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9534

TWO THOUSAND STATE PRISONERS IN NEW JERSEY

A STATISTICAL PICTURE

COMPILED IN COOPERATION
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TWO THOUSAND STATE PRISONERS IN NEW JERSEY

A Statistical Picture

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FOREWORD: PRISONER CLASSIFICATION
AS TOOL OF RESEARCH

In the course of the more than 150 years since the New Jersey State Prison was established in Trenton, thousands of penal offenders sentenced by the courts have passed through its portals whose inscription once read "*Labor, Silence, Penitence.*"

Over the years certain facts concerning the personal and social characteristics of these prisoners have been compiled by the prison itself, but it was not until the creation of the Bureau of Social Research in the Department of Institutions and Agencies that a regular state reporting system was established. This was in recognition by the Department that it must have accurate statistical information regarding New Jersey's penal and correctional problems, to be used as a basis for determining state policy with regard to the operation and future planning of state institutions, to evaluate the effectiveness of the institutional administration, to make some attempt at discovering the individual and social causative factors involved in anti-social behavior.

The information gathered in connection with the classification - "man analysis" - procedure in vogue in the New Jersey Correctional system offers a fertile field for assembling significant statistics. Moreover, a deeper analysis of the data available makes it possible to attempt to fix personal and social responsibility for anti-social behavior, to assess the efficacy of the current penal laws, and to identify problems faced by the entire penal and correctional system in order that society may forge effective weapons in its fight against criminal behavior.

A telling statement concerning the importance of classification in prison management has come from Commissioner Sanford Bates:

"In prison parlance the work classification does not mean segregation or grouping; it means the careful and scientific study of the past, present and future of each individual and the adoption of a plan for his treatment within the institution.

"Once we have clearly understood the needs of an individual we can commence to utilize the paraphernalia of reform which should be provided in each correctional institution:

an adequate medical service, the complete initial physical and psychiatric examination, prompt prophylaxis and remedial surgery where indicated;

psychiatric and psychological testing to determine intelligence capabilities, vocational and trade training where indicated, but in any event, continuous protective employment equal in duration and laboriousness to that which the average citizen outside is accustomed to--educational opportunities not on the child level but such as will be interesting for the adult mind;

not only academic and vocational but cultural and social education, all of it focused upon the need for inculcation in the prisoner of a greater consciousness of his obligation to society."

The statistical picture presented in this study shows a heterogeneous population in the State Prison which confirms the conclusion reached by a state committee which recently examined the prison and parole system of New Jersey*:

"...the inmate population of Trenton Prison included, in addition to the 'ordinary' prisoners who constitute the majority of the population, insane and near-insane, mental defectives, unstable psychopaths, some of them highly assaultive, prisoners convicted as sexual psychopaths, passive homosexuals, aggressive 'wolves' with long records of fights and stabbings, escape artists, agitators, and 'incorrigibles' of all ages..."

It can thus be seen that the existing prison population presents no easy task to the prison administrator to fulfill the principles basic to correctional work namely: that incarceration in and of itself is generally not sufficient to modify the attitude of most offenders against future anti-social conduct but that strenuous efforts must be made on the basis of the knowledge of the individual's needs, weaknesses and strengths to apply a treatment program which will result in the offenders' reformation and abiding normal conduct upon return to the community.

* REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE AND INVESTIGATE THE PRISON AND PAROLE SYSTEMS OF NEW JERSEY. NOVEMBER 21, 1952.

I. THE SENTENCING PHASE AND TIME OF IMPRISONMENT

At this time there are about 2230 prisoners confined in the three units belonging to the State Prison - nearly 1100 in the State Prison proper in Trenton, over 900 in the Rahway Prison Farm, and more than 200 in the Leesburg Prison Farm.

The three units belonging to the State Prison system are part of the individualized treatment program through which different types of institutions have been developed for specific types of offenders:

State Prison - provides maximum security detention for older, more serious, and more recalcitrant male offenders with poor records and long sentences.

Rahway Prison Farm - is a medium security institution to which the more stable and tractable prisoners may be transferred after study and classification at the main Prison.

Leesburg Prison Farm - is a minimum security unit to which the most trustworthy of the Prison population are transferred to furnish labor for extensive farming and canning operations.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF FORMER RESIDENCE OF PRISONERS

The extent to which the adult male population of the different areas of the state have contributed to the prison population is revealed in the following table. It should be noted, however, that the offenders are classified in the counties of sentence, which is not always, but generally, the county of their residence.

Geographic Area of Prison Population and Court Commitments
and of General Male Population 20 Years of Age and Over

GEOGRAPHIC AREA ^{1/}	* GENERAL MALE POPULATION TWENTY YEARS OF AGE AND OVER	NUMBER OF	
		STATE PRISON POPULATION ^{2/}	COURT COMMITMENTS ^{2/}
All Areas	1,659,449	2733	741
Northeastern New Jersey	1,061,640	1622	424
Northwestern New Jersey	135,745	158	45
Trenton Area	81,779	99	26
Camden Area	180,506	356	83
All Other Counties	199,779	498	163

^{1/}NORTHEASTERN INCLUDES BERGEN, ESSEX, HUDSON, MIDDLESEX, PASSAIC, AND UNION COUNTIES.

NORTHWESTERN INCLUDES HUNTERDON, MORRIS, SOMERSET, SUSSEX, AND WARREN COUNTIES.

TRENTON AREA - MERCER COUNTY.

CAMDEN AREA - BURLINGTON, CAMDEN, AND GLOUCESTER COUNTIES.

ALL OTHER COUNTIES - ATLANTIC, CAPE MAY, CUMBERLAND, MONMOUTH, OCEAN, AND SALEM COUNTIES.

^{2/}ANNUAL AVERAGE 1949 - 1951.

*Throughout the study rates are based on 1950 U.S. Census of Population unless otherwise noted.

