RECIDIVISM AMONG ASSAULTERS

A study of men released from custody

after having served sentences

for serious assault

PETER H. BURGOYNE

FOREWORD

This is the fourth of a series of reports describing the patterns of
recidivism among four categories of violent offenders. The present
report looks at males given custodial sentences for serious assault,
while the first three reports were concerned with recidivism among
men sentenced for robbery, rape and homicide respectively.

The study was commissioned by the Criminology Research Council in
conjunction with the Victorian Department of Community Welfare Ser-
vices and I wish to express my gratitude for their financial support
and assistance.

The study would not have been possible without the co-operation and
assistance of a large number of people and organisations. I am
grateful for the assistance of the Victoria Police and members of
the Victorian Department of Community Welfare Services.

Special thanks are due to Mr Meinard Rook of the Office of Research
and Social Policy, for his thoughtful comments and practical assist-
ance; Rosalie Maller and Jon Sago, who assisted with the coding of
the data; Leanne Peters and Jenny Cook for their able typing and
secretarial assistance; Chief Superintendent C Keating of the Vic-
toria Police; Deputy Governor Jim Fellows of the Correctional Ser-
vices Division and Mr John Lamovie, Secretary of the Parole Board;
for their assistance in providing information for the study; and
Mr Jack Tovey and Mr Reg Hunter for proof-reading the final manuscript.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Page

Page

Page

Tables in Appendices

** *** **

ABSTRACT

Information was collected about 249 men released from prison or
youth training centre in Victoria between 1969 and 1974 inclusive
after having served sentences for serious assault.   Information
coded included: demographic factors, family background, education,
prior work record, personal characteristics, prior criminal and
institutional record, characteristics of the serious assault
crime, sentence and parole characteristics.

The data were analysed to provide information about: (1) the
number and types of convicted crimes following release, (2) the
pattern of violent and non-violent crime over time following re-
lease, (3) the characteristics of men given custodial sentences
for serious assault, (4) the characteristics of those who were con-
victed of: (i) no further offences, (ii) further minor offences,
(iii) non-violent offences leading to prison sentences, and (iv)
violent offences.

1. INTRODUCTION

Of all the types of violent crime assault is by far the most common. Assault can be classified into minor assault and serious assault.

For the purpose of the Victorian Major Crime Index, serious assault consists of all woundings, except attempted murder, and all assaults in which injuries amounting to "actual bodily harm", at least, are inflicted. Other forms of less serious assault are classified as minor and are not included in the Major Crime Index.

According to the Victoria Police Statistical Review of Crime, in 1977 serious assaults accounted for 1.1 percent of all major crime. In 1977 there were proceedings against 860 people, of whom 803 were male. The number of offenders sentenced to prison or youth training centre for serious assault is much less than this, since not all proceedings result in conviction and not all convictions result in custodial sentences.

Under one-quarter of the males and a much smaller proportion of the females charged with serious assault receive custodial sentences.

If we can predict who is most likely to re-offend we are in a far better position to take preventative action. At the present time there is little reliable information about the criminal behaviour of men released from custody after having served sentences for serious assault. Yet such information is essential if we are to make rational decisions about sentencing, parole release and supervision, and rehabilitation programmes.

This study is concerned with determining rates of re-offence and factors affecting re-offence among males sentenced for serious assault to prison or youth training centre. The major aim is to determine the extent to which information available at the time of release or during parole can be used to predict whether and in what way an offender is likely to offend again within the next five years.

A prior feasibility study was conducted to investigate the sources of information about offenders and to consider the relative advantages and disadvantages of alternative research designs. The results of the feasibility study are included in a report to the Criminology Research Council[1], in which a more detailed rationale for the approach of this report is presented.

1.1 Sample

The sample was defined as the population of males who were released from prison or youth training centre in Victoria between January 1972 and December 1973 after having served sentences for serious assault. A total of 249 convicted assaulters formed the sample. Considerable care was taken to ensure that the sample was as comprehensive and unbiased as possible. Lists of prisoners received at prison were cross-checked against parole lists, and against prisoner case history files. Similar lists were compiled for youth trainees.

A small number of offenders who were convicted before 1968 and who were serving non-minimum prison sentences could not be located as records of prisoners received did not go back further than this. However, evidence presented in the feasibility study indicates that the numbers involved are very small (less than 1 percent of the sample) and could not seriously bias the finding.

1.2 Sources of Information

Information about offenders was gathered from several sources, namely: the Correctional Services Division prisoner case history files (which are known as the "classification files"), the probation and parole case history files, and the Family and Adolescent Services Division case history files. Crimimal

---

1. Burgoyne, P.H. Feasibility of the Violent Offenders Recidivism Study. A report to the Criminology Research Council, Canberra, Australia, September, 1978.

records were obtained from the Victoria Police.   Other sources
of information included: the Parole Board card index, the Parole
Board case history files, the Children's Welfare Register.

It had been hoped to obtain imformation about prior mental
history from the Health Commission's Mental Health Division,
but co-operation was not forthcoming.

Details of the types of information in the various files is
included in the feasibility study.

1.3   Variable Selection

The main criteria for selecting variables for inclusion in the
study was their potential relevance in assisting the courts
and other agencies to make decisions about offenders.   A very
wide range of potentially relevant information about social,
psychological and criminal history was coded, including:-

(1)   demographic factors (country or state of birth, date of
       birth, race, area of residence at the time of the offence);

(2)   family background (marital status of parents, number of
       brothers and sisters, offender's marital status and home
       situation at the time of the offence, number of children);

(3)   education (age left school and grade reached at school);

(4)   prior work record (occupational status, prior work stabil-
       ity and length of prior employment);

(5)   personal characteristics (intelligence, physical condition,
       offender type and prior mental history);

(6)   previous institutional record (prior ward, number of prior
       probation orders, breach of probation, prior parole orders,
       breach of parole, youth training centre sentences, prison
       sentences, total prior time in prison or youth training
       centre, number of prior convictions, age on first convic-
       tion, number of aliases, length of immediately prior sentence,
       time outside since last prior sentence and age on conviction);

(7)   prior criminal record (number of prior convictions for
      12 types of offence including assault, larceny and
      escape);

(8)   characteristics of crime (type of offence(s), number of
      victims, relationship of victim to offender, method of
      injury, degree of injury, number of accomplices, degree
      of premeditation, motive, influence of alcohol or drugs,
      amount of money taken);

(9)   sentence characteristics (length of maximum and length
      of minimum sentence, institution where most and last
      part of sentence served, date of conviction and date of
      release, amount of remission, amount of time discharge
      postponed, time in H division - the high-security/
      punishment division in Victoria);

(10) parole characteristics (length of parole deferred, or
      parole denied, reliability of parole reporting, parole
      job plans, stability of work on parole, domestic situ-
      ation on release, parole expiry date).

Dates and main types of offences and total number of offences
were recorded from release up to December 1978.

The criminal record was available for all those included in the
study.   Not all the variables included are relevant to all the
group.   For example, information about the parole characteris-
tics applies only to those prisoners eligible for parole. While
for the other groups of violent offenders studied nearly all
were eligible for parole, many of those given custodial sentences
for serious assault received only short, non-minimum sentences.
Parole characteristics do not apply to this group.   Other
information is recorded only for classified prisoners; that is,
those prisoners serving sentences of 12 months or over if adult,
or six months or over if under 21 years of age.

There is often very little background information available about
those who had not been sent to youth training centre or had not
been classified prisoners.

Because of the missing data for those who were not classified
or sent to youth training centre, generalisation must be done
with care. In many cases it is only possible to statistically
generalise in regard to classified prisoners.

1.4   Coding Procedure

After interviewing a number of prisoners and investigating
the sources of information available, a preliminary coding
manual was developed. This was modified on the basis of
experience gained during a pilot study. The final coding
manual, which is 24 pages long, was used to code a total of
132 variables.

Two research assistants helped with the coding. Careful
attention was given to coder training, and ongoing checks
ensured a high standard of coding reliability. The data
were coded directly onto computer data sheets. A computer
programme was written to detect data which did not fit into
the coding categories or showed evidence of inconsistency,
and corrections were made as necessary.

1.5   Data Analysis

The basic design of the study is to view the serious assault
in respect of which the offender was released during 1972 or
1973 as the criterion offence. Offences prior to this time
are treated as prior criminal history, while those following
release are treated as aspects of recidivism.

The data was analysed to provide information on (1) number
and pattern of offences, and (2) level of association and
statistical significance of social and criminal history with
recidivism. The results of these analyses are presented in
the two main sections following. This is followed by a brief
conclusion to the report.

It would have been desirable to analyse the data further to
investigate the possible causal relationships, and to consider

their implications for criminological theory and corrections.
However, this was not possible within the budget constraints
of the study.

2.　　NUMBER AND PATTERN OF OFFENCES

In this section the results are presented under four headings:-

(1)　Number and type of convictions following release;

(2)　Rate of conviction over time following release;

(3)　Convictions at the same time as the criterion offence;　and

(4)　Convictions during the criterion sentence.

2.1　Number and Type of Convictions following Release

The first three conviction dates following release and the date of the most important other conviction (if any) were coded for the study.　For each of these dates the types of the three most serious different crimes were coded using the categories defined in the back of the coding manual (Appendix I).　In addition the total number of other convictions following release was also recorded.

The percentage of the assault group with violent, non-violent, or any offence following release and the mean number of convictions and standard deviations are presented in Table 1. Since virtually all the violent offences were coded by date and type, those not coded by type were classified as non-violent.

TABLE 1 - VIOLENT AND NON-VIOLENT CONVICTIONS FOLLOWING RELEASE
　　　　　　ASSAULT GROUP*

TYPE OF SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE	PERCENTAGE WITH AT LEAST ONE CONVICTION	MEAN CONVICTIONS PER RELEASEE	STANDARD DEVIATION
VIOLENT	32.9	0.68	1.25
NON-VIOLENT	60.2	3.89	6.14
ANY OFFENCE	65.1	4.57	6.85

*N = 249

Sixty-five percent of the assault group had convictions for
at least one offence following release. This includes 33
percent who had at least one conviction for a violent offence,
with a mean of 0.68 convictions per releasee. Sixty percent
had convictions for non-violent offences, with a mean of 3.89
convictions per releasee. Nearly all of those who had con-
victions for violent offences also had convictions for non-
violent offences.

To indicate the main types of crime on release the offences
were recoded into 12 categories (plus "died" and "left the
country or state"). The numbers of offenders following re-
lease convicted of each type of offence is presented in
Figure 1. The numbers of recorded offences are given in
Table I of Appendix II.

The most common convicted violent offence was assault, with
about 26 percent being convicted of further assault following
release. Four percent of the assault group were convicted of
robbery. Four people (1.6 percent) were convicted of homicide
and four of rape.

One-quarter of the group were convicted for burglary or
theft (which includes illegal use of motor vehicles); and
one-quarter for driving offences (which include drink-
driving, and driving without a licence or uninsured).

Figure 1 does not include parole breaches, since these generally
followed conviction for one of the offences shown. Table I
shows that seven of the assault group were recorded as having
left Victoria (usually by deportation or extradition), and
one died.

Table I indicates that many of the assault group were convicted
more than once for the same type of offence. Clearly, since
not all offences result in apprehension or conviction the total
number of offences, particularly for the less important crimes,
is greater than the recorded figures which are for convicted
offences only. Also, while the present study recorded vir-
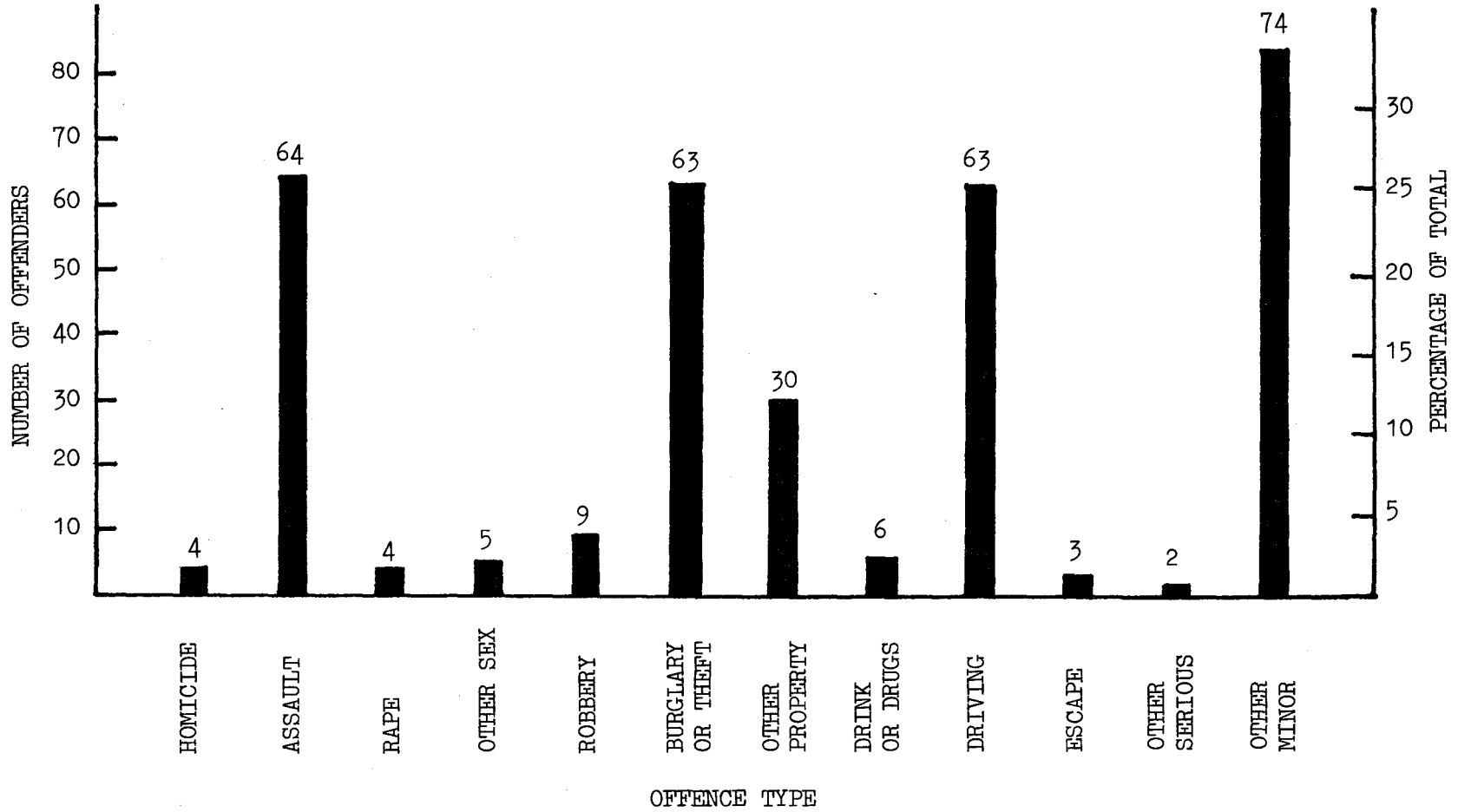
FIGURE 1 : NUMBER OF OFFENDERS CONVICTED
IN FIVE YEARS FOLLOWING RELEASE BY TYPE OF OFFENCE

tually all the major crimes by type of offence, limitations
in data coding resulted in some of the less important convic-
tions not being recorded by type of offence.

2.2   Rate of Conviction over Time Following Release

To investigate the pattern over time of recorded convictions
the offences were classified by the year following release in
which the convictions occurred. The full results of the analysis
of the convictions over time from release by type of offence
are presented in Table II (Appendix II). In Figure 2 below
is shown the number of offenders by year after release for
convictions for violent, non-violent or any offence.
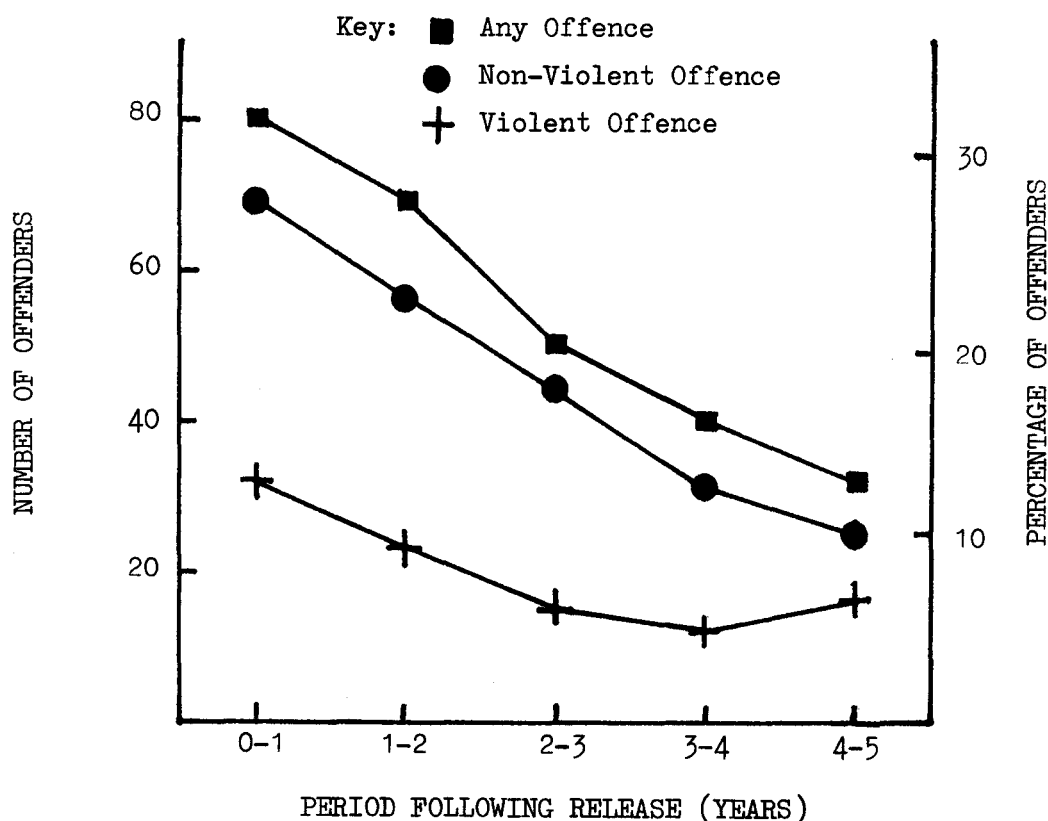
FIGURE 2:   NUMBER OF OFFENDERS RECORDED FOR VIOLENT, NON-VIOLENT AND
ANY CONVICTIONS FOR EACH YEAR UP TO FIVE
YEARS FOLLOWING RELEASE.

Figure 2 indicates that the number of people offending in each year after release drops markedly over time. Due to limitations on recording of convictions there is an error estimated at about 5 percent for the recording of non-violent offences during the later periods following release. So the actual number of offenders for non-violent convictions is slightly higher for years four and five following release than the figures shown. This small error does not affect the basic observations that offence rates drop off sharply with time following release.

2.3 Convictions at the Same Time as the Criterion Offence

Included in this category are those offences in respect of which the conviction occurred after the criterion conviction, but where the offence was believed to have been committed prior to it. The second and third most serious conviction are shown at the end of this section in Tables 2 and 3 respectively. In these tables the percentages for each offence type relate to the figures in the column total.

Rape, homicide and robbery are not included since a person convicted of any of these at the same time as the assault conviction would have been included in either the rape, homicide or the robbery groups and not in the assault group.

Forty-six percent of the assault group were convicted of at least one other offence at the same time as their criterion offence, including 21 percent who had convictions for two or more additional offences.

The most common other conviction was a further assault, which accounted for over half the second offences.

2.4 Convictions During the Criterion Sentence

Some of the prisoners committed further offences during the course of their sentence, either during an escape or while in custody. Convictions for the two most serious offences were recorded during the study.

