

A DESCRIPTION OF POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

FOR

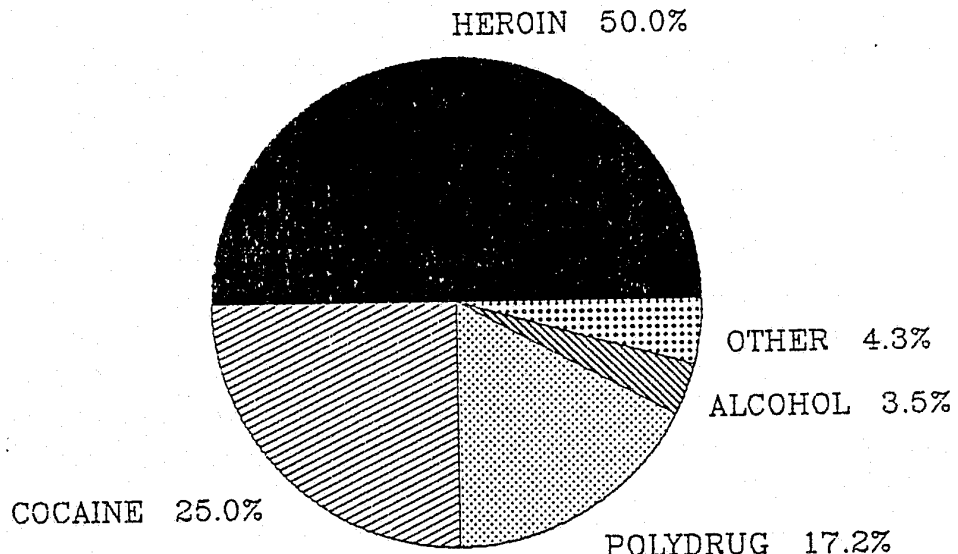
THE "FOREVER FREE" DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAM

AT

THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN FRONTERA, CALIFORNIA

12-22-92 MFI

138204



DRUG OF CHOICE



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS
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**A DESCRIPTION OF POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS
FOR
THE "FOREVER FREE" SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM
AT
THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN
FRONTERA, CALIFORNIA**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....3

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION.....4

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS.....5

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS.....6

COMPARISON GROUPS..... 9

TABLES AND GRAPHS

TABLE ONE:
Population Characteristics.....7

TABLE TWO:
Comparison Group Characteristics..... 9

GRAPH ONE:
County of Commitment.....8.1

GRAPH TWO:
Drug of Choice (Participants vs. Comparison Group).....8.2

GRAPH THREE:
Ethnicity (Participants vs. Comparison Group).....8.3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FOR

**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF THE "FOREVER FREE" SUBSTANCE
ABUSE PROGRAM**

AT

THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN, FRONTERA, CALIFORNIA

This report of population characteristics describes 131 female inmates who volunteered for a substance abuse program at the California Institution for Women at Frontera, California. This is the first research report on the project and covers an initial six-month time period from May through November, 1991.

The report describes the participants in terms of drug of choice, ethnicity, county of commitment, educational achievement level, age, and other variables. A typical participant displays the following characteristics: a minority group member, from Los Angeles County, 32 years of age, with two dependent children, has used heroin extensively over the years with a drug history of 15-20 years, has completed some high school, and has a poor or non-existent job history.

Because this first report is descriptive in approach, comparisons and conclusions are not offered as they will be in the Process and Outcome Evaluations. However, the report does denote how these program participants differ from other populations of drug users. A typical participant, particularly one charged with Petty Theft as a primary offense, has 15-20 years involvement within the criminal justice system beginning in the teen years.

Psychological testing is being performed for purposes of describing this population and measuring individual change over time. Although it is too early to provide comparative test results, a trend has been identified in the early exit results. It characterizes a population which measures extremely low in indices of self esteem, especially in the measurement of identity (who am I?).

Additional research reports for this project will include a Process Evaluation and an Outcome Evaluation. Comparative results, findings, and conclusions will be offered in that format.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In May of 1991, the California Department of Corrections (CDC) and the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADP) began providing substance abuse treatment services for female inmates at the California Institution for Women (CIW) in Frontera, California. The in-prison program component, named "Forever Free" by the participants, is an intensive 4-6 month program conducted by Mental Health Systems Inc. of San Diego.

