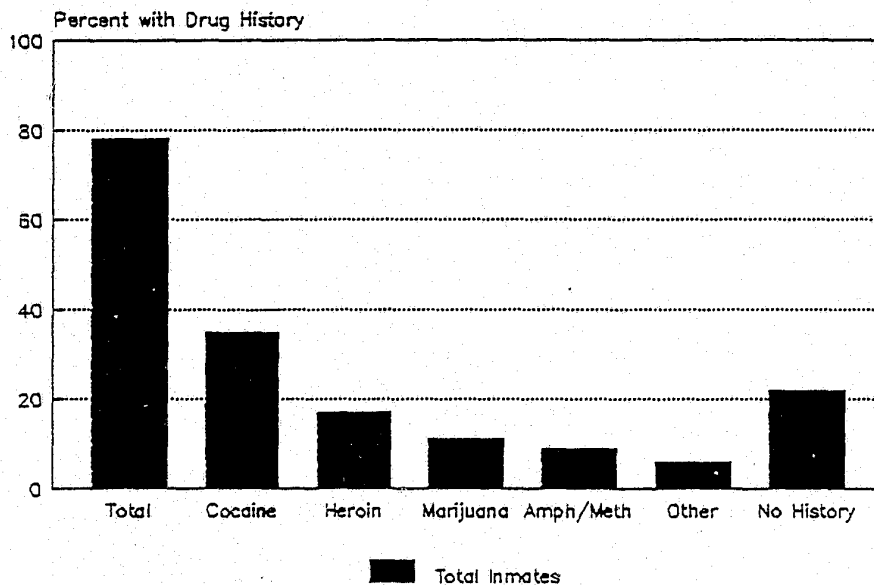


INDICATORS OF THE
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEM WITHIN
CALIFORNIA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE POPULATION

DRUG USE HISTORY FOR NEW
FELON ADMISSIONS TO CDC IN 1989



138148



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WITHIN CALIFORNIA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE POPULATION**

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**U.S. Department of Justice
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OVERVIEW

The magnitude and seriousness of the substance abuse problem within California's criminal justice population is supported by data from several federal and state information systems to which the California Department of Corrections (CDC) has access. Some of the information systems contain data for the entire statewide population; others can be used to obtain data specific to CDC's adult correctional population. Over the past two years, CDC has taken steps to develop additional data sources.

This report is divided into two parts. The first part contains statistical indicators relating to the statewide population. The second part presents statistics specific to CDC's adult correctional population.

STATEWIDE SUBSTANCE ABUSE DATA

There are several data bases that describe the magnitude of the substance abuse problem connected with California's criminal justice population. Included are: arrests, drug use forecasting, medical emergencies, hospital discharges, deaths and drug treatment. Summary statistics are contained in Table 1, specific comments follow the table.

Table 1

Indicators of the Substance Abuse Problem in the California, 1989

Indicator	Number/Percent
Drug arrests, total (1989)	287,893
Drug arrests, felony	163,742
Drug arrests, misdemeanor	124,151
Drug use by arrestees [Drug Use Forecasting, (DUF), April-June 1990]	
Percent using at least one drug at time of arrest:	
Los Angeles males	67%
Los Angeles females	71%
San Diego males	80%
San Diego females	83%
San Jose males	59%
San Jose females	56%

Table 1, Continued

**Indicators of the Substance Abuse
Problem in California, 1989**

Drug-related hospital emergencies (episodes) reported to Drug Abuse Warning Network, 1989 (DAWN)	21,993
Number of drug mentions (DAWN)	34,520
Hospital discharges from nonfederal acute care hospitals (1989)	28,950
Cocaine discharges	8,772
Heroin/opiate discharges	5,865
Amphetamine discharges	3,057
Drug deaths, drug was direct cause (1989)	2,652
Drug deaths due to Hepatitis, Type B (1989)	2,847
Drug treatment admissions to public sector drug treatment programs (1989)	108,604
Percent of new felon admissions to CDC with a substance abuse history (1989)	78%
Percent of institutional population with a drug commitment offense (1989)	26%
Percent of parole revocations in 1990 where drug offense was principal charge resulting in return to custody	26.2%
Percent of parole revocations in 1990 where drug offense was direct or contributing charge resulting in return to custody	50.4%

