

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
INITIAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM:  
DESIGN AND VALIDATION**

**FINAL REPORT**

Prepared by

Patricia L. Hardyman, Ph.D.  
James Austin, Ph.D.

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**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY**

Headquarters Office 665 Market Street, Suite 620 • San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 696-6223 • Fax (415) 896-5109

Midwest Office 6409 Odana Road • Madison, WI 53719  
(608) 274-8882 • Fax (606) 274-3151

East Coast Office 1325 G Street, NW • Suite 1020 • Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 638-3080 • Fax (202) 347-0493

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) was requested by the New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) to assist with the development of an objective inmate classification system. As of 1994, the NJDOC did not have an objective inmate classification system. Instead, the Department has relied upon a subjective classification system that has never been validated for its inmate population. Under this subjective classification process, the primary factors that have determined the custody level of NJDOC inmates have been length of time to be served, current conviction offense(s), presence of a detainer, and prior correctional experience.

The need to develop and implement a structured risk assessment process to objectively classify the inmates has been apparent for some time. This need has been fostered by an ever increasing prison population and the importance of matching inmates to custody levels and programs based upon factors that have been demonstrated to be correlated with institutional adjustment. In recognition of the constitutional issues of equal protection and fundamental fairness, the Department also sought to minimize the potential for litigious actions against the State. The overall goal of this project was to develop a classification system for NJDOC male that was valid, reliable, facilitated the operation of a safe, cost-effective prison system, and ensured public safety.

The specific objectives for the prisoner classification system were as follows:

1. Develop classification criteria that are objective, measurable, and consistent with existing legal standards;
2. Develop classification criteria that are predictive of inmate behavior;
3. Ensure that classification decisions are reliable so that like inmates are similarly classified and that inter-staff decisions are consistent;
4. Ensure that the system is fair and eliminates bias according to race, sex, ethnic identity, etc.; and
5. Develop a system that assigns the least restrictive security level to prisoners commensurate with their risk to the public, NJDOC staff, and other prisoners.

In February of 1993, in order to accomplish these goals and objectives, the Department established the Classification Task Force (Task Force) consisting of five high level institutional administrators, three Deputy Division Directors, and the Assistant Bureau Chief of CICS (Correctional Information Classification Services)... The Task Force was to be supported a Project Team consisting of NJDOC middle management and technical staff (see Appendix A for a listing of the Classification Task Force members).

Because NCCD had provided technical assistance to the Classification Task Force during the early planning stages of the classification systems, NJDOC submitted a proposal to National Institute of Corrections (NIC) requesting that NCCD be retained to provide technical assistance and national expertise on the validation of the initial classification instrument.

## II. WORKPLAN FOR THE OBJECTIVE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

In order to develop an objective classification system that would address the specific organizational needs and population of the NJDOC System a work plan was developed by the Department. The initial phases of activities are described below.

### A. Development of a Preliminary Classification System

This phase incorporated the activities of the NJDOC Task Force and technical/support staff in preparation for the development and implementation of an objective classification system. During the first eight months of 1993, the Project Team completed six major activities:

1. Developed an objective initial classification instrument;
2. Identified specific reasons for over-riding the classification instrument and their corresponding statutory and administrative citations;
3. Developed draft definitions of security and custody levels;
4. Developed a four-phase project plan with milestones and deliverables;
5. Developed and implemented a plan to validate the proposed classification instrument; and
6. Acquired short-term technical assistance from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) in the form of a contract with NCCD to assist in the design, development, validation, and implementation of the objective classification system.

Provided in Appendix B are the proto-type initial classification instrument, the security designation levels, **and the** custody designations that were developed as a result of these

activities. These instruments were based upon a careful review of other classification' systems that are operational in other correctional systems, as well as the expertise of the Classification Task Force members.

#### **B. Pre-Classification System Implementation**

This phase was launched with the NIC contract with NCCD. It was envisioned that it would require four months to complete the following tasks:

1. Analyze the data from the pilot project and make recommendations for final revisions to the instruments for the Task Force's Consideration;
2. Develop policy alternatives on issues such as, classification over-rides, over-ride criteria, work flow processes, approval authority, etc.;
3. Develop written policies, procedures, and training materials;
4. Develop an implementation plan for the IICC process;
5. Develop training materials for IICC module;
6. Review computerization options for the integration of the IICC. and ICC modules in to the Department's existing MIS system; and
7. Develop plans for the ICC system for all reclassifications throughout the NJDOC penal system.

#### **C. Implementation of the Initial Classification Instrument**

This phase was expected to require five to twelve months to complete. The final outcome of this phase would be the implementation of the objective initial classification instrument. Once implemented, all new commitments and parole violators with new

sentences would be classified and housed according to the objective classification process. All technical parole violators would be classified with the proposed re-classification instrument. In order to accomplish this goal, the following tasks needed to be completed:

1. Develop and implement an on-going monitoring and oversight system for the initial classification process;
2. Design and implement an on-going evaluation process to ensure that the IICC process meets the goals for which it was developed;
3. Implement a feedback/trouble shooting process within the NJDOC to identify and monitor IICC problem cases;
4. Design and implement a methodology for development of the ICC module;
5. Automate and integrate the classification system into the NJDOC MIS system; and
6. Develop a plan for utilizing the IICC system data for annual reports, budgets, population forecasting, and public education efforts.

This report documents the work by the Classification Project Team NJDOC staff, and NCCD during the development of an objective classification system that addressed the specific organizational needs and population of the NJDOC System. Two additional phases of work remain: "Implementation of the Institutional Classification Committee (ICC or the Reclassification) Module" and "Automation of the Objective Classification System." These phases are not expected to be completed until 1995 and is beyond the scope of the NIC contract. However, the end of the report describes in greater detail how that work is now progressing.

### **III. METHODOLOGY**

#### **A. Preliminary Design of the Classification System**

During the first phase of the project, the Project Team met twice with the Task Force to review a prototype inmate initial classification instrument. Through-consensus building, the group first identified factors that were associated with institutional misconduct and custody concerns within the NJDOC. To ensure that the system would be objective and equitable, the discussion then focused on those factors that could be explicitly defined and evaluated by the line staff using information that are reliable and readily available during the intake process. Identified for the initial classification process were: 1) the format, 2) the item criteria, 3) item weights, 4) cut-off points for risk scale; and 5) over-ride factors and their corresponding statutory and administrative citations.

#### **B. Validation Study Methodology**

A key task in the development of an objective classification system is a scientific pilot test. Our pilot test entailed the collection of basic demographic, sentencing, classification, and disciplinary data for all male inmates admitted to the prison system for a 'new criminal offense(s) during July and August of 1992.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Parolees returned to prison for a technical violation of the conditions of parole were not included in the sample because these cases are processed by the IICC's as reclassifications rather than as initial classifications.



Data were collected and compiled from approximately 1,296 offender case records. These data were forwarded to NCCD for analyses. Eliminated from this sample were 61 females and 125 cases with faulty and/or incomplete data. The final sample used for the analyses contained 1110 cases. These data are presented and discussed in the following section of this report.

#### IV. INITIAL CLASSIFICATION VALIDATION RESULTS

NCCD prepared a series of three analytic reports based upon the pilot test data. The NJDOC Policy and Planning Division and technical staff reviewed these preliminary reports and verified that the data were representative of the 1992 admissions to the NJ-DOC. Provided in Appendix C are selected characteristics of 1992 adult male admissions to the New Jersey Department of Corrections.

Table 1 provides the most serious current offense for which the 1992 admissions had been incarcerated. These data indicate that 47.1 percent of the males admitted to the NJDOC during July and August, 1992 were for sale/possession of drugs. Person crimes represented 28.3 percent of the new admissions;<sup>2</sup> the majority of the person crimes were robberies (11.3 percent).

The first three items of Table 2 provide a brief look at the demographic characteristics of the sample. We found that most were either Black (61.4 percent) or Hispanic (21.0 percent), with an

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<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this analyses, person crimes included murder, manslaughter, assault, kidnap, sexual assault, robbery, threats, arson, and domestic violence.

TABLE 1

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
PRISON CLASSIFICATION STUDY  
MOST SERIOUS CURRENT OFFENSE OF INMATES**

OFFENSE CATEGORIES	N=1,054	%
<b>Person Crimes</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>28.3</b>
Murder	12	1.1
Manslaughter	25	2.4
Assault	77	7.3
Kidnap	5	0.5
Sexual Assault	44	4.2
Robbery	119	11.3
Threats	7	0.7
Arson	2	0.2
Domestic Violence	7	0.7
<b>Property Crimes</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>19.8</b>
Burglary	121	11.5
Theft	55	5.2
Stolen Property	26	2.5
Forgery	7	0.7
<b>Drug Crimes</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>47.1</b>
Trafficking/Manufacture	416	39.5
Possession	80	7.5
<b>Other</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Weapons	25	2.4
Driving Offenses	10	0.9
Obstructing Law Enforcement or Public Order	14	1.3
Other	2	0.2

average age of 28.9 years. By design, the sample contained only males.<sup>3</sup>

**A. Frequency Scores on the Initial Classification Items**

Presented in Table 2 are the frequencies for each of the items on the Initial Classification Instrument. These data indicated that the severity of the most serious conviction for more than half of the inmates was of low moderate severity (54.0 percent). (Appendix D contains the offense severity rankings.) Equal percentages of the inmates were incarcerated for moderate, high, and highest severity offenses (13 percent, respectively). This distribution of offenses was expected from the offense data presented in Table 1 -- 47.1 percent of the inmates were incarcerated for sale/possession of drugs and 19.8 percent, for property crimes. Both of these offenses are ranked as low moderate severity.

The prior criminal record items, "Prior Assaultive Offense History" and "Number of Prior Felony Convictions" indicated that the majority of the new admissions had no or only a minor criminal record. Less than 10 percent (9.0 percent) of the inmates, for example, had previously been convicted of a high/highest severity offense. The over-whelming majority on the inmates (87.1 percent) either had "none, low, or low moderate" severity prior convictions.

