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OFFENDER BASED TRANSACTIONAL STATISTICS



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OFFENDER BASED TRANSACTIONAL STATISTICS

Offender based transactional statistics (OBTS) in Connecticut is a statewide data collection effort examining felony offender processing in the Superior Court system, from arrest through disposition. The scope of the current OBTS study covers those cases disposed of in Superior Court from May, 1983 through April, 1984. This project, combined with two samples of Superior Court activity presently on hand provides information on Superior Court processing for the past five years.

Sources of data selected for inclusion in the 1983-84 OBTS survey include Uniform Arrest Reports, court files from all judicial districts in Connecticut, and criminal history data from the State Police Bureau of Investigation. The total sample size is 2,416 individuals. What follows are some preliminary findings from this survey.

The total sample consisted of 2,416 individuals accused of felony offenses. Of this number, 946 (39.2%) were actually convicted of the original or equally serious charge, 252 (10.4%) were convicted of a less serious felony, 428 (17.7%) were convicted of a misdemeanor and 790 (32.6%) were not convicted of any charge. Of those individuals convicted of a felony, 673 actually served some time in prison. For persons arrested for a felony but convicted of a reduced misdemeanor charge, 123 were incarcerated. Charts I and II show the disposition of cases for the convicted and non-convicted cases.

For all individuals incarcerated, the average (mean) sentence was 17.7 months. This ranged from a 5.5 month average for those incarcerated for a misdemeanor (e.g. larceny III) to a 63.0 month average sentence for persons convicted of a class B felony (e.g. assault I) (A felonies were not included in the analysis due to a lack of sufficient numbers from the sample). Charts III and IV present the incarceration rates and the average sentence lengths by the class of conviction offense.

There was no evidence from this sample to indicate that overall incarcerative sentences have increased substantially in length over the past five years but certain very serious offenders have been receiving longer sentences. For example, the average sentence length for robbery increased 73% from 1980 to 1984 and the average sentence length for serious sexual assault in 1984 was four times what it was in 1980. If this trend continues, an increasing proportion of the incarcerated population will be long term prisoners.

Connecticut Superior Court case processing statistics also indicate a large increase in the number of felony cases disposed of by Connecticut courts. This has been due to an increasing caseload and an active effort by the Superior Court to reduce case processing time. This effort has reduced the median arrest to disposition time from 172 days for 1980 to 54 days for 1984.

