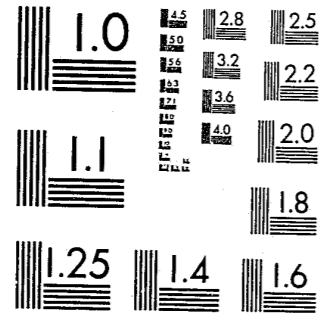


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Washington, D. C. 20531

3/22/85

DATA ON THE PENAL POPULATION IN THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

Datos sobre la Población Penal en la Escuela Industrial para Mujeres



95362

S.A.C.

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

**DATA ON THE PENAL POPULATION IN THE
INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR WOMEN**

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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1983

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PROLOGUE

The scarcity of studies on female criminality gives rise to this study. It is necessary to know in depth the problem of female criminality in order to improve correctional services for this clientele.

The following is a presentation of some of the outstanding data on the study of the penal population in the Industrial School for Women.

The reader must bear in mind that comparisons made of this study should be made with the understanding that there are some provisions and derogations of the previous Penal Code which establish differences in the definition of the crimes.

We hope that this study may be useful for all persons interested in it.

PURPOSES

The purposes of this study are the following:

1. To compare the trajectory of the crime for which the inmates were admitted to the Industrial School for Women nine years ago and the crime for which they have been incarcerated at present.
2. To compare the data with results obtained in the study conducted by the Criminal Statistics Information Center in 1973.
3. To provide persons interested in the topic of female criminality with credible and reliable statistical data in relation to the penal population in the Industrial School for Women.

INTRODUCTION

Since Spanish Colonial times, Puerto Rico has had prisons for men; nevertheless, it is not until 1904 and the notorious case of the first and only woman condemned to death in the Island, Luisa Nevárez Ortiz, that women are perceived as a considerable criminal factor and penal institutions for women are created.¹

Prior to the establishment of the Prison for Women, females were sent to District Jails. Afterwards, a wing of the Arecibo District Jails was set aside for the housing of detained and sentenced women. Finally, in 1954 the Vega Alta Prison for Women was established initially housing 115 inmates.

As of May 1982, the penal population in the Industrial School for Women stood at 96 inmates, which represents a reduction of 16.5 percent when compared to the year 1954.

In the last twenty years the comision of crimes by Puerto Rican women has had a 1.1 percent increase while male criminality has seen a drop of 1.1 percent, also. Nevertheless we find the female penal population has diminished and it could be due to several reasons. In general terms, the police shows prejudice in favor of women upon their being charged arrested, or intervened. Judges also show consideration in favor of women.² In addition, Article 404 of the **Controlled Substances Act** of 1971, offered female convicts the alternative of being on probation, while being offered treatment in one of the treatment centers for addicts. If the convict qualifies she serves her sentences at the treatment center and not in the penal institution which results in a reduction in the addicted penal population. Considerations in favor of social adaptation programs are of vital importance in minimizing the jailing problem and the improvement of the transition process between community life and the family.

The woman who is condemned to prison, due to her upbringing suffers more for her children and for entering into contact with habitual delinquents, than what a man suffers.³

The process of resocialization is hampered when she returns to the free community and cannot find employment, as a result of the social stigma inherent in the whole institutionalization process; specially, when the inmate has had contact with the prostitution subculture and has been related to the alcoholism problem and drug addiction.

The women with the greatest potential for adjustment to society are the ones that have committed murders and homicides because most of them are not recidivists. In the institution, they have proved to be very mature and disciplined; they have shown themselves as very industrious, even though they are the ones with the longest sentences and who do not receive any type of treatment related to the crime they committed.

¹ Valle, Norma, "Female Criminality: A Reality Ignored by All" *El Mundo*, February 9, 1975, Page 10-A.

² Otero de Ramos, Mercedes, Ph.D.; *Exploratory Study on Female Criminality in Puerto Rico*, 1979.

³ Quote by Hiram Cancio, Esquire, Ex-Secretary of Justice, 1975.

In contrast, we find that female drug addicts and/or alcoholics can choose different types of treatment; nevertheless, the majority of them are the ones causing the most problems within the institution in terms of discipline and rehabilitation.⁴

The population in general has the opportunity of participating in some of the rehabilitative programs offered in the institution. The same are directed to developing occupational skills, acquiring work habits, and academic as well as vocational improvement.

