

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH**

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## INTRODUCTION

During 1987, the Research Division of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) conducted several special research projects and produced a number of statistical reports describing the DOC inmate population. This report presents a review of the research that stemmed from these projects and from the annual statistical reports. The abstracts reproduced in this report summarize specific findings from each of the studies and statistical reports cited.

This report is divided into three major sections reflecting the different areas of research conducted by the Research Division in 1987. The first section covers a series of statistical descriptions of the state prison and county facility populations. The second section includes abstracts of findings from special evaluative and descriptive projects completed in 1987. The third section includes abstracts from research in progress in 1987.

The first section of this document consists of abstracts from reports which the Research Division produces annually. The reports in this section present updated information on the status and characteristics of the state and county prison population. The first in this series of reports is a statistical description of the 5,636 residents in DOC facilities as of January 1, 1987. The next report provides a statistical description of the offenders committed by the courts to a Massachusetts county facility (jail or house of correction) during 1986 and presents information on institution committed to, court committed from, month of commitment, offense, sentence length, sentence type, age, sex, race, marital status, education, place of birth and residence. The third report presents a

statistical description of individuals committed by the court to a county correctional facility in Massachusetts for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (O.U.I.) during 1986, trends in commitment for this offense, and some comparative information on the O.U.I. population and county offenders committed for other offenses. The fourth report contains a statistical description of the number, distribution and outcomes of furloughs for the year 1986 as well as a trend analysis of furloughs since the inception of the program in 1972.

The fifth report in this series presents a statistical description of the offenders released to the street from a Massachusetts correctional facility during 1986 and presents some information on trends among releases over the last six years. The sixth statistical report is a description of the individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction during 1986, including information on the nature of the present offense, personal background characteristics and criminal history of these individuals. The seventh report assesses population change and summarizes all movement of offenders in DOC custody during the calendar year of 1986 including information presented according to the institution of admission or release on: new court commitments, paroles, returns on parole violation, discharges, escapes, deaths, transfers to other correctional facilities both within and outside the state and temporary releases to hospitals and courts. The eighth and ninth reports present a statistical description of offenders released to the street from Massachusetts facilities with a pre-release component during 1985 with corresponding recidivism rates. The tenth report is a statistical bulletin on escapes and returns from escape that occurred during 1986 and contains descriptive information on returns and escapes including: institution and security level from which the escape occurred, type of escape, current status of the escape, length of time at large, and characteristics of the individual escaping. The eleventh and twelfth reports

contain an analysis of disciplinary reports issued in 1984 and 1985, respectively.

Studies summarized in the second section present findings from special evaluations and descriptions of DOC-sponsored programs and selected prison populations. The first report is a survey of research and evaluation priorities among DOC central office administrators and institutional administrators. The second report provides an evaluation of the Longwood Treatment Center, a minimum security prison for multiple drunken driving offenders. The third study is an evaluation of the MCI-Lancaster Visiting Cottage Program in which children can visit overnight with their incarcerated mothers in specially designated trailers.

Two statistical studies have been accomplished in 1987. The first is an examination of client movement between Massachusetts mental health and Massachusetts correctional institutions among a population of incarcerated adult women from 1970 to 1980. The second is an analysis of program availability and program participation at the Deer Island House of Correction.

In 1987, the Research Division began seven new studies. The first research is an evaluation of the inmate classification system. The second project is a process evaluation of a substance abuse treatment program at MCI-Shirley. Third, the division has undertaken a recidivism study of correctional alcohol treatment facilities for multiple drunk driving offenders two. Fourth, the Research Division began an evaluation of the Norfolk Fellowship Program which brings inmates and members of the local community together to discuss a wide range of issues in a group setting. The fifth project is an evaluation of Massachusetts Correctional Industries.

Two statistical studies were undertaken in 1987. The first is an analysis of the sex offenders in custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction. The second study is a computerized model of prison population trends.

Information in each of the annual reports is institution-specific; that is, the

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

In addition to the annual reports, the Research Division also produces quarterly reports on the status of prison overcrowding, and monthly statistical reports on admissions to and releases from the Department of Correction which includes information on participation in some inmate programs (furloughs, state hospital, work release).

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

**Research Division-21st Floor  
Massachusetts Department of Correction  
State Office Building  
100 Cambridge Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02202**

**ABSTRACTS**

**A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF RESIDENTS  
OF MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS AS OF JANUARY 1, 1987**

#307

May 1987

Linda K. Holt

The statistical description of 5,636 individuals in the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction contains information on present offense and sentence, personal background characteristics, criminal history, and furlough program participation. The data are presented in aggregate form for the whole DOC as well as by each facility separately. Changes in population are shown over the last five years.

