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Research and Evaluation Section



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BLACKBURN ESCAPE STUDY
FINAL REPORT

ABSTRACT

This report compares escapees with a non-escapee group from Blackburn Correctional Complex, a minimum security facility for men. Subjects were compared on demographic, social, and criminal history variables to provide additional insight into the accelerated escape rate in 1978. The study utilizes two important dates in Blackburn's history: November of 1976, the date of a programmatic change and a unit reorganization at Blackburn, and March of 1978, the effective date of the Polsgrove Decision.

The most important differences between the escapees and the non-escapee group were in their criminal history. The escapees were significantly more likely to have been previously incarcerated both as an adult and as a juvenile. The escapees were also more likely to have had prior felony property and violent arrests.

The escapees were more likely to have had a parole deferment or a serve out. Of the escapees and the non-escapees that had a parole deferment or serve out, the escapees were significantly more likely to have received that deferment or serve out at Blackburn. However, those who were denied parole did not escape immediately after the Parole Board decision, but left after approximately two to eight weeks.

The escapees were more likely than non-escapees to be users of alcohol, spend longer periods of time at other correctional facilities before transfer, and reside out-of-state prior to incarceration.

INTRODUCTION

In 1978, the number of escapes increased at Blackburn Correctional Complex (Table 1); in July, 1978 Superintendent William Seabold requested that a study be conducted to ascertain the causes of the increase in escapes. This report contains the findings of a comparison study of Blackburn's escapees to a sample of the population at Blackburn; it was preceded by a preliminary report (December, 1978) and supplement on the characteristics of the escapees (February, 1979).

Blackburn Correctional Complex, a community-based minimum security facility in Lexington, Kentucky, was opened in 1972 with programs designed to prepare inmates for release in the community. Originally, Blackburn was composed of three units which constituted the residents' housing assignment and programs: the First Offender Unit (FOU), the Governmental Services Unit (GSU), and the Prerelease Unit (PRU). The FOU is the only one of the original program units still in operation and is designed to benefit the unsophisticated resident who has specific vocational, academic, and security needs that cannot be met at other institutions. The GSU provided manpower to state government facilities; in November of 1976 it was replaced with the On-The-Job Training Unit (OJT), which emphasizes on-complex maintenance. The Prerelease Unit, serving residents immediately prior to release, was replaced by the Career Development Unit (CDU) which houses residents in off-complex details, study release, and vocational training release. This change was both a programmatic change and an observed change in the type of resident transferred to Blackburn. Due to the purpose of the Prerelease Unit, inmates who normally would not have met the minimum security guidelines (no victim injury, no previous escape or escape attempt, etc.) were

