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ALLEGHENY COUNTY STATUS OFFENDER  
RESEARCH PROJECT

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ACQUISITIONS

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Prepared for the Governor's Justice Commission  
Southwest Technical Assistance Office  
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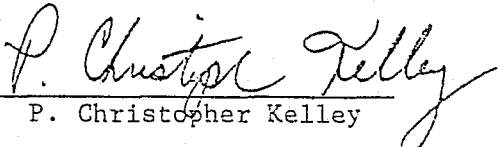
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Respectfully Submitted:

  
P. Christopher Kelley

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## INTRODUCTION

One of the major issues confronting the juvenile justice system today is how best to deal with children who commit no criminal act against society, but who exhibit some adolescent behavior such as running away, incorrigibility, or truancy that is considered to be contrary to the interests of society. These children are commonly referred to as "status offenders," and such acts are status offenses because of the status of the child as a minor. Similar acts, if committed by an adult, would not warrant such concern or intervention.

Specific examples of status offenses include such acts as running away (defined as a juvenile's unauthorized absence from home); school truancy (a pattern of repeated or habitual unauthorized absence from school by a juvenile subject to compulsory education laws); incorrigibility/ingovernability (repeated or habitual disregard and disobedience of the reasonable, lawful authority of parents, guardians, or other custodians); repeated possession and/or consumption of intoxicating beverages; wayward tendencies, or sexual delinquency (behavior which endangers or threatens the moral character of the juvenile); and violation of curfew (the violation of state or local curfew ordinances requiring juveniles not to be on the streets without lawful purpose after a certain hour).

Historically, the status offender has been grouped together with criminal-type delinquent offenders in institutions and other facilities. Once incarcerated, status offenders spend more time and are committed more often to those institutions than their juvenile delinquent counterparts, and even before adjudication, those charged with status offenses are held in jails and detention centers longer than other juveniles charged with criminal-type offenses.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United States Senate Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency, Committee Information Release: The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, (Mimeographed, Washington, D.C., August, 1974), p. 4.  
and  
Psychology Today. "The Juvenile Status Offender-Neither Fish Nor Fowl". August, 1975. vol. 9. pp. 31-32.

In 1974, the U. S. Congress passed the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in order to improve the quality of juvenile justice in the U. S. and to overhaul the federal approach to the problem of juvenile delinquency and children in trouble. More specifically, this Act called for, among other things, 1.) the elimination of practice of placing juveniles charged with status offenses in juvenile detention or correctional facilities, and 2.) the development of short-term and long-term community-based residential programming for status offenders to eliminate the need for institutionalization. With the Pennsylvania legislation amending the Juvenile Act of 1972 (No. 1977-41 (SB 757) for compliance to the JJDP Act, and because of the emphasis on diversion and alternatives to detention and institutionalization, the status offender is becoming the focus of controversy and the impetus for the planning - development of new treatment considerations and programming.

Who are these status offenders? What are they like? How are they different, if at all, from the "criminal-type" delinquent offender or the "normal" child? What treatment programs at present are these children involved in? For how long? How effective are these programs? This research project will attempt to provide, for the first time, clear and comprehensive data concerning the adjudicated status offender in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, relevant to the above unanswered questions. More specifically, the project will be focusing upon the statistical, demographic, and treatment analysis and characteristics of all status offenders adjudicated in Allegheny County in 1976. Hopefully, such information will be useful in providing new insights and considerations in the local development of treatment programs for the status offender in Allegheny County.

Pre-Adjudicatory Period

In Allegheny County in 1976, there were a total of 906 referrals handled by Juvenile Court for alleged status offenses. Approximately half of those referrals were handled informally by the Intake Department, and another one-fourth (25.8%) were referred to schools and other social agencies. The remaining 25% of the referrals (225) were held for an adjudicatory hearing with a petition being filed. These 225 referrals reflected 184 actual alleged status offenders.\* (Refer to Chart I - Flow Chart)

Of the 184 alleged status offenders actually having an adjudicatory hearing, fifty-four (54) cases were dismissed with no adjudication. Another thirteen (13) of the 184 cases were eliminated from the status offender classification because the case was either found to be "deprived" and placed under Child Welfare Services jurisdiction or there was a finding of a criminal-type offense.\*\* The remaining 117 cases were adjudicated delinquent for status offenses. (Please refer to Statistical Overview, Chart II and Statistical Breakdown, Chart II-A)

In order to provide a statistical and demographic profile of the adjudicated status offender in Allegheny County, a comprehensive, in-depth review and analysis of information contained in the case history records of each of the 117 status offenders was made. (Refer to Chart III for List of Criteria for Data Accumulation

(Continue on Page 7)

\* Information accumulated by Allegheny Regional Planning Council, Governor's Justice Commission, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

\*\* Not all juveniles arrested or charged for status offenses are status offenders.. Generally, a status offender is one who has been referred to Juvenile Court and adjudicated for ONLY status offenses (running away, incorrigibility, ungovernability, truancy, violation of curfew, possession/consumption of alcohol, wayward tendencies or sexual promiscuity); or who may have had a previous court experience for a delinquent offense, but is no longer being supervised, and is referred for a status offense. If an offender is referred for a status offense but is under court supervision for a criminal-type offense (delinquent), he/she is not a status offender.

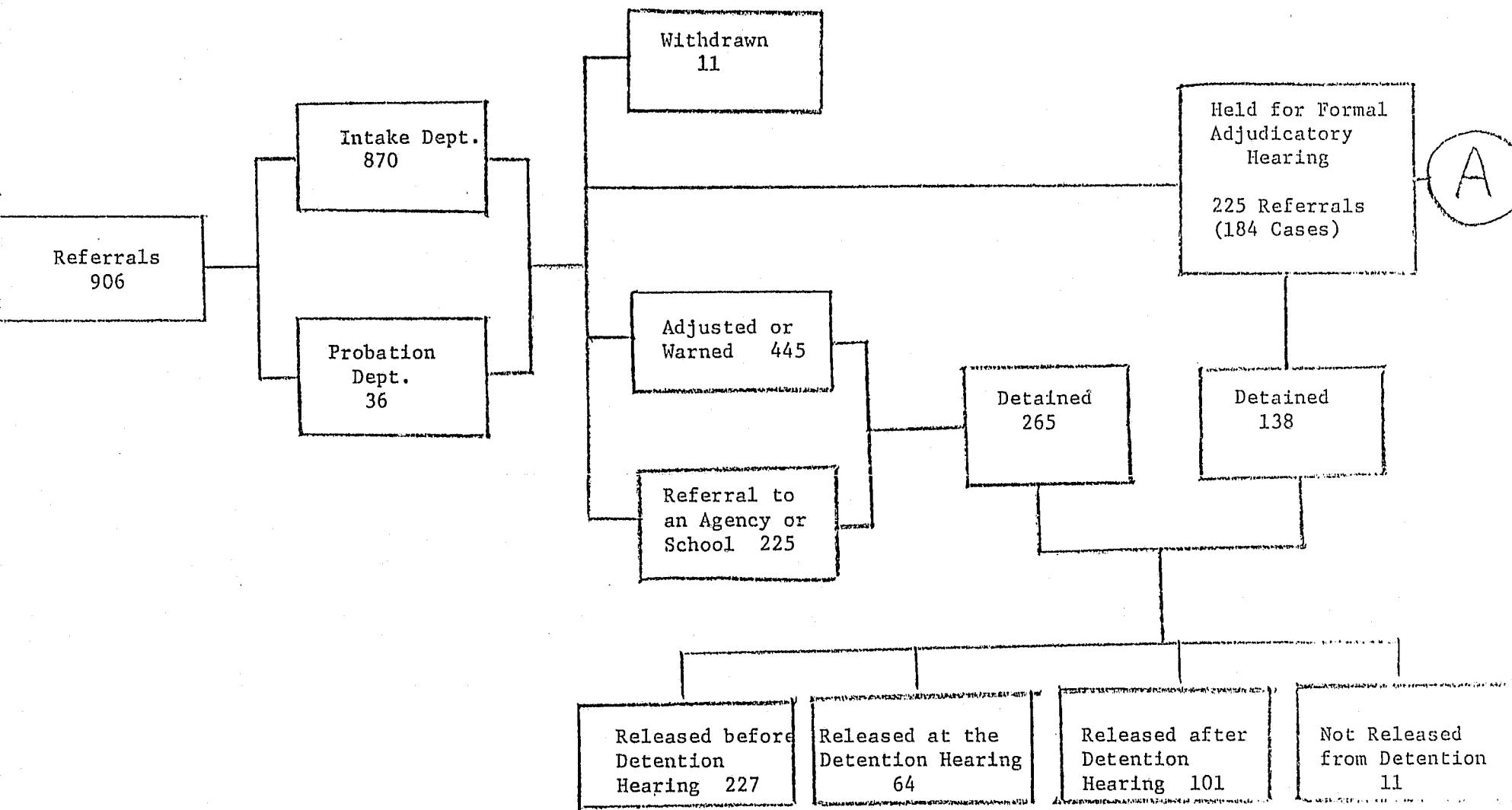


Chart I Flow Chart of Status Offenders and the Juvenile Justice System in 1976

(Referral to Adjudication)

Chart II

## Statistical Overview

184 Total number of cases in 1976 where delinquent petitions were filed for a formal adjudicatory hearing for alleged status offenses in Allegheny County.

Of these 184 cases:

54 Cases were dismissed at the hearing with no adjudication.

13 Cases were eliminated because of

a.) findings of criminal type offenses

b.) findings of neglect/deprivation

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Thus, a total of 117 remaining cases were adjudicated for status offenses only in Allegheny County in 1976.



Chart II-A

STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE 117  
ADJUDICATED STATUS OFFENDERS IN  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY IN 1976 \*

<u>Category/Status</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>	<u>%</u>
Active Cases (Juvenile Court)	35	29.9%
Inactive Cases (Juvenile Court)	59	50.4%
Active Cases (Child Welfare Services)	3	2.6%
Inactive Cases (Child Welfare Services)	3	2.6%
Discontinued Cases	17	14.5%
TOTAL	117 Cases	100.0%

\* As of April 10, 1978

in Case Records) On the basis of all the data collected from these case files, it is possible to present a profile of the "average" status offender in Allegheny County in 1976. At the time of referral to juvenile court, the juvenile:

- had no previous contact with the court (62.3%)
- was 15.2 years old / 15.6 years old at time of adjudication
- was a female (66.7%)
- was Caucasian (67.5%)
- was a middle child
- was in "mainstream" or normal educational program at 9.4 grade level
- had parents who were divorced, separated, or one of parents deceased (62.4%)
- had at least one (1) member of family working full-time (52.1%)
- was not living with both natural parents (66.7%)
- was charged with incorrigibility or running away (89.2%) (Sexual promiscuity included in incorrigibility statistics)
- was held at Shuman Detention Center (83%) for an average of 30.8 days (Delinquent populations averaged 17 days in detention in 1976)
- waited a total of 118.8 days from time of referral to final court disposition
- was referred to juvenile court by the police (51.8%) or parents (35.0%)
- had families who resided in Allegheny County outside the city of Pittsburgh, while 42.7% of the cases had families living within the Pittsburgh city limits (Refer to Chart IV - Domicile Analysis)
- would be referred by juvenile court to treatment/intervention program 1.3 times before adjudication (Chart V)

(Refer to Chart VI for complete Demographic/Status Offender Profile)

One of the most surprising results of the research deals with the magnitude of the family dysfunction within the status offender population in Allegheny County.\* Eighteen (18) of the 117 cases (15.4%) showed incidences of the child having been physically, emotionally and/or sexually abused by their parent(s)/

(Continue on Page 16)

\* Information based upon official court reports and evaluations conducted by intake workers, investigation unit workers, Probation Officers, social workers, public/private social service agency personnel, and psychiatric/psychological evaluations.

