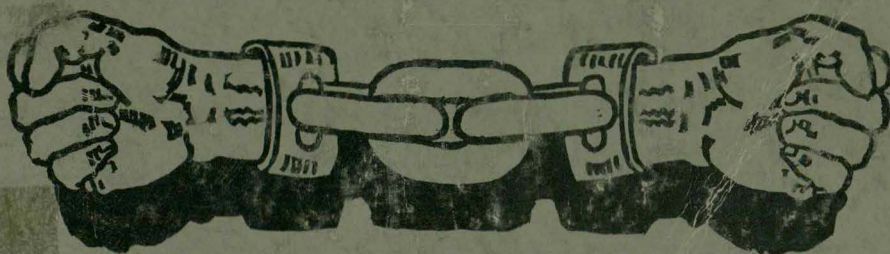


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# OFFENDERS IN COURT *and* IN PRISON



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**WALTER A. LUNDEN**  
Department of Economics and Sociology  
Iowa State College



# OFFENDERS

IN COURT

and

IN PRISON

A Study of Criminal Litigation and  
Correctional Institutions in Iowa

Walter A. Lunden  
Department of Economics and Sociology  
Iowa State College



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## P R E F A C E

This study has been prepared to help the interested citizen and student of criminology to understand what has been happening in the courts and prisons within the past twenty years. The two subjects of criminal litigation and correctional institutions have been combined into a single volume because the court and the prison are part of the crime-prison problem in our society. What happens in the court has a direct relationship to the prison and what occurs in the prison in time has a bearing on the courts. Justice, therefore, is made of whole cloth and cannot be segmented into separate compartments.

The material has been limited to criminal litigation and the correctional institutions in the State of Iowa. The time span covers the Great Depression, the years of World War II and the post-war years to 1952. These two decades have had a marked influence on the judicial processes in the courts and the operation of prisons in the state.

In carrying on the research program for this study the author has had the helpful cooperation of a number of persons, organizations and institutions in Iowa. Words of appreciation are due the members of the Board of Control of State Institutions in Iowa and the State Board of Parole of Iowa for making information available. Special words of appreciation are due Warden P. A. Lainson of the Iowa State Penitentiary at Ft. Madison and Warden R. Purcell of the State Reformatory at Anamosa for many helpful suggestions. In an overall sense the author is grateful to Dean Harold V. Gaskill of the Science Division of Iowa State College and to Dr. W. G. Murray, Chairman of the Department of Economics and Sociology, for making resources available through the Industrial Science Research Institute of the college under which the work has been done. In addition acknowledgment is due David H. Long, a former student at Iowa State College, for assisting in the tabulation of the material dealing with criminal litigation in Iowa.

Walter A. Lunden

June, 1955  
Ames, Iowa

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1281



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PART ONE

CRIMINAL LITIGATION IN IOWA, 1935 - 1952



## CRIMINAL LITIGATION IN IOWA, 1935 TO 1952

## Introduction

When the legal authority in a county charges a person with an offense and brings him before criminal court the entire process constitutes a method by which society attempts to adjust or treat deviations from the normal type of human behaviour. It is a procedure which the state, acting through a formal process, takes against an individual because his actions are a threat to the well-being of the community. The court functions as an arm of the state and attempts to determine the guilt or innocence of the person involved. Criminal litigation is, therefore, a judicial contest by which a court tries a person charged with a crime.

Beyond this a case in criminal court has many far-reaching social involvements. First, the offender by his actions has caused the whole socio-legal machinery in a society to be set into motion in order to adjust a real or a supposed dereliction. The doer of the wrong is a disturber of the peace. The customary and usual course of human relationships have been fractured by an act. Second, the offender knowingly or unknowingly has not been able to make the normal adjustment in his community. In the strict sense, he is a malefactor and the trial is an evidence of a disordered relationship. Third, there is the person or persons who have been offended. The court in attempting to meet out justice may overlook or neglect the harmed person. Justice therefore, may be done but justice does not always restore the damage to the offended person.

In spite of the fact that the number of cases which come before a court do not constitute an accurate measure of the amount of crime in a state these same cases do reflect the social conditions within a given area. In general, when the number of crimes committed increase the number of cases in criminal courts rise. The number of persons charged and tried in court, however, is only a small per cent of the total known crimes. In 1952 the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported 432,834 major crimes known to the police in 208 cities with a population of more than 25,000 persons. In the same cities for the same year, 95,424 persons were charged and held for prosecution. The figure represents about 22 per cent of the crimes known to the police in these cities. Of these same 95,424 persons charged, 66,852 or 70 per cent were found guilty. In a very broad sense, therefore, the number of cases in the courts in these 208 cities constituted about one-fifth of the number of crimes known to the police. In general,



for every 100 crimes known to the police, there were about 22 cases in criminal court.

Apart from this overall relationship between crimes known to the police and the number of cases in court the amount of criminal litigation is important from the view-point of the actual load of criminal prosecutions that pass through the courts in a given year. They represent the actual amount of legal traffic which the courts must deal with in a given period.

Beyond this concern of the actual traffic of litigation the information is significant when the end results of the court procedure or methods of disposition of the cases are considered. If or when the types of disposition change within a given judicial system that variation warrants serious attention. The first part of the material under investigation, therefore, takes up the actual number of criminal cases in the courts of Iowa for a period of years beginning with 1935 and ending with 1952. In addition the dispositions in each case have been examined in terms of changing condition within the state.

#### Scope of the Investigation

In order to obtain a fairly adequate amount of information on criminal litigation the investigator has examined all the criminal cases which have come before the criminal courts within the state of Iowa for the 18 year period of 1935 through 1952. Data for the 99 courts in the state for this period have been tabulated from the "Criminal Statistics" for each county as given in the Biennial Reports issued for the respective years by the Iowa State Board of Parole. Prior to 1910 the information on criminal court cases in Iowa had been gathered and reported by the Office of the Attorney General of the State. In another work which is under investigation the number of criminal court cases in Iowa is being examined from 1864 to 1914. Information for the present report covers each year from 1935 to 1952 except for one year, 1941 for which there is no available information. For some reason unknown to the investigator data for this year do not appear in the Biennial Reports for year ending 1942. In the 17 year period for which records have been used a very small number of counties failed to report the number of cases in court. In the few cases where this has occurred an estimate has been made for these counties based on the number of cases in the preceding and subsequent year. This method has been employed in order to present the total number of cases for the entire state for a given year.



In addition to the county by county material the amount of criminal litigation in the various counties has been analyzed in terms of the rural and urban character of the 99 counties in Iowa. The division and the grouping of the counties will be explained in the section dealing with that phase of the material. Beyond this criminal litigation has been analyzed according to the 21 judicial districts in the state.



## CHAPTER ONE

## THE CYCLE OF CRIMINAL LITIGATION

During the 17 year period from 1935 to 1952 (omitting 1941) the district courts in Iowa have tried 74,953 criminal cases or an average of 4,409 cases a year. In terms of a rate per 10,000 the amount is 17.1 cases per 10,000 inhabitants. The annual number of cases each year has varied according to the general social and economic conditions within the state and the nation. The 17 year period under investigation covers four years at the end of the Great Depression of the thirties, the years of World War II and the post-war years. This time span encompasses years of serious economic disorders, a total war and the problems current in the post-war adjustment years.

From 1935 to 1952 the volume of criminal litigation in Iowa has passed through a complete cycle with a high number of cases in 1940, a low figure in 1944 and then a high peak in 1950. From 1935 to 1940 criminal cases increased gradually from 4,262 to 4,837 or 13.4 per cent. Reports are not available for 1941 but in 1942, the second year of World War II for the United, the number of cases declined to 3,579 and then continued to the low point of 3,020 in 1945 or 37 per cent below the pre-war year of 1940. In the post-war years, after 1946, the number of cases advanced rapidly reaching the all-time high number of 5,499 in 1950 or 12 per cent above the pre-war high year of 1940. In 1952 the number of cases declined slightly to 5,452.

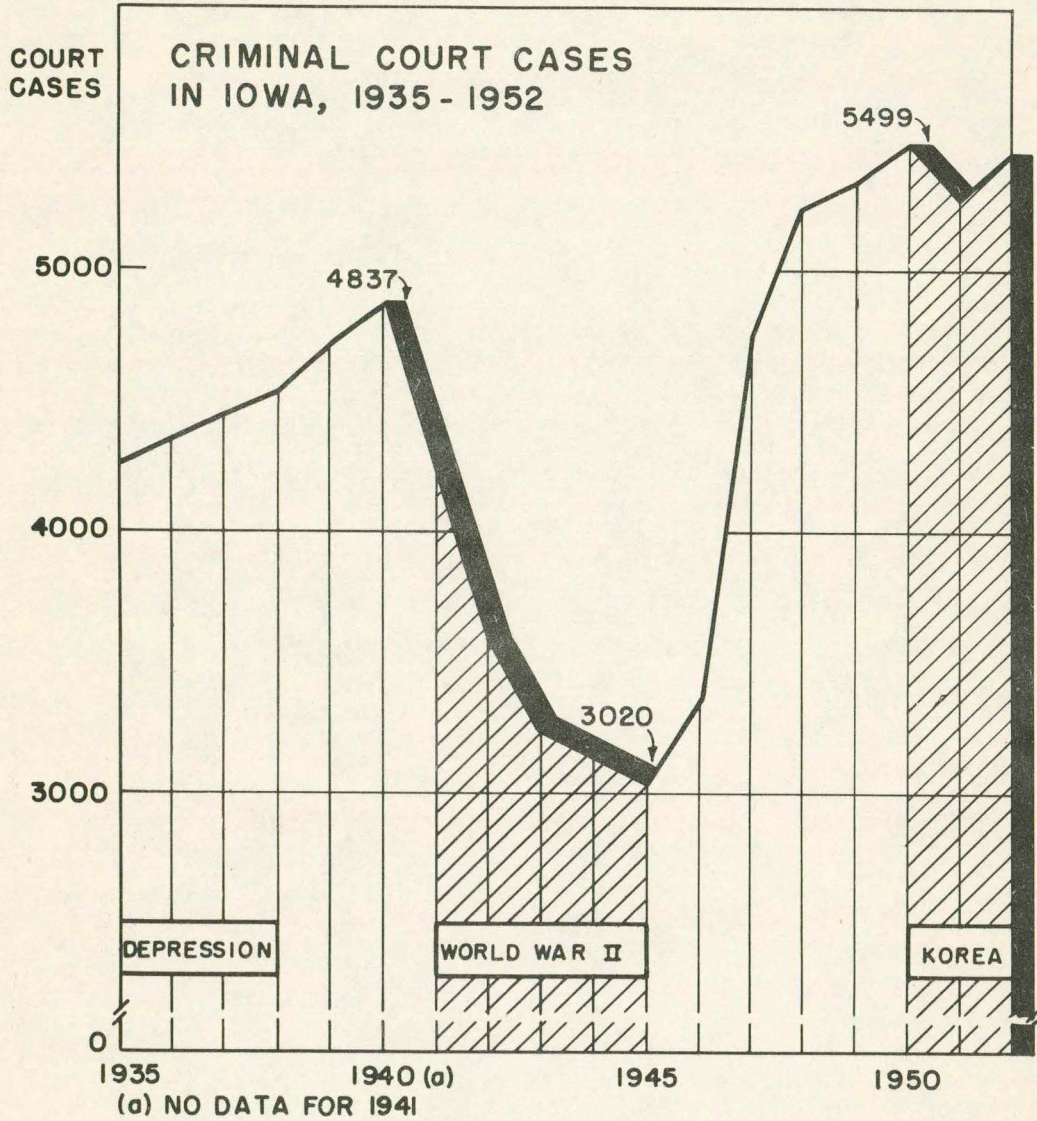
This cyclical variation in the number of cases before the district courts in the state are traceable to conditions within the state and the nation. The decline in criminal court cases may be attributed to the fact that the nation called some men into the Armed Forces whereas others entered industrial production relating to the war effort. All this removed a very large proportion of the male population in that age group which is most frequently involved in criminal acts. The rapid rise of cases in the post-war years may be due to the general disorganization or the readjustment to the peace time conditions. The situation may be due also to the fact that the whole society was returning to a trend that had already begun in the pre-war years. Whatever these conditions may be, it is evident that the volume of criminal court cases in the state has reached an all time record height in the post-war years. If the present circumstances continue, the trend will continue. This becomes apparent when the data are examined on an urban and rural basis.



CRIMINAL LITIGATION IN IOWA, 1935-1952  
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES IN DISTRICT COURTS

YEAR	NUMBER
1935	4262
1936	4356
1937	4426
1938	4512
1939	4709
	22,265
1940	4837
1941	(a)
1942	3579
1943	3232
1944	3123
	14,771
1945	3020
1946	3361
1947	4766
1948	5230
1949	5314
	21,691
1950	5499
1951	5275
1952	5452
	16,226
TOTAL	74,953
AVERAGE	4,409
(a) No Data	







## CHAPTER TWO

CRIMINAL COURT CASES ACCORDING TO THE DISTRIBUTION  
OF POPULATION IN IOWA

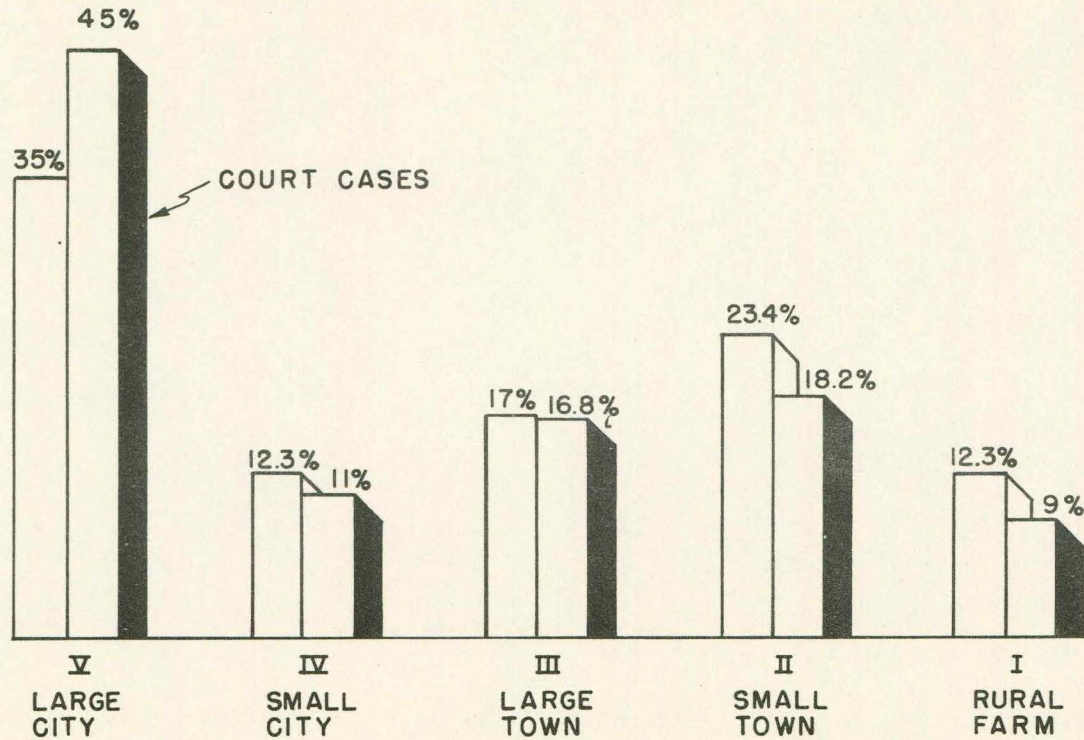
The volume and the rate of criminal court cases in the respective 99 counties in Iowa have varied according to the rural and urban character or density of the population. In general, the more urban counties have shown a greater number criminal court cases than the rural counties when the facts are reduced to a percentage or a rate.

In order to examine the variations according to population the 99 counties in Iowa have been classified into five groups according to the size of the largest community in each county. On this basis there were 23 counties in which the largest community had less than 2500 inhabitants. These counties were placed in group I and classified as Rural-Farm counties. There were 34 counties in which the largest community had 2500 to 5000 inhabitants. These counties were arranged in Group II and classified as the Small-Town Counties. There were 22 counties in which the largest town had 5000 to 10,000 people. These counties were assigned to Group III and called the Large-Town counties. Also there were 9 counties in which the largest community had 10,000 to 25,000 people. These were called the Small-Cities counties or Group IV. Finally, there were 11 counties in which the largest city in the county had a population of more than 25,000 inhabitants. These were placed in Group V and designated as the Large-City or Urban Counties. The individual counties in each group are shown in the table with the number of cases for each year from 1935 to 1952.

On the basis of the 1940 and 1950 census about one-third of the population in Iowa lived in the 11 counties of Group V where 45 per cent of the criminal cases were tried during the 17 year period. The rate per 10,000 was 21.1 which was higher than the rate for the state as a whole, 17.1 per 10,000 population. About 12.3 per cent of the people in the state lived in Group IV counties where 11 per cent of the criminal cases were tried with a rate of 15.5 per 10,000. The Group III counties contained 17.0 per cent of the population where 16.8 per cent of the cases appeared with a rate of 16.4 per 10,000. The Group II counties comprised 23.4 per cent of the total population of the state and had 18.4 per cent of the criminal cases and a rate of 13.2 per 10,000. The Rural-farm counties in Group I included 12.3 per cent of the population and tried 9.0 per cent of all cases making a rate of



# POPULATION AND CRIMINAL COURT CASES BY COUNTY GROUPS IN IOWA





11.7 per 10,000 population.

On the basis of the rates per 10,000, criminal litigation was two times greater in the Large City counties of Group V than in the Rural-Farm counties of Group I. Except for the Group IV counties the rates increase directly with the size of the population. ✓

Criminal Court Cases in Iowa, 1935-52  
According to County Groups.

County Group	Court Cases Number Per Cent		Per Cent of Population (1940-1950)	Rate per 10,000 population	Persons per Square Mile.
I (23)	6,794	9.0	12.3	11.7	27
II (34)	14,045	18.2	23.4	13.2	30
III (22)	12,677	16.8	17.0	16.4	36
IV (9)	8,246	11.0	12.3	15.5	56
V (11)	33,191	45.0	35.0	21.1	128
Total (99)	74,953	100.0	100.0	17.1	



Changes in the Number of Criminal Court Cases  
By Size of Counties from 1935 to 1952

Not only do the number and the rates of criminal court cases vary according to the population in the counties of Iowa but there are also differences in the rates of change in the respective groups of counties for the 17 year period. In order to examine these annual changes during the 17 years the raw data have been reduced to Index Numbers using 1935 (100) as the base-year. The Index Numbers for the counties in Group V and Group I have been placed on the chart which shows the marked differences.

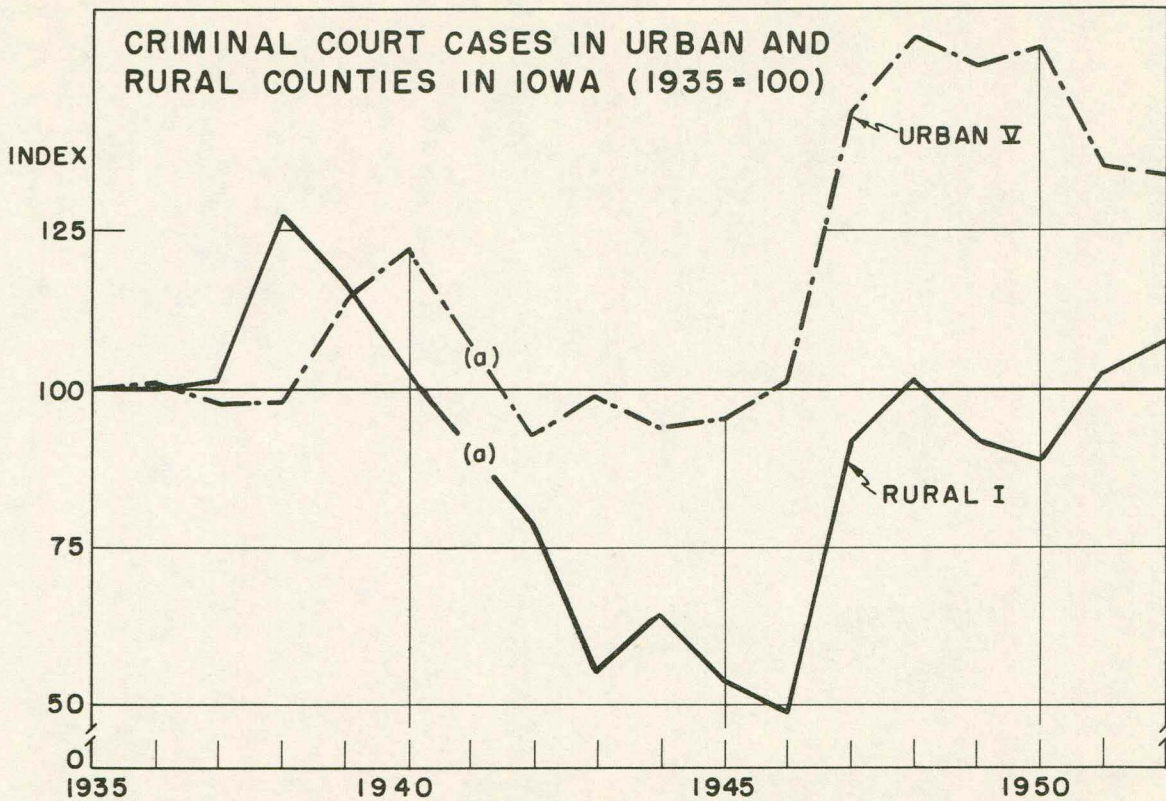
CRIMINAL COURT CASES BY COUNTY  
GROUP IN IOWA, 1935- 1952

Year	I	II	III	IV	V	Total
1935	444	757	834	564	1663	4262
1936	445	912	825	484	1690	4356
1937	471	877	1010	448	1620	4426
1938	564	873	863	593	1619	4512
1939	519	848	924	520	1898	4709
1940	453	928	897	545	2014	4837
1941	----- NO DATA -----					
1942	345	688	570	426	1550	3579
1943	243	514	453	386	1636	3232
1944	280	533	453	289	1568	3123
1945	231	547	384	274	1584	3020
1946	215	515	486	350	1795	3361
1947	410	767	713	507	2396	4766
1948	451	878	785	517	2599	5230
1949	409	1030	860	482	2533	5314
1950	384	1088	868	593	2566	5499
1951	456	1082	847	636	2254	5275
1952	474	1208	905	632	2233	5452
Total	6794	14,045	12,677	8246	33,191	74,953
Average	399	826	745		1952	4409
Rate per 10,000	11.7	13.2	16.4		21.3	17.1

From 1935 to 1937 there was little change in the lines for both groups of counties but in 1938, the last year of the Great Depression, the index of the curve for the Rural-Farm Counties



CRIMINAL COURT CASES IN URBAN AND RURAL COUNTIES IN IOWA (1935=100)



(a) NO DATA

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increased 27 per cent but the curve for the Urban Counties fell 2 per cent below the 1935 base year. The next year the rural curve declined and the urban line advanced to about the same point. Each year thereafter the number of cases in both groups of counties declined but the curve dropped much more in the rural counties than in the urban counties. The lowest point for the rural counties came in 1946 with an index of 48 which was 52 per cent below the 1935 figure. The lowest point in the urban counties came in 1942 with an index of 92 or only 7 per cent below 1935. Here the data clearly show that criminal court cases declined much more in the rural counties than in the urban areas.

In the post-war years the index for criminal cases in the rural counties returned to about the 1935 level, although 12 per cent below 1935 in 1950. In 1952 the index was 7 per cent above 1935. In contrast to this the curve for the index numbers in the urban counties increased sharply from 34 per cent to 54 per cent above the 1935 level.

When the number of cases in the Urban (V) and the Rural-Farm (I) counties are grouped according to the pre-war, and post-war years the changes become more evident.

Criminal Court Cases in Rural and Urban Counties in Iowa by Four Year Averages in Pre-War, War and Post-War Years.

Year	Group I Counties Average	Per Cent Change	Group V Counties Average	Per Cent Change
Pre-War, 1937-40	501		1787	
War - 1942-45	275	-45.0	1569	-12.2
Post-War 1946-50	413	-17.0	2514	+40.6
1935-52 Average	399		1952	

In the Rural-Farm counties the average number of cases in the pre-war years, 1937-40, was 501 cases. During the war the average dropped to 275 cases or 45 per cent. In the post-war years the average increased to 413 which was above the average for the war years but 17 per cent below the pre-war years. In the urban counties the average number of cases in the pre-war years was 1787 cases. In the war years the average declined to 1569 or 12 per cent. In the post-war years the average increased to 2514 or 40 per cent above the pre-war average. Criminal court cases, there-



for, were much higher in the urban counties in the post-war years than in the rural counties. Also cases decreased during the war much more in the rural counties than in the urban counties.

By using the same method of the average number of cases in the three other groups of counties for the same pre-war, war and post-war years it is possible to show the changes in the large city counties.

Criminal Court Cases in County Groups  
II, III and IV in Iowa, Pre-War, War and Post-War Years

Period	Group II Average	Per Cent Change	Group III Average	Per Cent Change	Group IV Average	Per Cent Change
Pre-War- 1937-14	881		923		526	
War 1942- 45	570	-35.3	465	-49.5	344	-34.7
Post-War 1946-50	940	+10.6	806	-12.7	525	0.0
Average 1935-52	826		745		485	

In County Group II the average number of cases in the war years fell 35.3 per cent below the pre-war average. Then in the post-war years the average increased to 940 or 10.4 per cent above the pre-war level of 881 cases. In the Group III counties the average for the war years fell to 49.5 per cent below the pre-war and remained below the same in the post-war years at 12.7 per cent. In the Group IV counties the average in the war years, 344, dropped 34.7 per cent below the pre-war figure of 526 cases. Then in the post-war years the average increased to 525 or almost to the pre-war level. On the basis of these figures it is evident that the increases in criminal court cases were greatest in the post-war years in the Group V and Group II counties.



Comparison of Population Changes  
and Changes in Criminal Court Cases  
in the 5 County Groups.

Some of the changes in the number of criminal court cases in the 5 county groups in the state may be due to losses or gains in the population in each group but other factors are involved beyond population shifts.

Changes in Population and Criminal Court  
Cases in the 5 County Groups in Iowa

County Groups	Criminal Cases (a)	Population (b)
I	-17.0	-6.7
II	+10.6	-1.4
III	-12.7	-2.6
IV	0.0	+9.9
V	+40.0	+12.8

(a) Changes in criminal court cases based on the average number of cases in 1937-40 and 1947-50.

(b) Changes in population based on the population in 1940 compared to 1950 Census Reports.

Between 1940 and 1950 the population in the Rural-Farm Counties of Group I Counties declined 6.7 and court cases fell 17 per cent. Court cases declined almost 3 times more than the population. In county group II the inhabitants declined 1.4 per cent but court cases increased 10.6 per cent. In County Group III the population decreased 2.6 per cent between 1940 and 1950 but court cases fell 12.7 per cent. In County Group IV the population increased 9.9 per cent but there was no percentage change in court cases. In the Large-Urban counties of Group V the population increased 12.8 per cent and court cases advanced 40 per cent from the pre-War to the post-War years or more than 3 times more than the change in the population.

From these percentages it is evident that the changes in the number of criminal court cases in the respective county groups may be due to other factors than the losses or gains in the number of inhabitants. The war years appear to have a negative effect on criminal litigation in the Rural-Farm Areas and a positive influence on court cases in the Larger Urban Counties in the state.



### Changes Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Counties

In addition to using the five-fold groups of counties in the state as above the 99 counties have been divided into two general types of counties as established by the Census Department of the Federal Government in 1950. The two groups are known as the Metropolitan and the Non-metropolitan counties in Iowa. The metropolitan counties are Pottawattamie County, Polk County, Scott County and Woodbury County. These counties are from 65 to 88 per cent urban. The remaining 95 counties are the non-metropolitan counties.

The criminal court cases for the 17 year period have been tabulated for these two groups of counties and the number of cases for each year calculated in terms of index numbers instead of using the actual figures. The first year, 1935, has been used as the base year and all index numbers computed from this as 100. The index numbers have been placed in the table and the results shown on the chart.

The curve of the index numbers for the four Metropolitan counties remained above the 1935 level for the 17 year period except for one year, 1942. After 1945 the curve advanced rapidly reaching the high point of 238 in 1950 or 138 per cent above the 1935 level. Then in 1952 the curve dropped to 159.2 or 59.2 per cent above the first year.

