



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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WOMEN IN PRISON IN MINNESOTA

Institutional Placement of the Woman Offender in Minnesota

For the last two years many Edina Leaguers have worked, studied, toured prisons, written letters and button-holed their friends and legislators on behalf of a safer, more adequate Minnesota women's prison. During the last hours of the 1983 Minnesota Legislative Session, a bonding bill for a new Women's Correctional Facility at Shakopee was approved. Edina LWV will continue to monitor the progress of this facility along with the Minnesota LWV and the Shakopee LWV.

In our October unit meetings we may again be asked: Why do we need a new women's prison? Can't we use one of the empty state facilities instead of building a new facility? Why does this facility have to be in the metropolitan area? In the past we have concentrated on the facility itself. This month we would like to expand our study of the Minnesota Women's Correctional Facility at Shakopee to include a little history of the present prison and a larger profile of Minnesota's female offenders. For example: What is the average age? Crime? Sentence? Most important....What makes her unique in the prison system?

*** Colored slides showing the MWCF at Shakopee will also be presented at the October unit meetings.

The following information was taken from a publication by the Minnesota Department of Corrections report entitled MINNESOTA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR WOMEN PRELIMINARY PLANNING REPORT - 1981. (FOR THE STATE LEGISLATURE)

Introduction

The neglect that has characterized female correction nationally has also existed in Minnesota. Women have traditionally comprised and still comprise a very small proportion of the the total offender population. Their crimes are generally less serious and their criminal histories less dramatic. As a consequence, women have often been victims of substantial neglect and discrimination within the correctional system. The lack of attention to the woman offender in the past is immediately evident when an effort is made to document their problems. Information in the correctional field is so infrequently identified as pertaining to females as opposed to males that adequate documentation on the female offender is very difficult. The women's correctional facility at Shakopee has received such little attention that today it stands in the worst condition of any correctional facility in the state system.

Discrepancies

The Department of Corrections, while gathering data on female offender populations, became aware of certain discrepancies in treatment of the male and female offenders. These differences brought into focus the lack of resources for the female offender at the local level. Example: Shakopee has 2 job training programs. Stillwater for men has at least 12 job training programs. (Most of the women will return home to support dependent children. Most of the men released from prison will not be supporting dependent children.)

According to the Sentence Guidelines Commission, proportionately more women go to prison for less severe crimes than males, and, conversely, proportionately fewer men guilty of serious crimes go to prison than females.

Discussion with judges, county attorneys and public defenders suggest that lack of decent jail facilities for females and lack of any kind of alternative programs for women locally result in different treatment of male and female offenders. Others suggest that society doesn't feel as threatened by female offenders as male offenders (i.e. women don't riot); and, therefore, they do not see the need for safe, secure housing and an abundance of programs. Also the sheer numbers are a factor. There are so few female prisoners compared to male prisoners that the problem of female prisoners seems small by comparison. Probably the most important factor is that there is simply a lack of understanding of the unique problems of female offenders.

SOCIOECONOMIC AND FAMILY DATA

Staff members at the women's correctional institution note an extreme degree of dependency in female offenders. Their relationships with men are generally destructive and are often the stimulus to the woman's involvement in crime.

The largest percentage of female crimes involves property crime. The largest number of female offenders commit crimes of a less serious nature, and have a less extensive history of criminal activity when compared to male offenders. When involved in crimes against persons, a disproportionate number of female offenders are involved in murder or manslaughter. This most often involves someone important in their lives -- husbands, boyfriends or children.

Today ages of inmates range from 18 to 50. The average age is 26. Seventy-four percent are under 30 years of age.

Blacks and American Indians continue to be disproportionately represented. At the time of this study, 34 percent of the total female population at Shakopee were minorities.

As demonstrated by test results, 88.7 percent of the inmates are of average intelligence or above. In fact, 23.7 percent tested out as bright-normal or superior. Despite this predominance of good basic intellectual ability, the educational and skill development of this population is sadly underdeveloped, and their employment history is almost entirely non-existent or sporadic.

