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AN EXAMINATION OF THE TREND OF FEMALE NEW COMMITMENTS.
1976 TO 1984

The purpose of this report is to examine the trends in female new commitments, for the years 1976 to 1984.

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AN EXAMINATION OF THE TREND OF FEMALE NEW COMMITMENTS
1976 TO 1984

The purpose of this report is to provide information on female new commitments to the New York State Department of Correctional Services (DOCS). The data used in this report is based on new court commitments to DOCS for the years 1976 to 1984. Three focal points are examined. The first area concerns changes in the number of women committed to the Department over the years 1976 to 1984. The second area is change in the distribution of commitment offense. The third is the impact of second and persistent felony offender legislation.

Size of Female New Commitment Population

The majority of admissions are through new court commitments. These women are committed to state prison by judges in county courts following a felony conviction. As indicated in Table 1, there has been an overall increase in the number of women being committed to state prison over the nine year period. In 1976, there were 283 new court commitments compared to 523 in 1984.

TABLE 1

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>
1976	283
1977	301
1978	259
1979	279
1980	284
1981	405
1982	377
1983	438
1984	523

The years which demonstrate a reduction in new commitments from the previous year are 1978 dropping from 301 to 259 and in 1982 dropping from 405 to 377. Even with these reductions, the overall increase in new commitments is substantial. The greatest single increase was from 284 in 1980 to 405 in 1981.

Commitment Offense Types

Tables 2 and 3 present information on the number and percent of female new commitments according to the type of commitment offense. As shown in these tables, commitment offense types have been grouped into several larger categories. The first general category is Violent Felony Offenses. During a 1978 special session, the New York State Legislature enacted new laws designed to provide for more severe penalties for certain violent felony offenses. For the purposes of this report, in addition to those offenses legislatively included in this category, certain class A-I offenses (e.g., Murder 2nd, Kidnapping 1st, Arson 1st) were included because of the already existing severe sentences. Additionally, because of the violent nature of these crimes, they were considered appropriately classified in this category.

The second general category of offenses is labeled "Other Felony Offenses." It consists of all remaining felony offenses, with the exception of Youthful Offenders. Within this general classification exists two subgroups. The first subgroup includes offenses which involve some element of violence or coercion (e.g., Manslaughter 2nd, Robbery 3rd). The second subgroup consists of property offenses (e.g., Burglary 3rd, Grand Larceny, Possession of Stolen Property), drug offenses and all other felony offenses. The final general category is the Youthful Offender classification. Youthful Offenders include those women under the age of 21 who have been convicted of a felony offense but have been granted Youthful Offender status.

In addition to examining the overall increase in female new commitments, it is useful to consider the distribution of commitments across these categories. As demonstrated in Table 2 and 3, a shift has occurred in the proportion of new commitments across the general offense categories. The proportion of women committed for violent felony offenses has increased from 34.0% in 1976 to 45.2% in 1984. For the years 1980, 1981, and 1983, the shift was even more dramatic, with 50% of female new commitments incarcerated for violent felony offenses.

Correspondingly, the proportion of "Other Felony Offenses" has declined over the nine year period. The percentage of these female commitments has dropped from 64.4% in 1976 to 52.4% of the new commitments in 1984. Again, the change was most dramatic for the years 1980, 1981, and 1983 with an average representation of 47.4%. For the two subgroups in this category, the most extreme shift has been for those committed for offenses involving some element of violence or coercion. There has been a fairly consistent drop in the proportion of these offenses, from a high in 1976 of 15.9% to a low in 1984 of 4.6%.

TABLE 2. COMMITMENT OFFENSE BY YEAR,
FOR FEMALE NEW COMMITMENTS 1976 TO 1984

Commitment Offense	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
A. Violent Felony Offenses (as defined by law)	97	96	102	116	142	205	177	223	236
Murder	9	4	6	7	12	11	7	7	8
Attempted Murder	0	0	2	2	0	4	3	5	7
Manslaughter 1st	23	24	14	31	33	35	37	36	42
Rape 1st	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1
Robbery 1st	16	18	18	20	21	35	36	58	31
Robbery 2nd	20	20	27	26	36	64	34	51	48
Assault 1st	4	3	8	10	12	11	8	9	17
Assault 2nd	12	13	15	7	8	16	20	12	19
Burglary 1st	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	8	3
Burglary 2nd	0	4	4	1	5	12	11	18	39
Arson 2nd	1	2	2	4	8	4	6	7	4
Sodomy 1st	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	4
Sexual Abuse 1st	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dangerous Weapons	6	7	3	4	6	9	13	9	8
Kidnapping	2	0	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
B. Other Felony Offenses	182	197	153	155	137	190	195	207	274
1. Offenses Involving Violence/Coercion	45	54	33	26	28	25	26	24	24
Manslaughter 2nd	27	25	12	8	13	10	13	12	12
Rape 2nd, 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery 3rd	15	20	13	10	7	6	8	6	9
Attempted Assault 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Coercive/Violent	3	9	8	8	8	9	5	6	3
2. Property, Drug and Other Offenses	137	143	120	129	109	165	169	183	250
Burglary 3rd	7	9	8	15	9	20	5	8	8
Grand Larceny	16	18	32	22	22	26	42	37	58
Drugs	95	95	56	65	58	69	67	67	124
Forgery	8	9	8	18	12	35	33	50	39
Poss. Stolen Property	4	3	10	6	4	6	13	14	14
All Other Felonies	7	9	6	3	4	9	9	7	7
C. Youthful Offenders	4	8	4	8	5	10	5	8	13
TOTAL	283	301	259	279	284	405	377	438	523

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The subgroup of offenses which includes drug and property crimes has had only a slight overall decline for the nine year period. The proportion of these commitments was 48.5% in 1976 and only slightly less, at 47.8% in 1984. One change in the proportions which is noteworthy is the fairly consistent decline in the drug and property offense category from 1976 to 1980 reaching a low of 38.3%. However, after 1980, these commitment offenses have continued to increase in proportion.

The category of Youthful Offenders appears to have fluctuated somewhat randomly over the time span. The smallest proportion of Youthful Offenders were committed in 1983 at 1.3% and the greatest proportion, at 2.9%, were committed in 1979.

Factors Affecting the Offense Type Distribution

There are several factors which contribute to the increase in Violent Felony Offenses and the decrease in the Other Felony Offenses category. One factor which has been influential in this shift is the plea bargain restrictions contained in the violent felony offender legislation. There are several types of plea bargain restrictions within that legislation. Some of the restrictions are enacted prior to indictment and others occur following indictment. Prior to indictment, a judge in the criminal court is restricted from reducing a charge where there is reason to believe that the defendant committed a class A-I felony (other than an A-I drug offense) or a defendant committed an armed felony (Criminal Procedure Law Section 180.50, 180.70). Following an indictment, a defendant charged with a class A felony (other than a drug offense) or an armed class B violent felony may plead to a charge no lower than a class C violent felony (Criminal Procedure Law Section 220.10). A defendant charged with a class B or a class C violent felony may plead no lower than a class D violent felony offense. Lastly, defendants charged with certain weapons offenses which fall into the class D violent felony offense category may, depending on prior convictions, plead to no lower than a class E violent felony.