The curve for the 95 non-Metropolitan fell below the 1935 level from 1942 to 1947 and then increased gradually to 116 in 1952 or 16 per cent above the 1935 level. These two curves show the wide differences in the amount of criminal litigation in the 4 Metropolitan and the 95 non-Metropolitan counties for the 17 year period revealing the marked increase for the former in the post-war years. Criminal court cases in the Metropolitan areas far exceeded the number of cases in the rest of the state in the post-war years. ✓



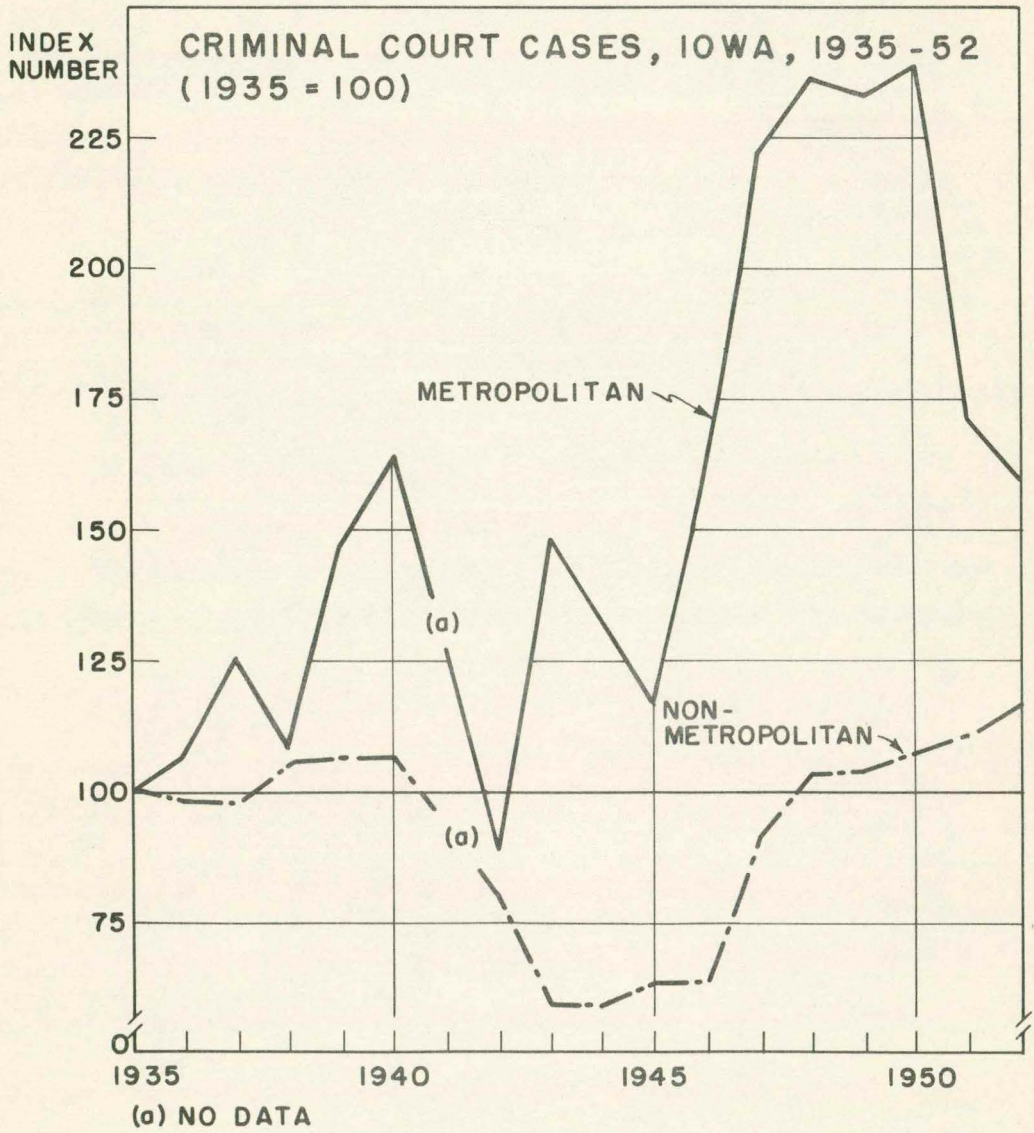
CRIMINAL LITIGATION IN METROPOLITAN AND  
NON-METROPOLITAN AREAS IN IOWA, 1935 TO 1952

Index Numbers Calculated on Base-Year  
1935 as 100

Year	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan
1935	100.0	100.0
1936	106.5	97.0
1937	125.8	96.0
1938	107.8	105.0
1939	146.0	106.0
1940	164.2	106.6
1941	(a)	(a)
1942	89.0	79.0
1943	147.3	59.0
1944	133.0	59.0
1945	116.8	63.0
1946	158.5	64.0
1947	222.0	91.0
1948	236.2	103.0
1949	233.8	104.0
1950	238.0	107.0
1951	170.0	110.0
1952	159.2	116.0

(a) No data







## CHAPTER THREE

## CRIMINAL LITIGATION IN IOWA ACCORDING TO JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

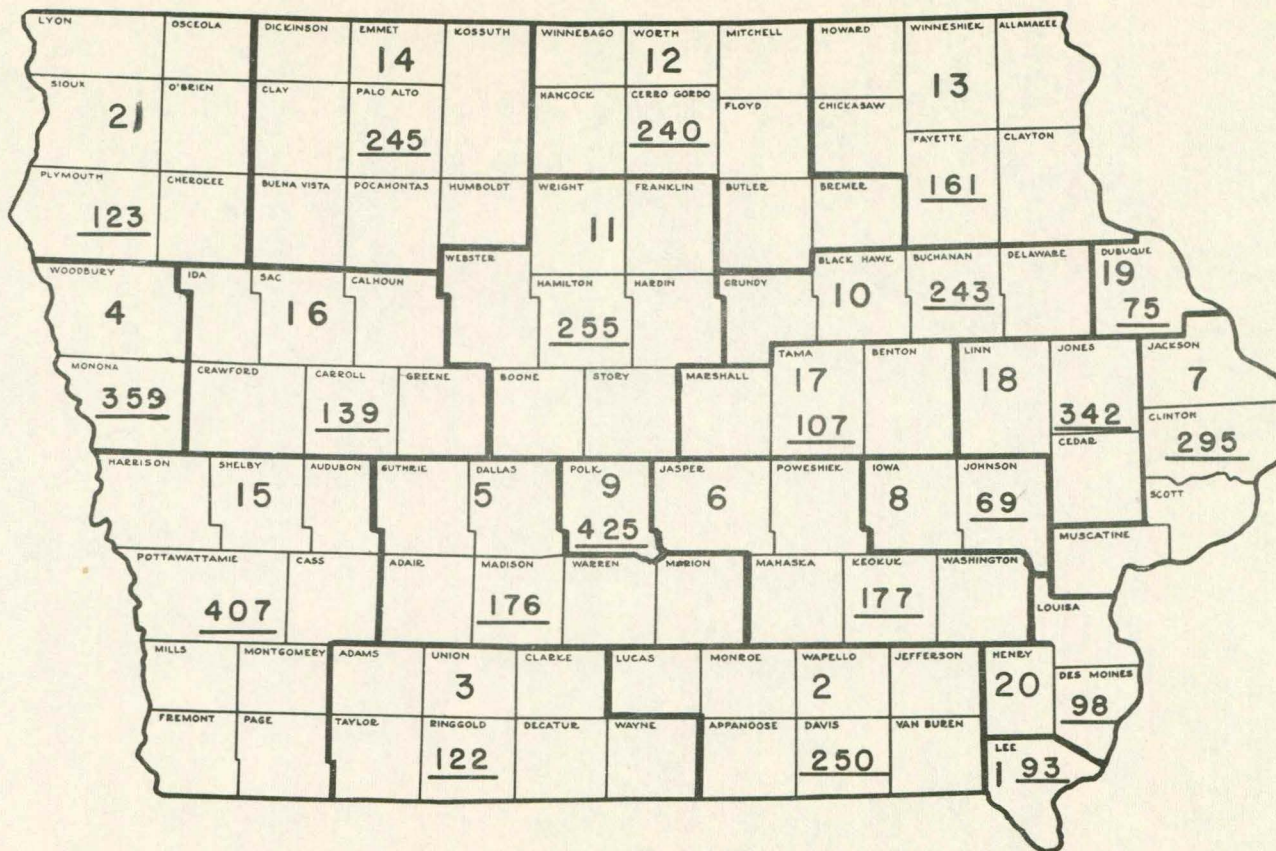
Due to the fact that the courts in the respective counties of Iowa have been divided into 21 Judicial Districts it is important to determine the amount of criminal litigation in the respective districts. In general, the judicial districts encompass a number of counties depending on the population. The disposition of the 21 Judicial Districts appears on the map and the table shows the total number of criminal cases in each district from 1935 to 1952, (See table for population). As is to be expected the volume of criminal litigation has been greatest in those judicial districts where there is a greater concentration of population. There are five judicial districts in the state where there were more than 5,000 criminal court cases during the period.

Judicial District	Total Criminal Court Cases, 1935-52
9th	7,225
15th	6,933
4th	6,107
18th	5,818
7th	5,024
Total	31,104

Of the total 74,953 criminal court cases in Iowa for the 17 period 31,104 or 42 per cent of the cases appeared in the above five districts. The 8th district, with 1180 cases, had the lowest number of cases.

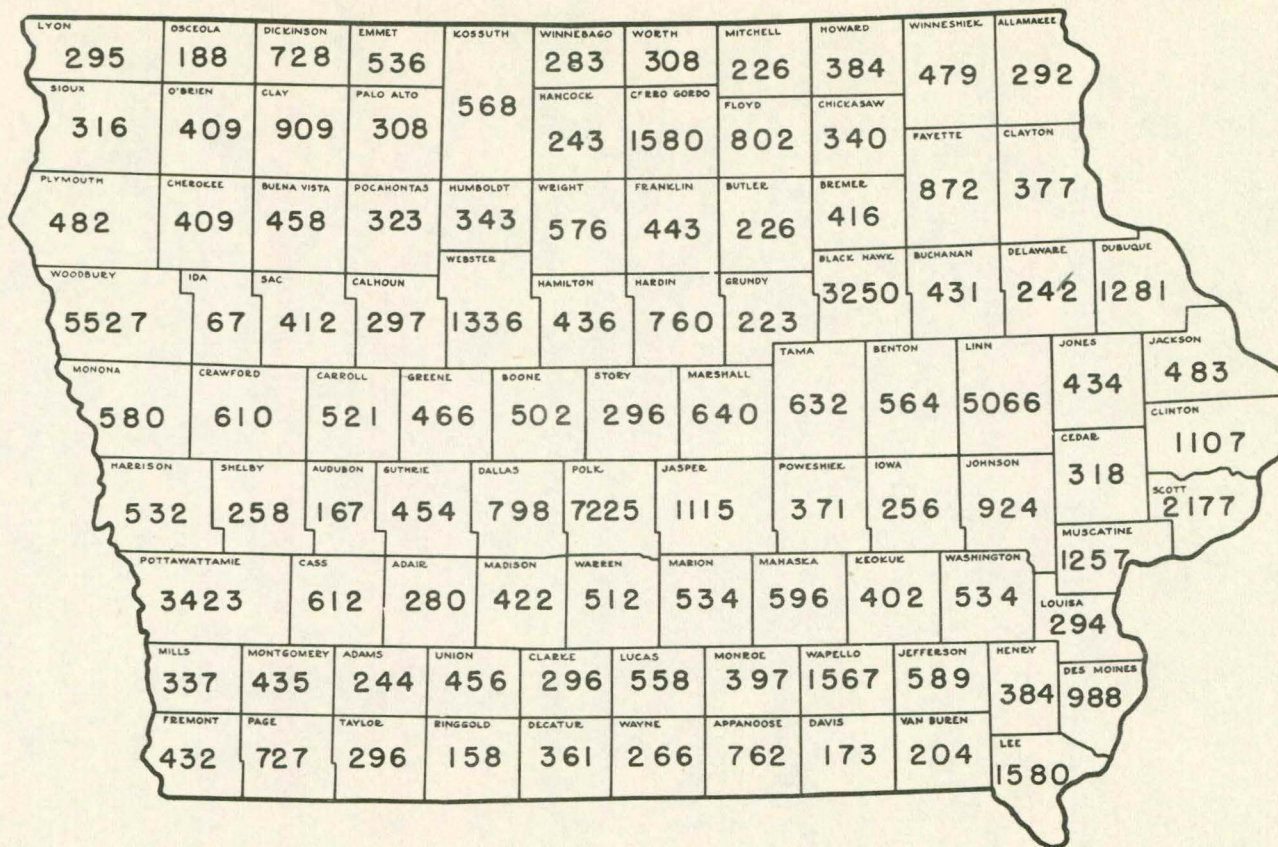
Within the 21 judicial districts the annual average number of cases in court has varied from 69 in the 8th District to 425 in the 9th District. The average annual number of all district was 210 cases. The 9th District, Polk County, had the highest annual average number of cases of 425 with 7225 cases for the entire 17 year period. In 15th District which comprises seven counties in southwestern Iowa, including the city of Council Bluffs, there were 6,923 court cases with an annual average of 407, the second highest. The 4th District, Woodbury, (Sioux City) and Monona counties, tried 6107 cases and had an annual average of 359 cases. The 18th District, Cedar, Jones, and Lynn Counties (Cedar Rapids) ranked fourth with a total of 5,818 cases and an average of 342 cases each year. The 7th District, Clinton, Jackson, Muscatine and Scott Counties, ranked fifth highest with 5,024 cases and an





JUDICIAL DISTRICTS IN IOWA AND ANNUAL NUMBER CRIMINAL COURT CASES, 1932 - 1952.

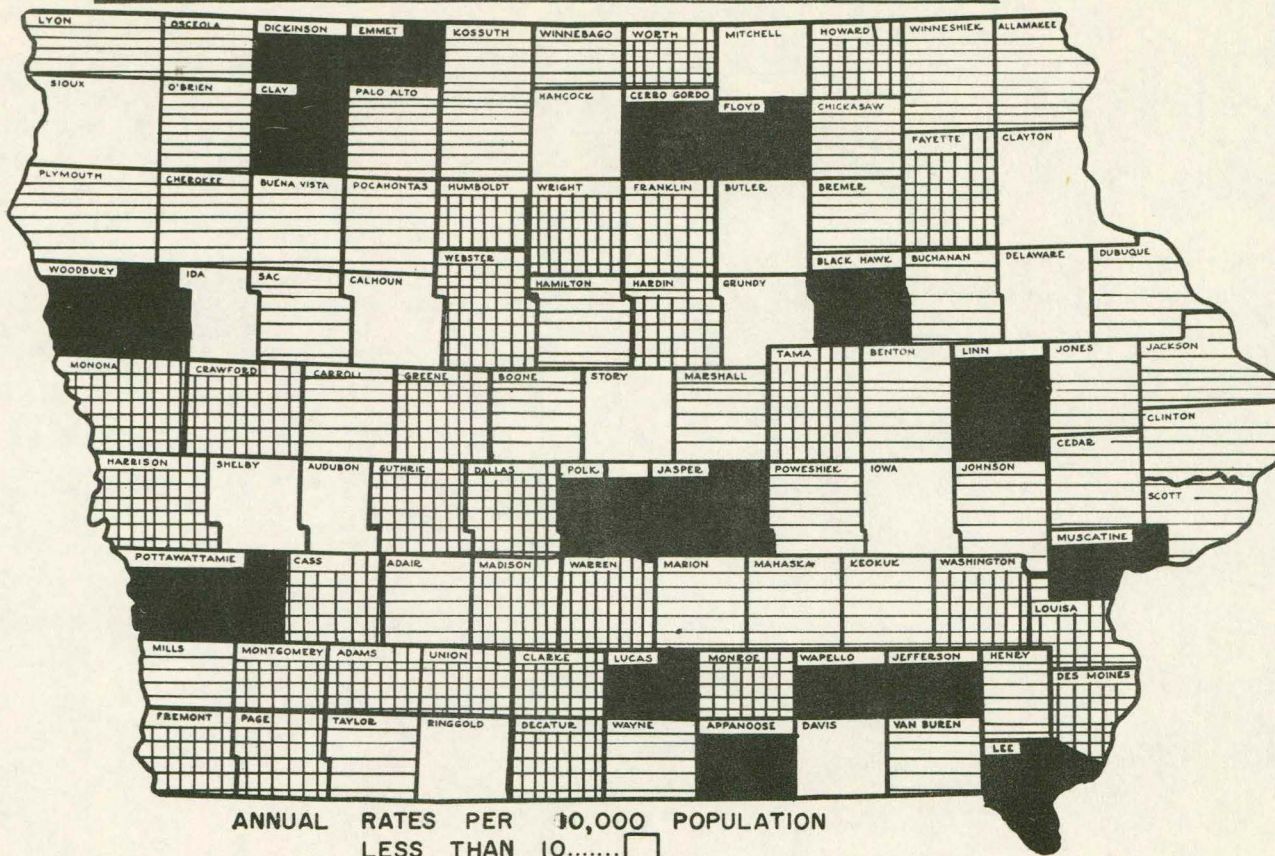




CRIMINAL COURT CASES BY COUNTIES IN IOWA, TOTAL, 1935 - 1952.



# CRIMINAL COURT CASES BY COUNTIES IN IOWA, 1935 - 52





average of 295 cases. These five districts tried a total of 31,104 cases during the 17 year period of 42 per cent of the total 74,953 cases in all 21 districts. Each of these districts contain cities.

There were four districts with an annual average of less than 100 cases for the same period of time. The 8th District, Iowa and Johnson Counties, tried 1180 cases and had an annual average of 69 cases. The 20th District, (Dubuque County) ranked next to the lowest or 20th in order with 1281 cases and an average of 75 cases each year. The 1st District, Lee County, ranked next, 19th in order, with 1580 cases and an average of 93 cases. The 20th District, Des Moines, Henry and Louisa Counties ranked next with a total of 1666 cases and an average of 98 cases.

#### The Criminal Case-Load Per Judge

By dividing the number of cases in each district by the number of judges in each district it has been possible to determine the annual average criminal case-load per judge in each district. The number of judges and the annual average case-load are shown in the table and the chart.

The case-load per judge varied from the lowest of 35 cases per year in the 8th District to the highest of 89 in the 4th District. The average annual case-load per judge for all districts was 62.8 cases. The case-load per judge was 2.5 times higher in the 4th District than in the 8th District. The district with the second highest case-load per judge was the 18th District with 81 cases for each of the 5 judges. The 14th and the 10th Districts had the same case-load of 81 per judge. The 9th District with the largest total number of cases, 7225, had a case-load of 70 per judge for each of the 6 judges in the district.

There were seven districts with a case-load of less than 50 cases per judge; the 20th District with 49 cases per judge, 1st District with 46 cases per judge, 1st District with 46 cases per judge, the 16th District with 46 cases per judge, the 3rd District with 41 cases per judge, the 21st District with 41 cases per judge, 11th, 19th District with 37 cases per judge and the 8th District with 35 cases per judge.



Seventeen Years of Criminal Litigation According to Judicial  
Districts in Iowa, 1935-52

Judicial District	Total Criminal Cases, 1935-52	Annual Average Number of Cases	Number of Judges	Annual Case-Load Per Judge
1	1580	93	2	46
2	4250	250	4	62
3	2077	122	3	41
4	6107	359	4	89
5	3000	176	3	58
6	3018	177	3	58
7	5024	295	5	59
8	1180	69	2	35
9	7225	425	6	70
10	4146	243	3	81
11	4349	255	4	63
12	4084	240	4	60
13	2744	161	3	53
14	4173	245	3	81
15	6933	407	5	81
16	2373	139	3	46
17	1836	107	2	53
18	5818	342	4	85
19	1281	75	2	37
20	1666	98	2	49
21	2099	123	3	41
Total	74,953	4,409	70	62.8

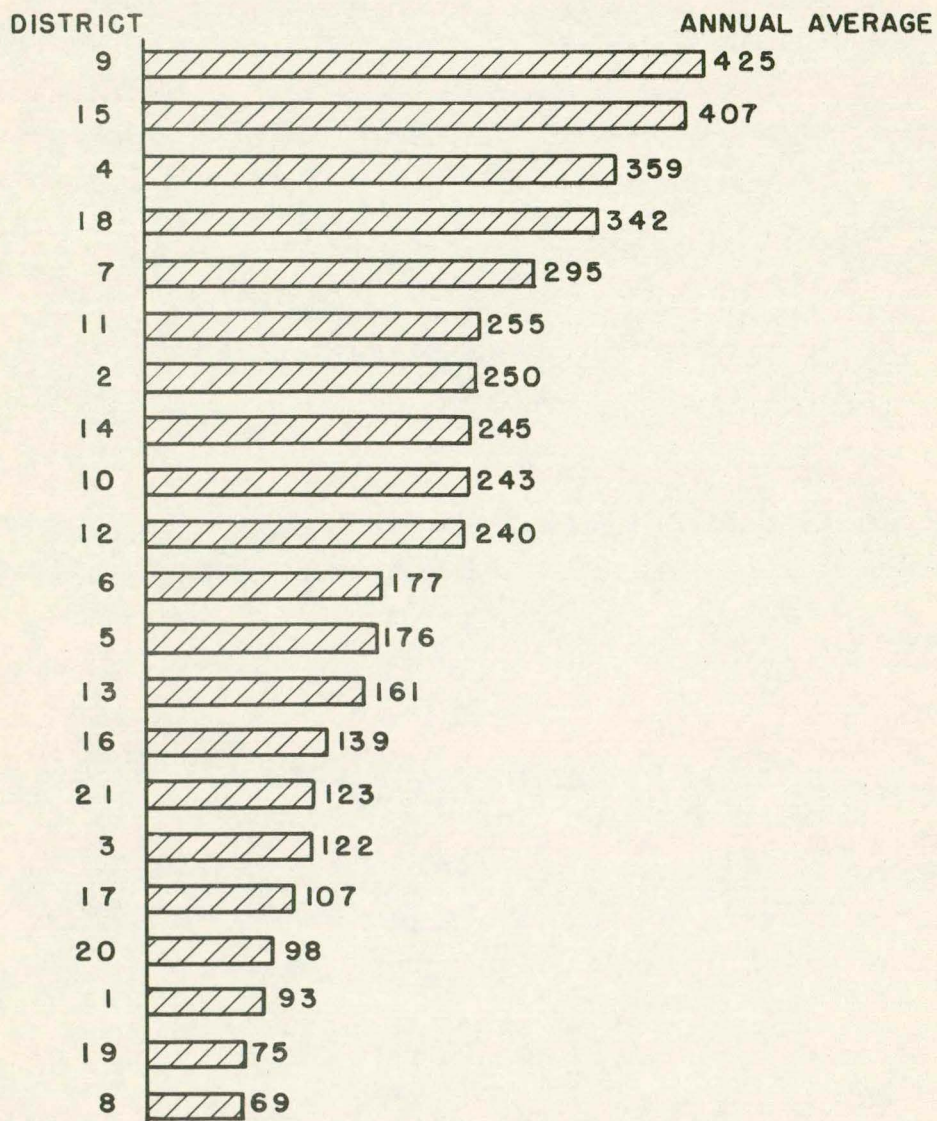
Population of Iowa by Judicial Districts

The number of inhabitants in each of the 21 Judicial Districts in Iowa varied from the lowest number of 43,102 in the 15th District to the highest of 226,010 in the 9th District. There were three districts with more than 200,000 inhabitants (7th, 9th, and 15th), 12 districts with a population of 100,000 to 200,000 and six districts where the population was less than 100,000 inhabitants (1st, 3rd, 8th, 17th, 19th, and 20th).

POPULATION	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS
under 100,000	6
100,000 to 200,000	12
200,000 and more	3
TOTAL	21



## CRIMINAL COURT CASES BY JUDICIAL DISTRICTS IN IOWA, 1935 - 52





### Number of Inhabitants Per Judge in Judicial Districts

In order to obtain a more exact distribution of the population the material has been calculated on the basis of inhabitants for each judge in the 21 Judicial Districts. On this basis there were 21,551 inhabitants in the 1st District for each of the two judges in the district where the total population was 43,102 persons in 1950. The population per judge varied from the lowest of 21,551 persons per judge in the 1st District to the highest of 51,277 persons per judge in the 10th District.

INHABITANTS PER JUDGE	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS
20,000 to 30,000	2 (1st and 3rd)
30,000 to 40,000	13 (4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 13th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st)
40,000 and over	6 (2nd, 7th, 10th, 11th, 14th, and 15th)
TOTAL	21

Thirteen districts had a population of 30,000 to 40,000 per judge, six have more than 40,000 per judge and two have less than 30,000 per judge. (See table)

### Inhabitants Per Judge and Criminal Case-Load Per Judge

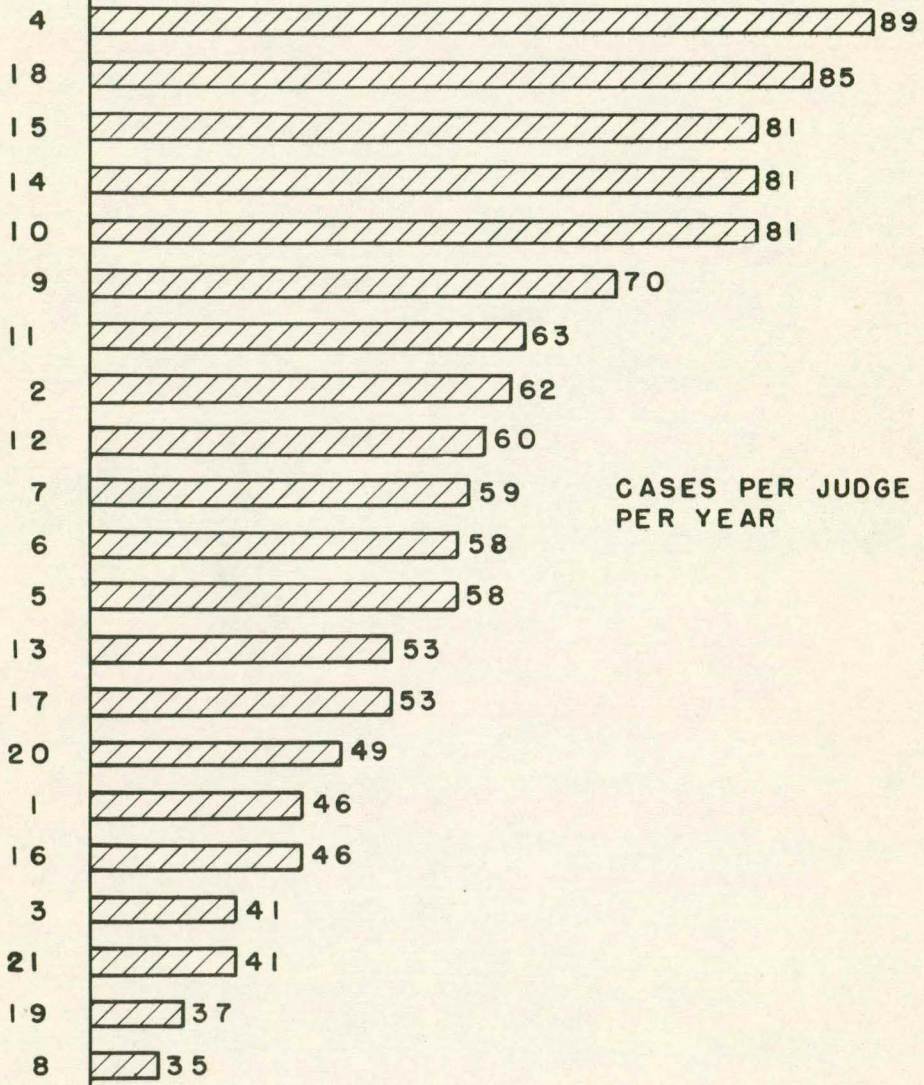
When the annual average case-load per judge is compared to the inhabitants per judge in each judicial District the two variables do not always follow the same general relationships. In other words the case-load per judge should be closely related to the inhabitants per judge in each of the 21 Judicial Districts. For the state as a whole there were 37,443 inhabitants per judge and 63 criminal cases per judge each year. The population per Judge and the case-load per judge appears on the chart.

From the chart it is evident that some districts do not follow the "normal" relationship between population and case-load per judge. In the 1st District where the case-load per judge is higher than the inhabitants per judge, this, may be explained by the fact that the state penitentiary at Ft. Madison is in the 1st District of Lee County. Cases which arise among the inmates are tried in the court in this district. The same situation exists in the 18th District where the Anamosa reformatory is located in Jones County. The high case-load and the relatively low number of inhabitants per judge in the 4th District



## ANNUAL CRIMINAL COURT CASES PER JUDGE BY DISTRICTS, 1935 - 52

DISTRICT

CASES PER JUDGE  
PER YEAR



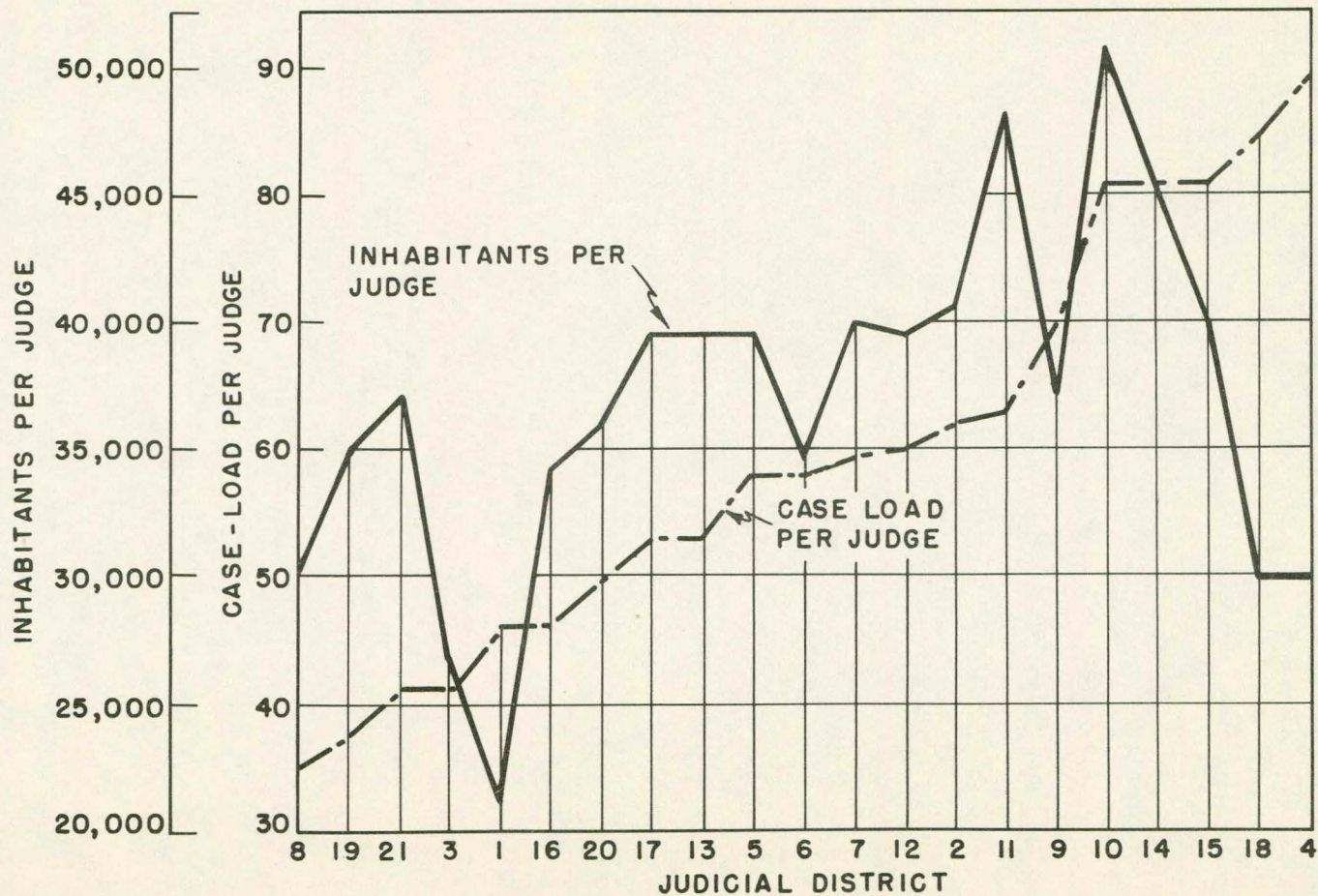
may be due to the large number of cases in court in Woodbury and Monona Counties. The differences between the case-load per judge and number of inhabitants per judge while less in the 9th, 14th and 15th Districts are not as great as in the 4th District. In both case-load per judge and inhabitants per judge there appears to be a wide variation in the 21 Judicial Districts in the state.

