

A Statistical Report on the Walpole-Norfolk Classification Program

Introduction. As part of a general evaluation of the Walpole-Norfolk Classification Program, the research staff of the Department of Correction has prepared the following statistical report on the operation of this program. This study is based on the weekly reports submitted to the Commissioner of Correction by the Classification Committee. The focus of this report is on two interrelated issues:

- (a) the length of time it takes for a newly committed inmate to be classified; and,
- (b) the number of cases presented to the classification committee each week.

Length of Time between Commitment and Classification. For this section of the report all inmates who appeared before the classification committee from January 1, 1968 through June 28, 1968 were studied. One hundred and ninety men were classified during this six-month period. It was found that the average length of time between commitment and classification was 9.8 weeks. As Table I indicates, there is a tendency for the length of time between commitment and classification to be increasing, inasmuch as the length of time is longer in the latter 3 months (April-June) than in the earlier 3 months (January-March). The average length of time before classification for January-March was 8.5 weeks, while the average for April-June was 11.0 weeks.

Table I

Average Length of Time Between Commitment and Classification:

Jan.-June, 1968

<u>Month</u>	<u>No. of Men Classified</u>	<u>Ave. No. of Weeks Between Commitment and Classification</u>
January	46	8.4
February	15	6.9
March	30	9.4
April	28	10.7
May	26	11.5
June	45	10.9
TOTAL	190	9.8

Table II reveals that less than 10% of those studied were classified by the end of their sixth week at MCI-Walpole. In fact, only 30.0% were classified within eight weeks of their commitment. Further, this table shows that one out of every four subjects (25.2%) was in MCI-Walpole at least three months before being classified.

Table II

Breakdown of the Length of Time Between Commitment and Classification

<u>Weeks Incarcerated Before Classification</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Cumulative %</u>
6 weeks or less	18	9.5%	9.5%
6 up to 8 weeks	39	20.5%	30.0%
8 up to 10 weeks	54	28.4%	58.4%
10 up to 12 weeks	31	16.3%	74.7%
12 up to 14 weeks	28	14.7%	89.4%
14 weeks or more	20	10.5%	99.9%
TOTAL	190	99.9%	-

Weekly No. of Cases Classified Compared to Weekly No. of New Commitments. From September 1, 1967 through June 30, 1968, 270 men have been classified. This results in an average of 6.3 cases per week. During this same period there were 424 new commitments to MCI-Walpole, for an average of 9.7 weekly commitments (Table III). Therefore, for the time period under study, the weekly commitment rate has been about 50% higher than the weekly classification rate.

Table III

No. of Cases Classified vs. No. of New Commitments: Sept. 1, 1967-June 30, 1968

<u>Month</u>	<u>Classified</u>		<u>New Commitments</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Weekly Ave.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Weekly Ave.</u>
September, 1967	15	3.7	18	4.5
October	30	6.0	46	11.5
November	24	6.0	38	7.6
December	11	2.7	19	4.7
January, 1968	46	9.2	63	12.6
February	15	3.7	44	11.0
March	30	7.5	34	8.5
April	28	5.6	34	6.8
May	26	6.5	62	15.5
June	45	11.2	66	16.5
TOTAL	270	6.3	424	9.7

Weekly Number of Cases Presented by Case Managers. Since March 3, 1968, the weekly reports from the Classification Committee to the Commissioner have included the number of cases presented by each case manager. This section of the report covers the 18-week period from March 3 through July 2, 1968. During this time the average number of cases per social worker has been 1.5 cases a week. Table IV gives a breakdown of the number of cases presented by each case manager.

Table IV

No. of Cases Presented to the Classification Committee by Each Case Manager:

March 3-July 2, 1968

<u>Case Manager</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>	<u>No. of Weeks Covered</u>	<u>Weekly Ave.</u>
Mr. Anthony	15	9	1.7
Mr. Belmore	27	18	1.5
Mr. Berman	5	3	1.7
Mrs. Bradshaw	2	2	1.0
Mr. Doherty	20	18	1.1
Mr. Gauthier	26	18	1.4
Mrs. Jablonski	1	2	0.5
Mr. Moore	17	7	2.4
Mr. Regan	16	11	1.5
TOTAL	129	-	1.5

Transfer Recommendations. Table V presents a breakdown of the transfer recommendations made by the Classification Committee for the first six months of 1968.

Table V

Transfer Recommendations of the Classification Committee: Jan. 1-July 2, 1968

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Remain at MCI-Walpole	58	29.7%
Transfer to MCI-Norfolk	107	54.9%
Transfer to MCI-Concord	14	7.2%
Approved for Forestry	16	8.2%
TOTAL	195	100.0%

One problem spotlighted in Table V is the fact that only 16 men have been approved for the Forestry Camps during the first six months of 1968. Mr. Mahcney, the Supervisor of the Forestry Camp Program, is concerned about this small number of referrals. He estimates that the turnover at the camps is about 250 men a year. Related to this issue, there seems to be a need to re-examine the procedure for reviewing cases for consideration for transfer to the camps. The general problem is that the number of men available for transfer to the camps is becoming very limited.

