DYFS Runaway Study

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Background

The Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) is the agency within New Jersey's State government responsible for the welfare of children. As part of its mandate the Division provides: in-home services, day care services, foster family care, adoption services, parole supervision, treatment in residential and group facilities, and other support services to the family.

In 1976, the Division initiated efforts to document the need for aftercare services to children returning from residential placement, and to plan for these needs. The Division's centralized Child Master Card (CMC) file was used for this purpose. A Child Master Card is prepared for each child under Division supervision, and updated with each new placement. Since each child's placement history could be determined from these cards, the placements prior to and placements subsequent to a residential placement (as indicated in a sample of Child Master Cards) became the basis for the analysis of aftercare needs.

Researchers conducting a hand-tabulated analysis of the first CMC sample noted that caseworkers often recorded children as "Missing" on the Child Master Card. Such "missing" children were believed by the aftercare planners to represent youth who had run away while under agency supervision. On the basis of this information, a proposal

was prepared and submitted to the Region II Office of Youth Development for a small grant to study patterns of runaway behavior among these "missing" children. A copy of this proposal is attached as Appendix A.

Objectives

The proposal requested $700.00 to provide for keypunching and computer analyses of representative samples selected from the Child Master Cards. The products to be developed included:

1) a statistical profile of youth who had runaway while under Division supervision including demographic characteristics, the types of living situations these children had run away from, and the types of living situations these children had experienced upon return from their runaway experience.

2) an analysis of placement histories to determine if Division placement practices had encouraged children to runaway.

3) an analysis of the placement histories of children returning from long-term residential treatment (in lieu of juvenile correction placement) to identify which children fail to readjust to the community.

A draft of a report prepared in accordance with the proposal was submitted to Region II, DHEW on August 19, 1977. As a part of the revision to the initial draft, a computer analysis of the Child Master Record (CMR) was made to provide additional data on runaways in an average daily caseload (12/31/75). Unlike the Child Master Card samples, in which only children

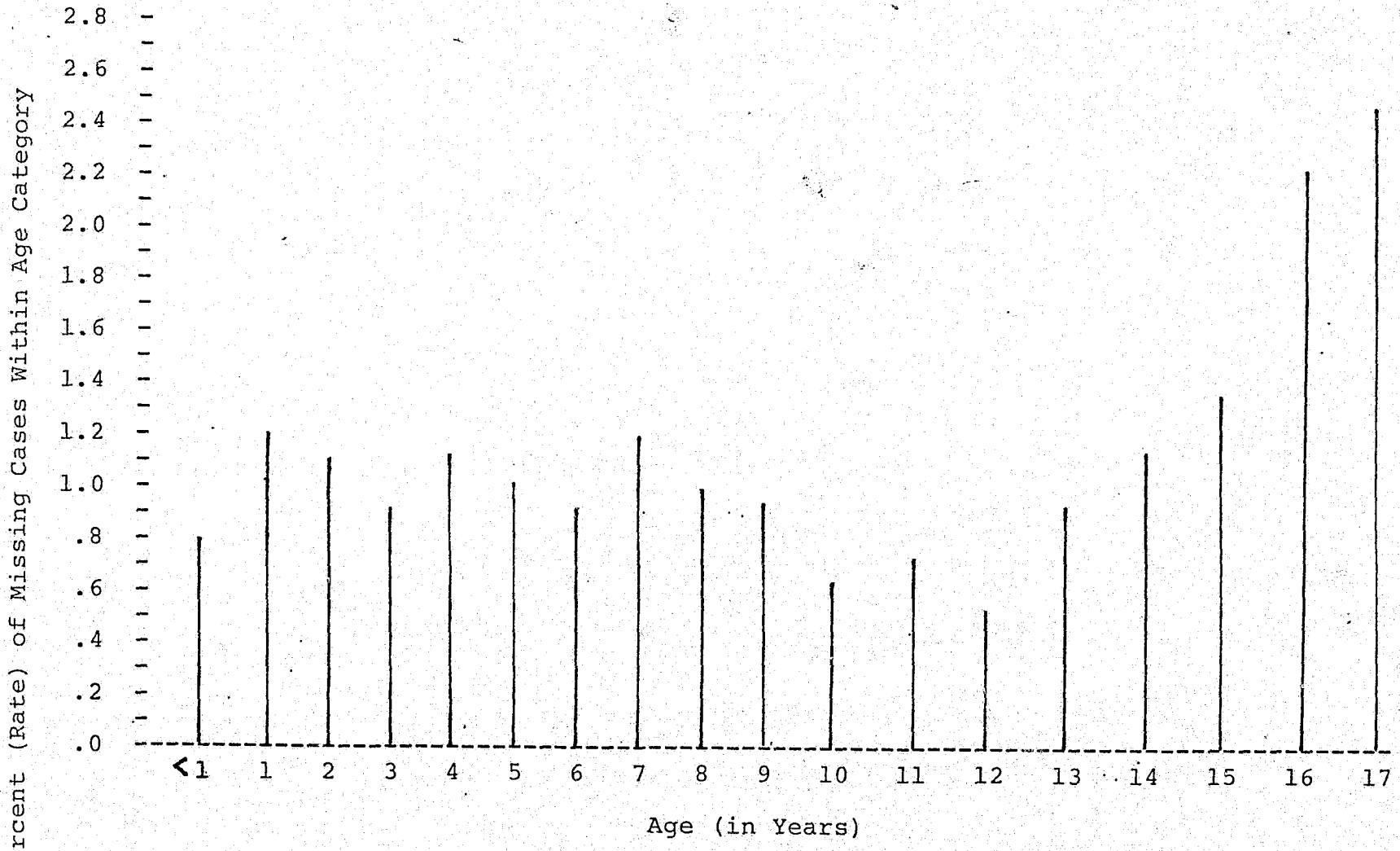
ten years old or older had been analyzed, the CMR analysis was not restricted by age. Table 1 presents the results of this analysis. Children "missing" as of 12/31/75 are cross-tabulated by age.