The most serious and second most serious conviction before release, for each type of custodial institution, are shown at the end of this section, in Tables 4 and 5 respectively. Relative seriousness of offence was inferred from the relative length of sentence.

Eight percent of all the assault group were convicted of offences before being released. The offence rate for the youth trainees was 14 percent, compared with 7 percent for the prisoners. But since the number of youth trainees is small, the difference is not statistically significant.

In some cases, particularly after escapes, there were far more convictions recorded before final release. Hence, while Tables 4 and 5 give a good estimate of the number of prisoners or youth trainees convicted before release, they are not intended to provide an estimate of the number of crimes committed. Not all offences, of course, result in conviction, and internal disciplinary actions were not recorded.

The most common conviction was for offences involving breaches of prison regulations, which in this table have been coded as "Other". Five percent of those sentenced to prison were convicted for offences under this category.

TABLE 2:   SECOND CONVICTION WITH CRITERION CONVICTION

| OFFENCE | | TYPE OF INSTITUTION | | ROW TOTAL |
		YTC	PRISON	
NONE	%	55.2	54.5	54.6
	(n)	(16)	(115)	(131)
ASSAULT	%	27.6	29.9	29.6
	(n)	(8)	(63)	(71)
OTHER SEX	%	3.4	1.4	1.7
	(n)	(1)	(3)	(4)
BURGLARY OR THEFT	%	0	5.2	4.6
	(n)	(0)	(11)	(11)
OTHER PROPERTY	%	0	3.3	2.9
	(n)	(0)	(7)	(7)
DRIVING	%	3.4	3.3	1.7
	(n)	(1)	(3)	(4)
ESCAPE	%	3.4	0.5	0.8
	(n)	(1)	(1)	(2)
PAROLE BREACH	%	3.4	3.3	1.7
	(n)	(1)	(3)	(4)
OTHER SERIOUS	%	0	0.5	0.4
	(n)	(0)	(1)	(1)
OTHER	%	3.4	1.9	2.1
	(n)	(1)	(4)	(5)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	12.1	87.9	100.0
	(n)	(29)	(211)	(240)

TABLE 3: THIRD CONVICTION WITH CRITERION CONVICTION

OFFENCE		TYPE OF INSTITUTION		ROW TOTAL
		YTC	PRISON	
NONE	%	75.9	79.0	79.5
	(n)	(22)	(166)	(188)
ASSAULT	%	20.7	5.7	7.5
	(n)	(6)	(12)	(18)
OTHER SEX	%	0	0.5	0.4
	(n)	(0)	(1)	(1)
BURGLARY OR THEFT	%	3.4	5.2	5.0
	(n)	(1)	(11)	(12)
OTHER ROBBERY	%	0	3.8	3.3
	(n)	(0)	(8)	(8)
DRIVING	%	0	2.4	2.1
	(n)	(0)	(5)	(5)
PAROLE BREACH	%	0	1.4	1.3
	(n)	(0)	(3)	(3)
OTHER	%	0	1.9	1.7
	(n)	(0)	(4)	(4)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	12.1	87.9	100.0
	(n)	(29)	(210)	(239)

TABLE 4:   MAIN CONVICTION DURING SENTENCE

OFFENCE TYPE	Y.T.C.	PRISON	ROW TOTAL
NONE	86.2 (25)	92.6 (201)	91.9 (226)
ASSAULT	3.4 (1)	0.5 (1)	0.8 (2)
OTHER SEX	0 (0)	0.5 (1)	0.4 (1)
BURGLARY & THEFT	6.9 (2)	1.4 (3)	2.0 (5)
ESCAPE	3.4 (1)	0.5 (1)	0.8 (2)
OTHER	0 (0)	4.6 (10)	4.1 (10)
COLUMN TOTAL	11.8 (29)	88.2 (217)	100.0 (246)

TABLE 5:   SECOND CONVICTION DURING SENTENCE

OFFENCE TYPE		Y.T.C.	PRISON	ROW TOTAL
NONE	%	92.9	97.2	96.7
	(n)	(26)	(212)	(238)
ASSAULT	%	0	0.5	0.4
	(n)	(0)	(1)	(1)
BURGLARY &	%	3.6	0.5	0.8
THEFT	(n)	(1)	(1)	(2)
ESCAPE	%	3.6	0	0.4
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(1)
OTHER	%	0	0.5	0.4
SERIOUS	(n)	(0)	(1)	(1)
OTHER	%	0	1.4	1.2
	(n)	(0)	(3)	(3)
COLUMN	%	11.4	88.6	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(28)	(218)	(246)

3. SOCIAL AND CRIMINAL HISTORY AND RECIDIVISM

The social and criminal history is presented in this section under ten headings: (1) demographic factors; (2) family characteristics; (3) personal characteristics; (4) education; (5) prior work record; (6) prior sentence record; (7) prior convictions; (8) characteristics of crime; (9) sentence characteristics; and (10) parole characteristics. Sub-sections 8,9 and 10 refer to the conviction for the assault offence which is treated as a criterion offence. The criminal history prior to this conviction is regarded as prior criminal history, while any convictions after serving the sentence for the criterion conviction are regarded as recidivism.

To investigate the relationship between the various types of background factors and recidivism the data have been analysed using (i) cross-tabulation, and (ii) product moment correlations.

In Appendix III eight alternative indices of recidivism are introduced and a table of the correlations between them for the group is presented. One of the indices of recidivism, which is here referred to as the crime score, is an index of recidivism which is formed by adding the total number of offences following release with each conviction weighted by the seriousness of offence as estimated by a modified Normandeau Crime Index for Australia. Details of the modified Normandeau Crime Index are presented in Appendix IV.

Tables of correlations of the social and criminal background with four indices of recidivism are presented in Appendix V, which also contains an explanatory introduction to the tables. The four indices of recidivism used are: (1) Crime score; (2) time after release before being convicted of a violent offence; (3) time after release before being convicted of a non-violent offence; and (4) time spent in prison following release resulting from further convictions.

For the purpose of the cross-tabulations, the releasees were classified into one of the four categories defined below depending upon the degree of recidivism over the five years following release:-

"NONE"   -   no further convictions recorded in the five
                years following release;

"MINOR"   -   conviction within five years of release for non-
                violent offence or offences only, not leading to
                a prison sentence;

"PRISON"   -   conviction within five years of release for non-
                violent offence or offences only, leading to a
                prison sentence;

"VIOLENT"   -   conviction within five years of release for
                violent offence or offences (usually, but not
                necessarily, with a prison sentence and convic-
                tions for non-violent offences).

The numbers in brackets refer to the numbers of the group
belonging to that particular classification.   The percentages
in each cell of the tables (other than the totals) are percentages
of the total for the whole row.   From these we can infer the
relative level of recidivism.

The percentages in the "Row Total" are the percentage of the
known cases of the assault group who possess a particular charac-
teristic.   Comparison of the Row Total percentages with population
statistics (e.g. the Australian Bureau of Statistics figures)
permits comparison of the assault group with other groups of people.

Where the variables do not apply to all members of the assault
group (for example, parole characteristics only apply to those
considered for parole), or the information was not available,
the cases are excluded from the tables.

It is possible to view the degree of recidivism as being ordered
from low to high.   In many cases it is also possible to view
the background variables as also belonging to ordered categories,
(for example, number of children).   Where this is the case, the
association between background and the degree of recidivism is
indicated by the Kendall tau correlation.   Tau is also used where
the background is dichotomous.

Tau varies from +1 for perfect concordance of ordering in the same direction to -1 for discordance of ordering. A score of zero indicates that there is no systematic tendency for the orders to agree or disagree.

The tau correlation has a slightly different correction for tied ranks depending upon whether the table has the same number or a different number of rows and columns.

Where the background is more appropriately regarded as not having any order from low to high, the chi-square test is used to determine the likelihood that the relationship between the background variable and recidivism is due to chance rather than systematic factors.

In cases where the assumptions of the chi-square test are seriously violated (usually where the number of observations in some rows and columns are too small), the chi-square test has been omitted.

Symbols used in Cross-tabulations

τ - denotes the Kendall tau correlation;

χ^2 - chi-square;

p - is the statistical significance, p of less than .05 indicates that there is a less than 5 percent probability of the apparently systematic results having been due to chance variations. Where the probability is greater than .1, the abbreviation "NS" is used to denote "Not Significant."

3.1   Demographic Factors

3.1.1   Region of Birth

Victoria was the recorded state of birth of 67 percent of the recorded cases and a further 11 percent were born in other parts

of Australia (Table 6). There was a marked tendency for offenders born in Australia to have a higher recidivism rate than those born outside of Australia. Sixty-eight percent of all Australian-born assaulters had recorded reconvictions within five years of release, whereas 38 percent of non-Australian people from English-speaking countries and 33 percent of convicted assaulters from other European countries had further convictions. None of the seven offenders from non-English speaking countries outside Europe were reconvicted following release.

TABLE 6: REGION OF BIRTH

REGION		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
VICTORIA	%	32.7	18.6	15.0	33.6	67.3
	(n)	(37)	(21)	(17)	(38)	(113)
OTHER AUSTRALIA	%	26.3	5.3	21.1	47.4	11.3
	(n)	(5)	(1)	(4)	(9)	(19)
OTHER ENGLISH	%	62.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	4.8
	(n)	(5)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(8)
OTHER EUROPE	%	66.7	9.5	4.8	19.0	12.5
	(n)	(14)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(21)
OTHER	%	100.0	0	0	0	4.2
	(n)	(7)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(7)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	40.5	14.9	13.7	31.0	100.0
	(n)	(68)	(25)	(23)	(52)	(168)

It is possible that part of the reasons for the lower conviction rate for people born outside Australia, is that after release they moved away and did not have their further convictions recorded in Victoria. This is unlikely to be the whole reason, since according to the parole reports most people did in fact stay here following release at least during the period of their parole.

3.1.2   Race

Eleven of the assault group (6 percent of the coded cases) were
classified as "non-white", of whom seven were coded as "Aboriginal"
(Table 7).   On average the "non-white" groups had a slightly
lower level of recidivism, but the numbers are not large enough
for reliable generalisation.

TABLE 7:   RACE

RACE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
WHITE	%	34.4	17.2	12.8	35.6	94.2
	(n)	(62)	(31)	(23)	(64)	(180)
ABORIGINAL	%	42.9	14.3	28.6	14.3	3.7
	(n)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(7)
ASIAN	%	100.0	0	0	0	1.6
	(n)	(3)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(3)
ISLANDER	%	100.0	0	0	0	0.5
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(1)
COLUMN	%	36.1	16.8	13.1	34.0	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(69)	(32)	(25)	(65)	(191)

3.1.3   Area of Residence at the Time of the Offence

The area of residence was coded into eight Department of Community
Welfare regions in the Melbourne Statistical District, and "Other
Victoria" and "Outside Victoria".   The regional breakdown is too
fine for statistically reliable conclusions to be reached about
the relative recidivism rate for different regions.

TABLE 8:   AREA OF RESIDENCE AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENCE

AREA		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
WESTERN SUBURBS	% (n)	50.0 (7)	21.4 (3)	14.3 (2)	14.3 (2)	10.8 (14)
NORTH WEST SUBURBS	% (n)	20.0 (1)	20.0 (1)	0 (0)	60.0 (3)	3.8 (5)
NORTH EAST SUBURBS	% (n)	50.0 (9)	11.1 (2)	11.1 (2)	27.8 (5)	13.8 (18)
INNER EASTERN SUBURBS	% (n)	66.7 (4)	0 (0)	16.7 (1)	16.7 (1)	4.6 (6)
OUTER EASTERN SUBURBS	% (n)	33.3 (3)	11.1 (1)	11.1 (1)	44.4 (4)	6.9 (9)
SOUTHERN SUBURBS	% (n)	38.5 (5)	15.4 (2)	15.4 (2)	30.8 (4)	10.0 (13)
WESTERNPORT	% (n)	12.5 (1)	25.0 (2)	25.0 (2)	37.5 (3)	6.2 (8)
INNER URBAN	% (n)	22.6 (7)	19.4 (6)	12.9 (4)	45.2 (14)	23.8 (31)
OTHER VICTORIA	% (n)	17.4 (4)	30.4 (7)	26.1 (6)	26.1 (6)	17.7 (23)
OUTSIDE VICTORIA	% (n)	33.3 (1)	0 (0)	33.3 (1)	33.3 (1)	2.3 (3)
COLUMN TOTAL	% (n)	32.3 (42)	18.5 (24)	16.2 (21)	33.1 (43)	100.0 (130)

3.2   Family Characteristics

Information about family characteristics was usually available
for youth trainees and classified prisoners and in some cases
for those who had been subject to a prior probation order.

3.2.1   Numbers of Brothers and of Sisters

In this section step-brothers and sisters are included if they
were recorded as living in the same family.

A high proportion of the assault group came from fairly large
families, with 61 percent of the recorded cases having three
or more siblings (Table 11).   The number of siblings is associ-
ated with the degree of recidivism, for violent but not non-
violent offences.   Of those with three or more siblings,
71 percent were convicted of further offences, including 43 per-
cent for violent offences.   Of those with less than three
siblings, 68 percent were convicted of further offences, including
26 percent of violent offences.

The number of siblings is significantly correlated with crime
score (r = .26), time after release before being convicted of
a violent offence (r = .19), and time spent in prison following
release due to subsequent offences (r = .25), but the correlation
with time before being convicted of a non-violent offence (r = .09)
is not statistically significant.

The number of brothers is associated with recidivism, particularly
for violent offences.   Of those with three or more brothers, 53 per-
cent were convicted of further violent offences, compared with an
average of 29 percent of those with less than three brothers (Table 9).
The relationship between the numbers of brothers and subsequent
violent offences is reflected in significant correlations between
the number of brothers and crime score (r = .25), time before being
convicted of a violent offence (r = .21), and time spent in prison
following release (r = .20); but there is no significant correla-
tion with time before being convicted of a non-violent offence
(r = .05).

The relationship between number of sisters and recidivism is not as strong as for the number of brothers (see Table 10). There is, however, a significant correlation between the number of sisters and time spent in prison following release (r = .21), and the correlation with crime score approaches an adequate level of statistical significance (r = .17).

TABLE 9:   NUMBER OF BROTHERS

NUMBER OF BROTHERS		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
0	%	31.0	24.1	13.8	31.0	21.0
	(n)	(9)	(7)	(4)	(9)	(29)
1	%	48.4	12.9	12.9	25.8	22.5
	(n)	(15)	(4)	(4)	(8)	(31)
2	%	22.6	22.6	25.8	29.0	22.5
	(n)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(31)
3 OR MORE	%	21.3	14.9	10.6	53.2	34.1
	(n)	(10)	(7)	(5)	(25)	(47)
COLUMN	%	29.7	18.1	15.2	37.0	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(41)	(25)	(21)	(51)	(138)

T = .17, p < .01

TABLE 10: NUMBER OF SISTERS

NUMBER OF SISTERS		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
0	%	34.5	13.8	20.7	31.0	21.2
	(n)	(10)	(4)	(6)	(9)	(29)
1	%	32.4	24.3	13.5	29.7	27.0
	(n)	(12)	(9)	(5)	(11)	(37)
2	%	24.2	27.3	6.1	42.4	24.1
	(n)	(8)	(9)	(2)	(14)	(33)
3 OR MORE	%	31.6	7.9	21.1	39.5	27.7
	(n)	(12)	(3)	(8)	(15)	(38)
COLUMN	%	30.7	18.2	15.3	35.8	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(42)	(25)	(21)	(49)	(137)

$$T = .07, \text{ NS}$$

TABLE 11: NUMBER OF SIBLINGS

NUMBER OF SIBLINGS		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
0	%	60.0	0	20.0	20.0	3.7
	(n)	(3)	(0)	(1)	(1)	(5)
1	%	23.5	29.4	11.8	35.3	12.6
	(n)	(4)	(5)	(2)	(6)	(17)
2	%	32.3	22.6	22.6	22.6	23.0
	(n)	(10)	(7)	(7)	(7)	(31)
3	%	26.3	21.1	5.3	47.4	14.1
	(n)	(5)	(4)	(1)	(9)	(19)
4	%	52.4	9.5	19.0	19.0	15.6
	(n)	(11)	(2)	(4)	(4)	(21)
5 OR MORE	%	19.0	16.7	11.9	52.4	31.1
	(n)	(8)	(7)	(5)	(22)	(42)
COLUMN	%	30.4	18.5	14.8	36.3	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(41)	(25)	(20)	(49)	(135)

$$T = .13, \ p < .05$$

3.2.2   Parents' Marital Status

Those whose parents were still married and living in Australia
had a higher level of recidivism, with 77 percent being recon-
victed.   In comparison, of those whose parents had died or
were living overseas, 57 percent were reconvicted (Table 12).
The recidivism rate where the parents had separated was between
these groups, with 67 being reconvicted.   But the number in
the latter groups are rather small for accurate generalisation.

TABLE 12:   PARENTS' MARITAL STATUS

PARENTS' STATUS		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
MARRIED	%	23.2	21.7	18.8	36.2	50.0
	(n)	(16)	(15)	(13)	(25)	(69)
SEPARATED OR REMARRIED	%	33.3	14.8	11.1	40.7	19.6
	(n)	(9)	(4)	(3)	(11)	(27)
DIED OVERSEAS	%	42.9	11.9	14.3	31.0	30.4
	(n)	(18)	(5)	(6)	(13)	(42)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	31.2	17.4	15.9	35.5	100.0
	(n)	(43)	(24)	(22)	(49)	(138)

3.2.3   Home Situation at the Time of the Offence

Nearly half of the known cases were living with their parents at
the time of the offence (Table 13).   The remainder were evenly
divided between legal or defacto wives and "Other" (usually
living with friends).

There is some evidence that those who were living with parents
or friends had a higher rate of recidivism compared with those
who were living with legal or defacto wives, but the differences
are not very large and only apply to non-violent offences.

TABLE 13: HOME SITUATION

HOME SITUATION		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
WITH WIFE	%	37.0	14.8	14.8	33.3	19.9
	(n)	(10)	(4)	(4)	(9)	(27)
WITH DEFACTO	%	50.0	12.5	0	37.5	5.9
	(n)	(4)	(1)	(0)	(3)	(8)
WITH PARENTS	%	30.8	24.6	13.8	30.8	47.8
	(n)	(20)	(16)	(9)	(20)	(65)
OTHER	%	27.8	11.1	25.0	36.1	26.5
	(n)	(10)	(4)	(9)	(13)	(36)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	32.4	18.4	16.2	33.1	100.0
	(n)	(44)	(25)	(22)	(45)	(136)

3.2.4 Marital Status of the Offender

Twenty-one percent were legally married at the time of the offence.
They had a slightly lower rate of recidivism, with 59 percent
being reconvicted, including 28 percent for violent offences.
This compares with an average of 71 percent reconviction for
the other groups, including 36 percent for violent offences.
However, the differences are not large enough to be statistically
significant.

To calculate a correlation co-efficient the data were recoded
into married and not currently married. None of the correl-
ations of marital status with the four indices of recidivism
is statistically significant.

TABLE 14:   MARITAL STATUS

MARITAL STATUS		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
SINGLE	%	31.1	18.9	15.6	34.4	65.2
	(n)	(28)	(17)	(14)	(31)	(90)
MARRIED	%	41.4	13.8	17.2	27.6	21.0
	(n)	(12)	(4)	(5)	(8)	(29)
DE FACTO	%	28.6	14.3	14.3	42.9	5.1
	(n)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(3)	(7)
SEPARATED DIVORCED OR WIDOWED	%	16.7	25.0	16.7	41.7	8.7
	(n)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(5)	(12)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	31.9	18.1	15.9	34.1	100.0
	(n)	(44)	(25)	(22)	(47)	(138)

3.2.5   Number of Children

One-quarter of those about whom information was available had
one or more children.   There is a tendency for those who had
one child to have a lower rate of recidivism than those who
had none.   Seventy percent of those with no children were
convicted of further offences, compared with 57 percent of
those with one child (Table 15).   Having more than one child
does not appear to be associated with lower levels of recidivism,
but the numbers are not large enough for generalisation.