The relation of the number in the prison population and in the court commitments, to the general population of each area offers an index of the occurrence of crime in the area. This relation may be interpreted in terms of the number in each group (*the prison population and the court commitments*) for each 100,000 of the general population of the area, as shown in the following table:

GEOGRAPHIC AREA ^{1/}	RATE PER 100,000 GENERAL MALE POPULATION (Twenty Years of Age and Over)	
	STATE PRISON POPULATION	COURT COMMITMENTS
All Areas	164.7	44.7
Northeastern New Jersey	152.8	39.9
Northwestern New Jersey	116.4	33.2
Trenton Area	121.1	31.8
Camden Area	197.2	46.0
All Other Counties	249.3	81.6

^{1/} NORTHEASTERN INCLUDES BERGEN, ESSEX, HUDSON, MIDDLESEX, PASSAIC, AND UNION COUNTIES.
 NORTHWESTERN INCLUDES HUNTERDON, MORRIS, SOMERSET, SUSSEX, AND WARREN COUNTIES.
 TRENTON AREA - MERCER COUNTY.
 CAMDEN AREA - BURLINGTON, CAMDEN, AND GLOUCESTER COUNTIES.
 ALL OTHER COUNTIES - ATLANTIC, CAPE MAY, CUMBERLAND, MONMOUTH, OCEAN, AND SALEM COUNTIES.

OFFENSE FOR WHICH IMPRISONED

In the last few years an annual average of almost 750 penal offenders were committed by the courts to serve time in the State Prison. The following table shows the great variety and seriousness of the offenses which brought them in conflict with the law.

Offenses For Which Imprisoned
Period 1949 - 1953

OFFENSE	COURT COMMITMENTS	
	TOTAL FOR PERIOD 1949-1953	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION
Total	3734	100.0%
Homicide	279	7.5
Robbery	449	12.0
Assault	457	12.3
Burglary	698	18.7
Larceny except auto	232	6.2
Auto theft	146	3.9
Rape	151	4.0
Other sex offenses	183	4.9
Embezzlement, fraud, etc.	334	8.9
Drug law violation	137	3.7
Non-support	275	7.4
Gambling	201	5.4
All other offenses	192	5.1

Robbery, assault and burglary with a combined total of forty-three per cent represent the bulk of the offenders.

AGE IN RELATION TO OFFENSE

Age seems to have a definite relation to the type of offense as the following figures illustrate:

Age In Relation To Offense Of Court Commitments

Period 1949 - 1953

OFFENSE	AGE ON COMMITMENT		
	UNDER 30 YEARS OF AGE	30-49 YEARS OF AGE	50 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER
Number	1449	1936	349
<i>Per cent of which</i>			
Homicide	7.2%	6.4%	14.6%
Robbery	20.3	7.3	3.7
Assault	10.6	13.8	10.6
Burglary	25.4	15.7	7.5
Larceny except auto	5.7	7.0	4.0
Auto theft	5.6	3.2	1.2
Rape	5.0	2.9	6.9
Other sex offenses	1.8	5.9	12.3
Embezzlement, fraud, etc.	4.6	10.8	16.3
Drug law violation	5.5	2.8	0.6
Non-support	3.6	10.8	3.4
Gambling	0.8	8.0	10.3
All other offenses	3.9	5.4	8.6

Among the younger offenders robbery and burglary are the offenses most often committed. In the age group 30-49 years there is no decided concentration but the largest number of commitments are for burglary and assault. The offenses with the highest concentration among the older offenders are embezzlement, fraud, etc. and homicide. A high proportion of this older group are sentenced also for sex offenses and gambling.

SENTENCING

Of the total number of 3734 committed to the Prison during the last five years 3653 received a minimum-maximum sentence, 64 were sentenced to life and 16 received the death penalty. One was remanded by the court.

With the exception of sentences to a life term, or to death, sentences to be served by prisoners committed to the State Prison are of the minimum-maximum type. Under this procedure the maximum time of imprisonment for each offense is prescribed by law and the sentencing judge may not set the maximum sentence higher than the legal maximum for the offense committed. He may, however, prescribe any time period under the legal maximum which he deems proper.

The criminal code of New Jersey gives discretion to the court to sentence persons indicted, tried, and convicted as multiple offenders for longer terms:

Second offenders - twice the statutory maximum.

Third offenders - three times the statutory maximum.

Fourth offenders - life term.

The minimum time of the minimum-maximum sentences of the 3653 individuals committed under this sentencing provision over the last five years is shown below:

Minimum of Minimum-Maximum Sentence of Court Commitments
Period 1949 - 1953

MINIMUM OF MINIMUM-MAXIMUM SENTENCE	COURT COMMITMENTS	
	TOTAL FOR PERIOD 1949-1953	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION
Total	3653	100.0%
1 year	1131	31.0
2 years	1163	31.8
3 years	423	11.6
4 years	168	4.5
5 - 9 years	536	14.7
10-14 years	124	3.4
15-19 years	50	1.4
20 years and over	58	1.6

It will be seen that the minimum sentences which govern the length of imprisonment are not unusually long on the whole, contrary to general

popular belief. The minimum sentences in more than 62 per cent of the cases were less than three years, and in almost 80 per cent of the cases less than five years.

The length of the minimum of the minimum-maximum sentences meted out to penal offenders varies, of course, with the punishment prescribed for specified crimes in the penal code, as the figures below show:

Minimum Sentences for Selected Offenses of Court Commitments
Period 1949 - 1953

SELECTED OFFENSE OF COURT COMMITMENTS	TOTAL FOR PERIOD 1949-1953	MINIMUM OF MINIMUM-MAXIMUM SENTENCE			
		PER CENT OF WHICH			
		1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 - 9 YEARS	10 YEARS AND OVER
Total *	3124	27.6%	31.0%	34.1%	7.3%
Homicide	204	5.4	5.4	49.0	40.2
Robbery	448	8.0	19.6	53.6	18.8
Assault	455	34.5	36.9	27.3	1.3
Burglary	697	20.4	31.4	44.5	3.7
Larceny except auto	232	41.4	35.4	22.8	0.4
Auto theft	146	37.7	42.5	18.4	1.4
Rape	150	9.3	18.7	63.3	8.7
Other sex offenses	183	32.8	35.6	27.8	3.8
Embezzlement, fraud, etc.	334	37.7	41.0	19.5	1.8
Non-support	275	60.0	39.6	0.4	-

*Not Including

LIFE SENTENCE - Homicide 59; Robbery 1; Assault 2; Burglary 1; Rape 1.
DEATH SENTENCE - Homicide 16.

