

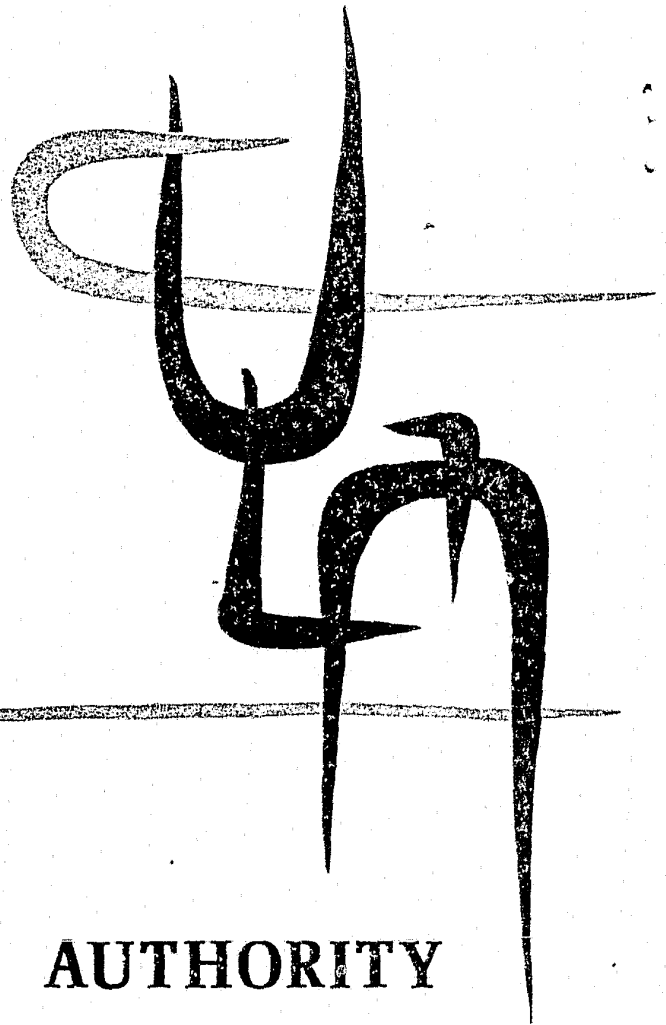
A Comparison of Admission Characteristics of Youth Authority Wards 1970-1977

47313

April, 1978



**CALIFORNIA
YOUTH AUTHORITY**

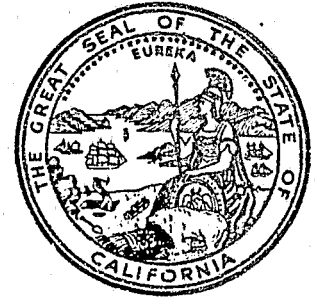


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A COMPARISON OF ADMISSION CHARACTERISTICS
OF YOUTH AUTHORITY WARDS, 1970 - 1977

MAY 17 1978

INTRODUCTION

ACQUISITIONS

Since its inception, the Youth Authority has gathered basic data on the characteristics of all first commitments. The number of items collected and the method of collection have varied considerably over the years, and it is not possible to recapture all of these data in a uniform fashion for comparative analysis.. For instance, in 1974 a new computer system was initiated which resulted in a change in the types of information collected. Thus, many of the items in this report have data only for 1974 and subsequent. In analyzing the data, it is assumed that variations reflect a change in characteristics or behavior. Where there are known inconsistencies in reporting, there is a notation to that effect in the Summary of Items. These data were originally gathered from Referral Documents, Clinic Summaries, and Initial Home Visit Data Forms.

The offense categories used in this report consist of the following:

Violent type offenses: homicide, robbery, and all types of assaults;

Property type offenses: burglary, theft (including auto),

and forgery and check offenses;

Sex offenses: all offenses involving sexual misconduct;

Narcotics and drug offenses: all offenses related to

< narcotics and dangerous drugs;

Welfare and Institutions Code violations: all age-related offenses

such as incorrigibility, truancy, runaway, foster home or

county camp failure, and escape from county camp or

juvenile hall;

Other offenses: all offenses not specifically mentioned above,

HIGHLIGHTS

- After decreasing to a low of 49 percent, juvenile court commitments have increased to 56 percent of total first admissions.
- Ethnic minorities now constitute 61 percent of all admissions to the Youth Authority. Seven years ago, only 45 percent of admissions were ethnic minorities.
- Violent type offenses represent 41 percent of all commitments to the Youth Authority. In 1970, they represented only 21 percent.
- The use or possession of weapons in conjunction with the offense has increased rather steadily since 1970, stabilizing recently at 38 percent.
- The use or possession of alcohol at the time of the offense has also increased steadily since 1970 from 9 percent to 30 percent.
- Almost half of all first commitments have dropped out of school.
- Two-thirds of the wards who were in the job market were unemployed at the time of the offense.
- Most of the wards were living in the parental home (74 percent) and about half of the wards came from two parent homes, either natural parents or parent surrogates.
- Over one-half of the wards had family members with criminal records.
- By far, the major problem in the ward's adjustment was negative peer group influences.

SUMMARY OF ITEMS

Sex

The proportion of female first commitments, never a high proportion, has dropped since 1970 with the current figure being less than half the number committed in 1970.

Court

In 1976, for the first time in Youth Authority history, more wards were committed from the criminal courts than from juvenile courts. This has since returned to the more familiar pattern of the majority of commitments coming from the juvenile courts.

Area of Commitment

More than half of all commitments are consistently from Southern California.

