Cross-Validation of the Iowa Offender Risk Assessment Model in Michigan, 1980-1982

Richard Alfred Bradshaw

ICPSR 9236

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CROSS-VALIDATION OF THE IOWA OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENT
MODEL IN MICHIGAN, 1980-1982

(ICPSR 9236)

Richard Alfred Bradshaw

First ICPSR Edition
Fall, 1989

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DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Richard Alfred Bradshaw
    CROSS-VALIDATION OF THE IOWA OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENT MODEL IN MICHIGAN,
1980-1982 (ICPSR 9236)

SUMMARY: These data were collected in an attempt to cross-validate the 1984 and
1985 versions of the Iowa model for assessing risk of offending while on parole
by applying the model to a Michigan sample of male parolees over a follow-up
period of two and one-half years.   Different measures of predictors such as
prior criminal history, current offense, substance abuse history, age, and
recidivism on parole are available.   The first file contains information on
parolees such as demographic characteristics, drug use history, prior criminal
history, risk scores, and parole history. The second file includes parolees'
detailed criminal histories including the total number of violent and nonviolent
felony arrests and dates, and charges and dispositions of each arrest with a
maximum of eight arrests. CLASS IV

UNIVERSE: Male parolees in the state of Michigan in 1980.
SAMPLING: A random sample of 676 male parolees was selected from the population
of 4,084 inmates released on parole by the Michigan Parole Department during
calendar year 1980.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 2 data files
DATA FORMAT: Card Image

Part 1: Parolees File   Part 2: Crimes File
File Structure: rectangular   File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 676   Cases: 617
Variables: 38   Variables: 112
Record Length: 80   Record Length: 80
Records Per Case: 1   Records Per Case: 6
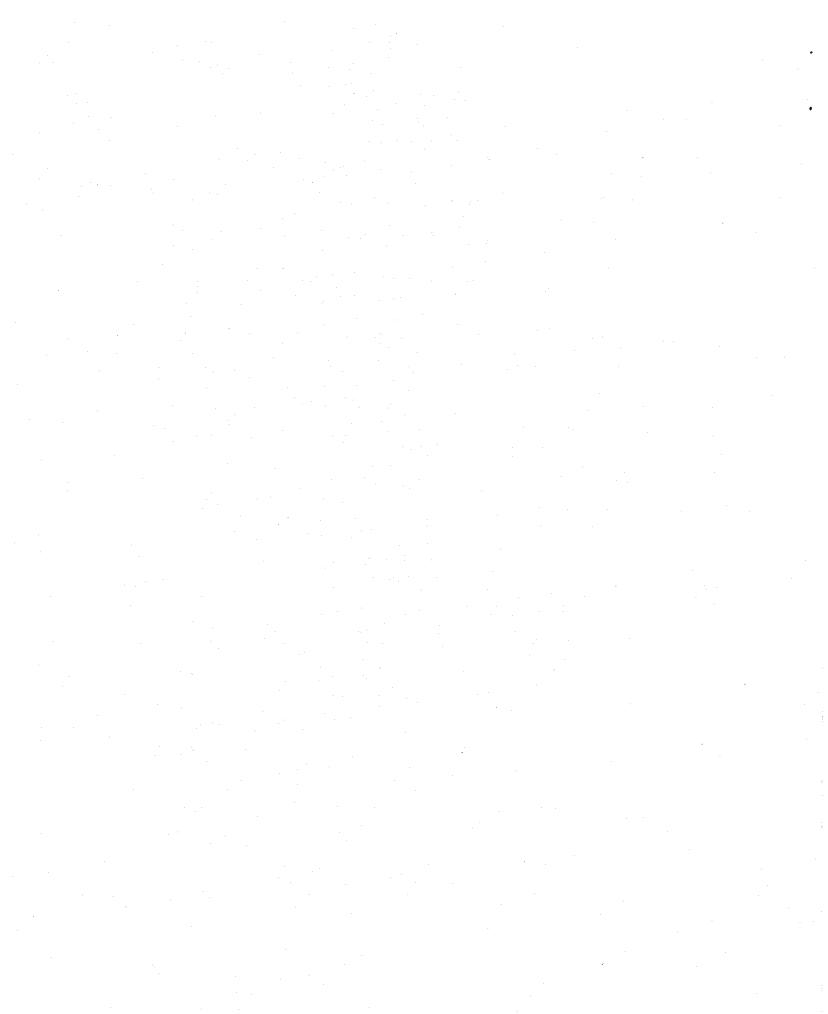
RELATED PUBLICATION:
    Bradshaw, R.A. "Multivariate Actuarial Prediction of Felonious Recidivism
of Male Parolees: Comparative Cross-Validation of Two Risk Assessment Models on
a Michigan Sample." Unpublished dissertation, Michigan State University, 1986.

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Details Regarding Coding and Recoding of Data

The following information is a detailed extension of material provided in Chapter IV (Methods).

Machine-Readable Data from Michigan Department

The Program Bureau of the Michigan Department of Corrections collected data from the criminal files of over 640 male offenders who had been released on parole during the 1980 calendar year. For individuals with multiple files, provisions were made to ship all discharged files to the coding site. This procedure aided in the reduction of missing data and permitted more thorough analysis of each offender's history. When information was not available from Department of Corrections files regarding prior criminal history, these data were obtained from state police records. A pilot study was included to identify discrepancies between variable definitions and coding procedures in the Iowa model, and data available in Michigan files. Coding formats were developed to ensure comparable study designs, when cross-validating the 1983 version of the Iowa Offender Risk Assessment model on the Michigan sample.

Using the Michigan codebook and instructions provided in Figure G-1 data were extracted from the files and coded by three coders. Narrative reports of arrests, summaries of court proceedings, psychological histories and pre-sentence investigations in each file were read to obtain information regarding criminal history, substance abuse history, age and current offense. State police "rap" sheets and parole files were reviewed by coders to determine whether or not sufficient evidence existed that charged individuals had actually committed the alleged offenses; that is, reported behavior was consistent with the charges for which arrests were made. Intercoder agreement was determined for each variable using randomly selected cases (selected biweekly) throughout the four-month data collection and coding period. Coding was not even commenced until the three coders had achieved intercoder agreement above 95 percent and this level of interrater agreement was maintained as a minimum throughout the data collection and coding phase. In all, 34 variables were coded for each case, including indicators of recidivism on parole over a 2 1/2 year follow-up period. These data (on computer tape), along with the "rough" offender file worksheets upon which they were based, comprised the sample for the present study.