Median Time of Minimum Sentences
for Selected Offenses of Court Commitments

SELECTED OFFENSE OF COURT COMMITMENTS	TOTAL FOR PERIOD 1949-1953	MEDIAN TIME OF <i>MINIMUM</i> OF MINIMUM - MAXIMUM SENTENCE
Homicide	204	8.4 years
Robbery	448	4.6 years
Assault	455	2.4 years
Burglary	697	2.9 years
Larceny except auto	232	2.3 years
Auto theft	146	2.3 years
Rape	150	4.0 years
Other sex offenses	183	2.0 years
Embezzlement, fraud, etc.	334	2.3 years
Non-support	275	1.5 years

A table showing the maximum sentence of the 1976 prisoners with minimum-maximum sentences now in the State Prison follows:

Maximum Sentences of
State Prison Population

YEARS OF MAXIMUM SENTENCE	NUMBER	PER CENT
Total	1976	100.0%
1 year	34	1.7
2 years	95	4.8
3 years	417	21.1
4 years	45	2.3
5 years	232	11.8
6 years	75	3.8
7 years	226	11.4
8 years	30	1.5
9 years	35	1.8
10 years	160	8.1
11 to 14 years	144	7.3
15 to 19 years	162	8.2
20 to 29 years	160	8.1
30 years and over	161	8.1

It may be interesting to observe that were the 1976 prisoners to serve out their maximum sentences they would have to be confined and state-supported for more than 21,000 years.

The following table presents in highly condensed fashion the relation between the minimum and the maximum time in each of the minimum sentences ranging from one to ten years.

Relation of Minimum Sentence to Maximum Sentence
State Prison Population

NUMBER OF PRISONERS	CLASSIFIED MINIMUM SENTENCE	AVERAGE MAXIMUM SENTENCE	HIGHEST MAXIMUM SENTENCE
215	1 Year	2.3 Years	10 Years
420	2 Years	3.4 Years	15 Years
237	3 Years	5.4 Years	12 Years
105	4 Years	6.9 Years	14 Years
213	5 Years	7.5 Years	22 Years
80	6 Years	8.2 Years	27 Years
102	7 Years	11.1 Years	27 Years
81	8 Years	12.7 Years	30 Years
42	9 Years	13.4 Years	27 Years
125	10 Years	15.6 Years	30 Years

It is interesting to note that there exists a somewhat uniform relation between the minimum and the maximum sentence in each of the yearly minimum sentence intervals. This is illustrated by the following figures which show that the difference in time between the minimum and the maximum sentence increases as the minimum increases.

Difference Between Minimum Sentence and Maximum Sentence
State Prison Population

CLASSIFIED MINIMUM SENTENCE	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MINIMUM AND AVERAGE MAXIMUM SENTENCE
1 year	1.3 years
2 years	1.4 years
3 years	2.4 years
4 years	2.9 years
5 years	2.5 years
6 years	2.2 years
7 years	4.1 years
8 years	4.7 years
9 years	4.4 years
10 years	5.6 years

TIME BEFORE FIRST PAROLE

At the time of the commitment of the individual prisoner the stipulations, as set by law noted below, fix the time he is to be incarcerated before being eligible for parole consideration.

The law further stipulates that each prisoner may reduce the minimum and the maximum of the sentence he received from the court (a) he may earn during his imprisonment as much as one day per week for performing work assignments conscientiously, (b) he may earn also commutation or "good conduct" time, up to 60 days during the first year of imprisonment and in increasing amounts for subsequent years, for orderly deportment and manifest effort at self-control and improvement.

PAROLE ELIGIBILITY - LEGAL STIPULATIONS

First Offenders - after serving the minimum time imposed by the court less work time and good conduct time, or after serving one-third of the court-imposed maximum whichever is the lesser.

Multiple Offenders (*Inmates classified as second, third or fourth offenders for parole eligibility purposes*) are required to serve greater portions of their respective maximum sentences before attaining eligibility for parole consideration.

All prisoners with life sentences must serve 25 years less work time and commutation time.

The eligibility date for parole consideration is determined by the Parole Board* and no petition is required by the prisoner.

At the time of each prisoner's eligibility for parole his case is examined by the State Parole Board. The Board after careful consideration of each case (1) grants parole then or fixes a future date, (2) re-schedules the case for hearing at a later date or (3) denies parole and holds prisoner to serve his maximum sentence, on the basis

*THE STATE PAROLE BOARD, CREATED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT BY THE 1948 LEGISLATURE IS COMPOSED OF THREE MEMBERS OF RECOGNIZED ABILITY IN THE FIELD OF PENOLOGY.

of whether or not the individual may be considered trustworthy and able to remain at liberty without violating the law.

During the five-year period 1949-1953 more than 2500 prisoners were released on parole for the first time. Nearly fifty-five per cent had spent less than two years in the prison and an additional 30 per cent between 2 and 4 years.

