

132

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH

1975 - 1976

Prepared by:

Shari Wittenberg
Program Evaluation Analyst

45477

Massachusetts Department of Correction

Frank A. Hall
Commissioner

MAY, 1977

NCJRS
MAR 3 1978
ACQUISITIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Introduction	1
<u>Program Evaluations</u>	2
An Analysis of Recidivism Among Residents Released from Boston State & Shirley Pre-Release Centers During 1972 - 1973	3
1974 Client Profile Massachusetts Half-way Houses, Inc., (Brooke House, Temporary Housing, and Coolidge House)	4
A Comparison Between Pre-Release Program Completers at Massachusetts Half-way Houses, Inc.	5
An Analysis of Recidivism Among Residents Released From The Pre-Release Centers Administered by Mass. Half-way Houses, Inc.	6
A Profile of Characteristics Distinguishing Between Program Completers and Program Non-Completers In Massachusetts' Pre-release Centers	7
The Mass. Furlough Program: A Comprehensive Assess- ment	8
Mass. Furlough Program Statistical Fact Sheet	9
Charlotte House Pre-Release Center for Women: Profile of Participants & A Recidivism Follow-up	10
A Study of a Coeducational Correctional Facility	11
The Effects of a Coeducational Correctional Experience: A Continued Analysis	14
<u>Recidivism Studies</u>	15
An Analysis of Recidivism Among Residents Released From Mass. Correctional Institutions During 1971	16

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
An Analysis of Recidivism Among Residents Released From Mass. Correctional Institutions During the Year 1972 in Comparison with Releases in the Years 1966 and 1971	18
An Analysis of Differential Rates of Recidivism For MCI-Walpole Commitments by Institution of Release, May 1976	20
An Analysis of Recidivism Rates Among Residents Released from Mass. Correctional Institutions During the Year 1973	21
<u>Special Projects</u>	23
An Evaluation of the Norfolk Fellowship June	24
A Profile of Vietnam Era Veterans Incarcerated In Mass. Correctional Institutions July	25
Characteristics of Major Violators in Mass.	26
<u>Annual Statistical Reports</u>	27

Copies of the studies summarized in this report may be obtained by writing to:

Research Division
Department of Correction
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02202

INTRODUCTION

In 1972, the Massachusetts Department of Correction created a series of community-based correctional programs to facilitate the re-entry of offenders into the community after years of total confinement in an institution. Through the provisions of the Correctional Reform Act (Chapter 777), programs such as Home Furloughs, Work Release Programs, Educational-Release Programs, and residential half-way Houses and Pre-Release Centers were put into operation.

Although it was not until 1972 that the gradual release process became an important part of the rehabilitative effort in Massachusetts it was not the first contact that the Department of Correction had had with these types of programs. For instance, in 1952, Forestry Camps were authorized to be established by the Massachusetts State Legislature as minimum security facilities. Three such camps were instituted in State Forest Reservations near Monroe, Plymouth and Warwick, giving the men assigned to these camps a feeling of freedom that could not exist in traditional incarceration. In 1967, the Day Work program at MCI-Concord provided another alternative to total imprisonment by allowing certain inmates to work during the day outside of the correctional facility while living in a residence also located outside the institutional walls. These programs were the first step in easing the transition from total incarceration to freedom (through parole or discharge).

The establishment of the new programs in 1972 represented a further effort towards successful reintegration into the community, which would hopefully reduce recidivism rates. At the same time, a serious effort was begun to conduct an extensive evaluation of each new program. The main objective of these research studies was to ascertain whether these programs are effective in terms of rehabilitation as well as to provide a feedback mechanism for program administrators. Abstracts from the most recent of these program evaluation efforts (completed in 1975 and 1976) are presented in the following pages. Included in this collection are studies of Massachusetts half-way houses and pre-release centers, an assessment of the furlough program, and an overview of the coeducational facility at Framingham.

Another evaluative goal of the Department of Correction has been the analysis of recidivism among individuals released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions. Abstracts from these reports are also included in this document, as well as a series of special studies such as an evaluation of the Norfolk Fellowship, and descriptive studies of Vietnam veterans and major violators.

A final objective of these program evaluations may be seen in their usefulness in interpreting yearly statistical reports. A complete list and description of these annual reports is contained in the final section of this collection of abstracts.

