

Summer 1934

Statistics and Research: New Jersey Penal and Correctional System

Emil Frankel

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Emil Frankel, Statistics and Research: New Jersey Penal and Correctional System, 25 *Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology* 91 (1934-1935)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

STATISTICS AND RESEARCH: NEW JERSEY PENAL AND CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM¹

EMIL FRANKEL²

The facts gathered in connection with the system of individualized treatment in vogue in New Jersey penal and correctional institutions, involving as it does continuous studies of the offender as an individual, and current evaluation of his adjustment to the treatment and training plan, offer a most fertile field for gathering significant statistics concerning the characteristics of the individual offender, his social background, and the effectiveness of the treatment program. Moreover, they present the basis for comprehensive research on the problem of causation in anti-social and criminal behavior.

Classification Procedure

It may not be amiss, therefore, to give as a background, a brief outline of the main features of the New Jersey classification—"Man Analysis"—procedure which includes a series of examinations by institutional staff officers, and field social investigators, for the purpose of ascertaining the particular type of supervision an individual requires, the kind of work in which he will probably adjust to the greatest degree, and other information which indicates the type of care, treatment and training most suited to the person's individual needs.

I. *The Institutional Classification Committee* includes the following staff officers:

Superintendent—Chairman
Deputy superintendent
Disciplinary officer
Identification officer
Physician
Psychiatrist
Psychologist
Chaplain
Director of education
Director of industries and training

¹Paper read before the American Prison Congress—Atlantic City, October 9, 1933.

²Director, Division of Statistics and Research, New Jersey State Department of Institutions and Agencies.

Classification secretary and field social investigator of the Central Parole Bureau of the State Department of Institutions and Agencies

II. *Admission Classification.* The inmate is examined by members of the classification committee, specialists in their several fields. Each makes a detailed written report of his findings and recommendations, a summary of each report appearing on the "Classification Summary Sheet" of each admission which is presented at the classification committee meeting.

At the meeting the committee considers therefore:

1. The findings and recommendations of:

a. Physician	e. Educational director
b. Psychiatrist	f. Industrial director
c. Psychologist	g. Chaplain
d. Disciplinarian	
2. The history of the case as represented by:
 - a. Story of the crime and legal procedure
 - b. Social or family history
 - c. Medical history
 - d. Identification officers report
3. Advisability of transfer to another institution in view of the recommendations and necessity for maximum, limited, or minimum security.
4. The institutional program for each individual, mapping out tentative educational, industrial and disciplinary assignments and medical, surgical and mental treatment in accordance with the findings of the specialists.

The committee notifies each department head of his part in the individual's program.

III. *Progress Reports* for each inmate record his progress along all treatment and training lines subsequent to the first classification, attitudes toward work, officers and companions, daily credit marks, suitability to continue present assignments, violations of rules, etc., and results of reexaminations.

IV. *First Reclassification* is routinely held 6 months after admission although it may be held sooner if deemed advisable in any special cases. In accordance with progress reports, assignments are reconsidered, a credit goal to be earned by the inmate is established and a date is set for a second reclassification when parole may be considered.

V. *Subsequent Reclassifications*

A. The second reclassification measures the inmates progress toward his goal and if it is sufficient, requests

1. A home investigation from the Division of Parole.
2. Preparole examinations by physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, chaplain, educational director, director of industries and training and disciplinary officer. Written reports of these specialists indicate the progress and make recommendations for or against parole.

(A third reclassification may be necessary if the inmate is not deemed ready for parole consideration.)

B. Parole reclassification reviews the case considering factors which favor or oppose parole with special attention to

- Physical and mental health
- Industrial and educational competency
- Social adaptability
- Condition of the home to which he is to be paroled.

The committee makes its recommendations to the Board of Managers of the institution for parole.

Statistics of Institutional Departments

In the process of carrying out the details of the general classification plan each department within the institution records the volume of its work and achievements, both with regard to the individuals treated and with respect to the institutional program as a whole.