Drug Arrests

In 1989, there were 287,893 felony and misdemeanor arrests for drug law violations. These arrests accounted for 14.5% of total statewide arrests. (Source of data: California Department of Justice, Bureau of Criminal Statistics)

Drug Use Forecasting (DUF)

Quarterly statistics are collected by the National Institute of Justice on drug use by arrestees in 23 booking sites throughout the United States. In California, samples of booked arrestees in Los Angeles, San Diego and San Jose are invited to participate in interviews and provide urine

samples. Table 2 shows the percentage of adult men and women arrestees testing positive for certain types of drugs. In general, a large proportion of the arrestees test positive for the use of one or more drugs. An analysis of the statistics indicates the following:

- o **Geographic Area.** The percentage of arrestees testing positive for drug use in San Jose was the lowest, ranging from 56% to 59%. The highest percentage range was reported for San Diego, 80% - 83%. The range for Los Angeles was 67%-71%.
- o **Gender.** The percentage of women testing positive was slightly higher than that for men in Los Angeles and San Diego. The percentage for women in San Jose was slightly lower than that for San Jose men.
- o **Multiple Drug Use.** A substantially larger percentage (46%) of San Diego arrestees tested positive for two or more drugs when compared to Los Angeles (men - 26%, women - 29%) and San Jose (men - 25%, women - 22%).
- o **Frequently Used Drugs.** Except for men in San Jose, cocaine was the most frequently used drug. Women tested positive more frequently for opiates than men, and men tested positive more frequently for marijuana than women.

Table 2

**Percentage of Booked Arrestees Testing Positive
for One or More Drugs in Three California Locales
April-June, 1990**

Drug	San Diego		Los Angeles		San Jose	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total % positive	80%	83%	67%	71%	59%	56%
% positive 2+ drugs	46%	46%	26%	29%	25%	22%
Cocaine	48%	44%	43%	56%	27%	23%
Marijuana	42%	27%	25%	10%	29%	16%
Amphetamines	24%	29%	5%	5%	12%	7%
Opiates	17%	28%	12%	18%	6%	9%
PCP	4%	0%	6%	5%	13%	14%

Source of data: National Institute of Justice Drug Use Forecasting, Second Quarter, April - June 1990.

Hospital Emergencies

A total of 34,520 drugs were mentioned during the 21,993 hospital emergency episodes reported to the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) in 1989. DAWN data are obtained from a sample of hospital emergency rooms in 27 metropolitan areas. Three California counties, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco, report medical emergencies involving drug use to DAWN. Nearly 62% of the mentions were for the following drugs:

Drug	% of Total Mentions
Cocaine	18.4%
Alcohol-in-combination	17.1%
Heroin/morphine	12.3%
Methamphetamines/amphetamines	5.2%
PCP/LSD	4.9%
Marijuana/hashish	3.8%

Hospital Discharges

Hospital discharges are reported to the California Office of Statewide Health Planning by nonfederal acute care hospitals. Drug discharge statistics by type of drug are similar to those reported to DAWN--61% of the 28,950 discharges resulted from hospitalization involving the use of cocaine, heroin/opiates and amphetamines (Table 1). Slightly over 30% of the discharges were for cocaine use.

Drug Deaths

Death data are reported to the Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics. In 1989, there were 2,652 deaths directly attributable to drug use. In addition, there were 2,847 deaths due to Hepatitis Type B, an infectious disease strongly correlated with intravenous drug use.

