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## Statistical System for the Use of Institutions for Criminals and Delinquents

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# A STATISTICAL SYSTEM FOR THE USE OF INSTITUTIONS FOR CRIMINALS AND DELINQUENTS

(Report of Committee "J" of the Institute)

HORATIO M. POLLOCK,<sup>1</sup> *Chairman*

Your Committee on Statistics presents as its report for the year a plan for the preparation of statistical data in institutions for criminals and juvenile delinquents. The more difficult problem of collecting statistics of crime and criminals from police and court records is left for a subsequent study.

The plan submitted presupposes the employment of physicians, psychiatrists and psychologists in penal and correctional institutions, and that these experts will give admissions through physical and mental examinations. Such examinations should be supplemented by investigation of individual and family histories by social workers. The information thus gained would not only yield good statistics but be of the highest value in the institutional care and training of the inmates.

## CLASSIFICATION OF DATA

At the outset of its work the committee recognized that the desired data must be properly classified before adequate statistics could be obtained. The lack of standard classifications of crimes and of criminals has been one of the primary obstacles in the way of good statistics in criminology. No general agreement in classification is found among writers in this field nor in the criminal laws of the several states. So far as the classification of crimes is concerned the committee felt that for the present it would be unwise to depart from the classification used by the federal Census Bureau although this is unsatisfactory in many respects. The criminal laws of the several states and of the federal government need complete rewriting, not

<sup>1</sup>The personnel of the committee is as follows:

Horatio M. Pollock, N. Y. State Hospital Commission, Albany, chairman.

Edith Abbott, School of Civics and Philanthropy, Chicago.

Annie Hinrichsen, State Board of Public Welfare, Springfield, Ill.

Thomas D. Eliot, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

John Koren, International Prison Commission, Boston.

Louis N. Robinson, Municipal Court, Philadelphia.

only for the introduction of rational uniformity but also for the abandonment of archaic methods and the incorporation of modern ideas. General co-operation in the revision of such laws is needed to produce the best results. The committee believes a uniform classification of crimes is greatly to be desired and would recommend the use of such classification, when agreed upon, in this statistical system.

A different situation exists with respect to the classification of criminals and delinquents. The history and personality of criminals may be studied and they may be classified without conflict with an antiquated law or court sentence.

In attempting to classify criminals the committee asked itself this question: What characteristics of the criminal are of most importance from the standpoint of prison administration and the welfare of the prisoner? There could be but one answer. The mental status is the primary consideration. This fact has been recognized in numerous special studies made in prisons and correctional institutions, but prior to this year had not formed a part of any statistical system dealing with criminals or delinquents.

The work of the committee in formulating a mental classification has been made easy by the work recently done by national associations in related fields. In May, 1917, the American Medico-Psychological Association adopted a classification of mental diseases and a uniform statistical system for the state hospitals of the country. In June, 1920, the American Association for the Study of the Feebleminded adopted a statistical plan for institutions for the feebleminded which included a classification of mental deficiency. In September, 1917, the War Department adopted for the use of the examiners in the Division of Neurology and Psychiatry a classification of mental disorders which was very similar to the classifications mentioned above and also included psychopathic personalities.

With the assistance of the experience thus gained in this field the committee submits the following classification of the mental status of criminals and delinquents:

#### MENTAL CLASSIFICATION OF CRIMINALS AND DELINQUENTS

- I. No demonstrable abnormality.
- II. Mental deficiency:
  1. Imbecile.
  2. Moron.
  3. Borderline.

## III. Mental disease:

1. Traumatic psychoses.
2. Senile psychoses.
3. Psychoses with cerebral arteriosclerosis.
4. General paralysis.
5. Psychoses with cerebral syphilis.
6. Psychoses with Huntington's chorea.
7. Psychoses with brain tumor.
8. Psychoses with other brain or nervous diseases.
9. Alcoholic psychoses.
10. Psychoses due to drugs and other exogeneous toxins.
11. Psychoses with pellagra.
12. Psychoses with other somatic diseases.
13. Manic-depressive psychoses.
14. Involution melancholia.
15. Dementia praecox.
16. Paranoia or paranoid conditions.
17. Epileptic psychoses.
18. Psychoneuroses and neuroses.
19. Psychoses with psychopathic personality.
20. Psychoses with mental deficiency.
21. Undiagnosed psychoses.

