

Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice



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Executive Director

**La Crosse
County Jail
Report:
1985
Confinements**

**WISCONSIN STATISTICAL
ANALYSIS CENTER**

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LA CROSSE COUNTY JAIL REPORT: 1985 CONFINEMENTS

Acknowledgements

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The Wisconsin Statistical Analysis Center collects, analyzes and disseminates criminal justice data in Wisconsin. The Center currently operates two major programs. 1) The Uniform Crime Reporting Program entails the collection and analysis of crime and arrest data throughout the State. 2) The Jail Information System, of which this publication is a part, collects and analyzes data from various counties in Wisconsin. Those participating in this System determine the content and frequency of reports provided. Reports are issued at the request of individual Sheriff's Departments.

In addition to operating these two systems, the Center also provides technical assistance to local criminal justice agencies. Further, it provides state and local government agencies with access to Federal resources in criminal justice statistical information. The Statistical Analysis Center also promotes the coordination and development of criminal justice statistical systems in Wisconsin.

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A. INTRODUCTION/METHODOLOGY

This report studies various aspects of the 2,210 confinements at the La Crosse County Jail during calendar year 1985. These confinements include all 2,187 adults held and the 23 juveniles held for motor vehicle-related charges or waived into criminal court. This report is divided into five major sections:

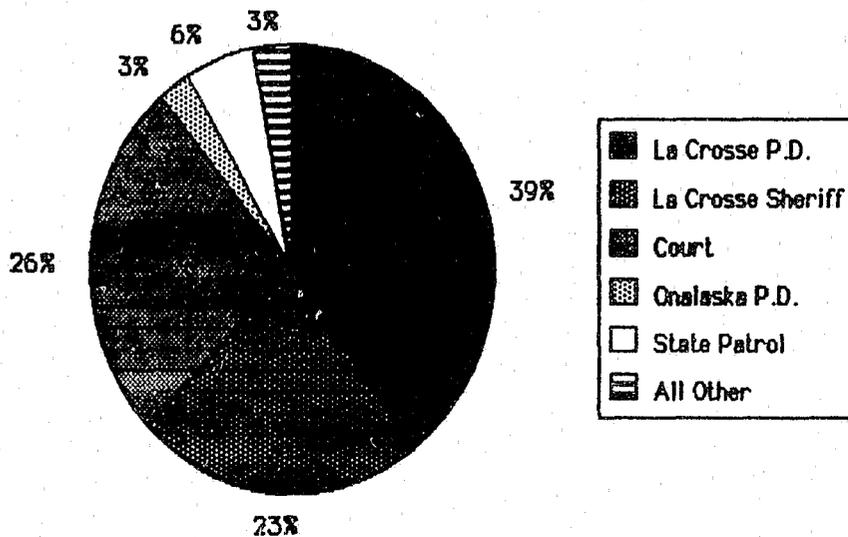
- 1. *Management Information* - including arresting agency, month/day/hour of admission, length of stay, Average Daily Population (ADP), and "peak" populations.
- 2. *Inmate Profile* - including gender, race, age and charge(s).
- 3. *Huber Inmates* - a comparison of inmates serving a sentence and those on Huber status.
- 4. *"Long-Term" Inmates* - analysis of those persons confined for more than three days.
- 5. *Historical Comparisons* - comparison of 1982 to 1985 confinement trends along with historical data on admissions from 1975 through 1985.

The data in this report are based upon information submitted by the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department to the Wisconsin Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). Individual forms were submitted for each jail admission and were then entered into a computerized database. While the report is based largely on information concerning inmates confined during 1985, some individuals were either admitted during 1984 (43) or released during 1986 (38). However, unless otherwise noted, all the data presented are based on the 2,210 confinements during 1985.

B. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Graph 1 identifies the arresting agency for those inmates confined at the La Crosse County Jail during 1985.

Graph 1: Arresting Agency

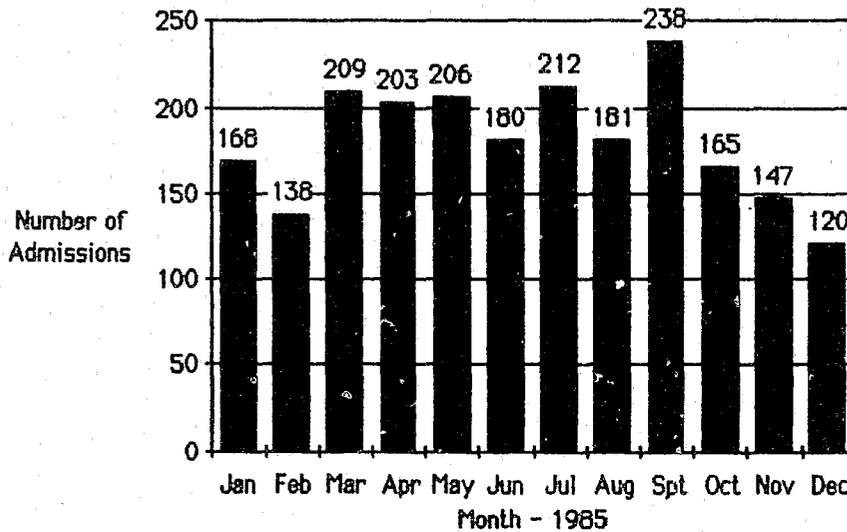


The various proportions are quite similar to those of 1984, although the percentage referred from court has increased somewhat.