Consequently, these restrictions limit the ability of defendants arrested or indicted for violent felony crimes (or crimes involving weapons) to plea down to offenses which are out of the violent felony offense category or to misdemeanor offenses. While these plea limitations do not directly increase the severity of the penalties, they do place a defendant into a higher probability of risk for subsequently being sentenced as a second violent felony offender, if arrested for another offense.

One result of these restrictions is exemplified by the increase in women being committed for Burglary 1st and 2nd while there has been a decrease in women committed for Burglary 3rd. Similarly, overall commitments for Robbery 1st and 2nd have

increased while commitments for Robbery 3rd have decreased. The commitments for Manslaughter are not completely characteristic of the changes. While the proportion of women committed for Manslaughter 2nd has decreased dramatically from 9.5% in 1976 to 2.3% in 1984, there has not been an increase in Manslaughter 1st nor for murder and attempted murder, taken together (see Table 3).

In general, however, these changes are consistent with the assumptions that the plea restrictions in the violent felony offender legislation have increased the likelihood that women arrested or indicted for a violent felony offense will also be convicted of a violent felony offense. This is supported by the overall increase in commitments found in the violent felony offense category.

The violent felony offender legislation also provided for mandatory incarceration for persons convicted of class B or C violent offenses. This section of the legislation may not have had much impact on the increase of commitments for violent offenses. Because of the seriousness of these offenses, most people convicted of these offenses would have been sentenced to prison even prior to the 1978 legislation. This legislation did, however, require that persons convicted of class D crimes in which a weapon was used must receive a prison sentence. Also, defendants who accept a plea to a class D violent felony offense in satisfaction of an indictment charging the person with an "armed felony" (i.e., a violent felony offense committed while armed) must receive a prison sentence, unless mitigating circumstances can be presented (Penal Law Section 70.02 (5)(b)). Defendants convicted of the class D violent felony offenses of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd, Criminal Sale of a Firearm 1st, or the class E violent felony of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd must be sentenced to an indeterminate term (or a flat definite one year term) unless mitigating circumstances can be shown.

In summary, the violent felony offender legislation appears to account for some of the changes in the distribution of offenses among female commitment cohorts over the period 1976 to 1984. The plea restrictions and mandatory state incarceration provisions of these 1978 laws may also have served in bringing a certain number of women into the prison system who might otherwise have received probation or a local jail term.

First and Second Felony Offenders

In its 1973 session, the New York State Legislature re-enacted second felony offender statutes. The amendments to the Penal Law provide that persons convicted of a felony offense and who have a prior felony conviction (with prior conviction occurring within 10 years of present conviction) shall be sentenced as a Second Felony Offender (see New York State Penal Law Section 70.06). The purpose of these laws was to provide for more severe penalties for repeat offenders. This objective is accomplished in two ways. First, persons convicted of a second felony offense face a mandatory state prison term. Second, these laws provide for more lengthy minimum sentences for second felony offenders (when compared with the legal range of sentences for first felony offenders).

The data in Table 4 show a substantial increase in the numbers and proportions of women being committed as second felony offenders between 1976 and 1984 (see Figure 1). Women sentenced as second felony offenders represented 15.1% of those committed in 1976. This figure has more than doubled by 1984 with 38.2% of the female commitments being committed as second felony offenders.

Tables 5 and 6 present breakdowns of first and second felony offenders according to commitment offense type. Data are presented for female new commitments for each of the years in the study. Persistent felony offenders have been grouped in the second felony offender category. It is important to note that for those women in the second felony column, that their prior offense need not be the same as the present commitment offense. For example, if the present commitment is for manslaughter, the prior felony offense need not have been, and probably was not, for manslaughter.

Proportion of Commitments in Each Offense Category Based on Total Female Commitments

Table 6 shows the changes in percent of commitments for first felony offenders and second felony offenders as a proportion of total female commitments. These percentages are presented for the general offense categories and for the individual offenses. The second felony sentences, for the Violent Felony Offender category, increased from 4.9% in 1976 to a high of 10.1% in 1984. For the category of Other Felony Offenses, there appears to be some convergence for those sentenced as First Felony Offenders and those sentenced as Second Felony Offenders. Those sentenced as first felony offenders within this category have declined from 54.0% of the new commitments in 1976 to 24.3% in 1984. The proportion of commitments for second

TABLE 4. FEMALE COMMITMENTS SENTENCED AS FIRST OR SECOND
FELONY OFFENDER BY YEAR, FOR FEMALE NEW COMMITMENTS
1976 TO 1984

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
First Felony Offenders	240 84.8%	255 84.8%	204 78.7%	229 82.2%	234 82.4%	314 77.6%	276 73.2%	307 70.1%	323 61.8%
Second Felony Offenders	43 15.2%	46 15.3%	55 21.2%	50 17.9%	50 17.6%	91 22.5%	101 26.8%	131 29.9%	200 38.2%
TOTAL	283 100.0%	301 100.0%	259 100.0%	279 100.0%	284 100.0%	405 100.0%	377 100.0%	438 100.0%	523 100.0%

Figure 1. Fem. Comm. 1976-1984.

