

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary**

Blue Sheet No. 20030344

1. REQUESTED MOTION:

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve funding an Assistant State Attorney who will expedite 60 cases a month for early disposition. Authorize transfer from General Fund Reserves in the amount of \$56,328 for the period of May 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003. Projected cost for this position is \$138,368 including fringes for FY 03-04.

WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY:

Average daily inmate population continues to increase despite jail management efforts due to this area's tremendous growth. State Attorney has the ability to free up an experienced prosecutor for this Accelerated Case Resolution initiative if the County will reimburse the State 100% of the cost.

WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: Approval will allow the State Attorney to assign an experienced prosecutor to the intake, charging and Accelerated Case Resolution program to expedite cases. Early case disposition by an average of 49 days for 300 defendants annually would result in future jail expansion cost savings. This should relieve some overcrowding and daily cost, which would give the Board of County Commissioners extended time before new jail space is required without compromising the safety and welfare of citizens.

**2. DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY:
COMMISSION DISTRICT #**

A15A

3. MEETING DATE:

04-01-2003

4. AGENDA:

- CONSENT
- ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
- PUBLIC WALK ON
- TIME REQUIRED:

**5. REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE:
(Specify)**

- STATUTE
- ORDINANCE
- ADMIN. CODE
- OTHER

6. REQUESTOR OF INFORMATION:

- A. COMMISSIONER
- B. DEPARTMENT State Attorney
- C. DIVISION

BY: *W. Russell*
for Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney

7. BACKGROUND: The State Attorney's Office works with law enforcement to receive sufficient information to file cases within a certain period of time after arrest. It usually takes months before most cases are negotiated and resolved. The goal of the new program is to place experienced prosecutors in the screening unit. Not only will this unit strive to make good charging decisions, but also a significant number of serious misdemeanor cases and lower level felonies will have realistic offers extended to defense counsel by arraignment so that those cases can be resolved with an entrance of plea shortly thereafter. This is an innovative and cost effective way to make necessary improvements in the criminal justice system rather than just building or staffing more jail beds. SEE ATTACHED SUMMARY.

8. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

9. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:

A Department Director	B Purchasing or Contracts	C Human Resources	D Other	E County Attorney	F Budget Services				G County Manager
		<i>J. Robinson 3/26</i>		<i>J. Schell</i>	OA <i>3/26</i>	OM <i>3/26</i>	Risk <i>3/26</i>	GC <i>3/26</i>	<i>3-20-03</i>

10. COMMISSION ACTION

- APPROVED
- DENIED
- DEFERRED
- OTHER

ACTD.
by CO. ATTY.
3/19/03
3:15 PM
CO. ATTY.
FORWARDED TO:
Att. Gen.
3:15 PM

**STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
ACCELERATED CASE RESOLUTION PROGRAM**

Description:

An experienced prosecutor (10+ years of experience) will be utilized to supervise and prosecute cases at the intake level.

Performance Goals:

1. Prosecutor will increase by 60 a month (from a handful now) those cases suitable for accelerated case resolution and early disposition; 90 percent of these cases are pre-trial detainees occupying jail beds.
2. Program should lead to pleas within 45 days of about 30 of these defendants, knocking an average of 49 days off each defendant's pre-trial jail stay. At about 300 defendants a year, that would be a savings, or cost containment, of 14,700 jail bed days at about \$50 a day.
3. This efficiency should delay opening of the second story of the core jail facility at the Ortiz Correctional Site. Staffing of the second story is estimated at about \$3 million a year.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the \$56,328 (five-month) cost of the position (May 1 through Sept. 30) and transfer the funds from General Fund Reserves, with the following stipulations:

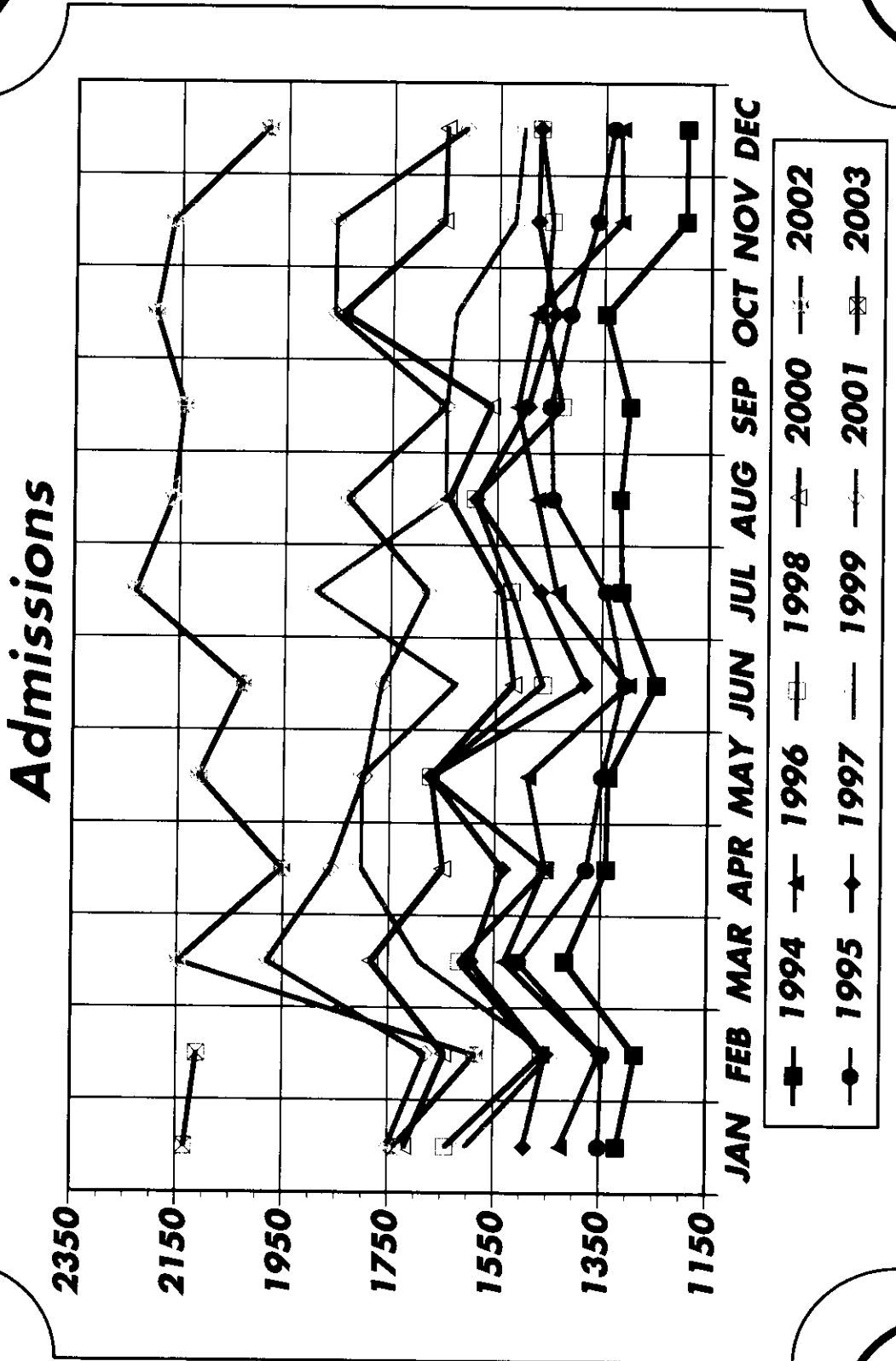
1. State Attorney's Office will incorporate the position into its Fiscal 03-04 budget request.
2. The State Attorney's Office has offered to present an annual update to the Board of County Commissioners on the accomplishment of the performance goals.

Funding Mechanism:

Florida Statute 27.34 allows the county to appropriate funds to the SAO for the prosecution of RICO offenses. The prosecution of RICO offenses is a priority of the new State Attorney. The funding of a RICO position will then allow the State Attorney to assign an experienced staffer to the intake, charging, and Accelerated Case Resolution (ACR) program.

