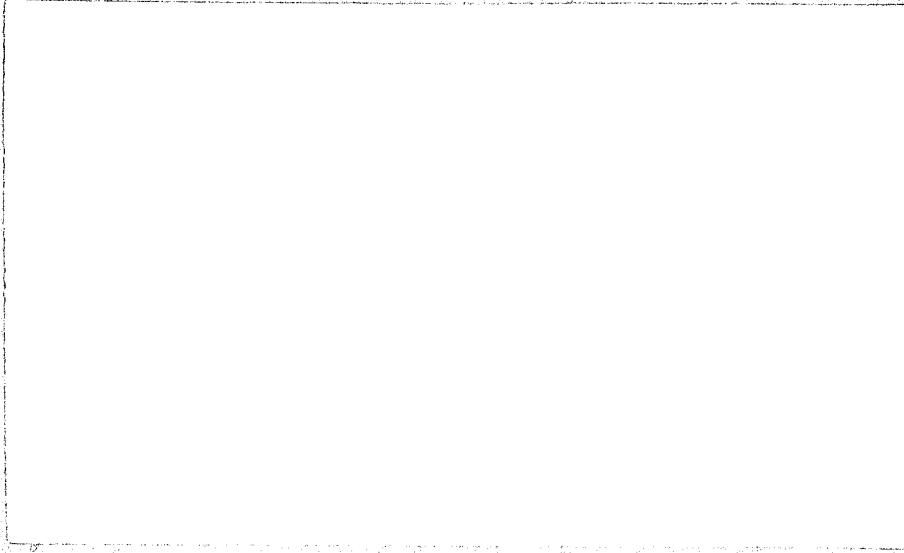File

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for Human Resources Research

DEMOGRAPHIC AND BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF INMATES SCREENED FOR THE MARYLAND AND CONNECTICUT TRAP PROGRAMS

Working Paper

June 30, 1980

78-NI-AX-0126

by

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Introduction

Numerous studies have indicated that a large number of drug abusing offenders enter a state correctional system. A major study conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in 1974 showed that 61 percent of a sample of inmates from 190 state correctional institutions throughout the country had used illicit drugs (Barton, 1980). Many of these offenders were incarcerated in prisons offering little or no institutional drug abuse treatment services. Further, treatment services for those released on parole were also inadequate. It is believed that many of these offenders will return to illicit drug use and criminal activity.

In an attempt to address this problem, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration developed the Treatment and Rehabilitation For Addicted Prisoners (TRAP) program. The TRAP program sought to:

- improve coordination of treatment service delivery for offenders while incarcerated and on parole,

- improve the information base for use in parole hearings, parole plans, and parole supervision,

- decrease use of illicit drugs by inmates placed on parole through this program,

- decrease recidivism rates among program participants and graduates.

The TRAP program required a 12 to 18 month program for voluntary participants encompassing a six to nine month correctional phase and six to nine month parole phase. The inmates in the correctional phase must be housed in a "functional unit" setting design to treat a minimum of 30 inmates

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at any given time. The following project elements were required for each TRAP project:

- a classification procedure to screen and identify all inmates with a history of drug abuse;

- a coordinating committee evenly composed of inmates and staff;

- supportive services for participating inmates (e.g., medical examinations, vocational training, educational training, etc.);

- three hours of group counseling and 3 hours of individual counseling for each participant each week, as well as alternative therapies;

- the utilizing of the Mutual Agreement Pact (MAP);

- a process for identifying and evaluating community based treatment resources for use by the participants; and

- use of urnalysis both in the correctional setting and during parole.

In 1978, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration awarded grants to Maryland and Connecticut to establish TRAP programs. The LEAA recognized the need for careful documentation and assessment of the first TRAP programs so that other states might benefit from their experiences. The Institute for Human Resources Research (IHRR) was awarded a grant to conduct the comprehensive evaluation of the Connecticut and Maryland TRAP programs. Later, the LEAA funded two additional TRAP programs in New York and New Jersey and the IHRR was awarded national evaluation grants to evaluate those programs also.

This paper presents some interim assessment information on the Maryland and Connecticut TRAP programs. The complete evaluation results will be published by mid 1982.

