

Juvenile Justice Trends and Projections Philadelphia 1994-2003

Peter R. Jones
Philip W. Harris
Jamie J. Fader

May, 2002

**Temple University
Crime and Justice Research Center
1515 Market Street, Suite 425
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102**

Acknowledgements

ProDES is fully funded by the City of Philadelphia Department of Human Services, Division of Juvenile Justice Services. We would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of Commissioner Alba Martinez, Deputy Commissioner Anne Marie Ambrose, Jim Randolph, and Mark Maher.

In addition, *ProDES* could not be possible without the continued support of many people at Philadelphia Family Court, including Administrative Judge Myrna Field; Supervising Judge Frank Reynolds; Chief Ken Hale; Deputy Chief Denise Ray; and John Buggy, among many others.

This report could not have been possible without the assistance of the many *ProDES* staff members responsible for the provision of data and ongoing project support, including: Tina Bourne, Aisha Cain, Heidi Currie, Joanna Fiorentini, Jennifer Fratello, Kim Glassman, Marna Goodman, Samantha Longdin, Chris Park, Laina Smallwood, Diamond Thomas, Damaris Torres, Marangelie Vasquez, and Donna Wolf.

Juvenile Justice Trends and Projections Philadelphia 1994-2003

Contents	Page
1. Executive Summary	4
2. Intake Trends	
<i>Juvenile Characteristics</i>	
2.1. Gender	6
2.2. Race	7
2.3. Age	8
2.4. Substance Abuse: Juvenile	9
2.5. Special Needs: Mental Health/Sex Offenders	10
<i>Family Characteristics</i>	
2.6. Family Criminality	11
2.7. Family Alcohol Abuse	12
2.8. Family Drug Abuse	13
2.9. Living Arrangements	14
2.10. Area of Residence	15
<i>Case Characteristics</i>	
2.11. Delinquent History: Prior Arrests	16
2.12. Type of Offense	17
<i>Resource Utilization</i>	
2.13. Total Dispositions to Aftercare Programs	18
2.14. Total Dispositions to Day Treatment and Institutional Programs	19
2.15. Dispositions to Drug & Alcohol Programs And Trends In Drug Abuse Program	20
2.16. Modality: Treatments on the rise	21
2.17. Program Modality: Treatments in Decline	22
3. Discharge trends	
3.1. Self Esteem	23
3.2. Values	23
3.3. Family Bonding: Caring and Trust	24
3.4. School Bonding: School Attachment	25
3.5. Needs Assessment	25
3.6. Type of Discharge	26
3.7. Appropriate Client	27
3.8. Arrests and AWOLs	27
3.9. Time in Program	28
4. Follow-Up trends	
4.1. New Petitions	29
4.2. Committed To More Secure Program	30
4.3. Parental Opinions	30

Juvenile Justice Trends and Projections Philadelphia 1994-2003

Executive Summary

This report provides an examination of trends from 1995 to 2001 in juvenile justice caseloads for Philadelphia. The data have been obtained from the *ProDES* system and comprise all juveniles adjudicated delinquent in Philadelphia Family Court since January 1994 and given a disposition to a private or state program (the data on state - DPW - cases begins October, 1995). Not included are those juveniles given dispositions of regular juvenile probation.

The data are presented in three sections – intake, discharge and follow-up. The intake section describes trends in the characteristics of the monthly cohorts of juveniles entering different programs. The discharge section focuses upon their experiences during the programs. The follow-up section reports on behavior among each cohort six months following discharge from the program.

Key findings are as follows:¹

Intake:

1. The number of juveniles with drug abuse problems – and especially those with chronic drug abuse problems - has increased along with the total population. In contrast the number of Drug and Alcohol program placements has remained at about 18 per month. The projections show that in 2003 more than 100 juveniles each month will be assessed by probation officers as having ‘chronic’ drug problems and during the same time period less than 20 will be placed in a drug and alcohol program.
2. There is evidence that several types of program modality are in decline – foster care, mixed counseling and school based programs are projected to receive fewer juveniles in 2003 than in prior years.
3. In contrast, there are other modalities experiencing significant growth in caseloads – guided group interaction, mental retardation, mentoring and boot camp approaches have all increased in numbers since 1995. The increase in mentoring is somewhat misleading since it reflects an increase in the use of a single program classified as ‘mentoring’ even though many of the commits do not receive what could be described as mentoring intervention.
4. The projected monthly number of juvenile sex offenders in 2003 is three times the number entering all programs in 1995.
5. In general there has been an increase in the number of juveniles with special needs. Juveniles assessed by probation officers as having a history of mental health problems doubled from 33 in 1995 to 65 in 2001 and is projected to reach 70 per month in 2003.
6. The number of juveniles with both parents at home is rising slowly, as is juveniles from homes with only the father present. Fastest growing is the number of juveniles from homes with neither natural parent.
7. The rate of increase in juveniles with a prior record is rising almost twice as fast as it is for first time offenders. The rate of increase is fastest for juveniles with 3 or more priors.
8. Juveniles petitioned on drug offenses increased their proportion of the caseload from 18% in 1995 to

1 For each of the measures examined a series of exponential smoothing models were run to identify the ‘best fit’. Using this optimal model caseload projections through to the end of 2003 were estimated. In all cases the projections are based upon the assumption that past trends will continue through 2003.

25% by 1999. Juveniles petitioned for offenses against the person have consistently comprised just below 40% of the total caseload during the study period. Property offenses make up a smaller proportion of the caseload in 2001 (30%) than they did in 1995 (40%).

9. Institutional placements have risen steadily; Day treatment caseloads remained more or less stable until 2001(when they increased sharply); Drug and Alcohol caseloads have been stable.
10. There appears to have been a recent increase in the use made of mentoring programs – though this is largely an artifact of increased commitments to one program.
11. Boot camps hardly existed prior to 1996 but had become a popular option by 1999. In 2001 the monthly numbers dropped off slightly and are projected to decline even more by 2003.
12. The monthly number of juveniles in school based programs has dropped 31% since 1994. Similar patterns are found for foster care and mixed counseling programs.

Discharge:

13. Program completion rates did not change for the period 1994 to 1998 but experienced a distinct upturn from 1998 through 2000. The forecast is for program completion rates to touch 70% for 2002 intakes – a significant increase from rates of below 50% during the early years of the study period.
14. The trend for discharges due to arrest/AWOLs is downward.
15. The proportion of ‘appropriate’ clients at discharge has hovered around 75% for almost the entire study period. The forecast suggests no change for the next few years.
16. Programs report data on arrests and AWOLs while in the program. The arrest figures have dropped from a high of about 12% during 1994 to a projected 2% or less for intake cohorts during 2002. The AWOL figures have also fallen – from a high of 55% during 1994 to a projected 30% for intake cohorts during 2002.
17. The average amount of time juveniles spend in programs has declined. The trend in programs stays of 9 or more months is down from around 50% for much of 1994 through 1997 to a projected 35% for the 2002 intake cohort.

Follow-Up:

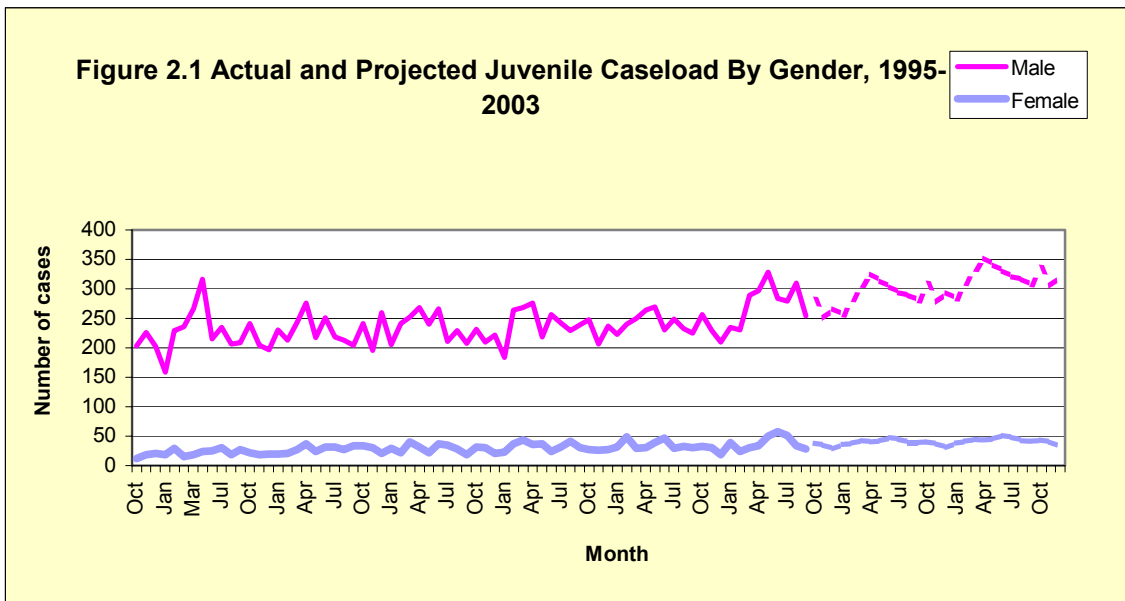
18. Data on new petitions for offenses committed while in a program show the rate to have fallen from around 15% in 1994 to a projected 1 to 2% among 2002 intakes. The new petition rate for offenses committed within 6 months of discharge has remained stable – averaging around 25% in 1994 and projected to remain there for the 2002 intake cohort.
19. The proportion of parents reporting the program to be ‘helpful’ or ‘extremely helpful’ has declined slowly but consistently from over 70% in the early years to around 60% in 2000 and a projected 55% for the 2002 intake cohort.
20. Parental recommendation of the program to friends or neighbors has also declined slowly – from above 80% during the early years of the study period to 75% in 2000.
21. Parental satisfaction with the juvenile probation officer has increased slightly during the study period – from around 60-65% for much of 1994 to 70% by 2000.

Intake Trends Juvenile Characteristics

2.1 Gender

As the total caseload size increases it is evident that the proportion of females in the delinquent population remains more or less constant at about 11 percent. The number of males has increased steadily from a monthly average of around 142 in 1994 to 278 in 2001 and is projected to be 321 in 2003 (well over double the 1994 figure). During the same time period the female monthly caseload has increased from 18 in 1994 to 39 in 2001 and to a projected 43 in 2003 (a similar increase of more than double the 1994 figure).

There are distinct and slightly different seasonal patterns to both series. For males, the ‘low’ months are February and April with December and March also well below average. For females March is by far the lowest month, followed by February, April and May. The peak monthly caseload for males occurs in June/July; for females it is September/October.



Year	Males		Females	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
1995*	631	635	51	55
1996	2714	2721	266	266
1997	2764	2773	337	301
1998	2784	2820	345	339
1999	2867	2833	383	374
2000	2880	2903	399	410
2001**	2506	3103	348	444
2002		3530		479
2003		3855		514

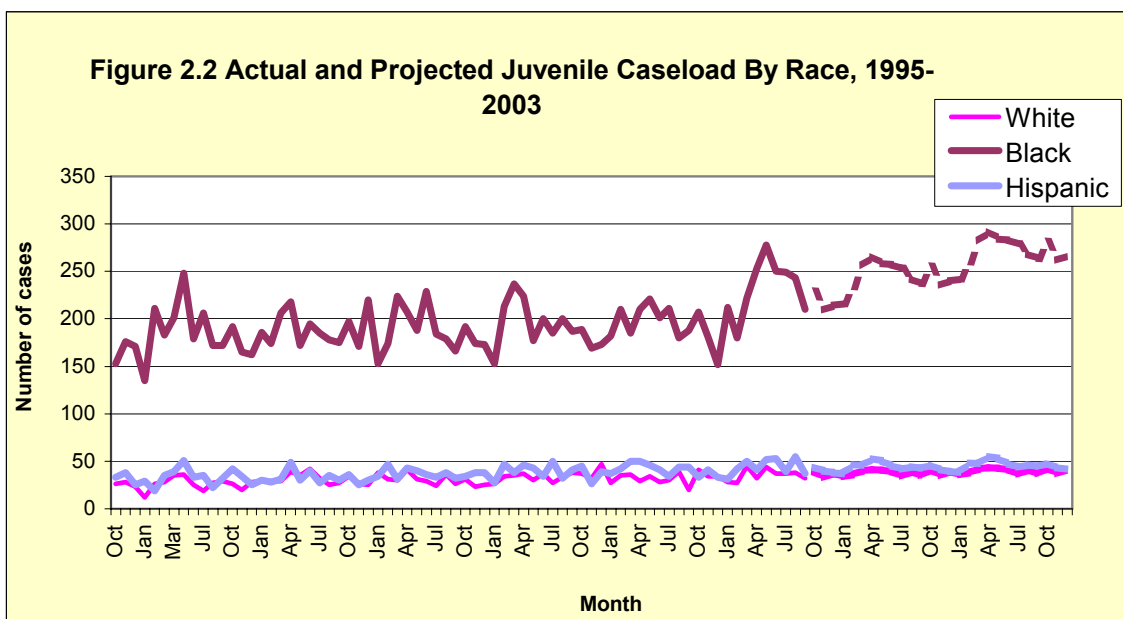
* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec).

** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

2.2. Race

The racial composition of the juvenile delinquent caseload has changed only slightly during the survey period. The number of white, black and Latino youths has increased, though not always at the same rate. As a consequence black youths comprised almost 75% of the caseload in 1995 and about 72% in 2000 before increasing again in 2001 and projected to increase back to about 76% by 2003. The proportion of white youths has remained close to about 11 or 12% throughout the period – and is forecast to remain there through 2003. The proportion of Latinos increased slightly from about 14% in 1995 to almost 16% in 2000 before falling back in 2001 to just over 12%. Latinos are projected to comprise about 13% of the total caseload in 2003.

There are significant and similar seasonal patterns to the trends for all three races – with each peaking in June-August and hitting monthly ‘lows’ in February-April and December.



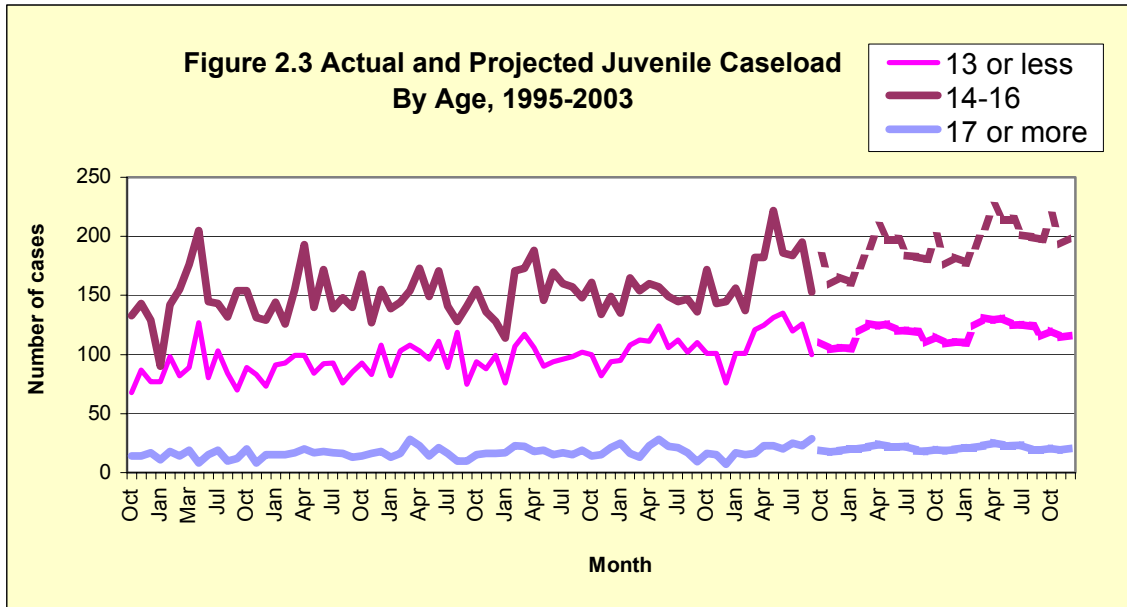
Year	White		African-American		Hispanic	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
	1995*	77	75	500	508	96
1996	311	321	2226	2223	396	398
1997	372	343	2277	2266	391	421
1998	365	369	2243	2305	444	441
1999	413	391	2307	2308	468	465
2000	387	417	2328	2329	495	488
2001**	320	437	2097	2536	400	512
2002		459		2952		536
2003		482		3265		559

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec).

** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

2.3 Age

The number of youths in each age group is obviously increasing – for example the very young (13 or less) caseload averaged 79 in 1995 and increased to 112 in 2001 and is projected to reach 122 per month by 2003. Nevertheless, the mix of age-groups within the delinquent caseload is not changing – youths aged 13 or less comprise about 36% of the caseload, those aged 14-16 comprise about 58% and those aged 17 or more about 6%.



Year	13 and under		14 to 16		17 or more	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
	1995*	232	237	405	412	45
1996	1055	1059	1756	1748	169	175
1997	1096	1118	1807	1809	196	186
1998	1167	1175	1759	1824	198	199
1999	1162	1233	1871	1814	215	210
2000	1258	1285	1808	1842	212	222
2001**	1060	1342	1597	1965	191	233
2002		1405		2237		246
2003		1464		2441		257

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec).

** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

2.4 Substance Abuse: Juvenile

The number of delinquent juveniles with a history of alcohol abuse increased briefly from a monthly average of 88 in 1995 to just over 100 in 1997 before declining almost constantly to a monthly average of 58 on 2001 and a projected 47 in 2003.

The data for drug abuse reveals the opposite trend – increasing from a monthly average of 131 in 1995 to 168 in 2001 and a projected 171 in 2003.

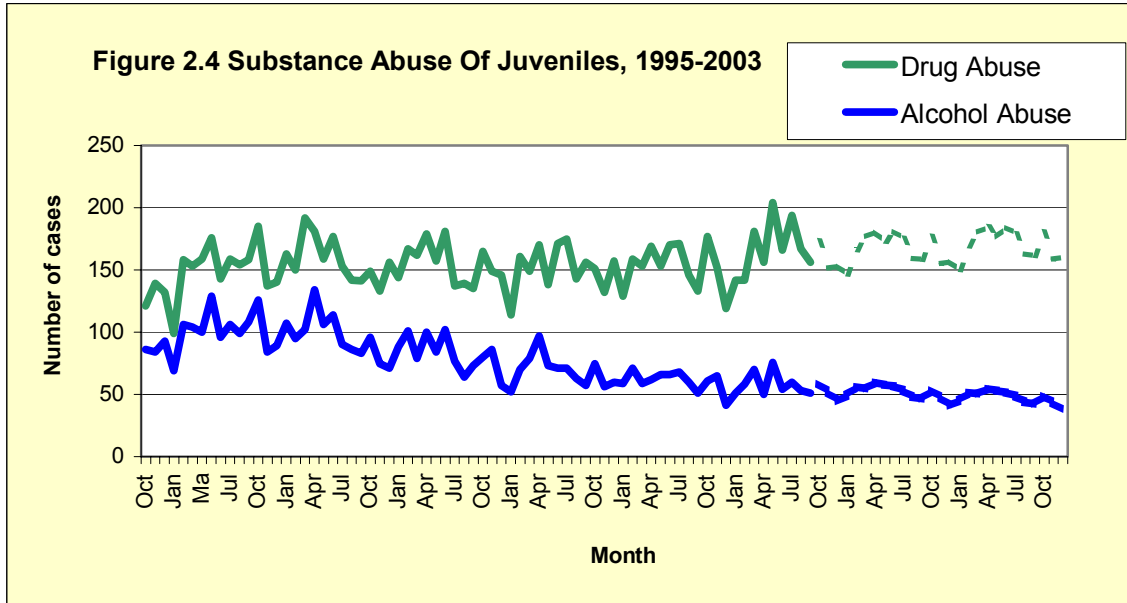


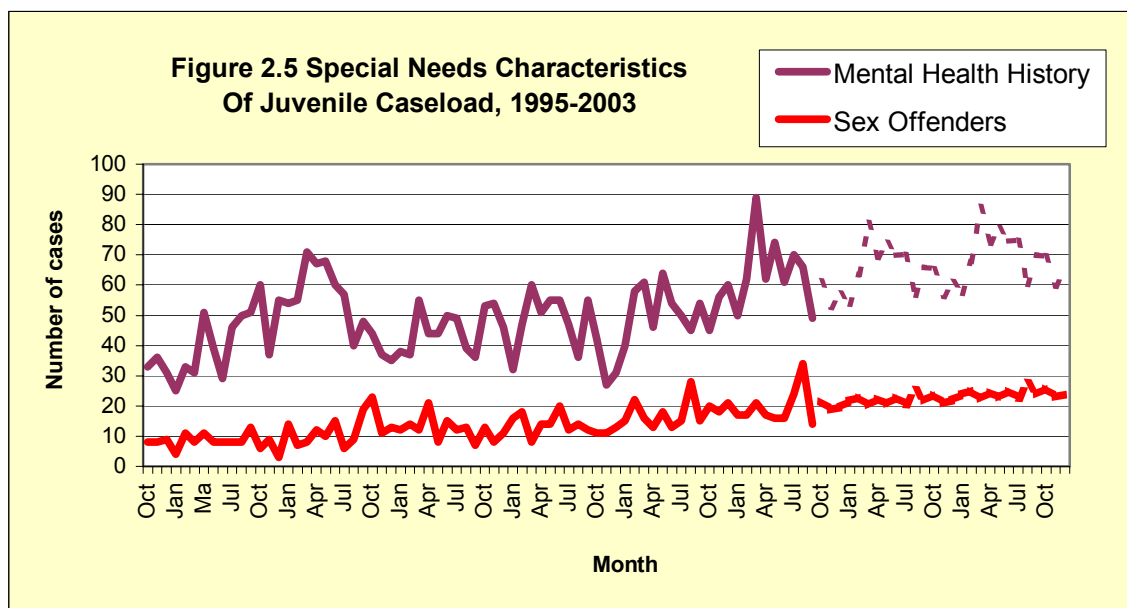
Table 2.4 Actual and Projected Substance Abuse, 1995-2003				
Year	Drug abuse		Alcohol abuse	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
	1995*	392	420	263
1996	1821	1760	1216	1156
1997	1896	1807	1159	1226
1998	1861	1857	991	996
1999	1817	1898	824	809
2000	1831	1931	729	719
2001**	1508	1962	523	665
2002		2006		623
2003		2047		569

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec).

** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

2.5 Special needs – Mental Health/Sex Offenders

Both groups show rapid increases. The monthly average for sex offenders has increased from 8 in 1995 to 20 in 2001 and a projected 24 by 2003. Similarly, delinquents with a history of mental health problems have increased in number from a monthly average of 33 in 1995 to 65 in 2001 and a projected 70 in 2003.