Program services include individual substance abuse counseling, special workshops, educational seminars, twelve-step programs, parole planning, and urine testing. Program participants are housed in a 120 bed residential unit and maintain full time institution work and educational assignments.

In addition to the in-prison program, about one-third of the program graduates from target counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino) are provided project funded opportunities to continue treatment services at community residential substance abuse programs. The transition of program participants from the institution to the community will involve special coordination with parole agents and community services. A Parole Agent II has been dedicated to this project and provides specialized assistance along with Mental Health Systems' staff for individual inmate placement. Additional coordination and assistance is provided by the four target counties.

The primary objectives of the program are improved institutional behavior and a successful completion of parole. A research component is an essential part of program design and this description of Population Characteristics is the first research report. A quasi-experimental model is being utilized comparing program participants with two closely matched comparison groups.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

This is a descriptive report on Population Characteristics. It is intended to characterize the participants of the in-prison treatment program. Evaluative reports of outcome and process will follow. The purpose of this report is to identify, describe, and clarify the unique characteristics of a special population of substance abusing women in state prison.

This description involves 131 female inmates who volunteered for a substance abuse treatment program at CIW in Frontera. The first six months of operation of the substance abuse treatment program, May through November 1991, are examined to describe population characteristics. This is an early stage in program evolution which can recognize the in-prison treatment component and "graduation" of the first 75 participants. However, it is too early to describe their transition and/or performance in the residential treatment component.

The sources of data for this report include inmate records, program applications, descriptive tests, and personal and group discussions with counseling and custody staff.

Although program participants are not being compared here (as they will be in the Outcome Evaluation), an attempt is made to characterize the uniqueness of substance abusing women who are sentenced to prison as compared to the general population (non-incarcerated people).

The limitations of this report are related to the population of substance abusing women sentenced to state prison in California. This description is probably typical of substance abusing women who would volunteer for a drug treatment program anywhere in the California prison system.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Drug of choice.** Fifty percent are primary heroin users. Eighty percent have used heroin as a primary or secondary drug. Twenty five percent are primary cocaine users. However, this may change. Early third quarter data is showing fewer primary heroin users and more poly-drug users (Graph Two). It is believed that intravenous administration is the method of choice for most heroin users. If this is true, this population could be at high risk for infectious disease such as AIDS (Table One).
2. **Drug Usage Pattern.** A typical heroin user began taking heroin as a first and primary drug around age 15, used it exclusively and daily for 10 or 15 years, then experimented with other drugs for 4 or 5 years before being sentenced to prison.
3. **Offense Group.** Drug related crimes account for 35.4% of participants and income producing crimes account for 50.3%. Income producing crimes include petty theft, burglary, robbery, grand theft, fraud and forgery. Of that category, petty theft is the most significant. All other crimes total 14.3%. Petty theft as a primary offense often indicates lengthy involvement with the criminal justice system.
4. **County of Commitment.** Los Angeles County provided 56% of the studied participants; Riverside County 12.2%, Orange County 7.6%, and San Bernardino County 8.4%. Other counties provided 16.8% of participants. Early third quarter data indicates fewer people are entering the program from Los Angeles and more from non targeted counties (Graph one).
5. **Ethnicity.** The ethnic distribution changes from month to month. For the first six months of program activity there were 36.6% Hispanic, 32.9% White, 25.6% Afro-American, and 4.6% identified as other. Early third quarter data indicates an increase in the Afro-American category (Graph three).
6. **Completion of Services.** Eleven of 131 (8.4%) left before completion of the in-prison treatment component. Six inmates committed rule infractions. Two of the rule infractions were for positive urine tests. Three voluntarily dropped from the program. One had poor attendance and one was re-sentenced.

7. **Pregnancy.** Staff estimates that at any one time about 6% of the women are pregnant in the program. However, some women have delivered a baby as early as two weeks before program entry.
8. **Children.** Ninety-five women of 131 (72.5%) have dependent children under 18 years of age. The average number of children is 2.3. A primary concern for most women is physical or legal child custody and child care during the woman's extended community treatment period.
9. **Age.** The group average is 32.2 years with a low of 20 and a high of 48 years.
10. **Educational Attainment.** High school graduation was reported by 28%, and 25% indicated high school and some college level work. Forty-one percent indicated that they completed some high school, and 5% said they did not attend high school.