Population in Iowa by Judicial Districts and Inhabitants  
Per Judge 1950

Judicial District	Population 1950	Number of Judges 1950	Inhabitants Per Judge
1	43,102	2	21,551
2	127,625	4	41,906
3	80,059	3	26,689
4	120,220	4	30,072
5	107,969	3	39,323
6	112,675	3	34,225
7	201,132	5	40,228
8	61,591	2	30,695
9	226,010	6	37,001
10	153,831	3	51,277
11	194,472	4	48,612
12	157,376	4	39,344
13	117,139	3	39,130
14	136,819	3	45,606
15	201,288	5	40,257
16	103,490	3	34,370
17	79,955	2	39,977
18	140,585	4	30,148
19	71,337	2	35,668
20	71,865	2	35,932
21	112,533	3	37,222
Total	2,621,073	70	37,443



# INHABITANTS AND CASE -LOAD PER JUDGE BY DISTRICTS IN IOWA 1950





## CHAPTER FOUR

## THE DISPOSITION OF CRIMINAL CASES

## IN THE DISTRICT COURTS OF IOWA, 1935-52

Once a criminal case has reached the trial stage it is highly important to determine how the court disposes of the case. In other words what happens to the defendant once he has been charged with an offense and brought to trial. Is he convicted and sentenced to prison, fined, sentenced to jail, granted a parole or acquitted? The purpose, therefore, in the present material will be to discover how the courts of Iowa have disposed of the criminal cases after they have entered the court. ✓

In the 17 year period from 1935 to 1952, exclusive of 1941, there is information available on 73,268 criminal court cases in the 99 counties. The overall dispositions are shown in the table. ✓  
Of the total 73,268 cases tried in court, 2.1 per cent or 1571 resulted in acquittals and 15.7 per cent in dismissals. In other words, 17.8 per cent of the cases terminated with no panalty for the defendants beyond the fact that they had been charged for an offense and required to stand trial in a court. This percentage of acquittals, (2.1 per cent) is slightly less than the 2.9 per cent for acquittals which Prof. Rollins M. Perkins found in his study of 608 jury cases in Iowa in 1931. \*

## Disposition of 73,268 Criminal Court

Cases in Iowa, 1935 - 52

Disposition	Number	Per Cent
Jail and/or Fine	41,620	57.0
Committed to Prison	12,064	16.4
Dismissed	11,508	15.7
Bench Parole	3,098	4.2
Suspended Sentence	3,407	4.6
Acquittal	1,571	2.1
Total	73,268	100.0

\* Iowa Criminal Justice, by Rollins M. Perkins, Studies in Criminal Law and Administration, University of Iowa, College of Law Studies, No. 1, May, 1932, p. 130



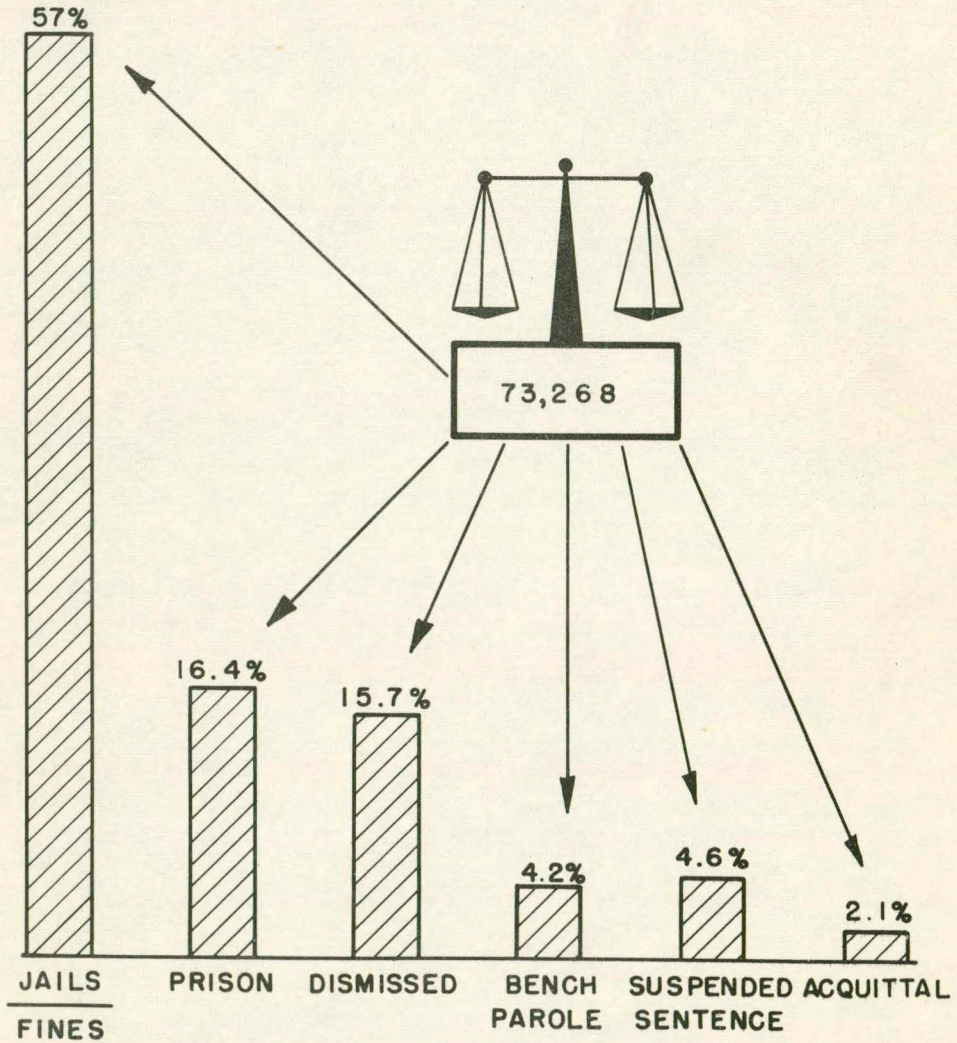
In 4.6 per cent (3,407) of the total cases the court granted a suspended sentence and the defendants, while convicted, were released from further judicial concern. In 4.2 per cent of the cases ( 3,098) the court issued an order for a bench parole. In these cases the defendants were released by the court into the custody and supervision of some person, either a state parole officer, sheriff or private citizen. Paroles and suspended sentences, therefore, comprised 8.8 per cent of all dispositions. The two remaining types of disposition involved sentences to prison or jails and/or fines. In 16.4 per cent (12,064) of the total dispositions the courts sentenced the defendants to prison and in 57 per cent (41,620) they announced a jail and/or fine sentence. When prison and jail and/or fine. sentences are combined they constitute 73.4 per cent of the total dispositions by the courts.

The fact that only 16 out of every 100 resulted in a prison term from all cases in criminal court may raise some question. In considering the percentage it should be kept in mind that there are many factors in the whole process of criminal litigation which may justify a less serious type of disposition than imprisonment. In the first place a defendant in court is not guilty of the offense for which he has been charged until the court finds him guilty. Therefore, it must be assumed that a certain per cent of the defendants will be dismissed or acquitted because the facts in the case warrant such a disposition. Also in certain cases the offense may not be serious enough to require commitment to prison. In some cases the defendant is a first time offender , therefore, the court may use a bench parole or probation. In addition certain lesser crimes may be disposed of by a jail term or jail and a fine. The overall purpose and function of the court is the determination of justice in each case. The end-result is justice either to condemn the guilty or to acquit the innocent.

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### DISPOSITION OF CRIMINAL COURT CASES IN IOWA, 1935 - 52





CHANGES IN THE DISPOSITION OF CRIMINAL COURT

## CASES IN IOWA FROM 1935 TO 1952

Within the 17 year period from 1935 to 1952 there has been a definite change in the types of dispositions in the criminal courts of Iowa. In general fines and/or jail sentences have increased and prison sentences have decreased. In 1935 prison commitments comprised 22 per cent of all disposition but in 1952 only 13 per cent of the cases in court resulted in a prison term. In contrast to this jail and/or fines made up 41.4 per cent of all disposition in 1935 but in 1952 jail and/or fines constituted 63.6 per cent of all dispositions. For the same years the percentage of cases resulting in dismissals decreased from 24 per cent to 13.9 per cent of the total. Also acquittals declined from 3.7 per cent to 1.4 per cent. If suspended sentences and bench paroles are combined into one figure for the same years these two methods decreased from 9.2 per cent to 8.2 per cent of all dispositions.

In order to clarify the changes which have taken place in each type the dispositions have been calculated in terms of index numbers for each of the 17 years. The index numbers have been established on the base-year of 1935 as 100 and have been placed on the charts which follow.

## Prison Commitments

With 1935 as the base-year (922 as 100) dispositions carrying a prison terms declined slightly in 1935 and 1936 and then increased 3.5 per cent in 1938, while the total number of cases increased 6 per cent. After 1940 prison terms decreased rapidly reaching the lowest level in 1944 with an index number of 53.3 or 46.7 per cent below the 1935 figure. During the same years the total number of cases in court declined to an index number of 71.4 or 28.6 per cent of the 1935 amount. In other words prison terms, as a method of disposing of a case, decreased much more rapidly than the total number of cases in court. After 1945 the number of cases in court increased but prison commitments failed to keep pace with the rise. In 1952 the index number for all court cases had increased to 123 or 23 per cent above the 1935 level but the index for prison terms amounted to only 73.2 or 26.8 per cent below the 1935 figure. These differences are shown in the chart where prison terms are plotted together with the total number of cases in court.

## Jail and/or Fines

Jails and/or fines as a method of disposition have not only kept pace with the number of cases in court but have increased much



CRIMINAL LITIGATION IN IOWA 1935-1952

Disposition of Cases

Year	Prison Commitments	Jail Sentence and Fine	Bench Parole	Suspended Sentence	Dismissal	Acquittals
1935	922	1733	248	124	1,003	155
1936	840	1840	276	182	728	233
1937	904	1951	303	159	814	118
1938	955	2027	336	307	668	111
1939	950	2347	314	327	665	87
1940	915	2332	301	261	971	100
1941	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	No Data	- - - -	- - - -
1942	621	1693	121	163	650	54
1943	517	1591	50	155	765	46
1944	491	1720	88	117	521	53
1945	558	1740	121	171	391	39
1946	553	2102	87	135	443	44
1947	581	3232	116	183	544	100
1948	675	3521	132	215	598	89
1949	630	3377	182	211	737	107
1950	675	3683	125	193	640	85
1951	602	3336	139	239	651	78
1952	675	3295	159	265	719	72

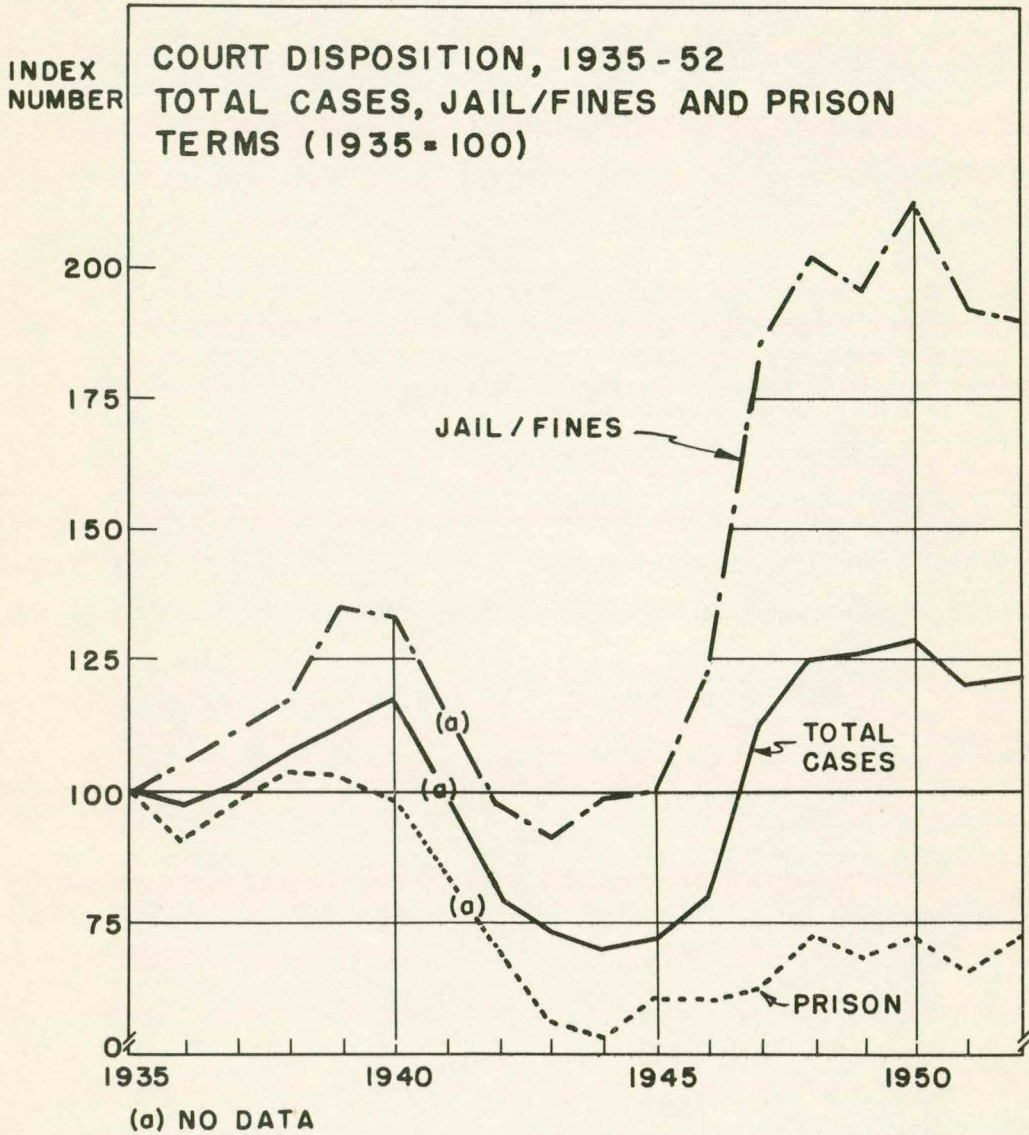


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Percentage Distribution of Disposition of Criminal Court Cases  
in Iowa, 1935 - 52

Year	Prison	Jail Fine	Bench Parole and Susp. Sent.	Dismissal	Acquittals
1935	22.0	41.4	9.2	24.0	3.7
1936	20.5	45.0	11.1	17.8	5.7
1937	21.0	46.0	10.9	19.4	2.8
1938	21.7	46.0	14.5	15.1	2.5
1939	20.2	50.0	13.7	14.2	1.9
1940	18.7	48.0	11.6	19.9	2.1
1941	- - - - -	- - - - -	No Data	- - - - -	- - - - -
1942	19.0	51.0	8.6	19.7	1.4
1943	16.5	51.0	6.5	24.5	1.5
1944	16.4	57.5	6.8	17.5	1.8
1945	18.4	57.6	9.8	12.9	1.3
1946	16.4	62.5	6.6	13.2	1.3
1947	12.2	68.0	6.2	11.4	2.1
1948	12.9	67.0	6.6	11.4	1.7
1949	12.0	64.4	7.5	14.1	2.0
1950	12.5	68.0	5.9	11.8	1.6
1951	11.9	66.0	7.4	12.9	1.4
1952	13.0	63.6	8.2	13.9	1.4







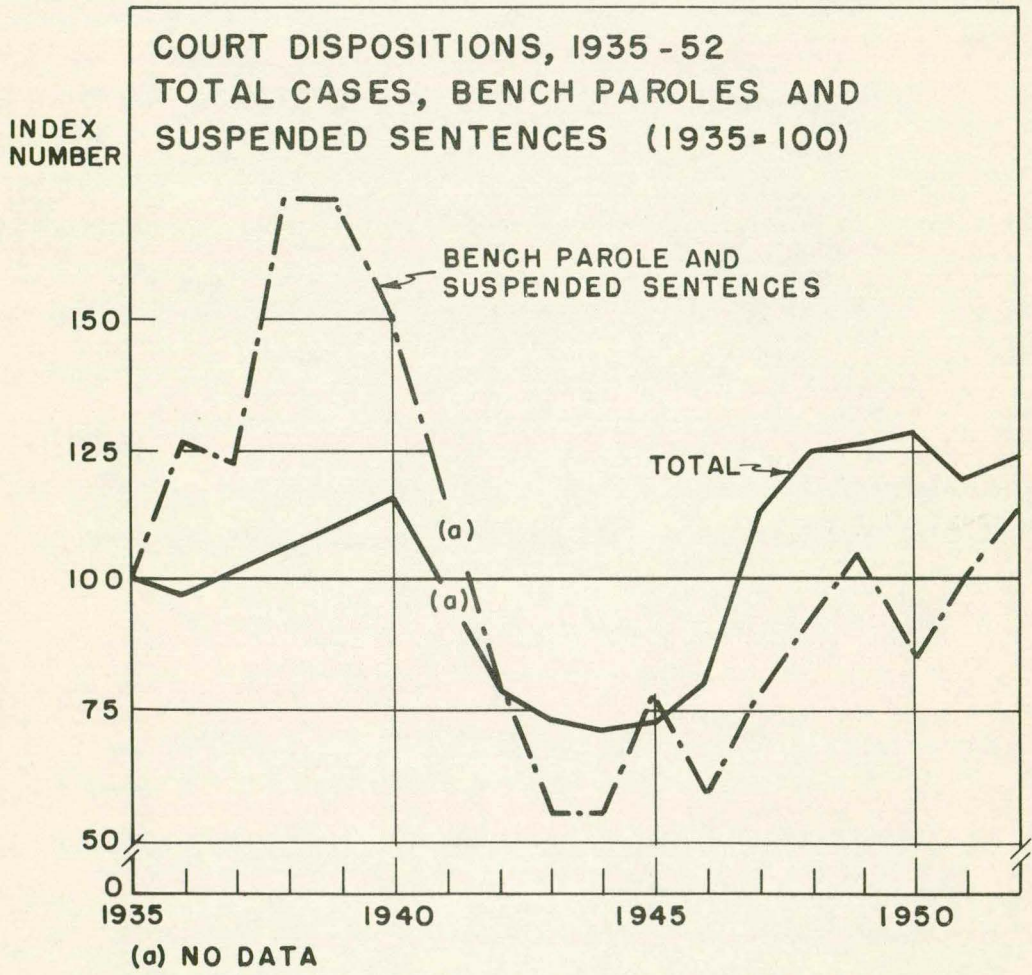
more than the number of cases in court. From 1935 to 1939 jails and/or fines increased to 135 or 35 per cent above 1935. In contrast to this prison terms increased only by 3.5 per cent for the same years. The disparity between jails and/or fines and prison terms became more marked in the war and post-war years. In 1945 jail-fines returned to the 1935 level (100) but prison terms remained at 60.0 or about 40 per cent below the 1935 amount. In 1950 the use of jail-fines had advanced to 212 or 112 per cent above the 1935 level but prison terms remained at an index of 73.2 or 26.8 per cent below the 1935 level. These facts show that criminal courts are disposing of cases by means of jail-fines in a much greater degree in the war and post-war years than in the pre-war years. In considering the total percentage differences it appears that less serious penalties are being used now than in the early part of the period. It may be assumed that fewer serious crimes were committed in the post-war than in the pre-war years but there are no facts to substantiate this contention. In reality national figures appear to the contrary. According to estimates made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (Uniform Crime Reports) major crimes numbered 1,517,206 in 1940 and 2,159,080 in 1953. These crimes were murders, manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft.

#### Bench Parole and Suspended Sentences

Although there are some technical differences between a bench parole and a suspended sentence many courts in reality use the two types of dispositions as though they were much the same. The bench parole usually has some type of supervision attached whereas the suspended sentence does not. The Iowa Code states, "The trial court before which the person has been convicted of any crime may, by record entry suspend the sentence and parole said person during good behavior" (Para. 247. 20, 1946 Code).

Because parole and suspended sentences are somewhat similar the two methods of disposition have been combined as one type and the figures determined accordingly. In the pre-war years from 1933 to 1939 the courts used these types of dispositions much more than in the war and post-war years. From 1935 to 1939 bench paroles and suspended sentences increased from an index of 100 to 173 or 73 per cent above the base year. In the same year court cases increased only 12 per cent. In terms of the total cases these methods were used out of proportion to the total number of cases in court. During the war years bench parole and suspended sentences declined to an index of 55 (1943-44) or 45 per cent below the 1935 level. In the same years index number for the total cases declined to 74.6 and 71.4 respectively. In the post-war







years the two methods of disposing of cases reached the pre-war level but the total number of cases in court advanced beyond the 1935 figure. (See the chart.) At the end of the period in 1952 bench paroles and suspended sentences advanced to an index of 114 whereas the index for the total number of cases increased to 123. Bench parole and suspended sentences as a means of disposing of court cases, therefore, have not kept pace with the increase in criminal court cases in the post-war years although the index in 1952 was higher than in 1935. The courts, it appears, are using other methods of disposition.

#### Dismissal

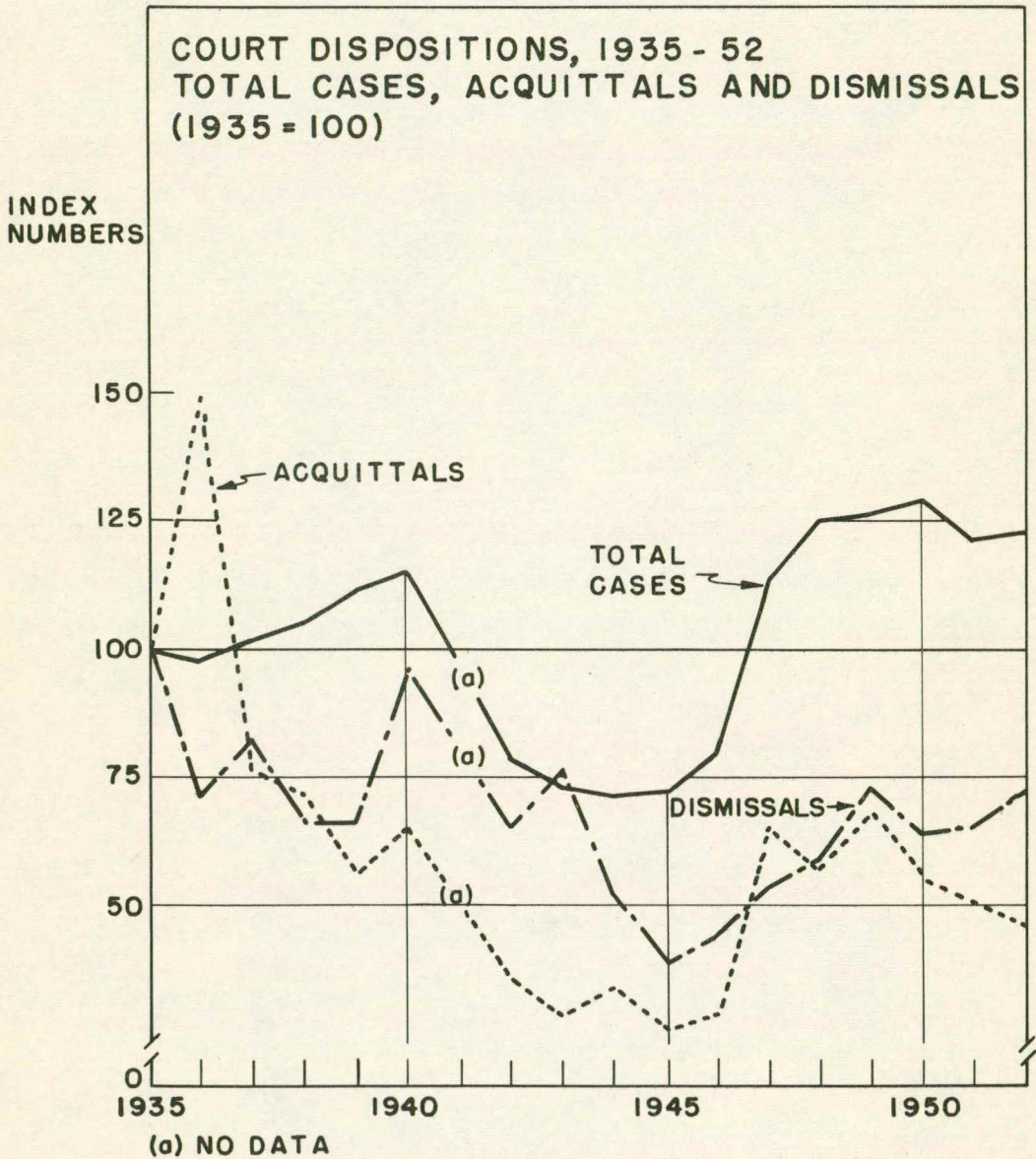
Dismissal as a means of disposing of a criminal case is being used less now than two decades ago in Iowa. In 1935 dismissals constituted 24 per cent of all dispositions in criminal court in the state but only 13.9 per cent of the cases in 1952. In the pre-war and depression years dismissal was well below the proportionate number of cases in court. From 1935 to 1939 dismissals declined to an index number of 66 or 34 per cent below the 1935 level. In the same year the index for the total cases was 12 per cent above the base year. With the increase in the total number of cases in criminal court in the post-war years dismissals increased slightly but remained below the index for total cases. In 1950 the index number for dismissals was 64 whereas the index number for all cases in court was 129. The courts, therefore, are dismissing fewer cases in the post-war years than in the pre-war and depression years. (See chart.)

#### Acquittals

Acquittals were high at the beginning of the period but declined after 1937. Of all types of dispositions acquittals were used less by the courts in the war years when they reached an index number of 25 or 75 per cent below the 1935 base level. In 1947 acquittals increased to an index of 65 or 35 per cent below 1935 but in 1952 the index declined to 46 or 54 per cent below the 1935 level. Thus the total cases in court were 23 per cent above the 1935 level but acquittals were 35 per cent below the same base year figure.

In general criminal courts in Iowa in the post-war years are disposing of cases by jail-fines more than in the pre-war years. Sentences carrying a term in the penitentiary or the reformatory are being used much less in the post-war years than in the pre-war and depression years. Bench parole and suspended sentences were used much more in the pre-war and depression years than in the post-war years. Likewise the courts are disposing of cases







by dismissals and acquittals much less frequently in the post-war years than in the pre-war years but slightly more than in the war years.

Whether the decreased use of heavier penalties (imprisonment) and the increased use of jail-fines (pecuniary) types of sentences in the past 17 years is the beginning of a trend or merely a short time variation cannot be stated with certainty at this point. However, it is known that types of dispositions have changed with changing conditions. In general, a well stabilized society in which there is security tends to use lighter sentences than one in which there are serious disorders. If the changes in dispositions which have been taking place do mark the beginning of a trend it follows the same practices which has occurred in pre-war Germany and Japan. Over a period of 40 years there has been a general tendency for the courts in these countries to use more pecuniary or lighter sentences and fewer heavy penalties such as long term imprisonments. Investigators in these countries indicate that the changes have not been due to the decrease in the number of serious crimes but to other known factors\* The main reasons are as follows:

1. Penalties have become lighter as a nation develops and conditions become more secure.
2. As jurists and legal authorities arrive at a deeper understanding of crimes and criminals, law enforcement becomes less severe and courts use lighter punishments.
3. The realization of conditions in prisons and the idea that imprisonment may be more harmful than helpful to the persons involved.

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\* Takahashi, M., "The Praxis of Measuring Penalty in Japan from 1909 to 1940", unpublished material, 1953.



PART TWO

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

IN IOWA



## CHAPTER FIVE

## NUMBER OF PERSONS IN

## CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN IOWA 1925-1952

The State of Iowa maintains three correctional institutions for adult offenders. The oldest of these, the first to be built west of the Mississippi River, is the state penitentiary at Ft. Madison, Iowa, established in 1839. The normal capacity of this prison at present is 1166 male inmates. The institution receives older first offenders over 30 years of age and repeaters from all part of the state. The reformatory for men at Anamosa, Iowa, established in 1873 has a normal capacity today of 1200 inmates. The courts of the state commit younger offenders and the criminal insane to the reformatory. The women's reformatory, completed in 1918, receives women offenders over 18 years of age who have been sentenced for more than 30 days by the court of the state. Prior to 1918 women offenders were housed in a special cell-block in the reformatory at Anamosa.

In the 28 year period from 1925 to 1952 the number of inmates in these three institutions has gone through a complete cycle with a relatively low number in the 1920's, a high number in the early years of the Great Depression and a low number again during the years of World War II. Then in the post-war years the number began once more to rise. These 28 years cover a time span which includes the years of a major economic depression, a serious World War and the post-war and recovery years.

In 1925 the total number of inmates in all three institutions was 2031 persons. Five years later in 1929 the number had increased to 2392 or almost 18 per cent. As the full force of the depression came to be felt in the mid-West the inmate population increased to 3015 in 1932 or almost 49 per cent higher than the 1925 number. From 1932 forward the total inmate population declined rapidly, especially, during the years of the war, to the lowest point of 1627 in 1945 or a drop of 45 per cent in 13 years. This decrease follows the general decline in prison population throughout the United States.

The first year after the end of World War II, 1946, the number of inmates increased reaching the pre-depression level (1925) in 1949 with 2007 inmates. Each year thereafter the total number has remained at approximately 2100 persons. This figure represents a return to the pre-war and pre-depression level in 1925-26.

The cyclical variations in the total prison population during



the 30 years reveals the influence which an economic depression and a major war has had upon the number of prisoners in the three institutions. The 1951-52 level represents, to a large degree, the relatively stable population in the State of Iowa. In other states where there have been major increases in population the prison population has increased sharply. It appears evident that if the number of people in Iowa remains about the same the prison population will continue at about the same level unless some major social disorder arises within the nation.

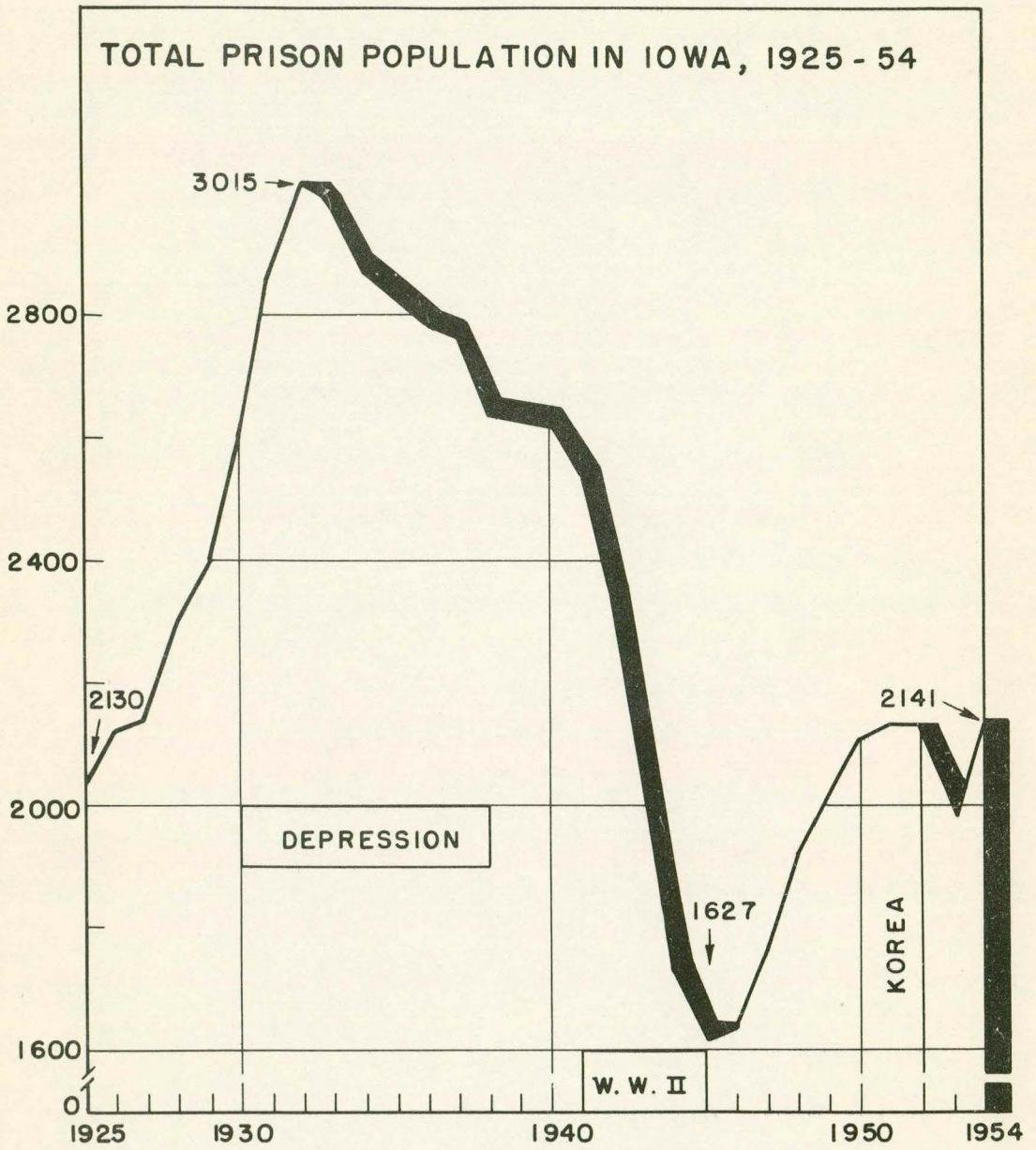


## Total Prison Population in Iowa, 1925-54

Ft. Madison, Anamosa and Rockwell City  
as of June 30th for each year.

Year	Number
1925	2031
1926	2123
1927	2148
1928	2301
1929	2392
1930	2600
1931	2859
1932	3015
1933	2974
1934	2858
1935	2827
1936	2781
1937	2770
1938	2634
1939	2636
1940	2624
1941	2538
1942	2326
1943	1983
1944	1729
1945	1627
1946	1635
1947	1757
1948	1921
1949	2007
1950	2110
1951	2134
1952	2130
1953	1971
1954	2141







INMATES IN FT. MADISON PENITENTIARY,  
ANAMOSA REFORMATORY AND THE WOMEN'S REFORMATORY AT  
ROCKWELL CITY.

Apart from the foregoing over-all changes in the total prison population in the state there have been some variations in the number of inmates in each of the three institutions. As the Great Depression came to an end the number of persons in each of the three institutions declined but the inmate population in the Anamosa reformatory decreased much more rapidly than in the penitentiary for men. In reality the highest number in the penitentiary did not come until 1935 and 1937 which was about five years after the peak for the reformatory. It appears that the effects of the Great Depression had a much more lasting influence on the older offenders and the repeaters in the state. In another sense the sustained population in the penitentiary may be due to the facts that more repeaters were being committed to the Ft. Madison prison.

