

105940



STATE OF NEW YORK
 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
 THE STATE OFFICE BUILDING CAMPUS
 ALBANY, N.Y. 12226

CR-Sent
 11-13-87
 105940

THOMAS A. COUGHLIN III
 COMMISSIONER

WARD DE WITT
 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

DIVISION OF PROGRAM PLANNING, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
 Frank Tracy, Director

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS AND ILLUSTRATIVE GRAPHICS:
 HISPANIC INMATES UNDER CUSTODY JANUARY 1, 1986

Attached is a set of highlights and a series of illustrative graphics concerning Hispanic inmates under custody on January 1, 1986.

This data will be presented in greater detail in a forthcoming research report on this topic.

December 1986

Prepared By:

Charles H. Nygard
 Program Research Specialist IV

NCJRS

With Graphics By:

JUL 15 1987

Christine Barone
 Stenographer

ACQUISITIONS

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

105940

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by

NYS Department of Correctional
Services

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the copyright owner.

INTRODUCTION

The Hispanic population under custody in the New York State Department of Correctional Services has grown at a faster rate than has the overall inmate population since the beginning of 1984.

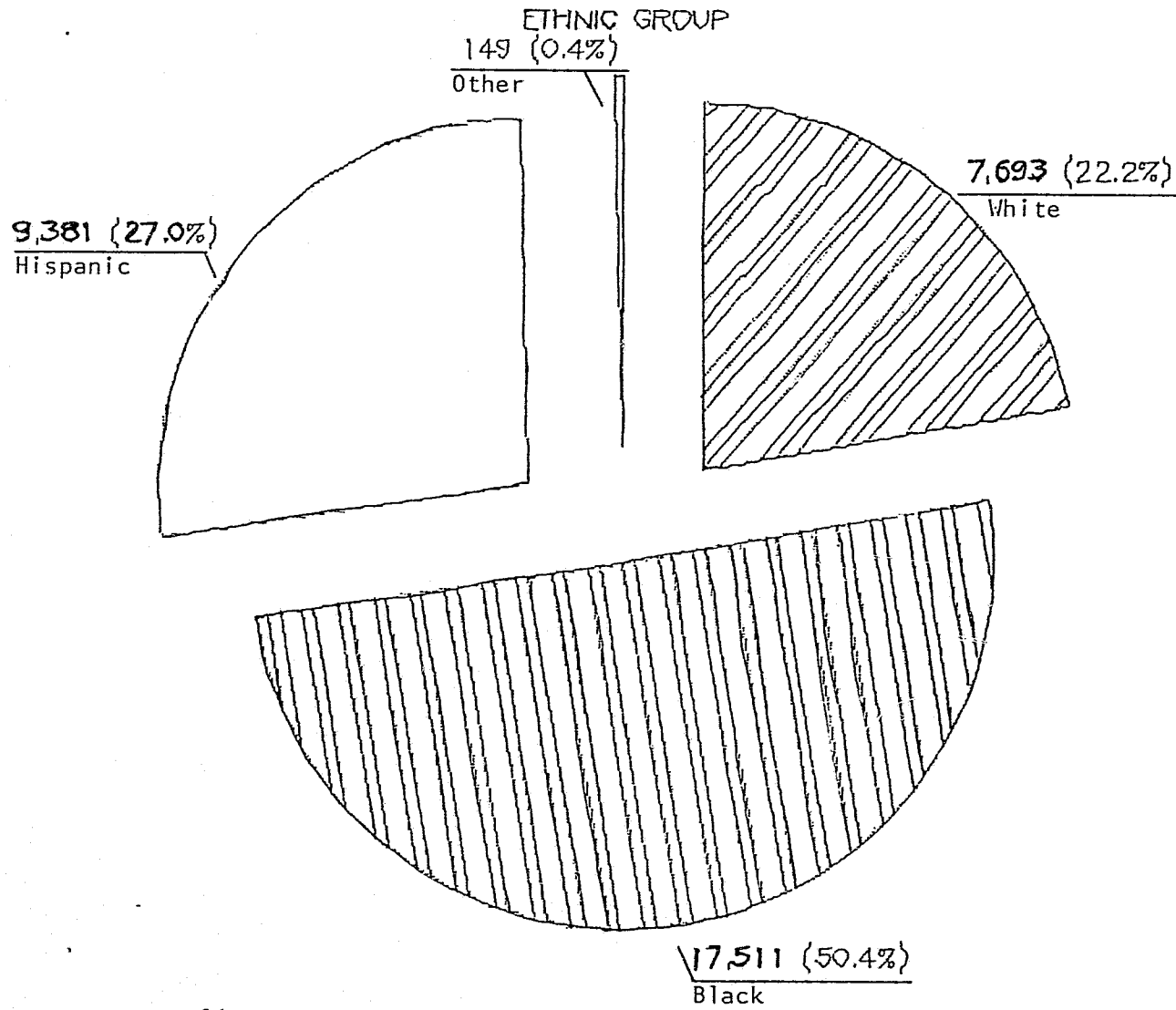
The total population under custody (excluding parole violator detainees) on January 1, 1986 (34,734) had increased by 14.4 percent over the total population under custody on January 1, 1984 (30,360). However, the Hispanic population under custody on January 1, 1986 (9,381) had increased by 35.7 percent over the Hispanic population under custody on January 1, 1984 (6,911).

