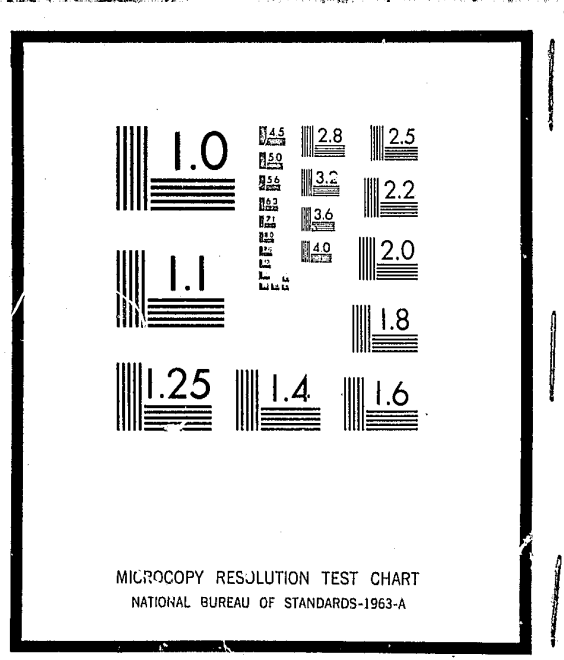


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ANALYSIS OF DRUG REFERRALS: AN EXPLORATORY SURVEY

Prepared by:
Metropolitan Social Services Department
Office of Research & Planning
G. B. Haarman, Director
M. F. Seibold, Senior Research Assistant
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P R E F A C E

This report is a brief survey of drug referrals to the Jefferson County Juvenile Court and will hopefully be useful to those seeking information on juvenile drug abuse. This study will also be a part of a larger analysis of drug referrals and drug treatment which is in preparation by this office.

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ANALYSIS OF DRUG REFERRALS - AN EXPLORATORY SURVEY

Since 1968, drug referrals have increased enormously. The purpose of this study is to examine drug referrals since 1968, specifically the years 1971 through 1974 to determine the characteristics of juveniles involved in drug use. Demographic data is presented for the years 1971 through 1974 because drug referrals accelerated during these years.

Drug abuse is divided into three categories in this report; Narcotics, Dangerous Drugs and Solvent Sniffing. Data on solvent sniffing is minimal because, prior to July 1973, it was not coded separately on the M.S.S.D. Intake Form.

Drugs included under Narcotics are: heroin, morphine, synthetic morphine (methadone), codeine and cocaine. Included under Dangerous Drugs are: marijuana, hashish, hallucinogens (LSD, peyote, mescaline), barbiturates, amphetamines and methaqualone. Solvents include glue, paint and gasoline.

Incidence

Drug referrals accounted for less than one per cent of delinquency referrals in 1968; however, by 1974, this rate had increased to 7.4 per cent of delinquency referrals. Figure 1 shows the dramatic increase in the number of drug referrals from 58 in 1968 to 551 in 1974. It is interesting to note that referrals for Possessing/Drinking Liquor decreased in terms of all offenses over the seven-year period. This is most

likely a result of de-emphasis by the police of this particular offense.

Dangerous Drug offenses account for the majority of referrals for drugs. However, Narcotic offenses have increased. No increases for Solvent offenses were discernible because data was not collected on this offense until mid-year 1973. It is hypothesized, however, that Solvent offenses have remained constant over the four-year period accounting for approximately 18 per cent of all drug referrals (Figure 2).

In terms of previous referrals (Table 1), Solvent abusers were more involved in the Juvenile Justice System than other drug offenders with over 85 per cent having a previous referral ($p < .001$)*. Narcotic offenders were more likely to be first offenders than other drug referrals ($p < .001$) with almost half being first offenders.

Recidivism Among Solvent Abusers

A purposive sample of Solvent abusers referred to Court in the second half of 1973 was taken to determine recidivism among these offenders (Table 2). Seventy-five per cent of the Solvent abusers committed another delinquent offense in 1974 with almost half having committed another drug-related offense.