Time Spent in Institution Before First Parole
of Parole Releases
Period 1949-1953

TIME BEFORE FIRST PAROLE	TOTAL FOR PERIOD 1949-1953	PER CENT DISTRIBU- TION
Total	2566	100.0%
Less than 1 year	535	20.9
1 year	870	33.9
2 years	360	14.0
3 years	223	8.7
4 years	169	6.6
5 - 9 years	281	11.0
10 - 14 years	78	3.0
15 - 19 years	29	1.1
20 years and over	21	0.8

Median Time Spent in Institution Before Release on
First Parole of Parole Releases with Selected Offenses

Period 1949-1953

SELECTED OFFENSE. OF PAROLE RELEASES	NUMBER PAROLE RELEASES	MEDIAN TIME SERVED BEFORE FIRST PAROLE
Total	2258	
Homicide	189	8.5 Years
Robbery	302	3.4 Years
Assault	336	1.6 Years
Burglary	437	2.5 Years
Larceny except auto	184	1.8 Years
Auto theft	98	1.6 Years
Rape	176	3.4 Years
Other sex offenses	131	1.9 Years
Embezzlement, fraud, etc.	206	1.6 Years
Non-support	199	1.1 Years

As has been noted in the section on Sentencing the extent of time to be served for specific offenses is related to their severity as recognized in the penal code. This relation is reflected in the following table:

Distribution of Time Spent in Institution Before First Parole
of Parole Releases with Selected Offenses

Period 1949-1953

SELECTED OFFENSE OF PAROLE RELEASES	TOTAL FOR PERIOD 1949-1953	TIME SERVED BEFORE FIRST PAROLE PER CENT DISTRIBUTION				
		UNDER 1 YEAR	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 & 4 YEARS	5 YEARS AND OVER
Total	2258	17.3%	33.0%	14.9%	16.9%	17.9%
Homicide	189	1.1	11.6	7.9	14.8	64.6
Robbery	302	7.0	20.2	18.9	26.5	27.4
Assault	336	23.2	44.4	13.7	11.6	7.1
Burglary	437	10.3	28.8	22.2	22.4	16.3
Larceny except auto	184	23.9	34.3	14.7	20.1	7.0
Auto theft	98	22.5	45.9	11.2	13.2	7.2
Rape	176	6.3	17.6	18.8	26.1	31.2
Other sex offenses	131	24.4	30.5	12.2	16.8	16.1
Embezzlement, fraud, etc.	206	22.3	50.5	14.1	8.7	4.4
Non-support	199	45.2	52.3	2.5	-	-

COMMUNITY ADJUSTMENT ON PAROLE

Before he may be released on parole the individual must have an approved home situation and a visible means of support.

Upon his release he is under the supervision of the Parole Bureau of the Department of Institutions and Agencies in the Parole District in which he will reside. During his parole period he is supervised by a parole officer who guides and assists him in his social rehabilitation while he is becoming re-accustomed to an independent existence. At the same time he is required to maintain certain standards of conduct and behavior under penalty of having his parole revoked and being returned to the Prison to complete his sentence.

A successful parolee is one who completes his parole period in the community in compliance with the rules governing his conduct laid down by the paroling authority.

A parole failure is a parolee who during his parole period disobeys these regulations or commits a new offense against society.

A general view of parole success is one which shows the proportion of the average number of parolees in a given year who do not violate their parole during that year, and the proportion who do. These data for the last three years are shown on the following table:

Parole Success Based on Average Number on Parole
1951 - 1953

YEAR	AVERAGE NUMBER ON PAROLE	PAROLE SUCCESSES	PAROLE FAILURES
1951	962	82.2%	17.8%
1952	965	77.4	22.6
1953	1030	76.8	23.2

Another appraisal of parole success based on the adjustment of 391 parolees followed throughout their individual parole periods up to a maximum of five years on parole showed 72.4% successful parolees and 27.6% parole violators.

II. SOME PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STATE PRISONERS

AGE OF PRISONERS

Both the present age of the 2227 state prisoners and the age at time of commitment to the state prison of court commitments for a five-year period are shown in the following table:

Age of State Prison Population
and of Court Commitments During Period 1949-1953

AGE	STATE PRISON POPULATION	COMMITMENTS TOTAL FOR PERIOD 1949-1953
Number	2227	3734
<i>Per cent of which</i>		
Under 20 years	0.3%	2.4%
20 - 24 years	11.2	15.6
25 - 34 years	42.2	40.1
35 - 49 years	35.2	32.6
50 years and over	11.1	9.3

The preponderant proportion of both the prisoners in the prison at the present time and those committed in the last five years is in the age group 25 to 49 years of age - 77.4 per cent and 72.7 per cent respectively.

The table below shows the prison population, and the average number of court commitments for the last five years, as well as the general male population of the state for similar age groups.

AGE GROUP	GENERAL MALE POPULATION	STATE PRISON POPULATION	AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF COURT COMMITMENTS PERIOD 1949-1953
All Ages	1,721,568	2227	746
18 - 19 years	62,119	7	18
20 - 24 years	169,197	249	116
25 - 34 years	393,807	939	300
35 - 49 years	528,063	784	243
50 years and over	568,382	248	69

The relation between the number in each age group in the prison population and in the court commitments to the general population of the same age group offers some indication of the occurrence of crime in the several age groups. This relation may be expressed in terms of the number in each age group in the prison population and the court commitments for each 100,000 of the general population in the same age group, and is shown on the following table:

Relation of Age of Prison Population and Court Commitments to General Male Population

AGE GROUP	RATE PER 100,000 GENERAL MALE POPULATION OF SPECIFIED AGE	
	STATE PRISON POPULATION	AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF COURT COMMITMENTS PERIOD 1949-1953
All Ages	129.4	43.3
18 - 19 years	11.3	29.0
20 - 24 years	147.2	68.6
25 - 34 years	238.4	76.2
35 - 49 years	148.5	46.0
50 years and over	43.6	12.1

RACE AND NATIVITY OF PRISONERS

Of the 2304 inmates in the prison at the end of the last fiscal year, 1251 were white and 1053 non-white (54.3 per cent white and 45.7 per cent non-white).

Of the average annual number committed by the court during the last four years 418 were white and 328 non-white (56.0 per cent white and 44.0 per cent non-white).