Since a large proportion of limited jail resources are used in the various activities needed to complete a jail admission, the next few graphs identify temporal patterns in jail admissions - i.e., month, day and hour of admission. This information may assist the Sheriff's Department in the most efficient allocation of its personnel and other resources.

Graph 2 presents monthly patterns in 1985 jail admissions.¹

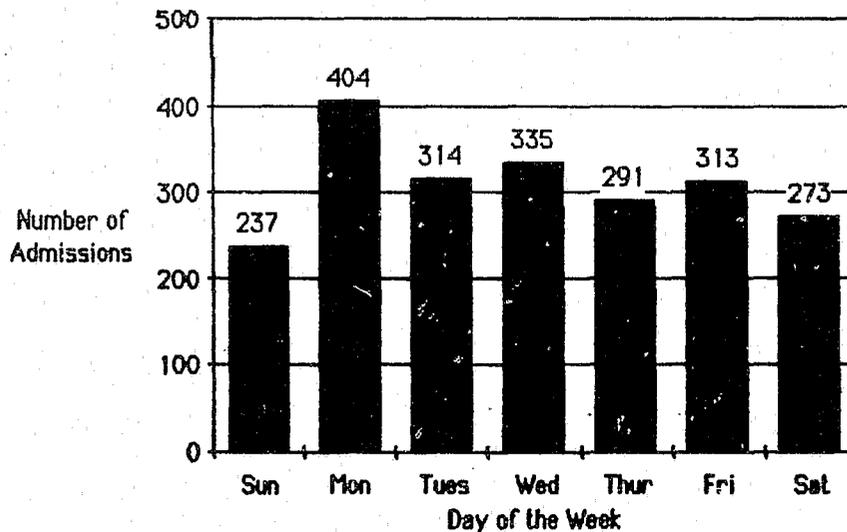
Graph 2: Month of Admission



Admissions were quite consistent during the year except for a decline during the latter three months of the year.

Patterns in the day of admission are presented in Graph 3.¹

Graph 3: Day of Admissions

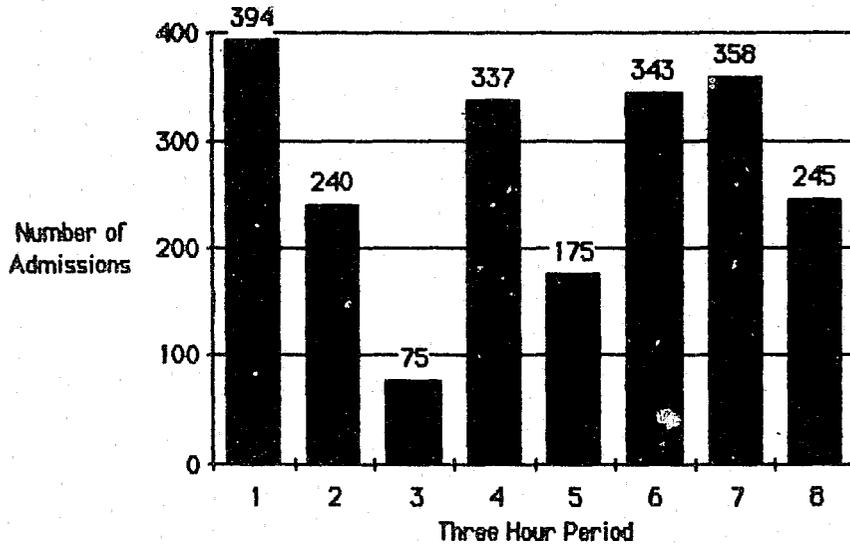


¹ Data do not include inmates admitted during 1984.

The high volume of Monday admissions is likely due to the high number of court referrals on that day.

Graph 4 portrays the hour of admission with the individual hours combined into consecutive three-hour periods for ease of analysis (e.g., period 1 equals midnight to 3 a.m., period 2 equals 3 a.m. to 6 a.m., and so on).²

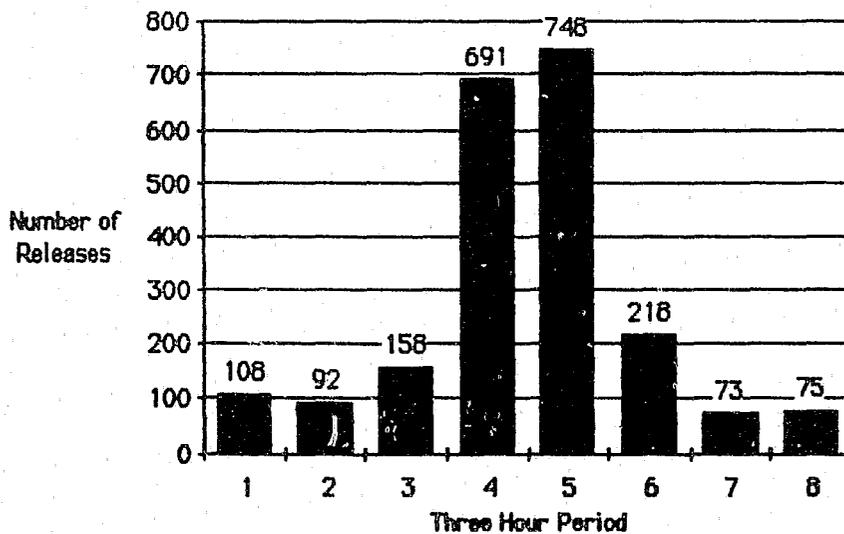
Graph 4: Hour of Admission



Admission patterns closely resemble those of previous years.

