

REPORT ON 1972 RELEASEES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION  
FROM MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Part III: Background Characteristics and  
Criminal History

Massachusetts Parole Board

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## INTRODUCTION

This report is the third in a series of reports describing persons released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions to parole supervision during 1972. These reports are the result of output from a computerized file of information about parolees which is being developed by the Parole-Correction Information System Project. The goal of these reports is to provide the Parole Department with basic information on the clients with whom they work.

The first two reports\* summarized information known upon admission to parole. The data presented included: city or program released to, release conditions, behavioral release condition, time incarcerated before release, time to serve on parole before discharge, and time in institution over reserve date. This report will describe 1972 state parolees in terms of characteristics known upon admission to prison. These characteristics are listed below.

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A) Background Characteristics

1. Age at commitment
2. Race
3. Education
4. Occupation
5. Marital Status
6. Military Service

B) Criminal History

1. Prior Incarcerations
2. Present Offense
3. Minimum Sentence
4. Committing Court

\* (a) Report on Parole Management Data: State Case Openings During 1972. Part I: Number of State Parolees, Type of Parole, Institution Released from, City or Program released to, First Parole Officer Assigned to, Release Conditions, Behavioral Release Conditions.  
(b) Report on Parole Management Data: State Case Openings During 1972. Part II: Length of Incarceration Before Parole, Days Over Reserve Date, Age at Release, Time to Serve on Parole.

It should be emphasized that the data presented represents the 1366 individuals who were released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions to parole supervision during 1972. This study does not include parolees from Houses of Correction. It is also important to point out that in most of the tables presented in this study there will be a number of cases for which data was unavailable. In each of these tables the percentages were calculated on the basis of the "known" data.

BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

Age at Commitment

Table I presents the age at which the 1972 parolees were originally committed to the sentences for which they were released during 1972. As Table I indicates, the great majority of the parolees (60%) were under the age of twenty five when they were originally incarcerated. The average age at commitment was 25 years.<sup>1</sup>

TABLE I

<u>Age at Incarceration</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
15 - 18	123	( 9.2)
19 - 20	233	(17.4)
21 - 22	249	(18.6)
23 - 24	201	(15.0)
25 - 29	272	(20.3)
30 - 39	177	(13.2)
40 and Older	86	( 6.4)
TOTAL	1341	(100.0)
Unknown	25	

<sup>1</sup> The variable, age at release, is presented in the second report.

Race

Table II displays a racial breakdown of the 1972 parolees.

TABLE II

<u>Race</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
White	877	(68.8)
Black	391	(30.7)
Other	7	( 0.5)
TOTAL	1275	(100.0)
UNKNOWN	91	

Education

In Table III the last grade of schooling completed is presented.

TABLE III

<u>Education Last Grade Completed</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
1 thru 5	62	( 5.9)
6 thru 8	331	(31.5)
9 thru 11	474	(45.1)
High School Grad. or More	183	(17.4)
TOTAL	1050	(100.0)
UNKNOWN	316	

Occupation

The occupational status is displayed in Table IV. Definitions of each of these categories are:

1. Unskilled: Manual operations (usually manufacturing, construction or mass production) that involve the performance of simple duties that may be learned within a short period of time and that require the exercise of

little or no independent judgment.

Examples: Laborer, longshoreman, simple machine operator, stock clerk, porter

2. Semi-Skilled: Manual occupations (usually manufacturing, construction or mass production) that are characterized by one or a combination of parts of the following requirements:

Exercise of manipulative ability of high order but limited to fairly well defined work routine.

Major reliance, not so much on judgment or dexterity, but upon vigilance and alertness.

Exercise of independent judgment to meet variables in the work situation not based on a wide knowledge of the work field.

May require performance of part of a craft or skilled occupation, but usually to a relatively limited extent.

Examples: Upholsterer, dressmaker, apprentices, bulldozer operator.

3. Skilled: Craft and manual occupations (usually manufacturing or construction) that require predominantly a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of processes involved in the work, the exercise of considerable independent judgment, usually a high degree of manual dexterity and in some instances extensive responsibility.

Examples: Cabinetmakers, electricians, machinists, plumbers, photo-engravers.

Also included in the skilled category are professional and managerial occupations.

Examples: Physicians, lawyers, teachers.

TABLE IV

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Unskilled	769	(73.0)
Semi-Skilled	203	(19.3)
Skilled	81	( 7.7)
TOTAL	1053	(100.0)
UNKNOWN	313	

Marital Status

The marital status at the time of commitment is presented in Table V.

TABLE V

<u>Marital Status</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Married	301	(24.5)
Single	720	(58.5)
Divorced	132	(10.7)
Separated	63	( 5.1)
Widowed	14	( 1.1)
TOTAL	1230	(100.0)
UNKNOWN	136	

Military Service

Whether or not the parolee served in the armed services is presented in Table VI.

