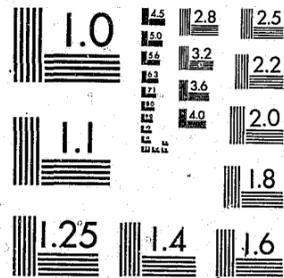


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ABSCONDING INCIDENTS IN THE
DIVISION FOR YOUTH'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS:
THE 1977 - 1978 EXPERIENCE

A technical report prepared by the
Research, Evaluation, and
Program Development Unit

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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September, 1979

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I. INTRODUCTION

The present technical report is one of two studies concerned with absconders and absconding behavior within DFY programs. This first report is based upon the AWOL incident as the primary unit of analysis rather than AWOL youth. The companion document in this series will be principally concerned with DFY absconders rather than instances of absconding behavior. The current report is designed to achieve the following goals, namely:

- to accurately describe the reported prevalence of AWOL incidents within and across DFY programs in 1977 and 1978;
- to explore the relationship between AWOL incidents and selected individual characteristics (such as age, sex, ethnicity), as well as certain "setting" characteristics (such as program "level", or region of placement); and,
- lastly, to examine correlates of AWOL duration in order to determine whether there are any individual or setting characteristics which serve to account for differences in the length of AWOL incidents.

The report is organized in the following fashion: Sections II and III provide a brief review of the overall research plan and clarify major concepts used throughout this report. Section IV is the first major substantive section; it provides a system-wide overview of all AWOL incidents (both "overstays" and "runaways") and examines basic demographic correlates of these incidents within and across major program levels. Sections V and VI are similarly organized; Section V focuses exclusively upon runaway incidents, while Section VI is concerned only with the "overstay" phenomenon. Section VII is designed as an executive summary of the major findings reported in these previous sections.

II. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Throughout this document, reference is made to: a) AWOL incidents; b) AWOL "cases"; c) AWOL "youth"; and d) AWOL occasions. Since a clear understanding of these terms is essential to the accurate interpretation of the data reported here, these terms are briefly defined below:

-- By AWOL incident, we refer to any unauthorized absence, either directly from a residential placement (a "runaway"), or indirectly through an unauthorized extension of a previously authorized leave (an "overstay"). From a strictly operational point of view, however, AWOL incidents are those unauthorized absences which have been defined as such by DFY staff and recorded on the DFY Notice of Temporary Absence Form¹;

-- An AWOL case is a facility-specific concept intended to refer to any youth within a given facility who engages in one or more unauthorized absences during a specified time period.

-- AWOL youth similarly refers to any youth who absconds once or more during a specified period;

At the facility level, an AWOL case and an AWOL youth are operationally equivalent, since in this particular instance, both represent unduplicated counts of actual youth. As data is aggregated over various facilities,

¹ An operational definition of this kind is subject to two types of classification error: on the one hand, absconding incidents may occur which are not defined as such -- or at least not recorded as such (a situation which exemplifies a Type II error, or a "false negative" classification); conversely, behavior which is erroneously defined as absconding behavior when, in fact, it is not, may also occur (resulting in a "false positive" classification, or a Type I error). Normatively, there is probably greater pressure on DFY staff to err on the side of not classifying an absconding incident as such when it should be, rather than erroneously labeling as absconding behavior, behavior which should not be so classified. Without an in-depth study of these decisions, however, it is impossible to gauge the extent of this "underclassification" tendency.

however, (at the program, district, or regional level of aggregation for example), cases will often represent a duplicated count, while the number of AWOL youth will always refer to an unduplicated count. This phenomenon simply reflects the fact that a single youngster may be responsible for several AWOL incidents in the course of a year at different facilities. That youngster, therefore, represents a case at each of the facilities in which he has absconded; as a result, when information is aggregated over multiple facilities, this single absconder will be counted as a case at each of the facilities from which he has absconded.

-- By occasion, we refer to the number of discrete time periods in a given facility during which runaway incidents occur. Hence, if three runaway incidents were to take place at a given facility, two of them on August 13, 1978, and one of them on August 27, 1978, these three incidents would represent two separate occasions: one of these occasions is a single incident occasion, and the other a multiple incident occasion.

The multiple incident occasion is of considerable interest since it may provide a rough index of the extent to which runaway incidents can be viewed as the end result of either a planned "co-conspiracy" or possible "contagion" panic. It is important to note that the multiple incident occasion as defined here is based upon one major simplifying assumption, i.e., that incidents occurring within the same facility on the same day are related, not isolated, independent events, occurring in different parts of the same facility, or at different times during the same day. Only by assuming that runaway incidents occurring within the same facility on the same day are related (e.g., that they did occur collectively in some sense), can this data be viewed as evidence of either "contagion panic", or a more rationally conceived "conspiracy". This assumption is a strong one, and should

be viewed cautiously. Current methods of recording runaway incidents, unfortunately, do not permit a more precise examination of this assumption.

As noted, two major types of AWOL incidents are examined in this paper: a) unauthorized absences occurring "directly" from a residential placement (runaways); and b) absences occurring as a result of unauthorized extensions of legitimate leaves (overstays). Once again, this distinction reflects the actual recording conventions used in the Division's Notice of Temporary Absence Form. While this distinction is an important one, it does not fully exhaust the variety of abscondings which are theoretically possible. Unauthorized absences may also occur during a supervised off-campus outing, e.g., during a recreational trip, for example; or from a temporary placement in a non-DFY residential facility, e.g., from a general or psychiatric hospital. Since these types of absconding incidents cannot be classified as such on the DFY Notice of Temporary Absence Form, all absconding incidents were necessarily recorded as either overstays or runaways. In effect, a certain portion of all AWOL incidents in each calendar year have been misclassified. The extent of this measurement error is, unfortunately, unknown at this time.

With these major organizing concepts in mind, we turn now to a brief description of the overall research plan.

III. THE RESEARCH PLAN

As noted earlier, the primary unit of analysis in this particular study is the AWOL incident². AWOL incidents selected for inclusion in this study met two distinct criteria: in the first place, these incidents must have occurred within DFY programs in calendar years 1977 or 1978; this particular criterion meant that AWOL incidents "outstanding" at the start of 1977 -- but which actually commenced prior to January 1, 1977 -- were not included in the population studied in this particular analysis.

² Departmental policy concerning AWOL incidents, and their definition are detailed in Section 181.1 of DFY Regulations; these regulations are further reviewed in The Rehabilitative Services Policy Manual, memo #20-78, August 15, 1978.

The second selection criterion is based upon the level of restrictiveness and staffing intensity of DFY programs in which AWOL incidents occurred³. All incidents occurring in DFY facilities in 1977 and 1978 were included in the study data base, with only the following exceptions: incidents in foster care placements, independent living, cooperative voluntary, or alternative residential settings, and "aftercare". Stated differently, all incidents occurring in program levels I - VI were included in the study population. There were two major reasons for excluding Levels VII and VIII from our analysis: 1) neither alternative residential or cooperative voluntary placements fall under the administrative control of DFY; and 2) incidents occurring in an "aftercare" status have a somewhat ambiguous meaning. In effect, then, these selection criteria were intended to reduce measurement error and to focus the analysis exclusively upon those residential programs falling legitimately within DFY's administrative aegis.

The basic source of data for this analysis was the population-billing file of the Division's Juvenile Contact System. As noted, archival data of this type may be subject to a variety of systematic biases stemming from the recording process itself, changes in the recording process over time, or the possibly irregular application of agency policy in defining an incident in the first place⁴. However, it is difficult to gauge the magnitude or direction of such biases without a separate study -- something not possible at this time.

The actual form of the analysis has been alluded to earlier. Briefly, univariate and bivariate analyses of AWOL incidents and their correlates are presented. Typically, these analyses proceed from a total, system-wide overview of all incidents, to a more detailed analysis of runaways and overstays. The reader interested only in the highlights of study findings should proceed to the last section of the report.

³ Chart I on the following page describes the Division's program Level system and the facilities represented in each placement level.

⁴ For an excellent discussion of archival data, its uses, and limitations see: Eugene J. Webb et. al. Unobtrusive Measures: Non-Reactive Research In The Social Sciences (Chicago: Rand McNally and Company, 1970) esp. pp 53-111.

Type of Youth and Level of Security and Service
of Division for Youth Facilities, March, 1979

Level of Facility, Type of Youngster, and Total Operational Capacity ^a	Facilities or Program Capacities	
	Facility or Program	Budgeted Capacity
<u>Secure Programs</u>		
I. Adjudicated juvenile delinquents requiring a secure facility. Operational Capacity: 183 ^a	Goshen Brookwood Bronx State Tryon ^d Under development	75 males 60 males 18 males 30 females 200 unspecified
<u>Non-Community Based Programs</u>		
II. Adjudicated juvenile delinquents requiring removal from the community to a facility with limited secure capability. Operational Capacity: 380 ^a	Industry Tryon ^d Highland Occupational Educ. Ctr. Brentwood START Middletown START ^c Camp Brace Camp McCormick ^b Bushwick Pyramid House Overbrook	120 males 80 males 35 males 20 males 20 males 40 males 40 males 30 males 50 males 50 males
III. Youth with special educational or mental health needs and who are deemed to require a limited security program. Fully Operational	Individualized Learning Center Rochester Enriched Residential Center	20 coed 10 males
IV. Youth deemed to require removal from the community but who do not require a program with secure capability. Fully Operational	Camps: Annsville Cass Nueva Vista Great Valley Special Residential Centers: Kortright Auburn South Lansing STARTS: Adirondack START Willowbrook START	60 males 50 males 60 males 60 males 50 males 20 females 45 females 20 males 20 females
<u>Community Programs</u>		
V. Youth who can remain in the community, but with potentially limited access and continuous staff support. Operational Capacity: 187 ^a	Youth Development Centers: Brooklyn New York City Bronx Syracuse Buffalo Brooklyn	47 males 50 males 50 males 27 coed 50 coed 24 females
VI. Youth deemed able to reside in the community in a residential program with staff direction. Operational Capacity: 447 ^a	All Group Homes Urban START Centers: Buffalo START New York City START #2 New York City START #7	231 males 168 females 26 males 20 males 16 males

- a. Figures are for total authorized placements; for 1978, 200 of these secure, 105 other non-community based, and 75 community based placements are in various phases of planning, acquisition, and/or construction.
- b. Additional staffing at Camp McCormick as of 12/15/77 converted this Level IV facility into a Level II facility for calendar year 1978. For calendar year 1977, Camp McCormick is treated as a Level IV facility.
- c. The Middletown START was converted to a Level II facility as of 6/22/78. Prior to its conversion, the Middletown START was a Level IV facility, and is treated as such for 1977 and 1978 calendar years in this analysis.
- d. The Tryon women's cottage is treated as a Level I facility throughout this analysis with the exception only of Tables 1.1 and 1.2, 6.1 and 6.2, and Tables 11.1 and 11.2. In these "master tables", the Tryon women's cottage is grouped with male cottages as a single Level II facility. This grouping was necessary to facilitate use of published population and census reports which treated Tryon as a single facility.

IV. AWOL INCIDENTS IN DFY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

A. An Overview of the 1977-1978 Experience

During the two year 1977-1978 time period, the volume of AWOL incidents generated within DFY residential programs diminished slightly. Within the six program levels examined, AWOL incidents numbered 1642 in 1977, and 1612 in 1978, a 1.8% drop. This overall trend obscured a number of level specific changes which merit comment.

As Tables 1.1 and 1.2 reveal, the number of AWOL incidents occurring in program levels I - IV showed absolute declines from 1977-1978. Level I programs (secure facilities) dropped from 40 to 21, a 47.5% drop; Level II - Level III programs dropped from 432 incidents in 1977 to 290 incidents in 1978, a 32.9% decline; and Level IV programs experienced an incident reduction from 710 to 621 during this same time period, a 12.5% decline. In the two major community based program levels examined, this down-trend did not hold. Within the Youth Development Centers (comprising Program Level V), AWOL incidents more than doubled in the 1977-78 time period, increasing from 80 to 167 incidents in 1978, a 108.8% increment. Likewise, Level VI DFY programs (community based programs represented principally by Urban Home facilities) increased their AWOL incident count from 380 in 1977 to 513 in 1978, a 35% increment. Summarizing briefly, overall AWOL incidents were reduced by 21.2% in the Division's secure and non-community based programs (Levels I - IV) between 1977 and 1978, but increased by 47.8% in the Division's Level V and Level VI community based programs.

Comparable trends characterize shifts in the actual number of youth going AWOL during this two-year time period. In 1977, for example, 950 youth absconded from DFY residential facilities, a figure which declined to 925 in 1978, a 2.6% reduction. Once again, this overall reduction in the number of AWOL youth tends to mask considerable variation in actual AWOL youth counts within different program levels. The Division's most restrictive residential programs (Level I facilities), experienced a 34.5% reduction in its number of AWOL youth during the 1977-78 period, dropping from 29 to 19 youth. Its non-community based, limited secure programs (Level II and Level III

facilities) dropped its AWOL youth count from 266 to 195 during this period, a 26.7% decline. Level IV programs experienced an 18.3% reduction in its numbers of AWOL youth, declining from 447 absconders in 1977 to 365 in 1978.

These pronounced downward trends in the absolute counts of AWOL youth did not hold up in the Division's major community based programs. Level V programs (the YDC's) showed a 90.9% increase in their AWOL youth counts, increasing from 66 absconders in 1977 to 126 absconders in 1978. Increases in Level VI programs (composed principally of urban homes as noted earlier) were less dramatic: in 1977 there were 261 absconders in these programs, a figure which contrasts with a 1978 count of 322 youth, a 23.4% increment over time. In summary, the overall number of absconders dropped by 28.3% in the Division's secure and non-community based programs (Levels I-IV) from 1977 to 1978, but increased by 37% in the Division's Level V and Level VI community based programs. When the experience of all six program levels is viewed collectively, the Division reduced its absconder count by 2.6% between 1977 and 1978. In short, AWOL incident and AWOL youth counts declined in the Department's non-community based, more restrictive program levels from 1977-1978; and this trend in absolute terms was reversed in the Department's community based programs, particularly in its Level V (YDC) facilities.

The descriptive data reviewed up to this point has been presented as raw frequency counts. However, more meaningful comparisons between program levels or facilities can be made by comparing rates which take into account the number of youth actually served by a given facility or program level. Clearly, any facility which dramatically expands its operating capacity from one year to the next is likely to generate greater numbers of AWOL youth and AWOL incidents, other things being equal. This is due simply to the increased number of clients who are "at risk" of absconding. By calculating standardized AWOL youth and AWOL incident rates which take into account the actual volume of youth served (and hence the numbers of those "at risk" of absconding), more valid comparisons are possible. Two such rate variables are described in columns 6 and 7 of Tables 1.1 and 1.2,

TABLE 1.1
 AWOL Incidents, AWOL Youth,
 AWOL Incident Rates, and AWOL Youth Rates:
 By Facility and Program Level, 1978

Level	Program	T1 Registered		Admits		Total Yth. Served		Total AWOL Incidents		Total AWOL Youth ^P		Total AWOL Youth Per 100 Youth Served	Total AWOL Incidents Per 100 Youth Served
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
I	<u>Secure Programs</u>												
	Goshen	61	52.6	60	50.4	121	51.5	11	52.4	11	57.9	9.1	9.1
	Brookwood	42	36.2	46	38.7	88	37.4	9	42.9	7	36.8	7.9	10.2
	Bronx State	13	11.2	13	10.9	26	11.1	1	4.8	1	5.3	3.8	3.8
	Subtotal % of Grand Total	116	100.0	119	100.0	235	100.0	21	100.0	(19)	(2.1)	8.1	8.9
II	<u>Non-Community Based</u>												
	Industry	85	28.0	152	26.4	237	30.4	140	48.3	83	42.6	35.0	59.1
	Tryon ^a	114	37.5	187	32.5	301	25.8	39	13.4	30	15.4	10.0	13.0
	Highland OEC	---	---	42	7.3	42	5.4	20	6.9	14	7.2	33.3	47.6
	Brentwood START	24	7.9	53	9.2	77	9.9	36	12.4	27	13.8	35.1	46.7
	Camp Brace	43	14.1	68	11.8	111	14.2	25	8.6	23	11.8	20.7	22.5
	Camp MacCormick	22	7.2	50	8.7	72	9.2	19	6.6	16	8.2	22.2	26.4
	Highland ILC	16	5.3	23	4.0	39	5.0	11	3.8	7	3.6	17.9	28.2
Subtotal % of Grand Total	304	100.0	575	100.0	879	100.0	290	100.0	(195)	(21.1)	22.2	33.0	
IV	<u>Camps</u>												
	Annsville	63	16.6	124	15.4	187	15.8	93	15.0	61	16.7	32.6	49.7
	Cass	53	13.9	125	15.5	178	15.0	64	10.3	46	12.6	25.8	36.0
	Nueva Vista	58	15.3	68	8.4	126	10.6	46	7.4	39	10.7	30.9	36.5
	Great Valley	60	15.8	109	13.5	169	14.2	102	16.4	66	18.1	39.0	60.4
	<u>Spec. Residential Ctrs.</u>												
	South Kortright	50	13.2	93	11.5	143	12.0	17	2.7	15	4.1	10.5	11.9
	Auburn	---	---	25	3.1	25	2.1	9	1.4	8	2.2	32.0	36.0
	South Lansing	48	12.6	118	14.6	166	14.0	186	30.0	78	21.4	47.0	112.0
	<u>START's</u>												
	Adirondack	16	4.2	58	7.2	74	6.2	5	0.8	5	1.4	6.8	6.8
	Willowbrook	15	3.9	31	3.8	46	3.9	51	8.2	23	6.3	50.0	110.9
	Middletown	17	4.5	56	6.9	73	6.1	48	7.7	34	9.3	46.6	65.7
	Subtotal % of Grand Total	380	100.0	807	100.0	1187	100.0	621	100.0	(365)	(39.5)	30.7	52.3

TABLE 1.1 (Cont.)

Level	Program	T1 Registered		Admits		Total Yth. Served		Total AWOL Incidents		Total AWOL Youth		Total AWOL Youth Per 100 Youth Served	Total AWOL Incidents Per 100 Youth Served
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
V	<u>Community Programs (YDC's)</u>												
	YDC #1 - Bronx	42	26.1	87	26.5	129	26.4	48	28.1	39	28.6	30.2	37.2
	YDC #2 - NYC	10	6.2	32	9.8	42	8.6	27	16.2	14	11.1	33.3	64.3
	YDC #3 - Brooklyn	52	32.2	90	27.4	142	29.0	18	10.8	17	11.9	12.0	12.7
	YDC #4 - Brooklyn	16	9.9	40	12.2	56	11.5	18	10.8	16	12.7	28.6	32.1
	YDC #5 - Syracuse	15	9.3	41	12.5	56	11.5	45	27.5	29	23.0	51.8	80.4
	YDC #6 - Buffalo	26	16.1	38	11.6	64	13.1	11	6.6	11	7.9	17.2	17.2
	Subtotal	161	100.0	328	100.0	489	100.0	167	100.0	(126)		25.8	34.1
	% of Grand Total		(12.1)		(12.0)		(12.1)		(10.4)		(13.6)		
VI	<u>Group Homes</u>	314	85.1	809	90.1	1123	88.6	451	88.0	284	90.4	25.3	40.2
	<u>Urban START Centers</u>												
	Buffalo START #4	24	6.5	54	4.8	67	5.3	48	9.3	27	8.4	40.3	71.6
	NYC START #2	20	5.4	35	3.9	55	4.3	9	1.7	9	2.8	16.4	16.4
	NYC START #7	11	3.0	11	1.2	22	1.7	5	1.0	3	0.9	13.6	22.7
	Subtotal	369	100.0	898	100.0	1267	100.0	513	100.0	(322)		25.4	40.5
	% of Grand Total		(27.7)		(32.9)		(31.2)		(31.8)		(34.8)		
	GRAND TOTAL	<u>1330</u>		<u>2727</u>		<u>4057</u>		<u>1612</u>		<u>(925)</u>		<u>22.8</u>	<u>39.7</u>

- a. Tryon is treated in this table as a single Level II facility in order to facilitate the use of available population data.
b. Subtotal frequencies do not always reflect the simple summation of facility specific frequencies, nor do the facility specific percentages always sum to 100%. This is due to the distinction between "cases" and "youth" at the Program and system-wide level.

TABLE 1,2
 AWOL Incidents, AWOL Youth,
 AWOL Incident Rates, and AWOL Youth Rates:
 By Facility and Program Level, 1977

Level	Program	T1 Registered		Admits		Total Yth. Served		Total AWOL Incidents		Total AWOL Youth ^b		Total AWOL Youth Per 100 Youth Served	Total AWOL Incidents Per 100 Youth Served
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
I	<u>Secure Programs</u>												
	Goshen	31	43.1	82	51.6	113	48.9	15	37.5	12	41.4	10.6	13.3
	Brookwood	36	50.0	64	40.3	100	43.3	22	55.0	15	51.7	15.0	22.0
	Bronx State	5	6.9	13	8.2	18	7.8	3	7.5	2	6.9	11.1	16.7
	Subtotal	72	100.0	159	100.0	231	100.0	40	100.0	(29)		12.5	17.3
	% of Grand Total		(5.1)		(5.5)		(5.3)		(2.4)		(3.1)		
II	<u>Non-Community Based</u>												
	Industry	151	36.4	171	33.7	322	34.9	206	47.7	117	44.0	36.3	64.0
	Tryon ^a	134	32.3	158	31.1	292	31.6	78	18.1	64	24.1	21.9	26.7
	Highland OEC	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Brentwood START	10	2.4	64	12.6	74	8.0	73	16.9	40	15.0	54.0	98.6
	Camp Brace	41	9.9	87	17.1	128	13.9	63	14.6	41	15.4	32.0	49.2
III	Highland ILC	---	---	21	4.1	21	2.3	2	0.5	2	0.8	9.5	9.5
	Warwick	79	19.0	7	1.4	86	9.3	10	2.3	8	3.8	9.3	11.6
	Subtotal	415	100.0	508	100.0	923	100.0	432	100.0	(266)		28.8	46.8
	% of Grand Total		(29.3)		(17.5)		(21.3)		(26.3)		(28.0)		
IV	<u>Camps</u>												
	Annsville	53	12.3	119	12.9	172	12.7	77	10.8	53	12.6	30.8	44.8
	Cass	59	13.7	136	14.8	195	14.4	98	13.8	67	15.9	34.4	50.3
	Nueva Vista	34	7.9	72	7.8	106	7.8	36	5.1	27	6.4	25.5	34.0
	Great Valley	64	14.8	135	14.7	199	14.7	121	17.0	73	17.3	36.7	60.8
	MacCormick	51	11.8	66	7.2	117	8.7	31	4.4	25	5.9	21.4	26.5
	<u>Spec. Residential Ctrs.</u>												
	South Kortright	53	12.3	95	10.3	148	10.9	39	5.5	31	7.3	20.9	26.3
	Auburn	5	1.2	12	1.3	17	1.3	10	1.4	5	1.2	29.4	58.8
	South Lansing	56	13.0	145	15.8	201	14.9	173	24.4	87	20.6	43.3	86.1
	<u>START's</u>												
	Adirondack	19	4.4	43	4.7	62	4.6	27	3.8	18	4.3	29.0	43.5
	Willowbrook	17	3.9	41	4.5	58	4.3	53	7.5	30	7.1	51.7	91.4
	Middletown	21	4.9	56	6.1	77	5.7	45	6.3	31	7.3	40.3	58.4
	Subtotal	432	100.0	920	100.0	1352	100.0	710	100.0	(422)		31.2	52.5
	% of Grand Total		(30.6)		(31.6)		(31.3)		(43.2)		(44.4)		

TABLE 1.2 (Cont.)

Level	Program	T1 Registered		Admits		Total Yth. Served		Total AWOL Incidents		Total AWOL Youth		Total AWOL Youth Per 100 Youth Served	Total AWOL Incidents Per 100 Youth Served
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
V	<u>Community Programs (YDC's)</u>												
	YDC #1 - Bronx	37	28.0	108	30.6	145	29.9	3	3.8	3	4.5	2.1	2.1
	YDC #2 - NYC	21	15.9	27	7.6	48	9.9	22	27.5	18	27.3	37.5	45.8
	YDC #3 - Brooklyn	38	28.8	115	32.6	153	31.5	39	48.8	34	51.5	22.2	25.5
	YDC #4 - Brooklyn	7	5.3	31	8.8	38	7.8	5	6.3	4	6.1	10.5	13.2
	YDC #5 - Syracuse	6	4.5	37	10.5	43	8.9	8	10.0	6	9.1	13.9	18.6
	YDC #6 - Buffalo	23	17.4	35	9.9	58	12.0	3	3.8	3	4.5	5.2	5.2
	Subtotal	132	100.0	353	100.0	485	100.0	80	100.0	(66)		13.6	16.5
	% of Grand Total		(9.3)		(12.1)		(11.2)		(4.9)		(6.9)		
VI	<u>Group Homes</u>	363	100.0	824	84.9	1187	89.0	330	86.8	232	88.9	19.5	27.8
	<u>Urban START Centers</u>												
	Buffalo START #4	---	---	64	6.6	64	4.8	34	8.9	23	8.8	35.9	53.1
	NYC START #2	---	---	50	5.2	50	3.8	8	2.1	5	1.9	10.0	16.0
	NYC START #7	---	---	32	3.3	32	2.4	8	2.1	6	2.3	18.8	25.0
	Subtotal	363	100.0	970	100.0	1333	100.0	380	100.0	(261)		19.6	28.5
	% of Grand Total		(25.7)		(33.3)		(30.8)		(23.1)		(27.5)		
	GRAND TOTAL	<u>1414</u>		<u>2910</u>		<u>4324</u>		<u>1642</u>		<u>(950)</u>		<u>22.0</u>	<u>38.0</u>

- a. Tryon is treated in this table as a single Level II facility in order to facilitate the use of available population data.
b. Subtotal frequencies do not always reflect the simple summation of facility specific frequencies, nor do the facility specific percentages always sum to 100%. This is due to the distinction between "cases" and "youth" of the program and system-wide level.

the number of AWOL incidents generated per 100 youth served, and the number of youth AWOL per 100 youth served.