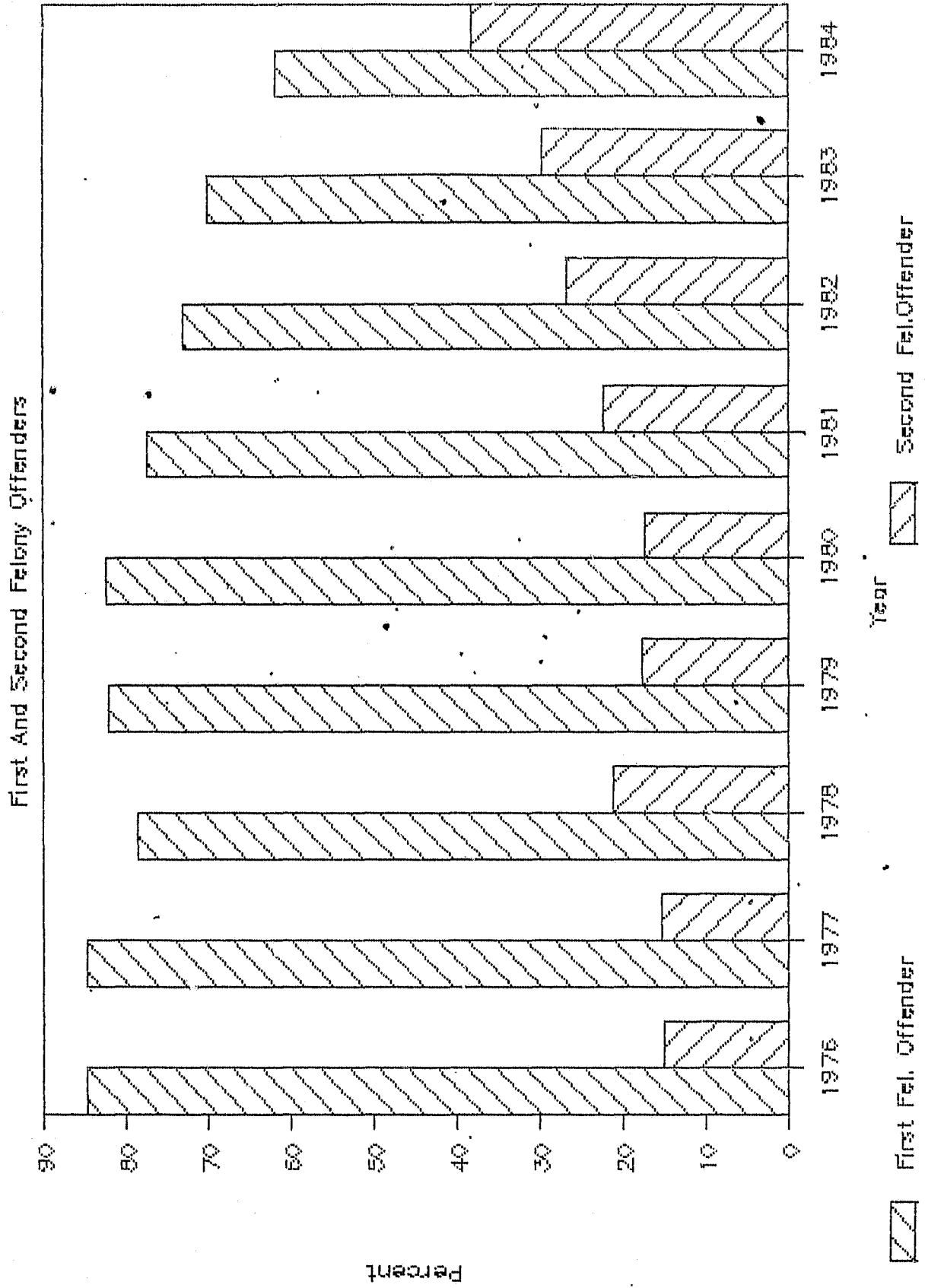


TABLE 5. FEMALE COMMITMENTS SENTENCED AS FIRST FELONY
OR SECOND FELONY OFFENDER BY YEAR, FOR FEMALE NEW COMMITMENTS
1976 TO 1984

Commitment Offense	1976		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
A. Violent Felony Offenses (as defined by law)	83	14	86	10	87	15	102	14	121	21	177	28	143	34	184	39	183	53
Murder	9	0	4	0	6	0	7	0	12	0	11	0	7	0	7	0	8	0
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	5	0	5	2
Manslaughter 1st	21	2	23	1	13	1	27	4	30	3	34	1	37	0	35	1	41	1
Rape 1st	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Robbery 1st	15	1	17	1	16	2	18	2	17	4	31	4	32	4	49	9	30	1
Robbery 2nd	18	2	19	1	21	6	21	5	30	6	56	8	29	5	42	9	28	20
Assault 1st	1	3	3	0	8	0	10	0	12	0	10	1	8	0	6	3	14	3
Assault 2nd	10	2	11	2	11	4	6	1	5	3	11	5	11	9	8	4	15	4
Burglary 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	1	3	0
Burglary 2nd	0	0	3	1	4	0	0	1	1	4	8	4	6	5	11	7	21	18
Arson 2nd	1	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	8	0	4	0	6	0	7	0	4	0
Sodomy 1st	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Sexual Abuse 1st	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dangerous Weapons	2	4	3	4	1	2	3	1	5	1	4	5	2	11	4	5	5	3
Kidnapping	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	1
B. Other Felony Offenses	153	29	161	36	113	40	119	36	108	29	127	63	128	67	115	92	127	147
1. Offenses Involving Violence/Coercion	36	9	47	7	26	7	20	6	24	4	22	3	21	5	21	3	19	5
Manslaughter 2nd	24	3	23	2	11	1	7	1	12	1	9	1	13	0	12	0	10	2
Rape 2nd, 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery 3rd	10	5	16	4	7	6	5	5	5	2	4	2	4	4	4	2	6	3
Attempted Assault 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Coercive/Violent	2	1	8	1	8	0	8	0	7	1	9	0	4	1	5	1	3	0
2. Property, Drug and Other Offenses	117	20	114	29	87	33	99	30	84	25	105	60	107	62	94	89	108	142
Burglary 3rd	4	3	5	4	5	3	11	4	6	3	12	8	5	0	6	2	5	3
Grand Larceny	9	7	8	10	15	17	13	9	9	13	11	15	20	22	11	26	14	44
Drugs	93	2	91	4	55	1	63	2	55	3	61	8	53	14	47	20	67	57
Forgery	4	4	1	8	3	5	8	10	8	4	15	20	15	18	22	28	16	23
Poss. Stolen Property	2	2	1	2	4	6	2	4	2	2	1	5	8	5	4	10	4	10
All Other Felonies	5	2	8	1	5	1	2	1	4	0	5	4	6	3	4	3	2	5
C. Youthful Offenders	4	0	8	0	4	0	8	0	5	0	10	0	5	0	8	0	13	0

