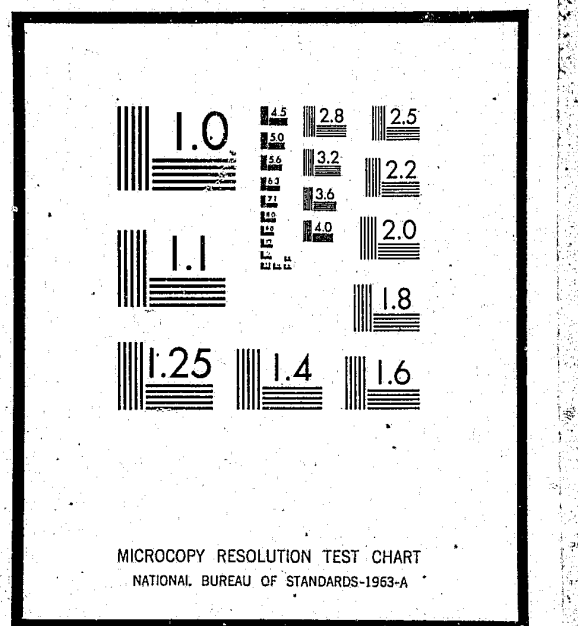


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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

Date filmed 2/24/76

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA PAROLE AND PROBATION COMMISSION

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A STATISTICAL STUDY —
AN OFFENDER PROFILE - DRUGS

DIVISION OF PLANNING AND EVALUATION
SUNIL B. NATH, DIRECTOR
MAY, 1975

A STATISTICAL STUDY:
AN OFFENDER PROFILE - DRUGS
(In partial fulfillment of LEAA Grant 73-08-10)

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DRUGS

Man's relationship with drugs has been a long one, extending beyond recorded history. Drugs have been used for religious, medicinal, hedonistic, and social purposes. Cultural and legal attitudes toward drugs vary from one society to another. For example, a drug, such as alcohol, may be highly exalted in one society (e.g., France) and simultaneously prohibited in another (e.g., Kuwait), or, another drug, such as cannabis, may be widely used by one sector of a community and severely frowned upon by another part of it. A community's attitude toward a drug may in time reverse itself, for example, opiates were legally accepted in the United States prior to World War I, but after that time opiates were legally prohibited, except under strict regulation. The present drug problem in the United States and other countries, although more complex than previously, is not a new phenomenon.

The increased complexity of the drug problem is related to the tremendous pharmacological advances over the last thirty years. Today, there are drugs that cover the whole spectrum of human behavior: besides the "contraceptive pill," there are others which are used to sedate, excite, slim, fatten, awaken, cause sleep, cure, or even cause illness. On one hand, some drugs can enhance our ability to function more effectively, but on the other hand, there are drugs which can carry our minds out of the realm of reality into psychological abysses of loneliness, despair, and hopelessness.

Drug is defined as:

"The general name of substances used in medicine; and substance, vegetable, animal, or mineral, used in the composition or preparation of medicines; and substance used as a medicine"¹

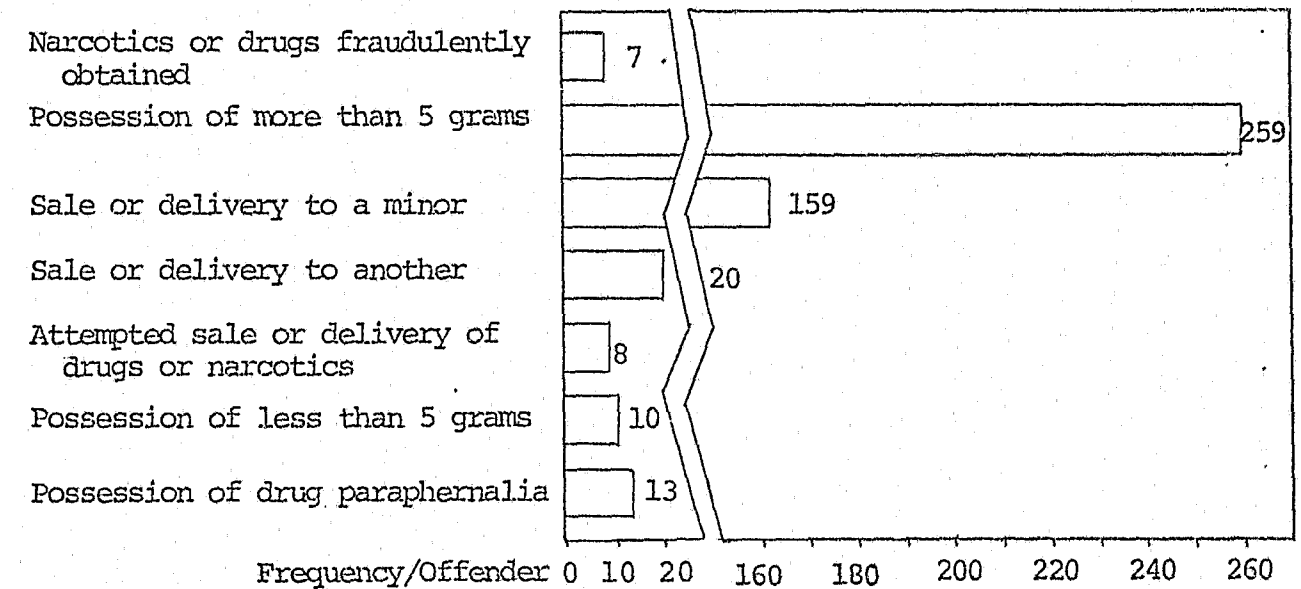
This definition emphasizes the use of drugs for medicinal purposes. In the context of drug abuse; however, a specific type of drug usage comes to mind. Drug misuse is generally not for medicinal purposes (although a drug abuser may have initially used a drug for a medicinal purpose). Those drugs which are most related to the crime problem in Western society may be divided into six categories: (1) ethyl alcohol; (2) cannabis; (3) opiates, synthetic opiates, and cocaine; (4) amphetamines; (5) hallucinogens; and (6) barbituates.