Recoded and created variables from Michigan machine-readable data and worksheet information.

Offender file worksheets (Appendix F) were used to record "raw" variables for coding to complete a cross-validation of the 1983 version of the Iowa model on Michigan data (Murphy, 1985). To code operational measures of criminal history for the 1984 and 1985 versions of the Iowa model, a combination of information from the Michigan machine-readable data set and offender file worksheets was used. First, a number of

measures were extracted and used directly from the machine-readable data set, including: number of prior arrests, prior probations, prior adult jail terms, prior juvenile commitments, prior adult commitments, evidence of a juvenile felony arrest, property (nonviolent) disposition greater than one year, person (violent) disposition greater than one year, felony history (coded "first offender"—yes/no), and number of major non-bondable misconducts (measures 2-6, 17-20 and 22 in Table 4.2).

Secondly, all prior felony charges, convictions and incarcerations were coded from the offender file worksheets. Regardless of the legal outcome, prior charges were coded using the numerical format displayed in Figure G-2. The recency of each charge was coded in street time extending backward in time from the arrest for the current offense. Charges which had occurred more than 99 months (street time) prior to the current offense arrest date were coded "99 months," since the exact "age" of any charge older than 99 months in street time was not critical for any analysis in the study. The numbers of charges coded in this manner were then grouped seperately according to whether or not they were for violent or non-violent felonies and, further, according to whether or not they had occurred in the last 12 months, 24 months, 36 months or 5 years of street time prior to the arrest date for the current offense. These resulting criminal history measures are numbered 7 through 16 in Table 4.2.

Charges listed on offender file worksheets were accompanied by titles of the offenses for which criminals were ultimately convicted. A typical example involving a larceny would indicate an original charge for "larceny over $100" or "larceny from a store" which was reduced to "simple larceny" or "larceny under $100" for conviction. When there was doubt as to whether or not a particular offense of conviction qualified as a felony, the list of "felonies of the same type," provided in Murphy's (1985) code book (Figure G-1) was consulted. The disposition of each charge was also provided in the worksheets (number of months on probation, amounts of fines or inclusive incarceration dates). Only charges for which one or more of these three outcomes was indicated qualified for inclusion in the Iowa model criminal history variables, since these are concerned exclusively with convictions. If the conviction resulted in commitment to an adult or juvenile correctional facility, a disposition multiplier of 1.25 was assigned. Otherwise, a disposition multiplier of 0.75 was indicated.

Computation of the number of years of street time since 14 years of age (measure 1 in Table 4.2) involved several steps. Initially, all periods of incarceration in each offenders history were coded. For lengthy incarcerations (over one year) the incarceration and release dates were both recorded in month- day-year format. Shorter periods such as 90 days in jail or four months in a juvenile facility were added together and then treated in the same way as lengthy incarcerations. Occasionally a somewhat ambiguous set of incarcerations was presented on worksheets (particularly involving juvenile histories). An example is case number 85, which reads "22 arrests as a juvenile. First criminal at 7-26-63 for larceny from a building. Had 6 juvenile commitments with 3 probations." In such cases the severity and recency of convictions had to be estimated, as did the lengths of incarcertaions. This was

done by examining other similar cases and considering minimum sentences for the most common offenses. Periods of incarceration were then computed using a series of SPSS:X (SPSS Inc., 1986) functions which convert dates to time periods. Interested readers are referred to Figure G-3 which is a copy of the computer program developed to compute most of the operational measures for the study from coded data, including the 1984 and 1985 versions of the Iowa Offender Risk Assessment model. Upon reviewing the commands in the program pertaining to conversion of dates to time intervals, the reader will note that these were then summed and subtracted from age at parole (excluding the first fourteen years) to determine number of years of street time since 14 years of age. Other measures incorporating street time were computed in a similar manner.

The variable "multiple different charges with single arrest" (measure 21 in Table 4.2) was coded "1" if more than one charge was indicated for a given arrest and the charges were for very different offenses. In general terms, the list of "felonies of the same type" provided in Appendix H was referred to; however, variations of burglary and larceny were considered similar rather than different offenses. To illustrate this point, an arrest for attempted burglary, larceny from a building and possession of burglar's tools would be coded "0"; whereas, an arrest for robbery and attempted rape would be coded "1".

Computations for the "complex measures" listed in Table 4.2 (measures 23-26) are self-evident from their titles in the table. For details regarding computations of the criminal history measures used in the Iowa Model the reader is referred to Appendices C and D (coding instructions) and Figure G-3 (computer program).

Operational measures of current offense were all derived from the current offense codes in the machine-readable data set prepared by The State of Michigan Corrections Department. The Michigan offense list is provided in Appendix G-1 and the conversion of these codes is illustrated in Appendix G-4. Readers interested in the details of recoding and computing to produce current offense components of the Iowa model from measures 1 in Table 4.3 are invited to consult the computer program provided in Figure G-3.

Preliminary coding for measures of substance abuse history was quite involved. The substance abuse history information used to cross-validate the 1983 version of the Iowa model in Michigan had to be reccoded for compatibility with the format used in the 1984 and 1985 versions. Specifically, all categories of substance abuse involving cocaine or marijuana had to be replaced with other categories for substance abuse history. In most cases no other form of substance abuse was indicated so a "0" code (No History as Above) was asigned. The first recoding procedure is illustrated in Figure G-5. For all cases which had been previously (during the 1983 Iowa model cross-validation) assigned codes of 2 (Cocaine), 5 (Marijuana) or 7 (Other) for history of problem use; or codes 2 (Cocaine) or 5 ("Occasional" use of Marijuana) for history of non-problem use, offender file worksheets were reviewed for other forms of substance abuse. Michigan Department of Corrections coders had been instructed to list all substances abused on worksheets, if more than one substance was involved. Often these listings included

slang terms or names of chemicals which would be unfamiliar to anyone without an extensive knowledge of drug abuse. For this reason, a chapter on drug abuse in Achenbach (1982) was consulted to assist in categorizing these substances. The resulting list of definitions for substance abuse categories is provided in Figure G-6. An "update" function, available in Version 2.1 of SPSS:X (SPSS Inc., 1986), was used to replace all incompatible previous values for substance abuse history with these new values coded from the worksheets.

