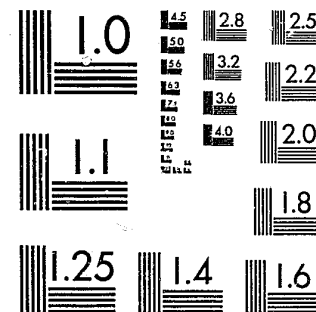


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CRIMINAL COURT SCREENING
IN THE
CALIFORNIA YOUTH AUTHORITY

DEPARTMENT OF THE YOUTH AUTHORITY

AUGUST, 1932

87215

State of California
EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

Youth and Adult Correctional Agency

HOWARD WAY
SECRETARY



CRIMINAL COURT SCREENING IN THE CALIFORNIA YOUTH AUTHORITY

Department of the

Youth Authority

ANTONIO C. AMADOR,
DIRECTOR

GEORGE R. ROBERTS,
CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DIVISION OF RESEARCH

KEITH S. GRIFFITHS, Ph.D.
Chief of Research

CARL F. JESNESS, Ph.D.
Research Manager III

PROJECT STAFF

TED PALMER, Ph.D.
Research Manager I

ROY V. LEWIS, MPA
Research Analyst II

JACKIE HUMMEL
Statistical Clerk

DALYS LUM
Office Assistant II

FRANCISCO J. ALARCON,
Deputy Director
MANAGEMENT SERVICES
BRANCH

JAMES C. BARNETT,
Deputy Director
PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY
CORRECTIONS BRANCH

WILBUR A. BECKWITH
Deputy Director
PAROLE SERVICES BRANCH

C. A. TERHUNE,
Deputy Director
INSTITUTIONS AND CAMPS
BRANCH

BY

TED PALMER

U.S. Department of Justice
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CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND AND APPROACH

By statute, the Department of the Youth Authority is required to accept each juvenile and criminal court case that is committed to it "if it believes that the person can be materially benefited by its reformatory and educational discipline, and if it has adequate facilities to provide such care." (Sections 736 and 1731.5, Welfare and Institutions Code.) Prior to 1979, few juvenile and criminal court cases were rejected by the Department on grounds that they would not materially benefit from its program, and none were rejected in connection with "adequate facilities" (sufficient bed-space). Since that time, however, numerous criminal court cases have been rejected on these bases. The present report focuses on such rejected cases.¹

Although the Youth Authority's material-benefit criteria had always been applied to all commitments, the Department, in October, 1979, began applying these criteria in a very strict manner to all criminal court cases who had already been in the YA but who, having later been convicted of a new and serious offense, were then recommitted to the YA. Based on this stricter application of the criteria, most such cases were rejected ("screened out") at point of YA intake. On July 1, 1981, the Youth Authority also began screening out criminal court cases who had satisfied the material-benefit criteria but for whom adequate facilities no longer existed within its institutions and camps. This policy, designed to reduce the population of those facilities to their budgeted capacity, applied only to individuals ("eligibles") who were 18 years of age or older at the time of their YA commitment offense. Regarding the adequate-facilities policy, Pearl West, then-Director of the Youth Authority, stated:

An era of limits definitely has been reached as far as available space is concerned, and it is incumbent upon the Department, when there is competition for available space, to extend its programs to the most reformable of the young adults who are committed to us. [1]

The material-benefit and adequate-facilities policies are still in effect today. The latter policy remains distinct from the former since it continues to focus on available bed-space, not on anticipated benefit, or lack of benefit, for wards.

Since July 1, 1981, a two-step, "sequential decision-making" procedure has been applied by the Youth Authority to each of the preceding ("eligible") criminal court cases. This procedure first addresses the question of material-benefit and then focuses on that of available bed-space. Between July 1, 1981 and April 30, 1982, this screening procedure has resulted in the rejection of 117 cases on grounds of anticipated lack of material benefit and 466 cases on grounds of inadequate facilities. Because of the many cases involved, considerable interest has been generated not only in the nature and results of the YA's screening procedure, but especially in the types of individuals who have been rejected.

The present report represents the first description of individuals screened out by the Youth Authority by means of the sequential decision-making procedure--thus, in connection with the material-benefit and adequate-facilities policies alike. Basically, it addresses five broad questions:

1. What are the characteristics of individuals who have been screened out by the YA ("rejected cases")? For example, what are their background characteristics and what kind of offense history do they have?
2. What factors contribute to the screening-out of individuals, and how do these factors relate to the above characteristics?
3. What is the disposition of individuals who have been screened out and then returned to their county-of-commitment? For instance, are they then sent to state prison? To county jail? To probation?
4. What relationship exists between given dispositions, e.g., state prison, and the individuals' characteristics?

5. How do individuals who have been screened out compare with those who were not screened out ("accepted cases")? For instance, how similar or different are rejected and accepted cases in terms of background characteristics and offense history?

To address these questions the Youth Authority's Division of Research undertook a study of all criminal court cases, ages 18 and over at the time of their offense, who were committed to the YA during July, August, and September of 1981. This period covered the first three months in which the July 1, 1981 procedure--i.e., the joint material-benefit/adequate-facilities policy guidelines (presented below)--was in operation. For simplification, these guidelines will be called, synonymously, the July 1 policy or the sequential screening procedure. Since July 1, 1981 (with the exceptions specified below), all criminal court commitments ages 18 and older at the time of their offense have been routinely assessed by means of these guidelines.

Implementation of the July 1 Policy

The joint material-benefit/adequate-facilities (July 1) policy is implemented by the Youth Authority's Intake and Court Services Section, in accordance with the following guidelines:

Intake decisions are to be made sequentially. First, a judgment is made concerning whether a committed youth can be materially benefited (15 California Administrative Code, 4168). Some cases are rejected at this point. After it is decided that the youth will [i.e., can probably] materially benefit, a decision is to be made concerning the availability of adequate facilities for that person. This judgment is to be based upon whether unoccupied, budgeted institution space is needed more for other persons awaiting acceptance action at the same time, based upon the level of their criminality.

The attached form and factor-description [See Appendix A] will be used to assess the level of each person's criminality. A total value score is derived by adding the individual scores assigned to each factor, e.g., commitment behavior, etc. The Intake and Court Services

Section will be advised of how many cases may be accepted upon commitment from the criminal courts. Using this information, a cutoff-point will be fixed on the value-scale continuum. Cases assigned scores above that point will be rejected because adequate facilities are not available. An exception may be made in individual cases for unusual reasons. [2]

Thus, by reviewing court and probation documents, a decision is first made as to whether an individual seems likely to "materially benefit" from the Youth Authority. If the decision is no, he or she is rejected. If it is yes, the next issue is whether the individual's level of criminality exceeds a pre-established maximum for the acceptance of cases. To settle this issue a screening score is used. If the maximum screening score ("total value score") is exceeded, the individual is rejected--except "in the most extraordinary circumstances."² [1] As indicated below, few such cases occurred during the three-month period covered by the present study.

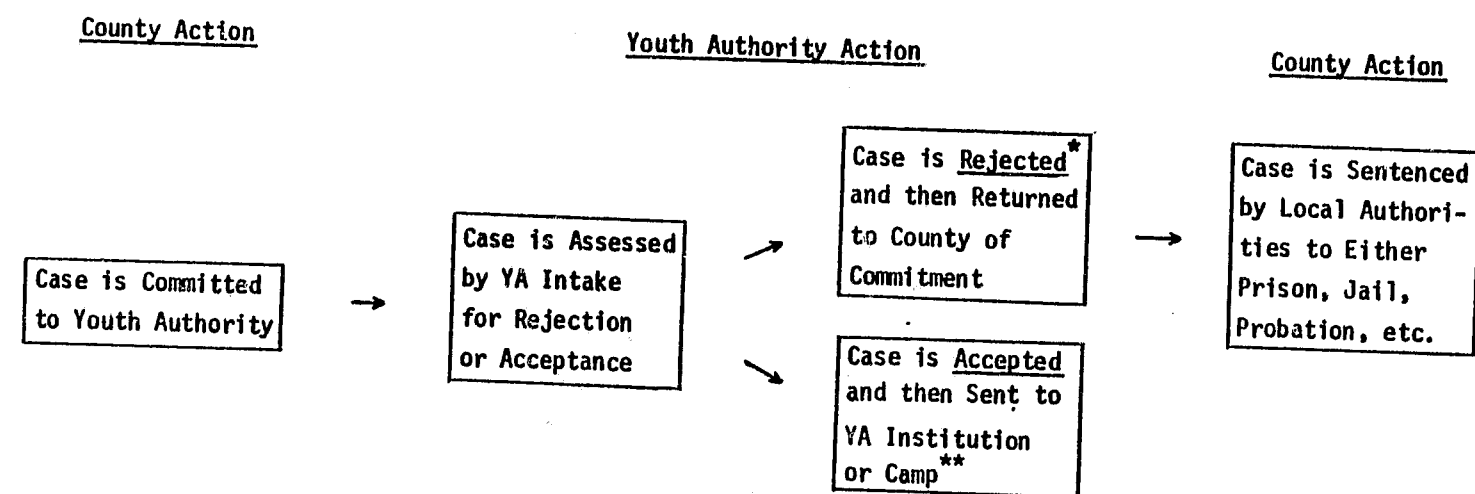
[As indicated, the screening process is sequential in nature, with the level-of-criminality determination being made subsequent to the material-benefit test. Nevertheless, during July through September of 1981, two-thirds of all material-benefit rejects were given screening scores by Intake personnel [Table 15], mainly to gather background or baseline information; and, like all inadequate-facilities rejects, these and other material-benefit rejects eventually received a disposition by local decision-makers [Table 34]. Given these facts, given the above policy guidelines, and given our focus on criminal court screening at a broad level, it was possible as well as appropriate to analyze and discuss both groups of rejects in connection with the July 1--i.e., sequential decision-making--policy. In addition, as specified on p. 25, material-benefit rejects were similar to inadequate-facilities rejects. (Also, material-benefit rejects who received screening scores were similar on 14 of 16 variables and factors to those who did not receive such scores. See Table 15.)]

Figure 1 outlines the basic actions that are taken by the county, on the one hand, and the Youth Authority, on the other, relative to the commitment, the rejection or acceptance, and the final sentencing ("disposition") of criminal court cases to whom the July 1 policy--the sequential screening procedure--applies.

The total screening score is the sum of the individual's score on each of five screening factors:

FIGURE 1

County and Youth Authority Processing of Cases Committed from Criminal Court



*E.g., rejected on grounds of inadequate facilities.

**From a YA clinic (reception center) facility.

- (1) Commitment behavior (offense);
- (2) Offense pattern--magnitude;
- (3) Offense pattern--escalation;
- (4) Criminal sophistication/orientation; and,
- (5) Prior secure placements.

Basically, the "commitment behavior (offense)" factor represents the total authorized confinement time that has been established for the individual by court order, upon his or her commitment to the Youth Authority. The individual receives 1 point for each year of authorized confinement time. Whereas this factor focuses on the commitment offense, "offense pattern--magnitude" centers on the offense history and excludes the commitment offense. Here, the individual is given 1 point for each year of confinement time that is specified in the California Penal Code (using mid-term values) in connection with offenses for which he or she either had a sustained petition (a juvenile court action) and/or was convicted (a criminal court action); these offenses must have occurred prior to the present, i.e., YA commitment, offense.* Appendix A provides further details regarding this and the remaining factors.

During July, 1981, if an individual's total screening score was 13 or over, he or she was rejected; During August and September (and for four months thereafter), the rejection-score was 12 or over; this change reflected the Youth Authority's continuing bed-space problem.

*In the ICSS guidelines, sustained petitions and convictions are both referred to as sustained offenses.

The Research Effort

Study-sample. The present study focused on individuals whom the Youth Authority had processed throughout its first three months of policy-implementation: July 1 - September 30, 1981. Except as indicated below, this group consisted of all commitments to the YA from criminal courts throughout the state; these individuals had to be at least 18 years old at the time of their commitment offense. Each such person could be either accepted or rejected by the YA based specifically on its sequential decision-making procedure (July 1 policy); and, all such individuals were in fact processed by the Intake section in accordance with that procedure.

Only those individuals who did not specifically fall within the July 1 policy were excluded from the study. This group consisted of (1) all "remands" (individuals who were under 18 at the time of their offense, but who were transferred from juvenile to criminal court prior to their YA commitment), and (2) all "diagnostic-placements" and "county-referrals" (individuals, ages 18 and over, who had been sent by probation to a YA Clinic for a 30-day period of observation, and who were then returned directly to their court of origin). Throughout the study, the YA routinely processed both categories of individuals--e.g., it applied its basic material-benefit criteria to all remands. However, these categories of individuals were not reviewed by the Intake section in light of the adequate facilities policy; in this respect, the sequential decision-making procedure was not applied to them. (Since the YA Information Systems Section includes the remand category in its routine reporting, the Department's official statistical count of criminal court commitments is somewhat higher than that presented below, for the time-period in question. [3])

As shown in Table 1, 499 cases were assessed in relation to the new decision-making procedure, during July - September, 1981. Of these individuals, 210 (42.1%) were rejected and 289 (57.9%) were accepted. Among those shown

TABLE 1
Cases Reviewed by the Youth Authority
and Included in the Study Sample

Reviewed by YA	No.	%	Included in Study Sample	No.	%
Total reviewed under July 1 policy	499	100.0	Total in study sample	488	100.0
Originally rejected by YA ^a	210	42.1	Rejected by YAB	199	40.8
Originally accepted by YA	289	57.9	Accepted by YAC	289	59.2

^aEleven of these cases (2 White, 4 Spanish-surnamed, 5 Black) were later accepted by the YA.

^bExcludes the 11 cases mentioned in note a.

^cIncludes all cases (the identical individuals) originally accepted by the YA.

as "rejected," 11 cases had in fact first been rejected, usually based on their total screening score; however, these individuals were shortly thereafter accepted, essentially because of various unusual circumstances. Given the somewhat ambiguous and certainly atypical nature of this subgroup, these 11 cases were not further analyzed. Thus, as seen in the table, the final study-sample contained 199 rejected individuals--158 of whom had been rejected on grounds of inadequate facilities--and 289 accepted individuals. (See Table 23 for details.)

Data collection and analysis. All information concerning the individual's background characteristics, his commitment offense, his offense history, and various official actions or decisions, was gathered from standard probation and court documents that were part of his official Youth Authority casefile. These documents had been routinely sent to the YA as part of the individual's commitment process. Information regarding the individual's screening scores as well as the Youth Authority's decision to either reject or accept him (plus its reason for so doing) was also gathered from the casefile.

Information concerning the disposition of individuals who were rejected by the Youth Authority and were then returned to their county-of-commitment was obtained as follows. First, the Division of Research, in cooperation with the Intake and Court Services Section, developed a standard data-collection form on which the individual's "final court disposition" was to be recorded. This information was to be recorded in a detailed and specified manner, by personnel of the local court which was responsible for that disposition. One such form was to be filled out for each rejected case. Each form contained, of course, the individual's name and other necessary identifying information.

In November, 1981, these forms were mailed, together with a standard cover letter from the Department, to the court clerk (or equivalent title/function) in each county. These forms were usually returned in three-to-five weeks. If a form was not received within about six weeks, or if the information received was ambiguous or incomplete, a phone call was made directly to the clerk in question. This phone call usually produced the necessary information--at least, if a disposition had already been finalized. If information concerning the final disposition had still not been received as of early February, 1982, a second (and final) call was made.

This 1 to 3-step process yielded the necessary information for 93% of the 199 individuals in the study sample who had been returned to their county of commitment during July - September. Only one county--an average-sized county--failed to provide any information.

In the case of all phone calls, the clerk was requested to read the official disposition verbatim and to similarly provide other necessary information. The research staff member who was responsible for all such calls recorded the clerk's statement verbatim, on the standard disposition-followup form. This form, together with the earlier-mentioned cover letter, is shown in Appendix B.

Casefile information was collected and coded by research personnel and by student-assistants who operated under their supervision. Together with disposition data, that information was then processed and analyzed by research staff.

To address the five basic questions (p. 2) in some depth, a wide range of information was coded and analyzed for rejected and accepted cases alike. The variables and factors that comprised this information-pool are shown in Appendix C, together with the specific dimensions included in each. This information also made it possible to address various supplementary questions

that arose shortly after the first set of findings from the present study became available. These questions, which involved differences across ethnic groups as well as county of commitment, are discussed in Chapter 5.

In the next four chapters we will present the findings of this study. After that, we will summarize the principal results from each chapter and will then conclude with a brief discussion.

CHAPTER 2

THE STUDY-SAMPLE

This chapter will focus on two questions: (1) What are the characteristics of individuals who were rejected by the Youth Authority on the basis of its sequential decision-making procedure? For instance, what are their background characteristics? What kind of commitment offense did they have? What was their prior offense history like? (2) How did rejected cases compare with accepted cases? For example, were these groups of individuals different from each other in terms of background characteristics and offense history?

Background characteristics and offense history will be described in terms of the 11 variables and factors shown in Table 2:

TABLE 2

Variables and Factors Used to Describe Rejected and Accepted Cases

Background Characteristics

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Age | 5. County of Commitment |
| 2. Sex | 6. Court of Commitment |
| 3. Ethnicity | 7. Number of Prior Youth Authority Commitments |
| 4. Highest Grade Completed | |

Offense History

1. Type of Commitment Offense
2. Violence vs. Nonviolence of Commitment Offense
3. Number of Prior Offenses*
4. Number of Prior Violent Arrests

*Separate police contacts. (See p. 23.)

Background Characteristics

Age

As shown in Table 3, nearly all rejected cases (92.5%) were between 18 and 20 years of age when committed to the Youth Authority; none were under 18. Accepted cases were very similar to those rejected: 91.6% were between 18 and 20, and only 2.1% were under 18. The average age of rejected and accepted cases was 19.3 and 18.9, respectively.

During calendar 1980, the average age of all male, first commitments to the Youth Authority from Criminal Court was 18.9. [4] This applied to males and females alike. (Comparisons between the present sample and these previously accepted, i.e., 1980 first commitments, seem reasonably justified since, as indicated later, about 90% of the present sample were first commitments themselves.)

Sex

As seen in Table 4, virtually all rejected cases (99.0%) were males. Almost all accepted cases (97.2%) were males, as well. (In 1980, 3% of all first commitments from Criminal Court were females; this compares with the 2% observed in the present sample. [4] Given the very small percentage of females, subsequent analyses in this report will not be broken down by sex.)

Ethnicity

As shown in Table 5, 34.2% of all rejected cases were White, 23.1% were Spanish-surnamed, and 41.2% were Black. All Other groups combined (Asian; Native-American; etc.) comprised less than 2% of all rejects. As indicated, the figures for accepted cases were quite similar, although

TABLE 3

Age of Rejected and Accepted Cases

Age	Rejected ^a		Accepted ^b		Total ^c	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Below 18	0	0.0	6	2.1	6	1.2
18	41	20.6	77	26.6	118	24.2
19	82	41.2	96	33.2	178	36.5
20	61	30.7	92	31.8	153	31.4
21	14	7.0	16	5.5	30	6.1
Over 21	1	0.5	2	0.7	3	0.6
Total	199	100.0	289	100.0	488	100.0

^aMean age = 19.3.

^bMean age = 18.9.

^cMean age = 19.1

TABLE 4

Sex of Rejected and Accepted Cases

Sex	Rejected		Accepted		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	197	99.0	281	97.2	478	98.0
Female	2	1.0	8	2.8	10	2.0
Total	199	100.0	289	100.0	488	100.0

TABLE 5
Ethnicity of Rejected and Accepted Cases

Ethnicity	Rejected		Accepted		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	68	34.2	107	37.0	175	35.9
Spanish-surnamed	46	23.1	76	26.3	122	25.0
Black	82	41.2	96	33.2	178	36.5
Asian	0	0.0	4	1.4	4	0.8
Native American	1	0.5	3	1.0	4	0.8
Filipino	1	0.5	1	0.4	2	0.4
Other	1	0.5	2	0.7	3	0.6
Total	199	100.0	289	100.0	488	100.0

Blacks were slightly overrepresented among rejected cases and, therefore, slightly underrepresented among accepted cases. Possible reasons for this difference are examined in Chapter 5. As will be seen, the difference in question is not a function of ethnicity, per se.

The ethnic distribution of the total sample was very similar to that of all male, first commitments to the Youth Authority from Criminal Courts in 1980. The rounded figures for White, Spanish-surnamed, Black, and All Others, respectively, were as follows: Present sample - 36%, 25%, 37%, and 3%; 1980 population - 34%, 28%, 36%, and 2%. [4] Thus, with respect to ethnicity, the present individuals were a relatively representative sample of YA commitments from the Criminal Courts.

Highest Grade Completed

As indicated in Table 6, the vast majority of rejected cases--85.9%-- had completed 10th, 11th, or 12th grade by the time of their YA commitment. This was very similar to accepted cases--82.8% of whom had completed one such grade. The average grade completed was 10.8 and 10.7 for rejected and accepted cases, respectively. (No information was available regarding the highest grade completed by Criminal Court commitments to the Youth Authority during 1980. [4])

County of Commitment

As shown in Table 7, one-half of all rejected cases (50.8%) came from Los Angeles county; the rest were from all other counties combined. Of all accepted cases, 45.3% came from L.A. county. (In 1980, 44.3% of all first commitments from Criminal Courts came from Los Angeles county; this compares with 47.5% in the present--rejected plus accepted--sample. [4] Los Angeles county comprises 31.5% of the state's overall population. [5])

TABLE 6

Highest Grade Completed by Rejected
and Accepted Cases

Highest Grade Completed	Rejected ^a		Accepted ^b		Total ^c	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Unknown	7	3.5	12	4.2	19	3.9
Less than 8	0	0.0	11	3.8	11	2.3
8	4	2.0	5	1.7	9	1.8
9	15	7.5	18	6.2	33	6.8
10	44	22.1	58	20.1	102	20.9
11	76	38.2	99	34.3	175	35.9
12	51	25.6	82	28.4	133	27.3
More than 12	2	1.0	4	1.4	6	1.2
Total	199	100.0	289	100.0	488	100.0

^aMean grade completed = 10.8.^bMean grade completed = 10.7.^cMean grade completed = 10.7.

TABLE 7

County of Commitment for Rejected and
Accepted Cases

County of Commitment	Rejected		Accepted		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Los Angeles	101	50.8	131	45.3	232	47.5
All Others	98	49.3	158	54.7	256	52.5
Total	199	100.0	289	100.0	488	100.0

The fact that Los Angeles county was slightly overrepresented in the rejected group and, therefore, slightly underrepresented in the accepted group, will be discussed in Chapter 5. (Although L.A. comprised 48% of the total study-sample, it comprised 51% of the rejected group and 45% of the accepted group.)

