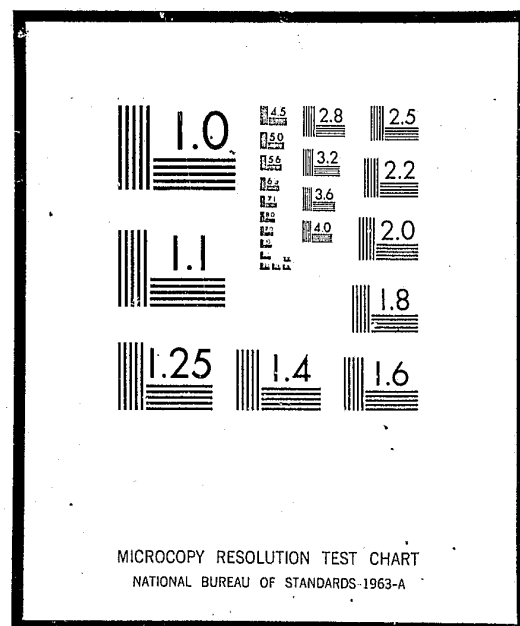


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Project Picture

Evaluation Report No. 1-

Report on the Comparability of Identified Comparison Groups
for Outcome Assessment

Prepared by
State Planning Agency
Impact Evaluation Unit
of the
Oregon Law Enforcement Council

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Administrator

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Impact Evaluation Unit staff with responsibility for the production of this report was Diana Gray, Researcher.

Dr. Clinton Goff is the Impact Unit Coordinator. We wish to express our appreciation of the cooperation of Project Picture staff in their assistance in data collection effort for this report. Special thanks goes to the SPA staff responsible for coding the data:

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Summary of Findings

1. Project Picture clients (220) assigned to the project in September, 1974, are compared on 22 background variables to 96 clients identified as a comparison group from the Portland office "control" caseload and from clients in east Multnomah County supervised out of the Salem office.
2. The two study groups were found to differ significantly on four variables. There was also a tendency for more Picture clients to have a greater proportion of clients with characteristics which are generally associated with offense behavior on another six variables. These differences are serious enough to warrant abandonment of any attempt to compare the two groups as composed in that the outcome offense reduction could be predicted to be more favorable for the comparison group on the basis of client characteristics alone.
3. Comparisons were then made between the two study groups using white clients only in that the greatest discrepancy between the two groups originally was in ethnic composition.
4. Comparisons of white clients only reveal no statistically significant differences between the two groups either in client characteristics or offense behavior.
5. Therefore, it is recommended that the comparative outcome evaluation of this component be confined to white clients (of both sexes) only as these two groups appear to be comparable and can be assumed to be drawn from the same population.¹ A more accurate measure of baseline offenses using a defined time period and taking into account institutional confinements will be necessary.

¹It is indeed unfortunate that no suitable minority control group could be secured. This problem would have been successfully avoided if the project proposal had included an experimental design employing random assignment to treatment and control groups. The project would have served only half the clients they now serve but advantages would definitely have been gained by knowing the impact of the program on minority clients and by having a less costly program. An attempt by OLEC evaluation to increase the number of caseloads in the Portland office to approach a randomization was rejected by CSD, although approved by Region X in August, 1974.

Project Picture
Evaluation Report No. 1

The Project

Project Picture is an attempt to provide community planning and services for juveniles committed by the juvenile court to Children's Services Division correctional institutions during and after the institutional stay. Through the use of the "team" approach, parole counselors work with the client and family and correctional personnel during the client's institutional stay, and subsequently, supervise the client in the community when he is released from the institution. Team members work to coordinate health planning, education needs and programs, employment training and job referrals, family counseling, out-of-home care and group home placement, as well as extensive recreational activities. This approach is seen as a drastic contrast to the traditional parole services approach of individualized counselor/client one-to-servicing practices in the past in Portland, and still the basic treatment model in the other state juvenile parole service offices.

