

Analysis Report 75-2

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Population Report

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SUMMARY

Departmental population continues to rise (+533 since last year) but at a declining rate of increase. All institutional populations, except that of the Minimum Security Facility are rising or stable (total increase +713 since last year). Community Services population continues to decline (-180). As a result the proportion of the DCDC population which is incarcerated has increased to 61.5% (compared with 54.8% one year ago). Projections necessarily show continued increases in adult facilities, sentenced incarcerated and Detention Services, and continued decreases in parole. There is reason to believe, however, that a turning point has been reached for the incarcerated population which is expected to stabilize. The inmate characteristics section describes a more seriously "criminal", slightly older population which shows a declining involvement in marriage, employment and religion.

Population Distribution and Trends

Total Department population (Table I) has risen to 6284, an increase of 22 since last quarter. The decrease in Community Services population, from 2464 to 2419 (-45), was more than offset by the increase, from 3798 to 3865 (+67) in the incarcerated population. The increase in the incarcerated population was about equally contributed to by increases in Detention (+31) and Correctional Services (+36) populations.

Comparing the present quarter (October-December, 1976) with the same quarter of 1975 the incarcerated population has increased at an average quarterly rate of 178 compared with the most recent quarterly gain of only 67. The community based population was decreasing at an average quarterly rate of 45 and continues at this rate. The Detention populations rate of increase has also slackened, from an average +103 to the present quarter's 31. A possible conclusion is that the Department's incarcerated population has reached a peak and will not be subject, in the near future, to the unusual increases experienced in the last year or 18 months.

In fact, during the month of December, Detention Services actually decreased in population (-169) from November as did Correctional Services (-15) while Community Services increased by 17.

Table II shows that, at least on a quarterly basis, the incarcerated population continues to increase as a proportion

of the total D.C.D.C. population while Community Services decreases.

