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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

THE STATE OFFICE BUILDING CAMPUS

ALBANY, N.Y. 12226

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FEMALE OFFENDERS COMMITTED TO STATE PRISON

This report provides a demographic and legal profile of female offenders committed to the New York State Department of Correctional Services. The report presents data on three different segments of the female offender population: (1) female offenders admitted to the Department as new court commitments from January 1, 1988 through December 31, 1991; (2) female offenders under custody on December 31, 1991 and (3) female offenders released to parole from 1988 through 1991.

DIVISION OF PROGRAM PLANNING, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

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FEMALE OFFENDERS COMMITTED TO STATE PRISON**SUMMARY****New Court Commitments**

1. New court commitments to the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) grew from 17,374 in 1988 to 24,116 in 1991, an increase of 39%. However, during this period, female new court commitments increased 123%, from 1,014 to 2,264 (see p.2).
2. The proportion of females committed for drug offenses rose from 53% in 1988 to 72% in 1991. In contrast, the proportion of males committed for drug offenses rose less, from 36% to 45% in 1990 (see Table 1.1, p.3).
3. White female commitments increased by only 25% between 1988 and 1991, while Hispanic female commitments increased 124%, and black female commitments, 166% (see Table 1.2, p.6).
4. In 1991, 44% of white females were committed for drug offenses as were 68% of black females and 87% of Hispanic females (see Figure 1.3, p.5).
5. The proportion of women sentenced as second felony offenders increased from 41% in 1988 to 51% in 1991 (see Table 1.4, p.8). This shift is the result of both the increase in the number of women committed for drug offenses and the trend for these women to be sentenced as second felony offenders (up from 46% in 1988 to 56% in 1991) (see Table 1.5, p.9).
6. The overall average minimum sentence for women committed in 1991 for violent felony offenses, 40.1 months, was longer than sentences for either drug offenses (average 26.0 months) or property offenses (19.1 months) (see Table 1.6, p.11).

Undercustody on December 31, 1991

1. When compared with males, female offenders are considerably less likely to be committed for violent felony offenses (23% for females versus 54% for males) and considerably more likely to be committed for drug offenses (64% for females, 32% for males) (see Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1, pp.13-14).

2. Seventy-five percent of female drug offenders undercustody on December 31, 1991 were committed for drug sale, 25% for drug possession (see Table 2.5, p.19).

First Releases to Parole

1. Across all commitment offense categories, average time served by males first released in 1991 was greater than that for females (30.0 and 22.6 months, respectively) (see Table 3.1, p.23).
2. Average time served for female offenders across all release years ranged from a high of 132.4 months in the class A-I category to a low of 15.5 months in the first felony class E category (see Total column in Table 3.2, p.24).
3. The average time served in custody across all release years for second felony drug offenders was 23.0 months compared with 18.0 months for first felony drug offenders (see Table 3.4, p.26).

INTRODUCTION

This report presents a demographic and legal history profile of three female offender cohorts. The first cohort consists of all women admitted to the New York State Department of Correctional Services as new court commitments from January 1, 1988 through December 31, 1991. Women in the Department's custody on December 31, 1991 comprise the second cohort, while the third contains women first released to parole from 1988 through 1991. Brief comparisons are also presented between similar male and female cohorts.¹

¹ For an overview of other reports dealing with specific female offender cohorts see *Review of Department of Correctional Services Research on Female Commitments*. New York State Department of Correctional Services, 1992.

SECTION I

Female Offenders: New Court Commitments

New court commitments to the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) grew from 17,374 in 1988 to 24,116 in 1991, an increase of 39%. Much of this growth is the direct result of increased commitments for various drug offenses.

Commitment Crime by Gender

From January 1988 through December 1991, proportionately more males were committed for violent felony offenses and more females, for drug offenses (see Table 1.1 and Figure 1.1). On average, 36% of males committed during this four year period were admitted for violent felony offenses compared with 17% of the females. Conversely, 68% of the females were committed for drug offenses compared with 42% of the males.

The commitment offense pattern for female offenders, in contrast to male offenders, shifted substantially in recent years. In 1988, 30% of females were committed for violent or coercive offenses, 17% for property offenses and the remainder, for drug offenses (53%). However, by 1991, the proportion of females committed for violent or coercive offenses fell to 18%, with commitments for property offenses dropping to 10% (see Figure 1.2). Commitments for drug offenses increased the most, accounting for 72% of all females admitted to state prison in 1991.

Among males, the commitment offense pattern was fairly stable, with only moderate growth in the drug offense category. Even in 1990, the year with the greatest number of male drug commitments, the proportion of drug offenders was only 9 percentage points greater than in 1988. The number of male drug commitments fell in 1991, and as a result, the proportion of males committed for violent or coercive offenses equaled the proportion committed for drug offenses (42%).

1.1 COMMITMENT OFFENSE BY GENDER:
JANUARY 1988 - DECEMBER 1991

COMMITMENT OFFENSE	1988		1989		1990		1991		GRAND TOTAL	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
VIOLENT FELONY										
MURDER	273	7	336	6	271	13	321	12	1201	38
ATTEMPT MURDER	147	7	183	4	157	4	228	5	715	20
MANSLAUGHTER 1ST	344	22	354	38	394	21	423	33	1515	114
RAPE 1ST	228	3	229	0	255	2	255	1	967	6
ROBBERY 1ST	1263	46	1382	43	1485	49	1808	50	5938	188
ROBBERY 2ND	1512	76	1510	72	1735	68	1736	84	6493	300
ASSAULT 1ST	204	9	194	28	257	6	313	26	968	69
ASSAULT 2ND	243	17	252	19	305	14	315	24	1115	74
BURGLARY 1ST	116	2	115	6	93	2	128	6	452	16
BURGLARY 2ND	1158	35	1134	38	1021	29	989	46	4302	148
ARSON 1ST,2ND	42	8	41	7	42	3	39	7	164	25
SODOMY 1ST	111	3	144	0	117	2	140	2	512	7
SEXUAL ABUSE 1ST	141	1	140	2	181	3	182	1	644	7
WEAPONS OFFENSES	690	12	769	23	858	8	1087	20	3404	63
KIDNAPPING 1ST,2ND	31	3	43	4	39	4	45	3	158	14
SUBTOTAL	6503 39.7%	251 24.8%	6826 34.3%	290 18.0%	7210 33.7%	228 13.5%	8009 36.7%	320 14.1%	28548 35.9%	1089 16.6%
OTHER COERCIVE										
MANSLAUGHTER 2ND	84	11	64	8	80	8	80	12	308	39
OTHER HOMICIDE	47	3	38	4	43	7	41	3	169	17
ROBBERY 3RD	486	18	577	30	609	28	636	34	2308	110
ATT ASSAULT 2ND	103	3	91	6	118	4	128	12	440	25
OTHER SEX OFFENSES	107	1	106	0	108	0	131	0	452	1
OTHER COERCIVE	165	16	182	10	171	12	188	15	706	53
SUBTOTAL	992 6.1%	52 5.1%	1058 5.3%	58 3.6%	1129 5.3%	59 3.5%	1204 5.5%	76 3.4%	4383 5.5%	245 3.7%
DRUG										
DRUG SALE	4548	430	6277	827	6658	939	6403	1222	23886	3418
DRUG POSSESSION	1348	106	2416	243	2903	285	2735	418	9402	1652
SUBTOTAL	5896 36.0%	536 52.9%	8693 43.7%	1070 66.4%	9561 44.6%	1224 72.7%	9138 41.8%	1640 72.4%	33288 41.9%	4470 68.0%
PROPERTY AND OTHER										
BURGLARY 3RD	1072	12	1154	18	1178	13	1174	17	4578	60
GRAND LARCENY	584	58	661	64	736	57	698	81	2679	260
FORGERY	172	56	136	46	184	43	170	64	662	209
STOLEN PROPERTY	526	25	620	28	617	28	656	22	2419	103
DRIVE INTOXICATED	143	3	177	3	211	6	222	5	753	17
ALL OTHR FELONIES	127	8	165	11	163	9	187	18	642	46
YOUTHFUL OFFENDR	345	13	416	24	426	16	394	21	1581	74
SUBTOTAL	2969 18.1%	175 17.3%	3329 16.7%	194 12.0%	3515 16.4%	172 10.2%	3501 16.0%	228 10.1%	13314 16.7%	769 11.7%
GRAND TOTAL	16360 100.0%	1014 100.0%	19906 100.0%	1612 100.0%	21415 100.0%	1683 100.0%	21852 100.0%	2264 100.0%	79533 100.0%	6573 100.0%

