

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ALCOHOL CONSUMERS AND NON-CONSUMERS
AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENSE ON ADULT FELONY PROBATIONERS
IN NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS

by

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A THESIS

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A Thesis

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Master of Arts

by

George Edward Gonzalez

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ABSTRACT

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Purpose

The purpose is two fold: to contribute to the broad realm of alcohol and crime-related research, by identifying any significant relationship between consumers of alcohol and non-consumers of alcohol at the time a felony offense was committed, and to compare the findings of this research to existing literature.

Methods

The methods used in this study were: (1) the collection of data from the Nueces County Adult Probation Department's intake questionnaire on felony probationer's socioeconomic and demographic characteristics; (2) by dividing the study sample into two groups, consumers of alcohol at the time of offense, and non-consumers of alcohol at the time of offense; (3) comparing this information from the study sample between selected variables; (4) the two groups were analyzed by testing the ten selected variables with the phi-coefficient and chi-square; and (5) considering all results with a probability of one degree of freedom at the .05 level of significance.

Results

1. The study indicated that there were no significant differences

between consumers and non-consumers of alcohol at the time of offense among the variables of age, employment, ethnicity, index crimes, marital status, military experience, occupational level, prior arrest, and sex.

2. There is a significant difference between consumers and non-consumers of alcohol at the time of offense on the variable of education.



Supervising Professor

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Historians can show evidence that man has been acquainted with alcoholic beverages since ancient times. Pre-literate man undoubtedly discovered a palatable fermentation of sugar or starch containing liquid by accident that produced a euphoric state. Fermented fruit juices and fermented honey were the first such alcoholic beverages. After the discovery man produced beer, a product of fermentation of malted grain. Thus from the day man started using the liquid collected from honey or fruit, left too long in a warm place; alcohol has played an important role in his life.

Bringing it closer to home, the American liquor problem is as old as the white man's knowledge of the American continent. Even though the problem that involves the consumption of alcohol has been with mankind for years, a focus in the United States in the seventies has been the alarming increase of juvenile drinking.

Facts gathered by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) about alcohol abuse are as depressing as they are impressive. In most of the homicide cases in the United States either the killer, the victim, or both had

1

Jay N. Cross, Guide to the Community Control of Alcoholism, New York: The American Public Health Association, 1968, p. 13.

2

Hedley Donavan, "Alcoholism: New Victims, New Treatments," Time, Vol. 103 Number 16, April 22, 1974, p. 75.

been drinking. The dollar cost of alcoholism may be as much as \$15 billion a year, much of it from lost work time in business, industry,¹ and the government. Arrests for alcohol use account for more than half of all reported offenses in the United States. Surveys of offenders reveal that the offender has often been drinking prior to the commission of certain types of crimes. Alcohol is implicated in other crimes of violence, and in unskilled property crimes. Some offenders do report they were drinking before the crime; whereas some offenders committed for crimes other than alcohol use are found to have alcohol problems. Studies of delinquent youths suggest a strong likelihood of heavy and illicit drinking as part of their pattern of asocial or anti-social² conduct.

The President's Commission Task Force Report, points to alarming figures of alcohol involvement. In addition to the 55 percent of arrests that are for alcohol offenses per se a considerable number of other offenses are committed by persons, or suffered by victims, who have been drinking just prior to the commission of the offense. In a most impressive study conducted by Marvin E. Wolfgang in 1958 among 588 Philadelphia cases alcohol was absent from both the victim and offender in only 36 of the cases. In 44 percent of the cases it was

1

Donavan, Ibid., p. 75.

2

Nicholas deB. Katzenback, Chairman, Task Force Report: On Drunkenness from the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1967), pp. 43-44.

present in both the victim and offender. Consequently, in 64 percent of
¹
 the homicide cases alcohol was a factor.

Earl Rubington compared the offenses of alcoholic offenders to three broad classes of crime: crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against public order. A study conducted by Julian Roebuck and Ronald Johnson compared a group of 40 Negro offenders, composed mainly of simultaneous "drunk and assault" charges, with 360 Negro offenders who had one or more of a large number of other arrest patterns. The studies showed that alcohol reduced inhibitions on explosive aggression, the consequences of strong internal controls. Consequently, these young men all overacted to their rigid family background when under the influence of alcohol.

A 1959 California prison study on alcoholic offenders who
²
 commit crimes against property yielded significant differences.

The most frequent offenses of the problem drinking group were forgery-and-check offenses. Indeed, the rate of these offenses was significantly higher among the problem drinking group. And, in addition, there were significant differences between problem and non-problem drinkers in two less frequently committed offenses....Yet problem drinkers committed this offense much more frequently than did the non-problem drinkers.

In 1958 Pittman and Gordon reported a study on 187 alcoholic offenders who committed crimes against public order. These offenders, for the most part, specialized in public disorder. Pittman and Gordon

¹
 deB. Katzenback, Ibid., p. 40.

²
 Earl Rubington, "Types of Alcoholic Offenders", Federal Probation, Vol. XXXIII, (March, 1969), pp. 32-33

³
Ibid., pp. 32-33.

concluded that the number of alcoholics in this country who are also
¹
 chronic inebriate offenders is decidedly small.

Soaring crime rates in Texas are part of a larger national crime trend. National economic conditions appear to be a major influence. Frequently, aggravated assault charges are acts of an attempted murder and possess many characteristics of that crime. Law enforcement officials and several regional plans indicate a correlation between alcohol
²
 consumption and aggravated assault.

It is estimated that approximately 30 to 50 percent of persons held in local jails and adult institutions in Texas have been arrested on alcohol or drug related charges, such as public drunkenness and driving while intoxicated. Accenting this, a 1972 Texas Department of Corrections study indicated that 10 percent of recidivistic inmates
³
 were alcoholics.

These problems are not confined to the state's urban centers. A survey of the eighty-first Judicial District, consisting of Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, LaSalle, and Wilson Counties, from June 1973 through May 1975 indicated that 66.2 percent of persons detained in rural counties in
⁴
 that district were charged with either alcohol or drug-related offenses.

Narrowing the problem to the Coastal Bend Area which includes

¹
 Rubington, Ibid., pp. 32-33.

²
 Coastal Bend Council of Governments, 1976 Criminal Justice Plan For Texas, 1975, p. 15.

³
Ibid., p. 247.

⁴
Ibid., p. 247.

Nueces County, the Coastal Bend Council of Governments reports supporting evidence to the national crime trend and its involvement in alcohol. Some possible causes for murder in the region include family arguments, jealousy over a spouse, excessive use of alcohol, barroom fights, and robbery. Rape can be related to assault, especially when a victim is surprised or puts up a struggle. In the cases reported, the offender's ages ranged from seventeen to thirty-five and the offenders were mostly Mexican-American males with previous records of drug offenses, indecent exposure, and intoxication. The aggravated assault category in the Coastal Bend region includes family disturbances, barroom fights, 1
jealousy, marital problems, revenge, and excessive use of alcohol.

As crime increases, the need to identify its causes and to pursue effective courses of action becomes more urgent. Crime is the complex product of a myriad of social and economic conditions. The problem of alcoholism must be dealt with at the national, state, and local level.

There was a time not many years ago when alcohol abuse and alcoholism were not considered important problems. As a nation, the United States ignored the problem of alcoholism, not recognizing it as a serious one. The American public is no longer ignoring the unfortunate consequences that result from the misuse of alcohol.

Statement of the Problem

We should realize the magnitude of the alcohol-related crime

1

Coastal Bend Council of Governments, 1976 Criminal Justice Plan, 1975, pp. 1-14.

problem and that it is here to stay. The President's Task Force Report: Drunkenness states that it seems unlikely any special solutions will be found which are not part of wider crime prevention efforts, such as mental health efforts, anti-poverty programs, anti-delinquency endeavors in the slums, and of course, improvement in police procedures on a national scale. Therefore, given the apparently higher than expected incidence of drinking among delinquents and the possible association between later criminality and early alcohol excesses, one can view the first arrest for an alcohol-related offense as a warning signal that further offenses involving both crime and alcohol may be upcoming.

Research would greatly be enhanced through the collection of national, state, and local statistics designed to determine where and when alcohol is in fact involved in criminal and delinquent offenses, and by whom such offenses are committed. Statistics of this nature would be useful in furthering the cause of basic research and understanding and in the detection and prevention of alcohol-related offenses committed by young and old alike.

Statement of the Purpose

The purpose of this study is two-fold: to contribute to the broad realm of alcohol and crime related research, by identifying any significant relationships between consumers of alcohol and non-consumers of alcohol at the time a felony offense was committed, and to compare the findings of this research to existing literature.

Need of Study

The literature points to the need of research in the area of alcohol and crime. Alcoholism is a major social, economic, and health problem. As a health problem it ranks among the top four along with heart disease, cancer, and mental illness. It seems to be a concomitant of crime. Research would enhance the understanding of alcohol-related offenses.

Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is limited to the population defined as persons convicted of a felony offense and placed on adult probation in Nueces County. The scope is somewhat limited due to the selected population. However, the study of the relationship between alcohol and crime is valuable because of the limited amount of factual literature now available.

The scope is limited also in that it is a short-range time study. However, it is felt that even a time limited sample is representative based on the examination of the Nueces County Adult Probation Department's yearly reports.

Basic Question

The basic question is as follows: are there significant differences in socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, as well as in types of offenses committed between adult probationers who used alcohol immediately previous to the offense and those who had not?

The hypothesis is that there will be significant differences

in the characteristics of two groups of adult felony probationers convicted of index crimes (burglary, felony-theft, rape, murder, aggravated assault, robbery, auto theft). These groups will be defined in terms of alcohol consumers and non-consumers at the time of the offense by the use of an intake questionnaire, administered by adult probation officers of the Nueces County Adult Probation Department as part of regular intake procedures.

Justification for Study

Accessibility to the case history information sheets of the Nueces County Adult Probation Department allowed this research to be conducted. Such information would be valuable to the treatment of alcohol crime-related problems in Nueces County.

This study could possibly make a contribution to the existing literature on crime and alcohol and possibly stimulate future research on the topic of alcohol and crime.

Definitions of Terms

To ease the understanding of this study, the following definitions will be noted:

Index Crime - A method of classifying offenses for the purpose of uniformed identification.

Alcohol - Alcohol is a depressant drug which acts on the central nervous system as an anesthetic.

Alcoholism - This is an illness, recognized as such by the American Medical Association, World Health Association and every major

public health agency throughout the world.

Blood Alcohol Content - The amount of alcohol in the blood.

Alcohol Consumer - Individual who has drank a beverage that contains alcohol.

Non-alcohol Consumer - Individual who has not had any beverages that contained alcohol.

Alcohol Related Crime - A crime committed by an individual who is under the influence of an intoxicating alcoholic beverage.

Hypothesis

The following hypothesis has been formulated and is stated in null form for statistical analysis and evaluation.

There will be no significant differences in the characteristics of two groups of adult felony probationers convicted of index crimes (burglary, felony theft, rape, murder, aggravated assault, robbery, auto theft); these groups are defined as alcohol consumers and non-consumers at the time of the offense as determined by the use of an intake questionnaire devised for the Nueces County Adult Probation Department in 1977 (see Appendix A).

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In reviewing the literature all indications are that crime is related to alcohol in some aspect. The President's Commission Task Force Report (1967) notes that arrests for alcohol use accounted for more than half of all reported offenses in the United States. The information gathered reveals that the offender has more often been drinking prior to the commission of certain types of crimes compared with other types. Alcohol is implicated in other crimes of violence, besides homicide, and in poverty crimes.¹

On the basis of available information it is plausible to assume that alcohol does play an important and damaging role in the lives of offenders, particularly chronic inebriates, and in the production of crime. However, it is important to point out the fact that most studies have been done on apprehended offenders.²

The President's Commission Task Force Report shows a number of important studies which have been conducted in the area of alcohol and crime. A very important study of homicides from a methodical point of view was the one by Marvin E. Wolfgang in 1958. On the basis of the

¹ Nicholas deB. Katzenback, Chairman, Task Force Report: on Drunkenness from the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1967) pp. 43-44.

² Ibid., p. 43.

present data on homicide one can assume that there is a strong link between alcohol and homicide, and that alcohol plays a causal role as one of the necessary and precipitating elements for violence. For example, 72 percent of the stabbings involved the presence of alcohol, as did 69 percent of the beatings and 55 percent of the shootings. Among 588 Philadelphia cases, alcohol was absent from both victim and offender in only 36 percent of the cases.