Appendix D shows the number and percentage of rejected and accepted cases from each of the 58 California counties. As can be seen, few counties contributed more than 15 such cases combined during the period covered by the present study. Los Angeles alone contributed 232 cases.

Court of Commitment

As seen in Table 8, all rejected cases came from a Superior Court, as did virtually all accepted cases. (In 1980, 1.1% of all first commitments from Criminal Courts were from a Municipal Court; this compares with 0.4% in the present sample. [4]) (Superior Courts handle misdemeanors as well as felonies; Municipal Courts handle misdemeanors only. Individuals committed for a felony can remain in the Youth Authority until their 25th birthday; those committed for a felony can remain for two years or until their 23rd birthday, whichever is later. [Sec. 1769-1771, W & I Code.])

Since almost all cases in the present sample were committed from a Superior Court, subsequent analyses in this report will not be broken down by court of commitment.

Number of Prior Commitments

As shown in Table 9, three-fourths of all rejected cases (75.9%) had no prior commitments to the Youth Authority; that is, they were new ("first") commitments. One-fifth of all rejected cases (21.6%) had 1 prior commitment, and only a handful had two or more. Accepted cases almost never had been

TABLE 8

Court of Commitment for Rejected and Accepted Cases

Court of Commitment	Rejected		Accepted		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Superior	199	100.0	287	99.3	486	99.6
Municipal	0	0.0	2	0.7	2	0.4
Total	199	100.0	289	100.0	488	100.0

TABLE 9

Number of Prior Commitments to the Youth Authority for Rejected and Accepted Cases

Prior Commitments	Rejected		Accepted		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
None	151	75.9	285	98.6	436	89.3
One	43	21.6	4	1.4	47	9.6
Two or more	5	2.5	0	0.0	5	1.0
Total	199	100.0	289	100.0	488	100.0

previously committed to the YA. Apparently, the fact of having had a prior commitment was, in itself, almost certain grounds for rejection. Supplementary analysis, and discussion with Youth Authority staff, indicated that most cases (71%) who had 1 or more prior commitments were rejected essentially on grounds, or on the presumption, that--since they had already had one "chance" in the YA--they were unlikely to "materially benefit" from an additional YA commitment. If an individual who had a prior commitment was not rejected on that particular basis (lack of material benefit), he or she was almost invariably rejected on grounds of a high screening score, in short, "inadequate facilities." Rejection which had occurred under these joint-conditions reflected the following view. Given the Youth Authority's space-limitations, these individuals--since they had already had a "chance" in the YA--could justifiably or at least reasonably be given a lower priority-for-acceptance than individuals who had not previously been in the YA.

Offense History

Type of Commitment Offense

As seen in Table 10, the type of commitment offense for which rejected cases had been sent to the Youth Authority was as follows, in order of frequency:

Burglary - 39.2%; Robbery - 26.1%; Theft - 10.6%; Assault (severe) - 9.1%; Murder/Manslaughter - 4.5%; Rape and Other Sex - 3.5%.

The type of offense for which accepted cases had been committed was:

Burglary - 37.4%; Robbery - 31.8%; Theft - 8.3%; Assault (severe) - 8.0%; Rape and Other Sex - 5.2%.

TABLE 10

Type of Commitment Offense for Rejected and Accepted Cases

Type of Commitment Offense	Rejected		Accepted		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Murder	9	4.5	1 ^a	0.4	10	2.0
Manslaughter	0	0.0	3	1.0	3	0.6
Robbery	52	26.1	92	31.8	144	29.5
Assault (attempt to murder; aggravated assault)	18	9.1	23	8.0	41	8.4
Assault--All Others	3	1.5	7	2.4	10	2.0
Burglary	78	39.2	108	37.4	186	38.1
Theft	21	10.6	24	8.3	45	9.2
Rape, violent	5	2.5	13	4.5	18	3.7
Rape (other); All Other sex violations	2	1.0	2	0.7	4	0.8
Drug charges	5	2.5	10	3.5	15	3.1
Miscellaneous felony	6	3.2	6	2.1	12	2.5
Miscellaneous misdemeanor, and W & I	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	199	100.0	289	100.0	488	100.0

^aThis case was accepted in accordance with the policy mentioned in note 2 of Chapter 1 (p. 112).

Thus, at a broad descriptive level, there was considerable similarity in the commitment offenses of rejected and accepted cases. As indicated later, the commitment offense was not the only factor--in fact, it was not even the primary factor--that distinguished rejected from accepted cases.

Violence vs. Nonviolence of Commitment Offense

As shown in Table 11, when the above-mentioned commitment offenses were categorized as either violent or nonviolent, rejected and accepted cases were still rather similar to each other. (Violent offenses were defined as those other than burglary, theft, drugs, miscellaneous felony, and miscellaneous misdemeanor plus Welfare & Institutions code offenses.) Specifically, among rejected cases, 44.7% of all YA commitment offenses were violent; among accepted cases, the figure was not very different: 48.8%. For nonviolent offenses the figures for rejected and accepted cases were, of course, 55.3% and 51.2%, respectively.

Number of Prior Offenses

As seen in Table 12, rejected cases had an average of 6.04 arrests prior to their Youth Authority commitment offense. This was considerably more than the average among accepted cases: 1.98. Since some arrests involved more than one charge, a separate analysis was made regarding the number of prior charges. (Charges, in turn, should be distinguished from "counts."¹) As indicated in Table 12, rejected cases had an average of 8.33 charges prior to their YA commitment offense. This was far more than that found among accepted cases: 2.52.

TABLE 11

Violence/Non-violence of Commitment Offense
for Rejected and Accepted Cases

Type of Offense	Type of Case					
	Rejected		Accepted		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Violent	89	44.7	141	48.8	230	47.1
Non-violent	110	55.3	148	51.2	258	52.9
Total	199	100.0	289	100.0	488	100.0

TABLE 12

Number of Prior Arrests and Prior Charges
for Rejected and Accepted Cases

Type of Case	No. of Cases	Arrests and Charges			
		Arrests		Charges	
		No. of Arrests	Avg. No. of Arrests	No. of Charges	Avg. No. of Charges
Rejected	199	1,202	6.04	1,658	8.33
Accepted	289	572	1.98	728	2.52
Total	488	1,774	3.64	2,386	4.89

Number of Prior Violent Arrests

Although rejected cases had considerably more prior arrests than accepted cases--6.04 vs. 1.98 (violent and nonviolent combined)--were the former individuals more likely to have had a violent prior arrest in particular? As seen in Table 13, the answer is yes: 27.6% of the rejected cases and 15.2% of the accepted cases had 1 violent arrest prior to their YA commitment offense; an additional 21.6% of the former and only 3.5% of the latter had two or more such arrests.

TABLE 13

Prior Violent Arrests for Rejected and Accepted Cases

Prior Violent Arrests	Type of Case					
	Rejected		Accepted		Total	
	No. of Cases	% of Cases	No. of Cases	% of Cases	No. of Cases	% of Cases
None	101	50.8	235	81.3	336	68.9
One	55	27.6	44	15.2	99	20.3
Two or more	43	21.6	10	3.5	53	10.9
Total	199	100.0	289	100.0	488	100.0

Note regarding rejected cases. Before proceeding, it might be kept in mind that cases rejected on grounds of material benefit (M.B.) were similar to those rejected on the basis of inadequate facilities (I.F.), with respect to several variables and factors: age, sex, ethnicity, highest grade completed, county of commitment, court of commitment, violence vs. nonviolence of commitment offense, number of prior violent arrests, and type as well as length of sentence. As expected, they differed on number of prior YA commitments and number of prior offenses. In addition, I.F. rejects were more likely than M.B. rejects to have been committed for murder and robbery; the reverse applied to burglary. No differences were found for the remaining commitment offenses.

CHAPTER 3

SCREENING FACTORS

In this chapter we will review the relationship between various screening factors, on the one hand, and the Youth Authority's decision to reject or accept given cases, on the other. We will also describe the relationship between those factors and selected background characteristics as well as offense behavior. The relationship between screening factors and dispositions, e.g., a state prison sentence, will be reviewed in Chapter 4. (See Appendix A for a definition of the individual screening factors.)*

Rejection vs. Acceptance

As shown in Table 14, rejected cases had a much higher total screening score than accepted cases--17.44 vs. 8.16 points--on the five screening factors combined. The former score was well above the Youth Authority's rejection-cutoff of 12 points (13 during July). That is, by YA policy, individuals whose total score equalled or exceeded that amount were rejected; all remaining individuals were accepted.

Among rejected cases, the largest single contributor to the total screening score was the factor, "offense pattern--magnitude." This factor, by itself, accounted for one-third (33.9%) of their total score and for one-half of the 9-point difference between rejected and accepted cases. The second largest contributor was "commitment behavior (offense)"--24.0% of the total score. This factor, however, contributed relatively little to the point-difference between rejected and accepted cases. Taken individually, the remaining factors contributed relatively little to the total screening score

* It should be emphasized that, except for the total screening score (Table 15), all findings reviewed in the present chapter would remain virtually identical if (1) material-benefit rejects who did not have screening scores (N = 13) were eliminated, or if (2) all material-benefit rejects (N = 35) were eliminated. Thus, by including these particular individuals, the nature of the present results was not substantially changed; and, at the same time, the scope and meaning of the findings was significantly increased.

TABLE 14

Contribution of Screening Factors to
The Rejection or Acceptance of Cases

Screening Factor	Screening Scores					
	Rejected ^a		Accepted ^b		Total	
	Avg. No. of Points	% of Total Points	Avg. No. of Points	% of Total Points	Avg. No. of Points	% of Total Points
Commitment behavior (offense)	4.18	24.0	3.38	41.4	3.78	31.9
Offense pattern-- magnitude	5.92	33.9	1.45	17.8	3.18	26.9
Offense pattern-- escalation	2.11	12.1	0.93	11.4	1.39	11.7
Criminal sophistic./ orient.	2.30	13.2	1.63	20.0	1.89	16.0
Prior secure placements	2.93	16.8	0.77	9.4	1.60	13.5
Total	17.44	100.0	8.16	100.0	11.84	100.0

^aN=180. Nineteen cases had no available screening scores (13 = material-benefit rejects, 5 = other rejects, 1 = inadequate-facilities reject; see Tables 15 and 23 for related information).

^bN=284. Five cases had no available screening scores.

of rejected cases;^{*} however, "prior secure placements" accounted for one-fourth of the point-difference between rejected and accepted cases.

Rejected ("R") cases did not just receive higher (specifically, a 9-points higher) total score than accepted ("A") cases; they received a higher score on each of the five factors which contributed to that score. By far, the largest R vs. A difference (namely, 4½ points) involved the factor "offense pattern--magnitude"; that is, rejected cases clearly had a more severe and, as shown earlier, a longer prior record than accepted cases. In short, this factor distinguished rejected from accepted cases more than any other single factor. The second largest R vs. A difference (2 points) involved "prior secure placements"; apparently, rejected cases had substantially more such placements than accepted cases. Finally, R-cases scored moderately (1 point) higher than A-cases on "offense pattern--escalation."

As shown in Table 14, little difference existed between rejected and accepted cases with respect to "commitment behavior (offense)." This reflects the fact that the Youth Authority commitment offense--e.g., robbery, theft, burglary, etc., and the relative frequencies of each--was not very different for rejected as compared to accepted cases. This, in fact, was shown directly, in Chapter 2. Thus, as suggested above, it was indeed the prior arrests and the prior record as a whole (placements and escalation included) that accounted for most of the difference in the total screening scores of rejected and accepted cases.

Reason for Rejection

As seen in Table 15, individuals who were rejected on grounds of "inadequate facilities" had substantially fewer total points than those rejected on grounds of "material benefit" (16.87 vs. 21.49 points). Two factors accounted for this difference: (1) "offense pattern--magnitude" and (2) "prior secure placements." Specifically, individuals who were rejected on

^{*}As seen in Appendix A, whereas these remaining factors (offense-pattern--escalation, criminal sophistication/orientation, and prior secure placements) are allowed a maximum of 3, 3, and 5 points, respectively, the commitment behavior and prior history factors have no preset limit. Thus, depending essentially on the severity of the individual's offense(s), each of the latter factors can, by itself, contribute more points toward the total screening score than all remaining factors combined.

TABLE 15

Screening Scores of Rejected Cases
by Reason for Rejection

Screening Factor	Reason for Rejection ^a		
	Inadequate Facilities	Material Benefit	Other
	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points
Commitment behavior (offense)	4.29	3.45	3.00
Offense pattern--magnitude	5.61	8.18	5.00
Offense pattern--escalation	2.08	2.27	2.00
Criminal sophistic./orient.	2.27	2.50	2.00
Prior secure placements	2.62	5.09	3.00
Total	16.87	21.49	15.00

^aSample-sizes were as follows: Inadequate facilities - 157; Material benefit - 22; Other - 1. All such cases (N = 180) had screening scores. An additional 19 cases (see Table 14) had no screening scores (therefore, the total sample-size, regardless of screening scores, was: Inadequate facilities - 158; Material benefit - 35; Other - 6. See Table 23.) As indicated, 22 of the 35 material-benefit (M.B.) rejects had screening scores. These 22 cases were similar to the 13 cases who did not have screening scores, on almost all variables and factors analyzed (age, sex, highest grade completed, ethnicity, county of commitment, court of commitment, number of prior YA commitments, type of commitment offense, violence vs. nonviolence of commitment offense, enhancements associated with commitment offense, use of weapons during commitment offense, number of prior violent arrests, type of disposition, and length of disposition; M.B. rejects with screening scores had somewhat fewer prior arrests and prior charges than those without screening scores). Thus, the inclusion of M.B. cases--those with and those without screening scores--did not skew the present results in any substantial way.

grounds of material benefit not only had a more severe (and longer) prior record than inadequate facilities-rejects, they had more prior secure placements as well. This is consistent with the fact that most material benefit-rejects had been rejected essentially because of their prior commitment(s) to the Youth Authority.*

Age and Highest Grade Completed

For R- and A-cases alike, no substantial or statistically significant differences existed across the various age-groupings with respect to total screening score. This was true for highest grade completed, as well. In short, the Youth Authority's decision to either reject or accept given individuals was influenced by neither the latters' age nor years of schooling. (To save space, tables are omitted for these variables.)

Ethnicity

Total screening score. As seen in Table 16, rejected White, Spanish-surnamed, and Black groups had approximately the same total (i.e., average) screening score as one another: 17.19, 17.00, and 17.94, respectively. In this regard, no single ethnic group seemed to be substantially "better" or "worse" than any remaining group with respect to its overall criminal/delinquency record ("Other" rejects are excluded from this discussion because only three such individuals had screening scores).

The total (average) screening score of accepted cases was also approximately equal for these same, respective ethnic groups (White, Spanish, and Black): 8.19, 8.32, and 8.02. (Again, there were relatively few "Others.")

Detailed frequency distributions are shown in Appendix E, separately for rejected and accepted cases. These distributions further illustrate

*A regression analysis showed that reason-for-rejection (RFR) made a significant contribution ($p < .0001$) to the total screening score even when the following variables were statistically controlled: (1) number of prior arrests; (2) number of prior violent arrests; (3) violence vs. nonviolence of commitment offense; (4) age; (5) county of commitment; (6) ethnicity. Variable (1), above, also made a significant contribution ($p < .01$) to the total screening score when all remaining variables/factors (RFR included) were controlled--as did variable (3), above ($p < .05$). See p. 78 regarding multiple regression in general.

TABLE 16
Screening Scores of Rejected and Accepted Cases, by Ethnicity

Screening Factor	YA Action and Ethnicity ^a			
	Rejected Cases			
	White	Spanish	Black	Other
	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points
Commitment behavior (offense)	3.82	4.76	4.18	4.67
Offense pattern--magnitude	6.10	5.27	6.21	3.00
Offense pattern--escalation	2.03	2.11	2.18	1.67
Criminal sophistic./orient.	2.27	2.30	2.33	2.00
Prior secure placements	2.97	2.57	3.04	3.67
Total	17.19	17.00	17.94	15.00
Accepted Cases				
Commitment behavior (offense)	2.88	3.62	3.78	3.10
Offense pattern--magnitude	1.89	1.28	1.13	1.00
Offense pattern--escalation	0.99	0.95	0.81	1.20
Criminal sophistic./orient.	1.62	1.65	1.62	1.60
Prior secure placements	0.81	0.82	0.69	0.60
Total	8.19	8.32	8.02	7.50

^aSample-sizes are as follows. Rejected cases: White-62; Spanish-37; Black-78; Other-3. Accepted cases: White-106; Spanish-74; Black-94; Other-10.

the approximate equality-of-screening-scores across the major ethnic groups, for rejected and accepted cases respectively.

Scores on individual factors. Among rejected cases, Spanish-surnamed individuals scored somewhat higher than either Blacks or Whites on "commitment behavior (offense)": 4.76 points vs. 4.18 and 3.82, respectively. This means that the formers' Youth Authority commitment offense was, on the average, more severe in nature than that of the latter. In this context, severity reflects the average, authorized confinement time established by court order. (See Chapters 4 and 5 for related findings and discussion.)

Despite the above, Spanish rejects scored somewhat lower than Blacks and Whites in terms of "offense pattern--magnitude." This means that the prior offense history of Spanish-surnamed individuals was slightly less severe than that of Blacks and Whites--severity being defined in terms of average sentence-length. (The average sentence which was specified in the Penal Code was, of course, not necessarily that which any given individual would actually serve.)

In effect, then, the Spanish-surnamed group--individuals who had a less severe prior record--ended up with roughly the same total screening score as Blacks and Whites because their YA commitment offense was somewhat more severe. In a sense, the severity of the commitment offense compensated for that of the prior record.

As to the remaining screening factors, for instance, "escalation," no substantial differences were found between the three major ethnic groups.

Finally, among accepted cases, the White group had a somewhat lower score than the Spanish and Black groups on "commitment behavior (offense)": 2.88 points vs. 3.62 and 3.78. That is, its Youth Authority commitment

offense was somewhat less severe. At the same time, however, Whites had a slightly higher score than the Spanish and Black groups on "offense pattern--magnitude." That is, their prior offense history was somewhat more severe. Thus, with respect to the overall screening score that was obtained by non-minority and minority groups, respectively, the two factors in question again largely counterbalanced each other.

County of Commitment

As seen in Table 17, rejected cases from Los Angeles county had a slightly but not (in a statistical sense) significantly higher total screening score than rejected cases from all remaining counties combined: 17.59 vs. 17.29. As to individual screening factors, Los Angeles county had a somewhat more severe YA commitment offense than the latter rejects: 4.57 vs. 3.80 points. Nevertheless, their prior record was somewhat less severe. These findings will be further discussed in Chapter 5.

Accepted cases from Los Angeles had a slightly lower total screening score than those from all remaining counties combined: 7.77 vs. 8.45. This difference basically reflected the somewhat more severe prior record of non-L.A. cases. Related to the latter difference was the non-L.A. counties' slightly greater number of prior secure placements. As suggested, none of these differences was particularly strong.

Number of Prior YA Commitments

As indicated in Table 18, rejected cases who had not previously been in the Youth Authority had a noticeably lower total screening score than those who had 1 prior YA commitment: 16.64 vs. 20.70. (Persons with 2 or more prior commitments are excluded from this discussion because of

TABLE 17

Screening Scores of Rejected and Accepted Cases by County of Commitment

Screening Factor	YA Action and County ^a			
	Rejected		Accepted	
	Los Angeles	All Others	Los Angeles	All Others
	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points
Commitment behavior (offense)	4.57	3.80	3.49	3.28
Offense pattern--magnitude	5.59	6.26	1.16	1.69
Offense pattern--escalation	2.19	2.02	0.87	0.97
Criminal sophistic./orient.	2.41	2.19	1.65	1.61
Prior secure placements	2.83	3.02	0.60	0.90
Total	17.59	17.29	7.77	8.45

^aSample-sizes were as follows. Rejected cases: L.A. - 90; Other - 90. Accepted cases: L.A. - 129; Other - 155.

TABLE 18

Screening Scores of Rejected and Accepted Cases by
Number of Prior YA Commitments

Screening Factor	YA Action and Prior Commitments ^a					
	Rejected			Accepted		
	None	One	Two or More	None	One	Two or More
	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points
Commitment behavior (offense)	4.32	3.64	3.00	3.39	2.33	-- ^b
Offense pattern-- magnitude	5.49	7.58	9.00	1.43	3.00	--
Offense pattern-- escalation	2.08	2.21	2.00	0.92	1.33	--
Criminal sophistic./ orient.	2.26	2.45	3.00	1.63	1.33	--
Prior secure placement	2.49	4.82	5.00	0.75	2.33	--
Total	16.64	20.70	22.00	8.12	10.32	--

^aSample-sizes are as follows. Rejected cases: None - 146; One - 33; Two or More - 1. Accepted cases: None - 281; One - 3; Two or More - 0.

^bNo cases were present in this ("Two or More") category.

their extremely small number.) As expected, this difference was largely accounted for by two interrelated factors: "offense pattern--magnitude" and "prior secure placements." Specifically, the above difference in total screening score reflected the fact that individuals who had a prior Youth Authority placement also had a more severe (and longer) prior record, and, of course, more prior secure placements.

Rejected cases who had not previously been in the Youth Authority had a somewhat more severe commitment offense than those who had been: 4.32 vs. 3.64 points. This suggests that--in order to still be rejected--if given individuals did not have an especially severe or extensive prior record, they in a sense had to have a rather severe commitment offense. It might, of course, have been possible for a combination of other factors to partly substitute for a non-severe or non-extensive prior record.

Type of Commitment Offense

Appendix F contains the screening scores of rejected and accepted cases for each of ten types (groups) of Youth Authority commitment offense: (1) murder/manslaughter; (2) robbery; (3) assault (severe); (4) assault (other); (5) burglary; (6) theft; (7) rape/other sex; (8) drugs; (9) miscellaneous felonies; (10) miscellaneous misdemeanors; Welfare and Institutions offenses. For present purposes it is not necessary to discuss each offense-group separately. Instead, we have categorized these offenses as either violent or non-violent (violent = groups 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7; nonviolent = groups 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10) and will review these two broad categories in the section that follows.