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<sup>3</sup> Development and validation of the objective classification instruments for the NJDOC female inmates will be conducted through a separate research effort.

TABLE 2

**SUMMARY OF NEW JERSEY  
CLASSIFICATION SCORES**

		N	%			N	%
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	191	17.2	<b>5. Balance of Term to be Served</b>			
	<b>Black</b>	681	61.4	<b>Less than 10 years</b>	1,017	93.9	
	<b>Hispanic</b>	233	21.0	<b>10 to 20 years</b>	52	4.8	
	<b>Asian</b>	5	0.5	<b>Greater than 20 years</b>	14	1.3	
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Male</b>	1,110	100.0	<b>6. Alcohol/Drug Abuse</b>			
<b>Average Age (yrs)</b>		28.9		<b>None</b>	358	32.4	
<b>1. Severity of Current Offense</b>				<b>Moderate</b>	149	13.5	
	<b>Low</b>	75	6.8	<b>Serious</b>	598	54.1	
	<b>Low Moderate</b>	598	54.0	<b>7. Current Detainer/Open Charges</b>			
	<b>Moderate</b>	143	12.9	<b>None</b>	597	54.9	
	<b>High</b>	138	12.5	<b>Misd. Detainer/Open Charge</b>	191	17.6	
	<b>Highest</b>	154	13.9	<b>IAD Initiated-Misd.</b>	3	0.3	
<b>2. Prior Assaultive Offense History</b>				<b>Felony Detainer/Open Charge</b>	286	26.3	
	<b>None, Low or Low Moderate</b>	938	87.1	<b>IAD Initiated - Felony</b>	11	1.0	
	<b>Moderate</b>	42	3.9	<b>8. Prior Felony Convictions</b>			
	<b>High</b>	30	2.8	<b>None</b>	451	41.2	
	<b>Highest</b>	67	6.2	<b>One</b>	230	21.0	
<b>3. Escape History</b>				<b>Two or more</b>	414	37.8	
	<b>No escapes or attempts</b>	1,049	98.1	<b>9. Stability Factors</b>			
	<b>An escape or attempt from Minimum or Community/Non- violent</b>			<b>Under Age 26</b>	508	46.4	
	<b>Over one year ago</b>	8	0.7	<b>Age 26 or over</b>	587	53.6	
	<b>Within last year</b>	7	0.7	<b>High School Diploma/GED</b>	405	37.4	
	<b>An escape or attempt from Medium or Above Custody with Violence</b>			<b>High School not completed</b>	678	62.6	
	<b>Over one year ago</b>	3	0.3	<b>Employed or attending school</b>	201	18.5	
	<b>Within last year</b>	2	0.2	<b>Unemployed and not interested</b>	883	81.5	
<b>4. History of Institutional Violence</b>				<b>Computed Scored Custody Level</b>			
	<b>None</b>	1023	95.7	<b>Maximum</b>	61	5.5	
	<b>Violence/No weapon or injury</b>	38	3.6	<b>Medium</b>	404	36.4	
	<b>Violence/with weapon or injury</b>	8	0.7	<b>Minimum</b>	645	58.1	
<b>Maximum Custody Score (Items 1- 4)</b>				<b>Final Custody Level</b>			
	<b>Under 10 points</b>	1071	96.6	<b>Maximum</b>	63	5.0	
	<b>10 points or above</b>	38	3.4	<b>Medium</b>	491	44.0	
				<b>Minimum</b>	556	50.0	

Nearly half, 41.2 percent, had no prior felony convictions. Another 21.0 percent had only one prior felony conviction. The "Escape History" (Item No. 3) did not provide much insight into the potential institutional adjustment of the newly admitted inmates -- less than two percent (1.9 percent) had escaped or attempted to escape from a secure facility. Only five inmates (.5 percent) had previously escaped or attempted to escape from a Medium or Above Custody facility by use of force or violence. Upon admission, most of the inmates (95.7 percent) did not have any history of institutional violence on which to base a classification decision..

Given the low severity of their current offense(s) and minor criminal and institutional records, it was not surprising to observe that only about three percent (3.4 percent) of the inmates scored 10 or more points on the "Maximum Custody" items. (A score of ten or more points on the first four items of the initial classification instrument, automatically classified the inmates into Maximum custody without consideration for the remaining five items on the instrument.)

Item No. 5, "Balance of Time to Serve, indicated that 94 percent of the inmates had less than ten years to serve. Less **than** five percent (4.8 percent) had between 10 and 20 years to serve. This skewed distribution of sentences follows from the low/low moderate severity of their current offenses and the insignificance of their prior criminal records.

Socio-demographic items on the instrument (for example, Items 6 and 9) reflected the dominance of drug offenders among the new admissions. The majority (67.6 percent) had a moderate or serious substance abuse problem. The Stability Factors indicated that they were young (54 percent less than 26 years of age), uneducated (63 percent did not complete high school) and unemployed (82 percent).

Provided in Table 3 are the median and mean number of points scored for each of the classification items. The mean Total Score was 6.4 points; the median, 6 points. Table 4 provides the number and percent of the inmates across the range of the Total Scores. The modal Total Scores were 4 (138, 12.4 percent) and 5 (106, 9.5 percent).

#### **B. Scored versus Final Custody Level**

Table 5 exhibits the scored versus final custody decisions for the total sample. First, observe the distribution of inmates across the scored security levels. We found that based solely upon the inmates' scores, more than half (58.1 percent) could be safely housed within a Minimum custody facility. Thirty-six percent (36.4 percent) of the inmates scored into Medium custody. Less than six percent (5.5 percent) of the total sample appeared to require Maximum Custody housing.

After review of the administrative and programming over-ride considerations, the distribution of inmates across the final custody levels changed slightly. A few of the inmates who scored

**TABLE 3**

**NUMERIC SCORES OF NEW JERSEY DOC  
INITIAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

<b>SCORING ITEM</b>	<b>MEAN</b>	<b>MEDIAN</b>
1. <b>Severity of Current Offense</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1</b>
2. <b>Prior Assaultive Offense History</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0</b>
3. <b>History of Escape</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0</b>
4. <b>History of Institutional Violence</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0</b>
5. <b>Balance of Time to Serve</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0</b>
6. <b>Alcohol/Drug Abuse</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>3</b>
7. <b>Current Detainer</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0</b>
8. <b>Prior Felony Convictions</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2</b>
9. <b>Age</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-2</b>
10. <b>High School Diploma</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>0</b>
11. <b>Employment</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6</b>

**TABLE 4**  
**COMPUTED CLASSIFICATION TOTAL SCORES**

TOTAL SCORE	N	%
-3	1	0.1
-2	4	0.4
-1	6	0.5
0	70	6.3
1	44	4.0
2	69	6.2
3	82	7.4
4	138	12.4
5	106	9.5
6	99	8.9
7	90	8.1
8	91	8.2
9	72	6.5
10	65	5.9
11	54	4.9
12	24	2.2
13	28	2.5
14	20	1.8
15	13	1.2
16	11	1.0
17	5	0.5
18	7	0.6
19	6	0.5
21	2	0.2
26	2	0.2
28	1	0.1



**TABLE 5**

**COMPARISON OF SCORED CUSTODY LEVEL  
AND FINAL CUSTODY LEVEL**

**FINAL CUSTODY LEVEL**

		<b>FINAL CUSTODY LEVEL</b>			
		<b>MINIMUM</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>MAXIMUM</b>	
<b>COMPUTED SCORED CUSTODY LEVEL</b>	<b>MINIMUM</b>	556	89	0	645 (58.1%)
	<b>MEDIUM</b>	0	402	2	404 (36.4%)
	<b>MAXIMUM</b>	0	0	61	61 (5.5%)
		556 (50.1%)	491 (44.2%)	63 (5.7%)	1,110(100.0%)

minimum custody were shifted to medium custody. An unique finding was that only two cases were over-ridden to maximum custody. This point illustrates the staff's confidence in the instrument.

The final distribution was: Minimum, 50.1 percent; Medium, 44.2 percent, and Maximum, 5.7 percent. (See Table 5.) These figures reflect the initial custody levels of new admissions to the system; they do not represent the average daily population of the system. We will estimate the impact of this classification system on the total prison population later in this report.

It was clear from these data that the classification staff was comfortable with the custody levels based upon the Total Scores. An over-ride was used for only 91 cases or 8.2 percent of the sample. The bulk of the over-rides were cases that scored as Minimum who were recommended for Medium custody (89).

This over-ride rate of 8.2 percent is within the optimal range of 5-15 percent over-rides expected for an objective classification system. The observed rate of 8 percent is particularly good given that most departments over-ride 30 to 35 percent of the cases during the pilot test.

The data were examined to determine when and for whom the over-rides were recommended. Table 6 provides the staff's reasons for over-riding the scored custody level. The staff's confidence in the classification instrument was illustrated by their selection of over-ride reasons. Nearly eighty percent of the over-rides (72, 79.1 percent) were generated by NJDOC administrative regulations and statutes.

**TABLE 6**  
**OVERRIDE REASONS**

OVERRIDE REASON	N	%
<b>Administrative/Statutory</b>		
Code 1. Maximum Custody - mandatory minimum or length of term	22	24.2
Code 2. Maximum Custody - pending dispositions of non-permissible detainer or open charge	34	37.4
Code 5. Permanent custody stop for Sex or Arson		
A. Max Only	5	5.5
Code 6. Max Custody, pending USNIS response for interest	11	12.1
Subtotal	72	79.1
<b>Discretionary</b>		
Code 9. Requires specialized treatment, medical/psychological	3	3.3
Code 11. Classification Committee decision against lower custody level	14	15.4
Code 12. Classification Committee decision that inmate would be successful in lower custody level	2	2.2
Subtotal	19	20.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### **C. Relationship between the Initial Classification Items and Institutional Misconduct**

At this point, the focus of the analysis shifted to how well the instrument identified inmates that posed a risk to the safety and security of the institutions. A preliminary step of this analysis was to examine the types of institutional infractions committed by the inmates. Listed in Table 7 are the types of infractions committed by our sample of 1,110 inmates during the first year of their incarceration. This list of 836 infractions, however, was generated by just a small percentage of the inmates. Only 326 cases or 29.4 percent of the total sample had one or more institutional misconduct report.

