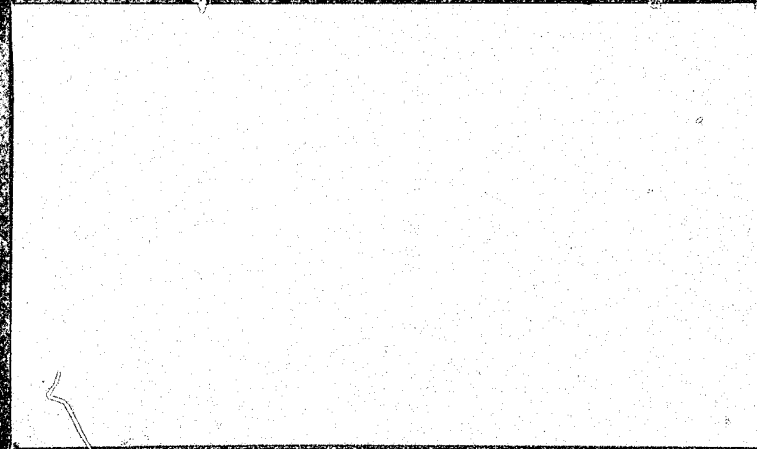
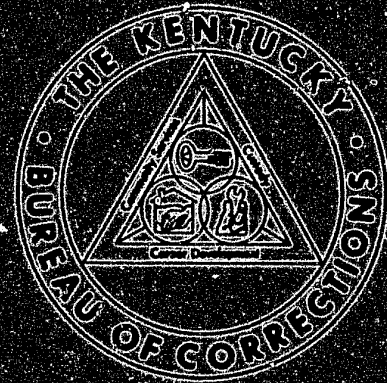


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X  
A DESCRIPTION OF FEMALE OFFENDERS AT  
KENTUCKY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN

Carol Peachee

NCJRS  
JUN 18 1981  
ACQUISITIONS

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to provide a profile on inmates incarcerated at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women, Kentucky's maximum-medium security prison for women. Information was collected and analyzed on demographic, social, institutional, and criminal characteristics of ninety-nine inmates who were currently incarcerated in February, 1980.

### Findings

White inmates comprise the majority of KCIW residents, although blacks are over-represented when compared to the general state-wide population. The 18 to 30-year old age group makes up 63% of the inmate population. Most of the residents were from urban areas, particularly Jefferson and Fayette Counties. The median educational level was tenth grade. One-third of the women had vocational training upon entering the institution.

Most inmates at KCIW come from broken homes. All but a few were the primary providers for at least one dependent. Inmates' immediate families generally take responsibility for the dependent while she is incarcerated, especially for black women. The type of crime a woman is convicted for does not appear to be related to the financial needs of her children.

For most of the KCIW population, this was their first incarceration. The most prevalent crimes responsible for incarceration were property offenses, followed by murder and manslaughter, and finally drug-related offenses. Theft crimes have doubled since 1977 as the major crime of incarceration. The younger and better educated an inmate, the more likely her crime will be a property offense; the older or less educated were more likely to commit crimes which will involve loss of life. The median sentence length for KCIW was five years.

Most inmates did not involve co-defendants in their crime. Of those who did, most were either an unrelated male or unrelated female. Most offenses did not involve a weapon, but when one was used, a firearm was the weapon of preference.

Prior incarcerations and arrest trends indicated that while most of the inmates had previous misdemeanor or felony arrests, only a few had ever served time on a felony conviction. Previous arrest trends show shoplifting, prostitution, and alcohol-related violations to be the major causes of prior arrests. Parole violators were found to be returned more often for new crimes and misdemeanors than for technical violations.

One-quarter of the KCIW women had good time loss during their present incarceration. A very small percent of inmates were involved in violent incidents. Inmates who had a past history of violent arrests were more likely to receive a violent incident report although they were not responsible for the bulk of violent incidents. Over half of the population were involved in at least one non-violent incident. Whether or not an inmate had a prior felony incarceration appeared to affect both good time loss and incident reports. In addition, those of lower education levels accounted for all cases involving nine or more violent incidents.

A substantial part of the KCIW population has had drug or alcohol involvement. Offenders with a drug abuse history tend to be young, without a high school diploma, and have dependents. Property crimes and drug-related crimes were most prevalent for this group. Drug offenders and those with a drug history have greater good time loss than the general population. The offender with an alcohol problem was also without a high school diploma, was equally likely to have dependents as not, and her crime was most likely murder or manslaughter.