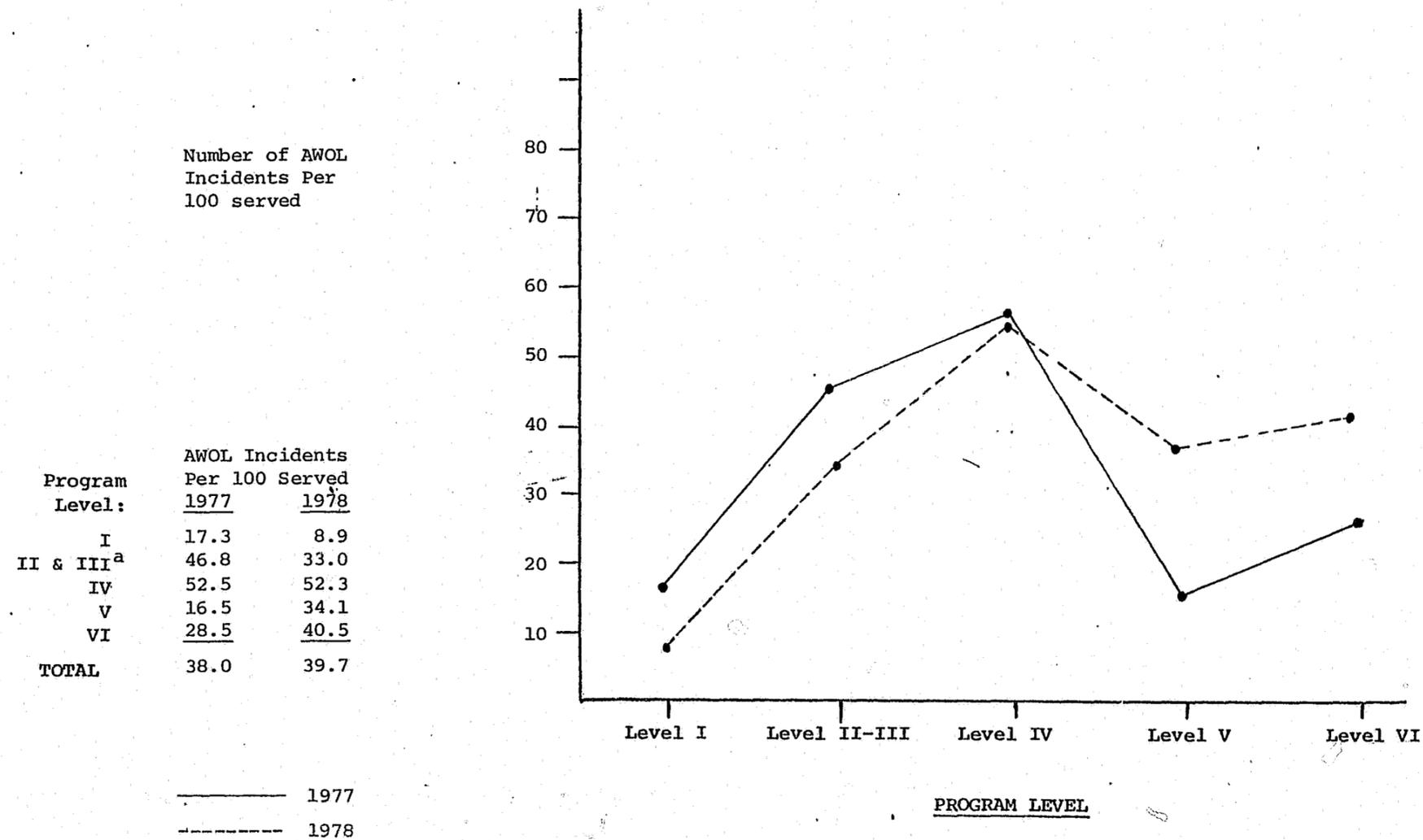
As Charts 2 and 3 graphically illustrate, both the AWOL incident rate, as well as the AWOL youth rate increased very slightly during this time period. The AWOL incident rate per 100 youth served increased from 38 incidents to 39.7 incidents in 1978, a 4.5% rise. The AWOL youth rate showed a similar uptrend, rising slightly from 22.0 youth AWOL per 100 served in 1977 to 22.8 youth AWOL per 100 served in 1978, a 3.6% increment. In both instances, the slight system-wide rate increases were attributable to appreciable upward shifts in the Department's Level V and Level VI program categories and to shifts downward in the Division's non-community based programs.

Close inspection of Charts II and III reveals that Level V facilities (the Youth Development Centers) roughly doubled their AWOL youth and incident rates during the 1977-1978 period. Level VI (urban home) facilities also showed appreciable increases in these rate variables, reaching AWOL youth and AWOL incident rate levels in 1978 of 25.4 per 100 served and 40.5 per 100 served respectively. In the Division's restrictive and non-community based programs, on the other hand, AWOL incident and AWOL youth rates per 100, showed strong decreases: Level I (secure center) programs dropped their overall incident rates from 17.3 to 8.9 per 100 (a 48.6% reduction) and their youth AWOL rates from 12.5 to 8.1 per 100 (a 35.2% drop); Level II-III programs (limited secure programs for youngsters with special needs) dropped their overall incident rates from 46.8 to 33.0 (a 29.5% drop), and their overall youth AWOL rates from 28.8 to 22.2 (a 22.9% drop). Finally, the Division's Level IV programs experienced very slight declines during this period, dropping their incident rates from 52.5 per 100 to 42.3 per 100, and their AWOL youth rate from 31.2 to 30.7 per 100.

There are two additional points worthy of note in passing:

- 1) First, although AWOL incident and AWOL youth rates per 100 increased appreciably in Level V and Level VI programs, their 1978 rates do NOT, in fact, compare

Chart II
 AWOL Incident Rates in 1977 and 1978: by Program Level

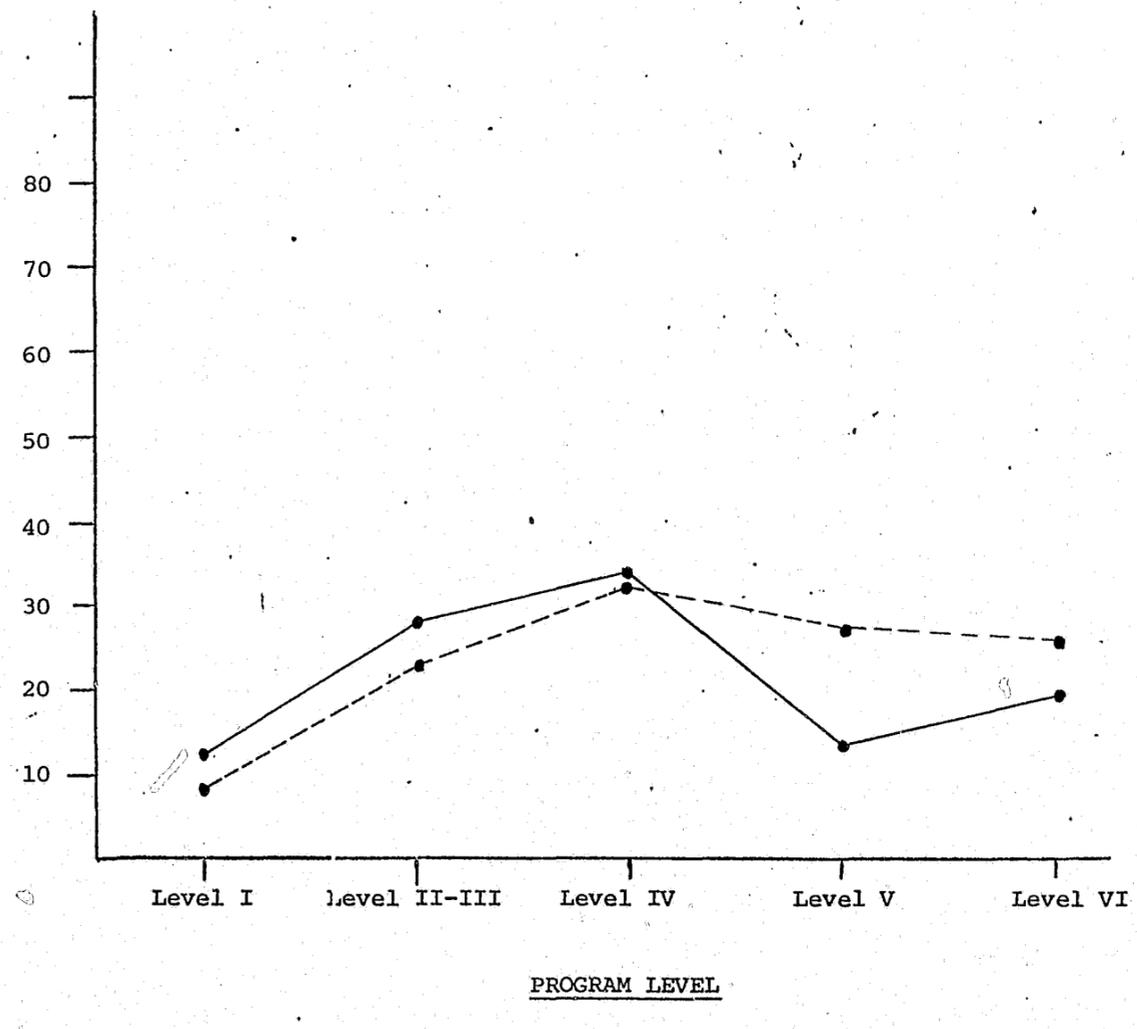


a. The Tryon women's cottage is treated as a Level II facility in this chart.

Chart III
Youth AWOL Rates in 1977 and 1978: by Program Level

Number of AWOL
Youth Per 100
Youth Served

Program Level:	1977	1978
I	12.9	8.1
II & III ^a	28.8	22.2
IV	31.2	30.7
V	13.6	25.8
VI	19.6	25.4
TOTAL	22.0	22.8



a. The Tryon women's cottage is treated as a Level II facility in this chart.

unfavorably with rates for other program levels. This phenomenon has a simple explanation. In 1977, these Level V and Level VI programs had the lowest AWOL youth and AWOL incident rates in the Division (with the sole exception of Level I programs). Their poorer 1978 performance, therefore, only served to bring them in line with the performance of other program levels.

- 2) Secondly, Level I facilities (the most restrictive settings administered by the Division) continued to experience the lowest absconder and absconding rates per 100 within DFY. In 1978, for example, there were 8.9 AWOL incidents for every 100 youth served in these facilities, and only 8.1 absconders per 100 youth served, rates which clearly set these facilities in a class apart.

B. Basic Demographics, 1977-1978

We turn now to a descriptive analysis of AWOL incidents and their demographic characterization. Tables 2.1 and 2.2 summarize findings for selected demographic variables, by program level, for 1977 and 1978. An examination of row totals in each table provides a quick overview of the overall incident distribution (over all program levels) for any given demographic variable. In reviewing these tables, the reader is reminded that these tables are based upon absconding incidents, not absconding youth.

In both 1977 and 1978, AWOL incidents attributable to Juvenile Delinquent or PINS youngsters accounted for approximately 85% of Division-wide incident totals. In 1977, Juvenile Delinquent and PINS generated AWOL incidents accounted for 63.2% and 22.8% of Division-wide incidents respectively, a pattern which remained virtually unchanged in 1978, as well. There were several level-specific trends, however, which did not reflect Division-wide patterns: a) In 1977, for example, incidents attributable to Juvenile Delinquent youngsters

TABLE 2.1
AWOL Incidents:
Basic Demographic Characteristics
By Program Level, 1978

	PROGRAM LEVEL												TOTAL ^a	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI		#	%	#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%				
ADJUDICATION														
Juvenile Offender	0	0.0	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1		
Restrictive Juvenile Delinquent	6	20.7	5	1.8	4	0.6	5	3.0	1	0.2	21	1.3		
Juvenile Delinquent	21	72.4	255	90.4	411	66.2	106	63.5	225	43.9	1018	63.2		
Other Court Related	0	0.0	11	3.9	27	4.3	12	7.2	40	7.8	90	5.6		
PINS	0	0.0	5	1.8	153	24.6	28	16.8	183	35.7	369	22.9		
None	2	6.9	5	1.8	26	4.2	16	9.6	64	12.5	113	7.0		
Column Total	29	100.0	282	100.0	621	100.0	167	100.0	513	100.0	1612	100.0		
SEX														
Male	21	72.4	278	98.6	416	67.1	144	86.2	322	63.4	1181	73.5		
Female	8	27.6	4	1.4	204	32.9	23	13.8	186	36.6	425	26.5		
Column Total	29	100.0	282	100.0	620	100.0	167	100.0	508	100.0	1606	100.0		
ETHNICITY														
White	10	34.5	110	39.0	324	52.7	34	20.4	304	59.4	782	48.7		
Black	15	51.7	127	45.0	216	35.1	89	53.3	136	26.6	583	36.3		
Puerto Rican	3	10.3	40	14.2	68	11.1	42	25.1	47	9.2	200	12.5		
American Indian	0	0.0	4	1.4	4	0.7	0	0.0	17	3.3	25	1.6		
Other Hispanic	1	3.4	1	0.4	3	0.5	2	1.2	8	1.6	15	0.9		
Column Total	29	100.0	282	100.0	615	100.0	167	100.0	512	100.0	1605	100.0		
AGE														
12	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	1.3	0	0.0	7	1.4	15	0.9		
13	0	0.0	8	2.9	46	7.4	6	3.6	16	3.1	76	4.7		
14	0	0.0	34	12.1	144	23.2	29	17.4	75	14.6	282	17.5		
15	9	31.0	118	41.8	215	34.6	68	40.7	167	32.6	577	35.8		
16	15	51.7	104	36.9	171	27.5	52	31.1	180	35.1	522	32.4		
17	5	17.2	18	6.4	32	5.2	12	7.2	65	12.7	132	8.2		
18	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.8	0	0.0	3	0.6	8	0.5		
Column Total	29	100.0	282	100.0	621	100.0	167	100.0	513	100.0	1612	100.0		
REFERRAL SOURCE														
Self-Referred	0	0.0	5	1.8	26	4.2	14	8.4	48	9.4	93	5.8		
Family Court Referred	28	96.6	271	96.1	570	91.8	145	86.8	399	77.8	1413	87.7		
Other Court Related	1	3.4	6	2.1	25	4.0	8	4.8	66	12.9	106	6.6		
Column Total	29	100.0	282	100.0	621	100.0	167	100.0	513	100.0	1612	100.0		

a. Marginal totals will not always sum to 1612, since unreported information is treated as missing and such cases are excluded from the analysis.

TABLE 2.2
AWOL Incidents:
Basic Demographic Characteristics
By Program Level, 1977

	PROGRAM LEVEL												TOTAL ^a	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI		#	%		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%				
ADJUDICATION														
Restrictive Juvenile Delinquent	1	1.7	10	2.4	2	0.3	1	1.3	2	0.5	16	1.0		
Juvenile Delinquent	55	91.7	350	85.0	424	59.7	58	72.5	150	39.5	1037	63.2		
Other Court Related	2	3.3	9	2.2	55	7.7	4	5.0	21	5.5	91	5.5		
PINS	0	0.0	20	4.9	186	24.6	11	13.8	158	41.6	375	22.8		
None	2	3.3	23	5.6	43	6.1	6	7.5	49	12.9	123	7.5		
Column Total	60	100.0	412	100.0	710	100.0	80	100.0	380	100.0	1642	100.0		
SEX														
Male	40	66.7	407	98.8	505	71.2	73	91.3	208	55.3	1233	75.3		
Female	20	33.3	5	1.2	204	28.8	7	8.8	168	44.7	404	24.7		
Column Total	60	100.0	412	100.0	709	100.0	80	100.0	376	100.0	1637	100.0		
ETHNICITY														
White	34	56.7	173	42.2	445	63.0	6	7.6	219	59.2	877	54.0		
Black	23	38.3	187	45.6	187	26.5	66	83.5	114	30.8	577	35.5		
Puerto Rican	3	5.0	46	11.2	59	8.4	7	8.9	23	6.2	138	8.5		
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	1	0.1		
American Indian	0	0.0	3	0.7	9	1.3	0	0.0	12	3.2	24	1.5		
Other Hispanic	0	0.0	1	0.2	6	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.3	8	0.5		
Column Total	60	100.0	410	100.0	706	100.0	79	100.0	370	100.0	1625	100.0		
AGE														
11	0	0.0	3	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.2		
12	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.6	2	2.5	1	0.3	7	0.4		
13	0	0.0	19	4.6	24	3.4	2	2.5	19	5.0	64	3.9		
14	11	18.3	63	15.3	153	21.5	13	16.3	65	17.1	305	18.6		
15	23	38.3	158	38.3	291	41.0	35	43.8	137	36.1	644	39.2		
16	21	35.0	151	36.7	183	25.8	21	26.3	114	30.0	490	29.8		
17	5	8.3	17	4.1	53	7.5	7	8.8	39	10.3	121	7.4		
18	0	0.0	1	0.2	2	0.3	0	0.0	5	1.3	8	0.5		
Column Total	60	100.0	412	100.0	710	100.0	80	100.0	380	100.0	1642	100.0		
REFERRAL SOURCE														
Self-Referred	6	10.0	11	2.7	40	5.6	8	10.0	49	12.9	114	6.9		
Family Court Referred	51	85.0	381	92.5	593	83.5	65	81.3	280	73.7	1370	83.4		
Other Court Related	3	5.0	20	4.9	77	10.8	7	8.8	51	13.4	158	9.6		
Column Total	60	100.0	412	100.0	710	100.0	80	100.0	380	100.0	1642	100.0		

a. Marginal totals will not always sum to 1642, since unreported information is treated as missing, and such cases are excluded from the analysis.

in Level I and Level II-III programs accounted for 91.7% and 85% of the overall incident counts occurring in these programs -- figures substantially higher than the Division-wide norm of 63.2%; b) while restrictively placed Juvenile Delinquents accounted for only 1.4% (n=1) of the abscondings occurring in Level I programs in 1977 (a figure which mirrored very closely the Division-wide experience), this figure had risen to 20.7% by 1978 (n=6) and was sharply at variance with the 1978 Division-wide comparison figure of 1.3%.

76% ID in system

In 1977 and 1978, male youth accounted for 75.3% and 73.5% of Division-wide incident totals. There was substantial departure from these Division-wide norms within at least two major program levels. In both 1977 and 1978, for example, Level II-III placed males accounted for over 98% of the incident counts generated in these facilities, figures which contrast sharply with the Division-wide sex distributions cited earlier. In Level IV facilities, too, males appeared to be over-represented in comparison to statewide trends. In these facilities, male youngsters accounted for 91.3% and 86.2% of the AWOL incident counts in 1977 and 1978 respectively, percentage figures appreciably higher than statewide comparison figures in both years. Actual distributional changes, or shifts in the sex distribution of AWOL incidents over time were virtually negligible, with only one exception: the Level VI community based urban home programs. Between 1977 and 1978, the AWOL incidents attributable to female youth had increased as a percentage of all incidents in these programs from 36.6% to 44.7%, an appreciable upturn.

97% male in system

A more significant finding concerns distributional shifts by youngster ethnicity. Two points in particular merit emphasis:

- 1) First, overall percentage distributions reveal only modest changes from 1977 to 1978. In 1977, for instance, 54%, 35.5% and 8.5% of all AWOL incidents occurring in that year were attributable to Whites, Blacks, and Puerto Rican youngsters, respectively; in 1978, comparison figures for these ethnic groups were 48.7%, 36.3%, and 12.5%. In short, Division-

wide distributional shifts based upon ethnicity were small, with whites showing a modest decrease (5.3%); Puerto Ricans, a modest increase (4%); and Blacks, evidencing minimal change.

- 2) Although the ethnic pattern of Division-wide absconding incidents remained relatively stable from 1977 to 1978, changes in the ethnic patterns of AWOL incidents were more appreciable in certain program levels. Careful scrutiny of Tables 2.1 and 2.2 reveal the following:

- a) In 1977, White, Black, and Puerto Rican youngsters accounted for 63%, 26.5%, and 8.4% of the AWOL incidents occurring in the Division's Level IV programs (e.g., non-community based programs without secure capability); by 1978, however, White youngsters accounted for only 52.7% of the incident volume (a 10.3% decrease); Black youngsters, for 35.1% (an 8.6% increase); and Puerto Rican youngsters, for 11.1% (a 2.7% increase);

More shifts in facilities

- b) In 1977, White, Black, and Puerto Rican youngsters accounted for roughly 7.6%, 83.5% and 8.9% respectively of the abscondings which took place in Division Level V programs (all community based, youth development centers). In 1978 by contrast, Whites accounted for 20.4% of the abscondings in YDC's (a 12.8% increase); Blacks, 53.5% of the total YDC volume (a 29.8% decrease); and Puerto Ricans, 25.1% of the entire Level V AWOL activity (a 16.2% increase).

Changes in the distributional character of abscondings by youngster public assistance status and legal status were largely negligible over the 1977-1978 period. Changes in the age distributions of AWOL incidents also showed virtually no change from 1977-1978. In both years, roughly 70% of the total incident volume was attributable to the Division's 15 and 16 year old youngsters. Changes in the referral patterns of AWOL incidents were also quite modest. In both 1977 and

1978, family court-referred youngsters accounted for the overwhelming share of all AWOL activity, e.g., 83.4% in 1977 and 87.7% in 1978. Self-referred youngsters on the other hand, continued to account for a miniscule portion of all abscondings, generating only 6 to 7% of the incident volume in both years. Program level departures from this Division-wide pattern were similarly modest and in the anticipated direction in both years; that is, the less restrictive the program setting, the higher the percentage of incidents attributable to self-referred youngsters. This trend was reversed, as expected with family court-referred youth; i.e., the more restrictive the placement, the higher the percentage of absconding incidents attributable to family-court-referred youngsters.

C. Duration of AWOL Incidents: The 1977-1978 Experience

Since the correlates of AWOL duration will be separately analyzed for both overstays and runaways, only summary findings are described here. In 1977, the median duration of all AWOL incidents occurring in Level I - Level VI facilities was 8.9 days; stated differently, approximately 50% of the AWOL incidents which occurred that year were less than 9 days long and 50% were longer than 9 days. In 1978, the median length of AWOL incidents had dropped substantially to 6.0 days, a 32.6% reduction.

Tables 3.1 and 3.2 further reveal that the 1977-1978 Division-wide reduction in the median length of unauthorized absences, was reflected in every program level but one, the Division's secure center programs. In the Level I secure center programs, for example, the median length of AWOL incident rose from 14.5 to 18.5 days between 1977 and 1978, a 27.6% increase. The reductions occurring in median AWOL duration in program levels II through VI were particularly pronounced in the Division's community based programs (Levels V and VI), as well as its limited secure programs (Level II-III). The median duration of the AWOL incidents occurring in YDC programs (Level V), for example, dropped 53.7%, from 24.2 days in 1977 to 11.2 days in 1978. Level VI programs (composed principally of urban homes) showed a marked reduction in AWOL duration as well, dropping from 7 to 4.2 days

TABLE 3.1
Duration of AWOL Incidents
By Program Level, 1978^a

LENGTH OF ABSENCE	PROGRAM LEVEL										TOTAL	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
0 Days	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.8	4	0.3
1 Day	0	0.0	57	21.5	140	23.0	26	16.5	122	24.4	345	22.1
2 - 3 Days	4	14.3	33	12.5	102	16.8	19	11.9	106	21.2	264	16.9
4 - 7 Days	1	3.6	34	12.8	98	16.1	21	13.2	83	16.6	237	15.2
8 - 15 Days	6	21.4	44	16.6	63	10.4	20	12.6	62	12.4	195	12.5
16 - 30 Days	11	39.3	38	14.3	62	10.2	16	10.1	65	13.0	192	12.3
31 - 60 Days	3	10.7	27	10.2	57	9.4	22	13.8	31	6.2	140	9.0
61 - 90 Days	2	7.1	13	4.9	27	4.4	7	4.4	13	2.6	62	4.0
91+ Days	1	3.6	19	7.2	59	9.7	28	17.6	13	2.6	120	7.7
TOTAL	28	100.0	265	100.0	608	100.0	159	100.0	499	100.0	1559	100.0
Median Duration	18.5		9.3		5.6		11.2		4.2		6.0	

a. Cases lacking either a beginning or ending absence data are treated as missing, and excluded from the analysis.

TABLE 3.2
Duration of AWOL Incidents
By Program Level, 1977^a

LENGTH OF ABSENCE	PROGRAM LEVEL										TOTAL	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
0 Days	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	0.4
1 Day	5	8.3	36	8.7	133	18.8	7	8.9	53	14.0	234	14.3
2 - 3 Days	15	25.0	38	9.2	128	18.1	13	16.5	72	19.0	266	16.2
4 - 7 Days	2	3.3	63	15.3	102	14.4	7	8.9	77	20.3	251	15.3
8 - 15 Days	8	13.3	53	12.9	106	15.0	5	6.3	60	15.8	232	14.2
16 - 30 Days	8	13.3	67	16.3	81	11.5	13	16.5	51	13.5	220	13.4
31 - 60 Days	7	11.7	54	13.1	61	8.6	13	16.5	39	10.3	174	10.6
61 - 90 Days	4	6.7	35	8.5	41	5.8	11	13.9	13	3.4	104	6.4
91+ Days	11	18.3	66	16.0	48	6.8	10	12.7	14	3.7	149	9.1
TOTAL	60	100.0	412	100.0	707	100.0	79	100.0	379	100.0	1637	100.0
Median Duration	14.5		17.8		6.8		24.2		7.0		8.9	

a. Cases lacking either a beginning or ending absence date are excluded from the analysis.

median duration, a 40% drop. The Division's Level II-III limited secure programs also experienced a substantial (47.8%) drop in their median AWOL length, dropping from 17.8 to 9.3 days median duration. Summarizing, then, the Division experienced appreciable reductions in the duration of AWOL incidents in program levels II through VI from 1977 to 1978.

