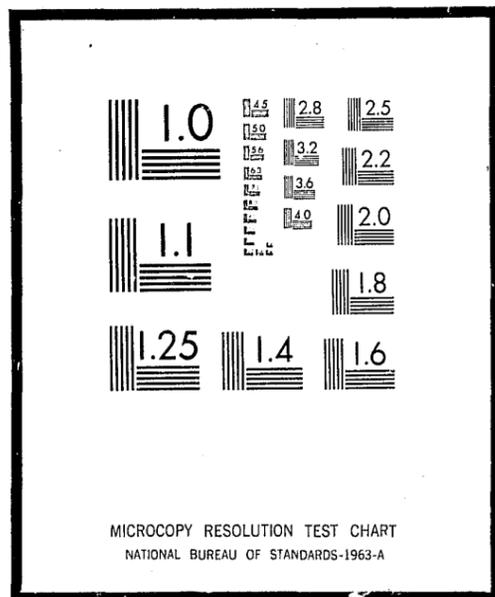


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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
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AN ANALYSIS OF BOARD ACTIONS AT INITIAL APPEARANCE, 1973

There were a total of 4,455 Initial Appearance hearings at institutions housing Youth Authority wards during calendar year 1973. All but 144 of these hearings were at Youth Authority reception centers. Of the total of 4,455 actions taken at Initial Appearance, 4,162 were institutional program assignments and the balance were referrals to parole and other miscellaneous types of actions.

This report will be concerned solely with the 4,162 wards with institutional program assignments, and with the proportions of these cases that were designated as Board referral or continuance. The difference between these two types of actions is essentially one of setting the parole referral responsibility. A ward designated as a Board referral may be brought before the Board for consideration of parole plans at a point determined by institutional staff. A ward given a continuance has a set length of stay established by the Board and is not normally referred for parole before that time. In the event of continuances of longer than one year, the cases are reviewed annually.

Of the 4,162 Initial Appearance actions that resulted in a transfer to an institution, 43 percent were designated as Board referral and 57 percent as continuance. This is in sharp contrast to the proportions observed in 1972. In 1972, 53 percent were Board referrals and 47 percent were continuances. So, in effect, continuance actions increased by 10 percentage points while Board referral actions decreased by a similar amount.

Of those wards given continuances, the mean (average) length of continuance increased from 11.2 months in 1972 to 13.3 months in 1973. In 1973, continuances of six months or less constituted 16 percent of the total; continuances of seven to eleven months constituted 14 percent; continuances of one year constituted 41 percent; and continuances of 13 months or more constituted 29 percent. Of particular interest are the continuances of two years or more which increased from 8 percent in 1972 to 14 percent in 1973. The increase in the length of continuance time in 1973 was

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due primarily to the change in the continuance setting practices of the Youth Authority Board which took place in the Spring of 1973.

Continuance setting practices by offense reveal that the offense groups of homicide and robbery were given continuances in over 90 percent of the cases, while those convicted of sex offenses were given continuances in over 80 percent of the cases. Two other offense groups which were given continuances in excess of 70 percent of the cases were assault and battery and weapons. All of these offense groups received the longer continuance times ranging from an average of 29 months for homicide to 11 months for weapons violations.

Viewing continuance setting practices by institution of assignment reveals that the institutions that received the wards with the longest mean continuance times were Preston (15.7 months) and Youth Training School (15.0 months). DeWitt Nelson received the wards with the shortest mean continuance time (11.5 months).

Another aspect of Initial Appearance hearings is the designation of Full Board or non-Full Board status. As would be expected, of all wards designated Full Board at Initial Appearance, 92 percent received continuances and the average length of the continuance was 20 months. On the other hand, of those who did not receive Full Board designations, only 49 percent received continuances and these were of an average length of 10 months. Those institutions receiving the larger proportion of wards designated Full Board were Preston and Youth Training School.

The ultimate effect of the Youth Authority Board policies in respect to continuances and continuance time will be an increase in the average length of institutional stay. The continuance setting practices instituted in the Spring of 1973 will begin to reveal their full impact on institutional length of stay in the 1974-75 fiscal year.