Violence and Nonviolence of Commitment Offense

As shown in Table 19, rejected cases who had a violent YA commitment offense had approximately the same total screening score as cases who had

TABLE 19
Screening Scores of Rejected and Accepted Cases by
Violence/Non-violence of Commitment Offense

Screening Factor	YA Action and Commitment Offense ^a			
	Rejected		Accepted	
	Violent	Non-violent	Violent	Non-violent
	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points
Commitment behavior (offense)	5.58	3.04	4.41	2.40
Offense pattern--magnitude	4.93	6.74	1.01	1.86
Offense pattern--escalation	2.25	1.99	0.84	1.01
Criminal sophistic./orient.	2.22	2.36	1.59	1.66
Prior secure placements	2.62	3.18	0.46	1.05
Total	17.60	17.31	8.31	7.98

^aSample-sizes were as follows. Rejected cases: Violent - 81; NV - 99.
Accepted cases: Violent - 138; NV - 146.

a nonviolent offense: 17.60 vs. 17.31 points. Despite this similarity, certain interesting findings emerged in connection with the various individual factors:

First, rejected cases whose Youth Authority commitment offense was violent had a substantially higher "commitment behavior (offense)" score than those whose commitment offense was nonviolent" 5.58 vs. 3.04 points. This finding seems plausible, given the definition of "commitment behavior (offense)," itself--that is, given the basis of the scoring. Secondly, persons with a violent commitment offense had less severe prior offense histories than the latter: 4.93 vs. 6.74 points. This suggests that if the commitment offense is sufficiently severe, given individuals may still be rejected from the Youth Authority even though their prior history is less severe than that of persons whose commitment offense is nonviolent. Thirdly, rejected cases who had a violent commitment offense had a slightly though not significantly higher "escalation" score than cases without such a commitment offense. This finding seems plausible from the following perspective. Violent commitment offenses would, logically, have a greater chance of being associated with, or being considered direct evidence of, a pattern of escalation than would nonviolent commitment offenses; that is, violence is something toward which one is more likely to escalate than is nonviolence.

Finally, individuals with a violent commitment offense had slightly fewer prior secure placements than persons without such an offense. This finding makes sense mainly in relation to the latter individuals' more severe and possibly longer prior record. That is, other factors being equal, persons with a more severe and possibly longer prior record are more likely to have been "placed" (locked up) at some point or other, or at least to have had a possible reason for being placed. However, the finding is also consistent with the fact that persons who have a violent commitment offense already

have a greater chance of being rejected by the Youth Authority than persons who do not have such an offense--that is, number of prior placements aside.

In general, similar findings were obtained with respect to accepted cases. This was seen in connection with (1) the YA commitment offense, (2) the severity of prior offenses, and (3) the number of prior placements.

Before proceeding, it might be noted that, among rejected individuals who had a violent committing offense, "commitment behavior (offense)" and "offense pattern--magnitude" contributed 31.7% and 28.0%, respectively, to the total screening score. However, among rejected cases who had a nonviolent committing offense, those same factors contributed 17.6% and 38.9%, respectively. These differences clearly indicate that (1) commitment offense was a much larger contributor to the screening score of individuals who had a violent committing offense; and, in contrast, (2) prior record was a substantially larger contributor with respect to those with a nonviolent committing offense.

Offense Magnitude and Prior Offenses

We have often suggested that a positive relationship exists between an individual's score on "offense pattern--magnitude," on the one hand, and the extent of his prior history, on the other: specifically, the higher his offense magnitude (OM) score, the greater his number of prior offenses. Table 20 supports this suggestion: Individuals whose OM score was 5 or less had an average of 4.70 prior arrests and 6.34 prior charges. However, those whose score was 6 or more had 6.90 prior arrests and 9.63 prior charges.

TABLE 20

Relationship Between Offense Magnitude Score and Number of Prior Arrests as well as Prior Charges for Rejected Cases

Offense Magnitude Score ^a	No. of Cases	Prior Arrests and Charges			
		Arrests		Charges	
		No. of Arrests	Avg. No. of Arrests	No. of Charges	Avg. No. of Charges
0-5	89	418	4.70	564	6.34
6 & up	91	628	6.90	876	9.63

^aNineteen of the 199 rejected cases had no available screening scores. The scores of the remaining 180 cases (the cases included above) were dichotomized as close to the median as possible.

Total Screening Score and Prior Offenses

Focusing not just on the individual's offense-magnitude score but on all five of his scores combined--in short, on his "total screening score"--the following question may be asked. Was there still a positive relationship between the individual's score, on the one hand, and his total number of priors, on the other? Table 21 indicates that there was: Individuals whose total screening score was 12 to 16 had an average of 5.35 prior arrests and 7.01 prior charges. (Among rejected cases, 12 was the lowest possible score.) However, those whose score was 17 or more had 6.28 prior arrests and 9.01 prior charges.

Relationships among Screening Factors

Two separate questions may be asked regarding the screening factors themselves, that is, apart from their relationship to background characteristics, to offense-behavior, and so on: (1) What were the relationships among the five screening factors? For instance, were "committing behavior" scores closely related to--and, thus, highly predictive of--"prior placement" scores? (2) What was the relationship between each such factor and the total screening score? Table 22 displays the relationships in question, separately for rejected and accepted cases. The following comments will focus on rejected cases only, except as specified. (Appendix G displays these relationships for rejected and accepted cases combined.)

1. Most screening factors showed a positive and statistically significant relationship not only to most other screening factors (see question #1, above), but to the total screening score (TSS) as well (question #2). That is, (a) if an individual's score was, say, high on one such factor, his score then tended to be higher rather than lower on most remaining

TABLE 21

Relationship Between Total Screening Score and Number of Prior Arrests as well as Prior Charges for Rejected Cases

Total Screening Score ^a	No. of Cases	Prior Arrests and Charges			
		Arrests		Charges	
		No. of Arrests	Avg. No. of Arrests	No. of Charges	Avg. No. of Charges
12-16	91	487	5.35	638	7.01
17 & Up	89	559	6.28	802	9.01

^aNineteen of the 199 rejected cases had no available screening scores. The scores of the remaining 180 cases (the cases included above) were dichotomized as close to the median as possible.

TABLE 22

Relationships Among Screening Factors and Between
Screening Factors and Total Screening Score,
for Rejected and Accepted Cases

Screening Factors and Total Screening Score ^a						
	Offense - Magnitude	Offense - Escalation	Criminal Soph./ Orient.	Prior Secure Placement	Total Score	
<u>Screen- ing Factors</u>	Commitment Behavior	-.33 (-.33)	-.27 (-.01)	-.07 (-.19)	-.26 (-.23)	.20 (.20)
	Offense - Magnitude		.53 (.11)	.14 (.08)	.44 (.23)	.69 (.68)
	Offense - Escalation			.23 (.23)	.31 (.10)	.53 (.23)
	Criminal Soph./Orient.				.03 (.15)	.28 (.21)
	Prior Secure Placement					.54 (.42)

^aCorrelations for rejected cases (N = 180) appear first, within any given cell; those for accepted cases (N = 284) appear next (in parentheses), within the same cell. All correlations are Pearson r's. For rejected cases, $p \leq .05$ and $p \leq .01$ require a correlation of .15 or greater and .19 or greater, respectively. For accepted cases, $p \leq .05$ and $p \leq .01$ require a correlation of .12 or greater and .15 or greater, respectively.

factors--and on the TSS as well. In addition, (b) most such relationships or correspondences could not be explained as simply "chance events." In this connection, the table indicates that, among rejected cases, the closest--the most statistically reliable--relationships were between the following factors:

- (1) offense magnitude and offense escalation ($r = .53$);
- (2) offense magnitude and prior placements ($r = .44$);
- (3) offense magnitude and TSS ($r = .69$);
- (4) offense escalation and TSS ($r = .53$);
- (5) prior placements and TSS ($r = .54$).

As seen in Appendix G, similar, and in some cases closer, relationships were observed for rejected plus accepted cases combined.

2. Despite their positive and statistically significant nature, these relationships were not in fact very strong or useful from a practical point of view. For example, the correlation of .53 that was found between offense magnitude and offense escalation does not mean that one could closely predict an individual's score on the latter factor from his score on the former, at least not usually. Instead, given the sample-size involved, it means that only a small or perhaps modest degree of predictability would be possible.

To be sure, the size of these correlations also means that the five screening factors were sufficiently independent of each other to where they were each contributing something unique to the total screening score. Moreover, uniqueness-of-contribution aside, not all screening factors made an equal contribution to the TSS. For example, in this connection the factor that seemed least important overall was "criminal sophistication/orientation" (this was true for rejected and accepted cases alike); in fact, the omission of this particular factor from future screening efforts would probably represent little loss with respect to the Youth Authority's continuing to

generate a meaningful rejection/acceptance decision. In contrast, the factor that seemed most important relative to this decision was "prior offense--magnitude," that is, the severity (and extent) of the individual's pre-YA, sustained petitions and/or convictions. At any rate, uniqueness-of-contribution and differential-contribution notwithstanding, not all factors seemed really crucial with respect to the "reject vs. accept" decision.

3. One factor--commitment behavior--had a negative relationship to all remaining scoring factors. (Its relationship to the total screening score was, of course, positive.) The probable reasons for this relationship have been suggested at several points in the present chapter, mainly with respect to (a) the role of prior offenses (i.e., pre-YA arrests) and, in turn, (b) the positive relationship between prior offenses and various remaining factors, e.g., prior secure placements. Despite the above-mentioned negative relationship, commitment-behavior seemed influential not just in connection with the rejection vs. acceptance decision, but, as seen in Chapter 4, with respect to the disposition that was made by local authorities subsequent to the Youth Authority's decision to reject.

Relationship between Selected Variables and Rejection vs. Acceptance

For all cases combined (N = 488), the relationship between each of 8 variables (e.g., age) and the YA's decision to reject or accept was explored. As seen in the following, all such relationships were found to be both low and statistically unreliable (Spearman r's are shown; to reach the .05 level of significance, a correlation of .09 is required): age = .04; sex = -.06; ethnicity = .05; highest grade completed = .00; court of commitment = -.05; commitment offense (10 categories) = -.08; violence vs. nonviolence of commitment offense = .00; county of commitment = -.02.

CHAPTER 4

DISPOSITION OF REJECTED CASES

We now turn to our remaining major questions:

What is the disposition of individuals who have been screened out and then returned to their county-of-commitment? For instance, are they then sent to state prison? To county jail? To probation?

What relationship exists between given dispositions, e.g., state prison, and the individual's characteristics?

We will give particular emphasis to the latter question. In fact, we shall systematically review the relationships between disposition, on the one hand, and the preponderance of variables and factors that have been presented thus far. Among the latter will be: age, ethnicity, county of commitment, type of commitment offense, use of weapons in connection with the commitment offense, number of prior offenses, and violent offense history. However, before focusing on this and the preceding question, we will begin with the following: In terms of the July 1 policy, what was the Youth Authority's main reason for rejecting the 199 cases under consideration?

Reasons for Rejection

As seen in Table 23, most cases (79.4%) whom the Youth Authority did not accept were rejected due to lack of adequate facilities. Nearly all remaining cases (17.6%) were rejected on the assumption that they would not materially benefit from the YA. A separate analysis indicated that 97% of all cases who were rejected based on the latter assumption had already been in the Youth Authority on one or more occasions. In contrast, only 10% of all cases who were rejected due to lack of adequate facilities had previously been in the YA. (See Appendix H.)

TABLE 23

Reason for Rejection by Youth Authority

Reason	Rejected Cases	
	No.	%
Lack of adequate facilities	158	79.4
Lack of material benefit	35	17.6
All other ^a	6	3.0
Total	199	100.0

^aAge; inappropriate referral.

Note. The following might be kept in mind with respect to all 22 material-benefit (M.B.) rejects who were given screening scores (Table 15). The number of points received by these individuals was enough for them to have been rejected on grounds of inadequate facilities (I.F.), i.e., even if they had not already been rejected on grounds of material benefit. A review of commitment offenses and prior offense histories strongly suggests that this would also have been the case for almost all of the 13 M.B. rejects who were not given screening scores. Thus, especially in view of the fact that M.B. and I.F. rejects were similar to each other on several background variables/factors and on type of disposition as well as length of sentence (p. 25), this suggests that--for all practical, present purposes--M.B. and I.F. rejects (N = 35 and N = 158, respectively) can be considered a relatively homogeneous group.

Disposition of Rejected Cases

All cases whom the Youth Authority rejected were--regardless of the reason for rejection--returned to their county of commitment for disposition by local authorities. The latter individuals usually disposed of these cases in two-to-three months. As seen in Table 24, approximately 5 out of every 10 cases (54.3%) were sent to state prison and an additional 3 out of every 10 (29.7%) were given a jail sentence which was to be followed by a period on probation. Together, these particular sentences accounted for the preponderance (84.0%) of all dispositions.

A few individuals were either sentenced to county jail (2.5%), were placed on formal probation (2.5%), were referred back to the Youth Authority (2.5%), or were sent to the California Department of Corrections (the adult prison system) for a 90-day diagnostic workup (1.5%). Most of the remaining ("Other") cases had not been sentenced as of early February, 1982--the data-cutoff point. This was despite a followup period of four-to-seven months from the time of their rejection by the YA. Presumably, most such cases were residing in a county jail while awaiting their final disposition.

(In Table 34, dispositions are shown separately for inadequate-facilities rejects, material-benefit rejects, etc.)

Mandatory "no probation" provision. A particular legal restriction helped determine the preceding dispositions--regardless of age, ethnicity, county of commitment, reason for rejection, etc. That is, of all rejected cases who were sent to prison, about 65 to 70% received that sentence because the court had no alternative. The specific basis of this restriction was Section 1203.06 of the California Penal Code:

Probation [also jail + probation, etc.] shall not be granted to, nor shall the execution or imposition of sentence be suspended for, any of the following persons:

(1) Any person who personally used a firearm during the commission or attempted commission of any of the following crimes: (i) Murder. (ii) Assault with intent to commit murder, in violation of Section 217. (iii) Robbery, in violation of Section 211. (iv) Kidnapping, in violation of Section 207. (v) Kidnapping for ransom, extortion, or robbery, in violation of Section 209. (vi) Burglary of the first degree, as defined in Section 460. (vii) Except as provided in Section 1203.065, rape in violation of subdivision (2) of Section 261. (viii) Assault with intent to commit rape, the infamous crime against nature, or robbery, in violation of Section 220. (ix) Escape, in violation of Section 4530 or 4532.

(2) Any person previously convicted of a felony specified in [subsections] (i) through (ix) of paragraph (1), who is convicted of a subsequent felony and who was personally armed with a firearm at any time during its commission or attempted commission or was unlawfully armed with a firearm at the time of his arrest for the subsequent felony.

..."used a firearm" means to display a firearm in a menacing manner, to intentionally fire it, or to intentionally strike or hit a human being with it;..."armed with a firearm" means to knowingly carry a firearm as a means of offense or defense... [12]

Thus, once the Youth Authority rejected such individuals, neither a local sentence nor a suspended sentence was possible.

As will be seen, several rejected cases whose commitment offense was violent (Table 30) or who had used a weapon during their offense (Table 31) received a jail + probation sentence; this outcome was usually observed in connection with robbery and, to a lesser extent, severe assault (Table 29). One-third of these violent offenses involved the specific combination of robbery or assault and use of a weapon. In most such cases, however, the offenders were apparently not sent to prison because the weapon in question was a knife or a blunt instrument--not a firearm. Thus, these individuals could have been, but (given the specific wording of 1203.06) did not have to be, sent to prison.

These findings are consistent with results from a study of 6,023 California offenders recently "placed on probation and [another 6,023] received in state prison for violating the same offense-code sections" (in this study, probation meant "either straight probation or probation in conjunction with local custody time"):

...17% of [the] offenders who used a weapon in the commission of their crime...received probation.

The strongest statistical basis for explaining why a relatively high percentage of the probation sample used a weapon and did not receive a prison commitment is found in the relationship between the use made of the weapon and the type of weapon used:

If the weapon involved is a handgun then there is generally a higher probability that a prison commitment will result, regardless of the use made of the weapon.

On the other hand, if the weapon involved is a sharp instrument [e.g., knife] and the weapon is merely possessed, then there is higher probability of a probation disposition.

If the sharp instrument is used to injure, then a prison commitment is more likely to occur.

However, even if used to injure, the use of a blunt instrument is more likely to result in a probation disposition than a prison commitment.

In sum,...the type of weapon used is the most statistically significant factor in the decision to commit an offender to state prison if the weapon chosen is a handgun. Of lesser importance but still significant is the use made of the weapon. [13]

Disposition and Age

As shown in Table 25, there were no substantial age-differences among individuals who were given the various dispositions (excluding the All Others group). For instance, individuals sentenced to state prison were about 19.3 years of age whereas those given jail plus probation were 19.1. However, 18-year-olds in particular were somewhat less likely to be sent to state prison than those 19 or over.

TABLE 24

Disposition of Rejected Criminal Court Commitments

Disposition	Rejected Cases	
	No.	%
State Prison	108	54.3
Jail followed by formal probation	59	29.7
County jail only	5	2.5
Formal probation only	5	2.5
Referred back to CYA	5	2.5
CYA 90-day diagnostic	0	0.0
CDC 90-day diagnostic	3	1.5
Other ^a	14	7.0
Total	199	100.0

^aFinal disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

TABLE 25

Disposition by Age

Disposition	Age								Total	
	18		19		20		21 & Up			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
State prison ^a	18	43.9	47	57.3	35	57.4	8	53.3	108	54.3
Jail followed by formal prob. ^b	15	36.6	24	29.3	17	27.9	3	20.0	59	29.7
County jail only	2	4.9	1	1.2	2	3.3	0	0.0	5	2.5
Formal probation only	0	0.0	2	2.4	2	3.3	1	6.7	5	2.5
Referred back to CYA	0	0.0	2	2.4	2	3.3	1	6.7	5	2.5
All others ^c	6	14.6	6	7.3	3	4.9	2	13.3	17	8.5
Total	41	100.0	82	100.0	61	100.0	15	100.0	199	100.0

^aMean age = 19.3

^bMean age = 19.1

^cCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

Disposition and Highest Grade Completed

There were no substantial differences as to the highest grade completed by individuals who were given the various dispositions. In other words, the specific sentence that was given to these individuals by local decision-makers was apparently not influenced by the extent of the formers' schooling. (To save space, no table is presented.)

Disposition and Ethnicity

As seen in Table 26, noticeable differences in disposition were found across the three major ethnic groups. Specifically, in the case of Whites, 41.2% were sentenced to state prison and 38.2% were given jail plus probation. With the Spanish-surnamed group, 65.2% were sentenced to state prison whereas 19.6% were given jail plus probation. Among Blacks, 57.3% were sentenced to state prison and 29.3% to jail plus probation. Possible reasons for these ethnic differences in disposition will be reviewed in Chapter 5.

Disposition and County of Commitment

As indicated in Table 27, individuals who were committed to the Youth Authority from Los Angeles county were about three times more likely to receive a state prison sentence than a jail plus probation sentence (62.4% vs. 21.8%). In contrast, individuals committed from All Other counties combined were only slightly more likely to receive a state prison sentence than a jail plus probation sentence (45.9% vs. 37.8%). Possible reasons for this difference in disposition are reviewed in Chapter 5.

TABLE 26
Disposition by Ethnicity

Disposition	Ethnicity								Total	
	White		Spanish		Black		All Others			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
State prison	28	41.2	30	65.2	47	57.3	3	100.0	108	54.3
Jail followed by formal probation	26	38.2	9	19.6	24	29.3	0	0.0	59	29.7
County jail only	4	5.9	0	0.0	1	1.2	0	0.0	5	2.5
Formal probation only	2	2.9	3	6.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	2.5
Referred back to CYA	3	4.4	2	4.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	2.5
All others ^a	5	7.4	2	4.4	10	12.2	0	0.0	17	8.5
Total	68	100.0	46	100.0	82	100.0	3	100.0	199	100.0

^aCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown as of data-cutoff.

TABLE 27
Disposition by County of Commitment

Disposition	County				Total	
	Los Angeles		All Others			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
State prison	63	62.4	45	45.9	108	54.3
Jail followed by formal probation	22	21.8	37	37.8	59	29.7
County jail only	2	2.0	3	3.1	5	2.5
Formal probation only	4	4.0	1	1.0	5	2.5
Referred back to CYA	3	3.0	2	2.0	5	2.5
All others ^a	7	6.9	10	10.2	17	8.5
Total	101	100.0	98	100.0	199	100.0

^aCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

Disposition and Prior YA Commitments

As shown in Table 28, no substantial differences were observed in the type of dispositions received by individuals who had not been previously committed to the Youth Authority as compared to those who had been previously committed. For instance, 58.1% of those who had 1 prior commitment received a state prison sentence as compared to 52.3% of those who had no prior commitments. Similarly, 32.6% of those who had 1 prior commitment received a jail plus probation sentence as compared to 29.1% of those without a prior commitment. (Individuals with 2 or more prior commitments are excluded from this discussion because of the very small numbers involved and the resulting unreliability of the percentages that are shown.)

Disposition and Type of Commitment Offense

As seen in Table 29, there was a strong relationship between disposition and type of commitment offense. On the one hand, individuals who had been committed to the Youth Authority for murder, robbery, severe assault, or rape/other sex were far more likely to be sentenced to state prison than to jail plus probation. For example, 32 robbery cases went to prison whereas 12 received jail plus probation; similarly, 14 severe assault cases went to prison while only 2 received jail plus probation. The difference between these two types of sentences was even sharper with respect to murder and rape/other sex--offenses for which there were no jail plus probation sentences.

On the other hand, individuals who had been committed to the Youth Authority for burglary, theft, drug offenses, and miscellaneous felonies (e.g., drunk driving with resulting injury) were about equally likely to receive a state prison sentence as a jail plus probation sentence.

This relationship between disposition and type of commitment offense largely reflected the earlier-mentioned restrictions resulting from Section 1203.06--Penal Code. This applied to the findings presented on p. 57 as well, in connection with (1) violence/nonviolence of commitment offense and (2) use of weapons.

TABLE 28
Disposition by Number of Prior
Youth Authority Commitments

Disposition	Prior Commitments						Total	
	None		One		Two or More			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
State prison	79	52.3	25	58.1	4	80.0	108	54.3
Jail followed by formal probation	44	29.1	14	32.6	1	20.0	59	29.7
County jail only	4	2.7	1	2.3	0	0.0	5	2.5
Formal probation only	5	3.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	2.5
Referred back to CYA	5	3.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	2.5
All others ^a	14	8.3	3	7.0	0	0.0	17	8.5
Total	151	100.0	43	100.0	5	100.0	199	100.0

^aCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

TABLE 29
Disposition by Type of Commitment Offense

Disposition	Commitment Offense							
	Murder/ Manslaughter		Robbery		Assault- severe		Assault- other	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
State prison	5	55.6	32	61.5	14	77.8	2	66.7
Jail followed by formal probation	0	0.0	12	23.1	2	11.1	1	33.3
County jail only	0	0.0	1	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Formal probation only	0	0.0	1	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Referred back to CYA	2	22.2	1	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
All others ^a	2	22.2	5	9.6	2	11.1	0	0.0
Total	9	100.0	52	100.0	18	100.0	3	100.0

Disposition	Commitment Offense											
	Burglary		Theft		Rape/ Other Sex		Drugs		Misc. Felony		Misc. Misd./W&I	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
State prison	35	44.9	7	33.3	7	100.0	3	60.0	3	50.0	0	0.0
Jail followed by formal probation	32	41.0	8	38.1	0	0.0	2	40.0	2	33.3	0	0.0
County jail only	2	2.6	2	9.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Formal probation only	2	2.6	2	9.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Referred back to CYA	1	1.3	1	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
All others ^a	6	7.7	1	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	16.7	0	0.0
Total	78	100.0	21	100.0	7	100.0	5	100.0	6	100.0	0	0.0

^aCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

Disposition and Violence/Nonviolence of Commitment Offense

The relationship between disposition and type of YA commitment offense was even clearer when these offenses were categorized as either violent or nonviolent. As shown in Table 30, two-thirds of all violent commitment offenses (67.4%) resulted in a state prison sentence whereas fewer than half of all nonviolent commitment offenses (43.6%) resulted in that particular sentence. In fact, in the case of violent offenses, the chances of being sentenced to state prison rather than jail plus probation were 4 to 1 (67% vs. 17%); in contrast, for nonviolent offenses the chances were roughly 1 to 1 (44% vs. 40%).