Figure 1 immediately below summarizes the 1977-1978 experience of all program levels simultaneously, with respect to both: a) percent changes in their youth AWOL rates per 100 youth served; and b) percent changes in the median duration of AWOL incidents. This figure more clearly highlights a number of paradoxes in the data discussed up to this point:

Figure 1:
Percent Changes in AWOL Youth Rates
and Median AWOL Duration Between
1977 and 1978, By Program Level

<u>% Change: 1977-1978</u>	I	II-III	IV	V	VI
% Change in AWOL Youth Rate	-35.2	-22.9	-1.6	+89.7	+29.6
% Change in Median AWOL Duration	+27.6	-47.8	-17.6	-53.7	-40.0

Note, for example, that both of the community based program levels (Levels V and VI) experienced the greatest increases in their youth AWOL rates between 1977 and 1978 (as evidenced by the positive percent differences of 89.7 and 29.6). However, in spite of the pronounced increases in absconder rates in these programs, these programs also experienced very pronounced reductions in the median length of these incidents (as evidenced by the negative percent differences of 53.7 and 40.0)! The experience of the Division's most restrictive programs was just the opposite: within Level I programs, there was a very pronounced reduction in the youth AWOL rate (-35.2%) between 1977 and 1978; at the same time, however, the duration of incidents occurring in the secure centers did increase somewhat (+27.6%). Only in the non-community based programs of limited secure character (Levels II-III and Level IV), were AWOL rates and AWOL duration trends consonant with one another. In both of these program levels, AWOL rates and AWOL duration showed declines between 1977 and 1978.

D. Seasonal Trends In AWOL Incidents: the 1977-1978 Experience

In Table 4, AWOL incidents occurring in 1977 and 1978 are distributed according to absconding month. A careful scrutiny of this table reveals only weak seasonal trends in absconding, a finding which was contrary to our original hypothesis. In the cold weather quarters of 1977, for example, only 18.7% and 23.3% of the annual incident total was generated. (On a chance basis, of course, we would have expected a 25% incident volume in each of these quarters, so the lower figures are consistent with the assumption of seasonal variation). In 1978, however, these "cold weather" trends hold only for the late fall quarters (October, November, and December), at which time only 18.4% of the annual incident volumes were generated. In short, the percentage of annual AWOL incidents occurring during the cold weather quarters did decline, as expected, and to rise during the warm weather quarters; however, this pattern was very weak. While this weakly-defined Division-wide pattern was mirrored in most program levels, Level I secure programs departed sharply from these Division-wide trends in both calendar years. In the winter quarters of 1977 and 1978 (the months of January, February, and March), 34.5% and 30% of the AWOL incidents occurring in these programs occurred during this coldest period of the year. As we shall see later, this apparent anomaly may be attributable to the disproportionate shift toward overstays in the Level I programs, especially in 1978.

E. AWOL Incidents in 1977-1978 By Type

Until this point, AWOL incidents of two distinct types have been grouped together for analytic purposes. In Sections V and VI of this report, however, "overstays" and runaways are separately analyzed. At this point, we briefly summarize Division-wide and program level findings concerning runaway and overstay incidents.

As Table 5 and Chart IV clearly indicate, changes in the distribution of AWOL incidents by type have been modest from 1977-1978. In 1977, for example, overstays (or unauthorized overstays of otherwise legitimate absences) represented only 11.9% of Division-wide AWOL

TABLE 4
Seasonal Trends in AWOL Incidents
By Program Level; 1977-1978

1978: MONTH OF ABSENCE	PROGRAM LEVEL										TOTAL	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
January	4	13.8	22	7.8	53	8.5	10	6.0	38	7.4	127	7.9
February	0	0.0	13	4.6	50	8.1	13	7.8	37	7.2	113	7.0
March	6	20.7	25	8.9	74	11.9	7	4.2	54	10.5	166	10.3
April	3	10.3	23	8.2	49	7.9	20	12.0	66	12.9	161	10.0
May	2	6.9	41	14.5	74	11.9	22	13.2	60	11.7	199	12.3
June	3	10.3	22	7.8	46	7.4	12	7.2	43	8.4	126	7.8
July	1	3.4	31	11.0	66	10.6	10	6.0	40	7.8	148	9.2
August	3	10.3	28	9.9	78	12.6	16	9.6	31	6.0	156	9.7
September	4	13.8	24	8.5	43	6.9	12	7.2	36	7.0	119	7.4
October	2	6.9	31	11.0	41	6.6	8	4.8	39	7.6	121	7.5
November	1	3.4	12	4.3	20	3.2	16	9.6	39	7.6	88	5.5
December	0	0.0	10	3.5	27	4.3	21	12.6	30	5.8	88	5.5
Column Total	29	100.0	282	100.0	621	100.0	167	100.0	513	100.0	1612	100.0
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
1977: MONTH OF ABSENCE												
January	3	5.0	36	8.7	40	5.6	8	10.0	28	4.7	105	6.4
February	7	11.7	38	9.2	34	4.8	8	10.0	19	5.0	106	6.5
March	8	13.3	29	7.0	39	5.5	2	2.5	18	4.7	96	5.8
April	7	11.7	42	10.2	78	11.0	11	13.8	26	6.8	164	10.0
May	8	13.3	63	15.3	76	10.7	7	8.8	49	12.9	203	12.4
June	7	11.7	27	6.6	68	9.6	9	11.3	31	8.2	142	8.6
July	10	16.7	42	10.2	83	11.7	4	5.0	36	9.5	175	10.7
August	1	1.7	14	3.4	77	10.8	4	5.0	42	11.1	138	8.4
September	2	3.3	32	7.8	50	7.0	8	10.0	38	10.0	130	7.9
October	2	3.3	29	7.0	74	10.4	5	6.3	29	7.6	139	8.5
November	4	6.7	27	6.6	51	7.2	6	7.5	43	11.3	131	8.0
December	1	1.7	33	8.0	40	5.6	8	10.0	31	8.2	113	6.9
Column Total	60	100.0	412	100.0	710	100.0	80	100.0	380	100.0	1642	100.0

TABLE 5
 AWOL Incidents by Incident Type
 and Program Level; 1977-1978

1978: AWOL TYPE	PROGRAM LEVEL										TOTAL	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Overstay	19	65.5	112	39.7	146	23.5	9	5.4	31	6.0	317	19.7
Runaway	10	34.5	170	60.3	475	76.5	158	94.6	482	94.0	1295	80.3
TOTAL AWOL INCIDENTS	29	100.0	282	100.0	621	100.0	167	100.0	513	100.0	1612	100.0

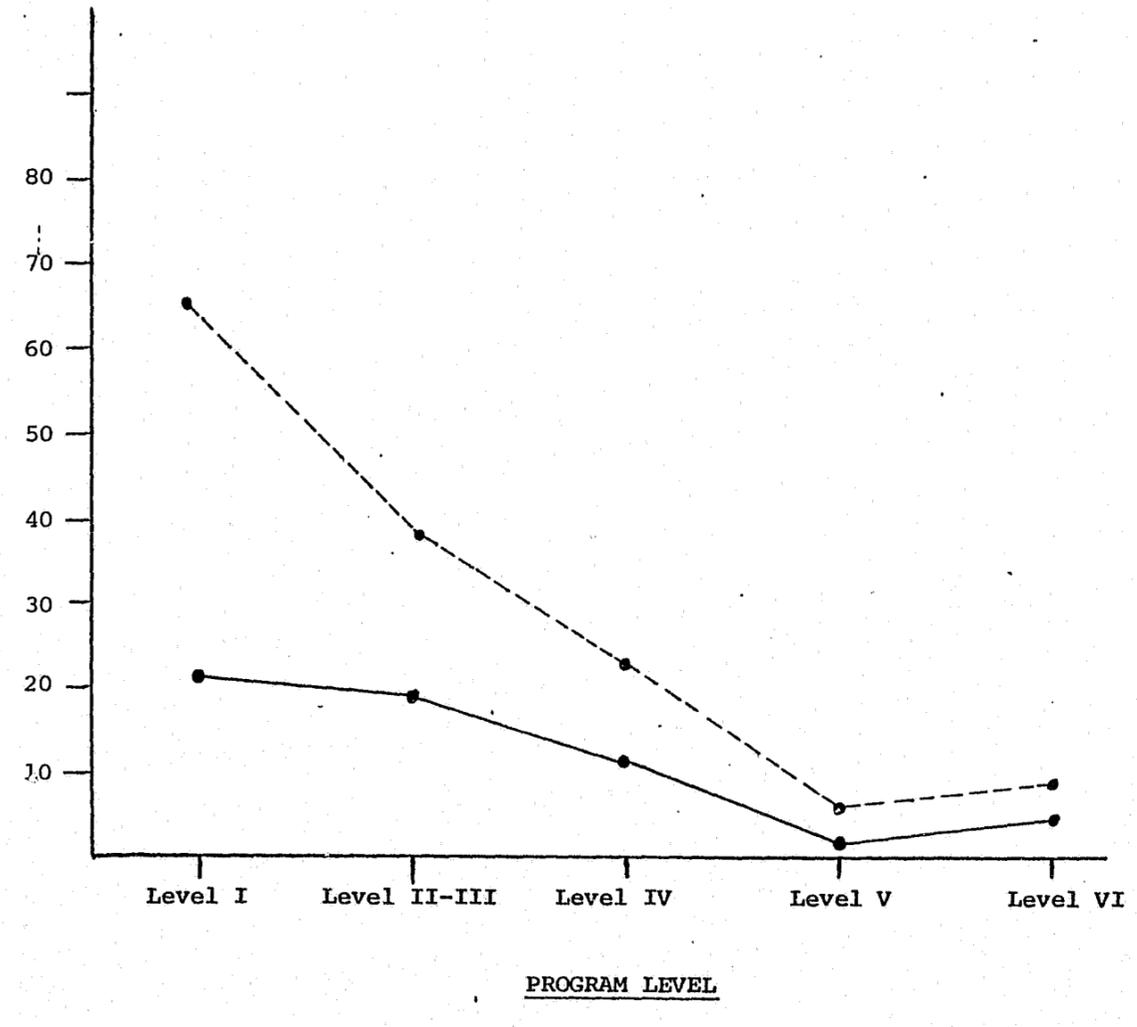
* * * * *

1977: AWOL TYPE	PROGRAM LEVEL										TOTAL	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Overstay	13	21.7	80	19.4	89	12.5	1	1.3	13	3.4	196	11.9
Runaway	47	78.3	332	80.6	621	87.5	79	98.8	367	96.6	1446	88.1
TOTAL AWOL INCIDENTS	60	100.0	412	100.0	710	100.0	80	100.0	380	100.0	1642	100.0

Chart IV
 Overstay Incidents As A Percent of All AWOL Incidents, By Program Level: 1977-1978

Percent of Abscondings
 Which Were "Overstays"

Program Level: ^a	1977	1978
I	21.7	65.5
II & III	19.4	39.7
IV	12.5	23.5
V	1.3	5.4
VI	3.4	6.0
TOTAL	11.9	19.7



^a The Trvon women's cottage is treated as a Level II facility in this analysis.

incidents. This figure, however, almost doubled in 1978, with over-stays accounting for 21.7% of the Division's abscondings.⁵

Variations within each of the six major program levels, however, reveal a far more telling story: within the Division's most restrictive (Level I) programs, pronounced shifts in the distribution of overstay and runaway incidents have occurred. In 1977, for example, 78.3% of the absconding incidents occurring in the Division's secure programs were runaways, and only 21.7% occurred as a result of overstay. In 1978, however, this trend had reversed itself; in that year, only 34.5% of the AWOL incidents occurring in these facilities were runaways, and 65.5% were overstays. In effect, these trends would seem to suggest an increased preference by Level I placed youngsters/ for the use of overstay absconding strategies.

Under the assumption that the mode of absconding is in fact a rational, calculated act, this would suggest a heavier reliance by youngsters upon overstay absconding strategies the more restrictive the program. In the more restrictive programs, of course, we might expect the closer monitoring of on-campus movement to act as a significant deterrent to direct on-campus runaways, a deterrent which does not exist within the less restrictive, community based programs. An examination of Table 5 provides considerable support for this thesis. In both 1977 and 1978, overstays tended to be related to the restrictiveness of DFY programs in a positive, generally monotonic fashion, i.e., the more restrictive the program setting, the greater the use of legitimately authorized visits (overstays) as an absconding strategy; conversely, the less restrictive the setting, the greater the use of direct, off-campus runaway strategies.

⁵ To a large extent, these apparent "increases" are an artifact of DFY recording practices. Prior to April 1, 1977, overstay incidents were not separately recorded; when new recording procedures incorporating this absconding category were initiated, therefore, overstay incidents naturally "increased" substantially.

V. RUNAWAY INCIDENTS IN DFY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

A. Overview of the 1977-1978 Experience

In this section, we shift our focus to one type of absconding behavior, the runaway. As noted earlier in Section II of this report, the runaway is defined as an authorized absence occurring "directly" from a residential placement. During the 1977-1978 time period, the volume of runaway incidents generated within DFY residential programs decreased. Within the six major program levels examined, runaway incidents numbered 1446 in 1977 and 1295 in 1978, a 10.4% reduction. Viewed as a percentage of all AWOL incidents generated during these years, runaways represented 88% of the entire incident volume in 1977, and 80.3% of the incident total in 1978. In view of the fact that total AWOL incidents remained roughly constant over this two-year time span, what these findings clearly suggest (as we shall see in Section VI) is that the reduction in runaway incidents have been largely offset by equivalent increases in overstays.

Although system-wide runaway incidents dropped by 10.4%, there was substantial variation in the degree -- as well as the direction -- of these changes by program level. As Tables 6.1 and 6.2 reveal (see especially column 1, "runaway incidents"), there were substantial reductions in the runaway count in the secure programs (Level I); in the limited secure non-community based programs (Level II-III); and in Level IV programs (non-community based programs without secure capability). Level I programs experienced a dramatic 60.6% dropoff in their runaway incident count, dropping from 33 incidents in 1977 to only 10 in 1978. Level II and Level III limited secure programs also experienced a marked decline in their runaway incidents, declining from 346 runaway incidents in 1977 to 170 such incidents in 1978, a 50.9% decrement. Finally, Level IV programs experienced a substantial, but less dramatic 23.5% decline in their runaway count during this time period (falling from 621 runaway incidents in 1977 to 475 incidents in 1978).

Runaway incident trends in the two major community based program levels (namely, the Level V YDC's and the Level VI urban homes and

TABLE 6.1
Runaway Incidents, Runaway Youth, Runaway Incident Rates, & Runaway Youth Rates:
By Facility and Program Level, 1978

Level	Program	Runaway Incidents		Runaway Cases		Runaway Youth ^B		Runaway Occasions						# Runaway Youth Per 100 Youth Served	# Runaway Incidents Per 100 Youth Served
		#	%	#	%	#	%	Single		Multiple		Total			
I	<u>Secure Programs</u>														
	Coshen	4	40.0	4	44.4	4	44.4	4	66.7	---	---	4	50.0	3.3	3.3
	Brookwood	5	50.0	4	44.4	4	44.4	1	16.7	2	100.0	3	37.5	4.5	5.7
	Bronx State	1	10.0	1	11.1	1	11.1	1	16.7	---	---	1	12.5	3.8	3.8
	Subtotal	10	100.0	9	100.0	(9)	100.0	6	100.0	2	100.0	8	100.0	3.8	4.3
	% of Grand Total		(0.8)		(1.1)		(1.2)		(0.8)		(0.8)		(0.8)		
II	<u>Non-Community Based</u>														
	Industry	89	52.4	53	45.7	53	46.5	29	39.2	21	55.3	50	44.6	22.4	37.5
	Tryon ^a	13	7.6	11	9.5	11	9.6	8	10.8	2	5.3	10	8.9	3.6	4.3
	Highland OEC	15	8.8	10	8.6	10	8.8	6	8.1	4	10.5	10	8.9	23.8	35.7
	Brentwood START	31	18.2	24	20.7	24	21.1	17	23.0	7	18.4	24	21.4	31.2	40.3
	Camp Brace	12	7.1	10	8.6	10	8.8	8	10.8	2	5.3	10	8.9	9.0	10.8
	Camp MacCormick	2	1.2	2	1.7	2	1.8	2	2.7	---	---	2	1.8	2.8	2.8
III	Highland ILC	8	4.7	6	5.2	6	5.3	4	5.4	2	5.3	6	5.4	15.4	20.5
	Subtotal	170	100.0	116	100.0	(114)	100.0	74	100.0	38	100.0	112	100.0	13.0	19.3
	% of Grand Total		(13.1)		(14.1)		(15.6)		(10.4)		(15.8)		(11.7)		
IV	<u>Camps</u>														
	Annsville	77	16.2	51	18.8	51	19.5	23	14.8	23	18.4	46	16.4	27.3	41.2
	Casa	46	9.7	33	12.1	33	12.6	22	14.2	10	8.0	32	11.4	18.5	25.8
	Nueva Vista	23	4.8	17	6.3	17	6.5	10	6.5	6	4.8	16	5.7	13.5	18.2
	Great Valley	48	10.1	31	11.4	31	11.8	13	8.4	14	11.2	27	9.6	18.3	28.4
	<u>Spec. Residential Ctrs.</u>														
	South Kortright	10	2.1	9	3.3	9	3.4	1	0.6	4	3.2	5	1.8	6.3	7.0
	Auburn	7	1.5	7	2.6	7	2.7	2	1.3	2	1.6	4	1.4	28.0	28.0
	South Lansing	175	36.8	71	26.1	71	27.1	33	21.3	51	40.8	84	30.0	42.8	105.4
	<u>START's</u>														
	Adirondack	5	1.1	5	1.8	5	1.9	2	1.3	1	0.8	3	1.1	6.8	6.8
	Willowbrook	46	9.7	21	7.7	21	8.0	28	18.1	7	5.6	35	12.5	45.6	100.0
	Middletown	38	8.0	27	9.9	27	10.3	21	13.5	7	5.6	28	10.0	37.0	52.0
	Subtotal	475	100.0	272	100.0	(262)	100.0	155	100.0	125	100.0	280	100.0	22.1	40.0
	% of Grand Total		(36.7)		(33.0)		(35.7)		(21.7)		(52.1)		(29.4)		

TABLE 6.1 (Cont.)

Level	Program	Runaway Incidents		Runaway Cases		Runaway Youth*		Runaway Occasions						# Runaway Youth Per 100 Youth Served	# Runaway Incidents Per 100 Youth Served
		#	%	#	%	#	%	Single		Multiple		Total			
V	<u>Comm. Programs (YDC's)</u>														
	YDC #1 - Bronx	46	29.1	37	31.1	37	31.1	42	34.7	2	11.1	44	31.7	28.7	35.7
	YDC #2 - NYC	26	16.5	13	10.9	13	10.9	20	16.5	3	16.7	23	16.5	30.9	61.9
	YDC #3 - Brooklyn	16	10.1	16	13.4	16	13.4	13	10.7	1	5.6	14	10.1	11.3	11.3
	YDC #4 - Brooklyn	17	10.8	16	13.4	16	13.4	15	12.4	1	5.6	16	11.5	28.6	30.4
	YDC #5 - Syracuse	42	26.6	26	21.8	26	21.8	26	21.5	8	44.4	34	24.5	46.4	75.0
	YDC #6 - Buffalo	11	7.0	11	9.2	11	9.2	5	4.1	3	16.7	8	5.8	17.2	17.2
	Subtotal	158	100.0	119	100.0	(119)	100.0	121	100.0	18	100.0	139	100.0	24.3	32.3
	% of Grand Total		(12.1)		(14.5)		(16.2)		(16.9)		(7.5)		(14.6)		
VI	<u>Group Homes</u>	428	88.8	272	88.6	272	88.9	313	87.4	53	93.0	366	88.2	24.2	38.1
	<u>Urban START Centers</u>														
	Buffalo START #4	42	8.7	24	7.8	24	7.8	35	9.8	3	5.3	38	9.2	35.8	62.7
	NYC START #2	8	1.7	8	2.6	8	2.6	6	1.7	1	1.8	7	1.7	14.5	14.5
	NYC START #7	4	0.8	3	1.0	3	1.0	4	1.1	---	---	4	1.0	13.6	18.2
	Subtotal	482	100.0	307	100.0	(306)	100.0	358	100.0	57	100.0	415	100.0	24.1	38.0
	% of Grand Total		(37.2)		(37.3)		(41.7)		(50.1)		(23.8)		(43.5)		
	GRAND TOTAL	1295		923		(733)		714		240		954		18.1	31.9

- a. The Tryon women's cottage is treated as a Level II facility in this analysis.
 b. Subtotal frequencies do not always reflect the simple summation of facility specific frequencies, nor do the facility specific percentages always sum to 100%. This is due to the distinction between "cases" and "youth" at the program and system-wide level.

TABLE 6.2
Runaway Incidents, Runaway Youth, Runaway Incident Rates, & Runaway Youth Rates:
By Facility and Program Level, 1977

Level	Program	Runaway Incidents		Runaway Cases		Runaway Youth ^D		Runaway Occasions						# Runaway Youth Per 100 Youth Served	# Runaway Incidents Per 100 Youth Served
		#	%	#	%	#	%	Single		Multiple		Total			
I	<u>Secure Programs</u>														
	Goshen	10	30.3	9	36.0	9	36.0	8	50.0	1	12.5	9	37.5	8.0	8.8
	Brookwood	20	60.6	14	56.0	14	56.0	5	31.3	7	87.5	12	50.0	14.0	20.0
	Bronx State	3	9.1	2	8.0	2	8.0	3	18.8	---	---	3	12.5	11.1	16.7
	Subtotal	33	100.0	25	100.0	(25)		16	100.0	8	100.0	24	100.0	10.8	14.3
	% of Grand Total		(2.3)		(2.6)		(2.9)		(2.4)		(2.6)		(2.4)		
II	<u>Non-Community Based</u>														
	Industry	154	44.5	87	39.5	87	40.3	45	39.5	43	51.8	88	44.7	27.0	47.8
	Tryon ^a	54	15.6	48	21.8	48	22.2	24	21.1	10	12.0	34	17.3	16.4	18.5
	Highland OEC	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Brentwood START	71	20.5	39	17.7	39	18.1	27	23.7	19	22.9	46	23.4	52.7	95.9
III	Camp Brace	55	15.9	36	16.4	36	16.7	13	11.4	8	9.6	21	10.7	28.1	43.0
	Highland ILC	2	0.6	2	0.9	2	0.9	2	1.8	---	---	2	1.0	9.5	9.5
	Warwick	10	2.9	8	3.6	8	3.7	3	2.6	3	3.6	6	3.0	9.3	11.6
	Subtotal	346	100.0	220	100.0	(216)		114	100.0	83	100.0	197	100.0	23.4	37.5
	% of Grand Total		(23.9)		(22.7)		(25.1)		(16.9)		(27.0)		(20.1)		
IV	<u>Camps</u>														
	Annsville	67	10.8	45	11.5	45	12.0	26	12.5	17	10.3	43	11.5	26.2	38.9
	Cass	82	13.2	59	15.0	59	15.8	28	13.5	22	13.3	50	13.4	30.3	42.0
	Nueva Vista	34	5.5	25	6.4	25	6.7	12	5.8	8	4.8	20	5.4	23.6	32.1
	Great Valley	96	15.5	63	16.0	63	16.8	35	16.8	25	15.2	60	16.1	31.7	48.2
	MacCormick	22	3.5	18	4.6	18	4.8	13	6.3	4	2.4	17	4.6	15.4	18.8
	<u>Spec. Residential Ctrs.</u>														
	South Kortright	29	4.7	24	6.1	24	6.4	5	2.4	10	6.1	15	4.0	16.2	19.6
	Auburn	10	1.6	5	1.3	5	1.3	5	2.4	2	1.2	7	1.9	29.4	58.8
	South Lansing	165	26.6	82	20.9	82	21.9	32	15.4	50	30.3	82	22.0	40.8	82.1
	<u>START's</u>														
	Adirondack	26	4.2	17	4.3	17	4.5	12	5.8	7	4.2	19	5.1	27.4	41.9
	Willowbrook	51	8.2	30	7.6	30	8.0	28	13.5	10	6.1	38	10.2	51.7	87.9
Middletown	39	6.3	25	6.4	25	6.7	12	5.8	10	6.1	22	5.9	32.5	50.6	
Subtotal	621	100.0	393	100.0	(374)		208	100.0	165	100.0	373	100.0	27.7	45.9	
	% of Grand Total		(42.9)		(40.6)		(43.5)		(30.9)		(53.7)		(38.1)		

TABLE 6.2 (Cont.)

