

ANNUAL REPORT
YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

July 1, 1977 through June 30, 1978

53686

INTRODUCTION

The juvenile justice system in Idaho continues to progress as demonstrated by the marked decrease in the number of delinquent youth requiring out-of-home placement and the decrease in the number of juvenile petitions filed in the state. Several factors have contributed to these favorable trends, including the development of such community based alternatives as restitution and community service programs with citizen advisory groups. The number of youths served by the Department of Health and Welfare remained almost constant, while the number of youths committed to the Idaho Youth Services Center decreased slightly from the previous year, partly because of the policy against placement of status offenders at the Center. The average daily population was larger due to an increase in the average length of placement at the Center with an emphasis on completion of treatment goals as a requirement for release.

Along with most other states, serious concern is being expressed about violent and repeat offenders, with strong recognition that the protection of society is of prime importance. A contract between the Department of Health and Welfare and the California Youth Authority is utilized for placement of a small number of youths who require a maximum security setting. In other cases meeting the recently developed waiver standards regarding maturity and seriousness of the crime, transfer to the adult court is recommended.

One of the most significant events occurring during the past year was the adoption by the legislature of juvenile detention standards which require that counties provide directly or by contract for juvenile detention facilities which are segregated by sight and sound from adult offenders, are adequately supervised, provide three meals per day, and have access to reading material and visits from family members.

Workers in the juvenile justice field had opportunities to attend workshops conducted by nationally known leaders in the field sponsored by the Idaho Correctional Association and the Department of Health and Welfare. The Governor's Conference on Children provided an excellent opportunity for hundreds of Idaho citizens to share their ideas and learn from others in all areas of children's services and needs. Its emphasis on juvenile delinquency prevention and rehabilitation services is a major factor in the increased involvement of private citizens and agencies in such programs as diversion and restitution committees and informal counseling programs. It is recognized that such cooperation and effort is necessary if progress in the juvenile justice area is to continue.

The information in this report has been obtained from the statistical systems of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, the Idaho Youth Services Center, the State Administrative Office of the Courts and individual reports from four of the counties which maintain local probation services.

FINDINGS

Petitions Filed

Table 1 summarizes information provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts regarding the total number of Youth Rehabilitation Act petitions filed

by all of the courts in Idaho during the past five years. As can be seen there have been decreases from the previous year in three of the past four years, with this year's level being considerably lower than last year.

TABLE 1
STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF FILINGS BY MONTHS

	July '73- June '74 YR ACT Filed	July '74- June '75 YR ACT Filed	July '75- June '76 YR ACT Filed	July '76- June '77 YR ACT Filed	July '77- June '78 YR ACT Filed
July	399	555	504	557	576
Aug.	540	587	451	643	513
Sept.	503	572	547	659	488
Oct.	660	613	563	697	514
Nov.	701	492	486	609	571
Dec.	491	525	579	564	498
Jan.	562	564	612	550	532
Feb.	624	505	498	550	524
March	684	708	612	701	765
April	636	630	565	659	578
May	716	621	560	642	701
June	581	452	678	689	515
TOTAL	7,097	6,824	6,655	7,819	6,775

Characteristics

The following four tables contain information from the statistical reporting system of the Department of Health and Welfare, and include only those newly referred youths for whom individual and family counseling and supervision were provided on an extended basis. It is estimated that Department workers provided over 4,000 pre-disposition reports to the courts during the fiscal year, and provided short term counseling and referral for at least 1,000 youths who are not included in these statistics.

Table 2 shows a breakdown by offenses and the percentage committed by sex for the 2,968 youths for whom extended services were provided. It is interesting to note that while there was less than one per cent increase overall in the number of referrals, there was a ten per cent decrease in the number of females referred. Virtually all of this decrease occurred in status offense referrals and appears to reflect federal guidelines regarding the decriminalization of such offenses as running away, truancy, being ungovernable or in violation of curfew laws which can only be committed by juveniles.

Table 3 shows the most frequent offenses of both males and females for the past six years. For the first time during this period, drug violations are not included due to the decrease in their number.

Table 4 provides a break down by sex and offense the initial type of supervision provided for youths served by the Department. As can be seen, almost one-quarter of those referred were served on an informal supervision status, compared to about one-fifth of the referrals the previous year. There was a nine per cent decrease in the number on formal probation.

