



State of New York  
Mario M. Cuomo  
Governor

# NEW YORK STATE DIVISION FOR YOUTH

## Youth In Care

### ANNUAL REPORTS: 1991 AND 1992

144433

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July 1993

**Leonard G. Dunston**  
Director

Charles M. Devane  
Executive Deputy Director

**New York State  
Division For Youth**

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**Preventing delinquency  
through  
positive youth development**

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144433



NEW YORK STATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
**DIVISION FOR YOUTH**  
CAPITAL VIEW OFFICE PARK  
52 WASHINGTON STREET  
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LEONARD G. DUNSTON  
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To the Governor and the People of New York State:

I am pleased to present the Division for Youth's annual report, Youth in Care, 1991-92. This report provides relevant information about both DFY residential and non-residential programs. In an effort to present a thorough overview of the system, detailed information on admissions, in-custody populations, and discharges has been included. The utility of the report is further enhanced by the inclusion of five-year trends on selected youth characteristics.

It is our hope that this report will contribute to a greater understanding of the role played by the Division in the State's long term commitment to its youth. Those state and local government officials who are actively involved in promoting the welfare of the youth of New York State, as well as the many private agencies involved with the juvenile justice system should find this report to be a valuable resource in their endeavors. For the Division, this report represents yet another chapter in our history, and contributes further to our expanding archival database, thereby enhancing future planning efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard G. Dunston

July, 1993

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### FOREWORD

This report provides a narrative overview of all the youth placed by the courts in DFY's custody, regardless of the setting in which they were served. Pertinent data relating to both residential and non-residential services are included. This format recognizes the importance of the entire range of care provided to adjudicated youth. It also reflects DFY's goal of providing care, where appropriate, in the less restrictive environments associated with non-residential treatment settings.

This Annual Report, combined for 1991 and 1992, also reflects the benefits of DFY's Classification System and reconfigured youth database which were both implemented on July 1, 1989. The changes engendered by the new system permit the reporting of information, especially with regard to youth needs, which was unavailable prior to its implementation.

The aim of this report is to provide interested persons with a summary of the Division's activities during each of the two years covered. In addition, the five-year trend data which are provided allow the reader to place recent changes in historical context.

Questions regarding the data presented should be directed to NYS Division For Youth, Bureau of Program Evaluation and Research, Capital View Office Park, 52 Washington Street, Rensselaer, NY 12144.

### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- \* While there has been little change in the number of admissions to DFY custody over the two years covered by the report, there was a 14 percent increase in admissions between 1988 (2,030) and 1992 (2,323).
- \* While non-Latino white youth comprised 32 percent of all custody admissions in 1988, this figure declined to 19 percent in 1992. At the same time, admissions of non-Latino African-Americans increased from 52 to 57 percent and those of Latinos of all races from 15 to 22 percent.
- \* Between 1988 and 1992, the number of youth adjudicated as JOs increased 158 percent. The largest increase occurred between 1990 and 1991, when such admissions grew by 74 percent.
- \* For the first time since this report has been issued (1979), more youth were placed with the Division for having committed a "person" crime as compared to a "property" crime. The number of youth admitted for a "person" crime as their most serious offense increased 45 percent between 1988 (506) and 1992 (732). Conversely, the number of admissions where most serious offense was a "property" crime decreased from 46 percent in 1988 to 38 percent in 1992.
- \* Compared with any other single offense, a greater number of youth were admitted with robbery as their most serious offense in both 1991 (306) and 1992 (366). In fact, between 1988 and 1992 the number of youth admitted with robbery as their most serious offense more than doubled (180 vs 366).

- \* The number of youth admitted with homicide as their most serious offense increased 111 percent between 1988 (27) and 1992 (57).
- \* Of the approximately 2,000 youth who had intake assessments in 1992:
  - 14% were anticipated to be in need of surrogate housing following residential care.
  - With respect to housing composition:
    - 51% came from households which did not have two adults;
    - 17% came from households where there was no parent.
- \* Almost four out of five youth entering custody in 1992 who were screened at intake had at least one special service need; two of five had from two to six such needs. The following service needs were most prevalent:
  - substance abuse, 58%;
  - mental health, 27%;
  - special education, 25%;
  - sex offender, 8%
- \* Although having increased in both 1991 (9.1 months) and 1992 (9.2), the median length of residential stay for JDs, PINS and Others who were served only in DFY facilities was approximately one and one-half months shorter in 1992 than it was in 1988 (10.8). Additionally, the residential stay for these youth was approximately two and one-half months shorter than it was for those youth served only in voluntary agencies (11.8).
- \* In 1992, DFY provided either additional residential treatment or post-residential treatment to 66 percent of the youth who left cooperating voluntary agencies and to 22 percent of those who left replacement voluntary agencies.
- \* The end of year in-care population was five percent greater in 1992 (3,441) than it was in 1988 (3,275).

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## INTRODUCTION

### DFY's DIRECT SERVICE SYSTEM

The Division For Youth serves two populations. The general youth population is served by local programs receiving financial aid and technical assistance through DFY's Office of Local Services. Youth placed by the courts into DFY custody are served through a continuum of direct service settings. The focus of this report is on DFY's direct service operations.

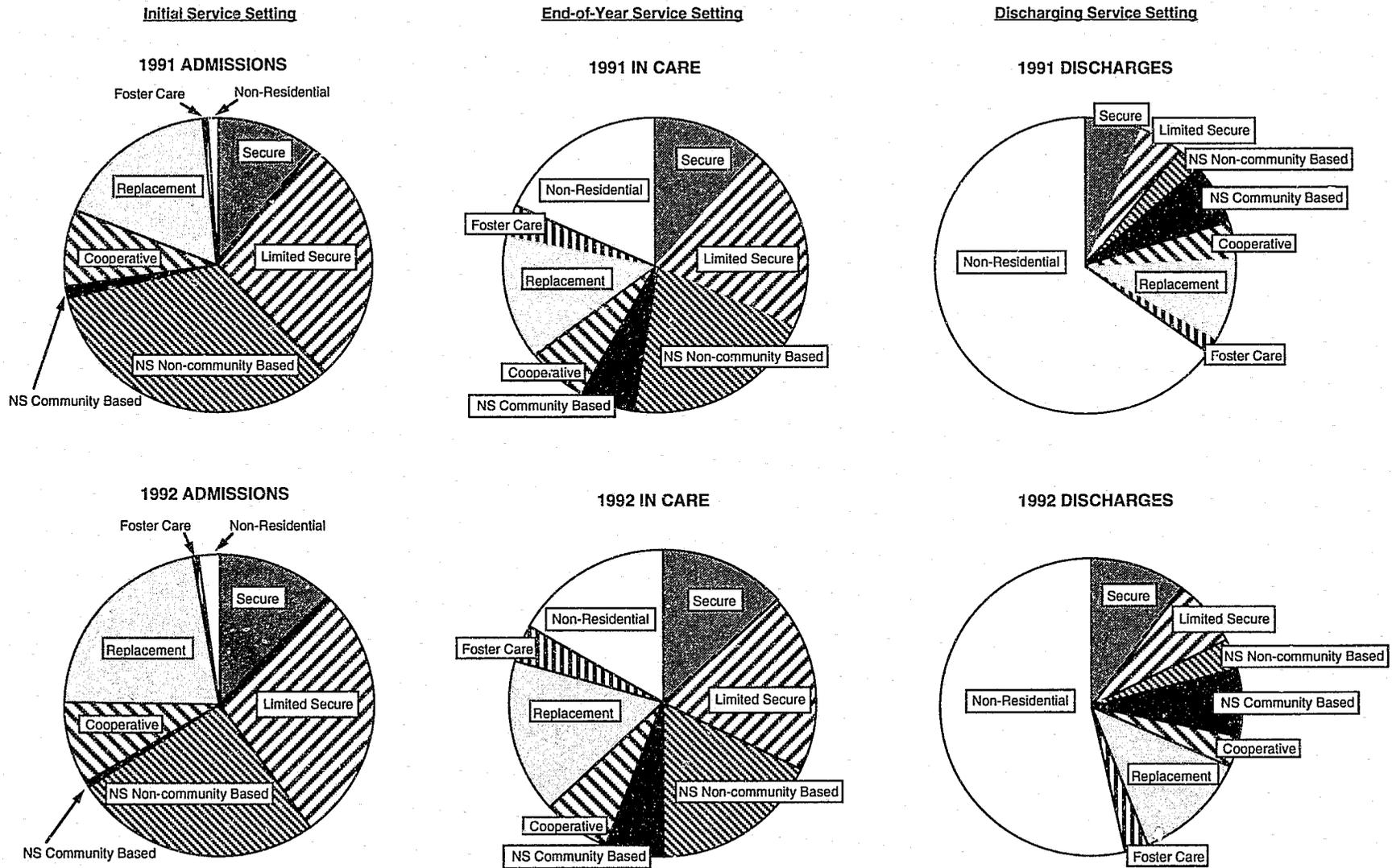
DFY's direct service system includes residential and non-residential programs operated by DFY or voluntary agencies. Residential programs are further divided into DFY-operated centers and homes, voluntary agency-operated programs and foster care. DFY centers and homes are organized into three risk control levels: secure, limited secure and non-secure. The non-secure risk control level is subdivided into two service settings, non-community based centers and community-based homes.

Youth in voluntary agency-operated services are of two types, those cooperatively placed by DFY and those placed by the courts with DFY specifically for "replacement" with a particular agency. Although this administrative distinction has no significant programmatic impact (the same agencies accept youth in both categories and make the same programs available to them), cooperative and replacement cases often have different characteristics and have different service sequences while in custody. Cooperative cases may be "returned" to DFY service with as little as five days notice, whereas replacement youth must be returned to family court for a placement order modification before they may enter a DFY-operated residential service. We have kept these types distinct in this report so as not to blur these differences.

Non-residential Services are divided into community care and day programs. The latter category, during 1991, contained Home-based Intensive Supervision, Sports Academy, Evening Reporting Centers, and Independent Living. In 1992, In Home Intensive Supervision and Treatment, and Youth Leadership Graduates were added.

Taken as a whole, these categories denote the array of service settings through which DFY provides service to youth in its custody. This report uses these service settings extensively to organize the presentation of admission, in-custody, movement and discharge data. Figure 1 displays the service setting distributions of youth admitted to, in-care, and discharged from DFY custody for the two years covered by this report.

Figure 1: Service Setting Distributions of Admissions, Youth in Care and Discharges by Year



to find in any subset of the same population. For example, if 14 percent of all admissions are females, then, other things being equal, 14 percent of the population of every service setting should be female. To the extent that the actual proportion of females in a setting deviates from this "expected" value, we have reason to believe that factors other than "chance" are responsible.

Admittedly, this approach will appear to be overly simplistic to those readers who are very familiar with either the judicial process or the statutes and regulations which inform Division policies and operations. To be sure, there are a number of legitimate factors which simultaneously operate to determine, for example, the service setting to which a youth is initially admitted. Yet, the types of analyses which would be required to examine fully the complex relationship among the full range of pertinent factors go well beyond the purpose and scope of this report. It is hoped, however, that by presenting the more pronounced deviations from the overall "expected" pattern, the interested reader will subsequently examine in greater detail the data presented in each of the tables.

In deciding what service setting deviations from the total (expected) distribution of a characteristic were "substantial" enough to warrant attention in the narrative, the following criteria were used. First, the observed percent of a setting's population with a specific characteristic had to be either more than double or less than half of the percent with this characteristic in the total population (the expected percent). For example, if females made up 14 percent of all admissions, only service settings with more than 28 percent or less than 7 percent females would be considered to have substantial deviations.

In addition, to be included in the narrative, the expected number of cases had to be at least five. This rule insures that substantial deviations, though large, are also based on more than a few cases. Both these rules act to insure that all reported deviations are more than temporary fluctuations of the data and are meaningful differences between the distribution of a characteristic within a service setting and its distribution in the total population.

This report seeks to provide the key information about DFY services. To this end, a subject index is provided for quick reference to specific characteristics. Individuals with questions or who require more detailed information should contact: NYS Division For Youth, Bureau of Program Evaluation and Research, 52 Washington Street, Rensselaer, NY 12144.

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**GLOSSARY: DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT**

The following definitions are provided to assist the reader in understanding the data presented in the report.

**Adjudication:** legal category applied by the court which regulates, among other things, the types of settings in which a youth may be served.

Juvenile Offender (JO) - a person who was 13 years old when s/he committed Murder 2nd degree, or a person who was 14-15 years old when s/he committed certain crimes of homicide, kidnapping, arson, assault, rape, sodomy, aggravated sexual abuse, burglary or robbery who is convicted in adult criminal court. These youth must go to secure centers.

Juvenile Offender / Youthful Offender status (JO/YO) - JOs without prior criminal convictions who have been awarded YO status by the court which provides for shorter sentences and sealed records.

Juvenile Delinquent (JD) - a person who was 7-15 years of age at the time s/he committed an act that would constitute a crime if committed by an adult.

Restricted (RJD) - a JD committing specific designated felony acts, including certain crimes of homicide, kidnapping, arson, assault, rape, sodomy, aggravated sexual abuse, burglary or robbery. These youth must start their custody in secure centers, but after a specified time may move to less secure settings.

Title III (JD-III) - a JD who may be placed in any setting except secure, and who may be transferred to a secure center following a transfer hearing.

Title III-60 Day Option (JD-III(60)) - a JD-III who may be placed in a secure center without a transfer hearing at any time during the first 60 days of custody.

Title II (JD-II) - a JD who may not be placed in a secure or limited secure center.

Person In Need of Supervision (PINS) - a person less than 16 years of age who does not attend school in violation of the education law, or who is incorrigible, ungovernable or habitually disobedient and beyond the lawful control of parent or other lawful authority or who unlawfully possesses marijuana. These youth may not be placed in a secure or limited secure center.

Other and None - include youth sentenced as youthful offenders, youth placed after a criminal finding in Family Court, youth placed with DFY as a condition of probation, youth whose cases are adjourned in contemplation of dismissal, temporary adjournments, youth voluntarily admitted under Section 358(a) of the Social Services Law, or youth placed under interstate compact agreements.

Youthful Offender (YO) - an adjudication in which the court substitutes a YO finding for an adult conviction.

**Admission:** initial permanent entry into DFY custody resulting from one or more placement orders or interstate compact.

**Average:** see mean.

**Custody:** a status effected by a court order making DFY a youth's custodian.

**DFY-operated programs:** direct services (residential and non-residential) provided by DFY staff or foster parents as contrasted with voluntary agency-operated and other contracted programs.

**Direct service:** service provided to adjudicated youth pursuant to a placement order. This contrasts with DFY's delinquency prevention programs for which non-adjudicated youth are eligible.

**Discharge:** exit from DFY custody.

**LOS:** length of stay excluding any absence time beyond seven days (the point at which residential service slots are no longer held).

Program LOS - length of stay in current or discharging program.

Residential LOS - total length of stay in residential service settings (DFY-operated centers and homes, Family Foster Care or voluntary agencies) during custody.

Total custody LOS - total length of stay during custody.

**Mean:** the arithmetic average of a series of numbers (e.g., age or LOS); it is the expected value (one which minimizes error in estimating the actual value) for a youth chosen at random from the series of numbers. For example, if five youth stay 3, 6, 12, 18 and 36 months, the average LOS of the five is  $(3+6+12+18+36)/5$  or 15 months.

**Median:** in a series of numbers (e.g., age or LOS), the value above and below which half the values in the series occur. For example, if five youth stay 3, 6, 12, 18 and 36 months, the median value is 12 months since two youth are above and two are below this value.

**Movement:** entry into initial permanent service setting or discharge from DFY custody or authorized and non-temporary transfer between programs or service settings.

**Non-residential services:** treatment settings in which youth reside in their own homes, but receive supervision and service from DFY; currently, community care is the principal setting in this category with Home-based Intensive Supervision, In-home Intensive Treatment and Supervision, Independent Living, Evening Reporting Centers, Sports Academy and Youth Leadership Graduates.

**Placement:** Court order placing a youth in the custody of the Division. Placements either mandate DFY to provide service to a youth or direct the Division to "re-place" a youth with a court-designated voluntary agency. A youth not placed for "replacement" (see below) may nevertheless be admitted to a cooperating voluntary agency by mutual agreement between DFY and the agency. More than one placement order may apply to a youth at any point in time. Thus, a single custody entry may be the result of more than one placement.

**Placement type:** There are five distinct types of placement orders by which courts assign custody to DFY.

Court to DFY - by far the most common placement. It mandates DFY to directly supervise a youth, but permits the Division to admit a youth to a cooperating voluntary agency by mutual agreement between DFY and the agency.

Replacement - the next most common placement. It directs the Division to retain custody, but to admit a youth to a program operated by a specific voluntary agency.

Section 358-a Voluntary - an infrequently used placement in which the youth voluntarily enters DFY custody with the approval of the Family Court.

Condition of probation - infrequently the court will designate some period of DFY custody as a condition of placing a youth on probation for an offense.

Interstate compact - this entry to custody results from a reciprocal agreement between NY and other states in which youth adjudicated outside NY whose families reside in NY will be supervised by DFY following any incarceration outside NY. At the same time, out-of-state youth adjudicated in NY can receive supervision in their home state under this agreement.

**Post-release home:** determination made at intake of the type of housing which will likely be available to a youth following release from residential treatment.

- Prior custody status:** distinguishes admissions with prior DFY custody histories from youth entering custody for the first time.
- Program:** a set of services organized for youth rehabilitation (may be residential or non-residential, DFY-operated or not). For example, a program can be a facility, post-residential service or incarceration alternative. Programs with similar characteristics are combined into service settings.
- Release:** movement from residential to non-residential care.
- Residence county:** county in which youth resided at time of placement.
- Residential services:** treatment settings providing room and board. These may be DFY-operated centers or homes, voluntary agency-operated facilities or Family Foster Care.
- Responsible county:** for non-JOs, county in which youth was adjudicated; for JOs, residence county is responsible county.
- Service category:** groups of youth with similar service patterns which permit meaningful analyses of residential LOS. The categories are:
- JOs, JO/YOs and RJDs - these youth have legally restricted residential LOSs in secure centers. The entire custody of JOs and JO/YOs is restricted to secure centers, while RJDs have a minimum LOS in a secure program before they can be transferred to a less secure setting.
  - JDs, PINS and Others with DFY Service Only - youth who have no restricted LOS in a secure program. These youth may have a required minimum residential LOS of up to six months, however none is required in a secure program. Youth in this category have received only DFY residential service during a single continuous stay;
  - Voluntary Agency Only - youth whose only residential service was during a single continuous stay in voluntary agency programs;
  - Family Foster Care - youth whose only residential service was during a single continuous stay in Family Foster Care;
  - Mixed - youth who received residential service during a single continuous stay in any combination of more than one of the above service categories;
  - Discontinuous Service - youth who received residential service during two or more discontinuous stays regardless of where that service was received.
- Service needs:** results of preliminary screening at custody entry (intake) indicating youth requiring further assessment to determine if specialized intervention services are necessary.
- Health - need for specialized health services such as on-site medical personnel, access to a medical specialist, handicapped accessible facilities, etc.
  - Limited English - need for English as a second language instruction.
  - Mental health - need for professional services for a mental health problem.
  - Mental retardation - need for special education and other services for mental retardation.
  - Sex offender - need for sex offender treatment services.
  - Special education - need for related services, resource room or special class as designated by a Committee on Special Education.
  - Substance abuse - need for substance abuse treatment services.
- Service sector:** a combination of service settings with similar characteristics. There are four service sectors used in this report: DFY-operated residential sector (secure, limited secure and non-community based centers, and community-based homes); voluntary agency sector (for both cooperatively placed and replacement youth); family foster care sector, and non-residential sector (community care and day treatment).
- Service setting:** administrative and programmatic environments in which youth in DFY custody are served. They are: secure, limited secure and non-

community based centers, community-based homes, cooperative and replacement voluntary agencies, family foster care, community care and day programs (see Table 2 column headings and section on "DFY's Direct Service System," above).

## CHAPTER I. YOUTH ADMITTED TO DFY CUSTODY

### FIVE-YEAR TRENDS

Between 1988 and 1992 there was a 14 percent increase in the number of youth who entered DFY custody. Of the years considered, the greatest number of youth entered custody in 1990 (2,489) and the fewest in 1988 (2,030). Table 1 provides the data pertaining to the following discussion of these trends.

**Gender.** Male admissions increased 16 percent between 1988 and 1992. The number of male admissions peaked at 2134 in 1990 and had declined slightly to 2015 by 1992. From 1988 through 1992, the number of female admissions increased by eight percent. During this period, females ranged from 12 to 14 percent of all youth entering custody (see Figure 2).

**Age.** Since 1988, the average age of youth entering custody has remained stable, fluctuating between 15.2 and 15.3 (see Figure 3). Youth under age 16 ranged between 74 and 77 percent of all custody entries during the five years.

**Race-ethnicity.** Prior to July 1, 1989, youth who identified themselves as "Latino," "Puerto Rican," etc. were assigned a separate category, regardless of race. Thus, in Table 1, the row "Latino: Race Unspecified" is substantially reduced in 1989 and becomes zero in 1990.

In place of this racially undifferentiated category, the current system treats Latino ethnicity as a characteristic separate from race. For this reason, the majority of youth who would have been categorized as "Latino" under the earlier system now appear either as "African-American Latino" or "White Latino." The presence of these race-ethnicity combinations prior to 1989 is a result of the few youth who returned to DFY custody after July 1989 and had their race-ethnicity on prior admissions re-categorized according to the current system.

Although the current system provides more accurate race counts, the fact that Latinos of all races have increased from 15 to 22 percent of youth entering custody from 1988-92 is not obvious from Table 1. Yet, as depicted in Figure 4, non-Latino whites dropped from just under a third of all entries to less than a fifth. Non-Latino African-Americans rose from 52 percent to 57 percent of all youth admitted between 1988 and 1992. Youth identifying themselves as either Native Americans or Asians each continued to constitute less than one percent of all custody entries.

The current system permits youth to indicate the fact that they do not identify with any of these racial categories. Such youth appear as "Other" in Table 1. In 1992, such youth made up over two percent of all custody entries and were twice as likely to be Latino as compared to Non-Latino. Youth who say they do not know which race category to identify with appear as "Not Specified By Youth" in Table 1. There was only one such youth among all 1992 admissions.

TABLE 1: CHARACTERISTICS OF ADMISSIONS TO DFY CUSTODY BY YEAR

		YEAR ENTERED CUSTODY				
		1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS</b>		2030	2388	2489	2301	2323
<b>GENDER</b>						
	Males	1744	2108	2134	1999	2015
	Females	286	280	355	302	308
<b>AGE AT ADMISSION</b>						
	8 - 10	8	2	10	7	3
	11	13	16	19	12	16
	12	59	74	95	66	54
	13	198	236	263	230	239
	14	460	549	551	543	529
	15	774	885	985	888	900
	16	423	507	482	480	480
	17	57	89	71	61	85
	18	16	11	6	11	10
	19	12	12	6	2	4
	20	10	7	1	1	3
Mean Age at Admission		15.3	15.3	15.2	15.2	15.3
Median Age at Admission		15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4
<b>RACE/Ethnicity</b>						
<b>AFRICAN-AMERICAN</b>		1052	1362	1445	1394	1447
	Non-Latino	1046	1312	1343	1263	1323
	Latino	6	50	102	131	124
<b>WHITE</b>		665	724	894	773	789
	Non-Latino	651	552	562	433	434
	Latino	14	172	332	340	355
<b>LATINO: RACE UNSPECIFIED*</b>		287	188			
<b>NATIVE AMERICAN</b>		13	7	18	9	13
<b>ASIAN</b>		7	16	8	19	16
<b>OTHER</b>		5	38	86	96	57
	Non-Latino	1	8	15	21	18
	Latino	4	30	71	75	39
<b>NOT SPECIFIED BY YOUTH</b>		1	53	38	10	1
	Non-Latino	1	26	16	4	
	Latino		27	22	6	1
<b>ADJUDICATION</b>						
	Juvenile Offender	50	75	78	116	134
	Juvenile Offender/Youthful Offender	53	68	86	122	132
	Restrictive Juvenile Delinquent	3	6	6	7	14
	Juvenile Delinquent Title 3	957	1178	1338	1226	1080
	Juvenile Delinquent Title 2	656	760	643	575	685
	PINS	239	230	289	235	229
	Youthful Offender	7	6	2		
	Parole Violator	32	26	8		6
	None/Other	33	39	39	20	43
<b>PRIOR CUSTODY STATUS</b>						
	First DFY Custody	1912	2285	2399	2170	2182
	Prior DFY Custody	118	103	90	131	141

CONTINUED

\* Prior to 7/1/89 Latino ethnicity was not categorized by race.

