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October 10, 1973

I N F O R M A T I O N B U L L E T I N

FROM: Correction and Parole Management Information System
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SUBJECT: Length of Incarceration Before Release for 1972 Releasees to Parole and Discharge

This report will describe the lengths of incarceration of releasees from the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions during 1972. It is broken into two major sections: First, the average lengths of incarceration are presented according to institution released from and type of release. By type of release is meant first paroles (on present commitment), second or subsequent paroles, and good conduct discharges. Second, the average length of incarceration is presented according to present offense and institution committed to.

Data for this report was obtained from the computerized files of individuals released on parole and on discharge developed by the Correction/Parole Management Information System.

The 1569 persons released from MCI's in 1972 may be divided into five different groups: (1) 1049 paroled for the first time on their present sentence, (2) 206 paroled for the second or subsequent time, (3) 155 discharged on good conduct discharges, (4) 48 discharged at the expiration

of their sentences and (5) 111 parolees for whom data was not available. Those persons released at expiration (no. 4) will not be discussed in this report for the reason that well over 80% of this group were female drunkenness commitments and thus are considered to be unique as compared to the rest of the releasee population.

Table I presents average length of incarceration according to type of release and institution released from.

TABLE I

AVERAGE LENGTH OF INCARCERATION (IN MONTHS) OF 1972 MCI RELEASEES, BY TYPE OF RELEASE AND INSTITUTION RELEASED FROM

	PAROLE 1ST RELEASE		PAROLE 2ND OR SUBSEQUENT RELEASE		GOOD CONDUCT DISCHARGE		TOTAL		UNKNOWN (N)
	AVE	(N)	AVE	(N)	AVE	(N)	AVE	(N)	
Malpole	36	(91)	6	(58)	44	(37)	24	(186)	9
Norfolk	27	(220)	10	(28)	56	(29)	27	(277)	23
Forestry	21	(123)	11	(5)	59	(14)	21	(142)	7
Concord/ Pre-Release	10	(544)	5	(100)	41	(54)	10	(698)	56
Framingham	9	(58)	7	(15)	17	(20)	9	(93)	16
Other	19	(13)	--	----	39	(1)	21	(14)	0
TOTAL	14	(1049)	7	(206)	43	(155)	15	(1410)	111

The first group, those released on first parole, typically served 14 months in the institution before release. Median periods of incarceration range from 9 months at Framingham to 36 months at Walpole. Further, parolees from Walpole, Norfolk and Forestry averaged three to four times as long before release as those from Concord, Pre-Release and Framingham.

The second group, those paroled for the second or subsequent time on their present sentence, served half as long, on the average, as those paroled for the first time - that is, 7 months as compared to 14 months. Median lengths of stay range from five months for Concord and Pre-Release releasees to 11 months for Forestry releasees. It is also noteworthy that those in this group released from Walpole had served nearly the same amount of time (6 months) as those released from Concord, Pre-Release and Framingham (5 and 7 months respectively).

Those discharged in 1972 had a typical length of incarceration of 43 months. While considerably longer than that for either of the above groups, the time served by male dischargees is not nearly as disparate among institutions as were those for parolees.

Overall, for the 1410 releasees for whom data was available, the median length of incarceration was 15 months. Time periods range from 9 months at Framingham to 27 at Norfolk. Walpole, Norfolk and Forestry releasees served from two and one half to three times as long as those released from Concord, Pre-Release and Framingham.

Table II shows average length of incarceration according to present offense for 1972 releasees. The table is divided into three sections by the institution to which the releasees were originally committed. The data is limited to those residents whose release during 1972 was their first on their present sentence. That is, persons whose release followed a return on a parole violation were not included.

By way of clarification, "Percentage of Maximum (Less Good Time) Served " was derived by comparing the average length of incarceration, for each offense category, to the average length of time from commitment date to good conduct discharge date. Thus, for example, an individual with two years until discharge who is released after one year would have served 50% of his full term.

TABLE II: LENGTH OF INCARCERATION BY PRESENT OFFENSE FOR 1972 RELEASEESMCI-FRAMINGHAM COMMITMENTS

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>MEDIAN LENGTH OF INCARCERATION IN MONTHS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGES OF MAXIMUM (LESS GOOD TIME) SERVED</u>
Manslaughter (and other homicide, and attempts)	5	16	31%
Armed Robbery	3	7	32%
Other Person	4	6	29%
Arson, Burglary	5	9	41%
Other Property	18	9	37%
Narcotics	16	7	27%
Other	11	5	28%
TOTAL	62	7	33%

MCI-CONCORD COMMITMENTS

Manslaughter (and other homicide, and attempts)	6	12	31%
Armed Robbery	99	8	27%
Robbery	49	10	27%
Other Person	40	11	32%
Sex	25	8	35%
Arson, Burglary	88	11	34%
Other Property	89	10	37%
Narcotics	82	9	33%
Other	70	9	36%
TOTAL	548	9	31%

MCI-WALPOLE COMMITMENTS*

Manslaughter (and other homicide, and attempts)	63	36	62%
Armed Robbery	132	38	53%
Unarmed Robbery	26	31	78%
Other Person	39	27	85%
Sex	56	40	54%
Arson, Burglary	54	21	50%
Other Property	15	21	42%
Narcotics	52	21	69%
Other	16	24	57%
TOTAL	453	28	69%

* The figures in the right column should not be confused with the two-thirds law. They refer to the percentage of the maximum sentence (less good time) served, not to the percentage of the minimum sentence served.