Disposition and Use of Weapons

Related to the violence/nonviolence dimension was the utilization or even the presence (without utilization) of a weapon during the commitment offense. As seen in Table 31, if a weapon had been used or was even present, the chances of the individual's being sent to prison were fairly high--about 7 out of 10. If no weapon had been present the chances were noticeably lower--about 4 out of 10. The role of weapons was particularly clear when one focused on the two major dispositions alone. For instance, of the 64 cases in which a weapon had been used, 45 were sentenced to state prison while 8 received jail plus probation--a ratio of 5½ to 1. (The remaining cases received an alternative disposition.) In contrast, of the 116 cases in which no weapons had been present, 50 received the former sentence and 48 received the latter--a ratio of 1 to 1. (Again, the remaining cases received some other type of disposition, e.g., formal probation only.)

TABLE 30
Disposition by Violence versus Nonviolence
of Commitment Offense

Disposition	Commitment Offense				Total	
	Violent		Non-violent			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
State prison	60	67.4	48	43.6	108	54.3
Jail followed by formal probation	15	16.9	44	40.0	59	29.7
County jail only	1	1.1	4	3.6	5	2.5
Formal probation only	1	1.1	4	3.6	5	2.5
Referred back to CYA	3	3.4	2	1.8	5	2.5
All others ^a	9	10.1	8	7.3	17	8.5
Total	89	100.0	110	100.0	199	100.0

^aCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

TABLE 31
Disposition by Presence/Use of Weapon
During Commitment Offense

Disposition	Presence/Use of Weapon						Total	
	Weapon Used		Present but Not Used		No Weapon Present			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
State prison	45	70.3	13	68.4	50	43.1	108	54.3
Jail followed by formal probation	8	12.5	3	15.8	48	41.4	59	29.7
County jail only	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	4.3	5	2.5
Formal probation only	0	0.0	1	5.3	4	3.5	5	2.5
Referred back to CYA	2	3.1	1	5.3	2	1.7	5	2.5
All others ^a	9	14.1	1	5.3	7	6.0	17	8.5
Total	64	100.0	19	100.0	116	100.0	199	100.0

^aCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

Disposition and Enhancements

As shown in Table 32, a similar relationship existed between the presence or absence of "enhancements," on the one hand, and type of disposition, on the other: * If one or more enhancements had been given in connection with the commitment offense, the individual's chances of being sentenced to state prison were more than 7 out of 10 (73.8%). (The chances were probably slightly higher, since some individuals in the "All Others" category may eventually have been sentenced to state prison. This applies to the following figures as well.) However, if no enhancements had been given or if none were apparent in the casefiles, the chances were roughly 5 out of 10 (49.0%). Moreover, if 1 or more enhancements had been present, the chances of an individual's receiving any local disposition--jail plus probation, county jail, and formal probation combined--were relatively low, i.e., about 15-20%. (This estimate takes into account the "All Others" category.)

Disposition and Prior Offenses

As shown in Table 33, individuals who were sent to prison had, on the average, slightly fewer prior arrests and charges (6.10 and 8.21, respectively) than individuals sentenced to jail plus probation (6.85 and 9.46). Since it was shown in Table 30 that (1) persons who were sent to prison were more likely to have a violent than a nonviolent YA commitment offense (60 "violent" cases vs. 48 "nonviolent" cases) whereas (2) persons sentenced to jail plus probation were much less likely to have a violent than a nonviolent commitment offense (15 cases vs. 44 cases), the present finding suggests the following. As far as being sent to prison is concerned, a sufficiently severe commitment offense may be more decisive or at least more important than a longer but perhaps less severe prior record. (For further analyses and discussion, see Appendix I.)

* Enhancement refers to any increase in the length of a sentence that results from particular, e.g., unusually cruel, actions or conditions associated with an offense.

TABLE 32

Disposition by Enhancements Relating
to Commitment Offense

Disposition	Enhancements				Total	
	None or Unknown		One or More			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
State prison	77	49.0	31	73.8	108	54.3
Jail followed by formal probation	55	35.0	4	9.5	59	29.7
County jail only	5	3.2	0	0.0	5	2.5
Formal probation only	5	3.2	0	0.0	5	2.5
Referred back to CYA	3	1.9	2	4.8	5	2.5
All Others ^a	12	7.6	5	11.9	17	8.5
Total	157	100.0	42	100.0	199	100.0

^aCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

TABLE 33

Disposition of Rejected Cases by Number of Prior
Arrests and Prior Charges

Disposition	No. of Cases	Prior Arrests and Charges	
		Arrests	Charges
		Avg. No. of Priors	Avg. No. of Priors
State prison	108	6.10	8.21
Jail followed by formal probation	59	6.85	9.46
County jail only	5	4.40	5.80
Formal probation only	5	5.60	8.60
Referred back to CYA	5	2.20	3.20
All others ^a	17	4.59	7.36
Total	199	6.04	8.33

^aCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

Disposition and Reasons for Rejection

As indicated in Table 34, the disposition of rejected cases was pretty much the same regardless of the Youth Authority's reasons for rejection. For example, of all individuals who were rejected due to inadequate facilities, 51.9% were sent to state prison; of all individuals who were rejected on grounds of material benefit, 60.0%, i.e., an only slightly higher figure, were sent to prison. Parallel results were obtained for persons who were sentenced to jail plus probation; here, the figures relating to inadequate facilities-rejects and material benefit-rejects were 31.7% and 25.7% respectively.*

Despite this similarity, the chances of receiving a prison sentence rather than a local sentence (jail + probation, county jail only, and formal probation only) were slightly less among cases who had been rejected for the former rather than the latter reason: For inadequate facilities-rejects, the chances were approximately 5 to 4 (state = 82 cases; local = 63 cases); for material benefits-rejects they were about 2 to 1 (state = 21; local = 10). Here, it might be kept in mind that 97% of the latter rejects and only 10% of the former had already been in the Youth Authority on one or more occasions. (See Appendix H.) For this reason, local authorities may have perceived these material benefit-rejects as slightly greater risks to society even though--as indicated by a separate analysis--the YA commitment offense of these particular rejects was essentially the same as that of inadequate facilities-rejects.

Disposition and Screening Score

For specified dispositions, e.g., state prison, which factor contributed the most to the total screening score? With regard to this question, it should be kept in mind that the Youth Authority's screening score was not

*A regression analysis showed that reason-for-rejection (RFR) did not contribute significantly to this slight difference in disposition when number of prior arrests, number of prior violent arrests, violence vs. nonviolence of commitment offense, age, county of commitment, and ethnicity were statistically controlled. The only variable that contributed significantly ($p < .05$) when all remaining variables/factors (RFR included) were controlled was violence vs. nonviolence of commitment offense.

TABLE 34

Disposition by Reason for Rejection
from Youth Authority

Disposition	Reason						Total	
	Inadequate Facilities		Material Benefit		All Other ^a			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
State prison	82	51.9	21	60.0	5	83.3	108	54.3
Jail followed by formal probation	50	31.7	9	25.7	0	0.0	59	29.7
County jail only	4	2.5	1	2.9	0	0.0	5	2.5
Formal probation only	5	3.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	2.5
Referred back to CYA	4	2.5	0	0.0	1	16.7	5	2.5
All others ^b	13	8.2	4	11.4	0	0.0	17	8.5
Total	158	100.0	35	100.0	6	100.0	199	100.0

^aAge; inappropriate referral.

^bCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

available to local decision-makers who were responsible for the dispositions in question, e.g., state prison or jail plus probation. In addition, these dispositions should always be distinguished from the YA's prior decision to either reject or accept.

As seen in Table 35, "offense pattern (magnitude)" was the largest single contributor to the total screening score of individuals who were sent to prison (see top row of table). Among individuals who were sentenced to jail plus probation (second row of table), this applied to an even greater degree. Only among individuals who were referred back to the CYA did offense pattern (magnitude) not make the largest single contribution to the total screening score; for these individuals, the commitment offense was by far the largest contributor.

Again, it should be emphasized that although the state prison disposition, like all remaining sentences by local authorities, may have reflected some of the same factors that were used in the Youth Authority's screening process, this disposition was not based on the YA's screening factors--and on the resulting screening score--per se. Precisely what it was based on could not be determined during this study, mainly because no information was collected from local decision-makers relative to the disposition in question.

Disposition and Length of Sentence

As shown in Table 36, individuals whose disposition was state prison received average sentences of 3.4 years. Further analysis indicated that 5% of these sentences were for under 2 years; 60% were between 2 and 4 years; 30% were between 5 and 7 years; and 5% were between 8 and 17 years. Individuals whose disposition was jail plus probation received average sentences of 1.0 years in jail plus 3.4 years on probation. The remaining

TABLE 35

Disposition by Screening Scores

Disposition	No. of Cases	Screening Factor											
		Commitment Behav. (offense)		Offense Pattern (magnitude)		Offense Pattern (escalation)		Criminal Sophist. /Orientation		Prior Secure Placements		Total Screening Score	
		Avg. No. of Points	% of Total	Avg. No. of Points	% of Total	Avg. No. of Points	% of Total	Avg. No. of Points	% of Total	Avg. No. of Points	% of Total	Avg. No. of Points	% of Total
State prison	95	4.47	25.0	5.85	32.7	2.21	12.3	2.34	13.1	3.04	17.0	17.91	100.0
Jail followed by formal probation	54	2.76	17.1	6.39	39.6	2.04	12.6	2.20	13.6	2.74	17.0	16.13	100.0
County jail only	5	2.20	14.3	5.40	35.1	1.80	11.7	2.60	16.9	3.40	22.1	15.40	100.0
Formal probation only	5	3.40	19.3	6.60	37.5	2.60	14.8	2.40	13.6	2.60	14.8	17.60	100.0
Referred back to CYA	4	11.00	55.7	3.00	15.2	1.50	7.6	2.50	12.7	1.75	8.9	19.75	100.0
All Others ^a	17	6.29	33.2	5.47	28.9	1.83	9.7	2.23	11.9	3.12	16.5	18.94	100.0
Average	180	4.20	24.1	5.91	33.9	2.11	12.1	2.30	13.2	2.92	16.7	17.44	100.0

^aIncludes: CDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

TABLE 36
Length of Sentence for Specified Dispositions

Disposition	No. of Cases	Average Sentence (in years)	
		Lockup	Probation
State prison	108	3.4	n.a. ^a
Jail followed by formal probation	59	1.0	3.4
County jail only	5	0.9	n.a.
Formal probation only	5	n.a.	4.0
Referred back to CYA	5	9.5 ^b	n.a.
All Others ^c	17	--d	--d
Average	199	2.7	3.4

^a"n.a." = not applicable.

^bThis figure was so large because of one 15-year and one 25-year sentence, neither of which could possibly be completed prior to the individual's 25th birthday, i.e., the termination-point of YA jurisdiction.

^cIncludes: CDC 90-day diagnostic (3); Other (14).

^dUnknown or as-yet-undetermined.

sentences, e.g., county jail only, were based on relatively few cases each; thus, although their average duration can be obtained from the table, the figures in question cannot be considered reliable. At any rate, for all known sentences combined, the average period of lockup (prison or jail) was 2.7 years; and, for those sentences which involved probation (with or without jail), the average duration of probation was 3.4 years. Each of the preceding figures remained virtually unchanged when all material-benefit rejects (N = 35) were excluded.

CHAPTER 5

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

We will now focus on the supplementary questions that arose shortly after the first set of findings from the present study became available. These questions related to ethnicity and county-of-commitment:

- (1) Why were Blacks slightly overrepresented among rejected cases?
- (2) Why were non-Whites (Spanish-surnamed + Blacks, combined) more likely than Whites to receive a prison sentence?
- (3) Why were individuals from Los Angeles county slightly overrepresented among rejected cases?
- (4) Why were individuals from Los Angeles county more likely than those from the remaining counties to receive a prison sentence?

To address these questions several analyses were carried out. Their main results will now be presented.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity and Violence/Nonviolence of Commitment Offense

As shown in Table 37, among rejected cases Whites were much less likely to have had a violent (V) than a nonviolent (NV) commitment offense: 28% of the Whites, 59% of the Spanish-surnamed, and 49% of the Blacks had a violent commitment offense; all remaining Whites, etc., had a nonviolent offense. This greater occurrence of violent commitment offenses among rejected Spanish-surnamed individuals than among Whites as well as Black individuals was largely responsible for the formers' somewhat higher score on the screening factor, "commitment behavior (offense)." (See p. 32.)

Before continuing, the following might be noted. Among accepted cases, 30% of the Whites, 51% of the Spanish, and 67% of the Blacks had a violent

TABLE 37

Violence versus Nonviolence of YA Commitment Offense,
by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Commitment Offense											
	Rejected						Accepted					
	Violent		Nonviolent		Total		Violent		Nonviolent		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	19	27.9	49	72.1	68	100.0	32	29.9	75	70.1	107	100.0
Spanish-surnamed	27	58.7	19	41.3	46	100.0	39	51.3	37	48.7	76	100.0
Black	40	48.8	42	51.2	82	100.0	64	66.7	32	33.3	96	100.0
All Others	3	100.0	0	0.0	3	100.0	6	60.0	4	40.0	10	100.0
TOTAL	89	44.7	110	55.3	199	100.0	141	48.8	148	51.2	289	100.0

commitment offense. Thus, whether they were rejected or accepted by the Youth Authority, Spanish-surnamed and Black individuals were more likely than Whites to have had a violent commitment offense. At any rate, the existence of violence as part of the commitment offense was not, in itself, a criterion for rejection--irrespective of ethnicity. (Although violence was not a criterion per se, it did contribute to the rejection-decision.)

Ethnicity and Commitment Offense

The details which underlie these findings concerning violence and non-violence are shown in Table 38. For example, among rejected Whites, murder/manslaughter ("homocide") plus robbery plus assault (severe), combined, were much less common than burglary plus theft, also combined: There were 16 of the former cases and 45 of the latter--a ratio of roughly 1 to 3. However, among rejected Spanish individuals, homocide + robbery + assault (severe) offenses were more common than burglary + theft: 25 vs. 19 cases--a ratio of 4 to 3. Among rejected Blacks these two groups of offenses were equally common: 36 vs. 35 cases, respectively.

Also in Table 38, it might be noted that 10.9% of all Spanish-surnamed rejects had been committed to the Youth Authority in connection with homocide; the figures for Whites and Blacks were 1.5% and 3.7%, respectively, for this same type of offense. Parallel differences were found with respect to assault (severe): 15.2%, 2.9%, and 9.8% of the respective ethnic groups had been committed to the YA for this type of offense. Thus, taken together, these two rather violent offenses accounted for 26.2%, 4.4%, and 13.5% of all commitment offenses on the part of Spanish-surnamed, White, and Black rejects, respectively. Because of the confinement time that was authorized by court order for such offenses, this difference, in itself, made a major contribution to the overall ethnic difference in the average "commitment behavior (offense)" score. As we have seen, although this score played a sizable role in the

TABLE 38
Type of YA Commitment Offense, by Ethnicity

Commitment Offense	Ethnicity of Rejected Cases								Ethnicity of Accepted Cases							
	White		Spanish		Black		All Others		White		Spanish		Black		All Others	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Murder/Manslaughter	1	1.5	5	10.9	3	3.7	0	0.0	2	1.9	2	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Robbery	13	19.1	13	28.3	25	30.5	1	33.3	15	14.0	24	31.6	50	52.1	3	30.0
Assault - severe	2	2.9	7	15.2	8	9.8	1	33.3	6	5.6	5	6.6	10	10.4	2	20.0
Assault - other	1	1.5	1	2.2	1	1.2	0	0.0	1	0.9	3	4.0	2	2.1	1	10.0
Burglary	36	52.9	16	34.8	26	31.7	0	0.0	58	54.2	21	27.6	26	27.1	3	30.0
Theft	9	13.2	3	6.5	9	11.0	0	0.0	13	12.2	6	7.9	4	4.2	1	10.0
Rape/Other Sex	2	2.9	1	2.2	3	3.7	1	33.3	8	7.5	5	6.6	2	2.1	0	0.0
Drugs	2	2.9	0	0.0	3	3.7	0	0.0	3	2.8	6	7.9	1	1.0	0	0.0
Misc. Felony	2	2.9	0	0.0	4	4.9	0	0.0	1	0.9	4	5.3	1	1.0	0	0.0
Misc. Other ^a	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	68	100.0	46	100.0	82	100.0	3	100.0	107	100.0	76	100.0	96	100.0	10	100.0

^aIncludes: Miscellaneous misdemeanors; Welfare and Institutions Code offenses.

CONTINUED

1 OF 2

Youth Authority's overall decision to reject given cases, an even larger role was played by the individual's "offense pattern--magnitude" score--thus, by the prior offenses which directly contributed to that score. We will now review these prior offenses.

Prior Violent Arrests

As seen in Table 39, sizable differences existed across the three major ethnic groups with respect to prior violent arrests. Specifically:

- (1) 79.4% of rejected Whites as compared to 39.1% of Spanish-surnamed and 35.4% of Blacks had no prior violent arrests;
- (2) 14.7% of rejected Whites as compared to 41.3% of Spanish and 28.1% of Blacks had 1 prior violent arrest; and,
- (3) 5.9% of rejected Whites as compared to 19.6% of Spanish-surnamed and 36.6% of Blacks had 2 or more prior violent arrests.¹

These findings apply to all rejected cases combined: inadequate facilities-rejects, material benefit-rejects, and all other-rejects. However, as shown in Appendix J, they remain essentially unchanged when one focuses on inadequate facilities-rejects alone.

The Penal Code sentences which were associated with these violent offenses largely accounted for the fact that Blacks had a higher "offense pattern--magnitude" score than either Whites or Spanish-surnamed individuals. (See Table 16.) As indicated in Chapter 3, this particular screening factor made the largest single contribution to the Youth Authority's decision to reject. Thus, the fact that Blacks scored second-highest of the three major ethnic groups on "committing behavior (offense)" and highest on "offense pattern--magnitude" largely accounted for their having a slightly higher total screening score than either of the remaining ethnic groups. That score, in turn, largely accounted for their slight overrepresentation among rejected cases; at least,

TABLE 39
Prior Violent Arrests of Rejected and Accepted
Cases, by Ethnicity

Prior Violent Arrests	YA Action and Ethnicity									
	Rejected Cases									
	White		Spanish		Black		All Others		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
None	54	79.4	18	39.1	29	35.4	0	0.0	101	50.8
One	10	14.7	19	41.3	23	28.1	3	100.0	55	27.6
Two or more	4	5.9	9	19.6	30	36.6	0	0.0	43	21.6
TOTAL	68	100.0	46	100.0	82	100.0	3	100.0	199	100.0
Prior Violent Arrests	Accepted Cases									
	White		Spanish		Black		All Others		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
None	95	88.8	63	82.9	68	70.8	9	90.0	235	81.3
One	9	8.4	10	13.2	24	25.0	1	10.0	44	15.2
Two or more	3	2.8	3	4.0	4	4.2	0	0.0	10	3.5
TOTAL	107	100.0	76	100.0	96	100.0	10	100.0	289	100.0

it was the immediate and specific basis of the YA's decision to reject given individuals. At any rate, the difference between rejection and acceptance was essentially based on the total score that was obtained by individuals of the respective ethnic groups, not on the ethnicity of those individuals, per se.

Violence Grouping

The following might provide further background information concerning ethnic differences on given screening factors. As seen in Appendix K, marked differences existed regarding the "violence/nonviolence group" to which rejected cases from the three major ethnic groups generally belonged. (See Appendix I regarding the four violence/nonviolence groups, i.e., the mutually exclusive categories in which the individuals' commitment offense and prior arrests were combined.) For instance, on the one hand, only 4.4% of the Whites had a violent commitment offense and 1 or more violent prior arrests; on the other hand, 34.8% of the Spanish-surnamed and 35.4% of the Black individuals had that same combination. (Similar, though less striking, ethnic-differences existed with respect to the nonviolent commitment offense and 1 or more violent prior arrests group.) In contrast, 55.9% of the Whites had a nonviolent commitment offense and no violent prior arrests, while the figures for Spanish and Black individuals in this same category were 15.2% and 23.2%, respectively.

Number of Prior Arrests and Charges

Despite their importance, violent prior offenses were not the only contributor to an individual's score on "offense pattern--magnitude" (OPM). Instead, all prior offenses--violent and nonviolent alike--played a role.

For instance, it was shown in Table 16 that rejected Whites scored moderately higher than rejected Spanish individuals on OPM: 6.10 vs. 5.27 points. This score reflected the fact that, as seen in Table 40, rejected Whites had more prior arrests (violent + nonviolent combined) than Spanish individuals: 6.49 vs. 5.76, on the average. Whites had more prior charges, as well.

Similarly, rejected Whites had more prior arrests than Blacks: 6.49 vs. 5.93. Here, however, Whites ended up with slightly fewer points on OPM. This reflected their substantially smaller number of prior violent arrests than Blacks (Table 39), and the important role--based on Penal Code sentence-lengths--of such arrests in connection with OPM.

In any event, it would be incorrect to conclude--e.g., by focusing on violent priors alone--that rejected Whites had not been at least as actively involved in illegal behavior as non-Whites, prior to their Youth Authority commitment. As indicated by the present data, the involvement of rejected Whites simply had not included as much known violent behavior as that of rejected non-Whites, and it was more likely to have centered on such offenses as burglary and theft instead. This overall level of involvement was reflected in the fact that rejected White, Spanish, and Black individuals received virtually identical scores on the screening factor, "criminal sophistication/orientation": 2.27, 2.30, and 2.33, respectively. (See Table 16.)

