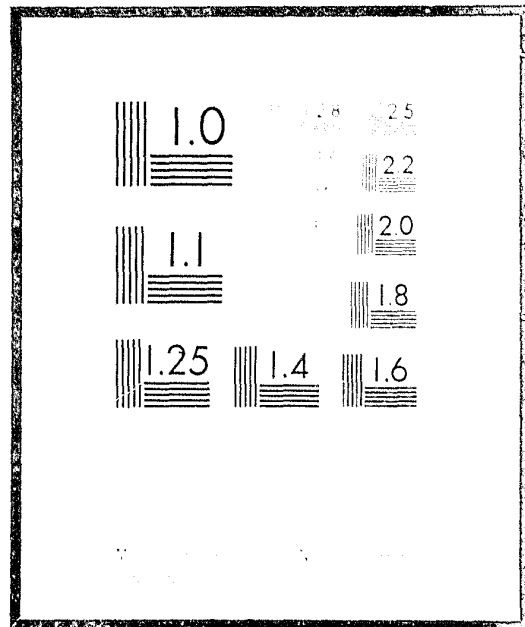


# NCJRS

This microfiche was produced from documents received for inclusion in the NCJRS data base. Since NCJRS cannot exercise control over the physical condition of the documents submitted, the individual frame quality will vary. The resolution chart on this frame may be used to evaluate the document quality.



Microfilming procedures used to create this fiche comply with the standards set forth in 41CFR 101-11.504

Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

7/9/76

Date filmed

32696

## THE WOMAN OFFENDER IN WISCONSIN JAILS

### A SURVEY

Co-Sponsored by:

THE WISCONSIN PROGRAM FOR WOMEN AND GIRL OFFENDERS  
THE BENEDICT CENTER FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1015 North Ninth Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

An expression of appreciation is due to those who, in any way assisted in this survey. Thanks are due particularly to:

The Vasquez Associates, Ltd. and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for time and resources; the Girl Scouts of Milwaukee Area for printing; Sheriff Louis F. Gianoli, President of Wisconsin Sheriffs' Association; the Sheriffs of Wisconsin for their cooperation; and Severa Austin for initiating the survey.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In May and June of 1975, a state-wide survey of Wisconsin jails was conducted to inquire into the situation of the incarcerated women inmates. The idea for the project was initiated by the Wisconsin Program for Women and Girl Offenders; the work was financed by the Benedict Center for Criminal Justice who also provided staff.

Seventy-one of Wisconsin's seventy-two counties have their own jails. The survey was introduced by an article in the Sheriffs' Magazine in April, 1975; this was followed by a questionnaire to all sheriffs accompanied by a cover letter from Sheriff Louis F. Gianoli, President of the Sheriffs' Association. After each sheriff had time to collect his own data, the questionnaire was administered personally to him by a staff member conducting the survey. In some instances, a community woman from the League of Women Voters accompanied the staff member.

Fourteen sheriffs returned cards indicating there were no women held in their jails. Forty cards were returned giving dates for an interview and a tour. Two counties returned questionnaires completed without setting up an interview date and fifteen made no return whatever. Of these fifteen, five were visited without appointments and all but one were fully cooperative. The other ten were not visited, nor was there any return from them. Summarized, the run-down is:

71 county jails in Wisconsin  
14 indicated no women inmates  
10 no response  
2 a return by mail  
45 visited and questionnaire administered

It should be emphasized that data collected came from answers submitted by jail administration or someone delegated by the sheriff. Data has, therefore, not been interpreted by the staff.

The Wisconsin Program for Women and Girl Offenders is interested in seeing the data put to use while it is pertinent. The Benedict Center for Criminal Justice is willing to receive requests for further implementation of data. However, it will be necessary to request a fee for the work involved in supplying further information.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### HEALTH CARE

1. Adequate health care and medical services, including dietary supplements, should be provided for all women detained in county jails.
2. Pregnant women should receive the necessary special medical care, exercise and diet required to sustain their good health.
3. All women using oral contraceptives should be provided with the necessary medical examinations and prescriptions.

### SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

1. Local community agencies and skilled individuals should be encouraged to provide needed services to all women detained in county jails. At a minimum, the following should be available:
  - a. Counseling (psychotherapeutic, family, financial, education and religious) available at least weekly;
  - b. Education and vocational training programs for all jails where pre-trial or sentenced women remain longer than 30 days;
  - c. Pre-release counseling and employment assistance; and
  - d. Local library and/or bookmobile services.

### VISITATION AND COMMUNICATION

1. Visitation privileges should be allowed for individuals other than immediate family members. Special arrangements should be made for providing an adequate and appropriate environment for visitation with children.
2. Visitation hours and time limits should be equal for male and female detainees. Telephone privileges should be equivalent for males and females.

### PERSONNEL

1. Male and female correctional officers should receive equal pay if their duties and responsibilities are similar.

## RECOMMENDATIONS continued.....

2. All correctional officers who have had contact with female inmates should receive in-service training related to the specialized needs and concerns of women detainees, in addition to regular in-service human relations training.

### GENERAL

1. Each county jail should develop and implement adequate grievance procedures for all detainees.
2. Procedures should be developed which encourage women to register and vote in elections.
3. All women detainees should be allowed basic personal hygiene items. Radios and television sets should also be allowed.
4. Daily outdoor exercise should be available to all jail inmates.
5. Women should be allowed to wear their own clothing in the jail. Women should be encouraged and allowed to wear their own clothing in all court appearances.

WISCONSIN PROGRAM FOR WOMEN AND GIRL OFFENDERS

RESULTS OF JAIL SURVEY

1. CAPACITY:

Jail Capacity for Women:

Total capacity	252
Average capacity	6.0
Median capacity	4.0
Range:	0 in smallest jail to 60 in largest jail

(# of jails responding - 45)

Number of women confined in the last full month before the survey (April or May):

	Whites	Blacks	Indians & Others
Total	297	79	24
Average no. per jail	6.46	1.74	0.52
Median no. per jail	2	0	0
Range:	0-46	0-58	0-5

(# of jails responding - 46)

In the last full month before survey, the number of women arrested for:

	Felonies	Misdemeanors	Other
Total	56	181	2
Average no. per jail	1.4	4.5	0.1
Median no. per jail	0	2	0
Range:	0-12	0-37	0-2

(# of jails responding - 40)

In how many of these cases was alcohol a known factor?

Total	58
Average	1.35
Median	0
Range:	0-12

(# of jails responding - 43)

In how many cases was drug abuse a known factor?

Total	35
Average	0.81
Median	0
Range:	0-11

(# of jails responding - 43)

Number of women released on:

	Bond	Own Recognizance	Pretrial Release
Total	116	103	26
Average	2.97	2.86	0.72
Median	1	0.5	0
Range:	0-16	0-26	0-7

(# of jails responding - 36-39)

Number of women confined on date of survey:

	Whites	Blacks	Indians & Others
Total	29	40	11
Average per jail	0.64	0.89	0.24
Median per jail	0	0	0
Range:	0-13	0-34	0-6

(# of jails responding - 45)

Number of these confined women awaiting trial:

Total	34
Average	0.74
Median	0
Range:	0-25

(# of jails responding - 46)

Number of these confined women serving a Huber sentence:

Total	22
Average	0.48
Median	0
Range:	0-12

(# of jails responding - 46)

Number of these confined women serving a non-Huber sentence:

Total	8
Average	0.17
Median	0
Range:	0-4

(# of jails responding - 46)

Number of these confined women awaiting sentencing:

Total	4
Average	0.09
Median	0
Range:	0-2

(# of jails responding - 46)

Days women are confined before trial:

Average	7.8
Median	1
Range:	½ hr.- 1 yr.

(# of jails responding - 32)

Days women are confined after trial before transfer to other facilities:

One day or less	30	(63.8%)
More than one day	5	(10.6%)
No answer	12	(25.5%)

Are those awaiting trial separated from those who have been convicted:

Yes	18	(38.3%)
No	26	(55.3%)
No answer	3	(6.4%)

Are first offenders separated from repeaters?