TABLE 1

<u>DRUG OF CHOICE</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Heroin	58	50.0%
Cocaine	29	25.0%
Polydrug	20	17.2%
Alcohol	4	3.4%
Other:	5	4.3%
Total (N)	116	
<u>ETHNICITY</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Hispanic	48	36.6%
White	43	32.9%
Afro-American	34	25.6%
Other	6	4.6%
Total (N)	131	
<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Los Angeles	74	56.5%
Riverside	16	12.2%
Orange	10	7.6%
San Bernardino	11	8.4%
Other	22	16.8%
Total (N)	131	

Total (N) 131

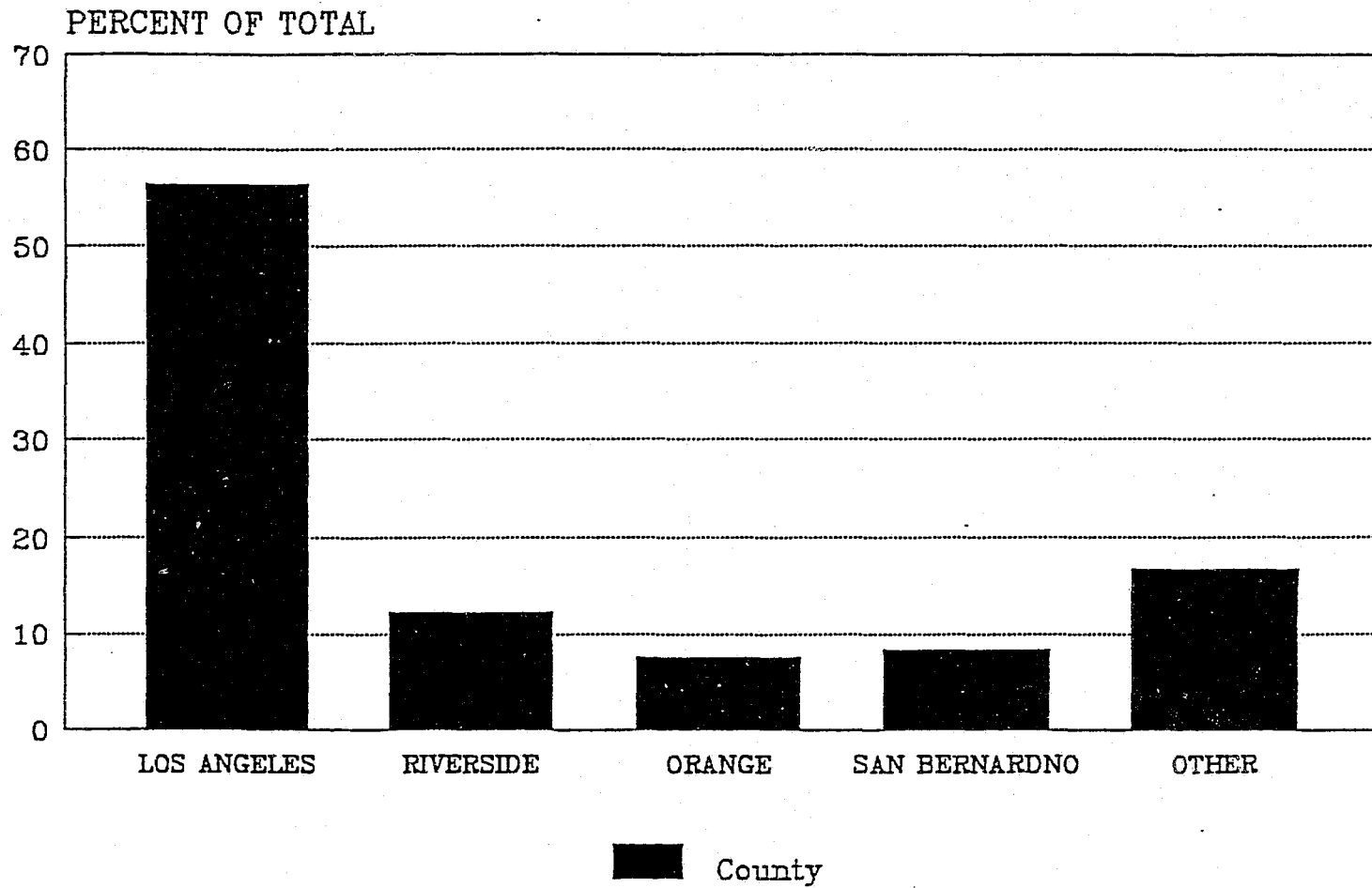
EDUCATION

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Completed some high school	16	41%
High School graduate	11	28.2%
High School & some college	10	25.6%
Did not attend High School	2	5.2%
Total (N)	39	

