

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE 31 INMATES TRANSFERRED FROM  
M.C.I., NORFOLK TO THE SEGREGATION UNIT AT M.C.I., BRIDGEWATER

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## INTRODUCTION

Following the disturbance at M.C.I., Norfolk during the week of January 6, 1969, thirty-one inmates were transferred from this institution to a segregation unit established at M.C.I., Bridgewater. These men were transferred because of the part it was believed they played in this incident. The goal of this study will be to determine how this group differs from the average Norfolk population. In an attempt to do this a comparison of this inmate group with a sample of the general Norfolk population will be presented.

## METHODOLOGY

The Sample. Two samples were used in this study. The first was the Transfer group, that is, the 31 inmates sent to M.C.I., Bridgewater. The comparative 'Norfolk' group consisted of a sample of 37 men randomly selected from all the inmates released from Norfolk in 1960.

Data Collection. Data for this study were collected entirely from the records of the inmates. The variables analyzed fell under three general categories: (A) Background Factors, (B) Criminal History, (C) Institutional Data. Appendix A gives a breakdown of the factors under each category. Additional Data on the 31 transfers were collected covering type of present offense, medical history, status relative to two-thirds law, and how inmate was transferred to Norfolk. These data are presented in Appendix B.

## FINDINGS

A. Background Factors: Under "Background Factors" the Transfer group did not differ significantly from the Norfolk group on age at commitment (A, 1), race (A, 2), or service discharge (A, 4). The two groups did differ, however, on marital status (A, 3), that is more inmates in the transfer group were divorced or separated than in the Norfolk group.

B. Criminal History: Under "Criminal History" the Transfer and Norfolk groups were similar on age at first arrest for drunkenness (B, 2), number of prior arrests (B, 3), sex felonies (B, ~~3~~), felonies vs. property (B, ~~6~~), number of state or federal incarcerations (B, 8), and number of house of correction incarcerations (B, 9). Table B, 1 indicates that there was a significant difference between the two groups on age at first arrest. The Transfer group had a higher percentage of first arrests between the ages of 13 and 20 than did the Norfolk group. On number of arrests for drunkenness it was found that the Transfer group differed significantly from the Norfolk group (B, 4). As indicated 74.2% of the Transfer group had a record of drunkenness arrests, while only 37.8% of the Norfolk group had such previous offenses. It was found that the two groups differed significantly on number of felonies vs. person (B, 5). Only 29.7% of the Norfolk group had a history of felonies vs. person, as compared to 67.7% of the Transfer group. The third significant difference under "Criminal History" was on number of juvenile incarcerations (B, 10). On this variable only 24.3% of the Norfolk group, while 51.6% of the Transfer group had at least one juvenile incarceration.

C. Institutional Data: Under "Institutional Data" three variables were significant. On present offense 87.1% of the Transfer group were committed for an offense against the person, while only 21.6% of the Norfolk group were institutionalized for this type of offense (C, 1). The second significant variable was number of disciplinary reports (C, 2). Only 18.9% of the Norfolk group as compared to 77.4% of the Transfer group had a record of disciplinary reports. Since this variable was significant, consequently the number of days spent in isolation by the two groups differed, as indicated in Table C, 3.

In turning to the types of disciplinary reports of the two groups it can be seen that the Transfer group exhibits a wider range of misbehavior in the institution (3, 4). Disobedience or profanity was the most common disciplinary report for both groups. Contraband -- non-drug was also a common disciplinary report for the Transfer group. On total number of disciplinary reports, the Transfer group had six times as many as the Norfolk group. Table C, 5 presents length of time at Norfolk for the 2 groups. For the Norfolk group this period was from time transferred to Norfolk to time of release, while for the Transfer group the period was from time transferred to Norfolk to time transferred to Bridgewater.

The 31 inmates in the Transfer group were examined on certain other factors. Appendix B, Table A includes a breakdown of the present offenses of this group. It is interesting to note that 45.2% of the group were committed for Armed Robbery. Of the seven murders, four involved victims of robbery and two were strangers to the inmates.

Table B includes some characteristics found when medical and institutional histories were examined. As indicated, 35.5% of the inmates in this group have a record of excessive use of liquor. In some instances, the inmates were intoxicated when they committed the present offense. A second common characteristic was indication of anti-social behavior, impulsiveness, and general irritability which was used to describe at least 29% of the group. \* It is interesting to note that 32.3% of the group had at some time reported to sick bay for sleeplessness, anxiety, or nervousness. Those who were seen with these symptoms were usually given medication.