TABLE 1 Page 2

## YEAR ENTERED CUSTODY

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS</b>	2030	2388	2489	2301	2323
<b>INITIAL SERVICE SETTING</b>					
Secure	159	180	183	245	288
Limited Secure	589	707	778	628	643
Non-community Based	382	592	736	772	599
Community Based	210	197	104	33	15
Voluntary Agency - Cooperative	251	254	226	190	208
Voluntary Agency - Replacement	392	414	407	397	507
Foster Care	20	17	22	13	12
Non-Residential	27	27	33	23	51
<b>TYPE &amp; CATEGORY OF MOST SERIOUS ADJUDICATED OFFENSE</b>					
<b>DRUG OFFENSES</b>	221	345	329	287	269
CONT'L SUBSTANCE (PL 220-1)	221	345	329	287	269
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS</b>	506	572	616	694	732
ASSAULT (PL 120)	228	235	283	230	234
HOMICIDE (PL 125)	27	34	41	64	57
KIDNAPPING (PL 135)	10	11	5	16	11
ROBBERY (PL 160)	180	213	213	306	366
SEX (PL 130)	61	79	74	78	64
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY</b>	927	1021	1033	876	875
ARSON (PL 150)	17	9	8	9	10
BURGLARY (PL 140)	204	175	175	121	126
CRIM. MISCHIEF (PL 145)	100	79	98	93	112
LARCENY (PL 155)	299	313	294	283	258
UNAUTH. USE OF MOTOR VEH. (PL 165.05-6)	193	290	305	242	233
CRIM. POSSESS OF STOLEN PROP. (PL 165.40-52)	101	147	148	123	126
OTHER THEFT (PL 165.XX)	13	8	5	5	10
<b>OTHER CRIMES</b>	102	177	185	189	176
FIREARM, WEAPON (PL 265)	51	111	112	117	127
VIOL. OF PROBATION	1	17	9	6	2
OTHER	50	49	64	66	47
<b>NONE/STATUS OFFENSE</b>	274	273	326	255	271

Figure 2: Total Number of Admissions by Gender and Year

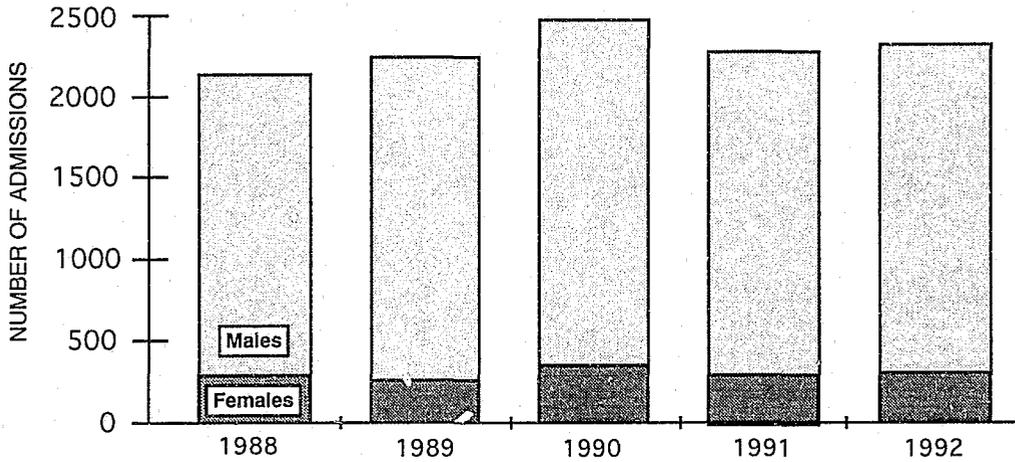


Figure 3: Percent of Admissions by Age and Year

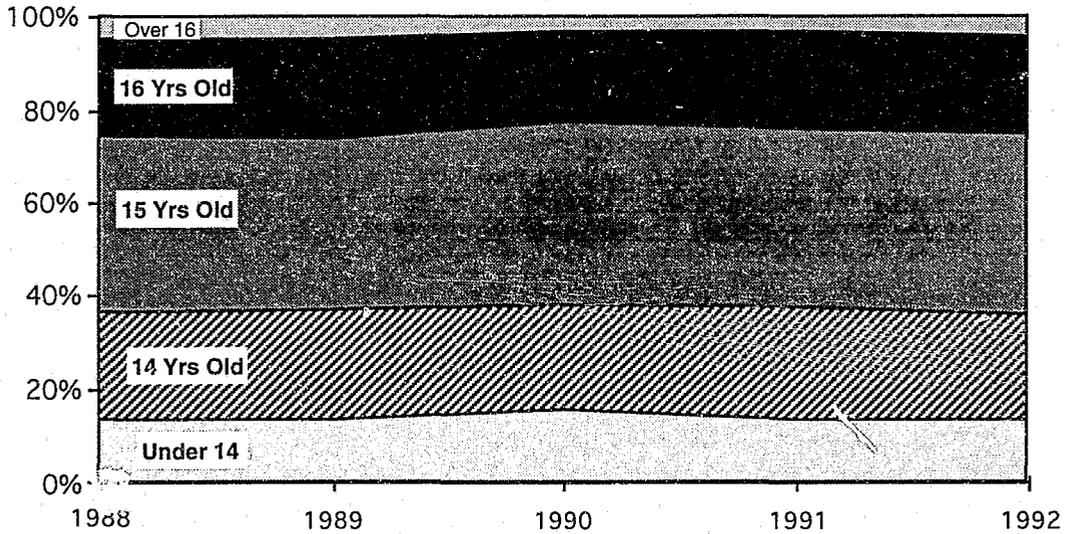
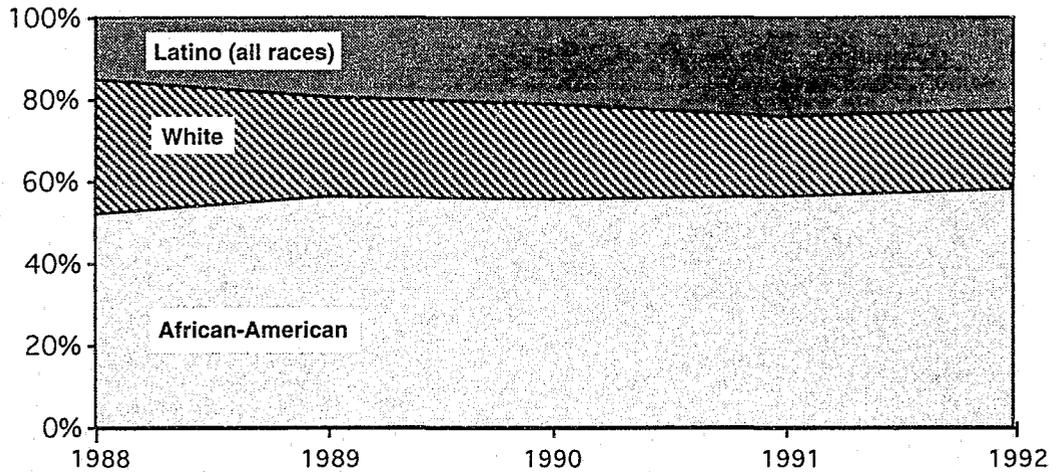


Figure 4: Percent of Admissions by Race And Ethnicity by Year



**Adjudication.** The most significant change in the distribution of adjudication categories over the time period covered has been the increase in the number of JOs. From 1988 to 1992, JOs increased from 5 percent to 11 percent of custody entries (Figure 5). Overall, the number of JO admissions increased 158 percent between 1988 and 1992. Throughout the period, JO-YOs have constituted approximately one-half of all JOs.

JD III admissions had a net increase of 13 percent over the five year period. Between 1988 and 1990 such admissions rose 40 percent from 957 to 1338 and then declined over the next two years to 1080 in 1992. While the net increase of JD IIs during the five years was four percent, the number of such admissions ranged between 575 and 760 during this time.

PINS admissions remained stable during this period, constituting between 10 and 12 percent of all entries. Restrictive Juvenile Delinquent (RJD) and "Other" adjudications, never a large proportion of admissions, have continued to represent only a small number of admissions.

**Prior Custody Status.** Although realizing an increase of 19 percent between 1988 (118) and 1992 (141), youth entering DFY custody for other than the first time constituted only 6 percent of all custody entries in 1992.

**Initial Service Setting.** The distribution of youth across initial service settings changed markedly in some settings and remained stable in others between 1988 to 1992 (Figure 6). In part, this distribution is a reflection of the shift in residential capacity necessary to accommodate the changes in the distribution of adjudication statuses.

Between 1988 and 1992, there was a 57 percent increase in the number of custody entries initially admitted to non-community based centers. Replacement agency admissions also rose substantially from 392 in 1988 to 507 in 1992 (29%). Additionally, initial admissions to secure centers increased from 8 to 12 percent of all custody entries over the same period. Limited secure center admissions (to which only JD IIIs may be initially admitted) increased slightly (9%).

The reverse pattern is observable for community-based settings. In 1992, these settings were used for youth entering custody much less often than they had been in 1988 (1% versus 10%). The percentage of DFY youth placed cooperatively in voluntary agencies fell from 12 percent in 1988 to 9 percent in 1992. Foster care, which never accounted for a large number of initial admissions, reached a low in 1992 and declined 40 percent for the five-year period. Non-residential settings, also rarely used for initial admissions, increased during the period from 27 in 1988 to 51 in 1992.

**Most Serious Offense.** Throughout this or any consideration of offense data, it must be remembered that adjudicated offense is a product of a multi-stage process. As such, it is subject to many factors other than the actual crime committed. Thus, any changes in offense distributions over time may be the result of shifts in such factors as plea bargaining or prosecutorial practices, rather than any actual change in criminal behavior. Furthermore, to the extent that these practices exist, the offense for which a youth is adjudicated will under-represent the seriousness of the behavior which prompted the initial arrest.

Figure 5: Adjudication of Admissions by Year

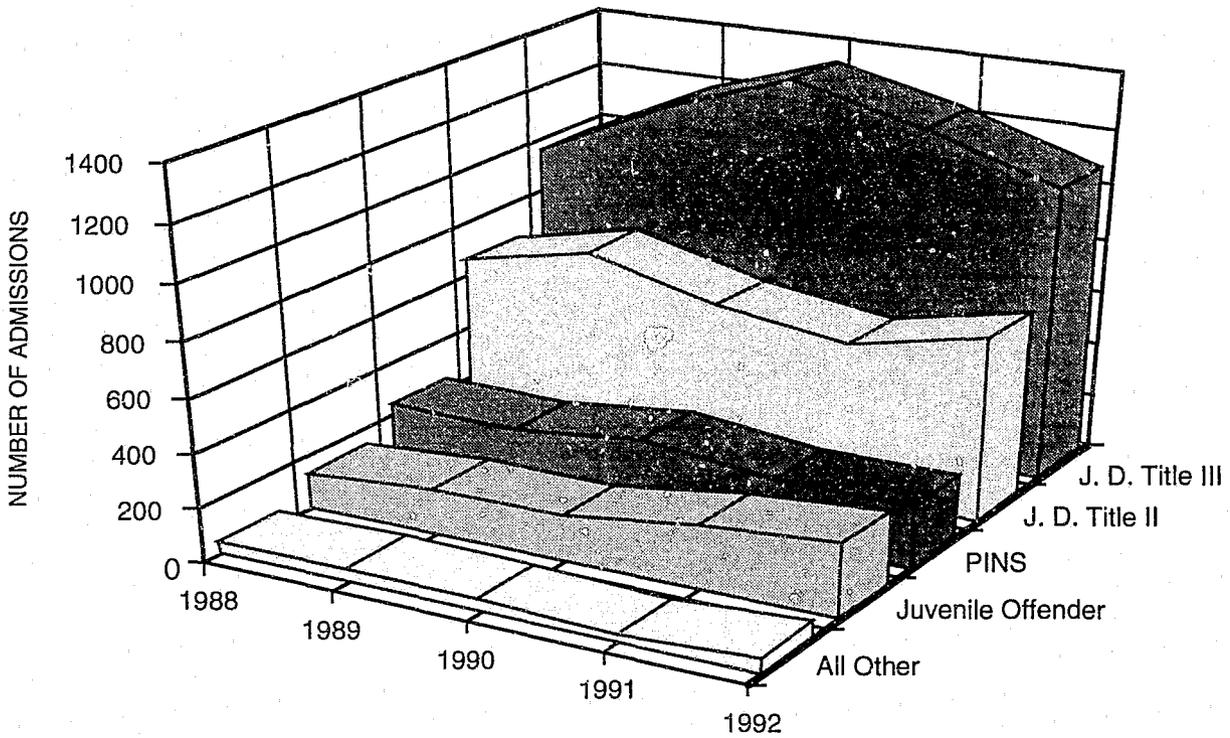
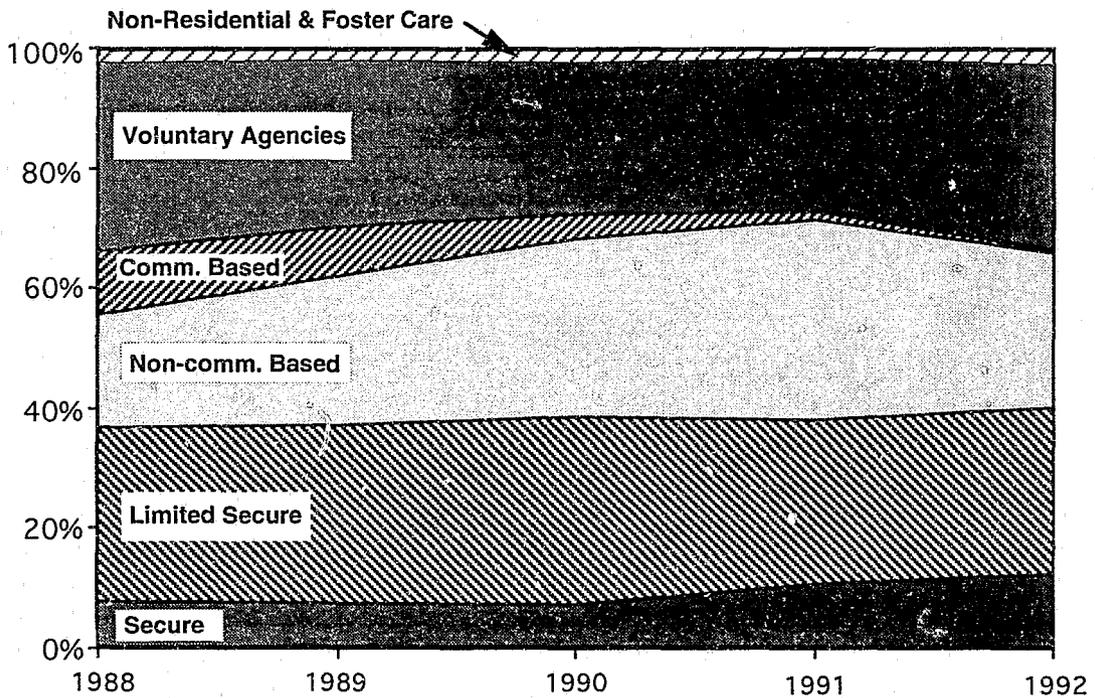


Figure 6: Initial Service Setting of Admissions by Year



Recent evidence suggests that upwards of 80 percent of all initial arrest charges are eventually plea-bargained down to a lower crime class by the time of adjudication. Additionally, formal adjudication categories do not always reflect the seriousness of the offense for which a youth is actually placed with DFY. For example, in 1992 alone, over 100 youth who were placed with the Division as Juvenile Delinquents were placed for offenses for which they could have been convicted as Juvenile Offenders. This is offered only as a caution against too literal an interpretation of what "most serious offense" means.

Over the five years under consideration, drug offenses constituted between 11 and 14 percent of all entries, ranging from a low of 221 (1988) to a high of 345 (1989). Between 1988 and 1990, "person" crimes remained relatively constant as a percent of each year's admissions (24 to 25%) and then rose to 30 percent in 1991 and to 32 percent in 1992. The percent of admissions whose most serious offense was "against property" declined over the five year period from 46 percent to 38 percent. "Other" crimes increased from five to eight percent of admissions. Most of the growth in "Other" crimes was due to the more than doubling of the number of Weapons offenses. "Status Offense" admissions fluctuated between 255 and 274, with the exception of 1990, when they rose to 326.

There were also changes within crime types between 1988 and 1992. The "property" offense category with the largest number of custody entries in 1992 was Larceny (11%). Despite this, larceny offenses have decreased 14 percent between 1988 and 1992. Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle (UUMV) was the most serious crime for another ten percent of admissions in 1992, rising 21 percent between 1988 and 1992. Another change within the "Property" crime category pertained to Burglary, which declined 38 percent over the period from 10 to 5 percent of yearly entries.

The changes in the most serious offense were equally dramatic in "Person" crime categories. Having gradually increased each year between 1988 and 1992, there was a pronounced increase of 45 percent in the number of youth admitted for a "person" crime as their most serious offense. The number of youth adjudicated for robberies increased 103 percent between 1988 and 1992. Nine percent of youth entering in 1988 were adjudicated for robbery, but over 16 percent had this as their most serious offense in 1992. It is also important to note that the number of youth convicted of homicides more than doubled between 1988 and 1992, increasing from 27 to 57. These youth now account for almost three percent of all admissions.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH ADMITTED DURING 1991

In all, 2,301 youth entered DFY custody during 1991. Table 2A provides the supporting data for the following discussion.

**Service setting.** In 1991, 73 percent of the youth entering custody were initially admitted to DFY-operated residential centers and homes. Another 26 percent were admitted to voluntary agencies and the remaining 1 percent was divided among foster care, community care, and day programs.

Within these categories, non-community-based centers received 34 percent of the youth entering custody, limited-secure centers admitted 27 percent, secure centers, 11 percent, and community-based homes, 1 percent. Eight percent of the admissions went to cooperating agencies at the request of DFY and 17 percent were sent as court-ordered "replacements." Having expanded in 1991, the "Day" programs now include Independent Living, Evening Reporting Centers, Home-based Intensive Supervision, and Sports Academy. Since these programs are usually used to ease the transition from institution to community, it is not surprising that they received only three custody entries during the year.

**Gender.** Females made up just over 13 percent of all admissions in 1991. However, females made up 52 percent of all admissions to community-based homes and only 4 percent of the initial admissions to secure centers. Males made up 87 percent of all custody entries, but were only 8 percent of initial admissions to foster care.

**Age.** The average age of youth entering custody in 1991 was 15.2 years old; the median age was 15.4 (39 percent were 15). A little less than a quarter of the youth were 14 and just over a fifth were 16. Nearly 14 percent of admissions were less than 14 years old and the remaining 3 percent were over 16.

Youth initially admitted to secure centers were older (mean= 16.1) than those admitted to other settings. While 37 percent of all admissions were under 15, only 7 percent of secure center admissions were in that age category. Only JOs and youth accepted under Interstate Compact are admitted over the age of 18. Thus, it is not surprising to find that all the youth entering custody at age 18 or older were admitted to secure centers or community care. By contrast, 17 year-olds were under-represented among admissions to both types of voluntary agency settings.

The primary role of community care is to provide post-residential treatment and supervision. However, some of this service is provided to youth who enter DFY custody after residential treatment in other states. Therefore, initial admissions to community care are Interstate Compact youth who tend to be older (mean= 17.3) than initial admissions from New York (who have yet to receive residential services).

**Race-ethnicity.** Independent of ethnicity, African-American youth constituted the majority (61%) of custody entries in 1991, while White youth made up 34 percent of all admissions. Latino youth of all races accounted for 24 percent of total custody entries in 1991. Native Americans and Asians each comprised less than one percent of the year's admissions.

TABLE 2A: CHARACTERISTICS OF ADMISSIONS TO DFY CUSTODY - 1991 BY ADMITTING SERVICE SETTING (NUMBER)

	TOTAL ADMIS- SIONS	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES			
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS</b>	2301	245	628	772	33	1678	190	397	587	13	2278	3	20	23
<b>GENDER</b>														
Males	1999	236	546	684	16	1482	171	326	497	1	1980	1	18	19
Females	302	9	82	88	17	196	19	71	90	12	298	2	2	4
<b>AGE AT ADMISSION</b>														
9 - 11	19		4	8		12	1	4	5	2	19			
12	66		15	26		41	7	17	24	1	66			
13	230		77	88	2	167	23	37	60	2	229	1		1
14	543	16	185	181	9	391	57	92	149	1	541	1	1	2
15	888	105	218	307	12	642	72	167	239	5	886		2	2
16	480	94	114	149	10	367	29	76	105	2	474	1	5	6
17	61	21	15	13		49	1	4	5		54		7	7
18 - 20	14	9				9					9		5	5
Mean Age at Admission	15.2	16.1	15.1	15.1	15.4	15.3	15.0	15.1	15.1	14.4	15.2	14.8	17.3	17.0
Median Age at Admission	15.4	16.0	15.1	15.3	15.5	15.4	15.1	15.3	15.3	15.2	15.3	14.7	17.3	17.1
<b>RACE/Ethnicity</b>														
<b>AFRICAN-AMERICAN</b>	1394	166	408	462	17	1053	72	239	311	9	1373	3	18	21
Non-Latino	1263	149	364	409	15	937	68	229	297	9	1243	3	17	20
Latino	131	17	44	53	2	116	4	10	14		130		1	1
<b>WHITE</b>	773	50	193	271	14	528	107	133	240	3	771		2	2
Non-Latino	433	9	112	146	8	275	96	57	153	3	431		2	2
Latino	340	41	81	125	6	253	11	76	87		340			
<b>NATIVE AMERICAN</b>	9		3	3	1	7	1		1	1	9			
<b>ASIAN</b>	19	6	8	4		18		1	1		19			
<b>OTHER</b>	96	19	15	29	1	64	10	22	32		96			
Non-Latino	21	5	3	6		14	3	4	7		21			
Latino	75	14	12	23	1	50	7	18	25		75			
<b>NOT SPECIFIED BY YOUTH</b>	10	4	1	3		8			2		10			
Non-Latino	4	1		2		3			1		4			
Latino	6	3	1	1		5			1		6			
<b>POST RELEASE HOME</b>														
Available	1498	73	420	547	20	1060	139	278	417	8	1485	2	11	13
Not Available	217	7	70	83	5	165	23	25	48	4	217			
<b>HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE</b>														
<b>NO ADULT HOUSEHOLD</b>	31	3	11	10		24	1	5	6	1	31			
<b>SINGLE ADULT HOUSEHOLD</b>	884	40	254	338	15	647	90	138	228	6	881	2	1	3
Male Parent	61		14	24	1	39	10	12	22		61			
Female Parent	701	32	209	260	14	515	74	105	179	5	699	1	1	2
Other Adult Male	8	1	3	3		7		1	1		8			
Other Adult Female	114	7	28	51		86	6	20	26	1	113	1		1
<b>TWO+ ADULT HOUSEHOLD</b>	949	49	266	328	15	658	92	180	272	6	936	1	12	13
Two Parents	457	24	140	146	4	314	55	81	136	1	451	1	5	6
One Parent	351	18	91	128	8	245	24	75	99	3	347		4	4
No Parents	141	7	35	54	3	99	13	24	37	2	138		3	3

ADMITTING SERVICE SETTING - 1991

	TOTAL ADMIS- SIONS	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES				
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES				FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RES SERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL						
				NON COMM	COMM.										
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS</b>	<b>2301</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1678</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2278</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	
<b>RESPONSIBLE COUNTY</b>															
<b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	<b>1354</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1081</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1354</b>				
Bronx	216	68	49	71	2	190	4	21	25	1	216				
Kings	490	90	181	156	4	431	3	53	56	3	490				
New York	278	26	78	124	3	231	6	41	47		278				
Queens	326	26	69	97	5	197	7	122	129		326				
Richmond	44		13	19		32		12	12		44				
<b>OTHER COUNTIES</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>	
Albany	54	1	11	21		33	12	9	21		54				
Allegany	7			2		2	5		5		7				
Broome	13	1	6	6		13					13				
Cattaraugus	10		4	6		10					10				
Cayuga	24		11	11	1	23	1		1		24				
Chautauqua	6		3	2	1	6					6				
Chemung	12		3	4	1	8	4		4		12				
Chenango	1		1			1					1				
Clinton	4			4		4					4				
Columbia	4		3			3	1		1		4				
Cortland	1				1	1					1				
Delaware															
Dutchess	24	2	9	7	3	21					21	3		3	
Erie	63	1	13	33	3	50	2	2	4	9	63				
Essex	3		1	1		2	1		1		3				
Franklin															
Fulton	8	1	1	1		3	5		5		8				
Genesee	1		1			1					1				
Greene	6		2	3		5	1		1		6				
Hamilton															
Herkimer	3			2		2	1		1		3				
Jefferson	4		1	3		4					4				
Lewis															
Livingston	1		1			1					1				
Madison	10		3	6		9	1		1		10				
Monroe	136	5	22	43	1	71	41	24	65		136				
Montgomery	6		1	3		4	2		2		6				
Nassau	158		16	22		38	14	106	120		158				
Niagara	29		9	10	1	20	9		9		29				
Oneida	47	1	7	23	1	32	15		15		47				
Onondaga	50	2	17	17		36	13	1	14		50				
Ontario	3			2		2	1		1		3				
Orange	18	2	14	1		17		1	1		18				
Orleans	4		3	1		4					4				
Oswego	13		8	3	1	12	1		1		13				
Otsego	1					1	1		1		1				
Putnam	1		1			1					1				

CONTINUED

ADMITTING SERVICE SETTING - 1991

	TOTAL ADMIS- SIONS	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES				
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES				FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESSERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL						
				NON COMM.	COMM.										
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS</b>	2301	245	628	772	33	1678	190	397	587	13	2278	3	20	23	
<b>RESPONSIBLE COUNTY</b>															
Rensselaer	17		6	8	1	15	2		2		17				
Rockland	5		2	3		5					5				
St. Lawrence	1			1		1					1				
Saratoga	10		3	4		7	3		3		10				
Schenectady	32		7	13		20	9	3	12		32				
Schoharie	5		2	2		4	1		1		5				
Schuyler	6			3		3	3		3		6				
Seneca	2						2		2		2				
Steuben	12		6	5		11	1		1		12				
Suffolk	32	5	12	11		28	2	2	4		32				
Sullivan	5		2	1	2	5					5				
Tioga	6		2	3		5	1		1		6				
Tompkins	2		2			2					2				
Ulster	11		5	4		9	2		2		11				
Warren	3			1	2	3					3				
Washington	5		2	1		3	2		2		5				
Wayne	13		2	4		6	7		7		13				
Westchester	30	13	13	4		30					30				
Wyoming	3						3		3		3				
Yates	1						1		1		1				
<b>OUT OF STATE</b>	21	1				1					1		20	20	
<b>PLACEMENT TYPE</b>															
Court to DFY	1879	245	628	771	30	1674	189		189	13	1876	3		3	
Court to DFY to Voluntary	397							397	397		397				
Court to DSS	1						1		1		1				
Condition of Probation	4			1	3	4					4				
Interstate Compact	20												20	20	
<b>ADJUDICATION</b>															
Juvenile Offender	116	116				116					116				
Juvenile Offender - YO Status	122	122				122					122				
Restrictive Juvenile Del.	7	7				7					7				
Juv. Delinquent 60 Day Option	160		94	45		139	21		21		160				
Juvenile Delinquent Title 3	1066		534	425	12	971	81	12	93		1064	2		2	
Juvenile Delinquent Title 2	575			193	8	201	56	314	370	4	575				
PINS	235			109	13	122	32	71	103	9	234	1		1	
Other	20												20	20	
<b>PRIOR CUSTODY STATUS</b>															
First DFY Custody	2179	212	576	740	31	1559	187	389	576	13	2148	3	19	22	
Prior DFY Custody	131	33	52	32	2	119	3	8	11		130		1	1	

CONTINUED

ADMITTING SERVICE SETTING - 1991

TOTAL ADMIS- SIONS	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES										NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES			
	DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RES.SERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES	
	SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL						
			NON COMM	COMM.										
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS</b>	2301	245	628	772	33	1678	190	397	587	13	2278	3	20	23
<b>TYPE &amp; CATEGORY OF MOST SERIOUS ADJUDICATED OFFENSE</b>														
DRUG OFFENSES	287		62	140		202	10	75	85		287			
CONT'L SUBSTANCE (PL 220-1)	287		62	140		202	10	75	85		287			
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS	694	235	258	107	3	603	33	57	90	1	694			
ASSAULT (PL 120)	230	18	97	66	1	182	19	28	47	1	230			
HOMICIDE (PL 125)	64	61	3			64					64			
KIDNAPPING (PL 135)	16	2	9	2	1	14	1	1	2		16			
ROBBERY (PL 160)	306	137	110	28	1	276	4	26	30		306			
SEX (PL 130)	78	17	39	11		67	9	2	11		78			
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY	876	10	238	351	15	614	98	159	257	3	874	2		2
ARSON (PL 150)	9	1	4	1		6	2		2	1	9			
BURGLARY (PL 140)	121	8	49	33	1	91	13	17	30		121			
CRIM. MISCHIEF (PL 145)	93		22	39	2	63	17	12	29	1	93			
LARCENY (PL 155)	283	1	74	120	4	199	32	50	82		281	2		2
UNAUTH USE OF MOTOR VEH. (PL 165.05-6)	242		51	101	7	159	26	57	83		242			
CRIM. POSSES OF STOLEN PROP. (PL165.40-52)	123		36	54	1	91	8	23	31	1	123			
OTHER THEFT (PL 165.XX)	5		2	3		5					5			
OTHER CRIMES	189		70	65	2	137	17	35	52		189			
FIREARM, WEAPON (265)	117		51	45		96	4	17	21		117			
VIOL OF PROBATION	6						1	5	6		6			
OTHER	66		19	20	2	41	12	13	25		66			
NONE - STATUS OFFENSE	255			109	13	122	32	71	103	9	234	1	20	21
<b>SERVICE NEEDS (AT INTAKE)</b>														
HEALTH	127	33	32	48	5	118	9	NA	9		127			
On-Site Medical Personnel	69	31	13	22		66	3		3		69			
Access to Med. Specialist	57	2	18	28	3	51	6		6		57			
Wheel Chair Bound	1		1			1					1			
Pregnancy Services	10		3	3	4	10					10			
LIMITED ENGLISH	117	45	31	36	2	114	3	NA	3		117			
MENTAL HEALTH	500	34	211	205	12	462	34	NA	34	4	500			
MENTAL RETARDATION	56	3	28	18	2	51	4	NA	4	1	56			
IQ = 60 or Less	4		2	1		3				1	4			
IQ = 61 to 75	52	3	26	17	2	48	4		4		52			
SEX OFFENDER SERVICE	175	26	88	37	3	154	19	NA	19	1	174	1		1
Violent Sex Ofender	116	26	58	21	2	107	9		9		116			
Non-Violent Sex Offender	59		30	16	1	47	10		10	1	58	1		1
SPECIAL EDUCATION	432	15	169	188	8	380	50	NA	50	1	431	1		1
Emotionally Disturbed	297	6	118	135	4	263	33		33		296	1		1
Learning Disabled	101	8	37	42	2	89	12		12		101			
Mentally Retarded	15	1	5	4	1	11	3		3	1	15			
Physically impaired														
Multiply Handicapped	19		9	7	1	17	2		2		19			
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	992	109	354	435	7	905	84	NA	84	1	990	1	1	2

Nine percent of African-American youth (six percent of all admissions) and 44 percent of the White youth (15 percent of all admissions) additionally identified themselves as Latino. Over 4 percent of the youth admitted did not identify with any racial group, but 78 percent of this group claimed Latino ethnicity. Less than one percent of the youth admitted did not know what racial category they belonged to. Of this group, over half were Latino.