Commitment Offense

The proportion of violent type offenses doubled in the first six years of the report from 21 percent to 42 percent, then stabilized over the past two years at 41 percent. Narcotic and drug and W & I code commitments have decreased from 27 percent of the total to 8 percent.

Ethnic Group

Commitments of minority groups have increased from 45 percent of the total to a high of 61 percent.

Median Age

Age at commitment has been fairly stable with a median of approximately 18 years.

Number of Escapes

Wards with prior escapes from custody averaged 18 percent of the total commitments, with no apparent trends.

Co-offenders

The proportion of commitment offenses with more than one youth involved has been fairly stable at 46 to 50 percent.

Weapons with Offense

A steadily increasing proportion of wards either possessed or used a weapon during the commission of the current offense (38 percent).

Alcohol with offense

The proportion of wards under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offense has been increasing in recent years (30 percent in 1977).

Overall Alcohol Usage

The proportion of wards who use alcohol excessively has remained at approximately 17 percent for the past two years.

Drugs with Offense

The proportion of wards using or possessing some kind of drug at the time of the commitment offense has averaged about 20 percent.

Physical Handicaps

Only a small proportion of wards have a physical disability at time of commitment (11 percent).

School Dropout Status

Because of reporting changes, the more recent figures are believed to be most representative of the school dropout population at commitment (45 percent). The apparent rise in the proportion of wards who have dropped out of school is probably due to a change in the method of collecting the data.

Last Grade Enrolled in School

Differences across the years may be a function of reporting changes. The more recent figures may be most representative of the population at commitment. In 1975, 1976, and 1977, over 40 percent had terminated schooling at the tenth grade level or below.

Reading Comprehension

Between 1970 and 1974 reading comprehension was tested by the Gates-MacGinitie. In the following years the reading comprehension was tested by the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE). In these years the mean grade level was about the seventh grade. The observable difference in mean grade level can be attributed to the change in test rather than to the reading ability of wards.

Arithmetic Reasoning

Between 1970 and 1974 the arithmetic ability of wards was tested by the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills. Thereafter the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) was used. The mean grade level was about 6.5 in the last two years.

Prior Delinquent Contacts

The proportion of wards with no prior recorded delinquent contacts increased from 3 percent to 7 percent, over the period shown.

Median Age at First Delinquent Contact

There has been little variation in the median age (14) at which wards first became involved with the juvenile justice system.

Prior Delinquent Commitments

In 1977, more than 60 percent of the wards had experienced county commitments prior to their commitment to the Youth Authority.

Median Age at First Delinquent Commitment

For those wards experiencing a county commitment, the median age at such a commitment was slightly less than 16 years.

I-Level

Most of the differences observable in this item can be attributed to a change in the method of making the diagnosis.

Religion

The proportion of wards claiming either Protestant or Catholic religious preference has remained fairly constant in recent years.

Major Problem Area

Starting in 1974 parole agents were asked to designate the major problem the wards experienced while in the community. Negative peer group influences and mental or emotional problems predominated.

Employment

A little less than two-thirds of the wards were in the job market at commitment. Approximately two-thirds of those in the job market were unemployed.

Placement Before Commitment

Almost three-quarters of the wards were living in the parental home at the time they committed the offense leading to Youth Authority admission.

Out-of-Home Placements

Thirty-six percent of the wards had been placed out of the parental home at some time prior to Youth Authority commitment.

Parental Configuration

Almost half of the wards came from two parent homes (either natural or substitute parents).

Parents' Marital Status

Approximately 60 percent of the wards came from homes broken by divorce, separation or death of parents.

Income Level of Home

More than one-half of the wards came from homes with an adequate or better than adequate income.

Family Income from Public Assistance

Sixty-one percent of the families received no public assistance.

Criminal Record of Family Members

Over one-third of the wards had siblings with criminal records, and one-half of the wards came from families with criminal records.

Economic Aspects of Immediate Neighborhood

More than one-half of the wards came from homes where the neighborhood was considered average or above in maintenance and appearance.

Delinquency Aspects of Immediate Neighborhood

Over two-thirds of the wards lived in neighborhoods not considered highly delinquent.

Table 1

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1977

(Showing percents of totals)