On a percentage basis, more children under DYFS supervision on 12/31/75 who were less than nine years of age were "missing" than children ten, eleven, twelve or thirteen years of age. The missing rate among one year olds (1.2%) was nearly as large as the missing rate for thirteen year olds (1.4%).

Logic dictates that preschool age children should not be running away at the same rate as teen-agers. Further research revealed that there is a dual meaning to the official designation, "missing," used on the agency document that forms the basis for the centralized records investigated in this study. This original or source document is a Transaction Form which is completed by a caseworker every time there is a change in a client's status. A Transaction Form could occasionally be filed because the client was missing by virtue of an unreported change in his/her family's residence, rather than by virtue of running away. The discovery of the dual meaning of the designation "missing" meant that the data contained in the first draft submitted to Region II did not necessarily reflect only youths who had run away. This is described in greater detail in the following section.

Table 1

Missing Cases Rate by Age



Methodology - Planned vs. Actual

The study, as initially planned, required the drawing of two random samples from the Child Master Card files. The Child Master Cards (CMC) briefly described above are a set of noncomputerized cards listing all the "transactions" (and, hence, all placements) ever completed for an active case. A history of the placements made for any child can be determined from an examination of that child's Child Master Card.

A random sample of active cases which had at least one placement other than with parents, relatives, or foster parents, was drawn in March, 1976. This sample, referred to in this report as the Residential Placement Sample, was to be used to study possible relationships between residential placements made by the Division of Youth and Family Services, and the propensity of children returning from such placements to run away.

A second sample, referred to in this study as the AWOL Sample, was drawn from the Child Master Cards in July 1976. Unlike the Residential Placement Sample, the AWOL Sample did not sample exclusively those youths whose case history reflected a residential placement; the criterion for selection for the AWOL sample was only that the youth have a "missing" event in his/her placement history. The objectives in drawing this sample were to:

a) isolate a larger number of runaways for analysis

b) compare the "missing" rate for children in the Division caseload as a whole compared to the missing rate for children who had experienced one or more out-of-home placements.

Information from the Child Master Cards drawn for these two samples was coded and keypunched. This information was then used to create two computerized files for each sample. The first file, denoted by the label Youths, contained basic demographic information (age, sex, race) for each child along with his/her placement history. The unit of analysis is each child.

The second computerized file, labeled Events, contains information concerning placements made for the children included in the two samples. The unit of analysis is the event represented by each placement rather than the children themselves. Missing events were abstracted from the Child Master Cards and placed in the computerized file, along with the placements preceding and following each such missing event.