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Chart III

List of Criteria for Data Accumulation for  
Case Records of 117 Adjudicated Status  
Offenders in Allegheny County in 1976 \*

Criteria:

1. Date of Referral
2. Date of Adjudication
3. Age
4. Sex
5. Case Status
6. Charges/Reason for Referral
7. Address
8. Race
9. Religion
10. Nationality
11. Birth Order
12. Family Employment/Socio-Economic Status
13. Marital Status of Parents
14. Living Arrangement of Child at time of Referral
15. Psycho-Social Information/Family Dynamics
16. Educational Level of Child/School Adjustment
17. Health of Child
18. History of Contacts with Court, Social Service Agencies, etc.
19. Length of time in Agencies, Institutions, Treatment Programs, etc.
20. Number of days in Detention
21. Number of days from referral to court disposition
22. Name of Probation Officer, Caseworker, Child Care Worker
23. Reappearance/Recidivism Incidence
24. Present Status of Child

\* Case records at the Allegheny County Juvenile Court Registration/Records Department.

Chart IVDOMICILE ANALYSIS

I. 67 Cases (57.3%) have family residing outside Pittsburgh City limits

## Breakdown in Geographic Areas:

8 Cases - Wilksburg Boro.	1 Case - Dormont Boro.
4 Cases - Whitehall Boro.	1 Case - Ellsworth Boro.
3 Cases - Clairton	1 Case - Glassport Boro.
3 Cases - McCandless Twp.	1 Case - Greentree Boro.
3 Cases - McKees Rocks Boro.	1 Case - Sheridan - Chartiers
3 Cases - Monroeville Boro.	1 Case - Westwood - Oakwood
3 Cases - North Braddock	1 Case - Beechview
2 Cases - Braddock Boro.	1 Case - Manchester
2 Cases - Castle Shannon Boro.	1 Case - Brighton Heights
2 Cases - Coraopolis Boro.	1 Case - Arlington
2 Cases - Elizabeth Boro.	1 Case - Beechview
2 Cases - Homestead Boro.	1 Case - Brookline (East)
2 Cases - Liberty Boro.	1 Case - Shadeland - Halls Grove
2 Cases - Mount Lebanon Twp.	
2 Cases - Munhall Boro.	
2 Cases - Scott Twp.	
2 Cases - Shaler Twp.	
2 Cases - Swissvale Boro.	
2 Cases - West Mifflin Boro.	
1 Case - Aspinwall Boro.	
1 Case - Bridgeville Boro.	

Chart IV (continued)

DOMICILE ANALYSIS

II. 50 Cases (42.7%) have family residing in Pittsburgh City limits

Breakdown in Geographic Areas:

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4 Cases - Perry (South)         | 1 Case - Bedford Dwellings       |
| 4 Cases - Hill District:        | 1 Case - St. Clair               |
| 2 Cases - Upper Hill District   | 1 Case - Allentown               |
| 1 Case - Middle Hill District   | 1 Case - Beltzhoover             |
| 1 Case - Lower Hill District    | 1 Case - Ridgmont - Chicken Hill |
| 3 Cases - Homewood:             | 1 Case - Kennedy Twp.            |
| 2 Cases - Homewood (South)      | 1 Case - Lincoln Boro.           |
| 1 Case - Homewood (West)        | 1 Case - McKeesport City         |
| 3 Cases - North View Heights    | 1 Case - Millvale Boro.          |
| 3 Cases - Lawrenceville (Lower) | 1 Case - Moon Twp.               |
| 3 Cases - Southside Slopes      | 1 Case - North Versailles Twp.   |
| 2 Cases - Troy Hill             | 1 Case - Osborne Boro.           |
| 2 Cases - Broadhead - Fording   | 1 Case - Pitcairn Boro.          |
| 2 Cases - East Hills            | 1 Case - Ross Twp.               |
| 2 Cases - Duquesne Heights      | 1 Case - Turtle Creek Boro.      |
| 2 Cases - North Side (Central)  |                                  |
| 1 Case - Garfield               |                                  |
| 1 Case - Highland Park          |                                  |
| 1 Case - Shadyside              |                                  |
| 1 Case - Friendship             |                                  |
| 1 Case - Latimer                |                                  |
| 1 Case - Oakland (South)        |                                  |

Chart V

Pre-Adjudicatory Social Service Contacts/Placements for alleged status offenders in Allegheny County who eventually were adjudicated in 1976 as delinquent for status offenses (Includes all official referrals, contacts, or placements with social service agencies, institutions, or treatment/intervention programs prior to 1976 adjudicatory proceedings for the 117 status offenders in Allegheny County)

<u>Name of Agency/Institution/Program</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>
Shuman Center (detention)	97
Child Welfare Services	12
McIntyre Shelter	6
Foster Home Placement	1
Booth Memorial	2
Amicus House	4
Lutheran Children's Home	1
Whales Tales	1
Zoar Home	2
Bethesda Home	1
Staunton Clinic	1
Woodview State Hospital	1
New Earth	1
Lawnvue Acres	1
Mercy Hospital (psycho. eval.)	1
St. Francis MHMR	2
Child Guidance Center, WPIC	2
Wilkinsburg MHMR - Family Counselling	1
Southwest Pittsburgh Community MHMR	1
Family/Child Services, Munhall MHMR	2
South Hills MHMR	2

<u>Name of Agency/Institution/Program</u> (continued)	<u>No. of Cases</u>
Youth Services/Families Together	2
Bridgeville MHMR	1
Mon Yough MHMR	2
Satellite Program, Sharpsburg	1
Alternatives Program	1
Allegheny East MHMR	1
North Hills Youth Ministry	1
Youth Crisis Intervention	1
	<hr/>
TOTAL	152

Total: 152 pre-adjudicatory referrals, contacts to agencies or treatment programs for 117 status offenders in Allegheny County. Average 1.3 contacts/placements per status offender prior to adjudication in 1976.

Cha: VI

DEMOGRAPHIC/STATUS OFFENDER PROFILE: Status Offender Statistical Results from 117 Cases of Adjudicated Status Offenders in 1976 in Allegheny County

Average Age	Sex	Race	Educational Level	Religion	Birth Order
15.2 Years Old (at time of referral)	78 Female 39 Male	79 Caucasian 38 Black	9.4 Average Grade Level	43 Roman Catholic 22 Protestant *	Average status offender is part of a family with 3.8 children, and status offender ranks 2.4 in birth order. Thus, the average status offender is exactly a middle child statistically.
15.6 Years Old (at time of adjudication)	66.7% Female 33.3% Male	67.5% Caucasian 32.5% Black		4 Lutheran 17 Baptist 5 Methodist 4 Other 22 Unknown/None	
				36.7% Roman Catholic 18.8% Protestant * 3.4% Lutheran 14.5% Baptist 4.2% Methodist 3.4% Other 18.8% Unknown/None	

\* Specific denomination not designated



EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF STATUS OFFENDER HOUSEHOLD	MARITAL STATUS OF STATUS OFFENDERS' PARENTS	LIVING ARRANGEMENT OF STATUS OFFENDER	STATUS OF STATUS OFFENDER AT TIME OF REFERRAL	SPECIFIC CHARGES/OFFENSES
30 Households on public assistance (25.6%)	39 Households with parents married & living together (33.3%)	39 Status offenders living with both parents (33.3%)	3 Cases - Active with Intake Dept. (2.5%)	168 Total number of charges in 117 cases. Average of 1.4 charges per case
15 Households unemployed or part-time employment (12.8%)	13 Households with parents separated (11.1%)	16 Status offenders living with one (1) natural parent and one (1) step parent (13.7%)	33 Cases - Inactive (28.2%)	<u>Breakdown</u> Running Away: 70 - (41.6%)
61 Households have full-time employment by at least one (1) member of family (52.1%)	45 Households with parents divorced (38.5%)	40 Status offenders living with one (1) parent (41.8%)	73 Cases - No previous knowledge (62.3%)	Violation of Curfew: 3 - (1.8%)
11 Other/Unknown (9.4%)	15 Households with one (1) or both parents deceased (12.8%)	4 Status offenders living with foster parents (3.4%)	4 Cases - On Probation (3.4%)	Incorrigibility: 80 - (47.6%)
	3 Households with parents whereabouts unknown (2.6%)	5 Status offenders living with grandparents (4.3%)	2 Cases - In Institutions (1.8%)	Possessing/Drinking Alcohol: 2 - (1.3%)
	2 Households with parents not married and together (1.7%)	4 Others 1 In Institution .9% 2 With Aunt 1.7% 1 With Legal Guardian .9%	2 Cases - Pending Hearing/Continued Hearing (1.8%)	Violation of Probation: 3 - (1.8%)
				Others 10 - (5.9%)  (Truancy and Sexual Promiscuity Charges included in <u>Incorrigibility</u> )

## Chart I (continued)

DETENTION (No. of Days)	TOTAL NO. OF DAYS FROM REFERRAL TO COURT DISPOSITION	RECIDIVISM: REAPPEARANCE RATE	NUMBER OF REFERRALS	REFERRALS MADE BY:
97 Cases (83%) detained at Shuman for an average of 30.8 days per child in 1976	118.8 days average per child from time of referral to time of court disposition	41 cases of recidivism (35% - recidivism rate):  a) 35 cases of reappearance for subsequent status offenses - 30%  b) 6 cases of reappearance for subsequent criminal-type offenses - 5.1%	150 total no. of referrals 1.3 referrals per child	Pittsburgh Police - 22.3% Twp./Boro. Police - 23.7% Other Police - 5.8% Social Agency - 5.0% Child Welfare - 2.8% Probation Officer - 2.8% Other Courts - 0.6% Parents - 35.0% School - 1.4% Self-Referral - 0.6%
		-----  76 cases of no recidivism - 65%		

guardian(s) at one time or another. Another eleven (11) status offenders (9.5%) had one or both parents experiencing severe alcoholism or drug addiction problems. In 35 cases (29.9%), one or both parents of the child lacked sufficient supervision, guidance and control in raising the child. Finally, 48 other cases (41%) presented a history of general family dysfunction and poor family interaction and communication among family members, particularly between the parent(s) and the child. Thus, out of a total of 117 status offenders adjudicated in 1976 in Allegheny County, 112 of them (95.7%) have experienced at one time or another within their families one or more of the following: parental abuse (emotional, physical, sexual); severe parental alcoholism/drug addiction; lack of parental supervision; control; guidance; or general family dysfunction. (Refer to Chart VII for a more detailed analysis)

As one might expect, the status offender experienced problems in the classroom. Eighty-one (81) of the cases (69.2%) had experienced serious school problems and accounted for a total of 116 separate incidences of

1. irregular attendance
2. severe, disruptive, violent behavior in school; and
3. below average grades.