Only 31.7 are high school graduates; 45.8 percent have not completed their high school education; 20.6 percent have met requirements for a G.E.D. Only 30 percent indicate that they had experienced any vocational training and very few have actually completed their courses. Of the entire population only four women have histories of regular employment in legal activities. Another five had a fairly regular history of illegal employment, mainly prostitution.

Work previously performed by this group of women offenders fell, understandably, in unskilled areas such as waitress, aides in nursing homes and unskilled factory work.

Income for these women was realized primarily through welfare (44 percent) supplemented by sporadic work, support from husbands, boyfriends, and family, and to a sizable degree by illegal activity. Records clearly indicate that at least 46 percent realized gain by illegal activities.

In November of 1980 63 percent of the inmate population at Shakopee was single. Twenty-eight percent were divorced or separated, four point seven percent were married. Although few women inmates today have intact marriages, they DO HAVE DEPENDENT CHILDREN. Most of these children were living with their mother at the time of her incarceration.

Most of these children were placed with family members or in foster homes. Regular contact between mother and child is most important. Even though the number of women with children might vary at Shakopee, what will not vary is the fact that the children are consistently a part of the offender's life. This child care and development is of great importance to the woman offender and the children themselves. It also needs to become a concern to the larger society within which these families exist. The women "live" for the weekends when their children might be able to come for a visit.

Other factors seriously affecting the woman offender's ability to function well in society relate to chemical abuse, psychiatric problems, and chronic health conditions. In the Department's recent study, 66 percent of the women offenders have serious chemical use problems. Of this number, 12.6 percent have serious problems with both drug and alcohol abuse. Few of these women have sought treatment. The seriousness of these problems is dramatized, beyond the damaged life of the woman offender, when one realizes that many of the crimes committed by these women are committed while under the influence of chemicals. Another 18.7 percent have psychiatric problems for which they have already received some attention. The study showed, through reports in inmate files, that many women were neglected and physically or sexually abused as children, generally in their own homes.

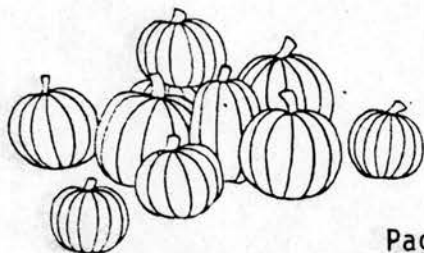
Probably the greatest problem facing most women offenders is their extreme sense of dependence. The staff members of the MWCF at Shakopee see the ability to help the woman offender to develop a sense of "self-esteem" -- a sense of direction that she determines for herself -- as the institution's most difficult rehabilitative problem. A lack of autonomy and self-determination often leads the woman offender to seek direction through someone else, most frequently a man. Unfortunately, these relationships too often turn out to be destructive/using relationships and are frequently the basis of the woman offender's criminal behavior.

The female offender, generally passive and dependent, is extremely traditional and has accepted society's view of women as chiefly wives and mothers. Yet they come to those roles poorly prepared, too often choosing inadequate or destructive relationships, and unequipped to undertake alternative roles.

Recognizing this about the female offender and recognizing that the time spent in prison may be the only opportunity in her life when she can experience an independence from abusive male relationships, the Department of Corrections sees a value in maintaining the separateness for the female offender during her prison experience. Shakopee hopes to provide the female offender with time and space in which she can see herself as a separate person, can begin to develop strengths that will allow her to determine her own direction, and skills that will enable her to care for herself more adequately. The prison experience could be an opportunity for her to try new roles and tasks that were before perceived to be closed to her by a man of dominance.

If the woman offender's ability to provide for her family can be improved, her parenting ability can also be improved, and her family strengthened. Then a reduction in her criminal behavior and improved care of the children involved might be possible.

- Lynne Westphal, Chair
Human Resources/Social
Policy



INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION

INTRODUCTION

The following section is a follow-up to the inmate profile and institutional population presented in the 1979 Legislative Report on Institutional Placement of the Woman Offender. It presents primarily information on the woman offender population at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Shakopee as of November 1, 1980. The information presents a continuing description of the average woman offender in the state correctional system which indicates a woman of limited education and work experience. She is likely to have dependent children for whom she was caring for at the time of her incarceration, and she will care for them again when released. She is likely to be chemically dependent and may have psychiatric problems. She has probably been abused as a child, and she is more than likely involved with a male who mistreats her.

