

EVALUATION REPORT

REGION #9

634175

Project: F.A.M.E. Haven, Region #9 - Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

Project Numbers: 76-A1-09-FE01, 77-J6-09-FE01, and 77-A1-09-FK01, 78-A1-09-FH01 and 78-J6-09-FH01.

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Four major objectives were identified and proposed for measurement in assessing the development of the F.A.M.E. Haven project. The four objectives may be summarized as identification and delivery of service to the client population and the prevention of (further) delinquency in post-project youth.

The project's main concern is to provide temporary non-secure shelter to transient/runaway youth and to initiate guidance and counseling regimes which could facilitate re-establishment of contact with the youth's family or, at a minimum, the ability to cope with life circumstances.

The data available for measuring outcomes on this project indicated remarkable success in the attainment of the four major objectives. Of these four objectives, only one (1) was identified which was not fully met. This objective estimated the provision of services to 300 youth per year for the life of the project. This objective represented a "best guess" estimate of the projected number of youth who would be served by the project. For the first full year of operation the project admitted and served a total of 170 youths.¹

This finding serves to illustrate one of the recommendations to be offered by this evaluator. That is, the project should establish a more realistic objective, in terms of the total number of clients to be served.² See the body of the report for an expanded discussion.

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The remaining three (3) major objectives of this project were either substantially obtained or exceeded by the project. In order of importance, the primary impact goal was to insure a success rate of 80% for the youth served. Success was measured by the absence of referrals to H.R.S. for delinquent offenses, of youth who had been served.

For the measurement of this objective, this evaluator utilized H.R.S. data from February, 1977 through August, 1977, which allowed a full year follow-up study of the clients served. The result found was that the project exceeded its goal by producing a success rate of 85.7%. In addition, this evaluator found that the project youth experienced a 61.4% success rate in the prevention of referrals to H.R.S. for both delinquencies and status offenses. (See full report for further discussion.)

The third major objective obtained concerned the projects desire to provide a minimum of 80% of the clients with motivational therapy and counseling. This evaluator found that 100% of the clients were provided these services. Again the project exceeded the stated objective. The total number of hours of counseling provided through February, 1978 was 1,528 hours, or approximately 8.9 hours per youth.

The final major objective measured concerned the placement or return of 90% of the youth served to a positive environment rather than detainment in detention. Of the 170 youths served through February, 1978, 136, or 80%, were placed in environments other than detention. A total of 32 youths ran away prior to placement (18.8% of the total population); 1, or .6%, was placed in detention, and 1 was placed in a training school. This data would indicate that the project was not entirely successful for this objective in that 20% of the youths were not successfully placed in positive environments. However,

the project failed to obtain the stated objective only by failure to place 17 youth in positive environments, (17 more youth successfully placed would have yielded a total of 80%). It is necessary only to recall that F.A.M.E. Haven is a non-secure facility to understand that even an 80% success level, for placement of clients, is a worthwhile and desirable accomplishment.

As a further recommendation, this evaluator suggests that the project consider:

- (1) establishing a minimum, realistic percentage for reflecting successful placement (70-80%), and
- (2) define the term "positive environment" more specifically.¹

Finally, this evaluator would recommend follow-up of all youth served by the program.³ The project has initiated a procedure for form mailout to the guardian/parent, the youth, and the cognizant youth probation office with jurisdiction in the last known address of the youth, as follow-up. Follow-up information on transient out-of-state youth has historically created great difficulty in regards to the collection of accurate data. However, the type of procedure initiated by F.A.M.E. Haven could prove beneficial in this regard and this effort should be encouraged and refined for possible use elsewhere.

¹In this manner, placements may exceed the 70-80% projected success level, yet past project experience and information would indicate the establishment of more conservative estimates. Further, a clarification of the term "positive environment" may facilitate a better understanding of the options available to program youth.

In conclusion, the F.A.M.E. Haven project was found to be substantially successful in the attainment of its goals and objectives. However, caution should be noted in the interpretation of the recidivism data due to the limitations of the available follow-up information and the substantial number of out-of-state clients represented in the data (approximately 31%).

NOTES

1. This is not a negative finding. The project staff found, upon project implementation, that the flow of client admissions was not subject to direct control. The project instead assumed the posture that clients would be accepted as bed space permitted and as demand dictated. In addition, a positive effect was realized in that the turn-over in the client population was much slower than originally predicted. (Originally the project predicted 72 hours as the desired duration of stay.) The project's success was probably enhanced by the flexibility with which the staff adjusted to longer periods of client stay and greater amounts of counseling.

2. The data collected was not precisely reflective of a full year's period in that F.A.M.E. Haven began accepting clients at the last of the month of February, 1977, and temporarily stopped accepting youth in December, 1977, due to a dispute over screening criteria with H.R.S. Thus, two months in the period from February, 1977 through February, 1978, were not included. Projecting for these two months and adding the results into the total number of youth served yields a somewhat more conservative figure of 201 youths. It is the recommendation of this evaluator that the project utilize this or a similar type of averaging to estimate its population in subsequent years.

3. In the data obtained for the current evaluation effort, some uncertainty existed in the recidivism analysis due to the fact that 22, or 31.4%, of the youth served through August, 1977, were from out-of-state. The H.R.S. of Sarasota County indicated to this evaluator that once the youth leaves Sarasota County, it would be difficult to maintain accurate records on the individual as to additional delinquent acts.

NOTES (Con't)

3. If follow-up is not possible, recidivism and the analysis of same, has no meaning.
Con't. Use of the term, recidivism, and development of objectives to reflect same should be discouraged if follow-up is not possible.

II. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of Evaluation

This evaluation was initiated as a response to the general concern being expressed statewide for project level information. The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, and the component agencies and service-providers of the criminal justice system shall benefit from the information provided.

The evaluation was performed to address project impact, efficiency and inter-relatedness as compared with other youth-serving agencies and organizations, in the subject county (Sarasota County): Generating the project level data, in an evaluation, assures the existence of information which may be utilized in considering similar projects, now and at future dates. The evaluation shall identify types of problems which may be encountered and possible solutions to same, as well as identifying recommended staffing patterns and functional operation which could be utilized in similar projects.

Thus, the evaluation is deemed essential to the inquiry of programmatic development for maximization of system benefit and enhancement of the potential for success.

F.A.M.E. Haven, a twenty-bed runaway shelter, operated in, and for, Sarasota County, is the subject of this evaluation effort. The project was selected from a cluster of seven (7) non-equipment projects. F.A.M.E. Haven represented the most viable and promising project for evaluation due to the following factors:

- (1) F.A.M.E. Haven has been funded under L.E.A.A. for three (3) years and has not yet been evaluated.
- (2) F.A.M.E. Haven represents a project of high state youth services priority in that it is a project for the deinstitutionalization of dependents/runaways and, thus, has a high probability of replication.
- (3) The extended period of project operation shall facilitate the collection and analysis of data.
- (4) The project services are extensive enough to impact the entire J.D./youth services system in Sarasota County.
- (5) The project shall require evaluation type data to solicit community support for maintenance of the current effort (due to the fact that it has not received additional L.E.A.A. funding beyond FY'78).
- (6) The project has an accrued cost value in excess of \$130,000, and, thus, represents a significant system investment.
- (7) The project reduces total costs by utilizing volunteers, thus, some cost-efficiency may be evidenced and such information would be essential to the start-up or continuation of similar projects.

Methodologically, the project is desirable due to the fact that the problem which it is addressing is well defined, both within the community and within the project, as is the measurable objectives and the data collection schedule.

The existence of data and staff for the collection of same, plus the projects rapport with H.R.S. also played major roles in the decision to evaluate F.A.M.E. Haven.

The evaluation is slated for presentation to the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Task Force, the Sarasota County Commission and

the project director. The entire audience, except for the project director, constitute fund allocation effectors which function in varying degrees of determination in the provision of funds. The information thus released shall be of immense benefit to the decision-makers and holds great potential for the project.

III. METHODOLOGY

The basic objectives of the F.A.M.E. Haven project are stated below.

A. The goal of F.A.M.E. Haven is to provide to pre-delinquent transient juveniles of both sexes, an alternative to detention and involvement with the judicial process, with the hope that in doing this, the youth is diverted from delinquency and can be successfully returned to his/her own home or other positive environment. Specific objectives aimed at achieving this goal are as follows:

- (1) To provide a non-secure, temporary shelter, board, and essential clothing to 300 youths per year.
- (2) To provide to at least 80% of the youth, counseling and motivational therapy on an individual and/or group basis so that upon leaving, they are more effectively able to cope with family and society and as a result refrain from committing the same act in the future.
- (3) To succeed in 90% of the cases in returning the youths to their home or other positive environment. When investigation deems it impossible or undesirable to return a youth to his home, F.A.M.E. Haven will assist the Office of Children and Youth, HRS, in finding alternatives to detention which make it possible for the youth to avoid delinquency and become a self-sufficient member of society, or be adjudicated judicially as dependent and placed in foster care.