The operational measures in Table 4.4 were recoded from the 1984/85 Iowa Substance Abuse History Scale described in the previous paragraph. Modifications to produce these other measures are illustrated in Figure G-7. It should be noted that when the dichotomous "dummy" measures were coded (moving from most to least severe forms of substance abuse), these measures were hierarchically inclusive. As an example, the dichotomous variable 'prior abuse of some substance' is coded as a "0" for any substance abuse category less severe than "alcohol problem" and "1" for all other categories (2 through 9).

Operational measures related to age were among the least complex to compute and code. 'Age at first criminal arrest' (measure 2 in Table 4.5) was extracted and used directly from the machine-readable data set prepared by The Michigan Department of Corrections. 'Age at parole release' was computed from the combination of birth date and parole release date, using a function in SPSS:X (SPSS Inc., 1986) for converting dates to time intervals. Computations are included in the computer program provided in Figure G-3.

Preliminary coding for operational measures of recidivism on parole has been discussed briefly, earlier in this chapter, relative to the first three measures in Table 4.6. Readers interested in details of coding instructions for The Michigan Parole Recidivism Score are directed to the last four pages in Figure G-1. The last measure in Table 4.6, labelled 'number of months under parole supervision' was developed from the date at time of arrest for recidivism on parole (or discharge from parole if no arrest) and the date of release on parole. Both of these dates were provided in the machine-readable data set prepared by The Michigan Department of Corrections. Details concerning coding of these dates are provided in Figure G-1. An SPPS:X (SPSS Inc., 1986) function for converting dates to time intervals was used, and the parole release time interval was subtracted from the recidivism scoring time interval. These computations are included in the computer program, provided in figure G-3.

1. Go to master list and cross number off; check if more than one parole listed for 1980. If more than one parole listed, make sure file is for the first parole in time period.

2. If a person escaped and was convicted and the escape file is not in box, put file aside and note. If escape file is available but instant offense file is not, put aside and note.

3. After a person is coded, go to printout and list missing information next to name; also list any other discharge dates in the case of missing information.

4. If a file is not in the appropriate box, note on lot and box sheet.

5. When coding, please note the following:
   a. Put initials on top of coding sheet.
   b. Identify date coded on left-hand margin at top of page.
   c. Keep your coding sheets together.
   d. Number each code sheet started.
   e. At the end of the day, put ID's in numerical order by sheet number.

6. Instant offense refers to that crime the resident is serving on when he received his parole. Remember that escapes are not counted as instant offenses.

7. Unless specified, blanks should reflect missing data. Missing data may occur in two ways. First, the information is not available and second, the same source is conflicting and you can't determine the answer with reasonable accuracy. In most cases, missing data is designated as 9 or 99, therefore blanks should be ok'd by project director.

8. Secondary sources should be used to clarify or support information from the primary source. The only time a secondary source may be used in place of a primary source is if it is underlined in the manual.

9. If more than one file, check all of them for certain background information if necessary. However, for variables concerning the instant offense (i.e., marital status at time of offense) you must use instant offense file.

Source Instructions

In certain instances, secondary sources are identified. For example, if the presentence describes the background information but does not provide specific dates for those variables requiring them (i.e., age at first arrest), then supplement with the psych evaluation if available. Another situation would be if the presentence raises questions but does not provide enough information to make a decision. If the presentence says he was in trouble as a youth but does not say when or for what, then see if psych provides the missing information. One must designate those questions (i.e., age of first arrest) missing with appropriate code when a determination cannot be made. Also, juvenile information may be found in cases where more than one file is available.

Michigan codebook and instructions.

Example: Using the previous criminal history example in conjunction with the specific risk designation category of "1 + prior conviction for a felony against persons in last 2 years street time."

    1)   Commitment date =   6-20-68

    2)   Subtract 2 years street time =   6-20-66

    3)   Subtract time incarcerated,
        6-30-65 to 1-26-67 = 1 yr 7 mo = 11-20-64

Since the date of the previous robbery arrest (a person offense) was 4-26-65, the answer is yes. Use arrest date of prior's since conviction date is not always available.

Note: In many cases where no person offenses are checked, you only have to determine those nonperson categories. Refer to Appendix C for a list of comparable crimes.

When a special risk category refers to crimes instead of felonies, <u>include</u> misdemeanor arrests.

When a special risk category refers to TOTAL felonies, include the INSTANT OFFENSE.

PAROLEE FILE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAROLE VARIABLES

When determining parole behavior, use the following procedures:

1. Enter the parole date in the appropriate
   columns (48-53).

2. Flip through parole information for any pink
   or green sheets; also review any written
   correspondence; read all green sheets to
   determine the nature of the behavior; briefly
   review any pink sheets for criminal behavior.

3. List all arrests, violations.

4. Enter parole discharge or termination date.
   If absconder at end of file, code 999999.

5. Determine recidivism and other criminal history
   codes.

6. Add 2½ years to parole date and examine State
   Police rap sheet for this time period.

7. If no additions or changes, code 0 for variable.

8. If rap sheet would lead to a different recidivism
   score, then note appropriately (1 or 2).

9. Coding is completed.

NOTE: Remember, recidivism refers to actual behavior. For
criminal behavior occurring outstate, make sure specific arrests
are specified. Do not count "possible" arrests. When counting
PV techs each must be listed on separate green sheets. In the
case of multiple violations listed on one green sheet, then count
as one. When counting misdemeanors, count each arrest. Finally,
review recidivism instructions and bring all questionable cases
to the project director.