Level	Program	Runaway Incidents		Runaway Cases		Runaway Youth*		Runaway Occasions						# Runaway Youth Per 100 Youth Served	# Runaway Incidents Per 100 Youth Served
		#	%	#	%	#	%	Single		Multiple		Total			
V	<u>Comm. Programs (YDC's)</u>														
	YDC #1 - Bronx	3	3.8	3	4.5	3	4.5	3	4.8	---	---	3	4.3	2.1	2.1
	YDC #2 - NYC	22	27.8	18	26.9	18	26.9	16	25.8	3	37.5	19	27.1	37.5	45.8
	YDC #3 - Brooklyn	39	49.4	34	50.7	34	50.7	30	48.4	4	50.0	34	48.6	22.2	25.5
	YDC #4 - Brooklyn	5	6.3	4	6.0	4	6.0	5	8.1	---	---	5	7.1	10.5	13.2
	YDC #5 - Syracuse	8	10.1	6	9.0	6	9.0	8	12.9	---	---	8	11.4	13.9	18.6
	YDC #6 - Buffalo	2	2.5	2	3.0	2	3.0	---	---	1	12.5	1	1.4	3.4	3.4
	Subtotal	79	100.0	67	100.0	(67)	---	62	100.0	8	100.0	70	100.0	13.8	16.3
	% of Grand Total		(5.5)		(6.9)		(7.8)		(9.2)		(2.6)		(7.1)		
VI	<u>Group Homes</u>	319	86.9	230	87.5	230	89.1	243	89.0	34	79.1	277	87.7	19.4	26.9
	<u>Urban START Centers</u>														
	Buffalo START #4	32	8.7	22	8.4	22	8.5	18	6.6	7	16.3	25	7.9	34.4	50.0
	NYC START #2	8	2.2	5	1.9	5	1.9	8	2.9	---	---	8	2.5	10.0	16.0
	NYC START #7	8	2.2	6	2.3	6	2.3	4	1.6	2	4.7	6	1.9	18.7	25.0
	Subtotal	367	100.0	263	100.0	(258)	---	273	100.0	43	100.0	316	100.0	19.3	27.5
	% of Grand Total		(25.4)		(27.2)		(30.0)		(40.6)		(14.0)		(32.2)		
	GRAND TOTAL	<u>1446</u>		<u>968</u>		<u>(860)</u>		<u>673</u>		<u>307</u>		<u>980</u>		<u>19.9</u>	<u>33.4</u>

- a. The Tryon women's cottage is treated as a Level II facility in this analysis.
 b. Subtotal frequencies do not always reflect the simple summation of facility specific frequencies, nor do the facility specific percentages always sum to 100%. This is due to the distinction between "cases" and "youth" of the program and system-wide level.

selected START's) contradicted the Division-wide pattern of runaway incident reduction. Level V facilities, for example, doubled their runaway volumes from 79 to 158 runaway incidents, a 100% increase. Level VI facilities also experienced upturns in their runaway counts, increasing from 367 to 482 incidents in 1978 -- a 31.3% upward shift. To summarize, the more restrictive DFY programs experienced pronounced reductions in their runaway incident counts during the 1977-1978 period; this trend did not hold, however, in the Division's non-secure, community based programs. These major reductions in runaway incidents, particularly in the Division's more restrictive programs, may reflect the use of more intensified staffing models within these programs in 1978.

Column 3 of Tables 6.1 and 6.2 also reveals comparable trends in the actual number of runaway youth. Between 1977 and 1978, the actual number of runaway youth from DFY residential programs had dropped from 860 to 733 youth, a 14.8% decline. Once again, however, these Division-wide trends were reflected only within certain program levels, and contradicted in others. All of the more restrictive non-community based programs (Levels I - IV) experienced substantial declines in their numbers of runaway youth. The Level I secure programs again experienced the most pronounced dropoff, reducing their number of runaway youth from 25 in 1977 to 9 in 1978, a 64% decline. Level II - III and Level IV programs also experienced pronounced declines. Level II-III programs, for example, cut their runaways by 47.3% over this time period, from 220 in 1977 to 116 in 1978. The non-community based, non-secure programs of Level IV showed a comparable 30.8% drop-off, reducing their runaway youth from 393 to 272 in 1978.

As noted, these downtrends did not hold in the Division's Level V and Level VI programs (principally YDC's and Urban Homes respectively). The Youth Development Centers experienced an appreciable upturn in their runaway youth count, rising from 67 runaway youth in 1977 to 119 runaway youth in 1978, a 77.6% increase. The upturn in urban home programs was less pronounced, increasing from 258 youth in 1977 to 306 youth in 1978, an 18.6% increase. Summarizing briefly, Division-wide runaway patterns showed appreciable declines in the numbers of

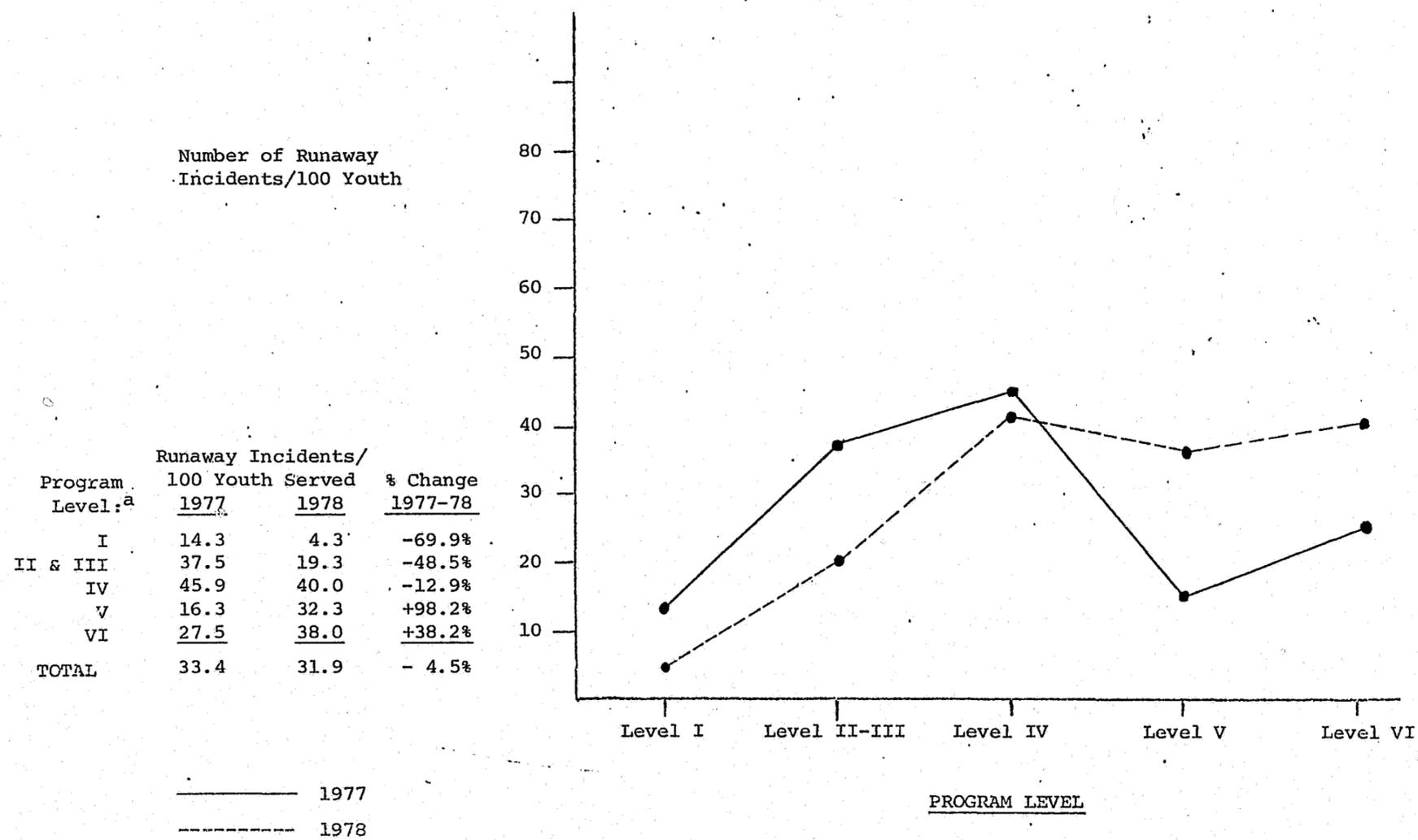
runaway youth from 1977 to 1978. These Division-wide trends were especially pronounced in the Division's more restrictive non-community based programs; e.g., those programs which experienced the greatest staffing increases during this period and which were also the focal point of DFY administrative efforts to strengthen supervisory policies concerning home visits and monitoring of youth movement.

B. Runaway Incident and Runaway Youth Rates Per 100 Served

Before turning to an examination of the demographic character of these runaway incidents, two additional sets of comparison/contrast figures warrant discussion. The first set is standardized "rate" data described in the two right-hand columns of Tables 6.1 and 6.2. Briefly, these standardized rate variables provide more valid comparisons of runaway incident and runaway youth data between facilities or program levels. As noted in an earlier discussion, these rate variables take into account the actual volume of youth served in each facility or program level, thus enabling us to adjust raw incident or youth counts in terms of the number of youth potentially "at risk" or runaway. In short, by calculating both runaway incident and runaway youth rates per 100 youth served, more meaningful comparisons are possible.

As Charts V and VI graphically illustrate, both the runaway incident and runaway youth rates showed slight declines during the 1977-1978 period on a system-wide basis. Runaway incident rates decreased from 33.4 per 100 youth served in 1977 to 31.9 per 100 youth in 1978, a 4.5% decline. Runaway youth rates showed a roughly comparable decline, dropping from 19.9 per 100 to 18.1 per 100, a 9% decline. The level-specific trends mentioned earlier were once again in evidence: with respect to runaway incident rates, for example, DFY program Levels I through IV showed substantial declines in the 1977-1978 period. The Division's Level I secure facilities showed a very pronounced downturn, dropping from 14.3 runaway incidents per 100 in 1977, to 4.3 incidents per 100 in 1978, a 69.9% decrease. The Division's Level II-III and Level IV programs also showed appreciable declines in their runaway incident rates, dropping from 37.5 and 45.9 incidents per 100 to 19.3 and 40 incidents per 100 respectively, decrements of 48.5%

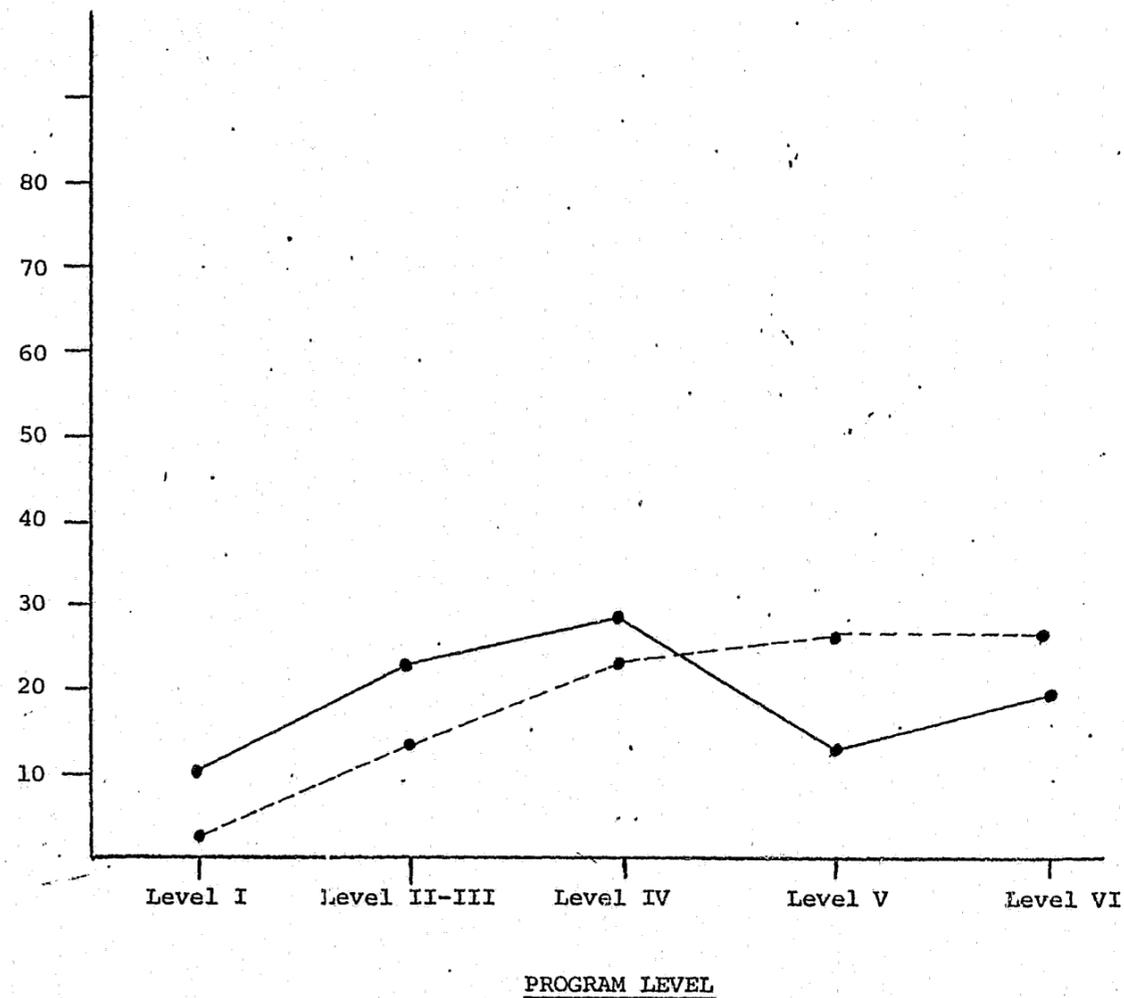
Chart V
Runaway Incidents/100 Youth Served, By Program Level: 1977-1978



a. The Tryon women's cottage is treated as a Level II facility in this chart.

Chart VI
Runaway Youth/100 Served, By Program Level: 1977-1978

Program Level: ^a	Runaway Youth/ 100 Served		% Change 1977-78
	1977	1978	
I	10.8	3.8	-64.8%
II & III	23.4	13.0	-44.4%
IV	27.7	22.1	-20.2%
V	13.8	24.3	+76.0%
VI	19.3	24.1	+24.9%
TOTAL	19.9	18.1	- 9.0%



a. The Tryon women's cottage is treated as a Level II facility in this chart.

and 12.9%.

These downturn patterns did not, however, characterize the Division's YDC's (Level V) and Urban Home programs (Level VI). Runaway incident rates per 100 in YDC programs showed a sharp upturn, increasing from 16.3 per 100 to 32.3 per 100, a 98.2% increase. The Division's (Level VI) urban home programs also experienced an appreciable gain in their runaway incident rates, climbing from 27.5 runaway incidents per 100 in 1977 to 38 incidents per 100 in 1978, a 38.2% gain.

A virtually identical pattern of findings characterized the runaway youth rates. As Chart VI clearly illustrates, pronounced reductions in runaway youth rates were experienced in the Division's more restrictive settings (Program Levels I - IV), while uptrends were experienced in the less restrictive, community based settings. On a system-wide basis, however, there was a 9% downward shift in runaway youth rates -- from 19.9 runaway youth per 100 in 1977 to 18.2 runaway youth per 100 in 1978. Summarizing, then, the Division's more restrictive non-community based programs experienced pronounced reductions in both their runaway incident and runaway youth rates between 1977 and 1978. These trends were especially pronounced in the Division's secure center programs, a major focal point of administrative efforts to improve staffing patterns and the monitoring of youth movement. The Division's community based programs, conversely, experienced pronounced increases in their incident and youth rates during this same period.

C. Runaway "Occasions": 1977-1978

In Section II, we defined an "occasion" as a discrete time period during which either single or multiple runaway incidents had occurred within the same facility. Hence, two or more runaway incidents on the same day in the same facility would constitute a multiple incident occasion; likewise, a single runaway incident occurring on any given day would constitute a single incident occasion. Theoretically, the multiple incident occasion is of special interest because it may provide an (admittedly impure) index of the extent to which two or more youngsters may have collaborated in an absconding effort.

Parenthetically, this multiple incident occasion data may also provide clues as to the degree of solidarity or cohesiveness of youth sub-cultures. One might hypothesize, for example, that facilities characterized by more transient populations, and higher turnover rates, would also have less well-developed friendship networks in its client population. It follows from this line of reasoning that runaway occasions of the multiple incident type would be a more infrequent occurrence than single incident occasions under such conditions. Conversely, in those facilities with lower turnover rates, a more stable youngster population, and greater isolation from extra-facility contacts, conditions for the development of intensive friendship networks would be favored. Under these conditions, we might expect a (relatively) higher occurrence of multiple incident occasions.

In order to represent this phenomenon, two separate measures are used. The first is simply the percent of all "occasions" which are the multiple runaway type; hence, in a facility which has experienced 10 runaway occasions in 1978 -- 4 of which were the multiple runaway type -- this percentage would be 40%. The second measure is designed to standardize multiple runaway occasions in terms of the number of youth "at risk" of absconding; hence, in a facility which has served 100 youngsters in the course of a year, and experienced 20 multiple runaway occasions, the multiple runaway rate would be 20.0.⁶

⁶ Both measures have features worth noting. The advantage of the percent measure, is that it enables one to assess the relative propensity of a facility toward multiple runaway occasions. In other words, even though a facility is characterized by a very low runaway rate, the few runaway occasions occurring may all be the multiple runaway type (indexed in this instance by a 100% figure). Such a measure unfortunately does not control for the confounding effects of facility size. Clearly, assuming other things being equal, the probability of multiple runaways on the same day is a function of a facility's size. By standardizing this data (per 100 youth served in a facility in a given year) these effects are removed. Such standardization is especially crucial in this analysis since a major variable in this descriptive analysis, program level is highly confounded with facility size. That is, as we move from community based to secure programs, facility size tends to increase.

In both 1977 and 1978, system-wide trends in runaway occasions were comparable. In 1977, for instance, there were 980 runaway occasions, 307 of which (or 31.3%) were the multiple runaway type. In 1978, 240 of 954 occasions were the multiple incident type (or 25.2%). Figure 2 immediately below incorporates both of the measures previously discussed on a program-level basis:

Figure 2
Multiple Runaway Occasions:
Expressed As Rates Per 100 Youth Served & As
A Percentage of All Runaway Occasions,
By Program Level: 1977 & 1978

Program Level ^a	1978		1977	
	Rate/ 100	% of All Occasions	Rate/ 100	% of All Occasions
I	0.8	25.0%	3.4	33.3%
II-III	4.1	33.9%	9.4	42.1%
IV	9.2	44.6%	13.9	44.2%
V	3.7	12.9%	1.6	11.4%
VI	4.3	13.7%	3.4	13.6%

a. The Tryon women's unit is treated as a Level II facility.

The tabled data reveal that Level IV programs, composed principally of rural, non-community based programs (camps and special residential centers), had the highest multiple runaway rates in the Division in both 1977 and 1978. By 1978, for example, Level IV programs would experience slightly more than 9 multiple runaway occasions for every 100 youth served. Furthermore, of all the runaway occasions occurring in this level (whether single or multiple runaway type), 44.6% were the multiple runaway type. The Division's most secure programs conversely were characterized by the lowest multiple runaway rates, with only 0.8 multiple runaway occasions occurring for every 100 youth served. Furthermore, the percentage of all runaway occasions occurring in the secure centers which were multiple runaways, were lower than expected; only 25% of their occasions were the multiple runaway type.

Clearly, of course, the most salient cleavage appears in the community based programs on the one hand, and the more restrictive, non-community based programs. Multiple runaway occasions are simply not characteristic of the urban homes or the YDC's, as evidenced by the relatively small percentages in columns 2 and 4 of Figure 2. As noted earlier, however, these figures must be viewed with some caution in view of the measurement problems discussed earlier. It should be noted that a fruitful procedure might entail the comparison of both the rate and percentage measures among facilities of equivalent size. Direct comparison of YDC's, urban homes, camps of equivalent size, for example, might yield additional insights into the multiple runaway phenomenon.

D. Runaway Incidents: Basic Demographics, 1977-1978

We turn now to a descriptive analysis of runaway incidents and their demographic characterization. Tables 7.1 and 7.2 summarize findings for selected demographic variables, by level, for 1977 and 1978. By examining the row totals (columns 6 and 7), the reader is provided a quick overview of the overall incident distribution (across all program levels) for any given demographic variable.

As Tables 7.1 and 7.2 reveal, Division-wide runaway patterns by youngster adjudication status were virtually constant from 1977 to 1978. In 1977, youngsters adjudicated as Juvenile Delinquents and PINS accounted for 61.2% and 24.5% of the runaway incidents generated that year. In 1978, youngsters with these same adjudication statuses similarly accounted for 60% and 25% of the Division-wide runaway count. Close inspection of these tables also reveals minimal shifts in the program level patterns for this variable from year to year. Only the secure center programs prove an exception to this rule: In 1977, only 2.1% of the runaway incidents occurring in these programs were attributable to restrictively placed Juvenile Delinquents, a figure which increased to 40% in 1978. This dramatic shift can presumably be attributed to the impact of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1976, and its "definitional" impact upon the secure center populations. That is, secure center youth who would not have been classified as restrictive placements prior to the JJRA, were defined as such by

TABLE 7.1
Runaway Incidents:
Basic Demographic Characteristics
By Program Level, 1978

	PROGRAM LEVEL										TOTAL ^a	
	I		II-III		VI		V		VI			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
ADJUDICATION												
Restrictive Juvenile Delinquent	4	40.0	4	2.4	1	0.2	4	2.5	1	0.2	14	1.1
Juvenile Delinquent	6	60.0	153	90.0	300	63.2	103	65.2	215	44.6	777	60.0
Other Court Related	0	0.0	8	4.7	25	5.3	12	7.6	38	7.9	83	6.4
PINS	0	0.0	5	2.9	130	27.4	29	15.8	170	35.3	330	25.5
None	0	0.0	0	0.0	19	4.0	14	8.9	58	12.0	91	7.0
Column Total	10	100.0	170	100.0	475	100.0	158	100.0	482	100.0	1295	100.0
SEX												
Male	10	100.0	167	98.2	285	60.0	136	86.1	300	62.9	898	69.6
Female	0	0.0	3	1.8	190	40.0	22	13.9	177	37.1	392	30.4
Column Total	10	100.0	170	100.0	475	100.0	158	100.0	477	100.0	1290	100.0
ETHNICITY												
White	5	50.0	81	47.6	284	60.3	33	20.9	288	59.9	691	53.6
Black	4	40.0	71	41.8	141	29.9	82	51.9	126	26.2	424	32.9
Puerto Rican	1	10.0	18	10.6	41	8.7	41	25.9	44	9.1	145	11.2
American Indian	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4	0	0.0	17	3.5	19	1.5
Other Hispanic	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.6	2	1.3	6	1.2	11	0.9
Column Total	10	100.0	170	100.0	471	100.0	158	100.0	481	100.0	1290	100.0
AGE												
12	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.8	0	0.0	7	1.5	11	0.8
13	0	0.0	6	3.5	32	6.7	5	3.2	16	3.3	59	4.6
14	0	0.0	20	11.8	118	24.8	28	17.7	73	15.1	239	18.5
15	2	20.0	79	46.5	169	35.6	64	40.5	157	32.6	471	36.4
16	4	40.0	59	34.7	124	26.1	49	31.0	165	34.2	401	31.0
17	4	40.0	6	3.5	24	5.1	12	7.6	62	12.9	108	8.3
18	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.8	0	0.0	2	0.4	6	0.5
Column Total	10	100.0	170	100.0	475	100.0	158	100.0	482	100.0	1295	100.0
REFERRAL SOURCE												
Self-Referred	0	0.0	3	1.8	18	3.8	14	8.9	42	8.7	77	5.9
Family Court Referred	10	100.0	162	95.3	438	92.2	138	87.3	378	78.4	1126	86.9
Other Court Related	0	0.0	5	2.9	19	4.0	6	3.8	62	12.9	92	7.1
Column Total	10	100.0	170	100.0	475	100.0	158	100.0	482	100.0	1295	100.0

a. Marginal totals will not always sum to 1295, since unreported information is treated as missing, and such cases are excluded from the analysis.

TABLE 7.2
Runaway Incidents:
Basic Demographic Characteristics
By Program Level, 1977

	PROGRAM LEVEL										TOTAL ^a	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI		#	%
ADJUDICATION												
Restrictive Juvenile Delinquent	1	2.1	9	2.7	2	0.3	1	1.3	2	0.5	15	1.0
Juvenile Delinquent	43	91.4	279	84.0	360	58.0	57	72.2	146	39.8	885	61.2
Other Court Related	1	2.1	7	2.1	48	7.7	4	5.1	20	5.4	80	5.5
PINS	0	0.0	20	6.0	172	27.7	11	13.9	151	41.1	354	24.5
None	2	4.3	17	5.1	39	6.3	6	7.6	48	13.1	112	7.7
Column Total	47	100.0	332	100.0	621	100.0	79	100.0	367	100.0	1446	100.0
SEX												
Male	33	70.2	327	98.5	427	68.8	72	91.1	202	55.6	1061	73.6
Female	14	29.8	5	1.5	194	31.2	7	8.9	161	44.4	381	26.4
Column Total	47	100.0	332	100.0	621	100.0	79	100.0	363	100.0	1442	100.0
ETHNICITY												
White	29	61.7	150	45.3	417	67.5	6	7.7	212	59.4	814	56.9
Black	16	34.0	142	42.9	137	22.2	66	84.6	109	30.5	470	32.8
Puerto Rican	2	4.3	37	11.2	51	8.3	6	7.7	22	6.2	118	8.2
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	1	0.1
American Indian	0	0.0	1	0.3	8	1.3	0	0.0	12	3.4	21	1.5
Other Hispanic	0	0.0	1	0.3	5	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.3	7	0.5
Column Total	47	100.0	331	100.0	618	100.0	78	100.0	357	100.0	1431	100.0
AGE												
11	0	0.0	3	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.2
12	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.5	1	1.3	1	0.3	5	0.3
13	0	0.0	17	5.1	22	3.5	2	2.5	19	5.2	60	4.1
14	9	19.1	50	15.1	140	22.5	13	16.5	64	17.4	276	19.1
15	18	38.3	131	39.5	250	40.3	35	44.3	131	35.7	565	39.1
16	16	34.0	119	35.8	159	25.6	21	26.6	110	30.0	425	29.4
17	4	8.5	11	3.3	45	7.2	7	8.9	37	10.1	104	7.2
18	0	0.0	1	0.3	2	0.3	0	0.0	5	1.4	8	0.6
Column Total	47	100.0	332	100.0	621	100.0	79	100.0	367	100.0	1446	100.0
REFERRAL SOURCE												
Self-Referred	6	12.8	9	2.7	35	5.6	8	10.1	46	12.5	104	7.2
Family Court Referred	39	83.0	306	92.2	514	82.8	64	81.0	272	74.1	1195	82.6
Other Court Related	2	4.3	17	5.1	72	11.6	7	8.9	49	13.4	147	10.2
Column Total	47	100.0	332	100.0	621	100.0	79	100.0	367	100.0	1446	100.0

a. Marginal totals will not always sum to 1446, since unreported information is treated as missing, and such cases are excluded from the analysis.

late 1977 and throughout 1978. No other program level specific shifts by youngster adjudication status appear noteworthy.

