

67405

BLACKBURN CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX ESCAPE STUDY - 1978



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ABSTRACT

The focus of this study is to examine the rapid increase in escapes from the Blackburn Correctional Complex, a minimum security facility in Lexington, Kentucky. The data collected has not been compared to a sample of the non-escape population so the findings can in no way be taken to provide escape predictors because they may be simply describing general population characteristics. In interpreting the findings two dates were identified as important in Blackburn Correctional Complex's history: November of 1976, when there was a programmatic change and a unit reorganization, and March of 1978, the effective date of the Polsgrove Decision which resulted in a rapid change in the population at Blackburn Correctional Complex.

Demographically, the escapees were predominately white, under thirty years of age, and single. The escapees usually had prior felony property arrests, no prior felony violent arrest, a previous incarceration either as an adult, juvenile or both, and had no escape history. The crime of present conviction was most likely a property offense (burglary, fraud, or robbery) with a sentence of more than three years. The escapee had probably been cited for an institutional rule infraction, had not been granted parole or probation, spent an average of 1.25 years at other institutions, was received from Kentucky State Reformatory (medium security), and spent approximately three months at Blackburn Correctional Complex before the escape. The escapee was probably from the First Offender Unit, in the spring or summer, from Friday to Monday, and between 4:00 p.m. and midnight.

However, since Polsgrove there has been some changes in the escape population. The number of blacks escaping is increasing and between 21 to 26 years of age group is declining. The number of escapees with a robbery conviction is on the rise, whereas the number with fraud convictions has decreased.

The escapees are spending less time at other institutions and they are likely to spend either an unusually short period of time at Blackburn Correctional Complex (less than a month) or long period (more than one and a half years). There has also been an increase in the number of escapes from the On-the-Job Training Unit with a corresponding decrease in escapes from the First Offender Unit.

BLACKBURN CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX ESCAPE STUDY - 1978

In mid year 1978, the Kentucky Bureau of Corrections noted a rapidly increasing escape rate from Blackburn Correctional Complex, a community based minimum security facility with programs to prepare inmates for release in the community. Since this escape trend has not occurred at other institutions (Table 1), the focus of the study was to examine possible causes.

The central inmate files in the Offender Records Section of the Kentucky Bureau of Corrections and the institutional inmate files of all inmates who escaped between 1972 and August 19, 1978 were studied. To assure that appropriate variables on the social background, criminal history, and circumstances of escape were included in the study, abstracts from other escape studies were obtained from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service and reviewed for trends or patterns typical of escapees. Available staff at Blackburn were interviewed and their perceptions and opinions on the increasing escape rate were included as variables (Appendix A). The statistical analysis of the data was performed by the use of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), a highly reliable computer program.

However, since the data presented is only for escapees, it is impossible in this preliminary report to determine how the escapees are different from the inmate who does not escape. Therefore, factors characteristic of escapees can in no way be interpreted to predict those who will escape.

TABLE 1
NUMBER OF ESCAPES BY INSTITUTION

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>September 1978</u>
Maximum Security:			
Kentucky State Penitentiary*	17	8	8
Medium Security:			
Kentucky State Reformatory	22	22	17
Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women	2	0	0
Minimum Security:			
Blackburn Correctional Complex	18	16	27
Frenchburg Correctional Facility	5	8	0
Bell County Forestry Camp	2	3	8
Harlan County Forestry Camp	2	3	3
Western Kentucky Farm Center*	X	10	8
Daniel Boone Career Development Center	0	0	0
Roederer Farm Center	0	10	8
Frankfort Career Development Center	1	7	7
Eastern Kentucky Career Development Center	X	X	0

*Western Kentucky Farm Center was carried as a farm dormitory of Kentucky State Penitentiary in 1976.