Non-Latino White youth made up only 4 percent of the admissions to secure centers, but were 19 percent of all admissions.

Among both types of voluntary agency placements, Latino youth who also identified themselves as African-Americans made up less than three percent of admissions to each setting, yet were six percent of all admissions. At the same time, White youth who identified themselves as Latino were 15 percent of all admissions, but less than 6 percent of cooperating agency admissions. By contrast, White youth who did not indicate Latino ethnicity made up 51 percent of cooperating agency admissions, but only 19 percent of all admissions.

**Post-Release Home.** As part of the intake procedure for custody entries begun in mid-1989, an attempt is made to ascertain the probable post-release home status of each youth. The critical determination resulting from this is that a youth may require a surrogate home following release from residential care.

During 1991, the second full year of the new intake procedure, three-quarters of the custody entries had post-release home determinations made. Of those assessed, 13 percent were anticipated to need surrogate housing following release.

**Household Structure.** Another feature of the intake procedure for custody entries is an improved description of the structure of the household from which each youth comes. During 1991, such data in this area were collected on 81 percent of all custody entries.

Of the youth so assessed in 1991, 51 percent came from households containing at least two persons 18 and over. However, in less than half these households were there two parents present. In 47 percent of the households, only one adult was present, but the single adult in these households was the parent in 86 percent of the cases. In two percent of the households, no adult was present. However, regardless of the number of adults present, 16 percent of the youth assessed came from households where there was no parent present.

The most frequent household structure (38%) was single adult households headed by the youth's mother. An additional six percent of the households were headed by an adult female other than the youth's mother. Two parent households were the next most frequent category (25%).

**Responsible County.** Well over half (59%) of the admissions during 1991 came from the five boroughs of New York City. Accounting for over a third of the New York City total, Kings County (Brooklyn) constituted 21 percent of all admissions. Other counties accounting for five or more percent of the admissions were: Queens (14%), New York (Manhattan) (12%), Bronx (9%), Nassau (7%) and Monroe (6%).

Bronx and Kings Counties accounted for 65 percent of secure center admissions, but only 31 percent of all admissions. Counties under-represented among secure admissions were Albany, Erie, Monroe and Onondaga.

Youth adjudicated in Orange County were over-represented and those from Nassau County under-represented among all admissions to limited secure centers.

Nassau, Orange and Westchester Counties were all under-represented among admissions to non-community based centers.

The use of voluntary agencies varies widely from county to county. Seven counties deviated from their expected proportion of all admissions. Queens and Nassau Counties were over-represented among replacements, while Onondaga was under-represented. Monroe County was over-represented among cooperative admissions, while Bronx, Kings, New York and Queens Counties were under-represented among such admissions.

**Placement type.** "Court to DFY" accounted for 82 percent of the placements among youth entering custody during 1991. "Replacements" to voluntary agencies accounted for another 17 percent. No other placement type accounted for even one percent.

**Adjudication.** The most frequent adjudication among youth entering custody in 1991 was JD III (46%). Another seven percent of admissions were JD IIIs with 60-day options (permitting transfer to a secure center). JD II was the second most frequent adjudication (25%), followed by JO and PINS (10% each). There were seven RJDs admitted and "Other" adjudications accounted for another one percent of admissions. JDs of all kinds made up 79 percent of admissions. Together, PINS, JDs and JOs accounted for 99 percent of all admissions.

Since adjudication constrains service setting placement, proportional distributions of adjudications across service settings cannot be expected. For example, the law stipulates that all JOs and RJDs must initially enter secure centers. Conversely, Title II youth (JD II, PINS, etc.) may never be permanently placed in a secure or limited secure setting. Additionally, service setting selection among those legally available is determined by a number of other youth characteristics. Hence, within the range of settings dictated by particular adjudications, there are differences.

In 1991, JD IIIs with 60-day options made up seven percent of all custody entries, but none were initially admitted to secure centers.

Among admissions to limited secure programs, JD III(60)s were over-represented (15%). Among replacement admissions, JD IIs were over-represented, while both types of JD IIIs were under-represented.

**Prior Custody Status.** Youth entering DFY custody for the first time constituted 94 percent of all 1991 admissions. Youth with prior DFY history made up 13 percent of admissions to secure centers, but only 6 percent of all admissions. Youth with prior custody histories were under-represented among both types of voluntary agency admissions.

**Most Serious Offense.** To understand admission offenses, it must be kept in mind that the adjudicated offense may very well be the result of plea bargaining. Furthermore, plea bargaining policy undoubtedly varies by Family Court jurisdiction. Therefore, the less serious crime categories will likely contain youth who actually committed more serious offenses.

The foregoing notwithstanding, the most prevalent admission offense type in 1991 was "Crimes Against Property" (38%), with the most prevalent category within this type being "Larceny" (12%). The next most prevalent category was "Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle" (11%).

"Crimes Against Persons" accounted for the most serious type of admitting offense for 30 percent of all admissions. Within this group, "Robbery" was the most prevalent category, accounting for 13 percent of all admissions, with "Assault" accounting for another 10 percent.

Following Property and Person crimes, the next most frequent offense types were "Controlled Substance" (12%) and "Status Offenses" (11%) (including no offense). "Other" crimes accounted for an additional eight percent of admissions.

Since a youth's adjudication is related by law and practice to the crime committed and, as indicated above, adjudication constrains the service setting into which a youth can be admitted, specific crime categories are not proportionally distributed over service settings. For example, youth adjudicated for "Controlled Substance" were never admitted to secure centers in 1991.

Given the nature of JO offenses, it is not unexpected that youth adjudicated for Person crimes made up 96 percent of the admissions to secure centers, yet were only 30 percent of all admissions. Youth adjudicated for "Person Offenses" were under-represented among admissions to non-community based, community based, replacement and community care. Additionally, youth adjudicated for Property Crimes were under-represented among community care admissions, while those adjudicated for drug offenses were under-represented among cooperative placements.

**Service Needs.** An integral part of the intake process is needs screening. This information is used to assist in the selection of the optimal initial program setting for each youth.

In mid-1989, DFY began implementation of a process to screen each youth entering custody. Screening is done in the areas of **health** (up to 10 different service needs are allowed), **limited English**, **mental health**, **mental retardation**, **sex offender services**, **special education** and **substance abuse**. Only replacement and interstate compact youth entering custody are excluded from this screening process.

Among 1991 custody entries who were screened, 78 percent had at least one screened service need, 25 percent had two such needs and 11 percent had three or more service needs. The high proportion of screened youth with various service needs underscores the intrinsic connection between delinquency and human service needs in general.

Over half of the youth screened in 1991 (53%) indicated **substance use or involvement** to the degree that assessment for intervention services was warranted. More than 26 percent of the youth screened had evidence of prior **mental health** treatment and/or current symptoms. Over 23 percent were currently on the **special education** registers of their home schools. Nine percent presented a history of **sex offenses** severe enough to warrant assessment for formal intervention services. The **English language proficiency** of over six percent of the youth was so limited as to warrant assessment for the appropriateness of English as a second language (ESL) instruction. The vast majority of such youth spoke Spanish as their primary language.

Almost four percent of the screened admissions required **on-site medical personnel** and three percent required access to an **off-site medical specialist** for pre-existing conditions. Almost three percent of screened admissions were **mentally retarded** (by NYS Education Department criteria). Eleven females were **pregnant** and one youth required **wheelchair-accessible facilities** at custody entry.

Nineteen percent of screened secure center admissions needed **Limited English Proficiency services**, although only six percent of all admissions had such a need. Secure center admissions also had an over-representation of youth in need of **on-site medical personnel**. Admissions to secure settings had an under-representation of youth in need of **off-site medical specialist** services and **special education** needs.

Among admissions to non-community based centers, youth who screened in need of non-violent **sex offender** services were under-represented. Replacement admissions to voluntary agencies are not routinely screened. However, among cooperative admissions, youth in need of access to **on-site medical personnel** and **limited English** services were under-represented. Among youth admitted to Foster Care, those needing **substance abuse** services were under-represented.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH ADMITTED DURING 1992

In 1992 a total of 2,323 youth entered DFY custody. Table 2B provides the supporting data for the following discussion.

**Service setting.** In 1992, 67 percent of the youth entering custody were initially admitted to DFY-operated residential centers and homes. Another 31 percent were admitted to voluntary agencies and the remainder were divided among foster care, community care, and day programs.

Within these categories, limited-secure centers received 28 percent of the youth entering custody, non-community based centers admitted 26 percent, secure centers, 12 percent, and community-based homes, 1 percent. Nine percent of the admissions went to cooperating agencies as part of an agreement with DFY and 22 percent were sent as court-ordered "replacements." Almost two percent of admissions entered community care via interstate compacts. The "Day" programs, which include Independent Living, Evening Reporting Centers, Home-based Intensive Supervision, In-home Intensive Treatment and Supervision, Youth Leadership Graduates, and Sports Academy, are typically used to ease the transition from institution to community. Thus, it is not unexpected that these programs received only 11 custody entries during the year.

**Gender.** Females made up over 13 percent of all admissions in 1992. However, no females initially entered community care. Males made up 87 percent of all custody entries, yet were only 33 percent of initial admissions to foster care.

**Age.** The average age of youth entering custody in 1992 was 15.3 years old; the median age was 15.4 (39 percent were 15). A little less than a quarter of the youth were 14 and just over a fifth were 16. Just over 13 percent of admissions were less than 14 years old and the remaining 4 percent were over 16.

Youth initially admitted to secure centers were older (mean= 15.9) than those admitted to other settings. While 36 percent of all admissions were under 15, only 15 percent of secure center admissions were in that age category.

Only JOs and youth accepted under Interstate Compact are placed over the age of 18. Thus, it is not surprising to find that all the youth entering custody at age 18 or older were admitted to secure centers or community care. By contrast, 17 year-olds were under-represented among admissions to both types of voluntary agency settings and over-represented among secure center admissions.

The primary role of community care is to provide post-residential treatment and supervision. However, some of this service is provided to youth who enter DFY custody after residential treatment in other states. Therefore, initial admissions to community care are mostly Interstate Compact youth who tend to be older (mean= 17.4) than initial admissions from New York State.

**Race-ethnicity.** Independent of ethnicity, African-American youth were the majority (62%) of custody entries in 1992. White youth made up 34 percent of all admissions. Latino youth of all races accounted for 22 percent of the custody entries in 1992. Native Americans and Asians each comprised less than one percent of the year's admissions.

Page 1 TABLE 2B: CHARACTERISTICS OF ADMISSIONS TO DFY CUSTODY - 1992 BY ADMITTING SERVICE SETTING (NUMBER)

	TOTAL ADMIS- SIONS	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES										NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES		
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESSERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS</b>	2323	288	643	599	15	1545	208	507	715	12	2272	11	40	51
<b>GENDER</b>														
Males	2015	266	580	519	9	1374	175	411	586	4	1964	11	40	51
Females	308	22	63	80	6	171	33	96	129	8	308			
<b>AGE AT ADMISSION</b>														
9 - 11	19		2	9		11	2	6	8		19			
12	54		15	17		32	8	12	20	2	54			
13	239	4	68	63		135	26	76	102	1	238	1		1
14	529	39	159	152	3	353	52	119	171	2	526	1	2	3
15	900	114	240	246	5	605	88	197	285	4	894	2	4	6
16	480	100	138	99	5	342	30	92	122	2	466	5	9	14
17	85	26	21	13	2	62	2	5	7	1	70	2	13	15
18 - 20	17	5				5					5		12	12
Mean Age at Admission	15.3	15.9	15.2	15.1	16.0	15.3	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.2	15.9	17.4	17.1
Median Age at Admission	15.4	15.9	15.3	15.3	15.8	15.5	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.4	15.4	16.1	17.4	17.2
<b>RACE/Ethnicity</b>														
<b>AFRICAN-AMERICAN</b>	1447	221	421	353	8	1003	94	306	400	10	1413	5	29	34
Non-Latino	1323	194	385	310	8	897	88	297	385	10	1292	3	28	31
Latino	124	27	36	43		106	6	9	15		121	2	1	3
<b>WHITE</b>	789	57	201	213	7	478	107	188	295	2	775	5	9	14
Non-Latino	434	15	113	124	7	259	84	80	164	2	425	4	5	9
Latino	355	42	88	89		219	23	108	131		350	1	4	5
<b>NATIVE AMERICAN</b>	13		1	5		6	1	6	7		13			
<b>ASIAN</b>	16	5	5	4		14		2	2		16			
<b>OTHER</b>	57	5	15	24		44	6	4	10		54	1	2	3
Non-Latino	18	3	4	7		14	1	2	3		17		1	1
Latino	39	2	11	17		30	5	2	7		37	1	1	2
<b>NOT SPECIFIED BY YOUTH</b>	1							1	1		1			
Non-Latino	1							1	1		1			
Latino														
<b>POST RELEASE HOME</b>														
Available	1727	153	481	466	8	1108	156	431	587	7	1702	10	15	25
Not Available	286	10	108	82	5	205	29	47	76	5	286			
<b>HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE</b>														
<b>NO ADULT HOUSEHOLD</b>	24		8	8		16	1	6	7	1	24			
<b>SINGLE ADULT HOUSEHOLD</b>	1035	75	307	262	7	651	95	264	359	8	1018	7	10	17
Male Parent	58	1	17	19		37	5	15	20		57		1	1
Female Parent	797	61	227	200	7	495	77	205	282	6	783	7	7	14
Other Adult Male	11		5	1		6	3	2	5		11			
Other Adult Female	169	13	58	42		113	10	42	52	2	167		2	2
<b>TWO+ ADULT HOUSEHOLD</b>	1011	91	282	290	6	669	101	216	317	3	989	4	18	22
Two Parents	461	43	127	129	4	303	55	98	153	1	457	3	1	4
One Parent	406	39	112	122	1	274	34	84	118	2	394		12	12
No Parents	144	9	43	39	1	92	12	34	46		138	1	5	6

CONTINUED

ADMITTING SERVICE SETTING - 1992

	TOTAL ADMIS- SIONS	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES								NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES				
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RES SERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REF.	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS</b>	<b>2323</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1545</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2272</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE COUNTY</b>														
<b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	<b>1375</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1372</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>
Bronx	216	55	51	51	1	158		56	56		214	2		2
Kings	502	111	177	115	4	407	4	91	96		502			
New York	290	40	89	95		224	6	57	63	3	290			
Queens	322	25	70	66	2	163	2	156	158		321	1		1
Richmond	45	8	14	9		31		14	14		45			
<b>OTHER COUNTIES</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>8</b>
Albany	47	3	17	11		31	10	6	16		47			
Allegany	10	2				2	7		7	1	10			
Broome	11		6	4		10	1		1		11			
Cattaraugus	6		1	3		4		2	2		6			
Cayuga	14		10	3		13	1		1		14			
Chautauqua	13		3	6	1	10	3		3		13			
Chemung	9		1	4	1	6	2	1	3		9			
Chenango	3		3			3			3		3			
Clinton	10			7	1	8	2		2		10			
Columbia	8		3	4		7	1		1		8			
Cortland														
Delaware														
Dutchess	19		6	10		16					16	3		3
Erie	53	5	9	23	1	38	5		5	6	49	4		4
Essex	5			2		2	2		2	1	5			
Franklin	6		1	5		6			6		6			
Fulton	10		4	1		5	5		5		10			
Genesee	2			2		2			2		2			
Greene	6		3	2		5	1		1		6			
Hamilton	1			1		1			1		1			
Herkimer	4			3		3	1		1		4			
Jefferson	14		8	6		14					14			
Lewis														
Livingston	1			1		1			1		1			
Madison	8		4	4		8			8		8			
Monroe	137	10	15	33	1	59	73	5	78		137			
Montgomery	7		3	2		5	2		2		7			
Nassau	159	2	17	15		34	13	112	125		159			
Niagara	32		5	4	1	10	21		21	1	32			
Oneida	32		15	12		27	5		5		32			
Onondaga	47	8	15	15		38	9		9		47			
Ontario	2			1	1	2			2		2			
Orange	14	1	7	6		14					14			
Orleans	2		2			2			2		2			
Oswego	11		8	3		11					11			
Otsego	3		1			1	1	1	2		3			
Putnam														

CONTINUED

ADMITTING SERVICE SETTING - 1992

	TOTAL ADMIS- SIONS	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES				
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES				FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RES SERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL						
				NON COMM	COMM.										
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS</b>	2323	288	643	599	15	1545	208	507	715	12	2272	11	40	51	
<b>RESPONSIBLE COUNTY</b>															
Rensselaer	10	2	3	2		7	2	1	3		10				
Rockland	5		5			5					5				
St. Lawrence	2		1	1		2					2				
Saratoga	11		2	3		5	6		6		11				
Schenectady	35		8	16		24	6	4	10		34	1		1	
Schoharie	3			2		2	1		1		3				
Schuyler															
Seneca	5	1		3		4	1		1		5				
Steuben	6			4		4	2		2		6				
Suffolk	57	7	25	22		54	2	1	3		57				
Sullivan	3		2	1		3					3				
Tioga															
Tompkins															
Ulster	7		6	1		7					7				
Warren	1						1		1		1				
Washington	3		2	1		3					3				
Wayne	18	1	3	8	1	13	5		5		18				
Westchester	25	3	17	5		25					25				
Wyoming	6		1			1	5		5		6				
Yates	2	1		1		2					2				
<b>OUT OF STATE</b>	43	3				3					3		40	40	
<b>PLACEMENT TYPE</b>															
Court to DFY	1774	288	643	599	14	1544	208		208	11	1763	11		11	
Court to DFY to Voluntary	507							507	507		507				
Condition of Probation	2				1	1				1	2				
Interstate Compact	40												40	40	
<b>ADJUDICATION</b>															
Juvenile Offender	134	134				134					134				
Juvenile Offender - YO Status	132	132				132					132				
Restrictive Juvenile Del.	14	14				14					14				
Juv. Delinquent 60 Day Option	254	2	167	63		232	20		20	1	253	1		1	
Juvenile Delinquent Title 3	826		476	263	5	744	66	11	77	2	823	3		3	
Juvenile Delinquent Title 2	685			178	3	181	86	413	499	2	682	3		3	
PINS	229			95	6	101	35	83	118	6	225	4		4	
Parole Violator	6	6				6					6				
Other	43				1	1	1		1	1	3		40	40	
<b>PRIOR CUSTODY STATUS</b>															
First DFY Custody	2182	256	592	570	13	1431	196	497	693	11	2135	11	36	47	
Prior DFY Custody	141	32	51	29	2	114	12	10	22	1	137		4	4	

CONTINUED

ADMITTING SERVICE SETTING - 1992

TOTAL ADMISSIONS	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES				
	DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES	
	SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL						
			NON COMM	COMM.										
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS</b>	2323	288	643	599	15	1545	208	507	715	12	2272	11	40	51
<b>TYPE &amp; CATEGORY OF MOST SERIOUS ADJUDICATED OFFENSE</b>														
DRUG OFFENSES	269		69	98		167	10	90	100		267	1	1	2
CONT'L SUBSTANCE (PL 220-1)	269		69	98		167	10	90	100		267	1	1	2
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS	732	278	258	82	2	620	25	85	110	2	732			
ASSAULT (PL 120)	234	24	103	49	2	178	14	40	54	2	234			
HOMICIDE (PL 125)	57	50	7			57					57			
KIDNAPPING (PL 135)	11		4	5		9		2	2		11			
ROBBERY (PL 160)	366	188	109	26		323	5	38	43		366			
SEX (PL 130)	64	16	35	2		53	6	5	11		64			
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY	875	10	234	276	6	526	131	210	341	3	870	5		5
ARSON (PL 150)	10	2	5	2		9	1		1		10			
BURGLARY (PL 140)	126	7	44	34	1	86	18	21	39		125	1		1
CRIM. MISCHIEF (PL 145)	112		32	39	1	72	18	21	39	1	112			
LARCENY (PL 155)	258		66	87		153	41	60	101	2	256	2		2
UNAUTH USE OF MOTOR VEH. (PL 165.05-6)	233	1	54	71	3	129	32	71	103		232	1		1
CRIM. POSSES OF STOLEN PROP. (PL 165.40-52)	126		29	41	1	71	21	34	55		126			
OTHER THEFT (PL 165.XX)	10		4	2		6		3	3		9	1		1
OTHER CRIMES	176		82	48		130	6	39	45		175	1		1
FIREARM, WEAPON (265)	127		60	31		91	4	31	35		126	1		1
VIOL. OF PROBATION	2							2	2		2			
OTHER	47		22	17		39	2	6	8		47			
NONE - STATUS OFFENSE	271			95	7	102	36	83	119	7	228	4	39	43
<b>SERVICE NEEDS (AT INTAKE)</b>														
HEALTH	115	11	40	40	5	96	14	NA	14	5	115			
On-Site Medical Personnel	59	10	18	20	1	49	8		8	2	59			
Access to Med. Specialist	53	1	20	20	1	42	8		8	3	53			
Wheel Chair Bound	1			1		1					1			
Pregnancy Services	21	2	6	5	5	18				3	21			
LIMITED ENGLISH	113	59	32	19		110	3	NA	3		113			
MENTAL HEALTH	484	44	207	176	4	431	45	NA	45	6	482	2		2
MENTAL RETARDATION	53	3	20	17	2	42	9	NA	9		51	1	1	2
IQ = 60 or Less	1						1		1		1			
IQ = 61 to 65	52	3	20	17	2	42	8		8		50	1	1	2
SEX OFFENDER SERVICE	143	25	74	25		124	18	NA	18		142	1		1
Violent Sex Offender	87	23	45	11		79	7		7		86	1		1
Non-Violent Sex Offender	56	2	29	14		45	11		11		56			
SPECIAL EDUCATION	449	38	169	160	5	372	75	NA	75		447	2		2
Emotionally Disturbed	299	14	120	107	4	245	52		52		297	2		2
Learning Disabled	117	13	42	44		99	18		18		117			
Mentally Retarded	7		2	2		4	3		3		7			
Physically Impaired	3		1		1	2	1		1		3			
Multiply Handicapped	23	11	4	7		22	1		1		23			
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	1026	134	410	361	1	906	105	NA	105	7	1018	4	4	8

Nine percent of the African-American youth (5 percent of all admissions) and 45 percent of the White youth (15 percent of all admissions) additionally identified themselves as Latino. Over 2 percent of the youth admitted did not identify with any racial group, but 68 percent of this group claimed Latino ethnicity.

Non-Latino White youth made up only 5 percent of the admissions to secure centers, but were 19 percent of all admissions.

Among replacement voluntary agency entries, Latino youth who also identified themselves as African-Americans made up less than two percent of entries, but were five percent of all admissions. Non-Latino youth who identified themselves as White were 19 percent of all admissions, but more than 40 percent of cooperating agency admissions. Latino youth who chose not to identify with any racial group were under-represented among "replacements."