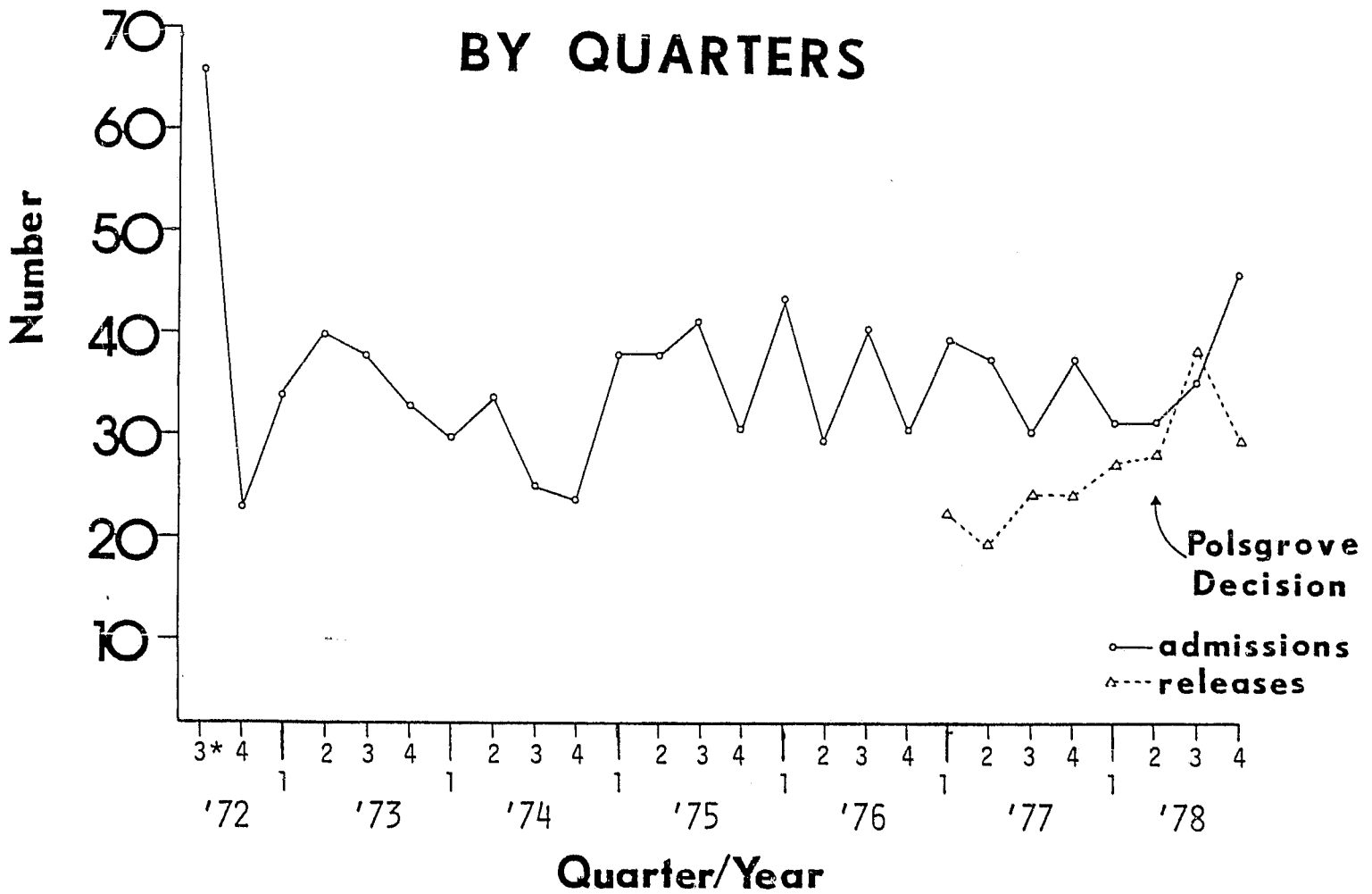
TABLE 1
NUMBER OF ESCAPES AND ESCAPE RATES* BY INSTITUTION

Institution	1975		1976		1977		1978	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Maximum Security:								
Kentucky State Penitentiary	9	1.5	17	2.8	8	1.3	11	3.7
Medium Security:								
Kentucky State Reformatory	27	1.5	22	1.1	22	1.2	31	1.6
Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women	10	6.3	2	1.4	0	0	0	0
Minimum Security:								
Blackburn Correctional Complex	20	4.7	18	4.0	16	3.6	32	7.3
Frenchburg Correctional Facility	0	0	5	1.9	8	4.3	X	X
Bell County Forestry Camp	5	7.6	2	2.6	3	3.6	10	8.1
Harlan County Forestry Camp	0	0	2	4.0	3	5.9	3	4.5
Western Kentucky Farm Center	X	X	10	7.0	8	3.8	8	3.4
Daniel Boone Career Development Center	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roederer Farm Center	X	X	0	0	10	3.4	8	3.1
Frankfort Career Development Center	X	X	1	4.0	7	4.6	8	6.8
Eastern Kentucky Career Development Center	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0

*Escape rate = number of escapes/100 transfers or new admissions.

Figure 1-A

BLACKBURN ADMISSIONS/RELEASES BY QUARTERS



*Two months only

transferred to Blackburn, including many directly from Kentucky State Penitentiary, a maximum security facility.

In addition, several system-wide changes were thought to affect Blackburn. The Polsgrove Decision, with an impact date of March, 1978, required the time served in a county jail before transfer to state institutions to be included in the calculation of the parole eligibility date. At Blackburn, there was a rapid increase in the number of releases, as well as an increase in in-coming transfers to maintain the normal functioning population at Blackburn (Figure 1). The rapid change in the population seemed to upset the stability of the institution which could have affected the escape rate. Although effects of the closing of Frenchburg Correctional Facility, primarily a facility designed for young, unsophisticated, first offenders, and the depopulation of Kentucky State Penitentiary, the maximum security facility, must also be considered, specific time periods to control for these effects were not established.

