

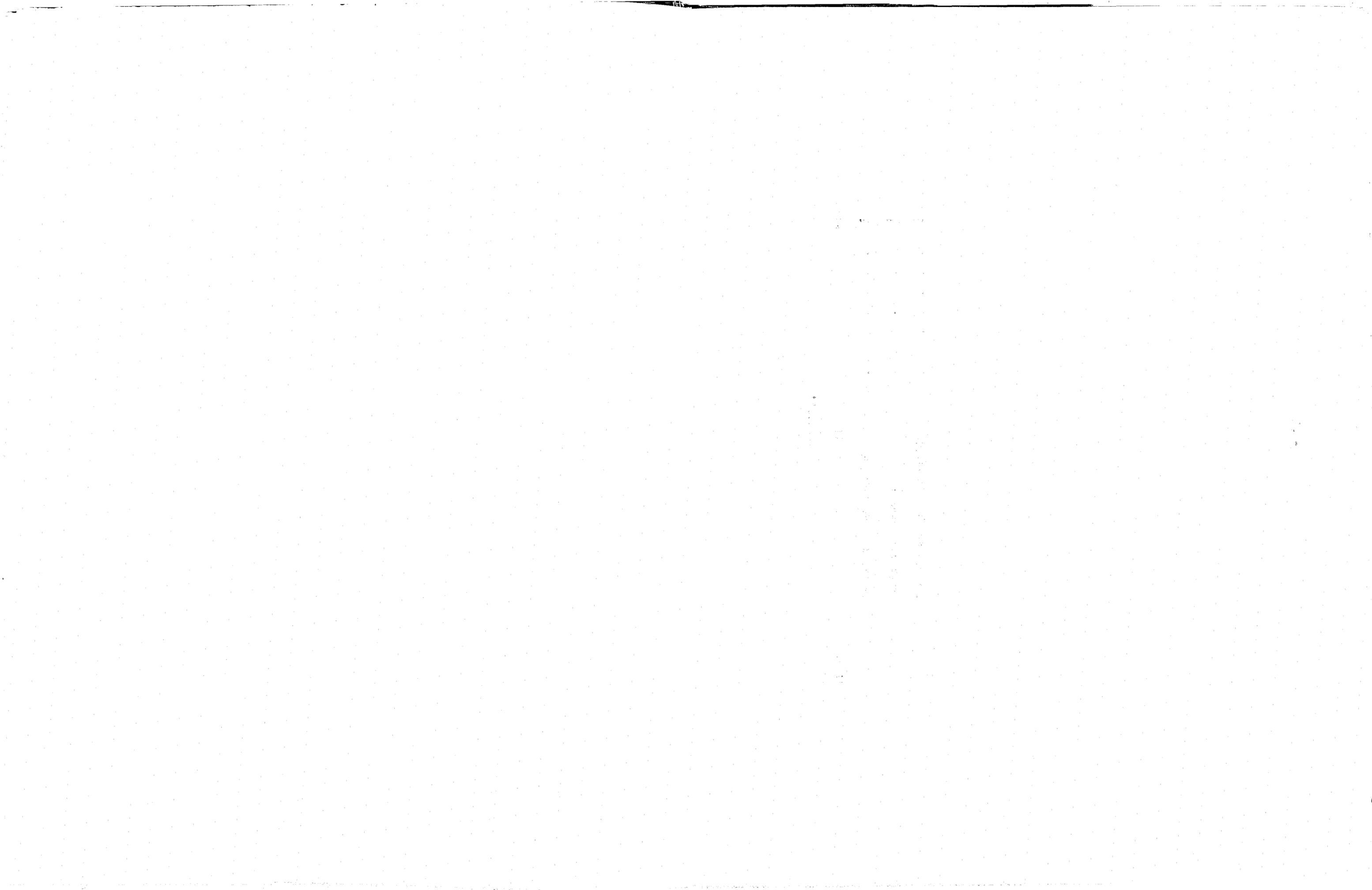
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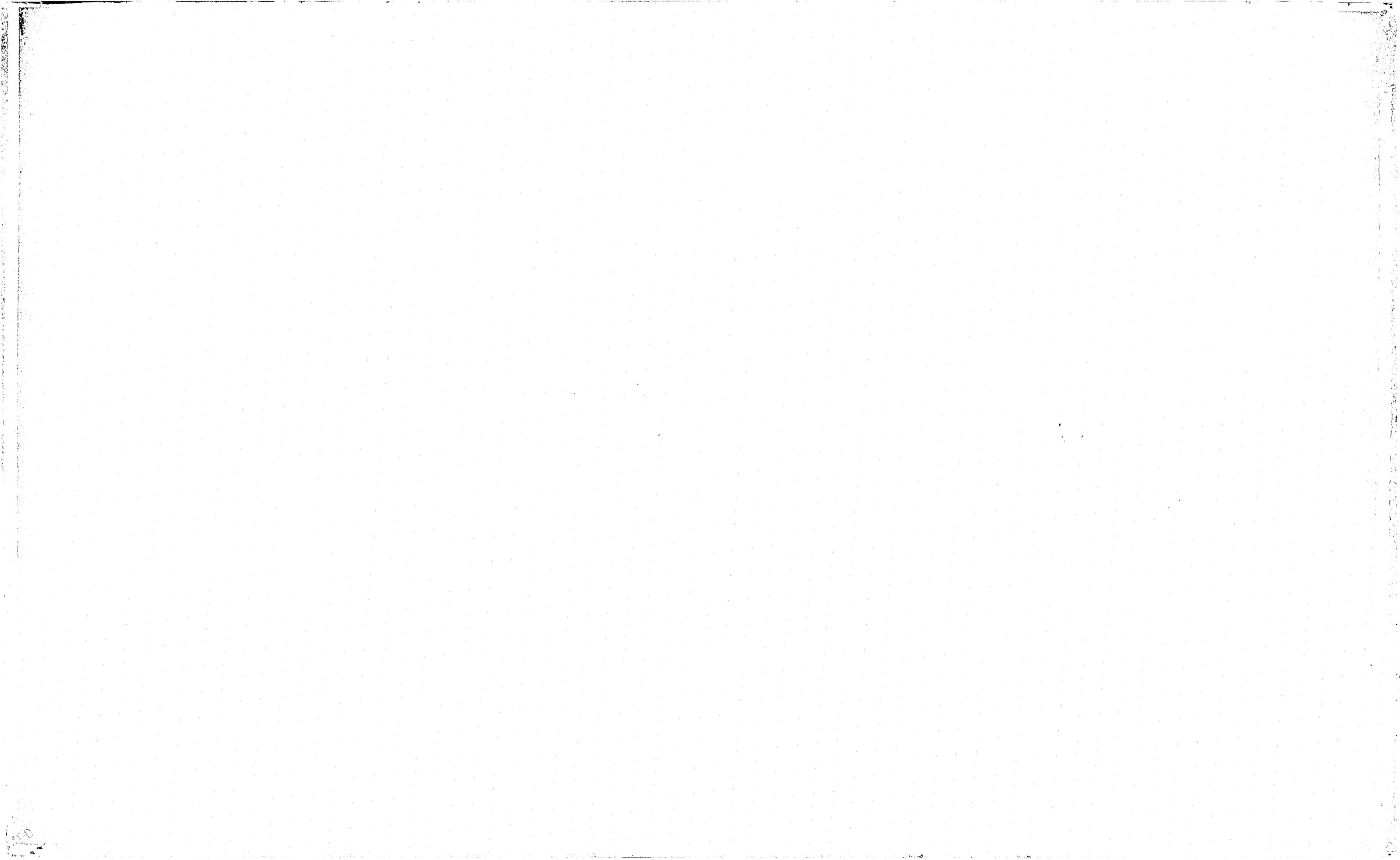
**AN EXAMINATION
OF DRUG REFERRALS
IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, KY.**

