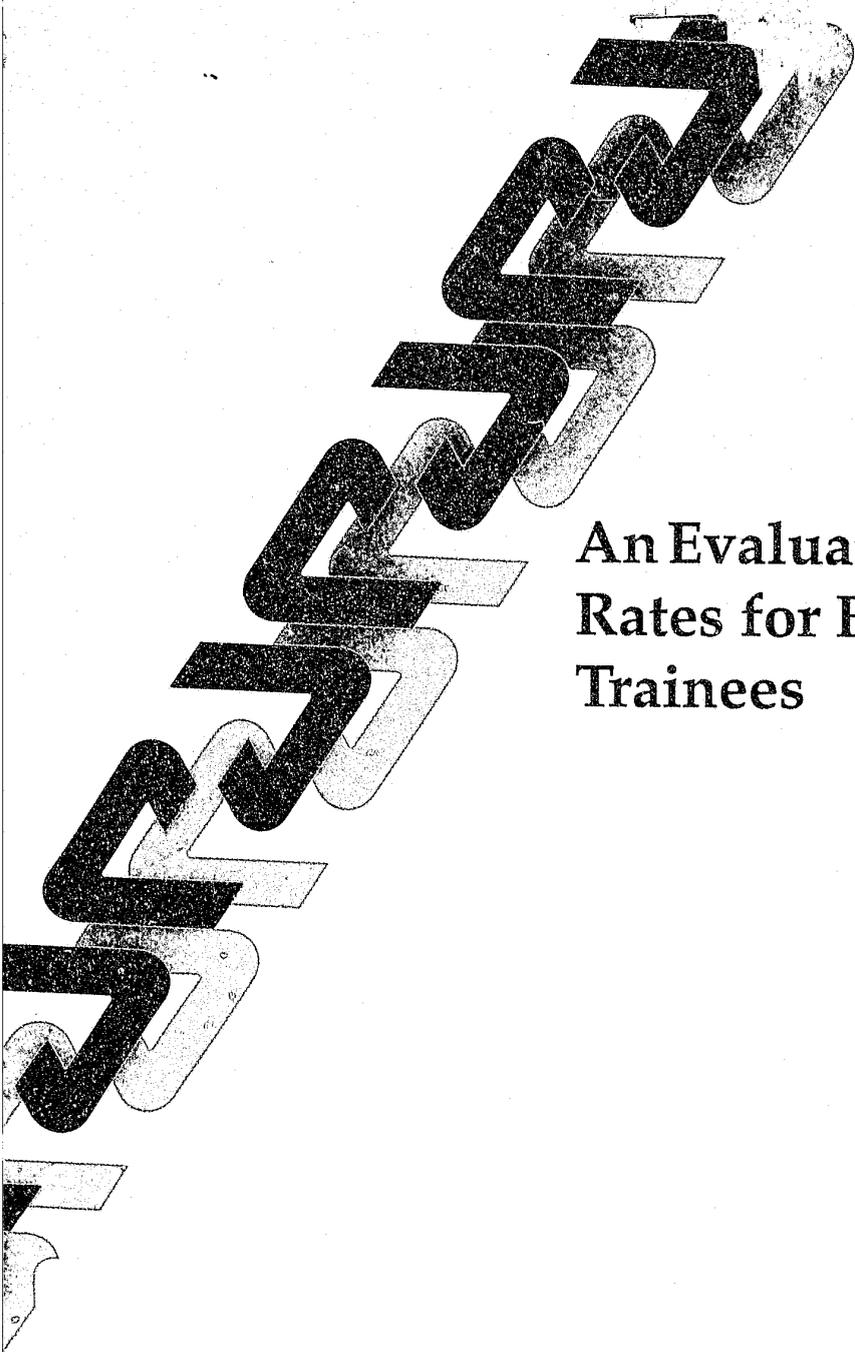


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June 28, 88*



An Evaluation of Reconviction Rates for Female Corrective Trainees

110106

Policy and Research Division
Department of Justice
December 1987

AN EVALUATION OF RECONVICTION RATES FOR FEMALE CORRECTIVE TRAINEES

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U.S. Department of Justice
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FOREWORD

Corrective Training is a three month custodial sentence for young offenders, introduced in 1981 in response to calls for a sentence which would serve as a "short, sharp shock" for people starting out on a criminal career.

The underlying premise is that a brief custodial sentence with a rigorous regime is beneficial in deterring young offenders and, by emphasising values such as hard work, discipline and physical fitness, in rehabilitating them.

This study follows up a previous evaluation of the sentence of Corrective Training as applied to male inmates. (Corrective Training. An evaluation. Walker and Brown 1983) which concluded that the sentence was not fulfilling its primary objective of reducing reoffending. The reoffending rate in that study was a depressing 71% in the 12 months following release.

The present study examines reoffending among females sentenced to Corrective Training and also concludes that the sentence is failing to meet the objective of reducing reoffending.

In addition however the study presents some interesting demographic information about female corrective trainees which shows that this group is severely disadvantaged socially in comparison to the general population in their age group.

Many will find it disturbing for example to learn that 93% of these young women left school without any educational qualifications, that 90% were unemployed at the time they were sentenced and 45% had not worked in the preceding 12 months, and that 78.5% had previously come to the attention of the Department of Social Welfare. Equally of concern is that 71% were Maori.

Findings like these underline the extent to which offending among young people is associated with underachievement, disadvantage and a history of being in trouble with authority from a tender age. As emphasised by the recent Roper report on violence, the answer to these problems lies largely outside the criminal justice system, in the broader field of social policy. It was towards this field that the Roper report directed most of its recommendations and into which the Government is now directing much of its energies with the objective of achieving the more just and caring society which the Roper committee identified as the only long term solution to problems of crime and violence in our society.