TABLE 6. COMMITMENT OFFENSE (IN PERCENT) BY FIRST FELONY OR SECOND FELONY FOR FEMALE NEW COMMITMENTS
1976 TO 1984

Commitment Offense	1976		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
A. Violent Felony Offenses (as defined by law)	29.3%	4.9%	28.6%	3.3%	33.6%	5.8%	36.6%	5.0%	42.6%	7.4%	43.7%	6.9%	37.9%	9.0%	42.0%	8.9%	35.0%	10.1%
Murder	3.2%	0%	1.3%	0%	2.3%	0%	2.5%	0%	4.2%	0%	2.7%	0%	1.9%	0%	1.6%	0%	1.5%	0%
Attempted Murder	0%	0%	0%	0%	.8%	0%	.7%	0%	0%	0%	1.0%	0%	.8%	0%	1.1%	0%	1.0%	.4%
Manslaughter 1st	7.4%	.7%	7.6%	.3%	5.0%	.4%	9.7%	1.4%	10.6%	1.1%	8.4%	.3%	9.8%	0%	8.0%	.2%	7.8%	.2%
Rape 1st	1.1%	0%	.3%	0%	0%	0%	.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	.5%	0%	.2%	0%
Robbery 1st	5.3%	.3%	5.6%	.3%	6.2%	.8%	6.5%	.7%	6.0%	1.4%	7.7%	1.0%	8.5%	1.1%	11.2%	2.1%	5.7%	.2%
Robbery 2nd	6.4%	.7%	6.3%	.3%	8.1%	2.3%	7.5%	1.8%	10.6%	2.1%	13.8%	2.0%	7.7%	1.3%	9.6%	2.1%	5.4%	3.8%
Assault 1st	.3%	1.1%	1.0%	0%	3.1%	0%	3.6%	0%	4.2%	0%	2.5%	.3%	2.1%	0%	1.4%	.7%	2.7%	.6%
Assault 2nd	3.5%	.7%	3.7%	.7%	4.2%	1.5%	2.2%	.4%	1.8%	1.1%	2.7%	1.2%	2.9%	2.4%	1.8%	.9%	2.9%	.8%
Burglary 1st	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	.4%	0%	0%	0%	.3%	0%	0%	0%	1.6%	.2%	.6%	0%
Burglary 2nd	0%	0%	1.0%	.3%	1.5%	0%	0%	.4%	.4%	1.4%	2.0%	1.0%	1.6%	1.3%	2.5%	1.6%	4.0%	3.4%
Arson 2nd	.3%	0%	.7%	0%	.8%	0%	1.4%	0%	2.8%	0%	1.0%	0%	1.6%	0%	1.6%	0%	.8%	0%
Sodomy 1st	.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	.4%	0%	0%	0%	.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	.8%	0%
Sexual Abuse 1st	0%	0%	0%	0%	.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	.2%	0%
Dangerous Weapons	.7%	1.4%	1.0%	1.3%	.4%	.8%	1.1%	.4%	1.8%	.4%	1.0%	1.2%	.5%	2.9%	.9%	1.1%	1.0%	.6%
Kidnapping	.7%	0%	0%	0%	.8%	0%	.4%	0%	.4%	0%	0%	0%	.5%	0%	.2%	0%	.6%	.2%
B. Other Felony Offenses	54.0%	10.2%	53.5%	12.0%	43.6%	15.4%	42.7%	12.9%	38.0%	10.2%	31.4%	15.6%	34.0%	17.8%	26.3%	21.0%	24.3%	28.1%
1. Offenses Involving Violence/Coercion	12.7%	3.2%	15.6%	2.3%	10.0%	2.7%	7.2%	2.2%	8.5%	1.4%	5.4%	.7%	5.6%	1.3%	4.8%	.7%	3.6%	1.0%
Manslaughter 2nd	8.5%	1.1%	7.6%	.7%	4.2%	.4%	2.5%	.4%	4.2%	.4%	2.2%	.3%	3.4%	0%	2.7%	0%	1.9%	.4%
Rape 2nd, 3rd	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Robbery 3rd	3.5%	1.8%	5.3%	1.3%	2.7%	2.3%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	.7%	1.0%	.5%	1.0%	.9%	.5%	1.1%	.6%	0%
Attempted Assault 2nd	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Coercive/Violent	.7%	.3%	2.7%	.3%	3.1%	0%	2.9%	0%	2.5%	.4%	2.2%	0%	1.0%	.3%	1.1%	.2%	.6%	0%
2. Property, Drug and Other Offenses	41.3%	7.1%	37.9%	9.6%	33.6%	12.7%	35.5%	10.8%	29.6%	8.8%	25.9%	14.8%	28.4%	16.4%	21.5%	20.3%	20.7%	27.2%
Burglary 3rd	1.4%	1.1%	1.7%	1.3%	1.9%	1.2%	3.9%	1.4%	2.1%	1.1%	3.0%	2.0%	1.3%	0%	1.4%	.5%	1.0%	.6%
Grand Larceny	3.2%	2.5%	2.7%	3.3%	5.8%	6.6%	4.7%	3.2%	3.2%	4.6%	2.7%	3.8%	5.3%	5.8%	2.5%	5.9%	2.7%	8.4%
Drugs	32.9%	.7%	30.2%	1.3%	21.2%	.4%	22.6%	.7%	19.4%	1.4%	15.1%	2.0%	14.1%	3.7%	10.7%	4.6%	12.8%	10.9%
Forgery	1.4%	1.4%	.3%	2.7%	1.3%	1.9%	2.9%	3.6%	2.8%	1.4%	3.8%	4.9%	4.0%	4.8%	5.0%	6.4%	3.1%	4.4%
Poss. Stolen Property	.7%	.7%	.3%	.7%	1.5%	2.3%	.7%	1.4%	.7%	.7%	.3%	1.2%	2.1%	1.3%	.9%	2.3%	.8%	1.9%
All Other Felonies	1.8%	.7%	2.7%	.3%	1.9%	.4%	.7%	.4%	1.4%	0%	1.2%	1.0%	1.6%	.8%	.9%	.7%	.4%	1.0%
C. Youthful Offenders	1.4%	0%	2.7%	0%	1.5%	0%	2.9%	0%	1.8%	0%	2.5%	0%	1.3%	0%	1.8%	0%	2.5%	0%
TOTAL	84.8%	15.2%	84.8%	15.3%	78.7%	21.2%	82.2%	17.9%	82.4%	17.6%	77.6%	22.5%	73.2%	26.8%	70.1%	29.9%	61.8%	38.2%

felony offenses have increased from 10.2% in 1976 to 28.1% in 1984. Therefore, over this nine year period more women were sentenced as second felony offenders than as first felony offenders for the general category of Other Felony Offenses.

This change appears largely attributable to the property and drug offenses. Persons sentenced as second felony offenders increased dramatically for these offenses from 7.1% of female new commitments in 1976 to 27.2% in 1984. One of the most dramatic changes is apparent for drug offenses. Women sentenced as second felony offenders for a drug offense show a dramatic overall increase from .7% of total female commitments in 1976 to a high of 10.9% of total female commitments in 1984.^{A/}

Proportion of First and Second Felony Offenders in Each Offense Type Category

The distribution of first felony and second felony commitments can also be considered as a proportion of those committed within each type of offense category. Table 7 presents these distributions over the nine year period. In the commitment years 1976 through 1981, persons sentenced as second felony offenders make up approximately 14% of violent felony commitments; however, from 1982 to 1984, persons sentenced as second felony offenders make up approximately 20% of violent felony offenders (see Table 7).

The Other Felony Offense category demonstrates the greatest change in distribution. In 1976, 20% of these committed within that category were sentenced as a second felony offender. In 1983, 44.4% were second felony offenders. In 1984, the majority, 53.6%, of women committed for one of the Other Felony Offenses were sentenced as a second felony offender.

^{A/} Changes in the proportion of commitments sentenced as first felony and second felony offenders were influenced by legislative amendments to the Penal Law instituted in 1973. Changes in the way repeat offenders are sentenced should not be taken as an accurate indicator of changes in the number or percent of repeat offenders committed to state prison.