The relation between the races in the general population and the number of court commitments to the prison during the last four years is shown in the following table:

RACE	GENERAL MALE POPULATION 20 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER	COURT COMMITMENTS TOTAL FOR PERIOD 1950-1953
Number	1,659,449	2984
<i>Per cent of which</i>		
White	93.7%	56.0%
Non-white	6.3	44.0

The following illustrates the nativity of the white prisoners committed during the four year period 1950-1953:

NATIVITY	WHITE COURT COMMITMENTS TOTAL FOR PERIOD 1950-1953
Number	1670
<i>Per cent of which</i>	
Native born white	93.7%
Of native parentage	44.7
Of foreign or mixed parentage	49.0
Foreign born white	6.3

SCHOOL ATTAINMENT OF PRISONERS

A summary of the school attainment of the present inmates of the state prison compared with that of the general population over 25 years of age shows a considerably lower level of educational achievement among the state prisoners:

School Attainment of Male General Population and of State Prison Population

SCHOOL ATTAINMENT	GENERAL MALE POPULATION 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER	STATE PRISON POPULATION
Number	1,423,545	2214
<i>Per cent of which</i>		
Less than 8th grade	25.1%	40.8%
8th grade	22.9	22.5
Above 8th grade	52.0	36.7

A somewhat more detailed breakdown of the school attainments may be found in the following table:

SCHOOL ATTAINMENT	GENERAL MALE POPULATION 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER	STATE PRISON POPULATION
Number	1,423,545	2214
<i>Per cent of which</i>		
Less than 8th grade	25.1%	40.8%
8th grade	22.9	22.5
9th - 11th grade	17.2	27.8
High School	19.6	6.3
Some college	15.2	2.6

(Not including a few whose education was unknown.)

The generally lower level of school attainment among the prison population increases progressively with their advancing ages.

Age in Relation to School Attainment
of State Prison Population

PRESENT AGE	LESS THAN EIGHTH GRADE	EIGHTH GRADE	NINTH - ELEVENTH GRADE	HIGH SCHOOL AND ABOVE
All Ages	40.8%	22.5%	27.8%	8.9%
Under 25 years	27.7	22.7	43.4	6.2
25 to 34 years	30.4	24.8	35.4	9.4
35 to 49 years	50.2	20.6	19.5	9.7
50 years and over	64.6	20.0	7.9	7.5

MENTAL LEVELS OF PRISONERS

To deal effectively in the rehabilitation of the individual prisoner it is important to measure his general intelligence. Psychological examination reveals his mental capacity to understand his conflict with the social order and his need for rehabilitation.

Mental Levels on Admission
of State Prison Population

MENTAL LEVEL	NUMBER	PER CENT
Total	2210	100.0%
Superior	175	7.9
Average	1003	45.4
Dull normal or inferior	636	28.8
Borderline	328	14.8
Mentally deficient	68	3.1

(Not including a few not examined)

A general description of the psychological terms used is given in somewhat non-technical language below:

- Superior: An individual of superior intelligence is one who is much brighter than the majority of people of his own age.
- Average: An individual of average intelligence is one who is as bright as the majority of people of his own age.
- Dull Normal
or
Inferior: An individual of dull normal intelligence is one who is slightly less bright than the majority of people of his own age.
- Borderline: An individual of borderline intelligence is one who is appreciably less bright than the majority of people of his own age but is not mentally deficient.
- Mentally
Deficient: An individual who cannot meet his social needs without varying degrees of supervision and guidance.

The determination of the general intelligence level of the offender is important not only from the standpoint of deciding on an educational and vocational program for him within the institution, but also from the point of view of ascertaining his capacities to participate in parole plans.

The distribution shown in the table indicates that this population is not too different as far as mental level is concerned from the general civilian population. It also resembles the distribution of mental levels observed in the examination of military populations.

There is perhaps a greater percentage of mental deficient in the prison population than in the general population, particularly if individuals designated as borderline are considered mental deficient.

In addition to concerning himself with the intelligence level of the particular offender so that appropriate institutional assign-

ments may be made, the psychologist in the correctional situation concerns himself with the determination of psychological factors as they relate to the delinquency. The psychologist estimates the general stability of the inmate and the kind of custody and supervision that will be necessary to provide that his prison experience is most rehabilitating. He is prepared to counsel and guide the inmate with personality deviation.

Not only is the inmate re-evaluated in the course of his prison experience but immediately prior to parole he is once again examined by the psychologist in order to estimate the possibilities of successful adjustment on parole. These psychological reports are considered by the Parole Board in making their decision about the release of the inmate.

PSYCHIATRIC CONSTITUTION OF PRISONERS

The studies of the individual prisoner made by the psychiatrist have as their purpose to learn something of his personality make-up and character traits, his behavior characteristics as they reveal themselves in emotional disturbances and conflicts, and the bearing they might have upon the prisoner's anti-social and criminal conduct and his outlook for personal and social adjustment.

The results of psychiatric examinations of more than 2,000 prisoners made by Dr. Paul B. Means, Psychiatrist, Mental Hygiene Bureau, Trenton State Hospital, are summarized in the following table:

Psychiatric Diagnoses on Admission of
State Prison Population

PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS*	PRESENT POPULATION	
	NUMBER	PER CENT
Total	2227	100.0%
Psychotic	4	0.2
Psychopathic personality	419	18.8
Constitutional defective	826	37.1
Constitutional inferior	154	6.9
Chronic alcoholic	146	6.5
Epilepsy	15	0.7
Psychoneurotic	7	0.3
Mental deficiency	24	1.1
No psychosis	632	28.4

*FOR A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE PSYCHIATRIC TERMS USED SEE APPENDIX B.

III. A FIFTY-YEAR TREND IN THE PRISON POPULATION

PRISON POPULATION AND COURT COMMITMENTS

The long term trend in the prison population shows a steadily increasing number in the prisoners confined, but a fluctuating number in the court commitments, the highest number occurring in the period 1930-1939, showing a decline in the next ten-year period 1940-1949, but again rising somewhat in recent year.