The Events file was created to provide information concerning where the child was living prior to a missing event and where the child was living following a missing event. Questions concerning not only the fixed characteristics of runaway youth, but also about each episode of runaway behavior were to be addressed in this manner.

Runaway rates by type of placement could be computed from analysis of this data, permitting the Division to determine if children under its supervison were running away more frequently from foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers (RTC's), JINS shelters and other out-of-home placements than from their natural homes. This analysis was conducted and formed the basis for the draft report submitted on August 19, 1977.

The discovery of the dual meaning of the designation "missing" led to a drastic revision in the methodology employed in the study. Young children reported on the CMR and Child Master Cards as "missing" were probably given this designation because their family could not be located by the social worker assigned to the case. Restricting the analysis to older children would not permit distinguishing bonafide runaways and the other type of missing case.

There is, however, reason to believe that children in out-of-home placements (eg. foster homes or residential facilities) are much less likely than clients living with parents or relatives to be designated missing when they are not runaways. This is because foster parents and residential facilities receive payment from the Division for maintenance of clients, whereas parents and relatives do not. Therefore, foster parents and facilities are not likely to move without notifying

the agency. Any clients who are residing outside the home of parents or relatives and who are designated missing are probably runaways rather than clients that the caseworker merely cannot locate.

To test this assumption, the age distribution of missing cases following placement in a foster home was analyzed using the Events file of the AWOL sample. The results of this analysis are presented in Table 2.

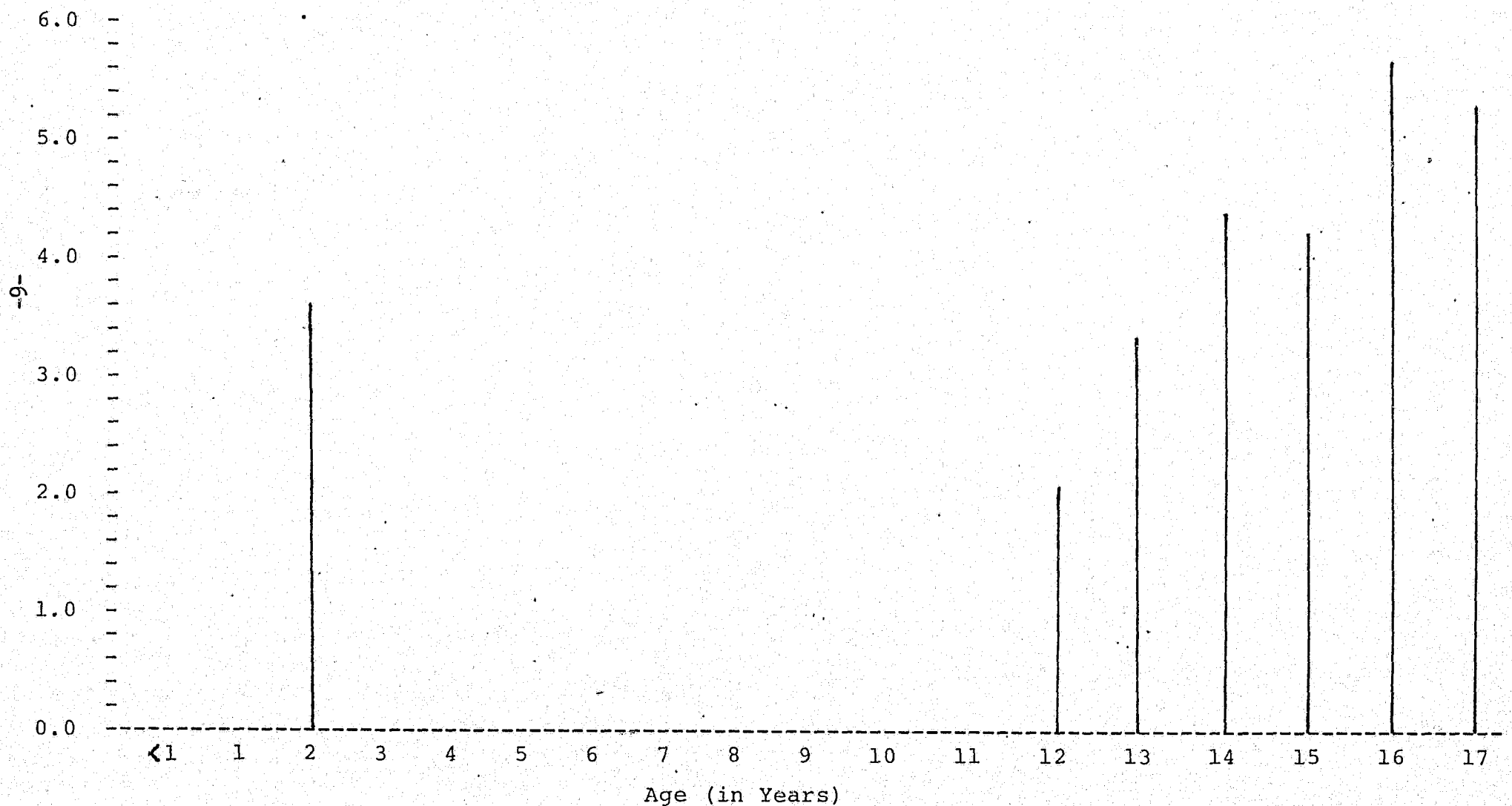
Table 2 reveals only one "missing" event involving a child below the age of twelve for children listed as "missing" from a foster home or other out-of-home placement. Other than this case, the occurence of "missing" events is consistent with what might logically be expected in terms of the age at which children are capable of running away.