(4) Through services rendered by the F.A.M.E. Haven project, it is proposed that 80% of youths served will not subsequently be referred to HRS Office of Children and Youth for delinquent offenses.

Procedures utilized in measuring the attainment of these objectives consisted of a search of existing records maintained by the project staff and H.R.S. Files were checked for all relevant data. The project staff was extremely cooperative and helpful in this endeavor and provided insight into the project operation.

The only methodological limitation involves the use of the H.R.S. files for the establishment of recidivism statistics. The department cautioned this evaluator on the use of master card information as the sole indicator of additional delinquent activity, subsequent to project contact and release. Caution was advised due to the fact that Sarasota County generally possessed information specific to resident youth of Sarasota County, only. Thus, out-of-county and out-of-state youth may not be accurately accounted for in the data obtained. Information and recommendations generated from this evaluation include an acknowledgement and adjustment for this circumstance. (The adjustment involves reflecting recidivism with and without out-of-state and out-of-county youth; in presenting this information the evaluator has assumed that in-county youth, once released from the program, are not highly transient and actually remain in the county). The project is aware of this problem of follow-up client tracking and has implemented procedures to ameliorate the paucity of data in this regard, through mail-out of follow-up questionnaires to parents or guardians, the youth, and the cognizant youth serving agency with jurisdiction in the subject youths' last known area of residence.

Random errors in the recording of existing secondary data are not considered important in this effort.

The analysis of data was accomplished through use of contingency tables and limited use of test factors. Descriptive information has been presented in table, graph, and chart forms for convenience. The data obtained was compared with the measurable objectives due to the absence of available comparison groups.

The data base consisted of all youth admitted and served by the project from February, 1977 through February, 1978, a total of 170 cases.

However, for the recidivism analysis, the evaluator utilized information from February, 1977 through August, 1977 in an attempt to obtain a minimum of one year follow-up on the clients. The total data base for this effort was 70 cases.

As indicated above, no comparison group existed for purposes of control, either within or outside the project studied. Utilizing other runaway projects as controls was ruled out due to the inability to control such things as testing interaction in the different populations, the history or past experience shared by the youths in the different locations and time between observations. Within project comparison was not applicable due to the fact that all youth received the services of the project. Strict adherence to any criteria for assigning certain numbers of hours of counseling for individual youth was not in evidence. Thus, the evaluator was left to attempt to describe and delineate the activities through an analysis of categories of services and the characteristics of the clients served.

IV. BACKGROUND DATA

F.A.M.E. Haven was established in February, 1977, as a temporary short-term shelter for transient runaway youth. The shelter received funding through local contributors, fund-raising activities, the Selby Foundation and the L.E.A.A. Initial costs of project start-up included purchase and renovation of the current facility located at 1401 Sixteenth Street, in Sarasota, Florida. Though the shelter originally projected operation in June, 1976, several problems became manifest which resulted in delay of operationalization through the latter part of February, 1977. The basic problem encountered concerned the securing of licensing from the City of Sarasota on the renovated facility. Building codes and local regulations were the subject of project concern during this period.

Once operational in February, 1977, the shelter provided uninterrupted service to transient youth referred by H.R.S., law enforcement, local schools, and other agencies (some clients were walk-ins/self-referrals), through November, 1977. At this juncture, the project experienced disagreement with the H.R.S. as to the criteria to be utilized in referring youth to the project. The shelter staff was concerned that delinquent youth were being referred from H.R.S., rather than the youth who were the original target group, (transients/runaways).

As a result of this re-assessment, the shelter staff developed a manual for utilization in determining the appropriateness of referrals (copies available). This problem of referral through H.R.S. appears to be prevalent in runaway shelters and established written admission criteria are essential to both defining project activities and the types of youth to be accepted.

The only other major historical item involves the turn-over, or attrition, rate of house parents and counselors at the shelter. As with other shelters in Florida, F.A.M.E. Haven has experienced a problem in the retention of staff. This appears to be due to the intensity and duration of staff responsibilities in a residential setting. The project director is currently formulating a strategy to deal with this problem. The strategy involves the utilization of part-time staff members to supplement existing staff and to provide relief through shift rotation, and thus relieve some of the inconvenience experienced by full-time house parents.

The shelter was originally planned to operate on a short-term basis, with major emphasis placed on returning transient youth to guardians/parents as quickly as possible. However, subsequent to operationalization, the shelter has recognized the necessity of providing longer term/indeterminate, services to youth as a method of instilling coping skills. The shelter was very flexible in this regard and the transition to long term care was of little consequence in terms of change or interruption of services.

The shelter utilizes a large number of volunteers in the provision of services to youths and the financial administration of the shelter.

The major change in program direction (for purposes of this report) involves the fundamental shift away from an emphasis on the immediate re-uniting of youth with parent(s)/guardian(s), to an emphasis on addressing the problems and needs of the youth as a process towards establishing coping skills.

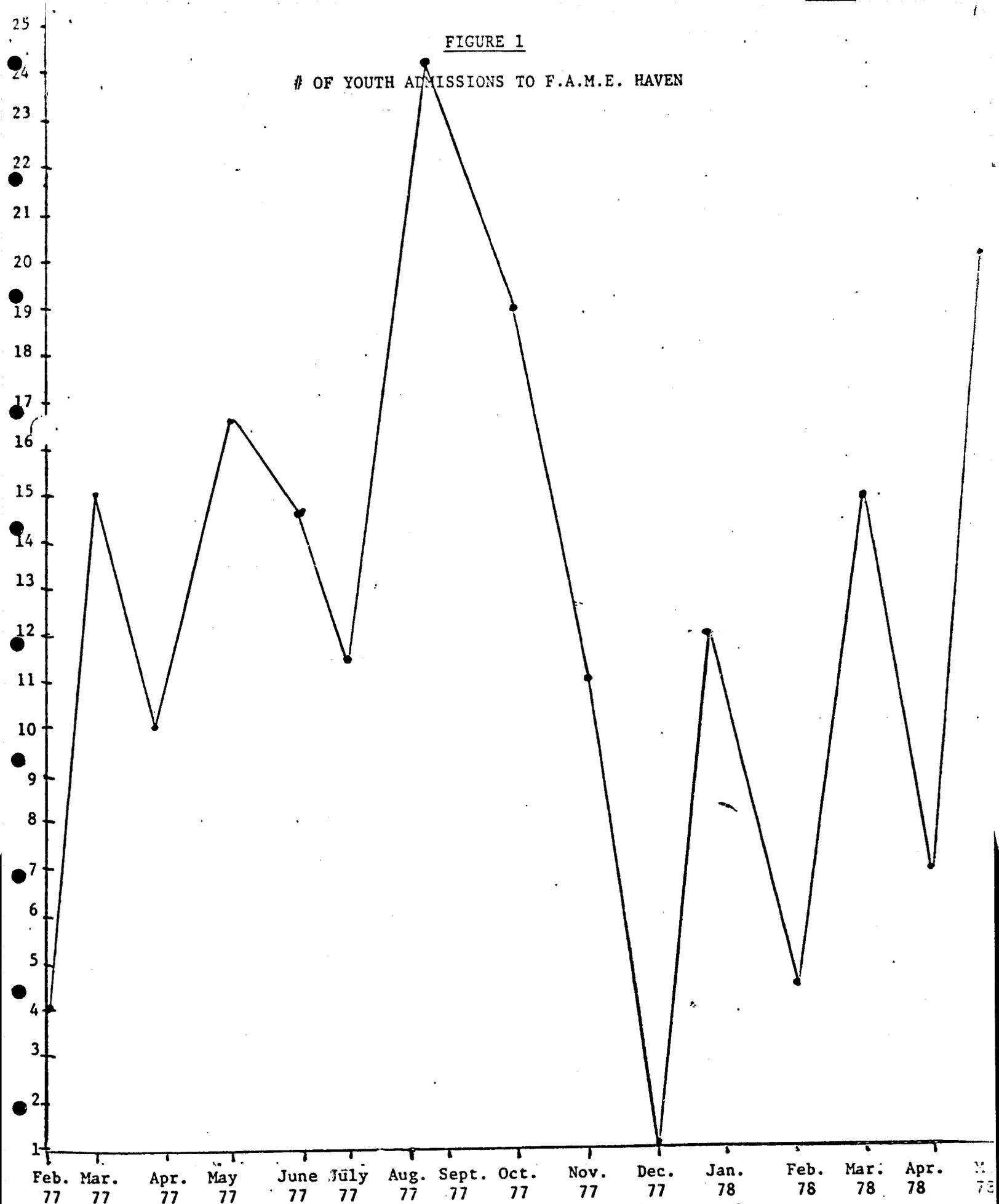
V. FINDINGS

The project established four (4) major measurable objectives. Of these, three represent immediate objectives, or results and only one should be considered an outcome, impact goal (the reduction of recidivism, in this case).