Summary and Conclusion

This study revealed that the average length of time between commitment and classification is almost ten weeks, and that the time between commitment and classification has tended to increase in recent months. Only about 10% of the inmates appeared before the Classification Committee within six weeks of their commitment, and fully 25% of them waited at least three months before being classified.

One striking finding of this study was that in the last ten months there have been 424 new commitments to MCI-Walpole, while, during the same time period, only 270 men have appeared before the Classification Committee. These figures indicate that:

- (a) either there are over 150 men awaiting classification;
- (b) or, some of the new commitments have not been going through the classification process;
- (c) or, some of those who have gone through the classification process have not been included in the weekly reports from the Classification Committee to the Commissioner

At any rate, the fact that the weekly commitment rate is 50% higher than the weekly classification rate suggests that, unless some change takes place, the number of men awaiting classification will increase and the time between commitment and classification will become even longer.

The conclusion to be drawn from this report is self-evident. If the concept of classification is to survive at MCI-Walpole, the weekly number of men appearing before the Classification Committee simply must be increased. In order to bring about this increase, either more personnel must be added to the staff, or the case managers must somehow find a way to prepare more than their current average of 1.5 cases a week.

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July, 1968

Data collection for this report

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A STATISTICAL REPORT ON THE WALPOLE-NORFOLK CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM

Introduction. A statistical report on the Norfolk-Walpole Classification system was published by the Department of Correction in July, 1968. In addition to presenting data on the time between commitment and classification, case manager productivity, transfer recommendations, and the number of cases classified relative to the number of new commitments it contained criticism and suggestions for improvement of the system. A meeting was held in August, 1968 to discuss the report and investigate means of improving the system. The present report combines the data of the first report with data collected for the 7 month period following the meeting and evaluates progress toward recommended changes.

Length of time between Commitment and Classification. The first report containing data from January through June 1968 indicated that the length of time between commitment and classification was increasing with the January-March average being 8.5 weeks and the April-June average being 11 weeks. The overall average for these six months was 9.8 weeks. Data collected from August 1968 through February, 1969 indicated that more recently the average time between commitment and classification is decreasing somewhat. The average for the August-October period was 12 weeks, but this was counterbalanced by a decrease to 8.7 weeks for the period from November-February. Although the length of time appears to have reached a peak in the period between April and October, and dropped somewhat more recently, the overall average is higher than has been recommended. The commitment to classification process under the guidelines set up by the committee should take six weeks, but as these data indicate in the period January, 1968 to February, 1969 the overall average is 10 weeks.

Table II presents a breakdown of the length of time between commitment and classification. As indicated, in the period between January and June 1968, less than 10% of the inmates were classified within 6 weeks after commitment.

During the period from August 1968 to February 1969 only about 6% were classified within 6 weeks. In both of the time periods under consideration, the data indicate that 25% of the inmates have to wait twelve weeks or longer before being classified. It would appear that suggestions relative to shortening the classification period have not been put into effect.

Comparison of Number Committed with Number Classified

Consideration of the classification status of inmates committed between October 1968 and March 18, 1969 indicated that 48.5% of these men are as yet unclassified. It would be expected that a number of the men most recently admitted would not as yet be classified, but as table III indicates, some of those admitted in October, November and December have yet to be done. If the data for these three months are combined, it is found that 12.6% of the men admitted are as yet unclassified. This means that these men have been awaiting classification for at least $3\frac{1}{2}$ months.

An analysis of those admitted in the most recent six week period, February 9, 1969 through March 22, 1969, indicated that none of the 39 men admitted have been classified. If the classification system were operating consistent with the recommended 6 week classification period, it would be expected that at least a few of these men would have been classified. In taking the ten week period January 12, 1969 through March 22, 1969 it was found that only 6 (6.3%) of the 95 men committed during this period have been classified. These data indicate that even a ten week classification period is not being met at this point.

Weekly Number of Cases Presented by Case Managers

Table IV presents each case manager, the number of cases handled and the number of weeks covered. The average number of cases per social worker for the period between March 3, 1968 and July 2, 1968 was 1.5 cases a week, while for the period between August 1968 and March 3, 1969 it was 1.4. These data indicate a slight decrease in the average number of cases done by the social workers.

Transfer Recommendations

One of the recommendations coming out of the first report was that the number of inmates recommended for transfer to the forestry camps be increased. Table V presents a breakdown of transfer recommendations for January - June 1968 and August 1968 - March 1969. It is interesting to note that there have been some minor changes in the number recommended for the various institutions, and that the number recommended for forestry has increased by only 1.8 percentage points. It is evident that if this trend continues the forestry population will decrease.