In examining the data in this table, several cautions are in order. First, the significance of the data for Framingham commitments is limited by the small size of the sample in several of the offense categories. Second, the relatively short lengths of incarceration of persons committed for "Manslaughter (and other homicide and attempts)" should not be misread. Less than 5% of this category are persons committed for first or second degree murder. Almost all persons in this category were committed for manslaughter or attempted murder. Third, the offenses listed represent only the most serious charge for which an individual was committed. About half of the population incarcerated as of January 1, 1973 were committed on more than one charge. Additional charges may influence a decision as to parole. Finally, it is important to remember that offenders committed for offenses which fall under the "Two-thirds Law" may apply for early parole consideration at one third of their minimum sentence. Such individuals, if paroled, would thereby have a significantly shorter length of incarceration than the length of their maximum sentence.

Perhaps the most interesting data is to be found in the column "Percentage of Maximum (Less Good Time) Served". The figures here represent the proportion of sentence which was served. The question being addressed is whether people committed for different offenses tend to be paroled early in their sentences, or whether they tend to be held as long as possible. Seen in this way, the table presents several interesting patterns. First, Walpole commitments typically serve about two-thirds of their maximum as opposed to one-third for Concord and Framingham commitments. Second, Concord and Framingham commitments appear to serve about the same proportion of their maximum regardless of offense category. Walpole men, however, have a much wider range of proportions. Persons committed to Walpole for drug offenses, or person offenders other

than homicide and armed robbery cases, serve the highest percentages of their maximums, while property offenders serve the lowest. While sex offenders released during 1972 served a longer average length of incarceration in real time than any other Walpole commitments, the percentage of their maximum sentence served was the second lowest.

Overall, the data would seem to indicate that, except in the case of Walpole men, offense is not one of the major determinants of length of incarceration. Rather, it is the factors associated with institution committed to which appear more relevant. Sentence, age and prior criminal record are some of these factors.

APPENDIX A

LENGTH OF TIME INCARCERATED BY M. C. I. RELEASEES ON FIRST PAROLE DURING PRESENT SENTENCE,

BY INSTITUTION RELEASED FROM

Months	Walpole		Norfolk		Forestry		Concord & Pre-Release		Framingham		Other		TOTAL	
	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %
3 mos. or less	1	(1%)	2	(1%)	2	(2%)	10	(2%)	1	(2%)	0	(0%)	16	(2%)
4 - 6 mos.	2	(3%)	2	(2%)	3	(4%)	149	(29%)	20	(36%)	2	(15%)	178	(19%)
7 mos. - 1 yr.	8	(12%)	14	(8%)	25	(25%)	224	(71%)	22	(74%)	1	(23%)	294	(47%)
13 mos. - 2 yrs.	21	(36%)	84	(46%)	44	(61%)	116	(92%)	14	(98%)	5	(62%)	284	(74%)
25 mos. - 3 yrs.	13	(51%)	42	(65%)	20	(77%)	23	(96%)	1	(100%)	3	(85%)	102	(84%)
37 mos. - 4 yrs.	15	(67%)	26	(77%)	14	(89%)	9	(98%)	0	(100%)	0	(85%)	64	(90%)
Over 4 yrs.	29	(100%)	50	(100%)	14	(100%)	12	(100%)	0	(100%)	2	(100%)	107	(100%)
¹ / ₄ Unknown	<u>2</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>4</u>	
TOTAL	91		220		123		544		58		13		1049	
AVERAGE*	36 mos.		27 mos.		21 mos.		10 mos.		9 mos.		19 mos.		14 mos.	

* The "averages" presented above represent the median lengths of incarceration. The mean lengths of incarceration are as follows: Walpole, 54.7 months; Norfolk, 42.4; Forestry, 26.6; Concord and Pre-Release, 12.6; Framingham, 10.4; Other, 25.3; and TOTAL, 24.1.

APPENDIX B

LENGTH OF TIME INCARCERATED BY M. C. I. RELEASEES ON SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT PAROLE DURING PRESENT SENTENCE.