**Post-Release Home.** As part of the intake procedure for custody entries begun in mid-1989, an attempt is made to ascertain the probable post-release housing status of each youth. The critical determination resulting from this is that a youth may require a surrogate home following release from residential care.

During 1992, 87 percent of the custody entries had post-release home determinations made. Of those assessed, 14 percent were anticipated to need surrogate housing following release.

**Household Structure.** Another feature of the intake procedure for custody entries is an improved description of the structure of the household from which each youth comes. During 1992, data in this area were collected on 89 percent of custody entries.

Of the youth so assessed in 1992, 49 percent came from households containing at least two persons 18 and over. However, in less than half these households were there two parents present. In 50 percent of the households, only one adult was present, but the single adult in these households was a parent in 83 percent of the cases. In one percent of the households of custody entries no adult was present. However, regardless of the number of adults present, 17 percent of the youth entering custody came from households where there was no parent present.

The most frequent household structure (34%) was single adult households headed by the youth's mother. An additional seven percent of the households were headed by an adult female other than the youth's mother. Two parent households were the next most frequent category (20%).

**Responsible County.** Over half (59%) of the admissions during 1992 came from the five boroughs of New York City. Comprising more than a third of the New York City total, Kings County (Brooklyn) accounted for 22 percent of all admissions. Other counties accounting for five or more percent of the admissions were: Queens (14%), New York (Manhattan) (12%), Bronx (9%), Nassau (7%) and Monroe (6%).

Bronx and Kings Counties accounted for 58 percent of secure center admissions, but only 31 percent of all admissions. The only county under-represented among secure admissions was Nassau.

Youth adjudicated in Westchester County were over-represented and those from Monroe and Nassau Counties under-represented among all admissions to limited secure centers. Nassau County was under-represented among admissions to non-community based centers.

The use of voluntary agencies varies widely from county to county. Seven counties deviated from their expected proportion of these admissions. Queens and Nassau Counties were over-represented among replacements, while Erie, Monroe, Onondaga, Oneida, and Westchester were under-represented. Monroe County was over-represented among cooperative admissions, while Bronx, Kings, New York and Queens Counties were under-represented among such admissions.

**Placement type.** "Court to DFY" accounted for 76 percent of the placements among youth entering custody during 1992. "Replacements" to voluntary agencies accounted for another 22 percent. Interstate compacts accounted for almost two percent.

**Adjudication.** The most frequent adjudication among youth entering custody in 1992 was JD III (36%). Another 11 percent of admissions were JD IIIs with 60-day options (permitting transfer to a secure center). JD II was the second most frequent adjudication (29%), followed by JOs (11%) and PINS (10%). There were 14 RJDs admitted and "Other" adjudications accounted for another two percent of admissions. JDs of all kinds made up 77 percent of admissions. Together, PINS, JDs and JOs accounted for 98 percent of all admissions.

Since adjudication constrains service setting placement, proportional distributions of adjudications across service settings cannot be expected. For example, the law stipulates that all JOs and RJDs must initially enter secure centers. Conversely, Title II youth (JD II, PINS, etc.) may never enter a secure or limited secure setting. Additionally, service setting selection among those legally permissible is determined by a number of other youth characteristics. Hence, within the range of settings dictated by particular adjudications, there are differences.

In 1992, JD-IIIs with 60-day options made up 11 percent of all custody entries, but less than one percent were initially admitted to secure centers.

Among initial admissions to limited secure programs, both JD III(60)s (26%) and JD IIIs (74%) were over-represented. Among replacement admissions, JD IIs were over-represented, while both types of JD IIIs were under-represented.

**Prior Custody Status.** Youth entering DFY custody for the first time constituted 94 percent of all 1992 admissions. Youth with prior custody histories were under-represented among replacement voluntary agency admissions.

**Most Serious Offense.** To understand admission offenses, it must be kept in mind that the adjudicated offense may very well be the result of plea bargaining. Furthermore, plea bargaining policies undoubtedly vary across Family Court jurisdictions. Therefore, the less serious crime categories may very well contain youth who actually committed more serious offenses.

The foregoing notwithstanding, the most prevalent admission offense type in 1992 was "Crimes Against Property" (38%), with the most prevalent category within this type being "Larceny" (11%). "Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle" (UUMV), the most serious crime category for ten percent of all admissions, was the second largest offense within property offenses.

"Crimes Against Persons" accounted for the most serious type of admitting offense for 32 percent of all admissions. Within this group, "Robbery" was the most prevalent category, accounting for 16 percent of all admissions. Similarly, "Assault" accounted for ten percent of total admissions.

Following Property and Person crimes, the next most frequent offense types were "Status Offenses" (including no offense) and "Controlled Substance" (12% each). An additional eight percent of youth admitted had an "Other" crime as their most serious offense.

Since a youth's adjudication is related by law and practice to the crime committed and, as indicated above, adjudication constrains the service setting into which a youth can be admitted, specific crime categories are not proportionally distributed over service settings. For example, youth adjudicated for "Larceny," although one of the most prevalent crime categories, were never admitted to secure centers in 1992.

Given the nature of JO offenses, it is not unexpected that youth adjudicated for Person crimes made up 97 percent of the admissions to secure centers, yet were only 32 percent of all admissions.

Youth adjudicated for "Person Offenses" were under-represented among admissions to non-community based, cooperative, replacement and community care. In addition to this, youth adjudicated for drug offenses were under-represented among cooperative placements.

**Service Needs.** An integral part of intake is needs screening. This information is used to assist in the selection of the optimal initial program setting for each youth.

In mid-1989, DFY began implementation of a process to screen each youth entering custody. Screening is done in the areas of **health** (up to 10 different service needs are allowed), **limited English**, **mental health**, **mental retardation**, **sex offender services**, **special education** and **substance abuse**. Only replacement and interstate compact youth entering custody are excluded from this screening process.

Among 1992 custody entries who were screened, 80 percent had at least one special service need, 25 percent had two such needs and 13 percent had three or more service needs. The high proportion of screened youth with various service needs underscores the intrinsic connection between delinquency and human service needs in general.

Over half of the youth screened in 1992 (58%) indicated **substance use or involvement** to the degree that assessment for intervention services was warranted. More than 27 percent of the youth screened had evidence of prior **mental health** treatment and/or current symptoms. Over 25 percent were currently on the **special education** registers of their home schools. Eight percent presented a history of **sex offenses** severe enough to warrant assessment for formal intervention services. The **English language proficiency** of over six percent of the youth was so limited as to warrant assessment for the appropriateness of English as a second language (ESL) instruction. The vast majority of such youth spoke Spanish as their primary language.

Over three percent of the screened admissions required **on-site medical personnel** and three percent required access to an **off-site medical specialist** for pre-existing conditions. Almost three percent of screened admissions were **mentally retarded** (by NYS Education Department criteria). Twenty-one females were **pregnant** and one youth required a **wheelchair-accessible facility** at custody entry.

Twenty-one percent of screened secure center admissions needed **Limited English Proficiency services**, although only six percent of all admissions had such a need. Among admissions to secure settings, youth in need of **off-site medical specialist** services and with **special education** needs were under-represented.

Among admissions to secure settings, youth who screened in need of non-violent **sex offender** services were under-represented. Those who screened in need of violent **sex offender** services were under-represented among admissions to non-community based centers.



## CHAPTER II. YOUTH IN DFY CUSTODY AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

Admissions provide the earliest information on how youth entering DFY custody are changing and what the immediate future holds for the Agency. Analyses of youth in custody, by contrast, provide information regarding current youth circumstances and characteristics.

### FIVE-YEAR TRENDS

At the end of 1988, almost 3,300 youth were in DFY custody. The number of youth in custody increased in both 1989 (3,402) and 1990 (3,760), decreased in 1991 (3,386) and then rose slightly in 1992 to 3,441. Table 3 provides the supporting data for the discussion of in-custody trends which follows.

**Gender.** The five-year pattern for youth in custody mirrors that of admissions (see Chapter I). Compared to 1988, there were the same number of females in custody and six percent more males at the end of 1992. During this period, females comprised between 13 percent (1989 and 1991) and 15 percent (1988) of all youth in custody. See Figure 7.

**Age.** Figure 8 shows that only minor variations occurred in the average age of youth in custody between 1988 and 1992; over the period, the average age varied between 16.0 and 16.2 and the median, between 16.1 and 16.2.

**Race-ethnicity.** The effects of the mid-1989 change in the categorization of race and ethnicity are clearly visible in Table 3. The row "Latino: Race Unspecified" begins a sharp decline in 1989 and is further reduced in 1990 and 1991 as fewer youth categorized under the old system remain in custody. In place of this racially undifferentiated category, the majority of youth who would have been categorized as "Latino" under the earlier system now appear either as "African-American Latino" or "White Latino".

While the current system provides more accurate race counts, the fact that Latinos of all races have increased from 15 to 22 percent of youth in custody from 1988-92 is not obvious from Table 3 (see Figure 9). During this period, non-Latino Whites declined from a third to under a fifth of youth in custody, while non-Latino African-Americans went from 51 percent to 57 percent of all in-custody youth. Native Americans and youth of Asian origin together continue to account for about one percent of all youth in custody.

Under the current categorization, youth who do not identify with any of the four racial groups (presumably of mixed ancestry) can choose to be classified as "Other" or "Race Not Specified". In 1992, "Other" youth made up three percent of the end-of-year population and youth of unspecified race made up less than one percent. It should be noted that such youth, especially those identifying with "Other," are most often Latino.

**Adjudication.** The most important change regarding adjudication has been the in-custody increase of Juvenile Offenders (JO). Between 1988 and 1992 this adjudication category grew by 71 percent, from 248 in 1988 to 424 in 1992 (Figure 10).

TABLE 3: CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH IN DFY CUSTODY ON DECEMBER 31 BY YEAR

	YEAR				
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>TOTAL IN CUSTODY</b>	3275	3402	3760	3386	3441
<b>GENDER</b>					
Males	2789	2950	3238	2938	2955
Females	486	452	522	448	486
<b>AGE AT END OF YEAR</b>					
8 - 10	4	1	4	4	
11	7	8	12	12	10
12	46	44	48	41	38
13	121	163	213	150	161
14	380	444	450	510	429
15	799	925	1004	903	966
16	1092	1128	1259	1083	1083
17	642	551	638	501	539
18	113	77	81	126	123
19	45	43	29	38	66
20 - 21	26	18	22	18	26
Mean Age End of Year	16.2	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.1
Median Age End of Year	16.2	16.1	16.1	16.1	16.1
<b>RACE/Ethnicity</b>					
<b>AFRICAN-AMERICAN</b>	1685	1890	2176	2067	2141
Non-Latino	1679	1842	2056	1885	1960
Latino	6	48	120	182	181
<b>WHITE</b>	1097	1071	1291	1102	1136
Non-Latino	1084	905	907	674	659
Latino	13	166	384	428	477
<b>LATINO: RACE UNSPECIFIED *</b>	462	322	124	36	18
<b>NATIVE AMERICAN</b>	13	12	20	17	21
<b>ASIAN</b>	11	20	15	23	24
<b>OTHER</b>	6	44	91	123	91
Non-Latino		8	18	26	20
Latino	6	36	73	97	71
<b>NOT SPECIFIED BY YOUTH</b>	1	43	43	18	10
Non-Latino	1	23	21	11	4
Latino		20	22	7	6
<b>ADJUDICATION</b>					
Juvenile Offender	248	237	270	373	424
Restrictive Juvenile Delinquent	28	23	24	24	36
Juvenile Delinquent Title 3	1784	1866	2141	1864	1734
Juvenile Delinquent Title 2	823	904	905	783	884
PINS	360	343	401	319	332
Youthful Offender	7	3			
None/Other	25	26	19	23	31
<b>SERVICE SETTING</b>					
Secure	279	267	287	392	458
Limited Secure	736	676	742	689	652
Non-community Based	398	557	677	700	611
Community Based	317	376	309	195	210
Voluntary Agency - Cooperative	264	269	264	217	242
Voluntary Agency - Replacement	399	429	438	460	566
Foster Care	51	71	108	116	134
Non-Residential	831	757	935	617	568

\* Prior to 7/1/89 Latino ethnicity was not categorized by race.

Figure 7: Total Youth in Custody December 31 by Gender and Year

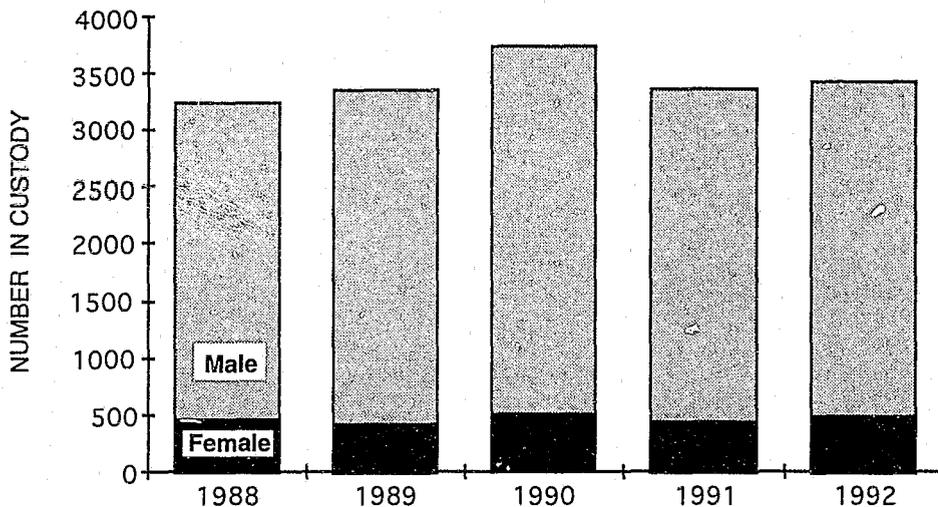


Figure 8: Age of Youth in Custody December 31 by Year

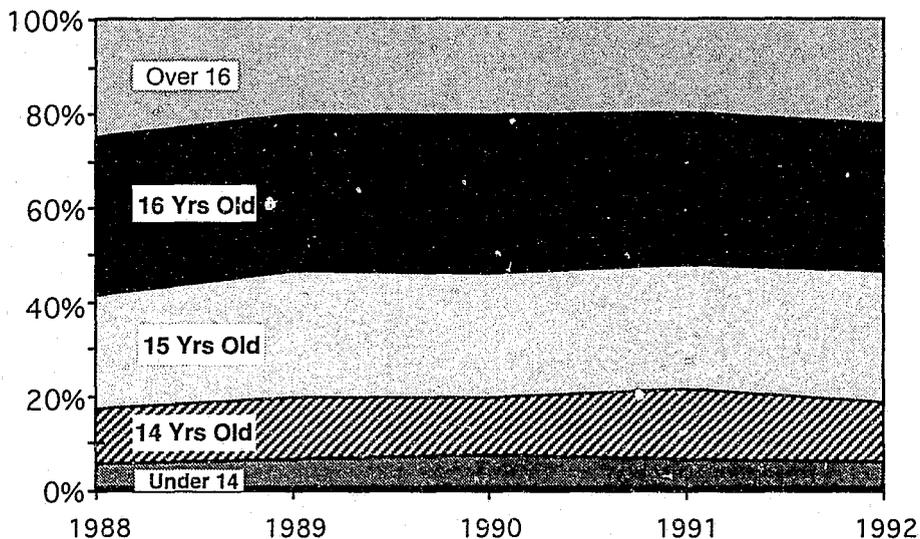
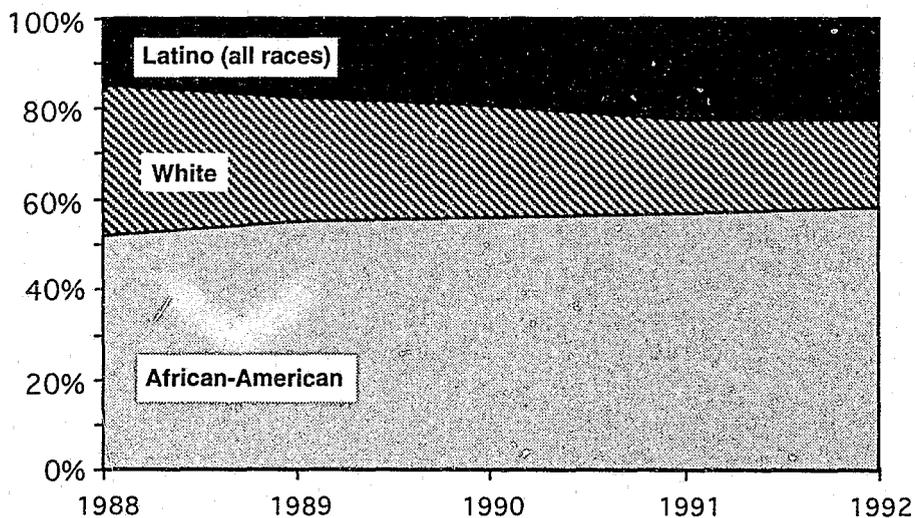


Figure 9: Race-Ethnicity of Youth in Custody December 31 by Year



From 1988 to 1992, the percent of youth in care adjudicated as JD II remained relatively constant at about a quarter of all youth in care, as did PINS at about ten percent of youth in care. JD IIIs, who constituted about 50 percent of the 1992 population, decreased slightly over the five years as a percent of the total in-custody population. Youthful Offenders, along with Restrictive Juvenile Delinquents and "Other adjudications," continue to represent extremely small proportions of in-custody youth. Finally, there have been no Non-JO YOs in custody since the end of 1990.

**Service Setting.** The distribution of youth in custody across service settings (Figure 11), in part, reflects the realignment of service settings made by DFY from 1988 to 1992 in order to accommodate the changes in the adjudication of youth placed in its custody. The proportion of the in-custody population in secure, non-community based, foster care and replacement voluntary settings increased during this period, while the proportion of youth in custody at limited-secure, community-based and cooperating voluntary settings declined.

The end-of-year population in non-community based centers increased 54 percent, from 12 percent in 1988 to 18 percent in 1992. Secure centers increased from 9 percent in 1988 to 13 percent of youth in custody in 1992. Conversely, by 1992, the number of youth in non-residential programs (25% to 17%) and community-based homes (10% to 6%) declined by over 30 percent from their 1988 levels.

Figure 10: Adjudication of Youth in Custody December 31 by Year

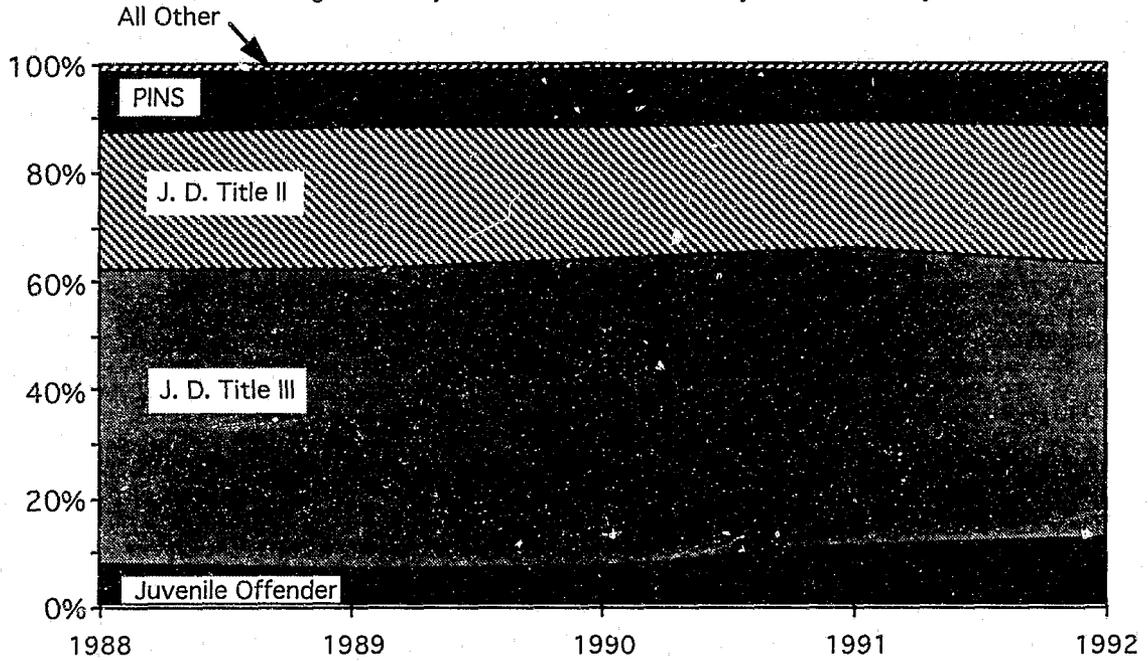
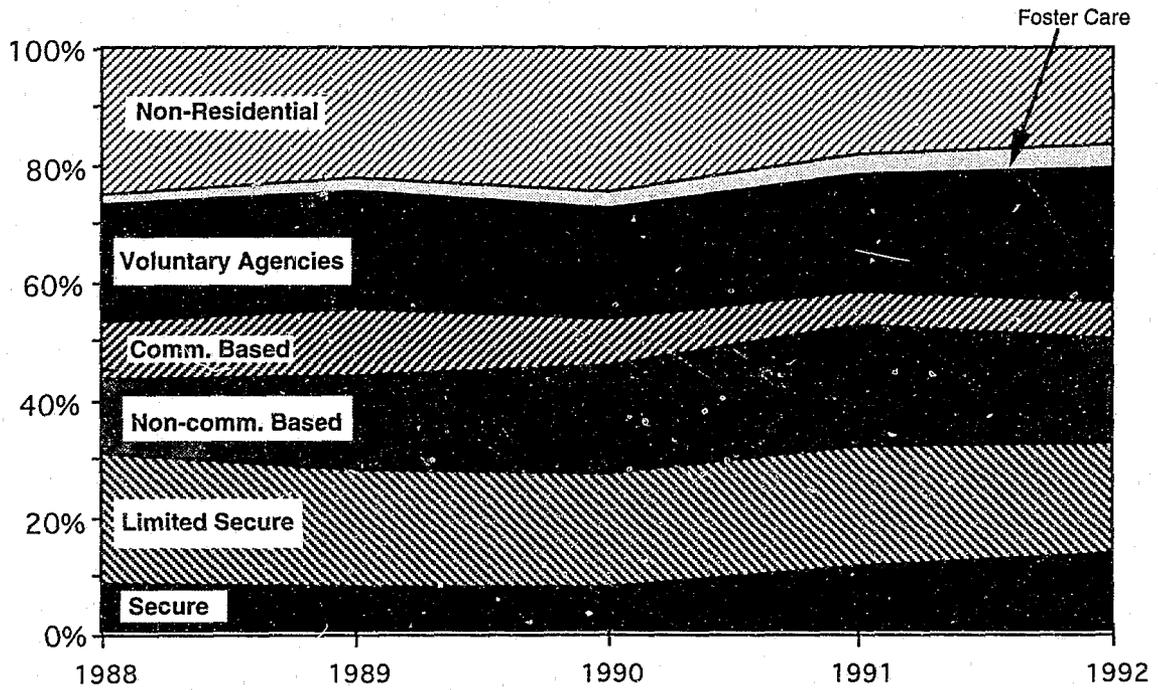


Figure 11: Service Setting of Youth in Custody December 31 by Year



## CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH IN CUSTODY AT THE END OF 1991

There were 3,386 youth in DFY custody on December 31, 1991. Table 4A provides the supporting data for the discussion that follows.

**Service setting.** Fifty-eight percent of the youth in custody at the end of 1991 were in DFY-operated residential service settings. Non-residential settings (Community Care, Home-based Intensive Supervision, Evening Reporting Centers, Sports Academy, and Independent Living) accounted for an additional 18 percent. Both types of voluntary agency placements accounted for another 20 percent, and foster care, 3 percent.

Within residential settings, non-community based centers held 21 percent, and limited secure, 20 percent, of the youth in custody. Secure centers accounted for 12 percent and community-based homes, 6 percent. Cooperating voluntary agencies accounted for another 6 percent of the youth in custody and court-ordered "replacements" an additional 14 percent. Foster care contributed three percent.

**Gender.** Overall, females made up just over 13 percent of all youth in custody at the end of 1991. Females were over-represented among youth in foster care (36%) and under-represented among youth in secure centers (2%).

**Age.** The average age of youth in custody on December 31, 1991 was 16.0 years old, and the median, 16.1 (32 percent were 16). Twenty-seven percent were 15 years old and another 15 percent were 17. Fourteen year-olds were 15 percent of the population in custody; 6 percent of the youth were less than 14 years old and 5 percent were over 17.

Secure center residents were older than youth in all other settings (mean= 17.0 years; median= 16.9 years). Youth 18 and older were over-represented and youth under 15 were under-represented in this setting. Although they comprised 15 percent of all youth in custody, only 6 percent of the youth in non-community based centers were 17 years old. Youth 18 and older were under-represented in both limited and non-community based centers.

**Race-ethnicity.** As previously noted, the current categories for race and ethnicity were not used until July 1, 1989. Because some youth admitted prior to this date were still in custody at the end of 1991, data for this characteristic regarding Latino youth are displayed under both the old and new categories.

African-American youth comprised the majority (61%) of all youth in custody at the end of 1991. This includes the five percent of all youth in custody who also identified themselves as Latino. White youth constituted one-third of youth in custody (33%), including 13 percent of all youth additionally identifying themselves as Latino. Looked at another way, Latino youth, regardless of race and including Latinos undifferentiated by race under the older system, comprised 22 percent of youth in custody. About four percent of the youth did not identify with any racial group. Native Americans and Asians each comprised less than one percent of the in-custody population.

