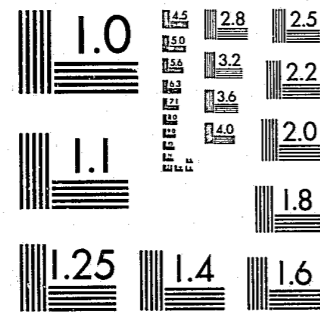


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CORRECTIONAL FACILITY POPULATIONS ACROSS NEW YORK STATE

J. KEVIN McNIFF, CHAIRMAN
KATHARINE WEBB, COMMISSIONER

Approved at 2/16/83
SCOC Meeting

FINAL REPORT

CORRECTIONAL FACILITY POPULATIONS
ACROSS NEW YORK STATE

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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OFFICE OF PROGRAM AND POLICY ANALYSIS

PETER D. KOMARINSKI, DIRECTOR

JAMES F. SEYMOUR, SR. PROGRAM ANALYST

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New York State's county and state correctional facilities experienced an overabundance of prisoners in 1982. Overcrowding in correctional facilities has been detrimental to the operation of institutional programs and services, plus put an extra burden on correctional officers. This analysis will examine the prisoner populations incarcerated in county and state correctional facilities across New York State during 1982 and, where possible, provide comparisons over time.

County correctional facilities, for all practical purposes, are the jails and penitentiaries operated by the 57 counties outside of New York City and are referred to as local correctional facilities. A subset consisting of the local correctional facilities in the six largest counties (except NYC)¹ will also be examined, as well as the 57 counties. New York City maintains a centralized corrections department referred to as the New York City Department of Corrections (NYC/DOC). State correctional facilities are operated by the New York State Department of Correctional Services (DOCS).

Summary of Major Findings

- County correctional facilities' prisoner populations increased 23% from 5772 prisoners in November 1980 to 7081 prisoners in November 1982.
- County correctional facilities' prisoner populations increased 7% in 1982 from 6631 prisoners in April to 7081 prisoners in December.
- County correctional facilities' annual admissions increased an absolute 13% between 1977 and 1981 from 98,681 to 111,558.
- Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Onondaga, Suffolk and Westchester Counties' correctional facilities collectively, as the six largest counties outside of NYC, experienced a 20% increase in their prisoner populations in 1982 from 3550 prisoners in January to 4181 prisoners in December.
- The six largest counties (except NYC) correctional facilities collectively operated from 4% to 20% above maximum prisoner capacity during 1982.

¹Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Onondaga, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties are the subset.

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- New York City Department of Corrections (NYC/DOC) prisoner population increased 10% in 1982 from 8987 prisoners in January to 9889 prisoners in December.
- Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) prisoner population increased 10% in 1982 from 25,766 prisoners in January to 28,249 prisoners in December.
- Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) facilities operated at 14% above their housing capacity in 1982.

In addition to the major findings conclusion that, indeed, there is a sustained positive growth trend in prisoner populations across New York State, observations concerning adjudicatory classification, and age will be made in the full text of this analysis.

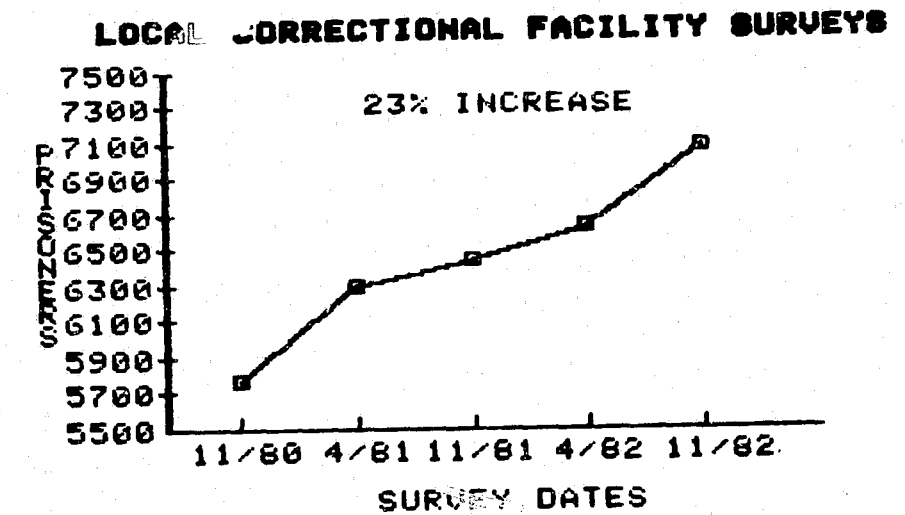
Findings of Prisoner Population Data Analysis

County Correctional Facilities

Prisoner populations at the 56 counties² correctional facilities outside of New York City were measured five times from November 1980 through November 1982. During this period of time, the aggregate prisoner population of these counties increased an absolute 23% from 5772 prisoners in November 1980 to 7081 prisoners in November 1982.

