

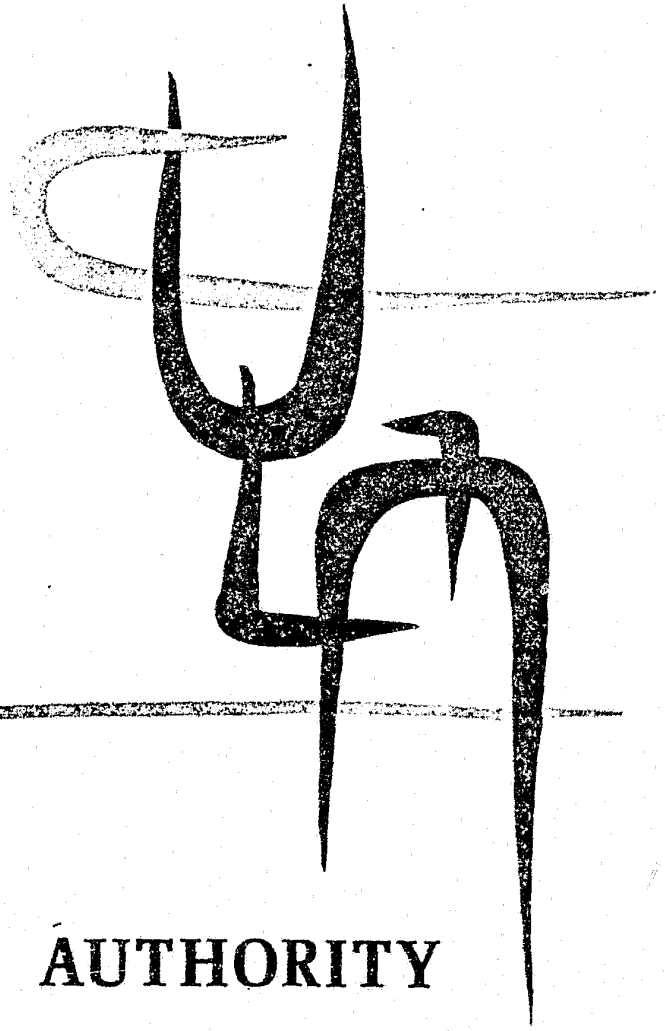
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**A COMPARISON OF ADMISSION
CHARACTERISTICS OF
YOUTH AUTHORITY WARDS
1970 - 1978**

MAY, 1979

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CALIFORNIA

App. 56 **YOUTH AUTHORITY**



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A COMPARISON OF ADMISSION CHARACTERISTICS
OF YOUTH AUTHORITY WARDS, 1970 - 1978

JUN 12 1979

INTRODUCTION

ACQUISITIONS

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

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

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

Property type offenses: burglary, theft (including auto), and forgery and check offenses;

Sex offenses: all offenses involving sexual misconduct;

Narcotic and drug offenses: all offenses related to narcotics and dangerous drugs;

Welfare and Institutions Code violations: all age-related offenses such as incorrigibility, truancy, runaway, foster home or county camp failure, and escape from county camp or juvenile hall. However, beginning January 1977, further commitments for these offenses, except escape, were prohibited.

Other offenses: all offenses not specifically mentioned above.

HIGHLIGHTS

- After decreasing to a low of 49 percent, juvenile court commitments have increased to 58 percent of total first admissions.
- Ethnic minorities now constitute 61 percent of all admissions to the Youth Authority. Eight years ago, only 45 percent of admissions were ethnic minorities.
- Violent type offenses represent 42 percent of all commitments to the Youth Authority. In 1970, they represented only 21 percent.
- The use or possession of weapons in conjunction with the offense has fluctuated between 36 and 38 percent in recent years.
- The use or possession of alcohol at the time of the offense increased from 9 percent in 1970 to 30 percent in 1977, then declined in 1978 to 27 percent.
- Over half of all first commitments have dropped out of school.
- Two-thirds of the wards who were in the job market were unemployed at the time of the offense.
- Most of the wards were living in the parental home (74 percent) and about half of the wards came from two parent homes, either natural parents or parent surrogates.
- Over one-half of the wards had family members with criminal records.
- By far, the major problem in the ward's adjustment was negative peer group influences.

SUMMARY OF ITEMS

Sex

The proportion of female first commitments, never a high proportion, has dropped since 1970 with the current figure (4 percent) being less than half the number committed in 1970.

Court

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

Area of Commitment

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

Commitment Offense

The proportion of violent type offenses doubled in the first six years of the report from 21 percent to 42 percent, then stabilized over the past three years in the 41 - 42 percent range. Narcotic and drug and W & I code commitments have decreased from 27 percent of the total to 3 percent.

Ethnic Group

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

Median Age

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

Number of Escapes

Wards with prior escapes from custody averaged 15 percent of the total commitments.

Co-offenders

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

Weapons with Offense

A steadily increasing proportion of wards either possessed or used a weapon during the commission of the current offense (36 percent).

Alcohol with Offense

The proportion of wards under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offense was 27 percent in 1978, the lowest since 1974.

Overall Alcohol Usage

The proportion of wards who use alcohol excessively rose to 19 percent in 1978.

Drugs with Offense

The proportion of wards using or possessing some kind of drug at the time of the commitment offense has averaged about 21 percent.

Physical Handicaps

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

School Dropout Status

Because of reporting changes, the more recent figures are believed to be most representative of the school dropout population

at commitment (55 percent). The apparent rise in the proportion of wards who have dropped out of school is probably due to a change in the method of collecting the data.