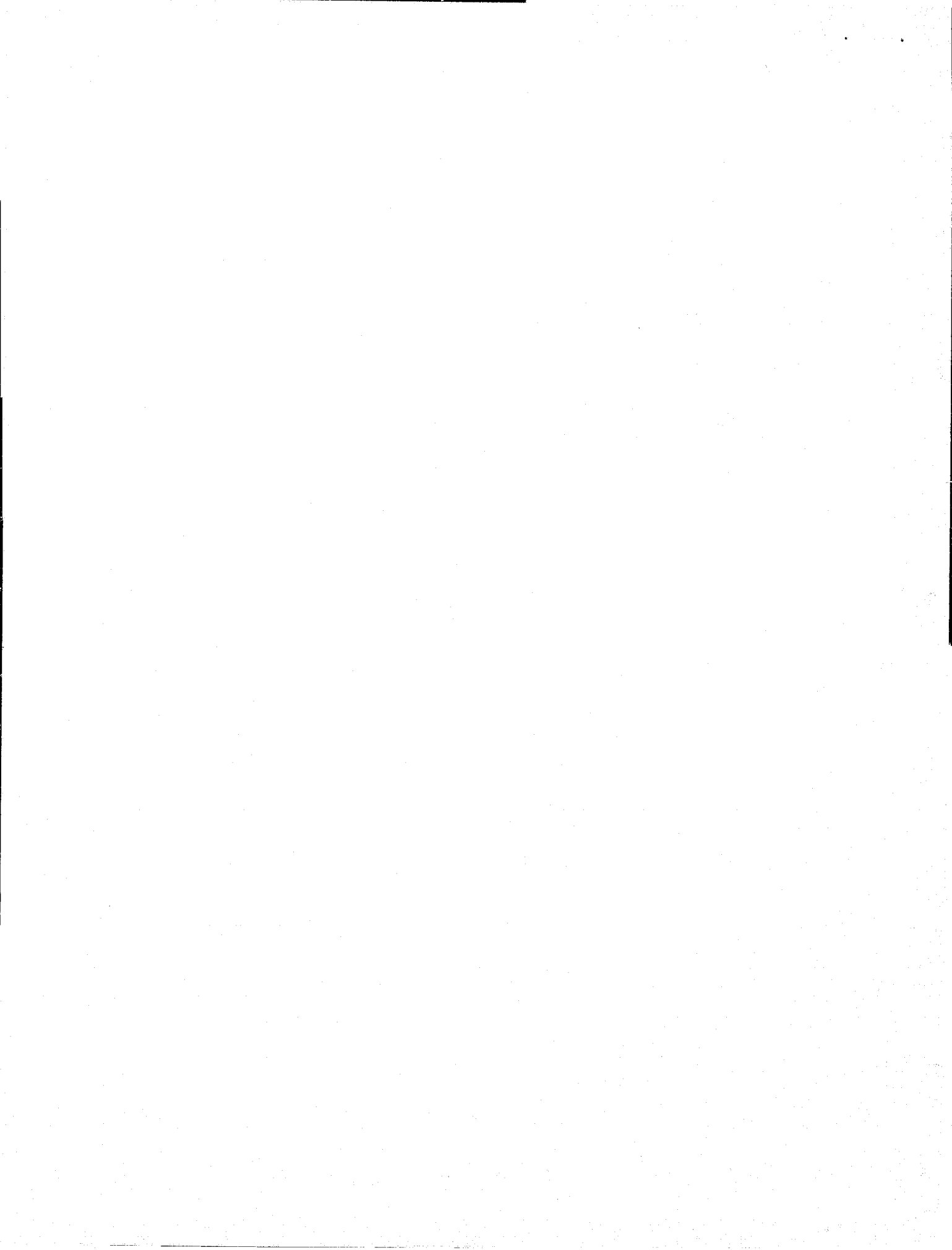


Table I: Average Daily Population by Quarter

Facility	Current Quarter (Oct-Dec, 1976)	Previous Quarter (July-Sept, 1976)	Gain/ Loss	Same Quarter 1 Year Ago (Oct-Dec, 1975)	Gain/ Loss
Male Detention	1336	1308	+28	992	+344
Female Detention	167	164	+ 3	99	+ 68
Central Facility	1271	1223	+48	973	+298
Maximum	403	386	+17	366	+ 37
Minimum	127	153	-26	172	- 45
YC I	345	346	- 1	342	+ 3
YC II	216	218	- 2	208	+ 8
Subtotal	3865	3798	+67	3152	+713
Adult CCCs	217	218	- 1	183	+ 34
Youth CCCs	30	37	- 7	37	- 7
Adult Parole	1635	1672	-37	1693	- 58
Youth Parole	492	494	- 2	647	-155
Women's Parole	45	43	+ 2	39	+ 6
Subtotal	2419	2464	-45	2599	-180
TOTAL	6284	6262	+22	5751	+533

Table II: Department Population: Percentage Distribution

Facility	Current Quarter (Oct-Dec, 1976)	Previous Quarter (July-Sept, 1976)	Same Quarter 1 Year Ago (Oct-Dec, 1975)
Male Detention	21.26	20.89	17.25
Female Detention	2.65	2.62	1.72
Central Facility	20.23	19.53	16.92
Maximum	6.41	6.16	6.36
Minimum	2.02	2.44	2.99
YC I	5.49	5.53	5.95
YC II	3.44	3.48	3.62
Subtotal	61.50	60.65	54.81
Adult CCCs	3.45	3.48	3.18
Youth CCCs	.48	.59	.64
Adult Parole	26.02	26.70	29.44
Youth Parole	7.83	7.89	11.25
Women's Parole	.72	.69	.68
Subtotal	38.50	39.35	45.19
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00

Population Projections

Each of these projections represent the average of three projections done during the quarter, on a monthly basis. Each of the three uses the previous six months data as a base. A regression equation is derived which describes the straight line which best fits the population data from the prior six months. It is, at best, an imperfect method. OP&PA has recently acquired a programmable calculator. With it various non-linear approaches have been tried (quadratic equations, power curves) but none were consistently more accurate than the simple straight line method presently employed.

