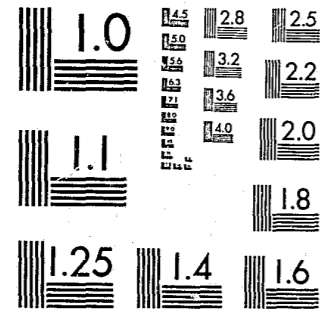


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Approved at 2/16/83
SCOC Meeting

FINAL REPORT

NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION OF CORRECTION
1981
ANNUAL COMPENDIUM
OF
LOCAL JAIL AND PENITENTIARY STATISTICS

NCJRS

APR 7 1983

ACQUISITIONS

OFFICE OF PROGRAM AND POLICY ANALYSIS
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JANUARY 1983

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local jails and penitentiaries were operated during 1981 in 55 counties* outside of New York City. Annually each sheriff/administrator submits a report concerning admissions to each facility. Admissions data must be cautiously interpreted as "admissions" may include some prisoner population movement and hence have meaning beyond individual prisoners.

Characteristics of Jails and Penitentiaries in 1981

- 1) 106,824 admissions to jails; up 12% over 5 years ago;
- 2) 4,734 admissions to penitentiaries; up 28% over 5 years ago;
- 3) 9 to 1 ratio of male to female admissions to local facilities;
- 4) 2 to 1 ratio of adults to minor admissions to local facilities, generally;
- 5) Misdemeanors, violations and other admissions constituted roughly 66% of jail admissions and 85% of penitentiary admissions;
- 6) White prisoners constituted a majority of jail admissions, and racial minorities constituted a majority of penitentiary admissions;
- 7) Nearly three-quarters of detained jail prisoners were incarcerated for 10 days or less;
- 8) Nearly one-half of sentenced jail prisoners received a term of sentence of 10 days or less; and
- 9) Nearly two-thirds of sentenced penitentiary prisoners received a term of sentence of 90 days or less.

Local county jails and penitentiaries have experienced a positive growth trend of reported admissions over the past 5 years. Reported jail admissions rose from approximately 95,000 in 1977 to well over 106,000 in 1981; penitentiary admissions rose from roughly 3700 in 1977 to more than 4700 in 1981, an absolute increase of 12% and 28%, respectively over the period.

A positive growth trend in reported admissions to local jails and penitentiaries was evident in the spatial and operational difficulties experienced by local corrections officials during the year. Difficulties such as overcrowded facilities, maintaining correctional classification, increased requests for substitute jail orders, extensive over-time for correctional officers were amplified by the increased admissions.

*Fulton and Putnam County facilities closed during 1981

INTRODUCTION

During 1981 55 counties¹ outside of New York City operated local correctional facilities. Each county operated a county jail, with four counties² operating both a county jail and penitentiary. Where a county only maintained a jail, both non-sentenced and sentenced prisoners were housed in the same physical structure. In those counties where a jail and penitentiary were both maintained, the jail housed non-sentenced prisoners and the penitentiary housed sentenced prisoners.

Annually, the sheriff or administrator of each local correctional facility must submit a report to the Commission of Correction as per Correction Law, Section 50. This annual report contains information concerning admissions to the facility such as reason for commitment, age, sex, race and also contains data about the physical plant, i.e., its staffing and its operational costs. Analysis of the 1981 admissions data shall be the focus of this report.

Admissions to local correctional facilities has an interpretive meaning that may encompass both individuals committed to the facility and some movement of these individuals resulting in double counting of some individuals. For example, some counties will record each admission and discharge of an intermittent sentenced prisoner as just that, an admission and a discharge. This may occur over a six month sentence whereby this intermittent sentenced prisoner becomes 24 admissions on the year. Inconsistency in recording of admissions may result from each facility's administrative interpretation of Correction Law, Section 500 (f) concerning a daily log of admissions and discharges which, in most cases, is the data source for the annual report. Caution must be used in interpreting admissions as it may have substantive meaning beyond individual prisoners.