Since the dates were valuable in examining the characteristics of escapees, a stratified random sample of 50 Blackburn residents from the period before the unit change, the period between the unit change and Polsgrove, and the period after Polsgrove was selected. The sample was drawn from the list of admissions to Blackburn by starting randomly with an institutional number in each period and proceeding through the admissions for each period at an interval determined by dividing the total number of admissions for the period by 50, the sample needed. Since escapees were not to be included in the control group, escapees included in the sample were eliminated and the next resident was selected. This technique of sampling provided a large over-sampling of the period since Polsgrove with respect

to the other time periods. This over-sampling was desired because the focus of this study was to examine recent factors that have influenced the accelerated escape rate; the other time periods are primarily used as a comparison to the recent escapees and control population.

Information was gathered from the central inmate files in the Offender Records Section of the Kentucky Bureau of Corrections and from the institutional inmate files. To assure that appropriate variables on the social background, criminal history, and circumstances of escape were included in the study, abstracts from other escape studies were obtained from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service and reviewed for trends or patterns typical of escapees. Available staff at Blackburn were interviewed and their perceptions and opinions on the increasing escape rate were included as variables (Appendix A). Of course, it is impossible to examine every variable that could have influenced a resident to "walk off" because of the infinite possibilities; therefore, this study was limited to available resources. Data was converted to a machine readable form and statistically analyzed by the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

SOCIAL HISTORY AND DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

Several social and demographic variables, such as race, age, marital status, children, employment, and residence were considered. Race was identified as a significant characteristic of escapees in studies in Washington State, California, and an LEAA Study, whites escaping more frequently than blacks. Race was significantly different for the escapees and control group in the earliest two periods, the time when the Prerelease Unit was operating and the time between the unit change and the Polsgrove Decision. However,

since the Polsgrove Decision there was not a significant difference in race between the escapees and the control group (Table 2).

As was expected from other studies (Washington and LEAA), most of the escapees from Blackburn were under 30. The escapees, on the average, were slightly younger than the control group and were significantly younger in the earliest time period as displayed in Table 3. However, an unusual pattern of age groups was found in the escapees since the Polsgrove Decision, with the largest group being 21 years of age or younger and the second largest group being 27 years of age or older.

Marital status and dependents, frequently thought to indicate the stability of the resident, were examined. Although no significant differences were found in marital status of escapees and non-escapees, some minimal association was apparent in the last two time periods as noted in Appendix B-1. A stronger, but not statistically significant, association was found when the escapees and non-escapees were compared by dependents (Appendix B-2). Employment status at time of arrest and place of residence were also checked as a possible measure of stability. Again, little difference was found except that a larger percent of escapees had out-of-state residences (Appendix B-3).

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Prior property arrests were found to be an escape indicator in several of the studies reviewed in the literature; whereas, violent arrests were not frequent among escapees in the Washington and California studies. A comparison between the escapees and the non-escapees from Blackburn indicated that escapees were more likely to have had property arrests, as indicated in Table 4. The findings concerning prior violent arrests are surprising when

TABLE 2

RACE OF ESCAPEES AND NON-ESCAPEES FROM BLACKBURN CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

	Before Unit Change*				Between Unit Change and Polsgrove*				After Polsgrove			
	White		Negro		White		Negro		White		Negro	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Escapees	74	88.1	10	11.9	20	90.9	2	9.1	26	81.3	6	18.8
Non-escapees	32	64.0	18	36.0	32	64.0	18	36.0	44	88.0	6	12.0

*Significant at the .05 level using a chi-square test of significance.

TABLE 3
 AVERAGE AGE OF ESCAPEES AND NON-ESCAPEES
 FROM BLACKBURN CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

	<u>Before Unit Change*</u>	<u>Between Unit Change and Polsgrove</u>	<u>After Polsgrove</u>
Escapees	26.4	24.6	25.6
Non-escapees	30.0	24.2	27.0

*Significant at the .05 level using a T-test of significance.