Demographic Characteristics

Except for 1974, females were referred for proportionately more Narcotic offenses than males ($p < .001$). Males have consistently been referred for Dangerous Drugs at a greater rate. In 1974, almost 20 per cent

*Critical value of Chi-Square.

of the females were referred for Solvent offenses; slightly higher than for males (Table 3).

Table 4 shows the racial breakdown for drug offenses. Blacks had consistently higher rates of Narcotic referrals as compared to whites ($p < .05$). However, whites were overwhelmingly referred for Solvent Abuse ($p < .001$).

Solvent abusers tended to be younger than other drug offenders (Table 5). (This is a result of the fact that Solvent abusers were included in the Dangerous Drugs category prior to July, 1973). Narcotics offenders tended to be older.

Narcotic offenders were least likely to come from families receiving Public Assistance ($p < .001$). Solvent offenders were most likely to be from families receiving assistance (Table 6).

Source of Referral

In 1973 and 1974, the City police referred the majority of drug referrals. Over three-fourths of the Solvent abusers were referred by the City police. However, the County police referred 46 per cent of the Narcotic offenders in the two-year period (Table 7).

Adjudications (Table 8 and 9)

Solvent abusers were institutionalized at a greater rate than any other drug category. Narcotic offenders were more likely the recipients of probation or referral to River Region as a treatment mode.

Dangerous Drug referrals were handled informally at a greater rate, and Narcotic offenders received a Judicial Ruling at a greater rate than other drug offenders.

In 1974, Solvent abusers were institutionalized at almost three times the rate for other drug offenders. Narcotic offenders received probation at a greater rate in both 1973 and 1974.

Planning Service Communities

Planning Service Community 12 (East End) had the highest rate of drug referrals per 100 of the referred population in 1974. This contrasts to 1971 when PSC-10 (South Central) had the highest incidence. The incidence of drug referrals in PSC-3 (Village West-Central Business) has increased the greatest since 1971, but the increase is numerically small (Figure 3).

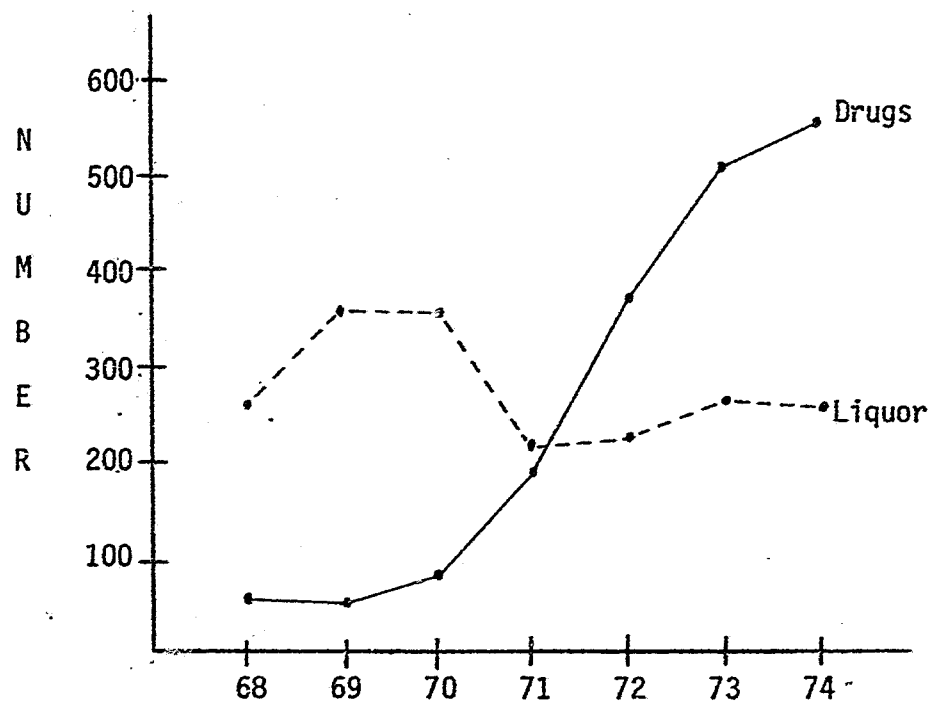
The number of referrals for drugs was highest for PSC-10 in 1971 and 1973, for PSC-4 in 1972 and for PSC-12 in 1974. PSC-11 has had a large increase since 1971 as has PSC-13 (Table 10).