Total Admissions

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Total first admissions.....	3,746	3,218	2,728	2,757	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
Male.....	88.6	89.5	90.8	91.9	92.9	94.7	94.9	95.3
Female.....	11.4	10.5	9.2	8.1	7.1	5.3	5.1	4.7
Court.....	3,746	3,218	2,728	2,757	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
Juvenile.....	58.9	51.3	53.6	53.1	50.9	53.7	49.3	55.5
Criminal.....	41.1	48.7	46.4	46.9	49.1	46.3	50.7	45.4
Area of commitment.....	3,746	3,218	2,728	2,757	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
Southern California.....	59.9	55.6	53.7	59.9	59.6	61.9	58.0	57.4
Los Angeles.....	32.3	29.8	29.0	35.7	32.3	33.5	33.5	35.3
9 other counties.....	27.6	25.8	24.7	24.2	27.3	28.4	24.5	22.1
San Francisco Bay area.....	23.0	24.5	24.5	20.5	19.8	21.0	23.5	23.6
Sacramento Valley.....	5.5	6.2	9.1	7.3	7.7	7.2	7.6	6.0
San Joaquin Valley.....	7.3	7.9	7.9	7.4	7.5	6.2	7.2	8.6
22 other counties.....	4.3	5.8	4.8	4.9	5.4	3.7	3.7	4.4
Commitment offense.....	3,746	3,218	2,728	2,757	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
Violent type offenses.....	21.2	24.1	28.0	33.6	36.6	42.3	41.5	41.2
Property type offenses.....	29.8	34.1	36.4	36.4	38.6	38.6	41.4	44.3
Sex offenses.....	2.9	2.9	3.2	4.0	3.5	4.2	3.3	3.9
Narcotic & drug offenses.....	19.3	18.8	11.8	9.4	7.6	4.5	3.5	2.5
W & I code violations.....	20.1	14.0	14.1	10.4	8.8	5.9	6.3	3.6
Other offenses.....	6.7	6.1	6.5	6.2	4.9	4.5	4.0	4.5
Ethnic group.....	3,746	3,218	2,728	2,757	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
White.....	55.4	52.0	48.6	44.5	47.3	40.7	40.5	39.3
Spanish-speaking /surname.....	17.5	19.0	19.6	18.9	19.8	21.4	23.2	25.6
Black.....	24.8	25.9	29.3	33.9	30.1	34.4	33.7	32.0
Other.....	2.3	3.1	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.5	2.6	3.1
Median age.....	17.7	18.1	18.0	18.0	18.1	18.0	18.2	17.9
Number of escapes.....	3,746	3,218	2,728	2,757	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
None or unknown.....	84.4	80.1	78.6	82.4	84.5	82.3	80.8	82.1
One or more.....	15.6	19.9	21.4	17.6	15.5	17.7	19.2	17.9
Co-offenders.....	3,746	3,218	2,728	2,757	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
None or unknown.....	51.9	53.6	55.3	53.2	49.7	51.1	47.8	49.8
One or two.....	37.7	37.5	37.8	39.6	41.7	42.1	44.3	43.3
Three or more.....	10.4	8.9	6.9	7.2	8.6	6.8	7.9	6.9
Weapons with offense.....	3,746	3,218	2,728	2,757	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
None or unknown.....	80.8	74.2	72.6	65.5	63.6	61.3	62.3	62.1
Yes.....	19.2	25.8	27.4	34.5	36.4	38.7	37.7	37.9

TABLE 1 (Continued)

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1977

(Showing percents of totals)

○Total Admissions

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Alcohol with offense.....	3,746	3,218	2,728	2,757	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
None or unknown.....	91.0	90.3	85.5	82.4	70.7	72.0	70.8	69.8
Yes.....	9.0	9.7	14.5	17.6	29.3	28.0	29.2	30.2
Overall alcohol usage.....	3,746	3,218	2,728	2,757	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
None or unknown.....	25.7	21.8	22.3	36.5	20.3	26.7	26.7	24.5
Slight to moderate.....	59.3	63.4	51.5	35.7	59.1	54.0	57.5	58.4
Excessive.....	15.0	14.8	26.2	27.8	20.6	19.3	15.8	17.1
Drugs with offense.....	-	-	-	-	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	-	78.0	80.1	79.8	77.9
Yes.....	-	-	-	-	22.0	19.9	20.2	22.1
Physical handicaps.....	-	-	-	-	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	-	92.3	94.3	89.4	89.2
Yes.....	-	-	-	-	7.7	5.7	10.6	10.8
School dropout status.....	-	-	-	2,757	3,002	3,404	3,559	3,626
No or unknown.....	-	-	-	72.5	63.3	57.2	57.4	54.8
Yes.....	-	-	-	27.5	36.7	42.8	42.6	45.2
Last grade enrolled in school.....	3,607	3,114	2,653	2,659	2,845	3,047	3,305	3,386
Grades 1-9.....	25.7	21.7	20.5	18.1	15.8	20.2	16.5	16.4
Grade 10.....	26.5	25.9	24.6	25.2	24.8	26.6	26.0	26.4
Grade 11.....	31.3	28.8	31.4	31.3	30.7	32.5	35.0	35.2
Grade 12.....	9.2	17.2	19.1	16.1	17.7	11.4	13.2	14.2
High School graduate or college.....	7.3	6.4	4.4	9.3	11.0	9.3	9.3	7.8
Reading comprehension (mean grade level).	7.9	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.2	6.9	7.0	7.0
Arithmetic reasoning (mean grade level) .	6.4	6.4	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.5	6.6	6.5
Prior delinquent contacts.....	3,726	3,188	2,712	2,743	2,991	3,205	3,468	3,590
None.....	2.9	2.7	3.5	4.4	5.6	5.3	7.3	7.0
1-4.....	32.2	27.8	22.0	17.8	25.8	27.7	30.6	30.6
5-7.....	27.1	24.9	24.9	43.5	21.9	22.5	20.9	22.6
8 or more.....	37.8	44.7	49.6	34.3	46.7	44.5	41.2	39.8
Median age at first delinquent contact.	14.2	14.1	13.9	13.9	13.9	13.9	14.2	14.0
Prior delinquent commitments.....	3,726	3,188	2,712	2,742	2,991	3,205	3,468	3,590
None.....	45.8	43.4	43.0	48.9	48.6	43.3	43.6	38.1
One.....	34.9	33.2	32.2	29.7	29.3	32.9	30.0	31.3
Two.....	14.0	15.4	16.0	14.1	13.5	14.9	15.8	17.0
Three or more.....	5.3	8.0	8.8	7.3	8.6	8.9	10.6	13.6

TABLE 1 (Continued)

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1977

(Showing percents of totals)