METROPOLITAN SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Louisville and Jefferson County, Ky.

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DRUG SCORE

- 1) No Drug Use Reported
- 2) Lesser Drug Use
- 3) Same Drug Use
- 4) Worse Drug Use

REFERRAL SCORE

- 1) No Referrals
- 2) Delinquent Referrals
- 3) Drug Referrals
- 4) Drug/Delinquent Referrals

Cases with less than six months follow-up were scored 00. A hierarchy of drugs had to be used to score post-disposition use. The score placed heroin as the most deleterious drug with alcohol the least.

- 1) Alcohol
- 2) Marijuana
- 3) Solvents
- 4) Dangerous Drugs
- 5) Narcotics

This hierarchy was established rather arbitrarily but was based both on social sanctions and the physical dangers now believed to be inherent in the drugs rated.

The juvenile was scored in the following manner: if a juvenile was referred for a drug higher on the list, it was scored as such. If lesser drugs were involved or no use was indicated, it was scored accordingly.

In a few cases continued drug use was indicated in the record by the probation officer or by the juvenile. Thus, the juvenile did not necessarily have to be referred for a drug offense to be scored as still using drugs. Alcohol referrals were included in the post-history as symptomatic of a

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continued drug problem. However, this occurred in only a very few cases.

In the informal sample, the reasons for closing were listed. The reasons were divided in the following manner:

- 1) First Offense
- 2) No Evidence
- 3) Referred to Drug Counseling
- 4) Presently active with court or other agency
- 5) Other/Unknown

All information was coded and tabulated in analysable tables. The results are contained in the following pages.

P A R T O N E
F O R M A L C A S E S

Section A. Types of Drugs Used

The majority of drug cases handled formally were marijuana related. Only 4% of those charged were actually referred for narcotics. In terms of sale or possession, those charged with narcotic violations were most likely referred for sale.

Over half of the dangerous drug offenders were referred for sale. None of the solvent abusers were referred for sale because solvents are legally available.

Table 1. TYPE OF DRUG INVOLVED

TYPE OF DRUG	No.	%
Marijuana	92	46.2
Solvents	43	21.6
Dangerous Drugs	56	28.1
Narcotics	8	4.0
TOTAL	199	99.9

Table 2. THOSE CHARGED WITH SALE OR POSSESSION

TYPE OF DRUG	SALE		POSSESSION		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Marijuana	21	22.8	71	77.2	92	100.0
Solvents	0	-	43	100.0	43	100.0
Dangerous Drugs	29	51.8	27	48.2	56	100.0
Narcotics	6	75.0	2	25.0	8	100.0
TOTAL	56	28.1	143	71.9	199	100.0

There was little difference on the outcome of the charge in terms of admission of the offense. About one-half of the charges were proven for both races and sexes. However, when divided by the specific drug, only 25% of the narcotic charges were proved or admitted.