-2-

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM AMONG RESIDENTS RELEASED
FROM BOSTON STATE AND SHIRLEY PRE-RELEASE CENTERS DURING

1972 - 1973

AUGUST 1975 DANIEL P. LECLAIR

The present study is an attempt to make a contribution to the literature concerning the effectiveness of community based pre-release programs in achieving the goal of reducing the repeated criminal behavior of individuals who have experienced prison incarceration. For this purpose, a research evaluation of two experimental pre-release correctional programs operated in the state of Massachusetts was carried out.

The research evaluation resulted in two major findings. First, it was found that individuals who had completed the combined pre-release programs under study had significantly lower rates of recidivism than a control group of similar types of inmates who had not participated in a pre-release program; and a significantly lower actual recidivism rate than their derived expected recidivism rate. Secondly, a series of inmate types which seem to be disproportionately helped by pre-release program participation was tentatively identified.

Both findings are believed to be tentative findings pending the completion of further research, now currently in progress at the Massachusetts Department of Correction.

1974 CLIENT PROFILE MASSACHUSETTS HALFWAY HOUSES, INC.
(BROOKE HOUSE, TEMPORARY HOUSING, AND COOLIDGE HOUSE)

SEPTEMBER 1975
JOSEPH LANDOLFI

This report is the first stage of a three part overall evaluation of residents admitted to MHHI on a pre-release basis during 1974. Included in this report are: statistical data regarding the movement of population in and out of the pre-release programs, program termination data and a statistical breakdown of background characteristics of program participants.

During 1974 there were a total of 85 residents admitted to MHHI. For comparative purposes, the sample was divided into two groups: program completers and program non-completers. When the total sample was divided in this fashion, there were 57 program completions and 28 program non-completions.

A COMPARISON BETWEEN PRE-RELEASE PROGRAM
COMPLETERS AND NON-COMPLETERS AT MASSACHUSETTS
HALF-WAY HOUSES, INC. OCTOBER 1975
JOSEPH LANDOLFI

This report is the second stage of a three part evaluation of residents admitted to MHHI on a pre-release basis during 1974. Included in this report is an analysis of the pre-release sample in terms of the basic statistical difference between program completers and program non-completers.

Of the 85 individuals who participated in the MHHI pre-release programs, 57 (67%) successfully completed these programs. The remaining 28 residents (33%) were returned to their sending institutions as program non-completers. Commitment, background and criminal history variables were characterized according to a series of different splits for each completion sample.

A comparison of these variables between program completers and non-completers yielded five variables that produced statistically significant differences. In rank order of their significance, the variables were: Length of Time in Months Between Parole Eligibility and Date of Release, Number of Previous Adult Paroles, Marital Status, Length of Incarceration in Months and the Total Number of Prior House of Correction Incarcerations.

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM AMONG RESIDENTS
RELEASED FROM THE PRE-RELEASE CENTERS ADMINISTERED
BY MASSACHUSETTS HALF-WAY HOUSES, INC.
JUNE 1976 JOSEPH LANDOLFI

The present study is the third and final report concerning the MHHI programs. This report attempts to evaluate the effectiveness of the MHHI's community based pre-release programs in achieving the goal of reducing the repeated, criminal behavior of individuals who have experienced prison incarceration. This will be measured by rates of recidivism.

During the year 1974, a total of 41 residents were released from MHHI facilities to the free community on parole or discharge status. Of the 41 individuals who successfully completed the MHHI programs, only 4 recidivated. This resulted in an overall recidivism rate of 9.8%. When the actual rate of recidivism was compared to a computed expected rate of recidivism it was found that MHHI releasees had a considerably lower rate than expected.

A PROFILE OF CHARACTERISTICS DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN
PROGRAM COMPLETERS AND PROGRAM NON-COMPLETERS
IN MASSACHUSETTS' PRE-RELEASE CENTERS
NOVEMBER 1975 DANIEL P. LECLAIR

The research question addressed in the present study was whether there are certain characteristics that differ among inmates who complete their terms in a pre-release center and those who do not. A sample of 228 was chosen during the period November 1972 to January 1974 from individuals assigned to either of two pre-release centers: Boston State or Shirley. From a total of 111 individuals, 68% of the Boston sample ($N=75$) completed the program as opposed to 32% ($N=36$) who did not. From the Shirley sample ($N=117$), 53% ($N=62$) were program completers, and 47% ($N=55$) were program non-completers. The data used for the multivariate analysis was gathered from the central office files of the Department of Correction and the four categories of variables used were: criminal history, social background history of present offense, and history of present incarceration.