Partly as a result of those with larger numbers of children
having higher rates of recidivism than those with one, there is
no significant linear relationship between the number of child-
ren and any of the indices of recidivism.

TABLE 15:   NUMBER OF CHILDREN

NUMBER OF CHILDREN		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
0	%	29.5	18.1	16.2	36.2	75.5
	(n)	(31)	(19)	(17)	(38)	(105)
1	%	42.9	9.5	19.0	28.6	15.1
	(n)	(9)	(2)	(4)	(6)	(21)
2	%	37.5	25.0	0	37.5	5.8
	(n)	(3)	(2)	(0)	(3)	(8)
3 OR MORE	%	20.0	40.0	20.0	20.0	3.6
	(n)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(5)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	31.7	18.0	15.8	34.5	100.0
	(n)	(44)	(25)	(22)	(48)	(139)

$$T = -.07, \quad NS$$

3.3   Personal Characteristics

As with family characteristics, information about the personal
characteristics was often not available for those who were not
youth trainees or who had never been classified prisoners.

Also, in many cases the estimate of the personal characteristics
was based on very scanty evidence.

3.3.1   Intelligence

Rarely were any specific tests of intellectual ability reported
in the case history files.   However, frequently interviewers'
impressions were recorded in probation or parole reports.
Clearly, such impressions cannot be regarded necessarily as
accurate assessments of mental abilities.   Nevertheless, given
the absence of "objective" tests, the interviewers' impressions
form the potential basis of parole decisions.

Fifteen percent of the recorded cases were coded as intellectually
handicapped or "slightly below normal".   There is a slight tendency

for this group to have a higher level of recidivism with 80 percent being reconvicted, compared with 68 percent who were not recorded as being intellectually below normal (Table 16). It is possible, however, that those who were recidivists would be more likely to be examined for intellectual handicap compared with non-recidivists, and this would affect the relationship between recorded handicap and recidivism.

TABLE 16: INTELLIGENCE

INTELLIGENCE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NORMAL	%	31.6	17.5	16.7	34.2	85.1
	(n)	(36)	(20)	(19)	(39)	(114)
BELOW NORMAL	%	20.0	20.0	20.0	40.0	14.9
	(n)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(8)	(20)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	29.9	17.9	17.2	35.1	100.0
	(n)	(40)	(24)	(23)	(47)	(134)

$$T = .06, \quad NS$$

3. 3. 2   Physical Condition

As with intelligence, estimates of physical and health problems are frequently based on interviewers' impressions. Eighteen percent of those on whom information was available were recorded as having health problems or physical handicaps. No significant differences in their recidivism rate can be observed (Table 17).

TABLE 17: PHYSICAL CONDITION

PHYSICAL CONDITION		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
GOOD	%	28.1	16.7	15.8	39.5	82.0
	(n)	(32)	(19)	(18)	(45)	(114)
BELOW NORMAL	%	36.0	20.0	20.0	24.0	18.0
	(n)	(9)	(5)	(5)	(6)	(25)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	29.5	17.3	16.5	36.7	100.0
	(n)	(41)	(24)	(23)	(51)	(139)

$$T = -.09, \quad p < .1$$

3.3.3 Offender Type

On the basis of the pilot study a violent offender typology was developed.

It is an attempt to characterise the descriptive categories used by probation and parole officers and others working with violent offenders. It is not a scientific analysis of offender characteristics into statistically distinct clusters. The main use of the typology is to communicate an intuitive impression of the proportion of offenders who were perceived as belonging to each "type". It is possible to establish predictive validity for the typology by examining the extent to which one group differs from another in its pattern of recidivism.

The definitions of the initial 21 categories are contained in the Coding Manual (which is given in the report on recidivism among robbers). To facilitate presentation the number of categories has been reduced to seven, which are very briefly defined below:-

"Opportunist" — includes those taking the opportunity for easy gain, professional criminals as well as desperately poor or addicts committing crime to obtain money etc.

"Inadequate" — mentally and socially deficient and those who habitually tend to follow others.

"Psychotic" — true psychotics who have a grossly distorted view of reality, psychopaths and others who are relatively indifferent to the effects of their actions on others (thrill-seekers, sexual compulsives and sadists).

"Aggressive" — those who are generally overtly aggressive, and those who become aggressive after consuming alcohol.

"Impulsive" — people who are not normally aggressive, but who react with aggression to provocation or extreme stress.

"Disturbed"   - phobic and embittered personality types,
                         and those who react to frustration or
                         rejection with aggression.

"Normal"   - no evidence of any special tendency to
                         violent or impulsive behaviour.

Twenty-six percent of known cases were coded as "normal"; about
one-quarter were coded as "aggressive"; and a further quarter
were coded as "impulsive".

Those coded as "normal" had a lower level of recidivism, with
54 percent being reconvicted compared with an average of 73 per-
cent for the other groups.

TABLE 18:   VIOLENT OFFENDER TYPE

OFFENDER TYPE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
OPPORTUNIST	%	27.3	0	18.2	54.5	8.1
	(n)	(3)	(0)	(2)	(6)	(11)
INADEQUATE	%	14.3	28.6	0	57.1	5.2
	(n)	(1)	(2)	(0)	(4)	(7)
PSYCHOTIC	%	30.8	7.7	38.5	23.1	9.6
	(n)	(4)	(1)	(5)	(3)	(13)
AGGRESSIVE	%	20.0	17.1	20.0	42.9	25.9
	(n)	(7)	(6)	(7)	(15)	(35)
IMPULSIVE	%	35.5	16.1	12.9	35.5	23.0
	(n)	(11)	(5)	(4)	(11)	(31)
DISTURBED	%	33.3	0	33.3	33.3	2.2
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(1)	(1)	(3)
NORMAL	%	45.7	22.9	5.7	25.7	25.9
	(n)	(16)	(8)	(2)	(9)	(35)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	31.9	16.3	15.6	36.3	100.0
	(n)	(43)	(22)	(21)	(49)	(135)

3.3.3 Prior Mental History

Nine percent of the whole assault group were recorded as having
received prior mental treatment, and this group had a significantly
higher rate with 73 percent being reconvicted compared with an
overall average of 66 percent (Table 19). However, as indicated
earlier, those who had a greater number of more serious convictions
were more likely to have more complete file information about
prior mental history, and this is likely to have contaminated the
results.

It seems likely that the figure of 9 percent is an underestimate
of the actual proportion having received psychiatric treatment
of some sort. Since the co-operation sought of the Victorian
Mental Health Division was not forthcoming, it is not possible
to determine the actual number treated by that authority.

TABLE 19:   PRIOR MENTAL HISTORY

TREATMENT		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NONE KNOWN	%	38.8	20.3	10.1	30.8	91.2
	(n)	(88)	(46)	(23)	(70)	(227)
PSYCHIATRIC	%	22.7	4.5	36.4	36.4	8.8
TREATMENT	(n)	(5)	(1)	(8)	(8)	(22)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	37.3	18.9	12.4	31.3	100.0
	(n)	(93)	(47)	(31)	(78)	(249)

T = .07, p < .05

3.4   Education

3.4.1   Age Left School

Forty-five percent were recorded as having left school at 14
years of age or below.   (The legal minimum school leaving age
at the time most of the group went to school was 15 years, unless
special dispensation was given). Those who left school at the
age of 14 or below had a higher recidivism rate than the other
groups, with 80 percent being convicted of further offences;
compared with an average of 64 percent for those who left at
15 years or above (Table 20).

The incidence of reconviction for violent offences also varies
with age left school, with 45 percent of those who left school
at 14 or below being convicted of further violent offences;
compared with 35 percent of those who left at 15, and 29 percent
of those who left at 16 or above.

TABLE 20:   AGE LEFT SCHOOL

AGE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
14 OR BELOW	%	20.0	15.0	20.0	45.0	45.1
	(n)	(12)	(9)	(12)	(27)	(60)
15	%	36.7	16.3	12.2	34.7	36.8
	(n)	(18)	(8)	(6)	(17)	(49)
16 OR ABOVE	%	33.3	33.3	4.2	29.2	18.0
	(n)	(8)	(8)	(1)	(7)	(24)
COLUMN	%	28.6	18.8	14.3	38.3	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(38)	(25)	(19)	(51)	(133)

$$\Upsilon = -.17, \quad p<.05$$

Although the Kendall tau correlation between age left school
and degree of recidivism is statistically significant, none
of the product moment correlations with the four indices of
recidivism approaches statistical significance.

3.4.2   Grade Reached at School

The pattern of results for the grade reached at school is somewhat
similar to that for age left school. There is no significant re-
lationship between the grade reached at school and recidivism.
However, inspection of the cross-tabulation (Table 21) suggests
a tendency for those who reached a low school grade to have a
higher rate of violent offences, with 52 percent of those who
reached only below grade 8 being convicted of further violent

offences; compared with 26 percent of those who reached above grade 8.

TABLE 21: SCHOOL GRADE REACHED

SCHOOL GRADE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
BELOW GRADE 8	%	19.0	19.0	9.5	52.4	16.0
	(n)	(4)	(4)	(2)	(11)	(21)
GRADE 8	%	29.8	14.9	23.4	31.9	35.9
	(n)	(14)	(7)	(11)	(15)	(47)
GRADE 9	%	37.5	5.0	17.5	40.0	30.5
	(n)	(15)	(2)	(7)	(16)	(40)
ABOVE GRADE 9	%	13.0	52.2	8.7	26.1	17.6
	(n)	(3)	(12)	(2)	(6)	(23)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	27.5	19.1	16.8	36.6	100.0
	(n)	(36)	(25)	(22)	(48)	(131)

T = -.07, NS

3.5 Prior Work Record

3.5.1 Occupational Status

Only 6 percent of known cases were classified as skilled, white-collar or higher occupational status. The majority (62 percent) were classified as unskilled. This reflects both the social and educational background of the offenders, and the effects of criminal convictions upon occupational attainment.

Those who were classified as unskilled were more likely to be reconvicted compared with those who were semi-skilled or of higher occupational status. Seventy-three percent of the un-skilled group were reconvicted, including 41 percent for violent

offences, compared with an average of 53 percent reconvictions,
including 24 percent for violent offences, for the higher occu-
pational status groups (Table 22).

TABLE 22: OCCUPATIONAL STATUS

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
SKILLED OR WHITE COLLAR	%	40.0	30.0	20.0	10.0	6.5
	(n)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(10)
SEMI-SKILLED	%	49.0	16.3	8.2	26.5	31.6
	(n)	(24)	(8)	(4)	(13)	(49)
UNSKILLED	%	27.1	14.6	17.7	40.6	61.9
	(n)	(26)	(14)	(17)	(39)	(96)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	34.8	16.1	14.8	34.2	100.0
	(n)	(54)	(25)	(23)	(53)	(155)

T = .19, p < .005

Occupational status is significantly correlated with time before
being convicted of a violent offence (r = .17).   The correlations
with crime score (r = .14) and time before being convicted of a
non-violent offence (r = .15) approach statistical significance.

3.5.2   Prior Work Stability

Prior work stability was coded using a modified form of Ohlin's[1]
classification of work record. This was recoded to give a simpler
classification, the results of which are presented in Table 23.

The category "Regular" includes those who had worked steadily
all their lives at one or only a few jobs and apprentices. "Ir-
regular" includes those who had not held a job for a long period
of time but showed fairly continuous employment, while "Inter-
mittent" includes those who had not worked at all or did not have
relatively continuous employment.

---

1. Ohlin, L.E. Selection for parole.   Russell Sage Foundation :
    New York, 1951

The recorded cases were fairly evenly divided between those who had "Regular", "Irregular" and "Intermittent" work records. There was a tendency approaching significance for those with regular work records to have a lower rate of reconviction for both violent and non-violent offences.

However, prior work stability is not correlated with any of the four indices of recidivism.

TABLE 23:   PRIOR WORK STABILITY

WORK STABILITY		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
REGULAR	%	38.5	21.2	7.7	32.7	36.4
	(n)	(20)	(11)	(4)	(17)	(52)
IRREGULAR	%	25.5	14.9	23.4	36.2	32.9
	(n)	(12)	(7)	(11)	(17)	(47)
INTERMITTENT	%	25.0	15.9	18.2	40.9	30.8
	(n)	(11)	(7)	(8)	(18)	(44)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	30.1	17.5	16.1	36.4	100.0
	(n)	(43)	(25)	(23)	(52)	(143)

$$T = .12, \quad p < .1$$

3.5.3   Length of Prior Employment

Whereas "Prior Work Stability" looks at the long-term work record of the offenders prior to conviction, "Employment at the Time of the Offence" considers length of employment or unemployment, at the time of the offence.

Nearly a quarter were unemployed at the time of their offence (compared with 49 percent of the robbery group). However, in contrast to the robbery group there is no significant association between length of prior employment and recidivism.

TABLE 24: LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENCE

LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
UNEMPLOYED	%	35.5	9.7	19.4	35.5	24.2
	(n)	(11)	(3)	(6)	(11)	(31)
UP TO 1 YEAR	%	25.0	21.4	19.6	33.9	43.8
	(n)	(14)	(12)	(11)	(19)	(56)
ONE YEAR OR MORE	%	31.7	22.0	9.8	36.6	32.0
	(n)	(13)	(9)	(4)	(15)	(41)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	29.7	18.8	16.4	35.2	100.0
	(n)	(38)	(24)	(21)	(45)	(128)

$T = -.01$, NS

3.6 Prior Sentences and Court Dispositions

In this section various aspects of sentences and sentence-related variables are appraised in terms of the extent to which they predict recidivism, and in the next section the related variables of numbers and types of prior convictions are appraised. The sentence record is usually based on the criminal record which was available for all the assault group.

3.6.1 Previous Ward

Being made a ward of the state is a protection order, not a sentence. However, the order is frequently made in response to offences committed by a juvenile.

Twenty-one percent of the assault group were recorded as having been wards of the state (Table 25).

Those who had been wards were more likely to recidivate, with
76 percent of former wards being reconvicted following release
including 38 percent for violent offences; compared with 55
percent reconviction, including 27 percent for violent off-
ences, for non-wards.

TABLE 25: PREVIOUS WARD

PREVIOUS WARD		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
YES	%	23.8	11.9	26.2	38.1	20.8
	(n)	(10)	(5)	(11)	(16)	(42)
NO	%	45.0	18.1	10.0	26.9	79.2
	(n)	(72)	(29)	(16)	(43)	(160)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	40.6	16.8	13.4	29.2	100.0
	(n)	(82)	(34)	(27)	(59)	(202)

$T = -.17$, $p < .005$

Having been a ward of state is significantly correlated with
crime score ($r = .18$) and with time before being convicted
of a non-violent offence ($r = .20$).

3.6.2   Number of Prior Probation Orders

For ease of presentation, the results of the number of
prior probation orders and several other aspects of sentence
record are summarised in a single table (Table 26).   The
figures refer to the numbers with one or more of the particular
type of sentence.   Comparison with the bottom row which gives
the total figures for the whole assault group permits estimates
to be made of the relative rates of recidivism.   The Kendall
correlations shown were calculated for partially collapsed tables
for each sentence type.   They provide an estimate of the extent
to which having received a particular type of sentence is
associated with degree of recidivism.

Nearly half of the assault group (46 percent) had received prior
probation orders, and this group were far more likely to recidiv-

ate. Seventy percent of those who had been subject to one or more probation orders were convicted of further offences following release, including 46 percent for violent offences; compared with an overall average of 63 percent reconviction, including 31 percent for violent offences.

The number of prior probations is significantly correlated with all the indices of recidivism, with co-efficients ranging from $r = .31$ for crime score to $r = .29$ for time before being convicted of violent and non-violent offences.

3.6.3   Prior Probation Breach

Of those who had been subject to prior probation orders, over three-quarters had breached a probation order. This group had the same level of recidivism as the other people who had received prior probation orders.

3.6.4   Number of Prior Youth Training Centre Sentences

Twenty-two percent had received prior youth training centre sentences, and they were more likely to recidivate with 84 percent being reconvicted, including 45 percent for violent offences. The number of prior youth training centre sentences is significantly correlated with crime score ($r = .16$) and time before being convicted of a non-violent offence ($r = .23$).

3.6.5   Number of Prior Prison Sentences

Thirty-nine percent of the assault group had received prior prison sentences, and they also had a higher recidivism rate with 72 percent reconvictions, including 44 percent for violent offences. The number of prior prison sentences is significantly associated with all the indices of recidivism with co-efficients ranging from $r = .22$ for crime score to $r = .18$ for time before being convicted of a violent offence.

3.6.6   Prior Parole

Twenty percent of the assault group had been subject to prior parole

orders and their level of recidivism was higher than those who had no prior parole order with three-quarters (75 percent) being reconvicted following release.

The number of prior parole orders is significantly correlated with crime score and time before being convicted of a violent offence ($r = .17$ for both), and time before being convicted of a non-violent offence ($r = .13$).

3.6.7 Prior Parole Breach

Over half of those who had been subject to prior parole orders were recorded as having breached a parole. This group had a similar level of recidivism to those who had not breached their prior parole orders.

TABLE 26: PRIOR SENTENCE RECORD

PRIOR RECORD		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL	γ
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT		
PROBATION	%	22.8	15.8	14.9	46.5	45.8	.30***
	(n)	(26)	(18)	(17)	(53)	(114)	
PROBATION BREACH	%	24.7	15.7	15.7	43.8	35.7	-.04
	(n)	(22)	(14)	(14)	(39)	(89)	
YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE	%	16.4	16.4	21.8	45.5	22.1	.22***
	(n)	(9)	(9)	(12)	(25)	(55)	
PRISON	%	27.8	12.4	15.5	44.3	39.0	.22***
	(n)	(27)	(12)	(15)	(43)	(97)	
PAROLE.	%	25.5	15.7	11.8	47.1	20.5	.12**
	(n)	(13)	(8)	(6)	(24)	(51)	
PAROLE BREACH	%	26.7	16.7	13.3	43.3	12.0	-.08
	(n)	(8)	(5)	(4)	(13)	(30)	
ALL ASSAULT	%	37.3	18.9	12.4	31.3	100.0	
	(n)	(93)	(47)	(31)	(78)	(249)	

'γ' denotes the kendall tau correlation, ** $= p < .01$, *** $= p < .001$

3.6.8 Total Time in Prison or Youth Training Centre

The total time spent in prison or youth training centre is significantly related to degree of recidivism. The main difference is between those who had spent no time in custody, of whom 50 percent were reconvicted and those who had spent some time in custody, of whom an average of 75 percent were reconvicted. There was no difference in the recidivism rate between those who had spent only a short time in custody and those who had spent longer periods.

TABLE 27: TOTAL PRIOR MONTHS IN PRISON OR YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE

PRIOR TIME		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NONE	%	49.6	22.4	8.8	19.2	50.2
	(n)	(62)	(28)	(11)	(24)	(125)
UP TO 6	%	26.2	16.7	16.7	40.5	16.9
MONTHS	(n)	(11)	(7)	(7)	(17)	(42)
6 TO 24	%	25.6	16.3	11.6	46.5	17.3
MONTHS	(n)	(11)	(7)	(5)	(20)	(43)
ABOVE 2 YEARS	%	23.1	12.8	20.5	43.6	15.7
	(n)	(9)	(5)	(8)	(17)	(39)
COLUMN	%	37.3	18.9	12.4	31.3	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(93)	(47)	(31)	(78)	(249)

$$T = .26, \quad p < .001$$

3.6.9 Number of Prior Convictions

The number of prior convictions is the best single predictor of recidivism. Only 17 percent had no recorded prior convictions, while 41 percent had ten or more prior convictions. Twenty-two percent of those with no convictions were convicted of further offences, including 5 percent for violent convictions. In contrast, for those with ten or more prior convictions there was an average of 79 percent reconvictions, including 49 percent for violent offences.