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ESCAPEES

From the time that Blackburn was established in 1972, two major changes have been identified by institutional staff as impacting the escapes at Blackburn: the change in unit configuration which occurred in November of 1976 and the Polsgrove Decision whose effect was apparent in March of 1978. On November 1, 1976, the Prerelease Unit, which had served to give an inmate with a short period of time left on his sentence increased contact with community, was discontinued. Due to the purpose of the Prerelease Unit, inmates who normally would not have met the minimum security guidelines (no victim injury, no previous escape or attempted escape, etc.) were transferred to Blackburn Correctional Complex including many from Kentucky State Penitentiary, a maximum security facility. The Prerelease Unit was replaced with the Career Development Unit which houses residents in off-complex details, study release, and vocational training release. The Governmental Services Unit (GSU), which had provided manpower to state government facilities was also discontinued and replaced with the On-the-Job Training Unit which does not involve off-complex work as GSU had and is directed toward on-complex maintenance. In addition, the rated capacity at the Blackburn Correctional Complex was expanded with the renovation of the First Offender Annex. The original units at Blackburn were the First Offender Unit, Governmental Services Unit, and Prerelease Unit. The reorganization resulted in the present unit configuration of a First Offender Unit, On-Job-Training Unit and Career Development Unit.

The Polsgrove Decision allowed the time served in county jail before transfer to state institutions to be included in the calculation of parole eligibility date. At Blackburn, there was a rapid increase in the number of releases, as well as an increase in incoming transfers to maintain the normal functioning population at Blackburn.

Utilizing these dates, three time periods were developed: the time the Prerelease Unit and Governmental Services Unit were operational (time period 1), the time between the unit change and the Polsgrove Decision (time period 2), and the time since the Polsgrove Decision (time period 3). By dividing the history of Blackburn into three time periods, we were better able to identify patterns of Blackburn escapes over time and the characteristics of the more recent escapees.

Social History

Race was identified as a significant characteristic of escapees in studies in Washington State, California, and a LEAA study, whites escaping more frequently than blacks. Our study substantiates the racial difference with 86.9% of escapees being white and only 13.1% black; however, the percent of blacks escaping since Polsgrove has increased, although not statistically significant, as shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2
BLACKBURN ESCAPES BY RACE BY TIME

	All Escapes		Time Period 1		Time Period 2		Time Period 3	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Black	13.1	17	11.9	10	9.1	2	20.8	5
White	<u>86.9</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>88.1</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>90.9</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>79.2</u>	<u>19</u>
	100.0	130	100.0	84	100.0	22	100.0	24

As was expected from other studies (LEAA and Washington), the escapees from Blackburn were predominantly under 30. The average age was 26.4 years with a range between 17 and 55 years of age. Since 63.8% were 26 years or younger as indicated in the cumulative percentages in Table 3, the remaining 36.2% inflated the average age; therefore, the median age of 24.4 years is important to note. Although no distinct pattern could be identified over time with respect to age, an interesting scattering of escapees was found since

Polsgrove with 37.5% of the escapees 20 years or younger and 45.8% 27 or older. Only 16.7% were in the age group from 21 to 26, the range which is divided by the median age of all Blackburn escapees; therefore, since Polsgrove, escapees are either much younger or much older than average.

TABLE 3
AGE CATEGORIES OF BLACKBURN ESCAPEES

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Cum %</u>
19 or Younger	11.5	15	11.5
20	10.8	16	22.3
21	11.5	15	33.8
22 to 24	16.9	22	50.8
25 to 26	13.1	17	63.8
27 to 29	13.1	17	76.9
30 to 39	15.4	20	92.3
40 or Older	<u>7.7</u>	<u>10</u>	100.0
	100.0	130	

Mean - 26.38

Minimum - 17

Median - 24.35

Maximum - 55

Although marital status was obtained at the time of incarceration as well as at the time of escape, only two escapees had undergone a change in marital status during incarceration. Most of the inmates were single (51.5%), 26.9% were married and six escapees were separated. Little change was found over time except that 11% more escapees are single since the Prerelease Unit was stopped (time periods 2 and 3). In addition, most of the escapees (64.6%) claimed no dependents.

The escape population was approximately divided on their employment status. Sixty four were unemployed at the time of arrest with most of these

having been unemployed for four months or more; 66 were employed at the time of arrest. Over time, there have been several fluctuations by employment status with the two most important being the percentage of escapees unemployed (63.6%) between the unit change and Polsgrove and the percentage employed for more than one year (37.5%) since Polsgrove.

Jefferson County (Louisville) and out-of-state were the most often cited place of residence with each place having 21 inmates or 16.2% of the escape population. Fayette County (Lexington) was the place of residence for 11 inmates or 8.5% of the escapees and the remainder were scattered among the other Kentucky counties with only Warren County (Bowling Green) (6 inmates or 4.6%) having over four escapees. Place of residence was not examined over time.