Results showed that Boston program non-completers were more likely to have had parole as a juvenile, to have been incarcerated as a juvenile, to have appeared in court for offenses against property or for drug offenses, to have more than 12 months until eligible for parole, to have worked relatively short periods at their previous most skilled position and less than one year at any job, to be younger than 30 when released from their pre-release program, and to have been in court five or more times. Non-completers at Shirley were generally characterized by having more prior appearances in court for offenses against persons, and more court appearances in general, parole as a juvenile, incarceration as a juvenile, and previous adult parole.

THE MASSACHUSETTS FURLough PROGRAM: A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT
FEBRUARY 1976 FAYE FARRINGTON

This report represents an in-depth review of the furlough program in Massachusetts established by the Correctional Reform Act of 1972, including both legislative provisions of the Act as well as Departmental policy in implementing the furlough program. Since the inception of the program until October 1975 there were 344 cases who escaped from furlough, an escape rate of 1.5. Of these 344, one-fourth returned within 24 hours of their own free will, producing an adjusted escape rate of 1.1.

An analysis of individuals furloughed during the period November 1972 through April 1975 (N=3080) revealed that when compared to the total resident population, furloughed residents were more likely to be serving sentences for narcotics offenses, and minimum sentences of 1-9 years, and that younger offenders (16-19 years) and married residents were overrepresented in the furlough population. Underrepresented in this population were sex offenders, those serving indeterminate sentences, and single residents.

Escapees were found to be less likely to have been sentenced for sex offenses than those who successfully completed their furloughs, and were more likely to be incarcerated for unarmed robbery, larceny of a motor vehicle or escape from a correctional institution, more likely to be serving an indeterminate sentence or a minimum sentence of 10-14 years, to be black, and to be less than 30 years old. Those residents who experienced difficulty on furlough were found to have no statistically significant differences in terms of offense, minimum sentences, age, race, marital status, or military service.

MASSACHUSETTS FURLOUGH PROGRAM STATISTICAL FACT SHEET
MAY 1976 FAYE FARRINGTON

This report offers a statistical overview of the Massachusetts furlough program from its inception in November 1972 to April 1976. During this period a total of 28,477 furloughs were granted to 3,624 residents, or an average number of eight furloughs per resident.

Statistics reported on include: escape rate by furlough, voluntary returns, escapees at large, escape rate by individuals furloughed, trends in number of individuals furloughed, proportion of population participating in furlough program, lifer furlough statistics, proportion of lifer population participating in furlough programs, effect of furlough programs on recidivism, and court prosecution of escape cases.

CHARLOTTE HOUSE PRE-RELEASE CENTER FOR WOMEN:
PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS & A RECIDIVISM
FOLLOW-UP
OCTOBER 1976 JOSEPH LANDOLFI

Charlotte House, a half-way house for women, seeks to facilitate the re-entry of female offenders into the community by providing them with educational, vocational and counseling programs. In 1973, Charlotte House converted from post-release to pre-release status and housed women who had 12 months or less of their sentence left to serve.

The purpose of the present study was to determine the recidivism rate of those who completed the half-way house program, as well as any characteristics that differed among completers and non-completers. Results showed no statistically significant differences between the two groups, but this was due to the relatively small sample. Program completers had a recidivism rate of 13.6%, or 3 out of 22 individuals recidivated. This was considerably below the recidivism rates of the general release population which is particularly significant in view of the fact that residents at Charlotte House were high risk in comparison with the general prison population.

A STUDY OF A COEDUCATIONAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

1975

This study of the coeducational correctional program at MCI Framingham had three general goals.

These were:

- (1) to provide a general description of the facility and its programs;
- (2) to generate some exploratory data on inmates' perceptions of the social climate, the coeducational aspects, and selected programs of MCI-Framingham; and,
- (3) to examine the impact of the MCI-Framingham coeducational program on recidivism.

A review of the correctional literature was carried out with a general focus on studies of all-male and all-female institutions. In the literature a conceptual framework for the exploratory part of the study emerged. There was an emphasis on the general concept of the social climate of the correctional facility.

The description of MCI-Framingham was based upon interviews with selected staff members, as well as upon various written documents and reports on Framingham.