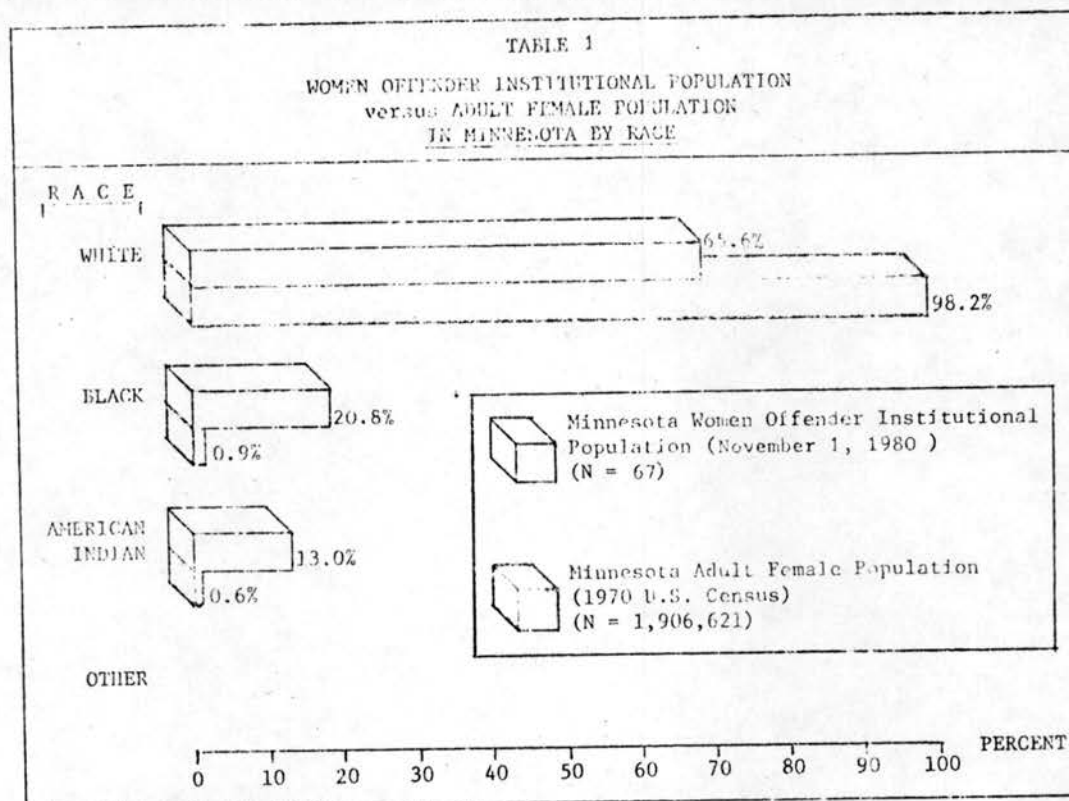
Staff members at the women's correctional institution note an extreme degree of dependency in female offenders. Their relationships with men are generally destructive and are often the stimulus to the woman's involvement in crime.

The largest percentage of female crime involves property offenses. The largest number of female offenders commit crimes of a less serious nature, and have a less extensive history of chemical activity when compared to male offenders. When involved in crimes against persons, a disproportionate number of female offenders are involved in murder or manslaughter. This most often involves someone important in their lives--husbands, boyfriends or children.

SOCIOECONOMIC AND FAMILY DATA

The current population (November, 1980) when compared to the population reported in the 1979 legislative report, is slightly older, but continues to be essentially a young population. Seventy-four percent are under 30 years of age; 46.6 percent are under 25. Ages of inmates range from 18 to 47 years.

Blacks and American Indians continue to be disproportionately represented as can be seen in Table 1. At the time of our current study, 34 percent of the total population were minorities.