Yes	9	(19.15%)
No	37	(78.72%)
No answer	1	(2.13%)

Approximate cost per day for food for a women prisoner:

Average	\$3.48
Median	\$3.50
Range:	\$1.20 - \$6.00
(# of jails responding - 45)	

Total costs per day for a woman prisoner:

Average	\$51.29
Median	\$60.00
Range:	\$3.10 - \$84.00
(# of jails responding - 45)	

Source of funds:

City	4	(8.5%)
County	46	(97.9%)
Other	3	(6.4%)
No answer	1	(2.1%)

11. PHYSICAL FACILITIES:

Are cells for :

One woman	36	(76.6%)
Two women	6	(12.8%)
More than two	2	(4.2%)
No answer	3	(6.4%)

Does each cell have:

Bed or cot	47	(100%)
Chair	19	(40.4%)
Sink	45	(95.7%)
Toilet	46	(97.9%)
Light fixture	43	(91.5%)
Storage space	14	(29.8%)

Is prison clothing worn by pretrial detainees?

Yes	21	(44.7%)
No	26	(55.3%)
NA	0	

Is prison clothing worn by sentenced women?

Yes	18	(38.3%)
No	29	(61.7%)
NA	0	

May women wash clothing in their cells?

Yes	24	(51.1%)
No	23	(48.9%)
NA	0	

Describe bathing or showering facilities:

Hot water: Yes	46	(97.9%)
No	1	(2.1%)
NA	0	
Showers: Yes	43	(91.5%)
No	3	(6.4%)
NA	1	(2.1%)
Tubs: Yes	11	(23.4%)
No	29	(61.7%)
NA	7	(14.9%)

What personal items may be kept by a woman inmate:

Comb/brush	46	(97.9%)
Toothbrush	47	(100%)
Cosmetics	28	(59.6%)
Curlers	23	(48.9%)
Deodorant	35	(74.5%)
Soap	46	(97.9%)
Radio	34	(72.3%)
Reading Materials	47	(100%)

What types of articles may a woman buy in the commissary?

Writing Materials	41	(87.2%)
Snacks	34	(72.3%)
Cigarettes	42	(89.4%)

What other facilities are available for women's use?

Multi-purpose room	8	(17.0%)
Dining room	2	(4.2%)
Day room	33	(70.2%)
Library	21	(44.7%)
Gym	2	(4.2%)
Yard	6	(12.8%)
Laundry	24	(51.1%)

Please evaluate:

	General Jail Conditions			
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NA
Cleanliness	41 (87.2%)	5 (10.6%)	0 (-0-)	1 (2.1%)
Light	32 (68.1%)	10 (21.3%)	3 (6.4%)	2 (4.3%)
Ventilation	34 (72.3%)	8 (17.0%)	4 (8.5%)	0 (-0-)
Bedding	43 (91.5%)	3 (6.4%)	0 (-0-)	1 (2.1%)
Toilets	40 (85.1%)	5 (10.6%)	1 (2.1%)	1 (2.1%)
Temperature Control	28 (59.6%)	14 (29.8%)	3 (6.4%)	2 (4.3%)
Space	27 (57.4%)	15 (31.9%)	3 (6.4%)	2 (4.3%)

111. ACTIVITIES:

How long are women confined in cells daily?

Average	11.3 hours
Median	8.0 hours
Range:	0-24

(# of jails responding - 45)

Check those activities available:

TV Viewing	24 (51.1%)
Card & Indoor Game Playing	44 (93.6%)
Socializing	33 (70.2%)
Outdoor Exercise	6 (12.8%)
Films	5 (10.6%)
Outside Entertainment	7 (14.9%)
Crafts	20 (42.6%)
Reading	46 (97.9%)

Hours of recreation outside cells daily:

Average	12.1 hours
Median	16.0 hours
Range:	0-24

(# of jails responding - 44)

Are recreational activities taken away as a penalty?

Yes	19 (40.4%)
No	21 (44.7%)
NA	7 (14.9%)

IV. MEDICAL SERVICES:

Is a physical examination required of each woman detained:

Yes	2 (4.3%)
No	45 (95.7%)

Is a physical examination required of each woman sentenced?