- (1) The project initially projected a yearly service population of 300 youths. The project sought to provide temporary, non-secure shelter for these youths and, when possible, counsel them. The total number of youths found to have been served from the date of the first admission through February, 1978 (approximately one full year) was 170. This figure does not include the full month of February, 1977 (actually includes only four days) nor any admissions for the month of December, 1977 (the shelter temporarily closed its doors to additional admissions due to a need for the redefinition or establishment of admission criteria). The average number of new admissions for the eleven month period (March, 1977 through February, 1978) was 15.5 (see graph, Figure 1). In addition, data indicated that through February, 1978, a total of 3,286 in-shelter days were accounted for by the 170 youths. This yields an average stay, per youth, of 19.3 days. Utilizing these figures, an expected number could be provided for both December and February, 1977 for a total yearly averaged population of 201 youths. However, utilizing the average number of days stay per youth figure of 19.3 days and given the capacity of 20 beds for 365 days, one would arrive at a possible yearly population of 378. The discrepancy between the 378, 201, and 170 (actual) serves to highlight the fact that the shelter cannot control the number of admissions per month for maximum utilization (20 full beds per day) of the facility. The shelter does not solicit referrals or walk-ins, but rather merely acts as a resource for referring agencies. Thus, though a client population is in existence,

FIGURE 1

OF YOUTH ADMISSIONS TO F.A.M.E. HAVEN



Average Admissions - 170/11 months = 15.5 per month

Average Length of Stay in Shelter - 19.3 days

the extent of same is not clearly identifiable. If a quantitative indicator is desirable, it should reflect the lower end (a more conservative minimum amount) rather than the middle or upper limit. Thus, some weighted average might be utilized of the observed value (170 youths), the indicated value calculated from the average monthly admissions (201) and the maximum yearly population (378). Assigning the highest weight to the observed, a mid-weight to the calculated average monthly admission estimate and the least weight to the maximum might yield the following:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 170 \times 3 & \text{(the assigned weight)} & = \quad 510 \\ 201 \times 1.5 & \text{(the assigned weight)} & = \quad 301.5 \\ 378 \times \underline{1} & \text{(the assigned weight)} & = \quad \underline{378} \\ & & \\ & 5.5 & \quad \quad 1189.5 / 5.5 = \underline{\underline{216}} \end{array}$$

Thus, a value hovering near 200 to 220 may be indicated dependent upon the weights assigned and the project staff's desires. Past experience and current program capacity should dictate the selection of the number.

The graph, Figure 1, indicates a somewhat unstable relationship in admissions. It is interesting to note that the admissions reflected are constantly increasing and decreasing on alternating schedules. One month admissions increase, the next the number decreases. This effect is apparently caused by the fact that the average length of stay in the shelter was found to be 19.3 days. Thus, during any monthly period the number of admissions will be related to the number of current residents and the number of youths who have left the project.

N+// OF UNDUPLICATED CASES THROUGH 2-78 (BEGIN 2-77)

| RACE | SEX | | TOTAL |
|-------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| | MALE | FEMALE | |
| Black | 4 (7.1) | 3 (4.2) | 7 |
| White | 52 (92.9) | 68 (95.8) | 120 |
| TOTAL | (100.0) | (100.0) | 127 |

Average Age = 15.1 years

Range = 12 to 17

DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION
F.A.M.E. Haven (Feb., 1977 through Feb., 1978)

FIGURE 2

| Sex | ORIGIN | | | Tot- al |
|--------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| | Sarasota County | Florida | Out-of-State | |
| MALE | 31 (44.9) | 4 (30.8) | 21 (46.7) | 56 |
| FEMALE | 38 (55.1) | 9 (69.2) | 24 (53.3) | 71 |
| TOTAL | 69 (100.) | 13 (100.) | 45 (100.) | 127 |

| Race | ORIGIN | | | Total |
|-------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| | Sarasota County | Florida | Out-of-State | |
| WHITE | 62 (89.9) | 13 (100.) | 45 (100.) | 120 |
| BLACK | 7 (10.1) | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| TOTAL | 69 (100.) | 13 (100.) | 45 (100.) | 127 |

As indicated in Figure 2, the chart of descriptive information, for the period February, 1977 through February, 1978, a total of 127 unduplicated cases were evidenced. That is, the project served 127 individuals, whereas 170 separate admissions were logged due to the fact that several individuals (approximately 24) accounted for more than one admission by returning to the project subsequent to initial release.

The chart reflects the actual characteristics of the cases, not admissions, that were served by the project. Of the 127 cases served, 71 (or 55.9%) were female and 56 (or 44.1%) were male, 120 (or 94.5) were whites and 7 (or 5.5%) were blacks. The average age of the clients was 15.1 years, with a range from 12 to 17.

The majority, 69 (or 54.3%), of the youths were from Sarasota County, and 82 (or 64.6%) were from Florida (in general). Finally, 25 (or 19.7%) had past delinquent records, 22 (or 26%) had past dependent/status offense records, and 69 (or 54.3%) had no prior records (see Table 1).

TABLE 1
PAST RECORD OF CLIENTS

| <u>DELINQUENCY</u> | <u>DEPENDENT/STATUS</u> | <u>NONE</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 25 | 33 | 69 | 127 |
| (19.7%) | (26%) | (54.3%) | (100%) |

(2) Objective number two projected the provision of counseling services and motivational therapy to a minimum of 80% of the clients served. Upon analysis, it was determined that 100% of the clients received counseling services. From the period of February, 1977 through February, 1978, a total of 1,528 hours of counseling had been delivered, for an average of 8.9 hours per youth for the year. Counseling hours ranged from 1 hour to 142 hours and was distinguished by three separate categories of

"individual", "group", and "family". Perpetual records were being maintained for this information.

- (3) The third objective of interest spoke to the provision of placement of project youth in a positive environment for 90% of the youths served. By implication, the objective determined positive environment to reflect all placements except detention and transportation to a training school. Of those served by the project, only 80% were actually placed in positive environments. The remaining 20% was composed almost exclusively of youths who had run-away from the shelter prior to placement.

In fact, of 34 youths not placed in positive environments, 32 or 18.8% were runaways and 1, or .6%, was placed in detention with 1 placement in a training school. [Positive placement included placement in an independent living situation, residential program (other than F.A.M.E. Haven), return to parents or relative, placement with another individual or family and placement in a licensed foster home.] All other placements or failures to place youth (such as in the instance of runaways) would have to be opposite to the desired objective. Thus, though the project was able to control the outcomes of the majority of the client cases, as to placement, and substantially met the objective (only 10% short of the stated objective), a sizeable number of youths were not controlled nor originally foreseen to be a problem (runaways). A more realistic projection may logically and theoretically be based upon the predicted success rate in the prevention of recidivism. The reasoning being that if the youth is successfully placed in a positive, helping environment, the probabilities of success for that youth would be enhanced.

From this finding, a further recommendation is generated to reduce the projected percentage of positive placement to a level coinciding with the projected prevention of recidivism percentage. In this manner, the project could adjust to its experiences with such placement attempts.

The assessment of the fourth and probably most important objective required some manipulation of the data. To obtain a full one year follow-up on the clients served by this project, the evaluator established an effective period of analysis from February, 1977 through August, 1977. Data collection for this evaluation occurred in the latter part of August, 1978, and thus approximately one full year follow-up was obtained. The total number of unduplicated cases for this period was 70. The entire population (70) was utilized as the sample due to the smallness of same.

The importance of this objective lies in the fact that the prevention of large scale recidivism was the primary goal of all of the activities of the project. The majority of project attention was focused towards accomplishment of this objective and thus this evaluation focuses greatest concern with the measurement and analysis of same.

The objective provides that the project shall be successful in preventing 80% of the youths served from being referred to the H.R.S. for delinquent offenses. A compilation and analysis of the data revealed that for those youths served during the period February, 1977 through August, 1977, only 14.3% of the youths served exhibited additional delinquency referrals. This yielded a success rate of 85.7% for the project in the period studied.

Broken out separately, data revealed that the project experienced success in 61.4% of the cases in no additional offenses of any type, and 24.3% of the youths were subsequently referred for dependency or status offenses only (See pie charts - Figure 3). The project was thus successful in exceeding the original projected percentage. Once established that the project exceeded its stated goal, the next question is, was the project the major contributing factor, or did other variables such as sex, past record, or origin (in-county/ out-of-county) affect the outcome? To investigate the possible relationships, several factors were considered in relation to the presence of additional delinquencies.