Ethnicity and Rejection, Controlling for Other Variables

As shown in Chapter 3, rejected cases had much higher screening scores than accepted cases. Primarily reflected in these higher scores were (1) the longer and more serious prior records and (2) the more serious commitment offenses of rejected cases. The fact that ethnicity was also associated with higher scores--and, therefore, with the decision to reject--was

TABLE 40
Number of Prior Arrests and Prior Charges, by Ethnicity

Ethnicity ^a	Arrests and Charges			
	Rejected		Accepted	
	Avg. No. of Arrests	Avg. No. of Charges	Avg. No. of Arrests	Avg. No. of Charges
White	6.49	9.40	2.10	2.75
Spanish-surnamed	5.76	7.83	2.11	2.58
Black	5.93	7.90	1.75	2.16
All Others	3.33	3.67	1.90	3.10

^aThe sample-size was as follows for White, Spanish-surnamed, Black, and All Others, respectively: Rejected cases - 68, 46, 82, 3. Accepted cases - 107, 76, 96, 10.

explained by the fact that ethnicity was itself correlated with longer and more serious prior records, and with more serious commitment offenses as well. Any possible doubts regarding the adequacy of this explanation, and the role of ethnicity in particular, were resolved via the widely used statistical procedure called multiple regression.

Multiple regression allows one to determine the simultaneous relationship between several independent variables (e.g., number of prior arrests; ethnicity), on the one hand, and a dependent variable that we wish to predict or account for, on the other. It also allows us to assess the strength-of-relationship between the given dependent variable (in this case the decision to reject vs. accept) and any one of those independent variables (e.g., ethnicity), with the contribution of all remaining independent variables controlled, i.e., "partialled out" (removed statistically). To assess these relationships the independent variables that we analyzed sequentially were: number of prior arrests, number of prior violent arrests (PVA's), violent vs. nonviolent commitment offense, age, county-of-commitment (L.A. vs. All Others), and ethnicity. By analyzing ("entering") ethnicity last, we controlled for the effects (i.e., contributions to the dependent variable) of all preceding, i.e., all remaining, independent variables. Results are presented below.

As shown in Table 41, number of prior arrests made by far the largest contribution ($p < .0001$) to the decision to reject; number of PVA's and violent commitment offense also contributed significantly ($p < .01$ and $.05$, respectively). Neither age, county-of-commitment, nor ethnicity contributed significantly to the rejection decision, independently of these major variables. That is, when the contribution of the preceding variables (prior arrests, etc.) was taken into account, the latter factors--including ethnicity, specifically--did not help explain the Youth Authority's decision to reject.²

TABLE 41
Ethnicity and Rejection,
Controlling for Other Variables

Independent Variable	SS	F	Level of Significance ^a
No. of Prior Arrests	20.32	77.2	.0001
No. of Prior Violent Arrests	2.00	7.8	.01
Violent vs. Nonviolent Commitment Offense	1.05	4.0	.05
Age	0.39	1.5	n.s. ^b
County of Commitment	0.13	0.5	n.s.
Ethnicity	0.04	0.1	n.s.

^aThe dependent variable was rejection vs. acceptance by Youth Authority.

^b"n.s." = not significant.

Reasons for Rejection, and Number of Prior Commitments

Before turning to dispositions by local authorities, two additional points might be noted. (1) As shown in Table 42, no differences existed across the three major ethnic groups in terms of their reason for being rejected by the Youth Authority. Specifically, Whites were about 4½ times more likely to be rejected on grounds of inadequate facilities than on grounds of material benefit (56 Whites were rejected for the former reason, 12 for the latter), and an almost identical ratio was found among Spanish-surnamed and Black individuals alike. In short, all ethnic groups were rejected for the same reasons; at least, at a global level, the YA's joint inadequate-facilities/material-benefit policy did not seem to be applied differentially to any one or more groups. (Because very few cases were involved, "All Other" reasons for rejection were excluded from this discussion.)

(2) As seen in Table 43, no sizable or reliable differences existed among the three major ethnic groups with respect to their number of prior commitments to the Youth Authority. For instance, among Whites, for each individual who had had one or more prior commitments there were three individuals who had had none (specifically, 17 had one or more commitments whereas 51 had none); essentially the same results were observed among Blacks. For the Spanish-surnamed group, a ratio of just under 1 to 5 was observed; however, statistically, this differed from the preceding ratios only by virtue of chance. In sum, the three major ethnic groups were similar to each other in terms of their prior experience--more often, their lack of such experience--with state incarceration.

TABLE 42

Reason for Rejection from Youth Authority,
by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Reason					
	Inadequate Facilities		Material Benefit		All Others ^a	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	56	35.4	12	34.3	0	0.0
Spanish-surnamed	34	21.5	8	22.9	4	66.7
Black	65	41.1	15	42.9	2	33.3
All others	3	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	158	100.0	35	100.0	6	100.0

^aIncludes: age; inappropriate referral.

TABLE 43

Number of Prior Commitments to the Youth Authority
for Rejected Cases, by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Prior Commitments					
	None		One		Two or More	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	51	33.8	17	39.5	0	0.0
Spanish-surnamed	38	25.2	6	14.0	2	40.0
Black	60	39.7	19	44.2	3	60.0
All Others	2	1.3	1	2.3	0	0.0
Total	151	100.0	43	100.0	5	100.0

Dispositions of Rejected Cases

In Chapter 4 it was shown that rejected Spanish and Black individuals were more likely than Whites to be sent to prison: 65%, 57%, and 41% of these respective groups received that sentence. (See p. 51.) To better understand these differences in disposition, three additional findings from Chapter 4 might first be recalled (these findings pertain to all rejected individuals, i.e., all ethnic groups, combined):

(1) Violent commitment offenses were more likely than nonviolent offenses to result in a prison sentence: 67% of the former and 44% of the latter were associated with that disposition. (See p. 57.) Moreover, "in the case of violent [commitment] offenses, the chances of being sentenced to state prison rather than jail plus probation were 4 to 1...; in contrast, for nonviolent [commitment] offenses the chances were roughly 1 to 1..." (See p. 57.)

(2) Individuals who were sent to prison had slightly fewer prior arrests and charges than those sentenced to jail plus probation. (See p. 60.) Together with finding (1), above, this suggested that "as far as being sent to prison is concerned, a sufficiently severe commitment offense may be...more important than a longer but perhaps less severe prior record." (See p. 60.) As shown on p. 76, rejected non-Whites had fewer prior arrests and charges than rejected Whites.

(3) If a weapon had been used or was even present during the commitment offense, "the chances of the individual's being sent to prison were fairly high--about 7 out of 10. If no weapon had been present the chances were noticeably lower--about 4 out of 10." (See p. 57.) Moreover, when considering the two major dispositions alone, it was found that if a weapon had been used or was present during the commitment offense, the chances of

receiving a prison sentence rather than jail plus probation were over 5 to 1; however, if no weapon had been present, the chances were 1 to 1. (It might be added that (a) of the 116 rejected individuals who had neither used nor possessed a weapon during their commitment offense, none had received an enhancement in connection with that offense (Appendix L, part I);* and, (b) if an individual had been given an enhancement in connection with his commitment offense, his chances of receiving a local disposition were fairly low, specifically, about 15 to 20%.) (See p. 60.)

Together, these findings suggest the following. When deciding in favor of a prison rather than a local sentence, such as jail plus probation or formal probation only, local authorities probably placed heavier emphasis on the individual's commitment offense than on his or her prior record, especially if the commitment offense was violent in nature and had involved the use or presence of weapons. This directly reflected Section 1203.06 (PC).

Probable reasons for ethnic differences. Given this background, the fact that rejected non-Whites--especially Spanish-surnamed individuals--were more often sent to prison than rejected Whites can probably be traced largely to the following. (1) Non-Whites were more likely than Whites to have had a violent rather than a nonviolent commitment offense; this was especially true among Spanish-surnamed individuals. (2) As shown in Table 44, non-Whites were more likely than Whites to have possessed or utilized a weapon during their commitment offense.** (As seen in Table 45, non-Whites were also somewhat more likely to have received an enhancement.³)

* Weapons, of course, were usually (72% of the time) present or had been used in the case of violent offenses (Appendix L, part II); and, of the 42 rejected individuals who received 1 or more enhancements, 36 (86%) had committed a violent offense (Appendix L, part III). These statements refer to the commitment offense, not to prior offenses.

** Among rejected Whites, 26.5% had possessed or used a weapon. Among rejected non-Whites (the "All Other" group excluded), the figure was 49.2%. (Similar results were obtained for accepted cases: 23.4% of the Whites and 47.1% of the non-Whites had possessed or used a weapon.)

TABLE 44

Use of Weapons During Commitment Offense, by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Presence/Use of Weapons					
	Rejected Cases					
	Weapon Used		Present but Not Used		No Weapon Present	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	13	20.3	5	26.3	50	43.1
Spanish-surnamed	21	32.8	5	26.3	20	17.2
Black	28	43.8	9	47.4	45	38.8
All Others	2	3.1	0	0.0	1	0.9
Total	64	100.0	19	100.0	116	100.0
Ethnicity	Accepted Cases					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	20	20.6	5	33.3	82	46.3
Spanish-surnamed	31	32.0	4	26.7	41	23.2
Black	41	42.3	5	33.3	50	28.3
All Others	5	5.2	1	6.7	4	2.3
Total	97	100.0	15	100.0	177	100.0

TABLE 45

Enhancements relating to Commitment Offense, by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Enhancements					
	Rejected				Accepted	
	None or Unknown		One or More		None or Unknown	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	58	36.0	10	23.8	96	43.6
Spanish-surnamed	34	21.7	12	28.6	57	25.9
Black	64	40.8	18	42.9	61	27.7
All Others	1	0.6	2	4.8	6	2.7
Total	157	100.0	42	100.0	220	100.0

Items (1) and (2), above, focus on rejected individuals; however, except as noted, the findings apply to accepted cases as well, though to a somewhat lesser degree. The "All Others" ethnic category is excluded from this and the following discussion because of its very small number.

(3) Non-Whites were more likely than Whites to have had 1 or more prior violent arrests (PVA's); this applied to Spanish and Black individuals alike. Although PVA's may have been less important than the commitment offense--particularly if the latter was itself violent--these arrests, individually and collectively, do seem to have made a difference with respect to disposition. Nevertheless, their exact contribution was difficult to determine, mainly because of their positive relationship to, i.e., interaction with, violent commitment offenses themselves. Thus, on the one hand, 36.6% of all rejected individuals who had no prior violent arrests had a violent commitment offense; however, in some contrast, 45.4% of all rejected individuals who had 1 PVA and 62.8% of those who had 2 or more PVA's had a violent commitment offense.⁴ (See Table 46.)

As shown in Table 47, a regression analysis indicated that ethnicity did not significantly contribute to the difference in disposition when violence of commitment offense, etc., was taken into account--i.e., when the contribution of the latter variables was controlled for. In Appendix M, a frequency distribution of total screening scores is shown for each type of disposition, separately for each ethnic group. This breakdown further illustrates the finding that ethnicity, in itself, played essentially no role in the dispositions made by local decision-makers.

TABLE 46

Relationship Between Prior Violent Arrests and Violence/Non-violence of Commitment Offense, for Rejected and Accepted Cases

Type of Commitment Offense	Prior Violent Arrests					
	Rejected Cases					
	None		One		Two or More	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Violent	37	36.6	25	45.4	27	62.8
Non-violent	64	63.4	30	54.6	16	37.2
Total	101	100.0	55	100.0	43	100.0
Type of Commitment Offense	Accepted Cases					
	Accepted Cases					
	None		One		Two or More	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Violent	109	46.4	28	63.6	4	40.0
Non-violent	126	53.6	16	36.4	6	60.0
Total	235	100.0	44	100.0	10	100.0

TABLE 47
Ethnicity and Disposition,
Controlling for Other Variables

Independent Variable	SS	F	Level of Significance ^a
No. of Prior Arrests	0.70	0.2	n.s. ^b
No. of Prior Violent Arrests	1.58	0.4	n.s.
Violent vs. Nonviolent Commitment Offense	20.43	4.9	.05
Age	9.62	2.3	n.s.
County of Commitment	16.15	3.8	.05
Ethnicity	0.75	0.2	n.s.

^aThe dependent variable was disposition by local authorities.

^b"n.s." = not significant.

County of Commitment

Rejection and County of Commitment

Table 7 indicated that individuals from Los Angeles county were a little more likely to be rejected than those from all other counties combined ("All Others"): in L.A., 43.5% were rejected; in All Others, 38.3% were rejected.* While this difference was neither striking nor statistically reliable, it paralleled--and, thus, perhaps reflected--the modest difference that was also found in total screening scores:

...rejected cases from Los Angeles county had a slightly but not... significantly higher total screening score than rejected cases from all remaining counties combined: 17.59 vs. 17.29 points. (p. 33.)

Perhaps more revealing, this difference in total screening scores directly reflected the fact that rejected cases from L.A. county had, on the average, a more severe YA commitment offense than "rejectees" from All Others. This difference was observed in their scores on the "commitment behavior (offense)" factor: 4.57 vs. 3.80 points, respectively. (Table 17.) These scores reflected all commitment offenses--violent and nonviolent alike.

The latter finding was consistent with the fact that, as seen in Table 48, violent commitment offenses were more common from Los Angeles than from All Others: In L.A., 49.5% of all commitment offenses were violent; in All Others, the figure was 39.8%. (See Appendix N for a specific offense-breakdown.) The findings in question were also consistent with the fact that rejected cases whose Youth Authority commitment offense was violent had a substantially higher "commitment behavior (offense)" score than those whose offense was nonviolent: 5.58 vs. 3.04 points. (p. 38.)

*43.5% = $101 \div 232$; 38.3% = $98 \div 256$. (Derived from Table 7.)

TABLE 48
Characteristics, Offense History, and Screening Score of Rejected
and Accepted Cases, by County

Background Characteristics	Rejected			Accepted		
	Los Angeles	All Others	Total	Los Angeles	All Others	Total
<u>Age</u>						
Mean	19.2	19.3	19.2	18.6	19.1	18.9
<u>Sex</u>						
Male	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	96.2%	98.1%	97.2%
Female	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	3.8%	1.9%	2.8%
<u>Ethnicity</u>						
White	21.8%	46.9%	34.2%	25.2%	46.8%	37.0%
Spanish-surnamed	22.8%	23.5%	23.1%	33.6%	20.3%	26.3%
Black	54.5%	27.6%	41.2%	39.7%	27.9%	33.2%
All others	1.0%	2.0%	1.5%	1.5%	5.1%	3.5%
<u>Highest Grade Completed</u>						
Mean	10.9	10.8	10.9	10.5	10.9	10.7
<u>Court of Commitment</u>						
Superior	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	98.7%	99.3%
Municipal	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.7%
<u>Prior YA Commitments</u>						
None	74.3%	77.6%	75.9%	98.5%	98.7%	98.6%
One	22.8%	20.4%	21.6%	1.5%	1.3%	1.4%
Two or More	3.0%	2.0%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<u>Commitment Offense</u>						
Violent	49.5%	39.8%	44.7%	55.0%	43.7%	48.8%
Non-violent	50.5%	60.2%	55.3%	45.0%	56.3%	51.2%
<u>Prior Record</u>						
Avg. arrests	6.26	5.82	6.04	1.89	2.06	1.98
Avg. charges	8.27	8.40	8.33	2.32	2.68	2.51
<u>Screening Score</u>						
Total Points	17.59	17.29	17.44	7.77	8.45	8.14

These findings, especially the former, in turn seemed consistent with the fact that, among rejected individuals, (1) non-Whites were more likely than Whites to have had a violent commitment offense (p. 69), and (2) the proportion of non-Whites to Whites was considerably higher in Los Angeles than in All Other counties combined. (See Table 48.) In short, Los Angeles probably had a slightly higher percentage of rejectees than all remaining counties combined because the somewhat more severe (not just violent) commitment offenses of its referrals were directly reflected in the Youth Authority's total screening score and because this score comprised the immediate basis of rejection or acceptance.* In turn, these commitment offenses were related to facts (1) and (2), immediately above. As shown in Table 49, a regression analysis indicated that county-of-commitment did not contribute to the YA's decision to reject, when number of prior arrests, PVA's, etc., were taken into account.

Space limitations preclude a separate review and discussion of accepted cases.

Disposition and County of Commitment

As mentioned in Chapter 4:

...individuals who were committed to the Youth Authority from Los Angeles county were about three times more likely to receive a state prison sentence than a jail plus probation sentence...In contrast, individuals committed from All Other counties combined were only slightly more likely to receive a state prison sentence than a jail plus probation sentence..." (p. 51)

*As mentioned earlier, in the case of an individual's commitment offense, severity represented the authorized confinement time established by court order. In the case of prior offenses, it reflected the standard (mid-term), prescribed Penal Code sentence-length.

TABLE 49
County of Commitment and Rejection,
Controlling for Other Variables

Independent Variable	SS	F	Level of Significance ^a
No. of Prior Arrests	20.32	77.2	.0001
No. of Prior Violent Arrests	2.00	7.6	.01
Violent vs. Nonviolent Commitment Offense	1.07	4.1	.05
Age	0.37	1.4	n.s. ^b
Ethnicity	0.07	0.3	n.s.
County of Commitment	0.10	0.4	n.s.

^aThe dependent variable was rejection vs. acceptance by Youth Authority.

^b"n.s." = not significant.

Given the fact that L.A.'s percentage of rejected individuals who were non-White was substantially higher than that in all other counties combined.* the following seems plausible. The above-mentioned, L.A. vs. non-L.A. difference in disposition can largely be traced to the same factors that seemed to account for the difference in disposition between the given ethnic groups. Specifically, non-Whites were more likely than Whites to have (1) had a violent rather than a nonviolent commitment offense, (2) possessed or utilized a weapon during their commitment offense,** and, (3) had one or more prior violent arrests. To be sure, other factors may have contributed to the L.A. vs. non-L.A. difference--factors about which we had no systematic information. Included, e.g., would be local sentencing philosophies, available bed-space in local secure facilities, and available community-based alternatives for specified types of offenders.

It might be mentioned here that, among rejected cases, no sizable or statistically reliable differences were found between Los Angeles county and All Others with respect to age, sex, highest grade completed, court of commitment, and number of prior YA commitments. Except for age and highest grade completed, this was true for accepted cases as well. (See Table 48, for details.) Nor were any differences found between L.A. and All Others with regard to reasons for rejection by the Youth Authority. Here, the percentages were as follows for inadequate facilities, material benefit, and all other reasons, respectively: Los Angeles - 77.2, 18.8, and 4.0; All Others - 81.6, 16.3, and 2.0.

*As shown in Table 48, Los Angeles' rejected cases were more likely to be non-Whites than were rejected cases from All Other counties: 77.3% (22.8% Spanish + 54.5% Black) of those from L.A. and 51.1% (23.5% Spanish + 27.6% Black) of those from All Others were non-Whites. (A similar difference was observed for accepted cases. - As before, the "All Others" ethnic-category was included in the table but not in the discussion.)

**Ethnicity aside, 51.5% of the rejected cases from L.A. county as compared with 31.6% of those from the non-L.A. counties had possessed or utilized a weapon during their commitment offense. (Table 50.)

TABLE 50
County of Commitment of Rejected and Accepted Cases,
by Presence/Use of Weapons

County	Presence/Use of Weapon							
	Rejected Cases							
	Weapon Used		Present but Not Used		No Weapon Present		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Los Angeles	37	57.8	15	78.9	49	42.2	101	50.8
All Others	27	42.2	4	21.1	67	57.8	98	49.2
Total	64	100.0	19	100.0	116	100.0	199	100.0
County	Accepted Cases							
	Rejected Cases							
	Weapon Used		Present but Not Used		No Weapon Present		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Los Angeles	55	56.7	2	13.3	74	41.8	131	45.3
All Others	42	43.3	13	86.7	103	58.2	158	54.7
Total	97	100.0	15	100.0	177	100.0	289	100.0

Finally, rejected individuals from Los Angeles county had slightly more prior arrests (violent + nonviolent combined) than rejected individuals from All Other counties. (See Table 48.) This is consistent with the fact that, as shown in Table 51, the L.A. rejectee-group contained a substantially higher percentage of "chronic" violent offenders (persons with 2 or more violent prior arrests, in particular) than did the All Others rejectee-group. Here, the figures were: Los Angeles - 27.7% chronics; All Others - 15.3% chronics.⁵ Given these figures and given the following facts combined, chronicity with respect to violent arrests may have made a slight contribution to the L.A. vs. non-L.A. difference in disposition: (1) Individuals who had 2 or more prior violent arrests were more likely than those with 0-1 such arrests to have also had a violent commitment (p. 86);⁶ (2) individuals who had a violent commitment offense were more likely than those without such an offense to be sent to state prison (p. 57). (Appendix P shows the disposition of rejected L.A. and non-L.A. cases, separately for each ethnic group.)

As seen in Table 52, a regression analysis indicated that county-of-commitment did not significantly contribute to the difference in disposition when violence of commitment offense, etc., were taken into account.

TABLE 51

Relationship Between Prior Violent Arrests and County of Commitment, for Rejected and Accepted Cases

Prior Violent Arrests	County of Commitment							
	Rejected				Accepted			
	Los Angeles		All Others		Los Angeles		All Others	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
None	47	46.5	55	56.1	107	81.7	128	81.0
One	26	25.7	28	28.6	20	15.3	24	15.2
Two or More	28	27.7	15	15.3	4	3.1	6	3.8
Total	101	100.0	98	100.0	131	100.0	158	100.0

TABLE 52

County of Commitment and Disposition, Controlling for Other Variables

Independent Variable	SS	F	Level of Significance ^a
No. of Prior Arrests	0.70	0.2	n.s. ^b
No. of Prior Violent Arrests	1.58	0.4	n.s.
Violent vs. Nonviolent Commitment Offense	22.04	5.2	.05
Age	8.02	1.9	n.s.
Ethnicity	3.23	0.8	n.s.
County of Commitment	13.67	3.3	n.s.

^aThe dependent variable was disposition by local authorities.

^b"n.s." = not significant.

CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

Summary

Chapter 1

Background. By statute, the Department of the Youth Authority is required to accept each juvenile and criminal court case that is committed to it "if it believes that the person can be materially benefited by its reformatory and educational discipline, and if it has adequate facilities to provide such care." (Sections 736 and 1731.5, Welfare and Institutions Code.) Prior to 1979, few juvenile and criminal court cases were rejected by the Department on grounds that they would not materially benefit from its program, and none were rejected in connection with "adequate facilities" (sufficient bed-space). Since that time, however, numerous criminal court cases have been rejected on these bases. The present report focuses on such rejected cases.