Total Admissions

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Median age at first delinquent commitment.....	15.8	15.9	15.8	15.9	15.9	15.9	15.9	15.7
I-Level.....	1,872	2,163	2,316	2,424	2,802	2,472	2,855	2,795
I-2.....	2.1	6.9	5.8	7.5	8.0	10.7	9.4	9.9
I-3.....	38.0	45.0	52.5	51.0	51.0	54.8	54.5	57.8
I-4 and I-5.....	59.9	48.1	41.7	41.5	41.0	34.5	36.1	32.3
Religion.....	3,450	2,854	2,322	2,314	2,404	2,550	2,725	2,849
Catholic.....	41.0	43.4	42.4	42.8	45.4	46.7	46.9	45.3
Protestant.....	58.1	53.3	54.9	55.0	53.3	51.2	51.4	52.8
Other.....	0.9	3.3	2.7	2.2	1.3	2.1	1.7	1.9
Major problem area.....	-	-	-	-	2,456	2,753	2,741	2,872
None.....	-	-	-	-	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.3
Employment.....	-	-	-	-	7.1	7.0	7.4	5.9
Family.....	-	-	-	-	12.2	8.4	7.0	8.5
School.....	-	-	-	-	3.8	3.3	3.2	3.3
Drugs/alcohol.....	-	-	-	-	16.7	14.2	14.5	14.3
Peer influence.....	-	-	-	-	37.8	42.9	41.6	42.8
Mental/emotional.....	-	-	-	-	21.2	23.2	24.7	23.9
Employment.....	-	-	-	-	2,547	2,857	2,840	3,011
Not in job market.....	-	-	-	-	36.5	37.7	34.2	36.4
Unemployed.....	-	-	-	-	38.5	41.9	46.0	44.2
Employed part-time.....	-	-	-	-	13.4	12.4	11.8	10.0
Employed full-time.....	-	-	-	-	11.6	8.0	8.0	9.4
Placement before commitment.....	-	-	-	-	2,548	2,904	2,881	3,033
Parents.....	-	-	-	-	73.1	73.4	72.4	73.6
Relatives.....	-	-	-	-	8.8	9.3	9.4	8.6
Foster/group home.....	-	-	-	-	6.0	5.3	5.2	6.5
Independent.....	-	-	-	-	12.1	12.0	13.0	11.3
Out-of-home placement.....	-	-	-	-	2,434	2,740	2,724	2,795
None.....	-	-	-	-	65.7	68.1	67.8	64.0
One.....	-	-	-	-	16.3	16.8	15.8	16.9
Two or more.....	-	-	-	-	18.0	15.1	16.4	19.1
Parental configuration.....	-	-	-	-	2,578	2,919	2,902	3,068
No parents in home.....	-	-	-	-	6.1	4.7	5.5	6.6
One parent in home.....	-	-	-	-	41.0	44.2	45.1	46.2
Two parent home.....	-	-	-	-	52.9	51.1	49.3	47.2

TABLE 1 (Continued)

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1977

(Showing percents of totals)

Total Admissions

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Parents' marital status.....	3,681	3,147	2,686	2,702	2,965	3,128	3,413	3,511
Never married.....	5.2	6.2	3.0	3.9	7.6	5.9	6.5	8.9
Presently married.....	37.0	35.9	34.2	30.7	34.5	33.1	31.8	29.7
No longer married.....	57.8	57.9	62.8	65.4	57.9	61.0	61.7	61.4
Income level of home.....	-	-	-	-	2,516	2,833	2,801	2,879
Less than adequate.....	-	-	-	-	41.1	43.7	44.2	46.3
Adequate.....	-	-	-	-	52.3	51.9	51.6	49.5
More than adequate.....	-	-	-	-	6.6	4.4	4.2	4.2
Family income from public assistance...	-	-	-	-	2,443	2,713	2,706	2,773
None.....	-	-	-	-	66.1	62.6	62.5	60.5
Less than half.....	-	-	-	-	8.0	9.8	9.0	9.0
More than half.....	-	-	-	-	25.9	27.6	28.5	30.5
Criminal record of family members.....	-	-	-	-	2,299	2,616	2,568	2,652
None.....	-	-	-	-	51.8	50.2	51.6	49.0
Parents only.....	-	-	-	-	9.7	8.7	8.0	7.8
Siblings only.....	-	-	-	-	28.6	32.3	33.0	34.6
Both.....	-	-	-	-	9.9	8.8	7.4	8.6
Economic aspects of immediate neighborhood.....	-	-	-	-	2,523	2,848	2,836	2,963
Above average.....	-	-	-	-	8.0	7.3	6.9	6.3
Average.....	-	-	-	-	47.7	50.0	50.1	50.3
Below average.....	-	-	-	-	44.3	42.7	43.0	43.4
Delinquency aspects of immediate neighborhood.....	-	-	-	-	2,504	2,823	2,803	2,957
Non-delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	9.0	6.4	6.6	5.7
Minimally delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	27.0	25.1	25.2	22.2
Moderately delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	35.0	37.1	36.3	39.4
Highly delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	29.0	31.4	31.9	32.7

Note: Unless indicated differently, responses coded as unknown were removed from each item thus accounting for differing totals.