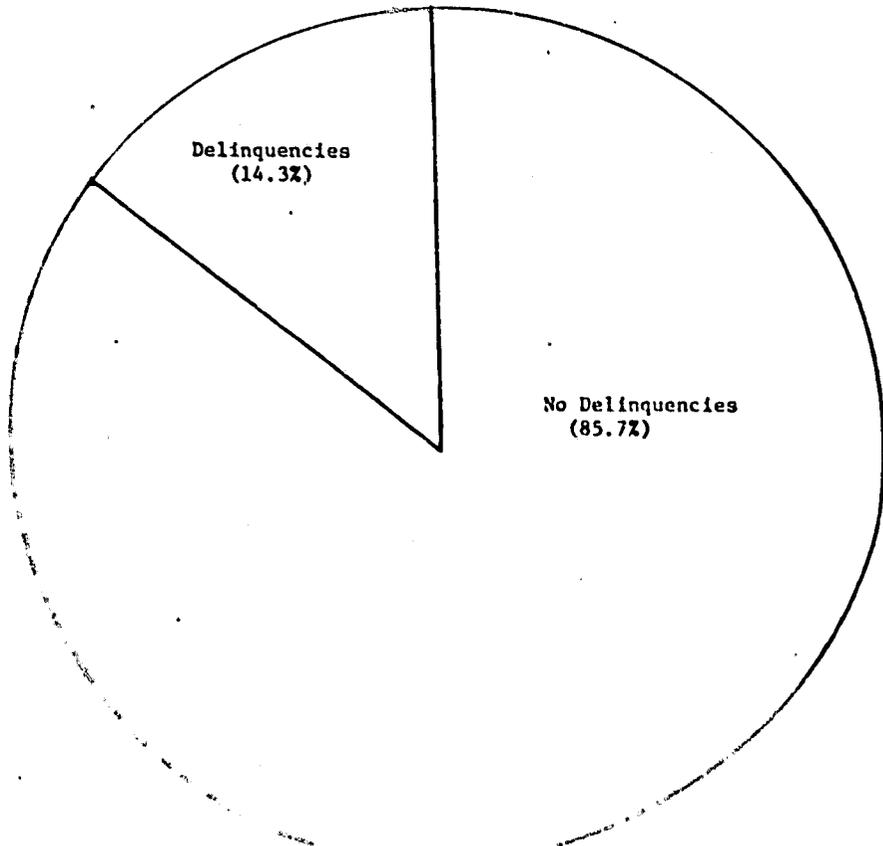
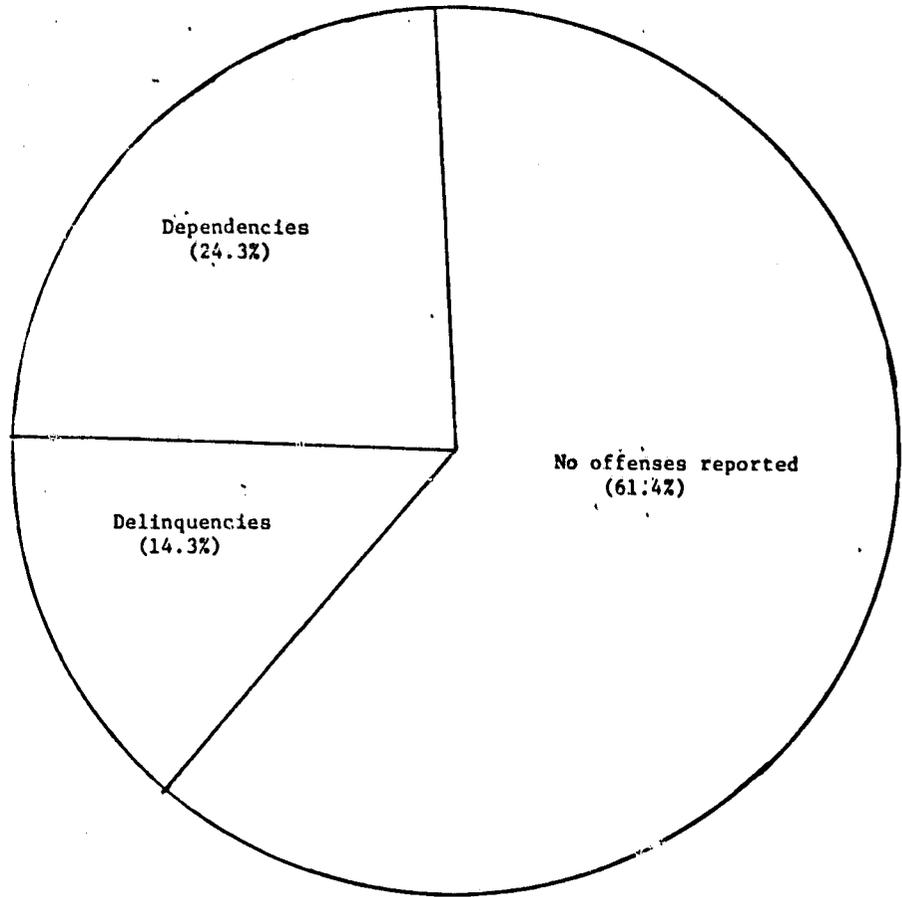
In determining the variables to be considered, several factors were immediately apparent. In contemporary sociological and criminological literature, it is generally recognized that the sex of program participants may affect the degree of success which is experienced. (The basic premise is that females tend to be more amenable to programs of change than do their male counterparts.)

In addition, race of the participants and past records have been found to be related to program success. To address these items, they were first identified descriptively. In Figure 4 attached, the 70 individuals are profiled for convenience.

Participants in this segment of the program included 38 (or 54.3%) females and 32 (or 45.7%) males; 2 of the females (or 5.3%) were black and 3 (or 9.4%) of the males were black, for a total of 5 (or 7.1%) black and 65 (or 92.9%) white clients. The origin of the youths was considered due to the evaluator's reasoning that youth of local origin (in-county) would have more immediate access to local community resources due to greater knowledge of the area and thus would probably be more successful. In addition, friends and parents/ guardians would be more immediately available for support of the youth and for .

FIGURE 3

Recidivism (additional delinquencies)
From Table 1A



| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|-------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| BLACK | 3 (9.4) | 2 (5.3) | 5 |
| WHITE | 29 (90.6) | 36 (94.7) | 65 |
| TOTAL | 32 | 38 | 70 |

AVERAGE AGE - 14 years
RANGE - 12 - 17

F.A.M.E. Haven Descriptive
Information (Feb., 1977 through Aug., 1977)

FIGURE 4

| SEX | ORIGIN | | | Total |
|--------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| | Sarasota Co. | Florida | Out-of-State | |
| MALE | 14 (31.1) | 3 (100.0) | 10 (45.5) | 27 |
| FEMALE | 31 (68.9) | | 12 (54.5) | 43 |
| TOTAL | 45 (100.0) | 3 (100.0) | 22 (100.0) | 70 |

| RACE | ORIGIN | | | Total |
|-------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| | Sarasota Co. | Florida | Out-of-State | |
| WHITE | 40 (88.9) | 3 (100.0) | 22 (100.0) | 65 |
| BLACK | 5 (11.1) | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 45 (100.0) | 3 (100.0) | 22 (100.0) | 70 |

enhancement of the program efforts.

As may be noted in Figure 4, 45 (or 64.3%) of the youths served from February, 1977 through August, 1977 were from Sarasota County and 25 (or 35.7%) were from out-of-county. The average age of those in this population group (2-77 through 8-77) was 14.0 years, whereas the average age in the total population was 15.1 years. The range (12-17 years) was identical for both groups.

Finally, Figure 5 illustrates the past records of program applicants who were in the program from February, 1977 through August, 1977.

FIGURE 5

PAST RECORD

| <u>DELINQUENCY</u> | <u>DEPENDENCY/STATUS</u> | <u>NONE</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 13 (18.6%) | 21 (30.0%) | 36 (51.4%) | 70=N |

A total of 13 (or 18.6%) of the youths had delinquency in their past records, 21 (or 30.0%) had dependency or status offenses and a cumulative total of 34 (or 48.6%) had past records of offenses (either delinquency or dependency); however, the majority, 36 (or 51.4%), of the program clients had no past records.

3. Causal Relationships

Analysis

In an effort to determine or identify some of the possible causal factors which may be influencing the projects success rate (85.7%), this evaluator began introducing the factors previously referenced (sex, race, age, and past records, etc).

