city drunks-central court of petty sessions-february 1972

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Acknowledgements

The background statistics on drunkenness offences presented in this report could not have been compiled without the cooperation of the New South Wales Police Department. The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research wishes to thank the Commissioner of Police and the staff of the Police Prosecuting Branch for their generous help. We are especially indebted to Sergeant J. Maloney and his colleagues for their patient assistance.

The first two reports in this series are based on the supervised field work of Ian Bevan and Denis Myers, cadet officers of the Department of Corrective Services and Child and Social Welfare. Messrs. Bevan and Myers are also senior students in the Department of Social Work, Sydney University. The Bureau is appreciative of the opportunity of cooperating with the University and wishes especially to acknowledge the contribution made to the present project by Mr. Bevan and Mr. Myers.

Further Publications in this Series

- (i) A study of the social background of drunks who go to prison. To be published around June, 1972.
- (ii) A study of treatment and care facilities available to the alcoholic. This report will consider some alternatives to current practices. To be published around December, 1972.

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BACKGROUND NOTE

Although the offence of drunkenness attracts comparatively light penalties, the law in relation to it is maintained at considerable cost to the community. Apart from the outlay involved in apprehending drunks and processing them through courts and prisons, they add substantially to the work of our police courts and correctional establishments at a time when these institutions are taxed with the responsibility for dealing with serious challenges to community welfare.

It is not difficult to dispense with the idea that drunkenness cases represent a trifling share of the business of the criminal justice system. The 1969 Annual Report of the Police Department of New South Wales indicates that 60,102 offences, representing 33% of arrests reported for that year, were for the offence of drunkenness. In the same year, 30% of all admissions to penal institutions were for the offence of drunkenness.

The financial implications of our present policies are sufficient justification for gathering information on the dimensions of the drunkenness problem. However, in a community which claims to support a wide range of social values, an adequate appraisal of social policy demands information on other factors besides the size and cost of the problem,

Although it is always difficult to reach complete agreement on the meaning of social values, our society's declared commitment to the principles of 'humanitarianism' and 'equality' make it imperative that these value aspects of current policies not be overlooked. In the realm of beliefs and assumptions, it is also necessary to test the supposition that drunks are more likely than other members of the general public to commit

crimes of various kinds. It may be possible to throw some light on this issue by comparing the criminal histories of people arrested for drunkenness with the histories of a sample of the general population.

Such an exercise could have an important bearing on the rights of those arrested for drunkenness. Nevertheless, the Bureau has not been insensitive to the rights of the general public and has strictly observed the confidentiality of the records to which it has had privileged access.

In presenting a series of report on drunkenness, the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research will be attempting to help the community weigh the advantages and disadvantages of existing and alternative social policies. If these reports perform their intended public function, attention must inevitably be focused on some of the less attractive consequences of existing policies. For a variety of reasons, it may be tempting to see these apparent deficiencies as the product of contemporary policies. Such an attitude would completely overlook the fact that our basic procedures for handling drunks have survived almost intact, despite numerous changes in administration, since the mid-nineteenth century. To underline this fact, sections of the evidence given before an 1854 Select Committee of the Legislative Council of New South Wales on Intemperance, have been reproduced at appropriate points throughout the present report. In particular, attention is drawn to the evidence given by the Metropolitan Superintendent of Police concerning the frequent forfeiture of bail money by those who were financially better off and the customary penalties imposed on those who actually appeared before the Court. Solitary confinement aside, little has changed in 120 years.

EVIDENCE GIVEN BY THE METROPOLITAN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE J M'LERIE ESQ J P BEFORE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES ON INTEMPERANCE 1854

Mr. M'Lerie: "...The present law gives twenty-four or forty-eight hours solitary confinement, or a pecuniary fine. ... The maximum penalty for drunkenness is forty shillings, and after a man or woman becomes sober the watch-house keeper is allowed to take forty shillings as a deposit for his or her appearance. A great many, particularly those taken up on Saturday nights never appear afterwards; but it is not a fine but the deposit for their appearance which they forfeit."

