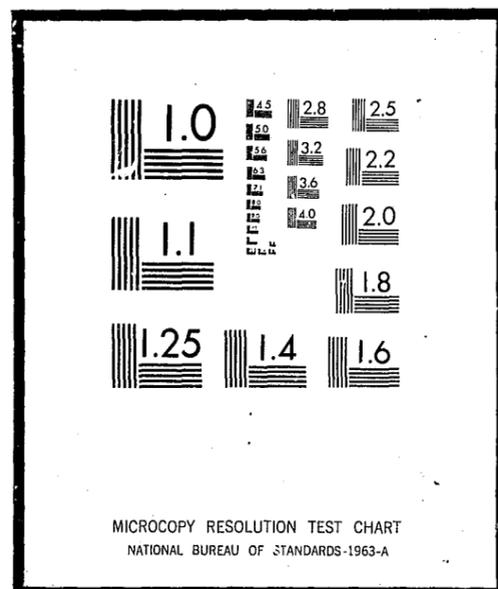


NCJRS

Department of Corrections
Report on Juveniles in Group Homes

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I. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the Group Home program for future planning, to develop clearer understanding of the characteristics of the youth who participated in the program, the experience they had as participants, and to improve the ability of the Department of Corrections in identifying youth who would most benefit from the program.

II. THE GROUP HOME PROGRAM

In 1965 the Minnesota State Department of Corrections began its Group Home program to supervise delinquent youths who required placement in a residential setting in the community in lieu of other placement options. Two groups of juveniles seem to be most appropriate for Group Home placement: those who are released on parole or probation from correctional institutions and for whom placement options in the community are deemed inappropriate; and those who have been adjudicated delinquent and for whom their previous home, individual foster care, or institutionalization are seen as being unsuitable.

A Group Home is a privately owned family home in the community. Four to eight selected youth are placed in the care of the husband and wife in the home. The wife must be in the home on a full-time basis, while the husband is expected to continue his usual occupation. The family may have other natural or adopted children in the home. Successful experience in raising children is a usual requisite for selection as a Group Home parent.

An examination of the Minnesota Department of Corrections' Group Home families from 1965-69 provides detailed information as to the nature of the homes. Records completed by the Group Home parents and the licensing agents, indicated that 9 of the 16 homes were parented by couples in their middle or late forties. In virtually every one of these cases, the couple had children of their own in the home, who were in their adolescence, with the eldest approaching separation from the home into the military, college, other schools, marriage, etc. Of the remaining seven homes, three couples were in their mid-thirties and had very young children, one couple was in the mid-twenties and had an infant and a two year old, three were in their early or mid-fifties with children who were young adults not living in the home. There were no homes parented by childless couples. The majority of the parents had over four children.

One of the goals of the Group Home program has been to recruit experienced parents. Ideally, recruitment has been aimed at those parents who have had foster children who had problems of an acting-out nature, and who had been placed by the local juvenile court and welfare department. Half of the homes studied had such experience prior to joining the program. Of the four homes that failed within one year from the date of licensing, none had such experience. In the selection of Group Home parents, annual income has been a consideration. The Department does not desire to have the parents financially dependent upon the program as a prime source of family income. Annual income of all the homes indicated that the families were living at a "middle income" level. Exceptions occurred because of the special level of education and skills possessed by the Group Home father.

The educational level of Group Home parents does not appear to be positively correlated with success or failure of the home. It appears that the parents who had a college education experienced a greater degree of difficulty as Group Home parents than did those with lower educational achievement. Of the four homes that failed, three had at least one parent who completed four years of college. In one case the father held a doctoral degree and was a professor. Of the 16 homes studied, five homes had at least one parent with a four year college education. In one of the homes the father had had at least three years of college. In six of the homes, the parents had a full high school education; and in four homes the parents had had a 9th grade education or less.

Occupations of the fathers were extremely diverse: mortician's assistant, farmer, insurance salesman and adjuster, State Highway Patrolman, high school teacher, creamery foreman, painter, carpenter, army officer, machinist, student, salesman, college professor, and minister.

Qualities which have been sought in recruitment of parents include personal integrity, tolerance, consistency, patience, sincere interest in youth, stability, warmth and flexibility. The parents are expected to teach social expectations of the community, help the youth in developing appropriate patterns of interaction with persons in their daily lives, help foster intellectual and emotional development, and exercise proper discipline.

Group Homes are subsidized according to a schedule that allows a basic guaranteed sum in addition to reimbursement for food, clothing, medical-dental care, and personal ward allowance expenditures. The budgeted cost for each child is \$190 per month.

From the standpoint of the youth's social relations, the Group Home is seen as a social entity which allows him to maintain normal relations in the community, receive fairly constant supervision, and receive the benefits of a good home environment. In the home he is able to retain the security of being able to withdraw into the group, but may still seek close contact with the Group Home parents when he wishes it. Ideally, the youth's stay in the home is from six to eighteen months. Readiness for release is determined by the parole agent in consultation with the Group Home parents. Adjustment to the home, progress in school, adequacy of future plans outside the Group Home, and other pertinent factors are taken into consideration. Youth may return to their original home or can be released to independent placement status.

The program is administered by a Group Home Supervisor who is responsible for financial matters, placement, recruitment and selection of new parents, and related administrative matters. He works in conjunction with field agents (whose caseloads include the children in the Group Homes) in regard to the on-going operation of the home.

In summary, the Group Home is best described as an informal treatment program which focuses upon resocialization of juveniles in a family community setting.¹

¹ Elizabeth McBroom, "The Socialization of Parents," Child Welfare, March 1967, p. 133

III. RESEARCH METHOD

This study describes youth placed in terms of personal characteristics, correctional history, and family characteristics and relationships. Specific variables studied under each of these categories are as follows:

Personal Characteristics	Correctional History	Family Characteristics and Relationships
Sex	Probation	Marital status of parents with whom living prior to last adjudication
Intelligence	Age at first offense	Family composition
Age	Offense at last adjudication	Foster placement history
Bio-ethnic background	Status prior to Group Home placement	Economic condition
Place of residence		

The data were collected in July, 1969 by a systematic examination of the 129 case records of the juveniles placed in Group Homes from the beginning of the program in September, 1965, to July, 1969. A pre-coded schedule was used to collect 61 items of information (see appendix). To maintain consistency in coding, one person collected data from all cases. Items not requiring judgment in coding were completed by a clerk.