## IV. Psychopathic personality:

1. Inadequate.
2. Emotionally unstable.
3. Egocentric.
4. Others (specify).

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

The term "no demonstrable abnormality" is used in preference to the term "normal" because of the impossibility of making a diagnosis of normality of health except by exclusions. A person is assumed to be normal when we find no evidence of abnormality.

In the groups under mental deficiency the term "idiot" is omitted for the reason that idiots are not considered responsible for their acts and are not committed to penal or correctional institutions.

An "imbecile" is defined as a mentally defective person having a mental age between 36 months and 83 months or, if a child, an intelligence quotient between 25 and 49.

A "moron" is a mentally defective person having a mental age between 84 and 144 months or, if a child, an intelligence quotient between 50 and 74.

The term "borderline" is applied to adults having intelligence

above the 12-year level yet not quite up to the normal standard. The intelligence quotient of the borderline is between 75 and 89.

Mental age should be determined by the use of standard tests. As the Stanford revision of the Binet tests is more widely used than any other the committee would recommend its use in the examination of criminals and delinquents. This test may be supplemented by such other tests as are deemed necessary by the examiner. In determining the intelligence quotient for adults some standard practice must be adopted in order that comparisons may be possible. For this purpose the denominator recommended is the chronological age of 16 years.

The 21 groups of psychoses in the classification of the American Medico-Psychological Association are defined and explained in the statistical manual prepared for free distribution by the National Committee for Mental Hygiene.

Under "psychopathic personality" are included those cases in which there is found a definite, positive trend toward one of the various types of behavior difficulty. The principal characteristics presented by these individuals are marked irascibility, emotional instability, weakness of will and tendency to vagrancy, pathological lying and contentiousness.

The groups mentioned in the classification are well known but as there are psychopathic personalities that cannot be included under these terms the term "others (specify)" is made necessary.

The term "inadequate personality" includes those individuals who are repeatedly in difficulty with the environment as the result of a definite shortcoming or deficiency. This may be a generalized deficiency or a special disability, such as a weakness of will, a defective memory, defective judgment, or defective resistance to suggestion.

The "emotionally unstable" individual is one who is repeatedly in difficulty with the environment as the result of a positive emotional trend. This is ordinarily either hyperkinetic or hypokinetic in the usual sense or is characterized by rage, outbursts of temper or powerful emotional crimes of various sorts.

The "egocentric personality" includes those individuals who are repeatedly in difficulty with the environment because of disproportionate egoism; that is to say, their behavior is chiefly characterized by vanity, arrogance, selfishness, contentiousness, disregard for others, entire lack of sympathy, often brutality, and jealousy. They are keenly aware of any slight to themselves or any infraction of their

rights; they are obtuse to the importance of the more serious infractions of the rights of others.

#### BEHAVIOR CLASSIFICATION OF CRIMINALS AND DELINQUENTS

Scarcely less important are the behavior characteristics of those who are committed to penal and correctional institutions. These have a direct bearing on training in the institution and on the problem of the prevention of crime. The committee proposes the following classification to cover this field of inquiry:

1. Emotionally unstable behavior.
2. Profligate.
3. Vagrant.
4. Dishonest.
5. Eccentric.
6. Egocentric.
7. Sexually abnormal.
8. Others (specify).

"Emotionally unstable behavior" includes the more marked or serious emotional disturbances, violent losses of temper, marked hyperkinetic or hypokinetic reactions, hilarious, boisterous or depressed, discouraged behavior.

The term "profligate" denotes the usual behavior characteristic of the spendthrift, roisterer, rounder and gambler. Any one who squanders his property, for whatever reason, presents this behavior characteristic.

The term "vagrant" indicates the behavior characteristics of the various types of wanderers such as hobos, tramps, truants, run-away girls and deserters.

The term "dishonest" includes all frauds such as theft, cheating, lying, swindling and all other forms of deceit.