Drug Treatment Admissions

In 1989, there were 108,604 total admissions to community drug treatment programs. Although parolees participate in community programs, the number admitted to these programs has been unknown. To obtain these data, CDC began working with the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) in 1989 to find a way to identify parolees entering these programs.

ADP routinely collects data for individuals entering publicly-funded community drug programs through the

California Drug Abuse Data System (CAL-DADS). Since CAL-DADS has the capability of adding temporary data elements, ADP added a "Legal Status" data element effective July 1, 1990. In addition to determining the number of state parolees admitted to drug programs, statistics may be obtained on the location of the parolee, the parolee's personal characteristics, drug usage, route of drug administration and employment. Admissions data reported to CAL-DADS from all counties except Los Angeles for the 9-month time period of July 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991 indicate that 5,764 state parolees entered programs during that time period. This figure represents 9% of total statewide treatment admissions excluding Los Angeles.

Beginning July 1, 1991, ADP will implement a new data base identifying participants who enter alcohol or drug programs. The California Alcohol and Drug Data System (CADDS) will contain "Legal Status" as a permanent data element. A specific response choice "**under parole supervision by CDC**" will be used to identify CDC parolees who enter alcohol or drug programs reporting to ADP. These data will be useful to CDC as they assist in assessing the effectiveness of parolee referrals and placement in treatment efforts.

CORRECTIONS SUBSTANCE ABUSE DATA

Inmate Drug History Data

For the past few years, until the 1990 calendar year, CDC collected limited drug history from a sample of records for newly committed inmates. Data elements included the most serious drug, age of first use, and whether there was evidence of current or past addiction. Alcohol use was coded separately. In 1989, 78% of the felon new admissions had a history of drug use. Females were more likely to have a substance abuse history than males, 83% had a history of drug use, compared to 78% of the males. The most frequently used drug was cocaine (36%), followed by heroin (18%). Females were nearly twice as likely to have used heroin (32%) as compared to males (18%).

Reported drug usage by total inmates by type of drug follows:

Most Serious Drug Used	% Total Inmates
Total	78%
Cocaine	35%
Heroin	17%
Marijuana	11%
Amphetamines/methamphetamines	8%
Other	6%
No history of use	22%

For calendar year 1990, data elements concerning drug use have been expanded. In addition, the following data will be collected:

- o Number of drug arrests/convictions last three years prior to this incarceration.
- o Number of different types of drugs used during the one year prior to the arrest leading to this incarceration.
- o Whether inmate used two or more "hard drugs" during the one year prior to arrest leading to this incarceration. "Hard drugs" include: heroin and other opiates, cocaine, PCP, and amphetamine-type drugs such as speed, crank, ice, methamphetamine.
- o Whether there is evidence that drugs used during the past one year were administered through injection, and
- o Whether the inmate used alcohol in combination with one or more drugs.

Commitment Offense, Inmates and Parolees

The number of inmates in custody and parolees under supervision increased 30.3% from 1987 to 1989. The percentage of total commitments for drug offenses has also increased. As of December 31, 1989, over one-fourth of total inmates and 29.4% of total parolees had been committed for drug offenses.

Year	Inmates	% Drug	Felon Parolees	% Drug
1989	87,297	25.7%	56,746	29.4
1988	76,171	21.9	48,427	25.2
1987	66,975	17.6	40,242	21.2

Parole Revocations

In 1990, the Board of Prison Terms reported that 26.2% of the 47,697 parolees returned to custody had a drug offense as a principal charge. The percentage for 1987 was 21.7%.

In 1990, drug charges were either a direct or contributing factor in 50.4% of all revocation actions where the parolee was returned to custody for a parole violation.

CDC Substance Abuse Services Survey

Total Services and Participants. In early 1991, CDC conducted a survey of its 21 prisons to obtain information as to the type and number of substance abuse services being offered, and the number of inmates participating in these services. A total of 189 services were identified, with 10,176 inmates participating in services at the time of the survey. Graph 1 shows the number of services by type; Graph 2 shows the inmate population participating in each type of service. Definitions of types of services and graphs are included in Appendix A.