Last Grade Enrolled in School

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

Reading Comprehension

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

Arithmetic Reasoning

Between 1970 and 1974 the arithmetic ability of wards was tested by the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills. Thereafter, the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) was used. The mean grade level was about 6.6 in the last four years.

Prior Convictions or Sustained Petitions

Beginning in 1978 these data represent only convictions and sustained petitions. Data for the years 1970-77 reflect all recorded law enforcement or probation contacts. The two conditions are not comparable.

Median Age at First Prior Conviction or Sustained Petition

Because of the change in the definition of the preceding item, the data for 1978 has no comparability with prior years.

Prior Commitments

In 1978, more than 60 percent of the wards had experienced county commitments prior to their commitment to the Youth Authority.

Median Age at First Prior Commitment

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

I-Level

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

Religion

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

Major Problem Area

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

Employment

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

Placement Before Commitment

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

Out-of-Home Placements

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

Parental Configuration

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

Parents' Marital Status

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

Income Level of Home

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

Family Income from Public Assistance

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

Criminal Record of Family Members

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

Economic Aspects of Immediate Neighborhood

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

Delinquency Aspects of Immediate Neighborhood

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

TABLE 1
 CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1978
 (Showing percents of totals)

Total Admissions

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Total first admissions....	3746	3218	2728	2757	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
Male.....	88.6	89.5	90.8	91.9	92.9	94.7	94.9	95.3	95.7
Female.....	11.4	10.5	9.2	8.1	7.1	5.3	5.1	4.7	4.3
Court.....	3746	3218	2728	2757	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
Juvenile.....	58.9	51.3	53.6	53.1	50.9	53.7	49.3	55.5	58.2
Criminal.....	41.1	48.7	46.4	46.9	49.1	46.3	50.7	45.4	41.8
Area of commitment.....	3746	3218	2728	2757	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
Southern California.....	59.9	55.6	53.7	59.9	59.6	61.9	58.0	57.4	58.6
Los Angeles.....	32.3	29.8	29.0	35.7	32.3	33.5	33.5	35.3	36.4
9 other counties.....	27.6	25.8	24.7	24.2	27.3	28.4	24.5	22.1	22.2
San Francisco Bay area..	23.0	24.5	24.5	20.5	19.8	21.0	23.5	23.6	22.3
Sacramento Valley.....	5.5	6.2	9.1	7.3	7.7	7.2	7.6	6.0	6.0
San Joaquin Valley.....	7.3	7.9	7.9	7.4	7.5	6.2	7.2	8.6	9.0
22 other counties.....	4.3	5.8	4.8	4.9	5.4	3.7	3.7	4.4	4.1
Commitment offense.....	3746	3218	2728	2757	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
Violent type offenses...	21.2	24.1	28.0	33.6	36.6	42.3	41.5	41.2	42.1
Property type offenses..	29.8	34.1	36.4	36.4	38.6	38.6	41.4	44.3	46.0
Sex offenses.....	2.9	2.9	3.2	4.0	3.5	4.2	3.3	3.9	4.1
Narcotic & drug offenses	19.3	18.8	11.8	9.4	7.6	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.4
W & I code violations...	20.1	14.0	14.1	10.4	8.8	5.9	6.3	3.6	0.7
Other offenses.....	6.7	6.1	6.5	6.2	4.9	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.7
Ethnic group.....	3746	3218	2728	2757	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
White.....	55.4	52.0	48.6	44.5	47.3	40.7	40.5	39.3	39.3
Spanish speaking/surname	17.5	19.0	19.6	18.9	19.8	21.4	23.2	25.6	26.7
Black.....	24.8	25.9	29.3	33.9	30.1	34.4	33.7	32.0	31.7
Other.....	2.3	3.1	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.5	2.6	3.1	2.3
Median age.....	17.7	18.1	18.0	18.0	18.1	18.0	18.2	17.9	17.8
Number of escapes.....	3746	3218	2728	2757	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
None or unknown.....	84.4	80.1	78.6	82.4	84.5	82.3	80.8	82.1	84.9
One or more.....	15.6	19.9	21.4	17.6	15.5	17.7	19.2	17.9	15.1
Co-offenders.....	3746	3218	2728	2757	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
None or unknown.....	51.9	53.6	55.3	53.2	49.7	51.1	47.8	49.8	50.9
One or two.....	37.7	37.5	37.8	39.6	41.7	42.1	44.3	43.3	41.4
Three or more.....	10.4	8.9	6.9	7.2	8.6	6.8	7.9	6.9	7.7
Weapons with offense.....	3746	3218	2728	2757	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
None or unknown.....	80.8	74.2	72.6	65.5	63.6	61.3	62.3	62.1	63.8
Yes.....	19.2	25.8	27.4	34.5	36.4	38.7	37.7	37.9	36.2

TABLE 1 (Continued)

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1978

(Showing percents of totals)