The term "eccentric" includes a number of behavior reactions, ordinarily not easily classifiable, which are not indications of mental disease or deficiency. The enthusiast, perverted idealist, unpractical inventor, religious bigot and fanatic; eccentric beggars, actors, musicians and artists are included under this term.

The term "egocentric" includes all evidences of marked selfishness, exaggerated interest in the ego to the exclusion of interest in others, vanity, arrogance, disregard or contempt for the rights of others, lack of generosity or altruism.

The term "sexually abnormal" includes all manifestations of abnormal sexual tendencies or acts, crimes against nature, homosexual acts and various sex perversions.

Under the term "others (specify)" provision is made for the designation of significant behavior characteristics not included in the terms above described. This term will also include cases whose behavior does not give evidence of any abnormality.

The same individual may exhibit several of the behavior characteristics, and when such is the case, all should be stated on the statistical card.

#### TYPE OF OFFENDER

Another classification of criminals and delinquents that is useful for administrative purposes is provided for under the caption "type of offender." This includes four groups namely:

1. First offender.
2. Accidental offender.
3. Occasional offender.
4. Habitual offender.

The classification is to be made from the history of the inmate rather than from explanatory statements made by him.

"First offender" denotes one whose history indicates that the offense for which he was committed was his first criminal act.

"Accidental offender" denotes one who has committed a crime without intending to do so. A "first offender" may also be an "accidental offender."

"Occasional offender" denotes one who has committed but few crimes and has not become an "habitual offender."

"Habitual offender" denotes one who has committed several crimes or who has entered upon a criminal career.

In submitting the above classifications the committee wishes to acknowledge its indebtedness to Dr. Herman M. Adler, criminologist of the Department of Public Welfare of the State of Illinois, and to Dr. H. Douglas Singer, alienist of the same Department.

#### STATISTICAL DATA CARDS

After agreeing on the primary classification the next step in the work of the committee was the formulation of statistical data cards for the use of institutions in recording and reporting data concerning admissions, discharges, transfers and deaths. The purpose of these

cards is to supply in convenient form the facts needed in making annual or biennial reports and to provide for the accumulation of data that could be used in special studies covering a term of years.

Four cards are recommended, as follows:

1. *An admission card* for each person admitted on original commitment. Persons returned from parole or escape are not to be considered admissions unless previously discharged from books.

2. *A discharge card* for each inmate discharged from the books of the institution. Paroled inmates are not to be discharged from books so long as they are liable to be returned to the institution under the original commitment. Escapes should be discharged from the books after an absence of one year. If later returned to the institution an admission card should be made out for them.

3. *A death card* for each inmate who dies in the institution. Inmates who die away from the institution while on parole or escape should be *discharged* and reported on *discharge cards*.

4. *A transfer card* for each inmate transferred to another institution within the state.

In states where a central statistical bureau is connected with the office of the supervising board or department, a copy of each statistical card should be sent to such bureau, and after being studied should be systematically filed therein.

The following are the forms recommended:



ADMISSION—CRIMINAL OR JUVENILE DELINQUENT

..... (Name of Institution) .....

MALE  
or  
FEMALE

court  
county or city

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Iden. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Committed by \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

MENTAL CLASSIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_ MENTAL AGE \_\_\_\_\_ years I. Q. \_\_\_\_\_

BEHAVIOR CLASSIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE OF OFFENDER First accidental occasional habitual

USE OF ALCOHOL Abstinent temperate intemperate Yes No Kind of drug

PHYSICAL DEFECTS \_\_\_\_\_ HEIGHT ft. in.

PHYSICAL DISEASES \_\_\_\_\_ WEIGHT lbs.

EDUCATION—None reads only reads and writes common school grade high school years

collegiate \_\_\_\_\_ years

FAMILY HISTORY \_\_\_\_\_ Age at completion of highest grade \_\_\_\_\_ years

AGE ON ADMISSION \_\_\_\_\_ years MARITAL CONDITION—Single married widowed divorced separated No. of CHILDREN

NATIVITY (State or country) of inmate \_\_\_\_\_ of father \_\_\_\_\_ of mother \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN U. S.