The majority of the infractions were nuisance or disruptive behaviors rather than violence/threats to the safety and security of the institutions. Disruptive Behaviors -- drugs, weapons, possession unauthorized items, refuse order, and refuse to work -- constituted nearly half of the infractions (42.8 percent). The most common infractions were "Refuse Order" (19.5 percent) and "Refuse to Work" (13.0 percent). Violent/Aggressive infractions constituted 24.3 percent of the infractions.<sup>4</sup>

### **D. Institutional Infractions by Classification Scoring Items**

To determine how well the respective items and their categories differentiated the inmates with no infractions from

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<sup>4</sup> Violent/Aggressive infractions included: killing, assault, fighting, threats, sexual misconduct, riot/demonstration, and set fire.

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TABLE 7

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
PRISON CLASSIFICATION STUDY  
INSTITUTIONAL INFRACTIONS**

TYPES OF INFRACTIONS	N=836	%
<b>Violent/Aggressive Behavior</b>		
Killing	1	0.1
Assault	55	6.6
Fighting	73	8.7
Threats	49	5.9
Sexual Misconduct	12	1.4
Riot/Demonstration	7	0.8
Set Fire	6	0.7
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>24.3</b>
<b>Disruptive Behavior</b>		
Drugs (Possession/Use)	20	2.4
Weapons	12	1.4
Possession of Unauthorized Items	54	6.5
Refuse Order	163	19.5
Refuse to Work	109	13.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>42.8</b>
<b>Nuisance Behavior</b>		
Obscene Language	30	3.6
Fail to Follow Rules	73	8.7
Being in Unauthorized Area	43	5.1
Disruptive Conduct	32	3.8
Theft/Fraud/Lie	26	3.1
Destroy Property	30	3.6
Community Release Violations	8	1.0
Other	33	3.9
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>32.9</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number and Percentage of Sample</b>		
with no infractions:	783	70.6
with at least one infraction:	326	29.4

those with one or more infraction during this incarceration, we computed the percentage of inmates with no institutional infractions for each of the categories within the nine classification items. These data are presented in Table 8.

Overall, the Custody Scale did an excellent job of identifying the high risk/problematic inmates. More than eighty percent (81.1 percent) of the inmates classified as Minimum custody did not have any institutional infractions compared to 62 percent of the Medium Custody and 44 percent of the Maximum custody inmates.

The "Severity of the Current Offense" (Item No. 1) best differentiated among the inmates because the percentage of inmates without an infraction decreased as the severity of the current conviction increased. For example, 93 percent (93.3 percent) of the inmates incarcerated for a Low Severity offense did not have any institutional infractions; while did only 73.4 percent of those incarcerated for a Low Moderate offense and 70.6 percent, for a Moderate offense, etc.

It appeared that a few of the categories within some of the items do not follow this expected pattern. Item No. 2, "Prior Assaultive Offense History," for example, suggested that inmates with High Severity prior offenses were less likely to be involved in institutional misconduct than inmates with prior convictions of Moderate severity. These fluctuations are generally a function of the small numbers of inmates within some of the categories. For example, only 30 inmates had a "Prior Assaultive Offense History" of moderate severity. The percentages of inmates with no

TABLE B

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
PRISON CLASSIFICATION STUDY  
INSTITUTIONAL INFRACTIONS BY CLASSIFICATION SCORING ITEMS

SCORING ITEMS	N <sup>^</sup>	% WITH NO INFRACTION	SCORING ITEMS	N <sup>^</sup>	% WITH NO INFRACTION
<b>1. Severity of Current Offense'</b>			<b>7. Current Detainer/open Charges</b>		
Low	75	93.3	None	597	73.2
Low Moderate	598	73.4	Misdemeanor	191	72.3
Moderate	143	70.6	IAD - Misdemeanor	3	100.0
High	138	63.8	Felony	286	64.0
Highest	154	54.6	IAD - Felony	11	63.6
<b>2. Prior Assaultive Offense History</b>	938	71.5	<b>8. Prior Felony Convictions</b>		
None, Low, Low Moderate	42	59.5	None	451	72.3
Moderate	30	70.0	One	230	71.3
High	67	61.2	Two or More	414	68.4
Highest					
<b>3. Escape History+</b>			<b>9. Stability Factors</b>		
No Escape or Attempts	1,049	70.8	Age .		
Escape From Min. Over 1 Yr	8	100.0	Under 26	465	59.4
Escape From Min. Last Yr	7	28.6	26 to 38	444	74.6
Escape From Med./Violence	3	33.3	39 or older	200	88.0
Over 1 Yr					
Escape From Med./Violence	2	50.0	<b>Education</b>		
Last Yr.			Finished High School or	405	72.3
<b>4. History of Institutional Violence*</b>	1,023	73.6	GED	678	69.8
None	38	5.3	Below High School		
Violence, No Weapon or	8	0.0			
Injury			<b>Employment</b>		
Violence, w/Weapon or			Employed or Attend	201	73.1
Injury			School	883	70.2
<b>5. Balance of Term to Be Served'</b>			Unemployed		
Less Than 10 Yrs	1,017	71.2	<b>Final Custody Level</b>		
10 to 20Yrs	52	71.1	Maximum	63	44.4
More Than 20 Yrs	14	28.6	Medium	491	62.1
<b>6. Alcohol/Drug Abuse</b>			Minimum	555	81.1
None	358	71.5			
Moderate	149	60.4			
Serious	598	72.4			

. p for Chi Square < 0.05

+ Escape is a rare occurrence, percentages displayed should be interpreted with caution.

<sup>^</sup> This column represents the number of cases (N) within the respective categories. For example, the current offense was of "Low Severity" for 75 inmates. (See Table 2.)



infractions may shift according to the behavior of one or two inmates. Similarly, "Escape History," (Item No. 3) was a rare event; these percentages should be interpreted with caution.

Our analysis suggested that the Stability Factor, "Current Age" should be revised to better account for the behavior of inmates between the ages of 26 and 38 years. Sixty-three percent (63 percent) of the inmates age 26 or plus years did not have any institutional infractions; while 77.1 percent of the inmates less than 26 years had at least one institutional infraction. By splitting the inmates over age 26 years into two categories, the predictive power of the item increases. If the age groups are redefined as 25 years or less, 26 to 38 years, and 39+ years, the percentage of inmates with no infractions within the respective categories are 59.4, 74.6, and 88.0, respectively.

Item-No. 6, "Alcohol/Drug Abuse" did not differentiate the inmates who were involved in institutional misconduct from those who were not. The data suggested that 72 percent of the inmates without a substance abuse problem as well as 72 percent of the inmates with a "serious" substance abuse problem were not involved in institutional misconduct. In contrast, only 60 percent of the inmates with "moderate" substance abuse problems did not have any institutional misconduct reports. The failure of this item to differentiate among the inmates was probably due to the quality of the information used to score this item. Implied is the need for a standardized instrument for assessing the severity of the inmates substance abuse problem.

A second type of analysis examined the mean number of infractions among the inmates within the respective custody levels. This indicated that the average number of infractions among inmates that scored minimum custody was .47; among medium, 1.02; and among maximum custody inmates, 1.48 infractions. These differences were statistically significant at the  $p < .05$  level. A comparison of the mean number of infractions for the final custody levels, i.e., after consideration of the over-ride factors, revealed that the staff's use of over-rides improved the predictive ability of the initial classification instrument. As shown in Table 9, the average number of infractions among inmates with a Final Custody level of minimum was .45; among medium, .94; and among maximum custody inmates, 1.43 infractions.

#### **E. Step-wise Regression of the Initial Classification Items**

The second step of the analysis to ascertain the predictive power of the initial classification instrument was a step-wise regression of the initial classification items to identify the contribution of the individual items to the total score. As shown in Table 10, the most important items were Current Detainer, Prior Assaultive Offense History, Most Serious Current Charge, and Number of Prior Felony Convictions. All items made statistically significant contributions to the overall score. These results indicated that the inmate's prior criminal record and current charge were the most prominent factors determining the inmate's initial classification score. The final score/classification level

**TABLE 9**  
**DISCIPLINARY RATES**  
**BY**  
**CLASSIFICATION CUSTODY LEVELS**

CLASSIFICATION LEVEL	SCORED		FINAL	
	$\bar{x}$	%-NONE	$\bar{x}$	%-NONE
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>42.6%</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>44.4%</b>
<b>Medium</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>60.4%</b>	<b>.94</b>	<b>62.1%</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>.47</b>	<b>79.7%</b>	<b>.45</b>	<b>81.1%</b>

**TABLE 10****MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS  
INDIVIDUAL SCORING ITEMS ON TOTAL SCORE**

<b>SCORING ITEMS</b>	<b>R-SQUARE</b>	<b>CUMULATIVE R-SQUARE</b>
1. Current Detainer	.272	.272
2. Prior Assaultive Offense History	.204	.476
3. Current Offense	.164	.640
4. Prior Felony Convictions	.091	.731
5. Alcohol/Drug Abuse	.062	.793
6. Age 26 and Above	.056	.849
7. Balance of Time to Serve	.039	.888
8. History of Institutional Violence	.032	.920
9. High School Degree	.014	.934
10. Escape History	.011	.945
11. Employment	.008	.953

was not determined by any one or two items, but was the product of several strong factors.

