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Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
Olympia, Washington 98504

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### RECIDIVISM STUDY OVERVIEW

This document was presented to the Department of Corrections, Executive Cabinet on March 15, 1982.

### DEFINITION OF RECIDIVISM

The return to a Washington State adult correctional facility of an offender who had been paroled or discharged from such a facility, the return occurring within five years of release, as a result of a conviction for a new felony or violation of a condition of parole.

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### Recidivism After Five Years

During FY 1960 - 1976

36.2 percent of all releases returned within five years

U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice

Prepared By:

Division of Management and Budget  
Information Systems Section  
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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
*Olympia, Washington 98504*

FIVE-YEAR RATES OF RECIDIVISM FOR PRISONERS RELEASED  
FROM A WASHINGTON STATE ADULT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY  
FROM FY 1960 THROUGH FY1976

For purposes of this mini-study, recidivism is defined as the return to a Washington State adult correctional facility of an offender who had been paroled or discharged from such a facility, the return occurring within five years of release as the result of conviction of a new felony or violation of a condition of parole. This definition is not meant to be a strict measure of success for releases as it does not include subsequent commitments to other correctional jurisdictions. The concern in this study is limited to the impact of recidivism on the Washington State prison population. A five-year follow-up period is incorporated into the definition because nearly all returns to prison occur within five years at risk. The current prison population projection also uses a five-year time span to project recommitments.

Rates of return are included for all inmates who were either paroled or discharged during the FY1960-1976 period, FY76 being the most recent fiscal year to allow five years at risk by August 31, 1981, the cut-off date in this study.

Over the FY1960-76 period, 36.2 percent of all releases were returned within five years. These rates varied from a high of 41.0 percent for FY1964 to a low of 31.9 percent for FY1971. For releasees who had been imprisoned for person-related crimes, the overall recidivism rate was 29.4 percent with a high of 37.9 for FY1966 and a low of 18.5 percent for FY1960. The comparable rates for non-person offenders were an average of 38.0 percent, a high of 43.7 percent (FY1964) and a low of 32.6 percent (FY1975). These return rates, by year of release, are given in Table 1 and Figures 1, 2 and 3.

In general, the return rates during the seventies were lower than those for the sixties for non-person offenders, although the last year shows a substantial increase. Person offenders do not reflect quite such a long-term trend, but the last several years show a tendency to increasing rates. The return rates for all releasees, therefore, indicate a somewhat declining trend due to the greater impact of non-person offenders offset somewhat by the increasing rates for person offenders.

Table 2 gives the summary raw data from which the return rates were calculated. Tables 3 through 19 give the return rates, by major offense category, for each individual fiscal year.

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TABLE 1: Percents of Recidivism Within Five Years at Risk, by Person and Non-Person Offenses, for Prisoners Released During FY 1960-76.

<u>Year of Release</u>	<u>All Offenses</u>	<u>Person Offenses</u>	<u>Non-Person Offenses</u>
Total	36.2	29.4	38.0
FY 60	32.1	18.5	35.7
61	37.6	28.2	39.9
62	39.5	28.2	42.8
63	39.4	28.4	41.8
64	41.0	30.4	43.7
65	40.5	33.9	41.8
66	39.5	37.9	39.8
67	35.7	24.8	37.9
68	34.0	26.6	35.9
69	38.7	29.6	41.3
70	34.8	30.2	36.1
71	31.9	24.9	33.7
72	33.4	28.7	34.7
73	33.1	33.2	33.1
74	35.9	32.5	36.7
75	32.0	30.0	32.6
76	39.8	35.1	41.2

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TABLE 2: Releases and Returns Within Five Years at Risk, by Year of Release, FY 60-76.