Purpose of this Report

Many of the first inmates have "graduated" from the institutional and the community corrections phases of the TRAP programs and are now on parole. This interim report describes the types of people who had entered the Maryland and Connecticut TRAP programs as compared with the types of people who did not enter the TRAP program. This report is based on data obtained from TRAP participants and a comparison pool of inmates from the same institutions. All were administered a screening interview. It is from these inmate groups that 40 TRAP graduates and 40 comparison inmates will be matched. These four selected groups will then be followed up six months after release from all phases of TRAP or prison.

No statistical tests of significance have been conducted as yet. This is because the final samples have not been selected from the pools of TRAP participants and comparison inmates.

Description of TRAP Participants and Non-Participants

TRAP participants and non-participants were interviewed in person, as part of a comprehensive evaluation of the Maryland and Connecticut TRAP programs. Information was obtained concerning the inmate's background. characteristics, his abuse of drugs, and his criminal activities. The first Maryland TRAP

participants entered the program October 2, 1978 while the first Connecticut TRAP participants entered the program May 21, 1979.

Each inmate was interviewed in the institution individually in private. He was assured that his responses would be held in the strictest confidence and revealed only to research staff. Information presented in this report is from these interviews.

Demographic Characteristics

All inmates in the Maryland (n =170) and Connecticut (n =82) TRAP programs are males as are the comparison inmates from Maryland (n =151) and Connecticut (n =148). Table 1 presents selected demographic characteristics of these four inmate groups.

Age

TRAP participants are a somewhat older group than the non-participants in both Maryland and Connecticut. Eighty-four percent of the Maryland TRAP participants compared with 70 percent of the Maryland comparison pool are 24 years of age or older. Similarly, for Connecticut, 72 percent of the participants compared with 63 percent of the comparison pool are 24 years of age or older. The age group of 24 to 27 years is the most prevalent among TRAP participants in both programs. Thirty-nine percent of the Maryland TRAP participants and 38 percent of the Connecticut TRAP participants are included within this one age group.

Table 1

Demographic Characteristics for
Maryland and Connecticut Inmate Groups
(Percentage)

Demographic Characteristics	Maryland		Connecticut	
	TRAP Participants	Comparison	TRAP Participants	Comparison
AGE				
23 or younger......	16	30	28	37
24 to 27	39	29	38	22
28 to 31	26	15	23	26
32 or older	18	27	10	14
TOTAL.....	100 *	100 *	100 *	100 *
n=	170	151	81	148
RACE/ETHNICITY				
White	20	23	21	35
Black	69	68	60	52
Hispanic	2	0	12	12
Other[1]	10	9	7	2
TOTAL ...	100 *	100	100	100*
n=	166	151	82	147
MARITAL STATUS				
Never Married	63	67	56	58
Still Married	16	17	27	22
Separated/Divorced[2] ..	21	16	17	20
TOTAL ...	100	100	100	100
n=	158	152	82	148
HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL GRADE				
7th grade or less	3	10	7	5
8th to 11th	46	51	44	38
H.S. Graduate	35	30	35	41
Some College	16	10	13	16
TOTAL....	100	100 *	100 *	100
n=	156	152	82	148

[1] Includes American Indian
[2] Includes one widower
* Not equal to 100% due to rounding

On the other hand, the most prevalent age group for the comparison inmates from both programs is 23 years or younger. Thirty percent of the Maryland and 37 percent of the Connecticut comparison pool are within this youngest age group.

Race

The majority of the inmates from each of the groups are black. The racial characteristics of Maryland TRAP participants are quite similar to those of the Maryland comparison pool.

In contrast to Maryland, there are marked differences between Connecticut's TRAP participants and their comparison pool in terms of racial characteristics. The Connecticut TRAP group is composed of proportionally fewer whites than the comparison pool (21 percent versus 35 percent) and proportionally more blacks (60 percent versus 52 percent). Both inmate groups have the same proportion of inmates with Hispanic backgrounds (12 percent).

Marital Status

Over one half of the men from each inmate group reported that they were never married. In each inmate group, approximately one-fifth of the marriages are reported to have ended in separation or divorce. However, Maryland TRAP participants report a lower proportion of intact marriages than Connecticut TRAP participants (16 percent versus 27 percent). This finding may be influenced in part by the younger age composition of the Connecticut inmates.