The statistics thus compiled in general cover the following topics:

1. Movement and characteristics of the institutional population
2. School attendance
3. Vocational training, state use employment and maintenance assignments
4. Medical and dental services
5. Psychological and psychiatric services
6. Religious training
7. Recreational and character building activities
8. Disciplinary supervision
9. Parole activities

Central Statistical Reporting System

The Department of Institutions and Agencies early recognized that it must have accurate statistical information regarding New Jersey penal and correctional problems to be used as a basis for determining state policy with regard to the operation and future planning of state institutions, to evaluate the effectiveness of the institutional administration, to make some attempt at discovering the individual and social causative factors involved in anti-social behavior.

The Division of Statistics and Research accordingly developed a monthly system of statistical reporting covering the movement of population, a record card for each individual admitted, individual reports on transfers, deaths, paroles and all other transactions which may take place regarding the individual after his institutional commitment and before discharge from parole.

State-Wide Penal Statistics

With the facts that have grown out of the monthly individual reporting system as a basis the Division of Statistics and Research has been able to conduct a series of statistical studies on a state-wide scale. In these studies nationally approved statistical procedures and classifications were applied in order to insure comparability between the various New Jersey institutions and similar institutions in other states.

Uniform statistics for *adult offenders* available over a period of years cover the following for the individual institutions and for all state prisoners.

ADULT OFFENDERS

Number of State Prisoners
County of Commitment of Resident Population

ADULT MALE OFFENDERS

Movement of Population of Adult Male Offenders
County of Court Commitments
Offenses for Which Committed
Age of Commitments
Offense by Age on Admission
Relation of Age at Commitment to Race or Nativity
Relation of Offenses to Race or Nativity Groups
Marital Condition of Commitments
Religious Affiliations of Commitments
Length of Sentence by Offense
Loss of Population during the Year

Time Served in the Institution in Relation to Sentence and to Offense
Parole from the Reformatories

ADULT FEMALE OFFENDERS

The State Classification Unit—The Clearing House for State Prison
Women

Movement of Population for Adult Women Offenders

County of Court Commitments

Offenses for Which Committed

Age of Commitments

Race or Nativity of Commitments

Marital Condition of Commitments

Religious Affiliations of Commitments

Length of Sentence

Time Served in Institution by Paroled and Discharged Women

The Infant Population

For those committed to our institutions for *juvenile delinquents* during the last few years the following statistical information is available:

Resident Population and Court Commitments

Movement of Population

Counties of Commitment

Reasons for Which Committed

Ages of Commitments

Race or Nativity of Commitments

Educational Background of Commitments

Religious Affiliations of Commitments

Length of Stay in Institution before Parole or Discharge

Infant Population of State Home for Girls

The Mental Hygiene Bureau of the Trenton State Hospital (which supervises the psychological and psychiatric work in the penal and correctional institutions), had brought the institutional information together on a state-wide basis; the Division of Medicine of the Department of Institutions and Agencies is securing certain reports on the institutional medical services and the Division of Parole is compiling uniform statistics to show the state's parole activities and problems.

Some Institutional Research Studies

In addition to the regular periodic statistical compilation of the various institutional departments quite a few special studies have been made in which the data growing out of the classification analysis have been used statistically. Just to mention a few of the more important ones:

Young Men on Parole—a Chapter in Parole Supervision
 The Comparative Intelligence of Prisoners
 The Average Mental Age of Adult Offenders
 Mental Level as a Factor in Crime
 Measuring Our Boys' Behavior
 Adaptation of Treatment to Cause in Male Juvenile Delinquency
 A Study of Multiple Criminal Factors
 The Relation Between Nutrition, Mental Level, and Adjustment in
 Delinquent Boys

Standard Annual Institution Report

It has been the practice in New Jersey for the various penal and correctional institutions to issue individual annual reports. In order to present the institutional record in the most telling fashion and unify the statistical material presented, the following uniform annual report for penal and correctional institutions has been worked out.

A. INTRODUCTORY SECTION

- I. Title page
Title—year—members of Board of Managers.
- II. Staff members
Names of the more important officers only, such as superintendents, business manager, resident physicians, etc., etc.
(Other employees will be summarized elsewhere).
- III. Table of contents.
- IV. Letter of transmittal and report of the Board of Managers to the State Board of Control of Institutions and Agencies and the Commissioner, giving the high lights of the institutional work during the year.