Study Design

Ideally, the evaluation component of Project Picture would have provided for the random assignment of clients to either the traditional parole services program or to the Impact project. Such a procedure would have resulted in two groups of similar size and composition subjected to two different treatment modalities, such that outcome effectiveness or reduction in offense behavior attributable to program effects could have been made. In the absence of such an experimental design, an attempt was made to locate a comparison group compatible to Picture clients such that an outcome evaluation might be made through a quasi-experimental design. One Portland parole counselor's caseload was assigned as a "control" caseload to receive traditional services. The counselor was to retain all currently assigned cases at the beginning of the project, and to receive new assignments on the basis of systematic case assignment (every ninth intake case beginning from a random start). In addition, two caseloads serving east Multnomah County but supervised out of the Salem Parole office were identified as potential comparison clients.

Background data on all clients assigned to the Picture project and to the three comparison caseloads were coded by SPA coders from parole case files. The data collected were intended to determine the comparability of the two study groups across a variety of variables which impact upon offense or outcome behavior. If the groups were similar on those variables, they would be compared as to offense reduction. Any differences in outcome could be attributed, with relative confidence, to program differences rather than clients differences.

This report presents the results of the analysis of the background data on the two study groups, draws conclusions and makes recommendations as to the evaluation design on the basis of these data.

The Findings

Client Demographic Variables. The two study groups show an identical distribution on sex composition. There is no significant difference in age between the two groups. (Picture mean age, 17.6; Comparison, mean age, 17.5.) The two study groups do differ significantly in ethnic composition.

(Table 1 here)

Project Picture has a statistically significant larger proportion of Black clients.

Clients' Family and Living Situation

There are no significant differences in the occupation for the head of household for the two study groups. For both groups, the occupations are located in the low income and low status occupations or in the unemployed, public support (welfare) categories (53 percent of Picture clients, 40 percent of comparison clients.)

Picture clients are significantly more likely to come from homes where the original parental marital relationship has been disrupted in some manner (divorce, separation, death, etc.) than are the comparison clients.

(Table 2 here)

Picture clients also differ significantly in their living situation at time of entry into the study group (for most clients, this refers to their living situation as of 9-1-74).

(Table 3 here)

Significantly more Picture clients were on parole, living in the community, while a greater proportion of the comparison clients were whereabouts unknown or in an institution.

Clients' School and Employment Status at Entry

There is no significant difference between the two study groups in the clients' school status at time of entry. Over 40 percent of all clients are in institutional schools, 35 percent are not enrolled in a school program and the remaining 20 to 25 percent are in a community school/vocational program.

Although not statistically significant, twice as many Picture clients (32%) as comparison clients (18%) were employed fulltime during the three months prior to entry into the project. However, data is

(Table 4 here)

missing on this particular variable on over one-third of the clients, so these findings may be unreliable. Of the 61 clients with codeable occupations, no significant differences were found in the two study groups. The most frequently held occupations by parole clients were in service (probably food service) and structural works occupational categories.

Previous Out-of-Home Care History

The two groups show an identical distribution on previous foster care experience. About 70 percent of the clients in each group had no prior foster care.

(Table 5 here)

There is also no significant difference in prior group home out-of-home care for the two groups although a slightly larger proportion of Picture clients (45%) have had this experience than comparison clients (37%).

(Table 5 here)

Prior Correctional History Experience

Both groups are similar in the mean age of clients at the time of original commitment. Picture clients' mean age at commitment is 14.6 and the comparison clients' mean age is 14.7.

Although there are no significant differences in the number of previous institutional stays, paroles, and parole revocations for the two study groups, the proportion of Picture clients with one or more of these correctional experiences is consistently larger than the proportion of comparison clients.

(Tables 7, 8 & 9 here)

Offense Histories

Clients were compared on the type of offense for which they were originally committed. Up to three commitment offenses were coded. These offenses were classified as target¹, status² and other³.

1-Target offenses include assault, rape, murder, burglary and robbery.

2-Status offenses include juvenile only offenses, such as truancy, runaway and incorrigibility.

3-Other offenses are all remaining offenses not classified as target or status.

No significant differences in frequencies of offenses by type comparing the two study groups were found.

(Tables 10, 11 & 12 here)

Picture clients are about equally likely to be committed for target, status or other offenses (mean number .52, .52, .51 respectively) while comparison clients are more likely to be committed for status offenses (.58), then other offenses (.43) and finally, target offenses (.40). These differences are not significant, but again are in the direction of more serious offenses for Picture clients as was the greater likelihood of a more extensive correctional history.