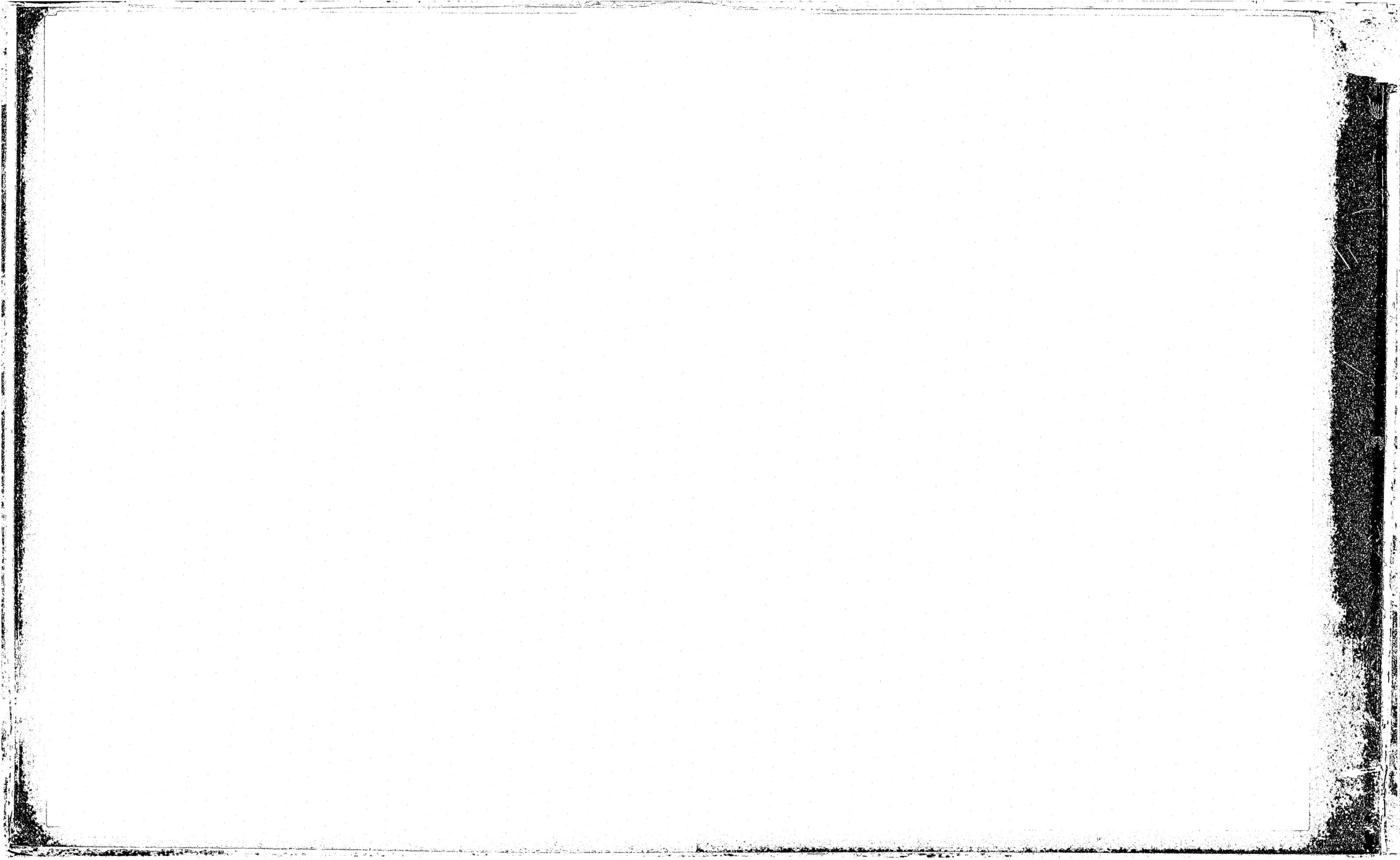


Table 3. DRUG CHARGE ADMITTED OR PROVED BY RACE AND SEX

	WHITE		BLACK		MALE		FEMALE	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
YES	76	49.4	24	53.3	87	50.9	13	46.4
NO*	78	50.6	21	46.7	84	49.1	15	53.6
TOTAL	154	100.0	45	100.0	171	100.0	28	100.0

*Unknowns included.

Thus, operating on the premise that formal referrals reflect community drug use, there was little evidence of a major heroin problem among juveniles in 1974. The high admission of other drug usage by juveniles, however, indicates a problem with other drug types.

Table 4. CHARGE PROVED/ADMITTED BY DRUG TYPE

	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS		DANGEROUS DRUGS		NARCOTICS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
YES	51	55.4	28	65.1	35	62.5	2	25.0
NO	34	37.0	13	30.2	19	33.9	4	50.0
Unknown	7	7.6	2	4.7	2	3.6	2	25.0
TOTAL	92	100.0	43	100.0	56	100.0	8	100.0

Section B. General Characteristics of Offenders

Formal cases could be generally characterized as predominately male and white. Blacks represented 22.6% of the drug cases and females 14.1% of these formal cases.

In terms of the specific drug that the juvenile was charged with possessing, blacks were involved with marijuana much more than whites ($P < .02$).* Whites were handled formally more often for solvents, dangerous drugs and narcotics than blacks.

Table 5. RACE AND SEX

	RACE			SEX	
	No.	%		No.	%
White	154	77.4	Male	171	85.9
Black	45	22.6	Female	28	14.1
TOTAL	199	100.0		199	100.0

Table 6. RACE BY TYPE OF DRUG

TYPE OF DRUG	WHITE		BLACK		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Marijuana	60	39.0	32	71.1	92	46.2
Solvents	39	25.3	4	8.9	43	21.6
Dangerous Drugs	48	31.2	8	17.8	56	28.1
Narcotics	7	4.5	1	2.2	8	4.0
TOTAL	154	100.0	45	100.0	199	99.9

Table 7. SEX BY TYPE OF DRUG

TYPE OF DRUG	MALE		FEMALE	
	No.	%	No.	%
Marijuana	82	48.0	10	35.7
Solvents	38	22.2	5	17.9
Dangerous Drugs	45	26.3	11	39.3
Narcotics	6	3.5	2	7.1
TOTAL	171	100.0	28	100.0

Females were handled formally in court more often for dangerous drugs whereas males were charged more often for marijuana related offenses.

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Table 8. RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BY DRUG TYPE

TYPE OF DRUG	YES		NO		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Marijuana	20	21.7	72	78.3	92	100.0
Solvents	10	23.3	33	76.7	43	100.0
Dangerous Drugs	3	5.4	53	94.6	56	100.0
Narcotics	1	12.5	7	87.5	8	100.0
TOTAL	34	17.1	165	82.9	199	100.0

Juveniles charged with dangerous drug-violations were least likely receiving public assistance. Solvent abusers had the highest rate of receipt of assistance.

Juveniles charged with narcotic offenses were the oldest of all drug offenders with a mean age of 16.6 years and 75% at or above the age of 17. Solvent abusers were by far the youngest drug offenders.

Table 9. AGE BY TYPE OF DRUG

AGE	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS		DANGEROUS DRUGS		NARCOTICS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
13	2	2.2	3	7.0	0	-	0	-
14	4	4.3	3	7.0	1	1.8	0	-
15	22	23.9	12	27.9	4	7.1	1	12.5
16	26	28.3	11	25.6	20	35.7	1	12.5
17	38	41.3	14	32.6	31	55.4	6	75.0
TOTAL	92	100.0	43	100.1	56	100.0	8	100.0
Mean		(16.0)		(15.7)		(16.5)		(16.6)

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14	4	4.3	3	7.0	1	1.8	0	-
15	22	23.9	12	27.9	4	7.1	1	12.5
16	26	28.3	11	25.6	20	35.7	1	12.5
17	38	41.3	14	32.6	31	55.4	6	75.0
TOTAL	92	100.0	43	100.1	56	100.0	8	100.0
Mean	(16.0)		(15.7)		(16.5)		(16.6)	

Over two-thirds of the marijuana offenders were attending school at the time of arrest. Dangerous drugs offenders had the highest rate of school completion (8.9%), and solvent abusers had the highest rate of school withdrawal.