Attorney General: "Do you think that a proper regulation; — do you not think the disgrace of being brought before a Magistrate, would have a more powerful effect in inducing them to avoid drunkenness for the future?"

Mr. M'Lerie: "It has always been the practice. The deposit was for many years five shillings the minimum penalty, but since the gold discovery I raised it to forty shillings, the maximum. If a man offers bail, we cannot keep him in the watch—house, the offence of drunkenness being only a simple misdemeanor, and therefore, bailable under the Sydney Police Act."

Chairman: "These persons are generally put into the watch-house sometime in the evening, I presume and are not sober until the following morning; as they would have so short a time to remain before appearing before the Magistrate, is it absolutely necessary that they should be liberated?"

Mr. M'Lerie: "I consider that if a man demands his release on a charge of simple misdemeanor, he is bound by the law to have it on giving bail for his appearance."

Chairman: At what time are they released?"

Mr. M'Lerie: The orders to the police officers on duty at the station-houses are positive, that

they are not to be released until they are perfectly sober; and if apprehended in the evening, they are hardly likely to be sober till four or five in the morning."

Mr. Marsh: "If persons of superior station in life were compelled to appear before the Magistrate, do you think it would have a good effect upon the general class of drunkards?"

Mr. M'Lerie: "It would doubtless be degrading to the individual, but I do not think it would have any good effect upon the generality of drunkards."

Attorney General: "From what classes do you find that the drunkards generally come?"

M. M'Lerie: "I must say, for the credit of the inhabitants of Sydney, that the instances of person moving in a respectable sphere being brought up as drunkards are very rare,"

THE DATA

(i) Basic information.

For the purpose of preparing court submissions, the Police Prosecuting Branch attached to Central Court of Petty Sessions, maintains a card index on persons convicted of drunkenness offences. This file, based on the name and date of birth of offenders, details the number of offences committed during the six months preceding the current court appearance*.

While carefully maintained with respect to local offences, the major practical limitation of the system is the difficulty of recording offences dealt with at other Courts of Petty Sessions. There is some evidence that this limitation may not be too serious so far as the picture of the habitual offender is concerned. In a later report it will be shown that 71% of men who were imprisoned for drunkenness during February were normally resident within the inner city area.

(ii) Other offences.

One fairly widespread assumption which it has been possible to test within the context of the Central Court of Petty Sessions Study, is the idea that drunks, either by virtue of their disposition or the effects of their drinking, are more likely to commit criminal offences. By checking criminal records, it has been possible to establish the percentage of the sample of drunks with a history of convictions for offences other than drunkenness.

Of course, this type of information only takes us a limited way towards the appraisal of current policy. The data regarding the criminal antecedents of drunks becomes more meaningful when compared with the records of a random sample of the general population living within the same 'catchment area'. This latter requirement has been partially fulfilled by checking the records of a random sample of males from each of the electoral subdivisions which comprise the Central Police District. (See map on inside cover). Cases appearing at Central are generally drawn from this area. The size of each sub-sample was proportional to the number of voters listed in each sub-division. Note that the Darlington sub-division has been excluded because such a small proportion of the voters actually lived within the catchment area.

This method at least provided a series of benchmarks against which to evaluate the assumed 'criminality' of convicted drunks. There is a worrying suspicion, however, that a comparison group drawn from electoral rolls may not include socially less stable individuals and will thus understate the recorded crime level of the general community. In fact, on the basis of a comparison of census data with the electoral roll figures, it would appear that for the whole state of New South Wales about 8% of the relevant adult male population is not on the electoral roll. We may be reasonably certain that the percentage in our sample area is not less than this. Clearly this factor will need to be taken into account when considering the findings of the present study,

^{*}The record extends well beyond this period in many cases.

(iii) State Wide Figures.

To supplement the general information gathered on inner-city drunkenness, comparable data has been gathered on drunks appearing before all 254 courts of Petty Sessions throughout New South Wales during the first quarter of 1972. While the age and sex of the offender has not been specified in all cases, an index system has been devised for the purpose of calculating the number of offences committed by each individual and arriving at estimates of the total volume of cases likely to occur throughout 1972.