²Fulton County did not operate a correctional facility for this period of analysis.

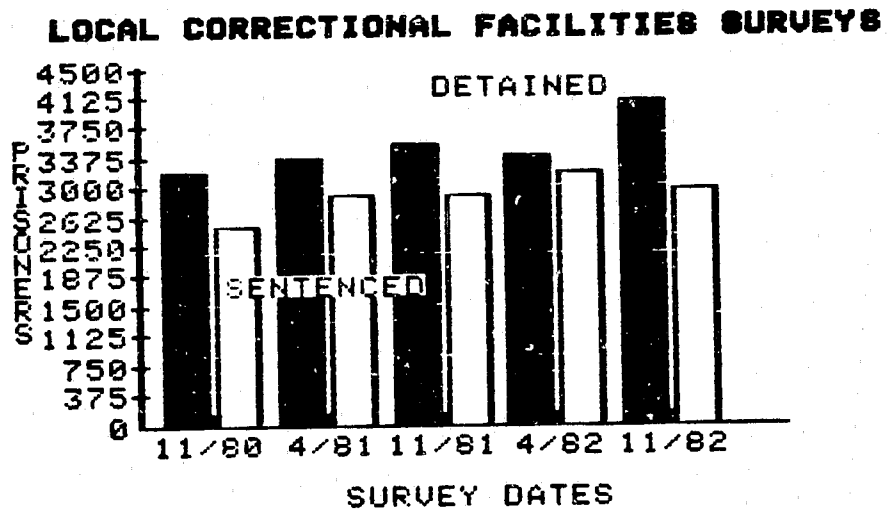
CHART I



This increase in prisoner populations has had an adverse effect on the spatial and operational logistics of county correctional facilities. Extensive use of substitute jails to house prisoners another county jail cannot accommodate, and conversion of some program/services space for housing space, are examples of logistical problems created by the increase populations.

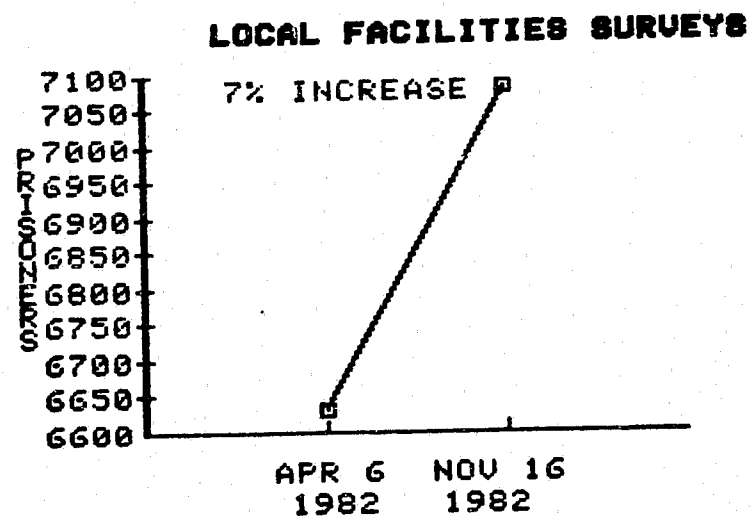
Adjudicatory classification status, i.e., detained or sentenced, of the prisoner populations was measured during this period. Detained prisoners increased slightly as a relative proportion of the entire prisoner population over the sentenced population. November 1980 detained prisoners comprised 56% of the total survey population while the November 1982 detained prisoners comprised 58% of that total.

CHART II



The following chart indicated that the county correctional prisoner populations experienced an increase of 7% in 1982. Telephone surveys of all county correctional facilities' prisoner population levels in April '82 and November '82 indicated 6631 prisoners and 7081 prisoners, respectively, housed in local facilities.