Total Admissions

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Alcohol with offense.....	3746	3218	2728	2757	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
None or unknown.....	91.0	90.3	85.5	82.4	70.7	72.0	70.8	69.8	73.2
Yes.....	9.0	9.7	14.5	17.6	29.3	28.0	29.2	30.2	26.8
Overall alcohol usage....	3746	3218	2728	2757	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
None or unknown.....	25.7	21.8	22.3	36.5	20.3	26.7	26.7	24.5	28.8
Slight to moderate.....	59.3	63.4	51.5	35.7	59.1	54.0	57.5	58.4	52.4
Excessive.....	15.0	14.8	26.2	27.8	20.6	19.3	15.8	17.1	18.8
Drugs with offense.....	-	-	-	-	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	-	78.0	80.1	79.8	77.9	78.9
Yes.....	-	-	-	-	22.0	19.9	20.2	22.1	21.1
Physical handicaps.....	-	-	-	-	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	-	92.3	94.3	89.4	89.2	89.5
Yes.....	-	-	-	-	7.7	5.7	10.6	10.8	10.5
School dropout status....	-	-	-	2757	3002	3404	3559	3626	3776
No or unknown.....	-	-	-	72.5	63.3	57.2	57.4	54.8	45.2
Yes.....	-	-	-	27.5	36.7	42.8	42.6	45.2	54.8
Last grade enrolled in school.....	3607	3114	2653	2659	2845	3047	3305	3386	3567
Grades 1-9.....	25.7	21.7	20.5	18.1	15.8	20.2	16.5	16.4	19.2
Grade 10.....	26.5	25.9	24.6	25.2	24.8	26.6	26.0	26.4	26.2
Grade 11.....	31.3	28.8	31.4	31.3	30.7	32.5	35.0	35.2	34.9
Grade 12.....	9.2	17.2	19.1	16.1	17.7	11.4	13.2	14.2	13.6
H. S. grad or college..	7.3	6.4	4.4	9.3	11.0	9.3	9.3	7.8	6.1
Reading comprehension (mean grade level).....	7.9	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.2	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0
Arithmetic reasoning (mean grade level).....	6.4	6.4	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.7
Prior convictions or sustained petitions ^a	3726	3188	2712	2743	2991	3205	3468	3590	3743
None.....	2.9	2.7	3.5	4.4	5.6	5.3	7.3	7.0	13.6
1-4.....	32.2	27.8	22.0	17.8	25.8	27.7	30.6	30.6	55.5
5-7.....	27.1	24.9	24.9	43.5	21.9	22.5	20.9	22.6	19.9
8 or more.....	37.8	44.7	49.6	34.3	46.7	44.5	41.2	39.8	11.0
Median age at first prior conviction or petition ^a ..	14.2	14.1	13.9	13.9	13.9	13.9	14.2	14.0	14.7

^a Definition changed in 1978. Formerly titled Prior Delinquent Contacts.

TABLE 1 (Continued)
 CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1978
 (Showing percents of totals)
 Total Admissions

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Prior commitments.....	3726	3188	2712	2742	2991	3205	3468	3590	3743
None.....	45.8	43.4	43.0	48.9	48.6	43.3	43.6	38.1	37.5
One.....	34.9	33.2	32.2	29.7	29.3	32.9	30.0	31.3	30.9
Two.....	14.0	15.4	16.0	14.1	13.5	14.9	15.8	17.0	19.3
Three or more.....	5.3	8.0	8.8	7.3	8.6	8.9	10.6	13.6	12.3
Median age at first prior commitment.....	15.8	15.9	15.8	15.9	15.9	15.9	15.9	15.7	15.6
I-Level.....	1872	2163	2316	2424	2802	2472	2855	2795	2849
I-2.....	2.1	6.9	5.8	7.5	8.0	10.7	9.4	9.9	8.3
I-3.....	38.0	45.0	52.5	51.0	51.0	54.8	54.5	57.8	59.4
I-4 and I-5.....	59.9	48.1	41.7	41.5	41.0	34.5	36.1	32.3	32.3
Religion.....	3450	2854	2322	2314	2404	2550	2725	2849	2935
Catholic.....	41.0	43.4	42.4	42.8	45.4	46.7	46.9	45.3	48.3
Protestant.....	58.1	53.3	54.9	55.0	53.3	51.2	51.4	52.8	49.0
Other.....	0.9	3.3	2.7	2.2	1.3	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.7
Major problem area.....	-	-	-	-	2456	2753	2741	2872	3029
None.....	-	-	-	-	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.0
Employment.....	-	-	-	-	7.1	7.0	7.4	5.9	5.4
Family.....	-	-	-	-	12.2	8.4	7.0	8.5	8.5
School.....	-	-	-	-	3.8	3.3	3.2	3.3	2.7
Drugs/alcohol.....	-	-	-	-	16.7	14.2	14.5	14.3	14.0
Peer influence.....	-	-	-	-	37.8	42.9	41.6	42.8	41.6
Mental/emotional.....	-	-	-	-	21.2	23.2	24.7	23.9	26.8
Employment.....	-	-	-	-	2547	2857	2840	3011	3166
Not in job market.....	-	-	-	-	36.5	37.7	34.2	36.4	32.7
Unemployed.....	-	-	-	-	38.5	41.9	46.0	44.2	45.7
Employed part-time.....	-	-	-	-	13.4	12.4	11.8	10.0	11.6
Employed full-time.....	-	-	-	-	11.6	8.0	8.0	9.4	10.0
Placement before commit...	-	-	-	-	2548	2904	2881	3033	3186
Parents.....	-	-	-	-	73.1	73.4	72.4	73.6	74.0
Relatives.....	-	-	-	-	8.8	9.3	9.4	8.6	9.1
Foster/group home.....	-	-	-	-	6.0	5.3	5.2	6.5	6.6
Independent.....	-	-	-	-	12.1	12.0	13.0	11.3	10.3
Out-of-home placement.....	-	-	-	-	2434	2740	2724	2795	2985
None.....	-	-	-	-	65.7	68.1	67.8	64.0	65.1
One.....	-	-	-	-	16.3	16.8	15.8	16.9	15.6
Two or more.....	-	-	-	-	18.0	15.1	16.4	19.1	19.3