TABLE 2
 DELINQUENT CHILDREN REFERRED OR COMMITTED TO
 IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
 7-1-77 through 6-30-78

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>%</u>
Arson	11	.5	2	.3	13	.4
Auto Theft	96	4.3	13	1.8	109	3.7
Burglary-Unlawful Entry	448	19.9	27	3.8	475	16.0
Disturbing the Peace	36	1.6	5	.7	41	1.4
Drug Violations	125	5.5	29	4.1	154	5.2
Fish & Game Violations	3	.1	0	0	3	.1
Forgery	25	1.1	12	1.7	37	1.2
Assault	63	2.8	13	1.8	76	2.6
Liquor Violations	199	8.8	52	7.3	251	8.4
Malicious Mischief (Disturbing the Peace)	166	7.4	12	1.7	178	6.0
Murder (Voluntary Homicide)	5	.2	1	.1	6	.2
Other	209	9.3	75	10.5	284	9.6
Robbery	24	1.1	5	.7	29	1.0
Sex Offense	25	1.1	1	.1	26	.9
Grand Larceny	135	6.0	16	2.2	151	5.1
Petit Larceny	340	15.1	97	13.6	437	14.7
Traffic Violation	37	1.6	9	1.3	46	1.5
Curfew Violations	52	2.3	24	3.4	76	2.6
Running Away	112	5.0	176	24.7	288	9.7
Truancy	78	3.4	74	10.4	152	5.1
Ungovernable	<u>67</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>9.7</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>4.6</u>
TOTAL	2,256	100.0	712	100.0	2,968	100.0

TABLE 3
 MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES BY SEX AND YEAR
 (PERCENT OF TOTAL REPORTED OFFENSES)

Offense	1972-73 %	1973-74 %	1974-75 %	1975-76 %	1976-77 %	1977-78 %
<u>MALES</u>						
Liquor Violations	17.7	15.0	12.9	8.6	7.3	8.8
Burglary	15.7	16.0	17.7	22.0	18.4	19.9
Petit Larceny	18.0	18.4	15.1	14.3	14.6	15.1
<u>FEMALES</u>						
Running Away	27.0	19.2	16.3	27.2	26.0	24.7
Liquor Violations	13.2	16.2	12.0	6.9	6.4	7.3
Petit Larceny	16.9	18.7	18.6	11.7	11.4	13.6
Truancy	10.4	9.6	9.9	12.7	11.7	10.4
Ungovernable	9.0	8.5	7.0	10.7	11.8	9.7

TABLE 4
 TYPE OF INITIAL SUPERVISION PROVIDED TO
 CHILDREN REFERRED OR COMMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT
 BY OFFENSE AND SEX - FY 1977-78

OFFENSE		INFORMAL SUPVN.	PROBATION	INTERSTATE COMPACT	INSTITU- TIONAL	TOTAL
Robbery	M	1	13	4	10	28
	F	0	1	0	0	1
Murder	M	1	1	2	2	6
	F	0	1	0	0	1
Burglary	M	63	287	30	115	495
	F	5	16	3	2	26
Auto Theft	M	11	49	6	59	125
	F	1	11	0	5	17
Petit Larceny	M	91	202	14	45	352
	F	41	47	3	5	96
Disturbing Peace	M	10	23	0	2	35
	F	3	2	0	0	5
Mal. Mischief	M	36	109	6	29	180
	F	2	7	1	2	12
Forgery	M	4	16	0	14	34
	F	4	7	0	1	12
Assault	M	19	34	4	6	63
	F	3	9	0	3	15
Sex Offense	M	5	15	1	2	23
	F	1	0	0	0	1
Arson	M	0	8	2	2	12
	F	0	2	0	0	2
Liquor Viol.	M	73	115	6	9	203
	F	26	23	1	1	51
Traffic Viol.	M	6	28	1	3	38
	F	1	8	0	0	9
Fish & Game Viol.	M	1	0	2	0	3
	F	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Viol.	M	35	75	4	17	131
	F	9	16	2	1	28
Grand Larceny	M	21	86	8	27	142
	F	3	9	1	4	17
Other	M	57	127	6	32	222
	F	34	35	2	6	77
Ungovernable	M	25	34	0	12	71
	F	30	31	3	5	69
Curfew Viol.	M	23	23	2	5	53
	F	13	9	0	3	25
Running Away	M	29	55	4	31	119
	F	52	103	6	10	171
Truancy	M	18	49	2	10	79
	F	18	50	2	3	73
TOTAL	M	529	1,349	104	432	2,414
	%	21.9	55.9	4.3	17.9	
TOTAL	F	246	387	24	51	708
	%	34.7	54.7	3.4	7.2	
GRAND TOTAL		775	1,736	128	483	3,122
	%	24.8	55.6	4.1	15.5	

Includes duplicates if youth charged with more than one offense.

Table 5 compares the age (percentages) for 1977-78 with the previous three years. The large increase in referrals of youths 17 and older seems to reflect the practice of providing diversionary programs in the community for many younger minor and first time offenders. Those 18 years and over who are being served are already within the purview of the Youth Rehabilitation Act due to an act committed prior to their 18th birthday.