CITIZENSHIP—of inmate—American foreign of father—American foreign RACE \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ RELIGION \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYED at time of commission of crime—Yes No

ENVIRONMENT { to 14 years urban rural ECONOMIC CONDITION—Dependent marginal comfortable  
after 14 years urban rural

BORN OF MARRIED PARENTS—Yes No Parents—living together separated father dead (Date of death)

mother dead \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of death) \_\_\_\_\_

ACTUAL RESIDENCE—County \_\_\_\_\_ P. O. ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TIME IN STATE—Last residence \_\_\_\_\_ Total time \_\_\_\_\_

CRIME FOR WHICH COMMITTED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF CRIME \_\_\_\_\_ 19

TERM OF COMMITMENT \_\_\_\_\_ No. of PREVIOUS ARRESTS \_\_\_\_\_ OF PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

APPARENT MOTIVE FOR CRIME \_\_\_\_\_

No. of PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE AND DURATION OF EACH PREVIOUS COMMITMENT \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF ADMISSION \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ INSTITUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_

FINGER PRINT \_\_\_\_\_

DISCHARGE—CRIMINAL, OR JUVENILE DELINQUENT

MALE  
or  
FEMALE

.....  
(Name of Institution)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Iden. No. \_\_\_\_\_

MENTAL CLASSIFICATION

MENTAL AGE ON DISCHARGE \_\_\_\_\_ years L. Q. \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRONOLOGICAL AGE ON DISCHARGE \_\_\_\_\_ years DATE OF LAST ADMISSION 19

HEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ ft. \_\_\_\_\_ in. WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.

CRIME FOR WHICH COMMITTED \_\_\_\_\_ TERM OF COMMITMENT \_\_\_\_\_

DURATION OF LAST INSTITUTION RESIDENCE (exclusive of parole) \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months \_\_\_\_\_ days

DATE AND DURATION OF EACH PREVIOUS RESIDENCE IN PENAL OR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

TOTAL DURATION OF PENAL OR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION LIFE (exclusive of paroles) \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months \_\_\_\_\_ days

INSTRUCTION IN INSTITUTION (Kinds and time of each)

RECORD IN INSTITUTION—Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_ fair \_\_\_\_\_ poor \_\_\_\_\_

TRADE OR OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

COMPETENCY—Expert \_\_\_\_\_ journeyman \_\_\_\_\_ apprentice \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF LATEST PAROLE \_\_\_\_\_

No. OF VIOLATIONS OF PAROLE 19

DATE OF DISCHARGE \_\_\_\_\_

REASON FOR DISCHARGE 19

FINGER PRINT \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_

DEATH—CRIMINAL, OR JUVENILE DELINQUENT

MALE  
or  
FEMALE

.....  
(Name of Institution)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Iden. No. \_\_\_\_\_

MENTAL CLASSIFICATION

AGE AT DEATH      years      DATE OF LAST ADMISSION      19

CRIME FOR WHICH COMMITTED      TERM OF COMMITMENT

DURATION OF LAST INSTITUTION RESIDENCE      years      months      days

DATE AND DURATION OF EACH PREVIOUS RESIDENCE IN PENAL OR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

TOTAL DURATION OF PENAL AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION LIFE (exclusive of parole)

CAUSE OF DEATH (Follow international list of causes and *underline* principal cause)

AUTOPSY      No      Yes      CORONER'S CASE      No      Yes

CORONER'S VERDICT

ACTUAL RESIDENCE WHEN COMMITTED—County      P. O. ADDRESS

DATE OF DEATH      19

FINGER PRINT

INSTITUTION No.

TRANSFER—CRIMINAL, OR JUVENILE DELINQUENT

MALE  
or  
FEMALE

From .....  
To .....  
Date .....