	TOTAL IN CARE 12/31/91	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES								NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES				
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
<b>TOTAL IN CARE</b>	3386	392	689	700	195	1976	217	460	677	116	2769	104	513	617
<b>GENDER</b>														
Males	2938	384	603	602	153	1742	195	388	583	74	2399	90	449	539
Females	448	8	86	98	42	234	22	72	94	42	370	14	64	78
<b>AGE</b>														
9 - 12	57		14	17	2	33	4	11	15	4	52	1	4	5
13	150		45	46	8	99	13	21	34	2	135	3	12	15
14	510	7	140	144	35	326	43	68	111	15	452	10	48	58
15	903	66	219	229	42	556	59	132	191	18	765	32	106	138
16	1083	136	195	220	71	622	65	138	203	20	845	37	201	238
17	501	106	76	44	33	259	20	59	79	29	367	21	113	134
18	126	49			4	53	9	21	30	24	107		19	19
19	38	20				20	4	5	9	3	32		6	6
20 - 21	18	8				8		5	5	1	14		4	4
Mean Age	16.0	17.0	15.6	15.5	16.0	15.9	15.8	16.0	15.9	16.6	15.9	16.1	16.4	16.3
Median Age	16.1	16.9	15.6	15.6	16.1	16.0	15.8	16.0	15.9	16.8	16.0	16.1	16.5	16.4
<b>RACE / Ethnicity</b>														
<b>AFRICAN-AMERICAN</b>	2067	273	438	437	122	1270	78	281	359	69	1698	59	310	369
Non-Latino	1885	243	389	391	116	1139	75	273	348	67	1554	52	279	331
Latino	182	30	49	46	6	131	3	8	11	2	144	7	31	38
<b>WHITE</b>	1102	72	221	230	67	590	122	144	266	38	894	35	172	208
Non-Latino	674	17	132	133	45	327	105	66	171	31	529	26	119	145
Latino	428	55	89	97	22	263	17	78	95	7	365	10	53	63
<b>LATINO: RACE UNSPECIFIED^</b>	36	8	3	1		12	5	8	13	3	28	2	6	8
<b>NATIVE AMERICAN</b>	17	2	6	4	1	13				2	15		2	2
<b>ASIAN</b>	23	6	6	2		14		2	2	2	18		5	5
<b>OTHER</b>	123	23	15	25	4	67	11	19	30	2	99	7	17	24
Non-Latino	26	5	2	3	1	11	4	3	7		18	2	6	8
Latino	97	18	13	22	3	56	7	16	23	2	81	5	11	16
<b>NOT SPECIFIED BY YOUTH</b>	18	8		1	1	10	1	6	7		17		1	1
Non-Latino	11	4		1	1	6		4	4		10		1	1
Latino	7	4				4	1	2	3		7			
<b>RESPONSIBLE COUNTY</b>														
<b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	1950	333	400	397	114	1244	43	304	347	44	1635	31	284	315
Bronx	344	105	58	58	18	239	11	36	47	12	298	8	38	46
Kings	689	131	183	126	34	474	7	56	63	14	551	14	124	138
New York	426	54	77	122	36	289	13	53	66	5	360	6	60	66
Queens	429	41	68	79	24	212	12	143	155	10	377	3	49	52
Richmond	62	2	14	12	2	30		16	16	3	49		13	13
<b>OTHER COUNTIES</b>	1415	57	289	303	81	730	174	156	330	72	1132	73	210	283
Albany	89	3	20	19	4	46	14	9	23	3	72	8	9	17
Allegany	16		3	1	1	5	7		7	2	14		2	2
Broome	22	1	5	5	2	13	2	1	3	1	17		5	5
Cattaraugus	12		4	4		8	1		1	1	10		2	2
Cayuga	28		9	8	2	19	2		2	1	22		6	6
Chautauqua	8		4	1	1	6			6	1	7		1	1
Chemung	29		5	7	2	14	7		7	1	22		7	7

CONTINUED

\* The 17 youth receiving non-residential services in conjunction with residential services are classified under the residential service setting.

^ Prior to 7/1/89 Latino ethnicity was not categorized by race.

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	TOTAL IN CARE 12/31/91	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES			
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESSERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
<b>TOTAL IN CARE</b>	<b>3386</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>2769</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>617</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE COUNTY</b>														
Chenango	1			1		1					1			
Clinton	6		2	3		5					5		1	1
Columbia	4	2	2			4					4			
Cortland	3			1	1	2					2		1	1
Delaware														
Dutchess	43	2	14	8	3	27	1		1	3	31	8	4	12
Erie	93	1	13	16	8	38	5	1	6	28	72	7	14	21
Essex	4			2	1	3	1		1		4			
Franklin	2												2	2
Fulton	15		2	1	3	6	4		4	2	12		3	3
Genesee	1		1			1					1			
Greene	6		2	3		5	1		1		6			
Hamilton														
Herkimer	5		1	1	1	3					3		2	2
Jefferson	6		2	3		5					5		1	1
Lewis	1		1			1					1			
Livingston	3		1	1		2					2		1	1
Madison	12		4	4	2	10					10		2	2
Monroe	212	7	29	56	7	99	35	26	61	5	165	26	21	47
Montgomery	7		1	3		4	1		1	1	6		1	1
Nassau	219	6	24	21	3	54	18	113	131	3	188		31	31
Niagara	47	2	8	11	2	23	11		11	2	36		11	11
Oneida	66	2	11	26	5	44	10		10	2	56		10	10
Onondaga	81	1	25	20	4	50	14	1	15	2	67	10	4	14
Ontario	4			1		1	2		2		3		1	1
Orange	36	3	10	3	6	22	1	1	2	1	25		11	11
Orleans	5		3	1		4			4		4		1	1
Oswego	15		9	3		12			12		12	1	2	3
Otsego	5			1		1	1		1		2		3	3
Putnam	4		2		2	4			4		4			
Rensselaer	28		7	7	3	17	5		5	1	23	3	2	5
Rockland	11	1	1	1	2	5			5	1	6	1	4	5
St. Lawrence	2		1		1	2			2		2			
Saratoga	18		5	3		8	2		2	2	12		6	6
Schenectady	49		13	13	2	28	5	2	7	1	36	7	6	13
Schoharie	5		2	1		3	1		1		4		1	1
Schuyler	6		1	3		4	1		1		5		1	1
Seneca	2						2		2		2			
Steuben	17		1	6	3	10	1		1		11		6	6
Suffolk	50	9	12	11	2	34	5	2	7	2	43		7	7
Sullivan	7		5	2		7			7		7			
Tioga	8		2	1	2	5	1		1		6		2	2
Tompkins	2		2			2			2		2			
Ulster	20		4	4	3	11	2		2	2	15	1	4	5

CONTINUED

	TOTAL IN CARE 12/31/91	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES			
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
<b>TOTAL IN CARE</b>	3386	392	689	700	195	1976	217	460	677	116	2769	104	513	617
<b>RESPONSIBLE COUNTY</b>														
Warren	5		1		2	3					3		2	2
Washington	7		3	1		4	1		1		5		2	2
Wayne	16		1	5	1	7	5		5	1	13		3	3
Westchester	42	17	10	9		36				1	37	1	4	5
Wyoming	9		1	1		2	4		4	2	8		1	1
Yates	1						1		1		1			
<b>OUT OF STATE</b>	21	2				2					2		19	19
<b>PLACEMENT TYPE</b>														
Court to DFY	2889	392	689	699	195	1975	217	2	219	113	2307	104	478	582
Court to DFY to Voluntary	473							458	458		458		15	15
Condition of Probation	1			1		1					1			
Section 358-A Voluntary	4									3	3		1	1
Interstate Compact	19												19	19
<b>ADJUDICATION</b>														
Juvenile Offender	251	251				251					251			
JO with YO Status	122	122				122					122			
Restrictive Juv. Del.	24	13	6		2	21					21		3	3
Juv. Del. 60 Day Option	247	5	110	43	16	174	22		22	4	200	6	41	47
Juv. Delinquent Title 3	1617	1	573	375	113	1062	95	13	108	54	1224	60	333	393
Juv. Delinquent Title 2	783			200	40	240	61	374	435	17	692	25	66	91
PINS	319			82	24	106	39	73	112	38	256	13	50	63
Other	23									3	3		20	20
<b>TYPE &amp; CATEGORY OF MOST SERIOUS ADJUDICATED OFFENSE</b>														
<b>DRUG OFFENSES</b>	410	1	69	94	29	193	19	96	115	14	322	13	75	88
CONT'L SUBSTANCE (220-1)	410	1	69	94	29	193	19	96	115	14	322	13	75	88
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS</b>	1060	374	264	114	47	799	37	64	101	22	922	18	120	138
ASSAULT (PL 120)	346	37	100	63	18	218	22	30	52	12	282	14	50	64
HOMICIDE (PL 125)	135	128	3	1		132					132		3	3
KIDNAPPING (PL 135)	24	5	9	3		17	1	1	2	1	20		4	4
ROBBERY (PL 160)	411	171	97	33	20	321	6	29	35	5	361	2	48	50
SEX (PL 130)	144	33	55	14	9	111	8	4	12	4	127	2	15	17
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY</b>	1336	17	299	358	81	755	103	190	293	35	1083	50	203	253
ARSON (PL 150)	18	2	4		3	9	2		2	2	13		5	5
BURGLARY (PL 140)	205	12	57	45	9	123	21	24	45	6	174	3	28	31
CRIM. MISCHIEF (PL 145)	141		29	44	8	81	12	8	20	3	104	10	27	37
LARCENY (PL 155)	438	1	107	106	28	242	36	57	93	12	347	17	74	91
UNAUTH USE OF MOTOR VEH. (PL 165.05-6)	330	2	53	103	23	181	25	65	90	5	276	11	43	54
CRIM POSS STOLEN PROP (PL 165.40-52)	195		49	56	10	115	7	36	43	6	164	9	22	31
OTHER THEFT (PL 165.XX)	9			4		4				1	5		4	4
<b>OTHER CRIMES</b>	238		57	52	14	123	19	37	56	4	183	10	45	55
FIREARM, WEAPON (PL 265)	156		40	35	11	86	6	19	25	2	113	8	35	43
VIOL. OF PROBATION	7						1	6	7		7			
OTHER	75		17	17	3	37	12	12	24	2	63	2	10	12
<b>NONE/STATUS OFFENSE</b>	342			82	24	106	39	73	112	41	259	13	70	83

CONTINUED

TABLE 4A Page 4

SERVICE SETTING ON DECEMBER 31, 1991

	TOTAL IN CARE 12/31/91	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES				
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES				FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RES SERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL						
		NON COMM	COMM.												
<b>TOTAL IN CARE</b>	<b>3386</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>2789</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>617</b>	
<b>SERVICE NEEDS (AT INTAKE) #</b>															
<b>ANY HEALTH NEED</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	
On-Site Medical Service	96	38	14	18	6	76	3		3	3	82	3	11	14	
Access to Med. Specialist	84	6	18	22	10	56	6		6	4	66	3	15	18	
Wheel Chair Bound	1		1			1					1				
Pregnancy Services	16		2	2	2	6				2	8	1	7	8	
<b>LIMITED ENGLISH</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	
<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>138</b>	
<b>MENTAL RETARDATION</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
IQ = 60 or Less	6		2	1	1	4				1	5		1	1	
IQ = 61 to 65	44	2	14	13	3	32	5		5	3	40	1	3	4	
<b>SEX OFFENDER SERVICE</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	
Violent Sex Ofender	183	39	74	21	10	144	9		9	8	161	4	18	22	
Non Violent Sex Offender	96	3	38	14	8	63	16		16	3	82	2	12	14	
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>136</b>	
Emotionally Disturbed	443	13	125	122	30	290	38		38	16	344	23	76	99	
Learning Disabled	163	15	46	41	14	116	15		15	5	136	8	19	27	
Mentally Retarded	22	1	6	7	1	15	4		4	1	20	1	1	2	
Physically Impared	3	1		1		2					2		1	1	
Multiply Handicapped	27	1	9	6	2	18	2		2		20	2	5	7	
<b>SUBSTANCE ABUSE</b>	<b>1418</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1110</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>308</b>	

# Screening was not performed for every custody entry and youth may have more than one need. Therefore, column sums may not equal "Total in Care".

Among residents of secure settings, Non-Latino White youth were under-represented. African-American Latino youth were under-represented among residents of both replacement and cooperating voluntary agencies. Cooperating agencies had an over-representation of Non-Latino White youth. The only other substantial deviation from the overall race-ethnicity distribution was the under-representation of White Latinos and African-American Latinos among residents of foster care.

**Responsible County.** Well over half (58%) of all youth in custody at the end of 1991 were adjudicated in the five boroughs of New York City. Kings County (Brooklyn) accounted for 20 percent of all youth in custody and over a third of the New York City total. Other counties accounting for five or more percent of youth in custody were: Queens and New York (Manhattan) (13% each), Bronx (10%), Monroe and Nassau (6% each).

Although 43 percent of all youth in custody were adjudicated in Bronx, Kings and New York Counties, these three counties accounted for 74 percent of all secure center residents. Youth adjudicated in Richmond (Staten Island), Albany, Dutchess, Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga and Schenectady Counties were under-represented among residents of secure centers.

Youth adjudicated in Orange and Nassau Counties were under-represented among the end-of-year populations in non-community based centers. In community-based homes, youth from Nassau County were under-represented.

As previously discussed, great inter-county variability exists with respect to the use of voluntary agencies. Furthermore, any differences between admitted and end-of-year populations will largely be a function of the duration of initial placements.

The most frequent pattern of deviation from the overall county distribution of youth in custody involved those cases where a county had the expected number of youth in cooperating agencies, but less than the expected number of youth in replacement agencies. Eight counties had this pattern: Dutchess, Erie, Niagara, Oneida, Orange, Schenectady, Suffolk and Westchester. Nassau County also had the expected number of youth among cooperating agency placements, but was over-represented among replacements.

Onondaga County was over-represented among youth in cooperating agencies, but under-represented among replacements. Queens County was under-represented among youth in cooperating agencies, but over-represented among replacements. Albany and Monroe Counties were over-represented among youth in cooperating voluntary agencies, but had the expected number of replacements.

Bronx, Kings and New York Counties all were under-represented among youth in cooperating voluntary agencies, but had the expected number of replacements.

**Placement type.** "Court to DFY" accounted for 85 percent of the placements among youth in custody at the end of 1991. "Replacements" to voluntary agencies accounted for another 14 percent. No other type (see Glossary) accounted for even one percent. By definition, all placements reside in replacement voluntary settings. It has been customary for all Interstate Compact youth to be admitted to community care.

**Adjudication.** Almost half (48%) of the youth in custody at the end of 1991 were adjudicated as JD III. JD IIIs with 60-day options accounted for another seven percent. JD II was the second most frequent adjudication (23%), followed by JO (11%) and PINS (9%). Taken together, JDs of all kinds [RJD, JD II, III and III(60)] made up 79 percent of youth in custody. With PINS and JOs, the three groups accounted for 99 percent of youth in custody.

As described in Chapter I, adjudication constrains service setting placement such that proportional distributions of adjudications across all service settings cannot be expected.

**Most Serious Offense.** The most prevalent offense type among youth in custody at the end of 1991 was Crimes Against Property (39%) while the most frequent individual crime category was Larceny (13%). The next most prevalent category within this crime type was Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle (10%). Crimes Against Persons accounted for 31 percent of the offenses. Robbery was the most prevalent category within this crime type, accounting for 12 percent of all youth in custody. The next most frequent was Controlled Substance offenses (12%). Status Offenses made up ten percent of youth in custody and Other Crimes, seven percent.

As described in Chapter I, because specific crime categories are related to adjudication, they are not proportionally distributed over initial service settings. This difference is mitigated in the in-custody population because youth initially admitted to high control level settings who demonstrate progress are reintegrated into their home communities through stays in programs with lower levels of control. Conversely, some youth insufficiently controlled at their initial level can, through a variety of procedures, be moved to a more restrictive setting. Thus, at any point in time following initial admission, a youth's location will be the product of his legal characteristics at admission and his subsequent behavior while in custody.

**Service Needs.** As described in Chapter I, in mid-1989, DFY began implementation of a process to systematically screen each youth entering custody. This process specifically exempts replacements and interstate compacts who do not go to DFY residential settings. Nevertheless, by the end of 1991, 79 percent of all youth in custody and 90 percent of non-replacement youth had been screened at entry. Of the 2,683 youth screened, 78 percent had at least one special need at intake. Thirty-eight percent had from two to six needs.

Over half the youth screened (54%) indicated **substance use or involvement** to the degree that assessment for intervention services was warranted. Twenty-nine percent of the youth screened had evidence of prior **mental health** treatment or symptoms. Twenty-five percent had been on the **special education** registers of their home schools. Ten percent had presented a history of **sex offenses** severe enough to warrant more formal assessment for intervention service need.

The **English language proficiency** of five percent of the youth was so limited as to warrant assessment for the appropriateness of English as a second language instruction. The vast majority of such youth spoke Spanish as their primary language.

Four percent required **on-site medical personnel** and an additional three percent required access to an **off-site medical specialist** for a pre-existing condition. Two percent of screened youth were **mentally retarded** according to State Education Department criteria. Seventeen females had screened **pregnant** at intake. One youth required a **wheel chair accessible facility** at custody entry.

Among secure center residents, youth in need of **on-site medical** services and those needing further assessment for **limited English** were over-represented, while youth in need of **special education** services for emotional disturbance, **mental retardation** services and non-violent **sex offender** services were under-represented. Among those residing in non-community based centers, youth in need of violent **sex offender** services were under-represented. Those youth needing further assessment for **limited English** were under-represented among community-based facilities.

Although replacement cases do not have to be screened, these screens are administered to youth who are cooperatively placed. Youth who screened as needing further assessment for **limited English** and those in need of **on-site medical** services were under-represented among the end-of-year cooperating voluntary populations, while those in need of non-violent **sex offender** services were over-represented. Community care had fewer youth needing services for **mental retardation** than would be expected.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH IN CUSTODY AT THE END OF 1992

There were 3,441 youth in DFY custody on December 31, 1992. Table 4B provides the supporting data for the discussion that follows.

**Service setting.** Fifty-six percent of the youth in custody at the end of 1992 were in DFY-operated residential service settings. Non-residential settings (Community Care, Home-based Intensive Supervision, In-home Intensive Treatment and Supervision, Youth Leadership Graduates, Evening Reporting Centers, Sports Academy, and Independent Living) accounted for an additional 17 percent. Both types of voluntary agency placements accounted for another 23 percent, and foster care, 4 percent.

Among residential settings, limited secure centers accounted for 19 percent, and non-community based centers, 18 percent of the youth in custody. Secure centers accounted for 13 percent and community-based homes, 6 percent. Cooperating voluntary agencies accounted for another 7 percent of the youth in custody and court-ordered "replacements" added 16 percent.

**Gender.** Overall, females made up just over 14 percent of all youth in custody at the end of 1992. Females were over-represented among youth in foster care and under-represented among youth in secure centers and day programs.

**Age.** Both the average and median age of youth in custody on December 31, 1992 was 16.1 years old (31 percent were 16). Twenty-eight percent were 15 and another 16 percent were 17 years old. Fourteen year-olds were 12 percent of the population in custody, 6 percent of the youth were less than 14 years old and 6 percent were over 17.

Secure center residents were older than youth in other settings (mean, 17.1 years; median, 17.0 years). Youth 18 and older were over-represented and youth under 15 under-represented in this setting. Although they comprised 16 percent of all youth in custody, those 17 years of age made up only 7 percent of all youth in non-community based centers. Youth 18 and older were under-represented in limited secure and non-community based centers and community-based homes. Twelve year-olds were under-represented in non-community based centers, while 13 year-olds were under-represented in community-based homes, day programs, and community care. Youth 14 and under were under-represented in community care. Like secure centers, but for different reasons, youth 18 and over were over-represented in foster care (mean, 16.7 years; median, 16.6 years).

**Race-ethnicity.** As previously noted, the current categories for race and ethnicity were not used until July 1, 1989. Because some youth admitted prior to this date were still in custody at the end of 1992, data for this characteristic regarding Latino youth are displayed under both the old and current categories.

African-American youth constituted the majority (62%) of those youth in custody at the end of 1992; this included the five percent of all youth in custody who also identified themselves as Latino. Whites constituted one-third of youth in custody (33%), including those youth (14%) identifying themselves as Latino. Looked at another way, Latino youth, regardless of race and including Latinos undifferentiated by race under the old system, comprised 22 percent of youth in custody. About three percent of the youth did not identify with any racial group.

Page 1 TABLE 4B: CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH IN DFY CUSTODY BY SERVICE SETTING ON DECEMBER 31, 1992 (NUMBER)\*

	TOTAL IN CARE 12/31/92	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES				
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES				FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL	TOTAL						
				NON COMM	COMM.										
<b>TOTAL IN CARE</b>	3441	458	652	611	210	1931	242	566	808	134	2873	145	423	568	
<b>GENDER</b>															
Males	2955	439	551	523	165	1678	207	473	680	100	2458	128	369	497	
Females	486	19	101	88	45	253	35	93	128	34	415	17	54	71	
<b>AGE</b>															
9 - 12	48		9	18	2	29	4	11	15	2	46		2	2	
13	161	1	35	54	2	92	19	41	60	5	157	1	3	4	
14	429	11	115	99	25	250	36	90	126	9	385	23	21	44	
15	966	85	215	212	64	576	79	149	228	28	832	32	102	134	
16	1083	131	215	183	71	600	70	174	244	33	877	54	152	206	
17	539	126	61	44	43	274	22	73	95	31	400	29	110	139	
18	123	64		1	3	68	6	13	19	14	101	5	17	22	
19	66	30	1			31	4	10	14	9	54	1	11	12	
20 - 21	26	10	1			11	2	5	7	3	21		5	5	
Mean Age	16.1	17.1	15.7	15.5	16.1	16.0	15.8	15.9	15.8	16.7	16.0	16.2	16.6	16.5	
Median Age	16.1	17.0	15.8	15.7	16.2	16.0	15.8	15.9	15.9	16.6	16.0	16.3	16.5	16.4	
<b>RACE / Ethnicity</b>															
<b>AFRICAN-AMERICAN</b>	2141	339	423	369	115	1246	113	339	452	79	1777	102	262	364	
Non-Latino	1960	311	381	333	103	1128	109	329	438	71	1637	84	239	323	
Latino	181	28	42	36	12	118	4	10	14	8	140	18	23	41	
<b>WHITE</b>	1130	86	204	209	87	586	114	204	318	49	953	39	144	183	
Non-Latino	659	24	124	122	58	328	94	82	176	39	543	18	98	116	
Latino	477	62	80	87	29	258	20	122	142	10	410	21	46	67	
<b>LATINO: RACE UNSPECIFIED^</b>	18	4	1		1	6	3	5	8	3	17		1	1	
<b>NATIVE AMERICAN</b>	21	3	2	6		11	1	5	6	1	18	1	2	3	
<b>ASIAN</b>	24	8	7	2		17		3	3	1	21	1	2	3	
<b>OTHER</b>	91	14	15	24	7	60	10	7	17	1	78	2	11	13	
Non-Latino	20	4	4	4	2	14	1	2	3		17		3	3	
Latino	71	10	11	20	5	46	9	5	14	1	61	2	8	10	
<b>NOT SPECIFIED BY YOUTH</b>	10	4		1		5	1	3	4		9		1	1	
Non-Latino	4	1		1		2		1	1		3		1	1	
Latino	6	3				3	1	2	3		6				
<b>RESPONSIBLE COUNTY</b>															
<b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	2007	377	389	324	108	1198	37	420	457	64	1719	73	215	288	
Bronx	357	104	63	41	24	232	6	73	79	13	324	18	15	33	
Kings	703	156	158	121	35	470	8	100	108	16	594	28	81	109	
New York	452	66	85	87	22	260	14	80	94	18	372	17	63	80	
Queens	423	42	67	66	22	197	9	150	159	13	369	9	45	54	
Richmond	72	9	16	9	5	39		17	17	4	60	1	11	12	
<b>OTHER COUNTIES</b>	1402	78	263	287	102	730	205	146	351	70	1151	72	179	251	
Albany	83	2	27	20	8	57	6	7	13	3	73	5	5	10	
Allegany	16	1		1		2	7		7	2	11		5	5	
Broome	21	1	11	6	1	19			19		19		2	2	
Cattaraugus	13		2	3		5	1	2	3	3	11		2	2	
Cayuga	28	2	9	4	5	20	1		1		21		7	7	
Chautauqua	14		1	5	1	7	3		3	2	12		2	2	
Chemung	23			5	6	11	5	1	6	1	18		5	5	

CONTINUED

\* The 37 youth receiving non-residential services in conjunction with residential services are classified under the residential service setting.

^ Prior to 7/1/89 Latino ethnicity was not categorized by race.

