

NATIONAL PRISON AND PROBATION ADMINISTRATION
Research and Development Unit

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RECIDIVISM AMONG THOSE CONDITIONALLY RELEASED FROM PRISON DURING 1973

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ACQUISITIONS

RECIDIVISM AMONG THOSE CONDITIONALLY
RELEASED FROM PRISON DURING 1973

This report was prepared by
Lars Krantz, Lars Bagge and Norman Bishop

CONTENTS	Page
FOREWORD	
The Population	I
The Sample	I
Definitions and Concepts	II
Summary	III
1 INCIDENCE OF RECIDIVISM - GENERAL DESCRIPTION	1
1.2 Percentage Recidivism by Months	1
1.3 Percentage Monthly Redidivism by Age	3
1.4 Risk of Recidivism	5
1.5 Probability of Non-Recidivism	7
1.6 Time to Recidivism	9
2 ANALYSES OF RECIDIVISM IN RELATION TO DIFFERENT VARIABLES	11
2.1 Recidivism/Age	11
2.2 Recidivism/Age First Recorded in Police Register	11
2.3 Recidivism and Earlier Prison Experience	13
2.4 Recidivism/Nature of Offence	17
2.5 Variation in Nature of Offence	18
2.6 Recidivism/Time Served	19
2.7 Recidivism/Form of Parole	20
2.8 Recidivism/Home Address	23
2.9 Recidivist Sanction/Times to Recidivist Offence and to Sentence	25
2.10 Analysis of Sanctions by Nature of Recidivist Offence	28
2.11 Percentage Recidivism in Relation to Earlier Prison Experience, and Analysis of Nature of Original Offence in Recidivist Group	28
2.12 Prediction Possibilities	30
APPENDIX OF TABLES	
Cumulative Quarterly Percentage Recidivism in Recidivist Group	32
Cumulative Percentage Recidivism in Recidivist Group	33
Age When First Recorded in Police Register	34
Total Time Served Before Original Sentence (in Months)	35
Number of Earlier Institutional Sentences to Specified Terms	36
Number of Earlier Institutional Sentences to Unspecified Terms	37
Number of Earlier Non-Institutional Sentences	38
Time to Recidivism by Age, With and Without Earlier Prison Experience	39
Principal Original Offence	40
Original Term of Sentence (Months)	41
Time Served of Original Term of Sentence (Months)	42

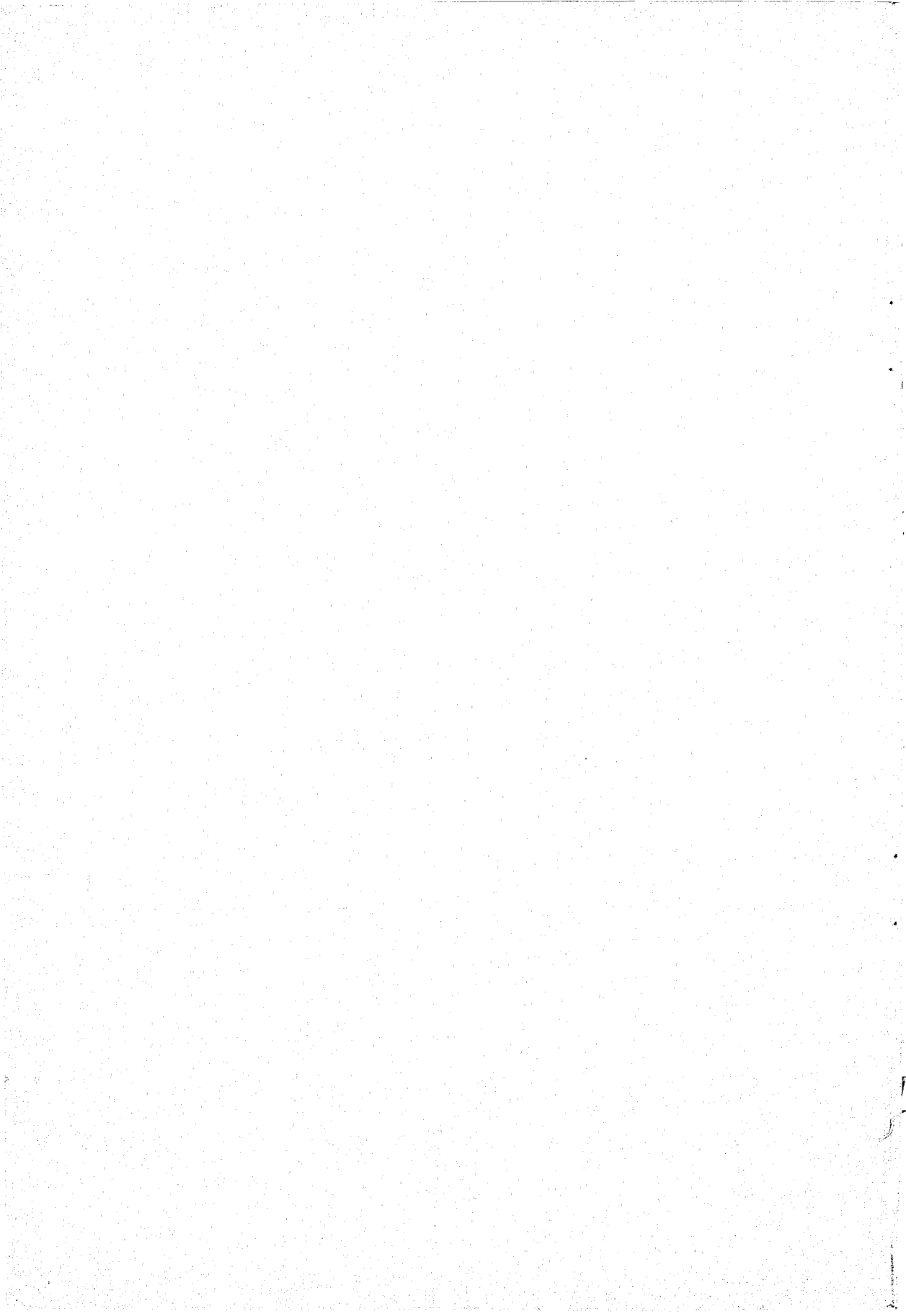
	Page
Recidivism in Relation to Term of Sentence, Earlier Prison Experience, and Nature of Offence	43
Recidivism in Relation to Age, Earlier Prison Experience and Nature of Original Offence	44
Time of Conditional Release	45
Geographical Division into Postcode Districts	46
Geographical Mobility	47
Home Address at Original Admission	48
Home Address at Original Release	49
Principal Recidivist Offence	50
Time to Recidivist Sentence (Months from Date of Release)	51
Recidivist Sanction	52
Term of Recidivist Sentence (Institutional Sanctions)	53

FOREWORD

In October 1975 the Council of Europe announced that a conference of the Directors of the European Prison Administrations had decided to study the incidence of recidivism following imprisonment in the member nations of the Council. The Swedish National Prison and Probation Administration's Research and Development Unit has been instructed to carry out a study in conformity with the guidelines prepared by the Council of Europe. The present report has been translated into English and submitted to the Council of Europe. The survey of recidivism that it embodies is also of interest within Sweden. The study is part of the Administration's project on evaluation of certain aspects of current prison and probation reform. A further objective of the study was to set up a model which would enable the Administration routinely to gain rapid information on recidivism following release from prison.

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The Population

From the central register of the Prison and Probation Administration we extracted all persons who were conditionally released from prison in the first half of 1973. These particulars were supplemented with information from the central police register to enable us to follow up the cases and investigate the occurrence of recidivism. It should be noted that persons sentenced to terms of less than four months are excluded from this study because they are not eligible for conditional release, and that persons sentenced to youth prison and to internment have been omitted.

The Sample

To facilitate the analyses, a random sample was extracted comprising 25 percent, or 429, of the original population of 1716 persons.

Definitions and Concepts

The sample: The sample investigated (N) consisted of 429 persons. The total in some of the calculations falls short of 429 persons because it was necessary to omit individuals in cases where data on some variable were not available.

Follow-up period: 2½ years from the date of conditional release.

Age: Age is calculated by subtracting the year of birth from 1973, ignoring month and date of birth.

Original sentence: The sentence resulting in the term of imprisonment that the persons in the sample were serving until conditionally released.

Original term (of sentence): The term of imprisonment specified in the original sentence.

Time served: The time actually served in prison until conditional release.

Principal offence: The offence carrying the severest penalty under the penal code.

Earlier prison sentence: Prison sentence prior to the original sentence as defined above.

Earlier prison experience: Total number of earlier prison sentences for specified or unspecified terms.

Time to recidivism: Time from conditional release to commission of recidivist offence (see Recidivism below).

Time to sentence: Time from conditional release to new sentence.

Recidivism: We define recidivism as the commission of an offence (the recidivist offence) which resulted in a penalty more severe than a fine, i.e. imprisonment, conditional sentence, probation, youth prison, preventive detention, commitment to closed or open psychiatric care, or commitment to care under the Temperance Act. We ignore offences punishable only by fines in order to avoid including minor crime, such as petty traffic offences, in our criterion. The first recidivist offence only is considered in this study.

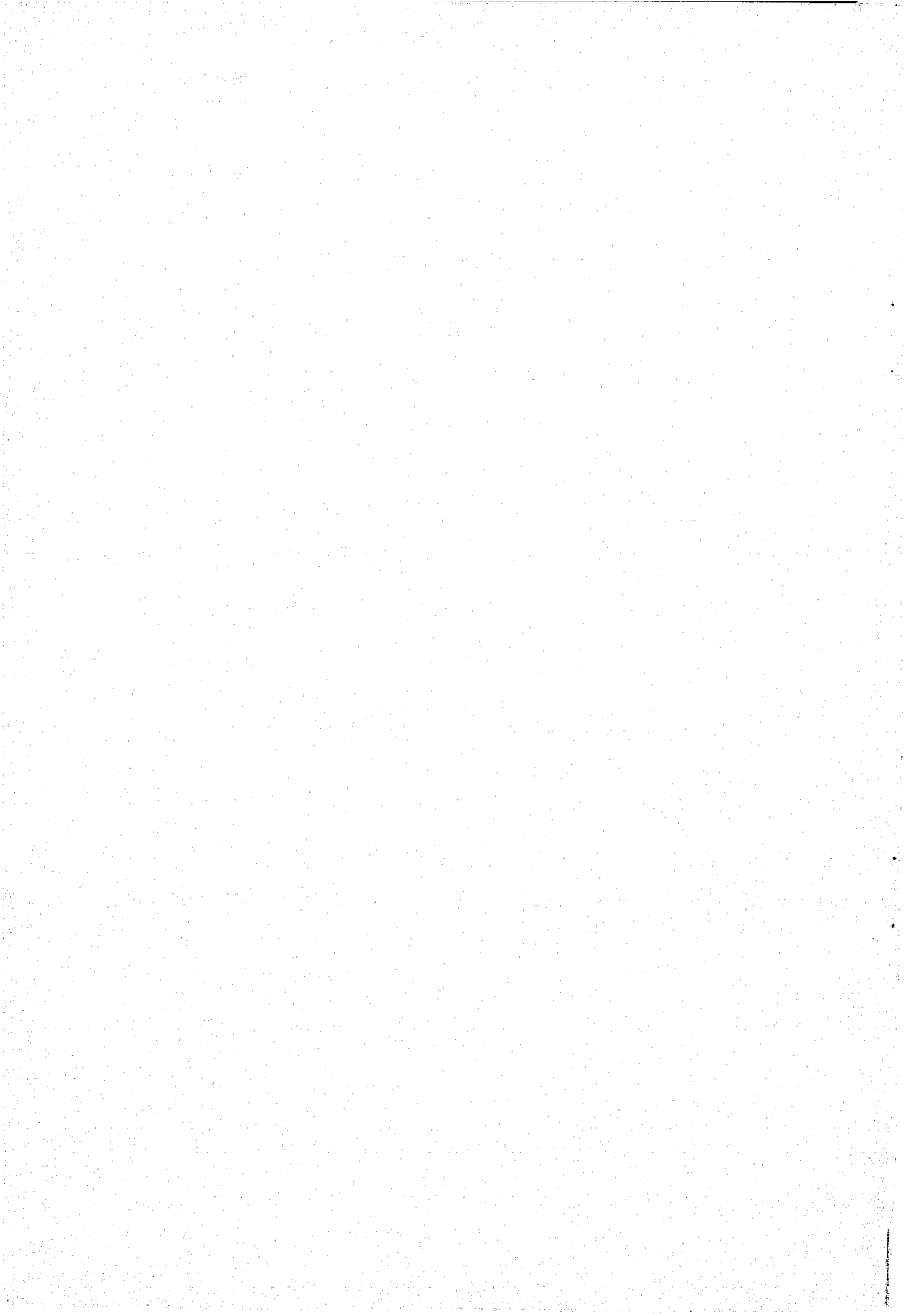
N.B.: For the sake of brevity, the word "parole" is used in this translation as a synonym of "conditional release", and "parolee" as a synonym of "person conditionally released", despite the slight differences of implication between the expressions.

