

Final Report

Local Evaluation and Site Data Collection for the
Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders in
South Carolina

Technology Institute, Inc.

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ACQUISITIONS

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INTRODUCTION

A pilot program for the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) was initiated in 1976 to evaluate among other things, the effectiveness of new alternative treatment patterns for status offenders which did not include incarceration. Eight experimental sites were selected for this program. This report pertains to one of those eight sites - South Carolina - and is the report of the "evaluation" component, not the program component for this site. Further details with regard to other sites can be found in the "National Evaluation Design for the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offender Program".¹

Each of the original eight sites acted as data collectors for the national level evaluation team which was housed at the University of Southern California. The program design, instruments used in data collection and other data to be collected during the program by each of the eight sites are also described in detail in the "National Evaluation Design for the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offender Program".

The purpose of the "local" evaluation teams, for which we represented South Carolina, was to comply with data collection directives from the national evaluation team. This took the form of 1) initial data gathering from various sources throughout the state or direct client interview, 2) coding the data on mark-sense forms, 3) transmission of data in this form to USC and 4) review and checking of data when put on computer tapes by USC versus our initial hard copy files. The final

¹Evaluation Project Staff, Social Science Research Institute, University of Southern California, "National Evaluation Design for the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offender Program", Stock Number 027-000-00514-4, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.



verified and first usable computer data tape was delivered by USC in January, 1979, the last month of the local evaluation grant.

This report focuses on two aspects of the local evaluation effort. In Part I the effectiveness of the program for deinstitutionalization in South Carolina is addressed. It should be noted that the vast amount of the data utilized here is that which was collected expressly for our effectiveness evaluation and is not described in Part II, which contains the description of data collected in accordance with national level mandates. This effectiveness section was transmitted to Mr. Grady Decell of the Department of Youth Services in South Carolina. Part II of this report is composed of two sections. The first section, as briefly mentioned, is a description of the data type and quantities collected in accordance with USC specifications as well as special data sets collected to strengthen or fill voids in the design put forth for all eight sites. It should be noted that our original projections as contained in the revised workplan of May, 1976 with respect to promised types and quantities of data have been met. Further, we feel that the special data sets collected represent a one of a kind set that should prove extremely useful in subsequent analyses.

The last section of Part II addresses input analysis for the entire DSO program in the State of South Carolina. It is based upon data collected upon initial contact with clients by Youth Bureau intake officers. This data is that described in Part II section one under the description of 1-A data. This analysis was afforded since the 1-A data tapes were put in computer usable form as collected by the local evaluation team.



EFFECTIVENESS OF DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

SUMMARY

A grant of \$1.5 million dollars was awarded to the South Carolina Division of Youth Services by LEAA. This grant provided statewide services to status offenders for a two year period beginning in late November, 1975. The purpose and major goal of the program was the deinstitutionalization of all status offenders. Youth Services was effective in achieving this goal as described in the body of this document.

Effectiveness has been examined from several dimensions. The direct point of view is an observation of the number of status offenders remaining in institutions at the end of the grant period. Only 10% as many status offenders were institutionalized at the end of the grant period as at the beginning. Thus, the program was 90% effective in achieving its goal. This effectiveness is based on the fact that when the grant period began, there were 200 status offenders residing in institutions, and when the grant period ended there were only about 20 status offenders who were institutionalized. During the first year of the grant period, status offenders were being released at the rate of about 20 per month, and committed at a rate of about 8 per month, for a net decrease of about 12 per month. During the second program year, releases dropped to an average of about 10 per month, and commitments to about 3 per month, for a net decrease of about 8 per month. The 90% success rate is somewhat remarkable in a state where judges may still declare status offenders delinquent and have them institutionalized. Youth Services sought and obtained cooperation of these judges to achieve the reported success.

An indirect analysis is developed in this paper to compare various types of commitment to Youth Bureau referrals. Ratios of these two measures are



formed. These ratios decline markedly from the base year through the second program year. For example, there is approximately a 40% difference each year in the ratio formed by dividing Reception and Evaluation Center commitments by Youth Bureau referrals. Even more striking, and more important, is the decline in the ratio of institutional commitments to Youth Bureau referrals. The decline was exactly 70% per year. This analysis indicates large scale improvements in deinstitutionalizing and diverting status offenders during the program.

Also of interest, although not an objective of the grant, was the change in length of stay at R&E and institutions. It is estimated that there was a 6% to 10% drop from the first to the second program year in the length of stay at R&E. Additionally, a 15% to 20% drop in the length of stay at institutions has been estimated.

In summary, the program was effective in deinstitutionalizing status offenders in South Carolina. The direct analysis indicated that only 10% of the starting number of status offenders were institutionalized at the end of the grant period. The indirect analysis showed improvements of 40% and 70% (in the ratio chosen as a measure) annually at the Reception and Evaluation Center and at institutions, respectively.



I. INTRODUCTION

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration awarded the South Carolina Division of Youth Services a 1.5 million dollar grant for the de-institutionalization of status offenders (DSO). The grant provided services statewide for this special type of offender over a two year period. The grant began in late November, 1975, and terminated in late November, 1977.

The purpose of this paper is the determination of the effectiveness of the DSO grant. The grant proposal stated the goal of the program as completely deinstitutionalizing all status offenders by the end of the two year period. The accomplishment of this goal is discussed in Section II, based on the number of status offenders remaining in the Reception and Evaluation Center and in institutions at the end of each month during 1976 and 1977. Technically, the program began and ended about five weeks earlier than the evaluation period. For purposes of convenience, calendar years 1976 and 1977 are used. In Section III the program goal is discussed indirectly by comparing R&E and institutional commitments to Youth Bureau referrals. An unanticipated consequence was a change in the length of stay at R&E and institutions. This is discussed in Section IV. Since jail detention of status offenders is a form of institutionalization, this subject is also examined. The findings are in Section V. Lastly, a summary appears in Section VI.

Before proceeding, it is necessary to present two matters of a background nature. These include a discussion of the law governing status offenders in South Carolina and a definition or description of the various



facilities serving status offenders that were in operation during the grant period.

The law in South Carolina. Several laws are important to understanding the juvenile justice system in South Carolina. But first, status offender offense must be defined. A status offender in South Carolina is a child (17 years old or younger) who is sanctioned for an offense such as truancy, incorrigibility (ungovernability or unruliness), running away from home, or curfew violation, which if committed by an adult would not be a violation of a legal trust.

Under present South Carolina law, both status offenses and criminal offenses are classified as delinquency. Application of this law would indicate that once adjudicated by the Family Court, a status offender would not receive any special consideration due to the nature of his or her offense. Any delinquent is subject to all the sanctions of the court -- the institutions, probation, and, perhaps, parole.

In actuality, law enforcement agencies, the schools, and the courts agreed and made efforts to divert the status offender, thereby avoiding referrals to institutions. How well this worked is described in Sections II and III.

Status offenders may be placed in detention in a city or county jail. The law in South Carolina requires that the Family Court ratify the detention of the child within 24 hours. Otherwise, the child must be released. It is also required (by law) that children be physically separated from adults if placed in a jail or detention center.



An unusual feature which has been available to the Family Court, in various ways, is commitment to a diagnostic facility. During the grant period the services were available in a residential setting (the Reception and Evaluation Center) and, for a period of time in several locations, non-residentially. Court commitments to the Reception and Evaluation (R&E) Center were made for a maximum of 45 days. During the ten day (a likely minimum) to 45 day time period, an evaluation of the problem, an etiological reason for the difficulty and a recommendation concerning disposition were made. A judge could commit or choose not to commit a child in concert with or against the diagnosis.

Institutions that were in operation. There were five institutions in operation for all or part of the time during the grant period. As mentioned above, the R&E Center is for diagnostic purposes. Children completing the R&E program may be released to their parents, they may be placed on probation, placed on probation with conditions attached, or sent to an institution. It is possible that a child placed on probation may have that probation revoked and receive a sentence to an institution.

The possible institutions to which a status offender could be committed at the beginning of the grant were Willow Lane, J. G. Richards, and the School for Boys. Willow Lane School for females (and later, young boys) initially offered an open campus environment. However, if a youth acted out (ran away, was belligerent, showed hostility or aggression) the next step may have been a closed setting in Willow Lane. John G. Richards School was for older boys and the School for Boys was for younger males. If an offender acted out in J. G. Richards, the next step could have been the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The ICU was a



tightly controlled prison in every sense. The "inmates" were confined to joint quarters, or solitary cells (depending on their behavior), all of these in one cell block. During the grant period the School for Boys and the ICU were closed. A new institution, Birchwood, was open to house recalcitrant youth. However, no status offenders were detained in this new facility for the two year period cited.

Youth Bureaus. As part of the grant, Youth Bureaus were opened in many areas of the State where there had previously been no service of this kind for juveniles. The services at Youth Bureaus include evaluation, counseling and crisis intervention. Youth Bureaus also make referrals externally to facilities sponsored by Youth Services, public agencies, and private agencies. Youth Bureaus serve as data collection points for client centered data. Additionally, clients are followed, so that client data pertaining to facilities (follow-up data) is obtained. Even in very rural counties, satellite offices were opened to increase the intake capability of Youth Bureaus in more populous areas. These satellite offices sent children in need of service to the Youth Bureau which was located geographically nearby, and with which some working arrangement had been made. Only one Youth Bureau failed to open (in Florence, S. C.) affecting, also, several nearby rural county satellite operations.

Children were referred to Youth Bureaus from various sources. The Family Court (both petitioned and non-petitioned cases) was a primary source of referrals. Additional leading referral sources were the schools, parents or relatives, and the juveniles themselves (as self-referrals).



II. NUMBER OF STATUS OFFENDERS REMAINING IN R&E AND INSTITUTIONS

Exhibit II-1 shows the number of status offenders remaining in the Reception and Evaluation Center (R&E) and in the various institutions during the grant period. In Exhibit II-1, asterisks (*) are shown on the totals which have been verified back to the source data. Verification means that the offense for which the client was being detained was confirmed to be a status offense.

Verification undoubtedly makes a large difference in the number of clients who are counted in the total, although this difference is greatly masked in December, 1976, by the vast drop in status offenders at R&E. This particular drop is due to the winter holiday period; the unwillingness of parents to commit their children during this time, the same unwillingness of judges, and the shifting of services at R&E during this period. (The school at R&E is part of a local school district. During the holidays there is no school and little observation or testing. Hence, it is not an opportune time for a child to be on campus.)