Percentage tables, means, standard deviations, and correlations using Goodman and Kruskal's Lambda were used to analyze the data in appropriate ways by use of computer techniques. The computer programs are on file with the Research Division of the State of Minnesota Department of Corrections.

Where complete data were not available for all cases their lack were not so extensive as to preclude their use in the analysis.

IV. FINDINGS

Personal Characteristics:

Of the 129 juveniles, 60 were male and 69 female. Table 1 indicates that 84% of the total sample was white and 12% was of American Indian descent. Of the remaining five children, two were Oriental and three were Mexican-American. No Negro youths were placed.

Table 1. BIO-ETHNIC BACKGROUND

BIO-ETHNIC BACKGROUND	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
American Indian	5	8.34	11	15.94	16	12.40
White	51	85.0	57	82.61	108	83.72
Oriental	2	3.33	-	-	2	1.55
Mexican-American	2	3.33	1	1.45	3	2.33
Negro	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	60	100.0	69	100.0	129	100.0

The mean age of all children whose age was known (126) was 15.36 years with males only .32 years older than females.

Table 2. AGE AT ADMISSION TO HOME

AGE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
13	2	3.33	3	4.35	5	3.88
14	9	15.0	17	24.64	26	20.16
15	17	28.33	18	26.06	35	27.13
16	22	36.67	19	27.54	41	31.73
17	9	13.33	9	13.04	17	13.18
18	1	1.67	1	1.45	2	1.55
Unknown	1	1.67	2	2.90	3	2.32
Total	60	100.0	69.0	100.0	129	100.0
Mean *	15.47		15.25		15.36	
Standard Deviation *	1.12		1.06		1.15	

* Calculated only upon known data

The Intelligence description, as determined when first entering the Minnesota Reception and Diagnostic Center, indicates a negatively skewed distribution; with this group of youths being somewhat brighter on the average than that of the general population. Approximately 25% of both males and females were of above average intelligence (Stanford-Binet equivalent of 116 or greater).

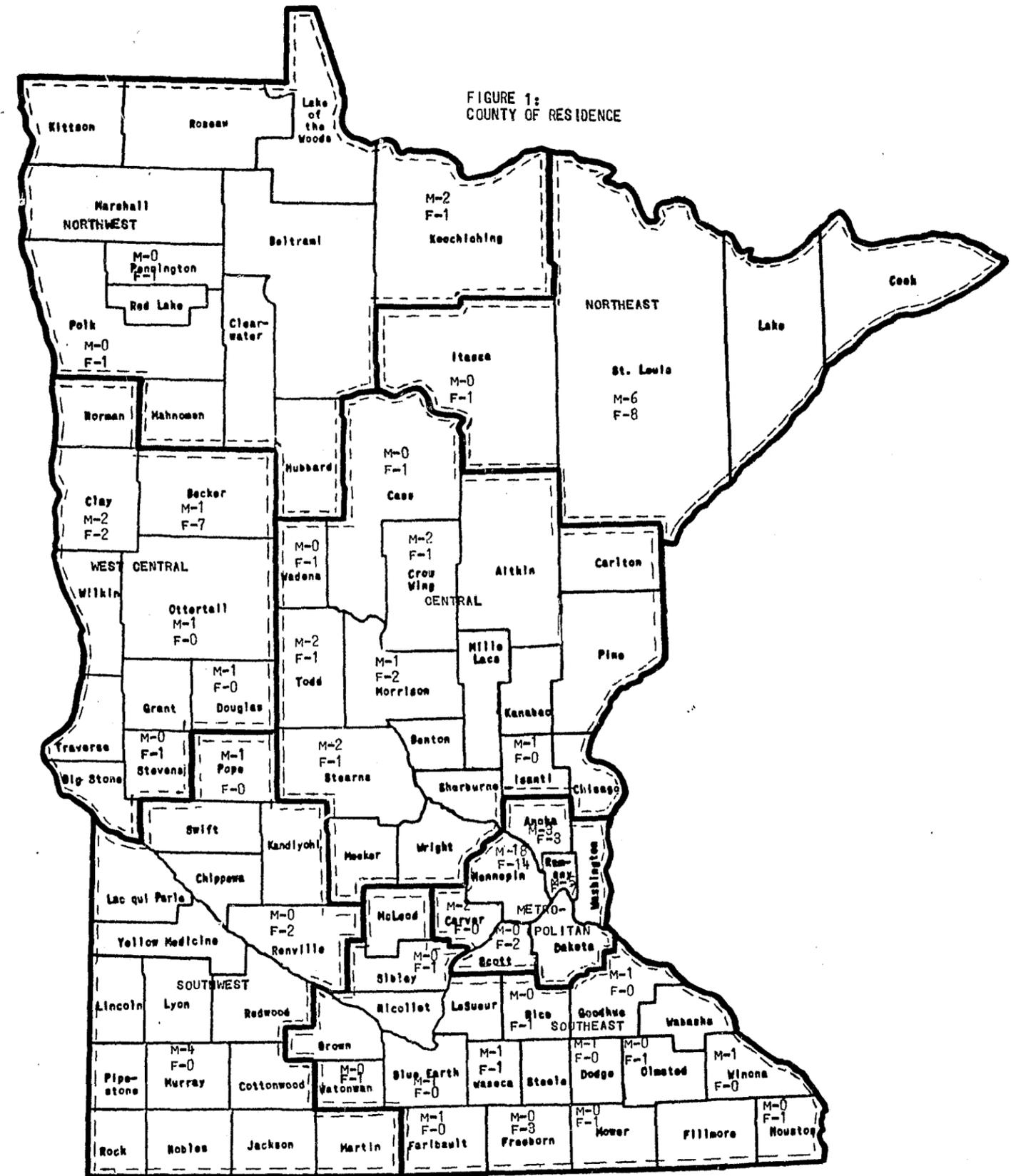
Table 3. DIAGNOSTIC INTELLIGENCE LEVEL

INTELLIGENCE LEVEL	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Superior	7	11.67	1	1.45	8	6.20
Bright Normal	10	16.67	16	23.19	26	20.16
Average	31	51.67	37	53.62	68	52.71
Dull Normal	8	13.32	13	18.84	21	16.28
Borderline	1	1.67	-	-	1	.78
Unknown	3	5.0	2	2.90	5	3.87
Total	60	100.0	69	100.0	129	100.0