As demonstrated by test results, 88.7 percent of the inmates are of average intelligence or above, in fact 23.7 percent tested out as bright-normal or superior. Despite this predominance of good basic intellectual ability, the educational and skill development of this population is sadly underdeveloped, and their employment history is almost entirely sporadic or non-existent.

Only 31.7 percent are high school graduates. Some 45.8 percent have not completed their high school education. Some 20.6 percent have met requirements for a G.E.D. Only 30 percent indicate that they had experienced any vocational training, and very few have actually completed their training courses. Of the entire population, only four women have histories of regular employment in legal activities. Another five had a fairly regular history of illegal employment, mainly prostitution.

Work previously performed by this group of women offenders fell, understandably, in unskilled areas such as waitress, aids in nursing homes, and unskilled factory work.

Income for these women was realized primarily through welfare, 44 percent, supplemented by sporadic work, support from husbands, boyfriends, and family; and to a sizable degree by illegal activity. Records clearly indicate that at least 46 percent realized gain by illegal activities.

It is apparent when data on marital status of the current population is compared with earlier years that a larger percentage are single, and fewer are remaining married. In 1971, 40.7 percent of the population was single. By November 1, 1980 this figure reached 63 percent with 28 percent divorced or separated. In 1971, 18.5 percent of the population was married as opposed to 4.7 percent in 1980.

Although few women inmates today have intact marriages, they do have children. Of the inmates at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Shakopee, on November 1, 1980, 42 had a total of 66 children. Most of these children were living with their mother at the time of her incarceration. Most of these children are placed with family members during their mother's incarceration, and regular contact is maintained between mother and child. The number of women offenders with dependent children will vary from time to time; what will not vary is the fact that children are consistently a significant part of the woman offender's life. The care and development is of great importance to the woman offender and the children themselves. It also needs to become a concern to the larger society within which these families exist.

Other factors seriously affecting the woman offender's ability to function well in society relate to chemical abuse, psychiatric problems, and chronic health conditions. In the Department's recent study, 66 percent of the women offenders have serious chemical use problems. Of this number, 12.6 percent have serious problems with both drug and alcohol abuse. Few of these women have sought treatment. The seriousness of these problems is dramatized, beyond the damaged life of the woman offender, when one realizes that many of the crimes committed by these women are committed while under the influence of chemicals. Another 18.7 percent of the woman offender population have had psychiatric problems for which they have received some attention. The study showed, through reports in inmate files, that many women were neglected and physically or sexually abused as children. Staff members at Shakopee report that personal discussions with inmates indicate that more than 60 percent of the female inmate population have been physically or sexually abused as children, generally within their own homes.

Most female offenders in the state correctional institutions come from the Twin Cities metropolitan area. At the time of the recent Department study, 60 percent of the population were from Hennepin and Ramsey counties. Data from 1971 to date indicate a great degree of consistency in this population distribution.

CRIME DATA

An examination of female arrest, conviction, and imprisonment data in the past has shown us that women account for a relatively small proportion of arrests, convictions, and commitments to institutions. They also commit fewer crimes of violence than male offenders, and they have less serious criminal histories. Data gathered by the Sentencing Guidelines Commission has shown us that a larger proportion (40 percent) of women offenders were

committed to the Commissioner of Corrections for low severity crimes when compared to 13.5 percent of male offenders; and these women had fewer prior convictions than their male counterparts.

It is not yet determined if the Sentencing Guidelines will noticeably change this general picture. An examination of current admissions to the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee as compared to previous years show minor shifts (see Table 2). Data from January 1, 1980 to November 1, 1980 shows an increase in the percentage of both property crime and person crime, and a drop in other crime, which is primarily drug related crime over 1979 data. The increase in property and person categories is consistent with increases in several previous years, however property crimes still account for most new admissions.