This study will be confined to the seven drug offenses (these laws do not directly include violation of alcohol law violations). The seven drug offenses are: (1) Narcotics or drugs fraudulently obtained; (2) possession of five or more grams of marijuana; (3) sale or delivery to a minor; (4) sale to another other than a minor; (5) attempted sale or delivery; (6) possession of less than five grams; and (7) possession of drug paraphernalia.

Of the seven drug offenses covered by the dangerous drug category, only two frequently occurred. (See Chart 1) From the 476 in the drug subpopulation, 259 offenses were for possession of more than five grams of narcotics or drugs, and 158 offenses were for sale or delivery of narcotics or drugs.

¹Blacks Law Dictionary, Henry Campbell Black, West Publishing Company, St. Paul, Minn., 1968, page 587.

These two offenses represent 54.4% and 33.2% of all drug offenses. The remaining five offenses comprise the other 12.4% (See Chart below for detailed breakdown).



METHODOLOGY

This study is one of six offense profiles on selected offenses from a data base of 3986 cases. The data base was developed from information recorded on each incoming inmate into Florida's prison system. The instrument used to collect these data was the Florida Parole and Probation Commission's Parole Information and Prediction Form. The period of time which this study encompasses is from October 1972 to October 1974. These data were later placed on computer tapes from which the following data were retrieved.

The selection of the offenses was based on the offenses with the highest number of cases.

From this data base of 3986, Drugs rank third with a subpopulation of 476 which represents 12.0% of the data base. The offense profiles consist of thirteen variables listed below:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Race by Sex | 8. Prior Prison Commitments |
| 2. Education | 9. Prior Juvenile Commitments |
| 3. Alcohol Use | 10. Escapes |
| 4. Drug Use | 11. Parole Violations |
| 5. Felony Convictions | 12. Paroles |
| 6. Misdemeanor Convictions | 13. Probations |
| 7. Previous Arrests | |

There is a chart for each of the above variables. Because of missing data on some of the variables there will be differences in the total number on some charts.

Average Drug Offender

Based on this subpopulation the average Drug offender has the following profile:

He is a white male (62% or 294) with some high school education (47% or 220); uses alcohol moderately (61% or 291) and the use of alcohol was not a factor in the instant drug offense; has experimented with narcotics or dangerous drug, but usage was not a factor in this instant offense (21.1% or 100); was arrested seven or more times (28% or 133); has no prior prison commitments (73% or 346); has no prior misdemeanor convictions (53% or 250); has no prior felony convictions (64% or 304); was not committed as a juvenile (82% or 384); has never escaped (97% or 462); has never been on probation (79% or 377) or parole (92% or 439); and has never violated parole (95% or 451).