JAILS IN 1981

There were a reported 106,824 admissions to local jails during 1981. The following table provides a comparison of reported total admissions for the past five years.

TABLE I
COUNTY JAILS TOTAL REPORTED ANNUAL ADMISSIONS
1977-1981

Year	Total Admissions	Absolute Percent Change
1977	94,991	-
1978	94,003	-1%
1979	100,402	+6%
1980	103,437	+9%
1981	106,824	+12%

¹Fulton & Putnam Counties were closed during 1981

²Albany, Erie, Onondaga and Westchester Counties.

From 1977 to 1981, total reported annual admissions to jails rose an absolute 12%.

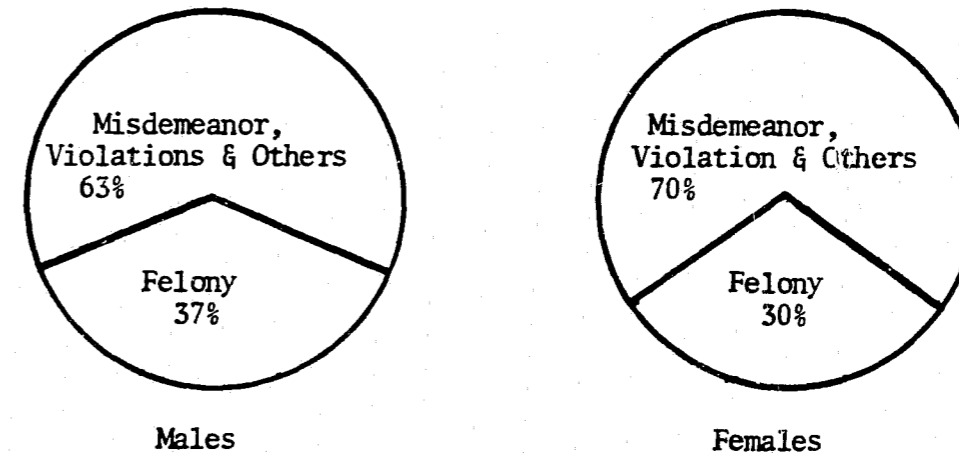
The 106,824 reported admissions for 1981 consisted of 95,314 males and 11,510 females. These figures indicate males represented 89% of the total reported admissions and females 11%. This is a reported 9 to 1 ratio of males to females for 1981 admissions to local jails.

Male admissions for 1981 consisted of 67% adults (21+ years) and 33% minors (16-20 years) indicating a 2 to 1 ratio adult males to minor males. Female admissions had the same 2 to 1 ratio of adult females to minor females.

The following chart indicates the reported reason for commitment to local jails in 1981 for males and females.

CHART I

Reason for Commitment to Local Jails - 1981



Misdemeanors, Violations and Others were the reported predominate reasons for commitment for both sexes. Felony commitments, aggregately for both sexes, were roughly one-third of the commitments to local jails during 1981.

Racial composition of the reported total admissions for 1981 is depicted in the following frequency distribution.

TABLE II

RACE OF REPORTED TOTAL ADMISSIONS TO LOCAL JAILS 1981

Race	Male			Female		
	Abs. Freq.	Rel.#	Cum.%	Abs. Freq.	Rel.%	Cum.%
White	63,078	66%	66%	6082	53%	53%
Black	27,812	29%	95%	5132	44%	97%
Hispanic	3,579	4%	99%	191	2%	99%
Other	845	1%	100%	105	1%	100%
TOTAL	95,314	100%	100%	11,510	100%	100%

White prisoners constituted a majority of the admissions for both sexes; however, racial minorities constituted a larger percentage of female prisoners than males.

Length of detention in days for non-sentenced prisoners and term of sentences in days for adjudicated prisoners are both reported in the Sheriff's Annual Report. The following frequency distributions will explicate these length of stay variables.