Baseline Offenses

It was not possible at this point to identify a satisfactory baseline period for study group clients. One year prior to entry into the study group would not be appropriate, in that a large proportion of clients may have spent some or all of that year in a correctional institution, thus reducing their opportunity for committing offenses. To determine one year "in the community" as a baseline would require a complete institutional movement log on each client.

Instead, a gross estimate of prior offense history was made by coding all offenses from police custody and crime reports in the client's case record. These data reveal a significant difference in the two study groups in number of target offenses.

(Table 13 here)

There are no significant differences between the two groups for status and other offenses.

(Tables 14 & 15 here)

The most committed offense type for both groups are status offenses.

Conclusions

Portland's Project Picture clients were compared with the Portland "control" caseload and two east Multnomah County caseloads (comparison study group) over a series of twenty-two background variables. Significant differences between the two groups were found on the variables of ethnicity, parents marital status, clients' living situation at time of entry, and number of baseline target offenses.

Although not significant, trends of greater seriousness for Picture clients were found for previous institutional stays, paroles and parole revocation, and commitment offenses.

committed exclusively for status offenses while males are about equally likely to be charged on any offense category or a combination of offense categories.

When baseline offenses and offenses charged at commitment are broken down by each study group, it is found that males are significantly more likely than females to be committed for target offenses (Picture: males = .53, females = .03; Comparison: males = .49, females = .05) and to have committed target offenses in baseline (Picture: males = 1.09, females = .10; Comparison: males = .77, females = .05).

Females are significantly more likely to be charged with a status offense at commitment than males (Picture: males = .49, females = .90; Comparison: males = .46, females = .95) although they are similar to or exceeded by males in the number of status offenses committed during baseline (Picture: males = 2.88, females = 2.42; Comparison: males = 2.96, females = 2.00). Males significantly exceed females in the number of total baseline offenses they have committed.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Examining the two study groups for similarities or differences on client background characteristics and offense behavior for white juveniles only reveals that the groups are highly comparable especially with respect to offense behavior. Females in both study groups show a significantly dissimilar patterning to males in offense behavior.

It is recommended that using white clients only, an outcome evaluation design following Campbell and Stanley's quasi-experimental design 10, "The Nonequivalent Control Group Design" be developed (1963, pg. 217-220). A more accurate measure of baseline offenses using a defined time period and taking into account institutional confinements will be necessary. This design will effectively guard against the alternative hypotheses of maturation, history, testing and instrumentation.

Because females show a different offense patterning, their data should be analyzed separately from the males. These data may not be highly reliable as it is anticipated that the total number of females to be considered may not much exceed fifty.

Continuation of the careful documentation of specific services rendered on a client basis for both study groups should be maintained to determine degree of exposure to the two alternative treatment modes. In addition, through sampling of Picture clients a determination through indepth interviews with these clients' respective "team" needs to be made to determine how the team model is implemented.

It will not be possible to determine effectiveness of the program on minority clients. However, it is recommended that within group comparisons of intensity of exposure to the program for minority clients versus outcome be made to attempt to examine within group variations.

References:

Campbell, D.T. and Stanley, Q.C. "Experimental and Quasi-Experimental design for Research on Teaching." In N.L. Gage (Ed.) Handbook of Research on Teaching. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1963, pp. 171-246.

TABLE 1
Ethnicity by Study Groups

Ethnicity of Client	Study Group		Total
	Picture	Comparison	
White	62%	95%	226
Black	32%	1%	72
Spanish-American (Chicano)	1%	0	3
Natural American	3%	2%	9
Asian American	1%	2%	4
TOTAL	219	95	314

$\chi^2 = 40.55$, 4 degrees of freedom, sign. $< .001$ level
Cramer's V = .36

TABLE 2
Marital Status of Parents by Study Group

Parents' Marital Status	Study Group		Total
	Picture	Comparison	
Married	23%	36%	85
Marriage Disrupted	77%	64%	228
TOTAL	218	95	313

