

11



89089

MINI-SERIES REPORT NO. 2

Mississippi Department of Corrections

SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

A comparison of average sentence lengths of all offenders, first offenders, and recidivists committed to the Mississippi State Penitentiary for 1977 and the first three quarters of 1978.

Prepared by:
Sandra K. C. Martin

W. Scott Fulton, Director
Systems Development

NOVEMBER 1, 1978

A COMPARISON OF AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTHS OF ALL OFFENDERS, FIRST OFFENDERS, AND RECIDIVISTS COMMITTED TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PENITENTIARY FOR 1977 AND THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1978.

Data for this comparison was taken from the Mississippi Department of Corrections, Systems Development computer files. A total of 884 commitments in 1977 and 715 for the first three quarters of 1978 were included. These numbers reflect state prisoners held in county jails. Only those offense categories with a sufficient number of offenders, 15 or more, were evaluated.

In 1977 average sentence lengths for recidivists were greater than first offenders for all offenses except for forgery and sale of marijuana. Recidivists also had longer average sentence lengths for the first three quarters of 1978 with the exception of manslaughter, murder, and sale of dangerous drugs. It should be noted that in categories where recidivists received shorter average sentence lengths, number of commitments were significantly smaller.

When comparing first offenders in 1977 to first offenders in 1978, average sentence lengths for aggravated assault, burglary, forgery, larceny, manslaughter, robbery, possession of drugs, sale of dangerous drugs, and sale of marijuana decreased in 1978 while there was an increase in sentence length for uttering forgery.

When comparing recidivists in 1977 to recidivists in 1978, sentence lengths for aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, manslaughter, sale of dangerous drugs and sale of marijuana decreased in 1978 while there

were increases in sentence lengths for forgery and robbery.

Overall, when comparing all offenders (recidivists and first offenders) committed in 1977 and 1978, sentence lengths for aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, manslaughter, sale of dangerous drugs, and sale of marijuana decreased in 1978.

In general, overall average sentence lengths tend to be decreasing in 1978 when compared with 1977.

AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH OF 884 COMMITMENTS TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE
PENITENTIARY FOR YEAR 1977

OFFENSE	ALL OFFENDERS		FIRST OFFENDERS		RECIDIVISTS	
	NUMBER	AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH	NUMBER	AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH	NUMBER	AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH
Accessory after the Fact	3	4.0	3	4.0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	62	8.5	48	8.3	14	9.5
Arson	8	4.4	5	2.4	3	5.8
Attempted Rape	2	23	2	23	0	0
Burglary*	230	4.6	169	4.6	61	5.0
Child Molestation	4	6.7	3	6.8	1	6.0
Child Support	3	1.6	3	1.6	0	0
Damage Property	1	5.0	1	5.0	0	0
Embezzlement	3	2.7	1	3.0	2	2.5
Firing Weapons	1	10.0	1	10.0	0	0
False Pretense	2	7.5	1	3.0	1	12.0
Family Offense	1	3.0	1	3.0	0	0
Forgery	25	4.7	21	4.8	4	4.0
Fraud	3	3.7	2	4.0	1	3.0
General Property Offense	2	4.5	2	4.5	0	0
Kidnapping	6	13.8	5	10.6	1	30.0
Larceny	66	3.5	51	3.3	15	4.8
Manslaughter	61	13.1	56	12.9	5	14.6
Manufacturing Marijuana	1	5.0	1	5.0	0	0
Murder	48	Life	38	Life	10	Life
Possession of Drugs	16	3.4	12	3.8	4	2.3
Possession of Marijuana	4	3.5	4	3.5	0	0
Rape*	36	19.9	28	19.7	8	26.8
Robbery*	208	11.8	179	11.6	29	13.2
Sale of Dangerous Drugs	39	8.3	32	7.0	7	14.0
Sale of Marijuana	18	5.9	17	6.1	1	3.0
Shoplifting	1	5.0	0	0	1	5.0
Sex Offense	1	8.0	1	8.0	0	0
Simple Assault	1	4.0	1	4.0	0	0

OFFENSE	ALL OFFENDERS		FIRST OFFENDERS		RECIDIVISTS	
	NUMBER	AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH	NUMBER	AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH	NUMBER	AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH
Sodomy	1	10.0	1	10.0	0	0
Stolen Property	7	3.7	6	3.5	1	5.0
Uttering Forgery	18	3.8	13	3.6	5	4.2
Weapons Offense	2	4.5	1	3.0	1	6.0
TOTAL	884	8.14	709	8.23	175	8.50

*NUMBERS DO NOT REFLECT LIFE SENTENCES

BURGLARY-recidivist, life (1)

RAPE-first offender, life (3)

ROBBERY-first offender, life (1)

AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH OF 715 COMMITMENTS TO THE MISSISSIPPI
STATE PENITENTIARY FOR THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1978

OFFENSE	ALL OFFENDERS		FIRST OFFENDERS		RECIDIVISTS	
	NUMBER	AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH	NUMBER	AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH	NUMBER	AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH
Accessory after the Fact	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	35	4.9	30	4.4	5	7.6
Arson	4	3.6	4	3.6	0	0
Attempted Rape	1	10.0	1	10.0	0	0
Burglary	253	3.4	198	3.2	55	3.6
Child Molestation*	4	4.5	4	4.5	0	0
Concealed Weapon	2	4.0	0	0	2	4.0
Counterfeiting	1	3.0	1	3.0	0	0
Child Support	0	0	0	0	0	0
Damage Property	0	0	0	0	0	0
Embezzlement	7	3.1	4	2.6	3	3.7
Escape	5	1.7	3	1.5	2	2.0
Firing Weapons	1	3.0	1	3.0	0	0
False Pretense	8	3.5	7	3.0	1	7.0
Family Offense	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forgery	19	4.7	13	4.5	6	4.9
Fraud	1	2.0	0	0	1	2.0
General Property Offense	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping	3	18.3	3	18.3	0	0
Larceny	59	3.1	44	2.9	15	3.6
Manslaughter	46	11.4	42	11.4	4	11.0
Manufacturing Marijuana	1	3.0	1	3.0	0	0
Murder*	30	Life	28	Life	2	9.0
Possession of Drugs	20	3.6	18	3.4	2	5.8
Possession of Marijuana	17	2.9	16	2.9	1	3.0
Rape*	11	11.0	8	11.4	3	10.0
Robbery*	103	11.7	86	9.3	17	13.4
Sale of Dangerous Drugs	28	4.9	27	4.6	1	4.0
Sale of Marijuana	21	5.1	20	4.7	1	15.0
Shoplifting	1	1.0	1	1.0	0	0

OFFENSE	ALL OFFENDERS		FIRST OFFENDERS		RECIDIVISTS	
	NUMBER	AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH	NUMBER	AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH	NUMBER	AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH
Sex Offense	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	1	5.0	1	5.0	0	0
Sodomy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen Property	8	3.3	6	3.5	2	2.5
Uttering Forgery	25	4.5	24	4.5	1	5.0
Weapons Offense	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	715		591		124	

*NUMBERS DO NOT REFLECT LIFE AND/OR DEATH SENTENCES

MURDER-first offender, death (1)
 recidivist, life (1)

RAPE-first offender, life (2)

ROBBERY-first offender, life (1) death (2)
 recidivist, life (2)

CHILD MOLESTATION-recidivist, life (1)

END