BY INSTITUTION RELEASED FROM

Months	Malpole		Norfolk		Forestry		Concord & Pre-Release		Framingham		Other		TOTAL	
	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %
3 mos. or less	19	(33%)	6	(21%)	0	(0%)	33	(33%)	2	(13%)	0	- -	60	(29%)
4 - 6 mos.	12	(53%)	4	(36%)	0	(0%)	20	(53%)	4	(40%)	0	- -	40	(49%)
7 mos. - 1 yr.	13	(76%)	6	(57%)	2	(40%)	27	(80%)	8	(93%)	0	- -	56	(76%)
13 mos. - 2 yrs.	10	(93%)	6	(79%)	2	(80%)	19	(99%)	1	(100%)	0	- -	38	(94%)
Over 2 yrs.	<u>4</u>	(100%)	<u>6</u>	(100%)	<u>1</u>	(100%)	<u>1</u>	(100%)	<u>0</u>	(100%)	<u>0</u>	- -	<u>12</u>	(100%)
TOTAL	58		28		5		100		15		0		206	
AVERAGE*	6 mos.		10 mos.		11 mos.		5 mos.		7 mos.		- - - -		7 mos.	

* The "average" above again represents the median length of incarceration. The mean lengths of incarceration are as follows: Malpole, 9.2 months; Norfolk, 14.5; Forestry, 16.8; Concord and Pre-Release, 7.4; Framingham, 7.2; and TOTAL, 9.1.

APPENDIX C

LENGTH OF INCARCERATION ON DISCHARGES (1972) BY INSTITUTION RELEASED FROM

<u>Months</u>	<u>Walpole</u>		<u>Norfolk</u>		<u>Forestry</u>		<u>Concord & Pre-Release</u>		<u>Frammingham</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>Cum. %</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Cum. %</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Cum. %</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Cum. %</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Cum. %</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Cum. %</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Cum. %</u>
3 mos. or less	3	(10%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	1	(5%)	0	(0%)	4	(3%)
4 - 6 mos.	0	(10%)	1	(4%)	0	(0%)	1	(2%)	6	(35%)	0	(0%)	8	(8%)
7 mos. - 1 yr.	0	(10%)	0	(4%)	0	(0%)	1	(4%)	0	(35%)	0	(0%)	1	(8%)
13 mos. - 2 yrs.	0	(10%)	1	(8%)	1	(8%)	7	(18%)	4	(55%)	0	(0%)	13	(17%)
25 mos. - 3 yrs.	4	(23%)	2	(16%)	1	(16%)	8	(34%)	0	(55%)	0	(0%)	15	(26%)
37 mos. - 4 yrs.	11	(58%)	6	(40%)	2	(32%)	17	(68%)	6	(85%)	1	(100%)	43	(54%)
Over 4 yrs.	13	(100%)	15	(100%)	9	(100%)	16	(100%)	2	(100%)	0	(100%)	55	(100%)
Unknown	6		4		1		4		1		0		16	
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>37</u>		<u>29</u>		<u>14</u>		<u>54</u>		<u>20</u>		<u>1</u>		<u>155</u>	
<u>AVERAGE*</u>	<u>44 mos.</u>		<u>56 mos.</u>		<u>59 mos.</u>		<u>41 mos.</u>		<u>17 mos.</u>		<u>39 mos.</u>		<u>43 mos.</u>	

* The mean lengths of incarceration for the above are as follows: Walpole, 46.7 months; Norfolk, 61.4; Forestry, 64.1; Concord and Pre-Release, 41.9; Frammingham, 24.3; Other, 39.0; TOTAL, 45.9.

APPENDIX D

LENGTH OF INCARCERATION OF ALL RELEASEES IN 1972 BY INSTITUTION RELEASED FROM

Months	Walpole		Norfolk		Forestry		Concord & Pre-Release		Framingham		Other		TOTAL	
	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %	N	Cum. %
3 mos. or less	23	(13%)	8	(3%)	2	(1%)	43	(6%)	4	(4%)	0	(0%)	80	(6%)
4 - 6 mos.	14	(21%)	7	(5%)	3	(4%)	170	(31%)	30	(33%)	2	(14%)	225	(22%)
7 mos. - 1 yr.	21	(33%)	20	(13%)	27	(23%)	252	(73%)	30	(70%)	1	(21%)	351	(47%)
13 mos. - 2 yrs.	31	(50%)	91	(46%)	47	(56%)	142	(88%)	19	(90%)	5	(57%)	335	(71%)
25 mos. - 3 yrs.	19	(61%)	46	(63%)	22	(72%)	32	(92%)	1	(91%)	3	(79%)	123	(80%)
37 mos. - 4 yrs.	27	(76%)	35	(76%)	16	(83%)	26	(96%)	6	(98%)	1	(86%)	111	(88%)
Over 4 yrs.	43	(100%)	66	(100%)	23	(100%)	28	(100%)	2	(100%)	2	(100%)	164	(100%)
Unknown	17		27		9		61		17		0		131	
TOTAL	195		300		149		754		109		14		1521	
AVERAGE*	24 mos.		27 mos.		21 mos.		10 mos.		9 mos.		21 mos.		15 mos.	

* The "average" above represents the median length of incarceration. The mean lengths of incarceration are as follows: Walpole, 38.5 months; Norfolk, 41.3; Forestry, 29.7; Concord and Pre-Release, 14.0; Framingham, 12.7; Other, 26.3; and TOTAL, 24.1.