The distribution of juveniles according to areas within the state coincides with the state population distribution figures as a whole (Figure 1). Whereas about 49.3% of the State population resides in the metropolitan area, 41.08% of the Group Home youth resided in the metropolitan region;

Table 4. STATE AREA OF RESIDENCE

STATE AREA	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Northwest	5	8.33	5	7.25	10	7.75
Northeast	4	6.67	7	10.14	11	8.53
West Central	5	8.33	11	15.94	16	12.40
Central	8	13.33	8	11.59	16	12.40
East	8	13.33	7	10.14	15	11.63
West	2	3.33	3	4.35	5	3.88
Metropolitan	27	45.00	26	37.69	53	41.08
Unknown	1	1.68	2	2.90	3	2.33
Total	60	100.0	69	100.0	129	100.0



M = MALE F = FEMALE
TOTAL MALE: 60
TOTAL FEMALE: 69

FIGURE 2: NEIGHBORHOOD AREAS OF THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

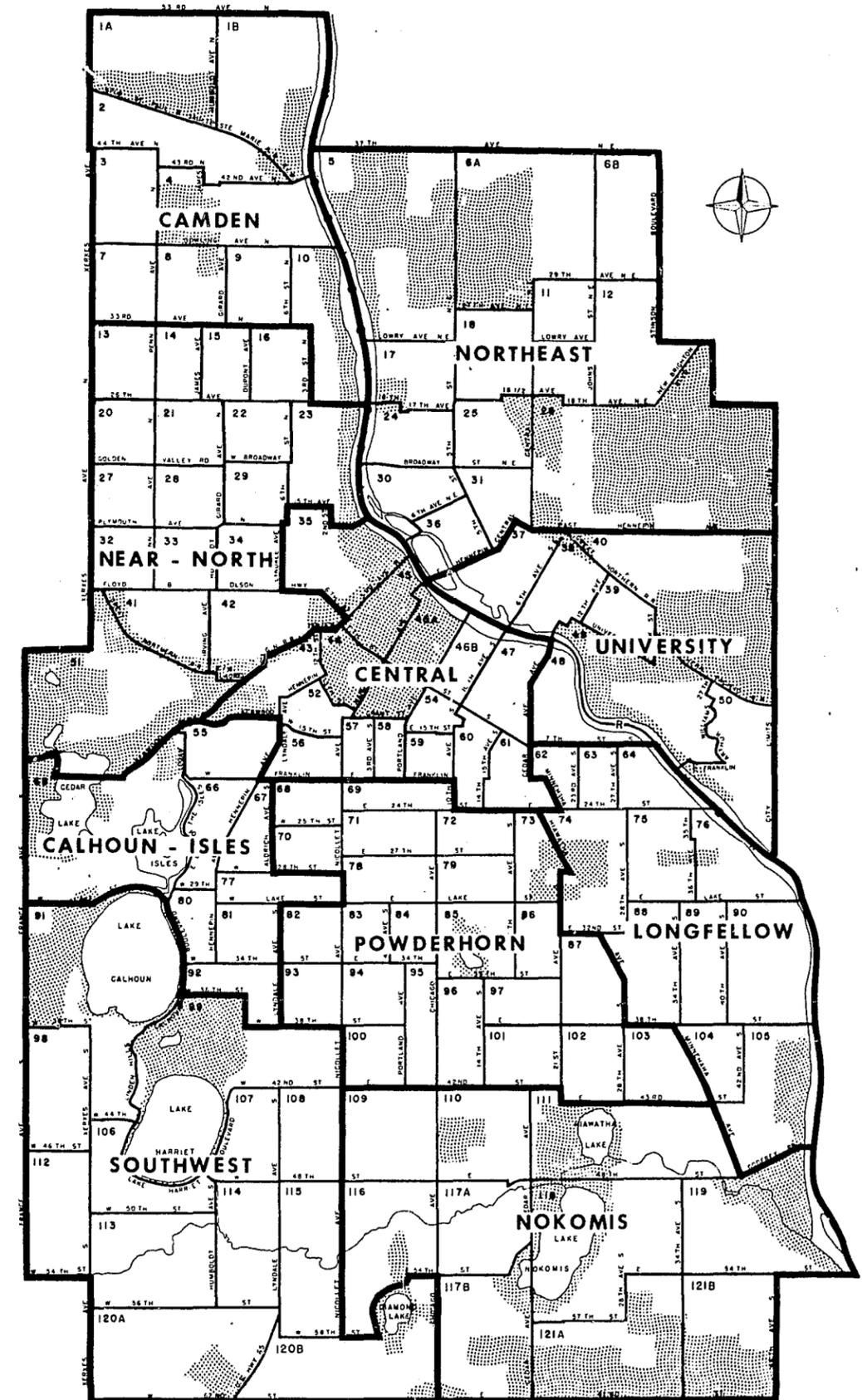
About 25% of the cases came from Hennepin County, 9% from Ramsey County, and 11% came from St. Louis County (see Figure 1). Of the youths who resided in the metropolitan area, the greatest number came from the Minneapolis Powderhorn area.