The verification in December had some interesting results which, in a way, explain what the 79 clients were doing in R&E and at institutions. Exhibit II-2 shows that 24 (30%) of the 79 were committed before the Youth Bureau had opened in their geographical jurisdiction. Some 19 (25%) of these youths were committed before the DSO program started. Another 24 (30%) were from geographical jurisdictions where the Youth Bureaus had still not opened. This leaves 12 (15%) of the clients that are truly institutionalized status offenders. This is quite remarkable



EXHIBIT II-1

STATUS OFFENDERS REMAINING IN R&E AND INSTITUTIONS

(END OF EACH MONTH FOR 1976 AND 1977)

1976

LOCATION	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
R&E CENTER	67	80	73	98	65	59	52	40	50	76	78	16
J. G RICHARDS	35	38	37	39	38	21	16	16	19	24	19	14
WILLOW LANE	115	116	114	114	111	74	62	52	49	57	62	42
INTENSIVE CARE UNIT	16	16	17	18	15	10	8	8	8	7	7	7
SCHOOL FOR BOYS	46	43	45	47	48	33	30	24	22	1	1	0
TOTAL	279	293	286	316	277	197	168	140	148	165	167	79*

1977

LOCATION	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
R&E CENTER	61	51	60	49	54	37	27	32	33	42	41	12
J. G. RICHARDS	19	18	19	10	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	0
WILLOW LANE	49	52	49	36	10	13	11	5	4	5	5	10
INTENSIVE CARE UNIT	14	13	8	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SCHOOL FOR BOYS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	151	134	136	83	66*	52*	40*	38*	39*	49*	48*	22*

* VERIFIED



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EXHIBIT II-2
 ANALYSIS OF THE STATUS OFFENDERS
 IN R&E AND INSTITUTIONS AS OF
 DECEMBER 31, 1976

LOCATION	BEFORE OPENING	PRE-DSO	YOUTH BUREAU NOT OPEN	INSTITU- TIONALIZED STATUS OFFENDER	TOTAL
R&E	1	5	7	3	16
J.G. Richards	4	3	4	3	14
Willow Lane	16	8	12	6	42
ICU	3	3	1	0	7
School for Boys	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	24	19	24	12	79

LEGEND:

BEFORE OPENING - Client committed before YB opened, YB is currently open

PRE-DSO - Client committed, YB opened before DSO program started (1/1/76)

YOUTH BUREAU NOT OPEN - Client committed and YB still not open

INSTITUTIONALIZED STATUS OFFENDER - Client committed after YB opened



in a State where it is within a judge's purview to declare a child delinquent and send him or her to a secure facility.

Exhibit II-3 is a graphical portrayal of the information in Exhibit II-1. From this perspective the effect of the DSO program can be seen on diversion and deinstitutionalization. Willow Lane, a secure facility for girls, had a step decrease in June, 1976, and again in May, 1977. This latter step decrease was confounded with verification. The end result, however, was that Willow Lane had 10 status offenders, and was the only secure facility with any status offenders at the end of the grant period. These 10 status offenders were out of Willow Lane by the end of February, 1978, leaving no institutionalized status offenders in secure facilities.

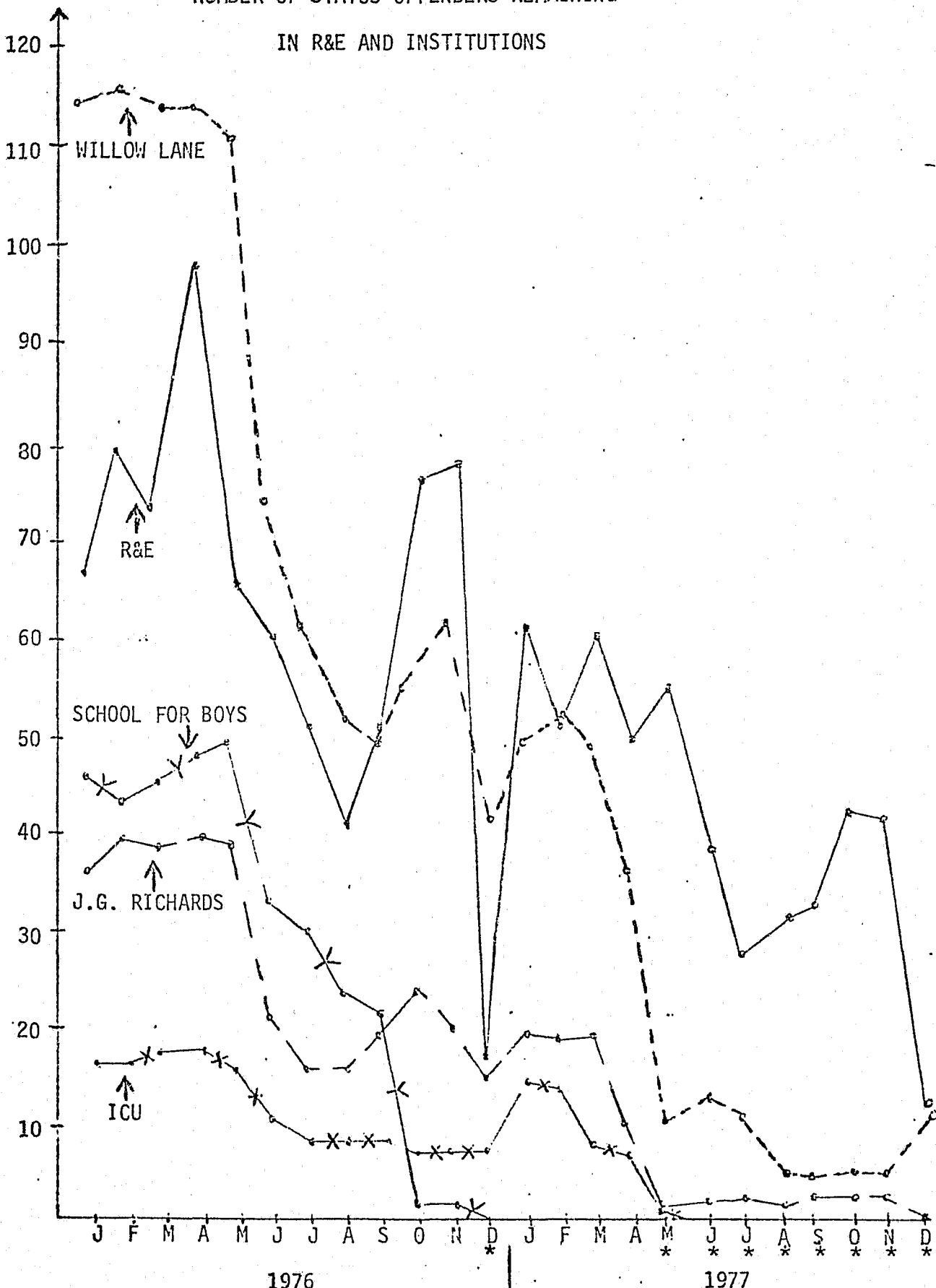
J. G. Richards, a secure detention facility for older boys, also had a big drop in June, 1976, and again in May, 1977. After the second drop, essentially no status offenders remained. The School for Boys, a secure detention facility, had a rapid declination to zero status offenders by December, 1976. The School for Boys discontinued operation. Similarly, the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), a maximum security detention facility for older boys, discontinued operation in mid-1977. R&E has had a steady decline in use, along with a definite seasonality effect. Low points are reached in December and during the summer, since, for example, students aren't likely to be truants when there is no school. Ungovernability is a catch-all label which may arise from school-related problems. However, during the summer when there is no school, ungovernability cases also decline. Earlier in this Section, the low number of residents in December was explained. Classifying R&E with the



EXHIBIT II-3

NUMBER OF STATUS OFFENDERS REMAINING
IN R&E AND INSTITUTIONS

NUMBER
OF STATUS
OFFENDERS
REMAINING



*VERIFIED



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real institutions is somewhat misleading, since R&E is not secure (there are many rules, but the gates are not locked). The purpose of R&E is to determine, in a residential setting, what problems a child has.

In summary, very few status offenders remained in R&E and institutions at the end of the grant. From a high of undoubtedly over 200 at the start of the grant to a verified total of slightly over 20 at the end of the grant is a 90% or higher success rate. This success should be viewed in the context of a State where judges may still declare status offenders delinquent and have them institutionalized. Cooperation of these judges with Youth Services has made for the reported success.

III. COMPARISON OF R&E AND INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS TO YOUTH BUREAU REFERRALS

The purpose of this section is the comparison of R&E commitments and institutional commitments to Youth Bureau referrals for a base year, 1975, the first program year, 1976, and finally the second program year, 1977. The comparisons are made on the basis of ethnicity, sex and offense.

Exhibit III-1 pertains to R&E. As a general introduction to the Exhibit, note that the proportion of total R&E commitments to total Youth Bureau referrals declines markedly, about 40% annually, from 1975 through 1977. This is caused by two factors. The numerator (R&E commitments) declined over the period, while the denominator (Youth Bureau referrals) increased.

Before proceeding with this analysis, there are a few caveats which should be recognized. The Youth Bureau referrals for 1975 were estimated



EXHIBIT III-1

R&E COMMITMENTS AS A PROPORTION OF YOUTH BUREAU INTAKE

(STATUS OFFENSES ONLY)*

YEAR	SOURCE	BLACK	WHITE	OTHER	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1975	R&E COMM.	188	395	3	303	283	578
	YB REFERRALS**	387	839	1	670	557	1227
	PROPORTION	.486	.471	***	.452	.508	.471
1976	R&E COMM.	181	313	6	267	233	500
	YB REFERRALS	531	1333	2	981	885	1866
	PROPORTION	.344	.235	***	.272	.263	.268
1977	R&E COMM.	144	272	3	179	240	419
	YB REFERRALS	693	1645	6	1222	1122	2344
	PROPORTION	.208	.165	***	.146	.214	.179

YEAR	SOURCE	TRUANCY	UNGOVERN- ABILITY	RUNAWAY	OTHER OFFENSE
1975	R&E COMM.	118	207	120	133
	YB REFERRALS**	173	873	120	60
	PROPORTION	.682	.237	1.0	N/A
1976	R&E COMM.	106	149	92	153
	YB REFERRALS	401	1180	238	47
	PROPORTION	.265	.126	.387	N/A
1977	R&E COMM.	94	119	78	128
	YB REFERRALS	514	1418	345	67
	PROPORTION	.183	.084	.226	N/A

*1975 data not verified to insure that client was true status offender. Clients were admitted for a status offense.

**1975 data for unique active cases.

***Small sample size.

N/A - Not applicable since components of "OTHER" do not match.



as shown in Exhibit III-2. Estimation was necessary since data for 1975 was only available for active cases for 10½ months of the year. The active cases were first converted to "Adjusted Youth Bureau Active Cases" on an annual basis, and then to "Estimated Youth Bureau Referrals" on an annual basis. These conversions were accomplished as footnoted in Exhibit III-2. Additionally, the 1975 data was not verified to insure that each status offender in the data base was truly a status offender. It is anticipated that this failure to verify the data will have no effect on the various proportions which are formed since the problem is common to both numerator and denominator of the 1975 proportions. Another caveat is that the category labeled "Other Offense" is inconsistent for numerator and denominator. Data from R&E and institutions included multiple charges such as Truancy and Incurability, whereas "Other Offense" for the Youth Bureaus were other, unlisted status offenses. Hence "N/A" is entered in place of each ratio. It would be possible to assign these multiple offenders to one or another of the status offenses. If this were accomplished, the relative value of the ratios would probably not be affected.

In Exhibit III-1, the proportion for blacks and whites is close at the outset, but is wide at the finish. The nature of the proportion is such that at times (1976) there seems to be a preponderance of blacks who were committed to R&E compared to whites. As far as gender is concerned, females form a lesser proportion during the base year and in the second program year, but not in the first program year, where they slightly dominate males.



EXHIBIT III-2

ESTIMATION OF YB REFERRALS FOR 1975

	BLACK	WHITE	OTHER	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
YB ACTIVE CASES 2/15/75 - 12/31/75	314	681	1	544	452	996
*ADJ. YB ACTIVE CASES 1/1/75 - 12/31/75	352	763	1	609	506	1115
**EST. YB REFERRALS 1/1/75 - 12/31/75	387	839	1	670	557	1227

	TRUANCY	UNGOVERN- ABILITY	RUNAWAY	OTHER	TOTAL
YB ACTIVE CASES 2/15/75 - 12/31/75	140	709	98	49	996
*ADJ. YB ACTIVE CASES 1/1/75 - 12/31/75	157	794	109	55	1115
**EST. YB REFERRALS 1/1/75 - 12/31/75	173	873	120	60	1226

* In 1976 and 1977, 10.72% of intake occurred between 1/1/75 and 2/14/75. Therefore,
 ADJUSTED YB ACTIVE CASES = $\frac{1}{(1-.1072)}$ (YB ACTIVE CASES) or 1.12 (YB ACTIVE CASES).