Chart A
Drugs- Variable: Race by Sex

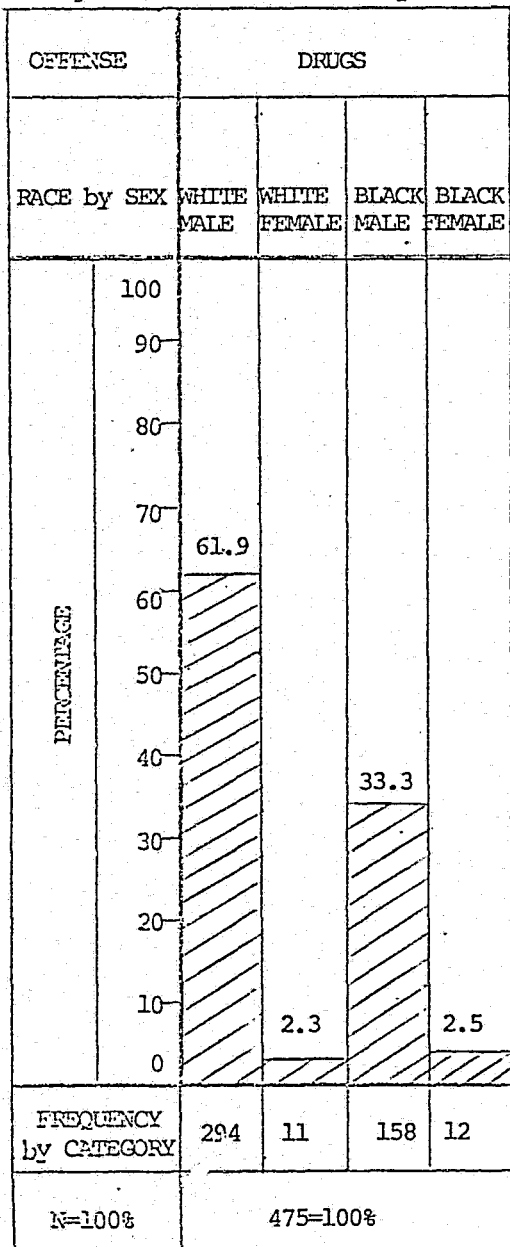


Chart B
Drugs- Variable: Education by Grades