TABLE 28:   NUMBER OF PRIOR CONVICTIONS

PRIOR CONVICTIONS		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NONE	%	78.6	14.3	2.4	4.8	16.9
	(n)	(33)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(42)
1	%	46.2	23.1	15.4	15.4	10.4
	(n)	(12)	(6)	(4)	(4)	(26)
2 TO 4	%	41.7	30.6	8.3	19.4	14.5
	(n)	(15)	(11)	(3)	(7)	(36)
5 TO 9	%	27.3	18.2	18.2	36.4	17.7
	(n)	(12)	(8)	(8)	(16)	(44)
10 TO 14	%	18.8	18.8	18.8	43.8	12.9
	(n)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(14)	(32)
15 TO 24	%	27.0	16.2	5.4	51.4	14.9
	(n)	(10)	(6)	(2)	(19)	(37)
25 OR ABOVE	%	15.6	12.5	21.9	50.0	12.9
	(n)	(5)	(4)	(7)	(16)	(32)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	37.3	18.9	12.4	31.3	100.0
	(n)	(93)	(47)	(31)	(78)	(249)

$T = .38, \quad p < .001$

The number of prior convictions is significantly correlated with all the indices of recidivism;   with co-efficients ranging from r = .33, for time before being convicted of a non-violent offence and time spent in prison following release, to r = .23 for time before being convicted of a violent offence.

3.6.10   Conviction Score

The conviction score is the sum of the convictions at the time of release with each conviction weighted by the type of sentence received.   It is designed to give a greater weight to more serious convictions, although the exact weighting is arbitrary.

Conviction score was defined as:-

Four times the number of convictions leading to a
prison or youth training centre sentence + two times
the number of convictions leading to probation + the
number of other convictions.

Conviction score has a very similar predictive pattern to the
number of prior convictions, and is significantly related to
all indices of recidivism.

Correlations range from $r = .35$ with time before being convicted
of a non-violent offence to $r = .24$ with time before conviction
for a violent offence.

3.6.11 Crime Score at the Time of Release

The crime score at the time of release was calculated by
adding all the convictions prior to release with each weighted
by seriousness of offence according to the modified Normandeau
Crime Index described in Appendix IV. The crime score at the
time of release is an estimate of the total seriousness of
prior convictions at the time of release.

The crime score at the time of release has a very similar
pattern of prediction to the conviction score, and the number
of prior convictions.

It is significantly correlated with all the indices of re-
cidivism; with correlations ranging from $r = .30$, with re-
cidivism, crime score and time before being convicted of a non-
violent offence, to $r = .25$ with time before being convicted
of a violent offence.

3.6.12 Age on First Conviction

Over a third of the assault group were under 15 at the time of
their first recorded conviction and a total of 73 percent were
under the age of 21. Only 9 percent were over 30 years of age
at the time of their first conviction. (In the small number of
cases where there were no priors the age of the criterion offence
is the age on first conviction).

There is a moderately strong relationship between age on first conviction and degree of recidivism. Eighty-one percent of those who received their first conviction at 15 years or under were reconvicted following release, including 50 percent for violent offences. In contrast, of those who were 21 or above there was an average of 41 percent, including 16 percent for violent offences.

TABLE 29: AGE ON FIRST CONVICTION

AGE AT FIRST CONVICTION		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
15 OR	%	19.2	15.4	15.4	50.0	34.8
UNDER	(n)	(15)	(12)	(12)	(39)	(78)
16 TO 20	%	36.5	22.4	14.1	27.1	37.9
YEARS	(n)	(31)	(19)	(12)	(23)	(85)
21 TO 30	%	58.5	19.5	7.3	14.6	18.3
YEARS	(n)	(24)	(8)	(3)	(6)	(41)
ABOVE 30	%	60.0	10.0	10.0	20.0	8.9
	(n)	(12)	(2)	(2)	(4)	(20)
COLUMN	%	36.6	18.3	12.9	32.1	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(82)	(41)	(29)	(72)	(224)

$T = -.31, \quad p < .001$

Age on first conviction is significantly correlated with crime score ($r = .17$), time before being convicted of a violent offence ($r = .16$) and non-violent offence ($r = .22$), but not with time spent in prison following release ($r = .05$).

3.6.13 Number of Aliases

Nearly a third of the assault group (31 percent) had aliases which were known to the police. The number of aliases is a rather good predictor to recidivism. Those which had one or more aliases were more likely to commit further offences, with an average of 81 percent being reconvicted. Those with two or more aliases were far more likely to commit further violent offences, with 62 percent of those with two or more aliases

being convicted for further violent offences, compared with 26 per-
cent of those with none (Table 30).

TABLE 30: NUMBER OF ALIASES

NUMBER OF ALIASES		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
0	%	45.3	20.9	8.1	25.6	69.1
	(n)	(78)	(36)	(14)	(44)	(172)
1	%	20.9	18.6	30.2	30.2	17.3
	(n)	(9)	(8)	(13)	(13)	(43)
2 OR ABOVE	%	17.6	8.8	11.8	61.8	13.7
	(n)	(6)	(3)	(4)	(21)	(34)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	37.3	18.9	12.4	31.3	100.0
	(n)	(93)	(47)	(31)	(78)	(249)

T = .23, p < .001

The number of aliases is significantly correlated with all the
indices of recidivism. Correlations range from r = .37, with
crime score, to r = .23 with the time before being convicted
of a non-violent offence.

3.6.14 Length of Previous Sentence

The length of the previous sentence is the estimated time actually
spent in prison or youth training centre following the conviction
(if any) prior to the criterion conviction.

Seventeen percent had no previous convictions at all and they by
far had the lowest rate of recidivism with 21 percent being re-
convicted, including 5 percent for violent offences. Of those
who had a previous conviction, those with no custodial sentence
had a lower rate of recidivism with 77 percent being reconvicted,
including 32 percent for violent offences (Table 31).

Most of those who had a previous custodial sentence had a rela-
tively short sentence of less than six months; only 1 percent
had spent more than two years in custody following their previous

offence. Among those who had spent a period in custody following their previous conviction, there was an average of 79 percent receiving further convictions, including an average of 45 percent for violent offences.

TABLE 31:   LENGTH OF PREVIOUS SENTENCE

LENGTH OF SENTENCE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NONE	%	33.3	22.7	12.1	31.8	53.0
	(n)	(44)	(30)	(16)	(42)	(132)
UP TO 6	%	22.0	16.9	18.6	42.4	23.7
MONTHS	(n)	(13)	(10)	(11)	(25)	(59)
7 MONTHS TO	%	21.4	7.1	21.4	50.0	5.6
2 YEARS	(n)	(3)	(1)	(3)	(7)	(14)
OVER 2 YEARS	%	0	0	0	100.0	0.8
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(2)	(2)
NO PRIOR	%	78.6	14.3	2.4	4.8	16.9
	(n)	(33)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(42)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	37.3	18.9	12.4	31.3	100.0
	(n)	(93)	(47)	(31)	(78)	(249)

$\mathcal{T}$ = 16, p $<$ .005. Tau is calculated with "No prior" cases excluded. The product moment correlations are calculated with "no prior" treated as a "no custodial" sentence.   Length of previous sentence is significantly correlated with crime score (r = .19), time before being convicted of a violent offence (r = .17); and the correlation with time spent in prison following release (r = .12) approaches statistical significance.

3.6.15   Time Outside since Previous Conviction

Time outside since the previous conviction is calculated from the difference between the date of the criterion conviction and the previous sentence minus the time spent in prison or youth training centre following the previous conviction.   Those who had no prior conviction were treated as if they had no conviction since their tenth birthday.

There is a fairly strong relationship between time outside since previous sentence and degree of recidivism (Table 32). Rate of reconviction ranged from 86 percent for those who had been outside up to six months since their previous sentence, to 33 percent for those who had not been convicted or in custody for six or more years. Recidivism for violent offences showed a similar trend with 50 percent of those outside for less than six months being reconvicted of violent offences, compared with 8 percent of those outside for six years or more.

TABLE 32: TIME OUTSIDE SINCE PREVIOUS SENTENCE

TIME		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
UP TO 6 MONTHS	%	13.6	13.6	22.7	50.0	18.4
	(n)	(6)	(6)	(10)	(22)	(44)
6 TO 12 MONTHS	%	25.5	14.9	6.4	53.2	19.7
	(n)	(12)	(7)	(3)	(25)	(47)
1 TO 2 YEARS	%	37.8	17.8	15.6	28.9	18.8
	(n)	(17)	(8)	(7)	(13)	(45)
2 TO 3 YEARS	%	26.3	26.3	15.8	31.6	7.9
	(n)	(5)	(5)	(3)	(6)	(19)
3 TO 4 YEARS	%	44.4	22.2	22.2	11.1	3.8
	(n)	(4)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(9)
4 TO 6 YEARS	%	46.7	26.7	13.3	13.3	6.3
	(n)	(7)	(4)	(2)	(2)	(15)
6 OR MORE YEARS	%	66.7	23.3	1.7	8.3	25.1
	(n)	(40)	(14)	(1)	(5)	(60)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	38.1	19.2	11.7	31.0	100.0
	(n)	(91)	(46)	(28)	(74)	(239)

γ = .37, p < .001

Time outside since the previous sentence is significantly correlated with all the indices of recidivism. Correlations range from r = .36 with time before being convicted of a non-violent offence, to r = .21 with time spent in prison following release.

3.7   Prior Convictions

The numbers and proportions with convictions for each of 12 cate-
gories of offence, and escape from prison and from youth training
centre, cross-tabulated with degree of recidivism, are presented
in Table 33.   To simplify the tables the recidivism rates for
those without convictions for each of the categories of prior
offence are not given.   An estimate of the relative recidivism
rates may be obtained by comparing the figures in each of the
rows with those for all the assault group, given on the bottom
row of the table.   The Kendall tau correlations, which provide
a measure of ordinal association between the number of prior
offences and degree of recidivism, are based on partially collapsed
tables.   The corresponding product moment correlations with the
four indices of recidivism are given in Table XIV of Appendix V.

The percentages in the row total provide estimates of the pro-
portion of the assault group with prior convictions for each of
the offence types categorised.

The prior offences were categorised into: (1) homicide, (2)
assault, (3) rape, (4) other sex, (5) robbery, (6) breaking
offence, (7) larceny or illegal use of a motor vehicle, (8)
fraud or receiving, (9) drinking offences, (10) drug offences,
(11) driving offences, (12) other serious offences, as well as
(13) escape from prison, and (14) escape from youth training
centre.

In general there is a tendency for prior offences to be related
to recidivism.   However, in some cases there are too few prior
convictions for meaningful and reliable conclusions to be reached
about their association with recidivism.

Those prior offences which occurred the most frequently tended
to be the best predictors of recidivism.   There are relatively
strong relationships of larceny and illegal use, and breaking
offences with degree of recidivism.   There are also significant
tau correlations for prior assault, sex offences other than
rape, fraud or receiving, driving offences, and "other serious
offences."

TABLE 33:   PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD

PRIOR OFFENCE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL	γ
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT		
HOMICIDE	%	0	0	0	0	0	–
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	
ASSAULT	%	26.3	18.2	12.1	43.4	39.8	.21***
	(n)	(26)	(18)	(12)	(43)	(99)	
RAPE	%	0	33.3	0	66.7	1.2	–
	(n)	(0)	(1)	(0)	(2)	(3)	
OTHER SEX	%	24.0	8.0	20.0	48.0	10.0	.07*
	(n)	(6)	(2)	(5)	(12)	(25)	
ROBBERY	%	30.8	15.4	15.4	38.5	5.2	.02
	(n)	(4)	(2)	(2)	(5)	(13)	
BREAKING OFFENCES	%	22.5	17.6	13.7	46.1	41.0	.26***
	(n)	(23)	(18)	(14)	(47)	(102)	
LARCENY OR ILLEGAL USE	%	23.8	16.8	16.1	43.4	57.4	.33***
	(n)	(34)	(24)	(23)	(62)	(143)	
FRAUD OR RECEIVING	%	18.2	18.2	9.1	54.5	13.3	.14**
	(n)	(6)	(6)	(3)	(18)	(33)	
DRINKING OFFENCE	%	36.8	15.8	15.8	31.6	15.3	.01
	(n)	(14)	(6)	(6)	(12)	(38)	
DRUG OFFENCE	%	50.0	0	0	50.0	0.8	–
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(2)	
DRIVING OFFENCE	%	20.5	16.4	24.7	38.4	29.3	.22***
	(n)	(15)	(12)	(18)	(28)	(73)	
OTHER SERIOUS	%	25.0	11.4	11.4	52.3	17.7	.16**
	(n)	(11)	(5)	(5)	(23)	(44)	
ESCAPE PRISON	%	15.4	7.7	23.1	53.8	5.2	–
	(n)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(7)	(13)	
ESCAPE YTC	%	11.8	23.5	17.6	47.1	6.8	–
	(n)	(2)	(4)	(3)	(8)	(17)	
ALL ASSAULTERS	%	37.3	18.9	12.4	31.3	100.0	
	(n)	(93)	(47)	(31)	(78)	(249)	

'γ' denotes the kendall tau correlation, *=p<.05, **=p<.01, ***=p<.001

their dangerousness. However, dangerousness of weapons is not significantly correlated with any of the indices of recidivism.

TABLE 37:   WEAPON USED

WEAPON		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
COMBINATION OF	%	66.7	11.1	11.1	11.1	10.0
WEAPONS	(n)	(6)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(9)
GUN	%	62.9	20.0	8.6	8.6	38.9
FIRED	(n)	(22)	(7)	(3)	(3)	(35)
SHARP	%	88.2	0	5.9	5.9	18.9
INSTRUMENT	(n)	(15)	(0)	(1)	(1)	(17)
BLUNT	%	80.0	20.0	0	0	11.1
INSTRUMENT	(n)	(8)	(2)	(0)	(0)	(10)
KICK, PUNCH	%	53.3	20.0	6.7	20.0	16.7
	(n)	(8)	(3)	(1)	(3)	(15)
STRANGLE	%	75.0	25.0	0	0	4.4
	(n)	(3)	(1)	(0)	(0)	(4)
BURN	%	0	0	0	0	0
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
ARMED	%	0	0	0	0	0
THREAT	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
UNARMED	%	0	0	0	0	0
THREAT	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
COLUMN	%	68.9	15.6	6.7	8.9	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(62)	(14)	(6)	(8)	(90)

3.8.6   Number of Accomplices

Twenty-four percent had one of more accomplices at the time of their offence (Table 38). There is, however, no association between number of accomplices and recidivism.

is expected that the information available about the characteristics
of the crime is biased in the direction of including a relatively
high proportion of the more serious offences.

3.8.1   Number of Victims

The number of victims was recorded in 113 cases and in 79 percent
of these there was only one recorded victim at the time of the
criterion conviction (Table 34). Those with more than one victim
were slightly more likely to commit a further non-violent offence
following release, with 54 percent being convicted of non-violent
offences, compared with 31 percent of those with only one recorded
victim.

TABLE 34:   NUMBER OF VICTIMS

NUMBER OF VICTIMS		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
1	%	38.2	19.1	12.4	30.3	78.8
	(n)	(34)	(17)	(11)	(27)	(89)
2 OR MORE	%	16.7	25.0	29.2	29.2	21.2
	(n)	(4)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(24)
COLUMN	%	33.6	20.4	15.9	30.1	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(38)	(23)	(18)	(34)	(113)

T = .11, p < .1

The number of victims is significantly correlated with time
before being convicted of a non-violent offence (r = .18), but
not with the other indices of recidivism.

3.8.2   Sex of Victims

In three-quarters of the known cases the victims were males only,
and in a further 3 percent there were both male and female victims.
In just over one-fifth of the cases there were female victims only.
There is a slightly higher rate of recidivism where the victim was
male, with 71 percent reconvictions, compared with 48 percent re-
convictions where the victim was female.

TABLE 35: SEX OF VICTIMS

SEX		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
MALE	%	29.1	23.3	14.0	33.7	75.4
	(n)	(25)	(20)	(12)	(29)	(86)
FEMALE	%	52.0	8.0	20.0	20.0	21.9
	(n)	(13)	(2)	(5)	(5)	(25)
BOTH	%	0	33.3	66.7	0	2.6
	(n)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(0)	(3)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	33.3	20.2	16.7	29.8	100.0
	(n)	(38)	(23)	(19)	(34)	(114)

3.8.3 Relationship of the Victim to the Offender

The relationship of the victim to the offender was originally
coded into 33 categories based on the categorisation system
used by Dr Alan Bartholomew, the Psychiatrist-in-Charge of the
psychiatric clinic at Pentridge Prison, in a large-scale study
of the characteristics of people charged with murder.

To study the relationship between "social closeness" of the
victim to the offender and recidivism, the relationship of the
victim to the offender was recoded into a scale from very dis-
tant to very close, as below:-

1   -   complete stranger;

2   -   acquaintance;

3   -   drinking friend, prison officer, neighbour,
          business partner, employer or employee;

4   -   friend, landlord/lady, boarder;

5   -   grandparents, parents-in-law, brother or sister-
          in-law, son/daughter-in-law, de facto's spouse,
          de facto's relations, fiancee's relations, lover,
          fiancee;

6 - homosexual friend, lover, fiancee;

7 - parent, spouse, sibling, son or daughter, stepson/
daughter, stepfather/mother, guardian, de facto
wife, stepbrother/sister, de facto's child.

Those who were relatively close to their victim tend to have a
longer time before being convicted of a non-violent offence
(r = .18). But there are no significant correlations with the
other indices of recidivism.

The cross-tabulation of relationship of victim by degree of
recidivism, shows that in the majority of cases (60 percent) the
victim was a stranger. In 8 percent of known cases the victim
was a wife or lover.

TABLE 36: RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM

RELATIONSHIP		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
WIFE OR	%	55.6	0	0	44.4	7.7
LOVER	(n)	(5)	(0)	(0)	(4)	(9)
RELATIVE,	%	57.1	42.9	0	0	6.0
IN-LAW	(n)	(4)	(3)	(0)	(0)	(7)
SON OR	%	50.0	0	50.0	0	1.7
DAUGHTER	(n)	(1)	(0)	(1)	(0)	(2)
NEIGHBOUR OR	%	42.9	0	28.6	28.6	6.0
WORKMATE	(n)	(3)	(0)	(2)	(2)	(7)
ACQUAINTANCE	%	23.1	23.1	23.1	30.8	11.1
	(n)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(4)	(13)
FRIEND	%	33.3	22.2	0	44.4	7.7
	(n)	(3)	(2)	(0)	(4)	(9)
STRANGER	%	27.1	22.9	18.6	31.4	59.8
	(n)	(19)	(16)	(13)	(22)	(70)
COLUMN	%	32.5	20.5	16.2	30.8	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(38)	(24)	(19)	(36)	(117)

3.8.4   Weapon Used

The type of weapon used to cause injury is shown in Table 37.
Of the known cases, just over half (51 percent) involved kicking
or punching and in 24 percent of the cases there was a sharp
instrument involved (usually a knife).   A gun being fired was
the method of injury in 7 percent of the cases.

There is no clear relationship between weapon used and degree of
recidivism as revealed by the cross-tabulation.