** The proportion of YB referrals to active cases in 1976-1977 was 1.1. Therefore,
 ADJUSTED YB ACTIVE CASES is multiplied by 1.1 to obtain ESTIMATED YB REFERRALS.



The changes in proportions by offense category are striking. Runaway has the very highest proportion, with ungovernability only about 1/3rd as great. Thus, being a runaway is more likely to lead to a visit to R&E, approximately three times as likely as being ungovernable.

Exhibit III-3 pertains to institutional commitments as a proportion of Youth Bureau intake. This Exhibit shows a drastic decrease in proportions--a decrease of about 1/3rd each year from the base year. Ethnicity proportions show that blacks have been about twice as likely to go to institutions as whites. Note that this is based on the denominator, Youth Bureau referrals. Youth Bureau referrals are low for blacks; this could cause the vast difference in proportions. Recall that the difference in these same proportions in Exhibit III-1, though wide, was not nearly this different. The proportions for males and females follows that described in Exhibit III-1, except that females always dominate males (although only slightly so in 1976).

As far as the offense data is concerned, there are several vast differences in proportions. These follow the differences described for Exhibit III-1. Although there were few institutional commitments in 1977, being a runaway was the most likely to lead to confinement. Before the DSO program, running away seemed like a direct route to R&E or an institution.

Based on Exhibits III-1 and III-3, large scale improvements were made in deinstitutionalizing and diverting status offenders during the program.



INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS AS A PROPORTION OF YOUTH BUREAU INTAKE

(STATUS OFFENSES ONLY)*

YEAR	SOURCE	BLACK	WHITE	OTHER	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1975	INST. COMM. EST.	105	115	1	88	133	221
	YB REFERRALS **	387	839	1	670	557	1227
	PROPORTION	.271	.137	***	.131	.239	.180
1976	INST. COMM.	38	61	1	52	48	100
	YB REFERRALS	531	1333	2	981	885	1866
	PROPORTION	.072	.046	***	.053	.054	.054
1977	INST. COMM.	17	22	0	16	23	39
	YB REFERRALS	693	1645	6	1222	1122	2344
	PROPORTION	.025	.013	***	.013	.020	.018

YEAR	SOURCE	TRUANCY	UNGOVERN- ABILITY	RUNAWAY	OTHER OFFENSE
1975	INST. COMM. EST.	48	51	47	75
	YB REFERRALS **	173	873	120	60
	PROPORTION	.277	.058	.392	N/A
1976	INST. COMM.	26	21	26	27
	YB REFERRALS	401	1180	238	47
	PROPORTION	.065	.018	.109	N/A
1977	INST. COMM.	9	10	11	9
	YB REFERRALS	514	1418	345	67
	PROPORTION	.018	.007	.032	N/A

*1975 data not verified to insure that client was true status offender. Clients were admitted for a status offense.

**1975 data for unique active cases.

***Small sample size.

N/A - Not applicable since components of "OTHER" do not match.



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IV. LENGTH OF STAY IN R&E AND INSTITUTIONS

An unanticipated consequence of the grant was a possible change in the length of stay for status offenders in the Reception and Evaluation Center and institutions. As mentioned previously, judges could send children to R&E for a period of up to 45 days for observation and testing. During the first program year, there was an average of 69 youth in the R&E Center. There were 500 commitments during the year, or an average of 42 per month. In a steady state situation, the number of releases monthly would equal the number of commitments. Assuming this to be roughly the case, the average stay in R&E would be 1.6 ($69 \div 42$) months or about 48 days. This is above the 45 day value mentioned above. This is likely due to the fact that the number of status offenders in R&E was not verified during this year, except for the last month. The true value is probably closer to 45 days. In the second program year, the expected stay for months February through March was calculated in a manner similar to that above except that commitments on a quarterly basis were available. Assuming these commitments were evenly distributed by month during the quarter, Exhibit IV-1 is obtained.

As shown in Exhibit IV-1, the expected stay is rather unstable, with a low of 0.7 months (21 days) during the last month of the grant and 2.1 months (63 days) during August, 1977. The values shown in the right hand column are approximations since many of the contributing values have been estimated in order to conduct the analysis. However, on an annual basis, the average length of stay at R&E in 1977 is approximately 1.4 months, or 42 days. This represents a 3 day decrease



EXHIBIT IV-1
 EXPECTED STAY IN R&E
 (FEB-DEC, 1977)

MONTH	STATUS OFFENDERS BEGINNING	APPROXIMATE COMMITMENTS	APPROXIMATE RELEASES	EXPECTED STAY (MOS.)
1977 FEB	69	50	68	1.0
MAR	51	50	41	1.2
APR	60	39	50	1.2
MAY	49	39	34	1.4
JUN	54*	39	56	1.0
JUL	37*	18	28	1.3
AUG	27*	18	13	2.1
SEP	32*	18	17	1.9
OCT	33*	26	17	1.9
NOV	42*	26	27	1.6
DEC	41*	26	55	.7
1978 JAN	12*			

*VERIFIED



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(45-42) from the first program year, or a 6% drop ($3 \div 48 \times 100\%$). It is possible that this value (42 days) is slightly high since the data were verified in only eight of twelve months. A subjective estimate is that the value would decrease by one or two days, such that the percentage drop would be 8% to 10%.

A similar analysis is performed for institutions to determine the average length of stay. However, the number of status offenders at institutions is definitely not stable as can be seen from Exhibit II-3. There were 100 commitments during 1976, or approximately 8 per month. The number of status offenders at the end of the first program year was 63. Thus, an approximation for the number of status offenders released each month is given by:

$$212 + (8 - \text{No. Released/Mo.}) \times 12 = 63$$

$$\text{No. Released/Mo.} = 20$$

The average number of status offenders in institutions during the year was 147. Thus, an incoming status offender would expect to spend 7.3 ($147 \div 20$) months in an institution. During the second year, there was an average of 58 offenders in institutions and about 10 released per month. For the second program year, the incoming status offender could expect to spend approximately 5.8 ($58/10$) months in an institution. Computations for the second year are very similar in form to those for R&E. The data used is shown in Exhibit IV-2. Average commitments per month in the second program year were approximately 3 ($34 \div 11$).

The expected stay for the first year may be high, since only the last month was verified. Likewise the expected stay for the second year



EXHIBIT IV-2
 EXPECTED STAY IN INSTITUTIONS
 (FEB-DEC, 1977)

MONTH	STATUS OFFENDERS BEGINNING	APPROXIMATE COMMITMENTS	APPROXIMATE RELEASES	EXPECTED STAY (MOS.)
1977 FEB	82	5	4	20.5
MAR	83	5	12	6.9
APR	76	4	46	1.7
MAY	34	4	26	1.3
JUN	12*	4	1	12.0
JUL	15*	1	3	5.0
AUG	13*	1	8	1.6
SEP	6*	1	1	6.0
OCT	6*	3	2	3.0
NOV	7*	3	3	2.3
DEC	7*	3	0	-
1978 JAN	10*			

*VERIFIED



TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE, INC.

is slightly higher than the true value (but closer than that for the first year). As an upper limit, a decrease of over 20% [$((7.3 - 5.8) \div 7.3) \times 100\%$] in the length of stay in an institution was achieved. Perhaps a more likely decrease of 15% was achieved. Part of this decrease is explained by the discontinuation of the use of the ICU.

There are several points that have been made in this Section. The summary statements which follow are based on partial data, which is not consistent for all time periods.

1. The length of stay in R&E decreased by an estimated 6% to 10% from the first to the second program year.
2. The length of stay at institutions decreased by an estimated 15% to 20% from the first to the second program year.
3. During the first year of the grant period, status offenders were being released from institutions at the rate of about 20 per month and committed at the rate of about 8 per month. This yields a net decrease in those incarcerated of about 12 per month.
4. During the second program year, releases from institutions dropped to an average of about 10 per month and commitments to about 3 per month. This yields a net decrease in those incarcerated of about 7 per month.

V. JAIL DETENTION OF STATUS OFFENDERS

Quarterly and annually during the grant period, Youth Services has



compiled a report entitled "Status Offenders in Jail Detention." The last such report was a two year summary. Each of these reports is prefaced with statements which condition their use based on the incompleteness and inconsistency of the data. Since detention facilities supply the data on a voluntary basis, some withhold the data. In addition, there is no required methodology which is common among all 58 reporting facilities. The last Youth Services report states, "However, this data can be accepted as reasonable estimates . . . and should provide an overall view of the total state (sic) situation regarding detention of status offenders . . ." During the two year grant period jail detentions were reported as 2159 in 1976 and 2088 in 1977, for a decrease of about 3.3%, which is rather slight in comparison to the vast decreases in those committed to R&E and to institutions during this period.

Exhibit V-1 displays detained status offenders for the two year period by the demographic variables of ethnicity and sex. For comparative purposes, ethnicity and sex of South Carolina juveniles is also shown. Whereas blacks comprise 37.2% of the population, slightly more than 1/2 that percentage were detained in comparison to whites. White status offenders were "over-detained" in comparison to black status offenders. Males were over-detained in comparison to females.

Exhibit V-2 shows the offenses for which status offenders were detained during the two year period. Additionally, for comparative purposes, the percent of Youth Bureau referrals pertaining to the various status offenses are shown. There is virtually no comparison between Youth Bureau referrals and jail detentions for the various



EXHIBIT V-1
ETHNICITY AND SEX OF
DETAINED STATUS OFFENDERS

YEAR	ETHNICITY		SEX		TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	MALE	FEMALE	
1976	1736 81.2%	403 18.8%	1031 48.2%	1108 51.8%	2139 100%
1977	1666 79.8%	422 20.2%	945 45.3%	1143 54.7%	2088 100%
TOTAL	3402 80.5%	825 19.5%	1976 46.7%	2251 53.3%	4227 100%
S.C. JUVENILES	62.1%	37.2%	51.6%	48.4%	-



EXHIBIT V-2
OFFENSE CHARGED FOR
DETAINED STATUS OFFENDERS

YEAR	OFFENSE			
	RUNAWAY	UNGOVERNABLE	TRUANCY	OTHER
1976	1576 71.6%	391 17.8%	182 8.3%	51 2.3%
1977	1503 70.4%	366 17.1%	158 7.4%	108 5.0%
TOTAL	3079 71.0%	757 17.5%	340 7.8%	159 3.7%
YOUTH BUREAU REFERRALS 1976 & 1977	13.9%	61.7%	21.7%	2.7%



status offenses. Runaways represent 71% of jail detentions but only about 14% of the cases at the Youth Bureaus. This same kind of flip-flop occurs for ungovernable offenders. Another astounding comparison is between the total number of (unique) Youth Bureau referrals for running away versus the number of (not necessarily unique) runaways that end up detained. The comparative numbers are 3079 for detention and 583 for Youth Bureaus. The possible answers to such a vast difference include the following:

1. Runaways don't make it to Youth Bureaus.
2. Runaways repeat their act so many times in two years that they end up detained an average of over five times each.
3. The jail detention data is unreliable.
4. Most of these runaways are transients on their way to Florida via the interstate system running north-south through South Carolina.

Exhibit V-3 represents the average hours of detention in 1976 and 1977 and the percent detained 24 hours or less during the time period. The average hours detained dropped between the two time periods by 17.6% and the percent detained 24 hours or less rose by 4.6%.