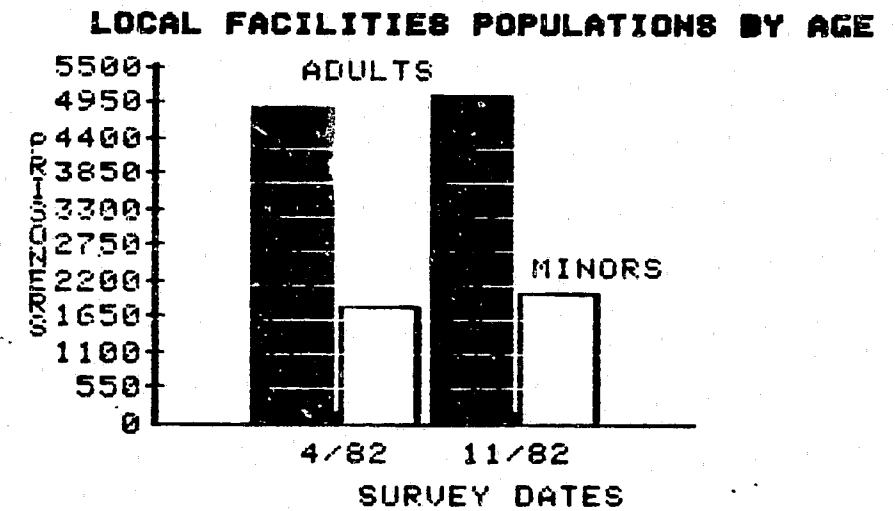
CHART III



Increased prisoner populations during 1982 have further impacted county correctional facilities' ability to maintain the classification standard and in some instances necessitating costly boarding-out of prisoners. In other cases, a county may not possess the physical structure to house all the counties' prisoners and hence must board-out prisoners because their housing capacity is saturated.

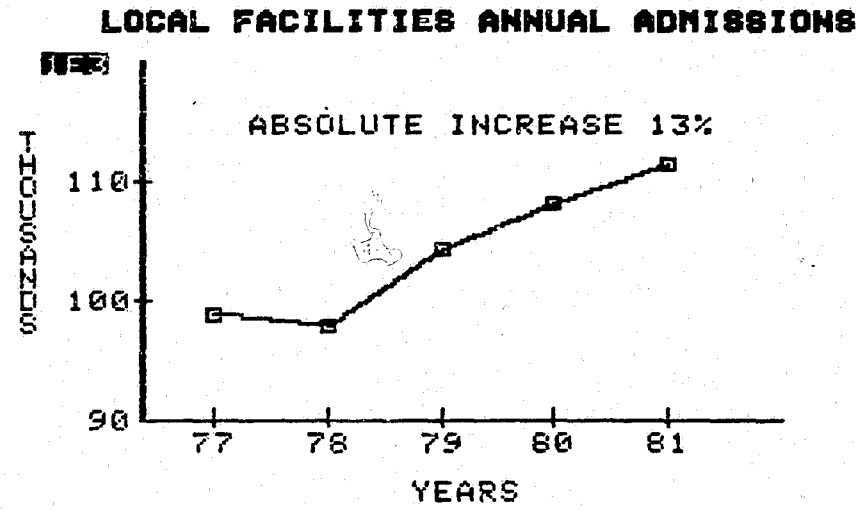
Age classification of the county correctional facilities' prisoner populations surveys undertaken in 1982 indicated that adults comprised 73% of the April total population and 71% of the November total. Relative to the total population minors, i.e., under 21 years of age, gained 2% in 1982.

CHART IV



County correctional facilities reported annual admissions has risen an absolute 13% from 1977 through 1981; admissions rose from 98,681 in 1977 to 111,558 in 1981.