Several courses are offered in the institution. Among these we can mention:

- * Ceramics
- * Flowering
- * Tailoring
- * Cosmetology
- * Distribution and Marketing

Also, an academic education program is offered which is sponsored by the Education Department. Not all clients attend these courses. In some cases, clients are not interested in attending the same; and in other cases, there is not enough room for the amount of clientele that wishes to take a course.

We hope that these observations will help us to better understand the present reality of women inmates in Puerto Rico.

⁴ Otero de Ramos, Mercedes, Ph.D.; *Prisonization As An Inhibitor of Puerto Rican Female Inmates Effective Resocialization*, 1979.

METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of gathering the necessary information to obtain data on women inmates in the Industrial School for Women in Vega Alta, said institution was visited. First the social and criminal records of the clients were studied. From the records came part of the information necessary for conducting the study. Then the interview of the clientele proceeded to complete the information that was not obtained from the records. The visits took place during the month of May of 1982.

Once the interviews were through, we proceeded with the tabulation and analysis of the information obtained.

In addition, the information obtained was compared with a similar study conducted in May of 1973.

DATA ANALYSIS

In May of 1973 there was a total of 141 women inmates, 122 of which were sentenced and 19 were detainees. In May 1982 a total of 96 inmates was found: 70 sentenced and 26 detainees.

This shows a penal population decrease of 45 inmates, that is a 31.9 percent. In 1973, 72.9 percent (89) of the sentenced female inmates were drug addicts and in 1982, 72.8 percent.

Median age for the sentenced female inmates was 28.4 in 1973 and 30.0 in 1982. Detainees females had a median age of 32.0 in 1973 and 24.0 in 1982. The interval in the modal age of the female inmates for 1973 was 25-29 years of age, with a frequency of 41 inmates. For 1982 the modal age interval was 25-29 years, with a frequency of 26 inmates. For the year 1973 there were 5 inmates who were 60 years or older.

The modal crime or offense for the year 1973 was Violation of **The Controlled Substances Act** with a frequency of 94. In 1982, it was also violations to **The Controlled Substances Act** with a frequency of 20. A reduction of 78.7 percent can be seen in the violation to the Controlled Substances Act offense. It can also be gathered that in 1973 the total of inmates serving sentence for violations to the Controlled Substances Act⁵ (94) is 66.6 percent of the total of inmates in the Institution (141).

For the year 1982 the total of inmates detained for violations to the Controlled Substances Act was 20, which is equal to a 20.8 percent of the total (96). The next crime in descending order is that of Robbery and Attempted Robbery for the year 1973, with 8, as well as for the year 1982, with 14.

In 1973 the median for days served by detainee females as of May 26 was 51.0. In 1982 it was 41.6. Two inmates in 1973 were found to have served 180 days as detainees. In 1982 there were no inmates in this class interval.

In 1973 there were 89 inmates sentenced for different offenses who were drug addicts which represents a 72.9 percent of the total sentenced inmates. In 1982 there were 51 sentenced inmates who were drug addicts which represents a 72.8 percent of the total sentenced. When comparing the year 1973 with 1982, one notices that there is no significant difference regarding the percentage of sentenced inmates who were drug addicts.

It was also found that 15.5 percent (51) of the total sentenced inmates for 1973 were alcoholics. In 1982, the percentage was 15.7 (11). Like in the classification of female addicts, no significant change was observed in alcoholism.

⁵ Previously known as the Narcotics Act of Puerto Rico of June 18, 1959.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

- * As of May 1982, the Industrial School just counts with the services of only one (1) Sociopenal Officer to attend 96 female inmates. The standard volume of cases which a Sociopenal Officer should have is of 75 inmates per officer.⁶ In order to offer more efficient rehabilitation and counselling services, it is necessary that the institution have the necessary additional personnel.
- * Custody personnel is scarce, since in one of the shifts there was one correctional officer to take care of and guard the building housing the maximum security, admissions, and hospital section. When this situation occurs, security measures at the institution are reduced to a minimum. In order to prevent this situation, vacant custody officer positions should be created or covered.