TABLE 2
GENERAL OFFENSE CATEGORY OF WOMEN OFFENDERS
ADMITTED TO MCF-SHAKOPEE^a
(Years 1971-1978; 10 months 1980)

GENERAL OFFENSE CATEGORY	1971 YEAR (N = 27)	1972 YEAR (N = 49)	1973 YEAR (N = 54)	1974 YEAR (N = 45)	1975 YEAR (N = 49)	1976 YEAR (N = 54)	1977 - YEAR (N = 60)	1978 YEAR (N = 65)	1979 YEAR (N = 67)	1980 10 mos. (N = 31)
Person	18.5%	26.5%	16.7%	15.5%	24.5%	16.7%	20.0%	27.6%	24.06%	25.8%
Property	51.9	51.0	59.2	64.4	53.1	53.7	45.0	60.0	59.6	64.5
Other ^b	29.6	22.4	24.1	20.0	22.4	29.6	35.0	12.4	16.34	9.6
TOTAL ^c	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%

^aThis table does not account for offenders committed to the Commissioner, and currently placed in other institutions on escape or on conditional parole. Other institutions being other state or local federal institutions used because of high populations and lack of good security at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee.

^b"Other" is primarily drug crimes and technical violations returned to prison.

^cDue to rounding, total percentages may not equal 100.

While new admissions present the foregoing picture, a different view emerges when we look at women offenders comprising the total institutional population. Women offenders committed for more serious crimes will, of course, remain longer and thus ultimately comprise a larger proportion of the institution's population. Table 3 presents the woman offender population as of November 1, 1980 in terms of crimes of commitment. In this situation the proportion of property and person crime is reversed.

TABLE 3

Primary Commitment Offense

Woman Offender Population - MCF-SHK
November 1, 1980

<u>Person Offense</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Murder	7	11.1%
Manslaughter	3	4.7%
Aggravated Assault	3	4.7%
Aggravated Robbery	11	17.4%
Simple Robbery	3	4.7%
Kidnapping	4	6.3%
Subtotal	31	48.9%
<u>Property Offense</u>		
Receiving Stolen Property	1	1.5%
Theft	8	12.6%
DUMV	2	3.1%
Forgery	12	19.0%
Burglary	3	4.7%
Subtotal	26	40.9%
Drug	4	6.3%
Other	2	3.1%
Subtotal	6	9.4%
Total ^a	63	99.2%

^aDue to rounding total percentages may not equal 100.

Of the current population, 28 percent has a history of at least one previous felony, and half of these women have also been convicted of a misdemeanor.

As noted in last year's Legislative Report on the Institutional Placement of the Woman Offender, security has become a serious problem. Escapes from the institution have been a main cause for concern for some time. Of the current population, 23 women have escaped once, and 14 more than once. Of these 14, 4 escaped 4 times.

Inadequate and insufficient security accommodations at Shakopee are a continuing problem, and the need to seek other resources for women with extreme behavior problems continues. Currently Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee has offenders placed in other state and federal facilities.

Last year's study indicated an increased use of segregation, room restriction, and isolation; and discussed the limited and inadequate facility at Shakopee to meet disciplinary needs. These conditions remain the same.

TABLE 4
NUMBER OF DISCIPLINARY SENTENCES
GIVEN AT MCF-SHAKOPEE BY TYPE AND MONTH
July 1978 - June 1979

Month	Segregation	Room Restriction	Restricted Segregation	Isolation	Total
July	12	0	0	1	13
August	9	5	0	2	16
September	20	10	0	1	31
October	7	5	0	1	13
November	17	4	0	7	28
December	7	8	5	0	20
January	8	12	0	11	31
February	10	9	0	4	23
March	8	20	0	7	35
April	4	16	0	3	23
May	13	7	0	1	21
June	6	7	0	6	19
TOTAL	121	103	5	44	273