It is possible the DSO program in South Carolina helped to affect these last two improvements. Police chiefs had been contacted prior to the start of the grant period, and many of them pledged their cooperation in helping to divert status offenders from the criminal justice system. At times it is difficult for the police to ascertain



EXHIBIT V-3
AVERAGE HOURS OF DETENTION
AND PERCENT DETAINED
24 HOURS OR LESS

YEAR	AVERAGE HOURS DETAINED	PERCENT DETAINED 24 HOURS OR LESS
1976	46.03	56.0%
1977	37.91	60.6%
1976 & 1977	42.05	58.3%



that a child is in fact a status offender rather than a criminal offender. Overcoming this difficulty takes time, as much as a day, and even more, in certain cases.

VI. CONCLUSION

There were three areas of investigation discussed in this report. The DSO program in South Carolina showed success in each area as described in the following paragraphs:

1. Number of Status Offenders Remaining in R&E and Institutions

Very few status offenders remained in R&E and institutions at the end of the grant period. Starting at well over 200 offenders in R&E and institutions, only about 20 remained at the end point, for a drop of 90%. Several additional statements are warranted. South Carolina is a State where judges may declare a status offender delinquent and have the child institutionalized. Obtaining cooperation of these judges to the extent described is in its own right a feat. Additionally, of the 22 that remained at the end of the grant, 10 status offenders were in Willow Lane, the facility for girls. These status offenders were gone by the end of February, 1978, two months after the grant ended. Lastly, the other 12 status offenders were in R&E which is not secure.

2. Comparison of Commitments to Youth Bureau Referrals

This analysis indicates large scale improvements in deinstitutionalizing status offenders during the program. There was a decrease in commitments to R&E and institutions from the base year through the



end of the second program year. The number of persons at the Youth Bureau increased each year. By forming proportions of these two variables, the effectiveness of the Youth Bureau is highlighted.

3. Length of Stay in R&E and Institutions

The average length of stay in R&E is estimated to have decreased by 6%-10% during the first and second program year. Additionally, the decrease was probably 15%-20% for institutions. These estimates are made on data whose validity must be examined with caution.

4. Jail Detention of Status Offenders

The average hours of detention dropped and the percent of status offenders spending 24 hours or less in jails increased during the two year grant period. Part of the credit should be passed on to Youth Services for these improvements because of the efforts expended in obtaining the cooperation of the police in diverting status offenders.



In this section a summary of the types and quantities of data that were collected is described. Included are both the required data forms in accordance with the national level design as well as supplemental data files intended to reinforce voids in the national design.

FORM 1-A

Form 1-A, Program Entry, contains demographic and sociological information for every client (status offender) that entered the Youth Bureau (received services) in the two year program period.

This data was synthesized from the existing program entry data collected by the Youth Service Bureau. A computer tape of program entry data was sent directly to USC. This tape contained program entry data for a total of 4210 status offenders. It should be noted that this data file was for a total sample of eligible status offenders on a statewide basis, whereas subsequent data files are for a total sample within sampling sites selected in the state. In these cases, the sites sampled were Lexington, Greenville, Columbia, Spartanburg and Anderson counties which contained approximately 40% of the state population.

The Program Entry 1-A data is analyzed in the second section of Part II titled Input Analysis.

FORM 1-B

Data collection for Form 1-B, Program Process, was completed by the field data specialists for clients in the Treatment Group and for a sampling of one-half of the ineligible and aborted clients. These forms give a chronological description of the services provided to each client by the Youth



Bureau and other surveyed agencies.

The procedure for data collection was to look through the files of each evaluation subject and record the services provided. The data includes services provided for instant and subsequent offenses. Totally, 513 1-B forms were completed, which included 54 ineligible or aborted clients. This usually totaled more than one form per client in order to record services provided for all offenses.

INFORMED CONSENT

The Informed Consent Form was developed to formally obtain parental permission for the administration of Form #3, Social Adjustment, and Form #4, Self-Report, thus allowing entry of clients into the Treatment Group. The Informed Consent Form is shown in Exhibit 1.

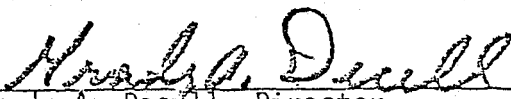
This form was administered by the Youth Bureau intake workers at each site in order to insure that all eligible clients for the treatment population were contacted promptly. The field data specialists contacted the social workers at each site at least twice weekly to determine how many new Informed Consent Forms had been signed. The social workers then provided the name, address, offense, contact person and date of referral for each status offender for whom consent had been granted. Since the field data specialists had access to all the Youth Bureau files on the status of offenders, they could at any time update this information. Thus, by contacting social workers and checking the files, they could get changes in addresses, marital status, etc. in order to locate the clients for interviews. Informed Consents were obtained for 564 clients.

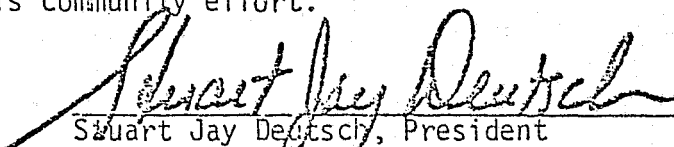


CLIENT NAME: _____

The services your child is about to receive from the South Carolina Youth Services Bureau are made possible by a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the United States Department of Justice. The grant provides for community services for juveniles who commit a status offense, actions which would not be criminal if committed by an adult. In the past, most status offenders have been institutionalized for their behavior. To help us in determining whether these alternate services will be continued in the future, we are asking for your consent to interview your child for approximately one hour on each of three occasions in the next twelve months.

In all interviews which solicit opinions and statements from your child, his/her responses will be completely confidential. These interviews will be conducted by a trained evaluation team working for Technology Institute, Inc. under an agreement with the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. The questions to be asked concern opinions, attitudes, and activities in relationship with family, friends, and society. The specific questionnaires will be made available to you if you so desire. It should be understood that your decision will in no way influence the services provided. Your child may refuse to answer any particular question. Additionally, your child may stop the interview at any point in time. We thank you for your cooperation in this community effort.


Grady A. Decell, Director
Department of Youth Services


Stuart Jay Deutsch, President
Technology Institute, Inc.

I, voluntarily, consent for my child to be interviewed. I have listened to or read the above statements. I have asked questions about anything I felt to be unclear and have received satisfactory answers.

Signed _____
(Parent or Guardian)
Date _____

I, voluntarily, consent to be interviewed. I have listened to or read the above statements. I have asked questions about anything I felt to be unclear and have received satisfactory answers.

Signed _____
(Client)
Date _____

I, the undersigned, have read the above statements to the client and his/her parent or legal guardian as directed.

Signed _____
(Youth Bureau Representative)
Date _____

FORM #2

Form #2, Program Client History/Background, provided information on the employment and educational status of the parents or guardians of all clients in the Treatment Group. This form was administered in conjunction with the first wave of Forms #3 and #4, for the most part. The field data specialists conducted personal interviews either with the parents/guardians themselves or with the clients at the time they interviewed clients for Forms #3 and #4. Since these interviews usually occurred in the clients' private homes, parental contact was possible at that time.

Occasionally, the clients could not furnish the information or the parents/guardians would not cooperate or were unlocatable. In such cases follow-up efforts by the field data specialists to collect this data often resulted in successfully extracting the information from the Youth Bureau files. Program Client History/Background Forms for 427 of the eligible 461 clients (the size of the treatment population) were completed. Missing Data Inventory Sheets were completed for the rest.

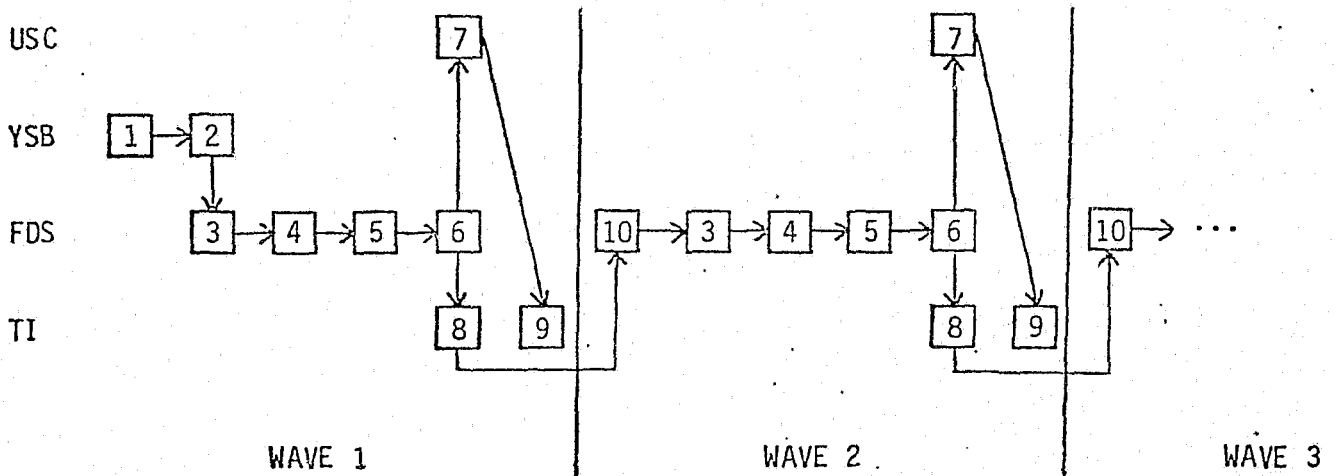
FORMS #3 AND #4

Forms #3 and #4, Social Adjustment and Self-Report, respectively, were designed to be administered together in two or three waves at six month intervals to determine changes in the clients' own self-image, their orientation toward society, their perceived seriousness scale and their self-reported activities. The procedure followed for this data collection effort is shown in Exhibit 2. Interviews took place most often in the homes of the individual clients since this afforded the most successful means of catching up with the clients. A client who responded to both forms is considered



PROCEDURE FOR SCHEDULES #3 & #4

ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBILITY
1. OBTAIN INFORMED CONSENT	YSB PROGRAM STAFF
2. TRANSMIT NAME, ADDRESS, OFFENSE AND COPY OF INFORMED CONSENT TO FIELD DATA SPECIALIST	YSB PROGRAM STAFF
3. LOCATE CLIENT	FIELD DATA SPECIALIST
4. SCHEDULE INTERVIEW	FIELD DATA SPECIALIST
5. INTERVIEW CLIENT	FIELD DATA SPECIALIST
6. COMPLETE ACTION FORM	FIELD DATA SPECIALIST
7. MAIL COMPLETED SCHEDULES TO USC	FIELD DATA SPECIALIST
8. SEND ACTION TAKEN FORM TO TI	FIELD DATA SPECIALIST
9. SEND MACHINE READABLE INFORMATION TO TI	USC
10. SEND ADVANCE SCHEDULE FORM TO FDS	TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE, INC.



to have had a successful interview.

There were 892 individual interviews successfully completed for each form (#3 and #4) totaling 1784 forms. There were 461 interviews for wave 1, 327 interviews for wave 2 and 104 interviews for wave 3 for each form.

Of those scheduled to be interviewed for three waves: there were those successfully interviewed three times, 104; those successfully interviewed only two times out of the three scheduled, 47 and those successfully interviewed only once, 44. Additionally, of those scheduled to be interviewed for two waves: there were those successfully interviewed two times, 176 and those successfully interviewed only once, 90. This totals 461 clients who were individually interviewed 892 times for each form.

Another time consuming task centered around unsuccessful interviews for any of the waves and for those clients aborted (never interviewed). In each case potential clients were dropped after an average of three individual trips were made to their residences.