TABLE 1 (Continued)

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1978
(Showing percents of totals)

Total Admissions

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Parental configuration....	-	-	-	-	2578	2919	2902	3068	3217
No parents in home.....	-	-	-	-	6.1	4.7	5.5	6.6	5.9
One parent home.....	-	-	-	-	41.0	44.2	45.1	46.2	46.1
Two parents home.....	-	-	-	-	52.9	51.1	49.3	47.2	48.0
Parents' marital status...	3681	3147	2686	2702	2965	3128	3413	3511	3627
Never married.....	5.2	6.2	3.0	3.9	7.6	5.9	6.5	8.9	10.2
Presently married.....	37.0	35.9	34.2	30.7	34.5	33.1	31.8	29.7	30.0
No longer married.....	57.8	57.9	62.8	65.4	57.9	61.0	61.7	61.4	59.8
Income level of home.....	-	-	-	-	2516	2833	2801	2879	3080
Less than adequate.....	-	-	-	-	41.1	43.7	44.2	46.3	42.8
Adequate.....	-	-	-	-	52.3	51.9	51.6	49.5	53.1
More than adequate.....	-	-	-	-	6.6	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.1
Family income from public assistance.....	-	-	-	-	2443	2713	2706	2773	2944
None.....	-	-	-	-	66.1	62.6	62.5	60.5	63.0
Less than half.....	-	-	-	-	8.0	9.8	9.0	9.0	9.2
More than half.....	-	-	-	-	25.9	27.6	28.5	30.5	27.8
Criminal record of family members.....	-	-	-	-	2299	2616	2568	2652	2838
None.....	-	-	-	-	51.8	50.2	51.6	49.0	47.4
Parents only.....	-	-	-	-	9.7	8.7	8.0	7.8	7.6
Siblings only.....	-	-	-	-	28.6	32.3	33.0	34.6	34.4
Both.....	-	-	-	-	9.9	8.8	7.4	8.6	10.6
Economic aspects of immediate neighborhood....	-	-	-	-	2523	2848	2836	2963	3123
Above average.....	-	-	-	-	8.0	7.3	6.9	6.3	6.1
Average.....	-	-	-	-	47.7	50.0	50.1	50.3	51.4
Below average.....	-	-	-	-	44.3	42.7	43.0	43.4	42.5
Delinquency aspects of immediate neighborhood....	-	-	-	-	2504	2823	2803	2957	3119
Non-delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	9.0	6.4	6.6	5.7	5.9
Minimally delinquent....	-	-	-	-	27.0	25.1	25.2	22.2	24.6
Moderately delinquent...	-	-	-	-	35.0	37.1	36.3	39.4	37.4
Highly delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	29.0	31.4	31.9	32.7	32.1

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

TABLE 2
CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1978
(Showing percents of totals)
Males Only

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Total first admissions.....	3319	2880	2476	2534	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
Court.....	3319	2880	2476	2534	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
Juvenile.....	56.0	48.5	51.2	51.1	49.0	53.2	48.4	55.1	57.6
Criminal.....	44.0	51.5	48.8	48.9	51.0	46.8	51.6	44.9	42.4
Area of commitment.....	3319	2880	2476	2534	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
Southern California.....	60.5	55.7	53.9	59.7	60.8	62.1	58.5	57.8	58.9
Los Angeles.....	33.4	30.6	30.1	36.4	33.4	34.1	33.9	35.3	37.0
9 other counties.....	27.1	25.1	23.8	23.3	27.4	28.0	24.6	22.5	21.0
San Francisco Bay area..	22.0	23.9	24.7	20.4	19.5	20.9	23.4	23.4	22.0
Sacramento.....	5.7	6.6	8.9	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.1	6.1
San Joaquin Valley.....	7.4	8.0	7.9	7.4	7.3	6.1	7.1	8.5	9.0
22 other counties.....	4.4	5.8	4.6	5.0	5.2	3.7	3.6	4.2	4.0
Commitment offense.....	3319	2880	2476	2534	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
Violent type offenses...	22.1	25.3	29.1	34.4	37.3	42.2	41.4	40.8	41.7
Property type offenses..	31.8	35.7	38.5	38.1	39.6	39.2	41.9	45.0	46.5
Sex offenses.....	3.0	3.1	3.3	4.2	3.8	4.3	3.4	4.0	4.2
Narcotic & drug offenses	19.7	18.9	11.4	9.0	7.0	4.2	3.2	2.3	2.4
W & I code violations...	17.0	11.2	11.2	8.5	7.4	5.6	6.3	3.5	0.6
Other offenses.....	6.4	5.8	6.5	5.8	4.9	4.5	3.8	4.4	4.6
Ethnic group.....	3319	2880	2476	2534	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
White.....	54.5	51.3	47.6	44.2	46.6	40.7	40.3	39.5	38.8
Spanish-speaking/surname	18.2	19.5	19.7	19.1	20.2	21.4	23.4	25.6	27.0
Black.....	25.2	26.2	30.1	34.1	30.5	34.3	33.8	31.9	31.8
Other.....	2.1	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.8	3.6	2.5	3.0	2.4
Median age.....	17.9	18.2	18.1	18.1	18.2	18.0	18.2	18.0	17.8
Number of escapes.....	3319	2880	2476	2534	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
None or unknown.....	83.7	79.8	78.2	82.4	84.8	82.2	80.9	81.8	84.6
One or more.....	16.3	20.2	21.8	17.6	15.2	17.8	19.1	18.2	15.4
Co-offenders.....	3319	2880	2476	2534	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
None or unknown.....	50.2	52.5	54.4	52.0	49.0	50.9	47.5	49.5	50.7
One or two.....	39.2	38.8	38.7	40.6	42.3	42.6	44.5	43.5	41.6
Three or more.....	10.6	8.7	6.9	7.4	8.7	6.5	8.0	6.9	7.7
Weapons with offense.....	3319	2880	2476	2534	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
None or unknown.....	79.5	72.6	70.9	64.3	62.6	60.8	61.7	61.8	63.8
Yes.....	20.5	27.4	29.1	35.7	37.4	39.2	38.3	38.2	36.2