Table 10. EDUCATIONAL STATUS BY TYPE OF DRUG

EDUCATIONAL STATUS	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS		DANGEROUS DRUGS		NARCOTICS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Attending	63	68.5	22	51.2	26	46.4	3	37.5
Completed	4	4.3	1	2.3	5	8.9	0	-
Withdrawn	25	27.2	20	46.5	25	44.6	5	62.5
TOTAL	92	100.0	43	100.0	56	99.9	8	100.0

Dangerous drug offenders had a higher rate of living with both parents. Solvent offenders had the highest rate of living with relatives.

Table 11. LIVING ARRANGEMENT

LIVING ARRANGEMENT	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS		DANGEROUS DRUGS		NARCOTICS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Both Parents	35	38.0	16	37.2	26	46.4	3	37.5
Single Parent	33	35.9	15	34.9	19	33.9	2	25.0
Parent & Step-Parent	9	9.8	2	4.7	5	8.9	1	12.5
Institution/Foster Home	6	6.5	2	4.7	3	5.4	0	-
Relative	9	9.8	8	18.6	3	5.4	2	25.0
TOTAL	92	100.0	43	100.1	56	100.0	8	100.0

More than any specific drug category, solvent abusers were more likely to be institutionalized (P<.05). Dangerous drug offenders received probation or referral to a counseling program at a greater rate than any other category of drug offenders. Marijuana offenders had a greater probability of their cases being filed away.

Table 12. DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DRUG

DISPOSITIONS	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS		DANGEROUS DRUGS		NARCOTICS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
FAWL*	60	65.2	22	51.2	28	50.0	6	75.0
Institutions	2	2.2	8	18.6	2	3.6	1	12.5
Probation	13	14.1	5	11.6	16	28.6	0	-
Group Home	1	1.1	5	11.6	0	-	0	-
Volunteers	4	4.3	1	2.3	1	1.8	0	-
Drug Counsel**	10	10.9	2	4.7	9	16.1	1	12.5
Other	2	2.2	0	-	0	-	0	-
TOTAL	92	100.0	43	100.0	56	100.1	8	100.0

*File Away, Remand or Dismissed
 **River Region or Drug Abuse Centers

When compared to other drug abusers, those referred for solvent abuse were the least likely to be first offenders (P<.05). They also had the highest rate of involvement with drugs in the pre-history period. Marijuana offenders were more often involved only in delinquent activity in their pre-history.

Table 13. PRE-HISTORY BY TYPE OF DRUG

	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS		DANGEROUS DRUGS		NARCOTICS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
None	26	28.3	5	4.7	21	37.5	3	37.5
Dependent	1	1.1	2	30.2	0	-	0	-
Delinquent	46	50.0	13	9.3	14	25.0	4	50.0
Drug	4	4.3	4	44.2	9	16.1	0	-
Drug/Delinquent	15	16.3	19	11.6	12	21.4	1	12.5
TOTAL	92	100.0	43	100.0	56	100.0	8	100.0

Marijuana cases were generally evenly distributed throughout the city and county. Only Planning Service Communities 12 and 13 had a slightly higher number of marijuana cases. However, for solvent abusers and dangerous drug/narcotic cases, referrals were concentrated in a few Planning Service Communities and, for some cases, in specific census tracts. (See Appendix for maps).

Almost one-fourth of the solvent cases came from PSC-2, the Portland Area and almost 20% from the South End (PSC-10). High concentrations of dangerous drug offenders were found in PSC's 11, 12, and 14. Over 20% resided in PSC-12, the East End.

Table 14. PLANNING SERVICE COMMUNITIES BY DRUG TYPE

PSC	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS		DANGEROUS DRUGS*	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	6	6.5	3	7.0	3	4.7
2	8	8.7	10	23.2	3	4.7
3	3	3.3	0	-	0	-
4	6	6.5	5	11.6	0	-
5	6	6.5	0	-	2	3.1
6	6	6.5	0	-	3	4.7
7	2	2.2	1	2.3	1	1.6
8	3	3.3	2	4.7	0	-
9	8	8.7	2	4.7	3	4.7
10	6	6.5	8	18.6	6	9.4
11	4	4.3	4	9.3	11	17.2
12	11	12.0	4	9.3	14	21.8
13	12	13.0	2	4.7	9	14.1
14	3	3.3	0	-	4	6.3
15	6	6.5	2	4.7	2	3.1
Out of County	2	2.2	0	-	3	4.7
TOTAL	92	100.0	43	100.1	64	100.1

*Narcotics included in this category for this table.

Section C. Post Disposition Behavior

Whites were much more inclined to continue drug use after formal adjudication. Blacks were less likely to have continued reported drug use when compared to all formal drug cases. However, blacks tended to commit delinquent acts not involved with drug use at a greater rate than whites.

Table 15. POST DISPOSITION BEHAVIOR BY RACE

POST DISPOSITION	WHITE		BLACK		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Drug Use/No Referrals	36	29.5	16	41.0	52	32.3
No Drug Use/ Delinquent Referrals	29	23.8	16	41.0	45	28.0
*Drug Use/No Referrals	2	1.6	1	2.6	3	1.9
**Drug Use/Delinquent Referrals	10	8.2	1	2.6	11	6.8
Drug Use/Drug Referrals	18	14.8	2	5.1	20	12.4
Drug Use/Drug & Del. Referrals	27	22.1	3	7.7	30	18.6
SUB TOTAL	122	100.0	39	100.0	161	100.0
***Inadequate Follow-Up	32	XX	6	XX	38	XX
TOTAL	154	XX	45	XX	199	XX

*Drug use indicated in the record by probation officer or others but no subsequent referrals/the original drug score was not used because it created very small cell sizes making analysis impossible.