The Second Report to Congress (1974) compiled by the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare generalizes that a certain portion of all crime coming to the attention of authorities has alcohol involvement.

An association with alcohol was recorded in 64 percent of all murders, 41 percent of all assaults, 34 percent of all forcible rapes, and 29 percent of all other sex crimes. In 1971, violent crimes associated with alcohol, and the 100 percent alcohol related offenses accounted for 3.6 million arrests, equal to 41 percent of all arrests.

A 1971 study of economic effects of alcohol-related problems estimated a loss to society of over twenty-five billion dollars. The cost for motor vehicle accidents alone attributed to alcohol misuse amounting to over six billion dollars. Based on data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, alcohol misuse contributed to 43 percent of the non-pedestrian traffic fatalities (19,000 deaths) in 1971, 38 percent of the adult pedestrian fatalities (2,700 deaths);

1
deB. Katzenback, Ibid., p. 40-41.

2
Morris E. Chafetz, Chairman, United States Department of Health Education, and Welfare, Second Special Report to the United States Congress on Alcohol and Health, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1974) p. 54.

14 percent of the personal injury accidents; and 6.8 percent of the property damage accidents. Thus, about 40 percent (12,700) of the motor vehicle deaths were believed attributable to alcohol in 1971.¹

In 1971 alcohol misuse leading to violent and antisocial behavior contributed more than half a billion dollars to the cost of the nation's criminal justice system. Arrests and court costs for violent crimes, as of 1971, are presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1
Criminal Justice
Costs in Millions of Dollars

Offense	Police Cost	Court Costs
Criminal Homicide	13.5	10.8
Aggravated Assault	209.5	15.5
Forcible Rape	13.9	1.8
Total	236.9 million	28.1 million

The estimated cost of maintaining a person in prison is six dollars per day; whereas, the estimated daily jail expense per person is slightly more. In addition to these costs the United States Office of Management and Budget estimates that twenty-five million dollars were

¹
Ibid., pp. 49-53.

assigned as the costs of crime prevention or alcoholism rehabilitation activities by the criminal justice system. Thus, alcohol in relation to the criminal justice system has taken a major toll in our society in terms of economic value and life.¹

The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society (1967) states that there has always been too much crime. Virtually every generation since the founding of the nation and before has felt itself threatened by the specter of rising crime and violence. The Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Index trends from 1933 to 1965 indicate rises in crimes against persons (aggravated assault, robbery, forcible rape, homicide, burglary, motor thefts, and larceny over \$50.00).²

Crime seems to change constantly, day and night, month to month, place to place; yet one has to realize that society has not found fully reliable methods for measuring the volume of crime. Unlike the European countries which have maintained national statistics for more than a century and a quarter, the United States has maintained national crime statistics only since 1930.³

Factors indicating an increase in crime are pointed out in the literature but they are not always easy to isolate. Murder is a seasonal offense. Murder rates are generally higher in the summer, except for

¹
Chafetz, Ibid., pp. 54-55.

²
Nicholas deB. Katzenback, Chairman, The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society: A Report by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office 1967), pp. 22-23.

³
Ibid., p. 23

December, which is often the highest represented month and almost always five to 20 percent above the yearly average. One of the most significant factors affecting crime rates is the age composition of the population. In 1965, more than 44 percent of all persons arrested for forcible rape, more than 39 percent of those arrested for robbery, and more than 26 percent of those arrested for willful homicide and aggravated assault were in the eighteen to twenty-four year old age group. For property crimes the highest percentages were found in the eighteen and under age group. Nearly 50 percent of all those arrested are for burglary and larceny and more than 60 percent are for auto theft.¹

Rates for most crimes are highest in the big cities. Twenty-six core cities of more than 500,000 people, with less than 18 percent of the total population, account for more than half of all reported index crimes against the person and more than 30 percent of all reported index property crimes. One out of every three robberies and nearly one out of every five rapes occur in cities with a population in excess of one million. One must realize that not all crime is concentrated in the urban areas. Vandalism, liquor-law violations, driving while intoxicated, forgery, counterfeiting, embezzlement, and fraud are much more evenly spread over cities of all sizes and rural areas.²

There are significant differences; however, among cities in such factors as age, sex, race, and other population characteristics.

¹ deB. Katzenback, Ibid., p. 27.

² Ibid., p. 29.

Economic status, the character of the industrial climate, and the like contribute major differences in the true amounts of crime. Another characteristic that may cause more crime is increasing affluence. There are more goods around to be stolen. "National wealth and all categories of merchandise have increased in terms of constant dollars - more than four-fold since 1940 - significantly more than the population or the rate of reported theft."¹

The number of offenses according to the Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice such as crimes of violence, crimes against property, and most others have been increasing. Naturally, population growth is one of the significant contributing factors in the total amount of crime. Most forms of crime, especially crimes against property, are increasing faster than population growth. Data on demographic factors does not exist, even to make simple comparisons of the incidence of crime among persons of the same age, sex, race, and residence. However, all the economic and social factors discussed support the evidence that crime is increasing."²

Harris Trice (1966) states that alcoholism in American society is a combination of the following factors:³

- (1) prone personalities who imbibe regularly in
- (2) drinking groups that reflect the functional value of alcohol in a complex society, but which exercise
- (3)

¹ deB. Katzenback, Ibid., p. 29.

² Ibid., p. 30-31.

³ Harrison M. Trice, Alcoholism in America, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1966, p. 2.

widely varying norms about what is deviant drinking behavior--a social ambivalence. As a result there are (4) weak social controls, since a deviant drinker in one group can readily move to a set of drinking companions with more tolerant norms. Finally, cultural values stressing the importance of self-control justify (5) a pattern of segregation of those who regularly become intoxicated.

Alcohol acts to reduce learned inhibitions. As internal control of behavior weakens, the negative censor of sober judgment relaxes, leading to a mild euphoria. It is clear that some personalities may get more unusual emotional rewards from drinking alcohol than do others. Alcohol will probably further reduce their learned inhibitions so that they can experience the excitement of antisocial behavior.¹

Since alcohol in all probability reduces inhibitions, one can apply Leslie Wilkins' social deviance theory² to the commission of a crime while he is under the influence of alcohol. Leslie Wilkins discusses deviance from a cross-cultural viewpoint. At some time or another, nearly all behaviors we define as 'criminal' have been considered socially desirable and functionally beneficial in some culture. Deviance can be better understood by consideration of this model.³

¹ Trice, Ibid., pp. 6-7.

² Leslie Wilkins, "General Theory of Deviance"; Social Deviance, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Tavistock Publication Prentice Hall, Inc., 1965, p. 46.

³ Ibid., p. 46.

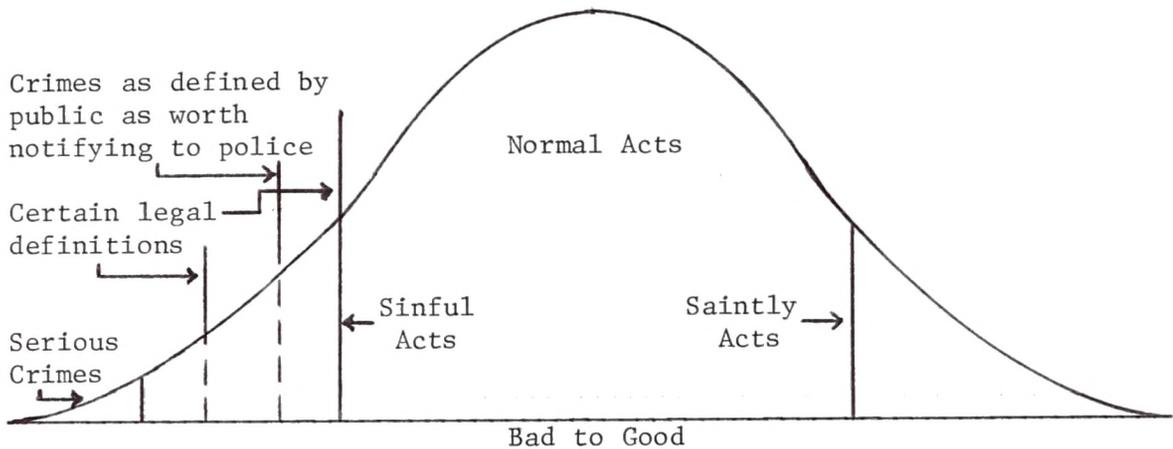


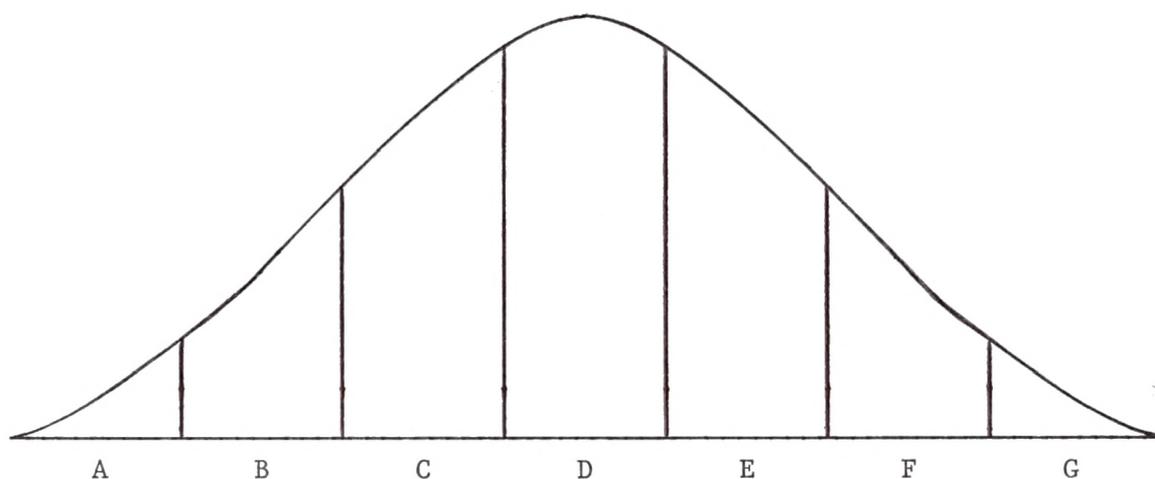
Figure 1

Continuum of good and bad acts, and the cutting-points for various types of definition

Behavior must be considered on a continuum; and within any given society, it is arbitrarily divided by a cutting point into legal and illegal, though it cannot be considered as black and white, or good and bad. As society becomes more tolerant and flexible in regard to deviations by its citizens, definitions of deviance will change and the number of criminal or dysfunctional acts will tend to decrease. Consequently, Wilkins hypothesized that social control mechanisms will secure increases in the stability of deviant activities in such a context.

Ruth Shonle Cavan and Theodore N. Ferdinand used a similar model as Leslie Wilkins to describe behavioral acts. However, Cavan's and Ferdinand's hypothetical formulation of behavior continuum applied primarily to juvenile delinquency. Their model is a behavior part of a continuum ranging from extremely antisocial actions to extremely con-

forming behavior which could elicit a variety of public response ranging¹ from outraged condemnation through mild disapproval to strong approval.



A. Underconforming
contraculture

B. Extreme under-
conformity

C. Minor under-
conformity

D. Normal
conformity

E. Minor over-
conformity

F. Extreme over-
conformity

G. Overconforming
contraculture

Figure 2

Hypothetical Formulation of Behavior Continuum

Ruth S. Cavan stated that the figure represents "the social structure, the framework of which consists of the institutions and less formal but fairly permanent organizations that, operating together,

¹

Ruth Shonle Cavan and Theodore N. Ferdinand, Juvenile Delinquency, New York: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1975, pp. 28-29.

carry on the functions of society."¹ She related the behavioral characteristics to each area of the behavior continuum from the (A) underconforming contraculture to the (G) overconforming contraculture. This correlates to Leslie Wilkins' continuum in that they are both comparing behavior in relationship to reactions of society. Both continuum models can be applied to this study due to the criminal behavior of which is contradicting adequate social expectations of society where conformity is expected. Committing a crime while under the influence of alcohol fails to meet society's expectations.

Related Research

R.T. Rada (1975) studied 100 rapists treated at a hospital and seventy-six furnished sufficient data for evaluative conclusions. The study determined in the admission phase that twenty-seven of the rapists were considered alcoholics, eleven were admitted alcoholics, and thirty-eight of the rapists were drinking at the time of the offense. All of the rapists who were alcoholics were drinking heavily at the time of the crime. Of the non-alcoholic rapists, 22 percent were drinking at that time. The alcoholic rapists were more likely to be married, Roman Catholic, Mexican-American, older, and less educated than the non-alcoholic rapists.² Rada's study is reflective of the literature currently on crime and alcohol, and it is primarily dealing with generalities. One can only conclude that alcohol was present at the time

¹ Ruth Shonle Cavan, Readings in Juvenile Delinquency, New York, New York: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1975, p. 7.