The information contained in this report was made available through a Cooperative Research Project with the Eastern Kentucky University Psychology Department and the Research and Evaluation Unit of the Kentucky Bureau of Corrections. The names of ninety-nine residents at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women, a multi-security state prison, were obtained from the KCIW inmate card file in the Offender Records Section of the Kentucky Bureau of Corrections. These inmates comprised the total current KCIW population on a specific date in February, 1980. All information was collected from the resident file folders in the Offender Records Section. Data was coded and transferred to tape for input into a computer. Statistical analysis of the data was performed by use of the SPSS computer program.

The offender characteristics to be reported will include information on family background, offense data, institutional adjustment data, and substance abuse variables. Since this information pertains to inmates who were current residents at KCIW, it is, therefore, incomplete in describing the inmates' complete institutional history or adjustment and cannot be substituted for information on admissions or releases.

### Descriptive Variables

The population at KCIW was comprised of 60% Caucasian inmates. Although whites made up the majority, the black population was still over-represented when one considers that only 7% of the general population in Kentucky is black,<sup>1</sup> while 40% of the KCIW population is black. However, this is not peculiar only to Kentucky, as a recent report by the U.S. Department of Justice reported an over-representation of minorities in all states' female prisons.<sup>2</sup> In addition, there was a larger percentage of blacks at KCIW than in the Kentucky maximum and medium security men's prisons (see Table 1).

When considering age distribution, one finds the median age for KCIW inmates to be 27 years. This is identical to the median age for female offenders in the United States.<sup>3</sup> The age distribution for KCIW is shown in Table 2. The 18 to 30-year old group is over-represented when one notes that, while 63% of the inmate population was in this age category, only 40% of the general population falls within this age bracket.<sup>4</sup> This is identical to the proportion of residents at KSR under 30 years of age. An analysis of age distribution by race reveals that the number of whites is nearly double that of blacks for most age categories (see Table 2). However, for the 31 to 33-year old age group, blacks made up 79%, while whites account for only 22% of the inmates. The 40 and above age group is also an exception, being comprised of 86% white and 14% black. These statistics do not differ from statistics on U.S. women inmates found in the National Study of Women's

<sup>1</sup>Kentucky Deskbook of Economic Statistics

<sup>2</sup>National Study of Women's Correctional Programs

<sup>3</sup>Ibid

<sup>4</sup>Ibid

TABLE 1  
 RACIAL BREAKDOWN OF KENTUCKY STATE PRISONS<sup>1</sup>

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Percent White</u>	<u>Percent Black</u>
Kentucky State Reformatory	68.2	31.8
Kentucky State Penitentiary	74.7	25.3
Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women	60.0	40.0

<sup>1</sup>KSR and KSP Profile; Report by Research and Evaluation Unit

TABLE 2  
 BREAKDOWN OF AGE CATEGORIES  
 BY INMATE RACE

<u>Age</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>
18-21	8	4
22-24	12	7
25-27	12	6
28-30	8	6
31-33	2	7
34-36	7	5
37-39	5	3
40 and above	6	1
	n = 60	n = 39

Correctional Programs. That study reported whites over 35 years of age are more likely to be incarcerated than other ethnic groups of the same age (with the exception of Indians).

Over half of KCIW inmates were from Jefferson (38%) and Fayette (13%) Counties, both considered urban counties. Table 3 shows the number of inmates by population of the counties in which they resided at the time of crime. Ten percent of KCIW residents were sentenced from a county other than the county of residence. Not surprisingly, the largest number of inmates came from counties with populations of 65,000 or above. The next largest number of inmates were from counties with populations of 25,000 or less. In addition, 9% of the population was from out of state. This is a noticeable drop from 1977 when 29.4% were out-of-state residents.<sup>5</sup>

The stereotype of the female offender as uneducated and unskilled was not completely substantiated by the findings of this study. Thirty-one percent of the women had a high school education, GED, or at least some college. However, the median education level at KCIW was tenth grade. Fifty percent of the population had either an eighth, ninth, or tenth grade education. This is not surprising in light of the U.S. Department of Justice findings that female inmate population education level was directly related to the state-wide median; the median education level for Kentucky is 9.9 years. Racial differences were evident, with the education level for whites being 9.8 and the average for blacks being 10.4. Black inmates tend to be distributed mostly over the ninth grade and higher levels, with whites tending to be distributed over all grade levels. This data is not in keeping with