Although female youngsters accounted for proportionally more runaway incidents in 1978 than in 1977 (30.4% versus 26.4%), there were noteworthy departures in the magnitude and direction of this pattern across program levels. In the Division's secure programs, for example, the Division-wide trend toward a reduced male "contribution" over time was not only reversed, but the magnitude of the shift was appreciable; in 1977, for example, male youngsters accounted for 70.2% of Level I runaway incidents (n=33); in the following year, male youngsters accounted for all Level I runaway incidents (n=10). A similar reversal of Division-wide trends was noted in Level VI programs. While males accounted for 55.6% of the runaway incidents occurring in these community based programs in 1977, they accounted for 62.9% of the incident activity in 1978. Perhaps the most significant shift consistent with the Division's relative decline in incident activity by males occurred in the Division's Level IV programs; in this instance, the percentage of all Level IV runaway incidents accounted for by males dropped by 8.8%, from 68.8% to 60.0%. In both years, the runaway incidents generated within the Division's limited secure and special needs programs (Levels II-III) were almost exclusively a male phenomenon -- presumably reflecting the disproportionate representation of males in these programs.

Shifts in the overall ethnic pattern of runaway incidents were negligible. In 1977 and 1978, Whites accounted for 56.9% and 53.6% of the Division's runaway incidents; Blacks accounted for approximately 33.0% in both years, and Puerto Rican youth accounted for only 8.2% of the runaway incidents in 1977 and 11.2% in 1978. Furthermore, within all program levels except one, this type of ethnic pattern generally held up. In the Level V YDC programs, on the other hand, White youngsters accounted for only 7.7% of the runaway incidents; Black youth, 84.6%; and Puerto Rican youth, another 7.7% in 1977; this pattern departed radically from Division-wide trends in that year, a phenomenon reflecting the disproportionately Black ethnic composition of YDC programs in 1977. By 1978, however, there were appreciable

Shifts in M.Y.P.R. 7

shifts in the 1977 YDC profile in the direction of Division-wide patterns; that is, the percent of runaway incidents generated by White youngsters increased to 20.9% and the percent "share" by Black youth decreased to 51.9%. Only the pronounced increase in runaways attributable to Puerto Rican youth in the YDC programs were at variance with Division-wide trends.

Shifts in the Division-wide distributions of runaway incidents by public assistance category were negligible. In both 1977 and 1978, approximately 84% of Division-wide runaway incidents were generated by youngsters whose families were known to be receiving A.D.C. or S.S.I. benefits. Changes in the distribution of runaway incidents by referral source were also minimal. In 1977, family court and self-referred youth accounted for 82.6% and 7.2% of all runaway incidents respectively; in 1978, this pattern had shifted slightly to 86.9% and 5.9%. In both years, the percentage of incidents generated by self-referred and family court referred youth was clearly associated with the restrictiveness of the setting, a finding which is hardly surprising. In the specific instance of court-referred youth, this relationship was a positive one (and monotonic in 1978), i.e., the more restrictive the placement level, the higher the percentage of runaway incidents attributable to court referred youth; in the case of self-referred youth, of course, the relationship was a negative one, i.e., the less restrictive the placement, the higher the percentage of incidents generated by self-referred youth.

Changes in the age distributions of runaway incidents were negligible from 1977 to 1978. In both years, approximately two-thirds of the system-wide runaway incident count were generated by 15 and 16 year old youngsters. In both years likewise, the median age of the youngster at the time of the absconding was 15.2 years.

E. Runaway Duration: Selected Correlates, 1977-1978

In this portion of the runaway analysis, we examine selected correlates of runaway duration. Major Division-wide and level specific trends are briefly summarized as a preface to a more detailed tabular

analysis. As Tables 8.1 and 8.2 reveal, the median duration of the runaways which took place in 1977 was 8.8 days; stated differently, 50% of these incidents lasted less than 9 days, and the remaining 50%, 9 days or more. By 1978, the median runaway incident lasted only 5.6 days, an appreciable 36.4% drop. In both 1977 and 1978, the "average" duration of these runaways was far higher (i.e., 29.7 and 22.8 days respectively), a phenomenon attributable strictly to the effect of extreme cases upon the calculation of the arithmetic mean. In other words, because some incidents lasted over six months (roughly 2.8% in 1977 and 1.5% in 1978), these extreme and unrepresentative cases had the effect of dramatically increasing the average absconding duration. Consequently, the median is referred to throughout this analysis as a more appropriate measure of central tendency.

A careful review of Tables 8.1 and 8.2, as well as Chart VII, also reveals several important level specific trends. Certainly, the most dramatic change in the length of runaway incidents has been in the Level V YDC programs. Between 1977 and 1978, the median runaway duration in these programs dropped from 24.5 days to 12.0 days, a 51% drop-off. A reduction of almost comparable magnitude also characterized the Division's Level II-III limited secure programs. Between 1977 and 1978, these programs dropped the length of the median runaway from 18.7 days to 9.8 days, a 47.6% reduction. Program Levels VI and IV (urban home and non-community based programs without secure capability respectively), also experienced drop-offs, but of a more modest character. Specifically, the Level VI and Level IV programs reduced the median length of their runaways by 38% and 23.5% respectively, i.e., from 7.1 days to 4.4 days in the case of the urban homes, and from 5.8 to 5.2 days in the case of the Level IV programs. In short, all major program levels in the Division, with the exception of the Level I secure programs, experienced appreciable reductions in the length of their runaways. And while the secure center programs did experience a 29.2% increase in their duration (from 12.0 to 15.5 days) during this time period, as noted earlier, they also dropped their runaway youth and runaway incident rates by over 60% during the same period. One final trend in the 1978 data merits comment. There is a

TABLE 8.1
Duration of Runaway Incidents
By Program Level, 1978^a

LENGTH OF ABSENCE	PROGRAM LEVEL										TOTAL	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
0 Days	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.9	4	0.3
1 Day	0	0.0	38	23.9	120	25.8	23	17.2	116	24.8	297	23.7
2 - 3 Days	0	0.0	18	11.3	75	16.1	17	11.3	95	20.3	205	16.3
4 - 7 Days	1	10.0	17	10.7	78	16.7	20	13.2	76	16.2	192	15.3
8 - 15 Days	3	30.0	27	17.0	50	10.7	20	13.2	58	12.4	158	12.6
16 - 30 Days	4	40.0	20	12.6	46	9.9	15	9.9	64	13.7	149	11.9
31 - 60 Days	2	20.0	18	11.3	45	9.7	22	14.6	30	6.5	117	9.3
61 - 90 Days	0	0.0	8	5.0	16	3.4	7	4.6	13	2.8	44	3.5
91+ Days	0	0.0	13	8.2	36	7.7	27	17.9	12	2.6	88	7.0
TOTAL	10	100.0	159	100.0	466	100.0	151	100.0	468	100.0	1254	100.0
Median Duration	15.5		9.8		5.2		12.0		5.0		5.6	

a. Cases lacking either a beginning or ending absence date are treated as missing, and excluded from the analysis.

TABLE 8.2
Duration of Runaway Incidents
By Program Level, 1977^a

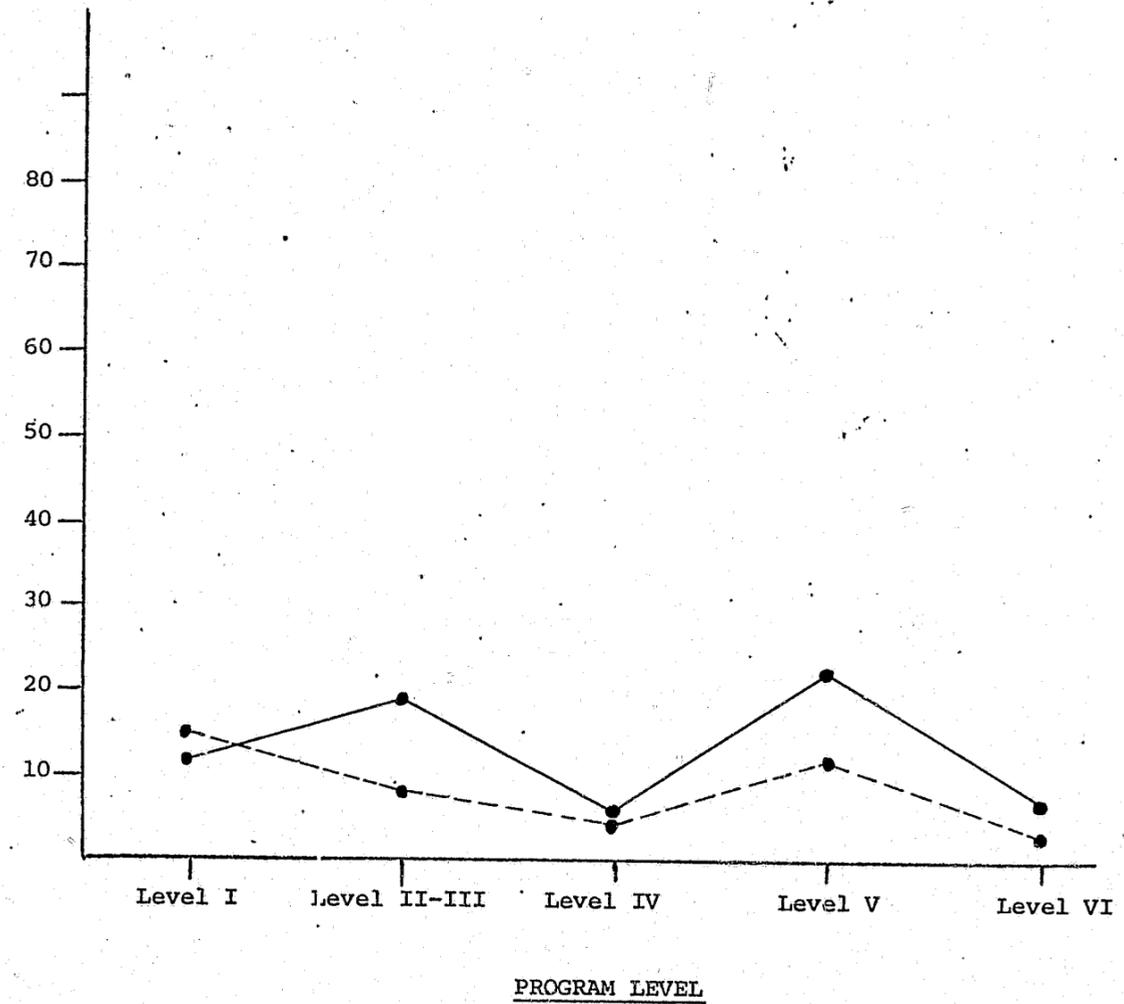
LENGTH OF ABSENCE	PROGRAM LEVEL										TOTAL	
	I		II-III		VI		V		VI		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
0 Days	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	0.4
1 Day	5	10.5	29	8.7	119	19.3	7	9.0	50	13.7	210	14.6
2 - 3 Days	13	27.7	27	8.1	110	17.8	13	16.7	70	19.1	233	16.2
4 - 7 Days	2	4.3	48	14.5	91	14.7	6	7.7	74	20.2	221	15.3
8 - 15 Days	6	12.8	45	13.6	98	15.9	5	6.4	57	15.6	211	14.6
16 - 30 Days	7	14.9	58	17.5	70	11.3	13	16.7	49	13.4	197	13.7
31 - 60 Days	4	8.5	46	13.9	47	7.6	13	16.7	39	10.7	149	10.3
61 - 90 Days	3	6.4	29	8.7	37	6.0	11	14.1	13	3.6	93	6.5
91+ Days	7	14.9	50	15.1	40	6.5	10	12.8	14	3.8	121	8.4
TOTAL	47	100.0	332	100.0	618	100.0	78	100.0	366	100.0	1441	100.0
Median Duration	12.0		18.7		6.8		24.5		7.1		8.8	

a. Cases lacking either a beginning or ending absence data are treated as missing and excluded from the analysis.

Chart VII
 Median Duration of Runaway Incidents By Program Level: 1977-1978

Median Runaway
 Duration

Program Level: ^a	Median Runaway Duration		% Change, 1977-1978
	1977	1978	
I	12.0	15.5	+22.6%
II & III	18.7	9.8	-47.6%
IV	6.8	5.2	-23.5%
V	24.5	12.0	-51.0%
VI	7.1	4.4	-38.0%
TOTAL	8.8	5.6	-36.4%



a. The Tryon women's cottage is treated as a Level II facility in this chart.

clear positive association between program level (or program restrictiveness) and runaway duration, i.e., the more restrictive the program setting, the longer the runaway duration -- a finding which is hardly surprising. Only the Level V YDC's depart from this trendline.

In Tables 9.1 and 9.2 which follow, the association between runaway duration and selected demographic variables is further explored. The first of these variables, youngster adjudication status, shows only a modest, positive association with runaway duration, i.e., the more serious the adjudication status, the greater the length of runaway incident. In 1977, for example, only 47.3% and 43.3% of the runaways attributable to PINS and voluntarily referred youth were greater than 7 days long; the comparison figures for Juvenile Delinquents and restrictively placed Juvenile Delinquents, however, were 57.2% and 73.3% respectively. In 1978, a similar association is found, with voluntarily referred youth and restrictively placed Juvenile Delinquents once again defining the extremes; in this instance, only 34.1% of runaways attributable to voluntary youngsters were more than a week long while the comparison figure for Juvenile Delinquents was 64.3%.

Sex differences in the length of runaways were similarly modest, with males evidencing slightly longer periods of absence than their female counterparts. In 1977, for example, 55.3% of male runaways were more than a week long, while only 48.8% of the female runaways were of this duration. In 1978, the percentage difference between male and female runaways was still approximately six percent, although an overall reduction in the length of runaways was experienced by both sexes.

Marked ethnic differences in the duration of runaway incidents were apparent in both calendar years. In 1977, for instance, 47.1%, 61.0%, and 67.8% of the runaway incidents carried out by White, Black, and Puerto Rican youngsters respectively were more than a week's duration. By 1978, the contrast figures for these youngsters (e.g., Whites, Blacks, and Puerto Ricans) had dropped to 39.5%, 49.4%, and 50.4%). In short, while all ethnic groups experienced appreciable reductions in

TABLE 9.1
Runaway Incident Duration;
Selected Demographic Correlates, 1978^a

	LENGTH OF ABSENCE																		TOTAL	
	0 Days		1 Day		2-3 Days		4-7 Days		8-15 Days		16-30 Days		31-60 Days		61-90 Days		91+ Days		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
ADJUDICATION																				
Restrictive Juv. Delin.	0	0.0	1	7.1	2	14.3	2	14.3	2	14.3	3	21.4	3	21.4	0	0.0	1	7.1	14	100.0
Juvenile Delinquent	2	0.3	175	23.5	115	15.4	113	15.2	92	12.3	86	11.5	72	9.7	31	4.2	59	7.9	745	100.0
Other Court Related	0	0.0	19	24.1	13	16.5	9	11.4	10	12.7	12	15.2	8	10.1	3	3.8	5	6.3	79	100.0
PINS	1	0.3	74	22.8	56	17.2	56	17.2	39	12.0	42	12.9	29	8.9	9	2.8	19	5.8	325	100.0
None	1	1.1	28	30.8	19	20.9	12	13.2	15	16.5	6	6.6	5	5.5	1	1.1	4	4.4	91	100.0
Column Total	4	0.3	297	23.7	205	16.3	192	15.3	158	12.6	149	11.9	117	9.3	44	3.5	88	7.0	1254	100.0
SEX																				
Male	4	0.5	210	24.2	132	15.2	119	13.7	118	13.6	98	11.3	83	9.6	34	3.9	68	7.9	866	100.0
Female	0	0.0	87	22.7	70	18.3	72	18.8	40	10.4	50	13.1	34	8.9	10	2.6	20	5.2	383	100.0
Column Total	4	0.3	297	23.8	202	16.2	191	15.3	158	12.7	148	11.8	117	9.4	44	3.5	88	7.0	1249	100.0
ETHNICITY																				
White	3	0.4	183	26.9	114	16.7	112	16.4	95	14.0	87	12.8	45	6.6	18	2.6	24	3.5	681	100.0
Black	1	0.2	78	19.3	69	17.0	57	14.1	46	11.4	47	11.6	52	12.8	17	4.2	38	9.4	405	100.0
Puerto Rican	0	0.0	34	25.6	17	12.8	15	11.3	14	10.5	9	6.8	16	12.0	6	4.5	22	16.5	133	100.0
American Indian	0	0.0	2	10.5	2	10.5	5	26.3	1	5.3	5	26.3	3	15.8	1	5.3	0	0.0	19	100.0
Other Hispanic	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	18.2	2	18.2	0	0.0	1	9.1	1	9.1	1	9.1	4	36.4	11	100.0
Column Total	4	0.3	297	23.8	204	16.3	191	15.3	156	12.5	149	11.9	117	9.4	43	3.4	88	7.0	1249	100.0
AGE																				
12	0	0.0	1	9.1	6	54.5	1	9.1	1	9.1	0	0.0	1	9.1	1	9.1	0	0.0	11	100.0
13	0	0.0	16	27.1	11	18.6	7	11.9	5	8.5	9	15.3	8	13.6	1	1.7	2	3.4	59	100.0
14	1	0.4	52	21.8	40	16.8	43	18.1	23	9.7	33	13.9	25	10.5	10	4.2	11	4.6	238	100.0
15	1	0.2	110	24.3	70	15.5	74	16.3	56	12.4	53	11.7	38	8.4	16	3.5	35	7.7	453	100.0
16	2	0.5	88	23.2	56	14.8	49	12.9	57	15.0	38	10.0	37	9.8	15	4.0	37	9.8	379	100.0
17	0	0.0	28	25.9	20	18.5	17	15.7	16	14.8	16	14.8	8	7.4	0	0.0	3	2.8	108	100.0
18	0	0.0	2	33.3	2	33.3	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	16.7	0	0.0	6	100.0
Column Total	4	0.3	297	23.7	205	16.3	192	15.3	158	12.6	149	11.9	117	9.3	44	3.5	88	7.0	1254	100.0
REFERRAL SOURCE																				
Self-Referral	0	0.0	21	27.3	21	27.3	14	18.2	6	7.8	4	5.2	5	6.5	2	2.6	4	5.2	77	100.0
Family Court	3	0.3	248	22.8	165	15.2	169	15.6	138	12.7	132	12.2	107	9.9	40	3.7	84	7.7	1086	100.0
Other	1	1.1	28	30.8	19	20.9	9	9.9	14	15.4	13	14.3	5	5.5	2	2.2	0	0.0	91	100.0
Column Total	4	0.3	297	23.7	205	16.3	192	15.3	158	12.6	149	11.9	117	9.3	44	3.5	88	7.0	1254	100.0

a. Cases lacking either a beginning or ending absence date are treated as missing and are excluded from this analysis; cases missing demographic information are similarly excluded.

TABLE 9.2
Runaway Incident Duration
Selected Demographic Correlates, 1977^a

	LENGTH OF ABSENCE																		TOTAL	
	0 Days		1 Day		2-3 Days		4-7 Days		8-15 Days		16-30 Days		31-60 Days		61-90 Days		91+ Days		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
ADJUDICATION																				
Restrictive Juv. Delin.	0	0.0	2	13.3	2	13.3	0	0.0	6	40.0	2	13.3	1	6.7	1	6.7	1	6.7	15	100.0
Juvenile Delinquent	3	0.3	111	12.6	130	14.8	133	15.1	108	12.3	136	15.5	99	11.3	71	8.1	89	10.1	880	100.0
Other Court Related	0	0.0	20	25.0	13	15.0	7	8.8	14	17.5	11	13.8	9	11.3	1	1.3	6	7.5	80	100.0
PINS	3	0.8	53	15.0	71	20.1	59	16.2	64	18.1	35	9.9	30	8.5	15	4.2	23	6.5	353	100.0
None	0	0.0	24	21.2	18	15.9	22	19.5	19	16.8	13	11.5	10	8.8	5	4.4	2	1.8	113	100.0
Column Total	6	0.4	210	14.6	233	16.2	221	15.3	211	14.6	197	13.7	149	10.3	93	6.5	121	8.4	1441	100.0
SEX																				
Male	5	0.5	154	14.6	160	15.1	154	14.6	137	12.9	159	15.0	113	10.7	76	7.2	100	9.5	1058	100.0
Female	1	0.3	54	14.2	72	19.0	67	17.7	74	19.5	38	10.0	36	9.5	16	4.2	21	5.5	379	100.0
Column Total	6	0.4	208	14.5	232	16.1	221	15.4	211	14.7	197	13.7	149	10.4	92	6.4	121	8.4	1437	100.0
ETHNICITY																				
White	5	0.6	139	17.1	152	18.7	134	16.5	128	15.7	104	12.8	66	8.1	40	4.9	45	5.5	813	100.0
Black	1	0.2	58	12.4	63	13.4	61	13.0	58	12.4	73	15.6	64	13.6	41	8.7	50	10.7	469	100.0
Puerto Rican	0	0.0	9	7.8	11	9.6	17	14.8	17	14.8	12	10.4	16	13.9	8	7.0	25	21.7	115	100.0
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0
American Indian	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	14.3	6	28.6	4	19.0	3	14.3	3	14.3	1	4.8	1	4.8	21	100.0
Other Hispanic	0	0.0	1	14.3	2	28.6	0	0.0	2	28.6	2	28.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	100.0
Column Total	6	0.4	207	14.5	231	16.2	219	15.4	209	14.7	194	13.6	149	10.4	90	6.3	121	8.5	1426	100.0
AGE																				
11	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	3	100.0
12	0	0.0	2	40.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	100.0
13	0	0.0	4	6.8	8	13.6	13	22.0	12	20.3	9	15.3	7	11.9	2	3.4	4	6.8	59	100.0
14	1	0.4	41	14.9	57	20.7	42	15.2	44	15.9	41	14.9	20	7.2	18	6.5	12	4.3	276	100.0
15	4	0.7	81	14.4	93	16.5	88	15.6	80	14.2	78	13.8	61	10.8	37	6.6	42	7.4	564	100.0
16	1	0.2	61	14.5	58	13.7	61	14.5	54	12.8	58	13.7	48	11.4	28	6.6	53	12.6	422	100.0
17	0	0.0	18	17.3	16	15.4	15	14.4	19	18.3	8	7.7	11	10.6	8	7.7	9	8.7	104	100.0
18	0	0.0	3	37.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	2	25.0	2	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	100.0
Column Total	6	0.4	210	14.6	233	16.2	221	15.3	211	14.6	197	13.7	149	10.3	93	6.5	121	8.4	1441	100.0
REFERRAL SOURCE																				
Self-Referral	0	0.0	13	12.5	19	18.3	14	13.5	21	20.2	19	18.3	6	5.8	9	8.7	3	2.9	104	100.0
Family Court	5	0.4	166	13.9	192	16.1	187	15.7	157	13.2	162	13.6	125	10.5	83	7.0	113	9.5	1190	100.0
Other	1	0.7	31	21.1	22	15.0	20	13.6	33	22.4	16	10.9	18	12.2	1	0.7	5	3.4	147	100.0
Column Total	6	0.4	210	14.6	233	16.2	221	15.3	211	14.6	197	13.7	149	10.3	93	6.5	121	8.4	1441	100.0

a. Cases lacking either a beginning or ending absence date are treated as missing and are excluded from this analysis; cases missing demographic information are similarly excluded.

the length of their runaways, between 1977 and 1978 (reductions which were especially pronounced among Puerto Rican youngsters), certain ethnic differences persisted in the 1978 calendar year. More specifically, White youth were 9.9% less likely than Blacks and 10.9% less likely than Puerto Rican youngsters to abscond for more than a week's period of time. Differences between Blacks and Puerto Ricans on the other hand had virtually disappeared by 1978, since Puerto Rican youth were only 1% more likely than Black youth to abscond for 8 days or more.

No appreciable relationship was discerned between the length of runaway incidents and the public assistance status of the absconder's family. The absence of a discernable relationship characterized findings in both 1977 and 1978. There was, however, a well-defined relationship between a youngster's referral status and runaway duration, at least in 1978. In that year, family court referred absconders were 18.8% more likely than self-referred youngsters to abscond for more than a week. This pattern was virtually non-existent in 1977 (only a 2% difference separated these two contrast groups in that year). What this may suggest interestingly is that family court referred youth and self-referred youth have become increasing "dissimilar" in terms of background and delinquency history over time.

Relationships between runaway duration and youngster age at the moment of absconding revealed no systematic pattern in 1978, and only a weak (negative) association in 1977. That is, older youth were characterized by slightly shorter runaway times than their younger counterparts. A final observation concerns the relationship between youngster legal status and incident duration (not presented in the tabled data). Briefly, there was an appreciable relationship between the severity of a youngster's legal status and runaway duration: in 1977, only 33.0% and 40.0% of Title II voluntarily placed youth and Title II court placed youth engaged in runaways of longer than a week's duration; 46.0% of the Title III placed youngsters in this year, on the other hand, engaged in runaways of this duration. Roughly comparable trends characterized the 1978 experience.

Summarizing then, there were a number of demographic variables associated with runaway duration. Youngsters with more serious legal and adjudication statuses, who were referred to DFY by the Family Court, and who were non-white were likely to abscond for longer periods than self-referred youth with less serious legal and adjudication statuses, and who were white. A youngster's age and sex as well as his/her public assistance status did not appear to have significant effects upon the length of the runaway incident. It is important to bear in mind, of course, that many of the aforementioned variables are highly correlated with one another, and in a univariate analysis of this type, we cannot discern the independent effect of each of these variables (net of the effect of the remaining variables). An assessment of the independent effects of each of these variables requires multivariate analysis strategies which are beyond the scope of this report.