² R.T. Rada, "Alcoholism and Forcible Rape", American Journal of Psychiatry, Vol. 132, 1975, pp. 444-446.

that the offenses occurred, but one cannot say that there is a causal relationship.

Menachem Amir (1971) based his study on available information and on his own statistical analysis of all cases of forcible rape reported in Philadelphia police department files from 1958 to 1960. The study compares the aspects of the offenses such a group rape, felony rape, victim-precipitated rape, to the relationship of alcohol and rape. He proposes that rape results from a subculture of violence in which aggression is emphasized and condoned. This is again reflected¹ in Leslie Wilkins' theory of social deviance.

Marvin E. Wolfgang (1967) studies homicide using the Philadelphia² police department records on Negro offenders. He suggests that in two-thirds of the homicide situations, alcohol had been ingested just prior to the homicide by the offender, the victim, or both. The study examined sex, race, alcohol, previous arrest records, and psychological frustrations due to home environment. He suggested that the socio-economic group most likely to commit homicide is simultaneously evident when the people receive their weekly wages, purchase alcohol, and melt together socially. A positive and significant relationship was clearly established between victims who had been drinking and who precipitated their own death. Victims had been drinking immediately prior to their death in

¹ Menachem Amir, Patterns in Forcible Rape, Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1971.

² Marvin E. Wolfgang, Studies in Homicide, New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1967, pp. 9-168.

more victim-precipitated (69 percent) cases than in non-victim precipitated cases (47 percent).¹

M. Virkkunen (1974) in a study in England on alcohol as a factor precipitating aggression and conflict-behavior leading to homicide showed evidence of drinking by either victim or perpetrator. In 71 percent of the alcohol-related cases, the crimes were preceded by aggressive behavior, by the perpetrator as frequently as by the victim. Thus, in cases where aggressive behavior preceded the crime, one of the parties usually had been drinking. Alcohol appears to reduce inhibitions in some drinkers, releasing latent aggression; but aggression is also evident in non alcohol-related homicides.²

Further review of the literature concerning homicide and alcohol was related in cases such as the study conducted in Iceland by J.P. Hart-Hansen and O. Bjarnason (1974). In their study during 1946-70 there were twenty-one criminal homicides in Iceland; in fourteen of these both the victim and the killer were under the influence of alcohol. In the other seven, only the killer was under the influence of alcohol.³

Most of the studies have a similar pattern in homicide cases where alcohol was related in some fashion. Most of the homicide literature suggests that alcohol is an important factor in criminal homicide,

¹
Wolfgang, Ibid., pp. 9-168.

²
M. Virrkunen, "Alcohol as a factor precipitating aggression and conflict behavior leading to homicide", Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 1975, pp. 225-226.

³
J.P. Hart-Hansen, O. Bjarnason, "Homicide in Iceland 1946-70", Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 1975, p. 760.

but there is relatively little empirical data to support this assumption.

An interesting study by L.M. Shupe (1954) a police chemist in Columbus, Ohio, reports on the urine alcohol concentration of 882 persons arrested during or immediately after the commission of a felony in the period from March 1951 to March 1953. This is one of the few studies which gives data on the precise amount of alcohol in the offender rather than in the victim.

Of the whole group who were arrested, 64 percent had at least 0.10 percent alcohol in the urine. In most states 0.10 percent of alcohol in the blood is considered legal evidence of intoxication. Among those charged with crimes of violence (cutting, carrying concealed weapons, murder, shooting, etc,) between 67 and 88 percent had at least 0.10 percent alcohol in the urine, as did 45 percent of the 42 charged with rape and 43 percent of the 64 arrested for felonious assault.¹ This study was a valuable contribution to the area of crime and alcohol in that it gave precise measurement of alcohol of the offenders at the time of arrest, and thus of alcohol involvement.

David J. Pittman and C. Wayne Gordon (1954) did a study from October 1953 through September 1954 on excessive drinkers which they

1

L.M. Shupe, "Alcohol and Crime: A Study of the urine alcohol concentration found in 882 persons arrested during or immediately after the commission of a felony", Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science, 1954, pp. 661-664.

referred to as the "chronic police case inebriate."¹ In the study on the 187 used as the sample, sixty-nine (37 percent) were arrested for a serious offense such as homicide, rape, robbery, burglary, larceny, automobile theft, forgery, and others. Although these men were under the influence of alcohol at the time of offense, one has to be cautious in making any concrete correlations based on their inebriate history and arrest record.² This study took for granted that the men committed a felony offense, but it refused to associate alcohol consumption with any real impact on the crime. The main reason for this viewpoint was that they were studying "chronic" alcoholics.

Earl Rubington discussed in his article "Types of Alcoholic Offenders", problems that society faces in defining alcoholic offenders. He states that law enforcement agencies have concentrated on arresting the "drinking culture", the members of which happen to be the chronic alcoholics of our society.³ He stresses the point that in the past a simple combination of the notions that alcoholics are immoral, sick, and criminal, shaped the views of the law enforcers. Little attempt has been made to define kinds of immorality, the nature of the illness, and the degree and scope of criminality.

¹ David J. Pittman and C. Wayne Gordon, "Criminal Careers of the Chronic Police Case Inebriate", Quarterly Journal on Studies on Alcohol, 1958, p. 255.

² Pittman, Ibid., 225-268.

³ Earl Rubington, "Types of Alcoholic Offenders", Federal Probation, Vol. XXXIII, 1969, pp. 28-35.

Again Leslie Wilkins pointed out that crime, like other forms of deviance, is human behavior; and this behavior is interpreted by other members of the society in which it takes place in terms of the norms of the society, such as the law enforcement officials have with the chronic alcoholics.¹ Rubington continues to state that for years social problems have existed because of value conflicts. Men violate rules because conformity does not bring any rewards. Thus, in order for society to handle the alcoholic through its criminal justice system, a change in definition of this person is needed. The system of criminal justice; however, needs a set of systematic inferences on which to guide its work.²

George G. Pavloff indicated that in 1970, 8,117,700 arrests were made in the United States, 43 percent for alcohol offenses per se drunkenness, liquor law violations, drunk driving, disorderly conduct, and vagrancy. Unlike the case of alcohol offenses per se, there are no national studies or data available on the relationship of alcohol to the four crimes classified as violent (homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, and forcible rape).³

It has been estimated that 15,810 murders took place in the

¹
For further reading refer to Leslie Wilkins, Social Deviance, p. 46.

²
Rubington, p. 35.

³
George C. Pavloff, "Alcoholism and the Criminal Justice Population", Proceedings of the Seminar on Alcoholism Detection, Treatment and Rehabilitation within the Criminal Justice System, (Arlington, Va.: U.S. Bureau of Prisons, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administrator, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 1973) p. 1.

United States in 1970. On the basis of studies done over the past twenty years, it would not be unreasonable to conclude that alcohol abuse was present in 50 percent of these cases, whether on the part of the offender, the victim, or more likely on the part of both.¹

Aggravated assault studies conducted by Shupe, Pittman, and others have found alcohol present on persons arrested for felonious assault. On studies conducted on robbery, minimal alcohol involvement was shown. "In 892 cases of robbery in Philadelphia where an offender was arrested, alcohol was found present in the offender alone in four percent of the cases, in the victim alone in eight percent, and in both offender and victim in another three percent."

While there is considerable evidence linking the use of particularly the abuse of alcohol with criminal behavior, it would be most simplistic and erroneous to think of crime as a specific cause.

²
George G. Pavloff suggests:

On the basis of some of the studies cited, the National Commission on Causes and Prevention of Violence concluded that at least 24 percent of the four violent index crimes of which there were an estimated 713,400 in 1970, are alcohol related. Research studies do not yet allow any serious estimate of the relatedness of alcohol to the many other types of crime such as drug offenses (346,412 arrests in 1970), auto thefts (estimated 921,400 in 1970) or burglaries (estimated at 2,169,300 in 1970).

In a study conducted on burglaries and robberies in 1974 by Thomas A. Repetto, indications were that most of the sample came from

¹
Pavloff, Ibid., p. 2.

²
Pavloff, Ibid., pp. 3-4.

lower-income families. The family's interpretation of their own financial needs had little to do with the basic needs for survival. "Most¹ of the money obtained is spent on intoxicants and commercial goods." The prime motive for most burglaries appeared to be the need for money according to Thomas A. Repetto. "However, only ten percent of all the interviewees indicated that they would continue to break and enter if their financial needs were satisfied. Seventy-three percent indicated that enough money for their needs (including drugs) would definitely² cause an end to their burglarizing."

Robert L. Christiansen noted from the Utah State Prison Statistical Report that most of the individuals who have alcohol-related problems in the Utah corrections system have committed crimes against property. The records indicate that out of 574 inmates in 1972, 478³ had an alcohol use record.

In Texas, statistical comparisons from the 1976 Criminal Justice Plan for Texas, indicated that certain characteristics of the population such as age, employment, occupational skills, and education⁴ have some bearing on crime.

¹ Thomas A. Repetto, Residential Crime, Cambridge, Mass: Ballinger Publishing Company, 1974, p. 22.

² Ibid., p. 22.

³ Robert L. Christiansen, "Agency Suitability for Administration of Criminal Justice Administration of Criminal Justice Alcoholism Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs", Proceedings of the Seminar on Alcoholism Detection, Treatment, and Rehabilitation within the Criminal Justice System (Arlington, Va.: U.S. Bureau of Prisons, LEAA and NIAA, 1973) p. 19.

⁴ Robert Flowers, 1976 Criminal Justice Plan for Texas, 1975, p. 3.

Age of the population contributes to the amount and type of crime in any community. Young adults account for most arrests for crimes of violence in Texas. Texas' median age for offenders is twenty-six and a half years. This is one reason why the age variable was selected to be analyzed in the fourth chapter.¹

Employment status may have an effect on crime. Persons from environments lacking adequate employment opportunities are more likely to commit serious crimes than are persons of greater economic security. "The relationship between unemployment and crime is reinforced when a person from a poor employment background has some contact with the criminal justice system, giving him a double handicap of lacking skills and work experience and the stigma of an arrest or offense record."² This situation may lead to further criminal activity and increased recidivism.

Violent crimes in Texas have made staggering statistics. In Texas the state's murder rate has been greater than the national average, and it increases each year. According to the Department of Public Safety Texas Crime Report, estimated offenses for 1974 totaled 1708, a 1.4 percent rate increase over 1973. Police succeeded in clearing by arrest 82 percent of all homicides reported in 1974.³

According to the Department of Public Safety's statistics,

¹ Flowers, Ibid., p. 5.

² Ibid., p. 8.

³ Ibid., p. 14.

⁴ Ibid., p. 15.

Texas' experience with rape has deviated from national norm. Incidence increased 6.6 percent from 1970 to 1971, decreased 1.8 percent in 1972, and increased 1.5 percent in 1973. In 1974 a 4.0 percent rise was reported. The increase could have resulted from efforts to provide¹ rape victims with counseling, medical, and legal assistance.

Aggravated assault frequently is associated with murder and has many characteristics of that crime. The crime of assault generally involves acquaintances, neighbors, or relatives. Law enforcement officials and several regional plans indicate a correlation between alcohol consumption and aggravated assault.²

Property crimes in Texas also provide interesting statistics for the offenses of robbery, burglary, theft, and auto theft. Concerning robberies the Department of Public Safety Texas Crime Reports show a statewide rate increase. Comparing incidence of robbery in 1965 (4010) with the 1974 total of 20,025 shows a 500 percent increase over a ten³ year period.

Burglary represented 33.5 percent of the index crime in Texas. Most persons arrested for burglary are young adults or juveniles. In 1972, 49.9 percent of those apprehended for the offense were less⁴ than seventeen, and 65.5 percent were under twenty-one.

¹
Flowers, Ibid., p. 15.

²
Ibid., p. 15.

³
Ibid., p. 16.

⁴
Ibid., pp. 16-17.

This seemed an interesting variable to compare once the data was collected.