Summary

Page

The sections of the Report give a general picture of the incidence etc. of recidivism, which can be summed up in the following conclusions:

About two-thirds of the sample committed new offences in the course of the 30-month follow-up period.	1
The recidivism rate is highest, around 71 percent, among persons up to 30 years. Among the remainder it is about 56 percent.	3
The risk of recidivism is highest in the first five months after parole.	5
The parolee has a 69 percent chance of keeping out of trouble in the first quarter-year. Within a year, his chances rise to over 90 percent per quarter.	7
Fifty percent of the recidivist group have recidivated after about 3 months, and 75 percent after about 9 months.	9
There is a relation between being recorded in the police register at an early age and a higher rate of recidivism following a later prison sentence.	11
Recidivism is higher (about 75 percent) among the group having earlier prison experience than among the group without earlier prison experience (about 46 percent).	13
The population with earlier prison experience shows a higher incidence of recidivism in all age-groups than the population without earlier prison experience.	14
Persons whose principal offence was a crime of violence showed lower recidivism (53 percent) than persons whose principal offence was a crime against property (70 percent).	17
Repetition of the same type of offence was more frequent (47 percent) among the group sentenced for crimes against property than among those sentenced for crimes of violence (16 percent).	18
The length of the term of sentence is not associated with any significant difference in the incidence of recidivism.	19
Recidivism was lower among early parolees (36 percent) than among regular parolees (69 percent).	20
No significant differences in the incidence of recidivism were observed when localities with different populations were compared.	23
The probability of a recidivist receiving a non-institutional sanction increases with the length of time that passes from parole to recidivism, and from parole to new sentence.	25
About 70 percent of recidivists received new prison sentences.	28
Six groups running different risks of recidivism can be extracted from the data presented in the study. The risk of recidivism is greatest for the group under 25 years with previous prison experience, and least for the group over 30 years without earlier prison experience.	30



INCIDENCE OF RECIDIVISM - GENERAL DESCRIPTION

As stated under the heading The Sample, this study is based on a sample of 25 percent of all persons conditionally released in the first half of 1973. If the absolute figures (N) on the tables are used, they must be multiplied by 4 to obtain the size of the original population. The follow-up time in all cases was 2½ years from the date of parole.

Percentage Recidivism by Months

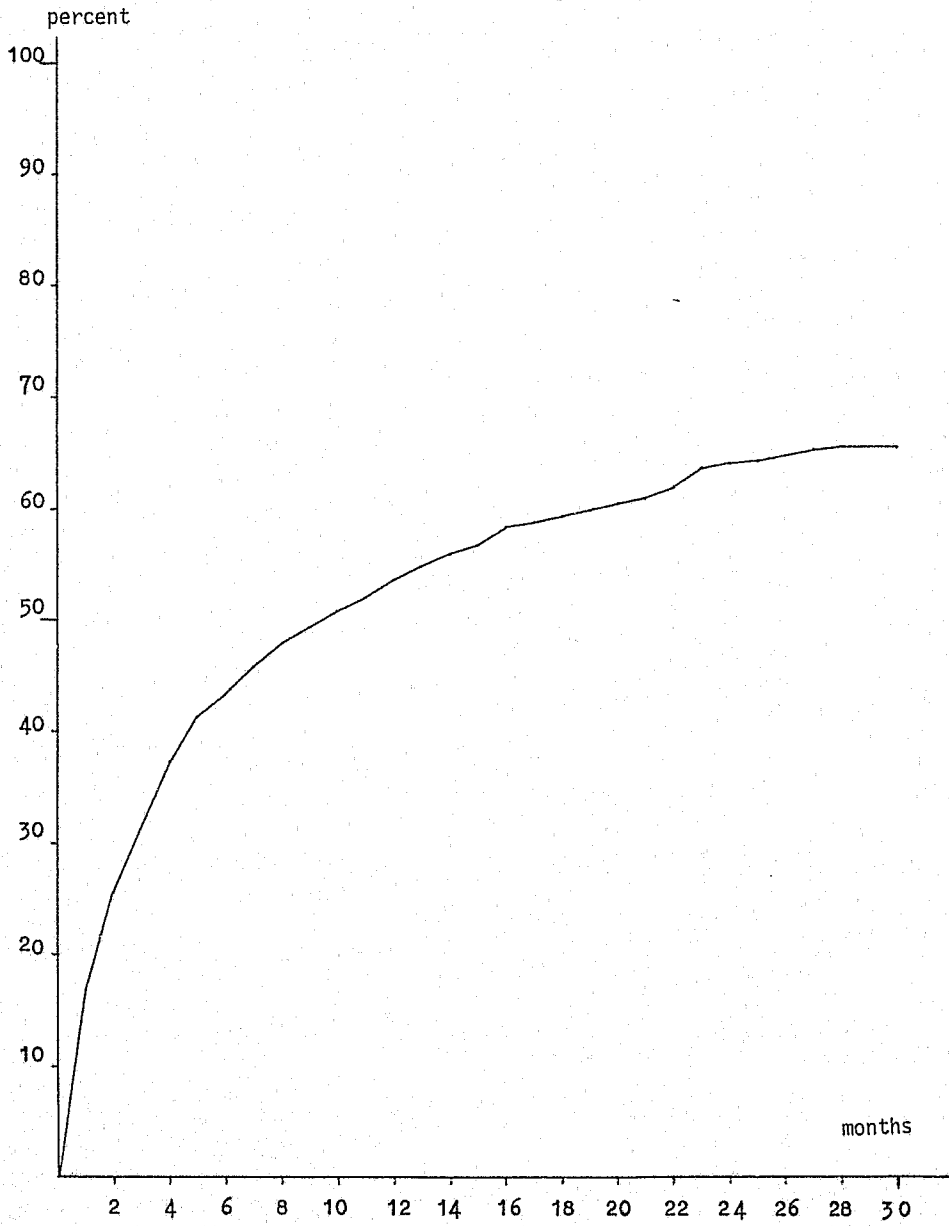
As appears from Table 1, 66 percent of the sample (281 out of 429) have recidivated* by the end of the follow-up period. Fig. 1 shows the cumulative percentage recidivism for months 1 to 30. The curve rises steeply until about the fifth month after parole, and then gradually flattens out. Half the sample have recidivated after 10 months, while only 15 percent more recidivate in the course of the remaining 20 months.

Table 1 Cumulative Monthly Recidivism

Month	n	%	Month	n	%	Month	n	%
1	72	16.8	11	223	52.0	21	261	60.8
2	110	25.6	12	230	53.6	22	265	61.8
3	135	31.5	13	235	54.8	23	273	63.6
4	160	37.3	14	240	55.9	24	274	63.9
5	177	41.3	15	243	56.6	25	275	64.1
6	186	43.4	16	250	58.3	26	277	64.6
7	196	45.7	17	252	58.7	27	280	65.3
8	205	47.8	18	254	59.2	28	281	65.5
9	212	49.4	19	257	59.9	29	281	65.5
10	218	50.8	20	259	60.4	30	281	65.5

* See definition, p. II.

Figure 1 Cumulative Monthly Recidivism



Percentage Monthly Recidivism, by Age

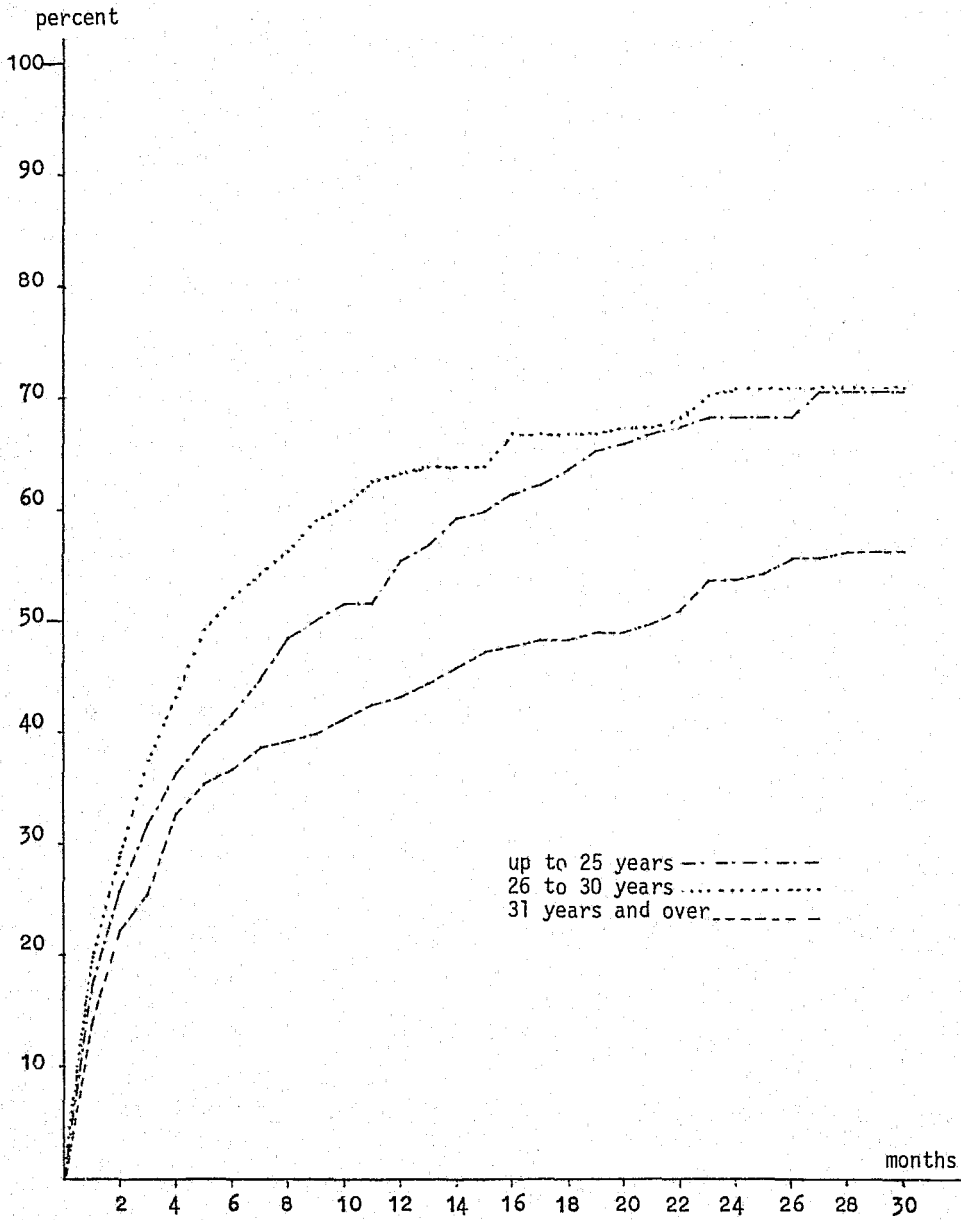
It can be seen from Table 2 and Fig. 2 that the rate of recidivism is higher (about 71 percent) among the two age-groups up to 30 years than among the age-group over 30 years (56 percent). The time to recidivism also varies. The intermediate age-group, 26 to 30 years, reaches 50 percent recidivism by the end of six months, the lowest age-group by the end of nine months, and the age-group over 30 years only after 22 months.

For most purposes of the present study, the sample was divided into three age-groups: up to 25 years, 26 to 30 years, and 31 years and over. It might be of interest to investigate the youngest delinquent age-group, perhaps drawing a line around 20 years. However, this group constitutes so small a fraction of the sample that significance calculations would be extremely uncertain, and it has therefore been included in the age-group up to 25 years.