Background:

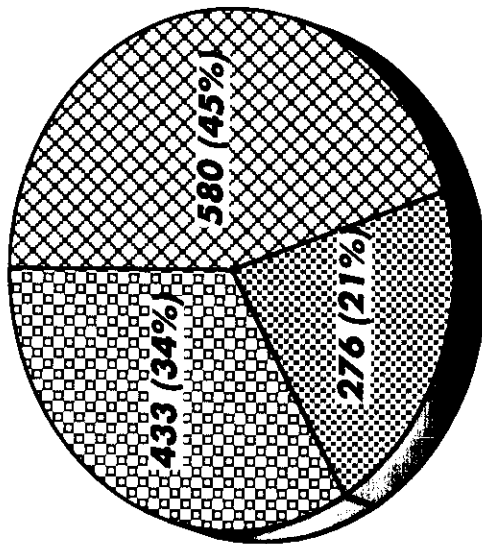
Jail Population Management



Jail Population Management

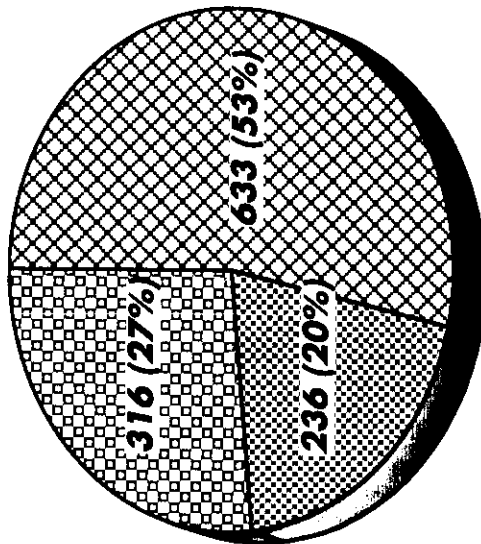
Prisoner Status

Feb 2003



Average Prisoners —
1,289

Feb 2002



Average Prisoners —
1,185

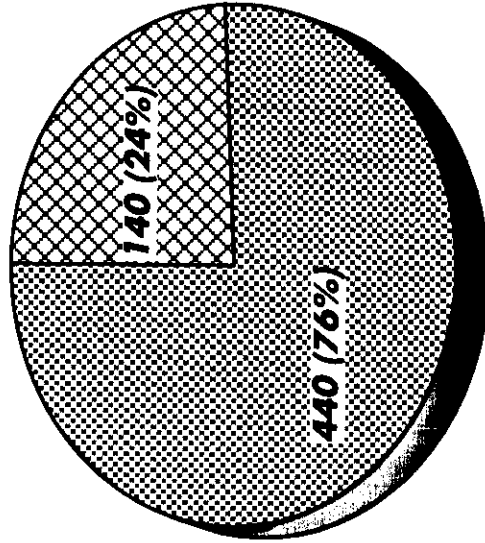


Lee County

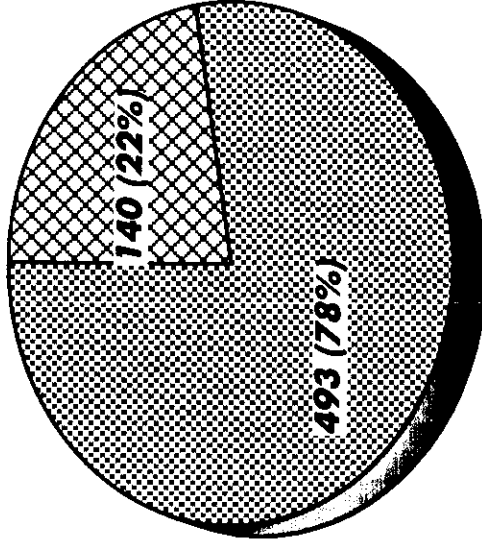
Jail Population Management

Pre-Trial Prisoners