F. Seasonal Trends in Runaway Incidents, The 1977-78 Experience:

Before turning to an examination of major correlates of runaway duration, a brief note on seasonal trends in runaway incidents is warranted. As Table 10 reveals, there were discernable, but weakly defined seasonal trends in absconding in both 1977 and 1978. During the winter and late fall quarters of 1978, for instance (the months of January, February and March; and October, November, and December respectively), only 22.1% and 19.2% of the annual runaway incidents occurred (by chance alone, of course, we would expect 50% of the incidents to occur during these six months). In 1977, the comparison figures for the winter and late fall quarters was 22.2% and 19.7% respectively. Stated differently, approximately 41% of each year's runaway incidents were generated during the six coldest months of each year, while approximately 59% were generated during the warm weather months -- evidence of a modest seasonal effect.

There were, however, level specific variations in the magnitude of these effects. In 1978, for example, the magnitude of the seasonal effect clearly covaried with the restrictiveness of the setting; that is, the more restrictive the setting, the greater the magnitude of the seasonal effect. Within the Division's most restrictive settings then,

TABLE 10
Seasonal Trends in Runaway Incidents
By Program Level: 1977-1978

1978: MONTH OF ABSENCE	PROGRAM LEVEL												TOTAL	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI		#	%		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%				
January	0	0.0	10	5.9	25	5.3	9	5.7	31	6.4	75	5.8		
February	0	0.0	1	0.6	45	9.6	13	8.2	35	7.3	94	7.3		
March	0	0.0	6	3.5	54	11.4	7	4.4	50	10.4	117	9.0		
April	0	0.0	13	7.6	37	7.8	20	12.7	64	13.3	134	10.3		
May	0	0.0	23	13.5	63	13.3	21	13.3	58	12.0	165	12.7		
June	0	0.0	15	8.8	40	8.4	11	7.0	42	8.7	108	8.3		
July	1	10.0	22	12.9	49	10.3	9	5.7	37	7.7	118	9.1		
August	2	20.0	23	13.5	65	13.7	14	8.9	31	6.4	135	10.4		
September	4	40.0	19	11.2	39	6.9	11	7.0	33	6.8	109	7.7		
October	2	20.0	22	12.9	32	6.7	8	5.1	37	7.7	101	7.8		
November	1	10.0	9	5.3	14	2.9	16	10.1	37	7.7	77	5.9		
December	0	0.0	7	4.1	18	3.8	19	12.0	27	5.6	71	5.5		
Column Total	10	100.0	170	100.0	475	100.0	158	100.0	482	100.0	1295	100.0		
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
1977: MONTH OF ABSENCE														
January	3	6.4	36	10.8	40	6.4	8	10.1	18	4.9	105	7.3		
February	7	14.9	38	11.4	34	5.5	8	10.1	19	5.2	106	7.3		
March	8	17.0	29	8.7	39	6.3	2	2.5	18	4.9	96	6.6		
April	7	14.9	40	12.0	77	12.4	11	13.9	26	7.1	161	11.1		
May	8	17.0	60	18.1	75	12.1	7	8.9	49	13.4	199	13.8		
June	7	14.9	25	7.5	65	10.5	9	11.4	29	7.9	135	9.3		
July	5	10.6	34	10.2	59	9.5	4	5.1	33	9.0	135	9.3		
August	1	2.1	10	3.0	65	10.5	4	5.1	41	11.2	121	8.4		
September	0	0.0	20	6.0	38	6.1	8	10.1	37	10.1	103	7.1		
October	0	0.0	16	4.8	62	10.0	4	5.1	29	7.9	111	7.7		
November	0	0.0	12	3.6	38	6.1	6	7.6	40	10.9	96	6.6		
December	1	2.1	12	3.6	29	4.7	8	10.1	29	7.6	78	5.4		
Column Total	47	100.0	332	100.0	621	100.0	79	100.0	367	100.0	1446	100.0		

CONTINUED

1 OF 2

the seasonal effect was most pronounced -- with only 30.0% (n=3) of the runaways occurring during the cold weather months. At the other end of the program level continuum, the seasonal effect was the least pronounced with 46.1% of the abscondings occurring from the urban homes during this period. This pattern did not hold in 1977, however.

VI. OVERSTAY INCIDENTS IN DFY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

A. An Overview of the 1977-1978 Experience:

In this section, we shift our focus to another type of absconding behavior, the overstay. As noted earlier in Section II of this report, the overstay is defined as an unauthorized absence occurring as a result of an unauthorized extension of a legitimate leave. During the 1977-1978 time period, the volume of overstays (abscondings resulting from failure to return from a legitimately authorized absence) increased substantially.⁷ Within the six major program levels examined, overstay incidents numbered 196 in 1977 and 317 in 1978, a 61.7% increase in overstay incident volume during this time period. Viewed as a percentage of all AWOL incidents of any type generated during these time periods, overstays represented 11.9% of all incident activity generated in 1977 and 19.7% of the AWOL activity in 1978.

Although system-wide overstay incidents increased appreciably in the 1977-1978 period, there was substantial variation in the degree, but not the direction of these changes in overstay counts by program level. As Tables 11.1 and 11.2 reveal, the largest absolute increases in overstay incidents were experienced by the Division's Level IV programs (non-community based programs without secure capability); these programs increased their aggregate overstay incident count from 89 to 146, a 64.1% jump; Level II-III programs increased their incident counts

⁷ It is important to bear in mind that prior to April 1 of 1977, DFY reporting forms did not capture "overstays" as a distinct absconding category. Consequently, the increased volume of overstays occurring in 1978 by contrast to 1977, is at least partially an artifact of changed reporting procedures.

TABLE 11.1
 Overstay Incidents, Overstay Youth,
 Overstay Incident Rates, & Overstay Youth Rates;
 By Facility and Program Level, 1978

Level	Program	Overstay Incidents		Overstay Cases		Overstay Youth ^B		# Overstay Youth Per 100 Youth Served	# Overstay Incidents Per 100 Youth Served
		#	%	#	%	#	%		
I	<u>Secure Programs</u>								
	Goshen	7	63.6	7	63.6	7	63.6	5.8	5.8
	Brookwood	4	36.4	4	36.4	4	36.4	4.5	4.5
	Bronx State	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Subtotal	11	100.0	11	100.0	(11)		4.7	4.7
	% of Grand Total		(3.5)		(3.9)		(4.0)		
II	<u>Non-Community Based</u>								
	Industry	51	42.5	44	42.3	44	43.1	18.6	21.5
	Tryon ^a	26	21.7	20	19.2	20	19.6	9.9	12.9
	Highland OEC	5	4.2	5	4.8	5	4.9	11.9	11.9
	Brentwood START	5	4.2	5	4.8	5	4.9	6.5	6.5
	Camp Brace	13	10.8	13	12.5	13	12.7	11.7	11.7
	Camp MacCormick	17	14.2	14	13.5	14	13.7	19.4	23.6
III	Highland ILC	3	2.5	3	2.9	3	2.9	7.7	7.7
	Subtotal	120	100.0	104	100.0	(102)		13.1	15.4
	% of Grand Total		(44.5)		(43.7)		(41.5)		
IV	<u>Camps</u>								
	Annsville	16	11.0	16	12.3	16	12.3	8.6	8.6
	Cass	18	12.3	15	11.5	15	11.5	8.4	10.1
	Nueva Vista	23	15.8	23	17.7	23	17.7	18.2	18.2
	Great Valley	54	37.0	42	32.3	42	32.3	24.8	31.9
	<u>Spec. Residential Ctrs.</u>								
	South Kortright	7	4.8	7	5.4	7	5.4	4.9	4.9
	Auburn	2	1.4	2	1.5	2	1.5	8.0	8.0
	South Lansing	11	7.5	10	7.7	10	7.7	6.0	6.6
	<u>START's</u>								
	Adirondack	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Willowbrook	5	3.4	5	3.8	5	3.8	6.8	6.8
	Middletown	10	6.8	10	7.7	10	7.7	21.7	21.7
	Subtotal	146	100.0	130	100.0	(130)		10.9	12.3
	% of Grand Total		(39.4)		(39.4)		(39.7)		

TABLE 11.1 (Cont.)

Level	Program	Overstay Incidents		Overstay Cases		Overstay Youth		# Overstay Youth Per 100 Youth Served	# Overstay Incidents Per 100 Youth Served
		#	%	#	%	#	%		
V	<u>Community Programs (YDC's)</u>								
	YDC #1 - Bronx	2	22.2	2	22.2	2	22.2	1.5	1.5
	YDC #2 - NYC	1	11.1	1	11.1	1	11.1	2.4	2.4
	YDC #3 - Brooklyn	2	22.2	2	22.2	2	22.2	1.4	1.4
	YDC #4 - Brooklyn	1	11.1	1	11.1	1	11.1	1.8	1.8
	YDC #5 - Syracuse	3	33.3	3	33.3	3	33.3	5.4	5.4
	YDC #6 - Buffalo	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Subtotal	9	100.0	9	100.0	(9)	100.0	1.8	1.8
	% of Grand Total	---	(2.8)	---	(3.2)	---	(3.2)	---	---
VI	<u>Group Homes</u>	23	74.2	20	74.1	20	74.1	1.8	2.0
	<u>Urban START Centers</u>								
	Buffalo START #4	6	19.4	5	18.5	5	18.5	7.5	9.0
	NYC START #2	1	3.2	1	3.7	1	3.7	1.8	1.8
	NYC START #7	1	3.2	1	3.7	1	3.7	4.5	4.5
	Subtotal	31	100.0	27	100.0	(27)	100.0	2.1	2.4
	% of Grand Total	---	(9.6)	---	(9.7)	---	(9.7)	---	---
	GRAND TOTAL	<u>317</u>		<u>279</u>		<u>(277)</u>		<u>6.8</u>	<u>7.8</u>

- a. The Tryon women's unit is treated as a Level II facility in order to facilitate the use of available population data.
 b. Subtotal frequencies do not always reflect the simple summation of facility specific frequencies, nor do facility specific percentages always sum to 100%. This is due to the distinction between "cases" and "youth" at the program and system-wide level.

TABLE 11.2
 Overstay Incidents, Overstay Youth,
 Overstay Incident Rates, & Overstay Youth Rates;
 By Facility and Program Level, 1977

Level	Program	Overstay Incidents		Overstay Cases		Overstay Youth ^b		# Overstay Youth Per 100 Youth Served	# Overstay Incidents Per 100 Youth Served
		#	%	#	%	#	%		
I	<u>Secure Centers</u>	5	71.4	4	66.7	4	66.7	3.5	4.4
	Goshen	5	71.4	4	66.7	4	66.7	3.5	4.4
	Brookwood	2	28.6	2	33.3	2	33.3	2.0	2.0
	Bronx State	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Subtotal	7	100.0	6	100.0	(6)	---	2.6	3.0
	% of Grand Total	---	(3.6)	---	(3.5)	---	(3.5)	---	---
II	<u>Non-Community Based</u>								
	Industry	52	60.5	44	59.5	44	59.5	13.7	16.1
	Tryon ^a	24	27.9	21	28.4	21	28.4	7.2	8.2
	Highland OEC	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Brentwood START	2	2.3	1	1.4	1	1.4	1.3	2.7
	Camp Brace	8	9.3	8	10.8	8	10.8	6.2	6.2
	Subtotal	86	100.0	74	100.0	(74)	---	8.0	9.3
	% of Grand Total	---	(55.6)	---	(55.8)	---	(56.1)	---	---
IV	<u>Camps</u>								
	Annsville	10	11.2	10	12.7	10	12.7	5.8	5.8
	Cass	16	18.0	13	16.5	13	16.5	6.7	8.2
	Nueva Vista	2	2.2	2	2.5	2	2.5	1.9	1.9
	Great Valley	25	28.1	19	24.1	19	24.1	9.5	12.6
	MacCormick	9	10.1	8	10.1	8	10.1	6.8	7.7
	<u>Spec. Residential Ctrs.</u>								
	South Kortright	10	11.2	10	12.7	10	12.7	6.8	6.8
	Auburn	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	South Lansing	8	9.0	8	10.1	8	10.1	4.0	4.0
	<u>START's</u>								
	Adirondack	1	1.1	1	1.3	1	1.3	1.6	1.6
	Willowbrook	2	2.2	2	2.5	2	2.5	3.4	3.4
	Middletown	6	6.7	6	7.6	6	7.6	7.8	7.8
	Subtotal	89	100.0	79	100.0	79	---	5.8	6.6
	% of Grand Total	---	(33.7)	---	(33.1)	---	(33.3)	---	---

TABLE 11.2 (Cont.)

Level	Program	Overstay Incidents		Overstay Cases		Overstay Youth		# Overstay Youth Per 100 Youth Served	# Overstay Incidents Per 100 Youth Served
		#	%	#	%	#	%		
V	<u>Community Programs (YDC's)</u>								
	YDC #1 - Bronx	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	YDC #2 - NYC	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	YDC #3 - Brooklyn	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	YDC #4 - Brooklyn	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	YDC #5 - Syracuse	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	YDC #6 - Buffalo	1	100.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	1.7	1.7
	Subtotal	1	100.0	1	100.0	1		0.2	0.2
	% of Grand Total		(0.5)		(0.6)		(0.6)		
VI	<u>Group Homes</u>	11	84.6	10	83.3	10	83.3	0.8	0.9
	<u>Urban START Centers</u>								
	Buffalo START #4	2	15.4	2	16.7	2	16.7	3.1	3.1
	NYC START #2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	NYC START #7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Subtotal	13	100.0	12	100.0	(12)		0.9	1.0
	% of Grand Total		(6.6)		(7.0)		(7.0)		
	GRAND TOTAL	<u>196</u>		<u>172</u>		<u>(171)</u>		<u>4.0</u>	<u>4.5</u>

- a. The Tryon women's unit is treated as a Level II facility in order to facilitate the use of available population data.
- b. Subtotal frequencies do not always reflect the simple summation of facility specific frequencies, nor do facility specific frequencies always sum to 100%. This is due to the distinction between "cases" and "youth" at the program and system-wide level.

from 86 in 1977 to 120 in 1978, a 38.2% increase; and the Urban Home programs, the least restrictive of the Division's programs, experienced a 138.6% jump in its incident count between 1977-1978, rising from 13 overstays in 1977 to 31 in 1978. A percentage shift of substantial magnitude (57.0%; n=4) also characterized the most restrictive programs within the Division -- the Level I facilities. Finally, Level V YDC programs jumped from only 1 incident of this type in 1977 to 9 incidents of this type in 1978. In effect, then, the uptrends in the absolute number of overstay incidents experienced during the 1977-1978 period were not related to program level in any systematic fashion; however it is worth noting in passing that the Level V YDC programs accounted for approximately 46% of all Division-wide overstay activity in both 1977 and 1978, in spite of the fact that its programs handled only 31.3% of the Division-wide youth served in 1977 and 29.3% in 1978.

Columns 2 and 3 of Tables 11.1 and 11.2 also reveal trends in actual numbers of overstay youth which parallel the overstay incident trends just discussed. Between 1977 and 1978, for example, the actual number of youth involved in overstay activity increased system-wide from 171 to 277, a proportional increase of 61.7%, exactly paralleling the percentage increase in overstay incident volumes noted earlier. Once again, these Division-wide trends varied substantially, but not in a patterned fashion, from program level to program level. Level VI, Level I, and Level IV programs, for example, experienced net gains in their numbers of overstay youth of 15 (a 125% increase); 5 (an 83.3% increase); and 51 (a 64.5% increase) respectively during the 1977-1978 period. Limited secure Level II-III programs experienced a more modest 37.8% upturn in overstays, increasing their overstay absconder count from 74 to 102 in 1978. YDC's also mirrored these uptrends by increasing their numbers of overstay youth from 1 to 9 in 1978.

Earlier, we observed that the upward shifts in the absolute numbers of overstay youth were not systematically related to program level. However, when overstay youth or incident counts are expressed as a percent of all AWOL youth or AWOL incidents, the tendency to rely upon off-campus overstay strategies as a vehicle for absconding, does appear related to restrictiveness levels. It is important to note that this

tendency, if present, would not necessarily be reflected in simple uptrends in overstay counts; clearly, if overstays in a given facility are increasing, but at the same time, runaways are increasing at an even faster rate, then this would not constitute evidence of a shift toward the use of overstays as a preferred absconding mechanism, quite the contrary, in fact.

The tabled data described in Table 12 permit: a) an examination of the extent to which there has been a shift toward the use of overstay as an absconding strategy; and b) more importantly, whether this tendency is systematically related to a program's level of restrictiveness. As noted earlier, the reader should bear in mind that the overstay incident rates described in columns 9 and 11 express the basic relationship between overstay incidents as a proportion of all AWOL incidents. Hence, even under conditions of dramatic increase or reduction in all AWOL incidents over time, these rates will inform us of a differential tendency to rely upon overstay absconding strategies as opposed to other absconding strategies within specific program levels.⁸

As the four right-hand columns of Table 12 indicate, the number of overstay incidents per 100 AWOL incidents did change substantially from year to year. In 1977, for instance, the overstay incidents generated per 100 AWOL incidents, as well as the number of overstay youth per 100 AWOL youngsters showed pronounced upward shifts. As we have already noted, these upward shifts are in part at least an artifact of the changed reporting procedures in 1977. With this caveat in mind, it is worth noting that the overstay incident ratio Division-wide increased from 11.9 in 1977 to 19.7 in 1978, a 65.5% increase. The increases observed, furthermore, were pronounced throughout all program levels.

⁸ This premise is true incidentally notwithstanding changes in the reporting of AWOL incidents which occurred in 1977. While the use of the "overstay" reporting category for the first time in early 1977, could account for the dramatic "increase" in overstays by 1978, such a reporting change would NOT account for the systematic association between overstay incidents per 100 AWOL incidents and program level in each calendar year.

TABLE 12
 Overstay Incidents Per 100 AWOL Incidents and
 Overstay Youth Per 100 AWOL Youth, By Program Level: 1977 & 1978

Program Level	1977				1978				1977		1978	
	Total AWOL Incidents	Total Overstay Incidents	Total AWOL Youth	Total Overstay Youth	Total AWOL Incidents	Total Overstay Incidents	Total AWOL Youth	Total Overstay Youth	Overstay Inc./100 AWOL Inc.	Overstay Youth/100 AWOL	Overstay Inc./100 AWOL Inc.	Overstay Youth/100 AWOL
I	40	7	29	6	21	11	19	11	17.5	20.7	52.4	57.9
II-III ^a	432	86	266	74	290	120	195	102	19.9	27.8	41.4	52.3
IV	710	89	422	79	621	146	365	130	12.5	18.7	23.5	35.6
V	80	1	66	1	167	9	126	9	1.2	1.5	5.4	7.1
VI	380	13	261	12	513	31	322	27	3.4	4.6	6.0	8.4
STATEWIDE	1642	196	950	171	1612	317	930	277 ^b	14.9	18.0	19.7	29.8

a. Tryon is treated in this table as a single Level II facility in order to facilitate the use of available population data.
 b. Program Level frequencies do not sum to 277. This is due to the distinction between "cases" and "youth" at the system-wide level.

More importantly, however, in both 1977 and 1978 data, there was a positive relationship between overstay incident ratios and program restrictiveness, e.g., the more restrictive the program level, the higher the overstay incident ratio. Stated differently, as the secure capability of programs is increased, there is a greater tendency among absconders to rely upon overstay absconding strategies. In 1978, for example, there were 52.4 overstay incidents for every 100 incidents of any type occurring in the Division's secure center programs. This figure stands in sharp contrast to the 6.0 overstay incident ratio characterizing the Division's urban home programs. Furthermore, since this trend appears more clearly defined in 1978 than 1977, this may provide additional presumptive evidence of the impact of improved security and monitoring procedures within the more secure DFY programs during this period.

B. Overstay Incident and Overstay Youth Rates Per 100 Served

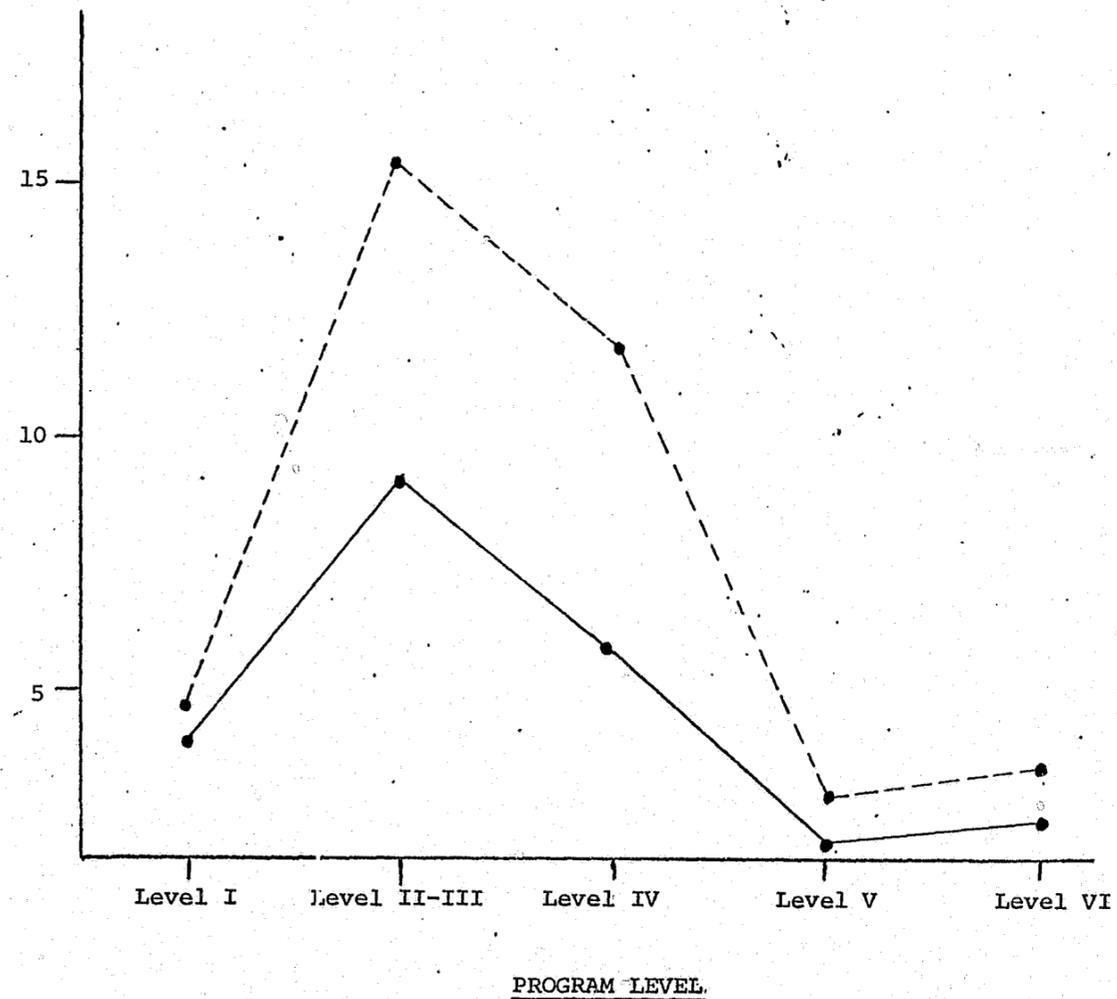
Before reviewing the demographic characteristics of overstay incidents, we briefly discuss the standardized rate variables presented in the two right-hand columns of Tables 11.1 and 11.2. As noted in earlier discussions, these standardized rate variables permit more valid comparisons between facilities or program levels. By taking into account the total number of youth actually served by a given program, raw overstay counts (expressed either as incidents or overstay youth) are effectively standardized in terms of the total numbers of youth actually served by a program, all of whom are "at risk" of overstay. By calculating both overstay incident and overstay youth rates per 100 youth served, more meaningful comparisons are possible.