Key findings include the following information:

- The 5,636 inmates in the DOC in January 1987 represent 4 percent increase over January 1986 and 53 percent increase over January 1982.
- 12 percent of inmates were in maximum security facilities, 57 percent in medium security, 7 percent in minimum security, 16 percent in minimum/pre-release institutions and 8 percent in pre-release facilities.
- 54 percent of the population were incarcerated for an offense against person, 15 percent for sex offenses, 15 percent for property offenses, 11 percent for drug offenses, and 5 percent for other offenses.
- There were 713 lifers in the DOC, including 304 first degree lifers and 409 second degree lifers.
- 47 percent were serving their first adult incarceration and 53 percent had a previous incarceration as an adult.
- The median age of the population was 30 years.

**COURT COMMITMENTS TO MASSACHUSETTS  
COUNTY FACILITIES DURING 1986**

#310

June 87

Linda K. Holt

This report provides a statistical description of the 10,516 offenders committed by the courts to Massachusetts county facilities (jail or house of correction) during 1986. The report presents information on institution committed to, court committed from, month of commitment, offense, sentence length, sentence type, age, sex, race, marital status, education, place of birth and residence.

Basic facts presented in this report are:

- In 1986 there were 10,516 commitments to county facilities. This represents an increase of 10 percent over the number of commitments in 1985.
- In terms of general categories of offenses, 11 percent were committed for offenses against the person, 2 percent for sex offenses, 28 percent for property offenses, 9 percent for drug offenses, and 51 percent for all other offenses (including Operating Under the Influence - O.U.I.).
- The most common offenses for which offenders were committed were O.U.I. (26 percent), motor vehicle violations (13 percent), and burglary (9 percent).
- The median sentence length was two months. 12 percent were committed in lieu of payment of a fine. 2 percent were serving weekend sentences.
- The median age of offenders committed to county facilities was 26 years.
- Seventy-eight percent of the offenders were white, 16 percent were black and 6 percent were Hispanic.
- The median educational level was twelfth grade.
- Sixty-nine percent of the offenders were single, 18 percent were married and 13 percent were separated, divorced or widowed.
- Seventy-one percent were born in Massachusetts, 18 percent were born in other states, 7 percent were born in U.S. territories and 4 percent were foreign-born.

**1986 COURT COMMITMENTS TO MASSACHUSETTS  
COUNTY FACILITIES FOR OPERATING UNDER  
THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL**

#312

June 87

Linda K. Holt

This report presents a statistical description of individuals committed by the courts to county correctional facilities in Massachusetts for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (O.U.I.) during 1986. This report also presents information on trends in commitments for this offense and draws comparisons between the O.U.I. inmates and county offenders committed for other offenses. Some highlights of the information contained in this report are:

- In 1986 there were 2,687 offenders committed to county facilities for O.U.I. This is an increase of 27 percent over the 2,118 commitments for O.U.I. in 1985.
- The median sentence length for O.U.I. commitments was 2 months. This is the same as the median sentence length of 1985 commitments. It is more than six times the median sentence length of those committed in 1983 (10 days).
- The 2,687 persons committed for O.U.I. represent 26 percent of all offenders committed to the counties in 1986. This is an increase from 1985 when 22 percent of all commitments were for O.U.I.
- Commitments for O.U.I. varied by county ranging from 8 percent of all commitments in Suffolk County to 35 percent of all commitments in Norfolk County.
- The typical offender committed for O.U.I. in 1986 was white, 29 years old, male, single and a high school graduate.

**FURLOUGH PROGRAM IN MASSACHUSETTS DOC  
IN 1986**

#316

**August 1987**

**Lisa Lorant**

The furlough program has been in operation in the Massachusetts Department of Correction since November 6, 1972. A total of 115,274 furloughs have been granted until December 1986. During that period, 645 furloughs resulted in escapes defined as a resident's failure to return to his/her correctional facility within two hours of the appointed time of return. Overall furlough escape rate was 0.6 percent or 6 escapes per 1000 furloughs granted. This report contains statistical description of furloughs for the year 1986 as well as an analysis of the trends since the inception of the program in 1972.