Although the Youth Authority's material-benefit criteria had always been applied to all commitments, the Department, in October, 1979, began applying these criteria in a very strict manner to all criminal court cases who had already been in the YA but who, having later been convicted of a new and serious offense, were then recommitted to the YA. Based on this stricter application of the criteria, most such cases were rejected ("screened out") at point of YA intake. On July 1, 1981, the Youth Authority also began screening out criminal court cases who had satisfied the material-benefit criteria but for whom adequate facilities no longer existed within its institutions and camps. This policy, designed to reduce the population of those facilities to their budgeted capacity, applied only to individuals ("eligibles") who were 18 years of age or older at the time of their YA commitment offense. Since the July 1 date, a two-step, "sequential decision-making" procedure has been applied by the Youth Authority to all eligible criminal court cases. This procedure first addresses the question of material-benefit and then focuses on that of available bed-space; as such, it is the means by which the screening criteria and policies are now implemented.

The present report represents the first description of individuals screened out by the Youth Authority under the sequential decision-making procedure. Basically, it addresses five broad questions:

1. What are the characteristics of individuals who have been screened out by the YA ("rejected cases")?
2. What factors contribute to the screening-out of individuals, and how do these factors relate to the above characteristics?
3. What is the disposition of individuals who have been screened out and then returned to their county-of-commitment?
4. What relationship exists between given dispositions, e.g., state prison, and the individuals' characteristics?
5. How do individuals who have been screened out compare with those who were not screened out ("accepted cases")?

To address these questions, the Youth Authority's Division of Research undertook a study of all criminal court cases, ages 18 and over at the time of their offense, who were committed to the YA during the first three months in which the two-step procedure--the "July 1 policy"--was in operation. First commitments as well as recommitments were included in the study; remands (individuals who had been transferred from juvenile to criminal court but were under 18 at the time of their commitment offense) were excluded.

Implementation of the July 1 policy. Screening is carried out by the Youth Authority's Intake and Court Services Section (ICSS) based on the two-step, sequential decision-making procedure. All cases who are not rejected on grounds of material-benefit are assessed with respect to their level-of-criminality (LOC). LOC refers to the sum of the individual's score on each of five "screening factors":

1. Commitment behavior (offense);
2. Offense pattern--magnitude;
3. Offense pattern--escalation;

4. Criminal sophistication/orientation; and,
5. Prior secure placements.

The definition and the method for scoring these factors is specified in ICSS guidelines. If an individual's "total screening score" exceeds a preestablished maximum, he or she, with rare exceptions, is rejected by the Youth Authority. If the individual's score does not exceed that maximum, he is accepted. All rejected cases are returned to their county-of-commitment; and, it is then the court's responsibility to resentence the individual, i.e., to provide a disposition. Thus, the Youth Authority either rejects or accepts; the county (i.e., court) resentsences those who have been rejected.

The research effort. The study-sample consisted of 488 criminal court cases who had been assessed in accordance with the sequential decision-making procedure. Of these individuals, 199 (41%) had been rejected and 289 (59%) had been accepted. Almost 80% of the rejections were on grounds of inadequate facilities; nearly all the rest were on grounds of material-benefit. Information concerning the individuals' background characteristics, offense history, etc., was collected from probation and court documents that were part of their official Youth Authority casefiles. ICSS screening scores were also obtained from the file. Information concerning the disposition of individuals who had been rejected by the YA was obtained on a standard data-collection form which was filled out by the court clerk of the county to which the given individuals had been returned. In this connection, followup phone calls to the court clerk were made as needed--e.g., for purposes of clarification--by Division of Research staff.

To address the five basic questions in some depth, a wide range of information was coded and analyzed for rejected and accepted cases alike. This information also made it possible to address supplementary questions--concerning ethnicity and county-of-commitment--that arose shortly after the first set of findings from the present study became available.

Chapter 2

Rejected cases. Nearly all rejected cases were males, ages 18-20 at point of commitment; 34% were White, 23% were Spanish-surnamed, and 41% were Black.* Fifty-one percent (51%) came from Los Angeles county and 86% had completed 10th through 12th grade. Most rejected cases (85%) were committed for burglary (39%), robbery (26%), theft (11%), or assault (9%); 45% of all commitment offenses were violent in nature and one-fourth of all rejected individuals had previously been committed to the Youth Authority.**

Rejected vs. accepted cases. Rejected and accepted cases were very similar to each other in age, sex, and highest grade completed. Whites were neither overrepresented nor underrepresented among the rejected and accepted groups (cases); this was true for Spanish-surnamed individuals as well. However, Blacks were slightly overrepresented among the rejected cases and, therefore, slightly underrepresented among the accepted cases--as were individuals from Los Angeles county.

Rejected and accepted individuals were committed to the Youth Authority for essentially the same types of offenses--burglary, robbery, theft, etc., in that particular order and at about the same relative rate. Moreover, approximately the same percentage of rejected and accepted individuals were committed for a violent offense. However, rejected cases had a much longer offense history than accepted cases, e.g., 6.0 vs. 2.0 arrests, on the average, prior to their YA commitment offense, and 49% of the rejected as compared with 19% of the accepted individuals had had 1 or more prior violent arrests. In addition, 24% of the rejected as vs. 1% of the accepted cases had previously been committed to the YA. Thus, despite several similarities with respect to background characteristics and type of commitment offense, rejected cases, on the average, were more criminally involved than accepted cases.

*These figures compared with 36% White, 25% Spanish-surnamed, and 37% Black for the total study-sample (rejected + accepted cases combined).

**Material-benefit rejects and inadequate-facilities rejects were similar to each other on a wide range of variables and factors, e.g., age, ethnicity, county of commitment, violence of commitment offense, number of prior violent arrests, and type of disposition.

Chapter 3

Rejection vs. acceptance. Rejected cases had a much higher total screening score than accepted cases--17.44 vs. 8.16 points. The former score was well above the Youth Authority's rejection-cutoff of 12 points (13 points during July, 1981). Among rejected cases, the largest single contributor to the total screening score was the factor, "offense pattern--magnitude." This factor, by itself, accounted for 34% of their total score and for one-half of the 9-point difference between rejected and accepted cases. The second largest contributor was "commitment behavior (offense)"; this accounted for 24% of the total score, even though it contributed relatively little to the point-difference between rejected and accepted cases. Basically, these factors reflected the individuals' offense history (sustained petitions, and/or convictions, prior to the commitment offense) and commitment offense, respectively. The remaining factors (taken individually) contributed relatively little to the total screening score of rejected cases; however, "prior secure placements" accounted for one-fourth of the point-difference between rejected and accepted cases. Rejected cases did not just receive a higher total score than accepted cases; they received a higher score on each of the five screening factors which contributed to that total.

When rating each case on each factor, the Intake and Court Services Section appears to have accurately reflected the basic definition of the given factor; as to the five factors collectively, ICSS' ratings seem to have been internally consistent. At any rate, the total score that resulted from ICSS' ratings of the individual factors clearly distinguished rejected from accepted cases.

Background characteristics, and offenses, of rejected cases. (1) White, Spanish-surnamed, and Black groups had approximately the same total screening score as one another; in this regard, no single ethnic group seemed substantially "better" or "worse" than any remaining group with respect to its overall criminal/delinquency record. Nevertheless, Spanish-surnamed individuals

had more severe commitment offenses, scoring, on the average, somewhat higher than either Blacks or Whites on "commitment behavior (offense)." (2) Cases from Los Angeles county had a slightly but not (in a statistical sense) significantly higher total screening score than those from all remaining counties combined, and a somewhat more severe commitment offense than the non-L.A. rejectees. (3) Cases who had not previously been in the Youth Authority had a noticeably lower total screening score than those who had a prior YA commitment. (4) Cases whose commitment offense was violent had a substantially higher "commitment behavior (offense)" score than those whose commitment offense was nonviolent. (5) Although the commitment offense factor was a much larger contributor to the screening score of individuals who had a violent rather than a nonviolent committing offense, the prior history factor (e.g., severity and number of prior arrests) was a substantially larger contributor with respect to individuals who had a nonviolent committing offense. (6) Finally, comparisons among individual screening factors suggested that if the commitment offense is sufficiently severe, individuals may still be rejected from the Youth Authority even though their prior history is less severe than that of persons whose commitment offense is nonviolent.

Relationships among screening factors. (1) Most screening factors showed a positive and statistically reliable relationship not only to most other screening factors but to the total screening score (TSS) as well. That is, if an individual's score was, say, high on one such factor, his score then tended to be higher rather than lower on most remaining factors and on the TSS as well; in addition, most such relationships were not "chance events." (2) Despite their positive and statistically reliable nature, these relationships were not very strong or useful from a practical point of view; more specifically, one could not closely predict an individual's score on any given factor, or even on the TSS, from his score on any other factor--at least not usually. (3) Although the five screening factors each contributed something unique to the total screening score (they did this despite their positive interrelationships), some of them, e.g., "criminal sophistication/

orientation," did not seem really crucial with respect to the YA's decision to either "reject" or "accept."

Chapter 4

Rejection and dispositions. Most cases (79%) whom the Youth Authority did not accept were rejected due to lack of adequate facilities rather than an anticipated lack of material benefit. Regardless of the YA's reason for rejection, roughly 5 out of every 10 such cases (54%) were sent to state prison and an additional 3 out of every 10 (30%) were given a jail sentence which was to be followed by a period on probation. Together, these two sentences--the "major dispositions"--accounted for the preponderance of all dispositions. A few individuals were either sentenced to county jail (2.5%), were placed on formal probation (2.5%), were referred back to the Youth Authority (2.5%), or were sent to the Department of Corrections (the adult prison system) for a 90-day diagnostic workup (1.5%). Most remaining cases had not been sentenced as of the data-cutoff point. All dispositions were made by local authorities, not by YA personnel. Most rejected cases who were sent to prison received that sentence because Section 1203.06 of the California Penal Code precluded a local sentence for serious offenses, e.g., robbery, in which (1) a firearm was involved or (2) the offender had previously been convicted of a specified felony.

Background characteristics, offenses, and screening scores.* (1) Noticeable differences in disposition were found across the three major ethnic groups. For instance, in the case of Whites, 41% were sentenced to state prison and 38% were given jail plus probation (j + p). Sixty-five percent (65%) of the Spanish-surnamed group were sentenced to state prison whereas 20% were given j + p. Blacks were twice as likely to be sentenced to state prison than to jail + probation: 57% vs. 29%. (2) Individuals from Los Angeles county were about three times more likely to receive a state prison sentence than j + p; in contrast,

*For the remainder of this section we will deal with the major dispositions only--one of which focuses on the principal non-local (i.e., state) sentence, the other on the primary local sentence. Results would remain essentially the same even if all known dispositions were included.

those committed from the non-L.A. counties were only slightly more likely to be sentenced to state prison than to j + p. (3) No substantial differences were observed in the type of disposition that was received by individuals who had not been previously committed to the Youth Authority as compared to those who had been previously committed. (4) There was a strong relationship between type of commitment offense and type of disposition. For example, in the case of violent commitment offenses, the chances of being sentenced to state prison rather than jail + probation were 4 to 1; however, for nonviolent commitment offenses the chances were roughly 1 to 1. (5) If a weapon had been used or was present (without being used) during the commitment offense, the chances of the individual's being sent to prison were fairly high--about 7 out of 10. If no weapon had been present the chances were noticeably lower--about 4 out of 10. Similar findings were obtained with respect to enhancements that related to the commitment offense. (6) Among individuals who were sent to prison, "offense pattern--magnitude" (in essence, the cumulative severity of all pre-YA, sustained petitions and/or convictions) was the largest single contributor to their total screening score. Among those who were sentenced to jail + probation, this was true to an even greater degree.

Length of sentence. Individuals whose disposition was state prison received average sentences of 3.4 years. Those whose disposition was jail + probation received average sentences of 1.0 years in jail plus 3.4 years on probation. Each remaining sentence, e.g., county jail only, involved too few cases to provide reliable figures. At any rate, for all known sentences combined, the average period of lockup (prison or jail) was 2.7 years; for those sentences which involved probation (with or without jail), the average duration of probation was 3.4 years.

Chapter 5

Ethnicity and rejection by YA. (1) Whites, Spanish-surnamed, and Black individuals were each about four times more likely to be rejected on grounds of inadequate facilities than on grounds of material benefit. In this respect, all major ethnic groups were rejected for the same reasons and the Youth Authority's joint inadequate-facilities/material-benefit policy was not applied differentially to any one or more groups. (2) Among rejected cases, 28% of all Whites, 59% of all Spanish-surnamed, and 49% of all Blacks had a violent commitment offense. (3) Sizable differences also existed across these major ethnic groups with respect to prior violent arrests (PVA's). For example, among rejected individuals, 21% of Whites as compared to 61% of Spanish-surnamed and 65% of Blacks had 1 or more PVA's; 6% of Whites, 20% of Spanish-surnamed, and 37% of Blacks had 2 or more PVA's. These differences were reflected in the two screening factors that made the largest contribution to the total screening score: "committing behavior (offense)" and "offense pattern--magnitude." Thus, the fact that Blacks scored second-highest of the three major ethnic groups on "committing behavior (offense)" and highest on "offense pattern--magnitude" resulted in their having a slightly higher total screening score than both the White and the Spanish-surnamed groups. That total score, in turn, largely accounted for the Black group's slight overrepresentation among rejected cases; at least, it was the immediate and specific basis of the YA's decision to either reject or accept given individuals. A regression solution showed that, after controlling for (partialling out) type of commitment offense, number of prior arrests, etc., ethnicity, in itself, did not contribute to the decision to reject or accept a case.

Ethnicity and disposition by local authorities. The fact that rejected non-Whites were more often sent to prison than were rejected Whites can probably be traced largely to the following. Non-Whites were more likely than Whites to have (1) had a violent rather than a nonviolent commitment offense,

(2) possessed or utilized a weapon during their commitment offense, and (3) had 1 or more prior violent arrests. A regression analysis indicated that, after controlling for type of commitment offense, number of prior arrests, etc., ethnicity did not contribute significantly to the type of disposition that was given by local authorities. These findings were derived entirely from the present research, i.e., from an analysis of individual casefiles (chiefly probation and court documents). They were not obtained by asking local authorities--particularly judges--why they had made certain specific decisions or types of decisions with respect to disposition. The extent to which information from the latter sources might have added to or otherwise modified the present picture, is unknown.

County of commitment and rejection by YA. Los Angeles probably had a slightly higher percentage of rejected cases than all remaining counties combined because its referrals had somewhat more severe (not just violent) commitment offenses. (Here, severity reflects authorized confinement time established by the court for each individual. These commitment offenses--therefore the authorized confinement time--were directly reflected in the Youth Authority's total screening score; and, that particular score constituted the immediate basis of rejection or acceptance.) In turn, these commitment offenses were related to the following: (1) Non-Whites were more likely than Whites to have had a violent commitment offense; (2) L.A. county had a substantially higher percentage of non-Whites than did the remaining counties combined. A regression analysis showed that, after controlling for type of commitment offense, etc., county-of-commitment did not contribute to the decision to either reject or accept a case.

County of commitment and disposition by local authorities. Sixty-two percent (62%) of the rejected cases from Los Angeles county were sent to state prison; for all remaining counties combined, the figure was 46%.

Given the fact that L.A.'s percentage of rejected individuals who were non-White was substantially higher than that in all other counties (77% vs. 51%), it is likely that this L.A. vs. non-L.A. difference in disposition can largely be traced to the same factors that seemed to account for the difference in dispositions between the major ethnic groups. Specifically, rejected non-Whites (Spanish-surnamed + Blacks, combined) were more likely than Whites to have (1) had a violent rather than a nonviolent commitment offense, (2) possessed or utilized a weapon during their commitment offense, and (3) had 1 or more prior violent arrests. (Ethnicity aside, a substantially higher percentage of L.A. than non-L.A. cases had either possessed or utilized a weapon during their commitment offense.) Regression analysis which controlled for type of commitment offense, etc., indicated that county-of-commitment did not contribute significantly to the type of disposition made by local authorities. To be sure, other factors may have contributed to the observed difference in disposition, e.g., such factors as local sentencing practices or philosophies, available bed-space in local secure facilities, and available community-based alternatives for specified types of offenders. However, no systematic information was available regarding these factors.

Discussion

The present study involved an unselected group of 488 criminal court cases (CCC's) committed to the Youth Authority during the first three months in which its sequential decision-making procedure--in effect, a combined material-benefit/adequate-facilities policy--was in operation (July - September, 1981). Although these individuals were very similar to CCC's who had been committed to the YA during 1980--i.e., were quite representative in this regard--an additional three or four months of sampling would have been useful in determining the stability-through-time of the present results. We suspect that such sampling would have shown the results to be stable.

Screening factors. Despite the stability issue, the present study provided detailed and specific answers to the five questions on which it focused. Together with these answers, it indicated that, collectively, the YA's five screening factors clearly distinguished rejected (R) from accepted (A) cases with respect to total screening scores; in this regard, the decision to reject or accept a case was seldom "close." The study showed that this difference in screening scores mainly reflected differing levels of criminal involvement--e.g., length and violence of pre-YA offense history--on the part of R as compared to A cases. It also indicated that, although ethnicity was related not only to offense history as well as violence, ethnicity, in itself, did not contribute to the YA's decision to reject or accept.

Although this study suggested that the Youth Authority's Intake and Court Services Section applied the screening factors in an appropriate and internally consistent way, it did not try to address the question of whether any better factors* existed or whether--qualitative, values-centered, and philosophical issues aside--any additional factors would perhaps have been useful in distinguishing rejected from accepted cases.**

One set of screening factors might, e.g., have focused directly on "future risk," that is, likelihood of repeat offending. To be sure, the overall appropriateness of any such factors would probably be debated from a values-centered--e.g., a "fairness"--perspective, regardless of their predictive ability, practicality, and even objectivity.

Questions relating to alternative or additional possible screening factors are quite complex and could only have been addressed via a rather different and substantially expanded research effort. Nevertheless, one point might

*E.g., "better" from given philosophical perspectives and, possibly, in terms of conceptual clarity, ease-of-rating, and validity of the rated-information itself.

**As suggested, R and A cases were, on the average, already well distinguished from each other. In this respect, further differentiations were probably not needed.

be mentioned with regard to "risk": Despite the present screening factors' emphasis on an individual's prior record and, indirectly, on his history of violence, these factors did not ipso facto ignore future risk. For instance, (1) as this study suggested, rejected individuals were those with longer as well as more violent records, and with more prior commitments; at the same time, (2) since numerous research studies have shown that an individual's prior record is the best single predictor of his future offending, it would seem likely that persons who had longer records--namely, rejected individuals--were also those with a greater risk of recidivism. [6]

Overpopulation. Although the adequate-facilities policy was originally designed to reduce the Youth Authority's institutions and camps (I & C) population to its budgeted capacity, it has not yet accomplished this goal. Specifically, on July 1, 1981, these facilities were overpopulated by 473 individuals; on April 30, 1982, overpopulation was 457. [7; 8] Nevertheless, the adequate-facilities (A-F) policy has helped the YA hold-the-line: During the six months from January through June, 1981, first commitments to I & C from criminal courts were increasing at an average of 41 cases per month as compared to the same six months of 1980; yet, during the 10 months from July, 1981 through April, 1982 (the period in which the A-F policy has been in effect), first commitments from criminal courts decreased by 41 cases per month when compared to the same time-period in 1981-1982. [9; 8] Although the net change during these time-periods was therefore 82 cases per month (discounting a slight time-overlap), the 1981-1982 decrease corresponded fairly closely to the average monthly number of criminal court commitments who were rejected on grounds of inadequate-facilities during the 10 month period in question: 47 (approximately 36 of these were first commitments). At any rate, the 466 CCC's who were rejected between July, 1981 and April, 1982 helped avoid a substantial increase in I & C population.

Since the number of first commitments from juvenile courts changed only slightly during the periods under consideration and since other types of intake (e.g., remands) also underwent relatively little change, the main factor that accounted for continued overpopulation was probably the YA's increasing length-of-stay within the institutions themselves. [10; 11]

In February, 1982, the Youth Authority took a further step toward reducing its population: it lowered the rejection-score from 12 points to 10.¹ The effects of this reduction on the characteristics and disposition of rejected cases must remain a subject for future research.

Other issues. An additional area of possible future research is that of disposition. Here, three questions stand out: Regardless of their final sentence by local authorities, how long did rejected cases actually remain locked up and/or on probation? How did the length of these sentences, periods of lockup (state prison; county jail), and so on, compare with the institution-and-parole stays that those same rejected cases would probably have experienced had they remained in the Youth Authority? What were the justice system costs of the YA's screening policy--e.g., was money saved in the short- and long-run?

Finally, upon release from custody, did rejected individuals perform differently than comparable cases who, prior to the July 1 policy, were not rejected by the Youth Authority? And, at a very broad level, what was the overall impact of the YA's screening policy on the justice system as a whole? Here, one might examine not only costs and performance of offenders, but state and local overpopulation, redistribution of state and local responsibilities, and other related areas.

Some of these questions could probably be answered more easily and with much greater certainty than others. Most, however, would require long-term followup.

NOTES

Chapter 1

1. The Department continues to reject very few juvenile court cases (JCC's). JCC's are not included in the present study.
2. "There is provision to consider an override of the decision based on point-score, if an intake consultant [staff member of the Intake and Court Services Section] believes that an offender should be considered for acceptance even if his point-score is over the limit. Such cases would be submitted to a case conference presided over by [the head of the ICSS]." [1]

Chapter 2

1. For instance, in connection with his hypothetical arrest on July 1, 1981, an individual may have been charged with robbery, kidnapping, and rape--a total of three separate charges in connection with this single arrest. (All such charges may or may not have related to a "single episode," whether or not that episode occurred within a single day.) In contrast, in connection with his hypothetical arrest on August 1, 1981, a different individual may have been charged with five counts of burglary--i.e., burglary of five separate dwellings, whether or not on five separate days. Here, only one charge--burglary--was involved, despite the fact that five separate criminal acts were alleged to have occurred. The findings in Table 12 refer to charges, not to "counts."

Chapter 5

1. The ethnic differences in question were not as striking among accepted cases. Yet, even here, 11.2% of Whites, 17.2% of Spanish-surnamed, and 29.2% of Blacks had 1 or more prior violent arrests.