During the war years the population at the reformatory declined more than at the penitentiary. The inmate count at Ft. Madison declined from 1480 in 1933 to 961 in 1945 or 35 per cent in 12 years. In the same years the number of inmates at the reformatory declined from 1389 to 608 or 56 per cent. The war had a much more significant effect upon the younger age group than the older men. This follows the change in the age composition of the number of males in the state. During the war years men of military age were called into various branches of the Armed Forces thus removing them from the civilian population in the state. In addition, as is evident from later material more men were released on parole from the reformatory in the war years than from the penitentiary. This tended to decrease the number of inmates in the reformatory.

In the post-war years the number of men in the penitentiary at Ft. Madison has increased more than the number in the reformatory. From 1945 to 1952 the number in Ft. Madison increased from 961 to 1250 or about 40 per cent. For the same years the population in the reformatory advanced from 608 to 816 or only 34 per cent.

The number of women in the reformatory at Rockwell City has never been very large in spite of the fact that most of the inmates have been sentenced for relatively short terms. During the 20 year period from 1933 to 1952 the average number of males in the two institutions (Ft. Madison and Anamosa) has been 2169 whereas the average at the women's reformatory has been 75 women. This is a



ratio of 29 men to each woman in the institutions.

In 1933 there were 105 women in the reformatory which is the highest number, except for one year 1931 when there were 116 women. With the exception of the slight increase in 1939 (91) the annual number of women in the reformatory has declined gradually reaching the lowest point in 1946 of 52 women or half the 1933 number. In 1948 the number increased sharply to 81 but then decreased thereafter to 64 in 1952.

In general the social and economic conditions in the state have affected each of the three correctional institution but not always to the same degree or in the same years.

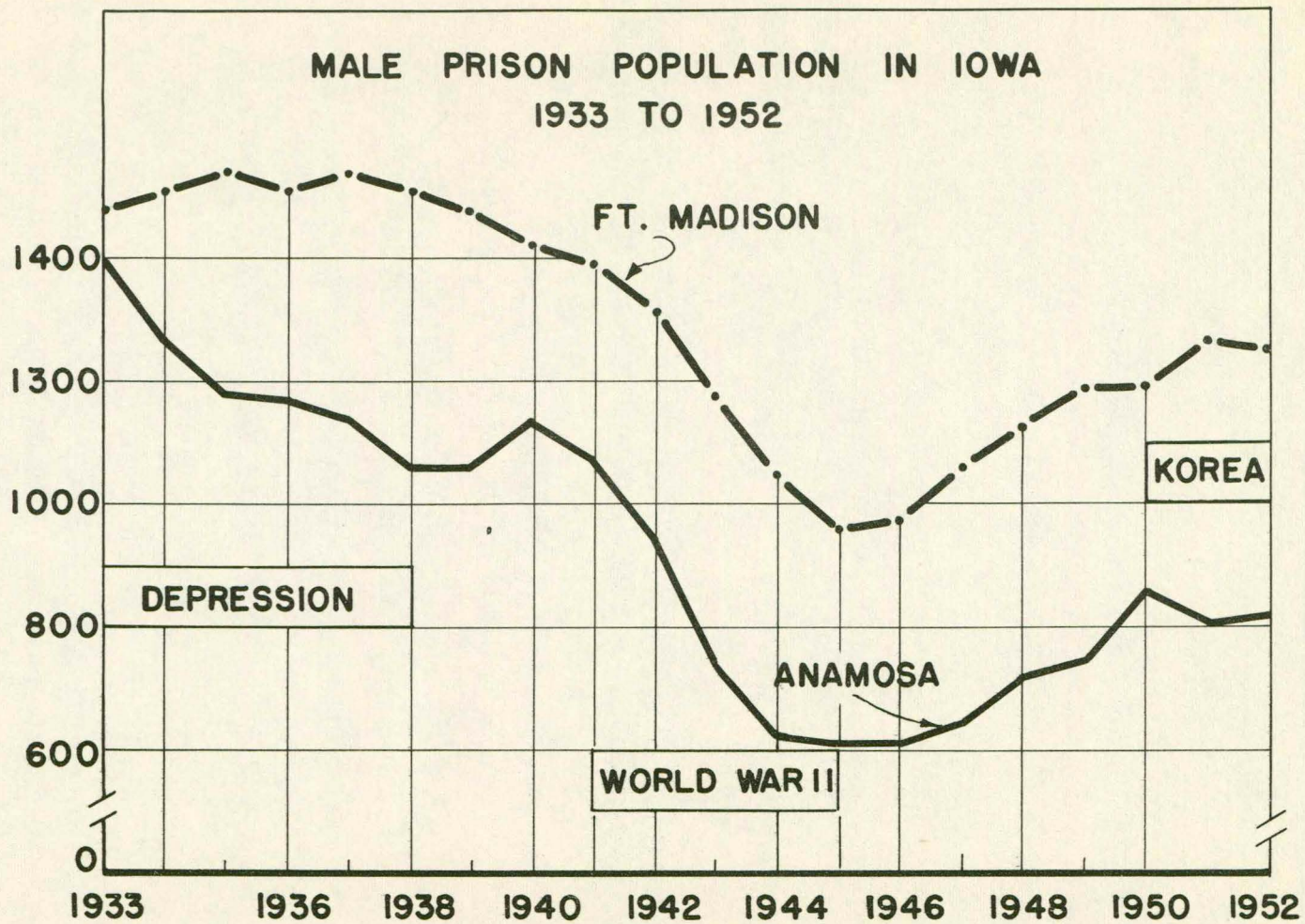


## POPULATION OF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

IN IOWA, 1933 TO 1954

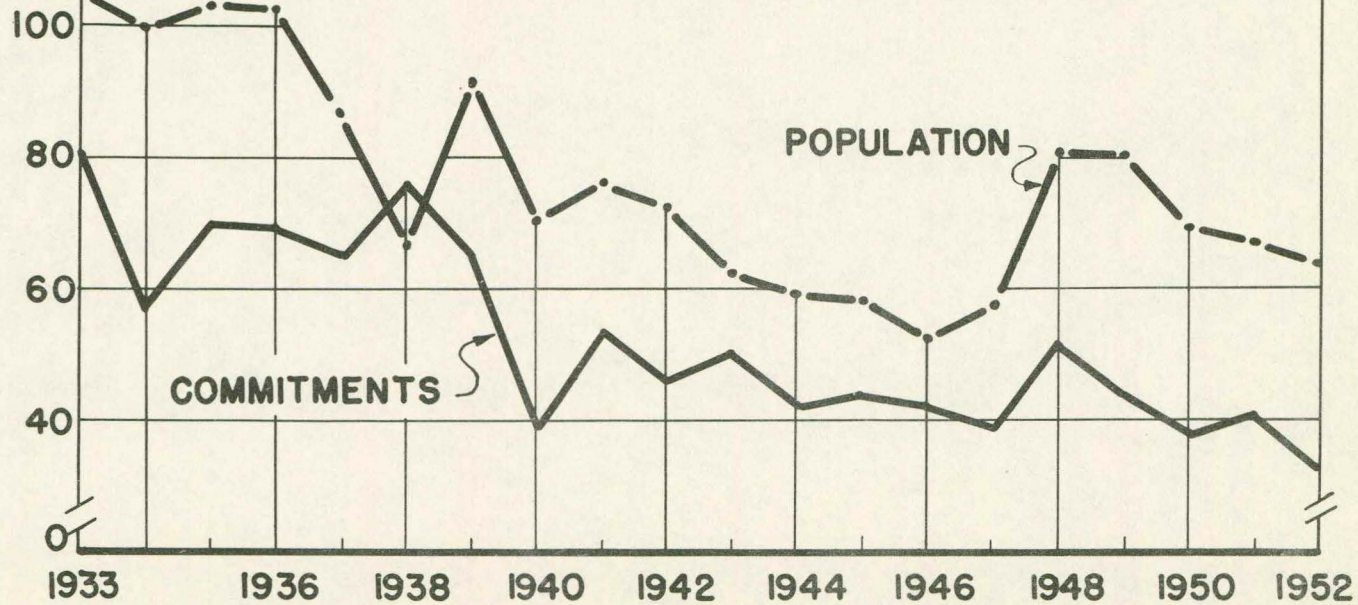
YEAR	FT. MADISON	ANAMOSA	ROCKWELL CITY	TOTAL
1933	1480	1389	105	2974
1934	1502	1257	99	2858
1935	1545	1179	103	2827
1936	1509	1170	102	2781
1937	1541	1143	86	2770
1938	1507	1061	66	2634
1939	1478	1067	91	2630
1940	1416	38	70	2624
1941	1389	1073	76	2538
1942	1313	941	72	2326
1943	1182	739	62	1983
1944	1051	619	59	1729
1945	961	608	58	1627
1946	975	608	52	1635
1947	1058	642	57	1757
1948	1126	714	81	1921
1949	1185	742	80	2007
1950	1181	860	69	2110
1951	1262	805	67	2134
1952	1250	816	64	2130
1953	1142	765	64	1971
1954	1282	803	56	2141







WOMEN'S REFORMATORY, ROCKWELL CITY, IOWA  
 ANNUAL POPULATION AND COMMITMENTS  
 1933 TO 1952





## CHAPTER SIX

COMMITMENTS TO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN  
IOWA, 1933 to 1952

In the two decades, 1933-52, the 99 counties have through the respective courts committed 13,566 men and women to the three correctional institutions in the state or at the rate of 678 persons a year. As is to be expected from the information already discussed, commitments remained high during the years of the Great Depression. (a)

In order to obtain a more exact analysis of the number of men and women entering the three institutions the data on commitments have been limited to persons sentenced by the courts. This information, therefore, does not include the number of persons transferred from one institution to another or those returned for parole violations or escapes.

Commitments declined gradually from 875 in 1933 to 733 in 1939. Each year, thereafter during the war years the commitments decreased sharply reaching the lowest number in 1944 of 438 or 50 per cent below the 1933 level. In 1945 commitments increased and advanced rather rapidly to a high of 667 in 1950 or 61 per cent above the lowest point for the war years in 1944. At the end of the period in 1952 the number entering the three institutions declined to 651 or 43 less than the peak in the post-war years.

In general commitments to each of the three institutions has varied much the same as the prison population. Commitments to the reformatory declined more in the last years of the Great Depression than at the Ft. Madison prison. This is evident from the chart showing data for both institutions. In addition commitments to the reformatory declined to a much lower figure during the war than at the penitentiary. Commitments at Ft. Madison declined from 416 in 1940 to 222 in 1945 or 45 per cent in five years. Commitments to the reformatory declined from 308 in 1940 to 159 in 1944 or almost 49 per cent in four years. In the post-war years commitments advanced more rapidly at Ft. Madison than at Anamosa. From the low of 222 in 1945 commitments increased to 395 in 1952 at Ft. Madison or an increase of almost 78 per cent. From the low of 159 in 1944 commitments at Anamosa increased to 224 in 1952 or only 22 per cent. It is highly probable

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(a) The material in this section has been derived from the reports for each year for the three institutions, therefore the figures may differ in some years from the information in court commitments as shown under litigation.



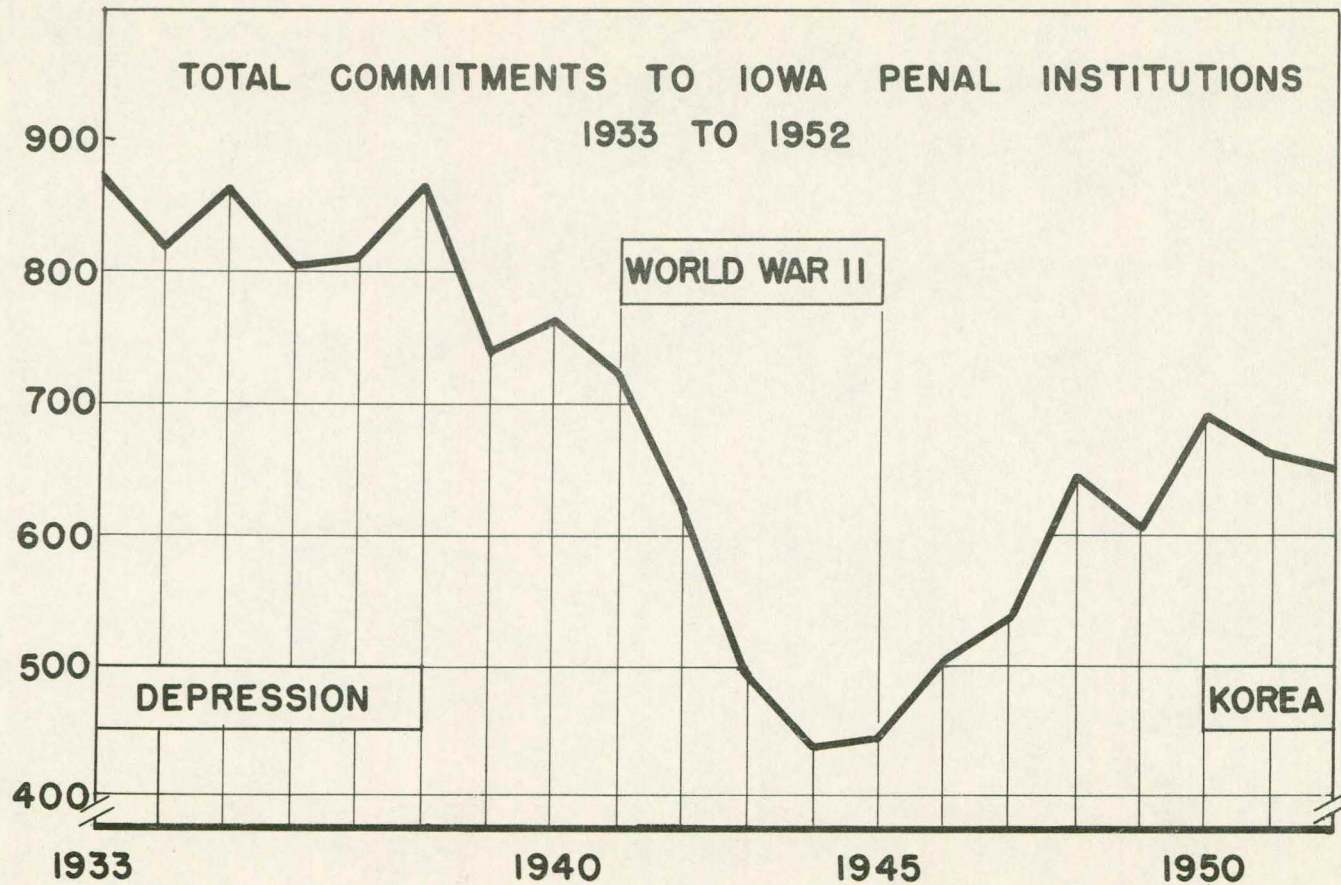
that the Korean affair may have had some influence on the lower increase at the reformatory.

Except for the slight increase in 1938 (76) commitments to the women's reformatory at Rockwell City have gradually decreased during the past 20 years. In contrast to the institutions for men the commitments at the women's institution did not decline as much during the war years. This fact is due to the type of sentences imposed on the women sent to the reformatory, i.e., above 30 days. The number committed in 1952 was 32 which was 49 less than in 1933 (81) the first year of the period.

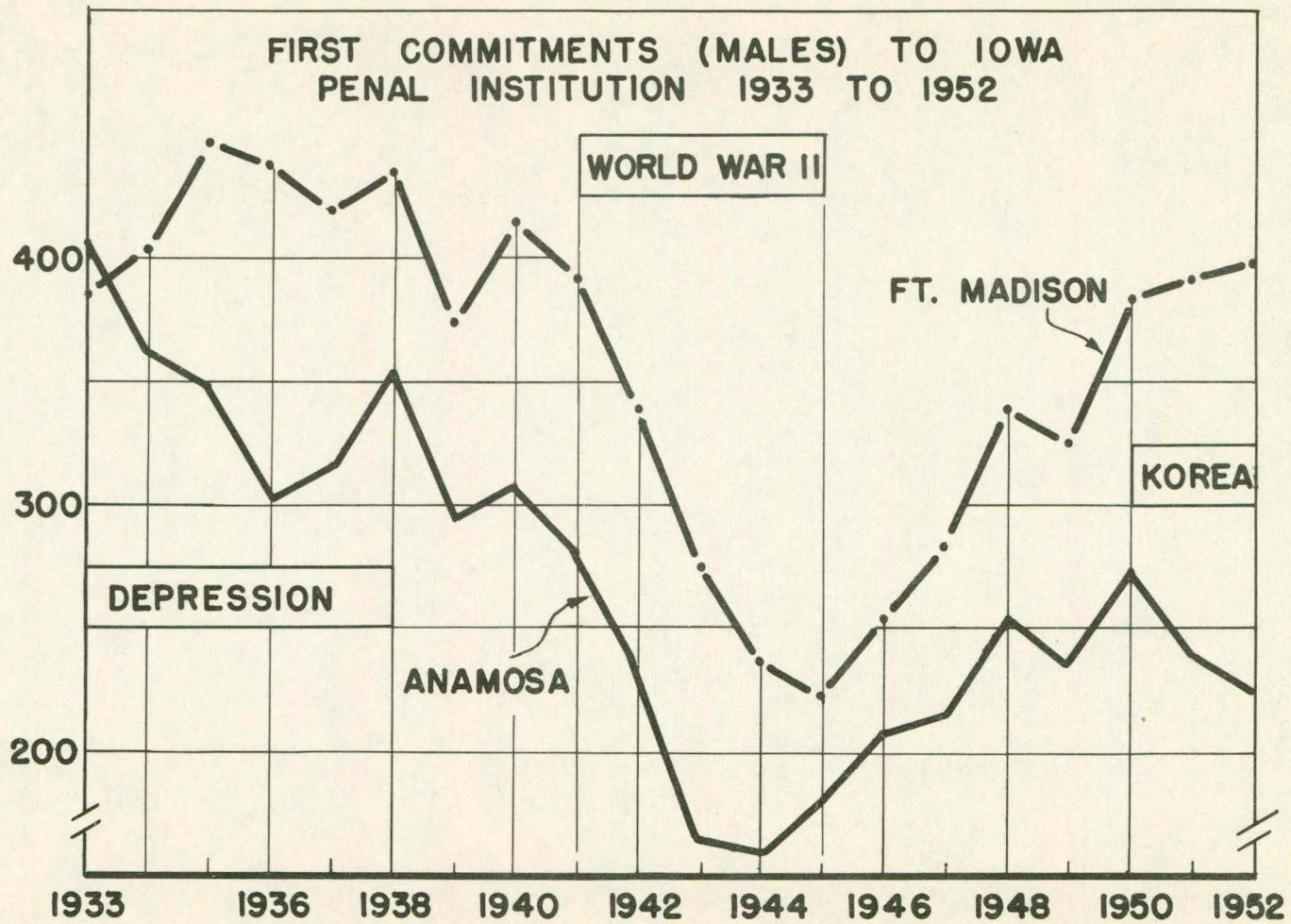
FIRST COMMITMENTS TO IOWA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS, 1933-1952

YEAR	FT. MADISON	ANAMOSA	ROCKWELL CITY	TOTAL
1933	386	408	81	875
1934	404	361	57	822
1935	449	348	70	867
1936	437	303	69	809
1937	420	326	65	811
1938	436	355	76	867
1939	373	295	65	733
1940	416	308	39	763
1941	391	279	54	724
1942	339	233	46	618
1943	274	162	50	486
1944	237	159	42	438
1945	222	182	44	448
1946	253	208	42	503
1947	283	214	39	536
1948	340	255	54	649
1949	326	235	44	605
1950	384	272	38	694
1951	387	239	41	667
1952	395	224	32	651
TOTALS	7152	5366	1048	
AVERAGE	357	268	52	











## BIRTHPLACE OF MEN COMMITTED TO IOWA PRISONS, 1925-50

Today about two-thirds of the men committed to the penal institutions in the state are native-born Iowans. In the past quarter century there appears to be a trend in the direction of more "native-sons" and fewer "out-of-state-sons" appearing at the gates of the Anamosa Reformatory and the Penitentiary in Ft. Madison.

In the twenty-six years, from 1925 to 1950, the various courts in the 99 counties, of Iowa have committed 17,747 men to the two state penal institutions. This means that on an average 682 men passed through the gates of the two establishments as condemned men each year. Reduced to a simple ratio 6 out of every 10 of these men were native-born Iowans and 4 were out-of-state men.

In the first biennial period of 1925-26, of the total 1,297 men committed, 52 per cent were Iowans and 48 per cent were non-Iowans by birth. Then gradually, biennium by biennium, the percentage of native-born Iowans has increased and the percentage of non-Iowans has decreased. (See chart).

The first important shift toward more native-born men came during the Great Depression when 60 per cent of the committed men were Iowans and 40 per cent non-Iowans. During World War II the percentage of Iowans advanced to 64 per cent and out of state men decreased to 38 per cent. In 1949-50, of the total 1357 commitments, 62 per cent were Iowans and 38 per cent non-Iowans. In contrast to this last biennium, in 1915-16, 30 per cent were native-born and 70 per cent were out-of-state men.

This general change in birthplace of men entering the penal institutions of Iowa in the past quarter century has a number of possible interpretations. It may be that potential offenders have come to avoid Iowa as a place to commit crimes, assuming of course that these men use care in selecting the place to commit an offense. The situation may be due also to the fact that more people have been moving out of Iowa each year than move into the state from other states. (a) Since Iowa is largely agricultural in character it does not have as great an influx of population as some of the more industrial states.

(a) According to the United States Census Bureau 343,000 persons born in Iowa left the state during the 13 years from 1940 to 1952 or more than 70 persons a day.



In contrast to the Iowa figures only 24 per cent of the men sentenced to the penal institutions in California in 1951-52 were "Native-Sons" whereas 76 per cent were "out-of-state men".

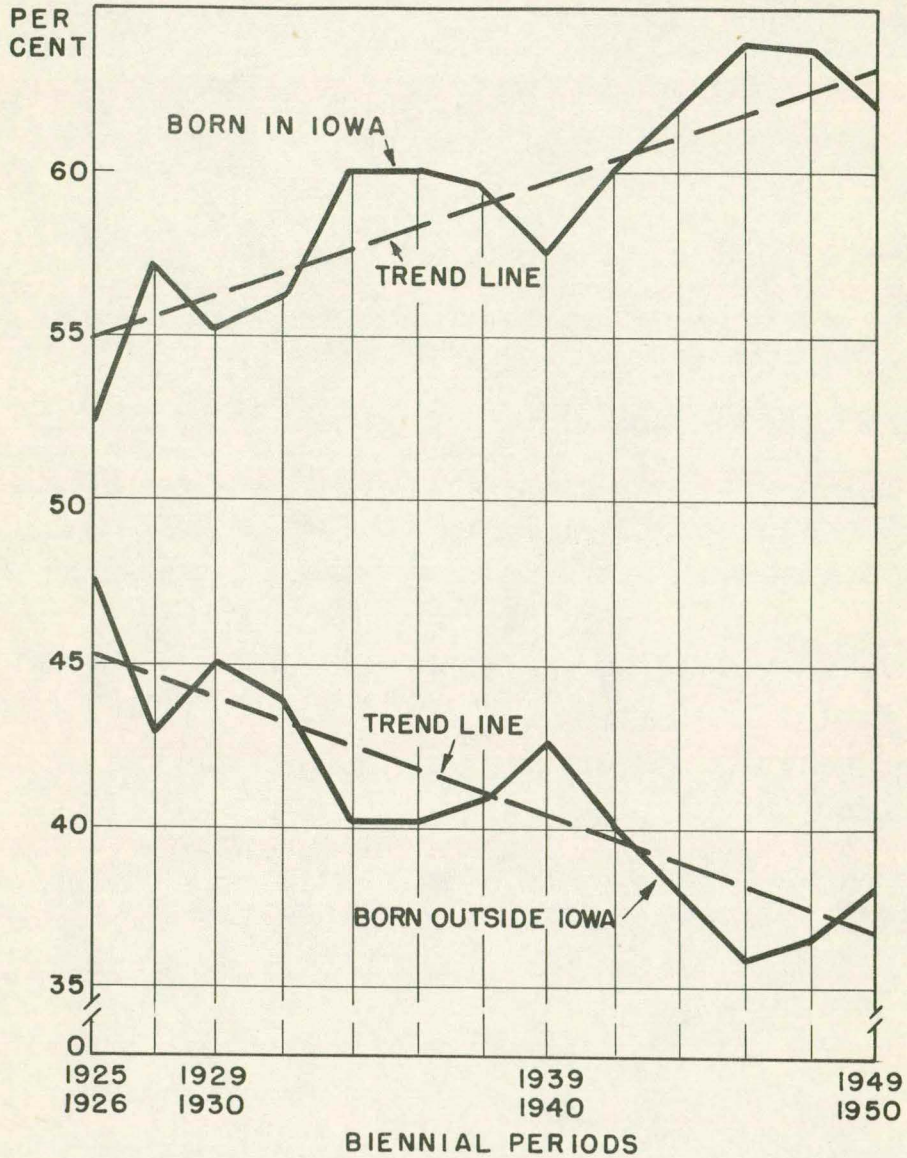
Apart from the above considerations Iowa can no longer maintain that most crimes committed in the state are by persons born outside the state. The great majority of the men arriving at the correctional establishments in the state are "home-grown-men" born within the state. This poses a problem of how to produce fewer home-grown candidates for the institutions in Anamosa and Ft. Madison.

BIRTHPLACE OF MEN COMMITTED TO IOWA REFORMATORY AND PENITENTIARY,  
1925-1950

Biennial Period	Born in Iowa		Born out of Iowa		Total
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	
1925-1926	682	52.0	615	48.0	1297
1927-1928	769	57.0	578	43.0	1347
1929-1930	767	55.0	640	45.0	1407
1931-1932	1033	56.0	815	44.0	1848
1933-1934	898	60.0	605	40.0	1503
1935-1936	1016	60.0	700	40.0	1716
1937-1938	941	59.5	637	40.5	1578
1939-1940	880	57.5	650	42.5	1530
1941-1942	781	60.0	522	40.0	1303
1943-1944	537	62.0	330	38.0	867
1945-1946	569	64.0	323	36.0	892
1947-1948	702	63.7	400	36.3	1102
1949-1950	853	62.0	504	38.0	1357
Total	10,428	59.0	7,319	41.0	17,747



### BIRTH PLACE OF MEN COMMITTED TO IOWA PENAL INSTITUTIONS, 1925 - 50





## CHAPTER EIGHT

## COMMITMENTS TO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

## ACCORDING TO URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IN IOWA

After considering the place of birth of persons sentenced to the correctional institutions in the state the analysis next turns to the commitments according to counties - urban and rural in the state. The purpose here is two fold, 1) to determine the general distribution of the counties making the commitments and 2) the urban and rural differences within the state.

As may be expected the commitments follow the same general distribution by counties as the findings on criminal court cases within the state. The larger counties display higher rates of commitments than the more rural counties. As in the earlier material on criminal litigation the data on commitments have been tabulated according to the five groups of counties based on the size of the largest community within each county. On this basis the counties have been classified as Group I, II, III, IV and V. The time span covered includes 12 years from 1941 to 1952.

Male Commitments to Correctional Institutions  
By County Groups in Iowa, 1941 to 1952

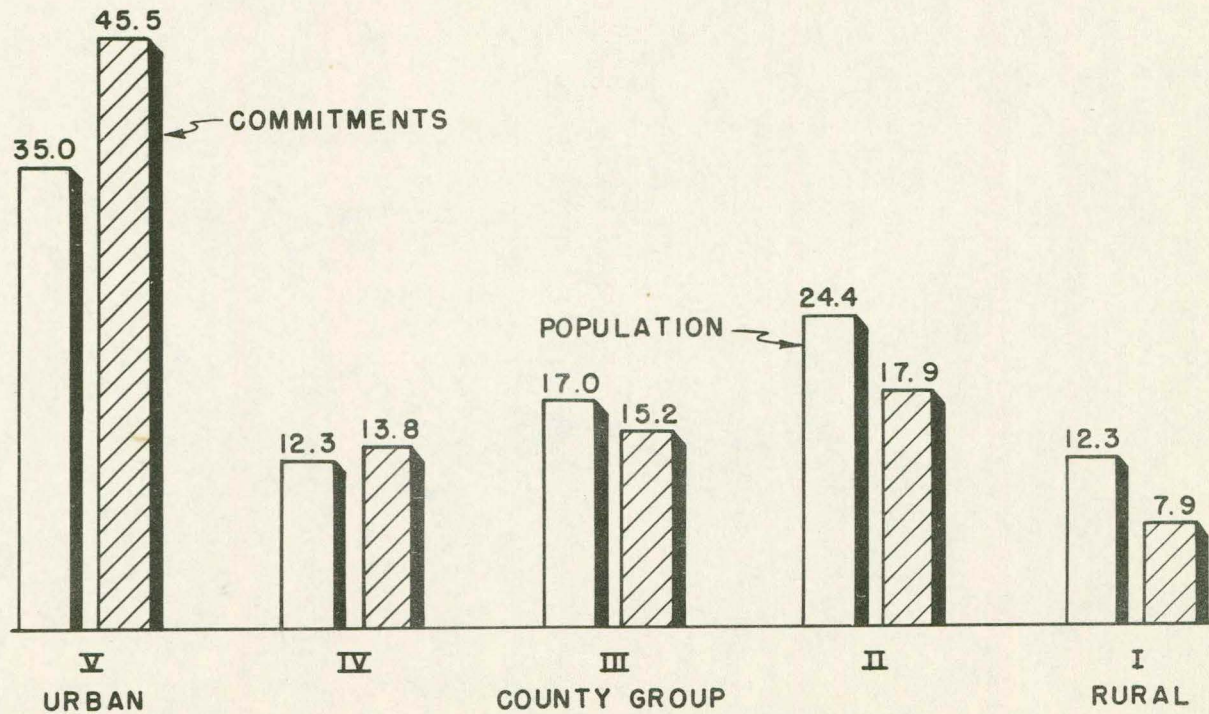
County Group	Number	Per Cent	Per Cent Distribution Population 1940-50
I Rural	595	7.9	12.3
II	1,318	17.9	23.4
III	1,127	15.2	17.0
IV	1,042	13.8	12.3
V Urban	3,418	45.5	35.0
Total	7,500	100.0	100.0

In the 12 year period from 1941 to 1952 the 99 counties in Iowa committed 7,500 men to the two correctional institutions. As shown earlier in the litigation data the rural counties have committed fewer men than the urban counties on the basis of the population in each group.

In the 12 year period the 23 rural counties in Group I committed 595 persons or 7.9 per cent of the total number. These same counties comprised 12.3 per cent of the total population in



COMMITMENTS AND POPULATION BY COUNTY GROUPS  
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION





the state on the basis of the average number for the two census years 1940 and 1950. The 34 counties in Group II which constitute 23.4 per cent of the total population sent 1,318 men or 17.6 per cent of the total number during the same years. The 22 counties in Group III with 17.0 per cent of the inhabitants committed 15.2 per cent of all prisoners. The 11 counties in Group IV, with 12.3 per cent of the people in the state sent 13.8 per cent of the men to the two prisons. Finally, the 11 urban counties in Group V with 35 per cent of the inhabitants of the state committed 45 per cent of the men to Anamosa and Ft. Madison.

These percentages show that 35 per cent of the population who live in the larger-city counties contribute more than 10 per cent of their due share of the prisoners to the two correctional institutions. Also the rural-farm counties in Group I contribute about 5 per cent less than the percentage distribution of the total population.

In order to reveal the variations in commitments according to the county groups the commitments for each group have been calculated on the basis of rates per 100,000 in each group. In doing this the annual number committed has been determined for each of the groups. The rates have been found by using the average population in each group by taking the census reports for the two years 1940 and 1950.