Yes	1 (2.1%)
No	44 (93.6%)
NA	2 (4.3%)

Is special medical care given to pregnant women?

Yes	32 (68.1%)
No	7 (14.9%)
NA	8 (17.0%)

Periodic examinations:

Yes	23 (48.94%)
No	5 (10.64%)
NA	19 (40.42%)

Special Diet:

Yes	23 (48.94%)
No	5 (10.64%)
NA	19 (40.42%)

Medication:

Yes	29 (61.7%)
No	0 (-0-)
NA	18 (38.3%)

When are medical visits to the jail provided?

On a regularly scheduled basis	8 (17.0%)
Only when requested	32 (68.1%)
Not at all	4 (8.5%)
NA	3 (6.4%)

Do women receive medical treatment at jail?

Yes	25 (53.2%)
No	12 (25.5%)
NA	10 (21.3%)

Do women receive medical treatment elsewhere?

Yes	41 (87.2%)
No	0 (-0-)
NA	6 (12.8%)

Is treatment available for alcohol and drug addiction during incarceration?

Yes	43 (91.50%)
No	2 (4.25%)
NA	2 (4.25%)

Are services of a psychiatrist available for suicidal or disturbed women?

Yes	35 (74.5%)
No	8 (17.0%)
NA	4 (8.5%)

V. SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS:

Is there an educational program for women at the jail?

Basic Education	7 (14.9%)
GED	7 (14.9%)
Vocational	6 (12.8%)
NA	17 (36.2%)

Are there any teachers from local schools?

Yes	6 (12.8%)
No	22 (46.8%)
NA	19 (40.4%)

Is there a jail library?

Yes	19 (40.4%)
No	17 (36.2%)
NA	11 (23.4%)

About how many books does it contain?

Average	147
Range:	0 - 1,000 books
(# of jails responding - 31)	

Are arrangements made for bookmobile use?

Yes	12 (25.53%)
No	27 (57.45%)
NA	8 (17.02%)

Are religious services held in the jail?

Yes	29 (61.7%)
No	18 (38.3%)

How often?

Weekly or oftener	19 (40.4%)
At least monthly	2 (4.3%)
Irregularly	5 (10.6%)
Women go out to church	4 (8.5%)
Never	16 (34.0%)
NA	1 (2.1%)

What counseling is available to women prisoners?

Religious

Yes	41 (87.2%)
No	2 (4.3%)
NA	4 (8.5%)

Psychiatric

Yes	31 (66.0%)
No	7 (14.9%)
NA	9 (19.1%)

Is counseling provided by:

Clergy	24 (51.1%)
Medical Personnel	14 (29.8%)
Social Workers/Agencies	19 (40.4%)
Untrained Laymen	3 (6.4%)

How often is counseling available?

Weekly or oftener	3 (6.4%)
Irregularly	36 (76.6%)
NA	8 (17.0%)

Are work training programs available for women?

Within the jail:

Yes	0 (-0-)
No	41 (87.2%)
NA	6 (12.8%)

Outside the jail:

Yes	15 (31.9%)
No	25 (53.2%)
NA	7 (14.9%)

Do any community agencies provide services for women inmates?

Yes	19 (40.4%)
No	25 (53.2%)
NA	3 (6.4%)

Are special services provided when:

A woman detainee's children need care?

Yes	42 (89.4%)
No	1 (2.1%)
NA	4 (8.5%)

A woman inmate's family needs Welfare Assistance?

Yes	42 (89.4%)
No	2 (4.2%)
NA	3 (6.4%)

A woman inmate needs a job at the termination of her sentence?

Yes	23 (48.9%)
No	19 (40.5%)
NA	5 (10.6%)

VI. COMMUNICATION AND VISITATION:

Are visitors restricted to immediate family?

Yes	26 (55.3%)
No	21 (44.7%)

Visiting is permitted during daytime:

Yes	43 (91.5%)
No	3 (6.4%)
NA	1 (2.1%)

Visiting is permitted during evenings?

Yes	40 (85.1%)
No	7 (14.9%)

Visiting is permitted during weekends?