(Chart VIII - School Dysfunction)

The vast majority of these children who experienced school problems were enrolled in the conventional "mainstream" educational program in their local community before their referral to juvenile court, and there was a very small percentage involved in alternative educational programs.

A small number of the juveniles had diagnosed health/mental health problems. Twenty-two (22) of the cases (18.8%) experienced such problems, with a more

detailed breakdown as follows:

- 4 cases of serious physical health problems
- 18 cases of serious mental health problems (10 cases of borderline mental retardation and 8 cases of severe emotional/psychological problems)

INCIDENCE OF PARENTAL ABUSE; PARENTAL ALCOHOLISM/DRUG ADDICTION;  
LACK OF PARENTAL SUPERVISION; AND GENERAL FAMILY DYSFUNCTION

I. Incidence of Parental/Guardian Abuse

Emotional Abuse (Severe emotional neglect) -

4 Cases (3.4%)

Sexual Abuse -

2 Cases (1.7%)

Physical Abuse -

12 Cases (10.3%)

TOTAL: 18 Cases of child (status offender) abuse by parents/guardians -  
(15.4%)

II. Incidence of Alcoholism/Drug Addiction in Parents of Status Offenders

3 Cases (2.6%) - Both parents having alcoholism/drug addiction  
problem

3 Cases (2.6%) - Only mother having alcoholism/drug addiction  
problem

5 Cases (4.3%) - Only father having alcoholism/drug addiction  
problem

TOTAL: 11 Cases (9.5%) where one or both parents have alcoholism/  
drug addiction problem

III. Incidence of Lack of Proper Supervision and Control by Parents/Guardians

19 Cases (16.2%) where both parents/guardians had lack of proper  
supervision and control of child

16 Cases (13.7%) where one parent/guardian had lack of proper  
supervision and control of child

TOTAL: 35 Cases (29.9%) where one or both parents/guardians had lack  
of proper supervision, guidance, and control of child

IV. General Family Dysfunction - Poor overall relationship between child and  
parents/guardians

48 Cases (41%) of general family dysfunction/poor family inter-  
action and relationship between parents/guardians, and child

OVERALL TOTAL:

112 Cases (95.7%) - Parental Abuse; Parental Alcoholism/Drug Addiction; Lack  
of Proper Supervision, Guidance and Control by Parents/Guardians; or  
General Family Dysfunction

Chart VIIISCHOOL DYSFUNCTION

81 Cases (69.2%) had experienced serious school problems and accounted for a total of 116 incidences of severe, irregular attendance/truancy, serious disruptive behavior in school, and below average grades.

## Breakdown of 116 Incidences:

- 52 incidences of severe, irregular attendance
- 21 incidences of serious, disruptive behavior in school
- 43 incidences of below average grades

INCIDENCE OF DIAGNOSED HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

- 4 Cases of serious physical health problems - (3.4%)
  - 18 Cases of serious mental health problems - (15.4%):
    - 10 Cases of below average I.Q. (below 85 I.Q.)
    - 8 Cases of emotional/psychological problems
- TOTAL: 22 Cases (18.8%) of status offenders had diagnosed serious health/mental health problems

### Post-Adjudicatory Period

In evaluating the post-adjudicatory period, it is interesting to note that the reappearance or recidivism rate of status offenders is significantly higher than the recidivism rate of the delinquent (criminal-type offender) population in Allegheny County that has been placed on Probation. Of the 117 status offense cases adjudicated in 1976, thirty-five (35) of the cases (30%) had subsequent petitions filed and reappeared in juvenile court for adjudication for another status offense. \* In addition to this, six (6) of the cases (5.1%) reappeared in court for committing a criminal-type offense and were adjudicated delinquent on those charges. Even with the exclusion of those status offenders found delinquent on subsequent criminal-type charges, the 30% recidivism rate of status offenders is substantially higher than the recidivism rate for delinquent youth who were placed under Probation supervision with a recidivism rate of 5% in 1976. (Delinquent population recidivism rate (for probation) was taken from Toward a Safer Community, Volume VI, July, 1977, Allegheny Regional Planning Council.)

An analysis of the commitments/dispositions of the status offender after adjudication presents some interesting results. Of the 117 cases, seventeen (17) cases were adjudicated for status offenses but had their cases discontinued with no actual disposition. This leaves the remaining 100 cases accounting for the total number of dispositions. There was a total of 198 dispositional commitments to various agencies, institutions and treatment programs/services,

\* Follow-up period from time of adjudication in 1976 to December, 1977.  
(average: 1.5 years follow-up)

with an average number of 1.98 commitments per status offender. Thus, the majority of the juveniles were placed at or involved on more than one agency/institution/program during their post-adjudicatory period. (Refer to Chart IX)

In reviewing the dispositional analysis of the type of commitment/placement for the status offender in Allegheny County (Chart IX-A), probation supervision was one of the predominant dispositional alternatives with 39.9% of the total number of commitments/placements put on probation at one time or another in the post-adjudicatory period. This represents 79 of the 100 cases (79%) of status offenders placed on probation under Juvenile Court supervision. Secure and non-secure institutional placements also accounted for 39.9% of all dispositions for status offenders. Institutionalization was a dispositional alternative used for 79 of the 100 status offenders (79%) actually receiving a court disposition. Another 17.2% of the total 198 commitments were community-based programs, group home or foster home placements, etc., representing 34 of the cases (34%) who were placed in such programs. Finally, 3.0% of the dispositions were to Child Welfare Services. Six of the 100 juveniles (6.0%) received such a disposition, all of whom were adjudicated on a combined delinquent/deprived petition and then officially transferred from court supervision. On the basis of the above statistics, then, the decision for dealing with status offenders in 1976 was either probation or institutionalization in 8 out of every 10 court dispositions. (Chart X - Flow Chart)

An analysis of the average number of days spent by status offenders in post-adjudicatory commitments to various agencies, institutions, or treatment programs shows some interesting results. A total of 38,451 days were spent in all dispositional commitments/programs by the 100 status offenders (117 cases minus the 17 discontinued cases having no disposition). The average length of

(Continue on Page 26)



Chart IX

Post-Adjudicatory Dispositions of Juveniles Adjudicated  
Delinquent in Allegheny County in 1976 for Status Offenses.  
(Includes all Commitments, Placements, or Dispositions  
after their 1976 Adjudication.) \*

<u>Name of Agency/Institution/Program</u>	<u>No. of Commitments or Placements at Agency/Institution/ Program (at one time or another during Post-Adjudi- catory period**</u>	<u>% of Total Commitments</u>
Formal Probation Supervision	56	28.3%
Informal Probation/Consent Decree	23	11.6%
Shuman Center	35	17.7%
Youth Development Center at Waynesburg	9	4.6%
Youth Development Center at New Castle (Includes 1 suspended commitment)	2	1.0%
Youth Development Center at Warrendale	1	0.5%
Youth Development Center at Warrendale (East End Day Treatment Center)	1	0.5%
Pressley Ridge Camp/School	4	2.0%
George Junior Republic	5	2.5%
Auberle Home for Boys	4	2.0%
Nova House	8	4.0%
Abraxas Foundation	4	2.0%

\* Dispositional information accumulated from time of 1976 adjudication to April 10, 1978.

\*\* In many cases, status offenders were committed to more than one agency or treatment program during the course of their post-adjudicatory period. Every time a child was committed to another agency, institution, or program that he/she had not been committed to before, this was included in the statistics as another commitment. Only one (1) commitment is registered if a child is returned to the same placement under the same court order. However, the official court release from such a placement followed by recommitment to that same placement under a new court order would constitute another commitment and is incorporated in the statistics as such.

<u>Name of Agency/Institution/Program (con't.)</u>	<u>No. of Commitments or Placements at Agency/Institution/ Program (at one time or another during Post-Adjudi- catory Period</u>	<u>% of Total Commitments</u>
Abraxas II	1	0.5%
Abraxas III	1	0.5%
Ward Home	2	1.0%
Toner Institute	2	1.0%
Lutheran Children's Home	3	1.5%
Gannondale	1	0.5%
Sleepy Hollow	1	0.5%
Gilmary School for Girls	4	2.0%
Spectrum III	1	0.5%
Whales Tales	3	1.5%
Three Rivers Youth	3	1.5%
Circle C Group Homes	3	1.5%
Booth Memorial Hospital	1	0.5%
St. Francis Hospital	1	0.5%
Staunton Clinic	1	0.5%
Zoar Home	1	0.5%
Youth Crisis Intervention	1	0.5%
Child Welfare Services Supervision (Cases transferred to C.W.S. from Juvenile Court)	6	3.0%
McIntyre Shelter	3	1.5%
	TOTAL:	100%
	198 Commitments/ Placements	

There was a total of 198 post-adjudicatory commitments for 1976 status offense cases. Of the 117 juveniles adjudicated for status offenses, seventeen (17) cases were "discontinued" and had no official disposition. The remaining 100 cases, then, accounted for the total number (198) of dispositional placements. Thus, the average number of placements per status offender during the post-adjudicatory period is 1.98.

Chart IX--A

Dispositional Analysis of the Type of  
Commitment/Placement for Status  
Offenders in Allegheny County

<u>Type of Commitment/Placement</u>	<u>No. of Commitments/ Placements</u>	<u>% of Total Commitments</u>
Probation/Informal Probation/Consent Decree	79	39.9%
Child Welfare Services Supervision	6	3.0%
Secure and Non-secure Institutions	79	39.9%
Group Homes, Foster Placements, Community- based Programs and Agencies	34	17.2%
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	TOTAL: 198	100%

NOTE: Six (6) status offenders of the total 117 cases committed criminal-type offenses during their post-adjudicatory period. All of these cases are still active with Juvenile Court as of April 10, 1978. Two (2) are presently at George Junior Republic, two (2) are at the Abraxas Foundation, and one (1) each at Gannondale and YDC New Castle. These six (6) commitments are not incorporated in the post-adjudicatory dispositional statistics.

Recidivism (Reappearance) Rate:

35 of the 117 status offenders were charged with and adjudicated on new status offenses during their post-adjudicatory period. This reflects a status offense recidivism rate of 30.0%. Another six (6) juveniles who committed subsequent criminal-type offenses (C.T.O.) reflected a 5.1% recidivism rate. Thus, the total recidivism rate (for both status offenses and criminal-type offenses) is 35.1%.

Special Note: One (1) status offender who is presently placed at the Keystone Job Corps Center, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was not included in these statistics because of the late date of commitment.

