



Arizona State

Department of Corrections

CHARACTERISTICS  
OF OFFENDERS

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ARIZONA STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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CHARACTERISTICS OF OFFENDERS

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This publication represents the first substantive output of the Department's Information System. It likewise is the first major publication pursuant to ARS § 31-222(A): *The Department shall establish programs of research, statistics and planning, including the study of its own performance concerning the treatment of juvenile and adult offenders.*

A report such as this obviously involves the efforts of many people and some special credits should be given. Major credit must go to Richard Galbraith, Research Consultant, who analyzed volumes of printouts and wrote most of the narrative. Kathy Paul developed the content of the tables. The entire staff was involved in editing and proofing. June Williams designed the cover and table format. Jean Mitchell typed the many drafts and the final copy, and Kathy Morries did the exacting typing of the tables. Irene Knapp has been strategically involved in the daily maintenance of the data files from which the information was generated. It has truly been a total staff effort.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
ADULT CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM - 1968 TO 1972 . . . . .	5
ARIZONA PRISON SYSTEM RESIDENTS - JANUARY 1, 1973 . . . . .	9
ADULT ADMISSIONS - 1969 TO 1972 . . . . .	24
JUVENILE COMMITMENTS - 1969 TO 1972 . . . . .	38

# LIST OF TABLES

Table No.		Page
1	ADULT CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM POPULATION - 1968 TO 1972 . . . . .	5
2	A.S.P. RELEASES BY NUMBER OF PRIOR PRISON TERMS . . . . .	7
3	RELEASES FROM THE ARIZONA STATE PRISON SYSTEM . . . . .	8
4	LOCATION OF ARIZONA STATE PRISON INMATES, JANUARY 1, 1973 . . . .	9
5	COMMITTING OFFENSE OF ADULT RESIDENTS . . . . .	10
6	LENGTH OF MINIMUM SENTENCES OF RESIDENTS . . . . .	11
7	TIME SERVED BY RESIDENTS . . . . .	12
8	PRIOR PRISON TERMS SERVED BY ADULT RESIDENTS . . . . .	13
9	RESIDENTS BY TYPE OF ADMISSION . . . . .	13
10	ESCAPE AND ATTEMPTED ESCAPE RECORD OF RESIDENTS . . . . .	14
11	AGE OF RESIDENTS . . . . .	15
12	ETHNIC BACKGROUND OF RESIDENTS . . . . .	16
13	RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND OF RESIDENTS . . . . .	16
14	COMMITTING COUNTY OF RESIDENTS . . . . .	17
15	EDUCATIONAL DEGREES OF RESIDENTS . . . . .	18
16	TESTED I.Q. SCORES OF RESIDENTS . . . . .	19
17	OCCUPATIONS OF RESIDENTS . . . . .	19
18	MARITAL STATUS OF RESIDENTS . . . . .	20
19	ALCOHOL HISTORY OF RESIDENTS . . . . .	21
20	KNOWN NARCOTIC USE BY RESIDENTS . . . . .	21
21	ADULT ADMISSIONS, 1969--1972 . . . . .	24
22	MOST FREQUENT ADMISSION OFFENSES . . . . .	25
23	ADULT ADMISSIONS BY TYPE OF OFFENSE . . . . .	26
24	AVERAGE MINIMUM SENTENCES AT COMMITMENT . . . . .	27
25	PRIOR PRISON TERMS SERVED . . . . .	29
26	PERSONS ADMITTED WITH PRIOR PRISON TERMS . . . . .	30
27	ADULT ADMISSIONS BY COUNTY . . . . .	32

List of Tables (Continued)

Table No.		Page
28	ADULT ADMISSIONS BY AGE . . . . .	33
29	ADULT ADMISSIONS BY ETHNIC BACKGROUND . . . . .	33
30	COMPARISON OF YEARS IN SCHOOL AND TESTED GRADE LEVEL . . . . .	34
31	DRUG USE BY ADMISSIONS . . . . .	36
32	USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS (TRENDS) . . . . .	36
33	ALCOHOL USE BY ADMISSIONS . . . . .	37
34	CHILDREN COMMITTED TO ARIZONA STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS . . . . .	38
35	JUVENILE COMMITMENTS BY COUNTY . . . . .	39
36	REASONS FOR JUVENILE COMMITMENTS . . . . .	41
37	PRIOR COURT REFERRALS OF JUVENILES COMMITTED . . . . .	42
38	FAMILY OF RESIDENCE OF JUVENILES COMMITTED . . . . .	43
39	TESTED I.Q. SCORES OF JUVENILES COMMITTED . . . . .	44
40	AGE OF CHILDREN COMMITTED . . . . .	45
41	JUVENILES ADMITTED WITH PAST DRUG USE . . . . .	46

## INTRODUCTION

The Arizona Department of Corrections is a unified offender rehabilitation system providing services to adults and juveniles in institutions, community treatment facilities and on parole. On January 1, 1973, the Department had 4,708 individuals under its supervision, 2,675 adults and 2,033 juveniles. The Department operates five facilities for adults (Arizona State Prison at Florence, Safford Conservation Center, and three recently developed community treatment centers--two in Phoenix and one in Tucson) and seven facilities for juveniles (Arizona State Industrial School at Fort Grant, Arizona Youth Center, Arizona Girls' School, Alpine Conservation Center, and three community treatment centers--two in Phoenix and one in Tucson). These facilities housed 2,300 residents, while 2,400 persons were under the supervision of the Parole Division. Although some of the State's correctional facilities have been in existence since statehood, they have been coordinated under a Department of Corrections only since 1968. Therefore, many facilities, programs and services to meet Arizona's correctional needs are still in formative stages. Such is the case with the development of a modern correctional information system.

CORRECTIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM As late as the spring of 1971 the Department had no data processing equipment and no means of summary access to information on offender characteristics. Statistics in the Department consisted of only the most rudimentary counts of admissions and releases. Each management request for detailed information had to be solved on an individual project basis with laborious manual tabulations required, and often with questionable accuracy. Frequently the information desired was not obtainable within any reasonable time frame. Sophisticated information for planning, evaluation, budget support, or for exchange with legislative or other criminal justice agencies was simply nonexistent.

Law Enforcement Assistance Administration discretionary funding to the Department for the planning of a medium security correctional training facility brought the problem into sharp focus. How could a facility for a specific offender category be planned without some detailed information on the target

population characteristics? Fortunately the grant provided the resources to begin, in the spring of 1971, the coding of historical files to provide some basic offender characteristics and for some research into average time served by offenders released from the system. With this as a beginning, a proposal for 1971--1972 L.E.A.A. funds to develop a system of information gathering and processing was approved by the Arizona State Justice Planning Agency; and the Department of Corrections Information System, INFORM II, was born July 1, 1971. When completely operational, this computerized system will include updated and historical information on all persons under the active supervision of the Department and historical information on all persons admitted by the Department since its beginning July 1, 1968. At present, complete files and report programs are operational for all adult and juvenile offenders in departmental institutions and historical records on all adult commitments since July 1, 1968, and juvenile commitments since July 1, 1969.

Continued funding has facilitated the conversion of these historical files into computer format as well as the system designs and computer processing. Without this assistance from L.E.A.A. and Arizona State Justice Planning Agency, a modern information system, and this resulting statistical analysis, would have been years delayed. The Department is most appreciative for this help.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS This publication is the first general statistical analysis derived from data generated by this correctional information system, INFORM II. It contains a general summary of the adult population of the Arizona correctional system from 1968 through 1972, and analytical sections based on three separate data files: Adult Admissions 1969--1972, Adult Resident Population on January 1, 1973, and Juvenile Admissions 1970--1972. These master data files incorporate information from court records and probation reports with the information gathered by the Department throughout each offender's tenure under supervision. While some of this information has been objectively verified against official records, in many areas our knowledge of an offender's background may be limited to his own statements. Some variables which may be coded solely on the basis of reports made by the offender are



years spent in school, principal occupation, religious affiliation, common-law marriages, and length of residence in Arizona. Also, on both adult and juvenile files, analyses have been made concerning the "known" use of alcohol and other drugs. Drug use and type of drug is considered "known" if it is admitted by the offender during diagnostic evaluations or if it is included as part of the pre-sentence report from the courts whether or not the offender has an official record for violating drug laws. Any offenders admitted who disclaim personal use, even if they have been admitted for violation of certain drug laws (e.g. sale or transportation), are not included in the "known" drug users analysis; hence "known" drug use is probably an under-reported category. However, no estimates of the extent of total drug use or under-reporting are available.

In addition to the analysis of commitment information such as offense, sentence, priors, etc., and personal history characteristics of these specific populations, some preliminary summaries are presented that suggest additional special study of parole violators, "hard core" repeaters, sentencing trends, distinctions between rural and metropolitan offenders, and the relationships between levels of drug abuse and other criminal behavior.