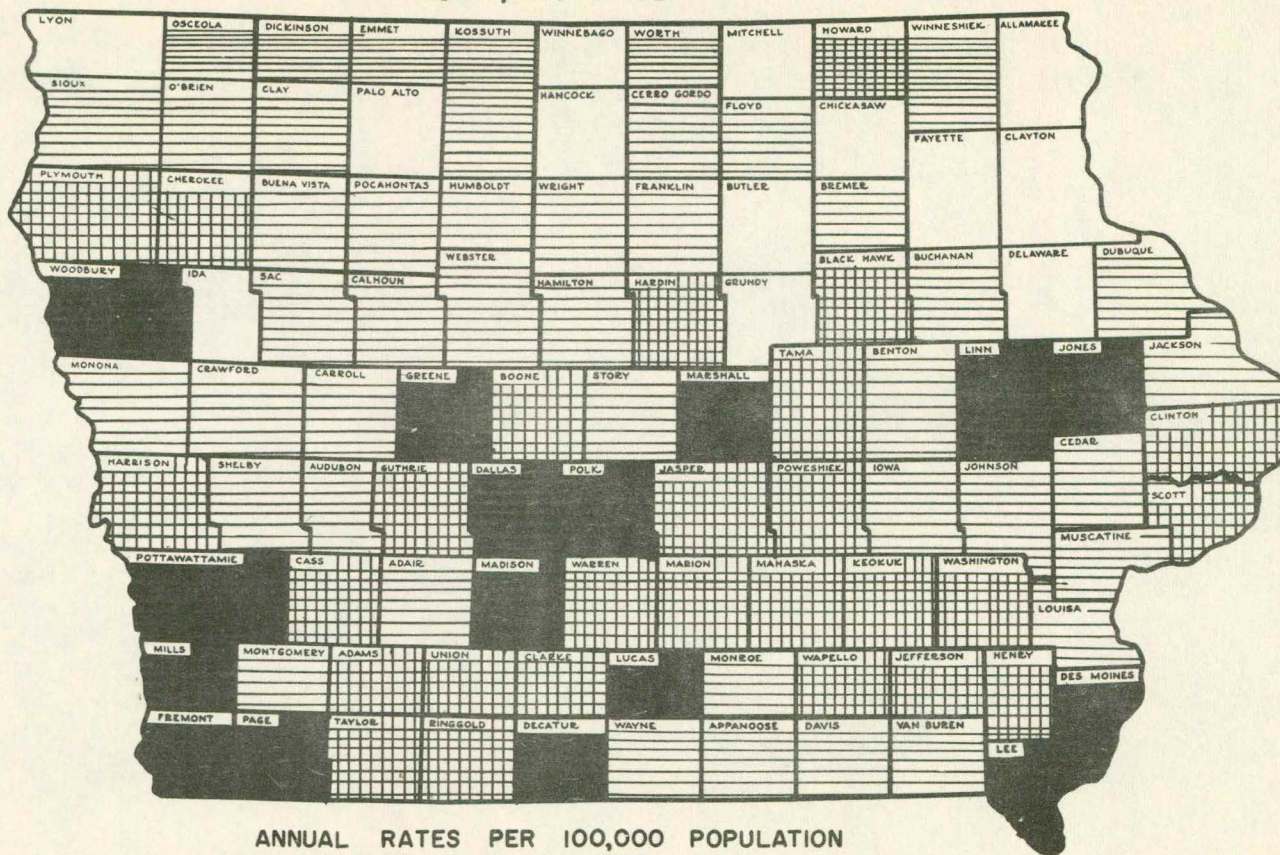
Annual Commitments by County Groups and Rates  
Per 100,000 population in each Group.

Group	Annual Number Committed	Rate per 100,000	Persons Per Square Mile 1940
I Rural-Farm	50	15.7	27
II	109	18.5	30
III	94	21.5	36
IV	87	27.2	56
V Urban	285	31.4	128

The commitments increase as the size and density of the population increases in each county group. The commitment rate for Group V, 31.4 per 100,000 is just twice the rate of Group I, 15.7 per 100,000. The commitments are higher in the larger counties on the basis of the per cent distribution of the population as well as the rate per 100,000 population.



## COMMITMENTS TO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY COUNTIES IN IOWA, 1941-52



ANNUAL RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION

- LESS THAN 10.....
- 10 TO 19.9.....
- 20 TO 29.9.....
- ABOVE 30.....



Biennial Changes in Commitments for  
the State and for Urban and Rural Areas.

In the 12 year period commitments have changed as well as the amount of criminal litigation. In the two-year period 1941-42 the 99 counties committed 1403 men to the two institutions. In the next biennium the number declined to 971 or 30 per cent. In 1945-46 the number increased to 993 but remained 29 per cent below the first biennium. In 1947-48 the number entering the two prisons increased to 1211 which was 14 per cent below the 1941-42 level. In the next biennium of 1949-50 the number committed advanced to 1451 or 3 per cent above the first biennium. In the final two-year period commitments increased again to 1471 or 6 per cent above 1941-42.

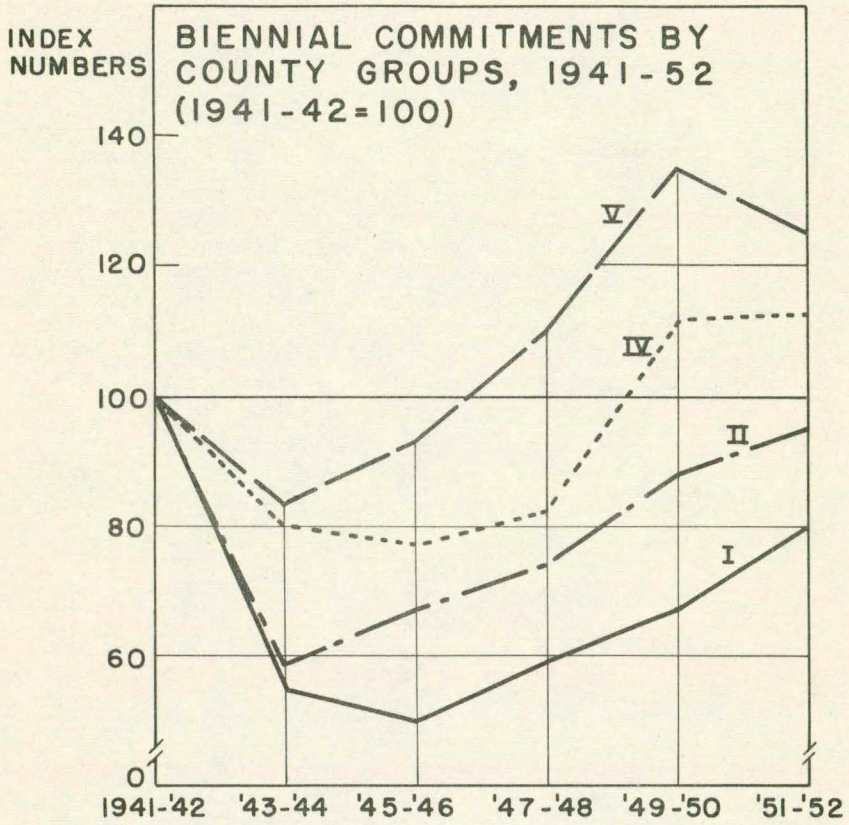
During the 12 year period commitments did not change at the same rate in the five county groups. Commitments declined most and remained below the 1941-42 figure in the rural-farm counties throughout the years. (See chart where data have been calculated by index numbers). In the first biennium the Group I counties committed 145 men but in the final biennium only 116 or 20 per cent less than the first two-years. In contrast to this the Urban Counties in Group V committed 525 men in 1941-42 but sent 659 in the last biennium of 1951-52 or 25 per cent more than in the first period.

Male Commitments to Correctional Institutions in Iowa  
1941-1952

Biennial Periods	County Group					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
1941-42	145	274	274	185	525	1403
1943-44	79	160	152	147	433	971
1945-46	72	183	106	143	489	993
1947-48	86	203	167	152	603	1211
1949-50	97	238	200	207	709	1451
1951-52	116	260	228	208	659	1471
Total	595	1318	1127	1042	3414	7500
Biennial Average	100	220	188	173	570	1250

In the Group IV counties commitments were 13 per cent higher in 1951-52 than in 1941-42. In the Group III counties commitments dropped 17 per cent for the same periods. Finally, in the Group II counties commitments declined 5 per cent from the last to the first periods.







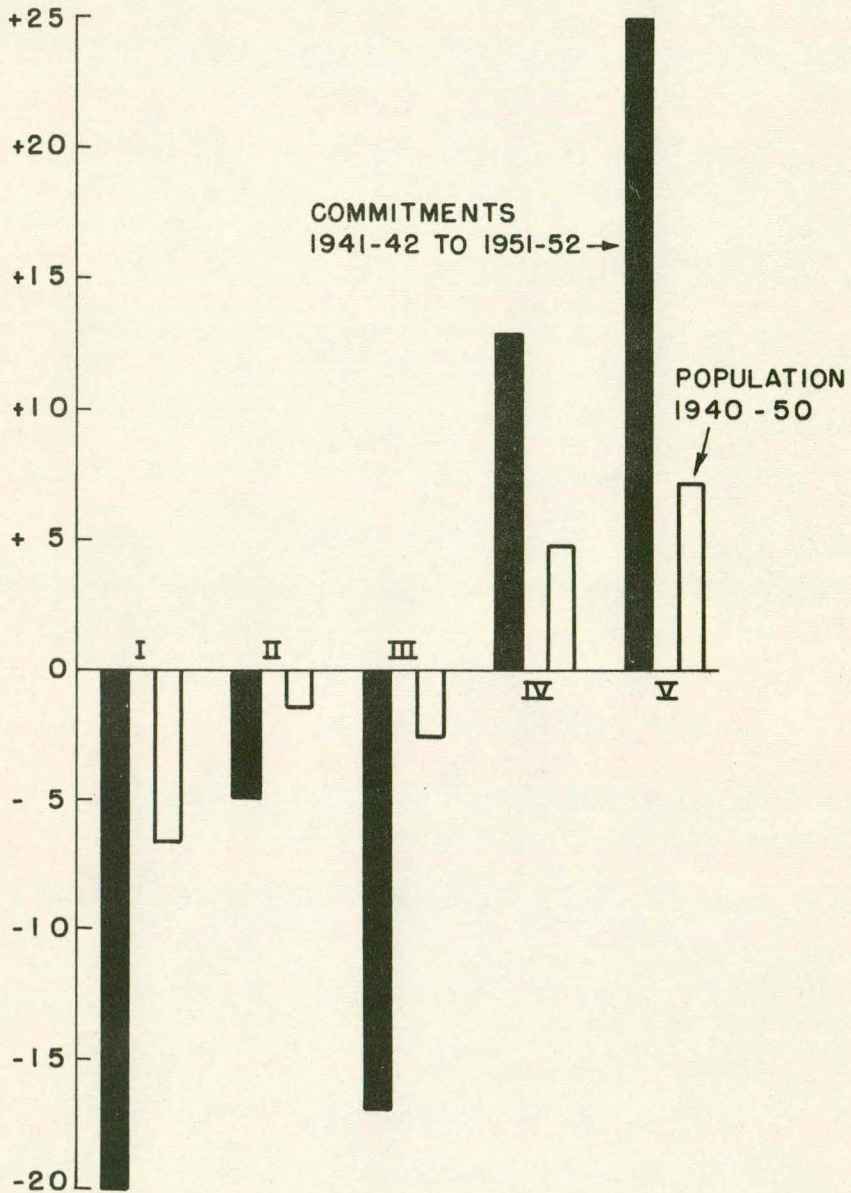
## Changes in Commitments and Changes in Population

County Group	Per Cent Change in Commitments- 1941-42 to 1951-52	Per Cent Changes in Population 1940 to 1950
I Rural	-20	-6.7
II	-5	-1.4
III	-17	-2.6
IV	+13	+9.9
V Urban	+25	+12.2

Some of the decline in the commitments may be due to the decrease in population in the rural areas and the increase in the urban counties may be due to population expansion, but not all. In Group I, the Rural-Farm counties, the population declined 6.7 per cent from 1940 to 1950 but commitments decreased 20 per cent. In the Group II counties the total population dropped 1.4 per cent and the commitments 5 per cent. In the Group III counties the number of inhabitants declined 2.6 per cent but the commitments decreased 17 per cent. In the Group IV counties the total population increased 9.9 per cent from 1940 to 1950 but the commitments increased 13 per cent. In the Urban counties of Group V the population advanced 12.8 per cent but the commitments increased 25 per cent or more than twice the amount of change in population. In general commitments in the larger urban counties have increased faster than the percentage increases in the population in these counties.



### PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN COMMITMENTS AND POPULATION BY COUNTY GROUPS









## CHAPTER NINE

CRIMES FOR WHICH MEN WERE COMMITTED TO THE  
STATE REFORMATORY AND PENITENTIARY, 1935-1952

What kinds of crimes did the men commit who were sentenced to the two correctional institutions? In order to answer this question the crimes for which the men had been charged and sentenced have been tabulated for the 18 year period from 1935 to 1952. Because the crimes as listed in the information were so many and varied all offenses have been classified into seven general categories.

Crimes Committed by Men  
Sentenced to the Reformatory and Penitentiary, 1935-52

Crimes	Number	Per Cent
Against Law and Order	1153	9.7
Against Public Morals	780	6.6
Against Persons	1392	11.8
Burglary	1766	15.0
Robbery	3773	32.0
Embezzlement & Fraud	1950	16.7
Others	965	8.2
Total	11,779	100.0

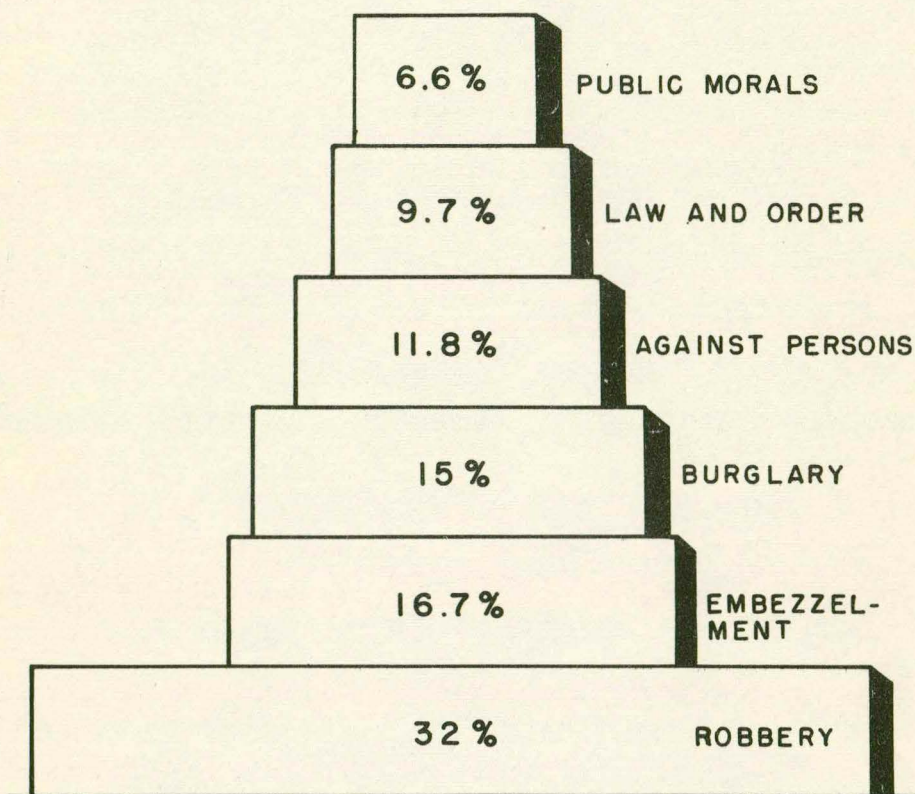
During the 18 year period 11,779 men have been committed to both the reformatory and the penitentiary. About one-third of the men were committed for robbery which ranked first in the seven categories. Embezzlement and fraud ranked second with 1,950 or 16.7 per cent of the total number and burglary came third with 15 per cent of the total. These three types of offenses involve crimes against property and constitute 63.7 per cent or about two-thirds of the total. Crimes against persons ranked fourth with 11.8 per cent and crimes against law and order came fifth with 9.7 per cent of the total. Crimes against public morals constituted only 6.6 per cent of the 11, 779 offenses.

CHANGES IN THE OFFENSES FOR WHICH  
THE MEN WERE COMMITTED.

In the 18 year period crimes for which the men had been charged varied to some degree. Crimes against law and order were above the average for the 18 year period in 1937, 1938 and in the



## THE PYRAMID OF CRIMES





last three years of 1950 to 1952. In the last year crimes against law and order were 53 per cent above the 18 year average. (See the table for each offense by years.) Crimes against public morals were above the average in 1938, 1944 and in 1950. Crimes against persons were high during the depression years of 1935 to 1940. Burglary was high in the years of the depression and low during the war years. In 1950 burglary as a cause for commitment has shown an increase. Robbery followed the same change as burglary. Embezzlement was high during the depression but increased much more in the post-war years.

When each of the types of offenses are compared in terms of the pre-war, war and post-war years certain changes become more evident. See the table for years and percentage changes. Crimes against law and order have increased from 8.4 per cent of all offenses in the pre-war period to 11 per cent in the post-war years. The percentage of crime against public morals expanded from 5.7 per cent in the first to 7.2 per cent in the third period. The percentage distribution of crimes against persons has shown very little change from 11.8 per cent in the first to 12.0 per cent in the third period. The number of men charged with burglary has decreased slightly from 16 per cent in the pre-war period to 15.8 per cent in the post-war years. Robbery as a cause for commitment has declined from 37 per cent in the pre-war years to 27 per cent in the post-war period. In contrast to robbery the percentage distribution for embezzlement and fraud has increased from 13.4 per cent to 19.5 per cent in the last period.

In general more men are being committed for embezzlement, crimes against law and order and offenses against public morals in the post-war years than in the pre-war years. In contrast to this crimes against property such as burglary and robbery have decreased as a cause for commitment in the post-war years.



Distribution of Crimes Committed by Men  
Sentenced in Pre-War, War and Post-War Years  
to Ft. Madison and Anamosa.

Crimes	Pre-War Depression		War Years		Post War Years	
	1935-39		1940-45		1946-52	
Against Law & Order	337	8.4	334	10.0	482	11.0
Against Public Morals	229	5.7	238	7.0	313	7.2
Against Persons	476	11.8	393	11.6	523	12.0
Burglary	641	16.0	439	12.8	686	15.8
Robbery	1490	37.0	1105	32.6	1178	27.0
Embezzlement	539	13.4	559	16.4	852	19.5
Miscel's.	310	7.7	329	9.6	326	7.5
Total	4022	100.0	3397	100.0	4360	100.0



Crimes Committed By Men Sentenced To State Reformatory  
And Penitentiary In Iowa, 1935-52

Year	Against Law & Order	Against Public Morals	Against Persons	Burg- lary	Rob- bery	Embezzle- ment & Fraud	Misc.	Total
1935	66	26	95	207	320	85	52	851
1936	63	44	97	127	324	95	64	814
1937	76	46	99	109	265	121	49	765
1938	71	62	99	105	332	120	68	857
1939	61	51	86	93	249	118	77	735
Total	337	229	476	641	1490	539	310	4022
1940	64	40	99	113	252	134	93	795
1941	59	37	70	91	254	126	71	708
1942	56	34	62	77	199	111	56	595
1943	58	48	63	48	142	64	38	461
1944	43	50	50	56	117	65	38	419
Total	280	209	344	385	964	500	296	2978
1945	54	29	49	54	141	59	33	419
1946	46	40	66	67	149	72	39	479
1947	50	34	81	78	129	101	34	507
1948	59	54	64	87	127	116	42	609
1949	60	38	67	87	150	118	52	572
Total	269	195	327	373	756	466	200	2586
1950	81	58	93	163	198	167	37	797
1951	83	44	84	94	161	133	53	652
1952	103	45	68	110	254	145	69	744
Total	267	147	245	367	563	445	159	2193
Grand Total	1153	780	1392	1766	3773	1950	965	11,779
Ave- rage	67	43	77	98	209	108	53	654



RECIDIVISM AMONG PERSONS COMMITTED TO  
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN IOWA, 1938 TO 1952

Recidivism is an important factor in the whole judicial process from the court to the prison. In a certain sense recidivism is a barometer of the success or failure in the prevention and treatment of criminals within a given state or nation. If a relatively large number of men with prior records enter the prisons this one fact may mean that the courts, the prisons or society as a whole are not doing effective work in the rehabilitation of the offenders. Apart from this it is important for prison administrators to know the extent or degree of recidivism among those men who pass from the courts to the prisons.

In Iowa recidivism is highest among the men committed to the state penitentiary and lowest among the women sentenced to the reformatory. For the 15 year period, 1938-52, of the 691 women sentenced to the reformatory, 20 per cent had a prior prison record at the time of commitment and 80 per cent were first-time offenders with no prison term behind them. Of the same total number 101 or 15 per cent had been in prison once before whereas the remaining 5 per cent had been in prison from 3 to more than five times prior to their commitment. I

At the state reformatory in Anamosa 58 per cent had no known prior prison record and were therefore entering prison for the first time. The remaining 42 per cent had two or more prison terms to their credit at the time of commitment. Five per cent of the men, 190, had been in prison four or five times before the present commitment.

At the state penitentiary in Ft. Madison 58 per cent of the men who entered the prison between 1938 and 1952 were repeaters and 42 per cent were committed for the first time. Of the repeaters 28 per cent were second-term men, 18 per cent were third-term men, 8 per cent were fourth term-men, 3 per cent were fifth-term men and one per cent had more than five terms in some prison prior to commitment.

The relative high percentage of repeaters at the penitentiary is due to the fact that this institution by law receives older men who have been convicted of more than one offense. Apart from this fact it is highly significant that there is such a high percentage of repeaters because it reveals the degree to which



Number of Terms Served by  
Persons Committed to Correctional Institutions  
in Iowa, 1938-1952

Number of Terms	Ft. Madison		Anamosa		Rockwell City	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
First	2103	42	2513	58	549	80
Second	1359	28	1149	27	101	15
Third	910	18	441	10	21	3
Fourth	420	8	142	4	11	1
Fifth	183	3	48	1	8	1
More than Five	83	1	0	0	1	0
Total	5057	100	4293	100	691	100

individuals have been unable to adjust themselves.

The relatively high percentage of first offenders among the women entering the reformatory is due to the fact that in Iowa women convicted and sentenced for more than 30 days are by law committed to the reformatory. In general first offenders are always higher among persons convicted for the first time.

#### Changes in the Amount of Recidivism

In the 15 year period from 1938 to 1952 the proportion of first offenders has increased at the state reformatory but has decreased at the penitentiary. At the women's reformatory there has been a slight increase in first offenders.

At the Anamosa reformatory 44 per cent of the total number committed during the pre-war years of 1938-40 were first offenders and 56 per cent were men with a prior prison record. During the war years the percentage of first-terms men increased to 47 per cent. In the post-war years of 1946-50 first term men comprised 74 per cent of all commitments and repeaters made up 26 per cent of those committed. These facts reveal that the reformatory has been receiving a different type of an offender since the war, approximately three-fourths of the men have no prison record at the time of their commitment. It appears that the post-war years have been responsible for more younger men just beginning a career of crime.

The situation at the state penitentiary at Ft. Madison has shown an opposite trend with fewer first term men and more repeaters. In the pre-war years of 1938-40, 47.5 per cent of all



men committed, 1225 were with no prison records behind them. In the war years 42 per cent were first term men but in the post-war years the percentage had decreased to 40 per cent of the total committed.

At the women's reformatory 72 per cent of the women committed in the pre-war years were first-term offenders and 28 per cent had a prior known record. During the war years the first-term commitments increased to 87 per cent and the repeaters declined to only 13 per cent. In the post-war years the first-term group declined to 77 per cent and those with a prior record increased to 23 per cent of the total number committed. The 77 per cent is less than the war years but larger than the pre-war years. The increase of first offenders during the war years is due very largely to the general disorder conditions within the country as a result of the war.



Distribution of First Offenders and Repeaters  
Among Persons Committed to Correctional Institutions  
in Iowa, during pre-war, war and post-war years

Period	First Offenders		Repeaters		Total	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Anamosa						
Pre-War						
1941-45	513	44	549	56	1162	100
War Year						
1941-45	539	47	600	53	1139	100
Post-War						
1946-50	1028	74	350	26	1378	100
Ft. Madison						
Pre-War						
1938-40	582	47.5	643	52.5	1225	100
War Year						
1941-45	613	42.0	851	58.0	1464	100
Post-War						
1946-50	640	40.0	946	60.0	1586	100
Rockwell City						
Pre-War						
1938-40	128	72.0	51	28.0	179	100
War Year						
1941-45	195	87.0	30	13.0	225	100
Post-War						
1946-50	172	77.0	52	23.0	224	100



PERCENTAGE OF FIRST TERM AND RE-  
PEATERS COMMITTED DURING PRE-WAR,  
WAR AND POST-WAR YEARS

## ANAMOSA

PRE-	44	56
WAR	47	53
POST-	74	26

## FT. MADISON

PRE-	47.5	52.5
WAR	42	58
POST-	40	60

## ROCKWELL CITY

PRE-	72	28
WAR	87	13
POST	77	23

FIRST

REPEATERS



## CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE AGE OF PERSONS COMMITTED TO CORRECTIONALINSTITUTIONS IN IOWA, 1938 TO 1952

The age of persons committed to the three correctional institutions in the state varies according to the type of institution and the sex of the offenders. As is to be expected younger men enter the reformatory and older men the state penitentiary. The age distribution of the women committed to the Rockwell City Reformatory differs from both the institutions for men.

Age of Persons Committed to Correctional  
Institutions in Iowa, 1938-1952

Age	Ft. Madison		Anamosa		Rockwell City		Total	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
15 to 20	222	4.4	1205	28.0	140	19.8	1567	15.2
20 to 25	464	9.2	1758	41.0	156	22.0	2374	23.7
Over 25	4378	86.4	1330	31.0	413	58.2	6121	61.1
Total	5060	100.0	4293	100.0	709	100.0	10062	100.0

Of the total number committed to the three institutions from 1938 to 1952, 15.2 per cent were under 20 years of age, 23.7 per cent 20 to 25 years of age and 61.1 per cent over 25 years. At the Ft. Madison penitentiary 86.4 per cent of the men were over 25 years of age, 9.2 per cent 20 to 25 years and 4.4 per cent under 20 years of age. In the 15 year period 222 men under 20 years of age have been sentenced to the state penitentiary.

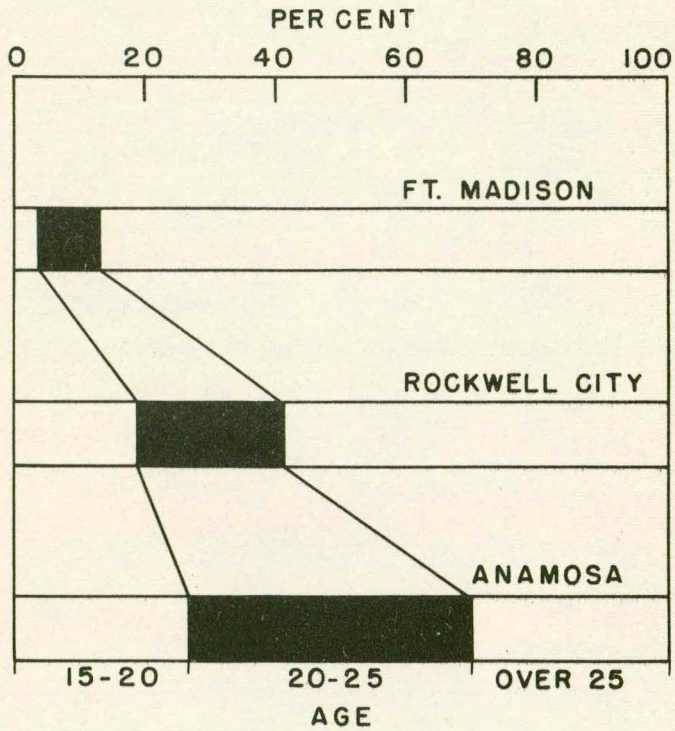
At the Anamosa reformatory 31 per cent of the men were over 25 years, 41 per cent 20 to 25 years and 28 per cent under 20 years of age. In other words, 1205 of the total 4293 men were less than 20 years of age at the time of commitment. At the Rockwell City reformatory 19.8 per cent of the women were under 20 years of age, 22 per cent between 20 and 25 years and 58.2 per cent over 25 years of age.

Changes in the Age Distribution

In the 15 year period from 1938 to 1952 there has been a general trend toward younger men entering the reformatory and the penitentiary. At Ft. Madison 1.6 per cent of the men committed



### AGE DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS COMMITTED TO PENAL INSTITUTIONS IN IOWA





during the pre-war years, 1938-40, were under 20 years of age. In the war years this group increased to 3.5 per cent of the total number for 1941-45 and in 1946-50 the post-war years to 7.3 per cent. For the same periods of time the percentage of those in the other age groups has decreased, except for the slight increase in the 20 to 25 age group in the post-war years.

At the Anamosa reformatory the percentage of younger offenders has also expanded. In the pre-war years, 1938-40, of the total number committed 23.5 per cent were under 20 years of age. In the war years the percentage for this age group expanded to 31.4 per cent of the total. In the post-war years there was a slight decline to 29.7 per cent of the total. In the upper age group of over 25 years the percentage has declined from 34 per cent in the pre-war years to 26.8 per cent in the post-war years.

Age Distribution of Men  
Committed to State Reformatory and  
Penitentiary, Pre-War, War and Post-War Years.

Period	15-20		20-25		Over 25		Total	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
	Anamosa							
Pre-War 1938-40	276	23.5	492	42.5	394	34	1162	100
War 1941-45	355	31.4	425	37.2	359	31.4	1139	100
Post-War 1946-50	409	29.7	600	43.5	369	26.8	1378	100
	Ft. Madison							
Pre-War 1938-40	20	1.6	116	9.6	1088	88.8	1224	100
War 1941-45	52	3.5	92	6.0	1324	90.5	1468	100
Post-War 1946-50	116	7.3	134	8.4	1336	84.3	1586	100



## CHAPTER TWELVE

LENGTH OF SENTENCES OF PERSONS COMMITTED

## TO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN IOWA, 1938 To 1952

In the 15 year period of 1938 to 1952 the courts of Iowa have condemned 7 men to death for serious crimes. Four of these cases occurred during the war years of 1943-44, one in 1948 and two in 1950-51. In the same period of time 121 men and two women have been committed for life, 87 to Ft. Madison, 34 to Anamosa and two to Rockwell City Reformatory. In one year, 1938, 23 men entered prison for life terms. A part from these life sentences 117 persons have been committed to prison for more than 30 years; 82 at Ft. Madison, 32 at Anamosa and 3 at Rockwell City Reformatory.

On the basis of the most common sentence, (mode) 35 per cent of the men committed to Anamosa were sentenced for 5 to 10 years : and 44 per cent of the men at Ft. Madison were committed for 10 to 15 years terms. Of the Anamosa men, 66.4 per cent were committed for 5 to 15 years whereas 77.7 per cent of the Ft. Madison received the same types of sentences. As is to be expected 44.7 per cent (309) of the total 692 women committed to the Rockwell Reformatory were sentenced for less than one year. One hundred, 14.5 per cent, were committed for one to two years, 22 per cent for 5 to 10 years and 10.4 per cent for 10 to 15 years.

## Changes in the Length of Sentences

When the length of the sentences are compared on the basis of the commitments during the pre-war, war and post-war years there appears to be a slight change with a trend toward fewer short and long terms and more medium or average types of sentences.



