in March 1990.

## **THIRTY YEARS LATER: AN EVALUATION OF THE NORFOLK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

**Julie M. Nardone**

September 1987 marked the 30th anniversary of the Norfolk Fellowship program. The Norfolk Fellowship, a non-sectarian community-based volunteer program, was established in 1957 by the Chaplain at MCI-Norfolk, Reverend Robert F. Dutton. Over the years, the Fellowship program has spread to five other correctional facilities: MCI-Cedar Junction, MCI-Lancaster, the Medfield prison Project, the Northeastern Correctional Center, and the Bay State Correctional Center.

Past evaluations of the Fellowship Program have been largely quantitative in nature, relying solely on recidivism rates as a measure of treatment success. The present study will utilize both quantitative and qualitative research techniques. Quantitative techniques will be used in order to compare the recidivism behavior of Fellowship participants with the recidivism behavior of the overall population of inmates released from the DOC. The data for this aspect of the study will be obtained from DOC record files and probation checks on Fellowship participants released between December 1983 and December 1986.

Qualitative research methods will be used in order to identify purposes served by the Fellowship program besides those which would impact on recidivism rates of participants. Through the use of qualitative methods the researcher will be able to examine the process of the Fellowship program.

The qualitative data will be obtained from several sources, including interviews with 20 former Fellowship participants and 5 former Fellowship volunteers, observations of Fellowship meetings at MCI-Cedar Junction, MCI-Norfolk, and Northeastern Correctional Center, and observations from the annual Fellowship conference.

## **WORK IN PRISON AND ITS EFFECTS ON INMATES' MORALE AND POST-RELEASE INTEGRATION**

**Darek Niklas, Ph.D.**

Presently about 8% of inmates in Massachusetts Department of Correction custody participate in prison industries. This research will evaluate the impact of work in prison on discipline and post-release integration. Moreover, it will add a descriptive analysis of work environments and show the contribution of different work settings and programs to the predictions of recidivism and disciplinary problems. Two processes in the system of prison industries are specifically amenable to control by the authorities-organization of the work process; and -selection of inmates for work programs. Inquiry into both is incorporated in this research.

Under the pressure of different policy factors, most eminently overcrowding and the general trend towards privatization, prison industries may become exposed to pressures towards change. This research project will result in establishing an information system which will allow policy oriented current monitoring of the developments in prison industries.



## **EVALUATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM: PHASE 3**

**Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.**

Since 1972, the Massachusetts Department of Correction has experimented with different inmate classification systems. Most recently, the DOC implemented a new system built around a concept called "Classification and Program Agreements" or CAPA. The CAPA is a voluntary program agreement offered to some inmates during a classification hearing when the DOC and inmate agree to a scheduled reduction in security levels according to a "standard movement chronology" contingent upon positive institutional adjustment and program participation for the duration of the agreement.

The primary objective of the present study is to evaluate the overall classification system and CAPA specifically. This study is the final phase of a three phase project. Phase 1, completed in 1988, is a Survey of DOC Staff Perceptions of the Inmate Classification System. Phase 2, completed in 1989, compares the DOC classification system to the National Institute of Correction's Model Systems Approach to classification. Phase 3 will examine the impacts of CAPA by comparing the institutional adjustment and program participation of inmates who have a CAPA with those who are not eligible/suitable for a CAPA and those who choose not to participate in CAPA.

The study is scheduled for completion in December 1990.

**SEX OFFENDERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION:  
DESCRIPTION OF THE POPULATION AND IMPLICATIONS  
FOR TREATMENT**

**Linda K. Holt  
Lisa Lorant  
Paraskevvy Goltosos**

During 1989, the Research Division continued progress on a six part series of research briefs devoted toward describing the Department of Correction's sex offender population. Highlights from the first research brief in this series, "How Many Sex Offenders Are There? And, Where Are They?" include the following:

- On January 1, 1988, the DOC had a population of 1012 sex offenders, representing 16.2% of the total population.
- 42.4% of the sex offenders in DOC custody are incarcerated as a result of at least one offense involving a minor.
- The number of sex offenders has tripled over the last ten years, and the proportion of sex offenders has increased from 12.5% of the DOC population in 1978 to 16.2% of the DOC population in 1988.
- The proportion of sex offenders whose victims were minors has increased from 26.4% in 1978 to 42.4% in 1988.