<sup>5</sup> KCIW Population Study, 1977

TABLE 3  
POPULATION DISTRIBUTIONS FOR  
COUNTIES OF RESIDENCE OF KCIW INMATES\*

<u>Population of County</u>	<u>Number of Inmates</u>
15,000 and less	5
16,000 - 25,000	7
26,000 - 35,000	8
36,000 - 45,000	3
46,000 - 55,000	4
56,000 - 65,000	4
66,000 and above	59
out-of-state	<u>9</u>
	n = 99

\*Population of counties obtained from Kentucky Deskbook of Economic Statistics, 1977, Kentucky Department of Commerce

U.S. female offender statistics which found whites to be better educated than blacks.<sup>6</sup>

Nearly one-third (31%) of the inmates had previous vocational training which appeared to be in stereotypical areas such as nurses aide training and beautician instruction. This is very similar to U.S. Department of Justice statistics which indicated 35% of the women inmates in their sample had prior vocational training, predominantly in the traditional fields for women (clerical, nurses aide, etc.).<sup>7</sup> If one follows the assumption that women who have vocational training are more employable and, therefore, less likely to be incarcerated, it is surprising to find such a large percentage of the KCIW inmates with vocational training. One explanation for this could be that their training has been in traditional fields for women, commonly known as low-paying jobs, which, while making them employable, does not enable them to meet their economic obligations.

#### Summary

White inmates comprise the majority of KCIW residents although blacks are over-represented when compared to the general state-wide population. The 18 to 30-year old age group makes up 63% of the inmate population. Most of the residents were from urban areas, particularly Jefferson and Fayette Counties. Also, most of the women at KCIW had less than a high school education, with a median educational level of tenth grade. One-third of the women had vocational training prior to entering the institution, primarily in traditionally female job areas.

<sup>6</sup>National Study of Women's Correctional Programs

<sup>7</sup>Ibid

#### Family Background

Since it has long been postulated that a negative home situation is a key component of criminality, one would expect few inmates to come from stable families. This proved to be true for KCIW women, as two-thirds of the women were from families where the parents were either divorced, separated, or one or more of the parents were deceased. The remaining one-third of the population came from families where the parents were married or in a common-law relationship at the time of the crime.

When considering the inmates' marital status, one finds that 39% were single, 24% were married or in a common-law relationship, and 27% were separated or divorced. Marital status broken down by race is presented in Table 4. A few inmates, 4%, were committed to a homosexual lifestyle before entering the institution.

The majority of the inmates (72%) were responsible for at least one dependent child before incarceration. The average number of children per inmate mother was 2.4. Only 24% of all inmates were married or living in common-law relationships and, therefore, not the sole provider for their children. Single mothers represent 33% of inmates with children, separated or divorced mothers represent 33%, and 10% of the inmates with children are widows. In addition, 15% of the population was pregnant upon admission to KCIW.

One of the greatest areas of concern for most inmate mothers is who will provide for their children while they are in prison. For Kentucky's women, 40% had children staying with maternal parents or relatives. Only a small proportion of the children were kept by government agencies (7%) during the incarceration. However, there were ethnic differences. While

TABLE 4  
RACIAL BREAKDOWN OF INMATES BY MARITAL STATUS

	White		Black	
	N	%	N	%
Single	20	33.3	19	49.0
Common-law	6	10.0	2	5.1
Married	11	18.3	5	12.8
Separated	4	6.7	6	15.4
Divorced	12	20.0	5	12.8
Widowed	6	10.0	2	5.1