TABLE 37:   WEAPON USED

WEAPON		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
COMBINATION OF	%	28.6	28.6	14.3	28.6	6.1
WEAPONS	(n)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(7)
GUN	%	37.5	25.0	12.5	25.0	7.0
FIRED	(n)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(8)
SHARP	%	42.9	14.3	21.4	21.4	24.3
INSTRUMENT	(n)	(12)	(4)	(6)	(6)	(28)
BLUNT	%	25.0	12.5	25.0	37.5	7.0
INSTRUMENT	(n)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(8)
KICK,	%	28.8	22.0	13.6	35.6	51.3
PUNCH	(n)	(17)	(13)	(8)	(21)	(59)
STRANGLE	%	0	0	0	100.0	0.9
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(1)
BURN	%	100.0	0	0	0	0.9
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(1)
ARMED	%	0	0	0	0	0
THREAT	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
UNARMED	%	33.3	33.3	33.3	0	2.6
THREAT	(n)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(0)	(3)
COLUMN	%	33.0	20.0	16.5	30.4	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(38)	(23)	(19)	(35)	(115)

For the purposes of calculating the correlations with the four
indices of recidivism the weapons used were coded in terms of
their dangerousness. However, dangerousness of weapons is not
significantly correlated with any of the indices of recidivism.

3.8.5   Degree of Injury

Of those cases in which the injury was recorded, just over half
(54 percent) involved serious permanent damage. The remainder
involved minor or not permanent damage, including 6 percent which
were recorded as involving psychological rather than physical
damage.

According to the definition of serious assault, which was the
criterion offence for this study, all the victims should have
received actual bodily harm rather than psychological injury.
However, in many cases the estimate of damage was based on the
prisoner case history files or the probation and parole files.
In these cases the estimated amount of injury is often based
on the offenders' reports to the interviewing officer, which
might obviously be biased.

There is a higher level of recidivism in those cases where the
injury to the victim was recorded as relatively minor, with
75 percent of this category being reconvicted; compared with
those cases where the injury was recorded as being severe, with
62 percent of this latter group being reconvicted. This differ-
ence is primarily due to a higher level of convictions for
violent offences among the former group (Table 38).

For the purpose of calculating the product moment correlation
with recidivism, psychological damage was recoded as "no
physical damage" to create a scale of physical injury. The
degree of injury was significantly correlated with crime score
$(r = .24)$ and time spent in prison following release $(r = .18)$.

TABLE 38:   DEGREE OF INJURY

INJURY		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
DEATH	%	0	0	0	0	0
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
SERIOUS	%	38.3	20.0	15.0	26.7	54.1
	(n)	(23)	(12)	(9)	(16)	(60)
MINOR	%	25.0	18.2	15.9	40.9	39.6
	(n)	(11)	(8)	(7)	(18)	(44)
MINOR PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY	%	75.0	0	25.0	0	3.6
	(n)	(3)	(0)	(1)	(0)	(4)
SEVERE PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY	%	0	33.3	33.3	33.3	2.7
	(n)	(0)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(3)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	33.3	18.9	16.2	31.5	100.0
	(n)	(37)	(21)	(18)	(35)	(111)

3.8.6   Number of Accomplices

Of the recorded cases 30 percent of the assault group had one or more accomplices (Table 39).   There is no significant relationship between the number of accomplices and recidivism.

TABLE 39:   NUMBER OF ACCOMPLICES

NUMBER OF ACCOMPLICES		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
0	%	32.1	17.9	17.9	32.1	70.3
	(n)	(25)	(14)	(14)	(25)	(78)
1	%	27.3	18.2	18.2	36.4	9.9
	(n)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(4)	(11)
2	%	66.7	33.3	0	0	5.4
	(n)	(4)	(2)	(0)	(0)	(6)
3 OR MORE	%	31.3	25.0	12.5	31.3	14.4
	(n)	(5)	(4)	(2)	(5)	(16)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	33.3	19.8	16.2	30.6	100.0
	(n)	(37)	(22)	(18)	(34)	(111)

$T = -.06$,   NS

3.8.7 Degree of Premeditation

In 70 percent of known cases the assault was classified as "impetuous unprovoked violence", and a further 10 percent as "provoked violence" (Table 40). There is no significant correlation between degree of premeditation and any of the indices of recidivism.

TABLE 40: DEGREE OF PREMEDITATION

DEGREE OF PREMEDITATION		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
CRIME AND VIOLENCE PLANNED	%	44.4	11.1	11.1	33.3	7.8
	(n)	(4)	(1)	(1)	(3)	(9)
CRIME ONLY PLANNED	%	0	50.0	0	50.0	1.7
	(n)	(0)	(1)	(0)	(1)	(2)
VIOLENCE PLANNED A SHORT TIME AHEAD	%	62.5	12.5	0	25.0	7.0
	(n)	(5)	(1)	(0)	(2)	(8)
IMPETUOUS UNPRO- VOKED VIOLENCE	%	31.3	18.8	20.0	30.0	69.6
	(n)	(25)	(15)	(16)	(24)	(80)
PROVOKED VIOLENCE	%	25.0	25.0	16.7	33.3	10.4
	(n)	(3)	(3)	(2)	(4)	(12)
IMPETUOUS CRIME NO VIOLENCE	%	50.0	0	0	50.0	1.7
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(2)
INJURY ACCIDENTAL	%	0	100.0	0	0	1.7
	(n)	(0)	(2)	(0)	(0)	(2)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	33.0	20.0	16.5	30.4	100.0
	(n)	(38)	(23)	(19)	(35)	(115)

T = .05, NS

3.8.8 Motive

A wide range of motives was ascribed to the assaulters. Of those on whom information was available, 39 percent were coded as "indiscriminate" and a further 30 percent as "argument" (Table 41). The fineness of the categorisation makes it difficult to generalise. However, those who were categorised as "indiscriminate" appeared to

have a relatively high rate of recidivism, with 74 percent being convicted of further offences, including 37 percent for violent offences.

TABLE 41: MOTIVE

MOTIVE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
GAIN	%	50.0	25.0	25.0	0	3.6
	(n)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(0)	(4)
SEX	%	0	50.0	50.0	0	1.8
	(n)	(0)	(1)	(1)	(0)	(2)
FUN	%	28.6	28.6	0	42.9	6.3
	(n)	(2)	(2)	(0)	(3)	(7)
REVENGE	%	66.7	0	0	33.3	2.7
	(n)	(2)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(3)
AGGRIEVED LOVE	%	100.0	0	0	0	0.9
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(1)
ARGUMENT	%	42.4	18.2	9.1	30.3	29.7
	(n)	(14)	(6)	(3)	(10)	(33)
ANGER	%	33.3	16.7	16.7	33.3	5.4
	(n)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(6)
ESCAPE	%	25.0	0	50.0	25.0	3.6
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(2)	(1)	(4)
INDISCRIMINATE	%	25.6	11.6	25.6	37.2	38.7
	(n)	(11)	(5)	(11)	(16)	(43)
DEPRESSION	%	0	50.0	0	50.0	1.8
	(n)	(0)	(1)	(0)	(1)	(2)
SELF-DEFENCE	%	100.0	0	0	0	1.8
	(n)	(2)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(2)
ACCIDENT	%	0	75.0	0	25.0	3.6
	(n)	(0)	(3)	(0)	(1)	(4)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	33.3	18.0	17.5	31.5	100.0
	(n)	(37)	(20)	(19)	(35)	(111)

3.8.9   Alcohol at the Time of the Offence

Of the recorded cases 61 percent were coded as having consumed
alcohol at the time of the offence.   This group had a higher
level of recidivism, with 73 percent being reconvicted, including
34 percent for violent offences.   In contrast, for those not
recorded as having consumed alcohol, there were 56 percent re-
convictions, including 28 percent for violent offences (Table 42).
The significant relationship between alcohol consumption and
degree of recidivism is not reflected in significant correlations
between alcohol consumption and any of the four indices of re-
cidivism.

TABLE 42:   ALCOHOL USE AT TIME OF OFFENCE

ALCOHOL USE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NONE	%	43.5	21.7	6.5	28.3	39.3
	(n)	(20)	(10)	(3)	(13)	(46)
ALCOHOL USED	%	26.8	16.9	22.5	33.8	60.7
	(n)	(19)	(12)	(16)	(24)	(71)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	33.3	18.8	16.2	31.6	100.0
	(n)	(39)	(22)	(19)	(37)	(117)

T = .18, p < .05

3.8.10   Drug Use at the Time of the Offence

Only 3 percent of the assault group were reported as having
used drugs (excluding alcohol) at the time of the offence.
The number of drug users in this group is too small for re-
liable inferences to be made about the association with re-
cidivism.

There has been an apparent increase in the consumption of illicit
drugs in Australia since the period during which the criterion
offences of the assault group were committed.   Consequently, the
proportion using illicit drugs would probably be higher for current
convictions.

TABLE 43:   DRUG USE AT TIME OF OFFENCE

DRUG USE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NONE	%	34.2	19.3	15.8	30.7	97.4
	(n)	(39)	(22)	(18)	(35)	(114)
DRUGS USED	%	0	0	33.3	66.7	2.6
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	33.3	18.8	16.2	31.6	100.0
	(n)	(39)	(22)	(19)	(37)	(117)

$T = .06$, NS

3.8.11 Amount Stolen at the Time of the Offence

Only 4 percent of the assault group were recorded as having stolen money at the time of the offence.   With this percentage it is not possible to establish any reliable relationship with recidivism. Usually, where the assault was associated with theft of money the offender would have been charged with robbery.

TABLE 44:   AMOUNT STOLEN

AMOUNT		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NONE	%	37.7	18.4	11.7	32.2	96.0
	(n)	(90)	(44)	(28)	(77)	(239)
UP TO $100	%	40.0	40.0	0	20.0	2.0
	(n)	(2)	(2)	(0)	(1)	(5)
$100 TO $1000	%	0	33.3	66.7	0	1.2
	(n)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(0)	(3)
ABOVE $1000	%	50.0	0	50.0	0	0.8
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(1)	(0)	(2)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	37.3	18.9	12.4	31.3	100.0
	(n)	(93)	(47)	(31)	(78)	(249)

$T = -.02$, NS

3.8.12 Number of Convictions at the Same Time as the Criterion Offence

Forty-six percent of the assault group were convicted of other offences at the same time as their conviction for serious assault. The number of convictions at the same time is significantly related to degree of recidivism.

Eighty-one percent of those who were convicted of three or more offences at the same time were reconvicted, including 40 percent for violent offences. In contrast, 55 percent of those with just one conviction were reconvicted, including 30 percent for violent offences (Table 45).

The number of offences at the same time as the criterion conviction is significantly correlated with the time before being convicted of a non-violent offence $(r = .20)$, but not with the other indices of recidivism.

TABLE 45: NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS AT THE SAME TIME AS CRITERION CONVICTION

NUMBER		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
1	%	44.4	19.3	6.7	29.6	54.2
	(n)	(60)	(26)	(9)	(40)	(135)
2	%	38.6	21.1	14.0	26.3	22.9
	(n)	(22)	(12)	(8)	(15)	(57)
3 OR MORE	%	19.3	15.8	24.6	40.4	22.9
	(n)	(11)	(9)	(14)	(23)	(57)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	37.3	18.9	12.4	31.3	100.0
	(n)	(93)	(47)	(31)	(78)	(249)

$T = .16$, $p < .005$

3.9 Sentence Characteristics

In this section the characteristics of the sentence undergone by the assault group as a result of their conviction for serious assault are examined. For type and length of maximum and minimum sentences, the information is usually available for all

the group. However, specific details of the sentence are only available for the youth trainees and for the classified prisoners.

3.9.1 Type of Sentence

Twelve percent were sentenced to youth training centre and the rest received prison sentences (Table 46). None were sent to psychiatric institutions outside of the normal prison system (although some may have spent time in the psychiatric clinic at Pentridge Prison).

The level of recidivism is slightly higher for those who had been sentenced to youth training centre compared with those who had been sentenced to prison. The effect is particularly marked with respect to convictions for violent offences, with 45 percent of the youth trainees being reconvicted of violent offences, compared with 29 percent of the prisoners.

TABLE 46: TYPE OF SENTENCE

TYPE OF SENTENCE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
YOUTH TRAIN- ING CENTRE	% (n)	31.0 (9)	13.8 (4)	10.3 (3)	44.8 (13)	11.7 (29)
PRISON	% (n)	38.5 (84)	19.3 (42)	12.8 (28)	29.4 (64)	88.3 (218)
PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTION	% (n)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
COLUMN TOTAL	% (n)	37.7 (93)	18.6 (46)	12.6 (31)	31.2 (77)	100.0 (247)

$$T = -.06, \quad p < .1$$

3.9.2 Length of Maximum Sentence

All the assault group received sentences which had a stipulated maximum length. The length of maximum sentence refers to the total maximum sentence received for all the offences at the time of the conviction for assault, and is given in Table 47.

The average maximum length of sentence of the assault group was
11½ months which is much shorter than the average sentences re-
ceived by those convicted of robbery, rape or homicide. Sixty-
two percent of the assaulters had sentences of one year or less
(Table 47).

There is no significant relationship between maximum length of
sentence and recidivism.

TABLE 47:   MAXIMUM SENTENCE

MAXIMUM SENTENCE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
UP TO 1 YEAR	%	37.3	19.6	9.8	33.3	62.4
	(n)	(57)	(30)	(15)	(51)	(153)
1 TO 2 YEARS	%	33.3	20.8	12.5	33.3	19.6
	(n)	(16)	(10)	(6)	(16)	(48)
2 TO 3 YEARS	%	42.1	21.1	15.8	21.1	7.8
	(n)	(8)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(19)
3 TO 4 YEARS	%	46.7	6.7	26.7	20.0	6.1
	(n)	(7)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(15)
4 TO 6 YEARS	%	40.0	20.0	30.0	10.0	4.1
	(n)	(4)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(10)
6 OR MORE YEARS	%	0	0	0	0	0
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	37.6	19.2	12.7	30.6	100.0
	(n)	(92)	(47)	(31)	(75)	(245)

$T = -.04$,   NS

3.9.3   Minimum Sentence

All offenders sentenced to youth training centre have their
sentences reviewed with a possibility of parole within nine
months of being sentenced.   Sentences of less than nine months
are not usually considered for parole.

For offenders sentenced to prison there is a different system.
Where the sentence of imprisonment is two years or more, the
court must fix a minimum sentence unless it considers it in-
appropriate, and where the sentence is 12 months or more, and
is less than two years, the court may give a minimum sentence.
The minimum terms must be at least six months less than the
total sentence.

Table 48 shows that most (62 percent) of the assault group were
recorded as not having minimum sentences.   Twenty-two percent
were recorded as having a specific minimum sentence.

This latter group as well as some of the youth trainees would be
considered for parole.   Certain types of information collected for
this study are only relevant to, or available for, those who were
considered for parole.

TABLE 48:   WHETHER A MINIMUM SENTENCE GIVEN

MINIMUM SENTENCE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NO MINIMUM	%	37.7	18.2	11.7	32.5	61.8
SENTENCE	(n)	(58)	(28)	(18)	(50)	(154)
MINIMUM	%	41.1	19.6	17.9	21.4	22.5
GIVEN	(n)	(23)	(11)	(10)	(12)	(56)
YOUTH TRAIN-	%	32.1	14.3	10.7	42.9	11.2
ING CENTRE	(n)	(9)	(4)	(3)	(12)	(28)
NOT	%	27.3	36.4	0	36.4	4.4
KNOWN	(n)	(3)	(4)	(0)	(4)	(11)
COLUMN	%	37.3	18.9	12.4	31.3	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(93)	(47)	(31)	(78)	(249)

There is not a lot of difference in the recidivism rates of
those with minimum sentences compared with those without, al-
though there is a slight tendency for those with minimum sent-
ences to have a lower rate of reconviction for violent offences.

The length of minimum sentence is presented in Table 49. This
applies only to those prisoners who were given a specific mini-
mum sentence. About half the minimum sentences were under
one year. There is no strong relationship between length of
minimum sentence and degree of recidivism, but the numbers are
not large enough for reliable inferences.

TABLE 49: LENGTH OF MINIMUM SENTENCE

MINIMUM SENTENCE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
UP TO 1 YEAR	%	48.1	25.9	3.7	22.2	48.2
	(n)	(13)	(7)	(1)	(6)	(27)
1 TO 2 YEARS	%	29.4	17.6	29.4	23.5	30.4
	(n)	(5)	(3)	(5)	(4)	(17)
2 TO 3 YEARS	%	33.3	11.1	44.4	11.1	16.1
	(n)	(3)	(1)	(4)	(1)	(9)
3 TO 4 YEARS	%	100.0	0	0	0	3.6
	(n)	(2)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(2)
4 TO 6 YEARS	%	0	0	0	100.0	1.8
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(1)
6 OR MORE YEARS	%	0	0	0	0	0
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	41.1	19.6	17.9	21.4	100.0
	(n)	(23)	(11)	(10)	(12)	(56)

$T = -.10$, NS

3.9.4 Time Inside During Criterion Sentence

In some cases, usually of offenders serving short sentences, the exact date of release was not known, and an estimate was made using information on the length of sentence.

Over half (56 percent) of the assault group served six months or less and a further quarter served between six and 12 months (Table 50). Those who served between six and 12 months had a higher recidivism rate, with 73 percent being reconvicted, including 40 percent for violent offences. In comparison, those who served less than six months had 55 percent reconvictions, with 30 percent for violent offences.

However, the time spent in custody during sentence is not significantly correlated with any of the four indices of recidivism.

TABLE 50: TIME INSIDE DURING SENTENCE

TIME		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
UP TO 6	%	44.5	17.5	8.0	29.9	56.4
MONTHS	(n)	(61)	(24)	(11)	(41)	(137)
6 TO 12	%	27.0	19.0	14.3	39.7	25.9
MONTHS	(n)	(17)	(12)	(9)	(25)	(63)
1 TO 2	%	30.6	19.4	25.0	25.0	14.8
YEARS	(n)	(11)	(7)	(9)	(9)	(36)
2 TO 3	%	40.0	0	40.0	20.0	2.1
YEARS	(n)	(2)	(0)	(2)	(1)	(5)
3 TO 4	%	100.0	0	0	0	0.4
YEARS	(n)	(1)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(1)
4 TO 6	%	0	0	0	100.0	0.4
YEARS	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(1)
6 OR MORE	%	0	0	0	0	0
YEARS	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
COLUMN	%	37.9	17.7	12.8	31.7	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(92)	(43)	(31)	(77)	(243)

$$T = .08, \ p < .05$$

3.9.5   Type of Institution for Most of Sentence

In Victoria all offenders sent to prison for serious offences
(and nearly all other prisoners) are first sent to Pentridge
Prison, which is a high-security prison.   Many of the shorter-
term prisoners remain there.   Also, a variety of other pri-
soners are kept in Pentridge, including prisoners regarded as
high-security risks, and ones subject to psychiatric treatment.
The other prisons are medium security, except for four prisons
which were coded as minimum security.   These were the reforesta-
tion prisons of Won Wron and Morwell River, and the prison
farms of Cooriemungle, which is now closed, and Dhurringile.

All the youth training centres, with the exception of one section
of Turana, are minimum security institutions.   Trainees who
escape from youth training centres or offend in other ways, are
frequently transferred to prison to complete their sentence.

Data of type of prison is available only for those prisoners who
have been classified.   However, the non-classified prisoners
generally remain in Pentridge Prison for the duration of their
sentence.

Of the classified prisoners, those who remained in Pentridge
had a slightly higher rate of reconviction for violent offences;
whereas those who spent most of their sentence in medium or
minimum security prisons had a higher rate of reconviction for
non-violent offences (Table 51).   But the results are far
from clear-cut.

To obtain correlations with recidivism, the security level of
the prisons was coded from 1 = high security to 3 = minimum
security, and the youth trainees were excluded from the analysis.

Level of prison security is correlated at a level approaching
statistical significance with the amount of time spent in prison
following release ($r = .19$): high security being associated with
spending more time in prison following release.