Corresponding figures for the hour of release are shown in Graph 5.³

Graph 5: Hour of Release



² Data do not include inmates admitted during 1984.

³ Data do not include inmates released during 1986.

As was true in 1984, releases are heavily concentrated in the late morning and early afternoon.

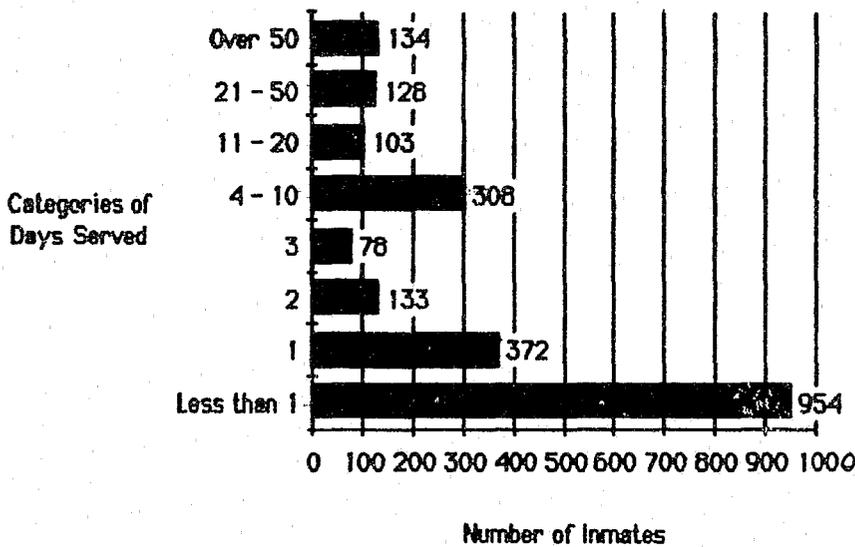
The amount of time served by inmates directly affects the financial and personnel resources of a local jail. Information presented in Table 1 and Graph 6 indicate that **nearly two-thirds of all inmates remained in jail less than three days.**

Table 1: Time Served

<u>Days Served</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Cumulative Percent</u>
Less than 1	954	43.2	43.2
1	372	16.8	60.0
2	133	6.0	66.0
3	78	3.5	69.5
4 - 10	308	13.9	83.4
11 - 20	103	4.7	88.1
21 - 50	128	5.8	93.9
Over 50	134	6.1	100.0
TOTAL	2210	100.0	100.0

Average (Mean) Time Served = 10.8 Days⁴
 Median Time Served = 1 Day

Graph 6: Days Served in Jail



The average time served figure of 10.8 days is somewhat less than the 1983 average of 12.3 days.

⁴ Based upon an analysis of La Crosse County data, those inmates serving less than one day were assigned an average stay of 3.74 days

Table 2 presents several characteristics of inmates held on the five "peak days" during 1985 and averages these figures for the five dates. The various categories presented may be useful in identifying sections of the jail (e.g., maximum security) which may suffer from periodic overcrowding.

Table 2: Peak Day Inmate Characteristics

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Dates</u>					<u>Average</u>
	<u>3/11</u>	<u>9/18</u>	<u>9/19</u>	<u>9/17</u>	<u>9/28</u>	
<u>Total Inmates Held</u>	75	79	80	83	99	83.2
<u>Age/Sex</u>						
Adult Male	70	71	71	70	90	74.4
Adult Female	4	6	7	11	7	7
Juvenile Male	1	2	2	2	2	1.8
<u>Long-Term</u>						
<u>Confinements⁵</u>	21	28	28	28	25	26
<u>Reason Held</u>						
Serving Sentence	44	50	50	48	36	45.6
Turned over To Other	13	16	16	16	17	15.6
Making Bond	12	7	9	10	34	14.4
All Other	6	6	5	9	12	7.6

The Average Daily Population (ADP) for the entire year was 58.5 inmates, a figure somewhat lower than the 1984 ADP of 60.2 inmates.

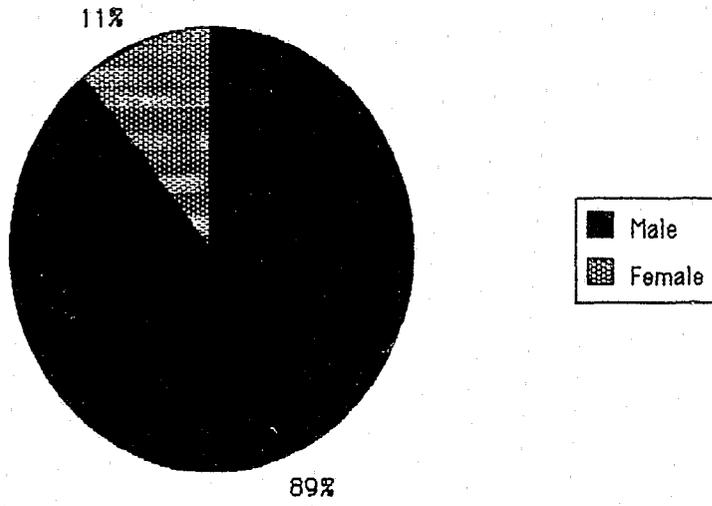
The preceding section on management-related information could be summarized in terms of an "average confinement" at the La Crosse County Jail during 1985. This "average confinement" was likely to have been arrested by the La Crosse Police Department, admitted on a Monday in the late morning or evening, and released at mid-day after having spent two days or less in the jail.

