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X DADE COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE
PLANNING UNIT

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ACQUISITIONS

X A STUDY OF THE RECIDIVISM RATE
OF THOSE OFFENDERS COMPLETING DADE COUNTY
COMMUNITY BASED CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS

August, 1976

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study was to examine the recidivism rate of those offenders coming into contact with Dade County community-based correctional programs. Several distinct client groups were examined.

The Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime Program (TASC) provides services to drug involved individuals identified through a screening process which is part of the booking procedures at the Dade County Jail. During the twenty-four (24) month period from February, 1974 to February, 1976, a total of 3,000 clients received services through the TASC program. Of these three thousand (3,000), two hundred and fifty two (252) were considered to have successfully completed the program. Recidivism data was gathered on these clients, as well as, twenty-seven (27) clients who had their criminal justice hold released, i.e., charges dropped, and terminated on their own accord.

Data was also gathered on clients who had successfully completed local halfway house programs serving the ex-offender population. Three facilities in Dade County provide services exclusively to this population: Riverside House, Myrick House (Ex-Offender Services Project) and Ozanam House. It should be noted that these programs deal exclusively with the non-drug involved ex-offender. Several other residential programs which provide services to drug involved clients who may or may not be ex-offenders are not included in this study.

The third group of clients on whom recidivism data was collected, are successful terminations of two local out-patient offender programs. Both Transition, Inc. and Advocates, Inc. are volunteer type programs. Advocates, Inc. provides services to misdemeanants referred by the County Court.

Transition, Inc. matches volunteers on a one-to-one basis with felons serving sentences in the Dade County Stockade and the Women's Detention Center.

In the data collection effort, sampling was not utilized for the Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime's client population. One hundred percent (100%) of this group of clients, or two hundred seventy nine (279) names, were submitted to the Dade County Public Safety Department for re-arrest data. The size of the population of the residential and non-residential programs made it necessary to draw a random sample. A fifty percent (50%) sample was taken from the five hundred fifty two (552) identified clients. A large sample such as this should ensure the validity of the results.

Access to the re-arrest data was obtained through the Dade County Public Safety Department, to whom we owe a special note of thanks. Only those arrests occurring within Dade County are reflected. The Public Safety Department's Records and Identification Bureau estimates this would include 95-98% of the total re-arrests.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC)

The Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime Program was initiated in Dade County in 1974 under LEAA's discretionary grant program. The program originally dealt only with heroin abusers but was later expanded to include poly-substance abusers.

The objectives of the program are:

1. Screen and classify persons entering the criminal justice system via a jail screening unit to determine poly-drug abuse.
2. To treat and service drug dependent clients via various treatment modalities.
3. To determine and develop the job skills of program participants.
4. To reduce the recidivism and arrest rates of all graduates.

The program operates within the confines of the Dade County Jail, the Women's Detention Center, and the Dade County Stockade. Jail treatment units are maintained at all three facilities for those inmates not released to community-based treatment programs.

The majority of clients are released into TASC's custody by the presiding judge. These individuals are transported to the Central Intake Unit of Dade County's Comprehensive Drug Program. After a complete assessment of the clients' needs, individuals are placed in existing community treatment programs. The progress of the individual is monitored by the central programs' tracking unit. Unsatisfactory progress in the program leads to

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS (CONTINUED)

the clients being returned to the criminal justice system.

A client is considered to have successfully completed the TASC program if he is drug free, has successfully completed his treatment program, is gainfully employed or attending vocational or educational programs, and has not been arrested since entering the TASC program.

Myrick House (Ex-Offender Services Project)

The responsibility of the Ex-Offender Services Project is to effectuate a positive transition of ex-offenders back into the mainstream of society. Thus assisting them in becoming very useful citizens.

To attain this responsibility, the project carries out the following functions:

(1) housing (30-90 days) with hot meals; (2) job referrals and/or permanent job placement; (3) assistance in securing permanent housing; (4) counseling; and (5) assistance in securing social and economic aid within the community.

Additionally, the project provides the following activities that assist in the total rehabilitation of the clients: (1) individual and group sessions; (2) interactions with the Model City Crime and Delinquency Task Force; (3) trips to various recreational and cultural events; and (4) various sport activities (football, basketball, volleyball, and softball games).

Clients are considered successful termination if they are able to leave the program as self sufficient individuals. Re-arrest will result in a non-successful termination.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS (CONTINUED)

Ozanam House

The Ozanam House program provides a halfway house experience for a minimum of 100 offenders per year. The main thrust of the project is to make these individuals economically and vocationally independent by bringing to bear upon them the coordinated efforts of a variety of institutions and services as needed.

The residential treatment program proposed here is expected to make a contribution to improving Florida's criminal justice system by (1) reducing the number of offenders who again get into difficulty with the law; (2) by reducing the cost to society in dollars by diverting these persons from re-entering the criminal justice system; (3) by adding to the employment potential in the community by helping these persons to become and remain employable; and (4) by furthering humanitarian values as it increases the satisfaction of these individuals with their life situation.

Services are offered to clients from the Dade County Pre-Trial Intervention Project, Corrections and Rehabilitation Department and the Comprehensive Offender Rehabilitation Program, as well as the Department of Offender Rehabilitation.

The program consists of four separate stages: Intake and Orientation, Treatment, Community Re-Entry and Graduation or Exit. The minimum stay in the residence shall be thirty (30) days and the maximum stay 120 days. The

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS (CONTINUED)

average is ninety (90) days. Any exceptions to the minimum and maximum limits require special approval of the core program and Ozanam House staff.

Riverside House

The Riverside House provides a residential program for the youthful probationer and parolee between the ages of 18 and 24 years. This program is associated with the Riverside Methodist Church.

The Riverside House offers client-oriented services directed toward the more recidivistic offender. This project offers a sentencing alternative to the court for those offenders who would ordinarily be sentenced to jail or prison.