Trend in Prison Population
and Court Commitments
1900 - 1953

PERIOD	AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER	
	STATE PRISON POPULATION	COURT COMMITMENTS
1900 - 1909	1203	486
1910 - 1919	1328	480
1920 - 1929	1419	564
1930 - 1939	1875	826
1940 - 1949	2035	668
1950 - 1953	2547	746

The table below showing prison population related to the general male population 20 years of age and over allows, however, a more valid observation in the trend in the prison situation.

Rate of Prison Population and Court Commitments
To General Male Population
1900 - 1953

PERIOD	RATE PER 100,000 GENERAL MALE POPULATION 20 YEARS AND OVER *	
	STATE PRISON POPULATION	COURT COMMITMENTS
1900 - 1909	175.5	70.9
1910 - 1919	148.9	53.8
1920 - 1929	121.5	49.5
1930 - 1939	137.3	60.5
1940 - 1949	131.5	43.2
1950 - 1953	153.5	45.0

* ESTIMATED POPULATION FOR MID-POINT OF PERIOD

It is most interesting to note that the highest rate in the prison population occurred in the period 1900-1909; that there was a considerable decline in the rates over the next four ten-year periods and a noticeable rise occurring again in the period 1950-1953.

In the case of court commitments the rate was the highest in the period 1900-1909. In subsequent periods the rates were generally lower showing some fluctuations, however.

OFFENSE

The changing pattern in the offenses for which offenders were committed to the prison over a fifty-three years period is shown in the table which follows:

Trend in Offenses of Court Commitments
1900 - 1953

OFFENSE	COURT COMMITMENTS					
	- PERIOD -					
	1900 to 1909	1910 to 1919	1920 to 1929	1930 to 1939	1940 to 1949	1950 to 1953
Average Annual Number	486	480	564	826	668	746
<i>Per cent of which</i>						
Homicide	5.1%	7.3%	9.9%	7.9%	6.7%	7.5%
Robbery	4.1	6.5	12.2	17.4	13.0	12.1
Assault	20.8	19.8	12.8	12.3	14.1	11.8
Burglary	24.1	20.0	20.6	19.2	17.8	18.9
Larceny except auto	(((9.3	8.2	6.0
Auto theft	(22.6	(17.5	(11.2	1.6	3.7	4.0
Rape	6.2	7.3	9.0	6.8	8.9	3.1
Other sex offenses	3.9	6.0	6.2	6.1	8.0	4.2
Embezzlement, fraud, etc.	5.2	6.1	6.6	6.9	7.6	9.1
Drug law violation	-	0.2	2.3	0.9	0.5	4.6
Non-support	0.2	0.8	1.4	1.8	5.2	7.5
Gambling	+	+	+	0.4	0.9	5.9
Other offenses	7.8	8.5	7.8	9.4	5.4	5.3

+ INCLUDED IN "ALL OTHER OFFENSES"

COURT SENTENCES

The following table which shows a percentage distribution of the classified minimum sentences of the minimum-maximum sentences at given intervals since 1935, has considerable significance since there seems to be little change in the relative number of given minimum sentences over an extended time period.

Trend in Minimum Sentences
of Court Commitments
1935 - 1953

PERIOD	AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER	MINIMUM of MINIMUM-MAXIMUM SENTENCE					
		<i>Per cent of which</i>					
		1 YEAR	2-4 YEARS	5-9 YEARS	10-14 YEARS	15-19 YEARS	20 YEARS AND OVER
1935 - 1939	723	29.9%	40.4%	19.6%	5.7%	1.9%	2.5%
1940 - 1944	620	29.2	43.1	16.9	6.5	1.6	2.7
1945 - 1949	687	26.1	47.0	18.5	5.7	0.8	1.9
1950 - 1953	730	31.0	48.8	14.2	3.2	1.3	1.5

TIME SERVED

The time intervals served by state prisoners before being released on parole for the first time do not seem to show pronounced fluctuations over an nineteen-year period as the following table illustrates.

Trend in Time Served Before First Parole
of Parole Releases
1935 - 1953

PERIOD	AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER RELEASED ON FIRST PAROLE	TIME SERVED BEFORE FIRST PAROLE					
		<i>Per cent of which</i>					
		LESS THAN 1 YEAR	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	4 YEARS	5 YEARS AND OVER
1935 - 1939	412	25.5%	36.9%	16.0%	8.0%	4.4%	9.2%
1940 - 1944	527	21.8	31.5	14.6	10.5	5.3	16.3
1945 - 1949	431	18.8	36.2	14.8	8.8	5.1	16.3
1950 - 1953	550	20.4	32.9	13.8	9.1	6.7	17.1

This is further illustrated in the figures cited below:

Trend in Median Time Served
Before First Parole of Parole Releases
1935 - 1953

PERIOD	MEDIAN LENGTH OF TIME SERVED BEFORE FIRST PAROLE
1935 - 1939	1.7 Years
1940 - 1944	2.0 Years
1945 - 1949	1.8 Years
1950 - 1953	1.9 Years

AGE

Taken as a whole the age levels under 30 years of age of individuals committed to the State Prison by the court have generally declined since 1900, and a relative increase has taken place in the prisoners over 30 years of age.