The findings contained in Table 2 support the contention that cases designated as "missing" for reasons other than runaway behavior are confined to cases in which placement in the home of a parent or relatives occurred immediately before the runaway event. While this is an inferred conclusion, the circumstantial evidence described above is fairly conclusive. Because out-of-home placements tend to be stable, at least in terms of the ability of a caseworker to physically locate such placements, children "missing" from

Table 2

2076 N (Total Events)
60 N (Missing Events)

<1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
15	23	28	28	36	52	60	84	102	106	113	105	143	204	282	359	264	132
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	12	15	15	7



such placements represent the most accurate population of bonafide runaways which could be identified using the Child Master Cards.

Unfortunately, restricting the analysis to those children and "missing" events involving probable runaways from a foster home or other out-of-home placement severely limits the study's usefulness. First, the number of probable runaway events from such placements included in the sample through the sampling procedures described in this section is too small to be statistically manipulated meaningfully. Second, without a valid group of bonafide runaway events involving children fleeing from the homes of parents and relatives, very few conclusions can be drawn concerning the effect of DYFS placement policies in comparison to children running away from their natural homes.

In light of the severe restrictions of the sample due to the dual meaning of "missing", the analysis contained in this report should be appreciated as a pilot demonstration of the kinds of questions that can be addressed using available agency data. The final section of this report suggests how these data may be improved so as to generate conclusions in which more confidence can be placed.

Results

Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present basic demographic information concerning Youths in the Residential Placement Sample. As

described in the previous section, only children who have been in one or more placements outside of the home of their parents, relatives, or foster homes were included in this sample.

Table 3 below shows that females ages 10-17 under DYFS supervision who have experienced at least one residential placement run away at three time the rate of the males in the sample. This difference is statistically significant.

Table 3
Missing Rate by Sex
(Residential Placement Sample)

Sex	Total Cases	Cases w/at least one "missing status"	Missing Rate
Female	126	15	10.6
Male	268	10	3.6
Total	394	25	6.3

x^2 1d.f. = 8.3 p = .00315

Table 4 provides data concerning the racial make-up of the sub-sample described above. The difference in the missing rate among black and white youth (6.1% vs. 5.2%) is not statistically significant.

Table 4
Missing Rate by Race
(Residential Placement Sample)

Race	Total Cases	Cases w/at least one "missing status"	Missing Rate
White	217	12	5.2
Black	168	11	6.1
Total	385	23	5.9

Table 5 below shows the distribution of youths included in the sample based upon the district office which had supervision of the case. Values for each district (with a few exceptions) are very small and the "missing" rates should be interpreted with extreme caution.

Table 5 - Missing Rate by District (Residential Placement Sample).