DEPENDENT CHILDREN

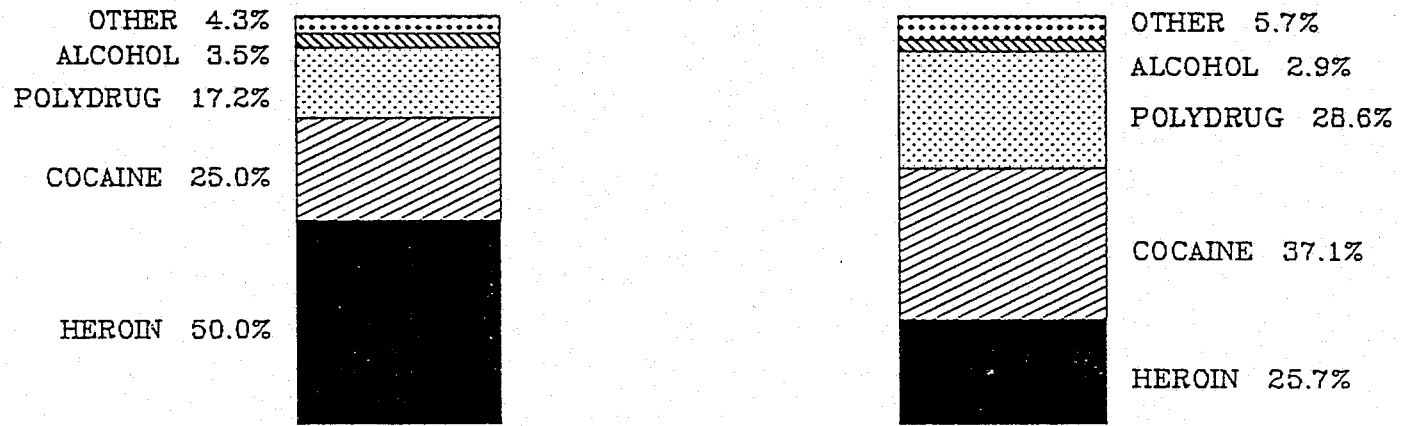
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
With Children	95	72.5%
Total (N)	131	