Findings

- ✓ Drug referrals have increased substantially since 1968.
- ✓ Narcotic referrals have increased in recent years.
- ✓ Females were referred for Narcotic offenses at a greater rate than males.
- ✓ Narcotic offenders were least likely to be receiving Public Assistance.

- ✓ Blacks are referred more for Narcotics and whites more for Solvents.
- ✓ Solvent abusers have an unusually high recidivism rate.
- ✓ Solvent abusers were younger than other drug offenders.
- ✓ Solvent abusers were institutionalized at a greater rate than other drug offenders.
- ✓ Dangerous Drug referrals account for the majority of referrals for drugs.

FIGURE 1.



REFERRALS TO COURT FOR DRUG AND LIQUOR USE
(1968 through 1974)

Figure 2.

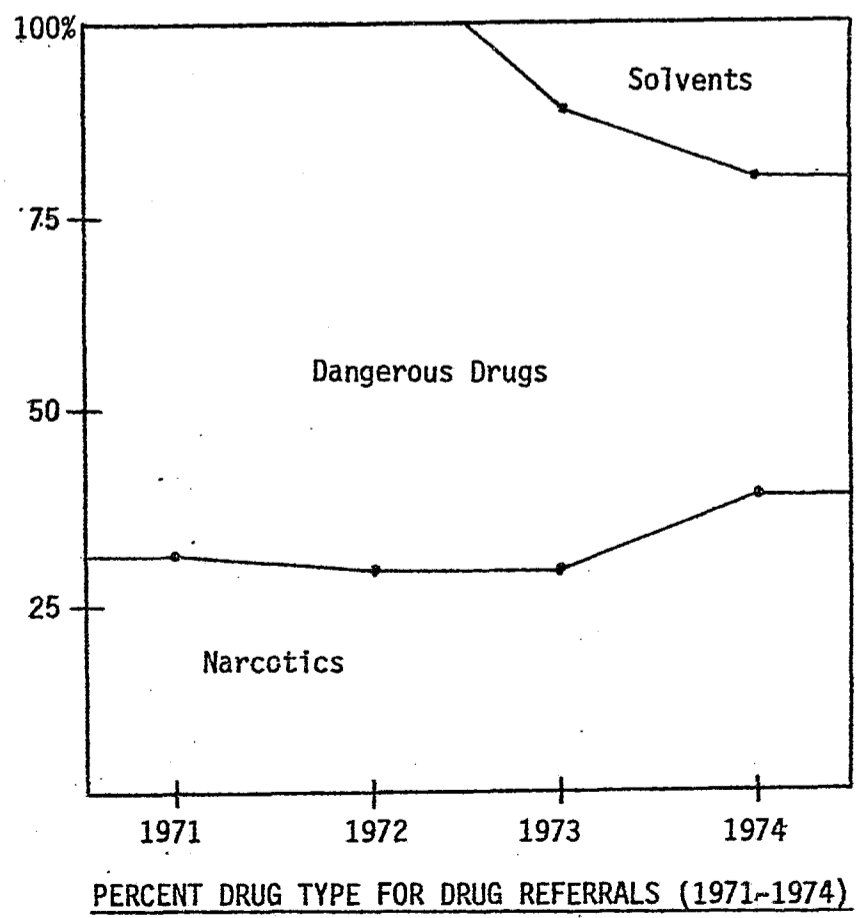


TABLE 1.
PREVIOUS REFERRALS

TOTAL REFERRALS	NARCOTIC		DANGEROUS DRUGS		SOLVENTS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	263	49.1	304	33.0	23	14.4
2-5	201	37.6	322	34.9	58	36.3
6-10	51	9.6	154	16.7	34	21.3
11+	20	3.7	142	15.4	45	28.1
TOTALS	535	100.0	922	100.0	160	100.1
MEAN	3.1		5.2		7.3	