TABLE 51:   PRISON OR YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE FOR MOST OF SENTENCE

INSTITUTION		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
YOUTH TRAIN-	%	33.3	16.7	12.5	37.5	18.6
ING CENTRE	(n)	(8)	(4)	(3)	(9)	(24)
PENTRIDGE	%	35.7	11.9	16.7	35.7	32.6
(HIGH SECURITY)	(n)	(15)	(5)	(7)	(15)	(42)
MEDIUM	%	26.7	26.7	20.0	26.7	23.3
SECURITY	(n)	(8)	(8)	(6)	(8)	(30)
LOW	%	33.3	24.2	15.2	27.3	25.6
SECURITY	(n)	(11)	(8)	(5)	(9)	(33)
COLUMN	%	32.6	19.4	16.3	31.8	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(42)	(25)	(21)	(41)	(129)

3.9.6   Institution for the Last Part of the Sentence

The data for the institution for the last part of the sentence were treated in a similar way to those for most of the sentence. A smaller proportion of the classified prisoners spent the last part of their sentence in the high-security Pentridge Prison and a correspondingly higher proportion were in the medium-security prisons (Table 52).

The findings concerning recidivism are similar to those for the institution for most of the sentence.   There is a significant correlation between level of security of prison for the last part of the sentence and amount of time spent in prison following release ($r = .21$), with high security being associated with longer periods of time in prison following reconviction.

TABLE 52:   PRISON OR YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE FOR LAST PART OF SENTENCE

INSTITUTION		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
YOUTH TRAIN- ING CENTRE	%	33.3	16.7	12.5	37.5	18.8
	(n)	(8)	(4)	(3)	(9)	(24)
PENTRIDGE (HIGH SECURITY)	%	33.3	11.1	22.2	33.3	21.1
	(n)	(9)	(3)	(6)	(9)	(27)
MEDIUM SECURITY	%	28.6	19.0	21.4	31.0	32.8
	(n)	(12)	(8)	(9)	(13)	(42)
LOW SECURITY	%	37.1	28.6	8.6	25.7	27.3
	(n)	(13)	(10)	(3)	(9)	(35)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	32.8	19.5	16.4	31.3	100.0
	(n)	(42)	(25)	(21)	(40)	(128)

3.9.7   Prisoner Security Rating

Classified prisoners are given a security rating of either "Mini-
mum", "Medium" or "Maximum" security.   This is usually given
when a prisoner arrives in prison and is possibly changed after
an escape attempt or other disturbance.   (A more complex system
of points is used by the prisoner classification committee as
an aid to allocating prisoners to different sections of the
prison system).

Fifty-five percent of the classified prisoners were categorised
as "Minimum" security and the rest (45 percent) were categorised
as "Medium".   (This corresponds to 75 percent of the robbery
group who were categorised as "Medium" security).   There is
no clear relationship between prisoner security rating and degree
of recidivism as indicated by the cross-tabulation (Table 53).
But prisoner security rating is significantly correlated with
time spent in prison following release (r = .24), with higher
security being associated with longer periods in prison.   However,
it is not significantly associated with any of the other indices
of recidivism.

TABLE 53: PRISONER SECURITY RATING

SECURITY RATING		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
MINIMUM	%	34.0	26.0	12.0	28.0	54.9
	(n)	(17)	(13)	(6)	(14)	(50)
MEDIUM	%	31.7	14.6	24.4	29.3	45.1
	(n)	(13)	(6)	(10)	(12)	(41)
MAXIMUM	%	0	0	0	0	0
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	33.0	20.9	17.6	28.6	100.0
	(n)	(30)	(19)	(16)	(26)	(91)

$\mathcal{T} = .07$, NS

3.9.8 Prison Conduct Rating

Every month classification prisoners are rated by a supervising prison officer on "Conduct", using five categories from "very good" to "poor". Prisoners serving less than six months if under 21 and less than one year if an adult, are not subject to classification and conduct ratings are not available.

The prison conduct rating for the year up to release was calculated by scoring the five categories on a five-point scale from 1 = "poor" to 5 = "very good" and adding the 12 scores giving a maximum conduct rating of 60 points. For those prisoners with relatively short sentences who had less than 12 conduct ratings the total scores were multiplied by the appropriate ratio (which is 12/n, where n is the number of ratings) to adjust the maximum possible score to 60.

There are significantly lower levels of recidivism for both violent and non-violent offences for those classified prisoners with relatively higher conduct scores. For those with conduct ratings below 50 there is an average recidivism of 78 percent,

including 42 percent for violent offences.   In contrast,
for those scoring 50 or above there is an average recidivism
rate of 60 percent, including 11 percent for violent offences.

TABLE 54:   PRISON CONDUCT RATING

CONDUCT RATING		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
UP TO 39	%	26.7	6.7	26.7	40.0	18.8
	(n)	(4)	(1)	(4)	(6)	(15)
40 TO 49	%	20.0	16.7	20.0	43.3	37.5
	(n)	(6)	(5)	(6)	(13)	(30)
50 TO 55	%	41.7	25.0	8.3	25.0	15.0
	(n)	(5)	(3)	(1)	(3)	(12)
56 TO 59	%	27.3	27.3	36.4	9.1	13.7
	(n)	(3)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(11)
60	%	50.0	33.3	8.3	8.3	15.0
	(n)	(6)	(4)	(1)	(1)	(12)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	30.0	20.0	20.0	30.0	100.0
	(n)	(24)	(16)	(16)	(24)	(80)

$$T = -.25, \quad p < .005$$

Prison conduct rating is significantly correlated with crime
score (r = .29) and time before being convicted of a violent
offence (r = .26). The correlations with time before being
convicted of a non-violent offence (r = .14) and time spent in
prison following release (r = .15) are in the same direction but
below an adequate level of statistical significance.

3.9.9   Remission

All but 9 percent of the classified prisoners received some
remission.   However, the amount of remission is not signifi-
cantly correlated with recidivism.

TABLE 55:   REMISSION

REMISSION		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NONE	%	57.1	14.3	0	28.6	9.2
	(n)	(4)	(1)	(0)	(2)	(7)
UP TO 4	%	35.5	22.6	16.1	25.8	40.8
WEEKS	(n)	(11)	(7)	(5)	(8)	(31)
4 TO 12	%	35.7	17.9	17.9	28.6	36.8
WEEKS	(n)	(10)	(5)	(5)	(8)	(28)
12 TO 26	%	37.5	37.5	25.0	0	10.5
WEEKS	(n)	(3)	(3)	(2)	(0)	(8)
26 WEEKS	%	50.0	0	50.0	0	2.6
OR MORE	(n)	(1)	(0)	(1)	(0)	(2)
COLUMN	%	38.2	21.1	17.1	23.7	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(29)	(16)	(13)	(18)	(76)

$\gamma = -.01$,   NS

3.9.10   Time Discharge Postponed

For breaches of prison regulations and minor offences while
in prison, prisoners may receive penalties, including post-
ponement of the date of discharge of their prison sentence.

Table 56 shows that the great majority (86 percent) of classi-
fied prisoners did not have their discharge postponed.   However,
those who did have their discharge postponed, had a very high
rate of recidivism.   All but one of the 11 classified prisoners
who had the date of their discharge postponed were convicted of
further offences following release.

The length of time that the discharge was postponed is signifi-
cantly correlated with crime score ($r = .23$), time before being
convicted of a non-violent offence ($r = .22$) and time spent in
prison following release ($r = .19$), but is not significantly
correlated with time before being convicted of a violent offence
($r = .05$).

TABLE 56: TIME DISCHARGE POSTPONED

DISCHARGE POSTPONED		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NONE	%	42.6	20.6	13.2	23.5	86.1
	(n)	(29)	(14)	(9)	(16)	(68)
SOME	%	9.1	18.2	45.5	27.3	13.9
	(n)	(1)	(2)	(5)	(3)	(11)
COLUMN	%	38.0	20.3	17.7	24.1	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(30)	(16)	(14)	(19)	(79)

$T = .17$, $p < .05$

3.9.11 Time in H Division

H division Pentridge Prison is the high-security/punishment section of the Victorian prison system.

Six of the classified prisoners (7 percent) were recorded as having spent some of their sentence in H division. All but one of the six were convicted of further offences following release (Table 57.

TABLE 57: TIME IN H DIVISION

TIME IN H DIVISION		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NONE	%	40.0	21.3	16.0	22.7	92.6
	(n)	(30)	(16)	(12)	(17)	(75)
SOME	%	16.7	16.7	16.7	50.0	7.4
	(n)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(3)	(6)
COLUMN	%	38.3	21.0	16.0	24.7	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(31)	(17)	(13)	(20)	(81)

$T = .10$, $p < .1$

There are relatively high correlations between the length of time spent in H division and crime score ($r = .36$), time before being convicted of a violent offence ($r = .25$) and time spent in prison following release ($r = .33$). The correlation with time before being convicted of a non-violent offence approaches statistical significance ($r = .17$).

Because of the small numbers of prisoners who spent time in H division, the assumptions on which the significance test is based are not completely satisfied and the exact level of significance should be interpreted conservatively.

3.9.12 Age on Conviction

The average age on conviction was just 26 years, with 31 percent being under 21 years of age. There is a significant tendency for those who were younger at the time of their conviction to be more likely to recidivate following release. Seventy-five percent of those who were under 21 years of age were reconvicted following release, compared with an average of 48 percent of those who were above 25 years of age.

TABLE 58: AGE ON CONVICTION

AGE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
UP TO 20 YEARS	%	25.4	25.4	11.9	37.3	31.3
	(n)	(17)	(17)	(8)	(25)	(67)
21 TO 25 YEARS	%	37.5	12.5	16.1	33.9	26.2
	(n)	(21)	(7)	(9)	(19)	(56)
26 TO 35 YEARS	%	56.6	17.0	3.8	22.6	24.8
	(n)	(30)	(9)	(2)	(12)	(53)
36 TO 50 YEARS	%	45.2	16.1	12.9	25.8	14.5
	(n)	(14)	(5)	(4)	(8)	(31)
ABOVE 50 YEARS	%	42.9	14.3	14.3	28.6	3.3
	(n)	(3)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(7)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	39.7	18.2	11.2	30.8	100.0
	(n)	(85)	(39)	(24)	(66)	(214)

$$T = -.15, \quad p < .005$$

Age on criterion conviction is significantly correlated with crime
score (r = .17), and time before being convicted of a violent
offence (r = .18), and non-violent offence (r = .23), but is not
correlated with time spent in prison following release (r = .03).

3.9.13 Age on Release

The relationship between age on release and recidivism is very
similar to that for age on conviction. This is to be expected
in view of the relatively short sentences received by most of
the assault group (Table 59).

TABLE 59: AGE ON RELEASE

AGE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
UP TO 20 YEARS	% (n)	25.0 (15)	25.0 (15)	10.0 (6)	40.0 (24)	27.5 (60)
21 TO 25 YEARS	% (n)	31.7 (20)	14.3 (9)	20.6 (13)	33.3 (21)	28.9 (63)
26 TO 35 YEARS	% (n)	54.7 (29)	18.9 (10)	3.8 (2)	22.6 (12)	24.3 (53)
36 TO 50 YEARS	% (n)	47.1 (16)	14.7 (5)	14.7 (5)	23.5 (8)	15.6 (34)
ABOVE 50	% (n)	37.5 (3)	12.5 (1)	12.5 (1)	37.5 (3)	3.7 (8)
COLUMN TOTAL	% (n)	38.1 (83)	18.3 (40)	12.4 (27)	31.2 (68)	100.0 (218)

T = -.15, $p < .005$

3.10 Parole Characteristics

Most of the characteristics in this section apply only to
prisoners who were eligible for parole.

3.10.1 Governors' and Superintendents' Predictions of Parole Success

About six weeks before being considered by the Parole Board for
parole release each prisoner with a minimum sentence is subject

to a report by the prison governor. In the case of a youth
trainee being considered by the Youth Parole Board, the report
is usually written by the youth training centre superintendent.
This report normally contains among other things an evaluation
of the prisoner's or trainee's chances of success or likelihood
of re-offence. This was coded on a nine-point scale from
"dangerous" to "excellent prospects" (see the coding manual).
To facilitate the presentation of results, this has been re-
coded into four evaluative categories which are shown in
Table 60 below.

TABLE 60:   GOVERNORS' OR SUPERINTENDENTS' PREDICTIONS OF PAROLE SUCCESS

LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
POOR	%	36.8	10.5	21.1	31.6	21.8
	(n)	(7)	(2)	(4)	(6)	(19)
POSSIBLE	%	17.4	8.7	21.7	52.2	26.4
	(n)	(4)	(2)	(5)	(12)	(23)
MODERATELY GOOD	%	27.8	16.7	22.2	33.3	20.7
	(n)	(5)	(3)	(4)	(6)	(18)
GOOD	%	51.9	25.9	3.7	18.5	31.0
	(n)	(14)	(7)	(1)	(5)	(27)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	34.5	16.1	16.1	33.3	100.0
	(n)	(30)	(14)	(14)	(29)	(87)

$$T = -.19, \quad p < .05$$

Of those being considered for parole 33 percent were coded
as falling into the five most negative categories from "danger-
ous" to "likely to fail" (which have been recoded into the cate-
gory denoted by "poor" in Table 60) and 31 percent as having
"good" or "excellent" prospects.

These assessments were less optimistic than those for the other
groups of violent offenders studied. For example, for the rape
group, 47 percent were coded as having "good" or "excellent"
prospects.

The governors' and superintendents' evaluations are related to
degree of recidivism at beyond the level expected by chance.
Sixty-three percent of those who were coded as having "poor"
prospects were reconvicted, compared with 48 percent of those
whose prospects were coded as "good".

The governors' and superintendents' predictions were correlated
at a level approaching statistical significance with time spent
in prison following release ($r = .20$).   The correlations with
the other indices of recidivism did not reach significance.

The governors' and superintendents' predictions were not as
accurate as for the other groups of violent offenders.

It is likely that the governors and superintendents were less
familiar with the assault group, since even those who were being
considered for parole typically had shorter sentences than the
other groups of violent offenders.

3.10.2   Parole Officers' Predictions of Parole Success

For each prisoner or youth trainee being considered for parole a
report is written by a parole officer, or, in the case of youth
trainees, by a youth parole officer.   Before writing the report
the parole officer will generally interview the prisoner and
discuss his work plans and his likely domestic situation on re-
lease.

In most cases the parole officer will make a codeable estimate of
the likelihood of re-offence if released.   These predictions
were coded on the present study using the same categories as for
the governors' or superintendents' estimates.

The predictions of the parole officers are rather similar to those
of the governors and superintendents.   However, for the assault
group (but not for all the groups of violent offenders) the pre-
dictions of the parole officers are somewhat more accurate.
Seventy-four percent of those coded as having "poor" prospects were
reconvicted, compared with 50 percent of the "good" prospects
group (Table 61).

TABLE 61:   PAROLE OFFICERS' PREDICTIONS

LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
POOR	%	26.1	13.0	13.0	47.8	27.1
	(n)	(6)	(3)	(3)	(11)	(23)
POSSIBLE	%	22.2	5.6	27.8	44.4	21.2
	(n)	(4)	(1)	(5)	(8)	(18)
MODERATELY GOOD	%	33.3	33.3	16.7	16.7	21.2
	(n)	(6)	(6)	(3)	(3)	(18)
GOOD	%	50.0	23.1	7.7	19.2	30.6
	(n)	(13)	(6)	(2)	(5)	(26)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	34.1	18.8	15.3	31.8	100.0
	(n)	(29)	(16)	(13)	(27)	(85)

$$T = -.26, \quad p < .005$$

The parole officers' predictions are significantly correlated with crime score (r = .24), time before being convicted of a non-violent offence (r = .23).   The correlation with time spent in prison approaches significance (r = .20), and that with time before being convicted of a violent offence (r = .15) is somewhat below.

3.10.3 Parole Decision

Of those who were eligible for parole, the majority (80 percent) were paroled at the first opportunity.   Only in two cases was parole denied (Table 62).

While the number having their parole deferred or denied is not large, there is a clear tendency for them to have a higher rate of·recidivism.   Seven of the nine whose parole was deferred or denied were reconvicted within five years of release.

TABLE 62: PAROLE DECISION

PAROLE DECISION		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
PAROLED AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY	%	41.8	21.8	14.5	21.8	24.0
	(n)	(23)	(12)	(8)	(12)	(55)
DEFERRED FOR LESS THAN 3 MONTHS	%	20.0	0	40.0	40.0	2.2
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(2)	(2)	(5)
DEFERRED FOR 3 MONTHS OR MORE	%	25.0	0	0	75.0	1.7
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(0)	(3)	(4)
PAROLE DENIED	%	0	50.0	0	50.0	0.9
	(n)	(0)	(1)	(0)	(1)	(2)
NOT APPLICABLE	%	38.0	17.8	12.3	31.9	71.2
	(n)	(62)	(29)	(20)	(52)	(163)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	38.0	18.3	13.1	30.6	100.0
	(n)	(87)	(42)	(30)	(70)	(229)

T = .25, p < .05

Tau is calculated with "Not Applicable" cases excluded.

Those who were not eligible for parole had a comparable rate of recidivism, compared with those who were eligible for parole.

The length of deferral of parole is not significantly correlated with any of the four indices of recidivism. This is likely to be due, at least in part, to the small numbers who had their parole deferred.

3.10.4 Special Conditions on Parole Order

Sixty percent of those released on parole were banned from alcohol as the sole special condition of their parole order. In addition one person was required to have psychiatric treatment and a further 8 percent had more than one condition, which usually included alcohol (Table 63).

Of those who had a ban on alcohol as the only condition of their
parole order, 70 percent were convicted of further offences, in-
cluding 37 percent of further violent offences.   In contrast,
36 percent of those with no further conditions on their parole
order were reconvicted, including 14 percent of violent offences.

TABLE 63:   SPECIAL CONDITIONS ON PAROLE ORDER

SPECIAL CONDITIONS		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NONE	%	63.6	22.7	0	13.6	30.1
	(n)	(14)	(5)	(0)	(3)	(22)
ALCOHOL	%	30.2	16.3	16.3	37.2	59.7
	(n)	(13)	(7)	(7)	(16)	(43)
PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT	%	100.0	0	0	0	1.4
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(1)
OTHER OR BOTH	%	0	16.7	66.7	16.7	8.3
	(n)	(0)	(1)	(4)	(1)	(6)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	38.9	18.1	15.3	27.8	100.0
	(n)	(28)	(13)	(11)	(20)	(72)

3.10.5   Length of Parole

Over half (58 percent) of the paroles were less than one year
in length.   There is no apparent relationship between length
of parole and level of recidivism.

TABLE 64: LENGTH OF PAROLE

LENGTH OF PAROLE		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
UP TO 6 MONTHS	% (n)	26.9 (7)	23.1 (6)	19.2 (5)	30.8 (8)	30.2 (26)
6 MONTHS TO 1 YEAR	% (n)	37.5 (9)	16.7 (4)	8.3 (2)	37.5 (9)	27.9 (24)
1 TO 2 YEARS	% (n)	53.8 (14)	11.5 (3)	15.4 (4)	19.2 (5)	30.2 (26)
2 TO 3 YEARS	% (n)	25.0 (2)	25.0 (2)	25.0 (2)	25.0 (2)	9.3 (8)
ABOVE 3 YEARS	% (n)	50.0 (1)	0 (0)	50.0 (1)	0 (0)	2.3 (2)
COLUMN TOTAL	% (n)	38.4 (33)	17.4 (15)	16.3 (14)	27.9 (24)	100.0 (86)

$\Upsilon = -.11$, NS

3.10.6 Domestic Situation Returned to on Release

The domestic situation on release was recorded for 96 of the assault group (mostly those who were released on parole, but sometimes this was recorded following s subsequent offence). Of these 58 percent went to live with their parents, and 16 percent with their wives or defacto. Although this latter group appeared to have a lower rate of recidivism, the numbers are not large enough for reliable generalisation. All of the five releasees who were recorded as. having gone to live with friends were reconvicted.