Corrected $\chi^2 = 4.53$, 1 degree freedom, sign. $< .05$ level
Phi $\phi = .12$

TABLE 3

Clients' Living Situation by Study Group
At Time of Entry Into Project

Clients' Living Situation at Time of Entry into Project	Study Groups		Total
	Picture	Comparison	
Pre Commitment-- Community	7%	6%	21
Institution	32%	37%	100
Parole-Community	48%	32%	130
Unknown	13%	25%	49
TOTAL	216	84	300

$\chi^2 = 9.37$, 3 degrees of freedom, significant $< .05$ level

Cramer's V = .18

TABLE 4

Clients' Employment Status at Time of Entry
Into Project by Study Group

Clients' Employment Status at Time of Entry	Study Groups		Total
	Picture	Comparison	
Full Time Employment	32%	18%	54
Part Time Employment	14%	12%	27
Unemployed	54%	70%	108
TOTAL	149	40	189

Data missing on 127 cases

$\chi^2 = 3.76$, 2 degree freedom, N.S.

Cramer's V = .14

TABLE 5

Number of Prior Foster Home Placement
by Study Group

No. of Prior Placements	Study Group		Total
	Picture	Comparison	
None	69%	70%	219
One	14%	10%	40
Two	9%	13%	31
Three or More	9%	7%	26
TOTAL	220	96	316

$\chi^2 = 1.72$, 3 degrees of freedom, N.S.

Cramer's V = .07

TABLE 6

Number of Prior Group Home Placements
by Study Group

No. of Prior Group Home Placements	Study Group		Total
	Picture	Comparison	
None	55%	63%	183
One	27%	16%	74
Two	14%	14%	43
Three or more	4%	7%	16
TOTAL	220	96	316

$\chi^2 = 5.68$, 3 degrees of freedom, N.S.

Cramer's V = .13

TABLE 7

No. of Previous Institutional Stays by Study Group

No. of Previous Institutional Stays	Study Groups		Total
	Picture	Comparison	
None	37%	45%	125
One	32%	29%	99
Two or More	31%	26%	92
TOTAL	220	96	316

 $\chi^2 = 1.61$, 2 degrees of freedom, N.S.

Cramer's V = .07

TABLE 8

Number of Previous Paroles by Study Group

No. of Previous Paroles	Study Groups		Total
	Picture	Comparison	
None	54%	65%	180
One	26%	19%	76
Two or More	20%	17%	60
TOTAL	220	96	316

 $\chi^2 = 3.41$, 2 degrees of freedom, N.S.

Cramer's V = .10

TABLE 9

Number of Previous Parole Revocations

No. of Previous Revocations	Study Groups		Total
	Picture	Comparison	
None	54%	66%	181
One	26%	18%	75
Two or More	20%	17%	60
TOTAL	220	96	316

$\chi^2 = 4.18$, 2 degrees of freedom, N.S.

Cramer's V = .11

TABLE 10

Commitment Target OffensesAnalysis of Variance Summary Table of Commitment Target Offenses by Study Group

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	Degrees of Freedom	F
Between Groups	1.0762	1.0762	1	2.2552
Within Groups	149.8447	0.4772	314	N.S.
TOTAL	150.9209		315	

	Mean No. of Offenses	Standard Deviation	Number
Picture clients	.523	.712	220
Comparison Clients	.396	.410	96

t = 1.5017, N.S.

TABLE 11

Commitment Status Offenses

Analysis of Variance Summary Table of Commitment Status
Offenses by Study Group

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	Degrees of Freedom	F
Between Groups	0.2455	0.2455	1	.4476
Within Groups	172.2197	0.5485	314	N.S.
TOTAL	172.4652		315	

	Mean No. of Offenses	Standard Deviation	Number
Picture Clients	.523	.755	220
Comparison Clients	.582	.706	96

$t = .6690$ N.S.

TABLE 12

Commitment Other Offense

Analysis of Variance Summary Table of Commitment
Other Offenses by Study Groups

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	Degrees of Freedom	F
Between Groups	0.4495	.4495	1	1.0047
Within Groups	140.4714	.4474	314	N.S.
TOTAL	140.9209		315	

	Mean No. of Offenses	Standard Deviation	Number
Picture Clients	.509	.692	220
Comparison	.427	.611	96

$t = 1.0024$, N.S.