Length of Sentences of Persons Committed to State  
Correctional Institutions in Iowa, 1938-52

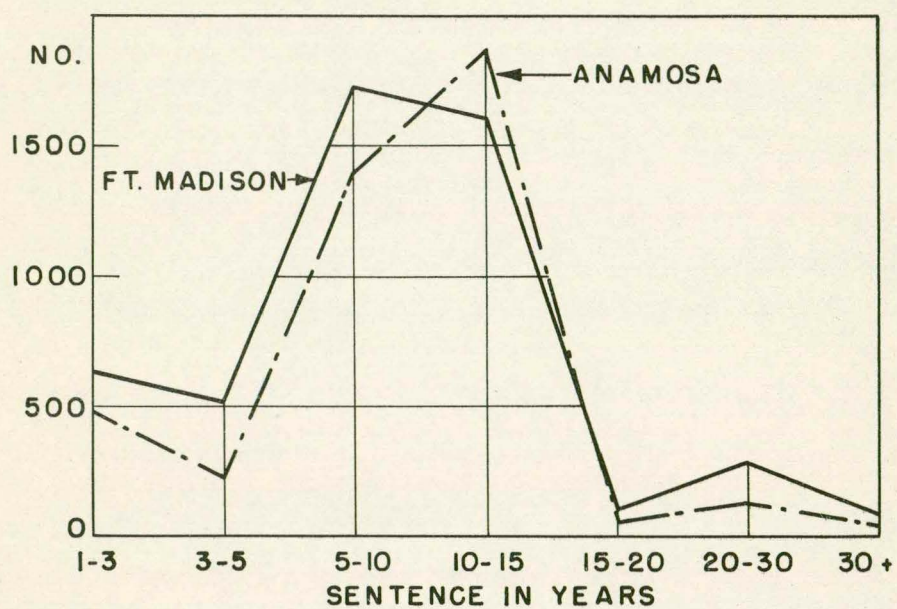
Length of Sentences in Years	Prison Ft. Madison	Reformatory Anamosa	Womens Reformatory
Less - one	0	0	309
1 to 2	586	469	100
2 to 3	49	26	10
3 to 5	511	205	32
5 to 10	1742	1373	151
10 to 15	1607	1862	72
15 to 20	104	58	6
20 to 30	282	141	7
30 or more	82	32	3
Life	87	34	2
Death	7	70	0
Until sane	0	78	0
Total	5057	4278	692

Per Cent Distribution of Sentences  
By Length of Term for Pre-War, War and  
Post-War Years in Iowa.

Period	one to 10 Years		10 to 20 Years		More than 20 Years	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Ft. Madison Penitentiary						
Pre-War	714	58	380	31	131	11
War	857	58.5	468	32	141	9.5
Post-War	859	54	579	36.5	146	9.5
Anamosa Reformatory						
Pre-War	578	50.5	503	45	64	5.5
War	554	50	502	45	51	5.0
Post-War	684	49	648	46.5	56	4.5



### LENGTH OF COMMITMENTS TO REFORMATORY AND PENITENTIARY





Distribution of Length of Sentences  
For Women Sentenced to the Rockwell City  
Reformatory, Pre-War, War and Post-War Years

Period	Less than 1 Year		One to 10 Years		10 Years or More		Total	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Pre-War	85	48	75	42.5	17	9.5	177	100
War	102	45	101	44.7	23	10.3	226	100
Post-War	87	45	86	40	33	15.0	216	100

Short terms sentences of less than one year have decreased from 48 per cent to 45 per cent of the total from the pre-war to the post-war years. The percentage of terms of more than 10 years has increased from 9.5 per cent to 15 per cent for the same periods. In the one to 10 year class there has been a decrease from 42.5 per cent in the pre-war to 40 per cent in the post-war years. The evidences show that the courts are using longer sentences for women and more medium sentences for the men in the past 15 years in Iowa. ) I



## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

## MARITAL STATUS OF MEN AND WOMEN COMMITTED

## TO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN IOWA, 1951-52

The information available on the number of men and women who were married, single, widowed, divorced or separated at the time of commitment is limited to 1951-52.

Marital Status of Persons Committed to  
Correctional Institutions in Iowa, 1951-52

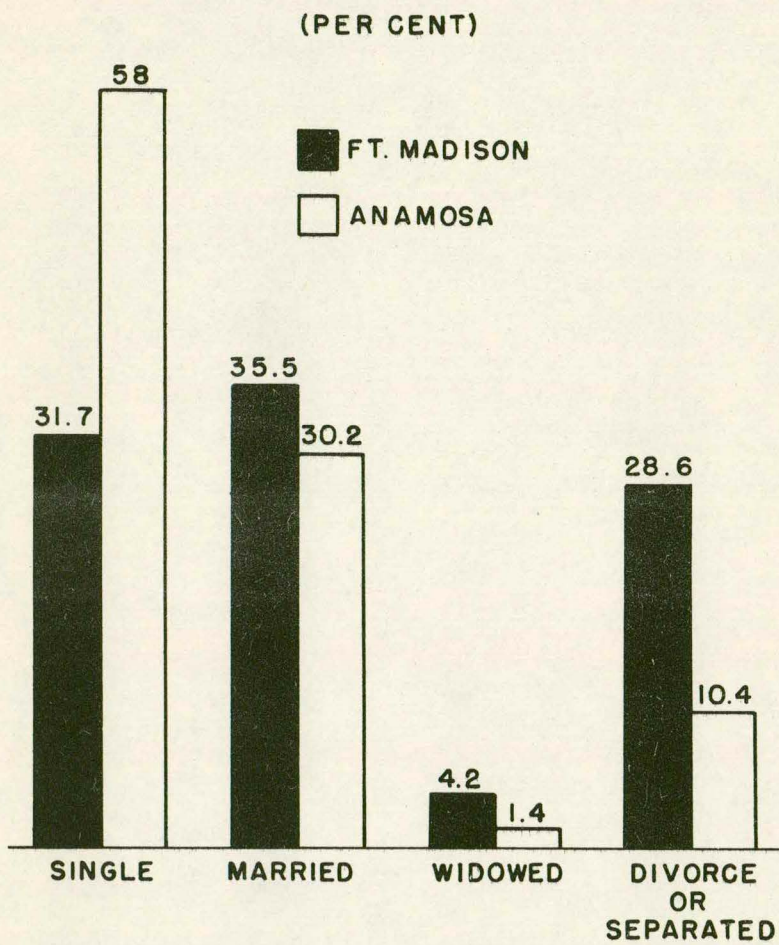
Marital Status	Ft. Madison		Anamosa		Rockwell City	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Single	248	31.7	355	58.0	12	16
Married	278	35.5	185	30.2	44	59
Widowed	33	4.2	10	1.4	1	1
Divorced or Separated	223	28.6	64	10.4	18	24
Total	782	100.0	614	100.0	75	100

In spite of the limitation of material the information is significant. The percentage distribution of the number married, single, widowed or separated varies according to the institution. Because the penitentiary at Ft. Madison receives older and more serious offenders there are more married and divorced men than among those committed to the reformatory. Single men comprised 31.7 per cent of those sentenced to Ft. Madison and 58 per cent of the men sentenced to Anamosa. The married men included 35.5 per cent at Ft. Madison and 30.2 per cent at Anamosa. Widowers made up 4.2 per cent of the Ft. Madison men and 1.4 per cent of those at Anamosa at the time of commitment. The divorced and separated group comprised 28.6 per cent of those sentenced to the penitentiary and only 10.4 per cent of those at the reformatory. The high percentage of divorced men entering the penitentiary may be due to the fact that many of the men are repeaters and that imprisonment for a felony is a basis for divorce.

Almost 60 per cent of the women sentenced to the reformatory at Rockwell City were married at the time of their commitment, 24 per cent divorced, 16 per cent single and one per cent widowed. This relatively high percentage of married women of



MARITAL STATUS OF MEN COMMITTED  
TO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN  
IOWA, 1951 - 52





the total number committed is due in part to the fact that some of the women were partners in crime with their husbands. Also many of the crimes which women commit are related to the fact of family relationships.

It is evident from the figures from each of the institutions that the percentage of divorced men and women is much higher than the percentage of divorced persons in the general civilian population. Both crime and divorce are indications of individual maladjustment.



## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEN COMMITTED TO  
THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN IOWA

Most of the men committed to the two correctional institutions in the state are unskilled workers. Of the 8,487 men sentenced to the reformatory and the penitentiary between 1939 and 1952, 3762, or 44.3 per cent had not particular occupation and were classified as "Unskilled Workers". (a)

Occupations of Men Prior to Commitment  
to State Reformatory and Penitentiary in Iowa, 1939-52

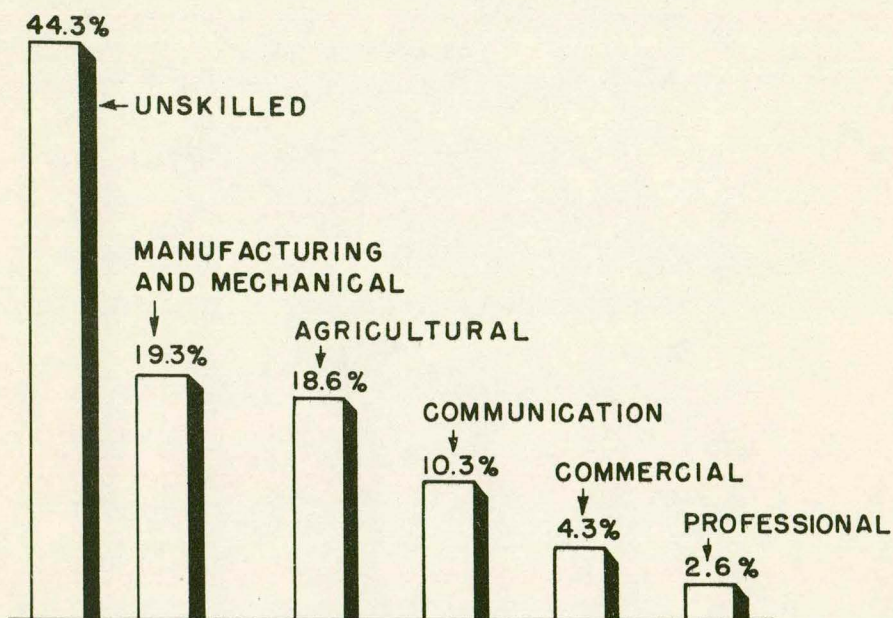
Occupation	Number	Per Cent
Unskilled workers	3,762	44.3
Manufacturing and Mechanical	1,627	19.3
Agricultural	1,584	18.6
Communication and Transportation	874	10.3
Commerce and Mercantile	419	4.9
Professional	221	2.6
Total	8,487	100.0

Men who had been engaged in manufacturing and mechanical work ranked second highest with 19.3 per cent and those from agriculture came third with 18.6 per cent. Men who had been engaged in transportation and communication ranked fourth with 10.3 per cent of the total. Those with commercial and mercantile backgrounds ranked fifth with 4.9 per cent and the professional group ranked in sixth with 2.6 per cent of all commitments.

- (a) In reality the percentage of "unskilled" is much large because many men listed their occupations in other categories when actually they had been employed in these positions only a very short time.



OCCUPATIONS OF MEN COMMITTED TO  
IOWA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS,  
1939 - 52





Changes in Occupational Background  
of Men Committed to the Institutions

Within the past 14 years there has been a slight change in the occupational background of the men committed to both institutions. For purposes of analysis the 14 years have been divided into three periods, 1939-42, 1943-47 and 1948-52. In the first period 41 per cent of the men were unskilled workers, in the second period 44 per cent and in the third period 47.3 per cent. This represents an increase of 6.2 per cent in the total distribution in the third period.

Occupations of Men Committed to the Iowa  
Reformatory and Penitentiary by Periods

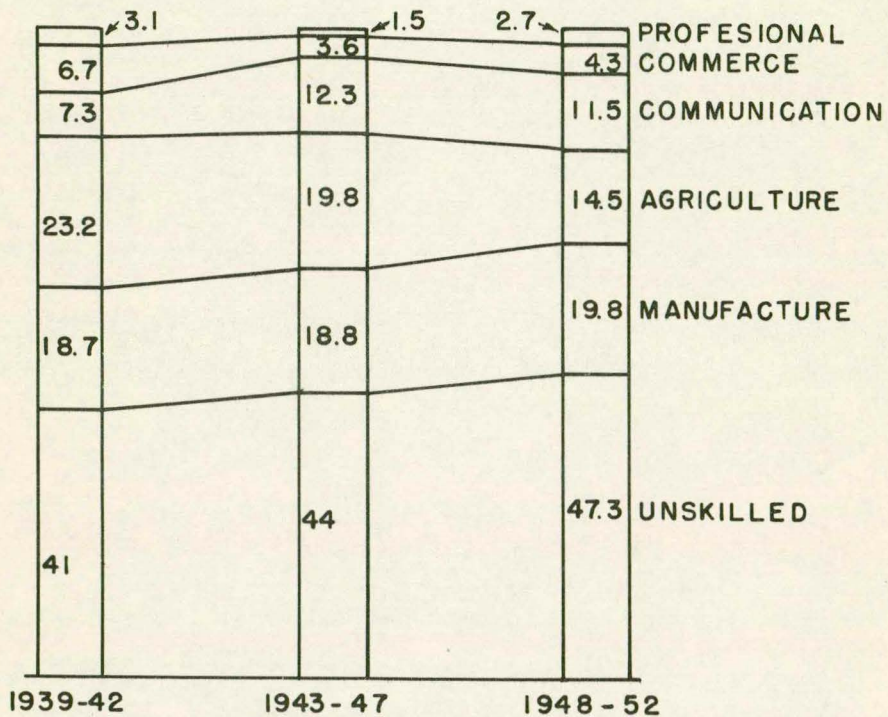
Occupations	1939-1942		1943-1947		1948-1952	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Unskilled	1160	41.0	1006	44.0	1596	47.3
Manufacturing	532	18.7	428	18.8	667	19.8
Agriculture	657	23.2	441	19.8	486	14.4
Communication	208	7.3	279	12.3	387	11.5
Commerce	187	6.7	85	3.6	147	4.3
Professional	89	3.1	38	1.5	94	2.7
Total	2833	100.0	2277	100.0	3377	100.0

The percentage distribution for the men in the manufacturing group remained about the same with a slight increase from 18.7 per cent in the first to 19.8 per cent in the third period. The number of men with an agricultural background declined from 23.2 per cent in the first period to 14.4 per cent in the last period. In contrast to this the percentage of those engaged in communication increased from 7.3 per cent in the first period to 11.5 per cent in the last period. Men from commercial positions changed slightly from 6.7 per cent in the first period to 4.3 per cent in the last period. The percentage of professional men declined from 3.1 per cent of the total in the first period to 2.7 per cent in the last period. In the middle period the percentage dropped to 1.5 per cent of the total. The changes in the three periods represent a general change in the occupational background within the state for about the same years.



## OCCUPATIONS OF MEN COMMITTED BY PERIODS

(PER CENTAGES)





## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

COST OF MAINTAINING INMATES IN THE CORRECTIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS IN IOWA, 1936 TO 1952

The average monthly cost of maintaining inmates in the three correctional institutions in Iowa has varied with the general cost of living and the prices received by farms in the state. During the depression years when prices were relatively low the cost for maintaining inmates was low but as the cost of living began to increase in the war and post-war years institutional maintenance costs advanced.

In 1936 the average monthly cost per inmate at the penitentiary was \$23.22, at the Anamosa reformatory, \$23.50 and at the Rockwell Reformatory for women the cost was \$46.50 per inmate. In 1940 the cost declined to \$19.80 at the penitentiary, \$21.53 at the Anamosa reformatory and \$38.30 at the women's reformatory. Since 1941 the inmate cost has advanced rapidly with the price index. In 1951-52 the per inmate cost at Ft. Madison was \$56.93, at Anamosa, \$66.66 and at Rockwell City it was \$117.51 per inmate. In 1950 the index of prices received by farmers in Iowa had increased to 281 above the base year 1939. From 1936 to 1951-52 the per inmate cost at the penitentiary increased 145 per cent, at the reformatory 184 per cent and at the women's reformatory 152 per cent.

When the average monthly costs per inmate are calculated on an annual basis the maintenance cost becomes more significant.

Average Annual Inmate Costs, 1936 and 1951-52

Year	Ft. Madison Penitentiary	Anamosa Reformatory	Rockwell City Reformatory
1936	\$278.64	\$282.00	\$558.00
1951-52	\$683.18	\$799.92	\$1410.12

These figures represent the cost of maintenance per inmate in an institution for one year without including the capital investments and other related costs.

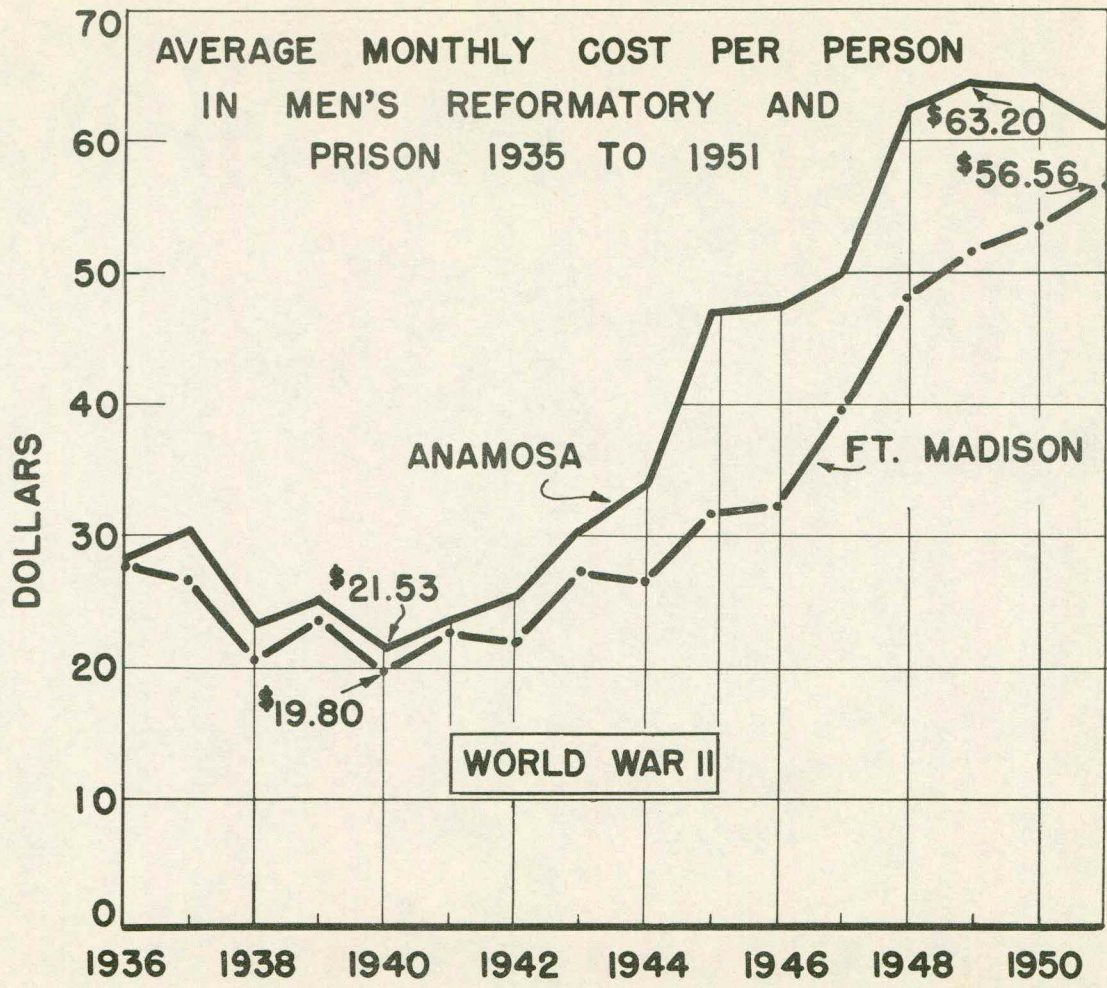


AVERAGE MONTHLY COST PER PERSON IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
IN IOWA, 1936-1951

YEAR	FARM PRICES (*)	FT. MADISON PRISON	ANAMOSA REFORMATORY	ROCKWELL CITY REFORMATORY
1936	124	\$23.22	\$23.50	\$46.50
1937	138	26.77	30.19	57.00
1938	108	20.42	23.17	43.40
1939	100	23.80	25.15	53.74
1940	103	19.80	21.53	38.30
1941	134	23.03	23.21	46.93
1942	173	21.52	25.39	42.59
1943	197	27.25	30.72	45.25
1944	191	26.32	34.51	35.25
1945	202	31.95	47.00	58.44
1946	246	32.15	47.58	59.06
1947	317	39.38	50.80	76.45
1948	332	48.31	62.54	69.00
1949	269	51.93	64.34	74.88
1950	281	53.54	63.90	92.26
1951-52		56.93	66.66	117.51

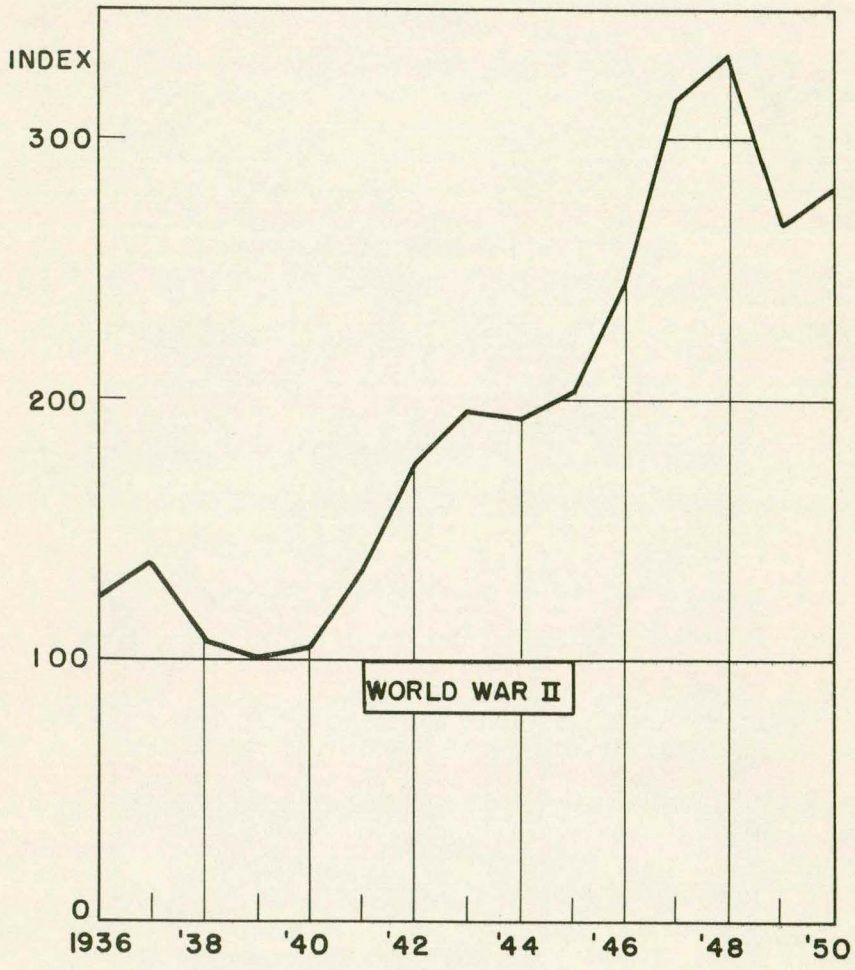
\* INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES; From Iowa Crop and Livestock Reporting Services. Division of Agricultural Statistics, U.S.D.A.  
(1939 = 100)







FARM PRICES RECEIVED IN IOWA 1936- 50  
(1939 = 100)





## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

## RELEASES FROM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN IOWA 1933-52

Except for those few men who are sentenced to prison for life, all, at some time are released. Even the men carrying life terms are, in time, released officially by death because they die in prison. With very few exceptions men are released from prisons or reformatories by:

1. Expiration of sentence
2. By parole
3. By escape
4. By death (dying in prison)

During the past two decades of 1933-52, 14,959 men have been released from the reformatory at Anamosa and the penitentiary at Ft. Madison, Iowa. In an average year 747 men have been turned back from the prisons into the stream of society in Iowa.

## Methods of Release

In analyzing the release of inmates from a correctional institution within a state it is highly important to determine how they are actually released from custody because the methods employed have a direct bearing on the whole judicial and correctional process. Of the 14,959 men released from the two correctional institutions for men in Iowa during 1933-52, 53 per cent were released by expiration of sentence, 24 per cent by parole, 3.4 per cent by escape and 1.6 per cent died in prison. In a technical sense each of these methods constitutes a release but in reality escape is not an actual release but the data used by most institutions include escape as a means of accounting for the changes or movements in prison population.

As is to be expected the percentage distribution in the methods of release differ at the reformatory and the penitentiary because the former houses younger first offenders and the latter older repeaters. At the Ft. Madison Penitentiary 61 per cent of the men were released by expiration of sentence whereas 44 per cent at the Anamosa Reformatory were released by the same method. Again in contrast, only 33 per cent of the men at Ft. Madison were released by parole but 52 per cent of the inmates at Anamosa were released in like manner. There were only slight differences in the percentages released by "escape" and by "death".



METHODS OF RELEASE FROM THE IOWA PENITENTIARY AND  
AND REFORMATORY FROM 1933-52

Method of Release	Reformatory		Penitentiary		Total	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Expiration of Sentence	3320	44.0	4572	61	7892	52.0
Parole	3825	52.0	2479	33	6304	42.0
Escape	211	2.8	303	4	514	3.4
Death	89	1.2	160	2	249	1.6
Total	7445	100.0	7514	100.0	14959	100.0

The higher percentage of parole releases from the state reformatory is due to the fact that these men are younger and less serious offenders. If or when parole is used by a paroling authority it gives greater consideration to the first offender rather than to the older repeater in crime.

#### Methods of Release in Each Institution

When the two main types of releases, completion of terms and parole, are analyzed for each institution over the twenty-year period the factors involved become more significant because the percentages have varied with changing conditions in the state and nation.

#### The Ft. Madison Penitentiary

Prison releases by expiration of sentence have always been higher at Ft. Madison than parole releases. With the exception of the war years the two lines of parole and expiration of term releases follow a parallel course. For each man released on parole two have been released by expiration of sentence. In an average year 228 men leave on expiration of sentence whereas 124 go out on parole. Just prior to World War II, except for 1938, paroles remained below 150 for each year. In 1942 paroles advanced to 167 and in 1944 to 165 men. The increase in paroles occurred during a time of decreasing commitments and a decline in the institutional population. In the post-war years of 1946 and 1947 paroles dropped to the low number of 81 and 63, which was the lowest figure for the two decades. In 1952 paroles numbered 120 which is above the



figure for the war years but below the pre-war number.

IOWA PENITENTIARY, FT. MADISON

METHODS OF RELEASING INMATES 1933-1952

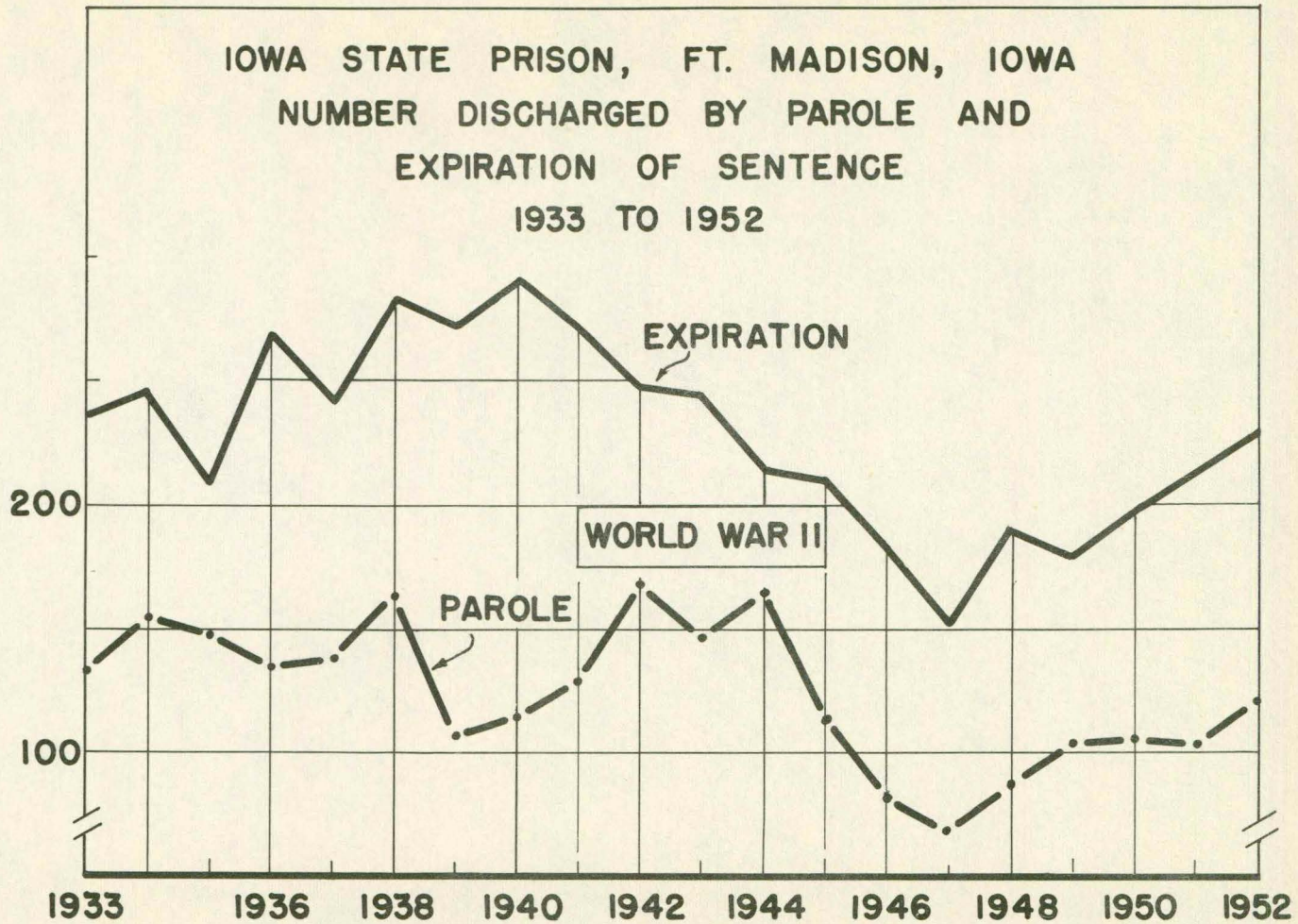
YEAR	EXPIRATION	PAROLE	ESCAPE	DEATH	TOTAL
1933	234	132	9	18	393
1934	245	156	8	7	416
1935	208	149	18	4	379
1936	269	135	11	10	425
1937	242	139	17	4	402
	1198	711	63	43	2015
1938	283	164	13	8	468
1939	271	105	18	6	400
1940	290	116	22	10	438
1941	273	127	7	6	413
1942	249	167	10	8	434
	1366	679	70	38	2153
1943	244	147	21	13	425
1944	215	165	12	12	404
1945	210	113	15	5	343
1946	182	81	13	3	279
1947	152	63	20	5	240
	1003	569	81	38	1691
1948	190	88	18	7	303
1949	178	103	29	6	316
1950	197	105	16	2	320
1951	213	104	11	12	340
1952	227	120	15	14	376
	1005	520	89	41	1655
TOTAL	4572	2479	303	160	7514
AVERAGE	228	124	15	8	375

The Anamosa Reformatory

In an average year at the reformatory 166 men have been released by expiration of term and 191 by parole, 11 by escape and 4 by death. Except of the four years, 1937, 1939, 1947 and 1951, parole releases have exceeded release by expiration of sentence. During the years of the Great Depression and World War II paroles ran far ahead of releases by expiration of term. During the



IOWA STATE PRISON, FT. MADISON, IOWA  
NUMBER DISCHARGED BY PAROLE AND  
EXPIRATION OF SENTENCE  
1933 TO 1952





## IOWA STATE REFORMATORY

96

## METHODS OF RELEASING INMATES 1933-1952

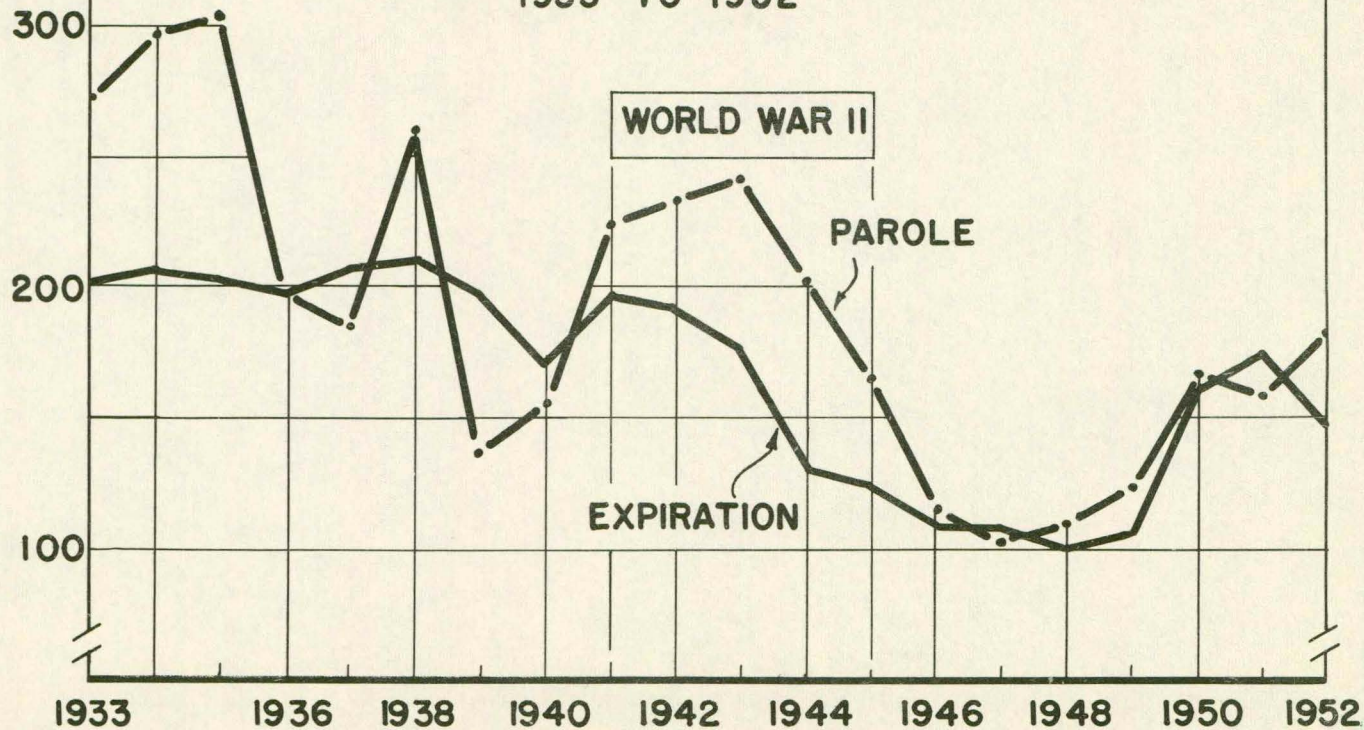
YEAR	EXPIRATION	PAROLE	ESCAPE	DEATH	TOTAL
1933	201	273	7	8	489
1934	209	296	11	7	523
1935	203	302	8	6	519
1936	199	199	5	0	403
1937	206	184	4	7	401
	1018	1254	35	28	2335
1938	211	260	9	6	486
1939	198	135	4	2	339
1940	170	155	19	3	347
1941	197	226	11	4	438
1942	189	232	8	5	434
	965	1008	51	20	2044
1943	177	242	17	3	439
1944	132	202	17	3	354
1945	123	163	19	2	307
1946	110	115	18	4	247
1947	109	102	6	4	221
	651	824	77	16	1568
1948	100	110	9	7	226
1949	105	124	10	5	244
1950	161	166	4	5	366
1951	175	158	12	3	348
1952	145	181	15	5	346
	686	739	48	25	1498
TOTAL	3320	3825	211	89	7445
AVERAGE	166	191	11	4	372

war years there were about 5 paroles to every 4 releases by expiration of sentence, but in the post-war years the ration has been about one to one. The rather high proportion of paroles during the war years followed the general pattern in most states where paroles were granted for men who might be taken into the military services. As an example of this, 80 parolees in Iowa were inducted into the Armed Forces during 1943-44.