Theft, according to the Department of Public Safety for 1974, totaled 286,681, a rate of 2,379 offenses per 100,000 population. Theft is committed most often by young persons. In 1972 40.8 percent of those arrested were younger than eighteen years old; 58.4 percent younger than twenty-one; and 71.9 percent younger than twenty-five.¹

Auto theft in Texas is believed to be an urban problem, since the number of motor vehicles registered continues to increase. In 1974 71.9 percent of all crimes occurred in cities with populations greater than 100,000. In 1972 47.7 percent of all offenders were younger than age eighteen and 65.5 percent were younger than twenty-one years of age.²

Index crimes in the Coastal Bend regional area, in which Nueces County is included, showed that murder increased 55.2 percent from 1973 to 1974, and increased 34 percent for the five year period from 1970 to 1974. Rape increased 22.6 percent from 1973 to 1974, and increased 51.5 percent over the five year period from 1970 to 1974. The increase is attributed to the assistance being provided to rape victims. Robbery increased over the five years from 1970 to 1974, 20.6 percent; however, from 1973 to 1974 there was a 7.4 percent decrease. Burglary contributed

¹
Flowers, Ibid., p. 17.

²
Ibid., p. 18.

34 percent of the 1974 total index crimes. Burglary increased 28.2 percent for the period from 1973 to 1974 and 35.7 percent for the years 1970-1974. Felony thefts were combined with all index thefts and the percentages increased an overwhelming 127.2 percent for 1973-1974 and 151.9 percent for the five year period from 1970 to 1974. And finally, auto thefts showed a decrease from 1973 to 1974 of 13.7 percent and a decrease from 1970 to 1974 of 23.4 percent.¹

In summary, the local crime statistics seem to be in stride with the state's statistics and national statistics. Records reflect an increase in crime, and alcohol has been associated with an increase in the index crimes.

In reviewing the literature on the relationship between alcohol and crime, studies appear to be redundant. In most of the studies, the same authors are repeated as references.

There is a dearth of studies or data of national scope on the relationship of alcohol to crime, for example, the four major crime index offenses classified as violent: homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, and forcible rape. The President's Commission Task Force Report warns that alcohol does play an important role in the lives of offenders, but no one can be certain on the basis of the work done to date that offender-alcohol use exceeds that of non-offenders with similar social and personal characteristics. No one can prove that offenders use of alcohol is any greater at the moments of their offense than dur-

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Coastal Bend Council of Governments, 1976 Criminal Justice Plan, 1975, p. I-31.

ing their ordinary non-criminal moments. One cannot be sure that offenses committed while under the effects of alcohol would not have been committed had they not been drinking. Finally, all studies were done on apprehended offenders, and thus limited their usefulness in general-¹ization to the population.

Treatment Approaches

One should not be too hasty to label alcohol a cause, and crime a result, when it is equally likely that both alcohol excesses and crimes are results. However, if one assumes that alcohol does play an important role in the commission of the crime, certain treatments are implied. The following are systems to be reviewed for therapeutic opportunities in the field of alcoholism.

Biological-Cellular -- Much is known today about metabolic, physiological, and biochemical effects on the human body. Treatment is achieved by using anticonvulsant drugs, sedative compounds to prevent seizures and delirium tremens, vitamins, and general hospital supportive² care.

Organ-Body -- Long usage of alcohol affects various organs of the body such as the heart, pancreas, liver, nerves, and body cells.

1

Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, Task Force Report: On Drunkenness from the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1967) p. 43.

2

Morris E. Chafetz, Chairman, United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare First Special Report to the U.S. Congress on Alcohol and Health, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1971), p. 72.

Because of the effects on these vital organs, prompt and continued medical service is essential. Cessation of drinking and nutritional rehabilitation are the first order of treatment.¹

Intrapsychic -- The assumption that the alcohol disorder resulted from emotional or unconscious motivational factors is utilized here. Individual therapy, trained para-professionals, and group therapy utilizing psychodrama or role playing are currently important in treatment under this approach.

Learning theory -- The field of alcoholism brought the hypothesis that alcoholism is maintained because it is learned and reinforced as a behavior that engenders important rewards. Treatment based on learning theory involves aversive therapy in a form of negative reinforcement, and positive reinforcement would include development of self-esteem, group approval, and renewal of human contracts. The psychoanalytic theorist would hold that for the obsessively guilty, pain and punishment would be rewarding while success could be painful. Other techniques used to allow behavioral changes are through the use of hypnosis and Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (L.S.D.).

In the early 1950's psychoactive drugs used for treatment included the phenothiazines, a group of major tranquilizers, sedatives, and tranquilizing compounds which were essential in treating alcohol-withdrawal syndromes and preventing delirium tremens. Disulfiram interferes with the metabolism of alcohol after it is first converted

¹ Chavetz, Ibid., p. 73.

² Ibid., pp. 76-76.

to acetaldehyde, which results in an increase of this substance in the blood.

Small group in-treatment programs--settings such as Alcoholics Anonymous, and Al-Anon have provided treatment to help reach sobriety. The Alcoholics Anonymous program basically consists of "Twelve Suggested Steps" designed for personal recovery from alcoholism. Another form of small group therapy for treatment is that of halfway houses which were developed to fill the gap between hospital and out-patient services. ¹

Business and Industries Alcohol Treatment Programs -- In this group one finds that nine million people in the work force have alcohol problems. Within the work world, one should find alcoholism rehabilitation programs which include four essential elements: (a) case finding, (b) confrontation, (c) motivation and (d) follow up.

In conclusion, alcoholism is a chronic and often recurring illness that has multiple causations including genetic, biological, psychological, and sociological factors, To be successful in treatment of these factors one must take all into consideration.

Trends in Treatment of Alcoholism

In The Second Special Report to the United States Congress, the Commission discusses trends in the treatment of alcoholism by recognizing the problems. Perhaps in providing more attention to this group with its special interest, crime can be decreased by decreasing alcohol problems in our society. Several alcoholic populations have been rela-

¹

Chafetz, Ibid., pp. 78-80.

tively ignored in treatment program planning. They merit more intensive study to create appropriate programs for them. These groups are as follow:¹

Sex and Age groups -- Needs of alcoholic women have begun to receive wide recognition. Children who suffer from alcoholic parents and adolescent drinking problems need more attention.

Ethnic population -- Increased attention has been given to alcoholism problems among ethnic populations such as Blacks, Spanish-surnamed Americans, American Indians, and Native Alaskans. One needs to recognize each group's unique cultural characteristics in developing treatment services.² Skid Row and the Public Inebriate have received increased attention because of the failure to recognize that skid row alcoholism is atypical and unrepresentative of the national alcoholism problem.

Summary

At the present time one can recognize a wide array of facilities, programs, and agencies that exist in order to eliminate the alcohol problem. They include alcoholism information and referral centers, general hospitals, aversion conditioning clinics, detoxification programs, halfway and quarterway houses, vocational rehabilitation clinics, alcoholics on out-patient clinics, physicians, Alcoholic Anonymous,

1

Morris E. Chafetz, Chairman, United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare Second Special Report to the U.S. Congress on Alcohol and Health, (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1974) p. 145.

2

Ibid., p. 146.

community human service agencies, the police-court system, skid row
agencies, business and industrial rehabilitation programs.¹

¹
Ibid., pp. 149-150.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

As a professional member of the Nueces County Adult Probation Department for the past four years, the opportunities existed to observe problems with felony cases on probation. During court trials, on pleas of guilty of convictions in the six district courts, the defendants before the court blamed alcohol for their irrational behavior in committing felony offenses. After careful consideration and reviewing existing literature on crime and alcohol involvement, the task of investigating the relationships between alcohol and crime for those persons placed on probation has been undertaken.

In January of 1977, Ron Roberts, assistant director with the Nueces County Adult Probation Department, introduced a new instrument for intake procedures for persons placed on felony probation. This instrument was adapted by adding questions relating to alcohol and the commission of a crime. With this instrument available in the adult probation department it was then decided to study probationers received over a three-month period when classified as consumers or non-consumers of alcohol at the time of offense. Based on previous yearly records, this is a representative time period.

Description of Facilities

Nueces County was created from San Patricio County in 1846 and organized the same year. The area began as a central trading post lo-

cated in present Corpus Christi, Texas. It is on the lower coastal plain facing Corpus Christi Bay.

Corpus Christi is the county seat and at present time exceeds a population of two hundred thousand inhabitants. The cities of Robstown and Port Aransas are also within the Nueces County boundaries. The Nueces County Adult Probation Department is located in the county courthouse in Corpus Christi, Texas. The department was officially established in 1950, and was the first adult probation department in Texas. The department operates in accordance with the Adult Probation Law as stated in Vernon's Statutes, Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 42.12 (Adult Probation and Parole Law), and Article 42.13 (Misdemeanor Probation Law).

In 1965, Juluis (Jay) Cazalas was appointed as the probation officer for Nueces County. Since its inception the department has grown from a one-man operation to eleven probation officers. The secretarial-clerical staff has grown from one to six persons.

The department supervises felony and misdemeanor cases for district courts and county courts-at-law. After a person has been convicted of a felony offense in a district court, or a misdemeanor offense in a county court-at-law, this person can be placed on probation for a certain number of years. The felony probation punishment range is up to a maximum of ten years, and the misdemeanor range is up to two years.

Permission was given to undertake this study employing the

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Ron Roberts, "Study of the Adult Probation Department for the District Judges", (unpublished manuscript), May 1973, p. 1.

Nueces County Adult Probation facilities by Mr. Jay Cazalas, Chief Probation Officer. For the protection of the persons on felony probation, confidentiality of these cases was maintained in this study.

Description of Sample Population

The sample in this study consisted of felony probationers who were placed on probation in Nueces County during the first quarter of 1977. Only those felony probationers who had committed one out of the seven major index crimes (burglary, felony theft, rape, murder, aggravated assault, robbery or auto theft) were selected.

Out of the one hundred sixteen selected who were placed on felony probation during the first quarter of 1977, seventy one were placed on probation for having committed one out of the seven major index crimes. The sample was then divided into two groups. The two groups in this incidental sampling ¹ can be considered typical of the offender population. This study was conducted on new probation cases received during the months of January, February, and March, 1977, which were computed and statistically analyzed.

Once a defendant was placed on probation by a district judge, the probation officer directed the probationer to the probation department where the personal history of the person was recorded. The conditions of probation were fully explained and a maintenance form was also completed. The maintenance form is an intake questionnaire

1

Charles M. Friel, Research Methods: Applications in Criminal Justice, Huntsville Institute of Contemporary Corrections and the Behavioral Sciences, Sam Houston State University, 1972, p. 53.

which consists of one hundred eighteen questions of personal and criminal history (see Appendix A).

The population was divided into two groups after the maintenance forms were reviewed. The population consisted of two groups: (a) consumers of alcohol at the time of the offense, and (b) non-consumers of alcohol at the time of the offense. The two groups were compared (using selected variables) statistically in order to determine the baseline characteristics which differentiated the two groups.

In order to estimate the representativeness of the study sample, statistics for index crime offenses (as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation) in 1976 and 1977 were compared.¹

1

Ron Roberts, "Statistics Computed for Nueces County Adult Probation Department", (unpublished manuscript 1976-1977).

TABLE 2

Comparison of 1976 and 1977 statistics of
index crimes of felony probationer

Offense	Number of Probationers		Percentage		Total
	1976	1977	1976	1977	
Burglary	269	46	55.8%	64.8%	100%
Felony Thefts	71	9	14.7%	12.7%	100%
Rape	10	0	2.1%	.0%	100%
Murder	23	2	4.8%	2.8%	100%
Aggravated Assault	31	1	6.4%	1.4%	100%
Robbery	57	4	11.8%	5.6%	100%
Auto Theft	21	9	4.4%	12.7%	100%
Total	n=482	n=71	Percentage 100%	100%	100%

The 1977 first quarter caseload was compared to the 1975 and 1976 first quarter months for any significant differences. In 1975 the first quarter cases received totaled ninety-five and in 1976 the total new cases received during the first quarter was 110. The new caseload received during the first quarter was 116 in 1977. This averages to 107 cases per quarter for the years 1975, 1976, and 1977, which can be representative of the study sample for the first quarter of the year.

All of the probation officers were instructed on the method of

collecting the data. The data, once completed, was computed for analysis. Having eleven data collectors was a potential problem because of possible data variation; however, it was felt that this was overcome by a cross-check process that had each questionnaire reviewed by two competent evaluators within the staff of the probation department.

Probationer Profile

Most adult felony offenders are from seventeen to twenty-three years of age. The "typical" adult felony probationer is a rootless, homeless male. He is single, divorced or separated, or if married, likely to have an unstable marriage. He frequently changes his residence, and is highly mobile. He may very well be a member of a minority group and probably lived a good portion of his life in cultural deprivation. Chances are he is presently or has been financially dependant either on public welfare or other persons.