Between January 1, 1986 and December 31, 1986, a total of 8,896 furloughs were granted. The number of individuals receiving furloughs in 1986 was 1,645. During 1986, 11 furloughs resulted in an escape, yielding an overall escape rate of 0.1 percent or 1 escape per 1000 furloughs granted.

From the inception of the furlough program through 1982 there was an overall decline in the number of furloughs granted, the number of offenders furloughed, and the percentage of the released inmates who participated in the furlough program while serving this sentence. The escape rate showed a parallel decline during this period. The trend became more complex in 1983: - from 1983 to 1985 there was an increase in the number of furloughs granted and of individuals who were furloughed, while the proportion of released inmates who were furloughed and of escapes continued to decline; - in 1986 the number of furloughs per individual decreased, reversing the trend of the three former years. The decline in the proportion of inmates participating in the furlough program prior to release was attributed to the increasing number of women and other offenders with short sentences among the releasees. The decline in escapes was related to a relatively recent change in the type of furlough granted at secure institutions, requiring that the inmate be escorted while on furlough.

**A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF RELEASES FROM  
MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS DURING 1986**

#319

November 1987

Lisa Lorant

This report presents a statistical description of the 3,022 offenders released to the street from a Massachusetts correctional facility during 1986. It also includes information on trends over the last six years. Some in releases highlights of the information included in this report are:

- The 3,022 releases in 1986 represent an increase of 691 (30 percent) over 1985 releases and an increase of 1904 (170 percent) over 1981 releases.
- The number of males released during 1986 increased by 38 percent from last year, while the number of females released during 1986 increased by 10 percent.
- 59 percent were released by parole, 30 percent were discharged and 11 percent were released by expiration of sentence.
- 52 percent were released from secure facilities and 48 percent were released from lower security facilities. Many of those released from secure facilities were females serving county sentences or male parole violators.
- The average time served was 55.3 months for individuals serving Cedar Junction sentences, 23.7 months for individuals serving Concord sentences, and 5.7 months for individuals serving Framingham sentences.

**1986 COURT COMMITMENTS TO THE  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

#317

August 1987

Linda K. Holt

This report is a statistical description of the 2,533 individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction during the year 1986. The tables in this report contain information on the nature of present offense, personal background characteristics and criminal history of these individuals. Some highlights of the statistics presented in this report are:

- There was a 5 percent increase in the number of commitments during the year, from 2,409 in 1985 to 2,533 in 1986. The 2,533 commitments in 1986 represent the highest level of commitments in DOC history.
- There were 1,033 commitments to Cedar Junction (4 percent higher than 1985), 662 commitments to Concord (7 percent higher than 1985) and 838 commitments to Framingham (5 percent higher than 1985).
- Male and female commitments increased equally by 5 percent.
- The median minimum sentence for Cedar Junction commitments was five years; the median maximum sentence for Concord commitments was ten years; and the median maximum sentence for Framingham commitments was less than 1 year. Sentence lengths for new court commitments were similar in 1985 and 1986.
- Violent offenses (person and sex) accounted for 58 percent of all male commitments and 9 percent of all female commitments. Non-violent offenses (property, drug and "other") represented 91 percent of all female commitments and 42 percent of all male commitments. From 1985 to 1986 there were increases in commitments for drug offenses (up 42 percent), "other" offenses (up 16 percent), and sex offenses (up 5 percent). There were decreases in commitments for property offenses (down 9 percent), and person offenses (down 5 percent).
- The median age at commitment was 27 years, slightly higher than in 1985 (26 years).
- 61 percent of the committed population were white; 62 percent were single; 9 percent had been in the military; 44 percent came from the Boston SMSA; most had limited work experience concentrated in the areas of manual labor and services; the median educational level was twelfth grade and, 32 percent had a self-reported history of drug use.
- 56 percent were serving their first adult incarceration. The median age at first court appearance was eighteen.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS IN THE MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION DURING 1986

#308

June 1987

Lisa Lorant

The Department of Correction routinely monitors population movement in the state correctional system. This report assesses population change and summarizes all movement of offenders in DOC custody during the calendar year 1986. The information is presented according to the institution of admission or release and includes the following data: new court commitments, paroles, returns on parole violation, discharges, escapes, deaths, transfers to other correctional facilities both within the state and outside of the state, and temporary releases to hospitals and courts.

During 1986 there were 15,796 admissions of all types and 15,565 releases. This constitutes an 8 percent increase in admissions over last year and a 10 percent increase in releases. These 31,361 moves involved 7,970 individuals.