Average - 22.75 Disciplinary
Sentences Per Month

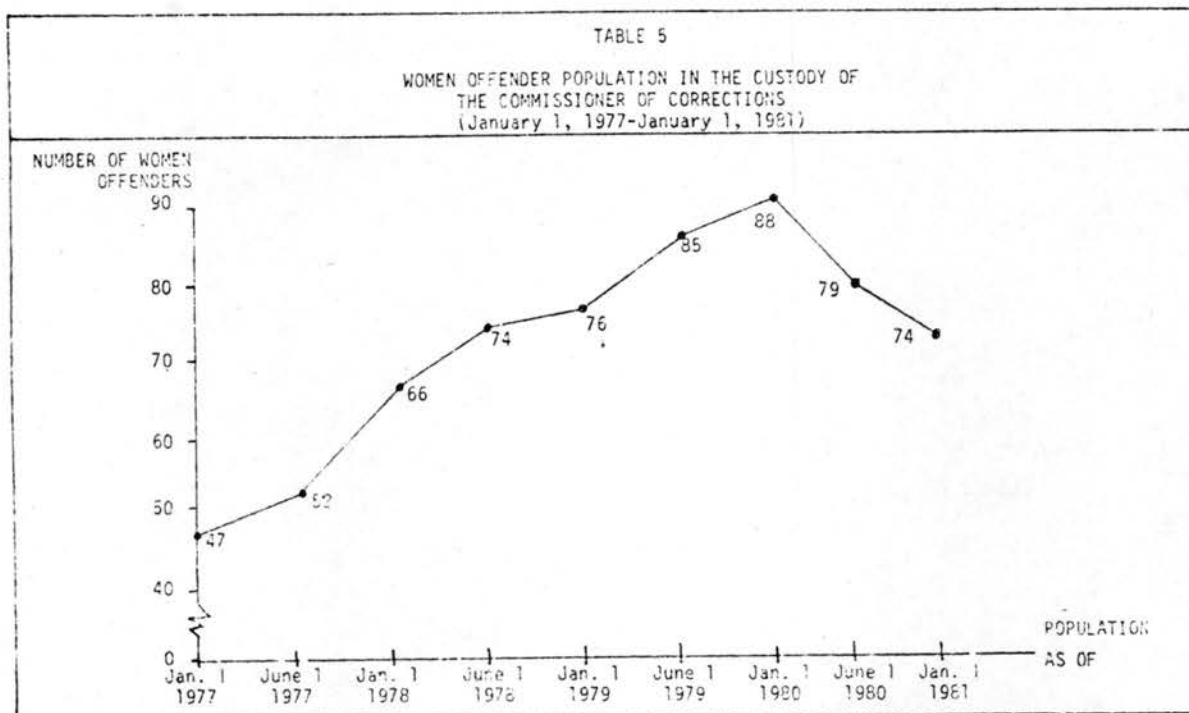
*This table excludes sentences that are suspended or given concurrently.

INSTITUTION POPULATION

Over-population at Shakopee has been a problem since early 1978. The Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee is equipped and staffed to handle no more than 60 women. Between the years 1972 to 1978 the average daily population figures showed a fairly steady increase, but the population remained below the 60 level.

In early 1978, the population grew to 66 women, thereby exceeding the capacity of the institution. The population has remained above Shakopee's capacity ever since. On January 1, 1981 the institution was responsible for 74 women offenders.

A population of 88 women was reached on January 1, 1980. There has been a gradual decline from that figure to the present level of 74. There has been a noticeable decline in commitments of women offenders to the Commissioner of Corrections since June of this year. The first 6 months of 1980 saw 23 commitments to Shakopee, while in the last 6 months of the year there were only 11 commitments.



The Sentencing Guidelines have been in effect since May of 1980, too short a time to assess their impact on institutional populations. The commitment decline of the past six months may be due to the Guidelines or may be caused by other unidentified factors. Even if the Sentencing Guidelines are a contributing influence to the declining commitments seen in recent months, one cannot be certain that this pattern will continue in the future. Additionally, since sentences of those going to prison under the Guidelines are expected to be longer, this factor will take time to impact institutional populations. It will be a while before the effects of this factor can be assessed.

Given the unusual decline of institutional populations in recent months and the undetermined but possible impact of Sentencing Guidelines on this population, it is very difficult to predict to future populations at this time.