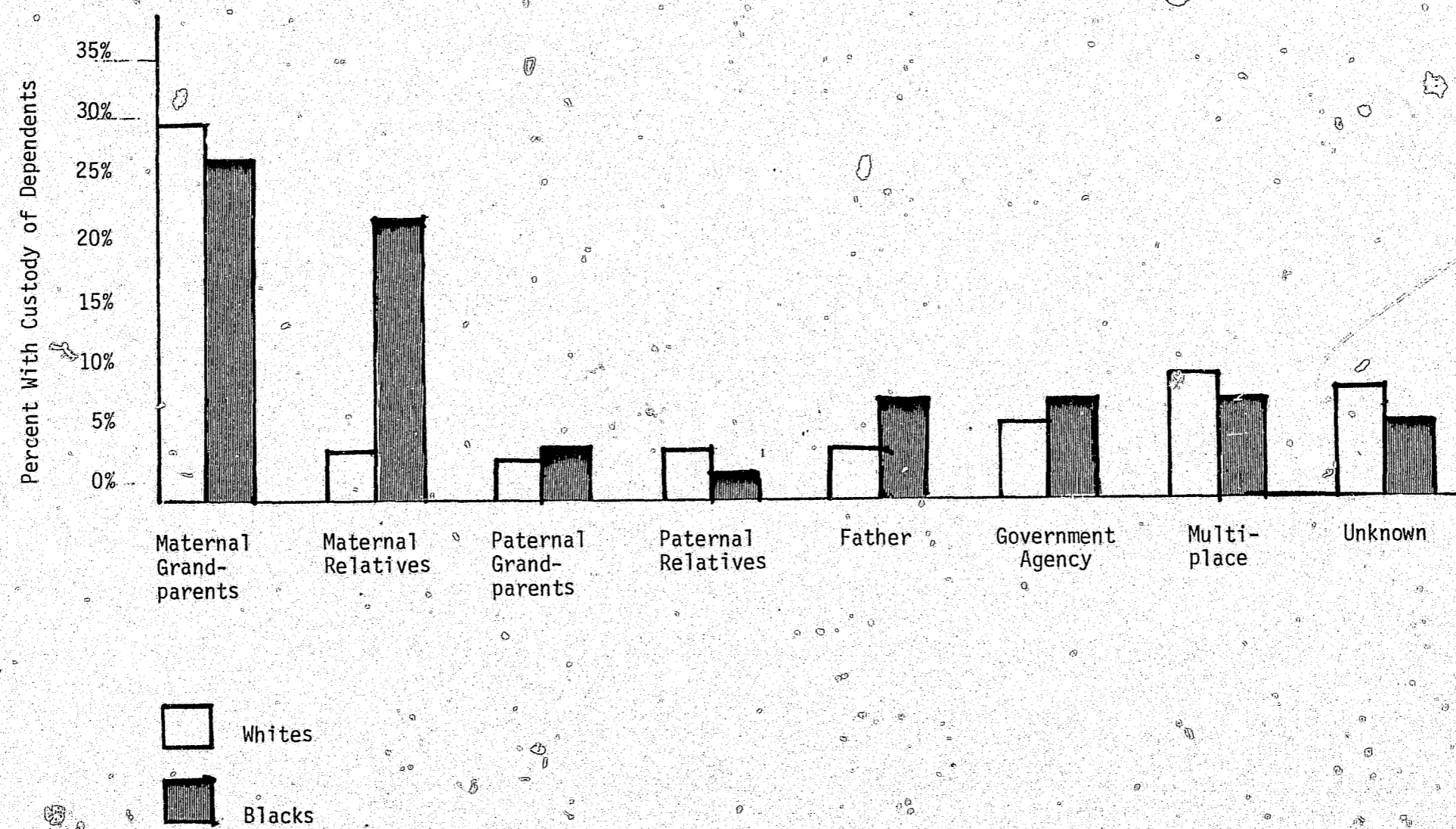
33% of the white mothers left their children with their parents, 51% of black mothers had placed dependents with their parents or relatives. There were no differences in government agency involvement with whites' (12.8%) and blacks' (15%) children (see Figure 1).

The U.S. Department of Justice reported that the crime for which a woman is arrested does not seem to be related to the financial needs of her children; they reported women to be involved in property crimes regardless of whether they had children or not. This proved to be so for all but separated women at KCIW. There were no separated women without children incarcerated for property crimes; 57% of separated women with children were in for these same crimes. On the other hand, single women with children were equally likely to be serving time for property crimes as those without children. This is true for married, common-law, widowed, and divorced inmates as well.

#### Summary

Most inmates at KCIW came from broken home situations. All but a few were the primary providers for at least one dependent. Inmates' immediate families generally took responsibility for the dependent while she was incarcerated, especially for the black women. The type of crime a woman is convicted for does not appear to be related to the financial needs of her children, except in the case of separated mother inmates.

FIGURE 1  
CUSTODY OF DEPENDENTS  
ACCORDING TO RACE OF INMATE





### Offense Data

KCIW offenders do not seem to be sophisticated in terms of their institutional experience. For 74% of the KCIW population, this was their first incarceration. This is a drastic change from a 1977 KCIW population description which identified only 48.2% as being first offenders at that time. Table 5 displays the distribution of the most serious crime this incarceration. As can be seen, property crimes are by far the most prevalent offenses responsible for incarceration. Theft, fraud, and forgery represent nearly half of all crimes. Murder and manslaughter were the next most prevalent offenses, followed by drug offenses. Compared with 1977 data available for KCIW inmates, crimes resulting in loss of life have remained constant, as have assault, arson, and drug crimes. Incarcerations due to robbery and burglary have decreased by half since 1977, while theft crimes have nearly doubled.