The exploratory part of the study, based upon interviews with MCI Framingham inmates, revealed the following results with respect to social climate:

- (1) Regarding communication and information flow, males tended to feel there was less communication between themselves and staff at Framingham than there was at their more structured former institution. However, at Framingham, inmates felt more able to participate in decision making concerning how the institution is run.
- (2) With regard to punishment and reward, both males and females felt staff will punish them for an infraction, but they see little chance that they would be punished by a fellow inmate. Males reported that they would be more likely to be punished by fellow inmates at their former institutions. Staff at Framingham was also seen as more apt to give praise to inmates for positive behavior.

- (3) Concerning inmates' relationship with the outside community, males tend to generally view their relationship as more positive than females. This could be due to the fact that males, exclusive of cadre, are primarily sent to Framingham for pre-release programs and tend to compare and contrast Framingham with their sending institutions.
- (4) Concerning inmate subculture, there seemed to be a much less rigid subculture among men than women. Men seemed less involved with each other, resulting in less peer pressure. Women tended to be more involved in a social system similar to those found in all-female institutions.
- (5) As far as sexual relationships between men and women, the general response was that there was no difference at Framingham from that which exists on the outside. Inmates were willing to openly acknowledge the presence of female homosexuality, but denied the existence of male homosexuality. The inmates' attitudes on sexual roles were rather traditional and stereotyped, with the exception of female homosexuals. Finally, the inmates reported that, in general, they did not expect the relationships formed in Framingham to last on the outside.

With respect to Framingham programs, inmate's perceptions of the furlough program and the work and education release programs were very positive; their perceptions of the cadre program were positive; and their perceptions of the counseling program were mixed. Also, it was clear that their general view of the coeducational correctional experience was an extremely positive one.

Recidivism Follow-up. The comparison between the expected recidivism rate (17.3%) and the actual recidivism rate (11.6%) revealed a substantial reduction in recidivism for the first 121 persons who were released from Framingham since it became a coeducational facility. The impact of the Framingham program on recidivism tended to be somewhat greater for women--from 19.6% (expected rate) to 12.8% (actual rate)--than it was for men--from 11.8% (expected rate) to 8.6% (actual rate).

An analysis of the relationship between background characteristics and recidivism produced some interesting findings. For example, none of the 14 men originally committed to Walpole were

recidivists, while 14% of the 21 men originally committed to Concord were recidivists. This may reflect a more careful screening of the Walpole commitments. On offense, the recidivism rate of property offenders (26%) was significantly higher than that of all other offenders (7%). Although this pattern is consistent with previous studies, the unusually large difference is noteworthy here. On race, black inmates, both female and male, had a considerably lower recidivism rate (8%) than that of whites (15%). Finally, unlike the findings of previous studies, the recidivism rate of those with histories of drug usage was no higher than that of individuals with no histories of drug usage.

In conclusion, there seems to be a clear convergence of the data in support of the coeducational correctional program at MCI-Framingham. Although some negative issues were raised in the course of this study, the overall findings of this research lead to the conclusion that the Framingham program is an effective and worthwhile correctional enterprise.

Linda Almy
Vikki Bravo
Leslie Burd
Patricia Chin
Linda Cohan

Frank Gallo
Anthony Giorgianni
Jeffrey Gold
Mark Jose
John Noyes

Francis J. Carney, Jr., Ph.D., (Thesis Advisor)

April, 1975

THE EFFECTS OF A COEDUCATIONAL CORRECTIONAL
EXPERIENCE: A CONTINUED ANALYSIS
1976

This study was divided into three general areas of investigation--a recidivism analysis; an analysis of selected programs; and, a completion/non-completion analysis.

Recidivism Analysis

The comparison between the expected recidivism rate (30.6%) and the actual recidivism rate (15.4%) revealed a significant reduction in recidivism for the first 156 men and women who were released from Framingham since it became a coeducational facility. The impact of the Framingham program on recidivism was much more significant for women--from 33.9% (expected rate) to 15.2% actual rate--than it was for men--from 22.3% (expected rate) to 15.9% (actual rate). The Framingham program was also found to be especially effective in reducing recidivism for men and women who had histories of drug abuse.

Program Analyses

The present study also examined the effects of four programs offered at MCI-Framingham (Furlough Program, Work Release Program, Education Release Program, and Counseling Program) on the rate of recidivism. In general, all of the programs except the Counseling Program seemed to have a positive effect on the rate of recidivisms. Only the results of the Work Release data were statistically significant, but the trends of the Furlough Program and the Education Release Program were in the positive direction. These results were consistent for both men and women. The trends indicated from the Counseling Program data were not expected, but the results were not significant and several possibilities explaining the results are presented.