TABLE 65:   DOMESTIC SITUATION ON RELEASE

SITUATION		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
PARENTS	%	30.4	17.9	17.9	33.9	58.3
	(n)	(17)	(10)	(10)	(19)	(56)
WIFE OR DE FACTO	%	46.7	13.3	6.7	33.3	15.6
	(n)	(7)	(2)	(1)	(5)	(15)
OTHER FAMILY	%	42.9	28.6	0	28.6	7.3
	(n)	(3)	(2)	(0)	(2)	(7)
TRANSIENT, HOSTEL OR HOME	%	50.0	16.7	16.7	16.7	12.5
	(n)	(6)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(12)
HOSPITAL	%	0	0	100.0	0	1.0
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(0)	(1)
FRIENDS	%	0	0	20.0	80.0	5.2
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(4)	(5)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	34.4	16.7	15.6	33.3	100.0
	(n)	(33)	(16)	(15)	(32)	(96)

3.10.7   Parole Reporting

Parolees must report regularly during their parole period to a parole officer to whom they are assigned.   On the basis of the parole officers' written comments the parole reporting behaviour prior to any offence was coded wherever enough information was available.

Those whose reporting was recorded as being regular and with good co-operation had a lower rate of recidivism compared with those whose reporting was less regular and less co-operative.

All but one of the 13 parolees who were irregular in their parole reporting were reconvicted (Table 66).

TABLE 66: PAROLE REPORTING

REPORTING		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
IMMEDIATE	%	0	0	66.7	33.3	4.7
OFFENCE	(n)	(0)	(0)	(2)	(1)	(3)
IRREGULAR AND	%	0	25.0	50.0	25.0	6.3
PROBLEMS	(n)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(4)
IRREGULAR BUT	%	11.1	11.1	22.2	55.6	14.1
NO PROBLEMS	(n)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(5)	(9)
REGULAR & FAIRLY	%	35.3	8.8	14.7	41.2	53.1
CO-OPERATIVE	(n)	(12)	(3)	(5)	(14)	(34)
REGULAR AND	%	42.9	35.7	0	21.4	21.9
GOOD	(n)	(6)	(5)	(0)	(3)	(14)
COLUMN	%	29.7	15.6	17.2	37.5	100.0
TOTAL	(n)	(19)	(10)	(11)	(24)	(64)

$\tau = -.23$ p $<.02$

Tau is calculated with the "Immediate Offence"
cases excluded.

3.10.8 Job Plans on Release

As part of their parole plan, prisoners being considered for
parole discuss their future work plans with a parole officer.

Over half the parolees did not have a definite job to return to
on release, while a quarter intended to return to their old job
(Table 67). Those who planned to return to their old job had
the lowest level of recidivism, with 46 percent being reconvicted,
including 17 percent for violent offences.

The degree to which job plans were well formed is significantly
correlated with time before being convicted of a non-violent
offence ($r = .21$). The correlations with time spent in prison
following release ($r = .18$) and time before being convicted of a
violent offence ($r = .15$) are in the same direction.

TABLE 67: JOB PLANS ON RELEASE

PLANS		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NO JOB	%	22.2	0	44.4	33.3	9.6
OR PLAN	(n)	(2)	(0)	(4)	(3)	(9)
PLANS TO	%	31.6	13.2	21.1	34.2	40.4
LOOK	(n)	(12)	(5)	(8)	(13)	(38)
POSSIBLE	%	27.3	9.1	9.1	54.5	11.7
JOB	(n)	(3)	(1)	(1)	(6)	(11)
NEW JOB	%	16.7	25.0	16.7	41.7	12.8
	(n)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(5)	(12)
OLD JOB	%	54.2	25.0	4.2	16.7	25.5
	(n)	(13)	(6)	(1)	(4)	(24)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	34.0	16.0	17.0	33.0	100.0
	(n)	(32)	(15)	(16)	(31)	(94)

$$T = -.16, \quad p < .05$$

3.10.9 Stability of Work on Parole

The stability of employment of those who were on parole was usually recorded by the parole officer. Nearly half the parolees found a job within a short period of release and stayed in their job. This group had a slightly lower level of recidivism than the other groups with 59 percent being reconvicted. Of those who had left or lost their job, 83 percent were reconvicted. Although there are possible differences between the groups, there is no significant linear trend relating stability of work on release to recidivism.

TABLE 68:   STABILITY OF WORK ON PAROLE

WORK		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
NO JOB	%	25.0	0	50.0	25.0	12.1
	(n)	(2)	(0)	(4)	(2)	(8)
JOB AND LEFT	%	16.7	22.2	27.8	33.3	27.3
	(n)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(18)
LATE AND STAYED	%	25.0	12.5	0	62.5	12.1
	(n)	(2)	(1)	(0)	(5)	(8)
SOON AND STAYED	%	40.6	12.5	12.5	34.4	48.5
	(n)	(13)	(4)	(4)	(11)	(32)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	30.3	13.6	19.7	36.4	100.0
	(n)	(20)	(9)	(13)	(24)	(66)

T = -.10, NS

3.10.10 Type of Parole Breach

As indicated previously most of the assault group, unlike the other groups of violent offenders, did not have minimum sentences and were not eligible for parole.   Additionally, the average length of parole was relatively short compared with the other groups.

Of those released on parole, 16 percent were recorded as being in breach of parole.   In the majority of cases this was a result of conviction and not by cancellation due to breaches of parole conditions (Table 69).

TABLE 69: TYPE OF BREACH

TYPE OF BREACH		DEGREE OF RECIDIVISM				ROW TOTAL
		NONE	MINOR	PRISON	VIOLENT	
CONVICTION	%	0	22.2	33.3	44.4	3.7
	(n)	(0)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(9)
CANCELLATION	%	0	0	50.0	50.0	1.7
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(2)	(2)	(4)
NO BREACH	%	46.3	17.9	10.4	25.4	27.8
	(n)	(31)	(12)	(7)	(17)	(67)
NOT APPLICABLE	%	37.9	18.0	11.8	32.3	66.8
	(n)	(61)	(29)	(19)	(52)	(161)
COLUMN TOTAL	%	38.2	17.8	12.9	31.1	100.0
	(n)	(92)	(43)	(31)	(75)	(241)

4. SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

Social and criminal background information was collected relating to 249 men released from prison or youth training centre during 1972 and 1973 after having served sentences for serious assault. This comprised as far as possible all the people who were released from custodial sentences for serious assault in Victoria during the two years, other than those who had also been convicted at the same time for homicide, robbery or rape offences.

The information was analysed to determine the extent to which criminal activity over the five years following release could be predicted.

Summarised below are the main findings concerning: (1) the extent and pattern of recidivism, and (2) the personal characteristics which are predictors of recidivism. These are followed by: (3) a comparison of the assault group with the other groups of violent offenders, and (4) conclusions.

4.1 The Extent and Pattern of Recidivism of the Serious Assault Group

Sixty-five percent were convicted of at least one offence within five years to six years of release. Thirty-three percent were convicted of one or more violent offences, and there was an average of 0.68 violent offences per releasee. Sixty percent were convicted of one or more non-violent offences, with an average of 3.89 convictions for non-violent offences per releasee.

Since not all offences result in convictions, and convictions which occur interstate or overseas may not be recorded, these figures represent an underestimate of the actual amount of criminal activity.

Assault was the most common of the violent offences and 26 percent had convictions for one or more further assaults. Four percent had further recorded convictions for robbery. Four out of the 249 men released were later convicted of homicide and four of rape. Property and driving offences were the most common non-violent offences.

The rate of conviction drops off after time following release, particularly for non-violent crimes. Between the second and third year following release the rate of conviction is about half of that between the second and third years following release.

4.2   Personal Characteristics which are Predictors of Recidivism

A large number of the variables studied were significantly associated with recidivism. Of the 66 variables for which product moment correlations were calculated with recidivism, 32 were correlated with crime score, 23 with time before being convicted of a violent offence, 27 with time before being convicted of a non-violent offence, and 21 with time spent in prison following release as a result of a further conviction. In addition, other characteristics which were presented in cross-tabulation form also appear to be related to recidivism.

Although there are many variables which show a significant relationship, no one background factor is very strongly associated with recidivism. Even if we used an optimal combination of background information we would be wrong in our predictions of recidivism much of the time. At best, in practice, we could expect to make correct predictions about three times out of four.

The group of variables which, in general, were most strongly related to recidivism are those which are indicators of prior criminal activity. Interestingly, for the assault group further violent offences were about as predictable as non-violent offences; whereas for the other groups studied, non-violent offences were generally more predictable than violent offences.

One difficulty encountered is that in the case of the assault group much of the information about social background and prison behaviour was not available, since detailed files are not kept on non-classified prisoners. Other information such as various aspects of parole characteristics is only available for the minority of assaulters who were eligible for parole. It should also

be remembered that the information about recidivism relates to the
people who were convicted.   Offenders who manage not to be con-
victed are likely to differ from those who were.

A brief summary is presented below of the type of person who is
most likely to be reconvicted after being released from custody
after having served a sentence for serious assault.   No one
person is likely to fit this stereotype exactly, but those who are
closest to it are most at risk.

> Born in the state in which he was convicted; he is
> likely to have left school before reaching 15 years
> of age, and is occupationally unskilled with an
> irregular work record. If he came from a large
> family he is particularly likely to receive further
> convictions for violent offences. He is not married
> and does not have any children.
>
> He is likely to have had at least one prior conviction,
> possibly for a variety of offences.   At the time of
> his first conviction he is likely to have been under
> 16 years of age.   Following earlier misbehaviour he
> was made a ward of the state.   He has received several
> sentences for his offences, including probation and a
> period in a youth training centre, and a prison sentence.
> If he had aliases which are known to the police, he is
> particularly likely to recidivate.
>
> Shortly prior to his conviction he had been released
> from custody following a previous conviction.
>
> At the time of conviction he was under 21.   He is
> likely to have been convicted of other offences at the
> same time, and was convicted of offences against more
> than one victim.   The main victim was unlikely to be a
> relative or neighbour.   He is more likely to receive
> further convictions if the injury was described as
> minor.   He is likely to have been under the influence
> of alcohol.
>
> If he was sentenced to youth training centre he is par-
> ticularly likely to be reconvicted.
>
> If he were a classified prisoner he is likely to have
> received relatively low ratings for conduct during the
> last 12 months of the sentence.   He is likely to re-
> offend if, following breaches in prison regulations, he
> had his discharge postponed or spent some of his sentence
> in the maximum security/punishment division (H division)
> of Pentridge.
>
> If he were eligible for parole he was described as only
> a moderately good risk or likely to fail by the prison
> governor or youth training centre superintendent, and

and by the interviewing parole officer. However, the
number of prior convictions were better predictors than
these other estimates. Release on parole may have
been deferred. Parole conditions included a ban on
alcohol. If he went to live with friends, rather than
his parents or a wife, he was more likely to be recon-
victed. During parole, his reporting was not likely
to have been regular and very co-operative. Finally,
if he left or lost his job during the parole period
he was likely to be reconvicted.

4.3   Comparison of Assault Group with Other Groups of Violent Offenders

The recidivism levels for violent offenders released from custody

after having served sentences for robbery, rape, homicide or

serious assault are compared in Table 70.

TABLE 70

RECIDIVISM LEVELS FOR MEN RELEASED AFTER

SERVING SENTENCES FOR ROBBERY, RAPE, HOMICIDE

OR SERIOUS ASSAULT

Types of Subsequent Offence		Offence Group			
		Robbery N = 195	Rape N = 115	Homicide N = 105	Serious Assault N = 249
Violent	%	22.1	31.3	10.7	32.9
	M	0.40	0.56	0.19	0.68
	(S.D)	(0.91)	(1.02)	(0.67)	(1.25)
Non-violent	%	60.5	53.0	27.2	60.2
	M	3.72	2.89	1.24	3.89
	(S.D)	(7.05)	(4.51)	(3.24)	(6.14)
Any	%	63.1	58.3	30.1	65.1
	M	4.12	3.44	1.43	4.57
	(S.D)	(7.36)	(4.88)	(3.40)	(6.85)

Key: %   refers to the percentage of the group with
at least one subsequent conviction.

M   is the mean number of convictions over the
whole group.

(S.D) is the standard deviation of the convictions.

Of all the groups, the serious assault group can be seen to have the highest overall offence rate and the highest rate for violent offences. The rate for violent offences is slightly higher than for the rape group, which is the next highest. This holds both for the percentage being convicted of further offences and for the average number of offences.

In addition to being more dangerous following release, there is evidence that the serious assaulters caused, on average, more damage to their victims than those sentenced for robbery.

Yet, paradoxically, the average time spent in custody was under one year, and the majority were not subject to parole supervision following release.

Although the rate of recidivism, particularly for violent offences, tends to be higher for the serious assault group than those convicted of robbery or rape, a comparison of the characteristics which are predictive of recidivism indicates a remarkable number of similarities. Similarly, an examination of the types of offences following release indicates that none of the releasees are particularly likely to be convicted of the same offence again. For all the groups studied, property and driving offences tend to be far more common than further violent offences. In most cases the recidivists appear to be part of a sub-culture with general criminal tendencies, rather than being specifically robbers, rapists or serious assaulters.

4.4   Conclusions

This study and those of the other groups of violent offenders have provided a very detailed data base describing the characteristics of different groups of violent offenders, and the specific characteristics which are predictive of recidivism.

A full consideration of the implications of these findings is beyond the brief time and funds available for the study. However, much of the information will be useful to those concerned with developing criminological theory and making decisions about correctional policy.

The finding of the high rate of recidivism of further violent offences among those released from custody raised important issues concerning the treatment of assaulters in relation to other groups of offenders.

From the point of view of protecting society, it would be better to increase sentences and parole supervision for men convicted of serious assault and decrease sentences for those convicted of homicide. While there are other considerations involved in making decisions about sentencing and parole supervision, there is a clear case for reviewing the allocation of correctional resources.

The associations between employment and recidivism, as well as domestic situation on release, suggests that if parole supervision is to be effective it should provide support in these areas. Similarly, the finding that married releasees were less likely to re-offend, emphasises the importance of supportive social relationships in successful rehabilitation.

VIOLENT OFFENDERS RECIDIVISM STUDY

Summary of Information Coded

Date* of birth.
Country or State of Birth.
Race.
Number of aliases.
Age left school.
Grade reached at school.
Occupational status.
Stability of work experience prior to offence.
Length of employment (at the time of the offence).
Number of sisters (at the time of the offence).
Number of brothers (" ").
Marital status of parents (at the time of the offence).
Prior mental history.
Violent offender type.
Intelligence or mental disability (at the time of the offence).
Physical handicaps (at the time of the offence).
Home status (at the time of the offence).
Area of residence (at the time of the offence).
Marital status (" ").
Number of children (" ").
Date of conviction for criterion offence.
Type of sentence (e.g. YTC or prison).
Maximum length of sentence.
Minimum sentence.
Prison security rating.
Institution in which most of sentence served.
Institution in which last part of sentence served.
Conduct ratings in prison.
Remission.
Time discharge postponed.
Time in H-Division (high security/punishment division).
Parole decision (length of deferral or denial).
Special conditions on parole order.
Govenor's or superintendent's estimate of prisoner's prognosis
   on release (for YTC or maximum/minimum sentence cases).
Parole officer's estimate of prognosis.
Number of victims of criterion offence.
Sex of victims.
Relationship of most seriously injured victim to offender.
Instrument used to cause injury.
Degree of injury.
Number of accomplices.
Degree of premeditation.
Motive.
Influence of alcohol and drugs.
Domestic situation upon release.
Job obtained on release.
Stability of work during parole.
Parole reporting prior to any breach.
Date of release (for criterion offence).
Date of expiry of parole term.
Date of any parole breach.

---

* Year and nearest month only are coded for all dates.

Type of breach.
Previous ward.
Number of prior convictions.
Number of prior probation.
Number of prior probation breach.
Number of prior YTC sentences.
Number of prior prison sentences.
Age at first conviction.
Total time in prison or YTC prior to conviction for criterion
    offence.
Number of prior paroles.
Number of prior parole breach.
Escape history.
Number of prior homicides.
Number of prior assault.
Number of prior rape or attempted rapes.
Number of prior buggery or attempted.
Number of prior other sexual offence.
Number of prior robberies.
Number of prior breaking offence.
Number of prior larceny and illegal use.
Number of prior fraud or receiving.
Number of prior drink offences.
Number of prior motoring offences.
Number of prior other serious offences.
Date of last conviction before criterion and type of 3 most serious
    offences committed then.
Time spent in prison following last prior conviction.
Date of 2nd last conviction before criterion and type of 3 most
    serious offences committed then.
Time spent in prison following 2nd last prior conviction.
Number of offences committed at time of criterion.
Amount stolen during criterion offence.
Type of 3 most serious offence at time of criterion conviction.
Two most serious offences committed during prison sentence for
    criterion conviction.
Date of first conviction following release, type of 3 most serious
    offences committed then and time spent in prison.
Date of 2nd conviction following release, type of 3 most serious
    offences committed then and time spent in prison.
Date of 3rd conviction following release, type of 3 most serious
    offences committed then and time spent in prison.
Total number of other convictions, and total other time spent in
    prison following release for criterion offence.
Date of other most serious offence following release and type of
    3 most serious offences then.
Date of 1st prosecution following release not resulting in any
    prosecution, type of 2 most serious alleged offences.

****

APPENDIX II

TABLE I

NUMBERS OF RECORDED CONVICTIONS FOLLOWING RELEASE

ASSAULT GROUP

OFFENCE TYPE		NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS									
		NONE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 OR MORE
HOMICIDE	%	98.4	1.6								
	(n)	(245)	(4)								
ASSAULT	%	73.4	13.7	6.0	2.4	2.0	1.2	0.4			
	(n)	(185)	(34)	(15)	(6)	(5)	(3)	(1)			
RAPE	%	98.4	1.6								
	(n)	(245)	(4)								
OTHER SEX	%	98.0	0.8	0.4	0.8						
	(n)	(244)	(2)	(1)	(2)						
ROBBERY	%	96.4	3.2		0.4						
	(n)	(240)	(8)		(1)						
BURGLARY OR THEFT	%	74.7	12.9	6.0	2.8	2.8	0.4		0.4		
	(n)	(186)	(32)	(15)	(7)	(7)	(1)		(1)		
OTHER PROPERTY	%	88.0	8.8	2.0	0.8	0.4					
	(n)	(219)	(22)	(5)	(2)	(1)					
DRINK OR DRUGS	%	97.6	1.6	0.4	0.4						
	(n)	(243)	(4)	(1)	(1)						
DRIVING	%	74.7	6.0	9.2	7.2	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4	
	(n)	(186)	(15)	(23)	(18)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	
ESCAPE	%	98.8	1.2								
	(n)	(246)	(3)								
PAROLE BREACH	%	95.6	4.0	0.4							
	(n)	(238)	(10)	(1)							
OTHER SERIOUS	%	99.2	0.4	0.4							
	(n)	(247)	(1)	(1)							
OTHER	%	70.3	18.1	8.0	2.0	1.6					
	(n)	(175)	(45)	(20)	(5)	(4)					
DIED	%	100.0									
	(n)	(249)									
LEFT	%	98.8	1.2								
	(n)	(246)	(3)								

TABLE II 97

CONVICTION RATES OVER FIVE YEARS FOLLOWING RELEASE BY TYPE OF CRIME

ASSAULT GROUP

TYPE OF OFFENCE		PERIOD FOLLOWING RELEASE					TOTAL OFFENDERS	TOTAL OFFENCES
		1YR	1-2YRS	2-3YRS	3-4YRS	4-5YRS		
HOMICIDE	%	0.4	0	0	0.4	0.8	1.6	1.6
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(4)	(4)
ASSAULT	%	10.8	8.4	4.4	4.0	3.6	25.7	49.4
	(n)	(27)	(21)	(11)	(10)	(9)	(64)	(123)
RAPE	%	0.4	0	0.8	0	0.4	1.6	1.6
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(2)	(0)	(1)	(4)	(4)
OTHER SEX	%	0.8	0.8	0	0	0.4	2.0	4.0
	(n)	(2)	(2)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(5)	(10)
ROBBERY	%	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.4	0.8	3.6	4.4
	(n)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(9)	(11)
BURGLARY OR THEFT	%	11.6	8.8	5.6	3.2	2.8	25.3	49.4
	(n)	(29)	(22)	(14)	(8)	(7)	(63)	(123)
OTHER PROPERTY	%	4.0	3.2	4.4	0.8	1.2	12.0	16.9
	(n)	(10)	(8)	(11)	(2)	(3)	(30)	(42)
DRINK OR DRUGS	%	0.4	0	0.4	1.2	0.4	2.4	3.6
	(n)	(1)	(0)	(1)	(3)	(1)	(6)	(9)
DRIVING	%	6.8	8.8	5.2	5.2	4.0	25.3	63.1
	(n)	(17)	(22)	(13)	(13)	(10)	(63)	(157)
ESCAPE	%	0.4	0.4	0	0.4	0	1.2	1.2
	(n)	(1)	(1)	(0)	(1)	(0)	(3)	(3)
OTHER SERIOUS	%	0	0	0	0	0.8	0.8	1.2
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(2)	(2)	(3)
OTHER	%	12.0	8.0	7.6	4.4	3.6	29.7	46.6
	(n)	(30)	(20)	(19)	(11)	(9)	(74)	(116)
DIED	%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(n)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
LEFT STATE OR COUNTRY	%	1.2	0	0	0	0	1.2	1.2
	(n)	(3)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(3)	(3)

APPENDIX III

INDICES OF RECIDIVISM

To capture different notions of recidivism, and to partly compensate
for different errors of measurement, it is desirable to use several
indices of recidivism. By comparing the correlations between differ-
ent indices of recidivism the extent to which they are measuring
similar underlying constructs can be estimated.