First File

NUMBER	COLUMN	VARIABLE	CODE
1	1-3	Study Number (Master List)	
2	4-9	Prison Number (Jacket Cover, Face Sheet)	
3	10-15	Corrected Date (Jaket Cover, Face)	MMDDYY
4	16	Race (Face Sheet)	0 = White 1 = Non-white
5	17-22	Birth Date (Face Sheet)	MMDDYY
6	23	Sex (Pre-sentence)	0 = Male 1 = Female
7	24	Single at Time of Crime (Never Married) (Pre-sentence, Face Sheet)	0 = No 1 = Yes

Substance Abuse History

8	25	History of Problem Use	0. None 1. Heroin/Morphine 2. Cocaine 3. Hallucinogen 4. Glue 5. Marijuana 6. Alcohol 7. Other 8. Can't Determine

Note: If multiple problems, use rank order. For example, if subject has a problem with heroin and alcohol, code 1 for heroin. Evidence of injections would constitute problem. Problem use of marijuana refers to excessive use. For example, marijuana must be used on a daily or excessive basis. Other drugs must be used on a regular basis (e.g., hallucinogens). Regular use of heroin would constitute a problem. Statement of abuse is also a problem.

9	26	History of Non-Problem Use	0. None 1. Heroin 2. Cocaine 3. Hallucinogen 4. Glue 5. "Ocassional" Use of Marijuana 6. Can't Determine

Note: If multiple drug use, use rank order. Code yes if ever used on nonregular basis. Examples: "Have used heroin twice"; Code marijuana only if used occasionally. (Pre-sentence, Psych Report)

Prior Criminal History

10	27-28	# of prior arrests	
11	29-30	# of prior probations	
12	31-32	# of prior adult jail	
13	33	Property disposition > 1 yr.	0 = No 1 = Yes

NUMBER	COLUMN	VARIABLE	CODE
14	34	# of prior juvenile commitments	
15	35	Person disposition > 1 yr.	0 = No 1 = Yes
16	36	# of prior adult commitments	

Note: Use worksheet for each case; Determine prior criminal history with pre-sentence criminal history section and rap sheet. Count each arrest, probation, etc., separately; Include juvenile arrests and commitments for status offenses and crimes. Exclude traffic offenses of a non-criminal nature such as speeding, no licence. Include DUIL, etc.
(Pre-sentence, RAP sheet)

17	37-38	Age at first criminal arrest	99 = Can't Determine
18	39-40	Current Offense (Instant Offense)	Refer to Appendix A

Note: Instant Offense is the most serious offense a person is currently serving on. Refer to Appendix A for appropriate code. Violent offenses are more serious than nonviolent offenses. For similar offenses, use longest minimum. If a person is serving on a property crime that is assaultive in nature or multiple charges that include an assaultive offense, ask project director how to classify. Also, read B & E to determine aggravation.
(Jacket Cover, Pre-sentence)

19	41	First Offender	0 = No 1 = Yes

Note: Code yes if no prior felony arrest as a juvenile or adult.

20	42	Serving on current escape or jail break	0 = No 1 = Yes

Note: Must have an escape sentence

21	43	Major Non-Bondable Misconduct (Misconduct Reports)	0 = None 1 = One 2 = 2 or More

Note: Flip through file and use misconduct hearing reports. Major misconducts are listed in Appendix D.

Special Risk Factors

22	44	Risk Factor 1	0-8

NUMBER	COLUMN	VARIABLE	CODE

Note: For Variables 22 through 25, use worksheet.
If V22 is yes, terminate coding. If V22 is no,
continue.

Do not leave V22 blank. See worksheet for instructions.

23	45	Risk Factor 2	0-5 9 = Not Applicable
24	46	Risk Factor 3	1-4 9 = Not Applicable
25	47	Risk Factor 4	1-3 9 = Not Applicable

Note: Refer to instruction sheet for dis-
tinctions between crimes, felonies, total
offenses and prior offenses.

PAROLE VARIABLES

| 26 | 48-53 | Date of 1980 parole | MMDDYY |

Note: Use date on parole board order for
parole.

| 27 | 54 | Recidivism Score (Behavioral Analysis) | |

1 = No Illegal Activities   1 - 5
2 = Technical Violation or
    Absconder ONLY (no other
    illegal behavior)
3 = Misdemeanor
4 = Nonviolent Felony
5 = Violent Felony

Note: Exclude traffic viiolations; ask project
director on all questionable cases; refer to
recidivism handout.

| 28 | 55-60 | Date of Recid Score | MMDDYY |

Note: If recid score is 1, use discharge date
    If recid score is 2, use first PV violation date
    If recid score is 3, use first misdemeanor date
    If recid score is 4 or 5, use felony violation date.

The following 2 variables refer to separate criminal
violations occurring before recidivism score.

| 29 | 61 | Number of Misdemeanors | 0 - 3 |

NUMBER	COLUMN	VARIABLE	CODE
30	62	Number of Nonviolent Felonies	

Note: 1) Code number of violations occurring
-before Rec. Score; 2) Code the behavior.
(Up to 3 each).

Post Recidivism: The following 2 variables refer
to felonies committed after recidivism score.

NUMBER	COLUMN	VARIABLE	CODE
31	63	Number of nonviolent felonies committed after recid. score.	0 - 3
32	64	Number of violent felonies committed after recid. score.	
33	65	Returned to prison	0 = No 1 = Yes
34	66-71	Date of parole discharge or incarceration. (From parole file)	MMDDYY 999999 - abscond

Note: Use date of confinement if in jail
immediately prior to discharge or return to
prison.

NUMBER	COLUMN	VARIABLE	CODE
35	72	Rap Sheet (2-1/2 yr. follow-up)	0 = No 1 = Yes, Higher 2 = Yes, Lower

Note: Code yes only if discrepancy results in a
higher or lower recid score.