SAMPLE OF DRUNKENMESS OFFEMDERS

During the first two weeks of February 1972, 1251 cases of drunkenness were processed by the Central Court of Petty Sessions. Some people were arrested on more than one occasion during this fortnight. The number of distinct individuals dealt with by the Court was 1143. Of this number 1068 (93.4%) were men and 75 (6.6%) were women,

With the aid of the special offence records kept by the police prosecuting staff, it was possible to discern two main groups of offenders. Two out of every three men and women arrested for drunkenness had not had a conviction for this offence during the six months preceding the study. (See accompanying table). Ninety per cent of the men and approximately the same percentage of the women had a record of fewer than 5 convictions:

NUMBER OF PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS OVER 6 MONTHS PERIOD

		Men		Wome	
		Whites	Percentage	Windle	September 1
No	previous convictions	720	67.4	49	65,3
	One	108	10.1	10	13,3
	Two	58	5.4	5	6.6
	· Three	48	4.5	1	1,4
	Four	36	3.4	1	1.4
	Five to nine	66	6.2	4	5.4 '
	Ten or more	32	3.0	<u>5</u>	6.6
		1068	100.0	75	100.0

When the age factor was considered, all of the women and almost all (94%) of the men under 25 years of age had not been before the Court during the previous 6 months. The greater likelihood of young men being involved in an isolated drunkenness offence is apparent in the following comparison:

	Men under 30 years*	Men 30 years or older*
One conviction More than one conviction	215 91.8 19 8.2 234 100.0	478 61.3 302 38.7 779 100.0

*Note: Age was not specified in 55 cases.

All 17 women under 30 years of age were being dealt with for their first offence in at least 6 months; 28/49 (57%) of those 30 years or older had not had a conviction during the same period.

AGE COMPARISON WITH GENERAL POPULATION

The impression might easily be gained from the foregoing tables that young people engaged in occasional bouts of excessive drinking, constitute a disproportionately large share of those arrested for drunkenness. However, not only are the over forties more at risk of incurring multiple offences but they account for a larger proportion of the total sample of male drunks than might be expected on a population basis. The table which appears opposite (and the accompanying figure — see next page) indicate that when the number of convictions is disregarded, all age categories up to 40 years are under-represented in terms of their estimated share of the Sydney male population. This trend is even more pronounced when the percentages are calculated on the basis of the number of men with more than one conviction (see figure next page).

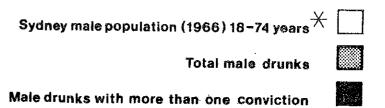
COMPARISON OF AGE STRUCTURES

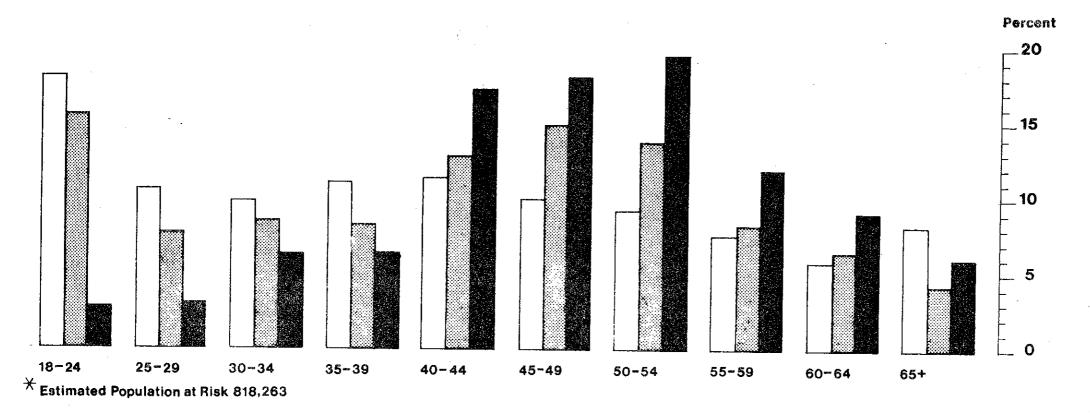
	Mele dicurate	gryk s	nan conviction of the convicti	,
	Male	Mele (not	Sylphon, 18	
18 - 24	15.4	2.8	18.0	
25 - 29	7.7	3.1	10.6	
30 - 34	8,5	6,3	9.8	
35 = 39	8.2	6.3	11.0	
40 - 44	12.8	17.2	11.3	
45 - 49	14.8	18.1	9,9	
50 - 54	13.7	19.4	9.1	
55 - 59	8.2	11. 9	7.5	•
60 - 64	6.4	9.0	5.7	
65 _#	4.3	5 . 9	7.1	
	100.0	100.0	100.0	