ASPECTS ON SOCIAL POLICY:

- * The Anti-Drug Addiction Services Department is the agency that has the responsibility of implementing the social rehabilitation policy concerning the provision of services for drug addicts. Presently, the penal institution does not receive therapeutic services in this area greatly affecting the addictive population. This Anti-Addiction Services Department should conduct an analysis of clientele study and establish services for this institution.
- * Criminal female recidivism is directed to the drug addiction aspect and crime against property. If an improvement of the inmate rehabilitation process is intended, the assignment of fiscal resources in this area which is of vital importance should be emphasized. It is also important to consider the transition process among the prison, the family and life in the community, as part of the re-socialization process. This implies the establishment of priorities in the search of employment for inmates. This work involves the designing and implementation of employment programs for inmates once they return to the free community.

⁶ Information obtained from the Plans Division of the Correction Administration, 1983.

STATISTICAL TABLES

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TABLE NO. 1
AGE COMPARISON OF SENTENCED AND DETAINEE INMATES AT THE
INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL OF WOMEN
PERIODS OF 22-26 OF MAY, 1973 TO 24-28 OF MAY, 1982.

AGE	PERIODS			PERIODS		
	22-26 OF MAY 1973			24-28 OF MAY 1982		
	TOTAL	SENTENCED	DETAINEE	TOTAL	SENTENCED	DETAINEE
TOTAL	141	122	19	96	70	26
Median Age	28.6	28.4	32.0	27.7	30.0	24.0
15-19	5	4	1	6	4	2
15	—	—	—	—	—	—
16	—	—	—	—	—	—
17	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	3	2	1	1	1	—
19	2	2	—	5	3	2
20-24	35	32	3	25	13	12
20	4	3	1	4	1	3
21	8	8	—	4	1	3
22	8	7	1	8	6	2
23	6	5	1	6	4	2
24	9	9	—	3	1	2
25-29	41	37	4	26	18	8
30-34	16	13	3	15	13	2
35-39	18	15	3	10	8	2
40-44	9	8	1	3	3	—
45-49	8	6	2	6	6	—
50-54	4	2	2	3	3	—
55-59	—	—	—	—	—	—
60-64	3	3	—	—	—	—
65-69	2	2	—	—	—	—
70 or more	—	—	—	—	—	—
No Information	—	—	—	2	2	—

TABLE NO. 2
THE MOST SERIOUS CRIME COMITTED BY THE SENTENCED INMATES
AT THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL OF WOMEN
PERIODS OF 22-26 OF MAY 1973 AND 24-28 OF MAY 1982

CRIMINAL OFFENSE	22-26 OF MAY 1973							24-28 OF MAY 1982						
	TOTAL			FELONIES		MISDEMEANOR		TOTAL			FELONY		MISDEMEANOR	
	Total	Detainee	Sentenced	Detainee	Sentenced	Detainee	Sentenced	Total	Detainee	Sentenced	Detainee	Sentenced	Detainee	Sentenced
TOTAL	141	19	122	12	117	7	5	96	26	70	23	60	3	10
Criminal Abortion	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aggravated Battery	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	2	—	—	1	2
Breach of the Peace	2	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
Unlawful Aggravated Appropriation	6	2	4	2	4	—	—	11	1	10	1	10	—	—
Unlawful Appropriation	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	7	1	6	—	—	1	6
Murder First Degree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	3	3	3	—	—
Murder Second Degree	5	—	5	—	5	—	—	3	—	3	—	3	—	—
Criminal Contempt	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drunkennes in Public Places	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aggravated Burglary	3	1	2	1	2	—	—	8	1	7	1	7	—	—
Burglary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Deceit (Imposture)	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Forgery	3	2	1	2	1	—	—	5	2	3	2	3	—	—
Fraud	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	3	—	—	—
Negligent Manslaughter	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nonnegligent Manslaughter	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	3	—	3	—	3	—	—
Aggravated Arson	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	—
Drugs and Narcotics Act Infraction	94	6	88	6	88	—	—	20	8	12	8	12	—	—
Infraction of Municipal Ordenance No. 112	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weapons Act Violation	4	2	2	—	—	2	2	3	—	3	—	2	—	1
Escape	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hotel Law	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mayhem	3	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robbery and Tentative Attempt to Commit Murder	8	—	8	—	8	—	—	14	2	12	2	12	—	—
Attempt to Commit Man- slaughter	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Kidnapping	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—