NUMBER	COLUMN	VARIABLE	CODE
36	73	Conviction for Recidivism Score	1 = No Felony 2 = Yes Convicted 3 = Not Convicted
37	74	Coder I.D.	
38	75	Evidence of Juvenile Felony	0 = No 1 = Yes

Appendix: Current Offense Codes

Michigan Offense List	1984/85 Iowa Offense List
07 Robbery Armed 08 Robbery Unarmed 09 Attempted Robbery	1 Robbery/Attempted Robbery
17 Larceny from Person (Assaultive) 18 Larceny from Person (Non-Assaultive)	2 Larceny from a Person
21 Aggravated Burglary	3 Aggravated Burglary
19 Arson-Dwelling Only 20 Arson-Building	4 Arson/Attempted Arson
01 Homicide 02 Attempted Murder	5 Murder/Attempted Murder
06 Abduction, Kidnapping	7 Kidnapping
04 CSC, Rape 05 Attempt to Assault to CSC, Rape	8 Rape/Attempted Rape
12 Sodomy	9 Sodomy
22 Burglary	10 Burglary/Attempted Burglary
29 Drugs	11 Selling Narcotics
24 Auto Theft	12 Motor Vehicle Theft
25 Forgery-Uttering & Publishing 26 Embezzlement 27 Bad Checks	13 Forgery/Bad Checks/Fraud
03 Assault with Intent to Murder 10 Assault with Intent to Rob 11 Other Assaults (Felonious, Assault to Main, etc.)	14 Aggravated Assault/Terrorism
16 Extortion	15 Extortion
23 Larceny (Includes Larceny Auto)	16 Larceny/Stolen Property
28 Malicious Destruction	17 Vandalism
13 Gross Indecency 14 Children: Torture, Cruelty, Expose 15 Indecent Liberties with Child 30 Alcohol Related 31 Sex Offenses (Other) 32 Children Offenses (Other) 34 Negligent Homicide 33 Other Offenses	18 None of Above

Conversion of current offense codes

APPENDIX B

PERSON FELONIES (VIOLENT)

OFFENSE

Homicide: first degree murder
Homicide: second degree murder
Homicide: manslaughter
Homicide: negligent homicide
Rape - Criminal Sexual Conduct
Sodomy
Extortion
Abduction - Kidnapping
Robbery Armed and Unarmed
Larceny from Person
Attempt to Murder or Commit Robbery
All Assaults and Assaults with Intent
Arson: burning dwelling house
Offenses Against Children: torture
Offenses Against Children: cruelty
Offenses Against Children: exposure
Indecent Liberties with Child
Gross Indecency

HIGH RECIDIVISM OFFENSES

Burglary
Motor Vehicle Theft
Forgery
Bad Checks
Robbery

Assault (Attempt to commit murder, serious injury, felonious assault and assault with intent to commit harm or injury)

PERSON MISDEMEANORS

Assault and Battery
Aggravated Assault
Assaulting Police Officer

APPENDIX C

FELONIES OF THE SAME TYPE

Murder, manslaughter, feticide and attempts, felonious assault, assault with intent to harm or maim.

Rape, attempted rape, criminal sexual conduct I and III, assault with intent to rape or commit criminal sexual conduct, sodomy, gross indecency, incest, other sex offenses.

Kidnapping, conspiracy and attempts.

Robbery, attempted robbery, assault with intent to rob, extortion, larceny from a person.

Burglary, attempted burglary, entering without breaking, possession of burglar's tools.

Larceny from building, by conversion, false pretenses, receiving and concealing, larceny over $100.

U.D.A.A., All motor vehicle offenses.

Embezzlement.

Forgery, uttering and publishing, check offenses, possession of counterfeit notes.

Arson, vandalism (malicious destruction), explosives offenses, bomb threat.

Weapon offenses (CCW, attempted CCW, etc.).

Drug offenses (sale and use).

Alcohol offenses (drunk driving).

Pandering, pornography.

Escape, Jailbreak.

Bribery, perjury, obstruction.

Neglect, abandonment, child offenses.

NONBONDABLE MAJOR MISCONDUCTS

Assault and Battery
Attempt to Escape
Escape
Fighting
Homicide
Incite to Riot or Strike
POssession of Dangerous Contraband
Rioting or Striking
Sexual Assault
Threatening Behavior

RECIDIVISM SCORE

This scale is a behavioral index of the inmate's most SERIOUS behavior while on parole. For example, if a parolee had only committed a minor technical violation on parole and nothing else, he would be coded a two on this scale. If he had committed both a misdemeanor (three) and a violent felony (five) while on parole, he would receive a "five". The coding criteria for this scale should be based upon written descriptions from police and/or agent records whenever possible. The criteria do not rest upon arraignments nor convictions but reflect as closely as possible the actual reported behavioral description of the man's activity.

We are interested in behavior on parole, not legal dispositions. It is necessary for the coder to review the file carefully. If a person is arrested during parole, examine the police report and/or sheet and decide if enough evidence exists to determine guilt.

I. General definitions of recidivism categories.

1) No criminal behavior: No arrests for criminal behabior. Only arrests which are mistakes and the person is released.

2) PV Technical and Absconder: No criminal behavior but cited for a PV or he absconds. No other indicators of criminal behavior.

3) Misdemeanor: Arrest and behavior is for a misdemeanor such as drunk and disorderly, petty larceny, etc.

4) Non-Violent Felony: Behavior and evidence constitutes a felony via arrest.* If convicted of a non-violent felony that is actually violent, it is a violent Rec. 2.

5) Violent Felony: Behavior in arrest constitutes violence and evidence supports it (i.e., eyewitness, etc.). Violence is defined by intimidation either verbally or physically.

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* Under certain circumstances, arrests may not occur for serious felony involvement. Past examples have included a parolee shot during the commission of a felony. However, instances where an arrest does not occur are very infrequent and should be verified by the project director. It is more common for a charge not to reflect behavior. If a felony involved intimidation, then violent felony is appropriate regardless of charge. In a few cases concerning male parolees, the failure to prosecute a rape has resulted in the arrest for a related non-violent felony (i.e., Breaking & Entering). If a rape occurred you would be expected to code 5 and not a 4.

II. Specific Examples:

1) **No criminal behavior:** A person is on parole for a year. He is arrested for robbery armed and later released. The file contains no evidence to indicate his involvement, therefore, he is coded a 1. The most common case in this category is the person that is never arrested and has no technical violations on parole.