THE WOMAN PRISONER IN MINNESOTA

THE WOMAN PRISONER IN MINNESOTA

SCRIPT TO ACCOMPANY SLIDES OF MINNESOTA WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Slide

1. The Minnesota Women's Correctional Facility is located in Shakopee Minnesota, which is 26 miles south west of the Twin Cities.
2. It hasn't changed much since 1920 when the first building was completed after a five year struggle by Isabel Higbee and Minnesota women's clubs to have a separate facility for women. Until that time, women had had a separate but UNEQUAL facility at the Stillwater Men's Prison. Unfortunately, Isabel Higbee died on the steps of the State Capital shortly before the Minnesota Legislature approved of a facility for women.
3. The Minnesota Correctional Facility for Women is the only receiving facility in the state for adult female felons. It is located on approximately seven acres of land and is not enclosed by a fence or a wall. All activities take place in four buildings built between 1920-1923. The institution is equipped and staffed to manage no more than 60 inmates. At times the population has risen to 90.
4. In September 1984, after a twelve year struggle to replace the unsafe, inadequate facility, groundbreaking took place on the land once farmed by female inmates. A new prison for women will be completed in 1986.
5. From 1920 until the 1940's the two skills taught at Shakopee were farming and homemaking. This old sewing room is gone now, but it used to be where inmates toiled to make every kind of garment for all Minnesota's state institutions.
6. The kitchen was finally remodeled a few years ago.
7. STOP! Let's suppose that YOU have committed a crime. You have been

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caught. Arrested. Tried. Convicted. And now you^{are} about to enter the Minnesota Women's Correctional Facility at Shakopee.....

8. The officer escorts you to the steps of the admitting office.
9. As you glance to the right, you notice an empty swing set and once again you are reminded of your kids and their new foster mother. What is she like? Will your kids be okay? Will she be able to bring them to Shakopee on visiting day?
10. You're inside the building now. And you are beginning to notice the barriers.
11. You feel alone.....
12. Isolated from all that is familiar and important to you.
13. You feel fear.....
14. But you must not show that fear to these people. You must somehow survive this place and these people.
15. You will not be placed at level one because you are new and not considered a threat to others. Level one is a disciplinary status where an inmate is in maximum custody for a designated time and whose placement is either in isolation or segregation, depending upon the degree of control she needs.
16. You will be placed at level two in a cottage for new admissions for a minimum of two weeks.
17. You will also be sharing space with those who are in level two cottage because of disciplinary status or they are escapees.
18. After two weeks, you move to level three where you are considered medium custody. It is here that you begin your work assignments in maintenance or food service for a minimum of 350 hours.
19. By the time you reach level four, you'll have met the goals of level three and receive some privileges.

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20. At level five, you will have reached honor status, which means that you are now eligible for off grounds vocational training.
21. Approximately this much time is spent at each level. (pause)
22. If you had come in at level one, you would be considered a high risk inmate.
23. You might even be place in a maximum security cell. (pause)
24. However, you are a brand new felon entering at level two. If you are lucky you will not have to share your room and your family will bring you a few things to make your room attractive.
25. If you are not lucky, you may get one of the reconverted basement rooms which floods when it rains.
26. If the facility is crowded, you may even have a roommate.
27. Upon entering the institution, you will be examined by the doctor.
28. The dentist.
29. And the psychologist.
30. Superintendent, Jackie Flemming has been in charge for 12 years. She has worked hard in order to secure a newer, safer prison and at the same time, keep the old facility running smoothly and safely.
31. A staff meets in order to determine what your needs are and what programs will suit those particular needs. In total, there are fifty staff members at Shakopee.
32. There are many programs that are offered at this facility. More will be offered when the new facility is completed.
33. Three hundred and fifty hours of work must be completed before you can sign up for employment skill training.
34. You may work in maintenance or repair.
35. Or you may find yourself doing kitchen work. Some women chose to stay in this area and earn a certificate in food preparation.