Most of the information in this report is expressed as percentages. This emphasis on proportional presentations will allow the layman to make easy comparisons from table to table and between the various populations.

The reader is cautioned consequently, that random variations may have affected the distributions where some of the smaller subgroups were analyzed. Therefore, the tentative relationships mentioned in the special studies are presented as illustrative findings rather than statistically significant conclusions. The Department will produce more refined analyses of the population under its supervision as its information system and research resources continue to develop.

The main purpose of this publication is to provide a comprehensive summary of the characteristics of the people committed to the jurisdiction of the Arizona State Department of Corrections. It is an initial step in the effort to improve the measurement of the correctional process in the State and to facilitate more precise planning and evaluation of rehabilitation programs and needs.

# ADULT CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM - 1968 TO 1972

Throughout the past five years, 1968 to 1972, the Arizona State Prison has been badly overcrowded. The worst overload occurred during 1969 and the first half of 1970, when the average daily population of the prison remained over 1,700 for 15 months. The opening of the Safford Conservation Center in July, 1970, created some additional capacity for the prison system. The resident population at Safford, however, did not average above 100 men until almost two years later (June, 1972), so the overall effect on prison overcrowding was slight.

Table 1.

ADULT CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM POPULATION - 1968 to 1972					
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Residents, January 1	1596	1692	1714	1486	1411
<u>Admissions</u>	725	676	612	710	777
New Court Receipts	691	641	555	646	657
Parole Returns	34				
New Felony	N.A.	18	13	18	51
Conditional Returns	N.A.	17	44	46	69
<u>Releases</u>	595	629	803	739	577
Parole	267	307	449	465	365
Expiration	328	322	354	274	212
Other*	34	25	37	46	82
Residents, End of Year	1692	1714	1486	1411	1529
Change in Population Total	+ 6.0%	+ 1.3%	-13.3%	-5.0%	+8.4%

\* Includes court ordered releases, deaths, Arizona inmates in institutions under other jurisdictions, and temporary releases who were not in residence on Jan. 1.

Due to some other factors discussed below, overall adult resident population declined steadily from July, 1970 until April, 1971. There were mild fluctuations in the population during the next year. Since July of 1972, however, the adult resident population has shown a strong upward trend that is continuing to the present. At the end of 1972, the adult correctional system (Arizona State Prison, Safford Conservation Camp and the new community treatment program) held 1,529 residents. By June 1, 1973, the resident population (all facilities) had climbed above 1,660, again approaching the number incarcerated during the 1969--1970 peak. However, 165 of this total was housed at Safford and the community centers, so the main prison, itself, was not as overcrowded as in 1969--1970.

Awareness of the severely overcrowded prison conditions in early 1970 may have influenced this subsequent temporary reduction in the prison population. While there was a continuing rise in the F.B.I.'s crime index for Arizona, there was a sharp, one-year decrease in the number of new admissions sentenced to prison by the Superior Courts. There was also a large increase in the number of releases granted by the Parole Board.

The large number of parole releases in 1970 (up 46% from 1969) was essentially a result of new legislation enacted by the 29th Legislature which established parole eligibility for all inmates at one-third of their minimum sentence (provided they had served at least one calendar year) regardless of prior conviction. Of course, not all inmates are paroled at their earliest date of eligibility, but the new law did make a great number of men eligible for release under parole supervision who previously would have been held until their sentence expired, then released without supervision. In addition, parole was granted in a larger proportion (50%) of the cases considered by the Parole Board in 1970 than in either of the more recent years (39% in 1971 and 33% in 1972).

Two other related variables appear to be having a significant effect on an inmate's chances of receiving parole: age and number of prior prison terms. Men who were admitted to the prison when they were 16 to 25 years old and hence more likely to be first termers were also more apt to receive parole than older men. Of the adults released between July 1, 1969 and June 30, 1972, three-fourths

of those serving their first prison term but less than one-third of those who had served three or more previous terms received parole. Further, among those who were granted parole, each additional prior prison term lengthened the median time served before release was granted. This is a variation from sentencing patterns where it was found that one prior lengthened the average sentence for a given offense but additional priors had no effect on the sentence imposed.

Table 2.

A.S.P. RELEASES BY NUMBER OF PRIOR PRISON TERMS - JULY 1969 to JUNE 1972						
Prior Prison Terms	All Releases		Parolees		Expirations	
	No.	Median Time	%	Median Time	%	Median Time
0	1123	17 months	75.2	16 months	24.8	17 months
1	477	28 months	43.2	24 months	56.8	28 months
2	185	27 months	37.8	29 months	62.2	27 months
3+	271	30 months	31.7	33 months	68.3	30 months
Total	2046	22 months	58.5	19 months	41.5	22 months

There was a large increase in the number of parolees returned to the prison in 1972 (See Table 1, p. 5). This appears to reflect the larger number of persons placed under parole supervision since 1970, rather than any decrease in the effectiveness of supervision. A separate study by the Department showed that even with the large increase in paroles granted in 1970, Arizona's rate for successful completion of parole remained well above the national average. The demonstrated effectiveness of parole has apparently promoted its increased use. In 1968, parolees accounted for only 45% of the releases; the majority of those released received no post-release supervision. By 1972, the situation had improved to the point where 63.3% of those released from prison in Arizona received parole supervision.

Table 3.

## 1972 RELEASES FROM THE ARIZONA STATE PRISON SYSTEM

	Number	%	Median Time Served
Parole	365	63.3	17 months
Expiration	212	36.7	23 months
Total	577	100 %	19 months

The median time served prior to discharge was 19 months for all the men released in 1972.\*. Those granted parole served a median of 17 months, while the median time served by those released at the expiration of their sentences was 23 months.

The shortest median terms (13 months) were served by those persons who had been convicted for forged or fraudulent checks. Men who were convicted of wilfull homicide had served the longest time (a median of 42 months) before their release.

The Arizona State Prison System has a high turnover rate. Of those in prison at the first of any year, between 35% and 50% have been released by the end of that year. Meanwhile, new admissions account for between 35% and 55% of each year's total population. The characteristics of both resident and admissions populations are examined in the following sections.

\* It should be noted that the median time served is the midpoint and not the statistical average (mean). Due to a skewed distribution, the median time served by those who are released is less than the average (mean) time served by a man before his release.

ARIZONA PRISON SYSTEM RESIDENTS - JANUARY 1, 1973

There were 1,597 inmates under the supervision of Arizona's correctional institutions for adults on January 1, 1973. Sixty-three of these inmates were not in residence on that day due to court appearances, hospitalization, or on escape status. Eighty-seven percent of the inmates were housed in the prison complex in Florence, 1,217 in the main yard, 128 in the Institute of Educational Rehabilitation (I.E.R.) facility, and 47 in the women's division. The Safford Conservation Center housed 121 men, and 21 were assigned to the community treatment program.

Table 4.

LOCATION OF ARIZONA STATE PRISON INMATES, JANUARY 1, 1973		
	N	%
A.S.P. at Florence	1392	87.1
Main Yard	1217	76.2
I.E.R.	128	8.0
Women's Division	47	2.9
Safford Conservation Camp	121	7.6
Community Treatment Program	21	1.3
Out to Court	44	2.8
Hospital	11	.7
Absent without Leave	8	.5
Total *	1597	100 %

*\* An additional 50 adults committed to the Arizona Department of Corrections were inmates of institutions in other jurisdictions serving concurrent sentences in other state or federal prisons, or on interstate contract placement.*

The following is an attempt to partially describe the characteristics of the resident population on January 1, 1973. Since this group of inmates includes both persons just assigned to the Department of Corrections (whose files had not been completed) and persons who were in prison before the current diagnostic-records procedures were established, some of the items (e.g., age of first

arrest and use of alcohol) in the inmate profile are based on incomplete records (though in no case less than 80% of the total for any of the categories).

Half (50%) of the resident inmates had been committed for violent felonies (17% for homicide, 13.5% for robbery, 12% for assault, 5% for rape, and 2.5% for kidnapping). Thirty-two percent of the resident inmates had been committed for property crimes. This is a reversal of the distribution of offense types for new admissions (discussed in the following section). The difference is due to the longer terms usually served by the violent felons; they tend to stay in prison longer and, therefore, make up a larger portion of the resident population. The other large offense category, narcotics violations, accounts for 12% of the resident inmates.

Table 5.