TABLE III
LENGTH OF DETENTION FOR PRISONERS
DETAINED OTHER THAN SENTENCED FOR 1981

Days	Absolute Frequency	Rel. %	Cum. %
1-2	35,427	39%	39%
3-5	18,403	20%	59%
6-10	13,322	14%	74%
11-20	8,182	9%	83%
21-60	9,254	10%	93%
61-90	2,476	3%	96%
91-200	2,561	3%	99%
201+	610	1%	100%
TOTALS	90,235	100%	100%

Cumulatively, nearly three-quarters of the detained prisoners stayed in local jails ten days or less. Furthermore, over one-half of the detained prisoners stayed five days or less in detention, while only 7% were detained beyond sixty days.

TABLE IV
TERM OF SENTENCES FOR PRISONERS
SENTENCED TO LOCAL JAILS IN 1981

Days	Absolute Frequency	Rel. %	Cum. %
1-2	3,392	14%	14%
3-5	4,015	17%	31%
6-10	3,738	16%	47%
11-20	3,254	14%	61%
21-60	4,994	21%	82%
61-90	1,182	5%	87%
91-200	2,225	10%	97%
201+	624	3%	100%
TOTALS	23,424	100%	100%

Cumulatively nearly one-half, 47%, of the terms of sentence for prisoners sentenced to local jails in 1981 were for ten days or less, and nearly one-third, 31%, received terms of five days or less. Conversely, only 18% of the terms of sentence were for sixty days or more.

PENITENTIARIES IN 1981

Four counties, Albany, Erie, Onondaga and Westchester operated penitentiaries during 1981. Each penitentiary administrator submits an annual report to the Commission. Penitentiary data are subsets of each counties' correction system data. Before adjudication, most penitentiary prisoners had been admitted to the county jail.

There were a reported 4,734 admissions to the four counties' penitentiaries during 1981. The following table provides a comparison of reported admissions to penitentiaries for the past five years.

TABLE V
COUNTY PENITENTIARIES TOTAL REPORTED ADMISSIONS
1977-1981

Year	Total Admissions	Absolute Percent Change
1977	3690	-
1978	3776	+2%
1979	3937	+7%
1980	4406	+19%
1981	4734	+28%

From 1977 to 1981 total reported annual admissions to penitentiaries rose an absolute 28%.

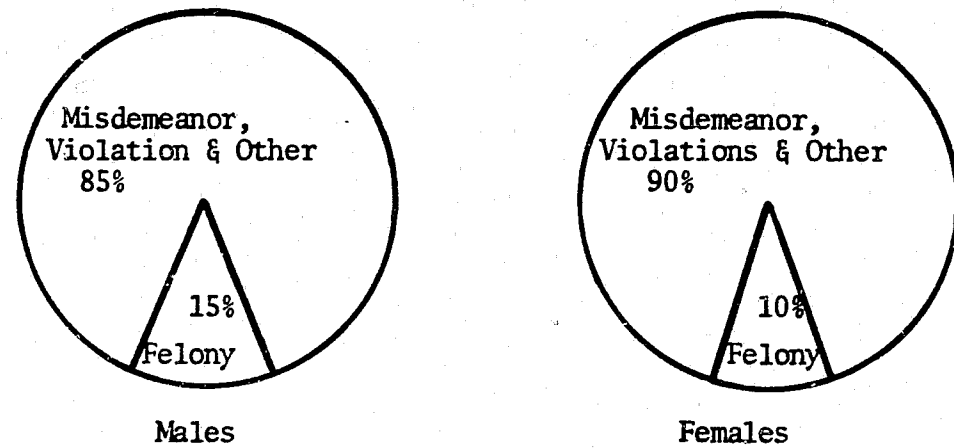
The 4734 reported admissions for 1981 consisted of 4331 males and 403 females. These figures indicate males represented 91% of the total reported admissions and females 1%; a 9 to 1 ratio of males to females.