FOPMS #5A, 5B, 5C - TREATMENT GROUP

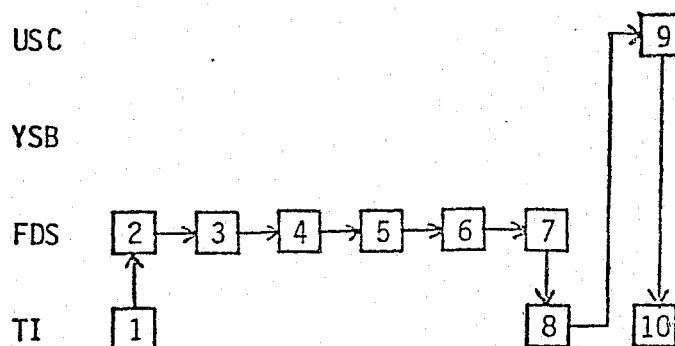
Forms #5A, 5B and 5C provided the offense record for all clients in the Treatment Group. That is, all records on prior, instant and subsequent offenses for each client were examined in the court and police files (after access was granted) by the field data specialists to collect data on police contact, court intake and adjudication hearings. The procedure for this data collection effort is shown in Exhibit 3.

Since only a portion of the Treatment Group had had police and/or court contact, the numbers of forms completed in each category vary. The numbers listed for each form represent the actual number of forms sent to



PROCEDURE FOR SCHEDULES #5A, 5B & 5C
TREATMENT GROUP

ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBILITY
1. PREPARE LIST OF ALL INTERVIEWED CLIENTS AND HOME ADDRESSES	TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE, INC.
2. SEND LIST TO FDS	TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE, INC.
3. DIVIDE CLIENTS INTO GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS	FIELD DATA SPECIALIST:
4. DETERMINE ADJACENT POLICE DEPTS. AND RELEVANT FAMILY (JUVENILE) COURTS FOR EACH CLIENT	FIELD DATA SPECIALIST
5. MAKE APPOINTMENTS FOR VISITS TO EACH POLICE DEPT. AND EACH FAMILY (JUVENILE) COURT	FIELD DATA SPECIALIST
6. VISIT EACH ADJACENT POLICE DEPT. & EACH FAMILY (JUVENILE) COURT & COMPLETE FORMS FOR EACH CLIENT	FIELD DATA SPECIALIST
7. SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO TI	FIELD DATA SPECIALIST
8. VERIFY FORMS	TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE, INC.
9. MAIL COMPLETED FORMS TO USC	TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE, INC.
10. SEND MACHINE READABLE INFORMATION TO TI	USC



USC for the data collected on all 461 clients in the Treatment Group. There were 239 #5A forms, 446 #5B forms and 260 #5C forms completed.

FORMS #5, 5A, 5B & 5C - PRE-PROGRAM COMPARISON GROUP

Data on offense records was collected for a Pre-Program Comparison Group (PPCG) using the same Forms #5A, 5B and 5C described above. Additionally, Form #5 was completed for PPCG clients providing demographic data for them like that information provided on Form 1-A for the treatment population. Data was collected on a total of 480 PPCG clients.

SURVEY OF PROGRAM FACILITIES - 1-B SUPPLEMENT

This form provided information about the clientele served by facilities and the staff serving them. It was sent to every facility throughout the state that a child could be sent to, for which there was a follow-up on client treatment by the Youth Bureau. A survey for such facilities as the YMCA, YWCA, etc. was not sent, since the Youth Bureau would not follow-up on such client treatment. Forms for the survey were completed for 43 facilities.

EMERGENCY HOME SURVEY - 1-B SUPPLEMENT

The Emergency Home Survey was conducted to assess similarities and differences in designated foster homes throughout the state. A sample of fifty currently used foster homes were surveyed resulting in twenty-three completed forms.

PROGRAM CONTROL OVER CLIENT - 1-B SUPPLEMENT

The function of the Program Control Over Client Form is to determine the



level of control over clients in a given facility. Twenty-nine individual facilities completed these forms.

AVAILABILITY OF YOUTH SERVICES RESOURCES - 6-A

Five 6-A forms, Availability of Youth Services Resources, were completed; one for each evaluated county. These forms provide information on the total bedspace available and the percent used by status offenders in residential facilities, the total number of non-residential facilities providing various services and the number of such accepting and/or serving status offenders.

STATUTORY PROVISION - 6-B

A Form 6-B was completed to determine the statutory provision relevant to status offenders in the state of South Carolina.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY ACTION - 6-C

Completed forms were obtained at two time points from a vast majority of all the school districts that formed the geographic areas from which the treatment population was selected. This information was gathered to ascertain trends in tolerance for juvenile behavior.

JUSTICE SYSTEM CONTROL OF PROGRAM - 6-D

One Form 6-D, Justice System Control of Program, was completed for all sites.

SYSTEM RATE DATA

System Rate Data for two evaluated sites was collected for a three month period for two successive years. Data for an entire year was retrievable



for the third and last site.

BEHAVIORAL DESCRIPTIONS

Separate Behavioral Descriptions of the circumstances of the offense committed by each status offender were compiled for 527 evaluated subjects.

MISSING DATA INVENTORY SHEETS

Missing Data Inventory Sheets detailed the reasons for missing interviews for Forms #2, 3 and 4. That is, 277 individual Missing Data Inventory Sheets were sent to USC enumerating the reasons for each aborted client and for each missed interview.



ADDITIONAL DATA COLLECTED

Data collected in addition to that prescribed by the National Evaluation Team, included 1-B forms describing the services provided to the treatment population and aborted or ineligible clients as a result of prior offenses. These are counted in the 513 forms already reported for Form 1-B.

Also, Forms #5A, 5B and 5C giving data for the 461 clients in the Treatment Group about offense records related to prior offenses comprise additional data collected. These were included in the numbers reported above for these forms.

Lastly, additional data includes the Social Adjustment Schedule, Form #3, that was administered on a group basis to junior high and high school students in South Carolina twice, separated by 11 months. These students were not status or juvenile offenders and thus formed a Contemporaneous Comparison Group (CCG).

An orientation session was conducted with the school personnel prior to each of the interviews. Technology Institute, Inc. personnel then remained for the administration and collection of forms, to answer questions and guide the process while the forms were administered in each classroom. Each form was then coded with an individual subject identification number, identification information and various demographic information provided by each student. The personal information form completed by each student is shown in Exhibit 4. For this Contemporaneous Comparison Group 652 #3 forms were completed by the same students at the two points in time for a total of 1304 forms completed as a result of this data collection effort.



NAME: _____
(FIRST) (MIDDLE) (LAST)

AGE: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH _____ YEAR _____

GRADE: _____ HOMEROOM TEACHER _____

PUT AN X IN ONE BOX IN EACH LINE BELOW:

RACE: BLACK WHITE OTHER

SEX: MALE FEMALE

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED? YES NO

PUT AN X IN ONE BOX BELOW:

I LIVE WITH: BOTH PARENTS MOTHER ONLY FATHER ONLY

NATURAL MOTHER AND HUSBAND NATURAL FATHER AND WIFE

OTHER RELATIVE FOSTER HOME ALONE

HOMEROOM TEACHER LAST YEAR _____

INPUT ANALYSIS

A data base consisting of status offenders referred to Youth Bureaus in South Carolina over a two year period is analyzed. Summary statistics describing the sex, ethnicity, age and area of residence of the data base are provided. Selected attributes in the summary statistics are cross tabulated. Status offenders are compared to the population of all juveniles in the State of South Carolina. This comparison is on the basis of sex, ethnicity and age. The occurrence of various types of status offenses over time is examined for effects of seasonality. Status offenses are broken down into runaways, truants and ungovernables. Next, the occurrence of the various types of status offenses according to ethnicity, sex and age is analyzed for possible discrepancies. Lastly, the source of referrals to the Youth Bureaus is examined, including an analysis by sex and an analysis by ethnicity.

I. INTRODUCTION

With the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and later amendments in 1977, Congress created a mechanism to not only provide funds to state and local governments, but also to provide for research, training, and the development of standards for the administration of juvenile justice. It is this last charge of Congress which is dramatically altering the commitment practices of juvenile courts. Immediate attention has been focused on status offenders - young people whose offenses would not be considered criminal if they had been committed by adults.

In the first group of funding initiatives of the recently created Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) was a \$12 million demonstration project to remove status offenders from detention and correctional facilities. This project included a national level evaluation plus several local evaluations of individual projects. (1)

Most major research on delinquency has focused on the delinquent, non-status violations of adolescent males. As a result, there is rather sparse data on differences among status offenders and differences between status offenders and the juvenile population. The data which does exist is in many instances unreliable and conflicting. It was referred to as a puzzle in the program announcement for the demonstration project mentioned above. (1)

Part of the solution to this puzzle is in four pieces, the knowledge of many types of summary statistics, the comparison of status offenders to their juvenile counterparts in the general population, an understanding



of the occurrences (in time and magnitude) of the various types of status offenses, and an analysis of the sources of referral to service facilities. These four pieces of the puzzle serve as additions to the body of knowledge. They are the major thrust and purpose of this article.

The summary statistics offer a thorough demography of the status offenders who make up the data base. These statistics are, in effect, a comprehensive descriptive analysis. With this analysis the reader has a feel, a grasp, of who is (and who is not) a status offender.

The comparison of status offenders to the juvenile population is actually two different analyses. First, equivalence of the data base at the county level is examined. To verify equivalence, two different urban areas are examined under the hypothesis that status offenders in both have the same characteristics.

The second analysis is based on the hypothesis that status offenders are like their counterparts in the general population of juveniles. To form a conclusion about this hypothesis, the proportion of status offenders who possess certain characteristics is compared to similar proportions formed for the general population of juveniles.

The occurrences of status offenses are analyzed in a number of dimensions. The various types of status offenses are examined with respect to their magnitude over different time periods. Additionally, the occurrences of status offenses by race, sex and age are investigated.

Finally, there are many agencies that refer status offenders for treatment. A number of concerns are raised and analyzed. The major sources



of referral are identified. Then, the referral sources are examined from a standpoint of the gender and ethnicity of their referrals.

II. DEFINITION OF A STATUS OFFENDER

A status offender is a juvenile who commits a status offense. A status offense includes conduct which would not be criminal if engaged in by an adult. The great majority of status offenders are those who have run away from home, those who have become habitual truants from school, or are incorrigible beyond the control of their parents.

The definition of a status offender seems obviously clear. However, a number of questions arise when an attempt is made to actually classify a particular juvenile as a status offender. For example, if a juvenile ever commits a criminal offense, is he or she precluded from being considered a status offender? If a child commits several concurrent offenses, including both status and criminal, is this youngster a status offender?

A recent taxonomic approach to the classification of offenders entitled, "Status Offenders: A Working Definition," was prepared by the Council of State Governments. (2) This document classifies status offenders, criminal-type offenders, non-offenders and other offenders based on whether the youth was detained or committed. The taxonomy identifies status offenders as those in detention who are charged with or adjudicated for a status offense. A juvenile who has been committed to a correctional facility after having been adjudicated a status offender, or a child who has revoked parole for a status offense and thus committed, is also labeled as status offenders.



In order to be considered a status offender under the definitions found in (2), a juvenile would be in detention or committed. However, there are juveniles who are referred to family or juvenile court and diverted, who may be considered status offenders. The youth service bureau described by Sherwood in (3) has become a prominent recipient of these children in need of services and who may be treated in a community setting. Referrals to the youth service bureau can come from parents, from the schools, from the police, from the troubled youths themselves, and other members of the community. One of the major intentions of the youth service bureau is to divert children from contact with the justice system and, thus, avoid labeling by the courts.

Avoidance of labeling, and there are numerous arguments about the effects of labeling, is accomplished by the avoidance of adjudication. This adjudication occurs only at a court hearing and is based on a petition or complaint usually brought by the police, parents, or school officials. In many instances, the petitions are withdrawn after counseling of the child and family. These children may be released to their parents or even become recipients of community residential care without a court order.