B. REPORT OF INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR

- I. *A letter to the Board of Managers* signed by the superintendent outlining very briefly special accomplishments, unusual events, new policies, improvements in treatment, discipline, plant or equipment, listing the needs of the coming year and hopes for the future.
- II. *The institutional program*
 - a. *Summary statement of population*
Statement of the types of persons committed, the number resident at the end of the year white and negro, average daily residents.
A simple standardized movement of population might be included here to show the methods of admission and discharge and hence give a setting for the institutional program; there might

also be a table to show population and court commitments for a series of years, accompanied by pertinent comments regarding the changes and the resultant administrative and preventive problems. (Detailed statistical tables covering population, commitments, and discharges will be found in the first part of the appendix.)

b. *Classification*

A brief description of the work of the Classification Committee and the plan of assignments and reassignments in the training program.

c. *Academic training*

Statement as to the plan of academic training and of the subjects taught, correspondence courses, results, etc.

Number of new admissions to school, total enrollment during year, average daily attendance, etc.—grades to which new admissions were assigned.

d. *Vocational training*

Types of prevocational, vocational or general training afforded through the institution and through the State Use system.

Number of people trained in the shops during the year (If production details are desired they should be reported in the appendix.

e. *Medical services*

1. Medical policy in general covering admission examinations, immunization, quarantine, special treatments
2. Special preventive work during the year
3. Hospital, clinic, laboratory, dental statistics, etc.

f. *Psychological and psychiatric services*

Significance of the work

Number of examinations given, reason for giving them, diagnoses, recommendations made, and the application of the recommendations.

g. *Religious training*

h. *Recreational and character building activities*

Importance of training for proper use of leisure time

Institutional recreational programs including baseball and other outdoor games, dramatic and other clubs, entertainments, etc.

Library—number of volumes, circulation, types of books most in demand, gifts during the year.

III. *Disciplinary supervision*

Credit marking system—"good time"—preparation for parole—Treatment of parole violators, returned escapes, and regular disciplinary cases.

IV. *Parole activities*

- a. The working of the parole system—its chief accomplishments.
- b. Parole data showing the number paroled during the year, the number returned or discharged from parole with the reasons for return or discharge, length of time in institution before first parole is granted.
- c. Parole success and failure.

V. *Personnel*

- a. General statement about the selection of personnel, changes of policy regarding personnel.
- b. Summary of number of full time employees, using the following classification:

Superintendents or wardens	Teachers and instructors (except industrial)
Asst. superintendents or deputy wardens	Industrial instructors
Stewards or business managers	Industrial supervisors
Physicians and surgeons	Other industrial employees
Psychiatrists	Farm supervisors
Psychologists	Other farm employees
Dentists	Guards, keepers, and other disciplinary officers
Graduate nurses	Matrons and assistant matrons
Chaplains	All other employees
Clerical employees	
- c. Summary statement of part time employees.

VI. *Administrative matters*

- a. General policies and special problems.
- b. Food, clothing, maintenance services, etc.

VII. *Financial statement*

Annual expenditures for salaries, food, clothing, general maintenance, medical attention, etc., and per capita costs.

VIII. *Farm Activities*

General statement—type and value of products—cannery—etc. (Detailed statements as to farm production should appear only in the appendix tables.)

IX. *Buildings and grounds*

- a. New buildings begun or completed.
- b. Improvement in old buildings and in grounds. (Include permanent improvements and important repairs. General repairs in plumbing, electrical work, masonry, etc., need only a sentence or two).
- c. Improvements in furnishing and equipment.
- d. Needs for additional buildings and plans for development.

C. STATISTICAL APPENDIX

I. POPULATION STATISTICS

Standardized tables worked out in cooperation with the Division of Statistics and Research of the Department of Institutions and Agencies. These include for all court commitments; county from which committed by color and by offense, offense by length of sentence, by age, and by race or nativity; religious affiliations and marital status, etc.; for all discharges, length of time in institution, related to offense and the length of sentence. Resident population by county of commitment.

