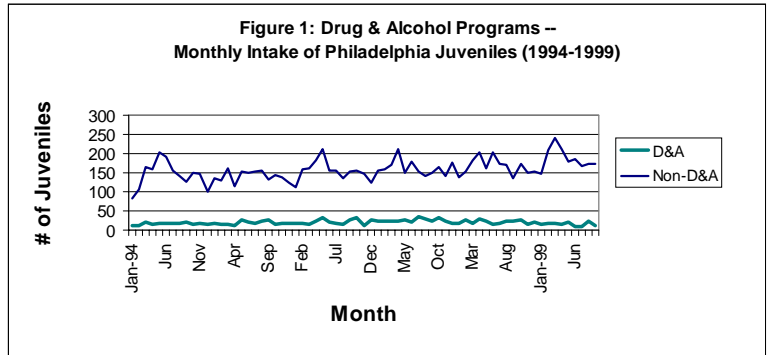


Drug & Alcohol Programs

"Almost two-thirds of the intake (66%) are reported as having completed the program."

Juveniles at Intake

From 1994 to September 1999, Drug & Alcohol programs admitted 1,366 delinquent youths from Philadelphia (see Figure 1). As the total number of juveniles entering the system has slowly grown, the number of admits to Drug & Alcohol programs has fluctuated between 200 and 300 a year -- about 10-13% of all admits. In 1999, the figures for the first nine months show a decline in admits to less than 8% of the total.



The juveniles entering Drug & Alcohol programs ranged in age from 12 to 20 though 75% were between 15 and 17, and the average age was just over 16. Just over half (51%) the clients were African-American, 27% were White, and 21% Latino. The overwhelming majority (90%) were male.

Almost 60% of the youths had one or more prior arrests and 28% had a history of prior dependency referrals to DHS. Almost one-fifth (19%) of juveniles have a reported history of family violence. Only 3% of mothers of juveniles had a criminal record, but for fathers, the figure was 13%.

About 32% of incoming juveniles were referred for property offenses and the same proportion were for drug offenses (see Figure 2). About one-sixth (14%) of all intakes involved offenses where a victim was injured, and a similar proportion involved the use of a weapon. Using CJRI's risk assessment tool we find that 27% of the incoming clients were low risk, 51% moderate risk and 22% at high risk of re-offending.

Only 15% of juveniles lived with both parents at the time of intake; 42% lived with their mother alone, 16% lived with their natural

mother and stepfather/ paramour, and 15% lived with other relatives.

Alcohol abuse by the mother was noted in 13% of cases; by the father in 17% of cases. Maternal drug abuse was reported in 20% of cases; paternal drug abuse was reported in 17% of cases. The proportion of juveniles with a history of alcohol abuse was higher -- at 69% -- with many of these (25%) said to have a chronic drinking problem. Juvenile drug abuse was reported in 90% of cases -- with 67% reported to have a chronic abuse problem. In addition, probation records show about 24% of Drug & Alcohol clients to have had a history of mental health problems.

Compared with the total juvenile population a large proportion of Drug & Alcohol clients were found to have low self-esteem (24%). The same is true for values -- with almost 60% of juveniles having an antisocial (32%) or very antisocial (27%) values orientation.

Juveniles at Discharge

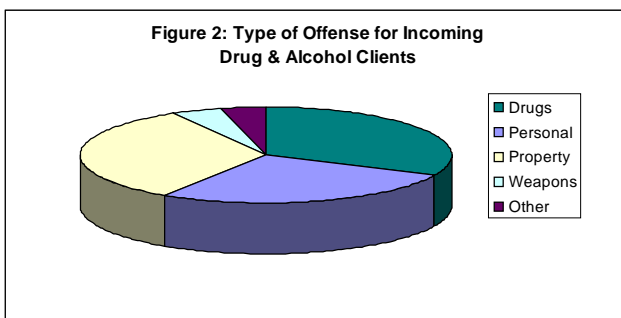
The average program stay in Drug & Alcohol programs was 27 weeks -- the shortest average stay of any program type other than aftercare (see Figure 3). Drug & Alcohol programs report that, overall, about 20% of their clients were "inappropriate" placements.

Almost two-thirds of the intake (66%) are reported as having completed the program. About 22% are reported as being discharged because they went AWOL, 4% because they were inappropriate for the program and 5% because the juvenile was not responding to the program. Only 1% were discharged for an arrest.

If we examine the changing behavior and attitudes of the youth from intake to discharge we find some mixed results.