TABLE 7. COMMITMENT OFFENSE (IN PERCENT) AS FIRST FELONY OR
SECOND FELONY FOR FEMALE NEW COMMITMENTS
1976 TO 1984

Commitment Offense	1976		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
A. Violent Felony Offenses (as defined by law)	85.6%	14.4%	89.6%	10.4%	85.3%	14.7%	87.9%	12.1%	85.2%	14.8%	86.3%	13.7%	80.8%	19.2%	82.5%	17.5%	77.5%	22.5%
Murder	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0
Manslaughter 1st	91.3%	8.7%	95.8%	4.2%	92.9%	7.1%	87.1%	12.9%	90.9%	9.1%	97.1%	2.9%	100%	0	97.2%	2.8%	97.6%	2.4%
Rape 1st	100%	0	100%	0	0	0	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	0	100%	0
Robbery 1st	93.8%	6.3%	94.4%	5.6%	88.9%	11.1%	90.0%	10.0%	81.0%	19.0%	88.6%	11.4%	88.9%	11.1%	84.5%	15.5%	96.8%	3.2%
Robbery 2nd	90.0%	10.0%	95.0%	5.0%	77.8%	22.2%	80.8%	19.2%	83.3%	16.7%	87.5%	12.5%	85.3%	14.7%	82.4%	17.6%	58.3%	41.7%
Assault 1st	25.0%	75.0%	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	90.9%	9.1%	100%	0	66.7%	33.3%	82.4%	17.7%
Assault 2nd	83.3%	16.7%	84.6%	15.4%	73.3%	26.7%	85.7%	14.3%	62.5%	37.5%	68.8%	31.3%	55.0%	45.0%	66.7%	33.3%	78.9%	21.1%
Burglary 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	0	0	0	100%	0	0	0	87.5%	12.5%	100%	0
Burglary 2nd	0	0	75.0%	25.0%	100%	0	100%	0	20.0%	80.0%	66.7%	33.3%	54.5%	45.5%	61.1%	38.9%	53.8%	46.2%
Arson 2nd	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0
Sodomy 1st	100%	0	0	0	0	0	100%	0	0	0	100%	0	0	0	0	0	100%	0
Sexual Abuse 1st	0	0	0	0	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	0
Dangerous Weapons	33.3%	66.7%	42.9%	57.1%	33.3%	66.7%	75.0%	25.0%	83.3%	16.7%	44.4%	55.6%	15.4%	84.6%	44.4%	55.6%	62.5%	37.5%
Kidnapping	100%	0	0	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	0	0	100%	0	100%	0	75.0%	25.0%
B. Other Felony Offenses	84.1%	15.9%	81.7%	18.3%	73.9%	26.1%	76.8%	23.2%	78.8%	21.2%	66.8%	33.2%	65.6%	34.4%	55.6%	44.4%	46.4%	53.6%
1. Offenses Involving Violence/Coercion	80.0%	20.0%	87.0%	13.0%	78.8%	21.2%	76.9%	23.1%	85.7%	14.3%	88.0%	12.0%	80.8%	19.2%	87.5%	12.5%	79.2%	20.8%
Manslaughter 2nd	88.9%	11.1%	92.0%	8.0%	91.7%	8.3%	87.5%	12.5%	92.3%	7.7%	90.0%	10.0%	100%	0	100%	0	83.3%	16.6%
Rape 2nd, 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery 3rd	66.7%	33.3%	80.0%	20.0%	53.8%	46.2%	50.0%	50.0%	71.4%	28.6%	66.7%	33.3%	50.0%	50.0%	66.7%	33.3%	66.7%	33.3%
Attempted Assault 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Coercive/Violent	66.7%	33.3%	88.9%	11.1%	100%	0	100%	0	87.5%	12.5%	100%	0	80.0%	20.0%	83.3%	16.7%	100%	0
2. Property, Drug and Other Offenses	85.4%	14.6%	79.7%	20.3%	72.5%	27.5%	76.7%	33.3%	77.1%	22.9%	63.6%	36.4%	63.3%	36.7%	51.4%	48.6%	43.2%	56.8%
Burglary 3rd	57.1%	42.9%	55.6%	44.4%	62.5%	37.5%	73.3%	26.7%	66.7%	33.3%	60.0%	40.0%	100%	0	75.0%	25.0%	62.5%	37.5%
Grand Larceny	56.3%	43.8%	44.4%	55.6%	46.9%	53.1%	59.1%	40.9%	40.9%	59.1%	42.3%	57.7%	47.6%	52.4%	29.7%	70.3%	24.1%	75.9%
Drugs	97.9%	2.1%	95.8%	4.2%	98.2%	1.8%	96.9%	3.1%	94.8%	5.2%	88.4%	11.6%	79.1%	20.9%	70.1%	29.9%	54.0%	46.0%
Forgery	50.0%	50.0%	11.1%	88.9%	37.5%	62.5%	44.4%	55.6%	66.7%	33.3%	42.9%	57.1%	45.5%	54.5%	44.0%	56.0%	41.0%	58.9%
Poss. Stolen Property	50.0%	50.0%	33.3%	66.7%	40.0%	60.0%	33.3%	66.7%	50.0%	50.0%	16.7%	83.3%	61.5%	38.5%	28.6%	71.4%	28.6%	71.4%
All Other Felonies	71.4%	28.6%	88.9%	11.1%	83.3%	16.7%	66.7%	33.3%	100%	0	55.6%	44.4%	66.7%	33.3%	57.1%	42.9%	28.6%	71.4%
C. Youthful Offenders	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0
TOTAL	84.8%	15.2%	84.8%	15.3%	78.7%	21.2%	82.2%	17.9%	82.4%	17.6%	77.6%	22.5%	73.2%	26.8%	70.1%	29.9%	61.8%	38.2%

Again, it appears that the property and drug offenses have contributed most heavily to that change. The commitment offenses which showed the most change were grand larceny, drug offenses, possession of stolen property, and all other felony offenses. In 1976, 56.3% of the women committed for grand larceny were first felony offenders compared to only 24.1% in 1984. Consequently, those represented as second felony offenders in the grand larceny category increased from 43.8% in 1976 to 75.9% in 1984.

The change for those committed for drug offenses is even more dramatic. Those sentenced as a second felony offender represented only 2.1% in 1976 compared to almost half, 46.0%, of those committed for drug offenses in 1984. This represents the greatest change for any single category.

First and second felony offenders are evenly distributed in 1976 for Possession of Stolen Property. For most of the remaining years, second felony offenders are more heavily represented. For both 1983 and 1984 second felony offenders made up 71.4% of those committed for possession of stolen property.

Lastly, for all other felony offenses, the distribution is exactly reversed from 1976 to 1984 for first and second felony offenders. In 1976, those committed as a first felony offender represented 71.4% of these offenders and 28.6% were second felony offenders. In 1984, second felony offenders were 71.4% and first felony offenders were 28.6%. One must remember that there are so few women in this group of offenses that small changes in actual numbers may contribute to large proportional changes.

Table 8 shows the distribution of offenses within both first felony and second felony commitments, over the nine year period. This table simply presents the same data in another way. In 1976, the distribution across the general categories for first offenders and second offenders is very similar. For example, of those women sentenced as a first felony offender, 34.7% were committed for a violent felony offense. Similarly, of those women sentenced as a second felony offender, 32.7% were committed for a violent felony offense. That year, 1976, is the only year in which the categories are so similarly distributed for both first and second felony offenders.

In 1984, of those women committed for a first felony offense, 56.4% were committed for a violent crime. This compares to only 26.5% of those women committed for a second felony offense. The other felony offense category represents 72.5% of all second felony offenders compared to 39.2% of those committed for a first felony offense.