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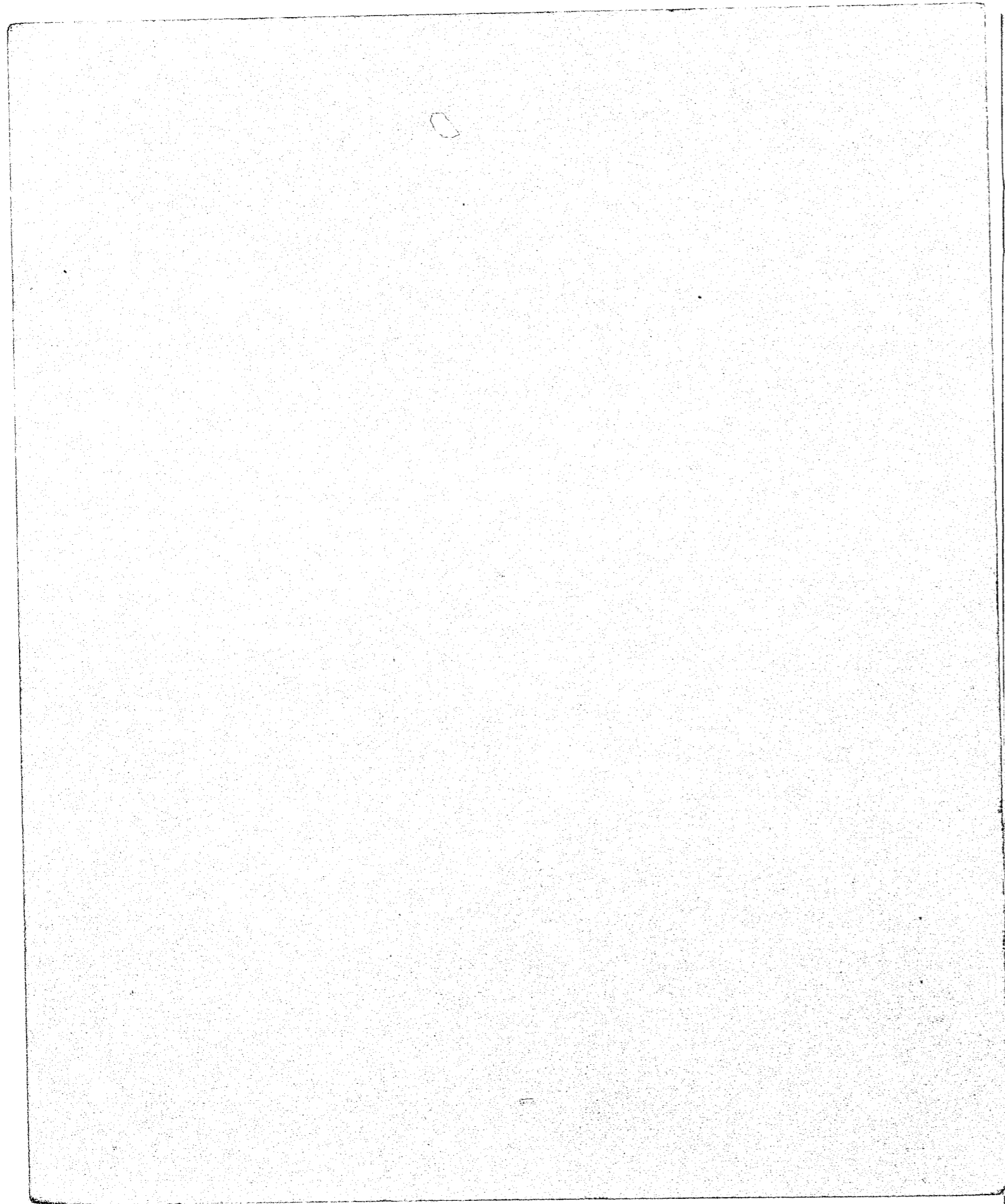
TABLE NO. 3
COMPARISON OF SERVED SENTENCED IN DAYS OF DETAINEES
26 OF MAY, 1973 AND 26 OF MAY, 1982