Geoffrey Palmer
Minister of Justice

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

Background

On 1 April 1981, a new sentence of corrective training was introduced to replace the sentence of detention in a detention centre. The objective of the sentence has been stated to be "to reduce reoffending by the experience of a punitive but fair sentence".¹

When introduced, the sentence could be imposed on both males and females between 15 and 20 years of age whom the court was satisfied that it would otherwise have sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than three months. As from 1 October 1985 the age limit was increased to 16 years. With standard remission a trainee is released after two months, however, misconduct can result in the postponement of release for up to one month with total sentence length not exceeding three months. At the time the sample of trainees was identified for this research project, a term of one year's statutory probation automatically followed release. Since the introduction of the Criminal Justice Act 1985, trainees have a period of six months supervision from the date of their release.

There are currently three corrective training institutions: a female institution is located at Arohata Women's Prison in Wellington, and there are two male institutions; Tongariro and Rangipo Prisons. Invercargill Prison was closed as a corrective training institution in March 1987.

1 Appendix I, circular PADM 6-1 from Secretary of Justice to Prison Superintendents, 2 February 1981.

An evaluation was undertaken into the corrective training sentence by Walton Walker and Robert Brown of the Planning and Development Division, Department of Justice (Study Series No. 10, December 1983). The evaluation involved four separate research studies, the largest of which looked retrospectively at all male trainees who had received the sentence within three months of its introduction. The other studies gauged trainee perceptions of the sentence, prison staff perceptions and probation officers' reactions to corrective training.

The first study which, among other aspects, deals with reoffending rates, did not include the female trainees who had served their sentence at Arohata Corrective Training Institution. "The reasons for their exclusion were their relatively small numbers and the uncertainty of the effect of this on the data." (Walker and Brown 1983:14.) As a result of a request from the superintendent of Arohata the department decided to obtain this information for female trainees.

Arohata

The Arohata Corrective Training Institution is situated just north of Wellington and is located in a wing of the prison complex. It provides accommodation for 11 women trainees. The work programme is physically demanding outdoor work and consists of general maintenance of the prison compound. Trainees work six days a week and their daily programme runs from 6.00 am to 8.00 pm.

The introduction of the corrective training sentence for offenders was unique in that regimes of this nature had not previously operated for women in New Zealand.

Research Objective

The objective of this research project is to measure the reoffending rates for female corrective trainees, and to do so utilising methods that are comparable to the evaluation already undertaken for male corrective trainees. Where relevant, comparisons have been made with

the data obtained from the male corrective trainees' evaluation. As far as is possible, this report has been structured in the same way as the previous evaluation.

Method

1 Design

This evaluation is of a descriptive nature. It has determined the rate of post-release offending amongst female corrective trainees. This has been done in relation to the trainee's previous offending history.

Reoffending rates measure the extent to which trainees were charged and convicted before the court within a 12 month period following their release, transfer or escape from corrective training. As with the previous evaluation, an escape or a transfer consequent upon some offence during sentence and which resulted in court action and conviction, comprised for the purposes of this analysis, a reconviction.

2 Sample

All females who were sentenced to corrective training from its commencement (1 April 1981) until 31 March 1985 were included in this research project. This allowed for a 12 month period from release until commencement of data collection in order to consider the trainees' post-release offending patterns. The reception book at Arohata was used to identify cases for this study.

In cases where females were sentenced to more than one term of corrective training during the sample period, the first term was considered for the purposes of analysis and any subsequent sentences were recorded as reconvictions.

A total of 219 corrective trainees were recorded as having been received at Arohata, and having served a minimum of one week, over the sample time period.

3 Data Sources

As previously stated, this evaluation utilised methods that are comparable to the research project already undertaken. Therefore, the data sources used were those employed in the evaluation of male corrective trainees.

Information on offending history and offending after release from corrective training was obtained from the Wanganui Computer as were details of the corrective training sentence. The trainee's personal file and records from Arohata were used to provide information on behaviour while serving the corrective training sentence and some personal history information.

4 Information Obtained

See Appendix I for the data sheet which lists the information items collected.

5 Analysis

The analysis for this research project was undertaken utilising the SAS computer package. This was the most appropriate method of analysis considering the sample size and the types of analyses required.

CHAPTER 2

Demographic Information

Demographic details were recorded for each trainee; specifically their age, ethnic origin and the number of dependent children. This last information item was obtained from the reception book at Arohata.

Age

Trainees ranged in age from 15 to 20 years at reception although there were few 15 year olds or 20 year olds. The average age of trainees was 17 years 7 months. This compares to the average age of 16 years 8 months for the male corrective trainees (Walker and Brown 1983:19).

Table 2.1: AGE OF TRAINEES AT RECEPTION

Base: Total Trainees

AGE	No.	TOTAL	%
15	8		3.7
16	42		19.2
17	52		23.7
18	59		26.9
19	39		17.8
20	19		8.7
TOTAL	219		100.0

Ethnic Origin

Of the 219 trainees in the survey, the largest proportion (156 or 71%) were classified as Maori. For the period 1982 to 1984, 35% of females aged 15 to 19 years who were convicted were classified as Maori.

Compared to 1981 census data, where only 12% of females aged 15 to 19 years were classified as Maori, this is a significant over-representation of Maori sentenced to corrective training. There were equal proportions of Maori and Caucasian male trainees in the Walker and Brown study where 46.9% were classified as Caucasian, 46.9% as Maori and 6.1% as being of Pacific Island origin (1983:18).

Table 2.2: ETHNIC ORIGIN OF TRAINEES

Base: Total Trainees

ETHNIC ORIGIN	TOTAL	
	No.	%
Maori	156	71.2
Caucasian	59	27.0
Pacific Islander	4	1.8
TOTAL	219	100.0

Number of Dependent Children

Details about the number of dependent children are recorded in Arohata's reception book. Thirty of the trainees (13.7%) had a dependent child or were pregnant.