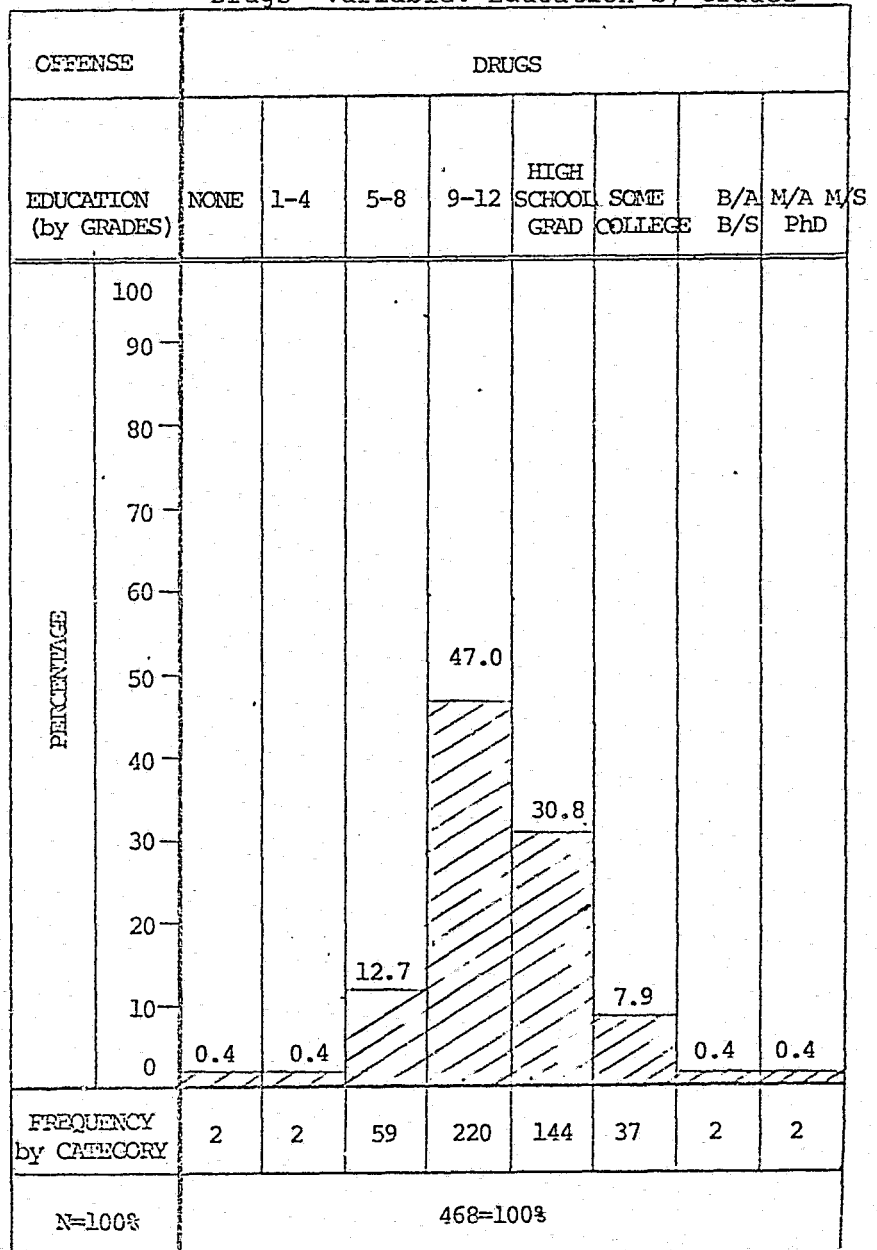


Chart C
Drugs- Variable: Alcohol Use

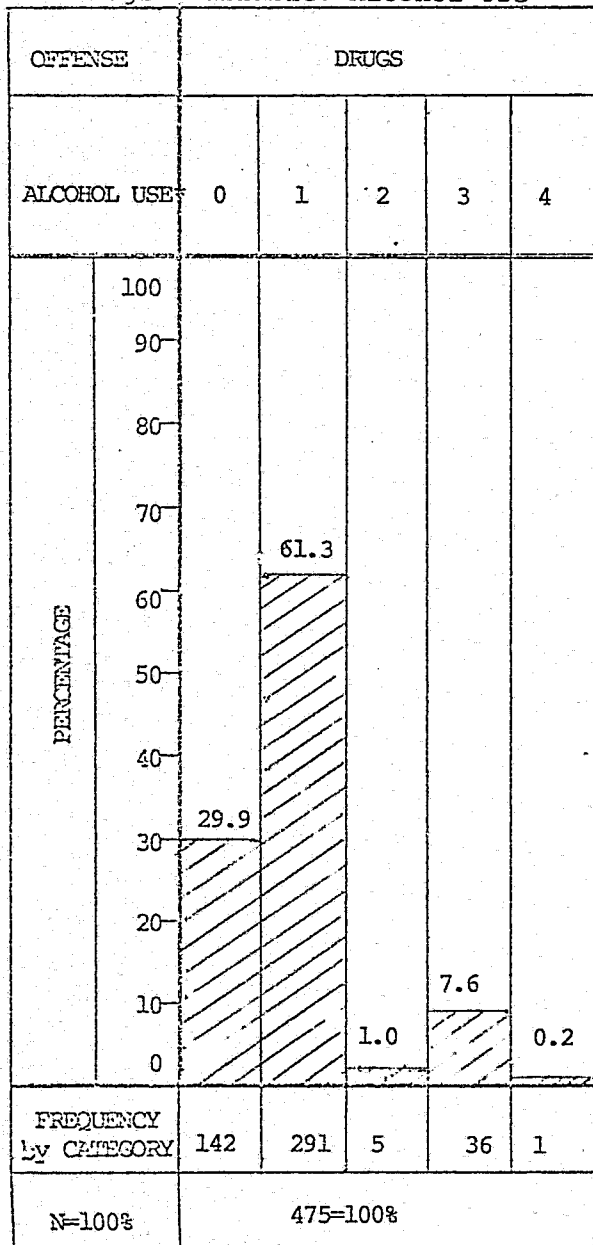
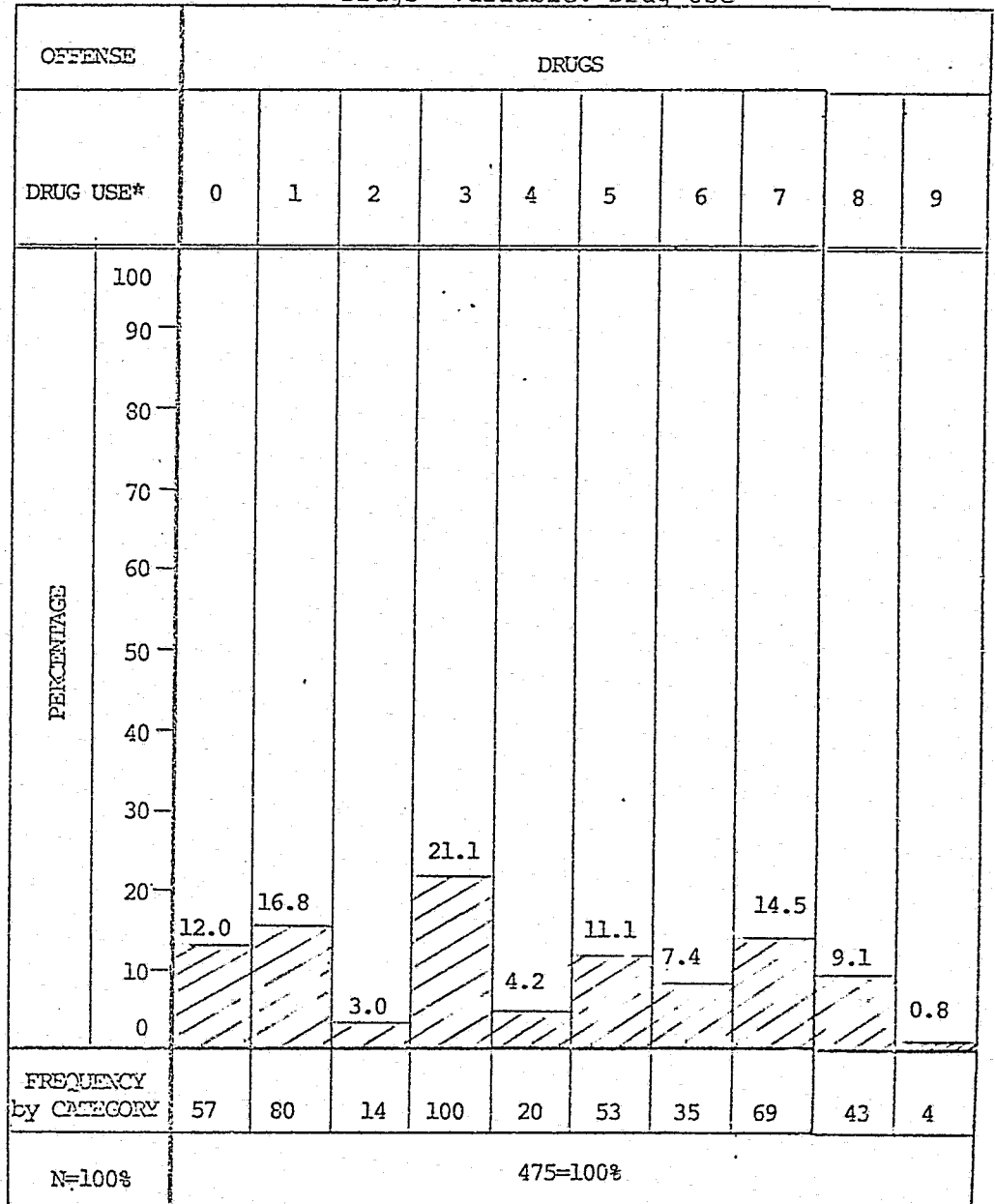