Dispositions:  
 (% of the total  
 number of Dis-  
 positions)

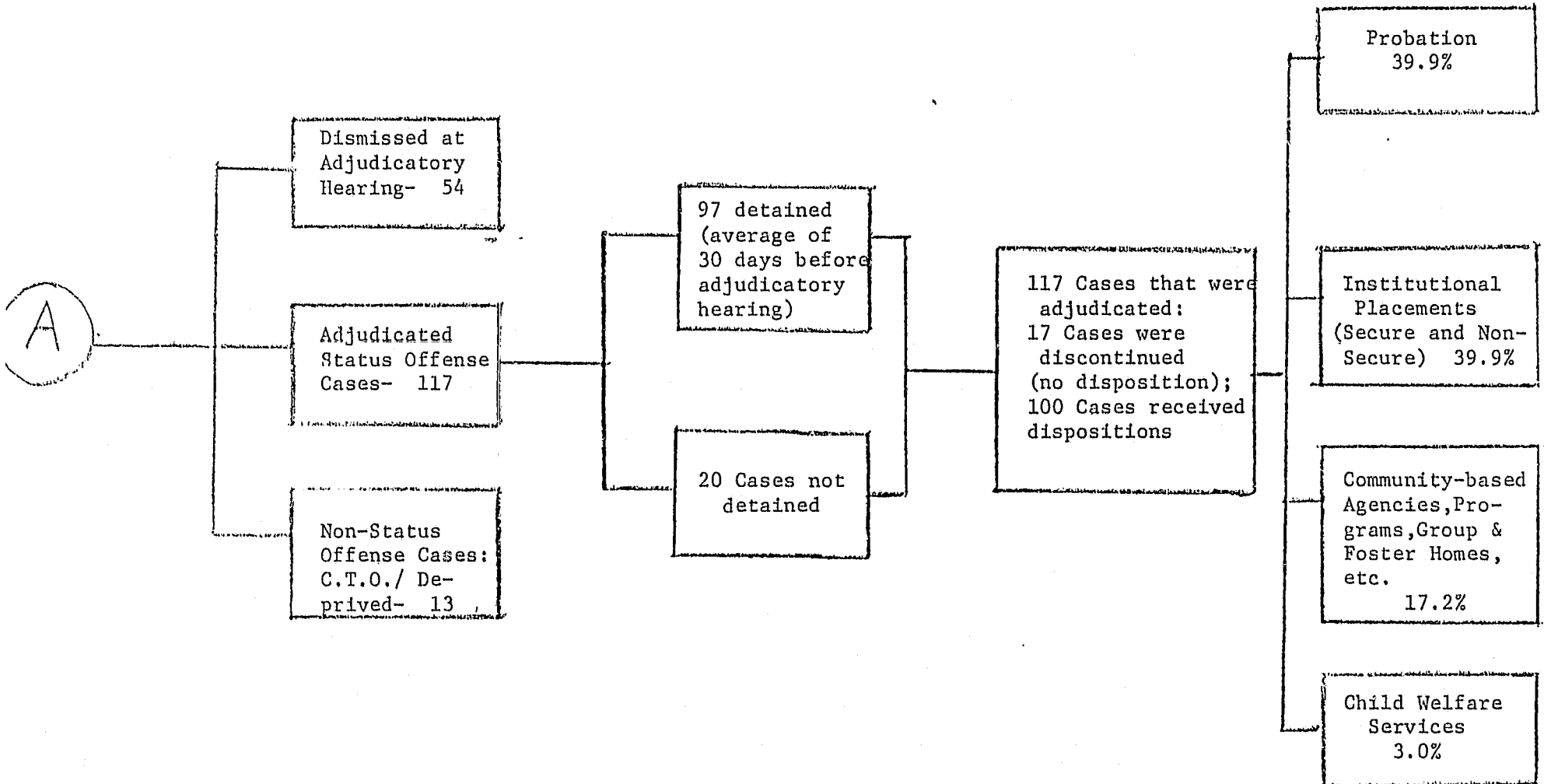


Chart X

Flow Chart of Status Offenders and the Juvenile Justice System in 1976

(Adjudication to Disposition)

stay for each commitment was 194.2 days, and each status offender averaged 1.98 commitments. Thus, the average total amount of time that the status offender in Allegheny County spent during his/her active post-adjudicatory period in all programs, institutions, or agencies was 384.5 days.

In reviewing the average length of stay in relation to the particular type of disposition, probation supervision averaged 287.6 days per child.

Commitments to institutions averaged 114.9 days, while 121.5 days were spent in community-based programs. Child Welfare Services had the highest average with 420 days per child spent in C.W.S. programs and services during the post-adjudicatory period. The typical status offender, then, was placed on probation (average: 287.6 days) before or after being placed at an institution (average: 114.9 days) or a community-based program (average: 121.5 days) for a combined average total of 384.5 days. The status offender was active almost 13 months in these post-adjudicatory programs under Juvenile Court jurisdiction. The few status offense cases under Child Welfare Services supervision were active for 14 months. (Refer to Charts XI and XI-A for detailed average "length of stay" analysis)

Chart XI

Analysis of the Average "Length of Stay"  
in Agencies, Institutions, or Treatment  
Programs for Status Offenders in Allegheny  
County (Post-Adjudicatory) \*

<u>Name of Agency/Institution/Program</u>	<u>Average Length of Stay (In Days)</u>
Probation - Formal, Informal, Consent Decree (7 active cases; 3 runaways) **	287.6
Shuman Center (1 active case)	49.7
Youth Development Center at Waynesburg (1 runaway)	216.7
Youth Development Center at New Castle (1 C.T.O.)	180.0
Youth Development Center at Warrendale	180.0
Youth Development Center at Warrendale - East End Day Treatment Center (1 active case)	180.0
Pressley Ridge Camp/School (1 active case)	150.0
George Junior Republic (1 active case; 2 C.T.O.)	176.2
Auberle Home for Boys	180.0
Nova House (1 active case ; 1 runaway)	54.4
Abraxas Foundation (2 C.T.O.)	300.0
Abraxas II	120.0
Abraxas III (1 active case)	30.0
Ward Home (2 active cases)	360.0
Toner Institute	135.0

\* "Length of Stay" statistics accumulated from the time of 1976 adjudication to April 10, 1978.

\*\* In parenthesis are the total number of 1976 adjudicated status offenders presently active with the particular agency, institution, or treatment program ( as of 4-10-78). This includes active status offenders, criminal-type offenders (C.T.O.) and runaways.

## Chart XI (continued)

<u>Name of Agency/Institution/Program</u> (continued)	<u>Average Length of Stay (In Days)</u>
Lutheran Children's Home	170.0
Gannondale (1 C.T.O.; 1 runaway)	-0-
Sleepy Hollow	30.0
Gilmory School for Girls (1 runaway)	72.5
Spectrum III	301.0
Whales Tales (1 active case)	110.0
Three Rivers Youth (2 active cases)	210.0
Circle C Group Home (2 active cases)	540.0
Booth Memorial Hospital	45.0
St. Francis Hospital	15.0
Juvenile Court Foster Placement (1 active case)	210.0
Staunton Clinic	95.0
Zoar Home	5.0
Youth Crisis Intervention	90.0
Child Welfare Services (3 active cases)	420.0
McIntyre Shelter	95.0

NOTE: With the six (6) cases of criminal-type offenders (C.T.O.) and the seven (7) runaways:

Length of time spent in agencies, institutions, or programs after C.T.O. cases were adjudicated and period of time after those juveniles ran away, was not included in statistics.

SPECIAL NOTE: One (1) status offender who is presently placed at the Keystone Job Corps Center, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was not included in these statistics because of the late date of commitment.

Chart XI-A

Analysis of Average "Length of  
Stay" in Relation to Type of  
Agency, Institution, or Program

<u>Type of Agency/Institution/Program</u>	<u>Average Length of Stay (In Days)</u>
Probation - Formal, Informal, Consent Decree	287.6
Child Welfare Services Supervision	420.0
Secure and Non-Secure Institutions	114.9
Group Homes, Foster Placements, Community-based Programs, Agencies	121.5

Total of 38,451.4 days spent in all agencies, institutions, and/or programs during post-adjudicatory period by the 100 status offenders (117 cases minus 17 discontinued cases having no disposition. Average number of days per commitment is 194.2 days, with 1.98 commitments per child:

Overall average of 384.5 days per child spent in all agencies, institutions, or programs during post-adjudicatory period.



Dispositional Follow-up  
and Treatment Analysis

There are presently\* thirty-eight (38) juveniles still active with either Allegheny County Juvenile Court or Child Welfare Services who were originally adjudicated delinquent for status offenses in 1976. Of the thirty-eight (38) children, thirty-five (35) are presently under Juvenile Court supervision, with the remaining three (3) under Child Welfare Services supervision. A numerical breakdown of the Juvenile Court cases shows that ten (10) status offenders are on formal probation supervision, with three of these children who are presently runaways from home and their whereabouts unknown by authorities. In addition, another nineteen (19) of the 35 cases under Juvenile Court jurisdiction are presently placed at various juvenile agencies, institutions, or treatment programs, with four (4) of these who are active runaways from such placements and their whereabouts unknown.

There are also six (6) juveniles who reappeared in court and were adjudicated for subsequent criminal-type offenses. These six children, all of whom are presently committed to various juvenile institutions, will not be included in the follow-up and treatment analysis as they have been technically eliminated from the status offender classification because of the court reappearance. Of the three (3) active cases under Allegheny County Child Welfare Services, one status offender is under casework (field) supervision at home, one is at a C.W.S. foster home placement, and one at a group home. (Refer to Chart XII for complete dispositional breakdown of active cases.)

\* As of April 10, 1978

Chart XIIPRESENT DISPOSITION OF ACTIVE 1976  
STATUS OFFENSE CASES UNDER JUVENILE  
COURT SUPERVISION \*

<u>Disposition</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>	<u>%</u>
Probation Supervision (at home)	7	20.0%
Three Rivers Youth	2	5.7%
Circle C Group Homes	2	5.7%
Ward Home	2	5.7%
Abraxas III	1	2.9%
Whales Tales F. H.	1	2.9%
Juvenile Court F. H.	1	2.9%
Pressley Ridge Camp	1	2.9%
Nova House	1	2.9%
George Junior Republic -		
Meadville Group Home	1	2.9%
Shuman Center	1	2.9%
East End Day Treatment		
Center - YDC - Warrendale	1	2.9%
Keystone Job Corps Center,		
Harrisburg	1	2.9%
Active Runaways	7	20.0%
Status Offenders Rejudicated for subsequent criminal-type offenses (C.T.O.)	6	17.1%
TOTAL:	35 Cases	100.0%

\* As of April 10, 1978

Chart XII (continued)

PRESENT DISPOSITION OF ACTIVE 1976 STATUS OFFENSE  
CASES UNDER JUVENILE COURT SUPERVISION WHO WERE  
ADJUDICATED FOR SUBSEQUENT CRIMINAL-TYPE  
OFFENSES (C.T.O. CASES)

<u>Disposition</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>
George Junior Republic	2
Abraxas Foundation	2
Gannondale	1
YDC - New Castle	1
	<hr/>
TOTAL:	6 C.T.O. Cases

Active Runaway Cases

There are presently \* seven (7) status offenders adjudicated in 1976 who are active runaways and still under Juvenile Court Supervision.