Highest Educational Grade

TRAP participants in Maryland report higher educational attainments than their comparison pool counterparts. About one-half (51 percent) of the TRAP participants report having graduated from high school, compared to 40 percent from the Maryland comparison pool. A different pattern appears in Connecticut. TRAP participants report having less formal education than their comparison counterparts. For example, 48 percent of the TRAP participants report having a high school degree or having education beyond high school compared to 57 percent of the comparison pool.

Background Characteristics

Treatment Experiences Prior to Present Incarceration

During the screening interview, each inmate was asked whether or not he had ever received mental health, drug abuse or alcohol abuse treatment services prior to his current incarceration. Table 2 displays the percentages of each inmate group who indicated they had received a specific treatment.

Proportionally more inmates from the comparison pools in both TRAP sites reported they had been in treatment for "mental health or emotional problems" prior to their current incarceration. In Maryland, 15 percent of the comparison inmates indicated previous mental health treatment compared to only 8 percent of the TRAP participant group. In Connecticut this trend is again in evidence; proportionally more inmates in the comparison pool reported previous mental health treatment (23 percent) than did the TRAP participants (19 percent).

Table 2

Treatment Experiences
for Maryland and Connecticut
Inmate Groups Prior to Incarceration
(Percentage)

Prior Treatment Experiences	Maryland		Connecticut	
	TRAP Participants (n= 153)	Comparison (n= 171)	TRAP Participants (n= 83)	Comparison (n= 148)
Prior Mental Health Treatment	8	15	19	23
Prior Drug Use Treatment	42	40	55	53
Prior Alcohol Abuse Treatment	8	12	11	11

In Maryland, 42 percent of the TRAP participants and 40 percent of the comparison respondents indicated that they had received drug abuse treatment services (including detoxification). In Connecticut, 55 percent of the participant group and 53 percent of the comparison respondents reported receiving drug abuse treatment prior to incarceration. Thus, the TRAP programs are providing the first drug abuse treatment experiences for many of the participants.

Prior treatment of alcohol abuse (including detoxification) was not common among any of the inmate groups. Only about one out of ten inmates in each group indicated they had received at least one alcohol abuse treatment service.

Employment Rates

The screening instrument repeated a number of questions for two time periods. The first time frame covers only the two months prior to the inmate's current incarceration. The second time frame covers one year before the inmate's current incarceration.

Higher proportions of inmates reported being "mainly" unemployed two months prior to their present incarceration when compared to the longer time frame of one year. Table 3 shows that 51 percent of the Connecticut TRAP inmates indicated they were unemployed 2 months prior to their present incarceration. For the TRAP inmate group one year prior to incarceration, there was a 33 percent unemployment rate. This trend of sharply raised unemployment rates is evidenced in the three other inmate groups as well.

Table 3

Employment Rates for
Maryland and Connecticut Inmate
Groups Prior to Incarceration
(Percentage)

Employment Rates	Maryland		Connecticut	
	TRAP Participants	Comparison	TRAP Participants	Comparison
PAST 2 MONTHS PRIOR TO PRESENT INCARCERATION				
Unemployed	38	43	51	49
Employed	61	51	45	47
School/Training	2	5	4	4
Other[1]	0	0	0	1
TOTAL...	100 *	100 *	100	100 *
n=	170	148	82	148
PAST 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO PRESENT INCARCERATION				
Unemployed	25	29	33	27
Employed	72	65	59	69
School/Training	2	6	6	4
Other[1]	1	0	1	0
TOTAL...	100	100	100 *	100
n=	169	150	81	147

[1]Includes keeping house
*Not equal to 100% due to rounding

Non-Medical Drug Use

Each inmate was asked how often he had used each type of drug without a legal prescription within the two month period prior to his incarceration. Table 4 displays the percent of the inmates who reported the use of each drug at least once during that two month period of time.