Table 2 Cumulative Percentage Monthly Recidivism by Age

Month	Up to 25 years		26 to 30 years		31 years and over	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
1	23	17.4	28	19.4	21	13.7
2	34	25.8	42	29.2	34	22.2
3	42	31.8	54	37.5	39	25.5
4	48	36.4	62	43.1	50	32.7
5	52	39.4	71	49.3	54	35.3
6	55	41.7	75	52.1	56	36.6
7	59	44.7	78	54.2	59	38.6
8	64	48.5	81	56.3	60	39.2
9	66	50.0	85	59.0	61	39.9
10	68	51.5	87	60.4	63	41.1
11	68	51.5	90	62.5	65	42.5
12	73	55.3	91	63.2	66	43.1
13	75	56.8	92	63.9	68	44.4
14	78	59.1	92	63.9	70	45.8
15	79	59.8	92	63.9	72	47.1
16	81	61.4	96	66.7	73	47.7
17	82	62.1	96	66.7	74	48.4
18	84	63.6	96	66.7	74	48.4
19	86	65.2	96	66.7	75	49.0
20	87	65.9	97	67.4	75	49.0
21	88	66.7	97	67.4	76	49.7
22	89	67.4	98	68.1	78	51.0
23	90	68.2	101	70.1	82	53.6
24	90	68.2	102	70.8	82	53.6
25	90	68.2	102	70.8	83	54.2
26	90	68.2	102	70.8	85	55.6
27	93	70.5	102	70.8	85	55.6
28	93	70.5	102	70.8	86	56.2
29	93	70.5	102	70.8	86	56.2
30	93	70.5	102	70.8	86	56.2
<u>n = 132</u>			<u>n = 144</u>		<u>n = 153</u>	

Figure 2 Cumulative Percentage Monthly Recidivism by Age



Risk of Recidivism

The frequency of recidivism can be expressed in a number of different ways. The method illustrated in this section states the probability that a parolee will recidivate in a given period of time (one month in the first table). In other words, this method answers the question what percentage of the persons at risk do in fact recidivate. Those who already have recidivated by the beginning of a new period are therefore subtracted, and the probability of recidivism calculated for the remainder. As already stated, only the first new offence is considered in this study.

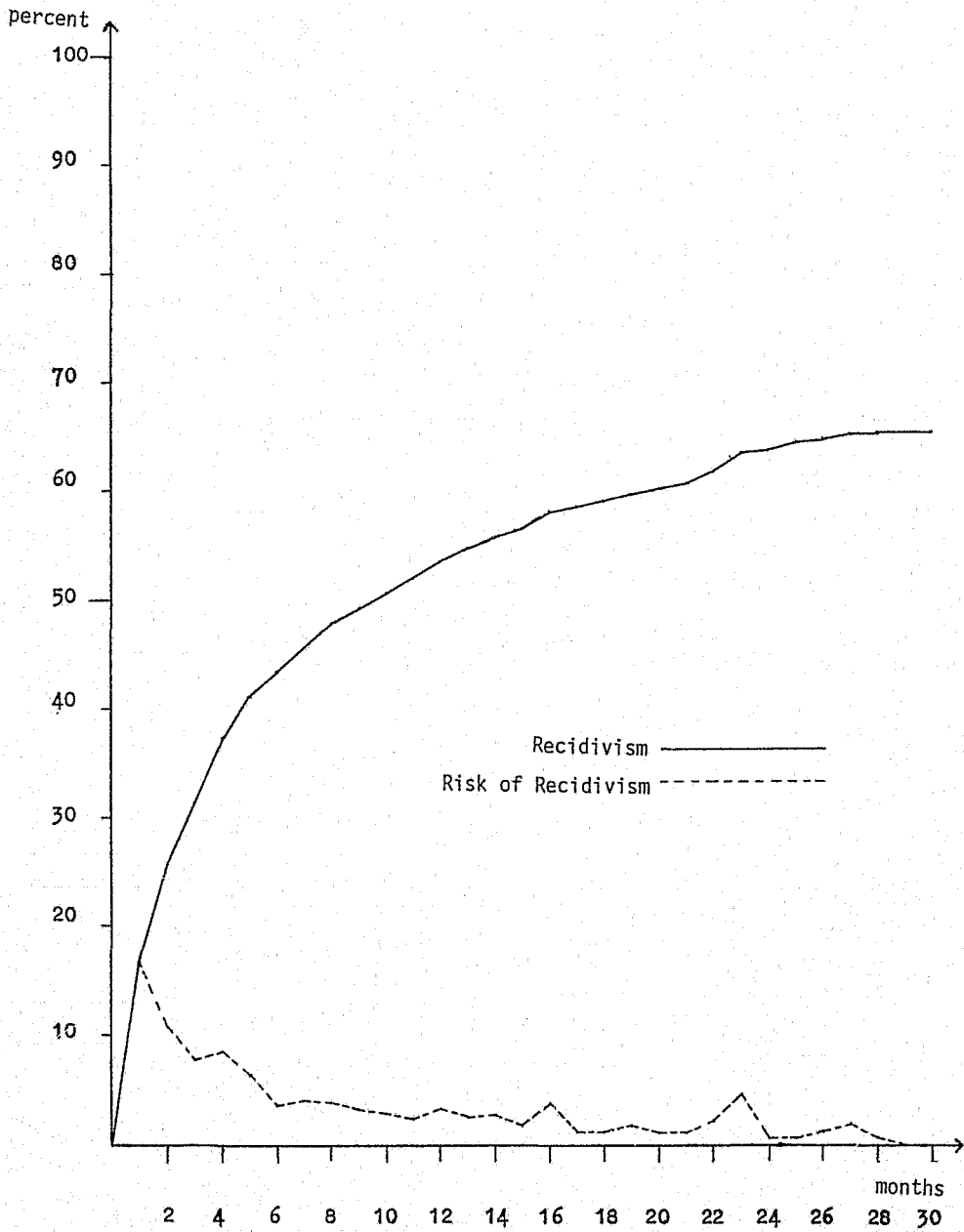
Table 3 shows the probability of recidivism expressed as a monthly percentage. We can deduce that the risk of recidivism is greatest in the first five months after release; it then falls to a fairly constant value, and decreases further towards the end of the follow-up period. The maximum risk, 16.8 percent, exists in the first month. The fluctuations that can be observed towards the end of the follow-up period can mostly be accounted for by the fact that the population is decreasing with time, and therefore the percentage can be affected by a small number of recidivists.

Table 3 Monthly Percentage Risk of Recidivism (N = 429)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Percentage Risk</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Percentage Risk</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Percentage Risk</u>
1	16.8	11	2.4	21	1.2
2	10.6	12	3.4	22	2.4
3	7.8	13	2.5	23	4.9
4	8.5	14	2.6	24	0.6
5	6.3	15	1.6	25	0.6
6	3.6	16	3.8	26	1.3
7	4.1	17	1.1	27	2.0
8	3.9	18	1.1	28	0.7
9	3.1	19	1.7	29	0.0
10	2.8	20	1.2	30	0.0

Figure 3 shows cumulative monthly recidivism as a rising curve. On the same graph we have shown the probability of recidivism. The curves show that while the cumulative percentage recidivism naturally rises, i.e. the absolute number of recidivists increases throughout the follow-up period, still the probability of recidivism in any month after the first five months is comparatively low and constant.

Figure 3 Recidivism and Risk of Recidivism



Probability of Non-Recidivism

A converse way of expressing recidivism is to measure the probability of the parolee "keeping out of trouble". The calculations reported below were carried out by the same method as the monthly risk of recidivism in the preceding section.

The probability of non-recidivism was calculated for the total sample and for the separate age-groups. Table 4 and Fig. 4 show that the probability of any parolee in the sample keeping out of trouble for the first quarter is 68.5 percent. In the fourth quarter, the "survivors" have a 90 percent chance, which never drops below that level subsequently. There are some differences between the age-groups. The 26 to 30 year old group have the lowest chance of "survival" in the first two quarters (62.5 percent and 76.7 percent respectively). The oldest group have the highest non-recidivism chances quite consistently. The variations towards the end of the follow-up period can be explained in the same way as in the section "Risk of Recidivism".

Figure 4 Quarterly Probability of Non-Recidivism by Age
percent

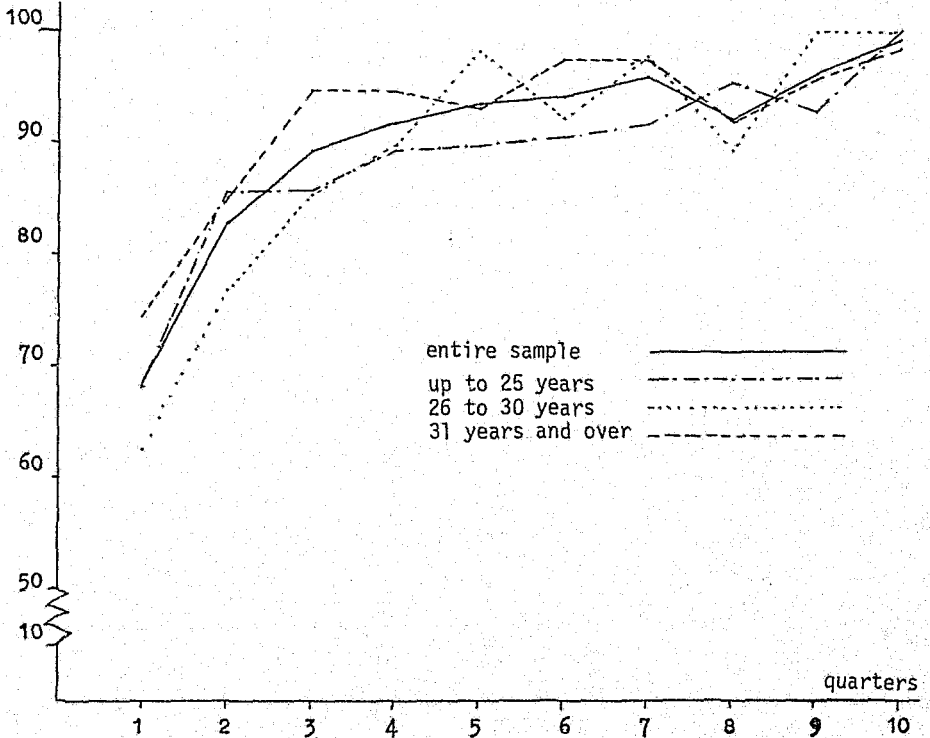


Table 4 Quarterly Probability of Non-Recidivism, by Age-Groups

	<u>Months</u>	<u>Number of Recidivists</u>	<u>Remaining Population at Beginning of Period</u>	<u>Percentage Probability of Surviving New Quarter</u>
Whole sample	1- 3	135	429	68.5
	4- 6	51	294	82.7
	7- 9	26	243	89.3
	10-12	18	217	91.7
	13-15	13	199	93.5
	16-18	11	186	94.1
	19-21	7	175	96.0
	22-24	13	168	92.3
	25-27	6	155	96.1
	28-30	1	149	99.3
Up to 25 years	1- 3	42	132	68.2
	4- 6	13	90	85.6
	7- 9	11	77	85.7
	10-12	7	66	89.4
	13-15	6	59	89.8
	16-18	5	53	90.6
	19-21	4	48	91.7
	22-24	2	44	95.5
	25-27	3	42	92.9
	28-30	0	39	100.0
26 to 30 years	1- 3	54	144	62.5
	4- 6	21	90	76.7
	7- 9	10	69	85.5
	10-12	6	59	89.8
	13-15	1	53	98.1
	16-18	4	52	92.3
	19-21	1	48	97.9
	22-24	5	47	89.4
	25-27	0	42	100.0
	28-30	0	42	100.0
31 years and over	1- 3	39	153	74.5
	4- 6	17	114	85.1
	7- 9	5	97	94.8
	10-12	5	92	94.6
	13-15	6	87	93.1
	16-18	2	81	97.5
	19-21	2	79	97.5
	22-24	6	77	92.2
	25-27	3	71	95.8
	28-30	1	68	98.5