2) **PV Tech./Absconder** A person is seen in a bar by his agent and is cited for a technical violation. Any parole violations that do not constitute criminal behavior belong in this category. If a person absconds upon release and his file indicates no further activities of a criminal nature, then he would be coded a 2.

3) **Misdemeanor:** An offender is arrested for disorderly conduct, assault and battery, etc. If the investigator feels that he was involved in the incident, he would be coded a 3.

4) **Non-Violent Felony:** For the most part, non-violent felonies are determined by the arresting charge and evidence. It is important to realize that we are not interested in plea bargaining and other legal maneuvers. For instance, if a person is arrested for selling heroin and the description supports the case but he pleas to a misdemeanor of use, then he is coded a 4. If a person commits a series of misdemeanors and one non-violent felony, he is considered a 4. A person is coded for his most serious behavior on parole. An important issue to be aware of is the case where a person commits a non-violent felony and is given probation and then later commits a violent felony. He would be a 5.

5) **Violent Felony:** A violent felony is the most serious recidivism score a person can receive regardless of degree. For instance, if a person commits a robbery and then later commits a rape, the robbery is sufficient to code as a 5. A common problem occurs when a person is arrested for robbery armed and pleas to larceny. The person is a 5 not a 4 if the description supports intimidation. A more serious coding problem occurs when a person commits a crime and is discharged before the trial. This happens more frequently with violent crimes than the other categories. Regardless of discharge, he is a if the evidence supports the decision.

III. Common Problems Encountered

In most cases, past experience has shown that the descriptions provide sufficient information to make a clear decision on recidivism. However, there are certain problems that appear to

cause confusion and require some deliberation. Therefore, the following list focuses on common and frequent issued concerning recidivism.

1) Always code his most <u>serious</u> behavior <u>not</u> necessarily his first crime.

2) When a person is convicted of a property crime and is given probation, make sure he doesn't commit a violent felony later. In that case he would be given a 5, not a 4.

3) Frequently, a felony does not go to trial until a person is on parole for various reasons:

   a) <u>Plea bargain</u>: Ignore the plea bargain if the original charge <u>and</u> supporting evidence indicates otherwise.

   b) <u>Pending trial, parole sheet says "let the courts decide"</u>. Many times a parole decision will state that he will be continued on parole while the trial is pending. Consequently, he may be discharged before trial. The coders are to ignore these parole decisions. If the witnesses, descriptions, etc. support a felony decision, he is coded accordingly with the recidivism definitions.

   c) <u>Waiting in jail pending court date, discharged off parole</u>: Ignore and use his behavior to decide.

   d) <u>Absconder, wanted for a felony</u>: Again, use the description of his behavior to determine if he committed a felony.

   Points a, b, c, and d above all emphasize one point: We are <u>not interested in legal or administrative decisions</u> but the behavior involved.

4) <u>Domestic Disputes</u>: These are one of the most difficult cases to resolve. The rule of thumb is <u>not</u> to count domestic disputes if they are a case of minor fighting. For instance, if a parolee has a clean record on parole but her spouse calls police and she is arrested and released, she would normally be counted as a 1 (no criminal activity). The rationale for this is that a large number of our population experience domestic problems <u>before</u> and <u>after</u> prison. More importantly, there are usually two sides to the story. Consequently, an Assault and Battery for shoving or pushing should be examined carefully. The only traditional exceptions to this is where serious bodily injury occurs. In that case, it is either an Assault and Battery or a felony depending on the arrest.
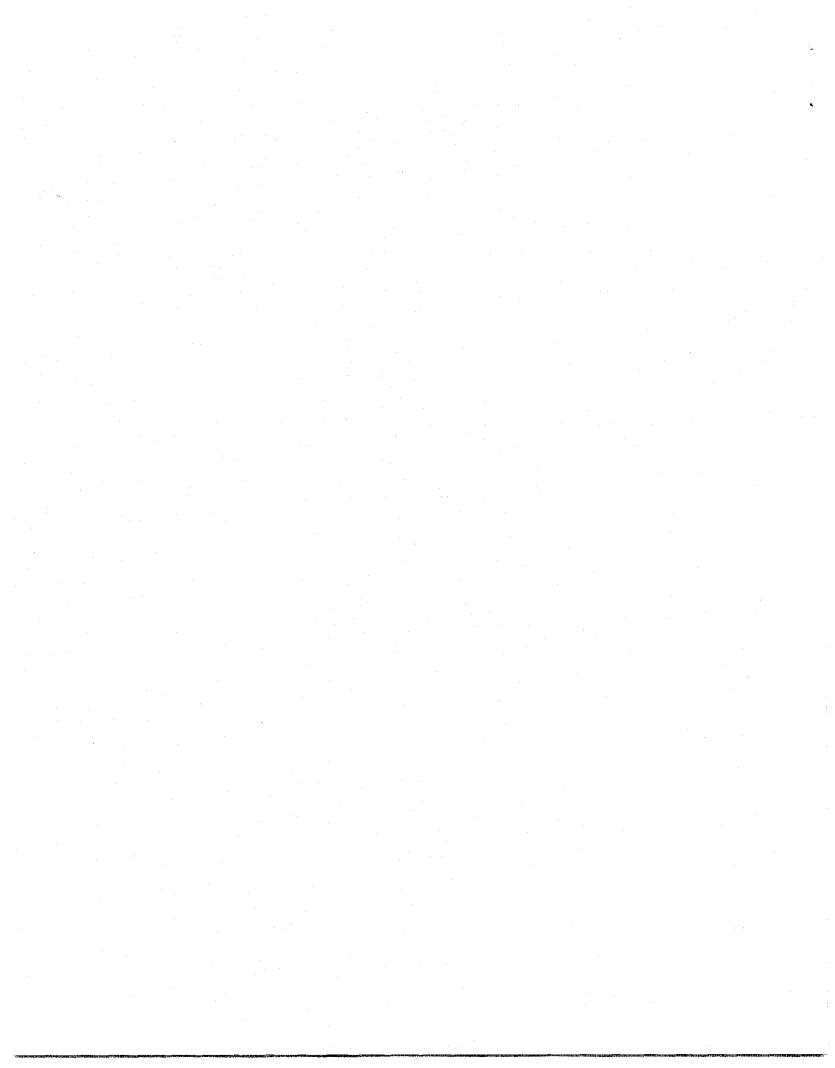
5) AWOL, traffic tickets, prior fugitive warrants, and prior warrants are to be ignored. We are interested in parole criminal behavior.