Table 2.3: NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Base: Total Trainees

NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN	TOTAL	
	No.	%
None	187	85.4
One	20	9.1
Pregnant	9	4.1
Pregnant and one child	1	0.5
Not known	2	0.9
TOTAL	219	100.0

CHAPTER 3

Trainees' Personal History

Information regarding the personal histories of the trainees was investigated. This included their previous offending history, education, employment and home environment details.

Offending History

Only 23 (10.5%) of the trainees had not been convicted of any offence prior to their corrective training offence. The largest number of previous convictions was 51 and the average number of previous recorded convictions was 7.0. This is lower than the average of 10 previous offences recorded for the males (Walker and Brown 1983:19).

Table 3.1: NUMBER OF PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS

Base: Total Trainees

NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS	Females		Males ⁽¹⁾	
	No.	%	No.	%
None	23	10.5	7	3.3
One	24	11.0	8	3.7
Two	20	9.1	11	5.1
Three-Five	50	22.8	43	20.1
Six-Ten	53	24.2	68	31.8
Eleven-Twenty	36	16.4	55	25.7
Over Twenty	13	5.9	22	10.3
TOTAL	219	100.0*	214	100.0

(1) Walker and Brown 1983:20

*NOTE: Percentages on this and some following tables do not total exactly to 100% due to rounding to one decimal place.

More females sentenced to corrective training had either no or one previous conviction (21.5%) than the males (7.0%) who went through the sentence in the first three months following its introduction (Walker and Brown 1983:20). This may be due to the restricted availability of periodic detention for females (34.6% of the males had previously been sentenced to periodic detention).

The average age at which a trainee was first convicted (this includes charges found proven in a Children and Young Persons Court) was 15 years 6 months. The age range was from 13 to 19 years.

Table 3.2: AGE AT FIRST CONVICTION

Base: Total Trainees

AGE	TOTAL	
	No.	%
13	4	1.8
14	56	25.6
15	63	28.8
16	37	16.9
17	42	19.2
18	8	3.6
19	9	4.1
TOTAL	219	100.0

The most serious offence committed prior to the offence for which the trainee was sentenced to corrective training was considered. Slightly fewer than three-quarters of these offences were offences against property with burglary being the most serious offence in one-third of cases. Offences against the person were committed by 31 (14.2%) of the trainees.

Table 3.3: MOST SERIOUS PREVIOUS TYPE OF OFFENCE

Base: Total Trainees

OFFENCE	No.	TOTAL	%
Offences Against the Person	<u>31</u>		<u>14.2</u>
- Common assault	18		8.2
- Assault on police/traffic officer	4		1.8
- Obstructing, hindering police officer	4		1.8
- Others	5		2.3
Offences Against Property	<u>159</u>		<u>72.6</u>
- Burglary	71		32.4
- Theft	42		19.2
- Unlawfully taking motor vehicle	17		7.8
- False pretences	7		3.2
- Unlawfully getting into/interfering with motor vehicle	6		2.7
- Wilful damage	5		2.3
- Using documents	4		1.8
- Others	7		3.2
Offences Against Good Order	<u>1</u>		<u>0.5</u>
Traffic Offences	<u>1</u>		<u>0.5</u>
Other Offences	<u>4</u>		<u>1.8</u>
- Minor found in a bar	4		1.8
Trainees with no previous offences	23		10.5
TOTAL	219		100.0

Half the trainees had received probation or community service as the most serious sentence prior to the corrective training sentence. Only 3 (1.4%) had received a sentence of imprisonment, 7 (3.2%) borstal training and 16 (7.3%) periodic detention.

Table 3.4: MOST SERIOUS PREVIOUS TYPE OF SENTENCE

Base: Total Trainees

SENTENCE	TOTAL	
	No.	%
Imprisonment	3	1.4
Borstal	7	3.2
Periodic detention (residential or non-residential)	16	7.3
Probation/community service	109	49.8
Social Welfare custody/ supervision	23	10.5
Fine	19	8.7
Convicted and discharged/ sentence to come up if called upon	17	7.8
Other ⁽¹⁾	2	0.9
Trainees with no previous sentence	23	10.5
TOTAL	219	100.0

(1) This consists of one sentence of admonishment and one sentence of 30 hours community work, disqualification from driving and guardianship of the Director General of Social Welfare.

Table 3.4 shows a somewhat different picture to that found for the males in the previous study. (Walker and Brown 1983:20.) In that study the largest proportion (34.6%) of the most serious sentences prior to corrective training was periodic detention (compared to 7.3% for the females) and probation accounted for only 19.6% (compared to 49.8% for the females). This may reflect the seriousness of the offences; for example 16% of the males had been convicted of common assault compared to 8% of the females, or it may reflect differential sentencing for males and females, or the restricted availability of periodic detention for women.

Information is available on the inmate's file as to the extent of involvement with the Department of Social Welfare. Over three-quarters (172 or 78.5%) of the trainees had been involved with the Department of Social Welfare prior to their corrective training sentence and 134 (61.2%) of them had appeared and charges had been proven in the Children and Young Persons Court at least once.

Table 3.5: EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT WITH SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICE

Base: Total Trainees

EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT	No.	TOTAL %
Appeared and convicted in CYPC ⁽¹⁾ on 5 or more separate occasions	12	5.5
Appeared and convicted in CYPC on 2-4 separate occasions	68	31.0
Appeared and convicted in CYPC once	54	24.7
Has had numerous contacts with Department of Social Welfare	29	13.2
Has had limited contacts with Department of Social Welfare	9	4.1
No known contact with Department of Social Welfare	40	18.3
Not known/no information	7	3.2
TOTAL	219	100.0

NOTE: In Children and Young Persons Courts, charges are proven rather than a conviction being entered.