Year	Mental health		Sex offenders	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
1995*	100	100	25	22
1996	507	481	97	112
1997	636	696	147	137
1998	545	511	146	164
1999	538	572	163	188
2000	633	586	214	212
2001**	583	778	176	238
2002		786		264
2003		837		291

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec). ** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

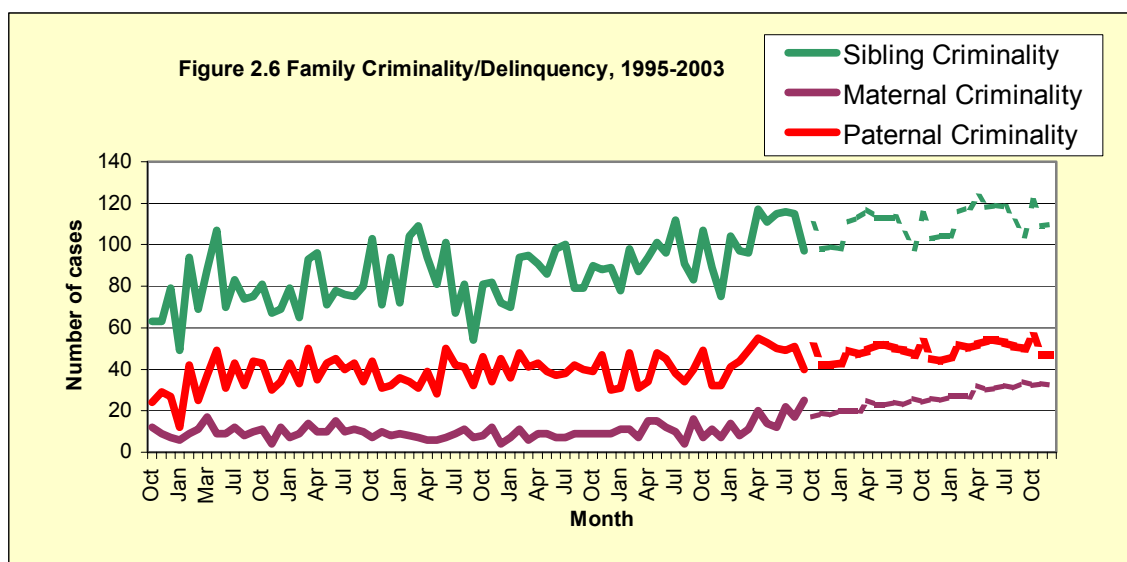
Family Characteristics

2.6 Family Criminality

Family criminality – a history of criminal activity by one or both parents as well as delinquent behavior among siblings – is commonly identified as an important risk factor in juvenile re-offending. The Figure shows the trend in the number of juveniles entering the system with these characteristics.

The most noticeable change is the number of juveniles whose mothers have a history of criminality. In 1995 about 9 of the juveniles who entered the system each month had a mother with a criminal background. By 1999 the figure was still only 8, but in 2000 it increased to 11 and in 2001 to 16. If this trend continues the figure will be over 30 by 2003.

The number of juveniles with delinquent siblings has also increased continuously since 1995 when there were about 68 per month to 2001 when there were 108 per month. This figure is expected to increase to about 155 per month by 2003.



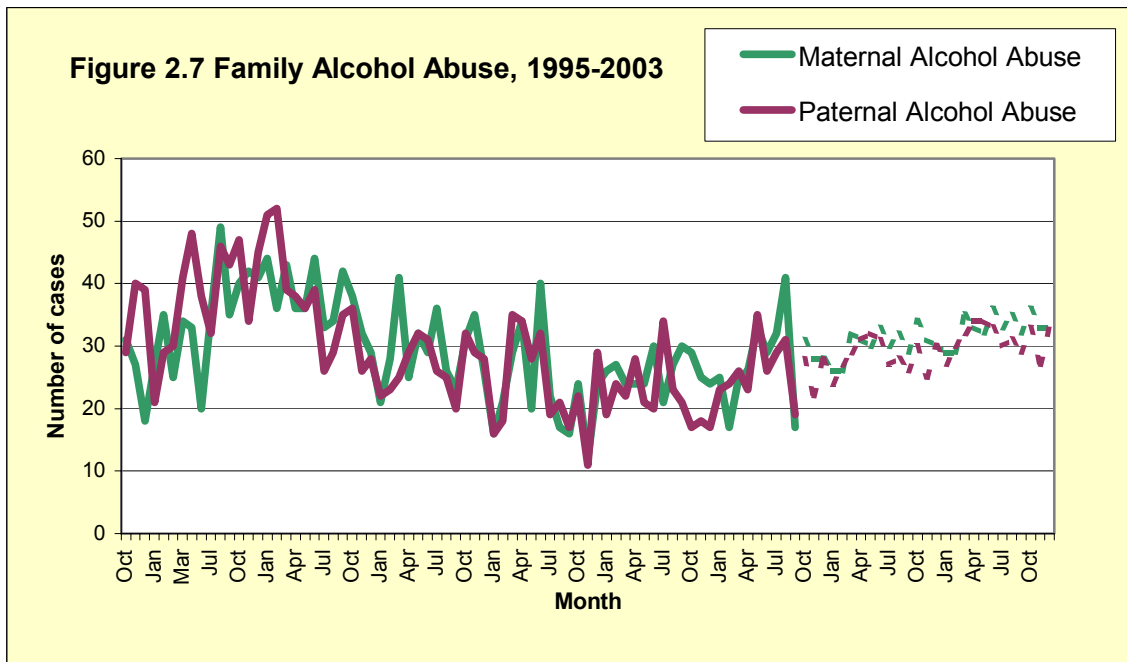
Year	Maternal Criminality		Paternal Criminality		Sibling Delinquency/ Criminality	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
1995*	28	28	80	91	205	215
1996	118	119	422	403	926	930
1997	121	123	473	434	981	996
1998	94	98	458	469	998	1059
1999	101	94	480	497	1059	1119
2000	126	125	462	525	1111	1178
2001**	143	170	432	549	968	1236
2002		279		580		1303
2003		368		612		1371

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec). ** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

2.7 Family Alcohol Abuse

On average, the monthly caseload of juveniles whose mothers were reported in the Family Court ‘J’ file to have an alcohol abuse problem went from 25 in 1995 to 37 in 1997 before declining to 26 in 2000 and 27 in 2001. The monthly figure is projected to rise slightly to 33 by 2003.

The number of juveniles with fathers reported as having an alcohol abuse problem has followed a different trend. The number had declined from a high of 38 in 1996 to a low of 22 in 2000 before rising again to 26 in 2001 and to a projected 31 by 2003.



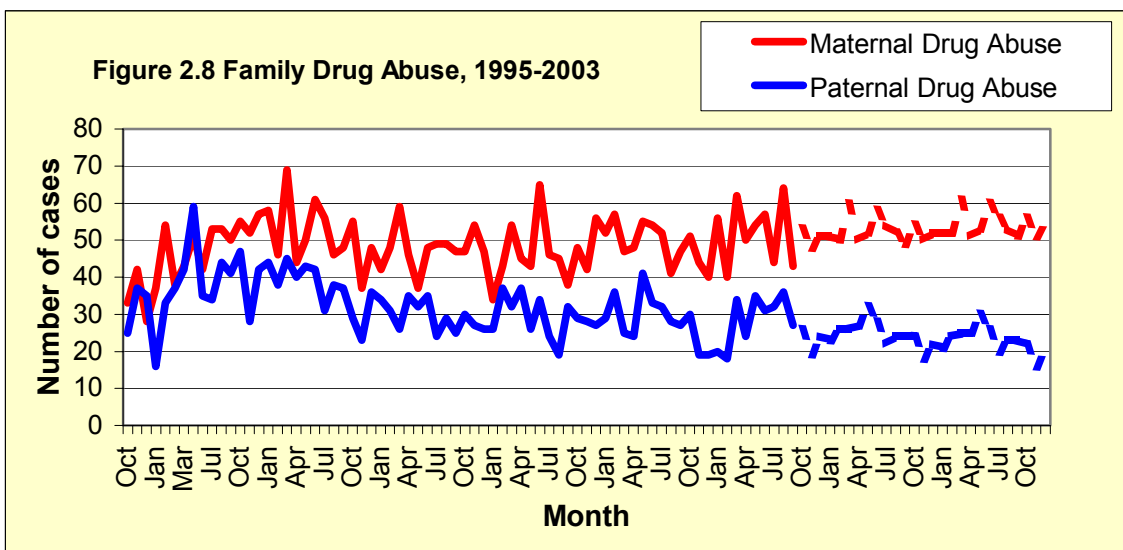
Year	Mother Alcohol		Father Alcohol	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
	1995*	76	92	108
1996	416	370	454	440
1997	447	484	435	466
1998	353	354	322	305
1999	275	287	282	288
2000	311	284	264	266
2001**	245	328	236	298
2002		364		340
2003		396		373

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec). ** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

2.8 Family Drug Abuse

The monthly caseload of juveniles whose mothers were reported as having a drug abuse problem increased sharply from 34 in 1995 to 49 in 1996 and has remained at that level through 2001. The figure is projected to reach 54 per month in 2003.

The number of juveniles with fathers reported as having a drug abuse problem has declined steadily from a high of 39 in 1996 to 29 in 2001 and a projected 23 in 2003.



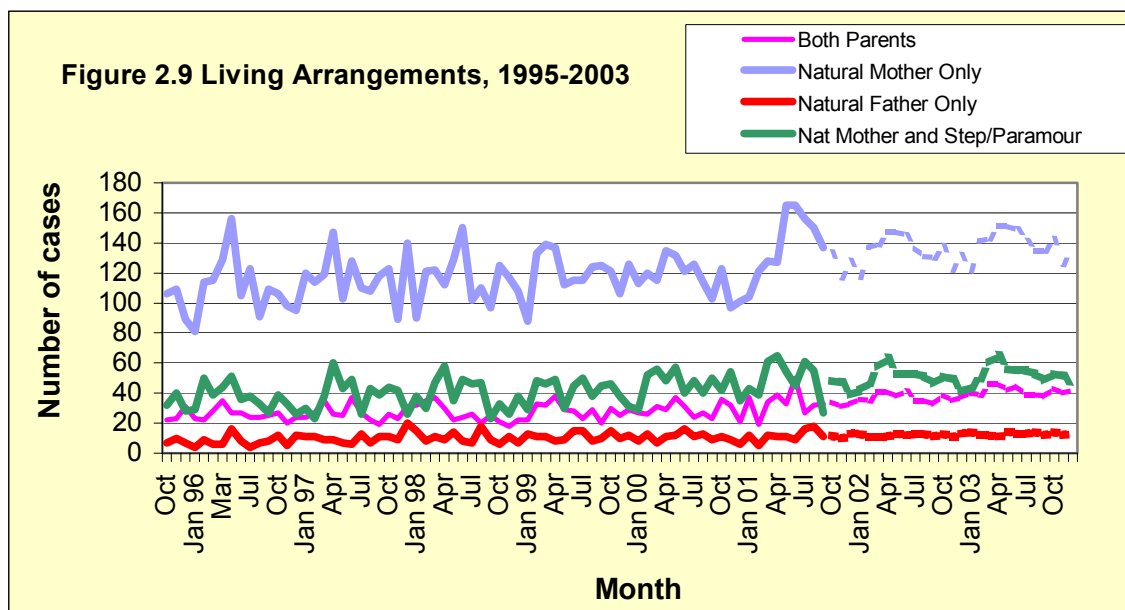
Year	Mother Drugs		Father Drugs	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
	1995*	103	127	97
1996	585	525	458	431
1997	618	549	446	412
1998	573	572	354	392
1999	559	590	351	365
2000	588	602	343	341
2001**	470	616	257	319
2002		632		296
2003		650		275

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec). ** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

2.9 Living Arrangements

The monthly caseload of juveniles from homes with both parents present has risen from 25 in 1995 to 34 in 2001 and is projected to increase to 42 in 2003. Also increasing at this rate is the number of juveniles from households involving the father only – up from 8 per month in 1995 to 12 in 2001 and a projected 13 in 2003.

The number of juveniles from mother only households is not rising as quickly – up from 101 in 1995 to 139 in 2001 and a projected 139 also in 2003. The number of juveniles coming from homes with some other living arrangement (i.e. other than one or both natural parents) has increased from 91 in 1995 to 130 in 2001 and a projected 136 in 2003.