COMMITTING OFFENSE OF ADULT RESIDENTS (all numbers are expressed as percentages)					
	Total	Arizona State Prison		Safford	Community
		Women	Men	Camp	Centers
Crimes v. Persons	50.2	50.0	51.6	37.2	23.8
Homicide	17.2	26.1	17.8	15.7	4.8
Sexual Assault	5.2	----	6.0	----	----
Robbery	13.5	8.7	13.6	10.7	----
Assault	11.9	15.2	11.4	9.9	19.0
Other	2.4	----	2.8	.8	----
Crimes v. Property	32.4	19.5	31.1	50.4	61.9
Burglary	15.4	8.7	15.2	24.8	23.8
Larceny	6.9	----	7.1	11.6	----
Auto Theft	2.3	----	2.4	.8	4.8
Forgery	4.0	4.3	3.0	9.9	14.3
Fraud	2.2	2.2	2.1	3.3	4.8
Other	1.6	4.3	1.3	----	14.3
Dangerous Drugs	12.3	21.7	11.7	9.9	14.3
Sex Offenses	3.0	2.2	3.6	----	----
Other	2.1	6.5	2.0	2.5	----
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %



More than one-fourth (27.6%) had been sentenced for two or more offenses with the sentences to be served concurrently, while 8% of the resident inmates had received two or more sentences to be served consecutively.

The average inmate at Arizona State Prison on January 1, 1973 had served 13 months. Since the median minimum sentence is five years, 73% of the resident inmates on that day had not reached the first date they would be eligible for parole. About one-fourth of the inmates had passed their minimum parole eligibility date, while a few (2%) had served more than their minimum sentences.

Table 6.

LENGTH OF MINIMUM SENTENCES OF RESIDENTS (all numbers are expressed as percentages)					
Years	Total	Arizona State Prison		Safford Camp	Community Centers
		Women	Men		
1	6.0	8.7	5.1	13.1	23.8
2	11.0	15.2	10.0	17.2	38.1
3	12.5	13.0	11.4	25.4	19.0
4	9.8	10.9	9.3	12.3	9.5
5	15.2	19.6	15.5	10.7	-
6	3.7	2.2	3.9	2.5	-
7 - 8	6.4	6.5	6.6	4.1	4.8
9 - 10	11.5	4.3	12.8	4.9	4.8
11 - 15	6.0	4.3	6.2	1.6	-
16 - 20	4.3	4.3	4.4	1.6	-
21 - 25	2.1	4.3	2.2	-	-
26 - 30	1.5	-	1.8	-	-
over 30	3.4	-	3.9	.9	-
Life	6.6	6.5	6.9	5.7	-
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Table 7.

TIME SERVED BY RESIDENTS					
<i>(all numbers are expressed as percentages)</i>					
	Total	Arizona State Prison		Safford	Community
		Women	Men	Camp	Centers
Under 6 mos.	27.8	47.7	27.2	31.2	19.0
7 - 12 mos.	20.4	13.0	21.0	19.6	33.3
13 - 18 mos.	12.8	17.4	12.1	13.9	28.6
19 - 24 mos.	10.9	6.5	11.2	11.4	9.5
3 yrs.	8.1	2.2	8.3	9.8	4.8
4 yrs.	5.1	2.2	5.3	2.4	4.8
5 yrs.	2.9	4.4	2.8	1.6	-
6 yrs.	2.5	-	2.5	2.4	-
7 yrs.	2.2	-	2.3	.8	-
8 yrs.	1.3	-	1.2	3.2	-
9 yrs.	1.6	-	1.6	1.6	-
10 yrs.	1.7	2.2	1.6	1.6	-
11 - 15 yrs.	2.2	4.4	2.4	-	-
over 15 yrs.	.5	-	.3	-	-
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

While about half (48%) of the January 1, 1973 resident inmates had been in a prison before, 73% were serving their first term in the Arizona State Prison. Most of the inmates who had prior prison records had served their previous terms in other state or federal prisons (31.2% of the population) rather than in Arizona (27%).

Table 8.

PRIOR PRISON TERMS SERVED BY ADULT RESIDENTS  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

Terms Served In:	Any Prison	Arizona	Other States
None	51.7	73.0	68.8
1	22.6	17.6	15.9
2	12.3	6.4	8.0
3	6.4	2.2	3.9
4	3.6	.1	1.4
5 or more	3.4	.2	2.0
	100 %	100 %	100 %

Parole violators formed a small minority even of those inmates with prior terms, and only 9% of the total inmate population. Further, only half of the parole violators had been returned to prison because of a new felony conviction.

Table 9.

RESIDENTS BY TYPE OF ADMISSION  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

	Total	Arizona State Prison		Safford Camp	Community Centers
		Women	Men		
New Court Receipts	86.7	78.3	86.6	86.1	95.2
Revocation of Probation	4.4	13.0	4.2	5.7	-
Parole Returns					
New Felony	4.8	6.5	5.0	4.1	-
Conditional Returns	4.1	2.2	4.2	4.1	4.8
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

The average inmate's first known arrest occurred at age 16. One out of six had an arrest record before his thirteenth birthday, while fewer than one-fourth of the inmates have no known arrests before their twenty-first birthday.

Twenty percent have made at least one serious escape attempt from a jail or correctional institution. Five percent (60 individuals) have escaped, or attempted to escape, from a prison.

Table 10.

ESCAPE AND ATTEMPTED ESCAPE RECORD OF RESIDENTS (all numbers are expressed as percentages)					
	Total	Arizona State Prison		Safford Camp	Community Centers
		Women	Men		
From Any Institution					
None	79.5	85.7	78.9	92.4	100.0
1	16.5	14.3	17.1	5.7	-
2	2.5	-	2.7	-	-
3 or more	1.5	-	1.3	1.9	-
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
From a Maximum Security Institution	5.5	5.9	3.5	-	-

SOCIAL BACKGROUND Arizona prison inmates are nearly all males. Only 47 women (less than three percent of the inmates) were in the prison population on January 1.

The median age of resident inmates was 29. Twenty-nine percent of the population were under twenty-five. Twenty percent were over forty.

Table 11.

AGE OF RESIDENTS  
(all numbers expressed as percentages except in total column)

	Total		Arizona State Prison		Safford	Community
	N	%	Women	Men	Camp	Centers
Under 18	6	.4	-	.4	-	-
18 - 20	120	7.5	8.9	7.2	11.5	9.5
21 - 25	431	27.0	26.7	27.0	31.1	19.0
26 - 30	321	20.1	20.0	20.0	17.2	14.3
31 - 35	222	13.9	17.8	13.8	10.6	19.1
36 - 40	189	11.8	4.4	12.0	9.0	14.3
41 - 45	123	7.7	4.4	7.8	9.0	9.5
46 - 50	82	5.1	8.9	5.1	5.1	4.8
51 - 55	50	3.1	6.7	2.9	4.1	9.5
56 - 60	29	1.8	2.2	1.7	2.4	-
61 - 65	16	1.0	-	1.2	-	-
66 +	8	.5	-	.5	-	-
	1597	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

While ethnic minorities are over-represented in the prison population (especially Blacks, who form 22% of the inmates), the majority (56%) of the inmates are white. Ninety-eight percent are native U.S. citizens, and eighty-eight percent claim affiliation with a Christian religion. Only eight percent claim no ties to organized religion.

Table 12.

ETHNIC BACKGROUND OF RESIDENTS  
*(all numbers expressed as percentages except in total column)*

	Total		Arizona State Prison		Safford	Community
	N	%	Women	Men	Camp	Centers
White	894	56.0	60.9	53.7	68.9	80.9
Black	350	21.9	23.9	21.9	22.9	9.5
Mex-Amer	300	18.8	10.9	21.1	6.6	4.8
Indian	50	3.1	4.3	3.2	.8	4.8
Other	3	.2	-	.1	.8	-
	1597	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Table 13.

RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND OF RESIDENTS  
*(all numbers are expressed as percentages)*

	Total	Arizona State Prison		Safford	Community
		Women	Men	Camp	Centers
Protestant	50.7	55.8	49.1	63.9	61.9
Catholic	34.7	32.5	36.3	23.5	38.1
LDS	2.6	4.7	2.5	3.4	-
Jewish	.9	-	.9	.8	-
Moslem	.2	-	.3	-	-
Agnostic/Atheist	.9	-	.7	1.7	-
Other	2.6	2.3	2.5	1.7	-
None	7.3	4.7	7.7	5.0	-
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

The residents had been committed by the courts of the 14 counties in roughly the same percentage as each county's proportion of total state population. The two urban counties (Maricopa and Pima) are slightly over-represented in the resident inmate population. Seventy-six percent of the inmates had come from these two counties which have 74.5% of the State's total population.

Table 14.

COMMITTING COUNTY OF RESIDENTS					
<i>(all numbers expressed as percentages except in total column)</i>					
	Total		Arizona State Prison		Safford Community
	N	%	Women	Men	Camp Centers
Apache	3	.2	2.2	.2	-
Cochise	34	2.1	4.3	2.0	4.1
Coconino	50	3.1	2.2	2.7	4.1
Gila	8	.5	-	.5	-
Graham	24	1.5	-	1.8	-
Greenlee	2	.1	-	.1	-
Maricopa	880	55.1	65.2	55.1	52.5
Mohave	32	2.0	6.5	1.7	2.5
Navajo	43	2.7	2.2	2.7	2.5
Pima	334	20.9	13.0	21.1	26.2
Pinal	42	2.6	2.2	2.6	.8
Santa Cruz	13	.8	-	1.0	-
Yavapai	39	2.4	-	2.2	1.6
Yuma	88	5.5	2.2	5.9	5.7
Interstate	6	.4	-	.4	-
	1597	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

The prison population is marked by a low level of education. Only 30% have high school diplomas (including G.E.D.'s earned in prison), and less than 5% have any degree or trade school certificate past the high school level. Thirty percent dropped out of school before ever reaching high school. The average resident inmate claims to have completed 10 years of formal education, but tested at a 7th grade achievement level.