These status offenders who are diverted may be called "unofficial" status offenders. In any case, they do not fall within the specifications found in (2). Yet, their exhibited behavior is the same as those who in the past have been involved in court action.

In this article, status offenders are young people whose offense would not be considered criminal if they were an adult. Status offenses mainly include running away, truancy and incorrigibility. Promiscuity, curfew



violation, minor in possession of alcohol, and similar types of behavior are also included. Status offenders include those detained, adjudicated and committed for such actions as well as those which have been diverted from the juvenile justice system. This diversion can take place directly, at the juvenile or family court, or indirectly. An example of an indirect diversion would be the case where school authorities referred an ungovernable child to a youth service bureau. Lastly, status offenders may be petitioned to the court, the petition may be withdrawn, and the child may then be dismissed to the custody of his/her parents. In summary, status offenders, as defined in this article, are those who commit a status offense which results in the attention of the court or in the provision of service by a resource agency. It should be noted that, a child who commits multiple offenses, at least one of which is a status offense, is classified as a criminal offender.

III. OVERVIEW OF RECENT LITERATURE

A recent program announcement from LEAA indicated that comprehensive and reliable data on status offenders is presently unavailable. (1) However, there is a growing body of knowledge. Since the announcement, a number of researchers have reported on the demography and treatment modalities afforded status offenders. (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) The working paper by Berger and Simon concerns status and other offenders in Illinois. (8) The major thrust of the paper is that there is a considerable degree of overlap in adolescent reports of status and seriously delinquent activity. However, the authors also claim that committing status offenses is a relatively normal part of adolescent behavior and nearly half of the adolescent population has committed a relatively large number of such offenses. Sarri



and Selo presented some selected findings from the National Assessment of Juvenile Corrections at an American Correctional Association meeting in August, 1975. (7) The study concerned all types of offenders in various correctional service units. The characteristics include age, race, sex, and prior correctional experiences.

Two reports were prepared by the Division of Youth Service in Virginia. (5, 6) The first report deals specifically with institutionalized status offenders. (5) The intake records of these status offenders were analyzed to present sex, age, family structure, and numerous intelligence, psychological and medical scores. In a later report, both status and delinquent children were described. (6) Information concerning number of commitments, commitment month, and committing court was presented.

In a very thorough study of correctional programs, using the same data base of Sarri and Selo, Isenstadt presents a number of major findings. (9) The study includes background characteristics, behavior and experience of status offenders in the sample. Specific data elements of subjects are race, sex, age, family income, previous offenses and court processing. The analyses are related to major issues concerning status offenders. However, the author warns the reader that since the sample that was drawn was of programs, and not a sample of youth assigned to correctional programs, statistical inference cannot be drawn.

Thomas conducted a comparative and longitudinal assessment to determine whether status offenders are different from juvenile delinquents. (4) The data was taken from court records for all juveniles in two Virginia cities. Thomas does not support the contention that more serious delinquent involvement among status offenders is largely a reflection of their having been stigmatized by their initial court appearance.



In each case, the literature cited above is insufficient to form a profile of the status offender. Several of the references include all adolescents or juveniles appearing before the courts, two of the references, using the same data base, were samples of correctional programs rather than of status offenders, finally another of the references pertains only to committed youth. As indicated by Isenstadt (9) and others, the detention of status offenders is decreasing because of new legislation and the awareness that status offenses are not crimes and that institutionalization does not help in the maturation of a youth into a responsible adult citizen of society.

This paper overcomes the inability to form a profile of the contemporary status offender from the cited references. The contemporary status offender is treated in the community both residentially and in day treatment. In the future, most locations will have no, or only a few, status offenders who are institutionalized.

IV. DATA BASE

The data base for the profile presented in this paper consists of juvenile status offenders who were referred to Youth Bureaus in South Carolina. The status offenders came into the system from January, 1976 through December, 1977. During this time period, the service system was in a capacity building phase. At the earliest point in time, service was available mainly in urban and suburban areas. By the end of the time period, service was available for youth from the entire State.



Status offenders in the data base were referred by numerous sources, including police, family courts, school authorities, and parents. The court referrals could have occurred as a result of adjudication or diversion by intake personnel. Thus, intake into the Youth Bureau system could have been based on a referral outside of the juvenile justice system or on a formal disposition based on adjudication by the court. Status offenses committed by these juveniles, or alleged to have been committed, include running away, incorrigibility, truancy, and "status other". The "status other" offenses include curfew violation, minor in possession of alcohol and other similar behavior.

Data collected on each youth is shown in Figure 1. The data was gathered (by the intake officers at Youth Bureaus throughout the State) for status offenders who were treated in the community (the Youth Bureau), those placed in residential care (these children usually proceed through the Youth Bureau intake mechanism) and those children receiving emergency crisis intervention service (provided by the Youth Bureau). Thus, all status offenders are included except those few who were sent to institutions without ever entering the Youth Bureau net and those which may have been detained in jails and released to their parents.



FIGURE 1
DATA COLLECTED ON EACH YOUTH

VARIABLE	VALUE LABELS
County of Residence	
Area	(1) Large City (2) Suburb (3) Medium City (4) Small City (5) Farm (6) Country
Referral Type	(1) New (2) Return
Sex	(1) Female (2) Male
Ethnicity	(1) American Indian (2) Black (3) Asian (4) Mexican (5) Puerto Rican (6) Other Hispanic (7) White (8) Other
School Status	(1) Full Time (2) Part Time (3) Withdrawal (4) Suspension (5) Expulsion (6) Diploma (7) Others
Status of Parents	(1) Family Intact (2) Divorced (3) Separated (4) Death of Father (5) Death of Mother (6) Death of Both (7) Never Married (8) Other
Residence	(1) Nuclear Family (2) Reconstituted Father (3) Reconstituted Mother (4) Mother Only (5) Father Only (6) Relative (7) Extended Family (8) Foster Parents (9) Independent (10) Spouse (11) Spouse's Relatives (12) Group Home (13) Shelter Home (14) Detention Center (15) Corrections Facility (16) Mental Health Facility (17) Other
Source of Referral	(1) Police (2) Court Intake (3) Court Referral (4) Probation (5) Institution (6) Self (7) Parents (8) School (9) Military Installa- tions (10) Churches (11) Mental Health Clinic (12) Dept. of Social Service (13) Vocational Rehabilitation (14) Family Service Agency (15) Crisis Service Agency (16) Physician/ Medical (17) Group Home (18) Neighborhood Center (19) Youth Employment Service Agency (20) Pro- bate Court (21) Other
Offense - Status	(1) Curfew Violation (2) Runaway (3) Truancy (4) Minor in Possession of Alcohol (5) Un- governable (6) Other



V. ANALYSIS

Summary Statistics

The summary statistics provide a demography of the status offenders who make up the data base. These statistics include sex, ethnicity, age, and area of residence with several of these cross tabulated. Table 1 is a representation of "Age By Sex" of status offenders. Status offenders in the data base are 47.7% female and 52.3% male. Ages of the status offenders vary between nine or less and 18 or more. Only about 5% of the cases are in these extremes. Of the remaining cases, about 46% are 15 or 16 years of age. A sharp drop of from 21.6% to 9.1% occurs between the sixteenth and seventeenth years. Perhaps, as status offenders grow older they mature from such behavior.

Some 31% of the males who are in the data base are 13 years of age or younger. This contrasts with about 20% of female cases over the same age span. Males are status offenders at a younger age than females. This is further indicated by the approximate average ages of females and males in the data base. The females average about 14.6 years of age while the males average about 14.2 years of age. Although both sexes have their peak representation in the data base at age 15, there is a sizeable difference in the percentage of all cases by sex at that age (27.4% for females and 21.6% for males).

Age and sex are not statistically independent at the .05 level. The calculated chi-square value (χ^2_{0}) is 99.01 while the tabulated value ($\chi^2_{.05,9}$) is 16.92.



TABLE 1
AGE BY SEX

SEX

AGE	FEMALE		MALE		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
< 9	43	2.1%	115	5.2%	158	3.8%
10	24	1.2%	64	2.9%	88	2.1%
11	34	1.7%	88	4.0%	122	2.9%
12	94	4.7%	164	7.5%	258	6.1%
13	204	10.2%	251	11.4%	455	10.8%
14	403	20.0%	366	16.6%	769	18.3%
15	549	27.4%	476	21.6%	1025	24.3%
16	457	22.8%	453	20.6%	910	21.6%
17	181	9.0%	201	9.1%	382	9.1%
≥ 18	18	0.9%	25	1.1%	43	1.0%
TOTAL	2007	100%	2203	100%	4210	100%



Table 2 depicts the sex of status offenders in the data base by their ethnicity. Blacks represent 29.1% of the cases and whites 70.7%. The difference between black males and females, as well as white males and females is quite small. For example, black females comprise 27.7% [(55 ÷ 2007) x 100%] of all females and black males represent 30.4% [669 ÷ 2203) x 100%] of all males. The difference is less than 3%. This small difference is further indicated by a χ^2_0 of 5.83. This is compared to a tabulated $\chi^2_{.05,2}$ of 5.55. Thus, the occurrence of status offenses is independent of their sex and ethnicity at the .05 level of significance.

Table 3 depicts the age of status offenders by their area of residence. The preponderance of these status offenders are from a small or medium city, with about 2/3rds of all cases. The calculated χ^2 value in the Table is 52.85 while the tabulated value of $\chi^2_{.05,27}$ is about 40. This indicates that age and area of residence are not independent at the .05 level. The maximum difference with respect to percentages by age is at 15 years. The row percentage range from 22.4% to 26.6% and have an interval of 4.2%. At age 15, the interval is 4.1%.

Equivalence of Counties Within the Data Base

Two counties were selected for an analysis of equivalence. These counties are Richland and Spartanburg. Richland County contains Columbia, the capitol of the State. The population of Richland County is about 250,000, some 120,000 of which live in Columbia. Incidentally, Columbia is an SMSA. The principal city in Spartanburg County is the city by the same name. The population of Spartanburg is about 50,000 and of Spartanburg County the population is about 180,000. Table 4 contains some basic information necessary to the analysis of equivalence.

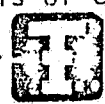


TABLE 2

SEX BY ETHNICITY

SEX	ETHNICITY							
	BLACK		WHITE		OTHER		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FEMALE	555	45.3%	1450	48.7%	2	25.0%	2007	47.7%
MALE	669	54.7%	1528	51.3%	6	75.0%	2203	52.3%
TOTAL	1224	100%	2978	100%	8	100%	4210	100%



TABLE 3
AGE BY AREA OF RESIDENCE

AGE	AREA OF RESIDENCE									
	SUBURB		MEDIUM CITY		SMALL CITY		COUNTRY		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
≤ 9	25	3.0%	46	3.5%	67	4.4%	20	3.8%	158	3.8%
10	15	1.8%	32	2.4%	33	2.1%	8	1.5%	88	2.1%
11	18	2.2%	40	3.0%	45	2.9%	19	3.6%	122	2.9%
12	46	5.5%	94	7.2%	88	5.7%	30	5.7%	258	6.1%
13	79	9.5%	143	10.9%	182	11.8%	50	9.6%	454	10.8%
14	162	19.4%	235	17.9%	291	19.0%	80	15.3%	768	18.3%
15	222	26.6%	319	24.2%	344	22.4%	140	26.7%	1025	24.3%
16	179	21.5%	262	20.0%	345	22.5%	124	23.7%	910	21.6%
17	78	9.4%	115	8.8%	138	9.0%	50	9.5%	381	9.1%
≥ 18	9	1.1%	27	2.1%	3	0.2%	3	0.5%	42	1.0%
TOTAL	883	100%	1313	100%	1536	100%	524	100%	4206	100%

Unknown area of Residence = 4



TABLE 4
 ETHNICITY AND SEX:
 RICHLAND AND SPARTANBURG COUNTIES

COMPONENT	ATTRIBUTE	COUNTY	
		RICHLAND	SPARTANBURG
ALL JUVENILES	BLACK	40.2%	26.9%
ALL JUVENILES	WHITE	59.3%	73.0%
STATUS OFFENDERS	BLACK	51.9%	29.7%
STATUS OFFENDERS	WHITE	48.1%	70.3%
ALL JUVENILES	FEMALE	49.5%	48.7%
ALL JUVENILES	MALE	50.5%	51.3%
STATUS OFFENDERS	FEMALE	47.8%	45.3%
STATUS OFFENDERS	MALE	52.2%	54.7%



A visual inspection of Table 4 shows that differences in ethnicity between all juveniles and status offenders in Richland County may exist, but not in Spartanburg County. A test of differences further confirms this suspicion. The calculated value of Z_0 (under the null hypothesis that the proportion of status offenders in Richland County who are blacks is 0.402) is 4.3. This is compared to a $Z_{.025}$ of 1.96 leading to a rejection of the null hypothesis. In Spartanburg County, the calculated value of Z_0 (with $H_0: p = 0.269$), where black juveniles and status offenders are compared, is 1.52. Since $Z_{.025}$ is greater than Z_0 , the null hypothesis is not rejected.