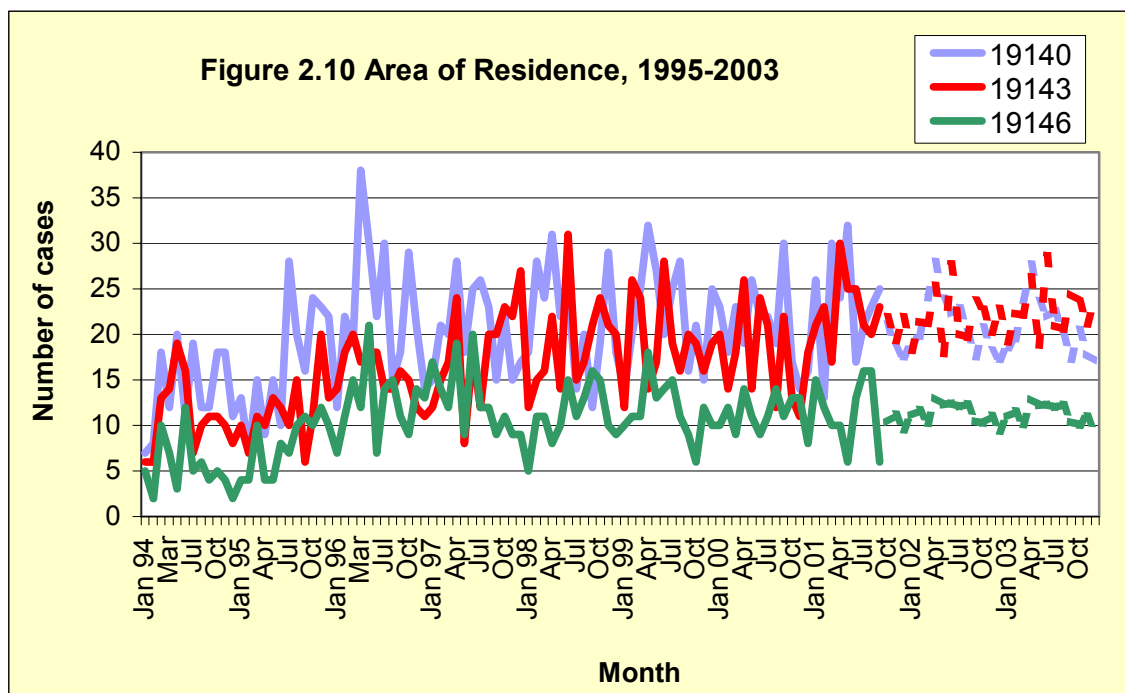


Year	Both Parents		Mother Only		Father Only		Other	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
	1995*	76	70	304	313	24	23	91
1996	306	312	1322	1340	97	94	101	101
1997	322	320	1419	1389	124	104	101	106
1998	312	335	1383	1439	123	112	108	111
1999	338	315	1441	1485	137	123	110	116
2000	344	338	1400	1529	126	131	115	120
2001**	304	379	1253	1566	105	137	130	125
2002		446		1622		145		130
2003		499		1672		155		136

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec). ** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

2.10 Area of Residence

There are several zip codes that account for more than five percent each of the total juvenile caseload. Most of these have experienced the same rate of growth in juvenile numbers during the study period. One exception is zip code 19146 which did experience increasing caseloads from January 1994 through early 1996 but no additional increases since then. The projections suggest the numbers from this area will remain constant through 2003.



Year	19140		19143		19146	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
	1995*	69	62	44	47	32
1996	270	274	187	196	149	145
1997	245	271	218	207	153	143
1998	260	267	228	218	134	142
1999	268	264	230	229	140	140
2000	249	260	213	239	135	139
2001**	211	257	205	250	104	138
2002		254		261		136
2003		250		272		135

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec).

** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

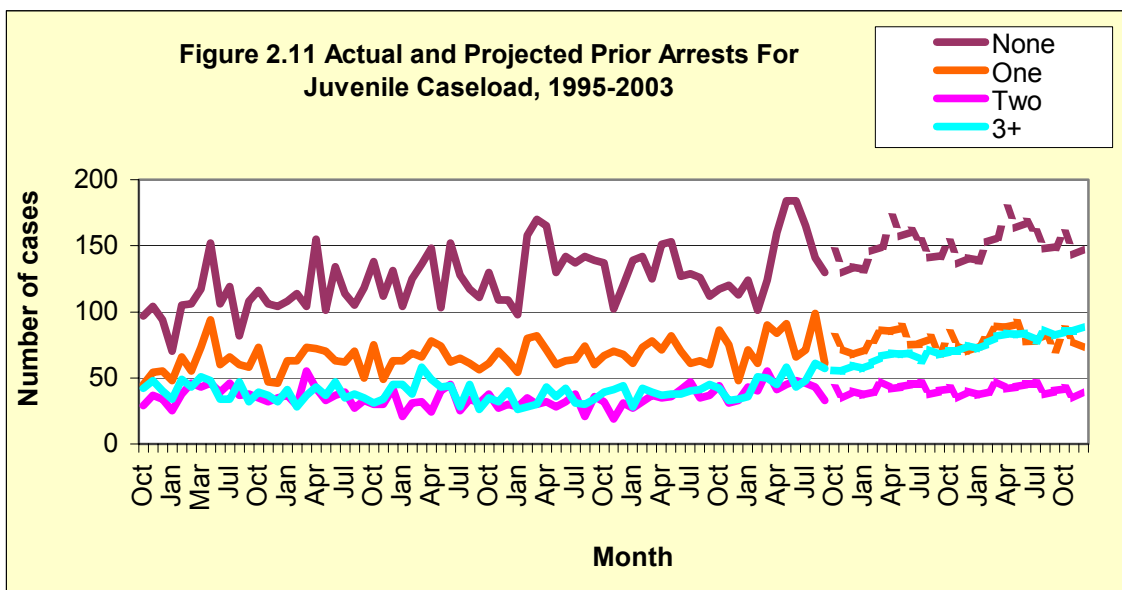
Case Characteristics

2.11 Delinquent History: Prior Arrests

The monthly number of first time offenders increased from 98 in 1995 to 146 in 2001 and is projected to be 155 during 2003 (an increase of about 58% over the 1995 figure).

The rate of increase for juveniles with a prior record is almost twice as fast as it is for first time offenders. For example, the monthly number of cases involving juveniles with one prior arrest increased from 51 in 1995 to 77 in 2001 and to a projected 81 in 2003 (an increase of about 95%). The numbers for juveniles with two prior arrests are similar – from 33 in 1995 to 44 in 2001 and a projected 41 in 2003.

The rate of increase is fastest for juveniles with 3 or more prior offenses – from a monthly average of 43 in 1995 to 50 in 2001 and a projected 82 in 2003.



Year	No priors		One		Two		Three or more	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
	1995*	295	288	154	172	100	96	130
1996	1291	1284	746	742	460	448	480	502
1997	1434	1366	773	776	434	442	451	434
1998	1472	1453	788	810	378	394	483	495
1999	1640	1535	813	841	362	375	424	401
2000	1554	1627	828	872	435	402	457	470
2001**	1313	1700	694	902	394	490	449	579
2002		1783		937		493		807
2003		1863		970		493		986

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec). ** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

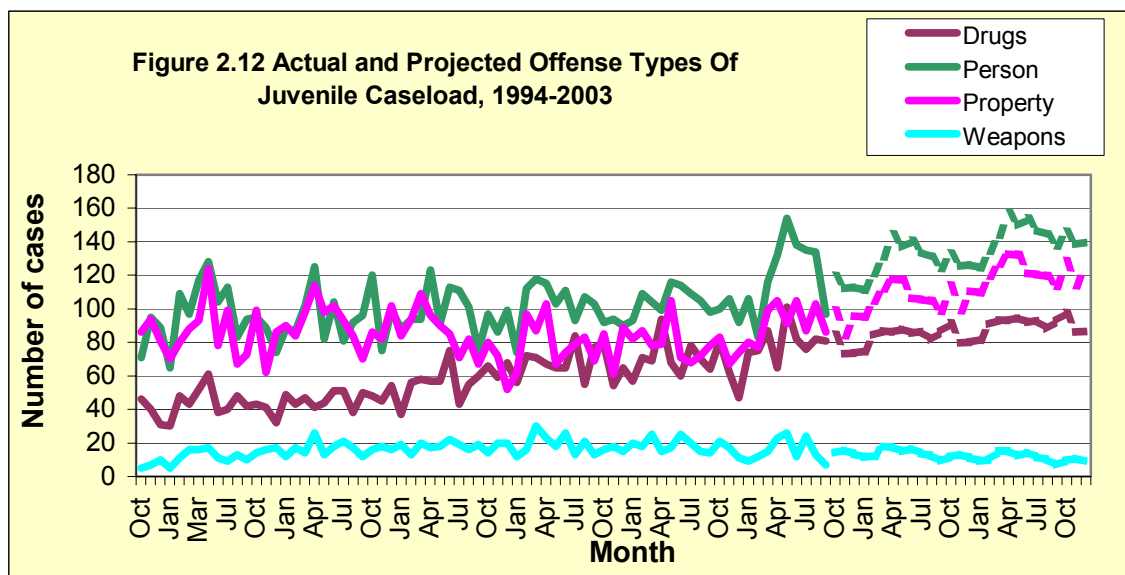
2.12. Type of Offense

On average, the monthly caseload of juveniles petitioned on drug offenses in 1995 was 39 (about 18% of the total caseload in any given month). The number increased steadily for several years so that by 1999 the monthly average was 68 (and the proportion about 25% of the total). Though the monthly figure has continued to rise (to 80 by 2001 and a projected 91 by 2003), drug cases remain at about one-quarter the total monthly caseload of delinquents.

The monthly number of juveniles petitioned for offenses against the person has increased from 85 in 1995 to 122 in 2001 and is projected to increase to 143 by 2003. Despite the increased numbers offenses against the person has consistently made up about 39% of the total caseload.

Property offenses have increased in number – from 87 per month in 1995 to 93 in 2001 and a projected 122 in 2003. Nevertheless, in the wider context of an increasing total caseload property offenders make up a smaller proportion of the caseload in 2001 (30%) than they did in 1995 (40%).

The number of weapons offenders increased in the caseload for several years – from 7 per month in 1995 to 18 in 2000 – but in 2001 the trend was reversed (the number falling to 16 per month). The forecast is that the number will decline even more (to about 11 per month in 2003) so that weapons offenders comprise about 3% of the caseload compared with about 7% during 1998 and 1999 when their numbers were at their peak.



Year	Drugs		Person		Property		Weapons	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
	1995*	117	115	255	265	261	247	22
1996	518	542	1168	1171	1019	1034	155	131
1997	561	619	1151	1161	1103	1079	200	193
1998	691	692	1172	1170	982	1064	217	229
1999	810	770	1212	1203	956	894	221	242
2000	821	853	1245	1237	944	948	218	228
2001**	723	929	1095	1357	833	1051	141	193
2002		1010		1557		1285		162
2003		1089		1716		1463		134

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec). ** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

Resource Utilization

2.13 Total Dispositions to Aftercare Programs

There has been an increase in the number of juveniles entering DHS funded aftercare programs from 1994 through 2001. The projection shows total monthly caseloads increasing from 24 in 1994 to a projected 40 by 2003 (a 23% increase).

The data show a strong seasonal pattern with May through August having below average caseloads followed by a significant ‘spike’ in September when caseloads are sharply above the average – for aftercare programs the monthly average is about 34 cases and in September it is about 72.