Socially, he is an isolated person with few ties to community groups or organizations. Family ties may be more important to him, but his family interaction is often tenuous. While intelligence is relatively normally distributed in the offender population, education is not. Offenders tend to have less education than the general population. Many offenders have little trouble gaining employment, but keeping the job and job gratification is a major problem. Most are unskilled individuals.

1

Ron Roberts, "Study of the Adult Probation Department for the District Judges", (unpublished manuscript, May 1973), p. 7.

Data Analysis

Once the data was tabulated on the two groups, the data was compared to see if there were any potentially significant factors. A level was set for significant differences between the two groups at .05, with one degree of freedom. The tests of significance employed were the phi-coefficient and chi-square test. Percentage ratios were also employed for analysis of the data.

The chi-square and the phi-coefficient tests were utilized because when one has "frequency data comparing the effects of two variables, the phi-coefficient can be computed to show the degree of the relationship between the two variables."¹ Then the chi-square can be computed from the phi-coefficient. Bruning suggests that the Chi-square is interpreted as showing a relationship between the two variables.²

The basic computational formula for the phi-coefficient as suggested by Bruning is:

$$\text{phi} = \frac{AD-BC}{\sqrt{(A+B)(C+D)(A+C)(B+D)}}$$

where: the numbers are represented by the letters A, B, C, and D come from the contingency table.

¹ James L. Bruning, and B.L. Kintz, Computational Handbook of Statistics, Glenview, Illinois, Scott, Foresman, and Company, 1968, p. 207

² Ibid., p. 207.

The formula for chi-square is:

$$X^2 = N\phi^2$$

where: X^2 = chi-square;

N = total of all the values in the contingency table;

ϕ^2 = phi

where: contingency table refers to the number of persons in each category placed in a cell within the table.

moreover,

$$X^2 = \frac{N (AD-BD)^2}{(A + B) (C + D) (A + C) (B + D)}$$

By using the phi-coefficient it would be possible to calculate chi-square (X^2) for a 2X2 contingency table. The resulting value of chi-square provides a test of the null hypothesis that the row and column classifications are independent.¹

The study sample consisted of all persons having been placed on probation for the index crime offenses in the first quarter of 1977. Randomization was not utilized because of the limited population, thus the total population of index crime offenses were employed.

Once the two groups were divided and the information gathered was tabulated, the chi-square and phi-coefficient tests were applied. The two groups consisted of thirty-nine probationers who had consumed alcohol prior to the commission of the offense and thirty-two probation-

¹ Bruning, Ibid., p. 207.

ers who had not consumed alcohol prior to the commission of the offense. The total sample used in this study consisted of seventy-one felony Nueces County probationers.

Independent and Dependent Variables

This thesis utilizes the data collected from the caseload of the Adult Probation Department, and in doing so this design employed an ex post facto design. F.N. Kerlinger defines this type of study as follows:

...research in which the independent variables have already occurred and in which the researcher starts with the observation of a dependent variable or variables. He then studies the independent variables in retrospect for their possible relations to, effects on, the dependent variable or variables. 1

In this thesis the independent variables existed in the situation and were not placed there or manipulated by the researcher.

Because of the inability to take the option of randomizing in this study, incidental sampling is utilized. 2

The limitations in this type of design are:

- (a) the high risk of misinterpreting the results;
- (b) the definite cause and effect are ambiguous at times;
- (c) the error of having unidentified variables;
- (d) the inability to use a random sample. 3

1
F.N. Kerlinger, Foundations of Behavioral Research: Educational and Psychological Inquiry, New York: Holt, Rinehard and Winston, Inc, 1964, p. 360.

2
William Wiersma, Research Methods of Education: An Introduction, New York: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1969, pp. 258-263.

3
Ibid., p. 258.

Causal-Comparative Methodology

This causal comparative study purports to discover possible relationships between behavioral patterns of alcohol consumption and commission of felony offenses. This was done by comparing two groups of alcohol consumers and non-consumers at the time of offense. This type of study helps to bridge the gap between descriptive research studies and experimental studies. Meredith D. Gall states:

In its simplest form the causal comparative design involves identifying subjects with some particular characteristic and studying them in comparison with normal or control group. ¹

Obviously in a causal comparative study any correlations found do not prove causation. However, the administrator dealing with this type of clientele can use causal-comparative data beneficially in program planning. This kind of study could lead to more rigorous experimental studies dealing with causation.

Reliability and Validity of Data

The degree of significance and generalization that can be applied to the results of this study is directly related to the quality of the data collection form, the adult probation maintenance form. This form was derived from the criminal history record information form used by the adult probation department in Nueces County for approximately seven years. It was revised to fit a computer format, and to better

1

Walter R. Borg, and Meredith D. Gall, Educational Research: An Introduction, New York: David McKay Company, Inc., 1974, pp. 297-299.

measure the past drug abuse record of new probationers. Thus its reliability is based on seven years usage for demographic and prior criminal information.¹ All eleven adult probation officers used the form during intake procedures, and were trained in special workshops to work from uniform data criteria. Thus the form has been standardized to some degree by the use of specific administration conditions.

The validity of any measure is hard to ascertain in criminal justice and constructing validity is especially hard. The intent of the maintenance form is to provide the probation department with necessary legal and demographic information for probation procedures and to provide the probation officer with prior criminal history.² It also provides employment, education, and drug abuse history that may help in determining appropriate probation services. The Nueces County Probation Department is beginning to shift from the casework approach to a team oriented approach, and the form reflects this. General knowledge in the criminal justice field, backed by specific studies, indicates that the kinds of information sought in this form are correlated with the possibility of future deviant behavior.³ The maintenance form is valid for the purposes of the collection of data to study demographic,

1

Frank Dell'Apa, et al., "Advocacy, Brokerage, Community: The ABC's of Probation and Parole." Federal Probation, Vol. XXXX No. 4, (December 1976), pp. 37-44.

2

This form closely approximates the Community Resources Management Team (CRMT) data collection form successfully used by Training Associates, Inc., of Boulder, Colorado.

3

Don M. Gottredson, Leslie T. Wilkins, Peter B. Hoffman, and Susan Singer, The Utilization of Experience in Parole Decision-Making: Summary Report., Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Justice, 1974.

legal, and criminal history factors potentially correlated with alcohol abuse.

Description of Instrument

The adult probation maintenance form was used to collect demographic information on felony probationers. (see Appendix A). The instrument employed was a questionnaire in which the personal and criminal data of the probationers was collected by the eleven probation officers. Each individual officer handling a new case interviewed the probationer to obtain the information on the questionnaire.

The data is collected on forms designed to be put into a computer, for retrieval and data manipulation purposes. Four computer cards are coded on abbreviated print out cards. The coded information may be processed compositionally and statistically to any extent necessary. This gives the advantage of capturing all data desired about any case and displaying the data in either raw or composition form. Appendix B describes and defines the coded information in the maintenance questionnaire.

Selected Variables

The variables selected in this study included the seven major index crimes (burglary, felony theft, rape, murder, aggravated assault, robbery, auto theft) subdivided into crimes against property and persons which were treated as one variable. Crimes against property included the offenses of burglary, felony theft, and auto theft. The crimes against persons included the offenses of rape, murder, aggravated assault, and robbery. The other nine variables were selected from

the maintenance form. The index crime variables were selected primarily because of the literature review such as, The Task Force Report, and Marvin E. Wolfgang's homicide study.

The nine variables selected from the maintenance form included the following socioeconomic and demographic variables: age, sex, marital status, employment, ethnicity, occupational level, military experience, prior record, and education. These variables were selected due to the importance discussed throughout the review of the literature and because of the limited time available for this study. Although the variables seem to be limited, the literature heavily accents those selected. Further discussion on the variables will be continued in Chapter Four.

The important variable of blood alcohol content in the maintenance form was deleted from chosen variables because of the incorrect information which was recorded. The probationers exaggerated the expected answers or were unable to recall correct breathalyzer examination scores. Thus, in order to avoid statistical error, this important variable was deleted.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

The hypothesis of this thesis is as follows: there will be no significant differences in the characteristics of two groups of adult probationers convicted of index crimes (burglary, felony theft, rape, murder, aggressive assault, robbery, auto theft). These groups are defined as alcohol consumers and non-consumers at the time of offense as determined by the use of an intake questionnaire devised for the Nueces County Adult Probation Department.

The total study sample consisted of seventy-one felony probationers. This sample was divided into two groups, consumers of alcohol at the time of offense and non-consumers at the time of offense. Once the two groups were divided, the chi-square and phi-coefficient tests were applied.

Within the content of this thesis several distinct variables were dealt with which expressed different socioeconomic and demographic characteristics relating to the crime index of the respondents. The selected variables which were arrived at by using the questionnaire and upon which coding was complete enough for use will now be discussed.

The crime index consists of those major felony offenses which are defined as follow:

1. Burglary - unlawful entry of a structure, with or without force, with intent to commit a felony or larceny.
2. Felony Theft - unlawful taking or attempted taking of

- property from the possession of another.
3. Auto Theft - unlawful taking or attempted taking of a motor vehicle from the possession of another.
 4. Rape - unlawful sexual intercourse with a female, by force or without legal or factual consent.
 5. Murder - intentionally causing death of another without reasonable provocation or legal justification, or causing the death of another while committing or attempting to commit another crime.
 6. Aggravated Assault - unlawful intentional inflicting, or the attempted or threatened inflicting, of injury upon another.
 7. Robbery - the unlawful taking or attempted taking of property that is in the immediate possession of another, by force or the threat of force with a deadly weapon.

The crime index was chosen as a variable because numerous studies have been conducted on each of the offenses showing their significance to the crime picture. The President's Commission Task Force Report: Drunkenness and Marvin E. Wolfgang's book, Studies in Homicide, show the significance of the various index crimes and justification for their study in relationship to alcohol use.

TABLE 3

* Index crimes by alcohol consumption
at time of arrest in percentage

Offense	Alcohol Consumption		Non-alcohol Consumption		Total	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Burglary	25	(54.3%)	21	(45.7%)	46	(100%)
Felony Theft	3	(33.3%)	6	(66.7%)	9	(100%)
Auto Theft	6	(66.7%)	3	(33.3%)	9	(100%)
Rape	0	(00.0%)	0	(00.0%)	0	(000%)
Murder	2	(100%)	0	(00.0%)	2	(100%)
Aggravated Assault	1	(100%)	0	(00.0%)	1	(100%)
Robbery	2	(50.0%)	2	(50.0%)	4	(100%)
Total	39	54.9%	32	45.1%	71	100%

*Index crimes as defined and used in the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports.

In Table 3 the variable of index crime was presented and the frequencies for those who consumed alcohol at the time of the offense and those who had not consumed alcohol at the time of the offense were noted. Since there was a small population of each index crime, statistical justification necessitates the subdivision of this variable.

INDEX CRIME

The index crime was subdivided into crimes against property and crimes against persons. The crimes against property category included the felony offenses of burglary, felony theft, and auto theft. The crimes against persons category included the felony offenses of rape, murder, aggravated assault, and robbery. Both groups were tabulated to see whether or not they had consumed alcohol prior to the commission of the offense.

TABLE 4

Index crimes against property and persons
by alcohol consumption at time of arrest in percentages

Offense	Alcohol Consumption		Non-Alcohol Consumption		Total	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Property	34	(53.1%)	30	(46.9%)	64	(100%)
Persons	5	(71.4%)	2	(28.6%)	7	(100%)
Total	39	54.9%	32	45.1	71	100%
$\chi^2 = 0.85$ $df = 1$ $\phi = .109$ $P > .05$						

Chi-square (χ^2) = 0.85 and is less than 3.84, with one degree of freedom, at the .05 level of significance. Therefore, the difference is not significant and the null hypothesis is accepted.

The phi-coefficient and chi-square tests were used on the

data of Table 4. Since the chi-square was not greater than the critical value at the .05 level of significance, there was not a significant difference between persons who consumed alcohol at the time of the offense and those that did not consume alcohol at the time of the offense.

Property crimes seem to show minor differences between alcohol consumers and non-alcohol consumers at the time of the offense as reflected by Table 4. There are approximately 6 percentage points difference between the two groups. However, there is a major difference indicated of 42.8 percentage points between alcohol consumers and non-consumers at time of offense on crimes against persons. More crimes against persons are committed by alcohol consumers as reflected in Table 4. Offenders committing crimes against persons are more likely to be arrested than those committing property crimes. One must also keep in mind the low sample number in making any conclusions in this study. Therefore, no major differences seem significant as indicated by the chi-square results.