The residents attend a weekly rap session where a "Positive Mental Attitude" course is conducted. They meet on one other night during the week to fill out a schedule for the following week. All residents either work or go to school. Residents without jobs work around the house and the church, yard, maintenance, etc.

In order to be considered a successful completion, one must maintain satisfactory performance while in the program and must not be re-arrested. Clients are expected to be self-sufficient when they leave the program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS (CONTINUED)

Advocates Inc.

The Advocates Program is specifically designed to provide services to the first-offender between the ages of 17 through 25 who has committed a misdemeanor. However, in some cases, at the presiding judge's request, traffic offenders as well as a few first-offender felons are accepted. Known drug or alcohol abusers are not accepted but are referred to appropriate agencies.

The offender is sentenced prior to being admitted to the program. However, a withholding of adjudication is entered. The client's progress is charted by a point system. Appropriate behavior, such as steady employment or school attendance, merits a certain number of points, etc. Once a certain number of points have been attained the client is eligible for graduation.

If the client successfully completes the program, he is brought back before the sentencing judge and his original sentence is vacated with a subsequent dismissal of charges. The average time period from program acceptance to dismissal of charges has been six (6) months.

Transition, Inc.

Transition, Inc. is a non-profit, voluntary corporation, chartered in the State of Florida for the purpose of aiding in the re-socialization of men and women being released from incarceration in the penal system. Transition believes that a concerned citizenry becoming an integral and coordinated

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS (CONTINUED)

part of the criminal justice system can be the most effective way of achieving positive results in bringing about rehabilitation of the offender, reducing crime and recidivism while at the same time reducing expenditures.

The Transition volunteer is a partner with the professional (Transition staff, corrections and rehabilitation officers, probation and parole officers, etc.) and comprises an important part of the treatment team. They complement rather than replace the professional staff. They relieve the professional staff of time and energy so that professional services may be maximized by diverting them to areas of greater need and concern. They are not paid and, therefore, have a special meaning and value to the people they serve. They are non-threatening to the offender who fears the punitive aspects of the system. In their relationship with the offender they represent community care and concern rather than professional treatment. They bring a richness and variety of talents, skills and interests which are given through large investments of time and energy on an individual and group basis.

The above philosophy is implemented through a well planned system of meeting specific goals. This system includes:

1. Recruit, screen, train and match volunteers and assign them on a one-to-one basis to prisoners soon to be released, or ex-offenders on probation, according to their individual interest, capacity and skill, in order to provide the basis for friendship, counseling, understanding and the feeling that someone cares.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS (CONTINUED)

2. Find and provide temporary housing and other supportive services for the offender after release from jail, through friends, neighbors, agencies and other personal contacts.
3. To help the ex-offender to make full use of all community resources and programs to assist him toward rehabilitation.
4. Locate, develop and secure meaningful employment--the training, placement and the job that will give the ex-offender the encouragement and incentive he needs to make it on his own.

RESULTS

Data gathered on Treatment Alternatives to Street Crimes clients and the other five programs, Ozanam House, Myrick House, Riverside House, Advocates, Inc. and Transition, Inc. was the result of two distinct data collection efforts. The first dealt with Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime clients only, and the second gathered data on the remaining five programs.

The data collected is not entirely consistent and, therefore, this section will treat separately the Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime Program and the five remaining residential and non-residential programs.

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES TO STREET CRIME (TASC)

The Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) clients surveyed were released from the program between February of 1974 and February of 1976. The maximum length of time any client had been released was twenty five (25) months and the average length of time since release was 8.8 months.

Several distinct groups within the TASC client population were examined: (1) those clients who had successfully completed the program but who had not participated in the TASC vocational program; (2) those clients who had successfully completed both the program and the vocational component of the program; (3) those who had successfully completed the vocational program only; and (4) those clients who left the program as a result of having their criminal justice hold released.

Of the two hundred seventy nine (279) clients, a total of eighty-one were re-arrested, yielding an overall recidivism rate of 29.03%. The following tables and discussion analyze this data in more detail.

TABLE 1

RE-ARREST DATA FOR TASC CLIENTS

	Number	%
Misdemeanor Arrests	28	34.56
Felony Arrests	53	65.44
TOTAL	81	100.00

Of a total of eighty-one (81) re-arrests, twenty-eight (28) or 34.56% were for misdemeanor offenses, and fifty-three (53) or 65.44% were for felony offenses. In the case of multiple arrests, only the first arrest is considered and reflects the appropriate classification.

TABLE 2

MULTIPLE ARRESTS TASC CLIENTS

Number of Arrests	Number of Clients	% of Total Arrests
2	19	23.46
3	7	8.64
4	3	3.71
5	1	1.23
6	-	-
7	1	1.23
TOTAL	31	38.27%

Of the eighty-one (81) total clients re-arrested, thirty-one (31) or 38.27% were re-arrested two or more times. Nineteen (19) or 23.46% of the clients had two re-arrests, seven (7) or 8.64% had three re-arrests, three (3) or 3.71% had four re-arrests, one (1) client or 1.23% had five re-arrests and one (1) or 1.23% had seven re-arrests.

Tables 3 and 4, which follow, present the data collected on the four distinct client groups within the TASC client population previously identified in this section.

TABLE 3

RE-ARREST RATE BY TERMINATION TYPE - TASC CLIENTS

<u>Client Status</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u># Arrested</u>	<u>%</u>
Program Success without Vocational Program:	152	51	33%
Program Success with successful Vocational Program Completion:	93	17	18%
Vocational Program Only:	7	4	57%
Release from Criminal Justice Hold:	27	9	33%

Of the clients who had successfully completed the TASC program but who had not participated in the TASC Vocational Program, fifty-one (51) of one hundred fifty two (152) or 33% were re-arrested. Of those clients who had

successfully completed the overall program and the vocational program, seventeen (17) of ninety-three (93) or 18% were re-arrested. Of those who successfully completed the vocational program only, four (4) out of seven (7) or 57% were re-arrested. Nine (9) of twenty-seven (27) clients or 33% of those clients released from their criminal justice hold and leaving the program of their own volition were re-arrested.