Heroin and marihuana/hashish were the two drugs most likely to have been used at least once by the Maryland TRAP participants during the two months preceding their incarceration. Substantially less non-medical drug use was reported by the Maryland comparison inmates than by TRAP inmates. For example, 63 percent of the Maryland TRAP participants indicated heroin use two months prior to incarceration compared to a 35 percent heroin use rate reported by the comparison pool. For each drug type, except amphetamines, hallucinogens and alcohol, proportionally more Maryland TRAP participants indicated non-medical drug use than did their comparison counterparts.

This pattern of heroin use is also in Connecticut. TRAP participants report a heroin use rate of 70 percent compared to a 42 percent heroin use rate reported by the comparison respondents. Similarly, for each drug type, except amphetamines, hallucinogens, alcohol and minor tranquilizers, proportionally more Connecticut TRAP participants indicated non-medical drug use than did their comparison counterparts.

Table 4

Prevalence of Non-Medical Drug Use Two Months Prior
to Incarceration for Maryland and Connecticut Inmate Groups
(Percentage)

Drug Category	Maryland		Connecticut	
	TRAP Participants (n= 170)	Comparison (n= 153)	TRAP Participants (n= 83)	Comparison (n= 148)
Heroin	63	35	70	42
Other Opiates	31	21	36	29
Sedatives or Barbiturates	18	13	23	23
Minor Tranquilizers	20	16	27	32
Cocaine	43	30	84	64
Amphetamines	15	24	12	22
Hallucinogens	16	24	12	22
Marihuana/Hashish	67	58	87	80
Alcohol	54	69	74	80
Other Substances	2	2	8	3

Table 5 displays the non-medical drug use prevalence rates for the year prior to incarceration, rather than two months, as in Table 4. As with the two month time frame, TRAP participants report higher use rates than their comparison counterparts.

Frequency of Heroin Use

Table 6 depicts the frequency of heroin use for each time frame among the four inmate groups. For those who used heroin, "daily use" is the most often reported frequency category. This is found for all four inmate groups in both time frames.

Frequency of Alcohol Use

The frequency of use of alcoholic beverages is reported in Table 7. Proportionately, both comparison groups report more frequent use of alcohol ("several times a week" and on a "daily" basis) than do the TRAP groups. TRAP participants report higher "no alcohol use" rates than their comparison counterparts.

Frequency of Reported Drunkenness

Table 8 shows the frequency of reported drunkenness among the four inmate groups for both time frames. Similar to frequency of alcohol use, the comparison subjects proportionally report higher drunkenness rates than their TRAP counterparts. Three-fourths of the Maryland TRAP participants indicated they were not drunk at all within the one year period prior to incarceration, compared to only 61 percent of their comparison counterparts.

Table 5

Prevalence of Non-Medical Drug Use One Year Prior
to Incarceration for Maryland and Connecticut Inmate Groups
(Percentage)

Drug Category	Maryland		Connecticut	
	TRAP Participants (n= 170)	Comparison (n= 153)	TRAP Participants (n= 83)	Comparison (n= 148)
Heroin	66	56	77	53
Other Opiates	35	24	55	64
Sedatives or Barbiturates	20	15	27	27
Minor Tranquilizers	22	20	33	36
Cocaine	42	33	89	72
Amphetamines	17	16	24	25
Hallucinogens	17	26	24	26
Marihuana/Hashish	67	62	86	84
Alcohol	56	72	74	83
Other Substances	1	3	8	5

Table 6

Frequency of Heroin Use Prior to Incarceration
for Maryland and Connecticut Inmate Groups
(Percentage)

Frequency of Heroin Use Prior to Incarceration	Maryland		Connecticut	
	TRAP Participants (n= 170)	Comparison (n= 153)	TRAP Participants (n= 83)	Comparison (n= 148)
TWO MONTHS PRIOR:				
Not at all	37	65	30	58
Less than Weekly	12	1	15	5
Once a Week	9	3	10	4
Several Times a Week	17	7	19	10
Daily	25	24	27	22
TOTAL...	100	100	100 *	100 *
ONE YEAR PRIOR:				
Not at all	34	56	23	47
Less than Weekly	15	7	21	12
Once a Week	8	7	11	6
Several Times a Week	17	10	25	15
Daily	26	20	21	20
TOTAL...	100	100	100 *	100