TABLE 4

PRIOR PROPERTY ARRESTS FOR ESCAPEES AND NON-ESCAPEES FROM BLACKBURN CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

	Before Unit Change		Between Unit Change and Polsgrove				After Polsgrove					
	Prior Property Arrests Number	Percent	None Number Percent		Prior Property Arrests Number	Percent	None Number Percent		Prior Property Arrests Number	Percent	None Number Percent	
Escapees	61	72.6	23	27.4	17	77.3	5	22.7	26	81.3	6	18.8
Non-escapees	38	76.0	12	24.0	33	66.0	17	34.0	31	62.0	19	38.0

compared to other escape studies because the escapees from Blackburn had violent arrests more frequently than the non-escapees in every period except prior to the unit change; although not statistically significant, the differences are apparent in Table 5.

The most important difference between escapees and non-escapees is their history of prior incarcerations, defined as an incarceration on a completely different conviction (i.e., parole violators were not counted as a prior incarceration). As Table 6 indicates, escapees were significantly more likely to have had prior incarcerations, either as a juvenile or an adult. Furthermore, 53% of the escapees had prior incarcerations both as an adult and as a juvenile as compared to 4% of the non-escapee population.

A difference between the escapees and non-escapees which has been minimized over time is the history of prior escape. Before the unit change, 31% of the escapees had a prior escape from a state institution, county jail, etc. as compared to only 6% of the non-escapees. In the period between the unit change and Polsgrove, 13.6% of the escapees had prior escapes as compared to 8% of the non-escapee group. In the period since Polsgrove, one of the escapees had previously escaped from a county jail and one of the non-escapees had previously escaped from a state institution. The reduction in the difference is probably attributable to improved classification procedures.

Information was collected on the most serious crime of this incarceration and it was found that the escapees and non-escapees varied only slightly by type of crime (Appendix C-4). Non-escapees were more likely to have been convicted of a drug offense as their most serious crime; whereas, none of the escapees had a drug offense as their most serious crime.

TABLE 5

PRIOR VIOLENT ARRESTS FOR ESCAPEES AND NON-ESCAPEES FROM BLACKBURN CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

	Before Unit Change		Between Unit Change and Polsgrove				After Polsgrove					
	Prior Violent Arrests Number	Percent	None Number	Percent	Prior Violent Arrests Number	Percent	None Number	Percent	Prior Violent Arrests Number	Percent	None Number	Percent
Escapees	21	25.0	63	75.0	8	36.4	14	63.6	8	25.0	24	75.0
Non-escapees	20	40.0	30	60.0	13	26.0	37	74.0	9	18.0	41	82.0

TABLE 6
 FIRST OFFENDER STATUS (AS PRIOR INCARCERATIONS) FOR ESCAPEES
 AND NON-ESCAPEES BY TIME PERIODS

	<u>Before Unit Change*</u>							
	None		Juvenile		Adult		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Escapees	23	27.0	14	17.0	13	16.0	34	41.0
Non-Escapees	25	50.0	4	8.0	15	30.0	6	12.0
	<u>Between Unit Change and Polsgrove</u>							
Escapees	4	18.0	2	9.0	9	41.0	7	32.0
Non-Escapees	34	68.0	5	10.0	10	20.0	1	2.0
	<u>After Polsgrove*</u>							
Escapees	4	13.0	6	19.0	5	16.0	17	53.0
Non-Escapees	37	74.0	5	10.0	6	12.0	2	4.0

*Significance of P.01 using chi square statistic.

Little difference was found between the escapees and non-escapees on multiple offenses this incarceration. When the Prerelease Unit was operative, escapees had slightly more multiple offenses. After Polsgrove, however, non-escapees had slightly more multiple offenses.

The crime story located in the Pre-Sentence Investigation was examined to determine if there was any alcohol/drug usage at the time of the arrest. Alcohol usage was measured in different ways by other studies but since standards were not available, it was decided to search for alcohol or drug abuse at the time of the crime which would directly link the alcohol or drug abuse to criminal behavior. Regardless of the measurement, alcohol usage is a typical characteristic of escapees, whereas drug usage is uncommon among the escapees. In our study, no significant differences were found between the escapees and the non-escapees in their use of alcohol or drugs. Although there was no significant difference and the association was low, it should be noted that escapees consistently had a higher occurrence of alcohol abuse and the non-escapees a higher occurrence of drug abuse.

INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

Although the average sentence length for Blackburn's escapees was 7.87 years as compared to 6.6 years average of non-escapees, the difference was not statistically different (Appendix C-5). The majority of both the escapees and non-escapees were transferred to Blackburn from the Kentucky State Reformatory. As one might expect, since the unit change the percentages of both escapees and non-escapees being transferred directly from Kentucky State Penitentiary have decreased and those coming from Kentucky State Reformatory and minimum security facilities have increased.

To test the idea that those inmates transferred from the "yard" or the main prison population would "appreciate" privileges accompanying the minimum security at Blackburn, those transferred from Kentucky State Reformatory were further divided by the housing assignment while at Kentucky State Reformatory. Kentucky State Reformatory has a unit configuration consisting of a Reception Unit, which houses new arrivals with regular work assignments but no contact with the general prison population; Unit One, or the "Bottoms", which is considered the toughest unit at Kentucky State Reformatory and houses the most sophisticated offenders and Kentucky State Penitentiary transfers; Unit Two, which is specialized housing by work assignments; Unit Three, which is the Honor Unit and is occupied by those inmates with good institutional adjustment; the Forensic Unit, for the physically and mentally impaired; and Segregation, for those with a violation of the rules or Protective Custody. Since the unit change, the non-escapees had more transfers from the Reception Unit than the escapees, although the difference was not statistically significant.

Since the Polsgrove Decision, as Table 7 indicates, most of the escapees and non-escapees were transferred from the Reception Unit; Unit II housed the second largest group, followed by Unit I. Relatively few transfers were received from Unit III.

The time spent at other institutions before transfer to Blackburn was also examined. Prior to the unit change, non-escapees averaged a little over five months longer at other institutions before their transfer to Blackburn, although the difference was not statistically significant from escapees. Since the unit change, however, escapees spent between two and one-half to three months longer at other institutions than non-escapees.

TABLE 7

KENTUCKY STATE REFORMATORY TRANSFERS TO BLACKBURN BY KENTUCKY STATE REFORMATORY HOUSING
ASSIGNMENT FOR ESCAPEES AND NON-ESCAPEES SINCE POLSGROVE

	Reception (A & O)		Unit I (Bottoms)		Unit II		Unit III (Honor)		Forensic		Segregation	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Escapees	16	57.1	2	7.1	7	25.0	2	7.1	1	3.6	0	0.0
Non-escapees	26	68.4	4	10.5	6	15.8	2	5.3	0	0.0	0	0.0

There was no significant difference in the number of Incident Reports, the procedure to document institutional rule infractions, between escapees and non-escapees in any time period. In the period between the unit change and Polsgrove, non-escapees had more Incident Reports (70%) than the escapees did (59.1%). There was also a little difference in the degree of seriousness, those offenses over a Category I, between the two groups except in the period before the unit change when non-escapees had more serious Incident Reports (38%) than the escapees (14.3%).

In the earliest two periods, the occurrence of parole deferments or serve outs was more frequent for non-escapees than escapees as can be seen in Table 8. However, since the Polsgrove Decision, 34.4% of the escapees received "flops" or serve outs within six months of escape as compared to only 12% of those who did not escape. Although this difference is not statistically significant, the association seems to be strong enough to merit concern. Further examination of the parole deferments and serve outs in Table 9 indicates that since Polsgrove, escapees are more likely to receive a "flop" while at Blackburn than were non-escapees. In addition, escapees who do receive a deferment or a serve out do not leave immediately but rather two to eight weeks after the Parole Board decision, about the time when others not deferred would be released.

Although the preliminary study suggested there might be a difference in unit assignment, a comparison with the non-escapees showed no significant differences between the escapees and non-escapees by unit assignment at Blackburn. Although there was a decrease in the number of escapees from FOU, there was a corresponding decrease in the number of non-escapees. Similarly, since Polsgrove, the increase in the number of escapees from OJT corresponded with an increase in the number of non-escapees assigned to OJT (Appendix C-6).