Overall, the state prison population increased by 4 percent between 1985 and 1986, compared to an increase of 9 percent from 1984 to 1985.

There were 2,533 new admissions through court commitments including From and After Sentences, an increase of 5 percent from last year.

There were 876 parole violators returned to the DOC, an increase of 23 percent from last year.

There was a 19 percent rise in transfers from other authorities, (county, federal or out-of-state), 535 in 1986 compared to 451 in 1985.

There were 3,046 releases to the street i.e. releases by parole, expiration of sentence or good conduct discharge. This is a 29 percent increase compared to 1985.

**STATISTICAL TABLES DESCRIBING THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS AND  
RECIDIVISM RATES FOR RELEASES FROM MASSACHUSETTS  
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
DURING 1985**

#321 and #322

January 1988

Lisa Lorant

This report is the first of two reports on recidivism rates of offenders released from Department of Correction facilities during 1985. Some highlights from this report are:

- The recidivism rate in 1985 was 27%. This is higher than the rates from 1984 (25%) and 1983 (21%).
- The increase in recidivism rates occurred at the same time that the number of releases increased, from 1,726 in 1983; to 1,888 in 1984; and 1,979 in 1985.
- The recidivism rate varied by security level of the institution from which the offender was released: 36% for maximum, 32% for medium, 28% for minimum, 19% for minimum/pre-release, 19% for state pre-release and 21% for contract pre-release.
- From 1984 to 1985 the recidivism rate for releases from maximum or medium security institutions stayed the same at 32%, while the recidivism rate for releases from lower security facilities increased from 16% in 1984 to 20% in 1985.
- The recidivism rate for males was 26%, an increase from the 1984 figure of 24% and the rate for females was 30% an increase from last year's figure of 29%
- Among males, the recidivism rate was 27% for those serving a Walpole sentence (compared to 24% for 1984) and 27% for those serving a Concord sentence (compared to 24% for 1984).
- Recidivists were returned for a variety of reasons: 19% for technical parole violations, 48% for a parole violation involving a new arrest, and 32% for re-incarceration on a new offense.
- Offenders released by parole had a higher recidivism rate (29%) than those who were discharged (21%).
- For males, those committed for property offenses had the highest recidivism rate (33%); for females, those committed for "other" offenses had the highest recidivism rate (34%).
- The recidivism rate for those released with no prior adult incarcerations was lower (21%) than for those with a history of one (27%) or more than one (36%) prior adult incarcerations.

- The recidivism rate for offenders with no furloughs prior to release was 31% and the recidivism rate for individuals with furloughs prior to release was 16%.

**A PROFILE OF ESCAPES AND RETURNS FROM ESCAPE  
DURING 1986 AND INDIVIDUALS ON ESCAPE STATUS  
ON DECEMBER 31, 1986**

#320

December 1987

Linda K. Holt

Information on escapes and returns from escape that occurred in 1986 presented in this report includes specifically: - institutions from which the escape was undertaken by security level; - type of escape; - current status of escape; - length of time at large; - background characteristics of the escapees.

The following findings highlight the situation:

- During 1986 there were 306 escapes and 305 returns from escapes. This was an increase of 22 escapes and 26 returns from the previous year.
- The escape rate in 1986 was 3.3 per 100, which is lower than in any of the nine preceding years.
- There were only 6 escapes from secure facilities, most of which had no escapes at all. All other escapes were walkaways from low security facilities or failures to return from furloughs or work release programs.
- Most escapes are resolved quickly. 53 percent of those returned are back within one week of escape. 84 percent of all 1986 escapees were returned to the DOC or known to be in the custody of another correctional agency at the end of the year.
- At the end of 1986 there were 92 individuals at large from the DOC, including 48 who escaped in this year.

**DISCIPLINARY REPORTS ISSUED IN THE  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

#305

July 1987

Linda K. Holt

This bulletin contains a statistical description of the disciplinary reports issued within the DOC in 1984. The variables by which the reports are tabulated include: -reporting institution; -type of offense; -positive or negative finding; -sanction, and -background characteristics of the offenders incurring the reports. Key findings reported in the bulletin are:

- During 1984 there were 15,291 disciplinary reports written, involving 3,949 individuals.
- Cedar Junction, Norfolk and Framingham accounted for 69 percent of all disciplinary reports. The number of reports by facility ranged from 26 at the Medfield Prison Project to 5,741 at Cedar Junction.
- The number of disciplinary reports incurred by individuals ranged from 1 to 77 and the median was 2.
- 71 percent of the disciplinary reports were classified as major and 29 percent as minor.
- Of the 31 offenses involved in disciplinary reports, the 3 most frequently cited were: -violating rules; -disobeying, lying or insolence; and - disrupting order.
- 70 percent of all reports resulted in a guilty finding.
- The most common sanctions imposed were isolation time, extra work and work restriction.
- 84 percent of sanctions were invoked, 15 percent were suspended and 1 percent were handled in another way.
- 9 percent of all disciplinary report findings were appealed.