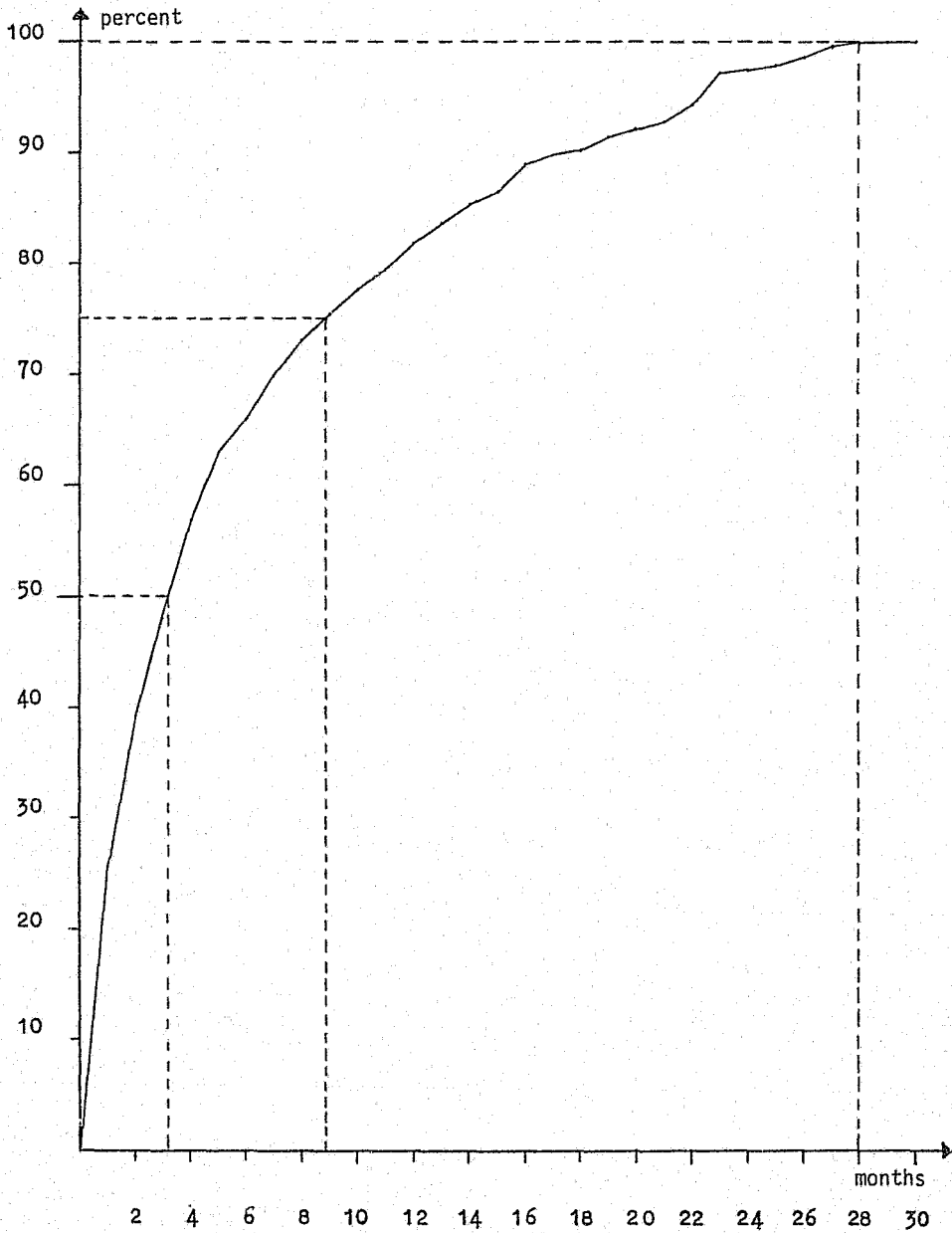
Time to Recidivism

Fig. 5 and Table 5 answer the question how soon the recidivist group recidivate. The graph shows that 50 percent have recidivated just after three months from release. At about nine months, 75 percent have committed new offences. These figures are further confirmation that the incidence of recidivism is highest in the period just after release, as was shown in the section "Risk of Recidivism". A similar analysis was made for the three age-groups separately, with the time divided into three-month periods (Appendix, pp. 32-33). The curves are of generally similar shape. The age-group from 26 to 30 years displays consistently faster recidivism, however, with 50 percent recidivism by three months and 75 percent just after six months. The same tendency was evident in the section "Probability of Non-Recidivism", where this group had the least chance of surviving the first six months.

Table 5 Cumulative Percentage Recidivism Among Recidivist Group

<u>Month</u>	<u>Cumulative Percentage</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Cumulative Percentage</u>
1	25.6	16	89.0
2	39.1	17	89.7
3	48.0	18	90.4
4	56.9	19	91.5
5	63.0	20	92.2
6	66.2	21	92.9
7	69.8	22	94.3
8	73.0	23	97.2
9	75.4	24	97.5
10	77.6	25	97.9
11	79.4	26	98.6
12	81.9	27	99.7
13	83.6	28	100.0
14	85.4	29	100.0
15	86.5	30	100.0

Figure 5 Cumulative Percentage Recidivism Among Recidivist Group



ANALYSES OF RECIDIVISM IN RELATION TO DIFFERENT VARIABLES.

Recidivism/Age

Age appears to be a factor that is related to the incidence of recidivism. Tables 6 and 7 show analyses of absolute and percentage recidivism by age-group. The incidence of recidivism is about 71 percent for the age-groups up to 30 years, and drops to around 56 percent in the higher age-group. The chi-squared test shows significance at the 2 percent level.

Table 6 Analysis of Absolute Recidivism by Age-Group

	Up to 25 years	26 to 30 years	31 years and over	Total
Recidivists	93	102	86	281
Non-Recidivists	39	42	67	148
Total	132	144	153	429

$\chi^2 = 9.09$
 $df = 2$
 $P \geq 7.82$ at
 2% level

Table 7 Analysis of Percentage Recidivism by Age-Group

	Up to 25 years	26 to 30 years	31 years and over
Recidivists	70.5	70.8	56.2
Non-Recidivists	29.5	29.2	43.8
	100.0 n = 132	100.0 n = 144	100.0 n = 153

Recidivism/Age First Recorded in Police Register

The incidence of recidivism was analysed with respect to age at first appearance in the police register*. It can be deduced from Table 8 that persons registered at an early age show a higher rate of recidivism after release from their original prison sentence. Persons who were first registered at the age of 19 or earlier show about 79 percent recidivism, to be compared with a rate of about 42 percent among those first registered at the age of 25 or over.

Some of these particulars are uncertain, because data from the years before 1945 could not be obtained from the police register. However, errors due to this cause can only affect a few persons in the highest age-group. The chi-squared test shows significance at the 0.1 percent level.

* The police register contains records of persons of 15 years or over who have been suspected of or sentenced for an offence or had proceedings against them waived.

Table 8 Percentage Analysis of Recidivism by Age First Recorded
in Police Register

	Up to 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 years and over
Recidivists	78.5	62.3	41.7
Non-recidivists	21.5	37.7	58.3
	100.0 n = 214	100.0 n = 114	100.0 n = 96

$\chi^2 = 40.8$
 $df = 2$
 $P \geq 13.82$ at
 0.1% level

Recidivism and Earlier Prison Experience

The relation between earlier prison experience and recidivism is shown on Table 9a. The percentage of recidivism is lower (45.6 percent) in the group without than in the group with earlier prison experience (74.7 percent).

Table 9a Percentage Recidivism and Earlier Prison Experience

	Earlier Prison Experience	
	No	Yes
Recidivists	45.6	74.7
Non-recidivists	54.4	25.3
	100.0 n = 136	100.0 n = 293

$$\begin{aligned}\chi^2 &= 34.9 \\ df &= 1 \\ P &\geq 10.83 \text{ at} \\ &0.1\% \text{ level}\end{aligned}$$

Of those who recidivated, about 78 percent had served time in prison previously, and only about 22 percent had not. Corresponding figures for the non-recidivist group are 50 percent with and 50 percent without earlier prison experience (Table 9b).

Table 9b Percentage Incidence of Earlier Prison Experience

	Earlier Prison Experience		
	No	Yes	
Recidivists	22.1	77.9	100% n = 281
Non-recidivists	50.0	50.0	100% n = 148

$$\begin{aligned}\chi^2 &= 34.9 \\ df &= 1 \\ P &\geq 10.83 \text{ at } 0.1\% \text{ level}\end{aligned}$$

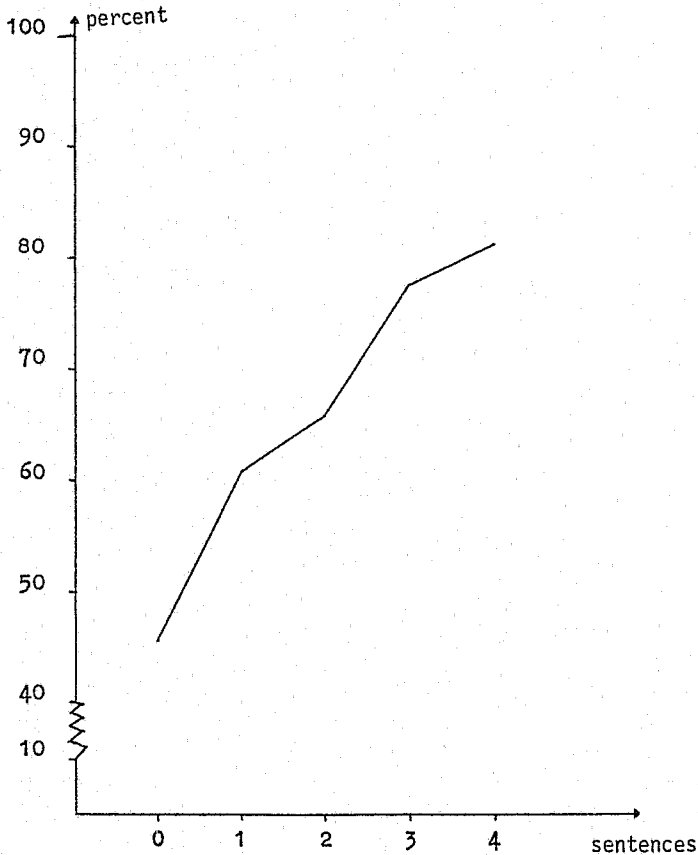
Is there any relation between the number of earlier prison sentences a parolee has served and the risk that he will recidivate? Table 9c (Fig. 6) shows a percentage analysis of recidivism by number of earlier sentences. The group with no earlier prison experience show the lowest rate of recidivism (45.6 percent), and the rate increases for each additional earlier sentence. The highest recidivism is found in the group that have served four or more prison sentences. The chi-squared test shows significance at the 0.1 percent level.

Table 9c Percentage Recidivism and Number of Earlier Prison Sentences

	Number of Sentences				
	0	1	2	3	>3
Recidivists	45.6	60.7	65.8	77.5	81.1
Non-recidivists	54.4	39.3	34.2	22.5	18.9
	100.0 n = 136	100.0 n = 36	100.0 n = 38	100.0 n = 40	100.0 n = 159

$$\begin{aligned}\chi^2 &= 44.2 \\ df &= 4 \\ P &\geq 18.46 \text{ at} \\ &0.1\% \text{ level}\end{aligned}$$

Figure 6 Percentage Recidivism and Number of Earlier Prison Sentences



Time to Recidivism/Age/Earlier Prison Experience

The preceding sections show that age and earlier prison experience each in isolation have an effect on the rate of recidivism. Below we show how age and earlier prison experience together affect recidivism and the time to recidivism. Figs. 7a and 7b describe recidivism by age-groups with and without earlier prison experience*. The age-groups up to 30 years with earlier prison experience show the fastest recidivism and also the highest rate of recidivism (about 80 percent). They are followed by the age-group 31 years and over with earlier prison experience. All age-groups without an earlier prison sentence show lower recidivism; the rate falls as age increases. The highest and the lowest rates differ by 58 percent.

* For absolute figures and percentage tables, see Appendix pp. 35-39.