Eight indices of recidivism were calculated in the present study
and are defined below:-

1. CRIME SCORE   - a measure of the total number of recorded
                           convictions following release with each
                           conviction weighted by the seriousness
                           of offence as estimated by the modi-
                           fied Normandeau Crime Index described
                           in Appendix IV;

2. TIME TO VIOLENT   - the time up to a maximum of five years
                           following release before a recorded
                           conviction for a violent offence;

3. TIME TO NON-VIOLENT   - the time up to a maximum of five years
                           following release before a recorded
                           conviction for a non-violent offence;

4. TIME TO PRISON   - time up to a maximum of five years
                           following release before being sent
                           to prison;

5. TIME IN PRISON   - the total recorded time spent in custody
                           under sentence in the five years follow-
                           ing release;

6. NUMBER OF VIOLENT   - total number of convictions following
                           release which were coded as violent;

7. NUMBER OF NON-VIOLENT - total number of convictions follow-
ing release which were coded as non-
violent;

8. TOTAL NUMBER OF - total number of recorded convictions
CONVICTIONS following release.

The intercorrelations between these indices of recidivism are given in
Table III for the assault group, and are based on a sample size of 249.

TABLE III: INTER-CORRELATIONS BETWEEN EIGHT INDICES OF RECIDIVISM

INDEX	CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME TO PRISON	TIME IN PRISON	NUMBER OF VIOLENT	NUMBER OF NON-VIOLENT
TOTAL NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS	.81	-.44	-.62	-.61	.32	.83	.93
NUMBER OF NON-VIOLENT	.74	-.34	-.61	-.58	.27	.58	-
NUMBER OF VIOLENT	.83	-.75	-.37	-.51	.46	-	
TIME IN PRISON .	.61	-.35	-.29	-.54	-		
TIME TO PRISON	-.62	.53	.55	-			
TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	-.50	.31	-				
TIME TO VIOLENT	-.65	-					

APPENDIX   IV

THE MODIFIED NORMANDEAU CRIME INDEX

It is useful to have an index of amount of criminal activity which takes into account both the number of offences and their relative seriousness.   One attempt to estimate the seriousness of crimes had been made by Normandeau[1], who had subjects in 11 countries rate their perceived seriousness of a variety of criminal acts.   On the basis of results from an Australian sample he derived a Crime Index for Australia.

The Normandeau Crime Index does not cover all possible criminal acts.   Also, in many cases there is not enough information present in criminal records to use the index in its original form.   Consequently, to use the Crime Index on criminal record data it is necessary to make certain assumptions to fill the gaps.

Table IV below shows the modified crime scores used to code the recidivism data, and Table V shows the scores used to code the prior criminal records, which were coded using a simpler category system.   The original Normandeau Crime Index and the rationale for the modifications used are presented in the first report in this series on Recidivism Among Robbers.

---

1.   Normandeau, A.   A crime index for England and 10 other countries.
     The Criminologist, 1970, 5(16), 63-71.

TABLE   IV

MODIFICATION OF NORMANDEAU'S CRIME INDEX USED TO
SCORE OFFENCES FOLLOWING RELEASE

Code	Offence	Score
1	Murder	46
2	Manslaughter	46
3	Attempted murder	15
4	Serious assault	9
5	Other assault	5
6	Rape	16
7	Attempted rape	8
8	Buggery	8
9	Indecent assault, gross indecency	8
10	Carnal knowledge under 10 or under 16	8
11	Incest	14
12	Other sexual offences: (e.g. exposure)	4
13	Robbery with violence	14
14	Robbery, armed robbery, robbery in company	6
15	Attempted robbery	4
16	Burglary, breaking in	2
17	Theft, larceny, (except motor vehicles)	1
18	Theft, larceny or illegal use of motor vehicle	1
19	Fraud, embezzlement	1
20	(Wilful damage, arson) serious offences against property	2
21	Minor property offences: e.g. receiving	1
22	Drinking offences	1
23	Drink driving offences	1
24	Drug offences	1
25	Serious driving offences	2
26	Other driving offences	1
27	Firearm offences (excluding bombing and use of firearm to evade arrest)	1
28	Public nuisance offences	1
29	Escape, abscond	1
30	Minor offences and breaches of regulations	1
31	Breach of bond or probation	1
32	Breach of parole	1
33	Other serious offences: e.g. abduction, perjury	6
34	Other minor offences	1
35	Breaches of prison and YTC regulations	1

TABLE   V

CRIME INDEX FOR PRIOR OFFENCES

OFFENCE	CRIME SCORE
Homicide	46
Assault	7
Rape or attempted rape	14
Buggery or attempted buggery	8
Other sexual offence	4
Robbery	6
Breaking offence	2
Larceny and illegal use	1
Fraud or receiving	1
Drink offences	1
Drug offences	1
Motoring offences	1
Other serious offences	6
Other convictions	1

APPENDIX V

CORRELATION ANALYSIS

The degree of linear relationship between the social and criminal
background and recidivism is examined using Pearson product moment
correlations.

For the correlation analysis the scores on the variables have to be
interpretable along a scale from "high" to "low". Where necessary
this was achieved by recoding, which is described in the text of the
report. Those cases in which it is not appropriate to interpret the
variables as ranging from high to low (e.g. for "motive") are ex-
cluded from the analysis.

The four indices of recidivism included in the correlation analysis
are: (1) crime score, (2) time following release before being con-
victed of a violent offence, (3) time following release before being
convicted of a non-violent offence, and (4) time spent in prison
following release. These were chosen to include a wide range of
aspects of recidivism, and are described in Appendix III. It is
expected that for most purposes the crime score will be the most
appropriate criterion measure of recidivism.

In the tables the correlation co-efficient is denoted by the symbol
"r", and the number of cases on which it is based is denoted by the
symbol "n". The statistical significance, which is denoted by the
symbol "p", is based on a two-tailed Student's t-test.

The statistical significance refers to the likelihood that the correl-
ation obtained would be in the same direction and have a magnitude
greater than zero if we repeated the study on a different sample from
the same population. In most cases the distribution of results
in the present study is somewhat skewed. This can give rise to in-
accuracies in the estimates of significance, although the errors are
not usually great for large samples as in the present study. To
allow for the problem of skewed distribution and because of the lack
of clear direction hypotheses in some cases, the conservative two-
tailed test, which gives lower significance levels, was used for all
product moment correlations.

Usually researchers use the 5 percent level of significance as a criterion in concluding whether a variable is a valid predictor of recidivism. However, the level of correlation provides more useful information than the significance. The finding that a variable appears to have no association with recidivism can be of equal theoretical and practical importance to discovering a statistically significant relationship.

TABLE VI

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN RECIDIVISM AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

ASSAULT GROUP

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS		INDEX OF RECIDIVISM			
		CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME IN PRISON
NUMBER OF BROTHERS	r	.25	-.21	-.05	.20
	(n)	(138)	(138)	(138)	(138)
	p	<.005	<.05	-	<.05
NUMBER OF SISTERS	r	.17	-.08	-.12	.21
	(n)	(137)	(137)	(137)	(137)
	p	<.1	-	-	<.05
NUMBER OF SIBLINGS	r	.26	-.19	-.09	.24
	(n)	(135)	(135)	(135)	(135)
	p	<.005	<.05	-	<.005
NUMBER OF CHILDREN	r	-.03	.08	-.02	.01
	(n)	(139)	(139)	(139)	(139)
	p	-	-	-	-
MARITAL STATUS	r	-.04	-.05	.00	-.10
	(n)	(139)	(139)	(139)	(139)
	p	-	-	-	-

TABLE   VII

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN RECIDIVISM AND EDUCATION

ASSAULT   GROUP

EDUCATION		INDEX OF RECIDIVISM			
		CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME IN PRISON
AGE LEFT SCHOOL	r	-.05	.01	-.06	-.06
	(n)	(133)	(133)	(133)	(133)
	p	-	-	-	-
GRADE REACHED AT SCHOOL	r	-.08	.08	-.07	-.14
	(n)	(131)	(131)	(131)	(131)
	p	-	-	-	-

TABLE VIII

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN RECIDIVISM AND PRIOR WORK

ASSAULT   GROUP

ASPECT OF WORK		INDEX OF RECIDIVISM			
		CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME IN PRISON
OCCUPATIONAL STATUS	r	.14	-.17	-.15	.08
	(n)	(153)	(153)	(153)	(153)
	p	< .1	< .05	< .1	-
PRIOR WORK STABILITY	r	.00	-.05	-.07	.05
	(n)	(132)	(132)	(132)	(132)
	p	-	-	-	-
LENGTH OF PRIOR EMPLOYMENT	r	.00	.03	.12	-.09
	(n)	(128)	(128)	(128)	(128)
	p	-	-	-	-

TABLE IX

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN RECIDIVISM AND PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD I

ASSAULT GROUP

PRIOR RECORD		INDEX OF RECIDIVISM			
		CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME IN PRISON
PRIOR WARD	r	-.18	.01	.20	-.12
	(n)	(203)	(203)	(203)	(203)
	p	<.05	-	<.005	-
NUMBER OF PROBATIONS	r	.31	-.29	-.29	.30
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
NUMBER OF PROBATION BREACHES	r	-.09	-.13	-.01	.05
	(n)	(114)	(113)	(113)	(114)
	p	-	-	-	-
NUMBER OF YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE SENTENCES	r	.16	-.06	-.23	.07
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.01	-	<.001	-
NUMBER OF PRISON SENTENCES	r	.22	-.18	-.20	.20
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.001	<.005	<.001	<.005
TOTAL TIME IN PRISON OR YTC	r	.15	-.08	-.19	.17
	(n)	(248)	(243)	(243)	(248)
	p	<.05	-	<.005	<.01
NUMBER OF PAROLES	r	.17	-.17	-.13	.09
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.01	<.01	<.05	-
NUMBER OF PAROLE BREACHES	r	.19	-.04	.10	.22
	(n)	(51)	(51)	(51)	(51)
	p	-	-	-	-

TABLE IX (Continued)

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN RECIDIVISM AND PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD II

ASSAULT GROUP

PRIOR RECORD		INDEX OF RECIDIVISM			
		CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME IN PRISON
NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS	r	.29	-.23	-.33	.33
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
CONVICTION SCORE AT TIME OF RELEASE	r	.31	-.24	-.35	.31
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
CRIME SCORE AT TIME OF RELEASE	r	.30	-.25	-.30	.29
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
AGE ON FIRST CONVICTION	r	-.17	.16	.22	-.05
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.01	<.05	<.001	-
NUMBER OF ALIASES	r	.37	-.25	-.23	.30
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
LENGTH OF PREVIOUS PRISON OR YTC SENTENCE	r	.19	-.17	-.03	.12
	(n)	(207)	(202)	(202)	(207)
	p	<.01	<.05	-	<.1
TIME OUTSIDE SINCE PREVIOUS SENTENCE	r	-.28	.26	.36	-.21
	(n)	(244)	(239)	(239)	(244)
	p	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001

TABLE IX

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN RECIDIVISM AND PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD III

ASSAULT   GROUP

PRIOR RECORD		INDEX OF RECIDIVISM			
		CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME IN PRISON
ASSAULT	r	.16	-.18	-.15	.09
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.01	<.005	<.05	-
RAPE	r	-.01	-.12	-.02	.02
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	-	<.1	-	-
OTHER SEX	r	.16	-.13	-.15	.14
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.01	<.05	<.05	<.05
ROBBERY	r	.04	.00	-.07	.07
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	-	-	-	-
BREAKING OFFENCE	r	.19	-.18	-.30	.23
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.005	<.005	<.001	<.001
LARCENY OR ILLEGAL USE	r	.27	-.17	-.35	.25
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.001	<.01	<.001	<.001
FRAUD OR RECEIVING	r	.17	-.08	-.13	.32
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.01	-	<.05	<.001

TABLE IX (Continued)

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN RECIDIVISM AND PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD IV

ASSAULT GROUP

PRIOR RECORD		INDEX OF RECIDIVISM			
		CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME IN PRISON
DRINK	r	-.03	.00	.00	.04
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	-	-	-	-
DRUG	r	-.01	-.02	.04	.02
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	-	-	-	-
DRIVING	r	.27	-.17	-.30	.18
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.001	<.01	<.001	<.005
OTHER SERIOUS	r	.14	-.07	-.01	.14
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.05	-	-	<.05
ESCAPE HISTORY	r	.15	-.13	-.17	.17
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	<.05	<.05	<.01	<.01

TABLE X

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN RECIDIVISM AND CRIME CHARACTERISTICS

ASSAULT GROUP

CRIME CHARACTERISTICS		INDEX OF RECIDIVISM			
		CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME IN PRISON
NUMBER OF VICTIMS	r	.05	-.05	-.18	.06
	(n)	(113)	(113)	(113)	(113)
	p	-	-	$<.1$	-
CLOSENESS OF VICTIM	r	-.13	.06	.18	-.12
	(n)	(117)	(117)	(117)	(117)
	p	-	-	$<.1$	-
DANGEROUSNESS OF INSTRUMENT	r	.10	-.03	-.10	.04
	(n)	(115)	(115)	(115)	(115)
	p	-	-	-	-
DEGREE OF INJURY	r	.24	-.08	-.14	.18
	(n)	(111)	(111)	(111)	(111)
	p	$<.05$	-	-	$<.1$
NUMBER OF ACCOMPLICES	r	-.12	.12	-.01	-.09
	(n)	(111)	(111)	(111)	(111)
	p	-	-	-	-
DEGREE OF PREMEDITATION	r	.03	-.05	-.06	-.11
	(n)	(115)	(115)	(115)	(115)
	p	-	-	-	-
ALCOHOL	r	.01	-.07	-.13	.01
	(n)	(117)	(117)	(117)	(117)
	p	-	-	-	-
AMOUNT OF MONEY TAKEN	r	-.02	.05	-.05	.02
	(n)	(244)	(239)	(239)	(244)
	p	-	-	-	-
NUMBER OF OFFENCES AT SAME TIME	r	.07	-.01	-.20	.07
	(n)	(249)	(244)	(244)	(249)
	p	-	-	$<.001$	-

TABLE XI

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN RECIDIVISM AND SENTENCE CHARACTERISTICS

ASSAULT GROUP

SENTENCE CHARACTERISTICS		INDEX OF RECIDIVISM			
		CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME IN PRISON
MAXIMUM SENTENCE	r	.03	.04	-.01	.06
	(n)	(241)	(237)	(237)	(241)
	p	-	-	-	-
MINIMUM SENTENCE	r	.14	-.05	-.09	.10
	(n)	(209)	(209)	(209)	(209)
	p	< .05	-	-	-
TIME INSIDE DURING SENTENCE	r	.06	-.04	-.08	.04
	(n)	(244)	(244)	(244)	(244)
	p	-	-	-	-
TYPE OF PRISON FOR MOST OF SENTENCE	r	-.12	.07	-.06	-.19
	(n)	(103)	(103)	(103)	(103)
	p	-	-	-	< .1
TYPE OF PRISON FOR LAST PART OF SENTENCE	r	-.11	.08	-.01	-.21
	(n)	(101)	(101)	(101)	(101)
	p	-	-	-	<.05
PRISON SECURITY RATING	r	.03	.00	.05	.24
	(n)	(91)	(91)	(91)	(91)
	p	-	-	-	<.05
PRISON CONDUCT RATING	r	-.29	.26	.14	-.15
	(n)	(80)	(80)	(80)	(80)
	p	< .01	<.05	-	-

TABLE XI (Continued)

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN RECIDIVISM AND SENTENCE CHARACTERISTICS

ASSAULT GROUP

SENTENCE CHARACTERISTICS		INDEX OF RECIDIVISM			
		CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME IN PRISON
REMISSION	r	.03	-.03	-.15	.10
	(n)	(76)	(76)	(76)	(76)
	p	-	-	-	-
TIME DISCHARGE POSTPONED	r	.23	-.05	-.22	.19
	(n)	(79)	(79)	(79)	(79)
	p	< .05	-	< .05	< .1
TIME IN 'H' DIVISION	r	.36	-.25	-.17	.33
	(n)	(81)	(81)	(81)	(81)
	p	< .001	< .05	-	< .005
AGE ON CRITERION CONVICTION	r	-.17	.18	.23	.03
	(n)	(239)	(235)	(235)	(239)
	p	< .01	< .01	< .001	-
AGE ON RELEASE	r	-.13	.14	.17	.04
	(n)	(235)	(235)	(235)	(235)
	p	< .05	< .05	< .01	-

TABLE XII

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN RECIDIVISM AND PREDICTIONS

ASSAULT GROUP

PREDICTIONS		INDEX OF RECIDIVISM			
		CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME IN PRISON
GOVERNORS' OR SUPERINTENDENTS'	r	-.16	.05	.16	-.20
	(n)	(88)	(88)	(88)	(88)
	p	-	-	-	< .1
PAROLE OFFICERS'	r	-.24	.15	.23	-.20
	(n)	(87)	(87)	(87)	(87)
	p	< .05	-	< .05	< .1

TABLE XIV

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN RECIDIVISM AND PAROLE CHARACTERISTICS

ASSAULT GROUP

PAROLE CHARACTERISTICS		INDEX OF RECIDIVISM			
		CRIME SCORE	TIME TO VIOLENT	TIME TO NON-VIOLENT	TIME IN PRISON
DEFERRAL OF PAROLE	r	.03	-.17	-.15	-.06
	(n)	(66)	(66)	(66)	(66)
	p	-	-	-	-
CONDITIONS ON PAROLE ORDER	r	.15	-.09	-.16	.04
	(n)	(174)	(174)	(174)	(174)
	p	<.1	-	<.05	-
LENGTH OF PAROLE	r	-.22	.18	.22	.06
	(n)	(91)	(91)	(91)	(91)
	p	<.05	<.1	<.05	-
PAROLE REPORTING	r	-.08	-.02	.12	-.12
	(n)	(73)	(73)	(73)	(73)
	p	-	-	-	-
JOB PLANS	r	-.09	.15	.21	-.18
	(n)	(94)	(94)	(94)	(94)
	p	-	-	<.05	<.1
WORK STABILITY	r	.13	-.04	.06	.07
	(n)	(66)	(66)	(66)	(66)
	p	-	-	-	-