Charts VIII and IX more graphically illustrate these standardized incident and youth rate variables. Note that in both charts, the 1978 overstay rates are higher than 1977 rates. However, while system-wide overstay incident rates and overstay youth rates increased by 95% and 70% respectively during the 1977-78 period, the magnitude of these 1977-1978 uptrends varied considerably from program level to program level. In the Division's Level I programs, for example, incident and overstay youth rates rose to 4.7 per 100 served in 1978, an upward

Chart VIII
 Overstay Youth Per 100 Youth Served,
 By Program Level: 1977-1978

Number of Overstay
 Incidents/100 Served

Program Level: ^a	Incident Rates Per 100 Served		% Change 1977-78
	1977	1978	
I	3.0	4.7	+ 56.6%
II & III	9.3	15.4	+ 65.6%
IV	6.6	12.3	+ 86.4%
V	0.2	1.8	+800.0%
VI	1.0	2.4	+140.0%
TOTAL	4.0	7.8	+ 95.0%

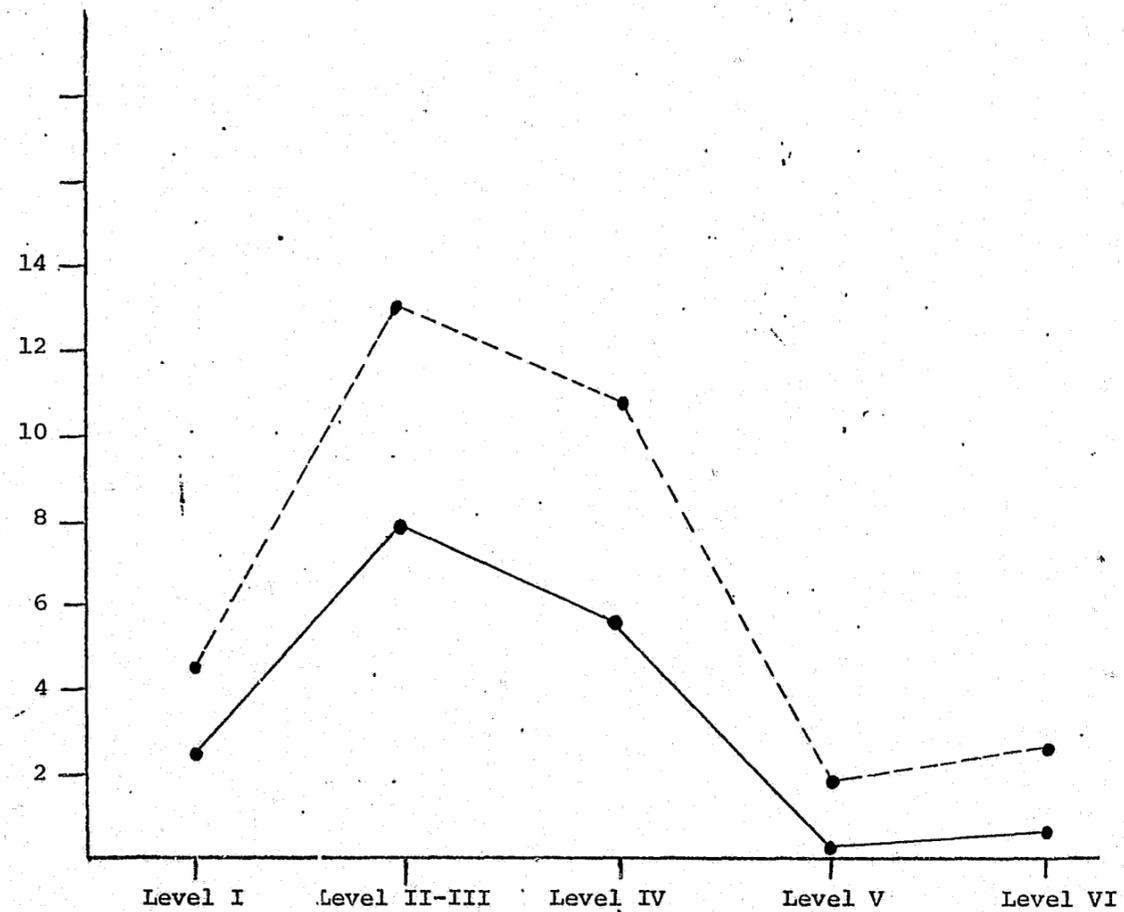


a. The Tryon women's cottage is treated as a Level II facility in this chart.

Chart IX
Overstay Youth Per 100 Youth Served,
By Program Level; 1977-1978

Number of Overstay
Youth/100 Served

Program Level: ^a	Overstay Youth Per 100 Served		% Change 1977-78
	1977	1978	
I	2.5	4.7	+ 80.8%
II & III	8.0	13.1	+ 63.8%
IV	5.8	10.9	+ 87.9%
V	0.2	1.8	+800.0%
VI	0.9	2.1	+133.3%
TOTAL	4.0	6.8	+ 70.0%



————— 1977
- - - - - 1978

PROGRAM LEVEL

a. The Tryon women's cottage is treated as a Level II facility in this chart.

shift of 56.6% and 80.8% respectively. The most pronounced rate increases were experienced by DFY's community based, non-secure (Level V and Level VI) programs. Taken collectively, the overstay youth rates of these community based programs rose from 0.7 overstay youth/100 served in 1977 to 2.1 overstay youth/100 in 1978--a 200% rate increase. This same pronounced upturn was reflected in the overstay incident rates of these programs, rising from 0.8 incidents/100 served in 1977 to 2.3/100 in 1978. In short, appreciable overstay rate increases were experienced in the Division's Level V and Level VI programs between 1977 and 1978 while the most secure and limited secure programs experienced less pronounced increases in their overstay rates. In spite of these pronounced upward shifts in the community based programs, it is important to bear in mind that the 1977 and 1978 incident and youth rates for these two program levels were still the lowest within the Division of any program type. In a very real sense, therefore, the magnitude of the 1977-1978 upward trends in overstay incident and youth rates is tempered by the relatively low rate activity characterizing these two program levels.

C. Overstay Incidents: Basic Demographics, 1977-1978

We turn now to a descriptive analysis of overstay incidents and their demographic variation. In reviewing the tabled data in this report section, the reader is once again reminded that this data is based upon absconding incidents, not youth. Tables 13.1 and 13.2 summarize findings for selected demographic variables, by program level, for 1977 and 1978. By inspecting the row totals, a quick overview of the entire incident distribution (over all program levels) is achieved.

As Tables 13.2 and 13.1 reveal, there were no noteworthy shifts from calendar year to calendar year in the distribution of overstay incidents by youngster adjudication status. In 1977 and 1978, adjudicated Juvenile Delinquents were the major generators of overstay incidents, accounting for 77.6% and 76.8% of the incident volumes in these two years respectively. These Division-wide trends, however, were reflected principally in its Level I, II-III, and Level IV programs. The Level V YDC's and the Level VI urban home programs, however,

TABLE 13.1
Overstay Incidents:
Basic Demographic Characteristics
By Program Level, 1978^a

	PROGRAM LEVEL											
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
ADJUDICATION												
Restrictive Juvenile Delinquent	2	10.5	1	0.9	3	2.1	1	11.1	0	0.0	7	2.2
Juvenile Delinquent	15	78.9	102	91.1	111	76.0	3	33.3	10	32.3	241	76.0
PINS	0	0.0	0	0.0	23	15.8	3	33.3	13	41.9	39	12.3
Other Court Related	0	0.0	4	3.6	2	1.4	0	0.0	2	6.5	8	2.5
None	2	10.5	5	4.5	7	4.8	2	22.2	6	19.4	22	6.9
Column Total	19	100.0	112	100.0	146	100.0	9	100.0	31	100.0	317	100.0
SEX												
Male	11	57.9	111	99.1	131	90.3	8	88.9	22	71.0	283	89.6
Female	8	42.1	1	0.9	14	9.7	1	11.1	9	29.0	33	10.4
Column Total	19	100.0	112	100.0	145	100.0	9	100.0	31	100.0	316	100.0
ETHNICITY												
White	5	26.3	29	25.9	40	27.8	1	11.1	16	51.6	91	28.9
Black	11	57.9	56	50.0	75	52.1	7	77.8	10	32.3	159	50.5
Puerto Rican	2	10.5	22	19.6	27	18.8	1	11.1	3	9.7	55	17.5
American Indian	0	0.0	4	3.6	2	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	1.9
Other Hispanic	1	5.3	1	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	6.5	4	1.3
Column Total	19	100.0	112	100.0	144	100.0	9	100.0	31	100.0	315	100.0
AGE												
12	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	2.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	1.3
13	0	0.0	2	1.8	14	9.6	1	11.1	0	0.0	17	5.4
14	0	0.0	14	12.5	26	17.8	1	11.1	2	6.5	43	13.6
15	7	36.8	39	34.8	46	31.5	4	44.4	10	32.3	106	33.4
16	11	57.9	45	40.2	47	32.2	3	33.3	15	48.4	121	38.2
17	1	5.3	12	10.7	8	5.5	0	0.0	3	9.7	24	7.6
18	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	3.2	2	0.6
Column Total	19	100.0	112	100.0	146	100.0	9	100.0	31	100.0	317	100.0
REFERRAL SOURCE												
Self-Referred	0	0.0	2	1.8	8	5.5	0	0.0	6	19.4	16	5.0
Family Court Referred	18	94.7	109	97.3	132	90.4	7	77.8	21	67.7	287	90.5
Other Court Related	1	5.3	1	0.9	6	4.1	2	22.2	4	12.9	14	4.4
Column Total	19	100.0	112	100.0	146	100.0	9	100.0	31	100.0	317	100.0

a. Marginal totals will not always sum to 317, since unreported information is treated as missing, and such cases are excluded from the analysis.

TABLE 13.2
Overstay Incidents:
Basic Demographic Characteristics
By Program Level, 1977^a

	PROGRAM LEVEL										TOTAL	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
ADJUDICATION												
Restrictive Juvenile Delinquent	0	0.0	1	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5
Juvenile Delinquent	12	92.3	71	88.8	64	71.9	1	100.0	4	30.8	152	77.6
PINS	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	15.7	0	0.0	7	53.8	21	10.7
Other Court Related	1	7.7	2	2.5	7	7.9	0	0.0	1	7.7	11	5.6
None	0	0.0	6	7.5	4	4.5	0	0.0	1	7.7	11	5.6
Column Total	13	100.0	80	100.0	89	100.0	1	100.0	13	100.0	196	100.0
SEX												
Male	7	53.9	80	100.0	78	88.6	1	100.0	6	46.2	172	88.2
Female	6	46.2	0	0.0	10	11.4	0	0.0	7	53.8	23	11.8
Column Total	13	100.0	80	100.0	88	100.0	1	100.0	13	100.0	195	100.0
ETHNICITY												
White	5	38.5	23	29.1	28	31.8	0	0.0	7	53.8	63	32.5
Black	7	53.8	45	57.0	50	56.8	0	0.0	5	38.5	107	55.2
Puerto Rican	1	7.7	9	11.4	8	9.1	1	100.0	1	7.7	20	10.3
American Indian	0	0.0	2	2.5	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.5
Other Hispanic	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5
Column Total	13	100.0	79	100.0	88	100.0	1	100.0	13	100.0	194	100.0
AGE												
12	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1	1	100.0	0	0.0	2	1.0
13	0	0.0	2	2.5	2	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	2.0
14	2	15.4	13	16.3	13	14.6	0	0.0	1	7.7	29	14.8
15	5	38.5	27	33.8	41	46.1	0	0.0	6	46.2	79	40.3
16	5	38.5	32	40.0	24	27.0	0	0.0	4	30.8	65	33.2
17	1	7.7	6	7.5	8	9.0	0	0.0	2	15.4	17	8.7
Column Total	13	100.0	80	100.0	89	100.0	1	100.0	13	100.0	196	100.0
REFERRAL SOURCE												
Self-Referral	0	0.0	2	2.5	5	5.6	0	0.0	3	23.1	10	5.1
Family Court Referred	12	92.3	75	93.8	79	88.8	1	100.0	8	61.5	175	89.3
Other Court Related	1	7.7	3	3.8	5	5.6	0	0.0	2	15.4	11	5.6
Column Total	13	100.0	80	100.0	89	100.0	1	100.0	13	100.0	196	100.0

a. Marginal totals will not always sum to 196, since unreported information is treated as missing, and such cases are excluded from the analysis.

departed from Division-wide norms in both years -- particularly 1978. In that year, only 14 of the 40 overstay incidents generated in both of these program levels (or 35%) were due to adjudicated Juvenile Delinquents -- a significant, but not unexpected departure from the trends found in other program levels.

Female youngsters accounted for approximately constant "shares" of overstay incident volumes in both 1977, and 1978 on a Division-wide basis. In 1977, for example, females accounted for 11.8% (n=23) of all overstays and in 1978, for 10.4% (n=33). Although these trends in the sex distribution of overstay incidents remained roughly constant within and across program levels in both years, there were two exceptions to this rule:

- a) In Level VI, the urban home programs, 7 of the overstay incidents (53.8%) were attributable to female youngsters; by 1978, only 9 of 31 such incidents (or 29%) were attributable to female youth, a clear downswing in the direction of overall Division-wide trends.
- b) In the secure, Level I programs, the percentage of overstay incidents generated by female youth remained approximately constant from year to year; however, in both years, the secure center percentage figures for females were substantially higher than the Division-wide average, i.e., over 40% in both years.

Although the ethnic character of runaway incidents remained virtually constant on a Division-wide basis from year to year, this was not the case with overstay incidents. In 1977, for example, overstay incidents generated by White, Black, and Puerto Rican youngsters accounted for 32.5%, 55.2%, and 10.3% of the incident volumes respectively. By 1978, White youth accounted for 28.9% of the incidents (a 3.6% downtrend). Blacks for 50.5% of the incidents (a 4.7% downtrend); and Puerto Rican youth for 17.5% of the incidents, (a 7.2% upswing). This upswing in the proportional share of overstay incidents generated by Puerto Rican youth on a Division-wide basis was due largely to the increases experienced by these youngsters in Level II-III

and Level IV programs over time. One other point is worth noting here: while runaway incidents in both 1977 and 1978 were modally a White phenomenon (comprising approximately 55% of runaway volumes in both years), overstays are modally a Black phenomenon. In 1977 and 1978, they accounted for 55.2% and 50.5% respectively.

The pattern of overstay incidents attributable to youngsters of differing referral status remained constant over time. In both 1977 and 1978, family court referred youngsters accounted for approximately 90% of the incident volume, while self-referred youth accounted for approximately 5% more. These Division-wide trends were mirrored rather closely within all program levels in both years, with the exception only of the urban home and YDC programs. In these community based programs, the percentage of overstay activity attributable to self-referred youth was 21.4% in 1977 (16.3% higher than the system-wide norm of 5.1% in that year) and 15.0% in 1978 (or 10.0% higher than the system-wide norm in this year). Additionally, there was a positive association between the percent of overstays generated by family court referred youth and program level in the 1978 data, i.e., the less restrictive the program setting, the fewer the percentage of overstay incidents generated by family court referred youngsters. This pattern did not hold in 1977.

Changes in the age distributions of overstay incidents were negligible in the 1977-1978 period. In 1977 and 1978, 15 and 16 year old youngsters (taken collectively), were responsible for 73.5% and 71.6% of Division-wide overstays respectively. No other demographic variables examined revealed significant shifts in their distribution patterns from 1977 to 1978.

D. Overstay Duration: Selected Correlates, 1977-1978

In this portion of the overstay analysis, we examine selected correlates of overstay duration. Major Division-wide and level-specific trends are briefly summarized first as a preface to a more detailed tabular analysis. As Tables 14.1 and 14.2 reveal, the median duration of overstays occurring in 1977 was 9.8 days. Stated differently, 50.0% of the overstay incidents lasted under 9.8 days, and 50%, 9.8 days or

TABLE 14.1
Duration of Overstay Incidents
By Program Level, 1978^a

LENGTH OF ABSENCE	PROGRAM LEVEL										TOTAL	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
0 Days	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
1 Day	0	0.0	19	17.9	20	14.1	3	37.5	6	19.4	48	15.7
2 - 3 Days	4	22.2	15	14.2	27	19.0	2	25.0	11	35.5	59	19.3
4 - 7 Days	0	0.0	17	16.0	20	14.1	1	12.5	7	22.6	45	14.8
8 - 15 Days	3	16.7	17	16.0	13	9.2	0	0.0	4	12.9	37	12.1
16 - 30 Days	7	38.9	18	17.0	16	11.3	1	12.5	1	3.2	43	14.1
31 - 60 Days	1	5.6	9	8.5	12	8.5	0	0.0	1	3.2	23	7.5
61 - 90 Days	2	11.1	5	4.7	11	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	5.9
91+ Days	1	5.6	6	5.7	23	16.2	1	12.5	1	3.2	32	10.5
TOTAL	18	100.0	106	100.0	142	100.0	8	100.0	31	100.0	305	100.0
Median Duration	20.5		8.1		8.8		2.5		3.2		7.6	

a. Cases lacking either a beginning or ending absence date are treated as missing and excluded from this analysis.

TABLE 14.2
Duration of Overstay Incidents
By Program Level, 1977a

LENGTH OF ABSENCE	PROGRAM LEVEL										TOTAL	
	I		II-III		IV		V		IV		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
0 Days	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5
1 Day	0	0.0	7	8.8	14	15.7	0	0.0	3	23.1	24	12.2
2 - 3 Days	2	15.4	11	13.8	18	20.2	0	0.0	2	15.4	33	16.8
4 - 7 Days	0	0.0	15	18.8	11	12.4	1	100.0	3	23.1	30	15.3
8 - 15 Days	2	15.4	8	10.0	8	9.0	0	0.0	3	23.1	21	10.7
16 - 30 Days	1	7.7	9	11.3	11	12.4	0	0.0	2	15.4	23	11.7
31 - 60 Days	3	23.1	8	10.0	14	15.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	25	12.8
61 - 90 Days	1	7.7	6	7.4	4	4.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	5.6
91+ Days	4	30.8	16	20.0	8	9.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	28	14.3
TOTAL	13	100.0	80	100.0	89	100.0	1	100.0	13	100.0	196	100.0
Median Duration	46.0		13.5		7.6		5.0		4.3		9.3	

a. Cases lacking either a beginning or ending absence date are treated as missing and excluded from this analysis.

longer. By 1978, the median duration of overstay incidents had dropped to 7.6 days on a Division-wide basis, a 22.5% decrease.

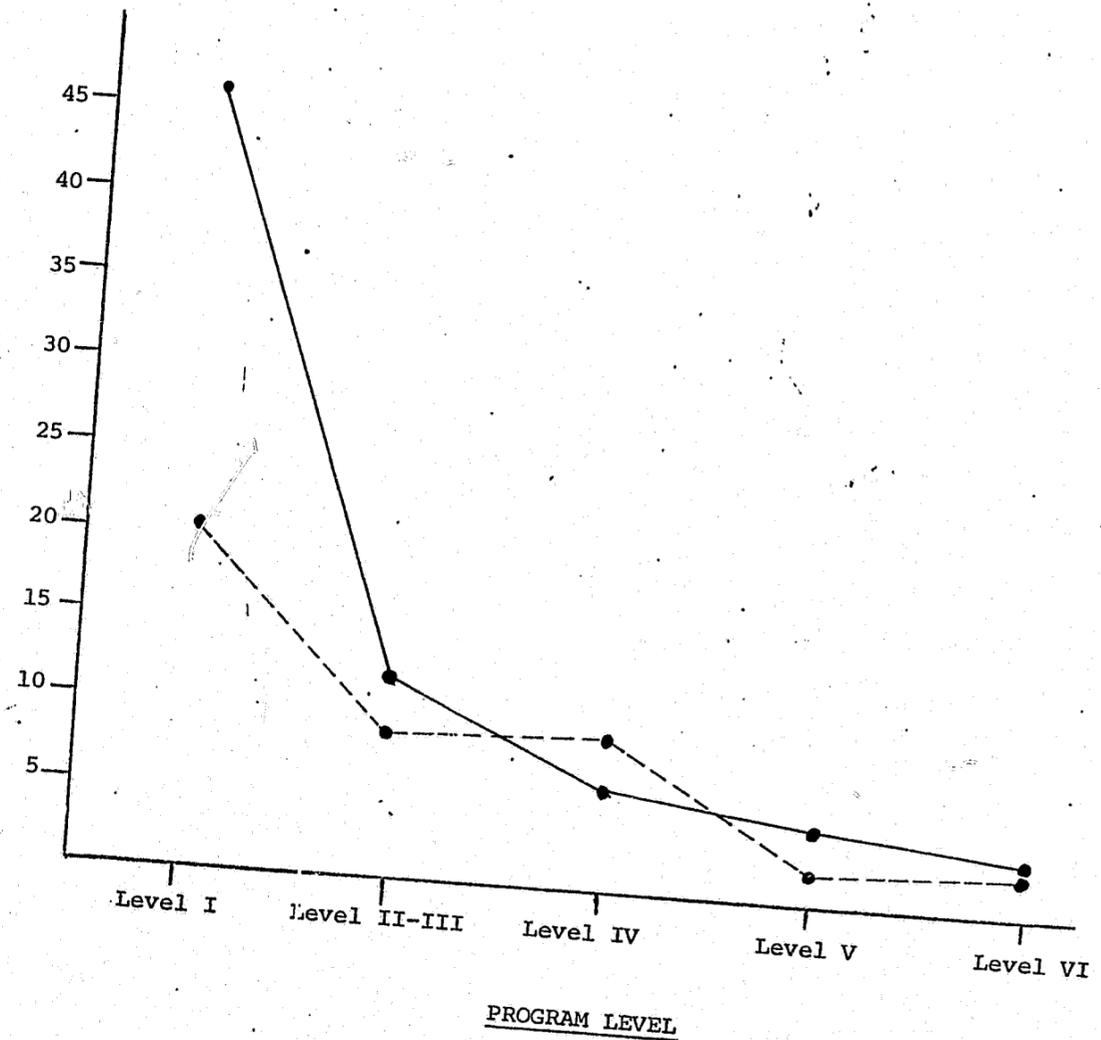
With the exception only of the Division's limited secure Level IV programs, all program levels experienced downtrends in their median overstay absence time. As Chart X clearly illustrates, these downtrends were especially pronounced in the Division's Level I and Level II-III programs; these programs experienced 55.4% and 40.0% reductions in the median length of their overstays during 1977-1978, dropping from 46 to 20.5 days in the case of the Level I programs, and from 13.5 to 8.1 days in the case of the Level II-III programs.

The Division's Level V and Level VI community based programs also experienced reductions in their median overstay absence time, although these reductions were based on an extremely small number of cases. Only in the Division's Level IV programs (composed principally of camps and special residential centers without secure capability), were the Division-wide downtrends reversed. In these programs, median overstay duration increased by 15.8%, from 7.6 to 8.8 days in 1978. In both years, there was a positive association between program restrictiveness and overstay duration, e.g., the greater the program's restrictiveness, the longer the duration of the overstay incident. This pattern, however, was more sharply defined in 1977 than in 1978.

In Tables 15.1 and 15.2, which follow, the association between overstay duration and selected demographic variables is further explored. The first of these variables, youngster adjudication status evidences a clear, positive association with the severity of a youngster's adjudication status. That is, the more serious the adjudication status of the youth, the longer the length of the overstay incident. This pattern was clearly defined in both years, although the strength of the association was greater in 1978 than in 1977. In 1977, 58.2% of the overstay incidents attributable to Juvenile Delinquents and Restrictive Juvenile Delinquents lasted for over a week. Only 43.8% of the overstays attributable to PINS and voluntarily placed youngsters on the other hand, lasted for such an extended period -- a 14.4% difference. Stated differently, youth engaged in overstay activity who were adjudicated as Juvenile Delinquents or Restrictive Juvenile Delinquents, were 14.4%

Chart X
Median Duration of Overstay Incidents, By Program Level: 1977-1978

Program Level: ^a	Median Overstay Duration	
	1977	1978
I	46.0	20.5
II & III	13.5	8.1
IV	7.6	8.8
V	5.0	2.5
VI	4.3	3.2
TOTAL	9.8	7.6



a. The Tryon women's cottage is treated as a Level II facility in this chart.

TABLE 15.1
Overstay Incident Duration;
Selected Demographic Correlates, 1978^a

	LENGTH OF ABSENCE																		TOTAL	
	0 Days		1 Day		2-3 Days		4-7 Days		8-15 Days		16-30 Days		31-60 Days		61-90 Days		91+ Days		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
ADJUDICATION																				
Restrictive Juv. Delin.	0	0.0	1	14.3	3	42.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	1	14.3	1	14.3	7	100.0
Juvenile Delinquent	0	0.0	32	13.9	40	17.4	33	14.3	28	12.2	33	14.3	21	9.1	17	7.4	26	11.3	230	100.0
PINS	0	0.0	8	20.5	9	23.1	7	17.9	6	15.4	5	12.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	10.3	39	100.0
Other Court Related	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	37.5	2	25.0	0	0.0	3	37.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	100.0
None	0	0.0	7	33.3	4	19.0	3	14.3	3	14.3	1	4.8	2	9.5	0	0.0	1	4.8	21	100.0
Column Total	0	0.0	48	15.7	59	19.3	45	14.8	37	12.1	43	14.2	23	7.5	18	5.9	32	10.5	305	100.0
SEX																				
Male	0	0.0	43	15.9	48	17.7	38	14.0	35	12.9	39	14.4	21	7.7	17	6.3	30	11.1	271	100.0
Female	0	0.0	5	15.2	10	30.3	7	21.2	2	6.1	4	12.1	2	6.1	1	3.0	2	6.1	33	100.0
Column Total	0	0.0	48	15.8	58	19.1	45	14.8	37	12.2	43	14.1	23	7.5	18	5.9	32	10.5	304	100.0
ETHNICITY																				
White	0	0.0	17	18.7	19	20.9	16	17.6	17	18.7	13	14.3	2	2.2	2	2.2	5	5.5	91	100.0
Black	0	0.0	26	17.1	28	18.4	26	17.1	12	7.9	22	14.5	16	10.5	9	5.9	13	8.6	152	100.0
Puerto Rican	0	0.0	4	8.0	9	18.0	2	4.0	6	12.0	5	10.0	5	10.0	6	12.0	13	26.0	50	100.0
American Indian	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	33.3	0	0.0	2	33.3	2	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	100.0
Other Hispanic	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	4	100.0
Column Total	0	0.0	48	15.8	58	19.1	45	14.9	37	12.2	43	14.2	23	7.5	17	5.6	32	10.6	303	100.0
AGE																				
12	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	4	100.0
13	0	0.0	2	11.8	3	17.5	2	11.8	4	23.5	1	5.9	2	11.8	1	5.9	2	11.8	17	100.0
14	0	0.0	4	9.3	5	11.6	8	18.6	6	14.0	9	20.9	3	7.0	3	7.0	5	11.6	43	100.0
15	0	0.0	18	17.6	20	19.6	12	11.8	15	14.7	13	12.7	10	9.8	5	4.9	9	8.8	102	100.0
16	0	0.0	20	17.5	23	20.2	17	14.9	9	7.9	17	14.9	7	6.1	8	7.0	13	11.4	114	100.0
17	0	0.0	3	13.0	7	30.4	5	21.7	2	8.7	3	13.0	0	0.0	1	4.3	2	8.7	23	100.0
18	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0
Column Total	0	0.0	48	15.7	59	19.3	45	14.8	37	12.1	43	14.1	23	7.5	18	5.9	32	10.5	305	100.0
REFERRAL SOURCE																				
Self Referred	0	0.0	2	13.3	2	13.3	3	20.0	3	20.0	1	6.7	2	13.3	2	13.3	0	0.0	15	100.0
Family Court	0	0.0	44	15.9	53	19.2	38	13.8	34	12.3	41	14.9	20	7.2	15	5.4	31	11.2	276	100.0
Other	0	0.0	2	14.3	4	28.6	4	28.5	0	0.0	1	7.1	1	7.1	1	7.1	1	7.1	14	100.0
Column Total	0	0.0	48	15.7	59	19.3	45	14.8	37	12.1	43	14.1	23	7.5	18	5.9	32	10.5	305	100.0

a. Cases lacking either a beginning or ending absence date are treated as missing and excluded from this analysis; cases missing demographic information are similarly excluded.