Figure 7a Time to Recidivism by Age, With Earlier Prison Experience
(Cumulative Percentage)

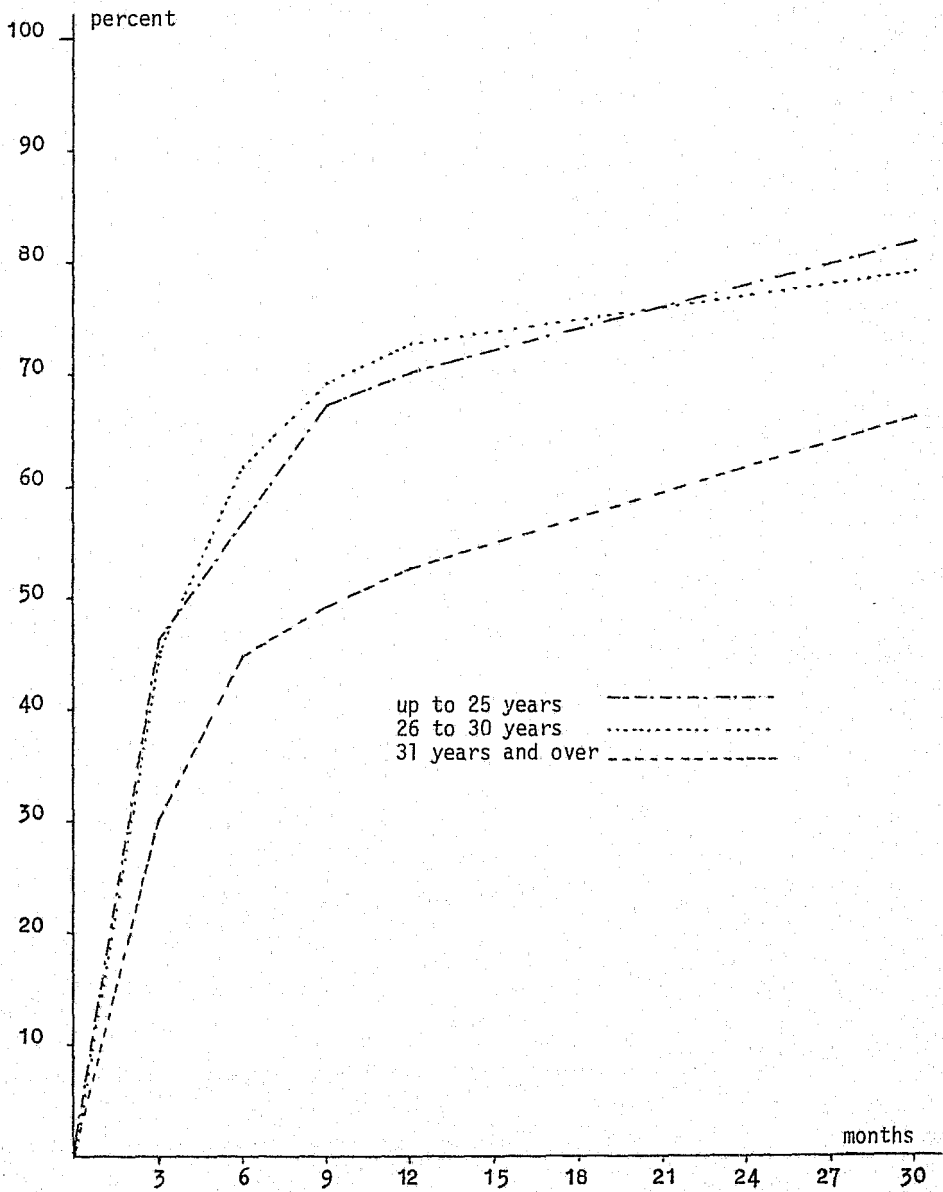
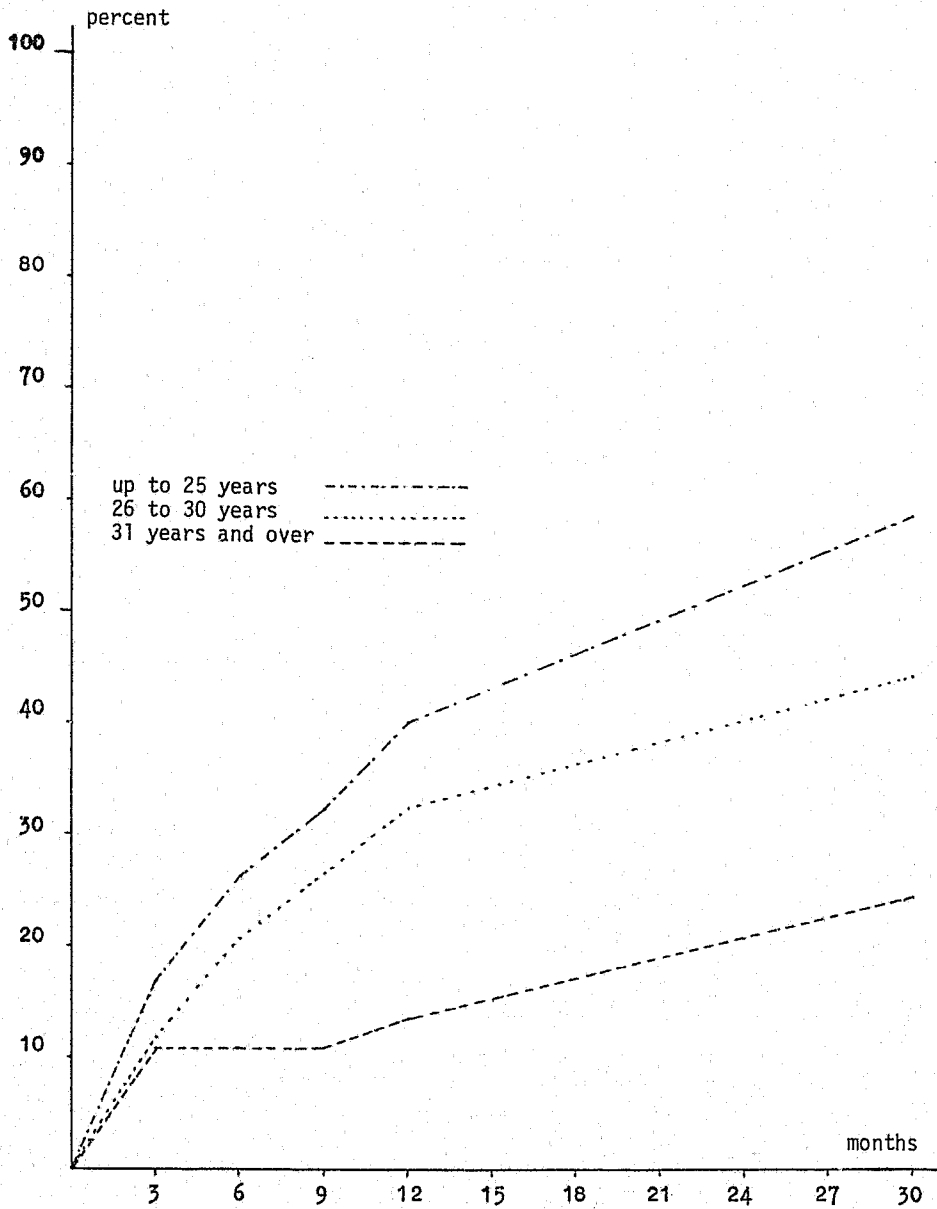


Figure 7b Time to Recidivism by Age, Without Earlier Prison Experience
(Cumulative Percentage)



Recidivism/Nature of Offence

The incidence of recidivism was analysed in terms of the parolee's principal* original* offence (Tables 10a and 10b). Fifty-three percent of those sentenced for crimes of violence committed new offences, as compared with about 70 percent of those sentenced for crimes against property. The chi-squared test shows significance at the 2 percent level.

The analysis of all parolees' original offences by nature of offence is as follows (percentages of 429 principal offences):

Crimes of violence	14.5
Crimes against property	73.7
Other offences	11.9

The analysis of the recidivist offences by nature of offence is as follows:

Crimes of violence	10.0
Crimes against property	60.5
Other offences	29.5

Among the recidivist offences we note a smaller percentage of crimes of violence and crimes against property, and a higher proportion of other offences. The latter category includes a multitude of different kinds of offence, and the analysis has not been pursued further. However, casual inspection of the raw data indicates that a certain proportion of the new offences can be referred to the categories of road offences, drunken driving, unlawful driving, etc.

Table 10a Principal Original Offence/Recidivism (Absolute)

	Principal original offence			Total	
	<u>Crimes of violence</u>	<u>Crimes against property</u>	<u>Other offences</u>		
Recidivists	33	220	28	281	$\chi^2 = 9.04$ $df = 2$ $P \geq 7.82$ at 2% level
Non-recidivists	29	96	23	148	
Total	62	316	51	429	

Table 10b Principal Original Offence/Percentage Recidivism

	Principal original offence		
	<u>Crimes of violence</u>	<u>Crimes against property</u>	<u>Other offences</u>
Recidivists	53.2	69.6	54.9
Non-recidivists	46.8	30.4	45.1
	100 % n = 62	100 % n = 316	100 % n = 51

* Compare definitions on p. II.

Variation in Nature of Offence

Table 11 shows the numbers of each type of offence recorded as principal original offence and as principal recidivist offence. Fig. 8 shows percentage recidivism for each type of offence, and the percentage of recidivists who committed a new offence of the same type as their original offence. It appears from the figure that of those originally sentenced for crimes of violence, only a small percentage (16 percent) committed new offences of the same type. Of those sentences for crimes against property, nearly half (47 percent) committed new offences of the same type.

The chi-squared test shows that the differences apparent from Table 11 between crimes of violence and against property at original sentence and at recidivism are significant at the 0.1 percent level.

Table 11 Nature of Principal Original Offence and of Principal Recidivist Offence (Absolute Figures)

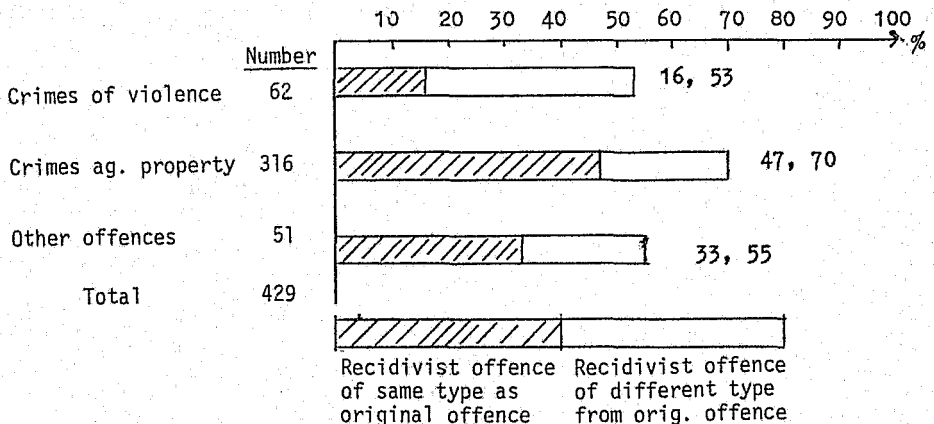
	Recidivist sentence				Non-recidivists
	Crimes of violence	Crimes ag. property	Other offences	Total	
<u>Original sentence</u>					
Crimes of violence	10	13	10	33	29
Crimes ag. property	15	149	56	220	96
Other offences	3	8	17	28	23
Total	28	170	83	281	148

$$\chi^2 = 20.5$$

$$df = 1$$

$$P \geq 10.83 \text{ at } 0.1\% \text{ level}$$

Figure 8 Percentage Recidivism by Nature of Offence, and Percentage Repetition of Same Type of Offence



Recidivism/Time Served

In this section the incidence of recidivism is related to the length of time the prisoner served before being released on parole (as distinct from the term to which he was originally sentenced). As appears from Table 12 and Fig. 9, the variable of time served is not related to any major differences in the rate of recidivism. The differences are not significant by the chi-squared test. The somewhat lower recidivism figures for the two longest times can probably be explained in terms of the type of crime for which these sentences were imposed. Crimes of a less serious nature against property and against the person generally bring sentences of between six months and one year. We have already seen that recidivism is higher in the case of crimes against property than other offences. Therefore the longest times have generally been served for serious crimes, such as robbery, gross fraud, serious drug offences, serious crimes of violence, etc. There would seem to be a considerably higher likelihood of finding one-time offenders in this group, and part of the explanation of the lower probability of recidivism can be found in this argument.

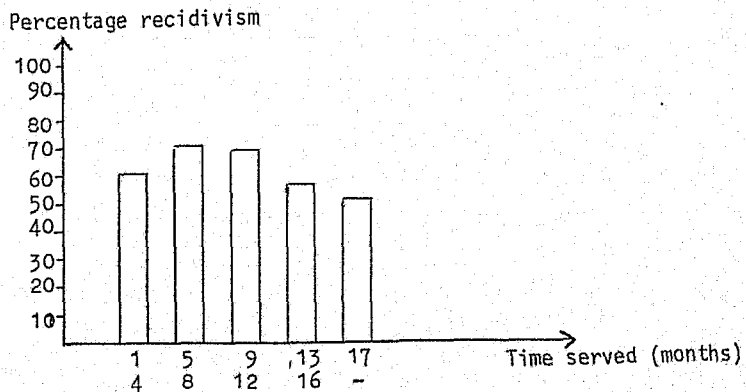
Table 12 Percentage Recidivism Related to Time Actually Served of Original Sentence

	Time served (months)				
	1-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-
Recidivists	60.8	70.4	68.7	57.1	51.4
Non-recidivists	39.2	29.6	31.3	42.9	48.6

100 100 100 100 100
 n = 97 n = 199 n = 67 n = 28 n = 35

$\chi^2 = 7.2$
 $df = 4$
 $P \geq 5.99$ at
 20% level

Figure 9



Recidivism/Form of Parole

Nine percent of the sample (39 persons) were granted early parole* after serving between one-half and two-thirds of their sentence. The percentage of early parolees in the recidivist group was 5 (14 persons out of 281), to be compared with 17 percent in the non-recidivist group (25 persons out of 148).