Feb 2003



Feb 2002



Misdemeanor



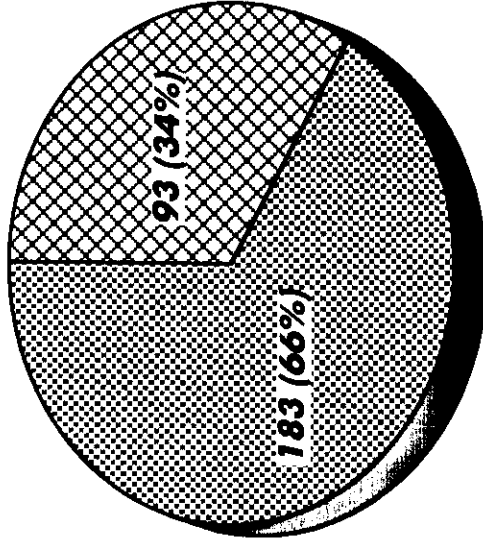
Felony

Lee County

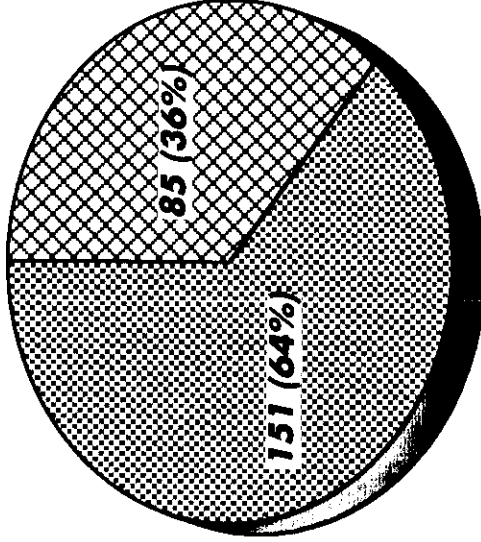
Jail Population Management

Post Trial Prisoners

Feb 2003



Feb 2002



Misdemeanor



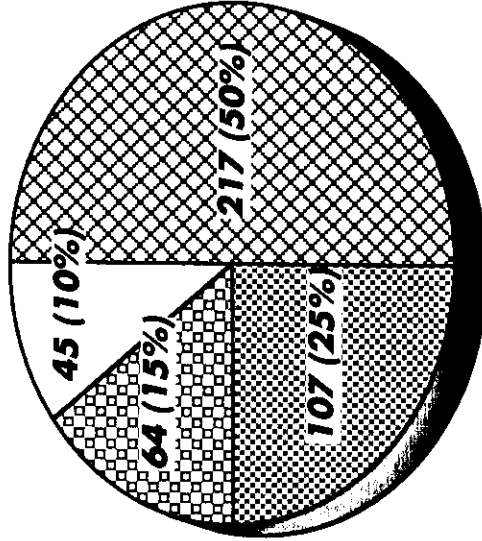
Felony

Lee County

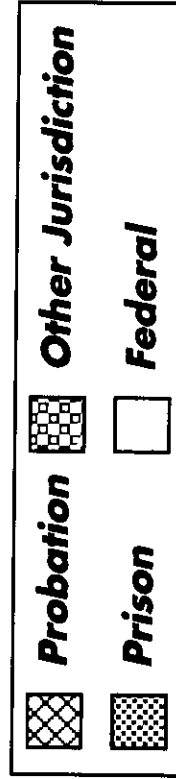
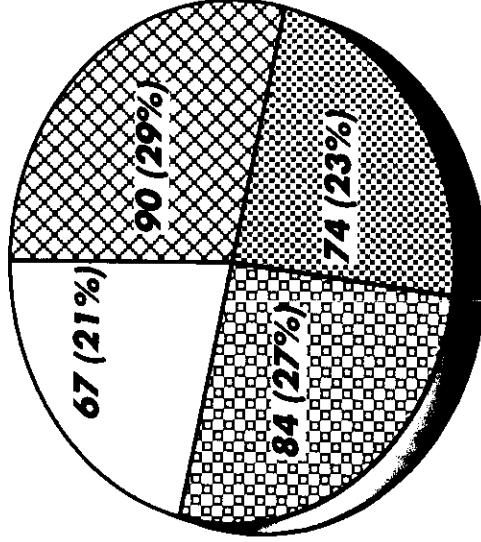
Jail Population Management