Table 5. METROPOLITAN AREA OF RESIDENCE OF METROPOLITAN YOUTHS IN STUDY

AREA	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mpls. Central	0	0.00	3	4.35	3	2.32
Mpls. Powderhorn	5	8.33	4	5.80	9	6.98
Mpls. Calhoun Isles	1	1.67	0	0.00	1	.78
Mpls. Near North	4	6.67	0	0.00	4	3.10
Mpls. Longfellow	0	0.00	2	2.90	2	1.55
Mpls. Nokomis	3	5.00	0	0.00	3	2.32
Mpls. Southwest	1	1.67	0	0.00	1	.78
Mpls. Camden	2	3.33	0	0.00	2	1.55
Mpls. High-Density Suburbs	0	0.00	2	2.90	2	1.55
Mpls. Urban Fringe Suburbs	3	5.00	1	1.45	4	3.10
St. Paul Summit-University	0	0.00	1	1.45	1	.78
St. Paul Dayton's Bluff	2	3.33	0	0.00	2	1.55
St. Paul West Side	1	1.67	1	1.45	2	1.55
Unknown	38	63.33	55	79.70	93	72.09
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

Family Background

A high proportion of the youth came from large families. Nearly 49% came from families with five or more children; about 16% came from families with eight or more children (see table 6). An assessment was made of the economic condition of the family, but these data should be viewed with caution, since they were based on the field agent's description of the living conditions of the family rather than upon direct knowledge of financial resources, value of dwelling, expenditures, etc. We can infer from this evaluation that 44% of the youths came from families described as economically sound or good and nearly as many (40%) are from economically marginal families, suffering a noticeable degree of financial deprivation. However, it may be noted that a greater number (27%) came from economically "sound" families than from "poor" families (18%). (The condition of 17% of the families is not known. See Table 7).



COMMUNITY ANALYSIS BASE

- 105 CENSUS TRACT BOUNDARY AND NUMBER
- PREDOMINATELY NON RESIDENTIAL AREAS
- APPROXIMATE COMMUNITY BOUNDARY

Table 6. NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY

NUMBER OF CHILDREN	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	2	3.32	1	1.45	3	2.32
2	7	11.67	4	5.80	11	8.53
3	10	16.67	10	14.49	20	15.50
4	5	8.33	6	8.70	11	8.53
5	7	11.67	12	17.39	19	14.73
6	5	8.33	9	13.04	14	10.85
7	4	6.67	5	7.25	9	6.98
8+	10	16.67	11	15.94	21	16.28
Unknown	10	16.67	11	15.94	21	16.28
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

Table 7. ECONOMIC CONDITION OF FAMILY

CONDITION	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sound	17	28.33	18	26.09	35	27.14
Good, some problems	13	21.67	9	13.04	22	17.05
Marginal	11	18.33	16	23.19	27	20.93
Poor	9	15.00	14	20.29	23	17.83
Unknown	10	16.67	12	17.39	22	17.05
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

About 61% of the youths were not living with both natural parents prior to Group Home placement. In 52% of the cases their parents were not living together as husband and wife, divorce (30%) being the major reason.

Table 8. LIVING WITH PRIOR TO GROUP HOME PLACEMENT

LIVING WITH	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Natural Parents	20	33.33	27	39.12	47	36.43
Father and Step-mother	6	10.00	3	4.35	9	6.98
Mother	15	25.00	15	21.74	30	23.26
Father	3	5.00	4	5.80	7	5.43
Adoptive Parents	7	11.67	2	2.90	9	6.98
Mother and Step-father	7	11.67	10	14.49	17	13.18
Relatives, friends	0	0.00	3	4.35	3	2.32
Foster Homes	1	1.67	2	2.90	3	2.32
Group Homes	0	0.00	1	1.45	1	.78
Unknown	1	1.66	2	2.90	3	2.32
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

Table 9. MARITAL STATUS OF PARENTS

MARITAL STATUS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Married-Living together	20	33.33	27	39.13	47	36.43
Mother deceased	3	5.00	1	1.45	4	3.10
Father deceased	3	5.00	2	2.90	5	3.88
Non-legal separation	3	5.00	2	2.90	5	3.88
Father deserted	0	0.00	1	1.45	1	.78
Legal separation	2	3.33	4	5.80	6	4.65
Divorced	19	31.67	20	28.98	39	30.23
Never married	1	1.67	4	5.80	5	3.88
Non-legal association	0	0.00	2	2.90	2	1.55
Unknown	9	15.00	6	8.69	15	11.62
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

An examination was made of the number of changes in household of residence prior to Group Home placement (not including correctional institutions). A change in household of residence was defined as a change of household in which neither parent (nor guardian nor foster parent) remains the same, or movement in or out

of foster placement. More than 36% of the cases had at least one change in household of residence.

Table 10. NUMBER OF CHANGES IN HOUSEHOLD OF RESIDENCE PRIOR TO GROUP HOME PLACEMENT

NUMBER OF CHANGES	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0	31	51.67	34	49.27	65	50.39
1-2	14	23.33	19	27.54	33	25.58
3-5	6	10.00	5	7.25	11	8.53
6+	2	3.33	1	1.45	3	2.32
Unknown	7	11.67	10	14.49	17	13.18
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

Delinquent and Correctional History:

Youth in the Group Home program did not typically have a long history of delinquency: 42% of the females and 27% of the males had been adjudicated delinquent once; 54% of the females and 62% of the males had been adjudicated delinquent two times or more (table 11).

Table 11. NUMBER OF TIMES ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT PRIOR TO GROUP HOME PLACEMENT

TIMES ADJUDICATED	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	16	26.67	29	42.03	45	34.88
2	20	33.33	21	30.43	41	31.78
3	10	16.67	13	18.84	23	17.83
4	6	10.00	1	1.45	7	5.43
5	0	0.00	2	2.90	2	1.55
6	1	1.66	0	0.00	1	.78
Unknown	7	11.67	3	4.35	10	7.75
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

The mean age at first offense for boys was 14.2 years, for girls 14.59 years (table 12).

Table 12. AGE AT FIRST OFFENSE

AGE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
9	1	1.67	0	0.00	1	.78
10	1	1.67	0	0.00	1	.78
11	3	5.00	0	0.00	3	2.32
12	2	3.33	3	4.35	5	3.88
13	8	13.33	10	14.49	18	13.95
14	12	20.00	21	30.43	33	25.58
15	18	30.00	15	21.74	33	25.58
16	9	15.00	13	18.84	22	17.05
17	3	5.00	5	7.25	8	6.20
Unknown	3	5.00	2	2.90	5	3.88
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00
Mean *		14.2		14.59		14.44
Standard Deviation *		2.1		1.35		1.52

* Calculated only upon known data

Regarding type of offenses for which the youth was last adjudicated, it was apparent that the majority (86%) of female offenses and a large percentage of male offenses (35%) were non-criminal acts. No more than 5% of the remaining females fell into any one other offense category. The two most significant offenses for males were absenting (22% included in non-criminal offenses on the table) and unauthorized use of motor vehicle (22%). Theft and burglary each accounted for 18% of the boys' offenses. (See table 13 for further details.)