C. INMATE PROFILE

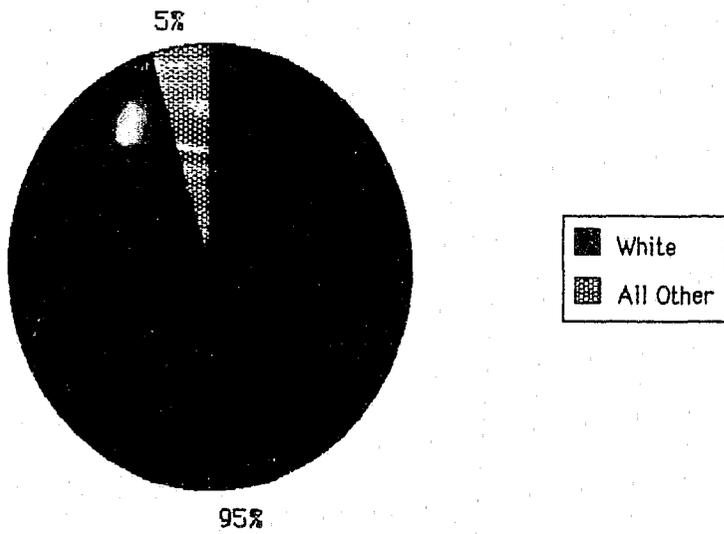
Certain demographic characteristics of inmates such as age or gender may affect the staffing and space limitations of local correctional facilities. Graphs 7 through 9 characterize the 1985 confinements to the La Crosse County Jail in terms of gender, race and age.

⁵ "Long-term" confinements include those held thirty days or more.