6) In certain instances, a parole agent is sure of the parolee's guilt but the charges are dropped. The agent may state that the victim called him and he has been threatened. The parolee should be coded according to the behavior.

7) In instances where the evidence is not clear and there is no basis for making a decision, then the general rule of thumb is to code in _favor of the parolee_. A case was noted where a parolee was arrested for UDAA. Yet the owner of the vehicle supported the parolee's version of borrowing the car. In this case, the code should be in favor of the parolee. (Do not presume guilt but be aware that there are situations where the circumstances are clear but the charges are dropped.)

8) The general rule of thumb for category #2 (technical violation) is to rely on a green sheet in the file. Do not presuppose the violations of parolees. The exception may be with those parolees with special conditions. For instance, the parolee is not to use drugs but is caught using them. Because of program guidelines, agents are not required to formally reprimand them.

9) Those incidences where a person absconds and is arrested in another state for a felony but no description is provided may require that recidivism be left blank.

10) A source of information in files that may assist in determining recidivism is the Parole Board hearings where the arresting officer, agent, etc., reviews the circumstances.

In most cases, the problems above should not be encountered. Past experience has shown that a good file leads to little confusion. Hopefully, where questions remain, the above discussion will be of assistance.

Violent Offense	Prior Offense Code	1984/85 Iowa Severity Code	Felony Offense Title
*	01	80	Murder
*	02	70	Attempted Murder
*	03	70	Rape
*	04	70	Kidnapping for Ransom
*	05	70	Aggravated Robbery
*	06	70	Aggravated Burglary
*	07	70	Arson of a Dwelling
*	08	70	Selling Narcotics to Minors
*	09	60	Voluntary Manslaughter
*	10	60	Attempted Rape
*	11	60	Sodomy
*	12	60	Kidnapping
*	13	60	Robbery
*	14	60	Larceny from a Person
*	15	60	Felony Assault
*	16	60	Terrorism
*	17	60	Arson
*	18	50	Involuntary Manslaughter
*	19	50	Attempted Robbery
*	20	50	Extortion
*	21	50	Going Armed with Intent
	22	50	Escape
	23	50	Jailbreak
*	24	40	Aggravated Assault
*	25	40	Attempted Arson
*	26	40	Conspiracy to Commit a Violent Felony
	27	30	Burglary
	28	30	Motor Vehicle Theft
	29	30	Forgery
	30	30	Selling Narcotics (opiates or cocoaine)
	31	20	Larceny
	32	20	Stolen Property
	33	20	Vandalism
	34	20	Bad Checks/Fraud
	35	20	Weapons Offense
	36	20	Conspiracy to Commit a Non-Violent Felony (above)
	37	10	All Other Offenses, e.g., lascivious acts, selling drugs, drunken driving.

Offense-specific coding for prior felonies

CRIMES FILE

Second File

FULL VARIABLE NAMES FOR ABBREVIATIONS
USED IN COMPUTER PROGRAMS

Abbreviation or Acronym	Full Name
COMMDATE	Date of Commitment for Current Offense
BIRTHDAY	Date of Birth
PARODATE	Date of Parole Release
RECIDATE	Date of Coding Recidivism Score
DISCDATE	Date of Discharge from Parole
COMARDT1	Date of Commitment (for Arrest Number 1)
RLPJDT1	Date of Release from Prison or Jail (Arrest 1)
PAROAGE	Age at Parole Release
MUS	Months Under Supervision
V18	Current Offense (Michigan Coding)
IOCURR	Current Offense (1984-85 Iowa Coding)
GCURR	Severity Coding for Current Offense (General)
VCURR	Severity Coding for Current Offense (Violent)
CHGE1.1	Offense Code for Charge 1.1
VFLSV1.1	Severity Code for Violent Felony (Charge 1.1)
CMHST1.1	Severity Code for All Felonies (Charge 1.1)
AGE1.1	Recency of Charge 1.1 (in months of street time)
S1.1	Raw Score for Prior Violent Felony (Charge 1.1)
DISP1.1	Disposition Multiplier for Charge 1.1
SH1.1	Raw Score for Prior Felony (Charge 1.1)
P	Prior Violence Score (sum for all charges)
C	Criminal History Score (sum for all charges)
CPRIME	Criminal History Score/yrs. of street time x .10
STSG	Street Time Score (General)
STSV	Street Time Score (Violent)
CHSG	Criminal History Score (General)
CESG	Current Escape Score (General/Nonviolent)
SUBUHT	Substance Abuse History
SASV	Substance Abuse Score (Violent)
SOC1	Serious Offender Classification (Code Number 1)
PVSV	Prior Violence Score (Violent)
PYRAG14R	Age at Parole, Minus 14 yrs., rounded to the nearest whole number
STRTM2R	PYRAG14R minus total years committed, rounded to the nearest whole number
GRA	General Risk form - 1984 Iowa version
VRA	Violence Risk form - 1984 Iowa version
XG	X-Score (General) - 1985 Iowa model
X	X-Score - 1985 Iowa version
SRA	Safety Risk form - 1985 version
VRA85	Violence Risk form - 1985 version