TIME SERVED SENTENCE (in days)	26 OF MAY 1973	26 OF MAY 1982
TOTAL	19	26
Median in Days	51.0	41.6
Less than 1 day	—	—
1 day	—	—
2 days	1	—
3 days	—	—
4 days	—	—
5 to 9 days	—	1
10 to 14 days	—	4
15 to 19 days	3	—
20 to 24 days	1	4
25 to 29 days	—	2
30 to 34 days	2	1
35 to 39 days	1	—
40 to 49 days	1	3
50 to 59 days	4	2
60 to 69 days	—	2
70 to 79 days	—	1
80 to 89 days	—	1
90 to 119 days	—	4
120 to 139 days	1	1
140 to 159 days	2	—
160 to 179 days	1	—
180 days or more	2	—

TABLE NO. 4
CLASSIFICATION OF SENTENCED AND DETAINEE INMATES
COMPARISON OF PERIODS 22 TO 26 OF MAY, 1973 AND 24 TO 28 OF MAY, 1982

CLASSIFICATION	PERIODS			PERIODS		
	22-26 OF MAY 1973			24-28 OF MAY 1982		
	TOTAL	SENTENCED	DETAINEE	TOTAL	SENTENCED	DETAINEE
TOTAL	141	122	19	96	70	26
Drugs Addict	23	21	2	28	16	12
Alcoholic	6	5	1	1	1	—
Insane	1	1	—	2	2	—
Lesbian	2	2	—	4	4	—
Prostitute	2	1	1	1	—	1
Drug Addict and Alcoholic	3	3	—	5	5	—
Drug Addict and Insane	1	1	—	2	2	—
Drug Addict and Lesbian	18	17	1	14	13	1
Drug Addict and Prostitute	27	24	3	9	7	2
Alcoholic and Prostitute	3	—	3	1	1	—
Alcoholic and Lesbian	3	2	1	1	—	1
Drug Addict, Insane and Lesbian	2	2	—	—	—	—
Drug Addict, Alcoholic and Lesbian	1	1	—	4	3	1
Drug Addict, Alcoholic and Prostitute	4	4	—	—	—	—
Drug Addict, Lesbian, and Prostitute	12	12	—	4	4	—
Alcoholic, Lesbian and Prostitute	2	2	—	—	—	—
Drug Addict, Alcoholic and Insane	—	—	—	1	1	—
Drug Addict, Alcoholic, Lesbian and Prostitute	2	2	—	—	—	—
Drug Addict, Insane, Lesbian and Prostitute	2	2	—	—	—	—
None	27	20	7	18	10	8