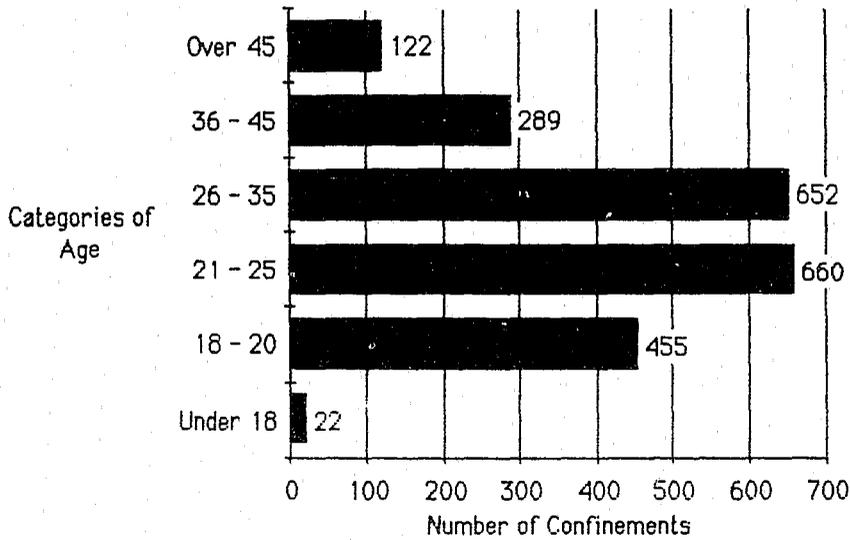
Graph 7: Gender of Admissiosn



Graph 8: Race of Admissions



Graph 9: Age of Confinements

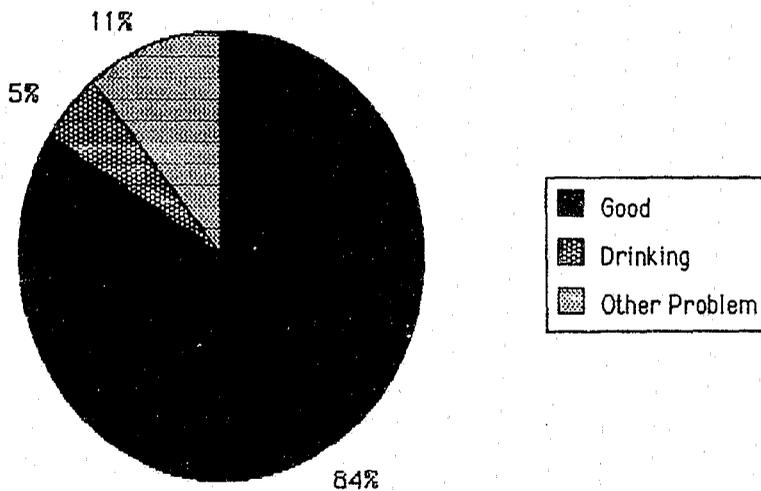


Average (Mean) Age = 27.9 Years
Median Age = 25 Years

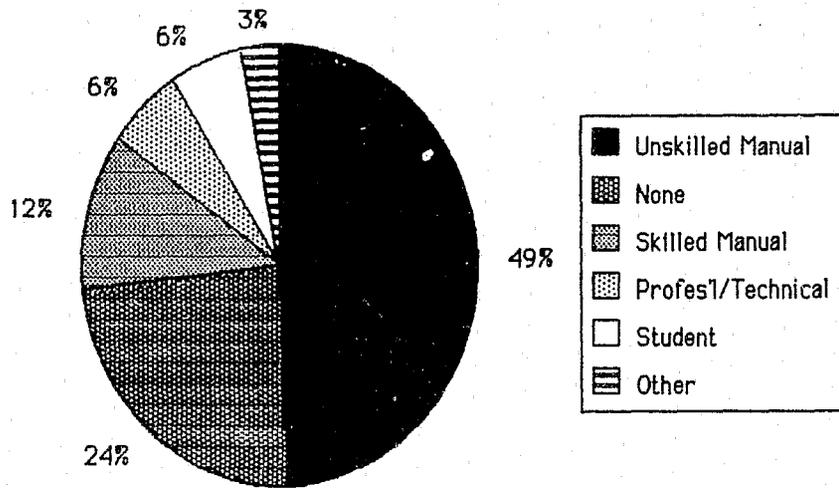
Patterns in all three inmate characteristics are very similar to those during 1984.

Graphs 10, 11 and 12 present information on the physical condition, occupation and marital status of 1985 confinements at the La Crosse County Jail.

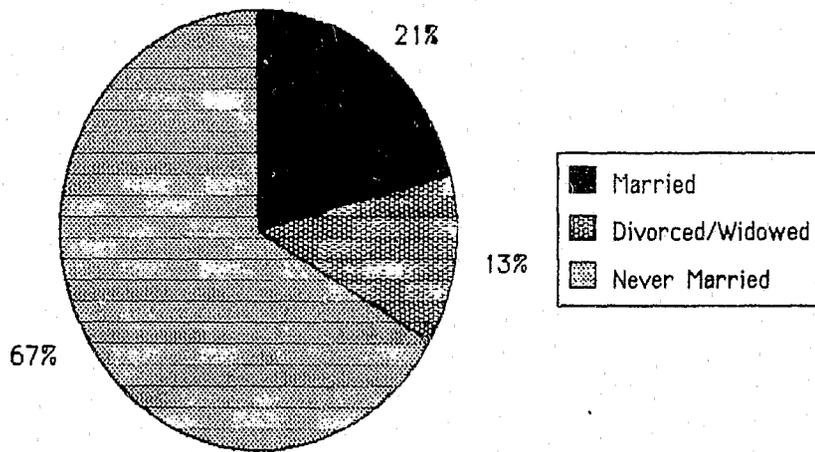
Graph 10: Physical Condition



Graph 11: Occupation



Graph 12: Marital Status



The composite description of 1985 confinements emerging from these graphs is that of an unmarried white male in his mid or late twenties, in good physical condition and with an unskilled manual job. This description is very similar to that of previous years.

Information in Table 3 summarizes a series of inmate characteristics on the basis of positive or negative responses to a series of questions.

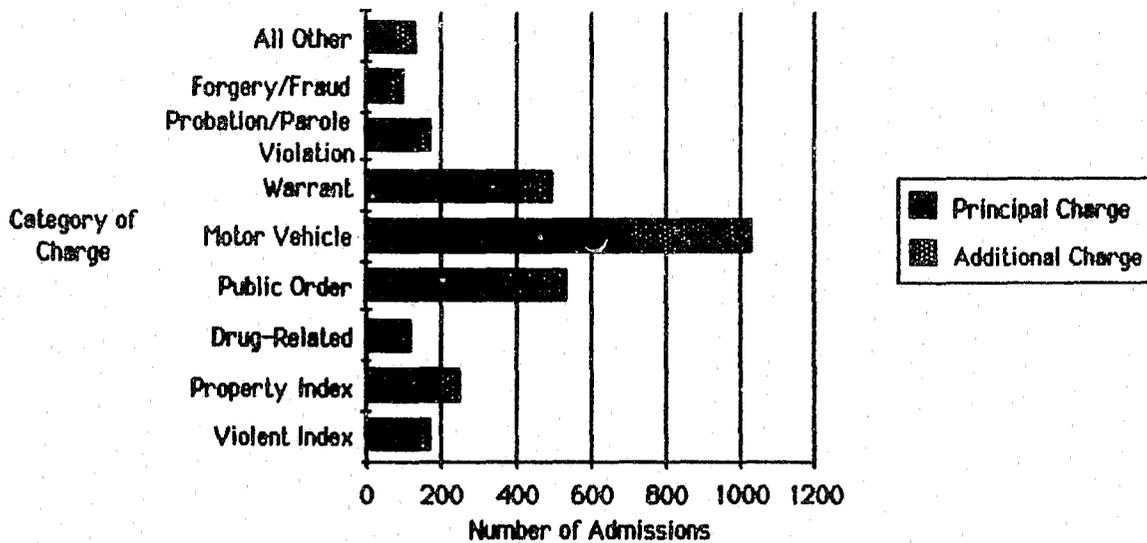
Table 3: Selected Inmate Characteristics

Item	Yes		No	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Huber Status?	304	14.1	1855	85.9
Work Release?	80	3.7	2056	96.3
Employed?	1151	53.4	1004	46.6
Dependents?	747	37.7	1235	62.3
Veteran?	549	25.6	1596	74.4
High School Graduate?	1287	60.2	850	39.8
GED?	316	20.5	1223	79.5
Receiving Aid?	405	19.1	1717	80.9
Prior Convictions?	1100	51.1	1051	48.9
On Probation/Parole?	425	19.8	1725	80.2

There are a few minor changes from last year's figures. First, the proportions of inmates employed and having graduated from high school are both somewhat higher. Second, the percentage of inmates on probation or parole has declined marginally.