Table 15.

EDUCATIONAL DEGREES OF RESIDENTS					
<i>(all numbers are expressed as percentages)</i>					
	Total	Arizona State Prison		Safford	Community
		Women	Men	Camp	Centers
None	63.3	73.0	64.4	57.0	65.0
High School	21.2	18.9	20.1	27.2	25.0
H.S. GED	9.2	5.4	9.1	9.6	5.0
A.A. (Jr. College)	.2	-	.2	-	-
B.A. or B.S.	.6	2.7	.6	-	-
Advanced Degree	.3	-	.3	.9	-
Trade or Vocational Certificate	5.1	-	5.2	5.3	5.0
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Academic ability, as measured by I.Q. tests, is not as low as actual academic achievement among the resident inmates. Three-fourths of inmates tested had I.Q.'s in the average to above average ranges. Eight percent have low (below 80) tested I.Q.'s.



Table 16.

TESTED I.Q. SCORES OF RESIDENTS  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

	Total	Arizona State Prison		Safford Camp	Community Centers
		Women	Men		
Under 70	2.1	16.7	2.3	-	-
70 - 79	6.1	-	6.3	6.4	5.6
80 - 89	12.8	-	13.0	12.9	-
90 - 99	23.0	16.7	24.9	16.1	33.3
100 - 109	31.7	66.7	30.7	40.9	16.7
110 - 119	20.0	-	19.2	19.4	38.9
120 +	3.7	-	3.6	4.3	5.6
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Table 17.

OCCUPATIONS OF RESIDENTS  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

	Total	Arizona State Prison		Safford Camp	Community Centers
		Women	Men		
None	1.0	7.7	.8	-	-
Unskilled	37.4	10.2	38.4	38.1	28.6
Semi-skilled	32.8	23.1	32.8	36.4	47.6
Skilled	6.8	-	6.6	8.5	9.5
Service Work	12.1	41.0	11.8	8.5	-
Sales & Clerical	6.1	15.4	5.6	4.2	9.5
Managerial	1.1	2.6	1.1	1.7	4.8
Professional & Technical	2.7	-	2.9	2.5	-
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Seventy percent had previously worked as unskilled or semi-skilled laborers, with another 12% being service workers, leaving only one out of six inmates from a sales, managerial or skilled occupation. Thirty percent have served in the military, and 40% of those who had served were discharged with less than an honorable discharge.

One-third of the inmate population was legally married and 39% were single. The remainder were divorcees or had common-law arrangements. One in seven had been married more than once.

Table 18.

MARITAL STATUS OF RESIDENTS  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

	Total	Arizona State Prison Women	Men	Safford Camp	Community Centers
Single	38.8	24.4	40.2	36.9	19.0
Legal Marriage	33.8	42.2	32.4	37.7	33.3
Common-law	4.5	8.9	4.3	4.1	4.8
Divorced	20.1	17.8	20.0	19.7	42.9
Widowed	2.8	6.7	3.0	1.6	-
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Twenty-two percent were admitted alcoholics or heavy drinkers, while thirty-nine percent admitted use of illegal drugs (and 40% of these admit heroin use.) The drug abuse problem is particularly acute among the younger inmates. Sixty percent of those admitted under the age of 25 had used illegal drugs, at least experimentally.

Table 19.

ALCOHOL HISTORY OF RESIDENTS  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

	Total	Arizona State Prison Women	Men	Safford Camp	Community Centers
None	23.0	33.3	22.5	19.3	15.8
Occasional Use	22.0	41.6	21.7	25.7	21.0
Medium Use	33.2	13.9	33.4	34.9	42.1
Heavy Use	15.4	5.6	16.3	11.9	5.3
Alcoholic	6.4	5.6	6.1	8.2	15.8
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Table 20.

KNOWN NARCOTIC USE BY RESIDENTS  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

	Total	Arizona State Prison Women	Men	Safford Camp	Community Centers
None	61.9	42.8	61.9	66.7	78.9
Marijuana	9.3	2.9	8.9	9.2	21.1
Amphetamine	2.3	5.7	2.3	1.9	-
Barbiturate	1.2	-	1.0	4.6	-
Hallucinogen	1.9	2.9	1.9	1.9	-
Heroin	15.9	37.1	16.2	11.1	-
Opium	.1	-	.2	-	-
Cocaine	.3	2.9	.2	-	-
Other	6.9	5.7	7.3	4.6	-
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

RECIDIVISTS One in every seven (13.4%) of the inmates had served three or more prison terms prior to receiving their current sentences. The profile of this group of "hard core" repeaters differs markedly from that of the residents who are serving their first prison term.

The median age of the repeaters is 30, seven years older than for the first-termers. They were, on the average, one year younger than the first-termer when they were first arrested, although, there are no significant ethnic differences between the two groups.

The repeaters are more likely to have been admitted for a crime against property (particularly for burglary or forgery), or for robbery, while the first-termers included a larger percentage of persons admitted for homicide, sexual assault or drug violations. The repeaters generally received longer sentences. The average resident with three or more prior terms is serving a six-to-ten year sentence, while the average first-termer is serving five-to-eight years. Further, the repeat residents are more likely than those serving first terms to have received multiple sentences to be served consecutively.

About one-third of both the first term and multiple-repeater groups are currently married. However, the repeater group includes a much larger proportion of divorced men. Repeat residents are more likely than first-termers to have served in the military, probably due to age, but of those who had served, the repeat residents were much less likely to have received an honorable discharge. A significant number of the repeat residents had served prison terms in other states, and more than one out of every four had resided in Arizona for less than a year prior to their conviction.

While both groups have achieved equivalent levels of educational attainment, a larger portion (34% vs. 22%) of the repeaters had tested I.Q.'s above 110. The mean tested I.Q. for those with three or more priors is five points higher than the mean for first-termers. Also, the repeat are less likely than the first-termers to have been involved with marijuana, but are twice as likely to be alcoholics or heavy drinkers.

The statistical significance of these differences has not been established. They are presented here as possible indicators of factors that could be related to the likelihood that a prison inmate may receive another prison sentence in the future. The availability of an increasing amount of data from the Department's information system will allow additional refinements and further controls in future publications.

ADULT ADMISSIONS 1969 - 1972

Of 2,773 adult commitments to the Department 1969--1972, the greatest number (777) were committed in 1972. This is a nine percent increase over the 710 admissions in 1971. Almost all this increase is represented in 56 more returns from parole than in 1971.

Returns from parole accounted for over 15% of all adult admissions in 1972; however, the majority of these were returned from violation of conditions of parole (9%) rather than for conviction on a new felony (6%), and seem to indicate a stricter supervision of parolees rather than any decrease in parole effectiveness. Also, as referred to in the general discussion of the correctional system above, 1970 parole releases were up 46% from 1969 and the larger number of returns is accounted for by an increase in the total population on parole caseloads. Separate studies also show an increase in the percent completing parole successfully.

Table 21.

ADULT ADMISSIONS, 1969 - 1972				
By Type of Admission				
	1969	1970	1971	1972
New Court Receipts	641	555	646	657
Parole Returns	35	57	64	120
New Felony	18	13	18	51
Conditional Returns	17	44	46	69
Total	676	612	710	777

OFFENSES From 1969 to 1972 the largest number of adults admitted were convicted of property crimes; however, such crimes no longer account for the majority of admissions. In 1969, property offenses represented 54.5% of admissions, but by 1972 the proportion had dropped to 44%. Over the same interval, crimes against persons have increased from 32% of total admissions to 36%. Admissions for violation of drug laws have increased from 9% in 1969 to 15% of the 1972 admissions. In fact, drug law violations in 1972, including marijuana, dangerous drugs and opiates, ranked second only to burglary admissions. Burglary remained the number one committing offense for each of the four years, 1969--1972.

Table 22.

MOST FREQUENT ADMISSION OFFENSES - 1972  
(Men and Women)

	Number	Percent
Burglary	162	21
Drug Violations	116	15
Assault	102	13
Robbery	78	10
Larceny	72	9
Homicide	64	8
Forgery	45	6

For female admissions (considered separately), violation of drug laws was the most common reason for commitment followed by homicide, assault, and burglary. However, only 34 of the 777 adults admitted to the Department of Corrections in 1972 were women. In fact, throughout the four-year span of the study from 1969--1972, men have accounted for over 95% of prison admissions.