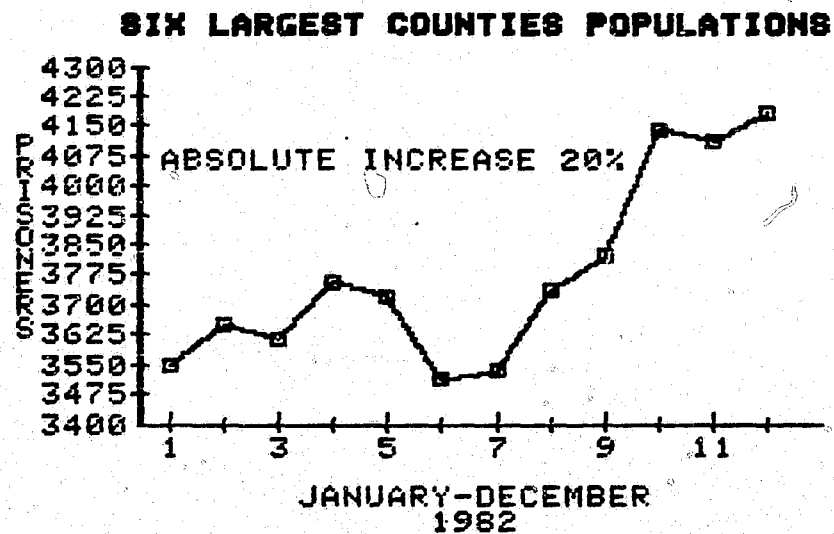
CHART V



A sustained increase in reported admissions is expected for 1982.

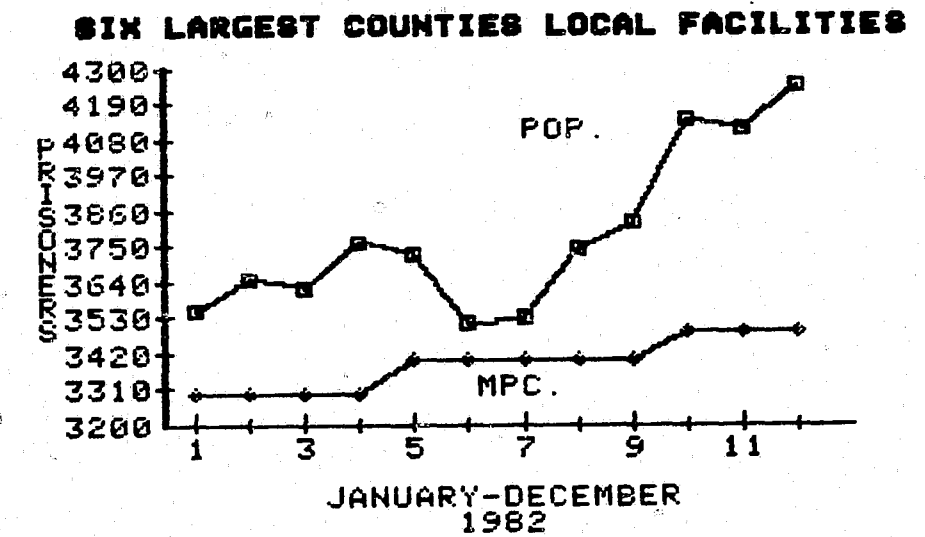
The six largest counties outside of New York City experienced an absolute increase of 20% in their collective prisoner population during 1982. Collective prisoner populations rose from 3550 prisoners in January 1982 to 4181 prisoners in December 1982.

CHART VI



Collectively, the six largest counties (except NYC) county correctional facilities' prisoner population consistently exceeded their collective maximum prisoner capacity ranging from 4% to 20% over.

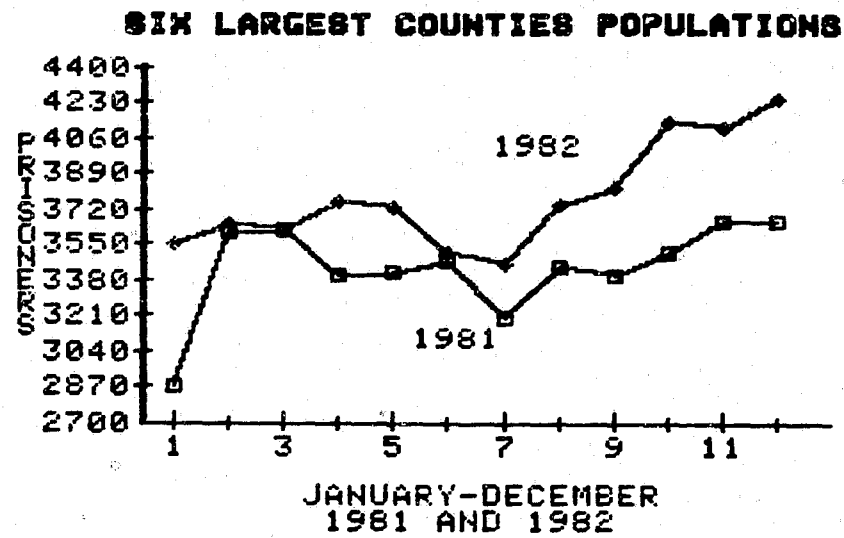
CHART VII



Overcrowding in 1982 has reached an unprecedented point in most of these facilities, in some cases forcing mixing of classifications, housing prisoners in hallways and sending intermittent sentenced prisoners home for lack of housing space.