SERVICE SETTING ON DECEMBER 31, 1992

	TOTAL IN CARE 12/31/92	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES			
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RES SERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
<b>TOTAL IN CARE</b>	3441	458	652	611	210	1931	242	566	808	134	2873	145	423	568
<b>RESPONSIBLE COUNTY</b>														
Chenango	3		3			3					3			
Clinton	12			7		7	3		3		10		2	2
Columbia	10	1	4	2		7	1		1		8		2	2
Cortland														
Delaware														
Dutchess	39	2	5	6	8	21				4	25	6	8	14
Erie	89	7	6	19	6	38	11		11	21	70	15	4	19
Essex	5		1	2		3	1		1		4		1	1
Franklin	5		1	3		4					4		1	1
Fulton	11		3	1		4	5		5		9		2	2
Genesee	2			2		2					2			
Greene	7		2	1		3	2		2		5		2	2
Hamilton	1			1		1					1			
Herkimer	6			3	1	4	1		1		5		1	1
Jefferson	11		4	5	1	10					10		1	1
Lewis														
Livingston	2				1	1					1		1	1
Madison	16		7	3	2	12				1	13		3	3
Monroe	227	15	16	38	10	79	77	15	92	5	176	25	26	51
Montgomery	12		3	6	1	10	1		1		11		1	1
Nassau	196	6	20	18	4	48	15	115	130	2	180		16	16
Niagara	52	1	4	6	5	16	20		20	5	41	2	9	11
Oneida	69	2	20	18	6	46	9		9	1	56	1	12	13
Onondaga	80	7	23	20	4	54	7	1	8	5	67	11	2	13
Ontario	5		1		1	2					2		3	3
Orange	25	3	7	4	3	17	1		1	1	19	1	5	6
Orleans	6		4			4					4		2	2
Oswego	17		7	5	2	14	1		1	1	16		1	1
Otsego	4		1	2		3					3		1	1
Putnam	2			2		2					2			
Rensselaer	21	2	4	6	3	15	2		2	1	18	2	1	3
Rockland	8		5		1	6					6		2	2
St. Lawrence	3		2			2					2		1	1
Saratoga	15		4	5		9	2		2	1	12		3	3
Schenectady	50	1	11	14	6	32	6	3	9	1	42	2	6	8
Schoharie	4		1	1	1	3	1		1		4			
Schuyler	4		1		1	2				1	3		1	1
Seneca	7	1	1	1		3	2		2	1	6		1	1
Steuben	14		1	5	2	8	2		2	1	11		3	3
Suffolk	63	12	15	17	6	50	4	2	6	1	57		6	6
Sullivan	3		1	1		2					2		1	1
Tioga	3			2	1	3					3			
Tompkins	1												1	1
Ulster	9		5	1	1	7					7	2		2

CONTINUED

	TOTAL IN CARE 12/31/92	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES				
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES				FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESSERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL						
				NON COMM	COMM.										
<b>TOTAL IN CARE</b>	3441	458	652	611	210	1931	242	566	808	134	2873	145	423	568	
<b>RESPONSIBLE COUNTY</b>															
Warren															
Washington	8		2	3		5				1	6		2	2	
Wayne	21	1	3	8	2	14	3		3	1	18		3	3	
Westchester	42	10	15	5	2	32				2	34		8	8	
Wyoming	11						5		5	2	7		4	4	
Yates	3	1				1					1		2	2	
<b>OUT OF STATE</b>	32	3				3					3		29	29	
<b>PLACEMENT TYPE</b>															
Court to DFY	2835	458	652	609	209	1928	240	2	242	132	2302	145	388	533	
Court to DFY to Voluntary	574			2		2	2	564	566		568		6	6	
Condition of Probation	1				1	1					1				
Section 358-A Voluntary	2									2	2				
Interstate Compact	29											29		29	
<b>ADJUDICATION</b>															
Juvenile Offender	302	302				302					302				
JO with YO status	122	122				122					122				
Restrictive Juv. Del.	36	23	6	1		30					30	1	5	6	
Juv. Del. 60 Day Option	354	10	159	62	22	253	17	2	19	12	284	18	52	70	
Juv. Delinquent Title 3	1380	1	487	290	122	900	81	11	92	73	1065	83	232	315	
Juv. Delinquent Title 2	884			154	39	193	99	468	567	21	781	31	72	103	
PINS	332			104	27	131	45	85	130	26	287	12	33	45	
Other	31									2	2		29	29	
<b>TYPE &amp; CATEGORY OF MOST SERIOUS ADJUDICATED OFFENSE</b>															
<b>DRUG OFFENSES</b>	387	2	61	80	26	169	16	113	129	16	314	19	54	73	
CONT'L SUBSTANCE (220-1)	387	2	61	80	26	169	16	113	129	16	314	19	54	73	
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS</b>	1164	431	279	112	49	871	32	102	134	29	1034	32	98	130	
ASSAULT (PL 120)	359	39	88	65	23	215	19	43	62	16	293	17	49	66	
HOMICIDE (PL 125)	158	147	10			157					157		1	1	
KIDNAPPING (PL 135)	19	3	6	4	2	15		3	3		18		1	1	
ROBBERY (PL 160)	487	206	119	37	13	375	5	48	53	9	437	12	38	50	
SEX (PL 130)	141	36	56	6	11	109	8	8	16	4	129	3	9	12	
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY</b>	1288	25	240	274	92	631	139	221	360	57	1048	67	173	240	
ARSON (PL 150)	18	2	4	2	1	9	1		1	4	14	2	2	4	
BURGLARY (PL 140)	215	19	45	47	21	132	21	25	46	3	181	7	27	34	
CRIM. MISCHIEF (PL 145)	153	1	36	34	9	80	15	14	29	7	116	8	29	37	
LARCENY (PL 155)	424	1	75	93	27	196	47	67	114	26	336	24	64	88	
<b>UNAUTH USE OF MOTOR VEH.</b> (PL165.05-6)	291	2	48	54	23	127	35	77	112	8	247	19	25	44	
CRIM POSS STOLEN PROP (PL165.40-52)	179		30	40	11	81	20	36	56	9	146	7	26	33	
OTHER THEFT (PL 165.XX)	8		2	4		6		2	2		8				
<b>OTHER CRIMES</b>	240		72	42	16	130	9	45	54	4	188	15	37	52	
FIREARM, WEAPON (PL265)	164		51	27	8	86	4	36	40	3	129	8	27	35	
VIOL. OF PROBATION	2							2	2		2				
OTHER	74		21	15	8	44	5	7	12	1	57	7	10	17	
<b>NONE/STATUS OFFENSE</b>	362			103	27	130	46	85	131	28	289	12	61	73	

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SERVICE SETTING ON DECEMBER 31, 1992

	TOTAL IN CARE 12/31/92	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES			
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
<b>TOTAL IN CARE</b>	3441	458	652	611	210	1931	242	566	808	134	2873	145	423	568
<b>SERVICE NEEDS (AT INTAKE) #</b>														
<b>ANY HEALTH NEED</b>	197	35	49	37	16	137	12	NA	12	14	163	5	29	34
On-Site Medical Service	112	33	25	21	9	88	6		6	4	98	2	12	14
Access to Med. Specialist	90	3	26	19	7	55	8		8	8	71	3	16	19
Wheel Chair Bound	1			1		1					1			
Pregnancy Services	23	1	5	3	4	13	1		1	5	19		4	4
<b>LIMITED ENGLISH</b>	157	74	25	17	10	126	4	NA	4	3	133	8	16	24
<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>	792	73	225	184	75	557	52	NA	52	45	654	30	108	138
<b>MENTAL RETARDATION</b>	96	4	21	28	9	62	8	NA	8	7	77	7	12	19
IQ = 60 or Less	2		1			1					1	1		1
IQ = 61 to 65	94	4	20	28	9	61	8		8	7	76	6	12	18
<b>SEX OFFENDER SERVICE</b>	265	52	101	26	17	196	22	NA	22	12	230	11	24	35
Violent Sex Ofender	176	50	64	9	12	135	8		8	8	151	5	20	25
Non Violent Sex Offender	89	2	37	17	5	61	14		14	4	79	6	4	10
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>	726	59	186	175	67	487	80	NA	80	33	600	34	92	126
Emotionally Disturbed	494	23	135	125	48	331	51		51	24	406	26	62	88
Learning Disabled	178	25	39	40	13	117	22		22	8	147	5	26	31
Mentally Retarded	19		5	4	3	12	3		3	1	16	2	1	3
Physically Impaired	5	1	1		2	4	1		1		5			
Multiply Handicapped	30	10	6	6	1	23	3		3		26	1	3	4
<b>SUBSTANCE ABUSE</b>	1486	205	383	339	107	1034	101	NA	101	64	1199	73	214	287

# Screening was not performed for every custody entry and youth may have more than one need. Therefore, column sums will not equal "Total in Care."

Native Americans and Asians each comprised less than one percent of the in-custody population.

Among residents of secure settings, Non-Latino White youth were under-represented. African-American Latino youth were under-represented among residents of both replacement and cooperating voluntary agencies and over-represented in day programs. Cooperating agencies had an over-representation of Non-Latino White youth.

The only other substantial deviations from the overall race-ethnicity distribution were the under-representation of Other Latinos and African-American Latinos among residents of replacement voluntary agencies.

**Responsible County.** Over half (58%) of all youth in custody at the end of 1992 were adjudicated in the five boroughs of New York City. Kings County (Brooklyn) accounted for 20 percent of all youth in custody and over a third of the New York City total. Other counties accounting for five or more percent of youth in custody were: New York (Manhattan) (13%), Queens (12%), Bronx (10%), Monroe (7%) and Nassau (6%).

Although 31 percent of all youth in custody were adjudicated in Bronx and Kings Counties, these two counties accounted for 57 percent of all secure center residents. Youth adjudicated in Albany, Dutchess, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, Oneida and Schenectady Counties were under-represented among residents of secure centers.

As previously discussed, great inter-county variability exists with respect to the use of voluntary agencies. Furthermore, any differences between admitted and end-of-year populations will largely be a function of the duration of initial placements.

The most frequent pattern of deviation from the overall county distribution of youth in custody involved those cases where a county had the expected number of youth in cooperating agencies, but less than the expected number of youth in replacement agencies. Six counties had this pattern: Dutchess, Erie, Oneida, Onondaga, Schenectady and Suffolk.

Niagara County was over-represented among youth in cooperating agencies, but under-represented among replacements.

Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens and Richmond Counties all were under-represented among youth in cooperating voluntary agencies, but had the expected number of replacements.

**Placement type.** "Court to DFY" accounted for 82 percent of the placements among youth in custody at the end of 1992. "Replacements" to voluntary agencies accounted for another 17 percent. No other type (see Glossary) accounted for even one percent. By definition, all replacements reside in replacement voluntary settings. It has been customary for all Interstate Compact youth to be admitted to community care.

**Adjudication.** Forty percent of the youth in custody at the end of 1992 were adjudicated as JD III. JD IIIs with 60-day options accounted for another ten percent. JD II was the second most frequent adjudication (26%), followed by PINS (10%) and JO (9%). Taken together, JDs of all kinds [RJD, JD II, III and III(60)] made up 77 percent of youth in custody. Combined with PINS and JOs, the three groups accounted for 99 percent of youth in custody.

As described in Chapter I, adjudication constrains service setting placement such that proportional distributions of adjudications across all service settings cannot be expected.

**Most Serious Offense.** The most prevalent offense type among youth in custody at the end of 1992 was Crimes Against Property (37%), with the most prevalent category within this offense type being Larceny (12%). The next most frequent category within this crime type was Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle (9%). Crimes Against Persons accounted for 34 percent of the in-care population. Accounting for 14 percent of all youth in custody, robbery was the most prevalent category within this crime type. The next most frequent offense type was Controlled Substance offenses (11%). Status Offenses made up 11 percent of youth in custody and "Other Crimes", 7 percent.

As described in Chapter I, because specific crime categories are related to adjudication, they are not proportionally distributed over initial service settings. This difference is mitigated in the in-custody population because youth initially admitted to high control level settings who demonstrate progress are reintegrated into their home communities through stays in programs with lower levels of control. Conversely, some youth insufficiently controlled at their initial level can, through a variety of procedures, be moved to a more restrictive setting. Thus, at any point in time following initial admission, where a youth is located will be the product of his legal characteristics at admission plus his subsequent behavior while in custody.

**Service Needs.** As described in Chapter I, systematic screening of each youth entering custody is not done for replacement and Interstate Compact cases who do not go to DFY residential settings. Nevertheless, by the end of 1992, 80 percent of all youth in custody and 95 percent of non-replacement youth had been screened at entry. Of the 2,767 youth screened, 79 percent had at least one special need at intake. Forty percent had from two to six needs.

Over half the youth screened (54%) indicated **substance use or involvement** to the degree that assessment for intervention services was warranted. Twenty-nine percent of the youth screened had evidence of past or current **mental health** treatment. Twenty-seven percent had been on the **special education** registers of their home schools. Ten percent had presented a history of **sex offenses** severe enough to warrant more formal assessment for intervention services.

The **English language proficiency** of six percent of the youth was so limited as to warrant assessment for the appropriateness of English as a second language instruction. The vast majority of such youth spoke Spanish as their primary language.

Four percent of those in custody required **on-site medical personnel** and an additional three percent required access to an **off-site medical specialist** for pre-existing conditions. Four percent of the screened youth were **mentally retarded** according to State Education Department criteria. Twenty-three females screened **pregnant** at intake. One youth required a **wheel chair accessible facility** at custody entry.

Among secure center residents, youth needing further assessment for **limited English** were over-represented, while youth in need of access to a **medical specialist** and those in need of **special education** services for emotional disturbance, **mental retardation** services and non-violent **sex offender** services were under-represented. Among those residing in non-community based centers, youth in need of violent **sex offender** services and youth in need of **limited English** assessment were under-represented.

Although replacement cases do not have to be screened, these screens are administered to youth who are cooperatively placed. Youth who screened as needing further assessment for **limited English** were under-represented among the end-of-year cooperating voluntary populations. Community care had fewer youth needing services for non-violent **sex offenders** than was expected, while day programs had fewer youth in need of an **on-site medical specialist** than was expected.



### CHAPTER III. MOVEMENTS BETWEEN AND WITHIN SERVICE SETTINGS

#### YOUTH MOVEMENTS - 1991

Table 5A depicts the over 9,100 permanent movements into, out of, between and within service settings in 1991. Temporary moves, usually in connection with court appearances or in-transit stays, are excluded.

Of all permanent moves, 25 percent were admissions to custody and 30 percent were discharges from custody. This left 4,109 youth movements while in custody. Sixty-four percent of these moves were between service sectors (DFY-operated residential programs, voluntary agencies, foster care and non-residential programs) and 36 percent between programs within service sectors.

**Movements between Service Sectors.** The largest number of movements between sectors (63 percent of all such moves) was from DFY residential to non-residential settings. Specifically, 1,424 youth moved from a DFY-operated center or home to community care and 244 youth to day programs (Independent Living, Evening Reporting Centers, Home-based Intensive Supervision, and Sports Academy) in 1991. These movements represent an ideal service sequence wherein youth move from supervised residential settings to supervised living in their home communities in preparation for discharge from custody.

Unfortunately, though not unexpectedly, these trials at living at home do not always work out. In such cases, a youth may re-enter a residential setting. There were 374 such returns to DFY residential settings in 1991. Of these returns, 304 came from community care and 70 from other non-residential programs.

Another seven percent of inter-sector movements were from voluntary agencies to DFY residential settings. Nearly two-thirds (66%) of the 174 youth with such moves went from cooperating agencies to DFY residential settings. The remaining 34% of these moves were of youth from replacement agencies transferring into a DFY residential setting. The Division, for its part, sent 41 youth (2% of all inter-sector moves) from its residential settings to cooperating agencies.

The next largest type (4%) of inter-sector movements was from voluntary agencies to non-residential settings. DFY offers voluntary agencies the option of having the Division provide post-residential treatment and supervision to youth deemed no longer in need of agency-operated residential care. While many agencies provide their own post-residential services, community care and other non-residential programs received 75 youth from cooperating and 43 youth from replacement agencies in 1991. These transfers represent 40% of the youth released (to non-residential settings) or discharged from cooperating agencies and 15 percent of those released or discharged from replacement agencies.

An examination of total population movements sheds light on the relationship between youth directly served by DFY and those served by voluntary agencies. Of the 254 youth who entered cooperating agencies in 1991, 190 (75%) came as

TABLE 5A: MOVEMENT ACTIVITY INTO, OUT OF, AND WITHIN SERVICE SETTING - 1991 \*

ORIGIN	DESTINATION											CUSTODY EXITS	
	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES						NON RESIDENTIAL						
	DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCY		FOSTER CARE		COMM. CARE	COMM. CARE & DAY		DAY PROGRAM
	SECURE	LTD.SEC.	NON-SECURE			COOP	REPL.	ONLY	& DAY				
		NON COMM	COMM.	COMM+DAY									
SECURE	60	20	2	1				1		5			171
LIMITED SECURE	23	115	35	227		8		31	8	591		78	132
NON-SECURE NON-COMM. BASED	2	79	83	254		23		35	5	602	1	124	74
NON-SECURE COMM. BASED	9	135	143	66		8	1	34	9	226		42	177
COMM. BASED AND DAY PROGRAM		1										2	
VOL. COOPERATIVE PLACEMENT	2	37	65	7		4		3		75			112
VOLUNTARY REPLACEMENT	1	29	28	1		9	5	1		42		1	251
FOSTER CARE	1	16	26	23		2		110	12	39		3	45
FOSTER CARE AND DAY PROGRAM		7	3	1				4	16	2			
COMMUNITY CARE	21	93	105	52		10	2	33		2		9	1726
COMM. CARE AND DAY PROGRAM													
DAY PROGRAM		17	32	15	3			1	2	46		3	39
CUSTODY ENTRIES	245	628	772	33		190	397	13		20		3	

\* Reflects only permanent movements

direct custody entries, 41 (16%) were transferred from DFY-operated residential programs and foster care, 13 (5%) were transferred from other voluntary agencies and 10 (4%) returned after being released to community care. The comparable numbers for replacement youth were 405 total entries, 397 (98%) direct entries, one from DFY residential programs, 5 (1%) transferred from other agencies and 2 from community care.

The picture of youth leaving voluntary agencies is quite different. Of the 305 youth who left cooperating agencies in 1991, only 112 (37%) were direct discharges, 114 (37%) went to DFY residential programs or foster care, 75 (25%) went to community care and 4 (1%) to other voluntary agencies. Of the 368 replacement youth leaving, 251 (68%) were direct discharges, 60 (16%) went to DFY residential, 43 (12%) went to non-residential programs and 14 (4%) to other agencies.

Thus, not only did DFY provide post-residential treatment and supervision for 18 percent of the 673 youth who left voluntary agencies in 1991, it also provided additional residential treatment for another 26 percent of the youth who left these agencies. In short, it would be incorrect to assume that the 26 percent of all custody entries in 1991 admitted to voluntary agencies placed little or no demand on Division resources. In fact, based on movements, DFY provided service to 62% of the youth who left cooperating agencies in 1991 and 28% of the replacement youth who left. By contrast, of the 6,163 moves out of DFY residential programs in 1991, only 54 (1%) went to voluntary agencies.

**Movements within Service Sectors.** Of the 4,109 in-custody movements, 31 percent were between or within DFY-operated residential service settings, 3 percent were within foster care, 1 percent between or within non-residential service settings, and less than 1 percent between or within voluntary agency settings.

Of the 1,255 movements within DFY-operated residential settings, 43 percent were moves from a higher to a lower control level. Such moves follow the ideal rehabilitative pattern, where, as youth progress, they are served in less restrictive programs.

Twenty-six percent of the DFY-operated residential moves were between programs within the same service setting. For example, 66 youth were transferred from one community-based home to another during 1991.

Youth who moved from a setting at a lower control level to one at a higher level made up 31 percent of the movements within DFY-operated residential settings. Such moves usually occur when it is determined that a particular control level does not provide sufficient custody or security to protect the youth, the staff or the community.

## YOUTH MOVEMENTS - 1992

Table 5B depicts the more than 8,500 permanent movements into, out of, between and within service settings in 1992. Temporary moves, usually in connection with court appearances or in-transit stays, are excluded.

Of all permanent moves, 27 percent were admissions to custody and 26 percent were discharges from custody. This left 4,000 youth movements while in custody. Fifty-nine percent of these moves were between service sectors (DFY-operated residential programs, voluntary agencies, foster care and non-residential programs) and 41 percent were between programs within service sectors.

**Movements between Service Sectors.** The largest number of movements between sectors (61 percent of all such moves) was from DFY residential to non-residential settings. Specifically, 971 youth moved from a DFY-operated residential program to community care and 457 youth from a DFY-operated residential program to day programs (Independent Living, Evening Reporting Centers, Home-based Intensive Supervision, In-home Intensive Treatment and Supervision, Sports Academy, and Youth Leadership Graduates) in 1992. Fourteen youth moved from a DFY-operated center to both community care and a day program. These movements represent an ideal service sequence wherein youth move from supervised residential settings to supervised living in their home communities in preparation for discharge from custody.

Unfortunately, though not unexpectedly, these trials at living at home do not always work out. In such cases, a youth may re-enter a residential setting. There were 380 such returns to DFY residential settings in 1992. Of these returns, 207 came from community care, 168 from other non-residential programs, and five from both community care and day programs.

Another seven percent of inter-sector movements were from voluntary agencies to DFY residential settings. Nearly two-thirds (61%) of the 155 youth with such moves went from cooperating agencies to DFY residential settings. The remaining 39% of these moves were of youth from replacement agencies transferring into a DFY residential setting. The Division, for its part, sent 25 youth (one percent of all inter-sector moves) from its residential settings to cooperating agencies.

The next largest type (3%) of inter-sector movements was from voluntary agencies to non-residential settings. DFY offers voluntary agencies the option of having the Division provide post-residential treatment and supervision to youth deemed no longer in need of agency-operated residential care. While many agencies provide their own post-residential services, community care and other non-residential programs received 49 youth from cooperating and 22 youth from replacement agencies in 1992. These transfers represent 40 percent of the youth released (to non-residential settings) or discharged from cooperating agencies and 7 percent of those released or discharged from replacement agencies.

An examination of total population movements sheds light on the relationship between youth directly served by DFY and those served by voluntary agencies. Of the 249 entries to cooperating agencies in 1992, 208 (84%) came as direct custody entries, 25 (10%) were transfers from DFY-operated residential programs and foster care, 9 (4%) were transfers from other voluntary agencies and 7 (3%) were returned after being released to community care. Of the 514 admissions to

TABLE 5B: MOVEMENT ACTIVITY INTO, OUT OF, AND WITHIN SERVICE SETTING - 1992 \*

ORIGIN	DESTINATION												
	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES								NON RESIDENTIAL			CUSTODY EXITS	
	DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCY			COMM. CARE	COMM. CARE & DAY	DAY PROGRAM		
	SECURE	LTD.SEC.	NON-SECURE			COOP	REPL	FOSTER CARE					
NON COMM			COMM.	COMM+DAY	ONLY			& DAY					
SECURE	49	22	4	2					2			229	
LIMITED SECURE	26	76	47	269		6		37	18	410	3	155	150
NON-SECURE NON-COMM. BASED	2	77	88	284		7		41	15	406	11	248	75
NON-SECURE COMM. BASED	5	118	144	54		9		18	18	153		54	170
COMM. BASED AND DAY PROGRAM				1	1				2				
VOL. COOPERATIVE PLACEMENT		29	53	4		3		8	1	47		2	72
VOLUNTARY REPLACEMENT		27	31	1		6	7	1		20		2	273
FOSTER CARE		13	27	20		2		96	26	19		5	51
FOSTER CARE AND DAY PROGRAM		22	8	9	3	1		27	40	1	1	3	3
COMMUNITY CARE	5	60	82	35		6		24	1	6		8	1083
COMM. CARE AND DAY PROGRAM			4						1				6
DAY PROGRAM	3	48	47	48	4	1		1	17	131		21	93
CUSTODY ENTRIES	288	643	599	15		208	507	12		40		11	

\* Reflects only permanent movements

replacement agencies, 507 (99%) were direct entries, and 7 (1%) were transfers from other agencies.

The picture of youth leaving voluntary agencies is quite different. Of the 219 moves out of cooperating agencies in 1992, only 72 (33%) were direct discharges, 95 (43%) went to DFY residential programs or foster care, 49 (22%) went to non-residential programs and 3 (1%) to other voluntary agencies. Of the 368 moves out of replacement status, 273 (74%) were direct discharges, 60 (16%) went to DFY residential, 22 (6%) went to non-residential programs and 13 (4%) to other agencies.

Thus, not only did DFY provide post-residential treatment and supervision for 12 percent of the 587 youth who left voluntary agencies in 1992, it also provided additional residential treatment for another 26 percent of the youth who left these agencies. In short, it would be incorrect to assume that the 31 percent of all custody entries in 1992 admitted to voluntary agencies placed little or no demand on Division resources. In fact, based on movements, DFY provided service to 66% of the youth who left cooperating agencies in 1992 and 22% of the replacement youth who left. By contrast, of the 5,618 moves out of DFY-operated programs in 1992, only 32 (1%) went to voluntary agencies for service.

**Movements within Service Sectors.** Of the 4,000 in-custody movements, 32 percent were between or within DFY-operated residential service settings, 5 percent were within foster care, 4 percent between or within non-residential service settings, and less than one percent between or within voluntary agency settings.

Of the 1,269 movements within DFY-operated residential settings, 49 percent were moves from a higher to a lower control level. Such moves follow the ideal rehabilitative pattern, where, as youth progress, they are served in less restrictive programs.

Twenty-one percent of the DFY-operated residential moves were between programs within the same service setting. For example, 54 youth were transferred from one community-based home to another during 1992.

Youth who moved from a setting at a lower control level to one at a higher level made up 29 percent of the movements within DFY-operated residential settings. Such moves usually occur when it is determined that a particular control level does not provide sufficient custody or security to protect the youth, the staff or the community.

## CHAPTER IV. YOUTH DISCHARGED FROM DFY CUSTODY

### FIVE-YEAR TRENDS IN LENGTH OF STAY (LOS)

The five-year trends of personal characteristics of discharges are simply a function of earlier admission trends (described in Chapter I) and the length of time youth with various characteristics spend in DFY custody. In this section, then, five-year trends in the length of time youth spend in custody are discussed.

It is DFY policy to retain a youth in custody for the maximum length permitted by the placement order. Therefore, except for youth with multiple placement orders or court-ordered extensions of placement, total custody LOS is identical to the duration of the placement order minus any time spent in detention that the judge credits to the youth.