TABLE 2

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1977

(Showing percents of totals)

Males

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Total first admissions.....	3,319	2,880	2,476	2,534	2,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
Court.....	3,319	2,880	2,476	2,534	3,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
Juvenile.....	56.0	48.5	51.2	51.1	49.0	53.2	48.4	55.1
Criminal.....	44.0	51.5	48.8	48.9	51.0	46.8	51.6	44.9
Area of commitment.....	3,319	2,880	2,476	2,534	2,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
Southern California.....	60.5	55.7	53.9	59.7	60.8	62.1	58.5	57.8
Los Angeles.....	33.4	30.6	30.1	36.4	33.4	34.1	33.9	35.3
9 other counties.....	27.1	25.1	23.8	23.3	27.4	28.0	24.6	22.5
San Francisco Bay area.....	22.0	23.9	24.7	20.4	19.5	20.9	23.4	23.4
Sacramento Valley.....	5.7	6.6	8.9	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.1
San Joaquin Valley.....	7.4	8.0	7.9	7.4	7.3	6.1	7.1	8.5
22 other counties.....	4.4	5.8	4.6	5.0	5.2	3.7	3.6	4.2
Commitment offense.....	3,319	2,880	2,476	2,534	2,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
Violent type offenses.....	22.1	25.3	29.1	34.4	37.3	42.2	41.4	40.8
Property type offenses.....	31.8	35.7	38.5	38.1	39.6	39.2	41.9	45.0
Sex offenses.....	3.0	3.1	3.3	4.2	3.8	4.3	3.4	4.0
Narcotic & drug offenses.....	19.7	18.9	11.4	9.0	7.0	4.2	3.2	2.3
W & I code violations.....	17.0	11.2	11.2	8.5	7.4	5.6	6.3	3.5
Other offenses.....	6.4	5.8	6.5	5.8	4.9	4.5	3.8	4.4
Ethnic group.....	3,319	2,880	2,476	2,534	2,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
White.....	54.5	51.3	47.6	44.2	46.6	40.7	40.3	39.5
Spanish-speaking /surname.....	18.2	19.5	19.7	19.1	20.2	21.4	23.4	25.6
Black.....	25.2	26.2	30.1	34.1	30.5	34.3	33.8	31.9
Other.....	2.1	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.8	3.6	2.5	3.0
Median age.....	17.9	18.2	18.1	18.1	18.2	18.0	18.2	18.0
Number of escapes.....	3,319	2,880	2,476	2,534	2,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
None or unknown.....	83.7	79.8	78.2	82.4	84.8	82.2	80.9	81.8
One or more.....	16.3	20.2	21.8	17.6	15.2	17.8	19.1	18.2
Co-offenders.....	3,319	2,880	2,476	2,534	2,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
None or unknown.....	50.2	52.5	54.4	52.0	49.0	50.9	47.5	49.5
One or two.....	39.2	38.8	38.7	40.6	42.3	42.6	44.5	43.5
Three or more.....	10.6	8.7	6.9	7.4	8.7	6.5	8.0	6.9
Weapons with offense.....	3,319	2,880	2,476	2,534	2,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
None or unknown.....	79.5	72.6	70.9	64.3	62.6	60.8	61.7	61.8
Yes.....	20.5	27.4	29.1	35.7	37.4	39.2	38.3	38.2

TABLE 2 (Continued)

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1977
(Showing percents of totals)

Males

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Alcohol with offense.....	3,319	2,880	2,476	2,534	2,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
None or unknown.....	90.7	89.7	84.7	81.5	69.1	71.2	69.6	69.2
Yes.....	9.3	10.3	15.3	18.5	30.9	28.8	30.4	30.8
Overall alcohol usage.....	3,319	2,880	2,476	2,534	2,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
None or unknown.....	22.9	19.1	20.4	35.3	18.8	26.0	25.7	24.5
Slight to moderate.....	61.3	64.9	52.4	36.0	60.1	54.1	58.2	58.3
Excessive.....	15.8	16.0	27.2	28.7	21.1	19.9	16.1	17.2
Drugs with offense.....	-	-	-	-	2,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	-	75.4	79.9	79.8	78.0
Yes.....	-	-	-	-	24.6	20.1	20.2	22.0
Physical handicaps.....	-	-	-	-	2,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	-	93.3	94.3	89.4	89.0
Yes.....	-	-	-	-	6.7	5.7	10.6	11.0
School dropout status.....	-	-	-	2,534	2,790	3,224	3,377	3,457
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	71.3	62.1	57.5	57.0	54.7
Yes.....	-	-	-	28.6	37.9	42.5	43.0	45.3
Last grade enrolled in school.....	3,221	2,794	2,411	2,442	2,647	2,888	3,158	3,230
Grades 1-9.....	25.0	21.2	19.5	16.9	15.0	20.2	16.2	15.8
Grade 10.....	26.3	25.2	24.6	25.5	24.7	26.6	25.8	26.2
Grade 11.....	31.4	29.9	31.7	31.5	31.0	32.4	35.6	35.8
Grade 12.....	9.4	17.4	19.7	16.5	18.1	11.3	13.2	14.2
High School graduate or college.....	7.9	6.3	4.5	9.6	11.2	9.5	9.2	8.0
Reading Comprehension (mean grade level).	7.8	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.2	6.9	7.0	7.0
Arithmetic reasoning (mean grade level)..	6.4	6.4	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.5	6.6	6.7
Prior delinquent contacts.....	3,300	2,855	2,462	2,521	2,780	3,037	3,309	3,423
None.....	3.1	2.6	3.3	4.4	5.4	5.0	7.0	6.8
1-4.....	31.1	26.4	21.4	17.5	25.6	27.2	30.4	30.1
5-7.....	26.3	24.4	24.5	43.8	21.7	22.5	20.9	22.7
8 or more.....	39.5	46.6	50.8	34.3	47.3	45.3	41.7	40.4
Median age at first delinquent contact.	14.5	14.3	14.1	14.0	13.9	13.9	14.2	14.0
Prior delinquent commitments.....	3,300	2,855	2,462	2,520	2,780	3,037	3,309	3,423
None.....	42.8	41.0	40.1	46.9	47.5	42.5	42.8	37.2
One.....	36.1	34.0	33.6	30.7	29.8	33.4	30.3	31.8
Two.....	15.3	16.3	16.8	14.8	14.0	15.0	16.1	17.3
Three or more.....	5.8	8.7	9.5	7.6	8.7	9.1	10.8	13.7