The six largest counties' (except NYC) county correctional facilities 1982 prisoner population levels collectively exceeded prisoner population levels of-1981.

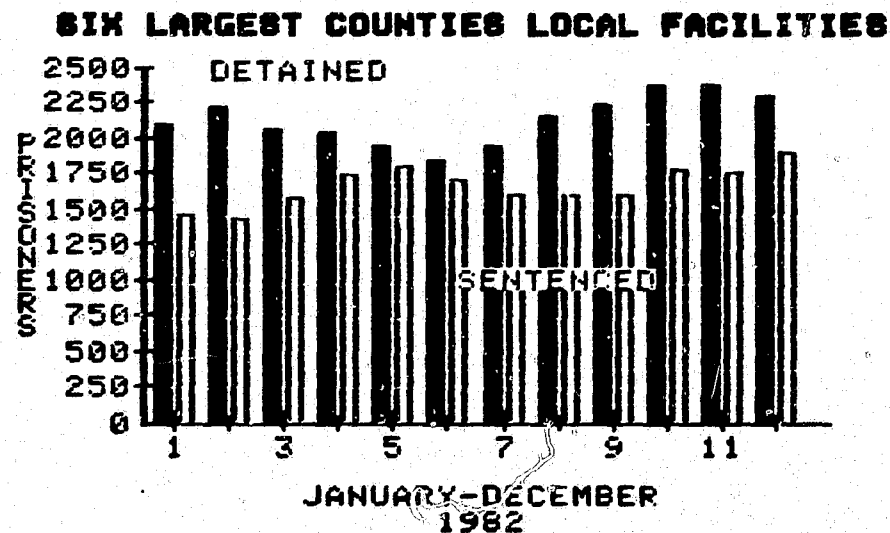
CHART VIII



Collectively, these facilities' prisoner populations were up 14% measuring from December 1981 to December 1982.

The adjudicatory status of the six largest counties correctional facilities' prisoner population is illustrated in the following chart. In January 1982, detained prisoners comprised 59% of the total population, and sentenced prisoners 41%; in June 1982, detained 52%, sentenced 48%; and in December 1982, detained 55%, sentenced 45%.

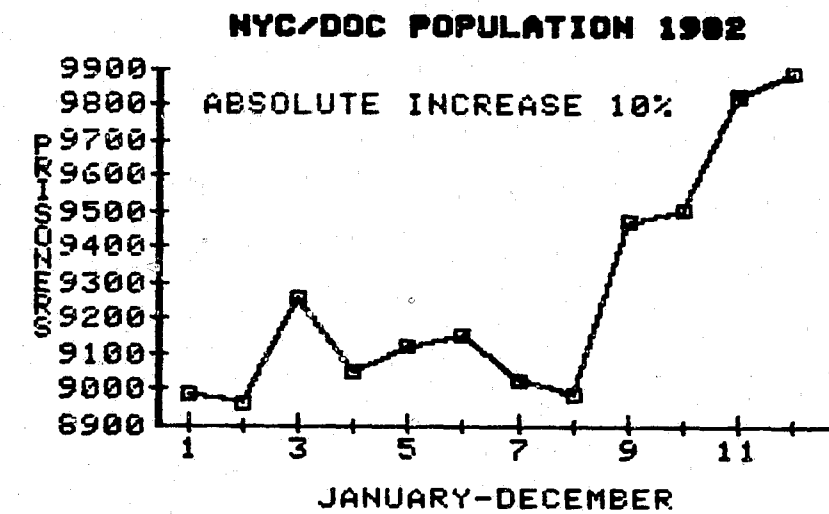
CHART IX



New York City Department of Corrections

The New York City Department of Corrections experienced a 10% absolute increase in its population from 8987 prisoners in January 1982 to 9889 in December 1982.