Holds

Feb 2003



Feb 2002

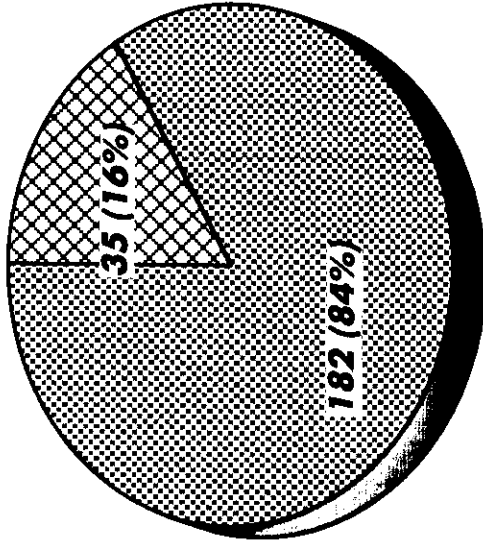


Lee County

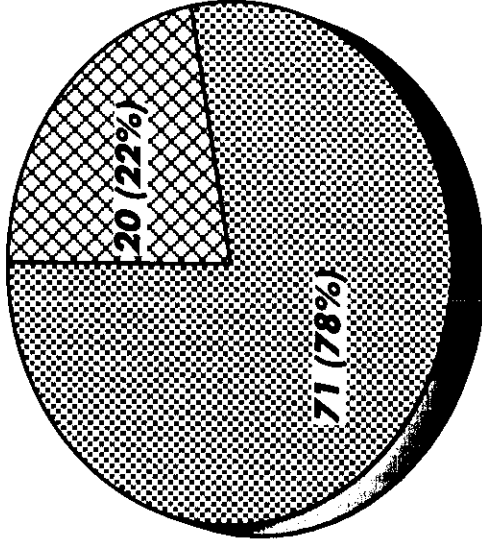
Jail Population Management

Probation Violations

Feb 2003



Feb 2002

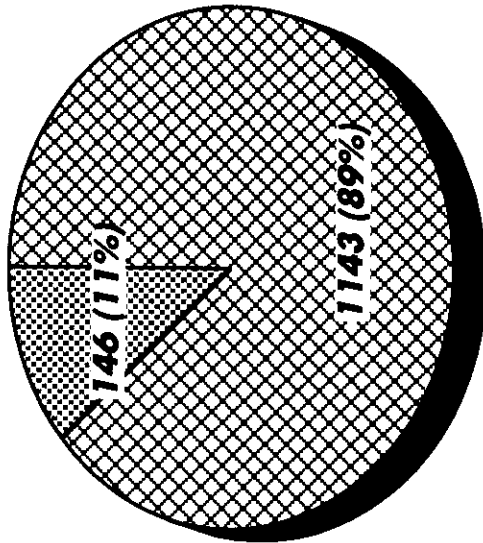


Lee County

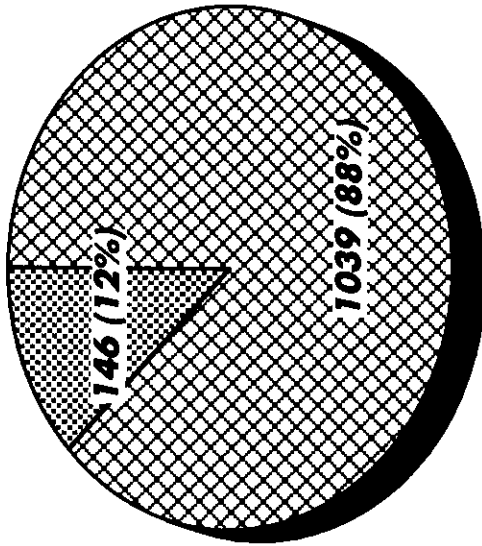
Jail Population Management

Gender

Feb 2003



Feb 2002



Male