It appears from Table 13 and Fig. 10 that 36 percent of early parolees recidivated, compared with 69 percent of those paroled after serving two-thirds or more of their term of sentence.

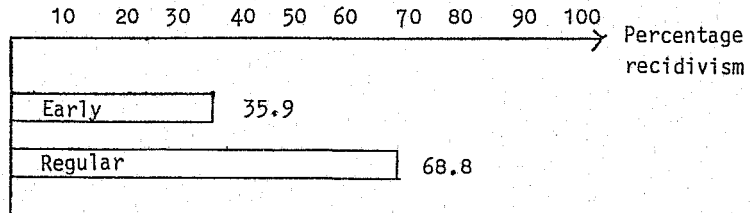
Table 13 Percentage Recidivism Related to Form of Parole

	Form of parole	
	Early	Regular
Recidivists	35.9	68.8
Non-recidivists	64.1	31.2

$\chi^2 = 17.0$
 $df = 1$
 $P \geq 10.83$ at
 0.1% level

100 100
 n = 39 n = 388 N = 427

Figure 10



* Early parole implies release before the regular date of optional parole after two-thirds of the term of sentence has been served.

On Table 14 the sample is analysed by form of parole and age. We observe that consistently lower recidivism figures are found among early parolees of all age-groups, and that recidivism figures fall with increasing age. Comparison with Table 6 (Analysis of Absolute Recidivism by Age-Group) shows that the relatively small group of early parolees does not appreciably affect the overall recidivism figures for the individual age-groups.

Something should be said here about the rules for conditional release. The Correctional Board (Kriminalvårdsnämnden) is the central board that reviews matters relating to the conditional release of persons sentenced to prison terms exceeding one year. In the case of terms less than one year, the decision is in the hands of the local Supervision Boards. The criteria for granting early parole in 1973 were as follows:

1. Long term of sentence: one year and six months for persons under 22 years, two years and six months for persons over 22 years.
2. Not previously sentenced to institutional sanction.
3. Good behaviour at institution.
4. Favorable post-release situation.

Deviations from these guidelines might be made in the light of other special circumstances.

The practice followed with regard to early parole can be interpreted as a kind of prognosis of the parolee's chances of keeping out of trouble after his release. The clearly lower recidivism rate among early parolees can thus be taken as a measure of the reliability of this prognosis. However, we cannot exclude the possibility that the shorter imprisonment term in itself may in some way contribute to the lower rate of recidivism. It has not been possible to analyse these questions in any closer detail within the terms of this study.

Table 14 Absolute Recidivism Related to Form of Parole and to Age

Age	Early parole		Regular parole		Total
	Recid-ivists	Non-recid-ivists	Recid-ivists	Non-recid-ivists	
Up to 25 years	6	6	87	32	131
26 to 30 years	5	7	97	35	144
31 years and over	3	12	83	54	152
Total	14	25	267	121	427

Table 14 (cont'd.) Percentage Recidivism Related to Form of Parole
and to Age

Early parole			
Age	Recidivists	Non-recidivists	n
Up to 25 years	50	50	100 %
26 to 30 years	41.7	58.3	100 %
31 years and over	20	80	100 %

Regular parole			
Age	Recidivists	Non-recidivists	n
Up to 25 years	73.1	26.9	100 %
26 to 30 years	73.5	26.5	100 %
31 years and over	60.6	39.4	100 %

Recidivism/Home Address

In this section we investigate the relation between recidivism and home address* for the sample. Because there is a certain amount of geographical mobility, the rate of recidivism has been studied with respect to both address at admission to the institution and address after release. Tables 15a and 15b do not reveal any major differences with respect to recidivism between districts with large and small populations. Neither are there any major differences between the tables for address at admission and address after release. Neither table is significant by the chi-squared test.

Table 15a Percentage Recidivism/Home Address at Admission

	Home Address			
	Major city district	District with pop. >100,000	District with pop. <100,000	No information etc.
Recidivists	65.1	68.6	68.7	58.2
Non-recidivists	34.9	31.4	31.3	41.8
	100 % n = 149	100 % n = 86	100 % n = 115	100 % n = 79

Table 15b Percentage Recidivism/Home Address after Release

	Home Address			
	Major city district	District with pop. >100,000	District with pop. <100,000	No information etc.
Recidivists	64.5	69.0	66.1	61.9
Non-recidivists	35.5	31.0	33.9	38.1
	100 % n = 155	100 % n = 84	100 % n = 127	100 % n = 63

* We have used the same geographical divisions as Swedish Postal Administration uses in its postcode system. The first two figures in the postcode correspond to a centre of population and a certain geographical area round it. (Map, see Appendix p. 46.)

Definitions:

Major city district: Stockholm, Malmö and Göteborg with environs.

District with population >100,000: Population centre(s) and environs having a combined population of over 100,000.

District with population <100,000: Population centre(s) and environs having a combined population of less than 100,000.

No information etc.: Here we also include "no address" and addresses outside Sweden.

Population figures were obtained from the Swedish Statistical Yearbook, Population at 1st Jan. 1973.

Table 16 shows the geographical mobility of the sample, expressed as percentages of the total sample (N = 429). A certain amount of movement is evident, but it is proportionately quite small. For example, 34.7 percent were living in the major city districts at admission and 36.1 percent after release. Twenty-eight percent were living in a major city district both at admission and after release.

It should be added that the address particulars are probably uncertain in some cases. The "No information" group accounts for the largest percentage changes. The 14.7 percent of "No information" cases can be subdivided into: No postal address, 4.4 percent; Address outside Sweden, 4 percent; No information, 6.3 percent.

Table 16 Geographical Mobility (As Percentages)

Address after release Address at admission	Major city district	District with pop. >100,000	District with pop. <100,000	No inform- ation etc.	Total
Major city district	28.0	2.1	2.1	2.6	34.7
District with pop. >100,000	0.9	14.9	1.6	2.6	20.0
District with pop. <100,000	1.9	0.9	22.1	1.9	26.8
No inform- ation etc.	5.4	1.6	3.7	7.7	18.4
Total	36.1	19.6	29.6	14.7	100 N = 429

Recidivist Sanction/Times to Recidivist Offence and to Sentence

Is there any relation between the time that passes from parole to the detection of a new crime and the sanction that is imposed? Does the time from parole to the new sentence contribute to variations in the sanction?

Table 17 and Fig. 11 show how the respective incidences of prison* and probation vary with the time from release to the commission of a new offence, divided into three-month periods. Of those that recidivate in the first two periods, about 80 percent are sentenced to prison, while the percentage sentenced to probation rises from 13.3 to 15.7. In the case of offences committed between one year after release and the end of the follow-up period, the percentage of probation sentences has risen to 39.2, while the percentage of prison sentences has fallen to 52.9.

Table 17 Recidivist Sanction in Relation to Time of New Offence
(Percentages)

Time to Recidivism	Probation	Prison, intern- ment	Other sanctions		<u>n</u>
up to 3 months	13.3	80.0	6.7	100	135
4 to 6 months	15.7	80.4	3.9	100	51
7 to 9 months	19.2	76.9	3.8	100	26
10 to 12 months	33.3	61.1	5.6	100	18
13 to 30 months	39.2	52.9	7.8	100	51

* Under the heading "Prison, internment" we include ten persons sentenced to internment.

Figure 11 Percentages of Institutional Sanctions and Probation in Relation to Time of Recidivism

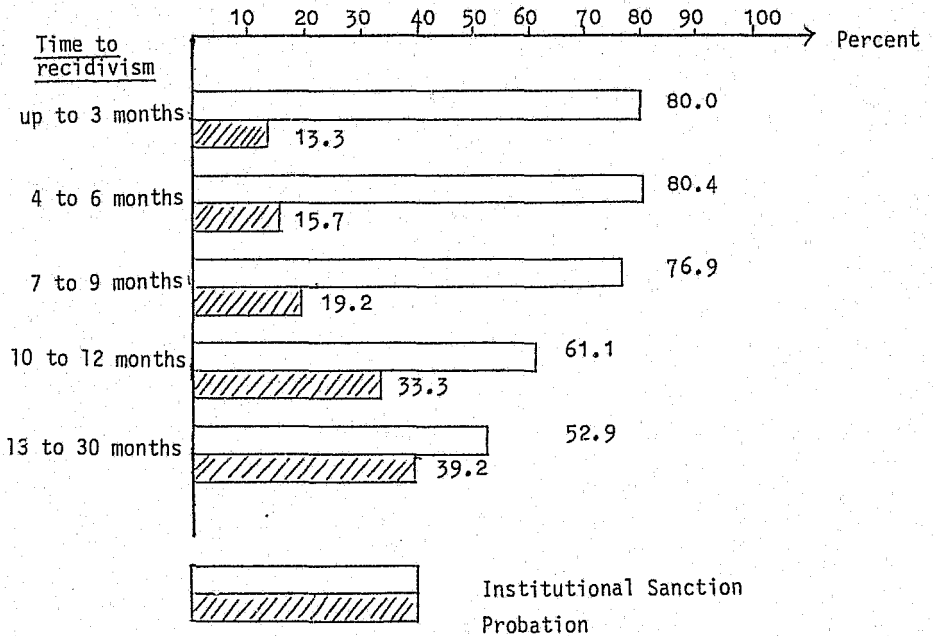


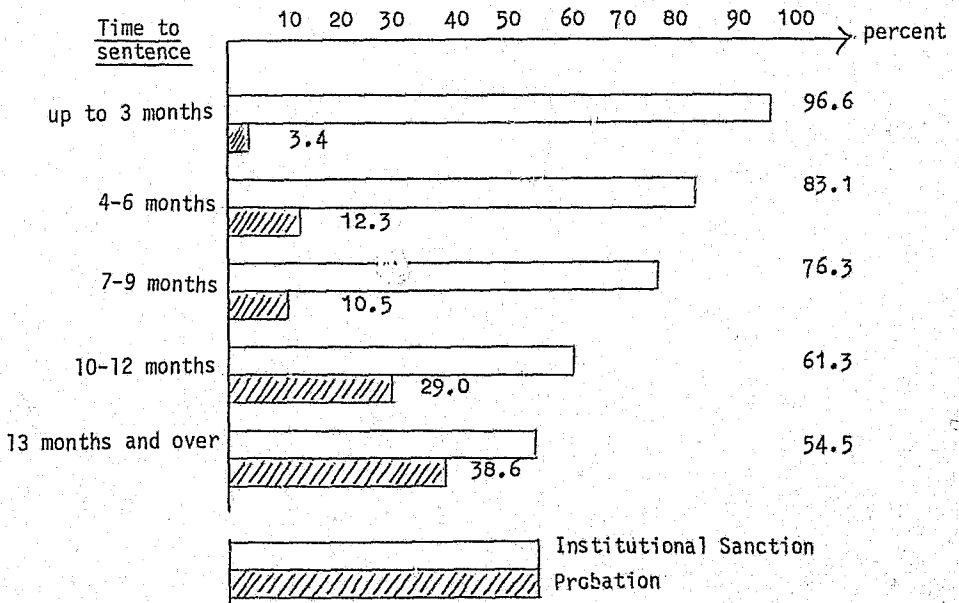
Table 18 and Fig. 12 show in a similar manner the percentages of recidivists sentenced to the respective types of sanction, in relation to the time of sentence. The same trend can be observed here, though with the difference that the percentage of prison sentences imposed in the first two periods is still higher.

The nature of the offence is ignored in these tables, but it does not seem that this could account for the differences between the sanctions imposed.

Table 18 Recidivist Sanction in Relation to Time of Sentence
(Percentages)

Time to Sentence	Probation	Prison, intern-ment	Other sanctions	n
up to 3 months	3.4	96.6	0.0	59
4 to 6 months	12.3	83.1	4.6	65
7 to 9 months	10.5	76.3	13.2	38
10 to 12 months	29.0	61.3	9.7	31
13 to 30 months	38.6	54.5	6.8	88

Figure 12 Percentages of Institutional Sanctions and Probation
in Relation to Time of Sentence



Analysis of Sanctions by Nature of Recidivist Offence

Table 19 is an analysis of the sanctions imposed on recidivists. About 70 percent of parolees who committed new offences were sentenced to new terms of imprisonment. The highest percentage of non-institutional punishments is found among those who committed crimes against the person. The gravity of the offence is not taken into account. The table does not show significance by the chi-squared test.