Figure 11
Crime by Gender
1991 New Court Commitments

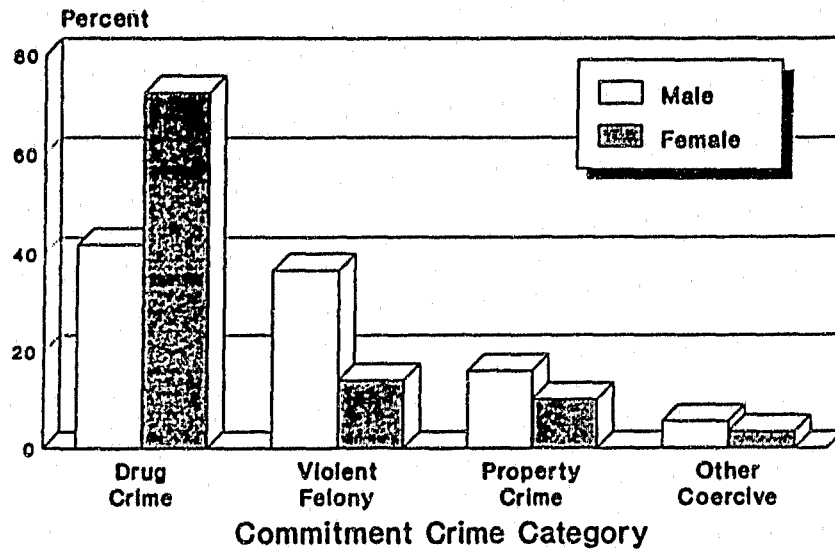
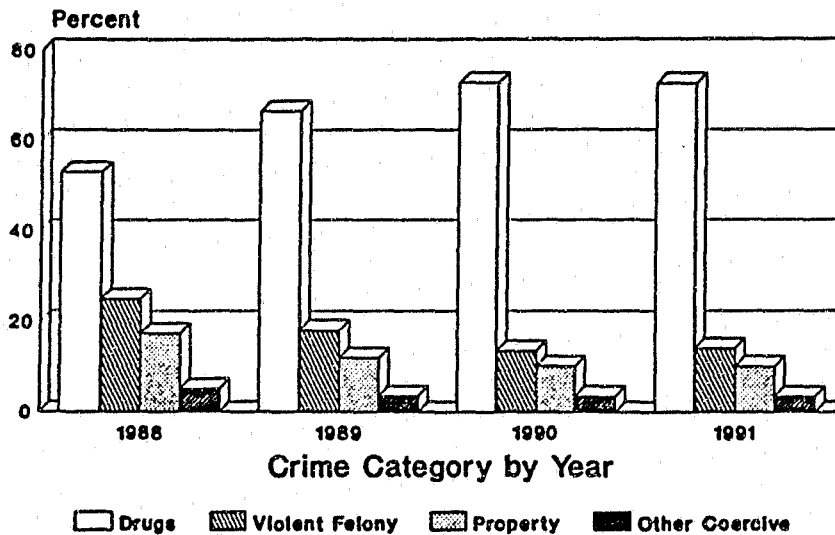


Figure 12
Crime by Year
Female Court Commitments 1988 - 1991



Commitment Crime by Ethnic Group Affiliation

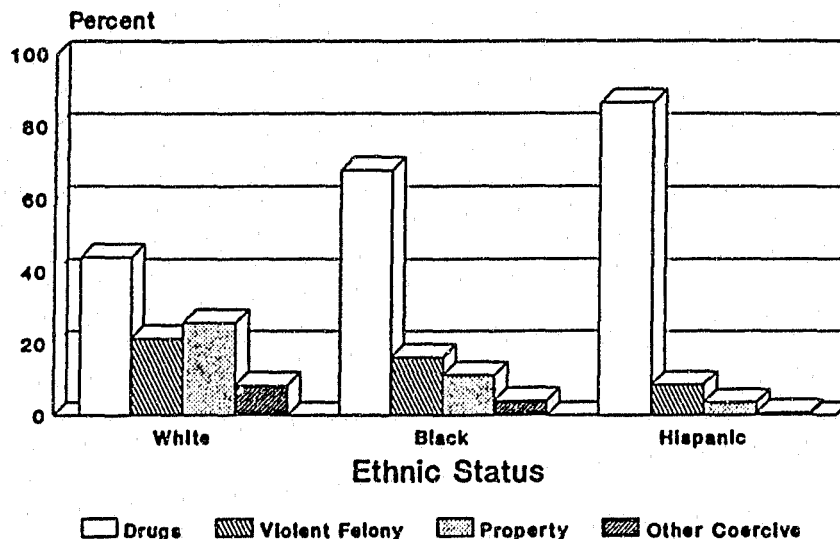
Growth in the female commitment population varied considerably by ethnic group (see Table 1.2). White female commitments increased only 25% between 1988 and 1991, while Hispanic female commitments increased 124%, and black female commitments, 166%.

Over the period 1988 to 1991, there were shifts in the conviction offense for women in each respective ethnic group. Comparing the conviction offense of white females across commitment years, it can be seen that 1991 commitments are more likely to be drug offenders (44%) and less likely to be either property (26%) or violent felony (22%) offenders (see Figure 1.3). Whereas in 1988, the single largest commitment category among white females was property offenses (35%), followed by drug (31%) and violent felony (26%) offenses.

Commitment offense patterns for black females showed the sharpest change over time. Black females committed in 1991 are considerably more likely to be drug offenders (68% compared with 43% in 1988) and less likely to be convicted of either a violent felony (16%, down from 31% in 1988) or a property crime (11%, down from 20% in 1988).

Hispanic females continued to demonstrate a high concentration of commitments for drug offenses. In 1988, 76% of Hispanics were committed for drug offenses and by 1991, 87% were. The proportion of Hispanics committed for violent felony offenses fell 8 percentage points, from a high of 17% in 1988 to a low of 9% in 1991.

Figure 1.3
Crime by Ethnic Status
1991 Female Court Commitments



1.2 COMMITMENT OFFENSE BY ETHNIC GROUP AFFILIATION FOR FEMALE COMMITTEES: JANUARY 1988 - DECEMBER 1991

COMMITMENT OFFENSE	1988				1989				1990				1991			
	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	TOTAL
VIOLENT FELONY																
MURDER	3	2	2	7	1	3	2	6	3	8	2	13	5	7	8	12
ATTEMPT MURDER	1	5	1	7	1	3	0	4	1	2	1	4	0	3	2	5
MANSLAUGHTER 1ST	2	15	5	22	5	25	8	38	4	13	4	21	5	22	6	33
RAPE 1ST	8	3	0	11	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	1
ROBBERY 1ST	7	21	18	46	10	28	13	51	7	23	19	49	3	31	15	49
ROBBERY 2ND	8	44	24	76	6	45	21	72	6	48	12	66	12	58	22	84
ASSAULT 1ST	2	3	4	9	5	16	7	28	1	4	1	6	2	22	2	24
ASSAULT 2ND	6	18	1	25	3	15	1	19	1	11	0	14	2	17	5	24
BURGLARY 1ST	0	2	0	2	1	3	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BURGLARY 2ND	15	14	6	35	11	15	12	38	7	15	7	29	14	18	14	46
ARSON 1ST,2ND	2	6	0	8	0	4	2	6	0	2	1	3	3	3	1	7
SODOMY 1ST	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	2
SEXUAL ABUSE 1ST	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	2	0	3	1	0	0	1
WEAPONS OFFENSES	2	8	2	12	1	14	8	23	1	3	4	8	3	12	5	20
KIDNAPPING 1ST,2ND	2	1	0	3	1	0	3	4	1	0	3	4	1	0	2	3
SUBTOTAL	51	136	64	251	46	144	79	269	34	133	59	226	53	198	76	319
	25.8%	31.4%	16.7%	24.8%	22.7%	21.5%	12.2%	17.9%	18.6%	15.3%	9.5%	13.5%	21.5%	16.5%	8.6%	14.1%
OTHER COERCIVE																
MANSLAUGHTER 2ND	5	4	2	11	4	4	0	8	1	5	2	8	2	9	1	12
OTHER HOMICIDE	3	0	0	3	2	1	1	4	6	1	0	7	2	1	0	3
ROBBERY 3RD	2	15	3	18	6	17	7	30	5	28	3	36	9	25	0	34
ATT ASSAULT 2ND	0	3	0	3	0	5	1	6	1	3	0	4	3	5	0	8
OTHER SEX OFFENSES	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER COERCIVE	6	6	4	16	4	3	3	10	5	4	3	12	5	8	2	15
SUBTOTAL	16	27	9	52	16	38	12	66	18	33	8	59	21	48	7	76
	8.1%	6.2%	2.3%	5.1%	7.9%	3.9%	1.9%	3.6%	9.8%	3.8%	1.3%	3.5%	8.5%	4.2%	.8%	3.4%
DRUG																
DRUG SALE	49	140	241	430	43	346	418	827	59	467	404	930	74	574	571	1219
DRUG POSSESSION	13	44	49	106	39	93	111	243	25	141	116	282	35	289	174	418
SUBTOTAL	62	184	290	536	102	439	529	1070	84	608	520	1214	109	863	745	1637
	31.3%	42.5%	75.7%	52.9%	58.2%	57.6%	81.9%	66.4%	45.9%	70.8%	84.2%	72.7%	44.1%	67.9%	86.6%	72.4%
PROPERTY AND OTHER																
BURGLARY 3RD	4	5	3	12	4	9	5	18	4	6	3	13	3	11	3	17
GRAND LARCENY	23	29	6	58	13	43	8	64	13	32	12	57	20	49	12	81
FORGERY	24	38	2	64	10	31	5	46	16	24	3	43	27	35	2	64
STOLEN PROPERTY	7	15	3	25	4	18	6	28	5	21	2	28	2	15	5	22
DRIVE INTOXICATED	2	1	0	3	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	5
ALL OTHER FELONIES	5	1	2	8	3	8	0	11	2	3	4	9	7	8	3	18
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER	4	5	4	13	4	18	2	24	1	8	7	16	1	13	7	21
SUBTOTAL	69	86	28	183	39	129	26	194	47	94	31	172	64	132	32	228
	34.0%	19.9%	5.2%	17.3%	19.2%	16.9%	4.0%	12.6%	25.7%	18.8%	5.0%	10.3%	25.9%	11.4%	3.7%	16.1%
GRAND TOTAL	198	433	383	1014	203	762	646	1611	103	868	620	1671	247	1153	860	2260
	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%

Age at Commitment

Table 1.3 shows age at admission for female court commitments for the years 1988 through 1991. Across this period, the average age at admission was 30 years old.