County	Total Cases	Cases w/at least one "missing status"	Missing Rate
Atlantic	14	1	7.1
Bergen	31	1	3.2
Burlington	8	1	12.5
Camden	23	2	8.7
Cumberland	5	0	0.0
Gloucester	6	0	0.0
Hudson	32	3	9.4
Hunterdon	4	0	0.0

Table 5 Continued

County	Total Cases	Cases w/at least one "missing status"	Missing Rate
Mercer	12	1	8.3
Middlesex	24	2	8.3
Monmouth	14	2	14.3
Morris	12	2	16.7
Newark	88	5	5.7
Ocean	12	1	8.3
Orange	30	0	0.0
Passaic	45	1	2.2
Salem	5	0	0.0
Somerset	12	1	8.3
Sussex	1	0	0.0
Union	36	2	5.6
Warren	4	0	0.0
Total	393	25	6.0

Most district offices are combination of one or two urban centers and numerous suburbs. As a result, it is difficult to characterize districts as urban, suburban, or rural. Only nine districts are homogeneous enough to be so categorized. Table 6 presents the missing rates of the two urban districts (Hudson County and Newark) versus the seven rural districts (Cumberland, Hunterdon, Burlington, Gloucester, Salem, Warren and Sussex). Although the rate of urban youths with at least one "missing" status following an out-of-home placement (6.7) is more than twice that of rural

youths (3.0), this difference is not statistically significant. This failure to establish statistical significance may have as much to do with the relatively small subsample size (9/153 cases) as any real lack of difference between urban and rural youth.

Table 6

Missing Rates Among Urban and Rural District Offices

	Total Cases	Cases w/at least one "missing status"	Missing Rate
Urban			
Hudson	32	3	9.4
Newark	88	5	5.7
	120	8	6.7
Rural			
Burlington	8	1	12.5
Cumberland	5	0	0.0
Gloucester	6	0	0.0
Hunterdon	4	0	0.0
Salem	5	0	0.0
Sussex	1	0	0.0
Warren	4	0	0.0
	33	1	3.0

In summary, table 3-6 provide some indications concerning

the youths with some history of residential treatment who are running away from these and other out-of-home placements. The only statistically significant result is the indication that females are missing (with a high probability of being a bonafide runaway) at a higher rate than males.

Tables 7 and 8 present findings concerning the AWOL Sample. This sample "captures" a larger number of runaways because, unlike the Residential Placement Sample, a child need not have had a placement history which included an out-of-home placement in a residential treatment center, group home, JINS shelter, or other nonfoster home out-of-home placement. The criteria for selection was only that the child have a "missing" event in his/her case history.

Due to the dual meaning of the term "missing," analysis of the AWOL Sample excludes missing events if the child was living in the home of a parent or relative immediately prior to the missing event. As a result, it is not possible to compare the rate at which children run away from their own homes to the rate at which they run away from DYFS placements (foster homes, residential and group home placements and other out-of-home placements). However, because the sample is not systematically weighted to select in favor of residential out-of-home placements (as is the Residential Placement Sample), the sample permits comparison between runaway rates from foster care and group homes, residential facilities and

other out-of-home placements. Runaway events from all out-of-home settings had an equal probability for selection in the AWOL Sample.

Table 7 presents information concerning 105 missing events contained in the case histories of 82 youths. These events are regarded as having a high probability of representing true runaway behavior.

In interpreting Table 7, the placements prior to probable runaway events are listed horizontally across the top of the table. Placements following a probable runaway event are listed along the left-side of the table.

Each cell within the table contains:

a) the number (N) of runaway events tabulated

b) the % of the row these events represent

c) the % of the column these events represent.

Reading across the row headed by the title Foster Home (and noting the first and second value in each cell) it is apparent that of the 28 runaway events that resulted in a foster placement, 22 or 78.6% involved a youth who had runaway from a foster home.