**Same as above but with delinquent referrals only.

***Less than six months follow-up --- not included in percentages.

Over 70% of the blacks in the formal sample had no reported drug use after adjudication ($P < .02$) and less reported referrals when compared to whites. Well over half of the females had no continued drug problems reported. Almost three-fourths of the males had a referral in the follow-up compared to slightly over half of the females.

Table 16. POST DISPOSITION BEHAVIOR (GROUPED) BY SEX AND RACE

POST DISPOSITION	WHITE		BLACK		MALE		FEMALE	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Drug Use	65	42.2	32	71.1	80	46.8	17	60.7
Drug Use	89	57.8	13	28.9	91	53.2	11	39.3
TOTAL	154	100.0	45	100.0	171	100.0	28	100.0
No Referrals	39	25.3	17	37.8	43	25.1	13	46.4
Referrals	115	74.7	28	62.2	128	74.9	15	53.6
TOTAL	154	100.0	45	100.0	171	100.0	28	100.0

*Inadequate follow-ups included/referrals include both drug and delinquent.

Juveniles over 17 had a high risk of continued drug use compared to those under 16 years of age ($P < .001$). However, those 16 or under had a greater chance of being referred to court for either drugs or delinquency but this may be a function of a longer follow-up for those 16 or under.

Table 17. POST DISPOSITION BEHAVIOR BY AGE

POST DISPOSITION	16 & Under		17+		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Drug Use	67	60.9	30	33.7	97	48.7
Drug Use	43	39.1	59	66.3	102	51.3
TOTAL	110	100.0	89	100.0	199	100.0
No Referrals	33	30.0	36	40.4	99	49.7
Referrals	77	70.0	53	59.6	100	50.3
TOTAL	110	100.0	89	100.0	199	100.0

Table 18. POST DISPOSITION BEHAVIOR BY DISPOSITION

POST DISPOSITION	TREATMENT		NON TREATMENT	
	No.	%	No.	%
No Reported Drug Use	41	49.4	56	48.3
Reported Drug Use	42	50.6	60	51.7
TOTAL	83	100.0	116	100.0
No Referrals	39	47.0	48	41.4
Referrals	44	53.0	68	58.6
TOTAL	83	100.0	116	100.0

The sample was divided into two groups: those receiving a treatment disposition and those whose cases were filed away, remanded or dismissed to determine if treatment had a discernable effect on outcome.

There were no significant differences between the group receiving treatment and those whose cases were filed away. The treatment group had slightly lower rates of reported drug use and referrals.

Except for solvent abusers, there were few differences between treatment and non-treatment groups. In terms of drug use, there was little difference between treatment and non-treatment groups for solvent abuse. However, for referrals, the solvent abuse group receiving treatment had a much higher rate of referrals.

Table 19. POST DISPOSITION BEHAVIOR BY DISPOSITION AND DRUG TYPE

	POST DISPOSITION	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS		DANGEROUS DRUGS			MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS		DANGEROUS DRUGS	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
TREATMENT GROUP	No Drug Use	19	59.4	10	41.7	12	44.4	NON-TREATMENT GROUP	32	53.3	7	36.8	12	41.4
	Drug Use	13	40.6	14	58.3	15	55.6		28	46.7	12	63.2	17	58.6
	TOTAL	32	100.0	24	100.0	27	100.0		60	100.0	19	100.0	29	100.0
	No Referrals	17	53.1	6	25.0	16	59.3		26	43.3	8	42.1	13	44.8
	Referrals	15	46.9	18	75.0	11	40.7		35	56.7	11	57.9	16	55.2
	TOTAL	32	100.0	24	100.0	27	100.0		60	100.0	19	100.0	29	100.0

Table 20. MEAN NUMBER OF OFFENSES IN FOLLOW-UP

	MARIJUANA	SOLVENTS	DANGEROUS DRUGS	NARCOTICS
Drug Referrals	.33	.77	.32	.25
Del. Referrals	.91	1.35	.48	1.13**
Combined	1.24	2.12	.80	1.40

**One narcotic case committed nine offenses in the follow-up.

Solvent abusers committed the most offenses in the follow-up in both the drug and delinquent categories. Solvent abuse was associated much more with general delinquent behavior than other drug types. Dangerous drug offenders were more related to "drug only" offenses than any other group.

Table 21. PRE-HISTORY BY POST HISTORY DRUG USE

PRE-HISTORY	POST HISTORY DRUG USE					
	Continued Use		No Drug Use		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
None	25	45.5	30	54.5	55	100.0
Dependent	1	25.0	3	75.0	4	100.0
Delinquent	33	43.4	43	56.6	76	100.0
Drug Only	12	70.6	5	29.4	17	100.0
Drug/Delinquent	31	66.0	16	34.0	47	100.0
TOTAL	102	51.3	97	48.7	199	100.0

Juveniles with a pre-history of drug use continued to use drugs at a greater rate than other pre-history types. First offenders and juveniles with a delinquent pre-history were most likely to have less reported use.

PART TWO
INFORMAL CASES*

Section A. Characteristics of Informal Offenders

The random sample yielded one expunged record thus the number of cases is 47.

The majority of juveniles handled informally were referred for marijuana-related offenses. Because there was only one dangerous drug offender and there was insufficient evidence in that case, only the categories of marijuana and solvents were examined.

Table 22. TYPE OF DRUG

TYPE OF DRUG	No.	%
Marijuana	34	72.3
Solvents	12	25.5
Dangerous Drugs	1	2.1
Narcotics	0	-
TOTAL	47	99.9

Table 23. RACE AND SEX

	WHITE		BLACK		MALE		FEMALE	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Marijuana	27	69.2	7	100.0	30	73.2	4	80.0
Solvents	12	30.8	0	-	11	26.8	1	20.0
TOTAL	39	100.0	7	100.0	41	100.0	5	100.0

As with the formal cases, solvent abuse is almost exclusively an offense related to whites.

Those referred for solvent abuse tended to admit the offense at a

* Not all tables appearing in the Formal Section will appear here because of insufficient data and cell sizes.

slightly higher rate than marijuana offenders.

It should be noted that none of the informal cases were referred for sale.

