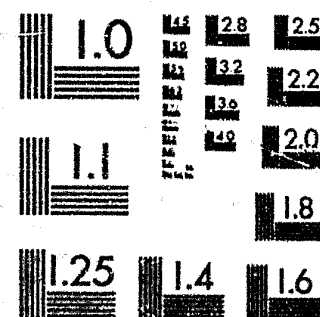


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THE JUVENILE OFFENDER:
A PAROLE PROFILE

March 1983

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Introduction

The statutory responsibility of the New York State Division of Parole is to determine the time and the conditions of release, and to supervise upon release those persons serving an indeterminate sentence in State and local correctional facilities. This responsibility was extended by the enactment of Chapter 481 of the Laws of 1978 to include those 13-, 14-, and 15-year olds, convicted and sentenced in adult Criminal Court to an indeterminate term in a secure State Division for Youth facility. Since the inception of the new law, the Division of Parole with the cooperation and assistance of the Division for Youth, has carried out this mandate to set the release of and to supervise this new and younger population.

The Division of Parole has been better able to meet these new responsibilities, to a significant degree, because of the funding supplied through the Division of Criminal Justice Services from the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Fund. This funding has supported a diverse effort which included the establishment of a unique set of Parole Board release guidelines, the development of a discrete computer file, the presentation of a juvenile-oriented training program for parole officers as well as the implementation of a pilot supervision program characterized by intensive pre-release intervention, increased family contact, reduced caseload size (1:25) and a full-time resource specialist to identify and broker services for this younger clientele.

In the continuing effort to meet the new statutory responsibilities, the Division recognizes the uniqueness of each client and the individual consideration necessary for each case, while at the same time, acknowledges the usefulness of identifying broad categories of characteristics, needs and problem areas for the purpose of making policy and program adjustments to better supervise the Juvenile Offender. For that purpose, this study presents data collected over the duration of the more than four years since the enactment of the Juvenile Offender Law of 1978.

This demography includes the total Juvenile Offender releases to parole through December 15, 1982. There is an additional analysis of those Juvenile Offenders whose paroles have been revoked and who have been returned to State DFY facilities or to the Department of Correctional Services. Finally, there is a brief look at those Juvenile Offenders who have been discharged from parole supervision.

There were 239 cases which had been, or were about to be, released to parole supervision as of December 1982. In the intensive, active or non-reporting¹ status there were 137 (57%) Juvenile Offenders. Included in the 239 cases were fifteen (6%) cases in a status of community preparation,² eight (3%) in an absconder status and eighteen (8%) cases in a delinquent status. In addition to these categories, there were twenty-eight (12%) cases in the revoked and returned

¹ Non-reporting status includes those cases which for a variety of reasons (incarceration, hospitalization) cannot report to the supervising parole officer. These cases would otherwise be under active supervision. They are not considered to be in a delinquent status at that time.

² Community preparation status includes those cases which have not yet been released but which have an imminent parole eligibility date.

category as well as thirty-three (14%) cases which have been discharged from parole supervision. These various categories can be grouped according to positive, marginal, or negative adjustment. The marginal adjustment group includes the delinquent and absconder cases. These releasees are not considered to be parole violators at the present time, but are nevertheless in some jeopardy by virtue of some circumstance; for example, apparent failure to fulfill a condition of release. The Juvenile Offender parole population is presented below in Table 1:

Table 1: Juvenile Offender Releases
March 27, 1980 Through December 15, 1982

Supervision Status	Number		Percent	
Positive Adjustment				
Intensive	104		43%	
Active	22		9%	
Non-Reporting	11		5%	
Community Preparation	15		6%	
Discharged	33	<u>185</u>	14%	<u>77%</u>
Marginal Adjustment				
Delinquent	18		8%	
Absconder	8	<u>26</u>	3%	<u>11%</u>
Negative Adjustment				
Revoked And Returned	28	<u>28</u>	12%	<u>12%</u>
		<u>239</u>		<u>100%</u>

