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A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF INMATES IN
THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS WHO WERE
ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
PAYMENTS PRIOR TO INCARCERATION



ACQUISITIONS

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PREFACE

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PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study was to determine the number of inmates in the Texas Department of Corrections who were eligible for unemployment insurance payments prior to incarceration.

METHODOLOGY

The procedure for this study was to collect the name, TDC number and Social Security Number, from a sample of inmates in the Texas Department of Corrections. The Social Security Number was collected since it is the identifier the Texas Employment Commission uses to access their records.

The names and Social Security Numbers were sent to the Texas Employment Commission for processing. The Texas Employment Commission maintains computerized Master Wage Files. The inmates in the sample were compared to the Master Wage File as if they had requested Unemployment Insurance assistance. This process generated data which indicated the inmates eligible, the maximum benefit (money) per week each individual would be eligible to receive and the total amount of money the individual was entitled to draw. An analysis of this data is presented in the results section of this report.

Sample

The sample (n=461) for this study consisted of all transient inmates confined in the Texas Department of Correction's Diagnostic Unit on December 4, 1975. The Diagnostic Unit is the receiving location for all offenders committed to the Texas Department of Corrections. Transient inmates are those who have recently been received and have not yet been assigned to one of the fifteen units.

This sample was selected for the following reasons. First, these inmates had been confined in TDC for a maximum of three weeks. Therefore, they constituted a group which would have been most recently in the work force. Second, the inmates at the Diagnostic Unit came from all areas in the State. Third, if the inmate had a Social Security Card, it would be in the personal property folder on the Unit and thereby readily available.

RESULTS

Of the 461 inmates sampled, 346 either had a Social Security Card or knew their Social Security Number. The remaining 115 inmates either never had a Social Security Card, had a card but lost it or did not remember their Social Security Number. Therefore, it was possible for the Texas Employment Commission to provide Unemployment Insurance eligibility data on 346 individuals or 75 percent of the sample.

The calculation of the percent of inmates who would have been eligible to receive unemployment insurance payment prior to incarceration can be made in two ways. The first method would be to use the sample $n=461$ and assume that the 115 inmates without Social Security Cards or who did not know their Social Security Numbers, were not regular participants in the work force and therefore would not be eligible for Unemployment Insurance. This assumption would cause the data to be interpreted conservatively. Using this assumption, 22.78 percent of the sample ($n=461$) were eligible for Unemployment Insurance payments.

The second method would use the sample size $n=346$ and assume the 115 individuals for whom no Social Security Numbers were available would be proportionately distributed between the groups eligible to receive unemployment insurance payments and those ineligible. Using this method, 30.35 percent of the sample ($n=346$) would be eligible to receive payments.

Regardless of the method used to calculate the percentage of inmates eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits prior to incarceration, 105 inmates were eligible. The number of weeks these individuals were eligible to receive payments ranged from one to twenty-six weeks.

The average number of weeks the sample members were eligible to receive payments was 15. Table 1 presents the number of weeks the sample members were eligible to receive payments.

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF WEEKS OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SAMPLE WOULD HAVE BEEN ELIGIBLE
TO RECEIVE PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

Number of Weeks	Number of Inmates	Percent of Inmates
0	356	77.22
1	1	.22
2	--	--
3	1	.22
4	--	--
5	1	.22
6	1	.22
7	1	.22
8	1	.22
9	--	--
10	7	1.52
11	12	2.60
12	15	3.25
13	9	1.95
14	8	1.74
15	5	1.08
16	7	1.52
17	8	1.74
18	2	.43
19	2	.43
20	2	.43
21	4	.87

TABLE 1 (con't)

Number of Weeks	Number of Inmates	Percent of Inmates
22	3	.65
23	3	.65
24	1	.22
25	--	--
26	<u>11</u>	<u>2.39</u>
TOTAL	461	100.00

The weekly amount of Unemployment Insurance the sample members would have been eligible to receive prior to incarceration is shown on Table 2. The weekly amounts ranged from \$15 to \$63. Sixty-three dollars being the maximum amount of Unemployment Insurance paid in Texas. The amount of money available to the 105 inmates who would have been eligible to receive benefits totaled \$74,981.

TABLE 2

WEEKLY AMOUNT OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
 SAMPLE WOULD HAVE BEEN ELIGIBLE
 TO RECEIVE PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

Amount (Dollars)	Number of Inmates	Percent of Inmates	Amount (Dollars)	Number of Inmates	Percent of Inmates
0	356	77.22	35	--	--
15	10	2.17	36	1	.22
16	2	.43	37	1	.22
17	3	.65	38	--	--
18	1	.22	39	1	.22
19	1	.22	40	--	--
20	1	.22	41	3	.65
21	--	--	42	2	.43
22	3	.65	43	2	.43
23	3	.65	44	2	.43
24	2	.43	45	1	.22
25	1	.22	46	--	--
26	1	.22	47	2	.43
27	--	--	48	2	.43
28	1	.22	49	1	.22
29	2	.43	50	3	.65
30	--	--	51	--	--
31	4	.87	52	1	.22
32	--	--	53	1	.22
33	3	.65	54	2	.43
34	--	--	55	--	--

TABLE 2 (con't)

Amount (Dollars)	Number of Inmates	Percent of Inmates	Amount (Dollars)	Number of Inmates	Percent of Inmates
56	2	.43	60	1	.22
57	--	--	61	1	.22
58	3	.65	62	4	.87
59	--	--	63	<u>31</u>	<u>6.72</u>
			TOTAL	461	100.00

END