Breakdown of Runaway Cases:

	<u>Date Child Ran:</u>	<u>Ran From:</u>
Case #1	December, 1977	Gannondale
Case #2	December, 1977	Nova House
Case #3	April, 1977	Gilmary School for Girls
Case #4	March, 1978	Home (Probation)
Case #5	February, 1977	Home (Probation)
Case #6	December, 1977	YDC - Waynesburg
Case #7	April, 1978	Home (Probation)

\* As of April 10, 1978

Chart XII (continued)PRESENT DISPOSITION OF ACTIVE 1976  
STATUS OFFENSE CASES UNDER CHILD  
WELFARE SUPERVISION \*

<u>Disposition</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>
Supervision (at home)	1
C.W.S. Foster Placement	1
Three Rivers Youth	1
	<hr/>
TOTAL	3

\* As of April 10, 1978

In order to provide an accurate analysis of the treatment services and programs that these active status offenders are presently involved in, a series of personal interviews were conducted during the period of January, 1978 to April, 1978. These interviews were conducted with Juvenile Court probation officers, Child Welfare Services caseworkers, staff personnel of the particular juvenile institutions, agencies, and treatment programs, and the status offenders themselves. Treatment procedures and specific program services were investigated and analyzed on the basis of information obtained from these interviews. A total of seventy-two (72) interviews were conducted.\* The Probation dispositional category accounted for nineteen (19) interviews, while the Juvenile Agencies, Institutions, and Treatment Programs category had forty-five (45) interviews. Child Welfare Services accounted for eight (8) interviews. (Refer to Chart XIII and XIII-A for specific breakdown of interviews according to dispositional categories.)

On the following pages, the results of these interviews will be presented for each of the dispositional categories of Probation (Juvenile Court supervision); Agencies, Institutions, and Programs (Juvenile Court supervision); and Child Welfare Services supervision. This will be followed by an over-all treatment analysis of such dispositional services and programs.

\* Six (6) additional interviews were conducted with probation officers who are presently supervising the 6 criminal-type cases. These interviews were conducted in order to confirm the classification and present status of the juveniles, and were not incorporated in the treatment analysis.



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

FAMILY DIVISION

3333 FORBES AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15213

June 16, 1978

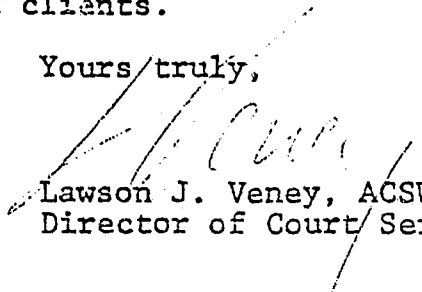
Gwin Spencer  
Field Representative  
Governor's Justice Commission  
Southwest Technical Assistance Office  
1400 Park Building  
355 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Dear Ms Spencer:

Our Administration has had an opportunity to read the "Allegheny County Status Offender Research Project" by P. Christopher Kelley which you sent to us in May.

In general, we find the report very interesting and no major disagreements. There is one area that concerns us as mentioned on Page 62, ". . . there exists some discrepancies in the frequency of contact/personal visits (between the probation officer/caseworker, and the child) as stated by the probation officer/caseworker and by the child." We know children are not always truthful in these matters, however, a newly instituted accountability system for probation officers in setting goals and accomplishing objectives on a month-to-month basis should adequately deal with this matter with our present clients.

Yours truly,

  
Lawson J. Veney, ACSW  
Director of Court Services

LJV:jt

cc: Gerald P. Gorman

## Chart II

Completed Interviews with Active  
Status Offenders of 1976 Adjudication,  
Probation Officers, and Staff Personnel  
of Agencies, Institutions, or  
Treatment Programs

## A. Juvenile Court Supervision

Present Disposition: Name of Agency, Institution, or Treatment Program	No. of Active Status Offenders presently at agency/program	No. of Active Status Offenders Interviewed	No. of Probation Officers Interviewed	No. of Agency, Institution, Program Staff Interviewed	Total no. of Interviews with Status Offender, Probation Officer and/or Staff
Formal Probation Supervision	7	5 (2 refusals)	7	-0-	12
Three Rivers Youth	2	2	2	2	6
Circle C Group Homes	2	2	2	2	6
Ward Home	2	2	2	2	6
Abraxas III	1	1	1	1	3
Whales Tales Foster Home Placement	1	1	1	1	3
Juvenile Court Foster Home Placement	1	1	1	1	3
Pressley Ridge Camp	1	1	1	1	3
Nova House	1	1	1	1	3
George Junior Republic - Meadville Group Home	1	1	1	2	4
Shuman Center	1	1	1	-0-	2
YDC at Warrendale: East End Day Treatment Center	1	-0- (1 refusal)	1	-0-	1

## A. Juvenile Court Supervision (continued)

Present Disposition: Name of Agency, Institution, or Treatment Program	No. of Active Status Offenders presently at agency/program	No. of Active Status Offenders Interviewed	No. of Probation Officers Interviewed	No. of Agency, Institution, Program Staff Interviewed	Total No. of Interviews with Status Offender, Probation Officer and/or Staff
Keystone Job Corps Center, Harrisburg	1	-0- (unavailable)	1	-0-	1
Active Runaways (on Probation)	3	-0- (unavailable)	3	-0-	3
Active Runaways (from agencies/ institutions)	4	-0- (unavailable)	4	-0-	4
Inactive cases (cases closed shortly after probation officer interviews were completed)	-0- (cases closed)	-0- (cases closed)	4 (interviewed before cases were closed)	-0-	4
Criminal-type offense cases (C.T.O.): 2 at George Junior Republic 2 at Abraxas Foundation 1 at Gannondale 1 at YDC - New Castle	6	-0- (cases not included - C.T.O.)	6 (interviews not included in treatment analysis)	-0-	6 (interviews not included in treatment analysis)
TOTAL	35	18	39	13	70 Total Interviews (Juvenile Court Supervision)



## B. Child Welfare Services Supervision

Present Disposition: Name/Type of C.W.S. Services, Treatment Program or Agency	No. of Active Status Offenders presently at agency/program	No. of Active Status Offenders Interviewed	No. of C.W.S. Caseworkers Interviewed	No. of Agency, Institution, or Program Staff Interviewed	Total No. of Interviews with Status Offender, Caseworker or Staff
C.W.S. Supervision	1	1	1	-0-	2
C.W.S. Foster Home Placement	1	1	1	1	3
Three Rivers Youth	1	1	1	1	3
TOTAL	3	3	3	2	8 Total Interviews (C.W.S. Supervision)
GRAND TOTAL	38 Active Status Offenders	21 Active Status Offender Interviews	42 Probation Officer/ Caseworker Interviews	15 Staff Interviews	78 Total Number of Interviews

Chart XIII-A

Numerical Breakdown of Interviews  
 Completed in Relation to Type of  
 Present Dispositional Placement

## A. Formal Probation Supervision Disposition

## 1.) Probation Officer Interviews

- 5 - supervising active status offense cases (5)
- 2 - supervising active cases who refused to be interviewed (2)
- 3 - supervising runaways (3)
- 4 - supervising cases closed shortly after Probation Officer interviewed (4)

---

14 - Probation Officers Interviewed

## 2.) Status Offender Interviews (cases on probation)

- 5 - active cases on probation interviewed

---

TOTAL: 19 Interviews

## B. Juvenile Agencies, Institutions, and Treatment Programs

## 1.) Probation Officer Interviews

- 13 - supervising active cases (13)
- 2 - supervising those who refused or unavailable for interview (2)
- 4 - supervising runaway cases (4)

---

19 - Probation Officer Interviews

## 2.) Staff Interviews

- 13 - Staff Interviews (having primary caseload responsibility of 13 active cases)

## 3.) Status Offender Interviews

- 13 - Active cases presently at Agency, Institution or Program

---

TOTAL: 45 Interviews

Chart XIII-A (continued)

## C. Child Welfare Services

## 1.) Child Welfare Services Caseworker Interviews

3 - supervising active cases (3)

## 2.) Staff of Agency, Institution or Treatment Program

2 - responsible for active cases (2)

## 3.) Status Offender Interviews

3 - active cases (3)

---

8 - Interviews

---

\*GRAND TOTAL: 72 Interviews

\* Six (6) additional interviews were conducted with Probation Officers supervising active cases where a subsequent criminal-type offense was committed. These interviews were not included in the interview statistics or treatment analysis.

## Probation

### Probation Officer Interviews

Fourteen (14) interviews were conducted with probation officers having field supervision responsibility for ten (10) active status offenders on probation (three (3) of whom are presently runaways from home), and four (4) other probation cases that were closed shortly after the interviews with their probation officers.

### Results

Based upon the information obtained in the interviews with probation officers, the following results were accumulated.

The probation officers averaged almost seven (7) years experience as a probation officers, more than half have Masters degree in Social Work, Counselling or Education (60%), and their caseloads averaged 48 cases. The P.O. has had caseload responsibility for the status offender for an average of one and one-half years, the child has actually been on formal probation supervision for one year and three months.

In reviewing the specific programs that the juveniles are involved in, the majority of the children (79%) are enrolled in some type of educational program. Most of these children are at the 10th grade level in a conventional, "mainstream" educational program (46%), with 36% in a G.E.D. program, and 18% in alternative/specialized educational programs. Two of the fourteen cases evaluated are involved in vocational programs (Nursing School/Vocational

Assessment Program), and no one is working or has employment. Moreover, only one of the status offenders on probation is participating in structured/formal counselling (Guided Group Interaction - GGI at the probation office). With three (3) juveniles, family counselling had been attempted but was discontinued shortly afterwards. At the present time, none of the status offenders or their families are involved in any structured/formal family therapy. It might be interesting to note, however, that according to the probation officers interviewed, the vast majority (93%) of the status offenders on probation have experienced or are presently experiencing within their families severe problems, disruptions, family violence and/or general family dysfunction.

The majority (82%) of the status offenders enrolled in the educational programs are experiencing problems in their adjustment in school, with nine (9) of the eleven (11) cases enrolled having poor grades (54%), being truant (23%) or having behavior problems (23%). Thus, although the predominant program or service that the status offenders are involved in while on probation is education, the vast majority of these children in the programs are experiencing problems in them.

In investigating the frequency of personal contacts/visits between the probation officer and the child on probation, it was determined that, according to interview results, 70% of the probation officers have personal contact with their client at least once a month, and 30% of them had personal contact at least once every six (6) months.

In response to the question "Is probation supervision helping the child?",

half of the probation officers interviewed felt probation is helpful, while the other half of them feeling that probation is either not beneficial at all or they were uncertain as to its effectiveness. Also, the probation officers spend an average of 30% of their working hours in direct client service: one-to-one counselling, intervention, or home/school/probation office visits. Time in court, completing reports, and general indirect service account for 70% of their time, according to the results of the interviews.