Chart D
Drugs- Variable: Drug Use



*See following page for list of codes

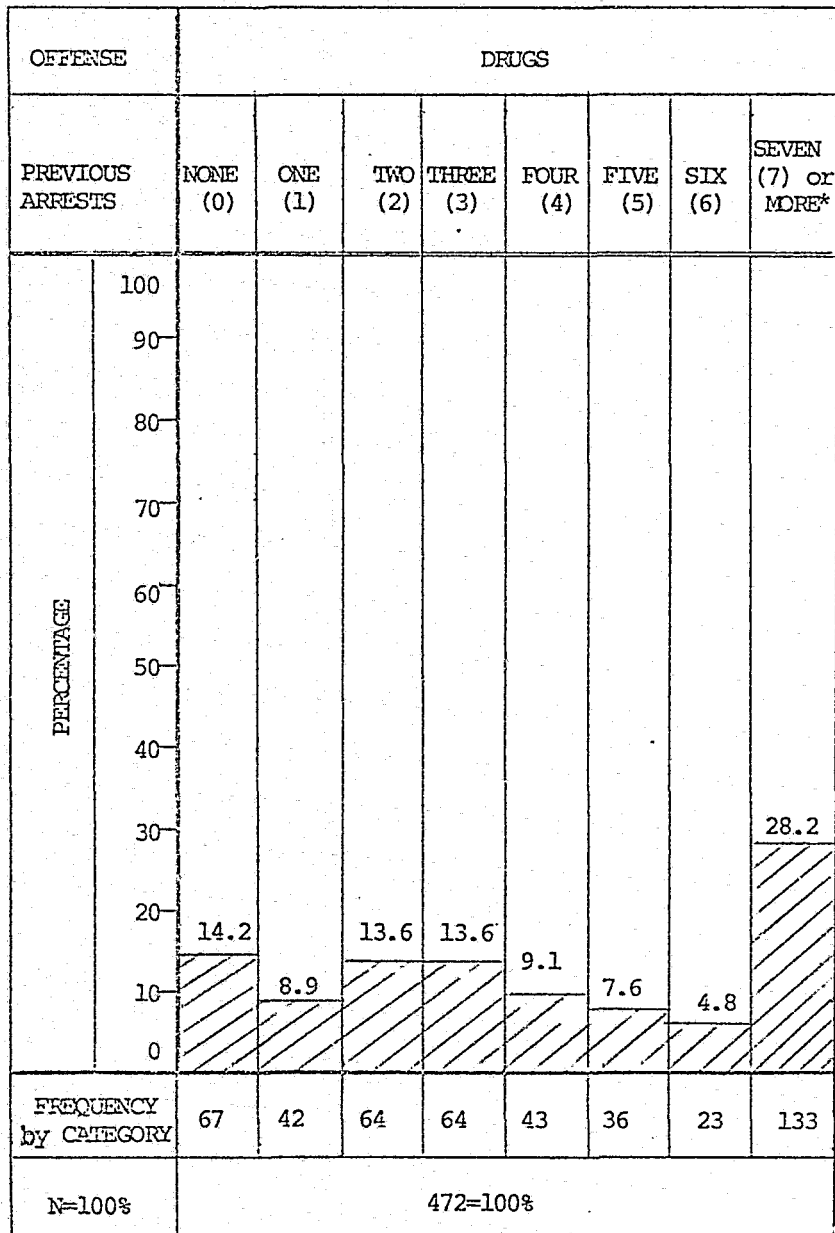
Code for ALCOHOL OFFENSES

- 0- No use
- 1- Moderate use and was not a factor in the instant offense
- 2- Moderate use and was a factor in the instant offense
- 3- Excessive use and was not a factor in the instant offense
- 4- Excessive use and was a factor in the instant offense

Code for DRUG OFFENSES

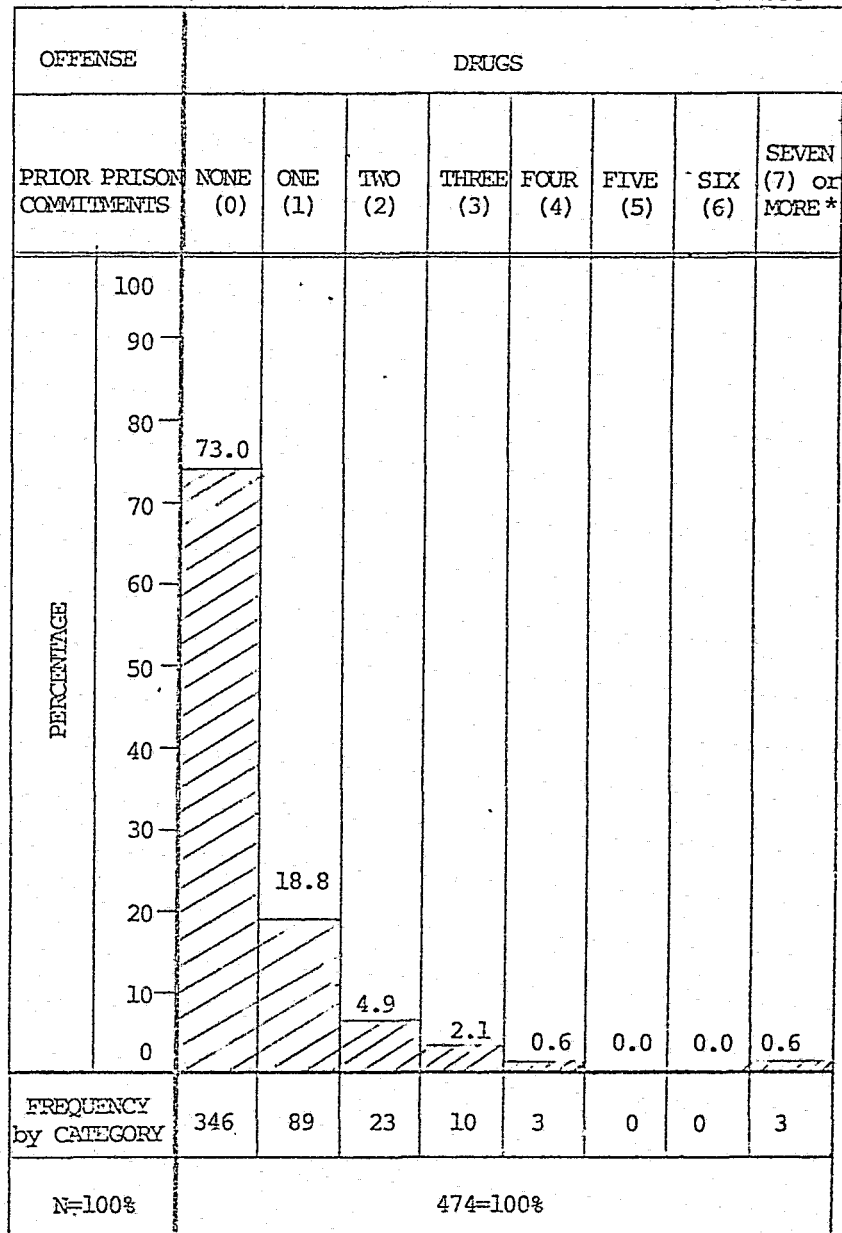
- 0- No use
- 1- Excessive use of marijuana or past convictions for sale or possession
- 2- Same as #1 and was a factor in the instant offense
- 3- Experimental use of any narcotic or dangerous drug
- 4- Same as #3 and was a factor in the instant offense
- 5- Frequent use of any dangerous drug or past conviction for sale or possession
- 6- Same as #5 and was a factor in the instant offense
- 7- Addiction to any narcotic or past conviction for sale or possession
- 8- Same as #7 and was a factor in the instant offense
- 9- Use of drugs unknown

