

If we assume that 622 jails on which we know the period of construction, are representative of all jails and that the percentages of facilities built during a given period would equal the percentage of the total bed spaces provided, then we can compute the probable capital outlay at \$6,000 per bed for the past 5 years as approximately \$100 million or \$20 million a year.

On the same basis, we can say that if one-half of all jails are obsolete that 60,000 beds are now needed and these would cost \$360 million at \$6,000 per bed.

If approximately \$20 million a year was spent in each of the past 5 years for new jail construction, and jails are being built at an accelerated rate, more than \$200 million would probably be spent in this area in the next 10 years.

Jails are being built at an increasing rate which will probably continue as the backlog of unmet needs and the growth of population are putting tremendous pressure on communities to update and expand their jail facilities. This is particularly true in high population areas. Tax-exempt municipal bonds are the usual source of financing jail construction and will probably continue to be the primary source of revenue for building such facilities.

PART II. ADULT FELONY INSTITUTIONS

The second part of this chapter deals exclusively with State adult felony institutions. The information for this report was obtained from the responses to questionnaires sent to the departments of correction in all 50 States and in the District of Columbia. Responses were received from all States with the following exceptions: Alaska, Arkansas, Kansas, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Utah, and West Virginia; therefore, these States have been excluded from the study.

A. NATURE AND COMPOSITION

1. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

The institutions covered in this study are categorized in terms of the type of security provided. Three general levels of security are used: minimum, medium, and maximum. Minimum custody institutions usually have no fences, walls or towers; they are, in other words, open institutions. Forestry camps, farm camps, and some youth facilities are examples of minimum custody institutions. This type of institution is relatively small, housing 60 to about 300 inmates in dormitories, and at times in individual rooms, as opposed to cells. First offenders, young offenders, and relatively minor offenders with short sentences are confined in minimum custody institutions.

Medium custody institutions usually have a capacity of 300 to 800. They provide a variety of housing arrangements, consisting of dormitories and one- or two-man cells. These institutions are surrounded by fences, and have guard towers placed at strategic points to maintain security. Reformatories and houses of correction are examples of medium security institutions. This type of institution serves a heterogeneous group of inmates with prior records, varying sentence lengths and kinds of offenses.