Finally, the probation officers were asked if they thought there is a treatment program, service, or community resource which, if it would have been made available to the status offender, could have helped the child or helped to divert or decrease the child's involvement in Juvenile Court in 1976. Their cumulative response's were:

- 79% of probation officers felt that early family counselling/crisis intervention services for the entire family would have been extremely beneficial.
- 36% of them felt that intensive individual counselling would have been helpful for the child.
- 14% thought that the family and child should have moved away from their neighborhood to a "better" area of the city, and
- 7% said the family needed better programs available to them for early diagnostic and referral services to satisfy their needs.

The probation officers were then questioned as to what treatment services or programs they feel that would now benefit the status offender that they are not presently involved in. 36% of them felt there were no such programs which would benefit the child. The other 64% of the probation officers who felt

there are programs or services which would definitely benefit the child responded with the following:

- Over half of the probation officers feel that family therapy and family counselling outreach programs, coupled with group and individual counselling services, would be effective for the child/family at the present time.
- 20% feel that the child should complete his/her high school education/G.E.D.
- Another 25% of the probation officers thought that the child would benefit from vocational training or special educational/alternative educational programs.

Status Offender Interviews

Of the 117 juveniles adjudicated in 1976 for status offenses, there are presently ten (10) active cases on formal probation. Of these 10 children, five (5) were interviewed, two children refused to be interviewed, and three (3) of them are runaways and unavailable for an interview. The results presented below, then, are based on the interviews with the five status offenders on probation who were available and who agreed to participate in this project.

Results

The average age of the status offenders interviewed was 16.8 years old and they averaged one year and two months on formal probation. Four of the five children are living at home with one or both parents, and one is living with a relative.

Of the five cases, only two children are in an educational program, one is in a nursing service program, and one child involved in individual counselling. The other status offender is not involved in any program at all. Three of the children have dropped out of school, and none of the children have employment. Of the two juveniles in school, one is experiencing poor grades (below average).

It might be interesting to compare the frequency of personal contact between the probation officer and the child as perceived by the P.O. and the child. According to the five status offenders, the average frequency of personal contacts/visits is every 5.5 months, and telephone contact was every month. However, according to the probation officers who were interviewed, 70% of them stated they had personal contact at least every month, and 30% having personal contact every 6 months.



Three of the five (60%) status offenders felt that probation has not been helpful to them, or that they do not talk to their probation officer about their personal problems or family difficulties. This is interesting, especially in light of the fact that only half of the probation officers interviewed (50%) felt that probation supervision is beneficial to their client, while the other half were uncertain or negative with respect to the effectiveness of probation.

When asked what program or service would be helpful to them if it was made available to them, four out of the five children thought a vocational program or a job would help (one child wants to go to nursing school, another wants to join the Navy, and one wants to be a Beautician, and still another wants to go to Interior Decorating School).

One final question asked to the children was that "if there was one wish that they could have or one change they would like to have made in their life, what would that be?" Three of them responded similarly by saying that they would like to have everything to be fine at home between them and their parent(s). One stated, "I wish that my mother and I could get along better and work out our problems", while another said that "I want to stay at home with my family because there's no place like home, no matter how bad things are."

The other two status offenders stated that they would like to get out of the home and leave all the family problems, and live by themselves ( in an independent living situation).

Juvenile Agencies, Institutions,  
and Treatment Programs

There are presently nineteen (19) active status offenders adjudicated in 1976 who are presently committed to juvenile agencies, institutions, or treatment programs. Four (4) of these cases are presently runaways from such facilities/programs. Another two (2) children refused to be interviewed for this project. Thus, the remaining thirteen (13) status offenders agreed to participate and be interviewed. Nineteen (19) interviews were conducted with probation officers who have responsibility for court supervision of the children in placement (13 children interviewed, 2 children who refused to be interviewed and 4 runaways). Another thirteen (13) staff personnel who have primary responsibility for the delivery of casework services (counselor, child care worker, social worker, etc.) at the agency, institution, or program. In all, there were a total of forty-five (45) interviews completed in this dispositional category.

Probation Officer Interviews

As stated before, the information provided below is based upon the 19 interviews of probation officers responsible for the supervision of status offenders placed in juvenile agencies, institutions, or other facilities or programs.

Results

The probation officers interviewed seem to present similar information that those probation officers having children on probation presented in their interviews.

70% of the probation officers have a Masters degree (in Social Work or Counselling), and have worked in their present capacity with Juvenile Court for an average of six (6) years. Their average caseload size is 49, and they have been working with the status offenders for 1.3 years.

In regard to the frequency of personal contact between the probation officer and the child at the facility/program, 57% of the P.O.'s said they have personal contact at least once a month. 36% said they visit their client once every three months, while 7% contact their client personally once every nine months.

In asking them to evaluate the progress of their client at the facility/program, more than half of the probation officers feel that progress and positive adjustment has been realized. Another 10% said that there is average progress or that it's too early to determine the progress, while 37% felt that no progress has been achieved at the facility/program.

The probation officers suggested several possible programs, services or intervention which could have benefited the child and possibly divert him/her from official court involvement in 1976. Again, information presented here is similar to that provided by probation officers working with status offenders on formal probation:

- 44% felt that early family counselling and crisis intervention/family counselling outreach programs (short-term) would have benefited the child and family.
- 26% suggested the use of emergency shelter care facilities for runaways and drop-in centers providing crisis intervention counselling and family

outreach services would have been helpful.

-a small number of probation officers felt such programs as Parent Effectiveness Training; Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Foster Home Placement; effective, early school intervention; and individual and group counselling on a short-term basis would have been beneficial to decrease or divert the child's contact with Juvenile Court.

When asked if there are programs which, if made available to the status offender, could be effective in helping the child, the probation officers responded:

-35% think specialized/alternative educational testing would be beneficial.

-29% believe their client could take advantage of vocational/technical training and job placement programs.

-the other 36% feel that foster home placements, independent living supervision, and reintegration programs for the child would serve their special needs and facilitate their re-entry back into their communities and families from the juvenile facilities/institutions and programs.

## Staff Interviews

There were thirteen (13) interviews conducted with staff who are responsible for the direct care of and delivery of services to those status offenders placed in juvenile agencies, institutions, and treatment programs.

## Results

In regard to the experience/educational level of the staff interviewed, 42% had Masters degrees in Social Work or Counselling, and another 33% of the staff had Bachelors degrees in Social Work, Sociology or Psychology. The average number of years spent by the staff personnel at these facilities or programs is 3 years and 8 months. In addition, the average length of time that the status offenders have been in the agency, institution, or treatment program is nine (9) months.

In analyzing the specific programs that the status offenders are involved in, based upon the information provided by the staff persons, shows the following:

- Eleven (11) of the thirteen (13) juveniles (85%) are involved in some type of formal/structured counselling program. Ten (10) of these children participate in group and individual counselling at least once a week, while the other juvenile (and the family) participate in family counselling sessions at least once every three months.
- according to the staff, all the status offenders are enrolled in some type of educational program, with 62% of them in mainstream public schools and 38% in alternative or specialized educational programs.

-23% of the children are participating in vocational/technical programs.

-92% participate regularly in recreational or structured activities and events at the facility/program.

In questioning the staff as to their professional evaluation of the progress of the status offender more than half of them (54%) feel that their client has made significant progress in the particular facility/program. The remaining staff feel that the child has made minimal or no progress. It is also interesting to note that all of the staff interviewed stated that their client has experienced or is experiencing family dysfunction, child abuse, or traumatic family disruptions. More than half of the staff know of their client as also having had school problems (poor grades, behavior problems or truancy).

One reoccurring theme that has been surfacing throughout the interviews deals with the suggestions as to what programs or treatment services would have been helpful to the status offender. Almost 90% of the staff interviewed feel that family counselling, outreach services, emergency shelter facilities with short-term family counselling would have benefited the child and family and possibly prevented him/her from having official contact with the court. The rest of the staff interviewed thought Alcoholics Anonymous for the parents and intensive individual therapy for the child would have helped.

As to what programs would be effective now in helping to meet some of the special needs of the status offender, half of the staff feels that family counselling and family therapy programs, family workshops, Parent Effectiveness Training, etc. would be most helpful. This response seems interesting, especially

when considering that only one of the thirteen (8%) status offenders in this dispositional category is actually participating in family counselling, with sessions being only once every three months. Some other responses from the staff included:

- 25% feel that the child should complete his/her high school education and to have available special educational/alternative programs to deal with the individual needs of the child.
- 12% think the status offender could benefit from vocational and job placement programs, along with supervised independent living programs which are desperately needed during the post-release period from the facility/program.
- one staff member felt that more individual counselling is needed for the juvenile.
- Another staff member stated that the child should never have been placed at a particular juvenile facility in the first place (because child was physically and severely abused by a staff person at the facility for attempting to run away) and should have instead been appropriately placed in a community-based treatment program.

A final question was addressed by the staff interviewed which dealt with a general prognosis, length of stay and future release plans for the child. According to the staff, eight (8) of the thirteen (13) status offenders will each be spending an average of another year and 10 months (staff estimates) at their present placement. Another four (4) children will be released within the next three (3) months. Of these four cases, two will be placed in an independent living (emancipated living) situation, another to a group home placement, and one will be returned home. Another case is too early to

determine the prognosis, but the child's progress is considered poor and will probably be placed at another agency. Thus, only one of the status offenders planning on being released in the near future will actually be returned home.



## Status Offender Interviews

Of the nineteen (19) status offenders placed in various juvenile facilities, institutions and treatment programs under juvenile court supervision, thirteen (13) of them agreed to be interviewed. Two children either refused to participate or were unavailable for an interview, and four others are presently runaways from such facilities and also unavailable for an interview. The results presented below are from the interviews with the thirteen interviewed status offenders.

### Results

The average age of the status offender is 15.6 years old. (status offenders on probation supervision have an average age of 16.8 years old) When asked the reason why they are at the facility/program, 70% of the juveniles said they just could not get along with their parents (incorrigibility), while 54% said they ran from home. 23% said that problems in school (truancy) got them in trouble with juvenile court.

Eight (8) of the children (62%) said they liked the programs they are involved in, but nine (69%) stated they are experiencing personal problems and difficulties. These problems included:

- Two juveniles can't get along with the staff. one of them says the staff hits her often
- two children get involved in frequent fighting with other children at the facility
- one child complains that the only time she ever sees her counselor is when she does something wrong. She never sees her counselor "on a good note."

-one juvenile ran away twice in the first two weeks of his placement at this facility - he can't adjust at all to the place. This is the same facility where another status offender (who is presently active but another placement now) was previously committed to and released, but while there was severely beaten by a staff worker for attempting to run away.

-one child says he has poor grades, while another doesn't like the many restrictions at the agency stating that "there's more freedom in an institution."

-one girl is sexually promiscuous with male residents of the facility and she gets in trouble for that.

According to the thirteen status offenders, they seem to have frequent contact with their counselor, social worker, staff worker while at the placement.

46% of them say they talk to their counselor and have formal counselling once a week. Another 38% of the children have informal contact once a day. Only two of the juveniles say that they see their counselor for actual counselling once a month.