TABLE 2 (Continued)
 CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1978
 (Showing percents of totals)
 Males Only

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Alcohol with offense.....	3319	2880	2476	2534	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
None or unknown.....	90.7	89.7	84.7	81.5	69.1	71.2	69.6	69.2	72.5
Yes.....	9.3	10.3	15.3	18.5	30.9	28.8	30.4	30.8	27.5
Overall alcohol usage.....	3319	2880	2476	2534	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
None or unknown.....	22.9	19.1	20.4	35.3	18.8	26.0	25.7	24.5	28.9
Slight to moderate.....	61.3	64.9	52.4	36.0	60.1	54.1	58.2	58.3	52.3
Excessive.....	15.8	16.0	27.2	28.7	21.1	19.9	16.1	17.2	18.8
Drugs with offense.....	-	-	-	-	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	-	75.4	79.9	79.8	78.0	78.9
Yes.....	-	-	-	-	24.6	20.1	20.2	22.0	21.1
Physical handicaps.....	-	-	-	-	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	-	93.3	94.3	89.4	89.0	89.6
Yes.....	-	-	-	-	6.7	5.7	10.6	11.0	10.4
School dropout status.....	-	-	-	2534	2790	3224	3377	3457	3614
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	71.3	62.1	57.5	57.0	54.7	45.4
Yes.....	-	-	-	28.6	37.9	42.5	43.0	45.3	54.6
Last grade enrolled in school.....	3221	2794	2411	2442	2647	2888	3158	3230	3410
Grades 1-9.....	25.0	21.2	19.5	16.9	15.0	20.2	16.2	15.8	18.4
Grade 10.....	26.3	25.2	24.6	25.5	24.7	26.6	25.8	26.2	26.2
Grade 11.....	31.4	29.9	31.7	31.5	31.0	32.4	35.6	35.8	35.5
Grade 12.....	9.4	17.4	19.7	16.5	18.1	11.3	13.2	14.2	13.9
H. S. grad or college...	7.9	6.3	4.5	9.6	11.2	9.5	9.2	8.0	6.0
Reading Comprehension (mean grade level).....	7.8	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.2	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0
Arithmetic reasoning (mean grade level).....	6.4	6.4	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.7
Prior convictions or sustained petitions ^a	3300	2855	2462	2521	2780	3037	3309	3423	3582
None.....	3.1	2.6	3.3	4.4	5.4	5.0	7.0	6.8	12.6
1-4.....	31.1	26.4	21.4	17.5	25.6	27.2	30.4	30.1	55.8
5-7.....	26.3	24.4	24.5	43.8	21.7	22.5	20.9	22.7	20.5
8 or more.....	39.5	46.6	50.8	34.3	47.3	45.3	41.7	40.4	11.1
Median age at first prior conviction or petition ^a ...	14.5	14.3	14.1	14.0	13.9	13.9	14.2	14.0	14.7

^aDefinition changed in 1978. Formerly titled Prior Delinquent Contacts.

TABLE 2 (Continued)
 CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1978
 (Showing percents of totals)
 Males Only

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Prior commitments.....	3300	2855	2462	2520	2780	3037	3309	3423	3582
None.....	42.8	41.0	40.1	46.9	47.5	42.5	42.8	37.2	36.6
One.....	36.1	34.0	33.6	30.7	29.8	33.4	30.3	31.8	31.2
Two.....	15.3	16.3	16.8	14.8	14.0	15.0	16.1	17.3	19.7
Three or more.....	5.8	8.7	9.5	7.6	8.7	9.1	10.8	13.7	12.5
Median age at first prior commitment.....	16.3	16.3	16.4	16.3	15.9	15.9	16.0	15.7	15.5
I-Level.....	1474	1861	2127	2251	2614	2359	2781	2702	2757
I-2.....	2.1	7.0	6.3	7.8	8.1	10.7	9.5	9.7	8.1
I-3.....	42.4	48.0	53.8	51.7	52.5	55.0	54.5	58.3	59.7
I-4 and I-5.....	55.5	45.0	39.9	40.5	39.4	34.3	36.0	32.0	32.2
Religion.....	3056	2550	2111	2124	2230	2397	2582	2732	2812
Catholic.....	40.9	43.8	42.7	43.4	45.7	46.9	47.3	45.2	48.4
Protestant.....	58.2	53.1	54.6	54.3	53.1	51.0	51.0	53.0	49.0
Other.....	0.9	3.1	2.7	2.3	1.2	2.1	1.7	1.8	2.6
Major problem area.....	-	-	-	-	2270	2615	2596	2737	2902
None.....	-	-	-	-	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.0
Employment.....	-	-	-	-	7.7	7.3	7.8	6.1	5.5
Family.....	-	-	-	-	11.4	8.4	6.9	8.4	8.4
School.....	-	-	-	-	4.0	3.4	3.3	3.3	2.8
Drugs/alcohol.....	-	-	-	-	16.2	14.2	14.2	14.2	13.9
Peer influence.....	-	-	-	-	38.8	43.4	42.3	43.0	42.4
Mental/emotional.....	-	-	-	-	20.6	22.3	23.9	23.7	26.0
Employment.....	-	-	-	-	2360	2714	2691	2871	3033
Not in job market.....	-	-	-	-	35.1	36.8	33.3	35.6	32.0
Unemployed.....	-	-	-	-	38.7	42.1	46.4	44.3	45.7
Employed part-time.....	-	-	-	-	13.9	12.8	12.1	10.4	11.9
Employed full-time.....	-	-	-	-	12.3	8.3	8.2	9.7	10.4
Placement before commit....	-	-	-	-	2365	2759	2732	2897	3051
Parents.....	-	-	-	-	74.0	74.1	73.3	74.1	74.7
Relatives.....	-	-	-	-	9.0	9.3	9.5	8.7	9.3
Foster/group home.....	-	-	-	-	4.9	4.8	4.5	6.2	6.2
Independent.....	-	-	-	-	12.1	11.8	12.7	11.0	9.8
Out-of-home placements....	-	-	-	-	2253	2608	2578	2666	2858
None.....	-	-	-	-	67.8	68.9	68.7	64.6	65.8
One.....	-	-	-	-	16.1	16.6	15.8	16.9	15.4
Two or more.....	-	-	-	-	16.1	14.5	15.5	18.5	18.8