Status relative to two-thirds law is presented in Table C. As indicated 51.6% of the Transfer group were serving sentences which came under two-thirds law, while 48.4% were not.

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This figure may be small since in some instances such information was not consistently available in the Central Office folders.

Table D indicates how the inmates were transferred to Norfolk. It was found that 48.4% were transferred by the Transfer Board and 32.3% were transferred by the Classification Board. The remaining 19.4% were transferred per order of the commissioner or from the forestry camps.

#### SUMMARY

Under "Background Factors" it is interesting to note that a higher percentage of the Transfer group (38.7%) as compared to the Norfolk group (8.1%) was divorced or separated. The most striking differences between the two groups were under "Criminal History" and "Institutional Data". More inmates in the Transfer group were first arrested in their teens. Since these inmates also had a greater number of juvenile incarcerations, it can be assumed that they were involved in more serious offenses resulting in incarceration. As indicated in the findings, the Transfer group had a higher percentage of drunkenness arrests. It was also found that many in this group had a history of excessive drinking. It is interesting to note that a high percentage of inmates had a history of offenses against the person and 87.1% of them were incarcerated for such an offense at the present time, compared to 21.6% of the Norfolk group. As indicated under type of present offense, 45.2% of the group was committed for armed robbery. Another striking factor under "Institutional Data" was number and type of disciplinary reports. It was found that 77.4% of the Transfer group had at least one disciplinary report, compared to 18.9% of the Norfolk group. In regards to total number of disciplinary reports for the two groups, the Transfer group had six times as many as the Norfolk group. It was also found that the Transfer group had a wider range of disciplinary reports, the most common of which was disobedience or profanity. Under "Medical History" it was found that 32.3% had reported to sick bay at some time and had received medication for sleeplessness, nervousness or anxiety. Only about half the Transfer group was affected by the two-thirds law.

Most of the transfers to Norfolk were authorized by the Transfer Board.

One generalization that emerges from these findings is that the inmates transferred to Bridgewater exhibited more anti-social behavior on the outside and more acting out behavior while in the institution. For example, their criminal histories include many arrests for drunkenness and felonies against the person. These inmates also acted out often in the institution, as illustrated by the high number of disciplinary reports of this group.

Appendix A

	<u>NORFOLK</u>	<u>TRANSFER</u>
<u>A. BACKGROUND FACTORS</u>		
1. <u>Age at Commitment</u>		
Under 25 years	15 (40.6%)	12 (38.7%)
25 or older	22 (59.4%)	19 (61.3%)
2. <u>Race</u>		
White	31 (83.8%)	26 (83.9%)
Black	6 (16.2%)	5 (16.1%)
3. <u>Marital Status</u>		
Single	22 (59.5%)	12 (38.7%)
Married	12 (32.4%)	7 (22.6%)
Separated or Divorced	3 (8.1%)	12 (38.7%)
$\chi^2 = 9.19$ $.01 < p < .02$		
4. <u>Service Discharge</u>		
Service	15 (40.6%)	8 (25.8%)
No Service	22 (59.4%)	23 (74.2%)
5. <u>Type of discharge for those in service</u>		
Honorable	7 (46.7%)	3 (37.5%)
Undesirable or other than honorable	6 (40.0%)	4 (50.0%)
Medical	2 (13.3%)	1 (12.5%)
<u>B. CRIMINAL HISTORY</u>		
1. <u>Age at First Arrest</u>		
12 or younger	9 (24.3%)	4 (12.9%)
13 - 20	15 (40.6%)	23 (74.2%)
20 or older	13 (35.1%)	4 (12.9%)
$\chi^2 = 7.91$ $.01 < p < .02$		
2. <u>Age at First Arrest for Drunkenness</u>		
15 - 19	6 (16.2%)	14 (45.2%)
20 - 24	3 (8.1%)	6 (19.4%)
25 - older	5 (13.5%)	3 (9.7%)
None	23 (62.2%)	8 (25.8%)
3. <u>Number of Prior Arrests</u>		
None	1 (2.7%)	0 (0.0%)
1 - 9	20 (54.1%)	12 (38.7%)
10 - 19	11 (29.7%)	13 (41.9%)
20 or more	5 (13.5%)	6 (19.4%)