1.3 AGE AT ADMISSION FOR FEMALE COMMITMENTS: JANUARY 1988 - DECEMBER 1991

AGE AT ADMISSION	1988	1989	1990	1991	TOTAL
16-18 YR	24 2.4%	33 2.0%	30 1.8%	32 1.4%	119 1.8%
19-20 YR	52 5.1%	85 5.3%	83 4.9%	95 4.2%	315 4.8%
21-24 YR	217 21.4%	334 20.7%	320 19.0%	392 17.3%	1263 19.2%
25-29 YR	278 27.4%	505 31.3%	524 31.1%	696 30.7%	2003 30.5%
30-34 YR	211 20.8%	334 20.7%	374 22.2%	513 22.7%	1432 21.8%
35-39 YR	132 13.0%	188 11.7%	193 11.5%	305 13.5%	818 12.4%
40-44 YR	55 5.4%	72 4.5%	98 5.8%	141 6.2%	366 5.6%
45-49 YR	26 2.6%	39 2.4%	37 2.2%	57 2.5%	159 2.4%
50-54 YR	12 1.2%	10 .6%	15 .9%	20 .9%	57 .9%
55-59 YR	3 .3%	8 .5%	6 .4%	9 .4%	26 .4%
60-64 YR	3 .3%	3 .2%	2 .1%	2 .1%	10 .2%
65 AND OVER	1 .1%	1 .1%	1 .1%	2 .1%	5 .1%
TOTAL	1014 100.0%	1612 100.0%	1683 100.0%	2264 100.0%	6573 100.0%
AVG	30.1	29.6	30.0	30.5	30.1
MEDIAN	28.8	28.4	28.7	29.4	28.9

Crime by Felony Offender Status

The proportion of women sentenced as second felony offenders increased from 41% in 1988 to 51% in 1991 (see Table 1.4).² This shift is the result of both the increase in the number of women committed for drug offenses and the trend for these women to be sentenced as second felony offenders (up from 46% in 1988 to 56% in 1991). The number of women committed as first felony drug offenders increased by 147% between 1988 and 1991. However, the number of female second felony drug offenders grew by 276% from 1988 to 1991.

1.4 COMMITMENT OFFENSE BY FELONY OFFENDER STATUS FOR FEMALE COMMITTEES: JANUARY 1988 - DECEMBER 1991

COMMITMENT OFFENSE	1988			1989			1990			1991		
	FIRST FELONY	SECOND FELONY	TOTAL	FIRST FELONY	SECOND FELONY	TOTAL	FIRST FELONY	SECOND FELONY	TOTAL	FIRST FELONY	SECOND FELONY	TOTAL
VIOLENT FELONY												
MURDER	7	0	7	6	0	6	13	0	13	12	0	12
ATTEMPT MURDER	7	0	7	4	0	4	4	0	4	4	1	5
MANSLAUGHTER 1ST	22	0	22	36	2	38	21	0	21	32	1	33
RAPE 1ST	2	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	1
ROBBERY 1ST	42	4	46	35	10	45	40	9	49	36	14	50
ROBBERY 2ND	53	23	76	51	21	72	43	25	68	54	30	84
ASSAULT 1ST	8	1	9	25	3	28	3	3	6	25	1	26
ASSAULT 2ND	12	5	17	14	5	19	9	3	14	20	4	24
BURGLARY 1ST	2	0	2	4	2	6	2	0	2	5	1	6
BURGLARY 2ND	25	0	25	22	16	38	21	8	29	31	15	46
ARSON 1ST,2ND	0	0	0	7	0	7	1	2	3	5	2	7
SODOMY 1ST	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
SEXUAL ABUSE 1ST	1	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	3	1	0	1
WEAPONS OFFENSES	7	5	12	10	13	23	5	3	8	12	8	20
KIDNAPPING 1ST,2ND	2	1	3	3	1	4	3	1	4	3	0	3
SUBTOTAL	201	50	251	217	73	290	172	56	228	243	77	320
	33.4%	12.1%	24.6%	24.0%	10.3%	18.0%	19.8%	6.9%	13.5%	21.9%	6.7%	14.1%
OTHER COERCIVE												
MANSLAUGHTER 2ND	11	0	11	7	1	8	7	1	8	10	2	12
OTHER HOMICIDE	3	0	3	4	0	4	7	0	7	2	1	3
ROBBERY 3RD	9	9	18	18	12	30	15	13	28	21	13	34
ATT ASSAULT 2ND	1	2	3	1	5	6	1	3	4	6	6	12
OTHER SEX OFFENSES	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER COERCIVE	14	2	16	10	0	10	10	2	12	15	0	15
SUBTOTAL	39	13	52	40	18	58	40	19	59	54	22	76
	6.5%	3.2%	5.1%	4.4%	2.5%	3.6%	4.6%	2.3%	3.5%	4.9%	1.9%	3.4%
DRUG												
DRUG SALE	211	219	430	398	429	827	416	523	939	443	759	1222
DRUG POSSESSION	80	26	106	157	86	243	163	122	285	256	162	418
SUBTOTAL	291	245	536	555	515	1070	579	645	1224	719	921	1640
	48.3%	59.5%	52.9%	61.4%	72.7%	66.4%	66.6%	79.3%	72.7%	64.9%	79.7%	72.4%
PROPERTY AND OTHER												
BURGLARY 3RD	4	0	4	8	10	18	4	9	13	7	10	17
GRAND LARCENY	22	36	58	29	35	64	21	34	55	22	59	81
FORGERY	14	42	56	13	33	46	22	21	43	24	40	64
STOLEN PROPERTY	8	17	25	9	19	28	7	21	28	5	17	22
DRIVE INTOXICATED	3	0	3	2	1	3	6	0	6	4	1	5
ALL OTHER FELONIES	7	1	8	8	3	11	3	6	9	9	9	18
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER	13	0	13	23	1	24	16	0	16	21	0	21
SUBTOTAL	71	104	175	92	102	194	79	93	172	92	136	228
	11.8%	25.2%	17.3%	10.2%	14.4%	12.0%	9.1%	11.4%	10.2%	6.3%	11.8%	10.1%
GRAND TOTAL	602	412	1014	904	788	1612	870	813	1683	1108	1156	2264
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

2

Designation as a second felony offender results in mandatory state prison incarceration.

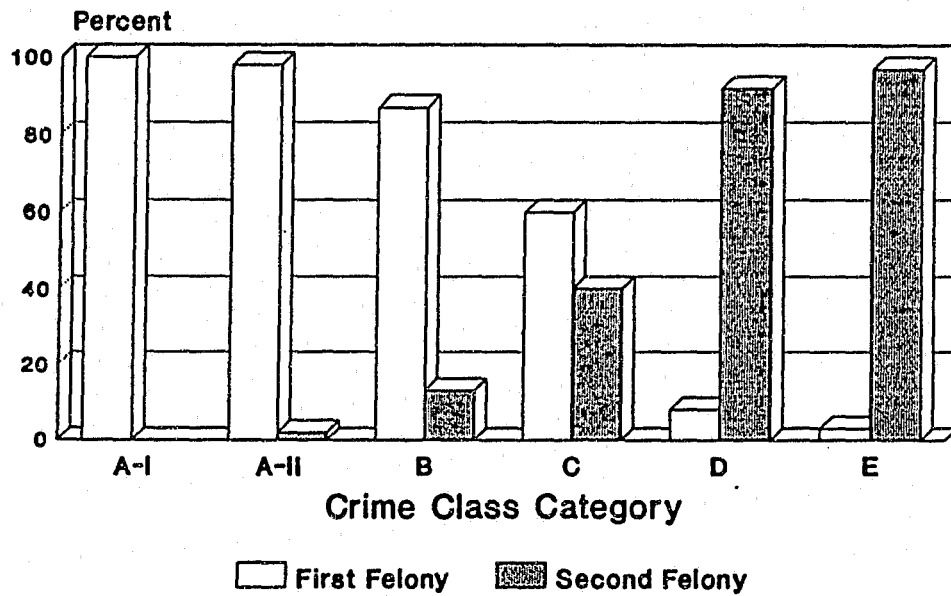
Table 1.5 shows that the proportion of female drug offenders committed for first felony class A-I, class A-II and class B offenses declined between 1988 and 1991, while commitments for second felony class C and class D offenses increased.³ For example, in 1988, the single largest group of female drug offenders was committed for a first felony class B offense. By 1989, this category contained a quarter of all female drug commitments. Yet by 1991, only 18% of female drug offenders fell into this category. Meanwhile, the proportion of women committed for a second felony class D drug offense rose steadily from 23% in 1988 to 32% in 1991. Note also that during the four year period, over 90% of class D or E drug offenders were sentenced as second felons (see Figure 1.4).

1.5 FEMALE DRUG COMMITMENTS BY FELONY OFFENDER STATUS AND BY FELONY CLASS CATEGORY: JANUARY 1988 - DECEMBER 1991

FELONY STATUS	1988		1989		1990		1991	
FIRST FELONY								
A-I FELONY	7	1.3%	7	.7%	8	.7%	8	.5%
A-II FELONY	65	12.1%	72	6.7%	63	5.1%	123	7.5%
CLASS B FELONY	128	23.9%	265	24.8%	259	21.2%	303	18.5%
CLASS C FELONY	71	13.2%	176	16.4%	200	16.3%	234	14.3%
CLASS D FELONY	15	2.8%	29	2.7%	39	3.2%	45	2.7%
CLASS E FELONY	5	.9%	6	.6%	10	.8%	6	.4%
SUBTOTAL	291	54.3%	555	51.9%	579	47.3%	719	43.8%
SECOND FELONY								
A-II FELONY	0	.0%	2	.2%	2	.2%	2	.1%
CLASS B FELONY	13	2.4%	26	2.4%	32	2.6%	43	2.6%
CLASS C FELONY	25	4.7%	63	5.9%	90	7.4%	159	9.7%
CLASS D FELONY	122	22.8%	290	27.1%	363	29.7%	521	31.8%
CLASS E FELONY	85	15.9%	134	12.5%	158	12.9%	196	12.0%
SUBTOTAL	245	45.7%	515	48.1%	645	52.7%	921	56.2%
GRAND TOTAL	536	100.0%	1070	100.0%	1224	100.0%	1640	100.0%

³ Felony offenses in New York State are grouped into class categories that range from class A-I (most serious) to class E (least serious). The sentence that attaches to a particular crime is dependent upon both the felony class category of the offense and felony offender status of the offender (second felony offenders are generally subject to more severe sentences).