Table 13. TYPE OF OFFENSE COMMITTED DIRECTLY PRIOR TO GROUP HOME PLACEMENT

OFFENSE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Assault	2	3.33	1	1.45	3	2.32
Burglary	11	18.33	2	2.90	13	10.08
Non-criminal offenses *	21	35.00	59	85.51	80	62.02
Theft **	11	18.33	3	4.35	14	10.85
Unauthorized use of motor vehicle	13	21.67	1	1.45	14	10.85
Unknown	2	3.33	3	4.35	5	3.80
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

* Includes: Incurrigibility (2 males, 30 females)
Liquor (1 male, 2 females)
Runaway (13 males, 25 females)
Truancy (5 males, 2 females)

**Includes Shoplifting (0 males, 2 females)

Table 14. AGE AT LAST OFFENSE

AGE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
12	1	1.67	1	1.45	2	1.55
13	4	6.66	9	13.04	13	10.08
14	10	16.67	22	31.88	32	24.81
15	21	35.00	15	21.74	36	27.90
16	18	30.00	14	20.29	32	24.81
17	6	10.00	6	8.70	12	9.30
Unknown	0	0.00	2	2.90	2	1.55
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00
Mean *	15.1		14.7		14.9	
Standard Deviation *	1.6		1.22		1.26	

* Calculated only upon known data

The mean age at last offense for boys was 15.1 years and for girls was 14.7 years (table 14). The difference between collective mean age at first offense and at last offense was .46 years. With regard to probation and parole histories, a third of the males and over 40% of the females had been on probation once; 65%

of the males and 52% of the females had been on probation twice or more.

Table 15. NUMBER OF TIMES PLACED ON PROBATION

TIMES ON PROBATION	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	20	33.33	29	42.03	49	37.98
2	32	53.33	25	36.23	57	44.19
3	6	10.00	8	11.59	14	10.85
4	1	1.67	3	4.35	4	3.10
Unknown	1	1.67	4	5.80	5	3.88
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

Over 68% of the males and 51% of the females were on parole once. Thirty per cent of the males and 20% of the females had been paroled two or three times prior to Group Home placement.

Table 16. NUMBER OF TIMES PAROLED PRIOR TO GROUP HOME PLACEMENT

TIMES PAROLED	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	41	68.33	51	73.91	92	71.32
2	17	28.33	13	18.84	30	23.26
3	1	1.67	1	1.45	2	1.54
Unknown	1	1.67	4	5.80	5	3.88
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

Considering previous institutionalization, it was observed that approximately 70% of the youths had been institutionalized only once prior to Group Home

placement; 33% of the males and 17% of the females had been institutionalized two or more times.

Table 17. NUMBER OF TIMES COMMITTED TO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS PRIOR TO GROUP HOME PLACEMENT

TIMES COMMITTED	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	40	66.67	50	72.46	90	69.77
2	15	25.00	11	15.94	26	20.15
3	4	6.67	0	0.00	4	3.10
4	0	0.00	1	1.45	1	.78
5+	1	1.66	0	0.00	1	.78
Unknown	0	0.00	7	10.15	7	5.42
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

Boys had spent a mean total time in institutions prior to Group Home placement of 8.25 months, while girls had spent an average of 6.54 months.

Table 18. TOTAL NUMBER OF MONTHS SPENT IN INSTITUTIONS PRIOR TO GROUP HOME PLACEMENT

MONTHS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1-6	28	46.67	49	71.01	77	59.69
7-12	21	35.00	10	14.49	31	24.03
13-18	8	13.33	5	7.25	13	10.08
19-24	2	3.33	1	1.45	3	2.32
25-36	1	1.67	1	1.45	2	1.55
37-48	0	0.00	1	1.45	1	.78
Unknown	0	0.00	2	2.90	2	1.55
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00
Mean *		8.25		6.54		7.34

* Calculated only upon known data

In considering the number of months spent in institutions due to the last offense prior to Group Home placement, 47% of the males and 61% of the females spent from one to three months in an institution, the mean number of months being 4.98 for males and 4.56 months for females. Only 5% of the youths were in an institution longer than a year for their last offense.

Table 19. NUMBER OF MONTHS SPENT IN INSTITUTIONS DUE TO LAST OFFENSE

MONTHS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0	2	3.33	2	2.90	4	3.10
1-3	28	46.67	42	60.87	70	54.26
4-6	6	10.00	10	14.49	16	12.40
7-12	18	30.00	7	10.14	25	19.38
13-18	2	3.33	4	5.80	6	4.65
37-48	0	0.00	1	1.45	1	.78
Unknown	4	6.67	3	4.35	7	5.43
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00
Mean *		4.98		4.56		4.75

* Calculated only upon known data

About 37% of the juveniles were not on any correctional status at the time of the offense leading to Group Home placement, but 40% were on probation.

Table 20. CORRECTIONAL STATUS AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENSE FOR WHICH PLACED IN GROUP HOME

STATUS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
None	18	30.00	30	43.48	48	37.21
On probation	26	43.33	25	36.23	51	39.53
On escape	1	1.67	0	0.00	1	.78
On parole	10	16.67	9	13.04	19	14.73
Unknown	5	8.33	5	7.25	10	7.75
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

About 37% of the boys and 55% of the girls were referred for placement directly from the Minnesota Reception and Diagnostic Center.

Table 21. REFERRAL SOURCE FOR GROUP HOME PLACEMENT

Source *	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Youth Conservation Comm. Reception & Diagnostic Ctr.	22	36.67	38	55.07	60	46.51
Minnesota Home School	3	5.00	22	31.89	25	19.38
State Training School for Boys	21	35.00	1	1.45	22	17.05
Youth Vocational Center	1	1.67	0	0.00	1	.78
St. Croix Camp	8	13.33	0	0.00	8	6.20
Thistledeew Camp	1	1.67	0	0.00	1	.78
Field Services	2	3.33	1	1.45	3	2.32
Unknown	2	3.33	7	10.14	9	6.98
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

* All referrals made by Department of Corrections facilities

History in the Group Home:

The first concern in regard to Group Home placement is the reason for such placement. Two-thirds of the girls and 43% of the boys were placed because supervision in the community was deemed more appropriate than institutionalization. More than 40% of the boys and 18% of the girls were paroled from an institution but placement in their previous homes was inadvisable.