The relationships that were projected as theoretically plausible may be diagramed as:

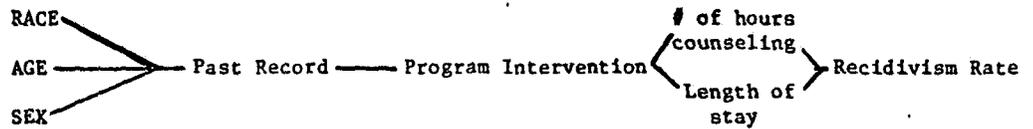


Table 1A illustrates the relationship that sex was found to have on success in the program. It was hypothesized that due to the fact that female clients typically demonstrate greater success as a client group, their amenability to change and larger numbers in the program may have affected the success of same.

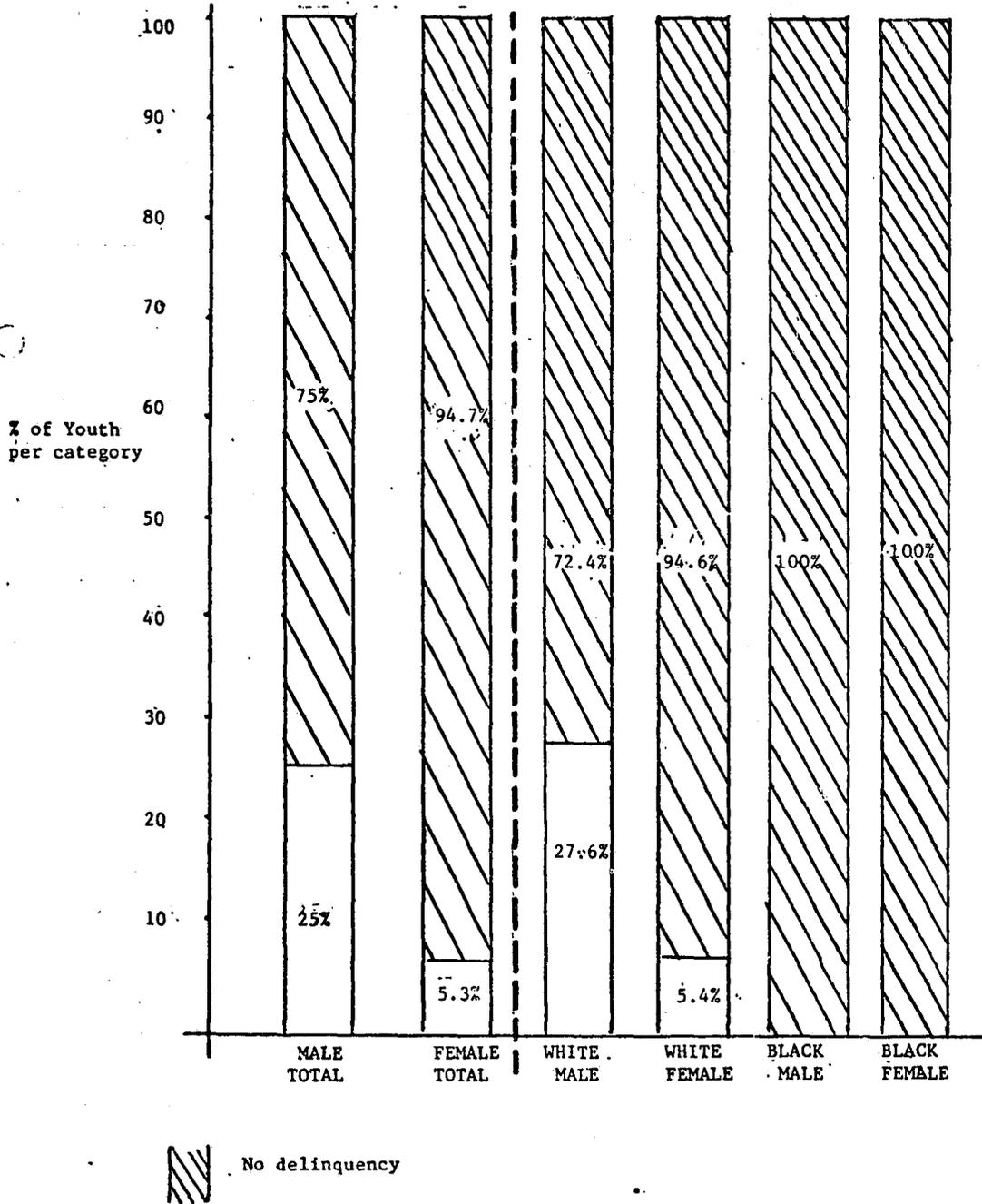
TABLE 1A

| <u>ADDITIONAL DELINQUENCY</u> | <u>SEX</u> | | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| | <u>MALE</u> | <u>FEMALE</u> | |
| YES | 8 (25.0%) | 2 (5.3%) | 10 (14.3%) |
| NO | 24 (75.0%) | 36 (94.7%) | 60 (85.0%) |
| TOTAL | 32 (100.0%) | 38 (100.0%) | 70 = N = 100.0 |

As may be noted, slightly over half (54.3%) of the clients were females. A slight relationship was found to exist between sex and recidivism in that 94.7% of the females as compared to 75% of the males were found to have not exhibited additional offenses within one year following program intervention. Figure 6 illustrates the relationship of this variable in a graphic format. Thus, the data would predict greater success for the female participants than for the male.

FIGURE 6

RECIDIVISM RATE BY SEX AND RACE
(From Table 1A)



In an effort to clarify and describe some of the other relationships which were theoretically possible in this type of program, several other factors were analyzed.

The age of the program client was considered as a possible clue to the success rate of the program. The premise here is that the younger the client, the more amenable he/she would be to program change efforts. Upon grouping the data, very little relationship was found between the age of the client and program success (See Table 2A - Page 26A). As is indicated by the bar graph, accompanying the table, there were only slight differences between age groups. The highest recidivism rate was experienced by the fourteen (14) year old clients. However, the rate for this group differed by only 10.7% from the next highest group (15 and 16 year olds). The only group showing total success by age was the seventeen year olds. This may be due to the fact that data, collected for the year after program participation of these youths would not have captured those youths who had celebrated their eighteenth birthday and thus been referred to adult systems for additional offenses. Given these facts, age alone appears to have little influence on success of the client.

The final demographic variable analyzed was race; however, as indicated previously, the program clients were almost exclusively white (92.9%) and the black clients represented only five (5) total cases. Five cases of a population of seventy was deemed inadequate for analysis purposes. For descriptive purposes, the results of comparison are found in Table 2.

TABLE 2

| | <u>RACE</u> | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| | <u>BLACK</u> | <u>WHITE</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> | |
| Recidivism | 0 | 10 (15.4%) | 10 | |
| No Recidivism | 5 (100.0%) | 55 (84.6%) | 60 | $\chi^2 = .01$ |
| TOTAL | 5 (100.0%) | 65 (100.0%) | 70 | |

As may be noted, the black clients experienced a 100% success rate, whereas successful white clients represented 84.6% of the total white population. Again, no inferences are being made due to the small number of cases involved.

Having exhausted the demographic variables which could be analyzed, the evaluator began considering other variables thought to be linked to success in the program. In this regard, the past records of the clients, the number of hours of counseling, and the type of program release were considered.

Table 3 reflects the past record of all program youths who were released from the program prior to September, 1977.

TABLE 3

PAST RECORD

| | <u>Past Delinquency Record</u> | <u>No Past Delinquency Record</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Recidivism | 7 (53.8) | 3 (5.4) | 10 |
| No Recidivism | 6 (46.2) | 54 (94.7) | 60 ($x^2 > .0001$) |
| TOTAL | 13 (100.0) | 57 (100.0) | 70 |

As indicated here, of those clients who recidivated with delinquent acts, 7 (or 70%) had past records of delinquency. In addition, for all clients with prior delinquent histories, 7 (or 53.8%), recidivated back into the system.