TABLE 1
PAROLE REFERRAL STATUS AT INITIAL APPEARANCE HEARING, 1973
By Institution of Assignment

Institution of assignment	Total		Board referral		Continuance	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	4,162	100.0	1,783	42.8	2,379	57.2
Schools & Camps.....	3,859	100.0	1,598	41.4	2,261	58.6
Males.....	3,602	100.0	1,452	40.3	2,150	59.7
Females.....	257	100.0	146	56.8	111	43.2
Nelles.....	490	100.0	133	27.1	357	72.9
Close.....	360	100.0	218	60.6	142	39.4
Holton.....	437	100.0	175	40.0	262	60.0
Nelson.....	1,043	100.0	525	50.3	518	49.7
Preston.....	248	100.0	56	22.6	192	77.4
Youth Training School....	777	100.0	216	27.8	561	72.2
Ventura - Males.....	199	100.0	105	52.8	94	47.2
Ventura - Females.....	257	100.0	146	56.8	111	43.2
Camps.....	48	100.0	24	50.0	24	50.0
Other.....	303	100.0	185	61.1	118	38.9
Males.....	259	100.0	154	59.5	105	40.5
Females.....	44	100.0	31	70.5	13	29.5

TABLE 2

PAROLE REFERRAL STATUS AT INITIAL APPEARANCE HEARING, 1972 AND 1973
By Institution of Assignment

Institution of assignment	1972			1973		
	Total ^a	Board referral	Continu- ance	Total	Board referral	Continu- ance
		Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent
Total.....	4,044	52.8	47.2	4,162	42.8	57.2
Schools & Camps.....	3,917	52.0	48.0	3,859	41.4	58.6
Males.....	3,599	51.0	49.0	3,602	40.3	59.7
Females.....	318	63.2	36.8	257	56.8	43.2
Nelles.....	576	45.8	54.2	490	27.1	72.9
Close.....	378	63.0	37.0	360	60.6	39.4
Holton.....	389	55.8	44.2	437	40.0	60.0
Nelson.....	841	62.9	37.1	1,043	50.3	49.7
Preston.....	281	33.8	66.2	248	22.6	77.4
Youth Training School....	684	34.5	65.5	777	27.8	72.2
Ventura - Males.....	159	44.7	55.3	199	52.8	47.2
Ventura - Females.....	206	59.7	40.3	257	56.8	43.2
Camps.....	207	64.3	35.7	48	50.0	50.0
Other.....	127	78.0	22.0	303	61.1	38.9

^aTotal includes cases assigned to Paso Robles and Los Guilucos not shown in detail.

TABLE 3

LENGTH OF CONTINUANCE FOR WARDS GIVEN CONTINUANCES, 1973
By Institution of Assignment

Institution of assignment	Total		1-6 months		7-11 months		12 months		13 months or more		Mean continuance time
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total.....	2,379	100.0	372	15.6	341	14.3	977	41.1	689	29.0	13.3
Schools & Camps.....	2,261	100.0	339	15.0	328	14.5	937	41.4	657	29.1	13.4
Males.....	2,150	100.0	314	14.6	318	14.8	885	41.2	633	29.4	13.5
Females.....	111	100.0	25	22.5	10	9.0	52	46.9	24	21.6	12.1
Nelles.....	357	100.0	85	23.8	65	18.2	107	30.0	100	28.0	13.0
Close.....	142	100.0	30	21.1	21	14.8	55	38.7	36	25.4	12.9
Holton.....	262	100.0	22	8.4	26	9.9	130	49.6	84	32.1	14.2
Nelson.....	518	100.0	69	13.3	117	22.6	257	49.6	75	14.5	11.5
Preston.....	192	100.0	11	5.7	17	8.9	79	41.1	85	44.3	15.7
Youth Training School...	561	100.0	75	13.4	57	10.1	199	35.5	230	41.0	15.0
Ventura - Males.....	94	100.0	8	8.5	9	9.6	55	58.5	22	23.4	13.0
Ventura - Females.....	111	100.0	25	22.5	10	9.0	52	46.9	24	21.6	12.1
Camps.....	24	100.0	14	58.3	6	25.0	3	12.5	1	4.2	6.4
Other.....	118	100.0	33	28.0	13	11.0	40	33.9	32	27.1	12.4
Males.....	105	100.0	22	20.9	11	10.5	40	38.1	32	30.5	13.4
Females.....	13	100.0	11	84.6	2	15.4	-	-	-	-	4.9

