

OFFENCES

AGAINST PRISON DISCIPLINE

We are grateful to Anthony Boucher, Senior Assistant Statistician in Statistics Division, of the Home Office Research and Statistics Department for this article.

Adjudication statistics are compiled and published annually¹, giving information on offences proved guilty at adjudication (including attempts) and the punishments awarded at Prison Service Establishments. Those for assaults are used to form one of the Key Performance Indicators of the Prison Service (KPI2).

The statistics are derived from the information input by establishments to the LIDS computer system. Checks are made to ensure completeness by monitoring any omissions from the charge numbers, which are sequentially numbered throughout the year, and these are followed up with individual establishments.

In 1993 there were over 100,000 guilty findings at adjudication, an increase of 13 per cent from 1992. When the size of the prison population was taken into account the number of proved offences was at its highest ever level (226 offences per 100 population, compared with 200 in 1992). The category which accounted for the biggest part of this increase was unauthorised transactions (which includes the possession of a

controlled drug). Provisional figures for the first eleven months of 1994 indicate a similar level of offences per 100 population to 1993.

The most common offences which were punished were disobedience, disrespect and 'other' offences, largely against good order and discipline. When combined these accounted for 66 per cent of all offences in 1993. Offences involving violence accounted for about 12 per cent of offences, the same as in 1992. As in previous years, females had a higher rate of offending against prison discipline than males (340 v 222 per 100 population).

The most common punishments given were additional days awarded and stoppage or reduction of earnings in both male and female establishments. In male establishments the use of additional days ranged from 26 per cent of punishments in remand centres to 53 per cent in open prisons.

There were higher levels of offending establishments housing younger prisoners as the table below shows.

Offences punished per 100 population in male establishments by offence, 1993

England and Wales Type of establishment	Number of offences punished per 100 population						
	All offences	Violence	Escapes or absconds	Disobedience or disrespect	Wilful damage	Unauthorised transactions	Other offences
All Male Establishments	222	26	4	103	12	36	42
Remand centres	370	87	6	138	46	68	25
Local Prisons	186	21	4	87	9	34	30
Open Prison	140	1	5	28	1	25	80
Closed Training Prisons	195	12	1	102	6	27	46
Open YOI	396	25	35	129	11	80	116
Closed YOI	388	70	5	196	23	52	41
Juvenile YOI	566	137	13	226	39	88	62

(1) Annual Publication : 'Offences against Prison Discipline and Punishments England and Wales' 1994.