TABLE 2.
SUBSEQUENT REFERRALS FOR JUVENILES REFERRED FOR GLUE/
PAINT SNIFFING - JULY-DECEMBER, 1973 - FOLLOWED UP IN
1974 BY TYPE OF OFFENSE

NUMBER OF REFERRALS	SUBSEQUENT DRUG REFERRALS		SUBSEQUENT REFERRALS	
	No.	%	No.	%
0	27	51.9	13	25.0
1	13	25.0	8	15.4
2	5	9.6	5	9.6
3	4	7.7	4	7.7
4	2	3.8	2	3.9
5	0	-	5	9.6
6	1	1.9	9	17.3
7	0	-	2	3.9
8	0	-	0	-
9	0	-	1	1.9
10	0	-	0	-
11	0	-	1	1.9
12	0	-	0	-
13	0	-	1	1.9
14	0	-	1	1.9
TOTALS	52	99.9	52	100.0

TABLE 3.
DRUG OFFENSES BY SEX

	1971				1972				1973				1974			
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Narcotics	47	28.3	14	56.0	95	28.4	16	44.4	116	26.8	33	46.5	188	39.7	26	33.8
Dangerous Drugs	119	71.7	11	44.0	240	71.6	20	55.6	263	60.7	36	50.7	197	41.6	36	46.8
Solvents	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	54	12.5	2	2.8	89	18.8	15	19.5
TOTALS	166	100.0	25	100.0	335	100.0	36	100.0	433	100.0	71	100.0	474	100.1	77	100.1

TABLE 4.
DRUG OFFENSES BY RACE

	1971				1972				1973				1974			
	White		Black		White		Black		White		Black		White		Black	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Narcotics	53	30.6	8	44.4	91	27.9	20	44.4	113	26.3	36	48.6	171	38.3	43	41.0
Dangerous Drugs	120	69.4	10	55.6	235	72.1	25	55.6	261	60.7	38	51.4	177	39.7	56	53.3
Solvents	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	56	13.0	0	-	98	22.0	6	5.7
TOTALS	173	100.0	18	100.0	326	100.0	45	100.0	430	100.0	74	100.0	446	100.0	105	100.0

TABLE 5.
DRUG OFFENSES BY AGE

A G E	NARCOTICS		DANGEROUS DRUGS		SOLVENTS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
10 & Under	1	.2	5	.5	1	.6
11	2	.4	6	.7	0	-
12	2	.4	11	1.2	1	.6
13	13	2.4	52	5.6	15	9.4
14	33	6.2	130	14.1	16	10.0
15	93	17.4	177	19.2	47	29.4
16	151	28.2	269	29.2	38	23.8
17	239	44.7	272	29.5	42	26.3
TOTALS	535	99.9	922	100.0	160	100.1
MEAN	16.1		15.5		15.4	

TABLE 6.
RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE - 1971-1974

	NARCOTIC		DANGEROUS DRUGS		SOLVENTS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
YES	58	10.9	208	22.6	54	33.8
NO	476	89.1	714	77.4	106	66.2
TOTAL	534	100.0	922	100.0	160	100.0

TABLE 7.
SOURCE OF REFERRAL - 1973. and 1974

	COUNTY POLICE		CITY POLICE		OTHER		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Narcotics	167	46.0	190	52.3	6	1.7	363	100.0
Dangerous Drugs	150	28.2	360	67.7	22	4.1	532	100.0
Solvents	29	18.1	123	76.9	8	5.0	160	100.0

TABLE 8.