Those confined in jail can also be studied in terms of the relative seriousness of their charge(s). Graph 13 and Table 4 delineate the principal and additional (if any) charges faced by those confined in the La Crosse County Jail during 1985.⁶

Graph 13: Charge(s) at Admission



⁶ In Table 4 the percent columns refer to either the percent of all principal charges or the percent of all additional charges. For example, the 379 principal warrant charges make up 17.2 percent of all principal charges while the 117 additional warrant charges make up 11.5 percent of all additional charges.

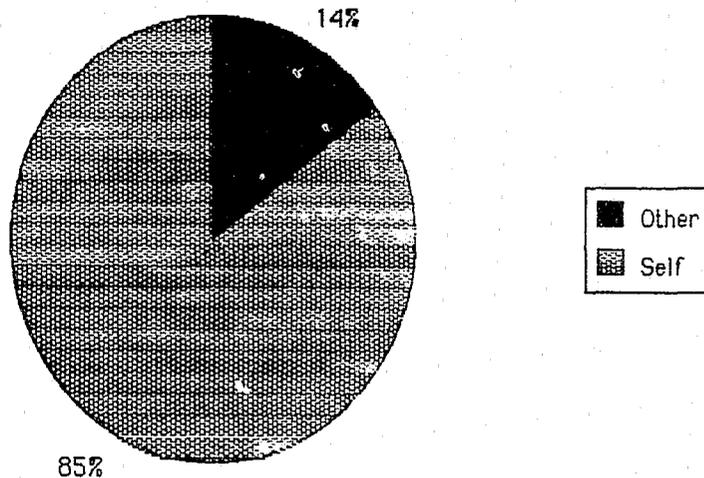
Table 4: Charge(s) at Admission

Charge	Principal		Additional	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<u>Violent Index</u>				
Murder (1st Degree)	4	0.2	-	-
Attempted Murder	7	0.3	-	-
Sexual Assault	36	1.6	4	0.4
Robbery	6	0.3	5	0.5
Assault/Battery	<u>92</u>	<u>4.2</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>2.3</u>
Total - Violent Index	145	6.6	32	3.1
<u>Property Index</u>				
Burglary	43	2.0	12	1.2
Theft	122	5.6	44	4.3
Motor Vehicle Theft	17	0.8	9	0.9
Arson	<u>1</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total - Property Index	183	8.3	65	6.4
<u>Drug-Related</u>				
Sale/Delivery	40	1.8	26	2.6
Possession Marihuana	6	0.3	4	0.4
Possession Other Drugs	<u>23</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>2.2</u>
Total - Drug-Related	69	3.1	52	5.1
<u>Public Order</u>				
Weapons	39	1.8	13	1.3
Resisting Arrest	39	1.8	92	9.1
Disorderly Conduct/ Criminal Damage	<u>279</u>	<u>12.6</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>7.3</u>
Total - Public Order	357	16.2	179	17.6
<u>Motor Vehicle</u>				
OMYWI	41	1.9	7	0.7
Operating After Revocation/Suspension	8	0.4	7	0.7
Other Motor Vehicle	<u>658</u>	<u>29.9</u>	<u>314</u>	<u>30.8</u>
Total - Motor Vehicle	707	32.1	328	32.2
<u>Warrant</u>	379	17.2	117	11.5
<u>Probation Violation</u>	140	6.3	37	3.6
<u>All Other Offenses</u>				
Forgery/Fraud	66	3.0	40	3.9
Hold	17	0.8	1	0.1
Sentence Commitment	16	0.7	13	1.3
Poss. Stolen Property	10	0.4	7	0.7
Non-Support	-	-	8	0.8
Negligent Homicide	1	0.0	1	0.1
All Other	<u>119</u>	<u>5.4</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>13.5</u>
Total - Other Offenses	229	10.3	207	20.4
TOTAL - ALL OFFENSES	2209	100.0	1017	100.0