**V. INSTRUMENT MODIFICATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

The results from the pilot test suggested just five modifications to the preliminary initial classification process. These recommendations are subject to the review and acceptance/rejection by the NJDOC administration and Classification Task Force. Listed below the recommendations made by NCCD:

- 1. Revise the Current Age of the Stability Factors to have three rather than two age groups.**

This recommendation is based on the statistical analyses that indicated the original age groups did not have significantly different rates of disciplinary reports. Our analyses indicated that the predictive power of the item improved if the Current Age categories was redefined as:

Current Age = Under 26,	Points = 0
Current Age = 26 - 38,	Points = -2
Current Age = 39+,	Points = -4

- 2. Identify standardized definitions or an instrument for assessing the severity of the inmates' substance abuse problems.**

This recommendation is based upon the observation that the "Alcohol/Drug Abuse" item did not differentiate the inmates who were involved in institutional misconduct from those who were not. Previous institutional risk assessment studies have indicated that substance abuse is a reliable predictor of institutional misconduct. Thus, the failure of these data to correlate with misconduct

suggested that the information used to score this item was invalid and/or unreliable.

3. **Increase the score from five to seven points for the category, "Greater than 20 years to Serve" within Item No. 5 -- "Balance of Term to be Served."**

Because the cut-point between minimum and medium custody is six points, a score of seven points on this category will ensure that inmates with very long sentences will not go immediately to minimum custody.

4. **Clarify the list of approved over-ride reasons and the criteria required for use of an over-ride.**

The Classification Committee should be required to specify why it believes an inmate will be more successful at a higher or lower custody level.

5. **Significantly enhance the Department's computer system to -capture the information needed for the classification instruments.**

The data collection process for the pilot test illustrated a need for quality control checks to ensure that the forms **are** complete and correct. In addition, programs that capture the **data** and score the classification items would dramatically decrease the workload of the classification staff.

## VI. IMPACT OF THE RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS ON THE INITIAL CLASSIFICATION INSTRUMENT.

Using the modifications to the instruments recommended above, a series of analyses were completed in order to estimate the impacts of this initial classification instrument on the NJDOC penal population. Provided in Appendix E are the modified Initial Inmate Custody Classification instrument and summaries of the analyses of the revised instrument. The findings indicate, for example, that the mean total score will not significantly change. While the mean total score from the original instrument was 6.4 points, the mean from the modified instrument will be 6.2 points.

A second step-wise regression analyses indicated that the modifications' improved the over-all predictive power and balance between the individual items of the instrument. If the results from regression analysis in Appendix E are compared with shown in Table 10, we see that the contributions of both items, "Age" and "Balance-of Time to Sense," increased.

## VII. PROJECTED LENGTHS OF STAY AND THE AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

The final issue addressed by the pilot test was the impact of the use of this instrument on the overall distribution of inmates within the New Jersey penal facilities. Provided in Table 11 are the estimates of the number of minimum, medium, and maximum custody inmates that would make up the average daily population (ADP). By multiplying the estimated average length of stay (ALOS in months) for each of the custody levels by the number of admissions per

TABLE 11

PROJECTED LENGTHS OF STAY AND ADP  
BY  
SCORED AND FINAL CLASSIFICATION LEVELS

COMPUTED CLASSIFICATION LEVEL

CLASS LEVEL	ADMISSIONS	LOS	ADP	%
Minimum	643	16.7 mos.	895	39.5
Medium	404	27.3 mos.	919	40.6
Maximum	61	88.3 mos.	448	19.8
Total	1,108	24.5 mos.	2,263	100.0

FINAL CLASSIFICATION LEVEL

CLASS LEVEL	ADMISSIONS	LOS	ADP	%
Minimum	555	15.5 mos.	716	31.1
Medium	491	27.7 mos.	1,133	49.2
Maximum	63	86.4 mos.	454	19.7
Total	1,108	24.5 mos.	2,303	100.0



custody level, and then dividing by 12 months, we arrived at the estimated number of inmates within each of the custody levels. For example, among the 643 minimum custody inmates, the ALOS was 16.7 months. This translated into 895 minimum custody inmates ( $643 \times 16.7 / 12 = 895$  inmates/year). This calculation was repeated for the medium and maximum custody inmates. The distribution of inmates across the custody levels based solely upon the scored custody level was: minimum, 39.5 percent; medium 40.6 percent; and maximum 19.8 percent.

These calculations were repeated using the final custody levels which included the staff's consideration of over-rides. The results indicated that the percentage of minimum custody inmates decreased slightly (39.5 to 31.1 percent) while the percentage medium increased from 40.6 percent to 49.2 percent. This estimate is still unreliable because it does not take into consideration the number of inmates in "special housing."

The last step in estimating the impact of this classification system on the NJDOC system was to compare our estimates of the ADP with the current ADP per custody level. This analysis requires that we take into account the 11.3 percent of the ADP within special housing. The results of these computations are shown in Table 12. The top portion of the table estimates the distribution of inmates without consideration for over-rides and the bottom half, custody levels after the use of over-rides. We determined

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<sup>5</sup> For the purposes of this report, special housing includes inmates assigned to disciplinary, administrative segregation, protective custody, and pre-reception.

TABLE 12

CURRENT VS. PROJECTED  
MALE INMATE CUSTODY LEVELS

CUSTODY LEVEL	CURRENT		PROJECTED NO OVER-RIDES	
	N	%	N	%
Maximum	10,210	56.4	3,188	17.6
Medium <sup>1</sup>	NA	NA	6,522	36.0
Minimum	5,856	32.3	6,341	35.1
Special Housing <sup>2</sup>	2,050	11.3	2,050	11.3
Totals	18,116	100.0	18,119 <sup>3</sup>	100.0

CUSTODY LEVEL	CURRENT		PROJECTED OVER-RIDES	
	N	%	N	%
Maximum	10,210	56.4	3,170	17.5
Medium <sup>1</sup>	NA	NA	7,899	43.6
Minimum	5,856	32.3	5,000	27.6
Special Housing <sup>2</sup>	2,050	11.3	2,050	11.3
Totals	18,116	100.0	18,119 <sup>3</sup>	100.0

<sup>1</sup> The NJDOC does not separate medium from maximum custody inmates. Consequently, the maximum custody population reflects both maximum and medium custody inmates.

<sup>2</sup> Reflects inmates assigned to disciplinary, administrative segregation, protective custody, and pre-reception.

<sup>3</sup> The projected number of inmates (18,119) does not equal the current population because of rounding.

that without consideration of overrides, that 35 percent of the ADP would be minimum custody inmates. Consideration of the over-ride factors would reduce the percentage of minimum custody inmates to 28 percent.<sup>6</sup>

Across the United States, maximum security housing held 26 percent of all inmates; medium security, 49 percent; and minimum security, 23 percent.<sup>7</sup> The final custody level distribution was similar to the national classification trends for medium and minimum custody levels. If we combined our estimates of the percentage of inmates in maximum custody (17.3 percent) and special housing (11.3.percent), we would observe a "maximum" custody level of 28.6 percent which is very similar to the national trend.

The results from these analyses and our recommendations were presented to the NJDOC and Classification Task Force. Each of the recommendations were approved. With the completion of this step, the NJDOC had completed the basis -- a credible, objective initial classification instrument -- for a valid and reliable, and fair classification system. The next step was for the NJDOC to implement the new classification system.

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<sup>6</sup> The formula for calculating these percentage was:  $100\% - 11.3\%$  special housing inmates =  $88.7\%$ . Minimum custody w/out overrides =  $39.5\%$  (from Table 11)  $\cdot 88.7\% = 35.1\%$ ; Medium custody w/out overrides =  $40.6\%$  (from Table 11)  $\cdot 88.7\% = 36.0\%$ ; and Maximum custody w/out overrides =  $19.8\%$  (from Table 11)  $\cdot 88.7\% = 17.6\%$ . These calculations were repeated using the percentages from the custody levels w/over-rides.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. (1993). Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

#### VIII. IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

The New Jersey Department of Corrections implemented the Objective Classification system on Tuesday, December 6, 1994, with the scoring and classification of all new offenders admitted to the Department. For the first two weeks of December, the initial classification instrument was used on all commitments. Starting the third week of December, the reclassification instrument was initiated for all technical parole violators. Through January 10, 1995, more than 860 inmates have been classified with the initial and reclassification instruments, including 704 initial decisions and 158 reclassification decisions for parole violators. Of the total initial classification decisions, 215 or 31 percent were assigned a custody level of minimum. The override rate for the initial classification instrument was 19 percent, with a total of 131 overrides. More than 82 percent of the overrides were non-discretionary' overrides due to Administrative Code (10A) restrictions. The remaining 18 percent were due to discretionary overrides of which nine percent were overrides upward (i.e., to a higher custody level than scored) and nine percent were overrides to a lower custody level.

With regards to the reclassification instrument, 65 of the 158 cases were classified minimum (or 41 percent of the total). The override rate for the reclassification instrument was approximately 23 percent of which two thirds (66 percent) were due to pending charges. Summary reports for the objective classification assignment and tracking system (OCATS) are located in Appendix F.

## IX. TRAINING/ORIENTATION PROGRAMS

Prior to the implementation of the objective classification system in December, the Department initiated a comprehensive orientation and training program to advise staff and inmates of the system. A department-wide orientation program was held at central office during the second week of November for all Administrators, Superintendents, and key classification personnel. An overview of the objective classification system was provided, and a training manual and draft procedures were distributed and reviewed. During the fourth week of November, an orientation team from central office visited each facility and held an additional one day training program for all institutional department heads and classification committee members. Training material, which was distributed at the department-wide meeting, was xeroxed and distributed to each person in attendance.

In addition to the department head orientation, classification staff were required to attend a pre-implementation training and orientation program which was also held the fourth week of November.

The inmate population was advised of the objective classification system through a directive signed by the Commissioner (see Appendix G). In addition, each superintendent has been directed to advise the inmate population through their institutional orientation program and social work departments of the new objective classification system. Lastly, arrangements are being made to incorporate the objective classification system into

the institutional handbooks and the Department's Administrative Code for official documentation of the system.