Figure 1.4
Crime Class by Felony Offender Status
Female Drug Commitments 1991



Minimum Sentence Length

The overall average minimum sentence for women committed in 1991 for violent felony offenses, 40.1 months, was longer than sentences for either drug offenses (average 26.0 months) or property offenses (19.1 months) (see Table 1.6).⁴

1.6 AGGREGATE MINIMUM SENTENCE BY CRIME OF COMMITMENT FOR FEMALE COMMITMENTS: JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1991

COMMITMENT STATUS	AGGREGATE MINIMUM IN MONTHS		
	NUMBER	AVERAGE	MEDIAN
VIOLENT FELONY			
MURDER	12	265.5	240.0
ATTEMPT MURDER	5	41.6	40.0
MANSLAUGHTER 1ST	33	60.6	60.0
RAPE 1ST	1	156.0	156.0
ROBBERY 1ST	50	36.1	24.0
ROBBERY 2ND	84	23.2	18.0
ASSAULT 1ST	26	24.5	18.0
ASSAULT 2ND	24	17.7	12.0
BURGLARY 1ST	6	59.7	26.0
BURGLARY 2ND	46	22.8	18.0
ARSON 1ST,2ND	7	46.3	24.0
SODOMY 1ST	2	84.0	84.0
SEXUAL ABUSE 1ST	1	24.0	24.0
WEAPONS OFFENSES	20	22.1	22.5
KIDNAPPING 1ST,2ND	3	36.0	24.0
SUBTOTAL	320	40.1	24.0
OTHER COERCIVE			
MANSLAUGHTER 2ND	12	37.2	36.0
OTHER HOMICIDE	3	18.7	16.0
ROBBERY 3RD	34	17.6	18.0
ATT ASSAULT 2ND	12	15.3	17.0
OTHER COERCIVE	15	24.9	16.0
SUBTOTAL	76	21.8	18.0
DRUG			
DRUG SALE	1222	24.4	24.0
DRUG POSSESSION	418	30.8	24.0
SUBTOTAL	1640	26.0	24.0
PROPERTY AND OTHER			
BURGLARY 3RD	17	19.5	18.0
GRAND LARCENY	81	18.9	18.0
FORGERY	64	21.5	18.0
STOLEN PROPERTY	22	18.5	18.0
DRIVE INTOXICATED	5	15.6	12.0
ALL OTHR FELONIES	18	18.7	18.0
YOUTHFUL OFFENDR	21	14.2	16.0
SUBTOTAL	228	19.1	18.0
GRAND TOTAL	2264	27.2	24.0

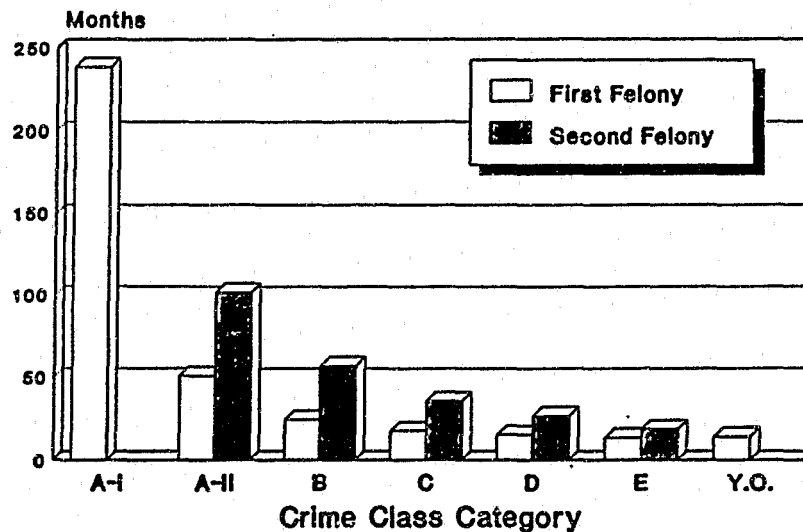
⁴ Recall that sentence length is dependent upon the felony class category of an offense and the felony offender status of the offender (see footnote 3, p.9).

There was relatively little change in the average minimum sentence associated with specific felony class categories across commitment years, with two minor exceptions (see Table 1.7 and Figure 1.5). For example, the average minimum term for a first felony offender convicted of a class C offense declined from 20.0 months in 1988 to 17.6 months in 1991. An even greater decrease occurred in the average minimum sentence for second felony class C offenders (39.5 months in 1988 to 35.6 months in 1991). It should be noted, however, that the median minimum sentence for second felony class C offenders remained constant throughout the period at 36 months.

1.7 AGGREGATE MINIMUM SENTENCE BY CRIME CLASS AND FELONY OFFENDER STATUS FOR FEMALE COMMITTEES: JANUARY 1988 - DECEMBER 1991

COMMITMENT STATUS	1988			1989			1990			1991		
	AGGREGATE MINIMUM IN MONTHS			AGGREGATE MINIMUM IN MONTHS			AGGREGATE MINIMUM IN MONTHS			AGGREGATE MINIMUM IN MONTHS		
	NUMBER	AVERAGE	MEDIAN	NUMBER	AVERAGE	MEDIAN	NUMBER	AVERAGE	MEDIAN	NUMBER	AVERAGE	MEDIAN
FIRST FELONY												
A-I FELONY	15	186.4	188.0	14	232.3	228.0	21	218.0	216.0	20	236.5	222.0
A-II FELONY	45	46.3	34.0	72	51.1	48.0	63	51.4	34.0	123	50.9	48.0
CLASS B FELONY	190	23.6	16.0	338	21.9	12.0	322	21.3	12.0	381	24.1	12.0
CLASS C FELONY	166	20.0	18.0	278	18.9	18.0	265	17.8	12.0	333	17.6	12.0
CLASS D FELONY	115	15.0	12.0	135	16.1	12.0	138	15.4	12.0	182	15.4	12.0
CLASS E FELONY	38	13.0	12.0	43	13.0	12.0	44	13.1	12.0	46	13.4	12.0
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER	13	12.9	12.0	24	13.3	12.0	16	13.9	12.0	21	14.2	16.0
SUBTOTAL	602	26.6	18.0	984	25.1	12.0	869	25.7	12.0	1186	26.9	16.0
SECOND FELONY												
A-II FELONY	8	55.9	54.0	2	72.0	72.0	2	45.0	45.0	2	182.0	182.0
CLASS B FELONY	14	55.9	54.0	34	58.6	54.0	38	55.1	54.0	55	57.9	54.0
CLASS C FELONY	35	39.5	36.0	88	39.3	36.0	105	37.3	36.0	179	35.6	36.0
CLASS D FELONY	190	26.1	24.0	359	25.1	24.0	429	26.2	24.0	617	26.4	24.0
CLASS E FELONY	171	18.8	18.0	229	18.5	18.0	239	18.6	18.0	303	18.7	18.0
SUBTOTAL	412	25.4	24.0	704	26.8	24.0	813	26.8	24.0	1156	27.4	24.0
GRAND TOTAL	1014	26.1	18.0	1688	25.8	18.0	1682	26.2	24.0	2242	27.2	24.0

Figure 1.5
Average Minimum Sentence by Crime Class
and Felony Offender Status



SECTION II

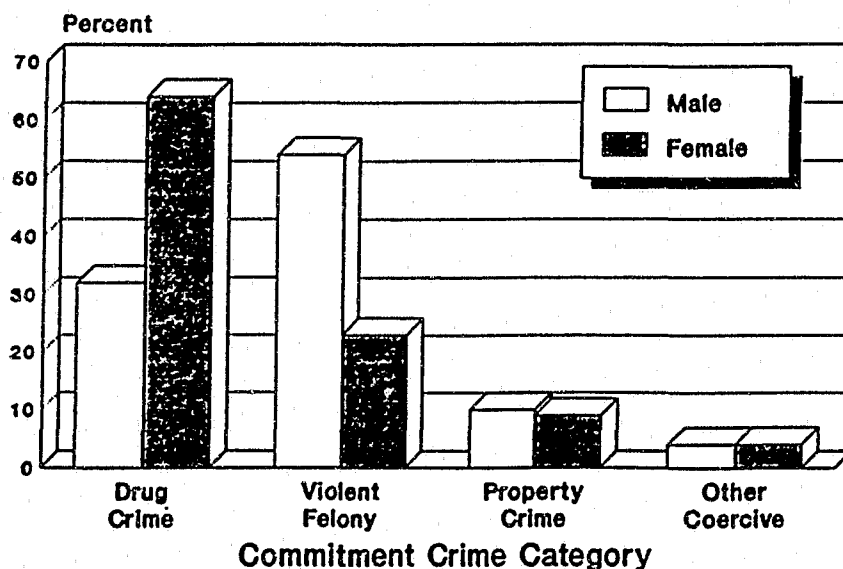
Female Offenders in the Undercustody Population

This section of the report presents data on female offenders undercustody in New York State Correctional Facilities on December 31, 1991. The profile of inmates held undercustody is somewhat different from the profile of an annual new court commitment population, in that the undercustody group has a higher concentration of violent offenders serving relatively long terms. As a result, annual admission and release cohorts are generally dominated by the greater number of offenders convicted of less serious offenses.