TABLE 5
PERCENTAGE BY AGE OF YOUTHS
REFERRED OR COMMITTED TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Age	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
12 and under	8.9	4.7	5.9	6.5
13	7.2	6.5	7.3	6.1
14	13.1	15.1	13.0	9.6
15	20.0	20.3	23.3	16.5
16	22.0	26.3	24.8	21.3
17	23.1	22.6	21.4	22.7
18 and over	5.7	4.5	4.1	17.4

Table 6 includes the percentage breakdown by age and sex of offenders served by the Department of Health and Welfare and those counties which provided comparable information.

TABLE 6
PERCENTAGE OF OFFENDERS BY AGE AND SEX
SERVED BY ALL REPORTING AGENCIES - 1976-77

	<u>12 and under</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
Boys	6.1	7.5	12.3	20.9	24.0	25.4	3.8
Girls	4.7	11.1	12.8	27.6	25.3	15.1	3.4
TOTAL	5.7	8.4	12.5	22.6	24.3	22.9	3.7

Table 7 indicates the ethnic background of youths served by the Department for the past six years. The percentage of non-Caucasian youths charged with committing delinquent acts is small and has remained fairly constant during this period of time.

TABLE 7
 ETHNIC BACKGROUND
 YOUTHS REFERRED OR COMMITTED TO
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
 1972-1978

	<u>1972-73</u>	<u>1973-74</u>	<u>1974-75</u>	<u>1975-76</u>	<u>1976-77</u>	<u>1977-78</u>
Caucasian	91.2%	92.9%	93.6%	92.6%	91.3%	92.4%
Negro	.4	.5	.5	.2	.5	.6
Oriental	.1	.6	.5	.1	.1	.2
Mexican	5.5	4.3	3.2	4.7	5.1	4.2
American Indian	2.5	1.8	2.7	2.4	2.9	2.6

As can be seen in Table 8, the percentage of youths served who are attending school has remained almost identical during the past five years.

TABLE 8
 SCHOOL STATUS OF YOUTHS SERVED BY THE
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

	<u>1973-74</u>	<u>1974-75</u>	<u>1975-76</u>	<u>1976-77</u>	<u>1977-78</u>
Percent in School	82.9	83.5	82.2	82.8	82.6
Percent not in School	17.0	16.5	17.8	17.2	17.4

Table 9 contains information from the Department of Health and Welfare and four counties with county juvenile probation departments which submitted statistical reports. There was a decrease from the previous year in the total number of youths served, with a large percentage of the decrease being in the status offense category.

TABLE 9
OFFENSES COMMITTED BY YOUTHS SERVED BY ALL REPORTING AGENCIES*

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>%</u>
Burglary	681	15.1	44	1.0	725	16.1
Auto Theft	152	3.4	20	.4	172	3.8
Petit Larceny	534	11.8	125	2.8	659	14.6
Grand Larceny	144	3.2	16	.4	160	3.5
Forgery	32	.7	18	.4	50	1.1
Assault	89	2.0	17	.4	106	2.3
Sex Offense	28	.6	1	.0	29	.6
Arson	12	.3	3	.1	15	.3
Drug Violation	200	4.4	40	.9	240	5.3
Fish and Game Violations	3	.1	1	.0	4	.1
Murder (Manslaughter)	5	.1	1	.0	6	.1
Robbery	27	.6	6	.1	33	.7
Disturbing the Peace	36	.8	5	.1	41	.9
Traffic Violations	51	1.1	9	.2	60	1.3
Liquor Violations	308	6.8	73	1.6	381	8.4
Destruction of Property	238	5.3	18	.4	256	5.7
Other	376	8.3	120	2.7	496	11.0
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Non-Status Sub-total	2,916	64.6	517	11.4	3,433	76.0
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Running Away	184	4.1	257	5.7	441	9.8
Truancy	112	2.5	102	2.3	214	4.7
Beyond Control	169	3.7	149	3.3	318	7.0
Curfew	77	1.7	34	.8	111	2.5
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Status Sub-total	542	12.0	542	12.0	1,084	24.0
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GRAND TOTAL	3,458	76.6	1,059	23.4	4,517	100.0

*Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare, Ada, Elmore, Valley and Latah Counties.

Placement at the Idaho Youth Services Center

Youths are placed at the Idaho Youth Services Center following an evaluation and the development of a treatment plan which is designed to meet the individual needs of each child with a goal of maintaining adequate social functioning following return to a community setting.