TABLE 13

Baseline Target OffensesAnalysis of Variance Summary Table of Baseline Target Offenses
by Study Group

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	Degrees of Freedom	F
Between Groups	16.1316	16.1316	1	10.5538
Within Groups	479.9539	1.5285	314	<.01
TOTAL	496.0854		315	

	Mean No. of Offenses	Standard Deviation	Number
Picture Clients	1.095	1.336	220
Comparison Clients	0.604	.968	96

t = 3.2487, <.01

TABLE 14

Baseline Status OffensesAnalysis of Variance Summary Table of Baseline Status Offenses
by Study Group

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	Degrees of Freedom	F
Between Groups	6.5586	6.5586	1	.6557
Within Groups	3140.5903	10.0019	314	
TOTAL	3147.1489		315	N.S.

	Mean No. of Offenses	Standard Deviation	Number
Picture Clients	3.459	3.356	220
Comparison Clients	3.146	2.664	96

t = 0.8098, N.S.

TABLE 15

Baseline Other OffensesAnalysis of Variance Summary Table of Baseline Other Offenses
by Study Group

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	Degrees of Freedom	F
Between Groups	2.4751	2.4751	1	.3840
Within Groups	2023.7153	6.4450	314	N.S.
TOTAL	2026.1904		315	

	Mean No. of Offenses	Standard Deviation	Number
Picture Clients	2.609	2.496	220
Comparison Clients	2.417	2.634	96

t = 0.6197, N.S.

TABLE 16

Commitment - Target Offenses

Study Group	Mean No. of Offenses	SD	N
White Picture Clients	.42	.65	136
White Comparison Clients	.40	.65	90

t = .22, n.s.

TABLE 17

Commitment - Status Offenses

Study Group	Mean No. of Offenses	SD	N
White Picture Clients	.59	.76	136
White Comparison Clients	.57	.69	90

t = .22, n.s.

TABLE 18
Commitment - Other Offenses

Study Group	Mean No. of Offenses	SD	N
White Picture Clients	.57	.73	136
White Comparison Clients	.43	.62	90

$t = 1.42, n.s.$

TABLE 19
Commitment - Total Offenses Charged

Study Group	Mean No. of Offense	SD	N
White Picture Clients	1.57	.78	136
White Comparison Clients	1.40	.68	90

$t = .72, n.s.$

TABLE 20
Baseline - Target Offenses

Study Group	Mean No. of Offenses	SD	N
White Picture Clients	.86	1.16	136
White Comparison Clients	.62	.99	90

$t = 1.60, n.s.$

TABLE 21
Baseline - Status Offenses

Study Group	Mean No. of Offenses	SD	N
White Picture Clients	2.77	2.02	136
White Comparison Clients	2.76	2.04	90

$t = .06, n.s.$

TABLE 22

Baseline - Other Offenses

Study Group	Mean No. of Offenses	SD	N
White Picture Group	2.15	1.90	136
White Comparison Group	2.17	1.94	90

t = .05, n.s.

TABLE 23

Base - Total Offenses

Study Group	Mean No. of Offenses	SD	N
White Pictue Clients	3.75	1.94	136
White Comparison Clients	3.76	1.98	90

t = .025, n.s.

TABLE 24

Type of Offenses Charged at Commitment
Comparing the Two Study Groups

Offense Type	Picture	Comparison	Total Number
Exclusively Target Charges	16%	19%	38 (17%)
Exclusively Status Charges	35%	39%	82 (37%)
Exclusively Other Charges	27%	16%	58 (26%)
Combination of Charges	23%	17%	46 (21%)
Total Number	135	89	224

TABLE 25

Type of Offense Charged at Commitment
Comparing the Two Study Groups by Sex

Offense Types	Males		Females		Total Number
	Picture	Comparison	Picture	Comparison	
Exclusively Target	21%	25%	--	--	38
Exclusively Status	24%	34%	74%	63%	82
Exclusively Other	29%	25%	19%	26%	58
Combination Offenses	26%	16%	6%	11%	42
Total Number	102	68	31	19	220

END