At the beginning of 1984, Hispanics constituted 22.8 percent of those under custody but were 27.0 percent by 1986.

After the first ten months of 1986, there were 10,950 Hispanics under custody in the Department's population of 38,762 (28.2 percent).

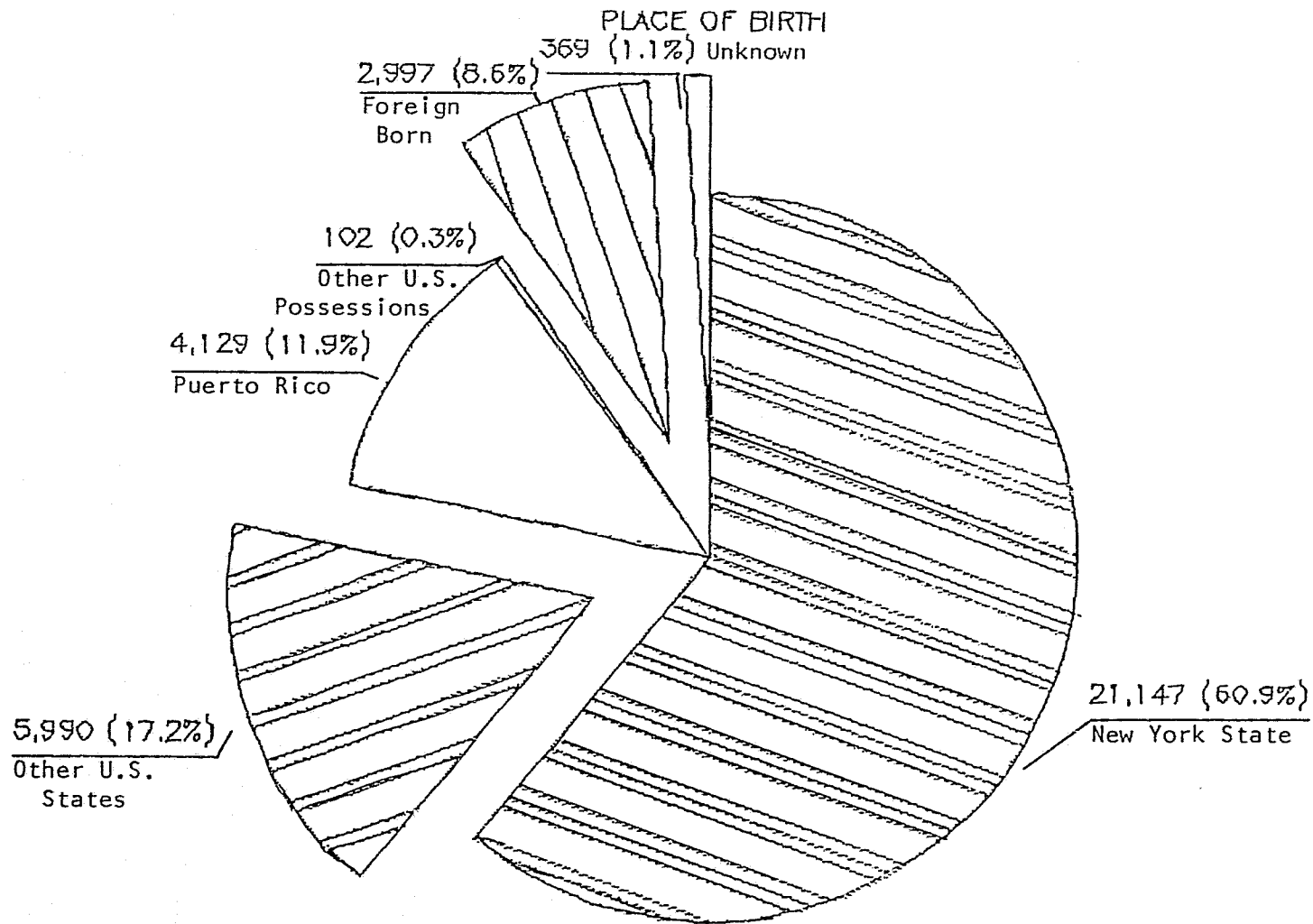
In these first ten months of 1986, Hispanics constituted over 30 percent of all new commitments received. Thus, the proportion of Hispanics in the under custody population has continued to increase during 1986. Hispanics have become a major part of the under custody population and continue to increase at a rate greater than the overall inmate population.