TABLE 2 (Continued)
 CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1978
 (Showing percents of totals)
 Males Only

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Parental configuration....	-	-	-	-	2387	2774	2755	2928	3079
No parents in home.....	-	-	-	-	6.1	4.6	5.5	6.3	5.7
One parent home.....	-	-	-	-	40.7	44.0	47.5	46.3	45.9
Two parent home.....	-	-	-	-	53.2	51.4	47.0	47.4	48.4
Parents' marital status...	3264	2818	2439	2481	2755	2963	3258	3348	3468
Never married.....	4.8	5.9	2.9	3.8	7.6	5.5	6.3	8.7	9.8
Presently married.....	38.2	37.1	34.9	31.1	35.1	33.6	32.3	30.0	30.1
No longer married.....	57.0	57.0	62.2	65.1	57.3	60.9	61.4	61.3	60.1
Income level of home.....	-	-	-	-	2333	2692	2658	2750	2952
Less than adequate.....	-	-	-	-	40.9	43.3	43.8	46.0	42.5
Adequate.....	-	-	-	-	52.5	52.3	51.9	49.8	53.4
More than adequate.....	-	-	-	-	6.6	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1
Family income from public assistance.....	-	-	-	-	2265	2576	2573	2646	2822
None.....	-	-	-	-	66.3	62.8	62.9	61.0	63.3
Less than half.....	-	-	-	-	8.1	10.1	9.7	8.9	9.3
More than half.....	-	-	-	-	25.6	27.1	28.4	30.1	27.4
Criminal record of family members.....	-	-	-	-	21 2	2484	2434	2526	2717
None.....	-	-	-	-	52.2	50.5	51.9	49.1	47.8
Parents only.....	-	-	-	-	9.6	8.5	7.8	7.8	7.5
Siblings only.....	-	-	-	-	29.0	32.5	33.1	34.9	34.4
Both.....	-	-	-	-	9.2	8.5	7.2	8.2	10.3
Economic aspects of immediate neighborhood....	-	-	-	-	2345	2706	2693	2827	2997
Above average.....	-	-	-	-	7.8	7.1	7.1	6.3	6.3
Average.....	-	-	-	-	47.8	50.3	50.2	50.4	51.5
Below average.....	-	-	-	-	44.4	42.6	42.7	43.3	42.2
Delinquency aspects of immediate neighborhood....	-	-	-	-	2330	2683	2662	2820	2992
Non-delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	8.5	6.3	6.5	5.5	5.8
Minimally delinquent....	-	-	-	-	26.7	25.2	25.3	22.4	24.5
Moderately delinquent....	-	-	-	-	35.4	36.9	36.3	39.4	37.8
Highly delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	29.4	31.6	31.9	32.7	31.9

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

TABLE 3
 CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1978
 (Showing percents of totals)
 Females Only