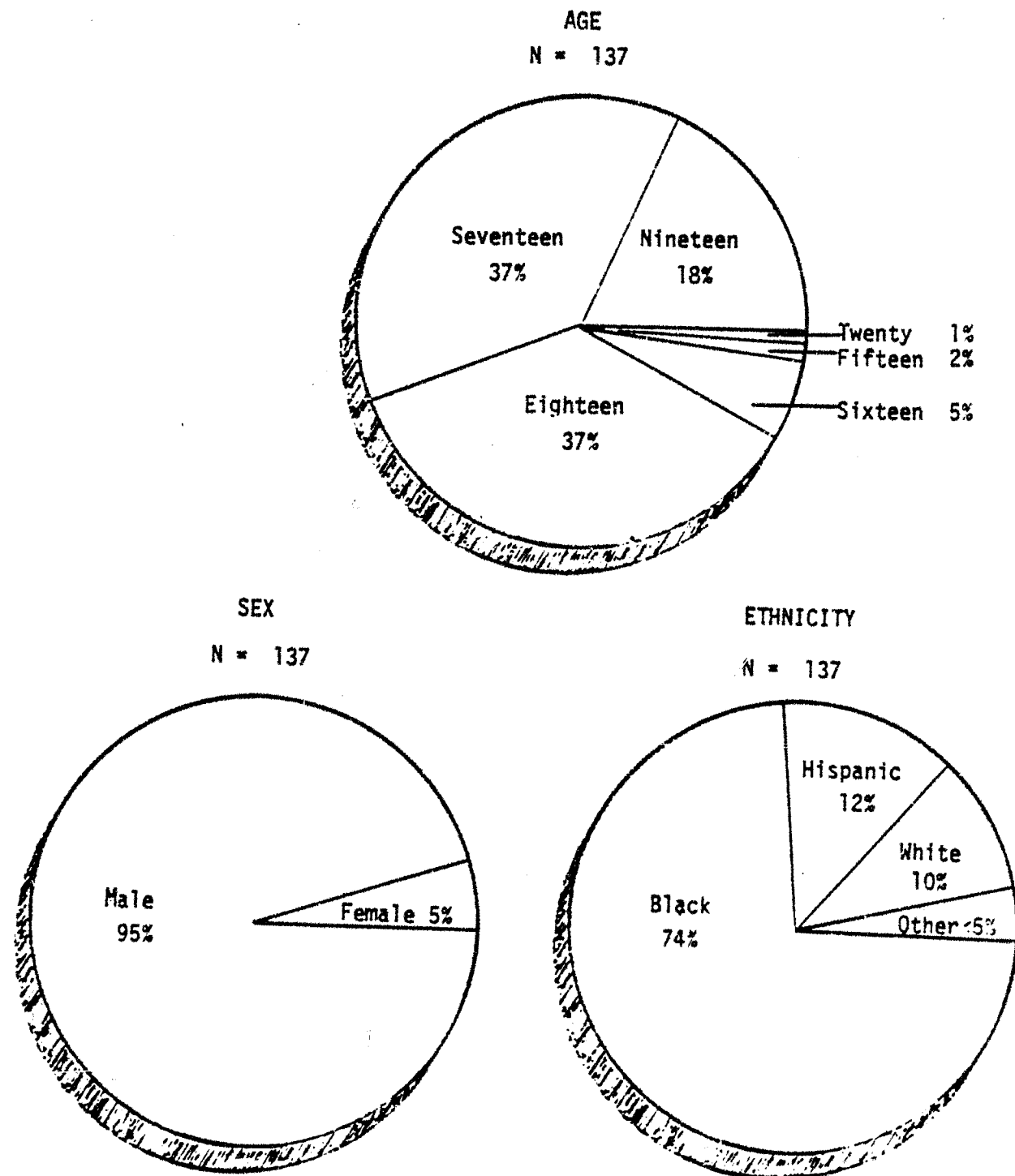
Age, Sex And Ethnicity

Of those Juvenile Offender releasees in an active, intensive or non-reporting status as of December 15, 1982, the typical Juvenile Offender parolee was male (95%), Black (74%), and 17 to 19-years old (92%).