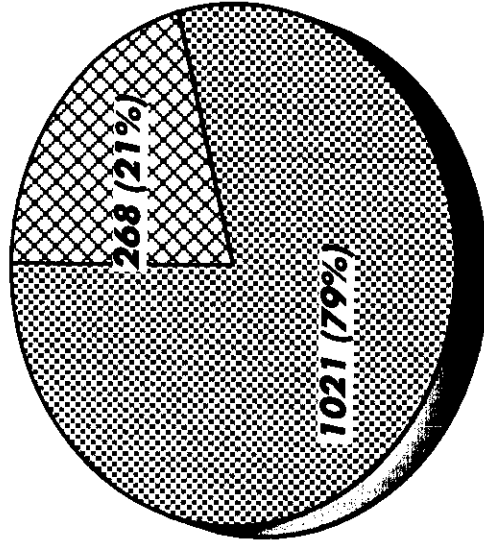
Female

Lee County

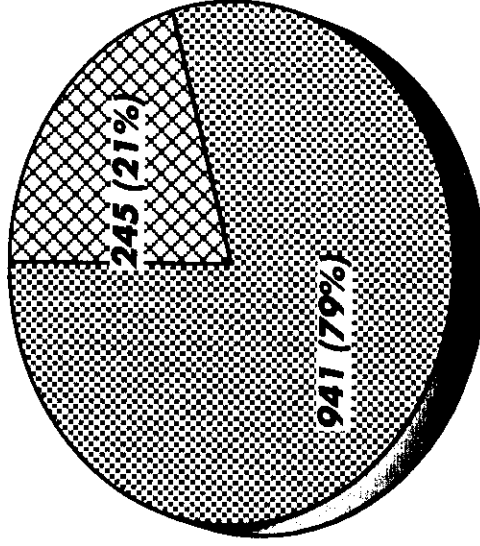
Jail Population Management

Charge Class Totals

Feb 2003



Feb 2002



Misdemeanor



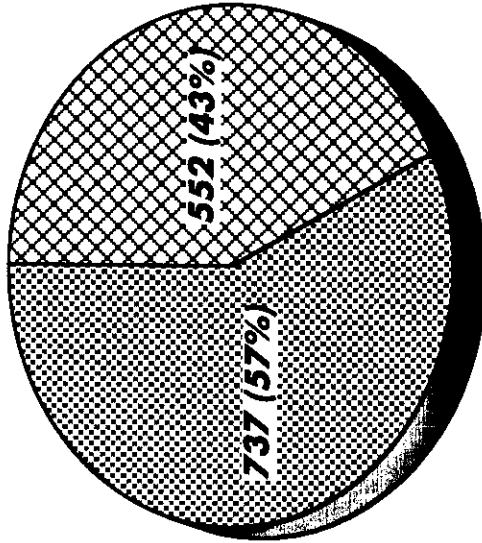
Felony

Lee County

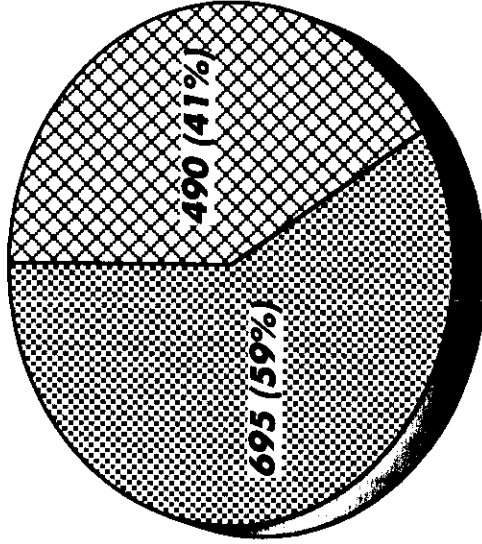
Jail Population Management

Prisoner Location

Feb 2002



2000



Jail



Ortiz

Lee County