Criminal History

Prior property arrests were found to be an escape indicator in several of the studies reviewed in the literature (Washington and California studies); whereas, prior violent arrests were not frequent among escapees. In the Blackburn study, 75.4% (N=98) had prior property arrests, approximately split between those having one to two arrests and those having three or more prior property arrests. The percent of escapees with prior property arrests has increased 16% since Polsgrove.

Conversely, as was expected, only 26.9% of the escapees had prior violent arrests, which is also consistent with the other escape studies. The period between the unit change and Polsgrove was the only period which had an increase in escapees with prior violent arrests when 36.4% had priors. Also consistent with previous studies (Washington and LEAA) 77% of the escapees had a history of prior incarcerations. As Table 3 depicts, 43% of all escapees had previous incarcerations as adults and as juveniles.

TABLE 4

PRIOR INCARCERATIONS OF BLACKBURN ESCAPEES

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Cum %</u>
Previous adult and juvenile incarceration	43.3	55	43.3
Previous adult incarceration	20.0	26	63.3
Previous juvenile incarceration	13.8	18	77.1
No adult and no juvenile incarceration	<u>23.1</u>	<u>30</u>	100.2*
	100.2*	130	

*Rounding error

Of the escapees from Blackburn, 22.3% had absconded or escaped prior to their "walk off" at Blackburn. Eight inmates or 6.2% had escaped from a juvenile facility. Seven escapees or 5.4% had escaped from a county jail and one had escaped from another state's facility. Six or 4.6% had multiple escapes, four had been reported as fugitives and three had prior escape attempts. The number of escapees with prior escapes has decreased over time to a point that none of the escapees since Polsgrove had a prior escape history.

The majority of the escapees from Blackburn were originally convicted of a crime that was some type of burglary (N=61, 46.9%), a crime that involved fraud or deception (N=26, 20%), or a robbery (N=25, 19.2%).

TABLE 4

BLACKBURN ESCAPEES BY MOST SERIOUS CRIME THIS INCARCERATION

	All		Time Period 1		Time Period 2		Time Period 3	
	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Loss of Life	6.2	8	6.0	5	13.6	3	0.0	0
Assault	3.1	4	2.4	2	4.5	1	4.2	1
Robbery	19.2	25	20.2	17	9.1	2	25.0	6
Burglary	46.9	61	41.7	35	50.0	11	62.5	15
Fraud or Deception	20.0	26	22.6	19	22.7	5	8.3	2
Else	<u>4.6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7.2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0</u>
	100.0	130	100.0	84	100.0	22	100.0	24

As Table 4 indicates the percent of escapees with burglary convictions has increased over time reaching a peak in the most recent period since Polsgrove. The percent of escapees with fraud or crimes of deception has declined since Polsgrove, whereas, the percent of escapees with a robbery conviction is at the highest point since Polsgrove. Half of the population (52.3%) had multiple offenses, a pattern which was consistent over time.

The crime story located in the pre-sentence investigation was examined to determine if there was any alcohol/drug usage at the time of the arrest. Alcohol usage was measured in different means by other studies such as moderate or excessive use, but since standards were not available, it was decided to search for alcohol or drug usage at the time of the crime which would directly link the alcohol or drug abuse to criminal behavior. Regardless of the measurement, alcohol usage is a typical characteristic of escapees whereas drug usage is uncommon among the escapees. 32.3% of the escapees were believed to be using alcohol and 3.1% were using alcohol and drugs at the time they committed the crime. However, 60.0% of the escapees were not using drugs or alcohol at the time of the crime (some of this group were known to use alcohol and/or drugs but were not using at the time of the crime). Alcohol and drug use was fairly consistent over time with the exception of the period between the unit change and Polsgrove which had an 8.6% increase in alcohol use.

TABLE 5
ALCOHOL AND DRUG USAGE AT THE TIME OF THE COMMISSION
OF THE CRIME FOR BLACKBURN ESCAPEES

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
No drug or alcohol usage	60.0	78
Drug usage	4.6	6
Alcohol usage	32.3	42
Drug and alcohol usage	<u>3.1</u>	<u>4</u>
	100.0	130

Institutional History

The average sentence length of Blackburn escapees was slightly over eight years with a minimum of one year and a maximum of life. Sentences were categorized according to Kentucky parole eligibility as specified by the Parole Board's Administrative Regulations. 35.4% were serving less than three years; of the 64.6% that were serving three years or more, the majority fell into the group greater than three years and less than nine years. Over time, there has been an increase in the percent of escapees serving longer sentences as indicated in Table 6.