Detention: As noted, the unusually high rate of increase in this population has apparently slackened. This is a welcome respite after a 10-month increase of 49%. The projected population for October-December 1977 (1698) is rated as unacceptable because Detention Services is so susceptible to external policy and social changes. The actual population is expected to be lower. The court imposed order controlling the overcrowding of detention facilities would alone preclude such a projection.

Total Sentenced Incarcerated: The projected population of 2839 would require an average monthly increase of 27 persons in this category. Since the average monthly increase during 1976 was 24 persons, and the rate of population increase is

Since the Department is presently at its assumed capacity (approximately 2500) for the sentenced incarcerated, recently heightened sensitivity in other criminal justice agencies to the moral and practical problems of prison overcrowding, may result in ameliorative influences.

Adult Facilities at Lorton: The projected increase of almost 350 is again viewed as unlikely. Some smaller increase is more probable. In the last report the projected average monthly rate of increase was over 40. This quarter the projected average monthly increase has dropped to 29. The direction of change is evident and expected to continue.

Youth Centers: The projection for this category continues to be for a stable population of 550-565. This is, of course, the result of the maintenance of a court imposed maximum allowable population. The average population can never be as high as the allowable maximum (575). The Youth Centers maintain an average count that is less than 3% below their capacity.

Parole: Last quarter the parole population was decreasing at a projected rate of 28 per month. This has dropped to a rate of 21 per month this quarter. The expectation of this office is that this rate of decrease will be slower next quarter.