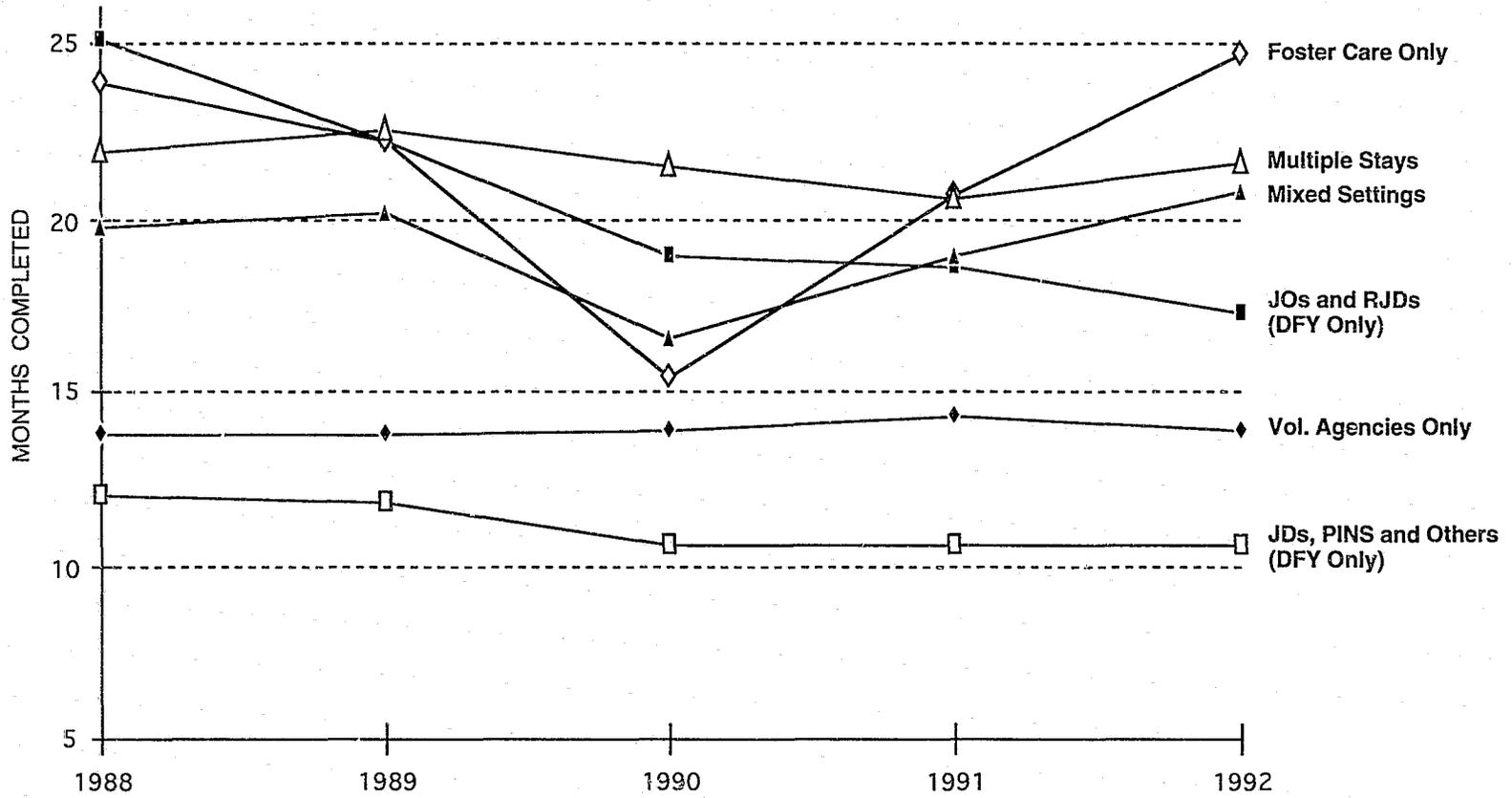
Except for JOs, who have fixed terms of incarceration, not all of a youth's time in custody is spent in residential settings. Youth judged to be making rapid progress require shorter periods of residential treatment before release to community care. Youth with more difficult problems receive more residential treatment and can even have their court orders extended to accommodate lengths of service beyond the duration of their original placement. Thus, residential LOS becomes very important for understanding system operation, especially for JDs, PINS and Others. While JDs may have a required minimum LOS, this mandated LOS cannot exceed six months, and the Division, therefore, maintains much greater latitude over lengths of service for these youth. JOs and RJDs, on the other hand, have legally mandated minimum residential LOSs of a longer duration, and the Division has little latitude in selecting the most appropriate service setting for them; in fact, JOs must spend their *entire* residential stay with the Division in a secure center, and RJDs initially enter a secure setting for a required minimum amount of time.

Residential LOS is also affected by administrative and legal factors. In addition to youth characteristics, therefore, any meaningful discussion of LOS must take account of factors which artificially constrain LOS. For JDs and PINS served by a voluntary agency, either as a court-ordered replacement or as part of an agreement with the Division, DFY has no direct control over the youth's residential LOS. In addition, as seen in Chapter III, youth can transfer between DFY and voluntary agency-operated services in either direction, thereby having only part of their residential LOS under the control of DFY.

A further consideration in analyzing LOS arises when a youth has more than one residential stay while in custody. Typically, this occurs when a youth is released to a non-residential setting, has difficulty meeting the demands of these settings, and must be returned to residential care.

For these reasons, residential LOS trends have been displayed separately for each frequently occurring youth status (Figure 12). JOs and RJDs with legally restricted residential stays in secure settings, served only in DFY-operated programs are in Table 6A. JDs, PINS and Others with residential stays only in DFY centers are in Table 6B. Youth served only in voluntary agency programs are in Table 6C. Youth served only in foster care make up Table 6D. Table 6E shows youth served in any combination of DFY and voluntary agency programs. Finally,

FIGURE 12: MEAN NUMBER OF MONTHS OF RESIDENTIAL STAY BY SERVICE CATEGORY 1988-1992



**TABLE 6 A: NUMBER OF YOUTH BY LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENTIAL STAY AND YEAR FOR DISCHARGED JOs AND RJDs SERVED ONLY IN DFY CENTERS**

MONTHS COMPLETED	YEAR DISCHARGED				
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
< 3 MONTHS	16	26	25	27	30
3-5 MONTHS	7	17	20	17	21
6-8 MONTHS	14	9	13	22	22
9-11 MONTHS	20	11	14	13	28
12-14 MONTHS	12	14	9	16	18
15-17 MONTHS	23	9	10	12	27
18-23 MONTHS	18	31	19	20	33
24-29 MONTHS	35	22	12	20	20
30 OR MORE MONTHS	77	55	40	34	34
MEAN	25.2	22.3	19.0	18.6	17.3
MEDIAN	24.2	19.3	14.6	14.3	14.3
NUMBER OF YOUTH	222	194	162	181	233

**TABLE 6 B: NUMBER OF YOUTH BY LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENTIAL STAY AND YEAR FOR DISCHARGED JDs, PINS AND OTHERS SERVED ONLY IN DFY CENTERS**

MONTHS COMPLETED	YEAR DISCHARGED				
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
< 3 MONTHS	44	37	27	32	38
3-5 MONTHS	63	76	208	275	163
6-8 MONTHS	250	293	307	416	327
9-11 MONTHS	274	227	219	346	295
12-14 MONTHS	150	150	79	154	90
15-17 MONTHS	100	84	57	100	94
18-23 MONTHS	98	89	90	87	51
24-29 MONTHS	35	42	28	39	22
30 OR MORE MONTHS	20	22	20	20	22
MEAN	12.0	11.8	10.6	10.5	10.5
MEDIAN	10.8	10.5	8.6	9.1	9.2
NUMBER OF YOUTH	1034	1020	1035	1469	1102

**TABLE 6 C: NUMBER OF YOUTH BY LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENTIAL STAY AND YEAR FOR YOUTH SERVED ONLY BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES**

MONTHS COMPLETED	YEAR DISCHARGED				
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
< 3 MONTHS	35	19	21	12	17
3-5 MONTHS	30	33	19	22	20
6-8 MONTHS	28	30	35	29	23
9-11 MONTHS	131	176	181	188	168
12-14 MONTHS	73	66	52	64	49
15-17 MONTHS	57	89	67	61	50
18-23 MONTHS	38	38	35	38	29
24-29 MONTHS	18	17	15	19	14
30 OR MORE MONTHS	24	21	20	21	19
MEAN	13.8	13.7	13.9	14.1	13.9
MEDIAN	12.0	11.9	11.8	11.9	11.8
NUMBER OF YOUTH	434	469	445	454	389

**TABLE 6 D: NUMBER OF YOUTH BY LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENTIAL STAY AND YEAR FOR DISCHARGED YOUTH SERVED ONLY IN FOSTER CARE**

MONTHS COMPLETED	YEAR DISCHARGED				
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
< 3 MONTHS	2	0	1	2	0
3-5 MONTHS	5	0	6	0	1
6-8 MONTHS	1	4	1	0	0
9-11 MONTHS	4	3	0	4	1
12-14 MONTHS	2	2	1	2	0
15-17 MONTHS	2	0	1	0	1
18-23 MONTHS	5	4	0	0	2
24-29 MONTHS	1	3	3	0	1
30 OR MORE MONTHS	7	4	2	2	2
MEAN	23.9	22.3	15.4	20.7	24.7
MEDIAN	15.6	19.0	7.1	11.0	21.5
NUMBER OF YOUTH	29	20	15	10	8

**TABLE 6 E: NUMBER OF YOUTH BY LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENTIAL STAY AND YEAR FOR DISCHARGED YOUTH SERVED IN ANY COMBINATION OF DFY AND VOLUNTARY AGENCY PROGRAMS**

MONTHS COMPLETED	YEAR DISCHARGED				
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
< 3 MONTHS	2	0	2	1	0
3-5 MONTHS	5	4	6	4	2
6-8 MONTHS	13	13	21	21	18
9-11 MONTHS	41	33	44	51	28
12-14 MONTHS	35	36	36	35	29
15-17 MONTHS	25	26	26	33	27
18-23 MONTHS	49	46	27	41	48
24-29 MONTHS	24	30	18	25	20
30 OR MORE MONTHS	38	31	16	32	39
MEAN	19.8	20.2	16.6	18.8	20.8
MEDIAN	17.4	17.4	14.3	15.8	18.2
NUMBER OF YOUTH	232	219	196	243	211

**TABLE 6 F: NUMBER OF YOUTH BY LENGTH OF CUMULATIVE RESIDENTIAL STAY AND YEAR FOR DISCHARGED YOUTH WHO HAD MORE THAN ONE RESIDENTIAL STAY DURING CUSTODY**

MONTHS COMPLETED	YEAR DISCHARGED				
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
< 3 MONTHS	2	0	0	0	0
3-5 MONTHS	2	3	1	1	2
6-8 MONTHS	9	6	12	15	7
9-11 MONTHS	13	18	23	43	29
12-14 MONTHS	20	22	30	61	29
15-17 MONTHS	33	29	26	59	37
18-23 MONTHS	70	73	44	77	54
24-29 MONTHS	42	43	30	41	30
30 OR MORE MONTHS	37	46	43	55	44
MEAN	21.9	22.6	21.5	20.5	21.7
MEDIAN	21.0	21.6	19.1	17.9	19.2
NUMBER OF YOUTH	228	240	209	352	232

youth with more than one residential stay during custody are shown in Table 6F. Because the duration of these second episodes of residential care are typically much shorter than initial stays, to include them in the calculation of overall residential LOS would result in an artificially shortened aggregate figure.

**JOs and RJDs served only in DFY centers.** The number of youth discharged from 1988 to 1992 with restricted LOSs (JOs and RJDs) rose slightly. Between 1988 and 1991 this number had declined, but rose again in 1992, most likely a result of the sustained increase in JO admissions over the last several years.

Both mean and median (see Glossary) residential LOS continually decreased from 1988 to 1992. The average LOS of youth discharged in 1988 was over two years; by 1992, the average LOS of discharges was just under a year and a half. During this period, median LOS declined by almost ten months.

In 1992, the typical youth with a restricted LOS received residential care for 17 months. However, the median indicates that half the youth discharged received residential service for 14.3 months or less.

**JDs, PINS and Others served only in DFY centers.** The number of discharged youth with unrestricted LOSs (JDs, PINS, etc.), who received all of their residential service in DFY centers and homes, increased 7 percent from 1988 to 1992. With the exception of 1991, the number of such admissions was very stable throughout the five year period .

Like youth with restricted LOSs, mean and median residential LOS for this group also declined from 1988 to 1992. In 1988, the average length of stay was 12.0 months; by 1992, this figure was 10.5 months.

**Youth served only in voluntary agencies.** The picture for youth discharged after residential stays solely in voluntary agency programs is much more static than the one for youth served only in DFY-operated centers and homes. Between 1988 and 1991, the number of discharges of youth in this group ranged between 434 (1988) and 469 (1991). However, in 1992, this number dropped to 389, representing a 10 percent decrease from 1988.

Compared to youth with unrestricted LOSs served only in DFY centers and homes, youth served only in voluntary agencies stayed an average of two months longer in 1988 and 1989. In 1990, this LOS discrepancy rose to over three months, and has remained at this level through 1992.

**Youth served only in foster care.** Although the number of discharges of youth in this group in any year is small, they have very different characteristics (including LOS) from youth served in other settings. The number of youth discharged in this group declined from 29 in 1988 to only 8 in 1992.

Partly due to the small number of cases each year, the trend for foster care LOS is not as clear as for the more frequently utilized service categories. With the exception of 1990, the average LOS for this group has been over 20 months each year. The considerable fluctuation in median LOS is largely due to the small number of cases involved. In 1992, youth served only in foster homes stayed

roughly 14 months longer than youth with unrestricted LOSs served only in DFY centers and homes.

**Youth who received mixed residential services.** The number of youth discharged after residential stays in combinations of DFY centers, foster care and voluntary agency programs has fluctuated between 196 (1990) and 243 (1991) over the five year period.

From 1988 to 1992, the mean residential LOS increased five percent for this group. While the mean LOS for this group was 20 months in 1988 and 1989, it declined steeply to 16.5 in 1990. In 1991 this figure rose again to approximately 19 months and further to 21 months in 1992.

Because youth served in mixed settings have usually first had an unsuccessful stint in a voluntary agency and then been transferred to a DFY center, it is not surprising that their LOSs tend to be longer than either of the groups served in only one service sector. In 1992, the continuous residential LOS of youth served in mixed residential settings averaged almost seven months longer than youth served only in voluntary agency programs and 10 months longer than youth served only in DFY centers and homes.

**Youth with more than one residential stay during custody.** The number of youth discharged after more than one residential stay during their custody episode remained relatively stable between 1988 and 1992 with the exception of 1991. This number ranged between 209 and 240, except for 1991 when this figure temporarily jumped to 352.

It should be noted that the long LOSs of youth with more than one residential stay are not products of unilateral decisions on the part of DFY. To achieve even the reduced 1992 median LOS of 19 months required court intervention for half the JDs and PINS, either through formal extensions of placement or as the result of readjudication proceedings.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH DISCHARGED FROM CUSTODY IN 1991

There were 2,727 youth discharged from DFY custody in 1991. Table 7A provides the supporting data for the discussion that follows.

**Service setting.** The last service setting prior to discharge was community care for 63 percent of the youth discharged in 1991. DFY-operated residential settings accounted for another 20 percent. Replacement discharges were another nine percent; cooperating agencies, four percent; foster care, two percent; and day services, one percent.

Within residential settings, secure centers and community-based homes each discharged six percent. Limited secure discharged an additional five percent and non-community based discharged three percent.

**Gender.** Overall, females made up nearly 14 percent of all youth discharged in 1991. However, females made up only six percent of the youth discharged from secure centers.

**Age.** The average age of youth discharged in 1991 was 16.8 years old. The median age of discharges was 16.9 (36% were 16). Twenty-eight percent were 17, while 15 and 18 year-olds made up another 14 percent each. Seven percent of the youth were less than 15 years old and the remaining two percent were over 18.

Among discharges from all DFY-operated residential settings, 18 year-olds were over-represented in limited secure and community-based settings. In addition, 15 and 16 year-olds were under-represented among youth discharged from community-based homes. Fourteen year-olds discharged from secure centers were under-represented.

Fifteen, sixteen, and eighteen year-olds were also under-represented among discharges from foster care. Those youth twenty and over were under-represented among discharges from community care.

**Race-ethnicity.** Non-Latino African-American youth made up over half (53%) of the discharges during 1991. Non-Latino Whites constituted 25 percent and Latino youth, regardless of race, comprised 20 percent of the discharged population. Seventeen Native Americans and fifteen Asians were discharged. Forty youth who were discharged did not identify with any racial group.

As with admissions, the major deviation from overall discharges among those discharged from secure centers was that Non-Latino Whites were under-represented. Unspecified Latinos were under-represented among discharges from cooperating agencies.

**County of Residence.** The preceding chapters on custody entries and youth in care have focused on "Responsible" County, since this is the county where the youth is adjudicated and the county that assumes financial responsibility while the youth is in DFY. For discharges, it is more relevant to examine a youth's county of residence, since that is where s/he is most likely to live following discharge.

TABLE 7A: CHARACTERISTICS OF DISCHARGES FROM DFY CUSTODY - 1991 BY DISCHARGING SERVICE SETTING

	TOTAL DISCHARGES	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES			
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL FRESERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NONRES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
<b>TOTAL DISCHARGES</b>	2727	171	132	74	177	554	112	251	363	45	962	39	1726	1765
<b>GENDER</b>														
Males	2352	161	122	65	138	486	90	212	302	33	821	33	1498	1531
Females	375	10	10	9	39	68	22	39	61	12	141	6	228	234
<b>AGE AT DISCHARGE</b>														
11 - 13	45		3	4	2	9	6	14	20	1	30		15	15
14	138	3	9	8	6	26	8	20	28		54		84	84
15	378	24	15	13	7	59	16	54	70	2	131	8	239	247
16	969	47	47	18	31	143	57	80	137	8	288	8	673	681
17	766	40	21	13	33	107	17	54	71	7	185	14	567	581
18	373	27	37	18	97	179	8	27	35	24	238	6	134	140
19	22	7			1	8			2	1	11	2	9	11
20 and Over	31	23				23				2	25	1	5	6
Mean Age at Discharge	16.8	17.6	16.8	16.5	17.4	17.2	16.4	16.4	16.4	17.7	16.9	17.1	16.7	16.7
Median Age at Discharge	16.9	17.2	16.8	16.7	18.0	17.3	16.6	16.5	16.5	18.0	16.9	17.2	16.8	16.8
<b>RACE/Ethnicity</b>														
<b>AFRICAN-AMERICAN</b>	1527	105	78	25	102	310	41	130	171	26	507	26	994	1020
Non-Latino	1455	103	70	22	97	292	39	125	164	26	482	24	949	973
Latino	72	2	8	3	5	18	2	5	7		25	2	45	47
<b>WHITE</b>	956	35	39	35	43	152	68	95	163	15	330	13	613	626
Non-Latino	681	9	29	25	31	94	60	60	120	15	229	9	443	452
Latino	275	26	10	10	12	58	8	35	43		101	4	170	174
<b>LATINO: RACE UNSPECIFIED*</b>	116	12	9	8	26	55	1	3	4	2	61		55	55
<b>NATIVE AMERICAN</b>	17	2		1	2	5	2		2	1	8		9	9
<b>ASIAN</b>	15	1	1		3	5		2	2		7		8	8
<b>OTHER</b>	56	7	3	2		12		14	14	1	27		29	29
Non-Latino	12							3	3		3		9	9
Latino	44	7	3	2		12		11	11	1	24		20	20
<b>NOT SPECIFIED BY YOUTH</b>	40	9	2	3	1	15		7	7		22		18	18
Non-Latino	11							6	6		6		5	5
Latino	29	9	2	3	1	15		1	1		16		13	13
<b>COUNTY OF RESIDENCE</b>														
<b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	1410	142	76	33	110	361	20	146	166	20	547	17	846	863
Bronx	260	38	16	12	19	85	4	17	21	2	108	12	140	152
Kings	591	61	43	13	41	158	2	33	35	9	202	4	385	389
New York	215	24	7	5	32	68	7	19	26	4	98		117	117
Queens	304	16	10	3	14	43	6	72	78	4	125	1	178	179
Richmond	40	3			4	7	1	5	6	1	14		26	26
<b>OTHER COUNTIES</b>	1303	27	55	41	65	188	92	105	197	25	410	22	871	893
Albany	60	3	1	1	4	9	6	3	9		18	3	39	42
Allegany	9						2		2		2		7	7
Broome	25		1		1	2			2		2		23	23
Cattaraugus	12						1		1	1	2		10	10
Cayuga	42		5	2	1	8	4		4	1	13		29	29
Chautauqua	11				1	1			1		1		10	10
Chemung	45				1	1	6		6	2	9		36	36
Chenango	5		1			1			1		1		4	4
Clinton	20	1	1	2	4	8			8		8		12	12
Columbia	5						1		1		1	1	3	4
Cortland	8						2		2	1	3		5	5

CONTINUED

\* Prior to 7/1/89 Latino ethnicity was not categorized by race.

TABLE 7A: Page 2

## DISCHARGING SERVICE SETTING - 1991

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	TOTAL DIS-CHARGES	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES			
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RES SERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
Delaware	1											1	1	
Dutchess	37		1		2	3	1	1		4	5	28	33	
Erie	86	1	2	2	7	12	7	7		8		59	59	
Essex	2			1		1				1		1	1	
Franklin	3			1		1				1		2	2	
Fulton	14	1		1	1	3	3	3		6		8	8	
Genesee	5		1		1	2				2		3	3	
Greene	7			1		1	1	1		2		5	5	
Hamilton														
Herkimer	6			1		1	1	1		2		4	4	
Jefferson	9		1			1				1		8	8	
Lewis	6			1		1	1	1		2	1	3	4	
Livingston	5									1		4	4	
Madison	7		1	1	1	3				3		4	4	
Monroe	183	3	7	4	10	24	8	9	17	41	4	138	142	
Montgomery	6			1		1				1		5	5	
Nassau	181	1	3	1	9	14	10	87	97	2	2	66	68	
Niagara	41		2	1	1	4	5		5	3		29	29	
Oneida	64		1	2	3	6	6		6	1		51	51	
Onondaga	53	4	3	3	1	11	4	1	5	16	3	34	37	
Ontario	7				1	1				1		6	6	
Orange	27	2				2				2	1	24	25	
Orleans	3											3	3	
Oswego	13		1		1	2		1	1	3		10	10	
Otsego	3											3	3	
Putnam														
Rensselaer	17	1	1	1	1	4		1	1	5		12	12	
Rockland	5		1	1		2	1		1	3		2	2	
St. Lawrence	3			1		1	1		1	2		1	1	
Saratoga	16		1	1		2	1		1	4		12	12	
Schenectady	23	1	1	2	2	6	6		6	13		10	10	
Schoharie	1											1	1	
Schuyler	8				1	1	2		2	3		5	5	
Seneca	6											6	6	
Steuben	16		1			1	1		1	2		14	14	
Suffolk	62	5	8	3	4	20	2	2	4	24		38	38	
Sullivan	13			2		2	1		1	4		9	9	
Tioga	14		2	1		3				4		10	10	
Tompkins	1		1			1				1		1	1	
Ulster	13		2		2	4				4	1	8	9	
Warren	4				1	1				2		2	2	
Washington	2											2	2	
Wayne	18	1	1	1	1	4	3	1	4	8		10	10	
Westchester	58	3	2	2	3	10	1		1	11	1	46	47	
Wyoming	11		2			2	4		4	6		5	5	
Yates	1											1	1	
INTERSTATE COMPACT	14	2	1		2	5				5		9	9	

CONTINUED

DISCHARGING SERVICE SETTING - 1991

	TOTAL DIS-CHARGES	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES			
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
<b>TOTAL DISCHARGES</b>	2727	171	132	74	177	554	112	251	363	45	962	39	1726	1765
<b>COMPLETED MONTHS OF STAY AT DISCHARGING FACILITY/PROGRAM</b>														
Less than 2 Months	552	24	39	29	87	179	7	3	10	4	193	17	342	359
2 Months	246	12	19	6	21	58	1	6	7	6	71	7	168	175
3 Months	240	13	12	8	12	45	2	8	10	2	57	7	176	183
4 Months	253	4	11	10	15	40	3	4	7	1	48		205	205
5 Months	284	7	9	3	18	37	3	6	9	5	51	4	229	233
6 Months	226	7	7	3	6	23	2	5	7	4	34	1	191	192
7 Months	146	11	8	2	2	23	3	6	9	2	34		112	112
8 Months	102	5	3	2	3	13	6	6	12	3	28		74	74
9 Months	108	4	5	1	5	15	7	12	19		34	1	73	74
10 Months	110	6	6	3	2	17	12	34	46	4	67		43	43
11 Months	162	6	4	2	1	13	28	76	104	2	119	1	42	43
12 Months	62	2	2	4	1	9	3	19	22		31		31	31
13-15 Months	83	20	3	1	3	27	11	20	31	6	64		19	19
16-18 Months	62	13	2			15	12	21	33	2	50		12	12
19-24 Months	43	18	1			19	4	14	18		37		6	6
More than 24 Months	48	19	1		1	21	8	11	19	4	44	1	3	4
<b>TOTAL FACILITY/PROGRAM MONTHS OF STAY</b>														
MEAN LENGTH OF STAY	6.5	12.8	5.1	4.2	3.3	6.8	12.6	12.5	12.5	10.1	9.1	3.6	5.2	5.2
MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY	5.3	9.7	3.7	3.1	2.1	3.8	11.5	11.6	11.5	7.6	7.7	2.3	4.9	4.9
<b>TOTAL RESIDENTIAL LENGTH OF STAY BY SERVICE CATEGORY</b>														
<b>NO RESIDENTIAL STAY</b>														
<b>JUVENILE OFFENDERS &amp; RJD</b>														
Mean length of Stay	18.6	17.6	22.1			17.6					17.6		37.4	37.4
Median length of Stay	14.3	13.5	22.1			13.6					13.6		39.4	39.4
Number of cases	181	170	2			172					172		9	9
<b>DFY SERVICE ONLY</b>														
Mean length of Stay	10.5	33.9	10.7	10.3	14.7	12.5					12.5	15.4	10.0	10.1
Median length of Stay	9.1	33.9	9.8	10.9	11.3	10.7					10.7	12.4	8.6	8.7
Number of cases	1469	1	98	53	121	273					273	24	1172	1196
<b>VOLUNTARY AGENCY ONLY</b>														
Mean length of Stay	14.1						14.5	13.7	13.9		13.9		14.8	14.8
Median length of Stay	11.9						11.9	11.7	11.8		11.8		13.7	13.7
Number of cases	454						91	250	341		341		113	113
<b>FOSTER CARE</b>														
Mean length of Stay	20.7									27.4	27.4		4.9	4.9
Median length of Stay	11.0									13.2	13.2		2.9	2.9
Number of cases	10									7	7		3	3
<b>MIXED (MORE THAN ONE OF THE ABOVE)</b>														
Mean length of Stay	18.8		18.4	17.5	22.0	20.2	22.0		22.0	25.3	22.1	21.9	17.1	17.3
Median length of Stay	15.8		18.3	12.0	20.5	18.9	18.8		18.8	22.8	20.0	20.0	14.6	14.6
Number of cases	243		9	9	23	41	15		15	23	79	8	156	164
<b>DISCONTINUOUS SERVICE</b>														
Mean length of Stay	20.5		20.7	15.2	21.4	20.1	19.9	16.4	19.4	25.2	20.9	22.2	20.4	20.4
Median length of Stay	17.9		18.0	9.7	17.3	17.3	15.4	16.4	16.4	24.5	18.0	17.0	17.8	17.8
Number of cases	352		23	12	33	68	6	1	7	15	90	7	255	262

CONTINUED

DISCHARGING SERVICE SETTING - 1991

	TOTAL DIS-CHARGES	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES				
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES				FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RES SERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL NON-RES SERVICES
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL	TOTAL						
				NON COMM	COMM.										
<b>TOTAL DISCHARGES</b>	2727	171	132	74	177	554	112	251	363	45	962	39	1726	1765	
<b>TOTAL NON-RESIDENTIAL COMPLETED MONTHS OF STAY</b>															
<b>NO NON-RESIDENTIAL STAY</b>	859	165	106	58	144	473	106	250	356	30	859				
Less than 2 Months	305	1	10	6	10	27	3		3	1	31	13	261	274	
2 Months	155		1	2	4	7				6	13	4	138	142	
3 Months	189	2	9	3	3	17	1		1	1	19	8	156	164	
4 Months	212		3	1	8	12				3	15	2	195	197	
5 Months	236	1	1		3	5					5	7	224	231	
6 Months	202			1		1		1	1	1	3	1	198	199	
7 Months	126		2		1	3	2		2		5		121	121	
8 Months	101			1	2	3				1	4	1	96	97	
9 Months	93	1		1		2					2	1	90	91	
10 Months	58			1		1					1		57	57	
11 Months	58												58	58	
12 Months	39												39	39	
13-15 Months	51				2	2				1	3	1	47	48	
16-18 Months	26	1				1				1	2		24	24	
19-24 Months	14												14	14	
More than 24 Months	9											1	8	9	
<b>TOTAL NON-RESIDENTIAL MONTHS OF STAY</b>															
MEAN LENGTH OF STAY	5.9	6.8	3.1	4.0	4.3	4.0	3.5	6.2	3.9	5.2	4.2	4.4	6.1	6.0	
MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY	5.4	4.2	3.3	3.0	3.9	3.4	1.6	6.2	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.1	5.5	5.5	
<b>TOTAL CUSTODY COMPLETED MONTHS OF STAY</b>															
Less than 2 Months	37	18	7	7	1	33	2	2	4		37				
2 Months	28	9	9	1	2	21		6	6		27		1	1	
3 Months	32	11	6	4	1	22		9	9		31	1	4	1	
4 Months	25	3	7	4	3	17	1	3	4		21		4	4	
5 Months	30	3	5	4	1	13	3	5	8		21		9	9	
6 Months	28	7	3	1	9	20		4	4		24		4	4	
7 Months	51	10	4	1	6	21	2	5	7	1	29	1	21	22	
8 Months	63	4	3	2	9	18	5	6	11		29	1	33	34	
9 Months	97	2	9	4	17	32	4	11	15		47	1	49	50	
10 Months	261	6	14	4	12	36	11	33	44	4	84	5	172	177	
11 Months	396	5	11	11	10	37	30	75	105	2	144	3	249	252	
12 Months	84	3	3	7	8	21	4	17	21	1	43	2	39	41	
13-15 Months	264	17	5	9	13	44	10	17	27	4	75	2	187	189	
16-18 Months	444	11	10	3	22	46	12	22	34	3	83	6	355	361	
19-24 Months	437	16	18	6	27	67	15	14	29	10	106	7	324	331	
More than 24 Months	450	46	18	6	36	106	13	22	35	20	151	10	279	289	
<b>TOTAL CUSTODY MONTHS OF STAY</b>															
MEAN LENGTH OF STAY	17.7	18.0	13.7	12.7	17.7	16.2	16.0	13.8	14.4	27.3	16.1	20.4	18.5	18.5	
MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY	15.6	13.6	11.0	11.3	15.0	12.3	12.0	11.7	11.8	23.9	12.0	17.5	16.6	16.6	

Over half (52%) of those youth discharged in 1991 resided in the five boroughs of New York City. Kings County (Brooklyn) accounted for 22 percent of all discharges and 42 percent of the New York City total. Other counties accounting for five or more percent of the discharges were: Queens (11%), Bronx (10%), New York (Manhattan) (8%), Monroe and Nassau (7% each).

