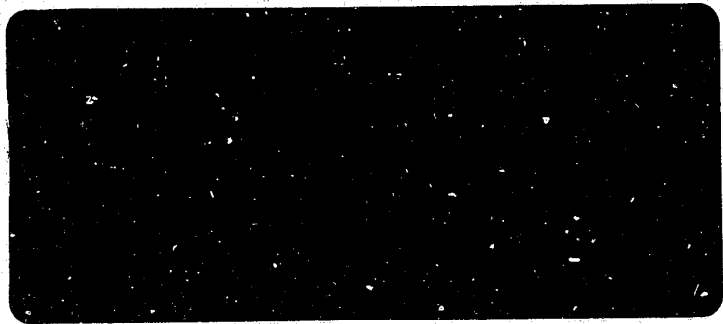


5



19089

MINI-SERIES REPORT NO. 5

Mississippi Department of Corrections

SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

A Comparison of Total Average Sentence Length of All Offenders, First Offenders, and Recidivists Committed to the Mississippi State Penitentiary for 1977 and 1978.

Prepared by:
Sandra K. C. Martin

W. Scott Fulton, Director
Systems Development

JANUARY 18, 1979

A COMPARISON OF TOTAL AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH OF ALL OFFENDERS,
FIRST OFFENDERS, AND RECIDIVISTS COMMITTED TO THE MISSISSIPPI
STATE PENITENTIARY FOR 1977 AND 1978

A sample size of 884 commitments in 1977 and 810 commitments in 1978 was drawn from the Mississippi Department of Corrections, Systems Development computer files to determine if overall average sentence length was increasing, decreasing, or remaining near the same. These numbers reflect all state prisoners including those held in county jails.

In 1977, the average sentence length of all offenders was 8.1 years as compared with 5.6 years in 1978. The decrease in average sentence length from 1977 to 1978 was approximately 2.5 years.

When evaluating average sentence length in 1977, recidivists were sentenced approximately three months longer than first offenders. A slight increase can be seen in 1978 with recidivists receiving an average sentence length approximately 6 months longer than first offenders.

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 810 COMMITMENTS TO THE MISSISSIPPI
STATE PENITENTIARY FOR YEAR 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 | 42 | 5.0 | 36 | 4.5 | 6 | 7.7 |
| Arson | 4 | 3.6 | 4 | 3.6 | 0 | 0 |
| Attempted Rape | 1 | 10.0 | 1 | 10.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Burglary | 282 | 3.4 | 221 | 3.3 | 61 | 4.1 |
| Child Molestation* | 6 | 4.4 | 5 | 4.4 | 1 | Life |
| Concealed Weapon | 3 | 3.0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3.0 |
| 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 | 2.4 | 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 | 23 | 4.5 | 15 | 4.5 | 8 | 4.6 |
| Fraud | 10 | 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 | 65 | 3.2 | 47 | 3.1 | 18 | 3.4 |
| Manslaughter | 53 | 11.5 | 47 | 11.5 | 6 | 11.5 |
| Manufacturing Marijuana | 3 | 5.0 | 2 | 2.4 | 1 | 3.0 |
| Murder* | 35 | Life | 30 | Life | 5 | Life |
| Possession of Drugs | 22 | 3.6 | 19 | 3.3 | 3 | 5.5 |
| Possession of Marijuana | 20 | 2.9 | 19 | 2.9 | 1 | 3.0 |
| Rape* | 12 | 10.5 | 9 | 10.7 | 3 | 10.2 |
| Robbery* | 115 | 11.7 | 96 | 11.1 | 19 | 14.3 |
| Sale of Dangerous Drugs | 31 | 4.7 | 30 | 4.7 | 1 | 4.0 |
| Sale of Marijuana | 23 | 4.8 | 21 | 4.3 | 2 | 9.5 |
| 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 | 10 | 3.2 | 8 | 3.4 | 2 | 2.5 |
| Uttering Forgery | 32 | 4.4 | 27 | 4.3 | 5 | 6.8 |
| Weapons Offense | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 810 | 5.61 | 658 | 5.48 | 152 | 6.05 |

*NUMBERS DO NOT REFLECT LIFE AND/OR DEATH SENTENCES

MURDER-first offender, death (1)
 recidivist, life (3)

RAPE-first offender, life (1)
 recidivist, life (1)

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

CHILD MOLESTATION-recidivist, life (1)

END