Second File: Parolees' follow-up criminal history

Variable Names	Variable Labels
STUDYID	case ID number
RECRDNO	record number
VFELTTL	Total num. of all violent felony charges (V.F.C.)
VFEL12	total num. of V. F. C. in last 12 months of street time
VFEL24	total num. of V. F. C. in last 24 months of street time
VFEL36	total num. of V. F. C. in last 36 months of street time
VFEL5YR	total num. of V. F. C. in last five years of street time
NVFELTTL	total num. of non-violent felony charges (N.F.C.)
NVFEL12	total num. of N. F. C. in last 12 months of street time
NVFEL24	total num. of N. F. C. in last 24 months of street time
NVFEL36	total num. of N. F. C. in last 36 months of street time
NVFEL5YR	total num. of N. F. C. in last five years of street time
MLTCHGE	multiple different charges with single arrest
COMMARDT0	date of commitment for current offense
COMMARDT1	date of commitment for prior arrest 1
CHGE1.1	offense code for charge 1.1
DISP1.1	disposition multiplier for charge 1.1
AGE1.1	recency of charge 1.1 (in months of street crime)
CHGE1.2	offense code for charge 1.2
DISP1.2	disposition multiplier for charge 1.2
AGE1.2	recency of charge 1.2 (in months of street crime)
CHGE1.3	offense code for charge 1.3
DISP1.3	disposition multiplier for charge 1.3
AGE1.3	recency of charge 1.3 (in months of street crime)
RLPJDT1	date of release from prison and jail (arrest 1)

(COMMARDT1 to RLPJDT1 will repeat 8 times and each represents a prior arrest.)

Second File

```
 1     TITLE 'CRIMINAL HISTORY'
 2     FILE HANDLE CRMHST/NAME='CRMHST'
 3     FILE HANDLE HSTDTA/NAME='HSTDTA'
 4     DATA LIST FILE=CRMHST RECORDS=5
 5      /1 STDYID 1-3 RECRDNO 4 VFELTTL 5-6 VFEL12 7-8 VFEL24 9-10 VFEL36 11-12
 6      VFEL5YR 13-14 NVFELTTL 15-16 NVFEL12 17-18 NVFEL24 19-20 NVFEL36 21-22
 7      NVFEL5YR 23-24 MLTCHGE 25 COMMARDTO 26-34(ADATE8)
 8      /2 STDYID 1-3 RECRDNO 4 COMMARDT1 5-13(ADATE8) CHGE1.1 14-15 DISP1.1 16-18(2)
 9      AGE1.1 19-20 CHGE1.2 21-22 DISP1.2 23-25(2) AGE1.2 26-27 CHGE1.3 28-29
10      DISP1.3 30-32(2) AGE1.3 33-34 RLPJDT1 35-43(ADATE8) COMMARDT2 44-52(ADATE8) CHGE2.1 53-54
11      DISP2.1 55-57(2) AGE2.1 58-59 CHGE2.2 60-61 DISP2.2 62-64(2) AGE2.2 65-66
12      CHGE2.3 67-68 DISP2.3 69-71(2) AGE2.3 72-73
13      /3 STDYID 1-3 RECRDNO 4 RLJPDT2 5-13(ADATE8) COMMARDT3 14-22(ADATE8) CHGE3.1 23-24
14      DISP3.1 25-27(2) AGE3.1 28-29 CHGE3.2 30-31 DISP3.2 32-24(2) AGE3.2 35-36
15      CHGE3.3 37-38 DISP3.3 39-41(2) AGE3.3 42-43 RLPJDT3 44-52(ADATE8)
16      COMMARDT4 53-61(ADATE8) CHGE4.1 62-63 DISP4.1 64-66(2) AGE4.1 67-68
17      CHGE4.2 69-70 DISP4.2 71-73(2) CHGE4.3 74-75 CHGE4.3 76-77 DISP4.3 78-80(2)
18      /4 STDYID 1-3 RECRDNO 4 AGE4.3 5-6 RLPJDT4 7-15(ADATE8)
19      COMMARDT5 16-24(ADATE8) CHGE5.1 25-26 DISP5.1 27-29(2) AGE5.1 30-31
20      CHGE5.2 32-33 DISP5.2 34-36(2) AGE5.2 37-38 CHGE5.3 39-40 DISP5.3 41-43(2)
21      AGE5.3 44-45 RLPJDT5 46-54(ADATE8) COMMARDT6 55-63(ADATE8) CHGE6.1 64-65
22      DISP6.1 66-68(2) AGE6.1 69-70 CHGE6.2 71-72 DISP6.2 73-75(2) AGE6.2 76-77
23      /5 STDYID 1-3 RECRDNO 4 CHGE6.3 5-6 DISP6.3 7-9(2) AGE6.3 10-11
24      RLPJDT6 12-20(ADATE8) COMMARDT7 21-29(ADATE8) CHGE7.1 30-31 DISP7.1 32-34(2)
25      AGE7.1 35-36 CHGE7.2 37-38 DISP7.2 39-41(2) AGE7.2 42-43 CHGE7.3 44-45
26      DISP7.3(2) AGE7.3 49-50 RLPJDT7 51-59(ADATE8) COMMARDT8 60-68(ADATE8) CHGE8.1 69-70
27      DISP8.1 71-73(2) AGE8.1 74-75 CHGE8.2 76-77 DISP8.2 78-80(2)
28      /6 STDYID 1-3 RECRDNO 4 AGE8.2 5-6 CHGE8.3 7-8 DISP8.3 9-11(2) AGE8.3 12-13
29      RLPJDT8 14-22(ADATE8)
30     SAVE OUTFILE=HSTDTA/MAP
31     FINISH
```

OFFENDER FILE WORKSHEETS

WORKSHEET

I) ID NUMBER _____

II) IF V5 is OTHER, LIST DRUG _____

III)

Criminal History

Arrest Date	Offense	Disposition	Dates Incarcerated	Person ( ) Offense

Prior Arrests _____

Prior Probations _____

Adult Jail _____
non-violent felony   0=no
w/disp. over 1yr.   1=yes

Juvenile Commitments _____
violent felony with 0=no
disp. over 1 year   1=yes

Adult Commitments _____

PAROLE VARIABLES

Parole Date =   2½ Years =

Parole File

Violation Date	Arrest Date	Offense	Convicted	Misd. Felony

Recidivism Score =

If above is blank, are there any PV violations?

Police Rap Sheet

Arrest Date	Offense	Convicted	Misd. Felony

Recidivism Score =

# of Misd. Before Highest Recid. =
# of Nonviolent Felonies Before Recid =
# of Nonviolent Felonies After Recid =
# of Violent Felonies After Recid   =

HIGHEST RECID SCORE =
(Enter Column 54)

If Rap Sheet Score Different, NOTE if HIGHER