**DISCIPLINARY  
REPORTS ISSUED IN THE MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION, 1985**

#315

July 87

Linda K. Holt

During 1985 there were 19,121 disciplinary reports issued involving 4,304 individuals. This bulletin contains a statistical description of these disciplinary reports, including: reporting institution, offense, finding, sanction and characteristics of the offenders incurring the reports. Key findings characterizing the situation are:

- 19,121 disciplinary reports issued in 1985 represent an increase of 25 percent (N=3830) over the 15,291 disciplinary reports written in 1984.
- The number of disciplinary reports written in 1985 ranged from 2 at Hodder House to 8,737 at Cedar Junction. Cedar Junction and Norfolk accounted for 62 percent of all reports.
- 54 percent of the inmates in custody of the DOC during 1985 incurred one or more disciplinary reports. The number of disciplinary reports by one individual ranged from one to one hundred and three. The median number of reports per person was two.
- 68 percent of the disciplinary reports were classified as major, 31 percent as minor, and 1 percent were referred to the District Attorney.
- Of the 31 offenses involved in disciplinary reports, the three most frequently cited were: - violating rules; - disobeying, lying or insolence; - disrupting order.
- 65 percent of all disciplinary reports resulted in a guilty finding.
- The most common sanctions imposed were isolation time, extra work, loss of privileges, and reclassification.
- 85 percent of all sanctions were invoked and 15 percent were suspended.
- 9 percent of all disciplinary report findings were appealed.

**SURVEY OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION  
PRIORITIES OF DOC CENTRAL OFFICE  
ADMINISTRATORS AND INSTITUTIONAL  
ADMINISTRATORS**

#314

August 1987

Michael W. Forcier

The Department of Correction's (DOC) Strategic Plan outlines DOC goals and corresponding strategic objectives including "results which are capable of being evaluated, measured, and monitored". In recognition of this, the DOC Research Division undertook a Survey of DOC Central Office Administrators and Institutional Administrators in order to obtain their perceptions of research needs and priorities. The information obtained from this survey will be used to help the Research Division prioritize research projects, incorporate desired information into the Division's data-base, and plan for personnel.

The Survey was administered in a semi-structured interview format. Two different groups of respondents were interviewed: DOC Central Office Administrators (Division Directors) and Institutional Superintendents. A seven item interview schedule was designed to tap three areas: 1) critical needs or problems administrators face in operating their division/institution; 2) research studies administrators would like to see undertaken and inmate programs they would like to see evaluated; and, 3) types of information not currently available which they would like to have on the inmate population.

Critical needs and problems cited by survey respondents clustered into four major areas: Inmate classification; Programs; Resources; and Information Needs. Three types of research were most frequently mentioned as valuable for purposes of policy and program development: Program Impact Evaluation, Comparative Research; and, Population Trend Analyses. The major areas for research studies and program evaluations suggested by survey respondents included: Staff; Classification; Substance Abuse; Psychological Services; Medical; Education; and, Industries. The types of information on the inmate population survey respondents would like to receive included pre-incarceration histories, programmatic services inmates receive, and, sensitive case inmates (e.g., protective custody).

After the survey results were compiled, discussions were held with Executive Staff in order to obtain their input and advice concerning future directions for research based upon the survey results. In terms of types of research which should be conducted, Executive Staff placed a strong emphasis on program evaluations and population trend analyses. In terms of actual research topics, four potential studies were suggested by Executive Staff: reasons for staff turnover among correctional officers and correctional counselors; research on barred visitors; research relating to the design of new facilities; and, a statistical analysis of how the DOC spends its budget.

On the basis of the survey results and discussions with Executive Staff, the Research Division proposes to undertake five research projects beginning in fiscal

year 1988. They are: Evaluation of Unit Management Within the Correctional System; Research Study of the Sex Offender Population; Process Evaluation of MCI-Framingham; Outcome Evaluation of the Longwood Treatment Center and Western Massachusetts Correctional Center; and, Research Study of the Substance Abuse Unit at MCI-Shirley.