X. NEXT STEPS

As of this time, the Department has successfully implemented the initial classification system. What follows are NCCD's recommendations for continuing this work so that the entire system becomes operational and fully functional by the end of this year.

**A. Conduct On-Site Audit of Initial Classification System**

In February, NCCD will conduct a two day on-site audit of the initial classification system at the DOC reception center. This audit will consist of observing the classification process and meeting with classification staff for purposes of identifying any potential problems that need to be corrected. Dr. James Austin will conduct this audit and issue a brief report summarizing his observations and any recommendations.

**B. Implementation of the Reclassification Instrument**

Once the initial classification has been successfully audited, the DOC must direct its full attention to implementation of the reclassification component. A draft instrument has been developed by the DOC (see Appendix H). However, that instrument should undergo a limited pilot test at selected institutions to verify its functionality with staff and the initial classification process.

The DOC has developed the following implementation plan that should be launched immediately:

During the first quarter of 1995, the Department will implement the reclassification instrument at the Albert C. Wagner YCF, which is a 1,400 bed medium security institution with multiple security levels. The field testing of the reclassification instrument at that site will result in a comprehensive analysis for implementation system-wide. The field test of the Wagner Facility is expected to be completed by the end of March. After that date, the Department will implement the reclassification instrument at the following institutions:

1. Southern State Correctional Facility
2. Bayside State Prison
3. Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility
4. Garden State Reception and Youth Correctional Facility
5. Mid-State Correction Facility
6. Riverfront State Prison
7. Northern State Prison
8. East Jersey State Prison
9. Trenton State Prison
10. County Assistance Unit

The implementation plan was based upon two primary factors, including: 1). Prioritization of institutions which are medium security with large minimum custody units assigned to them, and 2). Equipment installation and tele-communication issues.

At the present time, the Department is anticipating a system-wide completion date of December 1996, the date indicated in the original grant application. However, every effort will be made to implement the system as soon as possible.

**C. Implementation of an Objective Classification System for Female Inmates.**

Once the initial and reclassification instruments are completely operational at all of the adult male facilities, the DOC should develop a plan to implement the system at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women (EMCF). In as much as there is only one institution for women in the state and it is primarily a minimum security institution (with only a limited maximum/medium security component), the DOC should complete the system-wide implementation for adult males in order to improve the reception, classification, and assignment process, reduce the adult male backlog in the county jails and cut operating costs.

The DOC should field test both the initial and reclass instruments at the EMCF in order to insure that there is no disparity between the results of male and female versions of the instruments, particularly in relation to disciplinary infractions. Policy and Planning staff are cognizant of the need to field test the instruments prior to implementation of the system for female commitments and NCCD has agreed to provide technical support to do the statistical analysis.



**D. Integration of the Objective Classification System into the DOC's S/36 CMIS**

In preparation for the implementation of the objective classification system, the Office of Policy and Planning developed an offender classification and assignment tracking system (OCATS). The OCATS system is a stand-alone PC based computer system which monitors the initial classification decisions of the Inter-Institutional Classification Committee. Included in the information provided by the OCATS System are basic characteristics of the offender, the scoring of each item on the classification instrument, the recommended custody level, the final custody decision, and any overrides utilized.

The system was field tested in October and installed in November in preparation of the December implementation. The reports derived from the system include the results of custody assignments, the extent and utilization of overrides, management reports for monitoring staff caseload coding, and operational reports to establish transfer and transportation schedules. As indicated previously, examples of the OCATS management output reports are provided in Appendix F.

The OCATS System will be installed in each of the Department's 10 major adult institutions in order to track reclassification decisions as well. Personal Computers have been purchased for the OCATS System for each institution, and software modifications have been developed in order to process and monitor reclassification decisions on the institutional level.

Despite the development of the OCATS system to track classification decisions, the Department has been unable to secure funding or support for complete integration of the objective classification system into its S/36 Correctional Management Information System (CMIS). Because of the inability to integrate the objective classification system with CMIS, there will be extensive and redundant data entry effort on part of institutional staff to maintain both the OCATS and the CMIS Systems. Similarly, the Department will not be able to easily audit the initial classification and/or the reclassification decisions because the OCATS System does not include inter and intra institutional housing assignments, transfers and discharges in its data base. As a result, the long term monitoring of the classification results can now only be done on an on-line and random basis through S/36 individual record inquiry access, rather than on a comprehensive institution by institution or housing unit by housing unit basis.

It is critical that the Department receive additional funding to replace the existing S/36 System with a new computer system which will completely support the objective classification application. Such automation would include creating separate initial and reclassification modules or subsystems. Within these modules, all of the data elements contained on the classification forms would be part of the data base and automatically generated from existing information on file (whenever possible). Edits would be programmed to allow for as much computerized scoring as possible. Furthermore, there is the need to develop a series of

management/monitoring reports so that the system can be evaluated on a daily basis. For automation of classification to occur, the current DOC information system needs to be completely upgraded in terms of its hardware and software configurations.

Presently, the Office of Policy and Planning is in the process of designing the user requirements for a new system and have incorporated the objective classification application into its design. Preliminary cost estimates indicate that the replacement of the ten year old CMIS will approximate \$5-6 million (software and hardware). NCCD strongly recommends that every effort be made by the Department, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Legislature to support the development of a new computer system.

APPENDIX A

List of Classification Task Force Members



## OBJECTIVE CLASSIFICATION

### **Task Force Members**

Donald Zelinski, Deputy Director  
Division of Operations  
Voorhees Building

Stan Repko, Director  
Office of Policy, and Planning  
Cubberly Building

William A. Cashel, Assistant Chief  
Bureau of CICS  
Cubberly Building

Donald Van Nostrand, Administrator  
Policy Analysis & Planning  
Cubberly Building

Jim Adkins, Chief  
Bureau of MIS  
Cubberly Building

Howard Beyer, Deputy Director  
Division of Operations  
Voorhees Building

Donald E. Lewis, Superintendent  
Riverfront State Prison  
Camden, NJ

Robert Edmiston, Superintendent  
Southern State Correctional Facility  
Delmont, NJ

Jeffery J. Bums, Administrator  
Garden State Reception and Youth Correctional  
Facility  
Yardville, NJ

Lawrence Ashton, Sr., Associate Administrator  
Bayside State Prison  
Leesburg, NJ

Dr. Doug Gerardi, Assistant Superintendent  
Garden State Reception and Youth Correctional  
Facility  
Yardville, NJ

Joseph Butler, **Superintendent**  
Albert **C. Wagner Youth Correctional Facility**  
**Bordentown, NJ**

Charlotte Blackwell, Superintendent  
Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women  
Clinton, NJ

### **Project Team Members**

Lisa Bisconte  
Bureau of CICS  
Cubberly Building

Dave Levay  
Bureau of MIS  
Cubberly Building

Richard Caporusso  
GSR&YCF  
Yardville

Cheryl Johnson  
A.C. Wagner YCF  
Bordentown

Richard Salvatore  
Edna Mahan Correctional Facility  
Clinton

William A. Cashel, Assistant Chief  
Bureau of CICS  
Cubberly Building



APPENDIX B

Initial Classification Instrument,  
Security Designation Levels,  
and Custody Designations





**N.J. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
INITIAL INMATE CUSTODY CLASSIFICATION**

DATE: October 5, 1993

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE: \_\_\_\_\_  
COMMITTEE: \_\_\_\_\_ CHAIRMAN: \_\_\_\_\_ INST: \_\_\_\_\_ REVIEW #: \_\_\_\_\_  
SCORER: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ INST ASSIGNMT: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. SEVERITY OF CURRENT OFFENSE**

(Refer to the Severity of Offense Scale. Score the most serious offense if there are multiple convictions.)

Low ..... 0  
Low Moderate ..... 1  
Moderate ..... 2  
High ..... 4  
Highest ..... 6

Score

**2. PRIOR ASSAULTIVE OFFENSE HISTORY**

(Score the most severe in inmate's history. Refer to the Severity of Offense Scale.)

None, Low, or Low Moderate ..... 0  
Moderate ..... 2  
High ..... 4  
Highest ..... 6

Score

**3. ESCAPE HISTORY (Rate last 3 years of incarceration)**

No escapes or attempts (or no prior incarcerations) ..... 0  
An escape or attempt from minimum or community custody, no actual or threatened violence:  
    Over 1 year ago ..... 1  
    Within the last year ..... 3  
An escape or attempt from medium or above custody, or an escape from minimum or community custody with actual or threatened violence:  
    Over 1 year ago ..... 5  
    Within the last year ..... 7

Score

**4. HISTORY OF INSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE**

(Jail or Prison, code most serious within last five years of incarceration.)

None ..... 0  
Violence not involving use of a weapon or resulting in serious injury ..... 3  
Violence involving use of a weapon and/or result in serious injury ..... 7

Score

**MAX CUSTODY SCORE (Add items 1 through 4)**

(If score is 10 or above, inmate should be assigned to MAX CUSTODY, complete items 5 through 9 for MIS purposes only. If score is under 10, include items 5 through 9 to determine Total Custody Score.)

**MAX CUSTODY  
SCORE**

NAME:

NUMBER:

DATE: October 5, 1993

5. BALANCE OF TERM TO BE SERVED TO EXPIRATION OF SENTENCE

- Less than 10 years ..... 0
- 10 to 20 years ..... 3
- Greater than 20 years ..... 5

Score

6. ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE

- None ..... 0
- Moderate ..... 1
- Serious ..... 3

Score

7. CURRENT DETAINER/OPEN CHARGES

- None ..... 0
- Misdemeanor detainer/Open charge ..... 1
- IAD initiated - misdemeanor ..... 3
- Felony detainer/Open charge ..... 4
- IAD initiated - felony ..... 6

Score

8. PRIOR FELONY CONVICTIONS

- None ..... 0
- One ..... 2
- Two or more ..... 4

Score

9. STABILITY FACTORS

- Age 26 or over ..... -2

Score

- High school diploma or GED received ..... -1

Score

- Employed or attending school (full or part-time for six months or longer at time of arrest) ..... -1

Score

MAXIMUM/MEDIUM/MINIMUM CUSTODY SCORE (Items 5 through 9)

MAXIMUM/MEDIUM/MINIMUM SCALE:

- Maximum Custody ..... 15 and above
- Medium Custody ..... 7 to 14
- Minimum Custody ..... 6 or less

+ \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAX  
 CUSTODY SC  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL  
 CUSTODY SC

CUSTODY CLASSIFICATION OVERRIDE JUSTIFICATION

1. OVERRIDE CODE (See override reference index) [\_\_\_\_\_]

After entering override code, utilize comments section to record all pertinent data relative to override.