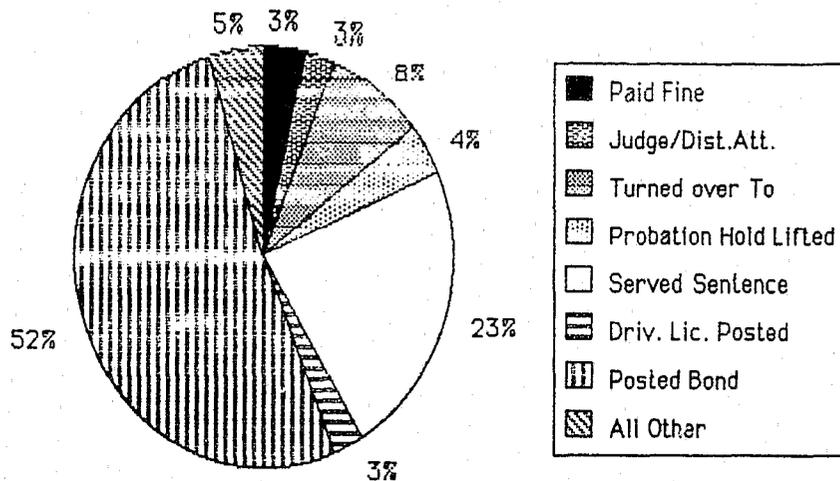
There are several differences in the offense patterns between 1984 and 1985 confinements at the La Crosse County Jail. **First, the number of drug-related and OMYWI offenses have both increased. Also, the number of warrant violations has declined. Finally, the number of additional offenses has increased during 1985.**

Information in Graphs 14 and 15 detail the custody of release and reason for release for 1985 confinements.

Graph 14: Custody of Release



Graph 15: Reason Released



The various percentages for reason released are virtually identical to corresponding figures for 1984 confinements.

D. Huber Inmates

During 1985 there were 497 persons confined at the La Crosse County Jail who were serving a sentence. Approximately sixty percent of these individuals were on Huber status. Table 5 compares these two groups on the basis of gender and length of confinement.

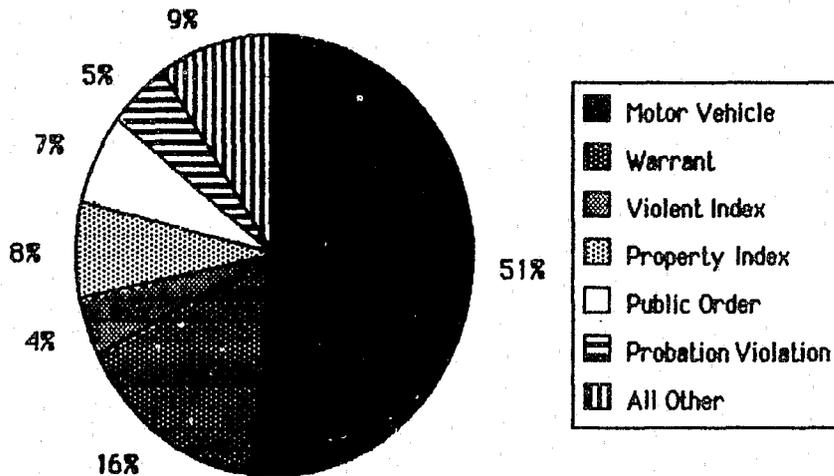
Table 5: Characteristics of Sentenced and Huber inmates

<u>Item</u>	<u>Sentenced</u>	<u>Huber</u>
Number	497	304
Gender - Male	455	276
- Female	42	28
Days Served: Mean	28.4	20.1
Median	8	7

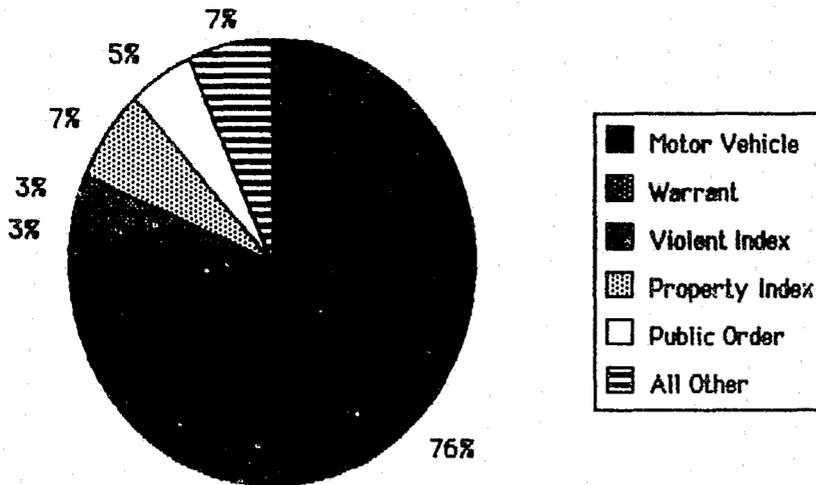
The Average Daily Population (ADP) of Huber inmates was 16.1 inmates while the ADP of sentenced inmates was 27.7 persons. This latter figure makes up nearly half of the total ADP for 1985 at the LaCrosse County Jail thus emphasizing the importance of this sentenced category.

Graphs 16 and 17 compare the offense for which these two groups of inmates were charged.

Graph 16: Offenses- Sentenced Inmates



Graph 17: Offenses - Huber Inmates



The major differences between the two groups of inmates are as follows: sentenced inmates are more likely to be charged with either a warrant or probation violation; Huber inmates are more likely to be charged with a motor vehicle offense; and, sentenced inmates are slightly more likely to be charged with an Index or public order offense.

E. Long-Term Inmates

Nearly seventy percent of jail confinements were held less than four days. The 671 persons confined for over three days are defined as "long-term" inmates. Table 6 differentiates long and short-term inmates at the La Crosse County Jail on the basis of selected characteristics.