Included in the releases were 5% females, 7% in the 15 and 16 years-of-age bracket with only 1% in the 20-year-old group. The releasees also included 12% Hispanic and 10% White youths.

Depicted below in Figure 1 are the distributions of these Juvenile Offenders according to age, sex and ethnicity:

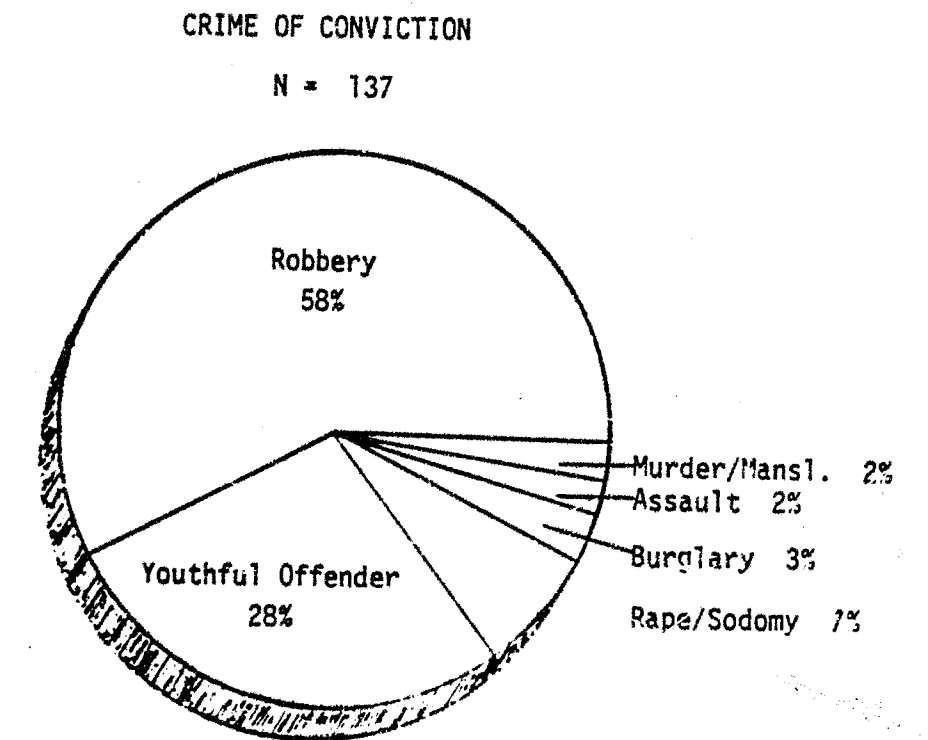
Figure 1:



Crime Of Conviction

Robbery 1° and 2° accounted for 58% of the convictions. An additional 28% had received the Youthful Offender adjudication with the remaining 14% convicted of a variety of other serious violent felonies including Rape/Sodomy (7%), Burglary (3%), Assault (2%), Murder/Manslaughter (2%). See the graphic distribution in Figure 2 below:

Figure 2:



Time In State DFY Facility

Eighty-six percent of these releasees had served two years or less in a State Division for Youth facility. More than one third of the releasees had served a year or less in a State facility. Ninety-eight percent had served no more than three years. Table 2 on the following page depicts this distribution by ethnicity and sex:

Table 2:

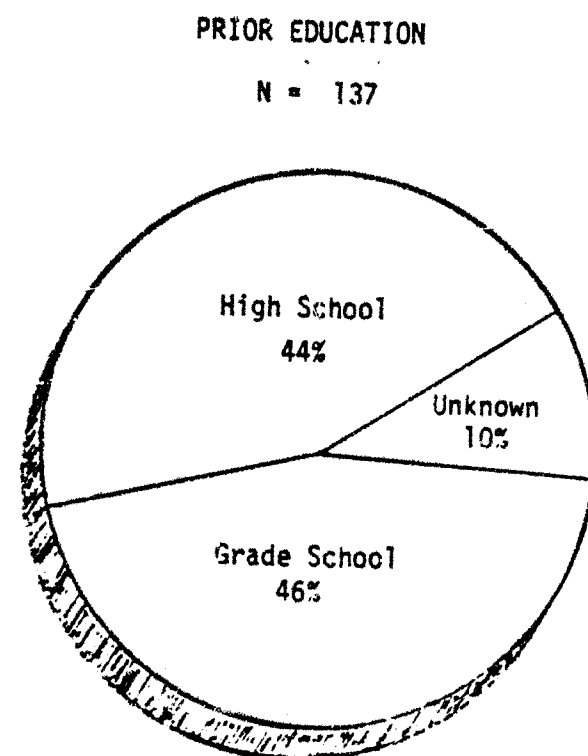
Cumulative Time In State
DFY Facility By Ethnicity And Sex

Months	Ethnicity And Sex										N	%
	Black		White		Hispanic		Other		Total			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
0-12	37	1	4	1	5	-	3	-	49	2	51	37%
13-24	50	1	7	1	8	-	-	-	65	2	67	49%
25-36	8	3	1	-	3	-	1	-	13	3	16	12%
37-48	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	3	2%
Total	96	5	12	2	17	-	5	-	130	7	137	100%