TOTAL UNDER CUSTODY POPULATION*



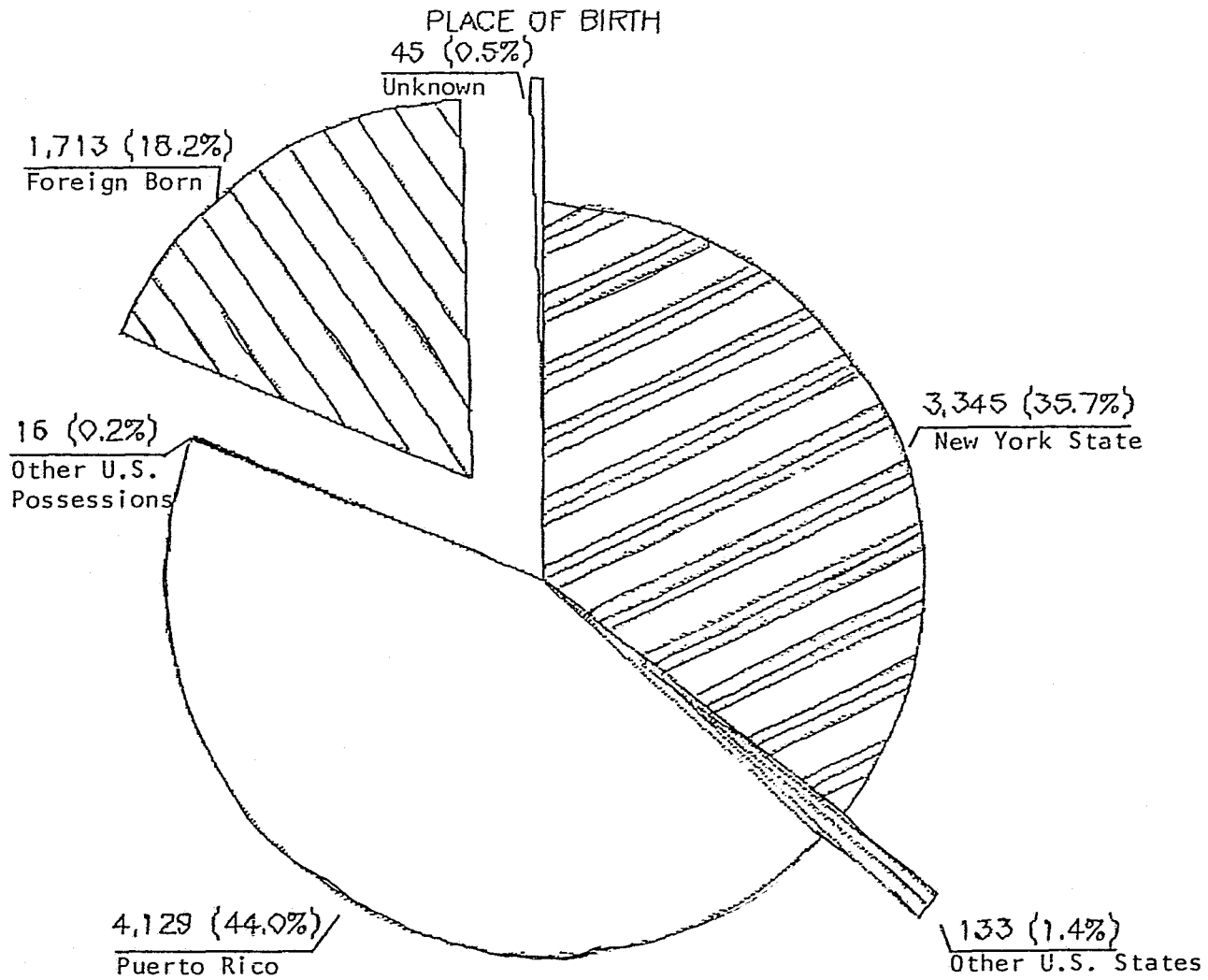
* January 1, 1986
(0 Missing Observations)