*Not equal to 100% due to rounding

Table 7

Frequency of Alcohol Use Prior to Incarceration
for Maryland and Connecticut Inmate Groups
(Percentage)

Frequency of Alcohol Use Prior to Incarceration	Maryland		Connecticut	
	TRAP Participants (n= 170)	Comparison (n= 153)	TRAP Participants (n= 83)	Comparison (n= 148)
TWO MONTHS PRIOR:				
Not at All	46	31	27	20
Less than Weekly	16	10	17	14
Once a Week	11	11	17	7
Several Times a Week	16	22	18	28
Daily	12	27	22	32
TOTAL....	100 *	100 *	100 *	100 *
ONE YEAR PRIOR:				
Not at All	44	28	27	17
Less than Weekly	17	11	14	17
Once a Week	11	12	18	11
Several Times a Week	18	26	20	24
Daily	11	24	20	32
TOTAL....	100 *	100 *	100 *	100 *

* Not equal to 100% due to rounding

Table 8

Frequency of Reported Drunkenness Prior to
Incarceration for Maryland and Connecticut Inmate Groups
(Percentage)

Frequency of Being Drunk Prior to Incarceration	Maryland		Connecticut	
	TRAP Participants	Comparison	TRAP Participants	Comparison
TWO MONTHS PRIOR:				
Not at all	77	70	61	57
Less than Weekly	9	7	12	14
Once a Week	5	4	6	8
Several Times a Week	7	10	16	11
Daily	2	9	5	10
TOTAL...	100	100	100	100
n=	171	147	83	147
ONE YEAR PRIOR:				
Not at all	75	61	53	46
Less than Weekly	10	12	19	21
Once a Week	6	9	13	12
Several Times a Week	7	12	12	12
Daily	2	6	2	9
TOTAL...	100	100	100 *	100
n=	166	150	83	148

*Not equal to 100% due to rounding

Criminal Activities in the Year Prior to Incarceration

Each inmate was asked whether he had committed any of four types of crimes during the year before his incarceration. A fifth crime category entitled "other" includes crimes that were not covered in the previous four specified offense categories. Table 9 shows the proportions of each inmate group who reported committing each type of crime within one year of their current incarceration.

The "Drug Related" category included the illegal use, sale or possession of controlled substances. Almost all of the Connecticut inmates indicate they were involved in drug-related illegal behaviors. On the other hand, Maryland inmates appear less prone to report their past non-medical drug use as an "illegal" activity. Only 78 percent of the TRAP participants reported any crimes related to drug use, possession or the sale of drugs. However, admission to TRAP required evidence of prior non-medical drug use.

The "Property Crimes" category includes offenses such as stealing, shoplifting, burglary and car theft. Forty percent from both Maryland inmate groups indicate they had committed a property crime during the year before they were incarcerated. In Connecticut, the proportions of inmates admitting to crimes against property are larger than in Maryland. Fifty-eight percent of the Connecticut TRAP participants and 48 percent of the comparison respondents indicated that they had committed at least one property crime during that time period.

Table 9

Self-Reported Criminal Behavior One Year Prior
to Incarceration for Maryland and Connecticut Inmate Groups
(Percentage)

Criminal Offense Categories	Maryland		Connecticut	
	TRAP Participants (n= 169)	Comparison (n= 153)	TRAP Participants (n = 81)	Comparison (n= 148)
Drug Related Crimes	76	76	98	93
Property Crimes	40	40	58	48
Violent Crimes	42	58	35	34
Victimless Crimes	13	17	29	30
Other Crimes	3	7	9	10

The "Violent Crimes" category includes offenses such as armed robbery, rape, assault and hold-ups. Proportionally fewer Maryland TRAP participants (42 percent) than comparison respondents (58 percent) indicated that they had committed a violent offense within the year before their current incarceration. In Connecticut, approximately 35 percent of the inmates from both groups report having committed a violent offense.

The "Victimless Crimes" category includes offenses such as prostitution, pimping, numbers and gambling. Maryland inmates were less likely to report having committed these offenses than other types of offenses. Similar proportions (29 percent for TRAP versus 30 percent for comparison) of the Connecticut inmate groups reported having committed a victimless offense within the one year time frame.