Table 25. REASON CASE WAS CLOSED

REASON FOR CLOSING	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS	
	No.	%	No.	%
First Offense	8	23.5	3	25.0
Insufficient Evidence	12	35.3	1	8.3
Referred to Drug Counsel	4	11.8	4	33.3
Active with Court	2	5.9	2	16.7
Other/Unknown	8	23.5	2	16.7
TOTAL	34	100.0	12	100.0

As with formal cases, solvent abusers were younger although informals had a slightly lower mean age for both drug types compared to formals.

Table 24. DRUG USE ADMITTED

	YES		NO		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Marijuana	14	41.2	20	58.8	34	100.0
Solvents	6	50.0	6	50.0	12	100.0
TOTAL	20	43.5	26	56.5	46	100.0

The reason mentioned most often for closing marijuana referrals informally was because of insufficient evidence whereas solvent cases were closed and referred to drug counseling of some kind. Both offense types had similar rates of first offenders.

Table 26. AGE

AGE	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS	
	No.	%	No.	%
13	3	8.8	1	8.3
14	2	5.9	1	8.3
15	2	5.9	5	41.7
16	15	44.1	2	16.7
17	12	35.3	3	25.0
TOTAL	34	100.0	12	100.0
Mean	(15.9)		(15.4)	

Table 27. SCHOOL STATUS

SCHOOL STATUS	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS	
	No.	%	No.	%
Attending	26	76.5	7	58.3
Withdrawn	8	23.5	5	41.7
TOTAL	34	100.0	12	100.0

Marijuana offenders were much more likely to be attending school at the time of referral. All five of the solvent abusers past the age of 16 had withdrawn from school.

Receipt of public assistance among informal marijuana offenders was far below the expected rate in the general delinquent population. This indicated informal marijuana offenders came from a higher economic bracket.

Table 28. RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS	
	No.	%	No.	%
YES	2	5.9	2	20.0
NO	32	94.1	10	80.0
TOTAL	34	100.0	12	100.0

Table 29. PRE-HISTORY

PRE-HISTORY	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS	
	No.	%	No.	%
None	19	55.9	6	50.0
Delinquent	4	11.8	3	25.0
Drug Only	9	26.5	0	-
Drug/Delinquent	2	5.9	3	25.0
TOTAL	34	100.1	12	100.0

Marijuana informals were more likely first offenders but slightly over one-fourth of them had a previous drug referral.

Section B. Recidivism of Informals

Although not statistically significant, it appeared that marijuana informals were much less likely to have reported drug or delinquent offenses compared to solvent abusers. Almost six of ten solvent abusers continued their drug involvement with over 80% having a subsequent drug or delinquent referral.

Table 30. FOLLOW-UP OUTCOME BY DRUG TYPE

	MARIJUANA		SOLVENTS		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Drug Use	30	88.2	5	41.7	35	76.1
Drug Use	4	11.8	7	58.3	11	23.9
TOTAL	34	100.0	12	100.0	46	100.0
No Referrals	23	67.6	2	16.7	25	54.3
Referrals	11	32.4	10	83.3	21	45.7
TOTAL	34	100.0	12	100.0	46	100.0

Table 31. MEAN NUMBER OF OFFENSES IN THE FOLLOW-UP

	MEAN NUMBER		
	Drug	Delinquent	Combined
Marijuana	.12	.29	.41
Solvents	.67	1.42	2.09

Solvent abusers committed over two offenses in the follow-up with over half for delinquent activity. Solvent abusers were much more involved with drugs and delinquency than the marijuana referral.

SELECTED FINDINGS - FORMAL CASES

✓ Based on 1974 data, there were very few cases in which narcotics (heroin) were actively involved. Only 4% of all drug offenses involved narcotics and in only two cases was the charge admitted or proved.

✓ Over half of the dangerous drug offenses involved sale.

✓ Blacks were more often charged with marijuana related offenses.

✓ The type of drug for which females were referred most often was dangerous drugs.

✓ Solvent abusers were the youngest of all types studied and had the highest rate of school withdrawal.

✓ Solvent abusers were least likely first offenders and had the greatest chance of being institutionalized.

✓ Marijuana cases were found to be evenly distributed throughout the service area for the most part. However, solvent abusers and dangerous drug offenders tended to cluster in specific communities. For example, almost one-fourth of the solvent cases were found in one community.

✓ There was very little evidence of continued drug use among blacks after disposition. Over half the whites had continued drug involvement.

✓ There was no significant difference between the group that received a treatment disposition and those that did not.

- ✓ Solvent abusers had the highest mean number of offenses in the follow-up period.
- ✓ Juveniles with a previous history of drug involvement were most likely to have a continued drug problem in the follow-up.

SELECTED FINDINGS - INFORMAL CASES

✓ Almost three-fourths of a random sample of drug offenders in 1974 were referred for simple possession of marijuana. One-fourth were referred for solvent abuse and none for narcotics.

✓ As with formal cases, solvent abuse was almost exclusively related to whites.

✓ Half of the solvent abusers admitted use whereas 40% of the marijuana offenders admitted possession.

✓ Solvent abusers had a better chance of being referred to drug counseling. Over one-third of the marijuana cases were closed due to lack of evidence.

✓ Informal drug offenders were younger than those handled formally.

✓ Over three-fourths of those referred for marijuana were attending school.

✓ Almost 90% of the informal marijuana cases had no reported drug use in the follow-up period and over two-thirds had no referrals to court for either drugs or delinquency. The opposite was true for those referred for solvents. Over half continued using drugs of some type and over 80% had a subsequent referral.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

study was outdated before it was begun. The drug scene has changed greatly and will continue to change. However, this study does reflect reality to a much greater degree than previous studies because the actual case record was examined and the type of drug the juvenile was accused of using was examined. Also, the rates of the types of drugs used may be applicable to today's drug scene. That will not be known until another study is undertaken.

This report statistically establishes the need for the Solvent Abuse Program which was begun earlier in 1976. The solvent abusers were by far the juveniles most involved in both drug and delinquent activity.

A policy of informal handling for those involved with simple possession of marijuana is supported to some extent by the data in this report. Of those handled informally, almost 90% had no more reported drug use and less than one-third had another referral to court. However, this observation is based on a random sample of those cases handled informally and not all informal drug cases.