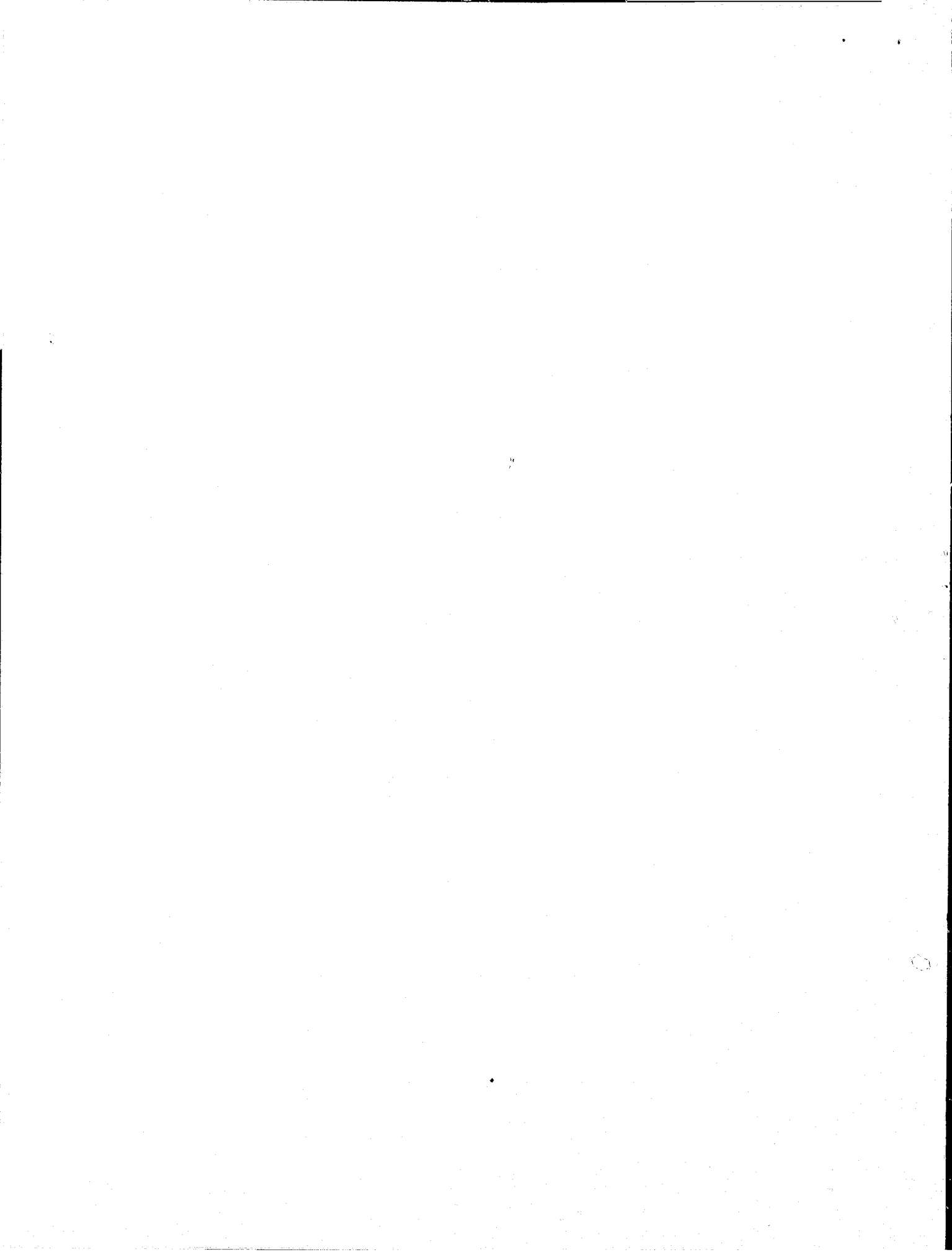


Table III: Projected Average Quarterly Population
by Facility or Service Area
(Base period = May 76 - December 76)

Facility or Service Area	Current Quarter's		Average Projected Population	
	Average Daily Population	Rating*	April-June 77	October-December 77
Detention	1427	N/A	1608	1698
Total Sentenced- Incarcerated	2512	M	2730	2839
Adult Facilities at Lorton	1696	M	1928	2043
Youth Centers	566	A	556	551
Parole	2252	M	2085	2002

*A = Acceptable

M = Marginal

N/A = Not Acceptable

Inmate Characteristics

This section is titled "inmate characteristics" but relates only adult characteristics. A request for a similar treatment of youth was forwarded to the Office of Automated Data Processing in June 1976. Several inquiries as to the current status of the project have resulted in assurances that work is progressing. Perhaps it will be completed for the next quarterly report.

The criminal/legal and social characteristics of the adult inmate population which are related in this section are not subject to very rapid change. In an attempt to find any longer range changes this report compares present characteristics with those of adult sentenced inmates incarcerated in December of 1975 and December 1973. The biggest changes are in the total number of inmates (and charges convicted) and the quality of reporting of certain characteristics (narcotic and alcohol histories).

Criminal Information: The mix of "types" of offenders (personal, property, etc.) has not changed much in the last 3 years. There may be a slight shift from statutory to property offenders. The average number of convictions per inmate rose from 1.7 in 1973 to 2.2 in 1975 and 2.4 in 1976. The proportion of repeat offenders (measured in terms of number of times committed) is up as well. These figures show an increasingly

"criminal" service population in D.C.D.C. The Departmental work-load is, then, increasing, not only in size but in difficulty of handling. The proportion of inmates with detainers has also increased substantially. The only characteristic that might indicate some relief is that an increasing proportion of inmates has one year or less to serve (up to 22% in 1976 compared to 14% in 1975).

The younger offenders (18-22) are more often convicted of crimes against persons (44% vs 40% for 23-30 age group and 35% for 31+) but are less likely than older offenders to be serving more than 3 years (60% vs 71% for those over 22).

Social Characteristics: The age composition of adult inmates has shifted upward slightly since 1973 with a decrease of 3% in those under 23 and a corresponding increase in those older. The proportion reporting to be single, separated or divorced has increased from 61% to 69%, while the married percentage dropped from 35% to 27%. There is also a slight disaffiliation with so-called organized religions. Employment has dropped and unemployment rose by 9%. Note that at least 28% of those employed reported earning less than \$2.00 per hour on their last job.