The type of offense for which an inmate was incarcerated appears to be related to her age. The younger the inmate, the more likely her crime will be a property offense. For example, women 27 years old or younger make up 57% of all theft offenders. Inmates 34 to 39 were more likely to be incarcerated for murder or manslaughter. Table 6 provides a breakdown of crimes by age. These statistics are in keeping with statistics for the general female inmate population of the U.S. which showed larceny more common for young women under 25 and murder more common for women 35 and over.

As would be expected, because of the frequency of homicide among older women, the older the inmate the longer her sentence length was likely to be. Seventy-five percent of 37 to 39-year olds have a sentence length of nine years or more. Comparatively, 84% of 22 to 24-year olds were serving five

TABLE 5

### DISTRIBUTION OF INMATES INTO CRIME CATEGORIES

<u>Crime</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1977 %</u>
Homicide <sup>1</sup>	23	23.2	22.4
Assault	6	6.1	5.9
Burglary	5	5.1	27.1
Robbery	7	7.1	
Theft <sup>2</sup>	42	42.4	25.9
Arson	2	2.0	2.4
Drug-Related	10	10.1	12.9
Miscellaneous	4	4.0	3.5
Total	99		

<sup>1</sup>Homicide category includes murder, manslaughter, and reckless homicide.

<sup>2</sup>Theft category includes forgery, theft, and fraud.

TABLE 6  
AGE BY CRIME

Age	Homicide <sup>1</sup>		Assault		Burglary		Theft <sup>2</sup>		Robbery		Arson		Drugs		Percent of Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%
18-24	3	10.0	2	6.0	2	6.0	15	50.0	4	13.3	0		4	13.3	100.0
25-30	8	25.0	3	9.4	2	6.3	15	47.0	1	3.0	1	3.0	2	6.3	100.0
31-36	5	23.8	1	4.8	1	4.8	8	38.0	1	4.8	0		3	14.3	90.5 <sup>3</sup>
37+	7	46.7	0		0		4	26.7	1	6.7	0		1	6.7	86.7 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Homicide = all loss of life crimes.

<sup>2</sup>Theft = Forgery, Fraud, and Theft.

<sup>3</sup>Crimes in miscellaneous category not included.

years or less. The median sentence length for KCIW was five years, with 43% of the women serving one to three-year sentences.

The educational level of an inmate also appears to be related to the type of crime for which she was incarcerated. Women with less than a seventh grade education were exclusively involved in crimes against persons. The higher the education level, the more likely the crime was to be against property (63% with some college were property offenders and 83% with GED). Again, these findings match U.S. statistics for female inmates which found the better the education, the more likely the crime was to be forgery, and the less education, the more likely the crime was murder.

Prior vocational training was also examined and found to be inversely related to sentence length. For those with vocational training before entering prison, 45% had sentences of five or more years, compared to 34% of those with no prior vocational training. An equal percentage of those with and those without vocational training had sentence lengths of 15 years or over.

A crime breakdown by marital status (see Table 7) reveals that 48% of all property incarcerations were single offenders. Single offenders with children also made up 41% of all theft convictions at KCIW. For separated women, 70% were incarcerated for theft or burglary and 70% had at least one dependent. Common-law, married, and divorced inmates were incarcerated primarily for theft as well, but at least one-fourth of each group was sentenced for crimes involving loss of life. All divorced inmates had at least one dependent and were almost as likely to be involved in murder or manslaughter (24%) as in a theft crime (35%). Seventy-five percent of widowed inmates were incarcerated for murder or manslaughter and represent

TABLE 7  
BREAKDOWN OF CRIME CATEGORIES  
BY INMATE MARITAL STATUS

Marital Status	Loss of Life	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Robbery	Arson	Drugs
Single	26.1%	50.0%	20.0%	47.6%	71.4%	50.0%	30.0%
Common-Law	8.7%		20.0%	9.5%			10.0%
Married	17.4%	33.3%		16.7%	14.3%		10.0%
Separated	4.3%		60.0%	9.5%			20.0%
Divorced	17.4%	16.7%		14.3%	14.3%	50.0%	20.0%
Widowed	26.1%			2.4%			10.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	n = 23	n = 6	n = 5	n = 42	n = 7	n = 2	n = 10

20% of all murders. A direct relationship between widows' crimes and marital status was found, with five out of six widows charged with the murder of their husband.