AGE

The age variable was selected because of the literature review. The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society states that when all offenses are considered together; the majority of offenders arrested are white, male, and over twenty-four years of age. For many other crimes the peak age of criminality occurs below twenty-four years of age. The peak age for burglary and auto theft is between fifteen and seventeen years of age. For crimes of violence the peak years are those from eighteen to twenty years of age. Of those persons on probation the median age of arrest was 29.2, and

approximately three-fourths of those sampled were between the ages of
¹
 eighteen and thirty-four.

TABLE 5

Age of felony probationers by
 alcohol consumption in percentages

Age of Offenders	Alcohol Consumers		Non-Alcohol Consumers		Total	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Age 17-25	33	(55.9%)	26	(44.1%)	59	(100%)
Age 26 - older	6	(50.0%)	6	(50.0%)	12	(100%)
Total	39	54.9%	32	45.1%	71	100%

²
 $X = 2.76$ $df = 1$ $\phi = .446$ $P \geq .05$

In the analysis of the age variable the obtained phi-coefficient and chi-square was less than the critical value at the .05 level of significance. There were no significant differences among the felony probationers who were in the seventeen to twenty-five year old group and twenty-six and older age group, who did or did not consume alcohol at the time of offense. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

¹

Nicholas deB. Katzenback, Chairman, The Challenge of Crime In A Free Society: A Report by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1967) pp. 44-45.

In the younger age group (17-25) comparisons of the alcohol consumers and non-consumers at the time of the offense reflected an 11.8 percent difference in which no major significance can be drawn. In the older age group (26 and older), there were no differences at all as reflected by Table 5. Once again, one must keep in mind the small study sample before any conclusion can be drawn, and again no major significance supports the chi-square results.

Prior Arrests

This variable was chosen because of the significant value it has on crime analysis, which indicates that a significant portion of crime is committed by repeat offenders. The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that more than 66 percent of all persons in the United States have previous arrest or conviction records.¹ Marvin Wolfgang's study on homicides showed that 64 percent of the offenders and 47 percent of the victims had prior arrests.²

1

Robert C. Flowers, 1976 Criminal Justice Plan for Texas, (Texas Criminal Justice Division, 1975) p. 27.

2

Nicholas deB. Katzenback, Chairman, Task Force Report: Drunkenness from the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1967) p. 41.

TABLE 6

Prior arrests of felony probationers by alcohol consumption
at time of arrest in percentage

Prior Arrest Offenders	Alcohol Consumers		Non-Alcohol Consumers		Total	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Yes	29	(53.7%)	25	(46.3%)	54	(100%)
No	10	(58.8%)	7	(41.2%)	17	(100%)
Total	39	54.9%	32	45.1%	71	100%
$\chi^2 = 1.37$		df = 1	Phi = .139		P > .05	

In Table 6 the phi-coefficient and chi-square values were less than the critical value at the .05 level of significance. Therefore, there was no significant difference between felony probationers who had consumed alcohol at the time of offense and those felony probationers who had not consumed alcohol at the time of the offense.

Of those offenders who had a prior record and consumed alcohol or did not consume alcohol at the time of the offense there was only a 7.4 percent difference between them. Of those offenders who did not have a prior record and consumed alcohol or did not consume alcohol at the time of the offense there was a 17.6 percent difference. There were slightly more offenders who did not have a prior arrest record committing an offense than those who had a pre-

vious arrest record. One must keep in mind the low number in the study sample, and that there were no significant differences in the chi-square results.

Military

The military variable was chosen to see if there was any significance between the existence of military history over those that had no service experience.

TABLE 7

Prior military service of offenders
by alcohol consumption in percentage

Prior Military Service of Offenders	Alcohol Consumers		Non-Alcohol Consumers		Total	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Yes	8	(44.4%)	10	(55.6%)	18	(100%)
No	31	(58.5%)	22	(41.5%)	53	(100%)
Total	39	54.9%	32	45.1%	71	100%

$\chi^2 = 1.07$ $df = 1$ $\phi = .388$ $P > .05$

The military variable stated that there were no significant differences among military experience of felony probationers, who had consumed alcohol at the time of the offense as compared to the felony probationers, who had not consumed alcohol at the time of the offense. The phi-coefficient and chi-square tests showed no significant difference at the critical level (.05) of confidence; therefore, the null hypothesis

was accepted.

In both groups of prior military service there were slight differences in percentage points. Those who had prior military experience had an 11.2 percent difference between those who had not consumed alcohol and those who had consumed alcohol at the time of the offense. There was a 17 percent difference between those who had no prior military record and consumed alcohol and those who had not consumed alcohol at the time of offense. Once again, the degree of difference was slight and as the chi-square results indicated, no significant results were evident in Table 7.

Employment Skills

The employment of the probationer at the time of the offense was chosen as a significant variable because of the abundance of related research, such as the Second Special Report to the United States Congress on Alcohol and Health in 1974. The economic effects and cost have been estimated at 9.35 billion dollars through loss of production of the goods. Services could be attributed to the reduced productivity of alcohol-¹troubled male workers which could lead to unemployment. A significant correlation between unemployment and crime was drawn in a 1972 national jail survey conducted by United States Bureau of Census. The survey reported that two out of every five inmates were unemployed before commit-²ment, and 20 percent of those employed had worked only part time.

1

Morris E. Chafetz, Chairman, United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Special Report to the United States Congress on Alcohol and Health, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1974), p. 51.

2

Flowers, Ibid., p. 27.

TABLE 8

Employment status of offenders by alcohol consumption
at time of arrest in percentage

Employment of Offenders	Alcohol Consumers		Non-Alcohol Consumers		Total	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Employed	17	(56.7%)	13	(43.3%)	30	(100%)
Unemployed	22	(53.7%)	19	(46.3%)	41	(100%)
Total	39	54.9%	32	45.1%	71	100%

$\chi^2 = 0.63$ $df = 1$ $\phi = .094$ $P > .05$

The employment of alcohol consumers and non-consumers at the time of offense was not significant enough to reject the null hypothesis. Phi-coefficient and chi-square scores obtained were less than the critical value at the .05 level of significance; therefore, there were no significant differences in the employment variable.

The variable of employment status of offenders who had consumed alcohol at the time of the offense differed 13.4 percent from those who had not consumed alcohol as shown in Table 8. This difference could have resulted by having the means to purchase alcohol. However, the unemployed who had consumed alcohol at the time of the offense only had a 7.4 percent difference from the non-consumers of alcohol

at the time of the offense. Thus having employment does not indicate major significance whether an individual will commit an offense. Again, this is a small study sample, and there was no significant difference in the chi-square results.

Occupational Level

The variable of occupational level was selected due to its relation to the literature reviewed. A study conducted by Thomas A. Reppetto on residential crime showed that most of the burglars that were interviewed fell into the category of semi-skilled. As a group, nearly 80 percent of the sample had never earned more than \$200.00¹ a week in a legitimate occupation.

The American Correctional System in 1965 handled nearly 1.3 million offenders on an average day and had 2.5 million admissions in the course of the year. Over half of the felony inmates in 1960 had no high school education and compared to the general population, there was a ratio of three times as many unskilled laborers incarcerated.²

Marvin E. Wolfgang's, Studies in Homicide, indicated that in both groups (victims and offenders) that were studied; the victims as well as the offenders consisted primarily of unskilled workers. The occupations in this group required no special skills or training.³

¹ Thomas A. Reppetto, Residential Crime, Cambridge, Mass.: Ballinger Publishing Company, 1974, p. 14.

² Pavloff, Ibid., p. 1.

³ Wolfgang, Ibid., p. 91.

TABLE 9

Occupational skills of felony probationer by alcohol consumption at time of arrest in percentage

Offender	Alcohol Consumers		Non-Alcohol Consumers		Total	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Skilled	12	(44.4%)	15	(55.6%)	27	(100%)
Unskilled	27	(61.4%)	17	(38.6%)	44	(100%)
Total	39	54.9%	32	45.1%	71	100%

$\chi^2 = 1.93$ $df = 1$ $\phi = .552$ $P > .05$

The occupational level tested with the phi-coefficient and chi-square as presented in Table 9 shows no significances in the obtained value. The value was less than the critical value at the .05 level of significance. Therefore, no significant differences in occupational levels among the skilled and unskilled worker whether consumer or non-consumer of alcohol at the time of the offense was apparent. Consequently, the null hypothesis indicates that there were no significant differences.

In Table 9, an 11.2 percent difference can be associated between the skilled non-alcohol consumer and the skilled alcohol consumer at the time of the offense. However, there is a 22.8 percent difference between an unskilled alcohol consumer and an unskilled non-alcohol consumer at the time of the offense.

The unskilled felony probationer who consumed alcohol at the time of the offense may have committed the offense to obtain money. No major conclusion can be drawn due to the small study sample, and again the chi-square results indicate the acceptance of the null hypothesis.

Education

Education seemed to be an important variable in this study, for the literature indicated that the "responsibility for crime prevention extends beyond criminal justice system boundaries." Eliminating crime would require action designed to eliminate slums and ghettos, to improve education, and to provide jobs. Education seems to be a key factor in curbing the crime rate.

TABLE 10

Education of felony offenders by alcohol consumption
at time of arrest in percentage

Education of Offenders	Alcohol Consumers		Non-Alcohol Consumers		Total	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
High School	9	(37.5%)	15	(62.5%)	24	(100%)
No High School	30	(63.8%)	17	(36.2%)	47	(100%)
Total	39	54.9%	32	45.1%	71	100%

²
 $\chi^2 = 4.46$ $df = 1$ $\phi = .793$ $P < .05$

¹
 Flowers, Ibid., p. 27.

The educational background data was tested with the phi-coefficient and chi-square tests. Since the obtained chi-square value was greater than the critical value at the .05 level of significance, there was a significant difference among those having a high school education and those that failed to complete high school, when compared to the consumption and non-consumption of alcohol at the time of the offense. The null hypothesis that there was no significant difference is rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis which states that there is a significant difference between the two groups of alcohol consumers and non-consumers at the time of the offense.

Table 10 shows the education variable of the high school graduate who was a non-alcohol consumer at the time of the offense to be 25.0 percent difference from the high school graduate who did consume alcohol at the time of the offense. However, the offender who had not completed high school and was an alcohol consumer at the time of offense had a 27.6 percent difference over the non-alcohol consumer at the time of offense. Table 10 reflects that a larger number of non-high graduates offenders were apprehended. The chi-square results rejected the null hypothesis in this variable.

Marital Status

The marital status variable was selected because the literature suggests that there might be greater stability with a family if this variable existed. A study conducted by the Kentucky Department of Corrections, showed higher rates of previous incarceration and recidivism, and greater marital instability among alcohol related

1
 offenders. Alcohol studies indicate that separated persons have
 2
 greater problem-drinking rates than single and divorced persons.

TABLE 11

Marital status of offenders by alcohol consumption
 at time of arrest in percentage

Marital Status of Offenders	Alcohol Consumers		Non-Alcohol Consumers		Total	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Married	15	(53.6%)	13	(46.4%)	28	(100%)
Non-Married	24	(55.8%)	19	(44.2%)	43	(100%)
Total	39	54.9%	32	45.1%	71	100%

2
 $\chi^2 = 3.19$ df = 1 phi = .067 P > .05

The marital status observed on the results of the phi-coefficient and chi-square value was less than the critical value at the .05 level of significance. Thus, there was no significant difference between the married and the non-married who had consumed alcohol and those who had not consumed alcohol at the time of the offense. The null hypothesis, that there will be no significant difference, is therefore accepted.

1
Kentucky Department of Corrections, Study on Alcohol Related Offenders in Kentucky, 1972, pp. 1-8.

2
Morris E. Chafetz, Second Special Report to the United States Congress on Alcohol and Health, 1974, p. 32.

In Table 11 there was a 7.2 percent difference between the married alcohol consumers and non-consumers at the time of the offense.

In the non-married group, there was a slightly larger percent difference. The non-married group had a 11.6 percent difference between the alcohol consumer and non-consumer of alcohol at the time of the offense. One must remember that the chi-square results were not significant and that there was a small study sample.

Sex

The sex variable was selected because most of the studies reviewed in the literature were studies based on males or females. Most of the studies conducted on incarcerated persons were that of males. However, the literature on alcoholism indicates increasing alcoholism in females as well as men. The proportion of adult women who drink has been increasing steadily since World War II, and the results of recent surveys indicate that this trend is continuing. The highest proportion of heavier drinkers occurred among men ages eighteen to twenty years of age and thirty-five to thirty-nine years of age. Women aged twenty-one to twenty-nine years of age also have a high proportion of heavy drinkers.