Detailed movement of population if not given elsewhere.

II. INDUSTRIAL TRAINING STATISTICS

III. FARM STATISTICS

Penological Research Opportunities

It must be clear that through the classification idea in penal and correctional treatment an enormous amount of social, medical, psychological and psychiatric data becomes available which quite lends itself for statistical purposes and other types of research endeavors.

Briefly the information which becomes available concerning the individual offender himself includes:

1. Identification data such as: age, birthplace, nativity, race, civil condition, etc.

2. Physical make-up from the standpoint of physique, health and physiological constitution.

Sources of maladjustment from the point of view of physical constitution, such as chronic infirmities, acute disease, toxemias, constitutional abnormalities (both organic and functional), general health, and so on.

3. Intelligence, aptitudes, judgment, temperament, character and emotions, inhibitions and desires.

Feeble-mindedness, constitutional instability, and the psychological aspects of psychopathy, including defective personality, judgment, emotional deterioration, mood, and the like.

Level and type of the individual from the point of view of such mental processes as memory, association, and reasoning power.

4. Condition of the inmate's nervous system, personality make-up, and sanity.

Contributing influences of nervous pathology, defective personality, emotional disturbances, conflict, perversions, maladjustments, psychoses, epilepsies, dementias.

Presence of syphilitic infection and the use of alcohol or drugs.

5. Educational capabilities
 - Degree of literacy
 - Academic interests
 - Social ambition
 - Suitability for further school training.
6. Motor aptitudes, trade or industrial skill and industrial capabilities
 - Previous occupational history
 - Occupational ambitions and their relation to his home environment.
7. Religious attitudes, standards, and responsibilities
 - Previous church and spiritual relations.
8. Pre-institutional history of the individual
 - Home and neighborhood conditions
 - Social factors contributory to delinquency.
9. Previous criminal record and details of the offense for which the inmate was committed.

In connection with the educational, industrial and disciplinary program and the medical, surgical and mental treatment the individual's progress is constantly being observed and information thus becomes available concerning:

1. Adjustment, amenability and trustworthiness under institutional discipline
2. Custodial requirements and any special disciplinary features indicated
3. Effects of medical and surgical and other therapeutic treatment and the relation of inmate's physical, mental and emotional condition to progress under the institutional program
4. Progress in schooling, and in trade and industrial training
5. Influence of religious training

With regard to the parole system facts become available which reveal: community adjustment of various types of individuals; parole violation in relation to type of individual and given home and community situations.

Essential Points in Penological Research Program

It is obvious that even to utilize partially such a plethora of reliable and important statistical data as is at our disposal would require a research organization with very ample resources, and one probably completely freed from the immediate administrative duties. It is believed that we must look therefore to the institutes of criminology, foundations, and statistical and research committees of national organizations to point the way toward the much needed experimental work in criminological research.

Our research in *juvenile delinquency* might include:

1. Studies of the trends in the extent of juvenile delinquency and the physical, mental and social factors which contribute to such delinquency in the juveniles committed to the state institutions.
2. Studies of the rehabilitative effects of the moral, social, vocational and scholastic training offered the child during his institutional stay.
3. Presentation of the facts necessary for a complete understanding by the community of the problems in delinquency and for an appreciation of the community need of agencies qualified to analyze early symptoms of behavior problems and to recommend such treatment as will overcome them.

Research work covering *adult penal offenders* might include studies along the following lines:

1. Studies of the extent to which adult offenders are committed to state penal and correctional institutions and the extent to which different sections of the state contribute to our penal population.
2. Analysis of the personal and social data (age, racial antecedents, mental status, home and neighborhood conditions, etc.) of the offender in an attempt to fix social and personal responsibility.

3. Studies of the extent to which the aims of the rehabilitative work based on "man-analysis" and individual treatment (through proper discipline, education, vocational training, treatment of physical and mental disturbances) are preparing the offender for readjustment in the community.
4. The securing of facts which should be made available to interested citizens, including data on the problems being faced by the entire penal and correctional system, on the efficacy of the penal laws, and on the social measures that might be instituted to diminish crime.