Completion/Non-Completion Analysis

Completion/non-completion data identified a profile of distinguishing characteristics of those men who did not successfully complete the Framingham program. This profile could be used as an aid to decision making in the process of screening men for transfer to MCI-Framingham. Those individuals within these high risk groups can be scrutinized more carefully or programs may be tailored more specifically to the individual needs of men within this group. It is important to note that this profile should not be used in a mechanical way. It should be considered as an aid for judgement, not a substitute for judgement.

-14A-

Paul E. Benedict

Layne C. Suss

Carolyn Brewer

Robin Teicholz

Juliana Matthews

Dolores Thomas

Joseph Polhemus

Jan Tuemmler

Sharon Schwartz

Alan Tweedy

Curtis P. Wilkins

Francis J. Carney, Jr., Ph.D., (Thesis Advisor)

1976

-15-

RECIDIVISM STUDIES

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM AMONG RESIDENTS
RELEASED FROM MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL
INSTITUTIONS DURING 1971
MAY 1975 DANIEL P. LECLAIR

A study of the 1971 releasees from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions revealed that 25% of the releasee population returned to prison within 1 year of their release. MCI's Framingham, Concord, and Walpole releasees had relatively high recidivism rates and MCI's Norfolk and Forestry Camps releasees had relatively low recidivism rates.

When the releasee population was analyzed in terms of the original institution of commitment, it was discovered that a particular pattern existed for Walpole commitments. Whereas the recidivism rate of individuals committed to MCI-Walpole and released directly from MCI-Walpole was 27%, the recidivism rate of individuals committed to MCI-Walpole but released from MCI-Norfolk was 17%; and the recidivism rate of MCI-Walpole commitments released from MCI-Forestry Camps was 13%. Thus, Walpole commitments who were transferred to and subsequently released from these other MCI's had a significantly lower recidivism rate than those who remained at Walpole until their release. This finding suggests a reintegrative or rehabilitative quality in the movement from maximum to medium and to minimum security levels, as opposed to an abrupt release directly from maximum security.

When considering the variation of releasee population by recidivism in terms of the offense they had been sentenced for, it was discovered that sex offenders had the lowest rate of recidivism. This was consistently the case for all releasing institutions. Offenses Against the Person was the category-with the second lowest rates of recidivism. Offense categories with higher rates of recidivism included: Offenses Against Property and Drug Offenses.

Analysis of the Variable Age at Release with recidivism outcome revealed that the older an individual is at the time of release, the lesser the chance is that he will become a recidivist.

Relating the variable Length of Time Incarcerated on Present Offense to recidivism resulted in the finding that individuals incarcerated for a longer period of time had a lesser chance of recidivating.

However, since each of the three variables discussed above - Type of Offense, Age At Release and Length of Incarceration - are related to each other as well as recidivism, a further test of the interrelationship was carried out by a correlation analysis. This resulted in the finding that the relationship between Length of Incarceration and recidivism no longer held valid but, in fact, was merely associated with the other two variables.

As Part II of the analysis twenty-three categories delineating high and low recidivism risk groups were constructed.

As Part III of this report, the overall recidivism rates for the 1971 releasee population was compared with overall recidivism rates for individuals released in previous years. The last recidivism research conducted by the Department of Correction dealt with the 1966 releasee population.

The recidivism rates for the total 1971 population were considerably lower than the 1966 population. For the 1966 releasee population the overall recidivism rate was 30%, whereas for the 1971 releasee population it was 25%. This difference is statistically significant. It is interesting to note that when analyzing the differences by the specific releasing institution, the reduced recidivism can be attributed to Massachusetts Correctional Institutions Norfolk and Forestry Camps. The reductions at MCI's Walpole, Concord, and Framingham were not statistically significant.

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM AMONG RESIDENTS RELEASED FROM
MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1972
IN COMPARISON WITH RELEASES IN THE YEARS 1966 AND 1971
MARCH 1976 DANIEL P. LECLAIR

A study of releases from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions during the year 1972 revealed that 22% of the releasee population returned to prison within one year of the date of their release. Analyses reveal the following important findings:

- (1) The recidivism rate for individuals released in the year 1972 was significantly below the recidivism rate for releases in previous years.
- (2) Higher rates of recidivism occurred for releases directly from maximum security institutions than for releases from medium and minimum security institutions.
- (3) While there was an unusually large increase in the number of individuals released from MCI-Concord in the year 1972, the recidivism rate for MCI-Concord actually dropped. It was concluded, therefore, that the increased numbers of individuals paroled and discharged as part of an effort to enable the planned reduction in bed space at MCI-Concord did not result in an increased rate of recidivism.
- (4) Fewer individuals who were paroled from correctional institutions in Massachusetts in the year 1972 were found to be returned to prison for the single reason of a technical violation of parole rules. A possible explanation for this trend is that the effects of the Morrissey vs. Brewer decision are now being felt in Massachusetts criminal justice system.
- (5) Analysis revealed that for individuals originally committed to MCI-Walpole recidivism rates varied according to the specific institution from which they were released. Walpole commitments who were transferred to and released from lower security institutions had significantly lower rates of recidivism than those released directly from a maximum security institution. It is suggested that the above finding lends support to the possibility of a reintegrative or rehabilitative quality in the movement from maximum to medium and/or to minimum security levels as opposed to an abrupt release directly from a maximum security institution.
- (6) For all releasing institutions, individuals who received a parole had significantly higher rates of recidivism.

than individuals who had received a discharge. One clear reason why it would be expected for individuals receiving a discharge would have lower rates of recidivism is that such individuals would not be returned for parole violations since they are not on parole status. Dischargees may only be returned for reason of receiving a new sentence on a new offense.

AN ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENTIAL RATES OF RECIDIVISM
FOR MCI-WALPOLE COMMITMENTS BY INSTITUTION
OF RELEASE, MAY 1976
JOSEPH LANDOLFI

The primary goal of this study is to evaluate the rehabilitative quality of Massachusetts medium and minimum security institutions using recidivism as the gauge for measuring the impact of the program. Specifically this study was designed to analyze the occurrence of differential rates of recidivism for MCI-Walpole commitments by their specific institution of release. The sample populations consisted of 1971 releasees.

The evaluation resulted in two significant findings. First, it was determined that evidence did not exist in support of the contention that low recidivist risks were in fact chosen for transfer to the programs. Secondly, even when controlling for a possible selection bias analyses revealed that there was indeed a rehabilitative quality in the movement from maximum to medium and minimum security levels in the Massachusetts Department of Correction.

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM RATES AMONG RESIDENTS
RELEASED FROM MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
DURING THE YEAR 1973
OCTOBER 1976 DANIEL P. LECLAIR

The present study consists of an analysis of rates of recidivism for individuals released from Massachusetts' State Correctional Institutions. The particular population upon which the analysis was conducted consisted of all such releases in the year 1973.

Several striking findings emerged from the study that we believe have wide range theoretical and, more importantly, administrative policy implications.

First, it is clear that a consistent reduction in recidivistic behavior is occurring in Massachusetts. For releases in the year 1966, the mean rate of recidivism was 30%; for 1971, it was 25%; for 1972, 22%; and for 1973, 19%. This trend, however, is not peculiar to the state of Massachusetts. For example, Martinson and Wilks (October, 1976) have recently presented evidence that the same trend is occurring nationally.

Secondly, the study firmly demonstrates that participation in the Furlough Program is the most important variable in accounting for the reduction of recidivism rates that has occurred in Massachusetts. When the selection factor was controlled for, the relationship held as strongly.

Thirdly, the study found that participation in pre-release programs prior to reintroduction to community life, led to the lowest rate of recidivism.

Fourthly, related to the finding discussed above, analyses revealed that individuals released from prison directly from medium or minimum security institutions (which includes pre-release centers) had significantly lower rates of recidivism than did those individuals released directly from a maximum security institution. This finding, also documented in previous Departmental recidivism studies, suggest a reintegrative or rehabilitative quality in the movement from maximum to medium to minimum security levels, as opposed to an abrupt release directly from a maximum security institution.

The above findings provide striking support for the recently enacted community-based correctional network of programs in Massachusetts: Pre-Release Centers, Halfway Houses, Work and Education Release Programs, Co-Educational Institutions, and most importantly, the Furlough Program.

Two other aspects of the present study include: (1) comparative recidivism figures for both a one and a two year follow-up period; and (2) a profile of high and low recidivism risk potentials derived from a series of personal background and criminal history variables on each member of the population.

The profile portion of the analysis revealed a further important finding. It was found that the category criminal career pattern was the strongest indicator of high/low recidivism risk potential. Those individuals found to be deeply embedded in a criminal career consistently had the highest rates of recidivism. This finding is important in relation to the newly emerging interest in career criminal programming.