1

Chafetz, Ibid., p. 12.

TABLE 12

Sex of offenders by alcohol consumption
at time of arrest in percentage

Sex of Offender	Alcohol Consumers		Non-Alcohol Consumers		Total	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Male	37	(57.8%)	27	(42.2%)	64	(100%)
Female	2	(28.6%)	5	(71.4%)	7	(100%)
Total	39	54.9%	32	45.1%	71	100%

$\chi^2 = 1.70$ $df = 1$ $\phi = .175$ $P > .05$

The sex variable based on the phi-coefficient and the chi-square value was less than the critical value of the .05 level of significance. Thus, there were no significant differences among male and female alcohol consumers and non-consumers at the time of the offense. The null hypothesis stated that there were no significant differences between consumers and non-consumers of alcohol; therefore, the null is accepted.

In Table 12 the variable of sex was compared between the male and female offenders. The male offenders who had consumed alcohol at the time of offense had a 15.6 percent difference between the male offenders who had not consumed alcohol at the time of the offense. However, the female offenders who had not consumed alcohol at the time

of the offense had a 42.8 percent difference between the female offenders who had consumed alcohol at the time of the offense. Due to the acceptance of the null hypothesis and the small study sample, little can be drawn from the comparison.

Ethnicity

The ethnic variable was selected because the literature reveals that most of the studies show ethnic breakdowns in presenting the results. The association between the criminal population of a neighborhood and its racial composition is often noted. The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society states that the ethnic factor is almost as important as that of sex in determining whether a person is likely to be arrested and imprisoned for an offense. Many more whites than blacks are arrested every year, but blacks have a significantly higher rate of arrest in every offense category except certain offenses against public order and morals. In general, the disparity between races for offenses of violence is much greater than the comparable differences between the races for offenses against property. The President's Commission is of the view that if conditions of equal opportunity prevailed, the large differences now found between black and white arrest rates would disappear.¹

In the ethnic variable the data was collected on all three ethnic groups (black, Anglo, and Mexican-American). However, because of the very low frequency of blacks, only the Anglo and Mexican-American

1

Nicholas deB. Katzenback, The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society: A Report by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1967) p. 44.

1

American groups were compared.

TABLE 13

Ethnicity of Offenders by Alcohol Consumption
at Time of Arrest in Percentage

Ethnicity of Offenders	Alcohol Consumers		Non-Alcohol Consumers		Total	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Anglo	10	(43.5%)	13	(56.5%)	23	(100%)
Mexican-American	27	(58.7%)	19	(41.3%)	46	(100%)
*Black	2	(100%)	0	(00.0%)	2	(100%)
Total	37	53.6%	32	46.4%	69	100%

²
 $\chi^2 = 1.44$ $df = 1$ $\phi = .455$ $P > .05$

* For purposes of statistical testing, black offenders were deleted due to the low frequency.

The ethnic variable was tested by the phi-coefficient and chi-square tests and the null hypotheses was accepted. The obtained chi-square was less than the critical value at the .05 level of significance. There was no significant difference among Anglos and

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Blacks make up 4.7% of the population in Nueces County. Had this been a random sample of the population, 3.33 blacks would have been tested in the sample. In actuality there were 2; therefore, blacks were under represented in the study sample. Also, the contingency table contained a zero cell which would have biased the chi-square results.

and Mexican-Americans who had consumed alcohol and those who had not consumed alcohol at the time of the offense.

There was a 13 percent difference in the Anglo offenders who had consumed alcohol at the time of the offense when compared to the Anglo offenders who had not consumed alcohol at the time of the offense. However, there was a 17.4 percent difference between the Mexican-American offenders who had consumed alcohol at the time of the offense than those who had not consumed alcohol at the time of the offense. The results of Table 13 show that the Mexican-American offenders are more likely to get caught when having consumed alcohol than the Anglo offender. To check this, a chi-square test was conducted on the offenders of the two ethnic groups from the actual 1970 census population. Table 14 was calculated by a chi-square¹ formula as suggested by Allen L. Bernstein.

1

Allen L. Bernstein, A Handbook of Statistics Solutions for the Behavioral Sciences, New York: Holt, Rinehard and Winston, Inc., 1964, pp. 17-18.

TABLE 14

Ethnicity of Offenders in Nueces County
in Percentages as to The 1970 Census

Population	Anglo Percentage	Spanish Percentage	*Black Percentage	Other	Total
1970 Nueces County Cen- sus	50.6%	43.6%	4.7%	1.1%	100%
1977 Offend- er caseload	32.4%	64.8%	2.8%	0%	100%

Anglo Population $\chi^2 = 3.98$ $df = 1$ $P > .05$ level of significance.

Mexican-American Population $\chi^2 = 4.14$ $df = 1$ $P > .05$ level of significance.

* For statistical analyzation the black population was deleted due to small study sample.

Table 14 seems to indicate that more Mexican-Americans than Anglos were arrested based on the population tabulation. The chi-square results seem to be statistically significant supporting evidence that more Mexican-Americans in Nueces County are arrested than Anglos.

Some suggested reasons for this are as follows:

1. ethnic biases in arrest decisions,
2. differential access to criminal defense resources, and
3. ethnic biases by police who patrol more frequently the Mexican-American populated areas.

In conclusion, the preceding variables have been presented and discussed because of their possible relevance in regard to the probationers, whether consumer or non-consumer of alcohol. Additional analysis of this data will now be discussed.

In the preceding analysis of socioeconomic and demographic variables, the findings indicated no significant differences between alcohol consumers and non-consumers except for one variable. The education variable was significant at the .05 level of showing a significant difference between the groups examined; whereas, the socioeconomic variables of employment, marital status, occupational level, and military history showed no differences in the findings. The demographic variables of age, ethnicity, index crimes, prior arrests, and sex also showed no significant differences in the findings.

The literature review indicated that alcohol plays a significant relationship between socioeconomic and demographic variables in relation to crimes. Marvin E. Wolfgang suggests that a "bundle of other variables is commonly collected in homicide studies", including references to marital status, broken homes, level of intelligence, police-recorded motives, and presence of alcohol. ¹ The Second Special Report to the United States Congress on Alcohol and Health also suggests associ-
2
ation with alcohol and major crimes such as murder, assaults, and rapes.

1

Marvin E. Wolfgang, Studies in Homicide, New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1967, p. 9.

2

Morris E. Chafetz, Chairman, United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Second Special Report to the United States Congress on Alcohol and Health, 1974, p. 54.

L.M. Shupe concluded that 64 percent of his study sample of 882 individuals were "under the influence of alcohol to such an extent that their inhibitions were reduced."¹

Excessive drinking is a significant fact in the commission of crimes. Harrison Trice further supported the idea that alcohol acts to reduce the learned inhibitions as Shupe illustrated in his study.²

However, the findings of this study sample indicate otherwise. The findings are that alcohol does not show a significant relationship between consumers of alcohol at the time of offense, and the non-consumers of alcohol at the time of offense. The Task Force Report also suggests that we have not yet reached the stage where we can be sure of our in-³ferences, therefore, we have to restrict our generalizations. For example, homicide is associated with drinking more than with alcoholism. Donald W. Goodwin has suggested that "most studies indicate that about half of both homicide offenders and victims had been drinking at the time of the crime."⁴ Alcoholism is rarely diagnosed in homicide offenders; consequently, although drinking contributes to homicide, alcoholism may not.

1

L.M. Shupe, "Alcohol and Crime: A Study of Urine Alcohol Concentration Found in 882 Persons Arrested During or Immediately After Commission of a Felony." Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science, 1954, pp. 661-664.

2

Harrison Trice, Alcoholism in America, 1956, p. 2.

3

Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, Chairman, Task Force Report: Drunkenness from the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1967) p. 43.

4

Donald W. Goodwin, "Alcohol in Suicide and Homicide", Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol, Volume 34, No. 1, (March 1973) pp. 144-154.

The findings in this study support this idea that even though drinking of alcohol did occur in the study population at the time of the offense, it did not appear that such drinking was clearly alcoholism. Although drinking of alcohol may have contributed to the offenses, it was not statistically significant in terms of the study variables.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The problem addressed by this study was to compare two groups of adult felony probationers. The comparison was between those who had consumed alcohol and those who had not consumed alcohol at the time of the offense. Ten different variables on the seventy-one probationers were tested. There were no significant differences between those who had consumed alcohol at the time of the offense and those who had not with the exception of the variable education. The variable of education had a significant difference between those who had consumed alcohol and those who had not consumed alcohol at the time of the offense.

Summary

The purpose of this study was to contribute to the broad realm of alcohol and crime related research by identifying any significant relationships between consumers of alcohol and non-consumers of alcohol at the time a felony offense was committed.

The subjects in this study consisted of Nueces County adult felony probationers placed on probation during the first quarter of 1977. Out of the 116 persons who were placed on felony probation, only the persons who had committed one out of the seven major index crimes were selected. The studied population consisted of seventy-one index crime violators. The index crimes included were burglary, felony theft, auto theft, rape, murder, aggravated assault, and robbery. For statistical purposes the index crimes were subdivided into two categories. The category of crimes against property included the offenses of burglary, felony

theft, and auto theft. The category of crimes against persons included the offenses of rape, murder, aggravated assault, and robbery.

After each person was placed on probation, an intake maintenance questionnaire was taken (see Appendix A). The information was compiled for statistical analysis. The phi-coefficient and chi-square (James L. Bruning, B.L. Kintz 1968) tests were employed to determine any significant differences between alcohol consumers and non-consumers at the time of the offense.

Chi-square was used to determine any significant differences which existed between the two groups (alcohol consumers and non-alcohol consumers) at the time of the offense with the variables of age, index crime, education, employment, ethnic origin, marital status, military experience, occupational level, prior arrest, and sex.

Conclusions

In the final analysis, it was interesting to note that based on this study there were no significant differences between alcohol consumers and non-alcohol consumers at the time of arrest in respect to the variables of age, index crime, employment, ethnic origin, marital status, military experience, occupational level, prior arrest, or sex. Alcohol was not a significant factor when employing the cited variables. Only in one instance did alcohol show a significant difference; that being education. There were nine felony probationers who had consumed alcohol and completed a high school education, in comparison to thirty felony probationers who had not completed high school. Moreover, there were fifteen felony probationers who had not consumed alcohol and had

completed their high school education, in comparison to seventeen felony probationers who had not completed high school.

Due to the non-parametric testing and incidental sampling which was used in this study, it is important to note that generalization is limited to this population. However, the study hopefully contributed to existing literature on crime and alcohol.

Recommendations

The field of crime and alcohol needs further investigation. The following are future recommendations for the field of crime and alcohol:

1. Additional research is needed such as a longitudinal study to determine long-range effects of alcohol consumers and non-consumers at the time of the offense.
2. An experimental study with a control group employing random sampling needs to be utilized.
3. A correlation study with additional statistics to show relationships is recommended with both control and experimental group.
4. A questionnaire should be developed to explore the background of alcohol and non-alcohol offenders.
5. All areas of alcohol in relation to crime need further research.
6. The null hypothesis stated that there will be no significant differences in the characteristics of two groups of adult felony probationers convicted of index crimes (burglary, felony theft, rape, murder, aggressive assault, robbery, auto theft). These groups are defined

as alcohol consumers and non-consumers at the time of offense as determined by the use of the intake questionnaire and probationers could be tested in other probation departments in the United States.

7. Future study is suggested to explore education and alcohol in depth.

8. Factorial analysis should be employed in studying the 116 variables of the intake form.

The final conclusion can be drawn that alcohol may be an important factor as some literature has suggested. However, this study confirmed what the literature suggested; namely, that alcohol may have little bearing in the relationship between alcohol and crime.

It is difficult to do good work in any field and, when good work in social inquiry or science is done, it must lead to further questions and, necessarily, awareness of what we have not learned from what has been done before. The field of studies of alcohol involvement in crime is no different. ¹

1

Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, Chairman, Task Force: Drunkenness from the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1967), p. 43.