In asking them what they would want if they have one wish, nine of the 13 (69%) status offenders said they would like to return home to their family and try to work out the problem with the parents. The other four children want to live on their own and get jobs, with two of them wanting to get married.

One child stated that he wished there was a particular family counselling and crisis intervention outreach program (which is presently operating in his community today) available when he was experiencing severe problems within his family. He said this program could have helped solve some of the family problems (father was an alcoholic, mother was extremely nervous, child was a runaway) and possibly prevent him from getting involved with Juvenile Court in 1976.

### Child Welfare Services

Three (3) juveniles who were originally adjudicated on delinquent/deprived petitions for status offenses in 1976 were placed under Child Welfare Services supervision and are still active with that agency. One child is presently under field supervision at home, one is placed in a foster home, and the third child placed in a group home.

All three children were interviewed, along with the three C.W.S. caseworkers supervising each case. In addition, interviews were conducted with the social worker and the foster parents of the two children placed in the group home and foster home respectively. Thus, there were a total of eight (8) interviews conducted in the C.W.S. dispositional category.

#### C.W.S. Caseworker Interviews

The three interviews with the C.W.S. caseworkers will provide the basis of the information presented below.

#### Results

All three C.W.S. caseworkers have Bachelors degrees - two in English and one in Psychology. The average number of years employed as a caseworker is 5 years and 8 months.

Of the three caseworkers interviewed, the average caseload fluctuates between 60 and 75 families per worker. The caseworkers estimate, however, that there

are, on the average, 2 or 3 children per family to be supervised. In actuality, then, each of the caseworkers averages between 150 to 185 individual children or cases.

According to the caseworkers, they spend an average of 13% of their working hours to direct counselling and client contact and 87% in indirect service, such as court time, reports, telephone, job travel, etc.

A rather surprising statistic is presented in the average frequency of personal contact between the C.W.S. caseworker and the child. According to the caseworker, the average frequency of personal contact between caseworker and child is one year and one month (13 months). In other words, the last time the caseworker personally visited the child was over a year ago. One caseworker remarked during the interview that she should be seeing her client once a month.

In regard to specific programs that the three children are involved in, one child in foster placement is working full-time, and another is involved in counselling, a mainstream educational program, a part-time employment program, and recreational activities at the group home. The third child has just recently left home and is living with her cousin. She is not involved in any specific treatment programs or activities. In regard to a progress evaluation by the caseworkers, two of the children are doing well and one is doing very poorly under C.W.S. supervision.

Family dysfunction seems to be the primary reason for the problems experienced by the children. In fact, two of the children had mothers who committed suicide, while the third child experienced severe family disruptions with the parents being divorced and then both remarrying, and the child being alternately placed with one or the other (Father and Step-Mother or Mother and Step-Father) on four separate occasions in a two year span, and now is living with her cousin. All three

caseworkers feel that family counselling and early family crisis intervention would have been beneficial if they had been made available to the children and their families.

In providing suggestions as to what particular programs or services would be beneficial for their clients if made available to them at the present time, the caseworkers responded that such programs would include:

- family-oriented and intensive individual counselling
- an individualized, alternative educational program
- vocational (including independent living preparation and training)  
and job placement programs

The prognosis for the child at the group home is to have her remain there for another year in order to have her enroll and complete a nursing program to be followed by the release of the child from the group home to an independent living situation. The child at the foster placement will remain there indefinitely. The other juvenile is scheduled to have a court hearing in order to determine future placement, possibly at a group home or foster placement.

### Staff Interviews

Two (2) interviews were conducted in this category - one with the social worker at the group home and the other with the foster parents of the child placed in their home.

### Results

The average length of stay for these two youths in these particular programs has been one and one-half years. According to the information obtained in these interviews, both children have made substantial progress in their respective placements, and both will be ready in the near future to attempt an independent living situation.

Both staff reiterated the fact that the problems experienced by these children are rooted within the framework of the dysfunctional family units. The mother of both children committed suicide when both were ten years old. The initial trauma resulting from that, coupled with subsequent disruptions within both families, lead the staff to believe that early crisis intervention family counselling, possibly with a local outpatient MHMR unit, would have been an extremely valuable support mechanism for effective intervention.

## Status Offender Interviews

The three (3) juveniles who were adjudicated for status offenses in Allegheny County in 1976 and who are presently active with Child Welfare Services were interviewed, and the information obtained from those interviews is presented below.

### Results

The average age of the three status offenders under C.W.S. supervision is 17 years old. When asked to describe any problems or difficulties that they are experiencing in their various placements, one child responded by stating that while at the group home, she cannot get along with the younger, immature residents and is forced to remain isolated from them for fear of getting in fights or arguments. Another said that her biggest problem is with her family and that she is caught in the middle of the conflict between her mother and step-father and her father and step-mother. The third child stated that in general he is satisfied in his foster home placement, his job that he enjoys very much, and his foster parents who he admires and respects.

When asked about the frequency of their personal contact with their C.W.S. caseworker, two of the children stated that they haven't seen their caseworker in two years. The foster parents of one of these children agreed with the statement, and added that in that two year period, the child's case has been handled by two or three different caseworkers at C.W.S. The caseworkers had originally told the foster parents that they would be visiting the foster home at least every month. The third child said that she has not seen her C.W.S. caseworker in six (6) months. Thus, the frequency of personal visits by the C.W.S. caseworkers in these three

cases averages one and one-half years per visit, according to the children interviewed.

In asking the children what they would like to have if they had one wish, one child said she wants to be a nurse and live independent of her family. Another stated that he wants to be an auto mechanic, get married, and also be on his own. The third child said she "wants to lead a peaceful, quiet life with no more problems and no one to bother me; I want someone to be close to - to have my own baby that I can be close to and that no one can take away from me."



### Over-View

In regard to the analysis of sex status, of the thirty-two (32) status offenders presently active with Juvenile Court or Child Welfare Services from 1976 adjudications, 24 of them are females (75%) and 8 are males (25%). When considering the female/male ratio of the total 117 status offenders adjudicated in 1976 (67% were females and 33% were males), there is an 8% increase in the females to males ratio of the presently active cases. Thus, more female cases remained active than male cases with respect to the female/male ratio.

In regard to race, of the total 117 status offenders, 68% were Caucasian and 32% were Black. However, of the thirty-two (32) status offense cases still active, 56% are Caucasian and 44% are Black. This shows a 12% increase in the number of Blacks remaining active with Juvenile Court or Child Welfare Services and a corresponding 12% decrease in the number of Caucasians whose cases have remained active. Thus, Black status offenders tend to remain active longer than Caucasian status offenders. In regard to the particular disposition of the thirty-two active status offenders with respect to race, Blacks account for 70% of status offenders presently on probation, although Blacks represent 44% of all of the active status offenders. Also, 26% of the active status offenders placed in juvenile institutions, facilities, or other treatment programs are Black. One possible explanation for these statistics is that there are more dispositional and placement alternatives for Caucasian status offenders than there are available for Black status offenders, and that probation supervision seems to be a predominant dispositional alternative for the Black status offender.

Another point to be made is the fact that there exists some discrepancies in the frequency of contact/personal visits (between the probation officer/caseworker, and the child) as stated by the probation officer/caseworker and by the child. More important, however, is the fact that there is a significant difference in the frequency of contact when comparing probation officer supervision and Child Welfare Services caseworker field supervision. This difference in contact frequency between probation officers (1 to 5 months per visit/personal contact) and Child Welfare Services caseworkers (1 year to 1.5 years per visit/personal contact) is, of course, partially influenced by the size of the caseloads of both. Probation officers interviewed averaged 48 cases on their caseloads, while C.W.S. caseworkers averaged 168 cases per worker. It is important to remember, however, that because of the small number of those interviewed, especially Child Welfare Services with only three (3) caseworkers interviewed and with thirty-three (33) probation officers interviewed, one must not assume that these contact frequency or caseload size statistics are representative of all probation officers or C.W.S. caseworkers.

In analyzing the information accumulated in the interviews, several themes surfaced which should be considered significant. One deals with the status offender in relationship to family dynamics. There is an over-abundance of data which supports the notion that the status offender comes from a family which has been experiencing extreme disruptions and dysfunction. From a treatment intervention point of view, it was the consensus of opinion, based on interviews with probation officers, staff workers, caseworkers, and even some of the children themselves, that some form of family therapy and out-reach family counselling is desperately needed to cope with the special needs of the child and his/her family. Yet, only a small number (2) of the child-

ren and their families are involved in such treatment programs. It might also be interesting to point out that of the twenty-one (21) status offenders interviewed, more than half of them (57%) stated that they would like to return home or remain at home with their families and are willing to help resolve their problems with their families. Other program services, such as specialized educational and vocational programs, supervised independent living programs, and job placement services are all considered to be potentially extremely beneficial if such programs would be made available to the status offender. But once again, the actual involvement of these children in such programs is rare. It is evident, then, that on the basis of the research, very few of the status offenders participate in such specialized therapeutic, educational, vocational and other supportive program services while active with Juvenile Court and Child Welfare Services- programs which those professionals and staff personnel working directly with such children feel would be most beneficial to them.

### Conclusion

Since the enactment of Pennsylvania Act 41, Child Welfare Services has been responsible for the care and treatment of status offenders in Allegheny County. It is reported that with the influx of older status offenders (average age at time of adjudication is 15.6 years in 1976), most of whom experiencing emotional difficulties and family dysfunction, there is an increase in the frequency of assaults on staff and other children, acting out behavior, and running away episodes because of the overcrowded conditions and insufficient staff and appropriate services at McIntyre Shelter or at C.W.S. to deal effectively with the special needs of the status offender. At the present time, C.W.S. is using many of the same dispositional alternatives for status offenders that Juvenile Court used before Act 41 was enacted. Without the development of new pre-adjudicatory and post-adjudicatory treatment programs for status offenders, C.W.S. will have to resort to the same popular dispositional alternatives - casework (field) supervision and institutionalization (non-secure) that Juvenile Court has been using. This becomes more disturbing when one considers the fact that the recidivism rate for the status offender in Allegheny County reached 30% with such dispositional alternatives and with a length of stay average of over 13 months in such juvenile facilities, institutions, and treatment programs.

It is projected that in 1978, Child Welfare Services will be handling approximately 1500 referrals for status offenses, in addition to an estimated 300 to 400 status offense referrals made to C.W.S. from August to December, 1977. In addition, Juvenile Court has been estimated to have handled almost 700 referrals for status offenses from January, 1977, to August, 1977. Thus, if one uses the same percentage of 13% of the total number of status offense referrals eventually being adjudicated,

then in 1977, Juvenile Court and Child Welfare Services would have handled 143 adjudicated status offenders. In addition to this, with the estimated 1500 referrals to C.W.S. in 1978, C.W.S. will be confronted with the task of providing services and treatment programs for approximately 195 juveniles adjudicated as dependent children for status offenses. With the total influx of 338 status offenders into the child welfare and juvenile justice systems in 1977 and 1978 in Allegheny County, there exists a real and recognized need to develop appropriate, comprehensive services for these children with the firm belief that status offenders are better treated with their families as a dysfunctional unit rather than as troubled and offending individuals treated separately.