TABLE 8. FIRST FELONY AND SECOND FELONY COMMITMENTS
BY COMMITMENT OFFENSE FOR FEMALE NEW COMMITMENTS
1976 TO 1984

Commitment Offense	1976		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
A. Violent Felony Offenses (as defined by law)	34.7%	32.7%	28.4%	21.8%	42.7%	27.2%	44.5%	28.0%	51.5%	42.0%	56.4%	30.8%	51.8%	33.8%	60.1%	29.9%	56.4%	26.5%
Murder	3.8%	0	1.6%	0	2.9%	0	3.1%	0	5.1%	0	3.5%	0	2.5%	0	2.3%	0	2.5%	0
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	1.0%	0	.9%	0	0	0	1.3%	0	1.1%	0	1.6%	0	1.5%	1.0%
Manslaughter 1st	8.8%	4.7%	9.0%	2.2%	6.4%	1.8%	11.8%	8.0%	12.8%	6.0%	10.8%	1.1%	13.4%	0	11.4%	.8%	12.7%	.5%
Rape 1st	1.3%	0	.4%	0	0	0	.4%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.7%	0	.3%	0
Robbery 1st	6.3%	2.3%	6.7%	2.2%	7.8%	3.6%	7.9%	4.0%	7.3%	8.0%	9.9%	4.4%	11.6%	4.0%	16.0%	6.9%	9.3%	.5%
Robbery 2nd	7.5%	4.7%	7.5%	2.2%	10.3%	10.9%	9.2%	10.0%	12.8%	12.0%	17.8%	8.8%	10.5%	5.0%	13.7%	6.9%	8.7%	10.0%
Assault 1st	.4%	7.0%	1.2%	0	3.9%	0	4.4%	0	5.1%	0	3.2%	1.1%	2.9%	0	2.0%	2.3%	4.3%	1.5%
Assault 2nd	4.2%	4.7%	4.3%	4.3%	5.4%	7.3%	2.6%	2.0%	2.1%	6.0%	3.5%	5.5%	4.0%	8.9%	2.6%	3.1%	4.6%	2.0%
Burglary 1st	0	0	1.2%	2.2%	0	0	.4%	0	0	0	.3%	0	0	0	2.3%	.8%	.9%	0
Burglary 2nd	0	0	.8%	0	2.0%	0	0	2.0%	.4%	8.0%	2.5%	4.4%	2.2%	5.0%	3.6%	5.3%	6.5%	9.0%
Arson 2nd	.4%	0	0	0	1.0%	0	1.7%	0	3.4%	0	1.3%	0	2.2%	0	2.3%	0	1.2%	0
Sodomy 1st	.4%	0	0	0	0	0	.4%	0	0	0	1.0%	0	0	0	0	0	1.2%	0
Sexual Abuse 1st	0	0	0	0	.5%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.3%	0
Dangerous Weapons	.8%	9.3%	1.2%	8.7%	.5%	3.6%	1.3%	2.0%	2.1%	2.0%	1.3%	5.5%	.7%	10.9%	1.3%	3.8%	1.5%	1.5%
Kidnapping	.8%	0	0	0	1.0%	0	.4%	0	.4%	0	0	0	.7%	0	.3%	0	.9%	.5%
B. Other Felony Offenses	63.9%	67.6%	63.1%	78.2%	55.6%	72.7%	52.1%	72.0%	46.1%	58.0%	40.5%	69.3%	46.2%	66.5%	37.5%	70.2%	39.2%	72.5%
1. Offenses Involving Violence/Coercion	15.0%	20.9%	18.4%	15.2%	12.7%	12.7%	8.8%	12.0%	10.2%	8.0%	7.1%	3.3%	7.5%	5.0%	6.8%	2.3%	5.9%	2.5%
Manslaughter 2nd	10.0%	7.0%	9.0%	4.3%	5.4%	1.8%	3.1%	2.0%	5.1%	2.0%	2.9%	1.1%	4.7%	0	3.9%	0	3.1%	1.0%
Rape 2nd, 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery 3rd	4.2%	11.6%	6.3%	8.7%	3.4%	10.9%	2.2%	10.0%	2.1%	4.0%	1.3%	2.2%	1.4%	4.0%	1.3%	1.5%	1.9%	1.5%
Attempted Assault 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Coercive/Violent	.8%	2.3%	3.1%	2.2%	3.9%	0	3.5%	0	3.0%	2.0%	2.9%	0	1.4%	1.0%	1.6%	.8%	.9%	0
2. Property, Drug and Other Offenses	48.9%	46.7%	44.7%	63.0%	42.9%	60.0%	43.3%	60.0%	35.9%	50.0%	33.4%	66.0%	38.7%	61.5%	30.7%	67.9%	33.3%	71.0%
Burglary 3rd	1.7%	7.0%	2.0%	8.7%	2.5%	5.5%	4.8%	8.0%	2.6%	6.0%	3.8%	8.8%	1.8%	0	2.0%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Grand Larceny	3.8%	16.3%	3.1%	21.7%	7.4%	30.9%	5.7%	18.0%	3.8%	26.0%	3.5%	16.5%	7.2%	21.8%	3.6%	19.8%	4.3%	22.0%
Drugs	38.8%	4.7%	35.7%	8.7%	27.0%	1.8%	27.5%	4.0%	23.5%	6.0%	19.4%	8.8%	19.2%	13.9%	15.3%	15.3%	20.7%	28.5%
Forgery	1.7%	9.3%	.4%	17.4%	1.5%	9.1%	3.5%	20.0%	3.4%	8.0%	4.8%	22.0%	5.4%	17.8%	7.2%	21.4%	5.0%	11.5%
Poss. Stolen Property	.8%	4.7%	.4%	4.3%	2.0%	10.9%	.9%	8.0%	.9%	4.0%	.3%	5.5%	2.9%	5.0%	1.3%	7.6%	1.2%	5.0%
All Other Felonies	2.1%	4.7%	3.1%	2.2%	2.5%	1.8%	.9%	2.0%	1.7%	0	1.6%	4.4%	2.2%	3.0%	1.3%	2.3%	.6%	2.5%
C. Youthful Offenders	1.7%	0	3.1%	0	2.0%	0	3.5%	0	2.1%	0	3.2%	0	1.8%	0	2.6%	0	4.0%	0
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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Considering the contributions of individual offenses among first felony offenders, drug offenses represent the single largest category for each of the years except 1983 when commitments for Robbery 1st were slightly higher. Within the second felony offender category, grand larceny was the most common commitment offense type from 1976 to 1978. In 1979, forgery was most frequently the commitment offense. In the next several years, grand larceny and forgery alternate as the dominant commitment offense for women sentenced as a second felony offender. In 1984, however, drug offenses became the single largest offense type for both first felony and second felony commitments.

Sex Differences in Commitment Offense

Table 9 presents the absolute number of men and women committed for each of the offense types. As can be seen by absolute numbers, men heavily outnumber women in every offense category. However, it is more useful, for these purposes, to examine the offense distribution within each sex group so comparisons can be made across the sex categories (Table 10).

Table 10 presents the distribution of men according to commitment offense and the distribution of women according to commitment offense. This allows for comparison across the general offense categories and for individual offense types. For each of the nine years, men are more heavily represented in the Violent Felony Offense category and women are more strongly represented in the Other Felony Offense category. The year which shows the most similar distribution is 1980. In that year 58.1% of the men and 50.0% of the women were committed for violent felony offenses. Similarly, in 1980, 48.2% of the women and 37.9% of the men were committed for an offense in the Other Felony Offense category.

It is also interesting to consider the individual offenses which are consistently dominated by males or females. Again, it is important to note that these comparisons are based on the distribution of offenses within each sex group prior to making comparisons between males and females (Table 10). Within the Violent Felony Offenses, men dominate the violent property crimes (e.g., burglary, robbery) and the sex offenses. Women are more heavily represented in the physically violent crimes of manslaughter and assault.

In the general category of Other Felony Offenses, the subgroup of offenses involving violence or coercion shows that Rape 2nd and 3rd and Robbery 3rd are the male dominated offenses. Women are more strongly represented in the Manslaughter 2nd offense and, with the exception of 1976 and 1984, in the other coercive or violent offenses. In the subgroup of property and drug offenses, women are more strongly represented in every category except Burglary 3rd and Forgery.