Placement Immediately Prior to Missing Event

Placement Immediately After Missing Event	Foster Home	Group Home	Dep. Child	Juv. Det.	State Reform-	Res. Treat-	JINS	Misc. Res.	ROW TOTAL
Parent or Relative	4 20.0 8.0	--	5 25.0 38.5	5 25.0 55.6	--	2 10.0 18.2	3 15.0 37.5	1 5.0 14.3	20 19.0
Foster Home	22 78.6 44.0	1 3.6 50.0	2 7.1 15.4	1 3.6 11.1	--	1 3.6 9.1	--	1 3.6 14.3	28 26.7
Def. Child Home	2 50.0 4.0	--	2 50.0 15.4	--	--	--	--	--	4 3.8
Juvenile Detention	9 39.1 18.0	--	3 13.0 23.1	2 8.7 22.2	1 4.3 33.3	2 8.7 18.2	2 8.7 25.0	3 13.0 42.9	23 21.9
State Reformatory	--	--	--	--	1 50.0 53.3	1 50.0 9.1	--	--	2 1.9
Self-Support	3 75.0 6.0	1 25.0 50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	4 3.8
	--	--	--	1 100.0 11.1	--	--	--	--	1 1.0
Residential Treatment Center	--	--	--	--	--	5 100.0 45.5	--	--	5 4.8
JINS Shelter	7 63.6 14.0	--	--	--	1 9.1 33.3	--	3 27.3 37.5	--	11 10.5
Misc. Res. Placement	3 42.9 6.0	--	1 14.3 7.7	--	--	--	--	2 28.6 28.6	7 6.7
Column Total	50 47.6	2 1.9	13 12.4	9 8.6	3 2.9	11 10.5	8 7.6	7 6.7	105 100.0

In all, runaway events from foster homes represent 47.6% of all such events sampled, more than any other category. Probable runaway events from homes for dependent children (12.47%) and residential treatment centers (10.5%) contribute the second and third largest number of runaway events.

Analysis of the AWOL Sample shows that, among children in DYFS supervised out-of-home placements who runaway, the largest proportion of such running away is done by children leaving their foster homes. Further analysis of Table 7 indicates that most of these runaway foster children (44%) are returned to a foster home, although it was not possible to determine if they were returned to the foster home from which they had been reported missing. Nearly a third of the runaway foster children (32%) had involvement with the juvenile justice system as the next placement on their official record following the missing event; 18% were next reported in juvenile detention and 14% in a JINS (Juvenile in Need of Supervison) shelter. These placements probably represent apprehension of the runaway by the police. For youths placed in a juvenile detention facility, this apprehension was probably made in connection with a serious offense.

It had been initially thought that children fleeing from

residential treatment settings would contribute a large number of runaway youth to the sample. As can be seen in Table 7, the "refugee" from a residential placement is a rather small part of the runaway problem among children under DYFS supervision who runaway from their out-of-home placements. Only 12.4% (13) of the runaway events included in the sample involved a child listed as missing from a residential treatment center or group home.

Moreover, the apprehension that juveniles discharged from long-term care become overwhelmed when returned "cold turkey" to their communities and then runaway may be unfounded.

Table 8 presents information concerning 124 events of runaway behavior drawn from the AWOL Sample.[1] The placement history preceding each event was examined retrospectively to determine what types of placements the youths had experienced.

In examining these placement histories it was determined that 16 of 124 (12.9%) placement histories preceding a runaway event included a record of one placement in a residential treatment center; 5 placement histories indicated two such placements prior to the runaway event from which the analysis was conducted; 102 placement histories preceding a runaway event did not include any record of a residential placement.

This finding supports the results of the analysis of the Residential Placement Sample. A history of placement in a Residental Treatment Center or other nonfoster home, out-of-home placement (group home, JINS shelter, etc.) is not necessarily a strong indicator of propensity to run away when compared to the runaway rates from other types of placement. For example, almost two-thirds of the placement histories preceding a runaway event in the AWOL Sample included an indication of foster care placement. This finding is not surprising in view of the fact that the missing events included in this analysis of the AWOL Sample were restricted solely to those events in which the child had runaway from an out-of-home placement. Foster home placements comprise the majority of such placements. However, what is important is that the bulk of the missing events with a high probability of being a bonafide episode of running away pertain to clients who have not been institutionalized.

Table 8

Types of Placement

# of Such Placements Contained in Placement Histories in AWOL Sample	Residential Treatment Centers	Foster Homes	Group Homes	Homes for Dependent Children
One Placement	16 12.9	35 28.2	3 2.4	23 18.5
Two Placements	5 4.0	22 17.7		6 4.8
Three Placements		11 8.9		3 2.4
Four Placements		9 7.3		
Five Placements		7 5.6		
No Placement	102 82.3	39 31.5	120 96.8	91 73.4
Missing (Error)	1	1	1	1
Total	124	124	124	124

Discussion

Ambiguity concerning the official designation "missing" in the Child Master Cards (which form the source document for this study) has necessitated restricting the analysis of data to children running away from out-of-home placements. This severely limits the utility of the analysis because information concerning children running away from the homes of their parents or relatives cannot be analyzed even though placement in the home of a parent or relative constitutes

64% of the DYFS caseload.[2] As a result, it is not possible to determine what effect, if any, DYFS placement policies have upon the propensity of children who have been placed to runaway.