^{*}Est. Pop. = 818,263.

Single & Multiple Offences - Comparison of Age Structure

First and last age ranges are larger than the rest





MULTIPLE OFFENCES

The tendency for multiple offences to be more common among male offenders forty years of age or older is reflected in the table on the following page. (Note that the percentage table for women is based on just 75 cases. The raw figures for drunkenness convictions are presented in Appendix A). After 40 years of age there is a noticeable drop in the percentage of offenders experiencing their first court appearance in six months. Perhaps more significant is the dramatic increase beyond the fortieth year in the percentage of each age category involved in 5 or more offences:

			ences	offe	more nces	Total
		Wintlex	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Percentage
Less than 25 - 30 - 35 -	29 34	155 77 82 80	99.4 98.7 95.3 96.4	1 1 4 3	0.6 1.3 4.7 3.6	100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0
40 45 50 55 60	49 54 59	117 133 116 73 51 39	90.0 88.7 83.5 88.0 78.5 90.6	13 17 23 10 14 4	10.0 11.3 16.5 12.0 21.5 9.4	100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0

EVIDENCE GIVEN BY HIS HONOUR SIR ALFRED STEPHEN KNIGHT BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTEMPERANCE 1854

"I beg leave here to introduce some remarks, (tho' not quite in their proper place.) with respect to the Committals for Drunkenness, to the Sydney Gaol, during the first six months of this year. The number of Committals. I have already mentioned, was 1757. The actual number of persons committed. (whether once or

oftener,) was 1061, And, as 757 of those had been committed once only, it follows that 304 have been committed so repeatedly, as to swell the number of Committals to the total stated. Of these 20 were committed five times. and 3 nine times. Of the entire 1757 committed, the majority served

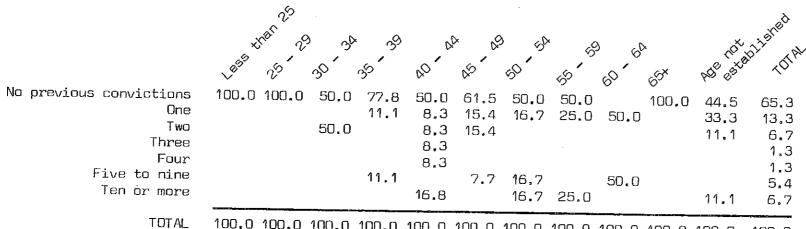
only 24 hours... The sentences never exceed forty-eight hours, I hold all this to be most unnecessary suffering: because the punishment does not warn. does not inspire dread. but instils only idleness, while it degrades."

MEN (AGE IN YEARS)

	×	er sp	9 3	p g	QQ 6	' Ç)	\$ 65) _c	Ç.	×	ablianed and pa
	\8565	25	30	35	aD,	ds,	90 '	60	60	66x	POR PROVI	ip, Aller
No previous convictions	94.3	87.2	76.7	75.9	57.7	61,3	55.4	54.2	55.4	55.8	49.1	67.4
One	3.2	5.1	8.1	9.7	13.8	14.0	10.1	10.9	7.7	11.6	21.8	10.1
Two	1.3	0.0	5.8	6.0	7.7	2.7	7.2	12.1	6.2	13.9	3.6	5.4
Three		5 .1	4.7	3.0	7.7	6.0	5,0	6.0	4.6		5.5	4.5
Four	0.6	1.3		1.2	3.1	4.7	5.8	4.8	4.6	9.3	5.5	3.4
Five to nine	0.6	1.3	4.7	1.2	9.2	7.3	10.1	7.2	12.3	4.7	10.9	6 . 2
Ten or more				2.4	0.8	4.0	6.4	4.8	9,2	4.7	3,6	3.0