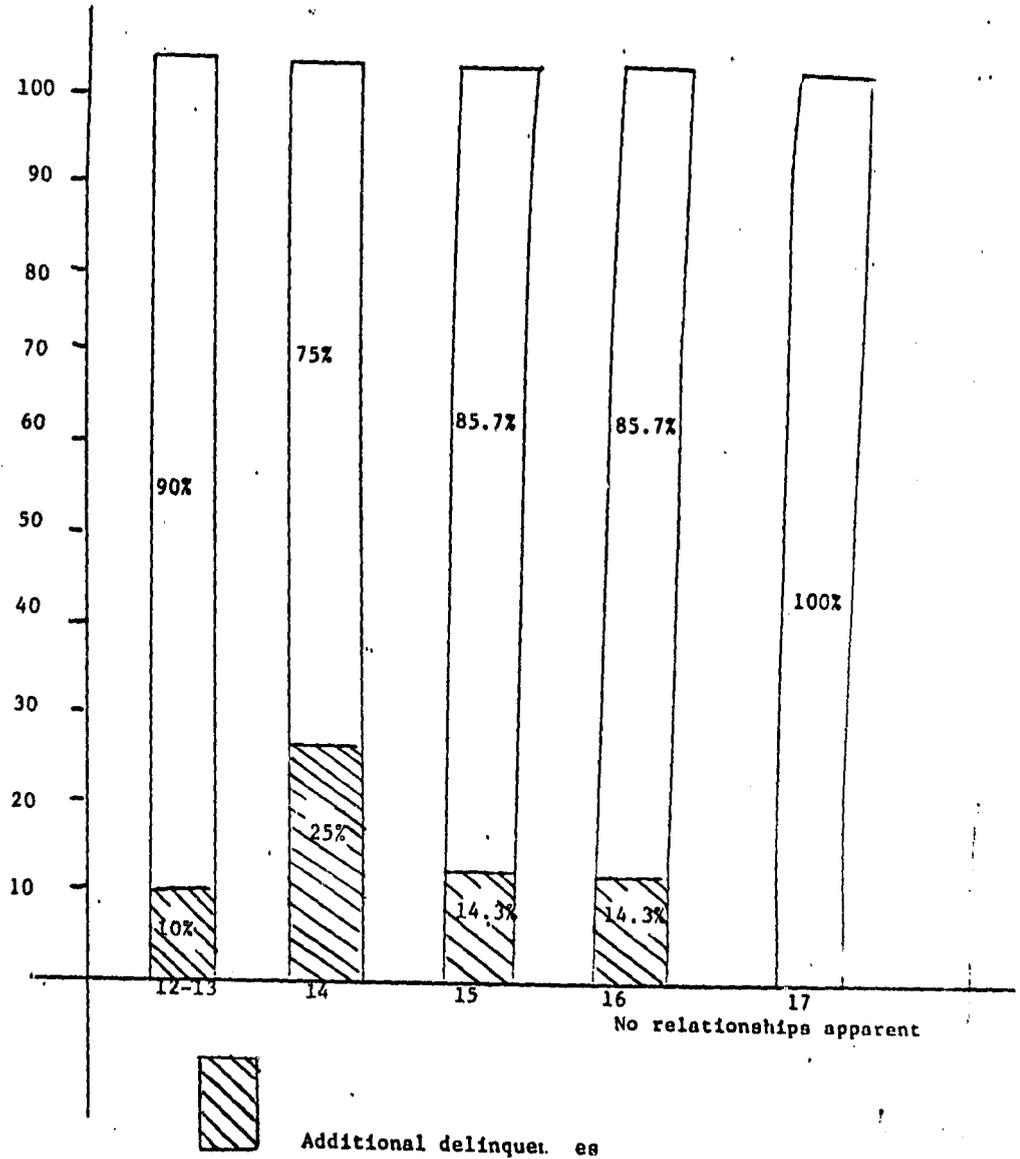
Finally, of those with no delinquent past, 54 (or 94.7%), had no delinquencies reported subsequent to program intervention. Past records would thus be interpreted as having an effect on additional offenses subsequent to program participation. In fact, a relatively strong relationship exists between past record and recidivism.

AGE BY ADDITIONAL CONTACTS FROM TABLE 2A (Collapsed)

TABLE 2A
COLLAPSED
AGE

| | 12-13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | TOTAL |
|----------------|------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Delinquency | (10%) 1 | (25%) 4 | (14.3%) 2 | (14.3%) 3 | (14.3%) 3 | (14.3) 10 |
| No delinquency | (90%) 9 | (75%) 12 | (85.7%) 12 | (85.7%) 18 | (100%) 9 | (85.7) 60 |
| TOTAL | 10 | 16 | 14 | 21 | 9 | 70 |

df=4
 $\Sigma = 2.40$
 $\chi^2 = .70$



Recalling that sex was found to be related to recidivism (Figure 6) and that females are typically less likely to be involved in serious infractions such as delinquency, a comparison was made between sex of the client and past delinquency record (Table 4).

TABLE 4

| | <u>SEX</u> | | <u>TOTAL</u> | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|
| | <u>MALE</u> | <u>FEMALE</u> | | |
| Past Delinquency | 7 (21.9) | 6 (15.8) | 13 | |
| No Past Delinquency | 25 (78.1) | 32 (84.2) | 57 | $\chi^2 = > .50$ |
| TOTAL | 32 (100.0) | 38 (100.0) | 70 | |

As indicated in the table, no apparent relationship exists between sex and past delinquent records, though males were found to exhibit a somewhat greater record of such behavior.

To verify the relationship between sex and recidivism found in Figure 6, a test table was developed to control on the client's past delinquency records and for measurement of recidivism (Table 5).

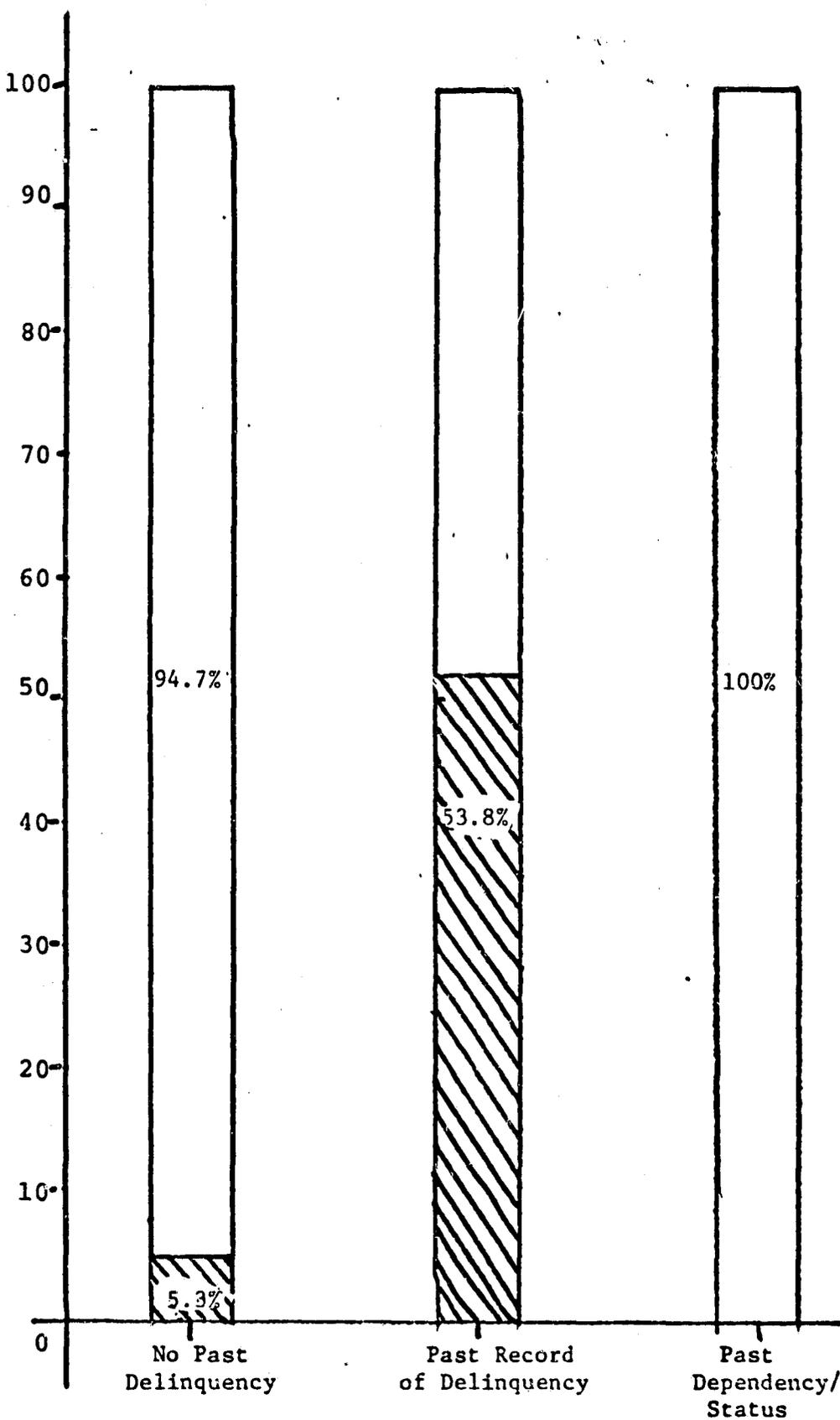
TABLE 5

| | <u>PAST DELINQUENT RECORD</u> | | | | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | <u>YES</u> | | <u>NO</u> | | |
| | <u>MALE</u> | <u>FEMALE</u> | <u>MALE</u> | <u>FEMALE</u> | |
| Recidivism | 5 (71.4) | 2 (33.3) | 3 (12.0) | 0 | 10 |
| No Recidivism | 2 (28.6) | 4 (66.7) | 22 (88.0) | 32 (100.0) | 60 |
| TOTAL | 7 (100.0) | 6 (100.0) | 25 (100.0) | 32 (100.0) | 70 |