TABLE 8

PAROLE DEFERMENTS OR SERVE OUTS FOR ESCAPEES AND NON-ESCAPEES FROM BLACKBURN CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

	Before Unit Change		Between Unit Change and Polsgrove				After Polsgrove					
	Deferred Number	Percent	None Number	Percent	Deferred Number	Percent	None Number	Percent	Deferred Number	Percent	None Number	Percent
Escapees	30	35.7	54	64.3	4	18.2	18	81.8	11	34.4	21	65.6
Non-escapees	27	54.0	23	46.0	14	28.0	36	72.0	6	12.0	44	88.0

TABLE 9

INSTITUTION ASSIGNMENT AT TIME OF PAROLE DEFERMENT OR SERVE OUT
FOR ESCAPEES AND NON-ESCAPEES FROM BLACKBURN CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

	Before Unit Change				Between Unit Change and Polsgrove				After Polsgrove			
	BCC		Else		BCC		Else		BCC		Else	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Escapees	16	53.3	15	46.7	1	25.0	3	75.0	7	70.0	3	30.0
Non-escapees	6	22.2	21	77.8	7	50.0	7	50.0	0	0.0	6	100.0

Another concern was the unit assignment for those transferred from the Reception Unit at Kentucky State Reformatory. By its nature, the First Offender Unit at Blackburn is expected to receive transfers directly from the Reception Unit; however, the other units are designed to receive inmates with specialized needs which would not normally be assessed in the short stay in the Reception Unit. As shown in Table 10, the transfers from the Reception Unit to Blackburn units other than the FOU has increased over time, especially in the period since Polsgrove. However, the difference between escapees and non-escapees was not statistically significant.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF ESCAPE

Most escapes (31.9%) occur in the spring months (March to May) followed closely (29%) by the summer months (June to August) with less than 30% occurring in the fall and winter. The majority of all escapes occurred between Friday and Monday with a fairly equal distribution between the weekend days. Little variation in days and months of escapes occurred over time.

Time of escape was also considered. Blackburn operates with a three-shift schedule for their staff: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Escapes discovered at the time of a shift change were included on the shift going off duty on the rationale that an escape discovered exactly at the shift change was the responsibility of the previous shift. The greatest number of escapes (70.3%) were discovered during the 4:00 p.m. to midnight shift with the peak hours of 10:00 p.m. and midnight when counts are taken. Since Polsgrove, escapes on this shift have increased significantly from 54.5% to 87.5%.

Are Blackburn escapees likely to return to their homes? The apprehension reports of the escapees were reviewed and it was found that 35.5% were

TABLE 10
 KENTUCKY STATE REFORMATORY RECEPTION UNIT TRANSFERS BY
 BLACKBURN CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX UNIT FOR ESCAPEES
 AND NON-ESCAPEES BY TIME PERIODS

Before Unit Change

	FOU		GSU		PRE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Escapees	11	91.7	1	8.3	0	0.0
Non-escapees	6	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Between Unit Change and Polsgrove

	FOU		CDU		OJT	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Escapees	7	87.5	0	0.0	1	12.5
Non-escapees	22	75.9	4	13.8	3	10.3

After Polsgrove

	FOU		CDU		OJT	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Escapees	9	56.3	3	18.8	4	25.0
Non-escapees	12	46.2	5	19.2	9	34.6

apprehended near their home, 50.7% were apprehended somewhere other than their home county, and 13.8% of the escapees were still at large. These findings indicate some support to the idea that Blackburn's escapees were likely to return home because the largest group, those apprehended away from home, includes those that voluntarily turned themselves in after a short time on escape and those apprehended quickly.

The files were also examined to determine how many escapees committed a crime while at large. Only 10.9% or 15 of the escapees committed a crime while at large. The crime committed was usually the passing of a bad check or the theft of an auto.

CONCLUSIONS

Changes have occurred both in the type of person that escapes from Blackburn and in the correctional environment in which Blackburn operates. Since the characteristics of escapees have now been compared to non-escapees from Blackburn, we are now in a position to make more substantial statements about Blackburn's escapees.

The most important difference between escapees and the non-escapees is the history of prior incarcerations. Since Polsgrove, the escapees are over five and one-half times more likely to have had a prior incarceration. Escapees more frequently have prior incarcerations both as an adult and as a juvenile. Furthermore, there seemed to be no difference in importance of a prior juvenile with no adult or a prior adult with no juvenile incarceration. Additionally, the escapees are more likely to have prior felony property and violent arrests.