TABLE VI

<u>Military Service</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
No	755	(62.1)
Yes	460	(37.9)
TOTAL	1215	(100.0)
UNKNOWN	151	

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Prior Incarcerations

Table VII provides a breakdown of the number or previous incarcerations the 1972 parolees served in:

- (A) Juvenile Institutions
- (B) Houses of Correction
- (C) State or Federal Institutions
- (D) All Correctional Institutions

TABLE VII

<u>Number of Prior Incarcerations</u>	<u>Juvenile Institutions</u>		<u>Houses of Correction</u>		<u>State Institutions</u>		<u>Total Incarcerations In All Institutions</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
None	873	(78.9)	635	(57.4)	734	(67.2)	426	(39.0)
1	147	(13.3)	219	(19.8)	246	(22.5)	220	(20.1)
2	55	( 5.0)	97	( 8.8)	68	( 6.2)	161	(14.7)
3 or More	31	( 2.8)	155	(14.0)	44	( 4.0)	285	(26.1)
<b>TOTAL</b>	1106	(100.0)	1106	(100.0)	1092	(100.0)	1092	(100.0)
<b>UNKNOWN</b>	260		260		274		274	

As Table VII indicates, of the 1972 M.C.I. parolees approximately:

- (1) 3 of every 4 have never been incarcerated in a juvenile facility (i.e., 78.9%).
- (2) 57% have never been incarcerated in houses of correction.
- (3) almost 2 of every 3 have never been committed to a state or federal institution (i.e., 67.2%).
- (4) 39% have never served time in a correctional facility, that is, they are first offenders.

Present Offense

The type of offense for which the subjects were originally committed is presented in Table VIII. Also provided in Appendix A is a complete listing of the number of individuals committed for each offense.

TABLE VIII

<u>Present Offense</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Person	571	(45.5)
Sex	98	( 7.8)
Property	363	(28.9)
Narcotic	188	(15.0)
Other	35	( 2.8)
TOTAL	1255	(100.0)
UNKNOWN	111	

Minimum Sentence

In Table IX the minimum sentence for which the subjects were committed is presented.

TABLE IX

<u>Minimum Sentence</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Indefinite	709	(55.4)
2½ Years	62	( 4.8)
3 Years	143	(11.2)
4 Years	56	( 4.4)
5 Years	122	( 9.5)
6 thru 10	125	( 9.8)
11 thru 40	45	( 3.5)
Life or Death	18	( 1.4)
TOTAL	1280	(100.0)
UNKNOWN	86	

Committing Court

Table X displays the court which committed the subjects.

TABLE X

<u>Committing Court</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Suffolk Superior	422	(32.1)
Hampden Superior	161	(12.2)
Middlesex Superior	147	(11.2)
Essex Superior	97	( 7.4)
Worcester Superior	96	( 7.3)
Bristol Superior	80	( 6.1)
Plymouth Superior	46	( 3.5)
Norfolk Superior	24	( 1.8)
Barnstable Superior	23	( 1.7)
Berkshire Superior	10	( 0.8)
Hampshire Superior	10	( 0.8)
Nantucket Superior	3	( 0.2)
Dukes Superior	2	( 0.2)
Franklin Superior	2	( 0.2)
Sub-Total for Superior Courts	1123	(85.4)
Boston Municipal	73	( 5.6)
Other Municipal	29	( 2.2)
Sub-Total for Municipal Courts	102	( 7.8)
District Courts	83	( 6.3)
Courts outside Massachusetts	7	( 0.5)
TOTAL	1315	(100.0)
UNKNOWN	51	

APPENDIX A

PRESENT OFFENSE OF 1972 RELEASES TO PAROLE

	<u>NUMBER</u>
Murder, 1st degree	5
Murder, 2nd degree	15
Manslaughter	66
Assaults with intent to commit murder	9
Armed Robbery	279
Unarmed Robbery	90
Assaults with intent to rob, etc., Being Armed	17
Assaults with intent to rob, etc., Not Being Armed	5
Armed assaults in dwelling houses	7
Assault and Assault and Battery	12
Assault and Battery with Dangerous Weapon	27
Assault by means of a Dangerous Weapon	28
Mayhem	1
Kidnapping	9
Extortion	1
Rape	33
Assault with Intent to Commit Rape	14
Rape of Female under Sixteen	4
Rape of Child	19
Assault on Female under Sixteen with intent to commit rape	10
Indecent Assault and Battery on Child under 14	4
Unnatural Acts with Child under 16	3
Sodomy and Buggery	4
Incest	7
Arson	20
Burglary, Being Armed or Making an Assault	1
Burglary	172
Possession of Burglary Implements	11
Larceny from the Person	24
Larceny	43
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	31
Forgery and Uttering	16
Common and Notorious Thief	2
Fraud	1

Appendix A -continued

Receiving Stolen Goods	38
Malicious or Wanton Injuries to Property	4
Escapes	9
Weapons Offenses	13
Stubborn Child	1
Prostitution	2
Abortion	2
Motor Vehicle Offenses	6
Contempt of Court	1
Possession of Narcotic Drugs	36
Possession of Heroin	29
Being Present Where Narcotic Drug Illegally Kept	12
Possession of Hypodermic Syringe	4
Inducing Another to Violate Narcotic Drug Law	1
Sale of Heroin	66
Sale of Narcotic Drugs	26
Possession of Narcotic Drugs with Intent to Sell	15
TOTAL	1255
UNKNOWN	111