TABLE 15.2
Overstay Incident Duration:
Selected Demographic Correlates, 1977^a

	LENGTH OF ABSENCE																		TOTAL			
	0 Days		1 Day		2-3 Days		4-7 Days		8-15 Days		16-30 Days		31-60 Days		61-90 Days		91+ Days		#	%		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%				
ADJUDICATION																						
Restrictive Juv. Delin.	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	100.0
Juvenile Delinquent	1	0.7	15	9.9	24	15.8	24	15.8	15	9.9	19	12.5	21	13.8	8	5.3	25	16.4	152	100.0	152	100.0
PINS	0	0.0	3	14.3	5	23.8	3	14.3	3	14.3	4	19.0	2	9.5	0	0.0	1	4.8	21	100.0	21	100.0
Other Court Related	0	0.0	4	36.4	1	9.1	1	9.1	1	9.1	0	0.0	2	18.2	1	9.1	1	9.1	11	100.0	11	100.0
None	0	0.0	2	18.2	3	27.3	2	18.2	2	18.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	18.2	0	0.0	11	100.0	11	100.0
Column Total	1	0.5	24	12.2	33	16.8	30	15.3	21	10.7	23	11.7	25	12.8	11	5.6	28	14.3	196	100.0	196	100.0
SEX																						
Male	1	0.6	22	12.8	30	17.4	24	14.0	19	11.0	19	11.0	24	14.0	9	5.2	24	14.0	172	100.0	172	100.0
Female	0	0.0	2	8.7	3	13.0	5	21.7	2	8.7	4	17.4	1	4.3	2	8.7	4	17.4	25	100.0	25	100.0
Column Total	1	0.5	24	12.3	33	16.9	29	14.9	21	10.8	23	11.8	25	12.8	11	5.6	28	14.4	195	100.0	195	100.0
ETHNICITY																						
White	1	1.6	11	17.5	12	19.0	6	9.5	7	11.1	5	7.9	10	15.9	4	6.3	7	11.1	63	100.0	63	100.0
Black	0	0.0	9	8.4	18	16.8	18	16.8	11	10.3	15	14.0	13	12.1	7	6.5	16	15.0	107	100.0	107	100.0
Puerto Rican	0	0.0	4	20.0	2	10.0	4	20.0	2	10.0	2	10.0	1	5.0	0	0.0	5	25.0	20	100.0	20	100.0
American Indian	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	100.0	3	100.0
Other Hispanic	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	100.0
Column Total	1	0.5	24	12.4	33	17.0	29	14.9	20	10.3	23	11.9	25	12.9	11	5.7	28	14.4	194	100.0	194	100.0
AGE																						
12	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0	2	100.0
13	0	0.0	0	0.1	1	25.0	0	0.0	2	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	4	100.0	4	100.0
14	1	3.4	2	6.9	1	3.4	3	10.3	6	20.7	5	17.2	4	13.8	2	6.9	5	17.2	29	100.0	29	100.0
15	0	0.0	10	12.7	19	24.1	14	17.7	9	11.4	8	10.1	7	8.9	2	2.5	10	12.7	79	100.0	79	100.0
16	0	0.0	8	12.3	9	13.8	11	16.9	3	4.5	8	12.3	11	16.9	5	7.7	10	15.4	65	100.0	65	100.0
17	0	0.0	4	23.5	2	11.8	1	5.9	1	5.9	2	11.8	3	17.6	1	5.9	3	17.6	17	100.0	17	100.0
Column Total	1	0.5	24	12.2	33	16.8	30	15.3	21	10.7	23	11.7	25	12.8	11	5.6	28	14.3	196	100.0	196	100.0
REFERRAL SOURCE																						
Self-Referral	0	0.0	1	10.0	4	40.0	2	20.0	0	0.0	2	20.0	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	100.0	10	100.0
Family Court	1	0.6	17	9.7	28	16.0	28	16.0	20	11.4	21	12.0	23	13.1	10	5.7	27	15.4	175	100.0	175	100.0
Other	0	0.0	6	54.5	1	9.1	0	0.0	1	9.1	0	0.0	1	9.1	1	9.1	1	9.1	11	100.0	11	100.0
Column Total	1	0.5	24	12.2	33	16.8	30	15.3	21	10.7	23	11.7	25	12.8	11	5.6	28	14.3	196	100.0	196	100.0

a. Cases lacking either a beginning or ending absence date are treated as missing and excluded from this analysis; cases missing demographic information are similarly excluded.

more likely than their PINS and voluntarily placed counterparts to remain absent for 8 days or longer. In 1978, differences between these two major adjudication groupings were even more sharply defined. In that year, 54.0% of the overstays attributable to Juvenile Delinquents and Restrictive Juvenile Delinquents were at least 8 days in duration or longer; and only 36.6% of the overstay incidents generated by PINS and voluntary youth were out of this duration, a 17.4% difference.

The 1977 and 1978 overstay data also reveal an important sex and calendar year interaction. In 1977, for example, sex differences in the duration of overstays were negligible (female "overstayers" were only 1.3% more likely than males to extend their unauthorized absences to 8 days or longer). In 1978, on the other hand, there was a very substantial sex effect upon overstay duration, with males experiencing significantly longer overstay absences than their female counterparts. More specifically, only 33.3% of the female generated overstays lasted longer than 7 days in 1978, while the contrast figure for males was 52.4%, a 19.1% difference.

Ethnic differences in the length of overstay incidents were also apparent in both 1977 and 1978 data, although these differences were particularly pronounced in 1978. In 1977, 57.9% of the Black generated incidents, 52.4% of the White generated incidents, and only 50.0% (n=5) of the overstays attributable to Puerto Rican youth were 8 days or longer in duration. In other words, Blacks were 7.9% more likely than their Puerto Rican counterparts to extend their overstays beyond 7 days, and 5.5% more likely than their White counterparts to engage in overstays of such an extended duration. In 1978, there were reversals in the weakly defined ethnic differences characterizing 1977 overstay data, reversals occurring principally as a result of increased absence times characterizing Puerto Rican youngsters. In 1977, we observed that Puerto Rican youth were characterized by shorter absence times than their Black or White counterparts. By 1978, however, 70.0% of overstays generated by Puerto Rican youngsters would last eight days or more, a contrast figure 22.6% higher than the comparison figure for Blacks (47.4% lasting 8 days or more), and 27.1% higher than the comparison figure for Whites, (42.9% lasting 8 days or more). In effect, the

duration of White and Black overstay incidents were appreciably reduced between 1977 and 1978, while the overstay experience of the Puerto Rican youngster was just the reverse, e.g., his/her overstay absences were appreciably lengthened in 1978.

When the length of the overstay incident was examined by youngster age at the moment of absconding, two distinct patterns of association were found. In 1977, for instance, there was a positive association between youngster absconding age and overstay duration, e.g., the older the youth, the greater the length of the overstay. Sixteen and seventeen years, for instance were 7.3% more likely than their twelve and thirteen year old counterparts to engage in overstays of greater than seven days duration. By 1978, conversely, this association had reversed direction, and age was now negatively associated with absconding age, e.g., the younger the absconding age, the greater the duration of the overstay. In that year, for instance, sixteen and seventeen year olds were 12.5% less likely than their twelve and thirteen year old counterparts to engage in overstays of greater than seven days duration.

No relationship between overstay duration and income maintenance status of the youngster's family was found in either 1977 or 1978 data. There was, however, a relationship between a youngster's referral status and incident duration. The nature of this relationship varies, depending upon the way in which the data is partitioned. In 1978, for instance, there was a negligible difference between self-referred and family court referred youngsters in terms of their overstay duration. In 1977, however, only 3 of 10 overstay incidents generated by self-referred youth lasted 8 days or more (30%), while 56.7% of family court referred absconders engaged in overstays of this duration. When the data is partitioned in terms of family court referral versus any other type of referral, similar trends prevailed in 1977, e.g., family court referred youth were 23.4% more likely than non-family court referred youth to engage in overstays of 8 days duration or longer. In 1978, however, there is an appreciable 9.8% difference between family court and "other" referred youth when the data is partitioned in this way, e.g., family court referred youth, once again, are (9.8%) more likely to engage in overstays of 8 days duration or more than their non-family court referred counterparts.

Summarizing, then, there are a number of well-defined associations between selected demographic variables and overstay duration at the bivariate level. An important task, therefore, one beyond the scope of this particular report, will be to determine the relative importance of such variables -- independent of the influence of other variables -- upon overstay duration.

E. Seasonal Trends in Overstay Incidents: the 1977-78 Experience:

Before summarizing major highlights of this analysis in Section VII, a brief note on seasonal trends in overstay incidents is warranted. In our earlier discussion of runaway incidents (see Section V), we noted weakly defined Division-wide seasonal trends which were consistent with our expectations, e.g., these incidents declined during the peak winter months of January, February, and March; rose during the late spring and summer quarters; and declined again in the late fall. As Table 16 clearly reveals, seasonal trends of a completely different kind characterized the overstay phenomenon.

In 1978, for example, 37.8% of the system-wide overstay volume was generated during the first three months of the year, a percentage figure exceeding by approximately 13.0% what we might expect to find if overstays were randomly distributed throughout the calendar year. The overrepresentation of overstay incidents during the coldest quarter of the year contrasts dramatically with the system-wide downtrends characteristic of runaways during this same quarter. The disproportionate representation of overstay incidents in the coldest winter quarter of the year was somewhat more pronounced among the Division's most secure and limited secure programs. In program Levels I and II-III, for instance, 40.5% of all overstays occurring in these programs took place during this quarter. A comparable trend was also observed in the Division's least restrictive urban home programs; in these programs, 41.9% of the overstays occurred in this winter quarter. Summarizing briefly, a pronounced seasonal effect characterized overstay data, with a disproportionate portion of the incident volume generated during the coldest winter quarter.

TABLE 16
 Seasonal Trends in Overstay Incidents
 By Program Level: 1977-1978

1978: MONTH OF ABSENCE	PROGRAM LEVEL												TOTAL	
	I		II-III		IV		V		VI		#	%	#	%
January	4	21.1	12	10.7	28	19.2	1	11.1	7	22.6	52	16.4	19	6.0
February	0	0.0	12	10.7	5	3.4	0	0.0	2	6.5	49	15.5	27	8.5
March	6	31.6	19	17.0	20	13.7	0	0.0	4	12.9	34	10.7	18	5.7
April	3	15.8	10	8.9	12	8.2	0	0.0	2	6.5	30	9.5	21	6.6
May	2	10.5	18	16.1	11	7.5	1	11.1	2	6.5	19	6.0	20	6.3
June	3	15.8	7	6.3	6	4.1	1	11.1	1	3.2	11	3.5	17	5.4
July	0	0.0	9	8.0	17	11.6	1	11.1	3	9.7	196	100.0	13	100.0
August	1	5.3	5	4.5	13	8.9	2	22.2	0	0.0	89	100.0	1	100.0
September	0	0.0	5	4.5	10	6.8	1	11.1	3	9.7	13	100.0	13	100.0
October	0	0.0	9	8.0	9	6.2	0	0.0	2	6.5	89	100.0	1	100.0
November	0	0.0	3	2.7	6	4.1	0	0.0	2	6.5	13	100.0	13	100.0
December	0	0.0	3	2.7	9	6.2	2	22.2	3	9.7	13	100.0	13	100.0
Column Total	19	100.0	112	100.0	146	100.0	9	100.0	31	100.0	317	100.0	317	100.0
* * * * *														
1977: MONTH OF ABSENCE														
January	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
February	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
March	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
April	0	0.0	2	2.5	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.5	4	2.0
May	0	0.0	3	3.8	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	2.0	7	3.6
June	0	0.0	2	2.5	3	3.4	0	0.0	2	15.4	7	3.6	40	20.4
July	5	38.5	8	10.0	24	27.0	0	0.0	3	20.4	17	8.7	27	13.8
August	0	0.0	4	5.0	12	13.5	0	0.0	1	7.7	28	14.3	35	17.9
September	2	15.4	12	15.0	12	13.5	0	0.0	1	7.7	35	17.9	35	17.9
October	2	15.4	13	16.3	12	13.5	1	100.0	0	0.0	35	17.9	35	17.9
November	4	30.8	15	18.8	13	14.6	0	0.0	3	23.1	35	17.9	35	17.9
December	0	0.0	21	26.3	11	12.4	0	0.0	3	23.1	35	17.9	35	17.9
Column Total	13	100.0	80	100.0	89	100.0	1	100.0	13	100.0	196	100.0	196	100.0

VII. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF MAJOR REPORT FINDINGS:

This final portion of the AWOL analysis is designed to highlight only those major findings already reviewed in the main body of this report. Issues regarding definition of terms, criteria for selection of cases, or other aspects of the research plan are not addressed in this section of the report. The reader interested in these technical details should refer to the appropriate report sections as these are outlined in the Table of Contents. Summary findings are organized in terms of: a) AWOL Incidents; b) Runaway Incidents; and c) Overstay Incidents:

A. AWOL Incidents

- 1. Between 1977 and 1978, Division-wide AWOL incidents declined by 1.8%, from 1642 incidents in 1977 to 1612 incidents in 1978 (see page 7);
2. The system-wide decline of 1.8% masked considerable variation at the program level. In Program Levels I through IV, for example, there were pronounced declines in AWOL incidents, ranging from a 47.5% drop in the Division's secure center (Level I) program to a 12.5% drop in the Division's non-community based programs without secure capability (Level IV). In program Levels V and VI, however, (composed principally of YDC's and urban homes), AWOL incidents increased by 51.1% and 35.0% respectively (see pages 7 and 8).
3. On a Division-wide basis, the numbers of AWOL youth declined by 2.6% between 1977 and 1978, dropping from 950 youngsters to 925 youngsters. Once again, Program Levels I through IV experienced declines in their AWOL youth counts (ranging from 34.5% in the Level I case to 18.3% in the Level IV case); as before, Program Levels V and VI experienced increases in their AWOL youth counts during this time period, increases of 90.9% and 23.4% respectively (see pages 7 & 8).

note secure / non-secure or comm based

9 See Chart XI on the following page for a full description of the Division's Level System.

Chart XI
Type of Youth and Level of Security and Service of Division for Youth Facilities, March, 1979

Table with columns: Level of Facility, Type of Youngster, and Total Operational Capacity; Facilities or Program Capacities; Facility or Program; Budgeted Capacity. Rows include Secure Programs, Non-Community Based Programs, Community Programs, and Youth Development Centers.

a. Figures are for total authorized placements; for 1978, 200 of these secure, 105 other non-community based, and 75 community based placements are in various phases of planning, acquisition, and/or construction.
b. Additional staffing at Camp McCormick as of 12/15/77 converted this Level IV facility into a Level II facility for calendar year 1978. For calendar year 1977, Camp McCormick is treated as a Level IV facility.
c. The Middletown START was converted to a Level II facility as of 6/22/78. Prior to its conversion, the Middletown START was a Level IV facility, and is treated as such for 1977 and 1978 calendar years in this analysis.
d. The Tryon women's cottage is treated as a Level I facility throughout this analysis with the exception only of Tables 1.1 and 1.2, 6.1 and 6.2, and Tables 11.1 and 11.2. In these "master tables", the Tryon women's cottage is grouped with male cottages as a single Level II facility. This grouping was necessary to facilitate use of published population and census reports which treated Tryon as a single facility.

4. Two important "rate" variables help to adjust these raw frequencies by taking into account the total number of youth "at risk" of absconding.¹⁰ The AWOL incident rate per 100 youth served increased on a Division-wide basis from 38 incidents per 100 in 1977 to 39.7 incidents per 100 in 1979-- a 4.5% rise. The AWOL youth rate per 100 youth served increased from 22.0 youth AWOL per 100 to 22.8 youth AWOL per 100, a 3.6% increment (see pages 13, 14, and 15).
5. Despite small system-wide increases in these two rate variables, there were pronounced decreases in these variables among Program Levels I - IV. Within Program Levels V and VI, both AWOL incident and AWOL youth rates experienced sharp upturns (see pages 13, 14, and 15).
6. Between 1977 and 1978, the median duration of all absconding incidents Division-wide dropped from 8.9 days to 6.0 days, a 32.6% reduction (see pages 21-24).
7. All Program Levels except one experienced substantial drops in their median AWOL duration. The YDC's (Level V), the non-community based limited secure programs (Levels II-III), and the urban homes (Level VI) experienced deductions of 53.7%, 47.8%, and 40.0% respectively in the length of their AWOLS. Only in the Division's most restrictive secure center programs (Level I) was there an increase in median AWOL duration, an increase of 27.6% over the 1977 experience (see pages 21-24).
8. Paradoxically then, in the Division's least restrictive, community based programs (YDC's and urban homes), there were sharp increases in AWOL incident and AWOL youth rates at the same time that the median duration of these incidents were being markedly shortened; similarly, in the Division's

¹⁰ Clearly, assuming other things being equal, a facility which serves 200 youngsters each year will have twice as many youngsters "at risk" of absconding as a facility which serves only 100 youth. By converting these absolute frequencies into standardized rate variables, the undesired effects of program size are thus removed.

most restrictive, Level I programs, AWOL incident and AWOL youth rates were being substantially reduced at the same time that the median duration of these incidents were increasing (see page 24).

9. In 1977, overstay incidents represented only 11.9% of Division-wide AWOL incidents, and 21.7% in 1978 (see pages 25-29).
10. The percentage of all AWOL incidents which were overstays was related to program restrictiveness. The more restrictive the program, the greater (proportional) use of overstays as an absconding strategy (see page 27).
11. There were weakly defined seasonal trends in absconding in both 1977 and 1978; a disproportionately "low" number of AWOLS occurred during the six cold weather months (January, February, March; and October, November, December); and a disproportionately high number during the six warm weather months (see page 25).

B. Runaway Incidents

1. Between 1977 and 1978, Division-wide runaway incidents were reduced from 1446 to 1295, a 10.4% decrease (see page 30).
2. There was considerable variation in these Division-wide trends at the Program Level. In Program Levels I through IV, for example, there were pronounced declines in runaway incident counts, ranging from a 60.6% drop in the Division's secure center programs to a 23.5% decrease in the Division's Level IV non-community based programs. The YDC's (Level V) and the urban homes (Level VI), reversed these trends experiencing increases of 100% and 31.3% respectively in their runaway incidents during this period (see pages 30-35).
3. Between 1977 and 1978, the Division-wide number of runaway youth dropped from 860 to 733 youth, a 14.8% decline. At the program level, two distinct trends were observed. All of the Division's more restrictive programs experienced

declines in their runaway youth counts, ranging from a 64.0% drop-off in the Level I secure centers to a 30.8% drop in the Level IV non-community based programs. In the YDC's and the urban homes, these downtrends did not hold. YDC's and urban homes experienced 77.6% and 18.6% increases in their runaway youth counts respectively (page 35).

4. Two important "rate" variables help to adjust these raw frequencies by taking into account the total number of youth "at risk" of absconding. Both the runaway incident rate and the runaway youth rate per 100 youth served declined on a system-wide basis between 1977 and 1978. Runaway incident rates, for example, declined from 33.4 incidents per 100 served in 1977 to 31.9 per 100 in 1978 -- a 4.5% drop. Declines in runaway youth rates were similar, dropping from 19.9 per 100 to 18.1 per 100 in 1978, a 9.0% drop (page 36).
5. The magnitude of the 1977-1978 changes in runaway incident and runaway youth rates varied considerably from program level to program level. The Division-wide downtrends were especially pronounced in the Division's more secure programs; Level I secure programs, for example, dropped their runaway incident rate from 14.3 per 100 to 4.3 per 100, and their runaway youth rate from 10.8 to 3.8 per 100, decrements of 69.9% and 64.8% respectively during this time period. Only in the Division's community based YDC and urban home programs were these downtrend patterns reversed. The YDC programs experienced the greatest rate upturns, increasing their runaway incident rate from 16.3 to 32.3, a 98.2% increase, and their runaway youth rates from 13.8 to 24.3, a 76.0% increase (see Charts V and VI on pages 37 and 38).
6. In 1977, there were 980 runaway "occasions", 307 of which (or 31.3%) were the multiple incident type; in 1978, there were only 954 runaway "occasions" 240 of which (or 25.2%) were the multiple incident type. In this same year, multiple incident occasions per 100 youth served were 9.2 per

100 in the Division's Level IV non-community based programs-- a rate which was more than double the rate of any other program level. Within this particular program level, approximately 44% of the runaway occasions were the multiple incident type in both years (see page 41).

7. The median duration of runaways occurring in 1977 and 1978 were 8.8 and 5.6 days -- a 36.4% drop. All major program levels throughout the Division, with the exception of the Division's Level I secure programs, experienced pronounced reductions in the median length of their runaways. These reductions over time ranged from a 51.0% drop within the YDC programs to a 23.5% reduction in the Level IV programs. As noted, only the secure centers experienced an increase in their median runaway duration, increasing from 12.0 to 15.5 days during the 1977-1978 period -- a 29.2% increase (see pages 47-49).
8. At the bi-variate level, a number of sociodemographic and "setting" variables were associated with runaway duration. Males, restrictive JD's, and JD's, Puerto Ricans and Blacks, and family court referred youth were more likely to engage in runaways of longer duration than their female, PINS and voluntary, White, and self-referred counterparts. Additionally, youngsters absconding from more restrictive programs were likely to abscond for more extended periods than their counterparts in less restrictive programs (see pages 53-55).
9. There were weakly defined seasonal trends in the runaway phenomenon in both 1977 and 1978. Approximately 41% of each year's runaway incidents were generated during the 6 cold weather months of the year, while 59.0% were generated during the warm weather months. In 1978, the magnitude of the seasonal effect also depended upon the program's level of restrictiveness, e.g., this seasonal effect was magnified in the Division's restrictive programs and minimized in the community based programs (see pages 56-57).

C. Overstay Incidents

1. Between 1977 and 1978, overstay incidents increased from 196 to 317, a 61.7% increment (see page 57).¹¹
2. The system-wide increase in overstay incidents masked considerable variation at the program level. The Level IV non-community based programs experienced the most substantial shifts in overstay incident counts, increasing from 89 to 146, a 64.1% increment. The Division's least restrictive (urban home) programs showed the most pronounced relative shift, however, experiencing a 138.6% increase in their overstay incidents from year to year. The Level V YDC's recorded one overstay incident in 1977 and 9 in 1978, thus experiencing an even more dramatic related shift; however, the number of cases is too small to use percent change statistics meaning folly (see pages 57-62).
3. On a Division-wide basis, the numbers of actual overstay youth also increased by 61.7%, rising from 171 to 277 overstay youngsters in 1978 (see page 62).
4. In both 1977 and 1978, there was a positive relationship between overstay incident ratios (i.e., the number of overstay incidents occurring for every 100 AWOL incidents of any type) and program restrictiveness. That is, as the secure capability of the program was increased, a greater portion of the abscondings were of the overstay type rather than the runaway type. In 1978, by way of illustration, there were 52.4 overstays occurring for every 100 absconding incidents of any type in the secure center programs, a figure which contrasts sharply with the 6.0 rate in the Division's urban homes (see pages 64-65).

¹¹ It is important to bear in mind that prior to April 1, 1977, DFY reporting forms did not capture overstays as a distinct absconding category. Consequently, the increased volume of overstays occurring over time is at least partially an artifact of changed reporting procedures.

5. As noted before, there are two important rate variables which help to adjust the number of overstay incidents and overstay youth in terms of the total number of youth actually "at risk" of absconding. Both the overstay incident rate per 100 youth served and the overstay youth rate per 100 youth served increased between 1977 and 1978. The overstay incident rate rose from 4 incidents per 100 youth served in 1977 to 7.8 incidents per 100 served in 1978, a 95% increase. The overstay youth rate similarly rose from 4.0 to 6.8 per 100, a 70% increase (see pages 65-68).
6. The magnitude of the 1977-1978 changes in the overstay incident and overstay youth rates varied considerably from program level to program level. Among the Division's Level V and Level VI community based programs, collective overstay youth and overstay incident rates rose from 0.7 to 2.1 per 100 and from 0.8 to 2.3 per 100 respectively, percentage changes of +200% and 188%. The percent changes in the more restrictive programs were less appreciable (see pages 66-67).
7. The median duration of overstay incidents occurring in 1977 was 9.8 days, a figure which dropped to 7.6 days by 1978, a 22.5% decrease. With the sole exception of the Division's non-community based programs without secure capability (i.e., the Level IV programs), all program levels experienced reduction in the median length of their overstay incidents. The most pronounced changes were experienced in the division's secure and limited secure programs; the former reduced the median length of their overstays from 46 to 20.5 days (a 55.4% reduction); and the latter, from 13.5 to 8.1 days (a 40% reduction). As noted, only the Level IV programs contradicted the overall downtrend pattern. In these programs, median overstay duration increased 15.8%, from 7.6 to 8.8 days (see pages 72-75).

8. At the bivariate level, a number of socio-demographic variables and setting variables were associated with overstay duration. In both calendar years, but particularly 1977, there was a positive association between the secure capability of a program and overstay duration: the more restrictive the program, the longer the incident duration. The type of association found between socio-demographic variables and overstay duration generally varied from calendar year to calendar year. In 1978, Juvenile Delinquents and Restrictive Juvenile Delinquents, males, Puerto Rican youth, older youngsters, and family court referred youth were more likely to engage in overstays of longer duration than were their counterparts, i.e., PINS and Voluntary youth, females, White and Black youngsters, younger individuals and non-family court referred youth were characterized by shorter absences. (see pages 75-81).
9. There were well defined seasonal trends in the overstay phenomenon. In 1978, 37.8% of the Division-wide overstay incidents occurred during the coldest winter quarter of the year, a period during which major holidays also occur. This trend was slightly more pronounced in the Division's secure and limited secure programs (see page 81).

END