The escapees are more likely to receive a parole deferment or serve out and most often will receive that deferment or serve out while at Blackburn. The length of deferment or serve out seems to have had no influence in the decision to "walk off".

The escapees usually served a longer time at other institutions prior to their transfer to Blackburn than did non-escapees. Additionally, the non-escapees are more likely to be transferred directly from the Reception Unit at the Kentucky State Reformatory than are the escapees.

The escapees have a slightly higher rate of alcohol usage and slightly lower rate of drug usage than the control group. These findings are consistent with other escape studies.

The escapees are more likely to live out-of-state than are the control group.

The percentage of escapees who are black is increasing with time. This finding is inconsistent with other escape studies because race is usually a significant difference, with white escaping more than black.

When the first analysis of the post-Polsgrove escapees was completed, a completely atypical group of escapees was identified and further information was sought. This group spent longer periods at other institutions before their transfer to Blackburn. They spent at least 100 days at Blackburn before their escape, they seemed to be more stable prior to arrests, and they usually had received a deferment or a serve out. This group was thought to have been residents that were most affected by the Polsgrove Decision. However, after questioning their caseworkers (Appendix C-1), little similarity existed between these escapees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of this study, the following recommendations are suggested:

Residents having both adult and juvenile incarcerations should be transferred to Blackburn only under extenuating circumstances; residents having either prior juvenile or adult incarcerations should continue to be screened closely.

Residents receiving a deferment or serve out at Blackburn should receive more intensive services for a period in excess of two months or be considered for transfer to a high security facility.

CASEWORKERS AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS INTERVIEWS

In addition to collecting data on escapees, interviews were conducted with available staff at Blackburn to ascertain what their perceptions were in regard to the increasing escape rates (A-1). Scheduled through Superintendent Seabold, interviews were conducted with a variety of correctional officers from all three shifts, unit directors, and caseworkers on an availability basis.

In general, the staff perceived the escapees to be younger and first offenders with some mention of older men escaping in the recent months. A majority of the staff recalled that the escapees had trouble with contraband either by being caught with it or by suspicion. In addition, staff felt that escapees were having difficulties with other inmates or with staff, were having family problems, seemed anxious and were obtaining as much money as possible. In addition, staff felt that escapes were spur-of-the-moment actions and frequently related to alcohol use.

The most mentioned change that could have affected the escape rate was the Polsgrove Decision. The Polsgrove Decision resulted in a large turnover in Blackburn's population in a short period of time which the staff believed influenced the escape rate by:

1. upsetting the stability of the institution;
2. releasing the long term men that provided stability; and,
3. resulting in the lowering of transfer guidelines to keep the minimum security facility occupied.

The depopulation of the Kentucky State Penitentiary was thought to have had a negative effect on the type of transfers Blackburn received. The

The closing of the Frenchburg Correctional Facility was also included as a system change affecting the type of offender residing at Blackburn. Staff felt that recent escapees were spending less time at the Reformatory and that they had more time to serve at Blackburn; they thought the transfers were younger, less sophisticated, lower education levels, and expressing more belligerent attitudes toward authority. Many of the staff believed that at least some of the more recent transfers did not meet the guidelines for transfer to a minimum security facility. In addition, the change in furlough policy reducing the number eligible and frequency, the loss of a unit director and the reduction of community involvement were cited as affecting the escape rate.

When suggestions for reducing the escape rate were solicited, the need to employ more correctional officers was the top priority for most of the staff. More accountability in security, more frequent counts, and better inmate screening prior to transfer, particularly for those with drug usage, were mentioned. Staff suggested that inmates serve a longer time at the Reformatory prior to transfer and receive better orientation at Blackburn; increased contact between inmate and staff was proposed; and an increase in community activities and furloughs was suggested. A log book noting any unusual behavior of an inmate was recommended, particularly by correctional officers. It was also proposed that any inmate that received a deferment, especially a lengthy one, be returned immediately to the Reformatory.