With the substantial increase in alcohol referrals in 1975, it would be interesting to undertake an examination of both drug and alcohol referrals in the future. The "drug problem" does not only involve marijuana and illicit drugs but alcohol abuse as well and the problems surrounding drug abuse are most likely the same as those concerning the juvenile alcohol offender.

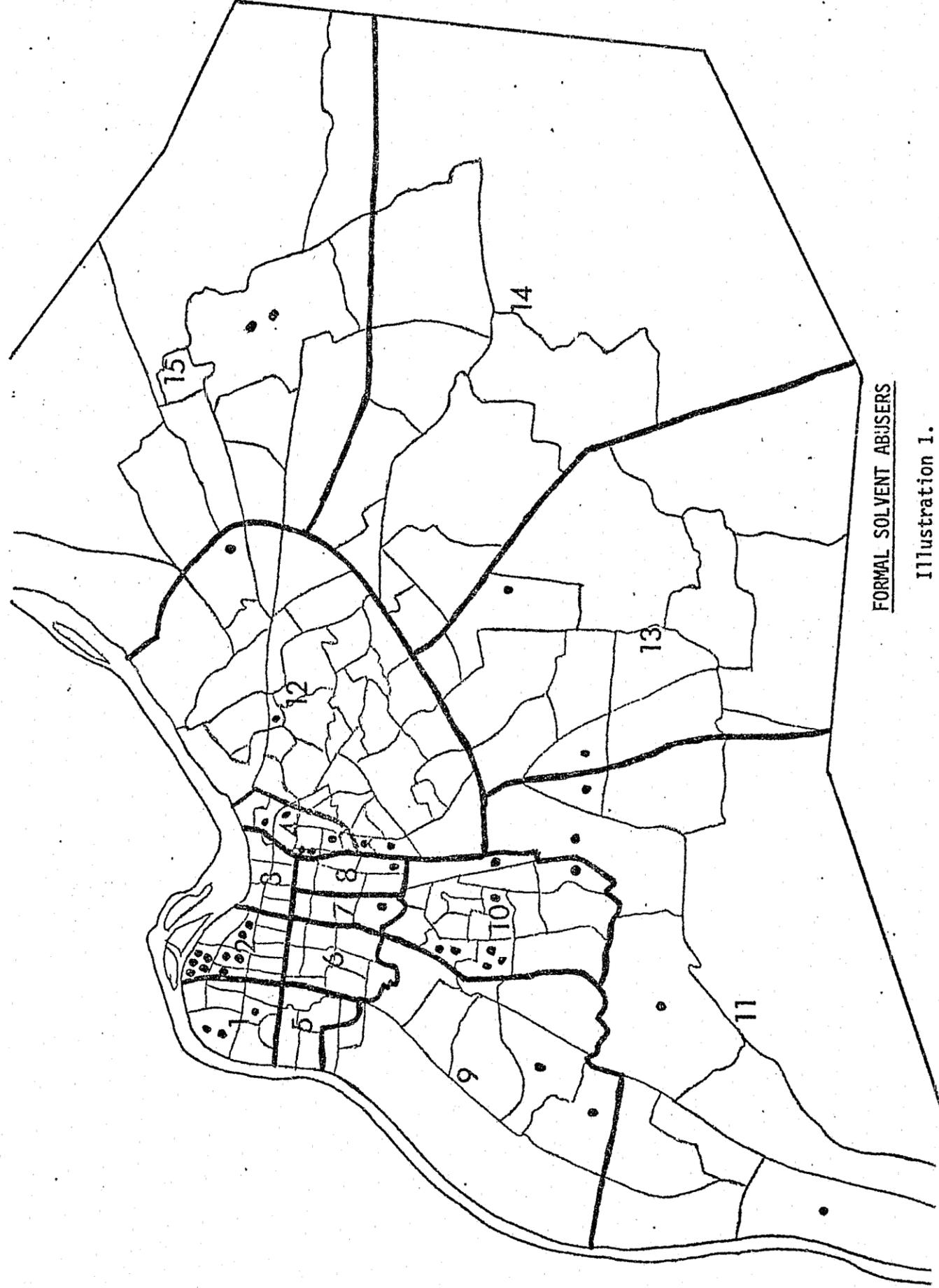
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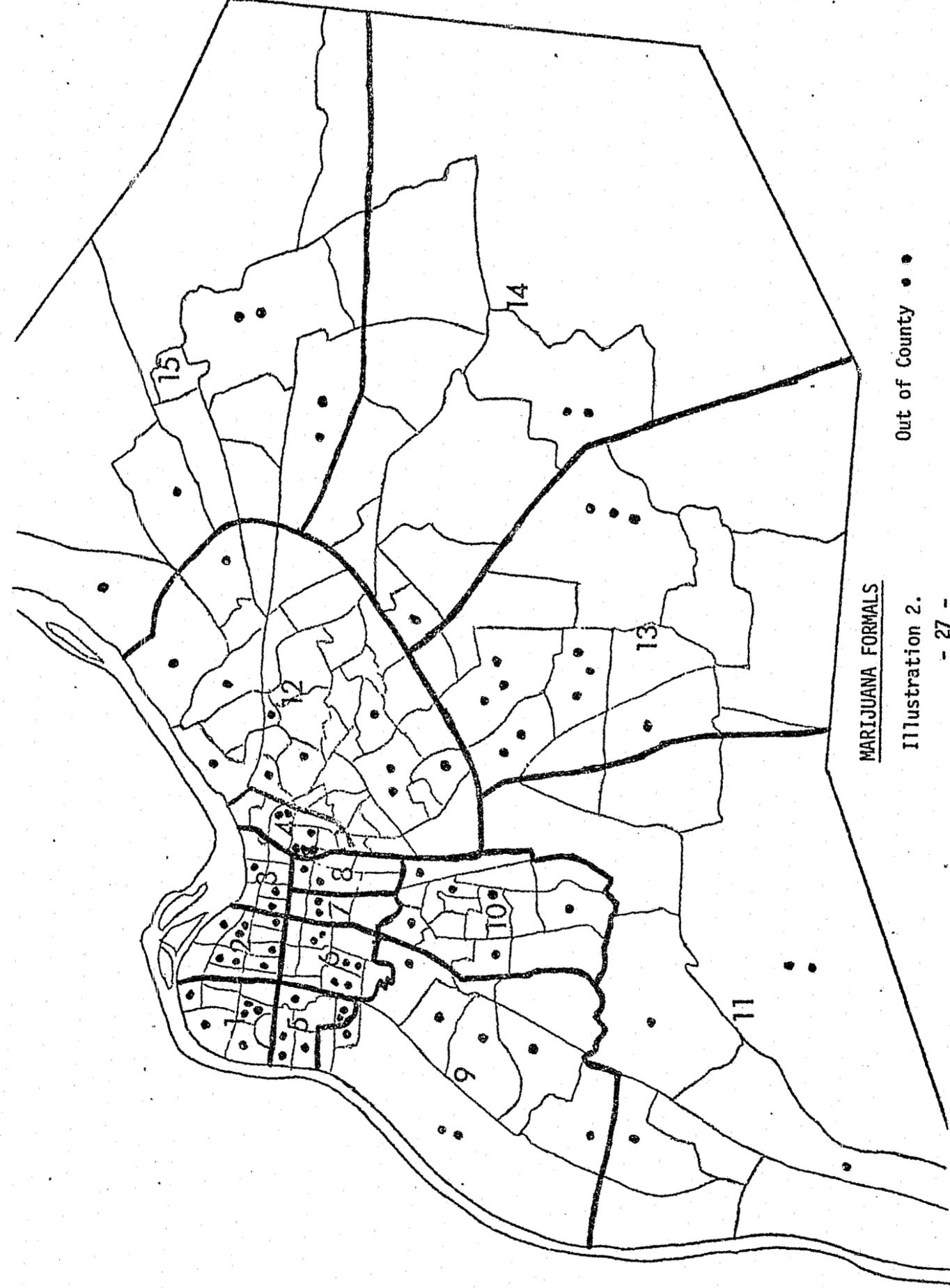
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FORMAL SOLVENT ABUSERS