Table 23.

ADULT ADMISSIONS BY TYPE OF OFFENSE  
*(all numbers are expressed as percentages)*

	1969	1970	1971	1972
Crimes vs. Persons	31.9	34.3	36.9	35.9
Crimes vs. Property	54.5	53.6	44.1	44.4
Drugs	9.0	10.0	14.1	15.1
Other	4.6	2.1	4.9	4.6
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

SENTENCING PATTERNS This examination of sentence patterns is based on all persons sentenced to Arizona State Prison during the four years 1969--1972. For this time period the average sentence carried a minimum of four years and a maximum of five years. A separate study of sentences at commitment reveals that the average minimum and average maximum were each 8½ months longer for 1971 admissions than for 1970 admissions, and minimum sentences increased another three months for 1972 admissions over 1971. This has a significant effect on the resident population and overcrowding, as the same number of new admissions but with longer average minimum sentences would obviously spend longer in prison before release. It should be noted that the actual time served may be less than the sentence imposed because of laws providing for earned time credit deductions and one-third minimum parole eligibility. One-fourth of the inmates were sentenced to minimums of two years or less while the upper 25% face minimum terms of six years or longer and maximum terms of ten years or longer.

A number of factors affect the length of sentences producing some interesting disparities. The most logical factor affecting sentence, of course, is the nature of the crime for which the person was convicted. As could be expected,



homicide, kidnapping, and sexual assault carried the longest minimum sentences averaging slightly over ten years. Offenses which resulted in shorter than average sentences were mostly property crimes.

Table 24.

AVERAGE MINIMUM SENTENCES AT COMMITMENT, 1969 - 1972

Offense	Years
Homicide	11
Kidnapping	10
Sexual Assault	10
Other Sex Offenses	8
Robbery	7 1/2
Aggravated Assault	5
Drugs	4
Burglary	3
Larceny	3
Forgery	3
Weapons	3
Stolen Vehicle	2 1/2
Embezzlement	2 1/2
Stolen Property	2 1/2
Obstructing Justice	2 1/2
Fraud	2

A prior prison record generally raised the minimum sentence to about 50% above the average minimum for the same offense by a first-termer. However, the average minimum does not increase with additional prior prison terms. Persons with three prior prison terms generally received the same sentences as those with one prior term. However (*as noted on p. 7*), they can expect to serve longer before release due to the actions of the Parole Board. Parole violators with new felonies tended to draw the longest sentences, often double those received by first admissions for the same offense.

Women generally received shorter sentences than men for the same offenses with the exception of assault, where they received longer sentences than men for the same offense.

The effect of most other variables (ethnic group, education, drug use and alcohol use) on the average minimum sentence varies with type of offense. The average sentence for burglary, for example, shows no significant variations between ethnic group and seems to be unaffected by level of education or history of drug or alcohol use. (As a result, burglary provides a good index with which to validate other observed disparities.) The average minimum sentences for other offenses, however, seem to be greatly affected by some of these variables.

Whites, for example, received minimum sentences for robbery and assault that averaged 17 months longer than those handed out to members of ethnic minorities who, on the other hand, received minimum sentences 16 months longer for drug violations than whites.

For sexual assault, blacks received the longest median sentences (12 years) and Mexican-Americans, the shortest (6½ years) with whites in between (9 years). The significance of these differences cannot be determined without careful consideration of other factors that may be involved in each case.

Felons with high school diplomas tended to receive shorter terms for homicide, robbery and drug violations, but longer sentence for assault, sexual assault, and other sex offenses than did persons who had earned no diploma.

Heavy drinkers and alcoholics tended to receive longer terms for assault and sexual assault but shorter than average terms for robbery. Both known drug users and heavy drinkers tended to receive shorter than average sentences for sex offenses other than sexual assault. No reason for this disparity is readily apparent. Possibly in the belief that the acts were performed "under the influence" the length of minimum sentence may reflect more the time considered necessary for the rehabilitation of the drug or alcohol problem than the sentences generally associated with the particular acts. Usage of drugs did not apparently affect the sentences received for any of the property crimes, but users tended to receive longer sentences for homicide and sexual assault

than did nonusers. Of those admitted for violation of drug laws, those who denied personal use of drugs (nonusing dealers?) received sentences averaging 18 months longer than those received by users.

PRIOR PRISON TERMS Seventy-five percent of the 1972 admissions had not served a prior sentence in Arizona State Prison. Forty-one percent of 1972 admissions had served prior prison terms in this or other jurisdictions and one in ten had served three or more prior terms. Some types of offenses were more common among persons with prior prison terms than among persons being admitted for the first time as might be expected. The majority of persons admitted for forgery, for example, had served prior prison terms, and one in five forgery admissions had previously served three or more prior sentences. Other admissions above the prior sentences average were for robbery, larceny and burglary. First-termers were most likely to be admitted for homicide, sex offenses, or drug violations.

Table 25.

PRIOR PRISON TERMS SERVED BY 1969 - 1972 ADMISSIONS  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
<u>Any Prison</u>				
None	60.1	61.4	58.6	58.3
1 - 2	27.1	28.3	31.5	31.3
3 +	12.8	10.3	9.8	10.4
	<u>100 %</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>100 %</u>
<u>Arizona</u>				
None	79.1	80.9	79.4	75.5
1 - 2	19.2	17.2	18.9	21.6
3 +	1.7	1.9	1.7	2.9
	<u>100 %</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>100 %</u>

Table 26.

## PERSONS ADMITTED IN 1969 - 1972 WITH PRIOR PRISON TERMS

*(all numbers are expressed as percentages)*

Admitted for:	With Prior	With 3 or More Priors
All Offenses	41 %	11 %
Forgery	53	21
Robbery	45	12
Larceny	45	13
Burglary	43	13
Assault	42	9
Sexual Assault	35	6
Drugs	32	7
Sex Offenses	30	4
Homicide	25	3

MULTIPLE SENTENCES An increasing number of inmates are being admitted to the Arizona State Prison with sentences for two or more offenses. In 1972, 26% of the incoming inmates had multiple sentences to be served concurrently, and two percent had multiple sentences to be served consecutively (the second term starting after the expiration of the first). For 1969, the comparative figures were 15% with concurrent and 3% with consecutive sentences. The increase in multiple sentences has come only in the realm of concurrent sentences; the number of felons convicted of multiple offenses with sentences to be served consecutively has declined slightly.

JUVENILE RECORD The majority of those admitted over the four year period 1969--1972 had first become involved with the law as juveniles. The average age of first known arrest was 16 for the men and 19 for the women. Fully one-third of the total four year admissions were first arrested at age 14 or less and 10% had been referred by police before their 12th birthday. One out of every five persons admitted to the prison 1969--1972 had been committed at least once to an Arizona juvenile correctional institution, some as many as five times.

PAROLE RETURNS Parole is an important aspect of the whole correctional program and analysis of admission statistics obviously cannot evaluate the effectiveness of it. A separate study of 1970 admissions who were released on parole indicated 80% were succeeding as of January 1, 1973. Analysis of the characteristics of persons returned to prison from parole may serve to identify certain groups who are high or low risks for parole programs.

Parole returns divide logically into two distinct groups: Those convicted of a new felony while on parole (these are the most noticeable failures of the system); and those returned for violation of conditions of parole or treatment for adjustment problems. These latter conditional returns from parole include a greater percentage of divorcees, alcoholics, and persons with low level of education than of the total admissions. (This may indicate the need of a special services parole unit to help parolees with these problems.)

On the other hand, several factors appear to be associated with higher than average rates of felony parole violations. A single prior prison term is not indicative of poor parole risk but those with three or more prior prison terms do appear to be poorer than average risks. Forgers and persons convicted of assault (28%) comprise a larger proportion of felony parole returns than of new admissions (18%). Blacks make up 34% of felony parole returns but only 19% of new admissions. Service workers seem to be worse than average parole risks while the skilled and semi-skilled are better than average risks. This may suggest the importance of appropriate vocational programs at the prison. Marijuana users seem better than average risks for successful parole, while known heroin users and alcoholics have below average success rates on parole.

All of the above factors have been isolated by comparing the percent of the group among felony parole returns to the percent of the group among new admissions.

COUNTY COMPARISONS Overall admissions from Maricopa County decreased from 55% (in 1971) to 50% (in 1972) of the total State admissions. Ten percent (67) of the 1972 admissions had been on probation at the time of their imprisonment compared to only 3% (17) in 1970. The majority of

these probation cases came from Maricopa County; however, the observations above concerning stricter supervision and greater use of probation as a first disposition may apply here as well.

Table 27.