TABLE 4

LENGTH OF CONTINUANCE FOR WARDS GIVEN CONTINUANCES, 1972 AND 1973

By Institution of Assignment

(Showing percents of totals)

Institution of assignment	1972						1973					
	Total ^a	Continuance (months)				Mean continu- ance time	Total ^a	Continuance (months)				Mean continu- ance time
		1-11	12	13-23	24 and over			1-11	12	13-23	24 and over	
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent			Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	
Total.....	1,910	36.3	52.1	3.7	7.9	11.2	2,379	30.0	41.1	15.1	13.8	13.3
Schools & Camps.....	1,882	36.2	52.3	3.7	7.8	11.2	2,261	29.5	41.4	15.3	13.8	13.4
Males.....	1,765	34.6	53.7	3.9	7.8	11.4	2,150	29.4	41.2	15.6	13.8	13.5
Females.....	117	61.5	30.8	0.9	6.8	8.0	111	31.5	46.9	9.0	12.6	12.1
Nelles.....	312	51.0	37.8	2.9	8.3	10.5	357	42.0	30.0	14.8	13.2	13.0
Close.....	140	39.3	44.3	5.7	10.7	11.4	142	35.9	38.7	9.9	15.5	12.9
Holton.....	172	27.3	64.0	2.9	5.8	11.4	262	18.3	49.6	16.4	15.7	14.2
Nelson.....	312	34.0	61.2	1.6	3.2	11.0	518	35.9	49.6	9.5	5.0	11.5
Preston.....	186	26.9	55.4	7.0	10.7	12.6	192	14.6	41.1	24.5	19.8	15.7
Youth Training School.....	448	25.2	57.1	6.3	11.4	12.4	561	23.5	35.5	20.5	20.5	15.0
Ventura - Males.....	88	30.7	62.5	-	6.8	11.6	94	18.1	58.5	14.9	8.5	13.0
Ventura - Females.....	83	54.2	37.3	1.2	7.3	8.6	111	31.5	46.9	9.0	12.6	12.1
Camps.....	74	55.4	44.6	-	-	9.0	24	83.3	12.5	4.2	-	6.4
Other.....	28	35.7	42.9	3.6	17.8	12.5	118	39.0	33.9	11.9	15.2	12.4

^aTotal includes cases assigned to Paso Robles and Los Guilucos not shown in detail.

TABLE 5

PAROLE REFERRAL STATUS AT INITIAL APPEARANCE HEARING, 1973

By Commitment Offense

Offense	Total		Board Referral		Continuance		Mean continuance time
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total.....	4,162	100.0	1,783	42.8	2,379	57.2	13.3
Homicide.....	133	100.0	8	6.0	125	94.0	28.8
Robbery.....	704	100.0	54	7.7	650	92.3	14.7
Assault and battery.....	430	100.0	91	21.2	339	78.8	14.3
Burglary.....	813	100.0	494	60.8	319	39.2	10.7
Theft and check offenses.....	782	100.0	445	56.9	337	43.1	10.0
Sex offenses.....	139	100.0	21	15.1	118	84.9	16.8
Narcotics and drugs.....	383	100.0	188	49.1	195	50.9	11.1
Weapons.....	27	100.0	7	25.9	20	74.1	10.7
Road and driving laws.....	33	100.0	21	63.6	12	36.4	6.8
Escape from county facilities..	234	100.0	148	63.2	86	36.8	8.5
W & I Code offenses.....	298	100.0	215	72.1	83	27.9	7.2
All other.....	186	100.0	91	48.9	95	51.1	12.5