Table 6: Selected Characteristics of Long and Short-Term Inmates

<u>Item</u> Number	<u>Short-Term</u> 1539	<u>Long-Term</u> 671
<u>Principal Charge:</u>		
Motor Vehicle	29.8%	37.5%
Public Order	20.1%	6.4%
Probation Violation	2.8%	14.1%
<u>Criminal Career</u>		
Prior Convictions	43.8%	67.4%
On Probation/Parole	10.4%	41.0%
<u>Reason Released</u>		
Bond	70.5%	8.0%
Served Sentence	4.2%	65.1%

Several clear differences between the two groups can be seen in Table 6. First, long-term inmates are more likely to be charged with a probation violation or a motor vehicle offense and less likely to be charged with a public order offense. Those serving longer terms of confinement are much more likely to have had previous contact with the criminal justice system, as measured by prior convictions or probation/parole status. Also, longer term inmates are much more likely to be serving a sentence and less likely to be released on bond.

F. Historical Comparisons

A comparison of 1982 to 1985 confinements at the La Crosse County Jail reveals basic similarities in terms of the gender, age, race and occupation of inmates. In terms of charges faced by those confined, 1985 inmates were more likely to be charged with a drug-related offense, OMYWI or a probation violation. Inmates confined in 1985 were less likely to be charged with a warrant violation. Inmates held in 1985 were also slightly more likely to be released after having paid a fine. These inmates were also a bit more likely to be employed and have graduated from high school.

However, the most important distinctions between inmate patterns in the four years were in the number of confinements, length of confinement and ADP. Data presented in Table 7 summarizes these differences during the four years under study.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Table 7: Confinements 1982 to 1985</u>				
	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1982-1985</u>
<u>Change</u>					
Number of Confinements	2629	2519	2123	2210	-15.9%
Average (Mean) Days Served	6.4	9.0	12.3	10.8	+68.8%
Average Daily Population (ADP)	50.1	56.2	60.2	58.5	+16.8%

While the total number of confinements decreased by approximately sixteen percent during the four years, the average daily population increased by nearly seventeen percent due to a substantial increase in the average number of days served. These trends at the La Crosse County Jail are rather similar to those seen in other county jails in Wisconsin.

A somewhat longer perspective on the population at the La Crosse County Jail can be seen by examining annual confinements over the past decade. Graph 18 and Table 8 present the total number of adult confinements from 1975 through 1985 and subdivides the information by gender of inmate.

Graph 18: Adult Confinements

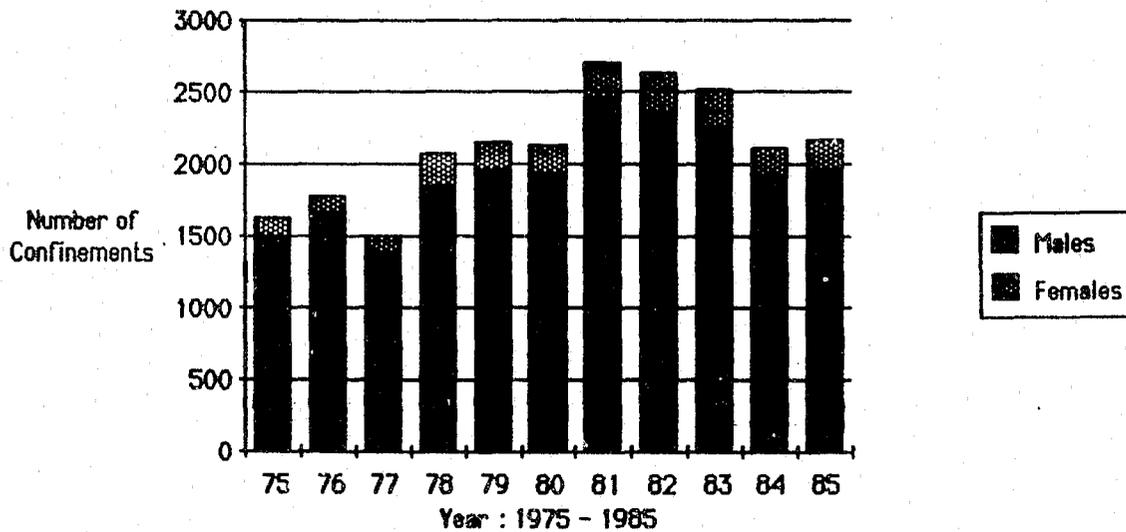


Table 8: Adult Confinements by Gender, 1975-1985

Year	Males	Females	Total
1975	1468	149	1617
1976	1657	130	1787
1977	1365	129	1494
1978	1834	242	2076
1979	1953	190	2143
1980	1928	197	2125
1981	2441	265	2706
1982	2352	277	2629
1983	2252	267	2519
1984	1900	222	2122
1985	1950	237	2187

The data show a substantial (35.2 percent) increase from 1975 to 1985, although the total number of confinements has declined approximately nineteen percent since a high of 2,706 in 1981. However, as noted earlier, longer average periods of incarceration have more than outweighed this recent decline in annual confinements.

G. Conclusion

This report has analyzed the characteristics of those confined at the La Crosse County Jail during 1985 and has compared the 1985 confinements with those of previous years. Admission patterns and inmate characteristics are similar to those found in other county jails in Wisconsin. While total confinements rose slightly in 1985, somewhat shorter terms of stay resulted in a slight decline in the average daily population figure.