Summary and Conclusion

The data collected in this report indicate several minor changes in the Classification procedure since the first statistical report was published in July, 1968. During the period from August, 1968 - February, 1969 the average time between commitment and classification decreased by approximately 3 weeks but the overall average for this time period remained relatively high at 10.2 weeks this is 4 weeks longer than the time recommended in the classification guidelines.

A breakdown of actual length of time between commitment and classification revealed only minor differences in the time it takes to classify these men. As was found in the first study, fully 25% of the men classified between August, 1968 and February, 1969 had to wait 12 weeks or more before being classified.

Consideration of the classification status of those admitted in the period from October, 1968 - March 18, 1969 revealed that a good percentage of these men (48.5%) are still to be classified. In the period from October to December, 12.6% of the men admitted are still unclassified. If the last 10 weeks of this period are considered January 12, - March 22, it was found that 92.7% of the men committed have not been classified.

An analysis of case manager productivity during the period from August 13, 1968 to March 4, 1969 indicated that the average weekly number of cases completed had dropped very slightly. The first report indicated that the case managers did an average of 1.5 cases per week while the more recent data indicates that the average case manager does 1.4 cases a week.

The final data collected indicated that relatively minor changes have taken place in inmate transfer. Although the first report indicated that the more men should be recommended for forestry, it appears that this has not been done.

In general, it appears that the time it takes to classify inmates, the productivity of the case managers and the types of transfer recommendations made remain much the same as was found in the original report.

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Table I

Average Length of Time Between Commitment and Classification

January, 1968 - February, 1969

	<u>Number of Men Classified</u>	<u>Average Number of Weeks Between Commitment and Classification</u>
January	46	8.4
February	15	6.9
March	30	9.4
April	28	10.7
May	26	11.5
June	45	10.9
Subtotal	190	9.8
August	22	12.4
September	45	12.5
October	41	11.3
November	32	8.2
December	34	8.7
January	37	9.0
February	28	9.0
Subtotal	239	10.2
TOTAL	429	10.0

Table II

Breakdown of the Length of Time Between Commitment and Classification

<u>Weeks Incarcerated Before Classification</u>	<u>January - June, 1968</u>			<u>August, 1968 - February, 1969</u>		
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Cum %</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Cum %</u>
Less than 6 Weeks	18	9.5	9.5	15	6.2	6.2
6 up to 8 Weeks	39	20.5	30.0	59	24.5	30.7
8 up to 10 Weeks	54	28.4	58.4	52	21.6	52.3
10 up to 12 Weeks	31	16.3	74.7	55	22.8	75.1
12 up to 14 Weeks	28	14.7	89.4	30	12.4	87.5
14 Weeks or More	20	10.5	99.9	30	12.4	99.9

Table III

A Comparison of Number Committed and Classified from
October 1, 1968 to March 18, 1969

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number Committed</u>	<u>Number Classified</u>		<u>Number Unclassified</u>	
		<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
October	49	43	(87.8%)	6	(12.2%)
November	48	44	(91.7%)	4	(8.3%)
December	22	17	(77.3%)	5	(22.7%)
January	50	12	(24.0%)	38	(76.0%)
February	41	0	(0%)	41	(100%)
March 1-18	15	0	(0%)	15	(100%)
TOTAL	225	116	(51.5%)	109	(48.5%)

In the 6 Week period February 9, 1969 - March 22, 1969, None of the 39 Men admitted during this period have been Classified.

In the 10 Week period January 12, 1969 - March 22, 1969, 6 (6.3%) of the 95 Men committed have been Classified.

Table IV

Number of Cases Presented to the Classification Committee by each Case Manager

<u>Case Manager</u>	<u>March 3 -- July 2, 1968</u>			<u>August 13 - March 4, 1969</u>		
	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Number of Weeks Covered</u>	<u>Average Week</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Number of Weeks Covered</u>	<u>Average Week</u>
Mr. Allard	-	-	-	29	23	1.3
Mr. Anthony	15	9	1.7	47	30	1.6
Mr. Belmore	27	18	1.5	38	30	1.3
Mr. Berman	5	3	1.7	-	-	-
Mrs. Bradshaw	2	2	1	-	-	-
Mr. Campasano	-	-	-	46	26	1.8
Mr. Doherty	20	18	1.1	-	-	-
Mr. Gauthier	26	18	1.4	29	28	1.0
Mrs. Jablonski	1	2	.5	-	-	-
Mr. Moore	17	7	2.4	7	2	3.5
Mr. Regan	16	11	1.5	-	-	-
Mr. Vigneron	-	-	-	40	30	1.3
TOTAL	129	-	1.5	236	-	1.4

Table V

Transfer Recommendations of the Classification Committee

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>January 1 - July 2, 1968</u>		<u>August 13 - March 4, 1969</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Remain at MCI-Walpole	58	29.7	77	32.0
Transfer to MCI-Norfolk	107	54.9	117	48.5
Transfer to MCI-Concord	14	7.2	23	9.5
Approved for Forestry	16	8.2	24	10.0
TOTAL	195	100.0	241	100.0