As may be noted, case attrition accrued in the cell representing females with no past record of delinquency and eventual recidivism. However, the initial relationship between sex and recidivism appears to have been maintained, though the greatest difference was found between males with past delinquent records and females with same. Thus, even though females represented an identical proportion to males

SUCCESS BY PAST RECORD

FIGURE 14



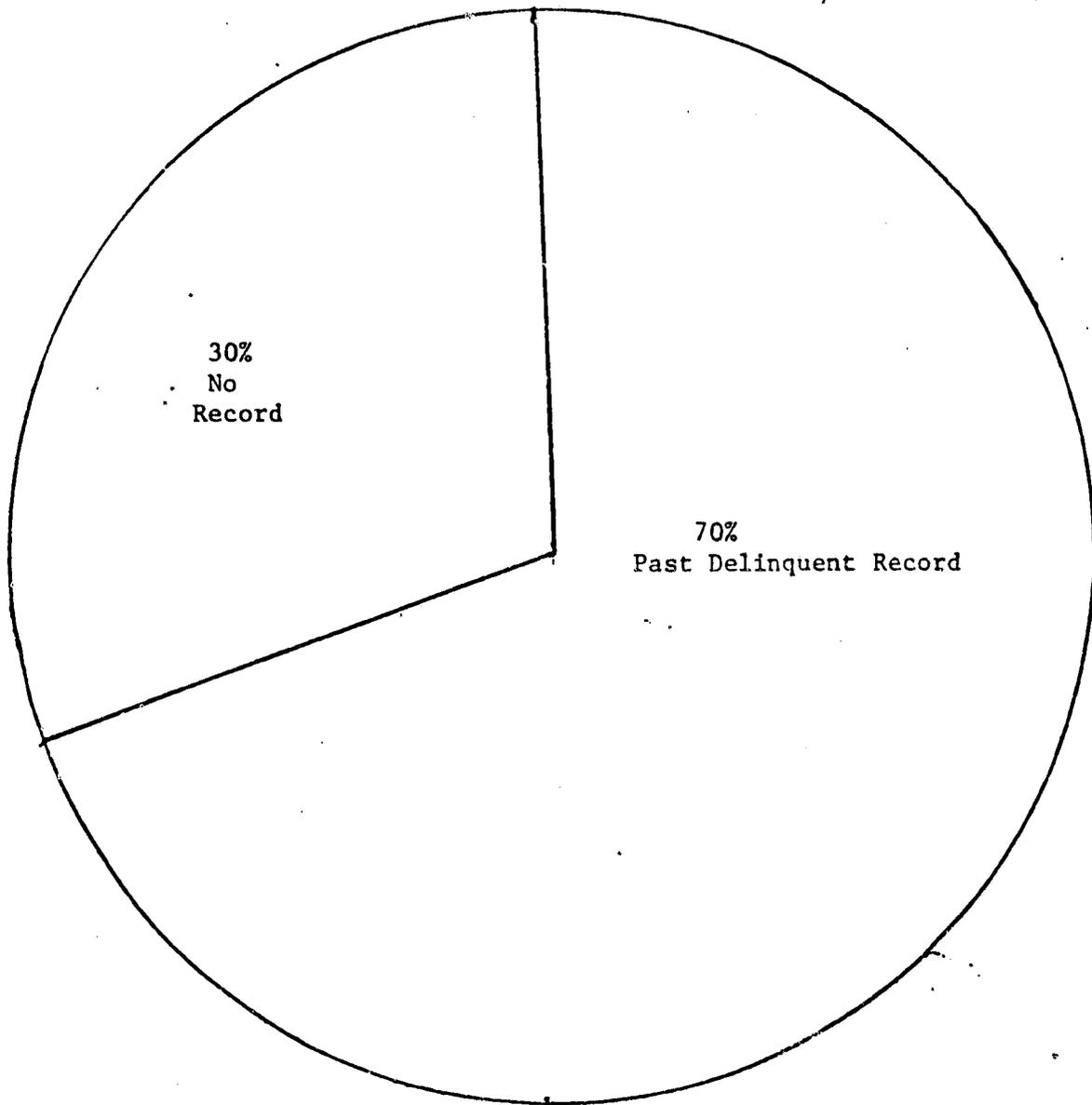
% of youth per category



- Additional delinquent offenses after program

FIGURE 15

Past Record Profile of Youth with Additional
Delinquencies After Release (from program)



Those with past dependency or status records had no delinquent offenses reported post program.

activities. Thus, as previously indicated, the relationships between past record and success and sex and success were maintained. (Again, caution must prevail in analyzing these findings, however, the table is descriptive). Past record would thus appear to constitute an intervening variable in this case since it could not influence sex of the participant, but it may be influenced by sex. Figure 14 displays the relationship between past record and success (no recidivism) in a graphic format. Figure 15 displays the fact that of those who recidivated, 70% had past delinquent records and only 30% did not.

The next variable which was considered as theoretically plausible in influencing success in the program was the number of hours of counseling provided. The relationship that was hypothesized to be found was that as the number of hours of counseling increased, success should increase (or, a positive relationship between counseling and success).

Table 7 (Page 31) provides a display of values for this variable as well as a graph. As may be noted, the relationship that is found to exist is actually negative. That is, as the number of hours of counseling increase, the rate of success decreases. This finding was opposite the hypothesized relationship.

An even more concise statement of the relationship may be made as in Table 8.

TABLE 8
NUMBER OF HOURS OF COUNSELING

| | 1-10 | >10 | TOTAL |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| Recidivism | 6 (10.0%) | 4 (40.0%) | 10 |
| No Recidivism | 54 (90.0%) | 6 (60.0%) | 60 |
| TOTAL | 60 (100.0%) | 10 (100.0%) | 70 |

As is apparent, the greater the number of hours of counseling, the greater the rate of recidivism.

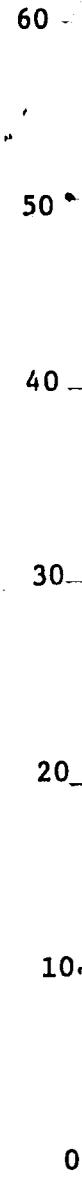
TABLE 7

OF HOURS OF COUNSELING

| | 1 | 2-3 | 4-10 | 11-20 | 20 | TOTAL |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Delinquency | 1 (.4%) | 1 (5.3%) | 4 (25.0%) | 3 (42.9%) | 1 (33.3%) | 10 |
| No Delinquency | 24 (96%) | 18 (94.7%) | 12 (75.0%) | 4 (57.1%) | 2 (66.7%) | 60 |
| TOTAL | 25 | 19 | 16 | 7 | 3 | 70 |

$X = .05$

%
RECIDIVISM



OF HOURS OF COUNSELING

In an effort to disclose the factors affecting this finding, several variables were introduced as test factors.

Table 9 reflects an attempt to factor the past record of the individual into the relationship between the number of hours of counseling and recidivism.

TABLE 9

| | <u>PAST RECORD</u> | | | | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | <u>Prior</u> | | <u>No Prior</u> | | |
| | <u>1-10 Hours Counseling</u> | <u>10 Hours Counseling</u> | <u>1-10 Hours Counseling</u> | <u>10 Hours Counseling</u> | |
| Recidivism | 4 (44.4%) | 3 (75.0%) | 2 (3.9%) | 1 (16.7%) | 10 |
| No Recidivism | 5 (55.6%) | 1 (25.0%) | 49 (96.1%) | 5 (83.3%) | 60 |
| TOTAL | 9 (100.0%) | 4 (100.0%) | 51 (100.0%) | 6 (100.0%) | 70 |

This table reflects the fact that a greater proportion of those with past delinquencies received 1-10 hours of counseling. Conversely, a greater number of those with no past record received more than 10 hours than did those with a past record. Of those who received more than 10 hours of counseling, those with no prior record demonstrated a greater rate of success than did those with a past record. This is also true of those with prior records who received from 1-10 hours of counseling. Finally, the original relationship has been reduced to a difference of only 12.8% for those with no past record, though the relationship maintained for those with a past history of delinquency. Thus, the test factor was able to show a distinct difference in success for those with no past record who received the same amount of counseling service. Caution must again be emphasized in analyzing these findings in that only thirteen total cases were found to demonstrate prior records of delinquency. The smallness of the samples would make all findings and interpretations highly tenuous. Descriptively though, the table has some use for purposes of establishing the general trend of success for project participants.