TABLE 6

LENGTH OF CONTINUANCE FOR MALE WARDS GIVEN CONTINUANCES, 1973

By Institution of Assignment

Continuance time	Total Male Schools		Nelles		O. H. Close		Karl Holton		DeWitt Nelson		Preston		YTS		Ventura	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total.....	2,126	100.0	357	100.0	142	100.0	262	100.0	518	100.0	192	100.0	561	100.0	94	100.0
1- 2 months.....	12	0.6	-	-	2	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1.6	1	1.1
3 months.....	53	2.5	2	0.5	16	11.3	11	4.2	16	3.1	1	0.5	6	1.1	1	1.1
4- 5 months.....	94	4.4	7	1.9	10	7.0	7	2.7	33	6.4	3	1.6	33	5.9	1	1.1
6 months.....	141	6.6	76	21.3	2	1.4	4	1.5	20	3.8	7	3.6	27	4.8	5	5.3
7- 8 months.....	121	5.7	32	9.0	6	4.2	7	2.7	47	9.1	5	2.6	22	3.9	2	2.1
9 months.....	117	5.5	19	5.3	11	7.8	13	5.0	46	8.9	8	4.2	16	2.9	4	4.3
10-11 months.....	74	3.5	14	3.9	4	2.8	6	2.3	24	4.6	4	2.1	19	3.4	3	3.2
12 months.....	882	41.5	107	30.0	55	38.7	130	49.6	257	49.6	79	41.1	199	35.5	55	58.5
13-17 months.....	63	3.0	6	1.7	2	1.4	12	4.6	16	3.1	15	7.8	7	1.2	5	5.3
18 months.....	235	11.1	36	10.1	12	8.5	31	11.8	30	5.8	27	14.1	92	16.4	7	7.4
19-23 months.....	37	1.7	11	3.1	-	-	-	-	3	0.6	5	2.6	16	2.9	2	2.1
24 months.....	207	9.7	30	8.4	12	8.5	30	11.4	20	3.8	27	14.1	81	14.4	7	7.4
25-35 months.....	22	1.0	1	0.3	2	1.4	3	1.1	2	0.4	2	1.0	12	2.1	-	-
36 months & over.	68	3.2	16	4.5	8	5.6	8	3.1	4	0.8	9	4.7	22	3.9	1	1.1
Mean continuance time.	13.5		13.0		12.9		14.2		11.5		15.7		15.0		13.0	

TABLE 7

PAROLE REFERRAL STATUS AT INITIAL APPEARANCE HEARING, 1973
By Full Board/Non Full Board Designation

Full Board Designation	Total		Board Referral		Continuance		Mean continuance time
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total.....	4,162	100.0	1,783	42.8	2,379	57.2	13.3
Full Board designation.....	830	100.0	69	8.3	761	91.7	19.5
Non Full Board designation.	3,332	100.0	1,714	51.4	1,618	48.6	10.4
Males.....	3,861	100.0	1,606	41.6	2,255	58.4	13.5
Full Board designation.....	797	100.0	67	8.4	730	91.6	19.5
Non Full Board designation.	3,064	100.0	1,539	50.2	1,525	49.8	10.5
Females.....	301	100.0	177	58.8	124	41.2	11.4
Full Board designation.....	33	100.0	2	6.1	31	93.9	18.7
Non Full Board designation.	268	100.0	175	65.3	93	34.7	8.9

TABLE 8

FULL BOARD DESIGNATIONS AT INITIAL APPEARANCE HEARING, 1973
By Institution of Assignment

Institution of assignment	Total		Designated Full Board		Not Designated Full Board	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	4,162	100.0	830	19.9	3,332	80.1
Schools & Camps.....	3,859	100.0	774	20.1	3,085	79.9
Males.....	3,602	100.0	741	20.6	2,861	79.4
Females.....	257	100.0	33	12.8	224	87.2
Nelles.....	490	100.0	99	20.2	391	79.8
Close.....	360	100.0	54	15.0	306	85.0
Holton.....	437	100.0	106	24.3	331	75.4
Nelson.....	1,043	100.0	125	12.0	918	88.0
Preston.....	248	100.0	81	32.7	167	67.3
Youth Training School.....	777	100.0	245	31.5	532	68.5
Ventura - Males.....	199	100.0	24	12.1	175	87.9
Ventura - Females.....	257	100.0	33	12.8	224	87.2
Camps.....	48	100.0	7	14.6	41	85.4
Other.....	303	100.0	56	18.5	247	81.5
Males.....	259	100.0	56	21.6	203	78.4
Females.....	44	100.0	-	-	44	100.0

END