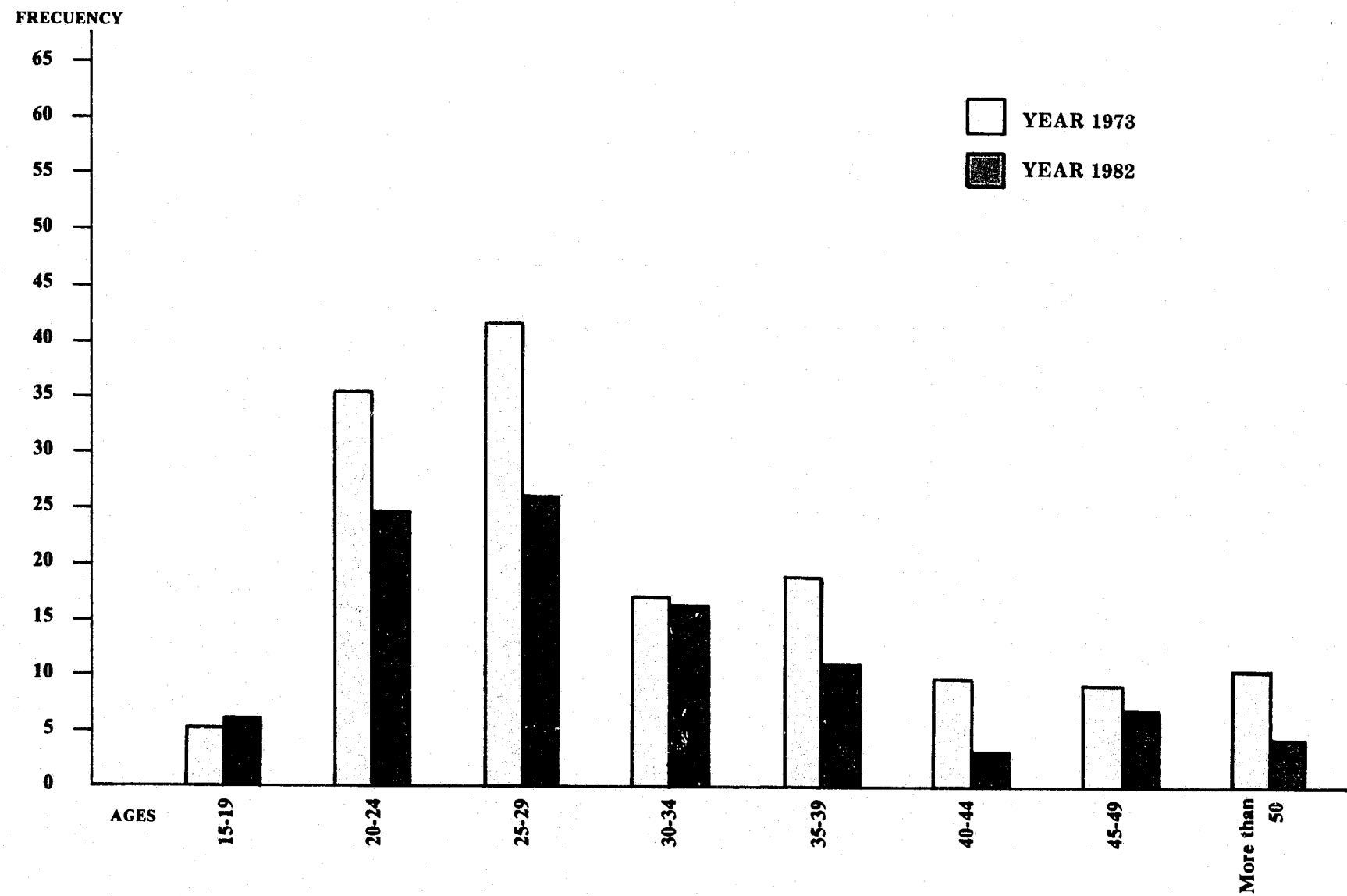


GRAPHICS

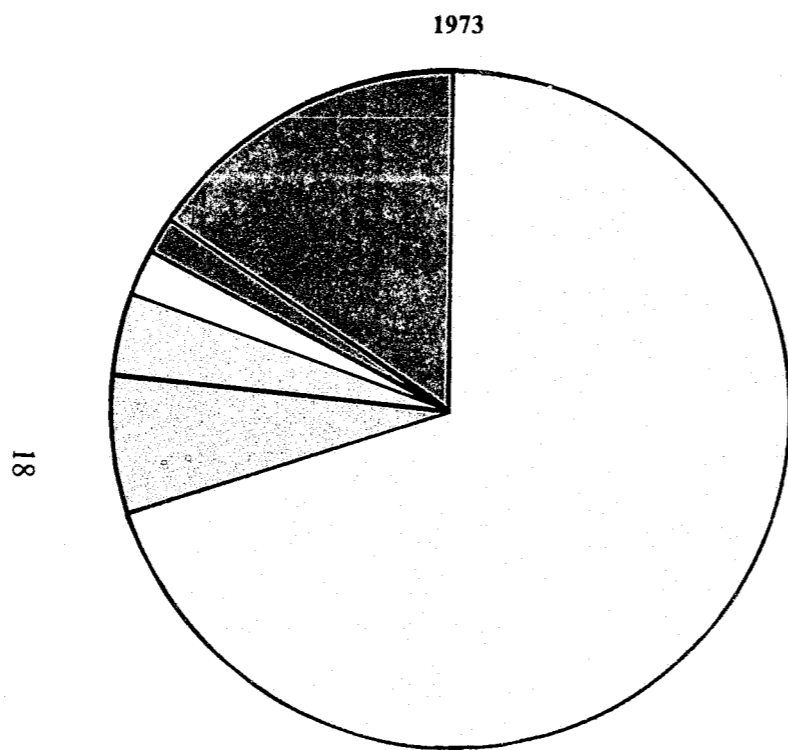
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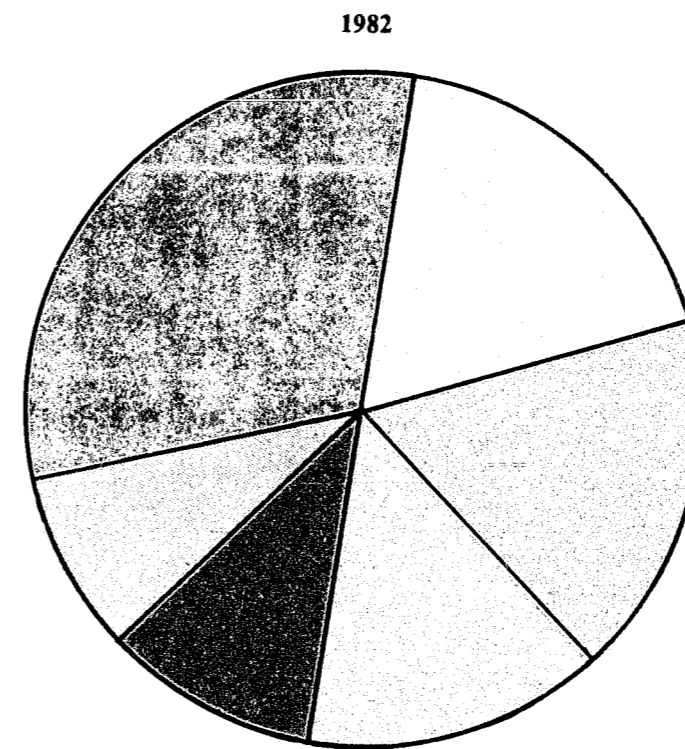
GRAPHIC NO. 1
AGE COMPARISON OF SENTENCED AND DETAINEES INMATES AT THE
INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL OF WOMEN
PERIODS OF 22 TO 26 OF MAY, 1973 AND 24 TO 28 OF MAY, 1982