2. Results were virtually identical when age was the first variable entered into the regression solution. (This also applies to Tables 47, 49, and 52.)
3. This ethnic difference, it might be noted, was considerably stronger among accepted than rejected individuals.
4. The "2 or more" category broke down as follows: (1) 10 of the 18 individuals (55.6%) who had 2 PVA's also had a violent commitment offense (VCO); (2) 17 of the 25 individuals (68.0%) who had 3 or more PVA's also had a VCO.
5. The "2 or more" category broke down as follows. (1) In Los Angeles county, 11 individuals (10.9% of L.A.'s 101 rejectees) had 2 prior violent arrests (PVA's); in All Other counties, 7 individuals (7.1% of All Others' 98 rejectees) had 2 PVA's. (2) In L.A., an additional 17 individuals (16.8% of all L.A. rejectees) had 3 or more PVA's; in All Others, an additional 8 individuals (8.2% of the given rejectees) had 3 or more. "Chronic" violent offenders, it might be added, sometimes had nonviolent prior arrests as well.
6. Reflecting this relationship from a different angle was the fact that individuals from Los Angeles county were less likely to have had a nonviolent offense record than those from non-L.A. counties combined. Specifically, of all 64 rejected individuals who had neither a violent commitment offense nor a violent prior arrest, 40.6% were from L.A. and 59.4% were from the remaining counties. ($p < .05$.) (It will be recalled that, of all 199 rejected cases, 50.8% were from Los Angeles county and 49.3% were from All Others combined.) Almost identical results were obtained for accepted cases. (See Appendix 0 and Table 7 regarding these figures.)

Chapter 6

1. See pp. 3-4 regarding the level-of-criminality determination which is made subsequent to the material-benefit test.

Appendix I

1. When state prison was compared to all known local dispositions, $p < .01$ ($\chi^2 = 16.37$; d.f. = 1). (Here, as in n. 2 and n.3, below, the "All Others" disposition-category is excluded for the reasons indicated on p. 86.)
2. When state prison was compared to all known local dispositions, $p < .01$ ($\chi^2 = 9.65$; d.f. = 1).
3. When state prison was compared to all known local dispositions, $p < .01$ ($\chi^2 = 7.05$; d.f. = 1).

Appendix A: Screening Factors--Scoring, Definition, and Description

Criminal Court Commitment
LEVEL OF CRIMINALITY

Name _____ DOB: _____ County _____

- | | Value |
|--|----------|
| 1. Commitment Behavior
(Take confinement time from court order: 1 year = 1 point) | _____ |
| 2. Offense Pattern - Magnitude
(Total mid-terms from Penal Code for all prior sustained offenses: 1 year = 1 point) | _____ |
| 3. Offense Pattern - Escalation
(See description) | _____ |
| High | 3 points |
| Moderate | 2 points |
| Limited | 1 point |
| None | 0 points |
| De-escalation | -1 point |
| 4. Criminal Sophistication/Orientation
(See description) | _____ |
| High | 3 points |
| Moderate | 2 points |
| Limited | 1 point |
| 5. Prior Secure Program Placements
(See description) | _____ |
| State level | 5 points |
| Two or more local | 3 points |
| One local | 2 points |
| None | 0 points |

TOTAL VALUE SCORE _____

Date: _____
Remand _____
Accept _____
Reject _____

Intake Consultant _____

COMMITMENT BEHAVIOR

An indication of the significance of commitment behavior is drawn from the total authorized confinement time fixed by court order. It reflects the weight or significance that this behavior is assigned by public policy.

Alternative Ratings

One year of authorized confinement time will be assigned one point.

Selection Factors

Use commitment order from the court.

OFFENSE PATTERN - MAGNITUDE

Magnitude of prior offense history is an indication of the relative weight or significance of a person's criminality, cumulatively since the first sustained offense.

Alternative Ratings

Total the Penal Code confinement time mid-terms for all prior sustained offenses. Do not include enhancements, behavior credit and credit for time in custody. Show full mid-term for subordinate offenses.

One year of confinement equals one point.

Selection Factors

Use official records and the Penal Code (current edition).

OFFENSE PATTERN - ESCALATION

This category describes the "quality" of a person's delinquent behavior. It is designed to differentiate between persons who are on their way to becoming a career-criminal from those whose offenses are situational, sporadic, and non-patterned. It also accounts for the persons who are gradually "outgrowing" their criminal behavior, thus improving the likelihood of eventually becoming non-offenders.

The characteristics included in each section are guidelines for making evaluations; not every single description has to be met to satisfy a given rating.

Alternative Ratings

Serious/High (3 points): Offense history at least of three years duration; earlier minor offenses, followed by serious offenses including violence; arrest-free time in the community decreasing fairly steadily.

Moderate (2 points): Offense history of at least two years duration; earlier minor offenses followed by non-violent serious offenses; arrest-free time in the community decreasing fairly steadily. If offense history is less than two years duration, the escalation is very pronounced, including violence.

Limited (1 point): Multiple offenses, spread over the past year; level of seriousness not changing markedly; may involve some less serious violence; some triggering event appears a likely cause of criminal behavior.

None (0 points): A single serious offense or several offenses spread over a short time span ("crime spree" behavior); behavior shows no discernible pattern over time.

De-Escalation (-1 point): More serious offenses followed by less serious ones; no recent violence; social information indicates person is maturing and can clearly profit from rehabilitative program.

Selection Factors

1. Characteristics of offenses.
2. Amount of violence in arrest history.
3. Duration of arrest history.
4. Amount of arrest-free time in community.
5. Social background information.

SOPHISTICATION/ORIENTATION

Level of Sophistication/Orientation means the degree to which persons have moved into a fully-committed criminal lifestyle as compared to the lifestyle of average, law-abiding citizens. It is unrelated to age or seriousness of single offenses.

Alternative Ratings

High (3 points): Persons have a dis-respect for law and the justice system; use intimidation to manipulate others; identify with delinquent peers; direct/play delinquent institution games; may be a "victimizer"; criminal "know-how"; delinquent gang involvement; have a delinquent lifestyle; and may have a long offense history.

Moderate (2 points): Persons who have limited or sporadic delinquent gang involvement; are not readily intimidated; have ability to cope with negative institution games but are not leaders or enforcers; ambivalent about being involved in crime; and may have had a moderate offense history.

Limited (1 point): Persons who have not adopted a delinquent lifestyle; little identification with delinquent subculture; may be a victim of institution games; limited ability to handle institution lifestyle; and may have had a limited offense history.

Selection Factors

Make Casework judgment. Consider the following:

- (1) Delinquent gang involvement
- (2) Negative peer identification
- (3) Orientation to institution negative delinquent subculture.
- (4) Attitude toward criminal justice system.
- (5) Degree of delinquent lifestyle identification.
- (6) Degree of delinquent self-concept.
- (7) Delinquent orientation of family.
- (8) May also consider: (a) number of prior offenses, (b) type and circumstances of offenses, and (c) motivation or intent when committing crime.

PRIOR SECURE PROGRAM PLACEMENT

One indication of a person's level of criminality is the extent to which secure program placements have been used earlier. Continued criminal behavior after correctional efforts have been tried is an indicator of a person's motivation to change, tractability and overall criminality.

A prior "secure program placement" is a court-ordered placement in a public facility for correctional program reasons (not pre-disposition confinement); e.g. county camp or home, juvenile hall, jail, etc. It also includes placements in Youth Authority institutions.

Alternative Ratings

Prior state -level commitment (s):
5 points

Two or more prior secure local
program placements: 3 points

One prior secure local program
placement: 2 points

No prior secure program placements:
0 points

Selection Factors

Use official records; e.g. court orders, probation report, Youth Authority documents, etc.

Appendix B: Cover Letter and Data Form for Final Disposition of Rejected Cases

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—YOUTH AND ADULT CORRECTIONAL AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AUTHORITY

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor



Subject: Obtaining Followup Information
on Criminal Court Referrals

Dear Sir:

The Department of the Youth Authority is currently conducting an evaluation to study differences between criminal court referrals who are not accepted from those who are accepted by the Youth Authority. The purpose of this letter is to ask your assistance in providing information on the final disposition of referrals who have not been accepted by the Youth Authority. To assist us in this study, we are requesting that you fill out the attached form and return it to us as soon as possible. A stamped self-addressed envelope has been provided for this.

If a final disposition has not yet been made for the individual specified on the form, please return the form to us anyway--with all the other information that we have requested, including the continuation date. This will allow us to contact the court clerk by phone at a later date--subsequent to the final disposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Pearl S. West'.

Pearl S. West, Director
(916) 445-2561

Attachment

Appendix B, (Continued)

California Youth Authority
Division of Research

CRIMINAL COURT COMMITMENT STUDY

Name of Referral _____ Name of Court: _____

CII Number _____ County: _____

Court Number _____ Commitment Offense _____
(Penal Code Citation)

Birth Date ____/____/____ Date of Commitment to Youth Authority ____/____/____

Date of Youth Authority Rejection ____/____/____ Date of Criminal Court Final Disposition ____/____/____

Final Court Disposition - Narrative Description (Please describe fully, e.g. where committed, how long, any probation or parole time, etc.)*
If no final disposition available, please advise of continuation date ____/____/____

*Narrative description to apply only to current commitment offense and related charges (do not describe disposition outcome on prior record).

Name of person filling out form _____ Title _____

Phone Number () _____

Date Form Returned ____/____/____

Appendix C: Variables and Factors Used in Criminal Court Screening Study

CRIMINAL COURT COMMITMENT
SCREENING STUDY

CII # _____	Subject's Name _____
Court # _____	Date Coded _____
YA # _____	Coder's Name _____
Card Format/Unit _____	(1-3)
Card Number _____	1 (4)
Type of CYA Screening Action 1 = Accepted 2 = Rejected 3 = Rejected, then accepted 4 = Other (specify) _____	(5)
Reason for Rejection 1 = Lack of material benefit 2 = Lack of adequate facilities 3 = Other (specify) _____ 9 = Not applicable (accepted cases)	(6)
Date of Birth _____	mo. day year (7-12)
Date of commitment to CYA _____	mo. day year (13-18)
Date of acceptance/rejection _____	mo day year (19-24)
Court of Commitment 1 = Superior 2 = Municipal 3 = Other	(25)
County of Commitment (Use County Codes)	(26-27)
Highest grade completed (as of date of commitment)	(28-29)
Ethnicity 1 = White 2 = Spanish Surnamed 3 = Black 4 = Asian 5 = Native American 6 = Filipino 9 = Other (specify) _____	(30)
Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female	(31)

Appendix C, (Continued)

Type of Commitment (to CYA) _____ (32)
 1 = New commitment to YA
 2 = 1 prior commitment to YA
 3 = 2 or more prior commitments to YA

SCREENING SCORES

Commitment behavior _____ (33-34)
 Offense pattern - Magnitude _____ (35-36)
 Offense pattern - Escalation _____ (37-38)
 Criminal sophistication/orientation _____ (39-40)
 Prior secure program placements _____ (41-42)
 Total value score _____ (43-44)

Disposition (choose appropriate disposition--leave others blank) _____ (45)
 1 = Sentenced to State Prison
 2 = County jail
 3 = Formal probation (specify if camp is involved)
 4 = Jail and probation (formal)
 5 = Youth Authority
 6 = CYA 90-day diagnostic
 7 = CDC 90-day diagnostic
 8 = All others (specify) _____

Length of sentence (incarceration time)
 (Disregard credit time.) _____ (46-47)
 _____ years

_____ (48-50)
 _____ days

Probation time _____ (51-52)
 _____ years
 _____ (53-55)
 _____ days

Verbatim Disposition (for rejected and rejected and later accepted cases only) _____

Appendix C, (Continued)

PRIORS - DETAIL

Code according to OBITs System. For 3rd column, use the following codes:

3rd column codes:

1 = juvenile court, disposition unclear
 2 = juvenile court, dropped
 3 = juvenile court, not sustained
 4 = juvenile court, sustained
 5 = Criminal court, disposition unclear
 6 = Criminal court, dropped
 7 = Criminal court, found not guilty
 8 = Criminal court, convicted
 9 = Charge dropped in favor of lesser charge

Commitment offense _____ (56-58)

Enhancement _____ (59)

0 = None
 1 = Charged, but dropped or not sustained
 2 = Charged and sustained
 3 = Charged, disposition unclear
 4 = Charged with 2 or more enhancements, but dropped or not sustained
 5 = Charged with 2 or more enhancements, sustained
 6 = " " " " " , disposition unclear
 7 = " " " " " , not all sustained
 8 = All other

Weapons Used (whether or not enhancement charged) _____ (60)
 If two or more code the most serious.

0 = None
 1 = Armed
 2 = Used the weapon
 3 = Great bodily injury
 4 = Other (specify) _____

Other Charges (maximum of 5) (See above for coding.) _____ (61-63)

_____ (64-66)

_____ (67-69)

_____ (70-72)

_____ (73-75)

BLANK (76-80)

Appendix C, (Continued)

(DP - Duplicate Cols. (1-3) from Card 1)

Card Number2 (4)

(Work chronologically backward on offense history.)

1st Prior arrest - Most serious charge

Other charges (maximum of 5)

* _____ (5-7)
 _____ (8-10)
 _____ (11-13)
 _____ (14-16)
 _____ (17-19)
 _____ (20-22)

2nd Prior Arrest - Most serious charge

Other charges (maximum of 5)

* _____ (23-25)
 _____ (26-28)
 _____ (29-31)
 _____ (32-34)
 _____ (35-37)
 _____ (38-40)

3rd Prior Arrest - Most serious charge

Other charges (maximum of 5)

* _____ (41-43)
 _____ (44-46)
 _____ (47-49)
 _____ (50-52)
 _____ (53-55)
 _____ (56-58)

4th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge

Other charges (maximum of 5)

* _____ (59-61)
 _____ (62-64)
 _____ (65-67)
 _____ (68-70)
 _____ (71-73)
 _____ (74-76)

Appendix C, (Continued)

BLANK (77-80)

(DP - Duplicate Cols. (1-3) from Card 1)

Card Number3 (4)

5th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge

Other charges (maximum of 5)

* _____ (5-7)
 _____ (8-10)
 _____ (11-13)
 _____ (14-16)
 _____ (17-19)
 _____ (20-22)

6th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge

Other charges (maximum of 5)

* _____ (23-25)
 _____ (26-28)
 _____ (29-31)
 _____ (32-34)
 _____ (35-37)
 _____ (38-40)

7th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge

Other charges (maximum of 5)

* _____ (41-43)
 _____ (44-46)
 _____ (47-49)
 _____ (50-52)
 _____ (53-55)
 _____ (56-58)

8th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge

Other charges (maximum of 5)

* _____ (59-61)
 _____ (62-64)
 _____ (65-67)
 _____ (68-70)
 _____ (71-73)
 _____ (74-76)

BLANK (77-80)

Appendix C, (Continued)

(DP - Duplicate Cols. (1-3) from Card 1)

Card Number	4	(4)
9th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge	*	_____ (5-7)
Other charges (maximum of 5)		_____ (8-10)
		_____ (11-13)
		_____ (14-16)
		_____ (17-19)
		_____ (20-22)
10th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge	*	_____ (23-25)
Other charges (maximum of 5)		_____ (26-28)
		_____ (29-31)
		_____ (32-34)
		_____ (35-37)
		_____ (38-40)
11th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge	*	_____ (41-43)
Other charges (maximum of 5)		_____ (44-46)
		_____ (47-49)
		_____ (50-52)
		_____ (53-55)
		_____ (56-58)
12th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge	*	_____ (59-61)
Other charges (maximum of 5)		_____ (62-64)
		_____ (65-67)
		_____ (68-70)
		_____ (71-73)
		_____ (74-76)
		<u>BLANK</u> (77-80)

Appendix C, (Continued)

(DP - Duplicate Cols. (1-3) from Card 1)

Card Number	5	(4)
13th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge	*	_____ (5-7)
Other charges (maximum of 5)		_____ (8-10)
		_____ (11-13)
		_____ (14-16)
		_____ (17-19)
		_____ (20-22)
14th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge	*	_____ (23-25)
Other charges (maximum of 5)		_____ (26-28)
		_____ (29-31)
		_____ (32-34)
		_____ (35-37)
		_____ (38-40)
15th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge	*	_____ (41-43)
Other charges (maximum of 5)		_____ (44-46)
		_____ (47-49)
		_____ (50-52)
		_____ (53-55)
		_____ (56-58)
16th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge	*	_____ (59-61)
Other charges (maximum of 5)		_____ (62-64)
		_____ (65-67)
		_____ (68-70)
		_____ (71-73)
		_____ (74-76)
		<u>BLANK</u> (77-80)

Appendix C, (Continued)

(DP - Duplicate Cols. (1-3) from Card 1)

Card Number

6(4)

17th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge

* (5-7)

Other charges (maximum of 5)

(8-10)

(11-13)

(14-16)

(17-19)

(20-22)

18th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge

* (23-25)

Other charges (maximum of 5)

(26-28)

(29-31)

(32-34)

(35-37)

(38-40)

19th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge

* (41-43)

Other charges (maximum of 5)

(44-46)

(47-49)

(50-52)

(53-55)

(56-58)

20th Prior Arrest - Most serious charge

* (59-61)

Other charges (maximum of 5)

(62-64)

(65-67)

(68-70)

(71-73)

(74-76)

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APPENDIX D

County of Commitment for Accepted and Rejected Cases

County of Commitment	Rejected		Accepted		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Alameda	5	2.5	6	2.1	11	2.3
Alpine	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Amador	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Butte	2	1.0	2	0.7	4	0.8
Calaveras	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Colusa	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Contra Costa	3	1.5	3	1.0	6	1.2
Del Norte	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
El Dorado	2	1.0	2	0.7	4	0.8
Fresno	4	2.0	9	3.1	13	2.7
Glenn	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Humboldt	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.2
Imperial	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Inyo	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Kern	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Kings	4	2.0	5	1.7	9	1.8
Lake	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lassen	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.2
Los Angeles	101	50.8	131	45.3	232	47.5
Madera	1	0.5	1	0.4	2	0.4
Marin	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.2
Mariposa	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mendocino	0	0.0	2	0.7	2	0.4
Merced	2	1.0	0	0.0	2	0.4
Modoc	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mono	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Monterey	3	1.5	10	3.5	13	2.7
Napa	2	1.0	0	0.0	2	0.4

(Continued)

APPENDIX D, (Cont'd)

County of Commitment	Rejected		Accepted		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Nevada	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Orange	0	0.0	9	3.1	9	1.8
Placer	1	0.5	4	1.4	5	1.0
Plumas	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Riverside	4	2.0	5	1.7	9	1.8
Sacramento	10	5.0	10	3.5	20	4.1
San Benito	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
San Bernardino	2	1.0	14	4.8	16	3.3
San Diego	6	3.0	11	3.8	17	3.5
San Francisco	8	4.0	12	4.2	20	4.1
San Joaquin	0	0.0	5	1.7	5	1.0
San Luis Obispo	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.2
San Mateo	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.2
Santa Barbara	3	1.5	2	0.7	5	1.0
Santa Clara	19	9.6	27	9.3	46	9.4
Santa Cruz	1	0.5	2	0.7	3	0.6
Shasta	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.2
Sierra	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Siskiyou	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.2
Solano	4	2.0	0	0.0	4	0.8
Sonoma	2	1.0	2	0.7	4	0.8
Stanislaus	2	1.0	4	1.4	6	1.2
Sutter	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.2
Tehama	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Trinity	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tulare	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.2
Tuolumne	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ventura	4	2.0	4	1.4	8	1.6
Yolo	0	0.0	1	0.7	1	0.2
Yuba	0	0.0	1	0.7	1	0.2
Total	199	100.0	289	100.0	488	100.0

APPENDIX E

Frequency Distribution of Screening Scores for Rejected and Accepted Cases, by Ethnicity

Screening Score	Rejected Cases									
	White		Spanish		Black		Other		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
12-13	14	22.6	7	18.9	17	21.8	1	33.3	39	21.7
14-15	10	16.1	12	32.4	12	15.4	0	0.0	34	18.9
16-17	12	19.4	4	10.8	14	17.9	2	66.7	32	17.8
18-19	10	16.1	7	18.9	17	21.8	0	0.0	34	18.9
20-21	8	12.9	2	5.4	4	5.1	0	0.0	14	7.8
22-24	6	9.7	2	5.4	2	2.6	0	0.0	10	5.6
25-29	1	1.6	1	2.7	8	10.3	0	0.0	10	5.6
30-36	1	1.6	2	5.4	4	5.1	0	0.0	7	3.9
Total	62	100.0	37	100.0	78	100.0	3	100.0	180	100.0

(Continued)

APPENDIX E (Continued)

Screening Score	Accepted Cases									
	White		Spanish		Black		Other		Total ^a	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2	0	0.0	2	2.8	2	2.2	1	11.1	5	1.8
3	3	2.8	4	5.6	1	1.1	1	11.1	9	3.2
4	6	5.7	7	9.7	6	6.5	0	0.0	19	6.8
5	10	9.4	4	5.6	9	9.8	1	11.1	24	8.6
6	11	10.4	4	5.6	12	13.0	2	22.2	29	10.4
7	12	11.3	7	9.7	7	7.6	1	11.1	27	9.7
8	13	12.3	9	12.5	15	16.3	0	0.0	37	13.3
9	13	12.3	7	9.7	13	14.1	0	0.0	33	11.8
10	12	11.3	11	15.3	14	15.2	0	0.0	37	13.3
11	18	17.0	10	13.9	9	9.8	3	33.3	40	14.3
12	8	7.6	7	9.7	4	4.3	0	0.0	19	6.8
Total	106	100.0	72	100.0	92	100.0	9	100.0	279	100.0

^aFive accepted cases (2 Spanish, 2 Black, 1 Other) received screening scores of 13 or more, i.e., scores that would normally have resulted in their rejection. (See Chapter 1, n. 2.)

APPENDIX F

Screening Scores of Rejected and Accepted Cases by Type of YA Commitment Offense

Screening Factor	Rejected Cases ^a									
	Murder/ Manslaughter	Robbery	Assault- Severe	Assault- Other	Burglary	Theft	Rape/ Other Sex	Drugs	Misc. Felony	Misc. Misd./W&I
	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points	Avg. No. of Points
Commitment behavior (offense)	16.88	4.00	5.07	3.33	2.94	3.05	5.57	2.80	5.00	^b
Offense pattern--magnitude	3.50	4.85	5.60	3.67	7.00	6.47	6.14	5.00	5.50	-
Offense pattern--escalation	2.00	2.23	2.27	2.33	1.97	1.89	2.57	2.20	2.50	-
Criminal sophistic./orient.	2.38	2.15	2.20	2.67	2.31	2.37	2.43	3.00	2.50	-
Prior secure placements	2.13	2.50	2.67	4.33	3.11	3.63	3.14	3.00	2.50	-
TOTAL	26.89	15.73	17.81	16.33	17.33	17.41	19.85	16.00	18.00	-
Screening Factor	Accepted Cases									
	9.50	3.99	3.96	2.86	2.38	2.04	6.93	2.89	3.50	^b
	2.00	0.98	1.17	1.43	1.94	2.13	0.74	1.00	0.50	-
	0.25	0.75	1.13	1.57	1.06	1.00	0.74	0.78	0.50	-
	1.50	1.60	1.74	2.00	1.64	1.71	1.20	1.78	1.50	-
	0.00	0.46	0.35	1.29	0.88	1.75	0.40	1.56	0.67	-
	13.25	7.78	8.35	9.15	7.90	8.63	10.01	8.01	6.67	-

^aSample sizes are as follows for rejected and (in parentheses) accepted cases: Murder/manslaughter - 8(4); Robbery - 48(89); Assault (severe) - 15(23); Assault (other) - 3(7); Burglary - 71(107); Theft - 19(24); Rape/other sex - 7(15); Drugs - 5(9); Misc. Felony - 4(6); Misc. Misd./Welfare & Institutions - 0(0).