TOTAL UNDER CUSTODY POPULATION*



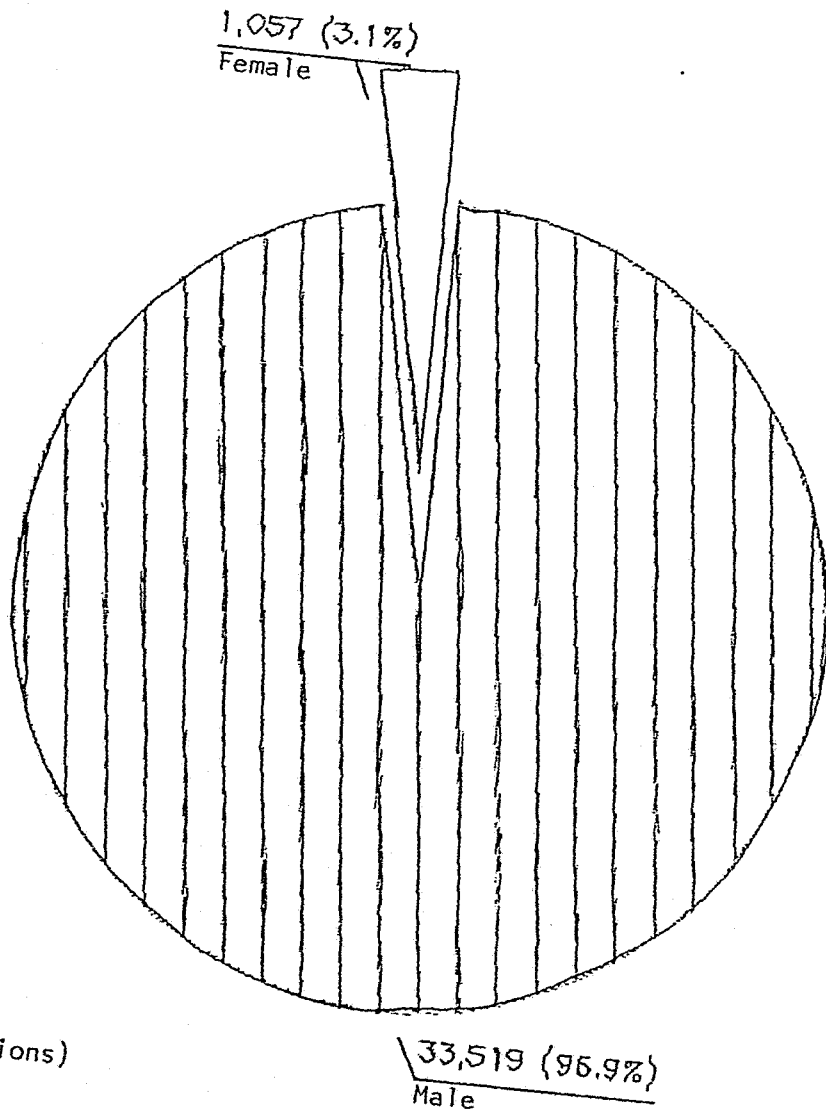
* January 1, 1986
(0 Missing Observations)

HISPANIC UNDER CUSTODY POPULATION*



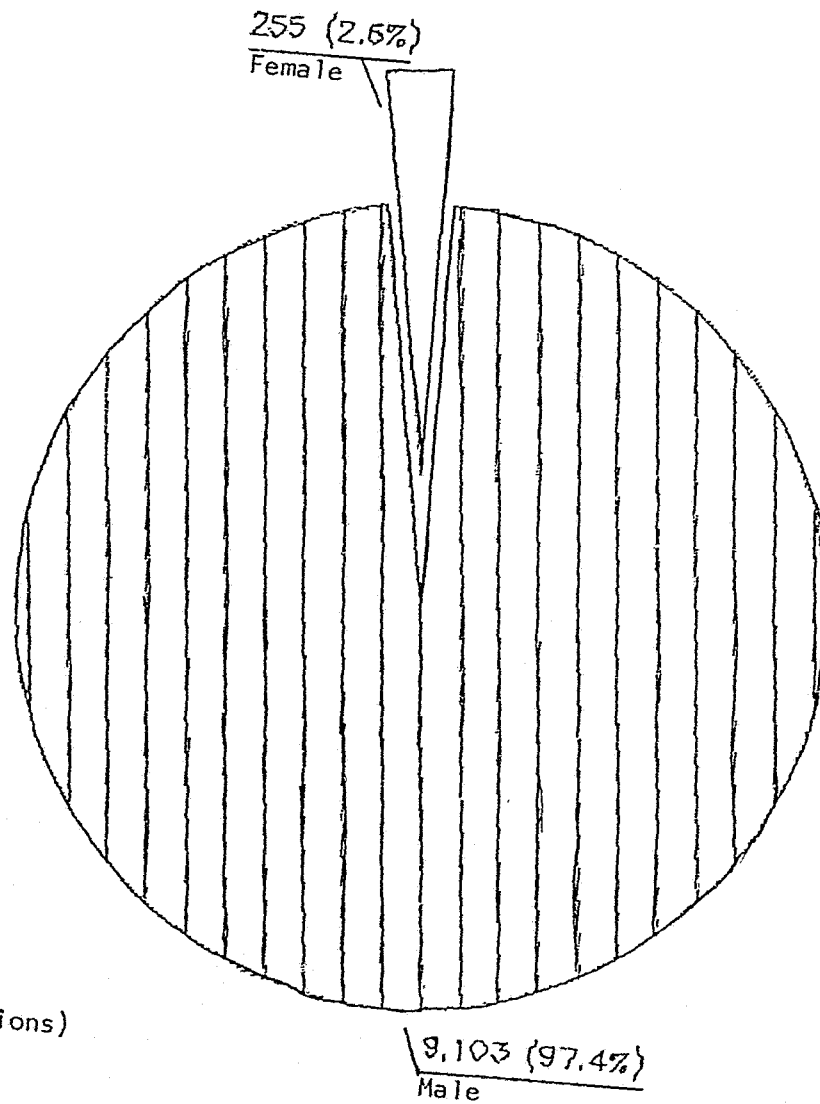
* January 1, 1986
(0 Missing Observations)