Table 9 displays the percentage of inmates who indicated that they had committed an offense. In order to assess the extent to which each inmate was involved in criminal activities, a follow-up series of questions was asked concerning the number of days the respondent was involved in criminal behavior. This was asked only of inmates who indicated that they had committed an offense.

Table 10 shows the average number of past year criminal involvement days for only those inmates who indicated they committed an offense at least one day within the year time frame.

Table 10

Self Reported "Number-of-Days" Involved in
Criminal Behavior One Year Prior to
Incarceration for Maryland and Connecticut Inmate Groups
(Mean)*

Criminal Offense Categories	Maryland		Connecticut	
	TRAP Participants	Comparison	TRAP Participants	Comparison
Drug Related Crimes	243.3	272.8	271.7	269.4
n=	131	113	79	146
Property Crimes	92.5	147.6	159.6	123.2
n=	68	61	48	75
Violent Crimes	39.4	29.3	25.4	40.8
n=	65	86	27	52
Victimless Crimes	116.7	192.1	168.5	200.9
n=	23	25	22	44
Other Crimes	96.2	6.6	97.4	112.2
n=	5	10	7	14

* Excludes respondents indicating they had not committed that type of offense

The "drug related crime" category consists of three types of offenses: illicit drug use, possession and sales. As noted above, not all of the respondents interviewed indicated that they had committed any of these specific offenses within the year prior to their incarceration. For inmates who had reported a drug related offense, Table 10 shows that they were typically involved in this type of illegal activity during 243 to 273 days of the 365 days prior to their current incarceration.

Table 11 displays the same data as Table 10 but in terms of the percentage of days each state inmate group reported that they spent committing these offenses. Table 11 shows that Maryland TRAP inmates who had committed these offenses were involved with drug related crimes 67 percent of the days. Twenty-five percent of prior year days were reportedly spent committing "violent crimes;" 32 percent committing "victimless crimes" and 26 percent of the days were spent committing "other" unspecified crimes. The Maryland comparison inmates also similarly report substantial numbers of criminal involvement days in the year prior to their current incarceration.

Table 11 shows that Connecticut TRAP inmates, who had committed these offenses, were involved with drug related crimes 74 percent of the days. Forty-four percent of prior year days were reportedly spent committing "property crimes,"

Table 11
Percentage* of Days Involved in Criminal Behavior
One Year Prior to Incarceration for
Maryland and Connecticut Inmate Groups

Criminal Offense Categories	Maryland		Connecticut	
	TRAP Participants	Comparison	TRAP Participants	Comparison
Drug Related Crimes	67	75	74	74
n=	131	113	79	146
Property Crimes	25	40	44	34
n=	68	61	48	75
Violent Crimes	11	8	7	11
n=	65	86	27	52
Victimless Crimes	32	53	46	55
n=	23	25	22	44
Other Crimes	26	2	27	31
n=	5	10	7	14

* Excludes respondents indicating they had not committed that type of offense

7 percent committing "violent crimes," 46 percent committing
"victimless crimes" and 27 percent committing "other" unspec-
ified crimes. The Connecticut comparison inmates also simi-
larly report substantial numbers of criminal involvement days
in the year prior to their current incarceration.

Conclusions

TRAP participants are somewhat older than their respec-
tive comparison counterparts. Over one-half of the inmates
are black and over one-half have never been married.

Almost one-half of all the inmates reported that they
had not graduated from high school. Over one-half of the
Maryland inmates and almost one-half of the Connecticut in-
mates report never having a drug treatment experience prior
to incarceration.

Each inmate group reported high rates of unemployment.
Heroin, marihuana, cocaine and alcohol are the most commonly
abused drugs among the inmate groups. Finally, all groups
reported considerable involvement in various criminal act-
ivities.

This interim report described the salient characteristics
of four inmate groups. No attempt was made to determine
whether differences between these groups were statistically
significant. As noted earlier, 40 TRAP graduates from each
program will be matched with 40 comparison inmates from their
respective comparison pools. At that time, group statistical
differences regarding age, race, drug abuse histories and
criminal careers will be determined. If differences between

the groups are determined to be statistically significant,
covariance analysis will be used, where appropriate, to
control for the differences.

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