Over half of the escapees (55.4%) had one or more incident report, the procedure used to document institutional rule infractions. Furthermore, there has been a 10% increase in escapees with incident reports over time as indicated by Table 7. The seriousness of the incident reports measured by the number of incident reports above Category I in the penalty offense range has also increased over time. The period between the unit change and Polsgrove had the highest percentage of escapees (40.9%) with incident reports above Category I as indicated in Table 7.

TABLE 6

SENTENCE CATEGORIES FOR BLACKBURN ESCAPEES

	All (N=130) <u>%</u>	Time Period 1 (N=84) <u>%</u>	Time Period 2 (N=22) <u>%</u>	Time Period 3 (N=24) <u>%</u>
1 year but less than 1½ years	13.1	15.5	18.4	0.0
1½ years but less than 2 years	21.5	23.8	13.6	20.8
2 years but less than 3 years	0.8	0.0	0.0	4.2
3 years	11.5	13.1	13.6	4.2
More than 3 years but less than 9 years	29.2	25.0	31.8	41.7
9 years but less than 15 years	16.9	13.1	22.7	25.0
15 years* or more	<u>6.9</u>	<u>9.5</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>4.2</u>
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Includes 5 with life sentences.

Mean=8.17 years

Minimum=1 year

Maximum=Life

TABLE 7

NUMBER AND SERIOUSNESS OF INCIDENT REPORTS OF BLACKBURN ESCAPEES BY TIME PERIODS

	Number			Above Category One		
	Time Period 1 (N=84) <u>%</u>	Time Period 2 (N=22) <u>%</u>	Time Period 3 (N=24) <u>%</u>	Time Period 1 (N=84) <u>%</u>	Time Period 2 (N=22) <u>%</u>	Time Period 3 (N=24) <u>%</u>
0	47.6	40.9	37.5	85.7	59.1	66.7
1	10.7	36.4	33.3	8.3	27.3	12.5
2	8.3	0.0	16.7	0.0	9.1	16.7
3	8.3	9.1	12.5	1.2	0.0	4.2
4	6.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	4.5	0.0
5	6.0	4.5	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0
6 up	<u>13.1</u>	<u>9.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Of the escapees, 39 (30.0%) from Blackburn had a parole deferment within six months of their escape; between the unit change and Polsgrove this was reduced to 18.2% of the escapees having "flops". There were 16 parole violators, one shock probation violator, and two multiple violators in the escape group from Blackburn. There has been only one violator escape since Polsgrove (4.2%), 15.5% (N=13) had violations when the Prerelease was operating, but the highest percent of violations occurred in the period between the unit change and Polsgrove when approximately one fourth (N=5, 22.7%) had some type of violation.

The average length of stay at other institutions for Blackburn escapees was 1.25 years with a minimum of 22 days and a maximum of 13.5 years. As expected the major change for length of stay at other institutions came when the Prerelease Unit was stopped. Prior to the unit change the average length of stay at other institutions was 1.6 years; the length of stay since the unit change averages 10 months and 24 days. Interestingly, there was a greater variance in length of stay at other institutions since Polsgrove with a range from 33 days to 8.7 years; the median time served at other institutions since Polsgrove is 68.4 days.

The average time spent at Blackburn prior to escape was 82 days with a range of 1 to 472 days. The amount of time that the escapees served at Blackburn varied greatly by time periods. When the Prerelease was operating the average length of stay at Blackburn was 84 days. In the period between the unit change and Polsgrove the average length of stay was only 54 days. Since Polsgrove, the length of stay is at the highest point with the average of 99 days, but with a range between 2 and 472 days, and a median of 35.5 days.

The majority of all escapees from Blackburn have been from the First Offender Unit (30%), the only unit in operation since Blackburn began. Table 8 indicates fluctuations which have occurred in the housing assignment of escapees. However, the most interesting finding was the increase in escapes from the

OJT Unit and the CDU Unit and the reduction in escapes from FOU since Polsgrove.