**THE USE OF PRISON CONFINEMENT FOR THE  
TREATMENT OF MULTIPLE DRUNKEN DRIVER  
OFFENDERS: AN EVALUATION OF THE  
LONGWOOD TREATMENT CENTER**

#311B

June 1987

Daniel LeClair  
Lynn Felici  
Edward Klotzbier

In March of 1985, the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) embarked on a unique mission with the opening of the Longwood Treatment Center, the state's first minimum security prison designed exclusively to detain and provide alcoholism education and treatment to multiple drunken driving offenders. At Longwood, the DOC contracts out the treatment services to Valle Associates, a private treatment vendor, and retains responsibility for the management and security of the facility.

Coterminous with the opening of Longwood, a process evaluation was begun. Its purpose was multifaceted - to determine the extent to which the program was implemented as planned and serving the target population as specified, to address preliminary outcome measures of program success, to analyze the various costs of the Longwood program, to provide feedback to program administrators concerning program implementation and operation.

The following report presents the results of the evaluation effort. First, research revealed that the program was indeed implemented as planned. Although a series of internal and external forces impacted the process of implementation and subsequently led to program adjustments, the overall intended program structure and context was achieved and Longwood emerged as a smoothly run, professional operation.

Research also determined that the program serves the intended target population. Offenders served at Longwood are neither new to the courts nor to public and private alcohol treatment programs.

Secondly, preliminary outcome measures revealed that relatively few individuals completing the program are rearrested and returned to prison within one year of release. Our research demonstrated that 6% of the Longwood program completers were returned to prison within one year of release. This compares to a department wide recidivism rate of 25% and to a rate of 19% for other low security institutions similar to the Longwood program.

Although in general the research findings were positive, a number of issues were raised and recommendations made to program administrators concerning program modifications. For example, the aftercare component of the program needs to be strengthened, the counseling and correction staffs need to be restructured, and the costs of operating the Longwood program need to be reevaluated. A discussion of these and other issues is included in the report.

In conclusion, the innovative concept of providing alcohol education and treatment to a specific, designated and relatively homogeneous population within the confines of a correctional setting, was proven through this evaluation to be not only feasible, but desirable and practicable. Although the study was not intended as a formal outcome evaluation, preliminary findings suggest in fact that the program is effective in reducing recidivism among multiple drunk drivers, as well as impacting on the alcoholic behaviors of such offenders. It is recommended that a future formal outcome evaluation be initiated.

**JOINING INCARCERATED MOTHERS WITH THEIR  
CHILDREN: EVALUATION OF THE LANCASTER  
VISITING COTTAGE PROGRAM**

**#309B**

**June 1987**

**Ann Marie Rocheleau**

The Massachusetts Department of Correction opened an innovative program in January 1985, whereby children could visit overnight with their incarcerated mothers. The Lancaster Visiting Cottage Program, located at MCI-Lancaster, a minimum and pre-release co-correctional facility, offers a private and comfortable setting for the extended visits in the program's fully-equipped three-bedroom trailers. This report is the result of a process evaluation of the program's first year in operation.

During 1985, there were 111 extended visits between 30 inmate mothers and 51 of their children. Most of the visits occurred on the weekends, usually lasting two nights. Although some of the visits involved two or more children, the majority of visits involved a single child. Controlling for the length of time spent at Lancaster, the female participants averaged an extended program visit every 42 days.

Perhaps the most important finding of the evaluation was that the program was implemented as planned. Despite the initial skepticism and resistance to such an innovative program, it was smoothly implemented through the hard work of the program staff and with the support of the Lancaster administration and the program's Advisory Board.

The evaluation also yielded a wealth of information regarding the inmate mothers who were program participants. For example, significant differences were found in the backgrounds and needs of long-term vs. short-term inmate mothers. This information, coupled with the knowledge about the effects of separation and the needs of inmate mothers, can be utilized in future program and policy planning.

**TRANSINSTITUTIONALIZATION IN THE HUMAN  
SERVICE SECTOR: AN EXAMINATION OF FEMALE  
POPULATION MOVEMENT BETWEEN MENTAL HEALTH  
AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

#313

June 1987

Linda K. Holt  
Sarah Mattes

Corrections officials have asserted that changes in the mental health system were associated with an increase in the number of mentally ill offenders placed within the correctional system, a process that is referred to as transinstitutionalization. The purpose of the present study is to examine this assertion by considering the mental health placement history of a population of incarcerated adult women for the years 1970, 1975 and 1980.