TOTAL UNDER CUSTODY POPULATION*
MALE/FEMALE



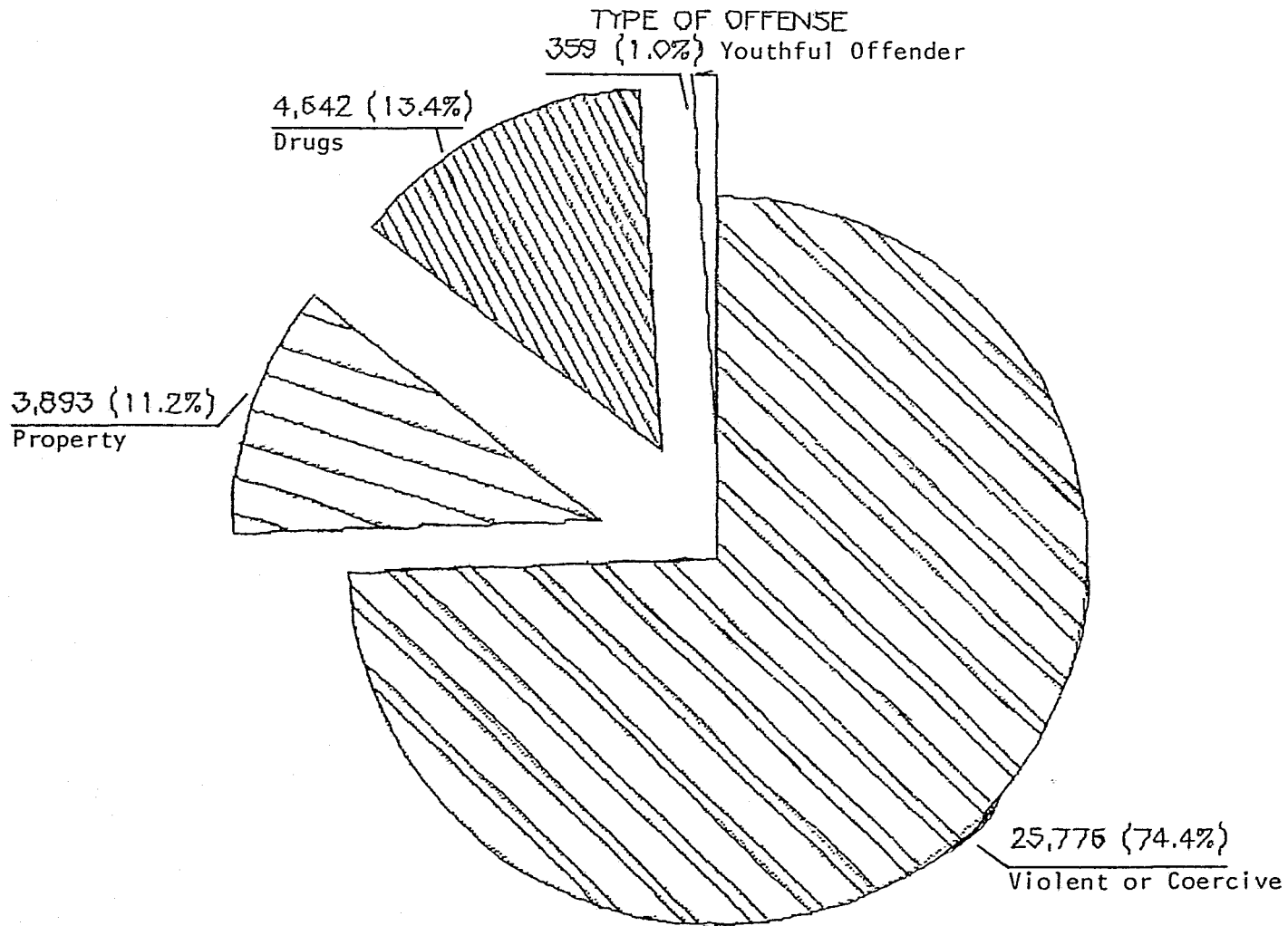
* January 1, 1986
(158 Missing Observations)