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APPENDIX A

Intake Questionnaire

CARD 1 2 3 8 9 14 15 38

CAUSE NUMBER DEFENDANT (LAST NAME FIRST)

- CRIME INDEX (69)
1. Burglary
 2. Theft (felony)
 3. Rape
 4. Murder
 5. Aggravated Assault
 6. Robbery
 7. Auto Theft
 8. Other

CARD 1 2 3 8 9 14 15 16 17 18 20 21 22 27 28 30 31 36

DATE OF BIRTH SX DJ JDG APO DATE OF PROBATION T.O.P. DATE OF DISCHARGE

39 44 45 48 52 57 58 59 62 68 69 70 71 72

COURT COSTS PROB. FEES DATE OF CLOSURE PSI RESTITUTION FINE

CARD 1 2 3 8 9 14 15 20 21 26 27 29 30 31 32 33 35

DATE OF OFFENSE DATE OF ARREST DATE CONVICTED SENTENCE JURY TRIAL SENTENCED BY? STATUS AT TIME DAYS DETAINED

(FOUND GUILTY) (MONTHS)

36 39 39 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

PROSEC. - DEFENSE (INITIALS OF EACH) A = Appointed R = Retained PRIOR ARRESTS (AT LEAST?) EVER ON JUV. STATE SCHOOL? EVER SENT TO PROBATION? PRIOR MISD. PROBATIONS MISDEMEANOR CONVICTIONS PRIOR FELONY PROBATIONS TIMES IN PRISON

51 53 54 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 73

PRECINCT OF PRECINCT FORWAL EDUC. HIGHEST DIPLOMA MILITARY YEAR DISCH. TYPE OF DISCH. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Years None NO = No

74 75

TEXT = Out of County
XXX = Out of State

G = GED B = Baech.
H = H.S. M = Masters
A = Assoc. P = Ph.D.

AR = Army AF = Air Force
CG = Coast Guard
MA = Marines
NA = Navy
MM = Merchant Marines

H = Honorable
D = Dishonorable
U = Undestrable
A = Active Duty
N = Does not apply

NUMBER OF CODEPENDANTS/ ACCOMPLICES

APPENDIX B

Definitions of
Questionnaire

OFFENDER PROFILE - CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD

The Nueces County Adult Probation Department is in the process of computerizing offender profiles. The following forms are being used for all felony cases as of January 1, 1977, during the initial intake by the probation officers.

- ITEM 1 Refers to the computer card number - #1.
- 2 CARD CODE - There are three categories: N = New, C = Some item needs to be changed or parts of information needs to be changed, X = Delete whole information.
- 3-8 CASE NUMBER - The count number assigned by the adult probation department for computer simplification. The following prefix letters are used in classifying the case numbers:
Prefix D - designates a District Court case.
Prefix T - case transferred in from another county or state for courtesy supervision.
Prefix O - designates a County Court at Law case.
- 9-14 CAUSE NUMBER - District Court cause numbers are simplified for computer purposes. For example, a typical cause number may be 77-CR-123-A, but for computer purposes is reduced to 077123. County Court at Law cause numbers need not be simplified as they are already five digit numbers. If the original jurisdiction is transferred from another county to Nueces County, it will be designated by the prefix letter "T" in place of the prefix "O".
- 15-38 DEFENDANT'S NAME - last name first.
- 39-68 OFFENSE - self-explanatory
- 69 C.I. - Crime Index. Index crime as approved by the Texas Criminal Justice System taken from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Index Crime for classification of major offenses. These include the following: homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft, auto theft, and others.
- 70 INDICTMENT - Y = Yes, N = No. Indicates whether or not the case was indicted by the grand jury.
- 71-72 AGE AT TIME OF SENTENCING - self-explanatory.
- ITEM 1 Refers to the computer card number - #2.
- 2-8 REPETITIOUS - see 1 - 8 CARD 1.
- 9-14 DATE OF BIRTH - Month, Day, Year.
- 15 SEX AND ETHNIC CODE: eight classifications as to sex - male or female and ethnic code: Anglo/Male = 1, Anglo/Female = 2, Mexican American-Chicano/Male = 3, Mexican American-Chicano/Female = 4, Black/Male = 5, Black/Female = 6, Other/Male = 7, Other/Female = 8.
- 16 DEGREE OF OFFENSE - DG. Indicates whether the case is a felony (F), misdemeanor (M), deferred adjudication (D), conditional discharge (C).
- 17-18 INITIALS OF SENTENCING JUDGE.
- 19 DROPPED FOR COMPUTER PURPOSES.
- 20 APO - Initials of probation officer supervising the case.
- 22-27 DATE OF PROBATION - Date defendant placed on probation - Month, Day, Year.
- 28-30 L.O.P. - Length of Probation. The number of months probation the Court assessed the defendant.

- 31-36 DATE OF DISCHARGE - The maximum date expected to terminate as determined by the length of probation.
- 37-38 SKIP FOR COMPUTER PURPOSES
- 39-40 COURT COST - Monetary figure that the Judge assessed the defendant to pay for the expenses of the court.
- 45-48 PROBATION FEES - monthly fee assessed by the Judge for probation supervision.
- 52-57 DATE OF CLOSURE - date of which the case has been closed - (early termination, satisfactory completion, unsatisfactory completion, termination by reason of another conviction, probation was revoked or deceased. See 58 - 59).
- 58-59 PSI - Presentence Investigation Results. See attached status codes.
- 62-68 RESTITUTION - Monetary figure assessed the defendant for any damages, money owed or expenses to the injured parties or victims by the defendant.
- 69-75 FINE - self-explanatory.
- ITEM 1 Refers to the computer card number - #3.
- 2-8 REPITITIOUS - see 1 - 8 CARD 1.
- 9-14 DATE OF OFFENSE - self-explanatory (Month, Day, Year.)
- 15-20 DATE OF ARREST - Self-explanatory (Month, Day, Year.)
- 21-26 DATE OF CONVICTION - Date on which the defendant was found guilty in court.
- 27-29 SENTENCE MONTHS - Sentence that the Judge assessed the defendant in months.
- 30 JURY TRIAL - Indicates whether or not the defendant had a jury trial.
- 31 SENTENCED BY THE COURT OR JURY - Indicates whether the defendant was convicted by the Court or jury.
- 32 STATUS AT TIME OF SENTENCING - "B" or "J". Indicates whether the defendant was on Bond before going to Court or in Jail.
- 33-35 DAYS DETAINED PRIOR TO SENTENCING - Indicates number of days the defendant was held in jail before being sentenced.
- 36-38 PROSECUTOR'S INITIALS - self-explanatory.
- 39-41 DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S INITIALS - self-explanatory.
- 42 DEFENSE ATTORNEY APPOINTED (A) OR RETAINED (R).
- 43-44 NUMBER OR PRIOR ARRESTS - Indicates the number of times defendant has been arrested.
- 45 EVER ON JUVENILE PROBATION - Y = Yes, N = No. Indicates prior record.
- 47 PRIOR MISDEMEANOR PROBATIONS - Indicates prior record.
- 48 MISDEMEANOR CONVICTIONS - Indicates prior record.
- 49 NUMBER OF PRIOR FELONY PROBATIONS - Indicates prior record.
- 50 TIMES IN PRISON - Indicates prior record.

- 51-53 PRECINCT RESIDENCE AT TIME OF OFFENSE - Indicates the precinct number in which the defendant resided at the time the offense or: TEX = Out of County, XXX = Out of State.
- 57-58 FORMAL EDUCATION COMPLETED - Indicates the highest year level completed.
- 59 HIGHEST DIPLOMA - Indicates academic achievement by the following codes: G = obtained G.E.D., H = High School diploma, A = Associates Degree, B = Bachelor's Degree, M = Master's Degree, P = Ph.D.
- 60-61 MILITARY - Indicates military history by following codes: AR = Army, AF = Air Force, CG = Coast Guard, MA = Marines, NA = Navy, MM = Merchant Marines, N = None.
- 62-63 YEAR DISCHARGED - Year discharged from military (self-explanatory).
- 64 TYPE OF DISCHARGE FROM MILITARY - Indicated by the following codes: H = Honorable Discharge, D = Dishonorable, U = Undesirable, A = Active, N = Does not apply.
- 65-73 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER - Self-explanatory.
- 74-75 NUMBER OF CO-DEFENDANTS OR ACCOMPLICES - self-explanatory.
- ITEM 1 Refers to the computer card number - #4
- 2-8 REPETITIOUS - see 1 - 8 CARD 1.
- 9 OCCUPATIONAL LEVEL - Indicated by the following codes: U = Unskilled, S = Skilled, T = Semi-skilled, P = Professional.
- 10 EMPLOYMENT AT TIME OF OFFENSE - Indicated by following codes: E = Full time, P = Part time, U = Unemployed, S = Student, O = Other.
- 11 EMPLOYMENT AT TIME OF SENTENCE - Indicated by the following codes: (See 10 above).
- 12-14 TENURE OF LAST JOB - Indicated in months.
- 15-17 TENURE OF LONGEST JOB - Indicated in months.
- 18 LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AT TIME OF OFFENSE - Indicated by following codes: A = Alone, P = Parents, S = Spouse, R = Relatives, F = Friends, O = Other.
- 19 LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AT TIME OF SENTENCE - Indicated by following codes: (See above).
- 20 MARITAL STATUS AT TIME OF OFFENSE - Indicated by following codes: A = Single, C = Common Law, M = Married, S = Separated, D = Divorced, W = Widowed.
- 21 MARITAL STATUS AT TIME OF SENTENCE - Indicated by following codes: (See above)
- 22 TIMES MARRIED - self-explanatory.
- 23-25 TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN - self-explanatory.
- 26 DOES OFFENDER SUPPORT CHILDREN WHEN RESPONSIBLE - Indicates the defendant's custody or child support obligations. Codes: Y = Yes, N = No, P = Partly, D = Does not have to, Z = Does not apply, X = Unknown.
- 27 IS OFFENDER MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED - Indicated by the following codes: N = No, M = Mental, P = Physical, B = Both.

- 28 DOES HANDICAP CAUSE UNEMPLOYABILITY - Indicated by following codes: Y = Yes, N = No, S = Some, Z = Does not apply.
- 29 DOES OFFENDER RECEIVE ANY - Indicate any assistance from the following agencies as a means of income: A = Aid to Families with Dependent Children, B = Welfare, C = Combination, D = Disability, S = Social Security, P = Other, N = No.
- 30-31 NATURAL PARENTS - (Mother) (Father) - Indicates status of parents by following codes: X = Father or mother unknown to the probationer, M = Married to each other, S = separated, V = Divorced, W = Widowed, R = Remarried, D = Deceased, O = Other.
- 32-33 STEP PARENTS (Mother) (Father) Indicate if parents is either a step father or step mother by following codes: Y = Yes, N = No, Z = Does not apply.
- 34-35 NUMBER OF SIBLINGS - Indicate the numbers of brothers or sisters.
- 36-40 Apply to the question of a possible crime record for the Dad, Mom, siblings, mate and children by following codes: N = No, A = Arrested before, C = Juvenile record, M = Misdemeanor probation, F = Felony probation, P = Prison Record, X = Unknown, Z = Does not apply.
- 41-48 Using codes: A = Alcohol, D = Drugs, E = Employed, H = Health, Indicate the following answers to parental drug, employment and health status: Y = Yes, N = No, S = Suspected, Z = Does not apply, G = Good, X = Unknown, P = Poor.
- 49-75 Using Codes: A = Alcohol, H = Heroin, M = Methadone, G = Grass/marijuana/THC, U = Uppers, D = Downers, S = Sniffing Inhalents, C = Cocaine.
- 49-57 Indicate usage of offender at any time.
- 58-66 Indicate Usage at time of offense.
- 67-75 Indicate whether offender is still using periodically.
Indicate by following answers: Y = Yes, N = No, S = Suspected, X = Unknown.
- 76-77 Alcoholic=(A), (H)=Heroin Addict. Indicate by following codes: Y = Yes, N = No, S = Suspected, X = Unknown.
- 78-80 BAC or ounces estimated alcohol consumed at time of offense by conversion chart. Determine by converting number of drinks in an hour for person over 150 pounds.

EXAMPLE: # of drinks 4 drinks in hour

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{X } .02 \\ \hline \text{1st hour} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{X } .02 \\ \hline \text{.08\% in 1 hour.} \end{array}$$

2nd hour subtract .02% for each hour consumption time.

EXAMPLE:
$$\begin{array}{r} .6\% \\ \text{X } .02 \\ \hline .12 \\ \hline -.02 \\ \hline .10\% \text{ BAC after two hours.} \end{array}$$

Persons weighing less than 150 pounds

1st hour - multiply number of drinks in hour by .03%.
 2nd hour - subtract .03 for each hour consumption time.

Vita redacted during scanning.