Most Frequent Services. The most frequently offered service was self-help groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. A total of 109 meetings were identified, with 3,338 inmates participating (Graph 3). The second most frequent type of services was drug/alcohol education classes (40 types of classes) with 2,758 inmates attending (Graphs 1 and 2).

Waiting List Information. Waiting list information was available from 9 institutions. A total of 961 were waiting for substance abuse services--over two-thirds were waiting to participate in self-help groups (Graph 4).

Volunteers. In the drug and alcohol field, volunteers are crucial to establishing and conducting services. Self-help 12-step group meetings are conducted almost exclusively by volunteers. In addition to contributing free services, the volunteers' strong personal commitment in assisting others is an inspiration to those participating in services.

Twenty institutions reporting having 721 volunteers contribute to one or more services (Graph 5). Three types of volunteers were identified: community, paid CDC and inmate volunteers. Over half of the volunteers were community volunteers, a fourth inmate volunteers and less than a fifth paid CDC volunteers. (CDC volunteers are paid at a volunteer hourly rate.)

APPENDIX A

- o **Definitions of Service Types**

- o **Graphs**

DEFINITIONS OF SERVICE TYPES

EDUCATION (PREVENTION): Involves learning about drugs/alcohol, and the negative physical, emotional, economic and social consequences. Also includes learning activities to improve critical life skills, thereby preventing drug use and consequence.

ENFORCEMENT: These efforts involve specific interventions and sanctions, usually through urinalysis, to identify and prevent inmates from using drugs/alcohol while in California prisons.

INTERVENTION: Includes services targeting specific individuals to encourage them to seek help for their alcohol and drug problems. Intervention differs from treatment in that individuals usually do not develop and pursue a treatment plan in a therapeutic sense.

PREVENTION: The intent of these activities is to reduce or minimize the incidence of new drug/alcohol abuse and the negative consequences associated with alcohol/drug use. May involve outreach efforts to educate at-risk groups, such as school students and high-risk youth.

SELF-HELP: Self-help groups are independent support groups or fellowship organizations for drug/alcohol abusers. The purpose of the groups is to achieve and maintain abstinence from drugs/alcohol and/or cope with the effects of licit, illicit drugs and alcohol.

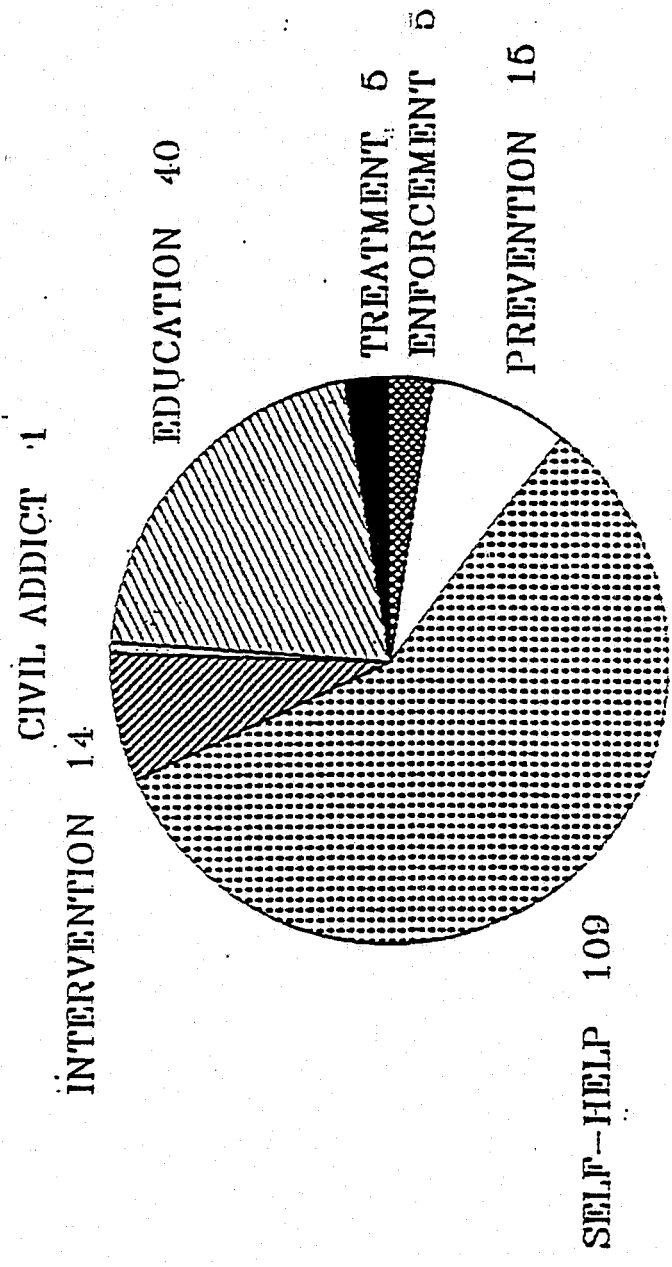
STAFF EDUCATION/TRAINING: Education and special training is given or made available to CDC staff on the description and effects of drugs/alcohol, evidence of use and appropriate sanctions.