100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 TOTAL

WOMEN (AGE IN YEARS)



100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0

Comparison of Offence Histories of Drunks with Voting Population

'A drunkard from beer is simply a sot. A drunkard from wine may occasionally be led into acts of

violence but...he is not the maniacal drunkard that a spirit drinker is!

Evidence given before Select Committee of the Legislative Council of New South Wales on Intemperance, 1854.

It would be difficult to test the above-mentioned ideas with any degree of scientific rigour. Nevertheless, in this present study we have gathered some information on the extent to which people arrested for drunkenness have been involved in other types of offences, including those of a 'violent' kind. Offence histories were analysed in terms of three categories:

- (1) All recorded offences (except juvenile
 'neglect' cases),
- (2) Offences against the person,
- (3) Offences against property and larcenies.

Complete details of the offences included in categories 2 and 3 may be found in Appendix B.

As mentioned in the introductory sections of this report, to test assumptions regarding the criminal tendencies of male drunks, it is important to compare their histories with those of some other representative group. In the present study, the comparison group was a random sample of male voters living within the relevant catchment area (see the map on the inside front cover). With the necessary exception of certain property offences, criminal data on both groups were recorded in coded form only and the confidentiality of this information closely observed.

ALL RECORDED OFFENCES

The first comparison between the two samples was based on all offences which appeared in the records maintained by the C.I.B. fingerprints section. Although a very general comparison, it has relevance to the ideas of those people who simply believe that drunks are more likely to become involved in criminal activities.

Approximately 1 in 3 (35%) of the sample of drunks had 'criminal records'. However, in evaluating this finding it is necessary to keep in mind that a certain level of criminality is to be expected within the general population. In the case of the catchment area under study, 10% of the sample of adult male voters had criminal records (see the figure on the next page). This Estimate must be regarded as being somewhat low. For ethical reasons, it was necessary to base the estimate on a public roll and it is possible that socially less stable individuals are under-represented in such a listing.

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON

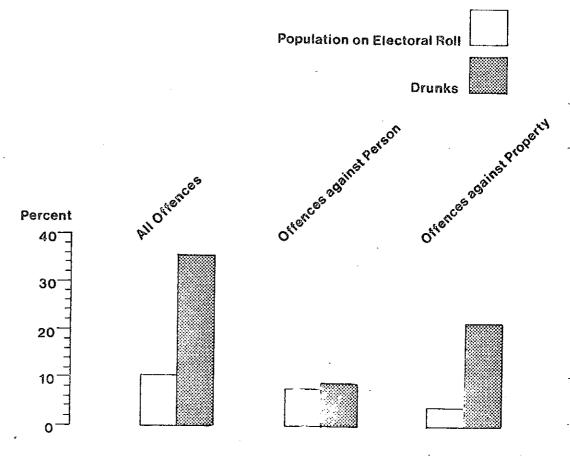
The quotation which prefaced this section of the report probably reflects the view of many people in present day society that drunks are generally prone to violence. This attitude may have been encouraged by instances of violent crime in which the offender was known to have been under the influence of alcohol. Our present concern, however, is with the more general question of whether drunks as a group are more likely than the general population to have a history of offences against the person.

There was virtually no difference between the two samples with respect to the number of men with a history of offences against the person; 8.8% of the drunks and 7.5% of the innercity sample had a history of offences of this type (see the accompanying figure).

OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY

The sample of drunks contained a far larger proportion (22%) of men with a history of property offences than was the case with the inner-city sample (4%).