(1) Children and Young Persons Court.

Education

The majority of trainees for whom the information was available (102 of 179 or 57%) had left school by the end of their fourth form year and a further 47 (26.3%) left during the fifth form. This is quite different from 1981 census data for 15-19 year old females where only 12.0% had left school by the end of their fourth form year and a further 42.1% left during the fifth form.

Table 3.6: CLASS PRIOR TO LEAVING SCHOOL

Base: (i) Total Trainees
(ii) Trainees where information was available

CLASS	TOTAL		AMENDED ⁽¹⁾	
	No.	%	%	
Base: (i)	219		(ii)	179
Third Form	22	10.0		12.3
Fourth Form	80	36.5		44.7
Fifth Form	47	21.5		26.3
Sixth or Seventh Form	5	2.3		2.8
Special class or school (includes State Ward)	25	11.4		14.0
No Information	40	18.3		N/A
TOTAL	219	100.0		100.0

(1) Amended % takes into account only those cases where information is available.

Over three-quarters of the trainees for whom information was available (129 of 166 or 77.7%) were fifteen years or younger when they left school.

Table 3.7: AGE UPON LEAVING SCHOOL

Base: (i) Total Trainees
(ii) Trainees where information was available

AGE	TOTAL		AMENDED ⁽¹⁾	
	No.	%	%	
Base: (i)	219		(ii)	166
13	2	0.9		1.2
14	45	20.5		27.1
15	82	37.4		49.4
16	30	13.7		18.1
17	7	3.2		4.2
No Information	53	24.2		N/A
TOTAL	219	100.0		100.0

(1) Amended % takes into account only those cases where information is available.

Only 13 trainees (6.8% of the 191 trainees where information was available) had obtained Sixth Form Certificate or passes in School Certificate. One trainee had obtained UE or Bursary. This is unlike the 1981 census data for 15 to 19 year old females where only 40.2% had not obtained any school qualification, compared to 92.7% of the corrective trainees.

Table 3.8: QUALIFICATIONS ACHIEVED AT SCHOOL

Base: (i) Total Trainees
(ii) Trainees where information was available

QUALIFICATION	TOTAL		AMENDED ⁽¹⁾	
	Base (i)	No. 219	%	(ii) 191
UE/Bursary		1	0.5	0.5
Sixth Form Certificate/SC		13	5.9	6.8
None		177	80.8	92.7
No Information		28	12.8	N/A
TOTAL		219	100.0	100.0

(1) Amended % takes into account only those cases where information is available.

Employment

Information about occupation at the time of the corrective training conviction was available for 204 of the trainees. Of these, 184 (90.2%) were unemployed, 16 (7.8%) were unskilled, 3 (1.5%) skilled or semi-skilled and 1 (0.5%) was a student. Of those unemployed, 79 (42.9%) were not receiving a benefit.

Information was available for 181 trainees regarding the number of jobs they had held in the previous 12 months and 82 (45.3%) of these had not worked in the 12 month period prior to sentencing.

Home Environment

Information on the marital status of trainees was available for 209 trainees. The majority of these trainees (183 or 87.6%) were single and the remaining 26 trainees (12.4%) were living in a de facto relationship. None were recorded as being married at the time of committing the offence which resulted in the sentence of corrective training.

Information as to the living arrangements of trainees was available for 183 trainees. At the time of committing the offence which resulted in the sentence of corrective training: 74 of the trainees were living at home (40.4% of the 183 trainees); an additional 22 (12.0%) were living with relatives or other family; 26 (14.2%) were of no fixed abode and 21 (11.5%) were flatting with other people.

Of the 26 trainees living in a de facto relationship, 18 were living with their de facto spouse, 4 were of no fixed abode, 2 boarding privately and there was no information as to living arrangements for the remaining two trainees.

Summary of Socio-demographic Information

The female corrective trainees are not representative of the general population of young females as described in the 1981 census. Comparisons have been made with the closest age category in the census data which is 15 to 19 years. Corrective trainees are 15 to 20 years, however, this should not make a significant difference as 91% of the sample were aged 15 to 19 years.

71% of the sample were classified as Maori, compared to census data which classified 12% of females of that age group as Maori. The trainees were educational under-achievers: 93% of the sample had no qualifications when they left school whereas 40% of the female population 15 to 19 years in the 1981 census were in that position. The majority of trainees (57%) had left school by the end of their

fourth form year compared to 12% of the comparable population in the 1981 census. 78% of the trainees were aged 15 years or younger when they left school.

Other characteristics of female corrective trainees were: 78.5% had previously been involved with the Department of Social Welfare; 90% were unemployed at the time they were sentenced to corrective training; 45% had not worked in the 12 month period prior to sentencing; 14% had a dependent child and/or were pregnant; and 56% received their first conviction aged 15 years or younger.

Female corrective trainees have fewer previous convictions than males (22% had either no or only one conviction prior to sentencing to corrective training compared to 7% of the males in the Walker and Brown study).

CHAPTER 4

Corrective Training Offence and Conviction Details

This chapter details the offences for which the trainees were sentenced to corrective training, and includes the length of time from sentencing until reception at Arohata.

Most Serious Offence

Information was collected as to the most serious offence for which the trainee was sentenced to corrective training. The greatest proportion of trainees, 161 (73.5%) were convicted for offences against property with burglary accounting for 32.4% of all "most serious offences". Forty-four trainees (20.1%) were convicted of offences against the person. These proportions are similar to the male trainees, although a higher proportion of females were convicted of property offences, specifically forgery and currency offences. Whilst there were no females convicted of traffic offences as their most serious offence, this accounted for 4.7% of the males' most serious offences (Walker and Brown 1983:24).