TREATMENT: Treatment services consist of organized services for persons who have abused drugs/alcohol. These services are designed to alter specific physical, mental or social functions of persons receiving care by reducing discomfort or disability, and to reduce or eliminate signs or symptoms caused by drug/alcohol abuse. Treatment includes the following: residential and nonresidential environments, medical and drug-free interventions, detoxification, methadone maintenance, individual and group counseling.

GRAPH 1

CDC DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES

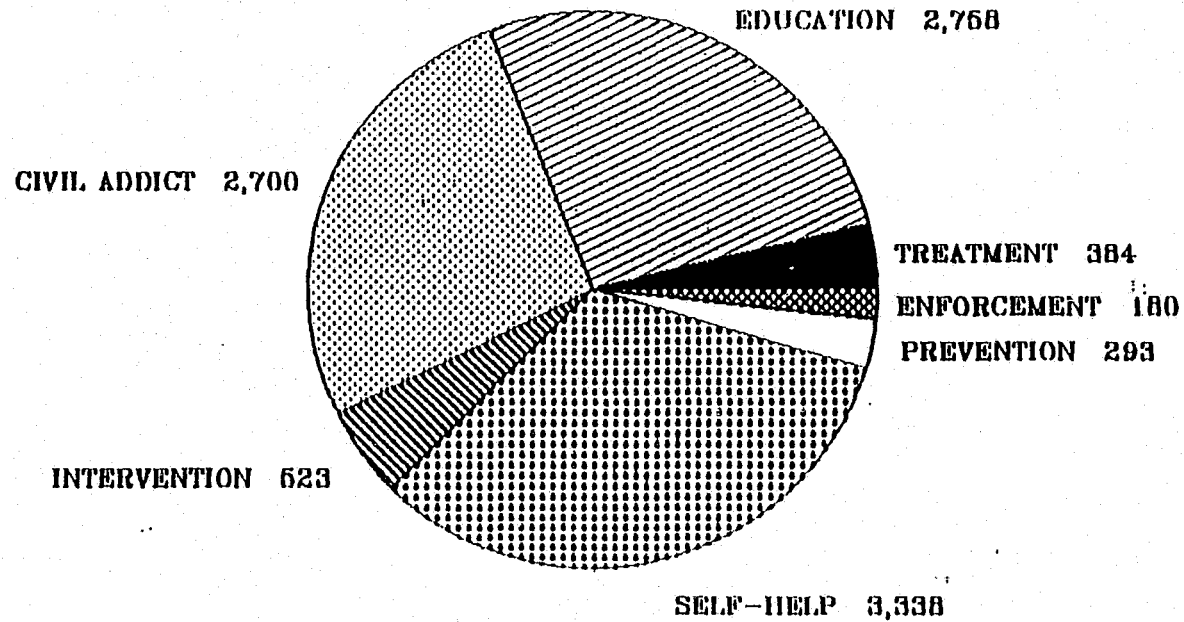
Institution Programs by Service Type



Total Programs All Services: 189

CDC DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES

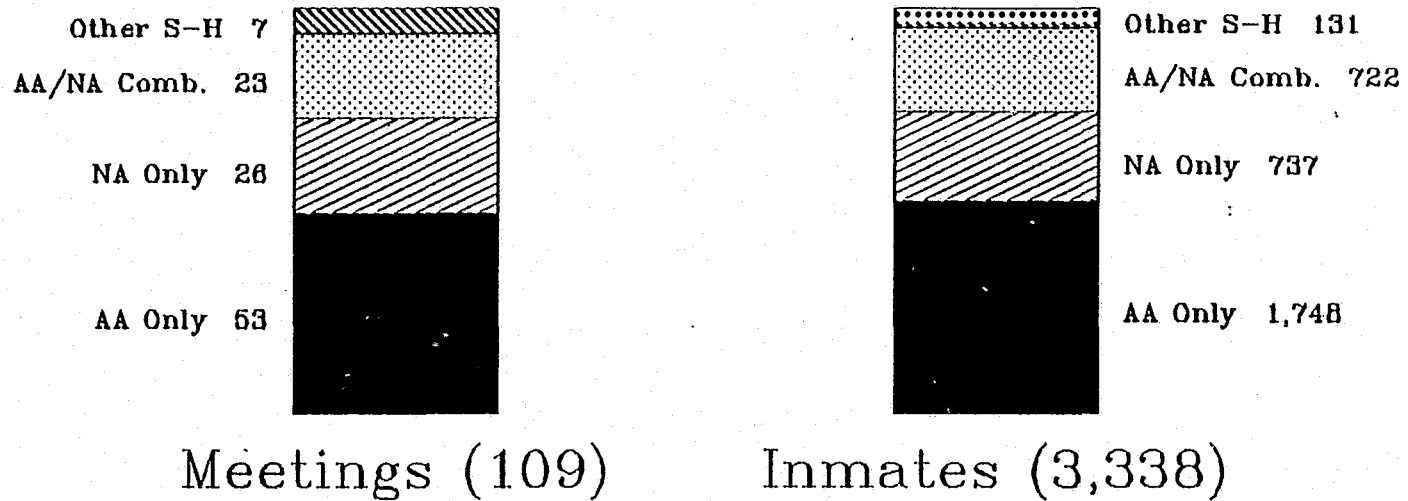
Number of Inmates by Service Type



Total Inmates All Services: 10,176

CENSUS AS OF MARCH 1991

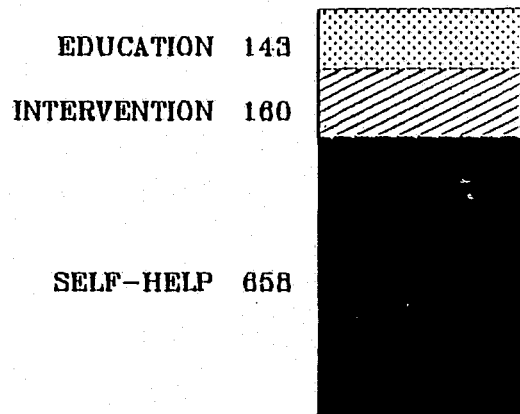
WEEKLY SELF-HELP MEETINGS IN INSTITUTIONS: MARCH 1991