APPENDIX A

CASEWORKER AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICER
INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

APPENDIX A-1

BLACKBURN EXCAPE STUDY

CASEWORKER AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICER INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

How long have you worked at Blackburn Correctional Complex? In what units have you worked? Any work at other facilities?

Have you ever had an escape from your unit? If yes, did you notice any differences in the amount and type of their visits as compared to others in your unit?*

Have you noted any different characteristics between escapees and the general population?

Have you seen any situational characteristics between escapees and the general population?

Do escapes occur most often with new arrivals or clients that have been at Blackburn for a period of time?

Have you noticed any changes in the type of people transferred to Blackburn that could have affected the escape rate?

Have there been any changes in the correctional system that could have affected the escape rate?

What can be done to lower the escape rate?

*Caseworkers only.

APPENDIX B
BLACKBURN ESCAPE STUDY
ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

The following tables are enclosed for additional information. Although the data was not statistically significant using the chi-square statistic, review of the data can prove insightful.

TABLE 1
MARITAL STATUS OF ESCAPEES AND NON-ESCAPEES FROM BCC

	Before Unit Change				Between Unit Change and Polsgrove				After Polsgrove			
	Attached		Unattached		Attached		Unattached		Attached		Unattached	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Escapees	27	32.1	57	67.9	4	18.2	18	81.8	6	18.8	26	81.8
Non-escapees	12	24.0	38	76.0	18	36.0	32	64.0	16	32.0	34	68.0

TABLE 2
CHILDREN OF ESCAPEES AND NON-ESCAPEES FROM BCC

	Before Unit Change				Between Unit Change and Polsgrove				After Polsgrove			
	Children		None		Children		None		Children		None	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Escapees	35	41.7	49	58.3	4	18.2	18	81.8	9	28.1	23	71.9
Non-escapees	21	42.0	29	58.0	26	52.0	24	48.0	22	44.0	28	56.0

TABLE 3
 PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ARREST FOR ESCAPEES AND
 NON-ESCAPEES FROM BLACKBURN CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

Before Unit Change

	Jefferson County		Fayette County		Out-of-State		Other In State	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Escapees	15	18.0	7	8.0	12	14.0	50	60.0
Non-escapees	21	42.0	3	6.0	2	4.0	24	48.0

Between Unit Change and Polsgrove

Escapees	3	13.0	2	9.0	5	23.0	12	55.0
Non-escapees	12	24.0	6	12.0	3	6.0	29	58.0

After Polsgrove

Escapees	4	13.0	4	12.0	5	16.0	19	59.0
Non-escapees	4	13.0	4	8.0	2	4.0	35	70.0

APPENDIX C-1
BLACKBURN ESCAPE STUDY
CASEWORKER INTERVIEW

To investigate the possibility the Polsgrove Decision might have affecting one group of men more than others, caseworkers were questioned about the inmates' escape. The following explanation was given and questions were asked.

As you know, Central Office has been looking at Blackburn escapees, particularly with emphasis on possible effects of the Polsgrove Decision. We have identified eight recent escapees which seem atypical from other escapees, and which may represent specifically the impact of the Polsgrove. Six of these had received parole deferments at Blackburn before their escape; none had prior escape history. We would like to ask you some questions regarding one or two of these who were on your caseload or assigned to your unit prior to escape.

1. Do you remember (inmate)? Anything particularly unusual about inmate, his behavior, record, etc. come to mind?
2. Compared to other inmates, how well did you get to know this inmate while he was here?

Describe briefly your relationship with inmate.

3. Did (inmate) have any problem, would you say this inmate had getting along with staff?

Getting along with other inmates?

Following institutional rules?

Other?

4. How criminally sophisticated would you say this inmate was?

5. Had this inmate discussed any problem with you about:
rules _____ unit, level system _____
other inmates _____ staff _____
material conditions _____
6. Think about other inmates that this resident associated with at Blackburn.
Did any of these people make parole or were released around the time of
this inmate's escape? Explain.
7. Did inmate receive a parole deferment or serve out while at Blackburn?
While on your caseload?
8. How would you describe this inmate's relationship with friends and family
on the outside? How familiar were you with inmate's family and home
situation?
9. What do you feel was this inmate's reason for escaping?
10. Finally, feel free to offer any comments or suggestions.

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END