	Total		Person Offenses		Non-Person Offenses	
	Release	Return	Release	Return	Release	Return
Total	23956	8672	4930	1451	19026	7221
60	1240	398	260	48	980	350
61	1626	612	312	88	1314	524
62	1230	486	277	78	953	408
63	1289	508	229	65	1060	443
64	958	393	194	59	764	334
65	1151	466	189	64	962	402
66	1286	508	227	86	1059	422
67	1632	582	278	69	1354	513
68	1507	512	305	81	1202	431
69	1555	602	341	101	1214	501
70	1314	457	295	89	1019	368
71	1542	492	321	80	1221	412
72	1675	559	363	104	1312	455
73	1625	538	361	120	1264	418
74	1433	514	292	95	1141	419
75	1366	437	330	99	1036	338
76	1527	608	356	125	1171	483

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FIGURE 1:

PERCENTS OF RETURN WITHIN FIVE YEARS AT RISK  
FOR ALL OFFENDERS RELEASED DURING FY1960-1976

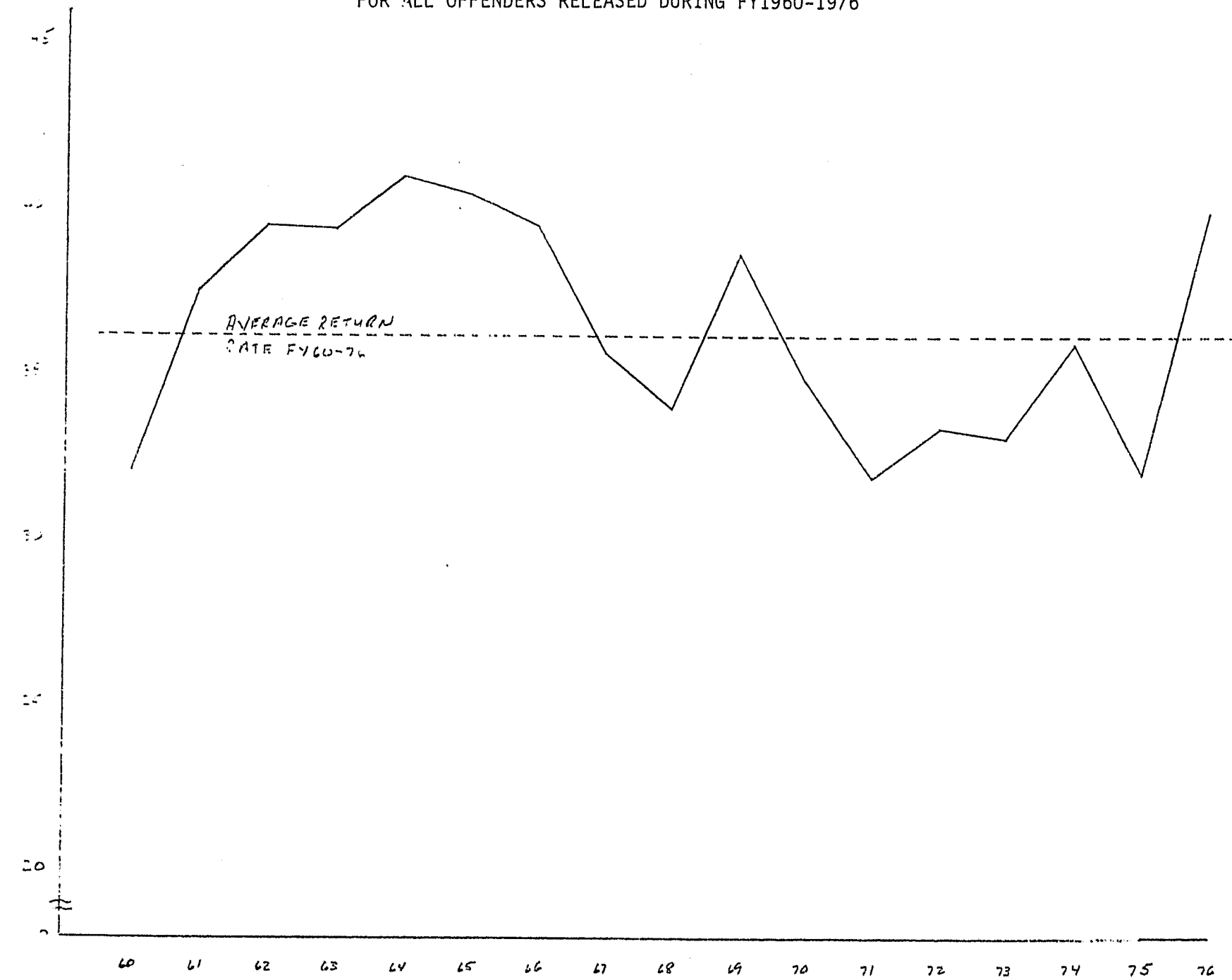


FIGURE 2:

PERCENTS OF RETURN WITHIN FIVE YEARS AT RISK  
FOR ALL PERSON OFFENDERS RELEASED DURING FY1960-76

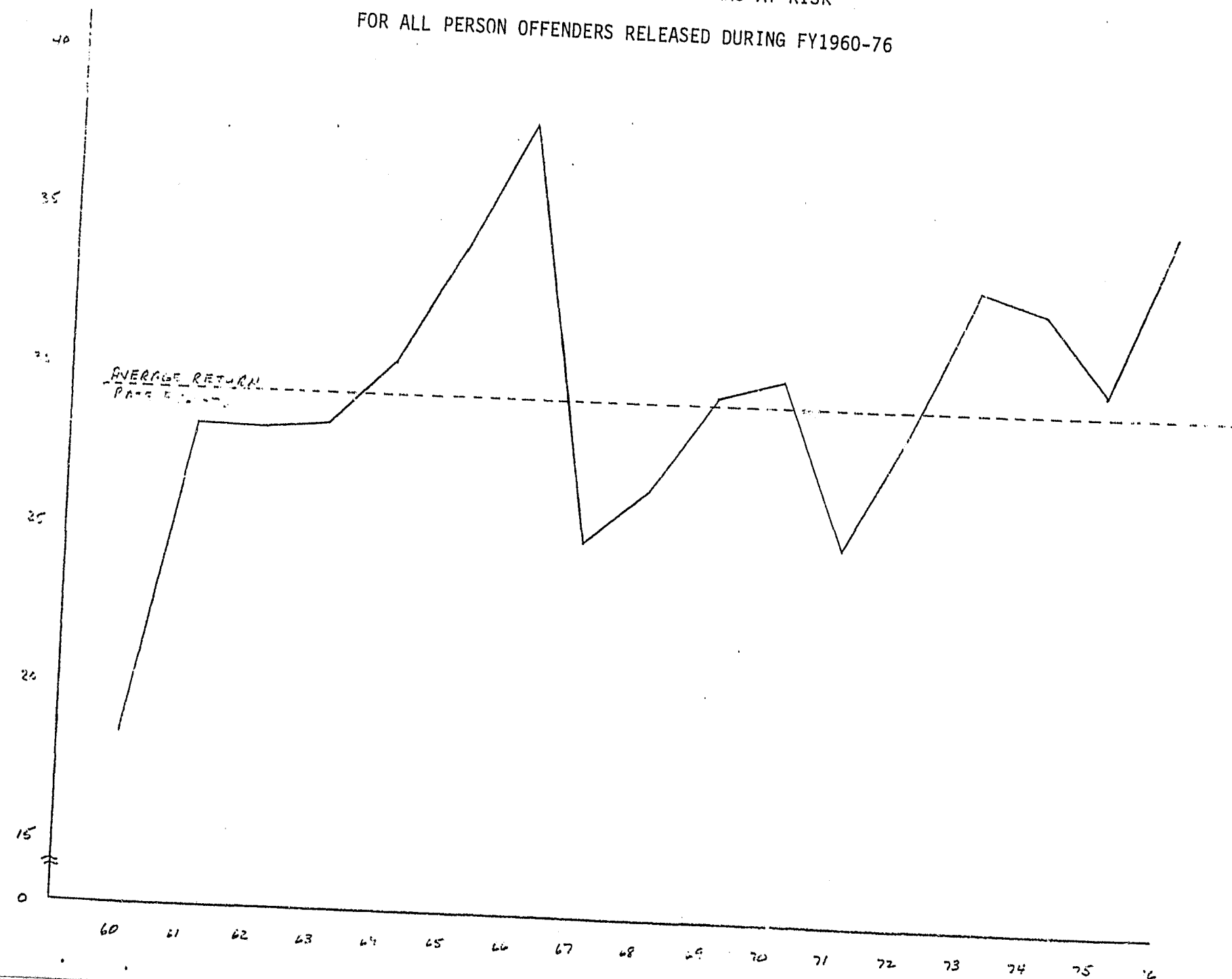
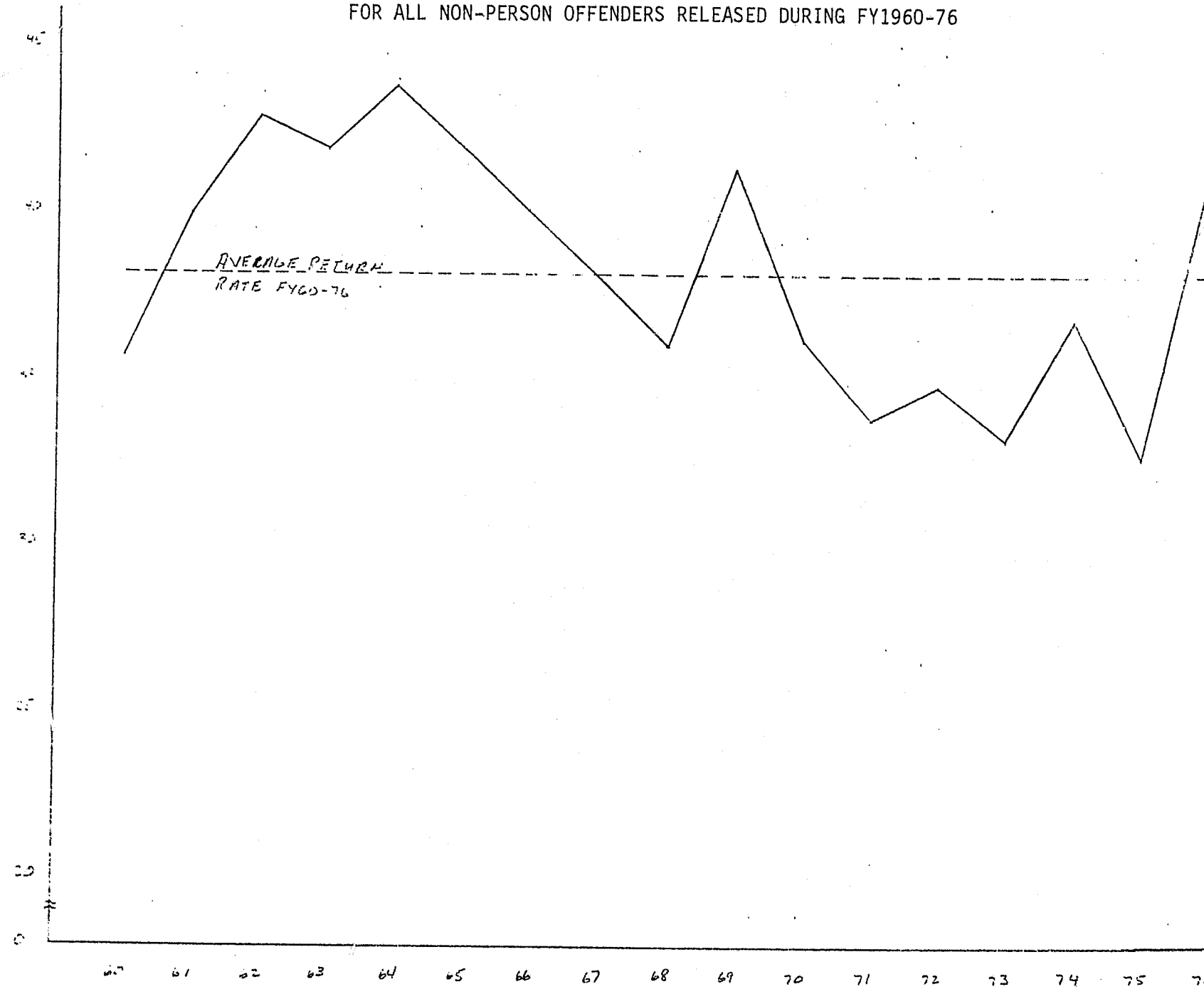