-23-

SPECIAL PROJECTS

AN EVALUATION OF THE NORFOLK FELLOWSHIP
JUNE 1975 TOM CANNON

The Norfolk Fellowship is based at Massachusetts Correctional Institution-Norfolk, a medium security facility for adult male offenders. The Fellowship programs bring together, in small groups prisoners and volunteers from the community in an attempt to create an atmosphere of fellowship. These programs operate in the institution and in the community providing a unique opportunity for continuity of participation both before and after release.

This study focuses on three major areas of concern: recidivism, differential treatment effects and financial benefits. In terms of recidivism, the Fellowship is a positive correctional program, effectively reducing recidivism for program regulars. In terms of differential treatment effects, the program is most successful with the following groups: blacks, those married or previously married, those with prior military service, those 30 or older at present incarceration, and parolees. The financial benefits were substantial, being \$262,240 over a four year period.

A PROFILE OF VIETNAM ERA VETERANS INCARCERATED
IN MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
JULY 1976 JOSEPH LANDOLFI
AND DANIEL LECLAIR

In response to a number of requests for information on veterans incarcerated in Massachusetts Department of Correction facilities, particularly Vietnam era veterans, the research unit of the DOC prepared a preliminary series of statistical reports concerning this aspect of the population.

Upon inspection of the Correction/Parole Information System Data Base, it was determined that as of September 1975, approximately 11% or 222 individuals of the total MCI population were Vietnam era Veterans. In addition to presenting frequency distributions on background and criminal history variables, this evaluation will make a statistical comparison between incarcerated veterans and non-veterans on those variables.

This evaluation concluded that there was a significant proportion of Vietnam era veterans incarcerated in Massachusetts Correctional Institutions. Generally this population exhibited a less active criminal history background than the non-veteran and represented a fairly stable group of individuals with a relatively high rehabilitative potential.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MAJOR VIOLATORS IN MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER, 1976

Ellen Chayet,

As national attention is increasingly focusing on career criminals (the recidivistic and more serious offenders), Massachusetts is one of the few states to have both prosecution and correction oriented programs to deal with this offender type. To enable correctional administrators to plan treatment programs for individuals convicted as such by the District Attorney, a typology of the career criminal, or Major Violator, needed to be developed. This study represents the first step in that task.

Two groups were selected for study. The treatment group ($N=112$) consisted of all Major Violators convicted by Suffolk Superior Court since program inception. The control ($N=155$) was culled from all commitments from that court to the institution receiving Major Violators doing the same time period. Comparisons between the two groups were made to ascertain differentiating factors. Major differences were found to exist; a total of ten variables yielded significance using the Chi Square test. Among these: Major Violators were more likely to have received a longer sentence, to have been younger, both at the current incarceration and when arrested for the first time, have been arrested more times previously for committing person offenses and for property offenses, to have appeared in court more often, to be committed for an armed robbery. These findings were consistent with the theoretical conceptualization of the career criminal, and have pragmatic implications for correctional treatment planning.

Future studies will elaborate upon these findings by utilizing diverse control groups.

-27-

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

The following statistical reports are prepared yearly by the Department of Correction and are available for the years 1974 and 1975:

Yearly Statistical Report of the Furlough Program: Faye Farrington

The number of individuals furloughed monthly in proportion to the total population for each correctional facility, as well as total number of furloughs, number of escapes, and escape rates for each year.

A Description of the Residents of the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions: Robert Patrician, Tom Cannon

This report describes the background, criminal history and commitment information of the population of each correctional facility at the beginning of each year (reports for January 1, 1975 and January 1, 1976 are available).

A Description of Court Commitments to the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions: Robert Patrician

An overview of court commitments to MCI-Walpole, Concord and Framingham is presented in this report, including data on commitments, criminal history, and background.

A Description of Releasees from the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions: Robert Patrician

The tables in this report describe the individuals released from each Massachusetts correctional facility into the community in terms of commitment, release, criminal history, and background data.

Yearly Statistical Report of the Community Rehabilitation System: Chris Mackey, Paul Gilpin

Data in this report include population movement to and from pre-release centers and halfway houses, program data, and post-release data for community-based correctional facilities in Massachusetts.