TABLE 4

LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN PROGRAM COMPLETION AND FIRST ARREST

Client Status	0-6 Months	%	6-12 Months	%	12-18 Months	%
Program Success Without Vocational Program:	37	72.6%	10	19.6%	4	7.8%
Program Success with Successful Vocational Program Completion:	8	47.1%	9	52.9%	0	-
Vocational Program Only:	1	25.0%	2	50.0%	1	25.0%
Release from Criminal Justice Hold:	9	100.0%	0	-	0	-

Of those clients successfully completing the overall program but not participating in the vocational program, thirty-seven (37) of fifty-one (51) or 72.6% were re-arrested within six (6) months of program termination, ten (10) or 19.6% were re-arrested between seven (7) and twelve (12) months of release and four (4) or 7.8% were re-arrested between thirteen (13) and eighteen (18) months of termination. Of those clients successfully completing both the

overall program and the vocational program, eight (8) of seventeen (17) or 47.1% were re-arrested between zero (0) and six (6) months of termination, and nine (9) of seventeen (17) or 52.9% were re-arrested between seven (7) and twelve (12) months of release. Of the clients completing the vocational program only, one (1) of four (4) or 25% of the re-arrests occurred zero (0) - six (6) months after termination, two (2) of four (4) or 50% occurred seven (7) - twelve (12) months after release and one (1) of four (4) or 25% occurred thirteen (13) - eighteen (18) months after termination. Of those clients released from their criminal justice hold, 100% were re-arrested within the first six (6) months of program completion.

RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

This section reflects data gathered on the three residential programs, Ozanam House, Myrick House (Ex-Offender Services Project) and Riverside House; and two non-resident programs, Advocates, Inc., and Transition, Inc. This data is somewhat more extensive than that presented for TASC clients. As previously mentioned, this is a result of the data having been collected during two separate data collection efforts.

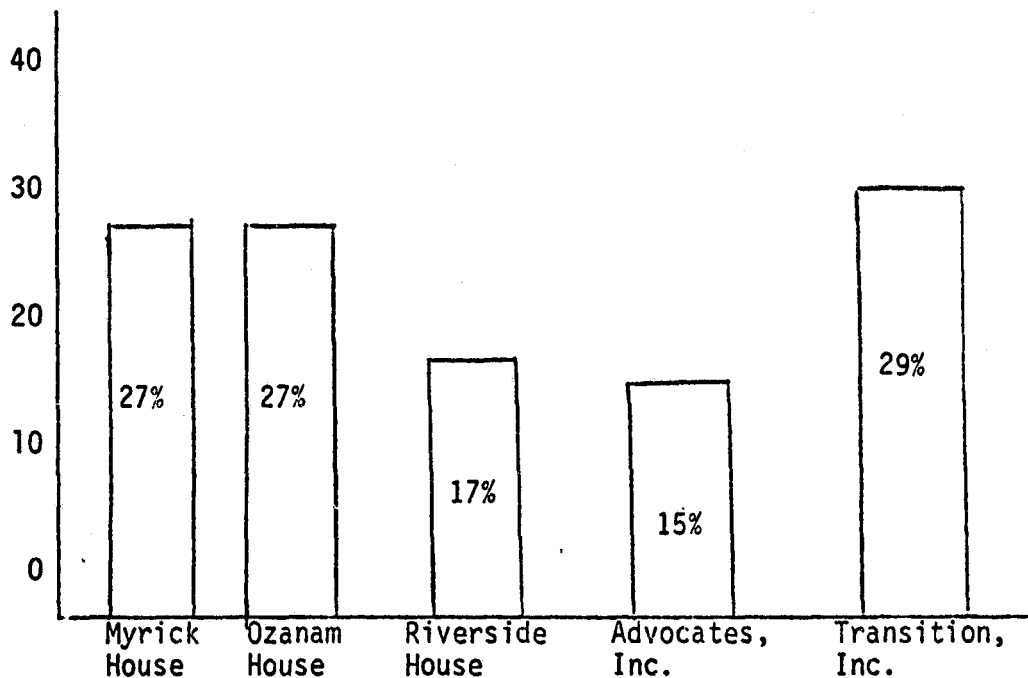
Ozanam House clients were released between February of 1974 and April of 1976. The maximum time elapsed since release was twenty-four (24) months and the average time since release was 11.2 months. Myrick House clients were released between October of 1974 and April of 1976. Maximum time elapsed since release was eighteen (18) months and the average time was 6.5 months. Riverside House clients were released between January of 1974

and April of 1976. The average length of time elapsed since release was 13.9 months and the maximum time was twenty-seven (27) months.

Advocates, Inc. clients were released between April of 1973 and April of 1976. The maximum time elapsed since release was thirty-six (36) months and the average time was 14.55 months. Transition, Inc. clients were released during the period of January of 1974 and April of 1976. The average length of time elapsed since release was 11.8 months.

TABLE 5

% OF CLIENTS RE-ARRESTED BY PROGRAM



As reflected above, Myrick House had a re-arrest rate of 26.9%, Ozanam House had a re-arrest rate of 26.5%, Riverside House had a re-arrest rate of 16.7%, Advocates, Inc.'s re-arrest rate was 15.2%, and Transition Inc.'s was 28.8%.