TABLE 9. COMMITMENT OFFENSE TYPE BY YEAR,
FOR MEN AND WOMEN NEW COMMITMENTS
1976 TO 1984

Commitment Offense	1976		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
A. Violent Felony Offenses (as defined by law)	3646	97	3942	96	3347	102	4079	116	4467	142	6104	205	6521	177	7778	223	7189	236
Murder	215	9	200	4	167	6	192	7	261	12	288	11	383	7	329	7	334	8
Attempted Murder	45	0	67	0	56	2	61	2	66	0	121	4	114	3	141	5	163	7
Manslaughter 1st	443	23	377	24	287	14	308	31	320	33	413	35	355	37	353	36	361	42
Rape 1st	195	3	179	1	183	0	215	1	230	0	204	0	220	0	239	2	255	1
Robbery 1st	880	16	1100	18	833	18	973	20	1128	21	1759	35	1834	36	2154	58	1846	31
Robbery 2nd	970	20	984	20	866	27	1141	26	1171	36	1556	64	1474	34	1792	51	1531	48
Assault 1st	107	4	152	3	122	8	156	10	133	12	191	11	164	8	180	9	190	17
Assault 2nd	204	12	179	13	215	15	234	7	210	8	217	16	217	20	211	12	286	19
Burglary 1st	23	0	28	0	22	0	34	1	38	0	73	1	94	0	170	8	133	3
Burglary 2nd	87	0	132	4	144	4	212	1	295	5	447	12	846	11	1220	18	1163	39
Arson 2nd	17	1	18	2	12	2	42	4	42	8	46	4	61	6	58	7	52	4
Sodomy 1st	39	1	53	0	47	0	75	1	61	0	94	3	83	0	75	0	103	4
Sexual Abuse 1st	58	0	68	0	72	1	76	0	80	0	90	0	82	0	114	0	120	1
Dangerous Weapons	340	6	391	7	301	3	342	4	416	6	585	9	574	13	799	9	624	8
Kidnapping	23	2	14	0	20	2	18	1	16	1	20	0	20	2	33	1	28	4
B. Other Felony Offenses	3615	182	3710	197	3215	153	2869	155	2905	137	3497	190	3248	195	4049	207	4304	274
1. Offenses Involving Violence/Coercion	1153	45	1089	54	859	33	577	26	442	28	452	25	380	26	506	24	552	24
Manslaughter 2nd	230	27	167	25	123	12	106	8	73	13	66	10	58	13	63	12	67	12
Rape 2nd, 3rd	28	0	29	0	30	0	12	0	9	0	13	0	18	0	17	0	25	0
Robbery 3rd	787	15	746	20	578	13	346	10	275	7	264	6	190	8	308	6	316	9
Attempted Assault 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Coercive/Violent	108	3	147	9	128	8	113	8	85	8	109	9	114	5	118	6	144	3
2. Property, Drug and Other Offenses	2462	137	2621	143	2356	120	2292	129	2463	109	3045	165	2868	169	3543	183	3752	250
Burglary 3rd	786	7	986	9	1000	8	936	15	1069	9	1334	20	951	5	975	8	874	8
Grand Larceny	221	16	250	18	245	32	196	22	231	22	308	26	270	42	382	37	444	58
Drugs	1108	95	1028	95	790	56	815	65	828	58	968	69	1176	67	1558	67	1751	124
Forgery	95	8	89	3	82	8	93	18	97	12	93	35	131	33	149	50	169	39
Poss. Stolen Property	115	4	141	9	127	10	138	6	122	4	215	6	212	13	304	14	349	14
All Other Felonies	137	7	127	9	112	6	114	3	116	4	122	9	128	9	175	7	165	7
C. Youthful Offenders	520	4	483	8	412	4	369	8	304	5	307	10	260	5	272	8	226	13
TOTAL	7781	283	8135	301	6974	259	7317	279	7676	284	9908	405	10,029	377	12,099	438	11,719	523