Yes	39 (83.0%)
No	6 (12.8%)
NA	2 (4.2%)

Is the number of visitors per week limited?

Yes	8 (17.0%)
No	37 (78.7%)
NA	2 (4.3%)

Are visits private?

Yes	35 (74.5%)
No	10 (21.3%)
NA	2 (4.2%)

Is there a barrier between prisoner and visitor?

Yes	41 (87.2%)
No	5 (10.6%)
NA	1 (2.1%)

If yes, what type?

Glass	16 (34.0%)
Screen	15 (31.9%)
Other	10 (21.3%)
NA	6 (12.8%)

May a lawyer visit at any reasonable time?

Yes	47 (100%)
No	0

Is the same true for other members of the lawyers' staff?

Yes	39 (83.0%)
No	6 (12.8%)
NA	2 (4.2%)

Are interviews by news reporters allowed?

Yes	20 (42.5%)
No	24 (51.1%)
NA	3 (6.4%)

Mail:

Is the number of outgoing letters restricted if postage is supplied by the inmate?

Yes	3 (6.4%)
No	43 (91.5%)
NA	1 (2.1%)

Is mail restricted to or from those on an approved list?

Yes	3 (6.4%)
No	43 (91.5%)
NA	1 (2.1%)

Is mail examined?

Incoming:

Yes	37 (78.7%)
No	8 (17.0%)
NA	2 (4.3%)

Outgoing:

Yes	28 (59.6%)
No	18 (38.3%)
NA	1 (2.1%)

Telephone:

Is there a telephone for the woman inmate's use?

Yes	42 (89.4%)
No	5 (10.6%)

Are restrictions placed on phone calls?

Number:

Yes	37 (78.8%)
No	9 (19.1%)
NA	1 (2.1%)

Time Limit:

Yes	23 (48.9%)
No	21 (44.7%)
NA	3 (6.4%)

Person Called:

Yes	17 (36.2%)
No	28 (59.6%)
NA	2 (4.2%)

Other:

Are arrangements made for registration and voting in elections?

Yes	24 (51.1%)
No	19 (40.4%)
NA	4 (8.5%)

Are furloughs granted to inmates?

Yes	22 (46.8%)
No	21 (44.7%)
NA	4 (8.5%)



Are prisoners informed of jail regulations upon confinement?

Yes	44 (93.6%)
No	2 ( 4.3%)
NA	1 ( 2.1%)

What are your most common forms of punishment for those who violate jail regulations?

Loss of good time	21
Lock-Up	12
Loss of recreation	12
Restrictions on personal items (including commissary)	9
Loss of Huber privilege	6
Isolation	5
Loss of mail, visiting or phone privileges	4

If an inmate has a complaint, is there a grievance procedure followed?

Yes	41 (87.2%)
No	6 (12.8%)

V11. STAFF:

The position of women correctional officers requires:

High School Diploma or GED	14 (29.8%)
Training in Human Relations	3 ( 6.4%)
No educational requirements	30 (63.8%)

Is there any inservice training given to new correctional officers?

Yes	23 (48.9%)
No	21 (44.7%)
NA	3 ( 6.4%)

Are male correctional officers assigned to the women's area?

Yes	2 ( 4.2%)
No	39 (83.0%)
NA	6 (12.8%)

Are funds made available for continuing education of officers?

Yes	29 (61.7%)
No	11 (23.4%)
NA	7 (14.9%)

What is the starting salary for a male correctional officer?

Average	\$4.03 hour
Median	\$3.90 hour
Range:	\$2.42 - \$7.69

What is the starting salary for a female correctional officer?

Average	\$2.81 hour
Median	\$2.50 hour
Range:	\$2.00 - \$7.21

V111. SUMMARY:

What are your greatest problems with women prisoners?

Attitude or behavior	7
Cost	3
Boredom	3
Cleanliness	2
Family	1

What are your greatest needs for women prisoners?

Better physical plant facilities	14
Recreational facilities	11
More or better trained jail personnel	8
More programs or counseling	8
Outdoor exercise	5
Personal items	4
Less stringent security	2
Different visiting regulations	2
Medical services	2
Equal treatment for men and women in court	1

**END**