One assumption often made is that women offenders are secondary participants in crimes which are instigated by men. This was not found to be true. Fifty-eight percent of the women at KCIW committed their crime alone. Thirty-one percent of the women were involved with one other person in committing their offenses, 8% were involved with 2 others, and 2% were involved with 3 others. When others were involved, they were more likely to be an unrelated male other than a boyfriend (42%) and unrelated female (21%). Boyfriends (16%) and related males other than husbands (11%) accounted for the remainder of persons involved.

Most offenses did not involve a weapon (58%). Of those that did, the weapon of preference was a firearm (66%) rather than a knife (24%). Victim injury occurred in 30% of all offenses.

Twenty percent of the KCIW population were serving a sentence for parole violation. Of these, 35% had been returned on a technical violation and 65% had been returned for a new crime or misdemeanor. Of those returned for a new crime, 64% came back with multiple crimes. Most parole violators returned with a five to six-year new sentence. Jefferson, Fayette, and Christian Counties accounted for most violators. When another person was involved in the parole violation crime, 43% of the time that person was an unrelated male (other than a boyfriend). The parole violation crime resulted in victim injury in only four cases. Only 10% of the population were returned conditional release or suspended sentence violators.

In addition to the inmates' current crime, prior arrests and convictions were examined. Shoplifting or thefts were the most prevalent crime trends for KCIW inmates, followed by prostitution (10%) and then alcohol-related arrests (9%). Only 38% had never had a misdemeanor arrest, whereas 20% had nine or more. The average number of misdemeanor arrests was 3.1. Sixty-six inmates had previous felony arrests, with an average of 2.5 felony arrests per inmate.

While KCIW women appear to be criminally sophisticated in terms of their arrest records, a lack of institutional sophistication can be seen by examining prior incarcerations (Table 8). In more serious crimes such as arson, robbery, and assault, 100% were incarcerated for the first time. In addition, 90% of drug offenders had no prior incarcerations. Only those convicted of theft were likely to have more than one prior incarceration. Of those convicted of crimes with loss of life, 78% were incarcerated for the first time and 22% had at least one prior incarceration. Detainers were held on 14% of the population. The most common type of detainer was that from another state rather than from the federal government.

#### Summary

For most of the KCIW population, this was their first incarceration. The most common crime responsible for incarceration were theft offenses, followed by murder and manslaughter, and finally drug-related offenses. Theft crimes have doubled since 1977 as the major crime of incarceration for KCIW residents.

The type of offense for which an inmate was serving time appeared to be related to age and education level. The younger and better educated inmates are more likely to commit property offenses, while the older or less educated inmates were more likely to commit crimes which will involve loss of

TABLE 8

DISTRIBUTION OF INMATES WITH PRIOR INCARCERATIONS\*  
 ACCORDING TO MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE THIS CRIME

Number of Prior Incarcerations	Crime Category						
	Homicide <sup>1</sup>	Assault	Burglary	Theft <sup>2</sup>	Robbery	Drugs	Miscellaneous
0	18	6	3	27	7	9	4
1	5	0	2	10	0	1	1
2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
							n = 99

\*Actual number of inmates represented.

<sup>1</sup>Homicide includes all loss of life crimes.

<sup>2</sup>Theft includes Forgery, Theft, and Fraud.

life. The median sentence length for KCIW was five years; the majority of women were currently serving a one to three-year sentence.

Prior vocational training was not found to be related to a shorter sentence length. More women with prior vocational training had sentences over five years than did those with no vocational training.

Most inmates did not involve co-defendants in their crime. Of those who did involve another, most were either an unrelated male or unrelated female. If other persons were involved in the crime as co-defendants, the inmate was less likely to have a prior violent arrest than inmates who acted alone. Of those who were sole defendants, 22% had prior violent arrests, compared to 15% of those who acted with others. Most offenses did not involve a weapon, but when one was used, a firearm was the weapon of preference.

Prior incarcerations and arrest trends indicated that while most of the inmates had previous misdemeanor or felony arrests, only a few had ever served time on a felony conviction. All women convicted of serious crimes were first offenders. Previous arrest trends show shoplifting, prostitution, and alcohol-related violations to be the major causes of prior arrests. Parole violators were more often returned for new felonies and misdemeanors than for technical violations. Detainers were active on 14% of the population. This tends to indicate that the current population was relatively unsophisticated in terms of prior incarcerations, but not in terms of prior criminal activities.