Table 4.1: MOST SERIOUS TYPE OF CORRECTIVE TRAINING OFFENCE

Base: Total Trainees

OFFENCE	No.	TOTAL %
Offences Against the Person	<u>44</u>	<u>20.1</u>
- Common assault	13	5.9
- Robbery	11	5.0
- Assault with intent to injure	6	2.7
- Assault on police/traffic officer	5	2.3
- Aggravated robbery	4	1.8
- Others	5	2.3
Offences Against Property	<u>161</u>	<u>73.5</u>
- Burglary	71	32.4
- Theft	42	19.2
- Unlawfully taking motor vehicle	17	7.8
- False pretences	13	5.9
- Using documents	5	2.3
- Wilful damage	3	1.4
- Unlawfully getting into/ interfering with motor vehicle	3	1.4
- Others	7	3.2
Offences against National Interest and Justice Administration	<u>11</u>	<u>5.0</u>
- Breach of Probation or PD(1)	8	3.6
- Others	3	1.4
Offences Against Good Order	<u>3</u>	<u>1.4</u>
- Disorderly behaviour	3	1.4
TOTAL	219	100.0

(1) Periodic Detention

Number of Offences

Over half the trainees (123 or 56.2%) were convicted of between one and three offences at the time they were sentenced to corrective training. The average number of offences for which they were convicted was 5.0 and the maximum number, for which one trainee was convicted, was 66.

Table 4.2: NUMBER OF OFFENCES FOR WHICH SENTENCED TO CORRECTIVE TRAINING

Base: Total Trainees

NUMBER OF OFFENCES	TOTAL	
	No.	%
One	38	17.4
Two	53	24.2
Three	32	14.6
Four	19	8.7
Five	20	9.1
Six	10	4.6
Seven	10	4.6
Eight	9	4.1
Nine	5	2.3
Ten-Fourteen	11	5.0
Fifteen-Twenty	6	2.7
Over Twenty	6	2.7
TOTAL	219	100.0

Length of Time from Sentencing to Reception

The average length of time from being sentenced to corrective training until reception at Arohata was 1.3 days. Just over a quarter of trainees (58 or 26.5%) were received the same day and 94 (42.9%) were received the next day.

CHAPTER 5

Behaviour During Sentence

With standard remission, a corrective trainee is released after two months but misconduct can result in the postponement of release.

Offending During Sentence

Information about offending (as defined in s32 of Penal Institutions Act 1954) while serving the corrective training sentence was obtained from personal inmate files.

Table 5.1: PERCENTAGE OF TRAINEES COMMITTING OFFENCES DURING SENTENCE

Base: Total Trainees

OFFENCE	TOTAL TRAINEES	
	No.	%
Escaping	12	5.5
Assault	13	5.9
Wilful damage	10	4.6
Disorderly conduct	77	35.2
Disobeying orders	35	16.0
Unapproved possession of articles	26	11.9
Minor programme violations	39	17.8
Trainees who committed an offence	130	59.4
Trainees who did not commit an offence	89	40.6
TOTAL	219	100.0

The majority of trainees (130 or 59.4%) committed an offence whilst they were serving their sentence of corrective training. The most serious offence was escaping and 12 trainees (5.5%) committed this offence. The offence committed by the highest percentage of trainees was disorderly conduct. Seventy-seven of the trainees (35.2%) were convicted of this offence.

Table 5.2: TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFENCES COMMITTED BY TRAINEES WHILE SERVING THEIR SENTENCE

Base: Total Offences

OFFENCE	TOTAL OFFENCES	
	No.	%
Escaping	12	4.1
Assault	13	4.4
Wilful damage	11	3.7
Disorderly conduct	132	44.9
Disobeying orders	53	18.0
Unapproved possession of articles	29	9.9
Minor programme violations	44	15.0
TOTAL OFFENCES	294	100.0

A total of 294 offences were committed by the 130 trainees who committed an offence; an average of 2.3 offences. There were 132 offences of disorderly conduct (this accounts for 44.9% of total offences), with an average of 1.7 offences committed by those trainees who were convicted of this offence. Thirty-five trainees were convicted of a total of 53 offences of disobeying orders; an average of 1.5 offences.

Table 5.3: MOST SERIOUS OUTCOME OF OFFENCES COMMITTED BY TRAINEES WHILE SERVING THEIR SENTENCE⁽¹⁾

Base: Total Trainees

OUTCOME	OFFENCE						
	Escape	Assault	Wilful Damage	Disorderly Conduct	Disobeying Orders	Possession of Articles	Minor Violations
Imprisonment	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Resentenced to CT ⁽²⁾	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Release date delayed	-	9	7	70	27	14	27
Confined to cell	-	4	1	6	6	8	2
Privileges withdrawn	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Warned, cautioned	2	-	2	1	2	3	9
Come up for sent- ence it called upon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Extra fatigues	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Not Known	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	12	13	10	77	35	26	39

(1) Where one trainee committed the same offence more than once, the most serious outcome was recorded.

(2) Corrective Training.

Most charges are generally heard internally by either the Superintendent or a Visiting Justice, depending on the seriousness of the offence. More serious charges such as escape and serious assault are generally heard in a district court.

Of the 12 trainees who escaped, the majority (7) were resentenced to corrective training and one was sentenced to imprisonment. Two trainees were cautioned, one was to come up for sentence if called upon and the sentence of one trainee was not known.

The most frequent outcome of the offences committed (154 of 212, 72.6%) was delaying of the release date. Of the 77 trainees who were convicted of disorderly conduct, 70 (90.9%) had their release date delayed as did 27 of the 35 trainees (77.1%) convicted of disobeying orders.

Delay in Release Date

With standard remission, a corrective trainee is released after two months. However, misconduct can result in the postponement of release for up to one month with total sentence length not exceeding three months.

Just under half the trainees (47.5%) had their release date delayed due to violation of programme regulations. The maximum number of days by which their release date was delayed was 22 and the average was 2.2 days. This is a different picture to that found in the evaluation of the male corrective trainees where 88.8% had their release date delayed and the average number of days lost was six (Walker and Brown 1983:32).