DRUG OFFENSES BY DISPOSITION (GROUPED)

	NARCOTICS		DANGEROUS DRUGS		SOLVENTS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Informal	285	53.3	540	58.6	84	52.5
Judicial	152	28.4	216	23.4	41	25.6
Institution	13	2.4	65	7.0	18	11.3
Probation	38	7.1	41	4.4	5	3.1
V.P.O.	6	1.1	8	.9	0	-
Group Home	2	.4	6	.7	2	1.3
River Region	29	5.4	23	2.5	4	2.5
Other	10	1.9	23	2.5	6	3.8
TOTALS	535	100.0	922	100.0	160	100.1

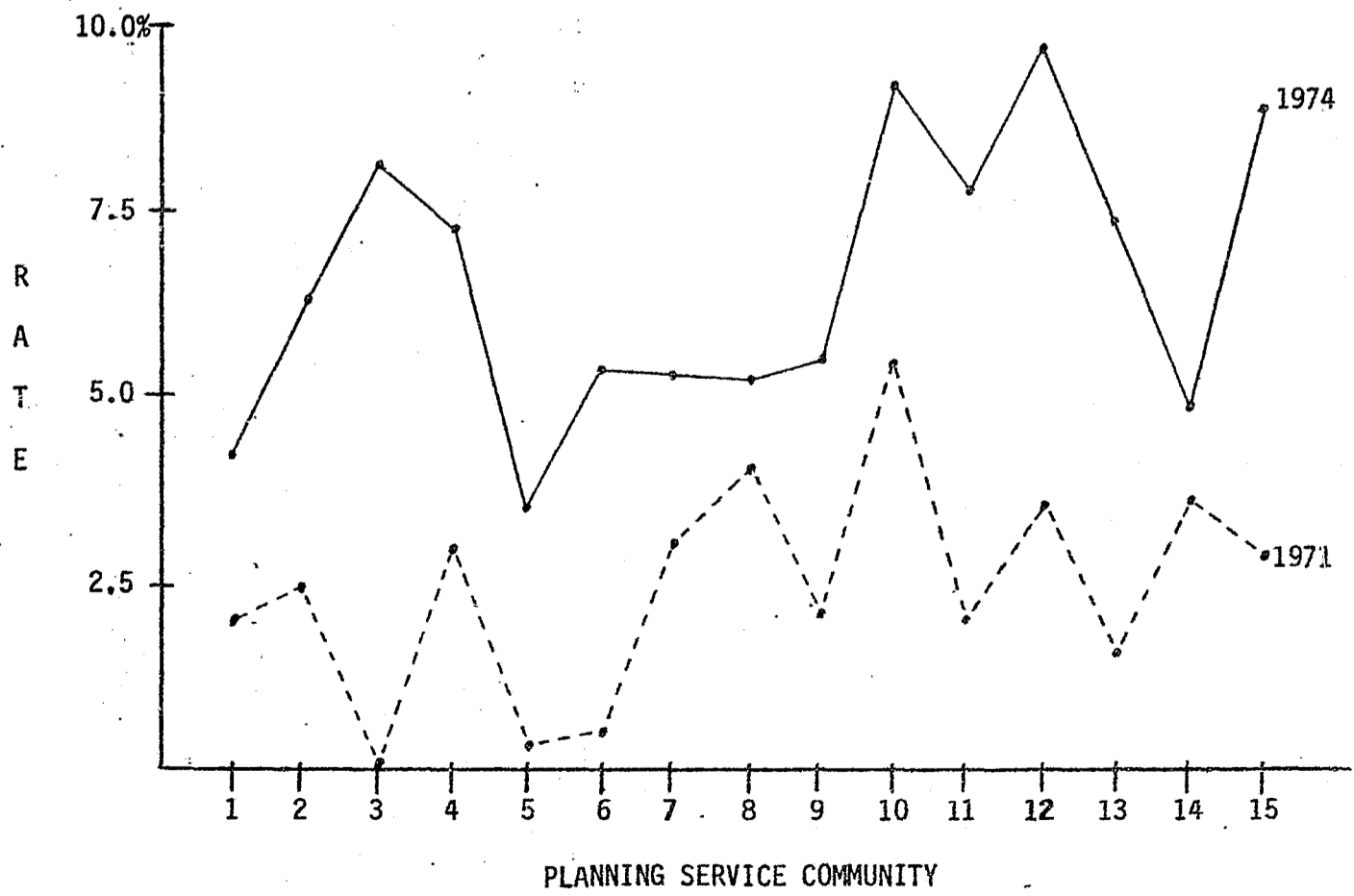
TABLE 9.