TABLE 6
MULTIPLE ARRESTS BY PROGRAM

# of Arrests	MYRICK		OZANAM		RIVERSIDE		ADVOCATES		TRANSITION		TOTAL	
	n	% of Agency Arrests	n	% of Agency Arrests	n	% of Agency Arrests	n	% of Agency Arrests	n	% of Agency Arrests	n	% of Total Arrests
2	2	29%	2	15%	1	17%	2	13%	3	16%	10	17%
3	1	14%	1	8%	-	-	1	7%	1	5%	4	7%
4	1	14%	1	8%	-	-	1	7%	2	11%	5	8%
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7%	1	5%	2	3%
6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7%	1	5%	2	3%
9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5%	1	2%
TOTAL	4	57%	4	31%	1	17%	6	40%	9	47%	24	40%

Myrick House had a total of four (4) clients re-arrested on multiple occasions; two (2) were re-arrested twice, one (1) three times and one (1) four times. Ozanam House also had a total of four (4) clients re-arrested on multiple occasions; two (2) were re-arrested twice, one (1) three times and (1) four times. Riverside House had one client re-arrested on two occasions. Advocates, Inc. had a total of six (6) clients re-arrested on multiple occasions; two (2) were re-arrested twice, and four (4) clients were re-arrested three, four, five and seven times, respectively. Transition, Inc. had a total of nine (9) clients re-arrested on multiple occasions; three (3) were re-arrested twice, one (1) three times, two (2) four times, and three (3) clients accounted four, five, eight and fourteen re-arrests respectively.

The percent of total agency arrests which were multiple re-arrests, by program, is reflected in Table 6. Also shown is the total number of multiple re-arrests as it compares to the total number of re-arrests.

The following table shows the agency re-arrests by type of offense.

TABLE 7

AGENCY ARRESTS BY TYPE OF OFFENSE

OFFENSE	MYRICK	OZANAM	RIVERSIDE	ADVOCATES	TRANSITION	TOTAL
<u>Misdemeanor</u>						
Breach of Peace	-	-	-	-	1	1
Consuming Alcoholic Beverage in Public	-	-	-	-	1	1
Loitering and Prowling	-	-	-	1	1	2
Malicious Vandalism	-	-	-	1	-	1
Massage Without a License	-	-	-	-	1	1
Petit Larceny	-	1	-	1	-	2
Res. Arrest Without Violence	-	-	-	2	-	2
Poss. of Marijuana	1	-	-	-	-	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	1	1	0	5	4	11

Felony

Grand Larceny	1	-	1	1	2	5
Poss. of Narcotics	1	-	-	1	-	2
Sale of Narcotics	1	-	-	-	-	1
Carrying a Concealed Firearm	-	1	-	-	1	2
Poss. Narcotic Implements	-	-	-	2	-	2
Buying, Receiving or Concealing Stolen Property	-	-	1	2	1	4
B & E Business	1	-	-	1	-	2
Violation Prob.	1	3	1	-	3	8

TABLE 7 (CONTINUED)

AGENCY ARRESTS BY TYPE OF OFFENSE

OFFENSE	MYRICK	OZANAM	RIVERSIDE	ADVOCATES	TRANSITION	TOTAL
<u>Felony (cont.)</u>						
B & E Dwelling	1	6	1	2	3	13
B & E Auto	-	-	-	-	1	1
Entering Without Breaking	-	-	-	-	1	1
Res. Arrest With Violence	-	-	-	-	1	1
Robbery	-	-	-	1	-	1
Aggravated Assault	-	-	-	-	1	1
Auto Theft	-	1	-	-	-	1
Worthless Check Felony	-	1	-	-	-	1
Uttering a Forged Instrument	-	-	-	-	1	1
Armed Robbery	-	-	1	-	-	1
Sexual Battery	-	-	1	-	-	1
TOTAL	6	12	6	10	15	49

As shown in the above Table, there were a total of sixty (60) re-arrests, eleven (11) or 18% for misdemeanor offenses and forty-nine (49) or 82% for felony offenses. Myrick House clients had a total of seven (7) arrests, one (1) or 14% for misdemeanor offenses, and six (6) or 86% for felony offenses. Ozanam House had a total of thirteen (13), one (1) or 8% for misdemeanor offenses and twelve (12) or 92% for felony offenses. One hundred percent of Riverside's re-arrests (6) were for felony offenses.

Advocates, Inc. had a total of fifteen (15) re-arrests, five (5) or 33% for misdemeanor offenses and ten (10) or 66% for felony offenses. Transition, Inc. had a total of nineteen (19) re-arrests, four (4) or 21% for misdemeanor offenses and fifteen (15) or 79% for felony offenses.

The following tables show the percentage of agency arrests occurring 0-3 months after release from the program, 4-6 months after release, 7-12 months after release, 13-18 months after release, 19-24 months after release, and 24-36 months after release.