Prior Education

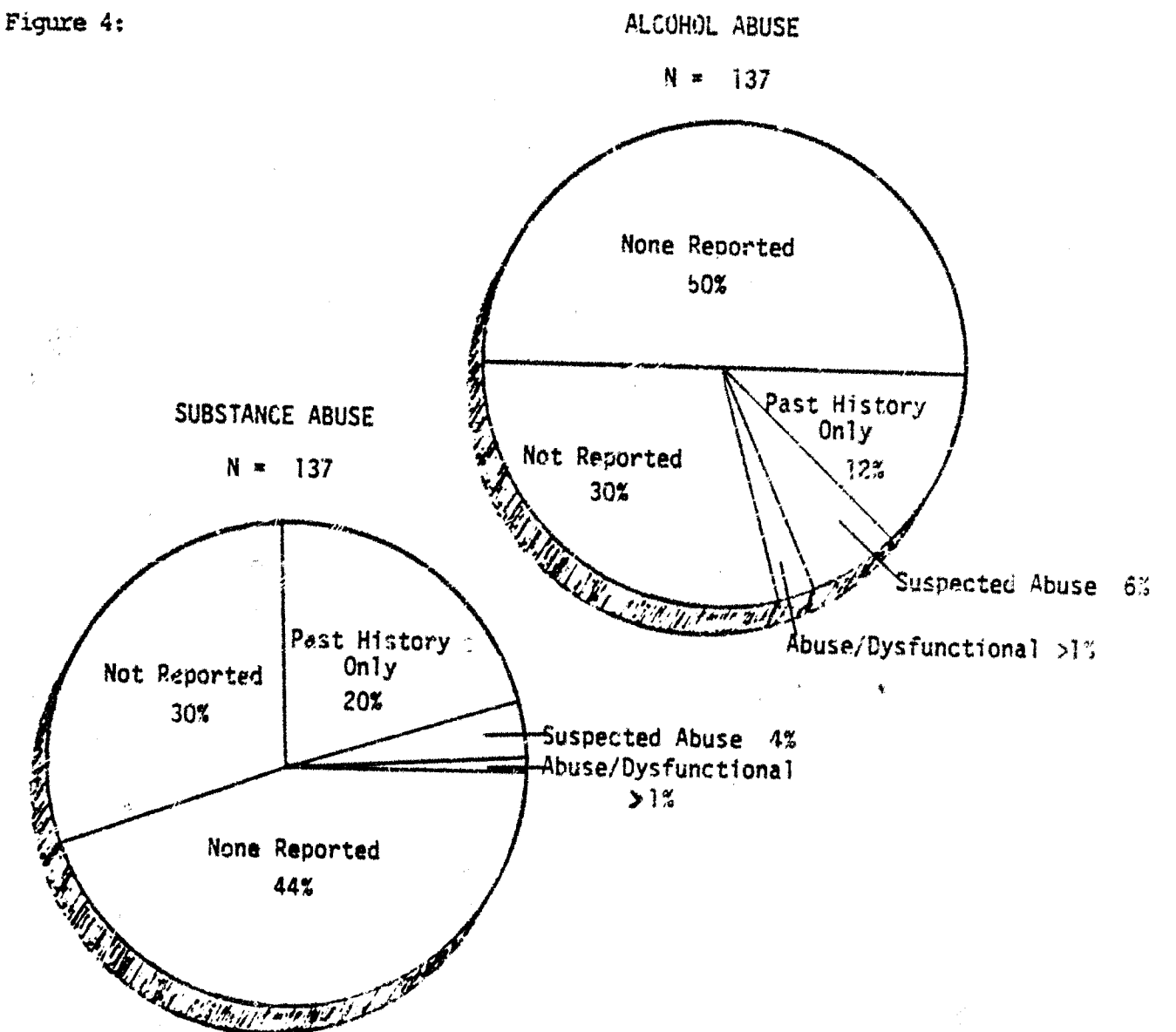
This category simply accentuates the fact that this population, for the most part, had not entered high school at the time of conviction. Forty-six percent of the Juvenile Offenders, upon entering a DFY facility had not completed a level beyond the eighth grade while 44% had completed at least one grade level in high school. The distribution is presented in Figure 3 below:

Figure 3:

Alcohol/Substance Abuse

Twenty percent of the releases have been reported to have had some involvement with alcohol while 25% have been reported to have had some degree of substance abuse. The category "None Reported" refers to a negative self-report or other negative evidence stated in the record. "Not reported" indicates that data have not been reported by the parole officers in charge in Juvenile Offender cases. The following two charts in Figure 4 depict the proportions in various categories:

Figure 4:



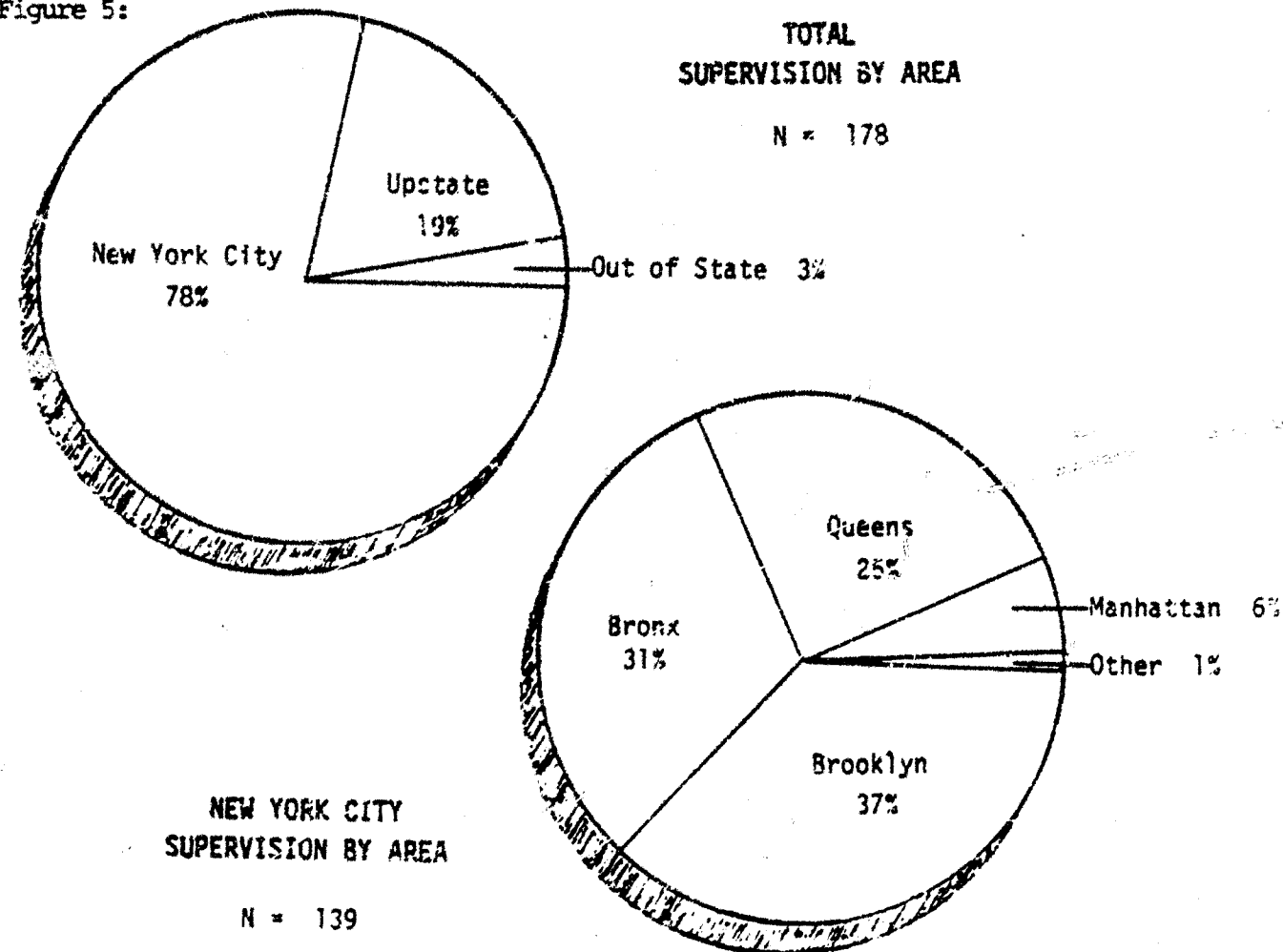
Area of Supervision

New York City Parole field staff was responsible for the supervision of 78% of the Juvenile Offenders. Nineteen per cent were being supervised in Upstate areas or on Long Island. Three percent of the Juvenile Offenders were being supervised in other states.

Of the 139 within New York City, 37% were Brooklyn-based, 31% were in the Bronx, 25% in Queens and 6% in Manhattan.

The Upstate and Long Island area offices were responsible for 34 (19%) Juvenile Offenders. The Albany area had 26% of these cases, Rochester 15%, Syracuse 12%, Poughkeepsie 9%, Buffalo 3%, Hempstead 18% with 17% unassigned. The distribution by area is shown below in Figure 5:

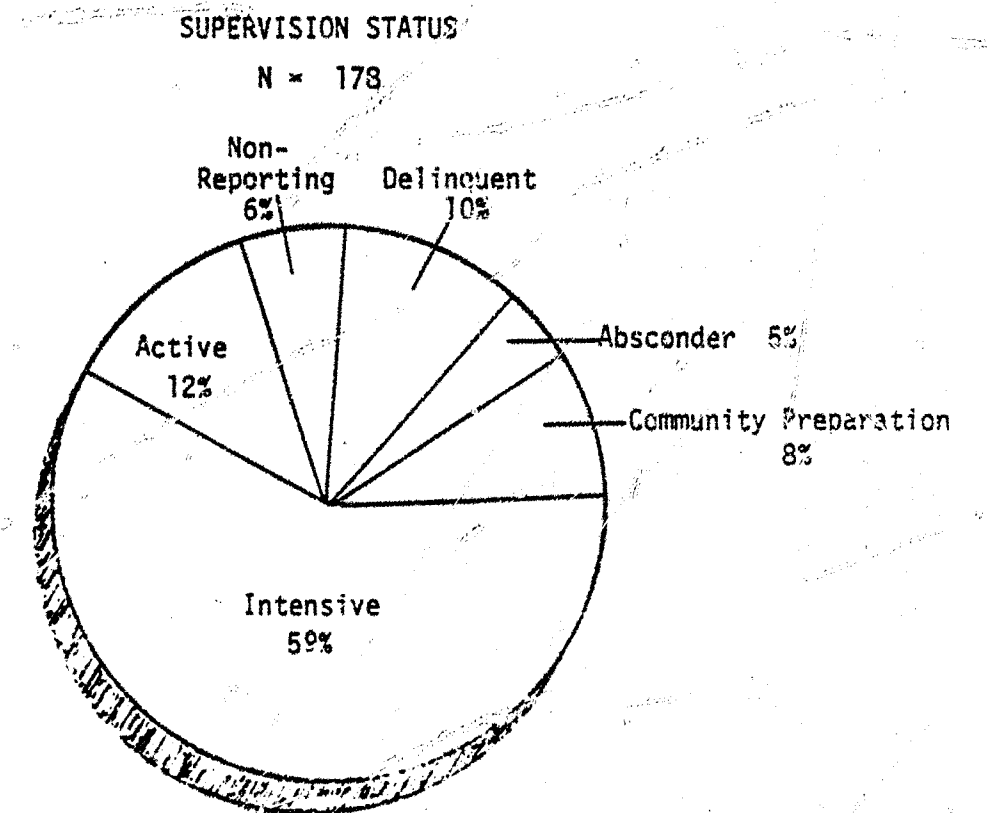
Figure 5:



Supervision Status

From the pre-release level of community preparation, the Juvenile Offender enters a status of intensive supervision from which he/she may proceed to the less intensive stage of active supervision for the duration of his/her sentence. Near the end of 1982, disregarding the discharged as well as the revoked and returned cases, 71% of the cases were in the intensive or active categories with 8% in a pre-release status. Eleven cases (6%) were reported to be in a non-reporting status; it was further reported that in all these cases, the non-reporting was due to incarceration. Eight J.O.'s (5%) were in an absconder status with eighteen (10%) reported to be in some delinquency. See Figure 6 below for the status of supervision:

Figure 6:



Program/Employment

Of those Juvenile Offenders in an active or non-reporting status in the State, 30% were reported to be in an educational or vocational program. Seventeen percent were employed; 23% were unemployed. A detailed break-down of the various categories of activity while under parole supervision is presented in Table 3 below:

Table 3:

Summary Program/Employment Categories Of Active And Non-Reporting State Cases By Ethnicity And Sex

N = 132
(Excludes out-of-state cases)

	Ethnicity								Sex				Total	
	Black		Hispanic		White		Other		Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Program/School	32	33%	4	25%	4	29%	-	-	39	31%	1	17%	40	30%
Receiving Assistance	-	-	-	-	1	7%	1	20%	1	1%	1	17%	2	2%
Employed	15	15%	3	19%	2	14%	2	40%	22	17%	-	-	22	17%
Unemployed	20	21%	6	38%	4	29%	1	20%	30	24%	1	17%	31	23%
Not Able to Work	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	20%	1	1%	-	-	1	1%
Detained	11	11%	1	6%	-	-	-	-	12	9%	-	-	12	9%
Unknown	19	20%	2	13%	3	21%	-	-	21	17%	3	50%	24	18%
Total	97	100%	16	100%	14	100%	5	100%	126	100%	6	100%	132	100%

* Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Revoked And Returned Juvenile Offenders

In the course of the period under study, 28 Juvenile Offenders had, for either substantial technical violations or because of a new conviction, had their paroles revoked; they had either been returned to a DFY facility or to a State adult correctional facility. In this group 96% were male, 86% were Black and 14% Hispanic; 89% were 17 or 18-years old at the time of revocation. Eighty-two percent had been released by the Board with the remainder being released after having reached the statutory conditional release date. New York City had been the original area of sentencing for 68% of these revokees with Upstate and Long Island having been responsible for the sentences of 32%.