To trace this difference, an initial examination was made of school status, status of parents, and source of referral, without regard to ethnicity. The first two attributes showed no variation between the two counties. However, in the third category parents as a source of referral and the Schools as a source of referral showed unusual variation. In Richland County 42.1% of the cases were referred by the parents, whereas, in Spartanburg County, only 27.2% of the cases were referred by the parents. However, a statistical analysis of parents and schools as sources of referral by ethnicity indicated no significant difference in Richland County. (i.e., it could not be rejected that 27.2% of the black status offenders in Richland County were referred by their parents)

The difference could not be explained by any of these three attributes. However, there are several socio-economic differences in the two counties. Richland County is highly urbanized, with only about 15% of the population considered as "rural non-farm." Some 56% of the residents of Spartanburg



County are in this category. Also, there is a big difference in education levels in the two counties. In Richland County, the median school years completed is 12.1 for persons 25 years of age and older. In Spartanburg County, the comparison value is 10.2 years. It is suggested that the counties are so different in the above respects, and, possibly others, that the ethnicity differences described previously could occur. In summary, with respect to ethnicity, the flow of status offenders into the data base by county is not statistically equivalent.

Next, a comparison of the sex of all juveniles and status offenders in the two counties was made. A visual inspection indicates only small differences in the proportions. This is verified by the statistical test conducted for differences in the two proportions. In Richland County, the Z_0 value is -0.57 and in Spartanburg County, the Z_0 value is -1.61. Again, comparing these Z_0 values to $Z_{.025}$ indicates that the null hypothesis (no difference in proportions) should not be rejected.

Table 5 is a comparison of the ages of juveniles (ages 9 through 17 years) in Richland and Spartanburg Counties. There appear to be only small differences in the percentages shown. A χ^2_0 of 15.32 was calculated under the hypothesis that Richland County Proportions are equivalent to those in Spartanburg County. The tabulated $\chi^2_{.05,8}$ is 15.51. Hence, the distributions can be considered as equivalent.

The age of status offenders by county is shown in Table 6. It is apparent that status offenders are not equally represented in the various ages. A further inspection confirms large differences between the age of status offenders by county, much larger than the differences shown in Table 5.



TABLE 5
AGE OF JUVENILES BY COUNTY ¹

AGE	RICHLAND		SPARTANBURG	
	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
< 9	3555	9.7%	2967	10.0%
10	3746	10.2%	3112	10.6%
11	3876	10.6%	3263	11.1%
12	4121	11.2%	3310	11.2%
13	4157	11.3%	3319	11.3%
14	4175	11.4%	3383	11.5%
15	4265	11.6%	3318	11.2%
16	4492	12.3%	3563	12.0%
≥ 17	4301	11.7%	3285	11.1%
TOTAL	36688	100%	29520	100%

¹SOURCE: 1976 JUVENILE POPULATION ESTIMATES, PREPARED BY YOUTH SERVICES, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



TABLE 6
AGE OF STATUS OFFENDERS BY COUNTY

AGE	COUNTY	
	RICHLAND	SPARTANBURG
≤ 9	0.9%	3.8%
10	1.8%	2.0%
11	2.4%	3.0%
12	7.1%	5.8%
13	8.6%	9.8%
14	16.9%	20.6%
15	23.4%	27.4%
16	19.9%	20.1%
17	11.3%	7.5%
≥ 18	7.7%	0.0%



Weighting of the values in Table 6, by those in Table 5 could be done, but this would only further confirm that there is bias in the ages of status offenders in the two Counties. Status offenders are, on the average, younger in Richland County than in Spartanburg County (14.9 years vs. 13.9 years).

Part of this age difference can be explained by the types of status offenses committed. In Richland County 3.3% of status offenses are for truancy and 77.7% are for ungovernability. In Spartanburg County, the comparable values are 31.4% and 60.3%. Truancy occurs at an early age, as will be discussed later, since it is no longer an offense after age 16. Ungovernability occurs through age 17. Another difference is that of philosophy. In Richland County youths are treated even after they reach the age of 18, but not so in Spartanburg County.

In summary, a comparison of status offenders in two counties indicated that with respect to ethnicity, the flow of status offenders into the data base is not statistically equivalent. The proportion of status offenders who are black (white) compared to the proportion of all juveniles who are black (white) may not be significantly different in some counties, and may be significantly different in others. With respect to the age of status offenders in the two counties investigated, there was a significant difference in the distribution of age, partially explained by treatment philosophy. However, when the sex of status offenders was compared to that of all juveniles in both counties, no significant differences were observed. Thus, the input of cases into the data base from the various counties is not statistically equivalent with respect to ethnicity and age.



Comparison of Juveniles to Status Offenders in South Carolina

Table 7 is a comparison of juveniles to status offenders in South Carolina, on the attributes of sex, ethnicity and age. Males are somewhat underrepresented in the data base, i.e. 50.8% of South Carolina juveniles are males, but only 47.7% of status offenders are males. Whites are overrepresented in the data base (70.7% vs. 62.4%). The largest discrepancy is associated with black females (18.7% vs. 13.2%).

The age of status offenders (in 1976 and 1977) and the age of juveniles in South Carolina (in 1976) do not relate. Ages of status offenders seem to form a truncated normal distribution while South Carolina juveniles follow somewhat of a uniform distribution.

Occurrence of Status Offenses

A. Magnitude over time

Table 8 shows the occurrences of the various status offenses by month. March is the month with the greatest number (510) and percentage (12.1%) of all cases. March is double the magnitude of the lowest month, July. July is very low in truancy (since school is out) and relatively low in ungovernability cases.

By offense, runaway cases reach their maximum in May and their minimum in February. Truancy has its maximum in March and its minimum in August. Lastly, ungovernability reaches its maximum in March and its minimum in December.

By seasons of the year, 27.1% of cases occur during the first quarter, or winter season. Approximately the same percentage, 27.5%, occur during the second quarter or spring season. A drop occurs to 20.4% of the cases in



TABLE 7
 COMPARISON OF JUVENILES TO
 STATUS OFFENDERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

ATTRIBUTE	SOUTH CAROLINA JUVENILES*	STATUS OFFENDERS
MALE	50.8%	47.7%
FEMALE	49.2%	52.3%
WHITE	62.4%	70.7%
BLACK	37.4%	29.1%
WHITE MALE	32.0%	36.3%
WHITE FEMALE	30.4%	34.4%
BLACK MALE	18.7%	15.9%
BLACK FEMALE	18.7%	13.2%
AGE 7	8.2%	} 3.8%
AGE 8	7.9%	
AGE 9	8.2%	
AGE 10	8.6%	2.1%
AGE 11	9.1%	2.9%
AGE 12	9.6%	6.1%
AGE 13	9.5%	10.8%
AGE 14	9.5%	18.3%
AGE 15	9.6%	24.3%
AGE 16	10.2%	21.6%
AGE 17	9.6%	9.1%

* Juvenile Population Estimates, prepared by South Carolina youth services (Juveniles = ages 7 through 17)



TABLE 8
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF ALL STATUS OFFENSES BY MONTH

STATUS OFFENSE	CASES/%	(MONTH), 1976 + (MONTH), 1977												
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
RUNAWAY	CASES	35	31	63	60	60	79	52	44	55	39	48	33	583
	%	6.0	5.3	10.8	10.3	13.5	8.9	7.7	7.5	9.4	6.7	8.2	5.7	100%
TRUANCY	CASES	45	98	135	112	121	12	12	4	61	119	126	70	915
	%	4.9	10.7	14.8	12.2	13.2	1.3	1.3	0.4	6.7	13.0	13.8	7.7	100%
UNGOVERNABLE	CASES	188	231	303	245	240	208	192	197	205	243	188	158	2598
	%	7.9	8.9	11.7	9.4	9.2	8.0	7.4	7.6	7.9	9.4	7.2	6.1	100%
OTHER	CASES	2	3	9	13	8	13	5	30	10	12	9	0	114
	%	1.8	2.6	7.9	11.4	7.0	11.4	4.4	26.3	8.8	10.5	7.9	0	100%
TOTAL	CASES	270	363	510	430	438	285	254	275	331	422	371	261	4210
	%	6.4	8.6	12.1	10.2	10.5	6.8	6.0	6.5	7.9	10.0	8.8	6.2	100%



the third quarter, or summer season. Finally, one-fourth, 25%, of all cases occur during the fourth quarter, or fall season.

Also shown in Table 8 is the number of status offenses of each type. Runaways account for 13.9% of all cases. Truancy accounts for 21.7% of the cases, and ungovernability accounts for 61.7%. The remaining 2.7% of the cases are in the "Other" category.

B. Ethnicity, Sex and Age by Status Offense

Table 9 depicts ethnicity by the type of status offense committed. The computed χ_0^2 value is 133.04 compared to a tabulated $\chi_{.05,8}^2$ of 15.51 indicating that ethnicity and status offense are not independent. Some of the discrepancies are rather large. For example, 71.7% of status offenses committed by blacks are in the ungovernable category versus a comparable value of 57.6% for whites. However, this difference is made up in runaway behavior. Whites are over 3 times as likely to be runaways (per capita) as blacks. Lastly whites seem to be charged for truancy more than blacks.

Table 10 portrays sex by the type of status offense committed. By inspection, certain large differences are apparent such as with the offense of running away which accounts for 21.6% of the status offense behavior of females, but only 6.8% of that of males. Males are more likely to be truants, and females are much less likely to be ungovernable. The percentage differences are large by inspection with the magnitude of the difference confirmed by a calculated χ_0^2 of 207.45. (The tabulated $\chi_{.05,3}^2$ is 7.81.)