ADULT ADMISSIONS BY COUNTY					Az. Pop.
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)					1970 Census
	1969	1970	1971	1972	
Apache	.3	.2	.4	.4	1.9
Cochise	1.9	1.5	2.8	2.8	3.5
Coconino	3.6	3.1	4.0	3.3	2.8
Gila	1.8	.6	1.0	.1	1.6
Graham	2.2	1.6	2.5	1.7	.9
Greenlee	.4	.3	.1	.3	.6
Maricopa	51.4	52.4	55.1	49.9	54.5
Mohave	1.0	2.3	1.4	3.1	1.5
Navajo	3.6	4.1	2.5	2.8	2.7
Pima	21.8	20.0	19.8	21.8	19.9
Pinal	3.0	4.1	2.7	2.1	3.9
Santa Cruz	1.2	.6	1.4	1.5	.8
Yavapai	2.7	2.8	1.3	3.5	2.1
Yuma	5.2	6.2	4.5	5.9	3.3
Interstate	----	.2	.3	.8	----
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

AGE AND ETHNIC The median age of men at admission is 26 for three of the four years, the exception being 1970 when it dropped to 25. The median age for female admissions is 25. More than half of those admitted are in their twenties and approximately one out of every six admissions was under 21 (16%). The average new admission is three years younger than the average resident inmate (see p. 14), which reflects the length of time an inmate can expect to remain in the prison system.

Table 28.

ADULT ADMISSIONS BY AGE  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

	1969	1970	1971	1972
Under 18	2.5	1.0	1.8	.8
18 - 20	19.9	19.3	18.6	15.9
21 - 25	25.3	28.6	31.5	29.8
26 - 30	17.0	18.3	17.6	18.1
31 - 35	11.2	11.8	10.0	12.7
36 - 40	10.3	7.7	7.2	8.2
41 - 45	5.1	5.4	6.8	5.5
46 - 50	4.3	4.1	3.1	4.2
51 - 55	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.0
56 - 60	.9	.5	.7	1.6
61 - 65	.7	.5	.1	.8
66 +	----	.5	.4	.5
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

The majority of the new admissions during the four year period were white (56%). The remainder were about evenly divided between blacks and Mexican-Americans (about 20% of each) with only a few Indians (4%). During the past four years the number of black admissions has risen sharply. Fifty percent more blacks were admitted in 1972 than 1969. Over the same time span, the number of whites increased about 11% and Mexican-Americans and Indians remained about the same.

Table 29.

ADULT ADMISSIONS BY ETHNIC BACKGROUND  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

	1969	1970	1971	1972
White	57.5	57.4	53.1	55.6
Black	16.1	21.7	23.7	21.2
Mexican-American	21.9	17.3	19.9	19.8
Indian	4.4	2.5	3.0	3.4
Other	----	1.1	.4	----
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

EDUCATION One of the notable features of the admissions population is a poor record of educational achievement. The majority (56%) have no diploma or certificates past 8th grade level, and in 1972 only one-third had a high school diploma or GED. College degrees were extremely rare among 1972 admissions with four associate degrees and seven bachelor degrees.

A comparison of the number of years spent in school to tested grade level indicates that most new inmates may have been far behind classmates before they left school. The average person admitted to prison had dropped out of school after completing 10 years in the classroom but the tested grade level (California Achievement Test) was only somewhere in the middle of the 7th grade. While 70% of the four year admissions continued in school at least a year beyond the 8th grade, only one-third show an 8th grade achievement level and one-fourth of all those admitted are not functionally literate (6th grade level).

Table 30.

COMPARISON OF YEARS IN SCHOOL AND TESTED GRADE LEVEL, 1972 ADMISSIONS

	0	0-5	0-7	0-8	0-11	12+
Years in School	.4%	6.9%	15.3%	31.2%	73.0%	27.0%
Tested Grade Level	7.9%	24.7%	53.0%	66.7%	95.7%	4.3%

Further, there is a large discrepancy between the average level of academic achievement and the tested level of intellectual ability of men admitted 1969--1972. Only 22% of those admitted had tested I.Q. below the average range (under 90). In fact, a larger percent (26%) had tested I.Q. above the average range (110 and up) than below it. Out of every five adults admitted in 1972, only one had completed high school. Of the other four, one may not have had the intellectual ability to complete a standard high school program, but three definitely had the ability and for some reason(s) gave up and dropped out.



OCCUPATION Very few of those admitted to prison 1969--1972 came from the skilled worker category (5½% in 1972), 75% of admissions were unskilled, semiskilled or service laborers. Less than 5% came from sales and clerical occupations, and the number coming from professional or managerial positions was under 3% of total. Only 2% listed no legitimate occupation.

STABILITY Most of the persons admitted are long time Arizona residents (60% had lived in the State over eight years). On the other end of the scale appears a transient minority. Twenty percent had lived in Arizona for less than a year at time of arrest for the offense that resulted in incarceration, and most of these had been in the State for less than six months.

Less than a third of the men (and 46% of the women) admitted were legally married and another 6% claimed common-law spouses. The largest group (38%) of the men were single reflecting in part the large number of admissions of younger men.

Just over a third of the men admitted have served in the military, and just over half (58%) of those who were in the military received honorable discharges. This large number of less than honorable discharges may reinforce the image of prison as a final depository for those who do not meet the standards anywhere else.

DRUG USAGE Statistics on persons admitted for violation of drug laws indicate only a part of the total drug problem. Violation of drug laws accounts for 15% of the total 1972 admissions and 20% of these are for sale of drugs by persons who disclaim any personal use. On the other hand, 42% of those admitted in 1972 (including 58% of the women) have by their own admission used illegal drugs. An examination of admissions for the four-year period indicates that drug use is more commonly linked to the property crimes of larceny and burglary than to violent crimes.

Table 31.

## DRUG USE BY ADMISSIONS, 1969 - 1972

<u>Admission Offense</u>	<u>% With Known Drug Use</u>
Drug Laws	79
Larceny	41
Burglary	40
Robbery	36
Vehicle Theft	31
Assault	28
Sexual Assault	26
Fraud	26
Forgery	23
Homicide	21
Other Sex Offenses	16

The last four years has seen a sharp increase in the number of those admitted who have voluntarily admitted use of illegal drugs. Further, the increase has been most rapid among those known to use the "hard" drugs (heroin and cocaine). In 1972 forty-four percent of those admitted who stated they had used drugs claimed to have used one of these "hard" drugs. This is more than double the actual number of "hard" drug users admitted in 1970 (142 to 61). It is suspected, however, that better records on current admissions may affect this comparison somewhat.

Table 32.

## USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

	<u>1969</u>		<u>1970</u>		<u>1971</u>		<u>1972</u>	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Known Users	238	35.2	224	36.6	262	36.9	322	41.3
Change From Prior Year			-5.9		+17.0		+22.9	
Hard Drug Users	51	7.5	61	10.0	89	12.5	142	18.4
Change From Prior Year			+19.6		+45.9		+59.6	

ALCOHOL USE The problems of alcohol abuse have been reflected in the inmate population for a longer time than the illegal drugs. In contrast to other drugs the proportion of those admitted "alcoholics" or "heavy drinkers" has decreased in recent years from 28% of 1969 admissions to 22% of those admitted in 1972. Something else that appears is that heavy alcohol users are more likely to have committed violent crimes in contrast to the drug users who are most associated with the property crimes.

Table 33.

ALCOHOL USE BY ADMISSIONS, 1969 - 1972

<u>Admission Offense</u>	<u>% With Heavy Alcohol Use</u>
Homicide	26
Assault	26
Vehicle Theft	25
Sexual Assault	23
Fraud	21
Other Sex Offenses	21
Robbery	19
Burglary	19
Larceny	16
Forgery	11
Drug Violations	10

If heavy alcohol users are added to the drug categories, preliminary statistics on admissions indicate that the group could be divided into three distinct categories that differ interestingly from each other: Alcohol users, marijuana users, and those known to use one of the "hard" drugs.

All the above observations concerning the admissions population have been derived from a somewhat comprehensive look at the four year admissions 1969--1972 and are the significant observations which appear. Further analysis is required to apply additional controls at key points and to produce still other meaningful comparisons. Statistical tests of significance have not yet been applied, but only observations that appear to deviate substantially from the average have been noted.

# JUVENILE COMMITMENTS

In 1969 a peak of 1,000 total commitments from the juvenile courts of Arizona to the Department of Corrections was reached. Since 1969, there has been a steady decline in the total number of commitments, to 535 in 1972, an average decrease of 15.5% per year. The sharpest decline was experienced between 1971 and 1972, when total commitments from the juvenile courts decreased 37%. Much of the decrease between 1971 and 1972, however, is reflected in the number of recommitments from the courts in these two years. (Considering only new commitments, the decrease from 1971 to 1972 was 26%.) A recommitment generally involves a youth previously committed to the Department who, while on parole, commits some new offense and is subsequently brought again before the court and recommitted to the Department. In 1971, the juvenile courts recommitted 135 such youths, while in 1972, only fifteen were recommitted. This is indicative of improved selection for parole and strengthened parole supervision.