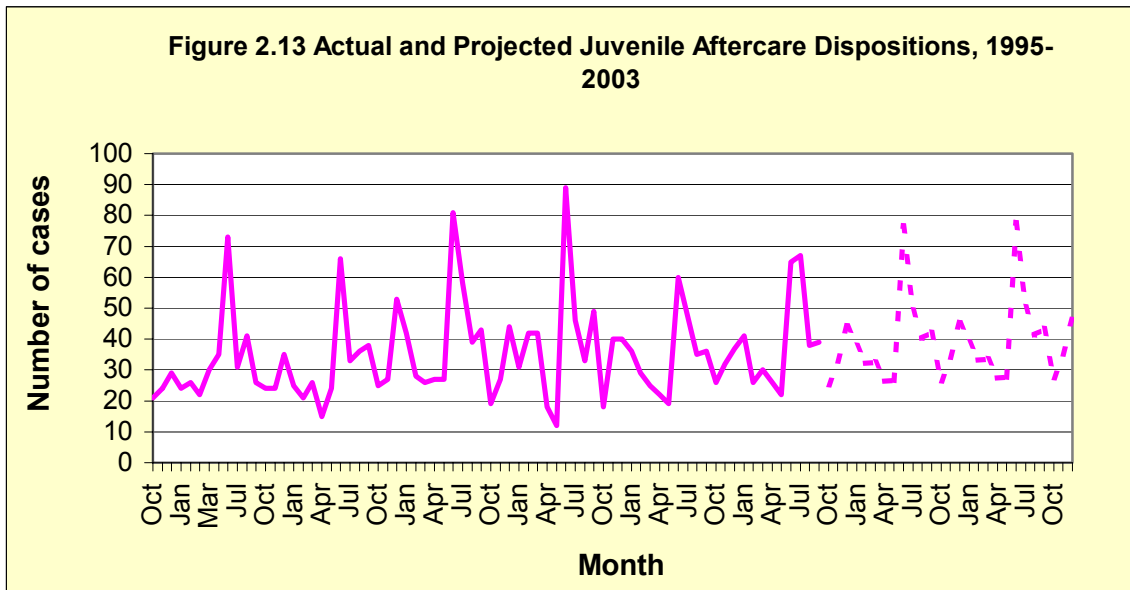


Table 2.13 Actual and Projected Juvenile Aftercare Dispositions, 1995-2003

Year	Actual	Forecast
1994	289	
1995	393	82
1996	391	385
1997	389	399
1998	461	412
1999	460	430
2000	404	446
2001**	354	455
2002		469
2003		482

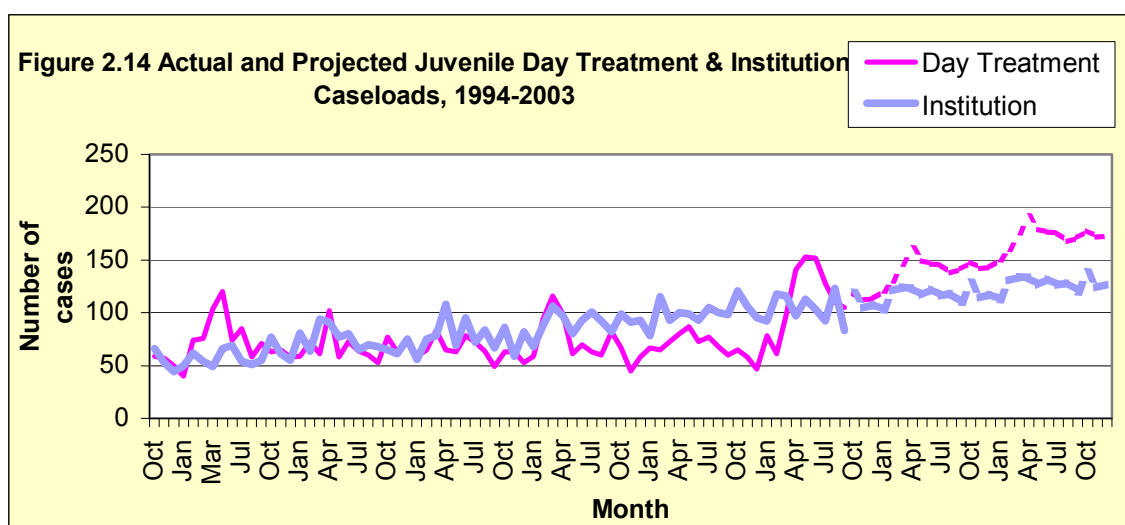
* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec). ** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

2.14 Total Dispositions to Day Treatment and Institutional Programs

The trend for day treatment and institutional program placements has been quite different during the period of study. Institutional placements have risen steadily from an average monthly caseload of around 49 in 1995 to a projected 128 in 2003. During this time there has been a noticeable seasonal pattern in which intake caseloads are below average in December and February-April and well above average in May-July.

Day treatment caseloads remained more or less stable from 1995 to 2000 – averaging about 68 per month. In 2001 the caseload started to increase sharply to 114 and, if this continues, will rise to 173 per month during 2003. Closer examination of the Day Treatment data reveals that the recent increase in caseloads is due largely to an unusually sharp increase in referrals to one program – PYAP experienced an increase in referrals of almost 250% in 2001 – and that the upward trend may be temporary.

Again, there is evidence of strong seasonality to the series, with numbers at their lowest during January-April and highest from June-September.



Year	Day Treatment		Institution	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
1995*	166	175	163	151
1996	888	886	703	708
1997	816	793	891	825
1998	777	799	931	949
1999	874	880	1090	1064
2000	820	825	1203	1184
2001**	1026	1318	937	1303
2002		1712		1417
2003		2071		1534

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec).

** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

2.15 Total Dispositions to Drug & Alcohol Programs Compared With Trends In Drug Abuse

The trend for drug and alcohol program caseloads has been stable throughout the entire study period. Though the statistical analysis identifies a seasonal pattern it amounts to no more than a few cases per month above or below the annual average of 18 cases. The forecast is for this number to continue at this level through 2003.

In contrast to drug program caseloads the number of juveniles reported in the ‘J’ file as having ‘any drug abuse’ problem has risen constantly since 1995 – from around 131 per month in 1995 to a projected 171 in 2003. In fact, if we focus only on juveniles reported to have a ‘chronic’ drug abuse problem, we find the numbers not only exceed the number of program placements but they too are increasing over time – from a monthly average of 65 in 1995 to a projected 104 in 2003.

There is a seasonal pattern to the drug abuse data – with above average numbers from June to October and below average numbers February-March and November-December.

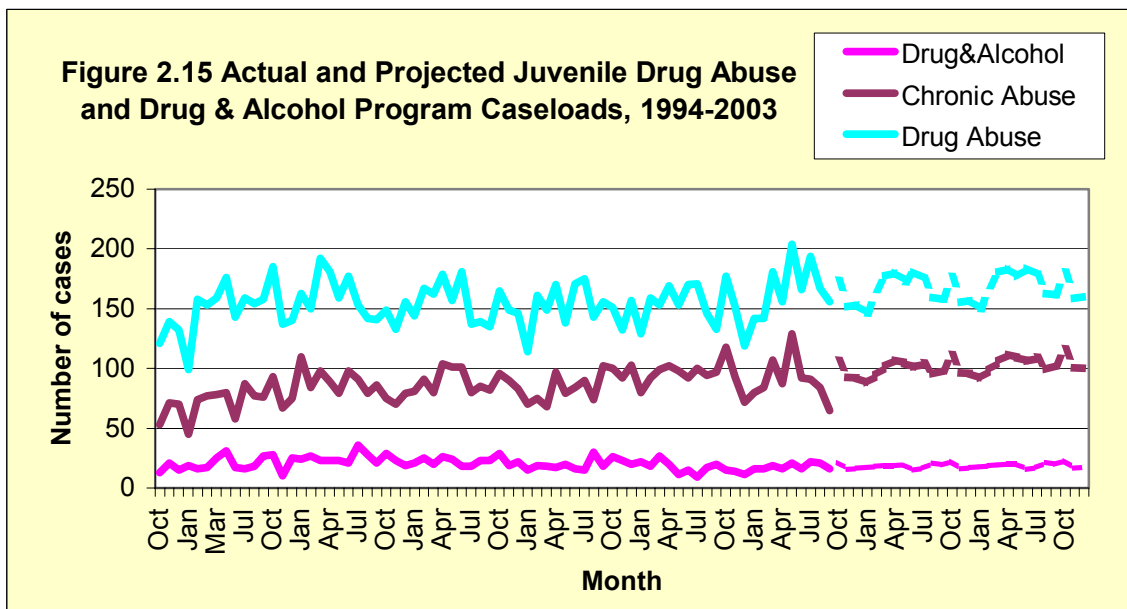


Table 2.15 Actual and Projected to Drug & Alcohol Programs Compared With Trends In Drug Abuse, 1995-2003

Year	D&A Programs		Any Drug Abuse		Chronic Drug Abuse	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
1995*	49	56	392	420	194	207
1996	249	233	1821	1760	887	860
1997	297	295	1896	1807	1038	914
1998	268	280	1861	1857	1074	978
1999	237	232	1817	1898	1034	1040
2000	199	223	1831	1931	1137	1092
2001**	163	191	1508	1962	819	1149
2002		219		2006		1198
2003		227		2047		1250

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec). ** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

2.16 Program Modality I: Modalities on the rise

The data show that several treatment modalities have experienced increased caseloads during the study period. The monthly number of juveniles in guided group interaction programs increased initially from 16 per month in 1995 to well over 20 per month from 1996 through 1999 before falling back to 18 per month in 2001 and a projected 16 monthly in 2003.

The caseload for mental retardation programs has always been limited – though it has risen from a monthly average of 3 in 1995 to 6 in 2001 and a projected 6 in 2003.

Mentoring programs were used in 1995 for about 10 juveniles per month; by 2001 this monthly figure had increased dramatically to 65 and by 2003 it is projected to increase to over 120. The recent increase in mentoring programs is somewhat misleading since it largely reflects a sharp increase in the use of one program – PYAP. Though PYAP is classified as a ‘mentoring’ program the discharge data indicate that many of the recent intakes do not receive what can be described as a ‘mentoring’ intervention over an extended period of time.

Finally, boot camps hardly existed in 1995 – they averaged 1 youth per month. Nevertheless, this type of program rapidly became a popular option rising to 36 placements monthly through 1999 and 2000. In 2001 the monthly numbers dropped off slightly to 31 and they are projected to decline even more by 2003.

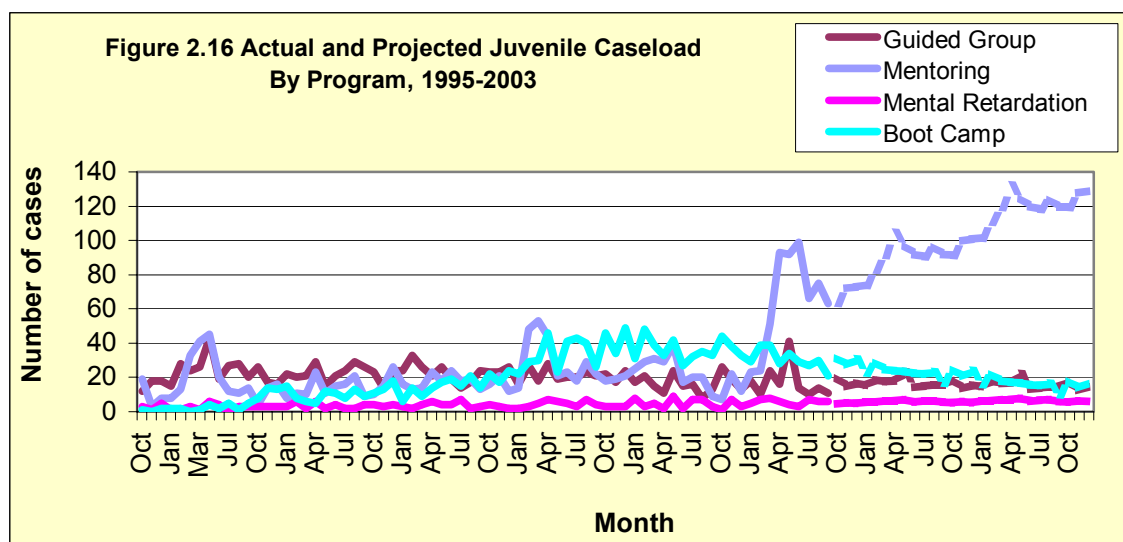


Table 2.16 Actual and Projected Juvenile Caseloads by Program Modality, 1994-2003