### Institutional Adjustment

Institutional adjustment was determined by good time loss, incident reports, and escapes. An incident report is an administrative action taken when specific institutional rules are violated. A violent incident report was defined for this report as one involving physical violence or gross destruction of property. While the majority (86%) of inmates had no violent incident reports, more than half (54%) had at least one non-violent incident report. The average number of non-violent incident reports per inmate was 2.1; however, 10% of the women had nine or more. The seriousness of the crime for which an inmate was incarcerated tended to have no effect on incident reports. This finding is also in agreement with the 1977 findings.<sup>8</sup>

Twenty-six percent of the population had lost good time during their current incarceration. This does not differ from the 1977 population study which found 25.9% to have lost good time.

Earlier findings also reported that residents with prior felony incarcerations lost good time and received incident reports at a higher rate than first offenders.<sup>9</sup> A similar trend can be seen in the current study; however, it is mostly evident for good time loss and violent incidents. Table 9 compares repeat and first offenders by number of incident reports and good time loss.

The educational level the inmate had attained before incarceration was related to her involvement in violent incidents. Those with an eleventh grade or above education had no violent incident reports. All offenders

<sup>8</sup> KCIW Population Study

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

TABLE 9

COMPARISON OF FIRST OFFENDERS' AND REPEAT OFFENDERS'  
INVOLVEMENT IN INCIDENT REPORTS AND GOOD TIME LOSS

	<u>First Offenders</u>	<u>Repeat Offenders</u>
<u>Violent Incident Reports</u>		
Number Involved in Incidents	8	5
Percent of All Inmates With Violent Incident Reports	61.5%	38.5%
Percent of Total Population	75.0%	25.0%
<u>Non-Violent Incident Reports</u>		
Number Involved in Incidents	37	16
Percent of All Inmates With Non-Violent Incident Reports	70.0%	30.0%
Percent of Total Population	75.0%	25.0%
<u>Good Time Loss</u>		
Number Involved in Good Time Loss	16	10
Percent of All Inmates With Good Time Loss	61.5%	38.5%
Percent of Total Population	75.0%	25.0%

who had a high number of incidents (nine or more) had an educational level lower than the mean for the population (i.e., sixth or seventh grade).

Violent incident reports were also examined in relation to prior violent arrests. One notable finding was that 60% of those inmates with one violent incident report had previous violent arrests. This does not hold true for those with more than one violent incident report. As a matter of fact, all inmates with seven or more violent incidents had never had a previous violent arrest. On the other hand, of those who had been arrested for violent crimes, 36% had violent incident reports, compared to 14% of those with no violent arrest history. This seems to indicate that while there is no relationship between the number of violent incidents an inmate was involved in and her prior violent arrest history, there is a greater probability that she will receive a violent incident report if she had a past violent arrest record.

Escape rate was unchanged from the earlier KCIW report. Only 7.1% of the current population had escapes, as compared with 8.2% in 1977.

Parole Board action may also be seen as an indication of institutional adjustment. Over half of the population had no deferrals at the time data was collected. This figure, however, may reflect the fact that 55% of the population had just entered KCIW in 1979 and had not yet been reviewed by the Board. However, of those who had received deferrals, most (32%) had received only one or two. Those with serve outs comprised 9.1% of the population. This is slightly higher than the general Kentucky inmate population in which 7.4% had serve outs.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup>Based on a sample of 20% of those released in 1978.

### Summary

One-quarter of the KCIW women had good time loss during their present incarceration. This represents no change in rate over the past three years. A very small percent of inmates were involved in violent incidents. Inmates who had a past history of violent arrests were more likely to receive a violent incident report although they were not responsible for the bulk of violent incidents. Over half of the population was involved in at least one non-violent incident. The seriousness of an inmate's crime did not appear to be related to involvement in incident reports. However, whether or not an inmate had a prior felony incarceration did appear to affect both good time loss and incident reports. Education level was also related to involvement in violent incidents, with those of lower education levels accounting for all cases involving nine or more violent incidents. Conversely, those of higher education levels (eleventh grade and above) had no violent incidents at all.

The escape rate at KCIW has remained virtually unchanged since earlier studies. The findings indicate that inmates at KCIW are given serve outs at a higher rate than the general inmate population. Most other inmates with deferrals had received no more than two.