Table 10 shows the final or most serious offense committed by the 290 youths served at the Center during FY1977-8, including 102 in placement at the beginning of the period and 188 placed between July 1, 1977 and June 30, 1978. Of the 188 placed during the period, 46 were recidivists. The number placed continues a four year downward trend with 286 being placed in FY1974-75, 249 in FY1975-6, 219 in FY1976-77 and 188 in FY1977-8, largely because of the development of alternative treatment plans for status offenders.

This is emphasized in Table 11 which provides a comparison for the past four years of the types of offenses committed by all children referred to the Department of Health and Welfare for services, and those placed at the Youth Services Center. It is the policy of the Department to prohibit placement at the Center of youths who have never been adjudicated for a criminal-type offense. In addition, community diversion programs have been developed as alternatives to referral for Department services.

TABLE 10
 COMMITMENT BY OFFENSE AND SEX AT TIME OF COMMITMENT TO IDAHO
 YOUTH SERVICES CENTER (INCLUDES RECIDIVISTS AND YOUTHS IN PLACEMENT ON 7-1-78)

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
Burglary	66	22.8	7	2.4	73	25.2
Joy Riding	3	1.0	4	1.4	7	2.4
Petit Larceny	16	5.5	13	4.5	29	10.0
Forgery	17	5.9	6	2.1	23	8.0
Assault/Battery	10	3.4	9	3.1	19	6.5
Arson	4	1.4	1	.3	5	1.7
Parole Violation	23	7.9	0	0	23	7.9
Grand Larceny (including Auto Theft)	69	23.8	7	2.4	76	26.2
Drug Violation	11	3.8	2	.7	13	4.5
Robbery	8	2.8	1	.3	9	3.1
Sex Offense	1	.3	0	0	1	.3
Murder (Voluntary Manslaughter)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Destruction of Property	3	1.0	0	0	3	1.0
Possession of Stolen Property	3	1.0	0	0	3	1.0
Interfering w/Police Officer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	4	1.4	0	0	4	1.4
Running Away	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beyond Control	2	.7	0	0	2	.7
Truancy	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	240	82.7	50	17.2	290	100

TABLE 11
COMPARISON OF TYPES OF OFFENSES COMMITTED BY ALL REFERRED
CHILDREN AND THOSE PLACED AT THE YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

YEAR	REFERRED CHILDREN				YOUTH SERVICE CENTER PLACEMENTS			
	Status Offenses		Criminal Offenses		Status Offenses		Criminal Offenses	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1974-5	18.0	41.2	82.0	58.8	12.7	70.8	87.3	19.2
1975-6	19.5	55.2	80.5	44.8	11.2	61.7	88.8	38.3
1976-7	16.6	52.8	83.4	47.2	8.8	43.7	91.2	56.3
1977-8	13.7	48.2	86.3	51.8	.8	0	99.2	100.0

Table 12 shows the age at time of placement of all youths served at the Youth Services Center in FY1977-78. Over ninety per cent of the Center population is fourteen years or older.

TABLE 12
PLACEMENT AT YOUTH SERVICES CENTER BY AGE AND SEX
(INCLUDES RECIDIVISTS AND YOUTHS IN PLACEMENT 7-1-77)

	Male	Female	Total	%
11	1	0	1	.3
12	5	0	5	1.7
13	15	4	19	6.6
14	28	8	36	12.4
15	61	23	84	29.0
16	67	10	77	26.6
17	58	4	62	21.4
18	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2.1</u>
	240	50	290	100.0

Table 13 shows the student population at the Idaho Youth Services Center for the past twelve years, and indicates both the population on July 1 of each year, and the month and population at its peak. The increased population on July 1, 1978 reflects an increase in the average length of placement rather than an increased number of placements during the previous year.

TABLE 13
POPULATION AT THE IDAHO YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

<u>July 1</u>	<u>HIGH during year</u>
1967 - 155	243 - April
1968 - 187	240 - April
1969 - 197	243 - April
1970 - 176	231 - April
1971 - 117	197 - February
1972 - 110	163 - May
1973 - 115	134 - May
1974 - 131	165 - May
1975 - 180	206 - May
1976 - 122	145 - April
1977 - 99	141 - January
1978 - 133	140 - May

Children Being Served by the Department during June, 1978

During June, 1978, a total of 2,158 children and their families were being provided with extended counseling and supervision by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in their own homes or residential treatment programs. Table 14 shows the active cases served during June, 1978, within each Region of the Department of Health and Welfare and does not include those for whom only investigation or limited intervention services were provided.

TABLE 14

<u>Region</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
I	309	14.3
II	354	16.4
III	235	10.9
IV	321	14.9
V	260	12.0
VI	180	8.3
VII	499	23.1

END