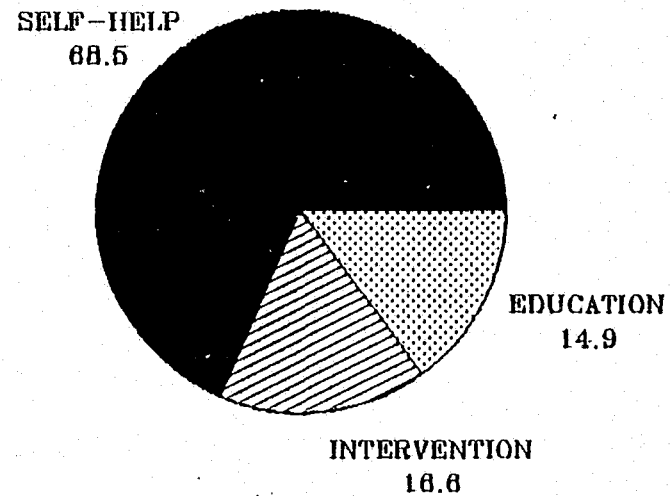
Cocaine Anon. included in Other S-H

GRAPH 4

INMATES ON WAITING LIST BY TYPE OF SERVICE



961 Waiting

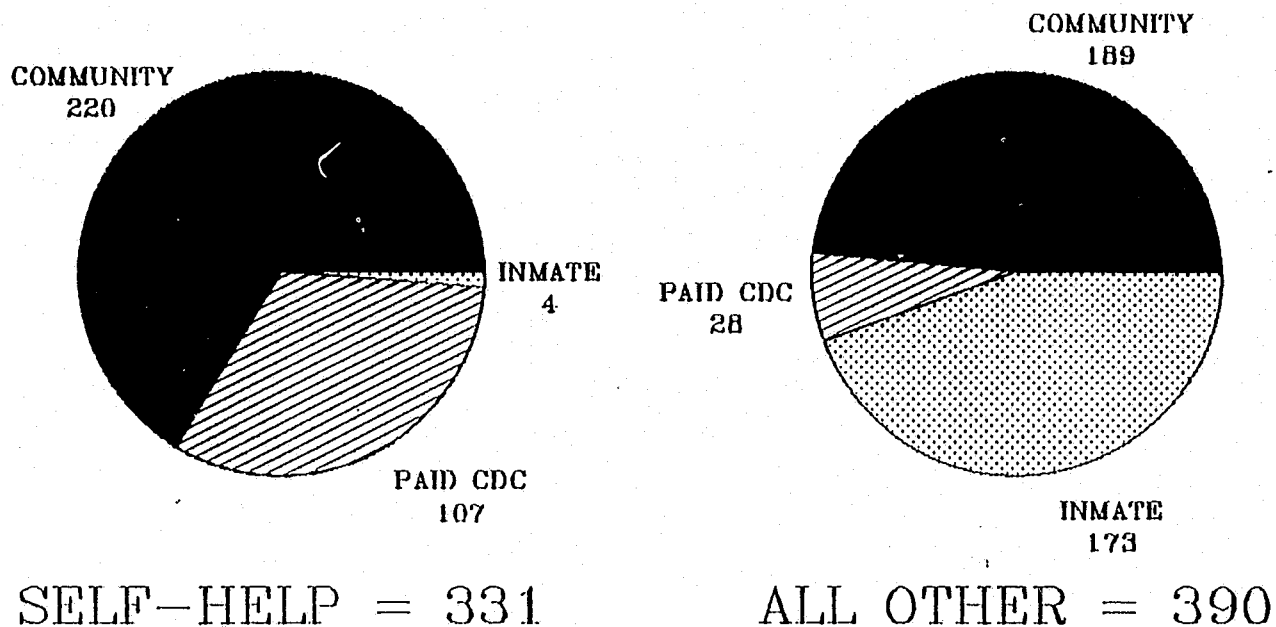


Percent of Total

March 1991: 9 institutions reporting

GRAPH 5

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS IN INSTITUTIONS BY TYPE OF SERVICE



March 1991: 21 INSTITUTIONS REPORTING