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS BY COUNTY OF COMMITMENT



N = 131

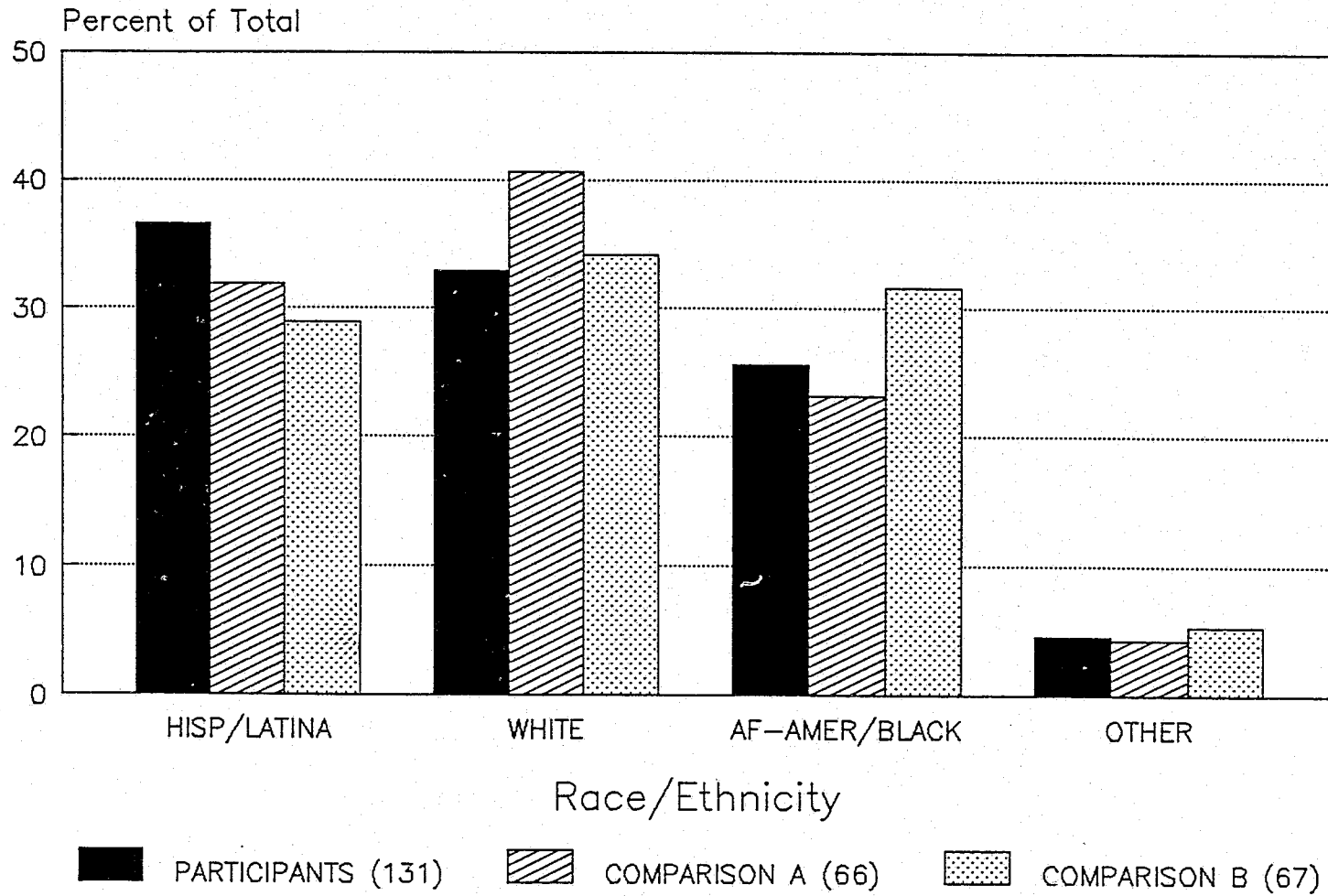
DRUG OF CHOICE



PARTICIPANT (116) COMPARISON A (35)

Graph Three

PARTICIPANTS AND COMPARISON INMATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY



COMPARISON GROUPS

Two comparison groups are being utilized as part of the research design for the project Outcome Evaluation. Comparison Group A is comprised of inmates who applied for the program but were not accepted. The majority of these inmates were not accepted because they were transferred to other institutions. Comparison Group B is comprised of inmates in the general population who did not apply for the substance abuse program.

Both of these comparison groups are similar to the participant group in that they all have similar prison release dates and are matched on a month for month basis. For example, if ten participant inmates will be released in December, ten comparison group inmates (for each group) will also be released. A description of comparison group characteristics is shown in Table 2.

TABLE TWO

COMPARISON GROUP A N = 66			COMPARISON GROUP B N = 67		
<u>County</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
LA	28	43.5%	LA	30	46.1%
Orange	5	7.2%	Orange	7	10.5%
Riverside	10	15.1%	Riverside	4	6.6%
San Bern	5	7.2%	San Bern	4	5.3%
San Diego	15	23.2%	San Diego	7	11.8%
Others	3	4.3%	Others	15	22.3%
<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Afro-Am	16	23.2%	Afro-Am	21	31.6%
Hisp	21	31.9%	Hisp	18	28.9%
White	26	40.6%	White	23	34.2%
Other	3	4.3%	Other	5	5.3%

COMPARISON GROUP A

<u>Offense Group</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Petty Theft	9	15.9%
CS & Poss	20	29%
CS & Sales	8	11.6%
Others (various)		43.5%

Age

Mean	32.4
Range	23-45

Drug of Choice N %

Heroin	9	25.7%
Cocaine	13	37.1%
Polydrug	10	28.6%
Alcohol	1	2.9%
Other	2	5.7%

N = 35

COMPARISON GROUP B

<u>Offense Group</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Petty Theft	10	14.5%
CS & Poss	10	14.5%
CS & Sales	7	9.2%
Others (various)		62.0%

Age

Mean	33.4
Range	20-62

Not available.

CS & Poss indicates possession of a controlled substance.
CS & Sales indicates sale of a controlled substance.

The characteristics for the comparison groups are similar in all categories to those of the participant group. However, for Comparison Group A only about one half of the applicants declared a drug of choice. The categories for drug of choice, ethnicity, and county of commitment vary from quarter to quarter. New third quarter data indicates that the evolving participant group will be more similar in these areas to the comparison groups.