Table 34.

## CHILDREN COMMITTED TO ARIZONA STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

	New Commitments			Recommitments			All Commitments		
	total	boys	girls	total	boys	girls	total	boys	girls
1969	919	613	306	81	75	6	1000	688	312
1970	835	583	252	91	84	7	926	667	259
1971	709	483	226	135	123	12	844	606	238
1972	520	372	148	15	14	1	535	386	149

Considering only the commitments of new youths to the Department, the average annual decrease was still 14.5% from 1969 to 1972. The most significant reason for this reduction in juvenile commitments to the Department of Corrections seems to be the development and utilization of community resources for youth placements particularly in the State's two largest counties--Maricopa and Pima.

The majority of the juvenile commitments come from these two large urban counties, but the numbers are no more than would be expected from their populations. During the past three years, Santa Cruz was the only county with a consistently high commitment rate. Six counties (Apache, Cochise, Gila, Greenlee, Navajo and Yuma) have consistently committed a below average portion of their children to the Department of Corrections.

Table 35.

JUVENILE COMMITMENTS BY COUNTY					
<i>(all numbers are expressed as percentages)</i>					
	Arizona Juv. Population 1970 Census	1970	1971	1972	Commitments Assessed 1972
Apache	1.9	.9	.5	1.1	----
Cochise	3.5	1.7	2.7	3.1	5.9
Coconino	3.8	3.1	3.1	5.4	----
Gila	1.6	.9	1.2	1.5	75.0
Graham	.9	.7	.6	1.1	16.7
Greenlee	.6	.2	.6	.2	----
Maricopa	54.5	55.0	58.9	56.7	25.3
Mohave	1.5	.7	1.3	2.7	53.3
Navajo	2.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	----
Pima	19.9	24.4	21.3	13.8	21.1
Pinal	3.9	3.7	3.2	5.3	----
Santa Cruz	.8	1.2	1.3	1.8	----
Yavapai	2.1	2.8	1.7	3.4	5.3
Yuma	3.3	3.0	1.9	2.0	27.3
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	

Girls comprise a significant portion of the juvenile admissions (in sharp contrast to adult admissions), but are still outnumbered by the boys admitted by a ratio of 2.7 to 1. Also in contrast to adult admissions, the major ethnic groups are represented roughly in proportion to their numbers in the general state population. In 1972, 8.3% of the juveniles committed were blacks (compared to 20% of the adult admissions for 1972 and 13.4% of the juveniles committed in 1970). The majority (58.5%) of the juveniles committed were whites; 27.6% were Mexican-Americans, and 5% were Indians.

Arizona law provides for juvenile courts to assess the parents (or guardian) of a child for part of the cost of his care while the child is institutionalized. In 1972, parents were assessed (based on the court's determination of their ability to pay) in the cases of 21% of the juveniles committed. Presumably, the other 79% (nearly four-fifths) of the juveniles committed to the Department of Corrections came from families who are too poor to afford even a minimal monthly assessment. The average, for those parents who were assessed, was a \$47.50 monthly assessment toward the care and treatment of their child.

OFFENSES The Arizona Revised Statutes provide for the commitment to the Department of Corrections of both delinquent and incorrigible children. A delinquent child is defined to be one who is adjudicated to have committed "any act that would constitute a public offense." (A.R.S. 8-201-8.) An incorrigible child is one who has not been adjudicated to have committed any crime, but "who refuses to obey the reasonable and proper orders or directions of his parent, guardian or custodian, and who is beyond the control of such person, or any child who is habitually truant from school, or who is a runaway from his home or parent, guardian or custodian, or who habitually so deports himself as to injure or endanger the morals or health of himself or others." (A.R.S. 8-201-15.) Therefore, commitments to the Department of Corrections include children whose difficulties are family conflicts as well as those who have exhibited delinquent behavior. Commitments are further limited by the provision that "A child under the age of eight years shall not be committed to the State Department of Corrections nor shall a dependent child be awarded to the State Department of Corrections." (A.R.S. 8-244A.)

Forty percent of all the juveniles admitted to the Department in 1972 were committed for incorrigibility (not crimes). Crimes against persons accounted for 10% of the juvenile commitments, while 11% of the commitments were for drug and alcohol violations. The majority of the delinquency commitments were for property crimes (36% of all juvenile admissions).

Table 36.

REASONS FOR 1972 JUVENILE COMMITMENTS				
	Total	Boys	Girls	Boy-Girl Ratio
Incorrigibility	39.5%	24.8%	79.7%	1 to 1.2
Crimes against Property	35.6	45.6	8.8	14.0 to 1
Drugs & Alcohol	11.0	12.5	6.8	5.0 to 1
Crimes against Persons	9.9	11.8	4.7	6.7 to 1
Other	4.0	5.3	---	
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %	2.7 to 1

There is a marked difference in the sex distribution for the two most common classes of committing offenses. The majority of the juveniles committed for incorrigibility were girls, while 93.3% of those committed for property crimes were boys.

Only 20% of the girls committed to the Department were sent for delinquent acts, and the majority of these delinquent girls were committed for either drug abuse or larceny. Four-fifths of the female commitments seem to be directly the result of family problems (runaways 40.5% and incorrigibles "beyond the control of their parents" 39% of the total).

The pattern of offenses for boys is much more diversified. The family related offenses (runaways and "beyond control") accounted for only one-fourth of male commitments. A nearly equal number (23.6%) were committed for burglary. Significant numbers of boys were also committed for drug violations, larceny, vehicle theft and assault.

PRIOR COURT REFERRALS The juvenile resources of the Department of Corrections are planned to treat those children who, in the judgment of a juvenile court, cannot be rehabilitated within their own communities. Only in rare instances is a child sent to the Department the first time he is referred to the juvenile court. In fact, 14 out of every fifteen children committed had been referred at least twice to a juvenile court prior to their commitment to the Department of Corrections. In 1972, the committed children averaged seven prior court referrals, including three within a year of their commitment. One-fourth of the admissions had been referred to juvenile court nine or more times prior to their commitment.

Table 37.

PRIOR COURT REFERRALS OF JUVENILES COMMITTED  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

Referrals	1970	1971	1972		
	Total	Total	Total	Boys	Girls
0 - 1	5.3	4.6	6.7	6.8	6.5
2 - 3	18.5	16.5	18.8	15.4	27.1
4 - 5	19.3	18.3	18.4	16.8	22.1
6 - 7	19.4	17.8	13.5	13.7	13.1
8 - 9	11.4	17.5	17.6	18.1	16.4
10 +	26.1	25.3	25.0	29.2	14.8
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

The patterns of prior court referrals are considerably different for the boys and the girls. On the average, boys received two more court referrals prior to commitment than the girls did (7.58 vs. 5.76). Ninety-five percent of the committed boys, including eighty percent of those committed as incorrigibles had prior referrals for delinquent acts (crimes). Half of the girls had no record of any delinquent acts. On the other hand, 95% of the committed girls and 77% of the boys (including the majority of those committed for delinquency) had prior court referrals for incorrigibility (runaways and "beyond control of parent").



**CONTINUED**

**1 OF 2**

FAMILY BACKGROUND Juveniles committed to the Department generally come from unstable family situations. Less than one third (29.6%) were living with both their natural parents. One-parent households (generally fatherless) account for the largest group (31.8% of the total) of juvenile commitments. Comparing these figures to the 1970 Census for Arizona, it appears that a child who lives with a single parent is eight times more likely to be committed to the Department of Corrections than a child who lives with both his parents.

Table 38.

FAMILY RESIDENCE OF JUVENILES COMMITTED (all numbers are expressed as percentages)					
	1970	1971	1972		
	Total	Total	Total	Boys	Girls
Both Natural Parents	32.9	34.4	29.7	32.3	22.7
Adoptive Parents	3.2	2.0	4.2	4.2	4.0
Mother Only	28.8	27.7	28.4	29.3	26.0
Father Only	2.7	3.2	3.4	4.2	1.3
Parent and Step-parent	20.2	20.5	17.7	16.6	20.7
Other Relative	5.5	5.5	6.5	6.7	6.0
Foster Placement	3.9	4.3	4.7	3.5	8.0
Other	2.8	2.4	5.4	3.2	11.3
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Admissions records also show a higher proportion of children living with step-parents (17%) coming to the Department than in the general population. Only a few children (4.7%) come to the Department from foster placements.

The Department of Corrections must try to provide institutional services that not only rehabilitate the true delinquent, but also meet the needs of children who are simply unable to cope with difficult home situations. This duality is further complicated by the need to provide special services for a large number of admissions who have limited intellectual abilities.

Table 39.