TABLE 8

HOUSING ASSIGNMENT FOR BLACKBURN ESCAPEES

	All Escapes		Time Period 1		Time Period 2		Time Period 3	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
FOU	32.3	42	25.0	21	59.1	13	33.3	8
OJT	11.5	15	XX	XX	22.7	5	41.7	10
CDU	7.7	10	XX	XX	18.1	4	25.0	6
PREREL	29.2	38	45.2	38	XX	XX	XX	XX
GSU	<u>19.2</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>29.8</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>XX</u>	<u>XX</u>	<u>XX</u>	<u>XX</u>
	99.9*	130	100.0	84	99.9*	22	100.0	24

*Rounding error

Circumstances of Escape

Most escapes (33.8%) occur in the spring months (March to May) followed closely (30.8%) by the summer months (June to August) with less than 30% occurring in the fall or winter. Monday was the day of most escapes (22.3%) with 17.7% occurring on Sunday. Friday and Saturday had 15.4% of the escapes each. Therefore, 70.8% of all escapes were between Friday and Monday.

Blackburn operates with a three shift schedule for their staff: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Escapes discovered at the time of a shift change were included on the shift going off duty on the rationale that an escape discovered exactly at the shift change was the responsibility of the previous shift. The greatest number of escapes (68.5%) were discovered during the 4:00 p.m. to midnight shift with the peak hours of 10:00 p.m. and midnight when counts are taken. Since Polsgrove, escapes on this shift have increased by 18.4% over the previous period.

TABLE 9
BLACKBURN ESCAPES BY SHIFTS

	All Escapes		Time Period 1		Time Period 2		Time Period 3	
	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	10.8	14	10.7	9	9.1	2	12.5	3
4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	68.5	89	67.9	57	54.5	12	83.3	20
12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	<u>20.8</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>21.4</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>36.4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4.2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100.1*	130	100.0	84	100.0	22	100.0	24

*Rounding error

II. CASEWORKERS AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS INTERVIEWS

In addition to collecting data on escapees, interviews were conducted with available staff at Blackburn to ascertain what their perceptions were in regard to the increasing escape rates. Interviews were scheduled through Superintendent Seabold and interviews were conducted with a variety of correctional officers based upon work experience from all three shifts. In addition, interviews were conducted with unit directors and caseworkers on an availability basis.

The staff perceived the escapees in general to be younger and first offenders with some mentioning the escapes of some older men in the recent months. A majority of the staff recalled that the escapees had trouble with contraband either by being caught with it or by suspicion. In addition, staff felt that escapees were having difficulties with other inmates or with staff, were having family problems, seemed anxious and were obtaining as much money as possible. In addition staff felt that escapes were spur of the moment actions and frequently related to alcohol use.

The most often mentioned change that could have affected the escape rate was the Polsgrove Decision. The Polsgrove Decision resulted in a large turnover in Blackburn's population in a short period of time which the staff believed influenced the escape rate by:

1. Upsetting the stability of the institution,
2. Releasing the long term men that provided stability, and
3. Resulting in the lowering of transfer guidelines to keep the minimum security facility occupied.

The depopulating of the Kentucky State Penitentiary was also perceived to have had a negative result of the type of transfers Blackburn received. The closing of the Frenchburg Correctional Facility was included as a system change affecting

the type of offender residing at Blackburn. Staff noted that recent escapees were spending less time at the Reformatory and that they had more time to serve at Blackburn. The staff perceived the transfers as being younger, less sophisticated, lower education levels, and having more belligerent attitudes toward authority. Many of the staff believed that a portion of the more recent transfers did not meet the guidelines for transfer to a minimum security facility. In addition, the change in furlough policy reducing the number eligible and frequency, the loss of a unit director and the reduction of community involvement were cited as affecting the escape rate.

Lowering the Escape Rate

Suggestions for reducing the escape rate were solicited. The need to get more correctional officers was the top priority for most of the staff. More accountability in security and more counts were also mentioned. In addition, better inmate screening prior to transfer was needed particularly for those with drug usage. Staff suggested that inmates serve a longer time at the Reformatory prior to transfer and receive better orientation at Blackburn, increased contact between inmates and staff was also proposed, and an increase in community activities and furloughs was suggested. A log book between shifts in which any unusual behavior of an inmate could be noted so that the oncoming shift would know about any inmate problems was a recommendation made particularly by several correctional officers. It was also proposed that any inmate that received a parole deferment, especially a lengthy one, be returned immediately to the Reformatory.