Crime by Gender

When compared with males, female offenders are considerably less likely to be committed for violent felony offenses (23% for females versus 54% for males) and considerably more likely to be committed for drug offenses (64% for females, 32% for males) (see Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1
Crime by Gender
Undercustody on December 31, 1991



2.1 COMMITMENT OFFENSE BY GENDER: UNDERCUSTODY POPULATION ON DECEMBER 31, 1991

COMMITMENT OFFENSE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
VIOLENT FELONY			
MURDER	4403	122	4525
ATTEMPTED MURDER	1158	19	1177
MANSLAUGHTER 1ST	2524	151	2675
RAPE 1ST	1774	8	1782
ROBBERY 1ST	6419	118	6537
ROBBERY 2ND	4103	130	4233
ASSAULT 1ST	854	42	896
ASSAULT 2ND	697	34	731
BURGLARY 1ST	647	17	664
BURGLARY 2ND	2871	74	2945
ARSON 1ST,2ND	171	15	186
SODOMY 1ST	806	8	814
SEXUAL ABUSE 1ST	493	3	496
WEAPONS OFFENSES	2036	30	2066
KIDNAPPING 1ST,2ND	253	14	267
SUBTOTAL	29209 53.7%	785 23.2%	29994 51.9%
OTHER COERCIVE			
MANSLAUGHTER 2ND	305	38	343
OTHER HOMICIDE	89	9	98
ROBBERY 3RD	1065	41	1106
ATT ASSAULT 2ND	208	11	219
OTHER SEX OFFENSES	323	0	323
OTHER COERCIVE	385	23	408
SUBTOTAL	2375 4.4%	122 3.6%	2497 4.3%
DRUG			
DRUG SALE	12427	1631	14058
DRUG POSSESSION	5203	551	5754
SUBTOTAL	17630 32.4%	2182 64.5%	19812 34.3%
PROPERTY AND OTHER			
BURGLARY 3RD	1926	19	1945
GRAND LARCENY	1045	111	1156
FORGERY	298	86	384
STOLEN PROPERTY	901	30	931
DRIVE INTOXICATED	309	7	316
ALL OTHER FELONIES	282	20	302
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER	398	19	417
SUBTOTAL	5159 9.5%	292 8.6%	5451 9.4%
GRAND TOTAL	54373 100.0%	3381 100.0%	57754 100.0%

Age Distribution

Taken as a group, females undercustody on December 31, 1991 were slightly older than males (see Table 2.2). For example, proportionately more females fell into the 25-34 age group (53%) than did males (48%), while 23% of males were under age 25, compared with only 17% of the females.

2.2 CURRENT AGE BY GENDER
UNDERCUSTODY POPULATION ON DECEMBER 31, 1991

CURRENT AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
16-18 YR	1069 2.0%	25 .7%	1094 1.9%
19-20 YR	2552 4.7%	79 2.3%	2631 4.6%
21-24 YR	8704 16.0%	463 13.7%	9167 15.9%
25-29 YR	14022 25.8%	980 29.0%	15002 25.9%
30-34 YR	12047 22.1%	816 24.1%	12863 22.2%
35-39 YR	7503 13.8%	524 15.5%	8027 13.9%
40-44 YR	4284 7.9%	273 8.1%	4557 7.9%
45-49 YR	2139 3.9%	120 3.5%	2259 3.9%
50-54 YR	1126 2.1%	62 1.8%	1188 2.1%
55-59 YR	521 1.0%	27 .8%	548 .9%
60-64 YR	289 .5%	8 .2%	297 .5%
65 AND OVER	177 .3%	4 .1%	181 .3%
TOTAL	54433 100.0%	3381 100.0%	57814 100.0%
AVG	31.7	32.1	31.8
MEDIAN	30.3	30.9	30.3

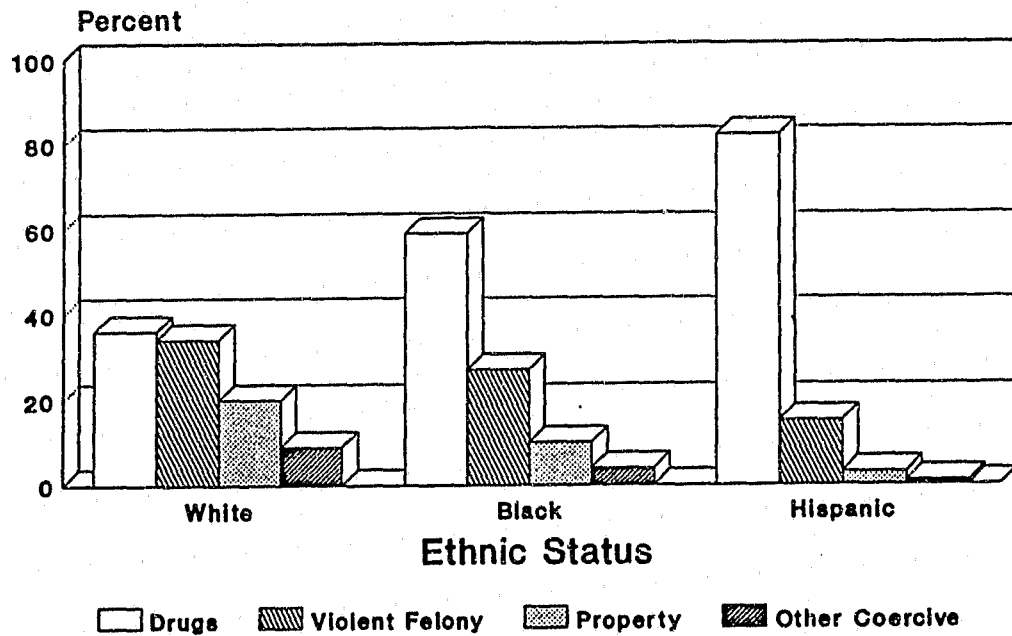
Ethnic Group Affiliation

The majority of females undercustody on December 31, 1991 were committed for drug offenses (64%) (see Table 2.3 and Figure 2.2). Noteworthy is the percentage of Hispanic (82%) and black (59%) women undercustody for drug offenses. In contrast to these two groups, white women were about equally committed for violent felony offenses (34%) and drug offenses (36%). A substantial percentage of white women were also undercustody for property offenses (20%). Though a majority of black females were incarcerated for drug offenses, an additional 27% were committed for violent felony offenses and another 10%, for property offenses.

2.3 COMMITMENT OFFENSE BY ETHNIC GROUP AFFILIATION FOR FEMALES
UNDERCUSTODY POPULATION ON DECEMBER 31, 1991

COMMITMENT OFFENSE	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	OTHER	TOTAL
VIOLENT FELONY					
MURDER	43	64	13	2	122
ATTEMPTED MURDER	2	12	5	0	19
MANSLAUGHTER 1ST	22	94	32	3	151
RAPE 1ST	1	6	1	0	8
ROBBERY 1ST	12	67	37	2	118
ROBBERY 2ND	12	85	32	1	130
ASSAULT 1ST	3	32	7	0	42
ASSAULT 2ND	3	25	5	1	34
BURGLARY 1ST	3	8	6	0	17
BURGLARY 2ND	23	31	20	0	74
ARSON 1ST,2ND	4	9	2	0	15
SODOMY 1ST	3	3	1	1	8
SEXUAL ABUSE 1ST	1	2	0	0	3
WEAPONS OFFENSES	3	17	10	0	30
KIDNAPPING 1ST,2ND	4	2	7	1	14
SUBTOTAL	139 34.1%	457 26.7%	178 14.5%	11 33.3%	785 23.2%
OTHER COERCIVE					
MANSLAUGHTER 2ND	12	22	3	1	38
OTHER HOMICIDE	8	1	0	0	9
ROBBERY 3RD	8	31	2	0	41
ATT ASSAULT 2ND	3	5	3	0	11
OTHER COERCIVE	8	12	3	0	23
SUBTOTAL	39 9.6%	71 4.1%	11 .9%	1 3.0%	122 3.6%
DRUG					
DRUG SALE	99	758	761	13	1631
DRUG POSSESSION	49	253	244	5	551
SUBTOTAL	148 36.3%	1011 59.1%	1005 81.8%	18 54.5%	2182 64.5%
PROPERTY AND OTHER					
BURGLARY 3RD	6	10	2	1	19
GRAND LARCENY	29	66	15	1	111
FORGERY	32	48	6	0	86
STOLEN PROPERTY	2	24	4	0	30
DRIVE INTOXICATED	4	2	0	1	7
ALL OTHER FELONIES	9	8	3	0	20
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER	8	14	5	0	19
SUBTOTAL	82 20.1%	172 10.1%	35 2.8%	3 9.1%	292 8.6%
GRAND TOTAL	488 100.0%	1711 100.0%	1229 100.0%	33 100.0%	3381 100.0%

Figure 2.2
Crime by Ethnic Status
Undercustody Female Population



Felony Offender Status

Three-quarters (76%) of the second felony offenders and half (52%) of the first felony offenders were in the Department's custody for drug offenses by yearend 1991 (see Table 2.4). A little over a third (36%) of the first felony offenders were undercustody for violent felony offenses compared with 12% of the second felony offenders.