Results of the empirical analysis indicate that a substantial proportion of women entering the correctional system have prior in-patient placements in public mental health facilities. While there are significant differences in the proportion of women entering the correctional system with a history of placements in the mental health system in the three study years, these differences are not in the direction predicted by the original charge. The proportion of women with prior in-patient placements declined from 39% in 1970, to 19% in 1975, only slightly increasing to 22% in 1980.

The empirical analysis also indicates: - that women with prior placements in the mental health system often have prior placements in the correctional system, - that women with a history of placement in the mental health system have criminal records similar to offenders with no history of prior mental health placements, and - that the pattern of prior placements in the mental health system is also linked to two changes in the criminal justice system that occurred during the study period (the decriminalization of the offense of drunkenness and the centralization of the correctional system for female offenders in the state of Massachusetts).

SUFFOLK COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION AT  
DEER ISLAND - RESULTS OF INMATE SURVEY

#318

September 1987

Linda K. Holt

This paper reports the results of a survey of 123 inmates at the Deer Island House of Correction. The survey was sponsored by the Crime and Justice Foundation with technical assistance provided by staff of the Research Division of the Department of Correction. The sample represents about one-fourth of the population at the facility. Inmates were asked about their personal background, criminal history, alcohol and drug use, and participation in program. The purpose of the survey was twofold: 1) to describe the characteristics of the inmate population with particular attention to those characteristics that relate to program needs and, 2) to explore patterns of program participation at the facility including inmates' knowledge about available programs, their current participation in programs, and their desire to participate in programs. The main findings of the survey are:

- The median age of the sample was 24 years.
- The sample was 45 percent black, 37 percent white, 14 percent Hispanic, and 4 percent others.
- 79 percent of the sample were single and 58 percent had children.
- 90 percent had one or more incarcerations prior to the present incarceration.
- The present offenses were: property (50 percent), drug (21 percent), person (15 percent), sex (1 percent), and other (13 percent).
- 34 percent were alcohol abusers or alcoholics, 80 percent report some drug use and 54 percent report daily drug use.
- On average inmates were aware of 5.5 programs. Awareness of programs was related to age in the case of education programs, and housing unit, in the case of overall program awareness.

### III. RESEARCH IN PROGRESS IN 1987

#### EVALUATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

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

The primary objective of the present study is to evaluate the overall classification system and CAPA specifically. The present study consists of three phases. Phase 1 is a process analysis of the DOC classification system intended to find out whether the system was implemented as planned. Phase 2 will be a study of a classification validation in order to establish whether the classification criteria are predictive of inmate behavior. Phase 3 will examine the impacts of CAPA by comparing the institutional adjustment and program participation of inmates who have a CAPA with those who are not eligible/suitable for a CAPA and those who choose not to participate in CAPA.

The study is scheduled to begin in January 1988.

## EVALUATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM UNIT AT MCI-SHIRLEY

Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

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

At MCI-Shirley, a minimum security level facility, in 1987 approximately 245 or 63% of the 389 inmates had a present offenses or criminal history involving drugs and/or alcohol. Moreover, this has apparently carried over into the institution as 34% (174) of the 507 disciplinary reports written at Shirley in 1985 were for offenses involving alcohol/drugs, misuse of medication, or refusing a drug test.

Recognizing the seriousness of the problem, MCI-Shirley will establish in 1988 a 39-bed Substance Abuse Program Unit based on a therapeutic community model for housing and treating inmates with substance abuse problems.

The Research Division will undertake a process evaluation of this Program Unit in order to examine if the program is implemented as intended, targets the substance abusing population, and provides the designated services. Part of this evaluation will consist of the administration of a program intake screening and assessment form in order to determine which of the 245 inmates with alcohol and/or drug problems should be housed in this unit. This form will obtain information on inmate demographic characteristics, criminal history, alcohol and drug use behavior, and substance abuse treatment history.

This study will begin in January 1988 and is scheduled for completion in December 1988.

## ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR MULTIPLE OUI OFFENDERS: ARE THEY SUCCESSFUL?

Julie M. Nardone

Emerging in the wake of more stringent Massachusetts drunk-driving controls has been a new breed of correctional facility -- the correctional alcohol treatment facility. A hybrid of sorts, the correctional alcohol treatment facility melds correctional measures with alcohol treatment in the hopes of alleviating the drinking-driver's problem and precluding him or her from committing future carnage on our highways.