Table 5.4: NUMBER OF DAYS RELEASE DATE DELAYED

Base: Total Trainees

NUMBER OF DAYS	TOTAL	
	No.	%
None	115	52.5
One	16	7.3
Two	22	10.0
Three	12	5.5
Four	13	5.9
Five	9	4.1
Six	8	3.7
Seven	8	3.7
Eight	6	2.7
Nine	3	1.4
Ten or more	7	3.2
TOTAL	219	100.0

Sentence Completion

Eighteen of the trainees did not complete their sentence at Arohata. One was bailed pending an appeal and 17 (7.8%) were transferred. Fifteen of the 17 were transferred under s23(1) of the Penal

Institutions Act 1954; 9 because they were pregnant and 6 for other physical or mental conditions. One corrective trainee attempted to escape whilst being transported to Arohata and was also convicted of assault and burglary. This trainee was sentenced to imprisonment and transferred from corrective training. The remaining trainee was transferred to Christchurch to appear as a defendant in a court case. This trainee completed her sentence in Christchurch as only eight days remained.

Length of Sentence Served

The average sentence length served by the inmates was 60 days. The most common sentence length (the mode) was 61 days (45 trainees served this length of sentence). This includes the eighteen trainees who did not complete their sentence at Arohata. In addition, a considerable proportion of trainees were released a few days short of two months. Without the eighteen trainees who did not complete their sentence at Arohata, the average sentence length was 62 days.

Table 5.5: LENGTH OF SENTENCE SERVED

LENGTH OF SENTENCE (DAYS)	Total Trainees	
	No.	%
Under 50	13	5.9
50-54	7	3.2
55-59	57	26.0
60-64	107	48.9
65-69	20	9.1
70 and over	13	5.9
Not known	2	0.9
TOTAL	219	100.0

CHAPTER 6

Post Release Reconviction

This chapter records the proportion of trainees reconvicted in the year following their release from corrective training, and details of their reconvictions.

Distinct Number of Reconvictions

Of the 219 female corrective trainees, 138 (63.0%) were reconvicted within a year of their release. This compares to 71% of the male corrective trainees studied in the previous evaluation. (Walker and Brown 1983:33.)