Male admissions for 1981 consisted of 69% adults (21+ years) and 31% minors (16-20 years) indicating a greater than 2 to 1 ratio of adults males to minor males. Female admissions consisted of 76% adults (21+ years) and 24% minors (16-20 years) indicating a 3 to 1 ratio of adult females to minor females.

The following chart indicates the reported reason for commitment to penitentiaries in 1981 for males and females.

CHART II

Reason for Commitment to Penitentiaries in 1981



Misdemeanors, Violations and Others were the predominate reasons for commitments for both sexes. Felony commitments, aggregately for both sexes, were 14% of the total commitments to penitentiaries during 1981.

Racial composition of the reported total admissions to penitentiaries during 1981 is depicted in the following frequency distribution.

TABLE VI

Race of Reported Total Admissions to Penitentiaries 1981

Race	Abs. Freq.	Rel. %	Cum. %	Abs. Freq.	Rel. %	Cum. %
White	2100	48%	48%	128	31%	31%
Black	2099	48%	96%	270	67%	98%
Hispanic	111	3%	99%	3	1%	99%
Other	21	1%	100%	2	1%	100%
TOTAL	4331	100%	100%	403	100%	100%

Racial minorities constituted a majority of the admissions for both sexes; however, racial minorities constituted a larger percentage of female prisoners than males.

Term of sentences in days for prisoners admitted to penitentiaries during 1981 is depicted in the following frequency distribution.

TABLE VII

Term of Sentences for Prisoners Sentenced to Penitentiaries in 1981

Days	Absolute Frequency	Relative %	Cumulative %
1-5	87	2%	
6-10	204	4%	2%
11-25	562	12%	6%
26-90	2110	45%	18%
91-180	245	5%	63%
181-270	409	9%	68%
271-364	205	4%	77%
365+	813	17%	81%
Others	99	2%	98%
TOTALS	4734	100%	100%

Cumulatively nearly two-thirds of the term of sentences for prisoners admitted to penitentiaries during 1981 were of 90 days or less. The term of sentence most often observed (mode) is from 26-90 days or roughly 1-3 months.

SUMMATION

County jails and penitentiaries have, over the past five years, experienced a reported increase in admissions of 12% and 28% respectively. Reported jail admissions rose from roughly 95,000 in 1977 to over 106,000 in 1981. Reported penitentiary admissions rose from approximately 3700 in 1977 to more than 4700 in 1981.

Male admissions to jails and penitentiaries in 1981 outnumbered female admissions 9 to 1. The ratio of adults to minors for both sexes admitted to jails was 2 to 1; however, admissions to penitentiaries had a 2 to 1 ratio of adult males and a 3 to 1 ratio of adult females to minor females.

Reason for commitment to jails and penitentiaries was most often reported as misdemeanors, violations and others as opposed to felonies. Felony admissions accounted for about 33% of the total reported admissions to jails in 1981 and felony admissions to penitentiaries were 14% of the total reported admissions in 1981.

Jails reported white prisoners as a majority of admissions for both sexes in 1981; however, penitentiaries reported racial minorities, in blacks and hispanics, as a majority of admissions for both sexes in 1981.

Length of detention for jail prisoners other than sentenced was most often from one to two days. Three-quarters of the reported admissions to jails in 1981 stayed ten days or less.

Term of sentences for prisoners sentenced to county jails in 1981 were mostly from 21 to 60 days. Term of sentences of 60 days or less accounted for 82% of the total reported admissions to jails in 1981.

Term of sentences for prisoners sentenced to penitentiaries in 1981 were most often from 26 to 90 days. Term of sentences of 90 days or less accounted for 63% of the total reported admissions to penitentiaries in 1981.

Analysis of annual reports submitted by local jails and penitentiaries indicates an increase in reported admissions over the past 5 years to these local facilities. The Annual Sheriff's Report becomes a mutually beneficial trend analysis tool for local corrections and the Commission of Correction.

END