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Total first admissions....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169	162
Court.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169	162
Juvenile.....	81.7	75.1	77.0	75.3	75.5	63.9	66.5	54.5	70.4
Criminal.....	18.3	24.9	23.0	24.7	24.5	36.1	33.5	35.5	29.6
Area of commitment.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169	162
Southern California.....	55.5	54.4	50.8	62.3	45.8	59.4	48.4	47.3	51.2
Los Angeles.....	23.2	23.1	17.5	28.2	18.9	23.9	24.7	18.9	24.1
9 other counties.....	32.3	31.3	33.3	34.1	26.9	35.5	23.7	28.4	27.1
San Francisco Bay area..	30.5	29.3	23.0	21.5	23.1	21.7	24.7	29.0	29.6
Sacramento Valley.....	4.2	3.3	11.1	5.4	13.2	6.7	11.5	4.7	4.9
San Joaquin Valley.....	6.3	7.4	8.3	6.7	9.4	8.9	9.3	11.3	8.7
22 other counties.....	3.5	5.6	6.8	4.2	8.5	3.3	6.1	7.7	5.6
Commitment offense.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169	162
Violent type offenses...	14.3	13.3	16.7	25.1	26.4	43.9	42.9	49.1	51.8
Property type offenses..	14.0	20.7	15.9	17.5	25.9	26.7	31.3	30.2	35.8
Sex offenses.....	1.4	1.2	2.4	1.8	-	2.2	1.1	2.4	-
Narcotic & drug offenses	16.4	18.0	15.5	13.0	15.6	9.4	9.9	7.7	3.1
W & I code violations...	44.3	37.6	42.4	32.7	27.4	12.2	6.6	4.1	1.9
Other offenses.....	9.6	9.2	7.1	9.9	4.7	5.6	8.2	6.5	7.4
Ethnic group.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169	162
White.....	62.5	58.0	58.3	48.9	57.6	40.0	43.4	36.1	49.4
Spanish-speaking/surname	12.7	14.8	18.3	15.2	14.6	20.6	19.8	25.5	19.7
Black.....	21.5	23.1	21.4	31.4	24.5	36.1	32.4	34.3	28.4
Other.....	3.3	4.1	2.0	4.5	3.3	3.3	4.4	4.1	2.5
Median age.....	16.5	16.8	16.7	16.9	16.9	17.0	17.5	17.5	17.3
Number of escapes.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169	162
None or unknown.....	89.5	83.4	82.9	82.5	80.3	83.3	78.6	88.2	91.4
One or more.....	10.5	16.6	17.1	17.5	19.8	16.7	21.4	11.8	8.6
Co-offenders.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169	162
None or unknown.....	65.1	63.3	64.3	66.8	58.0	56.7	53.3	55.0	56.2
One or two.....	26.2	26.0	28.6	28.3	33.0	31.7	39.6	38.5	35.2
Three or more.....	8.7	10.7	7.1	4.9	9.0	11.6	7.1	6.5	8.6
Weapons with offense.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169	162
None or unknown.....	90.9	87.9	88.9	78.9	76.9	71.1	73.1	68.6	64.8
Yes.....	9.1	12.1	11.1	21.1	23.3	28.3	26.9	31.4	35.2

TABLE 3 (Continued)

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1978

(Showing percents of totals)

Females Only

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Alcohol with offense.....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169	162
None or unknown.....	93.0	95.3	93.3	92.8	90.6	86.7	93.4	81.7	87.7
Yes.....	7.0	4.7	6.7	7.2	9.4	13.3	6.6	18.3	12.3
Overall alcohol usage....	427	338	252	223	212	180	182	169	162
None or unknown.....	47.1	44.7	41.3	50.7	40.1	39.5	44.5	24.3	25.9
Slight to moderate.....	44.2	50.9	42.8	32.7	47.2	51.1	45.1	60.4	54.3
Excessive.....	8.7	4.4	15.9	16.6	12.7	9.4	10.4	15.4	19.8
Drugs with offense.....	-	-	-	-	212	180	182	169	162
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	-	72.2	83.9	79.7	76.9	80.9
Yes.....	-	-	-	-	27.8	16.1	20.3	23.1	19.1
Physical handicaps.....	-	-	-	-	212	180	182	169	162
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	-	93.8	96.6	90.7	93.5	87.7
Yes.....	-	-	-	-	6.2	3.4	9.3	6.5	12.3
School dropout status....	-	-	-	223	212	180	182	169	162
None or unknown.....	-	-	-	85.2	79.7	51.7	64.8	68.6	43.2
Yes.....	-	-	-	14.8	20.3	48.3	35.2	31.4	56.8
Last grade enrolled in school.....	386	320	242	217	198	159	147	169	157
Grades 1-9.....	31.1	26.6	30.6	30.9	26.3	21.4	21.8	27.5	36.3
Grade 10.....	28.5	31.2	24.4	21.2	26.3	27.0	32.0	30.8	25.5
Grade 11.....	30.1	19.4	27.7	29.5	28.3	33.3	23.1	23.1	21.0
Grade 12.....	7.5	15.6	13.2	12.0	11.6	12.6	13.6	14.1	8.9
H. S. grad or college..	2.8	7.2	4.1	6.4	7.5	5.7	9.5	4.5	8.3
Reading Comprehension (mean grade level).....	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.0	7.8	6.8	7.3	6.9	7.3
Arithmetic reasoning (mean grade level).....	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.3	5.8	6.3	6.8	6.3	6.7
Prior convictions or sustained petitions ^a	426	333	250	222	211	168	159	167	161
None.....	1.6	3.3	5.2	5.0	7.1	10.1	13.8	11.9	36.0
1-4.....	40.8	39.4	27.6	21.2	28.4	35.7	34.6	41.3	48.4
5-7.....	32.9	28.8	28.8	39.6	24.7	22.0	20.8	18.6	8.1
8 or more.....	24.7	28.5	38.4	34.2	39.8	32.2	30.8	28.2	7.5
Median age at first prior conviction or petition ^a ...	14.1	14.1	13.9	13.9	13.8	14.1	14.0	14.2	15.0

^aDefinition changed in 1978. Formerly titled Prior Delinquent Contacts.