	<u>NORFOLK</u>	<u>TRANSFER</u>
<u>4. Number of Prior Arrests for Drunkenness</u>		
None	23 (62.2%)	8 (25.8%)
1 or more	14 (37.8%)	23 (74.2%)
	$\chi^2 = 8.99$	$.001 < p < .01$
<u>5. Felonies vs. Person</u>		
None	26 (70.3%)	10 (32.3%)
1 or more	11 (29.7%)	21 (67.7%)
	$\chi^2 = 9.78$	$.001 < p < .01$
<u>6. Felonies vs. Property</u>		
None	9 (24.3%)	6 (19.4%)
1 or more	28 (75.7%)	25 (80.6%)
<u>7. Sex Felonies</u>		
None	26 (70.3%)	25 (80.6%)
1 or more	11 (29.7%)	6 (19.4%)
<u>8. Number of State or Federal incarcerations</u>		
None	20 (54.0%)	13 (41.9%)
1 or more	17 (45.9%)	18 (58.1%)
<u>9. Number of H. of C. incarcerations</u>		
None	16 (43.2%)	7 (22.6%)
1 or more	21 (56.7%)	24 (77.4%)
<u>10. Number of Juvenile Incarcerations</u>		
None	28 (75.7%)	15 (48.4%)
1 or more	9 (24.3%)	16 (51.6%)
	$\chi^2 = 5.40$	$.02 < p < .05$

C. INSTITUTIONAL DATA

1. Present Offense

Offense against person	8 (21.6%)	27 (87.1%)
Other	29 (78.4%)	4 (12.9%)
	$\chi^2 = 28.95$	$p < .001$

2. Number of Disciplinary Reports

None	30 (81.1%)	7 (22.6%)
1 or more	7 (18.9%)	24 (77.4%)
	$\chi^2 = 23.27$	$p < .001$



NORFOLKTRANSFER3. Number of days in Isolation

None  
1 or more

34 (91.9%)  
3 ( 8.1%)

13 (41.9%)  
18 (58.1%)

$$\chi^2 = 19.72$$

$$p < .001$$

4. Type of Disciplinary Reports

Physical Aggression  
Destruction of property  
Disobedience or profanity  
Contraband--non-drug  
Contraband--drug  
Under influence-pills  
Under influence-alcohol

2 (20.0%)  
2 (20.0%)  
4 (40.0%)  
1 (10.0%)  
0 ( 0.0%)  
0 ( 0.0%)  
1 (10.0%)

7 (11.1%)  
2 ( 3.2%)  
30 (47.6%)  
14 (22.2%)  
3 ( 4.8%)  
1 ( 1.6%)  
6 ( 9.5%)

TOTAL

10 (100.0%)

63 (100.0%)

5. Time at Norfolk

Less than 1 year  
1 - 2 years  
2 years or more

16 (43.2%)  
13 (35.1%)  
8 (21.6%)

12 (38.7%)  
9 (29.0%)  
10 (32.3%)

Appendix B

A. PRESENT OFFENSE

Armed Robbery	14 (45.2%)
Murder, 1st	
In execution of robbery	1 ( 3.2%)
Stranger	1 ( 3.2%)
Murder, 2nd	
In execution of robbery	3 ( 9.7%)
Brother-in-law	1 ( 3.2%)
Stranger	1 ( 3.2%)
Manslaughter	
Girl friend	1 ( 3.2%)
Acquaintance	1 ( 3.2%)
Aggravated Assault	4 (12.9%)
Rape	1 ( 3.2%)
B. & E., Destroying a safe	3 ( 9.7%)

B. MEDICAL HISTORY

Excessive drinker	11 (35.5%)
Sleeplessness, anxiety symptoms, nervousness -- medication	10 (32.3%)
Anti-social, impulsive, irritable, bad temper	9 (29.0%)
Real or imagined physical disorder	5 (16.1%)
History of Drug Use	2 ( 6.5%)
History of Epilepsy	2 ( 6.5%)
History of Headaches	2 ( 6.5%)

C. UNDER 2/3's LAW

Yes	16 (51.6%)
No	15 (48.4%)

D. TRANSFER TO NORFOLK

Transfer Board	15 (48.4%)
Classification Board	10 (32.3%)
Per Order of the Commissioner	3 ( 9.7%)
From Forestry	3 ( 9.7%)