Table 22. REASON FOR GROUP HOME PLACEMENT

REASON	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Supervision not institu- tionalization necessary	26	43.33	46	66.67	72	55.81
Paroled from institution; previous home not suitable for adjustment	26	43.33	13	18.84	39	30.23
Other	1	1.67	0	0.00	1	.78
Unknown	7	11.67	10	14.49	17	13.18
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

Table 23. DESCRIPTION OF ADJUSTMENT TO GROUP HOME

DESCRIPTION	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Excellent	1	1.67	14	17.39	15	11.63
Good	15	25.00	16	23.19	31	24.03
Fair (problems but not chronic)	11	18.33	12	17.39	23	17.83
Numerous problems	19	31.67	13	18.84	32	24.81
Unknown	14	23.33	14	20.29	28	21.71
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

Over 40% of the girls and about 26% of the boys made a good to excellent adjustment to the Group Home, while 19% of the girls and 32% of the boys made a poor adjustment. Especially noteworthy is the observation that about 17% of the girls made an excellent adjustment, and did not have a single problem incident or a single delinquent act while in the home. The adjustment made to the Group Home

TABLE 23A. REASON FOR PLACEMENT IN GROUP HOME COMPARED TO TYPE OF ADJUSTMENT TO HOME

ADJUSTMENT	REASON FOR PLACEMENT										TOTAL		COMBINED TOTAL					
	SUPERVISION IN LIEU OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION				PAROLED FROM INSTITUTION				OTHER									
	MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE			
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%		
EXCELLENT	1	5.26	11	35.82	0	0.00	1	9.09	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.67	12	17.39	13	10.09
GOOD	10	52.63	12	33.34	4	19.05	2	18.18	0	0.00	0	0.00	14	23.93	14	20.28	28	21.70
FAIR (PROBLEMS BUT NOT CHRONIC)	2	10.53	5	13.89	8	38.10	5	45.45	0	0.00	0	0.00	10	16.67	10	14.50	20	15.51
NUMEROUS PROBLEMS	6	31.58	8	22.23	9	42.86	3	27.27	1	100.00	0	0.00	16	26.67	11	15.95	27	20.92
UNKNOWN													19	31.66	22	31.88	41	31.78
TOTAL	19	100.00	36	100.00	21	100.00	11	100.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

was significantly different between those who were placed without having been institutionalized and those who were paroled after institutionalization. Of the first group 58% of males made a good to excellent adjustment, while 19% of the paroled males made a good to excellent adjustment. Of the females, 69% of those in the first group made a good to excellent adjustment whereas 27% of the paroled females made a similar adjustment (see table 23A).

Table 24. REASON FOR LEAVING GROUP HOME PLACEMENT

REASON	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New Offense	20	33.33	17	24.64	37	28.68
Released from YCC jurisdiction, successful treatment	4	6.67	5	7.25	9	6.98
Unable to adjust to home during trial period	4	6.67	8	11.59	12	9.30
Unable to adjust to home after trial period	8	13.33	8	11.59	16	12.40
Marriage; emancipated minor	1	1.67	0	0.00	1	.78
Released to conventional parents	5	8.33	11	15.94	16	12.40
Chronic violation of technical rules	2	3.33	0	0.00	2	1.55
Unknown	16	26.67	20	28.99	36	27.91
Total	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

The analysis of reasons why youth left Group Homes found that one-third of the boys and one-fourth of the girls left because they committed a new offense. Approximately 7% of the boys and 12% of the girls did not adjust during the initial three week trial period, while 13% of the boys and 12% of the girls left because of adjustment problems after the 15 day trial period. About 15% of the boys and 23% of the girls released from Group Homes up until June, 1969 completed their residence successfully and were either discharged from Youth Conservation Commission (YCC) jurisdiction or were released to natural or legal parents under continued YCC supervision. A further analysis of youth released from Group Homes showed differences in success between those placed in the home without prior institutionalization as compared with youth placed after parole from an institution. Among boys there is little difference between the two categories, while among girls 39% of the non-institutionalized versus 18% of the paroled females were either released from YCC jurisdiction or released to their parents.

TABLE 2A. REASON FOR PLACEMENT COMPARED WITH REASON FOR LEAVING GROUP HOME

REASON FOR LEAVING	REASON FOR PLACEMENT												TOTAL		COMBINED TOTAL			
	SUPERVISION IN LIEU OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION				PAROLED FROM INSTITUTION				OTHER				TOTAL		COMBINED TOTAL			
	MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		COMBINED TOTAL			
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%		
NEW OFFENSE	6	40.00	12	38.71	10	45.45	3	27.27	1	100.00	0	0.00	17	28.33	15	21.74	32	24.81
RELEASED FROM YCO JURISDICTION; SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT	2	13.33	3	9.68	2	9.09	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	6.67	3	4.35	7	5.48
UNABLE TO ADJUST TO HOME DURING TRIAL PERIOD	1	6.67	4	12.90	2	9.09	4	36.36	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	5.00	8	11.59	11	8.53
UNABLE TO ADJUST TO HOME AFTER TRIAL PERIOD	2	13.33	3	9.68	4	18.18	2	18.18	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	10.00	5	7.25	11	8.53
MARRIAGE; EMANCIPATED MINOR	1	6.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.67	0	0.00	1	.77
RELEASED TO CONVENTIONAL PARENTS	2	13.33	9	29.03	3	13.64	2	18.18	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	8.33	11	15.94	16	12.40
CHRONIC VIOLATION OF TECHNICAL RULES	1	6.67	0	0.00	1	4.55	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	3.33	0	0.00	2	1.55
UNKNOWN													22	36.67	27	39.13	49	37.98
TOTAL	15	100.00	31	100.00	22	100.00	11	100.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

Of the youth leaving the Group Home due to a new offense, 34% were making a good adjustment to the home, and 23% were making a fair adjustment. None had made an excellent adjustment but 43% adjusted poorly. Of those who were released to their parents, 80% had been making a good to excellent adjustment. Of those discharged from YCC jurisdiction, 90% had been making a good to excellent adjustment and 10% had been making a fair adjustment.