HISPANIC UNDER CUSTODY POPULATION*
MALE/FEMALE



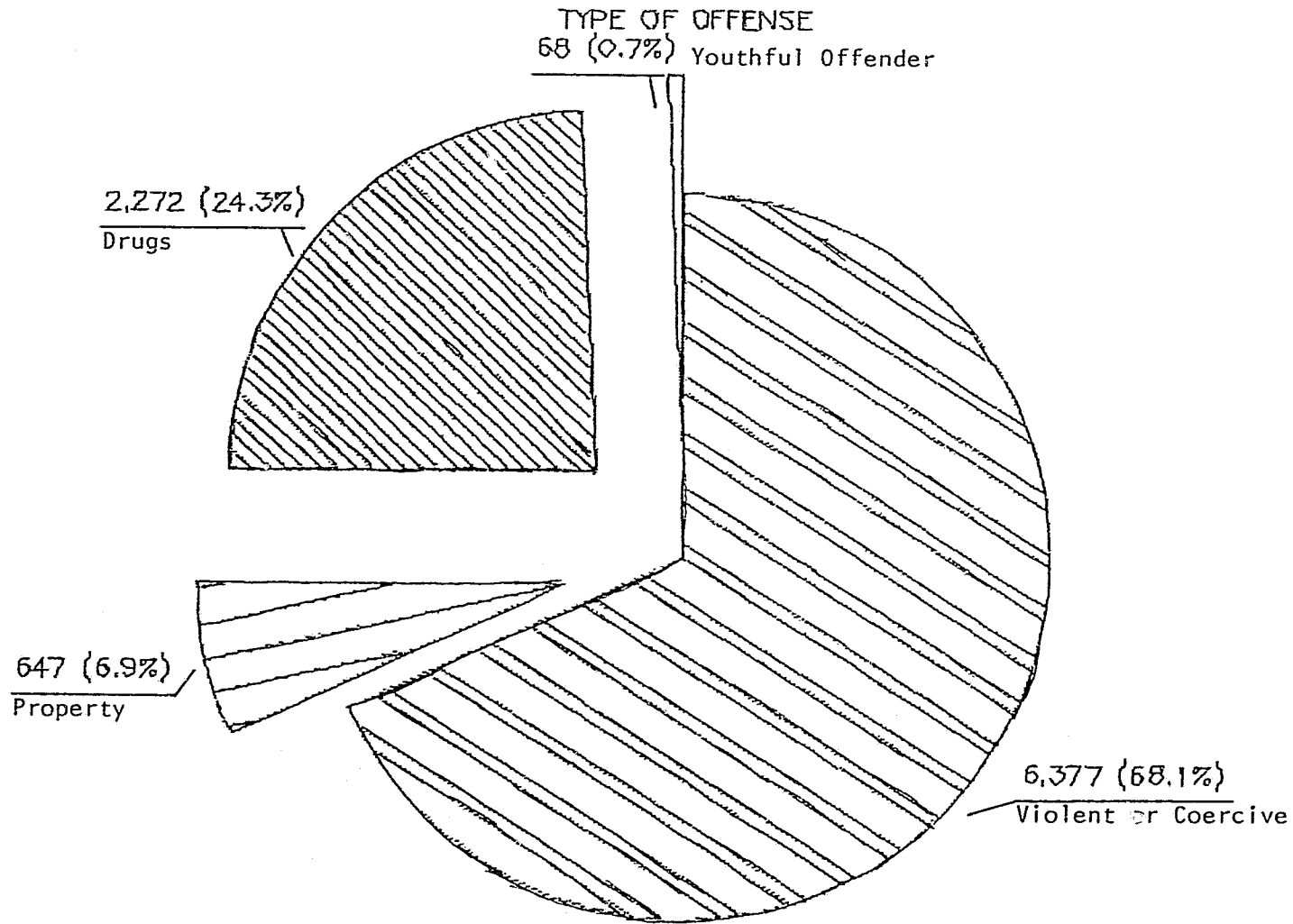
* January 1, 1986
(23 Missing Observations)

TOTAL UNDER CUSTODY POPULATION*



* January 1, 1986
(64 Missing Observations)