Population Movement Report for the Years 1974 and 1975:
Robert Patrician

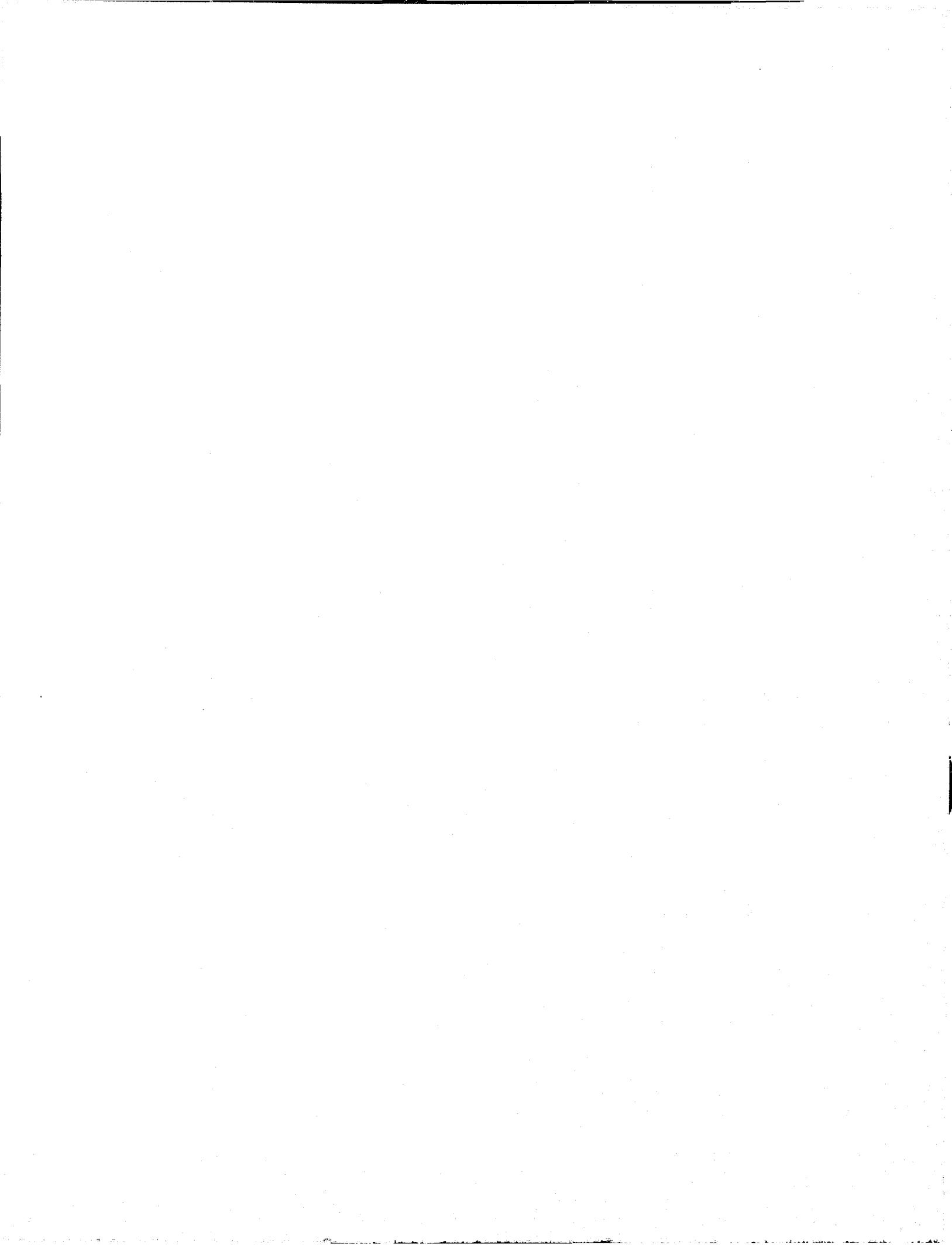
Inmate population movement within Massachusetts correctional institutions is presented in this report, including numbers of admissions and releases of various types, the effect of changes in the volume of movements on the size of the institutional population, and numbers of transfers within the system.

Commitments and Releases to Jails and Houses of Correction for the Years 1974 and 1975: Paul Gilpin

This report presents numbers of admissions to Massachusetts jails and Houses of Correction (by reason of commitment) as well as numbers of individuals released from these facilities into the community (by specific category of release).

Place of Massachusetts in National Crime Rate Statistics 1974 and 1975;
Nelson Cochrane

Massachusetts is rank ordered with other states in this report to determine its crime rate for murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault, robbery, larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft.



E N D