III. CONCLUSIONS

There have been many changes in the type of person that escapes and the number of escapes from Blackburn over time. However, the unit change and Polsgrove Decision cannot lead to casual inferences because other factors which have not been included in this study could be causing the changes. With this warning noted, several escape patterns will be discussed in an attempt to generate some ideas on how to alleviate Blackburn's escape problem.

The unit change had an effect on the population at Blackburn because it also involved programmatic changes: Inmates, with few exceptions, were no longer sent directly from the Penitentiary to Blackburn. After the unit change, housing assignments were primarily determined by program participation; frequently requiring an inmate to move frequently. There was an observed change in the type of population at Blackburn and, as expected, a different type of escapee.

One hypothesis that was supported by a majority of the staff at Blackburn was that the Polsgrove Decision upset the stability of the institution by causing a rapid change in population and thereby resulting in an increase in escapes. If we first assume that instability would lead to an increase of escapes in typically low escape risk groups, this hypothesis may be indicated by some of our findings: the percent of black escapees has increased; the percent of escapees 27 years of age or older has increased sharply; escapes have increased from the OJT and CDU Units; and some of the escapees fell within the upper range of time spent at Blackburn before the escape.

A change in the type of inmate transferred has been related to the Polsgrove Decision, the closing of Frenchburg, and the depopulating of the Penitentiary. There is evidence to show that over 50% of the escapees from Blackburn since

Polsgrove spent 74 days or less at other institutions. The depopulating of the Penitentiary supposedly had the affect of sending more inmates with long criminal histories or less than ideal institutional behavior. The number of escapees with prior property arrests and the percent of inmates with incident reports has increased since Polsgrove. In addition, those escapees convicted of fraud have declined whereas those with robbery convictions have increased. However, to determine changes in the type of inmate transferred, a sample of the entire population must be studied.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

As previously indicated, this study lacks a comparison, a non-escape group; therefore, the first recommendation would be to conduct additional research on a sample of the non-escapee population at Blackburn. A study of this type is now underway which will provide additional information on Blackburn's escapees and, possibly, identify characteristics that separate them from the non-escape population of Blackburn over time. Secondly, since Polsgrove has not been in effect for a substantial period of time, a continued study of escapes would be recommended which would provide more data for a comparison of post-Polsgrove escapees to pre-Polsgrove escapees. Thirdly, factors such as prior incarcerations, seriousness of incident reports, prior property arrests should be scrutinized more closely in classification.

Furthermore, additional security accountability is recommended for the 4:00 p.m. to midnight shift, particularly between Friday and Monday. Introducing additional regular counts or frequent special counts might aid in preventing escapes or, minimally, allowing quicker discovery of an escape. Consideration might be given to reviving the correctional officer shift log book in which any unusual resident behavior or problem could be noted so that the oncoming staff would be aware of any resident that warranted special attention. Since the undertaking of this study, additional security in the form of counts has been added on the 4:00 p.m. to midnight shift and the correctional officer log book has been revived and is being reviewed to ascertain its maximum benefit.

In addition, the range of residents by age, crime, institutional history, etc. be examined, particularly in CDU and OJT to determine if the units are minimally homogenous. Furthermore, since 30% of the escapees had parole deferments, which are more likely in these units, a deferment should result in immediate contact with the resident to determine whether increased security is needed.

APPENDIX A

BLACKBURN ESCAPE STUDY

CASEWORKER AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICER INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

How long have you worked at Blackburn Correctional Complex? In what units have you worked? Any work at other facilities?

Have you ever had an escape from your unit? If yes, did you notice any differences in the amount and type of their visits as compared to others in your unit?*

Have you noted any different characteristics between escapees and the general population?

Have you seen any situational characteristics between escapees and the general population?

Escape occur most often with new arrivals or clients that have been at Blackburn for a period of time?

Have you noticed any changes in the type of people transferred to Blackburn that could have affected the escape rate?

Have there been any changes in the correctional system that could have affected the escape rate?

What can be done to lower the escape rate?

*Caseworkers only.

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