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Iden. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Committed by \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ court  
county or city

MENTAL CLASSIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_ I. Q. \_\_\_\_\_  
 BEHAVIOR CLASSIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE OF OFFENDER First accidental occasional habitual  
 USE OF ALCOHOL Abstinent temperate intemperate Yes No Kind of drug HEIGHT ft. in.  
 PHYSICAL DEFECTS \_\_\_\_\_ WEIGHT lbs.  
 PHYSICAL DISEASES \_\_\_\_\_  
 EDUCATION—None reads only reads and writes common school grade high school years  
 collegiate years Age at completion of highest grade  
 FAMILY HISTORY \_\_\_\_\_  
 AGE ON ADMISSION \_\_\_\_\_ years MARITAL CONDITION—Single married widowed divorced separated No. OF CHILDREN  
 NATIVITY (State or country) of inmate \_\_\_\_\_ of father \_\_\_\_\_ of mother \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN U. S.  
 CITIZENSHIP—of inmate—American foreign of father—American foreign RACE \_\_\_\_\_  
 OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ RELIGION \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMPLOYED at time of commission of crime—Yes No No ECONOMIC CONDITION—Dependent marginal comfortable  
 ENVIRONMENT { to 14 years urban rural rural  
 after 14 years urban urban  
 BORN OF MARRIED PARENTS—Yes No Parents living together separated father dead (Date of death)  
 mother dead (Date of death)  
 ACTUAL RESIDENCE—County \_\_\_\_\_ P. O. ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIME IN STATE—Last residence \_\_\_\_\_ Total time \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF CRIME \_\_\_\_\_  
 CRIME FOR WHICH COMMITTED \_\_\_\_\_ OF PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_  
 TERM OF COMMITMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
 APPARENT MOTIVE FOR CRIME \_\_\_\_\_  
 NO. OF PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE AND DURATION OF EACH PREVIOUS COMMITMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE OF LAST ADMISSION (other than by transfer) \_\_\_\_\_  
 REASON FOR TRANSFER \_\_\_\_\_  
 FINGER PRINT \_\_\_\_\_ INSTITUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

It is recommended that cards of a standard size (5" x 8") be used; that admission cards be *white*, discharge cards *salmon color*, death cards *blue* and transfer cards *tan color*; and that cards for males be printed with *black* ink and those for females be printed with *red*.

To secure uniformity in interpreting and reporting data the various captions on the cards must be clearly explained and defined, and all classifications used should be made available to those who fill out the cards. It becomes necessary therefore to provide a statistical manual or handbook which will contain the various classifications and answer the principal questions that may arise in relation to the statistical work. Such a manual is already in use in the State of Illinois and can be made available for use in other states.

#### STATISTICAL TABLES RECOMMENDED

The cards recommended for use in institutions make possible a wide variety of statistical tables, as any three items on the cards may be correlated in tabular form. Certain tables, however, are of more importance and more interest than others and should appear in every annual or biennial report issued by the institution or department. Other tables may be prepared to throw light on special topics.

The tables recommended for general use in reports are:

1. Movement of inmates classified with reference to sex.
2. Behavior characteristics of admissions classified with reference to sex and mental status.
3. Types of offenders among admissions classified with reference to sex and mental status.
4. Use of alcohol and drugs by admissions classified with reference to sex and mental status.
5. Crimes of admissions classified with reference to sex and mental status.
6. Previous arrests, convictions and commitments of admissions classified with reference to sex and mental status.
7. Crimes of admissions classified with reference to sex and behavior characteristics.
8. Crimes of admissions classified with reference to sex, economic condition and environment.
9. Crimes of admissions classified with reference to sex and term of commitment.
10. Crimes of admissions classified with reference to sex and age.

11. Nativity of admissions and of parents of admissions classified with reference to sex and mental status.
12. Citizenship of admissions classified with reference to sex.
13. Discharges classified with reference to sex, age and mental status.
14. Behavior characteristics of discharges classified with reference to sex and record in institution.
15. Period of last institution residence of discharges classified with reference to sex and term of sentence.
16. Deaths classified according to sex, age, and mental status.
17. Deaths classified with reference to sex, crimes committed and duration of institution life.
18. Causes of death classified with reference to sex and age.

If the statistical plan outlined in this report meets with favor, the committee would respectfully recommend that steps be taken to introduce it into the penal and correctional institutions of the several states. As there is a widespread demand for better criminal statistics, the committee believes that any plan sanctioned by this Institute would receive a cordial welcome.