Table 6.1: TIME PERIOD IN WHICH TRAINEE WAS FIRST CONVICTED IN 12 MONTHS FOLLOWING RELEASE

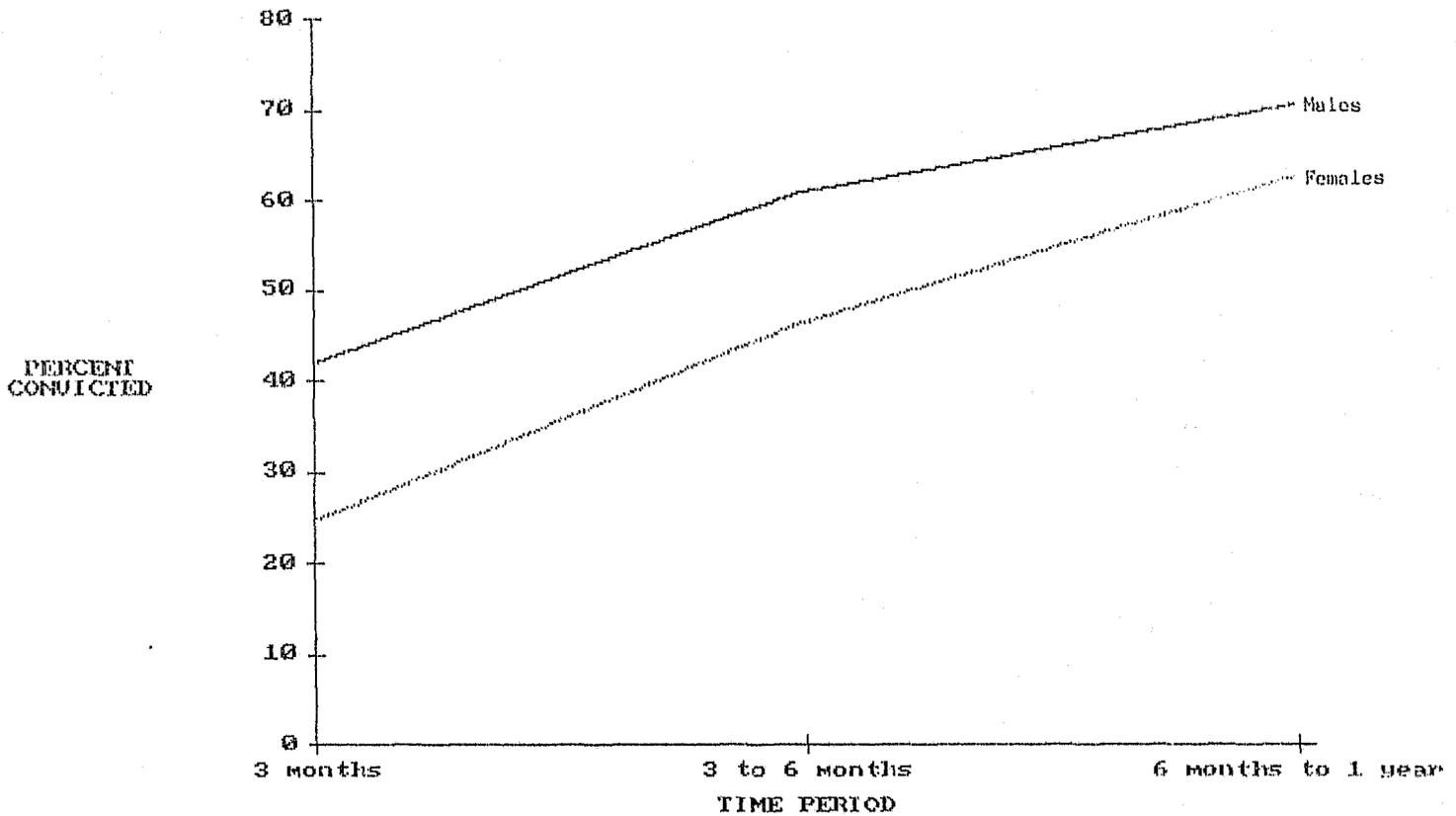
Base: Total Trainees

POST-RELEASE PERIOD	No.	TOTAL	%
Up to 3 months	54		24.7
Over 3 months, up to 6 months	48		21.9
Over 6 months, up to one year	36		16.4
Total convicted within 1 year following release	138		63.0
Total not convicted within 1 year following release	81		37.0
TOTAL	219		100.0

NOTE: There are no noticeable differences between the reoffending rates of the 17 trainees transferred prior to completion of their corrective training sentence and the total sample of trainees.

Figure 6.1 shows this data graphed cumulatively in comparison with male corrective trainees (Walker and Brown 1983).

Figure 6.1: Time period in which trainee was first convicted in 12 months following release



There is however a noticeable difference between the males (Walker and Brown 1983:34) and the females with regard to the time period in which they were first reconvicted in the year following release. Ninety of the 152 male trainees who were reconvicted in the first year (59.2%) were reconvicted in the first three months following release. This compares to 39.1% (54 of 138) of the female trainees.

Table 6.2: PERCENTAGE OF TRAINEES RECONVICTED IN TIME PERIOD

Base: Trainees reconvicted in year following release.

POST-RELEASE PERIOD	Females		Males ⁽¹⁾	
	No.	%	No.	%
Up to 3 months	54	39.1	90	59.2
Over 3 months, up to 6 months	48	34.8	41	27.0
Over 6 months, up to one year	36	26.1	21	13.8
Total reconvicted in first year	138	100.0	152	100.0

(1) Walker and Brown 1983:34

Of the 78 trainees who had been released for 18 months, and had not been convicted in the first year following release, 15 (19.2%) were convicted between one year and 18 months following their release.

Fifty-five trainees had been released for two years, and had not been convicted in the 18 months following release. Of these, 9 (16.4%) were convicted between 18 months and two years following their release.

The complete sample had not been released from corrective training for the 18 month or two year time periods. Therefore, these percentages cannot be added to the rate of 63% reconviction in the first year in order to determine reconviction in 18 months or two years.

Number of Offences Resulting in Conviction

Trainees were convicted of a total of 617 offences in the year following their release. This was an average of 4.5 offences for those who were reconvicted (138 trainees) and an average of 2.8 offences for total trainees (219). The average for the male trainees who were reconvicted was 4.8 convictions (Walker and Brown 1983:35).

Number of Court Appearances

The total number of court appearances at which trainees were convicted in the year following their release was 295. This is an average of 2.1 court appearances for those who were reconvicted (138) and an average of 1.3 court appearances resulting in conviction for total trainees (219).

Seriousness of Offence

In cases where offenders were convicted of more than one offence in the year following their release, the most serious offence was used for classification.

The majority (60.9%) of the most serious offences for which trainees were reconvicted were offences against property; primarily theft (25.3%) and also burglary (19.6%). Approximately one-fifth of trainees were reconvicted for offences against the person (21%).

These proportions are similar to the proportions of offences for which the trainee was originally sentenced to corrective training: at that stage offences against property were 73.5%, and offences against the person 20.1%.

Table 6.3: MOST SERIOUS OFFENCE

Base: Trainees reconvicted in year following release

OFFENCE	No.	TOTAL	%
Offences Against the Person	<u>29</u>		<u>21.0</u>
- Common assault	12		8.7
- Assault on police or traffic officer	6		4.3
- Obstructing, hindering or resisting police officer	3		2.2
- Other	8		5.8
Offences Against Property	<u>84</u>		<u>60.9</u>
- Theft	35		25.3
- Burglary	27		19.6
- Wilful damage	3		2.2
- Trespass	3		2.2
- Arson	3		2.2
- Using documents	3		2.2
- Others	10		7.2
Drug Offences	<u>5</u>		<u>3.6</u>
- Possession of cannabis or cannabis leaf	3		2.2
- Other	2		1.4
Offences against National Interest and Justice Administration	<u>7</u>		<u>5.1</u>
- Breach of probation or PD	6		4.4
- Others	1		0.7
Offences Against Good Order	<u>5</u>		<u>3.6</u>
- Riotous, insulting, offensive, disorderly or threatening behaviour	3		2.2
- Others	2		1.4
Traffic Offences	<u>1</u>		<u>0.7</u>
Offences Against Decency	<u>1</u>		<u>0.7</u>
Other Offences	<u>6</u>		<u>4.3</u>
- Minor found in a bar	6		4.3
TOTAL	138		100.0

Severity of Sentence

Sentences that were received following conviction in the 12 month post release period were considered for their severity. In cases where a trainee received more than one sentence in the year following release, the most severe sentence was noted. The order of decreasing severity of sentences is as recorded below.

Table 6.4: MOST SERIOUS SENTENCE

Base: Trainees reconvicted in year following release

SENTENCE	No.	TOTAL	%
Imprisonment	31		22.5
Detention Centre/CT	18		13.0
Periodic detention	9		6.5
Probation/community service	36		26.1
Fine	29		21.0
Convicted and discharged/sentence to come up if called upon	13		9.4
Other	2		1.5
TOTAL	138		100.0

Thus, of those reconvicted in the year following their release, 49 (35.5%) received a custodial sentence. This reincarceration rate compares to 46% for the males (Walker and Brown 1983:39). 38.8% of the males reconvicted in the first year received imprisonment as the most serious sentence and 7.2% received corrective training.