Table 19 Recidivist Sanction in Relation to Principal Recidivist Offence

Principal Offence Sanction	Crimes of violence	Crimes ag. property	Other offences	Total
Probation	28.6	22.9	12.0	20.3
Prison	57.1	67.6	79.5	70.1
Other	14.3	9.4	8.4	9.6
	100 % n = 28	100 % n = 170	100 % n = 83	100 % n = 281

Percentage Recidivism in Relation to Earlier Prison Experience, and Analysis of Nature of Original Offence in Recidivist Group

Tables 20a-c show the sample divided into age-groups and the percentage recidivism for each age-group subdivided into those with and those without earlier prison experience. The percentages under "Nature of original offence" indicate the breakdown into types of offence of the original offences committed by the recidivist group. Of the age-group up to 25 years without earlier prison experience, 58 percent recidivated. The breakdown of original offences for this group was: crimes of violence, 11 percent; crimes against property, 71 percent; other offences, the remainder. These figures may be compared with, for example, those for the age-group 30 years and over without earlier prison experience, where the incidence of recidivism was only 24 percent. The breakdown of offences also differs quite markedly for the latter group, with crimes of violence accounting for 44 percent and crimes against property for 56 percent. The raw data for this table can be found in the Appendix, p. 44.

Tables 20a-c

Percentage Recidivism Among Persons With and Without Earlier Prison Experience, and Percentage Breakdown of Nature of Original Offence Committed by Recidivist Group. By Age.

<u>Table 20a</u>		Without earlier prison experience	With earlier prison experience
Age	Recidivists	58	82
up to 25 years	Nature of original offence (recidivist group only)		
	Crimes of violence	11	15
	Crimes against property	71	80

<u>Table 20b</u>		Without earlier prison experience	With earlier prison experience
Age	Recidivists	44	79
26 to 30 years	Nature of original offence (recidivist group only)		
	Crimes of violence	13	10
	Crimes against property	87	78

<u>Table 20c</u>		Without earlier prison experience	With earlier prison experience
Age	Recidivists	24	66
31 years and over	Nature of original offence (recidivist group only)		
	Crimes of violence	44	8
	Crimes against property	56	82

Prediction Possibilities

The data reported offer a variety of ways to develop a tool for measuring the risk or probability of recidivism. Given the size of the sample investigated, it has proved unfruitful to break it down for over-comprehensive multi-variate analyses. The variables having the greatest effect appear to be age, and the presence or absence of earlier prison experience.

Table 21 shows a breakdown of the sample by age and by earlier prison experience (in absolute figures). For the groups with and without earlier prison experience, and with respect to age, the chi-squared test gives the result $\chi^2 = 29.0$, which is clearly significant at the 0.1 percent level.

The following "risk table" can be drawn up:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percentage Recidivism</u>	<u>Risk Group</u>	<u>Percentage of N (429)</u>
up to 25 years with earlier prison experience	82	1	15.6
26 to 30 years with earlier prison experience	79	2	25.6
31 years and over with earlier prison experience	66	3	27.0
up to 25 years without earlier prison experience	58	4	15.2
26 to 30 years without earlier prison experience	44	5	7.9
31 years and over without ear- lier prison experience	24	6	<u>8.6</u>
			100 %

The above table shows that all age-groups with earlier prison experience have a higher percentage of recidivism than those without prison experience, and that the risk of recidivism decreases with rising age.

In the Appendix, pp. 43 and 44, we present absolute figures of some other multivariate analyses, but no calculations based on these have been included.

Table 21 Recidivism in Relation to Age and to Earlier Prison Experience

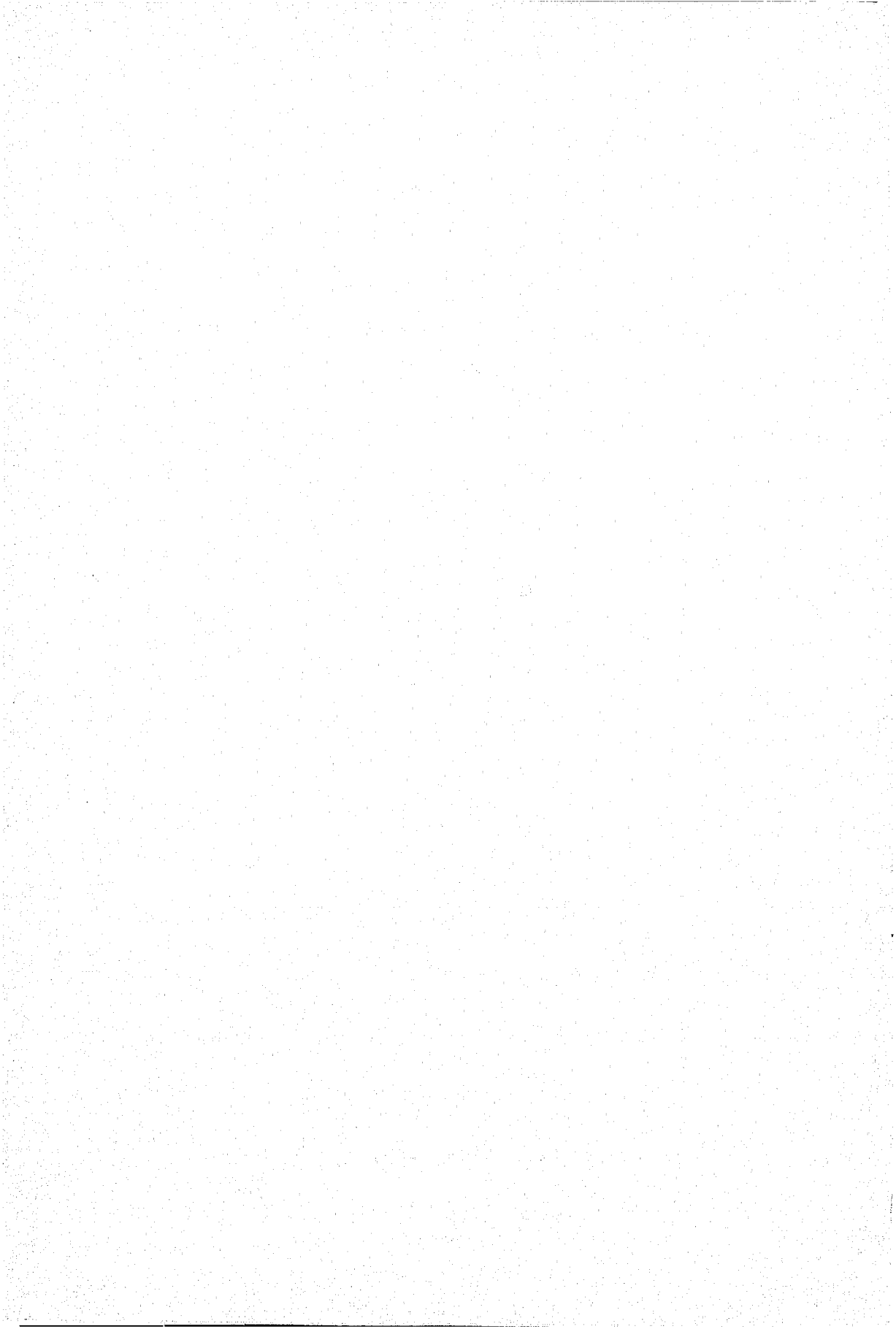
Age	Without earlier prison experience			With earlier prison experience		
	Recidivists	Non-recidivists	Total	Recidivists	Non-recidivists	Total
up to 25 years	38	27	65	55	12	67
26 to 30 years	15	19	34	87	23	110
31 years and over	9	28	37	77	39	116
	62	74	136	219	74	293

The chi-squared test shows significance for the recidivist group with earlier prison experience as compared with that without earlier prison experience, with respect to age.

$$\chi^2 = 29.0$$

$$df = 2$$

$$P \geq 13.82 \text{ at } 0.1\% \text{ level}$$

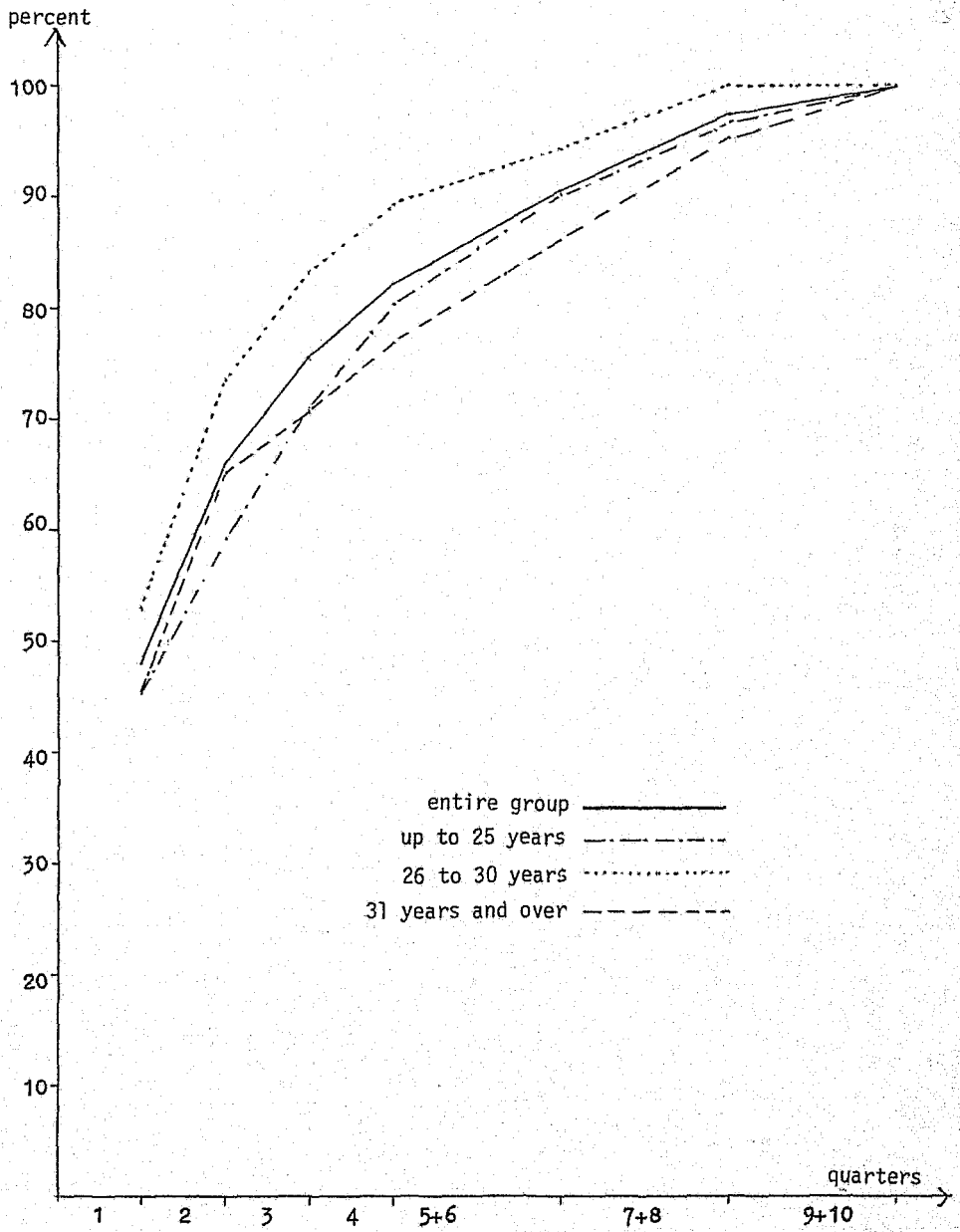


APPENDIX OF TABLES

Cumulative Quarterly Percentage Recidivism in Recidivist Group

Quarter	Months	Entire group		up to 25		26 to 30		31 and over	
		N	% (cum)	N	% (cum)	N	% (cum)	N	% (cum)
1	1- 3	135	48.0	42	45.2	54	53.0	39	45.3
2	4- 6	186	66.2	55	59.1	75	73.5	56	65.1
3	7- 9	212	75.4	66	71.0	85	83.3	61	70.9
4	10-12	230	81.9	73	80.2	91	89.2	66	76.7
5-6	13-18	254	90.4	84	90.3	96	94.1	74	86.0
7-8	19-24	274	97.5	90	96.8	102	100.0	82	95.3
9-10	25-30	281	100.0	93	100.0	102	100.0	86	100.0
		281		93		102		86	

Cumulative Percentage Recidivism in Recidivist Group



Age When First Recorded in Police Register

Time to Recidivism	Total	No Information	up to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 or over
1 to 90 days	135	2	1	82	33	17
91 to 180 days	51	0	0	31	12	8
181 to 270 days	26	0	0	15	7	4
271 to 360 days	18	0	0	13	3	2
361 to 900 days	51	0	1	25	16	9
No recidivism	148	3	0	46	43	56
Total	429	5	2	212	114	96