Illustration 1.



MARIJUANA FORMALS

Illustration 2.

Out of County ••

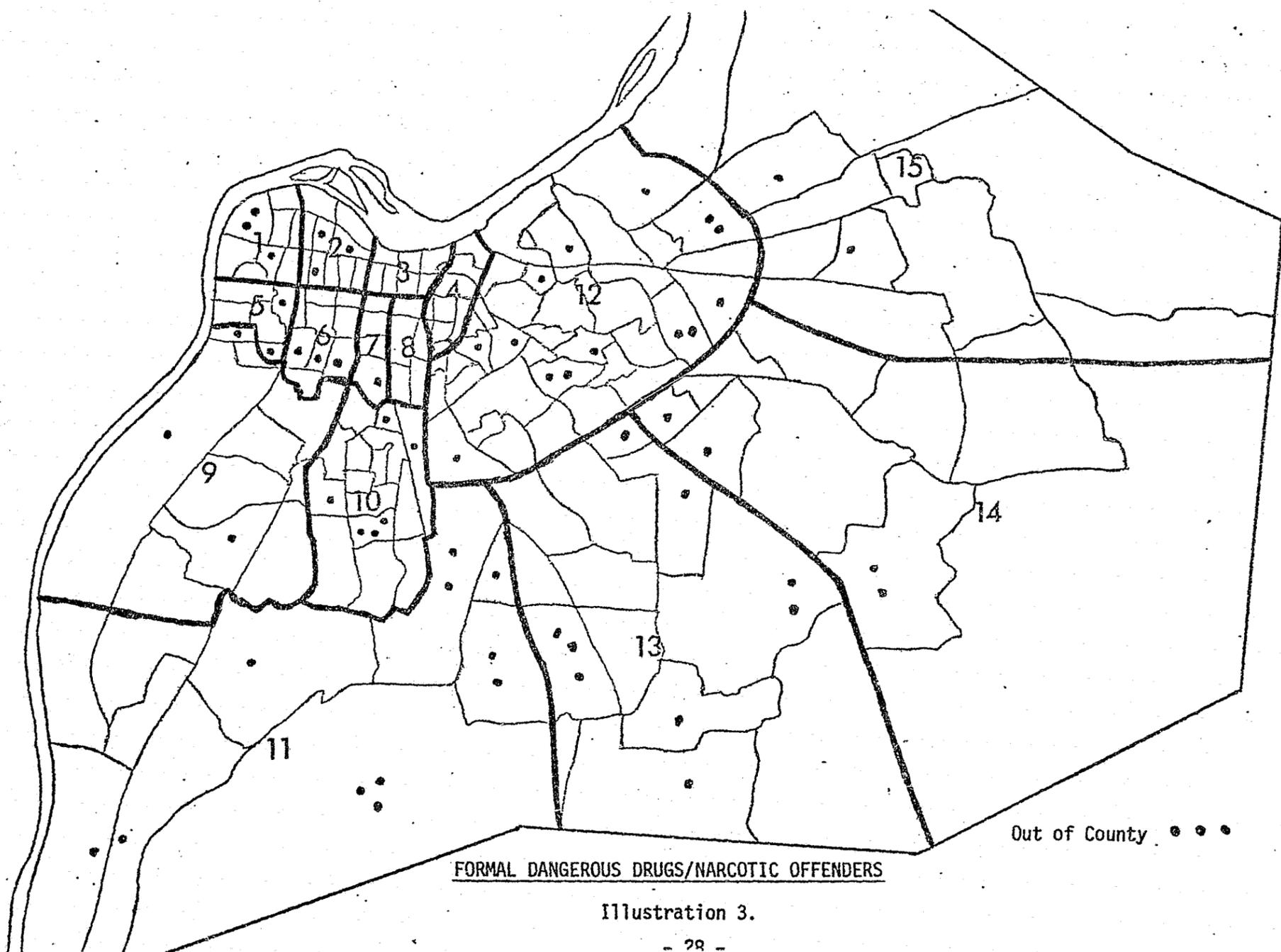


Illustration 3.