TABLE 9
ETHNICITY BY STATUS OFFENSE

ETHNICITY	STATUS OFFENSE				TOTAL
	RUNAWAY	TRUANCY	UNGOVERNABLE	OTHER	
BLACK	66 ¹	232	878	48	1224
	5.4% ²	19.0%	71.7%	3.9%	100%
	11.3% ³	25.4%	33.8%	42.1%	29.1%
WHITE	516	681	1715	66	2978
	17.3%	22.9%	57.6%	2.2%	100%
	88.5%	74.4%	66.0%	47.7%	70.7%
OTHER	1	2	5	0	8
	12.5%	25.0%	62.5%	0%	100%
	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0%	0.2%
TOTAL	583	915	2598	114	4210
	13.9%	21.7%	61.7%	2.7%	100%

¹ Number of Cases

² Column Percentage

³ Row Percentage



TABLE 10
SEX BY STATUS OFFENSE

SEX	STATUS OFFENSE				TOTAL
	RUNAWAY	TRUANCY	UNGOVERNABLE	OTHER	
FEMALE	434 ¹	383	1158	32	2007
	21.6% ²	19.1%	57.7%	1.6%	100%
	74.4% ³	41.9%	44.6%	28.1%	47.7%
MALE	149	532	1440	82	2203
	6.8%	24.1%	65.4%	3.7%	100%
	25.6%	58.1%	55.4%	71.9%	52.3%
TOTAL	583	915	2598	114	4210
	13.8%	21.7%	61.7%	2.7%	100%

¹ Number

² Column Percentage

³ Row Percentage



Table 11 depicts age by status offense. Age and status offense are highly dependent since the calculated $\chi^2_{0.05,27}$ value is 124.27 versus a tabulated $\chi^2_{0.05,27}$ of about 40. The years twelve through seventeen account for over 90% of the cases. The interpretation is simplified if only those years are considered. Table 12 contains several pertinent values from Table 11. As shown in Table 12, the most cases occur at age 15, and the most cases for all offenses also occur during the fifteenth year.

However, the fifteen year olds are not a peak age for South Carolina juveniles as indicated in Table 7. The maximum column percentage, the age at which the greatest representation among the various status offenses occurs, is also shown in Table 12. For runaways, this occurs at age fifteen, at which 17.3% of all cases (for that age bracket) are in the category. For truants, the maximum occurs at age 13, at which point 24.6% of the cases are in the category. Finally, for ungovernability, the maximum occurs at age 12 with 72.8% of the cases.

The number of referrals from some 20 sources are shown in Table 13. As shown in Table 14, the major referral source is the court. Court intake accounts for about 1/3rd of all referrals. The top three referral sources account for over 70% of all intake. The top seven of the referral sources provide about 93% of the intake.

Table 15 is an analysis of the source of referral by sex for the seven top sources mentioned above. Sizeable differences exist in a number of the sources, whereas, some have very slight differences. The sizeable differences lead to a $\chi^2_{0.05,6}$ value of 53.56 compared to a $\chi^2_{0.05,6}$ of 14.45. The school is an example where the difference is large, with 19.2% of



TABLE 11
AGE BY STATUS OFFENSE

AGE	STATUS OFFENSE				
	RUNAWAY	TRUANCY	UNGOVERNABLE	OTHER	TOTAL
9	5 ¹	52	101	0	158
	3.2% ²	32.9%	63.9%	0%	100%
	0.9% ³	5.7%	3.9%	0%	3.8%
10	6	21	58	3	88
	6.8%	23.9%	65.9%	3.4%	100%
	1.0%	2.3%	2.2%	2.6%	2.1%
11	5	27	86	4	122
	4.1%	22.1%	70.5%	3.3%	100%
	0.9%	3.0%	3.3%	3.5%	2.9%
12	17	43	188	10	258
	6.6%	16.7%	72.8%	3.9%	100%
	2.9%	4.7%	7.2%	8.8%	6.1%
13	49	112	281	13	455
	10.8%	24.6%	61.7%	2.9%	100%
	8.4%	12.2%	10.8%	11.4%	10.8%
14	110	178	461	29	769
	14.3%	23.1%	60.0%	2.6%	100%
	18.9%	19.5%	17.8%	17.6%	18.3%
15	177	233	594	21	1025
	17.3%	22.7%	58.0%	2.0%	100%
	30.3%	25.4%	22.9%	18.4%	24.3%



TABLE 11, continued

AGE	STATUS OFFENSE				TOTAL
	RUNAWAY	TRUANCY	UNGOVERNABLE	OTHER	
16	155	195	539	21	910
	17.0%	21.5%	59.2%	2.3%	100%
	26.6%	21.3%	20.8%	18.4%	21.6%
17	58	50	253	21	382
	15.2%	13.1%	66.2%	5.5%	100%
	9.9%	5.5%	9.7%	18.4%	9.1%
18	1	4	37	1	43
	2.3%	9.3%	86.1%	2.3%	100%
	0.2%	0.4%	1.4%	0.9%	1.0%
TOTAL	583	915	2598	114	4210
	13.8%	21.7%	61.8%	2.7%	100%

1 Number

2 Column Percentage

3 Row Percentage



TABLE 12
 IMPORTANT VALUES FROM TABLE 11

	STATUS OFFENSE			
	RUNAWAY	TRUANCY	UNGOVERNABLE	ALL
AGE ¹ MAXIMUM CASES OCCUR	15	15	15	15
ASSOCIATED ROW PERCENTAGE	30.3%	25.4%	22.9%	24.3%
AGE ¹ GREATEST REPRESENTATION OCCURS	15	13	12	-
ASSOCIATED COLUMN PERCENTAGE	17.3%	24.6%	72.8%	-

¹ 12-17 Years of Age Only



TABLE 13
SOURCE OF REFERRAL

SOURCE	NUMBER	PERCENT
POLICE	285	6.8%
COURT INTAKE	1389	33.0%
COURT REFERRAL	136	3.2%
PROBATION	13	0.3%
INSTITUTION	4	0.1%
SELF	273	6.5%
PARENTS	668	15.9%
SCHOOL	975	23.2%
MILITARY INSTALLATIONS	6	0.1%
CHURCHES	6	0.1%
MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC	29	0.7%
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE	169	4.0%
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION	18	0.4%
FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY	16	0.4%
CRISIS SERVICE AGENCY	11	0.3%
PHYSICIAN/MEDICAL	11	0.3%
GROUP HOME	25	0.6%
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER	5	0.1%
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AGENCY	2	0.0%
PROBATE COURT	50	1.2%
OTHER	119	2.8%
TOTAL	4210	100%



TABLE 14
MAJOR REFERRAL SOURCES OF STATUS OFFENDERS

ORDER	SOURCE	NUMBER	PERCENT	CUMULATIVE PERCENT
1	COURT INTAKE	1389	33.0%	33.0%
2	SCHOOL	975	23.2%	56.2%
3	PARENTS	668	15.9%	72.1%
4	POLICE	285	6.8%	78.9%
5	SELF	273	6.5%	85.4%
6	DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE	169	4.0%	89.4%
7	COURT REFERRAL	136	3.2%	92.6%



TABLE 15
SOURCE OF REFERRAL BY SEX

SOURCE OF REFERRAL	SEX					
	FEMALE		MALE		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
COURT INTAKE	716	35.7%	673	30.5%	1389	33.0%
SCHOOL	385	19.2%	590	26.8%	975	23.2%
PARENTS	302	15.0%	366	16.6%	669	15.9%
POLICE	157	7.8%	127	5.8%	285	6.8%
SELF	123	6.1%	150	6.8%	273	6.5%
DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES	76	3.8%	93	4.2%	169	4.0%
COURT REFERRAL	83	4.1%	53	2.4%	136	3.2%
TOTAL	1842	100%	2052	100%	3894	92.6%



females being referred by the schools, but 26.8% of the males. The difference by sex associated with the Department of Social Service is only slight.

Table 16 shows the source of referral by ethnicity. There are several striking differences by ethnicity as evidenced by a χ^2 value of 71.97 compared to a $\chi^2_{.05,12}$ of 21.03. The largest difference is associated with the Department of Social Services. Blacks seem to be referred much more than whites from this source. The police also seem to have a very large differential according to ethnicity, with whites being referred to a much greater extent than blacks. Other, large differences by sex are associated with self and parent as sources of referral.

VI. CONCLUSION

The data base upon which this article is founded is sizeable - over 4200 cases. Hence, a number of generalizations can be made about the status offender.

The data base is built from cases which enter Youth Bureaus accessible to almost every county in South Carolina. An investigation of the equivalence of data by county was conducted by analysing the input from two sizeable, but quite different locales. Statistical equivalence was found for sex, but not for ethnicity or age. Age differences could be explained by treatment philosophy differences at the Youth Bureaus in the two Counties. However, differences in ethnicity, specifically, the proportion of status offenders who are black compared to the proportion of all juveniles who are black, could not be explained, except in terms



TABLE 16
SOURCE OF REFERRAL BY ETHNICITY

SOURCE OF REFERRAL	ETHNICITY							
	BLACK		WHITE		OTHER		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
COURT INTAKE	416	34.0%	972	32.6%	1	12.5%	1389	33.0%
SCHOOL	274	22.4%	699	23.5%	2	25.0%	975	23.2%
PARENTS	213	17.5%	455	15.3%	0	0%	668	15.9%
POLICE	47	3.8%	238	8.0%	0	0%	285	6.8%
SELF	58	4.7%	214	7.2%	1	12.5%	273	6.5%
DEPT. OF SOC. SVC.	77	6.3%	90	3.0%	2	25.0%	169	4.0%
COURT REFERRAL	43	3.5%	93	3.1%	0	0%	136	3.2%
TOTAL	1224	100%	2978	100%	8	100%	3894	92.6%



of the rural - urban mix in each county, income differences between the two, as well as differences in years of school completed by residents who are 25 years old or older.

The data base contained 47.7% males. This is less than the 50.8% males which make up the population of juveniles in South Carolina. Whites are overrepresented in the data base with 70.7% of all cases compared to the population of juveniles in South Carolina which is 62.4% white. Almost half (45.9%) of the status offenders in the data base are 15 or 16 years of age. Male status offenders in the data base average 14.6 years of age, about 0.4 years older than their female counterparts.

A study of the occurrence of cases throughout the year showed that the maximum occurs in March and the minimum in July. The different types of status offenders have their peaks and valleys at different times during the year. Runaways reach the maximum number of occurrences in May, and have their minimum in February. Perhaps, this is weather related, since May is such an inviting climate in South Carolina and February is yet harsh. Truancy reaches its maximum in March and its minimum in August. Naturally when school is out in the summer, there are no truants, although some cases will be picked up in June and July for behavior which may have occurred in May or early June. Ungovernability reaches its maximum in March and its minimum in December. Perhaps December is a lenient time with parents or guardians in a "forgive and forget" mood.

Runaways accounted for 13.9% of all cases, truants for 21.7% and ungovernables for 61.7%. Ethnicity, sex, age and type of status offense are all dependent. For example, 71.7% of status offenses committed by blacks are in the ungovernable category compared to 57.6% for whites. For another example, females are about three times as likely to be runaways than males.



A final analysis was made of referral sources. Court intake was the major source of referral. About one out of three children were referred by this source. The top three referral sources were court intake, school and parents, accounting for slightly over 72% of the referrals. There were sizeable differences in referral by sex and by ethnicity. For example, 19.2% of females were referred by schools compared to 26.8% of the males. A large difference in the police as a referral source by ethnicity is indicated. Only 3.8% of blacks are referred by the police compared to 8.0% of the whites.

What is the profile of a status offender in South Carolina? The status offender is most likely to be a male (52.3% were males). Further, if the status offender is a male, he will be white (of all males, some 69% were white). Male status offenders are usually fourteen through sixteen years of age (58.8% of them are in this range). Status offenders come from medium or small cities (about 2/3rds of all status offenders reside in such areas).

The predominant offense committed by status offenders is ungovernability (almost 62% of all cases were in this category). The peak month for such behavior is March (with 11.7% of all ungovernability cases). Thus, the profile includes ungovernability as the status offense committed in March. Incidentally, truancy offenses also peak in March (with 14.8% of all cases).

Finally, the status offender about which we are constructing a profile was sent to the Youth Bureau by the court, referred by the school or by the parents of the youth. (Over 72% of all referrals were from these three sources even though over 20 different sources provided the intake to the Youth Bureau.



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