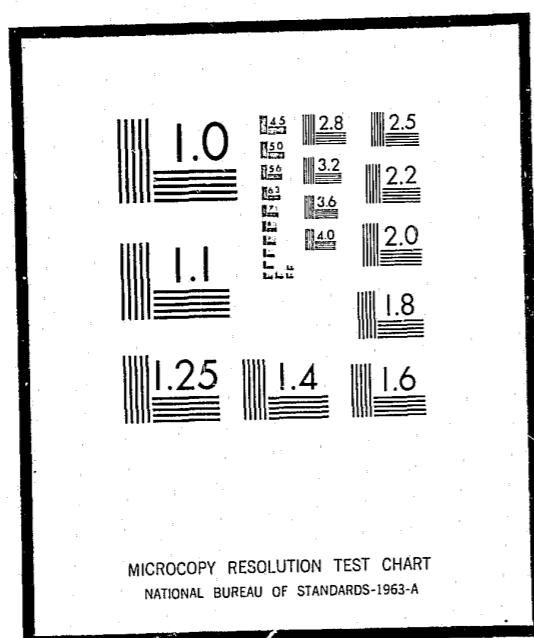


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MICH. DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS
Program Bureau
Research Report #6
September 15, 1967

Parole Outcome of Female Felony Offenders from the Detroit House of Correction¹

Introduction

This report is a study of the 56 women placed on a 24 month parole period from the Detroit House of Correction (DHC) during the first seven months of 1965. Of these 56 women, 28, or exactly half, returned to DHC as parole violators within two years of their parole. The remaining 28 women successfully completed their paroles. This study consists of a comparison of these two groups: the parole violators and the non-violators. Information concerning individuals in each group was obtained from files of the Michigan Department of Corrections. Information concerning personality characteristics was obtained from reports of the psychologist at DHC who had interviewed each woman. The significance of the information was determined in most cases by means of the chi square statistical test and in a few instances by the Fischer Exact Probabilities Test.

Results: Differences Between Violators and Non-Violators²

Violation by Offense Type: Parole violators constitute 76.5% of the 17 originally sentenced for forgery; 71.5% of the 7 sentenced for possession of narcotics; 44.5% of the 9 sentenced for robbery; 25.0% of the 8 sentenced for assault and 16.7% of the 12 sentenced for larceny.

Parole Employment and Residence: Two of the most significant factors ($p < .001$) were related to the actual parole period. First, those who had no employment or highly irregular

¹This report was prepared by Miss Carol Kikstra, in the Graduate Social Work Program of Michigan State University, with assistance of Department of Corrections staff.

²See Appendix for numerical breakdown of factors discussed in narrative.

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and changeable jobs were those who violated their parole. Those who had steady employment, no matter what type job, were apt to successfully complete parole. The second factor refers to the parolee's residence. If she lived with members of her immediate family, she usually stayed away from criminal behavior, whereas if she lived with friends or continuously moved about, she was apt to return to criminal behavior. Eighteen of the 28 women who completed parole lived with their immediate family³ compared to 5 of the 28 who violated.

Over-All Offense Patterns: Two very significant factors ($p < .001$) were addiction and prostitution. Nearly 48.2% of the parole violators were narcotic addicts and 51.8% were prostitutes. Violators who were both addicted to narcotics and engaged regularly in prostitution represented 35.7% of the groups. Only 11.1% of those who did not violate parole were addicts and only 14.3% were engaged in prostitution. Alcohol usage, on the other hand, was not found to be a significant factor. Exactly 50% of both parole violators and non-violators were classified as alcoholics.

Other factors having to do with prior criminal behavior were also significant ($p < .01$). The 7 women who had no record of prior criminal offenses all successfully completed their parole. Furthermore, those who had committed a series* of crimes were apt to return to their criminal way of life, with 72.5% of this group violating their parole. A sidelight of interest may be that 38.5% of those convicted of forgery returned to forgery to obtain money ($p < .05$) when released from prison, whereas none of the violators previously convicted of other types of crimes resorted to forgery.

³Five lived with parents, 4 with siblings, and 9 with husband and/or children.

* Defined here as a history of 3 or more crimes previous to the present offense.

Factors Not Showing Statistically Significant Relationship to Outcome: Age was not found to be significantly related to parole outcome even though there was some difference: 60% of the age group under 27 violated parole while for the group 27 or over, this rate was just reversed with 61% of this group successfully completing parole. Thus, it may be that increasing age has some deterring effect on a woman's criminal behavior.

Work adjustment while in DHC was to some degree related to adjustment and behavior after release.