Bronx, Kings and New York Counties accounted for 72 percent of all secure center discharges, yet only 39 percent of all youth discharged came from these three boroughs. Deviations from expected service setting proportions are difficult to detect reliably in counties with small DFY populations. In fact, due to this, among discharges from secure centers, only Bronx County was clearly over-represented. Erie, Monroe and Nassau County youth were under-represented among discharges from this setting. Among discharges from limited secure settings, youth from Nassau County were under-represented. Among non-community based center discharges, several notable deviations were found, including Queens and Nassau Counties which were under-represented, and Bronx County which was over-represented. New York County youth were over-represented among discharges from community-based programs.

Bronx, Kings and Queens Counties were under-represented among discharges from cooperating agencies. Among replacement discharges, Queens and Nassau were over-represented, while Erie and Suffolk were under-represented.

**Length of stay at discharging program.** On average, youth spent six and one-half months in the program from which they left DFY custody in 1991, with half leaving in less than five and one-half months. The conventional career of non-JO youth who initially enter DFY residential settings is to enter community care following one or more stays in progressively less controlled settings. Thus, those youth discharged from other than community care represent atypical service sequences and have greatly varying LOSs at their last program.

As discussed above, youth discharged from secure settings were likely to have spent nearly all of their placement at the facility from which they were discharged. Thus, it is not unexpected that youth discharged from secure centers had an average LOS at their last program of over six months longer than did all discharges combined. Spending most or all of their placement at the discharging facility is also typical for youth discharged from either type of voluntary agency.

Conversely, the shortest LOSs were among discharges from day programs, community-based homes and non-community based centers. The first two settings rarely serve as initial program assignments and function as brief transitional programs for youth returning to their communities.

**Total Residential LOS.** As discussed above in the section on "Five Year Trends," residential LOS must be disaggregated to be meaningfully analyzed.

Regardless of the service setting from which they were discharged, JDs, PINS and Others served only by DFY programs had the shortest total residential LOS. Youth in this service category discharged in 1991 stayed an average of ten and one-half months, with half leaving before nine months.

Youth with "Discontinuous Service" who were discharged after more than one residential stay and youth served only in foster care during custody had the longest residential LOSs. These groups averaged over 20 months of residential service.

**Total Non-residential LOS.** Disregarding the service setting from which they were discharged, youth who left DFY custody in 1991 spent an average of almost six months in non-residential programs during their custody stay, with half spending under five and one-half months. As would be expected, most of these discharges were from community care.

**Total Custody LOS.** Youth not adjudicated as a JO or RJD are typically placed with the Division for 12 or 18 months. As a matter of policy, DFY rarely exercises its legal prerogative to apply for premature termination of a placement. In some cases, the Division will seek an extension of placement for a youth. Thus, for the majority of youth who have either single or concurrent placements, total custody LOS is so constrained that it is less important than it appears to be at first glance. Nevertheless, total service time is instructive and is therefore included in the report.

Overall, youth discharged in 1991 were in custody an average of almost 18 months, with half having been discharged after 15 and one-half months or more of service. Youth leaving from foster care had the longest custody LOSs. They were, on average, in custody over 27 months.

Staying an average of just over a year, those discharged from non-community based centers had the shortest LOSs.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH DISCHARGED FROM CUSTODY IN 1992

There were 2,205 youth discharged from DFY custody in 1992. Table 7B provides the supporting data for the discussion that follows.

**Service setting.** The last service setting prior to discharge was community care for 49 percent of the youth discharged in 1992. DFY-operated residential settings accounted for another 28 percent. Replacement discharges were another 12 percent; day programs, 4 percent; cooperating agencies, 3 percent; and foster care, 2 percent.

Within residential settings, secure centers discharged ten percent and community-based homes, eight percent. Limited secure discharged an additional seven percent and non-community based discharged three percent.

**Gender.** While females made up nearly 12 percent of all youth discharged in 1992, they constituted only four percent of the youth discharged from secure centers. At the same time, females made up 33 percent of all foster care discharges.

**Age.** The average age of youth discharged in 1992 was 16.8 years old. The median age of discharges was 16.9 (32% were 16). Twenty-eight percent were 17, 16 percent were 18 year-olds and 15 year-olds made up another 15 percent. Six percent of the youth were less than 15 years old and the remaining two percent were over 18.

Among discharges from all DFY-operated residential settings, 18 year-olds were over-represented in foster care, while 15 and 16 year-olds were under-represented. In addition, 14, 16 and 17 year-olds were under-represented among youth discharged from community-based homes. Fourteen year-olds discharged from secure centers were under-represented.

Youth eighteen and over were under-represented among discharges from community care.

**Race-ethnicity.** Non-Latino African-American youth made up over half (55%) of the discharges during 1992. Non-Latino Whites constituted 20 percent and Latino youth, regardless of race, were 22 percent of the discharged population. Fourteen Asians and five Native Americans were discharged. Seven discharged youth did not identify with any racial group.

As with admissions, the major deviation among those discharged from secure centers was that Non-Latino Whites were under-represented. Non-Latino Whites were over-represented among discharges from cooperating agencies, while African-American Latinos were under-represented among replacement agencies. White Latinos were under-represented among foster care discharges, and Native Americans were under-represented among community care discharges.

TABLE 7B: CHARACTERISTICS OF DISCHARGES FROM DFY CUSTODY - 1992 BY DISCHARGING SERVICE SETTING

	TOTAL DIS-CHARGES	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES				
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES				FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESSERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL						
				NON COMM	COMM.										
<b>TOTAL DISCHARGES</b>	2205	229	150	75	170	624	72	273	345	54	1023	93	1089	1182	
<b>GENDEr</b>															
Males	1945	219	137	61	136	553	67	233	300	36	889	80	976	1056	
Females	260	10	13	14	34	71	5	40	45	18	134	13	113	126	
<b>AGE AT DISCHARGE</b>															
11 - 13	27				2	2	2	9	11		13		14	14	
14	114	4	7	7	3	21	7	28	35		56	4	54	58	
15	326	31	17	11	13	72	11	59	70	4	146	9	171	180	
16	714	61	38	25	28	152	26	91	117	4	273	33	408	441	
17	617	68	46	15	22	151	17	52	69	11	231	30	356	386	
18	356	36	41	17	102	196	6	31	37	30	263	16	77	93	
19	32	16				16	3	2	5	4	25	1	6	7	
20 and Over	19	13	1			14		1	1	1	16		3	3	
Mean Age at Discharge	16.8	17.4	17.1	16.7	17.4	17.2	16.6	16.4	16.4	17.9	17.0	16.9	16.7	16.7	
Median Age at Discharge	16.9	17.2	17.2	16.7	18.0	17.4	16.7	16.5	16.5	18.0	17.1	17.0	16.8	16.8	
<b>RACE/Ethnicity</b>															
<b>AFRICAN-AMERICAN</b>	1340	163	93	34	107	397	29	168	197	36	630	60	650	710	
Non-Latino	1219	140	83	30	100	353	27	166	193	34	580	56	583	639	
Latino	121	23	10	4	7	44	2	2	4	2	50	4	67	71	
<b>WHITE</b>	726	43	49	31	52	175	39	88	127	15	317	25	384	409	
Non-Latino	443	11	29	16	29	85	33	47	80	13	178	13	252	265	
Latino	283	32	20	15	23	90	6	41	47	2	139	12	132	144	
<b>LATINO: RACE UNSPECIFIED*</b>	27	4	2	5	6	17	1	1	2	1	20	1	6	7	
<b>NATIVE AMERICAN</b>	5		1		1	2			2		2	1	2	3	
<b>ASIAN</b>	15	3				3	1	1	2	2	7		8	8	
<b>OTHER</b>	78	12	4	5	3	24	1	10	11		35	5	38	43	
Non-Latino	23	4	1		2	7	1	2	3		10	1	12	13	
Latino	55	8	3	5	1	17		8	8		25	4	26	30	
<b>NOT SPECIFIED BY YOUTH</b>	14	4	1		1	6	1	5	6		12	1	1	2	
Non-Latino	7	3				3		4	4		7				
Latino	7	1	1		1	3	1	1	2		5	1	1	2	
<b>COUNTY OF RESIDENCE</b>															
<b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	1305	199	86	41	110	436	19	181	200	25	661	36	608	644	
Bronx	231	57	8	10	27	102	3	14	17	10	129	9	93	102	
Kings	534	87	49	16	38	190	7	31	38	6	234	18	282	300	
New York	200	29	11	7	29	76	3	14	17	4	97	4	99	103	
Queens	308	25	12	7	15	59	6	115	121	4	184	4	120	124	
Richmond	32	1	6	1	1	9		7	7	1	17	1	14	15	
<b>OTHER COUNTIES</b>	891	28	63	33	59	183	53	92	145	29	357	57	477	534	
Albany	51	4	5	2	4	15	2	3	5	1	21	3	27	30	
Allegany	8	1				1	3		3	1	5		3	3	
Broome	12			1		1			1		1		11	11	
Cattaraugus	7						1		1		1		6	6	
Cayuga	15						1		1	1	2		13	13	
Chautauqua	5									1	1		4	4	
Chemung	17				2	2					2		15	15	
Chenango	2												2	2	
Clinton	5			1	2	3					3		2	2	
Columbia	1												1	1	
Cortland	3												3	3	

CONTINUED

\* Prior to 7/1/89 Latino ethnicity was not categorized by race.

TABLE 7B: Page 2

DISCHARGING SERVICE SETTING - 1992

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	TOTAL DIS-CHARGES	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES								NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES				
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESSEFV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
Delaware	1											1	1	
Dutchess	25		4		5	9				1	10	4	11	15
Erie	53	1	4	3	7	15	2	1	3	11	29	6	18	24
Essex	2			1		1					1		1	1
Franklin	2												2	2
Fulton	13		2		2	4	2		2	2	8		5	5
Genesee														
Greene	5				1	1					1		4	4
Hamilton														
Herkimer	4		1		1	2					2		2	2
Jefferson	8		2			2					2		6	6
Lewis	1				1	1					1			
Livingston	2												2	2
Madison	3				1	1					1		2	2
Monroe	125	3	9	1	7	20	9	5	14	1	35	22	68	90
Montgomery	2		1			1					1		1	1
Nassau	168	2	2	3	5	12	12	81	93	2	107	1	60	61
Niagara	26	1	2			3	5		5		8		13	18
Oneida	23			1	1	2	3		3	2	7	1	20	21
Onondaga	50	2	6	3	4	15	4		4	3	22	11	17	28
Ontario	1												1	1
Orange	27	1	1	1	2	5		1	1		6	1	20	21
Orleans	1												1	1
Oswego	8			1		1					1		7	7
Otsego	3						1		1		1		2	2
Putnam	1											1		1
Rensselaer	15		2	2		4	1		1	1	6		9	9
Rockland	4	1				1					1		3	3
St. Lawrence														
Saratoga	15		4	1		5	1		1	1	7		8	8
Schenectady	26				1	1				1	2	1	23	24
Schoharie	4												4	4
Schuyler	2						1		1		1		1	1
Seneca														
Steuben	8		1	1		2					2		6	6
Suffolk	45	3	8	10	5	26	2	1	3		29		16	16
Sullivan	8		1			1					1		7	7
Tioga	5												5	5
Tompkins	1												1	1
Ulster	16		2		1	3	1		1		4	2	10	12
Warren	6		2		1	3					3		3	3
Washington	3		1			1					1		2	2
Wayne	16		2		2	4	1		1		5		8	8
Westchester	31	9	1	1	4	15					15	4	12	16
Wycming	4						1		1		1		3	3
Yates														
INTERSTATE COMPACT	9	2	1	1	1	5					5		4	4

CONTINUED

	TOTAL DISCHARGES	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES			
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
<b>TOTAL DISCHARGES</b>	2205	229	150	75	170	624	72	273	345	54	1023	93	1089	1182
<b>COMPLETED MONTHS OF STAY AT DISCHARGING FACILITY/PROGRAM</b>														
Less than 2 Months	464	24	31	30	86	171	2	10	12	10	193	21	250	271
2 Months	223	10	19	9	24	62	1	9	10	2	74	24	125	149
3 Months	202	9	16	13	16	54		8	8	3	65	17	120	137
4 Months	197	9	22	2	14	47	2	5	7	2	56	15	126	141
5 Months	200	10	18	4	8	40	1	7	8	3	51	7	142	149
6 Months	131	9	8	4	4	25	1	3	4	3	32	5	94	99
7 Months	95	6	7	3	8	24		7	7	2	33	3	59	62
8 Months	71	10	4		2	16	2	6	8	1	25		46	46
9 Months	60	9	4	1	1	15	3	9	12	1	28		32	32
10 Months	104	13	6	4	3	26	15	34	49	1	76		28	28
11 Months	151	11	5	2	2	20	15	79	94	3	117	1	33	34
12 Months	46	7	1			8	6	17	23	2	33		13	13
13-15 Months	68	25	4	1		30	5	14	19	6	55		13	13
16-18 Months	75	22	2	1		25	9	33	42	4	71		4	4
19-24 Months	59	27	1		2	30	2	20	22	4	56		3	3
More than 24 Months	59	28	2	1		31	8	12	20	7	58		1	1
<b>TOTAL FACILITY/PROGRAM MONTHS OF STAY</b>														
MEAN LENGTH OF STAY	7.0	13.7	5.4	4.1	2.9	7.6	14.0	12.6	12.9	13.1	9.7	3.4	4.8	4.7
MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY	5.1	11.5	4.4	2.7	2.0	4.4	11.4	11.6	11.5	9.3	8.6	3.2	4.4	4.2
<b>TOTAL RESIDENTIAL LENGTH OF STAY BY SERVICE CATEGORY</b>														
<b>NO RESIDENTIAL STAY</b>														
30														
<b>JUVENILE OFFENDERS &amp; RJD</b>														
Mean length of Stay	17.3	16.8	37.8			17.0					17.0		40.4	40.4
Median length of Stay	14.3	13.8	37.8			14.1					14.1		33.3	33.3
Number of cases	233	228	2			230					230		3	3
<b>DFY SERVICE ONLY</b>														
Mean length of Stay	10.5	2.4	11.0	12.1	12.7	11.9					11.9	14.5	9.7	10.1
Median length of Stay	9.2	2.4	10.2	10.0	10.8	10.4					10.4	11.3	8.7	9.0
Number of cases	1102	1	101	53	121	276					276	66	760	826
<b>VOLUNTARY AGENCY ONLY</b>														
Mean length of Stay	13.9						17.1	13.4	14.0		14.0	24.7	13.4	13.6
Median length of Stay	11.8						11.8	11.8	11.8		11.8	24.7	12.1	12.1
Number of cases	389						55	272	327		327	1	61	62
<b>FOSTER CARE</b>														
Mean length of Stay	24.7									25.1	25.1		23.7	23.7
Median length of Stay	21.5									18.0	18.0		23.7	23.7
Number of cases	8									6	6		2	2
<b>MIXED (MORE THAN ONE OF THE ABOVE)</b>														
Mean length of Stay	20.8		20.5	23.0	22.3	21.5	24.0		24.0	27.5	24.0	23.1	18.2	18.7
Median length of Stay	18.2		20.2	16.2	19.1	19.8	19.9		19.9	21.9	20.1	22.6	15.2	16.1
Number of cases	211		20	7	14	41	14		14	29	84	14	113	127
<b>DISCONTINUOUS SERVICE</b>														
Mean length of Stay	21.7		19.7	22.2	20.4	20.5	24.3	4.7	19.4	32.1	22.7	19.0	21.1	20.9
Median length of Stay	19.2		19.2	17.0	19.1	18.7	22.2	4.7	20.8	32.5	19.7	15.6	18.3	18.2
Number of cases	232		27	15	35	77	3	1	4	19	100	12	120	132

CONTINUED

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DISCHARGING SERVICE SETTING - 1992

	TOTAL DIS-CHARGES	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES									NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES			
		DFY OPERATED FACILITIES					VOLUNTARY AGENCIES			FOSTER CARE	TOTAL RESERV	DAY PROGRAMS	COMM. CARE	TOTAL
		SECURE	LTD. SEC	NON-SECURE		TOTAL	COOP	REPL.	TOTAL					
				NON COMM	COMM.									
<b>TOTAL DISCHARGES</b>	2205	229	150	75	170	624	72	273	345	54	1023	93	1089	1182
<b>TOTAL NON-RESIDENTIAL COMPLETED MONTHS OF STAY</b>														
<b>NO NON-RESIDENTIAL STAY</b>	892	221	111	55	130	517	69	272	341	34	892			
Less than 2 Months	222		9	3	12	24				6	30	12	180	192
2 Months	131		7	3	5	15				4	19	19	93	112
3 Months	139	1	5	1	3	10		1	1	2	13	16	110	126
4 Months	147	2	6	3	2	13	2		2	2	17	16	114	130
5 Months	166	1	2	2	4	9				2	11	8	147	155
6 Months	123		2	2	6	10	1		1		11	5	107	112
7 Months	85	1	3	1	3	8				1	9	6	70	76
8 Months	78	2		1	2	5				1	6	5	67	72
9 Months	62	1	2		1	4					4	1	57	58
10 Months	46		1	2	1	4				1	5		41	41
11 Months	44		2			2					2	1	41	42
12 Months	25			2		2					2		23	23
13-15 Months	33				1	1				1	2	4	27	31
16-18 Months	6												6	6
19-24 Months	5												5	5
More than 24 Months	1												1	1
<b>TOTAL NON-RESIDENTIAL MONTHS OF STAY</b>														
MEAN LENGTH OF STAY	5.6	6.3	4.4	5.6	4.6	4.9	5.3	4.0	5.0	4.3	4.8	4.6	5.7	5.7
MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY	5.1	5.3	3.7	4.4	4.0	4.3	4.9	4.0	4.9	3.0	4.3	4.0	5.4	5.2
<b>TOTAL CUSTODY COMPLETED MONTHS OF STAY</b>														
Less than 2 Months	57	20	4	8	10	42	1	8	9		51		6	6
2 Months	29	11	5	2	1	19	1	7	8		27		2	2
3 Months	32	9	6	6	2	23		7	7		30		2	2
4 Months	26	4	7	2	2	15		5	5		20	1	5	6
5 Months	39	8	9	2	4	23		7	7	1	31		8	8
6 Months	39	8	5	3	7	23	1	3	4	1	28	1	10	11
7 Months	47	6	7	2	8	23		6	6		29	2	16	18
8 Months	51	8	3	1	7	19	1	7	8		27	5	19	24
9 Months	72	7	5	1	12	25	2	9	11		36	5	31	36
10 Months	205	10	12	6	11	39	13	32	45	1	85	15	105	120
11 Months	322	11	14	5	9	39	14	79	93	3	135	12	175	187
12 Months	68	6	3	4	10	23	4	17	21	1	45		23	23
13-15 Months	209	24	12	1	10	47	2	15	17	4	68	8	133	141
16-18 Months	399	18	15	10	28	71	8	36	44	8	123	13	263	276
19-24 Months	258	28	16	5	18	67	7	18	25	7	99	15	144	159
More than 24 Months	352	51	27	17	31	126	18	17	35	28	189	16	147	163
<b>TOTAL CUSTODY MONTHS OF STAY</b>														
MEAN LENGTH OF STAY	16.9	16.9	15.0	16.4	16.1	16.2	18.9	13.3	14.5	30.3	16.4	17.4	17.3	17.3
MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY	15.0	13.8	11.8	12.0	13.2	12.9	12.8	11.8	11.8	25.1	12.3	14.8	16.2	16.1

**County of Residence.** The preceding chapters on custody entries and youth in care have focused on "Responsible" County since this is the county where the youth is adjudicated and the county that assumes financial responsibility while the youth is in DFY. However, for discharges, it is more relevant to examine a youth's county of residence, since that is where s/he is most likely to live following discharge.

Over half (59%) of the youth discharged in 1992 resided in the five boroughs of New York City. Kings County (Brooklyn) accounted for 24 percent of all discharges and 41 percent of the New York City total. Other counties accounting for five or more percent of the discharges were: Queens (14%), Bronx (10%), New York (Manhattan) (9%), Nassau (8%) and Monroe (6%).

Bronx, Kings and New York Counties accounted for 76 percent of all secure center discharges, yet only 44 percent of all youth discharged came from these three boroughs. Deviations from expected service setting proportions are difficult to detect reliably in counties with small DFY populations. In fact, due to this, among discharges from secure centers, only Bronx County was clearly over-represented. Erie, Monroe and Nassau County youth were under-represented among discharges from this setting. Nassau County youth were under-represented among discharges from community-based programs.

Bronx, Kings and New York Counties were under-represented among discharges from cooperating agencies, while Nassau County was over-represented. Among replacement discharges, Queens and Nassau were over-represented, while Bronx, Kings, Erie, Monroe and Suffolk were under-represented.

**Length of stay at discharging program.** On average, youth spent seven months in the program from which they left DFY custody in 1992, with half leaving in five months. The conventional career of non-JO youth who initially enter DFY residential settings is to enter community care following one or more stays in progressively less controlled settings. Thus, those youth discharged from other than community care represent atypical service sequences and have greatly varying LOSs at their last program.

As discussed above, youth discharged from secure settings were likely to have spent nearly all of their placement at the facility from which they were discharged. Thus, it is not unexpected that youth discharged from secure centers had an average LOS at their last program of over six months longer than did all discharges combined. Spending most or all of their placement at the discharging facility is also typical for youth discharged from either type of voluntary agency.

Conversely, the shortest LOSs were among discharges from day programs, community-based homes and non-community based centers. The first two settings rarely serve as initial program assignments and function as brief transitional programs for youth returning to their communities.

**Total Residential LOS.** As discussed above in the section on "Five Year Trends," residential LOS must be disaggregated to be meaningfully analyzed.

Regardless of the service setting from which they were discharged, JDs, PINS and Others served only by DFY programs had the shortest total residential LOS. Youth

from this service category discharged in 1992 stayed an average of ten and one-half months, with half leaving before nine months.

Youth with "Discontinuous Service" who were discharged after more than one residential stay during custody had the longest residential LOS. This group averaged almost 22 months of residential service, with half leaving before 19 months.

**Total Non-residential LOS.** Independent of the service setting from which they were discharged, youth who left DFY custody in 1992 spent an average of five and one-half months in non-residential programs during their custody stay, with half spending under five. As would be expected, most of these discharges were from community care.

**Total Custody LOS.** Youth not adjudicated as a JO or RJD are typically placed with the Division for 12 or 18 months. As a matter of policy, DFY rarely exercises its legal prerogative to apply for premature termination of a placement. In some cases, the Division will seek an extension of placement for a youth. Thus, for the majority of youth who have either single or concurrent placements, total custody LOS is so constrained that it is less important than it appears to be at first glance. Nevertheless, total service time is instructive and is therefore included in the report.

Overall, youth discharged in 1992 were in custody an average of almost 17 months, with half the youth having been discharged after 15 months or more of service. Youth leaving from foster care had the longest custody LOSs. They were, on average, in custody two and one-half years.

Staying an average of 13 months, those discharged from replacement agencies had the shortest LOSs.

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