However, some tentative findings are indicated based upon an analysis of the available data:

1. Females with at least one placement in a residential treatment center in the Residential Placement Sample runaway at three times the rate of males (15/126 versus 10/268); this difference is statistically significant.

2. No statistically significant difference was found between the runaway rate for black versus white or urban versus rural youth in the Residential Placement Sample; in the latter instance, very small cell frequencies may have precluded a statistically significant finding.

3. Almost half (47.6%) of the children with at least one missing episode in their placement history following an out-of-home placement were missing following placement in a foster home; only 10.5% were listed as "missing" from a residential treatment center.

4. Relatively few of the runaway youth with at least one missing episode in their placement histories following an out-of-home placement had prior experience with placement in a residential setting; this finding tentatively supports a conclusion that, at least among children who run away from an out-of-home placement, most of these runaways are in flight from a foster home and most such children are probably not running away due to the shock of returning from highly structured placements.

Considerable caution must be exercised in interpreting these findings. The numbers of cases in some cells are small, and in the absence of reliable data concerning children "missing" from the home of a parent or relative, this severely limits the usefulness of the study.

The above short-comings notwithstanding, this study has been useful in a variety of ways. First, the computer programming developed to analyze the data drawn from the Child Master Cards is being employed by the Division of Youth and Family Services to conduct other studies using this previously untapped source of data.

Use of the Child Master Cards could provide an alternative means of capturing a sample of runaway youth for future

studies. A large, multipurpose sample of the active caseload could be drawn from the Child Master Cards. Clients who have ever had a "missing" designation in their placement history can be readily identified by the computer programs established for this study and their case numbers could be listed. A quick examination of the case folder of these cases will permit distinguishing between runaways and other "missing" cases. In this way, a large number of runaway cases could be identified without having to review thousands of case folders.

The impact of existing DYFS programs, particularly out-of-home placements, could be more readily assessed utilizing such data. Of particular interest would be an analysis of the characteristics of bona fide runaways leaving the homes of parents and relativies who have had a particular history of out-of-home placement as opposed to those who have had no such previous history.

This study, then, must be regarded as successful in a limited manner. The problems which have been identified can readily be corrected through an analysis of a moderate sized sample of case records identified by the programming developed for the study. Such an effort, however, must be regarded as beyond the scope of this report.

FOOTNOTES

1. Note that Table 8 contains information of 19 "missing" or runaway events relating to youths who were still missing at the time the AWOL Sample was taken. As a result, no information concerning the placement subsequent to these missing events was available and these missing events do not appear on Table 7.

2. As of December 31, 1976.

APPENDIX A

This is a proposal to the Office of Youth Development of HEW from the Bureau of Research, Planning, and Program Development of the Division of Youth and Family Services of the State of New Jersey for a small grant to support a research project which will determine patterns of runaway behavior by youth served by the Division.

The basic product from this grant will be a research paper based upon a computer analysis of a sample of DYFS case records. This analysis will serve a number of purposes.

1. One product will be a statistical profile of youth who have run away while under DYFS supervision. This profile will not only give demographic characteristics but will also show where the youth were living before they ran away, and the types of living situations they experienced when they returned. This career data will be useful to both OYD and DYFS in that it will indicate the types of services now available to runaways and should also point to present gaps in services.
2. An analysis of career data will also indicate whether, as is now hypothesized, DYFS placement practices in fact encourage children to run away. If this is determined to be the case, hopefully this study will also shed light on how DYFS might change its policies to minimize this behavior. This may lead to institutional change, a major aspect of OYD's general strategy of promoting healthy youth development.

3. A third product will be an analysis of the placement history of a significant sample of children who have been placed by the Division in long-term residential treatment in lieu of correctional placement. The Division is aware that many such children fail when they return to the community, and now is beginning to structure services to prevent such failures. The information derived from this study should help in this effort.