36. The education program at Shakopee exists to provide a variety of program options to meet many needs. Emphasis is placed on success so that every student can experience at least one success each day and be involved in personal growth and academic growth in the education program.
37. The basement library and class room area is quite inadequate at this time.
38. Students are pretested to give the student and teacher information about appropriate starting levels and to guide teachers in selecting appropriate materials.
39. Academic education is divided into five general areas: adult education, high school completion, special programs and the arts.
40. Students are post-tested to determine their progress.
41. The G.E.D. is awarded those who complete their high school equivalency tests.
42. Inmates may discover they have the ability for college courses. Some courses are offered to allow inmates to gain credits towards general college requirements. The important thing is to get women to start thinking in terms of choices and success.
43. The Independent Living Skills Program is an award winning program being presented at Shakopee. The major goal of the program is to help women learn those things that will make the transition from prison to society easier and more successful. For example, women have worked on making career plans, or making plans for school or living expenses when released, on locating free or inexpensive furniture or clothing and, in general, how to budget time, money and how to set goals for self improvement.
44. The You and Yours Program deals with sexuality, family relationships, money management and community resources. The most important problem

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solving lies in the areas of chemical dependency. Since most inmates have some chemical dependency problems, this is a primary target program with assistance and follow up by Alcoholics Anonymous before and after release. Until the chemical dependency cycle is dealt with, other programs are secondary.

45. Parenting. Since most of the women come from abusive families, it is important that this cycle of violence be dealt with while in a safer environment.

46. Ironically, prison for women is an opportunity to improve their lives and their children's lives.

47. Most of the women in Shakopee have children who come to visit them on the weekends. They arrive on Friday evenings and depart on Sunday afternoons.....if volunteers can be found to bring the children to visit their mothers. The children stay in their mother's rooms.

48. The single most important concern of the woman in prison is for the welfare of her children.

49. Since most of the mothers are single parents because of divorce or desertion, it is important that the children and their mothers remain close.

50. Parenting skills are also practiced at these precious times.(PAUSE)

51. Part of the independent living skills includes employment. Volunteers from many large and small metropolitan companies visit the prison and talk to the director of light industry at the prison in order to meet the needs for learning good work habits and the chance to earn and learn from on the job training while in prison.

52. Opportunities range from simple jobs in light industry.....

53.to drill press work

54.office skills

55.key punch, which by the way is no longer in demand in the world

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of work outside the prison.

56. Space at the present prison severely restricts the on the job training at Shakopee.
57. Honeywell volunteers discuss the computers they have donated. A few others were purchased from the educational fund at the prison. But many, many more are needed to accomodate the increasing need for this important employment training that the women want and need in order to support their families upon release.
58. In the meantime, opportunities for job training at Shakopee are not adequate.
59. After reaching level five, the inmate may be eligible for off grounds training.
60. Since the average stay at Shakopee is eighteen months, some of the women are unable to benefit from these programs. Also, the waiting lists for computer training and off grounds training are very long.
61. Volunteer coordinator, Jerry Knutson brings together staff people regularly to discuss individual needs of the inmates. Her job is to coordinate the 150 voluntary agencies, ranging from churches to individuals to large and small corporations, with the needs of the prison.
62. Individual volunteers teach everything from problem solving.....
63. To Black culture. Sometimes they help coordinate events such as American Indian heritage week at the prison.
64. Volunteers for recreational activities are also important as the indoor facilities are extremely limiting.
65. Arts are an important part of the programming at Shakopee because it is one area wherean imate can experience immediate success and feel good about herself.
66. A part time photography and pottery teacher is the center of the

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art education program.

67. These are some of the women's small victories....

68.

69.

70. And this is just one volunteer who made a difference.

71. She brought her talents to the women in the areas of garment assembly.

In her class the women designed and created their own garments. The result was a victorious fashion show.

72. Nearing the end of her sentence, if a woman has met her goals and the goals of the correctional system, she will qualify for work release time off the grounds.

73. When you are ready to leave, hopefully you will have a job waiting on the outside.

74. If you are VERY lucky, your family will still be in tact.

75. You will have completed your high school requirements...

76. and will now have a certificate.

77. You will be recovering from chemical dependency....

78. This is a portrait of a prisoner from Shakopee who learned a craft in prison and found success on the outside.

79. If you have worked hard on your goals, you will be more self sufficient, and have a better self image...a better feeling to share with your children about yourself and life.

80. You will be better off than before....and you will be free in many ways.