TABLE 2 (Continued)

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-77

(Showing percents of totals)

Males

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Median age at first delinquent commitment.....	16.3	16.3	16.4	16.3	15.9	15.9	16.0	15.7
I-Level.....	1,474	1,861	2,127	2,251	2,614	2,359	2,781	2,702
I-2.....	2.1	7.0	6.3	7.8	8.1	10.7	9.5	9.7
I-3.....	42.4	48.0	53.8	51.7	52.5	55.0	54.5	58.3
I-4 and I-5.....	55.5	45.0	39.9	40.5	39.4	34.3	36.0	32.0
Religion.....	3,056	2,550	2,111	2,124	2,230	2,397	2,582	2,732
Catholic.....	40.9	43.8	42.7	43.4	45.7	46.9	47.3	45.2
Protestant.....	58.2	53.1	54.6	54.3	53.1	51.0	51.0	53.0
Other.....	0.9	3.1	2.7	2.3	1.2	2.1	1.7	1.8
Major problem area.....	-	-	-	-	2,270	2,615	2,596	2,737
None.....	-	-	-	-	1.3	1.0	1.6	1.3
Employment.....	-	-	-	-	7.7	7.3	7.8	6.1
Family.....	-	-	-	-	11.4	8.4	6.9	8.4
School.....	-	-	-	-	4.0	3.4	3.3	3.3
Drugs/alcohol.....	-	-	-	-	16.2	14.2	14.2	14.2
Peer influence.....	-	-	-	-	38.8	43.4	42.3	43.0
Mental/emotional.....	-	-	-	-	20.6	22.3	23.9	23.7
Employment.....	-	-	-	-	2,360	2,714	2,691	2,871
Not in job market.....	-	-	-	-	35.1	36.8	33.3	35.6
Unemployed.....	-	-	-	-	38.7	42.1	46.4	44.3
Employed part-time.....	-	-	-	-	13.9	12.8	12.1	10.4
Employed full-time.....	-	-	-	-	12.3	8.3	8.2	9.7
Placement before commitment.....	-	-	-	-	2,365	2,759	2,732	2,897
Parents.....	-	-	-	-	74.0	74.1	73.3	74.1
Relatives.....	-	-	-	-	9.0	9.3	9.5	8.7
Foster/group home.....	-	-	-	-	4.9	4.8	4.5	6.2
Independent.....	-	-	-	-	12.1	11.8	12.7	11.0
Out-of-home placements.....	-	-	-	-	2,253	2,608	2,578	2,666
None.....	-	-	-	-	67.8	68.9	68.7	64.6
One.....	-	-	-	-	16.1	16.6	15.8	16.9
Two or more.....	-	-	-	-	16.1	14.5	15.5	18.5
Parental configuration.....	-	-	-	-	2,387	2,774	2,755	2,928
No parents in home.....	-	-	-	-	6.1	4.6	5.5	6.3
One parent home.....	-	-	-	-	40.7	44.0	47.5	46.3
Two parent home.....	-	-	-	-	53.2	51.4	47.0	47.4

TABLE 2 (Continued)

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1977

(Showing percents of totals)

Males

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Parents' marital status.....	3,264	2,818	2,439	2,481	2,755	2,963	3,258	3,348
Never married.....	4.8	5.9	2.9	3.8	7.6	5.5	6.3	8.7
Presently married.....	38.2	37.1	34.9	31.1	35.1	33.6	32.3	30.0
No longer married.....	57.0	57.0	62.2	65.1	57.3	60.9	61.4	61.3
Income level of home.....	-	-	-	-	2,333	2,692	2,658	2,750
Less than adequate.....	-	-	-	-	40.9	43.3	43.8	46.0
Adequate.....	-	-	-	-	52.5	52.3	51.9	49.8
More than adequate.....	-	-	-	-	6.6	4.4	4.3	4.2
Family income from public assistance..	-	-	-	-	2,265	2,576	2,573	2,646
None.....	-	-	-	-	66.3	62.8	62.9	61.0
Less than half.....	-	-	-	-	8.1	10.1	8.7	8.9
More than half.....	-	-	-	-	25.6	27.1	28.4	30.1
Criminal record of family members.....	-	-	-	-	2,122	2,484	2,434	2,526
None.....	-	-	-	-	52.2	50.5	51.9	49.1
Parents only.....	-	-	-	-	9.6	8.5	7.8	7.8
Siblings only.....	-	-	-	-	29.0	32.5	33.1	34.9
Both.....	-	-	-	-	9.2	8.5	7.2	8.2
Economic aspects of immediate neighborhood.....	-	-	-	-	2,345	2,706	2,693	2,827
Above average.....	-	-	-	-	7.8	7.1	7.1	6.3
Average.....	-	-	-	-	47.8	50.3	50.2	50.4
Below average.....	-	-	-	-	44.4	42.6	42.7	43.3
Delinquency aspects of immediate neighborhood.....	-	-	-	-	2,330	2,683	2,662	2,820
Non-delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	8.5	6.3	6.5	5.5
Minimally delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	26.7	25.2	25.3	22.4
Moderately delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	35.4	36.9	36.3	39.4
Highly delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	29.4	31.6	31.9	32.7

Note: Unless indicated differently, responses coded as unknown were removed from each item thus accounting for differing totals.