Overview

The Division of Youth and Family Services is New Jersey's division of state government responsible for the welfare of children. As part of this mandate we provide: treatment for children in residential facilities, adoption services, day care services, parole supervision, and a host of other services. Recently we considered responding to OYD's runaway program initiative, but because of a severe budget crunch within our own Division and within New Jersey's state government in general, it was decided that we could not initiate providing this additional service at this time. We did, however, offer technical assistance to various private agencies who have responded to OYD's program, and we remain deeply concerned about the runaway problem in this state.

History

In a recent study, Jackson Toby, of the Institute for Criminological Research at Rutgers, indicated that many

children provided therapeutic treatment by the Division, in long-term residential facilities, later fail in the community, even though these children apparently have received good prognoses in their treatment programs. Toby's conclusion was that the Division should begin to consider providing aftercare services for these youth. In order to plan for such services, Kenneth Stevenson was appointed by the Division director to coordinate a divisionwide task force to design the needed services.

Quickly it became apparent that in order to plan for aftercare it was necessary to know which types of children were returning to the community and what type of problems these children exhibited. Almost as quickly it became apparent that the Division's existing information system would not produce the data needed. This system was designed to reimburse vendors for services provided to children who were presently in placement and not to provide historical social information. It could be used to provide some basic data on those receiving services, but it could not tell us where children came from or to where they were returned. Fortunately, it was discovered that in the Division's central record unit, there was also a manual back-up system of file cards which did contain a historical record. As there were over 50,000 active cases, it was determined that it would be necessary to sample this file. The sample was a systematic random sample of approximately 850 cases of children who had been in some form of institutional placement. Institutional

placement might have meant county detention shelters, county shelters for neglected children, JINS shelters, long-term residential treatment, or state correctional facilities.

These cards were then xeroxed and became the study's source data record. The cards were prepared for hand tabulation and all those cases of children age 10 or under were removed from the file. This left a total of approximately 650 cases. At present, then, we have a systematic random sample of histories of approximately 650 New Jersey juveniles who have been under the Divisions supervision while in various types of institutional placement.

Initial manual analysis shows that approximately 100 of these children were recorded as having run away sometime while under DYFS supervision. A large proportion appeared to have run from institutions, although many also ran from foster homes and were subsequently placed in institutions. In other words, if running away is seen as a behavior, the frequency of which should be reduced, then it might be argued that the Division through its placement activities is adding to the runaway problem. From a different perspective, however, it could be argued that running away is actually just another symptom of a child's disturbed behavior, and it is disturbed behavior that society's institutions, including those of the Division, are attempting to treat.

At any rate, it is clear from the sample that the significant proportion of children under DYFS supervision run away. What we propose then, is to take a more intensive look at this problem.

Methodology

The procedure would be to return to the child master record file and draw another random sample. This sample would be a systematic random sample of children who had run away at some time while under DYFS supervision. A new sample is necessary because the earlier one, by focusing strictly on children who had received institutional placement, is biased toward children who have been placed. The new sample with a broader representation may show that runaways for the most part are actually running from abusive homes rather than institutions.

This data would then be entered onto computer cards and analyzed at the Rutgers computer center using SPSS (the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), a package of computer programs specifically designed for this type of analysis.

The product of this analysis will be a research document which should give the Division and OYD a clear picture of a significant proportion of New Jersey's runaways. Although detailed psychological and social data would not be available from this source, we would be able to determine such things as the age, race, and sex. We should also be able to tell were they run from, how long they remain missing, and were they are placed when they return. We will also come to know something of their histories in terms of adjudications.

This study will be conducted by Dr. Micheal Wasserman who has recently joined the Bureau of Research, Planning,

and Program Development. Dr. Wasserman previously worked for six years at the Institute for Criminological Research at Rutgers under Dr. Toby. During much of that time Dr. Wasserman was involved with the analysis of data, similar to that invisioned in this project. Dr. Wasserman's vita is attached.

He will be assisted by a graduate sociology student from Rutgers who is presently completing a coding task for the Institute for Criminology. The assistant will be primarily concerned with drawing the new sample and coding data in preparation for key punching.

The Bureau will pay Dr. Wasserman's salary; however, it is impossible for us to provide funds for the computer analysis, keypunching, or coding. We are therefore requesting support for these activities. A budget is attached.

BUDGET

One Graduate Student Coder - Consultant	
(at $125.00 a week for 3 weeks)	$375.00
Keypunching	75.00
Computer Processing	250.00
Total Budget	$700.00

END