Relative Seriousness of Corrective Training Offence and Most Serious Offence Convicted for in Year Following Release

A comparison was made of the seriousness of the most serious offence for which the corrective training sentence was imposed and the most serious offence the trainee was convicted for in the year following release.

Table 6.5: RELATIVE SERIOUSNESS OF CORRECTIVE TRAINING OFFENCE AND POST-RELEASE OFFENCE

Base: Total Trainees

CONVICTION IN YEAR FOLLOWING RELEASE	No.	TOTAL %
Not convicted	81	37.0
Less serious than CT offence	55	25.1
Equal level of seriousness	40	18.3
More serious than CT offence	43	19.6
TOTAL	219	100.0

In the year following release, 37% of trainees were not convicted and 25% were convicted of a less serious offence than that for which they were sentenced to corrective training. Therefore the majority of trainees (62%) had a less serious, or no conviction in the 12 month period following their release.

CHAPTER 7

Conclusion

The female corrective trainees in this study were found to be socially disadvantaged in terms of their educational achievement, level of unemployment, and their history of juvenile offending. The study found that female trainees generally had fewer previous convictions than their male counterparts, for example, 21.5% of females had no or one previous conviction whilst 7.0% of males fell into that category. It was also of concern to find that 71% of the trainees were classified as Maori.

The objective of the corrective training sentence is "to reduce reoffending by the experience of a punitive but fair sentence." (Secretary of Justice, circular PADM 6-1, 1981). The evaluation indicates that this primary objective is not being met. Sixty-three percent of the trainees were reconvicted within the first year following their release from corrective training. However, this evaluation was descriptive in nature and does not enable us to say what the level of offending would have been had these people received a different sentence.

The more extensive previous evaluation of corrective training (Walker and Brown 1983:99) concluded:

"The results of the present study indicate clearly that corrective training is not fulfilling its primary policy objective of reducing reoffending by the experience of a punitive but fair sentence. Reoffending rates are no better than those reported for the earlier detention centre sentence".

That evaluation found a reconviction rate for the males of 71% in the first year following release.

The difference in the reconviction rates is not unexpected due to the generally lower conviction rates of females than of males. There is no reconviction data for females for comparable sentences, in fact a sentence of the nature of corrective training had not previously operated for women in New Zealand.

This evaluation considered the relative seriousness of the corrective training offence and convictions in the 12 months following release. This presents a somewhat more favourable result of the corrective training sentence than the previous reconviction rate. A quarter of the sample, whilst being reconvicted in the 12 month period, was reconvicted for a less serious offence than the offence for which the corrective training sentence was received. Although this does not meet the stated objective of the sentence, when added to the 37% who were not reconvicted, it means that the majority of trainees (62.1%) were either not reconvicted or were convicted of a less serious offence in the year following their release from corrective training.

APPENDIX I

Data Items Collected

- 1 PRN
- 2 Date of birth
- 3 Ethnic origin
- 4 Number of dependent children

CT CONVICTION

- 5 Most serious type of offence
- 6 Number of other convictions relating to current offence
- 7 Marital status
- 8 Living arrangements at time of offence
- 9 Date sentenced

CT SENTENCE

- 10 Reception date
- 11 Release date
- 12 Final disposition of inmate

OFFENCES IN CT

- 13 Number of escapes
- 14 Number of assaults
- 15 Incidences of wilful damage
- 16 Incidences of disorderly behaviour

- 17 Number of offences of disobeying orders
- 18 Having articles in possession without approval
- 19 Number of false and/or malicious allegations
- 20 Number of other programme violations

OUTCOME OF OFFENCES

- 21 Most serious outcome of escapes
- 22 Most serious outcome of assaults
- 23 Most serious outcome of wilful damage
- 24 Most serious outcome of disorderly behaviour
- 25 Most serious outcome of disobeying orders
- 26 Most serious outcome of having articles in possession
- 27 Most serious outcome of false/malicious allegations
- 28 Most serious outcome of other programme violations
- 29 Number of days of remission lost

POST RELEASE OFFENDING HISTORY**UP TO AND INCLUDING THREE MONTHS**

- 30 Number of court appearances
- 31 Number of convictions
- 32 Most serious type of offence
- 33 Most serious sentence

OVER THREE AND UP TO AND INCLUDING SIX MONTHS

- 34 Number of court appearances
- 35 Number of convictions
- 36 Most serious type of offence
- 37 Most serious sentence

OVER SIX MONTHS AND UP TO AND INCLUDING ONE YEAR

- 38 Number of court appearances
- 39 Number of convictions
- 40 Most serious type of offence
- 41 Most serious sentence

OVER ONE YEAR AND UP TO AND INCLUDING 18 MONTHS

- 42 Number of court appearances
- 43 Number of convictions
- 44 Most serious type of offence
- 45 Most serious sentence

OVER 18 MONTHS AND UP TO AND INCLUDING TWO YEARS

- 46 Number of court appearances
- 47 Number of convictions
- 48 Most serious type of offence
- 49 Most serious sentence

- 50 Most serious type of offence in year
- 51 Most serious sentence in year

PERSONAL HISTORY**OFFENDING HISTORY**

- 52 Age at first conviction
- 53 Number of previous convictions
- 54 Most serious previous type of offence
- 55 Most serious previous sentence
- 56 Extent of involvement with social welfare service

EDUCATION

- 57 Class before leaving school
- 58 Age upon leaving school
- 59 Qualifications trainee achieved at school

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 60 Occupation at time of conviction
- 61 Number of jobs held in previous 12 months

Reference

Walker, Walton and Brown, Robert : Corrective Training. An Evaluation
Study Series No.10. 1983. Planning and Development Division,
Department of Justice, New Zealand.