CHART X

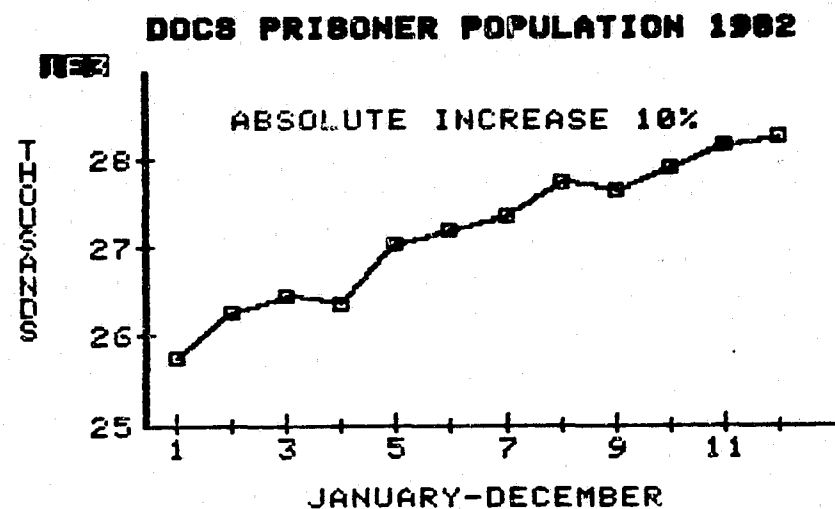


In December 1982, NYC/DOC was operating at 110% of their maximum prisoner capacity.

Department of Correctional Services

The Department of Correctional Services experienced an absolute 10% increase in its prisoner population from 25,766 prisoners in January 1982 to 28,249 prisoners in December 1982.

CHART XI

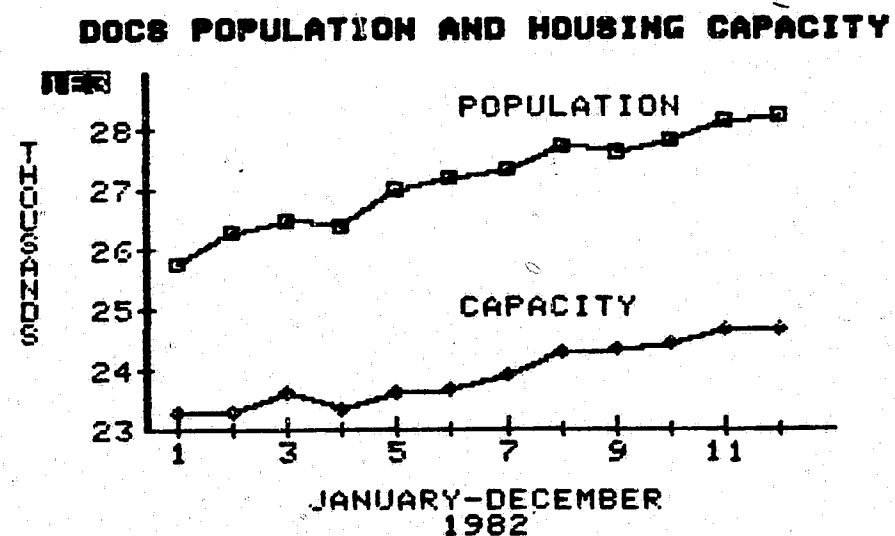


Sustained increases in prisoner population levels have negatively impacted DOCS.

Delivery of services and programs to the prisoner population, across almost the entire system, have been adversely affected.

The prisoner population within DOCS consistently exceeded the housing capacity of cells during 1982.

CHART XII



DOCS prisoner population exceeded the housing capacity by 14% for the year.

Conclusion

County correctional facilities, New York City Department of Corrections, and the New York State Department of Correctional Services all experienced overcrowding in 1982. Most measures indicate that, collectively correctional facilities at all levels were operating at or above their maximum prisoner capacity.

Spatial and operational problems exist across the correctional systems in 1982. Space for housing, programs, and services are needed to accommodate the current population levels and, if a sustained positive growth trend continues, future populations. Unless current criminal justice policies are altered, sustained population growth may continue.

APPENDIX

Data for this report were derived from the following sources:

- Local Correctional Facilities

Commission staff contact each of the six largest non-New York City counties monthly to determine prisoner population. Twice yearly, in April and November, a similar survey is made of all county correctional facilities. Past efforts have shown that these six largest counties represent 57% of the total incarcerated population in non-New York City county facilities.

- New York City Department of Corrections

Data included in this report for New York City were derived from the daily census produced by the Department of Corrections.

- New York State Department of Correctional Services

Data in this report pertaining to Department of Correctional Services were obtained from the Daily DOCS Population/Capacity Reports.



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