TESTED I.Q. SCORES OF JUVENILES COMMITTED IN 1972 (all numbers are expressed as percentages)			
	Boys	Girls	Total
Under 70	3.4	4.9	3.8
70-79	15.0	12.6	14.4
80-89	25.2	23.3	24.7
90-99	25.8	32.0	27.4
100-109	19.0	17.5	18.6
111-119	6.8	8.7	7.3
120 +	4.8	1.0	3.8
	100 %	100 %	100 %

Persons with tested I.Q.'s below the normal range (under 90) comprise twice as large a share of the admissions to the juvenile institutions (42.8%) as of the adult admissions to the prison system (21%).

AGE The average (mean) age of juveniles committed to the Department in 1972 was 14 years 11 months (15 years for boys and 14 years 8 months for girls). Three-fifths of the boys and three-fourths of the girls were between 14 and 16 (inclusive) at the time of their first commitment. There were no significant differences in age at commitment between ethnic groups.

Table 40.

AGE OF CHILDREN COMMITTED IN 1972  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

	Age at First Commitment			Age at First Court Referral		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
10 & under	.7	1.0	0	20.1	24.4	9.3
11-12	6.8	7.3	5.4	22.0	20.0	27.3
13	10.5	9.3	13.5	17.0	16.9	17.3
14	17.3	15.2	23.0	20.4	18.5	25.9
15	25.6	23.5	31.1	10.9	10.7	11.5
16	21.3	21.7	20.3	6.3	6.5	5.8
17	17.8	22.0	6.8	2.9	2.9	2.9
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

A child's age at the time of his commitment is not a good indicator of when delinquent or incorrigible behavior began. The age at time of first referral to a juvenile court serves that purpose better. This indicator shows that the average child committed to the Department was first referred to the courts when he was twelve-and-one-half (12 years, 4 months for boys, and 12 years 11 months for girls). Among those committed who were first referred at age ten or less, boys outnumber the girls by a ratio of seven to one (vs. 2.7 to 1 overall). For blacks, the mean age at first referral was 11½ years of age--a full year younger than for the other ethnic groups.

The majority of the juveniles committed to the Department of Corrections first came to the attention of the courts while between 11 and 14 (inclusive). On the average, there were two-and-one-half years between the time of a child's first court referral and his commitment if commitment actually occurs. These comments on age at time of court referrals apply only to those children who were subsequently committed to the Department of Corrections. They may not be applicable to those children who were referred to the court and rehabilitated within their communities.

DRUG USAGE A slight majority of the children committed in 1972 have no official record or admitted use of illegal drug substances. Of the 48% who used illegal drugs, about half have official (police and/or court referral) records for drug abuse and the other half have admitted to drug usage (but have no official record of use). Marijuana and alcohol are the two drugs most commonly abused by the committed juveniles--about one-fourth of those committed are known to have used each of these substances. One of eight has sniffed glue or aerosol paints; one out of twelve have tried pills (amphetamines or barbiturates); and one out of sixteen are known to have tried opiates. Some of the juveniles committed to the Department are known to have engaged in more than one form of illegal drug use (for example, 6% are known to have used both marijuana and alcohol), so totaling the number of juveniles known to have used each class of drugs would, of course, result in a larger sum than the approximately one-half of commitments with known drug involvement.

Table 41.

JUVENILES ADMITTED WITH PAST DRUG USE (1972)  
(all numbers are expressed as percentages)

	Official Record of Drug Use	Official Record Plus Admitted Use		
	Total	Total	Boys	Girls
Alcohol	16.3	23.7	25.6	18.7
Marijuana	11.6	24.4	19.4	32.0
Opiates	2.0	6.7	4.2	13.3
Hallucinogens	2.0	5.1	4.7	6.0
Pills	3.6	8.3	5.5	16.0
Sniffing	11.2	12.3	14.1	7.3

In order to obtain a more detailed view of the drug abuse problem and factors relating to it, the admissions for the past three years (1970--1972) were examined. Boys dominated the statistics for sniffing (8 to 1 over girls) and alcohol use. Eighty percent of those commitments known to have used alcohol were boys, while one-third of the nondrinkers were girls. Girls comprised

more than their share of the known marijuana users and an absolute majority of those known to have tried opiates, hallucinogens, and pills (amphetamines and barbiturates).

Only one-fourth of the known drug users were committed for violations of drug and/or alcohol laws. Examining commitments for other offenses, alcohol users are more likely than nonusers to be committed for crimes against persons, and less likely to be committed for a runaway (or to have any history of running away). Marijuana users show an opposite pattern--often having been runaways, but only half as likely as nonusers to have been committed for a crime against persons or for a property crime.

There is no significant difference between the pattern of prior court referrals for the nonusers, marijuana users, and pill takers--each averaging six prior court referrals (rather evenly split between delinquent and incorrigible offenses). One-fifth of each group had 10 or more referrals before their commitment. One-third of the alcohol users and one-half of the sniffers had 10 or more prior court referrals. The median number of referrals was eight for the alcohol users and ten for the sniffers. The longer referral histories of these two groups is mostly the result of referrals for their drug usage.

Mexican-Americans and Indians have higher rates of alcohol usage than the other ethnic groups. The largest numbers (80% of known users) of marijuana, opiate, LSD and pill users were whites, while sniffing appears to be unusually concentrated among Mexican-American children (who comprise 62% of the sniffers to 17% for the whites).

Drug users (including both alcohol and marijuana users) tended to be a year older (16 vs. 15) than nonusers at the time of their first commitment. The notable exception to this rule would be the paint/glue sniffers whose median age at time of commitment is 14. A look at the percent of users who had been first referred to the court (for any reason) before their thirteenth birthday gives an indication of the relationship between drug use and early involvement with the law (without saying which came first). Forty-three percent of the non users, and alcohol users were first referred to court before age 13, but

only 28.5% of the marijuana users and one-fourth of those known to have used harder drugs had been referred to court by that age. In contrast, 64% of the sniffers had been referred to the juvenile court before their thirteenth birthday.

Both alcohol drinkers and marijuana users (among the committed population) were about 25% more likely to have lived with both their parents than were nonusers. Paint/glue sniffers were more likely to have resided in a one-parent (especially fatherless) household. Households headed by a mother and step-father produced a disproportionately high percent of the pill (amphetamine and barbiturate) users.

Marijuana users were twice as likely to have a tested I.Q. above 110 (and only half as likely to have a tested I.Q. below 90) as a nonuser. On the other hand, 64% of the sniffers had I.Q.'s that tested below 90--though the frequency of low I.Q.'s among the sniffers may be, at least in part, the result of brain damage caused by inhaling the intoxicants.

METROPOLITAN--RURAL DIFFERENCES There has been a great deal written about urbanization as a factor that increases pressures toward delinquency, yet there is no difference between the rate of commitments of children living in Arizona's two metropolitan counties and its 12 rural counties. A comparison of three years (1970--1972) does show some differences in characteristics between the rural and metropolitan commitments.

The juvenile commitments from the metropolitan counties include a slightly smaller proportion of boys (2.2 for each girl) than the rural counties (2.5 to 1). Also a larger portion of the metropolitan commitments resided only with their mother (30% vs. 19% of the rural commitments).

Rural youth are more likely to have been committed for burglary, while the metropolitan counties had slightly higher commitment rates for vehicle theft and crimes against persons. There was no difference in the percent of commitments that were for offenses applicable only to juveniles; however, the

metropolitan juvenile courts committed a larger portion of these children as "runaways," while the rural counties committed a larger portion as "incorrigibles" (beyond the control of parent).

A major difference between the metropolitan and rural counties is the number of prior referrals to court that juveniles received before their commitment. The average child committed from the metropolitan counties had six prior referrals, while the average for the rural counties was three. As dramatic as this difference appears, it probably indicates more about the differences in reporting policies and available resources in the community than about the degree of delinquent behavior. (A probation subsidy program is one possibility for helping to equalize the availability of community resources.)

There is also a difference in the frequency of drug abuse, though not as large as one might expect. Fourteen percent of the juveniles from the metropolitan counties had used marijuana, as compared to 11.6% of those from the rural counties. Also, one-fifth of the rural and only one-sixth of the metropolitan commitments are known to abuse alcohol.

RECOMMITMENTS Only 2.5% of the children committed to the Department in 1972 had been committed before. In the last three years, recommitments have accounted for less than 9% of all juvenile commitments in Arizona. A closer examination of these recommitments may help identify risk groups that will be more likely to have continuing difficulties with the law.

The two metropolitan counties accounted for a disproportionate share of the recommitments (seven-eighths of the recommitted population vs. four-fifths of the new commitments). Compared to those committed for the first time, a child who has been recommitted is three times as likely to be black, 30% more likely to reside in a household headed by a female, and 70% less likely to come from a family with sufficient income for the court to levy an assessment. He is less likely to live in a foster home or to have been committed for an offense applicable only to juveniles (incurability, including runaways).

As in the case of the statistics concerning adult parole violators, these risk factors should only be used to identify groups with special difficulties. These figures are not specific enough to be applied to any given individual.



**END**