Chart E
Drugs- Variable: Previous Arrests



*Range is 7-79

Chart F
Drugs- Variable: Prior Prison Commitments



*Range is 7-20

Chart G
Drugs- Variable: Felony Convictions

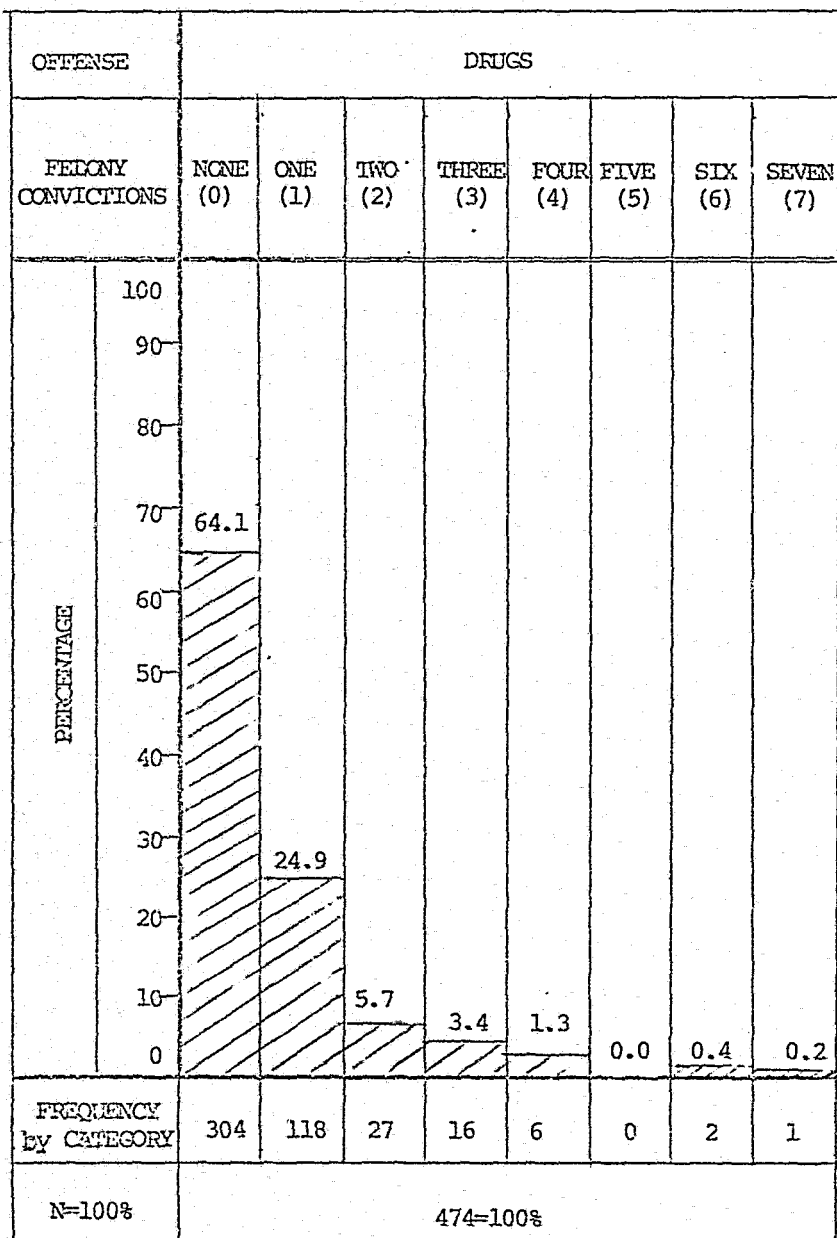
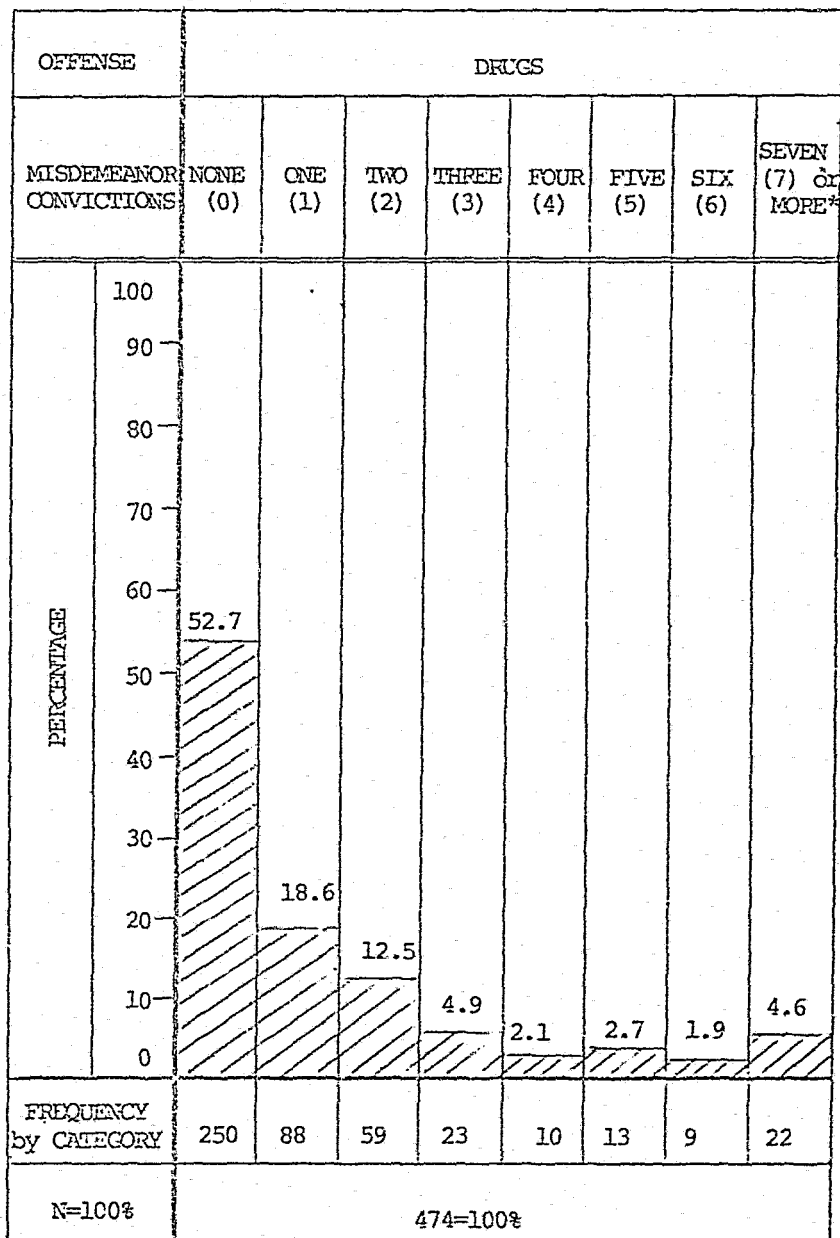
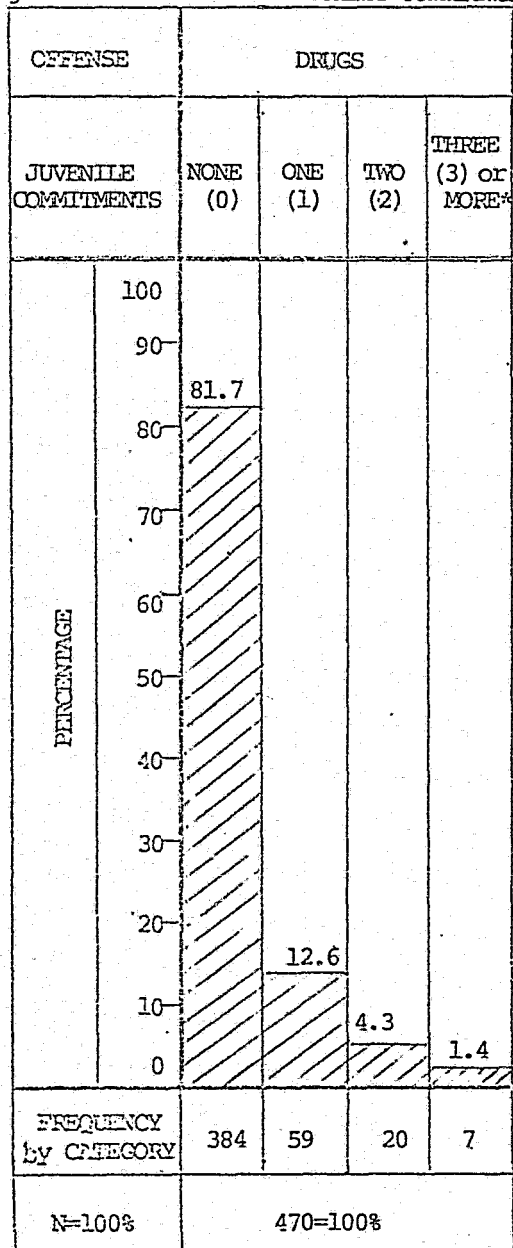