TABLE 25. TYPE OF ADJUSTMENT IN THE GROUP HOME COMPARED TO REASON FOR LEAVING THE HOME

REASON FOR LEAVING	TYPE OF ADJUSTMENT									
	EXCELLENT		GOOD		FAIR (PROBLEMS BUT NOT CHRONIC)		NUMEROUS PROBLEMS		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
NEW OFFENSE	0	0.00	12	34.28	8	22.86	15	42.85	35	100.00
RELEASED FROM YCC JURISDICTION; SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT	6	60.00	3	30.00	1	10.00	0	0.00	10	100.00
UNABLE TO ADJUST TO HOME DURING TRIAL PERIOD	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	25.00	3	75.00	4	100.00
UNABLE TO ADJUST TO HOME AFTER TRIAL PERIOD	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	26.67	11	73.33	15	100.00
MARRIAGE; EMANCIPATED MINOR	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00
RELEASED TO CONVENTIONAL PARENTS	4	25.00	9	56.25	2	12.50	1	6.25	16	100.00
CHRONIC VIOLATION OF TECHNICAL RULES	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	50.00	1	50.00	2	100.00
UNKNOWN									46	35.66
TOTAL	10	7.76	25	19.38	17	19.38	31	24.02	129	100.00

An important question to be answered by the study is whether the degree of success of a youth in the home has any relationship to the type of offense for which he was committed. Table 26 shows that there is a sex difference in adjustment between boys and girls who were adjudicated delinquent for the same type of offenses. Among juveniles adjudicated for non-criminal offenses, 7% of the boys made a good or excellent adjustment while 52% of the girls were making a good to excellent adjustment. Among the total subjects for which there is information, 42% of the girls made a good to excellent adjustment, compared to 27% of the boys. Most responsible for this difference is the adjustment of the males adjudicated for unauthorized use of motor vehicle and for non-criminal offenses. Over half of the boys adjudicated for unauthorized use of motor vehicle made a bad adjustment, and of the 14 boys with non-criminal offenses, 43% made only a fair adjustment and 50% had a poor adjustment. Surprisingly, boys adjudicated due to burglary and theft adjusted well to the home; 56% of the burglary cases and 63% of the theft cases were described as having a good to excellent adjustment.

In regard to a youth completing his Group Home stay successfully and either being released from (YCC) jurisdiction or being released to his natural parents or independent status under YCC jurisdiction, we again find a significant sex difference when considering type of last adjudicated offense. Of the boys, only three burglary cases, three theft cases, and two car theft cases successfully completed their Group Home stay. One of the 15 male youths with non-criminal offenses completed the program successfully and was released to his parents. 58.33% of the unauthorized use of motor vehicle cases and 42.86% of the burglary cases left the home due to a new offense. In analyzing success of youths in completing Group Home stay and being released to parents or being released

TABLE 26. OFFENSE FOR WHICH ADJUDICATED LAST COMPARED TO TYPE OF ADJUSTMENT

TYPE OF ADJUSTMENT	ASSAULT		BURGLARY		NON-CRIMINAL OFFENSES*				THEFT **		UNAUTHORIZED USE OF MOTOR VEHICLE		TOTAL		COMBINED TOTAL											
	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %										
EXCELLENT	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	10	20.83	1	12.50	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1.67	13	18.84	14	10.86				
GOOD	1	100.00	0	0.00	5	55.55	1	50.00	1	7.14	15	31.25	4	50.00	0	0.00	4	30.76	15	25.00	16	23.19	31	24.03		
FAIR (PROBLEMS BUT NOT CHRONIC)	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	22.22	0	0.00	6	42.86	11	22.92	1	12.50	1	50.00	2	15.38	0	0.00	11	18.83	12	17.39	23	17.83
NUMEROUS PROBLEMS	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	22.22	1	50.00	7	50.00	12	25.00	2	25.00	0	0.00	7	53.85	0	0.00	18	30.00	13	18.84	31	24.03
UNKNOWN																	15	25.00	15	21.74	30	23.21				
TOTAL	1	100.00	0	0.00	9	100.00	2	100.00	14	100.00	48	100.00	8	100.00	2	100.00	13	100.00	1	100.00	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.00

* INCLUDES: INCORRIGIBILITY (0 MALES, 22 FEMALES)
 LIQUOR (1 MALE, 2 FEMALES)
 RUNAWAY (10 MALES, 22 FEMALES)
 TRUANCY (3 MALES, 2 FEMALES)

** INCLUDES SHOPLIFTING (0 MALES, 1 FEMALE)

from YCC jurisdiction, we find that 30% of the 43 girls with non-criminal offenses were released successfully. The single assault case and single car theft case among females were both successful in release. In the non-criminal category, about 33% of the girls left due to a new offense.

This study was also interested in the relationship of age of the youth to the type of adjustment made in the home and reason for release from the home. Statistical treatment in the form of percentage tables in correlations showed very little difference between ages either in regard to adjustment in the home or to the reason for release.

A major question deals with what type of contact with the law that juveniles experienced following release from the Group Home. Table 28 shows that a high percentage (43%) of these youth had no incidence of delinquency as a matter of record. Of those who have had contact with the law, 14 (11%) have had only one delinquency, 13 (10%) have had two delinquencies, and three (2%) have had 3-4 delinquencies. Only those delinquent acts which came to the attention of the Department of Corrections are included in this report. Since a large majority of the cases in this study were still residing in Minnesota at the time of this study, it is reasonable to assume that the statistics concerning incidence of delinquency following release did not significantly underestimate the situations.