FIGURE 3:

PERCENTS OF RETURN WITHIN FIVE YEARS AT RISK  
FOR ALL NON-PERSON OFFENDERS RELEASED DURING FY1960-76



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TABLE 3: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1960.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1240	398	32.1
Person Offenses	260	48	18.5
Murder 1	0	0	-
Murder 2	14	2	14.3
Manslaughter	25	6	24.0
Sex Crimes	82	8	9.8
Robbery	93	22	23.7
Assault	46	10	21.7
Non-Person Offenses	980	350	35.7
Property	901	325	36.1
Drug	14	8	57.1
Other	54	13	24.1
Offense Not Reported	11	4	36.4

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 4: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1961.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1626	612	37.6
Person Offenses	312	88	28.2
Murder 1	0	0	-
Murder 2	23	4	17.4
Manslaughter	15	5	33.3
Sex Crimes	135	31	23.0
Robbery	88	29	33.0
Assault	51	19	37.3
Non-Person Offenses	1314	524	39.9
Property	1226	490	40.0
Drug	18	8	44.4
Other	50	20	40.0
Offense Not Reported	20	6	30.0

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 5: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1962.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1230	486	39.5
Person Offenses	277	78	28.2
Murder 1	0	0	-
Murder 2	27	7	25.9
Manslaughter	27	5	18.5
Sex Crimes	82	18	22.0
Robbery	88	31	35.2
Assault	53	17	32.1
Non-Person Offenses	953	408	42.8
Property	883	383	43.4
Drug	10	5	50.0
Other	42	13	31.0
Offense Not Reported	18	7	38.9

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 6: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1963.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1289	508	39.4
Person Offenses	229	65	28.4
Murder 1	0	0	-
Murder 2	17	4	23.5
Manslaughter	23	5	21.7
Sex Crimes	64	12	18.8
Robbery	74	32	43.2
Assault	51	12	23.5
Non-Person Offenses	1060	443	41.8
Property	973	409	42.0
Drug	18	10	55.6
Other	40	10	25.0
Offense Not Reported	29	14	48.3

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 7: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1964.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	958	393	41.0
Person Offenses	194	59	30.4
Murder 1	0	0	-
Murder 2	9	5	55.6
Manslaughter	18	4	22.2
Sex Crimes	51	14	27.5
Robbery	64	25	39.1
Assault	52	11	21.2
Non-Person Offenses	764	334	43.7
Property	690	298	43.2
Drug	8	4	50.0
Other	20	9	45.0
Offense Not Reported	46	23	50.0

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 8: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1965.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1151	466	40.5
Person Offenses	189	64	33.9
Murder 1	0	0	-
Murder 2	7	1	14.3
Manslaughter	20	2	10.0
Sex Crimes	60	20	33.3
Robbery	72	26	36.1
Assault	30	15	50.0
Non-Person Offenses	962	402	41.8
Property	865	350	40.5
Drug	13	9	69.2
Other	32	11	34.4
Offense Not Reported	52	32	61.5

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 9: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1966.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1286	508	39.5
Person Offenses	227	86	37.9
Murder 1	0	0	-
Murder 2	6	1	16.7
Manslaughter	15	4	26.7
Sex Crimes	69	30	43.5
Robbery	99	40	40.4
Assault	38	11	28.9
Non-Person Offenses	1059	422	39.8
Property	948	374	39.5
Drug	11	6	54.5
Other	34	10	29.4
Offense Not Reported	66	32	48.5

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 10: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1967.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1632	582	35.7
Person Offenses	278	69	24.8
Murder 1	0	0	-
Murder 2	8	2	25.0
Manslaughter	22	7	31.8
Sex Crimes	108	23	21.3
Robbery	97	24	24.7
Assault	43	13	30.2
Non-Person Offenses	1354	513	37.9
Property	1208	451	37.3
Drug	20	8	40.0
Other	61	17	27.9
Offense Not Reported	65	37	56.9

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 11: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1968.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1507	512	34.0
Person Offenses	305	81	26.6
Murder 1	1	0	0.0
Murder 2	11	2	18.2
Manslaughter	26	4	15.4
Sex Crimes	86	19	22.1
Robbery	105	36	34.3
Assault	76	20	26.3
Non-Person Offenses	1202	431	35.9
Property	1084	392	36.2
Drug	16	8	50.0
Other	52	17	32.7
Offense Not Reported	50	14	28.0

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 12: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1969.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1555	602	38.7
Person Offenses	341	101	29.6
Murder 1	2	2	100.0
Murder 2	16	2	12.5
Manslaughter	31	8	25.8
Sex Crimes	86	25	29.1
Robbery	112	32	28.6
Assault	94	32	34.0
Non-Person Offenses	1214	501	41.3
Property	1095	454	41.5
Drug	27	14	51.9
Other	50	18	36.0
Offense Not Reported	42	15	35.7