TABLE 8

% OF AGENCY ARRESTS OCCURING 0-3 MONTHS AFTER RELEASE

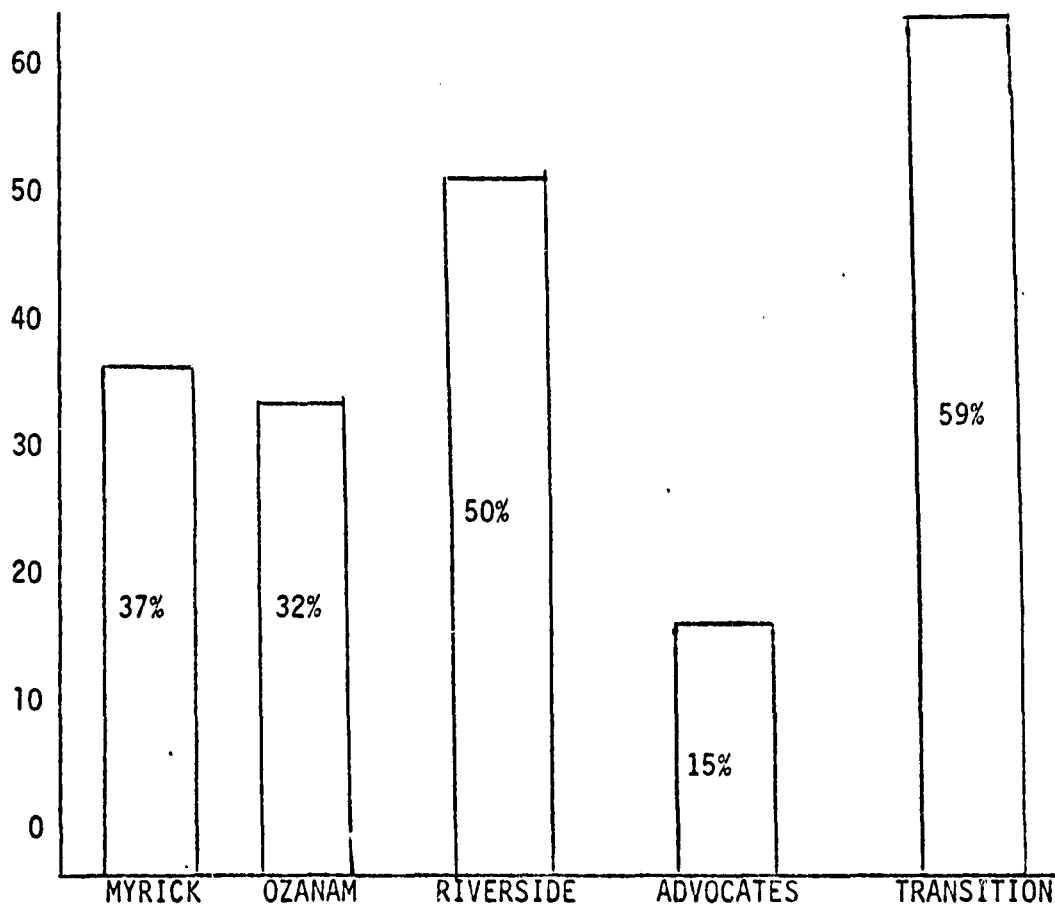


TABLE 9

% OF AGENCY ARRESTS OCCURING 4-6 MONTHS AFTER RELEASE

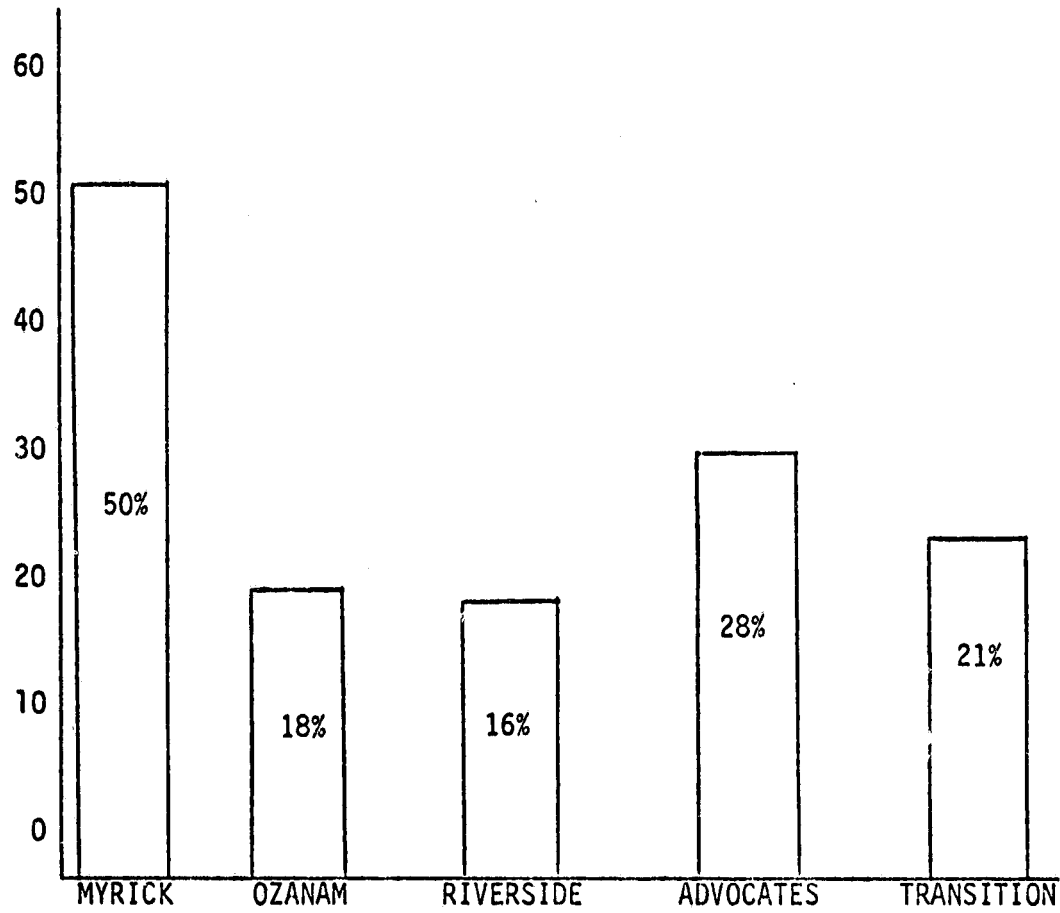