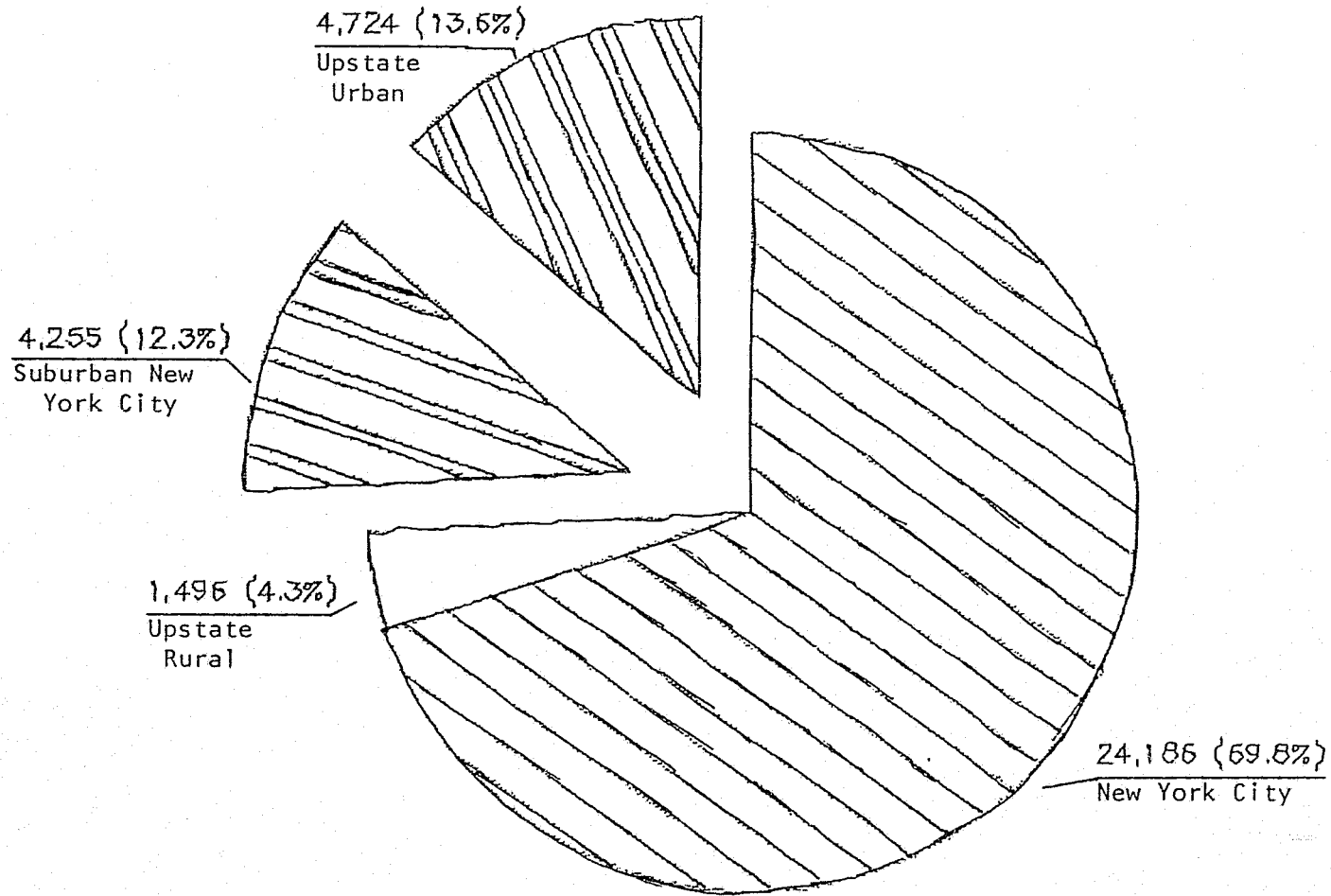
HISPANIC UNDER CUSTODY POPULATION*



* January 1, 1986
(17 Missing Observations)