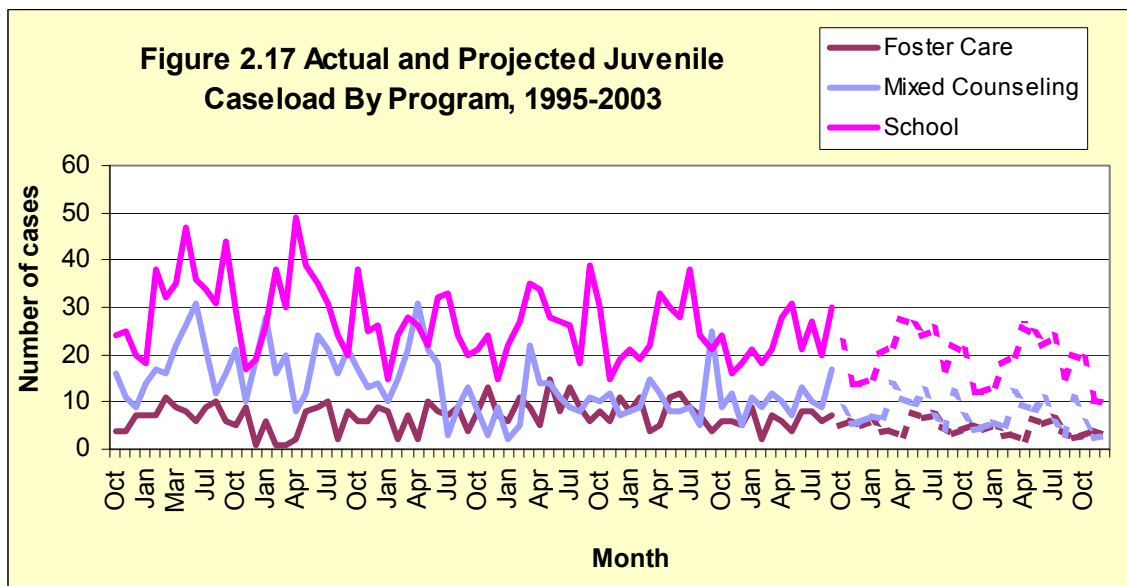
Year	Guided Group		Mentoring		Mental Retardation		Boot Camp	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
1995*	48	70	30	36	9	5	3	6
1996	289	272	231	227	31	33	57	45
1997	268	261	175	163	42	39	129	140
1998	276	250	207	224	44	46	192	188
1999	255	240	330	328	51	52	429	404
2000	198	229	260	267	57	59	435	480
2001**	158	214	586	763	52	65	276	383
2002		201		1111		71		277
2003		188		1446		78		196

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec).

** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

2.17 Program Modality II: Modalities in Decline

Most programs can be defined by a primary treatment modality. Using our knowledge of individual programs we have classified each program according to a range of primary modalities. Monitoring the number of juveniles entering such programs illustrates the changes that are occurring in the mix of treatment interventions being used by Philadelphia. Of all the modalities monitored several have been selected because they have experienced either a significant downward trend or because they have increased significantly over time. The data show several of the modalities in decline. The monthly number of juveniles in school based programs has dropped from an average of 34 in 1994 to 24 in 2001 and a projected 21 in 2003 (a decrease of 31% since 1994 at a time of increasing overall population). Similar patterns are found for foster care (projected to be down 41% from 1994) and mixed counseling (down 68% from 1994) programs.



Year	Fostering		Mixed Counseling/Family Therapy		School based	
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
	1995*	15	20	36	47	69
1996	88	87	225	205	380	376
1997	68	59	210	189	381	355
1998	85	80	161	174	284	336
1999	107	112	125	155	320	309
2000	88	101	125	135	294	288
2001**	57	69	98	117	217	267
2002		61		99		245
2003		49		82		223

* Based on 3 months data (Oct-Dec). ** Actual figures based on 9 months data (Jan-Sept)

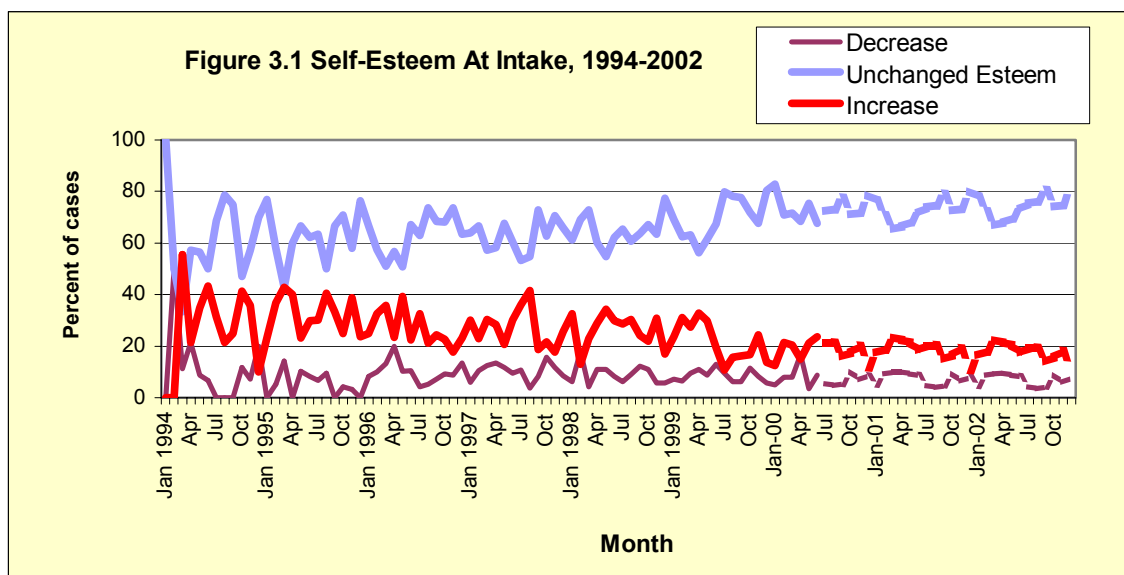
Discharge Trends Juvenile Characteristics

The results in this section are presented as percentage rates rather than caseload numbers. Thus, the trends indicate the extent to which the proportion of juveniles with a specific attribute is increasing, decreasing or remaining stable.

The data collected in *ProDES* allow us to examine the extent to which change occurs during the time a juvenile is in a program. However, *we caution that the change data are, for the most part, only available for those juveniles who remain in the program until discharge.* Self-reported discharge measures at discharge are mostly unavailable for juveniles who terminate their program stay unexpectedly, perhaps because of an arrest, an AWOL or simply an inability to conform to rules. Whatever the reason, it is likely that the available data reflect a juvenile population that is more likely to be successful than the intake population as a whole. The data presented therefore present perhaps the ‘best’ possible impression of the system in operation and it is likely that the results for the entire entering cohorts would be less positive. Finally, the data reflect actual and projected trends for incoming cohorts so that the 2002 projection refers to projected discharge outcomes for juveniles who enter programs in 2002.

3.1 Self-Esteem

Almost all juvenile justice programs seek to impact a juvenile’s sense of self-esteem. In many cases it is one of the few explicit outcome goals specified in program literature. The data suggest that the majority of juveniles leave programs with the same self-esteem as they entered (about 65-70% have stable scores from intake to discharge). Nevertheless, it is the case that more juveniles experience increased rather than decreased self-esteem by discharge – though the trend seems to indicate that this difference is being eroded over time.

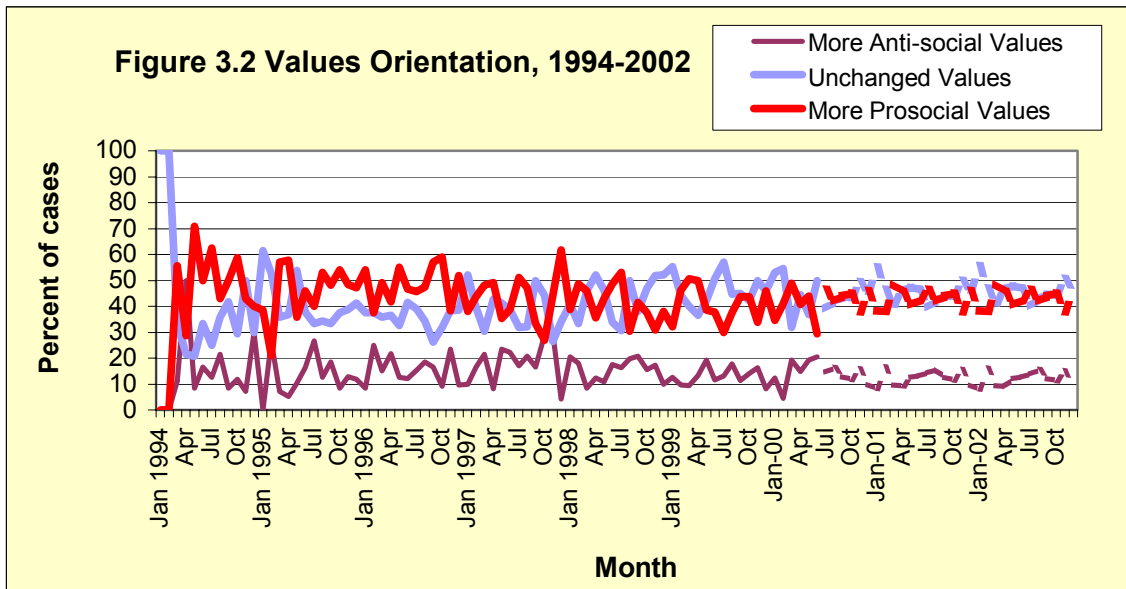


3.2 Values

Discussion of self-esteem almost always goes hand-in-hand with mention of a juvenile’s values orientation. Almost all programs either state explicitly, or agree following discussion, that a fundamental goal is to make a juvenile more pro-social when they leave than they were when they entered a program.

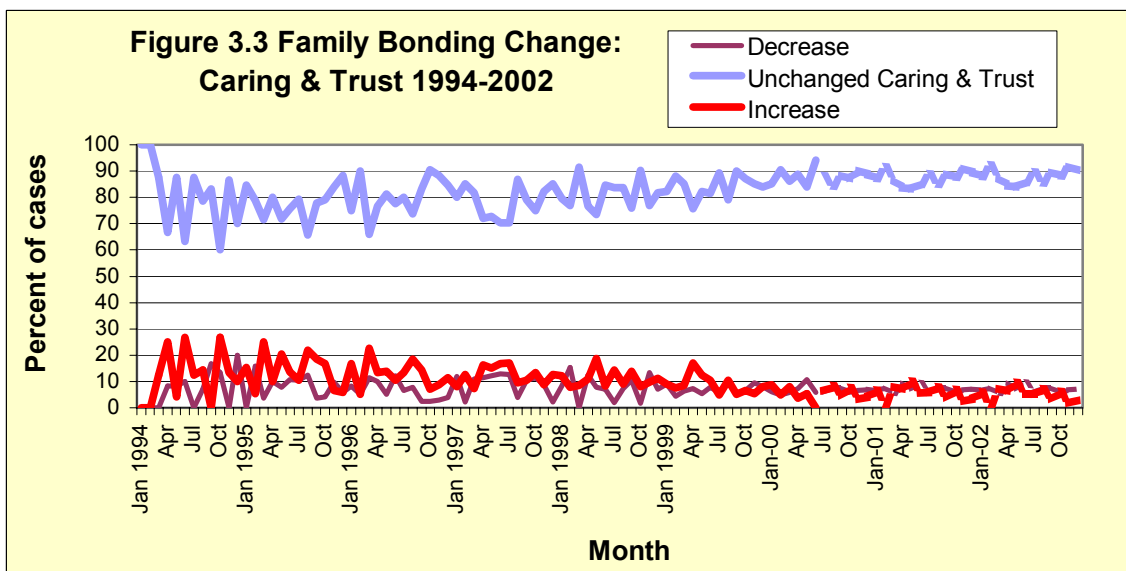
The data suggest that about 40-45% of juveniles have a more pro-social values orientation upon discharge, and a similar proportion remain stable. About 15% of juveniles are more anti-social when they are discharged than when they entered a program.