A stable percentage of the population (about 7%) report some mental or physical disability. However, a decreasing proportion report having received any treatment for

disabilities, 46% in 1976 compared with 82% in 1973.

Virtually all of this drop is in the area of mental care.

In the area of narcotic and alcohol histories the most important change is the improvement in reporting. The "unknown" categories dropped 30% for narcotics and 26% for alcohol. However, because of the poor quality of earlier reporting no conclusions as to trends can be derived.

Table IV: INMATE CHARACTERISTICS

Includes all sentenced adult inmates both male and female with short term dates who are not on parole or escape status.

	CURRENT QUARTER 2011 %	SAME QUARTER 1975 %	SAME QUARTER 1973 %
CONVICTED OFFENSES			
Crimes Against Persons	39	38	38
Crimes Against Property	34	36	31
Statutory Crimes	27	26	31
COMMITMENT STATUS			
Inmates W/Charges Pending	24	22	22
Number of Charges Pending	1328	1107	811
Number of Charges Convicted	4915	3216	2798
NUMBER OF TIMES COMMITTED			
One	4	5	8
More Than 1	96	95	92
PENDING ACTION			
None	0	1	1
Grand Jury	8	8	5
Superior Court	87	88	78
U.S. District Court for D.C.	2	0	0
Other	3	3	16
DETAINEE			
Yes	16	13	5
No	84	87	95
SHORT TERM DATE			
3+	70	77	74
1-3	8	9	12
<1	22	14	13
AGE GROUP			
18-22	8	10	11
23-30	53	53	52
31+	39	37	37
WELFARE BENEFITS			
Yes	2	1	1
No	98	99	99
MARITAL STATUS			
Single	63	60	58
Married	27	31	35
Common Law	0	1	<1
Divorced	1	1	1
Separated	5	4	2
Widowed	1	1	<1
Unknown	3	3	3

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INMATE CHARACTERISTICS

	Current Quarter	Quarter 1975	Quarter 1973
	2011 %	1425 %	1619 %
NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS			
None	100	100	100
01-03	0	0	0
Over 3	0	0	1
CHURCH AFFILIATION			
None	25	29	24
Protestant	41	40	44
Catholic	16	16	18
Jewish	0	1	1
Moslem	3	2	4
Other	8	7	5
Unknown	7	5	5
EDUCATION			
01 thru 06	3	4	3
07 thru 08	10	10	11
09 thru 10	34	34	35
11 thru 12	45	45	44
Over 12	8	7	6
READ/WRITE			
Yes	99	99	99
No	1	1	1
HOURLY WAGE			
Less Than 2.00	28	16	1
2.00 to 2.99	8	6	4
3.00 to 3.99	8	8	3
4.00 and Over	12	11	4
OCCUPATION			
Unemployed/Unknown	39	34	30
Professional/Tech/Mgmt.	1	1	1
Clerical/Sales	5	5	5
Services	21	21	20
Farming/Fishing/Forestry	0	1	1
Processing	0	0	0
Machine Trades	2	3	3
Bench Work	0	0	1
Structural Work	19	22	23
Miscellaneous	13	14	17
DISABILITY			
None	90	92	93
Physical	6	4	5
Mental	1	1	1
Both	0	1	1
Unknown	4	3	2
DISABILITY TREATMENT			
None	52	39	15
Physical	5	5	6
Mental	41	53	76
Both	0	0	1
Unknown	2	3	2

INMATE CHARACTERISTICS

	Current Quarter	Same Quarter 1975	Same Quarter 1973
	2011	1425	1619
	%	%	%
NARCOTIC TREATMENT			
Non-User	41	32	17
User	17	13	4
Certified User	8	8	9
Other	2	3	8
Unknown	32	43	62
ALCOHOL HISTORY			
Non-User	41	38	28
Moderate Use	16	13	5
Frequent Use	3	2	2
Alcoholic	2	2	1
Unknown	38	45	64

END