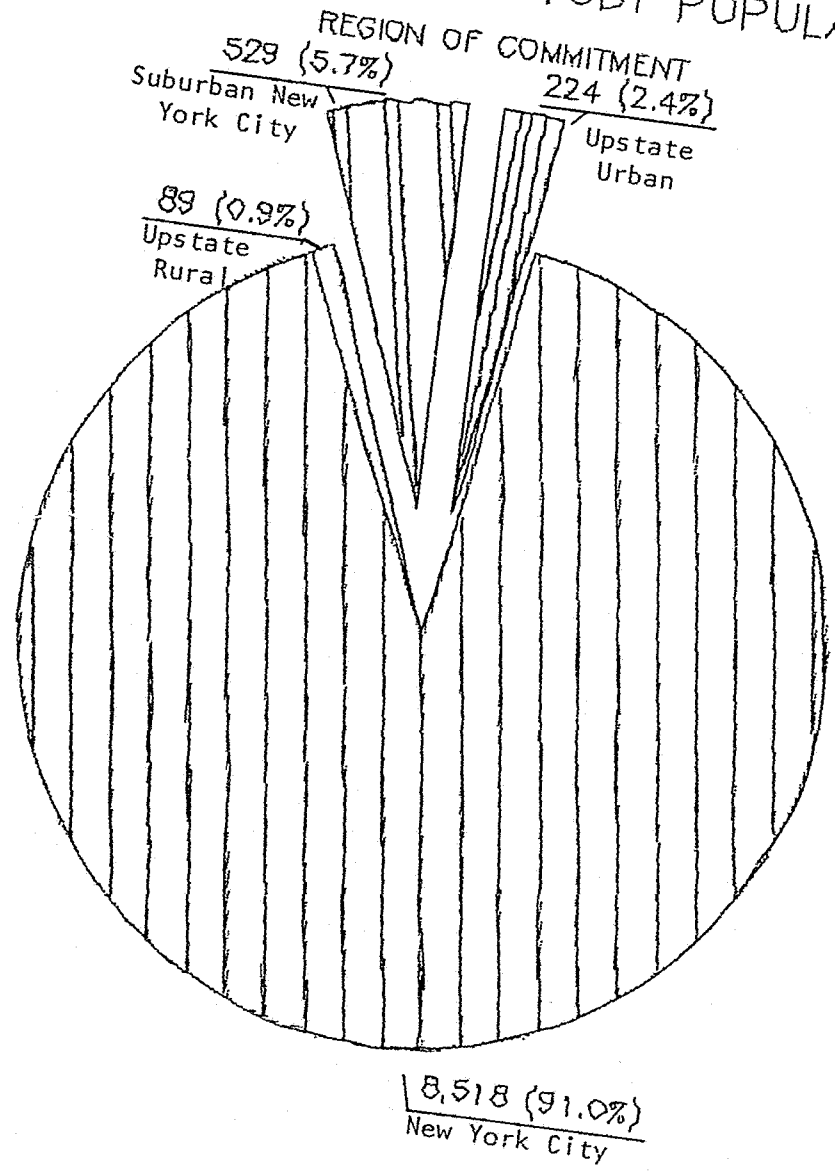
TOTAL UNDER CUSTODY POPULATION*

REGION OF COMMITMENT



* January 1, 1986
(73 Missing Observations)

HISPANIC UNDER CUSTODY POPULATION*



* January 1, 1986
(21 Missing Observations)

HIGHLIGHTS

This report examines several selected characteristics of the Hispanic inmate population under custody in the facilities of the New York State Department of Correctional Services. The population examined is those inmates under custody at the beginning of 1986. The Hispanic population is compared with other ethnic populations to determine its relative standing on the several characteristics, such as size, sex of the offender, crime of conviction, and region of the state from which committed.

Hispanics under custody are becoming a more important component of the New York State correctional population because they are growing faster, both in number and in relative proportion than are other ethnic populations. Thus, language and cultural differences between Hispanics and those of other ethnicity are assuming added importance for correctional operations. Recognizing the importance of this situation, the Department established the Hispanic Inmate Needs Task Force. The data presented in this report addresses several of their concerns.

Inmates are designated as Hispanic if they qualify on either of two criteria. When inmates are either identified as Hispanic by classification personnel at departmental reception or determined to have been born in a Spanish-speaking country, their ethnicity is designated as Hispanic. Thus, Hispanics may be from any racial category. In fact, in the Department's population, there are Hispanics from most of the general racial categories used to describe correctional populations in this country, including white, black, Oriental, and American Indian.

As of January 1, 1986, Hispanic inmates comprised 27.0 percent (9,381) of the total population under custody (34,734).

BIRTHPLACE

Hispanics born in the United States or one of its territorial possessions comprised 81.3 percent of all inmates (7,623). Only 35.7 percent were born in New York State (3,345). An additional 1.4 percent (133) were born in other states of the United States. The largest portion (44.0 percent or 4,129) were born in Puerto Rico and 0.2 percent were born in other U.S. possessions (16). Also, 18.0 percent (1,684) were born in Spanish-speaking countries, with 0.2 percent (29) being born in other Nonspanish-speaking foreign countries. Only 45 (0.5 percent) of the Hispanics were unknown as to their place of birth.

There were 5,858 (62.4 percent) of the 9,381 Hispanics who were born outside of the United States. Of the 1,684 Hispanics born in Spanish-speaking countries, 1,500 (89.1 percent) were born in five countries in the Caribbean Basin and Central or South America. There were 614 (36.5 percent) born in the Dominican Republic, 456 (27.1 percent) born in Cuba, 107 (6.4 percent) born in Panama, 275 (16.3 percent) born in Colombia and 48 (2.8 percent) born in Equador. Thus, Hispanics born in either one of these five foreign countries or Puerto Rico account for 5,629 (60.0 percent) of all Hispanics under custody and 16.2 percent of the total under custody population. With the addition of New York State as a place of birth, 8,974 (95.6 percent) of all the Hispanics under custody are accounted for by only seven different places of birth, namely, Puerto Rico (44.0 percent), New York State (35.7 percent), the Dominican Republic (6.5 percent), Cuba (4.9 percent), Colombia (2.9 percent), Panama (1.1 percent), and Equador (0.5 percent). This amounts to 25.8 percent of the under custody population with the remaining 1.2 percent being Hispanics born elsewhere.

CONVICTION CRIME

Compared with other ethnic groups in the under custody population, proportionally fewer Hispanics are under custody for violent or coercive crimes. Also, proportionally fewer Hispanic females than males are under custody for such crimes. Likewise, the same is true for Hispanics regarding property crimes. However, among Hispanics there are no differences between males and females on their proportions under custody for property crimes. Nevertheless, there are more Hispanics under custody for drug crimes than is true for other ethnic groups. More females than males are under custody for such crimes among the Hispanics. Among the Hispanics under custody, drug offenders were concentrated among females, non-Puerto Ricans and the foreign born. Among the foreign born, drug offenses were proportionally more frequent among Colombians.

COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

When region of the State from which commitment occurred is examined, disproportionately more Hispanics were committed from New York City. Unlike the situation for the State in general, there were no differences between the sexes in their region of commitment. Both male and female Hispanics were committed from New York City in disproportionately greater percentages than from elsewhere in the State.