By examining in detail the offence histories of a sub-sample of 50 drunks and the histories of the 18 members of the comparison group with property offences, it was hoped to establish whether the property offences committed by drunks were related to subsistence needs. While the criminal antecedents of the drunks included many offences which involved stealing food and clothing (e.g. stealing a pair of shoes, stealing a bottle of milk, fruit etc.) there were few cases in which the objects stolen were restricted exclusively to such basic items.



STATE WIDE FIGURES

Mr. Allen: Could you give any idea as to the number of individuals dealt with for drunkenness in the course of three months?"

J.S. Dowling, Esq., Police Magistrate: "I could not without great trouble. There are about fifty or more men and women, old stagers, who are no sooner out of gaol than they get again apprehended, probably the same night".

Evidence given before the Select Committee on Intemperance, 1854.

The question posed by Mr. Allen is not easy to answer even today. Indeed, it appears that the present study is the first attempt to estimate the number of individuals in New South Wales who either (i) forfeit their recognizance* or are (ii) convicted of the offence of drunkenness during a three month period (1st January — 31st March, 1972). Throughout the study period, routine statistical reports furnished by Courts of Petty Sessions were used to develop an index of drunks. As new offences were

reported, the index was searched and individual offence histories adjusted in the light of the incoming information.

Inevitably, the estimates which have resulted err on the side of understating the number of drunkenness cases which occurred during the first quarter of the year. First, the system of Court statistics (embracing some 254 centres) was in its first months of operation. Gradually, unreported cases are being identified but to avoid further delay, it was decided to base the present analysis on the very substantial sample of reported cases (approximately 8,500 individuals and 11,300 offences). The fact that Court statistics are reported in terms of a 'principal offence' is a further technical reason why the number of drunkenness cases has been understated. On the basis of the estimated number of arrests, the number of drunkenness offences during the first quarter was probably in the vicinity of 14,500.

Despite these limitations, the available data has been useful for the purpose of highlighting several important features of the offender group. First, it has been possible to determine the frequency with which individuals were charged with being drunk. Although one woman managed a total of 15 arrests (an average of one per week) and three men had each been arrested 13 times, there was a very heavy concentration of offenders at the lower end of the scale. Four out of every five (83%) were involved in a single

*Usual sum is 1 dollar.

drunkenness offence during the three months. When you add to this group those who had two offences, the number of drunks accounted for exceeds 93% of the total sample. The remaining 7% is made up of multiple offenders who accounted for 20% of the 11,320 offences recorded during the study period:

ALL PERSONS

్లు	· "mtr	of age
comiction	Total Number	. Satelitade
One	7169	82.6
Tw□	939	10.8
Three	308	3.5
Four	131	1.5
Five	71	0.8
Six	30	0,4
Seven	9	0,1
Eight	5	0.1
Nine	7	0.1
Ten	5	0.1
Eleven	2	
Twelve		
Thirteen	3	
Fourteen	•	
Fifteen	1	
	8680	100.0

It seems, then that the same basic pattern observed in relation to the Central Court of Petty Sessions sample is sustained throughout New South Wales. The great majority of drunkenness offenders appear quite infrequently (cnce or twice in a three months interval). It is the 6-7% who commit multiple offences who are at risk of being punished by the Courts. However, to the extent that an individual has the necessary funds — many habitual drunkards observe the custom of carrying a dollar in their sock — he may continue for some time to forfeit his recognizance (or 'bail money') and not appear in Court.

A practical limit to these evasive tactics arises when a person is arrested a sufficient number of times — usually about 10 or 11 times in six months — and thus invites action under the Inebriates Act. He will not then be able to avoid appearing in Court. Still, candidates for this type of action appeared to represent a small fraction of the total number of people arrested. (On the basis of 5 or more arrests in 3 months, they accounted for 1.5%). In its next report in this series the Bureau will examine the financial and social situation and offence history of those drunks who appear in Court and are sentenced to short—term imprisonment.