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Rule exemption requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
 Explain (include NJAC cite exempted from) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ PSI Available

\_\_\_\_\_ PSI Not Available

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
SECURITY DESIGNATION LEVELS (PROPOSED)

September 8 1993

SL-I  
COMMUNITY

- Community housing
- Residential construction
- No special security features
- 24 hour on-site staff

SL-II  
MINIMUM

- Individual rooms or dorms
- Commercial grade door hardware
- Exterior wall construction may be commercial or residential grade
- Line of demarcation designating unit boundaries (less than 100 inmates)
- Single security fence (100+ inmates)
- 24 hour on-site Corr. Officer coverage

SL-III  
MEDIUM

- Housing may consist of single, double or multiple occupancy
- Centrally located officer watch station/post in living area
- Medium grade security hardware/doors cont.
- Bolted from exterior or from officer work station
- Exterior wall construction must be security reinforced
- A vehicular sally port
- Double fence with razor ribbon in between and/or single fence with intrusion detection system with intermittent perimeter mobile patrol
- Towers occupied intermittently if available
- 24 hour continuous on-site Corr. Officer coverage

SL-IV  
MAXIMUM

- Housing consists of single, double or multiple occupancy cells or dorms
- Officer watch station/post located in the living area
- High grade security hardware and doors, controlled externally (manually) or electronically from Officer watch station
- Exterior walls reinforced construction:
- 20 ft walls with manned gun towers 24 hours per day and razor ribbon emplacements or double fencing with intrusion devices
- A manned vehicular sally port
- A metal detection system which an inmate must pass to go from one part of the facility to another
- 24 hour continuous on-site Corr. Officer coverage

SL-V  
CLOSE

- Housing consists of single cells
- A secure control booth with manually controlled locking mechanism or remote electronically controlled system
- Security hardware and cell doors must be high grade with food passes and electronic locks
- Exterior walls reinforced construction, 20 ft walls with manned gun towers 24 hours per day and razor ribbon emplacements or double fencing with intrusion detection devices
- An armed vehicular sally port
- 24 hour continuous on-site Corr. Officer coverage

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
CUSTODY DESIGNATIONS (PROPOSED)**

September 8, 1993

	<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>MINIMUM</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>MAXIMUM</b>	<b>CLOSE</b>
<b>DAY MOVEMENT</b>	Unrestricted except for job/program activities	Unrestricted except for job/program activities	Under staff observation	All normal movement unescorted but observed by staff Metal detector system utilized	Escorted only; two-on-one in full restraints
<b>NIGHT MOVEMENT</b>	Unrestricted except for job/program activities	Unrestricted except for job/program activities	Under staff observation	Escorted or check-out/check-in basis	Only on order of Watch Commander and on escorted basis; two-on-one in full restraints
<b>SUPERVISION</b>	Periodic as appropriate to circumstances of work or activities	Supervised in groups by an unarmed officer or checked every hour	Frequent and direct observation by staff	Always observed and supervised	
<b>LEAVE THE INSTITUTION</b>	Daily and unescorted. Eligible for furloughs	Under supervision. Eligible for furloughs	Under armed supervision	Armed two-on-one escort, and in full restraints Not eligible for furloughs	Armed two-on-one escort, and in full restraints. Not eligible for furloughs
<b>ACCESS TO PROGRAMS</b>	Unrestricted, including all community based programs/activities	Inside unit perimeter and selected community based programs and activities	All inside the perimeter	Selected programs and activities inside the perimeter	Selected cell activity only or in immediate housing/cellblock area
<b>ACCESS TO JOBS</b>	Unrestricted	Inside and outside the unit perimeter	All inside the perimeter	Only day jobs inside the perimeter	None
<b>MEAL MOVEMENT</b>	Unrestricted	Under staff observation	Controlled and supervised	Controlled and supervised	Fed in cell or on the cell block

**DEFINITIONS:**

**CONTROLLED MOVEMENT:** Performed under constant staff observation and direction, usually on a check-out/check-in basis.

APPENDIX C

Offense Severity Scale



NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
BUREAU OF CORRECTIONAL INFORMATION AND CLASSIFICATION SERVICES

SEVERITY OF OFFENSE SCALE

HIGHEST

Murder 1st degree 2C:11-3  
Aggravated Manslaughter 1st degree 2C:11-4  
Aggravated Assault 2nd degree 2C:12-1(b)  
Kidnapping 2C:13  
Aggravated Sexual Assault 1st degree 2C:14-2(a)  
Escape 2nd degree 2C:29-5  
Robbery 1st degree 2C:15-1  
Leader of Narcotics Trafficking Network 2C:35-3  
Persistent Offender/Professional Criminal 2C:44-3(a)(b)  
Carjacking 1st degree 2C:15-2

HIGH

CDS Offenses 1st degree 2C:35  
Manslaughter 2nd degree 2C:11-4  
Criminal Restraint 2C:13-2  
Criminal Coercion 3rd degree 2C:13-5  
Sexual Assault 2nd degree 2C:14-2(b)  
Aggravated Criminal Sexual Contact 3rd degree 2C:14-3(A)  
Aggravated Arson & Other Property Offenses 1st & 2nd degree 2C:17  
Escape 3rd degree 2C:29-5  
Robbery 2nd degree 2C:15-1  
Racketeering 1st degree 2C:41  
Offenses Against the Family, Children, & Incompetents 2nd degree 2C:24  
Kidnapping 2nd degree/Endangering the Welfare of a Child 2nd degree 2C:13

MODERATE

Aggravated Assault, Reckless Endangerment; Terroristic Threats 3rd degree  
2C:12-1 to 2C:12-3  
Offenses Against Public Order, Health & Decency 3rd degree 2C:40  
CDS Offenses 2nd degree 2C:35  
Racketeering 2nd degree 2C:41  
Burglary 2nd degree 2C:18-2  
Theft Offense 2nd degree 2C:20  
Forgery & Fraudulent Practices 2nd degree 2C:21  
Offenses Against the Family, Children, & Incompetents 3rd degree 2C:24  
Bribery & Corrupt Influences 2nd degree 2C:27  
Perjury & Other Falsification in Official Matters 2nd degree 2C:28  
Misconduct in Office 2nd degree 2C:30  
Firearms & Weapons Offenses 2nd degree 2C:39  
Interference with Custody 2nd degree 2C:13-4  
Endangering the Welfare of a Child 3rd degree 2C:24-4



LOW MODERATE

Offenses Against Public Order, Health & Decency 4th degree 2C:40  
CDS Offenses 3rd degree 2C:35  
Aiding Suicide 2nd degree 2C:11-6  
Aggravated Assault, Reckless Endangerment; Terroristic Threats 4th degree  
2C:12-1 to 2C:12-3  
Criminal Sexual Contact 4th degree 2C:14-3  
Arson & Other Property Offenses 3rd degree 2C:17  
Burglary 3rd degree 2C:18-2  
Theft Offense 3rd degree 2C:20  
Forgery & Fraudulent Practices 3rd degree 2C:21  
Offenses Against the Family, Children, & Incompetents 4th degree 2C:24  
Bribery & Corrupt Influences 3rd degree 2c:27  
Perjury & Other Falsification in Official Matters 3rd degree 2C:28  
Obstructing Governmental Operations 3rd degree 2C:29  
Misconduct in Office 3rd degree 2C:30  
Public Indecency 3rd degree 2C:34  
Gambling Offenses 3rd degree 2C:37  
Firearms & Weapons Offenses 3rd degree 2C:39  
Stalking 4th degree 2C:12-10  
Criminal Restraint 3rd degree 2C:13-2  
Interference with Custody 4th degree 2C:13-4  
Lewdness 4th degree & Disorderly Person 2C:14-4  
Death by Auto 3rd degree 2C:11-5

LOW

Criminal Coercion 4th degree 2C:13-5  
Aiding Suicide 4th degree 2C:11-6  
Arson & Other Property Offenses 4th degree 2C:17  
Theft Offenses 4th degree 2C:20  
Forgery & Fraudulent Practices 4th degree 2C:21  
Bribery & Corrupt Influences 4th degree 2C:27  
Perjury & Other Falsification in Official Matters 4th degree 2C:28  
Obstructing Governmental Operations 4th degree 2C:29  
Public Indecency 4th degree 2C:34  
Gambling Offenses 4th degree 2C:37  
Firearms & Weapons Offenses 4th degree 2C:39  
CDS Offenses 4th degree 2C:35  
Other Offenses Relating to Public Safety 2C:40  
Criminal Trespassing 4th degree 2C:18-3

\*\* All disorderly persons offenses considered LOW

The New Jersey Administrative Code Title 10A:9 prohibits a reduction in custody at this time based on:

- Code 1. Maximum custody, due mandatory minimum or length of term  
Authority: 10A:9-4.6(c) (e) (f) (g) (i)
- Code 2. Maximum custody pending disposition of non-permissible detainer or open charge  
Authority: 10A:9-4.6 (k) (1)
- Code 3. Maximum Custody, escape history  
Authority: 10A:9-4.6(m)3
- Code 4. Maximum custody, escape history, 2 yrs. or 5 yrs.  
Authority 10A:9-4.6(m) .1 and .2
- Code 5A. Permanent custody stop for Sex or Arson, A=Max Only - B=GM Only  
or 5B.  
Authority: 10A:9-4.7 and 4.8
- Code 6. Maximum custody, pending USINS response for interest.
- Code 7. Refer to IICC for discussion (i.e., keep separates, notoriety of offense, medical, psych., etc.)
- Code 8. Protective Custody, Voluntary or Administrative
- Code 9. Requires Specialized Treatment, Medical/Psych
- Code 10. Has pending disciplinary infraction
- Code 11. The Classification Committee has serious doubt that inmate will be successful in lower custody at this time for the following reason(s):  
Authority: 10A:9-4.5(a)  
  
Field Account of the offense  
Prior criminal record  
Previous incarcerations  
Correctional facility adjustment  
Reports from professional and custody staff  
  
Or any reason which in the opinion of the I.I.C.C., Superintendent or I.C.C.:  
  
Relates to the best interests of the inmate  
Relates to the safe orderly operation of the Department or correctional facility  
Relates to the safety of the community or public at large
- Code 12. Classification Committee feels that this inmate would be successful in a lower than indicated custody level at this time.