TABLE 10. COMMITMENT OFFENSE TYPE (IN PERCENT) BY YEAR,
FOR MEN AND WOMEN NEW COMMITMENTS
1976 TO 1984

Commitment Offense	1976		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
A. Violent Felony Offenses (as defined by law)	46.9%	34.0%	48.4%	31.8%	47.9%	39.4%	55.6%	41.7%	58.1%	50.0%	61.6%	50.5%	64.8%	46.8%	64.3%	50.8%	61.3%	45.2%
Murder	2.8%	3.2%	2.5%	1.3%	2.4%	2.3%	2.6%	2.5%	3.4%	4.2%	2.9%	2.7%	3.8%	1.9%	2.7%	1.6%	2.9%	1.5%
Attempted Murder	.5%	0%	.8%	0%	.8%	.8%	.8%	.7%	.9%	0%	1.2%	1.0%	1.1%	.8%	1.2%	1.1%	1.4%	1.3%
Manslaughter 1st	5.7%	8.1%	4.6%	8.0%	4.1%	5.4%	4.2%	11.1%	4.2%	11.6%	4.2%	8.6%	3.5%	9.8%	2.9%	8.2%	3.1%	8.0%
Rape 1st	2.5%	1.1%	2.2%	.3%	2.6%	0%	2.9%	.4%	3.0%	0%	2.1%	0%	2.2%	0%	2.0%	.5%	2.2%	.2%
Robbery 1st	11.3%	5.7%	13.5%	6.0%	11.9%	6.9%	13.3%	7.2%	14.7%	7.4%	17.8%	8.6%	18.3%	9.5%	17.8%	13.2%	15.8%	5.9%
Robbery 2nd	12.5%	7.1%	12.1%	6.6%	12.4%	10.4%	15.6%	9.3%	15.3%	12.7%	15.7%	15.8%	14.7%	9.0%	14.8%	11.6%	13.1%	9.2%
Assault 1st	1.4%	1.4%	1.9%	1.0%	1.7%	3.1%	2.1%	3.6%	1.7%	4.2%	1.9%	2.7%	1.6%	2.1%	1.5%	2.1%	1.6%	3.3%
Assault 2nd	2.6%	4.2%	2.2%	4.3%	3.1%	5.8%	3.2%	2.5%	2.7%	2.8%	2.2%	4.0%	2.2%	5.3%	1.7%	2.7%	2.4%	3.6%
Burglary 1st	.3%	0%	.3%	0%	.3%	0%	.5%	.4%	.5%	0%	.7%	.2%	.9%	0%	1.4%	1.8%	1.1%	.6%
Burglary 2nd	1.1%	0%	1.6%	1.3%	2.1%	1.5%	2.9%	.4%	3.8%	1.8%	4.5%	3.0%	8.4%	2.9%	10.1%	4.1%	9.9%	7.5%
Arson 2nd	.2%	0%	.2%	.7%	.2%	.8%	.6%	1.4%	.5%	2.8%	.5%	1.0%	.6%	1.6%	.5%	1.6%	.4%	.8%
Sodomy 1st	.5%	.4%	.7%	0%	.7%	0%	1.0%	.4%	.8%	0%	.9%	.7%	.8%	0%	.6%	0%	.9%	.8%
Sexual Abuse 1st	.7%	0%	.8%	0%	1.0%	.4%	1.0%	0%	1.0%	0%	.9%	0%	.8%	0%	.9%	0%	1.0%	.2%
Dangerous Weapons	4.4%	2.1%	4.8%	2.3%	4.3%	1.2%	4.7%	1.4%	5.4%	2.1%	5.9%	2.2%	5.7%	3.4%	5.9%	2.1%	5.3%	1.5%
Kidnapping	.3%	.7%	.2%	0%	.3%	.8%	.2%	.4%	.2%	.4%	.2%	0%	.2%	.5%	.3%	.2%	.2%	.8%
B. Other Felony Offenses	46.5%	64.4%	45.7%	65.5%	46.0%	59.1%	39.2%	55.8%	37.9%	48.2%	35.3%	46.8%	32.4%	51.6%	33.4%	47.2%	36.7%	52.4%
1. Offenses Involving Violence/Coercion	14.9%	15.9%	13.5%	17.9%	12.3%	12.7%	7.8%	9.4%	5.8%	9.9%	4.6%	6.2%	3.8%	6.8%	4.1%	5.5%	4.7%	4.6%
Manslaughter 2nd	3.0%	9.5%	2.1%	8.3%	1.8%	4.6%	1.4%	2.9%	1.0%	4.6%	.7%	2.5%	.6%	3.4%	.5%	2.7%	.6%	2.3%
Rape 2nd, 3rd	.4%	0%	.4%	0%	.4%	0%	.2%	0%	.1%	0%	.1%	0%	.2%	0%	.1%	0%	.2%	0%
Robbery 3rd	10.1%	5.3%	9.2%	6.6%	8.3%	5.0%	4.7%	3.6%	3.6%	2.5%	2.7%	1.5%	1.9%	2.1%	2.5%	1.4%	2.7%	1.7%
Attempted Assault 2nd	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Coercive/Violent	1.4%	1.1%	1.8%	3.0%	1.8%	3.1%	1.5%	2.9%	1.1%	2.8%	1.1%	2.2%	1.1%	1.3%	1.0%	1.4%	1.2%	.6%
2. Property, Drug and Other Offenses	31.6%	48.5%	32.2%	47.6%	33.7%	46.4%	31.4%	46.4%	32.1%	38.3%	30.7%	40.6%	28.6%	44.8%	29.3%	41.7%	32.0%	47.8%
Burglary 3rd	10.1%	2.5%	12.1%	3.0%	14.3%	3.1%	12.8%	5.4%	13.9%	3.2%	13.5%	4.9%	9.5%	1.3%	8.1%	1.8%	7.5%	1.5%
Grand Larceny	2.8%	5.7%	3.1%	6.0%	3.5%	12.4%	2.7%	7.9%	3.0%	7.7%	3.1%	6.4%	2.7%	11.1%	3.2%	8.4%	3.8%	11.1%
Drugs	14.2%	33.6%	12.6%	31.6%	11.3%	21.6%	11.1%	23.3%	10.8%	20.4%	9.8%	17.0%	11.7%	17.8%	12.9%	15.3%	14.9%	23.7%
Forgery	1.2%	2.8%	1.1%	3.0%	1.2%	3.1%	1.3%	6.5%	1.3%	4.2%	.9%	8.6%	1.3%	8.8%	1.2%	11.4%	1.4%	7.5%
Poss. Stolen Property	1.5%	1.4%	1.7%	1.0%	1.8%	3.9%	1.9%	2.2%	1.6%	1.4%	2.2%	1.5%	2.1%	3.4%	2.5%	3.2%	3.0%	2.7%
All Other Felonies	1.8%	2.5%	1.6%	3.0%	1.6%	2.3%	1.6%	1.1%	1.5%	1.4%	1.2%	2.2%	1.3%	2.4%	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%
C. Youthful Offenders	6.7%	1.4%	5.9%	2.7%	5.9%	1.5%	5.0%	2.9%	4.0%	1.8%	3.1%	2.5%	2.6%	1.3%	2.2%	1.8%	1.9%	2.5%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

It is worthwhile to note that the greatest disparity in any offense category is for the drug offenses. Table 11 shows the proportion of men compared to the proportion of women committed for drug offenses. The largest differences are demonstrated from 1976 to 1980.

TABLE 11. PROPORTION OF MALE AND FEMALE OFFENDERS COMMITTED FOR DRUG OFFENSES (1976 to 1984)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1976	14.2%	33.6%
1977	12.6%	31.6%
1978	11.3%	21.6%
1979	11.1%	23.3%
1980	10.8%	20.4%
1981	9.8%	17.0%
1982	11.7%	17.8%
1983	12.9%	15.3%
1984	14.9%	23.7%

There appears to be some convergence in 1981, 1982, and 1983. However, in 1984 the differences are again substantial. This might be attributed to the large increase in female commitments for drug offenses in that year.

Lastly, in the Youthful Offender category, as seen in Table 10, men are more heavily represented until 1984. In 1984, 1.9% of the male population was committed as Youthful Offenders compared to 2.5% of the female population. It may be that changes in the Penal Law which restrict young persons who use weapons in the commission of an offense from obtaining Youthful Offender status has more substantially affected the proportion of Youthful Offenders among male commitments as compared to the proportion of Youthful Offenders found among female commitments.

Conclusion

After reviewing the trends of female new commitments for the period 1976 to 1984, one of the most striking findings is the impact which the second felony offender laws have had on the female population.

In almost all of the cases following that legislation, judges lost the option of sentencing a defendant convicted of a second felony offense to probation or jail. The removal of those alternatives has had the greatest impact on those charged with comparatively less serious offenses, or property and drug crimes. Because a large proportion of women are committed for these offenses, these changes appear to have had a more substantial impact on female commitments compared to the male commitments.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE TREND OF FEMALE NEW COMMITMENTS
1976 TO 1984

HIGHLIGHTS

1. The number of female new court commitments has increased from 283 in 1976 to 523 in 1984.
2. The proportion of women committed for violent felony offenses has increased from 34.0% in 1976 to 45.2% in 1984 (see Figure 1, page 9).
3. There has been a substantial increase in the proportion of women committed as second felony offenders. In 1976, 15.1% of the female new commitments were sentenced as second felony offenders compared to 38.2% in 1984.
4. The proportion of women committed as a second felony offender for a violent felony offense has increased from 4.9% of the female new commitments in 1976 to 10.1% of the female new commitments in 1984.
5. There has been a substantial increase in the proportion of women committed as a second felony offender for a drug offense, increasing from .7% of the new admissions in 1976 to 10.9% of the female new commitments in 1984.
6. For all the women committed for drug offenses in 1976, only 2% were sentenced as a second felony offender. This changes dramatically by 1984, with 46% of the women committed for drug offenses being sentenced as a second felony offender.
7. In comparing the commitment offenses for male new commitments to those for female new commitments, a greater proportion of men are committed for violent felony offenses than are women for each year 1976 to 1984.
8. Drug offenses demonstrate the greatest proportional difference in commitment offenses for men compared to commitment offenses for women. During the nine year period, a notably higher percentage of female new commitments were sentenced for drug crimes than male new commitments.