DRUG OFFENSE TYPE BY DISPOSITION (GROUPED) AND YEAR

	1971*				1972*				1973				1974							
	NARCOTIC		DANGEROUS DRUGS		NARCOTIC		DANGEROUS DRUGS		NARCOTIC		DANGEROUS DRUGS		SOLVENT		NARCOTIC		DANGEROUS DRUGS		SOLVENT	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Informal	32	52.5	68	52.3	59	53.2	145	55.8	91	61.1	180	60.2	25	44.6	103	48.1	147	63.1	59	56.7
Judicial	19	31.1	29	22.3	28	25.2	59	22.7	34	22.8	75	25.1	18	32.1	71	33.2	53	22.7	23	22.1
Institution	0	-	16	12.3	2	1.8	23	8.8	4	2.7	17	5.7	6	10.7	7	3.3	9	3.9	12	11.5
Probation	1	1.6	5	3.8	7	6.3	9	3.5	13	8.7	11	3.7	2	3.6	17	7.9	16	6.9	3	2.9
V.P.O.	2	3.3	1	.8	0	-	2	.8	0	-	3	1.0	0	-	4	1.9	2	.9	0	-
Group Home	0	-	0	-	0	-	3	1.2	2	1.3	3	1.0	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	1.9
River Region	6	9.8	6	4.6	14	12.6	10	3.8	2	1.3	4	1.3	3	5.4	7	3.3	3	1.3	1	1.0
Other	1	1.6	5	3.8	1	.9	9	3.5	3	2.0	6	2.0	2	3.6	5	2.3	3	1.3	4	3.8
TOTALS	61	99.9	130	99.9	111	100.0	260	100.1	149	99.9	299	100.0	56	100.0	214	100.0	233	100.1	104	99.9

*Solvents included in Dangerous Drugs in 1971 and 1972.

Figure 3.



RATE OF DRUG USE PER 100 OF THE REFERRED POPULATION (1971 and 1974) AND PLANNING SERVICE COMMUNITY

TABLE 10.

DRUG REFERRALS BY PLANNING SERVICE COMMUNITY (1971-1974)

P. S. C.	1971		1972		1973		1974	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	8	4.2	10	2.7	12	2.4	21	3.8
2	23	12.0	29	7.8	55	10.9	41	7.4
3	0	-	4	1.1	4	.8	13	2.4
4	20	10.5	62	16.7	57	11.3	39	7.1
5	1	.5	7	1.9	13	2.6	19	3.4
6	3	1.6	7	1.9	27	5.4	31	5.6
7	6	3.1	7	1.9	3	.6	11	2.0
8	15	7.9	27	7.3	30	6.0	15	2.7
9	8	4.2	14	3.8	17	3.4	23	4.2
10	35	18.3	50	13.5	67	13.3	53	9.6
11	14	7.3	31	8.4	37	7.3	65	11.8
12	26	13.6	45	12.1	62	12.3	78	14.2
13	8	4.2	27	7.3	30	6.0	64	11.6
14	9	4.7	15	4.0	41	8.1	24	4.4
15	6	3.1	12	3.2	23	4.6	27	4.9
Out of County	9	4.7	24	6.5	26	5.2	27	4.9
T O T A L S	191	99.9	371	100.1	504	100.1	551	100.0
Inner City	39.8		41.2		40.0		34.4	
Buffer	36.1		29.4		29.0		30.1	
Outer County	24.0		22.9		26.0		32.7	

TABLE 11.

SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS: DRUG OFFENDERS

	NARCOTICS	DANGEROUS DRUGS	SOLVENTS
Mean Number Referrals	3.1	5.2	7.3
Percent Male	83.4	88.8	89.4
Percent Female	16.6	11.2	10.6
Percent White	79.9	86.0	96.2
Percent Black	20.1	14.0	3.8
Mean Age	16.1	15.5	15.4
Percent Receiving P.A.	10.9	22.6	33.8
Percent City Police	52.3	67.7	76.9
Percent County Police	46.0	28.2	18.1
Percent Institutionalized	2.4	7.0	11.3

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