VIOLENT DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS

- \*.001 Killing
- \*.003 Assaulting any person with a weapon
- \*.151 Setting a fire
- \*.201 Possession or introduction of an explosive, incendiary device or any ammunition.
- \*.251 Rioting
- \*.252 Encouraging others to Riot
- \*.202 Possession or Introduction of a Gun, Firearm Weapon, Sharpened Instrument, Knife or unauthorized tool.
- \*.002 Assaulting Any Person.
- \*.005 Threatening another with bodily harm or with any offense against his person or his property.
- \*.155 Adulteration of any food or drink
- \*.004 Fighting with another person
- \*.050 Sexual Assault

APPENDIX D

Selected Characteristics of  
1992 NJDOC Adult Male Commitments



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**1992 ADULT MALE ADMISSIONS BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS**  
**NEW COURT COMMITMENTS - TECHNICAL PAROLE VIOLATORS EXCLUDED**

**AGE AT ADMISSION**

	#	%
17 and under	31	< 1%
18 - 20	1,014	13%
21 - 22	1,093	14%
23 - 24	950	12%
25 - 27	1,150	14%
28 - 30	1,016	13%
31 - 33	760	10%
34 - 36	597	8%
37 - 39	417	5%
40 - 44	458	6%
45 - 49	242	3%
50 - 54	100	1%
55 - 59	63	1%
60 - 64	34	< 1%
65+	30	< 1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,955</b>	<b>100%</b>

**TOTAL TERM**

MINS:	#	%
18 mths or less	549	7%
18 mths	436	5%
2 yrs	457	6%
3 yrs	603	8%
4 yrs	292	4%
5 yrs	198	2%
6 - 9 yrs	132	2%
10 yrs	44	1%
11 - 14 yrs	19	< 1%
15 yrs	19	< 1%
16 - 19 yrs	6	< 1%
20 - 24 yrs	13	< 1%
25 - 29 yrs	6	< 1%
30 yrs	33	< 1%
30+ yrs	24	< 1%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>2,841</b>	<b>36%</b>

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

	#	%
Black	4,827	61%
White	1,587	20%
Hispanic	1,515	19%
Other	23	< 1%
Uncoded	3	< 1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,955</b>	<b>100%</b>

**NO MINS:**

	#	%
1 - 2 yrs	296	4%
3 yrs	1,489	19%
4 yrs	1,340	17%
5 yrs	1,062	13%
6 yrs	143	2%
7 yrs	334	4%
8 - 9 yrs	134	2%
10 yrs	146	2%
11 - 14 yrs	64	1%
15 yrs	55	1%
16 - 20 yrs	32	< 1%
20+ yrs	14	< 1%
Life	2	< 1%
Uncoded	3	< 1%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>5,114</b>	<b>64%</b>

**MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE**

VIOLENT:	#	%
Murder/Manslaughter	225	3%
Robbery	912	11%
Sexual Assault	357	4%
Kidnapping	29	< 1%
Assault	621	8%
Other Sexual Offenses	48	1%
Other Violent Offenses	78	1%
<b>TOTAL VIOLENT</b>	<b>2,270</b>	<b>29%</b>

**TOTAL** 7,955 100%

**PROPERTY:**

Burglary	796	10%
Larceny/Theft	355	4%
Rec Stolen Property	237	3%
Fraud/Forgery	33	< 1%
Arson	56	1%
Other Property	30	< 1%
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>1,507</b>	<b>19%</b>

**DRUGS:**

Distribution	3,374	42%
Possession	368	5%
<b>TOTAL DRUGS</b>	<b>3,742</b>	<b>47%</b>

**PUBLIC ORDER:**

Weapons	191	2%
Escape	40	1%
Other Public Order	205	3%
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC ORD</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>5%</b>

**TOTAL** 7,955 100%



APPENDIX E

Modified Initial Inmate Custody Classification  
Instrument and Statistics





**N.J. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
INITIAL INMATE CUSTODY CLASSIFICATION**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEE: \_\_\_\_\_ CHAIRMAN: \_\_\_\_\_ INST: \_\_\_\_\_ REVIEW #: \_\_\_\_\_

SCORER: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ INST ASSIGNMT: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. SEVERITY OF CURRENT OFFENSE**

(Refer to the Severity of Offense Scale. Score the most serious offense if there are multiple convictions.)

- Low ..... 0
- Low Moderate ..... 1
- Moderate ..... 2
- High ..... 4
- Highest ..... 6

Score

**2. PRIOR ASSAULTIVE OFFENSE HISTORY**

(Score the most severe in inmate's history. Refer to the Severity of Offense Scale.)

- None, Low, or Low Moderate ..... 0
- Moderate ..... 2
- High ..... 4
- Highest ..... 6

Score

**3. ESCAPE HISTORY (Rate last 3 years of incarceration)**

- No escapes or attempts (or no prior incarcerations) ..... 0
- An escape or attempt from minimum or community custody, no actual or threatened violence:
  - Over 1 year ago ..... 1
  - Within the last year ..... 3
- An escape or attempt from medium or above custody, or an escape from minimum or community custody with actual or threatened violence:
  - Over 1 year ago ..... 5
  - Within the last year ..... 7

Score

**4. HISTORY OF INSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE**

(Jail or Prison, code most serious within last five years of incarceration.)

- None ..... 0
- Violence not involving use of a weapon or resulting in serious injury ..... 3
- Violence involving use of a weapon and/or result in serious injury ..... 7

Score

**MAX CUSTODY SCORE (Add items 1 through 4)**

(If score is 10 or above, inmate should be assigned to MAX CUSTODY, complete items 5 through 9 for MIS purposes only. If score is under 10, include items 5 through 9 to determine Total Custody Score.)

**MAX CUSTODY  
SCORE**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>5. BALANCE OF TERM TO BE SERVED TO EXPIRATION OF SENTENCE</b>		
Less than 10 years .....	0	
10 to 20 years .....	3	
Greater than 20 years .....	7	
		Score
<b>6. ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE</b>		
None .....	0	
Moderate .....	1	
Serious .....	3	
		Score
<b>7. CURRENT DETAINER/OPEN CHARGES</b>		
None .....	0	
Misdemeanor detainer/Open charge .....	1	
IAD initiated - misdemeanor .....	3	
Felony detainer/Open charge .....	4	
IAD initiated - felony .....	6	
		Score
<b>8. PRIOR FELONY CONVICTIONS</b>		
None .....	0	
One .....	2	
Two or more .....	4	
		Score
<b>9. STABILITY FACTORS</b>		
Under 26 .....	0	
26 - 38 .....	-2	
39 or older .....	-4	
		Score
High school diploma or GED received .....	-1	
		Score
Employed or attending school (full or part-time for six months or longer at time of arrest .....	-1	
		Score

-----  
 MAXIMUM/MEDIUM/MINIMUM CUSTODY SCORE (Items 5 through 9) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>MAXIMUM/MEDIUM/MINIMUM SCALE:</b>		
Maximum Custody .....	15 and above	+ _____
Medium Custody .....	7 to 14	MAX
Minimum Custody .....	6 or less	CUSTODY SCORE
		-----
		TOTAL
		CUSTODY SCORE

**CUSTODY CLASSIFICATION OVERRIDE JUSTIFICATION**

1. **OVERRIDE CODE** (See override reference index) [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
 After entering override code, utilize comments section to record all pertinent data relative to override.