TABLE 3
CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1977
(Showing percents of totals)

Females

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Total first admissions.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169
Court.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169
Juvenile.....	81.7	75.1	77.0	75.3	75.5	63.9	66.5	54.5
Criminal.....	18.3	24.9	23.0	24.7	24.5	36.1	33.5	35.5
Area of commitment.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169
Southern California.....	55.5	54.4	50.8	62.3	45.8	59.4	48.4	47.3
Los Angeles.....	23.2	23.1	17.5	28.2	18.9	23.9	24.7	18.9
9 other counties.....	32.3	31.3	33.3	34.1	26.9	35.5	23.7	28.4
San Francisco Bay area.....	30.5	29.3	23.0	21.5	23.1	21.7	24.7	29.0
Sacramento Valley.....	4.2	3.3	11.1	5.4	13.2	6.7	11.5	4.7
San Joaquin Valley.....	6.3	7.4	8.3	6.7	9.4	8.9	9.3	11.3
22 other counties.....	3.5	5.6	6.8	4.2	8.5	3.3	6.1	7.7
Commitment offense.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169
Violent type offenses.....	14.3	13.3	16.7	25.1	26.4	43.9	42.9	49.1
Property type offenses.....	14.0	20.7	15.9	17.5	25.9	26.7	31.3	30.2
Sex offenses.....	1.4	1.2	2.4	1.8	-	2.2	1.1	2.4
Narcotic & drug offenses.....	16.4	18.0	15.5	13.0	15.6	9.4	9.9	7.7
W & I code violations.....	44.3	37.6	42.4	32.7	27.4	12.2	6.6	4.1
Other offenses.....	9.6	9.2	7.1	9.9	4.7	5.6	8.2	6.5
Ethnic group.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169
White.....	62.5	58.0	58.3	48.9	57.6	40.0	43.4	36.1
Spanish-speaking/surname.....	12.7	14.8	18.3	15.2	14.6	20.6	19.8	25.5
Black.....	21.5	23.1	21.4	31.4	24.5	36.1	32.4	34.3
Other.....	3.3	4.1	2.0	4.5	3.3	3.3	4.4	4.1
Median age.....	16.5	16.8	16.7	16.9	16.9	17.0	17.5	17.5
Number of escapes.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169
None or unknown.....	89.5	83.4	82.9	82.5	80.3	83.3	78.6	88.2
One or more.....	10.5	16.6	17.1	17.5	19.8	16.7	21.4	11.8
Co-offenders.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169
None or unknown.....	65.1	63.3	64.3	66.8	58.0	56.7	53.3	55.0
One or two.....	26.2	26.0	28.6	28.3	33.0	31.7	39.6	38.5
Three or more.....	8.7	10.7	7.1	4.9	9.0	11.6	7.1	6.5
Weapons with offense.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169
None or unknown.....	90.9	87.9	88.9	78.9	76.9	71.1	73.1	68.6
Yes.....	9.1	12.1	11.1	21.1	23.1	28.3	26.9	31.4

TABLE 3 (Continued)

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1977

(Showing percents of totals)

Females

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Alcohol with offense.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169
None or unknown.....	93.0	95.3	93.3	92.8	90.6	86.7	93.4	81.7
Yes.....	7.0	4.7	6.7	7.2	9.4	13.3	6.6	18.3
Overall alcohol usage.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169
None or unknown.....	47.1	44.7	41.3	50.7	40.1	39.5	44.5	24.3
Slight to moderate.....	44.2	50.9	42.8	32.7	47.2	51.1	45.1	60.4
Excessive.....	8.7	4.4	15.9	16.6	12.7	9.4	10.4	15.4
Drugs with offense.....	-	-	-	-	212	180	182	169
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	-	72.2	83.9	79.7	76.9
Yes.....	-	-	-	-	27.8	16.1	20.3	23.1
Physical handicaps.....	-	-	-	-	212	180	182	169
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	-	93.8	96.6	90.7	93.5
Yes.....	-	-	-	-	6.2	3.4	9.3	6.5
School dropout status.....	-	-	-	223	212	180	182	169
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	85.2	79.7	51.7	64.8	68.6
Yes.....	-	-	-	14.8	20.3	48.3	35.2	31.4
Last grade enrolled in school.....	386	320	242	217	198	159	147	169
Grades 1-9.....	31.1	26.6	30.6	30.9	26.3	21.4	21.8	27.5
Grade 10.....	28.5	31.2	24.4	21.2	26.3	27.0	32.0	30.8
Grade 11.....	30.1	19.4	27.7	29.5	28.3	33.3	23.1	23.1
Grade 12.....	7.5	15.6	13.2	12.0	11.6	12.6	13.6	14.1
High School graduate or college.....	2.8	7.2	4.1	6.4	7.5	5.7	9.5	4.5
Reading Comprehension (mean grade level)	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.0	7.8	6.8	7.3	6.9
Arithmetic reasoning (mean grade level)	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.3	5.8	6.3	6.8	6.3
Prior delinquent contacts.....	426	333	250	222	211	168	159	167
None.....	1.6	3.3	5.2	5.0	7.1	10.1	13.8	11.9
1-4.....	40.8	39.4	27.6	21.2	28.4	35.7	34.6	41.3
5-7.....	32.9	28.8	28.8	39.6	24.7	22.0	20.8	18.6
8 or more.....	24.7	28.5	38.4	34.2	39.8	32.2	30.8	28.2
Median age at first delinquent contact	14.1	14.1	13.9	13.9	13.8	14.1	14.0	14.2
Prior delinquent commitments.....	426	333	250	222	211	168	159	167
None.....	68.3	63.4	72.4	71.2	63.0	57.1	60.4	56.3
One.....	26.3	26.4	17.6	18.9	23.2	24.4	24.5	21.5
Two.....	4.5	8.1	7.6	6.8	6.7	12.5	9.4	10.2
Three or more.....	0.9	2.1	2.4	3.1	7.1	6.0	5.7	12.0