In addition to the proposed development of more alternatives to detention and additional shelter care facilities and crisis intervention intake services, the Allegheny County Plan for compliance to Act 41 also calls for "the development of short-term and long-term community based residential and non-residential programming to eliminate the need for institutionalization." The main treatment considerations for such programming must include specialized services for the family and child, with emphasis upon family-oriented intervention and counselling. Other considerations should include an individualized therapeutic program for the child (individual and group therapy), a developmental educational program utilizing external reinforcement/rewards for motivation, and vocational, supportive, and referral services. Because of the very serious family difficulties experienced by status offenders, the immediate or even eventual return of the child to the family becomes a difficult - if not impossible - task. With such cases, alternative temporary housing services should be included in treatment programming. The effective community based program, however, must treat both the child and the family, with the goal of such a program being the successful reintegration of the child with his/her family and community by helping them to restore and maintain normal family functioning and family relationships.

APPENDIX

Interview Consent Forms

Interview Schedules



GOVERNOR'S JUSTICE COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
SOUTHWEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE  
1400 Park Building  
355 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222  
Telephone (412) 565-7676  
PANET 645-7676

Milton J. Shapp  
Governor

Thomas J. Brennan  
Executive Director

Robert P. Kane  
Attorney General  
Chairman

CONSENT FORM

I am conducting a research study of status offenders in Allegheny County for the Governor's Justice Commission. A part of this study involves assessing the personal feelings and experiences of those juveniles who are status offenders and who are presently active with Allegheny County Juvenile Court or Allegheny County Child Welfare Services. I will be conducting personal, individual interviews with these juveniles who are under Court or C.W.S. supervision. The information that I obtain from these interviews will be strictly confidential, used for statistical purposes only, and will be personally non-identifiable, that is, no names will be used in the report. The interview will take only about 20 to 25 minutes.

CONSENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Child), give P. Christopher Kelley and the Governor's Justice Commission permission to interview me, and to use any information that I provide to Mr. Kelley relevant to this status offender research study. I have read the above, understand it, and am willing to participate in the interview.

Signature of Child \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness (Probation Officer or Caseworker) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of P. Christopher Kelley \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

PROBATION OFFICER INTERVIEW

(Probation Cases)

1.) Name of probation center \_\_\_\_\_

2.) How long have you been a probation officer? \_\_\_\_\_

3.) How long have you been working with \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
(Name of Child)

4.) Who is child presently living with? \_\_\_\_\_ How long? \_\_\_\_\_

5.) How long has child been on probation? \_\_\_\_\_

6.) What types of programs is child involved in?

\_\_\_\_\_ educational, grade level \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ vocational training

\_\_\_\_\_ employment

\_\_\_\_\_ therapy/counselling (what kind?) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ other

How long? \_\_\_\_\_

7.) In your opinion, has child experienced any difficulties or problems while in these programs? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No.

If yes, what problems/difficulties? \_\_\_\_\_

8.) How often do you see the child? \_\_\_\_\_ ?

(weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, semi-annually, annually).

a.) how often do you visit child? \_\_\_\_\_

(field visit, home visit, etc.)

b.) how often does child report to probation office for visit? \_\_\_\_\_

c.) how long do these visits usually last? \_\_\_\_\_

9.) How would you evaluate the progress of this child while on probation? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel that probation supervision is helping child? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_



10.) Has the child experienced any special problems or difficulties while on probation? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No.

If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

What was done to intervene/correct these problems? \_\_\_\_\_

11.) In your professional and personal opinion, was there any type of intervention, program, or service that the child could have definitely benefited from if such a program, service, or intervention was offered or available to him/her (in order to possibly prevent, decrease, or divert child from his/her involvement with juvenile court)? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

12.) Is there any type of intervention, program, or service which the child can definitely benefit from now that is not being offered or available to him/her? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

13.) Education/experience level of probation officer \_\_\_\_\_

14.) Estimated percentage of probation officer's time among the following types of intervention -

1.) \_\_\_\_\_ % counselling (what types of?) \_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_ % youth advocacy

3.) \_\_\_\_\_ % community organization

- identifying, assessing, and mobilizing resources in community for benefit of child.

4.) \_\_\_\_\_ % court hearings

5.) \_\_\_\_\_ % reports

6.) \_\_\_\_\_ % other types of intervention and %.

PROBATION OFFICER INTERVIEW

(Cases committed to institutions, agencies, or other programs)

1.) How long has the child been at institution or agency? \_\_\_\_\_

2.) What treatment/program services do the institution or agency offer?

Describe them \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3.) Name of counselor, therapist, social worker, or child care worker who has case-load responsibility for child at institution or agency \_\_\_\_\_.

4.) How often do you visit child at institution or agency? \_\_\_\_\_

5.) Can you briefly give a progress evaluation of child at institution or agency? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6.) Can you describe any particular problems child has experienced in the past or is experiencing now? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Family; school; community; or at institution/agency)

STAFF INTERVIEW

1. How long has the child been at this agency/institution? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What treatment/program services is the child involved in?

I. Counselling

Hours per week

- a) individual-child \_\_\_\_\_
- b) individual-family \_\_\_\_\_
- c) group- family \_\_\_\_\_
- d) group-peer (GGI, PPC, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) drug/alcohol abuse \_\_\_\_\_

II. Educational/Instructional Program

- a) community-based classroom \_\_\_\_\_
  - normal (mainstream) \_\_\_\_\_
  - separate/specialized \_\_\_\_\_
  - alternative school (open classroom) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) institution/agency-based \_\_\_\_\_
  - normal (group) \_\_\_\_\_
  - individual remedial \_\_\_\_\_
  - individual tutorial \_\_\_\_\_

III. Recreational Programs  
(what types of:)

IV. Vocational/Employment Programs

- a) referral to employment agency \_\_\_\_\_
- b) job/vocational counselling only \_\_\_\_\_
- c) work placement only \_\_\_\_\_
- d) counselling and work placement \_\_\_\_\_

Other programs available:

(if yes, check)

V. Crisis Intervention

\_\_\_\_\_

VI. Legal Services

\_\_\_\_\_

VII. Emergency Shelter Care

\_\_\_\_\_

VIII. Advocacy

\_\_\_\_\_

CWS

IX. General Supervision

\_\_\_\_\_

X. Removal from Home

\_\_\_\_\_

XI. Advanced Diagnostic Screening

\_\_\_\_\_

XII. Re-integration Programs

\_\_\_\_\_

XIII. Other

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Can you briefly give a progress evaluation of the child in light of the treatment/program services he/she is involved in?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Can you describe any particular problems that the child has experienced or is experiencing now? (Family dynamics, school, community, or at agency/institution)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. How often do you have professional involvement with the child?  
(How often do you work with or see the child)

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6. In your professional and personal opinion, was there any type of intervention, program or service that, if it was available to the child before, would have been beneficial to the child and possibly helped to prevent, decrease or divert him/her from the involvement with juvenile court? If so, what?

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7. Is there any type of intervention, program or service which the child can definitely benefit from now that is not being offered or available to him/her? If so, what?

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8. What, in your opinion, is the prognosis for this child? What does the future hold for this child?

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9. Professional level of agency's staff %
- I) Professionally trained & Experienced \_\_\_\_\_
  - II) Pre-professionals \_\_\_\_\_
  - III) Para-professionals \_\_\_\_\_
  - IV) Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_
  - V) Others \_\_\_\_\_

10. Estimated percentage of staff time among the following types of intervention efforts:
- I) Counselling (what types of) \_\_\_\_\_
  - II) Youth advocacy \_\_\_\_\_
  - III) Recreation \_\_\_\_\_
  - IV) Instruction \_\_\_\_\_
  - V) Opportunity enhancement \_\_\_\_\_
  - VI) Others \_\_\_\_\_

11. Education/Experience level of counselor, therapist, caseworker, child care worker who has primary case-load responsibility for child.

Education \_\_\_\_\_ Experience \_\_\_\_\_

12. Conclusions/Comments

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STATUS OFFENDER INTERVIEW  
(Probation Cases)

- 1.) How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) Why are you on probation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) How long have you been on probation? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) Who are you living with now?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family
- \_\_\_\_\_ Friends
- \_\_\_\_\_ Relatives
- \_\_\_\_\_ Guardians
- How long? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) What kinds of things are you doing while on probation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ School
- \_\_\_\_\_ Job
- \_\_\_\_\_ Special training, vocational
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other
- 6.) Along with probation, are you attending other programs?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mental health therapy (counselling)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family counselling
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other
- 7.) Have you had any problems with these programs? (Questions No. 5 and 6)
- 8.) How often do you see your probation officer? \_\_\_\_\_  
(weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, semi-annually, annually)
- a.) How often do you visit your probation officer at his/her office?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b.) How often does your probation officer visit you? \_\_\_\_\_  
(home, school, work visit, etc.)
- c.) How long usually do these visits last? \_\_\_\_\_

9.) Do you, or have you in the past had any special problems while on probation?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, did you talk to your probation officer about them? \_\_\_\_\_

10.) What would you like to do in the future with your life? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11.) If you could have changed or could now change one thing about your life, what would that be? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12.) If there is one thing that you would have liked to have been different in your life or one thing that you would have liked to have had or would like to have now that you never had before, what would that be? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



STATUS OFFENDER INTERVIEW

- 1) Name \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) How long have you been here? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Why do you think you are here? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) What kinds of programs are you involved in here?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 6) Do you like being in these programs? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Have you had any problems in these programs? \_\_\_\_\_. If yes, what? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you talk to your counselor about these problems? \_\_\_\_\_

- 8) Do you, or did you in the past, have any special problems?  
at home \_\_\_\_\_  
at school \_\_\_\_\_  
in here \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_

- 9) How often do you see your counselor? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
If there is one thing that you would like to have different in your life, or one thing that you would like to have that you never had before, what would that be? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

STATUS OFFENDER INTERVIEW

- 1.) Name \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) How long have you been under Child Welfare supervision? \_\_\_\_\_.

(If child is placed by C.W.S. in an agency or institution, name of agency/institution \_\_\_\_\_ and length of time child has been there \_\_\_\_\_).

- 4.) What kind of programs have you been involved in here (under C.W.S. supervision)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 5.) Did you have any problems in these programs? \_\_\_\_\_. If yes, what? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. Did you talk to your counselor/child care worker about these problems? \_\_\_\_\_.

- 6.) What programs are you in now?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 7.) Are you having any problems in these programs? \_\_\_\_\_. If yes, what? \_\_\_\_\_.

Do you talk to your counselor about these problems? \_\_\_\_\_.

- 8.) Do you, or did you in the past, have any special problems? -

at home \_\_\_\_\_.

at school \_\_\_\_\_.

here \_\_\_\_\_.

other \_\_\_\_\_.

9.) How often do you see your counselor?

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10.) If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be?

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If there is one thing that you would like to have different in your life, or one thing that you would like to have now that you never had before, what would that be? \_\_\_\_\_

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**END**