All three of these patterns have remained remarkably constant throughout the study period and are forecast to remain that way into the near future.



3.3 Family Bonding: Caring and Trust

Caring and trust is one of five different family bonding variables measured at intake and discharge by *ProDES*. The trends for all five measures are comparable and the ‘caring and trust’ data are therefore presented as illustrative of changes along all family bonding measures (detailed results for the other measures are available upon request).



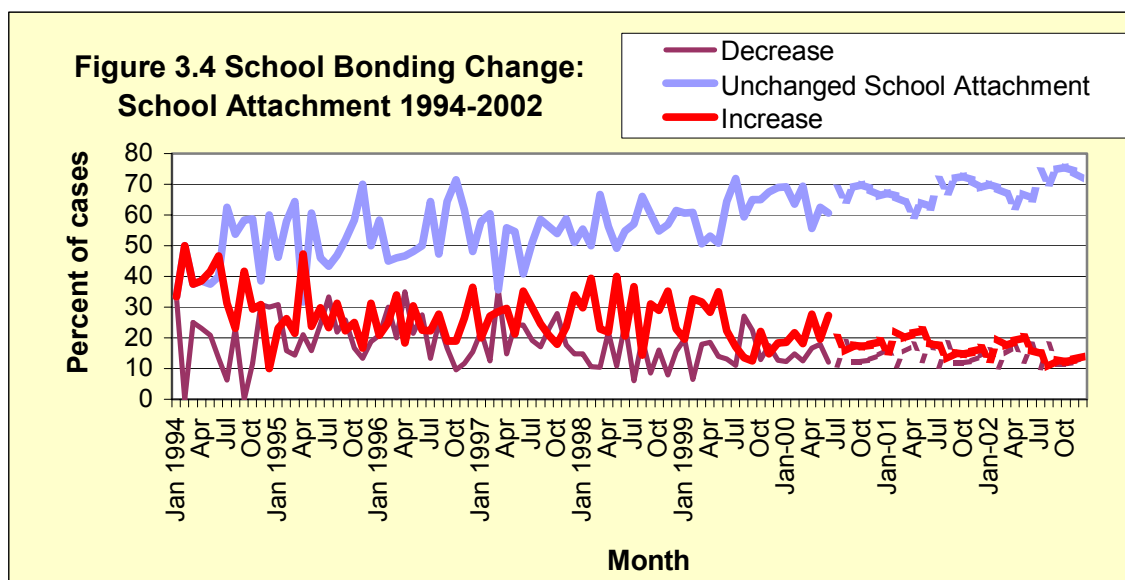
The data show that in the vast majority of cases there is no change in the juvenile’s attitudes from program entry to discharge. Further, the proportion of juveniles experiencing an increase (improvement) in caring and trust is barely more than the proportion experiencing a decrease (worsening). Add to this the fact that the proportion of juveniles with ‘no change’ is forecast to increase and the proportion experiencing change (in any direction) to decrease. The caring and trust data specifically, and the family bonding data in general, offer little support for the argument that programs as a whole are having a significant impact on attitudes toward family by the juveniles.

3.4 School Bonding: School Attachment

School attachment is one of seven school bonding variables measured at intake and discharge by *ProDES*. The trends for most of the measure are comparable and the ‘school attachment’ data can be interpreted as typical of the changes on most school bonding measures (detailed results for the other measures are available upon request).

The data show that for most juveniles there is no change in the juvenile’s attitudes from program entry to discharge. Again, the proportion of juveniles experiencing an increase (improvement) in school attachment is only slightly greater than the proportion experiencing a decrease (worsening). Furthermore, the proportion of juveniles with ‘no change’ is forecast to increase while the proportion experiencing change (in any direction) is forecast to decline.

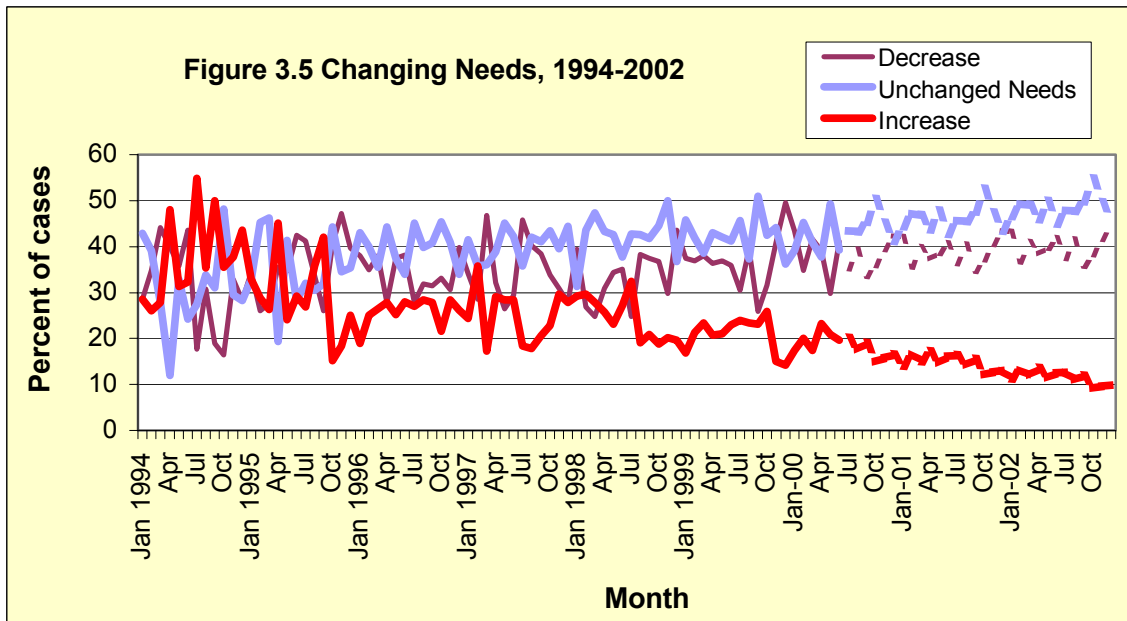
As with family bonding, these school attachment data (as with most school attachment measures) offer no evidence to suggest that programs as a whole are having a significant impact on attitudes toward school by the juveniles.



3.5 Needs Assessment

Program staff make an assessment of juvenile need at intake and discharge. Though the expectation would be for overall need to have decreased by the time of discharge it is quite possible that need will remain stable or even increase. Programs may be able to reduce need in some areas but also learn about other needs – especially those related to personality – after the intake assessment is complete. As a result of this it is understandable that juvenile need will not inevitably decline from intake to discharge.

The trend data on needs show that an increasing proportion of juveniles have either stable or declining overall need from intake to discharge. The proportion of juveniles whose needs increase by discharge has declined continuously from around 40% in 1994 to about 20% in 2001 and is projected to fall below 10% by the end of 2002.



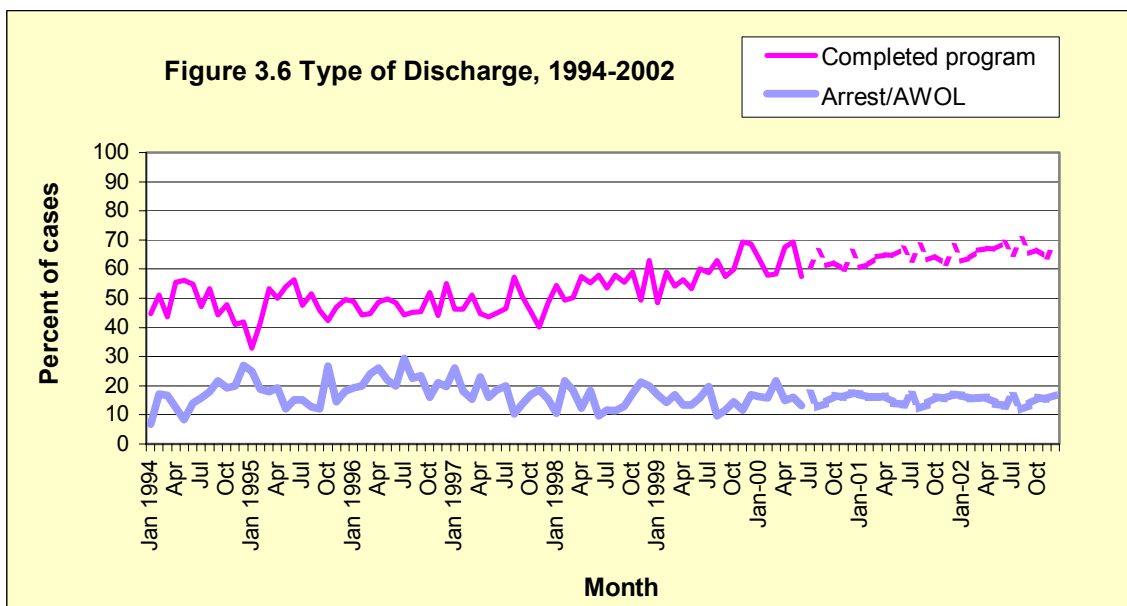
Outcome Indicators

3.6 Type of Discharge

ProDES monitors wherever possible the reasons why a juvenile is discharged from a program. Ideally one would want all those who enter a program to complete the treatment and be discharged successfully. In practice, juveniles are discharged at different times for many different reasons. Figure 3.6 presents the trends for two different reasons for discharge – juveniles who complete the required program stay and those discharged as a result of an arrest and/or AWOLs while in the program.

The trend for program completion indicates no change for the period 1994 to 1998 but a distinct upturn since then (a trend explained in part by the high completion rates of the very short PYAP program that experienced a sharp increase in intakes during 2001). The forecast is for program completion rates to touch 70% for 2002 intakes – a significant increase from rates of below 50% during the early years of the study period.

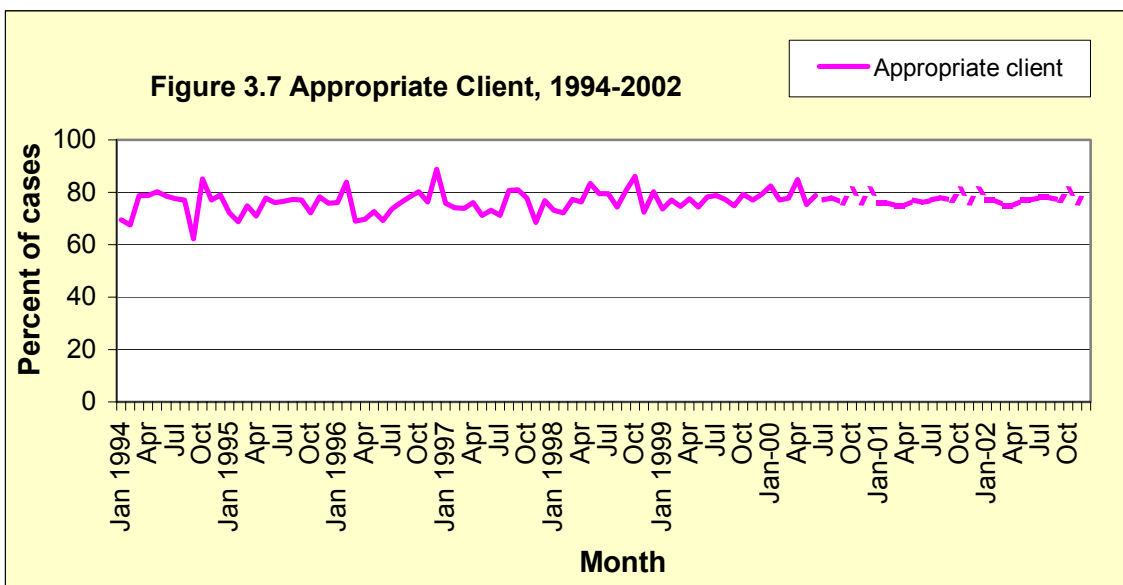
The trend for discharges due to arrest/AWOLs is clearly downward – from rates of well over 20% in 1995-1998 to a projected rate of around 15% for the 2002 intake cohort.