TABLE 3 (Continued)
 CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1978
 (Showing percents of totals)
 Females Only

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Prior commitments.....	426	333	250	222	211	168	159	167	161
None.....	68.3	63.4	72.4	71.2	63.0	57.1	60.4	56.3	57.1
One.....	26.3	26.4	17.6	18.9	23.2	24.4	24.5	21.5	24.2
Two.....	4.5	8.1	7.6	6.8	6.7	12.5	9.4	10.2	10.6
Three or more.....	0.9	2.1	2.4	3.1	7.1	6.0	5.7	12.0	8.1
Median age at first prior commitment.....	15.3	15.6	15.6	15.4	15.0	15.2	14.9	14.7	16.4
I-Level.....	398	302	189	173	188	113	74	93	92
I-2.....	2.3	6.6	-	3.5	6.3	10.6	2.7	15.1	11.9
I-3.....	21.6	26.2	37.0	42.2	30.9	52.2	55.4	43.0	51.1
I-4 and I-5.....	76.1	67.2	63.0	54.3	62.8	37.2	41.9	41.9	37.0
Religion.....	394	304	211	190	174	153	143	117	123
Catholic.....	41.9	40.1	39.3	35.8	42.0	43.1	38.5	46.1	45.5
Protestant.....	56.8	54.9	58.8	62.6	55.7	53.6	58.7	49.6	49.6
Other.....	1.2	4.9	1.9	1.6	2.3	3.3	2.8	4.3	4.9
Major problem area.....	-	-	-	-	186	138	145	135	127
None.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	1.5	0.8
Employment.....	-	-	-	-	0.5	1.4	0.7	2.2	1.6
Family.....	-	-	-	-	21.0	8.7	8.9	9.6	10.2
School.....	-	-	-	-	1.6	1.4	2.1	3.0	2.4
Drugs/alcohol.....	-	-	-	-	23.1	14.5	20.0	17.0	15.7
Peer influence.....	-	-	-	-	25.3	34.1	27.6	38.5	24.4
Mental/emotional.....	-	-	-	-	28.5	39.9	39.3	28.2	44.9
Employment.....	-	-	-	-	187	143	149	140	133
Not in job market.....	-	-	-	-	55.1	54.5	51.0	51.4	49.6
Unemployed.....	-	-	-	-	34.8	38.5	39.6	41.4	44.4
Employed part-time.....	-	-	-	-	6.9	4.2	4.7	2.9	3.8
Employed full-time.....	-	-	-	-	3.2	2.8	4.7	4.3	2.2
Placement before commit...	-	-	-	-	183	145	149	136	135
Parents.....	-	-	-	-	60.1	60.0	56.4	61.8	57.0
Relatives.....	-	-	-	-	7.1	9.6	7.4	6.6	5.2
Foster/group home.....	-	-	-	-	20.8	15.2	17.4	13.2	16.3
Independent.....	-	-	-	-	12.0	15.2	18.8	18.4	21.5
Out-of-home placements....	-	-	-	-	181	132	146	129	127
None.....	-	-	-	-	39.8	52.3	51.4	51.2	49.6
One.....	-	-	-	-	19.3	22.0	16.4	17.0	18.1
Two or more.....	-	-	-	-	40.9	25.7	32.2	31.8	32.3

TABLE 3 (Continued)
 CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY, 1970-1978
 (Showing percents of totals)

Females Only

Characteristics	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Parental configuration....	-	-	-	-	191	145	147	140	138
No parents in the home..	-	-	-	-	6.3	6.9	7.5	12.1	10.9
One parent home.....	-	-	-	-	45.0	46.2	51.7	44.3	49.3
Two parents home.....	-	-	-	-	48.7	46.9	40.8	43.6	39.8
Parents' marital status...	417	329	247	221	210	165	155	163	159
Never married.....	8.9	8.8	4.4	5.4	8.6	13.3	9.7	13.5	19.5
Presently married.....	27.6	25.2	27.1	16.7	26.2	23.0	21.9	23.9	25.8
No longer married.....	63.5	66.0	68.5	67.9	65.2	63.7	68.4	62.6	54.7
Income level of home.....	-	-	-	-	183	141	143	129	128
Less than adequate.....	-	-	-	-	43.2	52.5	51.0	53.5	50.0
Adequate.....	-	-	-	-	50.3	42.5	46.9	42.6	46.9
More than adequate.....	-	-	-	-	6.5	5.0	2.1	3.9	3.1
Family income from public assistance.....	-	-	-	-	178	137	133	127	122
None.....	-	-	-	-	63.5	56.9	55.6	51.2	58.2
Less than half.....	-	-	-	-	7.3	5.9	14.3	10.2	5.7
More than half.....	-	-	-	-	29.2	37.2	30.1	38.6	36.1
Criminal record of family members.....	-	-	-	-	177	132	134	126	121
None.....	-	-	-	-	46.4	44.7	45.5	46.0	39.7
Parents only.....	-	-	-	-	11.3	12.9	12.7	8.7	9.1
Siblings only.....	-	-	-	-	23.7	28.8	30.6	28.6	34.7
Both.....	-	-	-	-	18.6	13.6	11.2	16.7	16.5
Economic aspects of immediate neighborhood....	-	-	-	-	178	142	143	136	126
Above average.....	-	-	-	-	11.2	9.8	4.2	7.4	1.6
Average.....	-	-	-	-	46.1	45.1	48.9	46.3	47.6
Below average.....	-	-	-	-	42.7	45.1	46.9	46.3	50.8
Delinquency aspects of immediate neighborhood....	-	-	-	-	174	140	141	137	127
Non-delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	15.5	7.1	8.5	11.7	8.7
Minimally delinquent....	-	-	-	-	29.9	23.6	22.7	17.5	24.4
Moderately delinquent...	-	-	-	-	30.5	40.7	36.2	38.7	28.3
Highly delinquent.....	-	-	-	-	24.1	28.6	32.6	32.1	38.6

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

END