In general the method of releasing men from correctional institutions changes from time to time with the general social and economic conditions. Also apart from these variations the types of releases vary according to states within the country.



NUMBER DISCHARGED BY PAROLE AND  
 EXPIRATION OF SENTENCE  
 MEN'S REFORMATORY, ANAMOSA IOWA  
 1933 TO 1952





For the nation as a whole in 1953, 51.8 per cent of all releases from state prisons and reformatories was by parole and 42.2 per cent by expiration of term. Within the region of the North Central States (see table and chart) the per centage of parole releases has varied from the highest in Ohio with 91.8 per cent to the lowest of 12.8 per cent in South Dakota. In the 12 states given in the table 65.9 per cent of the releases were by parole and 34.1 per cent of expiration of sentence. These wide differences within the 12 states may be explained in terms of the general character of the parole authority in each of the states. In the North Central States paroles constituted 65.9 per cent of the releases but in Iowa only 36.2 per cent were released by parole in 1953.

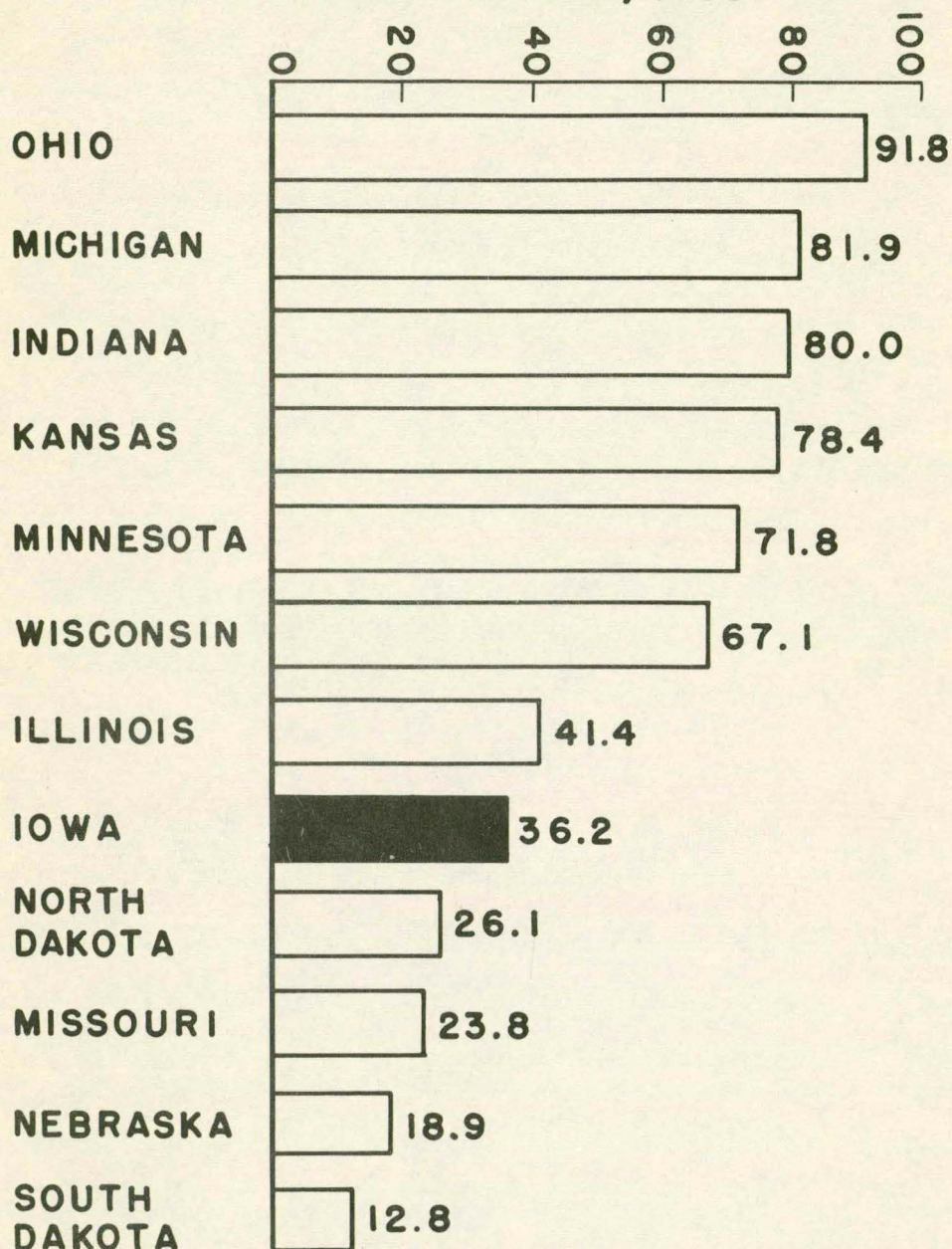
Number of Prisoners Released By Parole  
and Expiration of Term in United States  
and North Central States 1953, (\*)

Nation and States	Total Number Released	Number Per Cent		By Expiration of Term. Number Per Cent	
		Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
United States	59,312	32,525	54.8 *	26,787	45.2
North Central States					
Wisconsin	1,193	800	67.1	393	32.9
Minnesota	617	443	71.8	174	28.2
Missouri	1,367	325	23.8	1,042	76.2
North Dakota	115	30	26.1	85	73.9
South Dakota	304	39	12.8	265	87.2
Nebraska	694	131	18.9	563	81.1
Kansas	913	716	78.4	197	21.6
Michigan	3,208	2,627	81.9	581	18.1
Illinois	1,906	790	41.4	1,116	58.6
Indiana	1,843	1,474	80.0	369	20.0
Ohio	3,266	2,998	91.8	268	9.2
Iowa	688	249	36.2	439	63.8
Total	16,114	10,622	65.9	5,492	34.1

\* Source: National Prisoner Statistics, Number 11, July 1954 Federal Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D. C. P. 3. Does not include releases by death, escape or other discharges.



**% OF PRISONERS RELEASED BY  
PAROLE FROM NORTH CENTRAL  
STATES PRISONS, 1953.**





## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

## PAROLE VIOLATORS AMONG PAROLEES

Each year a given number of men who have been paroled from the correctional institutions in the state violate or break parole and are returned to the place from which they had been released. In the main, most of these men break parole within six to eight months after their parole. Violators, therefore, if they are returned, usually are returned within the year of their parole (i.e., a 12 month period). This fact, with due allowance for overlapping of time, makes it possible to compare parole violations with the total number of men paroled within a given period. It should be made clear, however, that this procedure is not a final and a conclusive picture of parole violations because some few men may have been paroled to other states. If they break parole by committing another offense in these states they are usually confined there and not returned to the institutions in Iowa. These numbers are, however, few and do not distort the real situation to a marked degree.

During the 20 year period from 1933 to 1952 the parole authority in Iowa released 6,204 men on parole from the reformatory and penitentiary. These do not include women released from the Rockwell Reformatory. In the same period of time 1,243 or 19.7 per cent of these men were returned to one or other of the institutions for parole violations. This percentage is not a complete picture of parole successes or failures but merely a comparison of the number returned for violation in terms of the number paroled. If the annual number of men paroled (average 310) is compared to the annual number of violators returned (average 62) the ratio of paroled to returned violators is about five to one. In other words for every 5 released on parole one is returned for parole violation to the Iowa institutions. With this average of 62 men it is possible to analyze the yearly variations in parole violations. (See Table and Chart.) In the 20 year period the number of parolees returned has varied from the lowest of 43 in 1937 to the highest of 119 in 1944, during the war.

Although the actual numbers have shown variations the situations become more significant when the number of violators returned each year is compared to the number paroled in the same year on a percentage basis. In 1933, when 405 men were paroled from both institutions 60 or 14.7 per cent were returned for violation of parole. This does not mean that the 60 men returned were among the 405 paroled in that year but most of them were returned within the 12 month period. In the next two years of 1934



and 1935 the percentages declined to 13.3 per cent although the number returned remained the same. The difference is due to the fact that more men were paroled in these years. In 1940 the actual number of returned violators increased to 66 men and the percentage advanced to 24.3 per cent because there were only 271 paroled in that year or 40 less than the average for the 20 year period. In 1943 the number of violators returned to the institutions increased to 74 which was 19.1 per cent of the total paroled (389). Each year after 1943 the percentage of violators returned remained above the two-decade average and reached the all time high of 37.0 per cent in 1947. In reality the actual number of violators was 61 but in the same year only 165 men were paroled or about half the average number for the 20 year period. In the post-war years, after 1947, the percentage declined reaching 22.7 in 1952. In that year 301 were paroled and 6 returned for parole violations.

When the percentages for the entire 20 year period are placed on a chart (see chart) it becomes evident that parole violations have been higher in the war and post-war years than in the pre-war and depression years.

*question*

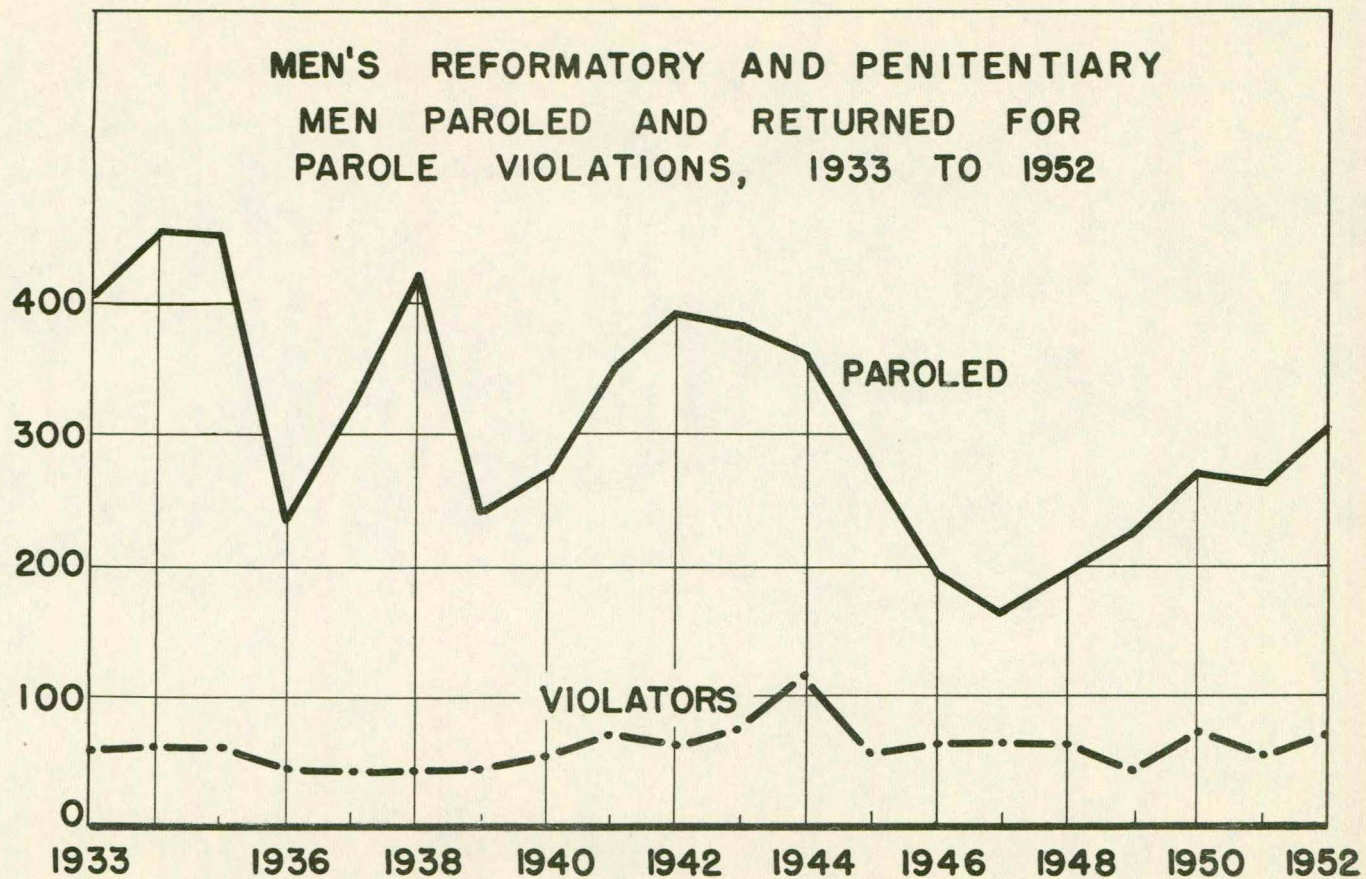


## INMATES PAROLED AND NUMBER RETURNED FOR PAROLE VIOLATIONS

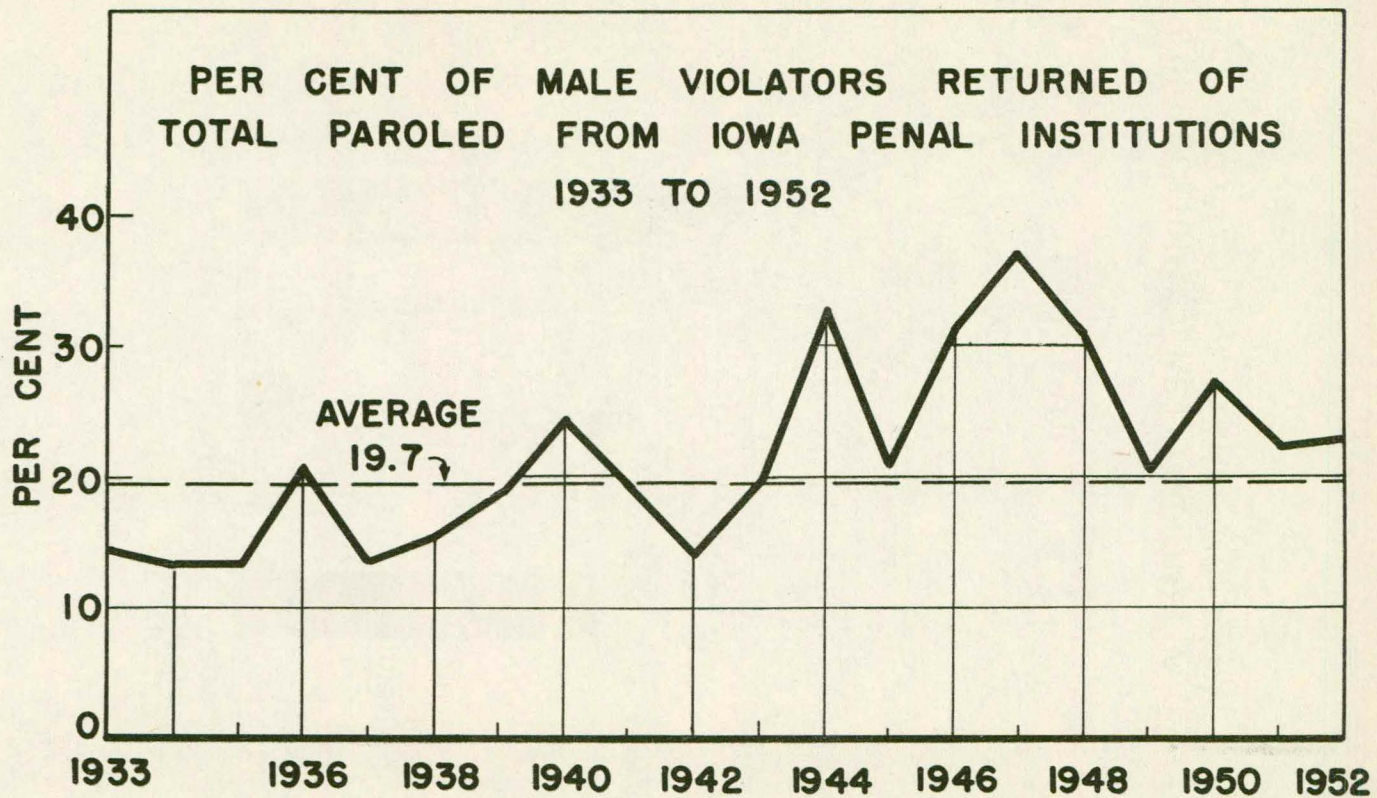
AT IOWA REFORMATORY AND PENITENTIARY, 1933-1952

YEAR	NUMBER PAROLED	VIOLATORS VIOLATOR	PER CENT
1933	405	60	14.7
1934	452	60	13.3
1935	451	60	13.3
1936	234	49	21.0
1937	323	43	13.3
	1865	272	13.7
1838	424	44	10.4
1939	240	45	18.7
1940	271	66	24.3
1941	353	70	19.8
1942	399	64	13.5
	1687	289	17.3
1943	389	74	19.1
1944	367	119	32.4
1945	276	59	21.4
1946	196	61	31.2
1947	165	61	37.0
	1393	374	26.8
1948	198	61	30.9
1949	227	46	20.3
1950	271	73	27
1951	262	59	22.5
1952	301	69	22.7
	1259	308	24.4
TOTAL	6204	1243	
AVERAGE	310	62	19.7











## CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

NUMBER OF PAROLE VIOLATORS RETURNED TO THE  
IOWA REFORMATORY AND THE PENITENTIARY, 1933-52

In the two decades, 1933-52, the percentage of parole violators returned, in terms of the number paroled, has been higher at the reformatory for men than at the penitentiary. In the twenty-year period 3,825 inmates have been paroled from the reformatory and 781 or 20.4 per cent have been returned for parole violations. On the basis of an annual average 191 have been paroled and 39 returned for violation. In terms of a ratio one man has been returned for every five paroled. In the same time span, 2,479 men have been paroled from the penitentiary and 448 or 18.4 per cent returned for violation of parole. Here the annual average number paroled was 124 and the number returned 22 or one violator for every 5.6 men paroled. While the percentages of violators returned varies at each institution the general trend is about the same for both institutions in the two decades.

## Violators returned to the State Reformatory, 1933-52

At the state reformatory the percentage of returned violators remained below the average (20.4 per cent) in the first 12 years of the period except for two years, 1939 and 1942. Then in 1945, the final year of World War II, the percentage of violators returned advanced sharply to 54 per cent or more than twice the average for the two decades. In that year only 163 men were released on parole but 88 were returned for violations. In 1945 the number of returned violators (88) was more than double the average (39) number returned for the 20 year period. This high percentage is due to two factors, the relatively small number paroled in 1945 (163) and the large number of returned violators. After the high percentage for 1945 the percentages of violators returned each year in the post-war years remained above the two decades average (see chart). The average number of violators returned in the five year period of 1948-52 was 27.6 per cent as compared to the five year average of 14.0 per cent in the pre-war and depression years. In the post-war years, therefore, parole violations have been higher than in the pre-war and depression years.



IOWA STATE REFORMATORY NUMBER PAROLED  
AND NUMBER RETURNED FOR PAROLE VIOLATIONS 1933-1952

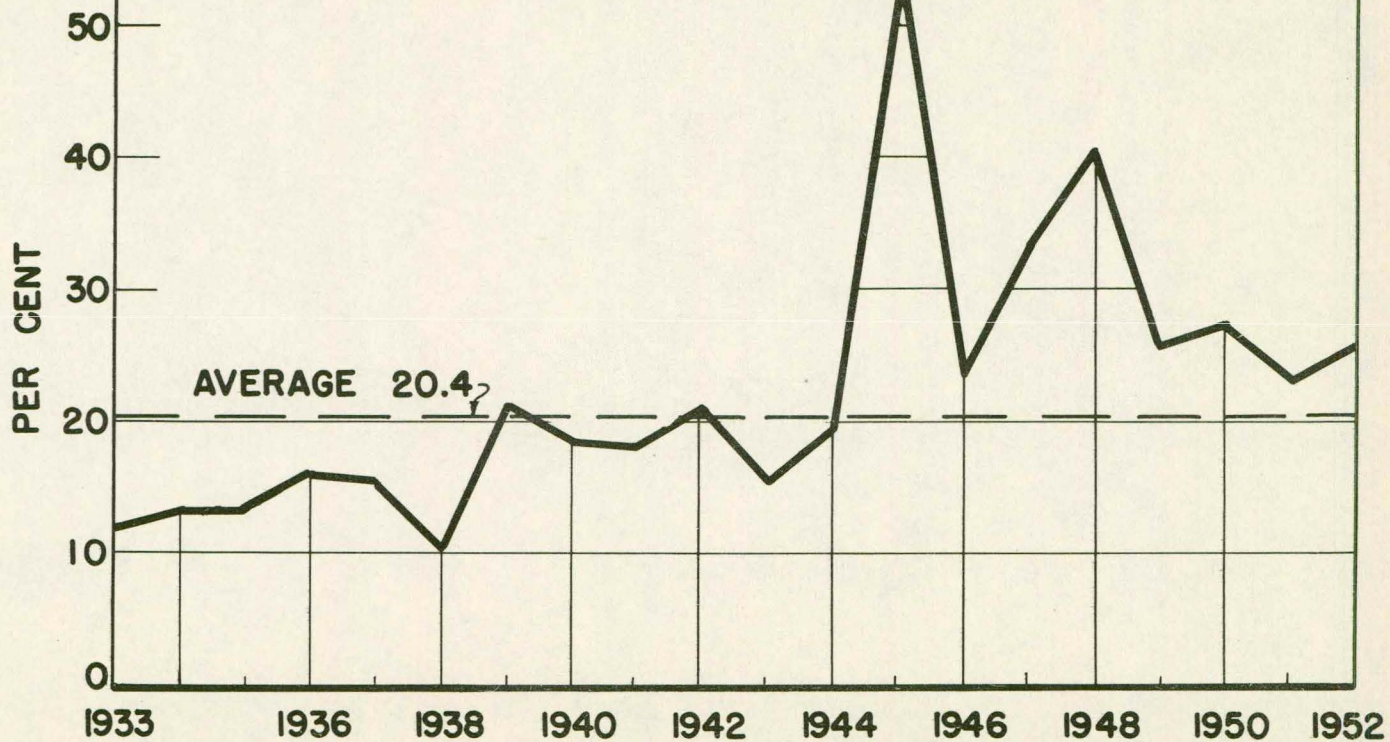
YEAR	NUMBER PAROLED	VIOLATORS	PER CENT
1933	273	33	12.1
1934	296	41	13.7
1935	302	40	13.3
1936	199	32	16.1
1937	184	29	15.7
	1254	175	14.0
1938	260	27	10.3
1939	135	29	21.5
1940	155	29	18.7
1941	226	41	18.1
1942	232	49	21.1
	1008	175	16.2
1943	242	37	15.3
1944	202	40	19.7
1945	163	88	54.0
1946	115	28	24.4
1947	102	34	33.4
	824	227	27.5
1948	110	45	41.0
1949	124	31	25.1
1950	166	44	26.5
1951	158	37	23.4
1952	181	47	25.9
	739	204	27.6
TOTAL	3825	781	
AVERAGE	191	39	20.4

Violators Returned to the State Penitentiary, 1933-52

At the penitentiary in Ft. Madison the percentage of parole violators returned each year has been below the 20 year average (22 or 18.4 per cent) from 1933 to 1945, except for two years 1933 and 1942. After 1948 the percentage of violators returned increased reaching the high percentage of 43 per cent in 1947. This high percentage is due to the relative small number paroled in 1947 (63 or half the 20 year average of 124) and the actual number of violators returned (27 or 5 more than the 20 year average). After the 1947 high, the percentage of violators returned declined but remained above the average except for 1948 and 1949. The percentage of viola-



PER CENT OF PAROLE VIOLATORS RETURNED OF  
TOTAL PAROLED FROM IOWA STATE REFORMATORY  
1933 TO 1952





tors returned in the five year period of 1948-52, post-war years, was 20 per cent.

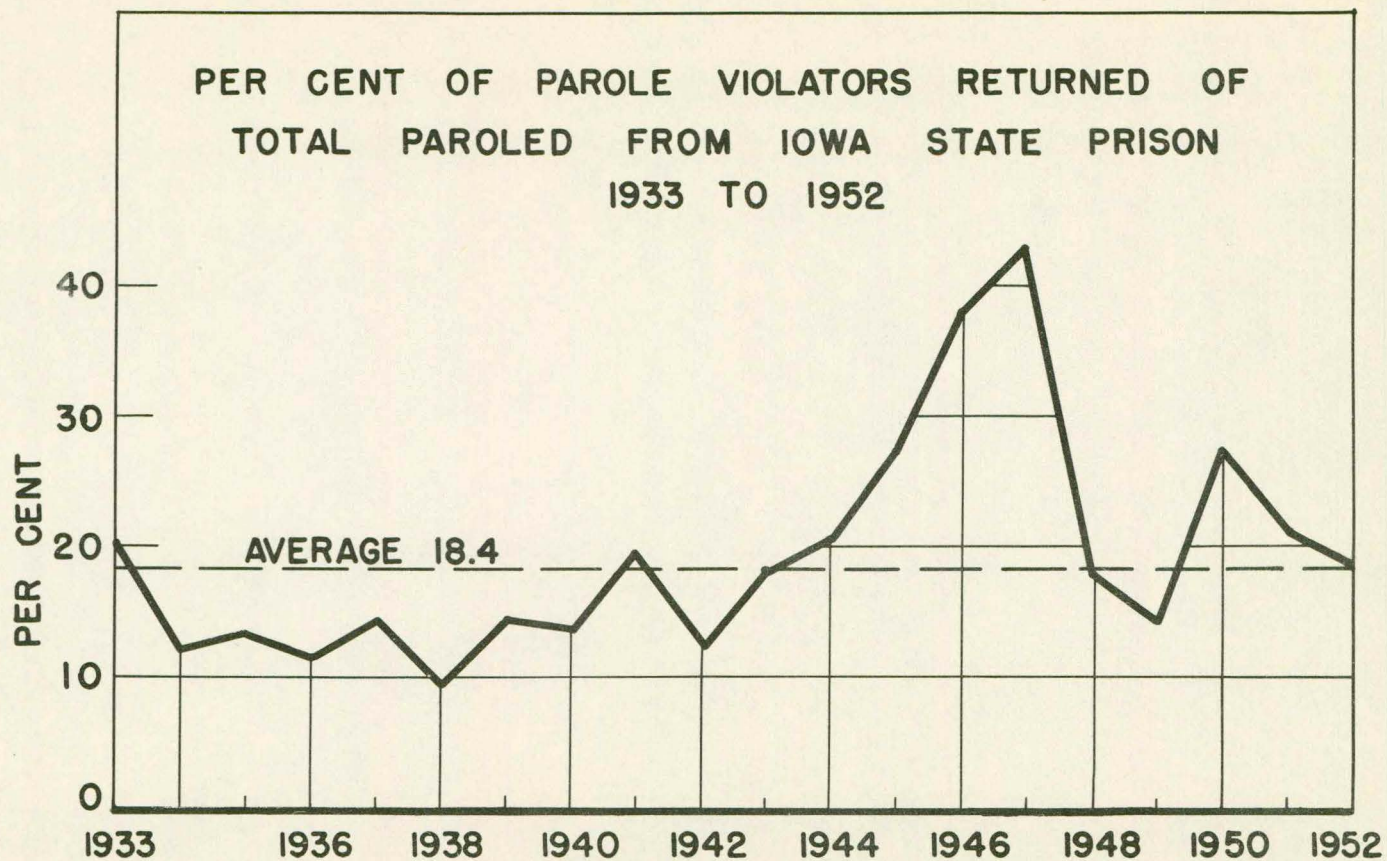
On the basis of these figures it can be seen that parole violations have been higher at both institutions in the war and post-war years than in the depression and pre-war years. When the percentages for both institutions are compared in time the highest percentage of violators returned at the penitentiary came two years later than the highest percentage at the reformatory.

### IOWA STATE PENITENTIARY

#### NUMBER PAROLED AND RETURNED FOR PAROLE VIOLATION 1933-1952

YEAR	NUMBER PAROLED	VIOLATORS	PER CENT
1933	132	27	20.4
1934	156	19	12.3
1935	149	20	13.4
1936	135	15	11.1
1937	139	20	14.4
	711	101	14.2
1938	164	16	9.7
1939	105	15	14.3
1940	116	16	13.7
1941	127	25	19.7
1942	167	21	12.6
	679	93	13.7
1943	147	27	18.4
1944	165	34	20.6
1945	113	31	27.5
1946	81	31	38.3
1947	63	27	43.0
	569	150	26.4
1948	88	16	18.0
1949	103	15	14.6
1950	105	29	27.7
1951	104	22	21.2
1952	120	22	18.3
	520	104	20.0
TOTAL	2479	448	
AVERAGE	124	22	18.4







## CHAPTER NINETEEN

## PAROLES, PAROLE REVOCATIONS AND ABSCONDENCES IN IOWA, 1935-52

A more accurate method of determining the degree of parole violations in Iowa may be obtained from the records of the Iowa State Board of Parole. The biennial reports show the number of men and women paroled from the three correctional institutions in the state for adults together with the number discharged from parole, the number of parole revocations and abscondences by two year periods. When the number of parole revocations are added to the number absconding it is possible to obtain a measure of parole violations for the 18 year period.