TABLE 10

% OF AGENCY ARRESTS OCCURING 7-12 MONTHS AFTER RELEASE

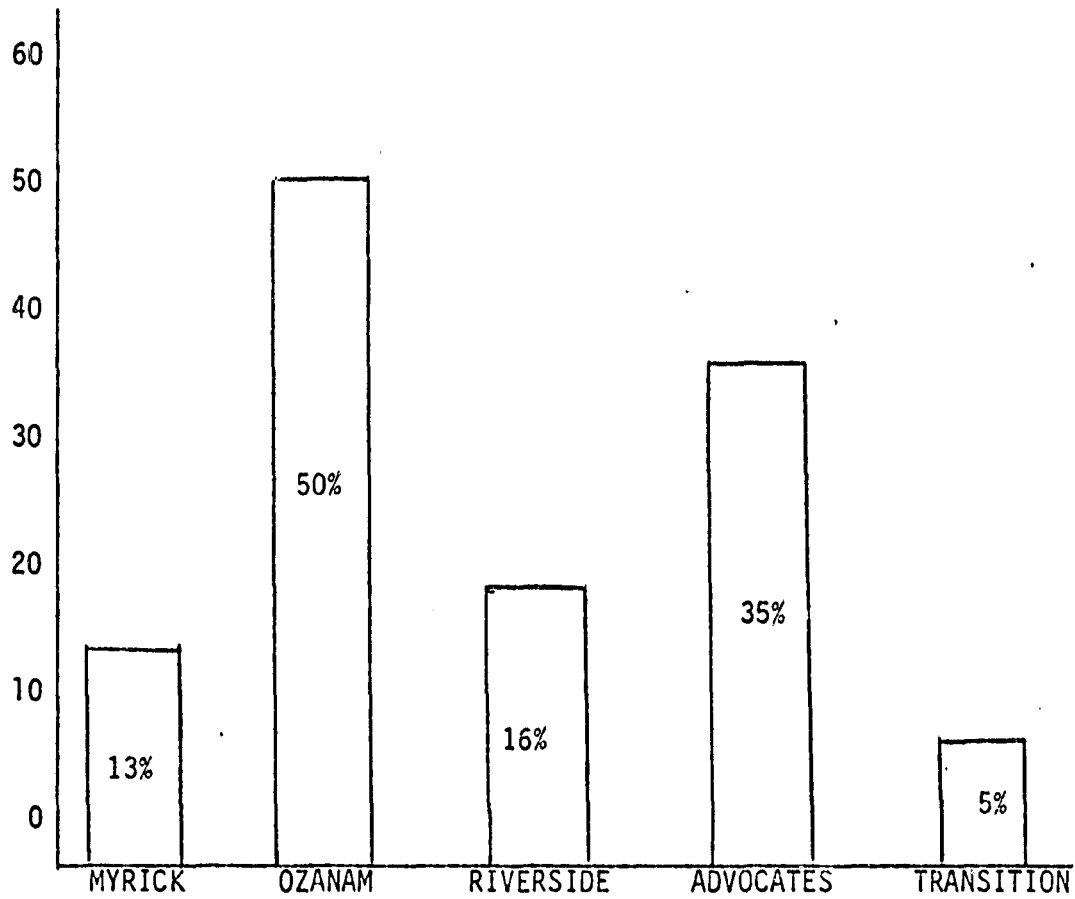


TABLE 11

% OF AGENCY ARRESTS OCCURING 13-18 MONTHS AFTER RELEASE