Overall, it is common for between half and three-quarters of the youth to remain fairly stable from intake to discharge on most of the measures. However, there are some measures where the findings are quite different or offer notable results:

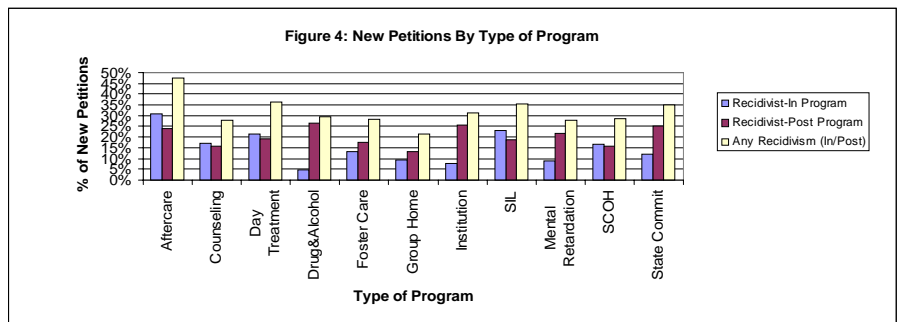
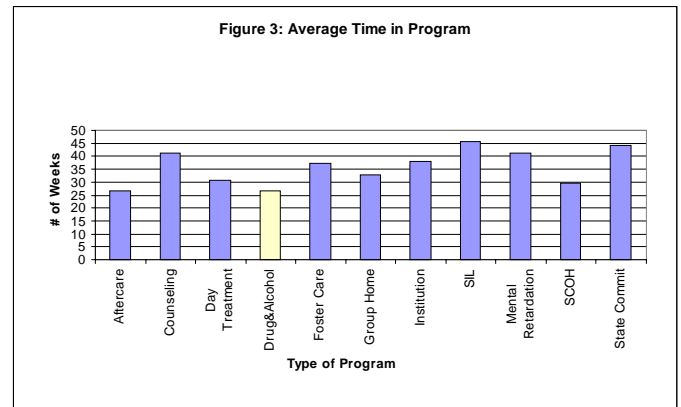
Figure 2: Type of Offense for Incoming Drug & Alcohol Clients



- Of the 41% of juveniles for whom self-esteem changed while in the Drug & Alcohol program, all but 8% experienced an increase in self-esteem.
- Almost 44% of juveniles had more prosocial values at discharge than they did at intake; very few (7%) moved in the opposite direction.
- On the family bonding measures, between 60% and 80% of juveniles remained unchanged. In general, where they did change there was twice as much improvement as there was decline. For example, 40% of juveniles reported changed perceptions of **instrumental communication**; 30% increased their communication with parents/caregivers from intake to discharge.
- There was a change in 23% of juveniles in the level of **school commitment**; 19% showed an improvement rather than a decline.
- More than 45% of juveniles experienced a change in their levels of school and community involvement from intake to discharge -- for **school involvement**, 23% experienced an increase, and one-fifth (20%) increased their **community involvement**.
- Staff reports show that there was a change in the level of **overall juvenile need** in 74% of cases -- with many more showing a decline in overall need (64%) than an increase (10%).

Juveniles at Follow-up

When juveniles have been discharged for at least six months, CJRI independently completes a follow-up court record check. Of the 900 clients for whom we have these data, very few Drug & Alcohol program clients (5%) received a new petition for an arrest while in the program. However, just over one-quarter (27%) received a petition for a new arrest during the six months following discharge. In total, about 30% of juveniles received at least one new petition for an arrest occurring some time between program intake and six months following discharge. Though the in-program new petition figures have remained more or less constant throughout the study period it is clear that the post-discharge figures have been declining steadily -- from about 38% in early 1994 to about 21% for the 1998 intake. As a result the overall new petition rate has dropped from around 42% for early 1994 intakes to about 24% for late 1998 intakes.



Of the juveniles petitioned during the program the most common offenses were knowledge/possession or manufacture/possession of controlled substances (24%), escape (19%) and theft (17%). Of the post-discharge petitions 30% were drug offenses and 20% involved robbery or aggravated assault.

The new petition data show that the overall (in- and post-program) new petition rate varies by the intake risk-classification of the juveniles -- 21% of low risk juveniles had new petitions compared with 41% of high risk juveniles.

We can compare overall rates of new petitions for Drug & Alcohol programs to those for other program types -- see Figure 4. The data shows that the in-program new petition rates are the lowest of any program type. In total contrast we find the post-discharge rates to be the highest of any program type. This pattern of results is repeated even when one controls the analysis for the risk classification of juveniles at program intake. The results show that the overall new petition rates for Drug & Alcohol are below those of several other program types. However, the noticeable difference between in- and post-program rates makes one wonder about the readiness of juveniles for program completion.

For more in-depth information on the information presented here, or to request additional analyses, please contact Jamie Fader at (215) 627-7812 or jfader5253@aol.com.