Trend in Age of Court Commitments
1900 - 1953

PERIOD	AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER	Per cent of which			
		LESS THAN 20 YEARS	20-29 YEARS	30-49 YEARS	50 YEARS AND OVER
1900 - 1909	486	7.8%	45.7%	39.7%	6.8%
1910 - 1919	480	6.0	43.1	43.6	7.3
1920 - 1929	564	5.3	47.2	41.1	6.4
1930 - 1939	826	5.6	41.5	45.3	7.6
1940 - 1949	668	3.9	36.7	49.3	10.1
1950 - 1953	746	2.4	36.5	52.1	9.0

A simplified index of the trend in the age levels of prisoners committed since 1900 will be found below:

Trend in Median Age of
Court Commitments
1900 - 1953

PERIOD	MEDIAN AGE OF COURT COMMITMENTS
1900 - 1909	29.2 Years
1910 - 1919	30.2 Years
1920 - 1929	29.5 Years
1930 - 1939	30.8 Years
1940 - 1949	32.6 Years
1950 - 1953	32.9 Years

NATIVITY

The changes that have taken place in the immigration policies of this country are reflected clearly in the following figures which show a sharp decline in the proportion of the foreign-born committed to the State Prison and a perceptible increase in native born prisoners of foreign or mixed parentage.

Trend in Nativity of White Court Commitments

1910 - 1953

PERIOD	AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF WHITE COMMITMENTS	NATIVITY OF WHITE PRISONERS			
		PER CENT DISTRIBUTION			
		NATIVE WHITE			FOREIGN BORN
TOTAL	OF NATIVE PARENTAGE	OF FOREIGN OR MIXED PARENTAGE			
1910 - 1914	396	57.3%	31.8%	25.5%	42.7%
1920 - 1924	334	64.7	29.4	35.3	35.3
1930 - 1934	626	76.8	35.1	41.7	23.2
1940 - 1944	412	87.1	43.2	43.9	12.9
1950 - 1953	394	93.7	44.7	49.0	6.3

IV. COMPARISON OF PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PRISONERS IN THE THREE PRISON UNITS

All penal offenders sentenced by the court to serve time in the State Prison are kept in custody at the State Prison proper until such time as the classification committee has completed its studies, and a decision is made whether the individual prisoner is to be kept in the State Prison itself, or to be transferred to either of the two prison farms - Rahway or Leesburg.

The following tables compare certain characteristics of the inmates of the three units of the State Prison.

Age of Present Population at
State Prison and Prison Farms

PRESENT AGE	TOTAL	STATE PRISON	RAHWAY PRISON FARM	LEESBURG PRISON FARM
Total Number	2227	1088	930	209
<i>Per cent of which</i>				
Under 25 years	11.5%	10.7%	14.0%	4.8%
25 - 34 years	42.2	41.7	44.3	34.9
35 - 49 years	35.2	35.7	33.5	40.2
50 years and over	11.1	11.9	8.2	20.1

School Attainment of Present Population at
State Prison and Prison Farms

SCHOOL ATTAINMENT	TOTAL	STATE PRISON	RAHWAY PRISON FARM	LEESBURG PRISON FARM
Total Number	2214	1077	928	209
<i>Per cent of which</i>				
Less than 8th grade	40.8%	39.7%	39.8%	48.3%
8th grade	22.5	22.8	22.8	18.7
Above 8th grade	36.7	37.5	37.4	33.0

(Not including a few whose education was unknown)

Mental Level of Present Population
of State Prison and Prison Farms

MENTAL LEVEL	TOTAL	STATE PRISON	RAHWAY PRISON FARM	LEESBURG PRISON FARM
Total Number	2210	1078	923	209
<i>Per cent of which</i>				
Superior	7.9%	8.2%	7.5%	8.6%
Average	45.4	46.1	45.4	41.6
Dull normal or inferior	28.8	29.9	27.1	30.7
Borderline	14.8	13.1	16.8	14.8
Mental deficiency	3.1	2.7	3.2	4.3

(Not including a few not examined)

Psychiatric Diagnoses of Present Population
of State Prison and Prison Farms

PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS	TOTAL	STATE PRISON	RAHWAY PRISON FARM	LEESBURG PRISON FARM
Total Number	2227	1088	930	209
<i>Per cent of which</i>				
Psychotic	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	-
Psychopathic personality	18.8	20.9	19.2	5.7%
Constitutional defective	37.1	36.6	43.3	12.0
Constitutional inferior	6.9	6.8	8.0	2.9
Chronic alcoholic	6.5	6.0	5.3	15.3
Epilepsy	0.7	1.0	0.4	-
Psychoneurosis	0.3	0.6	-	0.5
Mental deficiency	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.4
No psychosis	28.4	26.9	22.5	62.2

APPENDIX A

ABSTRACT OF CASE HISTORY USED BY STATE PAROLE BOARD
IN CONSIDERING PAROLE ACTION

Personal Characteristics Native-born white of mixed native and foreign parentage, aged 29, married, one child.

Offense Robbery - 5 - 7 years
Plea - Non Vult

Inmate's Account of Offense Was driving with a friend and man who was robbed. Claims argument started between his friend and victim. He tried to stop them, felt disgusted, stopped the car and let the two men out but waited to pick up his friend a little later. States that friend had previously suggested to him that they rob the man and that following this testimony his lawyer advised him to plead non vult.

Official Account of Offense Defendant and accomplice planned to rob victim who was in habit of displaying wallet with money in it in restaurant frequented by defendants. On night of crime defendant drove victim and accomplice to nearby city at 11:15 p.m. Accomplice leaned over from back seat of car and struck victim with blackjack while defendant struck him about face with fists. They then left him and split the proceeds of the robbery - twenty-three dollars each.

Previous Record Long history of truancy, sentences to county jail for disorderly conduct and reckless driving, 3 years probation for larceny of auto.

Education Completed 6th grade.

Social History Father: shipping clerk
Mother: housewife
Siblings: 2 brothers in army and one in school
1 sister - housewife
Wife: housewife
Child: with mother
Family history elicited information that one brother was placed on probation in same case with inmate. Got along "fine" at home but mother used to "holler" at him for truancy. Reports there were boys who stole in the neighborhood and he got mixed up with a couple. The family rented a 6-room frame house with gas, bath, electricity. He gave his pay to his mother and she gave him back spending money.
Since marriage he and wife lived with his family paying \$15 a week. States he was unable to obtain rooms. Since his incarceration wife and child have moved to wife's home.