2.4 COMMITMENT OFFENSE BY FELONY OFFENDER STATUS FOR FEMALES
UNDERCUSTODY POPULATION ON DECEMBER 31, 1991

COMMITMENT OFFENSE	FIRST FELONY	SECOND FELONY	PERSIST FELONY	TOTAL
VIOLENT FELONY				
MURDER	122	0	0	122
ATTEMPTED MURDER	17	2	0	19
MANSLAUGHTER 1ST	138	13	0	151
RAPE 1ST	6	2	0	8
ROBBERY 1ST	72	45	1	118
ROBBERY 2ND	62	67	1	130
ASSAULT 1ST	35	7	0	42
ASSAULT 2ND	19	15	0	34
BURGLARY 1ST	12	5	0	17
BURGLARY 2ND	42	32	0	74
ARSON 1ST,2ND	10	5	0	15
SODOMY 1ST	8	0	0	8
SEXUAL ABUSE 1ST	3	0	0	3
WEAPONS OFFENSES	18	11	1	30
KIDNAPPING 1ST,2ND	11	3	0	14
SUBTOTAL	575 36.1%	207 11.6%	3 33.3%	785 23.2%
OTHER COERCIVE				
MANSLAUGHTER 2ND	31	7	0	38
OTHER HOMICIDE	7	2	0	9
ROBBERY 3RD	22	19	0	41
ATT ASSAULT 2ND	6	5	0	11
OTHER COERCIVE	20	3	0	23
SUBTOTAL	86 5.4%	36 2.0%	0 .0%	122 3.6%
DRUG				
DRUG SALE	512	1114	5	1631
DRUG POSSESSION	319	231	1	551
SUBTOTAL	831 52.2%	1345 75.5%	6 66.7%	2182 64.5%
PROPERTY AND OTHER				
BURGLARY 3RD	8	11	0	19
GRAND LARCENY	29	82	0	111
FORGERY	24	62	0	86
STOLEN PROPERTY	3	27	0	30
DRIVE INTOXICATED	5	2	0	7
ALL OTHER FELONIES	12	8	0	20
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER	18	1	0	19
SUBTOTAL	99 6.2%	193 10.6%	0 .0%	292 8.6%
GRAND TOTAL	1591 100.0%	1781 100.0%	9 100.0%	3381 100.0%

Female Drug Offenders

Seventy-five percent of female drug offenders undercustody on December 31, 1991 were committed for drug sale, 25% for drug possession. The data in Table 2.5 reveal that there were differences in the distribution of females committed for drug sale or possession depending upon felony offender status. Among first felony offenders, 62% were committed to state prison for drug sale compared with 83% of second felony offenders. Additionally, first felony offenders committed for drug offenses were more heavily concentrated in the serious class A and B felony categories, than were second felony offenders.

2.5 FEMALE DRUG OFFENDERS BY CATEGORY OF COMMITMENT AND BY FELONY OFFENDER STATUS: UNDERCUSTODY POPULATION ON DECEMBER 31, 1991

COMMITMENT STATUS	FIRST	FELONY	SECOND	FELONY	PERSIST	FELONY	TOTAL
SALE							
A-I FELONY	23	2.8%	0	.0%	0	.0%	23 1.1%
A-II FELONY	93	11.2%	4	.3%	0	.0%	97 4.4%
CLASS B FELONY	194	23.3%	91	6.8%	1	16.7%	286 13.1%
CLASS C FELONY	189	22.7%	230	17.1%	0	.0%	419 19.2%
CLASS D FELONY	12	1.4%	622	46.2%	4	66.7%	638 29.2%
CLASS E FELONY	1	.1%	167	12.4%	0	.0%	168 7.7%
SUBTOTAL	512	61.6%	1114	82.8%	5	83.3%	1631 74.7%
POSSESSION							
A-I FELONY	23	2.8%	0	.0%	0	.0%	23 1.1%
A-II FELONY	156	18.8%	3	.2%	0	.0%	159 7.3%
CLASS B FELONY	83	10.0%	20	1.5%	0	.0%	103 4.7%
CLASS C FELONY	31	3.7%	25	1.9%	1	16.7%	57 2.6%
CLASS D FELONY	23	2.8%	119	8.8%	0	.0%	142 6.5%
CLASS E FELONY	3	.4%	64	4.8%	0	.0%	67 3.1%
SUBTOTAL	319	38.4%	231	17.2%	1	16.7%	551 25.3%
GRAND TOTAL	831	100.0%	1345	100.0%	6	100.0%	2182 100.0%

Women committed for cocaine were much more heavily concentrated in the A and B felony class categories (53% in total) compared with those committed for crack (16%) or heroin (20%) (see Table 2.6A).⁵

2.6A FEMALE DRUG OFFENDERS BY TYPE OF DRUG INVOLVED IN COMMITMENT: UNDERCUSTODY POPULATION ON DECEMBER 31, 1991

FELONY STATUS	COCAINE	CRACK	HEROIN	CANNABIS	OTHER DRUGS	TOTAL
A-I FELONY	23 3.2%	1 .1%	1 .3%	0 .0%	0 .0%	25 1.2%
A-II FELONY	201 28.0%	10 1.1%	10 2.9%	0 .0%	1 4.0%	222 11.0%
CLASS B FELONY	154 21.4%	140 15.1%	60 17.2%	0 .0%	3 12.0%	357 17.6%
CLASS C FELONY	134 18.6%	241 25.9%	71 20.4%	0 .0%	1 4.0%	447 22.1%
CLASS D FELONY	171 23.8%	400 43.0%	169 48.6%	2 66.7%	8 32.0%	750 37.0%
CLASS E FELONY	36 5.0%	138 14.8%	37 10.6%	1 33.3%	12 48.0%	224 11.1%
TOTAL	719 100%	930 100%	348 100%	3 100%	25 100%	2025 100%

Commitments for cocaine dominated the class A felony class categories (see Table 2.6B). Looking at the class B category, 43% of women were committed for cocaine, 39% for crack and 17% for heroin. In the less serious felony class C, D and E categories, the drug involved was crack in over 50% of the cases, with the remaining cases split between cocaine and heroin.

2.6B FEMALE DRUG OFFENDERS BY TYPE OF DRUG INVOLVED IN COMMITMENT: UNDERCUSTODY POPULATION ON DECEMBER 31, 1991

FELONY STATUS	COCAINE	CRACK	HEROIN	CANNABIS	OTHER DRUGS	TOTAL
A-I FELONY	23 92.0%	1 4.0%	1 4.0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	25 100%
A-II FELONY	201 90.5%	10 4.5%	10 4.5%	0 .0%	1 .5%	222 100%
CLASS B FELONY	154 43.1%	140 39.2%	60 16.8%	0 .0%	3 .8%	357 100%
CLASS C FELONY	134 30.0%	241 53.9%	71 15.9%	0 .0%	1 .2%	447 100%
CLASS D FELONY	171 22.8%	400 53.3%	169 22.5%	2 .3%	8 1.1%	750 100%
CLASS E FELONY	36 16.3%	138 61.6%	37 16.5%	1 .4%	12 5.4%	224 100%
TOTAL	719 35.5%	930 45.9%	348 17.2%	3 .1%	25 1.2%	2025 100%

⁵ Information pertaining to drug type is self-reported at initial classification by offenders convicted of drug offenses and indicates the drug either sold or possessed at arrest. This data was first collected beginning in January 1988.

SECTION III

Female Offenders: First Releases to Parole

This section of the report presents data on average time served by female offenders before first release to parole supervision. Time served in the following tables includes time served in the custody of the New York State Department of Correctional Services and any time served in a local jail.

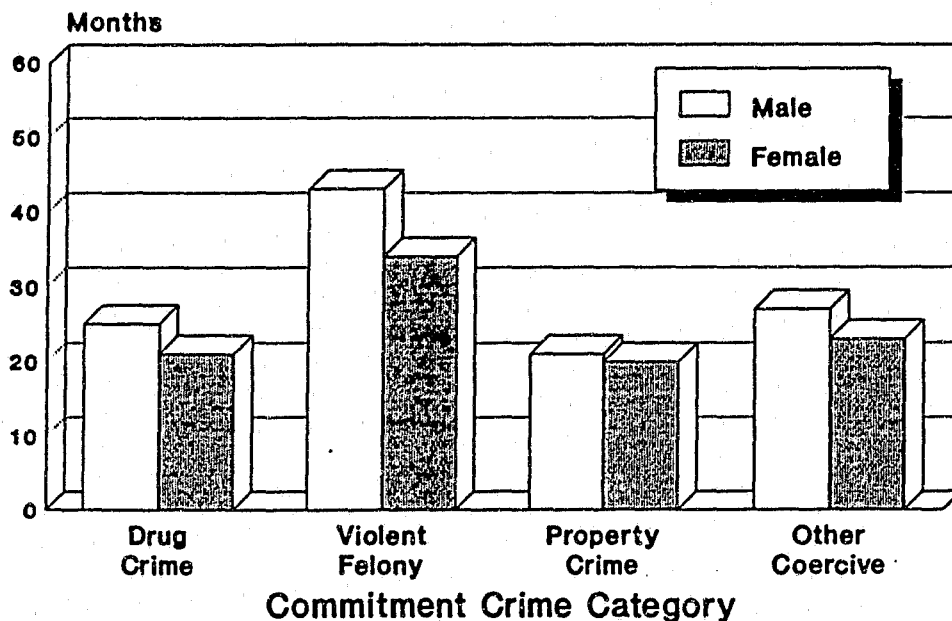
A number of persons are released from state custody each year for reasons other than parole: death, transfer to another agency, transfer out to court, and escape or abscondence.⁶ The tables in this section refer only to inmates released to parole supervision for the first time, either by the Board of Parole or through attainment of the conditional release date (which is 2/3 of the maximum sentence, the point at which the inmate must be released by law unless good time is lost).

⁶ For further information on releases from custody see *Characteristics of Inmates Discharged 1990*. New York State Department of Correctional Services, 1991.

Time Served by Gender

Across all commitment offense categories, average time served by males first released in 1991 was greater than that for females (30.0 and 22.6 months, respectively) (see Total column in Table 3.1). The largest discrepancy in time served occurred in the violent felony category, where males served an average of 42.8 months and females, 34.2 months (see Figure 3.1).⁷ Males and females committed for property offenses were most similar in the amount of time served before release (20.9 months for males versus 19.4 months for females).

Figure 3.1
Average Time Served by Gender and Crime
1991 First Releases to Parole



⁷ Time served reflects in large measure the offender's original sentence to state prison. Generally, females receive slightly lower minimum sentences than do males committed for similar offenses. Controlling for felony class and felony offender status may, in some cases, further reduce the discrepancy in average time served between males and females (see *Characteristics of Inmates Discharged 1987*. New York State Department of Correctional Services, 1988).