The original crime of conviction for 54% of these cases was Robbery 1° or 2°; 39% of the revoked group had received a Youthful Offender adjudication with the remaining 7% having been convicted of Assault or Burglary.

The median time spent in a State Division for Youth facility by these revokees had been 16 months and the median time under supervision before revocation of parole had been 5 months.

Alcohol dependency was reported in 7% of the revoked group, with drug dependency noted in 29% of the cases.

At the time of violation, 54% of these Juvenile Offenders were reported to have been unemployed. With the employment/program status of 32% of these revokees unknown, 3% were reported to be employed and 11% were reported to have been in a school program.

Technical violations accounted for 79% of the returns, with 21% having been returned because of a new sentence.

Discharges From Parole Supervision

Thirty-three of those who had come onto parole supervision had reached the maximum date of the sentence imposed and had thus been discharged from parole jurisdiction. Seventy-nine percent of the discharges were Black, 12% Hispanic, 6% White and 3% Other. The average time (mean and mode) spent in a facility had been 17 months. Almost half (48%) of these discharged cases involved original convictions for Robbery with another one third (30%) adjudicated as Youthful Offenders. Approximately one fourth (24%) were employed full or part-time, with another 15% reported to be in college, another 6% in a vocational or a secondary educational program. Still, at the time of discharge 39% were reported to be unemployed; the remaining 15% were receiving public assistance or their program status was unknown. There was no indication of alcohol dependency, but 18% were reported to have some degree of controlled substance involvement.

Summary Conclusions

The majority of the Juvenile Offenders under parole jurisdiction are male (95%), Black (74%) and between 17 and 19 years of age. Most had not yet entered high school at the time of conviction; most had been convicted of Robbery and approximately one fourth were reported to have had some degree of controlled substance abuse with slightly fewer reported to have manifested some degree of alcohol abuse.

A comparison of those apparently successful to date under supervision with those whose paroles had been revoked showed that there were 74% Black in the first group and 86% Black in the revoked group. The successful group was slightly older, 26% above the age of 18 with only 4% above that age in the revoked group; in the

older group, however, only 44% were reported to have finished at least one grade in high school prior to detention, while in the revoked group, 61% were reported to have done so. There was reported substance dependency in 29% of the revoked cases compared with 5% suspected or known abuse in the successful cases with the alcohol dependency somewhat the same.

The most striking disparity between the profiles was in the program/employment categories. In the active categories, 47% were either employed or in a vocational or educational program, while in the revoked group, only 14% were reported to be employed or in a school or vocational program at the time of violation. Fifty-four percent of the revokees were reported to have been unemployed at the time of violation while only 23% of those under continuing supervision were so categorized.

This analysis seems to point to the need for intensive pre-release intervention and initial intensive supervision with the purpose of obviating likely violations within the first six months on parole. These early interventions should be aimed at establishing a relationship with the youth, and his/her family if appropriate, at setting up in cooperation with the parolee a job or a vocational or educational program, and at addressing any drug dependency problems or other counseling needs.

The degree of successful reintegration of the youth into the larger society was, no doubt, affected by a myriad of factors, some of which may be attributable to Division for Youth counseling and programming, and to the extension and refinement of these activities and efforts by the Division of Parole. It would seem appropriate that the two Divisions try, in time, to determine the correlation between the programs and strategies of their respective agencies and the positive reintegration of this shared client.

END