At present, three such facilities exist in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: the state-run Longwood Treatment Center in Jamaica Plain, the county-run Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center in Springfield and the county-run Eastern Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center in New Bedford.

Since both the Longwood Treatment Center and the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center are still in an experimental stage, a post-program evaluation will be conducted in order to assess their effectiveness. This follow-up evaluation will focus on recidivism rates and post-release rearrest for OUI and non-OUI related offenses. Billerica and Hampden County Houses of Correction will serve as comparison groups.

The data will be collected from January 1988 through June 1988. It will be analyzed over the summer of 1988 and the final report will be available in November 1988.

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

Julie M. Nardone

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

Past evaluations of the Fellowship Program have been largely quantitative in nature, relying solely on recidivism rates as a measure of treatment success. The present study will utilize both quantitative and qualitative research methods in an attempt to both evaluate the program and to uncover its functions not expressed through recidivism rates.

500 inmates released between January 1982 and December 1986 will be tracked through DOC record-files and probation checks to determine their recidivism rates. A total of 40 interviews will be conducted with inmates who are currently involved with the program, inmates who either dropped out of the program or were never involved with it, inmates who have served their sentences and are re-integrated into the community and administrators who are familiar with the program. Finally, 18 hours of observations will be conducted at MCI-Walpole, MCI-Norfolk and the Concord Farm. Observations are being conducted to capture the "flavor" of the program. Ensnaring this flavor is essential if a holistic view of the program is to be presented.

The data will be collected from February 1988 through June 1988. The data will be analyzed over the summer of 1988 and the final report will be completed in December of 1988.

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

Darek Niklas

Presently about 8% of inmates in Massachusetts Department of Correction custody participate in prison industries. On the business side, the prison industries are coping with losses. According to multiple former research the rehabilitative effects of work as mirrored by the recidivism rate should not be expected to be significant. The disciplinary problems of working inmates could be significantly below the level of the general prison population.

The public support for work programs does not depend on specific successes in reducing the costs of increasing rehabilitative effects, but, rather, is diffused and based on the cultural value of work which implies that idleness is wrong and occupational activities are an inalienable right.

This research will test results of previous research concerning the impact of work in prison on discipline and post-release integration. Moreover, it will add a descriptive analysis of work environments and, hopefully, show the contribution of different work settings and programs to the predictions of recidivism and disciplinary problems. Two processes in the system of prison industries are specifically amenable to control by the authorities - organization of the work process; and - selection of inmates for work programs. Inquiry into both is incorporated in this research.

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

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

**Linda K. Holt  
Lisa Lorant**

A recently completed survey of correctional administrators indicated the general perception that sex offenders are model inmates who do not create management problems, along with a concern that the sex offender population was growing in the Department. Typically, Superintendents estimated the sex offender population to range from 25% to 40% of their institution's population even though statistics indicate that overall, sex offenders comprise only 15% of the DOC population.

The survey identified four potential reasons for the concerns expressed by Superintendents. First, is the apparent lack of programs tailored specifically to incarcerated sex offenders in walled institutions. Second, although they themselves may not represent disciplinary problems, sex offenders, especially child sex offenders, are targets for victimization by other inmates. Third, there are apparent fears over sending sex offenders into the community on work release or furlough. Finally, sex offenses are generally emotionally charged and this is something which may have led to an exaggerated perception of the size of the sex offender population.

The purpose of this research study, therefore, is first to provide a system-wide in-depth description of the sex offender population, including an examination of the number of sex offenders in each institution, both those with a governing and a non-governing sex offense. Secondly, to examine institutional and community-based programs which exist for sex offenders. Finally, to assess the extent to which sex offenders are victimized within institutions by other offenders.

It is anticipated that this research will be based on an extensive literature review, interviews with sex offenders and treatment staff, and statistical analysis of existing data.

A research design for this study will be completed by June 1988, and upon review and revision, the study will begin soon thereafter. The design specifies research goals, objectives, and a timetable for completion.

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS PROJECT

Linda K. Holt  
Lisa Lorant

In a rapidly expanding and changing correctional system there is a need to enhance the agency's ability to understand the nature of population growth. To this end, the National Institute of Corrections has funded the National Council on Crime and Delinquency to work with the Department of Correction in the development of a computer based model for projecting Correction's and Parole populations. This model will be implemented during 1988 and will give the department the capability to model admissions, paroles, and revocations for a number of separate inmate populations in order to develop a series of ten year projections.