3.1 OFFENSE TYPE BY TIME SERVED FOR ALL 1991 FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION

COMMITMENT OFFENSE	MALE			FEMALE		
	NUMBER	AVERAGE	MEDIAN	NUMBER	AVERAGE	MEDIAN
VIOLENT FELONY						
MURDER	40	202.9	194.2	2	180.4	180.4
ATTEMPT MURDER	86	59.2	47.8	6	51.8	49.9
MANSLAUGHTER 1ST	220	82.2	84.0	23	68.2	60.6
RAPE 1ST	143	71.1	63.9	1	47.9	47.9
ROBBERY 1ST	1271	51.7	44.3	39	29.9	27.8
ROBBERY 2ND	1452	32.1	25.7	65	23.0	19.8
ASSAULT 1ST	173	39.7	35.2	16	33.1	28.8
ASSAULT 2ND	240	30.5	26.0	18	23.8	21.0
BURGLARY 1ST	69	59.8	54.0	2	74.5	74.5
BURGLARY 2ND	881	36.6	32.0	38	29.8	27.9
ARSON 1ST,2ND	26	56.2	47.2	5	42.5	48.0
SODOMY 1ST	64	65.0	55.9	1	35.9	35.9
SEXUAL ABUSE 1ST	110	35.0	31.9	2	21.7	21.7
WEAPONS OFFENSES	718	28.7	24.0	10	30.4	26.1
KIDNAPPING 1ST,2ND	25	58.3	50.1	3	37.9	39.7
SUBTOTAL	5518	42.8	32.6	231	34.2	27.8
OTHER COERCIVE						
MANSLAUGHTER 2ND	51	50.6	45.9	7	42.0	31.9
OTHER HOMICIDE	32	24.2	23.9	2	23.9	23.9
ROBBERY 3RD	541	24.2	23.8	28	19.9	17.5
ATT ASSAULT 2ND	100	23.5	23.9	5	16.8	18.0
OTHER SEX OFFENSES	73	32.8	30.4	0	.	.
OTHER COERCIVE	139	28.9	23.9	8	21.7	15.3
SUBTOTAL	936	26.9	23.9	50	23.1	19.0
DRUG						
DRUG SALE	5066	25.0	23.9	806	20.3	18.2
DRUG POSSESSION	2152	24.1	20.4	263	21.4	18.0
SUBTOTAL	7218	24.7	23.9	1069	20.6	18.1
PROPERTY AND OTHER						
BURGLARY 3RD	1032	22.6	20.1	19	20.4	18.1
GRAND LARCENY	667	21.0	18.4	54	21.2	18.1
FORGERY	143	22.5	18.6	48	18.7	17.9
STOLEN PROPERTY	617	21.2	18.3	21	17.5	17.9
DRIVE INTOXICATED	197	18.8	18.4	5	16.0	13.9
ALL OTHR FELONIES	158	22.8	18.6	8	18.6	18.0
YOUTHFUL OFFENDR	394	15.5	13.1	18	18.7	16.0
SUBTOTAL	3208	20.9	18.1	173	19.4	18.0
GRAND TOTAL	16878	30.8	23.9	1522	22.6	18.5

Time Served by Felony Class Category

The average time served by females decreased by descending felony class order irrespective of felony offender status. Average time served ranged from a high of 132.4 months in the class A-I category to a low of 15.5 months in the first felony class E category (see Total column in Table 3.2). As would be expected, where the felony class category is identical, women sentenced as second felony offenders served more time than did first felony offenders. For example, second felony offenders convicted of a class B offense served, on average, 48.2 months compared with 21.9 months for first felony offenders convicted of a class B offense.

In most instances, average time served within specific felony class categories was stable over time. Exceptions included first felony offenders convicted of a class B offense, where average time served fell from 25.4 months in 1988 to 21.5 months in 1991 and second felony class C offenders, whose average time served declined from 47.5 months in 1988 to 34.0 months in 1991.

3.2 CRIME CLASS BY TIME SERVED FOR FEMALE OFFENDERS: 1988 - 1991 FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION

COMMITMENT OFFENSE	1988			1989			1990			1991			TOTAL		
	NUMBER	AVG	MDN	NUMBER	AVG	MDN	NUMBER	AVG	MDN	NUMBER	AVG	MDN	NUMBER	AVG	MDN
FIRST FELONY															
A-I FELONY	0	.	.	0	.	.	0	.	.	3	132.4	180.0	3	132.4	180.0
A-II FELONY	30	39.6	36.0	57	36.2	36.0	56	35.5	35.9	61	39.2	35.9	204	37.4	36.0
CLASS B FELONY	163	25.4	17.9	225	22.9	12.8	321	19.8	12.6	307	21.5	12.6	1016	21.9	13.2
CLASS C FELONY	116	21.7	18.4	168	19.5	17.9	264	17.7	14.8	276	19.0	17.5	824	19.1	17.9
CLASS D FELONY	110	17.4	14.3	113	17.9	14.1	144	18.3	17.3	141	16.1	13.2	508	17.5	15.9
CLASS E FELONY	47	15.9	14.2	39	14.7	13.8	59	15.6	13.3	42	15.8	12.4	187	15.5	13.4
YOUTHFUL OFFENDR	11	16.5	15.9	18	16.4	15.3	20	15.4	12.9	18	18.7	16.0	67	16.7	15.7
SUBTOTAL	477	22.5	18.0	620	21.6	17.8	864	19.5	14.6	848	21.1	15.5	2809	21.0	16.5
SECOND FELONY															
A-II FELONY	1	59.9	59.9	2	71.8	71.8	2	78.0	78.0	1	54.0	54.0	6	68.9	71.8
CLASS B FELONY	5	59.3	54.8	7	55.6	53.9	17	51.1	54.2	22	39.0	26.8	50	48.2	53.9
CLASS C FELONY	16	47.5	47.9	18	48.2	36.5	46	36.8	35.9	42	34.0	35.9	142	37.2	35.9
CLASS D FELONY	100	27.6	24.0	140	25.9	24.0	281	25.1	23.9	352	25.0	23.9	872	25.5	24.0
CLASS E FELONY	95	21.2	18.1	158	19.3	18.0	193	19.4	18.0	237	19.8	18.0	683	19.7	18.0
SUBTOTAL	217	27.2	23.9	325	24.4	23.9	539	25.1	23.9	674	24.5	23.9	1753	25.0	23.9
TOTAL	694	23.9	21.5	944	22.6	18.0	1403	21.7	18.0	1521	22.6	18.4	4562	22.5	18.1

The data in Table 3.3 show average time served according to several general crime categories. As the seriousness of the crime decreases, so does average time served. For example, among female offenders released across the period 1988 to 1991, those convicted of Robbery 1st served an average of 32.5 months; of Robbery 2nd, 24.0 months; and of Robbery 3rd, 18.9 months. Similarly, women convicted of Attempted Murder (average 49.0 months) or Manslaughter 1st (average 56.6 months) served longer than did females convicted of less serious offenses such as Grand Larceny (average 20.9 months) or Forgery (average 22.2 months).

3.3 COMMITMENT OFFENSE BY TIME SERVED FOR FEMALE OFFENDERS: 1988 - 1991 FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION

COMMITMENT OFFENSE	1988			1989			1990			1991			TOTAL		
	NUMBER	AVG	MDN	NUMBER	AVG	MDN	NUMBER	AVG	MDN	NUMBER	AVG	MDN	NUMBER	AVG	MDN
VIOLENT FELONY															
MURDER	0			0			0			2	180.4	180.4	2	180.4	180.4
ATTEMPT MURDER	4	37.5	33.1	4	63.0	44.1	4	42.4	36.9	6	51.0	49.9	18	49.0	45.0
MANSLAUGHTER 1ST	29	49.4	47.9	23	56.3	48.0	30	54.9	50.5	23	66.2	60.6	105	56.6	54.0
RAPE 1ST	1	48.0	48.0	0			1	72.4	72.4	1	47.9	47.9	3	56.1	48.0
ROBBERY 1ST	47	28.0	23.9	51	34.2	27.9	37	37.5	34.0	39	29.9	27.8	174	32.5	24.0
ROBBERY 2ND	78	23.7	21.8	59	24.7	23.9	89	24.4	23.4	65	23.0	19.8	291	24.0	23.0
ASSAULT 1ST	15	30.8	24.4	16	35.5	30.8	16	31.4	28.5	16	33.1	28.0	63	32.7	29.6
ASSAULT 2ND	14	21.5	22.7	16	23.7	21.3	16	25.5	26.9	18	23.8	21.0	64	23.7	23.8
BURGLARY 1ST	4	34.4	30.1	5	32.3	23.9	2	31.9	31.9	2	74.5	74.5	15	38.7	31.4
BURGLARY 2ND	24	22.9	21.3	33	23.2	20.5	33	29.5	23.9	38	29.8	27.9	128	24.7	23.9
ARSON 1ST,2ND	5	29.4	18.3	2	17.9	17.9	7	31.3	23.9	5	42.5	48.0	19	32.3	23.9
SODOMY 1ST	0			1	24.0	24.0	1	48.4	48.4	1	35.9	35.9	3	36.1	35.9
SEXUAL ABUSE 1ST	0			1	11.8	11.8	1	23.9	23.9	2	21.7	21.7	4	19.8	20.9
WEAPONS OFFENSES	9	14.5	17.3	10	21.4	20.8	19	22.9	21.2	10	30.4	26.1	46	22.9	18.5
KIDNAPPING 1ST,2ND	1	59.8	59.8	2	53.9	53.9	2	53.9	53.9	3	37.9	39.7	8	48.6	48.9
SUBTOTAL	233	28.8	23.9	223	31.4	23.9	258	31.9	24.8	231	34.2	27.8	945	31.6	24.8
OTHER FELONY															
MANSLAUGHTER 2ND	12	48.5	44.1	5	37.1	48.4	4	38.9	38.2	7	42.8	31.9	30	39.9	39.4
OTHER HOMICIDE	5	16.8	15.9	1	12.0	12.0	3	18.0	15.9	2	23.9	23.9	11	18.0	15.9
ROBBERY 3RD	13	21.8	19.3	24	18.7	18.0	27	16.7	17.9	28	19.9	17.5	92	18.9	17.9
ATT ASSAULT 2ND	4	19.6	18.0	3	21.6	22.7	5	22.0	21.4	5	14.8	18.0	19	19.8	18.2
OTHER SEX OFFENSES	2	25.9	23.9	0			1	23.8	23.8	0			3	25.9	23.9
OTHER COERCIVE	12	18.5	18.9	11	15.4	14.5	11	20.2	23.8	8	21.7	15.3	42	18.7	14.9
DRUG SALE	177	20.9	17.9	481	19.2	17.9	720	18.9	17.9	886	20.3	18.2	2102	19.7	17.9
DRUG POSSESSION	67	23.2	18.8	103	22.0	18.0	185	18.8	16.6	263	21.4	18.0	618	20.9	17.9
BURGLARY 3RD	6	20.4	18.7	12	21.0	23.9	14	20.7	17.9	19	20.4	18.1	51	20.6	18.0
GRAND LARCENY	46	20.9	20.0	61	19.9	18.2	62	21.7	19.5	54	21.2	18.1	243	20.9	18.4
FORGERY	45	23.2	23.8	43	21.6	18.0	50	25.2	23.9	48	18.7	17.9	186	22.2	18.8
STOLEN PROPERTY	29	18.2	18.0	26	20.1	17.9	38	19.5	18.0	21	17.5	17.9	104	18.9	17.9
DRIVE INTOXICATED	4	12.0	12.0	2	13.9	13.9	2	11.9	11.9	5	16.8	15.9	13	13.8	12.0
ALL OTHER FELONIES	4	17.8	14.9	12	18.5	15.8	9	17.8	12.1	8	18.6	18.0	35	18.0	17.9
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER	11	14.5	15.9	18	14.4	15.3	20	15.4	12.9	18	18.7	16.0	67	16.7	15.7
SUBTOTAL	461	21.5	18.0	722	19.8	17.9	1145	19.4	17.9	1292	20.5	18.0	3618	20.1	18.0
TOTAL	694	23.9	21.5	944	22.6	18.0	1403	21.7	18.0	1522	22.6	18.5	4563	22.5	18.1

Time Served by Drug Offense

Since drug offenders are a large segment of the female offender population, the length of time served in custody is presented separately for this group. Examining the average time served figures in Table 3.4 and Figure 3.2, note that female first felony offenders convicted of a class A-II drug felony served 37.4 months. However, there was not a consistent decline in average time served by descending felony class order. For example, females convicted of a first felony drug offense served approximately 15 months in custody, regardless of whether the conviction was for a class B, C, D, or E offense.

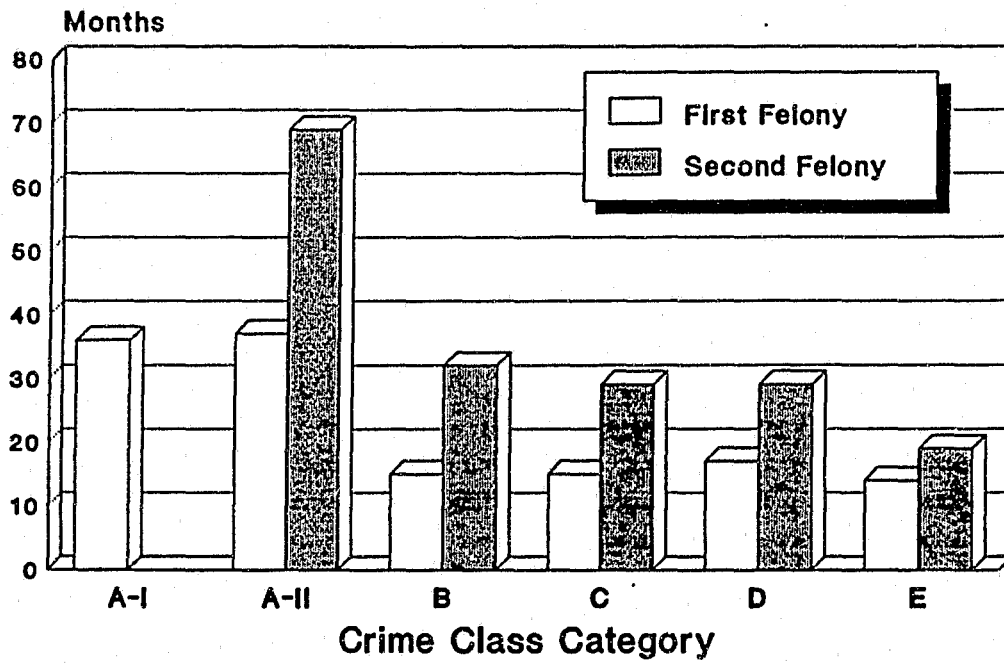
Among female second felony offenders convicted of a drug offense, there is a steady decline in average time served as crime class decreases. The average time served for a class A-II felony was 68.9 months, whereas the average time served for a class E felony was 18.7 months. The average time served in custody for all second felony drug offenders was 23.0 months compared with 18.0 months for first felony drug offenders.

Average time served within each specific crime class category was relatively steady across all release years. For example, first felony class B drug offenders served an average of 14.6 months before release in 1988, 14.9 months in 1989, 14.6 months in 1990, and 15.4 months in 1991. In conclusion, variation in average time served for the total drug offender group was due more to changes in the number of cases in each felony class category, than to shifts in time served within the categories.

3.4 CRIME CLASS BY TIME SERVED FOR FEMALE DRUG OFFENDERS: 1988 - 1991 FIRST RELEASES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION

COMMITMENT OFFENSE	1988			1989			1990			1991			TOTAL		
	NUMBER	AVG	MDN	NUMBER	AVG	MDN	NUMBER	AVG	MDN	NUMBER	AVG	MDN	NUMBER	AVG	MDN
FIRST FELONY															
A-I FELONY	0			0			0			1	36.3	36.3	1	36.3	36.3
A-II FELONY	30	39.6	36.0	57	36.2	36.0	56	35.5	35.9	61	39.2	35.9	204	37.4	36.0
CLASS B FELONY	93	14.6	12.1	171	14.9	12.0	263	14.6	12.1	247	15.4	12.1	774	14.9	12.0
CLASS C FELONY	30	14.3	12.1	82	15.4	12.2	183	14.3	12.0	261	16.0	12.9	496	15.1	12.1
CLASS D FELONY	17	17.6	13.1	18	16.9	16.0	40	18.3	15.0	47	15.6	13.0	122	17.0	13.6
CLASS E FELONY	2	17.9	17.9	8	16.6	16.9	16	13.0	12.0	8	14.4	12.1	34	14.5	12.2
SUBTOTAL	172	19.3	13.6	336	18.8	12.6	558	16.8	12.2	565	18.2	12.7	1631	18.0	12.4
SECOND FELONY															
A-II FELONY	1	59.9	59.9	2	71.8	71.8	2	78.0	78.0	1	54.0	54.0	6	68.9	71.8
CLASS B FELONY	3	53.9	53.9	2	47.9	47.9	8	30.9	22.2	14	24.0	15.5	26	32.3	23.7
CLASS C FELONY	4	36.5	36.0	7	28.2	35.8	28	25.2	19.1	48	31.3	35.8	87	29.3	35.8
CLASS D FELONY	47	25.9	23.9	86	22.9	24.0	205	23.0	23.9	287	23.8	23.9	624	23.6	23.9
CLASS E FELONY	17	20.8	18.0	71	17.3	17.9	104	18.2	18.0	154	19.5	18.0	346	18.7	18.0
SUBTOTAL	72	27.8	23.9	168	21.7	21.4	347	22.2	23.8	504	23.3	23.9	1089	23.0	23.9
TOTAL	244	21.5	18.0	503	19.8	17.9	905	18.9	17.9	1069	20.6	18.1	2720	20.0	17.9

Figure 3.2
Average Time Served by Female Drug
Offenders - First Releases to Parole ¹



¹1988 - 1991

CONCLUSION

This report presented demographic and legal history profiles for three female offender cohorts. Noted in each of the three cohorts was the impact of increased commitments for drug offenses. Brief comparisons were also drawn between similar male and female cohorts.

Growth in female new court commitments to DOCS from January 1, 1988 through December 31, 1991, far exceeded the growth in total new court commitments (123% versus 39%). The influx of large numbers of female drug offenders was identified as the driving factor behind this growth. For example, across all commitment years, admissions for drug offenses accounted for 68% of female new court commitments, but only 42% of male new court commitments.

While commitments for drug offenses increased, the proportion of the female offender population admitted for violent and coercive offenses declined. In 1988, 30% of women were committed for violent or coercive offenses, by 1991, only 18% were.

The domination of female drug offenders was also evident in the undercustody cohort. Sixty-four percent of the females undercustody on December 31, 1991 were admitted for drug offenses. In contrast, drug offenders accounted for 32% of the male undercustody population.

In examining the amount of time served before first release to parole, it was noted that regardless of crime category, men served longer terms of incarceration than did women. For example, in 1991, males served an average of 30.0 months across all offense categories, while females served an average of 22.6 months. The greater concentration of drug offenders in the female release cohort explains much of the discrepancy in the overall average time served figures between men and women.