Nine of the 11 who were described as excellent workers on their job assignment in the institution maintained excellent employment records while on parole and successfully completed parole. Also, women who were able to complete their incarceration period without receiving any 'disciplinaries' for misdeeds were also those who were able to complete their parole period with no violations. ($p < .05$)

The overall level of institutional adjustment as rated by staff (peer-fair-good-excellent) of DHC, however, was not indicative of successful completion of parole.

The overall level of intelligence for both groups of women was found to be low. A study of the intelligence and school achievement records revealed an interesting point. Those who did not violate parole had an average I.Q. of 82.3 and a median I.Q. of 84. Their average of grades completed was 9.7. Those who did violate parole had an average I.Q. of 89.2 and a median I.Q. of 87. But their average grade completed was only 8.7. Thus, it appears that the type of person who has the motivation to stay in school with its controls and demands may also have the motivation and strength to meet the controls and demands of prison and parole.

The relationship of I.Q. to parole outcome has something to do, it might be said, with the fact that bad check writers tend to violate parole rather often, and tend also to be of better intellectual endowment than some other offenders.

Other personality factors which were examined tended not to show significant relationships to parole outcome because of large amounts of missing data and the small group size.

APPENDIX

Comparison of Violators and Non-Violators
on 28 Characteristics

	<u>Parole Outcome</u>	
	<u>Violators (N=28)</u>	<u>Non-Violators (N=28)</u>
1. <u>Age</u>		
Mean Age	27½	31
Median Age	25	29
2. <u>Race</u>		
Caucasian	16	10
Negro	11	16
Indian	1	1
Hawaiian	0	1
3. <u>Intelligence</u>		
Average I.Q.	89.4	82.8
Median I.Q.	87	84
4. <u>Education</u>		
Average grade completed	8.75	9.7
Median grade completed	8.5	9.5
5. <u>Home</u>		
Strict with conflict	5	0
Strict	6	9
Easygoing	11	6
Not reported	6	13
Stable	11	9
Unstable	13	12
Not reported	4	7
6. <u>Health</u>		
Poor	2	4
Fair	15	10
Good	5	3
Excellent	4	10
Not reported	2	1

	<u>Parole Outcome</u>	
	<u>Violators (N=28)</u>	<u>Non-Violators (N=28)</u>
7. <u>Drug Addiction</u>	13	3
8. <u>Alcoholism</u>	14	15
9. <u>Prostitution</u>	14	4
10. <u>Past Employment</u>		
None	4	3
Irregular	14	8
Fair	6	6
Steady	3	8
Not reported	1	3
11. Number who have children	15	19
Number who have no children	13	9
12. <u>Offense</u>		
Forgery	13	4
Narcotics	5	2
Assault or manslaughter	2	6
Robbery	3	4
Larceny	2	10
Other	3	2
13. <u>Those for whom this was first offense</u>	0	7
14. <u>Adjustment in DHC</u>		
Poor	4	1
Fair	9	10
Good	8	7
Excellent	1	5
Not reported	6	5
15. <u>Work record at DHC</u>		
Poor	3	0
Fair	2	4
Good	18	11
Excellent	2	9
Not reported	3	4

Parole Outcome

	<u>Violators</u> (N=28)	<u>Non-Violators</u> (N=28)
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16. Employment while on parole

None	16	5
Varied	5	2
Steady	5	18
Not reported	2	3

17. Residence while on parole

Alone	4	6
Varied	9	0
Family	5	18
Friend	4	2
Not reported	6	2

18. Interpersonal relationships

Poor	12	4
Fair	0	6
Good	1	3
Not reported	15	15

19. Expression of feelings

Vague	4	3
Withdrawn	8	2
Rigid	2	4
Superficial	1	5
Not reported	13	14

20. Frustration tolerance

Low	10	8
Fair	2	3
Not reported	16	17

21. Self-Control

Poor	6	3
Good	1	2

22. Immature

Not reported	17	15
	11	13

Parole Outcome

	<u>Violators</u> (N=28)	<u>Non-Violators</u> (N=28)
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23. <u>Impulsive</u>	13	12
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Not reported	15	16
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24. <u>Emotionally unstable</u>	13	10
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Not reported	15	18
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25. <u>Inadequate</u>	11	13
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Not reported	17	15
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26. <u>Dependent</u>	13	12
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Not reported	13	16
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27. <u>Insight</u>		
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None	13	9
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Some	1	7
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Not reported	14	12
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28. <u>Anti-Social</u>	16	11
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Not reported	12	17
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END