^b"-" means not applicable, since no cases were present.

APPENDIX G

Relationships Among Screening Factors and Between Screening Factors and Total Screening Score, for All Cases Combined

Screening Factors and Total Screening Score^a

Screening Factors	Offense - Magnitude	Offense - Escalation	Criminal Soph./Orient.	Prior Secure Placement	Total Score
Commitment Behavior	-.16	-.06	-.03	-.12	.23
Offense - Magnitude		.60	.39	.65	.81
Offense - Escalation			.44	.51	.64
Criminal Soph./Orient.				.35	.51
Prior Secure Placement					.74

^aSample size = 464 (180 = rejected; 284 = accepted). All correlations are Pearson r's. $p \leq .05$ and $p \leq .01$ require a correlation of .09 or greater and .12 or greater, respectively.

APPENDIX H

Relationship Between Reason for Rejection and Number of Prior Commitments to the Youth Authority

Reason for Rejection	Prior Commitments					
	None		One		Two or More	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	Total
Lack of adequate facilities	144	95.4	13	30.2	1	158
Lack of material benefit	1	0.7	30	69.8	4	35
All Other ^a	6	4.0	0	0.0	0	6
Total	151	100.0	43	100.0	5	199

^aAge; inappropriate referral.

APPENDIX I

ADDITIONAL ANALYSES CONCERNING DISPOSITION OF REJECTED CASES

Disposition and Prior Violent Arrests

Although individuals who were sent to prison had slightly fewer prior arrests (violent + nonviolent combined) than those sentenced to jail plus probation (Table 33), a somewhat different perspective was gained by analyzing prior violent arrests (PVA's) alone. As seen in Table 1, individuals who were sent to prison had slightly more PVA's than those sentenced to jail plus probation: 0.97 vs. 0.80, respectively. (Similar results were obtained when all local sentences were involved, not just jail + probation.) When combined with the findings concerning "disposition and prior offenses" (p. 60), this suggests that a history of prior violent arrests may increase the individuals' chances of being sent to prison, though to a very small degree at best.

A more detailed analysis--not shown here--supported the latter suggestion. Specifically, it indicated that, with respect to prior violent arrests taken by themselves (i.e., independent of the commitment offense), the number of such arrests that individuals have accumulated may hardly matter; instead, what may matter is that individuals have at least 1. That is, the chances of being sent to prison hardly increase after the first PVA; and, as suggested above, they may increase only slightly (if at all) even with the first. (Few individuals in the present sample had more than 3 PVA's, and none had more than 5.) The following analysis further supported these findings and suggestions, and added new perspectives based on various combinations of commitment offense and prior record.

Disposition and Violence/Nonviolence Groups

Regarding one's commitment offense and prior record combined, each individual necessarily fell within one of four "violence/nonviolence groups." That is,

TABLE 1
Disposition of Rejected Cases by Number of Prior
Violent Arrests

Disposition	No. of Cases	Prior Violent Arrests
		Avg. No. of Priors
State prison	108	0.97
Jail followed by formal probation	59	0.80
County jail only	5	0.40
Formal probation only	5	0.40
Referred back to CYA	5	0.60
All Others ^a	17	0.88
Total	199	0.87

^aCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

he either had

- (1) a violent commitment offense and 1 or more prior violent arrests (PVA's),
- (2) a violent commitment offense and no PVA's,
- (3) a nonviolent commitment offense and 1 or more PVA's, or
- (4) a nonviolent commitment offense and no PVA's.

Relative to these distinctions, the following questions arise. Were individuals who fell within specified groups, e.g., group 1 (V-commitment, V-prior), more likely to receive given dispositions, e.g., state prison, than individuals who fell within other groups? And what, if anything, did possible differences in disposition suggest concerning the importance of (a) commitment offenses as compared to prior arrests, in general, and (b) violent commitment offenses as compared to violent prior arrests, in particular? Three findings, shown in Table 2,, seemed relevant to these questions--though they by no means settled them.

1. By comparing groups 1 and 2 with groups 3 and 4 the following was observed. Individuals who had a violent commitment offense (groups 1 and 2 combined) had about a 67% chance of being sent to state prison, whether or not they had any violent prior arrests. In contrast, persons with a nonviolent commitment offense (groups 3 and 4 combined) had about a 44% chance of being sent to prison, whether or not they had any PVA's.¹ Besides showing that individuals who fell within specified groups were more likely to receive given dispositions than those who fell within other groups, these results suggest the following: As far as receiving a state prison sentence is concerned, the commitment offense, especially if it is violent, may be more important than the prior offense history, whether or not the latter includes any violence.

Focusing on the two main dispositions alone--state prison, and jail + probation--Table 2 indicates that the former individuals (persons with a V-commitment offense) had a 4 to 1 chance of being sent to

TABLE 2
Disposition of Rejected Cases, by Violence/Non-violence
Grouping of Commitment Offense and Prior Arrests

Disposition	Violence/Non-violence Group ^a							
	(1) V-Commit., V-Prior		(2) V-Commit., NV-Prior		(3) NV-Commit., V-Prior		(4) NV-Commit., NV-Prior	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
State prison	34	66.7	26	68.4	19	41.3	29	45.3
Jail followed by formal probation	8	15.7	7	18.4	19	41.3	25	39.1
County jail only	1	2.0	0	0.0	1	2.2	3	4.7
Formal probation only	0	0.0	1	2.6	2	4.4	2	3.1
Referred back to CYA	2	3.9	1	2.6	1	2.2	1	1.6
All others ^b	6	11.8	3	7.9	4	8.7	4	6.3
Total	51	100.0	38	100.0	46	100.0	64	100.0

^aFour groups are distinguished: (1) "V-Commit., V-Prior" (violent commitment offense; 1 or more violent prior arrests); (2) "V-Commit., NV-Prior" (violent commitment offense; no violent prior arrests); (3) "NV-Commit., V-Prior" (non-violent commitment offense; 1 or more violent prior arrests); (4) "NV-Commit., NV-Prior" (non-violent commitment offense; no violent prior arrests).

^bCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff.

prison; the latter individuals had roughly a 1 to 1 chance. Similar results were obtained when state prison was compared to all local dispositions combined.

The role of violence, in particular, was more directly reflected in two more specific comparisons:

2. By comparing group 1 with group 3 the following was found. Individuals who had a violent commitment offense and at least 1 violent prior arrest had a substantially greater chance of being sent to state prison than those who had not had a violent commitment offense but who, like the former, did have at least 1 prior violent arrest (the "chances" were 66.7% and 41.3%, respectively).² This--unsurprisingly--supports the idea that violent commitment offenses increase the chance that individuals will be sent to state prison, despite those individuals' already-existing history of prior violent arrests.

3. Finally, by comparing group 2 with group 3 the following was observed. Individuals who had a violent commitment offense but no violent prior arrests had a substantially greater chance of being sent to state prison than those who had a nonviolent commitment offense and at least 1 violent prior arrest (the "chances" were 68.4% vs. 41.3%, respectively).³ This suggests that, with respect to the sentencing-options in question (state prison vs. local dispositions), the existence of a violent commitment offense may be more important than that of 1 or more violent prior arrests.

APPENDIX J

Prior Violent Arrests of Cases Rejected Due to Lack of Adequate Facilities, by Ethnicity

Prior Violent Arrests	YA Action and Ethnicity									
	Inadequate Facilities-Rejects									
	White		Spanish		Black		All Others		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
None	46	82.1	14	41.2	25	38.5	0	0.0	85	53.8
One	8	14.3	13	38.2	21	32.3	3	100.0	45	28.5
Two or more	2	3.6	7	20.6	19	29.2	0	0.0	28	17.7
TOTAL	56	100.0	34	100.0	65	100.0	3	100.0	158	100.0

APPENDIX K

Ethnicity of Rejected and Accepted Cases, by Violence/Non-violence Grouping of Commitment Offense and Prior Arrests

Ethnicity	Violence/Non-violence Group ^a								Total	
	Rejected Cases									
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)			
	V-Commit., V-Prior		V-Commit., NV-Prior		NV-Commit., V-Prior		NV-Commit., NV-Prior			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	3	5.9	16	42.1	11	23.9	38	59.4	68	34.2
Spanish-surnamed	16	31.4	11	28.9	12	26.1	7	10.9	46	23.1
Black	29	56.9	11	28.9	23	50.0	19	29.7	82	41.2
All Others	3	5.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.5
Total	51	100.0	38	100.0	46	100.0	64	100.0	199	100.0

	Accepted Cases									
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
White	7	21.9	25	22.9	5	22.7	70	55.6	107	37.0
Spanish-surnamed	5	15.6	34	31.2	8	36.4	29	23.0	76	26.3
Black	19	59.4	45	41.3	9	40.9	23	18.3	96	33.2
All Others	1	3.1	5	4.6	0	0.0	4	3.2	10	3.5
Total	32	100.0	109	100.0	22	100.0	126	100.0	289	100.0

^aSee Appendix I, Table 2.

APPENDIX L

Relationship Between Presence/Use of Weapon During Commitment
Offense and Enhancements as well as Violence in Connection
with That Offense, for Cases Rejected by the Youth Authority

Part I: Relationship between Presence/Use of Weapon during Commitment Offense and Enhancements in Connection with That Offense

Presence/Use of Weapon	Enhancements					
	None or Unknown		One or More		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weapon Used	33	21.0	31	73.8	64	32.2
Present but Not Used	8	5.1	11	26.2	19	9.5
No Weapon Present	116	73.9	0	0.0	116	58.3
Total	157	100.0	42	100.0	199	100.0

Continued

APPENDIX L, (Continued)

Part II: Relationship Between Presence/Use of Weapon During Commitment Offense and Violent/Non-violent Nature of That Offense

Presence/Use of Weapon	Commitment Offense					
	Violent		Non-violent		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Weapon Used	54	60.7	10	9.1	64	32.2
Present but Not Used	10	11.2	9	8.2	19	9.5
No Weapon Present	25	28.1	91	82.7	116	58.3
Total	89	100.0	110	100.0	199	100.0

Part III: Relationship Between Enhancements in Connection with Commitment Offense and Violent/Non-violent Nature of That Offense

Enhancements	Commitment Offense					
	Violent		Non-violent		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
None or Unknown	53	59.6	104	94.5	157	78.9
One or More	36	40.4	6	5.5	42	21.1
Total	89	100.0	110	100.0	199	100.0

APPENDIX M

Frequency Distribution of Screening Scores by Disposition for Rejected Cases, by Ethnicity

Screening Score	Disposition: State Prison									
	White		Spanish		Black		Other		Total ^a	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
12-13	4	15.4	4	18.2	9	20.4	1	33.3	18	18.9
14-15	5	19.2	7	31.8	4	9.1	0	0.0	16	16.8
16-17	5	19.2	2	9.1	8	18.2	2	66.7	17	17.9
18-19	4	15.4	4	18.2	10	22.7	0	0.0	18	18.9
20-21	4	15.4	0	0.0	3	6.8	0	0.0	7	7.4
22-24	3	11.5	3	13.6	4	9.1	0	0.0	10	10.5
25-29	1	3.8	0	0.0	4	9.1	0	0.0	5	5.3
30-36	0	0.0	2	9.1	2	4.5	0	0.0	4	4.2
Total	26	100.0	22	100.0	44	100.0	3	100.0	95	100.0

^aAn additional 13 cases (2 White, 8 Spanish, 3 Black) had no screening scores. These were material-benefit rejectees.

(Continued)

APPENDIX M, (Continued)

Screening Scores	Disposition: Jail plus Probation									
	White		Spanish		Black		Other		Total ^a	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
12-13	6	27.3	2	22.2	6	26.1	0	-	14	25.9
14-15	4	18.2	5	55.6	6	26.1	0	-	15	27.8
16-17	4	18.2	1	11.1	4	17.4	0	-	9	16.7
18-19	2	9.1	1	11.1	5	21.7	0	-	8	14.8
20-21	3	13.6	0	0.0	1	4.3	0	-	4	7.4
22-24	3	13.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	3	5.6
25-29	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.3	0	-	1	1.9
30-36	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0	0.0
Total	22	100.0	9	100.0	23	100.0	0	-	54	100.0

^aAn additional 5 cases (4 White, 1 Black) had no screening scores. These were material-benefit rejectees.

(Continued)

APPENDIX M, (Continued)

Screening Scores	Disposition: County Jail									
	White		Spanish		Black		Other		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
12-13	1	25.0	0	-	0	0.0	0	-	1	20.0
14-15	1	25.0	0	-	0	0.0	0	-	1	20.0
16-17	2	50.0	0	-	1	100.0	0	-	3	60.0
18-19	0	0.0	0	-	0	0.0	0	-	0	0.0
20-21	0	0.0	0	-	0	0.0	0	-	0	0.0
22-24	0	0.0	0	-	0	0.0	0	-	0	0.0
25-29	0	0.0	0	-	0	0.0	0	-	0	0.0
30-36	0	0.0	0	-	0	0.0	0	-	0	0.0
Total	4	100.0	0	-	1	100.0	0	-	5	100.0

(Continued)

APPENDIX M, (Continued)

Screening Scores	Disposition: Formal Probation									
	White		Spanish		Black		Other		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
12-13	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	-	0	-	1	20.0
14-15	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0	-	0	0.0
16-17	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	-	0	-	1	20.0
18-19	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	-	0	-	1	20.0
20-21	1	50.0	1	33.3	0	-	0	-	2	40.0
22-24	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0	-	0	0.0
25-29	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0	-	0	0.0
30-36	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0	-	0	0.0
Total	2	100.0	3	100.0	0	-	0	-	5	100.0

(Continued)

APPENDIX M, (Continued)

Screening Score	Disposition: Referred back to CYA									
	White		Spanish		Black		Other		Total ^a	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
12-13	2	66.7	0	0.0	0	-	0	-	2	50.0
14-15	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0	-	0	0.0
16-17	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0	-	0	0.0
18-19	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	-	0	-	1	25.0
20-21	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0	-	0	0.0
22-24	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0	-	0	0.0
25-29	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0	-	0	0.0
30-36	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	-	0	-	1	25.0
Total	3	100.0	1	100.0	0	-	0	-	4	100.0

^aOne additional case (a Spanish-surnamed) had no screening score. This individual was a material-benefit rejectee.

(Continued)

APPENDIX M, (Continued)

Screening Scores	Disposition: All Others ^a									
	White		Spanish		Black		Other		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
12-13	1	20.0	0	0.0	2	20.0	0	-	3	17.6
14-15	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	20.0	0	-	2	11.8
16-17	1	20.0	0	0.0	1	10.0	0	-	2	11.8
18-19	3	60.0	1	50.0	2	20.0	0	-	6	35.3
20-21	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	-	1	5.9
22-24	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0	0.0
25-29	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	10.0	0	-	1	5.9
30-36	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	20.0	0	-	2	11.8
Total	5	100.0	2	100.0	10	100.0	0	-	17	100.0

^aCDC 90-day diagnostic (3 cases); final disposition still pending or unknown, as of data-cutoff (14 cases).

APPENDIX N

Type of Commitment Offense for Rejected and Accepted Cases by County of Commitment

Type of Commitment Offense	Action and County					
	Rejected Cases					
	Los Angeles		All Others		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Murder/Manslaughter	7	6.9	2	2.0	9	4.5
Robbery	29	28.7	23	23.5	52	26.1
Assault (severe)	8	7.9	10	10.2	18	9.1
Assault (other)	2	2.0	1	1.0	3	1.5
Burglary	38	37.6	40	40.8	78	39.2
Theft	7	6.9	14	14.3	21	10.6
Rape (violent)	3	3.0	2	2.0	5	2.5
Other sex	1	1.0	1	1.0	2	1.0
Drugs	3	3.0	2	2.0	5	2.5
Misc. Felony	3	3.0	3	3.0	6	3.0
Misc. Other ^a	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	101	100.0	98	100.0	199	100.0

(Continued)

APPENDIX N, (Continued)

Type of Commitment Offense	Action and County					
	Accepted Cases					
	Los Angeles		All Others		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Murder/Manslaughter	1	0.8	3	1.9	4	1.4
Robbery	50	38.2	42	26.6	92	31.8
Assault (severe)	10	7.6	13	8.2	23	8.0
Assault (other)	4	3.1	3	1.9	7	2.4
Burglary	46	35.1	62	39.2	108	37.4
Theft	2	1.5	22	13.9	24	8.3
Rape (violent)	6	4.6	7	4.4	13	4.5
Other sex	1	0.8	1	0.6	2	0.7
Drugs	8	6.1	2	1.3	10	3.5
Misc. Felony	3	2.3	3	1.9	6	2.1
Misc. Other ^a	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	131	100.0	158	100.0	289	100.0

^aIncludes: Miscellaneous misdemeanors; Welfare and Institutions Code offenses.

APPENDIX O

County of Commitment of Rejected and Accepted Cases,
by Violence/Non-violence Grouping of Commitment
Offense and Prior Arrests

County	Violence/Non-violence Group ^a							
	Rejected Cases							
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)	
	V-Commit., V-Prior		V-Commit., NV-Prior		NV-Commit., V-Prior		NV-Commit., NV-Prior	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Los Angeles	29	56.9	21	55.3	25	54.3	26	40.6
All Others	22	43.1	17	44.7	21	45.7	38	59.4
Total	51	100.0	38	100.0	46	100.0	64	100.0
	Accepted Cases							
	Los Angeles		All Others		Total			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Los Angeles	16	50.0	56	51.4	8	36.4	51	40.5
All Others	16	50.0	53	48.6	14	63.6	75	59.5
Total	32	100.0	109	100.0	22	100.0	126	100.0

^aSee Appendix I, Table 2.

APPENDIX P

Disposition of Rejected Cases by Ethnicity and County of Commitment

Disposition	Ethnicity and County									
	(1) White		(2) Spanish-surnamed		(3) Black		(4) Other		(5) Total	
	Los Angeles No. %	All Others No. %	Los Angeles No. %	All Others No. %	Los Angeles No. %	All Others No. %	Los Angeles No. %	All Others No. %	Los Angeles No. %	All Others No. %
State prison	12 54.5	16 34.8	16 69.6	14 60.9	34 61.8	13 48.1	1 100.0	2 100.0	63 62.4	45 45.9
Jail followed by formal probation	5 22.7	21 45.7	2 8.7	7 30.4	15 27.3	9 33.3	0 0.0	0 0.0	22 21.8	37 37.8
County jail only	1 4.5	3 6.5	0 0.0	0 0.0	1 1.8	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	2 2.0	3 3.1
Formal probation only	2 9.1	0 0.0	2 8.7	1 4.3	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	4 4.0	1 1.0
Referred back to CYA	1 4.5	2 4.3	2 8.7	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	3 3.0	2 2.0
All others ^a	1 4.5	4 8.7	1 4.3	1 4.3	5 9.1	5 18.5	0 0.0	0 0.0	7 6.9	10 10.2
Total	22 100.0	46 100.0	23 100.0	23 100.0	55 100.0	27 100.0	1 100.0	2 100.0	101 100.0	98 100.0

^aCDC 90-day diagnostic; final disposition still pending, as of data-cutoff.

APPENDIX Q

Relationships Among Selected Variables, for Rejected and Accepted Cases

Variables^a

	Sex	Ethnicity	High. Grade Completed	Court of Commitment	Commitment Offense ^b	Commit. Offense Group ^c	County of Commitment	Reason for Rejection ^d
Age	.07(.01)	-.06(-.01)	.03(.14)	.00(-.01)	.03(.07)	.05(.02)	.03(.09)	.15(-) ^e
Sex		-.02(.00)	-.08(-.04)	.00(-.01)	.07(-.04)	.09(-.05)	.04(-.04)	.14(-)
Ethnicity			.07(.19)	.00(.00)	-.09(-.33)	-.20(-.30)	-.13(-.13)	.02(-)
Highest Grade Completed				.00(-.08)	-.06(-.13)	-.02(-.09)	-.09(-.03)	.07(-)
Court of Commitment					.00(.04)	.00(.00)	.00(.09)	.00(-)
Commitment Offense						.74(.71)	.03(.09)	-.08(-)
Commitment Offense Group							.01(.12)	-.09(-)
County of Commitment								.16(-)

^aN = 199 for rejected cases (except for highest grade completed [N = 192]).

N = 289 for accepted cases (except for highest grade completed [N = 277]).

Correlations for rejected cases appear first, within any given cell; those for accepted cases appear next (in parentheses), within the same cell. All correlations are Pearson's r's. (Kendall Tau correlations were very similar.) For rejected cases, $p \leq .05$ and $p \leq .01$ require a correlation of .14 or greater and .18 or greater, respectively. For accepted cases, $p \leq .05$ and $p \leq .01$ require a correlation of .11 or greater and .15 or greater, respectively.

^bTen types of offense (murder/manslaughter; robbery; etc.). See Table 29 for complete listing of these types.

^cCommitment offense grouped into violent and nonviolent offenses. See p. 23 for definitions.

^dReasons are: inadequate facilities; lack of material benefit; all other. See Table 23.

^eNot applicable for accepted cases.

APPENDIX R

Relationships Among Selected Variables, for Rejected and Accepted Cases Combined

Variables^a

	Sex	Ethnicity	High Grade Completed	Court of Commitment	Commitment Offense ^b	Commit. Offense Group ^c	County of Commitment	Reason for Rejection ^d
Age	.02	-.02	.08	-.01	.05	.04	.04	-.03
Sex		-.01	-.05	-.01	.00	-.01	-.02	.08
Ethnicity			.15	.00	-.23	-.25	-.14	-.04
Highest Grade Completed				-.07	-.10	-.06	-.02	.01
Court of Commitment					.03	.00	.07	.05
Commitment Offense						.72	.06	.04
Commitment Offense Group							.07	-.04
County of Commitment								.05

^aN = 488 for rejected plus accepted cases combined, except for highest grade completed (N = 469). All correlations are Pearson r's. p ≤ .05 and p ≤ .01 require a correlation of .09 or greater and .12 or greater, respectively.

^bSee Appendix Q, note b.

^cSee Appendix Q, note c.

^dSee Appendix Q, note d.

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