TABLE 27. OFFENSE FOR WHICH ADJUDICATED COMPARED TO REASON FOR LEAVING GROUP HOME

	OFFENSE																									
	ASSAULT				BURGLARY				NON-CRIMINAL OFFENSES *				THEFT **		UNAUTHORIZED USE OF MOTOR VEHICLE				TOTAL		COMBINED TOT					
	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %	MALE NO.	FEMALE %												
NEW OFFENSE	1	100.00	0	0.00	3	42.86	2	100.00	7	46.67	14	32.56	2	25.00	1	100.00	7	58.33	0	0.00	20	33.33	17	24.64	37	28.6
RELEASED FROM YOC JURISDICTION SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT	0	0.00	1	100.00	2	28.57	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	9.30	2	25.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	6.67	5	7.25	9	6.9
UNABLE TO ADJUST TO HOME DURING TRIAL PERIOD	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	13.33	8	18.60	2	25.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	6.67	8	11.59	12	9.3
UNABLE TO ADJUST TO HOME AFTER TRIAL PERIOD	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	14.29	0	0.00	4	26.67	8	18.60	1	12.50	0	0.00	1	8.33	0	0.00	7	11.67	8	11.59	15	11.6
MARRIAGE; EMANCIPATED MINOR	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	8.33	0	0.00	1	1.67	0	0.00	1	.7
RELEASED TO CONVENTIONAL PARENTS	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	14.29	0	0.00	1	6.67	9	20.93	1	12.50	0	0.00	2	16.67	1	100.00	5	8.33	10	14.49	15	11.6
CHRONIC VIOLATION OF TECHNICAL RULES	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	6.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	8.33	0	0.00	2	3.33	0	0.00	2	1.5
UNKNOWN																					17	28.33	21	30.44	38	29.4
TOTAL	1	100.00	1	100.00	7	100.00	2	100.00	15	100.00	43	100.00	8	100.00	1	100.00	12	100.00	1	100.00	60	100.00	69	100.00	129	100.0

* INCLUDES: INCORRIGIBILITY (0 MALES, 22 FEMALES)
 LIQUOR (1 MALE, 2 FEMALES)
 RUNAWAY (11 MALES, 19 FEMALES)
 TRUANCY (3 MALES, 0 FEMALES)

** INCLUDES SHOPLIFTING (0 MALES, 1 FEMALE)

TABLE 28. NUMBER OF OFFENSES COMMITTED SINCE RELEASE FROM GROUP HOME COMPARED TO NUMBER OF MONTHS SINCE RELEASE FROM INSTITUTION

MONTHS SINCE RELEASE	NUMBER OF OFFENSES									
	0		1		2		3-4		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
0	4	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	100.00
1-3	8	88.89	1	11.11	0	0.00	0	0.00	9	100.00
4-6	5	83.33	1	16.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	100.00
7-12	12	80.00	3	20.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	15	100.00
13-18	8	50.00	3	18.75	5	31.25	0	0.00	16	100.00
19-24	7	53.84	3	23.08	3	23.08	0	0.00	13	100.00
25-36	11	64.71	3	17.65	1	5.88	2	11.76	17	100.00
36+	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	80.00	1	20.00	5	100.00
UNKNOWN									44	34.11
TOTAL	55	42.64	14	10.85	13	10.08	3	2.32	129	100.00

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The majority of youth placed in Group Homes were white with the proportion of American Indians significantly in excess of their representation in the general population of the State. No negro youth were placed. About half of juveniles placed came from metropolitan areas. Mean age of 15 years was almost identical for boys and girls. Intelligence was slightly higher than that of the State population level.

About 80% of girls and 25% of boys were adjudicated delinquent for commission of non-criminal acts, i.e. truancy, incorrigibility, etc. Boys were most frequently involved in criminal acts such as theft, burglary, and auto theft. About 35% of the youth had delinquency careers antedating their last adjudication of delinquency. These delinquency careers however, were fairly short, averaging about 6 months.

Youth typically came from large families which suffered from disorganization or disruption, and which were beset with financial difficulties. These conditions were in the main contributory to a marked lack of home stability offering little in the way of discipline, supervision, and support.

Approximately 40% of the girls and 27% of the boys in the study made a good to excellent adjustment to the Group Home program; about 18% of both sexes made a fair adjustment; and nearly 19% of girls and 32% of boys made poor adjustments. Adjustment data for about 23% of each was not available. An analysis of the major reasons for terminating placement revealed that 23% of girls and 17% of boys completed their home stay successfully, 23% of girls and 33% of boys were removed after committing an additional offense, and 23% of girls and 20% of boys failed to adjust.

Of the youth removed from Group Homes for having committed additional offenses, about 34% were adjusting well to the program and 23% were making a fair adjustment. Thus, many of the youth classed as "failures" in the program because of additional offenses were otherwise capable of adjusting well to the homes.

From the data available, some inferences may be drawn about the characteristics of youth who make the best adjustment to Group Homes. Among girls, it appears that those with short-term delinquency careers comprising non-criminal offenses appeared to benefit most from the program. Because a large percentage of the girls came from unstable homes which offered little support, supervision, and unproductive relationships with their parents, these girls usually demonstrated their delinquent behavior by runaway and incorrigibility. Group Homes apparently are able to provide the relationships and stability which these girls required because of the consistency in behavioral norms, equilibrium of emotional climate, and the demonstrated persistent concern for their welfare. Boys who were involved in property offenses such as theft, burglary, and auto theft tended to adjust best in Group Homes, while those who had run away or who persistently absented themselves from their own homes had the least success in Group Homes. Although boys involved in car theft seem to adjust well, the likelihood of their again stealing a car is great and this was more often the basis for their removal from Group Homes.

Among the total group of youth placed directly from the Reception and Diagnostic Center, as compared with those placed after being paroled from a correctional institution, had significant differences in adjustment to Group Homes: the former had a higher degree of success in the program. Girls who

were not sent to correctional institutions were more successful than girls who were institutionalized, while little difference was noted among the two groups of boys.

Any basic assessment of the "success or failure" of the Group Home program could not be directly determined especially if measurement of changes in behavior and attitude are the variables upon which such a determination is made. Even research that carefully controls the clinical treatment program is beset with the problem of not being able to accurately measure such changes. The present study had no control over variables affecting change since many administrative changes in personnel and procedure were introduced during the five year period of the Group Home program. Therefore, the only measures of "success" that had reasonable validity were the degree of adjustment, reason for release from the program, and additional delinquency while in the home.

The major inference which may be drawn from this study is that the Group Home program is providing a stable and consistent environment in which delinquent youth can develop meaningful and satisfying relationships in the transition from delinquent to non-delinquent behavior. The findings of this study, although general in nature, support the philosophy underlying the program.

END