### Substance Abuse

Substance abuse has become an issue of increasing concern for those involved with female offenders. Over 20% of those serving sentences in the U.S. federal prison system are incarcerated for drug offenses<sup>11</sup> and 22% of those in U.S. state prisons have drug convictions. Kentucky's rate is substantially lower with only 9.1% serving drug offense sentences. However, a larger number of the women had a drug abuse history as reflected in either their previous arrest history, pre-sentence investigation report, psychological report, or self-disclosure. Over half of the population was found to have substantial drug involvement (see Table 10). In addition, another 20% had a reported alcohol abuse history.

The typical inmate with a drug abuse history has an eighth to eleventh grade education (66%). Seventy-eight percent have at least one dependent. Blacks are over-represented for this group, with 51% of KCIW blacks having a drug history, compared to 36.7% of whites. Most inmates with a drug history are younger than 30 years old (69%). Those with a drug history were less likely to be involved in loss of life crimes than those with no drug history, but more likely to be involved in burglary crimes. For those involved with drugs, theft (38%) and drug-related (21%) crimes were most prevalent.

The typical inmate with an alcohol abuse history has an eighth to tenth grade education (60%). She was equally likely to have dependents as not. Three-fourths of these women were white and there was an even distribution over all age groups. Over half (60%) of the inmates with alcohol abuse were involved in crimes against persons with 30% involved in economic crimes.

<sup>11</sup>Carlson, Norman A., Needs of Female Inmates No Longer Ignored by Prisons. Justice Assistance News, April, 1980, p. 2-3.

TABLE 10  
INMATE INVOLVEMENT WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE

	<u>Percent of KCIW Population</u>
Drug Offenders	9.1
Inmates With Drug History (Not Including Drug Offenders)	42.0
Inmates With Alcohol History	20.0

Institutional adjustment was analyzed for drug offenders. Table 11 compares non-drug offenders, drug offenders, and offenders with a prior drug history in terms of good time loss, violent incident reports, and non-violent incident reports. There appears to be no difference between drug and non-drug offenders as far as the number of violent and non-violent incident reports received. However, there are differences in good time loss for the two groups, with 45% of drug offenders having good time loss, compared to only 18% of non-drug offenders. Thirty-six percent of those with a prior drug history had good time loss. The finding that there were no differences in incident reports for the two groups, but a difference in good time loss, is surprising if one follows the logic that good time loss results from involvement in incidents. One possible explanation for this discrepancy may be that non-violent reports were more serious, although not violent, for drug offenders, resulting in good time loss.

Alcohol abusers had a low involvement in incidents. Only 10% had violent incident reports, 20% had good time loss, and 45% had non-violent incident reports. Most received only one or two non-violent incident reports. This finding is interesting in light of the fact that most of these inmates are incarcerated for crimes against persons.

#### Summary

A substantial part of the KCIW population has had drug or alcohol involvement that has been identified as problematic for them. Offenders with a drug abuse history tend to be young, without a high school diploma, and have dependents. Blacks are over-represented for this group. The offender with an alcohol problem was also without a high school diploma, was equally likely to have dependents as not, and her crime was most likely murder or manslaughter.

TABLE 11

#### VIOLENT INCIDENT REPORTS\*

	<u>0</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>4-6</u>	<u>6-8</u>	<u>9 or more</u>
Drug Offenders	88.9%				11.1%
Non-Drug Offenders	87.5%	9.0%			3.6%
Non-Drug Offenders With Previous Drug History	84.0%	12.0%		3.0%	
Offenders With Alcohol History	90.0%	10.0%			

#### NON-VIOLENT INCIDENT REPORTS\*

	<u>0</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>4 or more</u>
Drug Offenders	55.6%	22.0%	22.0%
Non-Drug Offenders	50.0%	35.7%	14.3%
Non-Drug Offenders With Previous Drug History	39.4%	33.0%	27.0%
Offenders With Alcohol History	55.0%	30.0%	15.0%

#### GOOD TIME LOSS

	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Drug Offenders	55.0%	45.0%
Non-Drug Offenders	80.0%	18.0%
Non-Drug Offenders With Previous Drug History	63.0%	36.4%
Offenders With Alcohol History	80.0%	20.0%

\*no difference in groups

Drug offenders and those with a drug history did not have a greater involvement in violent or non-violent incidents than the rest of the population, but did have greater good time loss. The offenders with an alcohol abuse history resembled closely the good time loss and incident patterns of the general population.

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**END**