CHART I
DISPOSITION OF FELONY CASES

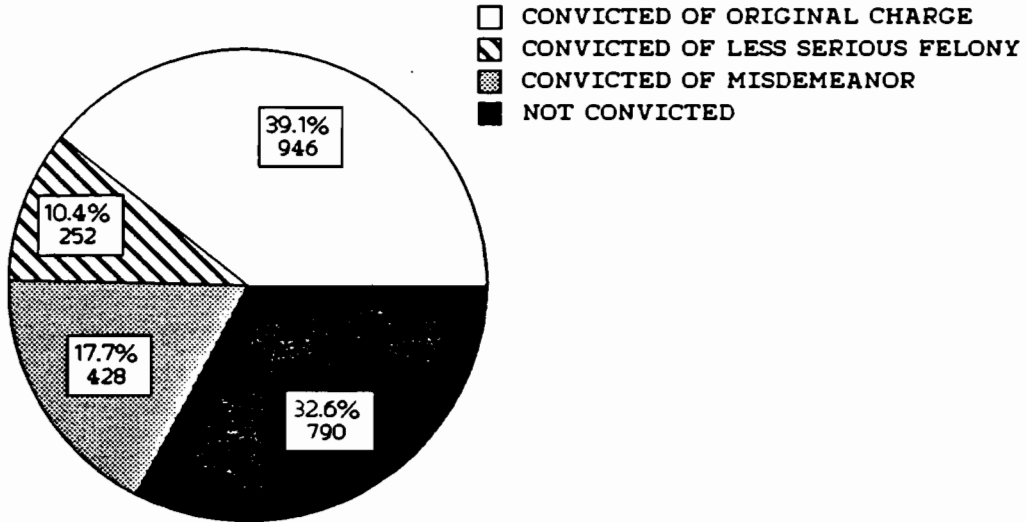


CHART II
DISPOSITION OF NON-CONVICTION CASES

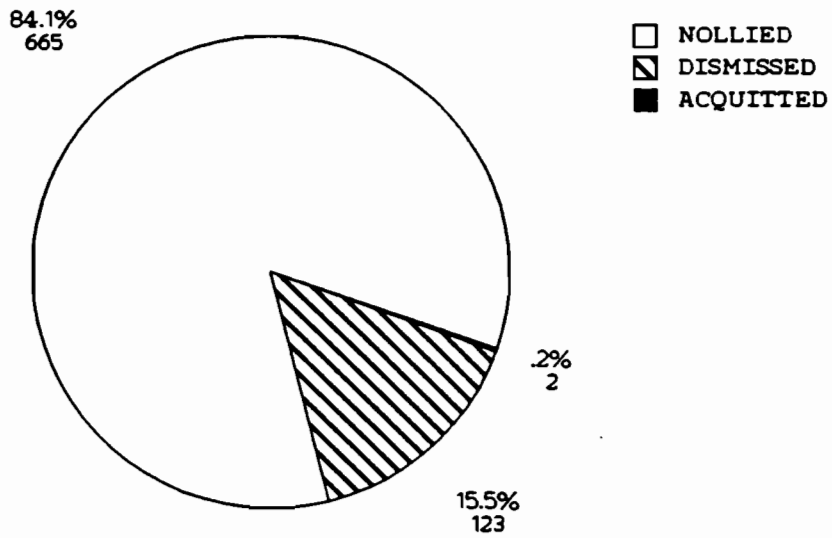


CHART III
INCARCERATION RATES

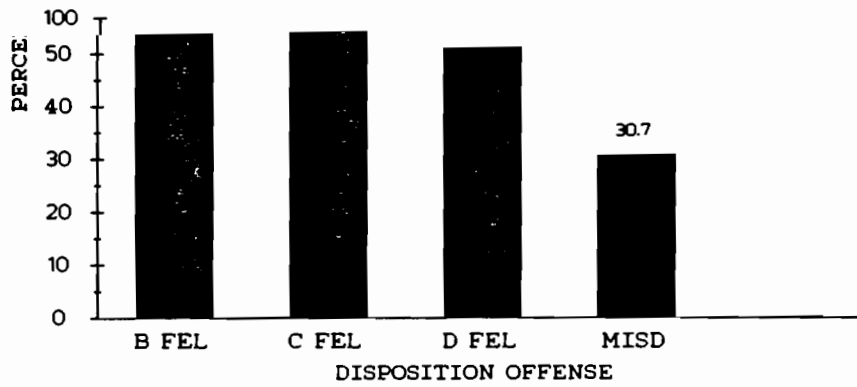
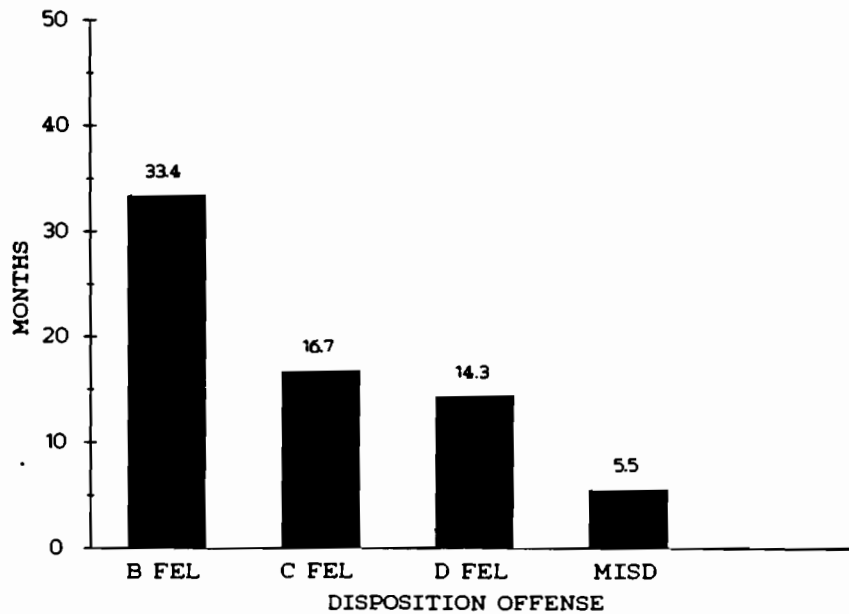


CHART IV
AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH IN MONTHS



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