Economic Status Marginal.

Medical General physical condition good. Teeth - fair. Heart, lungs, ears, nose, and throat - normal. Eyes 20-30. Wasserman - negative.

Mental Level General Mental Level - Inferior.
Appears to be self-centered and feelings for family appear to be only on surface. Wife claims he did not support her and that he seldom worked. Although he claims he was never separated from her, she states she left him when he first became involved with the law after their marriage. He apparently traveled with poor associates and had little concern for his family.

Psychiatric Diagnosis Constitutional Defective.
No evidence of psychosis. He is amenable, unstable, and unreliable. Not recommended for transfer to either prison farm.

Industrial Unskilled, sporadic work record.

Disciplinary Out of place - 15 days loss of privileges (movies, recreation, etc.)
Refusing to work. Forfeited 60 credits "good conduct time".

Pre-Parole Plan Neighborhood - residential and shopping area, inhabitants of mixed nationalities, delinquency rate is moderate.

Home conditions - 5 room apartment on second floor of 3-story brick building adequately furnished. Housekeeping standards are excellent.

Family - Father, mother and one brother employed.
Harmonious relationship. Subject got along well with parents and siblings. Wife now employed and supporting child by herself. Does not wish reconciliation. Subject's family indicates willingness to assist in his supervision.

Employment Has verified offer of employment as laborer for construction company.

Evaluation Parents are interested in subject, want to help him, but are apprehensive of their ability to assist in his readjustment effectively. There is no indication that wife wishes reconciliation. Unless institution-ization has given him a new orientation he must be regarded as a serious parole risk. The surveillance aspect of parole will be accentuated in the hope that strict supervision will achieve successful rehabilitation.

Recommendations Approve parole plan on strict trial basis.

APPENDIX B

DEFINITION OF PSYCHIATRIC TERMS USED IN STUDY

1. *Psychotic* - Commonly means insanity and is a mental illness usually characterized by a falsification of reality by means of hallucinations, delusions, illusions or mental confusion or delirium, or blocking of thought and movement. Also includes severe depression (melancholy) or violence and excitement and destructiveness. There are many other symptoms, such as a flight of ideas and peculiar mannerisms, etc. All of these symptoms are not necessarily present in one individual and any one symptom taken at random does not indicate a psychosis.
2. *Psychopathic Personality* - This group is characterized primarily by personality deviations. Their general characteristics deviate from what may be expected of normal, socially adjusted individuals and this deviation is present to such a degree as to cause them to be unable to adjust to accepted social behavior for any long period of time. Some of these cases are borderline psychotic and some are even considered pre-psychotic and frequently do develop psychosis or have psychotic periods or episodes.

Three types may be distinguished:

- (1) The paranoid personality has poor insight and usually is an aggressive type. He can be extremely antagonistic, egotistic, sarcastic, abusive and frequently lies or grossly exaggerates a situation without benefit to himself. He has very little affection for anyone, even members of his own family. This type usually reacts unfavorably to any form of authority. He can easily become a quite stormy individual under slight emotional stress.
 - (2) The inadequate psychopath is a somewhat seclusive individual who is somewhat withdrawn and shows very little outward emotion and seldom lives up to his mental ability or if he does, he is a dependent type and lacks sustained effort and his whole social adjustment is inadequate.
 - (3) Sexual deviates include the homosexuals, the sadists and those that derive sexual satisfaction or stimulation through numerous vicarious activities.
3. *Constitutional Defective* -- Indicates the presence of a defect in the individual's inherent make-up. Probably this group's characteristics are mostly of a behavioristic pattern which usually can be traced back to very early childhood. They ordinarily do not present any outstanding or gross personality deviations. Their behavior is characterized by very early development of anti-social behavior such as petty thievery, lying protectively, truancy in school with a gradual tendency for their behavior to become fixed into a pattern of chronic delinquency. They seek associations among similar individuals and continue to commit crimes time after time advancing through the various reformatories, continuing their recidivistic anti-social behavior even after numerous prison terms. Of course, other factors than the constitutional element should be considered in these cases since they most often come from poor environment, broken homes and conditions of deprivation.

4. *Constitutional Inferior* - These cases are practically the same type as the constitutional defectives except that they have a low or borderline intelligence and may even be mental defectives and therefore generally inadequate in addition to their anti-social behavior.
5. *Chronic Alcoholic* - Individuals who are particularly susceptible to the habit-forming qualities of alcohol and either have used alcohol continuously for a long period of time or are inclined to have frequent episodes of excessive drinking. The underlying factors in this group may be either a neurotic state, a psychopathic state, or caused by domestic or environmental situations.
6. *Epilepsy* - Individuals who are subject to convulsive seizures either of a severe nature (Grand Mal) with a period of unconsciousness or which may be less severe even to the extent that there is no convulsion and the unconscious period may last only a few seconds (Petit Mal) and may hardly be noticeable.
7. *Psychoneurotic* - Primarily anxiety states which may be expressed either as anxiety or by the manifestation of some defense disorder such as depression or hysterical conversion of the underlying condition to some outward symptom in various parts of the body. There may be groundless fears (phobias) or compulsions. There are also amnesias of a neurotic type and even a state of stupor. These psychoneurotic symptoms may be derived from happenings occurring in early life.

Some anxiety states of short duration may have situational factors as causative agents and frequently are considered as only a temporary state associated with one of the other larger diagnostic groups.
8. *Mental Deficiency* - Although many mentally deficient cases are found in the constitutional inferior groups and some even in the psychotic or psychopathic groups the term as used here includes only those mentally deficient cases which show no marked instability or personality deviations except those one would expect to find in an individual with this degree of intellectual limitation. This group includes all such cases whose mental age would classify them either as high grade morons or any lesser mental ages.
9. *No Psychosis* - This group consists of those cases where no mental, epileptic, psychopathic or other psychiatric condition could be found on examination.