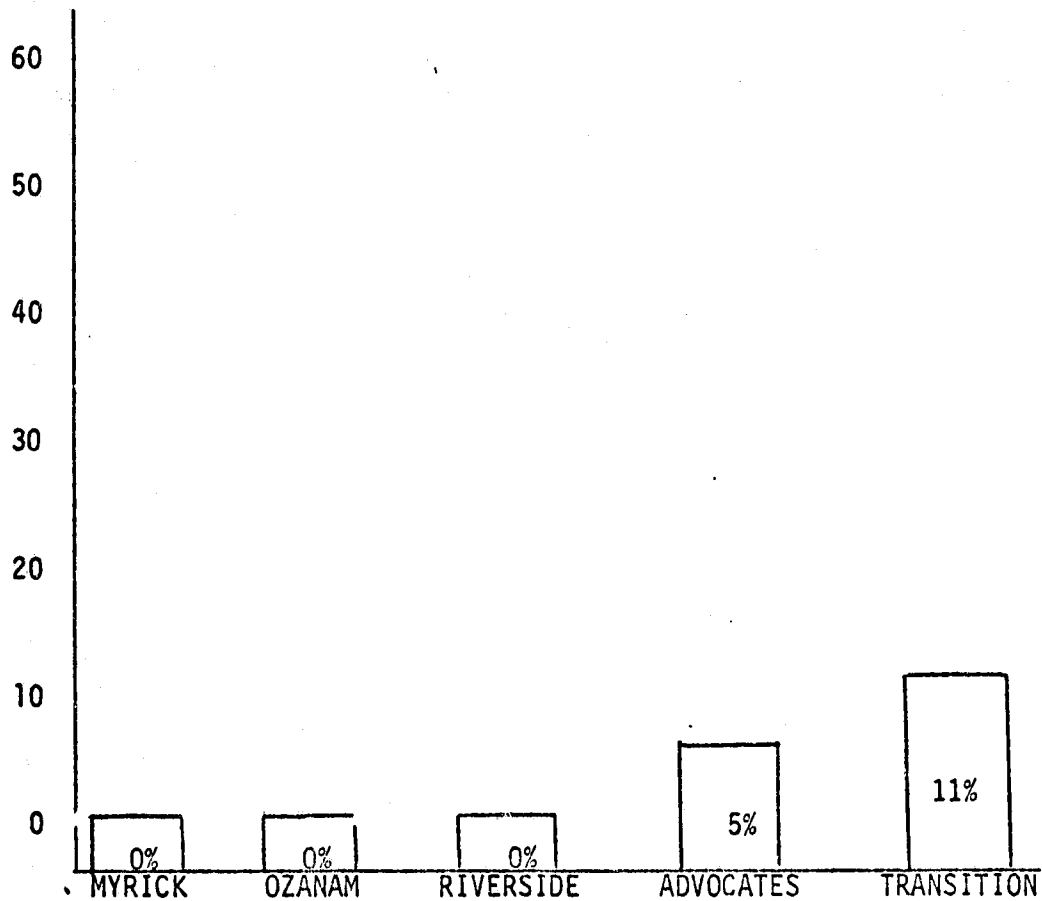


TABLE 12

% OF AGENCY ARRESTS OCCURING 19-24 MONTHS AFTER RELEASE

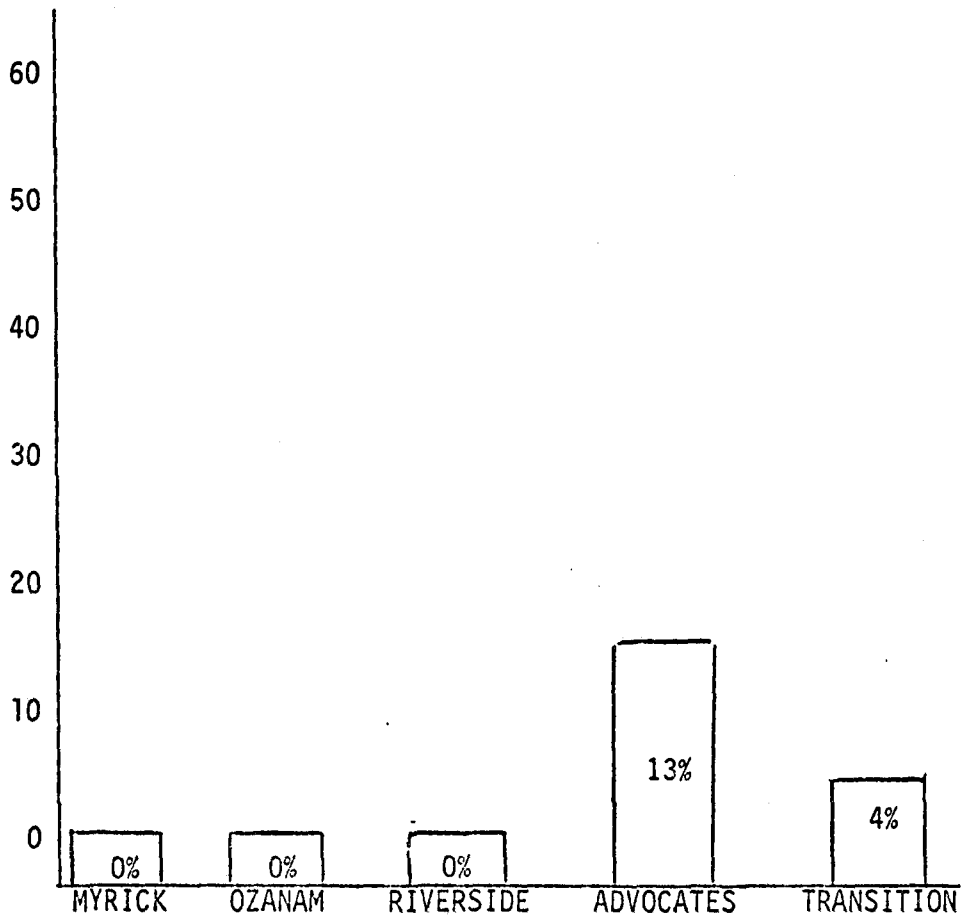
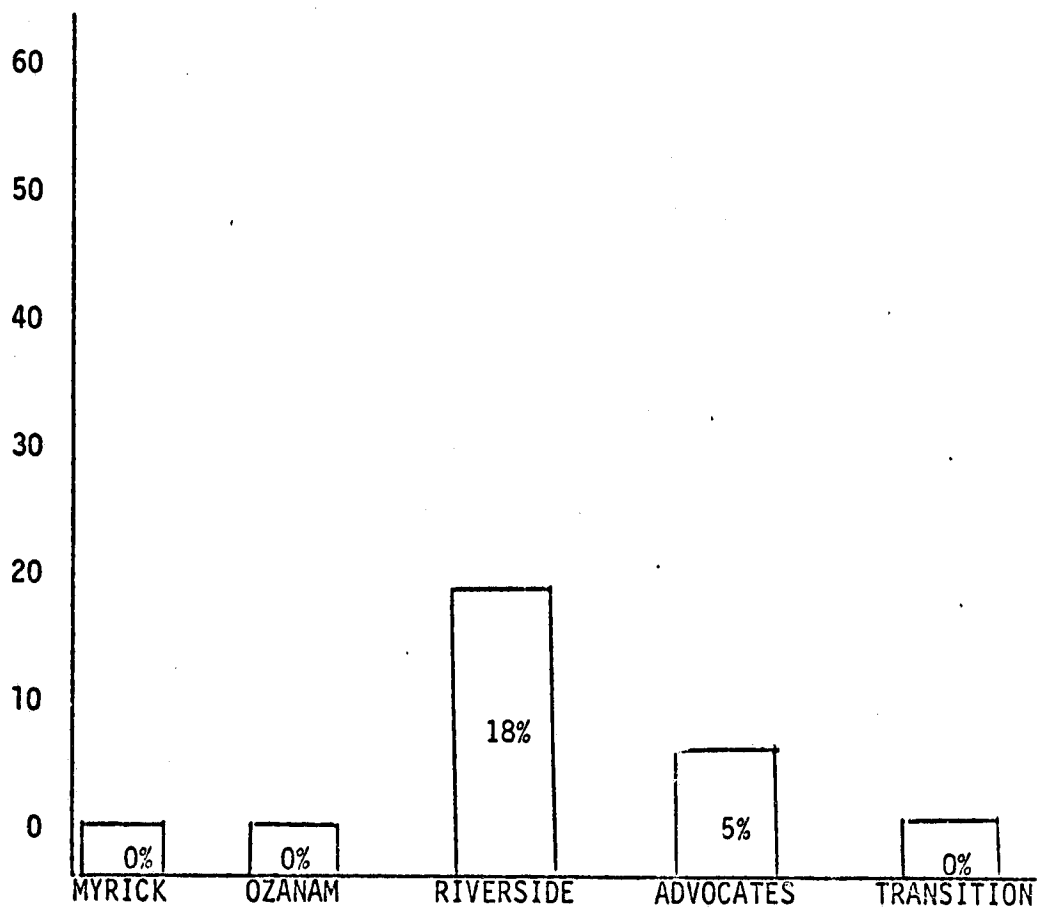