Sex of those receiving more than 10 hours was next examined. It was hypothesized that possibly males (who are historically less successful than females in programs of change) were receiving more counseling than females and at the same time, experiencing less success.

Table 10 demonstrates that this is not in fact what is happening.

TABLE 10

SEX OF CLIENT

| | <u>MALE</u> | | <u>FEMALE</u> | | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | <u>1-10 Hours Counseling</u> | <u>10 Hours Counseling</u> | <u>1-10 Hours Counseling</u> | <u>10 Hours Counseling</u> | |
| Recidivism | 6 (22.2%) | 2 (40.0%) | 0 | 2 (40.0%) | 10 |
| No Recidivism | 21 (77.8%) | 3 (60.0%) | 33 (100.0%) | 3 (60.0%) | 60 |
| TOTAL | 27 (100.0%) | 5 (100.0%) | 33 (100.0%) | 5 (100.0%) | .70 |

As displayed above, the number of males and females receiving more than 10 hours of counseling is exactly the same. In addition, the proportion of those recidivating, by sex, is exactly the same.

To interpret these conflicting findings, one must recall some of the earlier tables:

In Table 1A, it was learned that 54.3% of the program clients were female and that of this group of females, 94.7% were successful (in terms of not recidivating).

In Table 3, past record of the client was shown to be of significance in affecting success of the program participants. Those with no past delinquencies were found to succeed in 94.7% of the cases whereas those with past delin-

quency exhibited a success rate of only 46.2%.

Females were found to be much more successful than males even though both sexes shared similar proportions of individuals with past delinquent records (Tables 4 and 5), this was especially apparent for those females with past delinquent records as compared to their male counterparts.

Consulting the data from Tables 9 and 10, it would appear that the results are a function of the influence of both sex of the client and the interaction of past delinquent records. Thus, the greater amounts of counseling continued to affect success, though youths receiving such counseling who were females with no past record were most successful. This is demonstrated by Table 11.

As displayed, 100% of the females with no prior record (whether receiving 1-10 or 10 or more hours of counseling) were successful whereas the male counterparts were 90.5% and 75% successful, respectively for 1-10 or 10 or more hours of counseling. Those with prior records were much less successful both for male and females, the only exception being for females with prior records who were receiving 1-10 hours of counseling.

For the recidivist group as a whole (10 cases), five (5) of the ten (10) had past delinquency records of two or more delinquencies. Of the remaining five clients, two were identified as recidivists due to relatively minor infractions including one for violation of a condition of probation and one for loitering. The program appears to have been successful in addressing the needs of youth as attested to by the data.

TABLE 11

SEX

| | | MALES | | | | FEMALES | | | | |
|---------------|--|-------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|----|
| | | Prior Delinquency | | No Prior Delinquency | | Prior Delinquency | | No Prior Delinquency | | |
| | | 1-10 hours | 10 hours | 1-10 hours | 10 hours | 1-10 hours | 10 hours | 1-10 hours | 10 hours | |
| Recidivism | | 4 (66.7%) | 1 (100.0%) | 2 (9.5%) | 1 (25.0%) | 0 | 2 (66.7%) | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| No Recidivism | | 2 (33.3%) | 0 | 19 (90.5%) | 3 (75.0%) | 3 (100.0%) | 1 (33.3%) | 30 (100.0%) | 2 (100.0%) | 60 |
| | | 6 (100.0%) | 1 (100.0%) | 21 (100.0%) | 4 (100.0%) | 3 (100.0%) | 3 (100.0%) | 30 (100.0%) | 2 (100.0%) | 70 |

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In an effort to further disclose some of the factors which may have influenced the finding that recidivism increased as the number of hours of counseling increased, the variables of length of stay and past record were analyzed. In Table 12, the past record of the program youth was found to be related to the number of hours of counseling received.

TABLE 12
PAST DELINQUENT RECORD

| # Hrs. of Counseling | Yes | No | Total |
|----------------------|------------|------------|-------|
| 1-10 | 9 (60.2) | 51 (89.5) | 60 |
| More than 10 | 4 (30.8) | 6 (10.5) | 10 |
| TOTAL | 13 (100.0) | 57 (100.0) | 70 |

$$x^2 = >.10$$

As may be noted, there is a slight relationship between number of hours of counseling and past records in that the greater proportion of those with past records received more than ten (10) hours of counseling. Also, as may be noted in Table 13, there is a positive relationship between the number of days stay in the program and the number of hours of counseling. As the number of days stay increased, the number of hours of counseling also increased.

TABLE 13

| # of Hours of Counseling | LENGTH OF STAY (in days) | | | | Total |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 1 | 2-4 | 5-10 | 10 | |
| 1-10 | 21 (100.0) | 20 (95.2) | 6 (85.7) | 13 (61.9) | 60 (85.7) |
| More Than 10 | 0 | 1 (4.8) | 1 (14.3) | 8 (38.1) | 10 (14.3) |
| TOTAL | 21 (100.0) | 21 (100.0) | 7 (100.0) | 21 (100.0) | 70 (100.0) |

$$x^2 = >.10$$

Finally, as may be noted in Table 14, those with past records of delinquency had a tendency to remain in the program for a longer period of time.

TABLE 14

| Length of Stay In Program (Days) | PAST RECORD OF DELINQUENCY | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|-------|
| | YES | NO | TOTAL |
| 1 | 2 (15.4) | 19 (33.3) | 21 |
| 2-4 | 2 (15.4) | 19 (33.3) | 21 |
| 5-10 | 3 (23.1) | 4 (7.0) | 7 |
| More than 10 | 6 (46.2) | 15 (26.4) | 21 |
| TOTAL | 13 (100.0) | 57 (100.0) | 70 |

$$x^2 = > .10$$

The relationship found between number of hours of counseling and recidivism appears to be based upon the fact that those individuals who remained in the program the longest also received more counseling. At the same time, a greater proportion of those who had past records of delinquency remained in the program for a longer period of time. Thus, those youth who may be considered higher risks (in terms of success), were receiving more hours of counseling and also accounted for a trend towards greater recidivism.

To affirm this trend of high risk youth to recidivate, Table 15 was prepared.

TABLE 15

| Recidivism | # OF PAST DELINQUENCIES | | | Total |
|------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Yes | 2 (33.3) | 1 (33.3) | 3 (75.0) | 6 |
| No | 4 (66.7) | 2 (66.7) | 1 (25.0) | 7 |
| TOTAL | 6 (100.0) | 3 (100.0) | 4 (100.0) | 13 |

$$x^2 = 7.50$$

As may be noted, (though the sample is extremely small), there is a trend for individuals with multiple past offenses to recidivate after the program of intervention. This is especially obvious if the non-recidivists are examined. The

non-recidivists show a distinct trend towards success when one moves from three (3) to one (1) prior offense.

Again, as always, when using secondary data and in interpreting data based on a limited sample, caution must be used. As indicated previously, the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (L.H.&R.S.) has indicated that data may be incomplete on those youths from out-of-county who come through the program. However, for thirteen (13) of the twenty-five (25) cases in which out-of-county youths were involved, file information was found corresponding to periods of time while out of the program. Yet it would be theoretically tenuous to assume that the majority of youths are remaining in the jurisdiction of the program.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

To verify the programs success rate, in the future some form of client follow-up should be initiated either through written correspondence, questionnaires, or personal telephone contacts.

The only other major recommendations involve:

- (1) Reconsideration of the objective establishing the number to be served (reduce from 300),
- (2) Clarification of the terms used in identifying placement of youths in "positive" environments,
- (3) Reconsideration of the objective establishing the number and percentage of youths to be placed in the "positive" environment (reduce from 90%), and
- (4) Individual youth with past records of two (2) or more delinquencies should either be handled in an intensive counseling situation or be screened from the program. However, follow-up analysis should be made of the youth before initiating any policy in this regard.

The client flow records which are currently compiled by the project are remarkably well maintained and should be continued on a day-to-day basis.

Good cooperation between the project and the H.R.S. was in evidence and same should be maintained. The project exhibited flexibility in responding to needs of the youth and H.R.S. while maintaining a good policy-making role and providing policies in writing.

Youths are regularly afforded the opportunity to express themselves to the director of the facility in regards to the operation of same and are thus allowed some policy influencing activity, as well as having access to a special committee composed of board members for airing of complaints. The director is excluded from the committee. The committee meets on a regularly scheduled basis.

END