GRAPHIC NO. 2
THE MOST SERIOUS CRIME COMMITTED BY SENTENCED INMATES
PERIODS FROM 22-26 OF MAY 1973 AND 24-28 OF MAY 1982

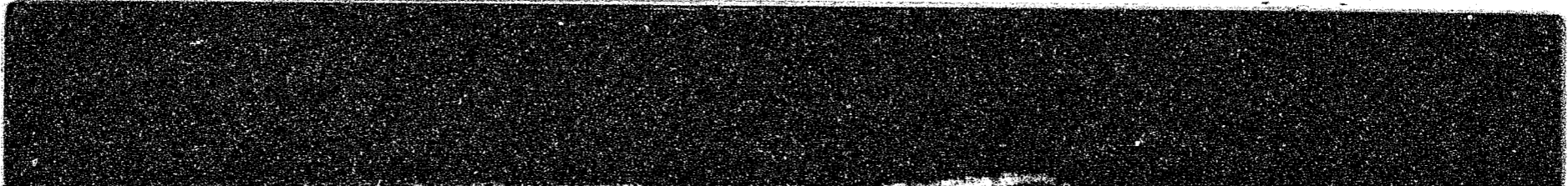


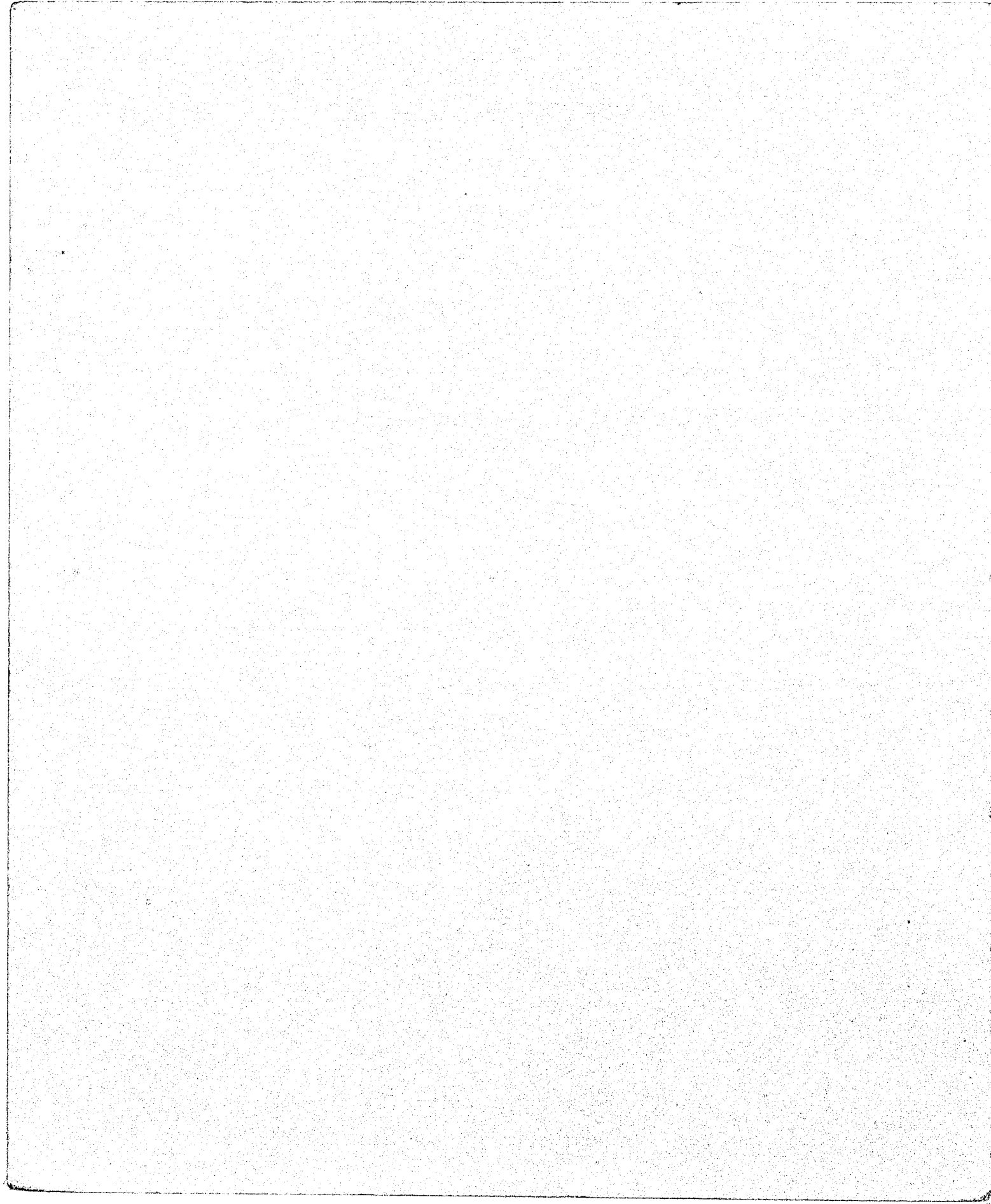
☐ Drugs and Narcotics Act Violation	72.1%
☐ Robbery and Tentative	6.5%
☐ Aggravated Unlawful Appropriation	4.0%
☐ Mayhem	2.4%
▣ Aggravated Burglary	2.0%
☐ Others Criminal Offenses	13.0%



LEGEND

☐ Controlled Dangerous Substances Act	17.1%
☐ Robbery and Tentative	17.1%
☐ Aggravated Unlawful Appropriation	14.2%
▣ Aggravated Burglary	10.0%
☐ Unlawful Appropriation	8.5%
☐ Other Criminal Offenses	33.1%





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**DATOS SOBRE LA POBLACION PENAL EN
LA ESCUELA INDUSTRIAL PARA MUJERES**

1983

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