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Rule exemption requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
 Explain (include NJAC cite exempted from) \_\_\_\_\_

Reports Used: \_\_\_\_\_ PSI \_\_\_\_\_ CCH \_\_\_\_\_ PROMIS GAVEL \_\_\_\_\_ III \_\_\_\_\_ OBCIS

APPENDIX E.1

NUMERIC SCORES OF NEW JERSEY DOC  
MODIFIED INITIAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

SCORING ITEM	MEAN	MEDIAN
1. Severity of Current Offense	2.1	1
2. Prior Assaultive Offense History	0.6	0
3. History of Escape	0.1	0
4. History of Institutional Violence	0.2	0
5. Balance of Time to Serve	0.2	0
6. Alcohol/Drug Abuse	1.8	3
7. Current Detainer	1.3	0
8. Prior Felony Convictions	1.9	2
9. Age	-1.3	-2
10. High School Diploma	-0.4	0
11. Employment	-0.2	0
Total Score	6.2	6

**TABLE E.2****COMPUTED CLASSIFICATION TOTAL SCORES  
MODIFIED INITIAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
-4	1	0.1
-3	1	0.1
-2	5	0.5
-1	11	1.0
0	69	6.2
1	43	3.9
2	80	7.2
3	84	7.6
4	137	12.4
5	116	10.5
6	97	8.7
7	88	7.9
8	94	8.5
9	66	6.0
10	55	5.0
11	46	4.1
12	27	2.4
13	25	2.3
14	20	1.8
15	12	1.1
16	8	0.7
17	5	0.5
18	6	0.5
19	5	0.5
20	2	0.2
21	3	0.3
26	1	0.1
28	2	0.2

### APPENDIX E.3

#### MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS INDIVIDUAL SCORING ITEMS ON TOTAL SCORE

SCORING ITEMS	R-SQUARE	CUMULATIVE R-SQUARE
1. Current Detainer.	.260	.260
2. Current Offense	.199	.459
3. Prior Assaultive Offense History	.167	.626
4. Prior Felony Convictions	.082	.708
5. Age	.093	.800
6. Alcohol/Drug Abuse	.075	.875
7. Balance of Time to Serve	.053	.928
8. History of Institutional Violence	.037	.965
9. High School Degree	.014	.980
10. Escape History	.013	.992
11. Employment	.008	1.00



APPENDIX F

OCATS System Reports

Initial and Reclass Statistical Reports





OCATS: INITIAL DECISIONS TOTAL

STATISTICAL TABULATION OF CUSTODY ASSIGNMENTS  
FROM 11/01/94 TO 01/10/95

01/11/95

Page

	CUSTODY LEVEL SCORED		CUSTODY LEVEL ASSIGNED		ICC OVERRIDES	
	N	%	N	%	S	%
MINIMUM	316	0.45	215	0.31	107	0.34
MEDIUM	342	0.49	436	0.62	17	0.05
MAXIMUM	46	0.07	51	0.07	7	0.15
TOTALS	704	1.00	702	1.00	131	0.19

## OCATS: INITIAL DECISION OVERRIDES

01/11/95

OVERRIDE CASES  
FROM 11/01/94 TO 01/10/95

Page

OVERRIDE	NUMBER	% OF CASES	% WITHIN OVERRIDES
01	22	0.03	0.17
02	36	0.05	0.27
03	0	0.00	0.00
04	0	0.00	0.00
06	20	0.03	0.15
07	1	0.00	0.01
08	1	0.00	0.01
09	0	0.00	0.00
10	0	0.00	0.00
11	13	0.02	0.10
12	12	0.02	0.09
5A	12	0.02	0.09
5B	14	0.02	0.11
TOTALS	131	0.19	

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES REVIEWED = 704

OCATS: RECLASS DECISIONS TOTAL

STATISTICAL TABULATION OF CUSTODY ASSIGNMENTS  
FROM 11/01/94 TO 01/10/95

01/11/95

Page

	CUSTODY LEVEL SCORED		CUSTODY LEVEL ASSIGNED		IICC OVERRIDES	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
MINIMUM	99	0.63	65	0.41	32	0.32
MEDIUM	44	0.28	78	0.49	2	0.05
MAXIMUM	15	0.09	13	0.08	3	0.20
TOTALS	158	1.00	156	0.99	37	0.23

OCATS: RECLASS DECISION OVERRIDES

    OVERRIDE CASES  
 FROM 11/01/94 TO 01/10/95

01/11/95

Page

OVERRIDE	NUMBER	% OF CASES	% WITHIN OVERRIDES
01	0	0.00	0.00
02	25	0.16	0.68
03	0	0.00	0.00
04	0	0.00	0.00
06	2	0.01	0.05
07	0	0.00	0.00
08	0	0.00	0.00
09	0	0.00	0.00
10	0	0.00	0.00
11	4	0.03	0.11
12	3	0.02	0.08
5A	1	0.01	0.03
5B	2	0.01	0.05
TOTALS	37	0.23	

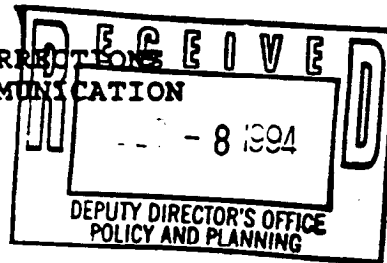
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES REVIEWED = 158

APPENDIX G

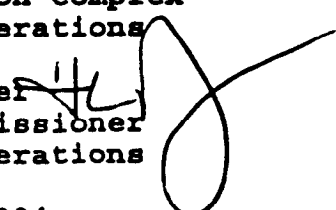
Commissioner Fauver Memo



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION



TO: Administrators/Superintendents  
Youth and Prison Complex  
Division of Operations

FR: Howard L. Beyer   
Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Operations

DT: November 23, 1994

RE: Objective Classification

Please see that the attached memorandum from Commissioner Fauver is posted on your inmate bulletin board and see that it is available in your law libraries. In addition, please see that the contents of letter is discussed with your Prisoners Representative Committee (PRC).

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

HLB:RDE:mmr  
Attachment

c Commissioner Fauver  
Chief of Staff Hilton  
Directors (3) - Division of Operations







State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
WHITTLESEY ROAD  
CN 863  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0863

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN  
Governor

November 22, 1994

WILLIAM H. FAUVER  
Commissioner

TO: ALL CONCERNED

FR: William H. Fauver  
Commissioner *W.H.F.*

SUBJECT: Objective Classification System

Please be advised that, effective December 6, 1994, the Department of Corrections will implement an Objective Classification System for all offenders appearing before the Inter-Institutional Classification Committee (IICC) for their initial classification. All inmates received subsequent to that date will be classified utilizing this new system.

An Objective Classification system utilizes a weighted, and scored evaluation form which measures selected criteria such as current offense, history of violence, detainers and other associated factors. Scoring instruments have been developed for both the initial classification and reclassification process and have been certified by a nationally recognized criminal justice research organization.

Upon successful implementation of the Objective Classification System for the initial decision, the system will be expanded throughout the Department until all institutions are operational. We expect all institutions to be fully converted to the new system within twenty-four months or no later than December 1996.

The implementation of this system will ensure impartial designation of custody status for the inmate population and will enhance uniformity and standardization of the classification process throughout each institution in the Department.

TO: ALL CONCERNED

In order to provide detailed information to the inmate population, a designated institutional coordinator will be meeting with the Prisoners Representative Committee at your respective institution. Information regarding the Objective Classification System will also be provided at Orientation, and eventually will be included in the inmate handbook and Title 10:A.

Any questions you may have should be directed to your social worker or through your institutional Prisoners Representative Committee. Your anticipated cooperation regarding this endeavor is genuinely appreciated.

WHF:SR:sfc

APPENDIX H

Draft Reclassification Instrument



**N.J. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**OBJECTIVE CLASSIFICATION SCORING PROCESS RECLASS INSTRUMENT**

CRAU-007

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEE: \_\_\_\_\_ CHAIRMAN: \_\_\_\_\_ INST: \_\_\_\_\_ REVIEW #: \_\_\_\_\_

CUSTODY STATUS AT TIME OF REVIEW: \_\_\_\_\_ CUSTODY STATUS ASSIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

SCORER: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. SEVERITY OF CURRENT OFFENSE**

(Refer to the Severity of Offense Scale. Score the most serious offense if there are multiple convictions.)

Low & Low Moderate .....	0
Moderate .....	2
High .....	4
Highest .....	6
	<u>        </u>
	Score

**2. PRIOR ASSAULTIVE OFFENSE HISTORY**

(Score the most severe in inmate's history. Refer to the Severity of Offense Scale.)

None, Low, or Low Moderate .....	0
Moderate .....	2
High .....	4
Highest .....	6
	<u>        </u>
	Score

**3. HISTORY OF INSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE**

(Jail or Prison, code most serious within last five years.)

None .....	0
Violence not involving use of a weapon or resulting in serious injury .....	3
Violence involving use of a weapon and/or result in serious injury or death .....	7
	<u>        </u>
	Score

**4. ESCAPE HISTORY (Rate last 3 years of incarceration)**

No escapes or attempts (or no prior incarcerations) ..... 0  
 An escape or attempt from minimum or community custody, no actual or threatened violence:

Over 1 year ago .....	1
Within the last year .....	3

An escape or attempt from medium or above custody, or an escape from minimum or community custody with actual or threatened violence:

Over 1 year ago .....	5
Within the last year .....	7
	<u>        </u>
	Score

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**SUBTOTAL PAGE 1**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. NUMBER OF DISCIPLINARY REPORTS

None in last 18 months .....	-3
None in last 12 months .....	-2
None in last 6 months .....	-1
One in last 6 months .....	0
Two or more in last 12 months .....	4

Score \_\_\_\_\_

6. MOST SEVERE DISCIPLINARY INFRACTION RECEIVED (Within last 18 months. Refer to Infraction Severity Index.)

None .....	0
Low .....	1
Low Moderate .....	2
Moderate .....	3
High .....	5
Highest .....	7

Score \_\_\_\_\_

7. CURRENT DETAINER/OPEN CHARGES

None .....	0
Misdemeanor detainer/Open charge .....	1
IAD initiated - misdemeanor .....	3
Felony detainer/Open charge .....	4
IAD initiated - felony .....	6

Score \_\_\_\_\_

8. AGE

Under 26 .....	0
26 - 38 .....	-2
39 and older .....	-4

Score \_\_\_\_\_

9. BALANCE OF TERM ON PED

0 to 3 years .....	0
3 to 5 years .....	1
5 to 10 years .....	3
Over 10 years .....	7

Score \_\_\_\_\_

10. PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

No Participation .....	0
Completed Program .....	-3
Active .....	-2
Program Waiting List .....	-1

Score \_\_\_\_\_

MAXIMUM/MEDIUM/MINIMUM SCALE:	SUBTOTAL PAGE 2	_____
Maximum Custody.....15 and above		
Medium Custody..... 7 to 14	SUBTOTAL PAGE 1	_____
Minimum Custody..... 6 or less		
	<b>TOTAL CUSTODY SCORE</b>	_____

CUSTODY CLASSIFICATION OVERRIDE JUSTIFICATION

1. OVERRIDE CODE (See override reference index) [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
 After entering override code, utilize comments section to record all pertinent data relative to override.

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Rule exemption requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
 Explain (include NJAC cite exempted from) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_