3.7 Appropriate Client

Program staff are asked to note at the point of discharge whether or not the client being discharged was, on reflection, an appropriate client for the program. The measure is by no means perfect but does capture to some extent the degree to which program staff feel the needs of the client were matched with the services of a program. As such it represents one indicator of quality of decisions surrounding program placement.

The proportion of ‘appropriate’ clients at discharge has hovered around 75% for almost the entire study period. The forecast suggests no change for the next few years.

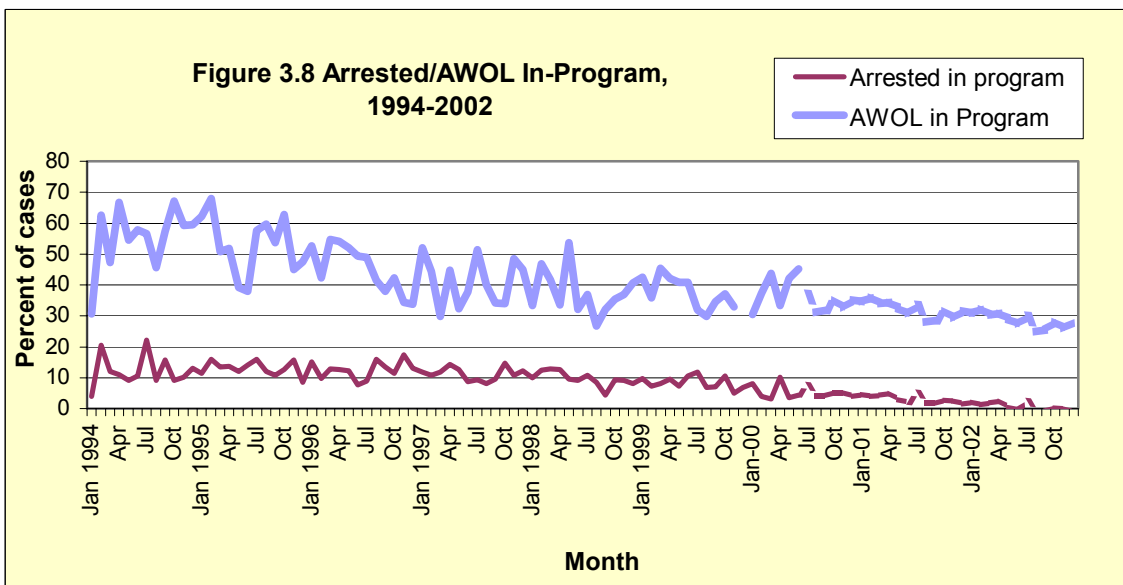


3.8 Arrests and AWOLs

Juveniles who are arrested and/or go AWOL from programs may not necessarily be discharged from that program. Therefore, type of discharge tells only part of the story in terms of juvenile behavior while in a program. The data presented in this section describe trends in the proportion of juveniles who are arrested and/or go AWOL at least once during their program stay.

Interpretation of the arrests/AWOL data has to be made in the context of program type since the opportunity for arrest and AWOL clearly varies by type of program. For example, juveniles in home-based programs have ample opportunity for offending and arrest but cannot really go ‘AWOL’. Conversely, juveniles placed in residential or institutional programs have far less chance to commit an offense and be arrested but much more opportunity to go AWOL. This relationship between program type and arrests means that changes in the overall make-up of programs used will inevitably affect the trends in arrests and AWOLs. Nevertheless, both measures represent important indicators of overall program and system success.

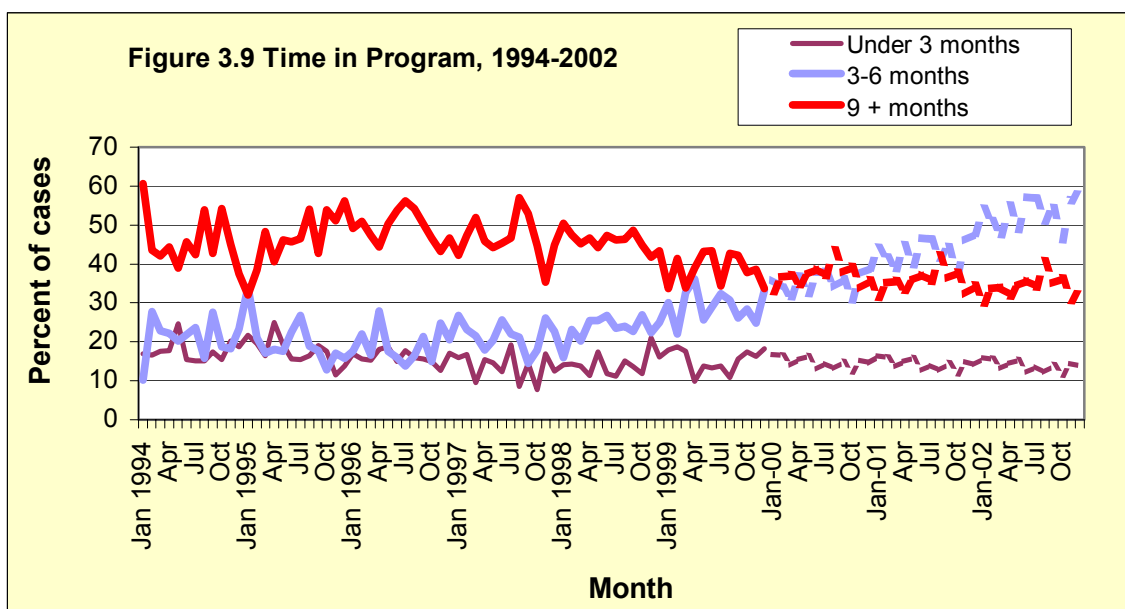
The arrest figures have dropped from a high of about 12% during 1994 to a projected 2% or less for intake cohorts during 2002. The AWOL figures have also fallen – from a high of 55% during 1994 to a projected 30% for intake cohorts during 2002. Both trends are clearly positive indicators for the overall ‘health’ of juvenile justice system.



3.9 Time in Program

The average amount of time juveniles spend in programs is another indicator that is more complex than might first appear. Average time in program clearly reflects a number of different factors. The intended treatment time in a program may change – from perhaps 12 months to 9 months. The expected length of treatment will differ by type of program – being longer for institutional programs versus an at-home program. Also, the number of early program discharges for whatever reason (arrest, AWOL, not responding to treatment etc.) will impact overall average length of stay. Despite the complexity of the measure the trend for time in program is an important reflection of the ‘health’ of the juvenile justice system.

The trend in programs stays of 9 or more months is down from around 50% for much of 1994 through 1997 to a projected 35% for the 2002 intake cohort. The trend for juveniles staying less than 3 months in programs is more or less stable around 15% (though it is likely that the increase in the use of boot camps and other short-stay interventions will result in an increase in the proportion of short-stay program commitments beyond 2002). The growth has occurred in the proportion of juveniles staying 3-6 months in programs – up from 20% in 1994 to a projected 50% in 2002.



Follow-Up Trends

As with discharge data the results in this section are presented as percentage rates rather than caseload numbers. Thus, the trends indicate the extent to which the proportion of juveniles with a specific attribute is increasing, decreasing or remaining stable.

ProDES collects two basic types of follow-up data. The most comprehensive data are the court record checks which search for evidence of any new petitions from the time of program intake through to 6 months after discharge. Three time periods are considered for this new petition data:

- In-program petitions: New petitions resulting from offenses occurring between the date of intake and date of discharge.
- Post-program petitions: New petitions resulting from offenses occurring within 6 months of the date of discharge.
- Any petitions: The two periods combined. New petitions resulting from offenses committed from the date of intake to 6 months following discharge.

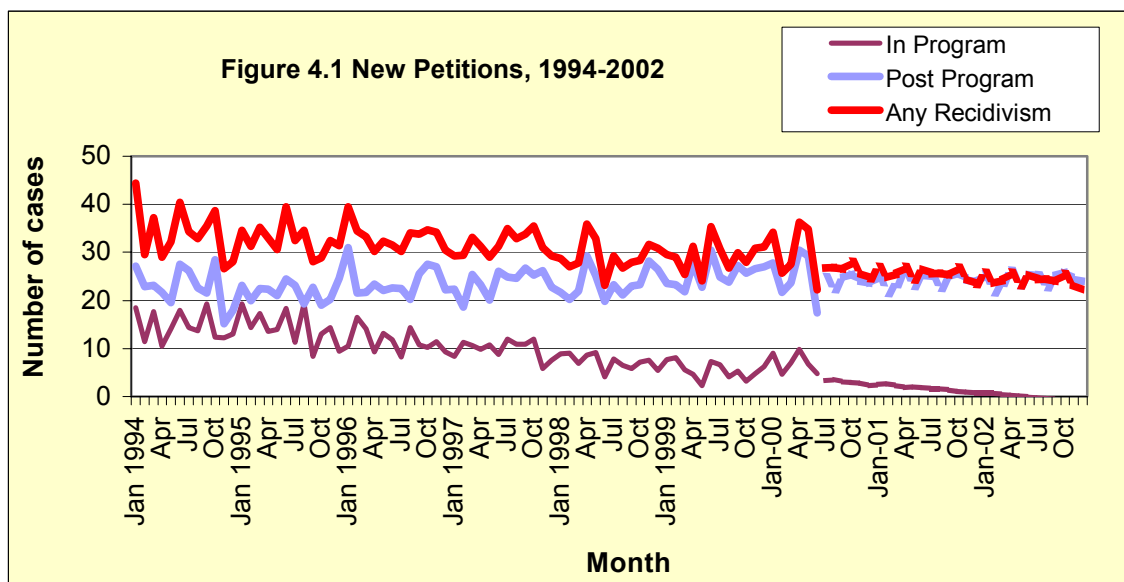
The second type of data is gathered from follow-up interviews conducted with both the juvenile and a parent/guardian at approximately 6 months after program discharge. Unlike the court data (which are available in almost all cases) the interview data are restricted to those cases where successful interviews have been completed. Interviews with juveniles are completed in about 15% of cases; interviews with parents in slightly more than 30% of cases.

Court Record Check

4.1 New Petitions

Data on new petitions are obtained from court records (juvenile and adult) for all discharged juveniles. The trend for new petition data is very clear. For petitions based upon offenses committed while in a program the rate has fallen from around 15% in 1994 to a projected 1 to 2% among 2002 intakes. In part the decline may reflect the increased use of residential/institutional programs (where the opportunity for offending is reduced) and the overall decline in average length of stay in treatment programs (another factor affecting ‘opportunity’).

For petitions based upon offenses committed within 6 months of discharge the rate has remained more intractable – averaging around 25% in 1994 and projected to remain there for the 2002 intake cohort. Combining these two measures into an ‘any petition’ indicator shows that there has been a decline in total new petitions from about 35% in 1994 to a projected 25% for the intake cohort of 2002.



4.2 Parental Opinions

During the follow-up interviews parent/guardians are asked several questions concerning their attitudes and opinions toward the program and the probation officer. Two aspects of this data are important – the level (how many are positive in their opinions) and the trend (is the level of positive feedback rising or falling). The data presented comprise three reported opinions.

The first is parental assessment of the helpfulness of the program and the proportion reporting the program to be ‘helpful’ or ‘extremely helpful’. During the study period the figure has declined slowly but consistently from over 70% in the early years to around 60% in 2000 and a projected 55% for the 2002 intake cohort.

The second indicator is recommendation of the program to friends or neighbors. This figure has also declined slowly – from above 80% during the early years of the study period to 75% in 2000. It is projected to remain around 75% for intake cohorts of through 2002.

The third indicator is satisfaction with the juvenile probation officer. Parental levels of satisfaction have actually increased slightly during the study period – from around 60-65% for much of 1994 to 70% by 2000. These rates are projected to increase slowly during 2001 and 2002.