Meanwhile there are several points concerning the New South Wales drunkenness statistics which warrant brief comment. Women represented a slightly smaller proportion (4.7%) of the State sample than was the case with the Central Court of Petty Sessions group (6.6%). The tendency for the majority of young offenders to be involved in isolated offences was also characteristic of the state sample: 93%

of the 1096 men under thirty years of age and approximately the same proportion of the 30 women in the same age bracket, were involved in a single offence during the three months. With regard to the age distribution of male offenders, the State results were again very similar to those obtained at Central Court. In both samples, there was a concentration of offenders within the 40-54 years group:

ade distribution	Petchiters of	percentage of contractions	Sertifa Gerei Gris Sertifa Gerei Gris
Less than 25 years	14.7	15.4	
25 – 29	9.1	7.7	
30 - 34	8.4	8.5	
35 = 39	9,5	8.2	
40 - 44	12.0	12.8	
45 – 49	15.1	14.8	
50 - 54	13.0	13.7	
55 – 59	8.4	8.2	
60 – 64	5.7	6.4	
65 +	4.1	4.3	

APPENDIX A

NUMBER OF OFFENCES DURING SIX MONTHS PERIOD

MEN (AGE IN YEARS)		ุ่าใ	Ģ									eb
		XYEL	2	30	જી	QQ.	Ø9	Sa	60	60	K	2, 2; 1 ₂
	\earliest \earliest \text{ggE}	, lo	, 30°	, , , %	, 02) &) ' b	, w	o'	&X	pde d	ot distaled to the stability of the stab
No previous convictions One Two Three Four Five to nine Ten or more	147 5 2 1 1	68 4 4 1	66 7 .5 4 4	63 8 5 3 1 1	75 18 10 10 4 12 1	92 21 4 9 7 11 6	77 14 10 7 8 14 9	45 9 10 5 4 6 4	36 5 4 . 3 . 3 8 6	27 5 6 4 2 2	24 12 2 3 3 6 2	720 108 58 48 36 66 32
TOTAL	156	7 8	86	83	130	1 50	139	83	65	43	55	1068
WOMEN (AGE IN YEARS)	65	Alar J	; , v ^o	^^ ′ ~%	, 39 , _k o	, da	, (G	, 5¢	\$ \$	6 ⁰	· , of ,	Notabilisted
WOMEN (AGE IN YEARS) No previous convictions One Two Three Four Five to nine Ten or more	9	25 25	9 1 1	^° 7 1	5 6 1 1 1 2	8 2 2	,	9 2 1	\$ \$ 1 1) ((3) 1	' \\' ' 4 3 1	49 10 5 1 1 4 5

APPENDIX B

CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENCES

A. OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON

Abduction

Abortion, attempts, etc.

Assault & Rob or with intent to rob.

Assault (prosecuted by indictment).

Assault, common, female or in company.

Assault, Constable or Special Constable in execution of duty. Bigamy.

Bodily Harm, causing actual or grevious.

Malicious Wounding (excluding cases arising from driving).

Concealment of birth.

Demand property by menaces or threat.

Manslaughter (excluding cases arising from driving).

Murder.

Murder, attempt, incite, conspire.

Railways, endangering passengers.

Setting Fire to Dwelling, person being therein.

Other offences against the person.

B. LARCENIES AND OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY

(i) Larcenies

Larceny of or illegally using vehicle or boat.

Larceny as bailee.

Larceny-Commonwealth property.

Larceny or illegal use of animals.

Larceny from the person.

Larceny in dwelling.

Larceny (all thefts not specially listed).

Larceny by persons employed in the public service.

Larceny by joint owners.

(ii) Offences against property

Burglary, Break and enter, attempts etc.

Cattle, unlawfully kill, maim or wound, stealing cattle or killing with intent to steal carcass or skin etc.

Malicious injury to property.

Malicious injury over \$10.00.

Making or having gun-powder etc. to commit malicious injury.

Maliciously set fire to any dwelling house, vehicle, and certain other buildings with intent to injure or defraud any person.

Maliciously set fire to any railway station or public building.

Maliciously setting fire to other buildings.

Maliciously setting fire to any matter or things adjacent to buildings etc. and attempts.

Persons unlawfully in possession of property.

Receiving.

Receiving Commonwealth property.

Sacrilege.

Other offences against property.

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