TABLE 3 (Continued)

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1977

(Showing percents of totals)

Females

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Median age at first delinquent commitment.....	15.3	15.6	15.6	15.4	15.0	15.2	14.9	14.7
I-Level.....	398	302	189	173	188	113	74	93
I-2.....	2.3	6.6	-	3.5	6.3	10.6	2.7	15.1
I-3.....	21.6	26.2	37.0	42.2	30.9	52.2	55.4	43.0
I-4 and I-5.....	76.1	67.2	63.0	54.3	62.8	37.2	41.9	41.9
Religion.....	394	304	211	190	174	153	143	117
Catholic.....	41.9	40.1	39.3	35.8	42.0	43.1	38.5	46.1
Protestant.....	56.8	54.9	58.8	62.6	55.7	53.6	58.7	49.6
Other.....	1.2	4.9	1.9	1.6	2.3	3.3	2.8	4.3
Major problem area.....	-	-	-	-	186	138	145	135
None.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	1.5
Employment.....	-	-	-	-	0.5	1.4	0.7	2.2
Family.....	-	-	-	-	21.0	8.7	8.9	9.6
School.....	-	-	-	-	1.6	1.4	2.1	3.0
Drugs/alcohol.....	-	-	-	-	23.1	14.5	20.0	17.0
Peer influence.....	-	-	-	-	25.3	34.1	27.6	38.5
Mental/emotional.....	-	-	-	-	28.5	39.9	39.3	28.2
Employment.....	-	-	-	-	187	143	149	140
Not in job market.....	-	-	-	-	55.1	54.5	51.0	51.4
Unemployed.....	-	-	-	-	34.8	38.5	39.6	41.4
Employed part-time.....	-	-	-	-	6.9	4.2	4.7	2.9
Employed full-time.....	-	-	-	-	3.2	2.8	4.7	4.3
Placement before commitment.....	-	-	-	-	183	145	149	136
Parents.....	-	-	-	-	60.1	60.0	56.4	61.8
Relatives.....	-	-	-	-	7.1	9.6	7.4	6.6
Foster/group home.....	-	-	-	-	20.8	15.2	17.4	13.2
Independent.....	-	-	-	-	12.0	15.2	18.8	18.4
Out-of-home placements.....	-	-	-	-	181	132	146	129
None.....	-	-	-	-	39.8	52.3	51.4	51.2
One.....	-	-	-	-	19.3	22.0	16.4	17.0
Two or more.....	-	-	-	-	40.9	25.7	32.2	31.8
Parental configuration.....	-	-	-	-	191	145	147	140
No parents in the home.....	-	-	-	-	6.3	6.9	7.5	12.1
One parent home.....	-	-	-	-	45.0	46.2	51.7	44.3
Two parent home.....	-	-	-	-	48.7	46.9	40.8	43.6

TABLE 3 (Continued)

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1977

(Showing percents of totals)

Females

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Parents' marital status.....	417	329	247	221	210	165	155	163
Never married.....	8.9	8.8	4.4	5.4	8.6	13.3	9.7	13.5
Presently married.....	27.6	25.2	27.1	16.7	26.2	23.0	21.9	23.9
No longer married.....	63.5	66.0	68.5	67.9	65.2	63.7	68.4	62.6
Income level of home.....	-	-	-	-	183	141	143	129
Less than adequate.....	-	-	-	-	43.2	52.5	51.0	53.5
Adequate.....	-	-	-	-	50.3	42.5	46.9	42.6
More than adequate.....	-	-	-	-	6.5	5.0	2.1	3.9
Family income from public assistance..	-	-	-	-	178	137	133	127
None.....	-	-	-	-	63.5	56.9	55.6	51.2
Less than half.....	-	-	-	-	7.3	5.9	14.3	10.2
More than half.....	-	-	-	-	29.2	37.2	30.1	38.6
Criminal record of family members.....	-	-	-	-	177	132	134	126
None.....	-	-	-	-	46.4	44.7	45.5	46.0
Parents only.....	-	-	-	-	11.3	12.9	12.7	8.7
Siblings only.....	-	-	-	-	23.7	28.8	30.6	28.6
Both.....	-	-	-	-	18.6	13.6	11.2	16.7
Economic aspects of immediate neighborhood.....	-	-	-	-	178	142	143	136
Above average.....	-	-	-	-	11.2	9.8	4.2	7.4
Average.....	-	-	-	-	46.1	45.1	48.9	46.3
Below average.....	-	-	-	-	42.7	45.1	46.9	46.3
Delinquency aspects of immediate neighborhood.....	-	-	-	-	174	140	141	137
Non-delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	15.5	7.1	8.5	11.7
Minimally delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	29.9	23.6	22.7	17.5
Moderately delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	30.5	40.7	36.2	38.7
Highly delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	24.1	28.6	32.6	32.1

Note: Unless indicated differently, responses coded as unknown were removed from each item thus accounting for differing totals.

END