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 13: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1970.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1314	457	34.8
Person Offenses	295	89	30.2
Murder 1	1	0	0.0
Murder 2	15	1	6.7
Manslaughter	19	3	15.8
Sex Crimes	76	26	34.2
Robbery	125	47	37.6
Assault	59	12	20.3
Non-Person Offenses	1019	368	36.1
Property	907	328	36.2
Drug	38	12	31.6
Other	41	14	34.1
Offense Not Reported	33	14	42.4

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 14: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1971.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1542	492	31.9
Person Offenses	321	80	24.9
Murder 1	2	1	50.0
Murder 2	16	3	18.8
Manslaughter	33	5	15.2
Sex Crimes	64	16	25.0
Robbery	124	41	33.1
Assault	82	14	17.1
Non-Person Offenses	1221	412	33.7
Property	1040	361	34.7
Drug	103	29	28.2
Other	44	10	22.7
Offense Not Reported	34	12	35.3

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 15: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1972.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1675	559	33.4
Person Offenses	363	104	28.7
Murder 1	1	0	0.0
Murder 2	19	4	21.1
Manslaughter	36	5	13.9
Sex Crimes	53	13	24.5
Robbery	164	51	31.1
Assault	90	31	34.4
Non-Person Offenses	1312	455	34.7
Property	1098	397	36.2
Drug	107	25	23.4
Other	45	20	44.4
Offense Not Reported	62	13	21.0

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 16: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1973.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1625	538	33.1
Person Offenses	361	120	33.2
Murder 1	3	2	66.7
Murder 2	17	3	17.6
Manslaughter	21	6	28.6
Sex Crimes	89	31	34.8
Robbery	154	51	33.1
Assault	77	27	35.1
Non-Person Offenses	1264	418	33.1
Property	970	359	37.0
Drug	211	48	22.7
Other	36	7	19.4
Offense Not Reported	47	4	8.5

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 17: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1974.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1433	514	35.9
Person Offenses	292	95	32.5
Murder 1	4	0	0.0
Murder 2	15	4	26.7
Manslaughter	19	6	31.6
Sex Crimes	54	21	38.9
Robbery	110	39	35.5
Assault	90	25	27.8
Non-Person Offenses	1141	419	36.7
Property	809	320	39.6
Drug	236	80	33.9
Other	29	8	27.6
Offense Not Reported	67	11	16.4

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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TABLE 18: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1975.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1366	437	32.0
Person Offenses	330	99	30.0
Murder 1	4	1	25.0
Murder 2	24	3	12.5
Manslaughter	19	5	26.3
Sex Crimes	46	13	28.3
Robbery	128	43	33.6
Assault	109	34	31.2
Non-Person Offenses	1036	338	32.6
Property	722	275	38.1
Drug	233	52	22.3
Other	28	8	28.6
Offense Not Reported	53	3	5.7

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.

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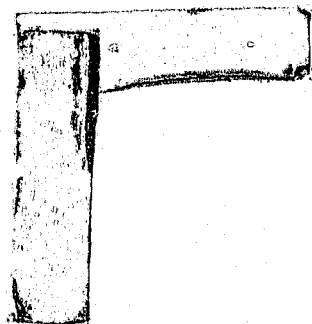
TABLE 19: Five-Year Recidivism <sup>1/</sup> Rates, by Offense Category, for  
Persons Released <sup>2/</sup> During Fiscal Year 1976.

	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Percent Returns</u>
Total	1527	608	39.8
Person Offenses	356	125	35.1
Murder 1	6	1	16.7
Murder 2	28	4	14.3
Manslaughter	28	8	28.6
Sex Crimes	62	23	37.1
Robbery	131	41	31.3
Assault	101	48	47.5
Non-Person Offenses	1171	483	41.2
Property	895	402	44.9
Drug	202	56	27.7
Other	24	11	45.8
Offense Not Reported	50	14	28.0

<sup>1/</sup> Returned to a Washington State Correctional Facility as a result of a new felony conviction or a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>2/</sup> i.e., paroled or discharged.





**END**