Total Time Served Before Original Sentence (in Months)

Time to recidivism	Total	1 to 4	5 to 8	9 to 12	13 to 16	17 or more	0
1 to 90 days	135	15	7	4	4	86	19
91 to 180 days	51	4	3	2	8	25	9
181 to 270 days	26	3	4	2	1	10	6
271 to 360 days	18	2	0	2	0	6	8
361 to 900 days	51	3	4	3	2	19	20
No recidivism	148	15	13	7	5	34	74
Total	429	42	31	20	20	180	136

Number of Earlier Institutional Sentences to Specified Terms

Time to recidivism	Total	1	2	3	4	>4	0
1 to 90 days	135	19	16	16	12	46	26
91 to 180 days	51	7	9	6	2	17	10
181 to 270 days	26	4	4	5	1	5	7
271 to 360 days	18	2	1	2	1	3	9
361 to 900 days	51	6	5	4	1	15	20
No recidivism	148	24	14	7	10	17	76
Total	429	62	49	40	27	103	148

Number of Earlier Institutional Sentences to Unspecified Terms

Time to recidivism	Total	1	2	3	>3	0
1 to 90 days	135	17	10	4	6	98
91 to 180 days	51	7	6	1	0	37
181 to 270 days	26	0	2	3	0	21
271 to 360 days	18	1	1	1	0	15
361 to 900 days	51	2	2	2	0	45
No recidivism	148	4	5	2	0	137
Total	429	31	26	13	6	353

Number of Earlier Non-Institutional Sanctions

Time to recidivism	Total	1	2	3	4	>4	0
1 to 90 days	135	34	21	33	19	14	14
91 to 180 days	51	12	11	9	7	6	6
181 to 270 days	26	4	5	7	2	2	6
271 to 360 days	18	1	4	2	6	3	2
361 to 900 days	51	10	12	6	8	8	7
No. recidivism	148	36	24	19	9	7	53
Total	429	97	77	76	51	40	88

Time to Recidivism by Age, With and Without Earlier Prison Experience

Without earlier prison experience (absolute figures)

Time to recidivism (months)

<u>Age</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>4-6</u>	<u>7-9</u>	<u>10-12</u>	<u>13-30</u>	<u>No recidivism</u>	<u>Total</u>
-25	11	6	4	5	12	27	65
26-30	4	3	2	2	4	19	34
31-	4	0	0	1	4	28	37

Without earlier prison experience (percentages)

Time to recidivism (months)

<u>Age</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>4-6</u>	<u>7-9</u>	<u>10-12</u>	<u>13-30</u>	<u>No recidivism</u>	<u>Total</u>
-25	16.9	9.2	6.2	7.7	18.5	41.5	100
26-30	11.8	8.8	5.9	5.9	11.8	55.9	100
31-	10.8	0	0	2.7	10.8	75.7	100

With earlier prison experience (absolute figures)

Time to recidivism (months)

<u>Age</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>4-6</u>	<u>7-9</u>	<u>10-12</u>	<u>13-30</u>	<u>No recidivism</u>	<u>Total</u>
-25	31	7	7	2	8	12	67
26-30	50	18	8	4	7	23	110
31-	35	17	5	4	16	39	116

With earlier prison experience (absolute figures)

Time to recidivism (months)

<u>Age</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>4-6</u>	<u>7-9</u>	<u>10-12</u>	<u>13-30</u>	<u>No recidivism</u>	<u>Total</u>
-25	46.3	10.4	10.4	3.0	11.9	17.9	100
26-30	45.5	16.4	7.3	3.6	6.4	20.9	100
31-	30.2	14.7	4.3	3.4	13.8	33.6	100

Principal Original Offence

Time to recidivism	Total	Crimes of violence	Crimes against property	Other offences
1 to 90 days	135	14	111	10
91 to 180 days	51	4	41	6
181 to 270 days	26	3	19	4
271 to 360 days	18	1	16	1
361 to 900 days	51	11	33	7
No recidivism	148	29	96	23
Total	429	62	316	51

Original Term of Sentence (Months)

Time to recidivism	Total	-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-
1 to 90 days	135	21	72	28	6	4	1	3
91 to 180 days	51	10	23	11	1	2	1	3
181 to 270 days	26	4	12	10	0	0	0	0
271 to 360 days	18	0	12	5	1	0	0	0
361 to 900 days	51	6	21	14	4	2	3	1
No recidivism	148	9	61	38	9	6	12	13
Total	429	50	201	106	21	14	17	20

Time Served of Original Term of Sentence (Months)

Time to recidivism	Total	-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-	No infor- mation
1 to 90 days	135	28	67	20	9	10	1
91 to 180 days	51	13	24	7	3	4	0
181 to 270 days	26	4	14	6	0	1	1
271 to 360 days	18	4	10	3	0	1	0
361 to 900 days	51	10	25	10	4	2	0
No recidivism	148	38	59	21	12	17	1
Total	429	97	199	67	28	35	3

Recidivism in Relation to Term of Sentence, Earlier Prison Experience, and Nature of Offence

Recidivism	Yes										No									
Earlier prison experience	No					Yes					No					Yes				
Term of sentence (months)	1 4	5 8	9 12	13 16	17-	1 4	5 8	9 12	13 16	17-	1 4	5 8	9 12	13 16	17-	1 4	5 8	9 12	13 16	17-
Principal original offence																				
Crimes of violence	3	4	2	0	1	5	7	6	1	3	8	2	1	4	3	4	2	0	2	3
Crimes against property	7	27	6	1	4	34	93	29	10	9	10	19	8	2	3	8	26	11	3	5
Other offences	4	2	1	0	0	6	7	2	4	1	2	7	1	1	2	6	3	0	0	1
Total	14	33	9	1	5	45	107	37	15	13	20	28	10	7	8	18	31	11	5	9
Total	62					217					73					74				
Total	279										147									
Total	426																			

Recidivism in Relation to Age, Earlier Prison Experience, and Nature of Original Offence

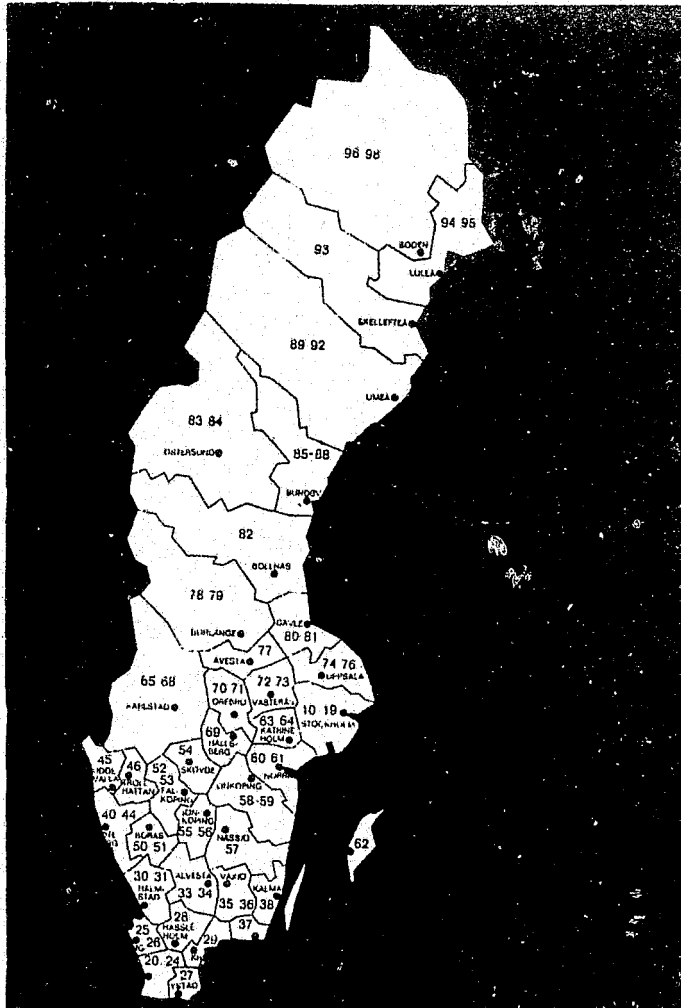
Recidivists										Non-recidivists										
Age	up to 25			26 to 30			31 and over				up to 25			26 to 30			31 and over			
Nature of offence *	V	P	O	V	P	O	V	P	O	Total	V	P	O	V	P	O	V	P	O	Total
Earlier prison experience																				
No	4	27	7	2	13	0	4	5	0	62	6	16	5	5	12	2	7	15	6	74
Yes	8	44	3	9	68	10	6	63	8	219	0	9	3	1	18	4	10	26	3	74
Total	12	71	10	11	81	10	10	68	8		6	25	8	6	30	6	17	41	9	
Total	93			102			86				39			42			67			
Total	281										148									
Total	429																			

* V = Crimes of violence
P = Crimes against property
O = Other offences

Time of Conditional Release

Time to recidivism	Total	Fraction of term actually served		No information
		3/6 to <4/6	4/6 to 6/6	
1 to 90 days	135	3	132	0
91 to 180 days	51	3	48	0
181 to 270 days	26	3	23	0
271 to 360 days	18	0	18	0
361 to 900 days	51	5	46	0
No recidivism	148	25	121	2
Total	429	39	388	2

Geographical Division into Postcode Districts



Geographical Mobility

Address after release Address at admission	Major city district	District with pop. >100,000	District with pop. <100,000	No information etc.	Total
Major city district	120	9	9	11	149
District with pop. >100,000	4	64	7	11	86
District with pop. <100,000	8	4	95	8	115
No information etc.	23	7	16	33	79
Total	155	84	127	63	429

48

Home Address at Original Release

Time to recidivism	Total	No information	No postal address	Address outside Sweden	Major city district (Stockholm)	Major city district (Malmö)	District with pop. >100,000	Major city district (Göteborg)	District with pop. >100,000	District with pop. >100,000	District with pop. >100,000	District with pop. >100,000	Districts with pop. <100,000
1 to 90 days	135	18	6	0	36	7	4	7	2	1	6	12	36
91 to 180 days	51	3	2	3	7	5	0	6	2	0	1	8	14
181 to 270 days	26	2	0	0	6	3	0	0	0	0	5	1	9
271 to 360 days	18	1	1	0	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	9
361 to 900 days	51	0	2	1	8	4	1	6	3	2	0	8	16
No recidivism	148	3	8	13	30	12	5	13	4	2	4	11	43
Total	429	27	19	17	90	31	10	34	12	5	16	41	127

Principal Recidivist Offence

Time to recidivism	Total	Crimes of violence	Crimes against property	Other offences	No recidivism
1 to 90 days	135	10	80	45	0
91 to 180 days	51	4	35	12	0
181 to 270 days	26	3	14	9	0
271 to 360 days	18	2	12	4	0
361 to 900 days	51	9	29	13	0
No recidivism	148	0	0	0	148
Total	429	28	170	83	148

Time to Recidivist Sentence (Months from Date of Release)

Time to recidivism	Total	<2	2-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-18	19-21	>21	No recidivism
1 to 90 days	135	25	32	34	18	18	6	0	2	0	0
91 to 180 days	51	0	2	31	9	1	4	3	1	0	0
181 to 270 days	26	0	0	0	11	5	5	2	3	0	0
271 to 360 days	18	0	0	0	0	7	3	2	4	2	0
361 to 900 days	51	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	9	33	0
No recidivism	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	148
Total	429	25	34	65	38	31	20	14	19	35	148

Recidivist Sanction

Time to recidivism	Total	Probation	Prison, prevent- ive detention	Other sanctions
1 to 90 days	135	18	108	9
91 to 180 days	51	8	41	2
181 to 270 days	26	5	20	1
271 to 360 days	18	6	11	1
361 to 900 days	51	20	27	4
No recidivism	148	148	0	0
Total	429	205	207	17

Term of Recidivist Sentence (Institutional Sanctions)

Time to recidivism	Total	Unspecified term	<3 months	3-6 months	7-9 months	10-12 months	>12 months	Other sanctions
1 to 90 days	135	5	21	47	10	14	9	29
91 to 180 days	51	3	6	15	12	1	4	10
181 to 270 days	26	0	6	7	5	2	0	6
271 to 360 days	18	0	3	4	1	1	2	7
361 to 900 days	51	2	8	11	1	1	5	23
No recidivism	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	148
Total	429	10	44	84	29	19	20	223

END