The topics of the five forthcoming research briefs in this series are

Historical and Legal Perspectives on the Sex Offender Population

Sentencing Patterns Among Sex Offenders

Comparative Analysis of Rapists, Child Molesters, Other Violent Offenders, and Non-Violent Offenders

Descriptive Analysis of Sex Offenders: The Offense and The Offenders

Recidivism Rates of the Sex Offender Population

This series will be completed during 1990.

## **A DEMOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF CORI PETITIONERS OF DOC INMATES**

**Michael White**

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 258B, Section 3 provides that crime victims, family members of homicide victims, and witnesses may request to be notified when the offender receives a temporary, provisional or final release from custody, or when the offender escapes from custody. Passage of this provision from the Victim Bill of Rights of 1984 led to a dramatic increase in the number of petitions for Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) filed with the Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB). Specifically, the number of new CORI petitions has grown from 78 in 1984 to 1,190 in 1988. This rapid growth in the number of CORI petitions demonstrates the need for the Department to take a closer look at CORI notifications. This study will present a statistical profile of a sample of CORI petitioners of DOC inmates and of the offenders who are the subjects of these CORI petitions.

The petitioner characteristics to be considered include sex, age, residential location, and relationship to victim. Information on offender sex, age, offense, and sentence, will be included in the profile as well.

This report is scheduled to be released in April 1990.

## **STUDY OF ISLAM AND MUSLIMS IN MASSACHUSETTS PRISONS**

**Daniel P. LeClair, Ph.D.**

The effects of Islamic identification on ex-offenders once they are released from the confines of the correctional system are important. However, there is a need to first learn more about what the impact of Islam is on incarcerated, mainly underclass, black men in the prison system before looking at their lives on release. The proposed study, therefore, focuses on inmates in four to six prisons of two different state prison systems, Massachusetts and New York.

This study will obtain valuable in-depth data in this focus on two prison systems. Later studies building on the results of this one would do well, however, to extend the research to the lives of inmates in the years immediately following their release and to correctional systems in other parts of the country.

**STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF PRISON PROGRAMMING FOR  
INCARCERATED FEMALE OFFENDERS AT  
MCI-FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Daniel P. LeClair, Ph.D.**

This paper will present the argument that the use of prison confinement for female offenders is unsupported by the inmates' offense types and criminal histories. The practice of incarcerating females is also unsupported by contemporary social, cultural, political and economic standards. Data from the Massachusetts correctional system will be presented in support of the theoretical position taken by the author which is also based on current explanations of female criminality and offense category patterns that will be reviewed in this paper. The paper will conclude with a statement of the major benefits of a policy of non-confinement for females and discussion of possible alternatives to incarceration.

## **DOES INCAPACITATION GUARANTEE PUBLIC SAFETY? LESSONS FROM MASSACHUSETTS'S FURLOUGH AND PRE-RELEASE PROGRAMS**

**Daniel P. LeClair, Ph.D.  
Susan Guarino-Ghezzi, Ph.D.**

Individualized offender risk models do not account for expected reductions in risk that are caused by programmatic interventions, in part because of a presumption of program ineffectiveness. Two relatively unevaluated types of correctional programs -- community-based prison pre-release programs and prison furloughs -- will be examined for adult males in the Massachusetts Department of Correction to determine if an identifiable intervention effect on recidivism rates exists. The entire cohorts of released male inmates in 1973 and 1974 will be studied using base expectancy methodology to control for inmates' background characteristics. Longitudinal trends in recidivism comparing program participants to non-participants also will be examined. Furlough participation, alone and followed by pre-release, appears to have a pronounced and consistent positive impact on recidivism for up to five years. Implications for reintegration theory, risk assessment policy, and research will be discussed.