TABLE 13

% OF AGENCY ARRESTS OCCURING 24-36 MONTHS AFTER RELEASE



Myrick House clients had 37% of their re-arrests occur 0-3 months after program release, 50% 4-6 months after release and 13% 7-12 months after release. Ozanam House clients had 32% of their re-arrests occur 0-3 months after release, 18% 4-6 months after release and 50% occurred 7-12 months after release. Riverside House clients had 50% of their re-arrests occur 0-3 months after release, 16% 7-12 months after release and 18% occurred 24-36 months after release. Advocates clients had 15% of their re-arrests occur 0-3 months after release, 28% 4-6 months after release, 35% 7-12 months after release, 5% 13-18 months after release, and 5% occurred 24-36 months after release. Transition clients had 59% of their re-arrests occur 0-3 months after release, 21% 4-6 months after release, 5% 7-12 months after release, 11% 13-18 months after release and 4% 19-24 months after release.

CONCLUSIONS

This study focuses on the most familiar cohort in corrections, the release cohort. The purpose of the release cohort is to record a group's performance at specified intervals of time back in the community and to make comparisons with various baselines or standards to ascertain how well the group is performing. The information gathered should then give us a measure of how well the offender, coming into contact with our identified programs, is doing.

Our cohort is easily identifiable and consists of the clients completing the six programs identified in the Introduction: Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime Program, Myrick House Program, Riverside House Program, Ozanam House Program, the Advocates, Inc. Program and the Transition, Inc. Program. The baseline for comparison, however, is not easily obtainable.

To make a true comparison between our cohort group and the baseline population several variables would have to be common to both groups. The type of person and his background would be one, the length of time in the community after release another, the type of environment in which reintegration was taking place another, and the treatment experience the person received still another. These would be minimal requirements.

Obviously, such a comparison would not be feasible given the time and resources available to this research effort. It is due to the large amount of time and resources required that efforts such as this are not common in the field of corrections and those that occur generally deal with much smaller populations.

CONCLUSIONS (CONTINUED)

For the most part then, our study will be descriptive rather than evaluative in nature. However, we do have available a documented recidivism rate for the general offender population in Dade County during the same time period our study focused on. A comparison with this population, while not totally valid, is not without purpose. A constant question being asked by corrections programming officials in Dade County is: "Do these programs work?" This is the first attempt to provide them some hard data with which to make their own determinations.

The overall recidivism rate for offenders in Dade County was documented during the process of implementing the Career Criminal Program, through an L.E.A.A. grant, within the Dade County State Attorney's Office. The figure was derived by reading the criminal court computer file which consisted at that time of 112,812 records (entries into the criminal justice system). This showed the number of separate times a defendant entered the criminal justice system between October 1, 1972 and October 1, 1975. The overall recidivism rate was 71.5%.

The recidivism rate for the TASC clients was established to be 29% while the rate for residential and non-residential clients examined was 26%. Both figures demonstrate a drastic reduction from the above 71.5%. No doubt some of this reduction is due to differences within the client population; and one must be careful in drawing conclusions. Nevertheless, a significant reduction such as this is encouraging especially since the

CONCLUSIONS (CONTINUED)

recidivism rate of both the TASC and the non-residential and residential clients is based on arrests and not convictions.

Due to the difference in data presentation and the client populations, further discussion will be divided into two sections, one on TASC clients and the other on residential and non-residential clients examined.

TASC

TASC client population consists primarily of hard core substance abusers, the great majority of whom are already repeat offenders. In short, this client group is one with which little or no reduction in recidivism would be expected. At first glance, the overall figure of 29% recidivism for this group would seem extremely significant.

However, it must be remembered that we are dealing with successful graduates of the TASC program. Of the 3,000 clients served by the TASC Program, only 252 or 8% fell into this category. This figure is discouraging in itself even in spite of the relatively stringent criteria for successful graduation. Additionally, it is worthy to note that this program had an operating budget of approximately \$600,000 per year.

On the more positive side, the recidivism rate of those clients successfully completing both the program and TASC vocational component, was only 18%. This figure differs significantly from the overall recidivism rate for TASC clients (29%). Such a reduction points to the importance of vocational programming in any effort at rehabilitation.

RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL

The recidivism rate among the residential and non-residential programs ranged between 15% and 29%. Myrick House clients had a recidivism rate of 27%, Ozanam House clients 27%, Riverside House clients 17%, Advocates clients 15%, and Transition clients 29%. The overall recidivism rate for residential clients was 23% while the overall rate for non-residential clients was 21%.

These figures represent a significant reduction from the recidivism rate for the general offender population, previously identified as 71.5%. Although these clients were all successful completions of the residential and non-residential programs, it should be noted that over 90% of the clients entering these programs fall into this category. Additionally, it is important to remember that these recidivism rates are based on arrest rather than the actual filing of formal charges as was the case in the State Attorney's study. These figures would be significantly lower if the recidivism rate was based on conviction rather than arrest.

Myrick House, Riverside House, and Ozanam House all had recidivism rates which were almost double that of the Advocates' 15%. This reduction can be attributed in all likelihood, to the difference in target populations. The first three programs deal primarily with felony offenders, while Advocates deals exclusively with first time misdemeanor offenders. On the other hand, Riverside House, whose client population consists of felony offenders, had a recidivism rate approaching that of Advocates.

RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL (CONTINUED)

It is a valid argument that clients who were motivated enough to enter a program would be expected to have a lower recidivism rate. However, it is the opinion of this writer that such a difference would not be as significant as the one demonstrated in this study.

END