Chart H
Drugs- Variable: Misdemeanor Convictions



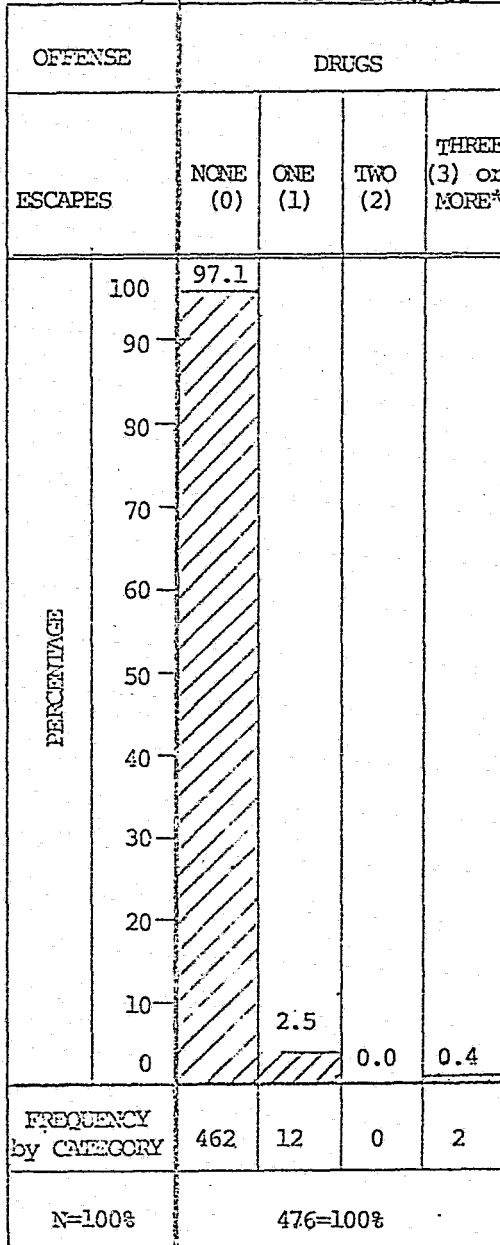
*Range is 7-19

Chart I
Drugs- Variable: Total Juvenile Commitments



*Range is 3-6

Chart J
Drugs- Variable: Escapes



*Range is 3-5

Chart K
Drugs- Variable: Parole Violations

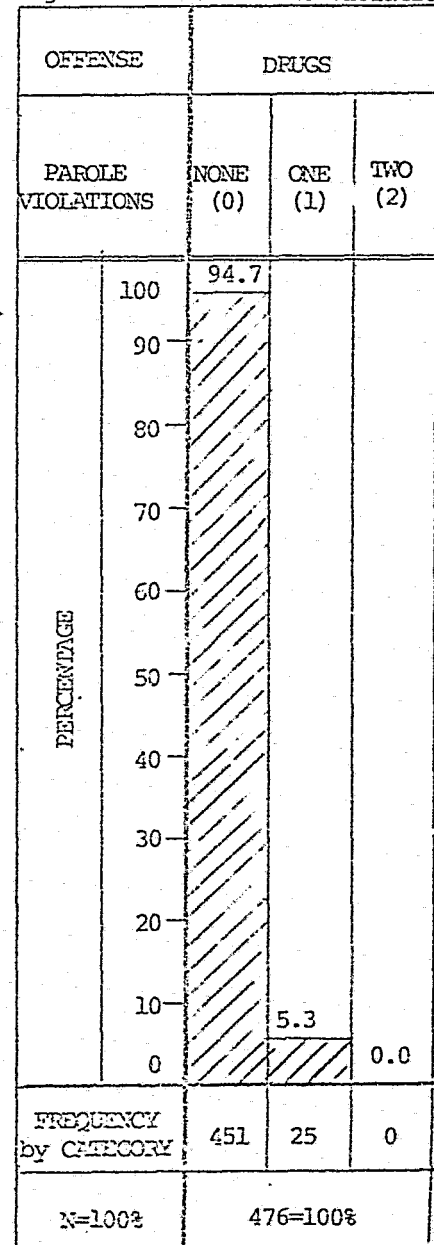
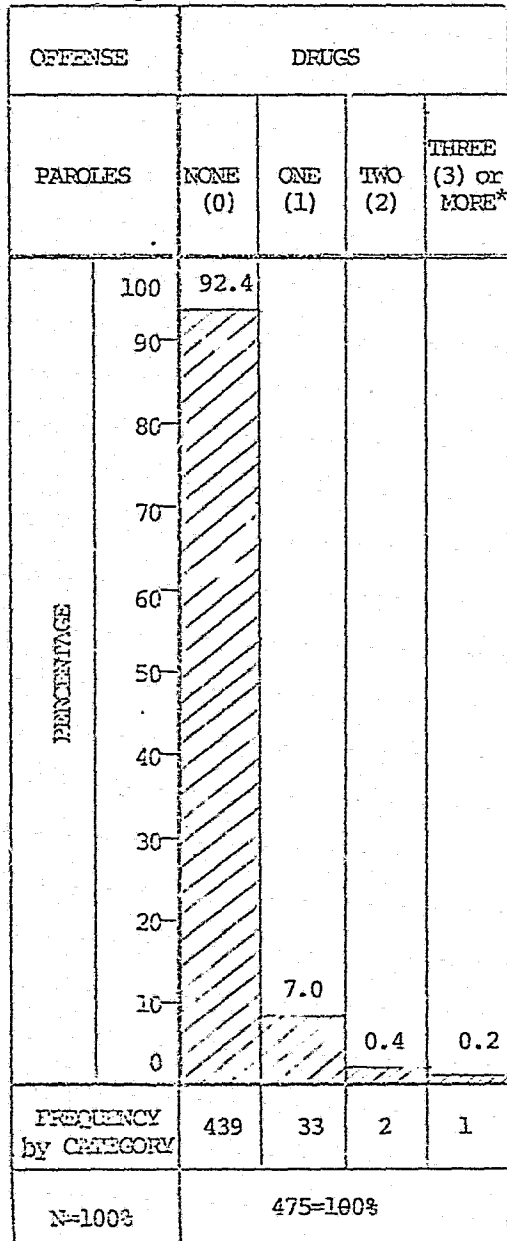
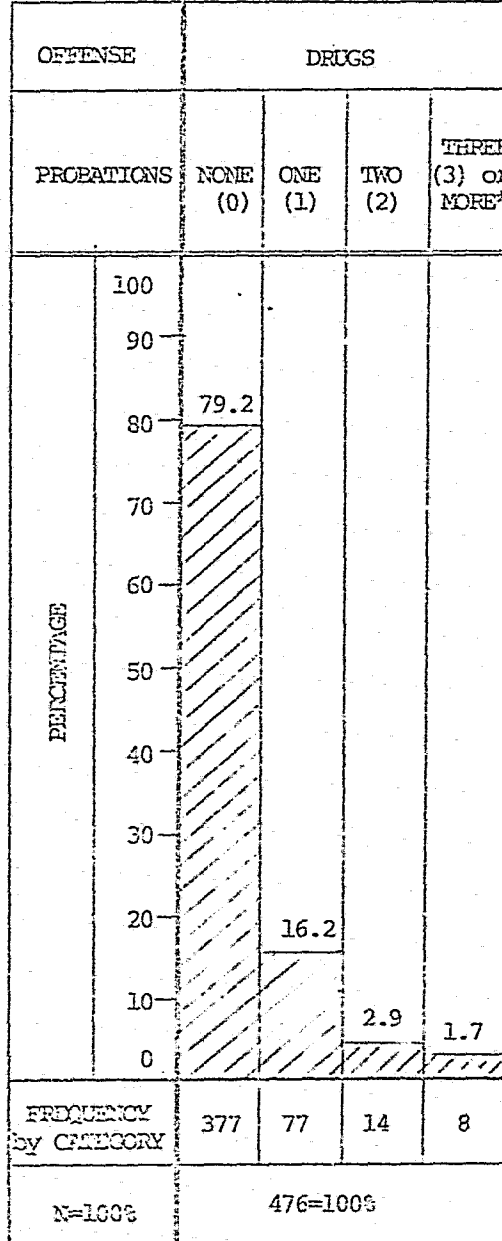


Chart L
Drugs- Variable: Paroles



*Range is 3-7

Chart M
Drugs- Variable: Probations



*Range is 3-4

END