In the 18 years from 1935 to 1952 the Board of Parole has released 5,834 men and women by parole from the three correctional institutions for adults in the state. During these same years 950 persons either absconded or had their parole revoked. In other words out of every 100 persons paroled 18 persons broke parole or absconded. The first chart shows the number paroled (with a trend line) and the number of revocations and abscondings (with trend line) for the 18 years. On the basis of an annual average 299 persons were paroled and 53 persons either broke parole or absconded from the parole authority.

In the first biennium of 1935-36 there were 785 men and women paroled while in the same period 107 either broke parole or absconded. The total percentage of revocations and abscondences is therefore 13.6 per cent. In the next two periods the percentages declined to 8.6 per cent and 9.9 per cent. In the biennium of 1941-42, the first years of World War II, abscondings and revocations amounted to 15.4 per cent of the total number paroled. In the next two-year period the percentage advanced 16.5 per cent. In 1945-46 the percentage increased again to 26.1 per cent and then advanced to the highest percentage for the 18 year period in 1947-48 with 29.3 per cent of the parolees either breaking parole or absconding. In 1949-50 the percentage dropped to 24.5 per cent. In the final biennial period of 1951-52 when 567 men and women were paroled; 151 persons either broke parole or absconded making a total percentage of 26.6 per cent of violations.

These increases in the percentage of parole revocations and abscondences in the past 18 years substantiates the information obtained from the facts gained from the two institutions for male offenders showing the increase in the percentage of men returned for parole violations. The data reveal that parole violations and abscondences were considerably higher in the war and post-war years



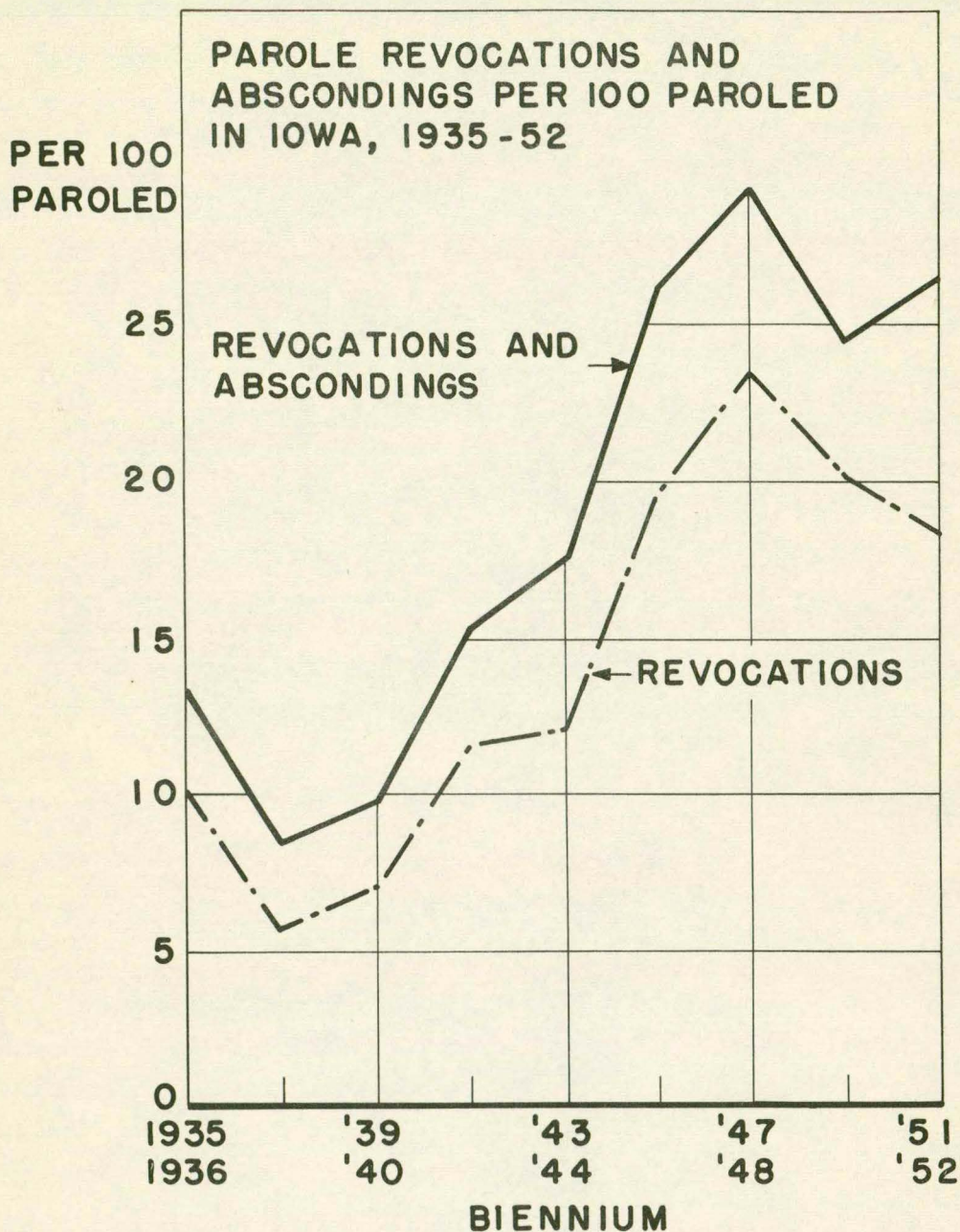
than in the pre-war and depression years in Iowa. When the 18 year period is divided into three-year periods, pre-war, war and post-war the increased violations become more significant.

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN PAROLED  
AND REVOCATIONS AND ABSCONDINGS IN IOWA  
BY BIENNIAL PERIODS, 1935-1952 (\*)

BIENNIUM	TOTAL PAROLED	NUMBER		REV. AND ABS.	
		REVOKED	ABSCONDED	TOTAL	PER CENT
1935-36	785	61	46	107	13.6
1937-38	750	43	22	65	8.6
1939-40	511	35	16	51	9.9
1941-42	745	85	30	115	15.4
1943-44	758	91	34	125	16.5
1945-46	425	83	28	111	26.1
1947-48	371	86	23	109	29.3
1949-50	472	94	22	116	24.5
1951-52	567	104	47	151	26.6
TOTAL	5384	682	268	950	
ANNUAL AVERAGE	299	38	14	53	17.7

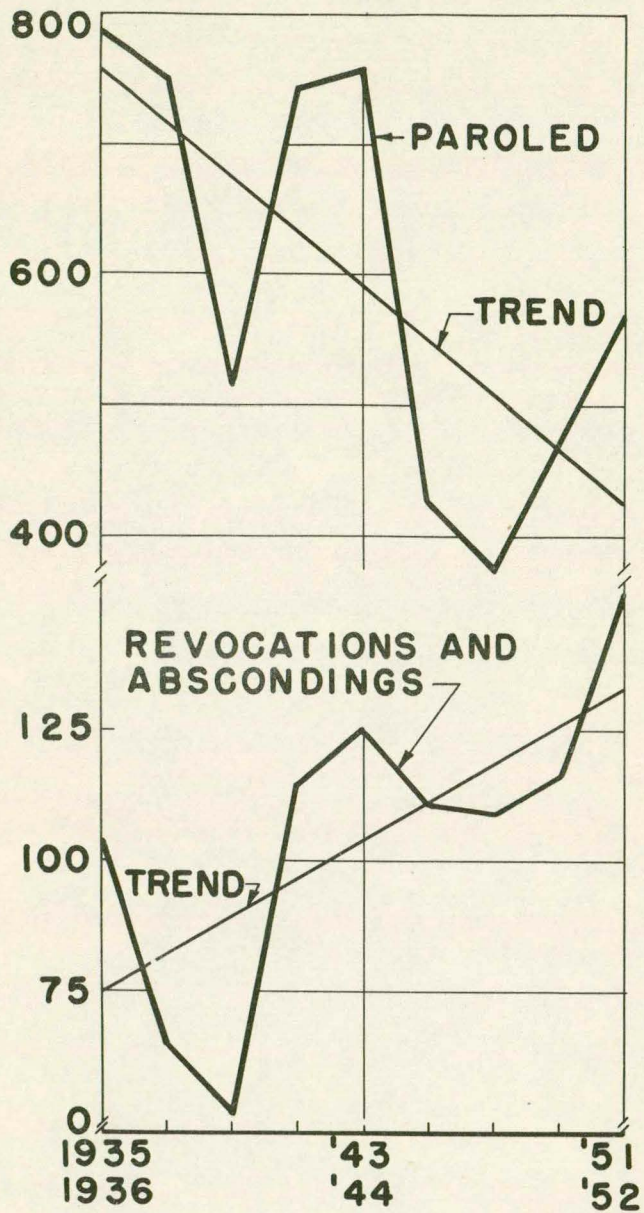
\* All data from Biennial Reports of Iowa State Board of Parole, 1935 to 1952.







### TOTAL PAROLED, REVOCATIONS AND ABSCONDINGS IN IOWA 1935 - 52 .





NUMBER PAROLED, TOTAL VIOLATIONS AND  
VIOLATIONS PER 100 PAROLED BY THREE YEAR PERIODS.

Three year period	Total Paroled	Total Violations	Violations Per 100 Paroled
Pre-War 1935-40	2046	223	10.8
War Years	2028	351	17.3
Post-War 1947-1952	1410	376	26.6
Total	5438	950	17.7

In the pre-war and depression years there were 10.8 violations (revocations and abscondences) for every 100 paroled, in the war years 17.3 and in the post-war years 26.6 violations for each 100 paroled. On the basis of violations per 100 paroled, violations have more than doubled from the first period to the third period.



## A P P E N D I X

- I Criminal Court Cases by Counties and County Groups in Iowa  
1935-52
- II Commitments by Counties and County Groups in Iowa  
1941-52



CRIMINAL COURT CASES IN IOWA, 1935-52

Group I Counties (23) (-2, 500)

COUNTY	'35	'36	'37	'38	'39	'40	'41	'42	'43	'44	'45	'46	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	Total	Ave.	Rate per 10,000
Adair	22	25	31	17	21	23	N	15	7	6	5	7	11	8	21	22	24	15	280	16	12.5
Adams	24	7	16	28	8	13	O	27	15	7	1	14	15	15	17	0	20	17	244	14	14.8
Audubon	10	12	9	9	4	7		5	1	11	5	1	15	14	14	14	11	25	167	9	7.7
Butler	15	20	18	24	25	14	R	12	11	17	3	5	20	5	8	5	14	10	226	13	7.3
Calhoun	18	10	43	25	17	22	E	16	9	7	22	10	28	27	13	8	14	8	297	17	9.9
Clayton	11	19	40	32	39	23	P	5	21	29	11	6	35	27	18	19	20	22	377	23	9.8
Decatur	17	20	21	35	30	26	R	15	12	2	13	11	33	32	19	22	27	26	361	21	15.7
Dickinson	10	36	33	51	75	39	T	8	18	12	0	36	55	72	61	64	86	72	723	43	34.5
Fremont	22	38	34	47	37	40	S	38	8	11	15	16	20	25	23	14	21	23	432	26	19.3
Grundy	16	9	21	19	10	11		3	3	7	18	14	13	23	11	22	14	9	223	13	9.6
Guthrie	30	29	7	32	39	32		20	18	22	18	11	22	43	35	34	30	32	454	27	16.7
Hancock	14	21	35	30	27	22		17	8	9	7	5	1	14	7	7	9	10	243	14	9.2
Ida	7	2	5	8	0	7		4	5	8	0	0	1	3	5	0	3	9	67	4	3.6
Iowa	24	21	20	20	13	11		10	8	22	10	0	3	16	21	23	20	14	256	16	9.7
Keokuk	16	20	17	33	26	47		29	24	24	19	19	37	16	32	0	15	28	402	24	13.6
Louisa	20	29	19	22	19	25		8	5	3	32	4	6	11	20	12	24	35	294	17	15.1
Osceola	16	10	19	6	10	8		15	2	8	12	0	14	15	16	20	2	15	188	11	10.5
Pocahantas	18	18	18	17	18	24		17	11	22	16	12	28	16	23	22	21	18	323	19	11.9
Ringgold	11	10	12	12	16	4		11	18	12	8	10	7	11	4	4	4	4	158	10	9.6
Taylor	51	17	12	32	37	13		17	10	11	6	5	6	20	15	16	12	16	296	17	12.7
Van Buren	29	11	10	5	9	9		13	8	0	2	15	15	8	6	18	27	19	204	12	10.4
Wayne	23	23	15	31	19	15		17	14	21	4	7	14	9	3	16	17	18	266	16	12.7
Worth	20	38	16	29	20	18		23	7	9	4	7	11	21	12	23	21	29	308	18	15.9
TOTAL	444	445	471	564	519	453		345	243	280	231	215	410	451	409	384	456	474	6794	387	11.7



CRIMINAL COURT CASES IN IOWA, 1935-52  
Group II Counties, (34) (2500-4999)

COUNTY	'35	'36	'37	'38	'39	'40	'41	'42	'43	'44	'45	'46	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	Total	Ave.	Rate per 10,000
Allamakee	27	25	36	1	31	25		14	9	10	13	9	11	12	8	14	21	26	292	17	10.1
Benton	17	60	33	65	35	30		27	24	14	11	8	29	26	42	32	43	68	564	33	14.4
Bremer	21	14	13	22	25	29		8	8	11	10	13	30	35	45	25	46	61	416	24	13.0
Buchanan	13	19	31	16	26	18		19	19	6	19	14	22	45	32	43	35	54	431	25	11.6
Cedar	8	27	38	21	23	17	N	20	19	9	9	0	19	19	13	31	23	22	318	19	11.2
Chickasaw	19	7	16	14	25	20	O	11	6	7	11	9	29	37	47	35	33	14	340	20	13.1
Clarke	12	15	30	23	33	18	R	20	12	10	5	10	8	15	21	18	26	20	296	17	17.3
Crawford	23	33	15	24	28	24	E	11	21	50	38	46	65	45	35	49	53	49	610	36	17.8
Davis	20	15	10	19	15	18	P	11	9	0	2	10	1	8	7	12	7	9	173	10	9.4
Delaware	11	13	27	18	15	25	O	14	10	6	4	6	12	11	20	15	21	14	242	14	7.7
Franklin	25	52	27	25	29	46	R	28	20	18	18	11	15	26	25	19	30	29	443	26	15.9
Greene	29	28	21	39	31	23	T S	30	12	11	7	13	28	25	56	52	35	26	466	27	16.8
Hardin	31	49	54	43	52	53		31	12	12	9	28	36	68	70	70	72	70	760	39	17.4
Harrison	41	27	22	16	11	40		22	12	31	51	28	39	35	30	55	27	45	532	32	15.1
Henry	48	27	27	38	17	13		19	11	11	20	18	23	22	23	15	23	26	384	23	12.5
Howard	16	22	22	7	16	13		17	9	13	13	40	36	36	34	32	28	30	384	23	17.2
Humboldt	11	18	41	21	14	29		16	17	16	18	21	28	14	23	19	24	13	343	20	15.0
Jackson	30	32	29	37	18	39		35	12	29	13	20	25	23	34	45	19	43	483	28	14.8
Jones	24	26	25	34	19	21		28	28	30	46	0	0	0	53	40	0	60	434	25	12.7
Kossuth	35	29	26	37	32	81		29	22	20	16	19	14	38	39	57	35	39	568	33	12.4
Lyon	17	10	16	20	40	11		19	4	14	21	13	17	15	12	21	17	28	295	17	11.3
Madison	24	24	15	33	23	20		20	23	22	21	13	22	22	28	38	42	32	422	25	18.0
Mills	23	41	27	28	22	27		14	13	15	24	0	0	3	27	23	20	30	337	18	12.3
Mitchell	10	24	24	17	16	13		5	18	3	7	0	5	12	20	20	15	18	226	13	9.2
Monona	44	47	41	28	19	42		25	24	23	11	28	27	39	62	50	42	28	580	34	19.4
O'Brien	18	38	26	17	16	29		20	16	28	19	13	27	33	27	16	26	40	409	25	13.0
Palo Alto	9	14	16	22	26	21		18	12	15	21	9	11	8	13	26	36	31	308	18	11.2
Sac	26	44	35	27	17	17		10	15	16	6	25	30	30	13	23	34	44	412	24	13.6
Shelby	22	17	11	17	6	13		4	0	2	0	13	25	32	28	26	22	20	258	15	9.1
Sioux	12	19	6	1	30	27		25	21	15	16	19	27	19	19	27	19	14	316	18	6.7
Tama	17	24	19	30	35	33		38	24	23	32	28	38	42	53	57	78	61	632	37	16.7
Warren	31	28	14	37	39	51		20	26	10	10	12	18	36	34	27	67	62	512	30	16.9
Winnabago	18	15	21	32	26	18		10	12	7	7	2	4	8	12	21	35	35	283	16	11.6
Wright	25	29	63	44	38	20		50	14	26	19	17	46	39	24	37	38	47	576	34	17.1
TOTAL	757	912	877	873	848	928		688	514	533	547	515	767	878	1030	1088	1082	1208	14045	797	13.2



CRIMINAL COURT CASES IN IOWA, 1935-52

Group III Counties (22) (5, 000-9, 999)

COUNTY	'35	'36	'37	'38	'39	'40	'41	'42	'43	'44	'45	'46	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	Total	Ave.	Rate per 10,000
Appanoose	69	33	67	47	51	86		55	25	27	10	39	48	34	53	35	46	37	762	44	20.0
Buena Vista	17	8	47	36	47	9		22	35	16	16	19	27	23	31	55	40	10	458	26	12.6
Carroll	45	62	81	18	22	18	N	11	14	24	13	19	21	25	35	36	39	38	521	31	13.5
Cass	41	38	38	40	27	11	O	29	18	31	5	10	42	58	70	50	53	51	612	35	18.8
Cherokee	25	34	21	29	21	29	R	14	24	12	23	33	29	25	13	25	29	23	409	24	12.5
Clay	17	40	53	47	66	26	E	13	37	24	48	65	122	81	98	69	43	60	909	53	29.5
Dallas	45	67	60	63	57	52	P	28	44	24	28	30	42	35	61	55	52	55	798	47	19.4
Emmett	40	19	52	29	46	68	O	10	8	12	18	18	33	35	37	40	29	42	536	32	23.2
Fayette	63	58	57	56	54	70	T	22	23	18	51	58	67	62	46	53	45	69	872	50	17.4
Floyd	58	39	59	65	58	90	S	29	25	22	18	34	48	58	50	35	61	53	802	47	22.5
Hamilton	37	26	63	33	29	33		40	23	12	7	8	24	0	26	19	37	19	436	26	13.1
Jefferson	36	31	32	33	52	29		60	30	30	0	0	31	36	38	71	40	40	589	32	20.3
Lucas	51	64	20	44	50	36		29	28	16	10	35	22	34	34	28	33	24	558	33	24.7
Marion	29	36	17	24	43	31		21	10	14	19	32	19	42	47	48	52	50	534	31	11.7
Monroe	28	27	46	36	47	32		8	9	17	7	8	5	15	15	31	36	30	397	23	17.4
Montgomery	30	23	43	32	32	30		15	14	5	9	11	23	21	25	32	40	50	435	25	15.9
Page	62	35	65	49	31	86		32	17	28	36	0	0	62	51	40	46	87	727	42	17.2
Plymouth	30	22	30	22	46	27		34	19	22	9	16	33	24	33	31	46	38	482	28	11.9
Poweshiek	24	22	24	26	39	14		18	15	7	14	10	8	27	27	30	26	40	371	22	11.5
Union	48	66	49	36	43	22		27	8	32	19	10	19	31	13	18	0	15	456	27	16.9
Washington	18	47	51	46	32	42		30	16	21	9	25	18	25	29	46	30	49	534	31	15.6
Winnebago	21	28	35	52	31	56		23	11	39	15	6	32	32	28	21	24	25	479	28	12.7
TOTAL	834	825	1010	863	924	897		570	453	453	384	486	713	785	860	868	847	905	12677	718	16.4



CRIMINAL COURT CASES IN IOWA, 1935-52

Group IV Counties (9) (10, 000-25, 000)

COUNTY	'35	'36	'37	'38	'39	'40	'41	'42	'43	'44	'45	'46	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	Total	Ave.	Rate per 10,000
Boone	38	36	29	76	25	30		22	17	14	8	17	18	28	30	42	34	38	502	30	10.3
Jasper	62	64	65	105	91	62	N	50	62	45	53	52	78	66	55	72	93	40	1115	66	20.6
Johnson	39	41	45	47	55	50	O	70	69	40	39	73	45	64	44	74	57	72	924	55	13.9
Lee	91	95	92	93	92	141	R	97	72	37	66	66	87	104	83	102	124	138	1580	93	22.0
Mahaska	66	45	56	61	46	20	E	50	30	24	11	13	15	19	31	35	43	41	595	35	13.6
Marshall	34	21	34	29	55	35	P	27	48	22	40	37	49	43	50	42	33	41	640	38	10.7
							O														
Muscatine	130	56	43	68	58	93	R	55	48	41	26	36	110	80	72	79	110	152	1257	71	22.3
Story	33	25	13	11	27	33	T	7	8	10	5	7	23	12	12	22	28	20	296	18	4.6
Webster	71	101	81	103	71	81	S	48	32	56	26	49	82	101	105	125	114	90	1336	78	18.1
TOTAL	564	484	448	593	520	545		426	386	289	274	350	507	517	482	593	636	632	8246	471	15.5



CRIMINAL COURT CASES IN IOWA, 1935-52

Group V Counties (11) (Over 25, 000)

COUNTY	'35	'36	'37	'38	'39	'40	'41	'42	'43	'44	'45	'46	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	Total	Ave.	Rate per 10, 000
Black Hawk	155	135	136	174	160	133		170	89	110	144	151	222	259	313	300	246	353	3250	191	21. 1
Cerro Gordo	84	130	89	108	103	143	N	97	51	37	65	84	84	71	105	87	109	133	1580	100	22. 2
Clinton	125	107	71	75	97	87	O	37	39	41	89	21	50	60	51	37	56	64	1107	67	14. 1
Des Moines	38	49	60	52	63	44	R	92	58	54	51	63	87	105	36	44	45	47	988	60	15. 2
Dubuque	80	107	95	84	38	73	E	75	66	37	69	60	72	92	65	108	82	78	1281	75	11. 1
Linn	437	354	225	275	344	292	P	311	211	283	274	247	231	322	281	253	390	336	5066	298	30. 7
Polk	337	305	421	401	556	609	R	293	303	425	369	500	430	451	431	445	488	461	7225	425	20. 1
Pottawattamie	93	75	92	74	63	72	T	52	98	123	124	136	555	646	453	487	151	129	3423	201	29. 4
Scott	62	94	128	89	182	135	S	83	96	104	74	106	120	159	190	193	150	212	2177	128	13. 7
Wapello	53	72	75	107	87	108		148	103	87	86	75	76	58	68	95	147	122	1567	92	20. 0
Woodbury	199	262	228	180	205	318		192	522	267	239	352	442	376	540	517	390	298	5527	325	31. 3
TOTAL	1663	1690	1620	1619	1898	2014		1550	1636	1568	1584	1795	2369	2599	2533	2566	2254	2233	33191	1935	21. 3

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## COUNTY GROUP I

Biennial commitments to state correctional institutions from 23 Rural-Farm Counties in Iowa, 1941-52. Largest community in County less than 2500 inhabitants.

County	1941 1942	1943 1944	1945 1946	1947 1948	1949 1950	1951 1952	Total	Annual Average	Rate per 100,000
Adair	2	2	4	3	8	7	26	2.2	17.6
Adams	9	1	1	5	6	9	31	2.6	29.6
Audubon	5	2	2	2	4	2	17	1.4	12.2
Butler	6	1	2	0	0	2	11	0.9	5.3
Calhoun	8	2	3	2	6	0	21	1.7	10.3
Clayton	2	6	1	2	1	1	13	1.1	4.8
Decatur	18	7	8	6	6	4	49	4.1	33.2
Dickinson	4	2	4	4	5	7	26	2.2	17.0
Fremont	13	4	13	15	12	10	67	5.6	45.3
Grundy	3	1	0	1	3	5	13	1.1	7.9
Guthrie	5	3	3	9	7	13	40	3.3	22.0
Hancock	7	0	0	2	1	1	11	0.9	6.1
Ida	3	3	0	0	1	3	10	0.8	7.8
Iowa	3	2	0	3	8	8	24	2.0	12.6
Keokuk	12	10	4	4	4	8	42	3.5	20.8
Louisa	4	0	3	5	4	6	22	1.8	16.5
Osceola	2	4	3	0	4	1	14	1.2	11.7
Pocahantas	5	3	7	5	5	5	30	2.5	16.1
Ringgold	11	12	4	4	2	0	33	2.7	28.9
Taylor	9	6	7	5	5	7	39	3.3	26.2
Van Buren	8	0	1	5	2	8	24	2.0	18.2
Wayne	3	4	0	3	2	5	17	1.4	12.1
Worth	3	4	2	1	1	4	15	1.2	11.3
TOTAL	145	79	72	86	97	116	595	50	15.7



## COUNTY GROUP II

Biennial commitments to state correctional institutions from 34 small-town counties in Iowa, 1941-52. Largest town 2500 to 5000 inhabitants.

County	1941	1943	1945	1947	1949	1951	Total 1941-1952	Annual Average	Rate per 100,000
	1942	1944	1946	1948	1950	1952			
Allamakee	2	1	1	2	5	7	18	1.5	9.2
Benton	7	5	5	6	6	5	34	2.8	12.5
Bremer	6	6	5	0	11	2	30	2.5	13.2
Buchanan	8	7	5	10	3	5	38	3.2	14.4
Cedar	6	2	2	5	4	5	24	2.0	11.8
Chickasaw	1	1	9	1	4	5	21	1.0	6.6
Clarke	4	3	1	3	3	10	24	2.0	21.4
Crawford	8	4	8	6	7	6	39	3.3	16.5
Davis	9	3	4	2	2	3	23	1.9	19.2
Delaware	7	2	0	3	5	2	19	1.6	8.9
Franklin	5	4	3	0	3	5	20	1.7	10.2
Greene	20	6	6	15	15	9	71	5.9	38.0
Hardin	13	1	8	13	16	27	78	6.5	29.2
Harrison	12	2	9	11	6	7	47	3.9	20.0
Henry	12	6	9	8	6	7	48	4.0	21.4
Howard	7	3	2	7	6	7	32	2.7	20.3
Humboldt	7	3	4	1	3	5	23	1.9	14.6
Jackson	11	3	6	5	6	11	42	3.5	18.8
Jones	13	30	38	31	33	29	174	14.5	74.8
Kossuth	12	3	8	10	15	12	60	5.0	19.0
Lyon	6	1	3	2	0	2	14	1.2	7.9
Madison	14	7	5	6	16	12	60	5.0	38.0
Mills	8	6	8	7	20	12	61	5.1	36.2
Mitchell	3	5	2	0	0	2	12	1.0	7.2
Monona	9	5	4	3	1	2	24	2.0	12.3
O'Brien	5	11	2	6	9	4	37	3.1	16.3
Palo Alto	3	1	1	2	2	9	18	1.5	9.4
Sac	6	1	5	0	4	8	24	2.0	11.4
Shelby	2	0	0	6	5	7	20	1.7	10.5
Sioux	15	4	3	5	3	2	32	2.7	10.1
Tama	17	12	7	13	3	10	62	5.2	23.8
Warren	8	7	3	6	10	20	54	4.5	25.4
Winnabago	0	1	2	0	3	1	7	0.6	4.3
Wright	8	4	5	8	3	0	28	2.3	11.9
TOTAL	274	160	183	203	238	260	1318	109	18.5



## COUNTY GROUP III

Biennial commitments to state correctional institutions for 22 large-town counties in Iowa, 1941-52. Largest town 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants.

County	1941	1943	1945	1947	1949	1951	Total 1941-1952	Annual Average	Rate per 100,000
	1942	1944	1946	1948	1950	1952			
Appanoose	10	8	7	6	9	6	46	3.8	19.5
Buena Vista	12	7	6	5	9	4	43	3.6	17.0
Carroll	9	2	8	4	3	8	34	2.8	12.3
Cass	18	12	3	8	10	8	59	4.9	26.5
Cherokee	5	8	6	7	6	15	47	3.9	20.6
Clay	10	6	4	5	6	12	43	3.6	19.8
Dallas	25	7	10	17	24	19	102	8.4	35.6
Emmett	5	3	2	6	9	4	29	2.4	17.1
Fayette	5	6	4	4	3	11	33	2.7	9.7
Floyd	6	10	3	10	5	10	44	3.7	17.0
Hamilton	10	5	2	4	5	8	34	2.8	14.8
Jefferson	5	7	3	5	11	12	43	3.6	22.8
Lucas	10	10	3	5	13	12	53	4.4	36.6
Marion	23	15	5	10	15	17	85	7.1	27.3
Monroe	6	3	2	3	3	8	25	2.1	17.6
Montgomery	6	3	3	4	5	11	32	2.7	17.0
Page	27	19	15	29	16	18	124	10.3	43.4
Plymouth	26	3	6	13	16	12	76	6.3	27.2
Poweshiek	18	3	2	3	9	12	47	3.9	20.1
Union	9	8	4	10	4	5	40	3.3	21.3
Washington	18	0	7	8	17	8	58	4.8	24.8
Winneshiek	11	7	1	1	2	8	30	2.5	11.5
TOTAL	274	152	106	167	200	228	1127	94	21.5



## COUNTY GROUP IV

Biennial commitments to state correctional institutions for 9 small-city counties in Iowa, 1941-52. Large city 10,000 to 25,000 inhabitants.

COUNTY	1941	1943	1945	1947	1949	1951	Total 1941-1952	Annual Average	Rate per 100,000
	1942	1944	1946	1948	1950	1952			
Boone	12	7	6	11	15	17	68	5.7	20.2
Jasper	14	24	23	15	20	11	107	8.9	27.6
Johnson	10	6	8	6	23	18	71	5.9	13.0
Lee	60	48	54	52	67	77	358	29.8	69.2
Mahaska	25	13	5	11	11	9	74	6.2	25.0
Marshall	24	16	29	23	25	31	148	12.6	34.6
Muscatine	15	5	14	13	9	11	67	5.6	17.8
Story	13	6	0	11	14	10	54	4.5	10.2
Webster	12	22	4	10	23	24	95	7.9	17.9
TOTAL	185	147	143	152	207	208	87	87	27.2



## COUNTY GROUP V

Biennial commitments to state correctional institutions for 11 large-city counties in Iowa, 1941-52. Largest city in county over 25,000.

COUNTY	1941	1943	1945	1947	1949	1951	Total 1941-1952	Annual Average	Rate per 100,000
	1942	1944	1946	1948	1950	1952			
Black Hawk	38	35	44	50	61	68	296	24.6	26.0
Cerro Gordo	24	9	16	13	21	19	102	8.4	18.4
Clinton	17	29	27	41	10	15	139	11.6	25.8
Des Moines	38	27	26	39	41	53	224	18.7	44.4
Dubuque	19	15	11	20	30	31	126	10.5	14.7
Linn	82	59	90	83	106	90	510	42.5	40.8
Polk	108	122	140	160	192	161	883	73.6	32.6
Pottawattamie	28	37	36	58	58	52	269	22.4	32.2
Scott	38	29	36	36	53	66	258	21.5	21.4
Wapello	19	22	21	18	22	19	121	10.1	21.3
Woodbury	114	49	42	85	115	85	490	40.8	39.2
TOTAL	525	433	489	603	709	659	3418	285	31.4



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